

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

ON QUASI-ISOMORPHIC INVARIANTS OF PRIMARY GROUPS

PAUL DANIEL HILL

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Two primary groups G and H are quasi-isomorphic if there exist subgroups G^* and H^* of G and H such that G^* and H^* are isomorphic and such that G/G^* and H/H^* are bounded. The paper is concerned with properties, of primary groups, that are invariant under the relation of quasi-isomorphism. In the final section, a condition is given which is necessary and sufficient in order that the primary groups G and H be quasi-isomorphic in case G and H are both direct sums of closed groups.

The main result of the paper is that quasi-isomorphism commutes with direct decomposition for the class of primary groups whose first Ulm factors are direct sums of countable groups.

The connection between the relation of quasi-isomorphism of primary groups and their Ulm invariants was investigated by Beaumont and Pierce in [1] and [2] and by the author in [4]. Cutler [3] has recently studied properties of primary groups which are invariant under the relation of quasi-isomorphism. For example, it was proved in [3] that the property of being a direct sum of cyclic groups is invariant under quasi-isomorphism. Irwin and Richman proved, for primary groups, in [9] that the property of being a direct sum of countable groups is also a quasi-isomorphic invariant. We shall establish a decomposition theorem which contains these results as special cases; specifically, the following theorem is proved. Suppose that G and H are primary groups and suppose that $G = \sum G_\lambda$ where $G_\lambda/p^\omega G_\lambda$ is a direct sum of cyclic groups. If H is quasi-isomorphic to G , then $H = \sum H_\lambda$ where H_λ is quasi-isomorphic to G_λ . There is also a decomposition theorem proved for group pairs (G, H) where G is a direct sum of cyclic groups or a closed group and H is a cobounded subgroup of G . In answer to a question in [3], we show that the property of being a direct sum of closed groups is not a quasi-isomorphic invariant. Even in one of the simplest cases, where $G = \bar{B} + B$, a group H quasi-isomorphic to a direct sum G of closed groups need not be a direct sum of closed groups. However, we show that if G and H are direct sums of closed groups, then G and H are quasi-isomorphic if they satisfy a condition which is obviously necessary; if for some bounded subgroup B there exists an isomorphism from $(G + B)[p]$ onto $(H + B)[p]$ that does not alter heights more than a fixed positive

integer k , then G and H are quasi-isomorphic.

Two abelian groups G and H are said to be quasi-isomorphic if there exist isomorphic subgroups H^* and G^* of H and G , respectively, such that G/G^* and H/H^* are bounded. The notation $G \cong H$ is used to mean that G and H are quasi-isomorphic. We shall call a subgroup A of G cobounded if G/A is bounded.

2. Cobounded subgroups inherit basic subgroups. Suppose that G is a primary group and that H is a subgroup of G such that $H \supseteq p^n G$ for some positive integer n . Let B be a basic subgroup of G . The question was raised in [3] as to whether there exists a basic subgroup B' of H such that $P^n B \subseteq B' \subseteq B$, and some partial results were obtained concerning the problem. Megibben has pointed out to the author that not only does such a B' always exist but that it is unique. In fact, the following theorem can readily be established. And we shall make use of it later on in the paper.

THEOREM 2.1. *Suppose that H is a cobounded subgroup of the primary group G . If B is pure and dense in G , relative to the p -adic topology, then $B \cap H$ is pure and dense in H .*

Proof. There is, of course, no proper cobounded subgroup of a divisible group. Thus $\{B, H\}/B = G/B$ and $\{B, H\} = G$, so $H/B \cap H \cong \{B, H\}/B = G/B$ and $B \cap H$ is dense in H . Since H is cobounded and since $B[p]$ is dense in $G[p]$, it is immediate that $(B \cap H)[p]$ is dense in $H[p]$. In order to prove that $B \cap H$ is pure in H , it suffices, according to [6], to prove that $B \cap H$ is a neat subgroup of H . Suppose that $ph = b$ where $h \in H$ and $b \in B \cap H$. Since B is pure, there is an element $b' \in B$ such that $pb' = b = ph$. Now $(h - b') - b'' \in H$ for some $b'' \in B[p]$ since $B[p]$ is dense in $G[p]$ and since H is cobounded. Observe that $b' + b'' \in B \cap H$ and that $p(b' + b'') = b$. This completes the proof of the theorem.

Recall that the final rank of a basic subgroup is called the critical number of a primary group. Since a cobounded subgroup has the same final rank as the group, an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.1 is the following corollary.

COROLLARY 2.2. *The critical number of a primary group is a quasi-isomorphic invariant.*

Theorem 2.1 also yields a refinement of Theorem 5.1 in [3].

