

Groups having all elements off a normal subgroup with prime power order

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Introduction

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Brandl completed the classification of these groups (with one omission).

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Theorem 1 (Higman).

Let G be a solvable group. Then every element of G has prime power order if and only if one of the following occurs:

- 1 G is a p -group for some prime p .
- 2 There exist distinct primes p and q so that G is a $\{p, q\}$ -group and either G is a Frobenius group or G is a 2-Frobenius group.

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We note that Brandl missed the group M_{10} (this is the nonsplit extension of $\text{PSL}_2(9)$ by Z_2 which occurs as a point stabilizer in M_{11}).

Theorem 2 (Brandl).

Let G be a nonsolvable group. Then every element of G has prime power order if and only if one of the following occurs:

- 1 G is isomorphic to $\text{PSL}_2(7)$, $\text{PSL}_2(9)$, $\text{PSL}_2(17)$, $\text{PSL}_3(4)$, or M_{10} .
- 2 G has a normal subgroup N so that G/N is isomorphic to one of $\text{PSL}_2(4)$, $\text{PSL}_2(8)$, $\text{Sz}(8)$, or $\text{Sz}(32)$ and either $N = 1$ or N is a nontrivial, elementary abelian 2-group that is isomorphic to a direct sum of natural modules for G/N .

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Recall that a proper, nontrivial subgroup H of a group G is called a

Frobenius complement if $H \cap H^g = 1$ for all $g \in G \setminus H$.

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Frobenius' theorem states that if $N = G \setminus \cup_{g \in G} (H \setminus 1)^g$, then N is a normal subgroup of G .

In addition $G = HN$ and $H \cap N = 1$.

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Also, Thompson proved that N is nilpotent.

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Wielandt proved that H and L determine a unique normal subgroup N so that $G = NH$ and $N \cap H = L$.

In fact, $N = G \setminus \bigcup_{g \in G} (H \setminus L)^g$.

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Wielandt also proved that $(|G : H|, |H : L|) = 1$.

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This question has been addressed by Espuelas.

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Among other things he proves that if H splits over N and $|H/N|$ is even, then H/N is isomorphic to a Frobenius complement and if $|N|$ is odd and q is a prime divisor of $|N|$ so that a Sylow q -subgroup of N is abelian and is complemented in a Sylow q -subgroup of H , then the Sylow q -subgroups of H/N are cyclic.

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Lemma 3.

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Thus, we know that $H/L \cap H^x/L = (H \cap H^x)/L \leq L/L$ for all

$x \in N_G(L) \setminus H$.

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Corollary 4.

If (G, H, L) is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple and L is normal in G , then G/L is a Frobenius group.

Lemma 5.

Let N be a normal subgroup of a group G . Suppose H is a subgroup of G so that $G = HN$. Then every element of $G \setminus N$ is conjugate to an element in H if and only if $(G, H, H \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.

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Let N be a normal subgroup of a group G . If G/N is a Frobenius group with Frobenius complement H/N , then (G, H, N) is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.

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Using Frobenius-Wielandt triples, we can determine the groups G and primes p with a normal subgroup N so that every element of $G \setminus N$ has p -power order.

Theorem 7.

Let G be a group, let N be a normal subgroup, and let p be a prime. If P is a Sylow p -subgroup of G , then every element of $G \setminus N$ has p -power order if and only if either (1) $G = P$ or (2) $G = PN$ and $(G, P, P \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.

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Proof:

Suppose first that every element of $G \setminus N$ has p -power order.

If G is a p -group, then the result is obvious.

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Then by Lemma 5 every element in $G \setminus N$ is conjugate to an element in P .

Thus, every element in $G \setminus N$ has p -power order.

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One can see that all of the elements in $G \setminus N$ have order

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Let G be the group M_{10} and take N to be the normal subgroup isomorphic to $\text{PSL}(2, 9) \cong A_6$.

One can see that all of the elements in $G \setminus N$ have order 4 or 8, and thus, have 2-power order.

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It would be interesting to study the question:

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Suppose G is a group, N is a normal subgroup, p is a prime, P is a Sylow p -subgroup so that that $(G, P, P \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple, $O_p(G) = 1$, $G = NP$, and G is

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Is this enough to imply that $G \cong M_{10}$?

Suppose G is a group, N is a normal subgroup, p is a prime, P is a Sylow p -subgroup so that that $(G, P, P \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple, $O_p(G) = 1$, $G = NP$, and G is nonsolvable.

Is this enough to imply that $G \cong M_{10}$?

Or do other examples exist?

Prime powers with more than one prime

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It turns out that the answer depends whether there are two primes or more than two primes.

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subgroups $K < L < G$ so that G/K and L are Frobenius groups

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We first address the case with two primes.

Theorem 8.

Let G be a group and let N be a normal subgroup of G . Suppose that all elements of $G \setminus N$ have prime power order and that two distinct primes p and q divide the orders of such elements. Then the following are true: G is a $\{p, q\}$ -group for distinct primes p and q and either G/N is either a Frobenius group or a 2-Frobenius group.

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In this case that G/N is solvable.

When G/N is solvable we obtain iterated Frobenius-Wielandt triples.

