

Suns

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# Chapter 1

# Groups

## 1.1 Group action

Let  $M$  be a set equipped with a binary operation  $M \times M \rightarrow M$ . We say  $M$  is a **monoid** if the binary operation is associative and there exists a two-sided identity  $e \in M$ .

**Example 1.1.1.** Defining  $(x, y) \mapsto y$ , we see that the operation is associative and every element is a left identity, but no element is a right identity unless  $|M| = 1$ . This is an example why identity must be two-sided.

Because the identity of a monoid is defined to be two-sided, clearly it must be unique. Suppose every element of monoid  $M$  has a left inverse. Fix  $x \in M$ . Let  $x^{-1} \in M$  be a left inverse of  $x$ . To see that  $x^{-1}$  is also a right inverse of  $x$ , let  $(x^{-1})^{-1} \in M$  be a left inverse of  $x^{-1}$  and use

$$(x^{-1})^{-1} = (x^{-1})^{-1}e = (x^{-1})^{-1}(x^{-1}x) = ((x^{-1})^{-1}x^{-1})x = ex = x$$

to deduce

$$xx^{-1} = (x^{-1})^{-1}x^{-1} = e$$

In other words, if we require every element of a monoid  $M$  to have a left inverse, then immediately every left inverse upgrades to a right inverse. In such case, we call  $M$  a **group**. Notice that inverses of elements of a group are clearly unique.

Unlike the category of monoids, the category of groups behaves much better. Given two groups  $G, H$  and a function  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ , if  $\varphi$  respects the binary operation, then  $\varphi$  also respects the identity:

$$e_H = (\varphi(x)^{-1})\varphi(x) = (\varphi(x)^{-1})\varphi(xe_G) = (\varphi(x)^{-1}\varphi(x))\varphi(e_G) = \varphi(e_G)$$

which implies that  $\varphi$  must also respect inverse. In such case, we call  $\varphi$  a **group homomorphism**. Given a subset  $H \subseteq G$  closed under the binary operation, if  $H$  forms a group itself, then since the set inclusion  $H \hookrightarrow G$  forms a group homomorphism, we have  $e_H = e_G$ , and thus  $x^{-1}$  in  $H, G$  are the same element.

In this note, by a **subgroup**  $H$  of  $G$ , we mean an injective group homomorphism  $H \hookrightarrow G$ . Clearly, a subset of  $G$  forms a subgroup if and only it is closed under both the binary operation and inverse. Note that one of the key basic property of subgroup  $H \subseteq G$  is that if  $g \notin H$ , then  $hg \notin H$ , since otherwise  $g = h^{-1}hg \in H$ .

Let  $S$  be a subset of  $G$ . The group of **words** in  $S$ :

$$\{s_1^{\epsilon_1} \cdots s_n^{\epsilon_n} \in G : n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \text{ and } s_i \in S \text{ and } \epsilon_i = \pm 1\}$$

is clearly the smallest subgroup of  $G$  containing  $S$ . We say this subgroup is **generated** by  $S$ . If  $G$  is generated by a single element, we say  $G$  is **cyclic**. Let  $x \in G$ . The **order** of  $G$  is the cardinality of  $G$ , and the order of  $x$  is the cardinality of the cyclic subgroup  $\langle x \rangle \subseteq G$ , or equivalently the infimum of the set of natural numbers  $n$  that makes  $x^n = e$ . Clearly, finite cyclic groups of order  $n$  are all isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ . The **right cosets**  $Hx$  are defined by  $Hx \triangleq \{hx \in G : h \in H\}$ . Clearly, when we define an equivalence relation in  $G$  by setting:

$$x \sim y \iff xy^{-1} \in H$$

the equivalence class  $[x]$  coincides with the right coset  $Hx$ . Note that if we partition  $G$  using **left cosets**, the equivalence relation being  $x \sim y \iff x^{-1}y \in H$ , then the two partitions need not to be identical.

**Example 1.1.2.** Let  $H \triangleq \{e, (1, 2)\} \subseteq S_3$ . The right cosets are

$$H(2, 3) = \{(2, 3), (1, 2, 3)\} \quad \text{and} \quad H(1, 3) = \{(1, 3), (1, 3, 2)\}$$

while the left cosets being

$$(2, 3)H = \{(2, 3), (1, 3, 2)\} \quad \text{and} \quad (1, 3)H = \{(1, 3), (1, 2, 3)\}$$

■

However, as one may verify, we have a well-defined bijection  $xH \mapsto Hx^{-1}$  between the sets of left cosets and right cosets of  $H$ . Therefore, we may define the **index**  $|G : H|$  of  $H$  in  $G$  to be the cardinality of the collection of left cosets of  $H$ , without falling into the discussion of left and right. Moreover, let  $K$  be a subgroup of  $H$ , by axiom of choice, clearly we have:

$$|G : K| = |G : H| \cdot |H : K|$$

which gives **Lagrange's theorem**

$$o(G) = |G : H| \cdot o(H)$$

as a corollary.

Let  $G$  be a group and  $X$  a set. If we say  $G$  **acts on  $X$  from left** we are defining a function  $G \times X \rightarrow X$  such that

- (i)  $e \cdot x = x$  for all  $x \in X$ .
- (ii)  $(gh) \cdot x = g \cdot (h \cdot x)$  for all  $g, h \in G$ .

Note that there is a difference between left action and right action, as  $gh$  means  $g \circ h$  in left action and means  $h \circ g$  in right action.

Because groups admit inverses, a  $G$ -action is in fact a group homomorphism  $G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$ . The trivial action then corresponds to the trivial group homomorphism. An action is **faithful** if it is injective.

Show that  $Z(G) \subseteq \text{Ker } \theta$  if and only if  $\theta$  is faithful.

An action is **free** if  $g \cdot x = x$  for a  $x \in X$  implies  $g = e$ . Note that the isomorphism  $\text{Sym}(X) \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$  is always injective but never free unless  $|X| \leq 2$ . The action is **transitive** if for any  $x, y \in X$ , there always exists some  $g \in G$  such that  $y = g \cdot x$ . An action is **regular** if it is both free and transitive.

Let  $x \in X$ . We call the set  $G \cdot x \triangleq \{g \cdot x \in X : g \in G\}$  the **orbit** of  $x$ . Clearly the set  $G_x$  of all elements of  $G$  that fixes  $x$  forms a group, called the **stabilizer subgroup** of  $G$  with respect to  $x$ . Consider the action left. The fact that the obvious mapping between the set of left cosets of stabilizer subgroups of  $G$  with respect to  $x$  to the orbit of  $x$ :

$$\{gG_x \subseteq G : g \in G\} \longleftrightarrow G \cdot x$$

forms a bijection is called the **orbit-stabilizer theorem**, which relates the index of the stabilizer subgroup of  $x$  and the orbit of  $x$ :

$$|G : G_x| = |G \cdot x|$$

**Example 1.1.3.** Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ , and let  $H$  acts on  $G$  by right multiplication. Then the orbit of  $x \in G$  is just the left coset  $xH$ , while the stabilizer subgroup  $H_x$  is trivial, agreeing with **orbit-stabilizer theorem**.

