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## The Nonexistence of Certain Type of Finite Simple Group

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In this paper we study certain case which is left open in the recent work of Timmesfeld [3]. This is necessary for the completion of the “extraspecial problem.” More precisely, we prove the following

**THEOREM.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group which possesses an involution  $z$  such that the centralizer  $M$  of  $z$  in  $G$  satisfies the following conditions:*

- (i) *The subgroup  $Q = O_2(M)$  is an extraspecial group of order  $2^9$  and  $C_M(Q) \subseteq Q$ .*
- (ii)  *$M/Q \simeq \Sigma_3 \times A_6$  or  $\Sigma_3 \times \Sigma_6$ .*

*Then  $G$  is not simple.*

According to [3] we set  $\tilde{M} = M/\langle z \rangle$  and  $\bar{M} = M/Q$  and we use the “bar convention.” Further we write  $C(X) = C_G(X)$  and  $N(X) = N_G(X)$  for any subset  $X$  of  $G$ . The other notation is fairly standard.

1. SOME PROPERTIES OF  $M$ 

From now on we assume that  $G$  is a finite simple group. We first prove some properties of  $M$  which shall be used in the proof of the theorem.

By [1] we can assume that  $z$  is conjugate in  $G$  to some involution  $a$  in  $Q = \langle z \rangle$ . Let  $L = Q(Q_a \cap M)$  where  $Q_a = O_2(C(a))$ . Then by (3.11) [3],  $\bar{L}$  is of order  $2^9$  and by (7.6) [3],  $\langle \bar{L}\bar{M} \rangle \simeq \Sigma_3 \times A_6$ . Set  $\bar{M}_0 = \langle \bar{L}\bar{M} \rangle$ . Let  $M_0$  be the inverse image of  $\bar{M}_0$  in  $M$ , then  $|M : M_0| \leq 2$ . Put  $\bar{M}_0 = \bar{F}_0 \times \bar{F}_1$  where  $\bar{F}_0 \simeq \Sigma_3$  and  $\bar{F}_1 \simeq A_6$ . Let  $x_0$  be an element of order 3 of  $M_0$  such that  $x_0 \in \bar{F}_0$ , then  $N_M(\langle x_0 \rangle)$  covers  $\bar{M}$ . By [2],  $\bar{M}$  acts irreducibly on  $\bar{Q}$ , thus  $N_M(\langle x_0 \rangle) \cap Q = \langle z \rangle$ . Set  $X = N_M(\langle x_0 \rangle) \cap M_0$ , then  $\bar{X} = X/\langle z \rangle \simeq \Sigma_3 \times A_6$ . Put  $\bar{X} = \bar{X}_0 \times \bar{X}_1$

