

## SEPARABLE GROUP-RING EXTENSIONS

SURJEET SINGH and L.A.-M. HANNA

### Introduction

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $R$  be any ring with identity  $1_R \neq 0$ . The separability of the group-ring  $RG$  over certain subrings of  $RG$  has been studied by many authors (see [1], [2], [8], [9]). It is well known that  $RG$  is a separable extension of  $R$  if and only if  $|G| 1_R$  is invertible in  $R$ . If  $RG$  is a separable extension of  $R$ , then  $RG$  has unique separating idempotent over  $R$  if and only if  $G$  is abelian. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary group (not necessarily finite) and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . On similar lines as for the above mentioned results, we prove the following results

- i)  $RG$  is a separable extension of  $RH$  if and only if  $[G : H]$  is finite and  $[G : H] 1_R$  is invertible in  $R$ .
- ii) Let  $RG$  be a separable extension of  $RH$ ; then  $RG$  has only one separating idempotent over  $RH$  if and only if every finite conjugate class in  $G$  is an  $H$ -orbit, in the sense that if two elements  $a, b \in G$  are in the same finite conjugate class, then  $b = x^{-1} a x$  for some  $x \in H$ .

This leads to the following condition on a subgroup  $H$  of a finite group.

- (S) Any conjugate class in  $G$  is an  $H$ -orbit .

There exist large number of pairs  $(G, H)$ , such that  $H$  satisfies (S), but  $G \neq HK$ , for any normal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$ , with  $H \cap K = 1$ . Such pairs of 2-groups were found by using *GAP*-computer package [6]. For all such pairs  $(G, H)$ , with  $G$  a 2-group,  $|G| \leq 32$ , we observed that  $G = HZ(G)$ . But we found three groups  $G$ , of order 64, having subgroups  $H$ , satisfying (S),  $|H| = 32$ , but  $G \neq HZ(G)$ ; in fact  $Z(H) = Z(G)$ . In section 2, we endeavor to prove that for any group  $G$  of order less than 64, if a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  satisfies (S) then  $G = HZ(G)$ .

Answer is given in the affirmative except for  $|G| = 48$ . However, in the results (3.2) through (3.5), some general, sufficient conditions on the orders of  $G$  and  $H$  are given under which  $G = HZ(G)$ , whenever  $H$  satisfies (S).

## 1 – Preliminaries

Let  $R$  be any ring with identity  $1 \neq 0$  and  $S$  be any subring of  $R$  containing 1. Let  $\varphi: R \otimes_S R \rightarrow R$  be the  $(R, R)$ -homomorphism such that  $\varphi(\sum_i a_i \otimes b_i) = \sum a_i b_i$ . As defined by Hirata and Sugano [3],  $R$  is called a separable extension of  $S$ , if there exists  $z = \sum_i a_i \otimes b_i \in R \otimes_S R$  such that  $\varphi(z) = 1$  and  $rz = zr$  for every  $r \in R$ ; such an element  $z$  is called a separating idempotent of  $R$  over  $S$ . The center of  $R$  will be denoted by  $Z(R)$ . Let  $G$  be any group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Any  $a, b \in G$  are said to be in the same  $H$ -orbit if  $b = x^{-1}ax$  for some  $x \in H$ . A set  $\{g_\alpha: \alpha \in \Lambda\}$  of right coset representatives of  $H$  in  $G$  is called a right transversal of  $H$  in  $G$  ([4, p. 5]).  $Z(G)$  and  $\Delta(G)$  denote the center and the  $FC$  subgroup of  $G$ , respectively [4]. Let  $K$  be a non empty subset of  $G$ , then the subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $K$  and the centralizer of  $K$  are denoted by  $\langle K \rangle$  and  $\text{Centl}(K)$ , respectively. For  $a, b \in G$ ,  $[a, b]$ ,  $N(a)$  and  $o(a)$  denote the commutator  $a^{-1}b^{-1}ab$ , the centralizer of  $a$  and the order of  $a$ , respectively. Consider a non zero  $x = \sum a_g g \in RG$ , then the support of  $x$ , denoted by  $\text{supt}(x)$ , is the set  $\{g \in G: a_g \neq 0\}$ . For any set  $X$ ,  $|X|$  denotes the cardinality of  $X$ . For some general concepts on rings and modules, one may refer to Stenström [7], and for group-rings to Passman [4].