**Theorem 1.1.4. (Cauchy's theorem for finite group)** Let  $G$  be a finite group whose order is divided by some prime  $p$ . Then the number of solutions to the equation  $x^p = e$  is a positive multiple of  $p$ .

*Proof.* The set  $X$  of  $p$ -tuples  $(x_1, \dots, x_p)$  that satisfies  $x_1 \cdots x_p = e$  clearly has cardinality  $|G|^{p-1}$ .

Consider the group action  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$  defined by

$$g \cdot (x_1, \dots, x_p) \triangleq (x_p, x_1, \dots, x_{p-1})$$

Then by orbit-stabilizer theorem and Lagrange theorem, an orbit in  $X$  either has cardinality  $p$  or 1.

$$p \mid |G|^{p-1} = m + kp$$

with  $m$  the number of cardinality 1 orbits and  $k$  the number of cardinality  $p$  orbits.

This implies  $p \mid m$ , as desired.

Notice that  $x^p = e$  if and only if  $(x, \dots, x) \in X$ . Therefore the number of cardinality 1 orbit equals to number of solution to  $x^p = e$ .

■

## 1.2 Normalizer and centralizer

Because the inverse of an injective group homomorphism forms a group homomorphism, we know the set  $\text{Aut}(G)$  of automorphisms of  $G$  forms a group. We say  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$  is an **inner automorphism** if  $\phi$  takes the form  $x \mapsto gxg^{-1}$  for some fixed  $g \in G$ . We say two elements  $x, y \in G$  are **conjugated** if there exists some inner automorphism that maps  $x$  to  $y$ . Clearly conjugacy forms an equivalence relation. We call its classes **conjugacy classes**.

### Equivalent Definition 1.2.1. (Normalize)

From the point of view of inner automorphism, we see that it is well-defined whether an element  $g \in G$  **normalize** a subset  $S \subseteq G$ :

$$\{gsg^{-1} \in G : s \in S\} = S$$

independent of left and right. Because of the independence, For each subset  $S \subseteq G$ , we see that the set of elements  $g \in G$  that normalize  $S$  forms a group, called the **normalizer** of  $S$ . Note that if  $g$  normalize  $S$ , then  $gS = Sg$ .

**Example 1.2.2.** Consider  $G \triangleq \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  and consider:

$$H \triangleq \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & n \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R}) : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad g \triangleq \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$$

Note that  $gHg^{-1} \subset H$ . In other words, inner automorphisms can map a subgroup  $H$  into a subgroup strictly contained by  $H$  if  $G$  is infinite.

**Equivalent Definition 1.2.3. (Normal subgroups)** Let  $G$  be a group and  $N$  a subgroup. We say  $N$  is a **normal subgroup** of  $G$  if any of the followings hold true:

- (i)  $\phi(N) \subseteq N$  for all  $\phi \in \text{Inn}(G)$
- (ii)  $\phi(N) = N$  for all  $\phi \in \text{Inn}(G)$
- (iii)  $xN = Nx$  for all  $x \in G$ .
- (iv) The set of all left cosets of  $N$  equals the set of all right cosets of  $N$ .
- (v)  $N$  is a union of conjugacy classes.
- (vi) For all  $n \in N$  and  $x \in G$ , their **commutator**  $nxn^{-1}x^{-1} \in G$  lies in  $N$ .
- (vii) For all  $x, y \in G$ , we have  $xy \in N \iff yx \in N$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii): Let  $\phi \in \text{Inn}(G)$ . By premise,  $\phi(N) \subseteq N$  and  $\phi^{-1}(N) \subseteq N$ . Applying  $\phi$  to both side of  $\phi^{-1}(N) \subseteq N$ , we have  $\phi(N) \subseteq N \subseteq \phi(N)$ , as desired.

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii): Consider the automorphisms:

$$\phi_{L,x}(g) = xg \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_{L,x^{-1}}(g) = x^{-1}g \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_{R,x}(g) = gx$$

Because  $\phi_{L,x^{-1}} \circ \phi_{R,x} \in \text{Inn}(G)$ , by premise we have:

$$xN = \phi_{L,x}(N) = \phi_{L,x} \circ \phi_{L,x^{-1}} \circ \phi_{R,x}(N) = \phi_{R,x}(N) = Nx$$

(iii)  $\implies$  (iv) is clear. (iv)  $\implies$  (iii): Let  $x \in G$ . By premise, there exists some  $y \in G$  that makes  $xN = Ny$ . Let  $x = ny$ . The proof then follows from noting

$$xN = Ny = N(n^{-1}x) = Nx$$

(iii)  $\implies$  (v): Let  $n \in N$  and  $x \in G$ . We are required to show  $xnx^{-1} \in N$ . Because  $xN = NX$ , we know  $xn = \tilde{n}x$  for some  $\tilde{n} \in N$ . This implies

$$xnx^{-1} = \tilde{n}xx^{-1} = \tilde{n} \in N$$

(v)  $\implies$  (vi): Fix  $n \in N$  and  $x \in G$ . By premise,  $xn^{-1}x^{-1} \in N$ . Therefore,  $n(xn^{-1}x^{-1}) \in N$ , as desired.

(vi)  $\implies$  (vii): Let  $xy \in N$ . To see  $yx$  also belong to  $N$ , observe:

$$(xy)^{-1}(yx) = (xy)^{-1}x^{-1}xyx = [xy, x] \in N$$

(viii)  $\implies$  (i): Let  $n \in N$  and  $x \in G$ . Because  $(nx)x^{-1} = n \in N$ , by premise we have  $x^{-1}nx \in N$ , as desired.  $\blacksquare$

**Equivalent Definition 1.2.4. (Normal closure)** Let  $G$  be a group and  $S \subseteq G$ . The **normal closure**  $\text{ncl}_G(S)$  of  $S$  in  $G$  refer to any one of the followings:

- (i) The smallest normal subgroup of  $G$  containing  $S$ , which we know exists as the intersection of all normal subgroups of  $G$  containing  $S$ .
- (ii) The subgroup of  $G$  generated by

$$\bigcup_{\phi \in \text{Inn}(G)} \{\phi(x) \in G : x \in S\}$$

*Proof.* We are required to prove the subgroup of  $G$  from (ii) is normal. Clearly, it is the set:

$$\{g_1^{-1}x_1^{\epsilon_1}g_1 \cdots g_n^{-1}x_n^{\epsilon_n}g_n \in G : n \geq 0, x_i \in S, \epsilon_i = \pm 1, g_i \in G\}$$

Fix  $g \in G$ . The proof then follows from noting

$$g^{-1} (g_1^{-1} x_1^{\epsilon_1} g_1 \cdots g_n^{-1} x_n^{\epsilon_n} g_n) g = \left( (g_1 g)^{-1} x_1^{\epsilon_1} (g_1 g) \right) \cdots \left( (g_n g)^{-1} x_n^{\epsilon_n} (g_n g) \right)$$

■

We denote the **centralizer**  $C_G(S) \triangleq \{g \in G : gsg^{-1} = s \text{ for all } s \in S\}$ . We call the centralizer of the whole group  $Z(G) \triangleq C_G(G)$  **center**. Clearly  $Z(G)$  forms an abelian subgroup of  $G$ , and every element of the center form a single conjugacy classes.

