

A NEW CHARACTERIZATION OF SIMPLE GROUP  
 $G_2(q)$  WHERE  $q \leq 11$

M. BIBAK, GH. REZAEYZADEH\* AND E. ESMAEILZADE

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we prove that every finite group  $G$  with the same order and largest element order as  $G_2(q)$ , where  $q \leq 11$  is necessarily isomorphic to the group  $G_2(q)$ .

1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $\pi_e(G)$  denote the set of element orders of  $G$ . In 1987, Shi [15] posed the following conjecture:

**Conjecture.** If  $G$  is a finite group and  $M$  is a finite simple group. Then  $G \cong M$  if and only if  $|G| = |M|$  and  $\pi_e(G) = \pi_e(M)$ .

Mazurov et al. [16] proved that this conjecture is valid for all finite simple groups. Some other researchers studied the characterization of finite simple groups by using fewer conditions. For example, He and Chen [2, 6, 8] proved that the simple  $K_3$ -groups, sporadic simple groups and  $L_2(q)$  with  $q \leq 125$  are determined by their orders and the largest, the second largest and the third largest element orders. They also characterized in [7, 9] some simple  $K_4$ -groups,  $G_2(3)$ ,  $G_2(4)$  and  $G_2(5)$  by using the group orders and the largest element orders. In the following, it is proved that the simple  $K_4$ -groups of type  $L_2(q)$ , the simple  $K_5$ -groups of type  $L_3(p)$  with  $(3, p-1) = 1$ , Suzuki groups  $Sz(q)$  where  $q-1$  or  $q \pm \sqrt{2q} + 1$  is a prime number and  $L_2(p)$  such that  $p \neq 7$

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\*Corresponding author.

is a prime number can be uniquely determined by their orders and the largest element orders [5, 12, 13, 18]. In this paper, our main aim is to prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.1.** *The simple groups  $G_2(7)$ ,  $G_2(8)$ ,  $G_2(9)$  and  $G_2(11)$  are recognizable by their order and the largest element orders.*

From this, the following corollary is derived.

**Corollary 1.2.** *The simple groups  $G_2(q)$ , with  $q \leq 11$  are recognizable by their order and the largest element orders.*

Throughout this paper, we use the following definitions and notations: The *prime graph*  $\Gamma(G)$  of a group  $G$  is a simple graph whose vertices are the primes dividing the group order of  $G$  and two vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are joined by an edge if and only if  $pq \in \pi_e(G)$ . Denote by  $T(G) = \{\pi_i(G) | 1 \leq i \leq t(G)\}$  the set of all connected components of the graph  $\Gamma(G)$ , where  $t(G)$  is the number of connected components of  $\Gamma(G)$ . If the order of  $G$  is even, we assume that  $2 \in \pi_1(G)$ . The *socle* of  $G$  is the subgroup generated by the set of all minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ ; it is denoted by  $\text{Soc}(G)$ . For  $p \in \pi(G)$ , we denote by  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$  and  $G_p$  the set of all Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$  and a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , respectively. Also, we denote the highest power of  $p$  dividing the order of  $G$  by  $e_p(G)$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we consider some results which will be needed for our further investigations.

The set  $\pi_e(G)$  is closed and partially ordered by the divisibility relation; therefore, it is determined uniquely from the subset  $\mu(G)$  of all maximal elements of  $\pi_e(G)$  with respect to divisibility.

