

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

A NOTE ON A PROBLEM OF FUCHS

DELMAR L. BOYER

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In [1] Fuchs has asked (problem 3) the cardinality of the set of all pure subgroups of an Abelian group. The purpose of this paper is to settle the question for nondenumerable Abelian groups. $|A|$ will denote the cardinality of the set A .

THEOREM. *Let G be a nondenumerable Abelian group, and let \mathcal{P} be the collection of all pure subgroups, P , of G with $|P| = |G|$. Then $|\mathcal{P}| = 2^{|G|}$.*

Proof. Let T be the torsion subgroup of G . If $|T| < |G|$, then $|G/T| = |G|$ and by a result of Walker [3, Theorem 4], G/T , and hence G , has $2^{|G|}$ pure subgroups of order $|G|$.

If $|T| = |G|$, then we write T in the form $T = \sum_{i,\alpha} Z_\alpha(p_i^\infty) \oplus \sum_p R_p$, where the R_p are reduced primary groups and $\sum_{i,\alpha} Z_\alpha(p_i^\infty)$ is the maximal divisible subgroup of T .

If the above decomposition of T has $|G|$ summands then the theorem follows.

If the above decomposition has fewer than $|G|$ summands, then $|\sum_p R_p| = |G|$.

We first consider the case that there exists a prime, p , such that $|R_p| = |G|$. Let B be a basic subgroup of R_p . If $|B| < |R_p|$, then $|R_p/B| = |G|$ and $R_p/B = \sum_{\alpha \in A} Z_\alpha(p^\infty)$ with $|A| = |G|$. Thus the theorem holds for R_p/B , and hence also for G . If $|B| = |R_p|$, then since B is the direct sum of cyclic groups, $B = \sum_{\alpha \in A} C_\alpha$, it follows that $|A| = |G|$. Thus the theorem follows for B and hence for G . Finally, if $|R_p| < |G|$ for all p , we let¹ $R' = \sum_{p_i} R_{p_i}$, where the sum is taken over all primes, p_i , such that $|R_{p_i}| > \aleph_0$. Then $|R'| = |G| = \sum |R_{p_i}|$. We have proved above that for each p_i , R_{p_i} has $2^{|R_{p_i}|}$ pure subgroups, $P(i)$ of order $|R_{p_i}|$. For each i , choose $P(i) \subset R_{p_i}$ with $|P(i)| = |R_{p_i}|$. Then $P = \sum \oplus P(i)$ is a pure subgroup of R' with $|P| = |R'|$, and the number of subgroups formed in this way is $2^{|G|}$.

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1. L. Fuchs, *Abelian groups*, Hungarian Academy of Science (1958), Budapest.
2. W. Scott, *Groups and cardinal numbers*, Amer. J. Math., **74** (1952), 187-197.
3. E. Walker, *Subdirect sums and infinite Abelian groups*, Pacific J. Math., **9** (1959), 287-291.

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Received October 22, 1959.

¹ This is exactly the method used by Scott, [2].

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50 reprints per author of each article are furnished free of charge; additional copies may be obtained at cost in multiples of 50.

The *Pacific Journal of Mathematics* is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The price per volume (4 numbers) is \$12.00; single issues, \$3.50. Back numbers are available. Special price to individual faculty members of supporting institutions and to individual members of the American Mathematical Society: \$4.00 per volume; single issues, \$1.25.

Subscriptions, orders for back numbers, and changes of address should be sent to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, 2120 Oxford Street, Berkeley 4, California.

Printed at Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha (International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), No. 6, 2-chome, Fujimi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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