

*Dedicated to Michael Vaughan-Lee on his 73rd birthday*

# CHARACTERIZATION OF FINITE $p$ -GROUPS BY THE ORDER OF THEIR SCHUR MULTIPLIERS ( $t = 6$ )

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Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$ . In 1956, Green proved that the order of  $\mathcal{M}(G)$ , the Schur multiplier of  $G$ , is equal to  $p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)-t}$  for some integer  $t \geq 0$ . The  $p$ -groups which satisfy  $0 \leq t \leq 5$  are determined up to now. In this paper, we classify all finite  $p$ -groups with  $t = 6$ .

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*Key words:* Schur multiplier, non-abelian tensor square.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The study of the Schur multipliers of groups dates back to 1904 [20]. This study has an impact on other aspects of group theory. There are several bounds on the order of the Schur multiplier of a group. For instance when  $G$  is a finite  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$ , Green [9] has shown that the order of  $\mathcal{M}(G)$ , the Schur multiplier of  $G$ , is at most  $p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)}$ . Another concept which is closely related to the Schur multiplier and has been studied independently from 1987, is the non-abelian tensor square of groups and it was introduced by R. Brown and J.-L. Loday [4]. When  $G$  is a finite  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$  with commutator subgroup of order  $p^c$ , Rocco [19] proved that the order of  $G \otimes G$ , the non-abelian tensor square of  $G$ , cannot exceed  $p^{n(n-c)}$ . One of the interesting subjects is to classify  $p$ -groups when the order of their Schur multipliers and their non-abelian tensor squares is determined. If  $|\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)-t}$  and  $|G \otimes G| = p^{n(n-c)-l}$  for some integers  $t, l \geq 0$ , the characterization of  $p$ -groups when  $0 \leq t \leq 5$  is given (see [2, 7, 16] and [21]), likewise for  $0 \leq l \leq 10$  and  $c = 1$ , the classification may be found in [11]. In this paper, we improve these classifications when  $t = 6$  and  $l = 11, 12, 13$ .

Notations:

$D_n, Q_n, QD_n$  = Dihedral, Quaternion and QuasiDihedral group of order  $n$ ;

$E_{p^3}^1, E_{p^3}^2$  = Extra special group of order  $p^3$  with exponent  $p$  or  $p^2$ ,  $p > 2$ ;

$E_{p^{2m+1}}^d, E_{p^{2m+1}}^1$  = Central product of  $m$  copies of  $D_8$ 's or  $E_{p^3}^1$ 's;

$E_{2^{2m+1}}^q$  = Central product of  $(m-1)$  copies of  $D_8$ 's and a single  $Q_8$ ;

$E_{p^{2m+1}}^2$  = Central product of  $(m-1)$  copies of  $E_{p^3}^1$ 's and a single  $E_{p^3}^2$ ;

$GE_{p^{2+r}}^r$  = Generalized extra special group of order  $p^{2+r}$  with exponent  $p^r$  and presentation  $\langle x, y, z | x^p = y^p = z^{p^r} = 1, [x, y] = z^{p^{r-1}}, [y, z] = [x, z] = 1 \rangle$ ;

$GE_{p^{2+r}}^{r+1}$  = Generalized extra special group of order  $p^{2+r}$  with exponent  $p^{r+1}$  and presentation  $\langle x, y | x^{p^{r+1}} = y^p = 1, x^y = x^{1+p^r} \rangle$ ;

$GE_{p^{2m+r}}^r, GE_{p^{2m+r}}^{r+1}$  = Central product of  $m$  copies of  $GE_{p^{2+r}}^r$ 's or  $GE_{p^{2+r}}^{r+1}$ 's;

$T_i, X_i, Y_i, Z_i$  = Nonabelian  $p$ -groups are described in table I.

