

§ 12 Wreath Products, Burnside's Transfer Theorem, Z-groups, A-groups, Supersoluble

(A) Let  $H$  and  $K$  be subgroups of  $\Sigma(X)$  and  $\Sigma(Y)$  respectively, and let  $Z = X \times Y$  be the set of all ordered pairs  $(x, y)$  with  $x \in X, y \in Y$ .

For  $\xi \in H, y \in Y$  and  $\eta \in K$  define the permutations  $\xi_y$  and  $\bar{\eta}$  of  $Z$  by

$$(x, y)\xi_y = (x\xi, y); \quad (x, y)\xi_y = (x, y) \text{ if } y \neq y;$$

$$(x, y)\bar{\eta} = (x, y\eta).$$

The group  $H \wr K$  generated by all these permutations is called the wreath product of  $H$  with  $K$ . It is usual to identify  $\bar{\eta}$  with  $\eta$ , so that  $K$  becomes a subgroup of  $W = H \wr K$ . For fixed  $y \in Y$ , the mapping  $\xi \rightarrow \xi_y$  ( $\xi \in H$ ) is an isomorphism of  $H$  onto a subgroup  $H_y$  of  $W$ , and the product

$$\bar{H} = \prod_{y \in Y} H_y$$

is direct.  $\bar{H}$  is called the base group of  $W$ .  $K$  is faithfully represented by ~~the~~ automorphisms of  $\bar{H}$  according to the law

$$\eta^{-1} \xi_y \eta = \xi_{y\eta} \quad (y \in K, y \in Y, \xi \in H),$$

i.e.  $K$  permutes the  $|Y|$  direct factors of  $\bar{H}$ . If this representation of  $K$  is  $f$ , then

$$H \wr K = \langle K, \bar{H}; f \rangle$$

is the corresponding split extension.  $W = \bar{H}K; \bar{H} \cap K = 1; \bar{H} \triangleleft K$ .

If  $|X| = l, |Y| = m$ , then  $W$  is a permutation group of degree  $lm$  and order  $|H|^m |K|$ .

If  $L$  is a subgroup of  $\Sigma(V)$ , where  $|V| = n$  and if we make the natural identification  $((x, y), v) = (x, (y, v)) = (x, y, v)$ , then the two groups  $(H \wr K) \wr L$  and  $H \wr (K \wr L)$  coincide. This is the associative law for wreath products, and permits us to omit brackets in a repeated wreath product.

If  $H$  or  $K$  or both are not given explicitly as permutation groups, then  $H \wr K$  is to be interpreted as being formed from the appropriate regular representation. We call this the regularity convention. For example we have

Lemma 12.1 If  $C$  is a cyclic group of order  $p$ , then the group  

$$\mathcal{V}^n C = \underbrace{C \wr C \wr \dots \wr C}_n$$
  
 is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $\Sigma(C^n)$ .

For  $|C^n| = p^n$ ,  $C^n$  being the set of all ordered  $n$ -tuples of elements of  $C$ .  
 Hence  $|\Sigma(C^n)|_p = (p^n!)_p = p^{1+p+p^2+\dots+p^{n-1}} = |\mathcal{V}^n C|$  by induction on  $n$ .  
 This remark is due to Kaloujnine.

Note that  $H \wr K$  is determined to within isomorphism by the group  $H$  and the permutation group  $K$ , and does not depend as a group on the permutational representation chosen for  $H$ .

Lemma 12.2  
 (B) If  $H$  and  $K$  are given groups and  $W = H \wr K$  (with the regularity convention), then every subgroup  $K_1$  of  $W$  which is transversal to the base group  $\bar{H}$  in  $W$  is conjugate to  $K$  in  $W$ .

