

**MATH 521B: Abstract Algebra**  
Preparation for Exam 2

Please recall the following:

$\mathbb{C}^\times = \{x \in \mathbb{C} : x \neq 0\}$  and  $\mathbb{R}^\times = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \neq 0\}$  are groups under multiplication.  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Z}$  are groups under addition.  $S_n$  is the symmetric group on  $[n]$ , and  $A_n \leq S_n$  is the alternating group on  $[n]$  that consists of even permutations.  $A \times B$  denotes the external direct product  $\{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$ . If  $A, B$  are groups then so is  $A \times B$  with group operation  $(a, b)(a', b') = (aa', bb')$ .

1. Set  $G = \{id, (1\ 2)(3\ 4), (1\ 3)(2\ 4), (1\ 4)(2\ 3)\}$ . Calculate the Cayley table for  $S_4/G$ .
2. Set  $G = \{id, (1\ 2)(3\ 4), (1\ 3)(2\ 4), (1\ 4)(2\ 3)\}$ . Prove that  $G \trianglelefteq A_4$ , and calculate the Cayley table for  $A_4/G$ .
3. Fix  $H = \langle (1\ 2\ 3) \rangle \leq S_3$ . Prove that  $H \trianglelefteq S_3$ , and find a familiar group isomorphic to  $S_3/H$ .  
For problems 4-7, let  $G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix} : a, b, d \in \mathbb{R}, ad \neq 0 \right\}$ , and  $N = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$ .
4. Prove that  $N \trianglelefteq G$ .
5. For each  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix} = x \in G$ , determine explicitly all  $y \in G$  with  $x \equiv y \pmod{N}$ .
6. Prove that  $N \cong \mathbb{R}$ .
7. Prove that  $G/N \cong \mathbb{R}^\times \times \mathbb{R}^\times$ .  
For problems 8-9, define  $U \leq \mathbb{C}^\times$  via  $U = \{a + bi : a^2 + b^2 = 1\}$ .
8. Prove that  $\mathbb{C}^\times/U \cong \mathbb{R}^\times$ .
9. Prove that  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \cong U$ .
10. Fix a finite group  $G$ , with  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Set  $m = [G : N]$ . Prove that  $a^m \in N$ , for all  $a \in G$ .
11. Fix abelian group  $G$ , with  $|G| = 2k$ , and  $k$  odd. Prove that  $G$  has exactly one element  $g$  with  $|g| = 2$ .
12. Let  $p$  be an odd prime, and let  $G$  be a nonabelian group with  $|G| = 2p$ . Prove that  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ .
13. Fix abelian group  $G$ . Set  $K = \{g \in G : |g| \leq 2\}$ ,  $H = \{x^2 : x \in G\}$ . Prove that  $K \trianglelefteq G$ ,  $H \trianglelefteq G$ , and that  $G/K \cong H$ .
14. Let  $f : G \rightarrow H$  be an onto homomorphism. Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Prove that  $f(N) \trianglelefteq H$ .
15. Fix groups  $G, H$ , and suppose  $M \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Prove that  $(M \times N) \trianglelefteq (G \times H)$ .
16. Fix groups  $G, H$ , and suppose  $M \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Prove that  $(G/M) \times (H/N) \cong (G \times H)/(M \times N)$ .
17. Fix a finite group  $G$ , and some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set  $T = \{K : |K| = s, K \leq G\}$ , the set of all subgroups of order  $s$ , and assume  $|T| \geq 1$ . Set  $N = \bigcap T$ . Prove that  $N \trianglelefteq G$ .
18. Fix  $n \geq 5$ . Set  $T = \{(r\ s\ t)\} \subseteq S_n$ , the set of all permutations that consist of a single cycle of length three. Prove that  $A_n = \langle T \rangle$ .
19. Fix  $n \geq 5$  and  $N \trianglelefteq A_n$ . Set  $T = \{(r\ s\ t)\} \subseteq S_n$ , the set of all permutations consisting of just a cycle of length three. If  $N \cap T \neq \emptyset$ , prove that  $N = A_n$ .
20. Fix a group  $G$ , and suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Suppose  $N$  is maximal normal, i.e. there is no  $M$  with  $N < M \triangleleft G$ . Prove that  $G/N$  is simple.