

1. Consider the veracity or falsehood of each of the following statements. For bonus, argue for those that you believe are true while providing a counterexample for those that you believe are false. Let $G = \langle g \rangle$ have order 300.

- ① There are exactly 80 generators of G .
- ② G has only one element of order 3.
- ③ G can be embedded in S_{30} .
- ④ G has a subgroup of order 20.
- ⑤ G has a totality of 18 subgroups.

Solution.

- ① True. Since $G = \langle g \rangle$ is cyclic and since $|g| = 300$, it follows that the number of generators of G is the number of positive integers relatively prime to 300, which is 80.
- ② False.

Counterexample. We have that $g^{100} \neq g^{200}$ (since $|g| = 300$) and

$$|g^{100}| = \frac{300}{\gcd(300, 100)} = 3 = \frac{300}{\gcd(300, 200)} = |g^{200}|.$$

- ③ False.

Proof. It suffices to show that S_{30} has no element of order 300. Suppose to the contrary that $\sigma \in S_{30}$ has order 300. Then we can write σ as a product of disjoint cycles (each of length greater than 1)

$$\sigma = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \cdots \alpha_n$$

so that $|\sigma| = \text{lcm}(|\alpha_1|, |\alpha_2|, \dots, |\alpha_n|) = 300$. Now since $5^2 \mid 300$, it follows that 5^2 must divide the order of at least one of the cycles. We can assume without loss that $5^2 \mid |\alpha_1|$. Thus α_1 must be a 25-cycle. By a similar argument, it follows that 2^2 must divide the order of at least one of the cycles. Assume without loss that $2^2 \mid |\alpha_2|$. Since there are 25 elements in α_1 , there can be at most 5 elements in α_2 , so that α_2 is a 4-cycle. Thus

$$\sigma = \alpha_1 \alpha_2,$$

a contradiction since $\text{lcm}(|\alpha_1|, |\alpha_2|) = 100 \neq 300$. □

- ④ True. This subgroup of G , $\langle g^{15} \rangle$, has 20 elements.
- ⑤ True. Since the number of positive divisors of 300 is 18, it follows that G has exactly 18 subgroups.

2. Let G be an abelian group and let $a, b \in G$ be of order 120 and 72 respectively. Do the following:

- ① Find an element of order 15.
- ② What is the order of b^{10} ?
- ③ Find an element of as large an order as you can.

Solution.

- ① The element a^8 has order 15.
 - ② $|b^{10}| = \frac{72}{\gcd(72, 10)} = 36$.
 - ③ The element $a^{24}b$ has order 360.
3. Consider the non-abelian group of order 55 from **Homework #4**. View this group as acting on all column vectors of size 2 (with entries in \mathbb{Z}_{11}).

- ① Find the number of fixed points of $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.
- ② Find the number of fixed points of $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$.
- ③ Decide on the number of fixed elements each of the elements of the group has.
- ④ Use Burnside's Lemma to count the orbits.

Solution.

- ① Suppose $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{11}$. Then it follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix},$$

so that $b = 0$. Thus the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ fixes 11 elements and they are

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} : a \in \mathbb{Z}_{11} \right\}.$$

- ② Suppose $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{11}$. Then it follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3a \\ 4b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix},$$

so that $2a = 0$ and $3b = 0$. Multiply the former equality by 6 and the latter by 4 to get $a = b = 0$. Thus the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ fixes only 1 element, the zero vector.

- ③ There are 44 matrices of the form $\begin{pmatrix} b & x \\ 0 & b^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$, with $b \neq 1$, and each only fixes the zero vector. The identity matrix fixes all the vectors (121 of them), while each of the remaining 10 matrices fixes exactly 11 vectors.
- ④ Let n be the number of orbits. Using our results from ③ and Burnside's Lemma, it follows that that

$$n \cdot 55 = 44 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 121 + 10 \cdot 11 = 275,$$

so that $n = 5$.

4. Let the vertices of the cube be given as follows:

$$1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, 2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, 3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, 4 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, 5 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, 6 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, 7 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\text{and } 8 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ① Label the faces A, A', B, B', C , and C' (where the prime means opposite), and give each as a set of four vertices. Let A be the intersection with the plane $x = 1$, B with the plane $y = 1$ and C with $z = 1$.
- ② Find 24 3×3 matrices of determinant 1 that are isometries of the cube, and write each as a permutation in S_8 (of the eight vertices) and also as a permutation of the faces. **Hint:** Start with the six permutation matrices of size 3.

Assume these 24 matrices form a group G . **Bonus.** Prove this.

Assume these $G \simeq S_4$. **Bonus.** Prove this.

- ③ Find the number of ways to color a cube with two colors.
- ④ Find the number of ways to color a cube with three colors.

Bonus. Find the number of ways to color the cube with n colors.

Solution.

- ① s