

The E-Uniqueness Theorem

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1 Introduction

Let G be a finite group and p a prime dividing the order of G . We say that G has *characteristic p* if $C_G(O_p(G)) \leq O_p(G)$ and we say that G has *local characteristic p* if all p -local subgroups of G have characteristic p . This paper is part of the project to classify all finite groups of local characteristic p . The classification is divided into two main part: The E -uniqueness case ($E!$) and the non E -uniqueness case ($\neg E!$). To explain these cases we need to introduce some notation:

Let G be a finite group of local characteristic p ,

$S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$.

$Z = \Omega_1 Z(S)$,

$\mathcal{L} = \{L \leq G \mid C_G(O_p(L)) \leq O_p(L)\}$,

\mathcal{M} is set of maximal elements of \mathcal{L} ;

If \mathcal{T} is a set of subgroups of G and $H \leq G$, then $\mathcal{T}(H) = \{T \in \mathcal{T} \mid H \leq T\}$ and $\mathcal{T}_H = \{T \in \mathcal{T} \mid T \leq H\}$.

We say that $T \in \mathcal{L}$ is a uniqueness subgroup of G if T is contained in a unique maximal p -local of G , that is if $|\mathcal{M}(T)| = 1$.

For $L \in \mathcal{L}$ let Y_L be the the largest p -reduced normal subgroup of G (see 4.1).

For H a finite group, $F_p^*(H)$ is defined by $F_p^*(H)/O_p(H) = F^*(H/O_p(H))$.

\tilde{C} is a maximal p -local containing $N_G(Z)$ (in symbols: $\tilde{C} \in \mathcal{M}(N_G(Z))$).

$E = O^p(F_p^*(C_{\tilde{C}}(Y_{\tilde{C}})))$.

$E!$ now means that E is a uniqueness subgroup and $\neg E!$ means that E is contained in at least two different maximal p -locals of G .

2 Some unnecessary comments on groups of parabolic characteristic p

Let G be a finite group and p a prime dividing the order of p . A subgroup P of G is called a *parabolic* if it contains a Sylow p - subgroup of G . A parabolic P is called a *local*

parabolic if $O_p(P) \neq 1$. A parabolic is called *regular*, if it contains the normalizer of Sylow p -subgroup. G is of (regular) parabolic characteristic p if all (regular) local parabolics are of characteristic p . We eventually hope to extend the classification of groups of local characteristic p to the groups of regular parabolic characteristic p .

The Monster and the Baby Monster are example of groups which are of parabolic characteristic 2, but not of local characteritic 2. J_1 is a group which is of regular parabolic characteristic 2, but not of parabolic characteristic 2.

3 An unnecessary section on bricks

Definition 3.1 *Let G be a finite group. A brick of G is a perfect subnormal subgroup B of G such that B has a unique maximal normal subgroup M_B . $\text{Bri}(G)$ denotes the sets of all bricks of G .*

Lemma 3.2 [**minimal subnormal supplement**] *Let G be a finite group and D a normal subgroup of G with G/D perfect.*

- (a) *There exists a the unique minimal subnormal supplement $B = B(G, D)$ to D in G .*
- (b) *B is normal in G*
- (c) *If G/D is simple, then B is the unique brick of G with $B \not\leq D$. Moreover $[B, D] \leq M_B = B \cap D$.*
- (d) *If G is perfect, then $G = BD^\infty$.*

Proof: (a) Let B_1 and B_2 be minimal subnormal supplements to D in G . We need to show that $B_1 = B_2$. If $G = B_i$ for some i this is obvious. So we may assume that $B_i \leq M_i$ for a proper normal subgroup M_i of G . Then $G = M_i D$. Put $M = [M_1, M_2]$. Since G/D is perfect, $G = [G, G]D = [M_1 D, M_2 D]D = MD$. By induction thee exists a unique minimal supplement B to $M \cap D$ in M . Since $G = MD$ and $M \leq M_i$, $M_i = M(D \cap M_i)$ and so $M_i = B(D \cap M_i)$. By induction $B = B(M_i, D \cap M_i) = B_i$ and thus $B_1 = B_2$.