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$  and  $|\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)-t}$ . Then*

$t = 6$  if and only if  $G \cong C_{p^4}, C_p \times (C_{p^2})^2, (C_p)^5 \times C_{p^2}, Q_{16}, QD_{16}, T_3, T_1 \times C_2, T_{10}, T_{11}, Q_8 \times (C_2)^3, T_4 \times (C_2)^2, E_{32}^d \times C_2, E_{32}^q \times C_2, D_8 \times (C_2)^4, X_3, E_{p^3}^1 \times C_{p^2}, X_1 \times C_p, X_6 \times C_p, Y_4, E_{p^5}^1 \times C_p, E_{p^5}^2 \times C_p, E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^3, X_4 \times (C_p)^2, GE_{p^{4+2}}^2, Y_3 \times C_p$  or  $E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^5$ .

**THEOREM B.** *Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$  with derived subgroup of order  $p$  and  $|G \otimes G| = p^{n(n-1)-l}$ . Then*

(i)  $l = 11$  if and only if  $G \cong T_{13}, T_1 \times (C_2)^2, T_2 \times (C_2)^2, Q_8 \times C_2 \times C_4, D_8 \times (C_2)^{10},$

$Q_8 \times (C_2)^{11}, E_{p^3}^1 \times C_{p^2} \times C_p, X_1 \times (C_p)^2, E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^9, E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^{11},$

$E_{p^{2m+1}}^i \times (C_p)^{11-2m}$  for any integer  $2 \leq m \leq 5$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , or

$GE_{p^{2m+2}}^2 \times (C_p)^{11-(2m+1)}$  for any integer  $1 \leq m \leq 5$ .

(ii)  $l = 12$  if and only if  $G \cong T_{14}, T_{15}, T_3 \times (C_2)^2, T_7 \times C_2, D_8 \times C_2 \times C_4, E_{2^{13}}^d, E_{2^{13}}^q,$

$D_8 \times (C_2)^{11}, Q_8 \times (C_2)^{12}, Y_5, Y_6, X_2 \times (C_p)^2, X_4 \times C_{p^2}, E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^{10}, E_{p^{13}}^1, E_{p^{13}}^2,$

$E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^{12}, E_{p^{2m+1}}^i \times (C_p)^{12-2m}$  for any integer  $2 \leq m \leq 5$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , or

$GE_{p^{2m+2}}^2 \times (C_p)^{12-(2m+1)}$  for any integer  $1 \leq m \leq 5$ .

(iii)  $l = 13$  if and only if  $G \cong T_{16}, T_4 \times C_4, T_9 \times C_2, T_{18}, E_{2^{13}}^d \times C_2, E_{2^{13}}^q \times C_2,$

$D_8 \times (C_2)^{12}, Q_8 \times (C_2)^{13}, Y_7, E_{p^3}^2 \times C_{p^2} \times C_p, X_3 \times (C_p)^2, GE_{p^{4+2}}^3, Z_1, Z_2, Z_3,$

$E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^{11}, E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^{13}, E_{p^{2m+1}}^i \times (C_p)^{13-2m}$  for any integer  $2 \leq m \leq 6$  and

$i = 1, 2$ , or  $GE_{p^{2m+2}}^2 \times (C_p)^{13-(2m+1)}$  for any integer  $1 \leq m \leq 6$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we provide the necessary preliminary results. Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two groups equipped with an action  $(g, h) \mapsto {}^g h$  of  $G$  on  $H$  and an action  $(h, g) \mapsto {}^h g$  of  $H$  on  $G$ . The actions should be compatible, see [4]. The non-abelian tensor product  $G \otimes H$  is the group generated by symbols  $g \otimes h$  for  $g \in G$  and  $h \in H$ , subject to the relations

$$gg' \otimes h = ({}^g g' \otimes {}^g h)(g \otimes h), \quad g \otimes hh' = (g \otimes h)({}^h g \otimes {}^h h')$$

for all  $g, g' \in G$  and  $h, h' \in H$ . By using the conjugation action of a group on itself we may always define the non-abelian tensor square  $G \otimes G$ .

Our method which is based on direct computation of non-abelian tensor square of groups depends on the following result.

