GROUPS WITH DECOMPOSABLE SET OF QUASINORMAL SUBGROUPS

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Communicated by V. Drensky

Abstract. A subgroup $H$ of a group $G$ is said to be quasinormal if $HX = XH$ for all subgroups $X$ of $G$. In this article groups are characterized for which the partially ordered set of quasinormal subgroups is decomposable.

1. Introduction. A partially ordered set $\mathcal{L}$ is said to be decomposable if it is isomorphic to the direct product of two non-trivial partially ordered sets. The structure of groups for which a certain relevant system $\mathcal{X}$ of subgroups is decomposable has been investigated for several choices of the system $\mathcal{X}$. In particular, about fifty years ago Suzuki [7] proved that the lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$ of all subgroups of a group $G$ is decomposable if and only if $G$ is the direct product of two periodic coprime non-trivial subgroups. Groups with decomposable lattice of normal subgroups have been later described by Curzio [2], and more recently decomposition problems for the ordered sets of subnormal, ascendant or other generalized normal subgroups have been studied (see [3], [4], [5]).

A subgroup $H$ of a group $G$ is said to be quasinormal (or permutable) if $HX = XH$ for every subgroup $X$ of $G$. Clearly the join of any set of quasinormal subgroups is likewise quasinormal, but the intersection of two quasinormal

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 20E15.

Key words: quasinormal subgroup, decomposable ordered set.
subgroups of a group need not be quasinormal. The aim of this article is to characterize groups $G$ for which the partially ordered set $qn(G)$ of all quasinormal subgroups is decomposable.

Let $G$ be a group, and let $H$ be a subgroup of $G$. The $H$-norm of $G$ is the subgroup $\ker(G : H)$ consisting of all elements $g$ of $G$ such that $X^g = X$ for each subgroup $X$ of $G$ containing $H$, i.e.

$$\ker(G : H) = \bigcap_{H \leq X} N_G(X).$$

Clearly, $H \leq \ker(G : H) \leq N_G(H)$, and $\ker(G : H) \leq \ker(G : K)$ if $H \leq K \leq G$. Moreover, the $\{1\}$-norm $\ker(G : \{1\})$ is the norm $N(G)$ of $G$, introduced by Baer [1]; it is well-known that the subgroup $N(G)$ is contained in the second term of the upper central series of $G$.

**Theorem.** Let $G$ be a group. The partially ordered set $qn(G)$ of all quasinormal subgroups of $G$ is decomposable if and only if $G = G_1 \times G_2$, where $G_1$ and $G_2$ are non-trivial subgroups of $G$ satisfying the following conditions:

(a) every quasinormal subgroup of $G_i$ is quasinormal in $G$ (for $i = 1, 2$);

(b) if $H_1$ and $H_2$ are quasinormal subgroups of $G_1$ and $G_2$, respectively, the factor groups $\ker(G_1 : H_1)/H_1$ and $\ker(G_2 : H_2)/H_2$ have no elements of the same prime order.

It should be observed that condition (a) in the above statement is not trivial, since quasinormal subgroups of direct factors need not be quasinormal in the whole group. To show this, let $H$ be a finite $p$-group ($p$ prime) containing a quasinormal non-normal subgroup $X$, and let $x$ and $h$ be elements of $X$ and $H$, respectively, such that $h^{-1}xh \notin X$; if $h$ has order $p^n$ and $\langle z \rangle$ is a cyclic group of order $p^n$, then $X$ is not quasinormal into the direct product $G = H \times \langle z \rangle$, since $X\langle hz \rangle \neq \langle hz \rangle X$.

Most of our notation is standard; in particular, if $H$ and $K$ are subgroups of a group $G$ with $H \leq K$, we shall denote by $[K/H]$ the set of all subgroups $X$ of $G$ such that $H \leq X \leq K$. We will use the monograph [6] as a general reference on quasinormal subgroups and lattice properties of groups.

2. Proof of the Theorem.

**Lemma 1.** Let $G$ be a group, and let $H$ be a quasinormal subgroup of $G$. Then every subgroup of $\ker(G : H)$ containing $H$ is quasinormal in $G$. 
Proof. Let $X$ be a subgroup of $G$ such that

$$H \leq X \leq \ker(G:H),$$

and let $Y$ be any subgroup of $G$. Since $X$ is contained in the normalizer of $HY$, it follows that the product $XY = X(HY)$ is a subgroup of $G$. Therefore $XY = YX$, and $X$ is a quasinormal subgroup of $G$. □

Lemma 2. Let the group $G = G_1 \times G_2$ be the direct product of two subgroups $G_1$ and $G_2$, and let $H$ be a subgroup of $G_1$ which is quasinormal in $G$. If $g$ is an element of $\ker(G_1 : H)$ such that the subgroup $\langle g, H \rangle$ is quasinormal in $G$ and the index $|\langle g, H \rangle : H|$ is a prime number, then $g$ belongs to $\ker(G : H)$.

