

INFINITE GROUPS WITH A SUBNORMALITY CONDITION ON INFINITE SUBGROUPS

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1. **Introduction and notation.** If \mathfrak{X} is a subgroup theoretic property, let (\mathfrak{X}) denote the class of groups all of whose subgroups are \mathfrak{X} -subgroups, and let $I(\mathfrak{X})$ denote the class of all infinite groups, all of whose infinite subgroups are \mathfrak{X} -subgroups. In [4] and [5] Černikov studies the structure of groups in three classes (we do not require a trivial group in a class) of the form $I(\mathfrak{X}) - (\mathfrak{X})$, for \mathfrak{X} denoting normal, ascendant, and complemented, respectively. In [14], R. Phillips studies a class of this form for \mathfrak{X} denoting serial; this class is the same as for \mathfrak{X} denoting ascendant. In the present paper we study the structure of $I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$, where \mathfrak{B} is the class of all groups, all of whose subgroups are subnormal of bounded defects, and where $I\mathfrak{B}$ is the class of all infinite groups, all of whose infinite subgroups are subnormal of bounded defects.

Our major result is that locally nilpotent groups in $I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$ are Černikov groups and we obtain a structure theorem for them in § 2. By studying certain automorphisms of divisible abelian p -groups of finite rank in § 3, we further characterize locally nilpotent groups in $I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$ in terms of direct limits of p -groups of maximal class in § 4. We explain why we restrict our attention to locally nilpotent groups following Theorem 2.4.

\mathfrak{N} , \mathfrak{N}_c , $L\mathfrak{N}$, Min , Z , ZA , and ZD denote the classes of nilpotent groups, nilpotent groups of class at most c , locally nilpotent groups, groups satisfying the minimal condition or descending chain condition on subgroups, groups having a central series, hypercentral groups, and groups with a descending central series, respectively. A group of type p^∞ is a group with generators x_1, x_2, \dots and defining relations $px_1 = 0$, $px_{n+1} = x_n$.

A divisible abelian group of finite rank is a direct sum of finitely many groups each of which is the full rational group or a group of type p^∞ for various primes p ; if such a group is a p -group the rank is the number of summands. A Černikov (or extremal) group is a finite extension of an abelian group in Min . A Černikov group G possesses a characteristic divisible abelian group $D(G)$ of finite rank and finite index. $H \cong G$ and $H < G$ denote that H is a subgroup of G and H is a proper subgroup of G , respectively. $H \text{ sn } G$, $H \text{ sn}_r G$, $H \text{ ser } G$, and

Received by the editors on September 29, 1975, and in revised form on January 28, 1977.

H char G denote that H is subnormal, subnormal of defect at most r , serial, or characteristic in G , respectively. H^G denotes the normal closure of H in G . We define $H^{G,n}$ inductively by $H^{G,0} = G$ and $H^{G,n+1} = H^{(H^{G,n})}$. For X and Y subsets of a group G , $[X, Y]$ denotes the group generated by commutators $[x, y]$ where $x \in X, y \in Y$. If X_1, X_2, \dots are subsets of a group we define more general commutator subgroups by $[X_1] = \langle X_1 \rangle, [X_1, \dots, X_{n+1}] = [[X_1, \dots, X_n], X_{n+1}]$. The derived group of G is $G' = [G, G]$.

The center of a group G is denoted by $Z(G)$. Higher centers $Z_\alpha(G)$ for α any ordinal number are defined inductively by $Z_0(G) = 1$,

$$\frac{Z_{\alpha+1}(G)}{Z_\alpha(G)} = Z \left(\frac{G}{Z_\alpha(G)} \right),$$

and $Z_\lambda(G) = \bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} Z_\alpha(G)$ for α an ordinal and λ a limit ordinal.

2. **Structure of $L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$.** We will make considerable use of Roseblade's Theorem that there is a function f with domain and range the positive integers, such that if every subgroup of a group G is subnormal with subnormal defect at most s , then G is nilpotent of class not exceeding $f(s)$. (See [19; Theorem 1] or [18; Theorem 7.42 and Corollary].)

