

## A new characterization of symmetric groups for some $n$

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### Abstract

Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $\pi_e(G)$  be the set of element orders  $G$ . Let  $k \in \pi_e(G)$  and let  $m_k$  be the number of elements of order  $k$  in  $G$ . Set  $\text{nse}(G) := \{m_k | k \in \pi_e(G)\}$ . In this paper, we prove that if  $G$  is a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_n)$  where  $n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , then  $G \cong S_n$ .

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### 1. Introduction

If  $n$  is an integer, then we denote by  $\pi(n)$  the set of all prime divisors of  $n$ . Let  $G$  be a finite group. Denote by  $\pi(G)$  the set of primes  $p$  such that  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ . Also the set of element orders of  $G$  is denoted by  $\pi_e(G)$ . A finite group  $G$  is called a simple  $K_n$ -group, if  $G$  is a simple group with  $|\pi(G)| = n$ . Set  $m_i = m_i(G) = |\{g \in G | \text{the order of } g \text{ is } i\}|$  and  $\text{nse}(G) := \{m_i | i \in \pi_e(G)\}$ .

Let  $L_t(G) := \{g \in G | g^t = 1\}$ . Then  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are of the same order type if and only if  $|L_t(G_1)| = |L_t(G_2)|$ ,  $t = 1, 2, \dots$ . The idea of this paper springs from Thompson's Problem as follows:

**Thompson's Problem.** Suppose that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are of the same order type. If  $G_1$  is solvable, is it true that  $G_2$  is also necessarily solvable?

Unfortunately, as so far, no one can prove it completely, or even give a counterexample. However, if groups  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are of the same order type, we see clearly that  $|G_1| = |G_2|$

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and  $\text{nse}(G_1) = \text{nse}(G_2)$ . So it is natural to investigate the Thompson's Problem by  $|G|$  and  $\text{nse}(G)$ .

In [13], it is proved that all simple  $K_4$ -groups can be uniquely determined by  $\text{nse}(G)$  and  $|G|$ . Further, it is claimed that some simple groups could be characterized by exactly the set  $\text{nse}$  without considering group order. For instance, in [3, 12], it is proved that the alternating groups  $A_n$  where  $n \in \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  are uniquely determined by  $\text{nse}(G)$ . Also in [10], it is proved that  $L_2(q)$  where  $q \in \{7, 8, 11, 13\}$  are uniquely determined by  $\text{nse}(G)$ . Analogously, for infinite simple groups, there are also some interesting results: In [1], the author prove that  $G \cong \text{PGL}_2(p)$  if and only the two conditions hold: (1)  $p \in \pi(G)$  but  $p^2 \nmid |G|$ ; (2)  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(\text{PGL}_2(p))$ , where  $p > 3$  is a prime. In [2], the authors proved that all sporadic groups characterizable by  $\text{nse}(G)$  and  $|G|$ .

In this paper we show that the symmetric group  $S_n$  is characterizable by  $\text{nse}(G)$  for  $n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ . In fact the main theorem of our paper is as follows:

**Main Theorem:** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_n)$  where  $n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ . Then  $G \cong S_n$ .

Note that not all groups can be characterized by  $\text{nse}(G)$  and  $|G|$ . For instance, in 1987, Thompson gave an example as follows: Let  $G_1 = (C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2) \rtimes A_7$  and  $G_2 = L_3(4) \rtimes C_2$  be the maximal subgroups of  $M_{23}$ , where  $M_{23}$  is the Mathieu group of degree 23. Although  $\text{nse}(G_1) = \text{nse}(G_2)$  and  $|G_1| = |G_2|$ , we still have  $G_1 \not\cong G_2$ .

Throughout this paper, we denote by  $\phi$  the Euler totient function. If  $G$  is a finite group, then we denote by  $P_q$  a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $G$  and  $n_q(G)$  is the number of Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $G$ , that is,  $n_q(G) = |\text{Syl}_q(G)|$ . All other notations are standard and we refer to [5], for example.