For finite group  $G$ , we have the **class equation**

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum |G : C_G(x)|$$

where  $x$  runs through conjugacy classes outside of  $Z(G)$ .

Clearly  $C_G(S) \subseteq N_G(S)$ .

## 1.3 Isomorphism theorems

Let  $G$  be a group and  $N \subseteq G$  a normal subgroup. We say a group homomorphism  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  satisfies the **universal property of quotient group**  $G/N$  if

- (i) it vanishes on  $N$ . (**Group condition**)
- (ii) for all group homomorphism  $f : G \rightarrow H$  that vanishes on  $N$  there exist a unique group homomorphism  $\tilde{f} : G/N \rightarrow H$  that makes the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\pi} & G/N \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \tilde{f} \\ & & H \end{array}$$

commute. (**Universality**)

**Theorem 1.3.1. (The first isomorphism theorem for groups)** The group homomorphism  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  is always surjective with kernel  $N$ . Let  $f : G \rightarrow H$  be a group homomorphism. Then  $\ker f$  is normal in  $G$ , and the induced homomorphism  $\tilde{f} : G/\ker f \rightarrow H$  is injective.

*Proof.* The first part is an immediate consequence of construction of  $G/N$ . However, it should be noted that such construction can be avoided. The fact that  $\ker(\pi) = N$  can be proved by considering the permutation representation  $G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ , where  $\Omega$  is the set of the cosets of  $N$ , and the fact that  $\pi$  is surjective is a consequence of  $\tilde{\pi} = \mathbf{id}_{G/N}$ .

We clearly have  $\ker f \trianglelefteq G$ . The fact that  $\tilde{f} : G/\ker f \rightarrow H$  is injective follows from  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/\ker f$  being surjective with kernel  $\ker f$ . ■

Because the kernel of a group homomorphism is clearly normal, if  $N$  is not normal, then there can not be a pair  $G \rightarrow G/N$  that satisfies the universal property. If any things, this is the "reason" why normal subgroups are what meant to be quotiented in the category of group.

Given  $x, y \in G$ , we often write

$$[x, y] \triangleq xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \quad \text{or} \quad [x, y] \triangleq x^{-1}y^{-1}xy$$

and call  $[x, y]$  the **commutator** of  $x$  and  $y$ . Independent of differences of the definition, we have  $[x, y] \in N$  if and only if  $xyN = yxN$ . Again, independent of the definition, the

**commutator subgroup**  $[G, G]$  of  $G$  is the subgroup generated by the commutators. It should be noted that given a normal subgroup  $N$  of  $G$ , the quotient group  $G/N$  is abelian if and only if  $N$  contains the commutator subgroup of  $G$ .

**Example 1.3.2.**  $G \triangleq S_3$ .  $S \triangleq \langle(1, 2)\rangle$  and  $H \triangleq \langle(2, 3)\rangle$ .  $SH$  doesn't form a group.  $(2, 3)(1, 2) \notin SH$ .

**Theorem 1.3.3. (Second isomorphism theorem)** Let  $H \leq G$ . If  $K$  is a subgroup of normalizer of  $H$ , then their product:

$$HK \triangleq \{hk \in G : h \in H \text{ and } k \in K\}$$

forms a group (in fact, the subgroup generated by  $H \cup K$ ) and is defined independent of left and right. Moreover,  $H \trianglelefteq HK$  with  $hkH = Hk$ , and  $H \cap K \trianglelefteq K$  with

$$HK/H \cong K/H \cap K \quad \text{via} \quad kH \longleftrightarrow k(H \cap K)$$

*Proof.*

■

Third isomorphism theorem.

Correspondence theorem.

Because  $\varphi \circ \phi_g \circ \varphi^{-1} = \phi_{\varphi(g)}$ , we know  $\text{Inn}(G)$  forms a normal subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ .

## 1.4 Sylow theorems

**Theorem 1.4.1. (First and Third Sylow theorem, Wielandt's proofs)** Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^m t$  with  $\gcd(p, t) = 1$ . Let  $r \leq m$ . Then the number  $n_p$  of  $p$ -subgroup with order  $p^r$  satisfies

$$n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be the set of subset of  $G$  with cardinality  $p^r$ . Our goal is to find all elements of  $X$  that forms a group. Clearly we may define a left  $G$ -action on  $X$  by setting

$$g \cdot \{x_1, \dots, x_{p^r}\} \triangleq \{gx_1, \dots, gx_{p^r}\}$$

Let  $\Gamma$  be an orbit. If  $\Gamma$  contains a group, then we see that  $\Gamma$  is the left coset space of that group, containing exactly one group and satisfying  $|\Gamma| = p^{m-r}t$ . If  $\Gamma$  doesn't contain any group, there still exists some  $S \in \Gamma$  such that  $e \in S$ , and clearly we will have  $\text{Stab}(S) \subseteq S$ . Because  $S$  isn't a group, we see  $p^r = |S| > o(\text{Stab}(S))$ , which by **orbit-stabilizer theorem** implies that  $|\Gamma| = [G : \text{Stab}(S)] = p^{m-r+c}t$  for some  $c \geq 1$ .

