

GROUP THEORY PROBLEMS

You don't have to hand in these problems, but they could give you an idea of what to look for on the test.

- (1) Prove that any group has a unique identity element.
- (2) Prove that every element of any group has a unique inverse.
- (3) The symmetry group G of a square has eight elements. The quaternion group

$$H = \{1, i, j, k, -1, -i, -j, -k\}$$

(with $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$ and $ij = k, jk = i, ki = j, ji = -k, kj = -i$, and $ik = -j$, also has eight elements. Are they isomorphic? Prove your answer.

- (4) A *cyclic group* is a group generated by a single element. Suppose that G is a cyclic group of order 14. Prove that G is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_{14} .
- (5) If G is a group, an *automorphism* of G is an isomorphism $\phi: G \rightarrow G$. Prove that the set $\text{Aut } G$ of all automorphisms of G is a group under composition.
- (6) What is $\text{Aut } \mathbb{Z}$?
- (7) What is $\text{Aut } \mathbb{Z}_4$?
- (8) The *center* of a group G is the set $Z(G)$ consisting of all elements $a \in G$ so that, for every element $b \in G$, $ab = ba$. Find the center of the quaternion group.
- (9) Prove that for any group G , $Z(G)$ is a normal subgroup of G .
- (10) Find the center of
 - (a) $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{R})$
 - (b) $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$
 - (c) $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{C})$
 - (d) $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$.
- (11) Suppose that $\phi: G \rightarrow L$ is a homomorphism of groups. Prove that
 - (a)

$$\phi(1) = 1.$$

- (b) for any $g \in G$,

$$\phi(g^{-1}) = \phi(g)^{-1}.$$

- (12) Prove that the kernel of any group homomorphism $\phi: G \rightarrow L$ is a normal subgroup of G .
- (13) Give an example of a group homomorphism $\phi: G \rightarrow L$ whose image is not a normal subgroup of L .
- (14) Write

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 4 & 6 & 9 & 7 & 2 & 5 & 8 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

as a product of disjoint cycles. What is the order of this permutation?

- (15) Prove that every finite group of order 63 has a subgroup of order 7.