# On mep-relations in the wreath product of groups 

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## A R T I C LE I N F O

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#### Abstract

Let $a, b$ be two long cycles in an alternating group $A_{n}$, satisfying relations $a=\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]$ and $b=\left[b,_{k} a\right]$. We show that every pair of elements of the form $x=(X, a), y=(Y, b)$, where the sum of coefficients of $X$ and $Y$ is equal zero, satisfies relations $x=[x, y]$, $y=[y, l x]$ in the wreath product $\left(S_{n} 2 Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ for $m$ coprime with $n$ and for an $l$ divisible by $k$. We show also that for $n=5,7,13$ and for $m$ coprime with $n,\left(S_{n} 2 Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ is generated by such pairs.


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## 1. Introduction

We use traditional notations and terminology (see for example [3]). If $g, h$ are two elements of a group, then the commutator of $g$ and $h$ is an element $[g, h]=[g, 1 h]=g^{-1} h^{-1} g h$ and for an integer $k>1\left[g_{, k} h\right]=\left[\left[g_{, k-1} h\right], h\right]$ and $\left[g,{ }_{0} h\right]=g$. By $G^{\prime}=[G, G]$ we denote the commutator subgroup of $G$ (that is $G^{\prime}=\langle[g, h]: g, h \in G\rangle$ ). If $m$ is a positive integer, then $Z_{m}$ is the ring of integers modulo $m$. As usual, $S_{n}$ and $A_{n}$ denote respectively the symmetric and the alternating group acting on $\{1, \ldots, n\}$. If $P$ is a matrix then $P^{T}$ is transpose of $P$. We call $\sigma \in S_{n}$ a long cycle if it is a cycle of length $n$.

In Kourovka Notebook [5], Brandl posed the following question (Problem 11.18): Is it true that if $G$ is generated by elements $a, b$ satisfying relations $a=\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]$ and $b=[b, a]$ for some positive integers $k, l$, then $G$ is finite? He stated also that if every minimal simple group has generators satisfying above relations, then there exists a series of two-variable words which characterize soluble groups (see [1]). In [2] Heineken calls such pairs of elements mep-pairs (a mutually Engel periodic pair).

[^0]Definition 1．We say that a pair of elements $a, b$ is a mep－pair if there exist positive integers $k$ ，$l$ ，such that $a=\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]$ and $b=\left[b,{ }_{l} a\right]$ ．If $k$ and $l$ are minimal，then we say that（ $k, l$ ）is the mep－period of the mep－pair $(a, b)$ ．We say that a group $G$ is a mep－group if it is generated by a mep－pair．

An example of a mep－group is $A_{5}$ ，which is generated by a mep－pair $a=(1,2,3,4,5), b=$ （ $1,3,5,4,2$ ）satisfying relations $a=[a, 5 b], b=\left[b,{ }_{5} a\right]$ ．Other examples of mep－pairs can be found in Section 3.

Heineken［2］showed that if a group $G$ is generated by a mep－pair $a, b$ ，then $G$ is perfect（that is $G=G^{\prime}$ ）and elements $a, b^{-1}, a b^{-1}$ are conjugate in $G$（see also Proposition 1 below）．He studied mep－pairs in $\mathrm{Sl}_{2}(p)$ and he proved that for all primes $p$ of the form $5+8 t$ and some of the form $1+8 t$ ，there exist mep－pairs generating $\mathrm{Sl}_{2}(p)$ ．He also showed that mep－pairs exist in $\mathrm{Sl}_{2}(q)$ where $q$ is a prime such that $q^{3}-q$ is divisible by 7 and he found mep－pairs for $q=p^{3}$ ，for the remaining primes $p$ ．