LEMMA 2.1. *If $G \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B}$ and M is a finite normal subgroup of G , with $G/M \in \mathfrak{N}$, then $G \in \mathfrak{N}$.*

PROOF. Let F be a finite subgroup of G and let r be the class of G/M . Then $MF \in \mathfrak{N}$ and hence

$$F \text{ sn}_{|M|} MF \text{ sn}_r G.$$

Hence, by Roseblade's Theorem, $G \in \mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{N}$.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let $G \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B}$. If G has any nonempty collection $\mathbf{H} = \{H_\gamma \mid \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ of infinite normal subgroups such that $\bigcap \mathbf{H}$ is finite, then $G \in \mathfrak{N}$.*

PROOF. First we suppose that $\bigcap \mathbf{H} = 1$. Let b be the bound for subnormal defects of infinite subgroups of G . Then for all $\gamma, G/H_\gamma \in \mathfrak{N}_{f(b)}$. Since $\bigcap \{H_\gamma \mid \gamma \in \Gamma\} = 1$, we have G isomorphically contained in the direct product of the G/H_γ , which is nilpotent of class at most $f(b)$. Thus $G \in \mathfrak{N}_{f(b)}$. The desired conclusion for the general case, $\bigcap \mathbf{H} \neq 1$, now follows from 2.1.

The following theorem obtains $(L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}) \cong \text{Min}$ and shows that we may limit our attention to p -groups in $L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$.

THEOREM 2.3. $G \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$ if and only if $G = P \times K$, where P is a Sylow p -subgroup of G , P is an infinite Černikov group, $P \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$, and K is a finite nilpotent group.

PROOF. Necessity. In [14; § VI] it is shown that if $G \in I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$, then G is periodic. Let $G \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$. Let

$$A = \bigcap \{H \triangleleft G \mid H \text{ is infinite}\}.$$

By 2.2, A is infinite. Since $A \in L\mathfrak{N}$ and A is periodic, we may write $A = \sum \{A_i \mid i \in I\}$, each A_i a Sylow p_i -subgroup of A . Notice that $A_i \text{ char } A$; thus $A_i \triangleleft G$ for all $i \in I$. If $|I| > 1$, A_i is finite for all $i \in I$ since A can have no proper infinite subgroup which is normal in G . Hence, $|I| > 1$ implies that I is infinite since A is infinite; but then A has a proper infinite subgroup which is normal in G . Hence $|I| = 1$; i.e., A is a p -group. Let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of G containing A . Since $G \in L\mathfrak{N}$ and G is periodic, write $G = P \times K$, where K is a Sylow p' -subgroup of G . If K is infinite, then by definition of A and P we have $A \leq P \cap K = 1$. Hence K is finite and thus also nilpotent since G is locally nilpotent. Clearly $P \notin \mathfrak{N}$ since $G = P \times K \notin \mathfrak{N}$. However, $P \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B}$, and hence it remains only to show that P is a Černikov p -group. To this end we claim first that A' is finite. Suppose A' is infinite. Since $A' \text{ char } A \text{ char } G$, $A' \triangleleft G$ and hence $A' = A$. Since $P \in L\mathfrak{N} \cong Z$, we have for all x , $1 \neq x \in A$, $[P, x^p] < x^p$. Hence $x^p < A$. Since A has no proper infinite subgroups which are normal in P , x^p is finite. Thus $P/C_P(x^p)$ is finite and hence $A \cong C_P(x^p)$. Since $x \in A$ was arbitrary we have $A' = 1$, a contradiction. Thus A' is a finite normal subgroup of P .

Next we claim that A is a hypercentral Černikov group. Let

$$\frac{B}{A'} = \frac{A}{A'}(p)$$

be the maximal elementary abelian subgroup of A/A' . Suppose that B/A' is infinite. Then $A \cong B$; i.e., $A = B$ and A/A' is infinite elementary abelian. Let $F \leq P$ be finite. $P/A \in \mathfrak{N}_s$, for some s . Thus

$$(1) \quad [P, F, \dots, F] \leq [P, AF, \dots, AF] \leq A.$$

$\xleftarrow{\quad s \quad} \qquad \qquad \qquad \xleftarrow{\quad s \quad}$

Now AF/A' is abelian by finite and is not a Černikov group. Thus by a theorem of Černikov ([3; Theorem 3] or [18; Lemma 10.21]), its center is infinite. Hence $Z(AF/A') \cap (A/A')$ is also infinite, and an elementary abelian p -group; i.e., it is an infinite direct sum of cyclic groups of order p and contained in the center of AF/A' . Thus $AF/A' \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B}$