In summary, by counting orbit, we have shown that:

$$\binom{p^m t}{p^r} = |X| = n_p p^{m-r} t + l p^{m-r+1} t, \quad \text{for some } l \in \mathbb{N}$$

Let  $ut \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . Recalling that  $\binom{p^m t}{p^r}$  has  $p$ -power  $p^{m-r}$ , it remains to show

$$u \cdot \frac{\binom{p^m t}{p^r}}{p^{m-r}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

which follows from noting:

$$u \cdot \frac{\binom{p^m t}{p^r}}{p^{m-r}} = ut \cdot \binom{p^m t - 1}{p^r - 1} \equiv \binom{p^m t - 1}{p^r - 1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

where the last equality follows from Lucas modulo binomial formula. ■

**Theorem 1.4.2. (Counting lemma for  $p$ -group)** Let  $H$  be a  $p$ -group acting on a finite set  $\Omega$ . Let  $\Omega_0$  be the set of fixed points. Then

$$|\Omega| \equiv |\Omega_0| \pmod{p}$$

*Proof.* This is a consequence of **orbit-stabilizer theorem**. ■

**Theorem 1.4.3. (Second Sylow theorem)** Sylow  $p$ -subgroups are conjugated to each other.

*Proof.* Let  $H$  and  $P$  be two Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$ , and let  $H$  acts on left coset space of  $P$  by left multiplication. Because  $P$  is Sylow, by [counting lemma for  \$p\$ -group](#), we know the number of fixed points  $gP$  is nonzero. Let  $gP$  be a fixed point. We then see that, as desired,  $g^{-1}hg \in P$  for all  $h \in H$ , since  $hgP = gP$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Theorem 1.4.4. (Remaining part of third Sylow theorem)** Let  $G$  be a finite group, and let  $n_p$  be the number of Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . For all Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$ , we have

$$n_p = [G : N(P)]$$

*Proof.* This is a consequence of [second Sylow theorem](#) and [orbit stabilizer theorem](#), where we note that when  $G$  acts on  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$  by conjugation we have  $\text{Stab}(P) = N(P)$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Example 1.4.5.** Let  $o(G) = pq$  with  $p > q$  being prime. Because  $n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  and  $n_p \mid o(G) = pq$ , we see  $n_p = 1$ .

If

If  $G$  is non-abelian, then we must have  $q \mid p - 1$ , since otherwise

## 1.5 Finitely generated abelian group

**Equivalent Definition 1.5.1. (Internal direct products for groups)** Let  $G$  be a group with normal subgroups  $N_1, \dots, N_k$ . We say  $G$  is an **internal direct products of  $N_i$**  if any of the followings hold true:

- (i) The natural map  $N_1 \times \dots \times N_k \rightarrow G$  forms a group isomorphism.
- (ii)  $N_1 \cdots N_k = G$  and  $N_i \cap \prod_{j \neq i} N_j = \{e\}$  for all  $i$ .
- (iii) Every  $g \in G$  can be written uniquely as  $\prod n_i$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii): Clearly we have  $N_1 \cdots N_k = G$ . Let  $n_2 \cdots n_k \in N_1$ . Because  $n_2 \cdots n_k$  is both the image of  $(n_2 \cdots n_k, e, \dots, e)$  and  $(e, n_2, \dots, n_k)$ , by injectivity of the natural map, we know  $n_2 = \dots = n_k = e$ .

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii): The existence is clear. To see the uniqueness, observe that  $\prod n_i = \prod \tilde{n}_i$  implies  $(\tilde{n}_1)^{-1} n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k = \tilde{n}_2 \cdots \tilde{n}_k$  ■

**Example 1.5.2.** Let  $G \triangleq \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ . Clearly the direct product of  $\langle(1, 0)\rangle$  and  $\langle(2, 0)\rangle$  is isomorphic to  $G$ , but they do not form an internal direct product of  $G$ . It is because of such, we must require  $N_1 \times \dots \times N_k$  not only isomorphic to  $G$ , but moreover the natural way in [definition of internal direct products for groups](#).

**Theorem 1.5.3. (Fundamental theorem for finite abelian group)**

**Theorem 1.5.4. (Fundamental theorem for finitely generated abelian group)**

## 1.6 Nilpotency and Solvability

More than often, we care about the existence of **central series**

$$1 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq A_{n-1} \trianglelefteq A_n \trianglelefteq A_{n+1} \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G$$

where we requires the successive quotient to be **central**, i.e.,  $[G, A_{n+1}] \leq A_n$ , or equivalently,  $A_{n+1}/A_n \leq Z(G/A_n)$ , or equivalently,  $xyA_n = yxA_n \in G/A_n$  if one of  $x, y$  is in  $A_{n+1}$ .

To construct one, one can consider the **upper central series**, defining  $G_{(n)} \triangleq [G, G_{(n-1)}]$  with  $G_{(0)} \triangleq G$ . This gives us

$$\cdots \trianglelefteq G_{(2)} \trianglelefteq G_{(1)} \trianglelefteq G$$

Note that

**Theorem 1.6.1. (Every subgroup of a nilpotent group is subnormal)** Let  $G$  be a nilpotent group with  $H \leq G$ . Then  $H$  is a subnormal subgroup of  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let

$$1 \triangleleft A_1 \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft A_n = G$$

■

**Corollary 1.6.2. (Nilpotent group satisfies normalizer condition)** Let  $G$  be a nilpotent group. If  $H < G$ , then  $H < N_G(H)$ .

A group is said to be nilpotent if it admits a central series.

**Equivalent Definition 1.6.3. (Nilpotency for finite group)** Let  $G$  be a finite group. The followings are equivalent:

- (i)  $G$  is nilpotent.
- (ii) Sylow subgroups of  $G$  are all normal.
- (iii) Sylow subgroups of  $G$  are all normal and they form an inner direct product equal to  $G$ .
- (iv)

*Proof.*

■

## 1.7 Exercises

For question 1, recall that by class equation,  $p$ -group can not have trivial center, and recall that  $G/N$  is abelian if and only if  $[G, G] \leq N$ .

### Question 1

Show that

- (i) If  $H/Z(H)$  is cyclic, then  $H$  is abelian.
- (ii) If  $H$  is of order  $p^2$ , then  $H$  is abelian.

From now on, suppose  $G$  is non-abelian with order  $p^3$ .

- (iii)  $|Z(G)| = p$ .
- (iv)  $Z(G) = [G, G]$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in H$  and  $H/Z(H) = \langle hZ \rangle$ . Write  $a = h^n z_1$  and  $b = h^m z_2$ . Because  $z_1, z_2 \in Z(H)$ , we may compute:

$$ab = h^n z_1 h^m z_2 = h^{n+m} z_1 z_2 = ba$$

as desired.

Let  $|H| = p^2$ . Because  $H$  is a  $p$ -group, we know  $Z(H)$  is nontrivial, therefore either  $|Z(H)| = p$  or  $|Z(H)| = p^2$ . To see the former is impossible, just observe that if so, then  $|H/Z(H)| = p$ , which implies  $H/Z(H)$  is cyclic, which by part (i) implies  $Z(H) = H$ .

Because  $G$  is non-abelian, we know  $|Z(G)| \neq p^3$ . Because  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, we know  $|Z(G)| \neq 1$ . Therefore, either  $|Z(G)| = p$  or  $|Z(G)| = p^2$ . Part (i) tell us that  $|Z(G)| \neq p^2$ , otherwise  $G$  is abelian, a contradiction. We have shown  $|Z(G)| = p$ , as desired.

