

Read the following, which can all be found either in the textbook or on the course website.

- Chapter 9.1 of *Visual Group Theory* (VGT).
- VGT Exercises 8.15–8.18, 9.17.

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) Prove that  $G$  is abelian if and only if  $G' = \{e\}$ .
- (b) Prove that  $G' \triangleleft G$ . [Hint: Take a “commutator”  $c = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$  and prove that  $gcg^{-1} \in G'$ .]
- (c) Prove that  $G'$  is the intersection of all normal subgroups of  $G$  that contain the set  $C := \{aba^{-1}b^{-1} \mid a, b \in G\}$ :

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

- (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. For each of the following groups  $G$ , compute its commutator subgroup  $G'$  and its abelianization  $G/G'$ . Finally, draw the subgroup lattice of  $G$  and circle every normal subgroup, and circle twice the one that is  $G'$ .
  - (a)  $V_4$
  - (b)  $D_3$
  - (c)  $Q_8$
3. Find the commutator subgroup of each of the following groups and compute its abelianization.
  - (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  $D_n$  for  $n$  even.
  - (d) The dihedral group  $D_n$  for  $n$  odd.

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4. For each group  $G$ , find all automorphisms and make a multiplication table of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ . What group is it isomorphic to?
- (a)  $\mathbb{Z}_7$
  - (b)  $\mathbb{Z}_8$
  - (c)  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$
  - (d)  $V_4$
  - (e)  $D_3$
5. Let  $G$  act on a set  $S$ . Prove that  $\text{Stab}(s)$  is a subgroup of  $G$  for every  $s \in S$ .
6. If  $C_5$  acts on the set  $S = \{A, B, C, D\}$ , what will the action diagram be? Why?