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with  $\tilde{X}_0 \simeq \Sigma_3$  and  $\tilde{X}_1 \simeq A_6$ . Let  $X_0$  and  $X_1$  (resp.) be the inverse image of  $\tilde{X}_0$  and  $\tilde{X}_1$  in  $X$ . We have  $X_0 \cap X_1 = \langle z \rangle$ . Let  $P_0 = \langle \rho_0 \rangle$  be the  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $X_0$  and  $P_1$  be an  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $X_1$ . Then  $P_1$  is elementary abelian of order 9. Let  $\tau_0$  be a 2-element of  $X_0 - \langle z \rangle$ . Then  $\rho_0^{\tau_0} = \rho_0^{-1}$  and  $\rho_0^{\tau_0^2} = \rho_0$  for all  $\rho \in P_1$ . We now prove that if  $C_{O(\rho)} \neq \langle z \rangle$  for some  $\rho \in P_1^*$ , then  $C_{O(\rho)} \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$ . Suppose that  $C_{O(\rho)} \neq Q_8 \times Q_8$ , then either  $B = [Q, \langle \rho \rangle] \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8 \times Q_8$  or  $B \simeq Q_8$ . If  $B \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8 \times Q_8$ , then  $B = C_B(\rho_0 \rho)$ .  $C_B(\rho_0^{-1} \rho)$  as  $(\rho_0 \rho)^{\tau_0} = \rho_0^{-1} \rho$  and  $\rho_0, \rho$  act fixed-point-free on  $B$ , thus  $C_B(\rho_0 \rho) \cap C_B(\rho_0^{-1} \rho) = \langle z \rangle$ , contradicting  $C_{O(\tilde{\rho}_0)} = 1$ . If  $B \simeq Q_8$ , then  $\tau_0$  centralizes  $\tilde{B}$  as  $[\tau_0, \rho] = 1$ . From the structure of  $X_1$  there exists an element  $\rho^*$  of  $P_1$  of order 3 such that  $P_1 = \langle \rho, \rho^* \rangle$  and  $\rho \sim_{x_1} \rho^*$ , then  $B^* = [Q, \langle \rho^* \rangle] \simeq Q_8$  and  $B \cap B^* = \langle z \rangle$ . Further  $C_{O(\rho)} \cap C_{O(\rho^*)} = 2^5$  and  $\tilde{Q} = \widetilde{C_{O(\rho)} \cap C_{O(\rho^*)}} \times \tilde{B} \times \tilde{B}^*$ . Now  $\tilde{\tau}_0$  centralizes  $\tilde{B}$  and  $\tilde{B}^*$  and  $C_{O(\rho)} \cap C_{O(\rho^*)}$  is  $\tilde{\tau}_0$ -invariant, thus  $|C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_0)}| \geq 2^5$  which contradicts  $|C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_0)}| \leq 2^4$  as  $\tilde{\tau}_0$  inverts  $\tilde{\rho}_0$  and  $\tilde{\rho}_0$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$ . Hence we have shown  $C_{O(\rho)} \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$  if  $C_{O(\rho)} \neq \langle z \rangle$  for  $\rho \in P_1^*$ . Suppose that  $\rho^*$  does not centralize  $B = [Q, \langle \rho \rangle] \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$ , then  $C_B(\rho^*) \simeq Q_8$  as  $C_C(\rho^*) \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$ , thus  $P_1$  acts faithfully on  $B$ . On the other hand  $\tau_0$  centralizes  $P_1$ , so  $\tilde{\tau}_0$  centralizes  $C_B(\rho^*)$  and  $[B, \langle \rho^* \rangle]$ , hence  $\tilde{\tau}_0$  centralizes  $\tilde{B}$ , thus  $|C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_0)}| \geq 2^5$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $\rho^*$  centralizes  $B$  and  $C_{O(\rho)} = [Q, \langle \rho^* \rangle] \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$  and  $[Q, \langle \rho \rangle] = C_{O(\rho^*)} \sim Q_8 \times Q_8$  and  $\tilde{\rho} \tilde{\rho}^*$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$ . Acting with  $\langle \rho_0, \rho \rho^* \rangle$  on  $Q$  we see that  $Q = C_{O(\rho_0 \rho \rho^*)}$ .  $C_{O(\rho_0^{-1} \rho \rho^*)}$  as  $(\rho_0 \rho \rho^*)^{\tau_0} = (\rho_0^{-1} \rho \rho^*)$ . Moreover  $C_{O(\rho_0 \rho \rho^*)} \simeq C_{O(\rho_0^{-1} \rho \rho^*)} \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$ . This implies that  $C_{O(\tau_0)}$  is elementary abelian of order  $2^5$  and  $C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_0)} = C_{O(\tau_0)}$ . Now  $C_{O_0}(z) = \langle z \rangle \times K$  where  $K \simeq D_8 \times D_8 \times D_8$  and  $O_0 \cap \tilde{Q} = E$  is elementary abelian of order  $2^5$ , so  $K \cap \tilde{Q} = K \cap E$  is of order  $2^4$ . By the structure of  $X$ , there exists an elementary abelian subgroup  $D$  of order  $2^3$  such that  $K = (K \cap E) \cdot D$ , so  $\tilde{Q} \cap D = 1$  and  $L = \tilde{Q} \cdot D$ . This implies that the coset  $\tilde{Q}\tau_0$  contains involutions, hence  $\tau_0$  is an involution as  $C_{O(\tau_0)} \simeq E_{2^5}$ . Let  $\tilde{\tau}_1$  be an involution in  $\tilde{X}_1$  and  $\tau_1$  be an inverse image of  $\tilde{\tau}_1$  in  $X_1$ . From the structure of  $X_1$  we can assume that  $\tau_1$  inverts  $\rho \rho^*$ . So  $(\rho_0 \rho \rho^*)^{\tau_1} = \rho_0 \rho^{-1} \rho^*$ . By the same argument as before we conclude that  $C_{O(\tau_1)} \simeq E_{2^5}$  and  $C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_1)} = C_{O(\tau_1)}$ . Hence  $\tau_2$  is an involution. Therefore we have prove that  $X_0 = \langle z \rangle \times F_0$  and  $X_1 = \langle z \rangle \times F_1$  with  $F_0 \simeq \Sigma_3$  and  $F_1 \simeq A_6$ . In other words the group  $M_0$  splits over  $Q$ . We have proved the following

