



Modularity in Finite Groups: Characterizing Groups with Modular σ -Subnormal Subgroups

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Published Online: 21 December 2023 Corresponding Author: Michael N. John	This research investigates finite groups in the context of partitions of prime numbers, denoted as σ . Specifically, we explore the characteristics of groups where every σ -subnormal subgroup is modular. The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the structural properties that contribute to modularity within finite groups, shedding light on a significant aspect of group theory.
KEYWORDS: Finite Groups, Prime Partitions, Subnormal Subgroups, Modularity, Structural Properties, Partitioned Primes, Group Structure.	

1. INTRODUCTION

Group theory plays a pivotal role in various mathematical disciplines, and understanding the structural properties of finite groups is essential for advancing our comprehension of mathematical systems. [1]. In this seminal work, Gorenstein provides a comprehensive overview of finite group theory, laying the groundwork for understanding various structural aspects of finite groups. This paper focuses on finite groups in the context of prime partitions, denoted as σ , and aims to explore the intriguing relationship between the modularity of subnormal subgroups and specific characteristics of these groups. See [2]’s book is a modern exposition on finite group theory. It offers a contemporary perspective on the understanding of this paper. For finitely generated subgroup and its rank see [3], [4] and [5]. Some of the concepts of modularity and its application to computational cryptography is seen in [6] and [7].

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let’s delve into the preliminary concepts of group theory with a more mathematical formulation.

Basic Definitions in Group Theory 2.1.

Group: Let G be a set with an operation $*$: $G \times G \rightarrow G$. G is a group if it satisfies the following conditions:

- **Closure:** For all $a, b \in G$, $a * b \in G$.

- **Associativity:** For all $a, b, c \in G$, $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$.
- **Identity Element:** There exists an element $e \in G$ such that for all $a \in G$, $a * e = e * a = a$.
- **Inverses:** For every $a \in G$, there exists an element $a^{-1} \in G$ such that $a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$.

Subgroup: Let H be a subset of a group G . H is a subgroup of G if it forms a group under the same operation.

Cosets: For a subgroup H of a group G and $g \in G$, the left coset of H containing g is defined as $gH = \{gh \mid h \in H\}$.

Lagrange’s Theorem: If G is a finite group and H is a subgroup of G , then the order of H divides the order of G .

Prime Partitions 2.2.

Prime Partition: Given a positive integer n , a prime partition of n is a representation of n as a sum of prime numbers, disregarding the order of the summands.

Relevance in Finite Groups: Prime partitions are relevant in understanding the structure of finite groups, particularly in the context of Sylow theorems and the classification of finite simple groups.

Subnormal Subgroups 2.3.

Normal Subgroup: A subgroup H of a group G is normal if, for every $g \in G$, $gHg^{-1} = H$.

Subnormal Subgroup: A subgroup H of a group G is subnormal if there exists a series of subgroups $\{H_i\}$ such that $H=H_0$, $H_k=G$, and H_i is normal in H_{i+1} for each i .

Modularity 2.4.

Modular Groups: A group is modular if all its Sylow subgroups are normal. That is, a group G is **modular** if, for every prime factor p of $|G|$, every Sylow p -subgroup of G is a normal subgroup of G

Modularity Theorem: If a group is a product of two subnormal subgroups, then it is itself subnormal.

These mathematical formulations lay the groundwork for our rigorous investigation into the structural properties that contribute to modularity within finite groups, shedding light on a significant aspect of group theory.

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Prime Partitions (σ) 3.1. Given the set of prime numbers $P=\{2,3,5,7,11,\dots\}$, a **prime partition**, denoted as σ , is a partition of P into distinct non-empty subsets.

Formally, let $\{A_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a partition of P (i.e., $\cup_{i \in I} A_i = P$ and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$). Then, $\sigma = \{A_i\}_{i \in I}$ is a prime partition.

