Chapter 1

Groups

# 1.1 Semigroups, monoids and groups

Exercise 1.1.1. Give examples other than those in the text of semigroups and monoids that are not groups.

Answer. Semigroup:  $(\mathbf{Z}_+, +)$  Monoid:  $(\mathbf{Z}_+, \times)$ 

**Exercise 1.1.2.** Let G be a group (written additively), S a nonempty set, and M(S,G) the set of all functions  $f:S\to G$ . Define addition in M(S,G) as follows:  $(f+g):S\to G$  is given by  $s\to f(s)+g(s)\in G$ . Prove that M(S,G) is a group, which is abelian if G is.

**Answer.** Firstly we check M(S,G) is a group

- 1.  $f+g: s \mapsto f(s)+g(s) \in G$ , so  $f+g \in M(S,G)$
- 2.  $(f+g) + h : s \mapsto (f(s) + g(s)) + h(s)$ , G is a group, so  $s \mapsto (f(s) + g(s)) + h(s) \Leftrightarrow s \mapsto f(s) + (g(s) + h(s))$ , (f+g) + h = f + (g+h).
- 3. Take the unit element as  $e': s \mapsto e$ .  $f + e': s \mapsto f(s) + e'(s) = f(s) + e = f(s)$ , so f + e' = f. Similarly, e' + f = f.
- 4. For any  $f \in M(S,G)$ , take  $f^{-1}: s \mapsto (f(s))^{-1}$ , whence  $f(s) + (f(s))^{-1} = (f(s))^{-1} + f(s) = e$ .

In conclusion, M(S,G) is a group. If G is abelian  $f+g: s \mapsto f(s)+g(s)=g(s)+f(s), \ f+g=g+f,$  so M(S,G) is abelian.

Exercise 1.1.3. Is it true that a semigroup which has a left identity element and in which every element has a right inverse (see Proposition 1.3) is a group?

**Answer.** If e is the left identity,  $\forall a \in A, ea = a \text{ and } \forall a \in A, \exists a^{-1}s.t.aa^{-1} = e$ . We have proved that if cc = c, then c = e.

$$(a^{-1}a)(a^{-1}a) = a^{-1}(aa^{-1})a = a^{-1}(ea) = a^{-1}a \Rightarrow a^{-1}a = e$$

 $a^{-1}$  is also the left inverse.  $ae = a(a^{-1}a) = (aa^{-1})a = ea = a$ , e is also the right identity.

**Exercise 1.1.4.** Write out a multiplication table for the group  $D_4^*$ .

**Answer.**  $D_4^* = \{R, R^2, R^3, I, T_x, T_y, T_{13}, T_{24}\}$ 

	I	R	$R^2$	$R^3$	$T_x$	$T_y$	$T_{13}$	$T_{24}$
I	I	R	$R^2$	$R^3$	$T_x$	$T_{u}$	$T_{13}$	$T_{24}$
R	R	$R^2$	$R^3$	I	$T_{13}$	$T_{24}$	$T_y$	$T_x$
$R^2$	$R^2$	$R^3$	I	R	$T_y$	$T_x$	$T_{24}$	$T_{13}$
$R^3$	$R^3$	I	R	$R^2$	$T_{24}$	$T_{13}$	$T_x$	$T_y$
$T_x$	$T_x$	$T_{24}$	$T_y$	$T_{13}$	I	$R^2$	$R^3$	R
$T_y$	$T_y$	$T_{13}$	$T_x$	$T_{24}$	$R^2$	I	R	$R^3$
$T_{13}$	$T_{13}$	$T_y$	$T_{24}$	$T_x$	$R^3$	R	I	$R^2$
		$T_x$					$R^2$	I

**Exercise 1.1.5.** Prove that the symmetric group on n letters,  $S_n$ , has order n!.

**Answer.** For a set A whose order is n, we prove there's n! different bijections by induction

- 1. For n = 1, trivial.
- 2. Assume n=k, there's k! bijections. For n=k+1, fix one element in A, and take  $a\mapsto a$ , there's k free elements, so there's  $k!\cdot (k+1)$  bijections in total.

By induction, we get the result.

**Exercise 1.1.6.** Write out an addition table for  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ .  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$  is called the Klein four group.

**Answer.**  $Z_2 = \{1, 0\}, Z_2 \oplus Z_2 = \{(1, 1), (1, 0), (0, 1), (0, 0)\}$ 

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} & (1,1) & (1,0) & (0,1) & (0,0) \\ \hline (1,1) & (0,0) & (0,1) & (1,0) & (1,1) \\ (1,0) & (0,1) & (0,0) & (1,1) & (1,0) \\ (0,1) & (1,0) & (1,1) & (0,0) & (0,1) \\ (0,0) & (1,1) & (1,0) & (0,1) & (0,0) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Exercise 1.1.7.** If p is prime, then the nonzero elements of  $Z_p$  form a group of order p-1 under multiplication. Show that this statement is false if p is not prime.

**Answer.** For the set  $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ 

- 1.  $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}\$  is obviously associative and commutative.
- 2. Take  $\bar{1}$  as the identity element,  $\forall \bar{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}, \bar{1} \times \bar{a} = \bar{a}$ .
- 3. We prove there is a unique element  $a^{-1} \in Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\} s.t. aa^{-1} = \bar{1}$ . Assume there exists  $\bar{b}, \bar{c}$  and  $\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b} = \bar{k}, \bar{a} \cdot \bar{c} = \bar{k}$ , then  $a(b-c) \equiv 0 \mod p$ . p is a prime, so lcm(p,a) = 1, lcm(p,b-c) = 1, so  $\bar{b} = \bar{c}$ . There is at most one element s.t.  $\bar{a}\bar{b} = \bar{k}$ . Take  $\bar{b} = \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \dots p-1$ ,  $\bar{k}$  travels through  $\bar{b} = \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \dots p-1$ . There exists an element  $\bar{b} \in Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}, \bar{a}\bar{b} = \bar{1}$ .

 $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}\$  is a group. If p is not a prime, the inverse element is not always unique. Take a|p, there's more than one inverse element in  $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ .

**Exercise 1.1.8.** (a) The relation given by  $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow a - b \in \mathbf{Z}$  is a congruence relation on the additive group  $\mathbf{Q}$  [see Theorem 1.5].

(b) The set  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  of equivalence classes is an infinite abelian group.

**Answer.** (a) For group  $(\mathbf{Q}, +)$ ,  $a_1 \sim b_1 \Leftrightarrow a_1 - b_1 = k_1 \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $a_2 \sim b_2 \Leftrightarrow a_2 - b_2 = k_2 \in \mathbf{Z}$ , so  $(a_1 + a_2) - (b_1 + b_2) = ((k_1 + b_1) + (k_2 + b_2)) - (b_1 + b_2) = k_1 + k_2 \in \mathbf{Z}$ .  $a \sim b$  is a congruence relation.

- (b) 1 if  $a + b \ge 1$ ,  $\bar{a} + \bar{b} = a + \bar{b} 1$ . If a + b < 1,  $\bar{a} + \bar{b} = a + b$ .
  - 2  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  is obviously associative and commutative.
  - 3 Take the identity element as  $\bar{0}$ ,  $\bar{0} + \bar{a} = \bar{a}$ .
  - 4 If  $\bar{a} \neq 0$ , take  $(\bar{a})^{-1} = 1 a$ , then  $\bar{a} + 1 a = \bar{0}$
  - so  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  is a abelian group. (Infinite remains to be certified)

**Exercise 1.1.9.** Let p be a fixed prime. Let  $R_p$  be the set of all those rational numbers whose denominator is relatively prime to p. Let  $R^p$  be the set of rationals whose denominator is a power of  $p(p^i, i > 0)$ . Prove that both  $R_p$  and  $R^p$  are abelian groups under ordinary addition of rationals.

Answer. Trivial.

**Exercise 1.1.10.** Let p be a prime and let  $Z(p^{\infty})$  be the following subset of the group  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ :

$$Z(p^{\infty}) = \{\bar{a/b} \in \mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}| a, b \in \mathbf{Z} \text{ and } b = p^i \text{ for some } i \ge 0\}$$

Show that  $Z(p^{\infty})$  is an infinite group under the addition operation of  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Answer.**  $Z(p^{\infty}) = \{\bar{a/b}| a, b \in \mathbf{Z}, b = p^i, i \geq 0\}$ . Take  $a = \frac{\bar{a_1}}{b_1}, b = \frac{\bar{a_2}}{b_2}$ .  $b^{-1} = \frac{b_2 - a_2}{b_2}$ 

$$a + b^{-1} = \frac{\bar{a_1}}{b_1} + \frac{b_2 - \bar{a_2}}{b_2} = \frac{\bar{a_1}}{p^{s_1}} + \frac{p^{s_2} - \bar{a_2}}{p^{s_2}}$$
$$= \frac{a_1 \cdot p^{s_2} + p^{\bar{s_1}}(p^{s_2} - \bar{a_2})}{p^{s_1 + s_2}} \in Z(p^{\infty})$$

Therefore,  $Z(p^{\infty})$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$ .  $\frac{1}{p^i} \in Z(p^{\infty})$  for any  $i \in \mathbf{Z}$ , so  $Z(p^{\infty})$  is infinite,  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  is also infinite.

**Exercise 1.1.11.** The following conditions on a group G are equivalent:

i G is abelian;

ii  $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$  for all  $a, b \in G$ ;

iii  $(ab)^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$  for all  $a, b \in G$ ;

iv  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbf{Z}$  and all  $a, b \in G$ ;

v  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$  for three consecutive integers n and all  $a, b \in G$ . Show that  $v \Rightarrow i$  is false if 'three' is replaced by 'two'.

**Answer.** i $\Leftrightarrow$  iii:  $((ab)b^{-1})a^{-1} = (ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = e$ , so  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$ . If iii,  $b^{-1}a^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$  for any  $a, b \in G$ , G is abelian. If i, G is abelian,  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$ .

 $iv \Rightarrow v$ ,  $iv \Rightarrow ii$  and  $i \Rightarrow iv$  are trivial.  $ii \Rightarrow i$ :

$$(ab)(ab) = aabb \Rightarrow a^{-1}(ab)^2b^{-1} = a^{-1}aabbb^{-1} = ba = ab$$

so G is abelian.

$$\mathbf{v} \Rightarrow \mathbf{i} \colon a^n b^n = (ab)^n, \ a^{n-1} b^{n-1} = (ab)^{n-1}, \ a^{n+1} b^{n+1} = (ab)^{n+1}.$$
 
$$(b^{-1})^n (a^{-1})^n = ((ab)^n)^{-1} = ((ab)^{-1})^n$$
 
$$((ab)^{-1})^n (ab)^{n+1} = (b^{-1})^n ab^{n+1}$$
 
$$((ab)^{-1})^n (ab)^{n-1} = b^{-1} a^{-1} = (b^{-1})^n a^{-1} b^{n-1}$$
 
$$a = (b^{-1})^n ab^n \qquad b^{-1} a^{-1} b = (b^{-1})^n a^{-1} b^n$$

So  $a^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}b$ , which means G is abelian.

If "three" is replaced by "two":  $a^n b^n = (ab)^n$ ,  $a^{n+1} b^{n+1} = (ab)^{n+1}$ .

$$(b^{-1})^n (a^{-1})^n = ((ab)^{-1})^n \qquad a = (b^{-1})^n ab^n$$

For the group  $S_3 = \{(1), (12), (13), (23), (123), (132)\}$ , taking any  $a \in S_3$ , we can check that  $a^6 = (1)$ . If n = 6, then  $a = (b^{-1})^n a b^n$  for any  $a, b \in S_3$ . But  $S_3$  is nonabelian.

**Exercise 1.1.12.** If G is a group,  $a, b \in G$  and  $bab^{-1} = a^r$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $b^j ab^{-j} = a^{r^j}$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Answer.**  $bab^{-1} = a^r$ . We prove it by induction. For j = 1, its always true. Assume j = k the equation is correct,  $b^k ab^{-k} = a^{r^k}$ .  $ba^{r^k}b^{-1} = (a^{r^k})^{r=a^{r^{k+1}}}$ . For j = k+1, it's also true.

**Exercise 1.1.13.** If  $a^2 = e$  for all elements a of a group G, then G is abelian.

Answer.

$$a^{2} = e \Rightarrow a^{2}a^{-1} = ea^{-1} = a(aa^{-1}) = ae \Rightarrow a = a^{-1}$$
  
 $ab = a^{-1}b^{-1} = (ab)^{-1} = (ba)^{-1}$ 

So  $ab = ba \forall a, b \in G$ . G is abelian.

**Exercise 1.1.14.** If G is a finite group of even order, then G contains an element  $a \neq e$  such that  $a^2 = e$ .

**Answer.** Suppose not.  $\forall a \neq e, aa \neq e \Leftrightarrow a \neq a^{-1}$ . We can classify the group into some subsets.  $G = \bigcup_{a \neq e} \{a, a^{-1}\} \cup \{e\}$ . Notice that  $\{a, a^{-1}\} \cap \{b, b^{-1}\} = \emptyset$  if  $a \neq b$ , so |G| = 2n + 1, That's contradictory!

**Exercise 1.1.15.** Let G be a nonempty finite set with an associative binary operation such that for all  $a, b, c \in G$ ,  $ab = ac \Rightarrow b = c$  and  $ba = ca \Rightarrow b = c$ . Then G is a group. Show that this conclusion may be false if G is finite.

**Answer.** G is a semigroup. Fix  $a \in G$  and take b travels through all elements in G, then ab travels through all elements in G.

There exists an element  $e_1$  s.t.  $ae_1 = a \forall a \in G$ . Similarly, we can find  $e_2$  s.t.  $e_2a = a \forall a \in G$ .  $e_2e_1 = e_1 = e_2 = e$ . e is the identity element of G. Easily, we can find that  $\forall a \in G, \exists! a^{-1} \in G$  s.t.  $a^{-1}a = aa^{-1} = e$  because  $ab = ac \Rightarrow b = c$  and  $ba = ca \Rightarrow b = c$ .

G is a group. If G is infinite, G may not be a group, for example:  $(Z_+, \times)$ .

**Exercise 1.1.16.** Let  $a_1, a_2, ...$  be a sequence of elements in a semigroup G. Then there exists a unique function  $\Psi : \mathbb{N}^* \to G$  such that  $\Psi(1) = a_1, \Psi(2) = a_1 a_2, \Psi(3) = (a_1 a_2) a_3$  and for  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\Psi(n+1) = (\Psi(n)) a_{n+1}$ . Note that  $\Psi(n)$  is precisely the standard n product  $\prod_{i=1}^n a_i$ .

**Answer.** Applying the Recursion Theorem with  $a = a_1, S = G$  and  $f_n : G \to G$  given by  $x \mapsto xa_{n+2}$  yields a function  $\phi : \mathbf{N} \to G$ . Let  $\Psi = \phi\theta$ , where  $\theta : \mathbf{N}^* \to \mathbf{N}$  is given by  $k \mapsto k - 1$ .

# 1.2 Homomorphisms and subgroups

**Exercise 1.2.1.** If  $f: G \to H$  is a homomorphism of groups, then  $f(e_G) = e_H$  and  $f(a^{-1}) = f(a)^{-1}$  for all  $a \in G$ . Show by example that the first conclusion may be false if G, H are monoids that are not groups.

**Answer.** For example,  $(\mathbf{Z}_+, +)$  and  $(\mathbf{N}, \times)$  are monoids. Denote  $f : \mathbf{Z}_+ \to \mathbf{N}$  as  $f(x) = 0 \forall x \in \mathbf{Z}_+$ . f is a homomorphism satisfies those conditions.

**Exercise 1.2.2.** A group G is abelian if and only if the map  $G \to G$  given by  $x \mapsto x^{-1}$  is automorphism.

**Answer.** If G is abelian,  $f(x) = x^{-1}$  is a monomorphism and epimorphism.  $f(a)f(b) = a^{-1}b^{-1} = (ab)^{-1} = f(ab)$ If  $f(x) = x^{-1}$  is a isomorphism,  $f(a)f(b) = a^{-1}b^{-1} = f(ab) = (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} \forall a,b \in G$ , so G is abelian.

**Exercise 1.2.3.** Let  $Q_8$  be the group (under ordinary matrix multiplication) generated by complex matrices  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $i^2 = -1$ . Show that  $Q_8$  is a nonabelian group of order 8.  $Q_8$  is called the quaternion group.

**Answer.** The multiply operation is associative by the difinition.  $A^4 = B^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = I$  which is the identity element.

$$A^{-1} = A^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in G \qquad B^{-1} = B^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in G$$

So  $\forall A^i B^j \in G$ ,  $(A^i B^j)^{-1} \in G$ . G is a group. Now we examine the order of G is 8.

$$BA = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -i & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}$$
$$A^{3}B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -i & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So  $BA = A^3B$ . Take  $X = A^{s_1}B^{s_2}A^{s_3}B^{s_4}\dots A^{s_{2n-1}}B^{s_{2n}} = A^{s_1}B^{s_2-1}A^3B$   $A^{s_3-1}B^{s_4}\dots A^{s_{2n-1}}B^{s_{2n}} = \dots$  In finite steps, we can change it into  $X = A^aB^b$ .  $A^4 = B^4 = I$ , so we only consider  $1 \le a, b \le 4$ .  $A^2 = B^2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , we list all:  $Q_8 = \{A, A^2, B, BA, AB, A^2B, AB^2, I\}$ . The order of  $Q_8$  is 8.

**Exercise 1.2.4.** Let H be the group (under ordinary matrix multiplication) of real matrices generated by  $C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Show that H is a nonabelian group of order 8 which is not isomorphic to the quaternion group, but is isomorphic to the group  $D_4^*$ .

**Answer.**  $C^4D^2 = I, DC = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = C^3D$ . Similarly, we can prove H is a nonabelian group of order 8.  $H = \{C, C^2, C^3, I, D, CD, C^2D, C^3D\}$ Assume  $G \cong H$  and the isomorphism is f, Let f(D) = X,  $f(D^2) = X^2 = f(I) = I$ , so  $X^2 = I$ . But  $f^{-1}(I) = I \Rightarrow X \neq I \Rightarrow X = AB$  or  $X = A^2$  or  $X = B^2$ .

If  $X=A^2$ , consider  $f(C)=Y, f(C^2D)=Z$ , we have  $(Y,Z)=(B^2,AB)$  or  $(Y,Z)=(AB,B^2)$ .  $f(C^2D)=f(C^2)f(D)\Leftrightarrow Z=XY$ . That's contradictory!

If  $X = B^2$ , the proof is similar.

If X = AB, (Y, Z) = (A, B) or (Y, Z) = (B, A). That's contradictory! So f doesn't exist. G is not isomorphic to H.

Now we prove  $H \cong D_4^*$ . For any point  $(x,y)^T$  inside the square

$$T_{x} = (x, -y)^{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} (x, y)^{T} = CD(x, y)^{T}$$

$$T_{y} = (-x, y)^{T} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x, y)^{T} = C^{3}D(x, y)^{T}$$

$$T_{13} = (-y, x)^{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (x, y)^{T} = C^{3}(x, y)^{T}$$

$$T_{24} = (y, -x)^{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (x, y)^{T} = C(x, y)^{T}$$

so  $D_4^* = \langle T_x, T_y, T_{13}, T_{24} \rangle = H = \langle C, D \rangle.$ 

**Exercise 1.2.5.** Let S be a nonempty subset of a group G and define a relation on G by  $a \sim b$  if and only if  $ab^{-1} \in S$ . Show that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation if and only if S is a subgroup of G.

**Answer.** If  $\sim$  is a equivalence relation

- 1.  $a \sim b \Rightarrow b \sim a$ ;
- 2.  $a \sim a$ ;
- 3.  $a \sim b, b \sim c \Rightarrow a \sim c$ .

 $2 \Leftrightarrow aa^{-1} = e \in S$ .  $1 \Rightarrow a \sim e \Rightarrow e \sim a \forall a \in S$ , so  $ae^{-1} = a \in S, ea^{-1} = a^{-1} \in S$ . If  $a, b \in S, b^{-1} \in S$ , so  $ae^{-1} \in S, e(b^{-1})^{-1} \in S$ . By  $3, a \sim e, e \sim b^{-1} \Rightarrow a \sim b^{-1} \Rightarrow ab \in S$ . S is a subgroup of G.

If S is a subgroup of G

- 1.  $aa^{-1} \in S \Rightarrow a \sim a$ ;
- 2.  $ab^{-1} \in S \Rightarrow (ab^{-1})^{-1} = ba^{-1} \in S \Rightarrow (a \sim b \Rightarrow b \sim a);$
- 3.  $ab^{-1} \in S, bc^{-1} \in S \Rightarrow (ab^{-1})(bc^{-1}) = ac^{-1} \in S$ , which means  $a \sim b, b \sim c \Rightarrow a \sim c$

In conclusion,  $\sim$  is a equivalence relation.

**Exercise 1.2.6.** A nonempty finte subset of a group is s subgroup if and only if it is closed under the product in G.

**Answer.**  $\Rightarrow$ : Trivial.

 $\Leftarrow$ : S is apparently associative.  $\forall a,b \in S, ab \in S$ . S is a finite set, so there exists  $m > n \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $a^m = a^n$ .

**Exercise 1.2.7.** If n is a fixed integer, then  $\{kn|n \in \mathbf{Z}\} \subset \mathbf{Z}$  is an additive subgroup of  $\mathbf{Z}$ , which is isomorphic to  $\mathbf{Z}$ .

**Answer.** Denote  $Z^n = \{kn | k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ . We can easily check that  $Z^n$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Now we build a isomorphism between  $Z^n$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Take  $f: Z^n \to \mathbf{Z}$  as f(kn) = k,  $f^{-1}(n) = kn$ . f is a bijection so  $Z^n$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$  are isomorphism.

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**Exercise 1.2.8.** The set  $\{\sigma \in S_n | \sigma(n) = n\}$  is a subgroup of  $S_n$  which is isomorphic to  $S_{n-1}$ .

**Answer.** Denote  $S_n^{(n)} = \{ \sigma \in S_n | \sigma(n) = n \}$ .  $\forall \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in S_n^{(n)}, \sigma_1 \sigma_2(n) = \sigma_1(\sigma_2(n)) = \sigma_1(n) = n$ , so  $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \in S_n^{(n)}$ . By the above exercise,  $S_n^{(n)}$  is a subgroup of  $S_n$ . Now we build an isomorphism between  $S_n^{(n)}$  and  $S_{n-1}$ . Take  $f: S_{n-1} \to S_n^{(n)}$  as  $f(\sigma) = \sigma'$ , where  $\sigma'(x) = \begin{cases} n, & x = n \\ \sigma(n), & x \neq n \end{cases}$ .  $\sigma' \in S_n^{(n)}$  and f is a bijection, so  $S_{n-1} \cong S_n^{(n)}$ .

**Exercise 1.2.9.** Let  $f: G \to H$  be a homomorphism of groups, A a subgroup of G, and B a subgroup of H.

- (a) Ker f and  $f^{-1}(B)$  are subgroups of G.
- (b) f(A) is a subgroup of H.

**Answer.** (a) f is a homomorphism, so  $f(e) = e', e \in \text{Ker} f$ .  $\forall a \in \text{Ker} f$ ,  $f(aa^{-1}) = f(a)f(a^{-1}) = e'$ , so  $f(a^{-1}) = f(a)^{-1} = e'^{-1} = e'$ .  $\forall a, b \in \text{Ker} f$ ,  $f(ab^{-1}) = f(a)f(b^{-1}) = f(a)f(b)^{-1} = e' \Rightarrow ab^{-1} \in \text{Ker} f$ , which means Ker f is a subgroup of G. The proof of  $f^{-1}(B)$  is a subgroup of G is similar.

(b) f is a homomorphism, f(e) = e'.  $\forall a, b \in A, ab^{-1} \in A$ , so  $f(ab^{-1}) = f(a)f(b^{-1}) = f(a)f(b)^{-1} \in f(A)$ , f(A) is a subgroup of H.

**Exercise 1.2.10.** List all subgroups of  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ . Is  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$  isomorphic to  $Z_4$ ?

**Answer.**  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ : {{(1,1), (1,0), (0,1), (0,0)}, {(1,1), (0,0)}, {(0,0)}, {(1,0), (0,0)}, {(0,1), (0,0)}, {(0,1), (1,0), (0,0)}}.  $Z_4$ : {{ $\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}$ }, { $\bar{0}, \bar{2}$ }, { $\bar{0}$ }}.

 $Z_4$  and  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$  are not isomorphic because they have different subgroups.

**Exercise 1.2.11.** If G is a subgroup, then  $C = \{a \in G | ax = xa \text{ for all } x \in G\}$  is a abelian subgroup of G. C is called the center of G.

**Answer.** Take  $a, b \in C, ab = ba, C$  is commutative.  $\forall a, b \in C, x \in G, b^{-1} \in G$ , so  $ab^{-1} = b^{-1}a$ .

$$ax = axbb^{-1} = abxb^{-1} = baxb^{-1} = bxab^{-1} = abb^{-1}x = bab^{-1}x$$

so  $b^{-1}ax = ab^{-1}x = xab^{-1}$ ,  $ab^{-1} \in C$ , C is a subgroup of G.

**Exercise 1.2.12.** The group  $D_4^*$  is not cyclic, but can be generated by two elements. The same is true of  $S_n$  (nontrivial). What is the minimal number of generators of the additive group  $\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z}$ ?

**Answer.**  $\mathbf{Z} \oplus \mathbf{Z} = \{(a,b)|a \in \mathbf{Z}, b \in \mathbf{Z}\} = \langle (0,0), (1,0), (0,1) \rangle$ . We can easily check the spanning set is the minimal.

**Exercise 1.2.13.** If  $G = \langle a \rangle$  is a cyclic group and H is any group, then every homomorphism  $f: G \to H$  is completely determined by the element  $f(a) \in H$ .