Proof: Here we may identify  $\xi \in H$  with  $\xi_i \in H_i$ , so that  $H = H_1$ , and  $H_\alpha = H^\alpha$ ,  $\xi_\alpha = \alpha^{-1} \xi \alpha = \xi^\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in K$ .  $\bar{H}$  is the direct product of the  $H^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in K$ . Every element  $u \in \bar{H}$  is uniquely expressible as a product  $\prod_{\alpha \in K} u_\alpha^\alpha$ , with factors  $u_\alpha \in H = H_1$ . Since  $K_1$  is transversal to  $\bar{H}$  in  $W$ , the coset  $\alpha \bar{H}$  contains exactly one element  $u(\alpha)$  of  $K_1$  and since  $K_1$  is a subgroup of  $W$ , we have  $u(\alpha)^\beta u(\beta) = u(\alpha\beta)$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in K$ . Factorising, this gives

$$u(\alpha\beta)_\gamma = u(\alpha)_\gamma \beta^{-1} u(\beta)_\gamma \quad (1)$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in K$ . Let  $v \in \bar{H}$  have factors  $v_\beta = u(\beta^{-1})_1$  so that  $v = \prod_{\beta \in K} (u(\beta^{-1})_1)^\beta$ . The  $\beta$ -factor of  $v^\alpha$  is therefore  $v_{\beta\alpha^{-1}} = u(\beta\alpha^{-1})_1$ . But the  $\beta$ -factor of  $u(\alpha)v$  is  $u(\alpha)_\beta u(\beta^{-1})_1 = u(\alpha\beta^{-1})_1$  by (1), and this is precisely the  $\beta$ -factor of  $v^{\alpha}$ . Hence  $v^\alpha = u(\alpha)v$  for all  $\alpha \in K$ , and so  $\alpha u(\alpha) = v \alpha v^{-1}$ . Thus  $K = K_1^v$  is conjugate to  $K$ , in  $W$  as stated.

(C) Lemma 12.3 Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  and let  $S$  be any transversal to  $H$  in  $G$ , with elements  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_m$  where  $m = |G:H|$ . For  $\xi \in G$  and  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , define  $i\xi$  by the condition  $\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1} \in H$ , and let  $X$  be the set whose elements are the  $m$  cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ , so that  $\tau_H(\xi)$  is the permutation  $H\sigma_i \rightarrow H\sigma_i \xi = H\sigma_{i\xi}$  ( $i=1, \dots, m$ ) of  $X$ .

Define  $m_H(\xi)$  to be the permutation

$$(\eta, H\sigma_i) \rightarrow (\eta \sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1}, H\sigma_{i\xi}) \quad (\eta \in H, 1 \leq i \leq m)$$

of  $H \times X$ . Then  $m_H$  is an isomorphism mapping  $G$  into  $H \wr \tau_H(G)$ .

Here  $H$  is in its regular representation i.e. the regularity convention operates for  $H$ . Since  $(i\xi)\xi_1 = i(\xi\xi_1)$  for  $\xi, \xi_1 \in G$ , we have

$m_H(\xi\xi_1) = m_H(\xi) m_H(\xi_1)$ .  $m_H(\xi)$  is the identity on  $H \times X$  only if  $i\xi = i$  for all  $i$  and in addition  $\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1} = 1$ , which implies  $\xi = 1$ .

Hence  $m_H$  is an isomorphic mapping of  $G$  into  $\Sigma(H \times X)$ .  $W = H \wr \tau_H(G)$

contains the permutation  $(\eta, H\sigma_i) \rightarrow (\eta, H\sigma_{i\xi})$  which we identify with  $\tau_H(\xi)$ , and  $m_H(\xi) \tau_H(\xi)^{-1}$  maps  $(\eta, H\sigma_i)$  into  $(\eta \sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1}, H\sigma_i)$ .

This shows that  $m_H(\xi) \tau_H(\xi)^{-1}$  belongs to the base group  $\bar{H}$  of  $W$  and so  $m_H(\xi) \in W = \bar{H} \tau_H(G)$ . This proves 12.3.

It is clear that the representation  $m_H$  of  $G$  depends not only on the subgroup  $H$  but also on the choice of the transversal  $S$ . However, preserving the notations of 12.3, we have

Lemma 12.4 Let  $f$  be a homomorphism of the subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  into an Abelian group  $A$ , which we write in additive notation.

Then the mapping  $f^*$  of  $G$  into  $A$  defined by

$$f^*(\xi) = \sum_{i=1}^m f(\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1})$$

is also homomorphic and is independent of the choice of the transversal  $S$ .