Examples 3.1.1

Trivial Example: Let $\sigma_1 = \{\{2\}, \{3\}, \{5\}, \{7\}, \{11\}, \dots\}$. This is a prime partition where each prime number is in its own subset.

Non-trivial Example: Let $\sigma_2 = \{\{2,5\}, \{3,11\}, \{7\}, \{13,17,19\}, \dots\}$. Here, the prime numbers are partitioned into subsets based on some criteria (e.g., sum, difference, etc.).

Partition with Infinite Sets: Let $\sigma_3 = \{\{2\}, \{3,5\}, \{7,11,13\}, \{17,19,23,29\}, \dots\}$. In this case, the subsets may contain an infinite number of primes.

Prime partitions provide a way to organize and study the set of prime numbers based on different criteria or properties, offering insights into the distribution and relationships among prime numbers. The examples illustrate various ways in which prime numbers can be grouped into distinct subsets within a prime partition.

Subnormal Subgroup 3.2. Let G be a group, and let H be a subgroup of G . The subgroup H is said to be **subnormal** in G if there exists a chain of subgroups $\{H_i\}_{i=0}^k$ such that:

1. $H=H_0$ and $H_k=G$.
2. For each $i=0,1,\dots,k-1$, the subgroup H_i is normal in H_{i+1} .

In other words, H is subnormal in G if there is a series of subgroups starting from H and ending with the whole group G , and each subgroup in the series is normal in the next one.

Examples 3.2.1

Trivial Example: Consider the group $G=Z_2 \times Z_2$, where Z_2 is the cyclic group of order 2. The subgroup $H=\{(0,0),(1,0)\}$ is subnormal in G because it is normal in G itself.

Non-Trivial Example: Let $G=S_4$, the symmetric group on 4 elements. Consider the subgroup $H=\{(1),(12)(34),(13)(24),(14)(23)\}$, which is the Klein four-group. This subgroup is subnormal in G as there is a chain of subgroups leading from H to G .

Infinite Group Example: Consider the group $G=Z$, the additive group of integers. The subgroup $H=2Z$ (the set of even integers) is subnormal in G since H is normal in G .

Subnormal subgroups provide a way to understand the structure of a group by examining its nested normal subgroups. These subgroups are useful in various areas of group theory, including the study of solvable groups and the composition series of groups.

Modular Subgroup 3.3. Let G be a modular group, and let H be a modular subgroup of G . The index of H in G is denoted as $[G:H]$, and it represents the number of left cosets of H in G . If $[G:H]$ is relatively prime to $|G|$, i.e., $\gcd([G:H],|G|)=1$, then H is said to be a modular **subgroup with relatively prime index**.

Example 3.2.1

Consider the group $G=S_3$, the symmetric group on 3 elements. Let $H=\{(1),(12)\}$, the subgroup generated by a 2-cycle. The index of H in G is $[G:H]=3$, which is relatively prime to $|G|=6$. Therefore, H is a subgroup with relatively prime index.

4. CENTRAL IDEA

The central idea revolves around investigating finite groups in which every σ -subnormal subgroup exhibits modularity. Our aim is to identify and characterize the structural features that contribute to this unique property, shedding light on the interplay between prime partitions, subnormality, and modularity within the context of finite groups.

Lemma 4.1. Every subgroup of a finite group is subnormal.

Proof

Base Case: Consider a finite group G of order $n=1$. In this case, the only subgroup is G itself, and G is trivially subnormal in itself.

Inductive Step: Assume that every subgroup of a group of order k is subnormal for $1 \leq k < n$. We aim to show that every subgroup of a group of order n is subnormal.

Let H be a subgroup of G with order m . By Lagrange's theorem, the order of H divides the order of G , i.e., m divides n .

Now, consider the left cosets of H in G : $H, g_1H, g_2H, \dots, g_kH$, where g_i are distinct elements of G .

Define the subgroup $K=g_1Hg_1^{-1}$. Note that K is isomorphic to H since conjugation by g_1 is an isomorphism. Therefore, K also has order m .

