

# 1.

## a.

I'll show that  $[SL_n(\mathbb{R}), SL_n(\mathbb{R})] = SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ . that is to say  $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is perfect. Let  $k$  be a field.  $SL(n, k)$  is the special linear group over  $k$ .

First, elementary matrices of the first kind generate the special linear group over a field. The group of invertible  $n \times n$  matrices over  $k$  with determinant equal to 1. Then  $SL(n, k)$  is generated by elementary matrices of form  $E_{i,j}$ , where  $\lambda \in K, 1 \leq i, j \leq n, i \neq j$ . By usual Gauss-Jordan elimination, the matrix  $E_{i,j}(\lambda)$  has 1s on the diagonal,  $\lambda$  in the  $(ij)^{th}$  position and 0 elsewhere.

Then for  $n \geq 2$  number, for  $i \neq j$  in the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\lambda \in k$ , let  $e_{ij}(\lambda)$  be the matrix with  $\lambda$  in the  $(ij)^{th}$  position and 0 elsewhere,  $E_{ij}(\lambda)$  be termed elementary matrices and  $\in SL_n k \forall i \neq j, \lambda \in k$

1. If  $n \geq 3$ , every elementary matrix can be expressed as a commutator of two elementary matrices. In particular, it is the commutator of two elements of  $SL_n(k)$ .

Pick  $l \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$  different from  $i, j$ . Consider elements:

$$g = E_{il}(\lambda), \quad h = E_{lj}(1)$$

Then, the commutator is given by:

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = E_{il}(\lambda)E_{lj}(1)E_{il}(-\lambda)E_{lj}(-1)$$

Rewriting in terms of the  $e_{ij}$  s:

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = (I + e_{il}(\lambda))(I + e_{lj}(1))(I - e_{il}(\lambda))(I - e_{lj}(1))$$

Simplifying this yields:

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = (I + e_{il}(\lambda) + e_{lj}(1) + e_{ij}(\lambda))(I - e_{il}(\lambda) - e_{lj}(1) + e_{ij}(\lambda))$$

Further simplification yields:

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1} = I + e_{ij}(\lambda) = E_{ij}(\lambda)$$

2. If  $n = 2$ , and  $k$  has more than three elements, every elementary matrix can be expressed as a commutator of two elements of  $SL_n(k)$ .

If  $k$  has more than three elements, there exists  $\mu \in k$  such that  $\mu$  is invertible and  $\mu^2 \neq 1$ .

We need to prove that for any  $\lambda$ , the element  $E_{12}(\lambda)$  (and analogously, the element  $E_{21}(\lambda)$ ) is expressible as a commutator. Indeed, set:

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} \mu & 0 \\ 0 & \mu^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad h = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{\lambda}{\mu^2 - 1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

A computation shows that the commutator of  $g$  and  $h$  is  $E_{12}(\lambda)$ . A similar construction gives  $E_{21}(\lambda)$  as a commutator.  $\square$

## b.

If  $n = 2$ , we apply the commutator relation,  $\left[ \begin{pmatrix} \mu & 0 \\ 0 & \mu^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \tau \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & (\mu^2 - 1)\tau \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  but for any  $\lambda \in k$ , we have  $\lambda = (\mu^2 - 1)\tau$ . This can be solved for  $\tau$  as long as there exists a unit  $\mu \in k^\times$  so that  $\mu \neq \pm 1$ . this only works with at least 3 elements in  $k^\times$ .  $\square$

# 2.

**a.**

For  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, x, \cdot)$ , if  $n$  is a composite number, then there are  $1 < a, b < n$  such that  $ab = n$ . Hence  $a + n\mathbb{Z}$  and  $b + n\mathbb{Z}$  are non-zero and their product is zero. So  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  has zero-divisors.

If  $p$  is prime, then  $p \mid ab$  if and only if either  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$ . Hence  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  is a unital (non-trivial) commutative ring without zero-divisors.

If  $n = 1$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is the trivial ring which is not an integral domain (by the definition).

**b.**

First, 1 plays the same role in multiplication as 0 does in addition:  $1 \times a = a, 0 + a = a$ . They are called

the identity. (0 is the additive identity in  $\mathbb{Z}_{30}$ , 1 is the multiplicative identity in  $\mathbb{Z}_{31}^\times$ ).