**Lemma 2.1.** [4, 11] *Let  $q$  be a power of a prime  $p$ . Then*

- (a)  $\mu(G_2(q)) \subseteq \{8, 12, 2, 2(q \pm 1), q^2 - 1, q^2 \pm q + 1\} \subseteq \pi_e(G_2(q))$  for  $p = 2$ ;
- (b)  $\mu(G_2(q)) = \{p^2, p(q \pm 1), q^2 - 1, q^2 \pm q + 1\}$  for  $p = 3, 5$ ;
- (c)  $\mu(G_2(9)) = \{p(q \pm 1), q^2 - 1, q^2 \pm q + 1\}$  for  $p > 5$ ;

As an immediate consequence of Lemma 2.1, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.2.** *The following statements hold:*

- (a)  $\mu(G_2(7)) = \{42, 43, 48, 56, 57\}$ ;
- (b)  $\mu(G_2(8)) \subseteq \{8, 12, 14, 18, 57, 63, 73\}$ ;
- (c)  $\mu(G_2(9)) = \{72, 73, 80, 81, 90, 91\}$ ;

- (d)  $\mu(G_2(11)) = \{110, 111, 120, 132, 133\}$ .

The following lemma is useful in dealing with a Frobenius group.

**Lemma 2.3.** [10] *Let  $G$  be a Frobenius group with kernel  $K$  and complement  $H$ . Then*

- (a)  $K$  is a nilpotent group;
- (b)  $|H|$  divide  $|K| - 1$ ;
- (c)  $t(G) = 2$  and the prime graph component of  $G$  are  $\pi(H)$  and  $\pi(K)$ .
- (d) Every non-identity element of  $H$  induces by conjugation an automorphism of  $K$  which is fixed-point-free.

**Definition 2.4.** A group  $G$  is a 2-Frobenius group if there exists a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $K$  and  $\frac{G}{H}$  are Frobenius groups with kernels  $H$  and  $\frac{K}{H}$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.5.** [1] *Let  $G$  be a 2-Frobenius group of even order. Then  $t(G) = 2$  and  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $\pi\left(\frac{K}{H}\right) = \pi_2$ ,  $\pi(H) \cup \pi\left(\frac{G}{K}\right) = \pi_1$  and  $\left|\frac{G}{K}\right|$  divides  $|\text{Aut}\left(\frac{K}{H}\right)|$ . Moreover,  $H$  is a nilpotent group and  $G$  is a solvable group.*

The structure of finite groups with non-connected prime graph is described in the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.6.** [17] *Let  $G$  be a finite group with  $t(G) \geq 2$ . Then one of the following statements hold:*

- (a)  $G$  is a Frobenius or a 2-Frobenius group;
- (b)  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  where  $H$  is a nilpotent  $\pi_1$ -group,  $\frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian simple group and  $\frac{G}{K}$  is a  $\pi_1$ -group such that  $\left|\frac{G}{K}\right|$  divides  $|\text{Out}\left(\frac{K}{H}\right)|$ . Moreover, each odd order components of  $G$  is also an odd order component of  $\frac{K}{H}$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** [14] *Let  $R = R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_k$ , where  $R_i$  is a direct product of  $n_i$  isomorphic copies of a simple group  $H_i$ , where  $H_i$  and  $H_j$  are not isomorphic if  $i \neq j$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(R) \cong \text{Aut}(R_1) \times \text{Aut}(R_2) \times \cdots \times \text{Aut}(R_k)$  and  $\text{Aut}(R_i) \cong \text{Aut}(H_i) \wr \mathbb{S}_{n_i}$  where in this wreath product  $\text{Aut}(H_i)$  appears in its right regular representation and the symmetric group  $\mathbb{S}_{n_i}$  in its natural permutation representation. Moreover, these isomorphisms induce isomorphisms  $\text{Out}(R) \cong \text{Out}(R_1) \times \text{Out}(R_2) \times \cdots \times \text{Out}(R_k)$  and  $\text{Out}(R_i) \cong \text{Out}(H_i) \wr \mathbb{S}_{n_i}$ .*

**Lemma 2.8.** [3] *Let  $G$  be a group and  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  with order  $p^n$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . If  $(r, |\text{Aut}(N)|) = 1$ , where  $r \in \pi(G)$ , then  $G$  has an element of order  $pr$ .*

TABLE 1.

