

## ON AUTOCENTRAL KERNEL OF GROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $G$  be a group, where  $\text{Aut}(G)$  denotes the full automorphisms group of  $G$  and  $L(G)$  represents the absolute center of  $G$ . An automorphism  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$  is called an autocentral automorphism if  $g^{-1}\alpha(g) \in L(G)$ , for all  $g \in G$ . In this paper, we introduce the notion of autocentral kernel subgroup for an arbitrary group  $G$ . We then investigate and establish several structural properties of this subgroup, providing insights into its role within the broader framework of group theory.

**Keywords:** Absolute central automorphisms, Absolute centre, Autocentral kernel, Autonilpotent group.

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### 1. Introduction and preliminaries

Let  $G$  be a group. We denote the terms of the lower and upper central series of  $G$  by  $\gamma_i(G)$  and  $Z_i(G)$ , respectively. The group of all automorphisms of  $G$  is denoted by  $\text{Aut}(G)$ , while  $\text{Inn}(G)$  represents the group of inner automorphisms of  $G$ . For a group  $H$  and an abelian group  $K$ , we denote the group of homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $K$  by  $\text{Hom}(H, K)$ . We use  $C_m$  to represent the cyclic group of order  $m$ . The Frattini subgroup of  $G$  is denoted by  $\Phi(G)$ . Throughout this paper,  $p$  always denotes a prime number. Finally, we will use standard notation and terminology as found in [11].

For each  $g \in G$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ , the element  $[g, \alpha] = g^{-1}\alpha(g)$  is called the autocommutator of  $g$  and  $\alpha$ . The autocommutator of higher weight is defined inductively as follows:

$$[g, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n] = [[g, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}], \alpha_n],$$

for all  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \in \text{Aut}(G)$  and  $g \in G$ .

Hegarty [5] introduced the absolute center of a group  $G$  denoted by

$$L(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha] = 1, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}.$$

Thus, the absolute center of  $G$  consists of all elements that remain fixed under every automorphism of  $G$ , making it a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ . Since  $\text{Inn}(G)$  acts trivially on  $Z(G)$ , it follows that  $L(G) \leq Z(G)$ . Furthermore, if  $\text{Aut}(G) = \text{Inn}(G)$ , then  $L(G) = Z(G)$ . In 2015, H. Meng and X. Guo [4]

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characterized the structure of finite groups  $G$  where  $L(G)$  is contained in the Frattini subgroup  $\Phi(G)$ . Later, Orfi and Fouladi [9] proved that if  $G$  is a  $p$ -group of maximal class of order  $p^n$  and  $\text{Aut}(G)$  is also a  $p$ -group, then  $L(G) = Z(G)$ . For further details, see also [5] and [10].

Now, define  $L_0(G) = \langle 1 \rangle$ ,  $L_1(G) = L(G)$ , and for  $n \geq 2$ , the  $n$ -th absolute center of  $G$  inductively as

$$L_n(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n] = 1, \forall \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \text{Aut}(G)\}.$$

Clearly,  $L_n(G)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$  and it satisfies  $L_n(G) \leq Z_n(G)$ , where  $Z_n(G)$  is the  $n$ -th center of  $G$ . Using this notation, we obtain the following series for  $G$ :

$$L_0(G) = \langle 1 \rangle \trianglelefteq L_1(G) = L(G) \trianglelefteq L_2(G) \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq L_n(G) \trianglelefteq \dots$$

A group  $G$  is called autonilpotent (See [6]) if there exists some  $n$  such that  $G = L_n(G)$ . Clearly, autonilpotent groups are nilpotent, but the converse does not necessarily hold. For instance,  $C_3$  is not autonilpotent because  $L(C_3) = 1$ . Similarly, it is well known that the symmetric group  $S_3$  is not nilpotent and since  $L(S_3) = 1$ , it follows that  $S_3$  is not autonilpotent.

Hegarty [5] introduced the notion of absolute central automorphisms. An automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $G$  is called an absolute central automorphism if  $[g, \alpha] \in L(G)$ , for all  $g \in G$ . The set of all absolute central automorphisms, denoted by  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$ , forms a normal subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ . In 2016, Nasrabadi and Farimani [8, Main Theorem] proved that if  $G$  is a finite autonilpotent  $p$ -group of class 2, then  $\text{Aut}_L(G) = \text{Inn}(G)$  if and only if  $L(G) = Z(G)$  and  $Z(G)$  is cyclic.