It can be deduced from［6］that for $n \geqslant 5$ ，every group $G=\left(S_{n}: Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ is a perfect group and is two－generated．So，searching mep－groups among such groups is natural．At first，we used computer calculations for searching mep－pairs in groups $G=\left(S_{5} Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ and we discovered that pairs of the form $x=((0,0,0,0,0) ;(1,2,3,4,5)), y=((0,0,0,1,-1) ;(1,3,2,5,4))$ are mep－pairs in $G=\left(S_{5} \text { ？} Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ for $m$ not divisible by 5 ．At the end of the paper we present tables，which show these results．After analyzing the mep－pairs that we had obtained，we discovered that if $x, y$ is a mep－pair of period $(k, k)$ in $\left(S_{5} \text { 乙 } Z_{p^{l}}\right)^{\prime}$ ，then it is a mep－pair of period $(p k, p k)$ in $\left(S_{5} \text { 乙 } Z_{p^{l+1}}\right)^{\prime}$ ，where $p^{l}$ is a power of prime number $p$ ．This discovery and further analysis finally led us to Theorem 1 ，which says that every pair of the form $(X, a),(Y, b)$ ，where $a, b \in A_{n}$ is a mep－pair of long cycles and $X, Y$ are vectors with zero sum of coefficients modulo $m$ ．More information about mep－groups and groups with similar properties can be found in［7］．

## 2．Mep－pairs in $\left(S_{n} \geq Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$

Remark．If $k$ is the least integer，such that for elements $a, b$ of a group we have $a=\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]$ ，then for every positive integer $n$ we have $\left[a,{ }_{n} b\right]=\left[a,{ }_{r} b\right]$ where $n \equiv r \bmod k$ ．

Proposition 1．Let $G$ be a mep－group generated by a mep－pair $a, b$ ．Then
（a）$G$ is a perfect group，that is $G=G^{\prime}$ ，
（b）elements $a, b^{-1}$ and $a b^{-1}$ are pairwise conjugate in $G$ ．
Proof．Point（a）is clear，since $a, b$ generate $G$ and $a, b \in G^{\prime}$ ．Since $a=\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]=\left[a,{ }_{k-1} b\right]^{-1} b^{-1}\left[a,{ }_{k-1} b\right] b$ ， we have $a b^{-1}=\left[a,{ }_{k-1} b\right]^{-1} b^{-1}\left[a,{ }_{k-1} b\right]$ ，so $a b^{-1}$ and $b^{-1}$ are conjugate．Similarly $b a^{-1}$ and $a^{-1}$ are conjugate and so $a b^{-1}$ and $a$ are conjugate．Hence by transitivity of conjugation，$a$ and $b^{-1}$ are also conjugate．

The definition of a wreath product of groups can be found for example in［4］．We use the following natural representation of $S_{n} \imath Z_{m}$ ．Every element of $S_{n} 乙 Z_{m}$ can be interpreted as a pair $(X, \sigma)$ ，where $\sigma \in S_{n}$ and $X$ is an $n \times 1$ matrix over $Z_{m}$（i．e．$X$ is a column vector）．The multiplication and inversion can be defined as follows：

$$
(X, \sigma) \cdot(Y, \delta)=\left(X+A_{\sigma} Y, \sigma \delta\right), \quad(X, \sigma)^{-1}=\left(-A_{\sigma}^{-1} X, \sigma^{-1}\right)
$$

where $A_{\sigma} \in \mathrm{Gl}_{n}\left(Z_{m}\right)$ is a regular matrix representation of $\sigma$ over $Z_{m}$ ．The neutral element of $S_{n}$ 亿 $Z_{m}$ is $(\overline{0}, i d)$ ，where $i d$ is the neutral element of $S_{n}$ ，and $\overline{0}$ is a zero－vector．

If $x=(X, \sigma)$ and $y=(Y, \delta)$ then $[x, y]=(X, \sigma)^{-1}(Y, \delta)^{-1}(X, \sigma)(Y, \delta)$ and after calculations we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
[x, y]=\left(A_{\sigma}^{-1}\left(A_{\delta}^{-1}-I\right) X+A_{\sigma}^{-1} A_{\delta}^{-1}\left(A_{\sigma}-I\right) Y,[\sigma, \delta]\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $a, b$ be long cycles in $A_{n}$, satisfying relations $\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]=a$ and $\left[b,{ }_{k} a\right]=b$. Let $A$ be the matrix representation of $a$ and $B$ be the matrix representation of $b$. If $x=(X, a), y=(Y, b)$ then using formula (1) we have $[x, y]=\left(A^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) X+A^{-1} B^{-1}(A-I) Y,[a, b]\right)$. We shall calculate iterated commutators $\left[x,{ }_{i} y\right]$. Let $\left[x,{ }_{i} y\right]=\left(V_{i} X+W_{i} Y,\left[a,{ }_{i} b\right]\right)$. Then $\left[x,{ }_{i+1} y\right]=\left(\bar{X},\left[a,{ }_{i+1} b\right]\right)$, where

