

Q5: The maximum order of an element of $C_m \times C_n$ is $\text{lcm}(n, m)$, since if g generates C_m and h generates C_n , we have that (g, h) generates $C_m \times C_n$. The order of this element must be both a multiple of n and m , so the largest it can be is $\text{lcm}(n, m)$. We now claim that

$$C_m \times C_n \cong C_{\text{lcm}(m, n)} \times C_{\text{gcd}(m, n)}.$$

First note that from basic number theory we have that $m \cdot n = \text{lcm}(m, n) \cdot \text{gcd}(m, n)$. Hence these groups must have the same order. We will construct an injective homeomorphism between them and conclude that they are isomorphic. Note that for every element $([x]_m, [y]_n)$ we can find some integer a so that $[a]_m = [x]_m$ and $[a]_n = [y]_n$. Define $\varphi : C_m \times C_n \rightarrow C_{\text{lcm}(m, n)} \times C_{\text{gcd}(m, n)}$ by

$$\varphi([a]_m, [a]_n) = ([a]_{\text{lcm}(m, n)}, [a]_{\text{gcd}(m, n)}).$$

Note that from properties of integers mod n , we have that φ is a homeomorphism. We claim that this is an injective mapping. First suppose that for some $(x, y) \in C_m \times C_n$, we have that $\varphi(x, y) = (0, 0)$. Find a $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ so that $[b]_m = [x]_m$ and $[b]_n = [y]_n$. We have that $\varphi(b, b) = (0, 0)$. We have that $b|nk, lm$ for some $k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$ and so $[b]_m = [b]_n = e$. Hence $(x, y) = (e, e)$ and φ is an isomorphism. It is clear from elementary number theory that $\text{gcd}(n, m) | \text{lcm}(n, m)$. We now claim that if for any r, s with $s|r$, and $C_m \times C_n \cong C_r \times C_s$ we must have that $r = \text{lcm}(m, n)$ and $s = \text{gcd}(m, n)$. Note that we must have that $r \cdot s = m \cdot n$, furthermore $\text{gcd}(m, n) = \text{gcd}(r, s)$ and $\text{lcm}(r, s) = \text{lcm}(m, n)$. If $s|r$. This uniquely determines s, r as $r = \text{lcm}(m, n)$ from number theory.