## 2 – Group rings

Throughout  $H$  is a subgroup of a group  $G$ ,  $T = \{g_\alpha: \alpha \in \Lambda\}$  is a right transversal of  $H$  in  $G$ , with  $g_1 = 1 \in T$ , and  $R$  is any ring with identity  $1 \neq 0$ . Any element of  $RG \otimes_{RH} RG$  is uniquely expressible as  $\sum_\alpha a_\alpha \otimes g_\alpha$ ,  $a_\alpha \in RG$ , and  $a_\alpha \neq 0$  for finitely many  $\alpha \in \Lambda$ . An  $x \in RG \otimes_{RH} RG$  is called a commutant element if  $ax = xa$  for every  $a \in RG$ . We write  $P$  for  $RG \otimes_{RH} RG$ . The proof of the following is on familiar lines, as for the special case of  $H = 1$  (see proof of [8, Lemma 1]).

**Lemma 2.1.** *An  $x = \sum_\alpha a_\alpha \otimes g_\alpha \neq 0$  in  $P$ , is a commutant element if and only if,  $[G : H] < \infty$ ,  $a_\beta = g_\beta^{-1} a_1$ , for every  $\beta \in \Lambda$  and  $a_1 = \sum_g r_g g \in Z(R) \Delta(G)$  such that for  $g \in \text{supt}(a_1)$ ,  $r_g = r_{g'}$  whenever  $g'$  is in the  $H$ -orbit of  $g$ .*

For any finite non empty subset  $X$  of  $G$ ,  $y_x$  denotes the sum in  $RG$ , of elements of  $X$ . Clearly,  $y_{\{1\}} = 1$ . Consider a non zero commutant element  $x \in P$ , then  $x = \sum_{\beta} g_{\beta}^{-1} a_1 \otimes g_{\beta}$ . The above lemma gives

$$a_1 = r_1 + \sum_{i=2}^k r_{A_i} y_{A_i} ,$$

where  $A_i$  are finitely many finite  $H$ -orbits in  $G$  none equal to  $\{1\}$ , and  $r_1, r_{A_i} \in Z(R)$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $C$  be a conjugate class in  $G$ ,  $b, b' \in C$ , and  $A$  be any  $H$ -orbit in  $C$ . Then*

$$B = \left\{ \alpha \in \Lambda : g_{\alpha}^{-1} u g_{\alpha} = b \text{ for some } u \in A \right\}$$

and

$$B' = \left\{ \alpha \in \Lambda : g_{\alpha}^{-1} u g_{\alpha} = b' \text{ for some } u \in A \right\}$$

have the same cardinality.

**Proof:** Now,  $b' = x^{-1} b x$  for some  $x \in G$ . Let  $\alpha \in B$ , then for some  $u \in A$ ,  $g_{\alpha}^{-1} u g_{\alpha} = b$ . Now,  $g_{\alpha} x = h_{t(\alpha)} g_{t(\alpha)}$  for some  $h_{t(\alpha)} \in H$  and  $t(\alpha) \in \Lambda$ ,

$$u' = h_{t(\alpha)}^{-1} u h_{t(\alpha)} \in A ,$$

and

$$b' = g_{t(\alpha)}^{-1} u' g_{t(\alpha)} .$$

This gives  $t(\alpha) \in B'$ . The mapping  $t \mapsto t(\alpha)$  is a one-to-one mapping of  $B$  into  $B'$ . So that,  $|B| \leq |B'|$ . Similarly,  $|B'| \leq |B|$ . Hence,  $|B| = |B'|$ . ■