## 2. Some lemmas

In this section we collect some preliminary lemmas used in the proof of the main theorem.

**Lemma 2.1.** [6] Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $m$  be a positive integer dividing  $|G|$ . If  $L_m(G) = \{g \in G \mid g^m = 1\}$ , then  $m \mid |L_m(G)|$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** [12] Let  $G$  be a group containing more than two elements. Let  $k \in \pi_e(G)$  and  $m_k$  be the number of elements of order  $k$  in  $G$ . If  $s = \sup\{m_k \mid k \in \pi_e(G)\}$  is finite, then  $G$  is finite and  $|G| \leq s(s^2 - 1)$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** [11] Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $p \in \pi(G)$  be odd. Suppose that  $P$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  and  $n = p^s m$  where  $(p, m) = 1$ . If  $P$  is not cyclic and  $s > 1$ , then the number of elements of order  $n$  is always a multiple of  $p^s$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** [8] Let  $G$  be a finite solvable group and  $|G| = m \cdot n$ , where  $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ ,  $(m, n) = 1$ . Let  $\pi = \{p_1, \dots, p_r\}$  and let  $h_m$  be the number of  $\pi$ -Hall subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $h_m = q_1^{\beta_1} \cdots q_s^{\beta_s}$  satisfies the following conditions for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s\}$ :

- (1)  $q_i^{\beta_i} \equiv 1 \pmod{p_j}$ , for some  $p_j$ .
- (2) The order of some chief factor of  $G$  is divisible by  $q_i^{\beta_i}$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** [13] Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$  where  $p \in \pi(G)$ . Let  $G$  have a normal series  $K \trianglelefteq L \trianglelefteq G$ . If  $P \leq L$  and  $p \nmid |K|$ , then the following hold:

- (1)  $N_{G/K}(PK/K) = N_G(P)K/K$ ;
- (2)  $|G : N_G(P)| = |L : N_L(P)|$ , that is,  $n_p(G) = n_p(L)$ ;
- (3)  $|L/K : N_{L/K}(PK/K)|t = |G : N_G(P)| = |L : N_L(P)|$ , that is,  $n_p(L/K)t =$

$n_p(G) = n_p(L)$  for some positive integer  $t$ , and  $|N_K(P)|t = |K|$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** [9] If  $G$  is a simple  $K_3$ -group, then  $G$  is isomorphic to one of the following groups:  $A_5, A_6, L_2(7), L_2(8), L_2(17), L_3(3), U_3(3)$  or  $U_4(2)$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** [14] Let  $G$  be a simple group of order  $2^a \cdot 3^b \cdot 5 \cdot p^c$  where  $p \notin \{2, 3, 5\}$  is a prime and  $abc \neq 0$ . Then  $G$  is isomorphic to one of the following groups:  $A_7, A_8, A_9; M_{11}, M_{12}; L_2(q), q = 11, 16, 19, 31, 81; L_3(4), L_4(3), S_6(2), U_4(3)$  or  $U_5(2)$ . In particular, if  $p = 11$ , then  $G \cong M_{11}, M_{12}, L_2(11)$  or  $U_5(2)$ ; if  $p = 7$ , then  $G \cong A_7, A_8, A_9, A_{10}, L_2(49), L_3(4), S_4(7), S_6(2), U_3(5), U_4(3), J_2$ , or  $O_8^+(2)$ .

Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_n)$  where  $n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ . By Lemma 2.2, we can assume that  $G$  is finite. Let  $m_n$  be the number of elements of order  $n$ . We note that  $m_n = k\phi(n)$ , where  $k$  is the number of cyclic subgroups of order  $n$  in  $G$ . Also we note that if  $n > 2$ , then  $\phi(n)$  is even. If  $n \mid |G|$ , then by Lemma 2.1 and the above notation, we have

$$\begin{cases} \phi(n) \mid m_n \\ n \mid \sum_{d \mid n} m_d \end{cases} \quad (*)$$

In the proof of the main theorem, we often apply  $(*)$  and the above comments.