We now prove  $Z(G) = [G, G]$ . Because  $|Z(G)| = p$ , by part (ii) we know  $G/Z(G)$  is abelian. This implies  $[G, G] \leq Z(G)$ , which implies  $[G, G]$  is either trivial or equal to  $Z(G)$ . Because  $G$  is non-abelian, we know  $[G, G]$  can not be trivial. This implies  $Z(G) = [G, G]$ , as desired. ■

### Question 2

- (i) Let  $M, N$  be two normal subgroups of  $G$  with  $MN = G$ . Prove that

$$G/(M \cap N) \cong (G/M) \times (G/N)$$

- (ii) Let  $H, K$  be two distinct subgroups of  $G$  of index 2. Prove that  $H \cap K$  is a normal subgroup with index 4 and  $G/(H \cap K)$  is not cyclic.

*Proof.* The map  $G/(M \cap N) \rightarrow (G/M) \times (G/N)$  defined by

$$g(M \cap N) \mapsto (gM, gN) \quad (1.1)$$

is clearly a well-defined group homomorphism, since if  $gM = hM$  and  $gN = hN$ , then  $gh^{-1} \in M$  and  $gh^{-1} \in N$ , which implies  $gh^{-1} \in M \cap N$ , which implies  $g(M \cap N) = h(M \cap N)$ . Let  $gM = M$  and  $gN = N$ . Then  $g \in M \cap N$  and  $g(M \cap N) = M \cap N$ . Therefore map 1.1 is also injective. It remains to show map 1.1 is surjective. Fix  $g, h \in G$ . Write  $g = mn$  and  $h = \tilde{m}\tilde{n}$ . Clearly  $gM = nM = \tilde{m}nM$  and  $hN = \tilde{m}N = \tilde{m}nN$ . This implies that mapping 1.1 maps  $\tilde{m}n$  to  $(gM, hN)$ , as desired. ■

Because  $H, K$  are both of index 2 in  $G$ , we know they are both normal in  $G$ . This by second isomorphism theorem implies  $HK$  forms a subgroup of  $G$ . Because  $H \neq K$ , we know  $HK$  properly contains  $H$ , which by finiteness of  $G$  implies the index of  $HK$  is strictly less than  $H$ , i.e.,  $HK = G$ . Note that  $H \cap K$  is normal since it is the intersection of normal subgroups. By part (i), we now have  $G/(H \cap K) \cong (G/H) \times (G/K) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , which shows that  $H \cap K$  has index 4 and  $G/(H \cap K)$  is cyclic. ■

### Question 3

Let  $G$  be a group of order  $pq$ , where  $p > q$  are prime.

- (i) Show that there exists a unique subgroup of order  $p$ .
- (ii) Suppose  $a \in G$  with  $o(a) = p$ . Show that  $\langle a \rangle \subseteq G$  is normal and for all  $x \in G$ , we have  $x^{-1}ax = a^i$  for some  $0 < i < p$ .

*Proof.* The third Sylow theorem stated that the number  $n_p$  of Sylow  $p$ -subgroups satisfies

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

Because  $p > q$ , together they implies  $n_p = 1$ . Since Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$  are exactly subgroups of order  $p$ , we have proved (i).

The third Sylow theorem also stated that  $n_p = |G : N_G(P)|$  for any Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P \leq G$ . Therefore,  $N_G(\langle a \rangle) = G$ , i.e.,  $\langle a \rangle$  is normal in  $G$ . Fix  $x \in G$ . It remains to prove  $xax^{-1} \neq e$ , which is a consequence of the fact that conjugacy (automorphism) preserves order. ■

## Question 4

Let  $H, K$  be two subgroups of  $G$  of coprime finite indices  $m, n$ . Show that

$$\text{lcm}(m, n) \leq |G : H \cap K| \leq mn$$

*Proof.* Let  $\Omega_{H \cap K}, \Omega_H$ , and  $\Omega_K$  respectively denote the set of left cosets of  $H \cap K, H$ , and  $K$ . The map  $\Omega_{H \cap K} \rightarrow \Omega_H \times \Omega_K$  defined by

$$g(H \cap K) \mapsto (gH, gK) \quad (1.2)$$

is well defined since

$$g(H \cap K) = l(H \cap K) \implies g^{-1}l \in H \cap K \implies gH = lH \text{ and } gK = lK$$

such set map is injective since if  $gH = lH$  and  $gK = lK$ , then  $g^{-1}l \in H$  and  $g^{-1}l \in K$ , which implies  $g(H \cap K) = l(H \cap K)$ , as desired. From the injectivity of [map 1.2](#), we have shown index of  $H \cap K$  indeed have upper bound  $mn$ .

Because

$$|G : H \cap K| = |G : H| \cdot |H : H \cap K| = |G : K| \cdot |K : H \cap K|$$

we know both  $n$  and  $m$  divides  $|G : H \cap K|$ , which gives the desired lower bound  $\text{lcm}(m, n)$ . ■

## Question 5

- (i) Let  $G$  be a group,  $H \leq G$ , and  $x \in G$  of finite order. Prove that if  $k$  is the smallest natural number that makes  $x^k \in H$ , then  $k \mid o(x)$ .
- (ii) Let  $G$  be a group and  $N$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Prove that

$$o(gN) = \inf \{k \in \mathbb{N} : g^k \in N\}, \quad \text{where } \inf \emptyset = \infty$$

- (iii) Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $H, N$  two subgroups of  $G$  with  $N$  normal. Show that if  $o(H)$  and  $|G : N|$  are coprime, then  $H \leq N$ .

*Proof.* (i): Let  $a = qk + r \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $0 \leq r < k$ . If  $x^a \in H$ , then  $x^r = x^a \cdot (x^k)^{-q} \in H$ , which implies  $r = 0$ . We have shown that  $k$  divides all natural numbers  $a$  that makes  $x^a \in H$ , which includes  $o(x)$ .

(ii): This is a simple observation that  $(gN)^k = g^k N \in N \iff g^k \in N$ .

(iii): By second isomorphism theorem, we know  $|HN : N| = |H : H \cap N|$  which divides both  $o(H)$  and  $|G : N|$ . This by coprimality implies  $|H : H \cap N| = 1$ , which shows that  $H \leq N$ . ■

### Question 6

Let  $G$  be a finite group with Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  and normal subgroup  $N$ . Show that  $P \cap N$  forms a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $N$ , and use such to deduce  $N$  have index  $p^{\nu_p(o(PN)) - \nu_p(o(N))}$  in  $PN$ .