Henceforth, let  $|\Lambda| < \infty$ . Let  $C$  be a finite conjugate class in  $G$ . Consider an  $H$ -orbit  $A$  in  $C$ . The above lemma gives a positive integer  $\lambda_A$  which for any  $b \in C$ , equals

$$\left| \left\{ \alpha \in \Lambda : g_{\alpha}^{-1} u g_{\alpha} = b \text{ for some } u \in A \right\} \right| .$$

Let us call  $\lambda_A$ , the weight of  $C$  relative to  $A$ . If  $C = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_t\}$ , and  $C = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_k$  is the decomposition of  $C$  into  $H$ -orbits, then for any  $r_i \in R$ ,

$$\sum_{\alpha} \sum_i g_{\alpha}^{-1} r_i y_{A_i} g_{\alpha} = \sum_{j=1}^t \left( \sum_i \lambda_{A_i} r_i \right) b_j = \left( \sum_i \lambda_{A_i} r_i \right) y_C .$$

The following theorem generalizes [8, Theorem 2] and some other results in [9].

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $H$  be any subgroup of a group  $G$ , and  $R$  be any ring. The following hold.*

- i)  $RG$  is a separable extension of  $RH$  if and only if  $[G : H] < \infty$  and  $[G : H]1_R$  is invertible in  $R$ .
- ii) If  $RG$  is separable over  $RH$ , then  $RG$  has a unique separating idempotent over  $RH$  if and only if each finite conjugate class in  $G$  is an  $H$ -orbit.

**Proof:** i) Let  $RG$  be a separable extension of  $RH$ . So, there exists  $z \in RG \otimes_{RH} RG$  such that under the  $RG$ -bimodule homomorphism  $\varphi : RG \otimes_{RH} RG \rightarrow RG$ , such that  $\varphi(a \otimes b) = ab$ , we have  $\varphi(z) = 1$  and  $az = za$  for any  $a, b \in RG$ . By (2.1),  $[G : H] = n < \infty$  and  $z = \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} a_1 \otimes g_{\alpha}$  with  $a_1 = r_1 + \sum_i r_i y_{A_i}$ , where  $A_i$  are some finite  $H$ -orbits other than  $\{1\}$ ;  $r_1, r_i \in Z(R)$ . Then

$$1 = \varphi(z) = n r_1 + \sum_{i, \alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} r_i y_{A_i} g_{\alpha}$$

yields  $n r_1 = 1$ . Thus,  $n 1_R$  is invertible in  $R$ . Conversely, if  $s = n 1_R$  is invertible in  $R$ , then

$$z_0 = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} \otimes g_{\alpha}$$

is a separating idempotent of  $RG$  over  $RH$ .

ii) Let  $RG$  be separable over  $RH$ . Let  $RG$  have only one separating idempotent over  $RH$ . This one is  $z' = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} \otimes g_{\alpha}$ . Suppose there exists a finite conjugate class  $C$  in  $G$ , such that  $C = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_k$ , where  $A_i$  are disjoint  $H$ -orbits, and  $k \geq 2$ . If one of  $\lambda_{A_1}$  and  $\lambda_{A_2}$  is non zero in  $R$ , then

$$z = \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} (\lambda_{A_2} y_{A_1} - \lambda_{A_1} y_{A_2}) \otimes g_{\alpha} \neq 0,$$

and

$$\varphi(z) = (\lambda_{A_1} \lambda_{A_2} - \lambda_{A_2} \lambda_{A_1}) y_C = 0.$$

This gives a separating idempotent  $z_0 + z$  different from  $z_0$ . If  $\lambda_{A_1} = 0 = \lambda_{A_2}$  in  $R$ , then

$$z_0 + \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} (y_{A_1} + y_{A_2}) \otimes g_{\alpha}$$

is a separating idempotent other than  $z_0$ . This is a contradiction. Hence every finite conjugate class in  $G$  is an  $H$ -orbit. Conversely, let every finite conjugate

class in  $G$  be an  $H$ -orbit, then any non zero commutant element in  $RG \otimes_{RH} RG$  is of the form

$$z = \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^{-1} a_1 \otimes g_{\alpha}$$

where  $a_1 = \sum_i r_i y_{C_i}$ , for some finitely many distinct finite conjugate classes  $C_i$  in  $G$  and  $r_i \neq 0$  in  $Z(R)$ ,  $\varphi(z) = n \sum_i r_i y_{C_i}$ ,  $n = [G : H]$ , gives  $\varphi(z) \neq 0$ . Hence,  $R$  has only one separating idempotent over  $RH$ . ■