$$
\begin{aligned}
\bar{X} & =\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right)\left(V_{i} X+W_{i} Y\right)+\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1} B^{-1}\left(\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]-I\right) Y \\
& =\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) V_{i} X+\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1}\left(\left(B^{-1}-I\right) W_{i}+B^{-1}\left(\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]-I\right)\right) Y .
\end{aligned}
$$

So matrices $V_{i}$ and $W_{i}$ are defined recursively as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& V_{1}=A^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right), \quad W_{1}=A^{-1} B^{-1}(A-I) \\
& V_{i+1}=\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) V_{i}, \\
& W_{i+1}=\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]^{-1}\left(\left(B^{-1}-I\right) W_{i}+B^{-1}\left(\left[A,{ }_{i} B\right]-I\right)\right) \quad \text { for } i>0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

By symmetry if $\left[y,{ }_{i} x\right]=\left(L_{i} X+T_{i} Y,\left[b,{ }_{i} a\right]\right)$ then

$$
\begin{aligned}
& T_{1}=B^{-1}\left(A^{-1}-I\right), \quad L_{1}=B^{-1} A^{-1}(B-I) \\
& T_{i+1}=\left[B,{ }_{i} A\right]^{-1}\left(A^{-1}-I\right) T_{i} \\
& L_{i+1}=\left[B,{ }_{i} A\right]^{-1}\left(\left(A^{-1}-I\right) W_{i}+A^{-1}\left(\left[B,{ }_{i} A\right]-I\right)\right) \text { for } i>0
\end{aligned}
$$

If $C$ is a permutation matrix, then $(1, \ldots, 1) C=(1, \ldots, 1)$, so if $P \in\left\{V_{i}, W_{i}, T_{i}, L_{i}\right\}$, then $(1, \ldots, 1) P=0$, and hence the sum of coefficients in every column of a matrix $P$ is equal zero. Since $\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]=a$, $\left[b,{ }_{k} a\right]=b$ then we have $\left[A,{ }_{k} B\right]=A$ and $\left[B,{ }_{k} A\right]=B$.

Proposition 2. Let $k$ be a least integer such that $\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]=a$ and $\left[b,{ }_{k} a\right]=b$. If $x=(X, a), y=(Y, b) \in S_{n}$ 乙 $Z_{m}$ is a mep-pair satisfying relations $\left[x,{ }_{l} y\right]=x$ and $\left[y,{ }_{l} x\right]=y$ then $k \mid$.

Proof. If $x=[x, l y]$ and $y=\left[y,{ }_{l} x\right]$ then since $x=(X, a), y=(Y, b)$ we have $a=[a, b]$ and $b=[b, l a]$. Using the above Remark we get $k \mid l$.

Remark. If $x, y$ is a mep-pair satisfying relations $[x, l y]=x$ and $[y, l x]=y$ then $l=k t$ for an integer $t$ and

$$
\begin{equation*}
V_{k t} X+W_{k t} Y=X, \quad L_{k t} X+T_{k t} Y=Y \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $V=V_{k}, T=T_{k}, W=W_{k}, L=L_{k}$. We know from our above calculations that

$$
\begin{equation*}
V=\left[A,{ }_{k-1} B\right]^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) \ldots[A, B]^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) A^{-1}\left(B^{-1}-I\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Lemma 1. For every positive integer $t$,
(i) $V_{k t}=V^{t}, T_{k t}=T^{t}$,
(ii) $W_{k t}=\left(V^{t-1}+V^{t-2}+\cdots+V+I\right) W, L_{k t}=\left(T^{t-1}+T^{t-2}+\cdots+T+I\right) L$.

