

(1) Prove the rings  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  are isomorphic when  $n$  and  $m$  are relatively prime (positive) integers. Discuss whether these rings are ever isomorphic when  $m$  and  $n$  are not relatively prime.

Pf: Let  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  by  $\varphi(a) = (a \bmod m, a \bmod n)$ .

This is a homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ then } \varphi(a+b) &= (a+b \bmod m, a+b \bmod n) \\ &= (a \bmod m, a \bmod n) + (b \bmod m, b \bmod n) \\ &= \varphi(a) + \varphi(b) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ then } \varphi(ab) &= (ab \bmod m, ab \bmod n) \\ &= (a \bmod m, a \bmod n)(b \bmod m, b \bmod n) \\ &= \varphi(a)\varphi(b). \end{aligned}$$

Lastly,  $\varphi(1) = (1 \bmod m, 1 \bmod n)$ .

Now we WTS  $\ker(\varphi) = mn\mathbb{Z}$ .  $\ker(\varphi) = \{a \in \mathbb{Z} : \varphi(a) = (0, 0)\}$ :

$$\varphi(a) = (a \bmod m, a \bmod n) = (0 \bmod m, 0 \bmod n) \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} a &\equiv 0 \pmod{m} \\ a &\equiv 0 \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow m|a$  and  $n|a$ , but  $(m, n) = 1 \Rightarrow mn|a$ .

So  $\ker(\varphi) = mn\mathbb{Z}$ .

Now we WTS that  $\varphi$  is surjective: Let  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

We want  $x$  s.t.  $\varphi(x) = (a \bmod m, b \bmod n)$ .

Since  $(m, n) = 1$ , we know  $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $xm + yn = 1$

Consider  $x = xmb + yna$ . Then (Note  $yn = 1 - xm$  and  $xm = 1 - yn$ )

$$xmb + yna \bmod m \equiv yna \bmod m \equiv (1 - xm)a \bmod m$$

$$\equiv a - xma \bmod m \equiv a \bmod m$$

$$xmb + yna \bmod n \equiv xmb \bmod n \equiv (1 - yn)b \bmod n$$

$$\equiv b - ynb \bmod n \equiv b \bmod n$$

Therefore,  $\forall (a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\exists x = xmb + yna$  s.t.

$$\varphi(xmb + yna) = (a \bmod m, b \bmod n).$$

Thus,  $\varphi$  is surjective.

Therefore,  $\varphi$  is an isom.  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  by the 1<sup>st</sup> isom. thm.

The order of  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is  $\text{lcm}(m, n)$ , where  $|a| = m, |b| = n$ .

If  $(m, n) = 1$ , then  $|(a, b)| = mn$ .

If  $(m, n) \neq 1$ , then  $|(a, b)| = k < mn, k \in \mathbb{Z}$

So  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$  has an elt. of order  $mn$ , but  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  does not if  $(m, n) \neq 1$ .

Therefore,  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \not\cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  if  $(m, n) \neq 1$ . □

(2) Let  $S = \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} : |z|^2 + |w|^2 = 1\}$ . For a positive integer  $m$ , let  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  act on the set  $S$  by  $(a \bmod m) \cdot (z, w) = (e^{2\pi i a/m} z, e^{8\pi i a/m} w)$ .

(a) Show this is a group action of  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  on  $S$ .

Pf: Let  $a \bmod m, b \bmod m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  and let  $(z, w) \in S$ .

$$(a \bmod m) \cdot [(b \bmod m) \cdot (z, w)] = (a \bmod m) \cdot (e^{2\pi i b/m} z, e^{8\pi i b/m} w)$$

$$= (e^{2\pi i a/m} e^{2\pi i b/m} z, e^{8\pi i a/m} e^{8\pi i b/m} w)$$

the gp. operation of  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is addition

$$= (e^{2\pi i(a+b)/m} z, e^{8\pi i(a+b)/m} w)$$

$$[(a \bmod m) + (b \bmod m)] \cdot (z, w) = (a+b \bmod m) \cdot (z, w)$$

$$= (e^{2\pi i(a+b)/m} z, e^{8\pi i(a+b)/m} w)$$

$\Rightarrow$  so  $(a \bmod m)[(b \bmod m) \cdot (z, w)] = [(a \bmod m) + (b \bmod m)] \cdot (z, w)$

