

## Chapter 9.3

## 9.3 The Sylow Theorems

$G$  - a finite group     $p$  is a prime

### Th 9.13 - First Sylow Theorem

Let  $p$  be a prime, and assume that  $p^k \mid |G|$  for some  $k > 0$ .

Then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p^k$ .

### Cor 9.14 (Cauchy theorem)

If  $p \mid |G|$ , then  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ .

$p$  - a prime

Pf Any group of prime order is cyclic (Th 8.7), its generator has order  $p$ .

Def Let  $|G| = p^n m$ ,  $p \nmid m$ .

A subgroup of order  $p^n$  is called a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup

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For an element  $x \in G$  consider the map

$$f: G \longrightarrow G$$

$$g \longmapsto x^{-1}gx$$

} conjugation by  $x$

Prop  $f$  is an automorphism  
inner automorphism } Automorphism is an  
isomorphism from a group  
to itself

Pf  $f$  is a bijection because  
it has an inverse  $g \mapsto xgx^{-1}$

$f$  is a homomorphism:

$$f(g_1 g_2) = x^{-1} g_1 g_2 x = x^{-1} g_1 x x^{-1} g_2 x = \underline{f(g_1) f(g_2)}$$

If  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$

then its image under  $f$  is a subgroup (as the image of a subgroup  
under a homomorphism)

This image is  $x^{-1} K x = \{ x^{-1} k x \mid k \in K \}$

The groups  $K \cong x^{-1} K x$  are isomorphic because  $f$  is a  
homomorphism and  $f$  is a  
bijection between  $K$  and  $x^{-1} K x$

In particular if  $K$  is  
a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup, then so is  $x^{-1} K x$ .

for different choices of  $x$ , we may get different subgroup  $x^{-1} K x$

### Th 9.15 Second Sylow Theorem

If  $P$  and  $K$  are Sylow  $p$ -subgroups, then there exists  $x \in G$  s.t.

$$P = x^{-1} K x$$

} All Sylow  $p$ -subgroups are conjugated

In particular, all Sylow  $p$ -subgroups in  $G$  are isomorphic

Cor 9.16 Let  $K$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup in  $G$ .

$K$  is normal in  $G$  iff  $K$  is the only Sylow  $p$ -subgroup.

Th 8.11

} A subgroup  $N$  s.t.  
 $x^{-1} N x = N$  for every  $x \in G$

} is normal

### Th 9.17 Third Sylow Theorem

The number of Sylow  $p$ -subgroups,  $n_p$

- divides the order of the group:

- is of the form  $1 + pk$  with positive integer  $k$ :

$$n_p \mid |G|$$

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



## Application

Cor 9.18 Let  $|G| = pq$ , both  $p$  and  $q$  are primes.  $p > q$

Assume  $q \nmid (p-1)$

$$p \not\equiv 1 \pmod{q}$$

Then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_{pq}$  - cyclic of order  $pq$

} If  $|G| = p^2$ ,  
then  $G$  may  
not be cyclic:  
 $\mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_p$  is  
not cyclic while  
 $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$  is

Pf Consider  $n_p$  Options:  $1, \cancel{p}, \cancel{q}, \cancel{pq}$

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

$$q \neq 1 + pk \text{ because } p > q$$
$$k \geq 0$$

Thus we have  $n_p = 1$

Therefore the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup is  
normal, it's cyclic; call it  $H$

Consider  $n_q$  Options:  $1, \cancel{p}, \cancel{q}, \cancel{pq}$

$$n_q \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$$

$$p \not\equiv 1 \pmod{q} \text{ by assumption}$$

$$|H| = p$$
$$H \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$$

Thus we have  $n_q = 1$

Therefore the Sylow  $q$ -subgroup is  
normal, it's cyclic; call it  $K$

$H$  and  $K$  are normal subgroups

$$|K| = q$$
$$K \cong \mathbb{Z}_q$$

$H \cap K$  is a subgroup in both  $H$  and  $K$ ;

Thus  $|H \cap K| \mid |H| = p$   $|H \cap K| \mid |K| = q$  implies  $|H \cap K| = 1$

$$\underline{H \cap K = \{e\}}$$

$$\text{Claim } \underline{G = HK} = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H \times K &\longrightarrow G \\ (h, k) &\longmapsto hk \end{aligned}$$

The amount of elements  
in  $H \times K$  is  $|H| \times |K| = pq = |G|$

Thus the injective map exhausts  $G$  and is  
therefore surjective.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} H \text{ \& } K \text{ are normal} \\ H \cap K = \{e\} \\ G = HK \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Th 9.3 implies that} \\ G \cong H \times K \end{array}$$

$$\underline{G \cong H \times K \cong \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_q \cong \mathbb{Z}_{pq}}$$

Lemma 9.8

This map is injective:

$$h_1 k_1 = h_2 k_2$$

$$h_2^{-1} h_1 k_1 = k_2$$

$$h_2^{-1} h_1 = k_2 k_1^{-1}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \supseteq & H \\ & & \cap \\ & & K \end{array}$$

This belongs to  
 $H \cap K = \{e\}$

$$h_2^{-1} h_1 = e \quad k_2 k_1^{-1} = e$$

$$h_1 = h_2 \quad k_1 = k_2$$

Remark on abelian groups

$$\text{Let } |G| = p^n m \quad p \nmid m$$

Ex 15 p 297

If  $p^k \mid |G|$  then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p^k$

$$G \cong G(p) \oplus \dots \quad (\text{Th 9.5})$$

$G(p)$  is a subgroup of  $G$

$|G(p)| = p^n$  that is  $G(p)$  is the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup

Exer 13 p 297 - every abelian  $p$ -group has a  $p$ -power order.

$$G(p) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^{k_1}} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{p^{k_2}} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{p^{k_t}}$$

$$k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_t = n$$

Note that  $p\mathbb{Z}_{p^k} = \{px \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}\}$  is a <sup>cyclic</sup> subgroup in the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  of order  $p^{k-1}$

- solving Exer 15 p 297