

A GAP-conjecture and its solution:
Isomorphism classes of capable special p -groups of rank 2

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(joint with H. Heineken and R.F. Morse)

Definition 1. A group G is said to be capable if there exists a group H such that $G \cong H/Z(H)$, or equivalently, G is isomorphic to the inner automorphism group of a group H .

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Theorem 1. *Let A be a finitely generated abelian group written as*

$$A = \mathbb{Z}_{n_1} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{n_2} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{n_k}$$

such that $n_i \mid n_{i+1}$, where $\mathbb{Z}_n = \mathbb{Z}$, the infinite cyclic group, if $n = 0$. Then A is capable if and only if $k \geq 2$ and $n_{k-1} = n_k$.

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R. Baer, *Groups with preassigned central and central quotient groups*,
Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 44 (1938), 387-412.

F.R. Beyl, U. Felgner, and P. Schmid, *On groups occurring as center factor groups*, J. Algebra 61 (1979), 161-177.

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Definition 2. The epicenter $Z^*(G)$ of a group G is defined as

$$\bigcap \{ \phi Z(E); (E, \phi) \text{ is a central extension of } G \}.$$

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Theorem 2. *A group is capable if and only $Z^*(G) = 1$.*

G. Ellis, *On the capability of groups*, Proc. Edinburgh Math Soc. 41 (1998), 487-495.

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Theorem 3. $Z^*(G) = Z^\wedge(G) = \{a \in G \mid a \wedge g = 1_\wedge, \forall g \in G\}$, the exterior center of G .

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A. Magidin and R.F. Morse, *Capable p -groups*, Proceedings Groups St. Andrews 2013, Lecture Notes LMS 422. (2015), 399-427.

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Theorem 4. A special p -group of rank 1 (= extra special) is capable if and only if it is dihedral of order 8 or of order p^3 and exponent p , $p > 2$.

H. Heineken, *Nilpotent groups of class 2 that can appear as central quotient groups*, Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova, 84 (1990), 241-248.

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Theorem 5. *Let G be a special p -group of rank 2 which is capable. Then*

$$p^5 \leq |G| \leq p^7.$$

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The case $p = 2$:

Theorem 6. *Let G be a capable special 2-group of rank 2. Then G has exponent 4 and there are three isomorphism classes, if $|G| = 2^5$ and 2^6 , and one isomorphism class, if $|G| = 2^7$.*

From now on: $p > 2$.

GAP output: special p -groups of rank 2 and order p^5 for $2 < p \leq 37$:

	exp $G = p$	
p	Total	Capable
3	1	1
5	1	1
7	1	1
11	1	1
13	1	1
17	1	1
19	1	1
23	1	1
29	1	1
31	1	1
37	1	1

GAP output: special p -groups of rank 2 and order p^5 for $2 < p \leq 37$:

p	exp $G = p$		exp $G = p^2$	
	Total	Capable	Total	Capable
3	1	1	10	3
5	1	1	12	3
7	1	1	14	3
11	1	1	18	3
13	1	1	20	3
17	1	1	24	3
19	1	1	26	3
23	1	1	30	3
29	1	1	36	3
31	1	1	38	3
37	1	1	44	3

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	exp $G = p$	
p	Total	Capable
3	3	3
5	3	3
7	3	3
11	3	3
13	3	3
17	3	3
19	3	3
23	3	3
29	3	3
31	3	3
37	3	3

GAP output: special p -groups of rank 2 and order p^6 for $2 < p \leq 37$:

p	exp $G = p$		exp $G = p^2$	
	Total	Capable	Total	Capable
3	3	3	32	3
5	3	3	38	3
7	3	3	44	3
11	3	3	56	3
13	3	3	62	3
17	3	3	74	3
19	3	3	80	3
23	3	3	92	3
29	3	3	110	3
31	3	3	116	3
37	3	3	134	3

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	exp $G = p$	
p	Total	Capable
3	2	1
5	2	1
7	2	1
11	2	1

GAP output: special p -groups of rank 2 and order p^7 for $2 < p \leq 11$:

p	exp $G = p$		exp $G = p^2$	
	Total	Capable	Total	Capable
3	2	1	97	1
5	2	1	136	1
7	2	1	184	1
11	2	1	298	1

Theorem 7. *Let G be a special p -group of rank 2, exponent p and order p^n , $5 \leq n \leq 7$. If G is capable, then there exists exactly one isomorphism class for $n = 5$ and 7 , and three classes for $n = 6$.*

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A. Magidin, *On the capability of finite groups of class 2 and prime exponent*, Publ. Math. Debrecen, 85 (2014) 309-337.

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Consider $G = K \rtimes L$, $K = \langle a, b \mid a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = 1, a^b = a^{p+1} \rangle$ and L an elementary abelian p -group of rank n .