Moreover

$$f^*(\xi) = \sum_{j \in J} f(\sigma_j \xi \sigma_j^{-1})$$

where the cosets  $H\sigma_j$  are chosen one from each cycle of  $\tau_H(\xi)$ , and  $\tau_j$  is the order of the cycle to which  $H\sigma_j$  belongs, so that

$$\sum_{j \in J} \tau_j = |G:H| = m.$$

Proof: Since  $f$  is homomorphic, we have for all  $i$  and all  $\xi, \eta \in G$ ,  $f(\sigma_i \xi \eta \sigma_i^{-1}) = f(\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1}) + f(\sigma_i \eta \sigma_i^{-1})$ . Hence  $f^*(\xi \eta) = f^*(\xi) + f^*(\eta)$  and  $f^*$  is homomorphic. If  $T$  is any other transversal to  $H$  in  $G$ , with elements  $\tau_i = \eta_i \sigma_i$ ,  $\eta_i \in H$ , then  $\tau_i \xi \tau_i^{-1} = \eta_i (\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1}) \eta_i^{-1}$  and  $f(\tau_i \xi \tau_i^{-1}) = f(\eta_i) + f(\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1})$ . Summing for  $i=1, \dots, m$ , we obtain  $\sum_i f(\tau_i \xi \tau_i^{-1}) = \sum_i f(\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1})$  since  $\sum_i f(\eta_i) = \sum_i f(\eta_i \xi)$ . Thus  $f^*$  is independent of the choice of transversal.

The contribution to  $f^*(\xi)$  of the cycle of  $\tau_H(\xi)$  which contains  $H\sigma_j$  is  $\sum_{i=0}^{r_j-1} f(\sigma_j \xi^i \sigma_j^{-1}) = f(\sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1})$  since  $\xi^{r_j} = f$  and  $f$  is homomorphic. Thus 12.4 is proved.

We call  $f^*$  the transfer of  $f$  to  $G$ . This is the terminology suggested by cohomology theory. However, if  $f$  is the natural homomorphism  $\eta \rightarrow H'\eta$  ( $\eta \in H$ ) of  $H$  onto  $A = H/H'$ , then  $f^*$  is the transfer of  $G$  into  $H$ . It is a homomorphism of  $G$  into  $H/H'$  and, for  $\xi \in G$ , we have in this case

$$f^*(\xi) = H' \prod_{i=1}^m (\sigma_i \xi \sigma_i^{-1}) = H' \prod_{j \in J} (\sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1}). \quad (1)$$

Note that  $\sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1}$  is the first positive power of  $\sigma_j \xi \sigma_j^{-1}$  which lies in  $H$ .

(D) Theorem 12.5. Let the group  $G$  have an Abelian Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $H$ . Let  $N = N_G(H)$ ,  $C = ZN \cap H$ ,  $D = [H, N]$ . Let  $i$  be the identity mapping of  $H$ ,  $i^*$  the transfer of  $i$  to  $G$  and  $K$  the kernel of  $i^*$ . Then  $H$  is the direct product of  $C$  and  $D$ . Also  $C = i^*(G) = i^*(H)$  and  $D = G' \cap H = K \cap H$ .  $G$  is the split extension of  $K$  by  $C$  and  $G/K \cong C$  is the maximal  $p$ -quotient group of  $G$ .

Proof: Since  $H' = 1$ , we have  $i^*(\xi) = \prod_{j \in J} \sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1}$  by (1) above, for any  $\xi \in G$ . If  $\xi \in H$ , then the elements  $\xi^{r_j}$  and  $\sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1}$  both lie in  $H$  and are conjugate in  $G$ . By 6.63, it follows that these two elements are conjugate in  $N$ , since  $H = ZH$  is Abelian.