### 3 – Finite groups

Throughout  $G$  is a finite group, and  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . We consider the condition

(S) Any conjugate class in  $G$  is an  $H$ -orbit .

If  $R$  is any ring such that  $|G|$  is invertible in  $R$ , by (2.3)  $RG$  has only one separating idempotent over  $RH$  if and only if  $H$  satisfies (S). This observation motivates us to study the above condition. If  $G = HZ(G)$ , obviously,  $H$  satisfies (S). There exist groups  $G$  having subgroups  $H$  satisfying (S), but  $G \neq HZ(G)$ . Some such groups of order 64 were found by using *GAP* [6]. One such a group is described at the end of this paper. We endeavor to prove that for any group  $G$  of order less than 64, if a subgroup  $H$  satisfies (S), then  $G = HZ(G)$ . We shall give a number of sufficient conditions on  $|H|$  and  $|G|$  under which  $G = HZ(G)$ , whenever  $H$  satisfies (S). We start with the following obvious results.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a finite group  $G$ . Then:*

- i)  $H$  satisfies (S) if and only if  $G = HN(a)$  for every  $a \in G$ .
- ii) If  $H$  satisfies (S), then  $\text{Centl}(H) \leq Z(G)$ , and  $Z(G) \cap H = Z(H)$ .
- iii) If  $H$  satisfies (S), then  $G/H$  is an abelian group,  $G' = [H, G] = H'$ ; further if  $H$  is abelian, then  $G$  is abelian.
- iv) If  $H$  satisfies (S), then any normal subgroup of  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *If  $|G| = pqs$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are two distinct primes, and  $H$  is a non abelian subgroup of  $G$  of order  $pq$ , satisfying (S), then  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Proof:**  $Z(H) = 1$ . Let  $a, b \in H$ , such that  $o(a) = p$ ,  $o(b) = q$ . To be definite, let  $p < q$ . As  $G = HN(a)$ , by (3.1),  $|N(a)| = ps$ . Similarly,  $|N(b)| = qs$ . As  $\langle b \rangle$  is

a normal subgroup of  $H$ , by (3.1) iv),  $\langle b \rangle$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . So,  $N(b)$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $pq \mid |N(a)N(b)|$  yields  $s \mid |N(a) \cap N(b)|$ . Obviously,  $N(a) \cap N(b) = \text{Centl}(H)$ . So,  $N(a) \cap N(b) \leq Z(G)$ , by (3.1) ii). However,  $N(a) \cap N(b) \cap H = 1$ . This yields,  $Z(G) = N(a) \cap N(b)$ , and  $G = HZ(G)$ . ■

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $|G| = p^2qs$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are primes, such that  $p < q$ , and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  of order  $p^2q$ , satisfying (S), then  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $K = \langle c \rangle$ , be a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Consider  $q > 3$ . Then,  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $H$ , hence by (3.1) iv) it is normal in  $G$ . Now  $|Z(H)|$  is 1 or  $p$ . Let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ .

**Case (I):**  $Z(H) = 1$ . Then  $P$  is cyclic. Let  $P = \langle d \rangle$ . As  $G = HN(d)$ ,  $|N(d)| = p^2s$ . Also,  $|N(c)| = qs$ .  $H = \langle c, d \rangle$ , yields  $N(c) \cap N(d) = \text{Centl}(H) \leq Z(G)$ ,  $H \cap (N(c) \cap N(d)) = 1$ . Also  $H \leq N(c)N(d)$ , yields  $G = N(c)N(d)$ . So that  $p^2qs = |N(d)N(c)|$ ,  $|N(d) \cap N(c)| = s$ . Hence,  $G = HZ(G)$ .

