

## ON THE NUMBER OF GROUP HOMOMORPHISMS BETWEEN CERTAIN GROUPS

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### Abstract

Let  $H$  be a finite abelian group and  $Dih(H) = \langle H, b \mid b^2 = 1 \text{ \& } b h b^{-1} = h^{-1}; \forall h \in H \rangle$  be the generalized dihedral group of  $H$ . The aim of this paper is to compute the number of group homomorphisms between two generalized dihedral groups and a generalized dihedral group and an abelian group. One of these results generalized an earlier work by J.W. Johnson published in 2013.

**Keywords:** group homomorphism, generalized dihedral group, abelian group.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper we will make this assumption that all groups are assumed to be finite. If  $G$  and  $H$  are such groups then we interest the number of homomorphisms from  $G$  into  $H$ , denoted by  $\gamma(H, G) = |Hom(H, G)|$ . In the case that  $H = G$ , we will use the notation  $\gamma(G)$  as  $\gamma(G, G)$ . The problem of computing the number of homomorphisms between two groups is so difficult in general, and so some mathematicians presented methods to compute  $\gamma(H, G)$  for certain groups.

With the best of our knowledge, the first published paper in which the number of homomorphisms between two finite groups is considered into account was the

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joint paper of Gallian and Van Buskirk [3]. In the mentioned paper, the authors obtained closed formulas for the number of group homomorphisms, and also ring homomorphisms, from  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ . If  $(m, n)$  denotes the greatest common divisor of two positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , then they proved that:

**Theorem 1.**  $\gamma(\mathbb{Z}_m, \mathbb{Z}_n) = (m, n)$ .

Johnson [4], found the number of group homomorphisms from the dihedral group  $D_{2m}$  into the dihedral group  $D_{2n}$ . He proved that

**Theorem 2.**

$$\gamma(D_{2m}, D_{2n}) = \begin{cases} n(m, n) + 1 & 2 \nmid mn \\ n(m, n) + 2 & 2 \nmid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + 4n + 4 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + 2n + 1 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \nmid n. \end{cases}$$

The most important works on the problem of counting group homomorphisms were given by Takegahara and his co-authors. Chigira and Takegahara [2], studied the number of homomorphisms from a finite group to a general linear group over a finite field, and the authors of [5, 9, 10] investigated the number of homomorphisms from a finite abelian group to a symmetric or alternating groups. Liebeck and Shalev [6] have been estimated the number of homomorphisms from a finite group  $A$  to the general linear group  $GL(n, q)$ , where  $q$  is a prime power coprime to  $|A|$ .

Bate [1] provided upper and lower bounds for the number of completely reducible homomorphisms from a finite group to general linear and unitary groups over arbitrary finite fields, and to orthogonal and symplectic groups over finite fields of odd characteristic. Matei and Suciuc [7] presented a method for computing the number of epimorphisms from a finitely presented group to a finite solvable group, which generalizes a formula of Gaschütz.

An elementary abelian group of order  $p^n$ ,  $p$  is prime, is denoted by  $E(p^n)$ . Suppose  $G$  is an abelian group with decomposition  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}_{n_d}$  in which  $n_{i+1} \mid n_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq d-1$ , and for all  $j$ ,  $n_j \geq 2$ . Then we define  $\mathcal{S}(G) = \{n_1, \dots, n_d\}$ . Note that this decomposition is unique for each abelian group and so our definition for  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is well-defined. The number of factors of even orders in this decomposition of  $H$  into cyclic groups is denoted by  $\varepsilon(H)$ . If  $n$  is a positive integer, then  $\phi(n)$  denotes the Euler totient function evaluated at  $n$ .

Throughout this paper our notations are standard and we refer to the famous book of Robinson [8] for concepts and notations not presented here. Our results are checked by the computer algebra package Gap [11].

