

**A STUDY ON SUBDIRECT IRREDUCIBILITY OF THE SUBGROUP  
LATTICES OF THE GROUP OF  $2 \times 2$  MATRICES OVER  $Z_7$** R. SEETHALAKSHMI<sup>1</sup>, V. DURAI MURUGAN, AND R. MURUGESAN

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we determine subdirect irreducibility of the subgroup lattice of the group of  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $Z_7$ .

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Let  $L(G)$  denotes the Lattice of Subgroups of  $G$ , where  $G$  is a group of  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $Z_p$  having determinant value 1 under matrix multiplication modulo  $p$ , where  $p$  is a prime number.

Let

$$\mathcal{G} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} : a, b, c, d \in Z_p, ad - bc \neq 0 \right\}.$$

Then  $\mathcal{G}$  is a group under matrix multiplication modulo  $p$ .

Let

$$G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{G} : ad - bc = 1 \right\}$$

Then  $\mathcal{G}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

We have,  $o(\mathcal{G}) = p(p^2 - 1)(p - 1)$  and  $o(G) = p(p^2 - 1)$  [6]. For more details on this theory and on its applications, we suggest the reader to refer [1–5, 7–9].

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## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**Definition 2.1. (Poset)** A partial order on a non-empty set  $P$  is a binary relation  $\leq$  on  $P$  that is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive. The pair  $(P, \leq)$  is called a partially ordered set or poset. A poset.  $(P, \leq)$  is totally ordered if every  $x, y \in P$  are comparable, that is either  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$ . A non-empty subset  $S$  of  $P$  is a chain in  $P$  if  $S$  is totally ordered by  $\leq$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $(P, \leq)$  be a poset and let  $S \subseteq P$ . An upper bound of  $S$  is an element  $x \in P$  for which  $s \leq x$  for all  $s \in S$ . The least upper bound of  $S$  is called the **supremum or join** of  $S$ . A lower bound for  $S$  is an element  $x \in P$  for which  $x \leq s$  for all  $s \in S$ . The greatest lower bound of  $S$  is called the **infimum or meet** of  $S$ .

**Definition 2.3. (Lattice)** Poset  $(P, \leq)$  is called a lattice if every pair  $x, y$  elements of  $P$  has a supremum and an infimum, which are denoted by  $x \vee y$  and  $x \wedge y$  respectively.

**Definition 2.4. (Atom)** An element  $a$  is an atom, if  $a > 0$  and a dual atom, if  $a < 1$ .

**Definition 2.5.** An equivalence relation  $\theta$  on a lattice  $L$  is called a congruence relation on  $L$  iff  $(a_0, b_0) \in \theta$  and  $(a_1, b_1) \in \theta$  imply that  $(a_0 \wedge a_1, b_0 \wedge b_1) \in \theta$  and  $(a_0 \vee a_1, b_0 \vee b_1) \in \theta$ .

**Definition 2.6.** The collection of all congruence relations on  $L$ , is denoted by  $\text{Con } L$ .

**Note:**  $\text{Con } L$  with respect to the set inclusion relation becomes an algebraic lattice [1].

**Definition 2.7.** If a lattice  $L$  has only two trivial congruence relations, namely  $\omega$ , the diagonal and  $\tau = L \times L$ , then  $L$  is said to be simple. (e.g.  $M_3$  is simple)

**Definition 2.8.** If  $\text{Con } L$  contains a unique atom, then we say that  $L$  is subdirectly irreducible. (e.g.  $N_5$  is subdirectly irreducible)

We tabulate the subgroups of  $G$ , when  $p = 7$  in the order in which they lie in different maximal subgroups (co-atoms). This will make our work easy.