Since  $\sum_{j \in J} r_j = m = |G:H|$ , we may therefore write  $\sigma_j \xi^{r_j} \sigma_j^{-1} = \tau_j^{-1} \xi^{r_j} \tau_j$

with  $\tau_j \in N$ , and so

$$i^*(\xi) = \xi^m \prod_{j \in J} [\xi^{\tau_j}, \tau_j] \quad (2)$$

for all  $\xi \in H$ , where of course  $J$ ,  $\tau_j$  and  $\tau_j$  in general depend on  $\xi$ . If  $\xi \in C$ , then  $\xi^{\tau_j}$  commutes with  $\tau_j$  and so  $i^*(\xi) = \xi^m$ . But  $C$  is a  $p$ -group and  $(m, p) = 1$ . Hence  $i^*(C) = C$ .

If  $\eta \in N$  and  $\xi \in G$ , then  $\eta \sigma_i \xi (\eta \sigma_j)^{-1} \in H$  if and only if  $\sigma_i \xi \sigma_j^{-1} \in H$ . Hence  $\eta S$  is also transversal to  $H$  in  $G$ , and replacing  $S$  by  $\eta S$  does not affect  $i^*(\xi)$  by 12.4. Hence  $\eta i^*(\xi) \eta^{-1} = i^*(\xi)$  for all  $\xi \in G$ ,  $\eta \in H$ . It follows that  $i^*(G) = i^*(H) = i^*(C) = C$ . Hence  $KC = G$ ,  $K \cap C = 1$  and  $G$  is a split extension of  $K$  by  $C$ . Since  $m$  is prime to  $|H|$ , every element of  $H$  has the form  $\xi^m$  with  $\xi \in H$  and (2) now shows that  $H = CD$ . But  $D = [H, N] \leq G' \leq K$  since  $G/K \cong C$  is Abelian. Since  $K \cap C = 1$ , this shows that the product  $H = CD$  is direct, and that  $G' \cap H = K \cap H = D$ .

Finally, let  $K_1 \triangleleft G$  and let  $G/K_1$  be a  $p$ -group. Then  $K_1 H = G$  by 5.7 and so  $G/K_1 \cong H/K_1 \cap H$  is Abelian. Hence  $K_1$  contains  $G'$  and  $|G:K_1| \leq |H:G' \cap H| = |C| = |G:K|$ . Since  $G/K \cap K_1$  is also a  $p$ -group, it follows that  $K_1 \geq K$  and so  $G/K$  is the maximal  $p$ -quotient group of  $G$ .

Corollary 12.51 If the group  $G$  has a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $H$  which is contained in the centre of its normalizer in  $G$ , then  $G$  has a normal  $S_{p^1}$ -subgroup.

For in this case  $C = H$  and  $G$  is the split extension of  $K$  by  $H$ .

Hence  $K$  is a normal  $S_{p^1}$ -subgroup of  $G$ .

(E) A soluble group whose Sylow subgroups are all Abelian is called an A-group. The following result is due to D.R. Taunt.

Theorem 12.6 Let  $G$  be an A-group. Then

- (i)  $zG \cap G' = 1$ ; (ii) if  $S$  is any systemizer of  $G$ , then  $G$  is the split extension of  $G'$  by  $S$ ; (iii) more generally, if  $T$  is a relative systemizer of  $K$  in  $G$ , where  $K \triangleleft G$ , then  $K'T = G$  and  $T \cap K' = 1$ ;
- (iv) the length of the derived series of  $G$  cannot exceed the number of distinct primes which divide  $|G|$ .

Proof: (i) Suppose if possible that  ${}_3G \cap G'$  contains an element  $\xi$  of prime order  $p$ , let  $H$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  containing  $\xi$ . Since  $H$  is Abelian, we can use the notation of 12.5. Then  $\xi \in {}_3N \cap H = C$  and  $\xi \in G' \cap H = D$ . But  $C \cap D = 1$  so  $\xi = 1$ , a contradiction. Hence  ${}_3G \cap G' = 1$ .

(ii) Let  $K/L$  be a chief factor of  $G$  with  $K \leq G'$ . Then  $G/L$  is an  $A$ -group by 5.6. Its derived group is  $G'/L$ . It follows from (i) that  $K/L$  is not a central factor of  $G$ . Hence  $S \cap K \leq L$  by 10.4. Since this is true for all such  $K/L$ , we have  $S \cap G' = 1$ . By 10.42,  $SG' = 1$  and this proves (ii).

