

# On nilpotent Chernikov 2-groups with elementary tops

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ABSTRACT. We give an explicit description of nilpotent Chernikov 2-groups with elementary top and basis of rank 2.

## 1. Introduction

Recall that a *Chernikov  $p$ -group* [1, 8]  $G$  is an extension of a finite direct sum  $M$  of *quasi-cyclic  $p$ -groups*, or, the same, the groups of type  $p^\infty$ , by a finite  $p$ -group  $H$ . Note that  $M$  is the biggest abelian divisible subgroup of  $G$ , so both  $M$  and  $H$  are defined by  $G$  up to isomorphism. We call  $H$  and  $M$ , respectively, the *top* and the *bottom* of  $G$ . We denote by  $M^{(m)}$  a direct sum of  $m$  copies  $M_k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq m$ ) of quasi-cyclic  $p$ -groups and fix elements  $a_k \in M_k$  of order  $p$ . The group  $G$  is nilpotent if and only if the induced action of  $H$  on  $M$  is trivial [1, Theorem 1.9].

In the papers [2, 10] the classification of nilpotent Chernikov  $p$ -groups with elementary tops was related to the classification of tuples of skew-symmetric matrices over the field  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . Namely, given an  $m$ -tuple of  $n \times n$  skew-symmetric matrices  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$ , where  $A_k = (a_{ij}^{(k)})$ , we define the Chernikov  $p$ -group  $G(\mathbf{A})$ , which is an extension of  $M^{(m)}$  by the elementary  $p$ -group  $H_n = \langle h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \mid h_i^p = 1, h_i h_j = h_j h_i \rangle$  such that  $[h_i, a] = 1$  for each  $a \in M^{(m)}$  and  $[h_i, h_j] = \sum_k a_{ij}^{(k)} a_k$ . Every nilpotent Chernikov  $p$ -group is of this kind and two  $m$ -tuples  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m)$  define isomorphic groups if and only if there

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are invertible matrices  $S \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{F}_p)$  and  $Q = (q_{kl}) \in \mathrm{GL}(m, \mathbb{F}_p)$  such that  $B_k = \sum_l q_{lk}(SA_lS^\top)$  for all  $k$ . In this case we write  $\mathbf{B} = S \circ \mathbf{A} \circ Q$  and call the  $m$ -tuples  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  *weakly equivalent*. Recall that the pairs  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $S \circ \mathbf{A}$  are called *congruent*.

If  $m > 2$ , a classification of  $m$ -tuples of skew-symmetric matrices is a *wild problem* in the sense of the representation theory, i.e. it contains a classification of representations of any finitely generated algebra [2]. So, there is no hope to obtain a “good” classification of Chernikov  $p$ -groups with the bottom  $M^{(m)}$  for  $m > 2$ . Using the results of [9], we gave in the paper [2] a classification of Chernikov  $p$ -groups with elementary tops and the bottom  $M^{(2)}$  for  $p \neq 2$ . Unfortunately, if  $p = 2$ , the technique of [9] does not work. In this paper we use instead the results of [11] to obtain an analogous classification for Chernikov 2-groups.

## 2. Alternating pairs

From now on  $\mathbb{k}$  is a field of characteristic 2. We consider pairs  $(A, B)$  of alternating bilinear forms in a finite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{k}$  or, the same, pairs of skew-symmetric matrices over  $\mathbb{k}$ , calling them *alternating pairs*. Let  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbb{k}[t]$ , the polynomial ring,  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbb{k}(t)/\mathbb{k}[t]$  and  $\mathrm{res} = \mathrm{res}_\infty : \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$  be the residue at infinity. Let  $M$  be a finite dimensional (over  $\mathbb{k}$ )  $\mathbf{R}$ -module and  $F : M \times M \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  be an  $\mathbf{R}$ -bilinear map. We call  $F$  *strongly alternating* if  $\mathrm{res} F(u, u) = \mathrm{res} F(tu, u) = 0$  for all  $u \in M$ . Then also  $F(u, v) = F(v, u)$  and  $F(tu, v) = F(tv, u)$ . Given a strongly alternating map  $F$  we set  $A_F(u, v) = \mathrm{res} F(u, v)$  and  $B_F(u, v) = \mathrm{res} F(tu, v)$ . Obviously,  $(A_F, B_F)$  is a pair of alternating bilinear forms on  $M$ . We use the following facts from [11].

