

## Original Research Article

## Product of Polycyclic-by-Finite Groups (PPFG)

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**Abstract:** In this paper we show that If the soluble-by-finite group  $G=AB$  is the product of two polycyclic-by-finite subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , then  $G$  is polycyclic-by-finite.

**Keywords:** polycyclic-by-finite, soluble group, maximal condition, finite group AMS classification: 20F32.

### INTRODUCTION

In 1955 N. Itô (see [7]) found an impressive and very satisfying theorem for arbitrary factorized groups. He proved that every product of two abelian groups is metabelian. Besides that, there were only a few isolated papers dealing with infinite factorized groups. P.M. Cohn (1956) (see[21]) and L.Redei (1950)(see [22]) considered products of cyclic groups, and around 1965 O.H.Kegel (See [30, 31]) looked at linear and locally finite factorized groups.

In 1968 N.F. Sesekin (see [19]) proved that a product of two abelian subgroups with minimal condition satisfies also the minimal condition. He and Amberg independently obtained a similar result for the maximal condition around 1972 (See [20, 1]). Moreover, a little later he proved that a soluble product of two nilpotent subgroups with maximal condition likewise satisfies the maximal condition, and its Fitting subgroups inherits the factorization. Subsequently in his Habilitationsschrift (1973) he started a more systematic investigation of the following general question. Given a (soluble) product  $G$  of two subgroups  $A$  and  $B$  satisfying a certain finiteness condition  $\mathfrak{X}$ , when does  $G$  have the same finiteness condition  $\mathfrak{X}$ ? (See [20])

For almost all finiteness conditions this question has meanwhile been solved. Roughly speaking, the answer is 'yes' for soluble (and even for soluble-by-finite) groups. This combines theorems of B. Amberg (see [1-4] and [6]), N.S. Chernikov (see [5]), S. Franciosi, F. de Giovanni (see [3, 6, 32-36]), O.H.Kegel (see [8]), J.C.Lennox (see [12]), D.J.S. Robinson(see [9] and [15]), J.E. Roseblade (see [13]), Y.P.Sysak(see [37-40]), J.S.Wilson (see [41]), and D.I.Zaitsev(see [11] and [18]).

Now, In this paper we show that If the soluble-by-finite group  $G=AB$  is the product of two polycyclic-by-finite subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , then  $G$  is polycyclic-by-finite.

**Priliminaries:** ( elementary properties and theorems.)

**Difinition:** Recall that the FC-centre of a group  $G$  is the subgroup of all elements of  $G$  with a finite number of conjugates. A group is an FC-group if it coincides with its FC-centre.

**Lemma:** Let the group  $G=AB$  be the product of two abelian subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , and let  $S$  be a factorized subgroup of  $G$ . Then the centralizer  $C_G(S)$  is factorized. Moreover, every term of the upper central series of  $G$  is factorized.

**Proof:** Since  $S$  is factorized, we have that  $S=(A \cap S)(B \cap S)$ . Let  $x=ab$  be an element of  $S$ , where  $a$  is in  $A \cap S$  and  $b$  is in  $B \cap S$ . If  $c=a_1b_1$  is an element of  $C_G(S)$ , with  $a_1$  in  $A$  and  $b_1$  in  $B$ , it follows that.

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$$[a_1, x] = [a_1, ab] = [a_1, b] = [cb_1^{-1}, b] = [c, b]^{b_1^{-1}} = 1.$$

Therefore  $a_1$  belongs to  $C_G(S)$ , and  $C_G(S)$  is factorized by Lemma 1.1.1 of [4]. In particular, the center of  $G$  is factorized. It follows from Lemma 1.1.2 of [4] that also every term of the upper central series of  $G$  is factorized.

**Lemma:** Let the group  $G=AB$  be the product of two subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ . If  $A_1, B_1,$  and  $F$  are the FC-centers of  $A, B,$  and  $C,$  respectively, then  $F=A_1F \cap B_1F$ . In particular, if  $A$  and  $B$  are FC-groups, the FC-centre of  $G$  is factorized subgroup.

