

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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Let G be a p -primary Abelian group. The final rank of G can be obtained in two equivalent ways: either as $\inf_{p \in \omega} \{r(p^n G)\}$ where $r(p^n G)$ is the rank of $p^n G$; or as $\sup \{r(G/B) \mid B \text{ is a basic subgroup of } G\}$. In fact it is known that there exists a basic subgroup of G such that $r(G/B)$ is equal to the final rank of G . In this paper are displayed two appropriate generalizations of the above definitions of final rank, $r_\alpha(G)$ and $s_\alpha(G)$, where α is a limit ordinal. It is shown that the two cardinals $r_\alpha(G)$ and $s_\alpha(G)$ are indeed the same for any limit ordinal α . In this context one can think of the usual final rank as " ω -final rank".

The final rank of a p -primary Abelian group G is $\inf_{n < \omega} \{r(p^n G)\}$ where $r(p^n G)$ means the rank of $p^n G$. The same cardinal number is obtained by taking $\sup_{B \in \Gamma} r(G/B)$ where Γ is the set of all basic subgroups of G . In [1] we defined for limit ordinals α , $s_\alpha(G) = \inf_{\beta < \alpha} r(p^\beta G)$ and $r_\alpha(G) = \sup_{H \in \Gamma} r(G/H)$ where Γ is the set of all p^α -pure subgroups H of G such that G/H is divisible; it was shown that for accessible ordinals α that $r_\alpha(G) = s_\alpha(G)$. The proof given there strongly depended on the accessibility of α . In this paper it is proved that $r_\alpha(G) = s_\alpha(G)$ for any limit ordinal α , at the cost of a considerably more difficult argument.

Throughout we consider a reduced p -primary Abelian group G . We consider cardinal and ordinal numbers in the sense of von Neumann; that is, an ordinal number is a set, namely, the set of all smaller ordinals. Cardinal numbers are ordinal numbers that are not equivalent to any smaller ordinal. The cardinal number of a set Γ is denoted by $|\Gamma|$. The symbol ω denotes the first infinite ordinal. In general the notation and terminology is that of [2] or [3].

1. The lemmas. Let τ be a limit ordinal. We define the final τ -rank of G in two ways, which we will then show are equivalent. Ordinary final rank as defined in [2] corresponds to final ω -rank.

DEFINITION.

(1) $s_\tau(G) = \inf_{\beta < \tau} r(p^\beta G[p]).$

(2) $r_\tau(G) = \sup \{r(G/H) : H \subseteq G, G/H \text{ is divisible, and } 0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/H \rightarrow 0 \text{ represents an element of } p^\tau \text{Ext}(G/H, H)\}.$

In [1] it is shown that $r_\tau(G) \leq s_\tau(G)$. To show the converse we

will construct a p^τ -pure subgroup H of G with G/H divisible and $r(G/H) = s_\tau(G)$.

We prove the following lemma to simplify the problem and to illustrate some techniques of construction which we will sometimes use later in the paper without explicit proofs.

LEMMA 0. (a) $r_\tau(G) = r_\tau(G_\tau) + r(p^\tau G)$ for any $p^\tau G$ -high subgroup G_τ .

(b) $s_\tau(G) = s_\tau(G_\tau) + r(p^\tau G)$ for any $p^\tau G$ -high subgroup G_τ .

(c) $r_\tau(G) \geq s_\tau(G)$ holds for all G if it holds for all G satisfying $p^\tau G = 0$.

Proof. (a) and (b) together show (c). A $p^\tau G$ -high subgroup G_τ satisfies $G[p] = G_\tau[p] \oplus (p^\tau G)[p]$, ([4]) and hence is $p^{\tau+1}$ -pure (Th. 2.9 of [5]). It is easy to see that for $\alpha < \tau$,

$$(p^\alpha G)[p] = (p^\alpha G_\tau)[p] \oplus (p^\alpha G)[p]$$

and (b) follows.

