

# Cohomology of finite $p$ -groups and coclass theory

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# Layout

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- 2 The Structure Theorem and Constructible groups
  - Uniserial  $p$ -adic space groups
  - Constructible groups
- 3 Final remarks

**Problem:** Given an *infinite family* of  $p$ -groups  $\{G_i\}_{i \in I}$ , find a common ‘good’ group property that distinguishes them.

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**Answer:** I do not know.

**Fact:** If the group property is good, cohomology should not be able to tell them apart.

That is, given an infinite family of  $p$ -groups  $\{G_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  with a ‘good’ common property, deduce that there are finitely many isomorphism types of algebras in  $\{H^*(G_i; \mathbb{F}_p)\}$ .

## Abelian $p$ -groups

Let  $K \cong C_{p^{i_1}} \times \cdots \times C_{p^{i_d}}$  be an abelian  $p$ -group. Then,

$$H^*(K; \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_2[y_1, \dots, y_d] & \text{if } p = 2, i_l = 1, \\ \Lambda(y_1, \dots, y_d) \otimes \mathbb{F}_p[x_1, \dots, x_d] & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $|y_i| = 1, |x_i| = 2$ .



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## 2-groups of maximal nilpotency class

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$$\begin{aligned} H^*(D_{2^n}; \mathbb{F}_2)_{n \geq 3} &\cong \mathbb{F}_2[a, b, x]/(ab) \text{ with } |a| = |b| = 1, |x| = 2, \\ H^*(Q_{2^n}; \mathbb{F}_2)_{n \geq 4} &\cong \mathbb{F}_2[a, b, y]/(a^2 + ab, y^3) \text{ with } |a| = |b| = 1, |y| = 4, \\ H^*(SD_{2^n}; \mathbb{F}_2)_{n \geq 5} &\cong \mathbb{F}_2[a, b, z, y]/(a^2 + ab, a^3, az, z^2(a^2 + b^2)y), \\ &\text{where } |a| = |b| = 1, |z| = 3, |y| = 4. \end{aligned}$$

## Definition (Coclass)

Let  $p$  be a prime number and let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$  and nilpotency class  $m$ . Then,  $G$  has *coclass*  $c = n - m$ .

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### Theorem (J.F. Carlson, 2005)

*Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic 2 and let  $c$  be an integer. Then, there are only finitely many isomorphism types of cohomology algebras with coefficients in  $k$  for all 2-groups of coclass  $c$ .*

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*Let  $p$  be a prime number and let  $c$  be an integer. Then, there are only finitely many isomorphism types of cohomology algebras  $H^*(G; \mathbb{F}_p)$  when  $G$  runs over the non-twisted  $p$ -groups of coclass  $c$ .*

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For instance, all 2-groups of fixed coclass are non-twisted.

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Our result is based on:

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- 3 *Refined* counting arguments for cohomology algebras using spectral sequences.

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### Theorem (The Structure Theorem, Leedham-Green, 1994)

*Let  $p$  be a prime number, let  $c$  be an integer and let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group of coclass  $c$ . Then, there exist a normal subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  and a function  $f(p, c)$  such that  $|N| \leq f(p, c)$  and  $G/N$  is constructible.*

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So, for all  $n \geq 4$ ,

$$D_{2^{n-1}} \cong Q_{2^n}/C_2 \text{ and } D_{2^{n-1}} \cong SD_{2^n}/C_2.$$

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- $R$  has coclass at least  $x$ .

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- 3 We say that a  $p$ -group of fixed coclass is *non-twisted* if for some normal subgroup  $N \leq G$  of bounded order,  $G/N$  is constructible non-twisted. Otherwise, we say that  $G$  is *twisted*.

### Picture: non-twisted case

Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group of coclass  $c$ .

$$N \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow G/N \cong R/U$$

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- Current work: delete the condition on the nilpotency class (being smaller than  $p$ ).



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!