Now, we have the chain of subgroups: $H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq g_1Hg_1^{-1} \trianglelefteq \dots$

By the inductive hypothesis, K is subnormal in $g_1Hg_1^{-1}$, and by definition of subnormality, H is subnormal in $g_1Hg_1^{-1}$.

Since g_1 was an arbitrary element of G , this holds for all elements of G . Therefore, H is subnormal in G .

By induction, the statement holds for all finite groups.

This completes the proof of Lemma 4.1 using induction and the concept of cosets.

Proposition 4.2: If G is a finite group and H is a σ -subnormal subgroup, then H is modular.

Proof

Step 1: Subnormal Implies Normal Series: Let $H_0=H, H_1, \dots, H_k=G$ be a subnormal series for H in G . That is, each H_i is normal in H_{i+1} .

Step 2: Induction on the Length of the Series:

Base Case: When $k=1$, H is normal in G , and all Sylow subgroups are normal by definition. Thus, the base case holds.

Inductive Step: Assume the proposition is true for subnormal series of length $k-1$, and let's consider a subnormal series of length k . We want to show that H is modular.

Consider the factor group H_1/H_0 . By the induction hypothesis, H_1/H_0 is modular. Now, we can use the Correspondence Theorem, which states that there is a one-to-one correspondence between subgroups of G containing H_0 and subgroups of G/H_0 .

Step 3: Relationship Between Subgroups and Sylow Subgroups: Let P_1, P_2, \dots, P_r be the distinct Sylow subgroups of G . Now, consider the corresponding subgroups $P_1H_0, P_2H_0, \dots, P_rH_0$ in G/H_0 . Since H_1/H_0 is modular, each of these subgroups is normal in G/H_0 .

Step 4: Lifting to the Original Group: Now, use the Correspondence Theorem to lift these subgroups back to subgroups of G containing H_0 . Denote these lifted subgroups as Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_r .

Step 5: Sylow Subgroups are Normal: Since each P_iH_0 is normal in G/H_0 , and Q_i corresponds to P_iH_0 , each Q_i is normal in G .

Step 6: Conclusion: Therefore, H is a subgroup of G whose index is relatively prime to $|G|$. By definition, H is a modular subgroup.

This completes the proof by establishing the relationship between prime partitions and modularity within subnormal subgroups.

Theorem 4.3. A finite group G has every σ -subnormal subgroup modular if and only if G is a solvable group.

Proof.

1. G Solvable \Rightarrow Every σ -subnormal Subgroup is Modular

Assume G is solvable. By the definition of solvability, there exists a composition series $\{e\}=G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq G_k=G$ such that each factor group G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian.

Now, consider a σ -subnormal subgroup H of G . By definition, there exists a chain of subgroups $H=H_0 \trianglelefteq H_1 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq H_m=G$ such that each H_i is normal in H_{i+1} .

Since G is solvable, the composition series above ensures that G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian. By the Correspondence Theorem, each factor group H_{i+1}/H_i is isomorphic to a factor group of G_{i+1}/G_i , which is abelian. Therefore, each H_{i+1}/H_i is abelian, making H modular.

2. Every σ -subnormal Subgroup of G is Modular $\Rightarrow G$ is Solvable

Now, assume that every σ -subnormal subgroup of G is modular.

Consider a composition series for $\{e\}=G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq G_k=G$

We want to show that each factor group G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian.

Proof by Contradiction

Suppose there exists some i such that G_{i+1}/G_i is not abelian.

Consider the factor group G_{i+1}/G_i and the natural projection map $\pi: G_{i+1} \rightarrow G_{i+1}/G_i$.

Now, let $N=\ker(\pi)$. Since G_{i+1}/G_i is not abelian, N is a non-trivial normal subgroup of G_{i+1} . By the Correspondence Theorem, N corresponds to a σ -subnormal subgroup H of G . However, H is not modular, contradicting our assumption. Therefore, our assumption that there exists i such that G_{i+1}/G_i is not abelian is false.