Theorem 9.

Let G be a group and let N be a normal subgroup so that G/N is solvable. Then all elements in $G \setminus N$ have prime power order if and only if one of the following occur:

1. G is a p -group for some prime p .
2. There is a prime p and a Sylow p -subgroup P so that $G = NP$ and $(G, P, P \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.
3. There are primes p and q and Sylow p - and q -subgroups P and Q respectively, and a normal subgroup M in G so that
 - a. $M = NQ$ and $G = MP$.
 - b. $(G, P, P \cap M)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.
 - c. Either $M = Q$ or $(M, Q, Q \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.

Theorem (Continued).

4. *There are primes p and q and Sylow p - and q -subgroups P and Q respectively, and normal subgroups M and K in G so that*
- $K = N(K \cap P)$, $M = KQ$, and $G = MP$.*
 - $(G, P, P \cap M)$ and $(M, Q, Q \cap K)$ are Frobenius-Wielandt triples.*
 - Either $K \leq P$ or $(K, P \cap K, P \cap N)$ is a Frobenius-Wielandt triple.*

Theorem (Continued).

4. *There are primes p and q and Sylow p - and q -subgroups P and Q respectively, and normal subgroups M and K in G so that*
- $K = N(K \cap P)$, $M = KQ$, and $G = MP$.*
 - $(G, P, P \cap M)$ and $(M, Q, Q \cap K)$ are Frobenius-Wielandt triples.*
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Theorem 10.

Let G be a group. Let p and q be primes so that P and Q are Sylow p and q -subgroups, respectively and M and N are normal subgroups so that $G = MP$ and $M = NQ$. Assume also that $(G, P, P \cap M)$ and $(M, Q, Q \cap N)$ are Frobenius-Wielandt triples.

Theorem (Continued).

Then the following are true:

- 1 $N_G(Q)$ is a Frobenius group with Frobenius kernel Q .
- 2 G/N is a Frobenius group with Frobenius kernel M/N .
- 3 If P is chosen so that $P \cap N_G(Q) = N_P(Q)$ is a Sylow p -subgroup of $N_G(Q)$, then $N_P(Q)$ is a Frobenius complement of $N_G(Q)$ and $P = (N \cap P) \rtimes N_P(Q)$.
- 4 If $O^p(N) < N$, then $G/O^p(N)$ is a 2-Frobenius group.
- 5 Either $N_G(Q \cap N) = N_G(Q)$ or $N_G(Q \cap N)/(Q \cap N)$ is a 2-Frobenius group.
- 6 G is a $\{p, q\}$ -group.

The following Corollary is Theorem 8.

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Corollary 11.

Suppose G has a normal subgroup N so that every element in $G \setminus N$ has prime power order and the orders of these elements are divisible by the distinct primes p and q . Then G/N is either a Frobenius or a 2-Frobenius group and G is a $\{p, q\}$ -group.

Using Theorem 8, we are to prove following theorem.

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Theorem 12.

Let G be a group with a normal subgroup N so that G/N is not solvable. Then all elements in $G \setminus N$ have prime power order if and only if all elements in G have prime power order.

Sketch of Proof:

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If every element in G has prime power order, then every element

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This implies that G/N is nonsolvable and all elements in G/N have

We assume the converse.

We assume that every element in $G \setminus N$ has prime power order.

This implies that G/N is nonsolvable and all elements in G/N have prime power order.

Hence, G/N is one of the groups listed in Theorem 2.

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p_1 and p_2 so that G/N has a Frobenius $\{2, p_i\}$ -subgroup for each i .

Let F_i/N be a Frobenius $\{2, p_i\}$ -subgroup of G/N .

Notice that F_i/N is solvable, and every element in $F_i \setminus N$ is

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an element in $G \setminus N$; so every element in $F_i \setminus N$ has

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By Corollary 11, we see that F_i is a $\{2, p_i\}$ -group.

Notice that F_i/N is solvable, and every element in $F_i \setminus N$ is an element in $G \setminus N$; so every element in $F_i \setminus N$ has prime power order.

By Corollary 11, we see that F_i is a $\{2, p_i\}$ -group.

This implies that N is a $\{2, p_i\}$ -subgroup for $i = 1, 2$.

The only way this can occur is if N is a 2-group.

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Now, we know every element in N has 2-power order and every

element in $G \setminus N$ has prime power order; so we may conclude

that every element of G has prime power order.

To complete the classification, we provide the result when

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Theorem 13.

Let G be a group and let N be a normal subgroup of G . Suppose that all elements of $G \setminus N$ have prime power orders and that at least three distinct primes divide the orders of such elements. Then all elements in G have prime power order. In fact, G is one of the groups listed in Theorem 2.

Proof:

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We know that all the elements of $G \setminus N$ have prime power order,

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We know that all the elements of $G \setminus N$ have prime power order,

so all the elements of G/N have prime power order.

Since three primes divide the orders of these elements, we know

G/N is not solvable by Theorem 1.

Applying Theorem 12, we see that every element in G has

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prime power order.

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prime power order.

Therefore, G appears in the list in Theorem 2.

Thank You!

Questions?