

# On normal Sylow subgroups\*

Claudi Lleyda Moltó

## The three Sylow Theorems

**Definition 1** (Sylow  $p$ -subgroup). Let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^n m$ , where  $p$  is a prime number and  $p \nmid m$ , such that there exists a subgroup  $H$  of order  $p^n$ . Then we say that  $H$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ .

**Theorem 2** (First Sylow Theorem). Let  $G$  be a finite group. Then for every prime  $p$  dividing the order of  $G$ . Then there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , and every  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  is in a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ .

**Theorem 3** (Second Sylow Theorem). Let  $G$  be a finite group. Then for every prime  $p$  dividing the order of  $G$ , the Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$  are conjugate.

**Theorem 4** (Third Sylow Theorem). Let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^n m$ , where  $p$  is a prime number and  $p \nmid m$ , and let  $n_p$  be the number of Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$ . Then

$$n_p \mid m \quad \text{and} \quad n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p},$$

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**Proposition 5.** Let  $G$  be a group with  $n_p = 1$ . Then its Sylow  $p$ -subgroup is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let  $H$  be the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . By the second Sylow Theorem we have that for every  $g \in G$  we find that

$$gHg^{-1} = H,$$

and  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . □

**Theorem 6.** Let  $G$  be a finite group such that there exist two different prime factors  $p$  and  $q$  dividing its order with  $n_p = 1$  and  $n_q = 1$ . Then

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\*  $n_p = \#\{H_p\}$

the elements of the Sylow  $\mathfrak{p}$ -subgroup commute with the elements of the Sylow  $\mathfrak{q}$ -subgroup of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{1}$  be the group identity of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$  and let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be the Sylow  $\mathfrak{p}$ -subgroup and  $\mathfrak{q}$  be the Sylow  $\mathfrak{q}$ -subgroup of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$ . By Lagrange's Theorem we find that

$$\mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{q} = \{\mathfrak{1}\},$$

and by the last proposition we have that  $\mathfrak{p}$  and  $\mathfrak{q}$  are normal subgroups of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$ .

Then, for every  $\mathfrak{a} \in \mathfrak{p}$  and every  $\mathfrak{b} \in \mathfrak{q}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1}\mathfrak{b}^{-1} &= (\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1})\mathfrak{b}^{-1} \in \mathfrak{q} \\ &= \mathfrak{a}(\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}^{-1}\mathfrak{b}^{-1}) \in \mathfrak{p} \\ &\in \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{q} = \{\mathfrak{1}\} \\ &= \{\mathfrak{1}\}, \end{aligned}$$

with which we find that  $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}$ . □

**Theorem 7.** Let  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$  be a finite group, let  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$  be the different primes dividing the order of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$  and let  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$  be the Sylow subgroups of  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e}$ . Then the Sylow subgroups  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$  are normal if and only if

$$\mathbf{B}\bar{e} \cong \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_r.$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mathbf{B}\bar{e} \cong \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_r$ . We have

$$|\mathbf{B}\bar{e}| = |\mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_r| = |\mathfrak{p}_1| \cdots |\mathfrak{p}_r|,$$

which implies  $\mathfrak{p}_i = \mathfrak{p}_i, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r = \mathfrak{p}_r$ , and by proposition 5 we find that the Sylow subgroups  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$  are normal.

Suppose now the Sylow subgroups  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$  are normal. By the previous theorem we have that the elements of two different groups commute. With this we find that the function

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p}: \mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_r &\longrightarrow \mathbf{B}\bar{e} \\ \mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_r &\longmapsto \mathfrak{a}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{a}_r \end{aligned}$$

is a homomorphism. The homomorphism  $\mathfrak{p}$  is injective, since the order of a product of commuting elements with relatively primer orders is equal to the product of their orders. We also have that

$$|\mathbf{B}\bar{e}| = |\mathfrak{p}_1 \times \dots \times \mathfrak{p}_r| = |\mathfrak{p}_1| \cdots |\mathfrak{p}_r|,$$

with which we find that  $\mathfrak{p}$  is a group isomorphism. □

<https://kconrad.math.uconn.edu/blurbs/grouptheory/sylowapp.pdf>.