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Introduction. An operator group with a principal series can obviously be written as a direct product of finitely many directly indecomposable admissible subgroups, and the classical Wedderburn-Remak-Krull-Schmidt Theorem asserts that this representation is unique up to isomorphism. Numerous generalizations of this theorem are known in the literature.¹ Thus it follows from results in Baer [1, 2] that if the admissible center of an operator group G satisfies the minimal and the local maximal conditions, then any two direct decompositions of G (with arbitrarily many factors) have isomorphic refinements. In a different direction, it is shown in Crawley [4] that if an operator group G has a direct decomposition each factor of which has a principal series, then any two direct decompositions of G have isomorphic refinements.

The results of this paper yield sufficient conditions for a group (with or without operators) to have the isomorphic refinement property. For operator groups a common generalization of the theorems mentioned above is obtained: *If an operator group G has a direct decomposition such that the admissible center of each factor satisfies the minimal and local maximal conditions, then any two direct decompositions of G have centrally isomorphic refinements.* For groups without operators we obtain the following result which eliminates any assumption of chain conditions: *If a group G (without operators) has a direct decomposition such that the center of each factor is countable and the reduced part of the center of each factor is a torsion group with primary components of bounded order, then any two direct decompositions of G have centrally isomorphic refinements.*

Actually our results hold for a much wider class of algebraic structures, namely for algebras in the sense of Jónsson-Tarski [6], and it is in this more general framework that the theory is developed. The terminology from general algebra used in this preliminary discussion will be explained in §1.

Our techniques are based on an exchange property defined as follows: An algebra B is said to have the exchange property if, for

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¹ For a fairly complete list of references see Baer [1, 2] or Specht [8], p. 449.

any algebras A, C and $D_i (i \in I)$, the condition

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

implies that there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

The principal result relating this notion to the isomorphic refinement problem is Theorem 7.1, which asserts that if an algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras each of which has the exchange property and has a countable generated center, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements. Two related results are obtained where no cardinality conditions are imposed on the centers, but the decompositions involved are of a more special nature. First (4.2), if $A = B_0 \times B_1 \times B_2 \times \cdots = C_0 \times C_1 \times C_2 \cdots$, with countably many factors, and if all the subalgebras B_i and C_j have the exchange property, then these two direct decompositions have centrally isomorphic refinements. Second (5.3), if A is a direct product of subalgebras each having the exchange property, then any two direct decompositions of A into indecomposable factors are centrally isomorphic.

In §§ 8–11 sufficient conditions are given in order for an algebra B to have the exchange property. In § 8 it is shown that if the center B^c of B has the exchange property, then so does B . There it is also shown that in proving the exchange property for an algebra B we may assume that the factors D_i are isomorphic to subalgebras of B . In § 9 we prove that if B^c satisfies the minimal and local maximal conditions, then B has the exchange property and B^c is countably generated. Sections 10 and 11 are devoted to the study of binary algebras (algebras with just one operation, the binary operation $+$). The main result here (11.5) asserts that if the reduced part of the abelian group B^c is a torsion group all of whose primary components are torsion-complete, then B has the exchange property. In the twelfth and final section some counterexamples and open problems are discussed.

1. Fundamental concepts. Our terminology is largely the same as that in Jónsson-Tarski [6], and it will therefore be described very briefly. By an *algebra* we shall mean a system consisting of a set A , a binary operation $+$ called addition, a distinguished element 0 called the zero element of the algebra, and operations $F_t (t \in T)$ each of which is of some finite² rank $\rho(t)$, subject only to the following conditions:

² In Jónsson-Tarski [6] the operations are not required to be of finite rank. The main reason for this restriction is that it insures that the center of an algebra is a central subalgebra.

- (i) A is closed under the operation $+$ and the operations F_t ($t \in T$);
- (ii) for all $x \in A$, $x + 0 = 0 + x = x$;
- (iii) $F_t(0, 0, \dots, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in T$.

The set T and the function ρ are assumed to be the same for all the algebras under consideration. We shall identify the algebras with the sets of all their elements, and shall in general use the same symbols, $+$, F_t and 0 , to denote the operations and the zero elements of all the algebras. If no auxiliary operations F_t are present, i.e. if $T = \emptyset$, then we refer to A as a *binary algebra*.

An obvious example of an algebra is an operator group, i.e. an algebra for which addition is associative, each element has an additive inverse, and each F_t ($t \in T$) is a unary operation which distributes with respect to $+$. Similarly, an ordinary group without operators is a binary algebra.

If A is an algebra, then the sum of finitely many elements $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k, \dots \in A$ is defined recursively by

$$\sum_{k < 0} x_k = 0; \quad \sum_{k < n+1} x_k = \sum_{k < n} x_k + x_n \quad (n = 0, 1, \dots).$$

It is convenient to define also the (un-ordered) sum of certain special systems of elements $x_i \in A$ ($i \in I$). This sum is defined if and only if there exist finitely many distinct elements $i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1} \in I$ such that $x_i = 0$ whenever $i \in I - \{i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}\}$ and such that

$$\sum_{k < n} x_k = \sum_{k < n} x_{i_{\varphi(k)}}$$

for every permutation φ of the integers $0, 1, \dots, n-1$. Under these conditions we let

$$\sum_{i \in I} x_i = \sum_{k < n} x_{i_k}.$$

For brevity, a system of elements $x_i \in A$ ($i \in I$) will be said to be *finitely nonzero* if there are only finitely many indices $i \in I$ such that $x_i \neq 0$.

The notions of subalgebra, homomorphism, isomorphism, and congruence relation are assumed to be known. If θ is a congruence relation over an algebra A , then for $x \in A$ we let x/θ be the congruence class to which x belongs, and for $X \subseteq A$ we let $X/\theta = \{x/\theta \mid x \in X\}$. In particular, A/θ is the quotient algebra of A modulo θ . Observe also that if B is a subalgebra of A , then B/θ is a subalgebra of A/θ . It should be noted that if θ' is the restriction of θ to B , then B/θ and B/θ' are in general distinct algebras although they are isomorphic.

A subalgebra B of an algebra A is called a *subtractive subalgebra* of A if it satisfies the following condition: If $a \in A$ and $b \in B$, and if either $a + b \in B$ or $b + a \in B$, then $a \in B$.

By a *central subalgebra* of A we mean a subalgebra C of A

satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) for each $c \in C$ there exists $\bar{c} \in C$ such that $c + \bar{c} = 0$;
- (ii) if $c \in C$ and $x, y \in A$, then $x + (y + c) = (x + c) + y = (x + y) + c$;
- (iii) if $c \in C, t \in T, k < \rho(t)$, and $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1} \in A$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & F_t(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k + c, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1}) \\ &= F_t(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1}) \\ &+ F_t(0, 0, \dots, 0, c, 0, \dots, 0). \end{aligned}$$

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It is easy to see that the family of all central subalgebras of an algebra A is a complete sublattice of the lattice of all subalgebras of A . In particular, the union of all the central subalgebras of A is a central subalgebra of A . This largest central subalgebra of A is called the *center* of A , and is denoted by A° . It is clear that if A is an operator group, then A° is the usual group-theoretic admissible center of A .³ For a binary algebra A we can alternatively define the center of A as the set of all those elements of A that have an additive inverse and that commute and associate with all the elements of A . If an algebra A is such that $A^\circ = A$, then we say that A is *abelian*.

Given two subalgebras B and C of an algebra A , a function f is called a *central isomorphism* of B onto C ,—in symbols $f: B \cong^\circ C$,—if f is an isomorphism of B onto C and for each $x \in B$ there exists $c \in A^\circ$ such that $f(x) = x + c$. We say that B and C are *centrally isomorphic*,—in symbols $B \cong^\circ C$,—if there exists a central isomorphism of B onto C .

By the *outer direct product*⁴ of a system of algebras A_i ($i \in I$),—in symbols

$$\prod_{i \in I}^\circ A_i,$$

—we mean the algebra consisting of all functions x such that the domain of x is I , $x(i) \in A_i$ for all $i \in I$, and $x(i) = 0$ for all but finitely many $i \in I$. The operations in this algebra are defined componentwise, $(x + y)(i) = x(i) + y(i)$ and

$$F_t(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1})(i) = F_t(x_0(i), x_1(i), \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1}(i)),$$

and its zero element is the function that associates with each index i

³ C.f., Specht [8], p. 118; here it is called the Ω -center.

⁴ Sometimes the outer direct products are referred to as weak outer direct products, and the Cartesian products (which are used only incidentally in this paper) are called strong outer direct products. In other cases, especially in the theory of abelian groups, outer direct products are called direct sums and Cartesian products are called direct products.

the zero element of the corresponding algebra A_i .

The concept of an algebra is designed to make it possible to introduce the notion of an *inner direct product* of subalgebras of an algebra A , and to reduce the study of (isomorphic) representations of subalgebras B of A as outer direct products to considerations involving this new concept. Since the notions of outer and inner direct products are often confused in the literature, and in other cases the connection between the two concepts is not clearly stated, it is perhaps worthwhile to formulate this relationship in some detail. The basic idea is, of course, that given a representation

$$f: B \cong \prod_{i \in I}^o C_i,$$

we can associate with each index $i \in I$ a subalgebra B_i of B that is isomorphic to C_i . By definition, this subalgebra consists of all those elements $x \in B$ such that $f(x)(j) = 0$ for all $j \in I - \{i\}$. If a system of subalgebras $B_i (i \in I)$ of B corresponds in this manner to a representation of B as an outer direct product, then we say that B is an inner direct product of the subalgebras $B_i (i \in I)$. To complete the transition from outer direct products to inner direct products we must find out to what extent the subalgebras determine the representation, and we must formulate intrinsic necessary and sufficient conditions for B to be an inner direct product of a given system of subalgebras.

The solution of the first problem is easy: two representations,

$$f: B \cong C = \prod_{i \in I}^o C_i \quad \text{and} \quad f': B \cong C' = \prod_{i \in I}^o C'_i$$

yield the same system of subalgebras $B_i (i \in I)$ if and only if there exist isomorphisms $g_i: C_i \cong C'_i$, for all $i \in I$, such that $f' = gf$ where the isomorphism $g: C \cong C'$ is induced by the isomorphisms $g_i (i \in I)$ in the sense that $g(x)(i) = g_i(x(i))$ for all $x \in C$ and $i \in I$.

Regarding the second problem, we first observe that B is an inner direct product of subalgebras $B_i (i \in I)$ of A if and only if, for every element x of the algebra

$$\bar{B} = \prod_{i \in I}^o B_i$$

the sum $\sum_{i \in I} x(i)$ exists, and the mapping $x \rightarrow \sum_{i \in I} x(i)$ is an isomorphism of \bar{B} onto B .

Consider now a system of subalgebras $B_i (i \in I)$ of A , and define \bar{B} as above. In order for the indicated map to be everywhere defined and to be an isomorphism of \bar{B} into A it is obviously necessary and sufficient that the following four conditions be satisfied:

(I) For any finitely nonzero system of elements $a_i \in B_i$ ($i \in I$), the sum $\sum_{i \in I} a_i$ exists.

(II) For any two finitely nonzero systems of elements $a_i, b_i \in B_i$ ($i \in I$), if $\sum_{i \in I} a_i = \sum_{i \in I} b_i$, then $a_i = b_i$ for all $i \in I$.

(III) For any two finitely nonzero systems of elements $a_i, b_i \in B_i$ ($i \in I$),

$$\sum_{i \in I} (a_i + b_i) = \sum_{i \in I} a_i + \sum_{i \in I} b_i .$$

(IV) For any $t \in T$, and for any finitely nonzero systems of elements $a_{k,i} \in B_i$ ($i \in I$), $k = 0, 1, \dots, \rho(t) - 1$,

$$F_t\left(\sum_{i \in I} a_{0,i}, \dots, \sum_{i \in I} a_{\rho(t)-1,i}\right) = \sum_{i \in I} F_t(a_{0,i}, \dots, a_{\rho(t)-1,i}) .$$

Consequently, in order that there exists a subalgebra B of A such that B is an inner direct product of the algebras B_i ($i \in I$), it is necessary and sufficient that (I)–(IV) hold. Furthermore, if such an algebra B exists, then it is unique and can be characterized by either one of the following conditions:

(V) B is the set of all elements $b \in A$ such that $b = \sum_{i \in I} a_i$ for some finitely nonzero system of elements $a_i \in B_i$ ($i \in I$).

(V') B is the subalgebra of A generated by the union of all the algebras B_i ($i \in I$).

The conditions (I)–(V) or (I)–(IV) and (V') are often taken as the definition of the phrase “the subalgebra B of A is the inner direct product of the subalgebra B_i ($i \in I$) of A .”

Since we shall henceforth be concerned exclusively with inner direct products we will refer to these simply as *direct products*. The direct product of a system of subalgebras B_i ($i \in I$) of an algebra A will be denoted by

$$\prod_{i \in I} B_i ,$$

and the direct product of finitely many subalgebras B_0, B_1, \dots, B_{n-1} will also be written

$$B_0 \times B_1 \times \dots \times B_{n-1} .$$

In the finite case our notion obviously coincides with the direct product in Jónsson-Tarski [6], where this notion is defined recursively in terms of the binary operation \times .

A subalgebra C of an algebra B is called a *factor* of B if $B = C \times D$

for some algebra D . B is said to be *indecomposable* if it has at least two elements and the only factors of B are B and $\{0\}$. By a *direct decomposition* or, briefly, a *decomposition* of B we mean a representation of B as a direct product of subalgebras. The direct decompositions of B ,

$$B = \prod_{i \in I} C_i = \prod_{j \in J} D_j ,$$

are said to be (*centrally*) *isomorphic* if there exists a one-to-one mapping f of I onto J such that, for each $i \in I$, C_i and $D_{f(i)}$ are (*centrally*) isomorphic. Finally, the second decomposition is said to be a *refinement* of the first if for each $j \in J$ there exists $i \in I$ such that $D_j \subseteq C_i$.

2. Elementary properties of direct products. In this section several simple properties of direct products are listed. Since many of these results are already known from the literature (c.f. Jónsson-Tarski [6]), and the derivations of the remaining ones offer no difficulty, all proofs will be omitted.

We assume throughout this section that A is an algebra.

LEMMA 2.1. *If B and C are subalgebras of A such that $B \times C$ exists, then for all $b, b' \in B$ and $c \in C$,*

$$b + c = c + b \quad \text{and} \quad (b + b') + c = b + (b' + c) = (b + c) + b' .$$

LEMMA 2.2. *Every factor of A is a subtractive subalgebra of A .*

LEMMA 2.3. (*The modular law*) *Suppose B and C are subalgebras of A such that $B \times C$ exists, and suppose D is a subtractive subalgebra of A . If $B \subseteq D$, then $(B \times C) \cap D = B \times (C \cap D)$. In particular, if $B \subseteq D \subseteq B \times C$, then $D = B \times (C \cap D)$.*

LEMMA 2.4. *If, for each $i \in I$, B_i and B'_i are subalgebras of A such that $B'_i \subseteq B_i$, and if the direct product*

$$B = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

exists, then

(i) *the direct product*

$$B' = \prod_{i \in I} B'_i$$

exists and is a subalgebra of B .

- (ii) $B' = B$ if and only if $B'_i = B_i$ for all $i \in I$.
- (iii) B' is a subtractive subalgebra of B if and only if, for each $i \in I$, B'_i is a subtractive subalgebra of B_i .
- (iv) B' is a central subalgebra of A if and only if, for each $i \in I$, B'_i is a central subalgebra of B_i .