Proof. We will only show that $V_{k t}=V^{t}$ and $W_{k t}=\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+V+I\right) W$, because proofs of two other equations are similar. We know that $\left[x,{ }_{k} y\right]=\left(V_{k} X+W_{k} Y,\left[a,{ }_{k} b\right]\right)=\left(V_{k} X+W_{k} Y, a\right)$. Let us denote $X_{1}=V_{k} X+W_{k} Y=V X+W Y$. The $k t$ commutator is equal to $\left[x,{ }_{k t} y\right]=\left(V_{k t} X+W_{k t} Y,\left[a,{ }_{k t} b\right]\right)$,
but on the other hand the commutator $\left[x,{ }_{k t} y\right]$ is the $k(t-1)$ commutator of elements ( $X_{1}, a$ ) and $(Y, b)$ and since $V_{i}$ and $W_{i}$ does not depend on $X, Y$ but only on $a, b$ we get $\left[x,{ }_{k t} y\right]=\left(V_{k(t-1)} X_{1}+\right.$ $\left.W_{k(t-1)} Y,\left[a,_{k(t-1)} b\right]\right)$, and using the formula for $X_{1},\left[x,{ }_{k t} y\right]=\left(V_{k(t-1)}(V X+W Y)+W_{k(t-1)} Y, a\right)$. Hence $V_{k t}=V_{k(t-1)} V$ and $W_{k t}=V_{k(t-1)} W+W_{k(t-1)}$. So using the induction on $t$ we get $V_{k t}=$ $V_{k(t-1)} V=V^{t-1} V=V^{t}$ and $W_{k t}=V_{k(t-1)} W+W_{k(t-1)}=V^{t-1} W+W_{k(t-1)}=\left(V^{t-1}+V^{t-2}+\cdots+\right.$ $V+I) W$.

Theorem 1. Let $a, b$ be long cycles that form a mep-pair in $A_{n}$ and let $m$ be an integer coprime with $n$. If $X$, $Y$ are $n \times 1$ matrices over $Z_{m}$ with coefficients summing to 0 , then $x=(X, a), y=(Y, b)$ is a mep-pair in the group $\left(S_{n} \text { Z } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$.

Proof. We have to show that there exists $t$, such that $X, Y$ satisfy Eqs. (2). We show that there exists $t$ satisfying the first equation, because the appropriate $t$ for the second equation can be found similarly. In a view of Lemma 1 the first equation has the form

$$
V^{t} X+\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+I\right) W Y=X
$$

Let $R \subseteq Z_{m}^{n}$ consist of all vectors, whose sums of coefficients are equal to zero. Then $R^{T}$ is the set of all column vectors $X$, such that $X^{T} \in R$. The numbers $m$ and $n$ are coprime, so $e=(1, \ldots, 1)$ does not belong to $R$ and we get a direct sum:

$$
Z_{m}^{n}=\mathbb{Z} e \oplus R
$$

Both summands are invariant under the action of $A$ and $B$, so by (3) they are also invariant under the action of $V$.

If $b$ is a long cycle, then $b^{-1}$ is a long cycle and we shall deduce that the restriction $\overline{B^{-1}-I}$ of $B^{-1}-I$ on $R$ is a bijection. Since $R$ is finite, we only need to show that it is injective. If for $r=\left(r_{1}, \ldots, r_{n}\right) \in R$ we have $\left(B^{-1}-I\right) r^{T}=0$, then $B^{-1} r^{T}=r^{T}$ and as $b^{-1}$ is a long cycle, this can happen only if $r_{1}=r_{2}=\cdots=r_{n}=u$. As $r \in R$, this implies that $n u=0$ and as $n$ and $m$ are coprime we get $u=0$.

Hence, $\bar{V}$ the restriction of $V$ on $R$ also is a bijection (by (3) it is a product of bijective maps on $R$ ). It acts on a finite set, so has a finite order, $s$ say. Hence, $\bar{V}^{s}=I$ and we get:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\bar{V}^{m s-1}+\cdots+\bar{V}+I & =\left(\bar{V}^{s(m-1)}+\cdots+\bar{V}^{s}+I\right)\left(\bar{V}^{s-1}+\cdots+\bar{V}+I\right) \\
& =m\left(\bar{V}^{s-1}+\cdots+\bar{V}+I\right)=0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

So for $t=m s$ and every $U \in R^{T}$ we have $\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+V+I\right) U=0$. Hence, for $X \in R^{T}$ we have $\left(V^{t}-I\right) X=(V-I)\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+I\right) X=0$, so $V^{t} X=X$. A sum of every column of a matrix $W$ is equal to 0 , so $\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+I\right) W=0$. Finally, for $X, Y \in R^{T}$ the required equation $V^{t} X+\left(V^{t-1}+\cdots+I\right) W Y=$ $X$ holds.