**Answer.**  $\forall x \in G$ , there exist  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $x = a^m$ , so  $f(x) = f(a^m) = f(a)^m \Rightarrow \text{Im} f = \langle f(a) \rangle$ .  $f: a^m \mapsto f(a)^m \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$ . f is completely determined by  $f(a) \in H$ .

**Exercise 1.2.14.** The following cyclic subgroups are all isomorphic: the multiplication group  $\langle i \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ , the additive group  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  and the subgroup  $\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$  of  $S_4$ .

Answer.  $\langle i \rangle = \{i, -1, -i, 1\}, Z_4 = \{\overline{0}, \overline{1}, \overline{2}, \overline{3}\},$   $\langle (1234) \rangle = \{(1234), (13)(24), (1432), (1)\}.$  Denote  $f : \langle i \rangle \to Z_4$  as  $f(i) = \overline{i},$  $g : Z_4 \to \langle (1234) \rangle$  as g(i) = (1234). From the exercise above we know f and g aer homomorphisms, and they are bijections, so  $\langle i \rangle \cong Z_4 \cong \langle (1234) \rangle$ . **Exercise 1.2.15.** Let G be a group and AutG is the set of all automorphisms of G.

- (a) AutG is a group with composition of functions as binary operation.
- (b) Aut $\mathbf{Z} \cong Z_2$  and Aut $Z_6 \cong Z_2$ ; Aut $Z_8 \cong Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ ; Aut $Z_p \cong Z_{p-1}$  (p prime).
- (c) What is  $\operatorname{AutZ}_n$  for arbitrary  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ?

**Answer.** We only prove the third question.

For  $\bar{a} \in Z_n$ , the order of  $\bar{a}$  is  $|\bar{a}| = \frac{n}{(n,a)}$ . When (n,a) = 1,  $\bar{a}$  is a generator of  $Z_n$ . Denote Euler function as  $\varphi(x)$  and  $Z_n^* = \{\bar{a} \in Z_n | (a,n) = 1\}$ , then  $|Z_n^*| = \varphi(n)$ . For  $\sigma \in \operatorname{Aut} Z_n$ ,  $\sigma$  is completely determined by  $\sigma(\bar{1}) = \bar{a}$ , and we denote  $\sigma$  as  $\sigma_a$ . For  $\sigma_a, \sigma_b \in \operatorname{Aut} Z_n$ ,  $\sigma_a(\sigma_b(\bar{1})) = \sigma_a(\bar{b}) = \bar{a}\bar{b} = \sigma_{ab}(\bar{1})$ . We have proved  $\operatorname{Aut} Z_n \cong Z_n^*$ .

Now we give out a lemma to show the structure of  $Z_n^*$ .

**Lemma.** If n = st, (s, t) = 1, then  $Z_n^* \cong Z_s^* \oplus Z_t^*$ .

The proof of this lemma is quite simple. Consider the mapping  $f^*: Z_n^* \to Z_s^* \oplus Z_t^*$  which is defined by  $(x \mod n) \mapsto (x \mod s, x \mod t)$ . Since for any  $a,b \in Z_n^*$ ,  $f^*(a)f^*(b) = (a \mod s, a \mod t)(b \mod s, b \mod t) = (ab \mod s, ab \mod t) = f^*(ab)$ ,  $f^*$  is a well defined homomorphism. For  $x \in \operatorname{Ker} f^*$ ,  $x \equiv 1 \mod s$ ,  $x \equiv 1 \mod t$ , so  $x \equiv 1 \mod [s,t]$ ,  $x \equiv 1 \mod n$ ,  $f^*$  is a monomorphism. Since  $|f^*(Z_n^*)| = |Z_n| = \varphi(n) = \varphi(s)\varphi(t) = |Z_s^* \oplus Z_t^*|$ ,  $f^*$  is a epimorphism.  $Z_n^* \cong Z_s^* \oplus Z_t^*$ 

 $f^*$  is a epimorphism.  $Z_n^* \cong Z_s^* \oplus Z_t^*$  For  $n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_m^{k_m}$ ,  $Z_n^* \cong Z_{p_1^{k_1}}^* \oplus Z_{p_2^{k_2}}^* \oplus \cdots \oplus Z_{p_m^{k_m}}^*$ . Now we consider the structure of  $Z_{nk}^*$ .

For p = 2,  $Z_2^* \stackrel{p^*}{\cong} Z_1$ ,  $Z_4^* \cong Z_2$ ,  $Z_{2^k}^* \cong Z_2 \oplus Z_{2^{k-2}}$ .

For other odd prime  $p, Z_{p^k}^* \cong Z_{(p-1)p^{k-1}}$ .

In order to prove the result, we need the Lagrange theorem in number theory.

**Lemma** (Lagrange).  $f(x) \in Z[n]$ ,  $f(x) \equiv k$  has at most n solutions when mod p, where p is an odd prime.

We use induction to prove the lemma.

- 1. n=1, the proof the trivial.
- 2. Assume for  $n \leq m-1$  the lemma is correct, and for  $n=m, f(x) \equiv k$  has m+1 solutions.  $f(x)-f(x_{m+1})=(x-x_{m+1})g(x)\equiv 0 \mod p$ . Take  $x=x_i, i=1,2,\ldots,m, (x_i-x_{m+1})g(x_i)\equiv 0 \mod p, x_i \neq x_{m+1}$ , so  $g(x_i)\equiv 0 \mod p$ , That's contradictory to the induction assumptions!

The lemma is proved.

Come back to the original question. Firstly, we consider k=1 and p is an odd prime. For any factor d of p-1, denote  $S(d)=\{\bar{a}\in Z_p^*|\mathrm{ord}_p(a)=d\}.$  S(d) forms a partition of  $Z_p^*$ . If  $S(d)\neq\varnothing$ , there exists  $\bar{a}\in S(d)$  and  $a^d\equiv 1$  mod p. By Largrange theorem,  $a^d\equiv 1$  mod p has at most d solutions. Notice that  $\{1,a,a^2,\ldots,a^{d-1}\}$  are the solutions of the equation,  $a^i\not\equiv a^j$  mod p, whence  $S(d)\subset\langle\bar{a}\rangle.$  For  $k=1,2,\ldots,d-1,$   $\mathrm{ord}_p(\bar{a}^k)=\left|a^k\right|=\frac{d}{(d,k)}=d\Leftrightarrow (d,k)=1.$  Thus  $|S(d)|=\varphi(d).$  From  $Z_p^*=\bigcup_{d|p-1}S(d),$  we get

$$p-1 = \left| Z_p^* \right| = \sum_{d|p-1} |S(d)| \le \sum_{d|p-1} \varphi(d) = p-1$$

If d|p-1,  $|S(d)|=\varphi(d)$ . Particularly, when d=p-1,  $|S(p-1)|=\varphi(p-1)\neq 0$ ,  $Z_p^*$  has a element of order p-1,  $Z_p^*$  is a cyclic group. Secondly, we consider  $k\geq 2$ . Take  $a\in \mathbf{Z}$  and  $\bar{a}$  is the class of  $x\equiv a \mod p^k$ . For  $s\geq t$ , we have a group homomorphism  $f_{s,t}:Z_{p^s}^*\to Z_{p^t}^*$  which is defined by  $(a\mod p^s)\mapsto (a\mod p^t)$ . Since  $a\equiv b\mod p^s\Rightarrow a\equiv b\mod p^t$ , f is well defined.  $\mathrm{Ker} f_{s,t}=\{up^t+1\mod p^s|u=0,1,\ldots,p^{s-t}-1\}$ . If  $2t\geq s$ , since  $(up^t+1)(vp^t+1)\equiv uvp^{2t}+(u+v)p^t+1\equiv (u+v)p^t+1\mod p^s$ ,  $\mathrm{Ker} f_{s,t}\cong Z_{p^{s-t}}$  is a cyclic group. There exists a isomorphism  $g_{s,t}:Z_{p^s}^*/\mathrm{Ker} f_{s,t}\to Z_{p^t}^*$ .

$$\{\bar{1}_{p^k}\} = \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,k} < \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,k-1} < \dots < \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,1} < Z_{p^k}^*$$

**Lemma.** Suppose  $i \geq 2$ ,  $\bar{a}_{p^k} \in \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i}$ , but  $\bar{a}_{p^k} \notin \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+1}$ , then  $\bar{a}_{p^k}^p \in \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+1}$  and  $\bar{a}_{p^k}^p \notin \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+2}$ .

This lemma can be proved by LTE. Here we use the language in group theory to prove it.  $f_{k,i+2}(\bar{a}_{p^k}) = \bar{a}_{p^{i+2}}, \ \bar{a}_{p^{i+2}} \in f_{k,i+2}(\operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i}) = \operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i}.$   $\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i} \cong Z_{p^2}$  since  $2i \geq i+2$ .  $\bar{a}_{p^{i+2}} \notin f_{k,i+2}(\operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+1}) = \operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+1} \cong Z_p.$   $\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+1}$  contains all the elements whose order is p in  $\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i}$ , so  $|\bar{a}_{p^{i+2}}| = p^2. \ \bar{a}_{p^{i+2}}^p \in \operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+1}, \ \bar{a}_{p^{i+2}}^p \notin \operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+2}, \ \bar{a}_{p^k}^p \in g_{k,i+2}^{-1}(\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+2}) = \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+2}(\bar{a}_{p^{i+2}}) \subset g_{k,i+2}^{-1}(\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+1}) = \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+1}, \ \bar{a}_{p^k}^p \notin g_{k,i+2}^{-1}(\operatorname{Ker} f_{i+2,i+2}) = \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,i+2}.$  For i=1, if p is an odd prime,  $\operatorname{Ker} f_{3,1} = \langle p+1_{p^3} \rangle \cong Z_{p^2}$ , if p=2,  $\operatorname{Ker} f_{3,1} = \{\bar{1}_8, \bar{3}_8, \bar{5}_8, \bar{7}_8\} \cong Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ . Thus, for  $\bar{a}_{p^k} \in \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,2}, \bar{a}_{p^k} \notin \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,3}$ , using the lemma above for several times, we get  $\bar{a}_{p^k}^{p^{k-2}} \in \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,2}, \bar{a}_{p^k}^{p^{k-3}} \notin \operatorname{Ker} f_{k,k}, |\bar{a}_{p^k}| = p^{k-2}$ ,  $\operatorname{Ker} f_{k,2} \cong Z_{p^{k-2}}$ .

If p is an odd prime, we can further obtain  $\operatorname{Ker} f_{k,1} \cong Z_{p^{k-1}}$ .

Suppose x is a generator of  $Z_p^*$ , assume  $a \in g_{k,1}^{-1}(x), \ g_{k,1}^{-1}(x) = a \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,1}$ , and  $a^{p-1} \in g_{k,1}^{-1}(x^{p-1}) = g_{k,1}^{-1}(\bar{1}_p) = \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,1}$ . If  $a^{p-1} \notin \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,2}$ , then  $\left|a^{p-1}\right| = p^{k-1}$ . If  $a^{p-1} \in \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,2}$ ,  $\forall h \in \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,1}, h \notin \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,2}$ . Since  $(ah)^{p-1} = (a^{p-1}h^p)h^{-1}, \ (ah)^{p-1} \in \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,1}, (ah)^{p-1} \notin \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,2}$ , whence  $\left|(ah)^{p-1}\right| = p^{k-1}, \ Z_{p^k}^* \cong Z_{(p-1)p^{k-1}}$ . If  $p = 2, \ Z_{2^k}^* = \mathrm{Ker} f_{k,1} \cong Z_{2^{k-2}} \oplus Z_2$ .

For Aut**Z**, assume there exist  $f \neq 1_G$ ,  $-1_G$ ,  $f \in \mathbf{AutZ}$ . WLOG,  $f(1) = x \neq \pm 1$ , f(-1) = y. f(1) + f(-1) = f(0) = x + y = 0. Assume af(1) + bf(-1) = f(a - b) = 1 = (a - b)x, since  $x \neq \pm 1$ , there is a contradiction. Aut**Z**  $\cong Z_2$ .

**Exercise 1.2.16.** For each prime p the additive subgroup  $Z(p^{\infty})$  of  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  is generated by the set  $\{1/p^n|n\in\mathbf{N}^*\}$ .

**Answer.** We prove that  $\left\langle \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^n} \right\rangle \cong Z(p^{\infty})$ .  $\forall x \in Z(p^{\infty}), x = \frac{\bar{a}}{b} = \frac{\bar{a}}{p^k}$ . Expand a as  $a = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} p^i a_i$ , where  $a_i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .  $x = \frac{\bar{a}}{b} = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \frac{\bar{a_i}}{p^{k-i}} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{a_{k-i}^-}{p^i}$ . Denote  $f: \left\langle \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^n} \right\rangle \to Z(p^{\infty})$  as  $f(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{a_i}{p^i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{a_i}{p^i}$ . f is an isomorphism because every  $x \in Z(p^{\infty})$  can be written in such form.

**Exercise 1.2.17.** Let G be an abelian group and let H, K be subgroups of G. Show that the join  $H \vee K$  is the set  $\{ab | a \in H, b \in K\}$ . Extend this result to any finite number of subgroups of G.

**Answer.**  $H \vee K = \langle H \cup K \rangle$ ,  $I = \{ab | a \in H, b \in K\}$ . G is abelian so I is a subgroup of G.  $H < I, K < I, (H \cup K) \subset I$ .  $\langle H \cup K \rangle \subset I \Rightarrow \langle H \cup K \rangle$ . For any  $ab \in I$ ,  $a \in H$ ,  $b \in K$ , we prove that ab is contained in any subgroup which contains  $H \cup K$ .

Assume  $(H \cup K) \subset J$ , so  $a \in J, b \in J \Rightarrow ab \in J$ , which means  $I \subset H \vee K$ .  $\langle H \cup K \rangle = I$ .

G is abelian group,  $H_1, H_2, \ldots H_n$  are n subgroups.  $\left\langle \bigcup_{i=1}^n H_i \right\rangle = \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^n h_i \middle| h_i \in H_i, i=1,2,\ldots n \right\}$ . This proposition can be proved by induction.

1. Let G be a group and  $\{H_i|i\in I\}$  a family of sub-Exercise 1.2.18. groups. State and prove a condition that will imply that  $\bigcup H_i$  is a

subgroup, that is  $\bigcup_{i \in I} H_i = \left\langle \bigcup_{i \in I} H_i \right\rangle$ . 2. Given an example of a group G and a family of subgroups  $\{H_i | i \in I\}$ such that  $\bigcup_{i \in I} H_i \neq \left\langle \bigcup_{i \in I} H_i \right\rangle$ .

**Answer.** I didn't find a sufficient and necessary condition for this question, just choose one as you like:)

1. The set of all subgroups of a group G, partially Exercise 1.2.19. ordered by set theoretic inclusion, forms a complete lattice in which the g.l.b of  $\{H_i|i\in I\}$  is  $\bigcap_{i\in I}H_i$  and the l.u.b is  $\langle\bigcap_{i\in I}H_i\rangle$ .

2. Exhibit the lattice of subgroups of the groups  $S_3, D_4^*, Z_6, Z_{27}$  and  $Z_{36}$ .

Answer. 1. The subset relation < forms a partially ordered relation. By the difinition of  $\langle \bigcup_{i \in I} H_i \rangle$ ,  $\langle \bigcup_{i \in I} H_i \rangle$  is the smallest set contains  $\bigcup_{i \in I} H_i$ , so it's lup. For glb, we know that  $\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \subset H_i \ \forall i \in I$ , and  $\forall H \supset \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ , there exists  $x \in H, x \notin H_j$   $j \in I$ , so  $\bigcap_{i \in I}$  is glb.

2.  $S_3 = \{(1), (12), (13), (23), (123), (132)\}.$ 



The Hasse figure of the lattice of  $S_3$ 

 $D_4^* = \{R, R^2, R^3, I, T_x, T_y, T_{13}, T_{24}\}.$ 



The Hasse figure of the lattice of  ${\cal D}_4^*$ 

$$Z_6 = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}\}.$$



The Hasse figure of the lattice of  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ 



The Hasse figure of the lattice of  $\mathbb{Z}_{27}$ 



The Hasse figure of the lattice of  $\mathbb{Z}_{36}$ 

### 1.3 Cyclic groups

**Exercise 1.3.1.** Let a, b be elements of group G. Show that  $|a| = |a^{-1}|$ ; |ab| = |ba|, and  $|a| = |cac^{-1}|$  for all  $c \in G$ .

**Answer.** We only consider that |a|, |b|, |c| are finite. Assume  $a^k = e$ ,  $(ab)^m = e$ ,  $(ac^{-1})^n = e$ ,  $kmn \neq 0$ .  $a^k \cdot (a^{-1})^k = e$ , so k sialso the order of  $a^{-1}, |a^{-1}| = k$ .  $(ab)^m = e = a(ba)^{m-1}b \Rightarrow (ba)^{m-1} = a^{-1}b^{-1}$ ,  $(ba)^m = a^{-1}b^{-1}ba = e$ . m is the order of ba.  $(cac^{-1})^r = cac^{-1}cac^{-1} \cdots cac^{-1} = ca^nc^{-1} = e$ , so  $a^n = e$ , whence n = k.

**Exercise 1.3.2.** Let G be an abelian group containing elements a and b of orders m and n respectively. Show that G contains an element whose order is the least common multiple of m and n.

**Answer.** If (m, n) = 1, we know that  $\forall a^i, i = 1, 2, ..., m, b^j, j = 1, 2, ..., n, <math>a^i b^j \neq e$ , since if  $a^i = b^j$ ,  $|a^i| = n = |b^{-j}| = |b^j| = m$ . G is abelian, so  $(ab)^k = a^k b^k \Rightarrow |ab| = mn = [m, n]$ .

If m|n or n|m, then a or b is the element we want. We consider  $m \nmid n$  and  $n \nmid m$ . Factorise  $n = p_1^{t_1} p_2^{t_2} \cdots p_l^{t_l}$ ,  $m = p_1^{s_1} p_2^{s_2} \cdots p_l^{s_l}$ , where  $p_1, \cdots, p_l$  are primes and  $t_1, \cdots, t_l, s_1, \cdots, s_l \geq 0$ . We can choose a new arrangement of  $p_1, \cdots, p_l$  and make  $t_1 \geq s_1, t_2 \geq s_2, \ldots, t_i \geq s_i, t_{i+1} < s_{i+1}, \ldots, t_l < s_l$ .

$$(m,n) = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_i^{s_i} p_{i+1}^{t_{i+1}} \cdots p_l^{t_l}, [m,n] = p_1^{t_1} \cdots p_i^{t_i} p_{i+1}^{s_{i+1}} \cdots p_l^{s_l}$$

Take  $x=a^{p_{i+1}^{s_{i+1}}\cdots p_l^{s_l}},\ y=b^{p_1^{t_1}\cdots p_i^{t_i}},\ \text{then}\ |x|=p_1^{t_1}\cdots p_i^{t_i},\ |y|=p_{i+1}^{s_{i+1}}\cdots p_l^{s_l}.$  Thus (x,y)=1, the order of xy is  $|x|\cdot |y|=p_1^{t_1}\cdots p_i^{t_i}p_{i+1}^{s_{i+1}}\cdots p_l^{s_l}=[m,n].$ 

**Exercise 1.3.3.** Let G be an abelian group of order pq, with (p,q)=1. Assume there exist  $a,b\in G$  such that |a|=p,|b|=q and show that G is cyclic.

**Answer.** From Exercise 1.3.2 we know  $a^i b^j \neq e$  for i < p, j < q. |G| = pq for all  $a^i b^j$  and  $a^m b^n$  with  $i \neq m, b \neq n, a^i b^j \neq a^m b^n$ . So G can be generated by ab. G is cyclic.

**Exercise 1.3.4.** If  $f: G \to H$  is a homomorphism,  $a \in G$ , and f(a) has finte order in H, then |a| is infinite or |f(a)| divides |a|.

**Answer.** Assume |f(a)| = n, |a| = m, and  $n \nmid m$ . Trivially,  $m \geq n$ . Assume  $gcd(m,n) = k \leq n$ .  $a^m = e \Rightarrow f(a)^m = e' = f(a)^n$ . By Bezout theorem  $\exists x,y \in \mathbf{Z} \text{ s.t. } f(a)^{mx+ny} = f(a)^k = e', \ k \leq n$ , that's contradictory!

**Exercise 1.3.5.** Let G be the multiplicative group of all nonsingular  $2 \times 2$  matrices with rational entries. Show that  $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  has order 4 and  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  has order 3, but ab has infinite order. Conversely, show that the additive group  $Z_2 \oplus \mathbf{Z}$  contains nonzero elements a, b of infinite order such that a + b has finite order.

**Answer.** The verification of |a|=4 and |b|=3 is trivial.  $ab=\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   $\det(ab=\lambda I)=0\Rightarrow \lambda_1=\lambda_2=1.$  ab is not diagnizable. By induction, we have  $(ab)^n=\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2^{n-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  which means (ab) has infinite order. For  $a=(\bar{0},1),b=(\bar{0},-1)\in Z_2\oplus {\bf Z},$  a,b have infinite order, but  $a+b=(\bar{0},0)$  has finite order 1.

**Exercise 1.3.6.** If G is a cyclic group of order n and k|n, then G has exactly one subgroup of order k.

**Answer.** Assume  $a^n = e$ , mk = n, we verify that  $\langle a^m \rangle$  is a subgroup of order k.  $\forall x, y \in \mathbf{Z}_+$ ,  $a^{xm} \cdot a^{-ym} = a^{(x-y)m} \in \langle a^m \rangle$ , so  $\langle a^m \rangle$  is a subgroup.  $a^{km} = e$ ,  $a^{sm} \neq e$  for s < k, so  $|\langle a^m \rangle| = k$ .

**Exercise 1.3.7.** Let p be prime and H a subgroup of  $Z(p^{\infty})$ .

- (a) Every element of  $Z(p^{\infty})$  has finite order  $p^n$  for some  $n \geq 0$ .
- (b) If at least one element of H has order  $p^k$  and no element of H has order greater than  $p^k$ , then H is the cyclic subgroup generated by  $1/p^k$ , whence  $H \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ .

- (c) If there is no upper bound on the orders of elements of H, then  $H = Z(p^{\infty})$ .
- (d) The only proper subgroups of  $Z(p^{\infty})$  are the finite cyclic groups  $C_n = \langle 1/\bar{p}^n \rangle$  (n = 1, 2, ...). Furthermore,  $\langle 0 \rangle = C_0 < C_1 < C_2 < C_3 < \cdots$ .
- (e) Let  $x_1, x_2, \ldots$  be elements of an abelian group G such that  $|x_1| = p, px_2 = x_1, px_3 = x_2, \ldots, px_{n+1} = x_n, \ldots$  The subgroup generated by the  $x_i (i \ge 1)$  is isomorphic to  $Z(p^{\infty})$ .
- **Answer.** (a)  $\forall x \in Z(p^{\infty}), \ x = \frac{a}{p^n}$  where  $a < p^n, \ p \nmid a$ . p is a prime, so  $\gcd(p,a) = 1$ .  $m \cdot a | p^n \Rightarrow m = p^n$ . Thus  $m \cdot \frac{a}{p^n} = e$ ,  $p^n$  is the smallest number satisfies it.  $\frac{a}{p^n}$  has order  $p^n$ .
- (b) For all  $x \in Z(p^{\infty})$ , if x has order smaller than  $p^k$ , x must have the form  $x = \frac{a}{p^i}(i \le k)$ , (p, a) = 1, so  $x \in \left\langle \frac{1}{p^k} \right\rangle$ . If not, assume  $x = \frac{a}{p^i}(i > k)$ , then  $p^k \cdot x = \frac{a}{p^{i-k}} \ne 1$ .
- (c) Assume not,  $\overset{P}{H} < Z(p^{\infty})$ ,  $H \neq Z(p^{\infty})$ . There exist  $y \in H$  s.t. y has order  $p^m, m \geq n$ .  $y = \frac{b}{p^m}$ , (p, b) = 1, so there exists  $b^{-1} \in \{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$ ,  $bb^{-1} \equiv 1 \mod p^m$ . But  $ab^{-1}p^{m-n}y = \frac{a}{p^n} = x \in H$ , that's contradictory! Conversely,  $H = Z(p^{\infty})$ .
- (d) From (b), we know that if there's least upper bound  $p^n$  for elements in a subgroup S, then  $S = C_n$ .

$$\langle 0 \rangle = C_0 < C_1 < C_2 < C_3 < \dots < Z(p^{\infty})$$

is easy to verify.

(e) We can verify that  $f: x_i \mapsto \frac{1}{p^i}$  is a well defined isomorphism.  $f(e) = f(px_1) = 1$ ,  $f(px_{i+1}) = f(x_i) = \frac{1}{p^i} = p \cdot \frac{1}{p^{i+1}}$ . f is obviously a bijection, so  $H \cong Z(p^{\infty})$ .

Exercise 1.3.8. A group that has only a finite number of subgroups must be finite.

**Answer.** Suppose not. If the order of all subgroups are finite, G must be finite. So there exists a infinite subgroup H < G.  $\forall a \in G$ , if  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^n \neq e$ . then we can construct infinite subgroups  $\langle a \rangle$ ,  $\langle a^2 \rangle$ ,  $\langle a^3 \rangle \dots$  If  $\forall a \in G$ ,  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^n = e$ , so  $\langle a \rangle$  is a proper subgroup of G, we can take  $b \in G \ni \langle a \rangle$  to construct another subgroup. By induction, there are infinite subgroups in G. That's contradictory, so G must be finite.

**Exercise 1.3.9.** If G is an abelian group, then the set T of all elements of G with finite order is a subgroup of G.

**Answer.** We can easily verify that  $\forall a, b \in S, |a| = m, |b| = n \text{ and } |ab^{-1}| \le mn$  is finite. T is a subgroup of G.

