

Sufficient condition for π -closure of a finite group

By YAKOV BERKOVICH (Ramat-Gan)

Let π and π' be complementary sets of primes. A finite group G is called π -closed if it contains a normal π -Hall subgroup. By $\pi(n)$ we denote the set of all prime divisors of a positive integer n . Now $\pi(G) = \pi(|G|)$ where $|G|$ is the order of G .

Let $\text{Irr}(G)$ be the set of all irreducible complex characters of G (only finite groups are considered). By $\text{Irr}_1(G)$ denote the set of all non-linear characters in $\text{Irr}(G)$. Then $\text{Lin}(G) = \text{Irr}(G) - \text{Irr}_1(G)$ is the set of all linear characters of G .

If $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ then

$$Z(\chi) = \{x \in G \mid |\chi(x)| = \chi(1)\},$$

the quasi-kernel of χ , and

$$\ker \chi = \{x \in G \mid \chi(x) = \chi(1)\}.$$

It is known that $Z(\chi)/\ker \chi = Z(G/\ker \chi)$ is the center of $G/\ker \chi$.

A character $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ may or not satisfy the following conditions:

$$(*) \pi(G/Z(\chi)) \subset \pi(\chi(1)) \cup \pi,$$

$$(**) \pi(G/\ker \chi) \subset (\pi\chi(1)) \cup \pi$$

for some fixed set π of primes.

Obviously, for given $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$, $(**) \Rightarrow (*)$. If $(*)$ holds then

$$\pi(G/Z(\chi)) \cap \pi' = \pi(\chi(1)) \cap \pi',$$

and analogously for $(**)$.

Theorem 1. Suppose that π is a fixed set of primes and for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ the condition $(*)$ holds. Then

- (a) G contains a normal π -Hall subgroup H , i.e. G is π -closed.
- (b) G/H is nilpotent.

Corollary 1. 1. If $(**)$ holds for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}_1(G)$ then

- (a) G contains a normal π -Hall subgroup H .
- (b) G/H is an abelian or a prime-power group.
- (c) If $H < G$ and $|G : H|$ is the squarefree number, then G is solvable.

Corollary 2. A group G is a π -group $\Leftrightarrow (**)$ holds for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. If G is nilpotent then $\pi(G/Z(\chi)) = \pi(\chi(1))$. Hence we may assume that G is non-nilpotent. If G is a π -group then $(*)$ holds. Hence we may assume that G is not a π -group.

- (i) G is not a π' -group.

PROOF. Suppose that G is a π' -group and prove that G is nilpotent. Assume that G is a counterexample of minimal order. Then G contains only one minimal normal subgroup R . By induction, G/R is nilpotent. Since G is non-nilpotent, $R \not\leq Z(G)$. If $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ and $R \not\leq \ker \chi$ then $\ker \chi = 1$. Since $Z(G) = 1$ we have $Z(\chi) = 1$ and $\pi(\chi(1)) = \pi(G)$ by $(*)$.

Let R be a p -group, $p \in \pi'$. Since G is non-nilpotent, $R \not\leq \phi(G)$, the Frattini subgroup of G (Wielandt). Therefore there exists a maximal subgroup M of G with $R \not\leq M$. Then $G = MR$ and since $M \cap R$ is normal in G then $M \cap R = 1$. Take $P \in \text{Syl}_p(M)$. Since $N_{PR}(P) > P$ and $M \leq N_G(P)$, then $N_G(P) = G$. In virtue of the uniqueness of R , we have $P = 1$, i.e., M is a p' -subgroup. Then by Ito's Theorem [2, Th. 6.15] p does not divide $\chi(1)$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$. Take $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ with $R \not\leq \ker \chi$; then $\ker \chi = 1$ and $\pi(\chi(1)) = \pi(G) \supseteq \{p\}$ by $(*)$, a contradiction.

