

## ON $B$ -INJECTORS OF THE COVERING GROUPS OF $A_N$

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ABSTRACT. A  $B$ -injector in an arbitrary finite group  $G$  is defined as a maximal nilpotent subgroup of  $G$ , containing a subgroup  $A$  of  $G$  of maximal order satisfying  $\text{class}(A) \leq 2$ . The aim of this paper is to determine the  $B$ -injector of the covering groups of  $A_n$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a finite group. A subgroup  $U \leq G$  is an  $N$ -injector of  $G$ , if for every subnormal subgroup  $S$  of  $G$ ,  $U \cap S$  is a maximal nilpotent subgroup of  $S$ .  $N$ -injectors for nonsolvable groups have been introduced first by Mann [8]. He extended Fischer's results to  $N$ -constrained groups, that is, to groups  $G$ , such that  $C_G(F(G)) \subseteq F(G)$ , where  $F(G)$  denotes the Fitting subgroup of  $G$ . It is well known that a solvable group is always  $N$ -constrained. In [5], Fischer, Gaschutz, and Hartley proved that if  $G$  is solvable, then  $N$ -injectors exist and any two of them are conjugate. It was (Förster [6], Iranso and Perez-Monazor [7]) who proved that  $N$ -injectors exist in all finite groups. Arad and Chillag [2] proved that if  $G$  is an  $N$ -constrained group, then  $A$  is an  $N$ -injector of  $G$  if and only if  $A$  is a maximal nilpotent subgroup of  $G$  containing an element of  $a_2(G)$  where  $a_2(G)$  is the set of all nilpotent subgroups of  $G$  of class at most 2 and having order  $d_2(G)$  where  $d_2(G)$  denotes the maximum of the orders of all nilpotent subgroups of class at most 2. A subgroup  $A$  of  $G$  is called a  $B$ -injector of  $G$  if  $A$  is a maximal nilpotent subgroup of  $G$  containing an element of  $a_2(G)$ . This definition has been used here and in [1]. In  $N$ -constrained groups the definition of  $N$ -injectors and the definition of  $B$ -injectors yield the same class of subgroups. If  $U$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $G$ , then  $U$  contains every nilpotent subgroup of  $G$  which is normalized by  $U$  [2]. In [9], Neumann proved that in any finite group  $G$ ,  $B$ -injectors are  $N$ -injectors. The motivation behind this work is that  $B$ -injectors will lead to theorems similar

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to Glauberman's ZJ-theorem and it is hoped that they provide tools and arguments for a modified and shortened the proof of the classification theorem of finite simple groups, in particular where the Thompson factorization theorem might fail [11]. The  $B$ -injectors of  $S_n$  and  $A_n$  have been determined in [3] and [4]. In [10], it is proved that the  $B$ -injectors of  $S_n$  and  $A_n$  are conjugate apart from some trivial cases which can be enumerated.

## 2. Preliminaries and notations

Our notation is fairly standard: throughout all groups are finite. If  $G$  is a group,  $Z(G)$  denotes the center of  $G$ . If  $H$  and  $X$  are subsets of  $G$ ,  $C_H(X)$  and  $N_H(X)$  denote respectively the centralizer and normalizer of  $X$  in  $H$ .

The generalized Fitting group  $F^*(G)$  is defined by  $F^*(G) = F(G)E(G)$  where  $E(G) = \langle L \mid L \triangleleft \triangleleft G \text{ and } L \text{ is quasisimple} \rangle$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . A group  $L$  is called quasisimple if and only if  $L' = L$  where  $L'$  is the derived group of  $L$ , and  $L'/Z(L)$  is non-Abelian simple.  $O_p(G)$  denotes the unique maximal normal  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , it is the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $F(G)$  and  $O_{p'}(G) = \prod O_q(G)$ ,  $q \neq p$  and  $q$  is prime. If  $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $S_\Omega$  will denote the symmetric group of degree  $n$ . Sometimes we write  $S_n$  for  $S_\Omega$ . As is customary, we shall denote the alternating group on  $n$  points by  $A_n$ . Let  $\Phi(G)$  denotes the Frattini subgroup of  $G$ , the intersection of all maximal subgroups of  $G$ . The integer part of the real number  $x$  is denoted by  $[x]$ . We denote by  $a_{2,p}(G)$  the set of  $p$ -subgroups, of class at most two and of largest possible order, of  $G$ .

We introduce the following definition.

**DEFINITION 1.** Let  $G$  be a finite group, a nilpotent subgroup  $U$  of  $G$  is called a  $BG$ -injector of  $G$  if it contains every nilpotent subgroup it normalizes.

It is clear that  $BG$ -injector is maximal nilpotent and containing  $F(G)$ . Also, if  $U$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $G$  and if  $U \leq H \leq G$ , then  $U$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $H$ . Also,  $B$ -injectors are  $BG$ -injectors [9]. Schur [12] showed that if  $G$  is a non-Abelian simple group, then there exists a unique quasisimple group  $\hat{G}$  such that  $\hat{G}/Z(\hat{G}) \cong G$ , and given any quasisimple group  $H$  with  $H/Z(H) \cong G$ , then  $H$  is isomorphic to  $\hat{G}/Z$  for some subgroup  $Z \subseteq Z(\hat{G})$ ,  $Z(\hat{G})$  is called the Schur multiplier of  $G$  and denotes by  $M(G)$  and  $H \cong \hat{G}/Z$  is called a universal covering group of  $G$ . The Schur multipliers  $M(A_n)$  for alternating groups  $A_n$ , have been determined in [12] and they are

$$M(A_n) = \begin{cases} Z_6, & n = 6, 7, \\ Z_2, & n \geq 5, n \neq 6, 7. \end{cases}$$

Hence, the universal covering groups of  $A_n$ , are  $6A_6, 6A_7$ , and  $2A_n$  where  $n \neq 6, 7$ . Schur showed that there are two types of groups of shape  $2S_n$  which denoted by  $2S_n^+, 2S_n^-$ , and  $2A_n$  is then the commutator group of any of these.

So,  $2A_n = (2\overset{+}{S}_n)' = (2\bar{S}_n)'$  where  $G'$  denotes the commutator group of  $G$ .  $2\overset{+}{S}_n$  can be easily described by defining relations.