Exercise 1.3.10. An infinite group is cyclic if and only if it is isomorphic to each of its proper subgroups.

**Answer.** If G is cyclic,  $G \cong \mathbf{Z}$ , S < G. For any subgroup of  $\mathbf{Z}$ , it has the form  $\{na\}, a \in \mathbf{Z}$ . We can construct a isomorphism  $f : n \mapsto na$ , so  $S \cong \{na\} \Rightarrow G \cong S$ .

If  $\forall S < G$ ,  $G \cong S$  and |G| = |S| is finite. We prove there exists S < G s.t.  $|S| = \aleph_0$ . Take  $a \in G$  and  $S = \{na|n \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ , S is a subgroup. If there exists ma = 0, S must be finite, contradictory! Thus,  $S \cong \mathbf{Z} \cong G$ . G is a infinite cyclic group.

# 1.4 Cosets and counting

**Exercise 1.4.1.** Let G be a group and  $\{H_i|i\in I\}$  a family of subgroups. Then for any  $a\in G$ ,  $(\bigcap_i H_i)a=\bigcap_i H_ia$ .

**Answer.**  $\bigcap_{i} H_{i}$  is a subgroup of G. Take  $x \in \bigcap_{i} H_{i}$ ,  $x \in H_{i}$ ,  $\forall i \in I$ . Then  $xa \in H_{i}a$ ,  $\forall i \in I$ , so  $xa \in \bigcap_{i} (H_{i}a)$ . Thus,  $(\bigcap_{i} H_{i})a = \bigcap_{i} (H_{i}a)$ .

- **Exercise 1.4.2.** (a) Let H be the cyclic subgroup (of order 2) of  $S_3$  generated by  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then no left cosets of H (except H itself) is also a right coset. There exists  $a \in S_3$  such that  $aH \cap Ha = \{a\}$ .
- (b) If K is the cyclic subgroup (of order 3) of  $S_3$  generated by  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , then every left coset of K is also a right coset of K.

Answer. (a)  $H = \{(12), (1)\}$ .  $S_3 = \{(12), (13), (23), (1), (123), (132)\}$ . For  $a \in H$ , aH = Ha = H. a = (13),  $aH = \{(13), (123)\}$ ,  $Ha = \{(13), (132)\}$ . a = (23),  $aH = \{(23), (132)\}$ ,  $Ha = \{(23), (123)\}$ . a = (123),  $aH = \{(123), (23)\}$ ,  $Ha = \{(132), (13)\}$ . a = (132),  $aH = \{(132), (13)\}$ ,  $Ha = \{(123), (23)\}$ . (b)  $K = \{(123), (132), (1)\}$ . For  $a \in K$ , aK = Ka = K. a = (12),  $aK = Ka = \{(12), (23), (13)\}$ . a = (13),  $aK = Ka = \{(12), (23), (13)\}$ .

**Exercise 1.4.3.** The following conditions on a finite group G are equivalent.

- (i) |G| is prime.
- (ii)  $G \neq \langle e \rangle$  and G has no proper subgroups.

 $a = (23), aK = Ka = \{(12), (23), (13)\}.$ 

(iii)  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime p.

**Answer.** (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii): If there exists S < G,  $S \neq G$ , then  $|S| \mid |G| = p$ . That's contradictory!

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii):  $\forall a \in G$ , take  $S = \{na|n = 1, 2, ..., p\}$ . If there exists  $ma = na, (1 \leq m < n \leq p), (n - m)a = 0$ . So there exists subgroup S, and |S| = n - m < p. That's contradictory! So S < G,  $|S| = |G| \Rightarrow S = G \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

(iii)⇒(i): Trivial.

**Exercise 1.4.4.** Let a be an integer and p be a prime such that  $p \nmid a$ . Then  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \mod p$ .

**Answer.**  $(Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}, \times)$  is a group of order p-1. From **Exercise 1.1.7**, we know that  $\forall \bar{a} \in Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$  and  $b \in Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ , taking different  $\bar{b}$  we will have different  $\bar{a}\bar{b} \in Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ . So

$$\prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (\bar{i} \cdot \bar{a}) = \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} \bar{i}$$

By the definition of  $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ ,  $Z_p \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$  is commutative. So

$$(\bar{a})^{p-1}(\prod_{i=1}^{p-1}\bar{i}) = \prod_{i=1}^{p-1}\bar{i} \Rightarrow (\bar{a})^{p-1} = \bar{1}$$

**Exercise 1.4.5.** Prove that there are only two distinct groups of order 4 (up to isomorphism), namely  $Z_4$  and  $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ .

**Answer.** The only cyclic group of order 4 is  $Z_4$ . For a group G of order 4 which is not cyclic,  $\forall a \in G, \ a \neq e$ , if  $|a| = 2, \ G \cong Z_2 \oplus Z_2$ . If there exists  $a \in G, \ |a| = 4, \ G \cong Z_4$ . If there exists  $a \in G, \ |a| = 3$ , denote  $a^2 = b, a^3 = e$ . Then  $b^2 = a^4 = a, \ \{e, a, b\} < G$ , which is contradictory to the Largrange theorem.

**Exercise 1.4.6.** Let H, K be subgroups of a group G. Then HK is a subgroup of G if and only if HK = KH.

**Answer.** If HK = KH, for  $a_1b_1, a_2b_2 \in HK$ ,

$$(a_1b_1)(a_2b_2)^{-1} = (a_1b_1)(b_2^{-1}a_2^{-1}) = (a_1b_1)(a_3b_3)$$

since  $b_2^{-1}a_2^{-1} \in KH = HK$ , there exists  $b_2^{-1}a_2^{-1} = a_3b_3$ .

$$(a_1b_1)(a_3b_3) = a_1(b_1a_3)b_3 = a_1a_4b_4b_3$$

since  $b_1 a_3 \in KH = HK$ , there exists  $b_1 a_3 = a_4 b_4$ .  $(a_1 b_1)(a_2 b_2)^{-1} = a_1 a_4 b_4 b_3 = a_5 b_5 \in HK$ . Thus HK is a subgroup of G.

If HK is a subgroup of G,  $\forall b_1a_1 \in KH$ , there exists  $(a_1^{-1}b_1^{-1}) \in HK$  s.t.  $b_1a_1 = (a_1^{-1}b_1^{-1})^{-1} \in HK$ . So  $KH \subset HK$ .  $\forall a_1b_1 \in HK$ ,  $(a_1b_1)^{-1} = b_1^{-1}a_1^{-1} \in HK$ , so  $\exists a_2b_2 \in HK$  s.t.  $b_1^{-1}a_1^{-1} = a_2b_2$ .  $a_1b_1 = b_2^{-1}a_2^{-1} \in KH$ . So  $HK \subset KH$ . Thus HK = KH.

**Exercise 1.4.7.** Let G be a group of order  $p^k m$ , with p prime and (p, m) = 1. Let H be a subgroup of order  $p^k$  and K a subgroup of order  $p^d$ , with  $0 < d \le k$  and  $K \not\subset H$ . Show that HK is not a subgroup of G.

**Answer.** Assume HK < G,  $|HK| = p^k n$ , n|m. We can get  $[HK : H] = n = [K : K \cap H]$ .  $[K : K \cap H] | p^k \Rightarrow n|p^k$ . That's contradictory to  $(m, p^k) = 1$ .

**Exercise 1.4.8.** If H and K are subgroups of finite index of a group G such that [G:H] and [G:K] are relatively prime, then G=HK.

**Answer.** Assume [G : H] = m, [G : K] = n, (m, n) = 1. Then |H| = np, |K| = mp.  $H \cap K < H$ ,  $H \cap K < G \Rightarrow |H \cap K||p$ .

$$[G:H]=m\geq [K:H\cap K]=\frac{|K|}{|H\cap K|}\geq m$$

Thus  $[G:H] = [K:H \cap K] = m, G = HK$ .

**Exercise 1.4.9.** If H, K and N are subgroups of a group G such that H < N, then  $HK \cap N = H(K \cap N)$ .

**Answer.**  $\forall x = hk \in HK \cap N, \exists h_1^{-1} \in H \text{ s.t. } h_1^{-1}hk \in K \cap N. \ H < N \text{ so } \forall h_1^{-1} \in H, h_1^{-1}hk \in N. \text{ Take } h_1^{-1} = h^{-1}, \ h_1^{-1}hk = k \in K. \text{ So } HK \cap N \subset H(K \cap N).$ 

 $\forall x=hk\in H(K\cap N) \text{ where } h\in H,\, k\in K\cap N.\ hk\in HK, h,k\in N\Rightarrow hk\in N.\ \text{So } H(K\cap N)\subset HK\cap N.$ 

Thus,  $HK \cap N = H(K \cap N)$ .

**Exercise 1.4.10.** Let H, K, N be subgroups of a group G such that H < K,  $H \cap N = K \cap N$ , and HN = KN. Show that H = K.

**Answer.** Assume there exists  $x \in K \setminus H$ .  $K \bigcup_{i \in I} Ha_i$ ,  $\forall h_i \in H$  there exists  $a \in K$  s.t.  $x = h_1a$ . Take  $n_1 \in N$ . Since HN = KN,  $xn_1 \in HN$ , there exists  $h_2 \in H$ ,  $n_2 \in N$  s.t.  $xn_1 = h_2n_2 = h_2an_1$ . So  $a = n_2n_1^{-1} \in N$ ,  $a \in K \cap N = H \cap N \Rightarrow a \in H$ ,  $x \in H$ . That's contradictory!

**Exercise 1.4.11.** Let G be a group of order 2n; then G contains an element of order 2. If n is odd and G abelian, there is only one element of order 2.

**Answer.** The proof of the first part is exactly the same as **Exercise 1.1.14**. Assume there exists  $a, b \in G$ ,  $a^2 = b^2 = e$ . We can check  $H = \{e, a, b, ab\}$  is a subgroup of G.  $|H| |G| \Rightarrow 4|2n \Rightarrow 2|n$ , which is contradictory to n is odd. So there's only one element a s.t.  $a^2 = e$ .

**Exercise 1.4.12.** If H and K are subgroups of a group G, then  $[H \vee K : H] \geq [K : H \cap K]$ .

**Answer.** The question is a direct corollary of Proposition 4.8.

**Exercise 1.4.13.** If p > q are primes, a group of order pq has at most one subgroup of order p.

**Answer.**  $H \cap K < H$ ,  $H \cap K < K$ ,  $H \neq K \neq H \cap K$ .  $|H \cap K||p$  and  $|H \cap K| \neq q$ , so  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ . From **Exercise 1.3.12**,

$$[H \vee K : H] \ge [K : K \cap H] = p$$

$$|H \vee K| = |H| \cdot [H \vee K : H] \ge p^2$$

But  $H \vee K \in G$ ,  $|H \vee K| \leq pq < p^2$ . That's contradictory!

**Exercise 1.4.14.** Let G be a group and  $a,b \in G$  such that (i) |a| = 4 = |b|; (ii)  $a^2 = b^2$ ; (iii)  $ba = a^3b = a^{-1}b$ ; (iv)  $a \neq b$ ; (v)  $G = \langle a,b \rangle$ . Show that |G| = 8 and  $G \cong Q_8$ .

**Answer.** The proof is exactly the same as **Exercise 1.2.3**.

### 1.5 Normality, quotient groups, and homomorphisms

**Exercise 1.5.1.** If N is a subgroup of index 2 in a group G, then N is normal in G.

**Answer.**  $\forall a \in G \backslash N, G = N \cup Na = N \cup aN \text{ and } N \cap Na = \emptyset, N \cap aN = \emptyset.$  So  $\forall x \in Na, x \in G \backslash N \Rightarrow x \in aN, Na \subset aN.$  Similarly,  $aN \subset Na$ , whence  $Na = aN, N \lhd G.$ 

**Exercise 1.5.2.** If  $\{N_i|i\in I\}$  is a family of normal subgroups of a group G, then  $\bigcap_{i\in I}N_i$  is a normal subgroup of G.

**Answer.**  $\bigcap_{i\in I} N_i$  is a subgroup of G.  $N_i(i\in I)$  are normal subgroups of G, so  $\forall a\in G,\ aN_ia^{-1}=\{an_ia^{-1}|n_i\in N_i\}=N_i.\ \forall x=ana^{-1}\in a(\bigcap_{i\in I}N_i)a^{-1},\ n\in N_i\Rightarrow x\in a(\bigcap_{i\in I}N_i)a^{-1}\subset \bigcap_{i\in I}aN_ia^{-1}=\bigcap_{i\in I}N_i.\ \bigcap_{i\in I}N_i$  are normal subgroup of G.

**Exercise 1.5.3.** Let N be a subgroup of a group G. N is normal in G if and only if (right) congruence modulo N is a congruence relation on G.

**Answer.** If  $N \triangleleft G$ .  $\forall a,b \in G$ ,  $ab^{-1} \in N \Leftrightarrow a^{-1}b \in N$ . If  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \mod N$ ,  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \mod N$ , then  $a_2b_2^{-1} \in N$ ,  $a_1N = Na_1 = Nb_1 \Rightarrow a_1Nb_1^{-1} = N$ . So  $a_1a_2b_1^{-1}b_2^{-1} = (a_1a_2)(b_1b_2)^{-1} \in N$ . Similarly,  $(a_1a_2)^{-1}(b_1b_2) \in N$ . Congruence modulo N is a congruence relation.

If congruence modulo N is a congruence relation.  $\forall a_1 \equiv b_1 \mod N, \ a_2 \equiv b_2 \mod N$ , we will have  $a_1a_2 \equiv b_1b_2 \mod N$ . Take  $n \in N$  and fix  $a_2 \in G$ , define  $b_2 = n^{-1}a_2$ . Then  $\forall n \in N, \ n$  can be expressed as  $a_2b_2^{-1}, \ a_2 \equiv b_2 \mod N$ .  $\forall a_1 \in G$  and  $\forall b_1 \equiv a_1 \mod N, \ a_1nb_1^{-1} = a_1a_2b_2^{-1}b_1^{-1} \in N$ . Take  $b_1 = a_1$  and n varies in  $N, \ a_1na_1^{-1} \in N \Rightarrow a_1Na_1^{-1} \subset N$ . Thus  $N \lhd G$ .

**Exercise 1.5.4.** Let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on a group G and let  $N = \{a \in G | a \sim e\}$ . Then  $\sim$  is a congruence relation on G if and only if N is a normal subgroup of G and  $\sim$  is congruence modulo N.

**Answer.** If  $G \triangleleft N$  and  $\sim$  is congruence modulo N.  $\forall a \in G, aNa^{-1} \subset N$ .  $\forall a_1,b_1,a_2,b_2 \in G, a_1b_1^{-1} \in N, a_2b_2^{-1} \in N$ .  $a_1a_2(b_1b_2)^{-1} = a_1a_2b_2^{-1}b_1^{-1}$ , denote  $n = a_2b_2^{-1} \in N, a_1a_2b_2^{-1}b_1^{-1} = a_1nb_1^{-1} \in a_1Nb_1^{-1}$ .  $\forall n \in N$ , there exists  $n' = b_1^{-1}a_1, n' \in N$  s.t.  $a_1n = b_1n'$ . So  $a_1nb_1^{-1} = b_1n'b_1^{-1} \in b_1Nb_1^{-1} \subset N$ . That means  $(a_1a_2)(b_1b_2)^{-1} \in N, a \sim b$  is a congruence relation. If  $a \sim b$  is a congruence relation. We first prove N is a subgroup of G.  $\forall a \in N, a \sim e, a^{-1} \sim a^{-1} \Rightarrow e \sim a^{-1}$ , so  $a^{-1} \sim e, a^{-1} \in N$ .  $\forall a,b \in N, b^{-1} \sim e, a \sim e \Rightarrow ab^{-1} \in e$ , thus N < G.  $\forall x \in G, xN = \{xa|a \sim e\} = \{xa|xa \sim xe\} = \{ax|ax \sim e\} = Nx$ , so N is normal in G.  $x \sim y \Leftrightarrow y \in xN$ .  $\sim$  is congruence modulo N.

**Exercise 1.5.5.** Let  $N < S_4$  consist of all those permutations  $\sigma$  such that  $\sigma(4) = 4$ . Is N normal in  $S_4$ ?

**Answer.**  $N = \{(1), (12), (13), (23), (123), (132)\}$ . Take  $a = (14) \in G$ ,  $a^{-1} = (14)$ ,  $a^{-1}(12)a = (24) \notin N$ . So N is not normal in  $S_4$ .

**Exercise 1.5.6.** Let H < G; then the set  $aHa^{-1}$  is a subgroup for each  $a \in G$ , and  $H \cong aHa^{-1}$ .

**Answer.** H < G,  $aHa^{-1} = \{aha^{-1}|h \in H\}$ .  $\forall x,y \in aHa^{-1}$ ,  $x = ah_1a^{-1}$ ,  $y = ah_2a^{-1}$ .  $y^{-1} = ah_2^{-1}a^{-1}$ ,  $xy = ah_1h_2^{-1}a^{-1} \in aHa^{-1}$ , so  $aHa^{-1} < G$ . Take  $f: H \to aHa^{-1}$  as  $f(h) = aha^{-1}$ . If  $f(h_1) = f(h_2) = ah_1a^{-1} = ah_2a^{-1}$ , then  $h_1 = h_2$ , so f is an injection. f is a surjection because  $\forall x \in aHa^{-1}$ ,  $f(a^{-1}xa) = x$ ,  $a^{-1}xa \in H$ . In conclusion,  $H \cong aHa^{-1}$ .

**Exercise 1.5.7.** Let G be a finite group and H a subgroup of G of order n. If H is the only subgroup of G of order n, then H is normal in G.

**Answer.** Applying Exercise 1.5.6,  $\forall a \in G$ ,  $aHa^{-1} \cong H$ .  $|aHa^{-1}| = |H| = n \Rightarrow aHa^{-1} = H$ . Whence  $H \triangleleft G$ .

Exercise 1.5.8. All subgroups of the quaternion group are normal.

**Answer.**  $Q_8 = \{a, b, a^2, ba, ab, a^2b, ab^2, a^2b^2\}$  where  $a^2 = b^2, a_1b = ba = a^3b$  and |a| = |b| = 4. There are several subgroups  $\{a, a^2, ab^2, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{b, a^2, a^2b, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{ab, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{ba, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{a^2, a^2b^2\}$ . From **Exercise 1.5.1**, we know the first two subgroups are normal in G. For  $\{ab, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{ba, a^2b^2\}$ ,  $\{a^2, a^2b^2\}$ , we can check that  $ab, ba, a^2$  is commutative in G, that is  $\forall x \in G$ ,  $xabx^{-1} = ab$ ,  $xbax^{-1} = ba$ ,  $xa^2x^{-1} = a^2$ . They are all normal in G.

**Exercise 1.5.9.** (a) If G is a group, then the center of G is a normal subgroup of G;

(b) the center of  $S_n$  is the identity subgroup for all n > 2.

**Answer.** (a) By the definition of center C,  $\forall x \in G$  and  $a \in C$ , ax = xa, so  $xCx^{-1} = C$ . C is normal in G.

(b)  $\forall x \in S_n$ , x can be expressed as

$$x = (a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{i_1})(a_{i_1+1} a_{i_1+2} \cdots a_{i_2}) \cdots (a_{i_{n-1}+1} a_{i_{n-1}+2} \cdots a_{i_n})$$

Those cycles  $(a_1a_2\cdots a_{i_1})$ ,  $(a_{i_1+1}a_{i_1+2}\cdots a_{i_2})$ , ...,  $(a_{i_{n-1}+1}a_{i_{n-1}+2}\cdots a_{i_n})$  are all disjoint, so they are commutative.

If there exists cycles whose length is longer than 2. WLOG, assume  $i_1 > 2$ . Take  $y = (a_1 a_2)$ ,

$$y^{-1}xy = (a_1a_2)(a_1a_2 \cdots a_{i_1})(a_1a_2) \cdots (a_{i_{n-1}+1}a_{i_{n-1}+2} \cdots a_{i_n})$$
$$(a_1a_2)(a_1a_2 \cdots a_{i_i})(a_1a_2) = (a_2a_1a_3 \cdots a_{i_1}), \text{ so } y^{-1}xy \neq x, x \notin C.$$
If  $x = (a_1a_2)(a_3a_4) \cdots (a_{2n-1}a_{2n})$  and  $n \geq 2$ . Take  $y = (a_1a_3)$ ,

$$y^{-1}xy = (a_1a_3)(a_1a_2)(a_3a_4)\cdots(a_{2n-1}a_{2n})(a_1a_3)$$

$$= (a_1a_3)(a_1a_2)(a_3a_4)(a_1a_3)\cdots(a_{2n-1}a_{2n})$$

$$= (a_1a_4)(a_2a_3)\cdots(a_{2n-1}a_{2n})$$

$$\neq x$$

So  $x \notin C$ .

If  $x = (a_1 a_2)$ . Take  $y = (a_1 a_3)$ ,  $y^{-1} xy = (a_2 a_3) \neq x$ , so  $x \notin C$ . In conclusion,  $C = \{(1)\}$ .

**Exercise 1.5.10.** Find subgroups H and K of  $D_4^*$  such that  $H \triangleleft K$  and  $K \triangleleft D_4^*$ , but H is not normal in  $D_4^*$ .

**Answer.**  $D_4^* = \{I, R, R^2, R^3, T_x, T_y, T_{13}, T_{24}\}$ . Take  $K = \{I, R, T_x, T_y\}$ ,  $H = \{I, T_x\}$ . We can easily verify that  $H \triangleleft K$  and  $K \triangleleft D_4^*$  but  $K \not \triangleleft D_4^*$ .

**Exercise 1.5.11.** If H is a cyclic subgroup of a group G and H is normal in G, then every subgroup of H is normal in G.

**Answer.** Assume  $K < H \lhd G$ , H has the generator a, and K has the generator  $a^n$ . Here we used: Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. This can be easily proved by the conclusion  $H \cong Z_m$  for some  $m \in \mathbf{Z}$ .  $\forall x \in G$ ,  $h = a^s \in H$ ,  $x^{-1}a^sx = a^t \in H$ . Assume  $x^{-1}ax = a^m$ , then  $x^{-1}a^nx = (x^{-1}ax)^n = a^{mn} = a^k$ , so n|k,  $a^k \in K$ .  $x^{-1}Kx \subset K$ , K is normal in G.

**Exercise 1.5.12.** If H is a normal subgroup of a group G such that H and G/H are finitely generated, then so is G.

**Answer.** Assume  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$ ,  $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$ .  $H = \langle A \rangle$ ,  $G/H = \langle \{Hb_i|b_i \in B\} \rangle$ . We prove that G can be generated by  $A \cup B$ .  $\forall x \in G$ , x is in one of the right cosets of H,  $x \in Ha$ .  $Ha \in G/H$  so  $Ha = \prod_{b_i \in B} Hb_i^{s_i} = H(\prod_{b_i \in B} b_i^{s_i})$ . Thus  $a^{-1}(\prod_{b_i \in B} b_i^{s_i}) = a' \in H$ . H is generated by A so  $xa^{-1} = \prod_{a_i \in A} a_i^{t_i}$ ,  $a' = \prod_{a_i \in A} a_i^{-r_i}$ . Then

$$x = (\prod_{a_i \in A} a_i^{t_i + r_i}) (\prod_{b_i \in B} b_i^{s_i}) \in \langle A \cup B \rangle$$

Thus  $G \subset \langle A \cup B \rangle$  is finitely generated.

**Exercise 1.5.13.** (a) Let  $H \triangleleft G$ ,  $K \triangleleft G$ . Show that  $H \vee K$  is normal in G.

(b) Prove that the set of all normal subgroups of G forms a complete lattice under inclusion.

**Answer.** (a)  $\forall x \in G, a \in H \vee K$ , we need to prove  $x^{-1}ax \in H \vee K$ .  $a \in H \vee K$  so a can be expressed as

$$a = b_1^{n_1} b_2^{n_2} \cdots b_t^{n_t} \quad \text{where } b_i \in H \text{ or } b_i \in K, i = 1, 2, \dots, t$$
so  $x^{-1}ax = x^{-1}b_1^{n_1} \cdots b_t^{n_t}x = (x^{-1}b_1x)^{n_1}(x^{-1}b_2x)^{n_2} \cdots (x^{-1}b_tx)^{n_t}.$ 
 $H \triangleleft G, K \triangleleft G, \text{ so } x^{-1}b_ix \in H \vee K, i = 1, 2, \dots, t \text{ and}$ 

$$x^{-1}ax = (x^{-1}b_1x)^{n_1}(x^{-1}b_2x)^{n_2} \cdots (x^{-1}b_tx)^{n_t} \in H \vee K$$

 $H \vee K \triangleleft G$ .

(b) Actually, in **Exercise 1.2.19** and (a), we have proved lub exists. Now we only consider glb. For  $H \triangleleft G$ ,  $K \triangleleft G$ . If  $H \cap K \triangleleft G$ , then their glb is  $H \cap K$ . If not, assume there exists  $A < H \cap K$ ,  $B < H \cap K$ , A, Bare both normal in H and K. And there doesn't exists I s.t.  $A \triangleleft I \triangleleft H$ ,  $A \triangleleft I \triangleleft K$ ,  $B \triangleleft I \triangleleft H$ ,  $B \triangleleft I \triangleleft K$ . Just like the figure:



But  $A < H \cap K$ ,  $B < H \cap K \Rightarrow A \vee B < H \cap K$ . So  $A \vee B \triangleleft H$ ,  $A \vee B \triangleleft K$ . That's contradictory! There is only one lower bound for  $\{H,K\}$ . Notice that  $\{e\} < H \cap K$  so there exists at least one subgroup satisfies the condition. We have proved normality forms a lattice.

