https://doi.org/10.56415/qrs.v31.18

# A new characterization of orthogonal simple groups $B_2(2^{4n})$

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**Abstract.** We prove that orthogonal simple groups  $B_2(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{4n}$  and  $q^2 + 1$  is a prime number can be uniquely determined by the order of the group and the number of elements with the same order.

## 1. Introduction

Let G be a finite group,  $\pi(G)$  be the set of prime divisors of order of G and  $\pi_e(G)$  be the set of elements order in G. If  $k \in \pi_e(G)$ , then we denote the set of the number of elements of order k in G by  $m_k(G)$  and the set of the number of elements with the same order in G by nse(G). In other words,  $nse(G) = \{m_k(G) | k \in \pi_e(G)\}$ . Also, we denote a Sylow p-subgroup of G by  $G_p$  and the number of Sylow p-subgroups of G by  $n_p(G)$ . Throughout this paper, we denote by  $\phi$  the Euler's totient function. The prime graph  $\Gamma(G)$  of group G is a graph whose vertex set is  $\pi(G)$ , and two distinct vertices u and v are adjacent if and only if  $uv \in \pi_e(G)$ . Moreover, assume that  $\Gamma(G)$  has t(G) connected components  $\pi_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t(G)$ . In the case where G is of even order, we assume that  $2 \in \pi_1$ .

Characterization of groups by nse(G) is one of problems that related to Thompson's problem (see[17, Problem 12.37]). Next, in the way the authors in ([6, 7, 8, 4, 5, 13, 12, 11, 14, 18, 20], proved that some of groups are characterizable by the order of groups and the number of elements with the same order. The groups, such as sporadic groups,  $S_p$ , where p is a prime, suzuki groups, simple  $K_4$ -groups,  ${}^2G_2(q)$ , where  $q \pm \sqrt{3q} + 1$  are prime numbers,  $L_2(p)$ , where p is a prime and  $L_2(2^n)$  where  $2^n - 1$  or  $2^n + 1$  is prime number, the symplectic group  $C_2(3^n)$ , where n = 2k ( $k \ge 0$ ) and  $(\frac{3^{2n}+1}{2})$  is

<sup>2010</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification: 20D06, 20D60.

Keywords: Order of elements, orthogonal simple groups, prime graph.

a prime number and  $L_3(q)$  where  $0 < q = 5k \pm 2$ ,  $(k \in \mathbb{Z})$  and  $q^2 + q + 1$ is a prime number. In this paper, we prove that orthogonal simple groups  $B_2(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{4n}$  and  $q^2 + 1$  is a prime number can be uniquely determined by the order of group and the number of elements with the same order. In fact, we prove the following main theorem.

**Main Theorem.** Let G be a group with  $|G| = |B_2(q)|$  and  $nse(G) = nse(B_2(q))$ , where  $q = 2^{4n}$  and  $p = q^2 + 1$  is a prime number. Then  $G \cong B_2(q)$ .

### 2. Notation and Preliminaries

**Lemma 2.1.** [10, Theorem10.3.1] Let G be a Frobenius group with kernel K and complement H. Then

- 1, t(G) = 2,  $\pi(H)$  and  $\pi(K)$  are vertex sets of the connected components of  $\Gamma(G)$ ;
- 2. |H| divides |K| 1;
- 3. K is nilpotent.

**Definition 2.2.** A group G is called a 2-Frobenius group if there is a normal series  $1 \leq H \leq K \leq G$  such that G/H and K are Frobenius groups with kernels K/H and H respectively.

**Lemma 2.3.** [1, Theorem 2] Let G be a 2-Frobenius group of even order. Then

- 1. t(G) = 2,  $\pi(H) \cup \pi(G/K) = \pi_1$  and  $\pi(K/H) = \pi_2$ ;
- 2. G/K and K/H are cyclic groups satisfying |G/K| divides |Aut(K/H)|.

