



MODERN ALGEBRA  
SPRING 2023

ASSIGNMENT 4.1  
DUE FEBRUARY 8

**Exercise 1.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Use the classification of the subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  to prove that

$$a\mathbb{Z} \cap b\mathbb{Z} = \text{lcm}(a, b)\mathbb{Z}.$$

For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  we are using the alternate (number theoretic) notation  $n\mathbb{Z} = \langle n \rangle$  for the subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  generated by  $n$ .

**Exercise 2.** A group  $G$  is called *finitely generated* if there exist  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in G$  so that  $G = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ .

a. Prove that  $\mathbb{Z}^n = \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}}_{n \text{ times}}$  can be generated by  $n$  elements, and no fewer (this requires a little bit of linear algebra).

b. Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}$  is *not* finitely generated. [*Suggestion:* Argue by contradiction.]

**Exercise 3.** Lang, Exercise II.1.5. [*Warning:* This is *not* simply the explicit form of  $\langle S \rangle$  stated in class.]