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Suppose  $H$  is an abelian group. The generalized dihedral group  $Dih(H)$  can be presented by  $Dih(H) = \langle H, b_H \mid b_H^2 = 1 \text{ \& } b_H h b_H^{-1} = h^{-1}; \forall h \in H \rangle$ . It is well-known that this group is the semidirect product of  $H$  by the cyclic group of order 2. In an exact phrase,  $Dih(H) = H \rtimes_{\alpha} Z_2$  in which  $\alpha(0)$  is the identity element of  $Aut(H)$  and  $\alpha(1) = f$  in which  $f(x) = x^{-1}$ , for arbitrary element  $x \in H$ . Note that for each subgroup  $M$  of  $H$ ,  $\overline{M} = \{(m, 0) \mid m \in M\}$  is a subgroup of  $Dih(H)$  isomorphic to  $M$ . On the other hand, the set of all elements in the form of  $(h, 0), h \in H$ , constitutes a subgroup of index 2 in  $Dih(H)$  isomorphic to  $H$ .

The first main result of this paper is as follows.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $H$  and  $G$  be two finite abelian groups. The number of homomorphisms from  $Dih(H)$  into  $Dih(G)$  can be computed by the following formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(Dih(H), Dih(G)) &= |G| \gamma(H, G) + \frac{|G|}{2^{\varepsilon(G)}} \left( 2^{(1+\varepsilon(H))(1+\varepsilon(G))} - 2^{(1+\varepsilon(H))\varepsilon(G)} \right) \\ &\quad - |G| 2^{\varepsilon(H)\varepsilon(G)} + 2^{(1+\varepsilon(H))\varepsilon(G)}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In particular, } \gamma(Dih(H)) &= |H| |End(H)| + \frac{|H|}{2^{\varepsilon(H)}} \left( 2^{(\varepsilon(H))^2} - 2^{(\varepsilon(H)+1)\varepsilon(H)} \right) - \\ &\quad |H| 2^{\varepsilon(H)^2} + 2^{(1+\varepsilon(H))\varepsilon(H)}. \end{aligned}$$

We now apply this theorem to present a simple proof for Theorem 2 which is the main result of [4].

**New Proof for Theorem 2.** Since for each natural number  $r$ ,  $Dih(\mathbb{Z}_r)$  is a dihedral group of order  $2r$ , it is enough to apply Theorem 3. By Theorem 1,  $\gamma(\mathbb{Z}_m, \mathbb{Z}_n) = (m, n)$  and it is easy to see that for each cyclic group  $A$ ,  $\varepsilon(A) \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $\varepsilon(A) = 0$  if and only if  $A$  has odd order. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(D_{2m}, D_{2n}) &= \begin{cases} n(m, n) + (2-1)n - n + 1 & 2 \nmid mn \\ n(m, n) + (2^2 - 2^1)\frac{n}{2} - n + 2^1 & 2 \nmid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + (2^4 - 2^2)\frac{n}{2} - 2n + 2^2 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + (2^2 - 1)n - n + 1 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \nmid n \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} n(m, n) + 1 & 2 \nmid mn \\ n(m, n) + 2 & 2 \nmid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + 4n + 4 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \mid n \\ n(m, n) + 2n + 1 & 2 \mid m \text{ \& } 2 \nmid n. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

We are now ready to state our second main result which can be proved in a similar way as the proof of Theorem 3.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $H$  and  $G$  be finite abelian groups. Then the following hold.*

1.  $\gamma(\text{Dih}(H), G) = 2^{(\varepsilon(H)+1)\varepsilon(G)}$ ;
2.  $\gamma(H, \text{Dih}(G)) = \gamma(H, G) + \frac{|G|}{2^{\varepsilon(G)}}(2^{\varepsilon(H)(1+\varepsilon(G))} + 2^{\varepsilon(H)\varepsilon(G)})$ .

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

Suppose  $S$  is a minimal generating set for  $H$ , then  $\text{Dih}(H) = \langle S, b_H \rangle$ . If  $G$  is an abelian group of even order, then we use the notation  $E(G)$  to denote the set of all involutions together with the identity element of  $G$ . It is easy to see that  $E(G)$  is the largest elementary abelian 2-subgroup of  $G$ .