Hence R is not a prime-power subgroup. Then R is non-solvable so that R is not p' -closed for all $p \in \pi(R)$. Take $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ for some $p \in \pi(R)$. By Tate's Theorem [2, Th. 6.31]

$$P \cap R \not\leq \phi(P)$$

Since $P' \leq \phi(P)$ then $P \cap R \not\leq P'$. So there exists $\lambda \in \text{Lin}(P)$ such that $P \cap R \not\leq \ker \lambda$. Let $\text{Irr}(\lambda^G)$ be the set of all irreducible components of the induced character λ^G . By reciprocity $\ker \chi P \leq \ker \lambda$ for $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\lambda^G)$. Hence $P \cap R \not\leq \ker \chi \Rightarrow R \not\leq \ker \chi \Rightarrow \ker \chi = 1$. Since $Z(G) = 1$ then $Z(\chi) = 1$ and $\pi(G) = \pi(\chi(1))$ by $(*)$. Hence p divides $\chi(1)$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\lambda^G) \Rightarrow p$ divides $\lambda^G(1) = |G : P| \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, a contradiction. Therefore if G is a π' -group, then G is nilpotent. But we assumed earlier that G is non-nilpotent. Hence G is not a π' -group. $\square$

- (ii) G is π -closed.

PROOF. Assume that G is a counterexample of minimal order. Since all epimorphic images of G satisfy the condition of the Theorem, G contains only one minimal normal subgroup R . By induction G/R is π -closed. Hence $\pi(R) \not\leq \pi$, and there exists $p \in \pi(R) \cap \pi'$. Take $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$.

Suppose that $P \cap R \leq \phi(P)$. Then by Tate's Theorem [2, Th. 6.31] R has a normal p -Hall subgroup L . Since R is a minimal normal subgroup of G then $L = 1$ and $R = P \cap R \leq \phi(P)$. Using the modular law one obtains $R \leq \phi(G)$. By induction G/R contains a normal π -Hall subgroup T/R . Then T contains a π -Hall subgroup H , and all π -Hall subgroups are conjugate in T . Hence by Frattini's Lemma

$$G = TN_G(H) = RHN_G(H) = RN_G(H) = N_G(H),$$

and G is π -closed, a contradiction.

Therefore $P \cap R \not\leq \phi(P)$. Then, as in (i), there exists $\lambda \in \text{Lin}(P)$ such that $P \cap R \not\leq \ker \lambda$. If $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\lambda^G)$ then, as in (i), $\ker \chi = 1$. If $Z(G) > 1$ then $R \leq Z(G)$, and since G/R is π -closed G is π -closed, a contradiction. Therefore $Z(G) = 1$ so that $Z(\chi) = 1$. Then p divides $\chi(1)$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\lambda^G) \Rightarrow p$ divides $\lambda^G(1) = |G : P| \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, a contradiction.

Hence G contains a normal π -Hall subgroup H . Since the π' -group G/H satisfies the condition of the Theorem, G/H is nilpotent by (i). The Theorem is proved. $\square$

PROOF OF COROLLARY 1. Since $(**) \Rightarrow (*)$, G contains a normal π -Hall subgroup H and G/H is nilpotent by the Theorem. It is easy to see that a nilpotent π' -group satisfies the condition of the Theorem $\Leftrightarrow$ it is abelian or of prime-power order. Hence it remains to prove (c).

Suppose that $|G/H|$ is a squarefree number and $H < G$, but G is non-solvable. Then there exist the normal π -subgroups $K > L$ such that K/L is a non-solvable minimal normal subgroup of G/L . Let D a maximal normal subgroup of G such that $K \cap D = L$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $L = 1$. Then K is a minimal normal subgroup of G .

Suppose that $KD = G$. Then $G = K \times D$, and K is non-abelian simple, $D > 1$ is cyclic. Take $1_K \neq \varphi \in \text{Irr}(R)$ and faithful $\lambda \in \text{Irr}(D)$. Then $\chi = \varphi \times \lambda \in \text{Irr}(G)$ is faithful but $\pi(\chi(1)) \cup \pi = \pi \not\subseteq \pi(G)$, a contradiction to $(**)$.