(iii) Here  $K$  is an  $A$ -group by 5.6 and so  $T \cap K' = 1$  by (i); while by 10.8 (ii) and (v),  $TK = G$ . Since  $K \leq TK'$  by 10.42, we have  $TK' = 1$  and this proves (iii).

(iv) Suppose that  $|G|$  has just  $n$  different prime factors. If  $n=1$ ,  $G$  is Abelian and  $G' = 1$  by definition. Let  $n > 1$  and let  $M$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . If  $|M| = p^m$ , then every Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $H$  contains  $M$ . Since  $H$  is Abelian,  $H \leq C_G(M)$  and hence the automizer  $G/C_G(M)$  is a  $p'$ -group. More generally, if  $K/L$  is any chief factor of  $G$  and if  $|K:L| = p^l$ ,  $C = C_G(K/L)$  is of index prime to  $p$  in  $G$ . Hence  $|G/C|$  has at most  $n-1$  different prime factors. By induction on  $n$ , we may assume that the  $(n-1)$ -st derived group of  $G/C$  is the unit subgroup. Since  $(G/C)^{(n-1)} = CG^{(n-1)}/C$ , this means that  $G^{(n-1)} \leq C$ . Thus  $G^{(n-1)}$  centralizes every chief factor of  $G$ . Hence  $G^{(n-1)}$  has a central series and so is nilpotent. But  $G^{(n-1)}$  is also an  $A$ -group and so it is the direct product of Abelian groups viz. its Sylow subgroups. Hence  $G^{(n-1)}$  is itself Abelian and  $G^{(n)} = 1$ , as required.

(F) Note in passing the following (forgotten)

Lemma 12.7 (i) In any group  $G$ , the Fitting subgroup is the intersection of the centralizers of the chief factors of  $G$ .

(ii) In any soluble group  $G$ , the hypercentre is the intersection of the systemizers of  $G$ .

Proof: (i) Let  $F = \mathfrak{F}G$ , and let  $C = \bigcap C_G(H/K)$  over all chief factors  $H/K$  of  $G$ . By 9.3 (i), we have  $F \leq \mathfrak{N}(G \text{ mod } K) \leq C_G(H/K)$  and so  $F \leq C$ . On the other hand,  $C$  has a central series viz. the part of any chief series of  $G$  from 1 to  $C$ . Hence  $C$  is nilpotent; and so  $C \leq F$  by 7.61, since  $C \triangleleft G$ . Thus  $C = F$ .

(ii) Let  $H = \mathfrak{Z}^\infty G$  and let  $K$  be the intersection of the systemizers of  $G$ . If  $L/M$  is any chief factor of  $G$  with  $L \leq K$ , then  $L \leq MS$  for any systemizer  $S$  and so, by 10.4,  $L/M$  is a central factor of  $G$ . Hence  $[L, G] \leq M$  and so  $K \leq H$ . Conversely, if  $L/M$  is any chief factor of  $G$  (this time with  $L \leq H$ ), then  $L/M$  is a central factor of  $G$  and so by 10.4 again  $L \leq MS$ . This is true for all such  $L/M$  and so  $H \leq S$ . This is true for all systemizers  $S$  of  $G$  and so  $H \leq K$ . Hence  $H = K$ .

(G) Let  $C_n$  denote a cyclic group of order  $n$  and let  $\Phi_n = \text{Aut } C_n$ . If  $C_n = \{\xi\}$  and  $\alpha \in \Phi_n$ , then  $C_n = \{\xi^\alpha\}$  and so  $\xi^\alpha = \xi^{a\alpha}$  where  $(a, n) = 1$ , by 2.5. Conversely, if  $(a, n) = 1$ , then  $\xi^s \rightarrow \xi^{as}$  ( $s = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ ) is an automorphism of  $C_n$ . If  $\beta \in \Phi_n$  and  $\xi^\beta = \xi^b$ , then  $\xi^{\alpha\beta} = \xi^{ab} = \xi^{\beta\alpha}$ . Hence  $\Phi_n$  is Abelian. The integer  $a$  is determined by the automorphism  $\alpha$  only modulo  $n$ . Thus  $\Phi_n$  is isomorphic with the multiplicative group of prime residue classes mod  $n$ , i.e. of all those residue classes  $(a) \text{ mod } n$  for which  $(a, n) = 1$ .

