

# A SIMPLE PROOF OF $A_5$ AS A SUBGROUP OF $S_7$ BY USING CHARACTER TABLE OF $S_7$

**A. Mahboob<sup>1</sup>, T. Hussain<sup>3</sup>, I. Ali<sup>3</sup>**

Department of Mathematics, University Of Education Lahore, (Okara Campus) Pakistan

Department of Mathematics, University of Lahore, Pakistan

aabidmahboob@gmail.com, shergarhcity@gmail.com, [iftikharali462@gmail.com](mailto:iftikharali462@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** In this paper, the existence of alternating group  $A_5$  as a subgroup of symmetric group  $S_n$ , for  $n = 7$  is proved by using character table of  $S_7$ .

**Key Words:** Symmetric Group, Character Table and Triangular Group.

**1 INTRODUCTION:** The symmetric group  $S_n$  is defined over the regular figure  $n$ -gon with order  $n!$  for  $n=7$ . It has fifteen conjugacy classes corresponding to partition  $P(7)$ .discused in [1]. The symmetric group  $S_7$  is however a non simple group of order 24 .32 .5.7 but it contains a simple derived subgroup  $A_7$  of index 2 of the order 23 .32 .5.7. by [5],  $A_5$  is the smallest non abelian simple group of order 22 .3.5 and the smallest non solvable group containing four conjugacy classes. A group  $\Delta(2,3,k)$  of the form  $\Delta(2,3,k)=\langle x,y;x^2=y^3=(xy)^k=1 \rangle$

Where  $k$  is any positive integer is known as triangular group [6]. For  $k = 5$  it is isomorphic to the alternating group  $A_5$ . We know by [4], Every finite alternating and symmetric group except  $A_6, A_7, A_8, S_5, S_6, S_7$  and  $S_8$  is a factor group of  $\Delta(2,3,k)$ .

In this paper, we focus on a proof of the following theorem.

**Theorem:** Let  $G$  be symmetric group of degree 7. Then there exist non conjugate classes of simple groups isomorphic to  $A_5$  involved by classes  $C_\alpha, C_\beta$  and  $C_\gamma$ . such that  $\alpha^2 = \beta^2 = 1 = (\alpha \beta) = \gamma^5$  in  $S_7$ .

**Proof:**

Since  $|S_7| = 24 \cdot 32 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$  is divisible by  $|A_5| = 22 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$

Therefore by Lagrange's Theorem  $A_5$  may be a candidate to exist within  $S_7$  as a subgroup. In order to search for the possibility of the existence of  $A_5$  within  $S_7$ , we need to know necessary information about conjugacy classes and character table of  $S_7$ . It is a fact that  $A_5$  is the smallest non-abelian simple group and isomorphic to  $\Delta(2,3,k)$  which is generated by elements  $x$  of order 2,  $y$  of order 3 and  $(xy)^5 = 1$ .  $\Delta(2,3,5) = \langle x, y ; x^2=y^3=(xy)^5=1 \rangle$ . By [3], If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are two class representations of classes  $C_\alpha$  and  $C_\beta$  of the order 2 and order 3 respectively and their product  $\alpha\beta = \gamma$  is an element of the only class of order 5 in  $S_7$ , then

$$\# \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = \frac{|S_7|}{|C_G(\alpha)| |C_G(\beta)|} \sum_{i=1}^{15} \frac{\chi_i(\alpha) \chi_i(\beta) \overline{\chi_i(\gamma)}}{\chi_i(1)}$$

where  $\# \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$  gives number of solutions of equations  $\alpha, \beta = \gamma$  (known as class constants)  $\chi_i(1) =$  the degree of characters of  $G$ .  $\chi_i(\alpha)$  and  $\chi_i(\beta)$  stands for characters values of  $i$ th character of corresponding conjugacy classes and  $\overline{\chi_i(\gamma)}$  is conjugate of the character value of class representation of  $\gamma$ .

It is noted from the character table  $S_7$ . Given on page (2).

There are three classes of the elements of order 2 of the permutation type  $2\alpha = (12), 2\beta = (12)(34), 2\gamma = (12)(34)(56)$ . There are two classes of the elements of order three of the permutation type  $3\alpha = (123), 3\beta = (123)(456)$ . There is only one class of the element of order 5 of the permutation type  $5\alpha = (12345)$ .

By the use of character table of  $S_7$  the following table of class coefficient reveals that only even permutations are involved in existence of  $\Delta(2,3,5)$ .

In the below tables we can see that first table is character table and second table is of conjugacy classes.