Suppose that $KD < G$. Then KD/D is a proper minimal normal subgroup of G/D . Without loss of generality we may assume that $D = 1$. Then by the choice of D , the subgroup K is the only minimal normal subgroup of G . Suppose that $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ and $K \not\leq \ker \chi$. Then $\ker \chi = 1$ and $\chi \in \text{Irr}_1(G)$. Then by $(**)$ we have

$$\pi(G) \subseteq \pi \cup \pi(\chi(1)).$$

This means that $|G : H|$ divides $\chi(1)$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ with $H \not\leq \ker \chi$. Then G is a Frobenius group with the core H by Corollary 2.4 in [1]. Then H is nilpotent $\Rightarrow G$ is solvable, a contradiction. Corollary 1 is proved. $\square$

Obviously, Corollary 2 is a trivial consequence of Corollary 1.

Now we prove one criterion of solvability of a finite group G .

If $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ then we set

$$\sigma(\chi) = \pi(|G : Z(\chi)|/\chi(1)).$$

A group G is called a K -group if $\sigma(\chi(1)) \leq 1$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$.

We note that $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ is linear iff $Z(\chi) = G$.

Theorem 2. Suppose that G is a K -group, $\chi, \tau \in \text{Irr}(G)$.

- (a) If $Z(\chi) = Z(\tau)$ then $\sigma(\chi) = \sigma(\tau)$.
- (b) Set $\overline{G} = G/\ker \chi$. Then $\chi = \lambda^{\overline{G}}$ where $\lambda \in \text{Lin}(\overline{P}_1 \times \overline{Z}_1)$ where $\overline{P}_1$ is a p -subgroup of $\overline{G}$, $\overline{Z}_1 \leq Z(\overline{G})$.
- (c) G is solvable.
- (d) $F(G/Z(\chi))$, the Fitting subgroup of $G/Z(\chi)$, is a p -group if $\sigma(\chi) = \{p\}$.

PROOF. (a) We may assume that χ, τ are non-linear. Suppose that $\sigma(\chi) = \{p\}$, $\sigma(\tau) = \{q\}$ and $p \neq q$ (if $\sigma(\chi)$ is empty, then χ is linear [2, Th. 2.30] which is impossible). Set $\overline{G} = G/Z(\chi)$, $\overline{P} \in \text{Syl}_p(\overline{G})$, $\overline{Q} \in \text{Syl}_q(\overline{G})$. By the condition we have

$$|\overline{P}| \geq |\overline{G}|/\chi(1), \quad |\overline{Q}| \geq |\overline{G}|\tau(1).$$

Since $\chi(1)^2 \leq |G/Z(\chi)| = |\overline{G}|$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ [2, Th. 2.30] we have

$$|\overline{P}|^2 \geq (|\overline{G}|/\chi(1))^2 \geq |\overline{G}|,$$

$$|\overline{Q}|^2 \geq (|\overline{G}|/\tau(1))^2 \geq |\overline{G}|.$$

Let $|\overline{P}| > |\overline{Q}|$. Then

$$|\overline{G}| \geq |\overline{P}||\overline{Q}| > |\overline{Q}|^2 \geq |\overline{G}|,$$

a contradiction.

(b) Set $\overline{G} = G/\ker \chi$, $\overline{P} \in \text{Syl}_p(\overline{G})$, $\overline{H} = \overline{P}Z(\overline{G}) = \overline{P} \times \overline{Z}$ where the subgroup $\overline{Z} \leq Z(\overline{G})$ is cyclic. Let

$$\text{Irr}(\chi_H) = \{\vartheta_1, \dots, \vartheta_s\}, \quad \vartheta_1(1) \leq \dots \leq \vartheta_s(1).$$

The numbers $\vartheta_1(1), \dots, \vartheta_s(1)$ are powers of p [2, Th. 3.12].

