

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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