Moghaddam and Safa [7] further examined the properties of  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  and demonstrated that it fixes certain elements of  $G$ . They introduced the subgroup  $E(G)$ , defined as follows:

$$E(G) = \langle [g, \alpha] \mid g \in G, \alpha \in C_{\text{Aut}(G)}(\text{Aut}_L(G)) \rangle,$$

in which

$$C_{\text{Aut}(G)}(\text{Aut}_L(G)) = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G) \mid \alpha\beta = \beta\alpha, \forall \beta \in \text{Aut}_L(G)\}.$$

The subgroup  $E(G)$  is characteristic in  $G$  and contains the derived subgroup of  $G$ .

**Lemma 1.1.** ([7, Lemma 1]) *If  $G$  is an arbitrary group, then  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  acts trivially on the subgroup  $E(G)$  of  $G$ .*

**Example 1.2.** *Let  $G$  be a group with the following presentation*

$$G = \langle x, y \mid x^{2^n-1} = 1, x^y = x^2 \rangle, \text{ where } n \geq 2.$$

*Then  $\text{Aut}_L(G) = 1$ , and  $E(G) = \langle x \rangle$ . (See Example 1 of [7]).*

An automorphism  $\alpha$  of  $G$  is called a central automorphism if  $[g, \alpha] \in Z(G)$ , for all  $g \in G$ . The set of all central automorphisms of  $G$  is denoted by  $\text{Aut}_c(G)$ , and this set forms a normal subgroup of the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(G)$ . Moreover,  $\text{Aut}_c(G)$  contains the set  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$ .

In 1955, Haimo [3] introduced the concept of the central kernel of a given group. The central kernel of  $G$  consists of all elements of  $G$  that are fixed by every central automorphism. Davoudirad *et al.* [2] denoted this subgroup by  $L_c(G)$ , and proved that  $L_c(G)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ , which contains both  $L(G)$  and  $G'$ .

The following result is well known:

**Lemma 1.3.** *Let  $U$ ,  $V$  and  $W$  be finite abelian groups. Then*

- (1)  $\text{Hom}(U \times V, W) = \text{Hom}(U, W) \times \text{Hom}(V, W)$ .
- (2)  $\text{Hom}(U, V \times W) = \text{Hom}(U, V) \times \text{Hom}(U, W)$ .
- (3) *If  $(|U|, |V|) \neq 1$ , then  $\text{Hom}(U, V) \neq 1$ .*
- (4)  $\text{Hom}(C_m, C_n) = C_s$ , *where  $s$  is the greatest common divisor of  $m$  and  $n$ .*

In this paper, we introduce the notion of autocentral kernel for any group, which is a set of elements containing the derived subgroup, the subgroup  $E(G)$ , and the central kernel  $L_c(G)$ . We then establish some of its fundamental properties.

## 2. Autocentral kernel of a group

The previous section established that every autocentral automorphism acts trivially on the derived subgroup and certain subgroups detailed in [7]. However, autocentral automorphisms may also fix elements outside the derived subgroup. Therefore, we define the set of all elements fixed by every autocentral automorphism. This set provides a more comprehensive understanding of the action of these automorphisms beyond their known behavior on the subgroups mentioned in [7].

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $G$  be a group. The set of all elements that remain fixed under every absolute central automorphism of  $G$  is called the autocentral kernel of  $G$ , denoted by  $L_L(G)$ .

$$L_L(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha] = 1, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}_L(G)\}.$$

It is straightforward to verify that the autocentral kernel  $L_L(G)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$  and contains both  $L_c(G)$  and  $E(G)$ .

Since autocentral automorphisms fix every element of  $G'$ , we conclude that  $G' \leq L_L(G)$ . Consequently, the quotient group  $G/L_L(G)$  is abelian.

