

A NOTE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CERTAIN SUBGROUPS OF A FINITE GROUP

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A well-known result of G. Frobenius (cf. [2]) states that if \mathcal{K} is a normal subgroup of the finite group \mathcal{G} , then an irreducible \mathcal{G} -module (relative to any base field \mathfrak{F}) either remains irreducible as an \mathcal{K} -module or decomposes into a direct sum of conjugate irreducible \mathcal{K} -modules. Simple examples readily demonstrate that the conclusion of this theorem may hold even though \mathcal{K} is not normal. In §1 a version of the Frobenius result is stated and the converse considered. This opens the question: What is the relationship between a group \mathcal{G} and one of its subgroups \mathcal{K} if each irreducible \mathcal{G} -module over a field \mathfrak{F} remains irreducible as an \mathcal{K} -module? It is shown in §2 that for "most" fields \mathfrak{F} (the modular fields naturally cause a certain amount of difficulty) the answer is that \mathcal{G} is an extension of \mathcal{K} by an abelian group such that each conjugate class of \mathcal{K} is also a conjugate class of \mathcal{G} . To determine whether this last property leads to the conclusion that \mathcal{G} is the trivial extension of \mathcal{K} , extensions are considered in §3 and it is shown that the answer is in general negative. However, using a result due to M. Hall [4] it is proved that this latter property does imply that \mathcal{G} is the trivial extension of \mathcal{K} in many cases.

Since results contingent on absolute irreducibility are used in certain proofs,¹ it will be assumed throughout this note that \mathfrak{F} is always a splitting field for every irreducible representation of the groups being discussed.

1. Preliminary remarks. Let \mathcal{K} be a subgroup of the finite group \mathcal{G} and let \mathfrak{M} be a left (right) \mathcal{G} -module with base field \mathfrak{F} . If \mathfrak{N} is a left (right) \mathcal{K} -submodule of \mathfrak{M} and if $G \in \mathcal{G}$, then submodule $G\mathfrak{N}(N G)$ of \mathfrak{M} is said to be a conjugate of \mathfrak{N} relative to \mathcal{G} . Obviously it need not be an \mathcal{K} -module.

Now the key to the Frobenius Theorem is the result [2]:

If \mathcal{K} is a normal subgroup of \mathcal{G} then an irreducible \mathcal{G} -module \mathfrak{M} contains an irreducible \mathcal{K} -submodule \mathfrak{N} which has the property that each conjugate of \mathfrak{N} relative to \mathcal{G} is also an \mathcal{K} -module.

Consideration of the converse proposition leads to the following:

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¹ It was pointed out by the referee that Theorem 3, for example, may be false if \mathfrak{F} is not a splitting field for every irreducible representation of G and H . The symmetric group on three elements, its normal subgroup, and the rational field illustrate this possibility.

THEOREM 1. *If \mathcal{K} is a subgroup of \mathcal{G} such that each irreducible \mathcal{G} -module \mathcal{M} over a field \mathfrak{F} contains an irreducible \mathcal{K} -submodule \mathcal{U} all of whose conjugates relative to \mathcal{G} are also \mathcal{K} -modules, then each irreducible \mathcal{K} -module remains irreducible as an \mathcal{K} -module, where \mathcal{K} is the minimal normal subgroup of \mathcal{G} which contains \mathcal{K} .*