PROOF. Necessity. P is Černikov by 2.3 and D is a divisible abelian p -group of finite index in P . Thus $D \cong Z(C)$ and hence $C/Z(C)$ is a finite p -group and thus nilpotent. Thus $C \in \mathfrak{N}$ and we conclude that $C < P$. Now let $x \in P$ normalize an infinite proper subgroup H of D ; using [17; Lemma 3.29.1] we have $D = C_D(x)[D, \langle x \rangle]$. If $C_D(x)$ is finite, then $[D, \langle x \rangle]$ has finite index in D . Since D has no proper subgroups of finite index, we have for all $n \geq 1$,

$$[D, \underbrace{\langle x, \langle x \rangle, \dots, \langle x \rangle}_n] = D.$$

But $H \triangleleft D \langle x \rangle$ and H is infinite. Thus by hypothesis and using Roseblade's Theorem

$$\frac{D \langle x \rangle}{H} \in \mathfrak{N}.$$

Hence there exists an r such that

$$[D, \underbrace{\langle x, \langle x \rangle, \dots, \langle x \rangle}_r] \cong H < D,$$

a contradiction. Thus we have $C_D(x)$ infinite. Thus $\langle x \rangle \triangleleft C_P(x) \text{sn}_s P$, where s is the bound on subnormal defects of infinite subgroups of P , and by [17; Lemma 3.13] we have $[D, x] = 1$; i.e., $x \in C = C_P(D)$.

Sufficiency. Let H be an infinite subgroup of P . We claim that either $D \cong H$ or $H \cong C$. For suppose otherwise. Then $H \cap D$ is a proper infinite subgroup of D and there is some $x \in H - C$. By condition (ii) we have $x \notin N_P(H \cap D)$. But $H \cap D \triangleleft H$ and $x \in H$, a contradiction, which establishes the claim. But now clearly $P \in \mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{S}$ because $D \cong H$ implies $H \text{sn}_d P$ where $P/D \in \mathfrak{N}_p$ (P/D being a finite p -group) and $H \cong C$ implies $H \text{sn}_c C \triangleleft P$, where $C \in \mathfrak{N}_c$. Hence $H \text{sn}_s P$, where $s = \max\{d, c + 1\}$. Now let $x \in P - C$ (we use condition (i)). By [16; Lemma 2.1 (iii)] we have $\langle x \rangle$ is not descendant in P . Thus $P \notin \mathfrak{N}$. A Černikov p -group is locally finite and hence in $L\mathfrak{N}$ and so $P \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap \mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{S} - \mathfrak{F}$.

Why we have restricted our attention to $L\mathfrak{N}$ groups deserves some discussion. Let \mathfrak{X} be any subgroup theoretic property such that for all groups G , G is an \mathfrak{X} -subgroup of G . If there exists an infinite non-abelian group S , all of whose proper subgroups are finite, then $S \in I(\mathfrak{X})$. Similarly $S \in \mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{S}$. Whether such a group S exists is an unsolved problem posed by Schmidt (see [6]; also [17; § 3.4]). Thus in studying groups of the types $I(\mathfrak{X})$ and $\mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{S}$, one must either solve Schmidt's problem or impose additional restrictions to avoid the problem.

In [4] and [14] the additional restriction of local finiteness avoids the problem because of a theorem discovered independently by Kargapolov [10] and by P. Hall and Kulatilaka [9] (see also [17; Theorem 3.43]), which says that an infinite locally finite group always possesses an infinite abelian subgroup. Some groups in the class $L\mathfrak{F} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$ are also in $L\mathfrak{F} \cap I(\text{ser}) - (\text{ser})$, which are studied in [14]. It can be shown (see the author's dissertation [15; Lemma 3.16]) that $L\mathfrak{B} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B} = (L\mathfrak{F} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}) - (L\mathfrak{F} \cap I(\text{ser}) - (\text{ser}))$.

