

# Automorphisms of a non-metacyclic minimal nonabelian $p$ -group, $p$ odd

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**Problem: (Y. Berkovich and Z. Janko 2009) Describe the automorphism groups of minimal nonabelian finite  $p$ -groups.**

### Theorem

(L. Rédei 1947) A finite  $p$ -group  $G$  is a minimal nonabelian group if and only if either it is isomorphic to the quaternion group of order 8, or (A) has the presentation  $\langle a, b \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^n} = 1, a^b = a^{1+p^{m-1}} \rangle$ , where  $m \geq 2, n \geq 1, |G| = p^{m+n}$ , or (B) has the presentation  $\langle a, b \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^n} = c^p = 1, [a, b] = c, [a, c] = 1, [b, c] = 1 \rangle$ , where  $|G| = p^{m+n+1}$ .

## Theorem

Let the group  $H$  be finitely presented by

$$\langle g_1, \dots, g_r \mid w_1(g_1, \dots, g_r), \dots, w_s(g_1, \dots, g_r) \rangle.$$

Then there is a bijective correspondence between automorphisms of the group  $H$  and ordered  $r$ -tuples  $(g'_1, \dots, g'_r)$  of elements generating the group  $H$  for which all the relations  $w_j(g'_1, \dots, g'_r) = 1$  hold.

## Theorem

Consider the linear group  $GL(2, p)$  as the automorphism group of the elementary abelian group  $\langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle$  of type  $C_p \times C_p$ . Let the automorphism  $\alpha$  be induced by the substitution  $a \mapsto a^t$  with  $t$  primitive root modulo  $p$  ( $1 < t < p$ ) and  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\beta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto b^t$ ; the automorphism  $\gamma$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto ab$ ,  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\delta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto ab$ ; and set  $\nu = \delta\gamma^{-1}\delta$ . Then the linear group  $GL(2, p)$  is presented with generators  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and  $\delta$ , and with generating relations

$$|\alpha| = p - 1, |\beta| = p - 1, |\gamma| = p, |\delta| = p, \alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha = \beta, \alpha^{-1}\gamma\alpha = \gamma^t, \alpha^{-1}\delta\alpha = \delta^{\frac{1}{t}}, \beta^{-1}\gamma\beta = \gamma^{\frac{1}{t}}, \beta^{-1}\delta\beta = \delta^t, \gamma^{-1}\delta\gamma = \delta^{-1}\gamma^{-1}\delta, \delta^u\gamma = \alpha^i\beta^{-i}\gamma^{u+1}\delta^{\frac{u}{u+1}}, \nu^2 = \alpha^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\beta^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\nu^{-1}\alpha\nu = \beta$$

where  $\frac{1}{t}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $t$  modulo  $p$ , an integer between 1 and  $p$ ,  $1 \leq u \leq p - 2$ ,  $\frac{1}{u+1}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $u + 1$  modulo  $p$ , an integer between 1 and  $p$ , and  $t^i \equiv u + 1 \pmod{p}$  with  $i$  an integer between 1 and  $p$ .

## Theorem

Consider the automorphism group  $Aut(G)$  with  $G = \langle a, b \mid a^p = b^p = c^p = 1, [a, b] = c, [a, c] = 1, [b, c] = 1 \rangle$ . Let the automorphisms  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and  $\delta$  be defined analogously as in Theorem 3; the automorphism  $\eta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto ac, b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\theta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a, b \mapsto bc$ ; and set  $\nu = \delta\gamma^{-1}\delta$ . Then the group of inner automorphisms is  $Inn(G) = \langle \eta, \theta \rangle$ , the factor-group  $Aut(G)/Inn(G)$  of outer automorphisms is isomorphic to the linear group  $GL(2, p)$ . Furthermore, the automorphism group  $Aut(G)$  is presented with generators  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \eta, \theta$ , and with generating relations