LEMMA 2.1 ([3], Proposition 9). *If  $Z$  is a central subgroup of a group  $G$ , then the following sequence is exact:*

$$(*) \quad (G \otimes Z) \times (Z \otimes G) \xrightarrow{\iota} G \otimes G \longrightarrow G/Z \otimes G/Z \longrightarrow 1,$$

where  $\iota(g \otimes z, z' \otimes g') = (g \otimes z)(z' \otimes g')$  for all  $z, z' \in Z$  and  $g, g' \in G$ . In particular if  $Z \subseteq G'$ , then the sequence

$$(**) \quad Z \otimes G \longrightarrow G \otimes G \longrightarrow G/Z \otimes G/Z \longrightarrow 1$$

is exact.

The following result gives the order of the non-abelian tensor square of a finite group  $G$  in terms of the orders of  $G$ ,  $\mathcal{M}(G)$  and  $\mathcal{M}(G^{ab})$ .

THEOREM 2.2 ([11], Lemma 2.3). *Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -generator finite  $p$ -group.*

(i) *If  $p > 2$ , then  $|G \otimes G| = |G||\mathcal{M}(G)||\mathcal{M}(G^{ab})|$ .*

(ii) *If  $p = 2$  and  $G/G' = \prod_{i=1}^d C_{2^{e_i}}$  where  $1 \leq e_i \leq e_j$ , for every  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq d$ .*

*Then  $|G \otimes G| = 2^k |G||\mathcal{M}(G)||\mathcal{M}(G^{ab})|$ , where  $k \leq d$  is a non-negative integer.*

Now we recall some bounds of order of the Schur multiplier of finite  $p$ -groups.

THEOREM 2.3 ([15]). *Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -generator  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$ . Then*

$$p^{\frac{1}{2}d(d-1)} \leq |G'| |\mathcal{M}(G)| \leq p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)}.$$

THEOREM 2.4 ([8]). *Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -generator group of order  $p^n$ , the derived factor  $\frac{G}{G'}$  of order  $p^m$  with exponent  $p^e$  and the central factor  $\frac{G}{Z(G)}$  be a  $\delta$ -generator group, then*

$$|\mathcal{M}(G)| \leq p^{d(m-e)/2 + (\delta-1)(n-m) - \max\{0, \delta-2\}}.$$

### 3. PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREMS

Throughout the rest of the paper, we always assume that  $G$  is a  $d$ -generator  $p$ -group of order  $p^n$  with

$$(1) \quad |\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)-t}.$$

We also assume that  $\frac{G}{Z(G)}$  is a  $\delta$ -generator group,  $|G'| = p^c$  and the Frattini subgroup  $\Phi(G)$  is of order  $p^a$  and so  $a = n - d$ . Ellis [7] established the following inequalities:

$$(2) \quad 2(t - c(d + 1 - \delta)) \geq a^2 - a, \quad a \geq c \geq 0, d \geq \delta$$

$$(3) \quad 2(t - c) \geq a^2 - a$$

*Proof of Theorem A.* Suppose  $t = 6$ . Then (3) implies that  $(c, a) = (0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), (0, 4), (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 2), (2, 3)$  or  $(3, 3)$ .

Suppose  $(c, a) = (0, 0)$ , then  $n \geq 1$ ,  $|\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)}$  and (1) cannot hold. Suppose  $(c, a) = (0, 1)$ , then  $n \geq 2$ ,  $|\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^{\frac{1}{2}(n-1)(n-2)}$  and (1) holds if and only if  $n = 7$  and  $G \cong C_{p^2} \times (C_p)^5$ .

Using the same method for cases  $(0, 2)$  and  $(0, 3)$ , one can observe that (1) holds if and only if  $G \cong (C_{p^2})^2 \times C_p$  or  $G \cong C_{p^4}$ , respectively. Also (1) cannot hold when  $(c, a) = (0, 4)$ .