$S$	$ S $	$ \text{Out}(S) $	$S$	$ S $	$ \text{Out}(S) $
$A_5$	$2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$	2	$L_2(19)$	$2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 19$	2
$A_6$	$2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$	$2^2$	$J_1$	$2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 19$	1
$U_4(2)$	$2^6 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5$	2	$L_3(11)$	$2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11^3 \cdot 19$	2
$L_2(7)$	$2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$	2	$L_2(27)$	$2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 19 \cdot 37$	6
$L_2(8)$	$2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7$	3	$L_2(11^3)$	$2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11^3 \cdot 19 \cdot 37$	6
$U_3(3)$	$2^5 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7$	2	$G_2(11)$	$2^6 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11^6 \cdot 19 \cdot 37$	1
$A_7$	$2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	2	$L_2(7^3)$	$2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 19 \cdot 43$	6
$L_2(49)$	$2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^2$	$2^2$	$G_2(7)$	$2^8 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7^6 \cdot 19 \cdot 43$	1
$U_3(5)$	$2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 7$	6	$U_3(7)$	$2^7 \cdot 3 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 43$	1
$L_3(4)$	$2^6 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	12	$L_3(8)$	$2^9 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 73$	6
$A_8$	$2^6 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	2	$L_2(2^9)$	$2^9 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7 \cdot 19 \cdot 73$	9
$A_9$	$2^6 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	2	$G_2(8)$	$2^{18} \cdot 3^5 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 19 \cdot 37$	3
$A_{10}$	$2^7 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7$	2	$U_3(9)$	$2^5 \cdot 3^6 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 73$	2
$U_4(3)$	$2^7 \cdot 3^6 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	8	${}^3D_4(3)$	$2^6 \cdot 3^{12} \cdot 7^2 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 73$	1
$S_4(7)$	$2^8 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^4$	2	$L_2(3^7)$	$2^3 \cdot 3^6 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 73$	14
$S_6(2)$	$2^9 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	1	$L_2(3^6)$	$2^3 \cdot 3^6 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 73$	12
$O_8^+(2)$	$2^{12} \cdot 3^5 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7$	6	$S_4(27)$	$2^6 \cdot 3^{12} \cdot 5 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 73$	6
$L_2(11)$	$2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 11$	3	$G_2(9)$	$2^8 \cdot 3^{12} \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 73$	4
$M_{11}$	$2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 11$	1			
$M_{12}$	$2^6 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 11$	2			

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, we study the characterization problem of the simple groups  $G_2(q)$  for  $q \in \{7, 8, 9, 11\}$  by their orders and the largest element orders. We denote the largest element order of  $G$  by  $m(G)$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *If  $G$  is a finite group such that  $m(G) = m(G_2(7))$  and  $|G| = |G_2(7)|$ , then  $G \cong G_2(7)$ .*

*Proof.* According to Corollary 2.2,  $m(G_2(7)) = 57$ . Since  $|G| = |G_2(7)| = 2^8 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7^6 \cdot 19 \cdot 43$  and  $m(G) = m(G_2(7)) = 57$ , it follows that 43 is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ , and therefore  $t(G) \geq 2$ . Now, we show that  $G$  is neither Frobenius group nor 2-Frobenius group.

Assume that  $G = KH$  is a Frobenius group with kernel  $K$  and complement  $H$ . By Lemma 2.3(c),  $T(G) = \{\pi(H), \pi(K)\}$ . Since  $|H|$  divides  $|K| - 1$  by Lemma 2.3(b), it follows that  $|H| = 43$  and  $|K| = 2^8 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7^6 \cdot 19$ . Let  $K_{19} \in \text{Syl}_{19}(K)$ , then by nilpotency of  $K$  we have  $K_{19} \trianglelefteq G$ . Hence,  $H$  acts on  $K_{19}$  by conjugation. This action is fixed-point-free on  $K_{19}$ , by Lemma 2.3(d), and so  $K_{19}H$  is a Frobenius group. Therefore by Lemma 2.3(b),  $|H| \mid |K_{19}| - 1$  which implies that  $43 \mid 19 - 1$ , a contradiction.