**Fact 1.** The map  $F \mapsto (A_F, B_F)$  induces a one-to-one correspondence between isomorphism classes of non-degenerated strongly alternating maps and isomorphism classes of pairs of alternating forms  $(A, B)$  such that  $A$  is non-degenerated.

**Fact 2.** Isomorphism classes of indecomposable non-degenerated strongly alternating maps  $F : M \times M \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  are in one-to-one correspondence with powers  $f^n(t)$  of irreducible polynomials  $f(t) \in \mathbb{k}[t]$ . Namely  $f^n(t)$  corresponds to the strongly alternating map  $F_{f,n} : M_{f,n} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$ , where  $M_{f,n} = (\mathbf{R}/f^n\mathbf{R})^2 = \langle u, v \mid f^n u = f^n v = 0 \rangle$ , such that  $F_{f,n}(u, v) = 1/f^n(\mathrm{mod} \mathbb{k}[t])$ , while  $F_{f,n}(u, u) = F_{f,n}(v, v) = 0$ .

We denote the alternating pair corresponding to the map  $F_{f,n}$  by  $\mathbf{A}_{f,n} = (A_{f,n}, B_{f,n})$ .

Consider the matrices of size  $n \times (n + 1)$

$$I_{n+} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad I_{n-} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and alternating pairs

$$A_{\infty,n} = (A_{\infty,n}, B_{\infty,n}), \quad A_{+,n} = (A_{+,n}, B_{+,n}),$$

where

$$A_{\infty,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & J_n \\ J_n^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_{\infty,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{+,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_{n+} \\ I_{n+}^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_{+,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_{n-} \\ I_{n-}^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$I_n$  is the  $n \times n$  unit matrix and  $J_n$  is the  $n \times n$  nilpotent Jordan block.

**Fact 3.** Every indecomposable alternating pair  $(A, B)$  with the degenerated form  $A$  is isomorphic to one of the pairs  $(A_{\infty,n}, B_{\infty,n}), (A_{+,n}, B_{+,n})$ .

**Fact 4.** Every alternating pair decomposes into an orthogonal direct sum of indecomposable pairs. This decomposition is unique up to isomorphism and permutation of summands.

**Lemma 2.1.** *There is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -basis in  $M_{f,n}$  such that the forms  $A_{f,n}$  and  $B_{f,n}$  are given by the matrices  $A_{f,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B_{f,n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Phi \\ \Phi^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $\Phi$  is the Frobenius matrix with the characteristic polynomial  $f^n(t)$ .*

Note that  $(A_{\infty,n}, B_{\infty,n}) = (B_{t,n}, A_{t,n})$ .

*Proof.* We include  $\mathbb{k}[t]$  into the ring  $\mathbb{k}[[t]]$  of formal power series and into the field  $\mathbb{k}((t))$  of Laurent series. If  $\deg g = d$  and  $g(0) \neq 0$ , we set  $g^*(t) = t^d g(1/t)$  and choose a polynomial  $\tilde{g}(t)$  of degree  $d$  such that  $g^*(t)\tilde{g}(t) \equiv 1 \pmod{t^{d+1}}$ . It exists and is unique since  $g^*(t)$  is invertible in  $\mathbb{k}[[t]]$ .