COROLLARY 2.3. *If H is a cobounded subgroup of the primary group G and N is high in G , then $M = H \cap N$ is high in H .*

Proof. Since N is high in G , we have the relation $G[p] = N[p] + G^1[p]$ where $G^1 = \bigcap_{n < \omega} p^n G$. Thus $H[p] = M[p] + H^1[p]$ since $H^1 = G^1$. Now the purity of M in H implies that M is a high subgroup of H .

The question now arises as to whether for each pure and dense subgroup B of a cobounded subgroup H of the primary group G there exists a pure and dense subgroup A of G such that $B = A \cap H$.

THEOREM 2.4. *If H is a cobounded subgroup of the primary group G and if B is pure and dense in H , then there exists a pure and dense subgroup A of G such that $B = A \cap H$.*

Proof. Choose A maximal in G with respect to $A \cap H = B$. Then A is neat in G . We show that the socle of A is dense in $G[p]$. Let $x \in G[p]$. There is an element $a \in A$ such that $x = a + h$ where $h \in H$. Since $ph \in A \cap H = B$ and since B is pure, there exists $b \in B$ such that $ph = pb$. Thus

$$x = (a + b) + (h - b) \in \{A[p], H[p]\} \subseteq \{A[p], \overline{B[p]}\} \subseteq \overline{A[p]}.$$

By Theorem 1 in [6], A is pure and dense in G .

Observe that $B = A \cap H$ is cobounded in A since H is cobounded in G . It follows that B is a direct sum of cyclic groups if and only if A is a direct sum of cyclic groups. Hence we have the following corollary.

COROLLARY 2.5. *Let H be a cobounded subgroup of the primary group G . The correspondence $B \rightarrow B \cap H$ is a function from the basic subgroups of G onto the basic subgroups of H .*

3. The decompositions theorems.

THEOREM 3.1. *Suppose that the primary group G is a direct sum of cyclic groups. If H is a cobounded subgroup of G , then there exist a nonnegative integer k and a decomposition $G = \sum_{i=0}^k G_i$ such that $H \cong \sum_{i=0}^k p^i G_i$.*

Proof. Let $G[p] = P + H[p]$. Since P is a discrete subsocle [7] of G , it supports a pure subgroup A of G ; indeed, P supports a p^k -bounded direct summand A of G if $p^k(G/H) = 0$. Let $G = A + G'$ and let H' be the image of H under the natural projection of G onto G' . Since $H \cap A = 0$, H' is isomorphic to H . Furthermore, $H'[p] = G'[p]$; hence it suffices to prove the theorem for the case $H[p] = G[p]$. Let $S = H[p] = G[p]$. Since H is a p^k -cobounded subgroup of G , the Ulm invariants of H and G are related by the inequalities:

$$\sum_n^{n+r} f_H(j) \leq \sum_n^{n+r+k} f_G(j) \text{ and } \sum_{n+k}^{n+r+k} f_G(j) \leq \sum_k^{n+r+k} f_H(j)$$

for all $n, r \geq 0$, where f is the Ulm function. It follows from an obvious modification of Lemma 1 in [4] that there exist an automorphism π of S and decompositions $S = \sum P_n = \sum Q_n$ such that the nonzero elements of P_n and Q_n have height n in H and G , respectively, and such that for each $x_n \in P_n$ the relation $\pi(x_n) \in Q_{n+i}$ holds for some nonnegative $i \leq k$. Hence there exist decompositions $G = \sum_{i=0}^k G_i$ and $H = \sum_{i=0}^k H_i$ of G and H such that $H_i \cong p^i G_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq k$. Thus $H \cong \sum_{i=0}^k p^i G_i$.

REMARK. The isomorphism between H and $\sum p^i G_i$ in Theorem 3.1 cannot be replaced by set theoretic equality. This can be demonstrated by very simple examples.

COROLLARY 3.2. *If H is a cobounded subgroup of the closed group G , then there exist a nonnegative integer k and a decomposition $G = \sum_{i=0}^k G_i$ such that $H \cong \sum_{i=0}^k P^i G_i$.*

Proof. Let B be a basic subgroup of G . It follows from Theorem 2.1 that $B \cap H$ is a basic subgroup of the cobounded subgroup H of G . Since $B \cap H$ is a cobounded subgroup of B , Theorem 3.1 implies that there exist a nonnegative integer k and a decomposition $B = \sum_{i=0}^k B_i$ such that $B \cap H \cong \sum_{i=0}^k p^i B_i$. Thus $G = \bar{B} = \sum_{i=0}^k \bar{B}_i$ and $H \cong \sum_{i=0}^k p^i \bar{B}_i$ since G and H are closed.