So, let  $H = 2\overset{+}{S}_n$  and denote  $Z(H) = \langle -1 \rangle$ , then we have the following. If  $t \in S_n$  is a transposition and  $T$  is its preimage in  $H = 2\overset{+}{S}_n$ , then  $T^2 = -1$  and if  $s, t$  are two transpositions in  $S_n$  and disjoint support with preimages  $S, T$  in  $H$ , then  $[s, T] = -1$ . So,  $H = 2\overset{+}{S}_n$  is uniquely determined by these two relations. Also, if  $s, t$  are two pairwise commuting transpositions with preimages  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m$ , then

$$(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)^2 = (-1)^{\binom{m+1}{2}}.$$

Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set, and let  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  be a partition of  $\Omega$  into pairwise disjoint nonempty subsets of  $\Omega$ , we denote its stabilizer by  $Y_\pi$ ,  $Y_\pi$  is also called the Young subgroup of  $\pi$ , that is,

$$Y_\pi = \{g \in S_\Omega \mid A_i^g = A_i \text{ for all } i\}.$$

It is obvious that

$$Y_\pi = Y_{A_1} \times Y_{A_2} \times \dots \times Y_{A_m} \leq S_\Omega,$$

where  $Y_{A_i} = \{g \in S_\Omega \mid g \text{ fixes all points not in } A_i\}$  and  $Y_{A_i} \cong S_{A_i}$ .

Furthermore, we define  $Y_{A_i}^* \equiv Y_{A_i} \cap A_\Omega$ , where  $A_\Omega$  is the alternating group of  $\Omega$  and we have

$$Y_\pi^* = \langle Y_{A_1}^*, Y_{A_2}^*, \dots, Y_{A_m}^* \rangle = Y_{A_1}^* \times Y_{A_2}^* \times \dots \times Y_{A_m}^* \leq A_\Omega.$$

NOTE 1. If  $\sigma : K \longrightarrow A_\Omega$  be a surjective homomorphism, where  $K = (2\overset{+}{S}_n)'$ , then  $\ker \sigma = \langle -1 \rangle$  and for any subgroup  $X \leq A_\Omega$  we have the preimage  $\hat{X} = \{x \in K \mid x^\sigma \in X\}$ .

We prove the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.  $\hat{Y}_\pi^* = \hat{Y}_{A_1}^* \circ \hat{Y}_{A_2}^* \circ \dots \circ \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*$ , is the central product of  $\hat{Y}_{A_1}^*, \hat{Y}_{A_2}^*, \dots, \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*$ , where  $\hat{Y}_\pi^*$  is the preimage of  $Y_\pi^*$  and  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$  is the preimage of  $Y_{A_i}^*$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ,  $A_i, \Omega$  and  $Y_{A_i}^*$  are defined above.

*Proof.* Let  $\sigma : K \longrightarrow A_\Omega$  be a surjective homomorphism and let  $x \in \hat{Y}_\pi^*$ , then  $x^\sigma \in Y_\pi^*$ , so  $x^\sigma = y_1 y_2 \dots y_m$  for  $y_i \in Y_{A_i}^*$ . Choose  $x_i \in \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$  such that  $x_i^\sigma = y_i$ . Thus,  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in K$  and

$$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)^\sigma = x_1^\sigma x_2^\sigma \dots x_m^\sigma = y_1 y_2 \dots y_m = x^\sigma,$$

so  $x^\sigma = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_m)^\sigma$ , it follows that  $[(x_1 x_2 \dots x_m) x^{-1}]^\sigma = 1$ . This implies that  $(x_1 x_2 \dots x_m) x^{-1} \in \ker \sigma = \langle -1 \rangle$ , thus  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_m = x$  or  $-x$ . It remains to prove that  $[\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*, \hat{Y}_{A_j}^*] = 1$ , for  $i \neq j$ .

Let  $g \in Y_{A_i}$ ,  $h \in Y_{A_j}$ , then  $g = t_1 t_2 \dots t_k$  where  $t_i$ 's are transpositions in  $Y_{A_i}$  and  $h = s_1 s_2 \dots s_m$  where  $s_i$ 's are transpositions in  $Y_{A_j}$ . If  $T_i, S_i$

are the corresponding preimages of  $t_i, s_i$  respectively, then  $[T_i, S_i] = -1$  and  $\hat{g} = T_1 T_2 \cdots T_k$ ,  $\hat{h} = S_1 S_2 \cdots S_m$  are the preimages of  $g, h$ , respectively. So,  $[\hat{g}, \hat{h}] = \hat{g}^{-1}(\hat{g})^{\hat{h}} = (T_1 T_2 \cdots T_k)^{S_1 S_2 \cdots S_m} = (-1)^{mk} (T_1 T_2 \cdots T_k)^{-1} T_1 T_2 \cdots T_k = (-1)^{mk}$  as

$$T_i^{S_1 S_2 \cdots S_m} = (-1)^m T_i.$$

So,

$$[\hat{g}, \hat{h}] = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } g, h \in S_\Omega \setminus A_\Omega, \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and it follows that  $[\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*, \hat{Y}_{A_j}^*] = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

NOTE 2. If  $\Omega$  is a set of size  $n$ , and  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  is a partition of  $\Omega$ , then the preimage  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$  of the Young subgroup  $Y_{A_i}^*$  is isomorphic to:

- (i)  $2A_{n_i}$ , if  $|A_i| = n_i \geq 5$ .
- (ii)  $Z_2$ , if  $n_i = 1, 2$ .
- (iii)  $Z_6$ , if  $n_i = 3$  or  $\text{SL}(2, 3)$  if  $|A_i| = 4$ .

LEMMA 2. Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $U$  be a  $BG$ -injector of it.

- (i) If  $Z \leq Z(G)$ , then  $Z \leq U$  and  $U/Z$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $G/Z$ .
- (ii) If  $F^*(G) = O_p(G)$ , for some prime  $p$ , then  $U$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ .
- (iii) If  $G$  is a central product of two subgroups  $G_1, G_2$  of  $G$ , that is,  $G = G_1 G_2, [G_1, G_2] = 1$ , then  $U = (U \cap G_1)(U \cap G_2)$  and  $U \cap G_i$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $G_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* The proof is easy and is omitted.  $\square$

REMARK 1 ([6]). Let  $H$  be a finite group such that  $H \cong Z_p \wr S_k$ ; the Wreath product of the cyclic group  $Z_p, p$  a prime, with  $S_k$ , then  $F^*(H) = O_p(H)$ .