**Lemma 2.4.** [25, Theorem A] Let G be a finite group with  $t(G) \ge 2$ . Then one of the following statements holds:

- 1. G is a Frobenius group;
- 2. G is a 2-Frobenius group;
- 3. G has a normal series  $1 \leq H \leq K \leq G$  such that H and G/K are  $\pi_1$ -groups, K/H is a non-abelian simple group, H is a nilpotent group and |G/K| divides |Out(K/H)|.

**Lemma 2.5.** [9] Let G be a finite group and m be a positive integer dividing |G|. If  $L_m(G) = PSL_m(G) = \{g \in G \mid g^m = 1\}$ , then  $m \mid |L_m(G)|$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** Let G be a finite group. Then for every  $i \in \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\varphi(i)$  divides  $m_i(G)$ , and i divides  $\sum_{j|i} m_j(G)$ . Moreover, if i > 2, then  $m_i(G)$  is even.

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.5, the proof is straightforward.

**Lemma 2.7.** [26, Lemma 6(iii)] Let q, k, l be natural numbers. Then

1.  $(q^k - 1, q^l - 1) = q^{(k,l)} - 1.$ 

2. 
$$(q^{k}+1, q^{l}+1) = \begin{cases} q^{(k,l)}+1 & \text{if both } \frac{k}{(k,l)} \text{ and } \frac{l}{(k,l)} \text{ are odd,} \\ (2, q+1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

3. 
$$(q^k - 1, q^l + 1) = \begin{cases} q^{(k,l)} + 1 & \text{if } \frac{k}{(k,l)} \text{ is even and } \frac{l}{(k,l)} \text{ is odd,} \\ (2, q + 1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, for every  $q \ge 2$  and  $k \ge 1$ , the inequality  $(q^k - 1, q^k + 1) \le 2$  holds.

**Lemma 2.8.** Let G be a simple groups  $B_2(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{4n}$  and  $p = q^2 + 1$  is a prime number. Then  $m_p(G) = (p-1)|G|/(4p)$  and for every  $i \in \pi_e(G) - \{1, p\}$ , p divides  $m_i(G)$ .

Proof. Since  $|G_p| = p$ , we deduce that  $G_p$  is a cyclic group of order p. Thus  $m_p(G) = \varphi(p)n_p(G) = (p-1)n_p(G)$ . Now it is enough to show that  $n_p(G) = |G|/(4p)$ . By [16], p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ . Hence  $|C_G(G_p)| = p$  and  $|N_G(G_p)| = \alpha p$  for a natural number  $\alpha$ . We know that  $N_G(G_p)/C_G(G_p)$  embeds in  $Aut(G_p)$ , which implies  $\alpha \mid p-1$ . Furthermore, by Sylow's Theorem,  $n_p(G) = |G : N_G(G_p)|$  and  $n_p(G) \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . Therefore p divides  $|G|/(\alpha p) - 1$ . Thus  $q^2 + 1$  divides  $q^4(q^4 - 1)(q^2 - 1)/(\alpha p) - 1$ . It follows that  $q^2 + 1$  divides  $(q^8 - 2q^6 + q^4 - \alpha)$ , hence  $q^2 + 1$  divides  $(q^2 + 1)(q^6 - 3q^4 + 4q^2 - 4) + (4 - \alpha)$ , and since  $\alpha \mid p - 1$ , we obtain that  $\alpha = 4$ . Let  $i \in \pi_e(G) - \{1, p\}$ . Since p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ , we conclude that  $p \nmid i$  and  $pi \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Thus  $G_p$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order i by conjugation and hence  $|G_p| \mid m_i(G)$ .

#### 3. Proof of the Main Theorem

In this section, we prove the main theorem by the following lemmas. We denote the simple groups  $B_2(2^{4n})$ , where  $(2^{4n} + 1)$  is a prime number by B and prime number  $(2^{4n} + 1)$  by p. Recall that G is a group with |G| = |B| and nse(G) = nse(B).