**Exercise 1.5.14.** If  $N_1 \triangleleft G_1$ ,  $N_2 \triangleleft G_2$  then  $(N_1 \times N_2) \triangleleft (G_1 \times G_2)$  and  $(G_1 \times G_2)/(N_1 \times N_2) \cong (G_1/N_1) \times (G_2/N_2)$ 

**Answer.** Take  $a \in (N_1 \times N_2), a = (n_1, n_2)$  where  $n_1 \in N_1, n_2 \in N_2$ .  $\forall x \in (G_1 \times G_2), \ x = (g_1, g_2) \text{ where } g_1 \in G_1, \ g_2 \in G_2. \ x^{-1} = (g_1^{-1}, g_2^{-1}), \ x^{-1}ax = (g_1^{-1}n_1g_1, g_2^{-1}n_2g_2). \ N_1 \triangleleft G_1, \ N_2 \triangleleft G_2, \ \text{so } g_1^{-1}n_1g_1 \in N_1, \ g_2^{-1}n_2g_2 \in G_2.$  $N_2$ .  $x^{-1}ax \in (N_1 \times N_2)$ . Thus  $(N_1 \times N_2) \triangleleft (G_1 \times G_2)$ .

Assume  $G_1 = \bigcup_{i \in I} N_1 a_i$ ,  $G_2 = \bigcup_{j \in J} N_2 b_j$ . Then  $G_1 \times G_2 = \bigcup_{i \in I} N_1 a_i \times \bigcup_{j \in J} N_2 b_j$ . Denote  $A = \{a_i | i \in I\}, B = \{b_j | j \in J\}$ . We construct two bijections

 $(G_1 \times G_2)/(N_1 \times N_2) \to A \times B \text{ and } (G_1/N_1) \times (G_2/N_2).$ 

$$f: N_1a_i \times N_2b_j \mapsto (a_i, b_j)$$

$$g:(N_1a_i,N_2b_j)\mapsto(a_i,b_j)$$

Take  $h = g^{-1} \circ f$ , f, g are bijections, so h is an isomorphism.  $(G_1 \times G_2)/(N_1 \times N_2) \cong (G_1/N_1) \times (G_2/N_2)$ .

**Exercise 1.5.15.** Let  $N \triangleleft G$  and  $K \triangleleft G$ . If  $N \cap K = \langle e \rangle$  and  $N \vee K = G$ , then  $G/N \cong K$ .

**Answer.** Assume  $G = \bigcup_{i \in I} Na_i$ , we construct  $f : k \to G/N$ . We prove that  $\forall x, y \in K$ , x, y belong to different cosets of N. Suppose not.  $\exists x, y \in K$ ,  $x, y \in Na_i$ , then  $xy^{-1} \in N \Rightarrow x = y$ . That's contradictory! So f is a monomorphism.

 $G=H\vee K$ , so G=HK. we can write x as pq, where  $p\in H, q\in K$ .  $|G/H|=[G:H]=[HK:H]=[K:K\cap H]=|K|$ . f is a epimorphism. Thus,  $G/N\cong K$ .

**Exercise 1.5.16.** If  $f: G \to H$  is a homomorphism, H is abelian and N is a subgroup of G containing  $\operatorname{Ker} f$ , then N is normal in G.

**Answer.** Assume there exists  $x \in G$ ,  $x \notin N$  s.t.  $f(x) \in f(N)$ .  $\exists n \in N$ , f(x) = f(n),  $f(xn^{-1}) = f(x)f(n)^{-1} = e' \Rightarrow xn^{-1} \in \text{Ker} f \Rightarrow x \in N$ . That's contradictory!  $\forall x \in G$ ,  $n \in N$ ,  $f(x^{-1}nx) = f(x^{-1})f(n)f(x) = f(n) \in f(N)$ , so  $x^{-1}nx \in N$ . Thus,  $N \triangleleft G$ .

**Exercise 1.5.17.** (a) Consider the subgroups  $\langle 6 \rangle$  and  $\langle 30 \rangle$  of **Z** and show that  $\langle 6 \rangle / \langle 30 \rangle \cong Z_5$ .

- (b) For any k, m > 0,  $\langle k \rangle / \langle km \rangle \cong Z_m$ ; in particular,  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle m \rangle = \langle 1 \rangle / \langle m \rangle \cong Z_m$ .
- **Answer.** (a)  $\langle 6 \rangle = \{6n | n \in \mathbf{Z}\}, \langle 30 \rangle = \{30n | n \in \mathbf{Z}\}.$  So  $\langle 6 \rangle / \langle 30 \rangle = \{\langle 30 \rangle, \langle 30 \rangle + 6, \langle 30 \rangle + 12, \langle 30 \rangle + 18, \langle 30 \rangle + 24\} \cong Z_5$
- (b)  $\langle km \rangle \triangleleft \langle k \rangle$ ,  $\langle k \rangle = \bigcup_{i \in I} (\langle km \rangle + a_i)$ . For  $x \in \langle k \rangle$ ,  $x \equiv a_i \mod km$ , then  $x \in \langle km \rangle + a_i$ .  $f : \langle k \rangle / \langle km \rangle \rightarrow \{a_i | i \in I\}$  defined by  $f(\langle km \rangle + a_i) = a_i$  is a bijection. We check that  $g : \{a_i | i \in I\} \rightarrow Z_m$  is also a bijection. Define

 $b_i \equiv \frac{a_i}{k} \mod m$ ,  $g(a_i) = b_i$ . If there exists  $b_i = b_j$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $a_i \equiv a_j \mod km$ . That's contradictory! So g is an injection. g is obviously a surjection, so g is a bijection. Take  $h = g \circ f : \langle k \rangle / \langle km \rangle \to Z_m$  is a isomorphism, so  $\langle k \rangle / \langle km \rangle \cong Z_m$ .

**Exercise 1.5.18.** If  $f: G \to H$  is a homomorphism with kernel N and K < G, then prove that  $f^{-1}(f(K)) = KN$ . Hence  $f^{-1}(f(K)) = K$  if and only if N < K.

**Answer.** Take  $x \in f^{-1}(f(K))$ , then there exists  $k \in K$  s.t. f(x) = f(k).  $f(xk^{-1}) = f(x)f(k)^{-1} = e' \in f(K) \Rightarrow xk^{-1} \in \text{Ker} f = N$ . Thus,  $x \in Nk \subset NK$ ,  $f^{-1}(f(K)) \subset NK$ .

 $\forall x = nk \in NK$ , where  $n \in N$  and  $k \in K$ .  $f(x) = f(n)f(k) = e'f(k) \in f(K)$ , so  $NK \subset f^{-1}(f(K))$ .

Thus,  $f^{-1}(f(K)) = NK$ . Hence  $f^{-1}(f(K)) = K$  if and only if N < K.

**Exercise 1.5.19.** If  $N \triangleleft G$ , [G:H] finite,  $H \triangleleft G$ , |H| finite, and [G:N] and |H| are relatively prime, then  $H \triangleleft N$ .

**Answer.**  $N \triangleleft G \Rightarrow NH \triangleleft G$ . By the second isomorphism theorem,  $NH/N \cong H/H \cap N \Rightarrow [NH:N] = [H:H \cap N]$ . Assume [G:N] = m, |H| = n, |G| = mnp where (m,n) = 1. Then |N| = np,  $N \triangleleft NH$ , assume |NH| = knp,  $NH \triangleleft G \Rightarrow knp|mnp \Rightarrow k|m$ .  $[NH:N] = [H:H \cap N] = k \Rightarrow k|n$ . So k = 1, NH = N which means  $H \triangleleft N$ .

**Exercise 1.5.20.** If  $N \triangleleft G$ , |N| finite,  $H \triangleleft G$ , [G:N] finite, and [G:H] and |N| are relatively prime, then  $N \triangleleft H$ .

**Answer.**  $N \triangleleft G \Rightarrow NH \triangleleft G$ . By the second isomorphism theorem,  $NH/N \cong H/H \cap N \Rightarrow [NH:N] = [H:H \cap N]$ . Assume [G:H] = m, |N| = n, |G| = mnp where (m,n) = 1. Then |H| = np,  $H \triangleleft NH$ , assume |NH| = knp,  $NH \triangleleft G \Rightarrow knp|mnp \Rightarrow k|m$ .  $[NH:N] = [H:H \cap N] = kp \Rightarrow kp|np \Rightarrow k|n$ . So k = 1, NH = H which means  $N \triangleleft H$ .

**Exercise 1.5.21.** If H is a subgroup of  $Z(p^{\infty})$  and  $H \neq Z(p^{\infty})$ , then  $Z(p^{\infty})/H \cong Z(p^{\infty})$ .

**Answer.** From Exercise 1.3.7(b), we know that H has the form  $\left\langle \frac{1}{p^n} \right\rangle$ . Take  $x_i = \frac{1}{p^{n+i}} + H$ ,  $x_1 = \frac{1}{p^{n+1}} + H$ .

$$\sum_{m=1}^{p} x_1 = \frac{\bar{p}}{p^{n+1}} + pH = \frac{\bar{1}}{p^n} + H = H$$

$$\sum_{m=1}^{p} x_i = \frac{\bar{p}}{p^{n+i}} + pH = \frac{\bar{1}}{p^{n+i-1}} + H = x_{i-1}$$

Take  $A = \{x_i | i \in \mathbf{Z}_+\}$ ,  $\langle A \rangle \cong Z(p^{\infty})$  by **Exercise 1.3.7**(e).  $\forall x \in \langle A \rangle$ ,  $x \in Z(p^{\infty})/H$ , so  $\langle A \rangle \subset Z(p^{\infty})/H$ . Take  $x \in Z(p^{\infty})/H$ , x = y + H where  $y = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{a_i}{p^{n+i}}$ ,  $x = \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\frac{a_i}{p^{n+i}} + H) \in \langle A \rangle$ . Thus,  $Z(p^{\infty})/H \subset \langle A \rangle$ ,  $\langle A \rangle = Z(p^{\infty})/H \cong Z(p^{\infty})$ .

### 1.6 Symmetric, alternating, and dihedral groups

**Exercise 1.6.1.** Find four different subgroups of  $S_4$  that are isomorphic to  $S_3$  and nine isomorphic to  $S_2$ .