Suppose that  $G$  is a 2-Frobenius group. By Lemma 2.5,  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $\pi(H) \cup \pi\left(\frac{G}{K}\right) = \pi_1$ ,  $\pi\left(\frac{K}{H}\right) = \pi_2$  and  $\left|\frac{G}{K}\right| \mid |\text{Aut}\left(\frac{K}{H}\right)|$ . As 43 is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ , it follows that  $\pi(H) \cup \pi\left(\frac{G}{K}\right) = \{2, 3, 7, 19\}$  and  $\left|\frac{K}{H}\right| = 43$ . Since  $\left|\frac{G}{K}\right| \mid |\text{Aut}\left(\frac{K}{H}\right)| = 42$ ,

we conclude that  $19 \in \pi(H)$ . Let  $H_{19} \in Syl_{19}(H)$ , then  $H_{19}$  is a normal Sylow 19-subgroup of  $G$  by nilpotency of  $H$ . Because of  $(43, |\text{Aut}(H_{19})|) = 1$ , Lemma 2.8 implies that  $19.43 \in \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction.

Hence Lemma 2.6(b) implies that  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$ , where  $\frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian simple group and  $\frac{G}{K}$  is a  $\pi_1$ -group such that  $|\frac{G}{K}| \mid |\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})|$ . Moreover, each odd order component of  $G$  is an odd order component of  $\frac{K}{H}$ . Therefore 43 is an isolated vertex of prime graph of  $\frac{K}{H}$ . Now, according to the results collected in Table 1, we deduce that  $\frac{K}{H}$  is isomorphic to one of the following groups:  $L_2(7^3)$  or  $G_2(7)$ .

If  $\frac{K}{H}$  is isomorphic to  $L_2(7^3)$ , then  $(|\frac{G}{K}|, 19) = 1$  by  $|\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})| = 6$  and so the Sylow 19-subgroup of  $H$  is of order 19 and is normal in  $G$ . Since  $(43, |\text{Aut}(H_{19})|) = 1$ , it follows that  $G$  has an element of order 19.43 by Lemma 2.8, which is a contradiction.

Therefore,  $\frac{K}{H}$  is isomorphic to  $G_2(7)$  and since  $|G| = |G_2(7)|$ , we obtain  $|H| = 1$  and  $G \cong G_2(7)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.2.** *If  $G$  is a finite group such that  $m(G) = m(G_2(8))$  and  $|G| = |G_2(8)|$ , then  $G \cong G_2(8)$ .*

*Proof.* By Corollary 2.2,  $m(G_2(8)) = 73$ . As  $|G| = |G_2(8)| = 2^{18} \cdot 3^5 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 19 \cdot 73$  and  $m(G) = m(G_2(8)) = 73$ , it follows that 73 is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$  and  $t(G) \geq 2$ .

Suppose that  $G$  is a Frobenius group with kernel  $K$  and complement  $H$ . Then by Lemma 2.3(b),  $|H|$  divides  $|K| - 1$  and so  $|H| < |K|$ , moreover  $T(G) = \{\pi(H), \pi(K)\}$ . Therefore, we have  $|H| = 73$  and  $19 \in \pi(K)$ . Now, by using the same technique as in the proof of Proposition 3.1, we get that  $HK_{19}$  is a Frobenius group. Hence  $|H|$  divides  $|K_{19}| - 1$ , namely,  $73 \mid 19 - 1$ , a contradiction.

Assume that  $G$  is a 2-Frobenius group. By Lemma 2.5,  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $\pi(H) \cup \pi(\frac{G}{K}) = \{2, 3, 7, 19\}$  and  $|\frac{K}{H}| = 73$ . Since  $|\frac{G}{K}| \mid |\text{Aut}(\frac{K}{H})| = 72$ , it follows that  $19 \in \pi(H)$ . Let  $H_{19} \in Syl_{19}(H)$ , then by nilpotency of  $H$  we have  $H_{19} \trianglelefteq G$  and so by Lemma 2.8,  $19.73 \in \pi_e(G)$  since  $(73, |\text{Aut}(H_{19})|) = 1$ , a contradiction.