Suppose  $(c, a) = (1, 1)$ . If  $Z(G)$  is cyclic then  $G$  is generalized extraspecial and  $n = 2m + 2$ . Thus by [13, Theorem 4.2],  $|G| = p^6$  and  $G = GE_{p^6}^2$ .

If  $Z(G)$  is non-cyclic, then  $G \cong M \times C_p$  where  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$  and  $t(M) = t(G) - 1$ . So it follows from [16] that (1) holds if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic with one of the following groups.

$$Q_8 \times (C_2)^3, D_8 \times (C_2)^4, T_4 \times (C_2)^2, E_{32}^d \times C_2, E_{32}^q \times C_2, E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^5, E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^3, E_{p^5}^1 \times C_p, E_{p^5}^2 \times C_p \text{ or } X_4 \times (C_p)^2.$$

Suppose  $(c, a) = (1, 2)$ . Then  $G^{ab} \cong C_{p^2} \times (C_p)^{n-3}$  and Theorem 2.4 implies that  $2n - 4 \leq 6$ , hence  $n = 4, 5$ . For odd prime  $p$ , it follows from [11, Theorem 3.1] that  $G = X_3, X_1 \times C_p$  or  $E_{p^3}^1 \times C_{p^2}$ . If  $p = 2$  then  $G = T_3$  or  $T_1 \times C_2$  by GAP.

Suppose  $(c, a) = (1, 3)$ . If  $G^{ab} \cong C_{p^3} \times (C_p)^{n-4}$  or  $(C_{p^2})^2 \times (C_p)^{n-5}$ , then by Theorem 2.4,  $n \leq 4$  which is a contradiction.

Suppose  $(c, a) = (2, 2)$ . Then  $d = \delta$  or  $\delta + 1$  by (2). If  $d = \delta$  then  $n \leq 7$  by Theorem 2.4. If  $n = 7$  then  $d = 5$  and  $G$  has exponent  $p$ . By [18] if  $G$  may be described as the direct product of its subgroups, the straightforward direct computation of the non-abelian tensor square together with [13, Theorem 2.3]

and Theorem 2.2 imply that (1) cannot hold. In other cases if  $G$  is a descendant of algebra 5.1 discussed in [18], *i.e.*

(7.27)

$$\langle a, b, c, d, e \mid [d, a] = [e, a] = [c, b] = [d, b] = [e, b] = [d, c] = [e, c] = 0, [e, d] = [b, a], \text{ class } 2 \rangle,$$

(7.28)

$$\langle a, b, c, d, e \mid [d, a] = [e, a] = [c, b] = [e, b] = [d, c] = [e, c] = 0, [d, b] = [c, a], [e, d] = [b, a], \text{ class } 2 \rangle,$$

then the equalities  $[b, a] \otimes e = 1$  and  $[c, a] \otimes d = 1$ , respectively, together with the exact sequence (\*\*), [13, Theorem 2.3] and Theorem 2.2 imply that (1) cannot hold. If  $G$  is a descendant of algebra 6.3 discussed in [18], *i.e.*

$$(7.191) \quad \langle a, b, c, d, e \mid [b, a, b] = [c, a] = [c, b] = [d, a] = [d, b] = [e, a] = [e, c] \\ = [e, d] = 0, [d, c] = [e, b] = [b, a, a], \text{ class } 3 \rangle,$$

then similarly by the relation  $[b, a, a] \otimes c = 1$  we have  $t > 6$ .

Throughout the rest of this section, all the notations and group presentations of James's classification for  $p$ -groups of order less than or equal to  $p^6$ ,  $p \neq 2$  will be used (see [14]). If  $n = 6$  then  $G$  belongs to one of the families of  $\Phi_{12}$ ,  $\Phi_{13}$ ,  $\Phi_{15}$  or  $\Phi_{22}$ . At the first family put  $Z = \langle \gamma_1 \rangle$  in sequence (\*\*) and observe that  $\gamma_1 \otimes \alpha_2 = \gamma_1 \otimes \beta_2 = 1$ . Hence  $|\text{Im}(Z \otimes G \rightarrow G \otimes G)| \leq p^2$ . As  $|G/Z \otimes G/Z| \leq p^{18}$  by [13, Theorem 2.3], it follows that  $|G \otimes G| \leq p^{20}$  which is a contradiction by Theorem 2.2. If  $G$  is a direct product of its subgroups, one can easily check that such groups does not satisfy our condition.