To prove (a), suppose H is a p^τ -pure subgroup of G_τ with G_τ/H divisible. Then H is p^τ -pure in G and $G/H \cong (G/G_\tau)/(G_\tau/H)$ is divisible since G/G_τ is divisible. For H a pure subgroup of G ,

$$r(G/H) = r((G/H)[p]) = r(G[p]/H[p]) .$$

Hence in this case

$$r(G/H) = r(G_\tau[p] \oplus (p^\tau G)[p]/H[p]) = r(G_\tau/H) + r(p^\tau G[p]) .$$

Hence $r_\tau(G) \geq r_\tau(G_\tau) + r(p^\tau G)$.

Now let H be a p^τ -pure subgroup of G with G/H divisible. Let $H[p] = S \oplus (p^\tau G \cap H)[p]$. Let K be a $p^\tau G$ -high subgroup containing S , and let $\pi: G \rightarrow G/p^\tau G$ be the natural map. Then $(\pi(K))[p] = \pi(K[p]) = \pi(G_\tau[p])$. Choose $S' \subseteq G_\tau[p]$ such that $\pi(S') = \pi(S)$. We will then have that $r(G_\tau[p]/S') = r(\pi(G_\tau)/\pi(S)) = r(K[p]/S)$. Note that $\{S', (p^\tau G)[p]\} = \{S, (p^\tau G)[p]\}$ and so the p^τ -purity of H and the divisibility of G/H yield, for every $\alpha < \tau$,

$$\begin{aligned} \{p^\alpha G_\tau[p], S'\} &= \{(p^\alpha G \cap G_\tau)[p], S'\} \\ &= \{(p^\alpha G[p], S') \cap G_\tau[p]\} \\ &= \{(p^\alpha G[p], S) \cap G_\tau[p]\} \\ &= \{G[p] \cap G_\tau[p]\} = G_\tau[p] . \end{aligned}$$

We let L be such that $G_\tau[p] = L \oplus S'$ and let M be L -high containing S' . Then $M[p] = S'$, M is neat in $G_\tau[p]$ and by Th. 2.9 of [5], M is p^τ -pure in G_τ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 r(G/H) &= r((K[p] \oplus (p^\tau G)[p]) / (S \oplus (p^\tau G \cap H)[p])) \\
 &= r(K[p]/S) + r(p^\tau G[p] / (p^\tau G \cap H)[p]) \\
 &\leq r(G_\tau[p]/S') + r(p^\tau G[p]) \\
 &= r(G_\tau/M) + r(p^\tau G) \\
 &\leq r_\tau(G_\tau) + r(p^\tau G)
 \end{aligned}$$

and (a) is proved.

Hence we consider only groups G with $p^\tau G = 0$. We will need the following four technical lemmas.

LEMMA 1. *Let G be a p -primary Abelian group of length τ , a limit ordinal. Let $S \subseteq G[p]$ be such that $S \cap (p^\gamma G)[p] \neq 0$ for all $\gamma < \tau$. Then there exists $S' \subseteq S$ such that $r(S/S') \geq 1$ and $\{S', (p^\gamma G)[p]\} = \{S, (p^\gamma G)[p]\}$ for all $\gamma < \tau$.*

Proof. Let $a \in S(a \neq 0)$. We define a family $\{R_j\}_{j < \tau}$ inductively as follows:

