

GROUP ACTIONS OR PERMUTATION REPRESENTATIONS

Recall our very general method of obtaining groups: take an object X of some category (a set with some extra structure) and consider the group $\text{Aut}X$ of all automorphisms of X . Since this group reflects the symmetries of X , its properties can be derived from geometric properties of X (so we reverse our point of view: instead of studying X via $\text{Aut}X$, we investigate $\text{Aut}X$ via X).

If G is an abstract group, it is often a very fruitful idea to investigate representations of G on objects of a suitable category. By a **representation** we mean here simply a group homomorphism from G to $\text{Aut}X$.

For example, we could take a vector space V and consider a representation of G on V . Such representations, i.e. homomorphisms from G to $GL(V)$ are called **linear representations**. They play a fundamental role in group theory and many other parts of mathematics.

Another important example form representations of groups on groups, i.e. homomorphisms from G to $\text{Aut}H$ for some group H . We will meet such representations when we discuss semidirect products.

Two representations $f_i : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}X_i$ are called **equivalent** if there is an isomorphism $\alpha : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ such that $\alpha f_1(g) = f_2(g)\alpha$ for every $g \in G$ (note that α induces a group homomorphism from $\text{Aut}X_1$ to $\text{Aut}X_2$ by $u \mapsto \alpha u \alpha^{-1}$). More generally, we define a morphism between the representations f_1 and f_2 to be any morphism $\alpha : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ such that $\alpha f_1(g) = f_2(g)\alpha$ for all $g \in G$.

We say that a representation f is **faithful** if $\ker f$ is trivial, i.e. if f is an injection.

Our goal in this section is to study **permutation representations**, i.e. representations on sets. Thus a permutation representation of G on a set X is simply a group homomorphism from G to the group $S(X)$ of all permutations of X .

There is another point of view on permutation representations, which is often very convenient, via the notion of a **group action**.

Definition 1. A (left) **action** of a group G on a set X is an operation $*$ which to any element $g \in G$ and any $s \in X$ assigns an element $g * s$ of X and has the following two properties:

- (a) $f * (g * s) = (fg) * s$ for any $f, g \in G$ and $s \in S$;
- (b) $e * s = s$ for any $s \in S$, where e is the unit element of G .

Note that (a) and (b) mean that the action $*$ is compatible with the group structure of G . Note also that in a more precise language, an operation $*$ as above is simply a function $G \times X \rightarrow X$ which satisfies conditions (a) and (b).

We have to explain how we identify actions and permutation representations.

Suppose first that we have a homomorphism $\phi : G \rightarrow S(X)$. So for $g \in G$ the element $\phi(g)$ is a bijection of X . We can now say that the action of $g \in G$ on $s \in X$ results in $\phi(g)(s) \in X$, i.e. we define $g * s = \phi(g)(s)$. We need to check that conditions (a) and (b) are satisfied, and this is a very simple consequence of the fact that ϕ is a homomorphism:

- (a) We have $(fg) * s = \phi(fg)(s) = (\phi(f)\phi(g))(s) = \phi(f)(\phi(g)(s)) = \phi(f)(g * s) = f * (g * s)$.
- (b) $e * s = \phi(e)(s) = id(s) = s$ for any $s \in X$.

Thus indeed we get an action from a homomorphism ϕ .

Conversely, suppose we have an action $*$ of G on X . We need to construct a homomorphism $\phi : G \rightarrow S(X)$ corresponding to this action. For this note that each $g \in G$ gives rise to a function $L_g : X \rightarrow X$ defined by $L_g(s) = g * s$. Note that $L_g L_{g^{-1}}(s) = L_g(g^{-1} * s) = g * (g^{-1} * s) = (gg^{-1}) * s = e * s = s$, so $L_g L_{g^{-1}} = id$. Similarly, $L_{g^{-1}} L_g = id$, which shows that L_g is a bijection of X (since it has an inverse $L_{g^{-1}}$). Thus we get a function $\phi : G \rightarrow S(X)$ defined by $\phi(g) = L_g$. It remains to verify that ϕ is a homomorphism, which is a quite simple task: $\phi(fg)(s) = L_{fg}(s) = (fg) * s = f * (g * s) = L_f(L_g(s)) = \phi(f)(\phi(g)(s))$ for any $s \in X$ so in fact $\phi(fg) = \phi(f)\phi(g)$.