*Proof.* By second isomorphism theorem, we have

$$o(PN) \cdot o(P \cap N) = o(P) \cdot o(N)$$

Because  $P$  is Sylow with  $P \subseteq PN$ , we know

$$\nu_p(o(PN)) = \nu_p(o(P))$$

This shows that, indeed,  $P \cap N$  forms a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $N$ :

$$\nu_p(o(P \cap N)) = \nu_p(o(N))$$

as desired. Because  $P \cap N \leq P$  and because  $P$  is Sylow, we know  $o(P \cap N)$  is a power of  $p$ . It then follows that:

$$|PN : N| = \frac{o(PN)}{o(N)} = \frac{o(P)}{o(P \cap N)} = p^{\nu_p(o(P)) - \nu_p(o(P \cap N))} = p^{\nu_p(o(PN)) - \nu_p(o(P))}$$
■

### Question 7

Prove that if  $H$  is a Hall subgroup of  $G$  and  $N \trianglelefteq G$ , then  $H \cap N$  is a Hall subgroup of  $N$  and  $HN/N$  is a Hall subgroup of  $G/N$ .

*Proof.* The facts that:

- (i) By second isomorphism theorem, we have  $|N : H \cap N| = |HN : H|$ , which divides  $|G : H|$ .
- (ii)  $o(H \cap N) \mid o(H)$ .
- (iii)  $o(H)$  and  $|G : H|$  are coprime.

implies  $o(H \cap N)$  and  $|N : H \cap N|$  is coprime, i.e.,  $H \cap N$  is Hall in  $N$ .

The facts that:

- (i)  $o(HN \diagup N) = \frac{o(HN)}{o(N)} = \frac{o(H)}{o(H \cap N)}$  divides  $o(H)$ . (second isomorphism theorem)
  - (ii)  $|(G \diagup N) : (HN \diagup N)| = |G : HN|$  divides  $|G : H|$ .
  - (iii)  $o(H)$  and  $|G : H|$  are coprime.
- implies  $o(HN \diagup N)$  and  $|(G \diagup N) : (HN \diagup N)|$  are coprime, i.e.,  $HN \diagup N$  is Hall in  $G \diagup N$ . ■

## 1.8 Exercises II

### Question 8: subgroup of $p$ -group of index $p$ is normal

Prove that if  $p$  is a prime and  $o(G) = p^\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , then every subgroup  $H$  of index  $p$  is normal.

Deduce that every group of order  $p^2$  has a normal subgroup of order  $p$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G$  acts on the left cosets spaces  $\Omega$  of  $H$ . We have a group homomorphism  $\varphi : G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ . Clearly we have  $\ker \varphi \subseteq H$ . By first isomorphism theorem, we know

$$|G : \ker \varphi| = o(\text{Im } \varphi) \mid \text{Sym}(\Omega)$$

Noting that  $|\text{Sym } \Omega| = p!$ , we see  $\ker \varphi$  has index  $\leq p$ , which when combined with the fact  $\ker \varphi \subseteq H$  shows that  $H = \ker \varphi$ , as desired. ■

Suppose  $\alpha = 2$ . By first Sylow theorem, there is a subgroup of  $G$  of order  $p$ . This subgroup is normal from what we have just proved. ■

### Question 9

Let  $G$  be a group of odd order. Prove that for any  $x \neq e \in G$ , we have  $\text{Cl}(x) \neq \text{Cl}(x^{-1})$ .

*Proof.* Assume for a contradiction that  $\text{Cl}(x) = \text{Cl}(x^{-1})$ . Because  $(gxg^{-1})^{-1} = gx^{-1}g^{-1} \in \text{Cl}(x^{-1}) = \text{Cl}(x)$ , the inversion is well defined on  $\text{Cl}(x)$ , and moreover clearly bijective. Because  $o(G)$  is odd, we may pair up the elements of  $\text{Cl}(x)$  via inversion to see  $|\text{Cl}(x)|$  is even. This is impossible since by **orbit-stabilizer theorem**,  $|\text{Cl}(x)|$  is the index of some subgroup of  $G$ . ■

### Question 10

Let  $o(G) = p^n$  with  $n \geq 3$  and  $o(Z(G)) = p$ . Prove that  $G$  has a conjugacy class of size  $p$ .

*Proof.* Class equation stated that

$$o(G) = o(Z(G)) + \sum |\text{Cl}(x)| \quad (1.3)$$

and the **orbit stabilizer theorem** shows that  $|\text{Cl}(x)|$  is of order powers of  $p$ . If they are of  $p$ -powers  $\geq 2$ , then we see

$$0 \equiv o(G) \equiv p \equiv o(Z(G)) + \sum |\text{Cl}(x)| \pmod{p}$$

a contradiction. ■

### Question 11

Prove that if the center of  $G$  is of index  $n$ , then every conjugacy class has at most  $n$  elements.

*Proof.* Let  $x \in G$ . Because  $Z(G) \subseteq C_G(x)$ , by **orbit-stabilizer theorem**, we have:

$$|\text{Cl}(a)| = |G : C_G(a)| \leq |G : Z(G)| = n$$

### Question 12

Let  $H, K \subseteq G$  be two finite subgroups. Show that

$$|HK| = \frac{o(H)o(K)}{o(H \cap K)}$$

**Remark:** The hint give a rigorous proof, but I prefer a heuristic one.

*Proof.* Consider the right coset spaces  $\Omega \triangleq \{Hx : x \in G\}$ , and let  $K$  acts on  $\Omega$  by right multiplication. Because  $Hk = H$  if and only if  $k \in H$ , we know the stabilizer subgroup  $K_H$  is identical to  $K \cap H$ . Therefore, by **orbit-stabilizer theorem**, we have

$$\frac{o(K)}{o(H \cap K)} = |\{Hk : k \in K\}|$$

Define an equivalence class in  $K$  by setting  $k \sim \tilde{k} \iff Hk = H\tilde{k}$ . Pick a representative element our of each class and collect them into a set  $T$ . Clearly

$$|T| = |\{Hk : k \in K\}|$$

and we have a natural bijection  $H \times T \rightarrow HK$ . This finishes the proof. ■

### Question 13

Let  $G$  be a non-abelian group of order 21. Prove that  $Z(G) = 1$ .

*Proof.* If  $o(Z(G)) = 3$  or  $7$ , then because  $G/Z(G)$  is cylic ■

### Question 14

Find all finite groups which have exactly two conjugacy classes.

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be a finite group that has exactly two conjugacy classes. One of the conjugacy class is  $\{e\}$ . Let  $a$  be an element of the other class. By class equation and **orbit-stabilizer theorem**, we have

$$|G| - 1 = |\text{Cl}(a)| \mid o(G)$$

This implies  $|G| = 2$ , which implies  $G = \mathbb{Z}_2$ . ■

### Question 15

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  and let

$$\bigcup_{g \in G} gHg^{-1} = G$$

Show that  $H = G$ .

