

# Symmetry Worksheet 1

## Symmetry of a Rectangle:

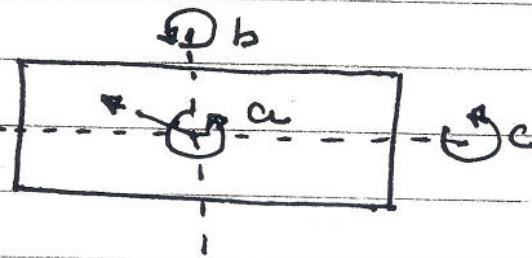
Get a book with rectangular shape and subject it to four transformations:

e = leave it alone (also called the identity transformations).

a = give it a half-turn (see figure)

b = flip it lengthwise (see figure)

c = flip it sideways (see figure)



For example transformation a followed by transformation c gives the same result as transformation b. This can be represented by the equation:

$$b = ca$$

Carry out all 16 possible combinations of transformations and record your results in a "multiplication" table like this:

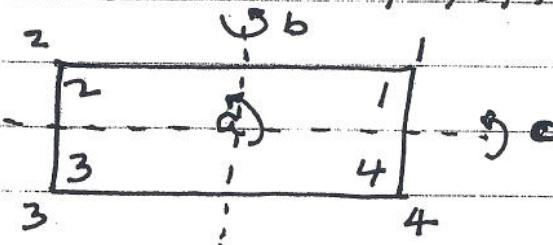
op2 \ op1	e	a	b	c
e				
a				
b				
c				

Note: op1 means operation 1  
op2 means operation 2  
transformations

Question: What observations do you make about ...

## Symmetry Worksheet - 2

1. Cut out a rectangle from a piece of graph paper and label the vertices 1, 2, 3, 4 and place it on an identical rectangle with vertices labeled 1, 2, 3, 4 as shown.



The identity transformation is represented by the permutation:  $e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

Give the rectangle a half-turn and note how the vertices permute:

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Likewise:

$$b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } c = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

If you transform the rectangle by first giving it a half-turn then flipping it in the b axis you get:

$$ba = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now create a table of permutations and compare it with your previous table.

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = c$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \text{OP}_2 \\ \text{OP}_1 \end{array} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Repeat this exercise for a square where there are now 8 transformations

$e, a, a^2, a^3, b, c, d, e$

where  $a$  is a quarter-turn,

$a^2$  is a half-turn

$a^3$  is a  $3/4$ -turn

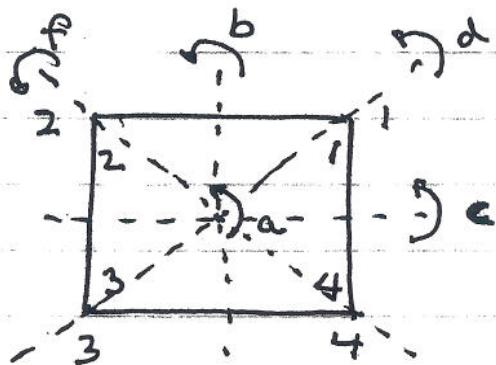
$b$  is a vertical flip

$c$  is a horizontal flip

$d+f$  are flips along the diagonals

$e$  is the identity

as shown



Create another "multiplication" table

$\text{op}_1 \backslash \text{op}_2$	$e$	$a$	$a^2$	$a^3$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$f$
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----

$e$

$a$

$a^2$

$a^3$

$b$

$c$

$d$

$f$

○ Permutations can be represented in a very convenient form called cycle notation. To show how this works consider the symmetry transformations of a square shown on Worksheet - 3.

Ex. 1:

$$b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = (12)(34) = t_2^2$$

We start with 1 which transforms to 2 and 2 transforms back to 1 so we get the 2-cycle  $(12)$ . The same with 3 and 4.

Since we have two 2-cycles ~~with~~<sup>this</sup>

transformation is called  $t_2^2$ .