**Case (II):**  $|Z(H)| = p$ . Then,  $|N(c)| = pqs$ . Let  $P$  be cyclic. Then  $|N(c) \cap N(d)| = ps$ , and once again  $G = HZ(G)$ . Suppose  $P$  is not cyclic, then  $H = Z(H) \times L$ , where  $|L| = pq$ . Then for any  $x \in G$ ,  $G = HN(x) = LN(x)$ . So by (3.2),  $G = LZ(G) = HZ(G)$ .

We now consider  $q = 3$ . Then  $p = 2$ ,  $|H| = 12$ . If a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $H$  is cyclic, on similar lines as when  $q > 3$ , we get  $G = HZ(G)$ . Let Sylow 2-subgroup of  $H$  be not cyclic. Suppose Sylow 3-subgroup of  $H$  is not normal. We get another Sylow 3-subgroup  $K' = \langle c' \rangle$  of  $H$ . Then  $|N(c)| = |N(c')| = 3s$ ,  $N(c) \cap N(c') \cap H = 1$ . Then,  $|N(c)N(c')| \leq 12s$ , yields  $|N(c) \cap N(c')| \geq \frac{3}{4}s$  and hence,  $|H(N(c) \cap N(c'))| \geq \frac{3}{4}|G|$ . Consequently,  $G = H(N(c) \cap N(c'))$ . However,  $H = \langle c, c' \rangle$ . Thus,  $N(c) \cap N(c') \leq Z(G)$ . If Sylow 3-subgroup of  $H$  is normal, then  $H = L \times L_1$ ,  $|L| = 6$ ,  $|L_1| = 2$ . Once again by (3.2),  $G = HZ(G)$ . ■

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $|G| = p^2qs$ , where  $p, q$  and  $s$  are prime numbers and  $p > q$ , then for any nonabelian subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  of order  $p^2q$ , satisfying (S),  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ , and  $K = \langle c \rangle$  be a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Now  $P$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .

**Case (I):**  $P$ , a cyclic group. So for some  $a \in P$ ,  $P = \langle a \rangle$ ; then  $Z(H) = 1$ . By using (3.1), we get  $|N(a)| = p^2s$ ,  $|N(c)| = qs$ , and  $|N(a) \cap N(c)| \geq s$ . However,  $H \cap N(a) \cap N(c) = 1$  and  $N(a) \cap N(c) \leq Z(G)$ . This yields  $G = H \times Z(G)$ .

**Case (II):**  $P$  is not cyclic. If  $Z(H) \neq 1$ , then  $H = Z(H) \times L_1$  with  $|L_1| = pq$ . By (3.2),  $G = L_1 Z(G) = HZ(G)$ . Let  $Z(H) = 1$ . If for some  $a \in H$  with  $o(a) = p$ ,  $H = \langle a, c \rangle$ , as in Case (I), we get  $G = HZ(G)$ . Suppose  $H \neq \langle a, c \rangle$ , for any  $a \in H$  with  $o(a) = p$ , then  $H = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  for some  $a, b \in H$  satisfying  $o(a) = p = o(b)$ ,  $c^{-1}ac = a^\lambda$ ,  $c^{-1}bc = b^\lambda$  for some  $\lambda$ , satisfying  $2 \leq \lambda \leq p-1$ ,  $c^1xc = x^\lambda$  for any  $x \in P$ . If  $N(a) = N(b)$ , then  $N(a) \cap N(c) \leq Z(G)$  and  $|N(a) \cap N(c)| \geq s$ . So,  $G = HZ(G)$ .