LEMMA 2.5. Suppose $B_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A . Then

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

if and only if there exist homomorphisms f_i of A onto B_i , for all $i \in I$, such that for each $a \in A$

$$a = \sum_{i \in I} f_i(a), \quad \text{and} \quad f_i f_j(a) = 0 \quad \text{whenever } i, j \in I \text{ and } i \neq j.$$

These homomorphisms f_i , if they exist, are unique and have the property that $f_i f_i = f_i$ for all $i \in I$.

DEFINITION 2.6. Assuming that

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i,$$

the homomorphisms f_i characterized by the conditions in Lemma 2.5 are called the projections of A onto the algebras B_i induced by the given decomposition of A .

LEMMA 2.7. Suppose $B_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A . Then the direct product

$$\prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

exists if and only if for each finite subset J of I the direct product

$$\prod_{i \in J} B_i$$

exists.

LEMMA 2.8. Suppose that $B_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A , that $I = \bigcup_{k \in K} J_k$, and that the sets $J_k (k \in K)$ are pairwise disjoint. If either the direct product

$$B = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

exists, or if the direct products

$$C_k = \prod_{i \in J_k} B_i (k \in K) \quad \text{and} \quad B' = \prod_{k \in K} C_k$$

exists, then all these direct products exist, and $B = B'$.

LEMMA 2.9. *Given two direct decompositions of A ,*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i \quad \text{and} \quad A = \prod_{j \in J} C_j ,$$

the second decomposition of A is a refinement of the first if and only if for each $i \in I$ there exists a subset J_i of J such that

$$B_i = \prod_{j \in J_i} C_j .$$

LEMMA 2.10. *If $B_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A , if the direct product*

$$\prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

exists, and if J and K are subsets of I , then

$$\left(\prod_{i \in J} B_i \right) \cap \left(\prod_{i \in K} B_i \right) = \prod_{i \in J \cap K} B_i .$$

LEMMA 2.11. *Suppose $B_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A , and for each $i \in I$ let \bar{B}_i be the subalgebra of A that is generated by the union of all the algebras B_j with $j \in I$ and $i \neq j$. Then the direct product*

$$\prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

exists if and only if $B_i \times \bar{B}_i$ exists for all $i \in I$.

LEMMA 2.12. *If C is a central subalgebra of A , then for all $a, a' \in A$ and $c \in C$,*

$$a + c = c + a , \quad \text{and} \quad a + c = a' + c \quad \text{implies} \quad a = a' .$$

LEMMA 2.13. *If C is a central subalgebra of A , then C is a subtractive subalgebra of A , and C is an abelian group under the operation $+$.*

LEMMA 2.14. *If B is a subtractive subalgebra of A , and if C is a central subalgebra of A , then*

(i) $B \cap C$ *is a central subalgebra of A .*

(ii) $B \times C$ *exists if and only if $B \cap C = \{0\}$.*

LEMMA 2.15. *Suppose C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{n-1} are central subalgebras of A , and for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ let \bar{C}_k be the subalgebra of A that is generated by the union of the algebras C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{k-1} . Then the*

direct product

$$\prod_{k < n} C_k$$

exists if and only if $C_k \cap \bar{C}_k = \{0\}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$.

LEMMA 2.16. *If*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i,$$

then

$$A^c = \prod_{i \in I} B_i^c.$$

LEMMA 2.17. *Suppose*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j,$$

and for $i \in I$ and $j \in J$ let f_i and g_j be the projections of A onto B_i and onto C_j that are induced by these two decompositions. If $i, i' \in I$, $j \in J$, and $i \neq i'$, then $f_i g_j f_i$ maps A into the center of B_i .

LEMMA 2.18. *If*

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i,$$

then

$$B^c \times C = \prod_{i \in I} ((B^c \times C) \cap D_i).$$

LEMMA 2.19. *If B, C and D are subalgebras of A such that $B \times C$ exists, then the conditions*

$$B \times C = B \times D \quad \text{and} \quad B^c \times C = B^c \times D$$

are equivalent.

LEMMA 2.20. *Suppose $A = B \times C = B \times D$, and let f and g be the projections of A onto C and onto D induced by these two decompositions. Then the restriction g' of g to C is a central isomorphism of C onto D , and the inverse of g' is equal to the restriction of f to D .*

3. Exchange properties. The central concept of this paper, the exchange property, was mentioned in the introduction. We now formulate this notion more precisely.

DEFINITION 3.1. *Given a cardinal m , an algebra B is said to have the m -exchange property if for any algebra A containing B as a subalgebra, and for any subalgebras C and $D_i (i \in I)$ of A , where the cardinal of I does not exceed m , the condition*

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

implies that there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

We say that B has the exchange property if it has the m -exchange property for every cardinal m . We say that B has the finite exchange property if it has the m -exchange property for every finite cardinal m .

It would be of some interest to know whether, for two given cardinals m and n with $1 < m < n$, the m -exchange property implies the n -exchange property. It will be shown later in this section that this is the case whenever n is finite, whence it follows that the 2-exchange property implies the finite exchange property. In all other cases the answer is unknown. However, since every algebra that is known to have the 2-exchange property is also known to have the exchange property, this question is not crucial at the present.

This section will be devoted to a series of lemmas involving or relating to the exchange properties that will be used in the subsequent sections

DEFINITION 3.2. *A congruence relation θ over an algebra A is said to be consistent with a decomposition*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

of A if, for all $x, y \in A$ and $i \in I$,

$$x\theta y \text{ implies } f_i(x)\theta f_i(y) ,$$

where f_i is the projection of A onto B_i induced by the given decomposition.

If A is a group, then the congruence relation θ that corresponds to a normal subgroup N of A is consistent with the above decomposition of A if and only if

$$N = \prod_{i \in I} (B_i \cap N) .$$

For an arbitrary algebra A , a congruence relation θ over A is easily seen to be consistent with a given decomposition of A if and only if θ is generated (in an obvious sense that need not be made more precise here) by its restrictions to the factors in the decomposition.

LEMMA 3.3. *Suppose the congruence relation θ over the algebra A is consistent with the decomposition*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

of A . Then

$$A/\theta = \prod_{i \in I} (B_i/\theta) .$$

More generally, for any system of subalgebras $B_i \subseteq B_i$ ($i \in I$),

$$\left(\prod_{i \in I} B_i \right) / \theta = \prod_{i \in I} (B_i / \theta) .$$

Proof. For each $i \in I$ let f_i be the projection of A onto B_i induced by the given decomposition of A . The consistency of θ is equivalent to the assertion that for each $i \in I$ there exists a map g_i of A/θ onto B_i/θ such that $g_i(x/\theta) = f_i(x)/\theta$ for all $x \in A$. It is obvious that g_i is a homomorphism. For each $x \in A$,

$$x = \sum_{i \in I} f_i(x) ,$$

and therefore

$$x/\theta = \sum_{i \in I} (f_i(x)/\theta) = \sum_{i \in I} g_i(x/\theta) .$$

Finally, if i and j are distinct members of I , then for all $x \in A$, $g_i g_j(x/\theta) = f_i f_j(x)/\theta = 0/\theta$. Hence the first part of the conclusion follows by 2.5. The second part of conclusion follows from the first part together with the observation that the algebra

$$\left(\prod_{i \in I} B_i \right) / \theta$$

consists of all elements

$$\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i \right) / \theta = \sum_{i \in I} (x_i / \theta) ,$$

associated with finitely non-zero systems $x_i \in B_i$ ($i \in I$).

LEMMA 3.4. *Suppose the congruence relation θ over the algebra A is consistent with the decompositions*

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

of A , and suppose the restriction of θ to B is the identity relation. If, for each $i \in I$, \bar{E}_i is a subalgebra of D_i/θ , and if

$$A/\theta = B/\theta \times \prod_{i \in I} \bar{E}_i,$$

then there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i$ ($i \in I$) such that $\bar{E}_i = E_i/\theta$ for all $i \in I$ and

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

Proof. For each $i \in I$ let f_i be the projection of A onto D_i induced by the second of the two given decompositions of A . Letting

$$(1) \quad A' = B^c \times C,$$

we infer from 2.18 that

$$(2) \quad A' = \prod_{i \in I} D'_i \quad \text{where } D'_i = A' \cap D_i \ (i \in I).$$

Obviously $(B/\theta)^c = B^c/\theta$, since the restriction of θ to B is the identity relation. It therefore follows by (1), (2), 3.3 and 2.19 that

$$(3) \quad A'/\theta = B^c/\theta \times C/\theta = \prod_{i \in I} (D'_i/\theta) = (B^c/\theta) \times \prod_{i \in I} \bar{E}_i.$$

Next observe that

$$(4) \quad D'_i/\theta = (A'/\theta) \cap (D_i/\theta).$$

To prove this we use the fact that

$$A/\theta = (B/\theta) \times (C/\theta) = \prod_{i \in I} (D_i/\theta)$$

and that

$$A'/\theta = (B^c/\theta) \times (C/\theta),$$

and we infer by 2.18 that

$$(5) \quad A'/\theta = \prod_{i \in I} ((A'/\theta) \cap (D_i/\theta)).$$

Since in (4) the left hand side is obviously included in the right hand side, the equality follows from (3) and (5) with the aid of 2.4 (ii).

It follows from (3) and (4), together with the hypothesis $\bar{E}_i \subseteq D_i/\theta$, that

$$(6) \quad \bar{E}_i \subseteq D'_i/\theta.$$

Letting

$$E_i = \{x \mid x \in D'_i \text{ and } x/\theta \in \bar{E}_i\} ,$$

we see that E_i is a subalgebra of D'_i , and we infer from (6) that

$$(7) \quad \bar{E}_i = E_i/\theta .$$

From the fact that D'_i is a subtractive subalgebra of A' and that \bar{E}_i is a subtractive subalgebra of A'/θ it readily follows that E_i is a subtractive subalgebra of A' . Consequently,

$$E = \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

is also a subtractive subalgebra of A' . Furthermore, if $b \in B^c \cap E$, then

$$b/\theta \in (B^c/\theta) \cap (E/\theta) = \{0/\theta\} ,$$

and therefore $b = 0$. Thus $B^c \cap E = \{0\}$, and we infer by 2.14 (ii) that the direct product $B^c \times E$ exists, and is a subalgebra of A' .

To complete the proof it suffices to show that $D'_k \subseteq B^c \times E$ for every $k \in I$. Consider an element $x \in D'_k$. By (3) and (7) there exist an element $b \in B^c$ and a finitely nonzero system of elements $e_i \in E_i$ such that

$$x\theta b + \sum_{i \in I} e_i$$

There exists an element $\bar{b} \in B^c$ such that $b + \bar{b} = 0$. Hence

$$\bar{b} + x\theta \sum_{i \in I} e_i .$$

Consequently $f_k(\bar{b}) + x\theta e_k$ and $f_i(\bar{b}) = f_i(\bar{b} + x)\theta e_i$ whenever $k \neq i \in I$. Inasmuch as

$$\bar{b} \in B^c \subseteq \prod_{i \in I} D'_i ,$$

we infer that $f_k(\bar{b}) + x \in E_k$ and that $f_i(\bar{b}) \in E_i$ whenever $k \neq i \in I$. Thus

$$f_k(b) = b + \sum_{k \neq i \in I} f_i(\bar{b}) \in B^c \times E ,$$

and hence

$$x = f_k(b) + (f_k(\bar{b}) + x) \in B^c \times E ,$$

as was to be shown.

LEMMA 3.5. *If B is a factor of an algebra A , then there exists*

a unique congruence relation θ over A with the property that if C is any subalgebra of A with $A = B \times C$, and if g is the projection of A onto C induced by this decomposition, then for all $x, y \in A$ the conditions $x\theta y$ and $g(x) = g(y)$ are equivalent.

Proof. Since the projection g of A onto C induced by the decomposition $A = B \times C$ is a homomorphism of A onto C , the condition

$$x\theta y \text{ if and only if } g(x) = g(y)$$

defines a congruence relation θ over A . To complete the proof it therefore suffices to show that for any other decomposition $A = B \times C'$, and the induced projection g' of A onto C' , the conditions $g(x) = g(y)$ and $g'(x) = g'(y)$ are equivalent. To see that this is true we simply observe that for all $x \in A$, $g'(x) = g'g(x)$ and $g(x) = gg'(x)$. In fact, there exists $b \in B$ such that $x = b + g(x)$; hence

$$g'(x) = g'(b) + g'g(x) = g'g(x) .$$

The second formula is proved similarly

DEFINITION 3.6. *If B is a factor of an algebra A , then the congruence relation θ characterized by the conditions in Lemma 3.5 is called the congruence relation over A induced by B .*

COROLLARY 3.7. *Suppose B and C are subalgebras of an algebra A such that*

$$(i) \quad A = B \times C ,$$

and suppose θ is the congruence relation over A induced by B . Then $0/\theta = B$, and the restriction of θ to C is the identity relation over C . Furthermore, θ is consistent with any decomposition of A that is a refinement of the decomposition (i).

LEMMA 3.8. *If $B, C, D_i (i \in I)$ and E are subalgebras of an algebra A such that*

$$(i) \quad A = B \times C \times E = \prod_{i \in I} D_i \times E ,$$

and if θ is the congruence relation over A induced by E , then for any subalgebras $F_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ the condition

$$(ii) \quad A/\theta = (B/\theta) \times \prod_{i \in I} (F_i/\theta)$$

implies that

$$(iii) \quad A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i \times E.$$

Proof. Since E/θ is the one-element algebra $\{0/\theta\}$, we have

$$A/\theta = (B/\theta) \times \prod_{i \in I} (F_i/\theta) \times (E/\theta).$$

Inasmuch as the restriction of θ to B is the identity relation over B , we infer by 3.4 that there exist subalgebras $F'_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ and $E' \subseteq E$ such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} F'_i \times E'$$

and such that $F_i/\theta = F'_i/\theta$ for all $i \in I$. Since the restriction of θ to D_i is the identity relation over D_i , this last condition implies that $F'_i = F_i$, and by the modular law we have

$$E = E' \times E'' \quad \text{where } E'' = E \cap \left(B \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i \right).$$

If $x \in E''$, then $x = y + z$ for some $y \in B$ and $z \in \prod_{i \in I} F_i$. Hence $y/\theta + z/\theta = x/\theta = 0/\theta$, and it follows by (ii) that $y/\theta = z/\theta = 0/\theta$. Recalling that the restrictions of θ to B and to $\prod_{i \in I} F_i$ are the identity relations over these algebras we infer that $y = z = 0$, hence $x = 0$. Thus $E'' = \{0\}$, $E' = E$, and (iii) holds.

COROLLARY 3.9. *If $B, C, D_i (i \in I)$ and E are subalgebras of an algebra A with*

$$A = B \times C \times E = \prod_{i \in I} D_i \times E,$$

and if B has the m -exchange property, where m is the cardinal of I , then there exist subalgebras $F_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i \times E.$$

LEMMA 3.10. *Suppose m is a cardinal and n is a positive integer, and suppose B_0, B_1, \dots, B_n are subalgebras of an algebra B with $B = B_0 \times B_1 \times \dots \times B_n$. Then B has the m -exchange property if and only if each of the algebras $B_k (k = 0, 1, \dots, n)$ has the m -exchange property.*

Proof. It suffices to consider the case $n = 1$. First suppose B_0 and B_1 have the m -exchange property. If A is an algebra that contains B as a subalgebra, if C and $D_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of A with

$$(1) \quad A = B_0 \times B_1 \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i,$$

and if the cardinal of I does not exceed m , then there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$A = B_0 \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

From this and the first decomposition in (1) it follows by 3.9 that there exist subalgebras $F_i \subseteq E_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$A = B_0 \times B_1 \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i .$$

Thus B has the m -exchange property.