Suppose  $G, H$  and  $K$  are three finite groups. It is well-known that  $\gamma(G, H \times K) = \gamma(G, H)\gamma(G, K)$ , see [7, p. 168]. Also, if  $A$  and  $B$  are abelian groups then it is well-known that  $\gamma(A, B) = \gamma(B, A)$ . The following lemma is an immediate consequence of these known results.

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  and  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  be abelian groups. Then*

$$\gamma(G_1 \times \dots \times G_n, H_1 \times \dots \times H_m) = \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{j=1}^m \gamma(G_i, H_j).$$

**Corollary 6.** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be finite abelian groups. Then*

$$\gamma(H, G) = \prod_{i \in S(G)} \prod_{j \in S(H)} (i, j).$$

Suppose  $U_n$  denotes the unit group of the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  of integers modulo  $n$ . If  $n = 2^\alpha p_1^{n_1} \dots p_r^{n_r}$ , where  $p_i$ 's are different odd primes, then by the Chinese remainder theorem  $U_n \cong U_{2^\alpha} \times U_{p_1^{n_1}} \times \dots \times U_{p_r^{n_r}}$ . Moreover,  $U_2$  is trivial group,  $U_4 \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $U_{2^n} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_{2^{n-2}}$ ,  $n > 2$  is an integer, and for each odd prime  $p$  and positive integer  $m$ ,  $U_{p^m} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^m - p^{m-1}}$ .

**Corollary 7.** *Let  $n > 2$  and  $m > 2$  be two positive integers with prime factorizations  $n = 2^\alpha p_1^{n_1} \dots p_r^{n_r}$  and  $m = 2^\beta q_1^{l_1} \dots q_s^{l_s}$ , where  $p_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , as well as  $q_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq s$  are different odd primes. Moreover,  $\alpha, \beta, r, s, n_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , and  $m_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq s$  are non-negative integers. Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\beta \leq \alpha$ . Then the following hold:*

1. if  $\alpha, \beta \in \{0, 1\}$ , then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$ ;
2. if  $\alpha = 2$  and  $\beta \in \{0, 1\}$ , then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^s \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$ ;
3. if  $\alpha = \beta = 2$  then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{r+s+1} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$ ;

4. if  $\alpha > 2$  and  $\beta \in \{0, 1\}$ , then

$$\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^s \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j)) \prod_{j=1}^s (2^{\alpha-2}, \phi(q_j)).$$

In particular, if  $\alpha = 3$ , then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{2s} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$ ;

5. if  $\alpha > 2$  and  $\beta = 2$ , then

$$\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{r+s+2} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j)) \prod_{j=1}^s (2^{\alpha-2}, \phi(q_j)).$$

In particular, if  $\alpha = 3$ , then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{r+2s+2} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$ ;

6. if  $\alpha > 2$  and  $\beta > 2$ , then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{r+s+\beta+1} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j)) \prod_{j=1}^s (2^{\alpha-2}, \phi(q_j)) \times \prod_{i=1}^r (2^{\beta-2}, \phi(p_i))$ . In the special case that  $\alpha = \beta = 3$  we will have  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{2r+2s+4} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j))$  and if  $\alpha > 3$  and  $\beta = 3$  then  $\gamma(U_n, U_m) = 2^{2r+s+4} \prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{j=1}^s (\phi(p_i), \phi(q_j)) \prod_{j=1}^s (2^{\alpha-2}, \phi(q_j))$ .

**Corollary 8.** Let  $G$  and  $H$  be abelian groups. Then

$$\gamma(G, H) = \prod_{i \in S(G)} \prod_{j \in S(H)} (i, j).$$

In particular,  $\gamma(H, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)}$ .