The reader will easily verify that the constructions of the action from a permutation representation and the representation from an action are inverse to each other and allow us to identify actions of G on X and homomorphisms from G to $S(X)$.

There are two very important notions associated to any action.

As a first we introduce the notion of an **orbit** of an element $s \in X$ under the action of G . In plain words, the orbit $O(s)$ of s consists of all elements of X which can be obtained by acting by some element of G on s , i.e. we have

Definition 2. *The orbit $O(s)$ of s under the action of G is the set $O(s) = \{g * s : g \in G\}$.*

The main property of orbits is contained in the following

Lemma 1. *If $s, t \in S$ then either $O(s) = O(t)$ or $O(s) \cap O(t) = \emptyset$.*

Proof: First note that if $v \in O(s)$ then $v = f * s$ for some $f \in G$. Thus, for any $g \in G$ we have $g * v = g * (f * s) = (gf) * s \in O(s)$. This shows that $O(v)$ is a subset of $O(s)$. On the other hand, we have $f^{-1} * v = f^{-1} * (f * s) = (f^{-1}f) * s = e * s = s$, so $s = f^{-1} * v \in O(v)$. As above, this implies that $O(s) \subseteq O(v)$, so we have in fact $O(s) = O(v)$. In other words, the orbits of elements belonging to a given orbit are all equal to each other.

Suppose now that the orbits of s and t are not disjoint, so there is $v \in O(s) \cap O(t)$. Then we have $O(s) = O(v) = O(t)$ by the above discussion. \square

The lemma says that the orbits partition the set X into pairwise disjoint subsets.

The second notion we want to introduce is the notion of a **stabilizer** $St(s)$ of any $s \in X$. The definition is very simple:

Definition 3. *The stabilizer of $s \in X$ is the subset $St(s) = \{g \in G : g * s = s\}$ of G .*

In plain words, the stabilizer of s consists of all those elements of G which act trivially on s (i.e. which fix s). Another very common notation for the stabilizer of s is G_s . We will use both notations.

The main fact about stabilizer is that it is a subgroup of G .

Lemma 2. (1) *For any $s \in X$, the stabilizer $St(s)$ is a subgroup of G .*

(2) *$St(g * s) = gSt(s)g^{-1}$ for any $g \in G$ and $s \in X$.*

Proof: Clearly $e \in St(s)$. If $f, g \in St(s)$ then $f * s = s = g * s$ so $(fg) * s = f * (g * s) = f * s = s$, i.e. $fg \in St(s)$. Also, $g^{-1} * s = g^{-1} * (g * s) = (g^{-1}g) * s = e * s = s$ so $g^{-1} \in St(s)$. This proves (1).

In order to establish (2) note that $f \in St(g*s)$ iff $f*(g*s) = g*s$ iff $(fg)*s = g*s$ iff $g^{-1}*((fg)*s) = g^{-1}*(g*s) = s$ i.e. iff $(g^{-1}fg)*s = s$ which is equivalent to $g^{-1}fg \in St(s)$ i.e. $f \in gSt(s)g^{-1}$. This proves (2). \square

From now on we write gs instead of $g*s$.

The following definition, extending the notion of a stabilizer, is very useful for investigation of group actions:

Definition 4. *Let a group G act on a set X and let Y be a subset of X . The stabilizer of Y is the subset*

$$St(Y) = \{g \in G : gy \in Y \text{ and } g^{-1}y \in Y \text{ for all } y \in Y\} = \{g \in G : gY = Y\}.$$

A **pointwise stabilizer** of Y is the subset $G_Y = \{g \in G : gy = y \text{ for all } y \in Y\}$.

It is a straightforward exercise to verify that both $St(Y)$ and G_Y are in fact subgroups of G . If $Y = \{y\}$ consists of one element, we have $G_Y = St(Y) = St(y) = G_y$.

It is clear from the definition that $St(Y)$ acts on Y .

We say that Y is **G -stable** if $St(Y) = G$. For example, any orbit is G -stable. In fact we have the following simple

Exercise. A subset Y of X is G -stable iff it is a union of some of the orbits of G on X .