Write $S = L_1 \oplus pG \cap S$. If $a \notin L_1$, let $R_1 = L_1$. If $a \in L_1$, let $\{y_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$ be a basis for L_1 . Then $a = \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} a_\alpha y_\alpha$ where $0 \leq a_\alpha < p$ and $a_\alpha = 0$ for all but finitely many α . Choose $\alpha_0 \in \Gamma$ so that $a_{\alpha_0} \neq 0$. Let $R_1 = \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma - \{\alpha_0\}} \langle y_\alpha \rangle \oplus \langle y_{\alpha_0} - b \rangle$ where $b \in pG \cap S (b \neq 0)$. Then $S = R_1 \oplus pG \cap S$ and $a \notin R_1$. Inductively, suppose $\{R_i\}_{i < \gamma}$ has been defined such that $\sum_{i \leq k < \gamma} R_i \oplus p^k G \cap S = S$ for each $k < \gamma$ and $a \notin \sum_{i < \gamma} R_i$. If $\gamma - 1$ exists we have $\sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \oplus p^{\gamma-1} G \cap S = S$. We choose L_γ so that $L_\gamma \oplus p^\gamma G \cap S = p^{\gamma-1} G \cap S$. If $a \notin \sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \oplus L_\gamma$ we let $R_\gamma = L_\gamma$. Otherwise, let $\{y_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Gamma}$ be a basis of L_γ . Then $a = x + \sum_{\lambda \in \Gamma} a_\lambda y_\lambda (0 \leq a_\lambda < p, x \in \sum_{i < \gamma} R_i)$. By the induction hypothesis not all a_λ are zero. Let $\lambda_0 \in \Gamma$ such that $a_{\lambda_0} \neq 0$, and let $R_\gamma = \sum_{\lambda \in \Gamma - \{\lambda_0\}} \langle y_\lambda \rangle \oplus \langle y_{\lambda_0} - b \rangle (b \in p^\gamma G \cap S, b \neq 0)$. It follows that $a \notin \sum_{i < \gamma+1} R_i$ and $\sum_{i \leq k \leq \gamma} R_i \oplus p^k G \cap S = S$.

If γ is a limit ordinal, note that $\sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \cap p^\gamma G = 0$. Choose L_γ such that $\sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \oplus L_\gamma \oplus p^\gamma G \cap S = S$. Either $a \notin \sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \oplus L_\gamma$ in which case we let $R_\gamma = L_\gamma$, or $a \in \sum_{i < \gamma} R_i \oplus L_\gamma$ and we modify L_γ as above to get R_γ .

By transfinite induction, we obtain a family $\{R_i\}_{i < \tau}$ such that $\sum_{i \leq k} R_i \oplus p^k G \cap S = S$ for all $k < \tau$ and $a \notin \sum_{i < \tau} R_i$. Let $S' = \sum_{i < \tau} R_i$ and the conditions of the lemma are satisfied.

The general idea of the above proof for S summable was communicated to the authors by Paul Hill.

LEMMA 2. *Let G be a p -primary Abelian group of length τ a limit ordinal. Let $\{R_j\}_{j < \tau}, \eta$ a limit ordinal, be a collection of sub-*socles* of G satisfying the following conditions:*

- (1) $\sum_{j < \eta} R_j$ is direct,
- (2) $r(R_j) = \aleph$ is fixed, and
- (3) For each $\lambda < \tau$, there exists $j < \eta$ such that $0 \neq R_j \subseteq p^\lambda G[p]$.

Then there exists $S \subseteq \sum_{j < \eta} R_j$ such that

- (a) For each $\lambda < \tau$, $\{S, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{\sum_{j < \eta} R_j, p^\lambda G[p]\}$, and
- (b) $r((\sum_{j < \eta} R_j)/S) \geq \aleph$.

Proof. For each $j < \eta$, let $\{x_{j,\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$ ($|\Gamma| = \aleph$) be a basis of R_j . Let $S_\alpha = \sum_{j < \eta} \langle x_{j,\alpha} \rangle$. Note that $\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} S_\alpha$ is direct and $\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} S_\alpha = \sum_{j < \eta} R_j$. Let $\lambda < \tau$. Then $S_\alpha \cap p^\lambda G[p] \neq 0$ by hypothesis (3). Hence by Lemma 1, there exists, for each $\alpha \in \Gamma$, $T_\alpha \subseteq S_\alpha$ such that

$$\{S_\alpha, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{T_\alpha, p^\lambda G[p]\}$$

for all $\lambda < \tau$ and $r(S_\alpha/T_\alpha) \geq 1$. Let $S = \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} T_\alpha$. Then $\{S, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} S_\alpha, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{\sum_{j < \eta} R_j, p^\lambda G[p]\}$ for all $\lambda < \tau$ and $r((\sum_{j < \eta} R_j)/S) = \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} r(S_\alpha/T_\alpha) \geq \aleph$.