## 3. Mep-pairs generating $\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$

Let $R_{m}$ be the set of all $n \times 1$ matrices over $Z_{m}$ with zero sum of coefficients, that is:

$$
R_{m}=\left\{\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]^{T}: x_{i} \in Z_{m}, \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}=0\right\}=\{X:[1, \ldots, 1] X=0\} .
$$

For example $Z=A_{\sigma}^{-1}\left(A_{\delta}^{-1}-I\right) X+A_{\sigma}^{-1} A_{\delta}^{-1}\left(A_{\sigma}-I\right) Y$ is an element of $R_{m}$, because $[1, \ldots, 1] Z=0$.
We will identify the subgroup $\left\{(\overline{0}, \sigma): \sigma \in A_{n}\right\}$ with $A_{n}$, and the normal subgroup $\left\{(Z, i d): Z \in R_{m}\right\}$ with $R_{m}$.

Let for $i=1,2, \ldots, n-1, a_{i}$ denote an element（ $X_{i}, i d$ ），where $X_{i}$ has 1 on $i$－th position，-1 on $n$－th position and 0 elsewhere．Elements $a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{n-1}$ generate $R_{m}$ ，because for every $s=(S, i d) \in$ $R_{m}$ we have $s=a_{1}^{s_{1}} a_{2}^{s_{2}} \cdots a_{n-1}^{s_{n-1}}$ ，where $s_{1}, s_{2}, \ldots, s_{n}$ are coefficients of $S$ ．

Proposition 3．An element（ $X, \alpha$ ）is in the commutator subgroup of $S_{n}$ 乙 $Z_{m}$ for $n \geqslant 2$ if and only if $\alpha \in A_{n}$ and $X \in R_{m}$ ．Moreover，we have $\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime} \cong R_{m} \rtimes A_{n}$ ．

Proof．Let $x=(X, \sigma), y=(Y, \delta) \in S_{n} \imath Z_{m}$ ．Then by（1）and from $Z \in R_{m}$ we have $[x, y]=(Z,[\sigma, \delta])=$ $(Z, i d) \cdot(\overline{0},[\sigma, \delta]) \in R_{m} A_{n}$ ．

To establish the converse，it is enough to prove that $A_{n}$ and $R_{m}$ are subgroups of $\left(S_{n} 乙 Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．Clearly $A_{n}<\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．Let $g=(X, i d)$ where $X=[0, \ldots, 0,1]^{T}$ and $h_{i}=(\overline{0},(i, n))$ for $i=1, \ldots, n-1$ ．Then $a_{i}=\left[g, h_{i}\right] \in\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ and $R_{m}=\left\langle a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n-1}\right\rangle<\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．

Proposition 4．Let $A$ be a subset of $A_{n}(n \geqslant 4)$ such that $\langle A\rangle=A_{n}$ and $\bar{A}=\{(X, \sigma) \mid \sigma \in A\} \subset\left(S_{n} \text { २ } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ． Then for every $i \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\}$ ，we have $\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle=\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．

Proof．Let $i, j, k$ are different integers from the set $\{1, \ldots, n-1\}$ ．Since $\langle A\rangle=A_{n}$ there exists $u=(U,(i, j, k)) \in\langle\bar{A}\rangle$ ．Hence $u a_{i} u^{-1}=a_{j}$ and $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n-1} \in\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle$ ．So $R_{m} \subseteq\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle$ ．From assumptions we know that for every $\sigma \in A$ there exists $X \in R_{m}$ ，such that（ $X, \sigma$ ）belongs to $\bar{A}$ ．So $(\overline{0}, \sigma)=(X, \sigma) \cdot(X, i d)^{-1}$ is in $\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle$ ．It means that $A_{n}$ is also a subgroup of $\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle$ ．Hence，by Proposition 3，$\left\langle\bar{A} \cup\left\{a_{i}\right\}\right\rangle=\left(S_{n} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．