3. Strongly irreducible automorphisms. Throughout this section p will denote a fixed prime and D a divisible abelian p -group of finite rank, r .

Let $\alpha \in \text{Aut } D$. Following [14], we call α a *strongly irreducible automorphism* (abbreviated *S-I automorphism*) if no proper infinite subgroup of D is α -invariant; i.e., if for all $H < D$, H infinite, we have

$$H^{(\alpha)} = D.$$

Furthermore, we call a group A of automorphisms of D a group of *S-I automorphisms* if every nontrivial element of A is an *S-I automorphism*. Note that the identity mapping on D is an *S-I automorphism* if D has rank 1, but not if D has rank at least 2. Note also that an automorphism α of D is an *S-I automorphism* if and only if for every proper nontrivial divisible subgroup D_1 of D we have $D_1^\alpha \neq D_1$. In the notation of 2.4, P/C is a finite group of *S-I automorphisms* of D .

Since the endomorphism ring of a group of type p^∞ is the ring R_p of p -adic integers (see [7; Theorem 55.1] or [11; pp. 154–157]) we may take $\text{Aut } D$ to be $\text{GL}(r, R_p)$, the ring of all $r \times r$ matrices over R_p with determinant a unit of R_p .

THEOREM 3.1. *Let α be an automorphism of D of order p . Then α is an S-I automorphism if and only if $r = p - 1$.*

PROOF. Necessity. Let α be an *S-I automorphism* of D of order p . By an argument due to Černikov in [4; Theorem 3.2] we have $r \leq p - 1$. View α as an $r \times r$ matrix over F_p , the quotient field of the PID R_p . Let f be its minimal polynomial. Since α has order p ,

$$f \mid (X^p - 1).$$

But $X^p - 1 = (X - 1) \Phi_p(X)$, where $\Phi_p(X)$ is the cyclotomic polynomial of degree $p - 1$. Since $\Phi_p(X + 1)$ is irreducible over F_p using Eisenstein's criterion, so is $\Phi_p(X)$. Thus $f \in \{X - 1, \Phi_p(X), (X - 1)\Phi_p(X)\}$; i.e., $\deg f \in \{1, p - 1, p\}$. Now let g be the characteristic polynomial

of α . Since $g \in F_p[X]$ we have $f|g$. Now $\deg g = r$. Thus if $r < p - 1$ we have $f = X - 1$; i.e., α is trivial, a contradiction. Hence $r \equiv p - 1$ and the necessity is proved.

Sufficiency. Let α be an automorphism of order p and let $r = p - 1$. Choose D_1 to be the maximal divisible subgroup of D on which α acts trivially. Since D_1 is a direct summand of D , it is easily verified that if α also acts trivially on D/D_1 , then α acts trivially on D , contradicting its having order p . Thus α has order p as it acts on D/D_1 . Now let D_2/D_1 be the minimal nontrivial divisible subgroup of D/D_1 such that $(D_2/D_1)^\alpha = D_2/D_1$. As above, if α is trivial on D_2/D_1 then it is trivial on D_2 ; by the maximality of D_1 we would then have $D_2 = D_1$, contrary to the choice of D_2 . Hence α is nontrivial on D_2/D_1 , and by the minimality of D_2/D_1 we conclude α is an $S-I$ automorphism of D_2/D_1 of order p . By the necessity just proved,

$$\text{rank } \frac{D_2}{D_1} = p - 1 = \text{rank } D = r.$$

Hence $D_1 = 0$ and $D_2 = D$, yielding the desired result.

It can be shown that a p -group of $S-I$ automorphisms of D has exponent p ; in fact, by using 4.2 it has order p .

4. Relationship to direct limits of p -groups of maximal class. There are precisely two nontrivial direct limits of p -groups of maximal class and presentations for them are known. Both are Černikov p -groups G , satisfying

$$|G : Z_\omega(G)| = |Z_{n+1}(G) : Z_n(G)| = p$$

and the rank of $D(G)$ is $p - 1$. (See [2; § 5] and [1].) In this section we use some characterizations of Blackburn for such groups to show a relationship with the groups we studied in § 2 and to provide examples of groups in $L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$.

