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Title: Orders of Automorphism Groups of Finite Groups

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Abstract:

The object of study in this chapter is the relation between the order of a finite group and that of its group of automorphisms. In 1954, Scott [114] conjectured that a finite group has at least a prescribed number of automorphisms if the order of the group is sufficiently large. The conjecture was confirmed by Ledermann and Neumann [80, Theorem 6.6] in 1956 by constructing an explicit function $f: N \to N$ with the property that if the finite group G has order $|G| \ge f(n)$, then $|Aut(G)| \ge n$. In the same year, building on the techniques from [80], the authors [81] proved the following local version of Scott's conjecture: Conjecture 3.1. There exists a function $f: N \to N$ such that for each $h \in N$ and each prime g, if G is any finite group such that g(h) divides g(h), then g(h) divides g(h). Later on, Green [49], Howarth [63] and Hyde [68] successively improved the function g(h) to a quadratic polynomial function. The aim of this chapter is to give an exposition of these developments. Schur multiplier plays a significant role in these investigations.

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