Now, to prove the bijectivity of  $\psi^*$ , we use the lemma to construct a map  $\psi^*$ :  $\mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathbf{I}^*$ . Consider the composed map  $\varphi^*\psi^*$ :  $\mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathscr{C}$ . It sends  $H1 \longrightarrow H1$ . We apply the lemma again, substituting  $\mathscr{C}$  for S. The uniqueness assertion of the lemma tells us that  $\varphi^*\psi^*$  is the identity map. On the other hand, since the operation on  $\mathbf{I}^*$  is transitive and since  $\psi^*$  is compatible with the operations,  $\psi^*$  must be surjective. It follows that  $\varphi^*$  and  $\psi^*$  are bijective.  $\Box$ 

The axiomatic method has many advantages over honest work.

Bertrand Russell

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# EXERCISES

# 1. The Operations of a Group on Itself

- **1.** Does the rule  $g, x \xrightarrow{} xg^{-1}$  define an operation of G on itself?
- 2. Let H be a subgroup of a group G. Then H operates on G by left multiplication. Describe the orbits for this operation.
- 3. Prove the formula  $|G| = |Z| + \sum |C|$ , where the sum is over the conjugacy classes containing more than one element and where Z is the center of G.
- 4. Prove the Fixed Point Theorem (1.12).
- 5. Determine the conjugacy classes in the group M of motions of the plane.
- 6. Rule out as many of the following as possible as Class Equations for a group of order 10: 1+1+1+2+5, 1+2+2+5, 1+2+3+4, 1+1+2+2+2+2.
- 7. Let  $F = \mathbb{F}_5$ . Determine the order of the conjugacy class of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $GL_2(\mathbb{F}_5)$ .
- 8. Determine the Class Equation for each of the following groups.
  (a) the quaternion group, (b) the Klein four group, (c) the dihedral group D<sub>5</sub>, (d) D<sub>6</sub>, (e) D<sub>n</sub>, (f) the group of upper triangular matrices in GL<sub>2</sub>(F<sub>3</sub>), (g) SL<sub>2</sub>(F<sub>3</sub>).
- 9. Let G be a group of order n, and let F be any field. Prove that G is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $GL_n(F)$ .
- 10. Determine the centralizer in  $GL_3(\mathbb{R})$  of each matrix.

(a) 
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$
 (b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  (c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  (d)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
(e)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  (f)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

\*11. Determine all finite groups which contain at most three conjugacy classes.

12. Let N be a normal subgroup of a group G. Suppose that |N| = 5 and that |G| is odd. Prove that N is contained in the center of G.

- \*13. (a) Determine the possible Class Equations for groups of order 8.(b) Classify groups of order 8.
- 14. Let Z be the center of a group G. Prove that if G/Z is a cyclic group, then G is abelian and hence G = Z.
- \*15. Let G be a group of order 35.
  - (a) Suppose that G operates nontrivially on a set of five elements. Prove that G has a normal subgroup of order 7.
    - (b) Prove that every group of order 35 is cyclic.

# 2. The Class Equation of the Icosahedral Group

- **1.** Identify the intersection  $I \cap O$  when the dodecahedron and cube are as in Figure (2.7).
- 2. Two tetrahedra can be inscribed into a cube C, each one using half the vertices. Relate this to the inclusion  $A_4 \subset S_4$ .
- **3.** Does I contain a subgroup T?  $D_6$ ?  $D_3$ ?
- 4. Prove that the icosahedral group has no subgroup of order 30.
- 5. Prove or disprove:  $A_5$  is the only proper normal subgroup of  $S_5$ .
- 6. Prove that no group of order  $p^e$ , where p is prime and e > 1, is simple.
- 7. Prove or disprove: An abelian group is simple if and only if it has prime order.
- 8. (a) Determine the Class Equation for the group T of rotations of a tetrahedron.
  - (b) What is the center of T?
  - (c) Prove that T has exactly one subgroup of order 4.
  - (d) Prove that T has no subgroup of order 6.
- 9. (a) Determine the Class Equation for the octahedral group O.
  - (b) There are exactly two proper normal subgroups of O. Find them, show that they are normal, and show that there are no others.
- 10. Prove that the tetrahedral group T is isomorphic to the alternating group  $A_4$ , and that the octahedral group O is isomorphic to the symmetric group  $S_4$ . Begin by finding sets of four elements on which these groups operate.
- 11. Prove or disprove: The icosahedral group is not a subgroup of the group of real upper triangular  $2 \times 2$  matrices.
- \*12. Prove or disprove: A nonabelian simple group can not operate nontrivially on a set containing fewer than five elements.