Thus $\vartheta_1(1)$ divides $\chi(1)$. By the condition the number $|\overline{G} : \overline{H}|$ divides $\chi(1)$. Since $\vartheta_1(1)$ and $|\overline{G} : \overline{H}|$ are coprime, $|\overline{G} : \overline{H}|\vartheta_1(1) = \vartheta_1^{\overline{G}}(1)$ divides $\chi(1)$. Now $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\vartheta_1^{\overline{G}})$ implies $\chi = \vartheta_1^{\overline{G}}$. Since $\overline{H}$ as a nilpotent group is an M -group (b) follows by transitivity of induction.

(c) Suppose that G is a counterexample of minimal order. Since epimorphic images of a K -group are K -groups G contains only one minimal normal subgroup R , G/R is solvable, R is non-solvable and $Z(G) = 1$. Now if $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ with $R \not\leq \ker \chi$, then $Z(\chi) = 1$. Let X be the set of all faithful characters in $\text{Irr}(G)$. If $\chi \in X$ then $|G|/\chi(1)$ is a power of a fixed prime p by (a). Since R is non-solvable there exists $q \in \pi(R) - \{p\}$. Take $Q \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Then $Q \cap R \not\leq \phi(Q)$ [2, Th. 6.31]. Since $Q' \leq \phi(Q)$ then $Q \cap R \not\leq Q'$. Therefore there exists $\lambda \in \text{Irr}(Q)$ such that $Q \cap R \not\leq \ker \lambda$. If $\chi \in \text{Irr}(\lambda^G)$ then by reciprocity $R \not\leq \ker \chi$ so that $\text{Irr}(\lambda^G) \subseteq X$ and q divides $\lambda^G(1) = |G : Q| \not\equiv 0 \pmod{q}$, a contradiction.

(d) Suppose the contrary. Then $\overline{G} = G/Z(\chi)$ contains a non-identity normal abelian q -subgroup $\overline{Q}_1$ with a prime $q \neq p$. Take $\overline{Q} \in \text{Syl}(\overline{G})$. Obviously $\overline{Q}_1 \leq \overline{Q}$. Since $\overline{G}$ is a K -group, $|\overline{Q}|$ divides $\chi(1)$ by the condition. Take in $\overline{Q}_1$ a subgroup $\overline{Q}_0$ of order q . Then $\overline{Q}_0$ is subnormal in $\overline{G}$. Let Q_0 be the inverse image of $\overline{Q}_0$ in G . Then $|Q_0/\ker \chi : Z(\chi)/\ker \chi| = |\overline{Q}_0| = q$. Since $Z(\chi)/\ker \chi = Z(G/\ker \chi)$ then $Q_0/\ker \chi$ is an abelian subnormal subgroup of $G/\ker \chi$. By Reynolds' result (see Remark after Corollary 11.29 in [2]) $\chi(1)$ divides $|G/\ker \chi : Q_0/\ker \chi| = |\overline{G} : \overline{Q}_0|$. Since the q -part of the number $|\overline{G} : \overline{Q}_0|$ is less than $|\overline{Q}|$ then $|\overline{Q}|$ does not divide $\chi(1)$, a contradiction. $\square$

Remark. From assertion (b) of Theorem 2 follows that a K -group G is an M -group so that a K -group G is solvable by Taketa's Theorem [2, Corollary 5.13]. Our proof does not depend on Taketa's Theorem.

Note that the symmetric group S_4 is a K -group.

A group G is called a K_1 -group if for each $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ and for each maximal abelian normal subgroup $B/\ker \chi$ of $G/\ker \chi$ we have $|\pi(|G : B|/\chi(1))| \leq 1$.

Theorem 3. K_1 -groups are solvable.

This result is proved in the same manner as Theorem 2(c).

For related results see [3].

References

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YAKOV BERKOVICH
BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY
52900 RAMAT-GAN, ISRAEL

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