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- Definition simple
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- Definition  $G$  acts on  $X$ .

Question was asked regarding homework problem 4(a). Response:

Let  $x \in HK$ .

$$\phi: H \cap K \rightarrow \{(h', k') \in H \times K \mid \underbrace{h'k'}_x = x\}. \quad \phi(d) = (hd, d^{-1}k).$$

all the different  
ways I can write  $x$ .

correction

HW: 2.7 #81, 83, 84, 85, 89, 90, 94, 98, 99

**Theorem** Cayley's Theorem  
Every group  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_G$ . In particular, if  $|G| = n$ , then  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $a \in G$ . Define  $\tau_a: G \rightarrow G$  by  $\tau_a(x) = ax$ .

(Note that  $\tau_a$  is not a homomorphism.  $\tau_a(x)\tau_a(y) = axay \neq axy = \tau_a(xy)$ .)

(\*)  $\tau_a\tau_b(x) = \tau_a(bx) = a(bx) = (ab)x = \tau_{ab}(x)$ .

$\tau_a^{-1} = \tau_{a^{-1}}$ . Thus  $\tau_a$  is a permutation.

$\tau_a^{-1} = \tau_{a^{-1}}$  gives us that  $\tau_a$  is a permutation because depending on how you look at it, you get 1-1 or onto. (i.e. If  $f^{-1}(f(A)) = A$ , then  $f$  is 1-1, and if  $f(f^{-1}(B)) = B$ , then  $f$  is onto.)

Or, to show 1-1 and well-defined, let  $x, y \in G$  such that  $\tau_a(x) = \tau_a(y)$ . Then since  $\tau_a(x) = \tau_a(y) \Leftrightarrow ax = ay \Leftrightarrow x = y$ .  $\therefore \tau_a$  is 1-1 and well-defined.

To show onto, let  $y \in G$ , then, since  $a^{-1}y \in G$ ,  $\tau_a(a^{-1}y) = aa^{-1}y = y$ .

$\therefore \tau_a$  is onto.

Define  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_G$  by  $\phi(a) = \tau_a$ . By (\*),  $\phi$  is a homomorphism.

We know  $G/\ker \phi \cong \phi(G)$ .

(I don't see the connection between this and  $G \cong \phi(G) \leq S_G$ .)

So we only need to show  $\phi$  is 1-1.

(We already have onto since  $\phi$  is always onto  $\phi(G)$ .)

Assume  $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$ .

$$\tau_a = \tau_b.$$

$$\tau_a(e) = \tau_b(e).$$

$$ae = be.$$

$$a = b.$$

So  $G \cong \phi(G) \leq S_G$ .

If  $|G| = n$ , then  $S_G \cong S_n$ .

**Theorem** Representation on Cosets

Let  $G$  be a group and  $H \leq G$  such that  $[G:H] = n$ .

Then there is a homomorphism  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_n$  with  $\ker \phi \leq H$ .

(Note: If  $H = \{e\}$ , this is Cayley's Theorem.)

**Proof:**

Define  $G/H$  as the set of left cosets (even if  $G/H$  is not a group).

Let  $a \in G$ . Define  $\tau_a: G/H \rightarrow G/H$  by  $\tau_a(xH) = axH, x \in G$ .

Since  $\forall xH \in G/H, \tau_a^{-1}(\tau_a(xH)) = \tau_a^{-1}(axH) = \tau_{a^{-1}}(axH) = xH$ ,

then  $\tau_a$  is 1-1.

Since  $\forall xH \in G/H, \tau_a(\tau_a^{-1}(xH)) = \tau_a(\tau_{a^{-1}}(xH)) = \tau_a((a^{-1}xH)) = xH$ , then  $\tau_a$

is onto.

So thus  $\tau_a$  is a bijection, hence a permutation of  $G/H$ .

Define  $\phi': G \rightarrow S_{G/H}$  by  $\phi'(g) = \tau_g$ .