#### **3. Operations on Subsets**

- 1. Let S be the set of subsets of order 2 of the dihedral group  $D_3$ . Determine the orbits for the action of  $D_3$  on S by conjugation.
- 2. Determine the orbits for left multiplication and for conjugation on the set of subsets of order 3 of  $D_3$ .
- 3. List all subgroups of the dihedral group  $D_4$ , and divide them into conjugacy classes.
- 4. Let H be a subgroup of a group G. Prove that the orbit of the left coset gH for the operation of conjugation contains the right coset Hg.
- 5. Let U be a subset of a finite group G, and suppose that |U| and |G| have no common factor. Is the stabilizer of |U| trivial for the operation of conjugation?
- 6. Consider the operation of left multiplication by G on the set of its subsets. Let U be a

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subset whose orbit  $\{gU\}$  partitions G. Let H be the unique subset in this orbit which contains 1. Prove that H is a subgroup of G and that the sets gU are its left cosets.

- 7. Let H be a subgroup of a group G. Prove or disprove: The normalizer N(H) is a normal subgroup of the group G.
- 8. Let  $H \subset K \subset G$  be groups. Prove that H is normal in K if and only if  $K \subset N(H)$ .
- 9. Prove that the subgroup B of upper triangular matrices in  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is conjugate to the group L of lower triangular matrices.
- 10. Let B be the subgroup of  $G = GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  of upper triangular matrices, and let  $U \subset B$  be the set of upper triangular matrices with diagonal entries 1. Prove that B = N(U) and that B = N(B).
- \*11. Let  $S_n$  denote the subgroup of  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  of permutation matrices. Determine the normalizer of  $S_n$  in  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .
- 12. Let S be a finite set on which a group G operates transitively, and let U be a subset of S. Prove that the subsets gU cover S evenly, that is, that every element of S is in the same number of sets gU.
- 13. (a) Let H be a normal subgroup of G of order 2. Prove that H is in the center of G.
  (b) Let H be a normal subgroup of prime order p in a finite group G. Suppose that p is the smallest prime dividing |G|. Prove that H is in the center Z(G).
- \*14. Let H be a proper subgroup of a finite group G. Prove that the union of the conjugates of H is not the whole group G.
- 15. Let K be a normal subgroup of order 2 of a group G, and let  $\overline{G} = G/K$ . Let  $\overline{C}$  be a conjugacy class in  $\overline{G}$ . Let S be the inverse image of  $\overline{C}$  in G. Prove that one of the following two cases occurs.
  - (a) S = C is a single conjugacy class and  $|C| = 2|\overline{C}|$ .
  - (**b**)  $S = C_1 \cup C_2$  is made up of two conjugacy classes and  $|C_1| = |C_2| = |\overline{C}|$ .
- 16. Calculate the double cosets HgH of the subgroup  $H = \{1, y\}$  in the dihedral group  $D_n$ . Show that each double coset has either two or four elements.
- 17. Let H, K be subgroups of G, and let H' be a conjugate subgroup of H. Relate the double cosets H'gK and HgK.
- 18. What can you say about the order of a double coset HgK?

### 4. The Sylow Theorems

- 1. How many elements of order 5 are contained in a group of order 20?
- 2. Prove that no group of order pq, where p and q are prime, is simple.
- 3. Prove that no group of order  $p^2q$ , where p and q are prime, is simple.
- **4.** Prove that the set of matrices  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  where  $a, c \in \mathbb{F}_7$  and c = 1, 2, 4 forms a group of the type process of a group arises.

the type presented in (4.9b) (and that therefore such a group exists).