**Lemma 3.1.**  $m_2(G) = m_2(B)$ ,  $m_p(G) = m_p(B)$ ,  $n_p(G) = n_p(B)$ , p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$  and  $p \mid m_k(G)$  for every  $k \in \pi_e(G) - \{1, p\}$ .

Proof. By Lemma 2.6, for every  $1 \neq r \in \pi_e(G)$ , r = 2 if and only if  $m_r(G)$  is odd. Thus we deduce that  $m_2(G) = m_2(B)$ . According to Lemma 2.6,  $(m_p(G), p) = 1$ . Thus  $p \nmid m_p(G)$  and also Lemma 2.8 implies that  $m_p(G) \in \{m_1(B), m_2(B), m_p(B)\}$ . Moreover,  $m_p(G)$  is even, so we conclude that  $m_p(G) = m_p(B)$ . Since  $G_p$  and  $B_p$  are cyclic groups of order p and  $m_p(G) = m_p(B)$ , we deduce that  $m_p(G) = \varphi(p)n_p(G) = \varphi(p)n_p(B) = m_p(B)$ , so  $n_p(G) = n_p(B)$ .

Now we prove that p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ . Assume the contrary. Then there is  $t \in \pi(G) - \{p\}$  such that  $tp \in \pi_e(G)$ . So  $m_{tp}(G) = \varphi(tp)n_p(G)k$ , where k is the number of cyclic subgroups of order t in  $C_G(G_p)$ and since  $n_p(G) = n_p(B)$ , it follows that  $m_{tp}(G) = (t-1)(p-1)|B|k/(4p)$ . If  $m_{tp}(G) = m_p(B)$ , then t = 2 and k = 1. Furthermore, Lemma 2.5 yields  $p \mid m_2(G) + m_{2p}(G)$  and since  $m_2(G) = m_2(C)$  and  $p \mid m_2(C)$ , we have  $p \mid m_{2p}(G)$ , which is a contradiction. So Lemma 2.8 implies that  $p \mid m_{tp}(G)$ . Hence  $p \mid t-1$  and since  $m_{tp}(G) < |G|$ , we deduce that t-1 < 5. In conclusion we deduce that  $t \in \{3, 4, 5\}$ . Now since  $p \nmid m_{tp}(G)$ , this is a contradiction.

Let  $k \in \pi_e(G) - \{1, p\}$ . Since p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ ,  $p \nmid k$ and  $pk \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Thus  $G_p$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order k by conjugation and hence  $|G_p| \mid m_k(G)$ . So, we conclude that  $p \mid m_k(G)$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** The group G is neither a Frobenius group nor a 2-Frobenius group.

*Proof.* Let G be a Frobenius group with kernel K and complement H. Then by Lemma 2.1, t(G) = 2 and  $\pi(H)$  and  $\pi(K)$  are vertex sets of the connected components of  $\Gamma(G)$  and |H| divides |K| - 1. Now by Lemma 3.1, p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ . Thus we deduce that (i) |H| = p and |K| = |G|/p, or (ii) |H| = |G|/p and |K| = p. Since |H| divides |K| - 1, we conclude that the last case can not occur. So |H| = p and |K| = |G|/p, hence  $(q^2 + 1) | \frac{q^4(q^4-1)}{(q^2+1)} - 1$ . So we conclude that  $(q^2+1) | ((q^2+1)(q^6-3q^4+4q^2-4)+3)$ . Thus,  $q^2 + 1 | 3$ , which is impossible.

We now show that G is not a 2-Frobenius group. Let G be a 2-Frobenius group. Then, G has a normal series  $1 \leq H \leq K \leq G$  such that G/H and K are Frobenius groups by kernels K/H and H, respectively. Set |G/K| = x. Since p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ , we have |K/H| = p and |H| = |G|/(xp). By Lemma 2.3, |G/K| divides |Aut(K/H)|. Thus  $x \mid p - 1$ and since, by Lemma 2.7, (p - 1, q - 1) = 1, we have  $(q^2, q - 1) = 1$ . Now since |G/K||(p - 1), we deduce that  $q - 1 \mid |H$ . The group H is nilpotent. Therefore  $H_t \rtimes K/H$  is a Frobenius group with kernel  $H_t$  and complement K/H, where t = q - 1. So |K/H| divides  $|H_t| - 1$ . It implies that  $q^2 + 1 \leq q - 2$ , but this is a contradiction.

