

- **Read:** §11.
- **Suggestion:** Work (or think about) the following problems. Problems marked with a \* have answers given at the back of the book.
  - §11 : 2\*, 3, 14\*

1. Recall that  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  denotes the subgroup of  $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$  consisting of all  $2 \times 2$  invertible matrices with determinant 1. Prove that  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  is normal in  $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .
2. Prove that the intersection of any two normal subgroups in a group  $G$  is also a normal subgroup.
3. Suppose that  $G$  is a group, and  $N, H$  are subgroups with  $N \triangleleft G$ . Prove that the set

$$NH = \{nh : n \in N, h \in H\}$$

is a subgroup of  $G$ .

4. Suppose that  $G$  is an abelian group, and  $H$  is a subgroup. Prove that  $G/H$  is abelian.
5. Suppose that  $G$  is a group of order 21, and  $g, h \in G$  are two elements of  $G$  such that  $o(g) = 7$ ,  $o(h) = 3$ , and  $hg = g^2h$ . It follows from these assumptions that any element of  $G$  can be written uniquely as  $g^i h^j$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_7$  and  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_3$  (you may assume this without proof, but you may find it interesting to think about why; ask me if you are interested).

- (a) Compute each of the following elements. Express each answer as  $g^i h^j$ , where  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_7$  and  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

$$(gh)^2, (g^4 h^2)(g^3 h), (g^3 h)^{-1}$$

- (b) Prove that  $\langle g \rangle$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , but that  $\langle h \rangle$  is not.
- (c) Show that  $G/\langle g \rangle$  is a cyclic group of order 3.

*Comment:* this description of  $G$  is very similar to our description of the dihedral groups  $D_n$ . Indeed, both are examples of a construction called a *semi-direct product*.

6. Let  $G$  be a group. Given any two elements  $a, b \in G$ , the *commutator* of  $a$  and  $b$ , denoted  $[a, b]$  is defined to be

$$[a, b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}.$$

- (a) Prove that  $G$  is abelian if and only if for all  $a, b \in G$ ,  $[a, b] = e$ .
- (b) Prove that for a normal subgroup  $H \triangleleft G$ , the quotient group  $G/H$  is abelian if and only if  $[a, b] \in H$  for all  $a, b \in G$ .
7. Consider the quotient group  $C = (\mathbb{R}, +)/(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

- (a) Prove that for every integer  $n$ , there exists an order- $n$  subgroup of  $C$ .
- (b) Prove that if  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  is irrational, then the element  $\mathbb{Z} + x$  of  $C$  has order  $\infty$ .
- (c) (Bonus; for extra credit) Prove that any finite subgroup of  $C$  is cyclic.

*Comment:* the notation  $\mathbb{Z} + x$  gets a bit clunky to write over and over again. You may prefer to instead use the “overline” notation  $\bar{x}$  (as used in Chapter 9) for the coset of  $x$ .

8. Let  $G$  be a group, and  $Z(G)$  denote the center of  $G$  (the set of all elements that commute with every element of  $G$ ). Prove that if  $G/Z(G)$  is a cyclic group, then  $G$  is abelian.
9. Suppose that  $G$  is a group,  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  with  $|H| = 7$  and  $[G : H] = 20$ . Lagrange's theorem implies that if  $x \in H$ , then  $x^7 = e$ . Prove the converse: if  $x \in G$  satisfies  $x^7 = e$ , then  $x \in H$ .

*Hint:* use the quotient group.