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}, (z, w) \in S$ .

$$(0 \bmod m) \cdot (z, w) = (e^{2\pi i \cdot 0/m} z, e^{8\pi i \cdot 0/m} w) = (z, w) \quad \forall (z, w) \in S. \quad \square$$

(b) If  $m$  is odd, show every orbit in this group action has  $m$  elements.

Pf: The orbit of  $x \in S$  is  $\{gx : g \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}\}$

Let  $a \bmod m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m$  odd, and  $(z, w) \in S$

$$\text{Then } (a \bmod m) \cdot (z, w) = (e^{2\pi i a/m} z, e^{8\pi i a/m} w) \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$$

Since  $m$  is odd,  $(2, m) = 1$ , so  $a$  has  $m$  distinct options  $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$

Therefore, the order of every orbit in this gp. action is  $m$ , i.e.,

every orbit in this gp. action has  $m$  elements since  $(z, w)$  was chosen arbitrarily. □

(c) If  $m$  is even, show the orbit of some point in  $S$  has less than  $m$  elements.

Pf: Let  $m = 2k$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}, k < m$ .

Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}, (z, w) \in S$ . Then

$$(a \bmod m) \cdot (z, w) = (e^{2\pi i a/m} z, e^{8\pi i a/m} w)$$

$$= (e^{2\pi i a/2k} z, e^{8\pi i a/2k} w)$$

$$= (e^{\pi i a/k} z, e^{4\pi i a/k} w)$$

Now  $a$  has  $k$  distinct options  $\{0, 1, \dots, k-1\}, k < m$

Therefore, the orbit of some point  $(z, w) \in S$  has less than  $m$  elts.

$\rightarrow a$  still has  $m$  options, but some of them will produce the same angle, so  $a$  really has  $< m$  options. □

(3) Use Zorn's lemma to show every nontrivial finitely generated group contains a maximal subgroup. (A maximal subgroup is a proper subgroup contained in no other proper subgroup.) Do not assume this group is abelian.

Pf: [If  $H$  is a proper subgp. of  $G$ , then there is a maximal proper subgp.  $M$  of  $G$  s.t.  $H \subset M \subset G$ .

Let  $G =$  nontrivial fin. gen. gp.

Let  $S = \{\text{proper subgps. of } G\}$

$S \neq \emptyset : \{e\} \subset G$  (since  $G \neq \emptyset$ )

Partially order  $S$  by containment

If  $\{H_\alpha\}$  is totally ordered subset of  $S$ , then it has an upper bound in  $S$ :

$$H = \bigcup_{\alpha} H_{\alpha}$$

$H$  is a Subgp.:  $x, y \in H \Rightarrow x \in H_{\alpha}, y \in H_{\beta}$

$$\text{Tot. ordering } \Rightarrow H_{\alpha} \subset H_{\beta} \text{ or } H_{\beta} \subset H_{\alpha}$$

$$\Rightarrow xy^{-1} \in H_{\beta} \text{ or } x^{-1}y \in H_{\alpha}$$

$$\subset H$$

$H$  is a proper Subgp.:  $H_{\alpha} \subset H \subset S$  and all subgps. in  $S$  are proper subgps. of  $G$ . So by Zorn's lemma,  $S$  has a maximal subgp.  $M$ .

That means  $M$  is a proper ideal of  $G$

$$M \subset H \subset G, H \neq G \Rightarrow H = M$$

subgp.

so  $M$  is a maximal subgp.

