



Math for the people, by the people.

theorems of special linear group over a finite field

Canonical name	TheoremsOfSpecialLinearGroupOverAFiniteField
Date of creation	2013-03-22 14:55:54
Last modified on	2013-03-22 14:55:54
Owner	Daume (40)
Last modified by	Daume (40)
Numerical id	6
Author	Daume (40)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 20G15
Related topic	ProjectiveSpecialLinearGroup

Let \mathbb{F}_q be the finite field with q elements, and consider the special linear group $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)$ over the field \mathbb{F}_q .

1. $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)$ is finite. Furthermore, $|\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)| = \frac{1}{q-1} \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (q^n - q^i)$.
2. $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)$ is a perfect group, meaning that $[\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q), \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)] = \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{F}_q)$, where $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is the commutator bracket with two exceptions: $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{F}_2)$ and $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{F}_3)$.