

2.5 Sylow Theorem

Theorem 1. (Cauchy Theorem)

Suppose $p \mid |G|$, where p is a prime. Then there exists $a \in G$, with order p .

Proof.

$$\text{Set } S = G^p = \{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_p) \mid g_i \in G, g_1 g_2 \dots g_p = e\}$$

$$\text{Note: } |S| = |G|^{p-1}$$

$$\text{Since } g_p = (g_1 g_2 \dots g_{p-1})^{-1}$$

$$\text{Pick } \sigma = (1, 2, \dots, p) \in S_p \text{ and } H := \langle \sigma \rangle$$

Let H acts on S by

$$\sigma \cdot (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_p) = (g_{\sigma(1)}, g_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, g_{\sigma(p)}) \in S$$

By class equation,

$$\begin{aligned} |G|^{p-1} &= |S| \\ &= \sum_i |\Theta_{s_i}| \\ &= \sum_i \frac{|H|}{|H_{s_i}|} \\ &= \sum_i \frac{p}{|H_{s_i}|} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Since } p \mid |G|^{p-1}, p \mid \sum_i \frac{p}{|H_{s_i}|}$$

Note:

$$H_{(e, e, \dots, e)} = H$$

$$\text{Hence, there exists } s_j \text{ s.t. } \Theta_{s_j} \neq \Theta_{(e, e, \dots, e)} \text{ and } H_{s_j} = H$$

$$\text{Assume, } s_j = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p) \in S$$

$$\text{Since } \sigma \in H = H_{s_j}, \text{ we have } \sigma \cdot s_j = s_j$$

$$\text{i.e. } (a_2, a_3, \dots, a_p, a_1) = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p)$$

$$\text{i.e. } a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_p = a \text{ for some } a \in G$$

$$\text{Note: } a^p = e \text{ and } a \neq e$$

Definition 1. Suppose $|G| < \infty$ Let $t \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ s.t. $p^t \mid |G|$ and $p^{t+1} \nmid |G|$
 Define $Sylp(G) := \{H < G \mid |H| = p^t\}$ is the set of p -Sylow subgroup.

Theorem 2. (First Sylow Theorem)

$Sylp(G) \neq \emptyset$

Proof.

Induction on $|G|$

Let G acts on G by conjugation.

i.e. $S = G$, and $g \cdot s = g^{-1}sg$ for $g, s \in G$

Then (by class equation)

$$\begin{aligned} |S| &= |G| \\ &= \sum_i |\Theta_{s_i}| \\ &= \sum_{i, |\Theta_{s_i}|=1} 1 + \sum_{i, |\Theta_{s_i}| \neq 1} |\Theta_{s_i}| \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$|\Theta_{s_i}| = 1 \Leftrightarrow g^{-1}s_i g = s_i$, for all $g \in G \Leftrightarrow s_i \in Z(G)$, the order of G .

$$\text{Hence } |G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{i, G_{s_i} \neq G} \frac{|G|}{|G_{s_i}|}$$

Case1:

$p \mid |Z(G)|$, by Cauchy Theorem, there exists $a \in Z(G)$ with $|a| = p$

Note: $\langle a \rangle \triangleleft G$, By induction hypothesis, there exists $\bar{H} \in Sylp(\frac{G}{\langle a \rangle})$

Set $H = \{g \in G \mid g \langle a \rangle \in \bar{H}\}$

Then $H \in Sylp(G)$

Case2:

$$p \nmid |Z(G)|$$

Then $p \nmid \frac{|G|}{|G_{s_i}|}$ for some i

Hence , $Sylp(G_{s_i}) \subseteq Sylp(G)$, by induction.

Note:

By the some method in the proof of Sylow 1st Theorem

$$|Z(G)| \neq 1 , \text{ if } |G| = p^n \text{ (i.e. if } |G| = p^n \Rightarrow |Z(G)| \neq \langle e \rangle)$$

Theorem 3. (Second Sylow Theorem)

$$H, H' \in Sylp(G) \Rightarrow H' = g^{-1}Hg , \text{ for some } g \in G$$

i.e. Any 2 p-Sylow subgroups are conjugate.

Proof.

Let H' acts on the left coset of H in G .

Then by class equation,

$$\frac{|G|}{|h|} = \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}|=1} 1 + \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}| \neq 1} \frac{|H'|}{|H'_{s_i}|}$$

Note:

$$\begin{aligned} |\Theta_{s_i}| = 1 &\Leftrightarrow g \cdot s_i \text{ for all } g \in H' \text{ (Say } s_i = g_i H) \\ &\Leftrightarrow gg_i H = g_i H, \text{ for all } g \in H' \\ &\Leftrightarrow g_i^{-1} g g_i \in H, \text{ for all } g \in H' \\ &\Leftrightarrow g_i^{-1} H' g_i = H \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$$p \nmid \frac{|G|}{|H|}, p \mid \frac{|H'|}{|H'_{s_i}|} \text{ for all } i \text{ with } |\Theta_{s_i}| \neq 1$$

$$\text{Hence, } p \nmid \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}|=1} 1$$

Then there exists s_i with $|\Theta_{s_i}| = 1$

$$\text{i.e. } g_i^{-1} H' g_i = H$$

Theorem 4. (Third Sylow Theorem)

- (1) $|Sylp(G)|$ divides $|G|$
- (2) $|Sylp(G)| \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

Proof.

(1)

Let G acts on $Sylp(G)$ by conjugations.

i.e. $S = Sylp(G)$, $g \cdot s_i = g^{-1}s_i g$ for $g \in G$

By there is a unique orbit , by 2nd Sylow Theorem.

$$\text{Then } |Sylp(G)| = \frac{|G|}{|G_{s_i}|}$$

Hence, $|Sylp(G)|$ divides $|G|$

(2)

Pick $P \in Sylp(G)$, by 1st Theorem

Let P acts on $Sylp(G)$ by conjugation.

Then by class equation:

$$|Sylp(G)| = \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}|=1} 1 + \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}| \neq 1} \frac{|P|}{|P_{s_i}|}$$

Note:

$$\begin{aligned} |O_{s_i}| = 1 &\Leftrightarrow g^{-1}s_i g = s_i , \text{ for all } g \in P \\ &\Leftrightarrow P \subseteq N_G(s_i) \\ &\Leftrightarrow p = s_i \text{ (if } p = s_i \Leftrightarrow P \subseteq N_G(s_i)) \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$p, s_i \in Sylp(N_G(s_i))$, if $P \subseteq N_G(s_i)$

Hence, $p = g^{-1}s_i g = s_i$ for some $g \in N_G(s_i)$, by 2nd Sylow Theorem.

$$\text{Hence } \sum_{|\Theta_{s_i}|=1} 1 = 1$$

$$\text{Then } |Sylp(G)| = 1 + \sum_{P_{s_i} \neq P} \frac{|P|}{|P_{s_i}|} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$