

Assignment 7  
Karan Sikka  
ksikka@andrew.cmu.edu  
E  
March 30, 2012

---

**A Long Expected Party**

---

- a.  $(G, [, ,])$  follows the rules Lhach and Nar, so it is an Elen. **Proof of Llach**

$$[a, b, c] = a \circ b^{-1} \circ c$$

$$\implies [[a, b, c], d, e] = a \circ b^{-1} \circ c \circ d^{-1} \circ e.$$

$$[d, c, b] = d \circ c^{-1} \circ b$$

$$\implies [a, [d, c, b], e] = a \circ (d \circ c^{-1} \circ b)^{-1} \circ e = a \circ b^{-1} \circ c \circ d^{-1} \circ e.$$

$$[c, d, e] = c \circ d^{-1} \circ e$$

$$\implies [a, b, [c, d, e]] = a \circ b^{-1} \circ c \circ d^{-1} \circ e$$

From the above, it is clear that  $[[a, b, c], d, e] = [a, [d, c, b], e] = [a, b, [c, d, e]]$ . Therefore, Llach is satisfied.

**Proof of Nar**

$$[a, a, b] = a \circ a^{-1} \circ b = 1 \circ b = b$$

$$[b, a, a] = b \circ a^{-1} \circ a = b \circ 1 = b$$

Since  $[a, a, b] = [b, a, a] = b$ , Nar is satisfied.

Since Llach and Nar are both satisfied,  $(G, [, ,])$  is an Elen.

- b.  $(A, *)$  is a group if it is closed, associative, contains the identity  $u$ , and has an inverse.

Let  $a, b$ , and  $c$  be in  $A$ .

**Closure:** (to show  $a * b \in A$ ) This is true by the definition of  $*$ .

**Associativity:** (to show  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$ )

$$b * c = [b, u, c]$$

$$\implies a * (b * c) = [a, u, [b, u, c]]$$

$$a * b = [a, u, b]$$

$$\implies (a * b) * c = [[a, u, b], u, c]$$

By the rule of Lhach, the above two results may be equated, and  $(A, *)$  is associative.

**Identity:** (to show  $a * u = a = u * a$ )

$$a * u = [a, u, u] = a \text{ (Nar)}$$

$$u * a = [u, u, a] = a \text{ (Nar)}$$

Therefore,  $a * u = a = u * a$  and the identity exists.

**Inverse:** (to show  $a * a^{-1} = u = a^{-1} * a$ )

$$a^{-1} = [u, a, u]$$

Right Inverse:

$$\begin{aligned} a * a^{-1} &= a * [u, a, u] \text{ (substitution)} \\ &= [a, u, [u, a, u]] \text{ (Def of *)} \\ &= [a, [a, u, u], u] \text{ (Llach)} \\ &= [a, a * u, u] \text{ (Def of *)} \\ &= [a, a, u] \text{ (Identity)} \\ &= u \text{ (Nar)} \end{aligned}$$

Left Inverse:

$$\begin{aligned} a^{-1} * a &= [u, a, u] * a \text{ (Def of *)} \\ &= [[u, a, u], u, a] \text{ (Def of *)} \\ &= [u, [u, u, a], a] \text{ (Llach)} \\ &= [u, u * a, a] \text{ (Def of *)} \\ &= [u, u, a] \text{ (Identity)} \\ &= u \text{ (Nar)} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $a * a^{-1} = u = a^{-1} * a$ ,  $a^{-1}$  is an inverse such that  $a^{-1} = [u, a, u]$ .

Therefore, we have shown that  $(A, *)$  is a group.

## The Council of Elrond

Let there be  $n$  members in the Council, where  $n$  is a positive integer. Enumerate the members of the Council in ascending order starting from Frodo with 1. Instead of a circle, put them in a line:

1   2   ...   n-1   n

Elrond chooses a person, skips  $k$  people, and chooses the next person, where  $k$  starts at 1 and increases by 1 every iteration. Call  $E(k)$  the index of the  $k$ th person chosen.

$$E(1) = 1$$

$$E(k) = k + E(k - 1)$$

Upon inspection, we see that this is also one more than the sum of positive integers up to  $k \bmod n$ .

$$E(k) = 1 + \left( \sum_{i=1}^k i \bmod n \right) = 1 + \left( \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \bmod n \right)$$

**Claim:** When  $n$  is a power of two, all members of Elrond are chosen eventually. In mathematical terms, When  $n = 2^i$  for some integer  $i$ ,  $E(k)$  will assume all values from 1 to  $n$ , where  $k$  is a positive number. More strongly, it is true that  $E(k)$  will cover all these values using  $k$  from 1 to  $2k$ .

**Claim:** When  $n$  is not a power of two, at least one member of the council of Elrond will never be chosen. In math terms, there exists an  $m$  between 1 and  $n$  such that  $E(k) \neq m$  for all positive integer values of  $k$ .

