

Thm If $(g, h) \in G \oplus H$,

$$|(g, h)| = \text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$$

← note similarity with proof about order of product of disjoint cycles in S_n .

proof: Let $t = |(g, h)|$ and $s = \text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$

(NTS: $t = s$. Show: $s|t$ and $t|s$.)

To see that $s|t$, notice that since $t = |(g, h)|$,

$$(e_G, e_H) = (g, h)^t = (g^t, h^t)$$

so $g^t = e_G$ and $h^t = e_H$. Thus $|g| |t$ and $|h| |t$.

so t is a common multiple of $|g|$ and $|h|$.

By an earlier exercise, $s | t$.

↑ $\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$.

$$\checkmark \text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$$

OTOH, s is a common multiple of $|g|$ and $|h|$, so

$$(g, h)^s = (g^s, h^s) = (e_G, e_H).$$

Therefore $|g, h| \mid s$, i.e. $t \mid s$.

We conclude that $t = s$, i.e. $|g, h| = \text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$.

Note: can use induction to show that if $(g_1, \dots, g_n) \in G_1 \oplus \dots \oplus G_n$

then

$$|(g_1, \dots, g_n)| = \text{lcm}(|g_1|, \dots, |g_n|).$$