

The Alternating Group A_4 of Even Permutations of $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

In this table, the permutations of A_4 are designated as $\varepsilon, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{12}$.

\circ	ε	α_2	α_3	α_4	α_5	α_6	α_7	α_8	α_9	α_{10}	α_{11}	α_{12}
$(1) = \varepsilon$	ε	α_2	α_3	α_4	α_5	α_6	α_7	α_8	α_9	α_{10}	α_{11}	α_{12}
$(12)(34) = \alpha_2$	α_2	ε	α_4	α_3	α_6	α_5	α_8	α_7	α_{10}	α_9	α_{12}	α_{11}
$(13)(24) = \alpha_3$	α_3	α_4	ε	α_2	α_7	α_8	α_5	α_6	α_{11}	α_{12}	α_9	α_{10}
$(14)(23) = \alpha_4$	α_4	α_3	α_2	ε	α_8	α_7	α_6	α_5	α_{12}	α_{11}	α_{10}	α_9
$(123) = \alpha_5$	α_5	α_8	α_6	α_7	α_9	α_{12}	α_{10}	α_{11}	ε	α_4	α_2	α_3
$(243) = \alpha_6$	α_6	α_7	α_5	α_8	α_{10}	α_{11}	α_9	α_{12}	α_2	α_3	ε	α_4
$(142) = \alpha_7$	α_7	α_6	α_8	α_5	α_{11}	α_{10}	α_{12}	α_9	α_3	α_2	α_4	ε
$(134) = \alpha_8$	α_8	α_5	α_7	α_6	α_{12}	α_9	α_{11}	α_{10}	α_4	ε	α_3	α_2
$(132) = \alpha_9$	α_9	α_{11}	α_{12}	α_{10}	ε	α_3	α_4	α_2	α_5	α_7	α_8	α_6
$(143) = \alpha_{10}$	α_{10}	α_{12}	α_{11}	α_9	α_2	α_4	α_3	ε	α_6	α_8	α_7	α_5
$(234) = \alpha_{11}$	α_{11}	α_9	α_{10}	α_{12}	α_3	ε	α_2	α_4	α_7	α_5	α_6	α_8
$(124) = \alpha_{12}$	α_{12}	α_{10}	α_9	α_{11}	α_4	α_2	ε	α_3	α_8	α_6	α_5	α_7

1. Let $G = \mathbb{Z}/20\mathbb{Z}$ and $H = 4\mathbb{Z}/20\mathbb{Z}$. List the elements of G/H . (How do you know G/H is a group?)(You may assume that a factor group of an Abelian group is Abelian, which you will be showing for PS 8)
2. Determine the order of $(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}) / \langle (4, 2) \rangle$. Is the group cyclic?

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With this notation, the elements of G are the cosets

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Hence

$$H = 4\mathbb{Z}/20\mathbb{Z} = \{\bar{0}, \bar{4}, \bar{8}, \bar{12}, \bar{16}\}.$$

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Now we know:

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Using that a factor group of an Abelian group is Abelian, *every* subgroup of G is normal. In particular, $H \triangleleft G$, and so G/H is a group.

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List the elements of G/H .

Since $|G| = 20$ and $|H| = 5$, from Lagrange's Theorem, we know that $|G/H| = 4$, so we know how many distinct cosets we're looking for.

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The elements of G/H are:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{0} + H &= H = \{\bar{0}, \bar{4}, \bar{8}, \bar{12}, \bar{16}\} \\ &= \bar{4} + H = \bar{8} + H = \bar{12} + H = \bar{16} + H \\ \bar{1} + H &= \{\bar{1}, \bar{5}, \bar{9}, \bar{13}, \bar{17}\} \\ &= \bar{5} + H = \bar{9} + H = \bar{13} + H = \bar{17} + H \\ \bar{2} + H &= \{\bar{2}, \bar{6}, \bar{10}, \bar{14}, \bar{18}\} \\ &= \bar{6} + H = \bar{10} + H = \bar{14} + H = \bar{18} + H \\ \bar{3} + H &= \{\bar{3}, \bar{7}, \bar{11}, \bar{15}, \bar{19}\} \\ &= \bar{7} + H = \bar{11} + H = \bar{15} + H = \bar{19} + H \end{aligned}$$

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Note: Since $|G/H| = 4$, we know that G/H is either cyclic and isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_4 or else it is **not** cyclic, in which case it is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$.

2. Determine the order of $(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}) / \langle (4, 2) \rangle$. Is the group cyclic?

We have seen that $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \approx \mathbb{Z}_n$. So

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A few elts (all of the form $(n, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle$) of $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} / \langle (4, 2) \rangle$:

$(0, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle, (1, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle, (2, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle,$
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These are all distinct.

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These are all distinct.

In general, $(n, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle \neq (m, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle$ as long as $n \neq m$.

(To see this, remember that $aH = bH \iff a^{-1}b \in H$.)

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Thus there are an infinite number of distinct cosets, and therefore

$$|\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} / \langle (4, 2) \rangle| = \infty.$$

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Goal: find $(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ but not in $\langle (4, 2) \rangle$ such that $(a, b) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle$ has finite order.

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The quickest order to find is order 2, so try to find an elt with $2[(a, b) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle] = (0, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle$

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Want: $(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ but not in $\langle (4, 2) \rangle$ such that
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$(2, 1)$ seems like it would work.

Check:

$$2((2, 1) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle) = (4, 2) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle = \langle (4, 2) \rangle.$$

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Is $(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}) / \langle (4, 2) \rangle$ cyclic?

Since the order of the group is infinite, if it were cyclic, every non-identity element would have infinite order.

$$(2, 1) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle \neq (0, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle$$

and

$$((2, 1) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle)^2 = (0, 0) + \langle (4, 2) \rangle,$$

so we have found an element of order 2 in $(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}) / \langle (4, 2) \rangle$. Thus this group is **not** cyclic.