Proof. Let $X$ be any subgroup of $G$ containing $H$, and assume by contradiction that $X^g \neq X$. Put $K = \langle g, H \rangle$ and $|\langle g, H \rangle : H| = p$, so that $g^p$ lies in $X$, and there exists an element $x$ of $X$ such that the conjugate $x^g$ does not belong to $\langle x \rangle H$. Write $x = x_1x_2$, with $x_1 \in G_1$ and $x_2 \in G_2$. Obviously

$$\langle x \rangle^{\langle x_1 \rangle H} = \langle x \rangle^H \leq \langle x \rangle H,$$

and hence $g \notin \langle x_1 \rangle H$. It follows that

$$H \leq K \cap \langle x_1 \rangle H < K,$$

and so $K \cap \langle x_1 \rangle H = H$. Since the subgroup $K$ is quasinormal in $G$, we have $xg = g^mhx^n$, where $h$ is an element of $H$ and $m,n$ are integers. Thus $$\langle x_1 \rangle g x_2 = xg = g^mhx^n = (g^mhx_1^n)x_2^n,$$

and hence $x_1g = g^mhx_1^n$ and $x_2 = x_2^n$. On the other hand, $g$ belongs to the subgroup $\ker(G_1 : H)$, and so $x^g = x_1^r h_1$, where $r$ is an integer and $h_1$ is an element of $H$. It follows that $g^mhx_1^n = gx_1^r h_1$, and $u = g^{m-1} h = x_1^r h_1 x_1^{-n}$ belongs to $K \cap \langle x_1 \rangle H = H$. Therefore

$$x^g = x_1^g x_2 = x_1^r h_1 x_2 = ux_1^n x_2 = ux^n$$

is an element of $\langle x \rangle H$, and this contradiction proves the lemma. □

Let $G$ be a group, and let $X$ be any subgroup of $G$. Since every join of quasinormal subgroups is likewise quasinormal, we can define the quasinormal core of $X$ (in $G$) as the largest quasinormal subgroup of $G$ which is contained in $X$. In particular, if $H$ and $K$ are quasinormal subgroups of a group $G$, the quasinormal core of $H \cap K$ in $G$ will be denoted by $H \wedge K$; then $H \cap K$ is quasinormal in $G$ if and only if $H \cap K = H \wedge K$. Note also that the partially
ordered set $qn(G)$ is a lattice, but it is not in general a sublattice of the subgroup lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$ of $G$.

**Proof of the Theorem.** Suppose first that the ordered set $qn(G)$ is decomposable, and let

$$\varphi : qn(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1 \times \mathcal{L}_2$$

be an order isomorphism, where $\mathcal{L}_1$ and $\mathcal{L}_2$ are non-trivial partially ordered sets. Clearly $\mathcal{L}_i$ has smallest element $O_i$ and largest element $I_i$ ($i = 1, 2$), and the preimages $G_1 = \varphi^{-1}(I_1, O_2)$ and $G_2 = \varphi^{-1}(O_1, I_2)$ are quasinormal subgroups of $G$ such that $G_1 G_2 = G$ and $G_1 \wedge G_2 = \{1\}$. If $a_1$ and $a_2$ are elements of $\mathcal{L}_1$ and $\mathcal{L}_2$, respectively, we have

$$(a_1, a_2) = \text{sup}\{ (a_1, O_2), (O_1, a_2) \}$$

and

$$(a_1, O_2) = \text{inf}\{ (a_1, a_2), (I_1, O_2) \}, \quad (O_1, a_2) = \text{inf}\{ (a_1, a_2), (O_1, I_2) \}.$$ 