**Proof.** By our definition  $S(\mathbb{Z}_2) = \{2\}$  and so  $\gamma(H, \mathbb{Z}_2) = \prod_{i \in S(H)} (i, 2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)}$ , proving the result. ■

Suppose  $G$  is a finite group. It is clear that there is a one to one correspondence between the set of all subgroups of index 2 in  $G$  and non-zero homomorphisms from  $G$  into the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ . This proves that there is exactly  $\gamma(G, \mathbb{Z}_2) - 1$  subgroups of index 2 in  $G$ . We now apply this simple result to prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 9.** Let  $H$  be an abelian group. Then  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)+1}$ .

**Proof.** To prove the lemma, it is enough to count the number of subgroup of index 2 in  $Dih(H)$ . By definition of the generalized dihedral group,  $H$  is a subgroup of index 2 in  $Dih(H)$ . Choose a subgroup  $H'$  of index 2 in  $H$ ,  $x \in Dih(H) \setminus H$  and  $y \in Dih(H) \setminus (Dih(H') \cup H)$ . It can be easily seen that  $H$ ,  $\langle H', x \rangle$  and  $\langle H', y \rangle$  are the only proper subgroups of  $Dih(H)$  containing  $H'$  and the last two subgroups are isomorphic to  $Dih(H')$ . Therefore,  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2|\{K \leq H \mid |H : K| = 2\}| + 2 = 2(\gamma(H, \mathbb{Z}_2) - 1) + 2 = 2\gamma(H, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ . By Corollary 8,  $\gamma(H, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)}$  and so  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)+1}$ , proving the lemma. ■

**Corollary 10.**  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2^n) = 2^{n(\varepsilon(H)+1)}$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 9,  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) = 2^{\varepsilon(H)+1}$  and by Lemma 5,  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2^n) = 2^{n(\varepsilon(H)+1)}$ . ■

We are now ready to present the proof of our first main result.

**Proof of Theorem 3.** To calculate the number of homomorphisms  $h : Dih(H) \rightarrow Dih(G)$ , we consider four cases that in which the order of  $G$  or  $H$  are odd or even.

(i) *Both of  $G$  and  $H$  have odd orders.* Note that if we have the image of  $h$  under  $b_H$  and each element of  $S$ , then the homomorphism  $h$  will be completely determined. It is clear that all elements  $b_G g \in Dih(G)$  are involutions. Since  $G$  has odd order, these are all elements of even order in  $Dih(G)$  which shows that  $h(b_H) = e_G$  or  $h(b_H) = b_G g$ , for some  $g \in G$ . If  $h(b_H) = e_G$ , then  $h$  is the zero homomorphism, and so we can assume that there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $h(b_H) = b_G g$ . Furthermore,  $h(H) \subseteq G$  and so  $h$  induces a homomorphism from  $H$  into  $G$ . On the other hand, we assume that  $h_1 : H \rightarrow G$  is a group homomorphism. We extend  $h_1$  to the homomorphism  $\overline{h}_1 : Dih(H) \rightarrow Dih(G)$  by  $\overline{h}_1(b_H x) = b_G y h_1(x)$ , where  $y \in H$  is arbitrary. Therefore, we will have  $|G|$  different choices for defining  $h(b_H)$  and  $\gamma(H, G)$  different choices for the group homomorphism  $h_1$ . This proves that there are  $|G|\gamma(H, G) + 1$  homomorphisms from  $Dih(H)$  into  $Dih(G)$ .

(ii)  *$|G|$  is even and  $|H|$  is odd.* Since  $|H|$  is odd, all elements  $h(s)$ ,  $s \in S$ , has odd orders. It is clear that  $h(b_H) \in E(G) \cup (Dih(G) \setminus G)$ . If  $h(b_H) \in Dih(G) \setminus G$ , then a similar argument as (i) shows that we have exactly  $|G|\gamma(H, G)$  homomorphisms. We now assume that  $h(b_H) \in E(G)$ . Suppose there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $h(s) \notin E(G)$ . Since  $h(b_H s) = h(b_H)h(s) \in G$  and  $O(b_H s) = 2$ ,  $b_H s \in E(G)$  which leads to a contradiction. Therefore, elements of  $S$  map to elements of  $E(G)$ . Note that  $O(h(s))|O(s)$  and  $O(s)$  is odd which shows that  $O(s) \neq 2$ . This proves that  $h(S) = \{e_G\}$ . This creates  $|E(G)|$  new homomorphisms and so  $\gamma(Dih(H), Dih(G)) = |G|\gamma(H, G) + |2^{\varepsilon(G)}|$ .