Let \mathcal{M} be an irreducible left \mathcal{G} -module. Since \mathcal{K} is normal in \mathcal{G} , \mathcal{M} is a direct sum of conjugate irreducible left \mathcal{K} -modules, \mathcal{N}_i , each of dimension m relative to \mathfrak{F} : $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{N}_1 + \cdots + \mathcal{N}_n$, $n \geq 1$. On the other hand, from the hypothesis \mathcal{M} contains an irreducible left \mathcal{K} -submodule \mathcal{U} all of whose conjugates relative to \mathcal{G} are also \mathcal{K} -modules, necessarily irreducible. Now let $G \in \mathcal{G}$, $H \in \mathcal{K}$; then $G\mathcal{U}$ is an \mathcal{K} -module and therefore $(G^{-1}HG)\mathcal{U} = G^{-1}H(G\mathcal{U}) = G^{-1}(G\mathcal{U}) = \mathcal{U}$. So \mathcal{U} , of dimension u over \mathfrak{F} , is an irreducible \mathcal{K} -module. Therefore $m = u$ and since each \mathcal{N}_i is also a left \mathcal{K} -module it must remain irreducible as an \mathcal{K} -module. As every irreducible \mathcal{K} -module is \mathcal{K} -isomorphic with a submodule of a \mathcal{G} -module, the result follows.

This interesting relationship between \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{K} will be investigated in the remainder of the paper.

2. Property \mathcal{g} . To simplify matters we introduce the following definition. A subgroup \mathcal{K} of the group \mathcal{G} is said to possess property \mathcal{g} relative to the field F if each irreducible \mathcal{G} -module over \mathfrak{F} remains irreducible as an \mathcal{K} -module.

THEOREM 2. *If \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{g} relative to \mathfrak{F} then \mathcal{K} is normal in \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{K} is an abelian group if either of the following conditions is satisfied:*

(i) *The radical $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{G})$ of the group algebra $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G})$ of \mathcal{G} over F equals $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}) \cdot \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{K})$, where $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{K})$ is the radical of $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{K})$, the group algebra of \mathcal{K} over \mathfrak{F} .*

(ii) *The characteristic of \mathfrak{F} is p and \mathcal{K} is a Sylow p -subgroup of \mathcal{G} .*

Let \mathfrak{S} be the ideal of $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{K})$ which has as its basis the differences $H_i - H_j$, all $H_i, H_j \in \mathcal{K}$. Then \mathcal{K} is normal in \mathcal{G} if and only if the left ideal $\mathfrak{L} = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}) \cdot \mathfrak{S}$ is a two-sided ideal in $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G})$. Now (i) implies that $\mathfrak{L} \supseteq \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{G})$ since $\mathfrak{S} \supseteq \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{K})$, so it will be sufficient to show that the image $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$ of \mathfrak{L} in $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}) - \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{G})$ is an ideal. $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})$ contains an algebra $\mathcal{D} \cong \bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{K})$ and $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{U} \oplus \mathcal{V}$ with $\mathcal{U} \cong \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{K}) - \mathfrak{S}$ and of dimension one over \mathfrak{F} . Then $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G}) = \bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{D} = \bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{U} + \bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{V}$, a direct sum of left ideals of $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})$, with $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{V} \cong \bar{\mathfrak{L}}$. But $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{U}$ and $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$ are right \mathcal{K} -modules, so if \mathcal{V} is a minimal right ideal of $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})$, hence an irreducible right \mathcal{K} -module, it must lie entirely in $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})\mathcal{U}$ or $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$. Hence $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$

is also a right ideal of $\overline{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathfrak{G})$ and so \mathfrak{K} is normal in \mathfrak{G} . Furthermore $\mathfrak{G}/\mathfrak{K}$ is represented isomorphically over $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) - \mathfrak{K} \cong \overline{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathfrak{G})\mathfrak{U}$ which is necessarily a sum of fields since \mathfrak{U} is one dimensional.

If (ii) is satisfied then all the irreducible representations of G are one dimensional since the only irreducible representation of \mathfrak{K} is the identity representation. Therefore there exists a minimal normal subgroup \mathfrak{K} such that $\mathfrak{G}/\mathfrak{K}$ is abelian and $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}/\mathfrak{K})$ is semisimple. It follows simply (cf. [3]) that \mathfrak{K} is necessarily of order p^a and hence $\mathfrak{K} = \mathfrak{K}$.

If \mathfrak{F} is restricted so that $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ is semisimple then the following deeper result may be obtained.

