

**Definition 31.2** A  $p$ -group, where  $p$  is a prime, is a group whose order is a power of  $p$ .

**Note:** Our goal, in this section, is to classify all Abelian groups that have finite order. As we will see,  $p$ -groups will end up being the building blocks we use to build any finite order Abelian group. We will “combine” these building blocks using the direct sum operation ( $\oplus$ ) that we explored in the portions of I-28 that we discussed previously.

**Theorem 31.3** Let  $p$  be a prime, and let  $G$  be a finite Abelian  $p$ -group. Let  $a \in G$  be an element of maximal order in  $G$ . There there exists a subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  so that  $G = \langle a \rangle \times K$ .

To help illustrate the consequences of this theorem, consider the following example:

1. Let  $G = U_{60}$ . To save us some time, please note that elements of this group along with the order of each element is given on page 436 in your textbook.

(a) Find an element  $a$  of maximal order in  $U_{60}$  and compute  $\langle a \rangle$ .

(b) Find a maximal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  so that  $\langle a \rangle \cap K = \{[1]\}$ . (Hint: if we want  $\langle a \rangle \times K = G$ , what must the order of  $K$  be? Also note that  $[7]^2 = [13]^2 = [17]^2 = [23]^2 = [37]^2 = [43]^2 = [47]^2 = [53]^2 = [49] \in U_{60}$ ).

(c) Verify that every element of  $U_{60}$  can be written in the form  $a^m k$  using the choices of  $a$  and  $K$  you found in parts (a) and (b) above.

**Corollary 31.6:** Let  $p$  be prime and  $G$  a finite Abelian  $p$ -group. Then  $G$  is an internal direct product of cyclic  $p$ -groups.

**Example:** Let  $n = 27$ . Determine, up to isomorphism, all Abelian groups of order  $n = 27$ .

Note that  $27 = 3^3$ . Then there are three possible ways of decomposing this into factors:  $3^3$ ,  $3^2:3$ , and  $3:3:3$ . (this of these as the integer partitions of 3:  $3$ ,  $2 - 1$ , and  $1 - 1 - 1$ . Note that we do not consider  $1 - 2$  and  $2 - 1$  as different partitions here (Why?).

Then the isomorphism classes are:  $\mathbb{Z}_{27}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_9 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$ , and  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

**Definition 31.10:** Let  $G$  be a finite Abelian group of order  $n$ , and let  $p$  be a prime factor of  $n$ . The  $p$ -**primary component** of  $G$  is the set  $G(p) = \{a \in G : |a| = p^i \text{ for some non-negative integer } i\}$ . That is,  $G(p)$  is a set of all elements in  $G$  whose order is a power of  $p$ .

2. Let  $G$  be a finite Abelian group with identity  $e$  and let  $p$  be a prime divisor of  $|G|$ . Prove that  $G(p)$ , as defined above, is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**Lemma 31.12** If  $p$  is a prime factor of  $|G|$ , then  $G(p)$  is a subgroup of  $G$  whose order is a power of  $p$ .

**Proof:** See p. 440 in your textbook.

**Theorem 31.13 (The Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups)** Let  $G$  be a finite Abelian group. Then  $G = G(p_1) \times G(p_2) \times \cdots \times G(p_k)$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k$  are the distinct prime factors of  $|G|$ .

**Proof:** See pp. 440-441 in your textbook.

**Alternative Version of the Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups:** Let  $G$  be a finite Abelian group. Then  $G$  is isomorphic to a direct product of cyclic groups:  $\mathbb{Z}_{c_1} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{c_2} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{c_t}$ , where  $c_i \geq 2$ . The integers  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t$  are called the **invariant factors** of  $G$ .

3. Let  $G$  be a finite Abelian group with order  $n = |G| = 1800$ .
- (a) Find the prime factorization of  $n = 1800$  and use it to express  $G$  as the direct product of  $p$ -groups.
- (b) For each  $p$ -group  $G(p_i)$  you found in part (a), list all possible ways that  $G(p_i)$  could be expressed as a direct product of cyclic groups, up to isomorphism.
- (c) Use the possible forms for each  $G(p_i)$  you found in part (b) to create a complete list of isomorphism classes for Abelian groups of order 1800.