- 5. Find Sylow 2-subgroups in the following cases: (a)  $D_{10}$  (b) T (c) O (d) I.
- **6.** Find a Sylow *p*-subgroup of  $GL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
- \*7. (a) Let H be a subgroup of G of prime index p. What are the possible numbers of conjugate subgroups of H?
  - (b) Suppose that p is the smallest prime integer which divides |G|. Prove that H is a normal subgroup.

- \*8. Let H be a Sylow p-su group of G, and let K = N(H). Prove or disprove: K = N(K).
- 9. Let G be a group of order  $p^{e}m$ . Prove that G contains a subgroup of order  $p^{r}$  for every integer  $r \leq e$ .
- 10. Let n = pm be an integer which is divisible exactly once by p, and let G be a group of order n. Let H be a Sylow p-subgroup of G, and let S be the set of all Sylow p-subgroups. How does S decompose into H-orbits?
- \*11. (a) Compute the order of  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
  - (b) Find a Sylow *p*-subgroup of  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
  - (c) Compute the number of Sylow *p*-subgroups.
  - $(\boldsymbol{d})$  Use the Second Sylow Theorem to give another proof of the First Sylow Theorem.
- \*12. Prove that no group of order 224 is simple.
- 13. Prove that if G has order  $n = p^e a$  where  $1 \le a < p$  and  $e \ge 1$ , then G has a proper normal subgroup.
- 14. Prove that the only simple groups of order < 60 are groups of prime order.
- 15. Classify groups of order 33.
- 16. Classify groups of order 18.
- 17. Prove that there are at most five isomorphism classes of groups of order 20.
- \*18. Let G be a simple group of order 60.
  - (a) Prove that G contains six Sylow 5-subgroups, ten Sylow 3-subgroups, and five Sylow 2-subgroups.
  - (b) Prove that G is isomorphic to the alternating group  $A_5$ .

# 5. The Groups of Order 12

- 1. Determine the Class Equations of the groups of order 12.
- 2. Prove that a group of order n = 2p, where p is prime, is either cyclic or dihedral.
- \*3. Let G be a group of order 30.
  - (a) Prove that either the Sylow 5-subgroup K or the Sylow 3-subgroup H is normal.
  - (b) Prove that HK is a cyclic subgroup of G.
  - (c) Classify groups of order 30.
- 4. Let G be a group of order 55.
  - (a) Prove that G is generated by two elements x,y, with the relations  $x^{11} = 1$ ,  $y^5 = 1$ ,  $yxy^{-1} = x^r$ , for some r,  $1 \le r < 11$ .
  - (b) Prove that the following values of r are not possible: 2, 6, 7, 8, 10.
  - (c) Prove that the remaining values are possible, and that there are two isomorphism classes of groups of order 55.

# 6. Computation in the Symmetric Group

- 1. Verify the products (6.9).
- 2. Prove explicitly that the permutation (123)(45) is conjugate to (241)(35).
- 3. Let p, q be permutations. Prove that the products pq and qp have cycles of equal sizes.
- 4. (a) Does the symmetric group  $S_7$  contain an element of order 5? of order 10? of order 15?
  - (b) What is the largest possible order of an element of  $S_7$ ?

