

## OD-Characterization of some orthogonal groups

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### Abstract

In this paper, it was shown that  ${}^2D_n(2)$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 5$  and  $|\pi(2^{2^{n-1}} + 1)| = 1$ , and  ${}^2D_n(3)$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 9$  is not prime and  $|\pi(\frac{3^{2^{n-1}} + 1}{2})| = 1$ , are OD-characterizable.

**Keywords:** Simple groups; prime graph; degree of a vertex; degree pattern

### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $\pi(G)$  the set of all prime divisors of its order and let  $\omega(G)$  be the spectrum of  $G$ , that is the set of its element orders. The prime graph  $GK(G)$  of  $G$  is a simple graph with vertex set  $\pi(G)$  in which two distinct vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are joined by an edge (and written  $p \sim q$ ) if and only if  $pq \in \omega(G)$ . Denote by  $t(G)$  the number of connected components of  $GK(G)$ . The  $i$ -th connected component is denoted by  $\pi_i = \pi_i(G)$  for each  $i$ . If  $2 \in \pi(G)$ , then we assume that  $2 \in \pi_1$ . For  $p \in \pi(G)$ ,  $\deg(p) = |\{q \in \pi(G) | p \sim q\}|$  is called the degree of  $p$ . If  $\pi(G) = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$  with  $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_k$ , we also define  $D(G) = (\deg(p_1), \deg(p_2), \dots, \deg(p_k))$  which is called the degree pattern of  $G$ . It is clear that the order of  $G$  can be expressed as the product of the numbers  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{t(G)}$ , where  $\pi(m_i) = \pi_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq t(G)$ . If the order of  $G$  is even and  $t(G) \geq 2$ , according to our notation  $m_2, m_3, \dots, m_{t(G)}$  are odd numbers. The positive integers  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{t(G)}$  are called the order components of  $G$  and  $OC(G) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{t(G)}\}$  is called the set of order components of  $G$ , and  $T(G) = \{\pi_i(G) | i = 1, 2, \dots, t(G)\}$  is called the set of connected components of  $G$ . set  $\Omega_0(G) = \{p \in \pi(G) | \deg(p) = 0\}$  and  $\Omega_{0'}(G) = \{p \in \pi(G) | \deg(p) \neq 0\}$ . Clearly,  $\pi(G) = \Omega_0(G) \cup \Omega_{0'}(G)$ . Given a finite group  $M$ , denote by  $h_{OD}(M)$  the number of isomorphism classes of finite groups  $G$  such that  $|G| = |M|$  and  $D(G) = D(M)$ . A finite group  $M$  is called  $k$ -fold OD-characterizable if  $h_{OD}(M) = k$ . Usually a 1-fold

OD-characterizable group is simply called OD-characterizable [1]. Also in [1], Darafsheh et.al proved that the sporadic simple groups, alternating groups  $A_p$ , where  $p$  and  $p - 2$  are primes, and some simple groups of Lie type are OD-characterizable, and  $S_6(3)$  and  $O_7(3)$  are 2-fold OD-characterizable groups. In [2], it has been proved that  $A_{10}$  is 2-fold OD-characterizable. In [3], it has been proved that all simple groups whose orders are less than  $10^8$  except  $A_{10}$  and  $U_4(2)$  are OD-characterizable. According to [4],  $B_r(3)$  and  $C_r(3)$ , where  $r$  is an odd prime and  $|\pi(\frac{3^r - 1}{2})| = 1$  and  $B_n(q), C_n(q)$ , for certain  $n, q$ , and the simple groups  $B_3(5)$  and  $C_3(5)$  are 2-fold OD-characterizable. In this paper, we prove that:

**Theorem A.** Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $|G| = |{}^2D_n(2)|$  and  $D(G) = D({}^2D_n(2))$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 5$  and  $|\pi(2^{2^{n-1}} + 1)| = 1$ . Then  $G \cong {}^2D_n(2)$ .

**Theorem B.** Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $|G| = |{}^2D_n(3)|$  and  $D(G) = D({}^2D_n(3))$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 9$  is not prime and  $|\pi(\frac{3^{2^{n-1}} + 1}{2})| = 1$ . Then  $G \cong {}^2D_n(3)$ .

### 2. Preliminary results

If  $a$  is a natural number,  $r$  is an odd prime and  $(r, a) = 1$ , then by  $e(r, a)$  we denote the smallest natural number  $n$  with  $a^n \equiv 1 \pmod{r}$ . A prime  $r$  with  $e(r, a) = n$  is called a primitive prime divisor of  $a^n - 1$ . We denote by  $R_n(a)$  the set of all the primitive prime divisors of  $a^n - 1$  and by  $r_n(a)$  every element of  $R_n(a)$ , and  $n_p$  is  $p$ -part of  $n$ .

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**Lemma 2.1.** (Zsigmondy's Theorem)[5] Let  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  be integers greater than 1. There exists a prime divisor  $\mathbf{p}$  of  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{n}} - 1$  such that  $\mathbf{p}$  does not divide  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{j}} - 1$  for all  $1 \leq \mathbf{j} < \mathbf{n}$ , except exactly in the following cases:

- (i)  $\mathbf{n} = 2, \mathbf{a} = 2^{\mathbf{s}} - 1$ , where  $\mathbf{s} \geq 2$ ;
- (ii)  $\mathbf{n} = 6, \mathbf{a} = 2$ .