LEMMA 3. Let G be a p -primary Abelian group of length τ a limit ordinal. Let σ be an infinite initial ordinal such that $\sigma \leq \tau$. Let $\{R_j\}_{j < \sigma}$ be a collection of subocles of G satisfying:

- (1) $\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$ is direct.
- (2) For each $\lambda < \tau$ there exists $j < \sigma$ such that for all $i \geq j$, $R_i \subseteq p^\lambda G[p]$.
- (3) $| \{j \mid R_j \neq 0\} | = \sigma$.

Then there exists $S \subseteq \sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$ such that

- (a) $\{S, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j, p^\lambda G[p]\}$ for all $\lambda < \tau$, and
- (b) $|(\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j)/S| \geq \sigma$.

Proof. Let $x_j \in R_j$ ($x_j \neq 0$) for each $j \in \{j \mid R_j \neq 0\} = \Gamma$. Then we may write Γ as the disjoint union $\Gamma = \bigcup_{i < \sigma} \Gamma_i$ such that $|\Gamma_i| = \sigma$ for each $i < \sigma$. Since σ is an initial ordinal, $\Gamma_i \not\subseteq \beta$ for any $\beta < \sigma$. Hence $\sum_{j \in \Gamma_i} \langle x_j \rangle$ satisfies the conditions of Lemma 1. Hence there exists a subgroup $S_i \subseteq \sum_{j \in \Gamma_i} \langle x_j \rangle$ such that $\{S_i, p^\lambda G[p]\} = \{\sum_{j \in \Gamma_i} \langle x_j \rangle, p^\lambda G[p]\}$ for all $\lambda < \tau$, and $r((\sum_{j \in \Gamma_i} \langle x_j \rangle)/S_i) \geq 1$. Let Q be such that $\sum_{i < \sigma} \sum_{j \in \Gamma_i} \langle x_j \rangle \oplus Q = \sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$, and define $S = \sum_{i < \sigma} S_i \oplus Q$. Then S satisfies the desired conditions.

LEMMA 4. Let G be a p -primary Abelian group of length τ a limit ordinal. Let $\{R_j\}_{j \in \sigma}$ (σ a limit ordinal, $\sigma \leq \tau$) be a collection of subocles of G satisfying:

- (1) $\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$ is direct;
- (2) For each $\lambda < \tau$, there exists $j < \sigma$ such that for all $j < i < \sigma$, $R_i \subseteq p^\lambda G[p]$; and
- (3) For all $i < j < \sigma$, $r(R_j) \geq r(R_i) \geq |\sigma|$.

Then there exists a subgroup $S \subseteq \sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$ satisfying:

- (a) $\{S, p^2G[p]\} = \{\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j, p^2G[p]\}$ for all $\lambda < \tau$.
- (b) $|(\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j)/S| = |\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j|$.

Proof. Define Q_β^α for all $(\alpha, \beta) \in \sigma\alpha\sigma$ as follows: Define $Q_0^\sigma = R_\sigma$ and $Q_\alpha^\sigma = 0$ for all $\alpha < \sigma, \alpha > 0$. We induct on the lower index. Suppose Q_β^α has been defined for all $\beta < \gamma < \sigma$ satisfying:

- (1) For all $\alpha \leq \beta < \gamma, r(Q_\beta^\alpha) = r(Q_\alpha^\alpha)$;
- (2) $Q_\beta^\alpha = 0$ if $\beta < \alpha < \sigma$;
- (3) For $\beta < \sigma, r(Q_\beta^\beta) \neq 0$ if and only if $r(R_\beta) > r(R_\alpha)$ for all $\alpha < \beta$; and
- (4) $R_\beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \sigma} Q_\beta^\alpha$.