$\alpha=(12)(34), \beta=(123)(456), \gamma=(12345)$  does generate in the construction of  $(2,3,5)$ . Hence for each of the relation  $\# \langle \alpha, \beta = \gamma \rangle = 10$  there exist  $A_5 = \langle x,y;x^2=y^3=(xy)^5=1 \rangle$ . We find that  $\# \langle \alpha, \beta = \gamma \rangle = 10$ . We observe that  $|CG(5)| = 10$ , and all these 10 relations are conjugate by conjugating  $x$  and  $y$  both by the elements of the centralizer  $CG(5)$  of an element of order 5. Since each  $(2,3,5)$  relation generate an  $A_5$  therefore 1 of such  $A_5$  are generated within  $S_7$  by different conjugates  $x$  and  $y$ . That is if  $x$  is of order 2 and  $y$  is of order 3 in  $S_7$  with in their specified corresponding conjugacy classes. Then  $xy$  is of order 5. Now the only question is how many of such  $A_5$  are conjugate?

As  $|CG(5)|=10$

Class	(1)	(2; 1)	(2 <sup>2</sup> ; 1)	(2 <sup>3</sup> ; 1)	(3; 1)	(3; 2; 1)	(3; 2 <sup>2</sup> )
n(1)	1	21	105	105	70	420	210
$\chi_1$	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1
$\chi_2$	6	4	2	0	3	1	-1
$\chi_3$	14	6	2	2	2	0	2
$\chi_4$	15	5	-1	-3	3	-1	-1
$\chi_5$	14	4	2	0	-1	1	-1
$\chi_6$	35	5	-1	1	-1	-1	-1
$\chi_7$	20	0	-4	0	2	0	2
$\chi_8$	21	1	1	-3	-3	1	1
$\chi_9$	21	-1	1	3	-3	-1	1
$\chi_{10}$	35	-5	-1	-1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_{11}$	15	-5	-1	3	3	1	-1
$\chi_{12}$	14	-4	2	0	-1	-1	-1
$\chi_{13}$	14	-6	2	-2	2	0	2
$\chi_{14}$	6	-4	2	0	3	-1	-1
$\chi_{15}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

(3 <sup>2</sup> ; 1)	(4; 1)	(4,2,1)	(4,3)	(5,1)	(5,2)	(6,1)	(7)
280	210	630	420	504	504	840	720
1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	-1	1
0	2	0	-1	1	-1	0	-1
-1	0	0	0	-1	1	-1	0
0	1	-1	1	0	0	0	1
2	-2	0	1	-1	-1	0	0
-1	-1	1	-1	0	0	1	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
0	-1	-1	-1	1	1	0	0
0	1	-1	1	1	-1	0	0
-1	1	1	1	0	0	-1	0
0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	1
2	2	0	-1	-1	1	0	0
-1	0	0	0	-1	-1	1	0
0	-2	0	1	1	1	0	-1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**REFERENCES:**

[1] Curtis, C. and Iruing R, Representation Theory of Finite Groups and Associative Algebra, John Wiley and Sons (1962).  
 [2] Coxter, H.S.M. and Moser, W.O.J, Generators and Relations for Discrete Groups, Springer. Verlage ohg. Berlin Gottingen Heidelberg, 1957.  
 [3] Dumit, S.D. and Richard. M. Foote, Abstract Algebra, John Wiley and Sons, 2003.  
 [4] Marston D.E. Conder, More on Generators for Alternating and symmetric groups, The Quarterly Journal of Mathematics 1981 32(2):137-163;doi:10.1093/qmath/32.2.137, 1981 by Oxford University Press.  
 [5] Rotman J, An Introduction to The Theory of Groups, Springer Verlage. Berlin Fourth addition, 1994.  
 [6] Xiaoyu Lin”u and K. Balasubramania, Computer Generation of the Character Tables of the Symmetric Groups (Sn ), Algorithms and codes based on the method of Schur functions and Frobenius in 1988.

	$\beta=(123),$ $ CG(\beta) =72$	$\beta=(123)(456),$ $ CG(\beta) = 18$	
$\alpha=(12),$ $ CG(\alpha) =240$	0	0	$ CG(\gamma) $ $=10$
$\alpha=(12)(34),$ $ CG(\alpha) =48$	5	10	$ CG(\gamma) $ $=10$
$\alpha=(12)(34)(56),$ $ CG(\alpha) =48$	0	0	$ CG(\gamma) $ $=10$

Where  $\gamma$  is a cyclic group of order 5. As  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are two elements of order 2 and 3 in  $S_7$  with in their specified conjugacy classes and  $\gamma = \alpha.\beta$  is of order 5 then for any element  $c$  of order 5 in  $CG(5)$  We have

$$c(\alpha.\beta)c^{-1} = c \gamma c^{-1} = \gamma$$

This implies

$$c \alpha c^{-1} c \beta c^{-1} = \gamma$$

$$\text{thus } (c \alpha c^{-1}) (c \beta c^{-1}) = \gamma$$

The same  $\gamma$  is produced by conjugating  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with an element  $c$  of order 5 in  $CG(\gamma)$ . So total number of pairs of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  shall count to be equal in number to order of the centralizer of  $\gamma$ . Thus all the 10 relations that we obtained using character table become conjugate by conjugating  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  by the centralizer of  $\gamma$ . This concludes that all copies of  $A_5$  stand conjugate to each other, which shall form a single conjugate class within  $S_7$ .