**Proof:** Let  $x$  be an element of  $A_1F \cap B_1F$ , and write  $x=au$  where  $a$  is in  $A_1$  and  $u$  is in  $F$ . Since the centralizers  $C_A(a)$  and  $C_A(u)$  have finite index in  $A$ , the index  $|A : C_A(x)|$  is also finite. Similarly,  $C_B(x)$  has finite index in  $B$ . Therefore  $|G : \langle C_A(x), C_B(x) \rangle|$  is finite by Lemma 1.2.5 of [4]. It follows that  $C_G(x)$  has finite index in  $G$  and hence  $x$  belongs to  $F$ . Thus  $F=A_1F \cap B_1F$ .

**Lemma:** (See [7]) Let the finite non-trivial group  $G=AB$  be the product of two abelian subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ . Then there exists a non-trivial normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $A$  or  $B$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\{1\}$  is the only normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $A$  or  $B$ . By Lemma 2.11 have  $Z(G)=(A \cap Z(G))(B \cap Z(G)) = 1$ . The centralizer  $C = C_G(A \cap C_G(G'))$  contains  $AG'$ , and so is normal in  $G$ . Since  $B \cap (AZ(C)) \leq Z(G) = 1$ , it follows that  $AZ(C) = A(B \cap AZ(C)) = A$ . This  $Z(G)$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $A$ , and so  $Z(G)=1$ . Since  $G'$  is abelian by Theorem 2.9, we have  $A \cap G' \leq A \cap C_G(G') \leq Z(C) = 1$ .

Similarly  $B \cap G' \leq B \cap C_G(G') \leq Z(C) = 1$ . The factorizer  $X = X(G')$  has the triple factorization  $X = A * B * = A * G' = B * G'$ , Where  $A * = A \cap BG'$  and  $B * = B \cap AG'$ . Thus  $X$  is nilpotent by Corollary 2.8, so that

$$Z(X) = (A \cap Z(X))(B \cap Z(X))$$

is not trivial. Hence there exists a non-trivial normal subgroup  $N$  of  $X$  contained in  $A$  or  $B$ . Suppose that  $N$  is contained in  $A$ . Since  $G'$  normalizes  $N$ , we have  $[N, G'] \leq N \cap G' \leq A \cap G' = 1$ . Therefore we obtain the contradiction  $N \leq A \cap C_G(G') = 1$ .

**Corollary:** Let the finite group  $G=A_1 \dots A_t$  be the product of pairwise permutable nilpotent subgroups  $A_1, \dots, A_t$ . Then  $G$  is soluble.

**Proof.** Let  $p$  be a prime, and for every  $i=1, \dots, t$  let  $P_i$  be the unique Sylow  $p$ -complement of  $A_i$ . If  $i \neq j$ , the subgroup  $A_i A_j$  is soluble by Theorem 2.4.3 of [4]. Hence it follows from Lemma 2.6, that  $P_i P_j$  is a Sylow  $p$ -complement of  $A_i A_j$ . Thus the subgroups  $P_1, \dots, P_t$  pairwise permute, and the product  $P_1 P_2 \dots P_t$  is a Sylow  $p$ -complement of  $G$ . Since  $G$  has a Sylow  $p$ -complement for every prime  $p$ , it is soluble.

**Theorem** (See [8, 10]): If the finite group  $G=AB$  is the product of two nilpotent subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , then  $G$  is soluble.

**Proof:** See [4], (Theorem 2.4.3).

**Lemma:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subgroups of a group  $G$ , and let  $A_1$  and  $B_1$  be subgroups of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively, such that  $|A : A_1| \leq m$  and  $|B : B_1| \leq n$ . Then  $|A \cap B : A_1 \cap B_1| \leq mn$ .

**Proof :** To each left coset  $x(A_1 \cap B_1)$  of  $A_1 \cap B_1$  in  $A \cap B$  assign the pair of left cosets  $(xA_1, xB_1)$ . Clearly this defines an injective map from the set of left cosets of  $A_1 \cap B_1$  in  $A \cap B$  into the cartesian product of the set of left cosets of  $A_1$  in  $A$  and the set of left cosets of  $B_1$  in  $B$ . The lemma is proved.

**Lemma** (See [11]): Let the finitely generated group  $G=AB=AK=BK$  be the product of two abelian-by-finite subgroups  $A$  and  $B$  and an abelian normal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$ . Then  $G$  is nilpotent-by-finite.

