

Below are all of the additional practice problems suggested on problem sets so far. These are all useful for exam review. I will put at least one of these problems (perhaps with minor modifications) on the exam.

1. (1.1.3) List the symmetries of an isosceles triangle.

2. (1.1.4)

(a) List the symmetries of a rectangle.

(b) Write the multiplication table for the symmetries of a rectangle.

3. (1.2.2) Let $\Omega = \mathbb{Z}$ be the set of integers. Define $f : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is even} \\ x - 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

Is $f \in \text{Perm}(\Omega)$? If so, what is its inverse? What is f^2 ? What about f^3 ?

4. (1.2.5) Construct a complete multiplication table for S_3 . What is the center (see Definition 1.7) of S_3 ? If $f = (1\ 2\ 3)$, what is $\mathbf{C}_{S_3}(f)$, the centralizer of f in S_3 ?

5. (1.3.1)

(a) Find $-\frac{3}{4} - 4$ in $\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$.

(b) In $\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$ does every non-zero element have a multiplicative inverse (i.e., for $a \in \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$ can we find b such that $ab = 1$)?

(c) In $\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$ does every non-zero element have a multiplicative inverse?

(d) We want to know for which integers $n > 1$ every non-zero element of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ has a multiplicative inverse. Look at some examples and make a conjecture. You do not have to prove your conjecture.

Comment: The textbook sometimes writes (as above) “ $\frac{a}{b}$ in $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ ” as a shorthand for ab^{-1} . I usually avoid this notation since it has the potential to cause confusion.

6. (1.3.2) Consider the addition operation on $\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$. Start with the element $a = 3$ and find $2a = a + a$, $3a = a + a + a$, and so on until at least $20a$. Do you notice a pattern? Now change a to 4 and repeat what you did. Make a general conjecture based on the patterns that you found. Repeat what you did for $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$. Is there any difference?

7. (1.4.4) How many elements does $\text{GL}(2, 3)$ have? Justify your answer without an appeal to Theorem 1.64. Can you extend your argument to $\text{GL}(2, p)$ where p is an arbitrary prime?

8. (1.4.6) List the elements of $\text{SL}(2, 2)$? What are the possible values for a determinant of a matrix over $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$? What can you say about the relationship between $\text{GL}(n, 2)$ and $\text{SL}(n, 2)$?

9. (2.1.1) Let I_n be the $n \times n$ identity matrix. Is

$$\{rI_n \mid r > 0, r \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

a group under matrix multiplication?

10. (2.1.3) Let \mathbb{Z} denote the set of integers, and let

$$G = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mid a \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

Prove that G together with the usual matrix multiplication forms a group.

11. (2.1.6) Let n be a positive integer. For which n is S_n abelian? Prove your assertion.
12. (2.2.3) If G is a group in which $a^2 = e$ for all $a \in G$, show that G is abelian.
13. (2.3.4) Find the order of each of the elements of the group $((\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z})^\times, \cdot)$. Is this group cyclic? Do the same for the group $((\mathbb{Z}/10\mathbb{Z})^\times, \cdot)$.
14. (2.3.9) Let ℓ be an integer greater than 1, and let G be a finite group with no element of order ℓ . Can there exist $a \in G$ with $\ell \mid o(a)$? Prove your assertion.
15. (2.3.16) Let G be a group and let $x, y \in G$. Assume that $xy = yx$, $o(x) = p$, and $o(y) = q$, where p and q are distinct prime numbers. What can you say about $o(xy)$?
16. (2.3.21) Consider a fixed shuffle of a deck of cards. Does the repeating of this fixed shuffle some finite (positive) number of times bring the deck eventually back to its original order? Why?
17. (2.4.3) Are the groups $(\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}, +)$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/13\mathbb{Z})^\times$ isomorphic?
18. (2.5.7)
- Let m and n be integers greater than 1. What is the order of the element $(1, 1)$ in $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$? Make a conjecture.
 - Under what conditions would $(1, 1)$ be a generator for $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$?
19. (2.4.16) Give an example of two groups G and H , an element $x \in G$, and a homomorphism $\phi: G \rightarrow H$ such that $o(x)$ does not equal $o(\phi(x))$.
20. (2.5.11) Assume that $G \times H$ is an abelian group. Can we conclude that G and H are abelian?

21. (2.6.2) Let $G = (\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}, +)$. Find all subgroups of G .
22. (2.6.3) Find all subgroups of $(\mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}, +)$.
23. (2.6.9) Let G be a group, and assume that a and b are two elements of order 2 in G . If $ab = ba$, then what can you say about $\langle a, b \rangle$?
24. (3.1.1) Let $\sigma = (a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m) \in S_n$. Find σ^{-1} .
25. (3.1.4) What is the smallest positive integer n for which S_n has an element of order 15? What about an element of order 11?
26. (3.1.5) Does S_7 have a subgroup isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$? Either prove that it does not, or exhibit such a subgroup.
27. (3.2.2) Let x and y be two three-cycles. Can xy be a four-cycle? Either give an example, or prove that it is impossible.
28. (3.2.3) Define $\phi : S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ by
- $$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \text{ is an even permutation,} \\ 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is an odd permutation.} \end{cases}$$
- Show that ϕ is a group homomorphism.
29. (3.2.5) The alternating group A_6 has how many elements of order 3?
30. (3.2.8) Is A_4 isomorphic to $S_3 \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$? Why?