Homework 7

Monday, November 27, 2017 10:40 AM

It is not easy to understand if a given presentation gives us the trivial gp or not.

In fact one can ask the following question: given a presentation $G=\langle X \mid R\rangle$ and a word v. Can we give an algorithm to decide whether or not a given word w repre. the same element of G as v? This is called the word problem. Novikov proved that the answer is NO!

1. Prove that $\langle a,b \mid ab^2a^{-1}=b^3,\ ba^2b^{-1}=a^3\rangle$ is the trivial gp.

(Hint. Consider $a^2b^4a^{-2}$ and its conjugate by b. Deduce $a\in C_G(b^4)$.)

2. Prove that $\langle a,b \mid [a,b]\rangle \simeq \mathbb{Z}\oplus\mathbb{Z}$.

(Hint. As usual first find an onto gp hom. $\phi:\langle a,b\mid [a,b]\rangle \to \mathbb{Z}\oplus\mathbb{Z}$; Then consider $\theta:\mathbb{Z}\oplus\mathbb{Z}\to\langle a,b\mid[a,b]\rangle$, $\theta(m,n)=a^m b^n$.)

3. Suppose X_1 and X_2 are two disjoint sets of symbols. Prove that

$$\langle X_1 \mid R_1\rangle * \langle X_2 \mid R_2\rangle \simeq \langle X_1\sqcup X_2 \mid R_1\sqcup R_2\rangle.$$

(Hint. First define $\theta_i:\langle X_i \mid R_i\rangle \to \langle X_1\sqcup X_2 \mid R_1\sqcup R_2\rangle$;

Homework 7

Monday, November 27, 2017 10:54 AM

. Then define $\theta: \langle X_1 | R_1 \rangle * \langle X_2 | R_2 \rangle \longrightarrow \langle X_1 \sqcup X_2 | R_1 \sqcup R_2 \rangle$ using the universal property of the free product of two groups.

. Define $\phi: \langle X_1 \sqcup X_2 | R_1 \sqcup R_2 \rangle \longrightarrow \langle X_1 | R_1 \rangle * \langle X_2 | R_2 \rangle$.

. Check $\theta \circ \phi = id.$ and $\phi \circ \theta = id.$)

4. Prove that $G_n := \langle s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \mid s_i^2, (s_i s_j)^2 \text{ for } |i-j|>1, (s_i s_{i+1})^3 \rangle$ is isomorphic to S_n.

(Hint 1. Consider $\sigma_i := (i \;\; i+1)$ to get an onto group hom.

$$\phi: G_n \to S_n.$$

2. By induction on n, show $|G_n| \le n!$; here is one way:

Let H_n be the subgp of G_n that is generated by $s_1, \dots, s_{n-2}$.

$\boxed{2.a}$ Argue why there is an onto group hom. $G_{n-1} \to H_n$; and so by the induction hypothe. $|H_n| \le (n-1)!$.

$\boxed{2.b}$ Show that

$$G_n / H_n = \{ H_n, s_{n-1} H_n, s_{n-2} s_{n-1} H_n, \dots, s_1 s_2 \cdots s_{n-1} H_n \}. \circledast$$

(And so $[G_n : H_n] \le n$.) To show $\circledast$ check $s_i . RHS = RHS$.)

Homework 7

Monday, November 27, 2017 11:42 AM

5. (a) Prove that $\langle a,b \mid a^2, b^2\rangle \simeq$ Group of (Euclidean) symmetries of $\mathbb{Z}$.

(Hint: You can use without proof that the group of symmetries of $\mathbb{Z}$ is $G=\{f:\mathbb{Z}\to\mathbb{Z} \mid f(x)=cx+d,\ c\in\{\pm 1\}, d\in\mathbb{Z}\}$; and it is generated by $f(x)=-x$ and $g(x)=x+1$.

- Consider f and $g\circ f$.
- Show $\langle a,b\mid a^2,b^2\rangle = \{(ab)^i \mid i\in\mathbb{Z}\}\cup\{a(ab)^i \mid i\in\mathbb{Z}\}$.)

(b) Prove that any group generated by <u>two</u> elements of order <u>2</u> is solvable.

6. Prove that $\left\langle \overline{\begin{bmatrix}1&1\\&1\end{bmatrix}}, \overline{\begin{bmatrix}&1\\-1&\end{bmatrix}}\right\rangle \simeq \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ where

$\overline{g} := g\{\pm I\}\in PSL(2,\mathbb{Z}) := SL_2(\mathbb{Z})/\{\pm I\}$.

(<u>Hint.</u> Consider the Möbius action of $PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$ on $\mathbb{R}\cup\{\infty\}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix}a&b\\c&d\end{bmatrix}\cdot z = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}.$$

Let $\tau(z)=z+1$ and $\sigma(z)=\frac{-1}{z}$. Let $\omega := \tau\circ\sigma$. So

$\omega(z) = -\frac{1}{z}+1$. Observe that $\omega^3(z)=z$. Consider

$G_1=\langle\sigma\rangle$, $G_2=\langle\omega\rangle$, $X_1=(-\infty,0]$, $X_2=(0,\infty)\cup\{\infty\}$.)

(<u>Remark</u>. $PSL(2,\mathbb{Z}) = \left\langle \overline{\begin{bmatrix}1&1\\&1\end{bmatrix}}, \overline{\begin{bmatrix}&1\\-1&\end{bmatrix}}\right\rangle$.)