Dummit and Foote Abridged

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Part I
Group Theory

0 Preliminaries

0.1 Basics

Proposition 1. Let $f\colon A \to B$.

1. The map f is injective if and only if f has a left inverse.

2. The map f is surjective if and only if f has a right inverse.

3. The map f is a bijection if and only if there exist $g\colon B \to A$ such that $f \circ g$ is the identity map on B and $g \circ f$ is the identity map on A.

4. If A and B are finite sets with the same number of elements the $f\colon A \to B$ is bijective if and only if f is injective if and only if f is surjective.

Proposition 2. Let A be a nonempty set.

1. If $\sim$ defines an equivalence relation on A then the set of equivalence classes of $\sim$ form a partition of A.

2. If $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a partition of A then there is an equivalence relation on A whose equivalence classes are precisely the sets $A_i, i \in I$

1 Group Theory

1.1 Basic Axioms and Examples

Definition.

1. A *binary operation* $\star$ on a set G is a function $\star\colon G \times G \to G$. For any $a, b \in G$ we shall write $a \star b$ for $\star(a, b)$.

2. A binary operation $\star$ on a set G is associative if for all $a, b, c \in G$ we have $a \star (b \star c) = (a \star b) \star c$.

3. If $\star$ is a binary operation on a set G we say elements a and b of G *commute* if $a \star b = b \star a$. We say $\star$ (or G) is *commutative* if for all $a, b \in G$, $a \star b = b \star a$.

Proposition 1. If G is a group under the operation $\cdot$, then

1. The identity of G is unique

2. for each $a \in G$, a^{-1} is uniquely determined

3. $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$ for all $a \in G$

4. $(a \cdot b)^{-1} = (b^{-1}) \cdot (a^{-1})$

5. for any $a_q, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in G$ the value of $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ is independent of how the expression is bracketed

Proposition 2. Let G be a group and let $a, b \in G$. The equations $ax = b$ and $ya = b$ have unique solutions for $x, y \in G$. In particular, the left and right cancellation laws hold in G, i.e.,

1. if $au = av$, then $u = v$, and

2. if $ub = vb$, then $u = v$.

Definition. For G a group and $x \in G$ define the *order* of x to be the smallest positive integer n such that $x^n = 1$, denoted $|x|$. If there is no such integer than we define the order of x to be infinity.

1.6 Homomorphism and Isomorphisms

Definition. Let $(G, \star)$ and $(H, \diamond)$ be groups. A map $\varphi\colon G \to H$ such that $\varphi(x \star y) = \varphi(x) \diamond \varphi(y)$, for all $x, y \in G$ is called a *homomorphism*. Moreover, if φ is bijective it is called an *isomorphism* and we say that G and H are *isomorphic* or of the same *isomorphism type*, written $G \cong H$.

Note. If $\varphi\colon G \to H$ is an isomorphism then

1. $|G| = |H|$

2. G is abelian if and only if H is abelian

3. for all $x \in G, |x| = |\varphi(x)|$

1.7 Group Actions

Definition. A *group action* of a group G on a set A is a map from $G \times A$ to A (written as $g \cdot a$, for all $g \in G$ and $a \in A$) satisfying the following properties:

1. $g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot a) = (g_1 g_2) \cdot a$, for all $g_1, g_2 \in G, a \in A$, and
2. $1 \cdot a = a$ for all $a \in A$.

Note. Let the group G act on the set A. From each fixed $g \in G$ we get a map σ_g defined by

$$\sigma_g \colon A \to A$$
$$\sigma_g(a) = g \cdot a.$$

The following are true

1. for each fixed $g \in G$, σ_g is a permutation of A, and
2. the map from G to S_A defined bt $g \mapsto \sigma_g$ is a homomorphism. Moreover this map is called the *permutation representation* associated to the given action.

Note. As a consequence of the above remark, if $\varphi\colon G \to S_A$ is a homomorphism (here S_A is the symmetric group on the set A), then the map from $G \times A$ to A defined by

$$g \cdot a = \varphi(g)(a) \text{for all} g \in G, \text{ and all} a \in A$$

is a group action of G on A.

2 Subgroups

2.1 Definition and Examples

Definition. Let G be a group. The subset H of G is a *subgroup* of G if H is nonempty and H is closed under products and inverse (i.e, $x, y \in H$ implies $x \in H$ and $xy \in H$). If H is a subgroup of G we shall write $H \leq G$.

Proposition 1. (The Subgroup Criterion) A subset H of a group G is a subgroup if and only if

1. $H \neq \emptyset$, and
2. for all $x, y \in H, xy^{-1} \in H$

2.2 Centralizers and Normalizers, Stabilizers and Kernels

Let G be a group and A a nonempty subset of G.

Definition. The *centralizer* of A in G is $C_G(A) = \{g \in G \mid gag^{-1} = a \text{ for all } a \in A\}$. Note that this is the set of elements of G which commute with every element of A. Note that $C_g(A) \leq G$.

Definition. The *center* of G is the set $Z(G) = \{g \in G \mid gx = xg \text{ for all } x \in G\}$. Note that, $Z(G) = C_G(G)$, thus $Z(G) \leq G$.

Definition. Define $gAg^{-1} = \{gag^{-1} \mid a \in A\}$. The *normalizer* of A in G is the set $N_G(A) = \{g \in G \mid gAg^{-1} = A\}$. Note that, $C_G(A) \leq N_G(A) \leq G$.

2.3 Cyclic Groups and Cyclic Subgroups

Definition. A group H is *cyclic* if H can be generated by a single element, i.e, there exist some $x \in H$ such that $H = \{x^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ when using multiplicative notation and $H = \{nx \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ when using additive notation. In either case we write $H = \langle x \rangle$.

Proposition 2. If $H = \langle x \rangle$, then $|H| = |x|$. Moreover,

1. if $|H| = n < \infty$, then $x^n = 1$ and $1, x, x^2, \ldots, x^{n-1}$ are all distinct elements of H, and

2. if $|H| = \infty$, then $x^n \neq 1$ for all $n \neq 0$ and $x^a \neq x^b$ for all $a \neq b \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proposition 3. Let G be an arbitrary group, $x \in G$ and let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $x^n = 1$ and $x^m = 1$ then $x^d = 1$ where $d = (m, n)$. In particular, if $x^m = 1$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ then $|x|$ divides m.

Theorem 4. Any two cyclic groups of the same order are isomorphic. Moreover,

1. if $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $\langle x \rangle$ and $\langle y \rangle$ are both cyclic groups of order n, then the map

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \colon \langle x \rangle &\to \langle y \rangle \\ x^k &\mapsto y^k \end{aligned}$$

   is well defined and is an isomorphism

2. if $\langle x \rangle$ is an infinite cyclic group, the map

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi \colon \mathbb{Z} &\to \langle x \rangle \\ k &\mapsto x^k \end{aligned}$$

   is well defined and is an isomorphism

Proposition 5. Let G be a group, let $x \in G$ and let $a \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$.

1. If $|x| = \infty$, then $|x^a| = \infty$.

2. If $|x| = n < \infty$, then $|x^a| = \frac{n}{(n,a)}$.

3. In particular, if $|x| = n < \infty$ and a is a positive integer dividing n, then $|x^a| = \frac{n}{a}$.

Proposition 6. Let $H = \langle x \rangle$.

1. Assume $|x| = \infty$. Then $H = \langle x^a \rangle$ if and only if $a = \pm 1$.

2. Assume $|x| = n < \infty$. Then $H = \langle x^a \rangle$ if and only if $(a, n) = 1$. In particular, the number of generators of H is $\varphi(n)$ (where φ is Euler's φ-function)

Theorem 7. Let $H = \langle x \rangle$ be a cyclic group.