REMARK 2. If  $\Omega$  is a finite set, we denote by  $S_\Omega, A_\Omega$  the corresponding symmetric and alternating group of  $\Omega$ . For a partition  $\Sigma = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  of  $\Omega$  into pairwise disjoint nonempty subsets of  $\Omega$ ,

$$Y_\Sigma = \{g \in S_\Omega \mid A_i^g = A_i, 1 \leq i \leq m\}$$

denotes the Young subgroup of  $\Omega$ . It is obvious that

$$Y_\Sigma = Y_{A_1} \times Y_{A_2} \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m} \leq S_\Omega,$$

where  $Y_{A_i} = \{g \in S_\Omega \mid g \text{ fixes all points not in } A_i\}$  and  $Y_{A_i} \cong S_{A_i}$ . We define  $Y_{A_i}^* \cap A_\Omega$  and  $Y_\Sigma^* = \langle Y_{A_1}^*, Y_{A_2}^*, \dots, Y_{A_m}^* \rangle = Y_{A_1}^* \times Y_{A_2}^* \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m}^* \leq A_\Omega$ . Consider an element  $g \in S_\Omega$  of prime order  $p \neq 2$ . Let  $A = \{\alpha \in \Omega \mid \alpha^g \neq \alpha\}$ ,  $\Gamma = \{\alpha \in \Omega \mid \alpha^g = \alpha\}$ . So  $\Sigma = (A, \Gamma)$  is a partition of  $\Omega$ . If  $|A| = pk$ , then  $g$  is a product of  $k$  pairwise commuting  $p$ -cycles  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k$  and  $t_i \in Y_A$  corresponding to the orbits of  $g$  in  $A$ . Since  $C_{S_\Omega}(g)$  permutes these  $t_i$ 's, and in particular normalizes  $V = \langle t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k \rangle \cong Z_p^k$ .

We infer that  $V \subseteq O_p(C_{S_\Omega}(g))$ , and  $C_{S_\Omega}(g) \leq Y_z = Y_A \times \Gamma$ , hence:

$$C_{S_\Omega}(g) = C_{Y_A}(g) \times Y_\Gamma.$$

As  $C_{Y_A}(g) \cong Z_p \wr S_k$ , by Remark 1, it follows that

$$F^*(C_{Y_A}(g)) = O_p(C_{Y_A}(g))$$

and

$$C(V) = V \times Y_\Gamma.$$

LEMMA 3. *Let  $U$  be a  $BG$ -injector in  $A_\Omega$  and let  $g \in Z(U)$  with  $o(g) = p \neq 2$ ,  $p$  prime, where  $o(g)$  denotes the order of  $g$ . Then*

$$U = (U \cap C_{Y_A^*}(g)) \times (U \cap Y_\Gamma^*).$$

*Proof.* Since  $g \in Z(U)$ ,  $U \leq C_{A_\Omega}(g) \leq C_{S_\Omega}(g) = C_{Y_A}(g) \times Y_\Gamma \leq Y_A \times Y_\Gamma$ . If  $V$  is as defined above, it follows that

$$V \subseteq O_p(C_{S_\Omega}(g)) = O_p(C_{A_\Omega}(g)) = F^*(C_{A_\Omega}(g)),$$

as  $p$  is odd.

As  $U$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $C_{A_\Omega}(g)$ , this implies that  $V \subseteq O_p(C_{A_\Omega}(g)) \subseteq U$ , but  $U$  is nilpotent, so

$$U = O_p(U) \times O_{p'}(U).$$

Also,  $V \subseteq O_p(U)$  and  $O_{p'}(U) \subseteq C(O_p(U))$ , thus

$$O_{p'}(U) \subseteq C_{A_\Omega}(V).$$

So,

$$O_{p'}(U) \leq C_{S_\Omega}(V) = V \times Y_\Gamma.$$

As  $U \leq A_\Omega$  and  $V \leq A_\Omega$  ( $p \neq 2$ ), we obtain

$$O_{p'}(U) = O_{p'}(U) \cap A_\Omega \leq (V \times Y_\Gamma) \cap A_\Omega = V \times (Y_\Gamma \cap A_\Omega) = V \times Y_\Gamma^*.$$

Thus,  $O_{p'} \leq Y_\Gamma^*$  as  $p \mid |V|$  and, therefore,

$$U = O_p(U) \times O_{p'}(U) \leq C_{Y_A}(g) \times Y_\Gamma^*,$$

this implies that  $U \leq C_{Y_A^*}(g) \times Y_\Gamma^* \leq Y_A^* \times Y_\Gamma^*$ , as  $p \neq 2$ . Hence, by Lemma 2 we have

$$U = (U \cap C_{Y_A^*}(g)) \times (U \cap Y_\Gamma^*) = (U \cap Y_A^*) \times (U \cap Y_\Gamma^*). \quad \square$$

LEMMA 4. *Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set and let  $U$  be a  $BG$ -injector of  $A_\Omega$ , then there exists a partition  $\Sigma = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  of  $\Omega$  such that  $U \leq Y_{A_1}^* \times Y_{A_2}^* \times \dots \times Y_{A_m}^*$  and  $U = (U \cap Y_{A_1}^*) \times \dots \times (U \cap Y_{A_m}^*)$ . Also, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , there exists a prime  $p_i$  such that  $(U \cap Y_{A_i}^*)$  is a Sylow  $p_i$ -subgroup of  $Y_{A_i}^*$ .*

*Proof.* We consider two cases:

CASE 1.  $U$  is a 2-group. Let  $\Sigma$  be the partition consisting of  $\Omega$  alone, that is,  $\Sigma = (\Omega)$ . So,  $Y_\Sigma^* = A_\Omega$  and  $U = U \cap Y_\Sigma^*$ . As  $U$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $A_\Omega$ , it is maximal nilpotent, and thus  $U$  is a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $A_\Omega$ .

CASE 2.  $U$  is not a 2-group, so there exists a prime  $p \neq 2$  such that  $p \mid |U|$ .

