

HOMEWORK 14

Due date: Monday of Week 15,
Exercises: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.7, 2.13, 2.14, 2.17, 2.18, 3.2, 3.3, 5.5, 5.7, 5.11, 5.12, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5 pages 221-223.

Problem 1. Let G be a finite group with $|G| = n$. Let $\iota : G \rightarrow S_n$ be the embedding in Cayley's theorem (namely, $\iota : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G)$ is determined by the left multiplication action $G \times G \rightarrow G$, $(g, x) \mapsto gx$).

- (1) Let $h \in G$ be an element of order d (so that $d|n$). Show that $\iota(h)$ is a product of n/d disjoint cycles of length d .
- (2) Suppose $n = 4m + 2$. Show that $\iota(h) \in A_n$ if and only if the order of h is odd.

Hint: Let $H = \langle h \rangle \subset G$ and consider the right coset decomposition $G = \coprod Hg_i$. For (2), see Ex. 10.1, page 74. This problem was taken from a Quora answer [here](#).

Problem 2. Let C be a conjugacy class of S_n . Decompose $C \cap A_n$ as conjugacy classes of A_n .

This is roughly Ex.5.11.

Problem 3. Given an element $p \in S_n$ with m_1 1-cycles, \dots , m_n n -cycles. So $\sum_{i=1}^n im_i = n$. For example, for the cycle $p = (123)(45)(67)(89)$ of S_{10} , we have $m_1 = 1, m_2 = 3, m_3 = 1$ and $m_i = 0$ for $i \geq 4$. Determine how many elements are in the conjugacy class determined by p .

Answer:

$$|C| = \frac{n!}{1^{m_1}m_1!2^{m_2}m_2!\dots n^{m_n}m_n!} = \frac{n!}{\prod_{i=1}^n i^{m_i}m_i!}.$$

For example, in S_5 , the conjugacy class contains $(12)(345)$ has $\frac{5!}{2^1 \cdot 1! \cdot 3^1 \cdot 1!} = 20$ elements, and the conjugacy class contains (12345) has $\frac{5!}{5^1} = 4! = 24$ elements.

Problem 4. Let p be a prime number. Show that the cyclic group C_{p^n} for $n \geq 2$ is not a semi-direct product of two proper subgroups.

Proposition 7.3.3, page 198, says that every group of order p^2 is abelian. In the following, we give some examples of non-abelian group of order p^3 . We assume that $p > 2$. If $p = 2$, we have seen that the quaternion group is an order 2 non-abelian group.

The first one is called Heisenberg group of the field \mathbb{F}_p , and we temporarily denote it by $H(\mathbb{F}_p^2)$. (This looks like a wired notation, but it has generalizations). It is defined by

$$H(\mathbb{F}_p^2) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & z \\ & 1 & y \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_p), x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}_p \right\}.$$

Its group structure is defined by matrix multiplication. The other group is temporarily denoted by G_p and it is defined by

$$G_p = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}) : x \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, y \in \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

Problem 5. Show that $H(\mathbb{F}_p^2)$ and G_p are non-abelian group of order p^3 . Moreover, show that they are indeed semidirect products of their own subgroups.

It can be shown that these are the only two non-abelian groups of order p^3 up to isomorphism.

Problem 6. Determine the class equations of $D_n, n \geq 3$, $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p), \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ and $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$, where $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) = \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) / \{\pm I_2\}$.

If you find this hard, at least try some examples for small p .