1. Every subgroup of H is cyclic. More precisely, if $K \leq H$, then either $K = \{1\}$ or $K = \langle x^d \rangle$, where d is the smallest positive integer such that $x^d \in K$.

2. If $|H| = \infty$, then for any distinct nonnegative integers a and b, $\langle x^a \rangle \neq \langle x^b \rangle$. Furthermore, for every integer m, $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{|m|} \rangle$, where $|m|$ denotes the absolute value of m, so that the nontrival subgroups of H correspond bijectively with the integers $1, 2, 3, \ldots$.

3. If $|H| = n < \infty$, then for each positive integer a dividing n there is a unique subgroup of H of order a. This subgroup is the cyclic group $\langle x^d \rangle$, where $d = \frac{n}{a}$. Furthermore, for every integer m, $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{(n,m)} \rangle$, so that the subgroups of H correspond bijectively with the positive divisors of n.

2.4 Subgroups Generated by Subsets of a Group

Proposition 8. If $\mathcal{A}$ is any nonempty collection of subgroups of G, then the intersection of all members of $\mathcal{A}$ is also a subgroup of G.

Definition. If A is any subset of the group G define

$$\langle A \rangle = \bigcap_{\substack{A \subseteq H \\ H \leq G}} H.$$

This is called the *subgroup of G generated by A*.

Note. $\langle A \rangle = \{a_1^{\epsilon_1} a_2^{\epsilon_2} \ldots a_n^{\epsilon_n} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 0 \text{ and } a_i \in A, \epsilon_i = \pm 1 \text{ for each } i\}$.

3 Quotient Groups and Homomorphisms

3.1 Definitions and Examples

Definition. If φ is a homomorphism $\varphi \colon G \to H$, the *kernel* of φ is the set

$$\{g \in G \mid \varphi(g) = 1\}$$

and will be denoted by kerφ (here 1 is the identity of H).

Proposition 1. Let G and H be groups and let $\varphi \colon H \to H$ be a homomorphism.

1. $\varphi(1_G) = 1_H$, where 1_G and 1_H are the identities of G and H, respectively.

2. $\varphi(g^{-1}) = \varphi(g)^{-1}$ for all $g \in G$.

3. $\varphi(g^n) = \varphi(g)^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

4. kerφ is a subgroup of G.

5. imφ, the image of G under φ, is a subgroup of H.

Definition. Let $\varphi \colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism with kernel K. The *quotient group* or *factor group*, G/K (read *G modulo K* or simply *G mod K*), is the group whose elements are the fibers of φ with the following group operation: If X is the fiber above a and Y is the fiber above b then the product XY in G/K is defined to be the fiber above the product ab in G.

Proposition 2. Let $\varphi\colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism with kernel K. Let $X \in G/K$ be the fiber above a, i.e., $X = \varphi^{-1}(a)$. Then

1. For any $u \in X$, $X = \{uk \mid k \in K\}$
2. For any $u \in X$, $X = \{ku \mid k \in K\}$

Definition. For any $N \leq G$ and any $g \in G$ let

$$gN = \{gn \mid n \in N\} \text{ and } Ng = \{ng \mid n \in N\}$$

called respectively a *left coset* and a *right coset* of N in G. Any element of a coset is called a *representative* for the coset.

Theorem 3. Let G be a group and let K be the kernel of some homomorphism from G to another group. Then the set of whose elements are left cosets of K in G with operation defined by

$$uK \circ vK = (uv)K$$

forms a group, G/K. This operation is well defined and does not depend on the choice of representatives.

Proposition 4. Let N be any subgroup of the group G. The set of left cosets of N in G form a partition of G. Furthermore, for all $u, v \in G, uN = vN$ if and only if $v^{-1}u \in N$ and in particular, $uN = vN$ if and only if u and v are representatives of the same coset.

Proposition 5. Let G be a group and let N be a subgroup of G.

1. The operation on the set of left cosets of N in G described by

   $$uN \cdot vN = (uv)N$$

   is well defined if and only if gng^{-1} for all $g \in G$ and all $n \in N$.

2. If the above operation is well defined, then it makes the set of left cosets of N in G into a group. In particular the identity of this group is the coset $1N$ and the inverse of gN is the coset g^{-1}, i.e, $(gN)^{-1} = g^{-1}N$.

Definition. The element gng^{-1} is called the *conjugate* of $n \in N$ by g. The set $gNg^{-1} = \{gng^{-1} \mid n \in N\}$ is called the *conjugate* of N by g. The element g is said to *normalize* N if $gNg^{-1} = N$. A subgroup N of a group G is called *normal* if every element of G normalizes N, i.e., if $gNg^{-1} = N$ for all $g \in G$. If N is a normal subgroup of G we shall write $N \trianglelefteq G$.

Theorem 6. Let N be a subgroup of the group G. The following are equivalent:

1. $N \trianglelefteq G$
2. $N_G(N) = G$ (recall $N_G(N)$ is the normalizer in G of N)
3. $gN = Ng$ for all $g \in G$
4. the operation on left cosets of N in G described in Proposition 5 makes the set of left cosets into a group

5. $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$ for all $g \in G$.

Proposition 7. A subgroup N of the group G is normal if and only if it is the kernel of some homomorphism.

Definition. Let $N \trianglelefteq G$. The homomorphism $\pi\colon G \to G/N$ defined by $\pi(g) = gN$ is called the *natural projection (homomorphism)* of G onto G/N. If $\overline{H} \leq G/N$, then *complete preimage* of $\overline{H}$ in G is the preimage of $\overline{H}$ under the natural projection homomorphism.

3.2 More on Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem

Theorem 8. (*Lagrange's Theorem*) If G is a finite group and H is a subgroup of G, then the order of H divides the order of G and the number of left cosets of H in G equals $\frac{|G|}{|H|}$.

Definition. If G is a group and $H \leq G$, the number of left cosets of H in G is called the *index* of H in G and is denoted by $|G : H|$.

Corollary 9. If G is a finite group and $x \in G$, then the order of x divides the order of G. In particular, $x^{|G|} = 1$ for all x in G.

Corollary 10. If G is a group of prime order p, then G is cyclic, hence $G \cong Z_p$ (note that this text uses Z_n to denote the cyclic group of order n written in multiplicative notation and that given any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $Z_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$).

Note. For finite abelian groups the full converse of Lagrange's theorem holds, that is the group has a subgroup of order n for each n that divides the order of the group.

Theorem 11. (Cauchy's Theorem) If G is a finite group and p is a prime dividing $|G|$, then G has an element of order p.

Theorem 12. (Sylow) If G is a finite group of order $p^\alpha m$, where p is a prime not dividing m, then G has a subgroup of order p^α.

Definition. Let H and K be subgroups of a group and define

$$HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}.$$

Proposition 13. If H and K are finite subgroups of a group then

$$|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}.$$

Proposition 14. If H and K are subgroups of a group, HK is a subgroup if and only if $HK = KH$.

Note. $HK = KH$ does not imply that the elements of H commute with the elements of K

Corollary 15. If H and K are subgroups of G and $H \leq N_G(K)$, then Hk is a subgroup of G. In particular, if $K \trianglelefteq G$, Then $HK \leq G$ for any $H \leq G$ (Since if $K \trianglelefteq G$, $N_G(k) = G$).

Definition. If A is any subset of $N_G(K)$ (or $C_G(K)$), we shall say A *normalizes* K (*centralizes* K, respectively).