THEOREM 4.1. [2; Theorem 5.1]. *Let P be a Černikov p -group for which $D(P)$ has rank $r \leq p - 1$. Then either $G/Z(G)$ is finite or G has a finite normal subgroup N such that G/N is a direct limit of p -groups of maximal class.*

THEOREM 4.2. *Let P be an infinite p -group. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) $P \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap I\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$
- (2) P is a Černikov group with $D(P)$ of rank $p - 1$ and $|P : C_p(D)| = p$.
- (3) There is a finite normal subgroup N of P such that P/N is a direct limit of p -groups of maximal class.

PROOF. (1) implies (3). By 2.4, P is a Černikov group, $D = D(P)$ has finite index in P and has finite rank, and P/C (where $C = C_p(D)$) is isomorphic to a nontrivial p -group of $S-I$ automorphisms of D . By 3.1 $\text{rank } D = p - 1$. Now $Z(P)$ is finite since $P \in \mathcal{I}\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$ so that by 4.1 there exists a finite normal subgroup $N \triangleleft P$ such that P/N is a direct limit of p -groups of maximal class.

(3) implies (2). Let $N \triangleleft P$, N finite, P/N a direct limit of p -groups of maximal class. Since P/N is Černikov and N is finite, P is a Černikov p -group. Let $D = D(P)$ and let $C = C_p(D)$. Now DN/N is a normal divisible subgroup of P/N and

$$\left| \frac{P}{N} : \frac{DN}{N} \right| \leq |P : D| < \infty.$$

Thus $DN/N = D(P/N) = Z_\omega(P/N)$. Hence

$$\text{rank } D = \text{rank} \left(\frac{D}{D \cap N} \right) = \text{rank} \left(\frac{DN}{N} \right) = p - 1$$

and $|P : DN| = p$. Let $Z = Z(P)$. Notice that

$$\frac{Z}{Z \cap N} \cong \frac{ZN}{N} \leq Z \left(\frac{P}{N} \right).$$

Since P/N has a finite center, Z is finite. Thus $C < P$. But by [17; Lemma 3.13], $[D, N] = 1$; i.e., $DN \leq C$. Hence $p \leq |P : C| \leq |P : DN| = p$. Thus $|P : C| = p$.

(2) implies (1). Let P be Černikov with $D = D(P)$ of rank $p - 1$ and with $|P : C| = p$ where $C = C_p(D)$. Then $x \in P - C$ implies that x acts as an $S-I$ automorphism of D by 3.1. Hence P satisfies condition 2.4(ii). Now $D \leq Z(C)$ and so $C/Z(C)$ is finite. Thus $C \in \mathfrak{B}$. Hence 2.4(i) is also satisfied, yielding the desired result.

We complete our discussion by providing two examples of groups in $L\mathfrak{N} \cap \mathcal{I}\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$, corresponding to the two direct limits of p -groups of maximal class.

EXAMPLE 4.3. Let D be a direct sum of $p - 1$ groups of type p^∞ . The companion matrix of the cyclotomic polynomial $\Phi_p(X)$ (of degree $p - 1$) is an element of order p in $GL(p - 1, R_p)$. Thus D has an automorphism α of order p . By 2.4 and 3.1, the split extension $D \langle \alpha \rangle \in L\mathfrak{N} \cap \mathcal{I}\mathfrak{B} - \mathfrak{B}$.

EXAMPLE 4.4. Let D be a direct sum of $p - 1$ groups of type p^∞ . Let $\langle \beta \rangle$ be a cyclic group of order p^2 operating on D so that $C_{\langle \beta \rangle}(D) =$

$\langle \beta^p \rangle$. Form the split extension $H = D \langle \beta \rangle$ and let z be an element of order p in $D \cap Z(H)$. Then $\langle z^{-1} \beta^p \rangle \cong Z(H)$. By 2.4 and 3.1,

$$\frac{H}{\langle z^{-1} \beta^p \rangle} \in \mathcal{LN} \cap \mathcal{N} - \mathcal{N}$$

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