PROPOSITION 1.  $M_0 = Q \cdot (F_0 \times F_1)$  with  $F_0 \simeq \Sigma_3$  and  $F_1 \simeq A_6$ . Let  $P_0 = \langle \rho_0 \rangle$  be the  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $F_0$ . Then  $\tilde{P}_0$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$ . There exists two elements  $\rho_1$  and  $\rho_2$  such that  $P_1 = \langle \rho_1, \rho_2 \rangle$  is an  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $F_1$  and  $\tilde{P}_1$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$  and  $C_{O(\rho_2)} \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$ . Let  $\tau_0$  be an involution in  $F_0$ . Then  $C_{O(\tau_0)} = C_{O(\tilde{\tau}_0)}$  and  $C_{O(\tau_0)}$  is elementary abelian of order  $2^5$ . Let  $\tau_1$  be an

involution in  $F_1$ . Then  $\widetilde{C_Q(\tau_1)} = C_Q(\tilde{\tau}_1)$  and  $C_Q(\tau_1)$  is elementary abelian of order  $2^5$ .

Note that there exists an involution  $\tau_1$  in  $F_1$  which acts invertingly on  $P_1$ . Set  $P = P_0 \times P_1 = \langle \rho_0, \rho_1, \rho_2 \rangle$ . Then  $P/\langle \rho_2 \rangle$  acts faithfully on  $C_Q(\rho_2) \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$  and  $Q \cdot P$  acts transitively on 18 non-central involutions of  $C_Q(\rho_2)$ . Acting with  $\langle \rho_0, \rho_1 \rangle$  on  $Q$ , we have  $Q = C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1) \cdot C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1^{-1})$  as  $(\rho_0\rho_1)^{\tau_1} = \rho_0\rho_1^{-1}$  and  $\tilde{\rho}_0, \tilde{\rho}_1$  act fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$ . Further  $C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1) = [Q, \langle \rho_0\rho_1^{-1} \rangle] \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$  and  $C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1^{-1}) = [Q, \langle \rho_0\rho_1 \rangle] \simeq Q_8 \times Q_8$  and  $P/\langle \rho_0\rho_1 \rangle$  acts faithfully on  $C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1)$  and  $Q \cdot P$  acts transitively on 18 non-central involutions of  $C_Q(\rho_0\rho_1)$ . We now consider the action of  $\langle \rho_0, \rho_2 \rangle$  on  $Q$ . Since  $(\rho_0\rho_2)^{\tau_1} = \rho_0\rho_2^{-1}$  and  $\tilde{\rho}_0$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$ , we see that  $\widetilde{\rho_0\rho_2}$  and  $\widetilde{\rho_0\rho_2^{-1}}$  act fixed-point-free on  $C_Q(\rho_2)$ . As  $\tilde{\rho}_0$  and  $\tilde{\rho}_2$  act fixed-point-free on  $[Q, \langle \rho_2 \rangle]$  we have  $C_{[Q, \langle \rho_2 \rangle]}(\rho_0\rho_2) \simeq C_{[Q, \langle \rho_2 \rangle]}(\rho_0\rho_2^{-1}) \simeq Q_8$ . So  $C_Q(\rho_0\rho_2) \simeq C_Q(\rho_0\rho_2^{-1}) \simeq Q_8$ . Therefore we have proved that  $9 \nmid |C_M(t)|$  for all involution  $t \in Q - \langle z \rangle$ . Let  $R$  be an  $S_5$ -subgroup of  $F_1$ . Then  $\tilde{R}$  acts fixed-point-free on  $\tilde{Q}$  as  $[P_0, R] = 1$ . This implies that  $3 \mid |C_M(t)|$ . Now the group  $M$  contains two conjugate classes of subgroups of order 3 which centralize some non-central involution of  $Q$  with the representatives  $\langle \rho_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle \rho_0\rho_1 \rangle$ . Hence  $M$  has 2 conjugate classes of involutions which are contained in  $Q - \langle z \rangle$  with the representatives  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  where  $t_1$  is centralized by  $\langle \rho_2 \rangle$  and  $t_2$  by  $\langle \rho_0\rho_1 \rangle$ . We have  $|M : C_M(t_i)| = 2^{a_i} \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$ ,  $a_i = 1$  or  $2$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . The both cases  $a_i = 1$  and  $a_i = 2$  occur. It is easy to see that  $|C_M(t_1)/C_Q(t_1)| = 2^4 \cdot 3$  and  $|C_M(t_2)/C_Q(t_2)| = 2^3 \cdot 3$ . Hence  $|M : C_M(t_1)| = 2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 = 90$  and  $|M : C_M(t_2)| = 2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 = 180$ . It follows from (3.11) [3] that  $t_1 \sim_G z$ . By (3.13) [3]  $t_2 \not\sim_G z$ . We have proved the following

