

(1) Let G be a nontrivial finite group. A subgp. M is called a maximal subgroup of G if M is a proper subgroup, i.e., $M \neq G$, and the only subgroups of G containing M are M and G .

(a) Show each proper subgroup of a finite group G is contained in a maximal subgroup of G .

Pf: Let H be a proper subgroup of G .

If H is maximal, then $H \subset G$ and H is contained in itself.

If H is not maximal, then we have H_1 s.t. $H \subset H_1 \subset G$.

If H_1 is maximal, then we are done.

If not, then we have H_2 s.t. $H \subset H_1 \subset H_2 \subset G$.

Continue the above process.

(So $H \subset H_1 \subset H_2 \subset \dots \subset H_n \subset \dots \subset G$ if none of the H_i are maximal.)

This cannot happen since G has finite order.

Therefore, each proper subgp. of a fin. gp. G is contained in a maximal subgp. of G .

□

(b) Count the number of maximal subgroups of the dihedral group of order $2p$, where p is an odd prime.

Pf: Let $R = \langle r \rangle = \{1, r, \dots, r^{p-1}\} \subset D_p$.

By part (a), each proper subgp. of D_p is contained in a maximal subgp. of D_p .

Let $R \subset H \subset D_p$. We have that $|R|=p$ and $|D_p|=2p$, so

$R \subset H \subset D_p \Rightarrow$ either $H=D_p$ or $H=R$.

Let $S \subset D_p$ be a group of order 2, for ex: $\{1, s\}$. Let $S \subset H \subset D_p$.

We have that $|S|=2$ and $|D_p|=2p$, so

$S \subset H \subset D_p \Rightarrow$ either $H=D_p$ or $H=S$.

The index of S in D_p is $p: [D_p : S] = \frac{|D_p|}{|S|} = \frac{2p}{2} = p$.

We can see that there are p groups of order 2 from observing:

$(r^k s)^2 = r^k s r^k s = r^k r^{-k} s s = 1$ for $0 \leq k \leq p-1$.

There is only one subgp. of order p and there are p subgps. of order 2, namely $\{1, r^k s\}$ $0 \leq k \leq p-1$.

So there are $p+1$ maximal subgroups.

These are the only maximal subgps. because 1 and $2p$ are the last ones.

□

(c) Show that if a nontrivial finite group G has only one maximal subgroup, then G is cyclic of prime-power order. (Hint: first prove G is cyclic.)

Pf: Let G be a nontrivial fin. gp. w/ only one max. subgp. *Assume G is not cyclic.*

Let M be the max. subgp. and let $g \in G$ s.t. $g \notin M$.

Then $\langle g \rangle \subset G$, so $\langle g \rangle \subset M$ since M is maximal $\Rightarrow g \in M$.

Thus, every element of G is in M , so $M=G$ ∇ b/c M is maximal.

Therefore, G is cyclic.

Assume $|G| = p^a q^b$ where p, q distinct primes and $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

By the Sylow thms, there must exist subgps. of order p^a and q^b , say P and Q , resp.

Since G is cyclic, these subgps. are cyclic: $|P|=p^a, |Q|=q^b$.

Note that $(p, q) = 1$, so $P \neq Q$.

Since P is the subgp. w/ the highest power of p dividing $|G|$,

P is maximal.

Since Q is the subgp. w/ the highest power of q dividing $|G|$,

Q is maximal.

This is a contradiction b/c G has only one maximal subgp.

Therefore, G must be cyclic of prime-power order.

□

(2) Let G be a nonabelian group of order 75 and H be a 5-Sylow subgroup of G .

(a) Show H is a normal subgp. of G and is abelian.

Pf: $|G| = 75 = 3 \cdot 5^2$

Let H be a 5-Sylow subgp. of G , so $|H| = 25$.

By the third Sylow thm, we have that

$n_5 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ and $n_5 | 3 \Rightarrow n_5 = 1$.

Therefore, H is normal.

$|H| = 5^2 \Rightarrow$ abelian since groups of order prime squared are abelian.

□

(b) Show H is not cyclic, or equivalently $H \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$. (Hint: Show the conjugation action of G on H is not trivial.)

Pf: Since $|H| = 5^2$, we know H is abelian.

If H is cyclic, then $H \cong \mathbb{Z}/5^2 = \mathbb{Z}/25\mathbb{Z}$.

We WTS $H \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$ (so $H \neq \mathbb{Z}/25\mathbb{Z}$)

If H is not cyclic, then no elt. has order 5^2 : all $g \neq 1$ in H have

order 5. Pick $x \in H - \{1\}$, so $\langle x \rangle$ has order 5.

