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Algebra 901 Notes

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Example: Let G be a group of order $3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 = 105$. Prove that the Sylow 5 and 7 subgroups are normal. Moreover, the Sylow 5 subgroup is contained in the center of the group.

Proof: Suppose $n_5 > 1$ and $n_7 > 1$. Then $n_5 = 21$ and $n_7 = 15$. This gives 84 non-identity elements in the Sylow 5 subgroups and $15 \cdot 6$ non-identity elements in the Sylow 7-subgroups. This is much bigger than 105 elements, so we conclude that either the Sylow 5 subgroup or the Sylow 7 subgroup is normal. Let $P \in \text{Syl}_5(G)$ and $Q \in \text{Syl}_7(G)$. Then PQ is a subgroup of order 35. Also notice that $[G : PQ] = 3$, so $PQ \triangleleft G$ since 3 is the smallest prime dividing the order of G . Also, PQ is cyclic, since $5 \nmid 7 - 1$. Let $P' \in \text{Syl}_5(G)$. Then $P' = yPy^{-1}$ for some $y \in G$, and $yPy^{-1} \subseteq yPQy^{-1} = PQ$. So P' is a Sylow 5-subgroup of PQ . Since P and P' are both Sylow 5-subgroups of PQ and PQ is abelian (cyclic), then $P = P'$. Hence $n_5 = 1$. The exact same argument works for $n_7 = 1$. For the last statement, we recall a lemma and give a definition.

Recall a Lemma: Let H, K be subgroups of G , and suppose that H, K are normal in G and that $H \cap K = \{1\}$. Then $hk = kh \ \forall h \in H$ and $k \in K$.

Proof: Note that $hkh^{-1}k^{-1} \in H \cap K = \{1\}$.

Definition: Let H be a subgroup of G . Denote the centralizer of H in G , $C_G(H) := \{g \in G \mid gh = hg \ \forall h \in H\}$. Note that this is a subgroup and $C_G(H) = G \Leftrightarrow H \subseteq Z(G)$.

Proof of $P \subseteq Z(G)$: Since P is cyclic, we have $P \subseteq C_G(P)$. Also, since PQ is cyclic, we have $Q \subseteq C_G(P)$. Let $R \in \text{Syl}_3(G)$. As P is normal, PR is a subgroup of G of order 15 and hence cyclic. Therefore, $R \subseteq C_G(P)$. Therefore, $G = PQR \subseteq C_G(P) \Rightarrow P \subseteq Z(G)$.

Definition: A **simple group** is a group $\neq \{1\}$, and whose only normal subgroups are 1 and itself. As an example, groups of prime order are simple.

Example: Prove that any group of order $144 = 2^4 \cdot 3^2$ is not simple.

Proof: We see that $n_3 = 1, 4$ or 16 . So, let $P \in \text{Syl}_2(G)$, $Q \in \text{Syl}_3(G)$. We break the argument up into cases.

1. $n_3 = 1$. We're done, because then the Sylow 3-subgroup is normal.
2. Suppose $n_3 = 4$. Recall $n_3 = [G : N_G(Q)] = 4$. By the Cayley map, we see that $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G/N_G(Q)) \cong S_4$. Since the order of G is less than the order of S_4 , we see we have a homomorphism with a non-trivial kernel. Since $\ker \phi$ is nontrivial and normal in G , G is not simple.
3. Suppose $n_3 = 16$. Let $\text{Syl}_3(G) = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_{16}\}$. We break this argument into cases as well.
 - (a) $Q_i \cap Q_j = \{1\} \ \forall i \neq j$. Then there are $16 \cdot 8 = 128$ non-identity elements on the Sylow 3-subgroups, and there are 16 elements left to form the Sylow 2-subgroup, and therefore it is normal, causing G to not be simple.
 - (b) $|Q_i \cap Q_j| = 3$ for some $i \neq j$. Reorder so that we have $|Q_1 \cap Q_2| = 3$. Consider $N = N_G(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$. Since $|Q_i| = 3^2$, we know that Q_i is abelian for all i , and therefore $Q_1 \cap Q_2$ is

normal in both Q_1 and Q_2 . So we have both Q_1 and $Q_2 \subseteq N$. This implies $Q_1Q_2 \subseteq N$. But $|Q_1Q_2| = \frac{|Q_1||Q_2|}{|Q_1 \cap Q_2|} = 27$, hence $|N| > 27$ (because 27 does not divide the order of G). But, we also see that $9 \mid |N|$. So, we have $|N| = 36, 72$ or 144 , and thus $[G : N] \leq 4$, and by the Cayley map, we have $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G/N)$ to get $\ker \phi$ to be a nontrivial normal subgroup of G , hence G is not simple.

Example: Suppose $|G| = pqr$ with $p < q < r$ primes and suppose the Sylow p -subgroup P is normal, and G/P is abelian. Prove that G is cyclic.

Proof: Let $\text{Syl}_q(G) = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}$, $n = n_q$ and let $H_i = Q_iP$. Then H_i is a subgroup of G , as $P \triangleleft G$. H_i/P is a subgroup of G/P , and thus $H_i/P \triangleleft G/P$, $|H_i| = pq$, $|H_i/P| = q$, and $|G/P| = qr$. So, H_i/P is a Sylow q -subgroup of G/P . But H_i/P is normal in G/P , so H_i/P is the only Sylow q -subgroup of G/P , therefore $H_i/P = H_j/P \ \forall i, j$. This implies that $H_i = H_j := H$, and also note that $Q_i \subseteq H$ for all i . In fact, Q_i are Sylow q -subgroups of H and since $p < q$, there is only one Sylow q -subgroup of H , and hence $n_q = 1$. Similarly, we can argue that $n_r = 1$. Thus, $P \triangleleft G, Q \triangleleft G, R \triangleleft G, P, Q, R$ cyclic of relatively prime orders, so by the lemma, $G = PQR$ is cyclic.