Now suppose B has the m -exchange property. Consider an algebra A containing B_0 as a subalgebra, and subalgebras $C, D_i (i \in I)$ with

$$A = B_0 \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

and assume that the cardinal of I does not exceed m . Replacing the given algebras, if necessary, by isomorphic copies, we may assume that there exists an algebra A' such that both A and B_1 are subalgebras of A' , and such that $A' = A \times B_1$. Then

$$A' = B \times C = B_1 \times \prod_{i \in I} D_i .$$

If m is infinite, then we can apply the m -exchange property to these two decompositions, but in order to accommodate also the finite cases we choose an element $k \in I$, and let $I' = I - \{k\}$ and $E = B_1 \times D_k$. Then

$$A' = B \times C = E \times \prod_{i \in I'} D_i .$$

Hence there exist subalgebras $E' \subseteq E$ and $D'_i \subseteq D_i (i \in I')$ such that

$$(2) \quad A' = B \times E' \times \prod_{i \in I'} D'_i .$$

Since $B \times E'$ is a factor of A' , and hence a subtractive subalgebra of A' , and since $B \subseteq B \times E' \subseteq B \times D_k$, it follows from the modular law that $B \times E' = B \times D'_k$ where $D'_k = (B \times E') \cap D_k$. Substituting this into (2) we obtain

$$A' = B \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i .$$

Inasmuch as

$$A' = B_1 \times A = B_1 \times \left(B_0 \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i \right)$$

and

$$B_0 \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i \subseteq A ,$$

we conclude by 2.4 that

$$A = B_0 \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i .$$

Thus B_0 has the m -exchange property.

LEMMA 3.11. *If an algebra B has the 2-exchange property, then B has the finite exchange property.*

Proof. It suffices to show, for an arbitrary integer $m > 1$, that if B has the m -exchange property, then B has the $(m + 1)$ -exchange property. Assuming that

$$A = B \times C = D_0 \times D_1 \times \cdots \times D_m ,$$

let $E = D_0 \times D_1 \times \cdots \times D_{m-1}$. Then $A = B \times C = E \times D_m$, and since B has the 2-exchange property, there exist algebras $E' \subseteq E$ and $D'_m \subseteq D_m$ such that $A = B \times E' \times D'_m$. Letting

$$E'' = E \cap (B \times D'_m) \quad \text{and} \quad D''_m = D_m \cap (B \times E') ,$$

we infer by the modular law that $E = E' \times E''$ and $D_m = D'_m \times D''_m$. From the decompositions

$$A = B \times (E' \times D'_m) = (E'' \times D''_m) \times (E' \times D'_m)$$

we see by 2.19 that E'' is isomorphic to a factor of B . Consequently E'' has the m -exchange property by 3.10. Since

$$E = E' \times E'' = D_0 \times D_1 \times \cdots \times D_{m-1} ,$$

it therefore follows that there exist subalgebras $D'_i \subseteq D_i$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$, such that

$$E = E'' \times D'_0 \times D'_1 \times \cdots \times D'_{m-1} .$$

Inasmuch as $E'' \subseteq B \times D'_m \subseteq E'' \times (E' \times D_m)$, and application of the modular law yields

$$B \times D'_m = E'' \times E''' \quad \text{where} \quad E''' = (B \times D'_m) \cap (E' \times D_m) ,$$

and we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} A &= E' \times E'' \times E''' = E \times E''' = D'_0 \times D'_1 \times \cdots \times D'_{m-1} \times E'' \times E''' \\ &= B \times D'_0 \times D'_1 \times \cdots \times D'_m . \end{aligned}$$

Thus B has the $(m + 1)$ -exchange property, as was to be shown.

LEMMA 3.12. *Suppose m is a cardinal greater than 1, and suppose B is an algebra whose center is generated by a set whose cardinal does not exceed m . If B has the m -exchange property, then B has the exchange property.*

Proof. Assuming that

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

write

$$D_J = \prod_{i \in J} D_i \quad \text{for } J \subseteq I .$$

Then there exists a set $J \subseteq I$ such that $B^c \subseteq D_J$, and such that J is finite if m is finite, and the cardinal of J is at most m if m is infinite. By hypothesis (and by 3.11 in case m is finite), there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i$ for all $i \in J$ and a subalgebra F of D_{I-J} such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in J} E_i \times F .$$

Letting $E_i = F \cap D_i$ for $i \in I - J$, we shall show that

$$(1) \quad F = \prod_{i \in I-J} E_i ,$$

whence it follows that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Given $a \in F$, there exists a finitely non-zero system of elements $d_i \in D_i$ ($i \in I - J$) such that

$$a = \sum_{i \in I-J} d_i .$$

Considering a fixed index $k \in I - J$, we can find elements $b \in B$, $e_i \in E_i$ ($i \in J$) and $f \in F$ such that

$$(2) \quad d_k = b + \sum_{i \in J} e_i + f .$$

By 2.17, $b \in B^c$, hence $b \in D_J$. Consequently the element

$$(3) \quad x = b + \sum_{i \in J} e_i$$

belongs to D_J . But the elements d_k and f belong to the subtractive subalgebra D_{I-J} of A , and it follows by (2) and (3) that $x \in D_{I-J}$. Thus $x = 0$, $d_k = f$, and $d_k \in F \cap D_k = E_k$. Since this last formula holds for all $k \in I - J$, we conclude that

$$a \in \prod_{i \in I-J} E_i .$$

From this (1) easily follows.

4. Direct decompositions with countably many factors. The next theorem and its simple proof are included primarily in order to show why a similar argument fails to apply when we drop the assumption that the set I be finite.

THEOREM 4.1. *If the algebra A has the m -exchange property (where m is some cardinal), and if*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j$$

where the set I is finite and the cardinal of J does not exceed m , then these two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.

Proof. For notational convenience we assume that I consists of the integers $0, 1, \dots, n$. By 3.10, B_0, B_1, \dots, B_n have the m -exchange property, and by successive applications of 3.9 we obtain, for each $j \in J$, a sequence of subalgebras

$$C_j \cong C'_{0,j} \cong C'_{1,j} \cong \dots \cong C'_{n-1,j} \cong C'_{n,j} = \{0\}$$

such that

$$A = B_0 \times \dots \times B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} C'_{i,j} \quad (i = 0, 1, \dots, n).$$

Since all the subalgebras $C'_{i,j}$ are factors of A , it follows by the modular law that subalgebras $C_{i,j}$ ($i = 0, \dots, n, j \in J$) exist such that for each $j \in J$,

$$C_j = C'_{0,j} \times C_{0,j}, \quad \text{and} \quad C'_{i-1,j} = C'_{i,j} \times C_{i,j} \quad (i = 1, \dots, n).$$

Consequently

$$C_j = \prod_{i \leq n} C_{i,j} \quad (j \in J)$$

and

$$A = \prod_{i < p} B_i \times \prod_{p \leq i \leq n} \prod_{j \in J} C_{i,j} \quad (p = 0, 1, \dots, n+1).$$

comparing the two decompositions obtained from this last formula by taking two successive values of p , $p = k$ and $p = k+1$, we infer by 2.20 that

$$B_k \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} C_{k,j} \quad (k = 0, 1, \dots, n);$$

and we conclude that B_k has a decomposition

$$B_k = \prod_{j \in J} B_{k,j} \text{ with } B_{k,j} \cong^c C_{k,j} \text{ all } j \in J.$$

Attempting to extend the above argument to the case when both I and J are infinite, one encounters difficulty in connection with the “passage through limits.” For instance, in the simplest case, where I is the set of all natural numbers, the above process yields subalgebras $C_{i,j}, C'_{i,j}$ ($i = 0, 1, \dots, j \in J$) with

$$C_j = C'_{k,i} \times \prod_{i \leq k} C_{k,j} \text{ and } B_k \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} C_{k,j},$$

but it may happen that the direct product

$$\prod_{i < \infty} C_{i,j}$$

is a proper subalgebra of C_j . It is not known how this difficulty can be overcome in general, but we will show how it can be avoided in certain situations. For the case when I and J are denumerable, this is done below by a simple argument involving a diagonal process.

Observe that in the proof of 4.1 we did not make direct use of the fact that A has the m -exchange property, but applied this property to the factors B_i . Because of the finiteness of I this distinction is immaterial here, but in later results a significant generalization is obtained by assuming the exchange properties for the factors in some decomposition (or decompositions) rather than for the whole algebra. Incidentally, 4.1 could actually be generalized by observing that no use is made of the fact that B_n has the m -exchange property.

THEOREM 4.2. *If an algebra A has two direct decompositions with countably many factors,*

$$(i) \quad A = B_0 \times B_1 \times B_2 \times \dots = C_0 \times C_1 \times C_2 \times \dots,$$

where all the factors B_i and C_j have the \aleph_0 -exchange property, then these two direct decompositions have centrally isomorphic refinements.

Proof. Since B_0 has the \aleph_0 -exchange property, there exist subalgebras $C_{0,j}, C'_{0,j}$ with $C_j = C_{0,j} \times C'_{0,j}$ for $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ such that

$$(1) \quad A = B_0 \times C'_{0,0} \times C'_{0,1} \times C'_{0,2} \times \dots,$$

and from this it follows by 2.20 that

$$(2) \quad B_0 \cong^c C_{0,0} \times C_{0,1} \times C_{0,2} \times \dots.$$

The factor $C'_{0,0}$ of C_0 has the \aleph_0 -exchange property by 3.10. Applying

3.9 to (1) and the first decomposition in (i) we obtain subalgebras $B_{i,0}, B'_{i,0}$ with $B_i = B_{i,0} \times B'_{i,0}$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ such that

$$(3) \quad A = B_0 \times C'_{0,0} \times B'_{1,0} \times B'_{2,0} \times B'_{3,0} \times \dots,$$

and it follows, again by 2.20, that

$$C'_{0,0} \cong^c B_{1,0} \times B_{2,0} \times B_{3,0} \times \dots.$$

Now, using the fact that $B'_{1,0}$ has the \aleph_0 -exchange property, we apply 3.9 to (3) and (1). This yields subalgebras $C_{1,j}, C'_{1,j}$ with $C'_{0,j} = C_{1,j} \times C'_{1,j}$ for $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ such that

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} A &= B_0 \times C'_{0,0} \times B'_{1,0} \times C'_{1,1} \times C'_{1,2} \times C'_{1,3} \times \dots, \\ B'_{1,0} &\cong^c C_{1,1} \times C_{1,2} \times C_{1,3} \times \dots. \end{aligned}$$

Next, from (4) and (3) we obtain subalgebras $B_{i,1}, B'_{i,1}$ with $B'_{i,0} = B_{i,1} \times B'_{i,1}$ for $i = 2, 3, \dots$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} A &= B_0 \times C'_{0,0} \times B'_{1,0} \times C'_{1,1} \times B'_{2,1} \times B'_{3,1} \times B'_{4,1} \times \dots, \\ C'_{1,1} &\cong^c B_{2,1} \times B_{3,1} \times B_{4,1} \times \dots. \end{aligned}$$

Continuing in this manner we obtain subalgebras $B_{i,j}, B'_{i,j}$ for $i > j$ and $C_{i,j}$ for $i \leq j$ such that the following four conditions hold for $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$:

$$(5) \quad B_i = B_{i,0} \times B_{i,1} \times \dots \times B_{i,i-1} \times B'_{i,i-1},$$

$$(6) \quad C_j = C_{0,j} \times C_{1,j} \times \dots \times C_{j,j} \times C'_{j,j},$$

$$(7) \quad B'_{i,i-1} \cong^c C_{i,i} \times C_{i,i+1} \times C_{i,i+2} \times \dots,$$

$$(8) \quad C'_{j,j} \cong^c B_{j+1,j} \times B_{j+2,j} \times B_{j+3,j} \times \dots.$$

From (2), (7) and (8) we infer that there exist algebras $B_{i,j}$ for $i \leq j$ and $C_{i,j}$ for $i > j$ such that

$$(9) \quad B_{i,j} \cong^c C_{i,j} \quad \text{for } i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

$$(10) \quad B_0 = B_{0,0} \times B_{0,1} \times B_{0,2} \times \dots,$$

$$(11) \quad B'_{i,i-1} = B_{i,i} \times B_{i,i+1} \times B_{i,i+2} \times \dots \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

$$(12) \quad C'_{j,j} = C_{j+1,j} \times C_{j+2,j} \times C_{j+3,j} \times \dots \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots.$$

Together with (5) and (6) the last three formulas yield

$$B_i = B_{i,0} \times B_{i,1} \times B_{i,2} \times \dots,$$

$$C_j = C_{0,j} \times C_{1,j} \times C_{2,j} \times \dots.$$

Thus the two original decompositions of A have the refinements

$$A = \prod_{i < \infty} \prod_{j < \infty} B_{i,j} = \prod_{i < \infty} \prod_{j < \infty} C_{i,j},$$

and according to (9) these are centrally isomorphic.

5. Decompositions into indecomposable factors. In order to prove the existence of centrally isomorphic refinements for two decompositions with countably many factors we had to assume that all the factors involved had the \aleph_0 -exchange property. In proving that two decompositions with indecomposable factors are centrally isomorphic we can get by with a much weaker assumption. This is due to the next two lemmas.

LEMMA 5.1. *If an indecomposable algebra B has the 2-exchange property, then B has the exchange property.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i.$$

Since each element of A is contained in the product of finitely many factors D_i , there exists a finite subset J of I such that

$$(1) \quad B \cap \prod_{i \in J} D_i \neq \{0\}.$$

Letting

$$E = \prod_{i \in I-J} D_i,$$

we have

$$A = \prod_{i \in J} D_i \times E.$$

By 3.11 B has the finite exchange property, and there therefore exist subalgebras $D'_i \subseteq D_i$ ($i \in J$) and $E' \subseteq E$ such that

$$(2) \quad A = B \times \prod_{i \in J} D'_i \times E'$$

By the modular law we can find subalgebras D_i'' with $D_i = D'_i \times D_i''$ for $i \in J$, and E'' with $E = E' \times E''$. By 2.20,

$$B \cong \prod_{i \in J} D_i'' \times E''.$$

But as B is indecomposable, only one of the factors in this last product can be different from $\{0\}$. This cannot be the factor E'' , for then we would have $D'_i = D_i$ for all $i \in J$, and the product in (2) could not exist because of (1). Thus $E'' = \{0\}$, $E' = E$, and letting $D'_i = D_i$ for all

$i \in I - J$ we have

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i .$$

LEMMA 5.2. *If an algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras all of which have the 2-exchange property, then every indecomposable factor of A has the exchange property.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where B is indecomposable and the algebras D_i have the 2-exchange property. By 5.1 it suffices to show that B has the 2-exchange property. As in the preceding proof, we choose a finite subset J of I with

$$(1) \quad B \cap \prod_{i \in J} D_i \neq \{0\} .$$

By 3.10 the algebra

$$E = \prod_{i \in J} D_i$$

has the 2-exchange property, and there therefore exist subalgebras $B' \subseteq B$ and $C' \subseteq C$ such that

$$A = E \times B' \times C' .$$

By the modular law, B' is a factor of B , and because $B' \cap E = \{0\} \neq B \cap E$, we have $B' \neq B$. Therefore $B' = \{0\}$. Thus $A = B \times C = E \times C'$. Again by the modular law, $C = C' \times (C \cap E')$, and using 2.20 we infer that $E \cong B \times (C \cap E')$. Thus B is isomorphic to a factor of E , and therefore has the 2-exchange property by 3.10.