**Proof:** Let  $A_1$  and  $B_1$  be abelian subgroups of finite index of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively, and let  $n$  be a positive integer such that  $|A:A_1| \leq n$  AND  $|B:B_1| \leq n$ . Since  $G$  is finitely generated, it has only finitely many subgroups of each finite index, and hence the intersection  $H$  of all subgroups of  $G$  with index at most  $n^4$  also has finite index in  $G$ . In particular  $H$  is finitely generated.

Consider a finite homomorphic image  $H/N$  of  $H$ . Then  $N$  has finite index in  $G$ , and hence also its core  $N_G$  has finite index in  $G$ . Let  $p_1, \dots, p_t$  be the prime divisors of the order of the finite abelian group  $K/(K \cap N_G)$ . For each  $j \leq t$ , let  $K_j/(K \cap N_G)$  be the  $p_j$ -component of  $K/(K \cap N_G)$ . Clearly each  $K_j$  is normal in  $G$  and  $\bigcap_{j=1}^t K_j = K \cap N_G$ . The factor group  $\bar{G} = G/K$ , has the triple factorization  $\bar{G} = \bar{A}\bar{B} = \bar{A}\bar{K} = \bar{B}\bar{K}$ , where  $\bar{K}$  is a finite normal  $p_j$ -subgroup of  $\bar{G}$ . Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{G} : \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}| &= |\bar{G} : \bar{A}| \cdot |\bar{A} : \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}| = |\bar{G} : \bar{A}| \cdot |\bar{G} : \bar{B}| \\ &= |\bar{K} : \bar{A} \cap \bar{K}| \cdot |\bar{K} : \bar{B} \cap \bar{K}| = p_j^k \end{aligned}$$

for some non-negative integer  $k$ . On the other hand,  $|\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} : \bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1| \leq n^2$  by Lemma 2.16, so that  $|\bar{G} : \bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1| \leq p_j^k n^2$ . As  $\bar{A}_1$  and  $\bar{B}_1$  are abelian, the intersection  $\bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1$  is contained in the centre of  $\langle \bar{A}_1, \bar{B}_1 \rangle$ , and the factor group  $\langle \bar{A}_1, \bar{B}_1 \rangle / (\bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1)$  has order at most  $p_j^k n^2$ . Let  $\bar{P} / (\bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1)$  be a Sylow  $p_j$ -subgroup of  $\langle \bar{A}_1, \bar{B}_1 \rangle / (\bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1)$ . Then  $|\langle \bar{A}_1, \bar{B}_1 \rangle : \bar{P}| \leq n^2$ , and since  $|\bar{G} : \langle \bar{A}_1, \bar{B}_1 \rangle| \leq n^2$  by Lemma 2.2, we obtain  $|\bar{G} : \bar{P}| \leq n^4$ . Therefore  $HK_j/K_j$  is contained in  $\bar{P}$ . As an extension of the central subgroup  $\bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{B}_1$  by a finite  $p_j$ -group,  $\bar{P}$  is nilpotent, so that  $H/(H \cap K_j) \simeq HK_j/K_j$  is also nilpotent for each  $j$ . Hence

$H / \left( \bigcap_{j=1}^t (H \cap K_j) \right) = H / (K \cap N_G)$  is nilpotent. We have shown that each finite homomorphic image of  $H$  is nilpotent

. As  $K$  is abelian,  $H$  is soluble, and hence even nilpotent (Robinson 1972, Part 2, Theorem 10.51). Therefore  $G$  is nilpotent-by-finite.

**Definition:** A group  $G$  has finite Prüfer rank  $r=r(G)$  if every finitely generated subgroup of  $G$  can be generated by at most  $r$  elements, and  $r$  is the least positive integer with this property. Clearly subgroups and homomorphic images of groups with finite Prüfer rank also have finite Prüfer rank.

**Lemma:** (See [13]) If  $N$  is a maximal abelian normal subgroup of a finite  $p$ -group  $G$ , then  $r(G) \leq \frac{1}{2} r(N)(5r(N) + 1)$ .

**Proof:** Since  $C_G(N) = N$ , the factor group  $G/N$  is isomorphic with a  $p$ -group of automorphism of  $N$ . Thus  $G/N$  has Prüfer rank at most  $\frac{1}{2} r(N)(5r(N) - 1)$  (See [15], part2, lemma 7.44), and hence  $r(G) \leq \frac{1}{2} r(N)(5r(N) + 1)$ .

