PCMI

ISAIAH DAILEY

Contents

1. Groups

Definition 1.1. A *semigroup* is a set with an associative operation. A *monoid* is a semigroup with an identity element. A *group* is a monoid with inverses. An *abelian* group is a commutative group.

Definition 1.2. For $n \geq 3$, write D_{2n} for the dihedral group of order $2n$ with presentation $\langle r, s \mid r^n, s^2, rsrs^{-1} \rangle$. The elements of D_{2n} are $e, r, \ldots, r^{n-1}, s, sr, \ldots, sr^{n-1}$.

Definition 1.3. The quarternion group Q_8 has elements $\pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k$ with group structure given by

$$-1 \cdot x = -x \ \forall x \in Q_8, \quad (-1)^2 = 1, \quad ij = k, \quad jk = i, \quad ki = j.$$

Definition 1.4. A subset H of a group G is a *subgroup* if H is nonemtpy and $xy^{-1} \in H$ whenever $x, y \in H$.

Definition 1.5. The *special linear group* of a field F is the subgroup $\mathrm{SL}_n(F) \subseteq \mathrm{GL}_n(F)$ of matrices A with $\det A = 1$.

Definition 1.6. The *alternating group* in n elements is the subgroup $A_n \leq S_n$ consisting of even permutations.[1] A_n has order $n!/2$.

Definition 1.7. Let $H \leq G$ be a subgroup, then we write G/H (resp. $H\backslash G$) for the set of left (resp. right) cosets of H in G.

Proposition 1.8. *Let $H \leq G$.*

(1) For any $x, y \in G$, there is a bijection $xH \to yH$ given by $xh \mapsto yh$.

(2) For any $x \in G$, there is a bijection $xH \to Hx^{-1}$ defined by $xh \mapsto h^{-1}x^{-1}$.

(3) There is a bijection $G/H \to H\backslash G$ given by $xH \mapsto Hx^{-1}$.

Definition 1.9. Given a subgroup H of a group G, we define the index of H in G to be the quantity $|G : H| := |G/H| = |H\backslash G|$.

Proposition 1.10. *Given a subgroup $H \leq G$, we have $|G| = |G : H| \cdot |H|$. More generally, if $K \leq H \leq G$, we have $|G : K| = |G : H| \cdot |H : K|$.*

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[1] A permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ is said to be *even* if σ can be written as a composition of an even number of two-element swaps.

Theorem 1.11 (Lagrange's Theorem)**.** *If G is a finite group and $H \leq G$, then $|H|$ and $|G : H|$ divide $|G|$. In particular, $|g| := |\langle g \rangle|$ divides $|G|$ for all $g \in G$.*

As a consequence of Lagrange's theorem, if $|G|$ is prime then G is cyclic.

Example 1.12. S_3 and D_6 are isomorphic, given by $\phi : D_6 \to S_3$ given by $\phi(r) = (1\,2\,3)$ and $\phi(s) = (1\,2)$.

Definition 1.13. A subgroup $H \leq G$ is said to be *normal* if $xHx^{-1} = H$ for all $x \in G$, equivalently, if $xH = Hx$ for all $x \in G$. We write $H \trianglelefteq G$ to mean H is a normal subgroup of G.

Warning 1.14. The relation $\trianglelefteq$ is NOT a transitive relation on subgroups!

Definition 1.15. If $H \trianglelefteq G$, then G/H be comes a group by the operation $xH \cdot yH = xyH$.

Proposition 1.16. *A subgroup $H \leq G$ is normal iff it is the kernel of some homomorphism.*

Proposition 1.17. *Let G be a group with subgroups $A, B \leq G$, then their intersection $A \cap B$ is also a subgroup.*

Definition 1.18. Let G be a group with subgroups $A, B \leq G$, then define

$$AB := \{ab \in G \mid a \in A,\, b \in B\}.$$

The set AB is *not* generally a subgroup.

Example 1.19. Consider $G = D_6$ generated by $\{r, s\}$ with $r^3 = s^2 = (sr)^2 = 1$. Let $A = \langle s \rangle$ and $B = \langle sr \rangle$, both subgroups of order 2. Then $AB = \{e, s, sr, r\}$, which is not a subgroup since $r^2 \notin AB$.

Exercise 1.20. Show that AB is a subgroup of G iff $AB = BA$.

Definition 1.21. Given a subset $S \subseteq G$, we write $N_G(S)$ for the *normalizer* of S in G, that is,

$$N_G(S) := \{g \in G \mid gSg^{-1} = S\}.$$

Proposition 1.22. *Let $S \subseteq G$, then*

- *$N_G(S)$ is a subgroup of G.*
- *If $H \leq G$ is a subgroup, then $H \trianglelefteq N_G(H)$.*
- *$N_G(H)$ is the "largest" subgroup of G that H is normal inside of.*
- *$N_G(H) = G$ iff $H \trianglelefteq G$.*

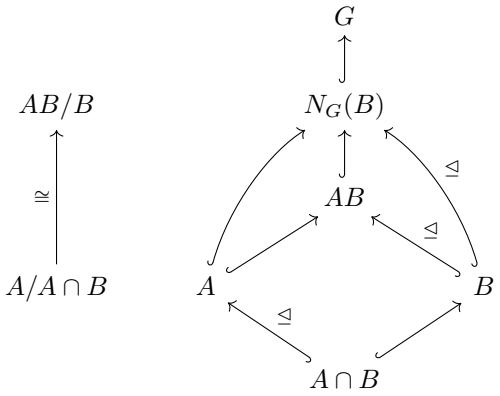
Theorem 1.23 (The Second ("Diamond") Isomorphism Theorem)**.** *Suppose $A, B \leq G$ and $A \leq N_G(B)$. Then*

(1) AB is a subgroup of G (equivalently, $AB = BA$).

(2) $B \trianglelefteq AB$,

(3) $A \cap B \trianglelefteq A$,

(4) $A/(A \cap B) \cong AB/B$.

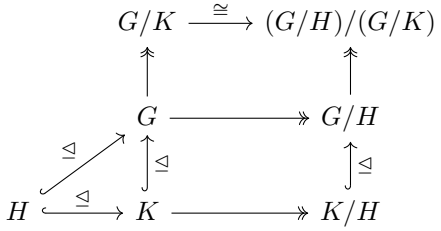


Corollary 1.24. *If $A \leq G$ and $B \trianglelefteq G$, then AB is a subgroup of G.*

Theorem 1.25 (The Third Isomorphism Theorem)**.** *Let $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ with $H \leq K$. Then*

(1) $K/H \trianglelefteq G/H$, and

(2) $G/K \cong (G/H)/(K/H)$ via the assignment $xK \mapsto (xH)\overline{K}$ (where $\overline{K} = K/H \subseteq G/H$).



Intuitively, the following theorem says the following: Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ be a normal subgroup, then the quotient map $\pi : G \twoheadrightarrow G/N$ induces a lattice isomorphism (an inclusion-preserving bijection) between the set of subgroups of G containing N, and the set of subgroups of G/N. Moreover, this isomorphism restricts to an isomorphism on the normal subgroups, and given subgroups $A, B \leq G$ with $N \leq A \cap B$, we have $(A \cap B)/N = (A/N) \cap (B/N)$.

Theorem 1.26 (The Fourth ("Lattice") Isomorphism Theorem)**.** *Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ be a normal subgroup. Then we have inverse bijections*

$$\{A \leq G \mid N \leq A\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \{\overline{A} \leq G/N\}$$

$$A \longmapsto A/N$$

$$\pi^{-1}\overline{A} \longmapsfrom \overline{A}$$

where $\pi^{-1}\overline{A} = \{g \in G \mid \pi(g) \in \overline{A}\}$. Furthermore, for $A, B \leq G$ with $N \leq A \cap B$, we have

(1) $A \leq B$ iff $A/N \leq B/N$.

(2) If $A \leq B$ then $|B : A| = |B/N : A/N|$.

(3) $(A \cap B)/N = (A/N) \cap (B/N)$.

(4) $A \trianglelefteq G$ iff $A/N \trianglelefteq G/N$.

Definition 1.27. A **group presentation** is a pair (S, R) consisting of a set S and a subset $R \subseteq F(S)$ (where $F(S)$ denotes the free group on S). The group *presented* by this data is defined to be

$$\langle S \mid R \rangle := F(S)/N,$$

where N is the *normal closure* of R in $F(S)$, that is, the smallest normal subgroup of $F(S)$ containing R.

Given a group G, we say that (S, R) is a *presentation* of G if there exists an isomorphism $G \cong \langle S \mid R \rangle$ of groups. We say that G is *finitely presentable* if it has a presentation (S, R), where S and R are both finite.

Example 1.28. The dihredral group D_{2n} of order $2n$ has presentation $\langle r, s \mid r^n, s^2, srsr \rangle$.

