

## MATH 403: Homework Chapter 2 Proof Solutions

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- 5 Let  $G$  be a group with a finite number of elements. Show that there must be an odd number of elements  $x \in G$  with the property that  $x^3 = e$ .

**Proof:** Since  $e^3 = e$  we know that  $e$  has this property. Suppose that some  $x \neq e$  has this property, so  $x^3 = e$ . Then  $(x^{-1})^3 = (x^3)^{-1} = e^{-1} = e$  so  $x^{-1}$  has this property too. Moreover  $x \neq x^{-1}$  since if this were so we would have  $x^2 = e$  and this, coupled with  $x^3 = e$ , gives  $x = e$ .

Thus  $e$  has this property and the other elements with this property are in pairs, meaning there are an odd number of elements with this property.

- 6 Prove that a group  $G$  is Abelian iff  $\forall a, b \in G$  we have  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $G$  is Abelian, we will prove that  $\forall a, b \in G$  we have  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$ . Let  $a, b \in G$ . Then  $(ab)^2 = abab = aabb = a^2b^2$ .

For the converse assume that  $\forall a, b \in G$  we have  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$ , we will show  $G$  is Abelian. Let  $a, b \in G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}(ab)^2 &= a^2b^2 \\ abab &= aabb \\ a^{-1}ababb^{-1} &= a^{-1}aabb^{-1} \\ ba &= ab\end{aligned}$$