Our main decomposition theorem concerning quasi-isomorphism is the following.

THEOREM 3.3. *Suppose for the primary group G that $G = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G_\lambda$ where $G_\lambda/p^\omega G_\lambda$ is a direct sum of countable groups for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$. If H is quasi-isomorphic to G , then $H = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda$ where H_λ is quasi-isomorphic to G_λ for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$.*

Proof. Since decompositions lift, for arbitrary G , from $p^n G$ to G , it suffices to prove the theorem for the case that H is a cobounded subgroup of G . Suppose that $p^k G \subseteq H \subseteq G$. In case G is a direct sum of cyclic groups, the theorem follows from Theorem 3.1 and the isomorphic refinement theorem for direct sums of cyclic groups. In fact, since H is p^k -cobounded in G , we can write $H = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda$ where H_λ is isomorphic to a p^k -cobounded subgroup of G_λ . Thus, in the general case, we can write $H/p^\omega H = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda^*$ where H_λ^* is isomorphic to a p^k -cobounded subgroup of $G_\lambda/p^\omega G_\lambda$. For each $\lambda \in \Lambda$, let G_λ^* be a cobounded subgroup of G_λ such that $G_\lambda^*/p^\omega G_\lambda \cong H_\lambda^*$. Set $G^* = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G_\lambda^*$. Now $p^\omega G^* = p^\omega G = p^\omega H$, and $G^*/p^\omega G^* = G^*/p^\omega G = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} (G_\lambda^*/p^\omega G_\lambda) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda^* = H/p^\omega H$. It follows that $H \cong G^*$ by the uniqueness theorem [8] of Hill and Megibben, and the theorem is proved.

DEFINITION 3.4. A primary group G is said to be a pillared group if $G/p^\omega G$ is a direct sum of cyclic groups.

Since the property of being a direct sum of cyclic groups is a quasi-isomorphic invariant, the property of being a pillared group is a quasi-isomorphic invariant. Our Theorem 3.3 shows that for pillared groups quasi-isomorphism is compatible with direct decompositions. We conclude this section with the following consequence of Theorem 3.3.

COROLLARY 3.5. *Suppose that $G = \sum_{\lambda \in A} G_\lambda$ is a pillared group. If H is quasi-isomorphic to G , then $H = \sum_{\lambda \in A} H_\lambda$ where H_λ is isomorphic to a direct summand of $G_\lambda + C_\lambda$ and C_λ is a direct sum of cyclic groups.*

4. **Some quasi-isomorphic variants.** As we have mentioned, it was established in [3] and [9] that the property of being a direct sum of cyclic groups and the property of being a direct sum of countable groups are invariant under the relation of quasi-isomorphism of primary groups; this is also an immediate consequence of Corollary 3.5. Cutler observed in [3] that the property of being a closed group is a quasi-isomorphic invariant, but he left open the following question. If G is a direct sum of closed groups and if H is quasi-isomorphic to G , does H have to be a direct sum of closed groups? The next theorem shows that the answer is negative.

Let $A = \sum \{a_n\}$ and $B = \sum \{b_n\}$ be copies of the standard basic subgroup, that is, let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ denote cyclic groups of order p^n . Denote by \bar{A} the closed group $\sum_{\bar{r}}^* \{a_n\}$, the torsion completion of A . We want to consider the group $G = \bar{A} + B$ and a certain cobounded subgroup of G .

THEOREM 4.1. *The group $G = \bar{A} + B$, where A and B are copies of the standard basic subgroup, has a cobounded subgroup H with the following properties.*

- (1) H is not pure-complete.
- (2) H is not semi-complete.
- (3) H is not a direct sum of closed groups.

Proof. Define $H = \{pG, a_1, a_{n+1} + b_n\}_{n < \omega}$. Let $S = \bar{A}[p]$, and observe that $S \subseteq H$. We show that S does not support a pure subgroup of H . Assume that S does support a pure subgroup K of H . Since each element of S has the same height in H as in G , it follows that K is pure in G . Since $K[p] = \bar{A}[p]$, K is a closed group; hence K is a direct summand of G . In fact, we have the decompositions $G = K + B$ and $H = K + (H \cap B)$. It is easily verified that $H \cap B = pB$,

so we have the equation $H = K + pB$. The defining equation for H and the above decompositions imply that $\{pK + pB, a_1, a_{n+1} + b_n\}_{n < \omega} = K + pB$. Thus, for each positive integer n ,

$$p^n(a_{n+2} + b_{n+1}) = p^n k_{(n)} + p^{n+1} b_{(n)}$$

where $k_{(n)} \in K$ and $b_{(n)} \in B$.

