

**ON 2 –GROUPS  $G$  SUCH THAT WHENEVER  $H < G$  AND  $H$  IS MINIMAL  
 NON-ABELIAN, THEN  $H$  IS AN  $M_2(2, 2)$  –GROUP**

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*Abstract*

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*In studying the structure of a non-abelian  $p$ -group  $G$ , the minimal non-abelian subgroups of  $G$  play an important role since they generate the group  $G$ . In this article, we determine the 2-groups  $G$  with the property that if  $H < G$  and  $H$  is minimal non-abelian, then  $H = M_2(2, 2)$ .*

*Keywords:* Minimal non-abelian groups,  $p$ -groups, 2-groups, metacyclic groups

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**1. Introduction**

To determine a finite group  $G$  by using its subgroups structures is an important theme in group theory. In this article, only finite  $p$ -groups with  $p = 2$  are considered and our notations are standard for finite group theory. A group  $G$  is said to be a minimal non-abelian group if it is non-abelian but all its proper subgroups are abelian. Every finite non-abelian  $p$ -group contains a minimal non-abelian subgroup. The smallest order of a minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group is  $p^3$ . A finite non-abelian  $p$ -group is generated by its minimal non-abelian subgroups. In a sense, a minimal non-abelian subgroup is a “basic element” of a finite  $p$ -group. The structures of finite  $p$ -groups depend essentially on their minimal non-abelian subgroups. The group presentation for a minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group was given in [1]. The minimal non-abelian and maximal subgroups of finite  $p$ -group were classified in [2]. In [3], the structure theorem for the central automorphism groups of a finite minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group was given. Some results about the order of the automorphism group,  $\text{Aut}(G)$ , of a finite minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group  $G$  were given in [4] when  $p > 2$ . The finite groups  $G$  in which every proper subgroup is either abelian or minimal non-abelian were determined in [5]. The non-abelian finite  $p$ -groups  $G$  such that whenever  $A$  is a maximal subgroup of any minimal non-abelian subgroup  $H$  in  $G$ , then  $A$  is also a maximal abelian subgroup in  $G$  were classified in [6]. Finite  $p$ -groups which are the central extension of a cyclic  $p$ -group, and elementary abelian  $p$ -groups by minimal non-abelian groups were respectively classified in [7 – 10]. In this article, we determine the structure of  $p$ -groups (with  $p = 2$ ) in which every minimal non-abelian subgroup has the structure of an  $M_2(2, 2)$ -group.

**2. Preliminaries**

In this preliminary section, we give some definitions and some known results about minimal non-abelian  $p$ -groups which will be used later.

**Definition 2.1.** [11]. A minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group  $G$  is said to be metacyclic if it has a cyclic normal subgroup  $N$  such that the quotient  $G/N$  is cyclic.

**Lemma 2.1.** [5]. If  $G$  is a nilpotent minimal non-abelian group, then  $G$  is a  $p$ -group,  $|G'| = p$ ,  $Z(G) = \Phi(G)$  is of order  $p^2$  in  $G$  and one of the following holds:

- (i)  $p = 2$  and  $G$  is the ordinary quaternion group;
- (ii)  $G = \langle a, b \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^n} = 1, a^b = a^{1+p^{m-1}}, m > 1 \rangle$  is metacyclic of order  $p^{m+n}$ ;
- (iii)  $G = \langle a, b, c \mid a^{p^m} = b^{p^n} = c^p = 1, [a, b] = c, [a, c] = [b, c] = 1 \rangle$  is non-metacyclic of order  $p^{m+n+1}$ .

**Corollary 2.2.** [8]. Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group, then the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $G$  is minimal non-abelian;
- (2)  $d(G) = 2$  and  $|G'| = p$ ;
- (3)  $d(G) = 2$  and  $Z(G) = \Phi(G)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** [11]. Let  $G$  be a minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group. If  $G$  is non-metacyclic and such that  $G/G'$  is abelian of the type  $(p^m, p^n)$ , then  $G$  is called an  $(m, n)$ -group. A metacyclic group  $G$  is said to be an  $M_p(m, n)$ -group if  $G = AB$ ,  $A \triangleleft G$ ,  $A \cong C_p^m$  and  $B \cong C_{p^n}$  ( here,  $C_t$  is a cyclic group of order  $t$  ).

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One has that  $|M_p(m, n, 1)| = p^{m+n+1}$  and  $|M_p(m, n)| = p^{m+n}$ . The groups  $M_p(m, n, 1)$  and  $M_p(m, n)$  are determined up to isomorphism by the parameters  $m, n$ . Thus, if  $G$  is a minimal non-abelian  $p$ -group, then  $d(G) = 2, |G:Z(G)| = p^2, |G'| = p$  and  $G \in \{M_p(m, n, 1), M_p(m, n), Q_8\}$ . [11].

**3. Finite 2-Groups Whose Minimal Non-Abelian Subgroups Are  $M_2(2, 2)$ -Groups**

In Theorem 3.0, we state the main result of this article.

**Theorem 3.0.** Let  $G$  be a finite 2-group such that whenever  $H < G$  and  $H$  is minimal non-abelian, then  $H$  is an  $M_2(2, 2)$ -group. Then  $G$  has the following presentation:

$$G = \langle a, b \mid a^{2^m} = b^4 = 1, a^b = a^{\frac{2^m}{2}-1}, \quad m > 2 \rangle$$

**Proof:**

Let  $H$  be proper minimal non-abelian subgroup of the group  $G$ . Then by the statement of the theorem,  $H = M_2(2, 2)$ . Since  $G$  is a metacyclic group, there are cyclic subgroups  $C_{2^m}$  and  $C_4$  in  $G$  generated by  $a$  and  $b$  respectively. For each positive power  $k$  of 2 that divides  $\frac{2^m}{2}$ , there is at least a cyclic normal subgroup  $C_k$  of order  $k$  in  $G$ . These subgroups are abelian (every cyclic group is abelian). We stated earlier that  $|M_p(m, n)| = p^{m+n}$ . So  $|M_2(2, 2)| = 2^{2+2} = 16$ . From the presentation of  $G$  in Theorem 3.0,  $m > 2$ . Also, since  $H$  is a proper subgroup of  $G$  there is a  $k$  for which  $|G:C_k| = 16$ , where  $k$  is a power of 2 that divides  $\frac{2^m}{2}$ . Since the order of  $H$  is fixed ( $|H| = 16$ ) and the order of  $G$  varies according to the powers of  $a$ , there is always a cyclic normal subgroup  $C_k$  for which we have the following short exact sequence  $\{ 1 \} \rightarrow C_k \rightarrow G \rightarrow H \rightarrow \{ 1 \}$

In other words,

$$G/C_k \cong H$$

Thus,  $G$  is a central extension of its minimal non-abelian subgroup  $M_2(2, 2)$  by its cyclic subgroup  $C_k$  of index 16.

**Conclusion**

In this article, we have shown that the 2-groups,  $G$ , all of whose minimal non-abelian subgroups are  $M_2(2, 2)$ -groups are generated by these  $M_2(2, 2)$ -groups. We also gave a structure theorem for the presentation of  $G$ . These groups are central extensions of the  $M_2(2, 2)$ -groups by an abelian (cyclic) subgroup of index 16 in  $G$ .

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