

1. Groups of order $p^r q$ (p, q distinct primes)

Let $p < q$. By Sylow's theorem, the number of Sylow q -subgroups divides p and is $\equiv 1 \pmod{q}$. So it must be 1, hence the Sylow q -subgroup is normal. Thus G is semidirect.

If $p \mid (q-1)$, the action is trivial.
If $p \nmid (q-1)$, a nonabelian case may exist.

So groups of order $p^r q$ are abelian in many cases, but not always.

2. cyclic group $(\mathbb{Z}/p^r\mathbb{Z})^\times$ has exactly 1 subgroup of order p .
Thus, having one subgroup of order p characterizes the second case.

3. Union of conjugates of proper subgroup

Suppose $G = \bigcup_{x \in G} Hx^{-1}$ with $H \triangleleft G$. Consider the action of G on cosets G/H . Every element in a conjugate fixes at least one coset, so the assumption implies all elements of G fix some point.

4. If N is cyclic and central, and G/N is cyclic, then G must be abelian (since every element looks like gkn , where they commute).

5. Elements of finite order.

In abelian groups, the sets of all elements of finite order (torsion subgroup) is a subgroup, because the lcm of finite orders is finite.

6. Subgroup of index smallest prime p.

Let $H \triangleleft G$ with index p. Action of G on G/H consists of left multiplication gives a homomorphism $\phi: G \rightarrow S_p$.

If order 1, then $H = \text{kernel}$ normal

If order p, then the kernel also has index p, so $\ker \phi = H$