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Answer. S_4 = \{(1), (12), (13), (14), (23), (24), (34), (123), (124), (132), (142), (134), (143), (234), (243), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23), (1234), (1243), (1324), (1342), (1423), (1432)\}.
A_1 = \{(1), (12), (13), (23), (123), (132)\};
A_2 = \{(1), (12), (14), (24), (124), (142)\};
A_3 = \{(1), (13), (14), (34), (134), (143)\};
A_4 = \{(1), (23), (24), (34), (234), (243)\};
A_1 \cong A_2 \cong A_3 \cong A_4.
B_1 = \{(1), (12)\}; B_2 = \{(1), (13)\}; B_3 = \{(1), (14)\}; B_4 = \{(1), (23)\}; B_5 = \{(1), (24)\}; B_6 = \{(1), (34)\}; B_7 = \{(1), (12)(34)\}; B_8 = \{(1), (13)(24)\};
B_9 = \{(14)(23)\};
B_1 \cong B_2 \cong B_3 \cong B_4 \cong B_5 \cong B_6 \cong B_7 \cong B_8 \cong B_9.
```

**Exercise 1.6.2.** (a)  $S_n$  is generated by the n-1 transpositions (12), (13), (14), ..., (1n).

- (b)  $S_n$  is generated by the n-1 transpositions  $(12), (23), (34), \ldots, (n-1n)$ .
- **Answer.** (a)  $\forall x \in S_n$ , x can be written as a product of transpositions. Actually, for any transposition (ij), we can obtain it by (1i)(1j)(1i) = (ij). So  $x \in \langle (12), (13), \ldots, (1n) \rangle$ ,  $S_n \subset \langle (12), (13), \ldots, (1n) \rangle$ .
- (b) We can contruct (1i) inductively since (1i) = (1i-1)(i-1i)(1i-1). From (a), we have  $\forall x \in S_n, x \in \langle (12), (13), \ldots, (1n) \rangle$ . Thus  $S_n \subset \langle (12), (13), \ldots, (1n) \rangle \subset \langle (12), (23), (34), \ldots, (n-1n) \rangle$ .

**Exercise 1.6.3.** If  $\sigma = (i_1 i_2 \cdots i_r) \in S_n$  and  $\tau \in S_n$ , then  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}$  is the r-cycle  $(\tau(i_1)\tau(i_2)\cdots\tau(i_r))$ .

**Answer.**  $\sigma(i_n) = i_{n+1}$  for n = 1, 2, ..., r - 1,  $\sigma(i_r) = i_1$ . Assume  $\tau(i_n) = j_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., r - 1 and  $I = \{i_n | n = 1, 2, ..., r - 1\}$ ,  $J = \{j_n | n = 1, 2, ..., r - 1\}$ . For  $x \notin J$ ,  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}(x) = \tau \tau^{-1}(x) = x$ . For  $x = j_k \in J$ ,  $\tau^{-1}(x) = i_k$ ,  $\sigma(\tau^{-1}(x)) = i_{k+1}$ ,  $\tau(\sigma(\tau^{-1}(x))) = j_{k+1}$  and  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}(j_r) = j_1$ . Thus  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} = (\tau(i_1)\tau(i_2)\cdots\tau(i_r))$ .

**Exercise 1.6.4.** (a)  $S_n$  is generated by  $\sigma_1 = (12)$  and  $\tau = (123 \cdots n)$ . (b)  $S_n$  is generated by (12) and  $(23 \cdots n)$ .

**Answer.** (a) Denote  $\sigma_i = \tau \sigma_{i-1} \tau^{-1}$ . Applying **Exercise 1.6.3**,  $\sigma_i = (i i + 1)$ . By **Exercise 1.6.2**(b),  $S_n \subset \langle (12), (23), (34), \dots, (n-1 n) \rangle = \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \rangle \subset \langle \tau, \sigma_1 \rangle$ .  $S_n$  can be generated by  $\tau$  and  $\sigma_1$ .

(b) Denote  $\sigma_1 = (12)$ ,  $\tau = (23 \cdots n)$ ,  $\sigma_i = \tau \sigma_{i-1} \tau^{-1}$ . Applying **Exercise 1.6.3**,  $\sigma_i = (1i+1)$ . By **Exercise 1.6.2**(a),  $S_n \subset \langle (12), (13), \ldots, (1n) \rangle = \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1} \rangle \subset \langle \tau, \sigma_1 \rangle$ .  $S_n$  can be generated by  $\tau$  and  $\sigma_1$ .

**Exercise 1.6.5.** Let  $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$ . If  $\sigma$  is even (odd), then so is  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}$ .

**Answer.** Assume  $\sigma = (x_1x_2)\cdots(x_{2n-1}x_{2n}), \ \tau = (y_1y_2)\cdots(y_{2m-1}y_{2m}).$  Then  $\tau^{-1} = (y_{2m-1}y_{2m})\cdots(y_1y_2).$   $\sigma$  is odd (even) if an only if n is odd (even).  $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$  has 2m+n transpositions. We can add (ij)=(ji)=(1) into some segments of  $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$  without changing it. So  $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$  is odd (even) if and only if 2m+n is odd (even).  $2m+n\equiv n \mod 2$  so  $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$  is odd (even) if and only if  $\sigma$  is odd (even).

**Exercise 1.6.6.**  $A_n$  is the only subgroup of  $S_n$  of index 2.

**Answer.** For any subgroup  $N < S_n$  and  $[S_n : N] = 2$ , we have  $N \triangleleft S_n$ . Assume there exists k-circle  $\sigma = (i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k) \in N$ . Then for any other k-circle  $(j_1 j_2 \cdots j_k)$ , take  $\tau = (i_i j_1)(i_2 j_2) \cdots (i_k j_k)$ , by **Exercise 1.6.3**,  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} = (j_1 j_2 \cdots j_k) \in N$ . Thus N contains all the k-circles.

For  $n \geq 5$ . If there exists 3-circle in N, then all the 3-circles are contained in N,  $A_n \subset N \subset S_n \Rightarrow A_n = N$ .

If there exists 2-circle in N, then all the 2-circles are contained in N. Notice  $(1i)(1j) = (1ij) \in N$  is a 3-circle, so  $A_n = N$ .

If there only contain x in the form of  $(a_i a_2 \cdots a_{n_1})(b_1 b_2 \cdots b_{n_2}) \cdots$  where  $n_i \geq 4$  and every two circles are disjoint. Take  $\tau_i : \{a_i | i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1\} \rightarrow \{a_i | i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1\}$ . We can obtain product of two  $n_1$ -circles

$$x^{-1}\tau x\tau^{-1} = (a_1a_2\cdots a_{n_1})(\tau(a_1)\tau(a_2)\cdots\tau(a_n)) \in N$$

By the arbitrariness of  $\tau$ , take

$$(\tau(a_1)\tau(a_2)\cdots\tau(a_n))=(a_1a_4a_5\cdots a_na_3a_2)$$

then  $x^{-1}\tau x\tau^{-1}=(a_1a_3)(a_2a_4)$  is a product of 2-circles. We can take  $a_1,a_2,a_3,a_4$  arbitrarily. WLOG, take  $(12)(34)\in N$  and  $(12)(35)\in N$ ,  $(12)(35)(12)(34)=(345)\in N$ . Then there exists 3-circle in  $N,N=A_n$ . In conclusion, when  $n\geq 5$ ,  $S_n$  has only one normal subgroup  $A_n$ . For n=2,3,4, we can verify it by enumeration.

**Exercise 1.6.7.** Show that  $N = \{(1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$  is a normal subgroup of  $S_4$  contained in  $A_4$  such that  $S_4/N \cong S_3$  and  $A_4/N \cong Z_3$ .

**Answer.** Assume  $\sigma = (i_1 i_2)(i_3 i_4) \in N$ ,  $\forall \tau \in S_4$ ,  $\tau(i_n) = j_n$ ,  $J = \{j_n | n = 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . For  $x \notin J$ ,  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}(x) = \tau \tau^{-1}(x) = x$ . For  $x = j_k \in J$ ,  $\tau^{-1}(x) = i_k$ ,  $\sigma \tau^{-1}(x) = i_{3k-4} \left[\frac{k}{2}\right]_{-1}$ ,  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}(x) = (\tau(i_i)\tau(i_2))(\tau(i_3)\tau(i_4)) \in N$ . So  $N \triangleleft S_4$ .  $S_4/N = \{N, N(12), N(13), N(23), N(123), N(132)\} \cong S_3$ .  $A_4/N = \{N, N(123), N(132)\} \cong Z_3$ .

**Exercise 1.6.8.** The group  $A_4$  has no subgroup of order 6.

**Answer.**  $|A_4| = 12$ , assume there exists  $N < A_4$ , |N| = 6. Then  $N \triangleleft A_4$ . From **Exercise 1.6.6**, we know that all 3-circles are contained in N. But there're 8 3-circles in total, so N can't exist.

**Exercise 1.6.9.** For  $n \geq 3$  let  $G_n$  be the multiplicative group of complex matrices generated by  $x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $y = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2\pi i/n} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-2\pi i/n} \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $i^2 = -1$ . Show that  $G_n \cong D_n$ .

**Answer.** Take a mapping  $f: G_n \to D_n$  as  $f(x) = (2n)(3n-1)\cdots$ ,  $f(y) = (123\cdots n)$ . |f(x)| = |x| = 2, |f(y)| = |y| = n. f is obviously a monomorphism.  $\forall a \in D_n, \ a = f(x)^n f(y)^m, m = 1, 2$ , then  $a = f(x^n y^m)$ , f is a epimorphism. Thus  $G_n \cong D_n$ .

**Exercise 1.6.10.** Let a be the generator of order n of  $D_n$ . Show that  $\langle a \rangle \triangleleft D_n$  and  $D_n / \langle a \rangle \cong Z_2$ .

**Answer.**  $|\langle a \rangle| = n$ , b is the other generator of  $D_n$ ,  $a^n = b^2 = (1)$ .  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a^k b = ba^{-k}$  can be easily proved by induction. So  $\forall x = a^m b^n \in D_n$ ,  $x = a^m' b^n'$ , here  $m' \equiv m \mod 2$ ,  $n' \equiv n \mod 2$ .  $D_n = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}, b, ba, \dots, ba^{n-1}\}$ .  $|D_n| = 2n$ . Thus,  $\langle a \rangle \triangleleft D_n$ .  $D_n / \langle a \rangle = \{\langle a \rangle, \langle a \rangle b\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Exercise 1.6.11.** Find all normal subgroups of  $D_n$ .

**Answer.** The subgroups of  $\langle a \rangle$  is always normal in  $D_n$ .  $\langle a^m \rangle < \langle a \rangle$ .  $\forall x \in D_n$  and  $a^{km} \in \langle a^m \rangle$ ,  $x = a^t$  or  $x = ba^t$ .

$$x^{-1}a^{km}x = a^{-t}a^{km}a^t = a^{km} \in \langle a^m \rangle$$

or

$$x^{-1}a^{km}x = a^{-t}b^{-1}a^{km}ba^t = a^{-t}ba^{km}ba^t = a^{-t}a^{-km}b^2a^t = a^{-km} \in \langle a^m \rangle$$

so  $\langle a^m \rangle \lhd D_n$ .

Consider the subgroup S which only contains  $ba^i, i = 1, ..., n$ . Since  $ba^i \cdot ba^j = a^{j-i} \in S \ (i \neq j)$ , so  $S = \{e, ba^k\}$ .

If n is odd, take  $x = a^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \in D_n$ .

$$x^{-1}ba^kx = a^{\frac{1-n}{2}}ba^ka^{\frac{n-1}{2}} = ba^{k+n-1} \notin S$$

so  $S \not \triangleleft D_n$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

If n is even, take  $x = a^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \in D_n$ ,  $n \ge 6$ .

$$x^{-1}ba^kx = a^{\frac{2-n}{2}}ba^ka^{\frac{n-2}{2}} = ba^{k+n-2} \notin S$$

so  $S \not \triangleleft D_n$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ .

If n = 2, all the subgroups are normal since  $|D_2| = 4$ .

For subgroup S contains both  $ba^i$  and  $a^j$ . It can be written as  $S = \langle a^d, ba^r \rangle$ , where  $d|n, 0 \le r \le d-1$ . If  $\exists a^m, a^n \in S$ , (m, n) = d, then there exist  $x, y \in \mathbf{Z}$  s.t.  $a^{mx+ny} = a^d \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Thus,  $S = \langle a^d, ba^r \rangle$ .

Take  $x = a^{\frac{n-w}{2}}$ , then  $x^{-1}ba^rx = ba^{r+n-w}$ .

If  $d \ge 3$ , take  $w \equiv n \mod 2$ ,  $x^{-1}ba^rx \notin S$ . If d = 2, then n = 2s and  $S = \{e, a^s, ba^s, b\}$ .  $Sa^k = \{a^k, a^{s+k}, ba^{s-k}, ba^{-k}\}$ , k = 1, 2, ..., s-1.  $ba^k = ba^{-k}$  or  $ba^k = ba^{s-k} \Rightarrow k = \frac{s}{2}$ . So for s = 2, n = 4, S is a normal subgroup of  $D_4$ .

**Exercise 1.6.12.** The center of the group  $D_n$  is  $\langle e \rangle$  if n is odd and isomorphic to  $Z_2$  if n is even.

**Answer.** If n is odd, C is the center of  $D_n$ ,  $C \triangleleft D_n \Rightarrow C < \langle a \rangle$ . Take  $a^d \in C$ ,  $x = ba^m$ ,

$$x^{-1}ax = a^{-m}b^{-1}a^{d}ba^{m} = a^{-m}ba^{d}ba^{m} = a^{-d} = a^{d}$$

so d = 0,  $C = \{e\}$ .

If n is even,  $n \geq 6$ . C is the center of  $D_n$ .  $C \triangleleft D_n \Rightarrow C < \langle a \rangle$  or  $C = \{e, ba^k\}$ . If  $C = \{e, ba^k\}$ ,  $C \cong Z_2$ .

If  $C < \langle a \rangle$ , take  $a^d \in C$ ,  $x = ba^m$ ,

$$x^{-1}ax = a^{-m}b^{-1}a^dba^m = a^{-m}ba^dba^m = a^{-d} = a^d$$

so  $d = \frac{n}{2}$  or d = 0,  $C = \{a^{\frac{n}{2}}, e\} \cong Z_2$ .

**Exercise 1.6.13.** For each  $n \geq 3$  let  $P_n$  be a regular polygon of n sides (for n = 3,  $P_n$  is an equilateral triangle; for n = 4, a square). A symmetry of  $P_n$  is a bijection  $P_n \to P_n$  that preserves distances and maps adjacent vertices on to adjacent vertices.

- (a) The set  $D_n^*$  of all symmetries of  $P_n$  is a group under the binary operation of composition of functions.
- (b) Every  $f \in D_n^*$  is completely determined by its actions on the vertices of  $P_n$ . Number the vertices consecutively  $1, 2, \ldots, n$ ; then each  $f \in D_n^*$  determines a unique permutation  $\sigma_f$  of  $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ . The assignment  $f \mapsto \sigma_f$  defines a monomorphism of groups  $\varphi : D_n^* \to S_n$ .
- (c)  $D_n^*$  is generated by f and g, where f is a rotation of  $2\pi/n$  degrees about the center of  $P_n$  and g is a reflection about the "diameter" through the center and vertex 1.
- (d)  $\sigma_f = (123 \cdots n)$  and  $\sigma_g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \cdots & n-1 & n \\ 1 & n & n-1 & \cdots & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ , whence  $\operatorname{Im} \varphi = D_n$  and  $D_n^* \cong D_n$ .

**Answer.** In the following analysis, all the numbers are  $\mod n$ .

(a) Consider n points  $A_i = (\cos \frac{2\pi i}{n}, \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n})^t$ , i = 1, 2, ..., n. f is the transposition of  $A_i \mapsto A_j$  with the consevation of n regular polygon structure. So f must be a bijection.  $D_n^*$  is the set of f. By the definition,  $D_n^* \subset S_n$ . We prove  $D_n^*$  is ta subgroup of  $S_n$ .

Notice that  $A_{i+1} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} & -\sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} & \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \end{pmatrix} A_i$ . Denote  $X = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} & -\sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} & \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \end{pmatrix}$ . To construct the polygon, we must have

$$f(A_{i+1}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} & -\sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} & \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \end{pmatrix} f(A_i)$$

or

$$f(A_i) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} & -\sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} & \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \end{pmatrix} f(A_{i+1})$$

We need to verify that  $\forall f_1, f_2 \in D_n^*, f_1 f_2^{-1} \in D_n^*$ . Assume  $B_i = f_2(A_i), B_{i+1} = f_2(A_{i+1})$ . Then  $B_i = XB_{i+1}$  or  $B_i = X^{-1}B_{i+1}$ . Denote  $B_i = AB_{i+1}$ .  $A_j$ , then  $B_{i+1} = A_{j-1}$  or  $B_{i+1} = A_{j+1}$ . WLOG, assume  $B_{i+1} = A_{j+1}$ , then  $f_1(A_j) = X f_1(A_{j+1})$  or  $f_1(A_j) = X^{-1} f_1(A_{j-1})$ . So  $f_1 f_2^{-1} \in D_n^*$ .  $D_n^*$  is a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

- (b) Assume  $A_i = f(A_1)$ . If  $f(A_2) = A_{i+1}$ , since f is a bijection, by induction, we can prove  $f(A_k) = A_{k+i-1}$ .  $\varphi: D_n^* \to S_n$  can be defined as  $\varphi: f \mapsto (1i\,2i-1\,3i-2\cdots)$ . If  $f(A_2) = A_{i-1}$ , similarly, we can also prove  $f(A_k) = A_{i+1-k}$ .  $\varphi$  can be defined as  $\varphi : f \mapsto (1i)(2i-1)(3i-2)\cdots$ . This means f is completely determined by  $f(A_1)$  and  $f(A_2)$ .  $D_n^*$  can be
- embedded into  $S_n$ . (c) Denote  $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} & -\sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n} & \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $f: A_i \mapsto \alpha A_i, g:$  $A_i \mapsto \beta A_i$ . f is the rotation of  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$  degrees counter-clockwisely. g is the reflection about x-axis. Now we prove  $\forall x \in D_n^*$ , x can be factorised into finite product of f and g. From (b), x is fully defined by  $x(A_1)$  and  $x(A_2)$ . Assume  $x(A_1) = A_i$ . If  $x(A_2) = A_{i+1}$ ,  $x(A_k) = A_{i-1+k} = \alpha^{i-1}A_k$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n. So x = 1If  $x(A_2) = A_{i-2}$ ,  $x(A_k) = A_{i+1-k} = \alpha^{i+1} A_{-k} = \alpha^{i+1} \beta A_k$ . So  $x = f^{i+1} g$ . Thus  $D_A^* \subset \langle f, g \rangle$ .
- (d)  $\alpha^n = \beta^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . We can easily verify that |f| = n and |g| = 2. From **Exercise 1.6.9**,  $\langle f, g \rangle \cong D_n$ ,  $|\langle f, g \rangle| = |D_n| = 2n$ . From (b),  $x \in D_n^*$

if completely determined by  $x(A_1)$  and  $x(A_2)$ . There are 2n different ways to obtain  $x(A_1)$  and  $x(A_2)$ . So  $|D_n^*| = |\langle f, g \rangle| = 2n$ .  $D_n^* \subset \langle f, g \rangle$ , so  $D_n^* = \langle f, g \rangle$ . Thus,  $D_n^* \cong \langle f, g \rangle \cong D_n$ .

# 1.7 Categories: products, coproducts, and free objects

**Exercise 1.7.1.** A pointed set is a pair (S, x) with S a set and  $x \in S$ . A morphism of pointed sets  $(S, x) \to (S', x')$  is a triple (f, x, x'), where  $S \to S'$  is a function such that f(x) = x'. Show that pointed sets form a category.

**Answer.** Let S be the category and 4 objects of S are (A, a), (B, b), (C, c), (D, d). f, g and h are morphisms defined by  $f: A \to B$ ,  $g: B \to C$ ,  $h: C \to D$  with f(a) = b, g(b) = c, h(c) = d.

$$(A, a) \xrightarrow{f} (B, b) \xrightarrow{g} (C, c) \xrightarrow{h} (D, d)$$
category  $S$ 

$$hom(A, B) \times hom(B, C) \to hom(A, C)$$

because  $g \circ f : A \to C$  with  $g(f(a)) = g(b) = c = g \circ f(a)$ . Similarly,  $(h \circ g) \circ f = h \circ (g \circ f)$  with  $(h \circ g) \circ f(a) = h \circ (g \circ f)(a) = d$ . Take  $1_B$  consist of those functions  $i : B \to B$  with i(b) = b. Then  $1_B \circ f = f$  and  $g \circ 1_B = g$ . So S is a category.

**Exercise 1.7.2.** If  $f: A \to B$  is an equivalence in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $g: B \to A$  is the morphism such that  $g \circ f = 1_A$ ,  $f \circ g = 1_B$ , show that g is unique.

**Answer.** Assume there exist g and g' satisfies the condition.

$$A \stackrel{f}{\longleftarrow} B$$
  $A \stackrel{f}{\longleftarrow} B$ 

So  $g' \circ (f \circ g) = g' \circ 1_B = g' = (g' \circ f) \circ g = 1_A \circ g = g$ .

**Exercise 1.7.3.** In the category  $\mathcal{G}$  of groups, show that the group  $G_1 \times G_2$  together with the homomorphisms  $\pi_1 : G_1 \times G_2 \to G_1$  and  $\pi_2 : G_1 \times G_2 \to G_2$  is a product for  $\{G_1, G_2\}$ .

**Answer.** Take  $\tau_1: G_1 \to G_1 \times G_2$  as  $\tau_1(g_1) = (g_1, e); \ \tau_2: G_2 \to G_1 \times G_2$  as  $\tau_2(g_2) = (e, g_2); \ \pi_1: G_1 \times G_2 \to G_1$  as  $\pi_1(g_1, g_2) = g_1; \ \pi_2: G_1 \times G_2 \to G_2$  as  $\pi_2(g_1, g_2) = g_2$ . Then

$$G_1 \stackrel{\pi_1}{\longleftrightarrow} G_1 \times G_2 \stackrel{\pi_2}{\longleftrightarrow} G_2$$

For any object B such that

$$G_1 \stackrel{\varphi_1}{\longleftarrow} B \stackrel{\varphi_2}{\longrightarrow} G_2$$

For any  $x \in B$ , define  $f: B \to G_1 \times G_2$  as  $f(x) = (\varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x))$ . Then  $\pi_1(f(x)) = \varphi_1(x), \, \pi_1 \circ f = \varphi_1, \, \pi_2(f(x)) = \varphi_2(x), \, \pi_2 \circ f = \varphi_2$ . Thus

$$G_1 \stackrel{\varphi_1}{\longleftarrow} G_1 \times G_2 \stackrel{\varphi_2}{\longleftarrow} G_2$$

Next we verify the uniqueness. If there exist f and f' satisfies the condition,

$$\pi_1(f(x)) = \pi_1(f'(x)) = \varphi_1(x)$$

$$\pi_2(f(x)) = \pi_2(f'(x)) = \varphi_2(x)$$

Thus f(x) = f'(x) for all  $x \in B$ , so f = f'.

**Exercise 1.7.4.** In the category  $\mathcal{A}$  of abelian groups, show that the group  $A_1 \times A_2$  together with the morphisms  $\tau_1 : A_1 \to A_1 \times A_2$  and  $\tau_2 : A_2 \to A_1 \times A_2$  is a coproduct of  $\{A_1, A_2\}$ .

**Answer.** Take  $\tau_1: A_1 \to A_1 \times A_2$  as  $\tau_1(a_1) = (a_1, e); \tau_2: A_2 \to A_1 \times A_2$  as  $\tau_2(a_2) = (e, a_2); \ \pi_1: A_1 \times A_2 \to A_1$  as  $\pi_1(a_1, a_2) = a_1; \ \pi_2: A_1 \times A_2 \to A_2$  as  $\pi_2(a_1, a_2) = a_2$ . Then

$$A_1 \stackrel{\pi_1}{\longleftarrow} A_1 \times A_2 \stackrel{\pi_2}{\longleftarrow} A_2$$

For any object B such that

$$A_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} B \xleftarrow{\varphi_2} A_2$$

For any  $(a_1, a_2) \in A_1 \times A_2$ , define  $f : A_1 \times A_2 \to B$  as  $f(a_1, a_2) = \varphi_1(a_1)\varphi_2(a_2)$ . Then  $f(\tau_1(a_1)) = f(a_1, e) = \varphi_1(a_1)e = \varphi_1(a_1)$ ,  $f \circ \tau_1 = \varphi_1$ ,  $f(\tau_2(a_2)) = f(e, a_2) = e\varphi_2(a_2) = \varphi_2(a_2)$ ,  $f \circ \tau_2 = \varphi_2$ .

$$A_1 \stackrel{\varphi_1}{\longleftrightarrow} A_1 \times A_2 \stackrel{\varphi_2}{\longleftrightarrow} A_2$$

Next we verify the uniqueness. If there exist f and f' satisfies the condition,

$$f(\tau_1(a_1)) = f'(\tau_1(a_1)) = f(a_1, e) = f'(a_1, e)$$

$$f(\tau_2(a_2)) = f'(\tau_2(a_2)) = f(e, a_2) = f'(e, a_2)$$

$$f(\tau_1(a_1), \tau_2(a_2)) = f(\tau_1(a_1)) f(\tau_2(a_2))$$

$$= f'(\tau_1(a_1), \tau_2(a_2)) = f'(\tau_1(a_1)) f'(\tau_2(a_2))$$

so f = f'.

**Exercise 1.7.5.** Every family  $\{A_i|i\in I\}$  in the category of sets has a coproduct.

**Answer.** We examine  $\bigcup A_i = \{(a,i) \in (\cup A_i) \times I | a \in A_i\}$  which satisfies the condition. Define the morphism  $\pi_i : A_i \to \bigcup A_i$  as  $\pi_i(a) = (a,i)$ . For any B such that  $\exists \varphi_i : A_i \to B$ .



 $\varphi(a) = x \in B$ . Take  $\varphi(a, i) = \varphi_i(a)$  defined on the subset of  $\bigcup A_i \times I$ , we can verify that the domain of  $\varphi$  is  $\bigcup A_i$ . Then take  $f = \varphi$ ,  $f(\pi_i(a)) = \varphi_i(a)$ ,  $f \circ \pi_i = \varphi_i$ .

The uniqueness is obvious.

**Exercise 1.7.6.** (a) Show that in the category  $S_*$  of pointed sets product always exist; describe them.

(b) Show that in  $S_*$  every family of objects has a coproduct, describe the coproduct.

**Answer.** (a) Define  $\otimes$  as an operator between points and other elements in the pointed set.  $\forall a \in A_i, \ a \otimes a_i = a_1 \times a = a$ . For a family of sets with their points  $\{(A_i, a_i | i \in I)\}$ , consider  $(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) = \{(a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n)\}$ . Define morphisms  $\pi_i(a) = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $\pi_i : A_i \to (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$ .



For any B such that  $\exists \varphi_i : A_i \to B$ .



Take  $f:(A_1,A_2,\cdots,A_n)\to B$  as

$$f(a'_1, a'_2, \cdots, a'_n) = \varphi_1(a'_1) \otimes \varphi_2(a'_2) \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi(a'_n)$$

Then  $f \circ \pi_i(a) = f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a, \dots, a_n) = \varphi_1(a_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \varphi_i(a) \otimes \dots \otimes \varphi_n(a_n) = \varphi_i(a)$ . So  $f \circ \pi_i = \varphi_i$ .

Next we verify the uniqueness. If there exist f and f' satisfies the condition. Then  $\exists i \in I$  and  $a \in A_i$  s.t.  $f(a_1, a_2, \dots, a, \dots, a_n) \neq f'(a_1, a_2, \dots, a, \dots, a_n)$ . But  $f(\pi_i(a)) = f'(\pi_i(a))$ , so f = f'.

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(b) The proof is similar to **Exercise 1.7.5**.

**Exercise 1.7.7.** Let F be a free object on a set  $X(i: X \to F)$  in a concrete category C. If C contains an object whose underlying set has at least two elements in it, then i is an injective map of sets.

**Answer.** Assume  $A \in \text{obj}(\mathcal{C})$ , A has at least two elements and  $X \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} A$ .  $X \xrightarrow{\bar{i}} F$  and F is free on X, so there exists a morphism  $\bar{f}$  s.t.  $F \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} A$ . If |X| = 1, i must be injective. For  $|X| \geq 2$ . Suppose i is not injective. Take  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  and  $i(x_1) = i(x_2) \in F$ ,  $f(x_1) = a_1$ ,  $f(x_2) = a_2$ .  $\bar{f}(i(x_1)) = \bar{f}(i(x_2)) = f(x_1) = f(x_2) = a_1 = a_2$ . That means all the elements in A are identical. That's contradictory to the assumption.

**Exercise 1.7.8.** Suppose X is a set and F is a free object on X (with  $i: X \to F$ ) in the category of groups. Prove that i(X) is a set of generators for the group F.

**Answer.** Assume G the subgroup of F is the group generated by i(X). Since  $X \xrightarrow{i} G$  and  $X \xrightarrow{i} F$ , we can obtain unique morphism  $\varphi$  such that  $F \xrightarrow{\varphi} G$  and  $\varphi \circ i = i$ .

Consider morphism  $1_F: F \to F$  which is the identical homomorphism. F is free so  $1_F$  is the unique homomorphism. Take  $\subset: G \to F$  as a morphism defined as  $\forall g \in G, \subset (g) = g$ . Then