**Example 2.2.** *It can be easily verified that:  $L_L(C_6) = C_6$ ,  $L_L(C_{12}) \cong C_6$ ,  $L_L(C_{16}) \cong C_8$ . Additionally, for the dihedral group  $D_8 = \langle a, b \mid a^4 = b^2 = 1, bab = a^{-1} \rangle$ , we have  $L_L(D_8) = \{1, a^2\}$ .*

The reason of calling  $L_L(G)$  as the autocentral kernel becomes evident in the following result, which follows directly from Definition 2.1.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $G$  be a group. Then  $L_L(G) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \text{Aut}_L(G)} \ker \alpha$ .*

In the following, we will identify the conditions under which the autocentral kernel of a group coincides with the group itself, i.e., when  $L_L(G) = G$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $G$  be a group in which  $L(G)$  or  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  is trivial. Then  $L_L(G) = G$ .*

*Proof.* By Definition 2.1, it follows directly that if either  $L(G)$  or  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  is trivial, then the autocentral kernel  $L_L(G)$  must equal the entire group  $G$ . This result can be easily verified by applying the definition of the autocentral kernel.  $\square$

The next results provide the exact structure of autocentral kernel for each cyclic  $p$ -group.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $p^n$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime number. Then  $L_L(G) = G$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G = \langle a : a^{p^n} = 1 \rangle$ . Consider the automorphism  $\phi : a \mapsto a^2$ . Assume there exists some  $i < p^n$  such that  $\phi(a^i) = a^i$ . Then applying  $\phi$  to  $a^i$ , we get  $a^{2i} = a^i$ . This implies  $a^i = 1$ , which is a contradiction unless  $i = 0$ . Thus, there is no non-trivial element in  $G$  that is fixed by  $\phi$ . Therefore,  $L(G) = 1$  and by Lemma 2.4, we conclude that  $L_L(G) = G$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $G$  be a finite cyclic group of order  $2^n$ , where  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $L_L(G)$  is a cyclic group of order  $2^{n-1}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G = \langle x : x^{2^n} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $n \geq 2$ . Each automorphism of  $G$  can be expressed as  $\alpha : x \mapsto x^r$ , where  $r$  is an odd number, and  $1 \leq r \leq 2^n - 1$ . We aim to show that  $L_L(G) = \langle x^2 \rangle$ . Assume that  $r = 2t + 1$ , for some integer  $t$ . Consider the following calculation:

$$r2^{n-1} = (2t + 1)(2^{n-1}) = 2^n t + 2^{n-1} \equiv 2^{n-1} \pmod{2^n}.$$

We conclude that  $2^n | 2^{n-1}(r - 1)$ . This implies  $\alpha(x^{2^{n-1}}) = (x^{2^{n-1}})^r = x^{2^{n-1}}$ , showing that  $x^{2^{n-1}} \in L(G)$ . Now, let  $x^s \in L(G)$  for some  $1 \leq s < 2^n$ . Then,  $\alpha(x^s) = x^s$  or  $x^{rs} = x^s$ . Then  $2^n | s(r - 1)$ , and  $s = 2^{n-1}$ . This gives us  $L(G) = \{1, x^{2^{n-1}}\}$ . Now, using [7, Proposition 1], we find the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  is isomorphic to

$$\text{Aut}_L(G) \cong \text{Hom}\left(\frac{C_{2^n}}{C_2}, C_2\right) \cong \text{Hom}(C_{2^{n-1}}, C_2) \cong C_2.$$

Thus,  $\text{Aut}_L(G) = \{1, \sigma\}$ , where  $\sigma : x \mapsto x^{2^{n-1}+1}$ . Hence,  $L_L(G) = \langle x^2 \rangle \cong C_{2^{n-1}}$ .  $\square$

It is known from Proposition 1.6 in [10] that  $L(G) \neq 1$  when  $G$  is a non trivial autonilpotent group. The next result provides a similar statement for the autocentral kernel of  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** *If  $G$  is an autonilpotent group of class 2, then  $L_L(G) = L(G)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha$  be an arbitrary element of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ . Since  $G$  is an autonilpotent group of class 2, we know that  $L_2(G) = G$ . This implies that for every  $\beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ , we have the commutator identity  $[g, \alpha, \beta] = 1$ . In particular, this means that  $[g, \alpha] \in L(G)$ , where  $g$  is any element of  $G$ . Therefore,  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}_L(G)$ , and since  $\alpha$  was chosen arbitrarily, we conclude that  $\text{Aut}(G) = \text{Aut}_L(G)$ , as required.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $G$  be a group such that  $G/L(G)$  is an abelian group. Then  $L_L(G) \leq Z(G)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G/L(G)$  be an abelian group. Therefore,  $G' \leq L(G)$ , which implies that  $\text{Inn}(G) \leq \text{Aut}_L(G)$ . Now, let  $g$  be an arbitrary element of  $L_L(G)$ . Since  $\text{Inn}(G)$  acts trivially on  $g$ , we conclude that  $L_L(G) \leq Z(G)$ .  $\square$