All members of the council will be chosen eventually if there a power of two members in the council.

---

## Battle of the Hornburg

---

a. Let  $a, b \in G$  where  $G$  is a group under the operation  $*$ , with the special property described in the problem. We know  $\forall u \in G, u^2 = u * u = e$  where  $e$  is the identity, since each element has an order of at most 2. Consider: .

$$\begin{aligned}
 a * b &= e * a * b * e && \text{(identity)} \\
 &= b^2 * a * b * a^2 && \text{(order at most 2)} \\
 &= b * (b * a)^2 * a && \text{(closure and associativity)} \\
 &= b * e * a && \text{(order at most 2)} \\
 &= b * a && \text{(identity)}
 \end{aligned}$$

b. To prove that  $h$  is a Thalio Gul iff  $G$  is abelian, it is sufficient to prove both:

1. If  $h$  is a Thalio Gul, then  $G$  is abelian.
2. If  $G$  is abelian, then  $h$  is a Thalio Gul.

Let  $a, b \in G$ , where  $G$  is a group under  $*$ .

### Proof of 1

Let  $h$  be a Thalio Gul where  $h(x) = x^{-1}$ .

From the definition of Thalio Gul, we know  $\forall a, b \in G, h(a * b) = h(a) * h(b)$ . Thus, it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(a * b) &= h(a) * h(b) && \text{def of Thalio Gul} \\
 \implies (a * b)^{-1} &= a^{-1} * b^{-1} && \text{(def of } h) \\
 \implies (a * b)^{-1} &= (b * a)^{-1} && \text{(definition of inverse)} \\
 \implies h[(a * b)^{-1}] &= h[(b * a)^{-1}] && \text{(apply } h \text{ to both sides)} \\
 \implies [(a * b)^{-1}]^{-1} &= [(b * a)^{-1}]^{-1} && \text{(inverse of inverse of } u \text{ is } u) \\
 \implies a * b &= b * a && \text{(def of } h)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we see that if  $h$  is a Thalio Gul, then  $G$  satisfies commutativity and  $G$  is Abelian.

### Proof of 2

Let  $G$  be Abelian.

Therefore  $a * b = b * a$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(a * b) &= h(b * a) && (G \text{ is abelian}) \\
 &= (a * b)^{-1} = (b * a)^{-1} && \text{(def of } h) \\
 &= b^{-1} * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * b^{-1} && \text{(Theorem 4)} \\
 &= h(b) * h(a) = h(a) * h(b) && \text{def of } h
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $h(a * b) = h(a) * h(b)$ ,  $h$  is a Thalion Gul.

---

## Shelob's Lair

---

Sym 5 is the group of transformations on the permutations of [5]. We will define the group under the operation of composition (\*).

Starting from an arbitrary permutation  $p \in \text{Sym } 5$ , you can transform  $p$  to be one of  $5!$  possible permutations. Therefore the order of Sym 5 is  $5! = 120$ .

G is the group of transformations on the labelings of the graph of Shelob's Lair. We will define the group under the operation of composition (\*').

We label Shelob's graph under the following rules. Each node will have an unordered pair of distinct numbers from the set of [5]. Additionally, for all nodes  $n$ ,  $n$  must not have any numbers in common with the neighbors of  $n$ . For example, if  $n$  is labeled as  $\{1, 2\}$ , then it's neighbor's labelings must not have 1 or 2.

We will show that G also has order 120. Say you have an arbitrary labeling  $l$ . For an arbitrary node  $n$  in the graph, choose 2 elements from [5] numbers to represent the node. There are  $\binom{5}{2} = 10$  ways to do this. Since  $n$  has degree 3, there are 3 other nodes which must have labels, with numbers excluding the first two chosen. So there are  $\binom{3}{2} = 3$  different labelings to choose from, and  $n$  has 3 neighbors. Therefore, there are  $3!$  ways to label the neighbors of  $n$ . For each of these nodes in the neighborset of  $n$ , there are 2 neighbors which are not  $n$  and only 2 labelings left. Then there are 2 ways to do this step. It is clear to see that there is only 1 way to label the rest of the nodes. In total, that makes

$$10 * 3! * 2 = 120$$

Woah!

$$|G| = |\text{Sym}5| = 120$$

Now we will try to show that there exists a function  $f : \text{Sym}5 \rightarrow G$  which is an isomorphism. That is to say there exists a **homomorphism**  $f$  which is bijective. To be a homomorphism  $f$  must satisfy the property that  $f(a * b) = f(a) *' f(b)$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are elements of Sym 5. Specifically,  $f$  is a function which maps a permutation to a labeling of shelob's graph.