Proposition 1.29. *For $n \geq 1$, we have*

$$S_n \cong \langle s_1, \ldots, s_{n-1} \mid R \rangle,$$

where R consists of the relations

$$\begin{aligned} s_i^2 &= 1, && \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, n-1, \\ (s_i s_j)^2 &= 1, && \text{when } |i-j| \geq 2, \\ (s_i s_{i+1})^3 &= 1, && \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, n-1. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.30. Given an object X in a category $\mathcal{C}$ and a group G, a *left group action* of G on X is a group homomorphism $\phi : G \to \mathrm{Aut}(X)$, denoted by $G \curvearrowright X$. A right group action is a group homomorphism $\phi : G^{\mathrm{op}} \to \mathrm{Aut}(X)$.

Definition 1.31. A set equipped with a G-action is called a *G-set*.

Example 1.32. For any object X and group G, the trivial map $G \to \mathrm{Aut}(X)$ yields the *trivial action* of G on X, in which G simply acts via identities on X.

Example 1.33. Given $H \leq G$, the set G/H of left cosets of H admits a natural G action by

$$g \cdot xH := gxH.$$

Similarly, the set $H\backslash G$ of right cosets of H admits a natural G action by the rule

$$g \cdot Hx := Hxg^{-1}.$$

Example 1.34. Every group acts on itself by conjugation via the map $\mathrm{conj} : G \to \mathrm{Aut}(G)$ defined by

$$\mathrm{conj}_g(x) := gxg^{-1}.$$

Definition 1.35. Let $\phi : G \to \mathrm{Aut}(X)$ be a left G-action on an object X.

(1) The *kernel* of the action is the kernel of the homomorphism ϕ, i.e., it is the set $\{g \in G \mid \phi_g = \mathrm{id}_X\}$.

(2) The action is *faithful* if the kernel is trivial.

If X is a set, then we have the following further definitions.

(1) Given $x \in X$, the *stabilizer* of x (denoted by $\mathrm{Stab}(x)$ or just G_x) is the set $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot x = x\}$.

(2) The action is *free* if all the stabilizers G_x are trivial.

Proposition 1.36. *Suppose X is a G-set, and $x, y \in X$ satisfying $y = g \cdot x$ for some $g \in G$. Then*

$$G_y = gG_x g^{-1}.$$

Example 1.37. Consider the tautological action of $G = S_n$ on $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$, so the corresponding homomorphism $G \to \mathrm{Sym}(X)$ is the identity. We have that:

- The kernel of the action is trivial, so it is a faithful action.
- The action is free iff $n \geq 3$.
- If $n > 1$, each G_x is isomorphic to S_{n-1}, but each is a *distinct* subgroup of S_n.
- The G_x are conjugate to each other: if $\sigma \in S_n$ such that $\sigma(x) = y$, then $G_y = \sigma G_x \sigma^{-1}$.

Theorem 1.38 (Cayley's Theorem)**.** *Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of some permutation group* $\mathrm{Sym}(X)$*.*

Proof. Given G, it suffices to provide a faithful action on some set X, so that the induced homomorphism $\phi : G \to \mathrm{Sym}(X)$ is injective, and therefore identifies G with a subgroup of $\mathrm{Sym}(X)$. This is easy: equip $X = G$ with the natural left G action given by $g \cdot x := gx$. Then this action is faithful, since $gx = x$ for all $x \in X$ certainly implies $g = e$. □

Proposition 1.39. *If G is a finite group and p is the smallest prime dividing $|G|$, then any subgroup of index p is normal. In particular, index 2 subgroups of finite groups are always normal.*

Proof. Let $H \leq G$ be a subgroup of index p, and consider the left action of G on $X = G/H$, which gives a homomorphism $\phi : G \to \mathrm{Sym}(G/H) \cong S_p$. Let $K = \ker \phi$ of this action. We know K is normal, since it is a kernel, so it suffices to show that $K = H$. Note that clearly $K \leq H$, so it further suffices to show that $|H : K| = 1$. By the first isomorphism theorem, G/K is isomorphic to a subgroup of S_p, so that $|G : K|$ divides $|S_p| = p!$, by Lagrange's theorem. We have that $|G : K| = |G : H||H : K| = p|H : K|$, so $|H : K|$ divides $p!/p = (p-1)(p-2)\cdots 2 \cdot 1$. However, since $|H : K|$ divides $|G|$, we know that no prime smaller than p divides $|H : K|$. Thus $|H : K| = 1$, as desired. □

Definition 1.40. Consider a group action $G \curvearrowright X$, where X is a set. Define a relation $\sim$ on X by

$$x \sim y \iff \exists g \in G,\ g \cdot x = y.$$

This is an equivalence relation on X, and the equivalence classes of this relations are called *orbits*. We write $\mathrm{Orb}(x)$, Gx, or $G \cdot x$ for the orbit which contains x, so that $\mathrm{Orb}(x) = \{g \cdot x \mid g \in G\}$.

An action is *transitive* if it has exactly one orbit.

Example 1.41. G acts transitively on G/H.

Theorem 1.42 (The Orbit/Stabilizer Theorem)**.** *Suppose X is a G-set, and $x \in X$. Then there is a bijection*

$$G/\operatorname{Stab}(x) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Orb}(x), \qquad g \operatorname{Stab}(x) \mapsto g \cdot x.$$

Thus for an orbit $\mathcal{O}$, we have $|\mathcal{O}| = |G : \mathrm{Stab}(x)|$ for any $x \in \mathcal{O}$.

Corollary 1.43. *Let G act on a finite set X. Then we have*

$$|X| = \sum_{k=1}^{r} |G : \mathrm{Stab}(x_k)|,$$

where $x_1, \dots, x_r \in X$ are representatives of the orbits of the action (that is, $\mathrm{Orb}(x_i) \cap \mathrm{Orb}(x_j) = \emptyset$ when $i \neq j$, and $\bigcup_{k=1}^{r} \mathrm{Orb}(x_k) = X$),

Theorem 1.44 (Cauchy's Theorem)**.** *Let G be a finite group. If a prime p divides $|G|$, then G has an element of order p.*

Definition 1.45. A group G is *simple* if its only normal subgroups are $\{e\}$ and G. By convention the trivial group is *not* simple.

Example 1.46. Let p be a prime. Then the cyclic group $G = C_p$ of order p is simple.

Proposition 1.47. *The alternating group A_n on n elements is simple for $n \geq 5$.*

Proof sketch. Elements of A_n are the even permutations, and it is straightforward to check that A_n is also generated by its subset of 3-cycles. Then one checks that any normal subgroup N of A_n which contains some 3-cycle contains every 3-cycle, and therefore satisfies $N = A_n$.

Thus, in order to prove A_n is simple, it suffices to show that if $N \trianglelefteq A_n$ is a non-trivial normal subgroup, it must contain at least one 3-cycle. This is where the assumption that $n \geq 5$ is needed. □

Example 1.48. The group A_4 is not simple: the subgroup $N = \{e, (1\,2)(3\,4), (1\,3)(2\,4), (1\,4)(2\,3)\}$ generated by the products of disjoint 2-cycles is normal.

Definition 1.49. Consider the conjugation action of G on itself: $\cong_g (x) = gxg^{-1}$.

- The *orbits* for the conjugation action are the conjugacy classes; we denote the conjugacy class of an element $x \in G$ by $\mathrm{Cl}(x) := \{gxg^{-1} : g \in G\}$.
- The *stabilizer* of $x \in G$ under the conjugation action is the *centralizer subgroup* of x:

$$C_G(x) := \{g \in G \mid gxg^{-1} = x\} = \{g \in G \mid gx = xg\}.$$

- The kernel of the conugation action is precisely the *center*

$$Z_G := \{g \in G \mid gx = xg \ \forall x \in G\}.$$

- Note that $\mathrm{Cl}(e) = \{e\}$ and $C_G(e) = G$, so that the conjugation action is neither free nor transitive (unless $G = \{e\}$).

Theorem 1.50 (The Class Equation)**.** *For a finite group G, we have*

$$|G| = |Z_G| + \sum_{k=1}^{r} |G : C_G(g_k)|,$$

where $g_1, \ldots, g_r$ are representatives of the distinct conjugacy classes of G not contained in the center Z_G.

Moreover, each term on the right divides $|G|$.

Definition 1.51. Let p be a prime. A *p-group* is a non-trivial finite group whose order is a power of p.