PROPOSITION 2. *The group  $M$  possesses precisely two conjugate classes of involutions which are contained in  $Q - \langle z \rangle$  with the representatives  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ . We have  $|t_1^M| = 2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 = 90$  and  $|t_2^M| = 2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 = 180$ . Moreover  $r_1 \sim_G z$  and  $t_2 \not\sim_G z$ .*

Let  $T$  be an  $S_2$ -subgroup of  $M$  containing  $\tau_0$ . By proposition 1  $C_Q(\tau_0)$  is an elementary abelian group of order  $2^5$ . We set  $A = C_Q(\tau_0) \times \langle \tau_0 \rangle$ . Then  $A$  is a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of order  $2^6$  of  $T$  and  $A$  is self-centralizing in  $M$ . It is easy to see that  $N_M(A)/A$  is isomorphic to an elementary abelian group of order  $2^4$  extended by the group  $W$  where  $W \simeq A_6$  or  $\Sigma_6$  according as  $M = M_0$  or  $M \neq M_0$ . Suppose that  $A \cap Q = C_Q(\tau_0)$  contains an involution  $v$  which is conjugate in  $M$  to  $t_2$ . Then  $|C_{N_M(A)}(v)/C_Q(v)| = 2^8 \cdot 3$  and hence  $|N_M(A) : C_{N_M(A)}(v)| = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 = 60$ . This means that  $A \cap Q$  contains 60 conjugates of  $v$ , but this is not the case. Hence  $(A \cap Q) - \langle z \rangle$  contains only the involutions which are conjugate in  $M$  to  $t_1$ . Let  $t \in (A \cap Q) - \langle z \rangle$  then  $|N_M(A) : C_{N_M(A)}(t)| = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 = 30$ . Thus the group  $N_M(A)$  contains exactly two conjugate classes of involutions which are contained in  $A \cap Q$  with the

representatives  $z$  (1 conjugate) and  $t$  (30 conjugates). Note that the coset  $\tau_0 Q$  contains precisely  $2^5$  involutions which are of form  $\tau_0 u$  with  $u \in C_Q(\tau_0)$  and  $\tau_0$  is not conjugate to  $\tau_0 z$  under the action of  $Q$ . Hence  $\tau_0 Q$  contains under the action of  $Q$  precisely  $2^4$  conjugates of  $\tau_0$  and  $2^4$  conjugates of  $\tau_0 z$ . Let  $x \in Q_{ax} - M$ , then  $z^x = a$ . Since  $A \subseteq L = Q \cdot (Q_o \cap M)$ , so  $A^x \subseteq L^x = Q_o \cdot (Q \cap C(a))$ .

Further as  $A^x \subseteq M$ , so  $A^x \subseteq L$ . Thus  $|A^x \cap Q| = 2^5$  and so  $A^x \cap (L \cap M_0) = \langle \epsilon \rangle$ , hence we can choose  $y \in M_0$  such that  $\epsilon^y \in Z(T \cap M_0)$ , it follows that  $A^{xy} \leq T$ . Since  $T$  is self-normalizing in  $G$ , so  $A = A^{xy}$ . Thus  $N(A) \subseteq M$ . We have proved.