Theorem 2．Let $a, b$ be elements generating $A_{n}$ ，where $n>3$ is an odd integer．If there exists positive integer $k$ such that $a^{k} b$ is a cycle of length less than $n$ then there exists $X$ ，such that $x=(\overline{0}, a), y=(X, b)$ generate $\left(S_{n} 乙 Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ ．

Proof．By Proposition 4，it is enough to prove that there exists $i$ such，that $a_{i} \in\langle x, y\rangle$ ．Let $a^{k} b=$ $\left(i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right)$ ．Since $n$ is odd，we have got $l \leqslant n-2$ ．Moreover $l$ is greater then 2 ，because for $l=1, a^{k} b$ would be equal $i d$ ，which is impossible，and for $l=2, a^{k} b$ would be odd，which also is impossible． We will denote by $A$（resp．B）a matrix representation of $a$（resp．b）．If $x=(\overline{0}, a)$ and $y=(X, b)$ then $x^{k} y=\left(A^{k} X, a^{k} b\right)$ ．Since $A^{k}$ is invertible，$A^{k} X$ can take any value $Y$ in $R_{m}$ ．Since $a^{k} b$ is a cycle of length $l$ we have $\left(x^{k} y\right)^{l}=\left(\left(I+C+\cdots+C^{l-1}\right) Y\right.$ ，id），where $C=A^{k} B$ ．It is easy to see that if $c_{i j}$ are entries of the matrix $I+C+\cdots+C^{l-1}$ then $c_{i i}=l$ if $i \notin\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ and $c_{i j}=1$ if $i, j \in\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ and remaining coordinates are zero．So if $Y=\left[y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right]^{T}, Z^{T}=\left(I+C+\cdots+C^{I-1}\right) Y$ and $Z=\left[z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right]$ then $z_{i}=l y_{i}$ for $i \notin\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ and $z_{j}=y_{i_{1}}+\cdots+y_{i_{l}}$ for $j \in\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ ．If we choose exactly one $i \notin\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ and we put $y_{i}=-1$ and exactly one $y_{j}=1$ for $j \in\left\{i_{1}, \ldots, i_{l}\right\}$ then $Z$ has exactly one coefficient $-l$ and exactly $l \geqslant 3$ coefficients 1 and rest（at least one）of coefficients are zero．Hence there exist $p, r, s, t$ such that $z_{p}=1, z_{r}=1, z_{s}=1$ and $z_{t}=0$ ．Since $\langle a, b\rangle=A_{n}$ ，there exists $U$ such that $u=(U,(p, r)(s, t)) \in\langle x, y\rangle$ ．Hence $u(Z, i d) u^{-1} \in\langle x, y\rangle$ and $u(Z, i d) u^{-1}=(W, i d)$ ，where $w_{p}=z_{p}=1, w_{r}=z_{r}=1, w_{s}=z_{t}=0, w_{t}=z_{s}=1$ and the rest coefficients of $W$ are the same as coefficients of $Z$ ．Then $(Z, i d)(W, i d)^{-1}=(P, i d)$ ，where $P$ has 1 on $s$－th position，-1 on $t$－th position and zero elsewhere．If $t \neq n$ ，then conjugation by the element of the form $(U,(i, j)(t, n))$ move -1 to the last position．

Corollary 1．Let $a, b$ be a mep－pair of long cycles，generating $A_{n}$ ，and let $m$ be a positive integer coprime with $n$ ．If a and $b$ satisfy the assumption of Theorem 2 ，then there exists $X$ such that $(\overline{0}, a),(X, b)$ is a mep－pair generating $\left(S_{n} २ Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$（that is $\left(S_{n} २ Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ is a mep－group）．

Proof．It follows immediately from Theorems 1 and 2.
Examples．Using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 we give examples that show that $\left(S_{n} Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ are mep－ groups for $n=5,7,13$ and $m$ coprime with $n$ ．