Ex. 2:  $a^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = (1432) = t_4^1$

i.e. one 4-cycle.

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = (1)(2)(3)(4) = t_1^4$$

$$d = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = (1)(24)(3) = t_1^2 t_2^1$$

i.e. ~~two~~ two 1-cycles and one 2-cycle.

Remark 1:  $(24) = (42)$  but we usually represent the cycle ~~set by~~ starting with the smallest integer.

Remark 2:  $(12)(34) = (34)(12)$  i.e. when a pair of cycles have no elements in common the cycles commute.

Remark 3: Sometimes we omit the 1-cycles with the understanding that omitted elements are 1-cycles. For example,

$$(1) (24)(3) = (24).$$

Now consider the effect of a pair of transformations. For example consider applying carrying out first transformation  $b$  then transformation  $d$ , i.e.  $db$ :

$$db = \underbrace{(24)}_{T_2=d} \times \underbrace{(12)(34)}_{T_1=b}$$

Start on the right with  $b$ . Since  $1 \xrightarrow{b} 2$  and  $2 \xrightarrow{d} 4$  it follows that  $1 \xrightarrow{db} 4$  so we have  $(14)$

Next transform  $4 \xrightarrow{b} 3$  and  $3 \xrightarrow{d} 3$  so,  $4 \xrightarrow{db} 3$  and we have so far  $(143)$

Again  $3 \xrightarrow{b} 4$  and  $4 \xrightarrow{d} 2$  or  $3 \xrightarrow{db} 2$ .

This completes the 4-cycle  $(1432)$

You can check that  $2 \rightarrow 1$  and we start the cycle again.

You can use this cycle notation to complete the "multiplication table" for the transformations of a square.

## Symmetry Worksheet -4

Given the subgroup  $H$  of a finite group  $G$  and an element  $x \in G$ , the left coset of  $H$  corresponding to  $x$  is the set:

$$xH = \{g \mid g = xh \text{ for } g \in G \text{ and } h \in H\}$$

I claim the the cosets  $aH$  for all  $a \in G$  form a partition of  $G$ .

P

Check Problem: ~~Check~~

Check this claim for the group,  $S$ , of transformations of a square when  $H = \{e, a^2\}$ . Use the multiplication table for  $S$  to compute:

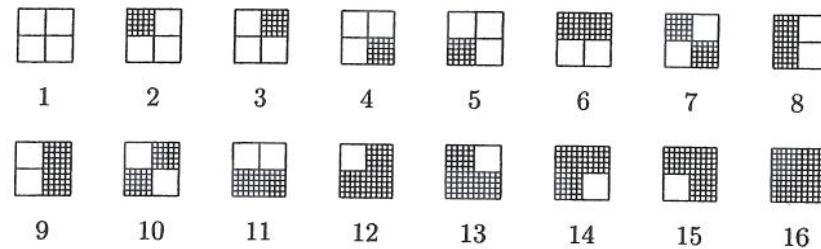
$$aH, a^2H, bH, cH, dH, fH, eH$$

$$\text{e.g. } bH = \{be, ba^2\} = \{b, c\}$$

## Symmetry Worksheet - 5

Consider a square divided into 4 subsquares with each subsquare colored either ~~not~~ black or white.

There are 16 possibilities shown below:



### Questions:

1. Two of these patterns are considered to be identical if you can get one from the other by one of the 8 ~~symmetry~~ transformations of a square, i.e. a rotation or a flip.

How many distinct patterns are there (i.e non-identical)? Illustrate one pattern from each identical class.

2. For each of the 8 ~~symmetry~~ transformations of a square, which of the patterns are invariant (do not change when subjected to the transformation)? For each transformation {e, a, ~~b, c, d, f~~, b, c, d, f} list the pattern number which are invariant.

