

① Let G be a nontrivial finite group. A subgp. M is called a maximal subgroup of G if M is a proper subgroup, i.e., $M \neq G$, and the only subgroups of G containing M are M and G .

(a) Show each proper subgroup of a finite group G is contained in a maximal subgroup of G .

Pf: Let H be a proper subgroup of G .

If H is maximal, then $H \subset G$ and H is contained in itself.

If H is not maximal, then $\exists H_1$ s.t. $H \subset H_1 \subset G$.

If H_1 is maximal, then we are done.

If not, then we have H_2 s.t. $H \subset H_1 \subset H_2 \subset G$.

Continue the above process.

(So $H \subset H_1 \subset H_2 \subset \dots \subset H_n \subset \dots \subset G$ if none of the H_i are maximal.)

This cannot happen since G has finite order.

Therefore, each proper subgp. of a fin. gp. G is contained in a maximal subgp. of G . \square

(b) Count the number of maximal subgroups of the dihedral group of order $2p$, where p is an odd prime.

Pf: Let $R = \langle r \rangle = \{1, r, \dots, r^{p-1}\} \subset D_p$.

By part (a), each proper subgp. of D_p is contained in a maximal subgp. of D_p .

Let $R \subset H \subset D_p$. We have that $|R| = p$ and $|D_p| = 2p$, so

$R \subset H \subset D_p \Rightarrow$ either $H = D_p$ or $H = R$.

Let $S \subset D_p$ be a group of order 2, for ex: $\{1, s\}$. Let $S \subset H \subset D_p$.

We have that $|S| = 2$ and $|D_p| = 2p$, so

$S \subset H \subset D_p \Rightarrow$ either $H = D_p$ or $H = S$.

The index of S in D_p is p : $[D_p : S] = \frac{|D_p|}{|S|} = \frac{2p}{2} = p$.

We can see that there are p groups of order 2 from observing:

$(r^k s)^2 = r^k s r^k s = r^{k+k} s s = 1$ for $0 \leq k \leq p-1$.

There is only one subgp. of order p and there are p subgps. of order 2, namely $\{1, r^k s\}$ $0 \leq k \leq p-1$.

So there are $p+1$ maximal subgroups.

These are the only maximal subgps. because 1 and $2p$ are the last ones. \square

(c) Show that if a nontrivial finite group G has only one maximal subgroup, then G is cyclic of prime-power order. (Hint: first prove G is cyclic.)

Pf: Let G be a nontrivial fin. gp. w/ only one max. subgp. Assume G is not cyclic.

Let M be the max. subgp. and let $g \in G$ s.t. $g \notin M$.

Then $\langle g \rangle \subset G$, so $\langle g \rangle \subset M$ since M is maximal $\Rightarrow g \in M$.

Thus, every element of G is in M , so $M = G$ b/c M is maximal.

Therefore, G is cyclic.

Assume $|G| = p^a q^b$ where p, q distinct primes and $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

By the Sylow thms, there must exist subgps. of order p^a and q^b , say P and Q , resp.

Since G is cyclic, these subgps. are cyclic: $|P| = p^a$, $|Q| = q^b$.

Note that $(p, q) = 1$, so $P \neq Q$.

Since P is the subgp. w/ the highest power of p dividing $|G|$, P is maximal.

Since Q is the subgp. w/ the highest power of q dividing $|G|$, Q is maximal.

This is a contradiction b/c G has only one maximal subgp.

Therefore, G must be cyclic of prime-power order. \square

② Let G be a nonabelian group of order 75 and H be a 5-Sylow subgroup of G .

(a) Show H is a normal subgp. of G and is abelian.

Pf: $|G| = 75 = 3 \cdot 5^2$

Let H be a 5-Sylow subgp. of G , so $|H| = 25$.

By the third Sylow thm, we have that

$n_5 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ and $n_5 \mid 3 \Rightarrow n_5 = 1$.

Therefore, H is normal.

$|H| = 5^2 \Rightarrow$ abelian since groups of order prime squared are abelian. \square

(b) Show H is not cyclic, or equivalently $H \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$. (Hint: Show the conjugation action of G on H is not trivial.)

Pf: Since $|H| = 5^2$, we know H is abelian.

If H is cyclic, then $H \cong \mathbb{Z}/5^2 = \mathbb{Z}/25\mathbb{Z}$.

We WTS $H \not\cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$ (so $H \neq \mathbb{Z}/25\mathbb{Z}$)

If H is not cyclic, then no elt. has order 5^2 : all $g \neq 1$ in H have order 5. Pick $x \in H - \{1\}$, so $\langle x \rangle$ has order 5.

