

Abstract Algebra

: Lecture 8

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Lemma 1. Let G be a abelian group with $|G| = p^e$. Let $g \in G$ which has the largest order. Then $G = \langle g \rangle \times H$ for some subgroup $H < G$.

证明. Assume G is not cyclic. Do induction on $|G|$. $|G| = p$ ✓. Assume for $|G| = p^{e-1}$, $G = \langle g \rangle \times H$.

Claim: $\exists h \in G$ s.t. $\langle h \rangle \cap \langle g \rangle = 1$ and $o(h) = p$.

Since $G \neq \langle g \rangle$, then $\exists y \in G - \langle g \rangle$ s.t. $y^p \in \langle g \rangle$. Then $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ s.t. $y^p = g^{kp}$. Let $h = y^{-1}g^k$, then $h \neq 1$ and $h^p = 1$. Thus $o(h) = p$. And if $h \in \langle g \rangle$ then $y^{-1}g^k \in \langle g \rangle \Rightarrow y \in \langle g \rangle$, contradiction.

Let $\bar{G} = G / \langle h \rangle$. Then $|\bar{G}| < |G|$, and $o(g) = o(\bar{g})$ is the largest order of element in \bar{G} . By induction, Let $\bar{G} = \langle \bar{g} \rangle \times \bar{H}$. Let H be the full preimage of \bar{H} in G .

Claim: $\langle g \rangle \cap H = 1$.

Suppose there exists $x \in \langle g \rangle \cap H$. Then $\bar{x} = \bar{1}$ as $\langle \bar{g} \rangle \cap \bar{H} = \bar{1}$, so $x \in \langle h \rangle$ and

$x \in \langle g \rangle \Rightarrow \langle h \rangle \subseteq \langle g \rangle$, contradiction. $\langle h \rangle \cap \langle g \rangle = \{1\}$

Therefore $G = \langle g \rangle \times H$.

$$|G| = |g| |H| \leftarrow \frac{|G|}{|h|} = |g| \cdot \frac{|H|}{|h|} \leftarrow |\bar{G}| = |g| |\bar{H}|.$$

Theorem 2. (Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups) Let G be a finite abelian group of order n . Let $n = p_1^{e_1} \dots p_r^{e_r}$. Then:

(1). $G = G_1 \times \dots \times G_r$ where $|G_i| = p_i^{e_i}$.

(2). G is a direct product of cyclic groups.

证明. (1). Let $n = p^e m$ s.t. p is a prime and $(p, m) = 1$. Let $H = \{g^m | g \in G\}$. Then H is a subgroup and every element of H has order p -power. Moreover $|H| = p^e$, and $G = H \times K$ where K has order m . By induction on K we can prove (1).

(2). By lemma 1.

for every G_i , $G_i = \langle g \rangle \times H = \langle g \rangle \times \langle h \rangle \times H' = \dots = \langle g \rangle \times \langle h \rangle \times \dots \times \langle h^{(n_i)} \rangle$.

Solvable Groups:

Definition 3. Let G be a finite group. For $x, y \in G$, let $[x, y] = x^{-1}y^{-1}xy$, called the commutator of x and y .

$$[x, y] = x^{-1}y^{-1}xy.$$

$$a^{-1}b^{-1}ab \quad ba^2b \quad (a^{-1})^2$$

$$babab \quad a^{-2}$$

Definition 4. Let $H = \langle [x, y] | x, y \in G \rangle$. Then H is called the commutator subgroup of G , denoted by G' .

Proposition 5. G/G' is abelian. $g^{-1}(x^{-1}y^{-1}xy)g = \underline{g^{-1}x^{-1}g} \underline{g^{-1}y^{-1}g} \underline{g^{-1}xg} \underline{g^{-1}yg}$

证明. $\forall g \in G, [x, y]^g = g^{-1}[x, y]g = [x^g, y^g]$. $= (x^g)^{-1}(y^g)^{-1}x^gy^g = [x^g, y^g] \in H$. \square

Example 6. 1. Let $G = \langle a, b \rangle = D_{2n}$, where $o(a) = n$, $o(b) = 2$ and $a^b = a^{-1}$. Then $G' = \begin{cases} \langle a \rangle, \text{ if } o(a) \text{ odd,} \\ \langle a^2 \rangle, \text{ if } o(a) \text{ even.} \end{cases}$ and $G/G' = \begin{cases} \langle \bar{a} \rangle = C_2, \text{ if } o(a) \text{ odd,} \\ \langle \bar{a}, \bar{b} \rangle = C_2 \times C_2, \text{ if } o(a) \text{ even.} \end{cases}$

Example 7. Let G be abelian. Then $G' = 1$.

Lemma 8. G/G' is abelian.

证明. Let $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \bar{G}$, let x, y be preimages of \bar{x}, \bar{y} under $\pi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$ respectively. Then by definition $[x, y] = x^{-1}y^{-1}xy \in G'$, hence $[\bar{x}, \bar{y}] = \bar{x}^{-1}\bar{y}^{-1}\bar{x}\bar{y} = \overline{x^{-1}y^{-1}xy} = \bar{1} \Rightarrow \bar{G}$ is abelian. \square

Lemma 9. For any $H \triangleleft G$, G/H is abelian $\Leftrightarrow G' \leq H$.

证明. (\Leftarrow) If $G' \leq H$, then $G/H \simeq \frac{G}{G'}/\frac{H}{G'}$ is abelian.

(\Rightarrow) Assume G/H is abelian, then for any $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \bar{G} = G/H$, $\bar{x}\bar{y} = \bar{y}\bar{x}$ i.e. $[\bar{x}, \bar{y}] = \bar{1}$, it shows $\forall x, y \in G, [x, y] \in H$. Thus $G' \leq H$. \square

We can come to the conclusion that G' is the smallest subgroup of G s.t. G/G' is abelian.

Definition 10. $G \triangleright G' \triangleright G'' \triangleright \dots \triangleright G^{(n)} \triangleright \dots$ where $G^{(n)} = (G^{(n-1)})'$. Since G is finite, there exists n s.t. $G^{(n)} = G^{(n+1)} = \dots$

Example 11. If G is nonabelian simple, then $G = G'$.

Definition 12. If $G = G'$, then G is called a perfect group.

Definition 13. A finite group G is called a solvable group if $G = G^{(n)}$ for some n . Otherwise, G is called a nonsolvable group.

Proposition 14. A group G is solvable iff there exists a subgroup chain:

$$G = G_0 \triangleright G_1 \triangleright G_2 \triangleright \dots \triangleright G_s = 1$$

s.t. G_{i+1} is normal in G_i and G_i/G_{i+1} is abelian for all i .

证明. (\Rightarrow) obviously.

(\Leftarrow) Assume $G = G_0 \triangleright G_1 \triangleright \dots \triangleright G_s = 1$ s.t. G_i/G_{i+1} is abelian.

Claim: $G^{(i)} \leq G_i$ for all i .

First, $G' \leq G_1$ as G/G_1 is abelian. Suppose $G^{(i)} \leq G_i$ for some $i \geq 1$. Since G_i/G_{i+1} is abelian, $(G_i)' \leq G_{i+1}$. Thus $G^{(i+1)} = (G^{(i)})' \leq (G_i)' \leq G_{i+1}$. \square

Definition 15. Let $x, g \in G$, consider the conjugation action $x^g = g^{-1}xg$. It induces an automorphism of G s.t. $x \mapsto g^{-1}xg$, called the inner automorphism induced by g .