MATH 601 (DUE 12/6)

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Contents

1. Cauchy's Theorem, Finite p-groups, The Sylow theorems

Exercise. (Problem 2) Let a prime number p be given. We will show that any group G of order p^n for some n is solvable by induction on n. When $n = 1$, $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$, which is abelian, so it is solvable. Suppose we have shown the proposition for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let G be a group of order p^{n+1}. By Corollary 1 right above this problem statement in the handout, the center H of G is a nontrivial subgroup. Moreover, H is clearly a normal subgroup of G. Thus it makes sense to consider G/H. The order of G/H must be p^m for some $1 \leq m \leq n-1$. By the inductive hypothesis, G/H is solvable. Since every subgroup of G/H can be realized as the quotient of a subgroup of G by H[Theorem 20(1), P.99, Dummit and Foote], there must exist a sequence of subgroups $H = G_0 \leq G_1 \leq \cdots \leq G_l = G$ such that $G_0/H \trianglelefteq G_1/H \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_l/H$ and $(G_{i+1}/H)/(G_i/H)$ is abelian for each i. By Theorem 19 [P.98, Dummit and Foote], $(G_{i+1}/H)/(G_i/H) \cong G_{i+1}/G_i$, so G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian for each i. $G_i/H \trianglelefteq G_{i+1}/H$ implies $G_i \trianglelefteq G_{i+1}$ for each i by Theorem 20(5) [P.99, Dummit and Foote].

We showed the existence of a sequence $H = G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_l = G$ such that G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian for each i. By the inductive hypothesis, there exists a similar sequence of subgroups from $\{e\}$ to H. Therefore, G is solvable.

Exercise. (Problem 3) Let $m = 3, p = 7$. Then $|G| = 21 = pm$ with $p \nmid m$. Let t be the number of Sylow p-subgroups. By the third Sylow theorem, $t \mid m$ and $t \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. The only number that satisfies this is 1, so every group of order 21 has a unique Sylow 7-subgroup.

Exercise. (Problem 4) Using the same idea as Problem 2 above, we will construct a filtration. Let G be an extension of H by Q. Suppose H and Q are both solvable. Since Q is solvable, there exists a filtration $\{e\} = Q_0 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq Q_n = Q$. Let ϕ be an isomorphism from Q to G/H. Then the $\phi(Q_i)$'s form a filtration of G/H and $\phi(Q_i) = G_i/H$ for some subgroup G_i by the same theorems that we used in Problem 2. Moreover, G_i's form a filtration from H to G. Since H is solvable, there exists a filtration from $\{e\}$ to H. By concatenating them, we obtain a filtration from $\{e\}$ to G, so G is solvable.

Exercise. (Problem 5) By Problem 3, G has a unique group H of order 7. Since conjugation preserves the order of a group, the group must be normal. Then $H \trianglelefteq G$ and $G/H \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$. Any group of prime order is abelian and thus solvable. Therefore, G is an extension of a solvable group $\mathbb{Z}_7$ by a solvable group $\mathbb{Z}_3$, so it must be solvable.