Proposition 1.52. *Every p-group has a non-trivial center.*

Proof. The class equation for G gives

$$p^d = |Z_G| + \sum_{k=1}^{r} |G : C_G(g_k)|.$$

Since $C_G(g_k) \neq G$, we have that p divides each $|G : C_G(g_k)|$. Therefore p divides $|Z_G|$. Since $|Z_G| \geq 1$ we may conclude that p divides $|Z_G|$. □

Corollary 1.53. *If $|G| = p^2$ for some prime p then G is abelian.*

Proof. First we note a general fact: If G/Z_G is cyclic, then G is abelian. To see this, pick $g \in G$ which projects to a generator of G/Z_G. Then every element in G can be written as $g^k x$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $x \in Z_G$. Then every element in G can be written as $g^k x$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $x \in Z_G$. Since $(g^i x)(g^j y) = g^{i+j} xy$ whenever $x, y \in Z_G$, we see that G is abelian.

If $|G| = p^2$, then by the previous result $|Z_G| \in \{p, p^2\}$, whence $|G/Z_G| \in \{1, p\}$ and thus is cyclic. □

Definition 1.54. Given a group G, the image of the homomorphism $\mathrm{conj} : G \to \mathrm{Aut}(G)$ is the group

$$\mathrm{Inn}(G) := \{\mathrm{conj}_g \mid g \in G\} \leq \mathrm{Aut}(G),$$

and its elements are called *inner automorphisms* of G. The first isomorphism theorem then gives an isomorphism

$$G/Z_G \cong \mathrm{Inn}(G).$$

Proposition 1.55. $\mathrm{Inn}(G)$ *is a normal subgroup of* $\mathrm{Aut}(G)$.

Definition 1.56. The group of *outer automorphisms* of G is given by the quotient

$$\mathrm{Out}(G) := \mathrm{Aut}(G)/\mathrm{Inn}(G).$$

Definition 1.57. Given a subgroup $H \leq G$, its *centralizer* is the subgroup $C_G(H) := \{g \in G \mid gh = hg \ \forall h \in H\}$.

Proposition 1.58. *Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ be a normal subgroup, then the conjugation action of G on N yields a group homomorphism $\kappa : G \to \mathrm{Aut}(N)$. Then*

$$\kappa^{-1}(\mathrm{Inn}(N)) = C_G(N)N,$$

which is a normal subgroup of G.

Remark 1.59. In the language of the above proposition, we know that κ induces an injective homomorphism

$$\overline{\kappa} : G/C_G(N)N \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Out}(N),$$

so any elements of $G \setminus C_G(N)N$ give rise to non-inner automorphisms of N.

Proposition 1.60. $|\mathrm{Aut}(C_n)| = \phi(n)$, *where ϕ is the* Euler ϕ function *for which $\phi(n)$ is the number of integers in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ which are relatively prime to n.*

Definition 1.61. A *p-Sylow subgroup* of a finite group G is a subgroup $P \leq G$ which is a p-group, and is such that $|G : P|$ is prime to p. Equivalently, if $G = p^a m$ with $(p, m) = 1$ and $a \geq 1$, then a p-Sylow subgroup is a subgroup of order p^a.

Note: With this convention, the trivial subgroup is not p-Sylow for any prime p.

Write $\mathrm{Syl}_p(G)$ for the set of p-Sylow subgroups of G, and write $n_p(G) := |\mathrm{Syl}_p(G)|$. Note that G acts on $\mathrm{Syl}_p(G)$ by conjugation: if $P \leq G$ is a p-Sylow subgroup, so is gPg^{-1} for any $g \in G$.

In the following three theorems, p will be a chosen prime, and G will be a finite group of order $p^a m$, where $a \geq 1$ and $p \nmid m$.

Theorem 1.62 (Sylow 1)**.** *The group G has a p-Sylow subgroup, i.e.,* $\mathrm{Syl}_p(G) \neq \emptyset$.

Theorem 1.63 (Sylow 2)**.** *Any two p-Sylow subgroups of G are conjugate, i.e., G acts transitively on* $\mathrm{Syl}_p(G)$ *by conjugation.*

Theorem 1.64 (Sylow 3)**.** *If P is any p-Sylow subgroup of G, then $n_p = |G : N_G(P)|$. Furthermore, $n_p | m$ and $n_p \equiv 1 \bmod p$.*

Lemma 1.65. *Let P, Q be subgroups of a group G with $|P| = p$ and $|Q| = q$ prime and distinct. Further suppose that PQ is a subgroup of G (for example, if $P \subseteq N_G(Q)$ or $Q \subseteq N_G(P)$) and $ab = ba$ for all $a \in P$ and $b \in Q$. Then PQ is isomorphic to the cyclic group C_{pq} of order pq.*

Proof. Since P and Q have prime order, we can write $P = \langle x \rangle$ and $Q = \langle y \rangle$ where $|x| = p$ and $|y| = q$. Set $z = xy$. If $z^k = e$, then $x^k = y^{-k}$ because x and y commute, so that $x^k \in P \cap Q$, which is trivial, since $|P \cap Q|$ has to divide both p and q, which are distinct primes. Hence we must have $x^k = e = y^k$, meaning $|z| = pq$, and we see that PQ is cyclic. □

Proposition 1.66. *If $p < q$ are primes and $q \not\equiv 1 \bmod p$, then every group of order pq is cyclic.*

Proof. By Sylow 3, $n_q|p$ and $n_q \equiv 1 \bmod q$. If $n_q > q$, then $n_q > p$, a contradiction of the fact that $n_q|p$. Hence we must have $n_q = 1$. Let $Q \leq G$ be the unique q-Sylow subgroup of G. Note that since $n_q = 1$ and any conjugate of Q is also a q-Sylow subgroup, we have that Q is a normal subgroup of G. Since $|Q| = q$ is prime, we can write $Q = \langle y \rangle$, where y has order q. Pick any subgroup $P \leq G$ of order p, and write $P = \langle x \rangle$. P acts on Q via conjugation, yielding a map $\kappa : P \to \mathrm{Aut}(Q)$; the order of $\kappa(P)$ must divide both $|P| = p$ and $|\mathrm{Aut}(Q)| = q-1$ by Lagrange's, and clearly $|\kappa(P)| \leq |P| = p$, so that $|\kappa(P)| \in \{1, p\}$. Since $q \not\equiv 1 \bmod p$, p does not divide $q-1$, so that we must have $|\kappa(P)| = 1$, meaning $\kappa(P) = \{e\}$. Therefore $ab = ba$ for all $a \in P$ and $b \in Q$. It then follows by Proposition 1.39 and Lemma 1.65 that PQ is a subgroup of G which is isomorphic to C_{pq}. Since $|G| = pq$, it follows that $G = PQ \cong C_{pq}$, as desired. □

Proposition 1.67. *If $|G| = 30$, G has unique 3- and 5-Sylow subgroups and contains a normal subgroup isomorphic to C_{15}.*

Proof. By the Sylow theorems, $n_3|10$, $n_3 \equiv 1 \bmod 3$, $n_5|6$, and $n_5 \equiv 1 \bmod 5$. Thus $n_3 \in \{1, 10\}$ and $n_5 \in \{1, 6\}$. If $n_3 = 10$ and $n_5 = 6$, then since each subgroup in Syl_3 and Syl_5 are cyclic of prime order, there would be at least $2 \cdot 10 = 20$ distinct order 3 elements in G, and $4 \cdot 6 = 24$ distinct order 5 elements in G, an impossibility since $|G| = 30 < 44$. Thus, one of n_3 and n_5 is 1. Let $P \in \mathrm{Syl}_3$ and $Q \in \mathrm{Syl}_5$, so that since $n_3 = 1$ or $n_5 = 1$, at least one of P or Q is normal in G, so that by the second isomorphism theorem we know that PQ is a subgroup of G. Moreover, $|PQ| \leq 15$ and 3 and 5 divide $|PQ|$, so we must have $|PQ| = 15$. Thus PQ is an index 2 subgroup of G, so PQ is normal in G. By Proposition 1.66, since $|PQ| = 15 = 3 \cdot 5$ and $5 \not\equiv 1 \bmod 3$, we have that PQ is cyclic, as desired. Sylow 3 directly gives that $n_3(PQ) = n_5(PQ) = 1$, so that P and Q are the unique 5- and 3-Sylow subgroups in PQ. We claim this implies $n_3(G) = n_5(G) = 1$. If we had $n_3(G) = 10$, then G would have at least $2 \cdot 10 = 20$ distinct order 3 elements, so that in particular PQ would have to contain at least 5 elements of order 3, meaning PQ would have to contain at least $\lceil 5/2 \rceil = 3$ subgroups of order 3, a contradiction of the fact that $n_3(PQ) = 1$. A similar argument yields that $n_5(G) = 1$, as desired. □

Proposition 1.68. *Let G be a group of order 12. If G does not have a normal 3-Sylow subgroup, then $G \cong A_4$.*

Proof. We have that $n_3|4$ and $n_3 \equiv 1 \bmod 3$ by the third Sylow theorem, so either $n_3 = 1$ or $n_3 = 4$. Since G does not have a normal 3-Sylow subgroup, we must have that $n_3 = 4$. The group G acts on $\mathrm{Syl}_3(G)$ by conjugation, yielding a homomorphism

$$\phi : G \to \mathrm{Sym}(\mathrm{Syl}_3(G)) \cong S_4.$$

First we aim to show this map is injective, so that G is isomorphic to a subgroup of order 12 of S_4.