Define $s(1) = 1$ and suppose that a positive integer $s(i)$ has been chosen for $i \leq n$ such that $s(1) < s(2) < \dots < s(n)$. Choose $s(n+1) > s(n)$ such that $b_{(n)} \in \sum_{i < s(n+1)} \{b_i\}$. Since $p^2(p^n k_{(n)}) = 0$ for each n and since K is closed, $\sum p^{s(n)} k_{(s(n))}$ must converge in K . Since

$$p^n k_{(n)} = p^n a_{n+2} + (p^n b_{n+1} - p^{n+1} b_{(n)})$$

and since $G = \bar{A} + B$, it follows that $\sum (p^{s(n)} b_{s(n)+1} - p^{s(n)+1} b_{(s(n))})$ must converge in B . However, this is impossible since, for each positive integer n , the projection of the limit onto $\{b_{s(n)+1}\}$ is $p^{s(n)} b_{s(n)+1} \neq 0$. Thus S does not support a pure subgroup of H , and we have verified (1).

Assume that H is a direct sum of closed groups. Then H is a direct sum of a countable number of closed groups since G , and therefore H by Theorem 2.1, has a countable basic subgroup. It follows from Theorem 5.6 in [7] that a direct sum of a countable number of closed groups is pure-complete. Since we have already verified (1), we conclude that H is not a direct sum of closed groups. Furthermore, every semi-complete group [10] is a direct sum of closed groups, so the theorem is proved.

COROLLARY 4.2. *The property of being pure-complete is not a quasi-isomorphic invariant.*

COROLLARY 4.3. *The property of being semi-complete is not a quasi-isomorphic invariant.*

COROLLARY 4.4. *The property of being a direct sum of closed groups is not a quasi-isomorphic invariant.*

In view of Corollary 4.4, a natural question is: what are the groups that are quasi-isomorphic to direct sums of closed groups? In this connection, we make the following observation.

PROPOSITION 4.5. If the primary group G is quasi-isomorphic to a direct sum of closed groups, then $G[p] = \sum S_\lambda$ where (1) S_λ is complete and (2) there exists a fixed positive integer k such that $\text{height}(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) \leq \text{height}(x_i) + k$ if $x_i \in S_{\lambda_i}$ for distinct $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$.

Proof. Suppose that G is quasi-isomorphic to a direct sum of closed groups. Then there are closed groups H_λ such that $G \cong \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda$ and such that there exists an isomorphism π from $G[p]$ onto $\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H_\lambda[p]$ that does not alter heights (computed in G and $H = \sum H_\lambda$) more than a fixed positive integer k . Defining S_λ by the equation $\pi(S_\lambda) = H_\lambda[p]$, we have S_λ 's which satisfy the conditions (1) and (2).

5. Quasi-isomorphism of direct sums of closed groups. Although two primary groups G and H can be quasi-isomorphic with one a direct sum of closed groups and the other not, there is a particularly simple criterion which determines whether G and H are quasi-isomorphic in case both G and H are direct sums of closed groups.

THEOREM 5.1. *Suppose that the primary groups G and H are direct sums of closed groups. Then G and H are quasi-isomorphic if and only if there is a bounded group B and an isomorphism between $(G + B)[p]$ and $(H + B)[p]$ that does not alter heights more than a fixed positive integer k .*

Proof. If $G \cong H$, there exist p^k -cobounded subgroups G^* and H^* of G and H , respectively, such that $G^* \cong H^*$. Define π from $G^*[p]$ onto $H^*[p]$ as the restriction of some isomorphism φ from G^* onto H^* . Let $G[p] = P + G^*[p]$ and $H[p] = Q + H^*[p]$. The height of a nonzero element in P or Q does not exceed k . For a sufficiently large p -bounded group B , $|P + B| = |Q + B|$ and π can be extended to an isomorphism from $(G + B)[p]$ onto $(H + B)[p]$ having the desired property that heights are not altered more than k .

For the proof of the nontrivial half of the theorem, we may assume that $B = 0$ since the relation of quasi-isomorphism is transitive. Thus suppose that $G = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G_\lambda$ and $H = \sum_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} H_\mu$ are direct sums of closed groups and that π is an isomorphism from $G[p]$ onto $H[p]$ that does not alter heights more than k . We wish to show that $G \cong H$. Since G_λ or H_μ can be zero, there is no loss of generality in assuming that $\Lambda = \mathcal{M}$. Thus we shall make this assumption. If Λ is countable, then $G + H$ is pure-complete and the proof that $G \cong H$ is essentially the same as the proof of Corollary 1 in [4]. Let K be a pure subgroup of $G + H$ such that $K[p] = \{(x, \pi(x)) : x \in G[p]\}$. Then K is a subdirect sum of isomorphic cobounded subgroups G^* and H^* of G and H , respectively.