(iii)  *$|G|$  is odd and  $|H|$  is even.* In this case,  $G$  does not have an element of even order. Since  $O(h(b_H)) = 1, 2$ ,  $b_H$  can be mapped to  $e_G$  or an element in the form of  $b_G g$ ,  $g \in G$ . Suppose there are two elements  $s_1, s_2 \in S$  such that  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$  and  $h(s_2) = g_2$ , where  $g_1, g_2 \in G$  and  $g_2 \neq e_G$ . Since  $H$  is abelian,  $b_G g_1 g_2 = h(s_1)h(s_2) = h(s_2)h(s_1) = g_2 b_G g_1 = b_G g_2^{-1} g_1$  which implies that  $g_2^2 = e_G$ . But  $G$  has odd order and so  $g_2 = e_G$ . This proves that if for an element  $s_1 \in S$ ,  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$  then the image of all elements of  $S$  under the homomorphism  $h$  will be identity element of  $G$  or an element in the form of  $b_G g$ , where  $g \in G$ . Hence, we have one of the following cases.

1.  $h(S) \subseteq G$ . In this subcase, if  $h(b_H) = e_G$ , then  $h$  will be the zero homomorphism. Moreover, all mappings for which every element of  $S$  mapped to an element of  $G$  and  $b_H$  mapped to an element in the form of  $b_G g$ ,  $g \in G$ , can be extended to a unique homomorphism from  $Dih(H)$  into  $Dih(G)$  and similar to (i) there are  $|G|\gamma(H, G)$  of such homomorphisms.

2. *There exists  $s_1 \in S$  such that  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$ , for some  $g_1 \in G$ .* For each  $s \in S$ ,  $O(h(s)) = 1, 2$  and also  $O(h(b_H)) = 1, 2$ . This shows that  $h(H)$  is an elementary abelian 2-subgroup of  $Dih(G)$  and since  $4 \nmid |Dih(G)|$ ,  $h(H)$  is a subgroup of order 2 in  $Dih(G)$ . There are  $\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) - 1$  non-trivial homomorphisms from  $Dih(H)$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and since we have  $|G|$  involutions in  $Dih(G)$ , we will have  $|G|[\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) - 1]$  homomorphisms. But there are  $|G|$  homomorphisms for which  $h(S) = \{e_G\}$  and  $b_H$  mapped to an element in the form of  $b_G g$ ,  $g \in G$ . Therefore, the total number of homomorphisms from  $Dih(H)$  into  $Dih(G)$  is  $|G|\gamma(H, G) + |G|[\gamma(Dih(H), \mathbb{Z}_2) - 1] - |G| + 1$ .

We now apply Lemma 9 to complete the proof of (iii).

(iv) *Both of  $G$  and  $H$  have even orders.* Since  $|H|$  and  $|G|$  are both even and  $O(h(b_H))|2$ , there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $b_H = b_G g$  or  $h(b_H) \in E(G)$ . Our proof will consider two cases that  $h(S) \subseteq G$  or there exists  $s_1 \in S$  such that  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$ .