Similarly in families  $\Phi_{13}$  and  $\Phi_{15}$ , put  $Z = \langle \beta_2 \rangle$  and  $Z = Z(G)$ , respectively, and observe that either  $|\text{Im}(Z \otimes G \rightarrow G \otimes G)| \leq p^2$  or  $p^4$ . Finally, in family  $\Phi_{22}$ , put  $Z = \langle \alpha_3 \rangle$ . It is clear that  $\alpha_3 \otimes \beta_1 = \alpha_3 \otimes \beta_2 = 1$  and the same result holds.

Let  $n = 5$ . Then  $G$  may be in the families  $\Phi_4$  or  $\Phi_7$ . If put  $Z = Z(G)$  in the first family, one concludes that  $|\text{Im}((Z \otimes G) \times (G \otimes Z) \rightarrow G \otimes G)| \leq p^2$ . For instance, in group  $\Phi_4(221)a$  we have  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha_1 = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha_2 = \beta_2 \otimes \alpha_1$  and  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha = \alpha_1^p \otimes \alpha = \alpha_1 \otimes \alpha^p = \alpha_1 \otimes \beta_2$ , because  $G$  has nilpotency class 2 (see [1, Lemma 2.6]). Also  $\beta_2 \otimes \alpha = 1$ . So the desired assertion holds and  $|G \otimes G| \leq p^{11}$ , which is a contradiction by the Theorem 2.2. For the group  $\Phi_4(221)b$  we have  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha_1 = \alpha_2^p \otimes \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 \otimes \alpha_1^p = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha_2 = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 \otimes \alpha = \alpha_2^p \otimes \alpha = (\alpha_2 \otimes \alpha)^p (\alpha_2 \otimes \beta_2)^{\frac{1}{2}p(p-1)} = \alpha_2 \otimes (\alpha)^p = \alpha_2 \otimes \beta_2$  and  $\beta_2 \otimes \alpha_1 = \beta_2 \otimes \alpha = 1$ . Hence  $|G \otimes G| \leq p^{10}$ . In other groups of this family, the same result holds and exceptionally the order of non-abelian tensor square of  $\Phi_4(1^5)$  is equal to  $p^{14}$  by [13, Theorem 3.1].

In family  $\Phi_7$ , put  $Z = Z(G) = \langle \alpha_3 \rangle$ . We can see that  $\text{Im}(Z \otimes G \rightarrow G \otimes G) = 1$  for all groups  $G$  of this family except  $\Phi_7(1^5)$ . So by the same

method discussed above, the desired result holds. In particular for the group  $\Phi_7(2111)b_r$ ,  $(\alpha_3 \otimes \alpha)^r = \alpha_1^p \otimes \alpha = (\alpha_1 \otimes \alpha)^p = (\alpha_1 \otimes \alpha^p)(\alpha_3 \otimes \alpha)^{-\frac{1}{6}p(p-1)(p-2)}$  and when  $p > 3$ ,  $(\alpha_3 \otimes \alpha)^{-\frac{1}{6}p(p-1)(p-2)} = 1$ . So  $\alpha_3 \otimes \alpha = 1$ . If  $p = 3$  then GAP calculation shows that the order of the Schur multiplier of this group is at most  $p^3$ .