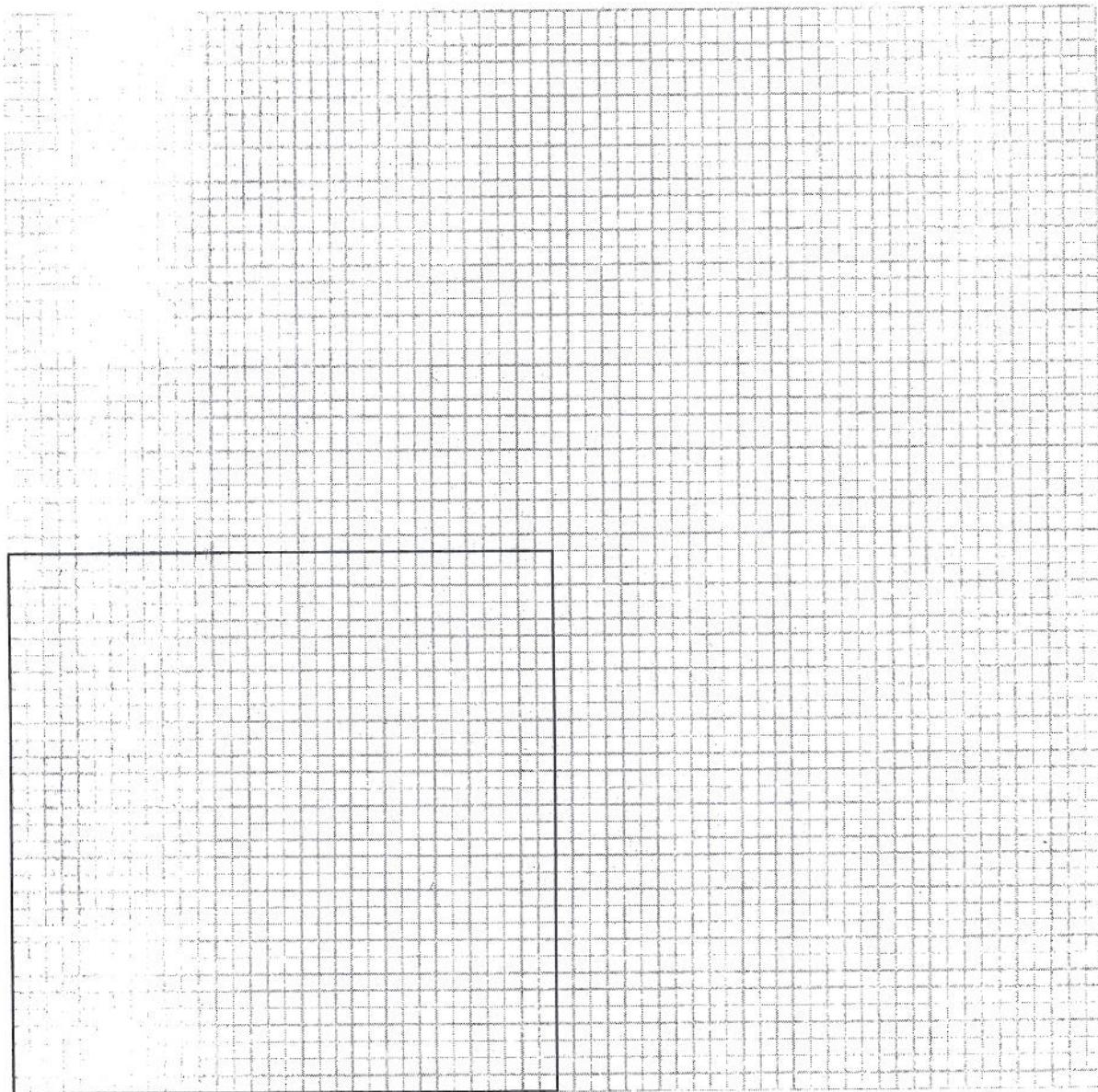


Figure 8.19. Template for the IFS drawing.