Assignment 3 MAT 347

Q7i: We compute the commutator subgroup of D_6 . Any element of the commutator subgroup is of the form

$$(\sigma^i\rho^j)(\sigma^k\rho^l)(\sigma^i\rho^j)^{-1}(\sigma^k\rho^l)^{-1}$$

We can use the relations on D_{2n} as outlined in chapter 1.2 of the textbook, to compute this product.

$$\begin{split} (\sigma^{i}\rho^{j})(\sigma^{k}\rho^{l})(\sigma^{i}\rho^{j})^{-1}(\sigma^{k}\rho^{l})^{-1} &= (\sigma^{i}\rho^{j}\sigma^{k}\rho^{l})(\rho^{-j}\sigma^{-i})(\rho^{-l}\sigma^{-k}) \\ &= (\sigma^{i}\rho^{j}\sigma^{k}\rho^{l})(\rho^{-j}\sigma^{i})(\rho^{-l}\sigma^{k}) \\ &= \sigma^{i}\rho^{j-l}(\sigma^{k}\rho^{-j})(\sigma^{i}\rho^{-l})\sigma^{k} \\ &= \sigma^{i}\rho^{j-l}\rho^{j}\sigma^{k}\sigma^{i}\rho^{-l}\sigma^{k} \\ &= \sigma^{i}\rho^{2j-l}\sigma^{i+k}\rho^{-l}\sigma^{k} \\ &= \sigma^{i}\rho^{2l-2j}\sigma^{i+2k} \\ &= \sigma^{2i+2k}\rho^{2(j-l)} \\ &= \rho^{2(j-l)} \end{split}$$

Hence the commutator subgroup of D_2n is simply just the set of all rotations. Therefore, D_6/D_6' is just $\{e, \sigma\}$. We can identify this subgroup with $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ with the isomorphism $\phi(\sigma) = 1$.

Q7ii: Similarly to 7i, we know that the commutator subgroup of D_8 is all the rotations, hence

$$D_8/D_8' \cong \{e, \sigma\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

Q7iii: We compute the commutator subgroup of Q_8 . We compute all elements of the form $ghg^{-1}h^{-1}$. First assume that either g is equal to ± 1 . We get that

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = (\pm 1)h(\pm 1)^{-1}h^{-1} = (\pm 1)(\pm 1)^{-1}hh^{-1} = 1$$

If we had instead $h = \pm 1$ we would have the exact same conclusion. Now if g = h, we get that

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = ggg^{-1}g^{-1}$$

= gg^{-1}
= 1

Now finally suppose that $g \neq h$ and both are not ± 1 . Note that this implies that $g^{-1} = -g$ We compute:

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = gh(-g)(-h)$$

 $= g(hg)h$
 $= -g^2h^2$ (from anticommutativity of \mathcal{Q}_8)
 $= -1$ (since $g^2 = h^2 = -1$)

Thus we have that $Q_8' = \{\pm 1\}$. Hence

$$Q_8/Q_8' \cong \{1, i, j, k\}$$