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“Proposition 1.” *Let p be an odd prime. The groups defined by the following presentations contain all the capable special p -groups of rank 2 of order p^{4+n} with $G^p = G'$, exponent p^2 and $n \geq 1$:*

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$$\begin{aligned}
 G(m_1, \dots, m_n) = & \\
 \langle a, b, x_1, \dots, x_n \mid & a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = x_1^p = \dots = x_n^p = 1, \\
 a^b = a^{p+1}, a^{x_i} = & a^{s_i p+1} b^{t_i p}, b^{x_i} = a^{u_i p} b^{-s_i p+1}, 1 \leq i \leq n \\
 [x_j, x_k] = 1, & 1 \leq j < k \leq n \rangle, & (1.1)
 \end{aligned}$$

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where $0 \leq s_i, t_i, u_i < p$ and $m_i = \begin{pmatrix} s_i & t_i \\ u_i & -s_i \end{pmatrix}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

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Consider $G = K \rtimes L$, $K = \langle a, b \mid a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = 1, a^b = a^{p+1} \rangle$ and L an elementary abelian p -group of rank n .

Proposition 1. *Let p be an odd prime. The groups defined by the following presentations are all capable and in particular contain all the capable special p -groups of rank 2 of order p^{4+n} with $G^p = G'$, exponent p^2 and $n \geq 1$:*

$$\begin{aligned} G(m_1, \dots, m_n) = & \\ & \langle a, b, x_1, \dots, x_n \mid a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = x_1^p = \dots = x_n^p = 1, \\ & a^b = a^{p+1}, a^{x_i} = a^{s_i p+1} b^{t_i p}, b^{x_i} = a^{u_i p} b^{-s_i p+1}, 1 \leq i \leq n \\ & [x_j, x_k] = 1, 1 \leq j < k \leq n \rangle, \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

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Theorem 8. *There are exactly three isomorphism classes of capable special p -groups of rank 2 and exponent p^2 , if $|G| = p^5$ and p^6 , and one such class, if $|G| = p^7$.*

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$$\mathcal{E}_1 = \{G(m) \mid 0 \neq \det m \text{ and } -\det m \text{ a quadratic residue mod } p\},$$

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$$\mathcal{E}_3 = \{G(m) \mid \det m = 0 \text{ and } m \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ u & 0 \end{pmatrix}, u \in \mathbb{Z}_p\}.$$

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No! If $m = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, then $m^A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. But $G(m) \not\cong G(m^A)$.

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Proposition 2. Let $m = \begin{pmatrix} s & t \\ u & -s \end{pmatrix}$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$. Then $G(m) \cong G(km)$.

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$$G(m) = \left\langle a, b, x; a^{p^2}, b^{p^2}, x^p, [a, b] = a^p, \right. \\ \left. [a, x] = a^{ps} b^{pt}, [b, x] = a^{up} b^{-sp} \right\rangle$$

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and

$$G(\bar{m}) = \left\langle \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{x}; \bar{a}^{p^2}, \bar{b}^{p^2}, \bar{x}^p, [\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = \bar{a}^p, \right. \\ \left. [\bar{a}, \bar{x}] = \bar{a}^{p\bar{s}} \bar{b}^{p\bar{t}}, [\bar{b}, \bar{x}] = \bar{a}^{\bar{u}p} \bar{b}^{-\bar{s}p} \right\rangle.$$

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Find $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1, \alpha_2, \beta_2, \gamma_2, \gamma$ with $\bar{a} = a^{\alpha_1} b^{\beta_1} x^{\gamma_1}$, $\bar{b} = a^{\alpha_2} b^{\beta_2} x^{\gamma_2}$, $\bar{x} = x^\gamma$ such that the relations of $G(\bar{m})$ are satisfied.

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Find $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1, \alpha_2, \beta_2, \gamma_2, \gamma$ with $\bar{a} = a^{\alpha_1} b^{\beta_1} x^{\gamma_1}$, $\bar{b} = a^{\alpha_2} b^{\beta_2} x^{\gamma_2}$, $\bar{x} = x^\gamma$ such that the relations of $G(\bar{m})$ are satisfied.

Remark. By Proposition 2 we can assume that $\gamma = 1$.

Proposition 3. *There exist $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{x} \in G(m)$ such that the relations $[\bar{a}, \bar{x}] = \bar{a}^{\rho\bar{s}} \bar{b}^{\rho\bar{t}}$ and $[\bar{b}, \bar{x}] = \bar{a}^{\rho\bar{u}} \bar{b}^{-\rho\bar{s}}$ are satisfied if and only if there exists*

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Remark. If $0 \neq \det m = \det \bar{m}$, then there exists $A \in SL(2, p)$ such that $m^A = \bar{m}$, or equivalently $mA = A\bar{m}$. (Note: $\text{tr}(m) = \text{tr}(\bar{m}) = 0$.)

Goal: For given $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta_1, \beta_2$ find γ_1, γ_2 such that $[\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = \bar{a}^P$ is satisfied.

Observation: The relation $[\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = \bar{a}^P$ results into a 2×2 linear system of equations of the form $B \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix}$,

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Observation: The relation $[\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = \bar{a}^p$ results into a 2×2 linear system of equations of the form $B \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where the entries of B and $\begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix}$ are functions of $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta_1, \beta_2$ and $\det B \neq 0$. There is a nontrivial solution $\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$ if $\begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ if $\begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

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(3) $G(m) \cong G \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ r & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$, where r is a primitive root mod p , if $0 \neq \det m$ and $-\det m$ is a quadratic nonresidue mod p .