

TRIPLE FACTORIZATION OF NON-ABELIAN GROUPS BY TWO MINIMAL SUBGROUPS

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Abstract. The triple factorization of a group G has been studied recently showing that $G = ABA$ for some proper subgroups A and B of G , the definition of rank-two geometry and rank-two coset geometry which is closely related to the triple factorization was defined and calculated for abelian groups. In this paper we study two infinite classes of non-abelian finite groups D_{2n} and $PSL(2, 2n)$ for their triple factorizations by finding certain suitable minimal subgroups, which these subgroups are defined with original generators of these groups. The related rank-two coset geometries motivate us to define the rank-two coset geometry graphs which could be of intrinsic tool on the study of triple factorization of non-abelian groups.

Keywords: Rank-two geometry, triple factorization, dihedral groups, projective special linear groups.

I. Introduction

The factorization of a finite group G as the inner product $G = ABA$ where, A and B are proper subgroups of G , the notation $T = (G, A, B)$ is used for a triple factorization of the group G . Finite simple groups and their automorphism groups were studied. The aim of this paper is to study the rank-two coset geometry by defining a graph, which is named a rank-two coset geometry graph. The notation $\Gamma(G, A, B)$ will be used for this graph, where $G = ABA$. Our computational results based on the study of two classes of non-abelian groups D_{2n} (the dihedral group of order $2n$) and the projective special linear groups $PSL(2, 2n)$, ($n \geq 3$). The nice and very interesting presentation of projective special linear groups may be found in ([5, 6, 7]) and the related references.

It is necessary to recall that for studying the triple factorization of groups the important tools come from permutation group theory and we recall some of them which will be useful in our proofs. The set of all permutations of a set Ω is the symmetric group on Ω , denoted by $Sym(\Omega)$, and a subgroup of $Sym(\Omega)$ is called a permutation group on Ω . If a group G acts on Ω we denote the induced permutation group of G by $G\Omega$, a subgroup of $Sym(\Omega)$. We say that G is transitive on Ω if for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega$ there exists $g \in G$ such that $\alpha g = \beta$. For a transitive group G on the set Ω , a nonempty subset Δ of Ω is called a block for G if for each $g \in G$, either $\Delta g = \Delta$, or $\Delta g \cap \Delta = \emptyset$; in this case the set $\Sigma = \{\Delta g | g \in G\}$ is said to be a block system for G . The group G induces a transitive permutation group $G\Sigma$ on Σ , and the set stabilizer $G\Delta$ induces a transitive permutation group $G\Delta$ on Δ . If the only blocks for G are the singleton subsets or the whole of Ω we say that G is primitive, and otherwise G is imprimitive.

II. PRELIMINARIES

Definition 2.1. A triple factorization $T = (G, A, B)$ of a finite group G is called degenerate if $G = AB$ or $G = BA$. Otherwise, $T = (G, A, B)$ is called a non-degenerate triple factorization. A group with a triple factorization $T = (G, A, B)$, is sometimes called an ABA-group.

Definition 2.2. Let P and L be the sets of right cosets of the proper subgroups A and B of a finite group G , respectively. The property $*$ between the elements of P and L which is named a "non-empty intersection relation" is defined as follows:

$$Ax * By \iff Ax \cap By \neq \emptyset$$

Then $(\Omega = P \cup L, *)$ is called a rank-two coset geometry and will be denoted by $Cos(G, A, B)$.

In a rank-two coset geometry, if the property $*$ holds between two members $Ax \in P$ and $By \in L$, then we say that these members are incident, and in this case the pair (Ax, By) is called a flag of rank-two coset geometry.

Definition 2.3. The rank-two coset geometry graph of a finite non-abelian group G will be denoted by $\Gamma(G, A, B)$, is an undirected graph with the vertex set $P \cup L$ and two points Ax and By are adjacent if and only if $Ax \cap By = \emptyset$ where, $G = ABA$.

III. MAIN RESULT

Theorem 3.1. Let $G = D_{2n} = \langle a, b \mid a^n = b^2 = (ab)^2 = 1 \rangle$ be the dihedral group of order $2n$. Then,

- (1) For $n = 3k$, ($k = 1, 2, \dots$), there are at least two proper dihedral subgroups B and C of G such that $G = BCB$ (non-degenerate triple factorization).
- (2) For $n = 2^k$, ($k = 1, 2, \dots$), there is no non-degenerate triple factorization for G .
- (3) For the prime values of $n \geq 5$, there is no non-degenerate triple factorization for G .
- (4) The graph associated to a triple factorization $T = (G, A, B)$ of G , $(\Gamma(G, A, B))$ is bipartite graph if and only if the factorization is degenerate.