 $\subset \circ \varphi \circ i = 1_F \circ i = i$  so  $\subset \circ \varphi = 1_F$ . Thus  $\subset$  is an epimorphism,  $F \subset G$ . So F = G can be generated by i(X).

#### 1.8 Direct products and direct sums

**Exercise 1.8.1.**  $S_3$  is not the direct product of any family of its proper subgroups. The same is true of  $Z_{p^n}(p \text{ prime}, n \ge 1)$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Answer.** We list all the subgroups of  $S_3$ :  $\{(1), (12)\}$ ,  $\{(1), (13)\}$ ,  $\{(1), (23)\}$ ,  $\{(1), (123), (132)\}$ . Only  $\{(1), (123), (132)\}$  is normal, so  $S_3$  isn't an direct product of any family of its proper subgroups.

For  $Z_{p^n}$ ,  $Z_{p^i} \triangleleft Z_{p^n}$  for all i = 1, 2, ..., n-1 but  $Z_{p^i} \cap Z_{p^j} \neq \{e\}$ . So  $Z_{p^n}$  isn't an direct product of any family of its proper subgroups.

For **Z**.  $\forall N_1 \triangleleft \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $N_2 \triangleleft \mathbf{Z}$ , we have  $N_1 = \langle a_1 \rangle$  and  $N_2 = \langle a_2 \rangle$ . Thus,  $N_1 \cap N_2 = \langle a_1 a_2 \rangle \neq \{e\}$ . So **Z** isn't an direct product of any family of its proper subgroups.

**Exercise 1.8.2.** Give an example of groups  $H_i$ ,  $K_i$  such that  $H_1 \times H_2 \cong K_1 \times K_2$  and no  $H_i$  is isomorphic to any  $K_j$ .

**Answer.** Take  $H_1 \cong K_1 \times K_2$ ,  $H_2 = \{e\}$ . We verify that  $H_1 \times H_2 \cong K_1 \times K_2$ . There exists  $f: H_1 \to K_1 \times H_2$  which is an isomorphism. There exists canonical projection  $\pi_1: H_1 \times H_2 \to H_1$  and  $\pi_1$  is an epimorphism. Ker $\pi_1 = \{(e_1, e_2)\}$  thus  $\pi_1$  is also a monomorphism. Therefore  $\bar{f} = f \circ \pi_1$  is a well defined isomorphism.  $H_1 \times H_2 \cong K_1 \times K_2$  but neither  $H_1$  nor  $H_2$  are isomorphic to any  $K_i$ , i = 1, 2.

**Exercise 1.8.3.** Let G be and (additive) abelian group with subgroups H and K. Show that  $G \cong H \oplus K$  if and only if there are homomorphisms

$$H \xrightarrow{\longleftarrow \tau_1} G \xrightarrow{\pi_2} K$$

such that  $\pi_1\tau_1 = 1_H$ ,  $\pi_2\tau_2 = 1_K$ ,  $\pi_1\tau_2 = 0$  and  $\pi_2\tau_1 = 0$ , where 0 is the map sending every element onto the zero (identity) element, and  $\tau_1\pi_1(x) + \tau_2\pi_2(x) = x$  for all  $x \in G$ .

**Answer.** If  $G \cong H \oplus K$ . Denote  $f: G \to H \oplus K$  which is a isomorphism. Then there are canonical products  $\pi'_1, \pi'_2, \tau'_1, \tau'_2$ .

$$H \xrightarrow{\stackrel{}{\longleftarrow} \tau_1'} H \oplus K \xrightarrow{\stackrel{}{\longleftarrow} \tau_2'} K$$

Thus



Take 
$$\tau_1 = f \circ \tau_1'$$
,  $\tau_2 = f \circ \tau_2'$ ,  $\pi_1 = \pi_1' \circ f^{-1}$ ,  $\pi_2 = \pi_2' \circ f^{-1}$ .
$$\pi_1 \tau_1 = \pi_1' f^{-1} f \tau_1' = \pi_1' \tau_1' = 1_H$$

$$\pi_2 \tau_2 = \pi_2' f^{-1} f \tau_2' = \pi_2' \tau_2' = 1_K$$

$$\pi_1 \tau_2 = \pi_1' f^{-1} f \tau_2' = \pi_1' \tau_2' = 0$$

$$\pi_2 \tau_1 = \pi_2' f^{-1} f \tau_1' = \pi_2' \tau_1' = 0$$

 $\forall x \in G, x = hk \text{ where } h \in H \text{ and } k \in K.$ 

$$\tau_1 \pi_1(x) + \tau_2 \pi_2(x) = f(\tau_1' \pi_1'(h, k)) + f(\tau_2' \pi_2(h, k))$$

$$= f(\tau_1'(h)) + f(\tau_2'(k))$$

$$= f(h, e) + f(e, k)$$

$$= f(h + e, e + k) = f(h, k)$$

$$= x$$

If there exist  $\pi_1$ ,  $\pi_2$ ,  $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2$  satisfies the condition. There are canonical projections  $\pi_1'$ ,  $\pi_2'$ ,  $\tau_1'$ ,  $\tau_2'$  between H and  $H \oplus K$ , K and  $H \oplus K$ .



For  $f = \tau_1'\pi_1 + \tau_2'\pi_2$  which is a well defined homomorphism.  $\forall h \in H$  and  $k \in K$ ,  $\tau_1'(h) + \tau_2'(k) = (h, k) \in H \oplus K$ . Thus  $f(x) = (e_1, e_2)$  if and only if  $\pi_1(x) = e_1$  and  $\pi_2(x) = e_2$ .  $\tau_1\pi_1(x) + \tau_2\pi_2(x) = \tau_1(e_1) + \tau_2(e_2) = e = x$ . Thus  $\text{Ker } f = \{e\}$ . f is a monomorphism.  $\forall (h, k) \in H \oplus K$ , take  $x = \tau_1(h) + \tau_2(k) \in G$ , then

$$f(x) = \tau_1' \pi_1 \tau_1(h) + \tau_1' \pi_1 \tau_2(h) + \tau_2' \pi_2 \tau_1(k) + \tau_2' \pi_2 \tau_1(k)$$
  
=  $\tau_1'(h) + \tau_2'(k) = (h, k) \in H \oplus K$ 

f is a epimorphism. Thus  $G \cong H \oplus K$ .

Exercise 1.8.4. Give an example to show that the weak direct product is not a coproduct in the category of all groups.

**Answer.** Consider  $S_3$  and  $S_3 \times S_3$ .



Since there doesn't exist homomorphism  $S_3 \to S_2$ , there is no homomorphism  $S_3 \times S_3 \to S_3 \times S_2$ .

**Exercise 1.8.5.** Let G, H be finite cyclic groups. Then  $G \times H$  is cyclic if and only if (|G|, |H|) = 1.

**Answer.** Assume |G| = m, |H| = n, then  $G \cong Z_m$ ,  $H \cong Z_n$  and  $G \times H \cong Z_m \oplus Z_n$ .

If (|G|, |H|) = 1. Consider  $(x_1, x_2) \in Z_m \oplus Z_n$ . By Chinese Remainder Theorem, there exists x such that  $a \equiv x \mod \operatorname{lcm}(m, n)$  and  $a \equiv x_1 \mod m$ ,  $a \equiv x_2 \mod n$ . Thus,  $a(1,1) = (x_1, x_2)$ .  $Z_m \oplus Z_n < \langle (1,1) \rangle$ .  $\langle (1,1) \rangle < Z_m \oplus Z_n$  is trivial. So  $Z_m \oplus Z_n = \langle (1,1) \rangle \cong G \times H$  is cyclic. If  $G \times H$  is cyclic. Assume  $l = \gcd(m,n)$  and there exist x such that  $x_1 \equiv x \mod m$ ,  $x_2 \equiv x \mod n$ . Take  $x_1 \not\equiv x_2 \mod l$ , it can be chosen properly. Consider  $(x_1, x_2) \in Z_m \oplus Z_n$ ,  $x = k_1 m + x_1 = k_2 n + x_2 \Rightarrow x_1 \equiv x_2 \mod l$ . That's contradictory!

**Exercise 1.8.6.** Every finitely generated abelian group  $G \neq \langle e \rangle$  in which every element (except e) has order p (p prime) is isomorphic to  $Z_p \oplus Z_p \oplus \cdots \oplus Z_p(n \text{ summands})$  for some  $n \geq 1$ .

Answer. Assume  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  generates G.  $|a_i| = p$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  so  $\langle a_i \rangle \cong Z_p$ . Now we show that  $G = \prod_{i=1}^n {}^w \langle a_i \rangle \cong \sum_{i=1}^n Z_p$ .  $G = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$  and  $\langle a_1 \rangle \lhd G$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . If exist  $\langle a_i \rangle$  s.t.  $\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \langle a_j \rangle \cap \langle a_i \rangle \neq \{e\}$ . Then there exists  $a_i^{s_i} = a_1^{s_1} \cdots a_{i-1}^{s_{i-1}} a_{i+1}^{s_{i+1}} \cdots a_n^{s_n}$ .  $(s_i, p) = 1$  so  $\exists 1 \leq t_i \leq p-1$  such that  $s_i t_i \equiv 1 \mod p$ . So  $a_i^{s_i t_i} = a_1^{s_1 t_i} \cdots a_{i-1}^{s_{i-1} t_i} a_{i+1}^{s_{i+1} t_i} \cdots a_n^{s_n t_i} = a_i$ .  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  can generate G. That's contradictory! So  $\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \langle a_j \rangle \cap \langle a_i \rangle = \{e\}$ , which means  $G = \prod_{i=1}^n {}^w \langle a_i \rangle \cong \sum_{i=1}^n Z_p$ .

**Exercise 1.8.7.** Let H, K, N be nontrivial normal subgroups of a group G and suppose  $G = H \times K$ . Prove that N is in the center of G or N intersects one of H, K nontrivially. Give examples to show that both possibilities can actually occur when G is nonabelian.

**Answer.** If  $N \cap H = N \cap K = \{e\}$ . G = HK.  $\forall h \in H$  and  $k \in K$ , since  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ , hk = kh. For any  $hk \in N$ , and  $h_1 \in H \subset HK$ ,  $h_1^{-1}hkh_1 = h_1^{-1}hh_1k \in N$ . Assume  $h' = h_1^{-1}h_1 \in H$ ,  $h'k \in N$ . Thus  $h'^{-1}k^{-1}kh = h'^{-1}h \in N$ . So  $h'^{-1}h = e$ , h = h', h is in the center C(H) of group H. Similarly,  $k \in C(K)$  which is the center of K. Then  $\forall hk \in N$  and  $h_1k_1 \in G$ ,  $k_1^{-1}h_1^{-1}hkh_1k_1 = h_1^{-1}hh_1k_1^{-1}kk_1 = hk$ .  $N \subset N(G)$ .

For  $N \cup H \neq \emptyset$ , the example can be trivial: N < H and  $N \triangleleft G$ . There's many cyclic group satisfy the condition.

For  $N \subset C(G)$ . Take  $G = D_4^* \times D_4^*$ ,  $H = D_4^* \times \{I\}$ ,  $K = \{I\} \times D_4^*$ .  $\{I, R^2\}$  is normal in  $D_4^*$ . Denote N is the subgroup  $\{(I, I), (R^2, R^2)\}$ . We can verify that N satisfies the condition.

**Exercise 1.8.8.** Corollary 8.7 is false if one of the  $N_i$  is not normal.

**Answer.** Consider  $N_1, N_2, \ldots, N_n$  are all finite. WLOG, assume  $N_1$  is not normal.  $G = \left\langle \bigcup_{i=1}^n N_i \cup N_1 \right\rangle$  and  $N_1 N_2 \cdots N_n \subset G$ . Denote  $A = N_2 N_3 \cdots N_n$ . Then  $\exists a \in A$  such that  $a^{-1} n a = n' \notin N_1$ . Thus  $n' a \in G$  but  $n' a \notin N_1 N_2 \cdots N_n$  so  $|G| > |N_1 N_2 \cdots N_n| = |N_1| \times |N_2| \times \cdots \times |N_n| = |N_1 \times N_2 \times \cdots \times N_n|$ .

**Exercise 1.8.9.** If a group G is the (internal) direct product of its subgroups H, K, then  $H \cong G/K$  and  $G/H \cong K$ .

**Answer.**  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .  $G = H \times K = HK$ . Thus  $HK/H \cong K/(K \cap H) = K$ ,  $HK/K \cong H/(K \cap H) = H$ .

**Exercise 1.8.10.** If  $\{G_i|i\in I\}$  is a family of groups, then  $\prod^w G_i$  is the internal weak product its subgroups  $\{\tau_i(G_i)|i\in I\}$ .

**Answer.** Take  $\tau_i(g) = (e_1, e_2, \dots, g, \dots, e_n), g \in G_i.\tau_i(G_i).$   $\tau_i(G_i)$  is normal in  $\prod_{i \in I} {}^w G_i.$   $\tau_i(G_i) \cap \tau_j(G_j) = \{(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)\}$  which is the identity element in  $\prod_{i \in I} {}^w G_i.$   $\forall (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) \in \prod_{i \in I} {}^w G_i,$  we have

$$(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) = (g_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)(e_1, g_2, \dots, e_n) \cdots (e_1, e_2, \dots, g_n)$$

Thus  $\prod_{i\in I} {}^wG_i \subset \left\langle \bigcup_{i\in I} {}^w au_i(G_i) \right\rangle$  and

$$\left\langle \bigcup_{i \in I} {}^{w} \tau_{i}(G_{i}) \right\rangle = \tau_{1}(G_{1}) \tau_{2}(G_{2}) \cdots \tau_{n}(G_{n}) \subset \prod_{i \in I} {}^{w} G_{i}$$

Therefore  $\prod_{i \in I} {}^w G_i$  is the direct product of  $\tau_i(G_i)$ .

**Exercise 1.8.11.** Let  $\{N_i|i\in I\}$  be a family of subgroups of a group G. Then G is the internal weak product of  $\{N_i|i\in I\}$  if and only if:

(i) 
$$a_i a_j = a_j a_i$$
 for all  $i \neq j$  and  $a_i \in N_i$ ,  $a_j \in N_j$ ;

(ii) every nonidentity element of G is uniquely a product  $a_{i_1} \cdots a_{i_n}$ , where  $i_i, \ldots, i_n$  are distinct elements of I and  $e \neq a_{i_k} \in N_{i_k}$  for each k.

Answer. Trivial.

**Exercise 1.8.12.** A normal subgroup H of a group G is said to be a **direct factor** (**direct summand** if G is additive abelian) if there exists a (normal) subgroup K of G such that  $G = H \times K$ .

- (a) If H is a direct factor of K and K is a direct factor of G, then H is normal in G.
- (b) If H is a direct factor of G, then every homomorphism  $H \to G$  may be extended to an endomorphism  $G \to G$ . However, a monomorphism  $H \to G$  need not be extendible to and automorphism  $G \to G$ .
- **Answer.** (a)  $G = K \times K' = (H \times H') \times K'$ . So  $\forall g \in G$ , g = hh'k' with  $h \in H$ ,  $h' \in H'$  and  $k' \in K'$ .  $\forall h_1 \in H$  and  $g \in G$ ,  $g^{-1}h_1g = k'^{-1}h'^{-1}h^{-1}h_1hh'k' = (h^{-1}h_1h)(h'^{-1}h')(k'^{-1}k') = h^{-1}h_1h \in H$ . Thus  $H \triangleleft G$ .
- (b) If  $G = H \times K$ . For a homomorphism  $f : H \to G$ , we construct a homomorphism  $\bar{f} : G \to G$ ,  $\forall g \in G, g$  can be uniquely written as g = hk where  $h \in H$ ,  $k \in K$ . Take  $\tau(g) = h$  which is a homomorphism  $\tau : G \to H$ . We can get  $\bar{f} = f \circ \tau : G \to G$  is a endomorphism but it needn't to be a automorphism.

**Exercise 1.8.13.** Let  $\{G_i|i\in I\}$  be a family of groups and  $J\subset I$ . The map  $\alpha:\prod_{j\in J}G_j\to\prod_{i\in I}G_i$  given by  $\{a_j\}\mapsto\{b_i\}$ , where  $b_j=a_j$  for  $j\in J$  and  $b_i=e_i(\text{identity in }G_i)$  for  $i\notin J$ , is a monomorphism of groups and  $\prod_{i\in I}G_i/\alpha(\prod_{j\in J}G_j)\cong\prod_{i\in I-J}G_i$ .

**Answer.** Define a map  $\beta: \prod_{i\in I} G_i \to \prod_{i\in I-J} G_i$  given by  $\{a_i\} \mapsto \{b_i\}$  and for those  $i\in I-J$ ,  $\exists b_i\in \{b_i\}$  s.t.  $a_i=b_i$ . Thus  $\beta(\{a_i\})\beta(\{a_i'\})=\beta(\{a_ia_i'\})$ ,  $\beta$  is a well defined homomorphism. Ker $\beta=\{\{a_i\}\in \prod_{i\in I} G_i|a_i=e_i \text{ for } i\in I-J\}=\alpha(\prod_{j\in J} G_j)$ . We verify  $\beta$  is a epimorphism.  $\forall \{b_i\}\in \prod_{i\in I-J} G_i$ , take

 $\{a_i\} \in \prod_{i \in I} G_i$  where  $a_i = b_i$  for  $i \in I - J$ . Then  $\beta(\{a_i\}) = \{b_i\}$ . Thus  $\beta$  is an isomorphism,  $\text{Im}\beta = \prod_{i \in I - J} G_i \cong \prod_{i \in I} G_i / \alpha(\prod_{j \in J} (G_j))$ .

**Exercise 1.8.14.** For i = 1, 2 let  $H_i \triangleleft G_i$  and give examples to show that each of the following statements may be false:

- (a)  $G_1 \cong G_2$  and  $H_1 \cong H_2 \Rightarrow G_1/H_1 \cong G_2/H_2$ .
- (b)  $G_1 \cong G_2$  and  $G_1/H_1 \cong G_2/H_2 \Rightarrow H_1 \cong H_2$ .
- (c)  $H_1 \cong H_2$  and  $G_1/H_1 \cong G_2/H_2 \Rightarrow G_1 \cong G_2$ .

**Answer.** (a) Take  $G_1 = G_2 = Z_2 \times Z_4$ ,  $H_1 = Z_2 \times \{\bar{0}\}$ ,  $H_2 = \{(\bar{0}, \bar{0}), (\bar{0}, \bar{2})\}$ .

- (b) Take  $G_1 = G_2 = Z_2 \times Z_4$ ,  $H_1 = \{\bar{0}\} \times Z_4$ ,  $H_2 = \{(\bar{0}, \bar{0}), (\bar{1}, \bar{0}), (\bar{0}, \bar{2}), (\bar{1}, \bar{2})\}$ .
- (c) Take  $H_1 = \{(\bar{0}, \bar{0}), (\bar{0}, \bar{2})\}, H_2 = Z_2 \text{ and } G_1 = Z_2 \times Z_4, G_2 = Z_2 \times K_4.$

### 1.9 Free groups, free products, generators and relations

**Exercise 1.9.1.** Every nonidentity elements in a free group F has a infinite order.

**Answer.** Define the length of a word  $x = a_1^{\lambda_1} a_2^{\lambda_2} \cdots a_n^{\lambda_n}$  is n and denote it as len(x). Assume len(x) = n for some  $n \in F$  and len(1) = 0, we prove that  $len(x^m) \ge n \forall m \ge 1$ .

Let k be the largest integer such that  $a_{n-j}^{\lambda_{n-j}}=a_n^{-\lambda_j}$  for  $j=0,1,\ldots,k-1$ . If  $k>\left[\frac{n}{2}\right]$ . For even k,  $a_{\frac{n}{2}}^{\lambda_{\frac{n}{2}}}=a_{\frac{n}{2}+1}^{-(\lambda_{\frac{n}{2}+1})}$ ,  $a_{\frac{n}{2}-1}^{\lambda_{\frac{n}{2}-1}}=a_{\frac{n}{2}+2}^{-(\lambda_{\frac{n}{2}+2})}$ ,  $\cdots$  which means  $x=a_1^{\lambda_1}a_2^{\lambda_2}\cdots a_n^{\lambda_n}=1$ . For odd k,  $a_{\frac{n}{2}-1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2}\rfloor+1}=a_{\frac{n}{2}+1}^{-(\lambda_{\frac{n}{2}}\rfloor+1}$ , which is contradictory to x is reduced. So  $k\leq \left[\frac{n}{2}\right]$ .

Divide  $x = x_1 x_2 x_3$  where  $x_1 = a_1^{\lambda_1} \cdots a_k^{\lambda_k}$ ,  $x_2 = a_{k+1}^{\lambda_{k+1}} \cdots a_{n-k}^{\lambda_{n-k}}$ ,  $x_3 = a_{n-k+1}^{\lambda_{n-k+1}} \cdots a_n^{\lambda_n}$ .  $x_3 x_1 = 1$ . So  $len(x) = len(x_1) + len(x_2) + len(x_3) = n$ .  $x^m = x_1 x_2 x_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 \cdots x_1 x_2 x_3 = x_1 x_2^m x_3$ .  $len(x^m) = len(x_1) + m \cdot len(x_2) + len(x_3) \ge n$ . So  $\forall m \ge 1$ ,  $x^m \ne 1$ , |x| is infinite.

**Exercise 1.9.2.** Show that the free group on the set  $\{a\}$  is an infinite cyclic group, and hence isomorphic to  $\mathbf{Z}$ .

**Answer.**  $F(\{a\}) = \langle a \rangle$  and thus it's a infinite cyclic group.  $F(\{a\}) \cong \mathbf{Z}$ .

**Exercise 1.9.3.** Let F be a free group and let N be the subgroup generated by the set  $\{x^n|x\in F, n \text{ a fixed integer}\}$ . Show that  $N\lhd F$ .

**Exercise 1.9.4.** Let F be the free group on the set X, and let  $Y \subset H$ . If H is the smallest normal subgroup of F containin Y, then F/H is a free group.

**Exercise 1.9.5.** The group defined by generators a, b and relations  $a^8 = b^2 a^4 = ab^{-1}ab = e$  has order at most 16.

**Exercise 1.9.6.** The cyclic group of order 6 is the group defined by generators a, b and relations  $a^2 = b^3 = a^{-1}b^{-1}ab = e$ .

**Exercise 1.9.7.** Show that the group defined by generators a, b and relations  $a^2 = e$ ,  $b^3 = e$  is infinite and nonabelian.

**Exercise 1.9.8.** The group defined by generators a, b and relations  $a^n = e(3 \le n \in \mathbb{N}^*)$ ,  $b^2 = e$  and abab = e is the dihedral group  $D_n$ .

**Exercise 1.9.9.** The group defined by the generator b and  $b^m = e(m \in \mathbf{N}^*)$  is the cyclic group  $Z_m$ .

**Exercise 1.9.10.** The operation of free product is commutative and associative: for any groups  $A, B, C, A*B \cong B*A$  and  $A*(B*C) \cong (A*B)*C$ .

**Exercise 1.9.11.** If N is normal subgroup of A \* B generated by A, then  $(A * B)/N \cong B$ .

**Exercise 1.9.12.** If G and H each have more than one element, then G\*H is an infinite group with center  $\langle e \rangle$ .

Exercise 1.9.13. A free group is a free product of infinite cyclic groups.

**Exercise 1.9.14.** If G is the group defined by generators a, b and relations  $a^2 = e, b^3 = e$ , then  $G \cong Z_2 * Z_3$ .

**Exercise 1.9.15.** If  $f: G_1 \to G_2$  and  $g: H_1 \to H_2$  are homomorphisms of groups, then there is a unique homomorphism  $h: G_1 * H_1 \to G_2H_2$  such that  $h|G_1 = f$  and  $h|H_1 = g$ .

Chapter 2

The structure of groups

## Chapter 3

# Rings

### 3.1 Rings and homomorphisms

**Exercise 3.1.1.** (a) Let G be an (additive) abelian group. Define an operation of multiplication in G by ab=0 (for all  $a,b\in G$ ). Then G is a ring.

(b) Let S be the set of all subsets of some fixed set U. For  $A, B \in S$ , define  $A + B = (A - B) \cup (B - A)$  and  $AB = A \cap B$ . Then S is a ring. Is S commutative? Does it have an identity?

**Answer.** (a)  $\forall a, b \in G$ ,  $ab = 0 \in G$ , so G is a monoid under multiplication, thus G is a ring.

(b)  $A \subset U$ ,  $B \subset U$ , so  $A - B \subset U$ ,  $B - A \subset U$ . Thus  $A + B = B + A = (A - B) \cup (B - A) \subset U$ . Take  $\varnothing$  is the identity under addition and U - A as the inverse of A, S is abelian group under the addition.  $AB = A \cap B \subset U$ ,  $AB = A \cap B = B \cap A = BA \in S$ . So S is a commutative ring.  $\forall A \in S$ ,  $A \cap U = AU = A$  is the identity of the ring S.

**Exercise 3.1.2.** Let  $\{R_i|i\in I\}$  be a family of rings with identity. Make the direct sum of abelian groups  $\sum_{i\in I} R_i$  into a ring by defining multiplication coordinatewise. Does  $\sum_{i\in I} R_i$  have identity?

**Answer.** Take  $1_{R_i} \in R_i$  is the identity for i = 1, 2, ..., n.  $\forall (a_1, a_2, ..., a_n) \in \sum_{i \in I} R_i$ 

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)(1_{R_1}, 1_{R_2}, \dots, 1_{R_n})$$

$$= (1_{R_1}, 1_{R_2}, \dots, 1_{R_n})(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$$

$$= (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$$

is the identity.

**Exercise 3.1.3.** A ring R such that  $a^2 = a$  for all  $a \in R$  is called **Boolean ring**. Prove that every Boolean ring R is commutative and a + a = 0 for all  $a \in R$ .

**Answer.**  $\forall a \in R$ ,  $(a+a)^2 = a^2 + 2a + a^2 = a + 2a + a = 2a$ , so a+a=0.  $\forall a,b \in R$ ,  $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + ab + ba = a+b = a+b+ba + ab$ , so  $ab+ba=0 \Rightarrow ab=-ab=-ba$ , ab=ba. Thus R is commutative.

**Exercise 3.1.4.** Let R be a ring and S a nonempty set. Then the group M(S,R) is a ring with multiplication defined as follows: the product of  $f,g \in M(S,R)$  is the function  $S \to R$  given by  $s \mapsto f(s)g(s)$ .

**Answer.** We only need to check M(S,R) is a monoid under multiplication, which means  $\forall f,g \in M(S,R), fg \in M(S,R)$ .  $\forall a \in S, fg(a) = f(a)g(a)$ . Since  $f(a) \in R, g(a) \in R, f(a)g(a) \in R, fg: S \to G$  is a well defined function.  $fg \in M(S,R)$ . M(S,R) is a ring.

**Exercise 3.1.5.** If A is the abelian group  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ , then EndA is a noncommutative ring.

**Answer.** We only need to verify that EndA is not commutative. Take  $f, g \in \text{End}A$ ,  $f: (x_1, x_2) \mapsto (x_1 \mod 2, x_2 \mod 2)$ ,  $g: (x_1, x_2) \mapsto (x_1 \mod 3, x_2 \mod 3)$ . Then gf(3,3) = (1,1), fg(3,3) = (0,0). Thus EndA is not commutative.

Exercise 3.1.6. A finite ring with more than one element and no zero divisors is a division ring.

**Answer.** For any disjoint  $a, b, c \in R$ ,  $ab \neq ac$ , otherwise a(b-c) = 0, b-c is a zero divisor. So ax are different for different  $x \in R$ .  $|\{ax|x \in R\}| = |R|$  and  $\{ax|x \in R\} \subset R$ . Thus  $\{ax|x \in R\} = R$  which means  $\exists a^{-1} \in R$  s.t.  $aa^{-1} = R$ . Similarly, a is also left invertable and R is a division ring.

**Exercise 3.1.7.** Let R be a ring with more than one element such that for each nonzero  $a \in R$  there is a unique  $b \in R$  such that aba = a. Prove: (a) R has no zero divisors.

- (b) bab = b.
- (c) R has an identity.
- (d) R is a division ring.

**Answer.** (a) If x is a zero divisor of a. WLOG, assume ax = 0,  $axa \neq a$  so  $b \neq x$ . But axa + aba = a(x + b)a = a which is contradictory to the uniqueness.

- (b)  $aba = a \Rightarrow abab = ab$ , a(bab b) = 0 and  $a \neq 0$ , so bab b = b, bab = ab.
- (c) Assume c = ab,  $abab = ab \Rightarrow c^2 = c$ .  $\forall x \in R$ ,  $xc^2 = xc \Rightarrow (xc x)c = 0$  and  $c \neq 0$ , so xc = x for any  $x \in R$ . Similarly, cx = x for all  $x \in R$ , c is the identity of R.
- (d)  $\forall a, b \in R$ ,  $aba = a \cdot 1_R = 1_R \cdot a$ . So  $a(ba 1_R) = (ab 1_R)a = 0$ ,  $ba = ab = 1_R$ . That means a, b are all units, so R is a division ring.

**Exercise 3.1.8.** Let R be the set of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices over the complex field  $\mathbf{C}$  of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} z & w \\ -\bar{w} & \bar{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\bar{z}, \bar{w}$  are the complex conjugates of z and w respectively. Then R is a division ring that is isomorphic to the division ring K of real quaternions.

**Answer.** Define  $f: K \to R$  with  $f(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(i) = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(j) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(k) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Assume z = a + bi, w = c + di.

$$\begin{pmatrix} z & w \\ -\bar{w} & \bar{z} \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Define

$$f(\begin{pmatrix} z & w \\ -\bar{w} & \bar{z} \end{pmatrix}) = af(1) + bf(i) + cf(j) + df(k)$$

f(xy) = f(x)f(y) and f is a isomorphism, so  $R \cong K$ .

**Exercise 3.1.9.** (a) The subset  $G = \{1, -1, i, -i, j, -j, k, -k\}$  of the division ring K of real quaternions forms a group under multiplication.

- (b) G is isomorphic to the quaternion group.
- (c) What is the difference between the ring K and the group  $\mathbf{R}(G)(\mathbf{R})$  the field of real numbers)?

Answer. (a) Trivial.

- (b) Define  $f: G \to Q_8$  given by  $f(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(i) = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(j) = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(k) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . We can verify that f is a isomorphism,
- (c) R(G) is a free abelian group while K is not free on G.

**Exercise 3.1.10.** Let k, n be integers such that  $0 \le k \le n$  and  $\binom{n}{k}$  the binomial coefficient n!/(n-k)!k!, where 0!=1 and for n>0, n!=n(n-k)!k! $1)(n-2)\cdots 2\cdot 1.$ 

(a) 