3.3 The Isomorphism Theorems

Theorem 16. (The First Isomorphism Theorem) If $\varphi\colon G \to H$ is a homomorphism, then $\ker\varphi \trianglelefteq G$ and $G/\ker\varphi \cong \varphi(G)$.

Corollary 17. Let $\varphi\colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism.

1. φ is injective if and only if $\ker\varphi = 1$.
2. $|G : \ker\varphi = |\varphi(G)|$.

Theorem 18. (The Second or Diamond Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group, let A and B be subgroups of G and assume $A \leq N_G(B)$. Then AB is a subgroup of G, $B \trianglelefteq AB$, $A \cap B \trianglelefteq A$, and $AB/B \cong A/A \cap B$.

Theorem 19. (The Third Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group and let H and K be normal subgroups of G with $H \leq K$. Then $K/H \trianglelefteq G/H$ and

$$(G/H)/(K/H) \cong G/K.$$

If we denote the quotient by H with a bar, this can be written

$$\overline{G}/\overline{K} \cong G/K.$$

Theorem 20. (The Fourth or Lattice Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group and let N be a normal subgroup of G. Then there is a bijection from the set of subgroups A of G which contains N onto the set of subgroups $\overline{A} = A/N$ of G/N. In particular, every subgroup of $\overline{G}$ is of the form A/N for some subgroup A of G containing N (namely, its preimage in G under the natural projection homomorphism from G to G/N). This bijection has the following properties: for all $A, B \leq G$ with $N \leq A$ and $N \leq B$,

1. $A \leq B$ if and only if $\overline{A} \leq \overline{B}$,
2. if $A \leq B$, then $|B : A| = |\overline{B} : \overline{A}|$,
3. $\overline{\langle A, B\rangle} = \langle \overline{A}, \overline{B}\rangle$,
4. $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$, and
5. $A \trianglelefteq G$ if and only if $\overline{A} \trianglelefteq \overline{G}$.

3.4 Composition Series and the Hölder Program

Proposition 21. If G is a finite abelian group and p is a prime dividing $|G|$, then G contains an element of order p.

Definition. A group G is called *simple* if $|G| > 1$ and the only normal subgroups of G are 1 and G.

Definition. In a group G a sequence of subgroups

$$1 = N_0 \leq N_1 \leq N_2 \leq \ldots \leq N_{k-1} \leq N_k = G$$

is called a composition series if $N_i \trianglelefteq N_{i+1}$ and N_{i+1}/N_i is a simple group, $0 \leq i \leq k-1$. If the above sequence is a composition series, the quotient groups N_{i+1}/N_i are called *composition factors* of G.

Theorem 22. (Jordan-Hölder) Let G be a finite group with $G \neq 1$. Then

1. G has a composition series and

2. The composition factors in a composition series are unique, namely, id $1 = N_0 \leq N_1 \leq \ldots \leq N_r = G$ and $1 = M_0 \leq M_1 \leq \ldots \leq M_s = G$ are two composition series for G, then $r = s$ and there is some permutation, π, of $\{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ such that

$$M_{\pi(i)}/M_{\pi(i)-1} \cong N_i/N_{i-1}, \qquad 1 \leq i \leq r.$$

Theorem. There is a list consisting of 18 (infinite) families of simple groups and 26 simple groups not belonging to these families (the *sporadic* simple groups) such that every finite simple group is isomorphic to one of the groups in this list.

Theorem. (Feit-Thompson) If G is a simple group of odd order, then $G \cong Z_p$ for some prime p.

Definition. A group G is *solvable* if there is a chain of subgroups

$$1 = G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \ldots \trianglelefteq G_s = G$$

such that G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, s-1$.

Theorem. The finite group G is solvable if and only if for every divisor n of $|G|$ such that $(n, \frac{|G|}{n}) = 1$, G has a subgroup of order n.

Note. If N and G/N are solvable, then so is G.

3.5 Transpositions and the Alternating Group

Definition. A 2-cycle is called a *transposition*.

Note. Every element of S_n may be written as a product of transpositions.

Definition. Let $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ be independent variables and let Δ be the polynomial

$$\Delta = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j),$$

and for $\sigma \in S_n$ let σ act on Δ by

$$\sigma(\Delta) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_{\sigma(i)} - x_{\sigma(j)}).$$

One can show that for all $\sigma \in S_n$ that $\sigma(\Delta) = \pm\Delta$. Now define,

$$\epsilon(\sigma) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \sigma(\Delta) = \Delta \\ -1 & \text{if } \sigma(\Delta) = -\Delta. \end{cases}$$

Now,

1. $\epsilon(\sigma)$ is called the sign of σ and

2. σ is call an *even permutation* if $\epsilon(\sigma) = 1$ and an *odd permutation* if $\epsilon(\sigma) = -1$.

Proposition 23. The map $\epsilon\colon S_n \to \{\pm 1\}$ is a homomorphism (where $\{\pm 1\}$ is a multiplicative version of the cyclic group of order 2).

Proposition 24. Transpositions are all odd permutations and ϵ is a surjective homomorphism.

Definition. The *alternating group of degree n*, denoted A_n, is the kernel of te homomorphism ϵ (i.e., the set of even permutations).

Note.

1. $|A_n| = \frac{1}{2}|S_n| = \frac{1}{2}(n!)$.
2. Due to ϵ being a homomorphism we get the rules
$$(even)(even) = (odd)(odd) = even$$
$$(even)(odd) = (odd)(even) = odd.$$
3. An m-cycle is an odd permutation if and if only m is even

Proposition 25. The permutation σ is odd if and only if the number of cycles of even length in its cycle decomposition is odd.

Note. A_n is a non-abelian simple group for all $n \geq 5$.

4 Group Actions

4.1 Group Actions and Permutation Representations

Definition. Let G be a group acting on a set A

1. The *kernel* of the action is the set of elements of G that act trivially on every element of A: $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot a = a \text{ for all } a \in A\}$.
2. For each $a \in A$ the *stabilizer* of a in G is the set of elements of G that fix the element a: $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot a = a\}$ and is denoted by G_a.
3. An action is *faithful* if its kernel is the identity.

Note. The kernel pf an action is precisely the same as the kernel of the associated permutation representation as defined in the note in section 1.7 and is rephrased below.

Proposition 1. For any group G and any nonempty set A there is a bijection between the actions of G on A and the homomorphisms of G into S_A.

Definition. If G is a group a *permutation representation* of G into the symmetric group S_A for some nonempty set A. We shall say a given action of G on A *affords* or *induces* the associated representation of G.

Proposition 2. Let G be a group acting on the nonempty set A. the relation on A defined by
$$a \sim b \text{ if and only if } a = g \cdot b \text{ for some } g \in G$$
is an equivalence relation. For each $a \in A$, the number of elements in the equivalence class containing a is $|G : G_a|$, the index of the stabilizer of a.

Definition. Let G be a group acting on the set A.

1. The equivalence class $\{g \cdot \mid g \in G\}$ is called the *orbit* of G containing a.

2. The action of G on A is called *transitive* if there is only one orbit, i.e., given any two elements $a, b \in A$ there is some $g \in G$ such that $a = g \cdot b$.

Note.