It follows that, if $H$ is any quasinormal subgroup of $G$, then

$$H = (H \wedge G_1)(H \wedge G_2),$$

and so also

$$H = \langle H \cap G_1, H \cap G_2 \rangle.$$

Let $g$ be any element of $G_1$; then $G_2^g$ is a quasinormal subgroup of $G$, and hence

$$G_2^g = (G_2^g \wedge G_1)(G_2^g \wedge G_2) = (G_2 \wedge G_1)^g(G_2^g \wedge G_2) = G_2^g \wedge G_2,$$

so that $G_2^g \leq G_2$ and $G_2$ is normal in $G = G_1 G_2$. A similar argument shows that also $G_1$ is a normal subgroup of $G$; then $G_1 \cap G_2$ is normal in $G$, and so

$$G_1 \cap G_2 = G_1 \wedge G_2 = \{1\}.$$ 

Therefore $G = G_1 \times G_2$ is the direct product of its non-trivial subgroups $G_1$ and $G_2$. Let $X$ be any quasinormal subgroup of $G_1$. Then the subgroup $XG_2$ is quasinormal in $G$, and hence

$$XG_2 = (XG_2 \wedge G_1)(XG_2 \wedge G_2) = (XG_2 \wedge G_1)G_2.$$ 

As $XG_2 \wedge G_1$ is contained in $X$, it follows that $X = XG_2 \wedge G_1$ is a quasinormal subgroup of $G$. It can be proved similarly that every quasinormal subgroup of $G_2$ is also quasinormal in $G$. Let $H_1$ and $H_2$ be quasinormal subgroups of $G_1$ and $G_2$, respectively, and assume by contradiction that the factor groups
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ker(G_1 : H_1)/H_1 and ker(G_2 : H_2)/H_2 contain cyclic subgroups K_1/H_1 = \langle g_1H_1 \rangle and K_2/H_2 = \langle g_2H_2 \rangle, respectively, with the same prime order p. It follows from Lemma 1 that K_1 and K_2 are quasinormal in G_1 and G_2, respectively. Then H_1, H_2, K_1, K_2 are quasinormal subgroups of G, so that also H = H_1H_2 and K = K_1K_2 are quasinormal in G. Moreover, H is normal in K and

$$K/H = \langle g_1H \rangle \times \langle g_2H \rangle$$

is an elementary abelian group of order p^2. Let L be any subgroup of G such that H < L < K, and put L/H = \langle g_1^m g_2^n H \rangle. Application of Lemma 2 yields that g_1 \in ker(G : H_1) and g_2 \in ker(G : H_2), so that the subgroup \langle g_1, g_2 \rangle is contained in ker(G : H), and L = \langle g_1^m g_2^n, H \rangle is quasinormal in G by Lemma 1. Therefore the interval [K/H] of the lattice \mathcal{L}(G) is contained in qn(G), and it follows immediately that the lattice \mathcal{L}(K/H) \simeq [K/H] is decomposable. This contradiction proves that ker(G_1 : H_1)/H_1 and ker(G_2 : H_2)/H_2 have no elements of the same prime order.

Conversely, suppose that the group G = G_1 \times G_2 satisfies the conditions of the statement, and let H be any quasinormal subgroup of G. Put H_1 = H \cap G_1 and H_2 = H \cap G_2, and assume that the subgroup H_1H_2 is properly contained in H. Consider an element h of H \setminus H_1H_2, and write h = x_1 x_2 with x_1 \in G_1 and x_2 \in G_2. Thus x_1 \in K_1 \setminus H_1 and x_2 \in K_2 \setminus H_2, where K_1 = HG_2 \cap G_1 and K_2 = HG_1 \cap G_2. Let X be any subgroup of G_1 containing H_1; then

$$X^{K_1} \leq X^{HG_2} = X^H \leq XH,$$

and hence

$$X^{K_1} \leq XH \cap G_1 = XH_1 = X.$$ 

Therefore K_1 is contained in ker(G_1 : H_1). A similar argument shows that K_2 is a subgroup of ker(G_2 : H_2). For i = 1, 2 the subgroup H_i is quasinormal in G_i, and Lemma 1 yields that every subgroup of K_i containing H_i is also quasinormal in G_i. It follows now from the hypotheses that the factor groups K_i/H_1 and K_2/H_2 are periodic with

$$\pi(K_1/H_1) \cap \pi(K_2/H_2) = \emptyset.$$ 

Since the non-trivial cosets x_1H_1 and x_2H_2 have the same order, we get a contradiction. Therefore

$$H = (H \cap G_1)(H \cap G_2)$$

for every quasinormal subgroup H of G. As the sets qn(G_1) and qn(G_2) are contained in qn(G), the position

$$H^\varphi = (H \cap G_1, H \cap G_2)$$
defines an order isomorphism
\[ \varphi : qn(G) \longrightarrow qn(G_1) \times qn(G_2), \]
and hence the partially ordered set \( qn(G) \) is decomposable. \( \square \)

REFERENCES


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Received January 4, 2001