THEOREM 5.3. *If an algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras all of which have the 2-exchange property, then any two direct decompositions of A into indecomposable factors are centrally isomorphic.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j$$

where all the factors B_i and C_j are indecomposable and therefore, by 5.2, have the exchange property. For $I' \subseteq I$ and $J' \subseteq J$ let

$$B(I') = \prod_{i \in I'} B_i \quad \text{and} \quad C(J') = \prod_{j \in J'} C_j ,$$

and recall that, by 3.10, $B(I')$ and $C(J')$ have the exchange property whenever the sets I' and J' are finite. In particular, it follows from this and the indecomposability of the factors C_j that if I' is any finite subset of I , then $A = B(I') \times C(J - J')$ for some subset J' of J . Moreover, since $B(I') \cong^c C(J')$, we see with the aid of 4.1 that J' must also be finite and that, in fact, there must exist a one-to-one map φ of I' onto J' such that $B_i \cong^c C_{\varphi(i)}$ for all $i \in I'$. Similarly, for each finite subset J' of J there exists a one-to-one map ψ of J' into I such that $C_j \cong^c B_{\psi(j)}$ whenever $j \in J'$.

For $k \in I$ let

$$I_k = \{i \mid i \in I \text{ and } B_i \cong^c B_k\}, \quad J_k = \{j \mid j \in J \text{ and } C_j \cong^c B_k\}.$$

From the above considerations we see that each member of J must belong to at least one set J_k , and that if J_k is finite, then I_k must have at least as many elements as J_k . To complete the proof it suffices to show that this last statement also holds when J_k is infinite. To prove this we consider, for each $i \in I$, the set N_i of all elements $j \in J$ such that $A = B_i \times C(J - \{j\})$, and show that

$$(1) \quad N_i \text{ is finite for each } i \in I,$$

$$(2) \quad \bigcup_{i \in I_k} N_i = J_k.$$

From this our assertion follows, for since J_k is assumed to be infinite, (1) and (2) show that the number of elements in J_k cannot exceed the number of distinct sets N_i with $i \in I_k$, and hence cannot be larger than the number of elements in I_k .

Considering a fixed element $i \in I$, choose a finite subset J' of J such that $B_i \cap C(J') \neq \{0\}$. Then the direct product $B_i \times C(J - \{j\})$ fails to exist whenever $j \in J - J'$, and N_i must therefore be a subset of J' . Thus N_i is finite.

Considering a fixed element $j \in J_k$, choose a finite subset I' of I such that $C_j \cap B(I') \neq \{0\}$. Then there exists a finite subset J' of J such that $A = B(I') \times C(J - J')$. Observing that $j \in J'$, let $J'' = J' - \{j\}$ and apply 3.9 to the direct decompositions

$$A = C(J'') \times C_j \times C(J - J') = \prod_{i \in I'} B_i \times C(J - J').$$

This yields an element $i \in I'$ such that

$$A = C(J'') \times B_i \times C(J - J') = B_i \times C(J - \{j\}),$$

and therefore $j \in N_i$. Since $j \in J_k$ and $C_j \cong^c B_i$, we have $i \in I_k$. Thus (2) holds, and the proof is complete.

6. Factors with countably generated centers: Preliminary lemmas.
As a result of Lemma 6.3 below the isomorphic refinement problem for algebras

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i ,$$

where the factors B_i have countably generated centers, reduces to the special case where I is countable, and A itself therefore has a countably generated center.

LEMMA 6.1. *If B, C and $D_i (i \in I)$ are subalgebras of an algebra A such that*

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i \quad \text{and} \quad B^c = \prod_{i \in I} (B^c \cap D_i) ,$$

then there exist subalgebras $E_i (i \in I)$ such that $B^c \cap D_i \subseteq E_i \subseteq D_i$ and

$$A = C \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Proof. By 2.16,

$$A^c = B^c \times C^c = \prod_{i \in I} D_i^c ,$$

and since each $B^c \cap D_i$ is a factor of A^c and a subalgebra of D_i^c , it follows from the modular law that there exist subalgebras D_i' with $D_i^c = (B^c \cap D_i) \times D_i'$ for all $i \in I$. Thus

$$A^c = B^c \times C^c = B^c \times \prod_{i \in I} D_i' ,$$

and it follows from 2.19 and 2.18 that

$$B \times C^c = B \times \prod_{i \in I} D_i' = \prod_{i \in I} D_i''$$

where $D_i'' = (B \times C^c) \cap D_i$ for all $i \in I$. Again using the modular law we infer that, for each $i \in I$, $D_i'' = D_i' \times E_i$ where

$$E_i = D_i'' \cap \left(B \times \prod_{i \neq j \in I} D_j' \right) .$$

Consequently

$$(1) \quad B \times C^c = \prod_{i \in I} D_i' \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Observing that

$$B^c \times C^c = B^c \times \left(\prod_{i \in I} D_i' \right)^c = \left(\prod_{i \in I} E_i \right)^c \times \left(\prod_{i \in I} D_i' \right)^c ,$$

and that

$$B^c = \prod_{i \in I} (B^c \cap D_i) \subseteq \prod_{i \in I} E_i^c = \left(\prod_{i \in I} E_i \right)^c,$$

we see with the aid of 2.4 that

$$B^c = \left(\prod_{i \in I} E_i \right)^c.$$

Consequently

$$C^c \cap \left(\prod_{i \in I} E_i \right) = \{0\}.$$

According to 2.14 this implies that the direct product

$$(2) \quad A' = C^c \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

exists. Furthermore, A' contains $B^c \times C^c$, and therefore contains all the algebras D'_i . Hence it follows by (1) and (2) that $B \times C^c \subseteq A'$. The opposite inclusion also holds, since all the algebras E_i are contained in $B \times C^c$. Thus $A' = B \times C^c$. Together with (2) and 2.19 this yields the desired conclusion,

$$A = B \times C = C \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i.$$

LEMMA 6.2. *Suppose $B_i (i \in I)$, $C_j (j \in J)$ and D are subalgebras of an algebra A such that*

$$(i) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i \times D = \prod_{j \in J} C_j \times D,$$

and suppose B_i^c is countably generated for each $i \in I$. If $k \in I$, then there exist a countable set $K \subseteq I$ with $k \in K$ and subalgebras $F_j \subseteq C_j$ ($j \in J$) such that

$$(ii) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I-K} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} F_j \times D,$$

$$(iii) \quad \prod_{i \in K} B_i^c \times D^c = \prod_{j \in J} F_j^c \times D^c.$$

Proof. Since B_k^c is countably generated there exist countably generated subalgebras $E_{j,0} \subseteq C_j^c$ ($j \in J$) such that $E_{j,0} = \{0\}$ for all but countably many $j \in J$ and such that

$$B_k^c \subseteq \prod_{j \in J} E_{j,0} \times D^c.$$

Since the algebra

$$F_0 = \prod_{j \in J} E_{j,0}$$

is countably generated, there exists a countable subset I_1 of I such that $k \in I_1$ and

$$F_0 \subseteq \prod_{i \in I_1} B_i^c \times D^c.$$

Again, since the algebra

$$G_1 = \prod_{j \in I_1} B_j^c$$

is countable generated, there exist countably generated subalgebras $E_{j,1} \subseteq C_j^c$ ($j \in J$) such that $E_{j,0} \subseteq E_{j,1} \subseteq C_j$ for all $j \in J$, $E_{j,1} = \{0\}$ for all but countably many $j \in J$, and

$$G_1 \subseteq \prod_{j \in J} E_{j,1} \times D^c.$$

Continuing in this manner we obtain an ascending sequence of countable sets $I_0 = \{k\} \subseteq I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq I$ and, for each $j \in J$, an ascending sequence of subalgebras $E_{j,0} \subseteq E_{j,1} \subseteq E_{j,2} \subseteq \dots \subseteq C_j^c$ such that

$$\prod_{i \in I_n} B_i^c \subseteq \prod_{j \in J} E_{j,n} \times D^c \subseteq \prod_{i \in I_{n+1}} B_i^c \times D^c$$

for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Letting $K = I_0 \cup I_1 \cup \dots$ and $E_j = E_{j,0} \cup E_{j,1} \cup \dots$ for all $j \in J$ we therefore have

$$(1) \quad \prod_{i \in K} B_i^c \times D^c = \prod_{j \in J} E_j \times D^c.$$

Letting θ be the congruence relation over A induced by D we have

$$A/\theta = \left(\left(\prod_{i \in I-K} B_i \right) / \theta \right) \times \left(\left(\prod_{i \in K} B_i \right) / \theta \right) = \prod_{j \in J} (C_j/\theta)$$

by 3.3 and 3.7. Letting

$$\bar{A} = \left(\left(\prod_{i \in K} B_i \right) / \theta \right)^c$$

we see by (1) that

$$\bar{A} = \prod_{j \in J} (E_j/\theta),$$

and it readily follows that $E_j/\theta = \bar{A} \cap (C_j/\theta)$ for all $j \in J$. We therefore infer by 6.1 that there exist subalgebras F_j ($j \in J$) with $E_j \subseteq F_j \subseteq C_j$ such that

$$A/\theta = \left(\left(\prod_{i \in I-K} B_i \right) / \theta \right) \times \prod_{j \in J} (F_j/\theta),$$

and we conclude by 3.8 that (ii) holds. Finally, $E_j \subseteq F_j^c$ for all $j \in J$, so that by (1)

$$\prod_{i \in K} B_i^c \times D^c \subseteq \prod_{j \in J} F_j^c \times D^c.$$

Since, by (i) and (ii),

$$A^c = \prod_{i \in I-K} B_i^c \times \prod_{i \in K} B_i^c \times D^c = \prod_{i \in I-K} B_i^c \times \prod_{j \in J} F_j^c \times D^c,$$

we conclude with the aid of 2.4 that (iii) holds.

LEMMA 6.3. *If $B_i (i \in I)$ and $C_j (j \in J)$ are subalgebras of an algebra A such that*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j,$$

and if B_i is countably generated for each $i \in I$, then there exist a (possibly transfinite) sequence of countable pairwise disjoint subsets $I_\alpha (\alpha < \lambda)$ of I and subalgebras $C_{j,\alpha} \subseteq C_j (j \in J, \alpha < \lambda)$ of A such that $I = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} I_\alpha$ and, for all $\beta \leq \lambda$,

$$A = \prod_{\beta \leq \alpha < \lambda} \prod_{i \in I_\alpha} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \beta} C_{j,\alpha}.$$

Proof. Letting $U_\beta = \bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} I_\alpha$, we can write this last formula in the form

$$(1) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I-U_\beta} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \beta} C_{j,\alpha}.$$

Since this condition involves only sets I_α and algebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ with $\alpha < \beta$, it can be used as an induction hypothesis. To secure the convergence of our construction process we impose as a second induction hypothesis the condition

$$(2) \quad \prod_{i \in U_\beta} B_i^c \subseteq \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \beta} C_{j,\alpha}^c.$$

First observe that this last condition does in fact permit the passage through the limit ordinals. More precisely, suppose η is a limit ordinal, and suppose the sets I_α and algebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ have been chosen for all $\alpha < \eta$ in such a way that (1) and (2) hold for all $\beta < \eta$. We wish to show that in this case (1) and (2) also hold for $\beta = \eta$. From the fact that the condition (2) holds for $\beta < \eta$ it follows that this condition also holds for $\beta = \eta$. Furthermore, since the direct product

$$\prod_{i \in I-U_\eta} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \beta} C_{j,\alpha}$$

exists for all $\beta < \eta$, we readily see that the direct product

$$A' = \prod_{i \in I-U_\eta} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \eta} C_{j,\alpha}$$

also exists. In order to prove that $A' = A$, and hence that (1) holds for $\beta = \eta$, it suffices to show that $B_h \subseteq A'$ whenever $h \in U_\eta$. For each such index h there exists an ordinal $\gamma < \eta$ with $h \in U_\gamma$. Using (1) with $\beta = \gamma$, (2) with $\beta = \eta$, and 2.19 we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} B_h &\subseteq \prod_{i \in I - U_\gamma} B_i^e \times \prod_{i \in U_\gamma} B_i = \prod_{i \in I - U_\gamma} B_i^e \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \gamma} C_{j,\alpha} \\ &\subseteq \prod_{i \in I - U_\eta} B_i^e \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \eta} C_{j,\alpha} \subseteq A'. \end{aligned}$$

Now consider an arbitrary ordinal η and suppose the sets I_α and algebras $C_{j,\alpha} \subseteq C_j$ ($j \in J$) have been defined for all $\alpha < \eta$ in such a way that (1) and (2) hold whenever $\beta \leq \eta$. If $U_\eta = I$, then we take $\lambda = \eta$. Assuming that $U_\eta \neq I$, let

$$\begin{aligned} D_{j,\eta} &= \prod_{\alpha < \eta} C_{j,\alpha} \quad (j \in J), \\ D_\eta &= \prod_{j \in J} D_{j,\eta}. \end{aligned}$$

For each $j \in J$, $D_{j,\eta}$ is a factor of A and a subalgebra of C_j , hence $C_j = D_{j,\eta} \times C'_{j,\eta}$ for some subalgebra $C'_{j,\eta}$. It follows that

$$A = \prod_{i \in I - U_\eta} B_i \times D_\eta = \prod_{j \in J} C'_{j,\eta} \times D_\eta.$$

Choosing $k \in I - U_\eta$ we infer by 6.2 that there exist a countable set I_η with $k \in I_\eta \subseteq I - U_\eta$ and subalgebras $C_{j,\eta} \subseteq C'_{j,\eta}$ ($j \in J$) such that

$$(3) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I - U_{\eta+1}} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} C_{j,\eta} \times D_\eta = \prod_{i \in I - U_{\eta+1}} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \eta+1} C_{j,\alpha},$$

$$(4) \quad \prod_{i \in I_\eta} B_i^e \times D_\eta^e = \prod_{j \in J} C_{j,\eta}^e \times D_\eta^e.$$

Here, in accordance with our earlier notation,

$$U_{\eta+1} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \mu+1} I_\alpha = U_\eta \cup I_\eta.$$

By (3), (1) holds for $\beta = \eta + 1$, and from (4) and the fact that (2) holds for $\beta = \eta$ we infer that (2) holds for $\beta = \eta + 1$.

Since all the sets I_α are nonempty, there must exist an ordinal λ such that $U_\lambda = I$, and the corresponding sets I_α and algebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ ($\alpha < \lambda$, $j \in J$) clearly have the properties required by the lemma.

7. Factors with countably generated centers: Fundamental theorem. We are now ready to prove the fundamental theorem relating the exchange property to the isomorphic refinement property.

THEOREM 7.1. *If an algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras each of which has the exchange property and has a countably generated center, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally*

isomorphic refinements.

Proof. Suppose

$$(1) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

where, for each $i \in I$, B_i has the exchange property and B_i^e is countably generated. Since every factor of B_i (and hence every algebra isomorphic to such a factor) has the exchange property and has a countably generated center, it is enough to show that the decomposition (1) and any other decomposition

$$(2) \quad A = \prod_{j \in J} C_j$$

have centrally isomorphic refinements.