Therefore, every nontrivial fin. gen. group  $G$  contains a maximal subgp. □

(4) (a) Let  $a$  be any complex number. Prove that the map  $\phi: \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $\phi(f(x)) = f(a)$  is a homomorphism of rings.

Pf: First we will show that  $\phi(f(x) + g(x)) = \phi(f(x)) + \phi(g(x))$ :

Let  $f(x), g(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ . Then

$$\phi(f(x) + g(x)) = f(a) + g(a) = \phi(f(x)) + \phi(g(x)) \quad \checkmark$$

Now we will show that  $\phi(f(x)g(x)) = \phi(f(x))\phi(g(x))$ :

$$\phi(f(x)g(x)) = f(a)g(a) = \phi(f(x))\phi(g(x)) \quad \checkmark$$

Lastly,  $\phi(1) = 1$ . ✓

Therefore,  $\phi$  is a homomorphism of rings. □

(b) Prove that  $\mathbb{R}[x]/(x^2+1)$  is a field which is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Pf:  $(x^2+1) = (x+i)(x-i)$

Let  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  by  $\varphi(f(x)) = f(i)$ .

By part (a), this is a ring homomorphism.

We want to show that  $\ker(\varphi) = (x^2+1)$ .

• Let  $g(x) \in (x^2+1)$ .

Then  $g(i) = (i^2+1) = 0$ , so  $g(x) \in \ker(\varphi)$ .

Therefore,  $(x^2+1) \subseteq \ker(\varphi)$ .

• Let  $g(x) \in \ker(\varphi)$ .

Then  $g(i) = 0 \Rightarrow (x-i) \mid g(x)$  and

$$g(-i) = 0 \Rightarrow (x+i) \mid g(x).$$

Therefore,  $(x-i)(x+i) = (x^2+1) \mid g(x) \Rightarrow g(x) \in (x^2+1)$ .

Thus,  $\ker(\varphi) \subseteq (x^2+1)$ .

We conclude that  $\ker(\varphi) = (x^2+1)$ .

The evaluation map  $g(x) \mapsto g(i)$  is onto:

$a+bi \in \mathbb{C}$  is the image of  $a+bx \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ .

Therefore, by the first isom. thm., we have that  $\mathbb{R}[x]/(x^2+1) \cong \mathbb{C}$ . □

(5) (a) Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and  $I$  be an ideal in  $R$ . Show that  $R/I$  is a field if and only if  $I$  is a maximal ideal.

Pf: • Suppose that  $R/I$  is a field and  $I \subset J \subset R$  where  $J$  is an ideal.

We WTS  $J = I$  or  $J = R$  (defn. of a max. ideal).

Assume  $J \neq I$ .

Let  $j \in J - I$ , so in  $R/I$  we have  $j \neq 0 \bmod I$ .

Since  $R/I$  is a field, there is a  $k \in R$  s.t.  $jk \equiv 1 \bmod I$ , so

$$jk = 1 + x \text{ for some } x \in I.$$

Thus,  $1 = jk - x$ .

Since  $j \in J$ , we have that  $jk \in J$ , and since  $x \in I \subset J$ , we have that  $1 = jk - x \in J$ . (so  $1 \in J$ )

Therefore,  $J$  contains  $1$ , so  $J = R$ .

Thus,  $I$  is a maximal ideal.

• Suppose that  $I$  is a maximal ideal.

Then  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $R$  s.t. the only ideals  $J$  satisfying  $I \subset J \subset R$  are  $J = I$  or  $J = R$ .

Let  $a \neq 0, a \in R/I$ .

We WTS  $a$  has an inverse.

Consider the sum  $I + Ra = \{x + ra : x \in I, r \in R\}$ .

This is an ideal in  $R$ :  $\forall r \in R$  and  $x + ra \in I + Ra$ , we have

$$r(x + ra) = rx + r^2a \in I + Ra \quad (rx \in I, r^2a \in Ra).$$

The ideal  $I + Ra$  contains  $I$  (use  $r = 0$ ) and it contains  $a$  (use  $x = 0$  and  $r = 1$ ), so the ideal  $I + Ra$  is larger than  $I$ .

