

Read Chapter 9.1 of *Visual Group Theory* (VGT), or Chapter 13 of *AATA*. Then write up solutions to the following exercises.

1. The commutator subgroup of a group  $G$  is the subgroup

$$G' = \langle aba^{-1}b^{-1} \mid a, b \in G \rangle.$$

- (a) Show that  $G$  is abelian if and only if  $G' = \{e\}$ .
- (b) Show that  $G' \trianglelefteq G$ .
- (c) Show that  $G'$  is the intersection of all normal subgroups of  $G$  that contain the set  $C := \{aba^{-1}b^{-1} \mid a, b \in G\}$ :

$$G' = \bigcap_{C \subseteq N \trianglelefteq G} N$$

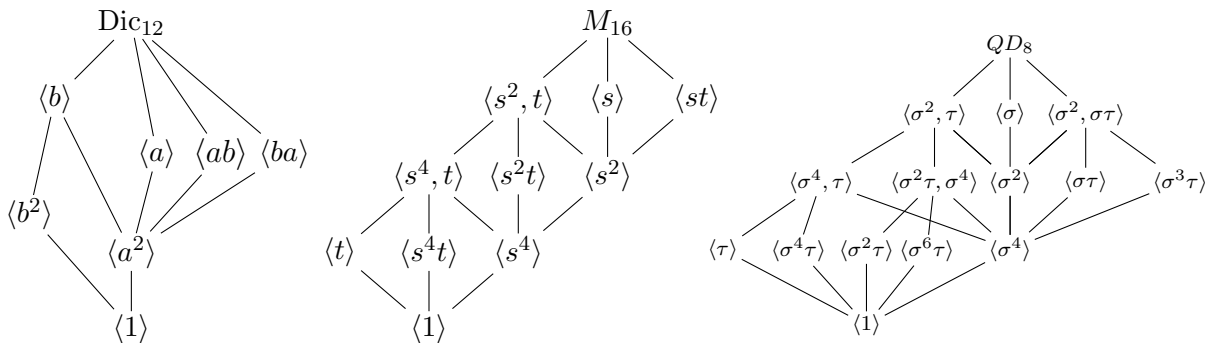
- (d) If we quotient  $G$  by  $G'$ , then we are in essence, “killing” all non-abelian parts of the Cayley diagram, as shown below:



Prove algebraically that  $G/G'$  is indeed abelian.

2. Consider the following nonabelian groups  $G$  whose subgroup lattices are shown below.

- (i) The *dicyclic group*  $\text{Dic}_{12} = \langle a, b \mid a^4 = b^6 = 1, bab = a \rangle$  of order 12.
- (ii) The *modular group*  $M_{16} = \langle s, t \mid s^8 = t^2 = 1, tst = s^5 \rangle$  of order 16.
- (iii) The *quasidihedral group*  $QD_8 = \langle \sigma, \tau \mid \sigma^8 = 1, \tau^2 = 1, \sigma\tau = \tau\sigma^3 \rangle$  of order 16.



Carry out the following steps for each group  $G$ .

- (a) On the lattice, label each edge with the corresponding index. Then circle every normal subgroup  $N$  and determine which familiar group  $G/N$  is isomorphic to. Justify why each  $N$  must be normal.
- (b) Find the commutator subgroup  $G'$  and the abelianization,  $G/G'$ .
- (c) Using *Group Explorer*, draw a Cayley diagram with the given generating set.

3. Find the commutator subgroup and abelianization of each of the following groups.
  - (a) An abelian group  $A$ .
  - (b) The alternating group  $A_n$ , for  $n \geq 5$ . [*Hint:  $A_n$  is a simple group, which means its only normal subgroups are  $\langle e \rangle$  and  $A_n$ .*]
  - (c) The dihedral group  $D_n$ . [*Hint: Do the cases of even and odd  $n$  separately.*]

4. Recall that the automorphism group of  $V_4 = \langle h, v \rangle = \{e, h, v, r\}$ , where  $r = hv$  is

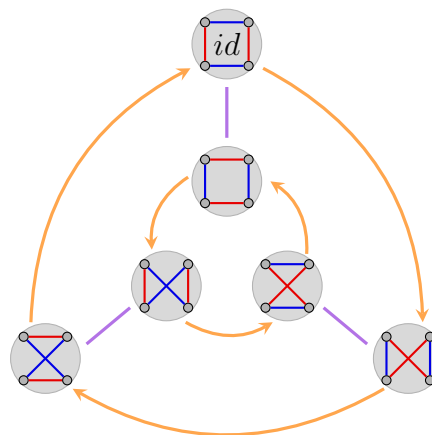
$$\text{Aut}(V_4) = \langle \alpha, \beta \mid \alpha^3 = \beta^2 = (\alpha\beta)^2 = id \rangle, \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{array}{l} h \xrightarrow{\alpha} v \\ v \mapsto r \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{l} h \xrightarrow{\beta} v \\ v \mapsto h. \end{array}$$

The generating automorphisms are the following permutations of  $V_4$ :

$$\alpha: \quad e \quad h \quad v \quad r \quad \text{and} \quad \beta: \quad e \quad h \quad v \quad r$$

The multiplication table and Cayley diagram of  $\text{Aut}(V_4) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$ , which highlights how automorphisms are “re-wirings”, are shown below:

	$id$	$\alpha$	$\alpha^2$	$\beta$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$
$id$	$id$	$\alpha$	$\alpha^2$	$\beta$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$
$\alpha$	$\alpha$	$\alpha^2$	$id$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$	$\beta$
$\alpha^2$	$\alpha^2$	$id$	$\alpha$	$\alpha^2\beta$	$\beta$	$\alpha\beta$
$\beta$	$\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$	$\alpha\beta$	$id$	$\alpha^2$	$\alpha$
$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha\beta$	$\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$	$\alpha$	$id$	$\alpha^2$
$\alpha^2\beta$	$\alpha^2\beta$	$\alpha\beta$	$\beta$	$\alpha^2$	$\alpha$	$id$



Repeat the above steps for each of the following groups. Use the Cayley diagram defined by the generating set given. Recall that  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}_n) \cong U_n$ .

- (a)  $\mathbb{Z}_5 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,
- (b)  $\mathbb{Z}_6 = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,
- (c)  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 = \langle (1, 0), (0, 1) \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$ .
- (d)  $\mathbb{Z}_8 = \langle 1 \rangle$ .

5. Let  $G$  act on a set  $S$ . Prove that the stabilizer  $\text{Stab}(s)$  is a subgroup of  $G$  for every  $s \in S$ .
6. Suppose the cyclic group  $C_5$  acts on a set  $S = \{A, B, C, D\}$ .
  - (a) What are the possible sizes of the orbits?
  - (b) What are the possible stabilizer subgroups of each orbit?
  - (c) Draw the action diagram.

Fully explain your reasoning for each part.