Let  $N(x) \neq N(y)$  for any  $x, y \in H$  for which  $P = \langle x, y \rangle$ . As  $[G : N(a)] = q$ ,  $G = N(a)N(b)$ , and  $|N(a) \cap N(b)| = p^2(\frac{s}{q})$ . So,  $s = q$ ,  $|G| = p^2q^2$ ,  $|N(c)| = q^2$ ,  $|N(a)| = p^2q$ ,  $P = N(a) \cap N(b)$ , and  $|N(a) \cap N(c)| = q = |N(b) \cap N(c)|$ . Suppose  $N(c)$  is cyclic, then  $N(a) \cap N(c)$  being the unique subgroup of  $N(c)$  of order  $q$ , give  $N(a) \cap N(c) = \langle c \rangle = N(b) \cap N(c)$ . This gives  $H$  is abelian. This is a contradiction. Hence  $N(c)$  is not cyclic. If  $N(a) \cap N(c) = N(b) \cap N(c)$ , then for some  $d \in N(c)$ , such that  $d \notin \langle c \rangle$ ,  $d \in N(a) \cap N(b)$ . This gives  $N(a) = P\langle d \rangle = N(b)$ . This is a contradiction. So,  $N(a) \cap N(c) \neq N(b) \cap N(c)$ . We get  $g \in (N(a) \cap N(c)) \setminus (N(b) \cap N(c))$ . Then  $N(c) = \langle c, g \rangle$ ,  $g^{-1}bg = b^j$  for some  $j$ , with  $2 \leq j \leq p-1$ . Then  $N(ab) \cap N(c) = 1$ . On the other hand, as for  $a$ ,  $|N(ab) \cap N(c)| = q$ . This is a contradiction. Hence the result follows. ■

**Proposition 3.5.** *If  $|G| = p^3s$ , for some prime number  $p$ , and  $H$  is a nonabelian subgroup of  $G$  of order  $p^3$ , satisfying (S), then  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Proof:** Now,  $H = \langle a, b \rangle$ , for some  $a, b$  not in  $Z(H)$ , and  $|Z(H)| = p$ . By using (3.1) we get  $|N(a)| = p^2s = |N(b)|$ ,  $|H \cap N(a) \cap N(b)| = p$  and  $N(a) \cap N(b) \leq Z(G)$ . As  $|N(a) \cap N(b)| \geq ps$ , it is immediate that  $G = HZ(G)$ . ■

Let  $n$  be any positive integer less than 64, other than 32, 48 and 60. Let  $G$  be a group of order  $n$ , then any proper subgroup of  $G$  is either abelian or of order of the form given in (3.2) to (3.5), so  $G = HZ(G)$ . Let  $|G| = 60$ , in view of (3.2) to (3.5), we consider a nonabelian subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  of order 30, satisfying (S).  $H$  has a normal cyclic subgroup  $L = \langle a \rangle$  of order 15. Let  $b \in H$  be of order 2. Then  $|N(a)| = 30$ ,  $4 \mid |N(b)|$ . So that  $2 \mid |Z(G)|$ . If  $Z(G) \not\leq H$ , then  $G = HZ(G)$ . If  $Z(G) \leq H$ , then  $H = LZ(G)$ , and  $L$  satisfies (S). By (3.2),  $G = LZ(G)$ . This is a contradiction. Hence,  $Z(G) \not\leq H$ , and  $G = HZ(G)$ . We get:

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $|G| = 60$ , then for any subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  satisfying (S),  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $|G| = 32$ , then for any nonabelian subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , satisfying (S),  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