Therefore,  $I + Ra = R$  since  $I$  is a maximal ideal.

That implies  $1 = x + ra$  for some  $x \in I$  and  $r \in R$ , so  $ra \equiv 1 \bmod I$ , and thus  $a \bmod I$  has an inverse.

Therefore,  $R/I$  is a field. □

(b) Let  $R$  be a PID and  $P$  be a nonzero prime ideal in  $R$ . Show that  $P$  is a maximal ideal.

Pf: Since  $R$  is a PID, the prime ideal  $P$  is principal, i.e.,  $P = (p) \subset R$ .

Let  $I = (a)$  be an ideal s.t.  $P \subset I \subset R$ , so  $(p) \subset (a) \subset R$ .

$$(p) \subset (a) \Rightarrow a \mid p, \text{ so } \exists b \in R \text{ s.t. } p = ab.$$

Since  $P$  is prime,  $a \in P$  or  $b \in P$ .

If  $a \in P$ , then  $(a) \subset (p) \Rightarrow I = P$

If  $b \in P$ , then  $\exists c \in R$  s.t.  $b = pc$ .

$$\text{Then } p = ab = apc \Rightarrow p = pac$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = ac$$

$$\Rightarrow a \text{ is invertible.}$$

$$\text{Thus, } I = R.$$

Therefore, for  $P \subset I \subset R$ , we have  $I = P$  or  $I = R$ .

Thus, we conclude that  $P$  is a maximal ideal. □

(6) Give examples as requested, with brief justification.

(a) A nonabelian group which is not isomorphic to a semidirect product of nontrivial groups.

Pf:  $Q_8$  (the quaternions) is a nonabelian gp that is not isom. to a semidirect prod. of nontrivial gps.

$Q_8$  is not abelian b/c  $ij = k$ , but  $ji = -k$  and  $k = -k$ , so  $ij \neq ji$ .

Suppose  $Q_8 \cong G = N \rtimes H$  ( $N \triangleleft G, H \leq G, N \& H$  are nontrivial).

• If  $|N| = 4$ , then  $H = \{1, h\}$  where  $h$  is an elt. of order 2 in  $Q_8$ .

Therefore,  $h = -1$ , which is the only elt. of order 2 in  $Q_8$ .

But  $-1 \in N$  since  $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$ .

We get the contradiction that  $N \cap H \neq \{1\}$ .

• If  $|N| = 2$ , then  $|H| = 4$  and  $H \triangleleft G$ .

Noting  $N = \{1, n\}$ , we have  $h^{-1}nh = n$  for  $h \in H$ .

Therefore,  $nh = hn$ .

This proves that  $G = NH$ .

Also  $N$  is abelian as a cyclic gp. of order 2.

$H$  is also cyclic since  $|H| = 2^2$  and  $H$  is abelian.

This would make  $G$  abelian. ↯

□

(b) A 2-Sylow subgroup of  $S_4$ .

Pf: (Needs work)

(c) A PID other than  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Pf:  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a field other than  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

The only ideals in  $\mathbb{Q}$  are  $(0)$  and  $(1) = \mathbb{Q}$ .

Therefore,  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a PID since all of its ideals are principals. □

(d) A unit other than  $\pm 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-7}]$ .

Pf: Let  $x + y\sqrt{-7} \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-7}]$ .

$$N(x + y\sqrt{-7}) = (x + y\sqrt{-7})(x - y\sqrt{-7}) = x^2 - 7y^2$$

$$x^2 - 7y^2 = \pm 1 \Rightarrow x^2 - 7y^2 = 1 \Rightarrow x^2 = 1 + 7y^2$$

Let  $x = 8, y = 3$ .

$$\text{Then } N(8 + 3\sqrt{-7}) = 1$$

Therefore,  $8 + 3\sqrt{-7} \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-7}]$  is a unit other than  $\pm 1$ . □