

Proof that the number of isomorphism classes of groups $|G| = 2^n p$ when G contains a unique Sylow p -subgroup and the maximal 2^m dividing $p - 1$ is such that $2^m \geq 2^n$ is the same for all p .

Miles Englezou

September 23, 2024

Outline: the gist of the proof is to show that groups $|G| = 2^n p$ with a unique Sylow p -subgroup all have a semidirect product representation $C_p \rtimes H_{2^n}$, which imposes an upper bound on the number of isomorphism classes. That the maximal 2^m dividing $p - 1$ is greater or equal than 2^n ensures that the lower bound is equal to the upper bound.

Theorem

Let G be a group of order $2^n p$ for prime p , $n \geq 0$. If p satisfies the two following congruence conditions:

- (1) $2^m \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, 2^m *minimal*, and $2^m > 2^n$,
- (2) $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k}$, 2^k *maximal*, and $2^k \geq 2^n$,

then the number of isomorphism classes of $|G| = 2^n p$ is the same for all p , distinct for n .

Proof. Condition (1) allows us to establish that for $|G| = 2^n p$, the prime cyclic group C_p is a unique Sylow subgroup and thus normal in G . By the Sylow theorems, if n_p is the number of Sylow p subgroups, then n_p divides $[G : C_p]$ and $n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Since $|G : C_p| = 2^n$, therefore $n_p = 2^r$, $0 \leq r \leq n$. If condition (1) is met, then the least 2^m such that $2^m \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ is greater than 2^n , and $n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ only when $n_p = 1$. Hence for p satisfying this condition, C_p is a unique normal Sylow subgroup of G .

By the Schur-Zassenhaus theorem, every G is necessarily a semidirect product $C_p \rtimes H$, where H is an arbitrary 2-group of order 2^n . This means that determining the number of groups reduces to determining the number of semidirect products. And since the number of direct products does not depend on p , we only have to consider the proper semidirect products.

H defined as above, a semidirect product $C_p \rtimes H$ exists when there exists a homomorphism $\sigma : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_p) \cong C_{p-1}$. Since C_{p-1} is a nonprime cyclic, σ exists when H contains a normal subgroup N such that $H/N \cong \text{im}(\sigma)$ is cyclic and $|\text{im}(\sigma)|$ divides $p - 1$. Condition (2) ensures that the number of homomorphisms is the same for every such p . Let $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k}$ and $q \equiv 1 \pmod{2^m}$, and let $n \leq m < k$ (therefore satisfying condition (2)). Since C_{q-1} and C_{p-1} are cyclic, each contains a unique subgroup for every divisor of the group order, and therefore C_{q-1} contains m subgroups of every order $2^{1 \leq m}$, and C_{p-1} contains k subgroups of every order $2^{1 \leq k}$. Let Σ_p be the total number of homomorphisms $\sigma : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_p)$, and similarly Σ_q for $\pi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_q)$. Since $|H| = 2^n$, $\max(\Sigma_p) = \max(\Sigma_q) = n$. But whether H contains a subgroup N such that H/N is cyclic is independent of C_p or C_q : if the homomorphism $\sigma : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_p)$ exists, then so does the homomorphism $\pi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_q)$. Since both Σ_p and Σ_q have a maximum of n , therefore the number of homomorphisms is the same for both p and q , and consequently the number of semidirect products is the same.