Consider first the case when I is countable. For convenience suppose I consists of the integers $0, 1, 2, \dots$. In this case the center of A is generated by a countable set

$$Z = \{a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots\}.$$

We shall construct an increasing sequence of finite subsets I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots of I and, for each $j \in J$, two sequences of subalgebras $D_{j,0}, D_{j,1}, D_{j,2}, \dots$ and $D'_{j,0} = C_j, D'_{j,1}, D'_{j,2}, \dots$ such that the following conditions hold for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$:

$$(3) \quad k \in I_k.$$

$$(4) \quad D'_{j,k} = D_{j,k} \times D'_{j,k+1} \quad \text{for all } j \in J.$$

$$(5) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I_k} B_i \times \prod_{i \in J} D'_{j,k+1}.$$

$$(6) \quad a_k \in \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{l \leq k} D_{j,l}.$$

By (2) there exists a finitely nonzero system of elements $c'_{j,0} \in C_j$ ($j \in J$) such that

$$a_0 = \sum_{j \in J} c'_{j,0},$$

and by (1) there exists a finite subset I_0 of I such that $0 \in I_0$ and such that all the elements $c'_{j,0}$ belong to the algebra

$$B'_0 = \prod_{i \in I_0} B_i.$$

Since B'_0 has the exchange property, there exist subalgebras $D'_{j,1} \subseteq C_j$ ($j \in J$) such that (5) holds for $k = 0$, and letting

$$D_{j,0} = C_j \cap \left(B'_0 \times \prod_{j \neq h \in J} D'_{h,1} \right)$$

for all $j \in J$, we see that (4) and (6) also hold for $k = 0$. In the case of (6) this is true because $c'_{j,0} \in C_j \cap B'_0 \subseteq D_{j,0}$ for all $j \in J$.

Now consider an integer $n > 0$, and assume that the finite subsets $I_0 \subseteq I_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq I_{n-1}$ of I and the subalgebras $D_{j,0}, D_{j,1}, \dots, D_{j,n-1}, D'_{j,0} = C_j, D'_{j,1}, \dots, D'_{j,n}$ ($j \in J$) have been so chosen that (3)–(6) hold for $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$. For each $j \in J$ we have have

$$C_j = \prod_{k < n} D_{j,k} \times C'_{j,n},$$

and there exist finitely non-zero systems of elements

$$(7) \quad c_{j,n} \in \prod_{k < n} D_{j,k} \quad \text{and} \quad c'_{j,n} \in D'_{j,n} \quad (j \in J)$$

such that

$$a_n = \sum_{j \in J} c_{j,n} + \sum_{j \in J} c'_{j,n}.$$

There exists a finite subset I_n of I such that $I_{n-1} \subseteq I_n$ and $n \in I_n$, and such that all the elements $c'_{j,n}$ belong to the algebra

$$B'_n = \prod_{i \in I_n} B_i.$$

Since B'_n has the exchange property, and since

$$A = \prod_{i \in I_n} B_i \times \prod_{i \in I - I_n} B_i = \prod_{i \in I_{n-1}} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n},$$

there exist subalgebras $D'_{j,n+1} \subseteq D'_{j,n}$ ($j \in J$) such that (5) holds with $k = n$, and letting

$$D_{j,n} = D'_{j,n} \cap \left(B'_n \times \prod_{j \neq h \in J} D'_{h,n+1} \right)$$

for all $j \in J$, we see that (4) and (6) also hold for $k = n$. In the case of (6) this is true because of the first formula in (7) and because of the fact that $c'_{j,n} \in D'_{j,n} \cap B'_n \subseteq D_{j,n}$ for all $j \in J$. Thus we see that the sets I_k and algebras $D_{j,k}$ and $D'_{j,k}$ can be so chosen that (3)–(6) hold for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$.

It follows from (4) that the direct products

$$C_j^* = \prod_{k < \infty} D_{j,k} \quad (j \in J) \quad \text{and} \quad A^* = \prod_{j \in J} C_j^*$$

exist, and from (6) we infer that $A^c \subseteq A^*$. Moreover, for any natural number n ,

$$A = \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{k \leq n} D_{j,k} \times \prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n},$$

and using this together with (3) and (5) we see by 2.19 that

$$B_n \subseteq \prod_{i \in I_n} B_i \times \left(\prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n} \right)^c = \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{k \leq n} D'_{j,k} \times \left(\prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n} \right)^c \subseteq A^* .$$

Consequently $A^* = A$, and we infer by 2.4 that $C_j^* = C_j$ for all $j \in J$.

From (4) and (5) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \prod_{i \in I_{n-1}} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} D_{j,n} \times \prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n+1} \\ &= \prod_{i \in I_{n-1}} B_i \times \prod_{i \in I_n - I_{n-1}} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} D'_{j,n+1} , \end{aligned}$$

whence it follows that

$$\prod_{i \in I_n - I_{n-1}} B_i \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} D_{j,n} .$$

Consequently, by 4.1, there exist subalgebras $B_{i,j}$ and $C_{i,j}$, ($i \in I_n - I_{n-1}$, $j \in J$) such that

$$\begin{aligned} B_i &= \prod_{j \in J} B_{i,j} && \text{for all } i \in I_n - I_{n-1} , \\ D_{j,n} &= \prod_{i \in I_n - I_{n-1}} C_{i,j} && \text{for all } j \in J , \\ B_{i,j} &\cong^c C_{i,j} && \text{for all } i \in I_n - I_{n-1} \text{ and } j \in J . \end{aligned}$$

Inasmuch as this holds for every natural number n (with $I_{-1} = \emptyset$), we conclude that

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} \prod_{j \in J} B_{i,j} = \prod_{i \in I} \prod_{j \in J} C_{i,j} ,$$

and that these two decompositions of A are centrally isomorphic and are refinements of the decompositions (1) and (2), respectively.

We now drop the assumption that I is denumerable. By 6.3 there exist a sequence of countable, pairwise disjoint subsets I_α ($\alpha < \lambda$) of I , and for each $j \in J$ a sequence of subalgebras $D_{j,\alpha}$ ($\alpha < \lambda$) of C_j such that $I = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} I_\alpha$ and

$$(8) \quad A = \prod_{\beta \leq \alpha < \lambda} \prod_{i \in I_\alpha} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \beta} D_{j,\alpha}$$

for all $\beta \leq \lambda$. For $\beta = \lambda$ this yields

$$A = \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} D_{j,\alpha} ,$$

and using 2.4 we infer that

$$C_j = \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} D_{j,\alpha} \quad \text{for all } j \in J .$$

Taking in (8) two successive values for β , say $\beta = \gamma$ and $\beta = \gamma + 1$, and comparing the resulting formulas, we see that

$$(9) \quad \prod_{i \in I_\gamma} B_i \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} D_{j,\gamma}.$$

Since I_γ is countable, it follows from the first part of the proof that the two decompositions in (9) have centrally isomorphic refinements, and inasmuch as this holds for every $\gamma < \lambda$, we conclude that the decompositions (1) and (2) have centrally isomorphic refinements.

The preceding theorem can also be stated in the following, apparently more general, form.

THEOREM 7.2. *If an algebra A has two direct decompositions,*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j,$$

such that each of the factors B_i ($i \in I$) has a countably generated center and each of the factors C_j ($j \in J$) has the \aleph_0 -exchange property, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.

Proof. Choosing the ordinal λ , subsets I_α ($\alpha < \lambda$) of I , and subalgebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ ($j \in J$, $\alpha < \lambda$) according to 6.3, we have

$$(1) \quad C_j = \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} C_{j,\alpha} \quad \text{for each } j \in J,$$

$$(2) \quad \prod_{i \in I_\alpha} B_i \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} C_{j,\alpha} \quad \text{for each } \alpha < \lambda.$$

Since, by hypothesis, each of the sets I_α is countable, the first direct product in (2) has a countably generated center, and hence so does the second product. Consequently each of the factors $C_{j,\alpha}$ has a countably generated center. Furthermore, by (1) and 3.10, each of the algebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ has the \aleph_0 -exchange property. Hence, by 3.12, all the algebras $C_{j,\alpha}$ have the exchange property. Since

$$A = \prod_{j \in J} \prod_{\alpha < \lambda} C_{j,\alpha},$$

the conclusion now follows from 7.1.

8. Sufficient conditions for an algebra to have the m -exchange property. So far we have been primarily concerned with consequences of the exchange property, but in the remainder of this paper we shall investigate conditions that imply that a given algebra has the exchange property. In the present section it will be shown that this problem reduces to considerations that involve only abelian algebras.

THEOREM 8.1. *For any cardinal m , if the center of an algebra B has the m -exchange property, then B has the m -exchange property.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

where the cardinal of I is at most m . Then by 2.18,

$$B^c \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D'_i$$

where $D'_i = (B^c \times C) \cap D_i$ for each $i \in I$. Hence there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D'_i$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$B^c \times C = B^c \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i ,$$

and we conclude by 2.19 that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

THEOREM 8.2. *For any cardinal m , in order for an algebra B to have the m -exchange property it is sufficient (and obviously necessary) that the following condition be satisfied: For any algebra A containing B as a factor, and for any subalgebras C and D_i ($i \in I$) of A , if*

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

if the cardinal of I does not exceed m , and if each of the algebras D_i ($i \in I$) is isomorphic to a subalgebra of B , then there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Proof. Assume that the above condition is satisfied. Suppose

$$(i) \quad A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

where the cardinal of I does not exceed m . Let f and g be the projections of A onto B and C induced by the first decomposition of A , and for $i \in I$ let h_i be the projection of A onto D_i induced by the second decomposition.

Let θ be the congruence relation over A defined by the condition that, for all $x, y \in A$,

$$x\theta y \text{ if and only if } fh_i(x) = fh_i(y) \text{ whenever } i \in I .$$

We shall show that

$$(1) \quad \theta \text{ is consistent with the decompositions (i) of } A .$$

(2) The restriction of θ to B is the identity relation over B .

Suppose $x, y \in A$ and $x\theta y$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f\left(\sum_{i \in I} h_i(x)\right) = \sum_{i \in I} fh_i(x) \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} fh_i(y) = f\left(\sum_{i \in I} h_i(y)\right) = f(y). \end{aligned}$$

In particular $f(x)\theta f(y)$. Moreover, this shows that for $x, y \in B$ the condition $x\theta y$ implies that $x = f(x) = f(y) = y$, so that (2) holds. Again assuming that $x\theta y$, if $k \in I$ then

$$\begin{aligned} fh_i h_k(x) &= 0 = fh_i h_k(y) \quad \text{whenever } k \neq i \in I, \\ fh_k h_k(x) &= fh_k(x) = fh_k(y) = fh_k h_k(y), \end{aligned}$$

so that $h_k(x)\theta h_k(y)$. From the equations

$$\begin{aligned} fh_k f(x) + fh_k g(x) &= fh_k(f(x) + g(x)) = fh_k(x) = fh_k(y) \\ &= fh_k(f(y) + g(y)) = fh_k f(y) + fh_k g(y) \end{aligned}$$

we infer that

$$(3) \quad h_i fh_k f(x) + h_i fh_k g(x) = h_i fh_k f(y) + h_i fh_k g(y)$$

for all $i, k \in I$. Since $f(x) = f(y)$, we have

$$h_i fh_k f(x) = h_i fh_k f(y)$$

for all $i, k \in I$, and if $i \neq k$, then this element belongs to A^c . Therefore, by (3),

$$(4) \quad h_i fh_k g(x) = h_i fh_k g(y) \quad \text{whenever } i, k \in I \text{ and } i \neq k.$$

Considering now a fixed index $i \in I$, observe that

$$\sum_{k \in I} h_i fh_k g(x) = h_i f\left(\sum_{k \in I} h_k g(x)\right) = h_i fg(x) = h_i(0) = 0,$$

with the corresponding formula holding with x replaced by y . Hence, in particular,

$$\sum_{k \in I} h_i fh_k g(x) = \sum_{k \in I} h_i fh_k g(y).$$

Furthermore, all the summands in these two sums belong to A^c because $fh_k g(x)$ and $fh_k g(y)$ always belong to A^c . Since, by (4),

$$\sum_{i \neq k \in I} h_i fh_k g(x) = \sum_{i \neq k \in I} h_i fh_k g(y),$$

this implies that

$$h_i f h_i g(x) = h_i f h_i g(y) .$$

Thus in (4) we can omit the condition that $i \neq k$, and we conclude that, for all $k \in I$,

$$f h_k g(x) = \sum_{i \in I} h_i f h_k g(x) = \sum_{i \in I} h_i f h_k g(y) = f h_k g(y) ,$$

so that $g(x)\theta g(y)$. This completes the proof of (1).

From (1) it follows that

$$A/\theta = (B/\theta) \times (C/\theta) = \prod_{i \in I} (D_i/\theta) .$$

Notice that if $k \in I$ and $x, y \in D_k$, then the conditions $x\theta y$ and $f(x) = f(y)$ are equivalent, and therefore the mapping

$$x/\theta \rightarrow f(x) \quad (x \in D_k)$$

is an isomorphism of D_k/θ into B . Since $B \cong B/\theta$, it follows that there exist subalgebras $\bar{E}_i \subseteq D_i/\theta$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$A/\theta = (B/\theta) \times \prod_{i \in I} \bar{E}_i .$$

Consequently, by 3.4 there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Because of 8.1, we may apply the criterion in 8.2 to B^c in place of B , and thus consider decompositions

$$A = B^c \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where the algebras D_i are isomorphic to subalgebras of B^c . However, the algebras D_i need not be central subalgebras of A , and A therefore is not necessarily abelian. We shall now show that it is actually sufficient to consider the case when A is abelian, in which case the factors C and D_i ($i \in I$) of A are of course also abelian.

THEOREM 8.3. *For any cardinal m , in order for an algebra B to have the m -exchange property it is sufficient that the following condition be satisfied: For any abelian algebra A containing B^c as a factor, and for any subalgebras C and D_i ($i \in I$) of A , if*

$$(i) \quad A = B^c \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i ,$$

if the cardinal of I does not exceed m , and if each of the algebras D_i ($i \in I$) is isomorphic to a subalgebra of B^c , then there exist subalgebras $E_i \subseteq D_i$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$(ii) \quad A = B^c \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Proof. By 8.1 it suffices to show that B^c has the m -exchange property, and by 8.2 it is therefore enough to show that the condition in our theorem implies the property obtained from it by deleting the word “abelian.” Assume therefore that (i) holds, that the cardinal of I does not exceed m , and that each of the algebras $D_i (i \in I)$ is isomorphic to a subalgebra of B^c . Under the operation $+$ each of the algebras D_i is therefore a commutative cancellation semigroup, and hence so is A . Consequently A can be embedded in an Abelian group \bar{A} in such a way that each element of \bar{A} is the difference of two elements of A . This extension of A is unique up to isomorphism. Furthermore, there is a unique way of extending the operations $F_t (t \in T)$ to \bar{A} in such a way that the resulting algebra is abelian: If $a_k = a'_k - a''_k$ with $a'_k, a''_k \in A$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots, \rho(t) - 1$, then we let

$$F_t(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{\rho(t)-1}) = F_t(a'_0, a'_1, \dots, a'_{\rho(t)-1}) - F_t(a''_0, a''_1, \dots, a''_{\rho(t)-1}) .$$

That this definition is unambiguous and actually does yield an abelian algebra is an easy consequence of the fact that the equation

$$\begin{aligned} F_t(x_0 + y_0, x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1} + y_{\rho(t)-1}) \\ = F_t(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{\rho(t)-1}) + F_t(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{\rho(t)-1}) \end{aligned}$$

holds whenever the elements $x_k, y_k (k = 0, 1, \dots, \rho(t) - 1)$ belong to A .