If $P \in \mathrm{Syl}_3(G)$, then $|G : N_G(P)| = n_3 = 4$, meaning $|N_G(P)| = 3$, so that $P = N_G(P)$. The kernel of ϕ consists of the elements of g which normalize all 3-Sylow subgroups of G, and so are in the intersection of all 3-Sylow subgroups. This implies $\ker \phi$ is trivial, so ϕ is injective, as desired.

It remains to show that $\phi(G) = A_4$, which can be done in a number of ways. For instance, G must contain exactly 8 elements of order 3, while there are exactly 8 elements of order 3 in S_4, and they generate A_4. □

Proposition 1.69. *Suppose $|G| = 60$ and $n_5(G) > 1$. Then G is simple.*

Proof. By the third Sylow theorem, we have $n_5 \in \{1, 6\}$, so $n_5 = 6$ by assumption. Now, let H be a non-trivial proper normal subgroup of G. We split into cases.

Case 1. If 5 divides $|H|$, then H contains a 5-Sylow subgroup; being normal, it must contain every 5-Sylow subgroup of G. Thus $|H| \geq 1 + 4 \cdot 6 = 25$, so $|H| = 30$. But we have shown above that every group of order 30 has a unique 5-Sylow subgroup, so this is not possible.

Case 2. If 5 does not divide $|H|$, then $|H|$ divides 12. Now we claim that G must contain a normal subgroup of order 3 or 4. If H itself is not of one of these orders, then $|H| = 6$ or $|H| = 12$. If $|H| = 6$ (resp. $|H| = 12$), then Sylow 3 yields $n_3(H) = 1$ (resp. $n_4(H) = 1$), so H admits a normal 3-Sylow subgroup (resp. a normal 4-Sylow subgroup). Since H is normal, it follows that $n_3(G) = 1$ (resp. $n_4(G) = 1$) as well, so indeed G contains a normal subgroup of order 3 or 4, call it K.

Now G/K has order 15 or 20, and in each case Sylow 3 yields $n_5(G/K) = 1$, so G/K has a normal 5-Sylow subgroup. By the fourth (lattice) isomorphism theorem, the preimage of such a 5-Sylow subgroup with be a normal subgroup of G with order divisible by 5, contradicting the above. □

In general, subgroups of f.g. groups are not f.g.!

Example 1.70. Let $G = F(a, b)$ be the free group on two generators. Write $x_n := a^n b a^{-n} \in G$, and let $H = \langle x_n, n \in \mathbb{Z} \rangle$. Then H is not finitely generated.

Definition 1.71. A poset $(P, \leq)$ has the *ascending chain condition (acc)* if, for every countable sequence $(x_k)_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ with $x_k \leq x_{k+1}$, there exists m such that $x_k = x_m$ for all $k \geq m$.

A group G has *the ascending chain condition for subgroups* if the set of subgroups ordered by inclusion has the acc.

Proposition 1.72. *TFAE*

(1) G has the acc for subgroups

(2) All subgroups of G are f.g.

Proposition 1.73. *Let $N \trianglelefteq G$. TFAE*

(1) G has the acc for subgroups

(2) Both N and G/N have the acc for subgroups.

Proposition 1.74. *Every f.g. abelian group has the acc for subgroups. In particular, every subgroup of a f.g. abelian group is also f.g.*

Definition 1.75. Let G be a group. We say that an element $a \in G$ is *torsion* if it has finite order, and write $G_{\text{tors}} \subseteq G$ for the subset of torsion elements. A group G is *torsion free* if $G_{\text{tors}} = \{e\}$. A group G is *torsion* if $G_{\text{tors}} = G$

Proposition 1.76. *If G is an abelian group then G_{tors} is a subgroup of G.*

Proposition 1.77. *If G is abelian, then G/G_{tors} is torsion free.*

Proposition 1.78. *Every f.g. torsion abelian group is finite.*

Proposition 1.79 (Product Recognition)**.** *Let G be a group, and suppose $G_1, \ldots, G_n \trianglelefteq G$ are* normal *subgroups such that*

(1) $G_1 \cdots G_n = G$, and

(2) $G_k \cap (G_1 \cdots G_{k-1} G_{k+1} \cdots G_n) = \{e\}$ for $k = 1, \ldots, n$.

Then the function

$$\phi : G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n \to G \qquad (g_1, \ldots, g_n) \mapsto g_1 \cdots g_n$$

is an isomorphism of groups.

Proposition 1.80. *If $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$ and $N_k \trianglelefteq G_k$ for $k = 1, \ldots, n$, then $N = N_1 \times \cdots \times N_n$ is a normal subgroup of G, and there is an isomorphism*

$$G/N \cong (G_1/N_1) \times \cdots \times (G_n/N_n).$$

Theorem 1.81. *Every f.g. abelian group G is isomorphic to one of the form*

$$G \cong F \times \mathbb{Z}^r, \qquad |F| < \infty, \qquad \mathbb{Z}^r = \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}}_{r \text{ copies}}, \qquad r \geq 0.$$

The factors are unique, in the sense that if G admits two such isomorphisms $G \cong F \times \mathbb{Z}^r \cong F' \times \mathbb{Z}^{r'}$, then $F \cong F'$ and $r = r'$.

Theorem 1.82. *Every finite abelian group G is isomorphic to one of the form*

$$G \cong \mathbb{Z}/n_1 \times \cdots \mathbb{Z}/n_s,$$

where

- *$s \geq 0$, each $n_i \geq 2$, $n_{i+1} \mid n_i$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, s-1$.*

Furthermore, the decomposition is unique up to isomorhpism of the factors.

Definition 1.83. A complete set of invariants for a f.g. abelian group

$$G \cong \mathbb{Z}/n_1 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}/n_s \times \mathbb{Z}^r$$

are the free rank r and the list $n_1, \ldots, n_s$ of invariant factors. G is finite iff $r = 0$.

Theorem 1.84 (Elementary divisor decomposition)**.** *For every finite abelian group G of order $n = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$, where the $p_1 < \cdots < p_k$ are distinct primes, there is*

(1) an isomorphism $G \cong A_1 \times \cdots \times A_k$, with $|A_i| = p_i^{a_i}$ and $a_i \geq 1$, such that

(2) for each A_i, there is an isomorphism

$$A_i \cong \mathbb{Z}/p_i^{b_{i1}} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}/p_i^{b_{is_i}},$$

with $b_{i1} \geq \cdots \geq b_{is_i}$ and $b_{i1} + \cdots + b_{is_i} = a_i$.

Furthermore, this decomposition is unique, in the sense that if G admits isomorphisms $G \cong B_1 \times \cdots \times B_\ell$ with $|B_i| = a_i^{a_i}$ with q_i prime and $a_j \geq 1$, then $k = \ell$, $p_i = q_i$, and $A_i \cong B_i$.

Definition 1.85. The decomposition described in (1) above is called the *primary decomposition* of G. Part (2) is just giving the invariant factor decomposition of each A_i.

The list of numbers $p_1^{b_{11}}, \ldots p^{b_{ks_k}}$ are the *elementary divisors* of the group G. The list of elementary divisors is a complete isomorphism invariant of a finite abelian group G.

Definition 1.86. Let H, K, G be groups. We say that G is an *extension* of K by H if there exists a normal subgroup $H' \trianglelefteq G$ and isomorphisms $H \cong H'$ and $K \cong G/H'$, equivalently, an exact sequence of groups

$$0 \to H \to G \to K \to 0.$$

The extension is *split* if there is aditionally a subgroup $K' \leq G$ such that the map $K' \to G/H'$ sending $x \mapsto xH'$, equivalently, if there is a homomorphism $s : K \to G$ such that $p \circ s = \mathrm{id}_K$ (in which case $K' = s(K)$).

Example 1.87. Given groups K and H, you can always extend K by H via the *trivial extension*, defined by

$$G := H \times K, \qquad H' := H \times \{e\}..$$

The trivial extension is always split, by $K' = \{e\} \times K$.

Example 1.88. Let $H = K = C_2$. Then both $G_1 = C_2 \times C_2$ and $G_2 = C_4$ are extensions of K by H

$$H' := \{e, a\} \trianglelefteq G_1 = C_2 \times C_2 = \langle a \mid a^2 \rangle \times \langle b \mid b^2 \rangle = \{e, a, b, ab\}, \qquad G_1/H' = \{\overline{e}, \overline{b}\},$$

and

$$H' = \{e, c^2\} \trianglelefteq G_2 = C_4 = \langle c \mid c^4 \rangle = \{e, c, c^2, c^3\}, \qquad G - 2/H' = \{\overline{e}, \overline{c}\}.$$

The first extension is split, using $K' = \{e, b\} \leq G_1$, but the second extension is not split.