Proposition 1. *The number of elements in the orbit $O(s)$ is equal to the index $[G : St(s)]$. In particular, if G is finite, then $|O(s)| = |G|/|St(s)|$ divides $|G|$.*

Proof: Our proof will establish a bijection between left cosets of $St(s)$ in G and the elements of $O(s)$. Given a left coset $gSt(s)$ we assign to it the element gs in the orbit of s . This is well defined: if $gSt(s) = hSt(s)$ then $g = ht$ for some $t \in St(s)$ and $gs = (ht)s = h(ts) = hs$, as $ts = s$. Thus we defined a function from left cosets of $St(s)$ to the orbit $O(s)$ of s . This function is surjective: any element in $O(s)$ is of the form gs for some $g \in G$ hence it is assigned to the coset $gSt(s)$. It is also injective. Indeed, if the cosets $gSt(s)$ and $hSt(s)$ are mapped to the same element in the orbit of s then $gs = hs$. This means that $(h^{-1}g)s = s$, i.e. $h^{-1}g \in St(s)$. It follows that $gSt(s) = hSt(s)$. \square

Remark. It follows that the number $|St(t)|$ is the same for any element $t \in O(s)$. This however should not be surprising at all, since we proved in Lemma 2 that the groups $St(t)$ and $St(s)$ are conjugate in G , so in particular they have the same number of elements.

We need more definitions.

Definition 5. We say that the action of G on X is **transitive**, if there is only one orbit of these action (which then equals X). In other words, the action is transitive if for any two elements s, t in X there is $g \in G$ such that $gs = t$.

Exercise. Let $\pi : G \rightarrow S(X)$ be a permutation representation such that the corresponding action of G on X is transitive. Let $x \in X$. Prove that the kernel of π is the largest normal subgroup contained in $St(x)$.

Definition 6. An element $s \in X$ is called a **fixed point** of the action of G on X if the orbit of s equals to $\{s\}$. Equivalently, s is a fixed point iff $St(s) = G$, i.e. if $gs = s$ for every $g \in G$.

Fixed points should be thought of as elements having many symmetries, so they are of special interest. The set of all fixed points is denoted by $Fix(G)$. More generally, if $T \subseteq G$ is any subset, we define

$$Fix(T) = \{s \in X : ts = s \text{ for all } t \in T\}.$$

It is easy to see that $Fix(T) = Fix(\langle T \rangle)$.

We derive now three fundamental rules of counting associated to a group action of a finite group G on a finite set S .

Rule 1. If the action of G on S is transitive, then $|S| = |G|/|St(s)|$ for any $s \in S$.

This rule follows immediately from Proposition 2 and the fact that transitivity of the action means that $O(s) = S$.

Rule 2. Let p be a prime number which does not divide $|S|$. There is an element $s \in S$ such that $|O(s)|$ is not divisible by p .

In fact, if the number of elements in every orbit is divisible by p then the number of elements in S , which is the sum of the numbers of elements in orbits, is also divisible by p . But we assumed that this is not the case, so the number of elements in at least one orbit is not divisible by p .

Rule 3. *Suppose that the order of the group G is a power of a prime number p and that G acts on a set S . Let r denote the number of fixed points for this action. Then $p \mid (|S| - r)$. In particular,*

(i) if $|S|$ is not divisible by p then $r > 0$, i.e. there is at least one fixed point.

(ii) suppose $p \mid |S|$. If $r > 0$ then $r \geq p$, i.e. if there is a fixed point, there are at least p of them.

In order to justify this rule recall that the number of elements in S is equal to the sum of the numbers of elements in each orbit. Note that by Proposition 2, the number of elements in each orbit divides $|G|$. Since $|G|$ is a power of the prime p , the number of elements in each orbit is a power of p as well. We have r orbits which consist of 1 ($= p^0$) element each and in all other orbits the number of elements is a multiple of p (being a positive power of p). So the sum of the numbers of elements in the orbits (which is $|S|$) equals $r + (\text{a multiple of } p)$. Consequently, $p \mid (|S| - r)$. If $|S|$ is not divisible by p then we immediately get that $r \neq 0$, which justifies (i). If $p \mid |S|$ then also $p \mid r = |S| - (|S| - r)$. In particular, if $r \neq 0$ then r is at least p , which proves (ii).

Examples and application.