Let  $f(t) \neq t, g(t) = f^n(t), d = \deg g(t)$  and  $g(t) = t^d + \alpha_1 t^{d-1} + \dots + \alpha_d$ . Then  $g^*(t) = 1 + \alpha_1 t + \dots + \alpha_d t^d$  and  $\tilde{g}(t) = 1 + \beta_1 t + \dots + \beta_d t^d$ , where, for every  $m \leq d$ ,

$$\alpha_m + \alpha_{m-1}\beta_1 + \alpha_{m-2}\beta_2 + \dots + \alpha_1\beta_{m-1} + \beta_m = 0 \tag{2.1}$$

(we set  $\alpha_0 = \beta_0 = 1$ ). Consider the basis  $\{u_k, v_k \mid 0 \leq k < d\}$  of  $M_{f,n}$ , where  $v_k = t^k v, u_k = t^{d-k-1} u$ . Then  $F_{f,n}(u_k, u_l) = F_{f,n}(v_k, v_l) = 0$  for all  $k, l$ , while  $F_{f,n}(u_l, v_k) = h_{k,l} = t^{d+k-l-1}/g(t) \pmod{\mathbb{k}[[t]]}$ . Denote by  $\text{co}_1 h$  the coefficient by  $t^{-1}$  in the Laurent series  $h$ . Recall that  $\text{res}_\infty h$ , where  $h \in \mathbb{k}((t))$ , equals  $\text{co}_1 t^{-2} h(1/t)$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{f,n} &= \text{co}_1 t^{-2} h_{k,l}(1/t) \\ &= \text{co}_1 \frac{t^{l-k-1}}{t^d g(1/t)} = \text{co}_1 t^{l-k-1} \tilde{g}(t) = \begin{cases} \beta_{k-l} & \text{if } k \geq l, \\ 0 & \text{if } k < l; \end{cases} \\ B_{f,n} &= \text{co}_1 t^{-3} h_{k,l}(1/t) \\ &= \text{co}_1 \frac{t^{l-k-2}}{t^d g(1/t)} = \text{co}_1 t^{l-k-2} \tilde{g}(t) = \begin{cases} \beta_{k-l+1} & \text{if } k \geq l-1, \\ 0 & \text{if } k < l-1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

So the matrices of the forms  $A_{f,n}$  and  $B_{f,n}$  in this basis are, respectively,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ A^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \beta_1 & \beta_2 & \dots & \beta_{d-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \beta_1 & \dots & \beta_{d-2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & \beta_{d-3} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ B &= \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 & \beta_2 & \beta_3 & \dots & \beta_{d-1} & \beta_d \\ 1 & \beta_1 & \beta_2 & \dots & \beta_{d-2} & \beta_{d-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \beta_1 & \dots & \beta_{d-3} & \beta_{d-2} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & \beta_1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The relations (2.1) imply that

$$A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_{d-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \alpha_1 & \dots & \alpha_{d-2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & \alpha_{d-3} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and  $A^{-1}B = \Phi$ , the Frobenius matrix with the characteristic polynomial  $g(t) = f^n(t)$ . Thus, multiplying the matrices of bilinear forms  $A_{f,n}$  and  $B_{f,n}$  from (2.2) by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} A^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

on the left and by the transposed matrix on the right, we accomplish the proof of the lemma in this case.

If  $f(t) = t$ , we obtain the necessary form of the matrices directly in the basis  $\{u_k, v_k\}$  as above. □

Now we resume the above considerations.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Every indecomposable alternating pair is isomorphic to one of the pairs*

$$\mathbf{A}_{f,n} = (A_{f,n}, B_{f,n}), \mathbf{A}_{\infty,n} = (A_{\infty,n}, B_{\infty,n}), \mathbf{A}_{+,n} = (A_{+,n}, B_{+,n})$$

given by Fact 3 and Lemma 2.1. Every alternating pair decomposes uniquely (up to permutation of summands) into an orthogonal sum of indecomposable strongly alternating pairs from this list.