When  $G = \Phi_7(1^5) = Y_4$ , we first use the method of [5] to determine a presentation of its Lazard correspondence Lie ring  $L_p$ , which has the same order and nilpotency class for  $p \geq 5$ , *i.e.*

$$L_p = \langle a, a_1, a_2, a_3, b \mid [a_1, a] = a_2 - \frac{1}{2}a_3, [a_2, a] = a_3, [a_1, b] = a_3 \rangle.$$

Since this group has exponent  $p$ , the Lie ring  $L_p$  may be regarded as a Lie algebra over the field  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  and hence it is isomorphic to the nilpotent Lie algebra  $L(4, 5, 1, 6)$  of dimension 5 given in [10] which has the Schur multiplier of dimension 4. In addition, the Schur multipliers of  $L_p$  and  $G$  are isomorphic by [6, Theorem 1]. Therefore  $|\mathcal{M}(G)| = p^4$ , as desired. Also, GAP shows that the group  $G$  does satisfy our condition when  $p = 3$ .

If  $n = 4$  then  $G$  belongs to the family  $\Phi_3$  and there is no group which satisfies (1).

Now suppose  $d = \delta + 1$ , then by Theorem 2.4, it follows that  $n \leq 6$ . Thus our group  $G$  must be in one of the families of  $\Phi_3$ ,  $\Phi_4$  or  $\Phi_7$ . If  $d = 4$  and  $n = 6$ , then by Theorem 2.4,  $G$  may belong to  $\Phi_4$  or  $\Phi_7$ . In the first family for groups  $\Phi_4(2211)g$ ,  $\Phi_4(2211)h$  and  $\Phi_4(2211)i$  take  $Z = \langle \beta_2 \rangle$ . So  $|Im(Z \otimes G \rightarrow G \otimes G)| \leq p^2$  and  $|G \otimes G|$  cannot equal to  $p^{21}$ . For group  $\Phi_4(21^4)d$  it is enough to consider  $Z = \langle \beta_1 \rangle$ . If  $G \cong H \times C_p$  then the order of  $H \otimes H$  should be  $p^{14}$  and by [13, Theorem 3.1], we have  $H = \Phi_4(1^5) = Y_3$  whence  $G \cong Y_3 \times C_p$ . If  $G$  is in the family  $\Phi_7$ , just the group  $\Phi_7(21^4)d$  has four generators and by putting  $Z = \langle \alpha_3 \rangle$  in sequence (\*\*) the desired result holds.

If  $d = 3$  and  $n = 5$ , then the group  $G$  should belong to family  $\Phi_3$ . When  $G$  is a direct product of its subgroups, only the group  $\Phi_3(1^4) \times C_p = X_6 \times C_p$  satisfies our condition. In other groups, only the group  $\Phi_3(2111)c$  has three generators. If take  $Z = \langle \alpha_3 \rangle$  then sequence (\*\*) implies that  $|G \otimes G| \leq p^{11}$ , which is again a contradiction.

For the case  $(c, a) = (2, 2)$  if  $p$  is even, then  $G = Q_{16}$ ,  $QD_{16}$ ,  $T_{10}$  or  $T_{11}$  by GAP and in all groups we have  $d = \delta$ .

Suppose  $(c, a) = (2, 3)$ . As  $d = n - 3$  it follows that  $n \geq 5$ . On the other hand  $n \leq 4$  by Theorem 2.4, so there is not any group in this case.

Suppose  $(c, a) = (3, 3)$ . As  $d = \delta = n - 3$ , so  $n = 5$  by Theorem 2.4 and  $d = 2$ . In this case the order of non-abelian tensor square of our group must be  $p^{10}$  by Theorem 2.2. But by [12] the order of a non-abelian  $p$ -group which

attains the upper bound of tensor given by Rocco in [19], cannot exceed  $p^3$ . Therefore the proof is complete.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem B.* Let  $a = 1$ . If  $G$  is an extraspecial  $p$ -group of order  $p^{2m+1}$ , then by [11, Corollary 2.4 and Proposition 2.6] we have

$$(2m + 1)2m - l = 4m^2.$$

This equality holds if  $m = 6$  and  $l = 12$ . Therefore  $|G| = p^{13}$  and  $G = E_{p^{13}}^1$ ,  $E_{p^{13}}^2$ ,  $E_{2^{13}}^d$  or  $E_{2^{13}}^q$ .