$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$

(b) 
$$\binom{n}{k} < \binom{n}{k+1}$$
 for  $k+1 \le n/2$ .

(a) 
$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$
  
(b)  $\binom{n}{k} < \binom{n}{k+1}$  for  $k+1 \le n/2$ .  
(c)  $\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k+1} = \binom{n+1}{k+1}$  for  $k < n$ .  
(d)  $\binom{n}{k}$  is an integer.

(d) 
$$\binom{n}{k}$$
 is an integer.

(e) if 
$$p$$
 is prime and  $1 \le k \le p^n - 1$ , then  $\binom{p^n}{k}$  is divisible by  $p$ .

(a) 
$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!} = \frac{n!}{(n-(n-k))!(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$
.

(a) 
$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!} = \frac{n!}{(n-(n-k))!(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{n-k}$$
.  
(b)  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!}, \binom{n}{k+1} = \frac{n!}{(n-k-1)!(k+1)!}$ , since  $k+1 \le n-k$  when  $k+1 \le \frac{n}{2}$ , then  $\binom{n}{k} < \binom{n}{k+1}$ .

(c) 
$$\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k+1} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!} + \frac{n!}{(n-k-1)!(k+1)!} = \frac{(n+1)!}{(n-k)!(k+1)!} = \binom{n+1}{k+1}.$$

(d) 
$$\binom{n}{k}$$
 is an integer can be easily solved by induction and (c).

(e) 
$$\operatorname{ord}_{p}(p^{n}!) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{p^{n}}{p^{i}}\right] = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} p^{i}$$
.  $\operatorname{ord}_{p}(k!) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{k}{p^{i}}\right]$ ,  $\operatorname{ord}_{p}((p^{n}-k)!) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{p^{n}-k}{p^{i}}\right]$ .  $\forall i \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $\left[\frac{p^{n}-k}{p^{i}}\right] + \left[\frac{k}{p^{i}}\right] \leq \left[\frac{p^{n}}{p^{i}}\right]$ , the equality holds if and only if  $\frac{p^{n}-k}{p^{i}}$ ,  $\frac{k}{p^{i}} \in \mathbf{Z}$ . And  $\left[\frac{p^{n}-k}{p^{n}}\right] = 0$ ,  $\left[\frac{k}{p^{n}}\right] = 0$ . So  $\operatorname{ord}_{p}(\binom{p^{n}}{k}) = \operatorname{ord}_{p}(p^{n}!) - \operatorname{ord}_{p}((n-k)!) - \operatorname{ord}_{p}(k!) \geq 1$ .  $p|\binom{p^{n}}{k}$ .

**Exercise 3.1.11.** Let R be a commutative ring with identity of prime characteristic p. If  $a, b \in R$ , then  $(a \pm b)^{p^n} = a^{p^n} \pm b^{p^n}$  for all integers  $n \ge 0$ .

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**Answer.**  $(a \pm b)^{p^n} = \sum_{i=0}^{p^n} {p^n \choose i} (\pm a)^i b^{p^n - i}$ . From **Exercise 3.1.10**,  $p | {p^n \choose i}$  for all i = 1, 2, ..., n - 1, so  ${p^n \choose i} a^i b^{p^n - i} = 0$  for i = 1, 2, ..., n - 1. Thus  $\sum_{i=0}^{p^n} {p^n \choose i} (\pm a)^i b^{p^n - i} = a^{p^n} \pm b^{p^n} = (a \pm b)^{p^n}$ .

**Exercise 3.1.12.** An element of a ring is **nilpotent** if  $a^n = 0$  for some n. Prove that in a commutative ring a + b is nilpotent if a and b are. Show that this result may be false if R is not commutative.

**Answer.** Assume  $a^m=0,\ b^n=0.$  For  $(a+b)^{m+n}=\sum\limits_{i=1}^{m+n}\binom{m+n}{i}a^ib^{m+n-i}.$  If  $i\geq m,\ a^ib^{m+n-i}=0b^{m+n-i}=0;$  if  $i\leq m,\ m+n-i\geq n$  so  $a^ib^{m+n-i}=a^i0=0.$  Thus  $a^ib^{m+n-i}=0$  for all  $i=1,2,\ldots,m+n.$  a+b is also nilpotent. For the  $2\times 2$  matrix ring.  $\begin{pmatrix} 0&1\\0&0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 0&0\\1&0 \end{pmatrix}$  are nilpotent, but  $\begin{pmatrix} 0&1\\0&0 \end{pmatrix}+\begin{pmatrix} 0&0\\1&0 \end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix} 0&1\\1&0 \end{pmatrix}$  is not nilpotent.

**Exercise 3.1.13.** In a ring R the following conditions are equivalent.

- (a) R has no nonzero nilpotent elements.
- (b) If  $a \in R$  and  $a^2 = 0$ , then a = 0.

**Answer.** (a) Rightarrow (b): Trivial.

(b) Rightarrow (a): If  $\exists a \in R$ ,  $a^n = 0$  for some n and  $a \neq 0$ . Assume  $n = 2^m \cdot k$  and k is a odd integer. Then  $(a^{k \cdot 2^{m-1}})^2 = 0 \Rightarrow a^{k \cdot 2^{m-1}} = 0 \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow a^k = 0$ .  $a^k \cdot a^{k+1} = 0$  and 2|k+1, we can continue this step until  $\frac{k+1}{2} \geq k$  which means k = 1. So a = 0.

**Exercise 3.1.14.** Let R be a commutative ring with identity and prime characteristic p. The map  $R \to R$  given by  $r \mapsto r^p$  is a homomorphism of rings called the Frobenius homomorphism.

**Answer.**  $\forall a, b \in R, \ pa = pb = 0$  and the map  $f: r \mapsto r^p$ .  $f(a+b) = (a+b)^p = \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{p}{i} a^i b^{p-i}$ . Since p is a prime so  $p \mid p!$  and  $p \nmid i!(p-i)!$ ,  $p \mid \binom{p}{i}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \ldots, p-1$ . So  $f(a+b) = a^p + b^p = f(a) + f(b)$ ,  $f(ab) = (ab)^p = a^p b^p = f(a)f(b)$ , f is a homomorphism of rings.

**Exercise 3.1.15.** (a) Give an example of nonzero homomorphism  $f: R \to S$  of rings with the identity such that  $f(1_R) \neq 1_S$ .

- (b) If  $f: R \to S$  is an epimorphism of rings with identity, then  $f(1_R) = 1_S$ .
- (c) If  $f: R \to S$  is a homomorphism of rings with identity and u is a unit in R such that f(u) is a unit in S, then  $f(1_R) = 1_S$  and  $f(u^{-1}) = f(u)^{-1}$ .

**Answer.** (a) For  $f: Z_2 \to Z_6$  defined by f(0) = 0, f(1) = 3. f is a homomorphism of ring which satisfies the condition.

- (b)  $\forall s \in S, \exists r \in R \text{ such that } f(r) = s, \text{ so } f(r)f(1_R) = f(1_R)f(r) = f(r) = s, \text{ so } f(1_R) = 1_S \text{ is the identity of } S.$
- (c)  $f(u)f(u^{-1}) = f(u^{-1})f(u) = f(1_R)$ .  $\exists s \in S$  such that  $f(u)s = sf(u) = 1_S$ ,  $sf(u)f(u^{-1}) = sf(1_R) = f(u^{-1})$ ,  $sf(1_R)f(u) = f(u^{-1})f(u) = f(1_R) = sf(u) = 1_S$ . Thus  $f(u^{-1} = s)$ ,  $f(u^{-1}) = f(u)^{-1}$ .

**Exercise 3.1.16.** Let  $f: R \to S$  be a homomorphism of rings such that  $f(r) \neq 0$  for some nonzero  $r \in R$ . If R has an identity and S has no zero divisors, then S is a ring with identity  $f(1_R)$ .

**Answer.**  $f(1_R)f(1_R) = f(1_R)$ , so  $f(1_R)(f(1_R) - 1_S) = 0 \Rightarrow f(1_R) = 1_S$ .

**Exercise 3.1.17.** (a) If R is a ring, then so is  $R^{op}$  is defined as follows. The underlying set of  $R^{op}$  is precisely R and addition in  $R^{op}$  coincides with addition in R. Multiplication in  $R^{op}$ , denoted  $\circ$ , is defined by  $a \circ b = ba$ , where ba is the product in R.  $R^{op}$  is called the **opposite ring** of R.

- (b) R has identity if and only if  $R^{op}$  does.
- (c) R is a division ring if and only if  $R^{op}$  is.
- (d)  $(R^{op})^{op} = R$ .
- (e) If S is a ring, then  $R \cong S$  if and only if  $R^{op} \cong S^{op}$ .

Answer. (a) Trivial.

- (b) If  $1_R$  is the identity of R. Take  $1_{R^{op}} = 1_R$  then  $\forall a \in R^{op}$ ,  $1_{R^{op}} \circ a = a1_R = a = 1_R a = a \circ 1_{R^{op}}$ . So  $1_{R^{op}}$  is the identity of  $R^{op}$ .
- (c)  $\forall a \in R^{op}$ , take  $a^{-1} \in R$ ,  $a^{-1} \circ a = aa^{-1} = 1_R = a^{-1}a = a \circ a^{-1}$ . So a is a unit,  $R^{op}$  is a division ring.
- (d) Denote \* is the multiplication in  $(R^{op})^{op}$ .

$$a*b=b\circ a=ab\in R$$

The multiplications are identical. The underlying set and addition of R and  $(R^{op})^{op}$  are identical. So  $R = (R^{op})^{op}$ .

(e) If  $R \cong S$ , there exists isomorphism  $f: R \to S$ . We verify that  $f'R^{op} \to S^{op}$  defined by f' = f is an isomorphism. f' = f is obviously a bijection.  $f'(a) \circ f'(b) = f(b)f(a) = f(ba) = f'(a \circ b)$ . f' is a well defined homomorphism, so  $R^{op} \cong S^{op}$ .

**Exercise 3.1.18.** Let **Q** be the field of rational numbers and R any ring. If  $f, g : \mathbf{Q} \to R$  are homomorphisms of rings such that  $f | \mathbf{Z} = g | \mathbf{Z}$ , then f = g.

**Answer.** f(n) = g(n) for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  $g(n)g(\frac{1}{n}) = g(1) \Rightarrow f(n)g(\frac{1}{n}) = g(1) = f(1)$ , so  $f(\frac{1}{n})f(n)g(\frac{1}{n}) = g(\frac{1}{n}) = f(\frac{1}{n})$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus f = g.

#### 3.2 Ideals

Exercise 3.2.1. The set of all nilpotent elements in a commutative ring forms an ideal.

**Answer.** Assume the set is I, then  $\forall a, b \in I$ ,  $a^m = b^n = 0$ ,  $(a+b)^{m+n} = 0$  and  $(ab)^{mn} = 0$  so  $a+b \in I$ ,  $ab \in I$ . I is a subring.  $\forall x \in R$ ,  $(xa)^m = x^m a^m = 0$ ,  $(ax)^m = a^m x^m = 0$ , so  $xa \in I$  and  $ax \in I$ , I is an ideal.

**Exercise 3.2.2.** Let I be an ideal in a commutative ring R and let  $RadI = \{r \in R | r^n \in I \text{ for some } n\}$ . Show that RadI is an ideal.

**Answer.** Rad *I* is a ring since *R* is a commutative ring. For  $r \in \text{Rad}I$  and  $\forall x \in R$ ,  $(xr)^n = x^n r^n \in I$  so  $xr \in \text{Rad}I$ ,  $(rx)^n = r^n x^n \in I$  so  $rx \in \text{Rad}I$ . Thus Rad *I* is an ideal.

**Exercise 3.2.3.** If R is a ring and  $a \in R$ , then  $J = \{r \in R | ra = 0\}$  is a left ideal and  $K = \{r \in R | ar = 0\}$  is a right ideal in R.

**Answer.** J is a subring of R. For  $r \in J$  and  $\forall x \in R$ , (xr)a = x(ra) = 0 so  $xr \in J$ , J is a left ideal. Similarly, I is a right ideal.

**Exercise 3.2.4.** If I is a left ideal of R, then  $A(I) = \{r \in R | rx = 0 \text{ for every } x \in I\}$  is an ideal in R.

**Answer.** For any  $a, b \in A(I)$ , we have  $ab \in A(I)$  and  $a + b \in A(I)$ . For  $r \in A(I)$  and  $\forall x \in R$ , (xr)x' = x(rx') = 0 for every  $x' \in I$ , so  $xr \in A(I)$ . (rx)x' = r(xx'),  $xx' \in I$  so rxx' = 0,  $rx \in A(I)$ . Thus A(I) is an ideal of R.

**Exercise 3.2.5.** If I is an ideal in a ring R, let  $[R:I] = \{r \in R | xr \in I \text{ for every } x \in R\}$ . Prove that [R:I] is an ideal of R which contains I.

**Answer.** I is a subring of R so [R:I] is also a subring of R. For  $r \in [R:I]$  and  $x, x' \in R$ ,  $x'xr = (x'x)r \in I$  so  $xr \in [R:I]$ ,  $x'rx = (x'r)x \in I$  so  $rx \in [R:I]$ . [R:I] is an ideal of R. Since  $\forall r \in I$ ,  $xr \in I$  and  $rx \in I$ ,  $I \subset [R:I]$ .

**Exercise 3.2.6.** (a) The center of the ring S of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices over a field F consists of all matrices of the form  $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix}$ .

- (b) Then center of S is not an ideal in S.
- (c) What is the center of the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over a division ring?

Answer. (a) 
$$\forall x \in M_F(2,2), x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_3 & x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} ax_1 & ax_2 \\ ax_3 & ax_4 \end{pmatrix}$$
so  $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix} \in C(M_F(2,2)).$ 

$$\forall \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} \in C(M_F(2,2)), \text{ take } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in M_F(2,2)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1_F & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 \\ a_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1_F & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so  $a_2 = a_3 = 0$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_1 \\ 0 & a_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_F \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_3 & a_4 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so  $a_1 = a_4$ . All the elements of  $C(M_F(2,2))$  has the form  $\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix}$ .

(b) For  $c \in C(S)$ . If S is not commutative,  $\forall x, x' \in R$ , we need  $xc \in C(S) \Rightarrow x'xc = xcx' = xx'c$ , however, this may not always true.

(c) By multiplying 
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1_F & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
,  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & 1_F & \\ & & \ddots \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , ...,  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 1_F \end{pmatrix}$ , we can have  $C(M_F(2,2))$  consist of all the elements in the form of  $a\begin{pmatrix} 1_F & & \\ & 1_F & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$ .

Exercise 3.2.7. (a) A ring R with identity is a division ring if and only if R has no proper left ideals.

(b) If S is a ring (possibly without identity) with no proper left ideals, then either  $S^2=0$  or S is a division ring.

**Answer.** (a) Suppose not. I is an ideal in R.  $\forall r \in I$ , take  $r^{-1} \in R$ , then  $1_R \in I$  so I = R is not a proper ideal.

(b)  $I = \{a \in S | Sa = 0\}$  is a left ideal since  $\forall x, x' \in S$ , x'(xs) = (x'x)s = 0,  $xs \in I$ . Thus I = 0 or I = S. If I = S, then  $S^2 = 0$ . If I = 0, we prove S has no zero divisor.

For the set  $I' = \{r \in S | rb = 0\}$ ,  $I' \subset I$ . I' is a subring of S, and I' is also a left ideal of S. So I' = 0, b has no left zero divisors.  $\forall a \in S$ , Sa is a left ideal of S.  $Sa \neq 0$  so Sa = S. Thus,  $\exists 1_S \in S$ , such that  $1_Sa = a$ . Since  $s_1 - s_2$  has no left zero divisor,  $as_1 = as_2 \Rightarrow s_1 = s_2$ . So aS = S. For all  $s \in S$ ,  $\exists s'$  s.t. s = as' so  $\forall s \in S$ ,  $1_S \cdot s = 1_S as' = as' = s$ . aS = S so  $\exists 1_S' \in S$ ,  $a1_S' = a$ . Similarly,  $\forall s \in S$ ,  $s1_S = s$ . Then  $1_S1_S' = 1_S = 1_S'$  so S has identity. Since Sa = aS = S, we can have S is a division ring.

**Exercise 3.2.8.** Let R be a ring with identity and S the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over R. J is an ideals of S if and only if J is the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over I for some ideal I in R.

**Answer.** If J is an ideal. Denote  $E_{r,s}$  as the matrix which has  $1_R$  as the r column and s row. Then  $\forall A = (a_{ij}), E_{p,r}AE_{s,q}$  is a matrix with  $a_{rs}$  in the p column and q row. So for  $A \in J$   $(aE_{p,r})A(bE_{s,q})$  is the matrix with  $aa_{rs}b$ 

in the p column and q row.  $aa_{rs}b \in I$ . Then because of closure we know J contains all  $n \times n$  matrices over I.

If J consists of all  $n \times n$  matrices over I, the proof is trivial.

**Exercise 3.2.9.** Let S be the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over a division ring D.

- (a) S has no proper ideals (that is, 0 is the maximal ideal).
- (b) S has zero divisors. Consequently, (i)  $S \cong S/0$  is not a division ring and (ii) 0 is a prime ideal which does not satisfy condition (1) of Theorem 2.15.
- **Answer.** (a) J is an ideal of S so J consists of all  $n \times n$  matrices over I where I is an ideal of D. From **Exercise 3.2.7**, D has no proper ideal so  $I = 0 \Rightarrow J = 0$ .
- (b) For  $A = (a_{ij})$  with  $a_{ri} = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2 \cdots$  and other entries doesn't equals to zero, we have  $E_{1r}A = 0$ . S has no zero divisors.

**Exercise 3.2.10.** (a) Show that **Z** is a principle ideal ring.

- (b) Every homomorphic image of a principle ideal ring is also a principle ideal ring.
- (c)  $Z_m$  is a principle ideal ring for every m > 0.

**Answer.** (a) For any ideal I in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , I is a subring so  $I = m\mathbb{Z}$  where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  $m\mathbb{Z} = (m)$  is a principle ideal so  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a PID.

(b) For  $f: R \to S$  with f(r) = s and R is a principle ideal ring. Consider  $f: R \to \operatorname{Im} f \subset S$ . For any ideal  $J \subset \operatorname{Im} f$ ,  $f^{-1}(J)$  is an ideal since  $\forall a \in f^{-1}(J)$  and  $r \in R$ ,  $f(ar) = f(a)f(r) \in J \Rightarrow ar \in f^{-1}(J)$ .  $f^{-1}(J)$  is a principle ideal, assume  $f^{-1}(J) = (a)$ . Then  $\forall r \in R$ ,  $ar \in (a)$ ,  $ra \in (a)$ .  $f(ar) = f(a)f(r) \in J$  and  $f(ra) = f(r)f(a) \in J$  since  $f(a) \in J$  and  $f(r) \in S$ . So  $(f(a)) \subset J$ .  $J = f((a)) = \{f(ra + as + na + \sum_{i=1}^{m} r_i as_i) | r, s, r_i, s_i \in R, n \in \mathbf{Z}\} = \{f(r)f(a) + f(a)f(s) + nf(a) + \sum_{i=1}^{m} f(r_i)f(a_i)f(s_i) | r, s, r_i, s_i \in R, n \in \mathbf{Z}\} \subset (f(a))$ . So J = (f(a)) is a principle ideal. The image of a principle ideal ring is also a principle ideal ring.

**Exercise 3.2.11.** If N is the ideal of all nilpotent elements in a commutative ring R, then R/N is a ring with no nonzero nilpotent elements.

**Answer.** Suppose not.  $\exists r \in R, r \notin N, (r+N)^n = 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$(r+N)^n = r^n + N = N \Rightarrow r^n \in N$$

so for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $r^{nm} = 0 \Rightarrow r \in \mathbb{N}$ . That's contradictory!

**Exercise 3.2.12.** Let R be a ring without identity and with no zero divisors. Let S be the ring whose additive group is  $R \times \mathbf{Z}$  as in the proof of Theorem 1.10. Let  $A = \{(r, n) \in S | rx + nx = 0 \text{ for every } x \in R\}$ .

- (a) A is an ideal in S.
- (b) S/A has an identity and contains a subring isomorphic to R.
- (c) S/A has no zero divisors.

**Answer.** (a) For  $(r,n), (r',n') \in S$ , (r'+r)x + (n'+j)x = rx + nx + r'x + n'x = 0, so  $(r+r',n+n') \in A$ . (r,n)(r'n') = (rr'+nr'+n'r,nn'), rr'x + n'rx + nr'x + nn'x = r(r'x+n'x) + n(r'x+n'x) = 0, so  $(r,n)(r',n') \in A$ . A is a subring of  $R \times \mathbf{Z}$ .  $\forall (r_1,n_1) \in R \times \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $(r_1,n_1)(r,n) = (r_1r+nr_1+n_1r,nn_1) \Rightarrow r_1rx + nr_1x + n_1rx + nn_1x = r_1(rx+nx) + n_1(rx+nx) = 0 \Rightarrow (r_1,n_1)(r,n) \in A$ . A is an ideal of  $R \times \mathbf{Z}$ .

(b) Take  $0_R \in R$  and  $(0_R, 1) \in S$ . Then  $(0_R, 1) + A$  is an identity of S/A.

$$\forall (r,n) \in S, \quad (r,n)(0_R,1) = (0_R,1)(r,n) = (r,n)$$

(c) For any (r,n),(s,m) satisfy that  $(r,n)(s,m) \in A$ , we prove that  $(r,n) \in A$  or  $(s,m) \in A$ . Suppose  $sx + mx \neq 0$ ,  $r(sx + mx) + n(sx + mx) = 0 \Rightarrow (sx + mx)r(sx + mx) + n(sx + mx)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow ((sx + mx)r + n(sx + mx))(sx + mx) = 0 \Rightarrow (sx + mx)r + n(sx + mx) = 0$ . For any  $x \in R$ ,  $(sx+mx)rx+n(sx+mx)x = 0 \Rightarrow (sx+mx)(rx+nx) = 0 \Rightarrow rx+nx = 0$ , so  $(r,n) \in A$ . S/A has no divisor.

**Exercise 3.2.13.** Let  $f: R \to S$  be a homomorphism of rings, I and ideal in R, and J an ideal in S.

- (a)  $f^{-1}(J)$  is and ideal in R that contains Ker f.
- (b) If f is an epimorphism, then f(I) is an ideal in S. If f is not surjective, f(I) need not be an ideal.

**Answer.** (a)  $\forall a \in f^{-1}(J)$  and  $r \in R$ ,  $f(ar) = f(a)f(r) \in J \Rightarrow ar \in J$ . Similarly,  $ra \in J$ ,  $f^{-1}(J)$  is an ideal. Ker  $f \subset f^{-1}(J)$  since  $0_S \in J$ .

- (b)  $\forall b \in f(I)$  and  $s \in S$ , f is a epimorphism so s = f(r), b = f(a) for some  $r, a \in R$ . sb = f(r)f(a) = f(ar),  $ar \in I \Rightarrow sb \in f(I)$ , similarly  $bs \in f(I)$ . f(I) is an ideal.
  - If f is not surjective. Take Z[x] and  $\mathbf{Z}$  which is a subring but not an ideal in Z[x].  $\mathbf{Z}$  is an ideal of itself,  $f = 1_{\mathbf{Z}}$  satisfies the condition.

**Exercise 3.2.14.** If P is an ideal in a not necessarily commutative ring R, then the following conditions are equivalent.

- (a) P is a prime ideal.
- (b) If  $r, s \in R$  are such that  $rRs \subset R$ , then  $r \in P$  or  $s \in P$ .
- (c) If (r) and (s) are principle ideals of R such that  $(r)(s) \subset P$ , then  $r \in P$  or  $s \in P$ .
- (d) If U and V are right ideals in R such that  $UV \subset R$ , then  $U \subset R$  or  $V \subset R$ .
- (e) If U and V are left ideals in R such that  $UV \subset R$ , then  $U \subset R$  or  $V \subset R$ .

Exercise 3.2.15. The set consisting of zero and all zero divisors in a commutative ring with identity contains at least one prime ideal.

**Answer.** Denote S = R - Z.  $\forall a, b \in S$ , we prove that  $ab \in S$ . Suppose  $\exists (ab)c = 0$  for some  $c \in R$ , a, b are not zero divisors so abc = b(ac) = a(bc) = 0, so ac = 0,  $bc = 0 \Rightarrow c = 0$ , so ab is not a zero divisor. Thus Z = R - S contains an prime ideal.

**Exercise 3.2.16.** Let R be a commutative ring with identity and suppose that the ideal A of R is contained in a finite union of prime ideals  $P_1 \cup \cdots \cup P_n$ . Show that  $A \subset P_i$  for some i.

**Answer.** Suppose not. We choose the smallest I such that for all  $i \in I$ ,  $P_i \cap A \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \cap P_i \not\subset \bigcup_{j \neq i} P_j$  for any  $i \in I$ . So  $\exists a_i \in (A \cap P_i) - (\bigcup_{j \neq i} P_j)$ ,  $\forall i \in I$ . Take  $x = a_1 + a_2 a_3 \cdots a_n$ ,  $x \in A$  since  $a_i \in A$  for all  $i \in I$ . And  $x \notin P_i$  for  $i = 2, 3, \ldots, n$  since  $a_1 \notin P_i$ ,  $i = 2, 3, \ldots, n$ .  $x \notin P_1$  since  $P_1$  is prime and  $a_2, \ldots, a_n \notin P_1$ . So  $x \notin \bigcup_{i \neq i} P_j$ , which is contradictory!

**Exercise 3.2.17.** Let  $f: R \to S$  be an epimorphism of rings with kernel K.

- (a) If P is a prime ideal in R that contains K, then f(P) is a prime ideal in S.
- (b) If Q is a prime ideal in S, then  $f^{-1}(Q)$  is a prime ideal in R that contains K.
- (c) There is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of all prime ideals in R that contain K and the set of all prime ideals in S, given by  $P \mapsto f(P)$ .
- (d) If I is an ideal in a ring R, then every prime ideal in R/I is of the form P/I, where P is a prime ideal in R that contains I.
- **Answer.** (a) From Exercise 3.2.13 we know f(P) is an ideal.  $\forall x, y \in f(P)$ ,  $\exists a.b \in R$ , x = f(a), y = f(b) and  $a, b \notin P$ . Assume  $\exists p \in P$  such that f(ab) = f(p), then f(ab p) = 0,  $ab p \in \operatorname{Ker} f \subset P \Rightarrow ab \in P$ . That's contradictory to  $a, b \notin P$  so  $xy \notin f(P)$ . f(P) is prime.
- (b) From **Exercise 3.2.13**,  $f^{-1}(Q)$  is an ideal. Take  $g: S \to S/Q$  and  $gf: R \to S/Q$ . By the Theorem of homomorphism,  $R/f^{-1}(Q) \cong S/Q$  is a ring without divisor, so  $f^{-1}(Q)$  is prime.
- (c) From (a), (b), f is a one-to-one map between prime ideals given by  $P \mapsto f(P)$ .
- (d) Consider the homomorphism  $f: R \to R/I$ . For any prime ideal  $P \subset R$  and f(P) is an prime ideal in R,  $\operatorname{Ker} f = I$  so for prime ideals  $I \subset P \subset R$ . P can have one to one correspondence with  $f(P) = P/I \subset R/I$ . So all the prime ideals has the form P/I.

**Exercise 3.2.18.** An ideal  $M \neq R$  in a commutative ring R with identity is maximal if and only if for every  $r \in R - M$ , there exists  $x \in R$  such that  $1_R - rx \in M$ .

**Answer.** If M is maximal, then M is prime. So rR + M = R, r(R - M) + M = R and  $r(R - M) \cap M = \varnothing$ . Take  $1_R \in R$  we have  $x \in R - M$ ,  $1_R - xr \in M$ . If  $\forall r \in R - M$ ,  $\exists x \in R$  such that  $1_R - rx \in M$ . Suppose  $M \subset I \subset R$  where I is an ideal,  $I \neq R$  so  $1_R \notin R$ . Take  $r \in I - M \subset R - M$ , then  $\forall x \in R$ ,  $rx \in I$ , so  $1_R - rx \notin I$  thus  $1_R - rx \notin M$ . That's contradictory!

**Exercise 3.2.19.** The ring E of even integers contains a maximal ideal M such that E/M is not a field.

**Answer.**  $E=2\mathbf{Z}$  and M is a maximal ideal in E and for any subring of E has the form  $wn\mathbf{Z}$  where  $n\in\mathbf{Z}$ .  $2n\mathbf{Z}$  is an ideal in  $2\mathbf{Z}$ . Take n=15, (2,15)=1 so  $2\mathbf{Z}/30\mathbf{Z}\cong\mathbf{Z}/15\mathbf{Z}$  which is not a field since  $3\cdot 5=0$  is a zero divisor.

**Exercise 3.2.20.** In the ring **Z** the following conditions on a nonzero ideal I are equivalent: (i) I is prime; (ii) I is maximal; (iii) I = (p) with p prime.

**Answer. Z** is an integer domain so (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i).

 $(i) \Rightarrow (iii)$ : Trivial.