**Lemma 3.3.** The group G is isomorphic to the group B.

Proof. By Lemma 3.1, p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(G)$ . Thus t(G) > 1 and G satisfies one of the cases of Lemma 2.4. Now Lemma 3.2 implies that G is neither a Frobenius group nor a 2-Frobenius group. Thus only the case (c) of Lemma 2.4 occurs. So G has a normal series  $1 \leq H \leq K \leq G$  such that H and G/K are  $\pi_1$ -groups, K/H is a non-abelian simple group H is nilpotent, and G/K divides |Out(K/H)|. Note that since  $p \mid |K/H|$  and p is an isolated vertex of  $\Gamma(K/H)$ , it follows that K/H is a simple  $C_{pp}$ -group with  $p = 2^{8n} + 1$ . Now by [3] we have that K/H must be one of the following

(i) Alt(p'), Alt(p'+1), Alt(p'+2),

(ii)  $A_1(r), r = 2^{8n}; p^k; 2.p^k \pm 1$  which is a prime,  $8n \ge k = 1$ ,

(iii) 
$$F_4(2^{2n}),$$

(iv)  ${}^{2}D_{8n+1}(2)$ ,

- (v)  ${}^{2}D_{a/2}(2^{b}); ab = 16n,$
- (vi)  $B_a(2^b)$ , ab = 8n;  $a \ge 2$ .

We go through all these cases.

Case (i). Suppose K/H is isomorphic to Alt(p'); Alt(p'+1), or Alt(p'+2). Note that  $p \mid |K/H| \mid |G|$ , so we consider p = p' it follows that  $2^{8n} + 1 = p'$  then  $2^{8n} + 2 = p' + 1$ , but  $2^{8n} + 2 \nmid |A_n| \mid |G|$ , we have a contradiction. Now if p = p' - 2, then  $2^{8n} + 1 = p' - 2$ . As a result  $2^{8n} + 3 = p'$ , again we have  $2^{8n} + 3 \nmid |A_n| \mid |G|$ , so we have a contradiction.

Case (ii). Suppose that K/H is isomorphic to  $A_1(r)$  with  $r = 2^{8n'}$ ; p;  $2p \pm 1$ , for these last two possibilities r must be a prime. First, note that

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 $|A_1(2^{8n'})| = 2^{8n'}(2^{16n'} - 1)$ . On the other hand we have  $p = r \pm 1$ . So  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} \pm 1$ . First if  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ , so n = n'. Now, we know that  $|A_1(r)| \mid |G|$ , so  $2^{8n}(2^{16n} - 1) \mid 2^{16n}(2^{16n} - 1)(2^{8n} - 1)$ . On the other hand, we have  $2^{8n} = |K/H|_r \leq |G|_r \leq 2^{3n}$ , which is a contradiction. For, other cases we have a contradiction.

Case (iii). Suppose K/H is isomorphic to  $F_4(q')$ , where  $q' = 2^{2n'}$ . So, we consider  $p = q'^4 + 1$ ,  $q'^4 - q'^2 + 1$ . Now if  $p = q'^4 + 1$ , then have  $2^{8n} + 1 = q'^4 + 1$ . Thus  $2^{8n} = 2^{8n'}$ , as a result n = n'. On the otherhand, we know  $|F_4(q')| | |G|$ , so  $q'^{24}(q'^{12}-1)(q'^8-1)(q'^6-1)(q'^2-1) | q^4(q^4-1)(q^2+1)$ . It follows that  $2^{48n'}(2^{24n'}-1)(2^{16n'}-1)(2^{12n'}-1)(2^{4n'}-1) | 2^{16n'}(2^{16n'}-1)(2^{8n'}+1)$ , which is a contradiction. Now, we consider  $p = q'^4 - q'^2 + 1$ , so  $2^{8n} + 1 = q'^4 - q'^2 + 1$ . It follows that  $2(2^{8n-1}) = q'^2(q'^2-1)$ . Thus,  $q'^2 - 1 = 2$  and  $q'^2 = 2^{8n-1}$ . As a result  $2^{4n'} = 3$  and  $2^{4n'} = 2^{8n-1}$ , which is a contradiction.

