MAT 5173.001 Fall 2003 / Solutions to midterm 1

1 (cf. II.13a, II.3.2, II.3.9) Since \mathbf{Z}_4 is generated by 1, an endomorphism f is uniquely determined by f(1). The relation satisfied by 1 is 1+1+1+1=0, so since f(0)=0 we must have f(1)+f(1)+f(1)+f(1)=0. This is automatically satisfied by any element of \mathbf{Z}_4 . Thus, we may choose f(1) to be any element of \mathbf{Z}_4 . This means that there are 4 possible choices for f(1) and, therefore, 4 endomorphisms of \mathbf{Z}_4 .

In order for f to be an automorphism, f(1) must be a generator of \mathbf{Z}_4 . Since neither 0 nor 2 generate all of \mathbf{Z}_4 , we must have f(1) = 1 or f(1) = 3. Thus, there are 2 automorphisms of \mathbf{Z}_4 : the identity and the permutation (1,3). Any group generated by an element of order 2 is isomorphic to \mathbf{Z}_2 , so since $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{Z}_4)$ is generated by the 2-cycle (1,3), we have $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{Z}_4) \cong \mathbf{Z}_2$.

2 (cf. II.8.4) $H = \{(n, 2n): n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and its cosets are of the form $(x, y) + H = \{(n + x, 2n + y): n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, where $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

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3 (a) Let $a \in \ker f$ and $x \in G$. Then $f(xax^{-1}) = f(x)f(a)f(x^{-1}) = f(x)f(x^{-1}) = f(1) = 1$, so $xax^{-1} \in \ker f$.

(b) Let $H = S_3$, $G = S_2$, and $f: S_2 \to S_3$ the inclusion morphism. The image of f contains (1, 2), but not $(2, 3)(1, 2)(2, 3)^{-1} = (2, 3)(1, 2)(2, 3) = (1, 3)$.

4 (cf. III.1.5) If $f: \mathbb{Z}_2 \to \mathbb{Z}$ is a group morphism, then f(1) = 1 and 0 = f(0) = f(1+1) = f(1) + f(1), so f(1) = 0, so f = 0. Ring morphisms must preserve 1, so there are no ring morphisms and only the zero group morphism $\mathbb{Z}_2 \to \mathbb{Z}$.

5 (cf. III.7.3) If f is a ring morphism $\mathbf{Z}_2[x] \to \mathbf{Z}_2[x]$, we have f(0) = 0 and f(1) = 1, so f preserves constants.

If
$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k x^k \in \mathbf{Z}_2[x]$$
, then $f\left[\sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k x^k\right] = \sum_{k=0}^{n} f(a_k) f(x^k) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k f(x)^k$.

In other words, f is evaluation at f(x). In order for f to be invertible, f(x) must have degree 1. The only two polynomials of degree 1 in $\mathbb{Z}_2[x]$ are x and x + 1. Therefore, there are 2 automorphisms of $\mathbb{Z}_2[x]$.

6 (cf. III.13.10, III.7.5) A ring morphism $f: \mathbf{Q}[x] \to \mathbf{Q}$, must preserve constants (therefore onto) and is uniquely determined by f(x). In light of the main theorem on quotient rings (domain/kernel \cong image), it suffices to find f with kernel J. In particular, we want 0 = f(x + 1) = f(x) + 1, so choose f(x) = -1. In other words, let f be evaluation at -1, i.e. $f(a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + ...) = a_0 - a_1 + a_2 - ...$

To prove that ker f = J let $p \in J$. Then p(x) = (x+1)q(x) for some $q \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$, so $f(p) = f((x+1)q) = f(x+1)f(q) = 0 \cdot f(q) = 0$, so $p \in \text{ker } f$. Conversely, suppose $p \in \text{ker } f$. Then f(p(x)) = p(-1) = 0, so x+1 divides p [proof: by the division algorithm p(x) = (x+1)q(x) + r for some $q(x) \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$ and $r \in \mathbf{Q}$; substituting x = -1 gives r = 0], so $p \in J$.