

On normal Sylow subgroups

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The three Sylow Theorems

Definition 1 (Sylow p -subgroup). Let G be a group of order $p^a m$, where p is a prime number and $p \nmid m$, such that there exists a subgroup H of G of order p^a . Then we say that H is a Sylow p -subgroup of G .

Theorem 2 (First Sylow Theorem). Let G be a finite group. Then for every prime p dividing the order of G . Then there exists a Sylow p -subgroup of G , and every p -subgroup of G is in a Sylow p -subgroup of G .

Theorem 3 (Second Sylow Theorem). Let G be a finite group. Then for every prime p dividing the order of G , the Sylow p -subgroups of G are conjugate.

Theorem 4 (Third Sylow Theorem). Let G be a group of order $p^a m$, where p is a prime number and $p \nmid m$, and let n_p be the number of Sylow p -subgroups of G . Then

$$n_p \mid m \quad \text{and} \quad n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

Normal Sylow subgroups

Proposition 5. Let G be a group with $n_p = 1$. Then its Sylow p -subgroup is a normal subgroup of G .

Proof. Let H be the Sylow p -subgroup of G . By the second Sylow Theorem we have that for every $g \in G$ we find that

$$gHg^{-1} = H,$$

and H is a normal subgroup of G . □

Theorem 6. Let G be a finite group such that there exist two different prime factors p and q dividing its order with $n_p = 1$ and $n_q = 1$. Then

the elements of the Sylow \mathfrak{p}_1 -subgroup commute with the elements of the Sylow \mathfrak{p}_2 -subgroup of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$.


Proof. Let $\mathfrak{1}$ be the group identity of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$ and let \mathfrak{p}_1 be the Sylow \mathfrak{p}_1 -subgroup and \mathfrak{p}_2 be the Sylow \mathfrak{p}_2 -subgroup of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$. By Lagrange's Theorem we find that

$$\mathfrak{p}_1 \cap \mathfrak{p}_2 = \{\mathfrak{1}\},$$

and by the last proposition we have that \mathfrak{p}_1 and \mathfrak{p}_2 are normal subgroups of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$.

Then, for every $\mathfrak{a} \in \mathfrak{p}_1$ and every $\mathfrak{b} \in \mathfrak{p}_2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1}\mathfrak{b}^{-1} &= (\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1})\mathfrak{b}^{-1} \in \mathfrak{p}_2 \\ &= \mathfrak{a}(\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1}\mathfrak{b}^{-1}) \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \\ &\in \mathfrak{p}_1 \cap \mathfrak{p}_2 = \{\mathfrak{1}\} \\ &= \{\mathfrak{1}\}, \end{aligned}$$

with which we find that $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}$. 

Theorem 7. Let $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$ be a finite group, let $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ be the different primes dividing the order of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$ and let $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ be the Sylow subgroups of $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}$. Then the Sylow subgroups $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ are normal if and only if

$$\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}} \cong \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_n.$$

Proof. Suppose that $\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}} \cong \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_n$. We have

$$|\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}| = |\mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_n| = |\mathfrak{p}_1| \cdots |\mathfrak{p}_n|,$$

which implies $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathfrak{p}_1} = 1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_{\mathfrak{p}_n} = 1$, and by proposition 5 we find that the Sylow subgroups $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ are normal.

Suppose now the Sylow subgroups $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ are normal. By the previous theorem we have that the elements of two different groups commute. With this we find that the function

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p}: \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_n &\longrightarrow \mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}} \\ \mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_n &\longmapsto \mathfrak{a}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{a}_n \end{aligned}$$

is a homomorphism. The homomorphism \mathfrak{p} is injective, since the order of a product of commuting elements with relatively primer orders is equal to the product of their orders. We also have that

$$|\mathbf{B}\bar{\mathbf{e}}| = |\mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_n| = |\mathfrak{p}_1| \cdots |\mathfrak{p}_n|,$$

with which we find that \mathfrak{p} is a group isomorphism. 

<https://kconrad.math.uconn.edu/blurbs/grouptheory/sylowapp.pdf>.