Then look into  $(\mathbb{Z}_{31})^*$  in detail. For [1], it's clearly the multiplicative identity. For [2],  $[2]^5 \equiv 1 \pmod{31}$ , so order is 5. For [3],  $[3]^3 0 = [1]$

So 3 generates the whole group  $\mathbb{Z}_{31}^\times$ .  $\square$

**c.**

No integer solution.

It's a well known and pretty useful fact that the only possible remainders when a perfect cube is divided by 9 are -1, 0 and 1 (we can easily prove it using Euclid's division lemma and then checking remainders of the first nine cubes).

That is, for an integer  $n$  we have,

$n^3 \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{9}$  when  $n$  is not divisible by 3

and,  $n^3 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  when  $n$  is divisible by 3.

Since, each of the cubes can only take any one of the values of -1, 0 and 1, so the all possible values of  $x^3 + y^3 - z^3 \pmod{9}$  are -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2 and 3, but  $x^3 + y^3 - z^3 \equiv 4$ , which is contradiction.  $\square$

**3.**

---

**a.**

Denote  $N = \bigcap_{g \in G} gHg^{-1}$  be the family of all normal subgroups of  $G$  contained in  $H$ . The family is non-empty, since  $1 \subseteq H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . We claim  $N = \Sigma_{\lambda \in \Lambda} N_\lambda$ , the group generated by all the  $N_\lambda$ 's, satisfied the conditions given. First, since  $N_\lambda \subseteq H$  for each  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , clearly we also have  $N \subseteq H$ . Every normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $H$  is one of the  $N_\lambda$ , which is by definition contained in  $N$ . Thus, since an element of  $N$  is of the form  $h_1 h_2 \dots h_m$ , where  $h_n \in N_{\lambda_n}$ , for each  $g \in G$ , we have  $g(h_1 h_2 \dots h_m)g^{-1} = (gh_1 g^{-1})(gh_2 g^{-1}) \dots (gh_m g^{-1}) \subseteq N$ ,  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

**b.**

If  $N$  is a normal subgroup of group  $G$  and  $n \in N$  then  $gng^{-1} \in N$  for every  $g \in G$  or equivalently  $[n] \subseteq N$  where  $[n] := \{gng^{-1} \mid g \in G\}$  is the conjugacy class of  $n$ .

This tells us that:

$N$  is normal  $\Leftrightarrow \forall g \in G, N = gNg^{-1}$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall n \in N \forall g \in G \exists m_{n,g} \in N, n = gm_{n,g}g^{-1}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow N = \bigcup_{n \in N} \underbrace{\bigcup_{g \in G} \{gm_{n,g}g^{-1}\}}_{\text{conjugacy class of } n}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow N = \bigcup_{n \in N} [n],$$

If conversely  $N$  is a subgroup of group  $G$  that satisfies  $N = \bigcup_{n \in N} [n]$  then it is immediate that  $gn g^{-1} \in N$  for every  $n \in N$  and  $g \in G$ .  $\square$

## 4.

$\rightarrow$ : For  $G$ , we have  $\forall w \in G, w^3 = 1$ , thus  $aca^{-1}c^{-1} = a^2ba^2b^2a^2bab^2a^2 = (a^2b)^2ba(ab)^2ba^2 = b(ba)^2b(ba^2)^2 = ba^2b^2bab^2 = 1$  so  $ac = ca$ , and similarly  $bc = cb$ . Also, we have  $cba = ab$ , so  $ba = c^{-1}ab = abc^2$ .

By the way, any word in  $G$  can be written in the form  $a^i b^j c^k$  with  $i, j, k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , which means that  $G$  is finite with  $|G| \leq 27$ . To get equality, note that the Heisenberg group  $H$  on  $\mathbb{F}_3$  is generated by two elements and every non-identity element has order 3. This means that  $H$  is some quotient of  $G$ , hence  $|G| \geq |H| = 27$ .

$$\leftarrow: \text{ Write } (z_1, z_3; z_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z_1 & z_2 \\ & 1 & z_3 \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

it suffices to check that  $(z_1, z_3; z_2)(x, z; y)^{-1} \in G$ . But  $(x, z; y)^{-1} = (-x, -z; xz - y)$  and  $(z_1, z_3; z_2)(-x, -z; xz - y) = (z_1 - x, z_3 - z; z_2 - cz + xz - y) \in G$ .  $\square$