As  $U$  is nilpotent, it follows that there exists  $z \in Z(U)$ ,  $o(z) = p$ . Let  $A_1$  be the set of nonfixed points of  $Z = Z(U)$  and  $\Gamma$  be the set of fixed points of  $Z$ . By Lemma 3, we get

$$U \leq C_{A_\Omega}(z) = C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z) \times Y_\Gamma^* \leq Y_{A_1}^* \times Y_\Gamma^*.$$

Also, by Lemma 3, we obtain

$$U = U \cap C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z) \times (U \cap Y_\Gamma^*) = (U \cap Y_{A_1}^*) \times (U \cap Y_\Gamma^*),$$

$U \cap C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z)$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $Y_{A_1}^*$ , and  $U \cap Y_\Gamma^*$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $Y_\Gamma$ . As  $U \cap C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z)$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z)$  and  $\Gamma^*(C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z)) = O_p(C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z))$ , we get that  $U \cap C_{Y_{A_1}^*}(z)$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $Y_{A_1}^* \cong A_{A_1}$  and  $U \cap Y_\Gamma^*$  is a  $BG$ -injector of  $Y_\Gamma^* \cong A_\Gamma$ . Repeating the argument for  $U \cap Y_\Gamma$  and  $Y_\Gamma^* \cong A_\Gamma$ , the claim follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $K$  be a group isomorphic to  $2A_\Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  is a finite set of size  $n$ . If  $B$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $K$ , then there exists a partition  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  of  $\Omega$  such that:*

- (i) *For each  $i$ ,  $B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$ .*
- (ii) *Let  $Z = Z(K)$  and  $B_i = B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$ , then  $B_i \cong Z \times O_{p_i}(B_i)$ , for some prime  $p_i \neq 2$ .*
- (iii)  *$d_2(2A_{A_i}) = 2p_i^{n_i/p_i}$  and for any odd prime  $p$ ,  $p^{[n_i/p]} \leq p_i^{n_i/p_i}$ .*
- (iv) *There is at most one  $i$  with  $p_i = 5$  and the union of the  $A_i$ 's with  $p_i = 3$  has size at most 6, and there are no  $i, j$  such that  $p_i = 3$  and  $p_j = 5$ .*

*Proof.* (i) As  $B/Z$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $K/Z \cong A_\Omega$ , there exists by Lemma 4, a partition  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  of  $\Omega$  such that

$$\hat{Y}_\pi^* = \hat{Y}_{A_1}^* \times \cdots \times \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*.$$

Let  $B/Z = U$ , then  $U \leq Y_\pi^*$  and  $U = (U \cap Y_{A_1}^*) \times \cdots \times (U \cap Y_{A_m}^*)$ . Thus,

$$B \leq \hat{Y}_\pi^* = \hat{Y}_{A_1}^* \circ \hat{Y}_{A_2}^* \circ \cdots \circ \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*,$$

the central product of  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$ , by Lemma 1. Hence,

$$B = (B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_1}^*) \times \cdots \times (B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*)$$

and  $B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$ .

(ii) As  $Z \leq B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^* = B_i$  and  $B_i/Z \cong U \cap Y_{A_i}^*$ , then for any prime  $p_i \neq 2$ , we have  $B_i = \prod_{p\text{-prime}} O_p(B_i)$  and  $Z \leq O_2(B_i)$ . So,

$$B_i/Z \cong O_2(B_i)/Z \times \prod_{p \neq 2} O_p(B_i).$$

As  $B_i/Z \cong U \cap Y_{A_i}^*$  is a Sylow  $p_i$ -subgroup of  $Y_{A_i}^*$  by Lemma 4, it follows that  $B_i = Z \times O_{p_i}(B_i)$  and  $U \cap Y_{A_i}^* \cong O_{p_i}(B_i)$ , which is a Sylow  $p_i$ -subgroup of  $Y_{A_i}^* \cong A_{A_i} = A_{n_i}$  where  $|A_i| = n_i$ .

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} d_2(2A_{A_i}) &= d_2(\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*) = d_2(B_i) = d_2(Z)d_2(O_{p_i}(B_i)) \\ &= 2d_{2,p}(A_{A_i}) = 2p_i^{n_i/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Also, if  $p$  is a prime  $\neq 2$ , we have  $d_{2,p}(2A_n) = 2d_{2,p}(A_n)$ , because  $2A_n$  and  $A_n$  have isomorphic Sylow  $p$ -subgroups. As  $d_{2,p}(2A_n) \leq d_2(2A_n)$ , we get

$$2p^{\lceil n_i/p \rceil} = 2d_{2,p}(A_{n_i}) = d_{2,p}(2A_{n_i}) \leq d_2(2A_{n_i}) = 2p_i^{n_i/p_i}$$

or  $p^{\lceil n_i/p \rceil} \leq p_i^{n_i/p_i}$  for all odd primes.

(iv) Let  $I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , so that  $p_i$  is an odd prime for all  $i \in I$ . Then for  $A = \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$ , it follows that the central product

$$\prod_{\circ} \hat{Y}_{A_i}^* \leq \hat{Y}_A^*,$$

$B \cap \hat{Y}_A^* = \prod_{\circ} (B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*)$  and  $(B \cap \hat{Y}_A^*)$  is a  $B$ -injector in  $\hat{Y}_A^* \cong 2A_A$ .

Consider the following cases.

CASE 1. Assume that there are disjoint  $A_i, A_j$  such that  $p_i = p_j = 5$ . So,  $|A_i| = |A_j| = 5$ . Set  $A = A_i \cup A_j$ . It follows that

$$B \cap \hat{Y}_A^* = (B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_i}^*)(B \cap \hat{Y}_{A_j}^*)$$

is a  $B$ -injector in  $\hat{Y}_A^*$  of order  $2 \cdot 5^2$ : this is a contradiction, as  $d_2(2A_{10}) \geq d_2(2A_8) \geq 2^6$ .

CASE 2. Let  $J$  be the set of numbers  $j$  such that  $p_j = 3$  and let  $A = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$ , then  $(B \cap \hat{Y}_A^*)$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $\hat{Y}_A^*$  and it is of the form  $Z \times P$  for some Sylow 3-subgroup  $P$  of  $\hat{Y}_A^*$ . Hence, if  $|A| = 3k$ , then

$$d_2(2A_A) = d_2(\hat{Y}_A^*) = 2 \cdot 3^6.$$

So,  $d_{2,2}(2A_A) \leq 2 \cdot 3^k$ . By Corollary 3, we have  $3k < 8$  or  $3k = 15$ , but  $d_2(2A_{15}) \geq 2 \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_8)}{2} \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_4)}{2} \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_3)}{2} \geq 2 \cdot \frac{64}{2} \cdot \frac{8}{2} \cdot \frac{6}{2}$ . Hence,  $64 \cdot 24 \leq d_2(2A_{15}) = d_2(\hat{Y}_A^*) = 2 \cdot 3^5$  is a contradiction.