1. Every element of S_n has a unique cycle decomposition

2. Subgroups of symmetric groups are called *permutation groups.*

3. The orbits of a permutation group will refer to its orbits on $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$

4. The orbits of an element $\sigma \in S_n$ will refer to the orbits of the group $\langle \sigma \rangle$.

4.2 Group Acting on Themselves by Left Multiplication - Cayley's Theorem

Note. In this section G is any group and we first consider G acting on itself (i.e., $A = G$) by left multiplication:

$$g \cdot a = ga \quad \text{ for all } g \in G, a \in G$$

When G is a finite group of order n it is convenient to label the elements of G with the integers $1, 2, \ldots, n$ in order to describe the permutation representation afforded by this action. In this way the elements of G are listed as $g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n$ and for each $g \in G$ the permutation σ_g may be described as a permutation of the indices $1, 2, \ldots, n$ as follows:

$$\sigma_g(i) = j \quad \text{ if and only if } \quad gg_i = g_j.$$

Theorem 3. Let G be a group, let H be a subgroup and let G act by left multiplication on the set A of left cosets of H in G. Let π_H be the associated permutation representation afforded by this action. Then

1. G acts transitively on A

2. the stabilizer of G of the point $1H \in A$ us the subgroup H

3. the kernel of the action (i.e., the kernel of π_H) is $\cap_{x \in G} xHx^{-1}$, and $\ker \pi_H$ is the largest normal subgroup of g contained in H.

Corollary 4. (Cayley's Theorem) Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of symmetric group. If G is a group of order n, then G is isomorphic to a subgroup of S_n.

Corollary 5. If G is a finite group of order n and p is the smallest prime dividing $|G|$, then any subgroup of index p is normal (Note that a group of order n need not have a subgroup of order p).

4.3 Groups Acting on Themselves by Conjugation - The Class Equation

Note. In this section we consider a group G acting on itself by *conjugation*

$$g \cdot a = gag^{-1} \quad \text{for all } g \in G, a \in G$$

Definition. Two elements a and a of G are said to be *conjugate* if G if there is some $g \in G$ such that $b = gag^{-1}$ (i.e., if and only if they are in some orbit of G acting on itself by conjugation). The orbits of G acting on itself by conjugation are called *conjugacy classes* of G.

Definition. Two subsets S and T of G are said to be *conjugate in* G if there is some $g \in G$ such that $T = gSg^{-1}$ (i.e., if and only if they are in the same orbit of G acting on its subsets by conjugation).

Proposition 6. The number of conjugates of a subset S in a group G is the index of the normalizer of S, $|G : N_G(S)|$. In particular, the number of conjugates of an element s of G is the index of the centralizer of s, $|G : C_g(s)|$.

Theorem 7. (The Class Equation) Let G be a finite group and let $g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_r$ be representatives of the distinct conjugacy classes of G not contained in the center $Z(G)$ of G. Then

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=1}^{r} |G : C_G(g_i)|.$$

Theorem 8. If p is a prime and P is a group of prime order p^α for some $\alpha \geq 1$, then P has a nontrivial center: $Z(P) \neq 1$.

Proposition 9. Let σ, τ be elements of the symmetric group S_n and suppose σ has cycle decomposition

$$(a_1 a_2 \ldots a_{k_1})(b_1 b_2 \ldots b_{k_2}) \ldots .$$

Then $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ has cycle decomposition

$$(\tau(a_1)\tau(a_2) \ldots \tau(a_{k_1}))(\tau(b_1)\tau(b_2) \ldots \tau(b_{k_2})) \ldots ,$$

that is $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ is obtained from σ by replacing each i in the cycle decomposition for σ by the entry $\tau(i)$.

Definition.

1. If $\sigma \in S_n$ is the product of disjoint cycles of length $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_r$ with $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_r$ (including its 1-cycles) then the integers $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_r$ are called the *cycle type* of σ.

2. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, a *partition* of n is any nondecreasing sequence of positive integers whose sum is n.

Proposition 10. Two elements of S_n are conjugate in S_n if and only if they have the same cycle type. The number of conjugacy classes of S_n equals the number of partitions of n.

Theorem 11. A_5 is a simple group.

4.4 Automorphisms

Definition. Let G be a group. An isomorphism from G onto itself is called an *automorphism* of G. The set of all automorphisms of G is denoted $\mathrm{Aut}(G)$.

Note. $\mathrm{Aut}(G)$ is a group under composition.

Proposition 12. Let H be a normal subgroup of the group G. Then G acts by conjugation on H as automorphisms of H. More specifically, the action of G on H by conjugation is defined for each $g \in G$ by

$$h \mapsto ghg^{-1} \qquad \text{for each } h \in H.$$

For each $g \in G$, conjugation by g is an automorphism of H. The permutation representation afforded by this action is a homomorphism of G into $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$ with kernel $C_G(H)$. In particular, $G/C_G(H)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$.

Corollary 13. If K is any subgroup of the group G and $g \in G$, then $K \cong gKg^{-1}$. Conjugate elements and conjugate subgroups have the same order.

Corollary 14. For any subgroup H of a group G, the quotient group $N_G(H)/C_G(H)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$. In particular, $G/Z(G)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(G)$.

Definition. Let G be a group and let $g \in G$. Conjugation by g is called an *inner automorphism* of G and the subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(G)$ consisting of all inner automorphisms is denoted $\mathrm{Inn}(G)$.

Definition. A subgroup H of a group G is called *characteristic* in G, denoted H char G, if every automorphism of G maps H to itself, i.e., $\sigma(H) = H$ for all $\sigma \in \mathrm{Aut}(G)$.

Note.

1. Characteristic subgroups are normal,
2. if H is the unique subgroup of a given order, then H is characteristic in G, and
3. if K char H and $H \trianglelefteq G$, then $K \trianglelefteq G$.

Proposition 15. The automorphism group of the cyclic group of order n is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$, an abelian group of order $\varphi(n)$ (where φ is Euler's function).

Proposition 16.

1. If p is an odd prime and $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then the automorphism group of the cyclic group of order p is cyclic of order $p-1$. More generally, the automorphism group of the cyclic grup of order p^n is cyclic of order $p^{n-1}(p-1)$.
2. For all $n \geq 3$ the automorphism group of the cyclic group of order 2^n is isomorphic to $Z_2 \times Z_{2^{n-2}}$, and in particular is not cyclic but has a cyclic subgroup of index 2.
3. Let p be a prime and let V be an abelian group (written additively)with the property that $pv = 0$ for all $v \in V$. If $|V| = p^n$, then V is an n-dimensional vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. The automorphisms of V are precisely the nonsingular linear transformations from V to itself, that is

   $$\mathrm{Aut}(V) \cong GL(V) \cong GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

   In particular, the order of $\mathrm{Aut}(V)$ is given in section 1.4.

4. For all $n \neq 6$ we have $\text{Aut}(S_n) = Inn(S_n) \cong S_n$. For $n = 6$ we have $|\text{Aut}(S_6) : \text{Inn}(S_6)| = 2$.

5. $\text{Aut}(D_8) \cong D_8$ and $\text{Aut}(Q_8) \cong S_4$.

4.5 Sylow's Theorem

Definition. Let G be a group and let p be a prime.

1. A group of order p^α for some $\alpha \geq 0$ is called a *p-group*. Subgroups of G which are p-groups are called *p-subgroups*.

2. If G is a group of order $p^\alpha m$, where $p \nmid m$, then a subgroup of order p^α is called a *Sylow p-subgroup* of G.

3. The set of Sylow p-subgroups of G will be denoted $Syl_p(G)$ and the number of Sylow p-subgroups of G will be denoted by $n_p(G)$ (or just n_p when G is clear from context).

Theorem 17. (Sylow's Theorem) Let G be a group of order $p^\alpha m$, where p is a prime not dividing m. ;

1. Sylow p-subgroups of G exist, i.e., $Syl_p(G) \neq \emptyset$.

2. If P is a sylow p-subgroup of G and Q is any p-subgroup of G, then there exists $g \in G$ such that $Q \leq gPg^{-1}$, i.e., Q is contained in some conjugate of P. In particular, any two Sylow p-subgroups of G are conjugate in G.