TABLE 1. Intervals  $[\{e\}, U_i]$  in  $L(G), i = 1, 2, \dots, 8$ 

Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
42	$U_1$	42	$U_2$
21	$T_1$	21	$T_2$
14	$R_1$	14	$R_2$
7	$N_1$	7	$N_2$
6	$M_1, M_{12}, M_{14},$ $M_{16}, M_{17}, M_{21}, M_{23}$	6	$M_1, M_{11}, M_{13},$ $M_{15}, M_{18}, M_{22}, M_{24}$
3	$K_1, K_{12}, K_{14},$ $K_{16}, K_{17}, K_{21}, K_{23}$	3	$K_1, K_{11}, K_{13},$ $K_{15}, K_{18}, K_{22}, K_{24}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
42	$U_3$	42	$U_4$
21	$T_3$	21	$T_4$
14	$R_3$	14	$R_4$
7	$N_3$	7	$N_4$
6	$M_4, M_6, M_9,$ $M_{17}, M_{20}, M_{24}, M_{26}$	6	$M_4, M_5, M_{10},$ $M_{18}, M_{19}, M_{23}, M_{25}$
3	$K_4, K_6, K_9,$ $K_{17}, K_{20}, K_{24}, K_{26}$	3	$K_4, K_5, K_{10},$ $K_{18}, K_{19}, K_{23}, K_{25}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
42	$U_5$	42	$U_6$
21	$T_5$	21	$T_6$
14	$R_5$	14	$R_6$
7	$N_5$	7	$N_6$
6	$M_3, M_6, M_8,$ $M_{16}, M_{19}, M_{22}, M_{28}$	6	$M_3, M_5, M_7,$ $M_{15}, M_{20}, M_{21}, M_{27}$
3	$K_3, K_6, K_8,$ $K_{16}, K_{19}, K_{22}, K_{28}$	3	$K_3, K_5, K_7,$ $K_{15}, K_{20}, K_{21}, K_{27}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
42	$U_7$	42	$U_8$
21	$T_7$	21	$T_8$
14	$R_7$	14	$R_8$
7	$N_7$	7	$N_8$
6	$M_2, M_8, M_{10},$ $M_{12}, M_{13}, M_{26}, M_{27}$	6	$M_2, M_7, M_9,$ $M_{11}, M_{14}, M_{25}, M_{28}$
3	$K_2, K_8, K_{10},$ $K_{12}, K_{13}, K_{26}, K_{27}$	3	$K_2, K_7, K_9,$ $K_{11}, K_{14}, K_{25}, K_{28}$

TABLE 2. Intervals  $[\{e\}, V_i]$  in  $L(G)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 14$ 

Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_1$	48	$V_2$
16	$S_{12}, S_{16}, S_{17}$	16	$S_{13}, S_{18}, S_{19}$
12	$Q_1, Q_4, Q_7, Q_8$	12	$Q_1, Q_3, Q_9, Q_{10}$
8	$P_{12}, P_{16}, P_{17}$	8	$P_{13}, P_{18}, P_{19}$
6	$M_1, M_4, M_7, M_8$	6	$M_1, M_3, M_9, M_{10}$
4	$L_1, L_2, L_3, L_{10}, L_{11},$ $L_{12}, L_{14}, L_{16}, L_{17}$	4	$L_1, L_2, L_3, L_8, L_9,$ $L_{13}, L_{15}, L_{18}, L_{19}$
3	$K_1, K_4, K_7, K_8$	3	$K_1, K_3, K_9, K_{10}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_3$	48	$V_4$
16	$S_4, S_5, S_{15}$	16	$S_6, S_7, S_{14}$
12	$Q_2, Q_4, Q_{15}, Q_{16}$	12	$Q_2, Q_3, Q_{17}, Q_{18}$
8	$P_4, P_5, P_{15}$	8	$P_6, P_7, P_{14}$
6	$M_2, M_4, M_{15}, M_{16}$	6	$M_2, M_3, M_{17}, M_{18}$
4	$L_1, L_4, L_5, L_{10}, L_{11},$ $L_{13}, L_{15}, L_{20}, L_{21}$	4	$L_1, L_6, L_7, L_8, L_9,$ $L_{12}, L_{14}, L_{20}, L_{21}$
3	$K_2, K_4, K_{15}, K_{16}$	3	$K_2, K_3, K_{17}, K_{18}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_5$	48	$V_6$
16	$S_5, S_{10}, S_{21}$	16	$S_4, S_{11}, S_{20}$
12	$Q_5, Q_9, Q_{12}, Q_{22}$	12	$Q_6, Q_{10}, Q_{11}, Q_{21}$
8	$P_5, P_{10}, P_{21}$	8	$P_4, P_{11}, P_{20}$
6	$M_5, M_9, M_{12}, M_{22}$	6	$M_6, M_{10}, M_{11}, M_{21}$
4	$L_3, L_4, L_5, L_7, L_8,$ $L_{10}, L_{15}, L_{16}, L_{21}$	4	$L_2, L_4, L_5, L_6, L_9,$ $L_{11}, L_{15}, L_{17}, L_{20}$
3	$K_5, K_9, K_{12}, K_{22}$	3	$K_6, K_{10}, K_{11}, K_{21}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_7$	48	$V_8$
16	$S_6, S_9, S_{20}$	16	$S_7, S_8, S_{21}$
12	$Q_5, Q_8, Q_{14}, Q_{24}$	12	$Q_6, Q_7, Q_{13}, Q_{23}$
8	$P_6, P_9, P_{20}$	8	$P_7, P_8, P_{21}$
6	$M_5, M_8, M_{14}, M_{24}$	6	$M_6, M_7, M_{13}, M_{23}$
4	$L_3, L_4, L_6, L_7, L_9,$ $L_{11}, L_{14}, L_{19}, L_{20}$	4	$L_2, L_5, L_6, L_7, L_8,$ $L_{10}, L_{14}, L_{18}, L_{21}$
3	$K_5, K_8, K_{14}, K_{24}$	3	$K_6, K_7, K_{13}, K_{23}$

Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_9$	48	$V_{10}$
16	$S_3, S_{10}, S_{16}$	16	$S_2, S_{11}, S_{17}$
12	$Q_{11}, Q_{17}, Q_{19}, Q_{27}$	12	$Q_{12}, Q_{18}, Q_{20}, Q_{28}$
8	$P_3, P_{10}, P_{16}$	8	$P_2, P_{11}, P_{17}$
6	$M_{11}, M_{17}, M_{19}, M_{27}$	6	$M_{12}, M_{18}, M_{20}, M_{28}$
4	$L_3, L_5, L_9, L_{10}, L_{12},$ $L_{16}, L_{17}, L_{19}, L_{21}$	4	$L_2, L_4, L_8, L_{11}, L_{12},$ $L_{16}, L_{17}, L_{18}, L_{20}$
3	$K_{11}, K_{17}, K_{19}, K_{27}$	3	$K_{12}, K_{18}, K_{20}, K_{28}$

Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_{11}$	48	$V_{12}$
16	$S_2, S_8, S_{18}$	16	$S_3, S_9, S_{19}$
12	$Q_{14}, Q_{15}, Q_{19}, Q_{26}$	12	$Q_{13}, Q_{16}, Q_{20}, Q_{25}$
8	$P_2, P_8, P_{18}$	8	$P_3, P_9, P_{19}$
6	$M_{14}, M_{15}, M_{19}, M_{26}$	6	$M_{13}, M_{16}, M_{20}, M_{25}$
4	$L_2, L_7, L_8, L_{11}, L_{13},$ $L_{17}, L_{18}, L_{19}, L_{21}$	4	$L_3, L_6, L_9, L_{10}, L_{13},$ $L_{16}, L_{18}, L_{19}, L_{20}$
3	$K_{14}, K_{15}, K_{19}, K_{26}$	3	$K_{13}, K_{16}, K_{20}, K_{25}$
Order	Subgroups	Order	Subgroups
48	$V_{13}$	48	$V_{14}$
16	$S_1, S_{12}, S_{14}$	16	$S_1, S_{13}, S_{15}$
12	$Q_{21}, Q_{22}, Q_{25}, Q_{26}$	12	$Q_{23}, Q_{24}, Q_{27}, Q_{28}$
8	$P_1, P_{12}, P_{14}$	8	$P_1, P_{13}, P_{15}$
6	$M_{21}, M_{22}, M_{25}, M_{26}$	6	$M_{23}, M_{24}, M_{27}, M_{28}$
4	$L_1, L_6, L_7, L_{12}, L_{13},$ $L_{14}, L_{15}, L_{16}, L_{17}$	4	$L_1, L_4, L_5, L_{12}, L_{13},$ $L_{14}, L_{15}, L_{18}, L_{19}$
3	$K_{21}, K_{22}, K_{25}, K_{26}$	3	$K_{23}, K_{24}, K_{27}, K_{28}$

When  $p = 7$ , we display two typical intervals  $[\{e\}, U_1]$  and  $[\{e\}, V_1]$  of  $L(G)$  in the following figures.