Case (iv). Suppose that K/H is isomorphic (iv)  ${}^{2}D_{8n'+1}(2)$ , so we consider  $p = 2^{8n'+1} + 1$ . It follows that  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'+1} + 1$ . Thus, we deduce 8n = 8n' + 1, but  $|{}^{2}D_{8n}(2)| \nmid |G|$ , which is a contradiction.

Case (v). Suppose that K/H is isomorphic  ${}^{2}D_{a/2}(2^{b})$ ; ab = 16n. Now, we consider a = 4, 8, 16 so we have the following possibilities.

(1). Let  $K/H \cong {}^{2}D_{2}(2^{4n'})$ . So, we consider  $p = 2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ . It follows that n = n'. On the other hand,  $|{}^{2}D_{2}(2^{4n'})| | |G|$ , so  $2^{8n'}(2^{8n'} - 1)^{2} | 2^{16n}(2^{16n} - 1)(2^{8n} + 1)$ . It follows that  $2^{8n}(2^{8n} - 1)^{2} | 2^{16n}(2^{16n} - 1)(2^{8n} + 1)$ , which is a contradiction.

(2). Let  $K/H \cong {}^{2}D_{4}(2^{2n'})$ . So, we consider  $p = 2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ . It follows that n = n'. On the other hand,  $|{}^{2}D_{4}(2^{2n'})| \mid |G|$ , so  $2^{24n'}(2^{8n'} - 1)(2^{4n'} - 1)(2^{4n'} - 1)(2^{12n'} - 1) \mid 2^{16n}(2^{16n} - 1)(2^{8n} + 1)$ , which is a contradiction.

(3). Let  $K/H \cong {}^{2}D_{8}(2^{2n'})$ . So, we consider  $p = 2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{16n'} + 1$ . It follows that n = 2n'. On the other hand,  $|{}^{2}D_{8}(2^{2n'})| ||G|$ , so  $2^{112n'}(2^{16n'}-1)(2^{4n'}-1)(2^{4n'}-1)(2^{16n'}-1)(2^{16n'}-1)(2^{20n'}-1)(2^{24n'}-1)(2^{28n'}-1)(2^{32n'}-1)| 2^{16n}(2^{16n}-1)(2^{8n}+1)$ , which is a contradiction.

# **Lemma 3.4.** $K/H \cong B_a(2^b), ab = 8n; a \ge 2.$

Proof. We suppose a = 2, 4, 8. Let a = 4, so  $K/H \cong B_4(2^{2n'})$ . Now, we consider  $p = 2^{8n'} + 1$ . It follows that  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ , n = n'. On the other hand,  $|B_4(2^{2n'})| \mid |G|$ , but  $|B_4(2^{2n'})| \nmid |B_2(2^{4n})|$ , so we have a contradiction. Now, we assume a = 8, thus we consider  $K/H \cong B_8(2^{n'})$ . Now, we have  $p = 2^{8n'} + 1$ . It follows that  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ , so n = n'. On the other hand,  $|B_8(2^n)| \nmid |B_2(2^{4n})|$ , which is a contradiction. Hence, a = 2 and  $K/H \cong B_2(2^{4n})$ . Thus,  $|K/H| = |B_2(2^{4n})|$ . On the other hand,

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we know that  $p \in \pi(K/H)$ , so  $2^{8n} + 1 = 2^{8n'} + 1$ . It follows that n = n'. Since G has a normal series  $1 \leq H \leq K \leq G$  that H = 1 and G = K. Thus,  $G \cong B$ , as required.

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Received March 26, 2023

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