(b) Let $g \in G$. The also B^g is a minimal subnormal supplement to D in G and so $B = B^g$ by the uniqueness of B .

(c) Let M be a normal subgroup of B . Suppose that $M \not\leq D$. The $MD/D \trianglelefteq BD/D = G/D$. Since G/D is simple, $G = MD$ and so the minimality of B implies $M = B$. Thus $B \cap D$ is the unique maximal normal subgroup of G and B is a brick. Let \tilde{B} be any brick of G with $\tilde{B} \not\leq D$. Then $\tilde{B}D/D$ is a non-trivial subnormal subgroup of the simple G/D and so $\tilde{B}D = G$. Thus $B \leq \tilde{B}$. Moreover, $\tilde{B}/\tilde{B} \cap D$ is simple and so $\tilde{B} \cap D = M_{\tilde{B}}$. In particular $B \not\leq M_{\tilde{B}}$ and so $B = \tilde{B}$.

(d) Since G/B is perfect and $G/B = DB/B$ we get $G/D = D^\infty B/B$. □

Proposition 3.3 [**bricks and subnormal subgroups**] *Let B be a brick of the finite group G and $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then either $B \leq N$ or N normalizes B and $[B, N] \leq M_B$.*

Proof: If $N = G$, $B \leq N$. So we may assume that N is contained in a maximal normal subgroup D of G . If $B \leq D$ we are done by induction. So suppose that $B \not\leq D$. Then by 3.2 $D = B(G, D)$ and $[B, N] \leq [B, D] \leq M_B$. \square

Lemma 3.4 [products of bricks] *Let B_1 and B_2 be bricks of the finite group G . Then $\langle B_1, B_2 \rangle = B_1 B_2$ and exactly one of the following holds.*

1. $B_1 = B_2$
2. $B_1 \leq M_{B_2}$,
3. $B_2 \leq M_{B_1}$.
4. $[B_1, B_2] \leq M_{B_1} \cap M_{B_2}$.

Proof: If $B_1 \not\leq B_2$ and $B_2 \not\leq B_1$ then by 3.3 $[B_1, B_2] \leq M_{B_1} \cap M_{B_2}$. So we may assume $B_1 \leq B_2$. But then $B_1 = B_2$ or $B_1 \leq M_{B_2}$. So one of (1)-(4) holds. Since B_i is perfect its easy to see that at most one of (1)-(4) can hold. Moreover in all four cases, $\langle B_1, B_2 \rangle = B_1 B_2$. \square

Lemma 3.5 [Ginfy] $\text{Bri}(G) = \text{Bri}(G^\infty)$ and $G^\infty = \prod_{B \in \text{Bri}(G)} B$.

Proof: Note that a brick of G^∞ is a brick of G and all bricks of G are contained in G^∞ . Thus $\text{Bri}(G) = \text{Bri}(G^\infty)$. Let D be a maximal normal subgroup of G^∞ . Then by 3.2 there exists a brick B with $G^\infty = BD^\infty$. By induction D^∞ is the products of its bricks. So also G^∞ is the products of its bricks. \square

4 The Largest p -reduced normal subgroup

Let L be a finite group of characteristic p . An elementary abelian normal subgroup V of L is called p -reduced if any normal subgroup of G which acts unipotently on V has to act trivially. Note that this is equivalent to $O_p(L/C_L(V)) = 1$.

Lemma 4.1 [YL] *Let L be a finite group of characteristic p and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(L)$*

- (a) *There exists a unique maximal p -reduced normal subgroup Y_L of L .*
- (b) *Let $R \leq L$ and X a p -reduced normal subgroup of R . Then $\langle X^L \rangle$ is a p -reduced normal subgroup of L . In particular, $Y_R \leq Y_L$.*
- (c) *Let $S_L = C_S(Y_L)$ and $L^f = N_G(S_L)$. Then $L = L_f C_L(Y_L)$, $S_L = O_p(L^f)$ and $Y_L = \Omega_1 Z(S_L)$.*

(d) $Y_S = \Omega_1 Z(S)$, $Z_L := \langle \Omega_1 Z(S)^L \rangle$ is p -reduced for L and $\Omega_1 Z(S) \leq Z_L \leq Y_L$.