Therefore by Lemma 2.6(b), it follows that  $\frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian simple group and  $\frac{G}{K}$  is a  $\pi_1$ -group such that  $|\frac{G}{K}| \mid |\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})|$ . In addition, each odd-order component of  $G$  is also an odd order component of  $\frac{K}{H}$ . So 73 is an isolated vertex in  $\Gamma(\frac{K}{H})$ . Now, Table 1 shows us that  $\frac{K}{H}$  is isomorphic to  $L_2(2^9)$  or  $G_2(8)$ .

If  $\frac{K}{H} \cong L_2(2^9)$ , then  $19 \parallel |H|$  because  $|\frac{G}{K}| \mid |\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})| = 9$ . Moreover, as  $(73, |\text{Aut}(H_{19})|) = 1$ , it follows that  $19.73 \in \pi_e(G)$  by Lemma 2.8, which is a contradiction.

Therefore, we have  $\frac{K}{H} \cong G_2(8)$ . Because  $|G| = |G_2(8)|$ , we can get that  $|H| = 1$ , and thus  $G \cong G_2(8)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *If  $G$  is a finite group such that  $m(G) = m(G_2(9))$  and  $|G| = |G_2(9)|$ , then  $G \cong G_2(9)$ .*

*Proof.* In this case, we have  $|G| = |G_2(9)| = 2^8.3^{12}.5^2.7.13.73$  and  $m(G) = m(G_2(9)) = 91$ . Hence 73 is an isolated vertex in the prime graph of  $G$  and  $t(G) \geq 2$ .

By similar argument as in the proof of Propositions 3.1 and 3.2, one can show that  $G$  is not a Frobenius group and 2-Frobenius group. So it follows by Lemma 2.6 that  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \triangleleft H \triangleleft K \triangleleft G$ , where  $\frac{K}{H}$  is a non-abelian simple group and  $\frac{G}{K}$  is a  $\pi_1$ -group such that  $|\frac{G}{K}| \mid |\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})|$ . Thus 73 is an isolated vertex of the prime graph of  $G$ . Now, according to the results in Table 2, it follows that  $\frac{K}{H} \cong L_2(3^6)$  or  $G_2(9)$ .

If  $\frac{K}{H} \cong L_2(3^6)$ , then  $13 \in \pi(H)$  by  $|\text{Out}(\frac{K}{H})| = 12$ . Moreover, since  $(73, |\text{Aut}(H_{13})|) = 1$ , Lemma 2.8 implies that  $13.73 \in \pi_e(G)$ , which is impossible.

Thus  $\frac{K}{H} \cong G_2(9)$ . Since  $|G| = |G_2(9)|$ , we deduce that  $|H| = 1$  and  $G \cong G_2(9)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.4.** *If  $G$  is a finite group such that  $m(G) = m(G_2(11))$  and  $|G| = |G_2(11)|$ , then  $G \cong G_2(11)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $|G| = |G_2(11)| = 2^6.3^3.5^2.7.11^6.19.37$  and also  $m(G) = m(G_2(11)) = 133$ , we have  $5.37 \notin \pi_e(G)$  and  $19.37 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Now, we divide the proof into two steps:

**Step 1.** *Let  $K$  be the maximal normal solvable subgroup of  $G$ , Then  $K$  is a  $\{5, 19, 37\}'$ -group. In particular,  $G$  is non-solvable.*

Assume first that  $\{p, q, r\} = \{5, 19, 37\}$  and  $\{p, q, r\} \subseteq \pi(K)$ . Since  $K$  is solvable, it includes the solvable Hall  $\{19, 37\}$ -subgroup, which is a cyclic subgroup of order 19.37. Hence  $19.37 \in \pi_e(K) \subseteq \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction.