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- 5. Show how to determine whether a permutation is odd or even when it is written as a product of cycles.
- 6. Prove or disprove: The order of a permutation is the least common multiple of the orders of the cycles which make it up.
- 7. Is the cyclic subgroup H of  $S_n$  generated by the cycle (12345) a normal subgroup?
- \*8. Compute the number of permutations in  $S_n$  which do not leave any index fixed.
- 9. Determine the cycle decomposition of the permutation  $i \leftrightarrow n-i$ .
- 10. (a) Prove that every permutation p is a product of transpositions.
  - (b) How many transpositions are required to write the cycle  $(123 \cdots n)$ ?
  - (c) Suppose that a permutation is written in two ways as a product of transpositions, say  $p = \tau_1 \tau_2 \cdots \tau_m$  and  $p = \tau_1' \tau_2' \cdots \tau_n'$ . Prove that *m* and *n* are both odd or else they are both even.
- 11. What is the centralizer of the element (12) of  $S_4$ ?
- 12. Find all subgroups of order 4 of the symmetric group  $S_4$ . Which are normal?
- 13. Determine the Class Equation of  $A_4$ .
- 14. (a) Determine the number of conjugacy classes and the Class Equation for  $S_5$ .
  - (b) List the conjugacy classes in  $A_5$ , and reconcile this list with the list of conjugacy classes in the icosahedral group [see (2.2)].
- 15. Prove that the transpositions  $(12), (23), \dots, (n-1, n)$  generate the symmetric group  $S_n$ .
- 16. Prove that the symmetric group  $S_n$  is generated by the cycles  $(12 \cdots n)$  and (12).
- 17. (a) Show that the product of two transpositions (ij)(kl) can always be written as a product of 3-cycles. Treat the case that some indices are equal too.
  (b) Prove that the alternating group A<sub>n</sub> is generated by 3-cycles, if n ≥ 3.
- 18. Prove that if a proper normal subgroup of  $S_n$  contains a 3-cycle, it is  $A_n$ .
- \*19. Prove that  $A_n$  is simple for all  $n \ge 5$ .
- \*20. Prove that  $A_n$  is the only subgroup of  $S_n$  of index 2.
- 21. Explain the miraculous coincidence at the end of the section in terms of the opposite group (Chapter 2, Section 1, exercise 12).

# 7. The Free Group

- 1. Prove or disprove: The free group on two generators is isomorphic to the product of two infinite cyclic groups.
- 2. (a) Let F be the free group on x, y. Prove that the two elements  $u = x^2$  and  $v = y^3$  generate a subgroup of F which is isomorphic to the free group on u, v.
  - (b) Prove that the three elements  $u = x^2$ ,  $v = y^2$ , and z = xy generate a subgroup isomorphic to the free group on u, v, z.
- **3.** We may define a *closed word* in S' to be the oriented loop obtained by joining the ends of a word. Thus



represents a closed word, if we read it clockwise. Establish a bijective correspondence between reduced closed words and conjugacy classes in the free group.