3. The number of Sylow p-subgroups of G is of the form $1 + kp$, i.e.,

$$n_p = 1 \pmod{p}.$$

   Further, n_p is the indec in G of the normalizer of $N_G(P)$ for any Sylow p-subgroup P, hence n_p divides m.

Lemma 18. Let $P \in Sly_p(G)$. If Q is any p-subgroup of G, then $Q \cap N_G(P) = Q \cap P$.

Corollary 19. Let P be a Sylow p-subgroup of G. Then the following are equivalent:

1. P is the unique Sylow p-subgroup of G, i.e., $n_p = 1$

2. P is normal in G

3. P is characteristic in G

4. All subgroups generated by elements of p-power order are p-groups, i.e., if X is any subset of G such that $|x|$ is a power of p for all $x \in X$, then $\langle X \rangle$ is a p-group.

Proposition 20. If $|G| = 60$ and G has more than one Sylow 5-subgroups, then G is simple.

Corollary 21. A_5 is simple

Proposition 22. If G is a simple group of order 60, then $G \cong A_5$.

4.6 The Simplicity of A_n

Theorem 23. A_n is simple for all $n \geq 5$.

5 Direct and Semidirect Products and Abelian Groups

5.1 Direct Products

Definition.

1. The *direct product* $G_1 \times G_2 \times \cdots \times G_n$ of the groups $G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_n$ with operations $\star_1, \star_2, \ldots, \star_n$, respectively, is the set of n-tuples $(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n)$ where $g_i \in G_i$ with the operation defined componentwise:
$$(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n) \star (h_1, h_2, \ldots, h_n) = (g_1 \star_1 h_1, g_2 \star_2 h_2 \ldots . g_n \star_n h_n).$$

2. Similarly, the *direct product* $G_1 \times G_2 \times \cdots$ of the groups $G_1, G_2, \ldots$ with operations $\star_1, \star_2, \ldots$, respectively, is the set of sequences $(g_1, g_2, \ldots)$ where $g_i \in G_i$ with the operation defined componentwise:
$$(g_1, g_2, \ldots) \star (h_1, h_2, \ldots) = (g_1 \star_1 h_1, g_2 \star_2 h_2 \ldots).$$

Proposition 1. If $G_1, \ldots, G_n$ are groups, their direct product is a group of order $|G_1||G_2| \cdots |G_n|$ (if any G_i is infinite, so is the direct product).

Proposition 2. Let $G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_n$ be group and let $G = G_1 \times G_2 \times \cdots \times G_n$ be their direct product.

1. For each fixed i the set of elements of G which have the identity of G_j in the j^{th} position for all $j \neq i$ and arbitrary elements of G_i in position i is a subgroup of G isomorphic G_i:
$$G_i \cong \{(1, 1, \ldots, 1, g_i, 1, \ldots, 1) \mid g_i \in G_i\},$$
(here g_i appears in the i^{th} position). If we identity G_i with this subgroup, then $G_i \trianglelefteq G$ and
$$G/G_i \cong G_1 \times \cdots \times G_{i-1} \times G_{i+1} \times \cdots \times G_n.$$

2. For each fixed i define $\pi_i \colon G \to G_i$ by
$$\pi_i((g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n)) = g_i.$$
Then π_i is a surjective homomorphism with
$$\begin{aligned} \ker\pi_i &= \{(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_{i-1}, 1, g_{i+1}) \mid g_j \in G_j \text{ for all } j \neq i\} \\ &\cong G_1 \times \cdots \times G_{i-1} \times G_{i+1} \times \cdots \times G_n \end{aligned}$$
(here 1 appears in position i).

3. Under the identifications in part 1, if $x \in G_i$ and $y \in G_j$ for some $i \neq j$, then $xy = yx$.

5.2 The Fundamental Theorem of Finitely Generated Abelian Groups

Definition.

1. A group G is *finitely generated* if there is some finite subset A of G such that $G = \langle A \rangle$.
2. For each $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $r \geq 0$ let $\mathbb{Z}^r = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}$ be the direct product of r copies of the group $\mathbb{Z}$, where $\mathbb{Z}^0 = 1$. The group $\mathbb{Z}^r$ is called the *free abelian group of order r*.

Theorem 3. (The Fundamental Theorem of Finitely Generated Abelian Groups) Let G be a finitely generated abelian group. Then

1. $$G \cong \mathbb{Z}^r \times Z_{n_1} \times Z_{n_2} \times \cdots \times Z_{n_s},$$

   for some $r, n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_s$ satisfying the following conditions:

   (a) $r \geq 0$ and $n_j \geq 2$ for all j, and

   (b) $n_{i+1} \mid n_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq s-1$

2. the expression in 1. is unique: if $G \cong \mathbb{Z}^t \times Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2} \times \cdots \times Z_{m_u}$, where t and $m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_u$ satisfy (a) and (b), then $t = r$ and $m_i = n_i$ for all i.

Definition. The integer r in Theorem 3 is called the *free rank* or *Betti number* of G and the integers $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_s$ are called the *invariant factors* of G. The description of G in Theorem 3(1) is called the *invariant factor decomposition* of G.

Note. There is a bijection between the set of isomorphism classes of finite abelian groups of order n and the set of integer sequences $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_s$ such that

1. $n_j \geq 2$ for all $j \in \{1, 2, \ldots, s\}$,
2. $n_{i+1} \mid n_i, 1 \leq i \leq s-1$, and
3. $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_s = n$.

Also notice that every prime divisor of n must be a divisor of n_1 due to (2).

Corollary 4. If n is the product of distinct primes, then up to isomorphism the only abelian group of order n is the cyclic group of order n, Z_n.

Theorem 5. Let G be an abelian group of order $n > 1$ and let the unique factorization of n into distinct prime powers be

$$n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_k^{\alpha_k}.$$

Then

1. $G \cong A_1 \times A_2 \times \cdots \times A_k$, where $|A_i| = p_i^{\alpha_i}$

2. for each $A \in \{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_k\}$ with $|A| = p^\alpha$,

$$A \cong Z_{p^{\beta_1}} \times Z_{p^{\beta_2}} \times \cdots \times Z_{p^{\beta_t}}$$

with $\beta_1 \geq \beta_2 \geq \ldots \geq \beta_t \geq 1$ and $\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \ldots + \beta_t = \alpha$ (where t and $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_t$ depend on i)

3. the decomposition in 1. and 2. is unique, i.e., if $G \cong B_1 \times B_2 \times \cdots \times B_m$, with $|B_i| = p_i^{\alpha_i}$ for all i, then $B_i \cong A_i$ and B_i and A_i have the same invariant factors.

Definition. The integers p^{β_j} described in the proceeding theorem are called the *elementary divisors* of G. The description of G in Theorem 5(1) and 5(2) is called the *elementary divisor decomposition* of G.

Note. For a group of order p^β the invariant factors will be $p^{\beta_1}, p^{\beta_2}, \ldots, p^{\beta_t}$ such that

1. $\beta_j \geq 1$ for all $j \in \{1, 2, \ldots, t\}$,
2. $\beta_i \geq \beta_{i+1}$ for all i, and
3. $\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \ldots + \beta_t = \beta$

Proposition 6. Let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

1. $Z_m \times Z_n \cong Z_{mn}$ if and only if $(m, n) = 1$.
2. If $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_k^{\alpha_k}$ then $Z_n \cong Z_{p_1^{\alpha_1}} \times Z_{p_2^{\alpha_2}} \times \cdots \times Z_{p_k^{\alpha_k}}$.