Definition 1.89. The *extension problem* for groups is to classify, for given H and K, all possible extensions of K by H, up to isomorphism.

Theorem 1.90. *Let H, K be groups, and $\alpha : K \to \mathrm{Aut}(H)$ a homomorphism. Let G be the set $H \times K$, and define a product on G by the rule*

$$(h_1, k_1)(h_2, k_2) := (h_1\alpha(k_1)(h_1), k_1k_2).$$

Then we have the following

1. *G is a group, with identity element (e, e) and inverses $(h, k)^{-1} := (\alpha(k^{-1})(h^{-1}), k^{-1})$.*
2. *The subsets $H' = H \times \{e\}$ and $K' = \{e\} \times K$ are subgroups, and there are isomorphisms $H \xrightarrow{\sim} H'$ and $K \xrightarrow{\sim} K'$ defined by $h \mapsto (h, e)$ and $k \mapsto (e, k)$ respectively.*

We now identify H with H' and K with K' via these isomorphisms in the following.

3. *$H \trianglelefteq G$.*
4. *$H \cap K = \{e\}$ and $G = HK$.*
5. *We have $khk^{-1} = \alpha(k)(h)$ for all $h \in H$ and $k \in K$.*

We denote this group G by $H \rtimes G$, or by $H \rtimes_\alpha K$ if we want to make the action of K on H explicit.

Example 1.91. Let $H = F(a)$ and $K = \langle b \mid b^2 \rangle$. Let $\phi : K \to \mathrm{Aut}(H)$ be the homomorphism defined by $\phi(b)(a) = a^{-1}$. We obtain a semi-direct product $G = H \rtimes K$. If we identify H and K with the obvious subgroups of G, this means that

$$G = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \coprod \{a^n b \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \qquad bab^{-1} = a^{-1}.$$

In fact, G is the infinite dihedral group.

Example 1.92. Let $G \subseteq \mathrm{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be the set of all functions $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ of the form

$$\phi(x) = Ax + b, \qquad A \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}), \qquad b \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

This can be shown to be a subgroup. It is a semi-direct product of its subgroups

$$H = \{\phi \mid \phi(x) = x + b,\ b \in \mathbb{R}^n\}, \qquad K = \{\phi \mid \phi(x) = Ax,\ A \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})\}.$$

Definition 1.93. A *composition series* for a group G is a finite chain of subgroups

$$\{e\} = M_0 \leq M_1 \leq \cdots \leq M_{r-1} \leq M_r = G, \qquad r \geq 0,$$

such that

(1) M_{k-1} is a normal subgroup of M_k, for each $k = 1, \ldots, r$, and

(2) the quotient M_k/M_{k-1} is a simple group.

The groups $M_1/M_0, M_2/M_1, \ldots, M_r/M_{r-1}$ are called the *composition factors* of the composition series.

Proposition 1.94. *Every finite group has a composition series.*

Theorem 1.95 (Jordan-Hölder)**.** *Suppose G is a group with a composition series. Then the composition factors of a composition series are unique up to change of permutation. That is, if*

$$\{e\} = M_0 \leq \cdots \leq M_r = G, \qquad \{e\} = N_0 \leq \cdots \leq N_s = G$$

are two composition series, then $r = s$ and there exists $\sigma \in S_r$ such that $M_k/M_{k-1} \cong N_{\sigma(k)}/M_{\sigma(k)-1}$ for all $k = 1, \ldots, n$.

Definition 1.96. A group G is *solvable* if it admits a finite chain of subgroups

$$1 = G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_s = G,$$

with each $G_k \trianglelefteq G_{k+1}$, such that each quotient G_k/G_{k-1} is abelian. In particular, a finite group G is solvable if its composition factors are abelian, i.e., all cyclic of prime order.

Definition 1.97. Given elements $x, y \in G$, we write

$$[x, y] := xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \in G$$

for the *commutator* of x and y. For subsets $S, T \subseteq G$, we write

$$[S, T] := \langle [x, y],\ x \in S,\ y \in T \rangle$$

for the subgroup generated by such commutators. In particular, the *commutator subgroup* of G is the subgroup $[G, G]$ generated by all commutators.

Remark 1.98. $[G, G]$ is a normal subgroup of G. The quotient group $G/[G, G]$ is abelian, and is called the *abelianization* of G.

Proposition 1.99. *If $H \trianglelefteq G$, then G/H is abelian iff $[G, G] \leq H$.*

Definition 1.100. The *derived series* of a gorup G is the sequence of subgroups $G^{(k)}$ defined by

- $G^{(0)} = G$,
- $G^{(1)} = [G, G]$,
- $G^{(k)} = [G^{(k-1)}, G^{(k-1)}]$, $k \geq 2$.

We obtain a descending chain of subgroups, each of which is normal in the previous:

$$G = G^{(0)} \geq G^{(1)} \geq G^{(2)} \geq \cdots .$$

Proposition 1.101. *G is solvable iff $G^{(s)} = \{e\}$ for some s.*

Corollary 1.102. *If G is solvable, then so is any subgroup or quotient group of G.*

Definition 1.103. Given a group G, its *upper central series* is defined by

- $Z_0(G) = \{e\}$,
- $Z_1(G) = Z(G)$,
- $Z_{k+1}(G)$ is the preimage under the quotient map $\pi : G \to G/Z_k(G)$ of $Z(G/Z_k(G))$, for all $k \geq 1$.

We ovtain a possibly infinite sequence of subgroups

$$\{e\} = Z_0(G) \leq Z_1(G) \leq Z_2(G) \leq \cdots \leq G,$$

each of which is normal in G.

Definition 1.104. A group G is *nilpotent* if there exists a c such that $Z_c(G) = G$. The smallest such c is called the *nilpotence class* of G.

Proposition 1.105. *If G is nilpotent, so is any quotient group G/N, and the nilpotence class of G is $\geq$ the nilpotence class of G/N.*

Proposition 1.106. *$Z_k(G_1 \times \cdots \times G_s) = Z_k(G_1) \times \cdots \times Z_k(G_s)$. In particular, if $G_1, \ldots, G_s$ are nilpotent, then so is $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_s$.*

Proposition 1.107. *Let p be a prime and G a p-group of order p^a, $a \geq 1$. Then G is nilpotent, and if $a \geq 2$, it has nilpotence class $\leq a - 1$.*

Theorem 1.108. *Let G be a finite group with $p_1, \ldots, p_s$ the distinct primes dividing its order. Then TFAE.*

(1) G is nilpotent.

(2) *If $H < G$, then $H < N_G(H)$ (i.e., every proper subgroup of G is proper in its normalizer, or equivalently, G is the only subgroup which is its own normalizer).*

(3) *$|\operatorname{Syl}_{p_i}(G)| = 1$ for all $i = 1, \dots, s$ (or equivalently, G has a normal p_i-Sylow subgroup for all $i = 1, \dots, s$).*

(4) *$G \cong P_1 \times \cdots P_s$, where $P_i \in \operatorname{Syl}_{p_i}(G)$.*

Corollary 1.109. *Any finite abelian group is a product of its Sylow subgroups.*

2. Exercises

Lemma 2.1. *Let G be a p-group for some prime p. Then p divides $|Z(G)|$, and in particular $Z(G)$ is nontrivial.*

Proof. Since G is a p-group, we may write $|G| = p^a$ for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e., $a \geq 1$. Then by the class equation, we have that

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{j=1}^{r} [G : C_G(g_j)],$$

where $g_1, \dots, g_r$ are representatives of the conjugacy classes of G, and each $[G : C_G(g_j)]$ is > 1 and divides $|G|$, say $[G : C_G(g_j)] = p^{m_j}$, where $1 < m_j$. Thus, we have

$$p^a = |Z(G)| + \sum_{j=1}^{r} p^{m_j} \implies |Z(G)| = p^a - \sum_{j=1}^{r} p^{m_j},$$

and the RHS is clearly divisible by p, so that p divides $|Z(G)|$ as well, yielding the desired result. □

Lemma 2.2. *Let $p_1, \dots, p_r$ be distinct primes, and $m_1, \dots, m_r$ be positive integers. Set $m := p_1^{m_1} \cdots p_r^{m_r}$. Then*

$$\mathbb{Z}/m \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/p_j^{m_j}.$$

Proof. Let

$$G := \bigoplus_{j=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/p_j^{m_j},$$

and for $j = 1, \dots, r$, let $a_j \in G$ be a generator of the j^{th} summand, so that $|a_j| = p_j^{m_j}$. Let $x := a_1 \cdots a_r$, so that

$$|x| = \operatorname{lcm}(a_1, \dots, a_r) = \operatorname{lcm}(p_1^{m_1}, \dots, p_r^{m_r}).$$

Since each of the p_j's are distinct primes, it follows that $|x| = p_1^{m_1} \cdots p_r^{m_r} = m$. Thus G has an element of order $m = |G|$, so G is cyclic of order m, as desired. □

Lemma 2.3. *Let G be a finite group acting on a finite set X, and suppose $x, y \in X$. Then* $\operatorname{Orb}(x) = \operatorname{Orb}(y) \iff |\operatorname{Stab}(x)| = |\operatorname{Stab}(y)|$.

