

The Transitivity, Primitivity and Faithfulness of Wreath Products of Permutation groups

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Abstract: Suppose C and D are permutation groups on Γ and Δ respectively. The wreath product of C by D denoted by $C \wr D$ is the semi – direct product of C by D so that $W = \{(f, d) | f \in C, d \in D\}$, with multiplication in W defined as; $(f_1, d_1) (f_2, d_2) = [(f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1}), (d_1 d_2)]$ for all $f_1, f_2 \in C$ and $d_1, d_2 \in D$.

This communication (paper) provides with clarity the conditions under which wreath products of such permutation groups are transitive, primitive and faithful and also provides a very good example to demonstrate such conditions.

Keywords: Group actions, Transitive Permutation groups, Primitivism and faithfulness of W on $\Gamma \times \Delta$, wreath product, stabilizer and centre of wreath products.

I. Introduction

Wreath products of permutation groups has become an interesting area of study in recent times. These was first reported by Audu M.S in [1]. Ezenwanne I.U in [2] also discussed extensively on transitivity, primitivity and wreath products of permutation groups. Apine.E [3] considered permutation groups of prime-power. Ahmad, Suleiman (2006) [4] provided interesting examples buttressing the transitivity, primitivism and faithfulness of wreath products of permutation group.

II. Notations

C^Δ : The set of all maps of Δ into the permutation group C .

$\Gamma \times \Delta$: Direct products of two sets Γ and Δ

$W(\alpha, \delta)$: Stabilizer of any point (α, δ) in $\Gamma \times \Delta$

$Z(W)$: Centre of W

$C \wr D$: The wreath product of C by D

III. Preliminary

We shall state and prove several theorems, define certain notions and make obvious remarks which shall lead to the statement and prove of our claims.

Definition 1.1: The wreath product of C by D denoted by $W = C \wr D$ is the semi-direct product of C by D so that $W = \{(f, d) | f \in C, d \in D\}$, with multiplication in W defined as; $(f_1, d_1) (f_2, d_2) = [(f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1}), (d_1 d_2)]$ for all $f_1, f_2 \in C$ and $d_1, d_2 \in D$. Hence forth, we would write (fd) instead of (f, d) for elements of W .

Theorem 1.2

Let C and D be permutation groups on Γ and D respectively. Let C^Δ be the set of all map \in of D into the permutation group C

that is $C^\Delta = \{f: \Delta \rightarrow C\}$. For any f_1, f_2 in C , let $f_1 f_2$ in C^Δ , be defined for all δ in Δ by

$$(f_1 f_2) \delta = f_1(\delta) f_2(\delta)$$

Thus composition of functions is point wise and operation is placed on the right. With respect to this operation of multiplication, C^Δ acquires the structure of a group.

Proof:

i. C^Δ is a non –empty and is closed with respect to multiplication. For suppose $f_1 f_2 \in C^\Delta$ then $f_1(\delta) f_2(\delta) \in C$. Hence $f_1(\delta), f_2(\delta) \in C$. This implies that $(f_1 f_2) \delta \in C$ and so $f_1 f_2 \in C^\Delta$

ii. Since multiplication in C is associative so also is the multiplication in C^Δ

iii. The identity element in C^Δ is the map $e: \Delta \rightarrow C$ given by $e(\delta) = 1$ for all $\delta \in \Delta$ and $1 \in C$.

iv. Every element $f \in C^\Delta$ is defined for $\delta \in \Delta$ by $f(\delta) = f(\delta)1$. Thus C^Δ is a group with respect to the multiplication defined above. (we denote this group by P).

LEMMA 1.3

Suppose that D acts on P as follows $f^d(\delta) = f(\delta d^{-1})$ for all $\delta \in \Delta, d \in D$. Then D acts on P as a group.

Proof:

Take $f, f_1 f_2 \in P$ and $d, d_1, d_2 \in D$.