We now assume that Λ is uncountable and proceed by induction on the cardinality of Λ . According to the next theorem, there are decompositions $G = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} G^*_\lambda$ and $H = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} H^*_\lambda$ of G and H into closed groups such that, for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$, there exists a countable subset M_λ

of A having the property that

$$\varphi(G_\lambda[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} H_\mu \text{ and } \varphi^{-1}(H_\lambda[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} G_\mu$$

for some isomorphism φ between $G[p]$ and $H[p]$ that alters heights no more than k . It follows that there is an ascending chain

$$A_0 \subseteq A_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq A_\alpha \subseteq \dots, A_\alpha \subseteq A,$$

that leads up to A such that $\varphi(\sum_{A_\alpha} G_\lambda[P]) = \sum_{A_\alpha} H_\lambda[p]$ and $|A_\alpha| < |A|$. We conclude that there exist decompositions

$$G = \sum_\alpha \sum_{I_\alpha} G_i^* \text{ and } H = \sum_\alpha \sum_{I_\alpha} H_i^*$$

such that there is an isomorphism from $\sum_{I_\alpha} G_i^*[p]$ onto $\sum_{I_\alpha} H_i^*$ that does not alter heights more than k and such that $|I_\alpha| < |A|$. The proof of the theorem is finished by an application of the induction hypothesis; however, we owe a proof of the following theorem.

THEOREM 5.2. *For the primary groups G and H , suppose that $G = \sum_{\lambda \in A} G_\lambda$ and $H = \sum_{\lambda \in A} H_\lambda$ where G_λ and H_λ are closed groups. If π is an isomorphism from $G[p]$ onto $H[p]$ that alters heights no more than k , then there are decompositions $G = \sum_{\lambda \in A} G_\lambda^*$ and $H = \sum_{\lambda \in A} H_\lambda^*$ of G and H into closed groups and an isomorphism φ from $G[p]$ onto $H[p]$ that alters heights no more than k such that, for each $\lambda \in A$, there exists a countable subset M_λ of A such that*

$$\varphi(G_\lambda^*[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} H_\mu^* \text{ and } \varphi^{-1}(H_\lambda^*[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} G_\mu.$$

Proof. The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2 in [5], except in the present case most of the details are simpler. Here, we include only an outline of the proof. The following lemma is essential.

LEMMA 5.3. *Suppose that $G = B + \sum_{\lambda \in A} G_\lambda$ where B is a direct sum of cyclic groups and G_λ is closed for each $\lambda \in A$. If H is a closed group and if π is an isomorphism from $H[p]$ into $G[p]$ that does not decrease heights more than a fixed positive integer k , then there exists a positive integer n such that $\pi(p^n H \cap H[p])$ is contained in a finite number of the groups G_λ .*

Applying Lemma 5.3 to π and π^{-1} and working back and forth between G_λ and H_λ , we obtain decompositions $G = A + \sum_{\lambda \in A} G'_\lambda$ and $H = B + \sum_{\lambda \in A} H'_\lambda$ such that (i) A and B are direct sums of cyclic groups, (ii) $\pi(\sum_{\lambda \in A} G'_\lambda[p]) = \sum_{\lambda \in A} H'_\lambda[p]$, (iii) For each λ , there exists a finite subset M_λ of A such that

$$\pi(G'_\lambda[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} H'_\mu \text{ and } \pi^{-1}(H'_\lambda[p]) \subseteq \sum_{M_\lambda} G'_\mu,$$

(iv) there is an isomorphism φ from $A[p]$ onto $B[p]$ that alters heights no more than k . This essentially finishes the proof of Theorem 5.2.

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Received October 10, 1966. This research was supported by NSF Grant GP-5875.

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The *Pacific Journal of Mathematics* is published monthly. Effective with Volume 16 the price per volume (3 numbers) is \$8.00; single issues, \$3.00. Special price for current issues to individual faculty members of supporting institutions and to individual members of the American Mathematical Society: \$4.00 per volume; single issues \$1.50. Back numbers are available.

Subscriptions, orders for back numbers, and changes of address should be sent to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, 103 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley 8, California.

Printed at Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha (International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), 7-17, Fujimi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

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

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