The number  $\varphi(n) = |\Phi_n|$  is called Euler's function. If  $(m, n) = 1$ , then  $\Phi_{mn}$  is the direct product of subgroups isomorphic with  $\Phi_m$  and  $\Phi_n$  respectively by 8.2. Thus, if  $(m, n) = 1$ ,

$$\Phi_{mn} \cong \Phi_m \times \Phi_n \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi(mn) = \varphi(m)\varphi(n)$$

Here we merely need to record

Lemma 12.8 (i) The group of automorphisms of a cyclic group of order  $n$  is ~~the~~ an Abelian group of order  $\varphi(n)$ .

(ii) If  $p$  is a prime,  $\varphi(p^m) = p^{m-1}(p-1)$ .

(iii) Let  $H$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ . If  $H$  is cyclic, then  $G$  has a normal  $S_p$ -subgroup.

Proof: (i) has already been shown and (ii) is clear since  $C_p \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  has only one maximal subgroup viz.  $\{1\}$  of order  $p^{m-1}$ .

(iii) Since  $H$  is Abelian, we have  $H \leq C_G(H) \leq N_G(H) = N$  and so the automizer  $A_G(H) \cong N_G(H)/C_G(H)$  has order prime to  $p$ . Any prime  $q$  which divides  $|A_G(H)|$  is therefore greater than  $p$ , by definition of  $p$ . But  $q \leq p$  by (ii), so no such prime exists. Hence  $H \leq ZN$  and the result follows from 12.51.

(H) A group  $G$  is called a Z-group if all its Sylow subgroups are cyclic. A group  $G$  is called supersoluble if all its chief factors are cyclic.

Theorem 12.9. (i) Z-groups are supersoluble.

(ii) If  $G$  is supersoluble, then  $G'$  is nilpotent; every maximal subgroup of  $G$  has index a prime; and if  $\omega$  consists of all primes  $\geq p$ , then  $G$  has a normal  $S_\omega$ -subgroup. Here  $p$  is any prime.

(iii) If  $G$  is a Z-group, then  $G'$  is cyclic and so are the systemizers  $S$  of  $G$ ; moreover  $|G'|$  and  $|S|$  are coprime and  $G$  is the split extension of  $G'$  by  $S$ . Further, for each divisor  $d$  of  $|G|$ ,  $G$  contains one and only one class of conjugate subgroups of order  $d$ .

Proof: (i) Let  $G$  be a Z-group. By 12.8,  $G$  has a normal  $S_p$ -subgroup  $G_1$  where  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ . By induction on  $|G|$ , we may assume  $G_1$  soluble.  $G/G_1$  is a  $p$ -group and therefore soluble. Hence  $G$  is soluble. By 5.6 all sections of Z-groups are Z-groups. In particular, a chief factor of  $G$  must be cyclic of prime order, since it is an <sup>elementary</sup> Abelian prime-power group by the solubility.



of  $G$ .

(ii) Let  $G$  be supersoluble. By 12.7 (i),  $F = \cap C_G(H/K)$  over all chief factors  $H/K$  of  $G$ . By definition, each  $H/K$  is cyclic and so, by 12.8 (i),  $G/C_G(H/K)$  is Abelian. All these centralizers contain  $G'$  by 7. Hence  $G' \leq F$  and so  $G'$  is nilpotent.

By 9.2, if  $M$  is any maximal subgroup of a soluble group  $G$ , then  $|G:M| = |H:K|$  for some chief factor  $H/K$  of  $G$ . If  $G$  is supersoluble,  $|H:K|$  is a prime and so every maximal subgroup of  $G$  is of index a prime.

