

IMMERSE Algebra Homework - Summer 2005  
Torsion

80. A group that has only a finite number of subgroups must be finite.
81. An infinite group is cyclic if and only if it is isomorphic to each of its nontrivial proper subgroups.
82. Let  $G$  be a group.
- (a) Suppose  $G = \langle a, b \rangle$ , that is  $G$  is a group containing the elements  $a$  and  $b$  and all other elements required by the definition of a group. You can think of this as though  $H$  is a group which contains the elements  $a$  and  $b$  and  $G$  is the smallest subgroup of  $H$  which contains  $a$  and  $b$ .  $G$  is called the *free group on*  $\{a, b\}$ . What do the elements of  $G$  look like?
  - (b) Suppose  $G = \langle a, b \rangle$  is Abelian. Can you improve upon your answer above for this case? Note: we often describe groups like this using a technique often referred to as “generators and relations”. This group would be  $\langle a, b : aba^{-1}b^{-1} = e \rangle$  or  $\langle a, b : ab = ba \rangle$ .
  - (c) Suppose  $G = \langle a, b \rangle$  is Abelian with  $\circ(a) = n < \infty$  and  $\circ(b) = m < \infty$ . Can you improve your answer above? Note: using generators and relations, this group is  $\langle a, b : aba^{-1}b^{-1} = a^n = b^m = e \rangle$ .
  - (d) Suppose  $G = \langle a, b : aba^{-1}b^{-1} = a^n = b^m = e \rangle$ . What can you say about  $|G|$ ?
83. In  $\Sigma_3$  determine
- (a)  $\circ((12)), \circ((13))$
  - (b)  $\langle (12), (13) \rangle$
  - (c) Does your answer contradict what you saw in problem #82? Explain.
84. Prove every finitely generated Abelian torsion group is finite.
85. Let  $G$  be an abelian group with  $a, b \in G$  and  $\circ(a) = n < \infty$  and  $\circ(b) = m < \infty$ . Prove there is an element  $c \in G$  such that  $\circ(c) = \text{lcm}(m, n)$ .
86. If  $G$  is a finite abelian group in which the number of solutions in  $G$  of the equation  $x^n = e$  is at most  $n$  for every positive integer  $n$ . Prove that  $G$  must be a cyclic group.