Then  $\phi'$  is a homomorphism as

$$\tau_a \tau_b(xH) = \tau_a(bxH) = a(bxH) = (ab)xH = \tau_{ab}(x).$$

Let  $a \in \ker \phi'$ . Then  $\phi'(a) = I_{G/H} = \tau_a$ . So  $\tau_a(H) = aH = H$ , hence  $a \in H$ .

Thus,  $\ker \phi \leq H$ .

So we have  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_n$  with  $\ker \phi \leq H$ .

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**Proposition** If  $G$  is a group,  $|G| = 6$ , then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$  or  $G \cong S_3$ .

(Read this in the book, p. 98)

**Proof:**

By Lagrange's theorem, the only possible orders of nonidentity elements are 2, 3, and 6. Of course,  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$  if  $G$  has an element of order 6. Now Exercise 2.27, p. 62 (If  $G$  is a group with an even number of elements, the number of elements in  $G$  of order 2 is odd. In particular,  $G$  must contain an element of order 2.) shows that  $G$  must contain an element of order 2, say,  $t$ . We now consider the cases  $G$  Abelian and  $G$  nonabelian separately.

**Case 1.**  $G$  is Abelian.

If there is a second element of order 2, say,  $a$ , then it is easy to see, using  $at = ta$ , that  $H = \{1, a, t, at\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . This contradicts Lagrange's theorem, because 4 is not a divisor of 6. It follows that  $G$  must contain an element  $b$  of order 3. But  $tb$  has order 6, by Proposition 2.82 (Let  $G$  be a group, and let  $a, b \in G$  be commuting elements of order  $m$  and  $n$  respectively. If  $(m, n) = 1$ , then  $ab$  has order  $mn$ .) Therefore,  $G$  is cyclic if it is Abelian. Hence  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$ .

**Case 2.**  $G$  is not Abelian.

If  $G$  has no elements of order 3, then  $x^2 = 1$  for all  $x \in G$ , and  $G$  is abelian, by Exercise 2.26 on p. 62 (If  $G$  is a group in which  $x^2 = 1$  for every  $x \in G$ ,  $G$  must be abelian.) Therefore,  $G$  contains an element  $s$  of order 3 as well as the element  $t$  of order 2.

Now  $|\langle s \rangle| = 3$ , so that  $[G:\langle s \rangle] = |G|/|\langle s \rangle| = 6/3 = 2$ , and so  $\langle s \rangle$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , by Proposition 2.62(ii) (If  $H$  is a subgroup of index 2 in a group  $G$ , then  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .) Since  $t = t^{-1}$ , we have  $tst \in \langle s \rangle$ ; hence,  $tst = s^i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \text{ or } 2$ . Now  $i \neq 0$ , for  $tst = s^0 = 1$  implies  $s = 1$ . If  $i = 1$ , then  $s$  and  $t$  commute, and this gives  $st$  of order 6, as in Case 1 (which forces  $G$  to be cyclic, hence abelian, contrary to our present hypothesis). Therefore,  $tst = s^2 = s^{-1}$ .

We now use the Theorem 2.88 (If  $H \leq G$ ,  $[G:H] = n$ ,  $\exists$  homomorphism  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_n$  with  $\ker \phi \leq H$ .) to construct an isomorphism  $G \rightarrow S_3$ . Let  $H = \langle t \rangle$  and consider the homomorphism  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_{G/H}$  given by  $\phi(g)$ :

$x\langle t \rangle \rightarrow gx\langle t \rangle$ . (Choose  $x$  in  $G$  first.)

By the theorem,  $\ker \phi \leq \langle t \rangle$ , so that either  $\ker \phi = \{1\}$  (and  $\phi$  is injective) (by Proposition 2.56(iii)  $f$  is an injection iff  $\ker f = \{1\}$ ), or  $\ker \phi = \langle t \rangle$ .