Proof:

(1) For $n = 3k$, ($k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$), $D_{2n} = \langle a, b \mid a^{3k} = b^2 = (ab)^2 = 1 \rangle$ and its dihedral subgroups are in the form $\langle a^d, a^i b \rangle$ where, $d \geq 3, d \mid n = 3k$ and $0 \leq i \leq d - 1$. Now if $B = \langle a^r, a^i b \rangle$ and $C = \langle a^s, a^j b \rangle$ be two distinct dihedral subgroups of $D_{2n} = D_{2(3k)}$ such that $|B||C||B| \geq 2n$, then for some i, j, l, m, n that, $0 \leq i, j, l \leq n - 1$ and $0 \leq m, n \leq 1$, there exist elements $x = a^i b^m \in B, y = a^j b^n \in C$ and $g = a^l \in D_{2n}$ such that $By = Bgx$. So, by Let $T = (D_{2n}, A, B)$ is a triple factorization of D_{2n} , and by using the relations $ba^i b = a^{-i}$, $a^i b a^{-i} = a^{2i} b, (a^i b) b (a^i b)^{-1} = a^{2i} b$ and $a^i b a^{-i} = b, (0 \leq i \leq n - 1)$ of D_{2n} we get that for every $0 \leq r, s, l \leq n - 1$ and $0 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq 1$, the word $a^r b^\alpha a^s b^\beta a^l b^\gamma$ of BCB is one of the elements of D_{2n} . So, this triple factorization is non-degenerate and $D_{2n} = BCB = CBC$. (2)

For $n = 2^k$, ($k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$), by Lemma 2.1, the number of non-trivial cyclic and dihedral subgroups of D_{2n} is k and $2^{k+1} - 2$, respectively. In the case $k = 1$, the non-trivial cyclic subgroup of D_4 is $A = \langle a \rangle = \{1, a\}$ and the non-trivial dihedral subgroups are $B = \langle a^2, a^0 b \rangle = \langle 1, b \rangle$ and $C = \langle a^2, a^1 b \rangle = \langle 1, ab \rangle = \{1, ab\}$, such that by using the relations of D_{2n} we get, $AB = BA = AC = CA = BC = CB = D_4$. And for every $k \geq 2$, it is easy to see that for the cyclic subgroup $A = \langle a \rangle$ and for any two distinct non-trivial dihedral subgroups B and C satisfying $B^* C, C^* B$ and $|B||C||B| \geq 2n$ we get $AB = BA = AC = CA = BC = CB = D_{2n}$. Hence, the triples $(D_{2n}, A, B), (D_{2n}, A, C)$ and (D_{2n}, B, C) are degenerate triple factorizations.

(3) For the prime values of $n \geq 5$, the number of non-trivial cyclic and dihedral subgroups of D_{2n} are 1 and n , respectively, where $A = \langle a \rangle$ is the only non-trivial cyclic subgroup and for every $i (i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1), B_i = \langle a^i, a^i b \rangle$ is a non-trivial dihedral subgroup. By using the relations of D_{2n} one may see that for every $1 \leq i, j \leq n - 1, AB_i A = AB_j A = D_{2n}$ but $B_i B_j B_i = D_{2n}$. Thus, in this case there is no non-degenerate triple factorization for D_{2n} .

(4) By (2) and (3), $T = (D_{2n}, A, B_i)$ is a degenerate triple factorization of D_{2n} where, $A = \langle a \rangle$ is the only cyclic subgroup of D_{2n} of index 2 and $B_i = \langle a^i, a^i b \rangle, (i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1)$ is a dihedral subgroup of index n , where $n \geq 5$ is a prime and the set of distinct right cosets of A and B_i are $\{A, Ab\}$ and $\{B_i, B_i a, B_i a^2, \dots, B_i a^{n-1}\}$, respectively. By using the relations of D_{2n} we get that for every $0 \leq i, k \leq n - 1, A \cap B_i a^k$ and $A b \cap B_j a^k$ are not empty. So by the definition of rank-two coset geometry, for every $i, (i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1)$, each coset of A is adjacent to all cosets of B_i . Therefore, $\Gamma(D_{2n}, A, B_i) = K_{2, n-1}$.

the complete bipartite graph. By the same method one may see that if $T = (D_{2n}, A, B)$ is a degenerate triple factorization for two distinct subgroups A and B , then $\Gamma(D_{2n}, A, B) = K_{r,s}$ where, r and s are the indices of the subgroups A and B , respectively. For the inverse case, let $\Gamma(D_{2n}, B, C) = K_{p,q}$. the by definition of Frank-two geometry graph p and q are the orders of two distinct proper subgroups $B = \langle a^r, a^i b \rangle$ and $C = \langle a^s, a^j b \rangle$, where $|D_{2n}:B| = r$, $|D_{2n}:C| = s$ and these two right cosets of B and C are $\{B, Ba, Ba^2, \dots, Ba^{r-1}\}$ and $\{C, Ca, Ca^2, \dots, Ca^{s-1}\}$, respectively. Now by considering the elements of subgroups B, C and D_{2n} one may see that $D_{2n} = BC$ and the triple factorization is degenerate. *

Lemma 3.2.