By Zsigmondy's Theorem,  $\mathbf{R}_n(\mathbf{a}) \neq \phi$ , unless  $\mathbf{a} = 2, \mathbf{n} = 6$  or  $\mathbf{n} = 2$  and  $\mathbf{a} = 2^{\mathbf{w}} - 1$  for some natural number  $\mathbf{w}$ . Obviously by Fermat's little theorem it follows that  $\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{a}) | \mathbf{r} - 1$ . Also, if  $\mathbf{a}^{\mathbf{m}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathbf{r}}$ , then  $\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{a}) | \mathbf{m}$ . Also, for an integer  $\mathbf{n}$ , by  $\eta(\mathbf{n})$  we denote the following function:

$$\eta(\mathbf{n}) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{n} \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{\mathbf{n}}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.2.** [6, 7] Let  $\mathbf{G} = {}^2\mathbf{D}_n(\mathbf{q})$  be a finite simple group of Lie type over a field of characteristic  $\mathbf{p}$ . Let  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{s}$  be odd primes and  $\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s} \in \pi(\mathbf{G}) \setminus \{\mathbf{p}\}$ . Put  $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{q})$  and  $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{q})$ . Then:

- (i)  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  are non-adjacent if and only if  $\eta(\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{q})) > \mathbf{n} - 2$ ;
- (ii) if  $1 \leq \eta(\mathbf{k}) \leq \eta(\mathbf{l})$ , then  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{s}$  are non-adjacent if and only if  $2\eta(\mathbf{k}) + 2\eta(\mathbf{l}) > 2\mathbf{n} - (1 + (-1)^{\mathbf{k}+1})$  and  $\frac{1}{\mathbf{k}}$  is not an odd natural number;
- (iii) if  $\mathbf{p} \neq 2$ , then  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $2$  are non-adjacent if and only if one of the following holds:
  1.  $\eta(\mathbf{k}) = \mathbf{n}$  and  $(4, \mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{n}} + 1) = (\mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{n}} + 1)_2$ ;
  2.  $\eta(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\mathbf{k}}{2} = \mathbf{n} - 1$ ,  $\mathbf{n}$  is odd and  $\mathbf{e}(2, \mathbf{q}) = 2$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $\mathbf{M} = {}^2\mathbf{D}_n(\mathbf{p})$ , where  $\mathbf{p} \in \{2, 3\}$ ,  $\mathbf{n} = 2^{\mathbf{m}} + 1$  and  $|\pi(\frac{\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{n}-1}+1}{(2, \mathbf{p}-1)})| = 1$ . Then  $\mathbf{deg}(\mathbf{p}) = |\pi(\mathbf{M})| - (2 + |\mathbf{R}_{2\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{p})|)$ .

**Proof:** First assume that  $\mathbf{p} = 2$  and  $\mathbf{s} \in \pi(\mathbf{G}) \setminus \{2\}$ . Then by Table 2, we have  $\pi_2(\mathbf{M}) = \pi(2^{\mathbf{n}-1} + 1)$  and by Lemma 2.2(i),  $\mathbf{s}$  is non-adjacent to  $2$  if and only if  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbf{R}_{2\mathbf{n}}(2) \cup \mathbf{R}_{2(\mathbf{n}-1)}(2)$ . But since  $\mathbf{R}_{2(\mathbf{n}-1)}(2) \subseteq \pi(2^{\mathbf{n}-1} + 1)$ , we have  $|\mathbf{R}_{2(\mathbf{n}-1)}(2)| = 1$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{deg}(2) = |\pi(\mathbf{M})| - (2 + |\mathbf{R}_{2\mathbf{n}}(2)|)$ . For  $\mathbf{p} = 3$ , the same argument shows that  $\mathbf{deg}(3) = |\pi(\mathbf{M})| - (2 + |\mathbf{R}_{2\mathbf{n}}(3)|)$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** [8] Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be either a Frobenius group or a 2-Frobenius group of even order. Then  $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{G}) = 2$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** [1] Let  $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\mathbf{M}$  be finite groups such that  $|\mathbf{G}| = |\mathbf{M}|$  and  $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{M})$ . In addition, we suppose one of the following conditions holds:

- (i)  $|\Omega_{or}(\mathbf{M})| = 0$ ;
- (ii)  $|\Omega_{or}(\mathbf{M})| = 2$ ;

- (iii)  $|\Omega_{or}(\mathbf{M})| \geq 3$  and there exists a vertex  $\mathbf{p} \in \pi(\mathbf{M})$  such that  $\mathbf{deg}(\mathbf{p}) \geq |\Omega_{or}(\mathbf{M})| - 2$ . Then  $\mathbf{OC}(\mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{OC}(\mathbf{M})$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** [8, 9] Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be a finite group with  $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{G}) \geq 2$ . Then one of the following holds:

- (i)  $\mathbf{G}$  is a Frobenius or a 2-Frobenius group;
- (ii)  $\mathbf{G}$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq \mathbf{H} \triangleright \mathbf{K} \trianglelefteq \mathbf{G}$  such that  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\frac{\mathbf{G}}{\mathbf{K}}$  are  $\pi_1$ -groups and  $\frac{\mathbf{K}}{\mathbf{H}}$  is a non-abelian finite simple group. Moreover,  $\mathbf{H}$  is nilpotent,  $|\frac{\mathbf{G}}{\mathbf{K}}|$  divides  $|\mathbf{Out}(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{\mathbf{H}})|$  and every odd order component of  $\mathbf{G}$  is an odd order component of  $\frac{\mathbf{K}}{\mathbf{H}}$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** [10] Let  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  be primes and  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n} > 1$ . Then:

