

problem: Let  $G$  be a group such that for all  $a, b \in G$ , we have:

$$(ab)^m = a^m b^m \quad \text{--- } (*)$$

$$\text{and } (ab)^n = a^n b^n \quad \text{--- } (i) \quad (**)$$

where  $m (> n)$  and  $n$  are two positive integers.

How should  $m$  and  $n$  be chosen such that  $G$  becomes Abelian?

Solution: Since  $m > n$  we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} (ab)^m &= (ab)^{m-n} (ab)^n \\ &= a^{m-n} b^{m-n} a^n b^n = a^m b^m \end{aligned} \quad \text{--- } (i) \quad (*)$$

$$\Rightarrow a^n b^{m-n} = b^{m-n} a^n \quad \text{--- } (1)$$

Similarly,

$$(ab)^m = (ab)^n (ab)^{m-n} = a^m b^m$$

$$\Rightarrow a^{m-n} b^n = b^n a^{m-n} \quad \text{--- } (2)$$

② implies that:

$$b^n a^n = a^{m-n} b^n a^{2n-m}$$

$$\text{or } b^n a^n = a^{m-n} (b^n a^n) a^{-(m-n)} \quad \text{③}$$

① implies that:

$$a^n b^n = b^{m-n} a^n b^{2n-m}$$

$$\text{or } a^n b^n = b^{m-n} (a^n b^n) b^{-(m-n)} \quad \text{④}$$

④ implies that: (by replacing  $a$  with  $a^{-1}$  and  $b$  with  $b^{-1}$ ):

$$a^{-n} b^{-n} = b^{-(m-n)} (a^{-n} b^{-n}) b^{m-n} \quad \text{⑤}$$

Multiplying LHS's and RHS's of ③ and ⑤ we get:

$$1 = a^{m-n} (b^n a^n) a^{-(m-n)} \\ \times b^{-(m-n)} (a^{-n} b^{-n}) b^{m-n}.$$

$$= a^{m-n} (ba)^n (ba)^{-(m-n)} (ab)^{-n} b^{n-m}$$

$$= a^{m-n} (ba)^{2n-m} (ab)^{-n} b^{n-m}$$

$$\Rightarrow a^{-(m-n)} b^{-(m-n)} = (ba)^{2n-m} (ab)^{-n}$$

$$\Rightarrow (ba)^{-(m-n)} = (ba)^{2n-m} (ab)^{-n}$$

$$\Rightarrow (ab)^n = (ba)^{2n-m+m-n}$$

$$\Rightarrow (ab)^n = (ba)^n$$

$$\Rightarrow a^n b^n = b^n a^n \text{ ——— } \textcircled{6}$$

we again multiply the LHS's and the RHS's of  $\textcircled{3}$  &  $\textcircled{5}$  to get.

$$1 = a^{m-n} (b^n a^n) a^{-(m-n)} \times b^{-(m-n)} (a^{-n} b^{-n}) b^{m-n}$$

$$= a^{m-n} (b^n a^n) (a^{-(m-n)} b^{-(m-n)}) (a^{-n} b^{-n}) b^{m-n}$$



$$= a^{m-n} (ba)^n (ba)^{-m} b^{m-n}$$

$$= a^{m-n} (ba)^{-(m-n)} b^{m-n}.$$

$$\Rightarrow (ba)^{-(m-n)} = a^{-(m-n)} b^{-(m-n)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (ba)^{m-n} = b^{m-n} a^{m-n}$$

Interchanging  $a$  &  $b$  we get that:

$$(ab)^{m-n} = a^{m-n} b^{m-n}$$

$$\forall a, b \in G \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

Now letting  $m' = m$

and  $n' = m - n$ .

and repeating the initial (4) steps we obtain an equation similar to equation (6) with  $n'$  in place of  $n$ :

$$a^{n'} b^{n'} = b^{n'} a^{n'}$$

Thus we have managed to find two numbers  $n$  and  $n'$  such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a^n b^n = b^n a^n \\ \text{and } a^{n'} b^{n'} = b^{n'} a^{n'} \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

Next we refer to the article (paper) published in arxiv. org.

(8) is exactly the property  $P$  stated on page (2) of the paper.

Next we refer to the Theorem 3.1 in this paper. The theorem states that:

Theorem 3.1: let  $G$  be a finite group satisfying property  $P$ . Then  $G$  is Abelian.

So in order to make our given group Abelian, we only have to ensure that  $m$  &  $n$  are chosen in such a way that  $n$  &  $n'$  become co-prime.