It is time to show that the ideas developed so far can be used in a very fruitful way.

Example 1. Suppose that G acts on a set S . Let H be a subgroup of G . We can restrict our attention to elements of H and we get in this way an action of H on S called the restriction of the action of G to H . Such restriction can be quite useful. For example, G need not be a p -group so we can not apply our Rule 3, but after restricting to a subgroup which is a p -group we can try to apply this rule.

Example 2. Suppose that G acts on S and that T is a G -stable subset of S . Then G acts on the set T . For example, if $s \in S$ then the orbit $O(s)$ is G -stable.

Indeed, if $t \in O(s)$ then $t = fs$ for some $f \in G$ and then $gt = g(fs) = (gf)s \in O(s)$ for any $g \in G$.

Example 3. Let H be a subgroup of G and let X be the set of all left cosets of H in G . We define an action of $g \in G$ on a coset aH by $g * aH = (ga)H$. We leave it as an exercise to check that this is indeed an action and that it is transitive. Note that Rule 1 for this action is nothing but Lagrange's theorem (observe that $H = St(eH)$). We call this action **the representation of G on the left cosets of H by left multiplication**.

It turns out that every transitive action is of this sort. More precisely, we have the following:

Exercise. Suppose that G acts transitively on X . Let $x \in X$ and set $H = St(x)$. Prove the representation of G on X and the representation on the left cosets of H are equivalent.

Remark. The moral of this exercise is that every action is built up from transitive actions (orbits) and transitive actions are determined by the subgroup structure of G .

In the special case when $H = \{e\}$, we can identify left cosets of H in G with elements of G (the coset $\{g\} = gH$ is identified with g). Thus we get an action of G on G which is usually called **the action of G on itself by left translations**. This action has associated permutation representation $G \rightarrow S(G)$, which is easily seen injective. Thus we established the following fundamental result

Cayley's Theorem. *Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of $S(X)$ for some set X . If G is finite then X can be chosen finite too.*

The representations of G on the left cosets of subgroups can be helpful in an investigation of G . For example, if H has index n then the permutation representation on left cosets of H is a homomorphism to a group of order $n!$. Thus the kernel of this representation has index at most $n!$, and it is a normal subgroup of G . This answers one of the questions in Homework 1.

Note the following important corollary:

Proposition 2. *If G is finite, p is a prime divisor of $|G|$ and H is a subgroup of G of index $n < p$, then G is not simple.*

Example 4 Suppose that G acts on S . Then G acts on the set $P(S)$ of all subsets of S as follows: if $U \in P(S)$ then $gU = \{gs : s \in U\}$. A straightforward verification that this is indeed an action is left as an exercise.

Fix an integer $k \leq |S|$ and denote by $P_k(S)$ the set of all k -element subsets of S . It is clear that it is a G -invariant subset of $P(S)$. Explicitly, if $U \in P_k(S)$ then $U = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\}$ and $gU = \{gs_1, \dots, gs_k\}$.

Example 4 allows to construct many interesting actions. As an illustration, let $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and $G = S_n$, so G naturally acts on S . Let $k \leq n$. Then we have an action of G on $P_k(S)$. We claim that this action is transitive. In fact, given k elements s_1, \dots, s_k of S there is a permutation f which maps i to s_i for all $i \leq k$, i.e. $f * i = s_i$. Thus $f * \{1, 2, \dots, k\} = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\}$. This shows that the orbit of $V = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ is the whole $P_k(S)$, i.e. the action is transitive.

What is the stabilizer of V ? Note that a permutation f is in $St(V)$ iff it maps the set V onto itself and then it also maps the set $S - V$ onto itself. So elements of $St(V)$ can be thought of as pairs consisting of a bijection of V and a bijection of $S - V$. But there are $k!$ bijections of V and $(n - k)!$ bijections of $S - V$, so we have $k!(n - k)!$ possibilities for $f \in St(V)$, i.e. $|St(V)| = k!(n - k)!$ (an exercise: show that $St(V)$ is isomorphic to $S_k \times S_{n-k}$). By Rule 1, we conclude that $|S(k)| = |G|/|St(V)| = n!/k!(n - k)!$. In other words, the number of k -element subsets of a set with n elements is $n!/k!(n - k)!$. The number $n!/k!(n - k)!$ is often denoted by $\binom{n}{k}$ and called the Newton symbol or Newton binomial coefficient.