Every subgroup of D_{2n} ($n \geq 3$), is cyclic or dihedral groups such that:

- (i) the cyclic subgroups are $\langle a^d \rangle$, where $d|n$ and $|D_{2n}:\langle a^d \rangle| = 2d$,
- (ii) the dihedral subgroups are $\langle a^d, a^i b \rangle$, where $d|n$, and $0 \leq i \leq d-1$, and $|D_{2n}:\langle a^d, a^i b \rangle| = d$
- (iii) let n be odd and $m|2n$. For odd values of m there are m sub-groups of index m in D_{2n} . However, if m is even there is exactly one subgroup of index m ,
- (iv) let n be even and $m|2n$. For odd values of m there are m sub-groups of index m . If m is even and doesn't divide n , there is only one subgroup of index m . Finally, if m is even and $m|n$, there are exactly $m + 1$ subgroups of index m .

There are also certain obvious relations in D_{2n} . Indeed, for every integer $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, the following relations hold in D_{2n} :

$$ba^i b = a^{-i}, a^i b a^{-i} = a^{2i}, (a^i b) b (a^i b)^{-1} = a^{2i}, a^i b a^{-i} = b$$

Lemma 3.3.

Let A and B be two proper subgroups of a group G , and consider the right coset action of G on $\Omega_A = \{Ag | g \in G\}$. Set $\alpha = A \in \Omega_A$. Then $T = (G, A, B)$ is a triple factorization if and only if the B -orbit α^B intersects nontrivially each G_α -orbit in Ω_A .

Lemma 3.4 Let A and B be two proper subgroups of a group G and consider the right coset action of G on $\Omega_A = \{Ag | g \in G\}$. Set $\alpha = A \in \Omega_A$. Then, $T = (G, A, B)$ is a triple factorization if and only if for all $g \in G$ there exists elements $b \in B, a \in A$ such that $Ab = Aga$.

Lemma 3.5. For any two proper and distinct subgroups A and B of if $T = (D_{2n}, A, B)$ is a degenerate (non-degenerate) triple factorization for D_{2n} then $T = (D_{2n}, B, A)$ is also a degenerate (non-degenerate) triple factorization for D_{2n} . Moreover, $D_{2n} = ABA = BAB$.

Proof. The proof is easy by using Lemma 2.3 and the relations of D_{2n}

Lemma 3.6. There are exactly $P_2(n)$ presentations for the group

$$P SL(2, 2^n), (n \geq 3), \text{ where } P_2(n) = \frac{1}{2} d|n \mu(n) 2^d \text{ and } \mu \text{ is the Mobius}$$

Proof. In the relation $x^n = xy^{a_{n-1}} x^{n-1} y^{a_{n-2}} \dots x y^{a_0}$ of Sinkov's presentation, every choice of a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} yields an irreducible polynomial over $GF(2)$ of degree n . On the other hand by the elementary results of [12], the number of such polynomials is $P_2(n) = \frac{1}{2} P d|n \mu(n) 2^d$, where μ is the Mobius function. where, for at least a primitive α of $GF(2^n)$, $m(\alpha) = 0$. So, the number of distinct presentations for $P SL(2, 2^n)$ is $P_2(n)$.

Lemma 3.7. For every integer $n \geq 3$, the last relation of the pre-sentation of $PSL(2, 2^n)$ will be reduced to $x^n = yx^{n-1}yx$ or $x^n = yx^{n-2}yx^2y$, if n is even either is odd.

Proof. For $n = 3$, $P_2(3) = 2$ (the number of irreducible polynomials of degree 3 over $GF(2)$) and one of these polynomials is the trinomial $m(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 1$. For $n = 4$, $P_2(4) = 3$ and one of these polynomials is the trinomial $m(x) = x^4 + x + 1$. On the other hand by using the results of [14] we deduce that, for every integer $n \geq 3$, at least one of the irreducible polynomials of degree n is a trinomial, and this trinomial is in the form $m(x) = x^n + x^2 + 1$ or $m(x) = x^n + x + 1$ when n is odd either n is even, respectively. Now, by considering the coefficients of this trinomials we see that the relation $x^n = yx^{an-1}xy^{an-2} \dots xy^{a0}$ for even values of n is equal to $x^n = yx^{n-1}yx$ and for the odd values of n is equal to $x^n = yx^{n-2}yx^2y$.

Lemma 3.8. Let $n \geq 3$. By considering the types of minimal subgroups of $G = PSL(2, 2^n)$, if the subgroup H is of type $E_{2n}Z_{2^n}$ and the subgroup K is of type $D_2(2^{n+1})$ or $D_2(2^n - 1)$ then, there exist elements $h \in H$, $k \in K$ and $g \in G$ such that $Hgh = Hk$.

Proof. For every integer $n \geq 3$, consider the minimal subgroups and $E_{2n}Z_{2^{n-1}}$ and $K = D_2(2^{n+1})$. For every elements $g \in G$, $h \in H$ and $k \in K$ if $Hgh = Hk$, then $Hghk^{-1} = H$. Indeed, for every elements g, h and k from G, H and K , the element ghk^{-1} doesn't belong to H , which is a contradiction, because for three elements h, k and $g^0 = hkh^{-1}$ from H, K and G , $g^0hk^{-1} = (hkh^{-1})hk^{-1} = h \in H$. So, there exist elements $h \in H$, $k \in K$ and $g \in G$ such that $Hgh = Hk$.

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