

ON GROUP ALGEBRAS OF FINITE GROUPS

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In this note we study the group algebra  $KG$  of a finite  $p$ -solvable group  $G$  over a field  $K$  of characteristic  $p > 0$ . Let  $J(KG)$  be the Jacobson radical of  $KG$ , and let  $t(G)$  be the least positive integer  $t$  such that  $J(KG)^t = 0$ . Since  $J(EG) = E \otimes_K J(KG)$  for any extension field  $E$  of  $K$ , we may assume that  $K$  is algebraically closed. We would like to know the relation between  $t(G)$  and the structure of  $G$ . When  $t(G) \leq 3$ ,  $p$ -solvable groups  $G$  are completely determined by D.A.R. Wallace ([9], [10]) and K. Motose and Y. Ninomiya [7]. The purpose of this note is to determine the structure of  $p$ -solvable groups  $G$  with  $t(G) = 4$  under the assumption that  $O_p(G)$  are abelian.

We shall use the following notation. For a positive integer  $n$  let  $S_n$  and  $A_n$  be the symmetric group and the alternating group of degree  $n$ , respectively. Let  $O_p(G)$  and  $O_{p'}(G)$  be the maximal normal subgroup of  $G$  of order prime to  $p$  and the minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  of index

prime to  $p$ , respectively. Following custom we write  $O(G)$  and  $O'(G)$  for  $O_{2,1}(G)$  and  $O^{2'}(G)$ , respectively. For a ring  $R$  and a positive integer  $n$  let  $(R)_n$  be the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in  $R$ . We use the other notation following Gorenstein's book [3].

By making use of [9, Theorem], [2, Theorem 1] and [10, Theorem 3.3] we have

**Proposition 1.** If  $G$  is a finite  $p$ -solvable group with a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $P$  and if  $t(G) = 4$ , then  $p = 2$  and one of the following holds;

- (i)  $P$  is cyclic of order 4,
- (ii)  $P$  is elementary abelian of order 8,
- (iii)  $G/O(G) \cong S_4$ .

**Remark 1.** The converse of Proposition 1 does not hold in general (see Motose's example [6, Example 2]). However, the following holds.

**Proposition 2.** If  $p = 2$  and if  $G$  is a finite 2-solvable group with a 2-Sylow subgroup  $P$  which satisfies one of the following;

- (i)  $P$  is cyclic of order 4,
- (ii)  $P$  is elementary abelian of order 8,
- (iii)  $G = S_4$ ,

then  $t(G) = 4$ .

Because of Propositions 1 and 2 we assume in the rest of this note that

$$p = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad G/O(G) \cong S_4.$$

Then a 2-Sylow subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  is dihedral of order 8. Thus, by [3, Theorem 7.7.3],  $P$  has subgroups  $X$  and  $Y$  such that  $X$  and  $Y$  are both noncyclic of order 4,  $X \not\leq_P Y$ ,  $|N_G(X):C_G(X)| = 6$  and  $|N_G(Y):C_G(Y)| = 2$ .

By [4, V 25.12 Satz, V 25.7 Satz und V 25.3 Satz], [8, Lemma 2.1] and [11, Proposition 3.2], we have

Lemma 1. If  $U$  is a subgroup of  $S_4$  and if  $K^cU$  is a twisted group algebra of  $U$  over  $K$  with respect to the factor set  $c$ , then  $K^cU \cong KU$  as  $K$ -algebras.

By making use of Lemma 1, [5, Theorem 2] and [1] we obtain the following two lemmas.

Lemma 2.  $t(G) = 4$  if and only if  $t(N_G(X)) = 4$ .

Lemma 3. If  $X \triangleleft G$ , then

$$KG \cong \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^m (KS_4) \alpha_i \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{j=1}^{n/2} (KA_4) \beta_j \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{k=1}^{u/3} (KP) \gamma_k \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{v/6} (KX) \delta_\ell \right)$$

as  $K$ -algebras for positive integers  $\alpha_i, \beta_j, \gamma_k$  and  $\delta_\ell$  where  $m, n, u$  and  $v$  are the numbers of irreducible

complex characters  $\psi$  of  $O(G)$  such that  $I_G(\psi)/O(G) \cong S_4$ ,  $A_4$ ,  $P$  and  $X$ , respectively, and  $I_G(\psi)$  is the inertia group of  $\psi$  in  $G$ .

From the above lemmas we have the following main result.

Theorem. Let  $M = O'(N_G(X))$ . If  $O(M)$  is abelian, then the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $t(G) = 4$ .
- (2)  $t(M) = 4$ .
- (3)  $|C_M(P)| = 2$  where  $P$  is a 2-Sylow subgroup of  $M$ .
- (4) When  $g \in M$  such that  $|gO(M)| = 3$  in  $M/O(M)$ , we have  $g \in C_M(O(M))$ .

Remark 2. In Theorem for the case where  $O(M)$  is nonabelian (2) and (3) are not equivalent in general.

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