Pick $y \in H - \langle x \rangle$, so $\langle y \rangle$ has order 5, and $\langle x \rangle \cap \langle y \rangle = \{1\}$.

Let $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$ by $(k \pmod{5}, \ell \pmod{5}) \mapsto x^k y^\ell$.

• This is a homomorphism since x and y commute (H is abelian).

• The kernel is trivial: $x^k y^\ell = 1 \Rightarrow x^k = y^{-\ell} \in \langle x \rangle \cap \langle y \rangle = \{1\}$

$\Rightarrow 5 | k$ and $5 | \ell$.

• Same size: $|\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}| = |H| = 5^2$

Therefore, $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} = (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2 \cong H$.

Suppose The conj. action of G on H is trivial $g \in C_G(H)$ (every $g \in G$ commutes w/ $h \in H$)

If action is trivial, then $gh = hg \forall h \in H, g \in G$

If $Z(G) = H \Rightarrow G$ is abelian ∇ G is nonabelian.

If H is cyclic, then $|\text{Aut}(H)| = 20$.

H is contained in the kernel of the conj. action (ghg^{-1})

H is maximal b/c prime index. $(|G|/|H| = 75/25 = 3 \text{ prime})$

$G/H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$ inj. hom.

$\varphi(G/H)$ has order $3 | 20$ ∇

The conj. action of G on H is not trivial.

Therefore, H is not cyclic.

□

(c) Determine a 2×2 matrix A with entries in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ that has order 3. (Hint: you can find such a matrix with integer entries having complex eigenvalues equal to the primitive 3rd roots of unity ζ_3 and ζ_3^2 , where $\zeta_3 = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}$.)

Pf: We want $A^3 = I$, so $(\det(A))^3 = 1$.

Let $x = \det(A)$. Then $x^3 = 1 \Rightarrow x^3 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow (x-1)(x^2+x+1) = 0$.

Note that x^2+x+1 is irred. in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ since -3 has no square roots in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$.

Since A is 2×2 , it follows that x^2+x+1 is the minimal poly. for A .

We now find A .

Notice that $x^2+x+1 = x(x+1)+1 = -x(-x-1)+1$

The matrix w/ this determinant is $\begin{pmatrix} -x & -1 \\ 1 & -x-1 \end{pmatrix}$.

If we add xI to the above matrix, we get $\begin{pmatrix} -x+x & -1 \\ 1 & -x-1+x \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

so $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{5}$.

Check: $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, so $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \checkmark$

so $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$.

□

(d) Construct an example of a nonabelian group w/ order 75. (The matrix in part (c) will be useful.)

Pf: From part (c), we know $|\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}| = 3$.

Let $K = \langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$, so $|K| = 3$.

$\cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$

Let $G = H \rtimes \varphi K$, where $H \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$ and $\varphi: K \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$.

$|\varphi(1)| | 3 \Rightarrow \varphi(1) = 1$ or $\varphi(1) = 3$.

$\varphi(1)$ is the trivial homomorphism.

$|\text{Aut}(H)| = |\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2| = |GL_2(\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})| = (5^2-1)(5^2-5) = 24 \cdot 20$

$3 | 24 \cdot 20$, so $\varphi(1) = 3$.

Therefore, $(\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2 \rtimes \varphi(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$, $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Aut}((\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2)$ by $\varphi(i) = 3^i$, is

a nonabelian group with order 75.

□

(3) The group S_9 denotes the permutations of a set with 9 elements (symmetric gp.).

(a) Prove that there is no element of order 18 in S_9 .

Pf: The order of an element in S_n is the lcm of the cycle lengths.

Suppose there is an element of order 18 in S_9 .

Then the lcm of its cycle lengths = 18.

We can factor 18 as $1 \cdot 18, 2 \cdot 9, 3 \cdot 6$.

The first case $1 \cdot 18$ is impossible b/c there is no cycle with length 18 in S_9 .

The second case $2 \cdot 9$ is impossible b/c it has $2+9=11$ distinct numbers in it, but there are only 9 distinct numbers in S_9 .

The third case $3 \cdot 6$ actually has $\text{lcm}(3, 6) = 6 \neq 18$.

Therefore, there is no element of order 18 in S_9 .

□

(b) Construct, with justification, an element of order 20 in S_9 .

Pf: We want an elt. whose cycle lengths have lcm = 20.