CASE 3. Assume that there exist  $i, j$  such that  $p_i = 5$  and  $p_j = 3$ , then  $|A_i| = 5$  and  $|A_j| = 3$  or  $6$ . Set  $A = A_i \cup A_j$ , it follows that  $(B \cap \hat{Y}_A^*)$  is a  $B$ -injector of  $\hat{Y}_A^* \cong 2A_A$ , and hence  $|A_j| = 3$ , thus  $|A| = 8$  and  $d_2(2A_8) = d_2(\hat{Y}_A^*) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 = 30$ , a contradiction, as  $64 \leq d_{2,2}(2A_8) \leq d_2(2A_8)$ .

If  $|A_j| = 6$ , then  $|A| = 11$  and  $d_2(2A_{11}) = d_2(\hat{Y}_A^*) = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 3^2 = 90$ , a contradiction, as  $d_2(2A_{11}) \geq 2 \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_8)}{2} \cdot d_{2,2}(2A_3) \geq 2 \cdot \frac{64}{2} \cdot \frac{6}{2} > 90$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 5. *Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set of size  $n$ , and let  $P$  be a transitive  $p$ -subgroup of  $S_\Omega$  of class  $\leq 2$ . Then there exist integers  $a \geq 0, b \geq 0$  such that  $n = p^{a+b}$  and  $|P| \leq p^{a+b+ab}$ .*

*Proof.* As  $P$  is transitive on  $\Omega$ ,  $Z = Z(P)$  acts semiregularly on  $\Omega$  that  $Z_\alpha = 1 \ \forall \alpha \in \Omega$ , because let  $z \in Z_\alpha$ , so  $z \in Z(P)$ , it follows that  $P$  leaves invariant the set of fixed points of  $Z$ , so  $\text{fix}(z) = \Omega$ , and thus  $z = 1$ . As class  $P \leq 2$ , it follows that  $P' \leq Z(P)$ , and hence

$$(P_\alpha)' \leq (P')_\alpha \leq Z_\alpha = 1.$$

So,  $P_\alpha$  is Abelian, and  $M = \langle Z, P_\alpha \rangle = Z \times P_\alpha$  is an Abelian normal subgroup of  $P$ , as  $P' \leq Z \leq M$  and  $Z \cap Z_\alpha = Z_\alpha = 1$ . Set  $|P/M| = P^\alpha$  and  $|Z| = p^b$ , then there exist  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_a \in P$  such that  $P/M = \langle Mt_1, Mt_2, \dots, Mt_a \rangle$ . Next, consider the map  $\sigma : P_\alpha \rightarrow (P')^a$  defined by  $\sigma(x) = ([x, t_1], \dots, [x, t_a])$ . As  $\text{class}(P) \leq 2$ , it follows that  $\sigma$  is a homomorphism. This can be seen as follows. In groups of class, at most two, we have the following relation:

$$[xy, t] = y^{-1}[x, t]y^t = [x, t]y^{-1}y^t$$

as  $[x, t] \in P' \subseteq Z(P)$ . So,  $[xy, t] = [x, t][y, t]$ , where  $y^t = t^{-1}yt$  and  $\ker \sigma = 1$ , because let  $x \in \ker \sigma$ , it follows that  $[x, t_i] = 1, i = 1, \dots, a$ , thus  $t_1, \dots, t_a$  are in  $C_p(x)$ . Furthermore,  $x \in P_\alpha \subseteq M = Z \times P_\alpha$  and  $M \subseteq C_p(x)$ , as  $M$  is Abelian. Thus,  $\langle M, t_1, \dots, t_a \rangle \subseteq C_p(x)$ . As  $P/M = \langle Mt_1, \dots, Mt_a \rangle$ , it follows that  $P = \langle M, t_1, \dots, t_a \rangle \subseteq C_p(x)$ , thus  $x \in Z(P) \cap P_\alpha = (Z(P))_\alpha = 1$ . Hence,  $x = 1$ . So,  $\sigma$  is injective. Therefore,  $|P_\alpha| \leq |P'|^a \leq |Z(P)|^a = p^{ba}$  and  $n = [P : P_\alpha] = [P : M][M : P_\alpha]$  as  $P_\alpha \leq M \leq P$ , it follows that

$$[P : P_\alpha] = p^a \frac{|M|}{|P_\alpha|} = p^a \frac{|Z||P_\alpha|}{|P_\alpha|} = p^a p^b = p^{a+b}$$

and  $|P| = n|P_\alpha| \leq np^{ab} = p^{a+b+ab}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

COROLLARY 1. *Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set of size  $n$  and let  $P$  be a transitive  $p$ -subgroup of  $\Omega$  of class  $\leq 2$ , if  $p \neq 2$ , then  $|P| \leq p^{\lceil n/p \rceil}$ , where equality holds if and only if for  $n = p$  or  $n = 9$  and  $p = 3$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $p \neq 2$ , by Lemma 4, there exist two integers  $a \geq 0, b \geq 0$  such that  $n = p^{a+b}$ ,  $|P| \leq p^{a+b+ab}$ . As  $p \neq 2$ , it follows that  $p^{a+b+ab} \leq p^{n/p}$  if and only if  $a + b + ab \leq n/p = p^{a+b-1}$ , where equality occurs if and only if  $n = p$  or  $n = 9$  and  $p = 3$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 6. *Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set of size  $n$  and let  $P$  be a transitive  $p$ -subgroup of  $\Omega$  of class  $\leq 2$ , then*

- (i) *If  $p \neq 2, d_{2,p}(S_n) = d_{2,p}(A_n) = p^{\lceil n/p \rceil}$ .*
- (ii) *If  $p = 2, d_{2,2}(S_n) = \varepsilon_n 8^{\lceil n/4 \rceil}$  where*

$$\varepsilon_n = \begin{cases} 1, & n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 2, & n \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

and if  $n > 1$ ,  $d_{2,2}(A_n) = \frac{1}{2}d_{2,2}(S_n) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_n 8^{\lfloor n/4 \rfloor}$ .

*Proof.*  $S_n$  contains subgroups of order  $p^{\lfloor n/p \rfloor}$  for any prime  $p$ . These groups are generated by  $\lfloor n/p \rfloor$  cycles with disjoint support and  $p^{\lfloor n/p \rfloor} \leq d_{2,p}(S_n)$ . This can be explained as follows. Let  $n = mp + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < p$ ,  $m = \lfloor n/p \rfloor$ , and let  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m, A)$  be a partition of  $\Omega$  where  $|A_i| = p$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , and  $|A| = r$ . Let  $t_i = (a_1 a_2 \cdots a_p)$  be a  $p$ -cycle in  $A_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . It follows that  $\langle t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \rangle$  is an elementary Abelian group of order  $p^{\lfloor n/p \rfloor}$  and of class at most two. Also,  $S_n$  contains 2-subgroups of order  $\varepsilon_n 8^{\lfloor n/4 \rfloor} \leq d_{2,2}(S_n)$ . This can be explained as follows.