Suppose $\gamma - 1$ exists. If $r(R_\gamma) = r(R_{\gamma-1})$, let $\varphi: R_{\gamma-1} \rightarrow R_\gamma$ be an isomorphism and define $Q_\alpha^\gamma = \varphi(Q_{\gamma-1}^\alpha)$ for all $\alpha \in \sigma$. If $r(R_{\gamma-1}) < r(R_\gamma)$ we first write $R_\gamma = S \oplus R$ where $R \cong R_{\gamma-1}$ (under an isomorphism φ). Let $Q_\alpha^\gamma = \varphi(Q_{\gamma-1}^\alpha)$ for $\alpha < \gamma, Q_\gamma^\gamma = S$, and $Q_\alpha^\gamma = 0$ for $\alpha > \gamma$.

Suppose γ is a limit ordinal. If $r(R_\gamma) = r(R_\beta)$ for some $\beta < \gamma$, then $R_\gamma \cong R_\alpha$ for all $\beta \leq \alpha < \gamma$. Let φ be an isomorphism from R_β onto R_γ and let $Q_\alpha^\gamma = \varphi(Q_\beta^\alpha)$ for all $\alpha < \sigma$.

If for some $\beta < \gamma, r(R_\gamma) > r(R_\beta) \geq r(R_\alpha)$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$ we write $R_\gamma = R \oplus S$ where $R \cong R_\beta$ and proceed as in the case of the non-limit ordinal.

Finally suppose $r(R_\gamma) > r(R_\beta)$ for all $\beta < \gamma$ and that there does not exist $\delta < \gamma$ such that $r(R_\delta) \geq r(R_\beta)$ for all $\beta < \gamma$. Let $\pi = \sum_{\beta < \gamma} r(R_\beta)$. Since $r(R_\gamma) > r(R_\beta) \geq |\sigma|, \beta < \gamma$, we have $\pi \leq r(R_\gamma)$ and both of these cardinals are infinite. We may write R_γ as $S \oplus R$ where $r(S) = \pi$. Divide a basis of S into two sets, $\{y_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \pi}$ and $\{z_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \pi}$. Let $Q_\gamma^\gamma = R \oplus \langle \{z_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \pi} \rangle$, and noting that $\pi = \sum_{\alpha < \gamma} r(Q_\alpha^\alpha)$, write π as the disjoint union $\pi = \bigcup_{\alpha < \gamma} \pi_\alpha$ such that $|\pi_\alpha| = r(Q_\alpha^\alpha)$.

Let $Q_\gamma^\alpha = \langle \{y_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \pi_\alpha} \rangle$, and we complete the induction. Note that by the construction that if R_γ is the first to have rank ρ , then $r(Q_\gamma^\gamma) = \rho$.

Let $A = \{r(R_j) | j < \sigma\}$. For each $\rho \in A$ let j_ρ be the least element of σ such that $r(R_{j_\rho}) = \rho$. Then $Q_{j_\rho}^{j_\rho} \neq 0$ by construction. For each $\rho \in A$ consider the collection $\{Q_\alpha^{j_\rho}\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho}$ where $\Gamma_\rho = \{j | j_\rho \leq j < \sigma\}$. Note that this collection satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 2. Thus there exists a subgroup $S_\rho \subseteq \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho} Q_\alpha^{j_\rho}$ such that $|(\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho} Q_\alpha^{j_\rho})/S_\rho| \geq \rho$, and for each $\lambda < \tau, \{S_\rho, p^2G[p]\} = \{\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho} Q_\alpha^{j_\rho}, p^2G[p]\}$. Note that

$$\sum_{\rho \in A} \sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho} Q_\alpha^{j_\rho} = \sum_{j < \sigma} R_j$$

since each nonzero Q_α^α is a $Q_\alpha^{j_\rho}$ for some $\rho \in A$. Let $S = \sum_{\rho \in A} S_\rho$. Then

$$|(\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j)/S| = \sum_{\rho \in A} |(\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma_\rho} Q_\alpha^{j_\rho})/S_\rho| \geq \sum_{\rho \in A} \rho = \sum_{j < \sigma} r(R_j) = |\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j|.$$

(Note that we use the last part of condition (3) for the second equality). Also for each $\lambda < \tau$, $\{S, (p^\lambda G)[p]\} = \{\sum_{j < \sigma} R_j, (p^\lambda G)[p]\}$.