- i. $(f^{d_1})^d_2(\delta) = f^{d_1}(\delta d_2^{-1})$
 $= f(\delta d_2^{-1} d_1^{-1})$
 $= f^{d_1 d_2}(\delta)$
- ii. $f^l(\delta) = f(\delta l^{-1})$
 $= f(\delta)$
- iii. $(f_1 f_2)^d(\delta) = f_1 f_2(\delta d^{-1})$
 $= f_1(\delta d^{-1}) f_2(\delta d^{-1})$
 $= f_1^d(\delta) f_2^d(\delta)$

Thus D act on p as a group.

Theorem 1.4

Let D act on P as group. The set of all or all ordered pairs (f,d) with f ∈ P, d ∈ D acquires the structure of a group when we define all f₁, f₂ ∈ P and d₁, d₂ ∈ D. (f₁,d₁) (f₂, d₂) = (f₁f₂ d⁻¹, d₁d₂)

Proof.

- i. Closure property follows from the definition of multiplication
- ii. Take f₁, f₂, f₃ ∈ P and d₁,d₂,d₃ ∈ D. Then
 $[(f_1 d_1) (f_2, d_2)] (f_3, d_3) = (f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1}, d_1 d_2) (f_3, d_3)$
 $= (f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1} f_3 (d_1 d_2)^{-1}, d_1 d_2 d_3)$
 $= (f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1} f_3 d_2^{-1} d_1^{-1}, d_1 d_2 d_3)$
 $= (f_1 f_2 d_1^{-1} f_3 d_2^{-1}, d_1 d_2 d_3)$
 $= (f_1 d_1) [(f_2, d_2) (f_3, d_3)] = (f_1 d_1) (f_2 f_3 d_2^{-1}, d_1 d_2) (f_3, d_3)$
 $= (f_1 d_1) (f_2 f_3 d_2^{-1} f_3 d_2^{-1} d_1^{-1}, d_1 d_2 d_3)$
 $= (f_1 f_2 d_2^{-1} f_3 d_1^{-1}, d_1 d_2 d_3) = [(f_1 d_1) (f_2, d_2)] (f_3, d_3)$

Thus multiplication is associative.

iii. we know that every f ∈ P, f^l=f. now for every d ∈ D, the map f → f^l is an automorphism of P. Also if e is the identity element in P then

e^d = e. also (f^l)^d = (f^d)^l
 Now, (f,d) (e,1) = (fe^{d-1}, d.1)

= (f(e⁻¹)^d,d)
 = (f,d)

The identity element exists.

- iv. $(f,d) ((f^l)^d, d^{-1}) = (f((f^l)^d)^{d-1}, dd^{-1})$
 $= (f((f^l)^{dd^{-1}}), dd^{-1})$
 $= (f(f^l)1, dd^{-1})$
 $= (e,1)$

Thus when D acts on P, the set of all ordered pairs (f,d) with f ∈ P and d ∈ P is a group if we define (f₁,d₁)(f₂,d₂)=(f₁f₂ d⁻¹,d₁d₂)

Theorem 1.5

Let D acts on P as f^l(δ)= f(δd⁻¹) where f ∈ P, d ∈ P and δ ∈ Δ. Let W be the group of all of all juxtaposed symbols fd, with f ∈ P, d ∈ P and multiplication given by

(f₁,d₁) (f₂,d₂) = (f₁f₂ d₁⁻¹) (d₁d₂)

Then W is a group called the semi-direct product of P by D with the defined action. Proof (similar to the proof of Lemma 1.3.)

Remark 1.6.

1. We notice that if C and D are finite groups, then a wreath product W determined by an action of D on a finite set is a finite group of order |W|=|C|^|Δ| |D|
2. P is a normal subgroup of W and D and it is a subgroup of W.
3. The action of W on Γ x Δ is given by (α,β) fd=(αf(β), βd) where α ∈ P and β ∈ Δ.

