Dummit & Foote Ch. 3.3: The Isomorphism Theorems

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Oct. 2023

Let G be a group.

1. (10/20/23)

Let F be a finite field of order q and let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Prove that $|GL_n(F) : SL_n(F)| = q - 1$.

Proof. Define a map $\varphi : GL_n(F) \to F^\times$ by $\varphi(A) = \det A$ for all $A \in GL_n(F)$. From Ch. 3.1, Exercise 35., φ is a surjective homomorphism with $\ker \varphi = SL_n(F)$.

From Corollary 17, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |GL_n(F) : \ker \varphi| &= |\varphi(GL_n(F))|, \text{ which implies that} \\ |GL_n(F) : SL_n(F)| &= \underbrace{|F^\times|}_{\varphi \text{ is surjective}} = q - 1, \end{aligned}$$

as desired. $\square$

3. (10/26/23)

Prove that if H is a normal subgroup of G of prime index p then for all $K \leq G$ either

(i) $K \leq H$ or

(ii) $G = HK$ and $|K : K \cap H| = p$.

Proof. Suppose that $H \trianglelefteq G$ with $|G : H| = |G/H| = p$, where p is a prime. Suppose additionally that $K \leq G$ and $K \not\leq H$.

Now let $g \in G$. Clearly g belongs to the left coset gH, which we denote $\overline{g} \in G/H$. Since G/H has order p, it is cyclic, and so is generated by any non-identity element (that is, any coset of H other than itself). So $\overline{g}$ generates G/H. Similarly, for any $k \in K, k \notin H$, $\overline{k}$ generates G/H. Therefore $\overline{g} = \overline{k}$ for some g, k, which implies that $g \in kH$. It follows that $g \in KH$, so $G \leq KH$. Since G is closed, we must have $G = KH = HK$.

From the Diamond Isomorphism Theorem, we have $HK/H \cong K/H \cap K$. Since $HK = G$, it follows that $|G : H| = |K : H \cap K|$, and so $|K : K \cap H| = p$. $\square$

4. (10/27/23)

Let C be a normal subgroup of the group A and let D be a normal subgroup of the group B. Prove that $(C \times D) \trianglelefteq (A \times B)$ and $(A \times B)/(C \times D) \cong (A/C) \times (B/D)$.

Proof. Let $(c, d) \in C \times D$. Consider the conjugate of (c, d) by $(a, b) \in A \times B$:

$$(a, b)(c, d)(a, b)^{-1} = (a, b)(c, d)(a^{-1}, b^{-1}) = (aca^{-1}, bdb^{-1}).$$

Because $C \trianglelefteq A$, the first coordinate is an element of C, and similarly the second is an element of D. Therefore the conjugate element lies in $C \times D$, and it follows that $(C \times D) \trianglelefteq (A \times B)$.

Next, to show that $(A \times B)/(C \times D) \cong (A/C) \times (B/D)$, define a map $\varphi : (A \times B)/(C \times D) \to (A/C) \times (B/D)$ by $\varphi(\overline{(a, b)}) = (\overline{a}, \overline{b})$. We see that this map is a homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(\overline{(a_1, b_1)}\,\overline{(a_2, b_2)}) = \varphi(\overline{(a_1 a_2, b_1 b_2)}) &= (\overline{a_1 a_2}, \overline{b_1 b_2}) \\ &= (\overline{a_1}, \overline{b_1})(\overline{a_2}, \overline{b_2}) = \varphi(\overline{(a_1, b_1)})\varphi(\overline{(a_2, b_2)}). \end{aligned}$$

It is also surjective by definition, since $(\overline{a}, \overline{b}) = \varphi(\overline{(a, b)})$ is an arbitrary element of $(A/C) \times (B/D)$ with a preimage in $(A \times B)/(C \times D)$.

