

1. G is a cyclic group of order n and $m|n$. Prove that there is a unique subgroup of order m in G .

Solution:

Let $G = \langle a \rangle$ be a cyclic group of order n . The cyclic subgroup $\langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$ is of order m , since

$$\langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle = \{1, a^{\frac{n}{m}}, a^{\frac{2n}{m}}, \dots, a^{\frac{(m-1)n}{m}}\}$$

Now for any subgroup H of G with $|H| = m$, $H = \langle a^k \rangle$ for some $1 \leq k \leq n$. If we can show $a^k \in \langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$, then $\langle a^k \rangle \subseteq \langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$, and together with $|\langle a^k \rangle| = |\langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle| = m$, we can conclude $H = \langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$.

Now we will show $a^k \in \langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$: $|a^k| = m$, so $(a^k)^m = 1$, i.e., $a^{km} = 1$. This means $n|km$, there exists $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $km = bn$. We have $k = \frac{n}{m} \times b$, so $a^k = (a^{\frac{n}{m}})^b$, $a^k \in \langle a^{\frac{n}{m}} \rangle$.

2. G is a group of order p^2 , where p is a prime. Prove that if G has a unique subgroup of order p , then G is cyclic.

Solution:

If the only cyclic subgroup of order p is $\langle x \rangle$, let $y \in G$ and $y \notin \langle x \rangle$. $|y|$ divides $|G| = p^2$, $|y| \neq 1$ since it is not the identity, $|y| \neq p$ otherwise there will be another cyclic subgroup of order p , so $|y| = p^2$, $G = \langle y \rangle$ is cyclic.

3. If G is a finite group with $|G| > 1$, and the only subgroups of G are $\{1\}$ and G , prove G is a cyclic group with prime order.

Solution: We first prove G is a cyclic group. Take any $x \in G$ such that $x \neq 1$, the cyclic subgroup generated by x is $\langle x \rangle \neq \{1\}$, and the only subgroups of G are $\{1\}$ and G , so $\langle x \rangle = G$, we get G is a cyclic group.

Suppose $|G| = |\langle x \rangle| = |x| = n$ is not prime, then there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $1 < k < n$ and k divides n . $(x^k)^{\frac{n}{k}} = x^n = 1$, so $|\langle x^k \rangle| \leq \frac{n}{k} < n = |G|$, which means $\langle x^k \rangle \neq G$. $1 < k < n = |x|$ implies $x^k \neq 1$, so $\langle x^k \rangle \neq \{1\}$, so we get a subgroup $\langle x^k \rangle$ which is not 1 or G , contradiction. We conclude $|G|$ is prime.

4. $f : G \rightarrow G'$ is a homomorphism, H' is a subgroup of G' , and $H = f^{-1}(H') = \{g \in G | f(g) \in H'\}$.

- (i). Prove $\ker f \subseteq H$.
- (ii). Prove H is a subgroup of G .
- (iii). If H' is a normal subgroup of G' , is H a normal subgroup of G ? If yes, prove it; if no, provide a counter example.

Solution:

- (i). For any $x \in \ker f$, $f(x) = 1' \in H'$ since H' is a subgroup of G' , so $x \in H$, $\ker f \subseteq H$.
 - (ii). For any $a, b \in H$, $f(a) \in H'$ and $f(b) \in H'$, then $f(a^{-1}b) = f(a)^{-1}f(b) \in H'$, so $a^{-1}b \in H$, H is a subgroup of G .
 - (iii). H is a normal subgroup of G :
 H' is a normal subgroup of G' , so for any $h \in H$ and $g \in G$, $f(ghg^{-1}) = f(g)f(h)f(g)^{-1} \in H'$, which means $ghg^{-1} \in H$, H is a normal subgroup of G .
5. G is a group. $f : G \rightarrow G$ is defined by $f(g) = g^2$. Prove that f is a homomorphism if and only if G is abelian.

Solution: If G is abelian, then for any $a, b \in G$:

$$f(ab) = (ab)^2 = abab = a^2b^2 = f(a)f(b)$$

f is a homomorphism.

Conversely, if f is a homomorphism, then for any $a, b \in G$,

$$a(ab)b = a^2b^2 = f(a)f(b) = f(ab) = (ab)^2 = a(ba)b$$

by Cancellation Law, $ab = ba$. We conclude G is abelian.

6. \mathbb{Z} is the group of integers with addition as composition, and $G = \{\pm 1\}$ is the group of ± 1 with multiplication.
- (i). For $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $f_a : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be the function $f_a(x) = ax$ for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}) = \{f_1, f_{-1}\}$.
 - (ii). Let $G = \{\pm 1\}$ be the group with multiplication. Prove $F : \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow G$ defined by $F(f) = f(1)$ is an isomorphism.

Solution:

- (i). First, it is easy to see $f_1 \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$ and $f_{-1} \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$. We need to show these are the only elements in $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$.

For any $f \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$, f is a homomorphism, then for any positive integer k ,
 $f(k) = f(\underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{k\text{-copies}}) = \underbrace{f(1) + \dots + f(1)}_{k\text{-copies}} = kf(1)$, and $f(-k) = f(\underbrace{(-1) + \dots + (-1)}_{k\text{-copies}}) =$
 $\underbrace{f(-1) + \dots + f(-1)}_{k\text{-copies}} = kf(-1) = -kf(1)$. Thus we see $f(x) = f(1)x$ for any
integer x , so $f = f_a$ with $a = f(1)$.

Also $f = f_a$ is bijective, by Homework 1, $a = \pm 1$. So $f = f_1$ or $f = f_{-1}$, we conclude $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}) = \{f_1, f_{-1}\}$.

(ii). $F(f_1) = f_1(1) = 1$ and $F(f_{-1}) = f_{-1}(1) = -1$, so F is bijective.

F is a homomorphism since It is a homomorphism since for $f, f' \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z})$,
 $F(f \circ f') = f \circ f'(1) = f(f'(1)) = f(1)f'(1) = F(f)F(f')$.

We conclude that Φ is an isomorphism.