

Exercise 5.40: In S_4 , find a cyclic subgroup of order 4 and a non-cyclic subgroup of order 4.

Note that $\langle (1234) \rangle = \{(1234), (13)(24), (1432), e\}$, a cyclic subgroup of order 4. Note that the group $\{e, (12), (34), (12)(34)\}$ is closed and each element is its own inverse, thus no element is a generator for the subgroup and thus this subgroup is a non-cyclic subgroup of order 4.

Exercise 5.43: Find group elements α and β in S_5 such that $|\alpha| = 3$, $|\beta| = 3$, and $|\alpha\beta| = 5$. Let $\alpha = (123)$ and $\beta = (345)$, note that $|\alpha| = 3$, $|\beta| = 3$. Note that $\alpha\beta = (12345)$, and $|\alpha\beta| = 5$.

Exercise 5.46: Prove that A_n is non-Abelian for all $n \geq 4$.

Note that $\alpha = (123), \beta = (124) \in A_n$ for all $n \geq 4$. Note that $\alpha\beta = (13)(24) \neq (14)(23) = \beta\alpha$, thus A_n is non-Abelian for all $n \geq 4$.

Exercise 5.61: Show that A_5 has 24 elements of order 5, 20 elements of order 3, and 15 elements of order 2.

Note that any cycle of 5 elements, like (12345) or (13245) , are elements of order 5 in A_5 . Also note that any element of A_5 of order 5 can be written as one cycle with 5 elements starting with one. By counting there are $4!$ ways to create a cycle of 5 elements starting with 1, thus A_5 has $4! = 24$ elements of order 5.

A similar logic applies to cycles of order 3. We simply choose 3 elements from the 5, there are $\frac{5*4*3}{3*2}$ ways to do this. We then put one element in front, let's say the smallest element and check how many ways the other elements can be ordered, that being 2 ways. This gives us a total of $\frac{5*4*3}{3*2} * 2 = 20$ elements of order 3.

Note that for a element to be of order 2 it must be 2 two cycles. These can be counted by first choosing the 4 elements to use, or equivalently choosing which element not to use, there are 5 ways to do this. Next we choose the two cycles, there are three ways to do this, we can see this if we consider the case where our four numbers are 1234, the three ways to make two two cycles are, $(12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)$. Thus there are $5 * 3 = 15$ elements of order 2.

Exercise 5.76: Given that β and γ are in S_4 with $\beta\gamma = (1432)$, $\gamma\beta = (1243)$, and $\beta(1) = 4$, determine β and γ .

We know that $\gamma(4) = \gamma(\beta(1)) = 2$.

We know that $\beta(2) = \beta(\gamma(4)) = 3$.

We know that $\gamma(3) = \gamma(\beta(2)) = 4$.

We know that $\beta(4) = \beta(\gamma(3)) = 2$.

We know that $\gamma(2) = \gamma(\beta(4)) = 3$.

We know that $\beta(3) = \beta(\gamma(2)) = 1$.

We know that $\gamma(1) = \gamma(\beta(3)) = 1$.

Thus we know that $\beta = (1423)$ and $\gamma = (1)(234)$.

Exercise 5.78: Find five subgroups of S_5 of order 24.

Note that $S_4 \subseteq S_5$ and that S_4 is of order $4! = 24$. We can achieve the other 4 subgroups of order 24 by taking S_4 and replacing every 1 with a 5, then another subgroup can be constructed by taking S_4 and replacing every 2 with a 5, and another with 3 and another with 4 for a total of 5 subgroups of S_5 of order 24.