Suppose now that $n = p^s m$ for some prime p . Let $f = (1, 2, 3, \dots, p^s)(p^s + 1, \dots, 2p^s) \dots ((m - 1)p^s + 1, \dots, mp^s)$ be a permutation of S written as a product of disjoint cycles. All these cycles have length p^s , so f has order p^s . Let H be the cyclic subgroup of G generated by f . Thus H is a p -group of order p^s . Consider the restriction of the action of G on $P_{p^s}(S)$ to H . Suppose that U is a fixed point for this action. Let $a \in U$. Note that we may write $a = lp^s + b$ for some $0 \leq l < m$ and $0 < b \leq p^s$ and then the orbit of a under H is $\{lp^s + 1, \dots, (l + 1)p^s\}$. Since V is H -stable, this orbit is contained in V so it equals V (they have the same

number of elements). We see that the fixed points of the action of H are the sets $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, p^s\}, \{p^s + 1, \dots, 2p^s\}, \dots, \{(m-1)p^s + 1, \dots, mp^s\}$. In particular, the number of fixed points of the action of H on $P_{p^s}(S)$ is m . By Rule 3, we have $p \mid \binom{n}{p^s} - m$.

We can summarize the above considerations in the following

Theorem 1. *The number of k -element subsets of an n -element set equals $\binom{n}{k} = n!/k!(n-k)!$. If $n = p^s m$, where p is a prime then $p \mid \binom{n}{p^s} - m$.*

We will use this theorem in the next example to derive one of the most important theorems about finite groups.

Example 5 Let G be a finite group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$. Thus we may write $|G| = p^s m$ for some integers m not divisible by p and $s > 0$. Let S be the set of all subsets of G of order p^s , i.e. $S = P_{p^s}(G)$. The group G acts on itself by left multiplication (see Example 3) so it acts on S according to Example 4. Explicitly, if $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_{p^s}\}$ is an element of S (i.e. a subset of G of order p^s) and $g \in G$ then we have $g * A = \{ga_1, \dots, ga_{p^s}\}$. By Theorem 1, S has $\binom{p^s m}{p^s}$ elements $p \mid |S| - m$. Since $(m, p) = 1$, we see that $|S|$ is not divisible by p . By Rule 2, there exists an element $T \in S$ whose orbit $O(T)$ has cardinality not divisible by p . Recall that $|O(T)| = |G|/|St(T)|$. It follows that the stabilizer $St(T)$ has order divisible by p^s . On the other hand, for any A the stabilizer of A has at most p^s elements. In fact, let $a \in A$. If $g \in St(A)$ then $ga \in A$ so we have at most p^s possibilities for ga and each choice uniquely determines g (if $ga = b$ then $g = ba^{-1}$). Thus the number of elements in $St(T)$ is both divisible by p^s and not larger than p^s , i.e. $|St(T)| = p^s$. Thus we found a subgroup $St(T)$ of G which has p^s elements. The existence of such subgroup is a very important theorem:

Theorem 2. *(Sylow) If G is a finite group such that $|G| = p^s m$, where p is a prime and $(p, m) = 1$ then G has a subgroup of order p^s .*

Subgroups whose existence we just established are very important in group theory and we introduce the following definition

Definition 7. *Let G be a finite group such that $|G| = p^s m$ where p is a prime and $(p, m) = 1$. Any subgroup of G of order p^s is called a **Sylow p -subgroup** of G*

As a corollary of Theorem 2 we get the following result due to Cauchy:

Theorem 3. (*Cauchy*) *Let G be a finite group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$. Then G has an element of order p .*

Proof: Let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of G , so $|P| = p^s$ for some $s > 0$. Let $a \in P$, $a \neq e$. The order of a divides p^s , so it equals p^k for some $0 < k \leq s$. Now $a^{p^{k-1}}$ has order p . \square

Exercise. Let G be a finite group and p a prime number such that $p \mid |G|$. Consider the set S of all p -tuples (a_1, \dots, a_p) of elements from G such that $a_1 a_2 \dots a_p = e$, i.e.

$$S = \{(a_1, \dots, a_p) : a_i \in G \text{ for all } i, \text{ and } a_1 \dots a_p = e\}$$

Let C be a cyclic group of order p and f a generator for C . We define an action of C on S as follows: if $s \in C$ then $s = f^i$ for a unique $0 \leq i < p$ and we set $s * (a_1, \dots, a_p) = (a_{i+1}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_p, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$.