- (i) the only solution of the diophantine equation  $\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{m}} - \mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{n}} = 1$  is  $(\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{m}}, \mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{n}}) = (3^2, 2^3)$ ;
- (ii) with the exceptions of the relations  $(239)^2 - 2(13)^4 = -1$  and  $3^5 - 2 \cdot 11^2 = 1$  every solution of  $\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{m}} - 2\mathbf{q}^{\mathbf{n}} = \pm 1$  has exponents of  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{n} = 2$ , i.e. it comes from a unit  $\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q} \cdot 2^{\frac{1}{2}}$  of the quadratic field  $\mathbf{Q}(2^{\frac{1}{2}})$ .

**Lemma 2.8.** [11] Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be a finite group with  $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{G}) \geq 2$ . If  $\mathbf{H} \trianglelefteq \mathbf{G}$  is a  $\pi_i$ -group, then  $(\prod_{1 \leq j \neq i \leq \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{G})} \mathbf{m}_j)$  divides  $|\mathbf{H}| - 1$ .

**Lemma 2.9.** [12] Let  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{A}_l(\mathbf{q})$  be a finite simple group of Lie type over a field of characteristic  $\mathbf{p}$ , where  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{k}}$ . Then:

- (i) if  $\mathbf{l} = 1$ , then  $|\mathbf{Out}(\mathbf{G})| = \mathbf{gcd}(2, \mathbf{q} - 1)\mathbf{k}$ ;
- (ii) if  $\mathbf{l} \geq 2$ , then  $|\mathbf{Out}(\mathbf{G})| = 2\mathbf{gcd}(\mathbf{l} + 1, \mathbf{q} - 1)\mathbf{k}$ .

The list of finite simple groups with disconnected prime graph and their odd order components is given in Table 1-3 [9, 13].

**Table 1.** Finite Simple Groups  $P$  with  $t(P) > 3$

$P$	Restrictions on $P$	$\pi_1(P)$	$m_2$	$m_3$	$m_4$	$m_5$	$m_6$
$A_2(4)$		{2}	3	5	7		
${}^2B_2(q)$	$q = 2^{2m+1} > 2$	{2}	$q - 1$	$q - \sqrt{2q} + 1$	$q + \sqrt{2q} + 1$		
${}^2E_6(2)$		{2, 3, 5, 7, 11}	13	17	19		
$E_8(q)$	$q \equiv 2, 3(5)$	$\pi(q(q^8 - 1)(q^{12} - 1)(q^{14} - 1)(q^{18} - 1)(q^{20} - 1))$	$\frac{q^{10} + q^5 + 1}{q^2 + q + 1}$	$q^8 - q^4 + 1$	$\frac{q^{10} - q^5 + 1}{q^2 - q + 1}$		
$M_{22}$		{2, 3}	5	7	11		
$J_1$		{2, 3, 5}	7	11	19		
$O'N$		{2, 3, 5, 7}	11	19	31		
$LyS$		{2, 3, 5, 7, 11}	31	37	67		
$Fi'_{24}$		{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13}	17	23	29		
$F_1$		{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 2'}	41	59	71		
$E_8(q)$	$q \equiv 0, 1, 4(5)$	$\pi(q(q^8 - 1)(q^{10} - 1)(q^{12} - 1)(q^{14} - 1)(q^{18} - 1))$	$\frac{q^{10} + q^5 + 1}{q^2 + q + 1}$	$\frac{q^{10} - q^5 + 1}{q^2 - q + 1}$	$q^8 - q^4 + 1$		$\frac{q^{10} + 1}{q^2 + 1}$
$J_4$		{2, 3, 5, 7, 11}	23	29	31	37	43