(iii) $\Rightarrow$ (ii): For any  $n \notin (p)$ , we have  $p \nmid n$  thus  $\exists x, y \in \mathbf{Z}$  such that px + my = 1. Consider an ideal I and  $(p) \subset I$ ,  $n \in I$ , then  $1 \in I$  so  $I = \mathbf{Z}$  which means (p) is maximal.

**Exercise 3.2.21.** Determine all prime and maximal ideals in the ring  $Z_m$ .

**Answer.**  $Z_m^2 = Z_m$  so every maximal ideal is prime in  $Z_m$ .  $Z_m \cong \mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z}$  via  $\varphi : \bar{x} \mapsto mz + x$ . From **Exercise 3.2.17**, all the prime ideals in  $\mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z}$  are  $P/m\mathbf{Z}$ , where P is a prime ideal contains  $m\mathbf{Z} = (m)$ .

If m is prime, (m) is prime, too. So no such ideal exist.

If  $m = p_1^{s_1} p_2^{s_2} \cdots p_n^{s_n}$  where  $p_i$  are primes, then  $(p_1), (p_2), \dots, (p_n)$  are prime ideals and  $f((\bar{p_i})) = (p_i)/m\mathbf{Z}$  are prime ideals. So all the prime ideals in  $Z_m$  are  $(\bar{p_i}), i, 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

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**Exercise 3.2.22.** (a) If  $R_1, \ldots, R_n$  are rings with identity and I is an ideal in  $R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n$ , then  $I = A_1 \times \cdots \times A_m$ , where each  $A_i$  is an ideal in  $R_i$ .

(b) Show that the conclusion of (a) need not hold if the rings  $R_i$  do not have identities.

**Exercise 3.2.23.** An element e in a ring R is said to be **idempotent** if  $e^2 = e$ . An element of the center of the ring R is said to be central. If e is a central idempotent in a ring R with identity, then

- (a)  $1_R e$  is a central idempotent;
- (b) eR and  $(1_R e)R$  are ideals in R such that  $R = eR \times (1_R e)R$ .

**Answer.** (a)  $(1_R - e)^2 = 1_R - 2e + e^2 = 1_R - 2e + e = 1_R - e$ .  $\forall x \in R$ , ex = xe so  $(1_R - e)x = x - ex = x - xe = x(1_R - e)$ .  $1_R - e$  is a central idempotent.

(b)  $eR \cup (1_R - e)R \subset R$  so  $\langle eR \cap (1_R - e)R \rangle \subset R$ .  $R = eR + (1_R - e)R$  so  $R \subset \langle eR \cap (1_R - e)R \rangle$ . So  $R = \langle eR \cap (1_R - e)R \rangle$ .  $\langle eR \rangle = eR$  and  $\langle (1_R - e)R \rangle = (1_R - e)R$  so  $\langle eR \rangle \cap \langle (1_R - e)R \rangle = 0$ . Thus  $R = eR \times (1_R - e)R$ .

**Exercise 3.2.24.** Idempotent elements  $e_1, \ldots, e_n$  in a ring R are said to be **orthogonal** if  $e_i e_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . If  $R, R_1, \ldots, R_n$  are rings with identity, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a)  $R \cong R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n$ .
- (b) R contains a set of orthogonal central idempotents  $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$  such that  $e_1 + e_2 + \cdots + e_n = 1_R$  and  $e_i R \cong R$  for each i.
- (c) R is the internal direct product  $R = A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n$  where each  $A_i$  is an ideal of R such that  $A_i \cong R_i$ .

**Answer.** Assume  $f: R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n \to R$  is an isomorphism. (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b): Denote  $\bar{e_1} = (1_R, 0, \dots, 0), \bar{e_2} = (0, 1_R, \dots, 0), \dots, \bar{e_n} = (0, 0, \dots, 1_R)$ . They are orthogonal central idempotent in  $S = R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n$  and  $f(\bar{e_n}) = e_n, e_1 + e_2 + \cdots + e_n = 1_S, \sum_{i=1}^n e_i S = S$ . Take  $\varphi_i: (r_1, r_2, \dots, r_i, \dots, r_n) \mapsto r_i$ . Then  $\varphi_i$  is a well defined isomorphism between  $e_i S$  and  $R_i$ .  $e_i R \cong \bar{e}_i S \cong R_i$ . (b) $\Rightarrow$ (c): Take  $A_i = e_i R$ , then  $A_i \cong R_i$ . We need to prove  $R = e_i R \times e_2 R \times \dots \times e_n R$ .  $e_i R \cap (e_1 R + e_2 R + \dots + e_{i-1} R + e_{i+1} R + \dots + e_n R) = 0$  since  $e_i x_i = e_1 x_1 + e_2 x_2 + \dots + e_{i-1} x_{i-1} + e_{i+1} x_{i+1} + \dots + e_n x_n \Rightarrow e_i^2 x_i = 0$ .

 $R = 1_R R = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i R$  so  $R = e_i R \times e_2 R \times \cdots \times e_n R$ . (c) $\Rightarrow$ (a): Trivial.

**Exercise 3.2.25.** If  $m \in \mathbf{Z}$  has a prime decomposition  $m = p_1^{k_1} \cdots p_t^{k_t} (k_i > 0)$ ;  $p_i$  distinct primes, then there is an isomorphism of rings  $Z_m \cong Z_{p_1^{k_1}} \times \cdots \times Z_{p_t^{k_t}}$ .

**Answer.** For any  $m \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $\mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \cong Z_m$ .  $p_1^{k_1}\mathbf{Z} \cap \cdots \cap p_t^{k_t}\mathbf{Z} = m\mathbf{Z}$ . So  $\exists \varphi: Z_m \mapsto Z_{p_i^{k_1}} \times \cdots \times Z_{p_t^{k_t}}$ .  $\forall i,j \in I$ ,  $p_i^{k_i} \in p_i^{k_i}\mathbf{Z}$  and  $p_j^{k_j} \in p_j^{k_j}\mathbf{Z}$ ,  $\exists x,y \in \mathbf{Z}$  such that  $xp_i^{k_i} + yp_j^{k_j} = 1 \in \mathbf{Z}$ . So  $p_i^{k_i}\mathbf{Z} + p_j^{k_j}\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism so  $Z_m \cong Z_{p_1^{k_1}} \times \cdots \times Z_{p_t^{k_t}}$ .

**Exercise 3.2.26.** If  $R = \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $A_1 = (6)$  and  $A_2 = (4)$ , then the map  $\theta : R/A_1 \cap A_2 \to R_1/A_1 \times R_2/A_2$  of Corollary 2.27 is not surjective.

**Answer.**  $R/(A_1 \cap A_2) = Z_{12}$ ,  $R/A_1 = Z_6$  and  $R/A_2 = Z_4$ .  $|Z_6 \times Z_4| = |Z_6| \times |Z_4| = 24$  but  $|Z_{12}| = 12$ , so  $\theta$  is surjective.

## 3.3 Factorization in commutative rings

Exercise 3.3.1. A nonzero ideal in a principle ideal domain is maximal if and only if it is prime.

**Answer.** For PID R,  $R^2 = R$  so every maximal ideal is prime. If  $I = (p) \neq 0$  is prime in R, then p is prime so p is irreducible and (p) is maximal.

Exercise 3.3.2. An integral domain R is unique factorization domain if and only if every non zero prime ideal in R contains a nonzero principle ideal that is prime.

**Answer.** Suppose R is a unique factorization domain and  $P \neq 0$  is a prime ideal. Let  $x \in P$  be a nonzero nonunit. Then x can be factored into  $x = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n$  a product of prime elements. Then  $x \in P$  implies  $p_i \in P$  for some i, so  $(p_i) \subset P$ .

Conversely, assume that each nonzero prime ideal of R contains a principle prime ideal.

**Lemma.** Let R be a commutative ring and  $S \subset R \setminus \{0\}$  a multiplicatively closed subset containing  $1_R$ . Let  $\mathcal{I}_S$  be the set of ideals of R which are disjoint from S. Then

- (a)  $\mathcal{I}_S$  is nonempty.
- (b) Every element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$  is contained in a maximal element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$ .
- (c) Every maximal element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$  is prime.

Here's the proof of the lemma:

- (a) Trivial.
- (b) Let  $I \in \mathcal{I}_S$ . Consider the subposet  $P_I$  of  $\mathcal{I}_S$  consisting of ideals which contain I. Since  $I \in P_I$ ,  $P_I$  is nonempty; moreover, any chain in  $P_I$  has an upper bound,namely the union of all of its elements. Therefore by Zorn's lemma,  $P_I$  has a maximal element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$ , which is clearly also a maximal element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$ .
- (c) Let I be a maximal element of  $\mathcal{I}_S$ ; suppose that  $x, y \in R$  are such that  $xy \in I$ . If x is not in I, then  $\langle I, x \rangle \supseteq I$  and therefore contains an element  $s_1$  of S, say

$$s_1 = i_1 + ax$$

Similarly, if y is not in I, then we get an element  $s_2$  of S of the form

$$s_2 = i_2 + by$$

But then

$$s_1s_2 = i_1i_2 + (by)i_1 + (ax)i_2 + (ab)xy \in I \cap S$$

a contradiction!

A multiplicative subset S is saturated if for all  $x \in S$  and  $y \in R$ , if  $y \mid x$  then  $y \in S$ . We define the saturation  $\bar{S}$  of a multiplicatively closed subset S to be the intersection of all saturated multiplicatively closed subsets containing S. Let S be the set of units of R together with all product of prime elements. One checks easily that S is saturated multiplicative subset. We should show that  $S = \frac{R}{\sqrt{0}}$ . Suppose then for a contradiction that there exists a nonzero nonunit  $x \in R \setminus S$ . Then saturation of S implies that  $S \cap (x) = \emptyset$ , and then there exists a prime ideal P contains x and disjoint from S. But by the hypothesis, P contains a prime element p, contradictting its disjointness from S.

**Exercise 3.3.3.** Let R be the subring  $\{a + b\sqrt{10} | a, b \in \mathbf{Z}\}$  of the field of real numbers

- (a) The map  $N: R \to Z$  given by  $a + b\sqrt{10} \mapsto (a + b\sqrt{10})(a b\sqrt{10}) = a^2 10b^2$  is such that N(uv) = N(u)N(v) for all  $u, v \in R$  and N(u) = 0 if and only if u = 0.
- (b) u is a unit in R if and only if  $N(u) = \pm 1$ .
- (c)  $2, 3, 4 + \sqrt{10}$  and  $4 \sqrt{10}$  are irreducible elements of R.
- (d)  $2, 3, 4 + \sqrt{10}$  and  $4 \sqrt{10}$  are not prime elements of R.

**Answer.** (a) Assume  $u = a_1 + b_1 \sqrt{10}$ ,  $v = a_2 + b_2 \sqrt{10}$ .

$$N(uv) = N(a_1a_2 + 10b_1b_2 + (a_1b_2 + a_2b_1)\sqrt{10})$$
  
=  $(a_1a_1 + 10b_1b_2)^2 - 10(a_1b_2 + a_2b_1)^2$   
=  $a_1^2a_2^2 + 100b_1^2b_2^2 - 10a_1^2b_2^2 - 10a_2^2b_1^2$ 

$$N(u)N(v) = (a_1^2 - 10b_1^2)(a_2^2 - 10b_2^2) = N(uv)$$

- (b) If u is a unit of R,  $N(uu^{-1}) = N(1) = N(u)N(u^{-1}) = 1$ . N(u) and  $N(u^{-1}) \in \mathbf{Z}$  so  $N(u) = \pm 1$ .
- (c) Suppose  $4 + \sqrt{10} = (a_1 + b_1\sqrt{10})(a_2 + b_2\sqrt{10})$  where  $N(a_1 + b_1\sqrt{10})$ ,  $N(a_2 + b_2\sqrt{10}) \neq \pm 1$ .  $N(4 + \sqrt{10}) = 6 = N(a_1 + b_1\sqrt{10})N(a_2 + b_2\sqrt{10})$

so  $N(a_1 + b_1\sqrt{10}) = \pm 2$  and  $N(a_2 + b_2\sqrt{10}) = \pm 3$ . WLOG, assume  $N(a_1 + b_1\sqrt{10}) = 2$  and  $N(a_2 + b_2\sqrt{10}) = 3$ .

$$a_1^2 = 10b_1^2 + 2 \Rightarrow a_1^2 \equiv 2 \mod 10$$

$$a_2^2 = 10b_2^2 + 3 \Rightarrow a_2^2 \equiv 3 \mod 10$$

This can't be true! So  $4 + \sqrt{10}$  is irreducible. Similarly,  $2,3,4 - \sqrt{10}$  is irreducible.

(d)  $3 \cdot 2 = (4 + \sqrt{10})(4 - \sqrt{10}) - 6$ , But none of these four numbers divide another.

**Exercise 3.3.4.** Show that in the integral domain of **Exercise 3.3.3** every element can be factored into a product of irreducibles, but this factorization need not be unique.

**Answer.** Suppose a can be factored into  $a_1a_2 \cdots a_n \cdots$  which may not be finite. We only need to prove there are finite  $a_i$  are irreducible.  $N(a) = N(a_1)N(a_2)\cdots N(a_n)\cdots = k \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Assume  $k = k_1k_2\cdots k_m$  and for irreducible  $a_i$ ,  $N(a_i) \neq \pm 1$ , so there are at most m  $a_i$  irreducible. Thus a can be factored into a product of irreducibles.

**Exercise 3.3.5.** Let R be a principle ideal domain.

- (a) Every proper ideal is a product  $P_1P_2\cdots P_n$  of maximal ideals, which are unique ly determined up to order.
- (b) An ideal P in R is said to be primary if  $ab \in P$  and  $a \notin P$  imply  $b^n \in P$  for some n. Show that P is primary if and only if for some n,  $P = (p^n)$  where  $p \in R$  is prime or p = 0.
- (c) If  $P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n$  are primary ideals such that  $P_i = (p_i^{n_i})$  and the  $p_i$  are distinct primes, then  $P_1P_2\cdots P_n = P_1\cap P_2\cap \cdots \cap P_n$ .
- (d) Every proper ideal in R can be expressed (uniquely up to order) as the intersection of a finite number of primary ideals.

**Answer.** (a) For any ideal (a), a can be factored into irreducible product  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ .  $(a_i)$  are maximal in R and  $(a) = (a_1)(a_2) \cdots (a_n)$ .

- (b) If  $P=(p^n)$ . For any  $ab \in P$ ,  $ab=p^nx$  for some  $x \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbf{Z}$ . R is a UFD so  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$  so  $b^n \in P$ . Conversely,  $\forall P=(k)$  we prove  $k=p^t$  for some prime p and  $t \in \mathbf{Z}$ . For any ab=kx, assume  $a=a_1^1 \cdots a_m^{p_m}$ ,  $b=a_1^{q_1} \cdots a_m^{q_m}$  and  $k=a_1^{s_1} \cdots a_m^{s_m}$ ,  $p_i$ ,  $q_i$ ,  $s_i$  are all nonnegative integers. We prove that for all but one i,  $s_i=0$ . Take  $p_i=0$  for  $i=1,2,\ldots,m-1$ ,  $p_m=s_m$ ,  $q_i=s_i$  for  $i=1,2,\ldots,m-1$ ,  $q_m=0$ , then  $ab=k \in (k)$  but a,  $a^n$ , b,  $b^n \notin (k)$  for all  $n \in \mathbf{Z}$ . So  $k=a_i^{s_i}$  for some  $s_i \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $(k)=(a_i^{s_i})$ ,  $a_i$  prime.
- (c)  $P_1 P_2 \cdots P_n \subset P_1 \cap P_2 \cap \cdots \cap P_n$  is trivial. For any  $a \in P_1 \cap \cdots \cap P_n$ ,  $p_i^{n_i} | a, \forall i = 1, 2, ..., n$ .  $p_i^{n_i} \neq p_j^{n_j}$  so  $a = p_1^{n_1} x_1 \Rightarrow p_2^{n_2} | x_2 \Rightarrow a = p_1^{n_1} p_2^{n_2} x_2 \cdots \Rightarrow a = p_1^{n_1} p_2^{n_2} \cdots p_n^{n_n} x_n \in P_1 P_2 \cdots P_n$ . So  $P_1 P_2 \cdots P_n \subset P_1 \cap P_2 \cap \cdots \cap P_n$ ,  $P_1 \cdots P_n = P_1 \cap \cdots \cap P_n$ .
- (d) For any ideal  $(a) \subset R$ ,  $(a) = P_1 P_2 \cdots P_n$  which is the product of maximal ideals. So we can express (a) as the product of  $p'_i = (p_i^{s_i})$  since n is finite.  $(a) = P'_1 P'_2 \cdots P'_m = P'_1 \cap P'_2 \cap \cdots \cap P'_m$ .

**Exercise 3.3.6.** (a) If a and n are integers, n > 0, then there exist integers q and r such that a = qn + r, where  $|r| \le n/2$ .

(b) The Gaussian integers  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  form a Euclidean domain with  $\varphi(a+bi) = a^2 + b^2$ .

Answer. (a) Trivial.

(b) For  $a_1 + b_1 i$ ,  $a_2 + b_2 i \in \mathbf{Z}[i]$ 

$$\varphi(a_1 + b_1 i)(a_2 + b_2 i) = \varphi((a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)i)$$

$$= (a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2)^2 + (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)^2$$

$$= (a_1 a_2)^2 + (b_1 b_2)^2 + (a_1 b_2)^2 + (a_2 b_1)^2$$

$$= (a_1^2 + b_1^2)(a_2^2 + b_2^2)$$

$$= \varphi(a_1 + b_1 i)\varphi(a_2 + b_2 i)$$

For any  $x \in \mathbf{Z}$ , and  $y = a + bi \in \mathbf{Z}[i]$ , from (a)  $a = q_1x + r_1$ ,  $b = q_2x + r_2$  with  $|r_1| \leq \frac{x}{2}$ ,  $|r_2| \leq \frac{x}{2}$ . Let  $q = q_1 + q_2i$ ,  $r = r_1 + r_2i$ , then y = qx + r with r = 0 or  $\varphi(r) = r_1^2 + r_2^2 < \varphi(x)$ .  $\forall x = c + di \neq 0$ , take  $\bar{x} = c - di$ , then there are  $q, r_0 \in \mathbf{Z}[i]$  such that  $y\bar{x} = qx\bar{x} + r_0$  with  $r_0 = 0$  or  $\varphi(r_0) < \varphi(x\bar{x})$ . Let r = y - qx, then y = qx + r and r = 0 or  $\varphi(r) < \varphi(x)$ .

**Exercise 3.3.7.** What are the units in the ring of Gaussian integers  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ ?

**Answer.** From Exercise 3.3.6, we proved that  $\varphi(a+bi) = a^2 + b^2$  satisfies that  $\forall u, v \in \mathbf{Z}[i]$ ,  $\varphi(uv) = \varphi(u)\varphi(v)$ . So if there exist  $u^{-1} = c + di$  such that  $uu^{-1} = 1$ , then  $\varphi(u)\varphi(u^{-1}) = 1$  which means  $(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = 1$ . So  $u = \pm 1$  or  $\pm i$ .

**Exercise 3.3.8.** Let R be the following subring of the complex numbers:  $R = \{a + b(1 + \sqrt{19}i)/2 | a, b \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ . The R is a principle ideal domain that is not a Euclidean domain.

**Answer.** Take  $\varphi(a+b(1+\sqrt{19}i)/2)=a^2+ab+5b^{p2}$ . Denote  $\tilde{R}$  as the collection of units in R together with 0. An element  $u\in R-\tilde{R}$  is called a universal side divisor if for every  $x\in R$  there is some  $z\in \tilde{R}$  such that u divides x-z in R.

Let R be an integral domain that is not a field, if R is a Euclidean domain then there are universal side divisors in R. Since  $\varphi(R) \subset \mathbf{N}$  has a lower bound, we can choose  $u \in R - \tilde{R}$  such that  $\varphi(u)$  minimizes. Then  $\forall x = qu + r, r = 0$  or  $\varphi(r) < \varphi(u)$  so  $r \in \tilde{R}$ . Hence u is a universal side divisor in R. Now we prove  $R = \mathbf{Z}[(1+\sqrt{19}i)/2]$  is not a Euclidean domain by showing R contains no universal side divisor. The units in R are only  $\pm 1$  so  $\tilde{R} = \{\pm 1, 0\}$ .  $\forall a + b(1 + \sqrt{19}i)/2 \in \mathbf{Z}[(1 + \sqrt{19}i)/2] \setminus \mathbf{Z}, \varphi(a + b(1 + \sqrt{19}i)/2) = a^2 + ab + 5b^2 \geq 5$ . So the smallest nonzero value of  $\varphi(x)$  is 1 and 4. Take x = 2 in the definition of universal side divisor, u must divide 2 or 3. If 2 = ab, then  $4 = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$  so the only divisor of 2 are  $\pm 1$ ,  $\pm 2$ . Similarly the only divisor of 2 are  $\pm 1$ ,  $\pm 3$ . So the value of u should be  $\pm 2$  or  $\pm 3$ . Take  $x = (1 + \sqrt{19}i)/2$  and it's easy to check that none of x,  $x \pm 1$  are divisible by  $\pm 2$ ,  $\pm 3$ . Thus none of these is a universal side divisor.

Next we prove R is a principle ideal domain. Define  $\varphi'$  to be a Dedekind-Hasse norm if  $\varphi'$  is a positive norm and for every nonzero  $a, b \in R$  either  $a \in (b)$  or there exist  $s, t \in R$  with  $0 < \varphi'(sa - tb) < \varphi'(b)$ .

For any principle ideal domain R, R has a Dedekind-Hasse norm. Let I be an nonzero ideal in R and b be a nonzero element of I with  $\varphi'(b)$  minimal. Suppose a is any nonzero elements in I, so the ideal (a,b) is contained in I. Then the Dedekind-Hasse condition on  $\varphi'$  and the minimality of b implies that  $a \in (b)$ , so I = (b) is principle.

We prove  $R = \mathbf{Z}[(1+\sqrt{19}i)/2]$  has a Dedekind-Hasse norm  $\varphi$ . Suppose  $\alpha, \beta$  are nonzero elements of R and  $a/\beta \notin R$ . We should show that there

are elements  $s,t\in R$  with  $0<\varphi(s\alpha-t\beta)<\varphi(\beta)$ , which is equivalent to  $0<\varphi(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}s-t)<1$ . Assume  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}=\frac{a+b\sqrt{19}i}{c}\in \mathbf{Q}[\sqrt{19}i]$  with integers a,b,c having no common divisor and with c>1. Since a,b,c have no common divisor there are integers x,y,z with ax+by+ca=1. Write ay-19bx=cq+r for some quatient q and remainder r with  $|r|\leq c/2$  and let  $s=y+x\sqrt{19}i$  and  $t=q-z\sqrt{19}i$ . Then

$$0 < \varphi(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}s - t) = \frac{(ay - 19bx - cq)^2 + 19(ax + by + cz)^2}{c^2} < \frac{1}{4} + \frac{19}{c^2}$$

so when  $c \geq 5$  then condition is satisfied.

Suppose c=2. Then one of a,b is even and the other is odd, and then s=1 and  $t=\frac{(a-1)+b\sqrt{19}i}{2}$  are elements of R satisfying the condition. Suppose c=3. The integer  $a^2+19b^2$  is not divisible by 3. Assume  $a^2+19b^2=1$ 

Suppose c=3. The integer  $a^2+19b^2$  is not divisible by 3. Assume  $a^2+19b^2=3q+r$  with r=1 or r=2. Then  $s=a-b\sqrt{19}i$  and t=q satisfies the condition.

Suppose c=4 so a and b are not both even. If one of a,b is even and the other is odd, then  $a^2+19b^2$  is odd, so we can write  $a^2+19b^2=4q+r$  for some  $q,r\in {\bf Z}$  and 0< r<4. Then  $s=a-b\sqrt{19}i$  and t=q satisfies the condition. If a and b are both odd, then  $a^2+19b^2\equiv 4 \mod 8$ , so we have  $a^2+19b^2=8q+4$  for some  $q\in {\bf Z}$ . Then  $s=(a-b\sqrt{19}i)/2$  and t=q are elements in R satisfying the condition.

**Exercise 3.3.9.** Let R be a unique factorization domain and d a nonzero element of R. There are only a finite number of distinct principle ideals that contain the ideal (d).

**Answer.** Assume  $d = p_1^{s_1} p_2^{s_2} \cdots p_n^{s_n}$ . For some k satisfies that  $(d) \subset (k)$ , we have  $k \mid d$ . So  $kx = p_1^{s_1} p_2^{s_2} \cdots p_n^{s_n}$  for  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ . Thus  $k = p_1^{t_1} \cdots p_n^{t_n}$ , where  $t_i \leq s_i$ , whence the choices of k are finite.

**Exercise 3.3.10.** If R is a unique factorization domain and  $a, b \in R$  are relatively prime and  $a \mid bc$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

**Answer.** Assume  $d = p_1^{s_1} p_2^{s_2} \cdots p_n^{s_n}$ ,  $a|bc \Rightarrow ax = bc$  for some  $x \in R$ . a, b are relatively prime so for any prime ideal  $(p_i)$ ,  $p_i \nmid b$ ,  $c \in (p_i)$ . Assume  $p_i c_1 = c$ ,  $p_i a_1 = a$ , then  $c_1 b = a_1 x$ . Similarly,  $c \in (p_i)$ , we can continue this step so  $c \in (p_i^{s_i})$ .  $c \in (a) = (p_1^{s_1})(p_2^{s_2}) \cdots (p_n^{s_n})$ .

**Exercise 3.3.11.** Let R be a Euclidean ring and  $a \in R$ . Then a is a unit in R if and only if  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(1_R)$ .

**Answer.** If a is a unit, then  $\exists a^{-1} \in R$ ,  $aa^{-1} = 1_R$ .  $a = a \cdot 1_R$  so  $\varphi(1_R) < \varphi(a \cdot 1_R) = \varphi(a)$ ,  $\varphi(a) \le \varphi(aa^{-1}) = \varphi(1_R)$  so  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(1_R)$ . If  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(1_R)$ ,  $\forall x \in R \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $x = x \cdot 1_R$  so  $\varphi(x) \ge \varphi(1_R)$ . Assume  $1_R = qa + r$ ,  $\varphi(r) \ge \varphi(a)$  for all  $r \in R \setminus \{0\}$ . So r = 0,  $1_R = qa$ , a is a unit.

Exercise 3.3.12. Every nonempty set of elements (possibly infinite) in a commutative principle ideal ring with identity has a greatest common divisor.

**Answer.** Denote  $S = \{(a) | \bigcup_{i \in I} (a_i) \subset (a) \}$ . S is nonempty since  $R \in S$ . For finite I, the conclusion is trivial. For infinite I. Assume  $(d) = \bigcap_{A \in S} A$  which is a well defined ideal.  $\bigcap_{i \in I} (a_i) \subset (d)$  so  $(a_i) \subset (d) \Rightarrow d \mid a_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . And  $\forall c \mid a_i$  for all  $i \in I$ ,  $(c) \subset S$  so  $(d) \subset (c)$ ,  $c \mid d$ . d is the greatest common divisor of  $\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$ .

**Exercise 3.3.13.** Let R be a Euclidean domain with associated function  $\varphi: R - \{0\} \to \mathbf{N}$ . If  $a, b \in R$  and  $b \neq 0$ , here is a method for finding the greatest common divisor of a and b. By repeated use of Definition 3.8(ii) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= q_0 b + r_1, & \text{with} & r_1 &= 0 & \text{or} & \varphi(r_1) < \varphi(b); \\ b &= q_1 r_1 + r_2, & \text{with} & r_2 &= 0 & \text{or} & \varphi(r_2) < \varphi(1); \\ r_1 &= q_2 r_2 + r_3, & \text{with} & r_3 &= 0 & \text{or} & \varphi(r_3) < \varphi(2); \\ & & \vdots & \\ r_k &= q_{k+1} r_{k+1} + r_{k+2}, & \text{with} & r_{k+2} &= 0 & \text{or} & \varphi(r_{k+2}) < \varphi(k+1); \\ & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ \end{aligned}$$

Let  $r_0 = b$  and let n be the least integer such that  $r_{n+1} = 0$  (such an n exists since the  $\varphi(r_k)$  form a strictly decreasing squence of nonnegative integers). Show that  $r_n$  is the greatest common divisor a and b.

**Answer.**  $r_n$  exists since  $\varphi(r_i)$  decreases.  $r_n \mid a$  and  $r_n \mid b$  is simple. We prove  $(a) + (b) = (r_n)$ .  $r_n \mid a$ ,  $r_n \mid b$  so  $(a) \subset (r_n)$ ,  $(b) \subset (r_n) \Rightarrow (a) + (b) \subset (r_n)$ . We use induction to prove  $(r_n) \subset (a) + (b)$ : 1. For i = 1,  $a = q_0b + r \Rightarrow r_1 = a - q_0b \in (a) + (b)$ . 2. Assume for  $i \leq m$ ,  $(r_i) \subset (a) + (b)$ ,  $r_{m-1} = q_m r_m + r_{m-1} \Rightarrow r_{m+1} = r_{m-1} - q_m r_m \in (r_m) + (r_{m-1}) \subset (a) + (b)$ . So  $(r_n) \subset (a) + (b)$ .  $r_n$  is the greatest common divisor of a and b.