2. The Theorem.

THEOREM. *Let G be a reduced p -primary Abelian group. Then $r_\tau(G) = s_\tau(G)$.*

Proof. As indicated in the introduction we may assume that the length of G is τ . Let $\lambda < \tau$ be such that $|p^\lambda G| = s_\tau(G)$. Then there exists an ordinal β such that $\tau = \lambda + \beta$, and the length of $p^\lambda G$ is β . Now $r_\tau(G) \geq r_\beta(p^\lambda G)$ (Use [5, Th. 2.9]) and $s_\tau(G) = s_\beta(p^\lambda G)$. Hence we need only show $r_\beta(p^\lambda G) = s_\beta(p^\lambda G)$. Thus we may consider only those groups G with length τ and $r(G) = s_\tau(G)$.

Let Γ be the set of all ordinals β such that there exists a one-to-one order preserving map f_β from β into τ such that $\bigcup_{\alpha < \beta} f_\beta(\alpha) = \tau$. Let σ be the least element of Γ and $f = f_\sigma$. It follows easily from Theorem 13.4.4 of [6] that σ is an initial ordinal.

Define a set of subgroups $\{P_\alpha\}_{\alpha < \sigma}$ of $G[p]$ as follows: Let P_0 be such that $G[p] = P_0 \oplus (p^{f(0)}G)[p]$. Assuming that P_α has been defined for all $\alpha < \beta < \sigma$, define P_β such that $G[p] = \sum_{\alpha < \beta} P_\alpha \oplus P_\beta \oplus (p^{f(\beta)}G)[p]$. This procedure is inspired by [3].

Choose λ_0 such that $|\sum_{\lambda_0 \leq i < \sigma} P_i| = \inf_{\lambda < \sigma} |\sum_{\lambda \leq i < \sigma} P_i|$. By the choice of σ , we have that $[\lambda_0, \sigma) = \sigma$. Hence we assume henceforth that $|\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i| = \inf_{\lambda < \sigma} |\sum_{\lambda \leq i < \sigma} P_i|$. We may, in fact, assume each P_α , $\alpha < \sigma$ is nonzero, again because σ is regular (see [6]).

Let Q be such that $\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i \oplus Q = \sum_{i < \sigma} P_i$ (the original P_i). Then note that for each $\lambda < \tau$, $\{\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i \oplus Q, (p^\lambda G)[p]\} = G[p]$. Let $M = \sum_{i < \sigma} P_i$.

Case I. Suppose $|M| < s_\tau(G)$. Then [5, Th. 2.9] $M \oplus Q$ supports a p^τ -pure subgroup K of G with G/K divisible and $|G/K| \geq s_\tau(G)$. So we assume $|M| \geq s_\tau(G)$.

Case II (A). Suppose $|M| = \sigma$. Then by Lemma 3 there exists a subsocle S of M such that $|M/S| \geq \sigma \geq s_\tau(G)$, and $\{S, (p^\lambda G)[p]\} = \{M, (p^\lambda G)[p]\}$ for all $\lambda < \tau$. Thus $S \oplus Q$ supports a p^τ -pure subgroup K of G with G/K divisible and $|G/K| \geq s_\tau(G)$.

(B). Suppose $|M| > \sigma$. Then construct a family of subsocles $\{R_i\}_{i \leq \sigma}$ inductively as follows: Let $R_0 = \sum_{i < \lambda_1} P_i$ where λ_1 is the least ordinal such that $|\sum_{i < \lambda_1} P_i| \geq \sigma$. Assuming R_α has been defined for all $\alpha < \beta$, define $R_\beta = \sum_{\lambda_\beta \leq i < \lambda_{\beta+1}} P_i$ where λ_β is the least element of σ such that $P_{\lambda_\beta} \cap R_\alpha = 0$ for all $\alpha < \beta$, and $\lambda_{\beta+1}$ is the least element of $\sigma + 1$ such that $|\sum_{\lambda_\beta \leq i < \lambda_{\beta+1}} P_i| \geq |R_\alpha|$ for all $\alpha < \beta$.

