



MODERN ALGEBRA  
SPRING 2019

ASSIGNMENT 7.2  
DUE MARCH 6

**Exercise 1.** Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}$  has no proper subgroups of finite index.

**Exercise 2.** Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  has elements of every finite order.

**Exercise 3.** Let  $G$  be a group,  $S \subset G$  and  $H = \langle S \rangle$ . Fix  $x \in G$  and set  $K = \langle xSx^{-1} \rangle$ .

- Prove that  $K = xHx^{-1}$ . [*Suggestion:* Prove that the subgroups of  $G$  containing  $xSx^{-1}$  are precisely the  $x$ -conjugates of the subgroups containing  $S$ .]
- Conclude that if  $xSx^{-1} \subset S$  for all  $x \in G$ , then  $H \triangleleft G$ .

**Exercise 4.** Given a group  $G$ , its *commutator subgroup* is defined to be

$$G' = \langle xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \mid x, y \in G \rangle.$$

- Prove that  $G' \triangleleft G$ . [*Suggestion:* Use the preceding exercise.]
- If  $H \triangleleft G$ , prove that  $G/H$  is abelian if and only if  $G' < H$ . Thus  $G/G'$  is the largest abelian factor group of  $G$ .
- If  $G' < H < G$ , prove that  $H \triangleleft G$ .