**Proof:** In view of (3.5) we only consider the case  $H = 16$ . Suppose  $Z(G) \leq H$ . Then by (3.1),  $Z(H) = Z(G)$ . By Scott, [6.5.1, p. 146],  $H$  has an abelian subgroup  $L$  of order 8. Suppose  $H$  has another abelian subgroup  $L_1$  of order 8. Then  $|L \cap L_1| = 4$ ,  $Z(H) = L \cap L_1$  and  $L/Z(H) = \langle \bar{x} \rangle$  for some  $x \in L \setminus Z(H)$ . Then for any  $a, b$  in  $L \setminus Z(H)$ ,  $N(a) = N(b)$ , and by (3.1)  $|N(a)| = 16$ . Thus,  $T = \text{Centl}(L) = N(a)$  for any  $a \in L \setminus Z(H)$ . Similarly,  $T_1 = \text{Centl}(L_1)$  is of order 16. Further  $T$  and  $T_1$  are abelian,  $T \cap T_1 \leq Z(G)$  and  $|T \cap T_1| \geq 8$ . This is a contradiction. Hence  $H$  has a unique abelian subgroup  $L$  of order 8. This in turn yields,  $|Z(H)| = 2$ . Suppose  $\bar{H} = H/Z(H)$  has an element  $\bar{a}$  of order 4. Then  $|N(a)| = 16$ ,  $\langle Z(H), a \rangle \leq Z(N(a))$ , gives  $N(a)$  is abelian. Choose  $a, b \in H$  such that  $ab \neq ba$ . Then  $|N(b)| \geq 8$ . As  $\langle Z(H), b \rangle \leq Z(N(b))$ , we get a subgroup  $T$  of  $N(b)$  of order 8 such that  $\langle Z(H), b \rangle \leq T$ . As  $N(a)$  is an abelian normal subgroup of order 16,  $G = N(a)T$ ,  $|N(a) \cap T| = 4$  and  $N(a) \cap T \leq Z(G)$ . This is a contradiction, as  $|Z(G)| = 2$ . Hence,  $\bar{H}$  is elementary abelian. Let  $Z(H) = \{e, d\}$ . We can find  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in \bar{H}$  such that  $\bar{H} = \langle \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \rangle$ ,  $L = \langle a, b, d \rangle$ . Then  $ab \neq ba$ ,  $ac \neq ca$ , otherwise we get an abelian subgroup of  $H$  of order 8, other than  $L$ . Now  $N(a) \cap L = \{e, d\}$ ,  $|N(a)| \geq 8$ , gives  $G = LN(a)$ . As  $\bar{a}\bar{b} = \bar{b}\bar{a}$ , we get  $ba = abd$ . Similarly,  $ca = acd$ . Then,  $cba = cabd = acdbd = acb$ . Thus,  $cb \in N(a) \cap L$ . This is a contradiction. Hence,  $Z(G) \not\leq H$  and  $G = HZ(G)$ . ■

Thus, we get the following

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $G$  be any group of order less than 64, and different from 48. If a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  satisfies (S), then  $G = HZ(G)$ .*

For  $|G| = 48$ , we require to discuss only the case when  $|H| = 24$ . However, there are large number of possibilities for this case. This case is left untackled for the time being.

There exist large number of pairs  $(G, H)$ , where  $H$  satisfies (S), but  $G \neq HZ(G)$ . Such pairs of 2-groups have been found by using *GAP-computer* package [6]. Here we describe a pair  $(G, H)$  with  $|G| = 64$ ,  $|H| = 32$ ,  $Z(G) = Z(H)$ ; so that  $G \neq HZ(G)$ . We could discover three different groups  $G$ , of order 64, numbered as 257, 258, and 259, in the 2-group library of the package. In each of them we could find six subgroups  $H$  of order 32, satisfying (S) and containing  $Z(G)$ . One such is the following. This is numbered 257.

**Example:**  $C = \langle a, b, c, d \rangle$  with relations  $a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = d^2 = 1$ ,  $ac = ca$ ,  $ad = da$ ,  $bc = cb$ ,  $bd = db$ ,  $[d, c] = [b, a]^2 = [[b, a], a]$ ,  $[d, c]c = c[d, c]$ ,  $[d, c]d = d[d, c]$ ,  $[d, c]^2 = 1$ . Here,  $Z(G) = \{I, [d, c]\}$ ,  $|G| = 64$ ,  $H = \langle b, d, [b, a], [d, c], ac \rangle$ ,  $|H| = 32$ .

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Surjeet Singh and L.A.-M. Hanna,  
Department of Mathematics, Kuwait University,  
P.O. Box 5969, Safat 13060 – KUWAIT