Proof: (a) Let Y_L be the subgroup generated by the p -reduced normal subgroups of L . Let N be a normal subgroup acting unipotently on Y_L . Then N also acts unipotently on all the generators of Y_L . Hence N centralizes all the generators of Y_L and so Y_L . Thus Y_L is p -reduced.

(c) Let $Y = \langle X^L \rangle$ and $C = C_L(Y)$. Let $N/C = O_p(L/C)$. Then $N = (N \cap S)C$ and in particular, $N = (N \cap L)C$. As X is p reduced, $N \cap L$ centralizes X . The same is true for C and so also for N . Since N is normal in L and $Y = \langle X^L \rangle$, N centralizes Y . Thus $N = C$ and Y is p -reduced.

(b) Put $C = C_L(Y_L)$. By Frattini, $L = L^f C$. Since $O_p(L/C) = 1$ we conclude $O_p(L_f) \leq C$ Hence $O_p(L_f) \leq C \cap S = S_L$ and so $O_p(L_f) = S_L$. Let $X = \Omega_1(Z(S_L))$. Then clearly $Y_L \leq X$ and L_f normalizes Y . Put $Y = \langle Y^L \rangle = \langle Y^C \rangle$. Clearly X is p -reduced for S_L and so by (b) applied to C , Y is p -reduced for C . Let N be a normal subgroup of L acting unipotently on Y . Since $Y_L \leq Y$ and Y_L is p -reduced for L , $N \leq C$. As Y is p -reduced for C , N centralizes C and so Y is p -reduced for L . By maximality of Y_L we get $Y \leq Y_L$. But $Y_L \leq X \leq Y$ and so $Y_L = X = Y$.

(d) Clearly S centralizes Y_S and so $Y_S \leq \Omega_1 Z(S)$. Also $\Omega_1 Z(S)$ is p -reduced for S and so $\Omega_1 Z(S) \leq Y_S$. Thus $\Omega_1 Z(S) = Y_L$. The remaining parts now follow from (b). \square

Lemma 4.2 [YL and subnormal subgroups] *Let L be of characteristic p and K a subnormal subgroup of L .*

(a) $Y_L \cap K$ and $[Y_L, O^p(K)]$ are p -reduced for K

(b) $[Y_L, O^p(K)] \leq Y_L \cap K = Y_L \cap Y_K \leq Y_K$.

(c) $C_K(Y_K) = C_K([Y_L, O^p(K)]) = C_K(Y_L \cap Y_K) = C_K(Y_L)$.

Proof:

Note that $O^p(K) = O^p(KY_L)$ and so $[Y_L, O^p(K)] \leq Y_L \cap O^p(K) \leq Y_L \cap K$. Let D be the largest normal subgroup of K acting unipotently on $[Y_L, O^p(K)]$. Since K acts unipotently on $Y_L/[Y_L, O^p(K)]$ we get that D is unipotent on Y_L . Since D is subnormal in L and Y_L is p -reduced, D centralizes Y_L , $Y_L \cap K$ and $[Y_L, O^p(K)]$. Thus $Y_L \cap K$ and $[Y_L, O^p(K)]$ are p -reduced, $D = C_K([Y_L, O^p(K)])$. Thus (a) and (b) hold and for (c) it remains to show that $C_K(Y_L) \leq C_K(Y_K)$.

For this we may assume by induction on the subnormal length that K is normal in L . Then also Y_K is normal in L . Let V be a normal subgroup of L contained in Y_K which is minimal with respect to $C_K(V) = C_K(Y_L)$. Then $O_p(K/C_K(V)) = 1$ and V is p -reduced for K . Let D be the largest normal subgroup of L acting unipotently on V . Then $[K, D] \leq K \cap D \leq C_L(V)$. Put $W = C_V(D)$. Since $D/O_p(D)$ is a p -group, the $P \times Q$ -Lemma implies $C_K(W)/C_K(V)$ is a p -group. Hence $C_K(W) = C_K(V) = C_K(Y_K)$.