4. Let p be a prime integer. Let N be the number of words of length p in a finite set S. Show that N is divisible by p.

# 8. Generators and Relations

- 1. Prove that two elements a, b of a group generate the same subgroup as  $bab^2$ ,  $bab^3$ .
- 2. Prove that the smallest normal subgroup of a group G containing a subset S is generated as a subgroup by the set  $\{gsg^{-1} \mid g \in G, s \in S\}$ .
- 3. Prove or disprove:  $y^2x^2$  is in the normal subgroup generated by xy and its conjugates.
- 4. Prove that the group generated by x, y, z with the single relation  $yxyz^{-2} = 1$  is actually a free group.
- 5. Let S be a set of elements of a group G, and let  $\{r_i\}$  be some relations which hold among the elements S in G. Let F be the free group on S. Prove that the map  $F \longrightarrow G$  (8.1) factors through F/N, where N is the normal subgroup generated by  $\{r_i\}$ .
- 6. Let G be a group with a normal subgroup N. Assume that G and G/N are both cyclic groups. Prove that G can be generated by two elements.
- 7. A subgroup H of a group G is called *characteristic* if it is carried to itself by all automorphisms of G.
  - (a) Prove that every characteristic subgroup is normal.
  - (b) Prove that the center Z of a group G is a characteristic subgroup.
  - (c) Prove that the subgroup H generated by all elements of G of order n is characteristic.
- 8. Determine the normal subgroups and the characteristic subgroups of the quaternion group.
- **9.** The commutator subgroup C of a group G is the smallest subgroup containing all commutators.
  - (a) Prove that the commutator subgroup is a characteristic subgroup.
  - (b) Prove that G/C is an abelian group.
- 10. Determine the commutator subgroup of the group M of motions of the plane.
- 11. Prove by explicit computation that the commutator  $x(yz)x^{-1}(yz)^{-1}$  is in the normal subgroup generated by the two commutators  $xyx^{-1}y^{-1}$  and  $xzx^{-1}z^{-1}$  and their conjugates.
- 12. Let G denote the free abelian group  $\langle x, y; xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \rangle$  defined in (8.8). Prove the universal property of this group: If u, v are elements of an abelian group A, there is a unique homomorphism  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow A$  such that  $\varphi(x) = u, \varphi(y) = v$ .
- 13. Prove that the normal subgroup in the free group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  which is generated by the single commutator  $xyx^{-1}y^{-1}$  is the commutator subgroup.
- 14. Let N be a normal subgroup of a group G. Prove that G/N is abelian if and only if N contains the commutator subgroup of G.
- **15.** Let  $\varphi: G \longrightarrow G'$  be a surjective group homomorphism. Let S be a subset of G such that  $\varphi(S)$  generates G', and let T be a set of generators of ker  $\varphi$ . Prove that  $S \cup T$  generates G.
- 16. Prove or disprove: Every finite group G can be presented by a finite set of generators and a finite set of relations.
- 17. Let G be the group generated by x, y, z, with certain relations {r<sub>i</sub>}. Suppose that one of the relations has the form wx, where w is a word in y, z. Let r<sub>i</sub>' be the relation obtained by substituting w<sup>-1</sup> for x into r<sub>i</sub>, and let G' be the group generated by y, z, with relations {r<sub>i</sub>'}. Prove that G and G' are isomorphic.

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### 9. The Todd–Coxeter Algorithm

- 1. Prove that the elements x, y of (9.5) generate T, and that the permutations (9.7) generate  $A_{4}$ .
- 2. Use the Todd-Coxeter Algorithm to identify the group generated by two elements x, y, with the following relations.

(a)  $x^2 = y^2 = 1$ , xyx = yxy

**(b)**  $x^2 = y^3 = 1$ , xyx = yxy

(c)  $x^3 = y^3 = 1$ , xyx = yxy

- (d)  $x^4 = y^2 = 1$ , xyx = yxy
- (e)  $x^4 = y^4 = x^2y^2 = 1$
- 3. Use the Todd–Coxeter Algorithm to determine the order of the group generated by x, y, with the following relations.

(a)  $x^4 = 1$ ,  $y^3 = 1$ ,  $xy = y^2x$  (b)  $x^7 = 1$ ,  $y^3 = 1$ ,  $yx = x^2y$ .

- 4. Identify the group G generated by elements x, y, z, with relations  $x^4 = y^4 = z^3 = x^2 z^2 = 1$  and z = xy.
- 5. Analyze the group G generated by x, y, with relations  $x^4 = 1$ ,  $y^4 = 1$ ,  $x^2 = y^2$ ,  $xy = y^3x$ .
- \*6. Analyze the group generated by elements x, y, with relations  $x^{-1}yx = y^{-1}$ ,  $y^{-1}xy = x^{-1}$ .
- 7. Let G be the group generated by elements x, y, with relations x<sup>4</sup> = 1, y<sup>3</sup> = 1, x<sup>2</sup> = yxy. Prove that this group is trivial in these two ways.
  (a) using the Todd-Coxeter Algorithm
  - (b) working directly with the relations
- 8. Identify the group G generated by two elements x, y, with relations  $x^3 = y^3 = yxyxy = 1$ .
- **9.** Let  $p \le q \le r$  be integers >1. The *triangle group*  $G^{pqr}$  is defined by generators  $G^{pqr} = \langle x, y, z; x^p, y^q, z^r, xyz \rangle$ . In each case, prove that the triangle group is isomorphic to the group listed.
  - (a) the dihedral group  $D_n$ , when p, q, r = 2, 2, n
  - (b) the tetrahedral group, when p, q, r = 2, 3, 3
  - (c) the octahedral group, when p, q, r = 2, 3, 4
  - (d) the icosahedral group, when p, q, r = 2, 3, 5
- 10. Let  $\Delta$  denote an isosceles right triangle, and let a, b, c denote the reflections of the plane about the three sides of  $\Delta$ . Let x = ab, y = bc, z = ca. Prove that x, y, z generate a triangle group.
- 11. (a) Prove that the group G generated by elements x, y, z with relations  $x^2 = y^3 = z^5 = 1$ , xyz = 1 has order 60.
  - (b) Let H be the subgroup generated by x and  $zyz^{-1}$ . Determine the permutation representation of G on G/H, and identify H.
  - (c) Prove that G is isomorphic to the alternating group  $A_5$ .
  - (d) Let K be the subgroup of G generated by x and yxz. Determine the permutation representation of G on G/K, and identify K.