**Table 2.** Finite Simple Groups  $P$  with  $t(P) = 2$

$P$	Restrictions on $P$	$\pi_1(P)$	$m_2$
$A_n$	$6 < n = p, p + 1, p + 2$ $n$ or $n - 2$ is not prime	$\pi((n - 3)!)$	$p$
$A_{p-1}(q)$	$(p, q) \neq (3, 2), (3, 4)$	$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^i - 1))$	$\frac{q^p - 1}{(q - 1)(p, q - 1)}$
$A_p(q)$	$(q - 1) (p + 1)$	$\pi(q(q^{p+1} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^i - 1))$	$\frac{q^p - 1}{q - 1}$
${}^2A_{p-1}(q)$		$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^i - (-1)^i))$	$\frac{q^p + 1}{(q + 1)(p, q + 1)}$
${}^2A_p(q)$	$(q + 1) (p + 1)$ $(p, q) \neq (3, 3), (5, 2)$	$\pi(q(q^{p+1} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^i - (-1)^i))$	$\frac{q^p + 1}{q + 1}$
${}^2A_3(2)$		{2, 3}	5
$B_n(q)$	$n = 2^m \geq 4, q$ is odd	$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^n + 1}{2}$
$B_p(3)$		$\pi(3(3^p + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (3^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{3^p - 1}{2}$
$C_n(q)$	$n = 2^m \geq 2$	$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^n + 1}{(2, q - 1)}$
$C_p(q)$	$q = 2, 3$	$\pi(q(q^p + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^p - 1}{(2, q - 1)}$
$D_p(q)$	$p \geq 5, q = 2, 3, 5$	$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^p - 1}{q - 1}$
$D_{p+1}(q)$	$q = 2, 3$	$\pi(q(q^p + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^p - 1}{(2, q - 1)}$
${}^2D_n(q)$	$n = 2^m \geq 4$	$\pi(q \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (q^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{q^n + 1}{(2, q + 1)}$
${}^2D_n(2)$	$n = 2^m + 1, m \geq 2$	$\pi(2(2^n + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (2^{2^i} - 1))$	$2^{n-1} + 1$
${}^2D_p(3)$	$5 \leq p \neq 2^m + 1$	$\pi(3 \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (3^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{3^p + 1}{4}$
${}^2D_n(3)$	$n = 2^m + 1 \neq p, m \geq 2$	$\pi(3(3^n + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (3^{2^i} - 1))$	$\frac{3^{n-1} + 1}{2}$
$G_2(q)$	$2 < q \equiv \varepsilon(3), \varepsilon = \pm 1$	$\pi(q(q^2 - 1)(q^3 - \varepsilon))$	$q^2 - \varepsilon q + 1$

${}^3D_4(q)$		$\pi(q(q^6 - 1))$	$q^4 - q^2 + 1$
$F_4(q)$	$q$ is odd	$\pi(q(q^6 - 1)(q^8 - 1))$	$q^4 - q^2 + 1$
${}^2F_4(2)$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	13
$E_6(q)$		$\pi(q(q^5 - 1)(q^8 - 1)(q^{12} - 1))$	$\frac{q^6 + q^3 + 1}{(3, q - 1)}$
${}^2E_6(q)$	$q > 2$	$\pi(q(q^5 + 1)(q^8 - 1)(q^{12} - 1))$	$\frac{q^6 - q^3 + 1}{(3, q + 1)}$
$M_{12}$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	11
$J_2$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	7
$Ru$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$	29
$He$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	17
$McL$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	11
$Co_1$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13\}$	23
$Co_3$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11\}$	23
$Fi_{22}$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11\}$	13
$F_5$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11\}$	19

Table 3. Finite Simple Groups  $P$  with  $t(P) = 3$

$P$	Restrictions on $P$	$\pi_1(P)$	$m_2$	$m_3$
$A_n$	$n > 6,$ $n = p, p - 2$ prime	$\pi((n - 3)!)$	$p$	$p - 2$
$A_1(q)$	$3 < q \equiv \varepsilon(4),$ $\varepsilon = \pm 1$	$\pi(q - \varepsilon)$	$\pi(q)$	$\frac{q + \varepsilon}{2}$
$A_1(q)$	$q > 2, q$ even	$\{2\}$	$q - 1$	$q + 1$
${}^2A_5(2)$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	7	11
${}^2D_p(3)$	$p = 2^m + 1 \geq 3$	$\pi(3(3^{p-1} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-2} (3^{2i} - 1))$	$\frac{3^{p-1} + 1}{2}$	$\frac{3^p + 1}{4}$
$G_2(q)$	$q \equiv 0(3)$	$\pi(q(q^2 - 1))$	$q^2 - q + 1$	$q^2 + q + 1$
${}^2G_2(q)$	$q = 3^{2m+1} > 3$	$\pi(q(q^2 - 1))$	$q - \sqrt{3q} + 1$	$q + \sqrt{3q} + 1$
$F_4(q)$	$q$ even	$\pi(q(q^4 - 1)(q^6 - 1))$	$q^4 - q^2 + 1$	$q^4 + 1$
${}^2F_4(q)$	$q = 2^{2m+1} > 2$	$\pi(q(q^3 + 1)(q^4 - 1))$	$q^2 - \sqrt{2q^3} + q - \sqrt{2q} + 1$	$q^2 + \sqrt{2q^3} + q + \sqrt{2q} + 1$
$E_7(2)$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 31, 43\}$	73	127
$E_7(3)$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 19, 37, 41, 61, 7\}$	757	1093
$M_{11}$		$\{2, 3\}$	5	11
$M_{23}$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	11	23
$M_{24}$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	11	23
$J_3$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	17	19
$HiS$		$\{2, 3, 5\}$	7	11
$Suz$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	11	13
$Co_2$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$	11	23
$Fi_{23}$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13\}$	17	23
$F_3$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$	19	31
$F_2$		$\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23\}$	31	47

3. Proof of main theorems

3.1. Proof of Theorem A

Let  $M = {}^2D_n(2)$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 5$ . Assume that  $G$  is a finite group such that  $|G| = |M|$  and  $D(G) = D(M)$ . Recall that  $t(M) = 2$  and  $\pi(M) = \pi(2^{n(n-1)}(2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (2^{2i} - 1))U\pi(2^{n-1} + 1)$ . By assumption,  $|\pi(2^{n-1} +$