The minimality of V yields $V = W$. So D centralizes V and V is p -reduced for L . Thus $V \leq Y_L$ and

$$C_K(Y_L) \leq C_K(V) = V_K(Y_K).$$

□

5 The Kieler Lemma and Point Stabilizers

Lemma 5.1 [Kieler Lemma for modules] *Let G be a finite group L a subnormal subgroup of G , p a prime and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Let V be a $GF(p)G$ module. Then*

$$C_L(C_V(S)) = C_L(C_V(S \cap L)).$$

Proof: Without loss L is normal in G and $G = LS$. Also $C_V(S) \leq C_V(S \cap L)$ and replacing G by $C_G(C_V(S))$ we may assume that $C_V(S) \leq C_V(G)$. For $T \in L/L \cap S$ and $v \in C_V(L \cap S)$ define $v^T = v^t$ for any $t \in T$. Note that this is independent from the choice of $t \in T$ (Also we slightly are abusing notation as v^T usually is defined as $\{v^t \mid t \in T\}$). Define

$$\pi : C_V(S \cap L) \rightarrow V, v \rightarrow \sum_{T \in L/S \cap L} v^T$$

Let $v \in C_V(S \cap L)$ and $l \in L$. Then

$$\pi(v^l) = \sum_{T \in L/S \cap L} v^{Tl}$$

Since $T \rightarrow Tl$ is a bijection of $S/S \cap L$ we conclude $\pi(v^l) = \pi(v)$ and so $\text{Im } \pi \leq C_V(L)$. Also if $v \in C_V(L)$ then $\pi(v) = mv$ where $m = |L/L \cap S|$. $L \cap S$ is a Sylow p -subgroup of L . Thus p does not divide m and $\pi|_{C_V(L)}$ is one to one. We conclude that

$$C_V(S \cap L) = \ker \pi \oplus C_V(L).$$

Let $s \in S$ the map $T \rightarrow T^s$ is a bijection of $L/S \cap L$ and thus

$$\pi(v)^s = \sum_{T \in L/S \cap L} v^{Ts} = \sum_{T \in L/S \cap L} (v^s)^{T^s} = \pi(v^s)$$

and we conclude that $\ker \pi$ is S -invariant. Suppose that $\ker \pi \neq 0$, then also $C_{\ker \pi}(S) \neq 0$, but this contradicts $C_V(S) \leq C_V(L)$ and $C_V(L) \cap \ker \pi = 0$. Hence $\ker \pi = 0$ and so $C_V(S \cap L) = C_V(L)$. Thus

$$C_L(C_V(S \cap L)) = L = C_L(C_V(S))$$

and the lemma is proved. □

Proposition 5.2 (Kielers Lemma) [kieler lemma] *Let G be a group of local characteristic p , L a subnormal subgroup of G and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Then*

$$C_L(\Omega_1 Z(S)) = C_L(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap L))$$

Proof: By induction G/L we may assume that L is normal subgroup of G and $G = LS$. Put $Z = \Omega_1 Z(S)$ and $Y = \Omega_1 Z(S \cap L)$. Since S normalizes $O(L)$, $L \cap Z \neq 1$. Note that $L \cap Z \leq \Omega_1 Z(S \cap L)$. So S , $C_L(Z)$ and $C_L(Y)$ are all contained in $C_G(L \cap Z)$ we may assume that $G = C_G(L \cap Z)$. Since G is of local characteristic p , we now get that G is of characteristic p . Let $V = \Omega_1 Z O(L)Z$. Since $O_p(L) \leq S$, $Z \leq C_G(O_p(L))$ and so $[Z, L] \leq C_G(O_p(L)) \cap L$. Thus $[V, L] \leq \Omega_1 Z O(L)$ and V is an elementary abelian normal p -subgroup of G . Note that $V = \Omega_1 Z O_p(L) \oplus X$ for some $X \leq \Omega_1 Z$ and so by a theorem of Gaschütz, $V = \Omega_1 Z O_p(L) \oplus A$ for some normal subgroup A of G . But then $[A, G] = 1$, $A \leq \Omega_1 Z(G)$ and so $Z = (V \cap Z)A = (Z \cap L)A$. By assumption $Z \cap L \leq Z(G)$ and thus $Z = \Omega_1 Z(G) = C_V(G)$. Also $C_V(S \cap L) = YA$ and so $C_L(Y) = C_L(C_V(S \cap L))$. The proof is now completed by 5.1. \square

