

## HOMEWORK 2, DUE THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH

- Chapter 4, Section 3: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24.

**Challenge Problems:** (Just for fun)

- Chapter 4, Section 3: 26, 27.
- Let  $\mathbb{F}_2$  be the field with two elements and let

$$G = \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$$

be the group of all  $3 \times 3$  invertible matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

- (i) Show that  $G$  acts on the three dimensional vector space

$$\mathbb{F}_2^3 = \mathbb{F}_2 \oplus \mathbb{F}_2 \oplus \mathbb{F}_2,$$

the set of vectors  $(a, b, c)$  with entries in  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_2$ .

- (ii) Show that the vector space minus the origin

$$\mathbb{F}_2^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}.$$

coincides

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_2}^2$$

which is the set of lines (through the origin) in

$$\mathbb{F}_2^3.$$

- (iii) Show that

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_2}^2$$

has seven elements.

- (iv) Show that  $G$  has 168 elements.

- (v) Show that  $G$  is a simple group.

- (vi) We say that  $l$  is a projective line in

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_2}^2$$

if it is the set of lines in  $\mathbb{F}_2^3$  contained in a plane (a two dimensional linear subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_2^3$ ).

Show that there are seven projective lines.

- (vii) Show that

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_2}^2$$

is a projective plane, in the sense that two distinct points determine a unique line and two distinct lines determine a unique point.