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Warm-up How many elements of order 2 are in D_{20} ? 11

We know $D_{20} = \langle a, b \mid a^{10} = 1 = b^2; bab^{-1} = a^{-1} \rangle$.

Since $bab = bab^{-1} = a^{-1}$, then $(ab)^2 = (ab)(ab) = (ba^{-1})(ab) = b^2 = 1$.

So we have 10 of $(a^k b)^2$ (since a^k are distinct for $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$) and a^5 has order 2.

Hence we have 11 elements of order 2.

Counterexample For Finite Abelian Groups handout, Exercise #3.

$$H_1 = \{(123), (132), (1)\}$$

$$H_2 = \{(12345), (13524), (14253), (15432), (1)\}$$

$$H_3 = \{(12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23), (1)\}$$

$$|H_1 H_2 H_3| \neq |H_1| \cdot |H_2| \cdot |H_3|.$$

So, the exercise needs to have the added condition that the group, G , is Abelian or that the groups, H_1, H_2, \dots, H_k be normal to G . Possibly a lesser condition could give the result, but it is not known what that might be.

Example Show no group of order 30 is simple.

Proof:

Let G be a group such that $|G| = 30 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n_2 = 1, 3, 5, 15 \\ n_3 = 1, 10 \\ n_5 = 1, 6 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{If any of these is 1,} \\ \text{then we're done.} \end{array}$$

So, suppose $n_2 \neq 1, n_3 \neq 1$, and $n_5 \neq 1$.

All Sylow 5-subgroups intersect trivially because $|P_5| = 5$.

If $n_5 = 6$, we have $6 \cdot 4 = 24$ elements of order 5.

If $n_3 = 10$, we have $10 \cdot 2 = 20$ element of order 3.

This gives us more than 30 elements, a contradiction to our assumption that $|G| = 30$.

Thus, it cannot be the case that none of the n_p 's are 1.

Example If G is a group such that $|G| = 4125 = 3 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 11$, G is not simple.

Proof:

$$n_5 = 1, 11.$$

If $n_5 = 1$, then we're done. Assume $n_5 = 11$.

So $11 = [G:N_G(P_5)]$ and $|G| \nmid 11!$.

So, by the Index Factorial theorem, G is not simple.

Example If G is a group such that $|G| = 380 = 2^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 19$, G is not simple.

Proof:

$n_2 = 1, 5$, We can throw out 5 by the Index Factorial theorem. But that won't help us much in this case.

Assume G is simple, then $n_2 \neq 1$, $n_5 \neq 1$, and $n_7 \neq 1$.

So, assume $n_5 = 76$ and $n_7 = 20$. Then G has $76 \cdot 4 = 304$ elements of order 5 and $20 \cdot 18 = 360$ elements of order 19. Too many elements!

A contradiction.

Thus $n_5 \neq 76$ or $n_7 \neq 20$. $\therefore n_5 = 1$ or $n_7 = 1$. And we're done.

Example

What can we say about a group of order 70?

We can say there are exactly 4 non-isomorphic groups of order 70.

Proof:

Let G be a group such that $|G| = 70 = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$.

$n_2 = 1, 5, 7, 35$

$n_5 = 1$

$n_7 = 1$

So, $\exists P_5, P_7$ such that $P_5 \triangleleft G$ and $P_7 \triangleleft G$.

Since $|P_5| = 5$, and $|P_7| = 7$, then $P_5 \cap P_7 = \{e\}$.

So, by Direct Products Handout Exercise 2 (If $H \triangleleft G$ or $K \triangleleft G$, $HK \leq G$), we have $P_5P_7 \leq G$. And since $P_5 \cong \mathbb{Z}_5$ and $P_7 \cong \mathbb{Z}_7$, then by Finite Abelian Groups Handout, Exercise 1 ($\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n \cong \mathbb{Z}_{mn}$ iff $(m, n) = 1$),

then $P_5P_7 \cong P_5 \times P_7$.

So $\exists H \leq G$ such that $H = \langle a \rangle$ where $\circ(a) = 35$.

And by Cauchy's theorem, $\exists b \in G$ such that $\circ(b) = 2$.

So, we know $G = \{1, a, a^2, \dots, a^{34}, b, ab, a^2b, \dots, a^{34}b\}$.

If we know how a and b interact, we understand the group.

So, we know $G = \langle a, b \mid \dots \text{something} \dots \rangle$.

Consider bab^{-1} .

$bab^{-1} \in H$ (since $H \triangleleft G$).

We know $H \triangleleft G$ as $[G:H] = 2$ or because $H = P_5P_7 \cong P_5 \times P_7$, the internal direct product; take your pick.

So for $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, 34\}$, $bab^{-1} = bab = a^k$. So $a = (bab)^k = (a^k)^k = a^{k^2}$.

So $e = a^{k^2-1}$.

And $35 \mid k^2 - 1$, as $\circ(a) = 35$. So $k = 1, 6, 29$, or 34 .

Thus, there are at most 4 groups of order 70.

Let's list what we think they are:

\mathbb{Z}_{70} , D_{70} , $D_{10} \times \mathbb{Z}_7$, and $D_{14} \times \mathbb{Z}_5$.

We know \mathbb{Z}_{70} is not isomorphic to the others as \mathbb{Z}_{70} is cyclic (or Abelian, take your pick) and the others are not.

We know D_{70} has 35 elements of order 2 but $D_{10} \times \mathbb{Z}_7$ has 5 and

$D_{14} \times Z_5$ has 7 elements of order 2.

Thus the groups are all non-isomorphic.

Note $\circ(x, y) = \text{lcm}(\circ(x), \circ(y))$.

Summary of strategies for proving a group is not simple:

- Work with the n_p 's.
- Use the Index Factorial theorem. (Use $p^c \nmid (m-1)!$ as a clue to use IFT.)
- Count elements.

- Use Representative on Cosets theorem

Example Let G be a group such that $|G| = 108 = 2^2 \cdot 3^3$.

Show $\exists H \triangleleft G$ such that $|H| = 3^2$ or 3^3 .

Proof:

$n_3 = 1$ or 4 . If $n_3 = 1$, then $P_3 \triangleleft G$ and $|P_3| = 3^3$. And we're done.

If $n_3 = 4$, then $[G:N_G(P_3)] = 4$.

By Representation on Cosets theorem, $\exists \phi: G \rightarrow S_4$ with $\ker \phi \leq N_G(P_3)$.

If $\ker \phi = \{1\}$, then $|G| \mid 4!$, but $|G|$ does not divide $4!$, so $\ker \phi \neq \{1\}$.

Since $\ker \phi \leq N_G(P_3)$ and $|N_G(P_3)| = 27$ (since $4 = 108/|N_G(P_3)|$), then $|\ker \phi| = 3, 3^2$, or 3^3 . Since $\ker \phi \triangleleft G$, then if $|\ker \phi| = 3^2$ or 3^3 , we're done.

So assume $|\ker \phi| = 3$ and start over.

Consider $G/\ker \phi$. $|G/\ker \phi| = 36 = 2^2 \cdot 3^2$.

$n_3 = 1, 4$. If $n_3 = 1$, then $P_3 \triangleleft G/\ker \phi$

and I'm not sure where to go from here.