**Theorem:** (See [9] and [11]) If the locally soluble group  $G=AB$  with finite Prüfer rank is the product of two subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , then the Prüfer rank of  $G$  is bounded by a function of the Prüfer ranks of  $A$  and  $B$ .

**Proof:** First, let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group for some prime  $p$ . If  $N$  is a maximal abelian normal subgroup of  $G$ , by Lemma 2.18 we have  $r(G) \leq \frac{1}{2} r(N)(5r(N) + 1)$ . Hence it is enough to prove that  $r(N)$  is bounded by a function of the maximum  $s$  of  $r(A)$  and  $r(B)$ . The socle  $S$  of  $N$  is an elementary abelian group of order  $p^s$ . Clearly it is sufficient to prove the theorem for the factorizer  $X(S)$  of  $S$ . Therefore we may suppose that the group  $G$  has a triple factorization  $G=AB=AK=BK$ , where  $K$  is an elementary abelian normal subgroup of  $G$  of order  $p^s$ .

Let  $e$  be the least positive integer such that  $A^{p^e}$  is contained in  $B$ . By Lemma 4.3.3 of [4], we have  $|A : A \cap B| \leq |A : A^{p^e}| \leq p^{eg(s)-s^2}$  Where  $g(s) = \frac{1}{2}s(3s+1)$ . Since

$$|G| = \frac{|A| \cdot |B|}{|A \cap B|} = \frac{|B| \cdot |K|}{|B \cap K|},$$

It follows that  $|K| = |A : A \cap B| \cdot |B \cap K| \leq p^{eg(s)-s^2} p^s = p^{eg(s)-s^2+s}$ . Hence  $r \leq eg(s) - s^2 + s \leq eg(s)$ . Therefore it is enough to show that  $e \leq g(s) + 3$ . Therefore it is enough to show that  $e \leq g(s) + 3$ .

Clearly we may suppose that  $e > 1$ . Let  $a$  be an element of  $A$  such that  $a^{p^{e-1}}$  is not in  $B$ , and write  $a^{p^{e-1}} = xb$ , with  $x$  in  $K$  and  $b$  in  $B$ . Then  $[x, a^{p^{e-2}}] \neq 1$ , because otherwise

$$b^p = (x^{-1} a^{p^{e-2}})^p = x^{-p} a^{p^{e-1}} = a^{p^{e-1}},$$

contrary to the choice of  $a$ . As  $K$  has exponent  $p$ , it follows from the usual commutator laws that

$$[x, a^{p^{e-2}}] = \prod_{i=1}^{p^{e-2}} [x, {}_i a]^{(p^{e_i-2})} = [x, p^{e-2} a].$$

Thus  $[K, G, \dots, G] \neq 1$ , and so  $|K| > p^{p^{e-2}}$  since  $G$  is a finite  $p$ -group. Therefore  $p^{p-2} < r \leq eg(s)$ . If  $e \geq g(s) + 4$ , then  $p^{e-2} \geq 2^{e-2} > (e+1)(e-4) \geq (e+1)g(s) > eg(s)$ .

This contradiction shows that  $e \leq g(s) + 3$ .

Suppose now that  $G=AB$  is an arbitrary finite soluble group. For each prime  $p$ , by Corollary 2.7 there exist Sylow  $p$ -subgroups  $A_p$  of  $A$  and  $B_p$  of  $B$  such that  $G_p=A_p B_p$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . As was shown above,  $r(G_p)$  is bounded by a function  $f(s)$  of the maximum  $s$  of  $r(A)$  and  $r(B)$ , and this does not depend on  $p$ . Thus every subgroup of prime-power order of  $G$  can be generated by a function  $f(s)$  of the maximum  $s$  of  $r(A)$  and  $r(B)$ , and this does not depend on  $p$ . Thus every subgroup of prime-power order of  $G$  can be generated by at most  $f(s)$  elements. Application of Theorem 4.2.1 of [4] yields that every subgroup of  $G$  can be generated by at most  $f(s)+1$  elements, and hence the Prüfer rank of  $G$  is bounded by  $f(s)+1$ . This proves the theorem in the finite case.

