

Normal and Subnormal Series

Def. A subnormal series of a group

G is a chain of subgroups

$$G = G_0 > G_1 > \dots > G_n$$

such that $G_i > G_{i+1}$ for all i .

If in addition $G_i \triangleleft G_{i+1}$ for all i

then it is called a normal series

The factors of the series are the quotient groups G_i/G_{i+1} . The length of the series is the number of strict inclusions.

Def. A subnormal series $G = G_0 > G_1 > \dots > G_n$

$= \{e\}$ is a composition series if

each factor G_i/G_{i+1} is simple.

It is a solvable series if each factor is abelian.

Def. A subnormal series $G = H_0 > H_1 > \dots$

$> H_m$ is a refinement of a subnormal

series $G = G_0 > G_1 > \dots > G_n$ if

G_0, G_1, \dots, G_n is a subsequence

of H_0, H_1, \dots, H_m . A refinement

is proper if its length is larger

than that of the original series.

Th 1 Every finite group G has a composition series.

Th 2 Every refinement of a solvable series is a solvable series.

Th 3 A Subnormal series is a composition series iff it has no proper refinement.

Th 4 A group G is solvable iff it has a solvable series.

Th 5) A group G is solvable iff it has a composition series whose factors are cyclic of prime order.

Def. Two subnormal series S and T of a group G are equivalent if there is a one-to-one correspondence between the nontrivial factors of S and T such that corresponding factors are isomorphic.