

Note: I am accustomed to writing “The element  $g \in G$  acting on the element  $x \in S$ ” as  $g.x$  instead of  $gx$ . I use the stated notation, as I feel it is clearer.

**Problem 1:**

Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group, with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \mid |G|$ .

We know that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n$  has a unique prime factorization; that is,  $n = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} p_3^{a_3} \dots p_k^{a_k}$  for some  $p_1, p_2 \dots p_k$  each prime, and  $a_1, a_2 \dots a_k$  each positive and nonzero.

Proceed as follows:

For each  $p_i$ , there is an element with order  $p_i$  in  $G$ :

Thus, there is a subgroup,  $H_1$ , with order  $p_1$  in  $G$ . This subgroup is normal, because  $G$  is abelian.

Consider the new group  $G_1 = G/H_1$ , along with  $n_1 = n/p_1$ . Note that  $|G_1| = |G|/p_1$ ; this follows from the theorem that says  $|G/H| = |G|/|H|$  if  $H$  is normal.

We know that  $G_1$  is abelian:

So by similar logic as above, if  $a_1 > 1$ , then there is a subgroup of order  $p_1$  in  $G$ . Otherwise, we know that there is a subgroup of order  $p_2$  in  $G$ .

Either way, there is a subgroup,  $H'_2$ , with order  $p_1$  (or  $p_2$ ) in  $G_1$ , which is normal.

Consider the group  $G_2 = G_1/H'_2$ . Note that  $G_2 \cong G/H_2$ , by the third isomorphism theorem. Moreover,  $|G_2| = |G|/p_1^2$  (or  $|G_2| = |G|/p_1 p_2$ ).

We can proceed in the above manner for  $a_i$  times for each  $p_i$ . We end up with a group,  $G_{a_1+a_2+\dots+a_k}$ .

Consider  $G_{a_1+a_2+\dots+a_k}$ ; it has order  $|G|/n$ . It is isomorphic to  $G/H_{a_1+a_2+\dots+a_k}$  for some  $H \leq G$ . This means that  $|H| = n$  (because  $|G/H| = |G|/|H|$ ...thus,  $|H| = |G|/|G/H|$ , or in this case,  $|H| = |G|/(|G|/n) = n$ .)

So  $G$  has a normal subgroup of order  $n$  if  $G$  is a finite abelian group with  $n \mid |G|$ .

**Problem 2:**

Let  $H < G$  with  $[G : H]$  finite.

**Problem 3:**

Let  $G$  be a group acting transitively on a finite set,  $S$ , with  $|S| > 1$ .

Now, the action has only one orbit; for all  $x \in S$ ,  $\bar{x} = S$ . In other words, for every  $x, y \in S$  there is a  $g \in G$  such that  $g.x = y$ .

Before proceeding, I wish to point out that I use the following freely:

If  $g.x = x$ , then  $g^{-1}.x = x$ : This is clear by applying  $g^{-1}$  to both sides of the equation.

If  $g.x = y$ , then  $g^{-1}.y = x$ : This is clear by applying  $g^{-1}$  to both sides of the equation.

Assume that for all  $g \in G$ , there is an  $x \in S$  such that  $g.x = x$ . We proceed by constructing an infinite set of points in  $S$ , by induction.

Because  $|S| > 1$ , there are at least two distinct points of  $S$ : call them  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ .

There is an element,  $g_2$ , such that  $g_2.x_0 = x_1$ , by transitivity of the action.

There is an  $x_2$  such that  $g_2.x_2 = x_2$ , by the assumption we made earlier. Now,  $x_2 \neq x_0$ , else:

$$\begin{aligned} g_2.x_0 &= g_2.x_2 \\ x_1 &= x_2 = x_0 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Also,  $x_2 \neq x_1$ , else:

$$\begin{aligned} g_2^{-1}.x_1 &= g_2^{-1}.x_2 \\ x_0 &= x_2 = x_1 \end{aligned}$$

which is also a contradiction.

So  $x_2$  is distinct from  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ .

Now, assume that we have the following: we have defined  $x_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n < N$ , and  $g_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n < N - 1$  and  $n \geq 2$ , with the following properties:  $g_n.x_n = x_n$  and  $g_n.x_0 = x_{n-1}$ .

Then there is a  $g_N$  such that  $g_N.x_0 = x_{N-1}$ , because the action is transitive.

Also, there is an  $x_N$  such that  $g_N.x_N = x_N$ , by the assumption we made earlier.

Now,  $x_N \neq x_0$ , else:

$$\begin{aligned} g_N.x_0 &= g_N.x_N \\ x_{N-1} &= x_N = x_0 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Also,  $x_N \neq x_{N-1}$ , else:

$$\begin{aligned} g_N^{-1} \cdot x_{N-1} &= g_N^{-1} \cdot x_N \\ x_0 &= x_N = x_{N-1} \end{aligned}$$

which is also a contradiction.

Further,  $x_N \neq x_i$  for any  $i$  between 0 and  $N - 1$  (exclusive), else:

$$\begin{aligned} g_N g_i^{-1} \cdot x_i &= g_N \cdot x_i \\ g_n x_0 &= g_N \cdot x_N \\ x_{N-1} &= x_N \end{aligned}$$

which is also a contradiction.

So  $x_N$  is distinct from each  $x_i$  with  $i < N$ .

So we have two distinct points, and if we have  $n$  distinct points in  $S$ , we can make  $n + 1$  distinct points in  $S$ ; we can make infinitely many distinct points, thus  $S$  is infinite.

So, if for all  $g \in G$ ,  $g$  has a fixed point, then  $S$  is infinite.

Or, in other words, because  $S$  is finite, there is a  $g \in G$  that has no fixed point.

#### Problem 4:

Let  $G$  be a group such that  $G/Z(G)$  is cyclic.

Then  $G/Z(G) = \langle \bar{a} \rangle$  for some  $a \in G$ .

Note that this fails if  $G/Z(G)$  is only abelian:

Consider  $D_8 = \langle r, s \rangle$ . We note that the center of  $D_8$  is  $\{e, r^2\}$ ;

Also,  $D_8 / \langle r^2 \rangle$  is abelian:

But we know from an earlier homework that  $D_8$  is not abelian. So in general,  $G/Z(G)$  being abelian does not imply that  $G$  is abelian.

#### Problem 5:

Let  $p$  be prime, and let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^2$ .

We know that  $G$  has an element of order  $p$ ; any element has order 1,  $p$ , or  $p^2$ . There are at least two elements in  $G$  (because 1 is not prime...). Pick an element other than  $e$ : call it  $a$ . We know that  $a$  has order  $p$  or  $p^2$ . If it has order  $p^2$ , then consider  $a^p$ . We know that  $(a^p)^p = a^{p^2}$ . So  $a^p$  is an element of order  $p$ .

The upshot is that there is an element,  $x$ , of order  $p$  in  $G$ . So there is a subgroup,  $H = \langle x \rangle$ , of order  $p$  in  $G$ . Moreover,  $H$  is cyclic (I think we proved this in class...any group of order  $p$  is cyclic. If we haven't proved it, then

Also,  $H$  is normal in  $G$ :

Now, consider  $G/H$ ; this is a group of order  $p$ , it is cyclic.

**Problem 6:**

Let  $p$  be prime, and let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $H \leq G$  with  $H \neq \{e\}$ .