Say you have two permutations in Sym 5 called  $a$  and  $b$ . Recall that  $*$  is the composition operator for permutations and  $*'$  is the composition operator for graph labelings. If you do  $a * b$ , you get a permutation  $c$  because groups satisfy closure. If you do  $f(a)$ , you get a graph labeling  $a'$ . If you do  $f(b)$  you get a graph labeling  $b'$ . When you compose these two labelings, you get a labeling  $c'$ . Without a thorough proof,  $f(c) = c'$ .

### **Bijectivity:**

Injectivity:

Say you have two different permutations. Each generates a different graph labeling. Therefore two distinct permutations generate two distinct graph labelings.

This fact, combined with the fact that  $|\text{Sym}5| = |G|$  leads to the conclusion that the homomorphism is a bijection. Therefore, there exists an isomorphism between Sym 5 and G.

---

## The Siege of Gondor

---

### Part a.

For a given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , consider the consecutive set  $S$  of  $n$  integers

$$S = \{(n+1)! + 2, (n+1)! + 3, \dots, (n+1)! + (n+1)\}$$

By the definition of factorial,  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leq k \leq n+1$

$$k | (n+1)!$$

By the definition of divides, for each  $k$ ,  $\exists c \geq 1$  such that:

$$(n+1)! = ck$$

Therefore,

$$(n+1)! + k = ck + k = k(c+1)$$

Therefore,  $k | ((n+1)! + k)$  by the definition of divides. Therefore, every element in  $S$  defined above is composite.

Therefore,  $S$  is a set of  $n$  composite, consecutive integers which can be generated for any given  $n$ . Therefore  $S$  exists.

### Part b.

First, we prove the following:  $x^b - 1 = (x-1)(x^{b-1} + x^{b-2} + \dots + 1)$

The proof is by algebra:

$$\begin{aligned} (x-1)(x^{b-1} + x^{b-2} + \dots + 1) &= x(x^{b-1} + x^{b-2} + \dots + 1) - (x^{b-1} + x^{b-2} + \dots + 1) \\ &= (x^b + x^{b-1} + \dots + x) - (x^{b-1} + x^{b-2} + \dots + 1) \\ &= x^b - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $n$  is composite, we know  $\exists a, b > 1$  such that  $n = ab$ .

$$2^n - 1 = 2^{ab} - 1 = (2^a)^b - 1$$

Let  $x = 2^a$ , and then by the result proven above,

$$(2^a)^b - 1 = (2^a - 1)((2^a)^{b-1} + (2^a)^{b-2} + \dots + 1)$$

The factor on the left is greater than 1, since  $a > 1$  and  $2^a - 1 \geq 4 - 1 = 3 > 1$ . The factor on the right is a sum of positive numbers, each greater than one.

Therefore, if  $n$  is composite,  $2^n - 1$  can be factored into two integers greater than 1. By definition, it is composite.

### Part c.

---

## Mount Doom

---

### Part a.

The proof is by induction.

### Claim:

$$P(n) = "C_n \geq 2^n" \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

### Base Case:

$$P(0) \iff C_0 \geq 2^0 \iff 1 \geq 1$$

$$P(1) \iff C_1 \geq 2^1 \iff \binom{2*1}{1} \geq 2 \iff 2 \geq 2$$

The claim holds for the  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$ .

### Inductive Hypothesis:

Assume  $P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 1$ .

### Inductive Step:

(To show  $C_{k+1} \geq 2^{k+1}$ )

$$\begin{aligned} C_{k+1} &\geq 2^{k+1} \\ \iff C_{k+1} &\geq 2^k \cdot 2 && \text{(Algebra)} \\ \iff C_{k+1} &\geq 2C_k && \text{(By the IH)} \\ \iff \frac{(2k+2)!}{(k+1)!(k+1)!} &\geq \frac{2(2k)!}{k!k!} && \text{[Def of } C_n\text{]} \\ \iff \frac{(2k+2)!}{(k+1)!(k+1)!} &\geq \frac{2(2k)!}{k!k!} \cdot \frac{(k+1)(k+1)}{(k+1)(k+1)} && \text{(Multiply by 1)} \\ \iff \frac{(2k+2)!}{(k+1)!(k+1)!} &\geq \frac{2(k+1)^2(2k)!}{(k+1)!(k+1)!} && \text{(Algebra)} \\ \iff (2k+2)! &\geq 2(k+1)^2(2k)! && \text{(Algebra)} \\ (2k+2)(2k+1) &\geq 2(k+1)^2 && \text{(Divide by } (2k)!\text{)} \\ \iff 4k^2 + 6k + 2 &\geq 2k^2 + 4k + 2 && \text{(Expand)} \\ \iff 2k^2 + 2k &\geq 0 && \text{(Simplify)} \\ \iff \text{true} &&& \text{(k is positive)} \end{aligned}$$

Note that since  $k \geq 1$ , all division above is legal. Since all the steps are reversible, we have proved that  $P(k) \implies P(k+1)$ .

By mathematical induction, the claim holds.