For any subalgebra X of A let \bar{X} be the smallest abelian subalgebra of \bar{A} that contains X . Then \bar{X} consists of all elements of the form $x - x'$ with $x, x' \in X$. It is easy to check the condition

$$A = \prod_{j \in J} X_j$$

implies that

$$\bar{A} = \prod_{j \in J} \bar{X}_j .$$

In particular, since $\bar{B}^c = B^c$,

$$\bar{A} = B^c \times \bar{C} = \prod_{i \in I} \bar{D}_i .$$

For each $i \in I$, D_i is isomorphic to a subalgebra of B^c , and the same is therefore true of \bar{D}_i . Hence, by hypothesis, there exist subalgebras $F_i \subseteq \bar{D}_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$\bar{A} = B^c \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i .$$

Given an element $a \in A$, there exist an element $b \in B^c$ and a finitely

nonzero system of elements $f_i \in F_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$a = b + \sum_{i \in I} f_i .$$

Since $-b \in A$, the element

$$a - b = \sum_{i \in I} f_i$$

belongs to A , and there exists a finitely nonzero system of elements $d_i \in D_i (i \in I)$ such that

$$a - b = \sum_{i \in I} d_i .$$

Inasmuch as $d_i, f_i \in \bar{D}_i$ for all $i \in I$, we infer that $d_i = f_i \in D_i \cap F_i$ for all $i \in I$, and therefore

$$a = b + \sum_{i \in I} d_i \in B^c \times \prod_{i \in I} (D_i \cap F_i) .$$

It is now easy to show that (ii) holds with $E_i = D_i \cap F_i$ for all $i \in I$.

9. Factors with central chain conditions. In this section we will show that algebras satisfying certain central chain conditions have the exchange property and have countably generated centers, and these results will be applied to obtain the principal isomorphic refinement theorem for general algebras. The chain conditions involved are made precise in the following two definitions.

DEFINITION 9.1. *An algebra A is said to satisfy the minimal condition if every nonempty family of subtractive subalgebras of A has a minimal member. Similarly, A satisfies the maximal condition if every nonempty family of subtractive subalgebras has a maximal member.*

DEFINITION 9.2. *An algebra A is said to satisfy the local maximal condition if every finitely generated subtractive subalgebra of A satisfies the maximal condition.*

It should be noted that the minimal and (local) maximal conditions as defined above involve only subtractive subalgebras of an algebra A . In particular, since the subtractive subalgebras of an operator group are precisely its admissible subgroups, for groups the minimal and maximal conditions as defined in 9.1 and 9.2 are just the usual group-theoretic chain conditions.

The first theorem of this section makes use of the following lemma which is a consequence of the results of Baer [1].

LEMMA 9.3. ([1]; Theorem D p. 96 and Theorem 3 p. 93)⁵ *Let G be an operator group which satisfies the minimal and local maximal conditions. If $G = B \times C = D \times E$ where B is indecomposable, then there exist factors $D' \subseteq D$ and $E' \subseteq E$ such that $G = B \times D' \times E'$.*

Suppose now that A is an abelian algebra with auxiliary operations $F_t (t \in T)$. For each $t \in T$ and each $k < \rho(t)$ define the unary operation $F_{k,t}$ by

$$F_{k,t}(a) = F_t(0, \dots, 0, a, 0, \dots, 0) \quad \text{for all } a \in A.$$

k th

Since A is abelian, it follows that for each $t \in T$ and elements $a_0, \dots, a_{\rho(t)-1} \in A$ we have

$$F_t(a_0, \dots, a_{\rho(t)-1}) = \sum_{k < \rho(t)} F_{k,t}(a_k).$$

Consequently the (subtractive) subalgebras of A and the direct decompositions of A remain unchanged if we replace the operations $F_t (t \in T)$ by the operations $F_{k,t} (k < \rho(t), t \in T)$. Moreover, this new system so obtained is obviously an abelian operator group. Hence the following lemma is immediate by 9.3.

LEMMA 9.4. *If A is an abelian algebra which satisfies the minimal condition and the local maximal condition, and if $A = B \times C = D \times E$ where B is indecomposable, then there exist factors $D' \subseteq D$ and $E' \subseteq E$ such that $A = B \times D' \times E'$.*

THEOREM 9.5. *If the center B^c of an algebra B satisfies the minimal condition and the local maximal condition, then B has the exchange property.*

Proof. By 8.1 we may assume that $B = B^c$. Since B satisfies the minimal condition, it is a direct product of finitely many indecomposable subalgebras, and therefore by 3.10 and 5.1 it is sufficient to show that B has the 2-exchange property.

Consider an abelian algebra A containing B as a subalgebra, and algebras C, D_0 and D_1 such that D_0 and D_1 are isomorphic to subalgebras of B and such that $A = B \times C = D_0 \times D_1$. Then both D_0 and D_1 satisfy the minimal and local maximal conditions, and it readily follows that the same is true of A . Therefore by 9.4 there exist subalgebras $E_0 \subseteq D_0$ and $E_1 \subseteq D_1$ such that $A = B \times E_0 \times E_1$, and we conclude by 8.3 that B has the exchange property.

⁵ See also Specht [8], pp. 250, 259 and 260.

In order to apply the preceding theorem in conjunction with 7.1, we must further show that under the given hypothesis B° is countably generated. This observation is based on the following lattice-theoretic lemma. The terminology and simple facts from lattice theory used below can be found in Birkhoff [3].

LEMMA 9.6. *If L is an upper continuous modular lattice, if every decreasing sequence of elements of L is countable, and if every element of L is a join of finite dimensional elements, then every element of L is a join of countably many finite dimensional elements.*

Proof. First consider an element $a \in L$ that is a join of atoms. Then there exists an independence sequence $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_\xi, \dots$ ($\xi < \lambda$) of atoms of L such that

$$a = \sum_{\xi < \lambda} p_\xi.$$

Since the elements

$$\sum_{\eta \leq \xi < \lambda} p_\eta \quad (\eta < \lambda)$$

form a strictly decreasing sequence, λ must be countable, and therefore a is the join of countably many atoms.

Now consider an arbitrary element $a \in L$. For each $n = 1, 2, \dots$ let P_n be the set of all the elements $x \in L$ with $x \leq a$ whose dimension does not exceed n , and let $a_n = \sum P_n$. Then

$$a = \sum_{n < \infty} a_n.$$

By the first part of the proof there is a countable set $Q_1 \subseteq P_1$ such that $a_1 = \sum Q_1$. Suppose $n > 1$ and $x \in P_n$. Then either $x \leq a_{n-1}$ or $x + a_{n-1}$ covers a_{n-1} , since each member of $P_n - P_{n-1}$ covers at least one member of P_{n-1} . Consequently a_n is the join of atoms in the quotient sublattice a/a_{n-1} . Since the hypothesis of the lemma is satisfied with L replaced by this sublattice, we again use the first part of the proof to infer that

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + \sum Q_n$$

where Q_n is a countable subset of $P_n - P_{n-1}$. It follows that each a_n is a join of countably many finite dimensional elements, and therefore a is also a join of countably many such element.

COROLLARY 9.7. *If B is an abelian algebra that satisfies the minimal condition and the local maximal condition, then B is countably generated.*

Proof. The lattice L of all subtractive subalgebras of B is modular and upper continuous, and, by hypothesis, every decreasing sequence of elements of L is finite. Also, if C is a finitely generated subtractive subalgebra of B , then the lattice $L(C)$ of all subtractive subalgebras of C satisfies the double chain condition. Consequently $L(C)$ is finite dimensional, i.e., C is a finite dimensional element of L . Since every subtractive subalgebra of B is the lattice join of finitely generated subtractive subalgebras, L satisfies the hypothesis of 9.6. Hence B is the lattice join of countably many finite dimensional elements of L ; equivalently, B is generated by the set-union of countably many subtractive subalgebras C such that $L(C)$ is finite dimensional. But if $L(C)$ is finite dimensional, then C is clearly finitely generated. Thus it follows that B is countably generated.

Combining 9.5, 9.7 and 7.1 we obtain our principal isomorphic refinement theorem for algebras with auxiliary operations.

THEOREM 9.8. *If an algebra A has a direct decomposition*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

such that, for each $i \in I$, B_i satisfies the minimal condition and the local maximal condition, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.

10. Lemmas on abelian groups. When applied to algebras without auxiliary operations F_i , Theorem 9.8 can be stated in the following equivalent form: *If a binary algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras B_i ($i \in I$) such that, for each $i \in I$, B_i is a direct product of finitely many primary cyclic and quasi-cyclic groups, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.* For every abelian group satisfied the local maximal condition, and the condition imposed on the abelian groups B_i above is equivalent to the assertion that they satisfy the minimal condition. In the next section we shall obtain a result that is considerably more general than the one stated above. Here we list a number of known results and prove five lemmas concerning abelian groups that will be used in the proof of this more general theorem.

If G is an abelian group and n is an integer, then the subgroups nG and $G[n]$ are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} nG &= \{nx \mid x \in G\}, \\ G[n] &= \{x \mid x \in G \text{ and } nx = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

As usual, we say that an abelian group G is *divisible* if $nG = G$ for every integer $n \neq 0$, and we say that G is of *bounded order* if there

exists an integer $n \neq 0$ such that $nG = \{0\}$. An abelian group is said to be *reduced* if it has no nonzero divisible subgroup, and by the *reduced part* of an abelian group G we mean the quotient group G/D where D is the maximal divisible subgroup of G . If X is a subset of a group G , then $[X]$ denotes the subgroup of G generated by X ; in particular, if $x \in G$, then the cyclic subgroup of G generated by x is denoted by $[x]$.

Let G be an abelian p -group (p some prime). By the *height* of an element $x \in G$ we mean the largest integer r such that $x \in p^r G$, if a largest such integer r exists, otherwise the height of x is ∞ . Thus height $x = \infty$ if $x \in p^n G$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, and height $x = r < \infty$ if $x \in p^r G$ but $x \notin p^{r+1} G$. Obviously the zero element of G has infinite height; if this is the only element in G of infinite height, then we say that G has *no elements of infinite height*. Thus G has no elements of infinite height if and only if $\bigcap_{n < \infty} p^n G = \{0\}$.

If G is an abelian p -group with no elements of infinite height, then a topology can be introduced in G by taking as a neighborhood basis for 0 the subgroup $p^n G$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$). This topology is called the *p -adic topology* of G . G can be completed in its p -adic topology, and the torsion subgroup \tilde{G} of the topological completion of G is also an abelian p -group without elements of infinite height.⁶

An abelian p -group G is said to be *torsion-complete* if G has no elements of infinite height, and G is equal to the torsion subgroup of the topological completion of G , $G = \tilde{G}$. Alternatively, G is torsion-complete if and only if G has no elements of infinite height, and every Cauchy sequence $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$ of G , for which the orders of the elements x_k are bounded, converges to a limit in G .⁷ For convenience we will call a Cauchy sequence $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$, for which the orders of the x_k are bounded, a *bounded Cauchy sequence*.

An explicit representation of torsion-complete abelian p -groups can be given as follows. Let U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots be a sequence of p -groups such that U_n is a direct product of cyclic groups of order p^n for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Let Γ be the *Cartesian product* of the groups U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots , that is, Γ is the set of *all* functions f defined on the positive integers such that $f(n) \in U_n$, with addition defined component-wise. Then the torsion subgroup of Γ is torsion-complete. Conversely, if G is a torsion-complete abelian p -group, then there exists a sequence of

⁶ This is essentially given by Kaplansky [7], p. 50.

⁷ Fuchs [5], p. 114, calls these groups *closed*. However, we have adopted the terminology of Kaplansky [7], p. 54, in order to remain consistent with topological terminology. Fuchs' definition of *Cauchy sequence* also differs somewhat from ours in that he requires a Cauchy sequence to be bounded and converge at a specified rate. Again we have followed Kaplansky [7] in using the usual topological concept of Cauchy Sequence.

groups U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots , where U_n is a direct product of cyclic groups of order p^n for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$, such that G is isomorphic to the torsion subgroup of the Cartesian product of U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots .⁸ In particular, every primary abelian group of bounded order is torsion-complete, and every countable torsion-complete primary abelian group is necessarily of bounded order.

By a *pure subgroup* of an abelian p -group G we mean a subgroup S of G such that $S \cap p^n G = p^n S$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$. It is easily seen that the p -adic topology of a pure subgroup of an abelian p -group G with no elements of infinite height is the same as the topology induced by the p -adic topology of G . A subgroup U of a p -group G is called a *basic subgroup* if U has the following properties:

- (i) U is a direct product of cyclic groups;
- (ii) U is a pure subgroup of G ;
- (iii) the quotient group G/U is divisible. A subset $X \subseteq G$ is *independent* if the subgroup $[X]$ generated by X is the direct product of the cyclic subgroups $[x]$ generated by the elements $x \in X$. If in addition, $[X]$ is a pure subgroup of G , then X is called a *pure independent subset*.

The following ten lemmas are well known; proofs and references to the original sources can be found in Fuchs [5] as indicated in each case.

LEMMA 10.1. ([5], p. 62) *If a subgroup S of an abelian group G is divisible, then S is a factor of G .*

LEMMA 10.2. ([5], p. 64) *A divisible abelian group is a direct product of subgroups each of which is isomorphic to either the additive group of rationals or a primary quasi-cyclic group.*

LEMMA 10.3. ([5], p. 78) *If S is a subgroup of an abelian p -group G , and if every element of $S[p]$ has the same height in S as it does in G , i.e., if $S[p] \cap p^n G = S[p] \cap p^n S$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), then S is a pure subgroup of G .*

LEMMA 10.4. ([5], p. 78) *If S is a pure subgroup of an abelian p -group G , and if $S[p] = G[p]$, then $S = G$.*

LEMMA 10.5. ([5], p. 97) *A subgroup U of a primary abelian group G is a basic subgroup if and only if U is generated by a maximal pure independent subset of G .*

LEMMA 10.6. ([5], pp. 98 and 104) *A primary abelian group G*

⁸ Fuchs [5], p. 114.

has at least one basic subgroup, and all the basic subgroups of G are isomorphic.

LEMMA 10.7. ([5], p. 104) *If a primary abelian group G is of bounded order, then the only basic subgroup of G is G itself.*

LEMMA 10.8. ([5], pp. 98–99) *Let G be an abelian p -group, and suppose that a subgroup U is a direct product $U = U_1 \times U_2 \times U_3 \times \dots$, where U_n is a direct product of cyclic groups of order p^n for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) U is a basic subgroup of G ;
- (ii) $G = U_1 \times \dots \times U_n \times [p^n G \cup \bigcup_{k>n} U_k]$ for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$;
- (iii) $U_1 \times \dots \times U_n$ is a maximal factor of G of bounded order p^n for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$.