Next, we assume that  $\{p, q\} \subseteq \pi(K)$  and  $r \notin \pi(K)$ . Let  $T$  be a  $\{p, q\}$ -Hall subgroup of  $K$  of order  $p^i q$ , where  $i = 1$  or 2. By calculating the number of Sylow subgroups of  $T$ , we get that  $T$  is a nilpotent subgroup of  $G$ .

If  $\{p, q\} \neq \{5, 19\}$ , then  $p.q \in \pi_e(K) \subseteq \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction.

If  $\{p, q\} = \{5, 19\}$ , then  $K$  is a  $\{2, 3, 7, 11, p\}$ -group. Let  $K_p$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K$ . By Frattini argument, we have  $G = KN_G(K_p)$ . Since  $37 \notin \pi(K)$ ,  $37$  must divide  $|N_G(K_p)|$  and so  $N_G(K_p)$  contains an element  $x$  of order  $37$ . Now, it is seen that  $\langle x \rangle K_p$  is a nilpotent subgroup of order  $p^i \cdot 37$ , where  $i = 1$  or  $2$  and so  $p \cdot 37 \in \pi_e(K) \subseteq \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction.

Finally, assume that  $\{p, q\} \cap \pi(K) = \emptyset$  and  $r \in \pi(K)$ . In this case,  $K$  is a  $\{2, 3, 7, 11, r\}$ -group and we consider a Sylow  $r$ -subgroup  $K_r$  of  $K$ . Again using the Frattini argument, we have  $G = KN_G(K_r)$ . Since  $\{p, q\} \cap \pi(K) = \emptyset$ , it follows that  $p$  and  $q$  must divide  $|N_G(K_r)|$  and thus  $N_G(K_r)$  contains two elements of orders  $p$  and  $q$ , say  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively. Obviously,  $\langle x \rangle K_r$  and  $\langle y \rangle K_r$  are nilpotent subgroups of orders  $p \cdot r^i$  and  $q \cdot r^i$ , where  $i = 1$  or  $2$ , which implies that  $\{p, r, q, r\} \subseteq \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $K$  is a  $\{5, 19, 37\}'$ -group. In addition, since  $G \neq K$  hence  $G$  is non-solvable.

**Step 2.** *The quotient  $\frac{G}{K}$  is an almost simple group. In fact, we have  $S \leq \frac{G}{K} \lesssim \text{Aut}(S)$ , where  $S$  is a finite non-abelian simple group.*

Let  $\bar{G} = \frac{G}{K}$  and  $S = \text{Soc}(\bar{G})$ . Since  $G$  is non-solvable group, it follows that  $S = P_1 \times P_2 \times \cdots \times P_m$  where  $P_i$ 's are finite non-abelian simple groups and  $S \trianglelefteq \bar{G} \lesssim \text{Aut}(S)$ . Since  $\pi(P_i) \subseteq \pi(G) = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 19, 37\}$ , from Table 1 it follows that the simple group  $P_i$  is isomorphic to one of the following simple groups:

$$A_5, A_6, L_2(7), L_2(8), U_3(3), A_7, L_3(4), A_8, L_2(11), M_{11}, M_{12}, L_2(19), \\ J_1, L_3(11), L_2(37), U_3(11), L_2(11^3), G_2(11)$$