TRANSITIVITY OF W ON Γ X Δ 1.7

Suppose that we take two arbitrary point (α₁δ₁) and (α₂δ₂) in Γ X Δ. Then W will be transitive on Γ X Δ if and only if (αf(δ₁),δ₁d)=(α₂,δ₂). That is if and only if α₁f(δ₁) = α₂δ₁d= δ₂. Thus such f, d exists if and only if C and D are transitive on Γ and Δ respectively which is necessary the condition for W to be transitive on Γ X Δ

THE STABILIZER W(α,δ) OF A POINT (α,δ) IN Γ X Δ 1.8

Furthermore, under the action of W on Γ X Δ, the stabilizer of any point (α,δ) in Γ X Δ denoted by W(α,δ) is given by

W(α,δ) = {fd ∈ W | (α,δ) fd = (α,δ)}
 = {fd ∈ W | (α, f(δ), δd) = (α,δ)}

$$= \{f \in W \mid (f\alpha, f\delta) = (\alpha, \delta) \text{ and } f\delta = \delta\}$$

$$= F(\delta) \alpha D \delta$$

Where $F(\delta) \alpha$ is the set of all $f(\delta)$ that stabilizes α and $D\delta$ is the stabilizer of δ under the action of D on Δ

FAITHFULNES OF W ON $\Gamma X \Delta$ 1.9.

We recall that W is faithful on $\Gamma X \Delta$ if and only if the identity of W is its only element that fixes every point of $\Gamma X \Delta$. Now the identity element of W is 1 and thus if W is to be faithful on $\Gamma X \Delta$ then for any (α, δ) in $\Gamma X \Delta$; the stabilizer of W on $\Gamma X \Delta$, $W(\alpha, \delta)$ must be $f(\delta) \alpha D \delta = 1$ Hence $f(\delta) \alpha = 1$ and $D\delta = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$, $\delta \in \Delta$ and $f(\delta) = \alpha$, $\delta d = \delta$ imply that $f(\delta) = 1$ and $d = 1$.

Thus we deduce that W would be faithful on $\Gamma X \Delta$, if the stabilizer of any $\alpha \in \Gamma$ and $\delta \in \Delta$ are the identity elements in P and D respectively. Therefore we conclude that W is faithful on $\Gamma X \Delta$, if P or C and D are faithful on Γ or Δ respectively.

THE PRIMITIVITY OF W ON $\Gamma X \Delta$ 2.0

We recall that w would be primitive on $\Gamma X \Delta$, if and only if given any (α, δ) in $\Gamma X \Delta$, $W(\alpha, \delta)$ the stabilizer of (α, δ) is a maximal subgroup of W . Now, $W(\alpha, \delta) = F(\delta) \alpha D \delta$ where where $F(\delta) \alpha$ is the set of those f in P such that $f(\delta) \alpha$ fixes α and $D\delta$ is the stabilizer of δ under the action D on Δ . As $f(\delta) \alpha$ does not include those f in P which do not stabilize α . We have that $F(\delta) \alpha D \delta < P D \delta < P D = W$. and also, in general $W(\alpha, \delta)$ is not a maximal subgroup of W . Thus W would be imprimitive on $\Gamma X \Delta$ in a natural way.

However, if $|\Gamma| = 1$ that is $\Gamma = \{\alpha\}$, then $C_\Gamma = C_\alpha = C$. in Particular $f(\delta) = \alpha$ for all f in P . Thus $F(\delta) \alpha = P$ hence $F(\delta) \alpha D \delta = P D \delta = W$. And if in addition, D were primitive on Δ then $D\delta$ would be maximal in D and hence $P D \delta = F(\delta) \alpha D \delta = W(\alpha, \delta)$ would be maximal in W that is W would be primitive on $\Gamma X \Delta$. Again if $|\Delta| = 1$, say $\Delta = \{\delta\}$, then $D\delta = D$ and $W(\alpha, \delta) = F(\delta) \alpha D \delta = F(\delta) \alpha D$. And if in addition, C were primitive on Γ , then C_α would be maximal in $C = \{F(\delta) \mid \text{for all } f \in P\}$ and correspondingly $F(\delta) \alpha$ would be maximal in P and hence $W(\alpha, \delta)$ would be maximal in W , that is W would be primitive on $\Gamma X \Delta$.