Pick $y \in H - \langle x \rangle$, so $\langle y \rangle$ has order 5, and $\langle x \rangle \cap \langle y \rangle = \{1\}$.

Let $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$ by $(k \pmod{5}, l \pmod{5}) \mapsto x^k y^l$.

• This is a homomorphism since x and y commute (H is abelian).

• The kernel is trivial: $x^k y^l = 1 \Rightarrow x^k = y^{-l} \in \langle x \rangle \cap \langle y \rangle = \{1\}$

$\Rightarrow 5 \mid k$ and $5 \mid l$.

• Same size: $|\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}| = |H| = 5^2$

Therefore, $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2 \cong H$.

Suppose the conj. action of G on H is trivial: $g \in G$ s.t. $g \in C_G(H)$ (every $g \in G$ commutes w/ $h \in H$).

If action is trivial, then $gh = hg \forall h \in H, g \in G$.

If $Z(G) = H \Rightarrow G$ is abelian b/c G is nonabelian.

If H is cyclic, then $|\text{Aut}(H)| = 20$.

H is contained in the kernel of the conj. action (ghg^{-1})

H is maximal b/c prime index. ($|G|/|H| = 75/25 = 3$ prime)

$G/H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$ inj. hom.

$\psi(G/H)$ has order $3 \mid 20$ \nmid

The conj. action of G on H is not trivial.

Therefore, H is not cyclic. \square

(c) Determine a 2×2 matrix A with entries in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ that has order 3. (Hint: you can find such a matrix with integer entries having complex eigenvalues equal to the primitive 3rd roots of unity ζ_3 and ζ_3^2 , where $\zeta_3 = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}$.)

Pf: We want $A^3 = I$, so $(\det(A))^3 = 1$.

Let $x = \det(A)$. Then $x^3 = 1 \Rightarrow x^3 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow (x-1)(x^2+x+1) = 0$.

Note that x^2+x+1 is irredu. in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ since -3 has no square roots in $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$.

Since A is 2×2 , it follows that x^2+x+1 is the minimal poly. for A . We now find A .

Notice that $x^2+x+1 = x(x+1)+1 = -x(-x-1)+1$

The matrix w/ this determinant is $\begin{pmatrix} -x & 1 \\ 1 & -x-1 \end{pmatrix}$.

If we add xI to the above matrix, we get $\begin{pmatrix} -x+x & -1 \\ 1 & -x-1+x \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

so $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{5}$.

Check: $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ so } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \checkmark$

so $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$. \square

(d) Construct an example of a nonabelian group w/ order 75. (The matrix in part (c) will be useful.)

Pf: From part (c), we know $\left| \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \right| = 3$.

Let $K = \langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$, so $|K| = 3$.

$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$

Let $G = H \rtimes_{\psi} K$, where $H \cong (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^2$ and $\psi: K \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$.

$|\psi(1)| \mid 3 \Rightarrow \psi(1) = 1$ or $\psi(1) = 3$.

$\psi(1)$ is the trivial homomorphism.

If H is cyclic, then $|\text{Aut}(H)| = 20$.

H is contained in the kernel of the conj. action (ghg^{-1})

H is maximal b/c prime index. ($|G|/|H| = 75/25 = 3$ prime)

$G/H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$ inj. hom.

$\psi(G/H)$ has order $3 \mid 20$ \nmid

The conj. action of G on H is not trivial.

Therefore, H is not cyclic. \square

(e) Give examples as requested, with justification.

(a) Two nonabelian groups of order 12 that are not isomorphic.

Pf: Consider the nonabelian groups A_4 and D_6 .

Observe that $|A_4| = \frac{4!}{2} = 12$ and $|D_6| = 2 \cdot 6 = 12$.

Note that D_6 has an element of order 6, namely r ($r^6 = 1$).

There is no element of order 6 in A_4 .

Recall that the order of an elt. in $A_4 \subseteq S_4$ is the lcm of the cycle lengths.

We now find A .

Notice that $x^2+x+1 = x(x+1)+1 = -x(-x-1)+1$

The matrix w/ this determinant is $\begin{pmatrix} -x & 1 \\ 1 & -x-1 \end{pmatrix}$.

If we add xI to the above matrix, we get $\begin{pmatrix} -x+x & -1 \\ 1 & -x-1+x \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

so $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{5}$.

Check: $\$