

1. Define the group  $\text{Inn}(G)$  of inner automorphisms of a group  $G$ . Show that  $\text{Inn}(G) \cong G/Z(G)$ , where  $Z(G)$  is the center of  $G$ .

**Solution:** See Theorem 9.4 from the book "Contemporary Abstract algebra" by Joseph A. Gallian.

2. Describe the automorphism group of a cycle group of order  $n$ .

**Solution:** See theorem 6.5 from the book "Contemporary Abstract algebra" by Joseph A. Gallian.

3. Let  $G$  has even order  $2n$ . Suppose that exactly half of the elements of  $G$  have order 2 and the rest form a subgroup  $H$  of order  $n$ . Prove that  $o(H)$  is odd and that  $H$  is abelian.

**Solution:** The order of  $H$  must be odd otherwise  $H$  contains an element of order 2 using Cauchy's theorem.

The index of the subgroup  $H$  in  $G$  is 2, hence  $H$  is a normal subgroup.

So it remains to prove that  $H$  is abelian.

Let  $a \in G \setminus H$  be an element of order 2. As  $a \notin H$ , the left coset  $aH$  is different from  $H$ . Since the index of  $H$  is 2, we have  $aH = G \setminus H$ . So for any  $h \in H$ , the order of  $ah$  is 2.

It follows that we have for any  $h \in H$ ,

$$e = (ah)^2 = ahah,$$

where  $e$  is the identity element in  $G$ .

Equivalently, we have

$$aha^{-1} = h^{-1}$$

for any  $h \in H$ . (Remark that  $a = a^{-1}$  as the order of  $a$  is 2.)

Using this relation, for any  $h, k \in H$ , we have  $(hk)^{-1} = a(hk)a^{-1} = (aha^{-1})(aka^{-1}) = h^{-1}k^{-1} = (kh)^{-1}$ . As a result, we obtain  $hk = kh$  for any  $h, k \in H$ . Hence the subgroup  $H$  is abelian.

4. Let  $G$  be a group and let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $G$  acts by left multiplication on the set  $G/H$  of all left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ . Let  $\psi_H$  denotes the associated permutation representation of this action. Show that

(a) The action of  $G$  on  $G/H$  is transitive.

(b) Stabiliser of the left coset  $eH = H$  is the subgroup  $H$ .

(c) Kernel of  $\psi_H$  is the largest normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $H$ .

**Solution:** Let us denote  $G/H$  by  $A$  and let the action  $\psi_H : G \rightarrow S_A$  is defined by  $\psi_H(g)(g'H) := gg'H$  where  $S_A$  is the set of all permutations on  $A$ .

(a) Let us take  $g_1H$  and  $g_2H$  be arbitrary two elements of  $G/H$ .

Then, clearly  $\psi_H(g_2g_1^{-1})(g_1H) = g_2H$  which shows that the action is transitive.

(b) Stabilizer of  $eH = H$  in  $G$  is  $G_H := \{g \in G : \psi_H(g)H = H\} = \{g \in G : gH = H\} = H$ .

(c) First we will show that  $\ker(\psi_H) \subseteq H$ . Let  $g \in \ker(\psi_H) \implies \psi_H(g)(g'H) = g'H$  for all  $g' \in G$ . Take,  $g' = e$  and so we get  $g \in H$  i.e.  $\ker(\psi_H) \subseteq H$ .

Therefore,  $\ker(\psi_H)$  is a normal subgroup in  $H$ . Now, let  $K \subseteq H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  i.e.  $g^{-1}Kg = K$  for all  $g \in G$ . Let  $k \in K$  and  $g \in G$  be an arbitrary. Then  $g^{-1}kg \in K \implies g^{-1}kg \in H \implies kgH = gH \implies \psi_H(k)(gH) = gH$  and we are done.

5. Show that if  $G$  is a group of order  $p^n$ , where  $p$  is a prime and  $n$  is a positive integer, then every subgroup of  $G$  of index  $p$  is normal in  $G$  (Hint: Use the action in problem 4).

**Solution:**

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  such that  $[G : H] = p$ . Consider the action of  $G$  on  $G/H$  which induces the permutation representation  $\psi_H : G \rightarrow S_p$ . We know from previous problem that  $K := \ker(\psi_H) \subseteq H$ . Then,  $G/K$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_p$ , and so  $|G/K|$  will divide the order of  $S_p$  i.e.  $p!$ . But it must also divide  $|G| = p^n$  and hence, it follows that  $|G/K| = p$ . Since  $|G/K| = [G : K] = [G : H][H : K] = p[H : K]$ , it follows that  $[H : K] = 1$  i.e.  $K = H$  and we are done.