## Theorem

$|\alpha| = p - 1$ ,  $|\beta| = p - 1$ ,  $|\gamma| = p$ ,  $|\delta| = p$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha = \beta$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\gamma\alpha = \eta^{-\frac{t-1}{2}}\gamma^t$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\delta\alpha = \delta^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  
 $\beta^{-1}\gamma\beta = \gamma^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\delta\beta = \theta^{-\frac{t-1}{2}}\delta^t$ ,  $\gamma^{-1}\delta\gamma = \delta^{-1}\gamma^{-1}\delta$ ,  
 $\delta^u\gamma = \alpha^i\beta^{-i}\gamma^{u+1}\delta^{\frac{u}{u+1}}\theta^{-\frac{u}{u+1}}$ ,  $\nu^2 = \eta\theta\alpha^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\beta^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\nu^{-1}\alpha\nu = \beta$ ,  $\eta^p = 1$ ,  $\theta^p = 1$ ,  $\eta\theta = \theta\eta$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\eta\alpha = \eta$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\theta\alpha = \theta^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\eta\beta = \eta^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\theta\beta = \eta$ ,  $\gamma^{-1}\eta\gamma = \eta$ ,  $\gamma^{-1}\theta\gamma = \theta\eta$ ,  $\delta^{-1}\eta\delta = \theta\eta$ ,  $\delta^{-1}\theta\delta = \theta$ , where  $\frac{1}{t}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $t$  modulo  $p$ , an integer between 1 and  $p$ ,  $1 \leq u \leq p - 2$ ,  $\frac{1}{u+1}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $u + 1$  modulo  $p$ , an integer between 1 and  $p$ , and  $t^i \equiv u + 1 \pmod{p}$  with  $i$  an integer between 1 and  $p$ .

## Theorem

Consider the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^m})$  ( $m > 1$ ) of the abelian group  $\langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle$  of type  $C_{p^m} \times C_{p^m}$ . Let the automorphism  $\alpha$  be induced by the substitution  $a \mapsto a^t$  with  $t$  primitive root modulo  $p^m$  ( $1 < t < p^m$ ) and  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\beta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto b^t$ ; the automorphism  $\gamma$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto ab$ ,  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\delta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto ab$ ; and set  $\nu = \delta\gamma^{-1}\delta$ . Then the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^m})$  is of order  $p^{4m-3}(p^2 - 1)(p - 1)$ , and is presented with generators  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ , and with generating relations

## Theorem

$|\alpha| = \varphi(p^m)$ ,  $|\beta| = \varphi(p^m)$ ,  $|\gamma| = p^m$ ,  $|\delta| = p^m$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha = \beta$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\gamma\alpha = \gamma^t$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\delta\alpha = \delta^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\gamma\beta = \gamma^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\delta\beta = \delta^t$ ,  $\gamma^{-1}\delta\gamma = \delta^{-1}\gamma^{-1}\delta$ ,  $\delta^u\gamma = \alpha^i\beta^{-i}\gamma^{u+1}\delta^{\frac{u}{u+1}}$ ,  $\nu^2 = \alpha^{\frac{\varphi(p^m)}{2}}\beta^{\frac{\varphi(p^m)}{2}}$ ,  $\nu^{-1}\alpha\nu = \beta$ ,  $\delta^{vp-1}\gamma = \alpha^j\beta^{-j}\gamma^{vp-1}\delta^{\frac{vp}{1-vp}}\nu$ , where  $\frac{1}{t}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $t$  modulo  $p^m$ ;  $1 \leq u \leq p^m - 2$ ,  $\gcd(u+1, p) = 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{u+1}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $u+1$  modulo  $p^m$ ,  $t^i \equiv u+1 \pmod{p^m}$ ;  $0 \leq v \leq p^{m-1} - 1$ ,  $t^j \equiv vp - 1 \pmod{p^m}$ ,  $\frac{1}{1-vp}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $1 - vp$  modulo  $p^m$ ; and  $\frac{1}{t}$ ,  $i$ ,  $j$ ,  $\frac{1}{u+1}$  and  $\frac{1}{1-vp}$  are integers between 1 and  $p^m$ . Moreover, there is an epimorphism  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^m}) \rightarrow GL(2, p)$  with a  $p$ -group kernel.