If  $G$  is not extraspecial and  $Z(G)$  is cyclic, then by [13, Theorem 4.2],  $|Z(G)| = p^2$  and  $n = 2m + 2$ . Thus  $l = 11$  if and only if  $G = GE_{p^{12}}^2$  and  $l = 13$  if and only if  $G = GE_{p^{14}}^2$ . Note that the case  $l = 12$  does not hold here.

If  $Z(G)$  is non-cyclic then  $G \cong M \times C_p$  where  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$  and  $l(M) = l(G) - 1$ . So  $l = 11$  if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $E_{p^3}^1 \times (C_p)^{11}$ ,  $Q_8 \times (C_2)^{11}$ ,  $E_{p^3}^2 \times (C_p)^9$ ,  $D_8 \times (C_2)^{10}$ ,  $E_{p^{2m+1}}^i \times (C_p)^{11-2m}$  for any integer  $2 \leq m \leq 5$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , or  $GE_{p^{2m+2}}^2 \times (C_p)^{11-(2m+1)}$  for any integer  $1 \leq m \leq 4$ . For  $l = 12, 13$  the method is similar.

Let  $a > 1$ . By [13, Theorem 2.3] we have  $2 + a \leq n \leq \frac{1}{a}(l + a + 2)$ . If  $11 \leq l \leq 13$  then  $a = 2$  or  $3$  and consequently  $4 \leq n \leq 8$ .

Let  $a = 2$  and  $p \neq 2$ . Then  $G^{ab} \cong C_{p^2} \times (C_p)^{n-3}$ . By Theorems 2.2 and 2.4 we should have  $2n - 4 \leq t = l - n + 3$ . Thus  $n = 4, 5$  or  $6$ . But as in Theorem 2.3,  $n$  must be  $6$ . Now by James's classification of  $p$ -groups if  $G$  is a direct product of its subgroups, one can easily observe by [11, Theorems 3.1 and 3.2] that

$l = 11$  if and only if  $G \cong \Phi_2(211)c \times (C_p)^2$  or  $\Phi_2(111) \times C_{p^2} \times C_p$ ;

$l = 12$  if and only if  $G \cong \Phi_2(22) \times (C_p)^2$  or  $\Phi_2(211)b \times C_{p^2}$ ;

$l = 13$  if and only if  $G \cong \Phi_2(31) \times (C_p)^2$  or  $\Phi_2(21) \times C_{p^2} \times C_p$ .

For groups  $G = \Phi_5(2211)a = Z_1$ ,  $\Phi_5(2211)b = Z_2$ ,  $\Phi_5(21^4)c = Z_3$  and  $\Phi_5(311) = GE_{p^{4+2}}^3$ , put  $Z = G'$  in sequence (\*\*). Therefore  $|G \otimes G| = |G^{ab} \otimes G^{ab}| = p^{17}$  and we must have  $l = 13$ .

If  $a = 3$  and  $p \neq 2$ . Then by the same argument we should have  $n = 5$ . Hence  $l = 12$  if and only if  $G \cong \Phi_2(32)a_1 = Y_5$  or  $\Phi_2(311)c = Y_6$  and  $l = 13$  if and only if  $G = \Phi_2(32)a_2 = Y_7$ . Note that the case  $p = 2$  may be verified by GAP.

*Remark.* When  $l = 10$  and  $(c, a) = (1, 3)$  it follows by [17] that  $G = G_p(2, 2, 1, 1, 1) = \langle a, b | a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = 1, [a, b]^p = [a, b, a] = [a, b, b] = 1 \rangle$ . This was missed in [11].