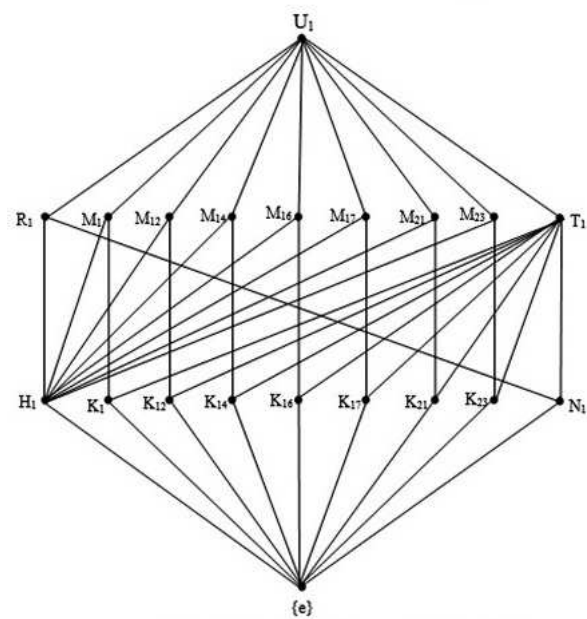


FIGURE 1. The Interval  $[\{e\}, U_1]$

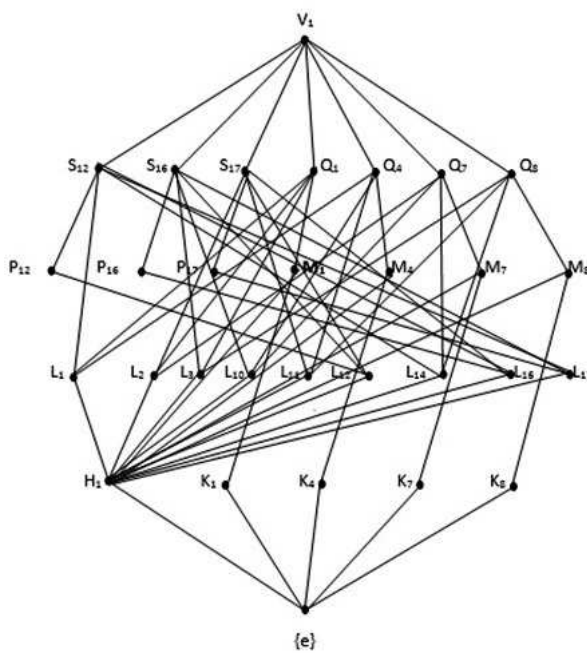


FIGURE 2. The Interval  $[\{e\}, V_1]$

3. SUBDIRECT IRREDUCIBILITY OF  $L(G)$  WHEN  $p = 7$ 

In this section, while computing the congruences we refer to tables 1 and 2.

**Lemma 3.1.**  $\theta(\{e\}, H_1)$  is a proper congruence relation on  $L(G)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta(\{e\}, H_1) = \theta_1$ . Let  $K$  be a subgroup of odd order then

$$(3.1) \quad (\{e\}, H_1) \vee (K, K) = (K, S)$$

where  $K$  covers  $S$  and  $S$  is of even order. Therefore  $(K, S) \in \theta_1$ , for every subgroup  $K$  of odd order.

$\theta_1$  contains no other pair  $(X, Y)$ , where  $X \neq Y$ . Since, if  $X$  is any subgroup of even order in  $L(G)$ , then  $(\{e\}, H_1) \wedge (X, X) = (\{e\}, H_1)$  and  $(\{e\}, H_1) \vee (X, X) = (X, X)$ .

If  $X$  is any subgroup of odd order other than  $K$  and  $S$  then  $(K, S) \wedge (X, X) = (\{e\}, \{e\})$  and  $(K, S) \vee (X, X) = (K \vee X, S \vee X)$  which is the same type of the pair  $(K, S)$  as in (3.1).

Therefore, we do not get a new element other than that found in (3.1). So we conclude that  $\theta_1$  is a proper congruence relation on  $L(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** The principal congruence generated by any pair of the form  $(K, S)$ , where  $K$  is of odd order and  $S$  is of even order immediately above  $K$ , is equal to  $\theta_1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta_2 = (K, S)$ , where  $K$  is of odd order and  $S$  is of even order immediately above  $K$ . We have to prove that  $\theta_1 = \theta_2$ . Now,  $(K, S) \in \theta_2$ . Therefore,

$$(K, S) \wedge (H_1, H_1) = (K \wedge H_1, S \wedge H_1) = (\{e\}, H_1).$$

Therefore,  $(\{e\}, H_1) \in \theta_2$ .

Therefore,  $\theta_1 \subseteq \theta_2$ . Also, as seen in the previous lemma,  $(K, S) \in \theta_1$  which implies that  $\theta_2 \subseteq \theta_1$ .

Therefore,  $\theta_1 = \theta_2$  and hence the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.**  $\theta(H_1, G) = L(G) \times L(G)$ .

*Proof.* Now,  $(H_1, G) \wedge (X_i, X_i) = (\{e\}, X_i)$ , for any odd order subgroup  $X_i$  of  $G$ . Then, the supremum of all  $(\{e\}, X_i)$  is  $(\{e\}, G)$  which belongs to  $\theta(H_1, G)$ . Therefore,  $\theta(H_1, G) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , is an improper congruence.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.**  $\theta(H_1, X) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where  $X$  is a subgroup of any order.