5.3 Table of Groups of Small Order

Order	No. of Isomorphism Types	Abelian Groups	Non-abelian Groups
1	1	Z_1	none
2	1	Z_2	none
3	1	Z_3	none
4	2	$Z_4,\ Z_2 \times Z_2$	none
5	1	Z_5	none
6	2	Z_6	S_3
7	1	Z_7	none
8	5	$Z_8,\ Z_4 \times Z_2,$ $Z_2 \times Z_2 \times Z_2$	$D_8,\ Q_8$
9	2	$Z_9,\ Z_3 \times Z_3$	none
10	2	Z_{10}	D_{10}
11	1	Z_{11}	none
12	5	$Z_{12},\ Z_6 \times Z_2$	$A_4,\ D_{12},\ Z_3 \rtimes Z_4$
13	1	Z_{13}	none
14	2	Z_{14}	D_{14}
15	1	Z_{15}	none
16	14	$Z_{16},\ Z_8 \times Z_2,\ Z_4 \times Z_4,$ $Z_4 \times Z_2 \times Z_2,$ $Z_2 \times Z_2 \times Z_2 \times Z_2$	not listed
17	1	Z_{17}	none
18	5	$Z_{18},\ Z_6 \times Z_3$	$D_{18},\ S_3 \times Z_3,$ $(Z_3 \times Z_3) \rtimes Z_2$
19	1	Z_{19}	none
20	5	$Z_{20},\ Z_{10} \times Z_2$	$D_{20},\ Z_5 \rtimes Z_4,\ F_{20}$

Note. The group F_{20} of order 20 has generators and relations

$$\langle x, y \mid x^4 = y^5 = 1, xyx^{-1} = y^2 \rangle.$$

This group is called the *Frobenius group* of order 20 and can be viewed as the subgroup $F_{20} = \langle (2354), (12345) \rangle$ of S_5.

5.4 Recognizing Direct Products

Definition. Let G be a group, let $x, y \in G$ and let A, B be nonempty subsets of G.

1. Define $[x, y] = x^{-1}y^{-1}xy$, called the *commutator* of x and y.
2. Define $[A, B] = \langle [a, b] \mid a \in A, b \in B \rangle$, the group generated by commutators of elements of A and from B.
3. Define $G' = \langle [x, y] \mid x, y \in G \rangle$, the subgroup of G generated by commutators of elements from G, called the *commutator subgroup* of G.

Proposition 7. Let G be a group, let $x, y \in G$ and let $H \leq G$. Then

1. $xy = yx[x, y]$ (in particular, $xy = yx$ if and only if $[x, y] = 1$).

2. $H \trianglelefteq G$ if and only if $[H, G] \leq H$.

3. $\sigma[x, y] = [\sigma(x), \sigma(y)]$ for any automorphism σ of G, G'char$G$ and G/G' is abelian

4. G/G' is the largest abelian quotient of G in the sense that if $H \trianglelefteq G$ and G/H is abelian, then $G' \leq H$. Conversely, if $G' \leq H$, then $H \trianglelefteq G$ and G/H is abelian.

5. If $\varphi\colon G \to A$ is any homomorphism of G into an abelian group A, then φ factors through G' i.e., $G' \leq \ker\varphi$ and the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{tikzcd} G \arrow[r] \arrow[dr, "\varphi"'] & G/G' \arrow[d] \\ & A \end{tikzcd}$$

Proposition 8. Let H and K be subgroups of the group G. The number of distinct ways of writing each element of the set HK in the form hk, for some $h \in H$ and $k \in K$ is $|H \cap K|$. In particular, if $H \cap K = 1$, then each element of HK can be written uniquely as the product hk, for some $h \in H$ and $k \in K$.

Theorem 9. Suppose G is a group with subgroups H and K such that

1. H and K are normal in G, and

2. $H \cap K = 1$.

Then $HK \cong H \times K$.

Note. The above conditions are simply the necessary conditions to ensure that the map

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi\colon HK &\to H \times K \\ hk &\mapsto (h, k) \end{aligned}$$

is well defined and an isomorphism.

Definition. If G is a group and H and K are normal subgroups of G with $H \cap K = 1$, we call HK the *internal direct product* of H and K. We shall (when emphasis is called for) call $H \times K$ the *external direct product* pf H and K. (The distinction here is purely notational by Theorem 9).

5.5 Semidirect Products

Theorem 10. Let H and K be groups and let φ be a homomorphism from K into $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$. Let $\cdot$ denote the (left) action of K on H determined by φ. Let G be the set of order pairs (h, k) with $h \in H$ and $k \in K$ and define the following multiplication on G:

$$(h_1, k_1)(h_2, k_2) = (h_1 k_1 \cdot h_2, k_1 k_2).$$

1. This multiplication makes G into a group of order $|G| = |H||K|$.

2. The sets $\{(h,1) \mid h \in H\}$ and $\{(1,k) \mid k \in K\}$ are subgroups of G and the maps $h \mapsto (h,1)$ for $h \in H$ and $k \mapsto (1,k)$ for $k \in K$ are isomorphisms of these subgroups with the groups H and K respectively;

$$H \cong \{(h,1) \mid h \in H\} \quad \text{and} \quad K \cong \{(1,k) \mid k \in K\}.$$

Identifying H and K with their isomorphic copies in G described in 2. we have

3. $H \trianglelefteq G$
4. $H \cap K = 1$
5. for all $h \in H$ and $k \in K$, $khk^{-1} = k \cdot h = \varphi(k)(h)$

Definition. Let H and K be groups and let φ be a homomorphism from K into $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$. The group described in Theorem 10 is called the *semidirect product* of H and K with respect to φ and will be denoted by $H \rtimes_\varphi K$ (when there is no danger of confusion we shall simply write $H \rtimes K$).

Proposition 11. Let H and K be groups and let $\varphi\colon K \to \mathrm{Aut}(H)$ be a homomorphism. Then the following are equivalent:

1. the identity (set) map between $H \rtimes K$ and $H \times K$ is a group homomorphism (hence and isomorphism)
2. φ is the trivial homomorphism from K into $\mathrm{Aut}(H)$
3. $K \trianglelefteq H \rtimes k$.

Theorem 12. Suppose G is a group with subgroups H and K such that

1. $H \trianglelefteq G$, and
2. $H \cap K = 1$.

Let $\varphi\colon K \to \mathrm{Aut}(H)$ be the homomorphism defined by mapping $k \in K$ to the automorphism of left conjugation by k on H. Then $HK \cong H \rtimes K$. In particular, if $G = HK$ with H and K satisfying 1. and 2., then G is the semidirect product of H and K.

Definition. Let H be a subgroup of the group G. A subgroup K of G is called a *complement* for H in G if $G = HK$ and $H \cap K = 1$.

Note. With the above terminology, the criterion for recognizing a semidirect product is simply that there must exist a complement for some proper normal subgroup of G.

6 Further Topics in Group Theory

6.1 p-Groups, Nilpotent Groups, and Solvable Groups

Definition. A *maximal subgroup* of a group G is a proper subgroup M of G such that there is no subgroups H of G with $M < H < G$.

Theorem 1. Let p be a prime and let P be a group of order p^a, $a \geq 1$. Then

1. The center of P is nontrivial: $Z(P) \neq 1$.
2. If H is a nontrivial normal subgroup of P then H contains a subgroup of order p^b that is normal in P for each divisor p^b of $|H|$. In particular, P has a normal subgroup of order p^b for every $b \in \{0, 1, \dots, a\}$.'
3. If $H < P$ then $H < N_P(H)$ (i.e., every proper subgroup of P is a proper subgroup of its normalizer in P).
4. Every maximal subgroup of P is of index p and is normal in P.

Definition.