### 3. Weak equivalence and Chernikov groups

We denote by  $\mathfrak{A}$  the set of all pairs  $\mathbf{A}$ , where  $\mathbf{A} \in \{\mathbf{A}_{f,n}, \mathbf{A}_{\infty,n}, \mathbf{A}_{+,n}\}$ , and by  $\mathfrak{F}$  the set of functions  $\kappa : \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $\kappa(\mathbf{A}) = 0$  for almost all  $\mathbf{A}$ . For any function  $\kappa \in \mathfrak{F}$  we set  $\mathfrak{A}^\kappa = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{A} \in \mathfrak{A}} \mathbf{A}^{\kappa(\mathbf{A})}$ . For the classification of Chernikov 2-groups we have to answer the question:

*Given two functions with finite supports  $\kappa, \kappa' : \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , when are the pairs  $\mathfrak{A}^\kappa$  and  $\mathfrak{A}^{\kappa'}$  weakly congruent?*

Evidently,  $(\mathbf{A}_1 \oplus \mathbf{A}_2) \circ Q = (\mathbf{A}_1 \circ Q) \oplus (\mathbf{A}_2 \circ Q)$ , so the pairs  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{A} \circ Q$  are indecomposable simultaneously. For every pair  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathfrak{A}$  we denote by  $\mathbf{A} * Q$  the unique pair from  $\mathfrak{A}$  which is congruent to  $\mathbf{A} \circ Q$ . The map  $\mathbf{A} \mapsto \mathbf{A} * Q$  defines an action of the group  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{k})$  on the set  $\mathfrak{A}$ , hence on the set  $\mathfrak{F}$  of functions  $\kappa : \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ :  $(Q * \kappa)(\mathbf{A}) = \kappa(\mathbf{A} * Q)$ .

**Corollary 3.1.** *The pairs  $\mathfrak{A}^\kappa$  and  $\mathfrak{A}^{\kappa'}$  are weakly congruent if and only if the functions  $\kappa$  and  $\kappa'$  belong to the same orbit of the group  $\mathfrak{g}$ .*

$(A_{+,n}, B_{+,n})$  is a unique indecomposable couple of dimension  $2n + 1$ . For every other pair  $\mathbf{A} = (A, B)$  the polynomial  $\det(xA + yB)$  is a square:  $\det(x_1A + x_2B) = \Delta_{\mathbf{A}}(x_1, x_2)^2$  for some  $\Delta_{\mathbf{A}}(x_1, x_2)$  (the *Pfaffian* of  $x_1A + x_2B$ , see [7]). Namely,

$$\Delta_{\mathbf{A}}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x_2^n & \text{if } \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_{\infty,n}, \\ x_2^{dn} f(x_1/x_2) & \text{if } \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_{f,n} \text{ and } \deg f = d. \end{cases}$$

If  $(A', B') = (A, B) \circ Q$ , where  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} \\ q_{21} & q_{22} \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $\Delta_{(A',B')}(x_1, x_2) = \Delta_{(A,B)}((x_1, x_2)Q) = \Delta_{(A,B)}(q_{11}x_1 + q_{21}x_2, q_{12}x_1 + q_{22}x_2)$ . So now we can repeat the considerations of [2], obtaining analogous results for the fields of characteristic 2 and Chernikov 2-groups.

We say that an irreducible homogeneous polynomial  $g \in \mathbb{k}[x_1, x_2]$  is *unital* if either  $g = x_2$  or its leading coefficient with respect to  $x_1$  equals 1. Let  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{k})$  be the set of unital homogeneous irreducible polynomials from  $\mathbb{k}[x_1, x_2]$  and  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}} = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}(\mathbb{k}) = \mathbb{P} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$ . Note that  $\mathbb{P}$  actually coincides with the set of the closed points of the projective line  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{k}}^1 = \text{Proj } \mathbb{k}[x_1, x_2]$  [6]. For  $g \in \mathbb{P}$  and  $Q \in \mathfrak{g}$ , let  $Q * g$  be the unique polynomial  $g' \in \mathbb{P}$  such that  $g((x, y)Q) = \lambda g'$  for some non-zero  $\lambda \in \mathbb{k}$ . (It is the natural action of  $\mathfrak{g}$  on  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{k}}^1$ .) We also set  $Q * \varepsilon = \varepsilon$  for any  $Q$ . It defines an action of  $\mathfrak{g}$  on  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ . Denote by  $\tilde{\mathfrak{F}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}(\mathbb{k})$  the set of all functions  $\rho : \tilde{\mathbb{P}} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $\rho(g, n) = 0$  for almost all pairs  $(g, n)$ . Define the actions of the group  $\mathfrak{g}$  on  $\tilde{\mathfrak{F}}$  setting  $(\rho * Q)(g, n) = \rho(Q * g, n)$ . For every pair  $(g, n) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}} \times \mathbb{N}$  we define a pair of skew-symmetric forms  $\mathbf{A}(g, n)$ :