$1)| = 1$ , so  $\pi(2^{n-1} + 1) \in T(G) - \{\pi_1(G)\}$ . This shows that  $t(G) \geq 2$ . First, suppose that  $t(G) \geq 3$ . We are going to reach a contradiction under this assumption. Thus by Lemma 2.4,  $G$  is neither a Frobenius group nor a 2-Frobenius group and hence, by Lemma 2.6(ii), there is a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \triangleleft K \trianglelefteq G$  for  $G$  such that  $P = \frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian finite simple group and every odd order

component of  $G$  is an odd order component of  $P$  and  $H$  is a nilpotent group. So  $t(P) \geq 3$  and

$$2^{n-1} + 1 \in OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\}, \text{ where } n = 2^m + 1 \geq 5. \tag{1}$$

Thus the classification theorem of finite simple groups and Tables 1 and 3 show that one of the following possibilities holds for  $P$ :

**Case 1.**

$P \cong^2 A_5(2), E_7(2), E_7(3), M_{11}, M_{23}, M_{24}, J_3, HiS, Suz, Co_2, F_2, F_3, Fi_{23}, A_2(4), M_{22}, J_1, O'N, LyS, F_1, J_4, E_6(2), Fi'_{24}$ . By (1),  $(2^{n-1} + 1) \in OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\}$ . Since  $n \geq 5$ ,  $2^{n-1} + 1 \geq 17$ . Thus considering the odd order components of the finite simple groups mentioned above leads to  $P \cong J_3, Fi_{23}, E_6(2)$  or  $Fi'_{24}$ . In these cases, we can see that  $n = 5$  and  $|P|$  does not divide  $|G| = |{}^2D_5(2)|$ , which is impossible.

**Case 2.**

$P \cong A_p$ , where  $p > 6$  and  $p, p - 2$  are prime. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{p, p - 2\}$ , so by (1),  $2^{n-1} + 1 \in \{p, p - 2\}$ . If  $p = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then for every  $m \geq 3$ , the largest power of 2 dividing  $|A_p|$  is  $\left(\left[\frac{p}{2}\right] + \left[\frac{p}{4}\right] + \dots\right) - 1 = \left(\left[\frac{2^{n-1}+1}{2}\right] + \left[\frac{2^{n-1}+1}{2^2}\right] + \dots\right) - 1 = 2^{n-2} + 2^{n-3} + \dots + 2 + 1 - 1 = 2^{n-1} - 2 > n(n - 1)$ .

But  $|G|_2 = |M|_2 = 2^{n(n-1)}$ , so  $|P| \nmid |G|$ , which is impossible. If  $m = 2$ , then  $p = 17$ , so  $|P| \nmid |G|$ . If  $p - 2 = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then  $p = 2^{n-1} + 3$ , so the same argument as above leads us to a contradiction.

**Case 3.**

$P \cong^2 D_p(3)$ , where  $p = 2^{m'} + 1 \geq 5$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \left\{\frac{3^{p-1}+1}{2}, \frac{3^p+1}{4}\right\}$ . Thus (1) shows that either  $3^{p-1} - 2^n = 1$  or  $3^p = 2^{n+1} + 3$ . If  $3^{p-1} - 2^n = 1$ , then by Lemma 2.7(i),  $p = 3$  and  $n = 3$ , contradiction with assumption on  $n$ . If  $3^p - 3 = 2^{n+1}$ , then  $3|2^{n+1}$ , which is impossible.

**Case 4.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$  and  $2 < q$  is even. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q - 1, q + 1\}$ . Thus (1) shows that  $2^{n-1} + 1 \in \{q - 1, q + 1\}$ . If  $q - 1 = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then  $q = 2(2^{n-2} + 1)$ , so  $q$  is not a power of 2, a contradiction. If  $q + 1 = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then  $q = 2^{n-1}$ . Set  $|\frac{G}{K}| = t$ , so  $|G| = t|H||P|$ . Of course by Lemma 2.6(ii) and Lemma 2.9(i),  $t|2^m$ , so

$$t|H| = \frac{|G|}{|P|} = \frac{|{}^2D_n(2)|}{|A_1(q)|} = 2^{(n-1)^2} (2^n + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (2^{2i} - 1).$$

Thus for every  $r \in R_{2n}(2)$ ,  $r||H|$ . If  $S \in Syl_r(H)$ , then the order of  $S$  is a divisor of  $2^n + 1$

and by Lemma 2.8,  $m_2 m_3 |(|S| - 1)$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 5.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$ , where  $q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1\} = \{q, \frac{q-1}{2}\}$ . Thus by (1),  $2^{n-1} + 1 \in \{q, \frac{q-1}{2}\}$ . If  $q = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , which is a contradiction. Now we assume that  $\frac{q-1}{2} = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , so  $q = 2^n + 3$ . Since  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 5$ , an easy computation shows that  $5|2^n + 3$ , so  $q$  is a power of 5, say  $q = 5^f$ . Thus  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 6.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q, \frac{q+1}{2}\}$ . Thus by (1),  $2^{n-1} + 1 \in \{q, \frac{q+1}{2}\}$ . First assume that  $q = 2^{n-1} + 1$  and  $q = p^\alpha$ , where  $\alpha \geq 1$ . So we have the following subcases:

- (i) if  $\alpha > 1$ , then by Lemma 2.7(i),  $\alpha = 2$  and  $n = 4$ , which is not the case;
- (ii) if  $\alpha = 1$ , we have  $q = p = 2^{n-1} + 1$ . Now we set  $|\frac{G}{K}| = t$ , so  $|G| = t|H||P|$ . By Lemma 2.6(ii) and Lemma 2.9(i),  $t|2$ . Thus

$$t|H| = \frac{|G|}{|P|} = 2^{(n-1)^2} (2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} - 1)(2^{n-2} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-3} (2^{2i} - 1),$$

so repeating the argument given for Case 4 leads us to a contradiction.