1. For any (finite or infinite) group G define the following subgroups inductively:

$$Z_0(G) = 1 \qquad Z_1(G) = Z(G)$$

and $Z_{i+1}(G)$ is the subgroup of G containing $Z_i(G)$ such that

$$Z_{i+1}(G)/Z_i(G) = Z(G/Z_i(G))$$

(i.e., $Z_{i+1}(G)$ is the complete preimage in G of the center of $G/Z_i(G)$ under the natural projection). The chain of subgroups

$$Z_0(G) \leq Z_1(G) \leq Z_2(G) \leq \dots$$

is called the *upper central series of* G. (The use of the term "upper" indicates that $Z_i(G) \leq Z_{i+1}(G)$.)

2. A group G is called *nilpotent* if $Z_c(G) = G$ for some $c \in \mathbb{Z}$. The smallest c is called the *nilpotence class* of G.

Note.

1. If G is abelian then it is nilpotent since $G = Z(G) = Z_1(G)$.
2. The following containments are proper

cyclic groups $\subset$ abelian groups $\subset$ nilpotent groups $\subset$ solvable groups $\subset$ all groups

3. For any finite group there must, by order considerations, be an integer n such that

$$Z_n(G) = Z_{n+1} = Z_{n+2} = \cdots .$$

4. For infinite groups G it may happen that all $Z_i(G)$ are proper subgroups of G (so G is not nilpotent) but

$$G = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} Z_i(G).$$

Proposition 2. Let p be a prime and let P be a group of order p^a. Then P is nilpotent of nilpotence class at most $a-1$ for all $a \geq 2$ (and class equal to a when $a = 0$ or 1).

Theorem 3. Let G be a finite group, let $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_s$ be the distinct primes dividing its order and let $P_i \in Syl_{p_i}(G), 1 \leq i \leq s$. Then the following are equivalent:

1. G is nilpotent
2. if $H < G$ then $H < N_G(H)$, i.e., every proper subgroup of G is a proper subgroup of its normalizer in G
3. $P_i \trianglelefteq G$ for $1 \leq i \leq s$, i.e., every Sylow subgroup is normal in G
4. $G \cong P_1 \times P_2 \times \cdots \times P_s$.

Corollary 4. A finite abelian group is the direct product of its Sylow subgroups.

Proposition 5. If G is a finite group such that for all positive integers n dividing its order, G contains at most n elements x satisfying $x^n = 1$, then G is cyclic.

Proposition 6. (Frattini's Argument) Let G be a finite group, let H be a normal subgroup of G and let P be a Sylow p-subgroup of H. Then $G = HN_G(P)$ and $|G : H|$ divides $|N_G(P)|$.

Proposition 7. A finite group is nilpotent if and only if every maximal subgroup is normal.

Definition. For any (finite or infinite) group G define the following subgroups inductively:

$$G^0 = G, \qquad G^1 = [G, G] \quad \text{and} \quad G^{i+1} = [G, G^i].$$

The chain of groups

$$G^0 \geq G^1 \geq G^2 \geq \ldots$$

is called the *lower central series of* G. (The term "lower" indicates that $G^i \geq G^{i+1}$.)

Theorem 8. A group G is nilpotent if and only if $G^n = 1$ for some $n \geq 0$. More precisely, G is nilpotent of class c if and only if c is the smallest nonnegative integer such that $G^c = 1$. If G is nilpotent of class c then

$$G^{c-i} \leq Z_i(G) \quad \text{for all } i \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, c\}.$$

Note.

1. If G is abelian, we have $G' = G^1 = 1$
2. If G is a finite group there must, by order considerations, be an integer n such that

$$G^n = G^{n+1} = G^{n+2} = \cdots .$$

Definition. For any group G define the following sequence of subgroups inductively:

$$G^{(0)} = G, \qquad G^{(1)} = [G, G], \quad \text{and} \quad G^{(i+1)} = [G^{(i)}, G^{(i)}] \quad \text{for all } i \geq 1.$$

This series of subgroups is called the *derived* or *commutator series* of G.

Theorem 9. A group G is solvable if and only if $G^{(n)} = 1$ for some $n \geq 0$.

Proposition 10. Let G and K be groups, let H be a subgroup of G and let $\varphi\colon G \to K$ be a surjective homomorphism.

1. $H^{(i)} \leq G^{(i)}$ for all $i \geq 0$. In particular, if G is solvable, then so is H, i.e., subgroups of solvable groups are solvable (and the solvable length of H is less than or equal to the solvable length of G).

2. $\varphi(G^{(i)}) = K^{(i)}$. In particular, homomorphic images and quotient groups of solvable groups are solvable (of solvable length less than or equal to that of the domain group).

3. If N is normal in G and both N and G/N are solvable then so is G.

Theorem 11. Let G be a finite group.

1. (Burnside) If $|G| = p^a q^b$ for some primes p and g, then G is solvable.

2. (Philip Hall) If for every prime p dividing $|G|$ we factor the order of G as $|G| = p^a m$ where $(p, m) = 1$, and G has a subgroup of order m, then G is solvable (i.e., if for all primes p, G has a subgroup whose index equals the order of a Sylow p-subgroup, then G is solvable — such subgroups are called Sylow p-complements).

3. (Feit-Thompson) If $|G|$ is odd then G is solvable.

4. (Thompson) If for every pair of elements $x, y \in G$, $\langle x, y \rangle$ is a solvable group, then G is solvable.

6.2 Applications in Groups of Medium Order

Proposition 12.

1. If G has no subgroup of index 2 and $G \leq S_k$, then $G \leq A_k$.

2. If $P \in Syl_p(S_k)$ for some odd prime p, then $P \in Syl_p(A_k)$ and $|N_{A_k}(P)| = \frac{1}{2}|N_{S_k}(P)|$.

Lemma 13. In a finite group G is $n_p \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$, then there are distinct Sylow p-subgroups P and R of G such that $P \cap R$ is of index p in both P and R (hence is normal in each).

6.3 A word on Free Groups

Note. The way that a free group is defined is a bit involved and can be read on page 216

Theorem 16. $F(S)$ is a group under the binary operation defined on page 216.

Theorem 17. Let G be a group, S a set and $\varphi\colon S \to G$ a set map. Then there is a unique group homomorphism $\Phi\colon F(S) \to G$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{tikzcd} S \arrow[r, "\text{inclusion}"] \arrow[dr, "\varphi"'] & F(S) \arrow[d, "\Phi"] \\ & G \end{tikzcd}$$

Corollary 18. $F(S)$ is unique up to a unique isomorphism which is the identity map on the set S.

Definition. The group $F(S)$ is called the *free group* on the set S. A group F is a *free group* if there is some set S such that $F = F(S)$ — in this case we call S a set of *free generators* (or a *free basis*) of F. The cardinality of S is called the *rank* of the free group.

Theorem 19. (Schreier) Subgroups of a free group are free.

Definition. Let S be a subset of a group G such that $G = \langle S \rangle$.

1. A *presentation* for G is a pair (S, R), where R is a set of words in $F(S)$ such that the normal closure of $\langle R \rangle$ in $F(S)$ (the smallest normal subgroup containing $\langle R \rangle$) equals the kernel of the homomorphism $\pi\colon F(S) \to G$ (where π extends the identity map from S to S). The elements of S are called *generators* and those of R are called *relations* of G.

2. We say that G is *finitely generated* if there is a presentation (S, R) such that S is a finite set and we say G is *finitely presented* if there is a presentation (S, R) with both S and R finite sets.

Part II
Ring Theory

7 Introduction to Rings

7.1 Basic Definitions and Examples

Definition.

