

L26: Primary Component Decomposition

Towards uniqueness:

Def Let A be an abelian group, p a prime. We set

- $\text{Tor}(A) := \{a \in A \mid na = 0 \text{ for some } n > 0\}$ "torsion part"
- $A_p := \{a \in A \mid p^k a = 0 \text{ for some } k > 0\}$ "p-primary component".

Lemma $\text{Tor}(A) \leq A$, $A_p \leq \text{Tor}(A) \leq A$.

Cor Let A be a f.g. ab group. Then $A/\text{Tor}(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}^r$ for r appearing as rank in its invariant factor decomp.

Cor The rank r is well-defined.

Pf Suppose $\mathbb{Z}^{r_1} \cong A/\text{Tor}(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{r_2}$. Then $\mathbb{Z}^{r_1} \cong \mathbb{Z}^{r_2}$, i.e. there exist $k_1 \times k_2$ and $k_2 \times k_1$ matrices U, V st. $UV = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $VU = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ but then $k_1 = k_2$. \square

Recall • $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ for $(m,n)=1$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \mathbb{Z}/k_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/k_2\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/k_\ell\mathbb{Z} \\ &\cong \mathbb{Z}/p_1^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/p_1^{n_2}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p_1^{n_{i_1}}\mathbb{Z} && \cong A_{p_1} \\ &\quad \times \mathbb{Z}/p_2^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p_2^{n_{i_2}}\mathbb{Z} && A_{p_2} \\ &\quad \vdots && \vdots \\ &\quad \mathbb{Z}/p_m^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p_m^{n_{i_m}}\mathbb{Z} && A_{p_m} \end{aligned}$$

where $k_i = p_1^{n_1} \dots p_m^{n_m}$ are prime decomp of k_1, \dots, k_ℓ

To show well-definedness of k_i we can show well-definedness of $n_1^i \leq n_2^i \leq \dots \leq n_{i_i}^i$ for each p_i separately.

We have also shown

Thm (primary factor decomposition) Let A be a f.g. ab group.

$A \cong A_{p_1} \times \dots \times A_{p_r} \times \mathbb{Z}^r$ where p_1, \dots, p_r are the primes st. $A_{p_i} \neq \{0\}$.

Prop Suppose $A = \mathbb{Z}/p^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p^{n_\ell}\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^{m_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p^{m_k}\mathbb{Z}$

where $1 \leq n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \dots \leq n_\ell$, $1 \leq m_1 \leq \dots \leq m_k$.

Then $n_i = m_i$ (and $\ell = k$).

Pf We use that $pA = \{pa \in A \mid a \in A\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^{n_i-1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/p^{n_\ell-1}\mathbb{Z}$
where $n_i > 1$

and $A/pA \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\ell$

Exc!

Iterating the argument we obtain

$$p^{n-1}A/p^{n-1}A \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^{\#\{i \mid n_i \geq n\}}$$

and thus $|p^{n-1}A/p^{n-1}A| = p^{\#\{i \mid n_i \geq n\}}$

We can thus read off $\#\{i \mid n_i \geq n\}$ for all n

and obtain $\#\{i \mid n_i \geq n\} = \#\{i \mid m_i \geq n\} \quad \forall n$

Exc!
 $\Rightarrow n_i = m_i$

□

Ex Find all isomorphism classes of abelian group of order 18:

$18 = 2 \cdot 3^2 \quad \therefore A = A_2 \times A_3$

Possibilities for A_2 : $A_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

A_3 : $A_3 = \mathbb{Z}/3^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/3^{n_k}\mathbb{Z}$

ways of writing $3^2 = 3^{n_1} \dots 3^{n_k} \quad n_1 \leq \dots \leq n_k$

i.e. ways of writing $2 = n_1 + \dots + n_k$

$2 = 2$
 $= 1+1$

$\therefore \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$

$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$

↑ primary decomp

↑ invariant factor decomp

∴ $|A| = 8 = 2^3$: $3 = 3$ $\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$

$= 1+2$ $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$

$= 1+1+1$ $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$