This implies that every factor group G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian, and hence, G is solvable.

Thus, we have shown both implications, completing the proof of Theorem 4.3.

Theorem 4.4. Characterization of the structure of finite groups with modular σ -subnormal subgroups.

Proof.

Step 1: Forward Direction (If): Assume that every σ -subnormal subgroup H of G is modular. We aim to show that G is solvable.

Consider a composition series for $G: 1=G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq G_n=G$,

where each G_{i+1}/G_i is simple.

Let H be a maximal σ -subnormal subgroup of G . We claim that $H \trianglelefteq G$.

Assume, for the sake of contradiction, that $H \not\trianglelefteq G$. By the Correspondence Theorem, there exists a simple group L such that $H \cap L \trianglelefteq L$, where L is a composition factor of G . Let $N=H \cap L$.

Since H is σ -subnormal, $[G:H]$ is relatively prime to $|H|$, and since L is simple, $[G:N]=[G:H]$ is relatively prime to $|N|=|H \cap L|$. Thus, $N \trianglelefteq H \cap L \trianglelefteq L$, and by simplicity of L , $N=1$ or $N=L$.

If $N=1$, then $H \cap L=1$, and by the isomorphism theorems, HL is isomorphic to $H \times L$, contradicting the maximality of H .

If $N=L$, then $L \leq H$, and again, HL is isomorphic to $H \times L$, contradicting the maximality of H .

Therefore, our assumption that $H \not\trianglelefteq G$ is false, and $H \trianglelefteq G$.

Now, since H is σ -subnormal and normal in G , the factor group G/H inherits the property that every subgroup is σ -subnormal and, consequently, modular. By induction, we can extend this argument to the entire composition series of G .

This implies that every composition factor G_{i+1}/G_i is solvable, making G solvable.

Step 2: Reverse Direction (Only If): Assume that G is solvable. We aim to show that every σ -subnormal subgroup H of G is modular.

Consider a σ -subnormal subgroup H of G . We proceed by induction on the length of the σ -subnormal chain for H .

Base Case: If H is a maximal σ -subnormal subgroup, then $[G:H]$ is relatively prime to $|H|$, and hence H is modular.

Inductive Step: Suppose that every σ -subnormal subgroup of length k is modular. Consider a σ -subnormal subgroup H with a chain of length $k+1$:

$$H_0 \trianglelefteq H_1 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq H_k \trianglelefteq H.$$

By the inductive hypothesis, each factor H_{i+1}/H_i is modular. Since $H_i \trianglelefteq H_{i+1}$ and $[H_{i+1}:H_i]$ is in the subset of primes specified by σ , it follows that $[H_{i+1}:H_i]$ is relatively prime to $|H_{i+1}/H_i|$.

Now, by the Chinese Remainder Theorem, the product of relatively prime numbers is itself relatively prime to each of them. Therefore, $[H:H_k]=[H:H_0]=[H:H_1] \cdot [H_1:H_2] \cdot \dots \cdot [H_{k-1}:H_k]$ is relatively prime to $|H/H_k|$.

Thus, by induction, every σ -subnormal subgroup H of G is modular.

Combining both directions, we have shown that a finite group G has every σ -subnormal subgroup modular if and only if G is solvable. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.4, providing a detailed characterization of the structure of finite groups with modular σ -subnormal subgroups in the context of prime partitions. You can also read [8]’s work on Solvable Groups With Monomial Characters Of Prime Power.

5. CONCLUSION

Our study offers a significant contribution to the understanding of finite groups with σ -subnormal subgroups, emphasizing the relationship between prime partitions and modularity. By shedding light on the structural properties that foster modularity within groups, we pave the way for future research endeavors and applications in diverse mathematical contexts. This research not only deepens our comprehension of group theory but also underscores the elegance and complexity inherent in the study of finite groups and their intricate substructures.

6. CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

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For more of our work, please see [9 - 21]

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