Let  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m, A)$  be a partition of  $\Omega$  where  $|A_i| = 4$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $|A| = r$ . Let  $n = 4m + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < 4$ . It follows that

$$H = Y_{A_1} \times Y_{A_2} \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m} \times Y_r \leq S_n,$$

where  $Y_{A_i} \cong S_4$  and  $Y_r \cong Z_{\varepsilon_n}$ .

Hence,  $H \cong S_4^m \times S_r$  contains  $D_8^m \times Z_{\varepsilon_n}$  of class  $\leq 2$ . It remains to show that for  $p \neq 3$ , these groups are exactly all possible  $p$ -subgroups of class  $\leq 2$  and order  $d_{2,p}(S_n)$ . Let  $P \in a_{2,p}(S_n)$ . Assume that  $P$  has orbits  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$ , it follows that

$$P \leq Y_\Sigma = Y_{A_1} \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m},$$

where  $Y_{A_i}$  are the Young subgroups corresponding to the partition  $\Sigma = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$ .

Furthermore, by Lemma 2, we have that

$$P = (P \cap Y_{A_1}) \times \cdots \times (P \cap Y_{A_m})$$

and  $P \cap Y_{A_i} \in a_{2,p}(Y_{A_i})$ . As  $A_i$  is an orbit of  $P$ ,  $P \cap Y_{A_i}$  is a transitive subgroup of  $Y_{A_i} \cong S_{A_i}$  of class  $\leq 2$ .

Now we consider two cases.

CASE 1.  $p = 2$ . Let  $|A_i| = n_i$ , if  $p \neq 2$ , it follows that

$$p^{\lfloor n_i/p \rfloor} = p^{n_i/p} \leq d_{2,p}(S_{A_i}) = |P \cap Y_{A_i}|.$$

By Corollary 1,  $|P \cap Y_{A_i}| \leq p^{n_i/p}$ . Therefore,

$$p^{n_i/p} = d_{2,p}(S_{A_i}) = |P \cap Y_{A_i}|.$$

Also, by Corollary 1, it follows that  $n_i = p$  or  $n_i = 9$  and  $p = 3$ . If  $p \neq 3$ , then all orbits of  $P$  have lengths 1 or  $p$ . Thus,  $P$  is conjugate to the subgroup constructed above, and hence  $d_{2,p}(S_n) = p^{\lfloor n/p \rfloor}$ . As  $p \neq 2$ , it follows that

$$d_{2,p}(S_n) = d_{2,p}(A_n).$$

CASE 2.  $p = 2$ . Let  $P \in a_{2,2}(S_n)$  and let  $P \leq Y_\Sigma = Y_{A_1} \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m}$  where  $Y_{A_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , be the Young subgroups corresponding to the partition  $\Sigma = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$ .

As above  $P = (P \cap Y_{A_1}) \times \cdots \times (P \cap Y_{A_m})$  where  $P \cap Y_{A_i} \in a_{2,2}(Y_{A_i})$  and  $P \cap Y_{A_i}$  is a transitive subgroup of  $Y_{A_i}$ . By Lemma 6,  $|A_i| = 1$  or 2 and  $8^{n_i/4} \leq$

$d_2(S_{A_i}) = |P \cap Y_{A_i}| \leq 8^{n_i/4}$ . This implies that  $|P \cap Y_{A_i}| = 8^{n_i/4}$  and this occurs if and only if  $n_i = 4$ . Hence again,  $P$  is a group conjugate to the group constructed above. As  $P \not\leq A_n$ , this implies that  $d_{2,2}(A_n) = \frac{1}{2}d_{2,2}(S_n)$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 7.

- (i) If  $p$  is a prime at least 7, then  $p^k \not\leq 3^{\lfloor pk/3 \rfloor}$  for all  $k \geq 1$ .
- (ii)  $5^k \not\leq 3^{\lfloor 5k/3 \rfloor}$  for  $k \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* Easy.  $\square$

REMARK 3. By Theorem 1 and Lemma 7, we have  $3^{\lfloor n_i/3 \rfloor} \leq p_i^{n_i/p_i}$  and  $5^{\lfloor n_i/5 \rfloor} \leq p_i^{n_i/p_i}$  which implies that  $p_i = 3$  or  $5$  and if  $p_i = 5$ , then  $|A_i| = n_i = 5$ . We need some information about  $d_{2,2}(2A_n)$ . This is a bit more complicated, as we cannot use our information about  $A_n$  directly, because if  $X \leq 2A_n$ ,  $Z \leq X$ , then  $X/Z \leq A_n$  and  $\text{class}(X/Z) \leq \text{class}(X)$ , but if  $Y \leq A_n$  and it is a 2-group of class  $\leq 2$ , then  $\hat{Y}$  might have class equal to 3.

First, we know that in  $S_n$ ,  $n = 4m + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < 4$ ,  $D_8^m \leq S_n$  and in  $2A_n$ ,  $n = 8m + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < 7$ , we have the central product

$$X_1 \circ X_2 \circ \cdots \circ X_m \circ Y \leq 2A_m,$$

where  $X_i \cong 2A_8$  and  $Y \cong 2A_r$ . In each  $X_i$ , we take a 2-group  $P_i$  of class  $\leq 2$  and in  $Y$  a 2-group  $Q$  of class  $\leq 2$ , with  $Z \leq P_i$ ,  $Z \leq Q$ , then it follows that

$$\langle P_1, \dots, P_m, Q \rangle = P_1 \circ \cdots \circ P_m \circ Q$$

has class  $\leq 2$  and  $|P_1 \circ \cdots \circ P_m \circ Q| = 2|P_1/Z||P_2/Z| \cdots |P_m/Z||Q/Z|$ .

