

This note, that [was found here](#), as a part of [a collection](#) is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#), was created on February 13, 2024 5:54:40 PM, was last modified on September 7, 2026 2:01:19 PM, and was exported on September 7, 2026 2:50:39 PM.

SL(2)(Z)

Definition.

SL(2)(Z) := { [a b; c d] | a, b, c, d in Z, ad - bc = 1 }

{ d = (1+bc)/a if a != 0, b != 0 }

[1]

trace and eigenvalues

Given the trace tr(A) in Z, the eigenvalues of A in SL(2)(Z) are

(tr(A)/2) +/- sqrt((tr(A)/2)^2 - 1)

based on the discriminant tr(A)^2 - 4 we have these cases

tr(A)^2 - 4	tr(A)	type	eigenvalues λ, λ^{-1}
< 0	0, 1	elliptic	λ, λ^{-1} in (tr(A)/2) +/- i*sqrt(1 - (tr(A)/2)^2) whose norm is 1, so λ in U(1) \ {-1, 1}
0	2	parabolic	(tr(A)/2) in {-1, 1}
> 0	>= 3	hyperbolic	λ in R \ {-1, 1}

operations

	inverse	multiplying with -I	transpose
matrix A	A^{-1}	-A	A^T
eigenvalues λ, λ^{-1}			

generators

Proposition:

SL(2)(Z) = < [1 1; 0 1], [1 0; 1 1] >

actions

elements, subgroups	eigenvalues λ, λ^{-1}	SL(2)(R) ~>	SL(2)(Z) ~>	SL(2)(R) ~> by isometries	SL(2)(R)/SL(2)(Z)	on GL(2)(R)
[1 1; 0 1]			generator of Dehn twists			
[2 1; 1 1] [2 1; 1 1]			Arnold cat map [2 1; 1 1] ~> T	(2z+1)/(z+1)		
tr =0, 1 <- finite order	λ in U(1) \ {-1}	periodic?	periodic	elliptic isometry (fixes one point)		
tr =2	λ in {-1, 1}		reducible; infinite order but not hyperbolic	parabolic isometry (fixes one point in boundary)		
tr >=3	λ in R \ {-1}	hyperbolic	(pseudo-)Anosov	hyperbolic isometry (fixes two points in boundary)		
"squishy.SL. Z 2 sub Sanov#^b mrihn" could not be found.		plays ping pong!				
Γ[N]						
Γ modular						
Γ torsion-free				quotients are higher genus surfaces		

Proposition:

elements, subgroups	eigenvalues λ, λ^{-1}	$SL(2)(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^2$	$SL(2)(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright T^2$	$SL(2)(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}H^2$ by isometries
$ \operatorname{tr} = 0, 1 \iff$ finite order	$\lambda \in U(1) \setminus \{-1, 1\}$	periodic?	periodic	elliptic isometry (fixes one point)
$ \operatorname{tr} = 2$	$\lambda \in \{-1, 1\}$		reducible; infinite order but not hyperbolic	parabolic isometry (fixes one point in boundary)
$ \operatorname{tr} \geq 3$	$\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$	hyperbolic	(pseudo-)Anosov	hyperbolic isometry (fixes two points in boundary)

[2]

Current note has 0 direct children and 0 total descendants.

- squishy
 - SL
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{R})$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{Z})$
- stretchy
 - $GL(2)(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright T^2$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright T^2$

And it has 15 siblings.

- squishy
 - SL
 - $\underline{SL}(\underline{2})$.
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{C})$
 - $PSL(n, \mathbb{C})$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{R})$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{R}) / SL(2)(\mathbb{Z})$
 - H_q
 - $PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})[2]$
 - $[PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})[2], PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})[2\$]]$
 - $PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})[N]$
 - $SL(3, \mathbb{R})$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{Z})$
 - $PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})$
 - Congruent subgroups of $PSL(2)(\mathbb{Z})$
 - $SL(n, \mathbb{Z})$
 - $SL(2)(\mathbb{Z}_2)$

- [kconrad.math.uconn.edu/blurbs/grouptheory/SL\(2,Z\).pdf](https://kconrad.math.uconn.edu/blurbs/grouptheory/SL(2,Z).pdf) ↩
- [Congruence Subgroups](#) ↩