$20 = 1 \cdot 20 = 2 \cdot 10 = 4 \cdot 5$

$1+20=21 \quad 2+10=12 \quad 4+5=9$

Consider the element $(12345)(6789)$.

The element $(12345)(6789)$ is in S_9 and it has order

$\text{lcm}(4, 5) = 20$.

□

(4) (a) Prove the only units in $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ are ± 1 .

Pf: Let $a+b\sqrt{-5} \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$.

The element $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ is a unit iff $N(\alpha) = \pm 1$.

$N(a+b\sqrt{-5}) = (a+b\sqrt{-5})(a-b\sqrt{-5}) = a^2 + 5b^2$

$N(a+b\sqrt{-5}) = a^2 + 5b^2 = \pm 1 \Rightarrow a^2 + 5b^2 = 1$ or $a^2 + 5b^2 = -1$.

It is impossible for $a^2 + 5b^2 = -1$, because $a^2 + 5b^2 \geq 0$.

If $a^2 + 5b^2 = 1$, then $a = \pm 1, b = 0$ are the only \mathbb{Z} -solns.

Therefore, the only units in $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ are ± 1 .

□

(b) Justify why the equation $2 \cdot 3 = (1+\sqrt{-5})(1-\sqrt{-5})$ shows $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ is not a unique factorization domain.

Pf: In a UFD, $\{\text{primes}\} = \{\text{irreducibles}\}$.

$N(2) = 4 = 2^2$, so 2 is irreducible.

If 2 is prime, then since $2 | (1+\sqrt{-5})(1-\sqrt{-5})$, either $2 | (1+\sqrt{-5})$ or $2 | (1-\sqrt{-5})$.

$2 \nmid (1 \pm \sqrt{-5})$ because $2\alpha \neq 1 \pm \sqrt{-5} \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$

Therefore, 2 is irreducible, but not prime in $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$.

Thus, $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ is not a UFD.

□

(c) Justify why the equation $(2+3i)(2-3i) = (3+2i)(3-2i)$ does not show that $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is not a unique factorization domain.

Pf: Observe that $(2+3i) = i(3-2i)$ and $(2-3i) = -i(3+2i)$,

and $\pm i$ are units of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.

Therefore, $3-2i$ is a unit multiple of $2+3i$ and $3+2i$ is a unit multiple of $2-3i$.

Thus, these factorizations are the same.

By rewriting the LHS, we see $i(3-2i)(-i)(3+2i) = (3+2i)(3-2i)$ RHS.

Therefore, this does not show that $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is not a UFD.

□

(6) Give examples as requested, with justification.

(a) Two nonabelian groups of order 12 that are not isomorphic.

Pf: Consider the nonabelian groups A_4 and D_6 .

Observe that $|A_4| = \frac{4!}{2} = 12$ and $|D_6| = 2 \cdot 6 = 12$.

Note that D_6 has an element of order 6, namely r ($r^6 = 1$).

There is no element of order 6 in A_4 .

Recall that the order of an elt. in $A_n \subseteq S_n$ is the lcm of the cycle lengths.

$A_4 \subseteq S_4$ where the orders are $\text{lcm}(4) = 4$

$\text{lcm}(3, 1) = 3$

$\text{lcm}(2, 2) = 2$

$\text{lcm}(2, 1, 1) = 2$

$\text{lcm}(1, 1, 1, 1) = 1$,

none of which has $\text{lcm} = 6$.

Therefore, $A_4 \not\cong D_6$.

□

(b) A group that acts transitively on the plane minus the origin, $\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}$.

Pf: If a group G acts transitively on a set S , then the action is

transitive if for all $s_1, s_2 \in S$, there is $g \in G$ s.t. $g \cdot s_1 = s_2$.

(i.e., there is one orbit).

Consider the group $GL_2(\mathbb{R})$.

Rotations and dilations are included in $GL_2(\mathbb{R})$, so we can get

from one point to any other for all points, i.e., there is one orbit.

□

(c) A ring that is not a field and has infinitely many units.

Pf: Consider the ring $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$.

This is not a field since $\mathbb{Z} \neq \text{field}$.

Then observe that for $(1+\sqrt{2})^n \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have

$N((1+\sqrt{2})^n) = (N(1+\sqrt{2}))^n = ((1+\sqrt{2})(1-\sqrt{2}))^n = (1-2)^n = (-1)^n$.

Therefore, $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ has infinitely many units since $(1+\sqrt{2})^n$ is a unit for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

□

(d) A nonzero prime ideal in $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ that is not a maximal ideal.

Pf: Consider the ideal (x) .