If  $\frac{q+1}{2} = 2^{n-1} + 1$ , then  $q = 2^n + 1$ . Assume that  $q = p^\alpha$  where  $\alpha \geq 1$ . So we have the following subcases:

- (i) if  $\alpha > 1$ , then by Lemma 2.7(i),  $\alpha = 2$  and  $n = 3$ , which is not the case;
- (ii) if  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $q = p = 2^n + 1$  shows that  $p$  is a Fermat prime, and so  $n$  must be a power of 2, which is a contradiction because  $n = 2^m + 1$  is an odd prime.

**Case 7.**

$P \cong G_2(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  or  $P \cong^2 G_2(q)$ , where  $q = 3^{2m+1} > 3$ . If  $P \cong G_2(q)$ , then the same reasoning as above shows that  $q^2 + q + 1 = 2^{n-1} + 1$  or  $q^2 - q + 1 = 2^{n-1} + 1$ . But  $q^2 + q + 1, q^2 - q + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $2^{n-1} + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and hence, both cases are ruled out. If  $P \cong^2 G_2(q)$ , then the same reasoning as above leads to a contradiction.

**Case 8.**

$P \cong^2 F_4(q)$  or  $P \cong^2 B_2(q)$ . Then the odd order components of  $P$  is a number of the form  $2^i f(2) + 1$  such that  $\gcd(2, f(2)) = 1$ . If  $2^i f(2) + 1 =$

$2^{n-1} + 1$ , then we obtain  $2^i f(2) = 2^{n-1}$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 9.**

$P \cong F_4(q)$ , where  $q$  is even. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q^4 + 1, q^4 - q^2 + 1\}$ , so by (1),  $2^{n-1} + 1 \in OC(P) - \{m_1\}$ . If  $2^{n-1} + 1 = q^4 - q^2 + 1$ , then  $2^{n-1} = q^2(q^2 - 1)$ , which is impossible. If  $2^{n-1} + 1 = q^4 + 1$ , then  $q^4 = 2^{n-1}$ . If  $n = 5$ , then  $|P|_2 = 2^{24}$  which does not divide  $|G|_2 = 2^{20}$ . Thus  $n \geq 6$  and hence, Zsigmondy's Theorem allows us to assume that  $r$  is a primitive prime divisor of  $2^{\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} - 1$ , but considering  $|P|$  and  $|G|$ , we have

$$(2^{\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} - 1) | 2^{(n-6)(n-1)} (2^n + 1) \prod_{i=1, i \neq i_0, i_1}^{n-2} (2^{2i} - 1),$$

where  $i_0 = \frac{n-1}{2}, i_1 = \frac{3}{4}(n-1)$ . Thus:

- (i) if  $r | 2^{(n-1)(n-6)}$ , then  $r = 2$ , which is a contradiction;
- (ii) if  $r | (2^n + 1)$ , then  $r | (2^{2n} - 1)$ , so  $r | (2^{2n} - 1) - (2^{\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} - 1)$ . Therefore  $r | 2^{\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} (2^{2n-\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} - 1)$ , hence  $r | (2^{2n-\frac{3}{2}(n-1)} - 1)$  implies that  $2n - \frac{3}{2}(n-1) \geq \frac{3}{2}(n-1)$  and so  $n \leq 3$ , contradicting;
- (iii) if  $r | \prod_{i=1, i \neq i_0, i_1}^{n-2} (2^{2i} - 1)$ , then for some  $j, 1 \leq j \leq n-2, j \notin \{i_0, i_1\}$ , the same argument as above shows that  $j > n-2$ , which is a contradiction.

This shows that  $|P| \nmid |G|$ , which is contradiction.

**Case 10.**

$P \cong E_8(q)$ . If  $P \cong E_8(q)$  with  $q \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{5}$ , then the odd order components of  $P$  are  $q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1, q^8 - q^7 + q^5 - q^4 + q^3 - q + 1$  and  $q^8 - q^6 + q^4 - q^2 + 1$ . If  $2^{n-1} + 1 = q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1$ , then:

- (i) if  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ , then  $q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , but  $2^{n-1} + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ , which is a contradiction;
- (ii) if  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ , then we get a contradiction in a similar manner.

Therefore,  $2^{n-1} + 1 = q^8 - q^7 + q^5 - q^4 + q^3 - q + 1$  or  $2^{n-1} + 1 = q^8 - q^6 + q^4 - q^2 + 1$ , then the same reasoning as above leads to a contradiction. If  $P \cong E_8(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 0, 1, 4 \pmod{5}$ , then we get a contradiction in a similar manner.

The above contradictions imply that  $t(G) = 2$ , so  $\pi_1(G) = \pi_1(M)$  and  $\pi_2(G) = \pi_2(M)$ . Thus  $OC(G) = OC(M)$ , so the main theorem in [14] shows that  $G \cong M$ , as claimed.