Table 1

Name	Relations	NumberOfSmallGroup	(c, a)
$T_1$	$a^4 = b^2 = c^2 = 1, [a, c] = b, [a, b] = [b, c] = 1$	(16, 3)	(1, 2)
$T_2$	$a^4 = b^4 = 1, [a, b] = a^2$	(16, 4)	(1, 2)
$T_3$	$a^8 = b^2 = 1, [a, b] = a^4$	(16, 6)	(1, 2)
$T_4$	$a^4 = b^2 = c^2 = 1, [b, c] = a^2, [a, b] = [a, c] = 1$	(16, 13)	(1, 1)
$T_7$	$a^4 = b^2 = c^4 = 1, [a, b] = c^2$	(32, 24)	(1, 2)
$T_9$	$b^2 = c^2 = 1, [c, b] = a^4, [a, b] = [c, a] = 1$	(32, 38)	(1, 2)
$T_{10}$	$a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = 1, [a, b] = 1,$ $[a, c, b] = 1, [b, c, a] = 1, [b, c, b] = 1$	(32, 27)	(1, 2)
$T_{11}$	$a^4 = b^4 = c^2 = 1,$ $[a, b] = 1, [a, c] = a^2, [b, c] = b^2$	(32, 34)	(1, 2)
$T_{13}$	$a^4 = b^8 = 1, [a, b]b^4 = 1$	(32, 4)	(1, 3)
$T_{14}$	$a^2 = b^8 = 1, [a, b, a] = [a, b, b] = 1$	(32, 5)	(1, 3)
$T_{15}$	$a^4 = b^8 = 1, [a, b]a^2 = 1$	(32, 12)	(1, 3)
$T_{16}$	$a^2 = b^{16}, [a, b]a^8 = 1$	(32, 17)	(1, 3)
$T_{18}$	$[a_1, a_2] = [a_1, a_4] = [a_2, a_3] = a_2^2,$ $a_1^4 = a_3^4 = a_4^2 = 1, a_2^2 = a_3^2$	(64, 200)	(1, 2)
$X_1$	$a^{p^2} = b^p = c^p = 1,$ $[a, c] = b, [a, b] = [b, c] = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 2)
$X_2$	$a^{p^2} = b^{p^2} = 1, [a, b] = a^p, p > 2$	—	(1, 2)
$X_3$	$a^{p^3} = b^p = 1, [a, b] = a^{p^2}, p > 2$	—	(1, 2)
$X_4$	$a^{p^2} = b^p = c^p = 1,$ $[b, c] = a^p, [a, b] = [a, c] = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 1)
$X_6$	$[a_i, a] = a_{i+1},$ $a^p = a_i^{(p)} = a_3^p = 1, (i = 1, 2), p > 2$	—	(2, 2)
$Y_3$	$[a_i, a] = b_i, a^p = a_i^p = b_i^p = 1, (i = 1, 2), p > 2$	—	(2, 2)
$Y_4$	$[a_i, a] = a_{i+1}, [a_1, b] = a_3,$ $a^p = a_1^{(p)} = a_{i+1}^p = b^p = 1, (i = 1, 2), p > 2$	—	(2, 2)
$Y_5$	$[a_1, a] = a^{p^2} = a_2, a_1^{p^2} = a_2^p = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 3)
$Y_6$	$[a_1, a] = a_2, a^{p^3} = a_1^p = a_2^p = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 3)
$Y_7$	$[a_1, a] = a_1^p = a_2, a^{p^3} = a_2^p = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 3)
$Z_1$	$[a_1, a_2] = [a_3, a_4] = a_2^p = b,$ $a_1^{p^2} = a_3^p = a_4^p = b^p = 1, p \geq 2$	—	(1, 2)
$Z_2$	$[a_1, a_2] = [a_3, a_4] = a_3^p = b,$ $a_1^{p^2} = a_2^p = a_4^p = b^p = 1, p \geq 2$	—	(1, 2)
$Z_3$	$[a_1, a_2] = [a_3, a_4] = b,$ $a_1^{p^2} = a_2^p = a_3^p = a_4^p = b^p = 1, p > 2$	—	(1, 2)

Here  $a_{i+1}^{(p)}$  will denote the word  $a_{i+1}^p a_{i+2}^{(p)} \dots a_{i+k}^{(p)} \dots a_{i+p}$  discussed in [14].

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