

INTERSECTIONS OF SOLVABLE HALL SUBGROUPS IN FINITE GROUPS

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The term "group" always means a finite group. In what follows π is a set of primes, π' is its complement in the set of all primes, and $\pi(n)$ is the set of prime divisors of a rational integer n . A rational integer n is called a π -number if $\pi(n) \subseteq \pi$. For a group G we set $\pi(G)$ to be equal to $\pi(|G|)$. A subgroup H of G is called a π -Hall subgroup if $\pi(H) \subseteq \pi$ and $\pi(|G : H|) \subseteq \pi'$. A maximal normal π -subgroup of G is denoted by $O_\pi(G)$.

By a classical result, for primes p and q a group G of order $p^\alpha q^\beta$ is solvable and $|O_p(G)| > p^\alpha/q^\beta$, except some explicitly determined cases. However, there was a gap in the list of these cases that was closed by V.S. Monakhov in 1975. V.S. Monakhov extended this Burnside theorem to solvable groups of order $p^\alpha m$ with $(p, m) = 1$.

In 1967 D.S. Passman proved that a p -solvable finite group G has three Sylow p -subgroups P_1, P_2, P_3 such that $P_1 \cap P_2 \cap P_3 = O_p(G)$. In particular, this means that if the order of G is equal to $p^\alpha m$, where $(p, m) = 1$, then $|O_p(G)| > p^\alpha/m^2$. Using the classification of finite simple groups, in 1996 V.I. Zenkov proved that the same statement holds for an arbitrary finite group. In 2005 S. Dolfi proved that if π is a set of odd primes and G is a π -solvable group, then for every π -Hall subgroup H of G there exist x and $y \in G$ such that $H \cap H^x \cap H^y = O_\pi(G)$. In 2007 S. Dolfi and, independently, E.P. Vdovin obtained a similar result for arbitrary π .

There exist finite groups G where the intersection of every 4 conjugate solvable π -Hall subgroups is greater than $O_\pi(G)$. So we need to take at least 5 conjugate solvable π -Hall subgroups to get the intersection equal to $O_\pi(G)$.

For a prime $p \geq 7$ the symmetric group S_p contains a non-solvable p' -Hall subgroup S_{p-1} . The intersection of $p-2$ distinct p' -Hall subgroups is equal to the stabilizer of $p-2$ points, and so has order 2. Hence this intersection is not equal to $\{e\} = O_{p'}(S_p)$. This example shows that one cannot find a fixed number f such that for an arbitrary finite group G with π -Hall subgroups the intersection of some f distinct conjugate π -Hall subgroups of G is equal to $O_\pi(G)$.

The aim of our talk is to investigate the following problems.

Problem 1. Let H be a solvable π -Hall subgroup of a finite group G . Do there exist elements $x, y, z, t \in G$ such that $H \cap H^x \cap H^y \cap H^z \cap H^t = O_\pi(G)$?

Problem 2. Let H be a π -Hall subgroup of a finite group G and p be a minimal element of π' . Does there exist a function $f(p)$ such that for some elements $x_1, \dots, x_{f(p)} \in G$ we have $\bigcap_{i=1}^{f(p)} H^{x_i} = O_\pi(G)$?

In particular, the following theorem is proved.

Theorem 1. Any minimal (subject to inclusion) counterexample to Problem 1 is almost simple.

Note that a complete classification of Hall subgroups in finite simple groups has been recently obtained by E.P. Vdovin and D.O. Revin. We hope to solve Problem 1 using this classification and the theorem.

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