In conclusion, we have shown that W is in primitive on $\Gamma X \Delta$ in a natural way, unless $|\Gamma| = 1$ and D is primitive on Δ or $|\Delta| = 1$ and C is primitive on Γ .

THE CENTRE OF W 2.1

We denote the centre of W as $Z(W)$ and define $Z(W) = \{fd \mid (fd)(f_1 d_1)(f_1 d_1)(fd), \text{ for all } f, \in P, d_1 \in D\}$. Hence $fd \in Z(W)$ if and only if $\{f f_1^{d_1^{-1}} d d_1 = f_1 f^{d_1^{-1}} d_1 d \text{ for all } f_1 \in P, d_1 \in D \dots \dots (1.a)\}$ solve for f and d . put $d_1 = 1$ then (1.a.) becomes

$$f f_1^{d_1^{-1}} d = f_1 d \text{ for all } f_1 \in P \dots \dots \dots (1.b.)$$

put $f_1 = 1$ then (1.a) becomes

$$f d d_1 = f^{d_1^{-1}} d_1 d \text{ for all } d \in D \dots \dots \dots (1.c)$$

from (1.a) it follows that for fd to be in $Z(W)$ it is necessary that $d \in Z(W)$.

CLAIM 2.2

If $C \neq 1$, $fd \in Z(W)$ and $d \in Z(D)$, then $\delta d = \delta$ for all $\delta \in \Delta \dots \dots \dots (1.d)$

To show this, let $\delta \in \Delta$ and choose $f_1 \in P$ such that $f_1(\delta) = C \neq 1$, $c \in C$ and $f_1(\delta^1) = 1$ for all $\delta^1 \neq \delta \dots \dots \dots 1e.$

Then from (1.b), we have that

$f_1 f = f f_1^{d_1^{-1}}$ and so $f_1(\delta) f(\delta) = f(\delta) f_1(\delta)$, $(\delta d) = f(\delta)$, if $\delta d \neq \delta$. Hence $f_1(\delta) = 1$. But this is false by (1.e) and hence we must have $\delta d = \delta$ for all $\delta \in \Delta$. Accordingly, our Claim is correct.

Furthermore, (1.b) implies that for all $\delta \in \Delta$,

$$f_1(\delta) f(\delta) = f(\delta) f_1(\delta d)$$

$$= f(\delta) f_1(\delta)$$

Hence $f(\delta) \in Z(C)$ for all $\delta \in \Delta \dots \dots \dots (1.f)$

Also (1.c) implies that $f(\delta d) = f(\delta)$

For all $\delta \in \Delta$, $d_1 \in \Delta$ (since $d \in Z(D)$) \dots \dots \dots (1.g)

Now (1.g) shows that f is constant over orbits of D in Δ .

IV. Conclusion

Thus from (1.4.), (1.f) and (1.g) we conclude that provided $C \neq (1)$, $f \in Z(W)$ if and only if

- i. $d \in Z(D) \cap K$, where $K = \{d \in D \mid \delta d = d \text{ for all } \delta \in \Delta\}$.
- ii. $f \in \{\Delta_i Z(C)\}$ where Δ_i are orbits in Δ however, if $C = \{1\}$, then clearly $Z(W) = Z(D)$. with the

above notion we conclude that

$$Z(W) = \begin{cases} Z(D), & \text{if } C = 1 \\ (IIZ_1) (Z(D) \cap K); & \text{other wise} \end{cases}$$

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