1. A *ring* R is a set together with two binary operations $+$ and $\times$ (called addition and multiplication) satisfying the following axioms:

   (a) $(R, +)$ is an abelian group,

   (b) $\times$ is associative: $(a \times b) \times c = a \times (b \times c)$ for all $a, b, c \in R$,

   (c) the *distributive laws* hold in R: for all $a, b, c \in R$,

   $$(a + b) \times c = (a \times c) + (b \times c) \quad \text{and} \quad a \times (b + c) = (a \times b) + (a \times c).$$

2. The ring R is *commutative* if multiplication is commutative.

3. The ring R is said to have an *identity* (or *contain a 1*) if there is an element $1 \in R$ with
$$1 \times a = a \times 1 = a \qquad \text{for all } a \in R.$$

Note.

1. We shall write ab rather than $a \times b$ for $a, b \in R$.

2. The additive identity of R will be denoted by 0

3. The additive of an element a will be denoted $-a$.

Note. $R = \{0\}$ is called the *zero ring*, denoted $R = 0$. $R = 0$ is the only ring where $1 = 0$. We will often exclude this ring by imposing the condition $1 \neq 0$.

Definition. A ring R with identity $1 \neq 0$, is called a *division ring* (or *skew field*) if every nonzero element $a \in R$ has a multiplicative inverse, i.e., there exists $b \in R$ such that $ab = ba = 1$. A commutative division ring is called a *field.*

Proposition 1. Let R be a ring. Then

1. $0a = a0 = 0$ for all $a \in R$.

2. $(-a)b = a(-b) = -(ab)$ for all $a, b \in R$.

3. $(-a)(-b) = ab$ for all $a, b \in R$.

4. If R has an identity 1, then the identity is unique and $-a = -1(a)$.

Definition. Let R be a ring

1. A nonzero element a of R is called a *zero divisor* if there is a nonzero element b of R such that either $ab = 0$ or $ba = 0$.

2. Assume R has an identity $1 \neq 0$. An element u of R is called a *unit* in R if there is some v in R such that $vu = uv = 1$. The set of units in R is denoted $R^\times$.

Note.

1. $R^\times$ forms a group under multiplication and will be referred to as the *group of units* of R.

2. Using the above terminology a field is a commutative ring F with identity $1 \neq 0$ in which every nonzero element is a unit, i.e., $F^\times = F - \{0\}$.

Definition. A commutative ring with identity $1 \neq 0$ is called an *integral domain* if it has no zero divisors.

Proposition 2. Assume a, b and c are elements of any ring with a not a zero divisor. If $ab = ac$ then either $a = 0$ or $b = c$ (i.e., if $a \neq 0$ we can cancel the a's). In particular, if a, b, c are elements in an integral domain and $ab = ac$, then either $a = 0$ or $b = c$.

Corollary 3. Any finite integral domain is a field.

Definition. A *subring* of the ring R is a subgroup of R that is closed under multiplication.

Note. To show that a subset of a ring R is a subring it is enough to show that it is nonempty and closed under subtraction and under multiplication.

7.2 Examples: Polynomial Rings, Matrix Rings, and Group Rings

Proposition 4. Let R be an integral domain and let $p(x), q(x)$ be nonzero elements of $R[x]$. Then

1. $\text{degree} p(x)q(x) = \text{degree} p(x) + \text{degree} q(x)$,

2. The units of $R[x]$ are just the units of R,

3. $R[x]$ is an integral domain.

7.3 Ring Homomorphisms and Quotient Rings

Definition. Let R and S be rings.

1. A *ring homomorphism* is a map $\varphi\colon R \to S$ satisfying

   (a) $\varphi(a+b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$ for all $a, b \in R$ (so φ is a group homomorphism on the additive groups) and

   (b) $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ for all $a, b \in R$.

2. The *kernel* of the ring homomorphism φ, denoted kerφ, is the set of elements of R that map to 0 in S. (i.e., the kernel of φ viewed as a homomorphism of additive groups).

3. A bijective ring homomorphism is called an *isomorphism*.

Proposition 5. Let R and S be rings and let $\varphi\colon R \to S$ be a homomorphism.

1. The image of φ is a subring of S.

2. The kernel of φ is a subring of R. Furthermore, if $\alpha \in$kerφ then $r\alpha$ and $\alpha r \in$kerφ for every $r \in R$, i.e., kerφ is closed under multiplication by elements from R.

Definition. Let R be a ring, let I be a subset of R and let $r \in R$.

1. $rI = \{ra \mid a \in I\}$ and $Ir = \{ar \mid a \in I\}$.

2. A subset I of R is a *left Ideal* of R if

   (a) I is a subring of R, and

   (b) I is closed under left multiplication by elements of R, i.e., $rI \subseteq I$ for all $r \in R$.

   Similarly I is a *right ideal* if (a) holds and in place of (b) one has

   (b)' I is closed under right multiplication by elements from R, i.e., $Ir \subseteq I$ for all $r \in R$.

3. A subset I that is both a left ideal and a right ideal is called an *ideal* (or, for added emphasis, a *two-sided ideal*) of R.

Proposition 6. Let R be a ring and let I be an ideal of R. Then the (additive) quotient group R/I is a ring under the binary operations:

$$(r+I) + (s+I) = (r+s) + I \qquad \textit{and} \qquad (r+I) \times (s+I) = (rs) + I$$

for all $r, s \in R$. Conversely, if I is any subgroup such that the above operations are well defined, then I is an ideal of R.

Definition. When I is an ideal of R the ring R/I with the operations in the previous proposition us called the *quotient ring* of R by I.

Theorem 7. 1. (The First Isomorphism Theorem for Rings) If $\varphi\colon R \to S$ is a homomorphism of rings, then the kernel of φ is an ideal of R, the image of φ is a subring of S and $R/$kerφ is isomorphic as a ring to $\varphi(R)$.

2. If I is any ideal of R, then the map

$$R \to R/I \qquad \text{defined by} \qquad r \mapsto r + I$$

is a surjective ring homomorphism with kernel I (this homomorphism is called the *natural projection* of R onto R/I). Thus every ideal is the kernel of a ring homomorphism and vice versa.

Theorem 8. Let R be a ring.

1. (The Second Isomorphism Theorem for Rings) Let A be a subring and let B be an ideal of R. Then $A + B = \{a + b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$ is a subring of R, $A \cap B$ is an ideal of A and $(A + B)/B \cong A/(A \cap B)$.

2. (The Third Isomorphism Theorem for Rings) Let I and J be ideals of R with $I \subseteq J$. Then J/I is an ideal of R/I and $(R/I)/(J/I) \cong R/J$.

3. (The Fourth or Lattice Isomorphism Theorem for Rings) Let I be an ideal of R. The correspondence $A \leftrightarrow A/I$ is an inclusion preserving bijective between the set of subrings A of R that contain I and the set of subrings of R/I. Furthermore, A (a subring containing I) is an ideal of R if and only if A/I is an ideal of R/I.

Definition. Let I and J be ideals of R.

1. Define the *sum* of I and J by $I + J = \{a + b \mid a \in I, b \in J\}$.

2. Define the *product* of I and J, denoted by IJ, to be the set of all finite sums of elements of the form ab with $a \in I$ and $b \in J$.

3. For any $n \geq 1$, define the n^{th} *power* of I, denoted I^n, to be the set consisting of all finite sums of elements of the form $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ with $a_i \in I$ for all i. Equivalently, I^n is defined inductively by defining $I^1 = I$ and $I^n = II^{n-1}$ for $n = 2, 3, \ldots$.

7.4 Properties of Ideals

Throughout this section R is a ring with identity $1 \neq 0$.

Definition.