

1. If $G = \langle a \rangle$ and $b \in G$, then the order of b is a factor of the order of a .

Proof. Let the order of b be l . That is $b^l = e$. Since $b \in G$, b is some m power of a , then $b = a^m$. We can rewrite $b^l = e$ as $(a^m)^l = a^{ml} = e$. Hence, the order of b , l is a factor of the order of a , ml . ■

2. Let G have order 4. Prove that either G is cyclic, or every element of G is its own inverse. Conclude that every group of order 4 is abelian.

Proof. Since G is a finite group, and the possible order of its can only be 1, 2 and 4. If G have an element a of order 1, $a^1 = e$, which is its own inverse. Then, if G have an element a of order 2, $a^2 = e$. We can conclude that a is its own inverse because $a * a = e$. If G have an element a of order 4. Then $\langle a \rangle$ is a subgroup of G and since $|a| = 4$, we have $|\langle a \rangle| = 4$. This means that $\langle a \rangle = G$ and so G is cyclic. Then, Let G have an element b of order 2. Therefore, either G is cyclic, or every element of G is its own inverse.

Cyclic group is abelian because it is all generated by the same generator. If every element is its own inverse. That implies $a, b \in G$, such that, $ab = (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} = ba$. Therefore, every group of order 4 is abelian. ■

3. Let G be finite, and $H, K \leq G$. Suppose H has index p and K has index q , where p and q are distinct primes. Prove that the index of $H \cap K$ is a multiple of pq .

Proof. Let the order of G be n , order of H be l and the order of K be b . Then, we know that the index of H , $p = \frac{n}{l}$ and the index of K , $q = \frac{n}{b}$. We know that $H \cap K$ is a subgroup of H and of K . Then, by the Lagrange's theorem, we can conclude that $|H \cap K|$ is a factor of $|H|$ and of $|K|$. Let $|H \cap K| = z$, we can express $l = zi$ and $b = zj$. Hence, we can rewrite the $p = \frac{n}{zi}$ and $q = \frac{n}{zj}$. Or, $pi = qj = \frac{n}{z}$. We also know that i must be an integer, then p is a factor of qj . However, q is a prime number, p hence must be a factor of j , say $px = j$. Putting it in the equation, we will have $qj = qpx = \frac{n}{z}$. Therefore, $qp = pq$ is a factor of $\frac{n}{z}$, which is the index of $H \cap K$. Then, $H \cap K$ is a multiple of pq . ■