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**Algebra 901 Notes**  
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Recall Sylow's second theorem:

1. If  $H$  is a  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , then  $H \subseteq P$  for some  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ .
2.  $\text{Syl}_p(G) = \{xPx^{-1} \mid x \in G\}$  for any  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ . In other words, all Sylow  $p$ -subgroups are conjugate.
3.  $n_p = [G : N_G(P)]$  for any  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ .
4.  $n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .
5.  $P \triangleleft G \Leftrightarrow n_p = 1$ .

**Lemma:** Let  $G$  be a group and  $H, K$  be cyclic subgroups of  $G$  of orders  $m$  and  $n$  respectively. Suppose that  $H \triangleleft G$  and  $K \triangleleft G$ . Also suppose that  $(m, n) = 1$ . Then  $HK$  is cyclic of order  $mn$ .

**Proof:** Let  $H = \langle x \rangle$  and  $K = \langle y \rangle$ . Note that  $H \cap K = \{1\}$  since  $(m, n) = 1$ . Now consider  $xyx^{-1}y^{-1}$ . We know that it is in  $H \cap K$  because  $xyx^{-1} \in K$  since  $K$  is normal and  $yx^{-1}y^{-1} \in H$  since  $H$  is normal. So,  $xy = yx$ . So,  $o(xy) = o(x)o(y)$ , and  $|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|} = mn$  so  $HK = \langle xy \rangle$  and thus  $HK$  is cyclic.

**Theorem:** Suppose  $|G| = pq$  where  $p < q$  are primes, and  $p \nmid (q - 1)$ . Then  $G$  is cyclic.

**Proof:** Let  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$  and  $Q \in \text{Syl}_q(G)$ .  $n_p$  divides  $q = \frac{|G|}{p}$  and is congruent to 1 mod  $p$ . So,  $n_p \equiv 1$  or  $q$ , but  $q \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  by assumption. Therefore, we have  $n_p = 1$  which would imply that  $P \triangleleft G$ . Also,  $n_q$  divides  $p$  and  $n_q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  which implies  $n_q = 1$  which implies that  $Q \triangleleft G$ . So by the previous lemma, we have that  $PQ$  is cyclic of order  $pq$ , so  $G = PQ$  is cyclic.

**Example:** Suppose  $|G| = 6$ . Then either  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$  or  $G \cong S_3$ .

**Proof:** Let  $P \in \text{Syl}_2(G)$  and  $Q \in \text{Syl}_3(G)$ . Then  $Q \triangleleft G$  since  $[G : Q] = 2$ . So we have two cases, one where  $P$  is normal in  $G$  and one where  $P$  is not normal in  $G$ . If  $P \triangleleft G$  then invoking the lemma we get that  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$ . If  $P \not\triangleleft G$  then considering that the Cayley map gives an isomorphism of groups, we see that  $G \cong S_3$ .

**Example:** Let  $G$  be a group of order  $pqr$  where  $p < q < r$  are primes. Then one of its Sylow subgroups is normal.

**Proof:** We know the following is true:

1.  $n_p$  divides  $qr \Rightarrow n_p = 1, q, r, qr$
2.  $n_q$  divides  $pr \Rightarrow n_q = 1, r, pr$
3.  $n_r$  divides  $pq \Rightarrow n_r = 1, pq$

Suppose that none of the Sylow subgroups are normal. Then  $n_p \geq q, n_q \geq r, n_r = pq$ . Since  $P_i \cap P_j = \{1\} \forall P_i, P_j \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ , there are at least  $q(p - 1)$  non-identity elements in the sylow  $p$  subgroups. Similarly, there are at least  $r(q - 1)$  non-identity elements in the sylow  $q$  subgroups, and at least  $pq(r - 1)$

non-identity elements in the sylow  $r$  subgroups. So adding these up, we get  $pqr + rq - q - r$  non-identity elements of  $G$ , and since  $r > q \geq 2$ , we get a contradiction.

**Example:** Let  $G$  be a group of order  $2^3 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 = 616$ . Prove the Sylow 11 subgroup is normal.

**Proof:**  $n_{11}$  divides  $2^3 \cdot 7$  and  $n_{11} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$ , so  $n_{11} = 1$  or  $56$ . Suppose  $n_{11} > 1$ . Let  $Q \in \text{Syl}_{11}(G)$ . So, we have  $n_{11} = [G : N_G(Q)] = 56$ , but  $[G : Q] = 56$  so by orders we have  $Q = N_G(Q)$ .

Claim: Either the Sylow 2-subgroup or the Sylow 7-subgroup of  $G$  is normal.

Proof: Suppose the sylow 7-subgroup is not normal. Then  $n_7$  divides 88, and is congruent to 1 mod 7 which would imply that  $n_7 = 8$ . There are  $8(7-1) = 48$  elements in the Sylow 7 subgroups and there are  $56(11-1) = 560$  elements in the sylow 11 subgroups, a total of 608. So, there are only enough elements left to form one Sylow 2 subgroup, and thus there is only one sylow 2 subgroup which would imply that the sylow 2 subgroup is normal.

So now, suppose the Sylow 2-subgroup is normal, and call it  $P$ . So,  $PQ$  is a subgroup of order 88. But  $Q$  is a sylow subgroup of  $PQ$ . By Sylow's second theorem,  $Q \triangleleft PQ$  therefore  $PQ \subseteq N_G(Q) = Q$ , a contradiction. A similar argument works for the Sylow 7-subgroup as well. So, the Sylow 11 subgroup of  $G$  is normal.