An immediate consequence of Lemma 2.8 is the following result:

**Corollary 2.9.** *If  $G$  is a finite group in which  $G' \leq L(G) = Z(G)$ , then  $L_L(G) = Z(G)$ .*

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group such that  $L(G) = \Phi(G)$ . Then  $L_L(G) \leq Z(G)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, it follows that  $\Phi(G) = G'G^p$ . Therefore, we have  $L(G) = G'G^p$ , which implies that  $G' \leq L(G)$ . Then, the result is followed by applying Lemma 2.8.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.11.** *( [1, Corollary 2.2] ) If  $G$  is a finite group in which  $G' \leq L(G)$  and also  $Z(G) = L(G)$  is cyclic, then  $\text{Aut}_L(G) = \text{Inn}(G)$ .*

Recall that, a  $p$ -group  $G$  is called extra special if  $G' = Z(G) = \Phi(G)$  and  $Z(G)$  has order  $p$ . For a finite extra special  $p$ -group, the following result can be derived by using Corollary 3.5 from [12].

**Corollary 2.12.** *Let  $G$  be a finite extra special  $p$ -group. Then*

- (i) *If  $p > 2$ , then  $L_L(G) = G$ .*
- (ii) *If  $p = 2$ , then  $L_L(G) = Z(G)$ .*

**Example 2.13.** *Let  $G = \langle x_1, x_2, x \mid [x_1, x_2] = x^s \ (s \neq 1), [x_i, x] = 1, i = 1, 2 \rangle$ . Then  $L_L(G) = Z(G) = \langle x \rangle$ .*

Using Lemma 2.8 and Theorem 3.2 from [8] one obtains the next result.

**Corollary 2.14.** *Let  $G$  be a non-abelian finite  $p$ -group. If  $G$  is autonilpotent of class 2 and  $L(G) = Z(G)$  is cyclic, then  $L_L(G) = Z(G)$ .*

### 3. Some results for absolute central automorphism

In this section, we delve into the properties of absolute central automorphisms, leveraging the concept of the autocentral kernel of a group. We begin by establishing a property of autocentral automorphisms analogous to [7,

Proposition 1], originally demonstrated by Moghaddam and Safa. It is important to note that while the quotient group  $G/L(G)$  is not necessarily abelian, the quotient group  $G/L_L(G)$  is always abelian. This distinction arises from the fact that  $L_L(G)$  is defined as the autocentral kernel, which enforces a stronger commutativity condition. Furthermore, when  $G$  is finite, the order of  $G/L_L(G)$  is strictly less than that of  $G/L(G)$ , reflecting the refined structure captured by the autocentral kernel. This inequality highlights that  $L_L(G)$  is a larger subgroup of  $G$  than  $L(G)$ , thus providing a more precise measure of centrality within the group. The fact that  $G/L_L(G)$  is abelian, even when  $G/L(G)$  is not, provides an important tool for analyzing the structure of non-abelian groups. We will explore the implications of these properties in the subsequent results.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a group. Then  $\text{Aut}_L(G) \cong \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $g \in G$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}_L(G)$ . By Definition 2.1, we have  $[g, \alpha] \in L(G)$  so the map  $f_\alpha : \frac{G}{L_L(G)} \rightarrow L(G)$  given by  $f_\alpha(gL_L(G)) = [g, \alpha]$  is a well-defined homomorphism. To see this, consider  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ . If  $g_1L_L(G) = g_2L_L(G)$ , then  $g_2^{-1}g_1 \in L_L(G)$ . Therefore, there exists  $l \in L_L(G)$  such that  $g_2^{-1}g_1 = l$ , and so using Definition 2.1

$$\begin{aligned} f_\alpha(g_1L_L(G)) &= [g_1, \alpha] = [g_2l, \alpha] = (g_2l)^{-1}\alpha(g_2l) = l^{-1}g_2^{-1}\alpha(g_2)\alpha(l) \\ &= g_2^{-1}\alpha(g_2)l^{-1}\alpha(l) \\ &= g_2^{-1}\alpha(g_2) \\ &= [g_2, \alpha] = f_\alpha(g_2L_L(G)) \end{aligned}$$

