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# A Note on Relative Normal Subgroups

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# ABSTRAK

Let *G* be finite group and  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . In 2016, Ganjali and Erfanian introduced the notion of a normal subgroup of *G* which is relative to  $\alpha$ , called the  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup. In detail, *N* is an  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup of *G* if for every  $g \in G$  and  $n \in N$ we have  $g^{-1}n\alpha(g) \in N$ . In this research, we show that if *N* is an  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup of *G* and  $\tau \in Aut(G)$  then *N* is  $\tau$ -normal in *G* if and only if  $\alpha(g)\tau(g^{-1}) \in N$  for every  $g \in G$ .

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## ABSTRACT

Misalkan G grup hingga dan  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . Tahun 2016, Ganjali dan Erfanian memperkenalkan ide tentang suatu subgrup normal dari G relatif terhadap  $\alpha$ , dinamakan subgrup normal- $\alpha$ . Secara rinci, N adalah suatu subgrup normal- $\alpha$  dari G apabila untuk setiap  $g \in G$  dan  $n \in N$  berlaku  $g^{-1}n\alpha(g) \in N$ . Dalam penelitian ini diperlihatkan bahwa jika N adalah suatu subgrup normal- $\alpha$  dari G dan  $\tau \in Aut(G)$  maka N normal- $\tau$  di G jika dan hanya jika  $\alpha(g)\tau(g^{-1}) \in N$  untuk setiap  $g \in G$ .

**Kata Kunci:** Grup, Subgrup Normal, Subgrup Normal-α.

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Let G be a group. A subgroup N of G is said to be *normal* if for any  $g \in G$ ,  $g^{-1}ng \in N$  for every  $n \in N$ . It was shown in the book of 'Topics in Algebra' chapter 'Groups' by Herstein that the followings are equivalent:

- 1. The subgroup *N* is normal in *G*.
- 2. For every  $g \in G$ ,  $g^{-1}Ng = N$ .
- 3. For every  $g \in G$ , gN = Ng.
- 4. For every  $a, b \in G$ , NaNb = Nab.

Now suppose that  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$  be any automorphism of G. In Khukhro & Makarenko (2007) and Ganjali & Erfanian (2017), it was introduced the concept of the normal subgroup of a finite group G which is related to  $\alpha$ , that is, the subgroup N of G satisfying  $g^{-1}n\alpha(g) \in N$  for any  $g \in G$  and  $n \in N$ . We call such subgroup as the  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup. Specifically, every ordinary normal subgroup can be regarded as 1-normal subgroup, where  $1 \in Aut(G)$  denotes the identity map on G.

Further results and wider study based on the  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup can be found in Read (1976), Mazur (1994), Barzegar (2015), Kumar (2019), Ganjali & Erfanian (2020), Haghparast *et. al.*, (2021), Haghparast *et. al.*, (2023). Recently, Mahatma, *et al.*, (2021) formulated the basic properties of such subgroups and obtain some results analogous to the classic version. They showed that if *G* is a group and  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$  then the followings are equivalent:

- 1. The subgroup *N* is  $\alpha$ -normal in *G*.
- 2. For every  $g \in G$ ,  $g^{-1}N\alpha(g) = N$ .
- 3. For every  $g \in G$ ,  $gN = N\alpha(g)$ .
- 4. For every  $a, b \in G$ ,  $NaNb = Na\alpha(b)$ .

Now suppose that N is  $\alpha$ -normal. Our goal is to find the necessary and sufficient conditions for an automorphism  $\tau$  so that N is  $\tau$ -normal.

### 2. METHODS

Suppose that *G* is a finite group and *N* is a subgroup of *G*. Clearly, if N = G then *N* will be  $\alpha$ -normal in *G* for any  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . Hence, we will assume that the subgroup *N* is proper. Now, notice that if  $N = \{e\}$  then, for every  $n \in N$ ,  $g^{-1}n\alpha(g) \in N$  implies that  $\alpha(g) = g$  for every  $g \in G$ . Thus, the only automorphism that can provide the relative normality of *N* is the identity mapping. Based on this fact, we restrict the discussion only for the case where the subgroup *N* is nontrivial.

Suppose that N is an  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup of G for some  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . First, we will formulate the necessary condition for an automorphism  $\tau \in Aut(G)$  so that N can be regarded as a  $\tau$ -normal subgroup. Next, we show that such a condition is also sufficient.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Let *G* be a group and *N* be a nontrivial subgroup of *G* such that *N* is  $\alpha$ -normal in *G* for an  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . It was shown in Mahatma, *et al.*, (2021) that, for every  $h \in G$ ,  $hN = N\alpha(h)$ . Now suppose that  $\tau \in Aut(G)$  such that *N* is  $\tau$ -normal in *G*. Thus, for every  $h \in G$ , we have  $hN = N\tau(h)$ . Consequently,  $N\alpha(h) = N\tau(h)$  for every  $h \in G$ . This equality holds if and only if  $\alpha(h)(\tau(h))^{-1} = \alpha(h)\tau(h^{-1}) \in N$ . This gives the necessary condition for  $\tau$ .