Proof. If $|\operatorname{Orb}(x)| = |\operatorname{Orb}(y)|$, then by the Orbit/Stabilizer Theorem we have

$$|\operatorname{Stab}(x)| = |G|[G : \operatorname{Stab}(x)] = |G||\operatorname{Orb}(x)| = |G||\operatorname{Orb}(y)| = |G|[G : \operatorname{Stab}(y)] = |\operatorname{Stab}(y)|.$$

On the other hand, if $|\operatorname{Stab}(x)| = |\operatorname{Stab}(y)|$, we have

$$|\operatorname{Orb}(x)| = [G : \operatorname{Stab}(x)] = |G|/|\operatorname{Stab}(x)| = |G|/|\operatorname{Stab}(y)| = [G : \operatorname{Stab}(y)] = |\operatorname{Orb}(y)|. \qquad \square$$

Lemma 2.4 (Burnside's Lemma)**.** *Let G be a finite group acting on a finite set X. Then*

$$|X/G| = \frac{1}{|G|}\sum_{g\in G}|X^g|,$$

where X/G denotes the collection of G-orbits in X, and given $g \in G$, $X^g := \{x \in X \mid g \cdot x = x\}$.

Proof. First of all, note that

$$\sum_{g\in G}|X^g| = |\{(g,x) \in G \times X \mid g \cdot x = x\}| = \sum_{x\in X}|\operatorname{Stab}(x)|,$$

By the Orbit/Stabilizer theorem, we have $|\operatorname{Stab}(x)| = |G|/|\operatorname{Orb}(x)|$, so that

$$\frac{1}{|G|}\sum_{g\in G}|X^g| = \frac{1}{|G|}\sum_{x\in X}\frac{|G|}{|\operatorname{Orb}(x)|} = \sum_{x\in X}\frac{1}{|\operatorname{Orb}(x)|}.$$

Finally, writing X as the disjoint union of its orbits in X/G, we have

$$\frac{1}{|G|}\sum_{g\in G}|X^g| = \sum_{A\in X/G}\sum_{x\in A}\frac{1}{|A|} = \sum_{A\in X/G}1 = |X/G|. \qquad \square$$

Lemma 2.5. *let P and Q be finite groups of coprime order. Then* $\operatorname{Aut}(P\times Q) \cong \operatorname{Aut}(P)\times\operatorname{Aut}(Q)$.

Proof. There is a canonical map

$$\operatorname{Aut}(P) \times \operatorname{Aut}(Q) \to \operatorname{Aut}(P \times Q)$$

sending a pair (σ,τ) to the automorphism $\sigma \times \tau$ defined by $(\sigma\times)\tau(p,q) = (\sigma(p),\tau(q))$. It is straightforward to verify that $\sigma \times \tau$ is an automorphism of $P \times Q$ and that this assignment is an injective homomorphism. It remains to show the assignment is surjective.

Now, let $x \in P$, and write $\eta(x,e) = (p,q)$, where $p \in P$ and $q \in Q$. Then since η is a homomorphism, we have

$$(e,e) = \eta(e,e) = \eta((x,e)^{|x|}) = (p^{|x|},q^{|x|}),$$

so that $q^{|x|} = e$. Thus $|q|$ divides $|x|$, say $|x| = n|q|$. By Lagrange's, $|x| = n|q|$ divides $|P|$ and $|q|$ divides $|Q|$, so $|q|$ is a common factor of $|P|$ and $|Q|$. Yet $|P|$ and $|Q|$ are coprime, so it follows that $|q| = 1$, which means $q = e$. Thus we've shown that $\eta(P \times \{e\}) \subseteq P \times \{e\}$. A similar argument yields that $\eta(\{e\} \times Q) \subseteq \{e\} \times Q$. Now let σ and τ denote the compositions which fit into the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} P & \hookrightarrow & P\times Q & \hookleftarrow & Q \\ {\scriptstyle\sigma}\downarrow & & {\scriptstyle\eta}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle\tau} \\ P & \twoheadleftarrow & P\times Q & \twoheadrightarrow & Q \end{array}$$

where the top arrows denote the identifications $P \cong P \times \{e\}$ and $Q \cong \{e\} \times Q$. Then given $p \in P$ and $q \in Q$, it follows that

$$\eta(p,q) = \eta(p,e)\eta(e,q) = (\sigma(p),e)(e,\tau(q)) = (\sigma(p),\tau(q)),$$

where the middle equality is where we used the fact that $\eta(P \times \{e\}) \subseteq P \times \{e\}$ and $\eta(\{e\} \times Q) \subseteq \{e\} \times Q$. Thus we've shown that $\eta = \sigma \times \tau$. It is straightforward to see that η is not injective (resp. surjective) unless σ and τ are, so we have shown the desired result. $\square$

Lemma 2.6. *Suppose G and H are finite groups and p a prime dividing $|G|$ but not $|H|$. Then there is a bijection*

$$\operatorname{Syl}_p(G) \xrightarrow{\sim} \operatorname{Syl}_p(G \times H) \qquad \textit{given by} \qquad K \mapsto K \times \{e\}.$$

In particular $n_p(G) = n_p(G \times H)$.

Proof. Let $K \in \mathrm{Syl}_p(G)$, and identify K with $K \times \{e\} \leq G \times H$. Since p does not divide $|H|$, K is also a p-Sylow subgroup of $G \times H$. Thus by Sylow 2, every p-Sylow subgroup of $G \times H$ is conjugate to K. Clearly any conjugate of $K \times \{e\}$ by an element of $G \times H$ lands in $G \times \{e\}$, so every element of $\mathrm{Syl}_p(G \times H)$ is of the form $L \times \{e\}$ for a unique $L \in \mathrm{Syl}_p(G)$, as desired. □

Lemma 2.7. *Suppose G is a finite group, p is a prime number, and n is a positive integer. Then there is a bijection*

$$\mathrm{Syl}_p(G) \to \mathrm{Syl}_p(G \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n) \qquad \textit{given by} \qquad K \mapsto K \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n.$$

In particular $n_p(G) = n_p(G \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n)$.

Proof. Clearly if K is a p-Sylow subgroup of G then $K \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n$ is a p-Sylow subgroup of $H := G \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n$. Thus by Sylow 2 every p-Sylow subgroup of H is a conjugate of $K \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n$, and clearly any conjugate of $K \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n$ is of the form $L \times \mathbb{Z}/p^n$ for some subgroup $L \leq G$ satisfying $|L| = |K|$ (since conjugating $A \times B$ by (a, b) is the same as first conjugating A by a and B by b and then taking their product). □

Lemma 2.8. *Let G be a finite group such that $n_p(G) = 1$ for each prime p dividing $|G|$. Then G is isomorphic to a product of its Sylow subgroups, i.e., G is a product of p-groups.*

Proof. Write $|G| = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$ (where the p_i's are distinct primes and the n_i's are positive integers), so that for $i = 1, \ldots, k$ G admits a unique subgroup H_i of order $p_i^{n_i}$ (which is normal by Sylow 2). Then we wish to show that

$$G \cong H_1 \times \cdots \times H_k. \tag{1}$$

For $i = 1, \ldots, k$, define

$$K_i := H_1 H_2 \cdots H_{i-1} H_{i+1} \cdots H_k,$$

i.e. K_i is the product of all the H_j's for $j \neq i$. Then since each H_i is normal, in order for Equation 1 to hold, by the product recognition theorem it suffices to show that

- $H := H_1 H_2 \cdots H_k = G$, and
- $H_i \cap K_i = \{e\}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$.

To see the former, note that by the second isomorphism theorem H_i is a subgroup of H for each i, so that in particular $|H_i| = p_i^{n_i}$ divides $|H|$ for each i. Since the p_i's are distinct primes, it follows that $|H| = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = |G|$, so that $H = G$, as desired.