Now let  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} f_\alpha(g_1g_2L_L(G)) &= [g_1g_2, \alpha] = (g_1g_2)^{-1}\alpha(g_1g_2) \\ &= g_2^{-1}g_1^{-1}\alpha(g_1)\alpha(g_2) \\ &= g_1^{-1}\alpha(g_1)g_2^{-1}\alpha(g_2) \\ &= f_\alpha(g_1L_L(G))f_\alpha(g_2L_L(G)). \end{aligned}$$

Now, consider the map

$$\begin{aligned} \psi : \text{Aut}_L(G) &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G)) \\ \alpha &\longmapsto f_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

such that  $f_\alpha : \frac{G}{L_L(G)} \rightarrow L(G)$  given by  $f_\alpha(gL_L(G)) = [g, \alpha]$ , for all  $g \in G$ . We show that  $\psi$  is an isomorphism. Clearly, the map  $\psi$  is a well-defined monomorphism. Therefore, it remains to verify that  $\psi$  is onto. For an arbitrary element  $h$  of  $\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G))$ , consider the map  $\beta : G \rightarrow G$ , defined by

$\beta(g) = gh(gL_L(G))$ , for all  $g \in G$ . We will show that  $\beta \in \text{Aut}_L(G)$ , and  $\psi(\beta) = h$ . Clearly,  $\beta$  is well-defined homomorphism. To see that  $\beta$  is injective, let  $k \in \ker \beta$ , then  $\beta(k) = 1$ , which implies that  $kh(kL_L(G)) = 1$ . Since  $h(kL_L(G)) \in L(G)$ , we conclude that,  $k \in L(G) \leq L_L(G)$ . Therefore, we have  $1 = \beta(k) = kh(kL_L(G)) = k$ . Thus,  $k = 1$ , as required. To prove that  $\beta$  is onto, first note that,  $\text{Im}h \leq \text{Im}\beta$ . Now, for each  $g \in G$ ,

$$g^{-1}\beta(g) = g^{-1}gh(gL_L(G)) = h(gL_L(G)) \in \text{Im}h \leq \text{Im}\beta.$$

Therefore,  $G = \text{Im}\beta$ . Clearly,  $\beta$  is an autocentral automorphism of  $G$  and  $\psi(\beta) = h$ , as desirable.  $\square$

**Example 3.2.** Let  $G \cong C_{12}$ . It is straightforward to verify that  $L(G) \cong C_2$ ,  $\text{Aut}_L(G) \cong C_2$ , and  $L_L(G) \cong C_6$ . Therefore, we conclude that  $\text{Aut}_L(G) \cong \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G))$ .

It is evident that  $\text{Inn}(G) \subseteq \text{Aut}_L(G)$ , when  $G/L(G)$  is abelian. In the following, using Theorem 3.1 we will demonstrate that  $\text{Inn}(D_8) \cong \text{Aut}_L(D_8)$ .

**Example 3.3.** Let  $G \cong D_8$ . It is easy to verify that  $L_L(G) = L(G) = Z(G) \cong C_2$ . Therefore  $G/Z(G) \cong C_2 \times C_2$ . Since  $G/Z(G) \cong \text{Inn}(G)$  is abelian, we conclude that  $\text{Inn}(G) \subseteq \text{Aut}_L(G)$ . Using Theorem 3.1, it follows that  $|\text{Aut}_L(G)| = 4$  and hence  $\text{Inn}(G) \cong \text{Aut}_L(G)$ .

Some conditions under which the autocentral automorphism group is trivial are stated below:

**Theorem 3.4.** Assume that  $G$  is a group in which  $L(G)$  is torsion-free. Then  $\text{Aut}_L(G)$  is trivial if  $G/L_L(G)$  is torsion.

*Proof.* Let  $g \in G$ . It is sufficient to show that  $\alpha(g) = g$ , for each  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}_L(G)$ . Since  $G/L_L(G)$  is torsion, there exists some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $g^n \in L_L(G)$ . Now, consider the action of  $\alpha$  on  $g$ :

$$\alpha(g)^n = \alpha(g^n) = g^n$$

Note that  $g^{-1}\alpha(g) \in L(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ . Therefore  $g^{-1}\alpha(g)$  commutes with  $\alpha(g)$ , which implies that  $(g^{-1}\alpha(g))^n = 1$ . On the other hand, since  $g^{-1}\alpha(g) \in L(G)$  and  $L(G)$  is torsion-free, we must have  $g^{-1}\alpha(g) = 1$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $(|G|, |\frac{G}{L_L(G)}|) = 1$ , then  $\text{Aut}_L(G) = 1$ .