Now suppose that  $\sigma \in Aut(G)$  satisfies  $\alpha(h)\sigma(h^{-1}) \in N$  for every  $h \in G$ . Let  $g \in G$  and  $n \in N$ . Notice that if  $\alpha(g)\sigma(g^{-1}) = n'$  then  $\sigma(g^{-1}) = (\alpha(g))^{-1}n' = \alpha(g^{-1})n'$  and hence

 $gn\sigma(g^{-1}) = gn\alpha(g^{-1})n'$ . Since N is  $\alpha$ -normal then  $gn\alpha(g^{-1}) \in N$  and thus,  $gn\sigma(g^{-1}) \in N$ . This shows that N is  $\alpha$ -normal. We summarize the result in the following theorem:

**Theorem 1** Let G be finite group and N be subgroup of G. Suppose that N is  $\alpha$ -normal in G for an  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ . If  $\tau \in Aut(G)$  then N is  $\tau$ -normal in G if and only if  $\alpha(g)\tau(g^{-1}) \in N$  for every  $g \in G$ .

As an example, let N be  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup of G and let  $n \in N$ . Consider the inner automorphism  $\tau_n \in Aut(G)$  defined by  $\tau_n(x) \coloneqq n^{-1}xn$  for every  $x \in G$ . Let  $g \in G$ . Write  $y = \alpha(g)\tau_n(g^{-1}) = \alpha(g)n^{-1}g^{-1}n$ . Since N is  $\alpha$ -normal then  $y^{-1} = (\alpha(g)n^{-1}g^{-1}n)^{-1} = n^{-1}gn\alpha(g^{-1}) \in N$  and thus,  $y \in N$ . According to Theorem 1, N is  $\tau_n$ -normal.

#### Remark

The example above shows that once a subgroup N of G is  $\alpha$ -normal for an  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$ , then N is  $\tau_n$ -normal for every  $n \in N$ . Now, since  $\tau_e = 1$ , the identity mapping on G, then N is 1-normal which means that N is an ordinary normal subgroup of G.

Let us continue with further investigation. Suppose that the subgroup N is both  $\alpha$ -normal and  $\tau$ -normal in G. It is clear from the definition that, for every  $g \in G$ , we have  $g^{-1}\alpha(g) \in N$ and  $g^{-1}\tau(g) \in N$ . Now let  $g \in G$  and write  $g^{-1}\tau(g) = n'$ . Thus,  $\tau(g) = gn'$  and hence, for every  $n \in N$ ,  $g^{-1}n\alpha\tau(g) = g^{-1}n\alpha(gn') = g^{-1}n\alpha(g)\alpha(n')$ . Now, it was shown in Mahatma, et al., (2021) that  $\alpha$  must satisfy  $\alpha(N) = N$  and thus,  $\alpha(n') \in N$ . Next, since N is  $\alpha$ -normal then  $g^{-1}n\alpha(g) \in N$  and thus, we have  $g^{-1}n\alpha\tau(g) \in N$ . Since this relation holds for any  $g \in G$  and  $n \in N$  then we conclude that N is  $\alpha\tau$ -normal.

Now suppose that  $\beta \in Aut(G)$  be the inverse of  $\alpha$  i.e.,  $\alpha\beta = \beta\alpha = 1$ . Let  $g \in G$ . Since N is  $\alpha$ -normal then we have  $(\beta(g))^{-1}n^{-1}g = (\beta(g))^{-1}n^{-1}\alpha\beta(g) \in N$  for every  $n \in N$ . Consequently, we have  $g^{-1}n\beta(g) \in N$ . Since this relation holds for any  $g \in G$  and  $n \in N$  then we conclude that N is  $\beta$ -normal.

We summarize this result in the following theorem:

**Theorem 2** Let *G* be finite group and *N* be normal subgroup of *G*. Then the set  $H := \{\tau \in Aut(G) | N \text{ is } \tau \text{-normal in } G\}$  is a subgroup of Aut(G).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

We have seen in the discussion that if N is an  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup of G and  $\tau \in Aut(G)$ then N is  $\tau$ -normal in G if and only if  $\alpha(g)\sigma(g^{-1}) \in N$  for every  $g \in G$ . Moreover, if N is an  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup then N is  $\tau_n$ -normal for all  $n \in N$  where  $\tau_n$  is inner automorphism of G. But this implies that every  $\alpha$ -normal subgroup must be an ordinary normal subgroup.

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