It is clear that  $\{5, 19, 37\} \subseteq \pi(\bar{G}) \subseteq \pi(\text{Aut}(S))$ , because  $K$  is a  $\{5, 19, 37\}'$ -group. Now, we claim that  $\{p, q, r\} = \{5, 19, 37\} \subseteq \pi(S)$ . Assume to the contrary that  $r \notin \pi(S)$ . Then  $r \in \pi(\text{Out}(S))$  because  $r \mid |\text{Aut}(S)|$  and  $r \nmid |\text{Inn}(S)|$ . By Lemma 2.7,  $\text{Out}(S) = \text{Out}(S_1) \times \text{Out}(S_2) \times \cdots \times \text{Out}(S_k)$ , where each  $S_j$  is a direct product of isomorphic  $P_i$ 's such that  $S \cong S_1 \times S_2 \times \cdots \times S_k$ . Therefore,  $r \mid |\text{Out}(S_j)|$  for some  $j$ , where  $S_j$  is a direct product of  $t$  isomorphic simple groups  $P_i$ . By Lemma 2.7, we obtain  $|\text{Out}(S)| = |\text{Out}(P_i)|^t \cdot t!$ . Since  $r$  does not divide  $|\text{Out}(P_i)|$  by Table 1, it follows that  $r \mid t!$ . Therefore,  $t \geq r \geq 5$  and hence  $2^{10}$  must divides the order of  $G$ , which is a contradiction.

Now, using the facts that  $\{5, 19, 37\} \subseteq \pi(S)$  and order consideration, it is easily checked from Table 1, that  $S \cong L_2(11^3)$  or  $G_2(11)$ .

If  $S \cong L_2(11^3)$ , then we have  $e_5(\text{Aut}(S)) = 1$  while  $e_5(G) = 2$ , and this forces  $5 \in \pi(K)$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $S \cong G_2(11)$

and so  $G_2(11) \leq \frac{G}{K} \lesssim \text{Aut}(G_2(11))$ . Now, by the fact that  $|G| = |G_2(11)|$ , it follows that  $K = 1$  and  $G \cong G_2(11)$ .  $\square$

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**Masoumeh Bibak**

Department of Mathematics, Payame Noor University (PNU), P.O. Box 19395-3697, Tehran, Iran.

Email: m.bibak@pnu.ac.ir



**Gholamreza Rezaeezadeh**

Faculty of Mathematical Sciences, Department of Pure Mathematics, University of Shahrekord, P.O. Box 88186-34141, Shahrekord, Iran.

Email: [rezaeezadeh@sci.sku.ac.ir](mailto:rezaeezadeh@sci.sku.ac.ir)

**Elham Esmailzadeh**

Department of Mathematics, Payame Noor University (PNU), P.O. Box 19395-3697, Tehran, Iran.

Email: [e.esmaeilzadeh@chmail.ir](mailto:e.esmaeilzadeh@chmail.ir)

A NEW CHARACTERIZATION OF SIMPLE GROUP  $G_2(q)$  WHERE  $q \leq 11$

M. BIBAK, GH. REZAEZADEH AND E. ESMAEILZADE

معصومه بی‌باک<sup>۱</sup>، غلامرضا رضائی‌زاده<sup>۲</sup> و الهام اسماعیل‌زاده<sup>۱</sup>

<sup>۱</sup> دانشکده ریاضی، دانشگاه پیام نور، تهران، ایران

<sup>۲</sup> دانشکده علوم ریاضی، دانشگاه شهرکرد، شهرکرد، ایران

فرض کنید  $G$  یک گروه متناهی و  $m(G)$  بزرگترین مرتبه‌ی عضوهای گروه  $G$  باشد. در این صورت گوییم گروه  $G$  توسط  $m(G)$  و مرتبه‌اش  $-r$  تشخیص‌پذیر است، هرگاه  $r$  گروه غیریکریخت مانند  $H$  وجود داشته باشد به طوری که  $|G| = |H|$  و  $m(G) = m(H)$ . حال اگر  $r = 1$ ، آن‌گاه گوییم  $G$  تشخیص‌پذیر است. در این مقاله نشان می‌دهیم که گروه ساده‌ی  $G_2(q)$  به ازای  $q \leq 11$  تشخیص‌پذیر است.

کلمات کلیدی: تشخیص‌پذیری، بزرگترین مرتبه‌ی عضوهای گروه، گروه ساده.