## 1.9 Exercises III

### Question 16

Let  $o(G) = 60$ . Show that if  $G$  is simple, then  $G$  must have exactly 24 elements of order 5 and 20 elements of order 3.

*Proof.* By **sylow**, we have

$$n_5 \equiv 1 \pmod{5} \quad \text{and} \quad n_5 \mid 12$$

which by simplicity of  $G$  implies  $n_5 = 6$ . The same argument gives us  $n_3 \in \{4, 10\}$ . To see  $n_3 \neq 4$ , just recall that **second sylow** stated that conjugacy action  $G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\text{Syl}_3(G)) \cong S_{n_3}$  is nontrivial, and is therefore injective by simplicity of  $G$ . We now see that  $n_3 = 4$  is too small to satisfies

$$o(G) = 60 \mid n_3!$$

■

### Question 17

Let  $o(G) = pqr$  with  $p < q < r$  prime. Prove that  $G$  has a normal Sylow  $r$ -subgroup  $H$ .

*Proof.* By sylow and counting arguments we know  $1 \in \{n_p, n_q, n_r\}$ . Therefore, if neither of  $n_p$  and  $n_q$  is 1, we are done. Suppose  $1 \in \{n_p, n_q\}$ . Either way, we get a normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $o(G/N) \in \{qr, pr\}$ . We also get a normal  $H/N \in \text{Syl}_r(G/N)$ . This give us a characteristic  $K \in \text{Syl}_r(H)$ , which is normal in  $G$ . ■

### Question 18

Let  $o(G) = p^3q$  with  $p, q$  prime. Show that one of the followings statement is true:

- (i)  $G$  has a normal Sylow  $p$ -subgroup.
- (ii)  $G$  has a normal Sylow  $q$ -subgroup.
- (iii)  $p = 2, q = 3$ .

*Proof.* Suppose (i) and (ii) are both false. Then by **sylow** we have  $n_p = q$  and  $p < q$ . Because  $p < q$ , applying **sylow** again we have  $n_q \in \{p^2, p^3\}$ . Because  $n_p > 1$ , by counting we see that  $n_q \neq p^3$ . Therefore  $n_q = p^2$ . Then by **sylow**,  $p^2 = n_q \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ , which implies  $q \mid (p-1)(p+1)$ . Because  $p < q$  and  $q$  is prime, we now see  $q = p+1$ , which can only happens if  $p = 2$  and  $q = 3$ . ■

### Question 19

Show that no group of order 30 is simple.

*Proof.* Consider  $n_3$  and  $n_5$ . We have  $n_5 \in \{1, 6\}$  and  $n_3 \in \{1, 10\}$ . If  $n_5 \neq 1 \neq n_3$ , then there are 24 elements of order 5 and 20 elements of order 3, impossible for a group of order 30. ■

### Question 20

Let  $G$  be a finite group with sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  and normal subgroup  $N$ . Show that  $P \cap N$  is  $p$ -sylow in  $N$  and that  $PN/N$  is  $p$ -sylow in  $G/N$ .

*Proof.* Second isomorphism theorem implies that

$$o(PN) \cdot o(P \cap N) = o(P) \cdot o(N)$$

Because  $P$  is  $p$ -sylow, we know  $o(P)$  and  $o(PN)$  has the same  $p$ -power, which implies that  $o(P \cap N)$  and  $o(N)$  has the same  $p$ -power, as desired. Again counting the  $p$ -power of  $PN/N \subseteq G/N$ , we see  $PN/N$  is  $p$ -sylow. ■

### Question 21

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $H \leq G$  a subgroup with  $[G : H] = n$ . Show that:

- (i) For all subgroup  $K \leq G$ , we have  $[H : H \cap K] \leq [G : K]$ .
- (ii)  $[H : H \cap H^g] \leq n$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- (iii) If  $H$  is a maximal proper subgroup of  $G$  and  $H$  is abelian, show that  $H \cap H^g \trianglelefteq G$  for all  $g \notin H$ .
- (iv) Suppose that  $G$  is simple. If  $H$  is abelian and  $n$  is prime, then  $H = 1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $H/H \cap K$  and  $G/K$  denote left coset spaces. (i) is a consequence of verifying that the function

$$H/H \cap K \longrightarrow G/K; \quad h(H \cap K) \mapsto hK$$

is well-defined and injective. (ii) is then a corollary of (i).

We now prove (iii). Fix  $g \notin H$ . There are two cases: Either  $H = H^g$  or  $H \neq H^g$ . For the first case, just observe that by maximality of  $H$ , we will have  $N_G(H) = G$ . We now claim that  $H \neq H^g \implies H \cap H^g \subseteq Z(G)$ . Because  $H$  is abelian, we know  $H \cap H^g \leq Z(H)$ . Clearly we also have  $H \cap H^g \leq Z(H^g)$ . We now have  $H \cap H^g \leq Z(\langle H, H^g \rangle)$ , where

$\langle H, H^g \rangle = G$  by maximality of  $H$ , as desired.

We now prove (iv). Clearly the primality of  $n$  forces  $H$  to be a maximal proper subgroup of  $G$ . Therefore by (iii),  $H \cap H^g = 1$  for all  $g \notin H$ . This by (ii) implies  $n \leq o(G) \leq n^2$ . Write  $o(G) \triangleq nk$  so  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . We wish to show  $k = 1$ . To see  $k \neq n$ , just recall that if so, then  $G$  would be abelian, contradicting to its simplicity. To see  $k \notin \{2, \dots, n-1\}$ , just observe that if so, then the unique  $n$ -Sylow subgroup would be proper, contradicting to simplicity of  $G$ .  $\blacksquare$

### Question 22

Let  $G$  be a finite group with  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ . Suppose that  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  with  $[G : N] = o(P) > 1$ . Show that

- (i)  $N$  is the subset of  $G$  consisting of all elements of order not divisible by  $p$ .
- (ii) If the elements of  $G - N$  all has  $p$ -power order, then  $P = N_G(P)$ .

*Proof.* Because  $P$  is  $p$ -sylow and  $[G : N] = o(P)$ , we know  $p \nmid o(N)$ . This implies that no element of  $N$  has order divisible by  $p$ . Let  $g \in G$  with  $p \nmid o(g)$ . To see that  $g \in N$ , just observe that because  $o(gN) \mid o(g)$  and  $o(gN)$  is a power of  $p$ , we have  $o(gN) = 1$ .

Assume for a contradiction that  $P < N_G(P)$ . Then there exists some nontrivial sylow  $q$ -subgroup  $Q$  of  $N_G(P)$  with  $q \neq p$ . By definition we have  $[Q, P] \leq P$ . By (i),  $Q \leq N$ . Therefore we also have  $[Q, P] \leq N$ . Coprimality of orders of  $N$  and  $P$  now tell us that  $[Q, P] = 1$ . We now see that the product of two nontrivial elements  $x \in Q, y \in P$  has order divisible by  $pq$ , a contradiction to the premise.  $\blacksquare$

## 1.10 Exercises IV

### Question 23

Show that the center of products is a product of centers:

$$Z(G_1) \times \cdots \times Z(G_n) = Z(G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n)$$

Deduce that a direct product of groups is abelian if and only if each of its factor is abelian.