If λ_β does not exist set $R_\beta = 0$. It will be seen below that if λ_β exists, $\lambda_{\beta+1}$ exists.

Note that $R_\sigma = 0$ since σ is an initial ordinal such that if $\beta < \sigma$, β is not cofinal with σ (i.e., σ is regular). Note that $\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i = \sum_{i < \sigma} R_i$. If not, let η be the least element of $\sigma + 1$ such that $R_\eta = 0$. If $\lambda_\eta = \sigma$ then $\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i = \sum_{i < \eta} R_i$. If $\lambda_\eta < \sigma$, then $|\sum_{\lambda_\eta \leq i < \sigma} P_i| = |\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i| \geq |R_\alpha|$ for all $\alpha < \eta$. Hence $R_\eta \neq 0$, a contradiction. Hence $\sum_{i < \sigma} R_i = \sum_{i < \sigma} P_i$.

Let η be the least element of $\sigma + 1$ such that $R_\eta = 0$. Suppose η is not a limit ordinal. Let $\eta = \gamma + 1$. Then $R_\gamma = \sum_{\lambda_\gamma \leq i < \sigma} P_i$ and $|R_\gamma| \geq |R_\alpha|$ for all $\alpha < \gamma$. Construct a family $\{R_\gamma^i\}_{i \leq \sigma}$ as above replacing 0 by λ_γ . Let η_1 be the least ordinal such that $R_{\eta_1}^i = 0$. Suppose η_1 is not a limit ordinal. Let $\eta_1 = \gamma_1 + 1$. Then $|R_{\gamma_1}^i| > |R_\gamma^\alpha|$ for all $\alpha < \gamma_1$. In fact, $|R_{\gamma_1}^i| > \sup_{\alpha < \gamma_1} |R_\gamma^\alpha|$ since $|R_{\gamma_1}^i| = |R_\gamma|$ and assuming otherwise we would have $R_\gamma = (\sum_{\alpha < \gamma_1} R_\gamma^\alpha) \oplus R_{\gamma_1}^i$ with $|\sum_{\alpha < \gamma_1} R_\gamma^\alpha| = |R_\gamma|$ contradicting the construction of R_γ . Hence there exists $i, \lambda_{\gamma_1} \leq i < \sigma$ such that $|P_i| \geq \sup_{\alpha < \gamma_1} |R_\gamma^\alpha|$. This contradicts the construction of $R_{\gamma_1}^i$. Hence η_1 is a limit ordinal.

Hence in either case (η or η_1 a limit ordinal) there exists a family of subsocles $\{R_i\}_{i < \eta}$ of $G[p]$ such that $|\sum_{i < \eta} R_i| = |\sum_{i < \sigma} P_i|$ and satisfying the conditions of Lemma 4. Thus there exists a subsocle S of $\sum_{i < \eta} R_i$ satisfying conditions (a) and (b) of Lemma 4. Now $\sum_{i < \eta} R_i$ may not be all of $\sum_{i < \sigma}$ (the original P_i) and so we let Q' be such that $\sum_{i < \sigma}$ (the original P_i) = $\sum_{i < \eta} R_i \oplus Q'$. We then have

$$G[p] = \{ \sum_{i < \eta} R_i \oplus Q', (p^\lambda G)[p] \} = \{ S \oplus Q', p^\lambda G[p] \}$$

for each $\lambda < \tau$. Further,

$$|G[p]/S \oplus Q'| \geq | \sum_{i < \eta} R_i/S | \geq | \sum_{i < \eta} R_i | = |M| = s_\tau(G).$$

Hence $S \oplus Q'$ supports a p^τ -pure subgroup H of G such that $|G/H| \geq s_\tau(G)$. Thus $r_\tau(G) \geq s_\tau(G)$. An application of this theorem appears in [1].

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Received January 20, 1970.

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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, 108 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley, California, 94708.

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

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

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