**PROPOSITION 3.** *Let  $T$  be an  $S_2$ -subgroup of  $M$  containing  $\tau_0$ . Then  $A = C_Q(\tau_0) \times \langle \tau_0 \rangle$  is a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of  $T$ ,  $A$  is self-centralizing in  $G$  and  $A \leq T$ . The group  $N_M(A)/A$  is isomorphic to an elementary abelian group of order  $2^4$  extended by the group  $W$  where  $W \simeq A_6$  or  $\Sigma_6$ , according as  $M = M_0$  or  $M \neq M_0$ .  $A \cap Q$  contains under the action of  $N_M(A)/A$  two conjugate classes of involutions with the representatives  $z$  (1 conjugate) and  $t$  (30 conjugates) and  $t \sim_M t_1$ .  $A - (A \cap Q)$  has under the action of  $Q$  two conjugate classes of involutions with the representatives  $\tau_0$  (16 conjugates) and  $\tau_0 z$  (16 conjugates). Furthermore  $N(A) \subseteq M$ .*

2. PROOF OF THEOREM

By proposition 3 we have  $N(A) \subseteq M$ . Since  $N(A)/A$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $GL(6, 2)$ , so  $|N(A) : N_M(A)| = 31$  or  $63$ , the length of the orbit of  $z$  in  $N(A)$ .

Suppose that  $|N(A) : N_M(A)| = 31$ . Then  $|N(A)/A| = 2^7 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 31$  or  $2^8 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 31$  according as  $M = M_0$  or  $M \neq M_0$ . Let  $X_{31}$  be an  $S_{31}$ -subgroup of  $N(A)$ . Then by a Sylow's theorem we have  $9 \nmid |N(X_{31}) \cap N(A)|$ . Hence there is a subgroup  $R$  of order 3 in  $N(A)$  which centralizes  $X_{31}$ . But  $[A, X_{31}]$  is of order  $2^5$  and  $[A, X_{31}]$  is  $R$ -invariant, a contradiction. We have proved that

$|N(A) : N_M(A)| = 63 = 3^2 \cdot 7$ . Thus  $z$  is fused in  $N(A)$  to other 62 involutions of  $A$ . Now  $|N(A)/A| = 2^7 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$  or  $2^8 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$  according as  $M = M_0$  or  $M \neq M_0$ . Let  $X_7$  be an  $S_7$ -subgroup of  $N(A)$ . Then  $X_7$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$ . In order to simplify the notation we set  $N = N(A)$ ,  $\bar{N} = N(A)/A$  and we use the "bar convention." First of all we see that an  $S_3$ -subgroup  $W_3$  of  $C_N(X_7)$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$ , hence  $W_3$  is cyclic of order 9. Note that  $5 \nmid |N_N(X_7)|$ . Let  $n_7$  be the index in  $\bar{N}$  of a 7-Sylow normalizer in  $\bar{N}$ . By a Sylow's theorem we have the following possibilities for  $n_7$  :

$$\begin{array}{ll} 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 2^6 & 5 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 2^8 \\ 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 2^8 & 5 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 2^5 \\ 5 \cdot 3 & 5 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 2^2 \end{array}$$

First we show that  $n_7 \neq 5 \cdot 3$ . Suppose that  $n_7 = 5 \cdot 3$ .

Let  $W_2$  be an  $S_2$ -subgroup of  $N_N(X_7)$  and  $W_2^* = W_2 \cap C_N(X_7)$ . Then  $W_2 : W_2^* \leq 2$ . If  $W_2 = W_2^*$ , then  $Z(AW_2) \subseteq A$  is of order 2 and is  $X_7$ -invariant which is not the case. So  $W_2 : W_2^* = 2$ . Since  $Z(AW_2^*) \subseteq A$  is  $X_7$ -invariant, so  $|Z(AW_2^*)| = 2^3$ , hence  $|Z(AW_2)| \geq 2^2$  which contradicts the fact that  $AW_2$  is an  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $G$ . Hence we have  $n_7 \neq 5 \cdot 3$ . Now we have  $O_2(\bar{N}) = 1$ , as  $\bar{N}$  acts transitively on  $A$ . Further  $7 \nmid |O(\bar{N})|$ , otherwise an  $S_2$ -subgroup of  $\bar{N}$  would normalize an  $S_7$ -subgroup of  $\bar{N}$  which is not the case. Since  $5 \nmid |N_{\bar{N}}(X_7)|$ , it follows that  $5 \nmid |O(\bar{N})|$ . Thus  $O(\bar{N})$  is a 3-group if  $O(\bar{N}) \neq 1$ . As  $|C_{\bar{N}}(X_7)|_3 \leq 9$  and  $7 \nmid |GL_3(3)|$ , it follows that  $X_7$  centralizes  $O(\bar{N})$  (here note that an  $S_3$ -subgroup  $X_3$  of  $\bar{N}$  is an  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $GL_6(2)$  and so  $X_3$  is isomorphic to an  $S_3$ -subgroup of  $PSp_4(3)$  and  $X_3$  contains a unique elementary abelian subgroup of order 27). So  $|O(\bar{N})| \leq 3^2$  and  $O(\bar{N})$  is cyclic. Since an  $S_5$ -subgroup  $X_5$  of  $\bar{N}$  centralizes  $O(\bar{N})$  and  $[A, X_5] \simeq E_{2^4}$  and  $O(\bar{N})$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$ , it follows that  $|O(\bar{N})| \leq 3$ .

