

Exercise 5.11: Determine whether the following permutations are even or odd.

(d) $(12)(134)(152)$

This would be made of 5 two cycles and thus is odd.

e $(1243)(3521)$

This would be made of 6 two cycles and thus is even.

Exercise 5.14: Find eight elements in S_6 that commute with $(12)(34)(56)$. Do they form a subgroup of S_6 ?

Eight elements that commute are $A = \{e, (12), (12)(34), (12)(56), (12)(34)(56), (34), (34)(56), (56)\} \subseteq S_6$. Yes they do form a sub group. Note that every element is its own inverse. Define $D_1 = (12)$, $D_2 = (34)$, $D_3 = (56)$. Note that each of these D s commute and are there own inverses. Note that every combination of D s appear in A . Take two arbitrary elements of A , $D_1^a D_2^b D_3^c$ and $D_1^d D_2^e D_3^f$, note that combining them $D_1^{ad} D_2^{be} D_3^{cf}$ is a element in A , thus A is closed with respect to functional composition. We now can say A is a group.

Exercise 5.23: Show that if H is a subgroup of S_n , then either every member of H is an even permutation or exactly half of the members are even. (This exercise is referred to in Chapter 25.)

Suppose H is a subgroup of S_n .

Suppose that not every member of H is an even permutation and not exactly half of the members are even.

Suppose that there are more evens than odds. Note that there exists at least one odd permutation in H , call it a . Note that a applied to any even element produces a odd element of H . Noting that there are more evens than odds we can say there exist two distinct even permutations in H that go to the same odd permutation when a is applied to them (pigeonhole principal), call these elements b, c . Note that $b \neq c$ and yet $ab = ac$, witch via cancellation gives us $b = c$, a contradiction, conclude the negation of our supposition, there are more odds than evens (there can not be the same number by one of our above suppositions).

Note that a applied to any odd element produces a even element of H . Noting that there are more odds than evens we can say there exist two distinct odd permutations in H that go to the same even permutation when a is applied to them (pigeonhole principal), call these elements d, e . Note that $d \neq e$ and yet $ad = ae$, witch via cancellation gives us $d = e$, a contradiction, conclude the negation of our supposition, that either every member of H is an even permutation or exactly half of the members are even.

Exercise 5.27: Use Table 5.1 to compute the following.

a. The centralizer of $\alpha_3 = (13)(24)$

$$C(\alpha_3) = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4\}$$

b. The centralizer of $\alpha_{12} = (124)$

$$C(\alpha_{12}) = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_7, \alpha_{12}\}$$

Exercise 5.32: Let $\beta = (123)(145)$. Write β^{99} in disjoint cycle form. Note that $\beta = (14523)$. Note that $\beta^{99} = (\beta^5)^{19}\beta^4 = (e)^{19}(\beta^2)^2 = (15342)^2 = (13254)$

Exercise 5.38: Let $H = \{\beta \in S_5 \mid \beta(1) = 1 \text{ and } \beta(3) = 3\}$. Prove that H is a subgroup of S_5 . How many elements are in H ? Is your argument valid when S_5 is replaced by S_n for $n \geq 3$? How many elements are in H when S_5 is replaced by A_n for $n \geq 4$?

To prove H is a subgroup we need only demonstrate closure. Take $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in H \subseteq S_5$. Note that $\beta_1\beta_2 \in S_5$ since S_5 has closure. Note that $\beta_1\beta_2(1) = \beta_1(1) = 1$ and $\beta_1\beta_2(3) = \beta_1(3) = 3$, thus $\beta_1\beta_2 \in H$. We conclude H is a subgroup.

Elements in H are allowed to permute all elements except the first and third, this would be 3 elements and so there are $3!$ ways to permute them, we conclude $|H| = 3! = 6$.

This argument holds as well if we replace S_5 with S_n for $n \geq 3$. In this case $|H| = (n-2)!$. Noting that the elements in H if we replace S_5 with A_n for $n \geq 4$ are simply the even elements of H if we replace S_5 with S_n , and recalling exercise 5.23 (noting that there is at least one odd element-(24)), we conclude there are exactly half as many elements in H if we replace S_5 with A_n as we would have if we replace S_5 with S_n , that is $\frac{(n-2)!}{2}$.