

On Automorphic Classes of finite groups

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Abstract. Let G be a finite group and $x \in G$. $Cl_A(x) = \{\alpha(x) | \alpha \in Aut(G)\}$ denotes the automorphic class of x in G . In this paper some properties of finite groups are described via automorphic class and it is shown that if the number of automorphic classes of a given lower autonilpotent group G , is even then $|Aut(G)|$ is also even.

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1. Introduction

Let G be a finite group and A be its automorphism group. Additionally, let $L(G) = \{g \in G | \alpha(g) = g, \forall \alpha \in Aut(G)\}$ and $K(G) = \langle [g, \alpha] = g^{-1}g^\alpha | g \in G, \alpha \in Aut(G) \rangle$ be the absolute center and autocommutator subgroup of G respectively. The concepts of absolute center and autocommutator has been introduced by Hegarty in [2]. The autocommutator of higher weight is defined inductively as follows:

$[g, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i] = [[g, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{i-1}], \alpha_i]$, for all $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i \in Aut(G), i \geq 2$. The autocommutator subgroup of weight i is defined as:
 $K_i(G) = [G, \underbrace{Aut(G), \dots, Aut(G)}_{i \text{ times}}] = \langle [g, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i] | g \in G, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i \in Aut(G) \rangle$. Clearly

$K_i(G)$ is a characteristic subgroup of G , for all $i \geq 1$. Thus we have a descending chain of autocommutator subgroups $G = K_0(G) \supseteq K_1(G) \supseteq K_2(G) \supseteq \dots \supseteq K_i(G) \supseteq \dots$, called the lower autocentral series of G . A group G is said to be lower autonilpotent of class n if $K_n(G) = 1$ and $K_{n-1}(G) \neq 1$. See more in [1].

1.1. DEFINITION. Let G be a finite group. $H = St_A(x) = \{\alpha \in Aut(G) | \alpha(x) = x\}$ is called stabilizer of x in automorphism group of a group G .

Clearly, $H = St_A(x)$ is a subgroup of A . Since $Aut(G)$ acts as permutation group on G , define a relation \sim on G by $x \sim y$ if there exists $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ with $\alpha(x) = y$, for $x, y \in G$. It is clear that \sim is an equivalence relation and that G is partitioned into automorphism orbits. Let $Cl_A(x)$ be the orbit containing x which is called automorphic class of x in G . It is well-known that $|Cl_A(x)| = [Aut(G) : St_A(x)]$. Obviously if $Aut(G)$ is limited to $Inn(G)$, then $L(G) = Z(G)$ and automorphic class of G equals to conjugacy class of G . In the second section of this paper introductory properties of automorphic class of a given finite group are studied. In the final section, It is proved that even number of automorphic classes results in $Aut(G)$ of even order.

2. Some Properties of Automorphic Classes of finite groups

In the following example, we specify all automorphic classes of S_3 .

2.1. EXAMPLE. Let $S_3 \cong D_6 = \langle a, b | a^2 = b^3 = (ab)^2 = 1 \rangle$.
 $|Aut(S_3)| = 6$. Automorphisms of S_3 are

$$\begin{array}{lll} \alpha_1 : a \mapsto a, b \mapsto b & \alpha_2 : a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto b & \alpha_3 : a \mapsto ab^2, b \mapsto b \\ \alpha_4 : a \mapsto a, b \mapsto b^2 & \alpha_5 : a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto b^2 & \alpha_6 : a \mapsto ab^2, b \mapsto b^2. \end{array}$$

Hence S_3 has 3 automorphic classes as follows:

$$Cl_A(1) = \{1\}, Cl_A(a) = \{a, ab, a^2\}, Cl_A(b) = \{b, b^2\}$$

2.2. LEMMA. Let $Cl_A(x)$ be an automorphic class of G . Then $\langle Cl_A(x) \rangle$ is characteristic.

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2.3. LEMMA. Let H be a characteristic subgroup of finite group G and $|H| = p$ such that p is the least prime number that divides $|G|$, then $H \subseteq L(G)$.

2.4. THEOREM. If $|G| = |Aut(G)|$ and $|Cl_A(x)| = 2$ for some $x \in G$, then $Aut(G)$ has a non trivial normal subgroup.

3. Relation Between Automorphic classes Cardinality and $|Aut(G)|$

In this section we study relation between automorphic classes cardinality and the order of automorphism group of a finite group G . Furthermore, we prove that for lower autonilpotent groups, even automorphic classes cardinality results in automorphism group of even order.

3.1. THEOREM. Let G be a finite group and x is an element in G . Then there is a one to one correspondence between elements of $Cl_A(x)$ and right cosets of $St_A(x)$ in $Aut(G)$.

3.2. THEOREM. Let G be a finite group then $|G| = L(G) + \sum_{i=1}^r [Aut(G) : St_A(g_i)]$ where $g_1, \dots, g_r \in G - L(G)$.

3.3. THEOREM. Let G be a finite group then $k^*(G)$, the number of automorphic classes of G is $k^*(G) = \frac{1}{|Aut(G)|} \sum_{x \in G} |St_A(x)|$.

An automorphism α of a group G is said to be Inverse Point Free (IPF) if $\alpha(x) = x^{-1} \Rightarrow x = 1 \ \forall x \in G$. Accordingly, G is called IPF if every $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ is IPF.

3.4. LEMMA. ([4], Theorem 1.) G is IPF if and only if $|G| \parallel |Aut(G)|$ is an odd number.

3.5. THEOREM. Let G be a lower autonilpotent group. If the number of automorphic classes of G is even, then $|Aut(G)|$ is also even.

PROOF. If $|Aut(G)|$ is odd, then G is even and hence $|G| \parallel |Aut(G)|$ is also even. Therefore by Lemma 3.4 G is not IPF which is a contradiction with lower autonilpotency of G and the proof is completed. \square

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