Finally, it is injective. Let $\varphi(\overline{(a_1, b_1)}) = \varphi(\overline{(a_2, b_2)})$. Then $(\overline{a_1}, \overline{b_1}) = (\overline{a_2}, \overline{b_2})$, so we have $\overline{a_1} = \overline{a_2}$ and $\overline{b_1} = \overline{b_2}$. Since $\overline{a_1} = \overline{a_2}$ implies $\overline{(a_1, x)} = \overline{(a_2, x)}$ for all $\overline{x} \in B/D$ and vice-versa, we then have $\overline{(a_1, b_1)} = \overline{(a_2, b_2)}$, and so φ is one-to-one.

Thus φ is an isomorphism, which concludes the proof that $(A \times B)/(C \times D) \cong (A/C) \times (B/D)$. $\square$

5. (10/27/23)

Let QD_{16} be the quasidihedral group described in Exercise 11 of Section 2.5. Prove that $\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$ is normal in QD_{16} and use the Lattice Isomorphism Theorem to draw the lattice of subgroups of $QD_{16}/\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$. Which group of order 8 has the same lattice as this quotient? Use generators and relations for $QD_{16}/\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$ to decide the isomorphism type of this group.

Solution. Consider the subgroup $\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$ in QD_{16}. To prove that it is normal, it suffices to check that the conjugates of σ^4 by the generators of QD_{16} lie in $\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$. Now powers of σ commute, so we only need to check $\tau \sigma^4 \tau^{-1}$:

$$\tau \sigma^4 \tau^{-1} = \tau \sigma^4 \tau = \tau \tau \sigma^{12} = \sigma^{12} = \sigma^4 \in \langle \sigma^4 \rangle,$$

so $\langle \sigma^4 \rangle \trianglelefteq QD_{16}$.

Now from the Lattice Isomorphism Theorem, the lattice of subgroups of $QD_{16}/\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$ corresponds to the lattice of subgroups of QD_{16} containing $\langle \sigma^4 \rangle$:

$$\begin{tikzcd}[column sep=small]
 & & \begin{array}{c} QD_{16}/\langle \sigma^4 \rangle = \\ \overline{QD_{16}} \end{array} \arrow[dl, no head] \arrow[d, no head] \arrow[dr, no head] & & \\
 & \langle \overline{\sigma^2, \tau} \rangle \arrow[dl, no head] \arrow[d, no head] \arrow[dr, no head] & \langle \overline{\sigma} \rangle \arrow[d, no head] & \langle \overline{\sigma^2, \tau\sigma} \rangle \arrow[dl, no head] \arrow[d, no head] \arrow[dr, no head] & \\
\langle \overline{\tau\sigma^2} \rangle \arrow[drr, no head] & \langle \overline{\tau} \rangle \arrow[dr, no head] & \langle \overline{\sigma^2} \rangle \arrow[d, no head] & \langle \overline{\tau\sigma} \rangle \arrow[dl, no head] & \langle \overline{\tau\sigma^3} \rangle \arrow[dll, no head] \\
 & & \langle \overline{\sigma^4} \rangle = \overline{1} & &
\end{tikzcd}$$

Next, consider the generators and relations for $\overline{QD_{16}}$:

$$\overline{QD_{16}} = \langle \overline{\sigma}, \overline{\tau} \mid \overline{\sigma}^4 = \overline{\tau}^2 = \overline{1}, \overline{\sigma}\overline{\tau} = \overline{\tau\sigma^3} = \overline{\tau} \cdot \overline{\sigma}^{-1} \rangle.$$

The right-most equation among the relations: $\overline{\tau\sigma^3} = \overline{\tau} \cdot \overline{\sigma}^{-1}$ shows that the generators and relations of this quotient group are identical to those of D_8, mapping $s \in D_8$ to $\overline{\tau} \in \overline{QD_{16}}$ and $r \in D_8$ to $\overline{\sigma} \in \overline{QD_{16}}$. Thus we have $QD_{16}/\langle \sigma^4 \rangle \cong D_8$. $\square$