THEOREM 3. *If \mathfrak{K} is a subgroup of \mathfrak{G} possessing property \mathfrak{g} relative to the field \mathfrak{F} of characteristic 0 or p , $(p, o(G)) = 1$, then each conjugate class of \mathfrak{K} is also a conjugate class in \mathfrak{G} .*

Let $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{G})$ and $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{K})$ be the centers of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ and $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})$ respectively. We must show that $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{K})$ is a subalgebra of $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{G})$. Let \mathfrak{L} be a minimal left ideal of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$; hence it is an irreducible left \mathfrak{K} -module and so there exists a primitive idempotent $e \in \mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{K})$ such that $e\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{L} = \mathfrak{L}$. Now $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) = \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K}) \cdot \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ and $e\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) \supseteq \mathfrak{L}$, so if \mathfrak{L} is the set of all minimal left ideals \mathfrak{L} of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ such that $e\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{L} = \mathfrak{L}$, then $e\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) = \bigcup_{\mathfrak{L} \in \mathfrak{L}} \mathfrak{L}$. Since $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{K})$ may be written as $(e_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (e_m)$, each e_i a primitive idempotent, then $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) = e_1\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) + \cdots + e_m\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{K})\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ is a direct decomposition of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ into left ideals. Observing that $e_i - Ge_iG^{-1}$ annihilates $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ from the left, any $G \in \mathfrak{G}$, we conclude that $\mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{K}) \subset \mathfrak{C}(\mathfrak{G})$.

Indicative of the inconclusiveness of the modular case is

THEOREM 4. *If \mathfrak{K} is a subgroup of \mathfrak{G} possessing property \mathfrak{g} over the field \mathfrak{F} of characteristic p and if all the irreducible representations of \mathfrak{K} over \mathfrak{F} are one dimensional, then \mathfrak{G} is an extension of a p -group by an abelian group of order q , $(q, p) = 1$. Conversely, if \mathfrak{G} is an extension of a p -group by an abelian group of order q , $(q, p) = 1$, then any subgroup \mathfrak{K} of \mathfrak{G} possesses property \mathfrak{g} relative to a field of characteristic p .*

Since an irreducible \mathfrak{K} -module has dimension one, property \mathfrak{g} implies that each irreducible \mathfrak{G} -module is one dimensional over \mathfrak{F} . Therefore $\overline{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathfrak{G}) = \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G}) - \mathfrak{N}(\mathfrak{G})$ is a commutative algebra. If \mathfrak{G}' is the commutator subgroup of \mathfrak{G} and if \mathfrak{T} is the ideal of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{G})$ generated by the differences $G_i - G_j$, all $G_i, G_j \in \mathfrak{G}'$, then clearly $\mathfrak{T} \subseteq \mathfrak{N}(\mathfrak{G})$. This means that \mathfrak{G}' is a p -group (cf. [3]), and the remainder of the theorem is obvious.

Throughout the remainder of the paper the field \mathfrak{F} will be assumed to have characteristic 0 or p with $(p, g) = 1$, g the order of \mathcal{G} . Then the next result completely characterizes property \mathcal{S} over \mathfrak{F} .

THEOREM 5. *Let \mathcal{K} be a normal subgroup of \mathcal{G} of order h and let \mathcal{K} contain s \mathcal{K} -conjugate classes. Then \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{S} over \mathfrak{F} if and only if \mathcal{G} contains ns \mathcal{G} -conjugate classes, where $g = hn$.*

Let e be a primitive idempotent from the center of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$. Then $\mathfrak{T} = e\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$ is a minimal two-sided ideal of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$ of order t^2 . If \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{S} , then by Theorem 3 e is a central idempotent of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ and therefore $\mathfrak{B} = e\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ is a two-sided ideal of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ of order nt^2 . Since \mathfrak{T} is orthogonal with $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K}) - \mathfrak{T}$ it follows that each minimal \mathcal{K} -submodule of \mathfrak{B} is isomorphic with a minimal \mathcal{K} -submodule of \mathfrak{T} and hence is of order t . Then it follows from property \mathcal{S} that each minimal left or right ideal of \mathfrak{B} is of order t , and therefore \mathfrak{B} is expressible as a direct sum of n two-sided ideals of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$, each of order t^2 . Since the dimension of the center of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$ is s this implies that $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ decomposes into a direct sum of ns minimal ideals. Hence \mathcal{G} contains ns conjugate classes.