$$\mathbf{A}(g, n) = \begin{cases} (A_{\infty,n}, B_{\infty,n}) & \text{if } g = x_2, \\ (A_{+,n}, B_{+,n}) & \text{if } g = \varepsilon, \\ (A_{f,n}, B_{f,n}) & \text{where } f = g(x, 1) \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathbb{k}) = \{\mathbf{A}(g, n) \mid (g, n) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}} \times \mathbb{N}\}$ . For every function  $\rho \in \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}$  we set  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}^\rho = \bigoplus_{(g,n) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}} \times \mathbb{N}} \mathbf{A}(g, n)^{\rho(g,n)}$ . The preceding considerations imply the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.2.** 1) Every pair of skew-symmetric bilinear forms over the field  $\mathbb{k}$  is weakly congruent to  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}^\rho$  for some function  $\rho \in \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}(\mathbb{k})$ .  
 2) The pairs  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}^\rho$  and  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}^{\rho'}$  are weakly congruent if and only if the functions  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  belong to the same orbit of the group  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{k})$ .

For every function  $\rho \in \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}(\mathbb{F}_2)$  set  $G(\rho) = G(\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}^\rho)$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $\mathfrak{X}$  be a set of representatives of orbits of the group  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_2)$  acting on the set of functions  $\mathfrak{F}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ . Then every nilpotent Chernikov 2-group with elementary top and the bottom  $M^{(2)}$  is isomorphic to the group  $G(\rho)$  for a uniquely defined function  $\rho \in \mathfrak{X}$ .*

The description of these groups in terms of generators and relations is also the same as in [2]. Note that all of them are of the form  $G(\mathbf{A})$ , where  $\mathbf{A} = \bigoplus_{k=1}^s \mathbf{A}_k$  and all  $\mathbf{A}_k$  belong to the set  $\{\mathbf{A}_{\infty,n}, \mathbf{A}_{+,n}, \mathbf{A}_{f,n}\}$ . Each term  $\mathbf{A}_k$  corresponds to a subset  $\{h_{ki}\}$  of generators of the group  $H$  and we have to precise the values of  $[h_{ki}, h_{kj}]$  (all other commutators are zero). They are given in Table 1. Recall that  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are generators of the subgroup  $\{a \in M^{(2)} \mid 2a = 0\}$ .

TABLE 1.

$\mathbf{A}_k$	$i, j$	$[h_{ki}, h_{kj}]$
$\mathbf{A}_{+,n}$	$j = d + i$	$a_1$
	$j = d + i - 1$	$a_2$
	otherwise	0
$\mathbf{A}_{\infty,n}$	$j = d + i$	$a_2,$
	$j = d + i - 1$	$a_1,$
	otherwise	0
$\mathbf{A}_{f,n}$	$j = d + i < 2d$	$a_1$
	$j = d + i - 1$	$a_2$
	$i < d, j = 2d$	$\lambda_{d-i+1}a_2$
	$i = d, j = 2d$	$a_1 + \lambda_1 a_2$
	otherwise	0

where  $f^n(x) = x^d + \lambda_1 x^{d-1} + \dots + \lambda_d$

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