REMARK 4. Let  $\pi = (A_1, \dots, A_m)$  is a partition of  $\Omega$  and  $Y_\pi^* = Y_{A_1}^* \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m}^*$ . Assume that in each  $Y_{A_i}^*$ , a nilpotent subgroup  $X_i$  of class  $\leq 2$  such that its preimage  $\hat{X}_i$  has also class  $\leq 2$ , then the group  $\langle \hat{X}_1, \dots, \hat{X}_m \rangle$  is a central product of the  $\hat{X}_i$ 's of class  $\leq 2$  and of order

$$2|\hat{X}_1/Z||\hat{X}_2/Z| \cdots |\hat{X}_m/Z| = 2|X_1||X_2| \cdots |X_m|.$$

To get an estimation for  $d_{2,2}(2A_n)$ , we prove the following lemma.

LEMMA 8.  $d_{2,2}(2A_8) = 2^6$ .

*Proof.* As  $d_{2,2}(A_8) = \frac{1}{2}d_{2,2}(S_8) = \frac{1}{2}8^2 = 2^5$  (use Lemma 6), it follows that

$$d_{2,2}(2A_8) \leq 2d_{2,2}(A_8) = 2^6.$$

Furthermore,

$$d_{2,2}(2A_n) \leq 2d_{2,2}(A_n),$$

because, if  $P \leq 2A_n$  a 2-group of class  $\leq 2$  with  $Z \leq P$ , then we have  $\text{class}(P/Z) \leq 2$ , and this implies that  $|P/Z| \leq d_{2,2}(A_n)$ , and hence

$$\frac{|P|}{2} \leq d_{2,2}(A_n). \quad \square$$

LEMMA 9. Let  $H \cong 2^{1+4}$  be the extra special group of  $A_8 \cong GL(4, 2)$ , then the preimage  $\hat{H}$  of  $H$  has class at most 2.

*Proof.* Let

$$H_1 = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ * & 1 & & \\ * & 0 & 1 & \\ * & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad H_2 = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ * & * & * & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

It is clear that  $H = H_1 H_2$  where  $H_1 \cong H_2 \cong Z_2^3$  and  $\hat{H} = Z_2$ .

Also,  $[H_1, H_2] = H_1 \cap H_2 = Z(H) \cong Z_2$ , where

$$H_1 \cap H_2 = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

All nonidentity elements of  $H_1 \cup H_2$  are transfection, and in particular are conjugate elements in  $H_1 \cup H_2 \setminus \{1\}$ . From this, it follows that the preimages  $\hat{H}_1, \hat{H}_2$  are elementary Abelian. This can be proved as follows.

Let  $x, y \in \hat{H}_1 \setminus Z(K)$ ,  $K = 2A_8$ , such that  $x, y \notin Z(k)$ , then we have

$$xZ(K) \sim yZ(K) \sim xyZ(K),$$

and hence

$$x^2 = y^2 = (xy)^2 = z \in Z(K).$$

So,

$$z = xyxy = xy^2y^{-1}xy = xy^2x^y = xzx^y.$$

This implies  $x = zx^{-1}$  and  $x^y = xz$ . As  $|H_1| = 8$ , there exists  $a, b, c \in \hat{H}_1$ , where  $a, b, c, ab, ac, bc \notin Z(K)$ . So,

$$z = (abc)^2 = zb^a c^a bc = z^3(bc)^2 = z^4 = 1.$$

Hence,  $o(z) = 1$  or 2, so  $z = 1$  and  $a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = 1 = [a, b]$ . Therefore,  $\hat{H}_1, \hat{H}_2$  are elementary Abelian groups. So,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} &= \hat{H}_1 \hat{H}_2, \hat{H}_1 \leq \hat{H}, \hat{H}' = (\hat{H}_1 \hat{H}_2)' \\ &= (\hat{H}_1)' [\hat{H}_1, \hat{H}_2] (\hat{H}_2)' = [\hat{H}_1, \hat{H}_2] \subseteq \hat{H}_1 \cap \hat{H}_2. \end{aligned}$$

As  $\hat{H}_1, \hat{H}_2$  are elementary Abelian, it follows that  $\hat{H}_1 \cap \hat{H}_2 \subseteq Z(\hat{H})$ . Hence,  $\hat{H}' \subseteq Z(\hat{H})$  and class  $\hat{H} \leq 2$ .  $\square$

THEOREM 2. If  $\Omega$  is a set of size  $n$ , and  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  is a partition of  $\Omega$  with  $|A_i| = n_i$ , then

$$d_{2,2}(2A_\Omega) \geq 2 \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_1})}{2} \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_2})}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_m})}{2}.$$

*Proof.* Consider the Young subgroup  $Y_\pi^* = Y_{A_1}^* \times \cdots \times Y_{A_m}^*$ . The preimage

$$\hat{Y}_\pi^* = \hat{Y}_{A_1}^* \circ \hat{Y}_{A_2}^* \circ \cdots \circ \hat{Y}_{A_m}^*,$$

is the central product of  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^* \cong 2A_{A_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . By Lemma 8 and Remark 4, we have in each  $\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*$ , there exists a 2-group of class  $\leq 2$  and of order  $d_{2,2}(2A_{A_i})$ . These groups generate a subgroup of  $2A_\Omega$  of class at most 2 and of order  $2 \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_1})}{2} \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_2})}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_{A_m})}{2}$ .  $\square$

COROLLARY 2. *Let  $n = 8.k + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < 8$ , then*

$$d_{2,2}(2A_n) \geq 2 \cdot (32)^k \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_r)}{2}.$$

COROLLARY 3. *If  $n \geq 8$ ,  $n \neq 15$ , then*

$$d_{2,2}(2A_n) \not\geq 2 \cdot d_{2,3}(2A_n).$$

*Proof.* Use the inequality

$$d_{2,2}(2A_n) \geq 2 \cdot (32)^k \frac{d_{2,2}(2A_r)}{2}$$

if  $n = 8.k + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < 8$ , and Table 1.  $\square$

COROLLARY 4. *Let  $8 \mid |\Omega|$ , then*

$$d_{2,2}(2A_\Omega) \geq 2 \cdot 32^{n/8}.$$

*Proof.* As  $8 \mid |\Omega|$ , there exists a partition  $\pi = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  of  $\Omega$  such that  $|A_i| = 8$ . By Theorem 2, it follows that

$$d_{2,2}(2A_8) \geq 2 \cdot \frac{d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_{A_1}^*)}{2} \dots \frac{d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_{A_m}^*)}{2} \geq 2 \cdot (32)^m$$

as  $d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_{A_i}^*) = d_{2,2}(2A_8) \geq 64$ .  $\square$

TABLE 1.