Definition 5.3 *Let G be a finite group, p a prime and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Then*

$$P_G(S) := O^{p'}(C_G(\Omega_1 Z(S))).$$

and

$$\text{Pst}_p(G) = \{ P_G(S) \mid S \in \text{Syl}_p(G) \}.$$

The group $P_G(S)$ is called a point stabilizer of G .

Lemma 5.4 [alternative definition of $\text{PG}(S)$] *Let G be a finite group, p a prime, $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ Then*

$$P_G(S) = \langle T \in \text{Syl}_p(G) \mid \Omega_1 Z(T) = \Omega_1 Z(S) \rangle.$$

Proof: Let $T \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ with $\Omega_1 Z(T) = \Omega_1 Z(S)$. Then clearly $T \leq P_G(S)$. Conversely if $T \in \text{Syl}_p(C_G(\Omega_1 Z(S)))$, then $[\Omega_1 Z(S), T] = 1$, $\Omega_1 Z(S)T$ is a p -group and so $\Omega_1 Z(S) \leq \Omega_1 Z(T)$ and so $\Omega_1 Z(T) = \Omega_1 Z(S)$. Since $P_G(S)$ is just the group generated by the Sylow p -subgroups of $C_G(\Omega_1 Z(S))$, the lemma is proved. \square

Lemma 5.5 [sylow subgroups and subnormal subgroups] *Let G be a finite group, A_1 and A_2 subnormal subgroups of G and p a prime and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$.*

- (a) $A_i \cap S$ is a Sylow p -subgroup of A_i .
- (b) For $i = 1, 2$ let S_i be a Sylow p -subgroup of A_i . Then $\langle S_1, S_2 \rangle$ contains a Sylow p -subgroup of $\langle A_1, A_2 \rangle$.

$$(c) \langle A_1, A_2 \rangle \cap S = \langle A_1 \cap S, A_2 \cap S \rangle.$$

Proof: (a) is well known [?].

(b) By induction on $|G/A_1||G/A_2|$. In particular we may assume that $G = \langle A_1, A_2 \rangle$. If $A_i = G$ for some i , (b) holds. So we may assume that A_i lies in a maximal normal subgroup M_i of G . Let $\{1, 2\} = \{i, j\}$ and $B_i = \langle A_i, A_j \cap M_i \rangle$. Then $B_i \leq M_i$ and by induction $\langle S_i, S_j \cap M_j \rangle$ contains a Sylow p -subgroup T_i of B_i . If $A_1 \neq B_1$ or $A_2 \neq B_2$ then by induction $\langle T_1, T_2 \rangle$ contains a Sylow p -subgroup of G . But

$$\langle T_1, T_2 \rangle \leq \langle \langle S_1, S_2 \cap M_1 \rangle, \langle S_2, S_1 \cap M_2 \rangle \rangle \leq \langle S_1, S_2 \rangle$$

and (b) holds. So suppose that $A_1 = B_1$ and $A_2 = B_2$. Then $A_2 \cap M_1 \leq A_1$ and $A_1 \cap M_2 \leq A_1$. Thus

$$A_1 \cap M_2 = A_1 \cap A_2 = A_2 \cap M_1$$

Since $A_i \cap M_j$ is normal in A_i we conclude that $A_1 \cap A_2$ is normal in G . Replacing G by $G/A_1 \cap A_2$ we may assume that $A_1 \cap A_2 = 1$.