1.  $h(S) \subseteq G$ . We first assume that  $h(b_H) = b_G g$ . By an argument similar to Part (i) of the proof of Theorem 3, we will have  $|G|\gamma(H, G)$  homomorphisms. Suppose that  $h(b_H) \in E(G)$ . Similar to Part (ii) of the proof of Theorem 3, we assume that there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $x = h(s) \in G \setminus E(G)$  and so  $O(h(s)) = O(x) \neq 1, 2$ . Since  $h(b_H) \in E(G)$  and  $x = h(s) \in G$ ,  $h(b_H s) = h(b_H)h(s) \in G$ , and since  $O(h(b_H s))|2$ ,  $h(b_H s) \in E(G)$ . On the other hand,  $h(b_H s) = h(b_H)h(s) = h(b_H)x$  and  $x \notin E(G)$  which is impossible. This contradiction shows that  $h(S) \subseteq E(G)$  which show that  $h(Dih(H)) \subseteq E(G)$ . Therefore, we have to counted the number of homomorphisms from  $Dih(H)$  into  $E(G)$ .

2. *There exists  $s_1 \in S$  such that  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$ .* Similar to what we have done in (iii), we assume that for another element  $s_2 \in S$ ,  $h(s_2) = g_2$  in which  $g_2 \in G$ . Since  $H$  is abelian,  $g_2^2 = e_G$ . This proves that the image of each element of  $S$  has the form of  $b_G g$  or is an element of  $E(G)$ . In each case, it can be easily seen that  $O(h(s))|2$ ,  $s \in S$ . Also,  $O(h(b_H))|2$  and hence  $h(Dih(H))$  is a trivial subgroup or an elementary abelian 2-group. Thus,  $h(Dih(H))$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $Dih(E(G)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times E(G)$  and we have  $\frac{|G|}{|E(G)|}$  subgroups isomorphic to  $Dih(E(G))$ . In the last case, we have to reduce this case by the number of homomorphisms with this condition that  $h(S) \subseteq G$ . Therefore,

$$\gamma(Dih(H), Dih(G)) = |G|\gamma(H, G) + \frac{|G|}{|E(G)|}(\gamma(Dih(H), E(G) \times \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

$$- \gamma(Dih(H), E(G))) - |G|\gamma(H, E(G)) + \gamma(Dih(H), E(G)).$$

We now apply Lemmas 5, 9 and Corollary 10 to get the result.

This completes the proof of (iv).

**Proof of Theorem 4.** Suppose  $G$  and  $H$  are abelian groups. Our proof will consider two separate cases as follows.

1. A similar argument as Part (iv)(b) of the proof of Theorem 3 shows that  $h(S) \subseteq E(G)$  and so  $\gamma(Dih(H), G) = \gamma(Dih(H), E(G))$ . Now by Corollary 10,  $\gamma(Dih(H), G) = 2^{(\varepsilon(H)+1)\varepsilon(G)}$ , as desired.

2. If  $h(S) \subseteq E(G)$ , then there are  $\gamma(H, G)$  homomorphisms. Thus, we can assume that there exists  $s_1 \in S$  such that  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$ , for some  $g_1 \in G$ . Now a similar argument as Part (ii) of the proof of Theorem 3 shows that  $h(s) \in (Dih(G) \setminus G) \cup E(G)$ . Hence the image of  $Dih(H)$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $Dih(E(G)) \cong E(G) \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  and we have  $\frac{|G|}{|E(G)|}$  such subgroups. Since  $h(s_1) = b_G g_1$ ,  $Dih(H) \not\subseteq G$ . Therefore,  $\gamma(H, Dih(G)) = \gamma(H, G) + \frac{|G|}{|E(G)|}(2^{(\varepsilon(H)+1)\varepsilon(G)} - 2^{\varepsilon(H)\varepsilon(G)})$ .

#### 4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper, the number of homomorphisms between two generalized dihedral groups were calculated. This gives a generalization of a result by Johnson [4]. We also compute the number of homomorphisms between an abelian group and a generalized dihedral groups, and the number of homomorphisms between the unite rings of integers modulo  $n$  and  $m$ , respectively. The next step in this program is to calculate the number of homomorphisms between two generalized dicyclic groups, an abelian group and a generalized dicyclic group, and a generalized dihedral group and a generalized dicyclic group. We checked all results of this paper by gap programs. These programs are accessible from the authors upon request.

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