**3.2. Proof of Theorem B**

Let  $M \cong D_n(3)$ , where  $n = 2^m + 1 \geq 9$  is not prime. Assume that  $G$  is a finite group such that  $|G| = |M|$  and  $D(G) = D(M)$ . Recall that  $t(M) = 2$  and  $\pi(M) = \pi(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 3^{n(n-1)}(3^n + 1)(3^{n-1} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (3^{2i} - 1)) U\pi(\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2})$ . By assumption,  $|\pi(\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2})| = 1$ , so  $\pi(\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}) \in T(G) - \{\pi_1(G)\}$ . This shows that  $t(G) \geq 2$ . First suppose that  $t(G) \geq 3$ . We will reach a contradiction under this assumption. Thus by Lemma 2.4,  $G$  is neither a Frobenius group nor a 2-Frobenius group and hence, by Lemma 2.6(ii), there is a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \triangleleft K \trianglelefteq G$  of  $G$  such that  $P = \frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian finite simple group,  $H$  is a nilpotent group and every odd order component of  $G$  is an odd order component of  $P$ . So  $t(P) \geq 3$  and

$$\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\}, \text{ where } n = 2^m + 1 \geq 9 \text{ is not prime.} \tag{2}$$

Thus the classification theorem of finite simple groups and Tables 1 and 3 show that one of the following possibilities holds for  $P$ :

**Case 1.**

$P \cong A_5(2), E_7(2), E_7(3), M_{11}, M_{23}, M_{24}, J_3, HiS, Suz, Co_2, F_2, F_3, Fi_{23}, A_2(4), M_{22}, J_1, O'N, LyS, F_1, J_4, {}^2E_6(2), Fi'_{24}$ . By (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in OC(P) - \{m_1\}$ , so " $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \geq 3281$ " implies that  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$  is larger than every odd order component of the above groups.

**Case 2.**

$P \cong A_p$ , where  $p > 6$  and  $p, p-2$  are prime. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{p, p-2\}$  and hence, by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in \{p, p-2\}$ . If  $p = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $p-2 = \frac{3(3^{n-2}-1)}{2}$ . But  $p-2$  is prime, so  $3^{n-2} - 1 = 2$ . Therefore  $n = 3$ , contradiction with assumption on  $n$ . If  $p-2 = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $p = \frac{3^{n-1}+5}{2}$ , so the largest power of 3 dividing  $|A_p|$  is  $\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{p}{9} \rfloor + \dots > \frac{3^{n-2}-1}{2} > n(n-1)$ . But  $|G|_3 = |M|_3 = 3^{n(n-1)}$ , so  $|P| \nmid |G|$ .

**Case 3.**

$P \cong D_p(3)$ , where  $p = 2^{m'} + 1 \geq 5$  is prime. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{\frac{3^{p-1}+1}{2}, \frac{3^p+1}{4}\}$ . If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = \frac{3^{p-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $p = n$ , which is a contradiction, because assumption says that  $n$  is not prime. If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = \frac{3^p+1}{4}$ , then  $3^p + 1 = 2(3^{n-1} +$

1). We obtain that  $3^p = 2 \cdot 3^{n-1} + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contradiction. Thus both cases are ruled out.

**Case 4.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$  and  $2 < q$  is even. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q - 1, q + 1\}$ . Thus (2) shows that  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in \{q - 1, q + 1\}$ . If  $q - 1 = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $3^{n-1} + 3 = 2q$ . So  $3|q$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $q + 1 = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , so  $3^{n-1} - 2q = 1$ . Since  $q$  is a power of 2, then by Lemma 2.7(i),  $n = 3$ , which is not the case.

**Case 5.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$ , where  $q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q, \frac{q-1}{2}\}$ . Thus by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in \{q, \frac{q-1}{2}\}$ . If  $q = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $2(q + 1) = 3^{n-1} + 3$ . But  $2(q + 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$  and  $3^{n-1} + 3 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ , which is a contradiction. If  $\frac{q-1}{2} = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , then  $q = 3^{n-1} + 2$ . This shows that  $q - 1 = 2 \cdot \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ . But by our assumption  $\pi(\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}) = \{r\}$  and hence  $q - 1 = 2r^t$ . Assume  $q = p^\alpha$  where  $\alpha \geq 1$  and obviously  $p > 3$ , because  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  and  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . So we have the following subcases:

- (i) if  $\alpha > 1$ , then  $p - 1|q - 1$ , so  $p - 1|2r^t$ . Hence  $p - 1|2$ , which is a contradiction;
- (ii) if  $\alpha = 1$ , we have  $q = p = 3^{n-1} + 2$ . Now we set  $|\frac{G}{K}| = t$ , so  $|G| = t|H||P|$ . By Lemma 2.6(ii) and Lemma 2.9(i),  $t|2$ . Thus

$$3^n + 1|t|H| = \frac{|G|}{|P|}$$

so for every  $r \in R_{2n}(3)$ ,  $r||H|$ . If  $S \in Syl_r(H)$ , then the order of  $S$  is a divisor of  $3^n + 1$  and by Lemma 2.8,  $m_2 m_3 |(|S| - 1)$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 6.**

$P \cong A_1(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q, \frac{q+1}{2}\}$ , so by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in \{q, \frac{q+1}{2}\}$ . First assume that  $\frac{q+1}{2} = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ , so  $q = 3^{n-1}$ . Now we set  $|\frac{G}{K}| = t$ , so  $|G| = t|H||P|$ , of course by Lemma 2.6(ii) and Lemma 2.9(i),  $t|2^{m+1}$ . Thus

$$t|H| = \frac{|G|}{|P|} = \frac{1}{2} 3^{(n-1)^2} (3^n + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} (3^{2i} - 1).$$

This implies that for every  $r \in R_{2n}(3)$ ,  $r||H|$ . If  $S \in Syl_r(H)$ , then the order of  $S$  is a divisor of  $3^n + 1$  and by Lemma 2.8,  $m_2 m_3 |(|S| - 1)$ ,

which is a contradiction. This leads to  $q = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$  and  $q = p^\alpha$ , so by Lemma 2.7(ii),  $\alpha = 1$  and the same reasoning as above leads to get a contradiction.