Let  $G=AB$  be an arbitrary locally soluble group with finite Prüfer rank. If  $N$  is a finite normal subgroup of  $G$ , and  $X=X(N)$  is its factorizer, then the index  $|X : A \cap B|$  is finite by Lemma 1.1.5. Let  $Y$  be the core of  $A \cap B$  in  $X$ . Since the factorized group  $X/Y$  is finite, it follows from the first part of the proof that the Prüfer rank of  $X/Y$  is bounded by a function of the Prüfer ranks of  $A$  and  $B$ . As  $r(N) \leq r(X) \leq r(Y) + r(X/Y) \leq r(A) + r(X/Y)$  (e.g. see Robinson 1972, Part 1, Lemma 1.44) we obtain that there exists a function  $h$  such that  $r(N) \leq h(r(A), r(B)) = k$ , for every finite normal subgroup  $N$  of  $G$ . Clearly the same holds for every finite normal section of  $G$ .

Let  $T$  be the maximum periodic normal subgroup of  $G$ . If  $p$  is a prime, the group  $\bar{T} = T/O_p(T)$  is Chernikov by Lemma 3.2.5 of [4] (See also [16]). Let  $\bar{J}$  be the finite residual of  $\bar{T}$ , and  $\bar{S}$  the socle of  $\bar{J}$ . Since  $\bar{S}$  and  $\bar{T}/\bar{J}$  are finite, it follows that  $r(\bar{T}) \leq r(\bar{J}) + r(\bar{T}/\bar{J}) = r(\bar{S}) + r(\bar{T}/\bar{J}) \leq 2k$ .

As the Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $T$  can be embedded in  $\overline{T}$ , they have Prüfer rank at most  $2k$ . Application of Theorem 4.2.1 of [4] (See also [14]). yields that every finite subgroup of  $T$  can be generated by atmost  $2k+1$  elements. Hence  $r(T) \leq 2k + 1$ .

The group  $G/T$  is soluble (See[15]), Part 2, Lemma 10.39), and so the setoff primes  $\pi(G/T)$  is finite by Lemma 4.1.5 of [5] (See also [15]). It follows from Lemma 4.1.4 of [4] (See also [15]) that there exists in  $G$  a normal series of finite length  $T \leq G_1 \leq G_2 \leq G$ , where  $G_1/T$  is torsion-free nilpotent,  $G_2/G_1$  is torsion-free abelian, and  $G/G_2$  is finite. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} r(G) &\leq r(T) + r(G_1/T) + r(G_2/G_1) + r(G/G_2) \\ &\leq r(T) + r_0(G) + r(G/G_2) \\ &\leq r_0(G) + 3k + 1. \end{aligned}$$

By theorem 4.1.8 of [4] (See also [3]) we have that  $r_0(G) \leq r_0(A) + r_0(B)$ .

Moreover,  $r_0(A) \leq r(A)$  and  $r_0(B) \leq r(B)$  by Lemma 4.3.4 of [4] (See also [9]). Therefore  $r(G) \leq r(A) + r(B) + 3k + 1$ . The theorem is proved.

**Lemma**(See [17]: Every finitely generated abelian-by- polycyclic Group is residually finite.

**Proof:** See ([4], Lemma 4.4.1)

#### MAIN Theorem:

**Theorem:** If the soluble-by-finite group  $G=AB$  is the product of two polycyclic-by-finite subgroups  $A$  and  $B$ , then  $G$  is polycyclic-by-finite.

**Proof:** Assume that  $G$  is not polycyclic-by-finite. Then  $G$  contains an abelian normal section  $U/V$  which is either torsion-free or periodic and is not finitely generated. Clearly the factorizer of  $U/V$  in  $G/V$  is also a counterexample. Hence we may suppose that  $G$  has a triple factorization  $G=AB=AK=BK$ , Where  $K$  is an abelian normal subgroup of  $G$  which is either torsion-free or periodic. By Lemma 1.2.6(i) of [4] (See also [17]) the group  $G$  satisfies the maximal condition on normal subgroups, so that it contains a normal subgroup  $M$  which is maximal with respect to the condition that  $G/M$  is not polycyclic-by-finite. Thus it can be assumed that every proper factor group of  $G$  is polycyclic-by-finite.

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