## **Miscellaneous** Problems

1. (a) Prove that the subgroup T' of  $O_3$  of all symmetries of a regular tetrahedron, including orientation-reversing symmetries, has order 24.

- (b) Is T' isomorphic to the symmetric group  $S_4$ ?
- (c) State and prove analogous results for the group of symmetries of a dodecahedron.
- 2. (a) Let U = {1, x} be a subset of order 2 of a group G. Consider the graph having one vertex for each element of G and an edge joining the vertices g to gx for all g ∈ G. Prove that the vertices connected to the vertex 1 are the elements of the cyclic group generated by x.
  - (b) Do the analogous thing for the set  $U = \{1, x, y\}$ .
- \*3. (a) Suppose that a group G operates transitively on a set S, and that H is the stabilizer of an element  $s_0 \in S$ . Consider the action of G on  $S \times S$  defined by  $g(s_1, s_2) = (gs_1, gs_2)$ . Establish a bijective correspondence between double cosets of H in G and G-orbits in  $S \times S$ .
  - (b) Work out the correspondence explicitly for the case that G is the dihedral group  $D_5$  and S is the set of vertices of a 5-gon.
  - (c) Work it out for the case that G = T and that S is the set of edges of a tetrahedron.
- \*4. Assume that  $H \subset K \subset G$  are subgroups, that H is normal in K, and that K is normal in G. Prove or disprove: H is normal in G.
- \*5. Prove the Bruhat decomposition, which asserts that  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  is the union of the double cosets BPB, where B is the group of upper triangular matrices and P is a permutation matrix.
- 6. (a) Prove that the group generated by x, y with relations x<sup>2</sup>, y<sup>2</sup> is an infinite group in two ways:
  - (i) It is clear that every word can be reduced by using these relations to the form  $\cdots xyxy \cdots$ . Prove that every element of G is represented by exactly one such word.
  - (ii) Exhibit G as the group generated by reflections r, r' about lines  $\ell, \ell'$  whose angle of intersection is not a rational multiple of  $2\pi$ .
  - (b) Let N be any proper normal subgroup of G. Prove that G/N is a dihedral group.
- 7. Let H, N be subgroups of a group G, and assume that N is a normal subgroup.
  - (a) Determine the kernels of the restrictions of the canonical homomorphism  $\pi: G \longrightarrow G/N$  to the subgroups H and HN.
  - (b) Apply the First Isomorphism Theorem to these restrictions to prove the Second Isomorphism Theorem:  $H/(H \cap N)$  is isomorphic to (HN)/N.
- 8. Let H, N be normal subgroups of a group G such that  $H \supset N$ , and let  $\overline{H} = H/N$ ,  $\overline{G} = G/N$ .
  - (a) Prove that  $\overline{H}$  is a normal subgroup of  $\overline{G}$ .
  - (b) Use the composed homomorphism  $G \longrightarrow \overline{G} \longrightarrow \overline{G}/\overline{H}$  to prove the *Third Isomorphism Theorem:* G/H is isomorphic to  $\overline{G}/\overline{H}$ .

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