Suppose that  $|O(\bar{N})| = 3$ . Let  $\bar{C} = C_{\bar{N}}(O(\bar{N}))$ . Then  $\bar{N} : \bar{C} = 2$ , as  $O(\bar{N})$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$ . Let  $\bar{C} = \bar{C}'O(\bar{N})$  and  $\bar{H}$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $\bar{C}$ . Then  $\bar{H}$  is not solvable, otherwise  $\bar{H}$  is an elementary abelian 2-group and  $C_A(\bar{H}) \simeq E_{2^2}$ , as  $C_A(\bar{H})$  is  $X_7$ -invariant. On the other hand  $C_A(\bar{H})$  is  $O(\bar{N})$ -invariant and  $O(\bar{N})$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$  which is impossible. So  $\bar{H}$  is a direct product of isomorphic nonabelian simple groups. Since  $[\bar{X}_7, \bar{X}_5] \neq 1$ , for any subgroup  $\bar{X}_5$  of order 5 of  $\bar{C}$ , it follows that  $5, 7 \nmid |\bar{H}|$ . From the order of  $\bar{C}$  we conclude that  $\bar{H}$  is simple. Hence we have the following possibilities for  $\bar{H}$ :  $\bar{H} \simeq A_7, A_8$  or  $L_3(4)$ . If  $\bar{H} \simeq A_7$  or  $A_8$ , then there exists an element  $\bar{x}$  of order 3 of  $\bar{C} - \bar{H}$  which centralizes  $\bar{H}$ , in particular  $\bar{x}$  centralizes  $\bar{X}_7$  and so an inverse image  $\bar{x}$  of  $\bar{x}$  in  $\bar{C}$  is of order 9 and  $\langle \bar{x}^3 \rangle = O(\bar{N})$  and  $\bar{x}$  acts fixed-point-free on  $A$ . Further  $\bar{x}$  centralizes an  $S_5$ -subgroup  $\bar{X}_5$  of  $\bar{C}$  and  $C_A(\bar{X}_5) \simeq E_{2^2}$  is  $\bar{x}$ -invariant, a contradiction. So we have  $\bar{H} \simeq L_3(4)$ . Since  $N_{\bar{H}}(\bar{X}_7)_3 = 3$ , then  $n_7 = 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 2^6$  or  $5 \cdot 3 \cdot 2^2$ . Hence it follows from the structure of  $\text{Aut}(L_3(4))$  that there exists an element  $\bar{x}$  in  $\bar{C} - \bar{H}$  of order 3 which centralizes  $\bar{H}$ . Again we have a contradiction in the same way as before. So we have  $O(\bar{N}) = 1$ . Let  $\bar{H}$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $\bar{N}$ . Then  $\bar{H}$  is simple and we get the following possibilities for  $\bar{H}$ :  $\bar{H} \simeq A_7, A_8, A_9$  or  $L_3(4)$ . If  $\bar{H} \simeq A_9$ , then  $n_7 = 5 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 2^5$  and  $N_{\bar{H}}(\bar{X}_7)$  contains a dihedral group  $\bar{D}$  of order 14. On the other hand there exists an involution  $\bar{x} \in \bar{N} - \bar{H}$  which centralizes  $\bar{D}$ , thus  $|C_A(\bar{x})| = 8$  and  $C_A(\bar{x})$  is  $\bar{D}$ -invariant, contradicting  $C_A(\bar{X}_7) = 1$ .

If  $\bar{H} \simeq L_3(4), A_7, A_8$ , then in any case  $C_{\bar{N}}(\bar{H})$  is a nontrivial solvable normal subgroup of  $\bar{N}$ , contradicting  $O_2(\bar{N}) = O(\bar{N}) = 1$ . The proof is complete.

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