1. $A_{5}$ is a mep-group generated by a mep-pair

$$
a=(1,2,3,4,5), \quad b=(1,3,5,4,2),
$$

satisfying $a=\left[a,{ }_{5} b\right], b=\left[b,{ }_{5} a\right]$. Since $a b=(143),\left(S_{5} \text { 乙 } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ are mep-groups.
2. $A_{7}$ is a mep-group generated by a mep-pair

$$
a=(1,2,3,4,5,6,7), \quad b=(1,3,6,2,4,7,5),
$$

satisfying $a=\left[a,{ }_{49} b\right], b=[b, 49 a]$. Since $a^{4} b=(172),\left(S_{7} \text { ८ } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ are mep-groups.
3. $A_{13}$ is a mep-group generated by a mep-pair

$$
a=(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13), \quad b=(1,3,8,11,7,12,5,4,10,2,13,9,6),
$$

satisfying $a=[a, 2708 b], b=[b, 2708 a]$.
Since $a^{4} b=(1,7,3,12,9,10,6,5,8,2,4),\left(S_{13} \text { Z } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ are mep-groups.

## 4. Tables

Let $a=(1,2,3,4,5), b=(1,3,5,4,2), m \in \mathbb{N} \backslash\{0,1\}$. We define $x=(\overline{0}, a), y=(X, b) \in\left(S_{5} \text { 乙 } Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$, such that $x, y$ is a mep-pair of a mep-period $(k, k)$, so $\left[x,{ }_{k} y\right]=x,\left[y,{ }_{k} x\right]=y$.

Let $G=\langle x, y\rangle \subseteq\left(S_{5} z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$. We think that the case when $m$ is divisible by 3 is special. Here are some examples obtained by computer calculations.

| $m$ | $X^{T}$ | $k$ | $\|G\|$ | $G=\left(S_{5} \imath Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | $[0,0,0,1,2]$ | 130 | 4860 | yes |
| 3 | $[1,1,2,0,2]$ | 5 | 60 | no |
| 6 | $[0,0,0,1,5]$ | 390 | 77760 | yes |
| 6 | $[1,1,2,0,2]$ | 15 | 960 | no |
| 9 | $[0,0,0,1,8]$ | 390 | 393660 | yes |
| 9 | $[1,1,2,0,5]$ | 15 | 4860 | no |

Next table shows the results of our computer search for mep-pairs in groups ( $\left.S_{5} Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$. Elements $a, b$ are as previously, $x=\left([0,0,0,0,0]^{T}, a\right), y=\left([0,0,0,1,-1]^{T}, b\right), z=\left(\left[z_{1}, z_{2}, z_{3}, z_{4}, z_{5}\right]^{T}, b\right), k_{\text {max }}$ is a maximal mep-period, $k_{\min }$ is a minimal mep-period of a mep-pair $x, z$ in $\left(A_{5} Z_{m}\right)^{\prime}$ and ? means unknown value.

| $m$ | $k_{\max }$ | $z \max$ | $k_{\min }$ | $z \min$ |
| ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 15 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 3 | 130 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 4 | 30 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 6 | 390 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 7 | 1710 | $y$ | 15 | $\left([1,3,2,3,5]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 8 | 60 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 9 | 390 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 11 | 190 | $y$ | 10 | $\left([1,10,7,1,3]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 12 | 390 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 13 | 840 | $y$ | 420 | $\left([0,1,3,0,9]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 14 | 1710 | $y$ | 15 | $\left([1,3,2,3,5]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 16 | 120 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 17 | 27840 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 18 | 390 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 19 | 34290 | $y$ | 90 | $\left([5,1,7,8,17]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 21 | 22230 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 22 | 570 | $y$ | 30 | $\left([1,10,7,1,3]^{T}, b\right)$ |


| $m$ | $k_{\max }$ | $z \max$ | $k_{\min }$ | $z \min$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 23 | 279840 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 24 | 780 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 26 | 840 | $y$ | 420 | $\left([0,1,3,0,9]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 27 | 1170 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 28 | 1710 | $y$ | 30 | $\left([1,3,2,10,12]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 29 | 60970 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 31 | 230880 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 32 | 240 | $y$ | $=\max$ |  |
| 33 | 2470 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 34 | 27840 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 36 | 390 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 37 | 253260 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 38 | 34290 | $y$ | 90 | $\left([5,1,7,8,17]^{T}, b\right)$ |
| 39 | 10920 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 41 | 34460 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 42 | 22230 | $y$ | $?$ |  |
| 43 | 4620 | $y$ | $?$ |  |

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