

SPLITTINGS OF FINITE GROUPS

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Let G be a group, written additively, M a set of integers, and S a subset of G . We will say that M and S form a splitting of G if every nonzero element of G has a unique representation as a product ms with $m \in M$ and $s \in S$, while 0 has no such representation. (Here “ ms ” denotes the sum of m s ’s if $m \geq 0$ and denotes $-((-m)s)$ if $m < 0$.) Splittings arise in connection with the problem of tiling Euclidean space by translates of certain unions of unit cubes, called “crosses” and “semicrosses”.

In this paper, we develop a counting technique which gives information about S if M and G are known. This technique is used to reduce the study of splittings of finite abelian groups to those of nonsingular splittings and of purely singular splittings. (A splitting is nonsingular if every element of M is relatively prime to $|G|$; it is purely singular if, for every prime divisor p of $|G|$, some element of M is divisible by p .) Next, it is shown that every splitting of a noncyclic abelian p -group is nonsingular. A construction is then given which yields many purely singular splittings.

We then discuss a number of results and examples, including some infinite and nonabelian groups, and close with a list of open problems.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	141
Notation	142
0. Introduction	142
1. General Theory	145
1.0. A Counting Technique	145
1.1. Some M -Partitions	149
1.2. A Decomposition Theorem	151
1.3. Singular Splittings of Abelian p -Groups	155
1.4. Some Purely Singular Splittings	159
2. Special Topics	161
2.0. Purely Singular Splittings with Small $ M $	161
2.1. A Question of Robinson’s	165
2.2. Miscellaneous Results	166
2.3. Open Problems	170
References	171