## Theorem

Consider the automorphism group  $Aut(G)$  with  
 $G = \langle a, b \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^m} = c^p = 1, [a, b] = c, [a, c] = 1, [b, c] = 1 \rangle$ ,  
 $m > 1$ . Then the factor-group  $Aut(G)/Inn(G)$  of outer  
automorphisms is isomorphic to the group  $Aut(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^m})$ .

## Theorem

Consider the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n})$  ( $m > n > 0$ ) of the abelian group  $\langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle$  of type  $C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n}$ . Let the automorphism  $\alpha$  be induced by the substitution  $a \mapsto a^t$  with  $t$  primitive root modulo  $p^m$  ( $1 < t < p^m$ ) and  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\beta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto b^t$ , notice that  $t$  is a primitive root modulo  $p^n$  also; the automorphism  $\gamma$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto ab$ ,  $b \mapsto b$ ; the automorphism  $\delta$  by the substitution  $a \mapsto a$ ,  $b \mapsto a^{p^{m-n}} b$ . Then the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n})$  is of order  $p^{m+3n-2}(p-1)^2$ , and is presented with generators  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ , and with generating relations

## Theorem

$|\alpha| = \varphi(p^m)$ ,  $|\beta| = \varphi(p^n)$ ,  $|\gamma| = p^n$ ,  $|\delta| = p^n$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha = \beta$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\gamma\alpha = \gamma^t$ ,  $\alpha^{-1}\delta\alpha = \delta^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\gamma\beta = \gamma^{\frac{1}{t}}$ ,  $\beta^{-1}\delta\beta = \delta^t$ ,  $\delta^u\gamma = \alpha^i\beta^{-i}\gamma^{up^{m-n}+1}\delta^{\frac{u}{up^{m-n}+1}}$ , where  $\frac{1}{t}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $t$  modulo  $p^n$ , an integer between 1 and  $p^n$ ,  $1 \leq u \leq p^n - 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{up^{m-n}+1}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $up^{m-n} + 1$  modulo  $p^n$ , an integer between 1 and  $p^n$ , and  $t^i \equiv up^{m-n} + 1 \pmod{p^m}$  with  $i$  an integer between 1 and  $p^m$ . Moreover, there is a homomorphism  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n}) \rightarrow GL(2, p)$  with a  $p$ -group kernel and a metabelian image. In particular, the group  $\text{Aut}(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n})$  is solvable.

## Theorem

Consider the automorphism group  $Aut(G)$  with  $G = \langle a, b \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^n} = c^p = 1, [a, b] = c, [a, c] = 1, [b, c] = 1 \rangle$ ,  $m > n > 0$ . Then the factor-group  $Aut(G)/Inn(G)$  of outer automorphisms is isomorphic to the group  $Aut(C_{p^m} \times C_{p^n})$ .

Relax the assumption that the prime  $p$  is odd.

## Theorem

Let  $A$  be a finite abelian group,  $p$  a prime divisor of its order and  $P$  the primary component belonging to the prime  $p$ . The automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(A)$  is solvable if and only if the following statements are satisfied:

- (i) For  $p = 2$  the primary component  $P$  is of type either  $C_{2^k}$ ,  $C_{2^k} \times C_{2^k}$  or  $C_{2^{k_1}} \times C_{2^{k_2}} \times \cdots \times C_{2^{k_r}}$  with  $k_1 \geq k_2 \geq \cdots \geq k_r > 0$  ( $r > 1$ ) such that an exponent  $k$  may appear at most twice in the orders of the direct cyclic factors;
- (ii) For  $p = 3$  the primary component  $P$  is of type either  $C_{3^k}$ ,  $C_{3^k} \times C_{3^k}$  or  $C_{3^{k_1}} \times C_{3^{k_2}} \times \cdots \times C_{3^{k_r}}$  with  $k_1 \geq k_2 \geq \cdots \geq k_r > 0$  ( $r > 1$ ) such that an exponent  $k$  may appear at most twice in the orders of the direct cyclic factors;
- (iii) For  $p \geq 5$  the primary component  $P$  is of type either  $C_{p^k}$ , or  $C_{p^{k_1}} \times C_{p^{k_2}} \times \cdots \times C_{p^{k_r}}$  with  $k_1 > k_2 > \cdots > k_r > 0$  ( $r > 1$ ).