Let  $G = G_0 > G_1 > \dots > G_n = 1$  be a chief series of  $G$ . Since  $G$  is supersoluble, each  $|G_{i-1}:G_i| = p_i$  is a prime. Choose a chief series for which  $\sum_{i=1}^n i p_i = s$  is a maximum and suppose if possible that  $p_i > p_{i+1}$  for some  $i$ . A Sylow  $p_i$ -subgroup  $G_i^*/G_{i+1}$  of  $G_{i-1}/G_{i+1}$  is normal in  $G_{i-1}/G_{i+1}$  by 5.4 (iv).  $G_i^*/G_{i+1}$  is therefore characteristic in  $G_{i-1}/G_{i+1}$ , hence  $G_i^* \triangleleft G$  and we may obtain a new chief series with larger  $s$  by replacing  $G_i$  by  $G_i^*$ . This contradicts our choice of chief series. Hence  $p_i \leq p_{i+1}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$  and one of the terms  $G_i$  will be an  $S_{\overline{\omega}}$ -subgroup of  $G$  with the given set of primes  $\omega$ .

(iii) Let  $G$  be a  $Z$ -group. By (i) and (ii),  $G'$  is nilpotent.  $G'$  is also a  $Z$ -group, hence  $G'$  is cyclic by 8.2 (i) and (iii). Since  $G$  is an  $A$ -group we have  $G = G'S$ ,  $G' \cap S = 1$ , by 12.6 (ii); and so  $S \cong G/G'$  is Abelian. Since  $S$  is also a  $Z$ -group,  $S$  is cyclic by 8.2 again.

Let  $q$  be the greatest prime dividing  $|G|$ . By (i) and (ii) the Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $G$  is normal in  $G$ . It is also cyclic. Hence  $G$  has one and only one subgroup  $Q$  of order  $q$ . If  $q$  divides  $d$ , every subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  of order  $d$  must contain  $Q$ . By induction on  $|G|$ , we may assume that the  $Z$ -group  $G/Q$  has one and only one class of conjugate subgroups of order  $d/q$ . The result for  $G$  now follows.

If  $q$  does not divide  $d$ , and if  $H$  is any subgroup of  $G$  of order  $d$  then  $Q \cap H = 1$  and  $QH/Q$  is a subgroup of order  $d$  of  $G/Q$ , and so  $H$  is an  $S_{q_1}$ -subgroup of  $QH$ . By induction, we may assume that

~~Subgroups~~  $G/Q$  has a single class of conjugate subgroups  $K/Q$  of order  $d$ .  
 By 9.5, each such  $K$  has a single class of conjugate subgroups  $H$  of order  $d$   
 and  $K = HQ$ . Hence in this case also the <sup>corresponding</sup> result follows for  $G$ .

This completes the proof of 12.9. Perhaps we should add

Lemma 12.91 Let  $A$  be a maximal normal Abelian subgroup of the  
 supersoluble group  $G$ . Then  $A = C_G(A)$ .

Proof: Let  $C = C_G(A)$ . Since  $A$  is Abelian, we have  $A \leq C$ . Since  $A \triangleleft G$   
 we have  $C \triangleleft G$ . Hence if  $A < C$ , there is a chief factor  $B/A$  of  $G$  such  
 that  $B \leq C$ . Since  $G$  is supersoluble,  $B/A$  is cyclic of order a prime.  
 Since  $B \leq C_G(A)$ , we have  $A \leq zB$ , and so  $B/zB$  is cyclic. Hence  
 $B = zB$  is Abelian by 7.2(iii), contrary to the definition of  $A$ . This  
 contradiction shows that  $A = C$ .

Note that nilpotent groups are supersoluble. Hence 12.91 applies  
 when  $G$  is a  $p$ -group.

Corollary 12.92 Let  $H$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of any group  $G$  and let  
 $A$  be a maximal normal Abelian subgroup of  $H$ . Then  $A$  is a Sylow  
 $p$ -subgroup of  $C = C_G(A)$ .

Proof: Since  $A \triangleleft H$ , we have  $H \leq N = N_G(A)$ .  $H$  is therefore a  
 Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $N$ . Since  $C \triangleleft N$ , it follows that  $H \cap C$  is a  
 Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $C$  by 5.6. But  $H \cap C = A$  by 12.91.