*Proof.* The " $\subseteq$ " is clear. To see that

$$g_1 \times \cdots \times g_n \in Z(G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n) \implies g_i \in Z(G_i)$$

just observe that if not, then

$$[g_1 \times \cdots \times g_n, e_1 \times \cdots \times x_i \times \cdots \times e_n] \neq e \in \prod G_j$$

The second part then follows from noting

$$Z(G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n) = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n \iff Z(G_i) = G_i, \quad \text{for all } i$$

■

### Question 24

Let  $G \triangleq A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n$  and  $B_i \trianglelefteq A_i$  for all  $i$ . Prove that  $B_1 \times \cdots \times B_n \trianglelefteq G$  and that

$$\frac{A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n}{B_1 \times \cdots \times B_n} = \frac{A_1}{B_1} \times \cdots \times \frac{A_n}{B_n}$$

*Proof.*

$$(g_1, \dots, g_n)(b_1, \dots, b_n)(g_1, \dots, g_n)^{-1} = (g_1 b_1 g_1^{-1}, \dots, g_n b_n g_n^{-1}) \in \prod B_i$$

The second part require us to show that

$$\prod \left( \frac{A_i}{B_i} \right) \longrightarrow \frac{\prod A_i}{\prod B_i}; \quad \prod \left( \frac{a_i}{B_i} \right) \mapsto \frac{\prod a_i}{\prod B_i}$$

is a well-defined group isomorphism, which boils down to showing that it is (i) well-defined, (ii) actually a homomorphism, (iii) injective, and (iv) surjective. To see it is injective, just observe that if  $\prod a_i \in \prod B_i$ , then  $a_i \in B_i$  for all  $i$ , and therefore  $\prod \frac{a_i}{B_i} = e$ . The rest are clear.

### Question 25

Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group with  $m \mid o(G)$ . Show that  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $m$ .

*Proof.* This follows from noting that if  $o(a) = p^n$ , then  $o(a^{p^{n-d}}) = p^d$ . (Ans also structure theorem for finite abelian group) ■

### Question 26

Show that the subgroups and quotients of a nilpotent group  $G$  are also nilpotent.

*Proof.* Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ , and write

$$0 = G_{(n)} \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_{(1)} \trianglelefteq G_{(0)} = G, \quad \text{with } G_{(k)} \triangleq [G, G_{(k-1)}]$$

To see that

$$0 \leq H_n \leq \cdots \leq H_1 \leq H$$

form a central series, where  $H_k \triangleq H \cap G_{(k)}$ , just observe that

$$[H, H \cap G_{(k)}] \leq H \text{ and } [H, H \cap G_{(k)}] \leq [G, G_{(k)}] \leq G_{(k-1)}$$

together implies

$$[H, H_k] \leq H \cap G_{(k-1)} = H_{k-1}$$

Let  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ , and let  $m \leq n$  be the largest number such that  $N \leq G_{(m)}$ . It is clear that

$$\frac{N}{N} \leq \frac{G_{(m)}}{N} \leq \cdots \leq \frac{G_{(1)}}{N} \leq \frac{G}{N}$$

form a central series. ■

### Question 27

Show that if  $G/Z(G)$  is nilpotent, then  $G$  is nilpotent.

*Proof.* Consider the central series

$$\frac{Z(G)}{Z(G)} \trianglelefteq \frac{G_1}{Z(G)} \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq \frac{G_n}{Z(G)} = \frac{G}{Z(G)}$$

Clearly we have the central series

$$0 \trianglelefteq Z(G) \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_n = G$$

### Question 28

Let  $o(G) = pqr$  with  $p < q < r$  prime. Show that  $G$  is solvable.

*Proof.* Recall that we have a normal subgroup  $M \in \text{Syl}_r(G)$ . Then we have a normal subgroup  $\frac{H}{M} \in \text{Syl}_q(G)$ . Then  $1 \trianglelefteq M \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$  forms the desired series. ■

### Question 29

Show that a finite group  $G$  is nilpotent if and only if every  $a, b \in G$  that makes  $\gcd(o(a), o(b)) = 1$  also makes  $ab = ba$ .

*Proof.* ( $\implies$ ): Write  $G = P_1 \times \cdots \times P_n$  with  $P_i$  sylow. Clearly if the orders of  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and  $(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  are coprime to each other, then for all  $i$ , we must have either  $x_i = e$  or  $y_i = e$ . This implies the commutativity.

( $\impliedby$ ): We need to show that Sylow subgroups of  $G$  are normal. Let  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  each be a Sylow subgroup of  $G$  with distinct  $p$ . By premise, we see that  $P_k \subseteq N_G(P_1)$  for all  $k \geq 2$ . This then implies  $G = N_G(P_1)$ , as desired. ■

### Question 30

Let  $G = HK$  be finite and  $S \leq G$  be a  $p$ -subgroup that contains some  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $P$  of  $H$  and some  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $Q$  of  $K$ . Show that

- (i)  $S$  is  $p$ -Sylow in  $G$ .
- (ii)  $S = (S \cap H)(S \cap K)$

*Proof.* Because  $P \cap Q \leq H \cap K$ , we know  $p$ -part of

$$o(G) = \frac{o(H)o(K)}{o(H \cap K)}$$

is smaller than

$$\frac{o(P)o(Q)}{o(P \cap Q)} = |PQ| \leq o(S)$$

which can only happen if  $S$  is Sylow with  $|PQ| = o(S)$ . By definition,  $P \leq S \cap H \leq H$ . Because  $S$  is a  $p$ -group, we know  $S \cap H$  is also a  $p$ -group. Sylowness of  $P \leq H$  then forces  $S \cap H = P$ . Similarly, we have  $S \cap K = Q$ . Now, to see  $S = PQ$ , just recall that  $|PQ| = o(S)$  ■

### Question 31

Let  $M \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $M, N$  finite and nilpotent. Prove that  $MN$  is nilpotent.

*Proof.* The proof follows from noting that if  $S \in \text{Syl}_p(MN)$ , then by earlier questions,  $S$  is uniquely determined by  $S = (M \cap S)(N \cap S)$  with  $M \cap S \in \text{Syl}_p(M)$  and  $N \cap S \in \text{Syl}_p(N)$  uniquely determined. ■

### Question 32

Let  $G$  be finite with  $A, B \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/A, G/B$  solvable. Prove that  $G/(A \cap B)$  is solvable.