LEMMA 10.9. ([5], p. 112) *If G is a primary abelian group with no elements of infinite height, then there exists a torsion-complete primary abelian group containing G as a pure subgroup.*

LEMMA 10.10. ([5], p. 117) *If S is a pure subgroup of a primary abelian group G , and if S itself is torsion-complete, then S is a factor of G .*

LEMMA 10.11. *If $U = V \times W$ is a basic subgroup of an abelian p -group G , and if V is of bounded order, then there is a subgroup H of G such that $G = V \times H$ and $W \subseteq H$.*

Proof. Since U is a direct product of cyclic p -groups, there is an integer m such that

$$V = V_1 \times \dots \times V_m \quad \text{and} \quad W = W_1 \times \dots \times W_m \times W'_m,$$

where V_k and W_k are direct products of cyclic groups of order p^k ($k = 1, \dots, m$), and W'_m is a direct product of cyclic groups of orders greater than p^m . Then

$$U = (V_1 \times W_1) \times \dots \times (V_m \times W_m) \times W'_m,$$

and hence by 10.8,

$$G = V \times W_1 \times \dots \times W_m \times [p^m G \cup W'_m].$$

Consequently the subgroup $H = [p^m G \cup W]$ has the required properties.

LEMMA 10.12. *If X is a maximal pure independent subset of an abelian p -group G , and if Y is a pure independent subset of G , then*

there exists a maximal pure independent subset Z of G such that $Y \subseteq Z \subseteq X \cup Y$.

Proof. By Zorn's Lemma there exists a pure independent subset Z of G which is maximal with respect to the property $Y \subseteq Z \subseteq X \cup Y$. Suppose Z is not a maximal pure independent subset of G . Then there exists a maximal pure independent subset Z' such that $Z \subset Z'$. Choose any $d \in Z' - Z$. If the order of d is p^n , let

$$X_n = \{x \mid x \in X \text{ and } p^n x = 0\}.$$

By 10.5 and 10.11 there exist subgroups H_0 and H_1 of G such that $Z \subseteq H_0$ and

$$G = [d] \times H_0 = H_1 \times \prod_{x \in X_n} [x].$$

Then there exist an element $e \in H_1$ and a finite subset $\{x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}\} \subseteq X_n$ such that

$$d \in [e] \times [x_0] \times \dots \times [x_{m-1}].$$

Observe that if $u \in G$ is an element of order at most p^n such that $p^{n-1}u \notin H_0$, then u has order exactly p^n , and $[u] \cap H_0 = \{0\}$; therefore, as H_0 has index p^n in G , we must have $G = [u] \times H_0$. Consequently, since H_1 contains no factor of order p^n by 10.8 (iii), it follows that $p^{n-1}e \in H_0$. On the other hand, since $p^{n-1}d \notin H_0$, there exists $k < m$ such that $p^{n-1}x_k \notin H_0$. But then $G = [x_k] \times H_0$, and this implies that $Z \cup \{x_k\}$ is a pure subset of G with $Y \subseteq Z \subset Z \cup \{x_k\} \subseteq X \cup Y$. Since this contradicts the choice of Z , it follows that Z is a maximal pure independent subset of G .

Consider now a torsion-complete primary abelian group G and a pure subgroup S of G . Define \bar{S} to be the subgroup consisting of all those elements $x \in G$ which are limits in G of bounded Cauchy sequences of S . It is easy to see, and is implicit in the proof of the next lemma, that S is just the topological closure of S in G . Moreover, if T is a pure torsion-complete subgroup of G containing S , then $T \supseteq \bar{S}$; in particular if S itself is torsion-complete, then $\bar{S} = S$.

LEMMA 10.13. *If S is a pure subgroup of a torsion-complete abelian p -group G , then \bar{S} is a pure torsion-complete subgroup of G .*

Proof. First observe that if $\{s_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is a Cauchy sequence of S converging to an element x , and if $p^m x = 0$, then there is a bounded Cauchy sequence $\{t_k\}_{k < \infty}$ of S which converges to x such that $p^m t_k = 0$ for all k . By picking an appropriate subsequence, if necessary, we may assume that

$$x - s_k \in p^k G \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Since $p^m x = 0$, we have $p^m s_k \in p^{k+m} G$. Thus, since S is pure, there is an element $s'_k \in S$ such that $p^m s_k = p^{k+m} s'_k$ for each $k = 1, 2, \dots$. Let $t_k = s_k - p^k s'_k$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$). Then clearly $p^m t_k = 0$, and

$$x - t_k = (x - s_k) + p^k s'_k \in p^k G \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots),$$

i.e., $\{t_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of S , bounded by p^m , which converges to x .

Let $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$ be a bounded Cauchy sequence of \bar{S} . Since G is torsion-complete, there is an element $x \in G$ which is the limit of $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$ in G . By picking an appropriate subsequence, if necessary, we may assume that

$$x - x_k \in p^k G \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Since $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is bounded, there is an integer m such that $p^m x_k = 0$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$). Moreover, since each $x_k \in S$, there are Cauchy sequences $\{s_{k,n}\}_{n < \infty}$ such that $\{s_{k,n}\}_{n < \infty}$ converges to x_k for each $k = 1, 2, \dots$. And, as observed above, we can choose the $s_{k,n}$ such that

$$p^m s_{k,n} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad x_k - s_{k,n} \in p^n G$$

for all $n, k = 1, 2, \dots$. Let $t_k = s_{k,k}$. Then

$$x - t_k = (x - x_k) + (x_k - s_{k,k}) \in p^k G,$$

and hence $\{t_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of S which converges to x . Therefore $x \in \bar{S}$, and \bar{S} is torsion-complete.

To see that \bar{S} is pure, let $x \in \bar{S}$, and suppose that $x \in p^r G$. Then there is a bounded Cauchy sequence $\{s_k\}_{k < \infty}$ of S such that

$$x - s_k \in p^k G$$

and hence that

$$s_{k+1} - s_k \in p^k G$$

for all $k = 1, 2, \dots$. Consequently $s_{r+1} \in p^r G$, and therefore, since S is pure, there exist elements $t_1 \in S$ and $s'_k \in S$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$) such that

$$p^r t_1 = s_{r+1}, \quad \text{and} \quad s_{k+1} - s_k = p^k s'_k \quad \text{for all } k = 1, 2, \dots.$$

Define elements $t_k \in S$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$) recursively by $t_{k+1} = t_k + p^k s'_{r+k}$. Then clearly $\{t_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of S which converges to a limit $t \in \bar{S}$. Moreover, if $p^r t_k = s_{r+k}$, then

$$p^r t_{k+1} = p^r t_k + p^{r+k} s'_{r+k} = s_{r+k} + (s_{r+k+1} - s_{r+k}) = s_{r+k+1};$$

hence $p^r t_k = s_{r+k}$ for all $k = 1, 2, \dots$. It follows that $p^r t = x$, whence

$x \in p^r \bar{S}$. Thus \bar{S} is a pure subgroup of G .

COROLLARY 10.14. *If U is a basic subgroup of a torsion-complete primary abelian group G , then $\bar{U} = G$.*

Proof. By 10.10, 10.8 and 10.13.

LEMMA 10.15. *If $R = S \times T$ is a pure subgroup of a torsion-complete abelian p -group G , then $\bar{R} = \bar{S} \times \bar{T}$.*

Proof. Suppose $x \in \bar{S} \cap \bar{T}$ and $x \neq 0$. Then there are bounded Cauchy sequences $\{s_k\}_{k < \infty}$ and $\{t_k\}_{k < \infty}$ of S and T , respectively, such that

$$x - s_k, x - t_k \in p^k G \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Since $x \neq 0$, x has height r for some integer r . It follows that s_k and t_k must also have height r for each $k > r$. And, as $s_k \in S$, $t_k \in T$, and $R = S \times T$ is a pure subgroup of G , it readily follows that $s_k - t_k$ has height r for each $k > r$. But this is a contradiction since

$$s_k - t_k = (x - t_k) - (x - s_k) \in p^k G \quad (k > r).$$

Consequently $\bar{S} \cap \bar{T} = \{0\}$. On the other hand, if $\{x_k\}_{k < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of R converging to a limit $x \in \bar{R}$, then $\{f(x_k)\}_{k < \infty}$ and $\{g(x_k)\}_{k < \infty}$ are bounded Cauchy sequences of S and T , respectively, where f is the projection of R onto S , and g is the projection of R onto T . Hence there are elements $u \in \bar{S}$ and $v \in \bar{T}$ which are the limits of $\{f(x_k)\}_{k < \infty}$ and $\{g(x_k)\}_{k < \infty}$, respectively. Since

$$x_k = f(x_k) + g(x_k) \quad \text{for each } k = 1, 2, \dots,$$

it follows that $x = u + v$, and we conclude that $\bar{R} = \bar{S} \times \bar{T}$.

11. Exchange and isomorphic refinement theorems for binary algebras. In the present section conditions are found in order for a binary algebra B to have the exchange property, and these conditions are combined with the results of preceding sections to obtain uniqueness and isomorphic refinement theorems for binary algebras.

The center B^c of a binary algebra B can be written as a direct product

$$B^c = P \times Q \times R$$

where P is a divisible torsion-free abelian group, Q is a divisible torsion abelian group, and R is a reduced abelian group. The groups Q and

$P \times Q$ are unique, and $P \times Q$ is the maximal divisible subgroup of B^e . Therefore R is isomorphic to the reduced part of B^e . By 3.10, B^e has the exchange property if and only if each of the factors P, Q and R has this property. In the case of P the exchange property readily follows from 8.3 and some elementary properties of vector spaces. Since a torsion abelian group is uniquely a direct product of its primary components, it is clear that a torsion abelian group has the exchange property if and only if each of its primary components has the exchange property. In the case of divisible primary groups, and hence for Q , the exchange property again follows essentially from vector space properties. As for reduced groups, the main lemma of this section asserts that a torsion-complete primary abelian group has the exchange property. Consequently every torsion abelian group with torsion-complete primary components has the exchange property.

LEMMA 11.1. *Every torsion-free divisible abelian group G has the exchange property.*

Proof. Using the criterion of 8.3, suppose

$$A = G \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where each of the factors $D_i (i \in I)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of G . If A', C' and $D'_i (i \in I)$ are the maximal divisible subgroups of A, C and $D_i (i \in I)$, respectively, then

$$A' = G \times C' = \prod_{i \in I} D'_i.$$

Furthermore, for each $i \in I$ there is a subgroup D''_i such that $D_i = D'_i \times D''_i$, and thus

$$A = A' \times \prod_{i \in I} D''_i.$$

Regarding A' as a vector space over the field of rational numbers, we can choose a basis X for G and extend it to a basis Y for A' in such a way that every element of $Y - X$ belongs to one of the factors D'_i . Letting E'_i be the vector space spanned by $D'_i \cap (Y - X)$, we conclude that

$$A' = G \times \prod_{i \in I} E'_i.$$

Therefore

$$A = G \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

where $E_i = E'_i \times D''_i (i \in I)$, and hence G has the exchange property.

LEMMA 11.2. *Every primary abelian group G of bounded order has the exchange property.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = G \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where each of the factors D_i is isomorphic to a subgroup of G . Then A is a primary abelian group of bounded order. Let Y be a maximal pure independent subset of G , and for each $i \in I$ let X_i be a maximal pure independent subset of D_i . Then $X = \bigcup_{i \in I} X_i$ is a maximal pure independent subset of A , and it follows by 10.12 that there exists a maximal pure independent subset Z of A such that $Y \subseteq Z \subseteq X \cup Y$. By 10.5 and 10.7, A is generated by Z , and G is generated by Y . Consequently, if E_i is the subgroup generated by the set $D_i \cap (Y - X)$ for each $i \in I$, it follows that

$$A = G \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i .$$

Thus G has the exchange property.

LEMMA 11.3. *Every divisible abelian p -group G has the exchange property.*

Proof. Suppose

$$A = G \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where each D_i is isomorphic to a subgroup of G . If A' , C' and D'_i ($i \in I$) are the maximal divisible subgroups of A , C and D_i ($i \in I$), respectively, then

$$A' = G \times C' \times \prod_{i \in I} D'_i .$$

Furthermore, if D''_i is such that $D_i = D'_i \times D''_i$ for each $i \in I$, then

$$A = A' \times \prod_{i \in I} D''_i .$$

Clearly

$$A'[p] = G[p] \times C'[p] = \prod_{i \in I} D'_i[p] ,$$

and since $G[p]$ is of bounded order p , there exist subgroups $U_i \subseteq D'_i[p]$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$(1) \quad A'[p] = G[p] \times \prod_{i \in I} U_i .$$

For each $i \in I$ there exists a divisible subgroup E'_i of D'_i such that $E'_i[p] = U_i$, and it follows from (1) that the direct product

$$A'' = G \times \prod_{i \in I} E'_i$$

exists. Moreover, since A'' is divisible, it is a pure subgroup of A' , and using the fact that $A'[p] \subseteq A''$ we infer by 10.4 that $A' = A''$. Thus

$$A = G \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

where $E_i = E'_i \times D'_i$, and G has the exchange property.

LEMMA 11.4. *Every torsion-complete abelian p -group G has the exchange property.*

Proof. We first prove that G has the 2-exchange property and hence the finite exchange property. Thus suppose

$$A = G \times C = D_0 \times D_1$$

where D_0 and D_1 are isomorphic to subgroups of G . Then A is an abelian p -group without elements of infinite height, and hence by 10.9 there is a torsion-complete abelian p -group A' containing A as a pure subgroup. By 10.13 we may assume that A' is the closure of A , $A' = \bar{A}$, and in this case it follows by 10.15 that

$$\bar{A} = G \times \bar{C} = \bar{D}_0 \times \bar{D}_1.$$

Choose maximal pure independent subsets X_0, X_1 and Y of \bar{D}_0, \bar{D}_1 and G respectively. Then $X = X_0 \cup X_1$ is a maximal pure independent subset of \bar{A} , and by 10.12 there is a maximal pure independent subset Z of A such that $Y \subseteq Z \subseteq X \cup Y$. Since every subset of Z generates a factor of $[Z]$, the subgroups generated by $\bar{D}_0 \cap Z$ and $\bar{D}_1 \cap Z$ are pure in \bar{A} . Let E_0 and E_1 be the closures of the subgroups generated by $\bar{D}_0 \cap Z$ and $\bar{D}_1 \cap Z$, respectively. Then by 10.14 and 10.15,

$$\bar{A} = G \times E_0 \times E_1.$$

Since $E_0 \times (G \times E_1) \supseteq D_0 \times \bar{D}_1 \supseteq G \times E_1$, we infer from the modular law that

$$D_0 \times \bar{D}_1 = (E_0 \cap (D_0 \times \bar{D}_1)) \times G \times E_1 = G \times (D_0 \cap E_0) \times E_1.$$

Therefore $E_1 \times (G \times (D_0 \cap E_0)) \supseteq D_0 \times D_1 \supseteq G \times (D_0 \cap E_0)$, and a second application of the modular law yields

$$\begin{aligned} A &= D_0 \times D_1 = (E_1 \cap (D_0 \times D_1)) \times G \times (D_0 \cap E_0) \\ &= G \times (D_0 \cap E_0) \times (D_1 \cap E_1) . \end{aligned}$$

Consequently G has the 2-exchange property.