**Case 7.**

$P \cong G_2(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  or  $P \cong^2 G_2(q)$ , where  $q = 3^{2m+1} > 3$ . If  $P \cong G_2(q)$ , then the same reasoning as above shows that  $q^2 + q + 1 = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$  or  $q^2 - q + 1 = \frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2}$ . But  $2q^2 + 2q + 1, 2q^2 - 2q + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $3^{n-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and hence, both cases are ruled out. If  $P \cong^2 G_2(q)$ , then the same reasoning as above leads to get a contradiction.

**Case 8.**

$P \cong^2 F_4(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{2m'+1} > 2$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\} = \{q^2 + \sqrt{2q^3} + q + \sqrt{2q} + 1, q^2 - \sqrt{2q^3} + q - \sqrt{2q} + 1\}$ , so by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in OC(P) - \{m_1\}$ . If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^2 + \sqrt{2q^3} + q + \sqrt{2q} + 1$ , then  $3^{n-1} = 2^{4m'+3} + 2^{3m'+3} + 2^{2m'+2} + 2^{m'+2} + 1$ . But  $3^{n-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $2^{4m'+3} + 2^{3m'+3} + 2^{2m'+2} + 2^{m'+2} + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contradiction. If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^2 - \sqrt{2q^3} + q - \sqrt{2q} + 1$ , then we get a contradiction in a similar manner.

**Case 9.**

$P \cong F_4(q)$ , where  $q$  is even. Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1\} = \{q^4 + 1, q^4 - q^2 + 1\}$ , so by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in OC(P) - \{m_1(P)\}$ . If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^4 + 1$ , then  $3^{n-1} - 2q^4 = 1$ . Hence by Lemma 2.7(ii),  $n = 3$ , contraction with our assumption. Therefore  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^4 - q^2 + 1$ , so  $3^{n-1} = 2q^4 - 2q^2 + 1$ . Since  $q$  is a power of 2, an easy computation shows that  $2q^4 - 2q^2 + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case 10.**

$P \cong^2 B_2(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{2m'+1} > 2$ . Then  $OC(P) - \{m_1\} = \{q + \sqrt{2q} + 1, q - \sqrt{2q} + 1, q - 1\}$ , so by (2),  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} \in OC(P) - \{m_1\}$ . If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q - 1$ , then  $3^{n-1} + 3 = 2q$ , therefore  $3|q$ , which is a contradiction. If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q + \sqrt{2q} + 1$ , then  $3^{2m} = 2^{2(m'+1)} + 2 \cdot 2^{m'+1} + 1$  and hence,  $(3^{2m-1})^2 = (2^{m'+1} + 1)^2$ . Thus  $3^{2m-1} = 2^{m'+1} + 1$ , so by Lemma 2.7(i),  $m = 2$ , which is

impossible. If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q - \sqrt{2q} + 1$ , then  $3^{n-1} = 2^{2m'+2} - 2^{m'+2} + 1$ . Thus:

- (i) if  $m'$  is odd, then  $1 \equiv 3^{n-1} = 2^{2m'+2} - 2^{m'+2} + 1 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , which is a contradiction;  
(ii) if  $m'$  is even, then  $0 \equiv 3^{n-1} = 2^{2m'+2} - 2^{m'+2} + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contraction.

#### Case11.

$P \cong E_8(q)$ . If  $P \cong E_8(q)$  with  $q \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{5}$ , then the odd order components of  $P$  are  $q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1$ ,  $q^8 - q^7 + q^5 - q^4 + q^3 - q + 1$  and  $q^8 - q^6 + q^4 - q^2 + 1$ . If  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1$ , then:

- (i) if  $q \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , then  $2(q^8 + q^7 - q^5 - q^4 - q^3 + q + 1) \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and hence,  $3^{n-1} + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contradiction;  
(ii) if  $q \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{3}$ , then we get a contradiction in a similar manner.

Therefore  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^8 - q^7 + q^5 - q^4 + q^3 - q + 1$  or  $\frac{3^{n-1}+1}{2} = q^8 - q^6 + q^4 - q^2 + 1$ , then the same reasoning as above leads to get a contradiction. If  $P \cong E_8(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 0, 1, 4 \pmod{5}$ , then we get a contradiction in a similar manner.

The above contradictions imply that  $t(G) = 2$ , so  $\pi_1(G) = \pi_1(M)$  and  $\pi_2(G) = \pi_2(M)$ . Thus  $OC(G) = OC(M)$  and hence, the main theorem in [15] shows that  $G \cong M$ , as claimed.

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