Now, fix some $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$, and note that $H_i \cap K_i$ is a subgroup of both H_i and K_i, so by Lagrange's the order of $H_i \cap K_i$ divides both $|H_i|$ and $|K_i|$. Note that

$$|K_i| \leq \prod_{\substack{j=1,\ldots,k \\ j \neq i}} |H_j| = \prod_{\substack{j=1,\ldots,k \\ j \neq i}} p_j^{n_j},$$

but also for $i \neq j$, H_j is a subgroup of K_i, so that $|H_j| = p_j^{n_j}$ must divide the order of K_i. Again since the p_j's are distinct primes, it follows that

$$|K_i| \geq \prod_{\substack{j=1,\ldots,k \\ j \neq i}} p_j^{n_j},$$

so $|K_i| = \prod_{\substack{j=1,\ldots,k \\ j \neq i}} p_j^{n_j}$. Thus since $|H_i \cap K_i|$ has to divide both $\prod_{\substack{j=1,\ldots,k \\ j \neq i}} p_j^{n_j}$ and $p_i^{n_i}$, which have no common factors, it follows that $|H_i \cap K_i| = 1$, so that $H_i \cap K_i = \{e\}$, as desired. □

1. (May 2022 Q1)

(a) Let H be a subgroup of a group G. Then G acts on the set $G/H = \{gH \mid g \in G\}$ by left multiplication. This action naturally determines a homomorphism $\alpha : G \to S(G/H)$, where $S(X)$ is the group of permutations on a set X. Prove that the kernel of α is contained in H.

Proof. If $H = G$ we are done, so suppose H is a proper subgroup of G. Then it suffices to show that if $x \in G \setminus H$, then $x \notin \ker \alpha$. This is clear, as if $x \notin H$, then $xH \neq H$, so that in particular $\alpha(x)(eH) = xH \neq eH$, meaning $\alpha(x)$ is not trivial, so $x \notin \ker \alpha$. □

(b) Let L be a subgroup of a finite group K such that $[K : L] = p$, where p is the smallest prime that divides the order $|K|$ of K. Prove that L is normal in K. Hint: Use part (a).

Proof. This is Proposition 1.39. □

(c) Describe all finite groups of order p^2, where p is a prime, up to isomorphism. Prove your answer.

We claim that there are two finite groups of order p^2: $\mathbb{Z}/p^2$ and $\mathbb{Z}/p \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p$.

Proof. Since $|G| = p^2$, $|G|$ is abelian (Corollary 1.53). Now, by the classification theorem for f.g. abelian groups, we can write

$$G \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/p_i^{m_i}$$

for some unique collection of primes $p_1, \ldots, p_r$ (not necessarily distinct) and positive integers $m_1, \ldots, m_r$. Given any such decomposition, we must have $p_1^{m_1} \cdots p_r^{m_r} = |G| = p^2$. Then the desired result follows. □

(d) Describe all finite groups of order $425 = 25 \cdot 17$ up to isomorphism. Prove your answer.

There are two:

$$\mathbb{Z}/17 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/5 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbb{Z}/17 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/25.$$

Proof. Let G be a group of order 425. By the third Sylow theorem, $n_{17} \mid 25$ and $n_{17} \equiv 1 \bmod 17$, so $n_{17} \in \{1, 5, 25\} \cap \{1, 18, 35, \ldots\} = \{1\}$. Similarly, $n_5 \mid 17$ and $n_5 \equiv 1 \bmod 5$, so that $n_5 \in \{1, 17\} \cap \{1, 6, 11, 16, 21, \ldots\} = \{1\}$. Thus G contains precisely one subgroup P of order 17 and one subgroup Q of order 25, and they are both normal by the second Sylow theorem. Moreover, $P \cap Q$ is a subgroup of both P and Q, and $|P \cap Q|$ must divide both 17 and 25, which are coprime, so we must have $|P \cap Q| = 1$, meaning $P \cap Q = \{e\}$. Finally, we have that PQ is a subgroup of G (since Q is normal) by the second isomorphism theorem, and P and Q are both subgroups of PQ, so that 17 and 25 must both divide the order of PQ. Moreover, since $PQ \subseteq G$, we have $|PQ| \leq |G| = 25 \cdot 17$. It follows that $PQ = G$. Thus since P, Q are normal, $P \cap Q = \{e\}$, and $PQ = G$, we have that $G = P \times Q$, by the product recognition theorem (Proposition 1.79).

Now, since $|P| = 17$ is prime, P is cyclic of order 17. Moreover, since $|Q| = 25 = 5^2$, we showed above that either $Q = \mathbb{Z}/5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/5$ or $Q = \mathbb{Z}/25$. Thus we are done. □

2. (May 2022 Q4)

(a) Let G be a finite subgroup of the multiplicative group K^* of a field K. Prove that G is cyclic.

Proof. First of all, we claim that each Sylow subgroup of G is cyclic. To that end, let P be a p-Sylow subgroup of G (where p is some prime dividing the order of G), and let $a \in P$ have maximal order, say $|a| = m$, so $m = p^n$ for some positive integer n. Then $\{1, a, a^2, \dots, a^{m-1}\}$ are m distinct roots of the polynomial $f := x^m - 1 \in K[x]$, which is of degree m, so they are the only roots of f. Now, let $b \in P$. Then since P is a p-group, b has order p^k for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Moreover, by assumption $k \leq n$, so that $b^m = b^{p^n} = (b^{p^k})^{p^{n-k}} = 1$. Thus b is a root of f, meaning $b \in \{1, a, a^2, \dots, a^{m-1}\}$. Our choice of $b \in P$ was arbitrary, and we showed $b \in \langle a \rangle$, so $P = \langle a \rangle$, as desired.

Now, since G is a finite abelian group, it can be written as a product of its Sylow subgroups, each of which we've shown is cyclic. Thus, G can be written as

$$G = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{r} \mathbb{Z}/p_i^{m_i},$$

where each of the p_i's are distinct primes (since G is abelian, given a fixed prime p dividing G, each p-Sylow subgroup of G is normal, so by the second Sylow theorem $n_p = 1$), so by Lemma 2.2, G is cyclic, as desired. □

(b) Let $k = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ be the finite field of order p, p a prime. Let K/k be a finite field extension of degree m. Prove that the elements of K are the roots of the polynomial $X^{p^m} - X$ over k.

Proof. TODO. □

(c) Prove that every irreducible polynomial $f(x) \in k[x]$ is separable.

Proof. TODO. □

3. (August 2021 Q1) Let G be a non-trivial finite group acting on a finite set X. We assume that for all $g \in G \setminus \{e\}$ there exists a unique $x \in X$ such that $g \cdot x = x$.

(a) Let $Y = \{x \in X \mid G_x \neq \{e\}\}$, where G_x denotes the stabilizer of x. Show that Y is stable under the action of G.

Proof. Let $y \in Y$ and $g \in G$. Then by Lemma 2.3, since $\mathrm{Orb}(g \cdot y) = \mathrm{Orb}(y)$ (by definition), it follows that $|\operatorname{Stab}(g \cdot y)| = |\operatorname{Stab}(y)| \geq 2$, so that $g \cdot y$ has a nontrivial stabilizer, as desired. □

(b) Let $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ be a set of orbit representatives of Y/G (with $|Y/G| = n$), and let $m_i = |G_{y_i}|$. Show that

$$1 - \frac{1}{|G|} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m_i}\right).$$

Proof. Note that $|G|/m_i = |\operatorname{Orb}(y_i)|$ by the Orbit/Stabilizer theorem. Thus

$$|G| \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m_i}\right) = n|G| - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{|G|}{m_i} = n|G| - \sum_{i=1}^{n} |\operatorname{Orb}(y_i)| = n|G| - |Y|.$$

Thus, it suffices to show that

$$|G| - 1 = n|G| - |Y|.$$

This follows by Burnside's Lemma (Lemma 2.4), as

$$\begin{aligned} n|G| - |Y| &= |Y/G||G| - |Y| \\ &= \sum_{g \in G} |Y^g| - |Y| && (Y^g := \{y \in Y \mid g \cdot y = y\}) \\ &= |Y^e| + \sum_{g \in G \setminus \{e\}} |Y^g| - |Y| \\ &\overset{(*)}{=} |Y| + |G \setminus \{e\}| - |Y| \\ &= |G| - 1, \end{aligned}$$

where $(*)$ denotes where we used the assumption that $|Y^g| = 1$ for all $g \in G \setminus \{e\}$. □

(c) Show that X has (at least) a fixed point under the action of G.

Proof. By part (ii), we have

$$|G| - 1 = n|G| - |Y|$$

which yields

$$|Y| = (n-1)|G| + 1. \tag{2}$$

We claim that Y has at least $n-1$ orbits of size $|G|$. Assuming this were true, since Y has n orbits and $|Y| = (n-1)|G| + 1$, it would follow that the remaining orbit of Y must have order 1, so that the action of G fixes a point of Y, and therefore a point of X, as desired.