Now suppose

$$(1) \quad A = G \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i$$

where each of the factors D_i is isomorphic to a subgroup of G . A is therefore an abelian p -group with no elements of infinite height. For each $i \in I$ let f_i be the project of A onto D_i induced by the second decomposition in (1). We begin by proving the following statement:

(S) *There exist a finite set $J \subseteq I$ and subgroups G_0 and G_1 such that $G = G_0 \times G_1$, G_0 is of bounded order, and*

$$(2) \quad G_1[p] \subseteq \prod_{i \in J} D_i .$$

Assume that (S) is false. Then for every finite subset $J \subseteq I$ and every decomposition $G = G_0 \times G_1$ where G_0 is of bounded order, there is an element $x \in G_1[p]$ and an index $i \in I - J$ such that $f_i(x) \neq 0$. Using this we shall construct a sequence of elements $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots \in G[p]$ and a sequence of indices $i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots \in I$ such that the following conditions hold for every positive integer n :

$$(3) \quad \text{height } x_n > \text{height } f_i(x_{n-1}) \text{ whenever } i \in I \text{ and } f_i(x_{n-1}) \neq 0 ;$$

$$(4) \quad f_{i_n}(x_0) = f_{i_n}(x_1) = \dots = f_{i_n}(x_{n-1}) = 0 \neq f_{i_n}(x_n) .$$

Pick any element $x_0 \in G[p]$. Suppose the elements $x_1, \dots, x_m \in G[p]$ and the indices $i_1, \dots, i_m \in I$ have been so chosen that (3) and (4) hold for $n = 1, \dots, m$. Then the set

$$J_m = \{i \mid i \in I \text{ and } f_i(x_n) \neq 0 \text{ for some } n \leq m\}$$

is finite, and we can choose a positive integer r such that

$$r \geq \text{height } f_i(x_n) \text{ whenever } i \in J_m, n \leq m \text{ and } f_i(x_n) \neq 0 .$$

By 10.8, G has a decomposition $G = G_0 \times G_1$ such that $p^{r+1}G_0 = \{0\}$ and such that G_1 has no factor of order less than p^{r+2} . Therefore there exists an element $x_{m+1} \in G_1[p]$ and an index $i_{m+1} \in I - J_m$ such that $f_{i_{m+1}}(x_{m+1}) \neq 0$. Since the height of x_{m+1} is necessarily larger than r , we infer from the choice of r that (3) holds for $n = m + 1$. Also, since $i_{m+1} \notin J_m$, it follows that (4) also holds with $n = m + 1$. Thus the existence of the sequences of elements $x_n \in G[p]$ and of indices $i_n \in I$ satisfying (3) and (4) follows by induction.

For each $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ let

$$y_m = x_0 + \cdots + x_m .$$

If $m > n$, then it follows from (4) that

$$f_{i_n}(y_m) = f_{i_n}(x_n) + \cdots + f_{i_n}(x_m) .$$

From (3) we infer that the height of $f_{i_n}(x_n)$ is less than the height of $f_{i_n}(x_k)$ for $k = n + 1, \cdots, m$. Consequently

$$(5) \quad \text{height } f_{i_n}(y_m) = \text{height } f_{i_n}(x_n) \text{ whenever } m > n .$$

Notice that (3) also implies that the height of x_m is at least m . Therefore

$$y_{m+1} - y_m = x_{m+1} \in p^m G \quad (m = 0, 1, 2, \cdots) ,$$

and since each y_m has order p , the sequence $\{y_m\}_{m < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of G which must converge to a limit $y \in G$. Furthermore, for each $i \in I$, the sequence $\{f_i(y_m)\}_{m < \infty}$ is a bounded Cauchy sequence of D_i which converges to $f_i(y)$. Now $f_i(y) = 0$ for all but finitely many $i \in I$, and therefore there is a positive integer n such that $f_{i_n}(y) = 0$. But the sequence $\{f_{i_n}(y_m)\}_{m < \infty}$ cannot converge to 0, since according to (5) the heights of the elements $f_{i_n}(y_0), f_{i_n}(y_1), f_{i_n}(y_2), \cdots$ are bounded. Thus we have a contradiction, and hence (S) must be true.

Choose J , G_0 and G_1 according to (S). Considering the decomposition

$$A = \prod_{i \in J} D_i \times \prod_{i \in I-J} D_i ,$$

let f be the projection of A onto the factor $\prod_{i \in J} D_i$, and let G^* be the image of G_1 under f . It follows from (2) that f maps G_1 isomorphically onto G^* , and that

$$(6) \quad G^*[p] = G_1[p] .$$

In particular, G^* is torsion-complete. Furthermore, if $x \in G^*[p]$, then $x = f(x)$, and the height of x in G^* is at least as large as the height of x in G_1 . Since G_1 is a pure subgroup of A , it follows by 10.3 that G^* is a pure subgroup of A . Thus, by 10.10, G^* is a factor of A , and consequently

$$\prod_{i \in J} D_i = G^* \times H$$

for some subgroup H . By the first part of the proof, G^* has the finite exchange property, and thus there exist subgroups $E_i \subseteq D_i (i \in J)$ such that

$$\prod_{i \in J} D_i = G^* \times \prod_{i \in J} E_i.$$

Therefore

$$A = G_0 \times G_1 \times C = G^* \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i$$

where $E_i = D_i$ if $i \in I - J$. From (6) and this last decomposition we see that the direct product

$$A' = G_1 \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i,$$

exists. Moreover, if $y \in G^*$ then there is an element $x \in G_1$ such that $y = f(x)$. Hence $x = y + z$ for some element $z \in \prod_{i \in I - J} D_i = \prod_{i \in I - J} E_i$, and we conclude that $y = x - z \in A'$. This shows that $G^* \subseteq A'$, and therefore $A' = A$. Finally, G_0 is of bounded order and thus has the exchange property by 11.2. According to 3.9 we can therefore find subalgebras $F_i \subseteq E_i$ ($i \in I$) such that

$$A = G_0 \times G_1 \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i = G \times \prod_{i \in I} F_i.$$

Hence G has the exchange property, and the proof of 11.4 is complete.

THEOREM 11.5. *If B is a binary algebra such that the reduced part of B^c is a torsion group each primary component of which is torsion-complete, then B has the exchange property.*

Proof. This is an immediate consequence of 8.1, 11.1, 11.3 and 11.4, together with the introductory remarks of this section.

Combining 11.5 with 4.2, 5.3 and 7.1, respectively, we obtain the following principal uniqueness and isomorphic refinement theorems for binary algebras.

THEOREM 11.6. *If a binary algebra A has two direct decompositions with countably many factors,*

$$A = B_0 \times B_1 \times B_2 \times \cdots = C_0 \times C_1 \times C_2 \times \cdots,$$

where the reduced parts of all the groups B_i^c and C_j^c are torsion groups with torsion-complete primary components, then these two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.

COROLLARY 11.7. *If A is a binary algebra such that the reduced part of A^c is a torsion group with torsion-complete primary components, then any two countable direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.*

THEOREM 11.8. *If a binary algebra A has a direct decomposition*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

where, for each $i \in I$, the reduced part of B_i^c is a torsion group with torsion-complete primary components, then any two direct decompositions of A into indecomposable factors are centrally isomorphic.

THEOREM 11.9. *If a binary algebra A has a direct decomposition*

$$A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i$$

where, for each $i \in I$, B_i^c is countable and the reduced part of B_i^c is a torsion group each primary component of which is of bounded order, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.

A final theorem describes a class of binary algebras with uncountable centers having the isomorphic refinement property.

THEOREM 11.10. *If A is a binary algebra such that the maximal divisible subgroup of A^c is countable and the reduced part of A^c is a torsion group each primary component of which is a torsion-complete group with countable basic subgroups, then any two direct decompositions of A have centrally isomorphic refinements.*

Proof. Suppose

$$(1) \quad A = \prod_{i \in I} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} C_j .$$

Since the maximal divisible subgroup of A^c is countable and the basic subgroups of each primary component of the reduced part of A^c are countable, it follows that there exists a countable subset I' of I such that $B_i^c = \{0\}$ for each $i \in I - I'$. The factor $\prod_{i \in I - I'} B_i$ has the exchange property, and hence there are subalgebras D_j, D'_j ($j \in J$) such that $C_j = D_j \times D'_j$ and

$$A = \prod_{i \in I - I'} B_i \times \prod_{j \in J} D_j .$$

Consequently

$$(2) \quad \prod_{i \in I - I'} B_i \cong^c \prod_{j \in J} D'_j ,$$

and, as $\prod_{i \in I - I'} B_i^c = \{0\}$, we infer by 2.19 that

$$(3) \quad \prod_{i \in I'} B_i = \prod_{j \in J} D_j .$$

Repeating the argument above for the factor $\prod_{j \in J} D_j$, there is a countable subset J' of J such that $D_j = \{0\}$ for each $j \in J - J'$, and there are subalgebras $E_i, E'_i (i \in I')$ such that $B_i = E_i \times E'_i$ and

$$(4) \quad \prod_{j \in J - J'} D_j \cong^c \prod_{i \in I'} E'_i,$$

$$(5) \quad \prod_{j \in J'} D_j = \prod_{i \in I'} E_i.$$

The pairs of decompositions (2) and (4) each have centrally isomorphic refinements by 11.9, and the decompositions (5) have centrally isomorphic refinements by 11.7. Therefore the original decompositions (1) have centrally isomorphic refinements, and the proof is complete.

12. Counterexamples and open problems. This final section contains two examples that yield negative answers to some questions related to the results in this paper. A number of unsolved problems suggested by our investigations are also mentioned.

In 3.10 it was shown that if an algebra B is a direct product of finitely many subalgebras each of which has the exchange property, then B has the exchange property. The first example shows that this result cannot be extended to products of infinitely many subalgebras. In fact, the example shows that if B is an abelian p -group such that

$$B = B_1 \times B_2 \times B_3 \times \dots$$

where, for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, B_k is a cyclic group of order p^k , then B does not have the 2-exchange property. Thus the simplest unbounded abelian p -group fails to have the exchange property.

Let

$$A = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [u_k] \times \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [v_k]$$

where, for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, $[u_k]$ and $[v_k]$ are cyclic groups of order p^k . Also, let

$$B = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [u_k + pv_{k+1}], \quad C = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [v_k],$$

$$D_1 = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [v_k + pu_{k+1}], \quad D_2 = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} [u_k].$$

It is easy to check that

$$A = B \times C = D_1 \times D_2,$$

and in order to prove that B does not have the 2-exchange property it is sufficient to show that the assumption that

$$(1) \quad A = B \times E_1 \times E_2, \quad E_1 \subseteq D_1, \quad E_2 \subseteq D_2$$

leads to a contradiction.

Assume that (1) holds. Since A is a direct product of finite groups, it and all its direct factors have the unique factorization property. Inasmuch as $C \cong E_1 \times E_2$, this implies that for each positive integer k only one of the groups E_1 and E_2 has a cyclic factor of order p^k . Observing that

$$B \times E_2 \subseteq B \times D_2 = B \times pC,$$

we have $v_k = b + pc + e$ where $b \in B$, $c \in C$, $b + pc \in B \times E_2$, and $e \in E_1$. Using the fact that $B \times C$ exists we see that, for $r = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k-1$, the element $p^r(v_k - b) = p^{r+1}c + p^re$ has height r , and hence the height of p^re is also r . Since $p^ke = 0$, this shows that $[e]$ is a pure subgroup of E_1 , and hence a factor of E_1 , of order p^k . Consequently E_2 cannot have a direct factor of order p^k , and since this is true for every positive integer k , we infer that $E_2 = \{0\}$, and hence $A = B \times E_1 \subseteq B \times D_1$. But it is easy to see that neither u_1 nor v_1 belongs to $B \times D_1$, and we have thus arrived at a contradiction.

In 8.1 it was shown that if the center of an algebra B has the exchange property, then B has the exchange property. Our second example shows that the converse of this result is false. For this purpose we construct a group B such that

(i) B^c is an infinite cyclic group.

(ii) The commutator subgroup of B equals B , $[B, B] = B$.

First observe that this does in fact imply that B has the required properties. In fact, suppose $B^c = [u]$ and let $A = B^c \times C$ where $C = [v]$ is also an infinite cyclic group. Also let $D_1 = [2u + 3v]$ and $D_2 = [3u + 5v]$. Then $A = D_1 \times D_2$. Since $B^c \times D_1 = B^c \times [3v] \neq A$ and $B^c \times D_2 = B^c \times [5v] \neq A$, we see that B^c does not have the 2-exchange property. On the other hand, suppose A is any algebra containing B as a subalgebra, and suppose C and D_i ($i \in I$) are subalgebras of A such that

$$A = B \times C = \prod_{i \in I} D_i.$$

Let g and h_i be the projections of A onto C and D_i induced by these two direct decompositions of A . Then gh_i maps B homomorphically into the center of C , whence it follows by (ii) that, for each $b \in B$, $gh_i(b) = 0$ or, equivalently, $h_i(b) \in B$. Thus, for each $i \in I$, h_i maps B into $B \cap D_i$, and we infer that

$$B = \prod_{i \in I} (B \cap D_i).$$

It follows by the modular law that for each $i \in I$ there exists a subalgebra $E_i \subseteq D_i$ such that $D_i = (B \cap D_i) \times E_i$, and we conclude that

$$A = B \times \prod_{i \in I} E_i.$$

Hence B has the exchange property.

In order to construct a group having the properties (i) and (ii) we proceed as follows. For $n = 2, 3, 4, \dots$ let H_n be the group of all n by n matrices of determinant 1 over a field of characteristic 0 that contains a primitive n th root of unity. Then the center of H_n contains a cyclic group of order n , and the commutator subgroup of H_n equals H_n . The Cartesian product H of H_2, H_3, H_4, \dots therefore has the properties that its center contains an infinite cyclic group and that the commutator subgroup of H is equal to H . We now take for B a free amalgamated product of two isomorphic copies B_1 and B_2 of H , with amalgamated subgroup $Z = B_1 \cap B_2$ an infinite cyclic group contained in the centers of both B_1 and B_2 . It is known that $B^c = B_1^c \cap B_2^c$, so that B^c is in this case the infinite cyclic group Z . Thus (i) holds, and it is obvious that (ii) is also satisfied.

The most interesting unsolved problem suggested by the results in this paper is whether in Theorem 7.1 the assumption of countably generated centers is needed. Specifically, *is it true that if an algebra A is a direct product of subalgebras each of which has the exchange property, then any two direct decompositions of A have isomorphic refinements?* Even if the answer is negative, one might hope for an affirmative answer in special cases, such as for groups whose centers are of bounded order. Of course, if the answer should turn out to be affirmative, then this would include Theorems 4.2, 5.3 and 7.1 as special cases.

Another problem concerns the relation of the finite exchange property and the exchange property: *Is the exchange property always implied by the finite exchange property?* In connection with Theorem 7.1 it would be particularly interesting to know whether for an algebra B with a countable generated center the finite exchange property implies the \aleph_0 -exchange property (and therefore the exchange property). It is not hard to show that for such an algebra B the condition

$$A = B \times C = D_0 \times D_1 \times D_2 \times \dots$$

implies that

$$A = B \times E_0 \times E_1 \times E_2 \times \dots$$

where each of the factors E_k is a subalgebra of the finite product $D_0 \times D_1 \times \dots \times D_k$, but we do not know whether the factors E_k can be replaced by subalgebras of the factors D_k .

Theorem 8.3 raises the problem of determining those abelian operator groups that have the exchange property. In this regard the following question seems particularly relevant: *Is it true that if an abelian operator group satisfies the minimal condition, then it has the exchange property?* For ordinary reduced abelian groups the results in §11 apply only to groups with no elements of infinite height. It would be of interest to know whether the class of all reduced primary abelian groups having the exchange property contains any groups with (nonzero) elements of infinite height.

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