Conversely, suppose \mathcal{G} possesses ns conjugate classes. Since \mathcal{K} has s conjugate classes, $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K}) = \mathfrak{T}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{T}_s$ and this decomposition is unique. Now if $G \in \mathcal{G}$, $A \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$, the mapping $\theta_G: A \rightarrow A^G = GAG^{-1}$ is an automorphism of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$ and \mathfrak{T}_i^G is a minimal ideal \mathfrak{T}_j of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$. Therefore, under the set of all automorphisms induced by inner automorphisms of \mathcal{G} , the minimal ideals \mathfrak{T} of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{K})$ separate into non-overlapping sets of transitivity, S_1, \dots, S_m . That is, if S_i consists of the ideals $\mathfrak{T}_{i,1}, \dots, \mathfrak{T}_{i,d(i)}$, then $\mathfrak{T}_{ij}^G = \mathfrak{T}_{ik}$, $1 \leq k \leq d(i)$, for any $G \in \mathcal{G}$, and given any pair \mathfrak{T}_{ip} and \mathfrak{T}_{iq} there exists an element G in \mathcal{G} such that $\mathfrak{T}_{iq} = \mathfrak{T}_{ip}^G$. Then $\mathfrak{B}_i = (\mathfrak{T}_{i,1} + \cdots + \mathfrak{T}_{i,d(i)})\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ is a two-sided ideal of $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ of order $nt_i^2d(i)$, t_i^2 the order of \mathfrak{T}_{ij} .

Let \mathfrak{L} be a minimal left ideal of \mathfrak{B}_i . Then $\mathfrak{T}_{ij}\mathfrak{L} \neq (0)$ for some j and therefore, because of the transitivity of S_i , for all j . Since $\mathfrak{T}_{ij}\mathfrak{L}$ is necessarily of order $\geq t_i$ and since $\mathfrak{T}_{ij}\mathfrak{T}_{ip} = \delta_{jq}\mathfrak{T}_{ij}$, this implies that the order of \mathfrak{L} is $\geq t_id(i)$. Therefore a minimal two-sided ideal of \mathfrak{B}_i is of order $\geq t_i^2[d(i)]^2$, and so no decomposition of \mathfrak{B}_i contains more than $n/d(i)$ two-sided ideals. Therefore $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ decomposes into a sum of not more than $n(1/d(1) + \cdots + 1/d(m))$ minimal ideals. However, since \mathcal{G} contains ns conjugate classes, $\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{G})$ decomposes into a direct sum of ns minimal ideals. Hence $d(1) = \cdots = d(m) = 1$, $m = s$, and each minimal left ideal \mathfrak{L} of \mathfrak{B}_i is of order t_i . Since \mathfrak{L} is a left \mathfrak{T}_i -module whose order equals the order of a minimal left ideal of \mathfrak{T}_i it follows that \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{S} .

Berman has proved [1] that if \mathcal{K} is a normal subgroup of \mathcal{G} such that \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{K} is cyclic of order n and if each of $s\mathcal{G}$ -conjugate classes C_i contained in \mathcal{K} splits into h_i \mathcal{K} -conjugate classes, then \mathcal{G} contains $n(h_1^{-1} + \cdots + h_s^{-1})$ conjugate classes. This result and the previous theorem yield a partial converse to Theorem 3:

THEOREM 6. *If \mathcal{G} is an extension of \mathcal{K} by a cyclic group and if each conjugate class of \mathcal{K} is also a conjugate class of \mathcal{G} , then \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{F} over \mathcal{F} .*

3. Group extensions by abelian groups. Obviously the trivial extension \mathcal{G} of a group \mathcal{K} by an abelian group \mathcal{Q} , $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{Q}$, contains a normal subgroup $\mathcal{K}' \cong \mathcal{K}$ possessing property \mathcal{F} over F . Is the trivial extension the only one for which this is so? We shall see that the answer to this depends on whether or not the order c of \mathcal{K} is prime to the order n of \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{K} .