Since $G = \langle A_1, A_2 \rangle = A_i M_j$ we have $A_i \cong A_i/A_1 \cap A_2 = A_i/A_i \cap M_j \cong G/M_j$ and so A_i is simple.

Suppose that A_1 is perfect. Then A_1 is a component and since $A_1 \not\leq A_2$, we get (see for example 3.3) $[A_1, A_2] = 1$. Clearly (b) holds in this case. So we may assume that for $i = 1$ and $i = 2$, A_i is an r_i group for some prime p . Hence $A_i \leq O_{r_i}(G)$. If $r_1 \neq r_2$ we get again $[A_1, A_2] = 1$. If $r_1 = r_2 \neq p$, then G is a p' group and (b) holds. Suppose finally that $r_1 = r_2 = p$. Then $A_i = S_i$ and $G = \langle S_1, S_2 \rangle$. So (b) holds in all cases.

(c) By (a) and (b) both $\langle S \cap A_1, S \cap A_2 \rangle$ and $\langle A_1, A_2 \rangle \cap S$ are Sylow p -subgroups of $\langle A_1, A_2 \rangle$. Since the first of these groups is contained in the second, they are equal. \square

Lemma 5.6 [point stabilizers and subnormal subgroups] *Let G be a finite group of local characteristic p , A_1 and A_2 subnormal subgroups of G , $A = \langle A_1, A_2 \rangle$, and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$.*

$$(a) \text{O}^{p'}(A_i \cap \text{P}_G(S)) = \text{P}_{A_i}(S \cap A_i).$$

(b) *Let $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Then*

$$\text{P}_A(S \cap A) = \langle \text{P}_{A_1}(S \cap A_1), \text{P}_{A_2}(S \cap A_2) \rangle.$$

(c) *For $i = 1, 2$ let P_i be a point stabilizer of A_i . Then $\langle P_1, P_2 \rangle$ contains a point stabilizer of A .*

Proof:

(a) Let $L = A_i$. By the Kieler Lemma 5.2, $C_L(\Omega_1 Z(S)) = C_L(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap L))$. Thus

$$P_L(S \cap L) = O^{p'}(C_L(\Omega_1 Z(S))) = O^{p'}(L \cap P_G(S)).$$

(b) Let T be a Sylow p -subgroup of $P_A(S \cap A)$. By (a) $T \cap A_i \leq P_{A_i}(S \cap A_i)$. Hence by 5.5

$$T = \langle T \cap A_1, T \cap A_2 \rangle \leq \langle P_{A_1}(S \cap A_1), P_{A_2}(S \cap A_2) \rangle.$$

So (b) holds.

(c) Let $H = \langle P_1, P_2 \rangle$. Note that P_i contains a Sylow p -subgroup S_i of A_i and so by 5.5, H contains a Sylow p -subgroup T of A . Then $T \cap A_i = S_i^{g_i}$ for some $g_i \in H \cap A_i$ and so $P_{A_i}(T \cap A_i) = P_i^{g_i} \leq H$. Hence by (b)

$$P_A(T) = \langle P_{A_1}(T \cap A_1), P_{A_2}(T \cap A_2) \rangle \leq H.$$

So $P_A(T)$ is a point stabilizer of A contained in H . □

The following example show that under the assumptions of the previous lemma one might have:

$$C_A(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A)) \neq \langle C_{A_1}(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A_1)), C_{A_2}(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A_2)) \rangle$$

Indeed let q be a power of p with $q > 2$, $D = \Omega_4^+(q)$ and V the natural module for D . Then $D = D_1 \circ D_2$ with $D_i \cong \text{Sl}_2(q)$. Let $G = V \rtimes D$ and $A_i = VD_i$. The A_i is normal in G and $G = A = A_1 A_2$. Let $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Then it is easy to verify that $C_{A_i}(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A_i)) = S \cap A_i$ and so

$$\langle C_{A_1}(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A_1)), C_{A_2}(\Omega_1 Z(S \cap A_2)) \rangle = S$$

On the otherhand $C_G(\Omega_1 Z(S))$ is cyclic of order $q - 1$.

References

[BBSM] The Big Book of Small Modules