Now  $G/\langle t \rangle = \{\langle t \rangle, s\langle t \rangle, s^2\langle t \rangle\}$ , and, in two-rowed notation,

$$\varphi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \langle t \rangle & s\langle t \rangle & s^2\langle t \rangle \\ t\langle t \rangle & ts\langle t \rangle & ts^2\langle t \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

If  $\phi(t)$  is the identity permutation, then  $ts\langle t \rangle = s\langle t \rangle$ , so that

$s^{-1}ts \in \langle t \rangle = \{1, t\}$ , by Lemma 2.40 ( $H \leq G$ ,  $a, b \in G$ .  $aH = bH$  iff

$b^{-1}a \in H$ ). But now  $s^{-1}ts = t$  (it cannot be 1), hence

$ts = st$ , contradicting  $t$  and  $s$  not commuting.

Therefore,  $t \notin \ker \phi$ , and  $\phi: G \rightarrow S_{G/H} \cong S_3$  is an injective homomorphism.

Since both  $G$  and  $S_3$  have order 6,  $\phi$  must be a bijection, and so  $G \cong S_3$ .

It is clear that  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  and  $S_3$  are not isomorphic, for one is Abelian and the other is not.

**Proposition**  $\ker \phi$  (from Representation on Cosets Theorem) is the largest normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $H$ .

**Proof:**

Suppose  $K \triangleleft G$  such that  $\ker \phi \leq K \leq H \leq G$ .

We want to show  $\ker \phi = K$ .

Let  $k \in K$ . So  $\phi(k) = \tau_k = I$ .

Let  $gH \in G/H$ . Then  $\tau_k(gH) = kgH$ .

Since  $K$  is normal,  $Kg = gK$ . Thus  $kg = gk'$  for some  $k' \in K$ .

So  $kgH = gk'H$ , since  $k' \in K \subseteq H$ .

Thus  $\tau_k = I_{G/H}$ . So  $k \in \ker \phi$ .  $\therefore K = \ker \phi$ .

**Corollary** Let  $G$  be a finite group. Let  $H$  be a proper subgroup of  $G$  with  $[G:H] = n$ . If  $|G| \nmid n!$ , then  $G$  contains a normal, nontrivial subgroup.

**Proof:**

$|G| \nmid n! \Rightarrow |G| \nmid |S_n| \Rightarrow G \not\cong S_n$  by Lagrange's Theorem.

If  $\phi$  (from Representation on Cosets Theorem) were 1-1, then  $\ker \phi = \{e\}$  and  $G \cong S_n$ , (actually  $\phi(G) \leq S_n$ .) So  $\ker \phi \neq \{e\}$ .

So  $\ker \phi \triangleleft G$  and  $\ker \phi \neq \{e\}$ .

Since  $\ker \phi \leq H \neq G$ , then  $\ker \phi \neq G$ .

$\therefore \ker \phi$  is a nontrivial, normal subgroup of  $G$ .

**Definition** A group  $G \neq \{e\}$  is called *simple* if  $G$  has no nontrivial normal subgroups.

**Example** Is  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  simple? No. Is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  simple? Yes.

**Theorem** Index Factorial Theorem

Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $|G| > 1$ . If  $G$  contains a proper subgroup  $H$  where  $[G:H] = n$  and  $|G| \nmid n!$ , then  $G$  is not simple.

(This is the corollary we just proved, but with new vocabulary "simple" inserted.)

**Example** Suppose  $|G| = 45$ . Suppose  $H \leq G$ ,  $|H| = 9$ , then  $[G:H] = 5$ . Since  $45 \nmid 5!$ ,  $G$  is not simple.

Before today, we knew everything there is to know about groups of order

- 1 (the identity)
- 2 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ )
- 3 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_3$ )
- 4 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  or Klein 4)
- 5 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_5$ )
- 7 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_7$ )

And, today we know :

- 6 ( $\cong \mathbb{Z}_6$  or  $S_3$ )

**Definition** If  $X$  is a set and  $G$  is a group then  $G$  *acts on*  $X$  if there is a function  $G \times X \rightarrow X$  denoted  $(g, x) \mapsto g \cdot x$  such that

- (1)  $(gh) \cdot x = g \cdot (g \cdot x) \quad \forall gh \in G, \forall x \in X.$
- (2)  $e \cdot x = x \quad \forall x \in X.$