If \mathcal{K} possesses property \mathcal{F} in \mathcal{G} then we have seen that \mathcal{K} is normal in \mathcal{G} and that \mathcal{G} induces class-preserving automorphisms on \mathcal{K} . Then the additional condition, $(c, n) = 1$, permits us to apply a result due to M. Hall [4, Theorem 6.1] and to conclude that \mathcal{G} is a trivial extension of \mathcal{K} .

In the other direction we prove the following:

LEMMA. *If \mathcal{K} is a group containing a q -subgroup \mathcal{Q} , q a prime, in its center, then there exists a nontrivial extension \mathcal{G} of \mathcal{K} such that \mathcal{G} contains a subgroup $\mathcal{K}' \cong \mathcal{K}$ possessing property \mathcal{F} in \mathcal{G} , \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{K}' of order q .*

Let A be a generator of a cyclic q -subgroup of \mathcal{K} which is of maximal order q^r among those contained in the center of \mathcal{K} . Let x be an indeterminate and define \mathcal{G} to be the set of all ordered pairs (x^i, H) where $0 \leq i < q$, $x^0 = 1$, and H is an element of \mathcal{K} . Then multiplication in \mathcal{G} is determined by the following definitions: $(x, H_0)^q = (1, A)$, where H_0 is the identity element of \mathcal{K} , and $(x^i, H_j)(x^k, H_n) = (x^m, A^t H_j H_n)$ where $i + j = m + tq$, $0 \leq m < q$. It is easy to verify that \mathcal{G} is a group containing a subgroup $\mathcal{K}' = (1, \mathcal{K}) \cong \mathcal{K}$ possessing property \mathcal{F} in \mathcal{G} . Furthermore \mathcal{G} is not isomorphic with the trivial extension of \mathcal{K} since it contains a cyclic q -subgroup of order q^{r+1} in its center.

To summarize these results:

THEOREM 7. *If a subgroup \mathcal{K} of a group \mathcal{G} possesses property \mathcal{F} relative to \mathcal{F} then \mathcal{G} may be a nontrivial extension of \mathcal{K} but only if the order of \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{K} is not prime to the order of \mathcal{K} .*

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A RING ADMITTING MODULES OF LIMITED DIMENSION

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Let K be a ring with unit. A module¹ M over K is said to be *finite dimensional* if it (i) is finitely based, and (ii) contains no infinite independent set. For such a module there must exist [1, Theorem 7, p. 245] an integer n such that all bases have length n (the *invariant basis number* property), and no independent set has length greater than n . It was shown in a recent paper [1, Theorem 6, p. 245] that this property carries downward with decreasing length of basis. That is: *If K admits a module of finite dimension n , then every module over K having a basis of length $\leq n$ is also finite dimensional.*

It was remarked (in [1]) that this leaves open the possibility that a ring could exist admitting only modules of limited dimension. That is, for some fixed integer n there might exist a ring K such that a module over K is finite dimensional if and only if it has a basis of length $\leq n$. It is the purpose of this paper to construct such a ring for arbitrary n .

Let R be the ring of (noncommutative) polynomials generated over the field of integers modulo 2 by a countably infinite set of symbols $\{x_i, y_j\}$, with $i = 1, \dots, m = (n+2)(n+1)$; $j = 1, 2, \dots$, where n is the fixed integer chosen. Let R' be the subring of R generated by the $\{x_i\}$. It is desired to order a (suitably restricted) set of n -dimensional row vectors of members of R' . Begin by ordering the set of all

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¹ Throughout this paper "module" will mean "left module."