- a) Check that this is indeed an action of C on S .
- b) Show that the number of elements in S equals $|G|^{p-1}$.
- c) Show that each fixed point for this action is of the form (g, \dots, g) for some $g \in G$ such that $g^p = e$.
- d) Conclude that G has a nontrivial element of order p (so we get a different proof of Cauchy's theorem).

The next example will establish very important information about Sylow subgroups.

Example 6. We have seen that a group G acts on itself by left translations. But there is another very important action of G on itself, **the action by conjugation**. It is defined by $g * a = ga g^{-1}$ for any $a, g \in G$. The verification that this is indeed an action is straightforward and is left as an exercise. Note that the homomorphism $G \rightarrow S(G)$ associated to this action has its image in the subgroup $\text{Aut}G$ of $S(G)$.

If T is a subset of G then the pointwise stabilizer G_T of T (under the conjugation action) is called the **centralizer** of T and it is denoted by $C_G(T)$. The stabilizer $St(T)$ is called the **normalizer** of T and it is denoted by $N_G(T)$.

Let us now look at the induced action of G on $P(G)$. Since a conjugation is an automorphism of G , this action takes subgroups of G to subgroups. Thus it induces an action of G on the set of all subgroups of G of any given order. In particular, we get an action of G on the set Syl_p of all Sylow p -subgroups of G (here p is a fixed prime divisor of $|G|$). We are going to analyze this action more closely. Note first that Syl_p is not empty by Theorem 2.

Let $P \in Syl_p$. Consider the orbit $O(P)$ of P under the action of G . We claim that $P \subseteq St(P)$ and P is a normal subgroup of $St(P)$. In fact, since P is a group, we have $pPp^{-1} = P$ i.e. $p \in St(P)$ for any $p \in P$. Also, for $n \in St(P)$ we have $nPn^{-1} = P$ so P is indeed normal in $St(P)$. It follows that $|P||St(P)|$ and consequently $|G|/|St(P)| = |O(P)|$ is not divisible by p .

Let Q be some p -subgroup of G . We can restrict the action of G on $O(P)$ to the action of Q . Since Q is a p -group and $|O(P)|$ is not divisible by p , we see by Rule 3 that the action of Q on $O(P)$ has a fixed point. Call it R . Thus Q is a subgroup of $St(R)$. But this forces $Q \subseteq R$. In fact, we have seen that R is normal in $St(R)$. Consider the natural homomorphism $f : St(R) \rightarrow St(R)/R$. Let $a \in Q$, so the order of a is a power of p . Since the order of $f(a)$ divides the order of a , it is also a power of p . But p does not divide $|St(R)/R|$, so the only possibility is that $f(a)$ has order 1, i.e. $f(a) = e$. But this means that $a \in \ker f = R$. This shows that $Q \subseteq R$. In particular, every p -subgroup of G is contained in a Sylow p -subgroup.

Suppose now that we take for Q a Sylow p -subgroup of G . Then for any fixed point R of Q on $O(P)$ we have $Q \subseteq R$. But Q and R have the same number of elements, so $Q = R$. This shows that $Q \in O(P)$ and that Q is the unique fixed point of the action of Q on $O(P)$. Since Q was arbitrary, we see that all Sylow p -subgroups belong to $O(P)$. In other words, $O(P) = Syl_p$, i.e. G acts transitively on Syl_p . In particular, $|Syl_p||G|$. Since Q is the unique fixed point of the action of Q on Syl_p , Rule 3 shows that $p||Syl_p| - 1$.

We can summarize our investigation in the following fundamental theorem, called **Sylow Theorem**:

Theorem 4. (Sylow Theorem) *Let G be a finite group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$. Then:*

- G has at least one Sylow p -subgroup
- any two Sylow p -subgroups are conjugate in G
- the number t_p of Sylow p -subgroups divides $|G|$ and $p \nmid (t_p - 1)$
- every p -subgroup of G is contained in a Sylow p -subgroup