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be either an odd order or even order subgroup of  $G$ . Now,  $(H_1, X) \vee (U_i, U_i) = (U_i, G)$ , where  $U_i$ 's are co-atoms and non-comparable with  $X$  and we observe that there are atleast 3 such  $U_i$ 's and if we take the infimum of all  $(U_i, G)$ , we get  $(H_1, G) \in \theta(H_1, X)$  which generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$  [by Lemma 3.3]. Therefore,  $\theta(H_1, X) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where  $X$  is a subgroup of any order.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.**  $\theta(\{e\}, X) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where  $X$  is a subgroup of any order.

*Proof.* Now,  $(\{e\}, X) \vee (U_i, U_i) = (U_i, G)$ , where  $U_i$ 's are co-atoms and non-comparable with  $X$ .

We observe that there are atleast 3 such  $U_i$ 's and if we take infimum of all  $(U_i, G)$ , we get  $(H_1, G) \in \theta(\{e\}, X)$  which generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$ . [by Lemma 3.3].

Therefore,  $\theta(\{e\}, X) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where  $X$  is a subgroup of any order.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.6.**  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where both  $X$  and  $Y$  are of even order subgroups.

*Proof. Case (i):* Suppose that  $o(X) \neq 42$  and  $o(Y) = 42$ .

(i(a)): If  $X$  is not a subset of  $Y$  then,  $\theta(X, Y)$  contains  $(X \wedge Y, X \vee Y) = (H_1, G)$ .

By lemma 3.3,  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$ .

(i(b)): Suppose  $X$  is a subset of  $Y$ , that is,  $X$  is of order 2 or 6. Take a subgroup  $S$  of odd order such that  $S$  is not a subset of  $X$  and  $S$  is a subset of  $Y$ .

Such an  $S$  exists. Then  $(S \wedge X, S \wedge Y) = (\{e\}, S) \in \theta(X, Y)$  which generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$  [by lemma 3.5].

**Case (ii):** Symmetry of  $\theta(X, Y)$  implies the roles of  $X$  and  $Y$  can be interchanged.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.**  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where both  $X$  and  $Y$  are subgroups of odd order.

*Proof. Case (i):* Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be non-comparable subgroups. Now,  $\theta(X, Y)$  contains  $(X \wedge Y, X \vee Y) = (\{e\}, Z)$ ,  $Z$  is of any order.

By lemma 3.5,  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$ .

**Case (ii):** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be comparable. Now,  $(X \wedge K_i, Y \wedge K_i) = (\{e\}, K_i)$ ,  $K_i$  is a subgroup of order 3 and  $K_i \subset Y$  but  $K_i \not\subset X$ . Such a  $K_i$  exists. Then,

$$(\{e\}, K_i) \in \theta(X, Y).$$



By lemma 3.5,  $(\{e\}, K_i)$  generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$ . Therefore,

$$\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$$

when both  $X$  and  $Y$  are of odd order subgroups.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.**  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$ , where  $X$  is an odd order subgroup and  $Y$  is an even order subgroup.

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be not a subset of  $Y$ . Now,  $\theta(X, Y)$  contains  $(X \wedge Y, X \vee Y) = (\{e\}, Z)$ ,  $Z$  is of any order and  $Z \neq \{e\}$ .

That is,

$$(\{e\}, Z) \in \theta(X, Y).$$

By lemma 3.5,  $(\{e\}, Z)$  generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$ . Therefore,  $\theta(X, Y)$  generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$ .

If  $X$  is a subset of  $Y$  and  $X$  does not cover  $Y$ , then there exists a subgroup  $T$  of odd order such that  $T$  is not a subset of  $X$  but  $T$  is a subset of  $Y$ . Then

$$(X \wedge T, Y \wedge T) = (\{e\}, T) \in \theta(X, Y).$$

But,  $(\{e\}, T)$  generates  $L(G) \times L(G)$ .

Therefore,  $\theta(X, Y)$  is improper.

Hence  $\theta(X, Y) = L(G) \times L(G)$  when  $X$  is an odd order subgroup and  $Y$  is an even order subgroup.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.1.**  $L(G)$  is subdirectly irreducible when  $p = 7$ .

*Proof.* From lemma 3.1 to 3.8, we conclude that the only proper congruence relation on  $L(G)$  is  $\theta(\{e\}, H_1)$ . Thus  $\text{Con}(L(G))$  contains a unique atom  $\theta(\{e\}, H_1)$ .

Therefore,  $\text{Con}(L(G))$  is isomorphic to the three element chain. Hence,  $L(G)$  is subdirectly irreducible.  $\square$

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In this paper we proved that the subgroup lattices of the group of  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $Z_7$  is subdirect irreducibility.

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