$n$	$d_{2,2}(2A_n)$
0	1
1	1
2	2
3	2
4	$8 \ 2A_4 \cong SL(2, 3)$
5	$8 \ 2A_5 \cong SL(2, 5)$
6	$8 \ 2A_6 \cong SL(2, 9)$
7	$8 \ 2A_6$ and $2A_7$ have isomorphic Sylow 2-groups

COROLLARY 5. *If  $X \in a_{22}(2A_\Omega)$ , then  $Z = Z(2A_\Omega) \subseteq X$ , and any orbit of  $X/Z$  in  $\Omega$  has length  $\leq 8$ , or  $|\Omega| \leq 7$ ; also if  $A$  is an orbit of length 8, then*

$$C_X(A) \in a_{22}(\hat{Y}_{\Omega \setminus A}^*).$$

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be an orbit of  $X/Z$  of length  $\geq 8$ , and let  $\Gamma = \Omega \setminus A$ .

The partition  $\pi = (A, \Gamma)$  implies  $2d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_A^*)d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*) \leq d_{2,2}(2A_\Omega) = |X|$ . So,

$$C_X(A) = \{x \in X, x \text{ fixes all points in } A \leq \hat{Y}_\Gamma^* \text{ and it is of class } \leq 2\}.$$

So,  $|C_X(A)| \leq d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*)$ , also  $X/C_X(A)$  is a transitive subgroup of  $S_A$  of class  $\leq 2$ . Furthermore,

$$2 \frac{d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_A^*)}{2} \frac{d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*)}{2} \leq |X| = |X/C_X(A)| \cdot |C_X(x)| \leq |X/C_X(A)| \cdot d_{2,2}(\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*).$$

This implies that  $|X/C_X(A)| \geq 32^{|A|/8}$ . By Lemma 5, there exist integers  $a, b$  such that  $|A| = 2^{a+b}$  and  $|X/C_X(A)| \leq 2^{a+b+ab}$ . So,

$$2^{a+b+ab} \geq |X/C_X(A)| \geq 32^{|A|/8},$$

then it follows that  $a + b + ab \geq 5|A|/8 = 5 \cdot 2^{a+b-3}$ . Hence,  $|A| = 8$ . We also see that in all estimations equality must hold. Thus,  $C_X(A) \in a_{22}(\hat{Y}_{\Omega \setminus A}^*)$ .  $\square$

COROLLARY 6. *If  $|\Omega|$  is even, then*

$$d_{2,2}(2A_\Omega) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot 32^{\lfloor n/8 \rfloor}, & \text{if } |\Omega| \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{8}, \\ 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 32^{\lfloor 3n/8 \rfloor}, & \text{if } |\Omega| \equiv 4, 6 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

COROLLARY 7. *Let  $|\Omega| = n$ . The  $B$ -injectors in  $2A_\Omega$  are as follows:*

- $n \equiv 0, 1, 4 \pmod{8}$ , the  $B$ -injectors are Sylow 2-subgroups.
- $n \equiv 3, 7 \pmod{8}$ , the  $B$ -injectors correspond to the partition  $\pi = (A, \Gamma)$ ,  $|A| = 3$ . So, the  $B$ -injectors are  $Z_3 \times T_2$ , where  $T_2$  is a Sylow 2-subgroup in  $\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*$ .
- $n \equiv 6, 2 \pmod{8}$ , the  $B$ -injectors correspond to the partition  $\pi = (A, \Gamma)$ ,  $|A| = 6$ . So, the  $B$ -injectors are  $Z_3 \times Z_3 \times T_2$ , where  $T_2$  is a Sylow 2-subgroup in  $\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*$ .
- $n \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , the  $B$ -injectors correspond to the partition  $\pi = (A, \Gamma)$ ,  $|A| = 5$ . Hence, the  $B$ -injectors are  $Z_5 \times T_2$ , where  $T_2$  is a Sylow 2-subgroup in  $\hat{Y}_\Gamma^*$ .

THEOREM 3.  *$B$ -injectors in  $3A_6$  are the Sylow 3-subgroups.*

*Proof.* As 3-subgroups of  $3A_6$  have order  $3^3$ , and hence have class  $\leq 2$ . It suffices to show that there are no nilpotent subgroups of class at most 2 and of order  $> 27$ . So, let  $X$  be a nilpotent subgroup of  $3A_6$ . If  $5 \mid |X|$ , it follows that  $X \leq C(z)$  for some element  $z$  of order 5. As elements of order 5 in  $A_6$  are self centralizing, it follows that  $|X| \leq 3 \cdot 5 = 15$ . If  $2 \mid |X|$ , then  $X \leq C(z)$  for some involution  $z \in 3A_6$ . As centralizers of involutions in  $A_6$  have order 8, it follows that  $|X| \leq 3 \cdot 8 = 24 < 27$ . So, the claim follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 4.** *B-injectors in  $3A_7$  are the groups of order 36, and are the preimages in  $3A_7$  of subgroups  $Z_2^2 \times Z_3$  of Young subgroups  $A_4 \times A_3 \leq A_7$ .*

*Proof.* As elements of order 5 or 7 are self-centralizing in  $A_7$ , it follows that nilpotent subgroups of  $3A_7$  which are divisible by 5 or 7 can have orders at most 15 or 21, respectively. As Sylow 3-subgroups of  $3A_7$  have order  $27 < 36$ , then any nilpotent subgroup of  $3A_7$  of class  $\leq 2$  and order  $\geq 36$  must be contained in a centralizer of an involution. As centralizers of involutions in  $A_7$  have order 24 and are not nilpotent, the claim follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 5.** *B-injectors in  $6A_6$  are the groups  $Z.T_3$ , where  $Z$  is the center and  $T_3$  is a Sylow 3-subgroup of order 54.*

*Proof.* As element of order 5 in  $A_6$  are self-centralizing, it follows that nilpotent subgroups in  $6A_6$ , whose order is divisible by 5 can have at most order  $30 < 54$ . As centralizers of involutions in  $A_6$  have order 8. It follows that nilpotent subgroups of whose Sylow 2-subgroups are not contained in the center of  $6A_6$  can have order at most  $48 < 54$ . So, the claim follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 6.** *B-injectors in  $6A_7$  are groups of order 72 corresponding to subgroups  $Z_2^2 \times Z_3$  in Young subgroups  $A_4 \times A_3 \leq A_7$ .*

*Proof.* Similar as above.  $\square$

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