*Proof.* By the way of contradiction, assume that  $\text{Aut}_L(G) \neq 1$ . This implies that there exists a homomorphism  $f \in \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G))$  such that  $\text{Im}f \neq 1$ , using Theorem 3.1. Thus,  $(|\frac{G}{L_L(G)}|, |L(G)|) = (|\ker f| |\text{Im}f|, r |\text{Im}f|) \neq 1$ , which is a contradiction as required.  $\square$

**Example 3.6.** Let  $G \cong C_{10}$ . It is not difficult to verify that  $L(G) \cong C_2$ ,  $\text{Aut}_L(G) \cong 1$ , and  $L_L(G) = G$ . Thus  $C_{10}$  satisfies the conditions in Theorem 3.5.

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group such that  $\exp(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}) | \exp(L(G))$ . Then

$$\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G)) \cong \frac{G}{L_L(G)}$$

if and only if  $L(G)$  is cyclic.

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group such that  $\exp(\frac{G}{L_L(G)})$  divides  $\exp(L(G))$ . If  $L(G)$  is cyclic, then  $\exp(L(G)) = |L(G)|$ . Since  $G/L_L(G)$  and  $L(G)$  are both abelian groups, the result follows from parts (1) and (4) of Lemma 1.3. Conversely, let  $\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G)) \cong \frac{G}{L_L(G)}$ . We proceed by contradiction. Suppose that  $L(G)$  is not cyclic and let us assume that  $L(G) \cong C_{p^i} \times B$ , where  $\exp(L(G)) = p^i$  and  $B$  is a non-trivial abelian group. By Lemma 1.3 (2), we can decompose the homomorphism group as follows:

$$\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G)) \cong \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, C_{p^i}) \times \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, B).$$

By our assumption, we have  $\frac{G}{L_L(G)} \cong \frac{G}{L_L(G)} \times \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, B)$ . It follows that the homomorphism group  $\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, B)$  is trivial. This leads to a contradiction because  $B$  is assumed to be non-trivial. Therefore,  $L(G)$  is cyclic and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.8.** Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group such that  $\exp(\frac{G}{L(G)}) | \exp(L(G))$ . Suppose that  $L(G)$  is cyclic and  $G/L(G)$  is an abelian group. Then  $L_L(G) = L(G)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group that  $G/L(G)$  is abelian and  $L(G)$  is cyclic. Suppose that,  $\exp(\frac{G}{L(G)}) | \exp(L(G))$ . By invoking parts (1) and (4) of Lemma 1.3, we have  $\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L(G)}, L(G)) \cong \frac{G}{L(G)}$ . Since  $L(G) \leq L_L(G)$ , it follows that  $\exp(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}) | \exp(L(G))$ . Using Theorem 3.7, we then obtain  $\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)}, L(G)) \cong \frac{G}{L_L(G)}$ . Thus,  $\frac{G}{L(G)} \cong \frac{G}{L_L(G)}$  and by Theorem 3.1 and Proposition 1 from [7] we conclude that  $L(G) = L_L(G)$ .  $\square$

Let  $C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G))$  denote the set of all absolute central automorphisms of  $G$  that fix  $Z(G)$ , elementwise.

In the following, we provide a structural property of  $C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G))$ .

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $G$  be a group. Then

$$C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G)) \cong \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)Z(G)}, L(G)).$$



*Proof.* For each  $\alpha \in C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G))$ , consider the map  $f_\alpha$  :

$$f_\alpha : \frac{G}{L_L(G)Z(G)} \longrightarrow L(G)$$

$$gL_L(G)Z(G) \longmapsto [g, \alpha]$$

Using the method from the proof of Theorem 3.1, it is not difficult to show that  $f_\alpha$  is a homomorphism. Furthermore, the map  $\Psi : C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G)) \longrightarrow$

$\text{Hom}(\frac{G}{L_L(G)Z(G)}, L(G))$  defined by  $\alpha \longmapsto f_\alpha$ , is an isomorphism as required.  $\square$

By applying Lemma 2.8 and Theorem 3.9, one can derive the following result.

**Corollary 3.10.** *Let  $G$  be a group such that  $G/L(G)$  is an abelian group. Then*

$$C_{\text{Aut}_L(G)}(Z(G)) \cong \text{Hom}(\frac{G}{Z(G)}, L(G)).$$

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