Now, to see the claim, note that the order of each orbit of Y divides $|G|$, so if there were two orbits of size $< |G|$, the sum of their orders would be at most $|G|$, which would yield

$$|Y| \leq |G| + (n-2)|G| = (n-1)|G| < (n-1)|G| + 1,$$

a contradiction of Equation 2, as desired. □

4. (January 2021 Q1) Let G be a group of order 2057.

(a) Snow that $G \simeq P \times Q$, where P is a group of order 17 and Q is a group of order 121. Determine all groups of order 2057 up to isomorphism.

There are two.

$$\mathbb{Z}/17 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/121 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbb{Z}/17 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/11 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/11.$$

Proof. Observe that $2057 = 17 \cdot 121 = 17 \cdot 11^2$, and use the exact same argument given in May 2022, Q1(d). □

(b) Show that $\mathrm{Aut}(G) \simeq \mathrm{Aut}(P) \times \mathrm{Aut}(Q)$.

Proof. This is Lemma 2.5. □

(c) Show that if Q is cyclic, then so is $\mathrm{Aut}(Q)$. What is the order of $\mathrm{Aut}(Q)$ in this case?

Proof. This is proven in class — if $G \cong \langle a \mid a^n \rangle$, then there is an isomorphism of monoids

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{End}(G) \qquad \text{given by} \qquad [k] \mapsto (a^m \mapsto a^{mk})$$

(this is easily proven via the universal property of free groups). Thus there is an isomorphism of groups

$$(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times \cong \mathrm{Aut}(G).$$

We know that $|(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times| = \phi(n)$, where $\phi(n)$ is the number of positive integers less than or equal to n that are coprime to n.

It is straightforward to see that $\phi(p^k) = p^k - p^{k-1} = p^{k-1}(p-1)$ if p is prime: given $1 \leq m < p^k$, the only way to have $\gcd(p^k, m) > 1$ is if m is a multiple of p, that is, $m \in \{p, 2p, 3p, \ldots, p^{k-1}p = p^k\}$, and there are p^{k-1} such multiples not greater than p^k. Therefore, the other $p^k - p^{k-1}$ numbers are all relatively prime to p^k. Thus if $Q \cong \mathbb{Z}/121 = \mathbb{Z}/11^2$, we have that $|\mathrm{Aut}(Q)| = |(\mathbb{Z}/11^2)^\times| = 11^2 - 11 = 110$. □

(d) If Q is not cyclic, find an isomorphic description of $\mathrm{Aut}(Q)$ and compute its order.

Proof. If Q is not cyclic, then $Q \cong \mathbb{Z}/11 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/11 = \mathbb{F}_{11}^2$, so that $\mathrm{Aut}(Q) = \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{11})$. The group $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has order $(p^n-1)(p^n-p)(p^n-p^2)\cdots(p^n-p^{n-1})$. (The first row u_1 of the matrix can be anything but the 0-vector, so there are $p^n - 1$ possibilites for the first row. The second row can be anything but a multiple of the first row, giving $p^n - p$ possibilites. For any choice u_1, u_2 of the first rows, the third row can be anything but a linear combination of u_1 and u_2. The number of linear combinations $a_1u_1 + a_2u_2$ is just the number of choices for the pair (a_1, a_2), and there are p^2 of these. It follows that there are $p^n - p^2$ for the third row. And so on.) Thus $\mathrm{Aut}(Q)$ has order $(11^2-1)(11^2-11) = 120 \cdot 110 = 13200$. □

5. (August 2020 Q1)

(a) A finite group G is called *cool* if G has precisely four Sylow subgroups (over all primes p). The order $|G|$ of a cool group is called a *cool* number. For example, S_3 is a cool group and 6 is a cool number. Describe the set of all cool numbers. Hint: Use prime factorization in your description.

We claim there are two types of cool numbers:

- **Type I.** Numbers of the form $p^n q^m r^k s^\ell$, where p, q, r, s are distinct prime numbers, and n, m, k, ℓ are positive integers. I.e., numbers with exactly four distinct prime factors.
- **Type II.** Numbers of the form $2^n 3^m$, where n and m are any positive integers.

Proof. To start, we will show any Type I or II number is cool. First, let p, q, r, s be distinct prime numbers, and n, m, k, ℓ be positive integers, and consider the group

$$G = \mathbb{Z}/p^n \oplus \mathbb{Z}/q^m \oplus \mathbb{Z}/r^k \oplus \mathbb{Z}/s^\ell.$$

Because G is abelian, every subgroup of G is normal. Thus we have $n_p = n_q = n_r = n_s = 1$ by the second Sylow theorem, so that G has 4 Sylow subgroups as desired.

Now, let n and m be positive integers and consider the group

$$G = S_3 \times \mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1} \times \mathbb{Z}/3^{m-1}.$$

Clearly $|G| = 6 \cdot 2^{n-1} \cdot 3^{m-1} = 2^n 3^m$. Now we claim that $n_2(G) = 3$ and $n_3(G) = 1$. To see this, note first that $n_3(S_3) = 1$ and $n_2(S_3) = 3$. Then $n_3(S_3 \times \mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1}) = 1$ by Lemma 2.6, since 3 does not divide $|\mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1}|$, and $n_2(S_3 \times \mathbb{Z}/2^{n-1}) = n_2(S_3) = 3$, by Lemma 2.7. A simular argument yields that $n_3(G) = 1$ and $n_2(G) = 3$, as desired.

Now, let G be a group. Then we claim that in order for G to be cool, its order must be Type I or II as defined above. If $|G|$ has more than four distinct prime

factors, then G has more than four Sylow subgroups by Sylow 1, so G isn't cool. We showed above that any number with precisely four distinct prime factors is cool. Clearly the trivial group is not cool. Thus, it suffices to consider the cases that $|G|$ has one, two, or three prime factors. In what follows, let p, q, and r be distinct primes, and let n, m, and k be positive integers.

Case 1. $|G| = p^n$. By the third Sylow theorem, we have $n_p \mid 1$, which implies $n_p = 1 \neq 4$, so no p-group is cool.

Case 2. $|G| = p^n q^m$. In order for G to be cool, we must have $n_p + n_q = 4$, so suppose this holds. Then we claim $\{p, q\} = \{2, 3\}$. If $n_p = n_q = 2$, then by Sylow 3 we'd have $n_p = 2 \equiv 1 \bmod p$, i.e., $1 \equiv 0 \bmod p$, but 1 is not a multiple of any prime, so we can't have $n_p = n_q = 2$.

Now, suppose $\{n_p, n_q\} = \{1, 3\}$, say WLOG $n_p = 3$ and $n_q = 1$. Then by Sylow 3, we have $n_p = 3 \equiv 1 \bmod p$, i.e., $2 \equiv 0 \bmod p$, which is only possible if $p = 2$. We'd also have $n_p = 3 \mid q^m$, which is only possible if $q = 3$. Hence $|G| = 2^n 3^m$, so $|G|$ is Type II, as desired.

Case 3. $|G| = p^n q^m r^\ell$. Again, if G is cool, then we can assume WLOG that $n_p = 2$ and $n_q = n_r = 1$. Then by Sylow 3, $n_p = 2 \equiv 1 \bmod p$, i.e., $1 \equiv 0 \bmod p$, an impossibility since $p \neq 1$. Thus if G has 3 prime factors then it is lame. □

(b) For each cool number n that you found in part (a), determine whether every group of order n is nilpotent.

Every Type I cool group is nilpotent, and no Type II cool group is nilpotent.

Proof. Now, let G be a Type I cool group, so that $|G|$ has four distinct prime factors and G has four Sylow subgroups. Then it follows by Lemma 2.8 that G is a product of its Sylow subgroups. Thus G is nilpotent by Theorem 1.108, as desired.

Now, we claim that no Type II cool group is nilpotent. Indeed, we showed above that any Type II cool group satisfies $n_2 = 3$, which means G cannot be nilpotent by Theorem 1.108, as any finite nilpotent group has exactly one p-Sylow subgroup for each prime p dividing its order. □

(c) For each cool number n that you found in part (a), determine whether every cool group of order n is solvable.

Every cool group is solvable.

Proof. Recall every nilpotent group is solvable, so every Type I cool group is solvable. By Burnside's Theorem (proven in Dummit & Foote Section 19.2), every group of order $p^a q^b$ for p and q distinct primes and a and b positive integers is solvable, so Type II cool groups are solvable.[2] □

6. (August 2020 Q2) Suppose a finite group G acts on a set A so that for every nontrivial $g \in G$ there exists a unique fixed point (i.e., there is exactly one $a \in A$, depending on g, such that $g(a) = a$). Prove that this fixed point is the same for all $g \in G$.

Proof. This is August 2021, Q1(c). □

[2] I don't know if we'd be allowed to use Burnside's theorem on the comp, since it looks like Rezk didn't state or prove it in his 2020 notes. But it is in Dummit & Foote...so who knows.