### 3. Proof of the Main Theorem.

**Case 1.** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_3) = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . First we prove that  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3\}$ . Since  $3 \in \text{nse}(G)$ , it follows that by  $(*)$ ,  $2 \in \pi(G)$  and  $m_2 = 3$ . Let  $2 \neq p \in \pi(G)$ . By  $(*)$ ,  $p \mid (1 + m_p)$  and  $(p - 1) \mid m_p$ , which implies that  $p = 3$ . Thus  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3\}$ . If  $3 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $m_3 = 2$ . If  $6 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then by  $(*)$ ,  $m_6 = 2$  and  $6 \mid (1 + m_2 + m_3 + m_6) = 8$ , a contradiction. If  $2^i \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $i \geq 2$ , then  $2^{i-1} = \phi(2^i) \mid m_{2^i} = 2$ . So  $i = 2$ . If  $3^j \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $j \geq 2$ , then  $2 \times 3^{j-1} = \phi(3^j) \mid m_{3^j} = 2$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $|G| = 6 + 2k = 2^m \times 3^n$  where  $k, m$  and  $n$  are non-negative integers. Now we consider the following subcases:

Subcase (a). If  $\pi(G) = \{2\}$ , then  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 4\}$ . Since  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 3$ ,  $|G| = 2^m = 6 + 2k$  where  $k = 0$ , a contradiction.

Subcase (b). If  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3\}$ , then since  $|G| = 6 + 2k = 2^m \times 3^n$  and  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 4$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq 1$ . It is easy to check that the only solution of the equation is  $(k, m, n) = (0, 1, 1)$ . Thus  $|G| = 6$ ,  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Therefore,  $G \cong S_3$ .

**Case 2.** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_4) = \{1, 6, 8, 9\}$ . First we prove that  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3\}$ . Since  $9 \in \text{nse}(G)$ , it follows that by  $(*)$ ,  $2 \in \pi(G)$  and  $m_2 = 9$ . Let  $2 \neq p \in \pi(G)$ . By  $(*)$ ,  $p \in \{3, 7\}$ . Thus  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 7\}$ . If  $7 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $m_7 = 6$ .

We prove that  $14 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . If  $14 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_{14} = 6$ , by  $(*)$ . On the other hand,  $14 \mid (1 + m_2 + m_7 + m_{14}) = 22$ , a contradiction. Therefore, the group  $P_7$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. Hence  $|P_7| \mid m_2 = 9$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3\}$ . If  $3 \in \pi(G)$ , then by  $(*)$ ,  $m_3 = 8$ . It is clear that by  $(*)$ ,  $G$  does not contain any elements of order 6 and 9.

If  $2^i \in \pi(G)$  for some  $i \geq 2$ , then  $2^{i-1} \mid m_{2^i}$  where  $m_{2^i} \in \{6, 8\}$ . So  $2 \leq i \leq 4$ . Also by  $(*)$ ,  $m_4 = 6$ ,  $m_8 = 8$  and  $m_{16} = 8$ . Therefore  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 16\}$  and

$|G| = 24 + 6k_1 + 8k_2 = 2^m \times 3^n$  where  $k_1, k_2, m$  and  $n$  are non-negative integers. Now we consider the following subcases:

Subcase (a). If  $\pi(G) = \{2\}$ , then since  $|G| = 24 + 6k_1 + 8k_2 = 2^m$  and  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 6$ ,  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 \leq 1$ . It is easy to check that the only solution is  $(k_1, k_2, m) = (0, 1, 5)$ . Thus  $|G| = 2^5$  and  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$ . But all groups of order 32 with element of order 16 are known, in particular, there are only four such non-Abelian groups by [7] (see, Chapter 5, Theorem 4.4). Since nse of such non-Abelian groups are not equal to  $\text{nse}(G)$ , it is impossible.

Subcase (b). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3\}$ . By assumption  $|G| = 24 + 6k_1 + 8k_2 = 2^m \times 3^n$ . Since  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 6$ ,  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 \leq 2$ . Hence  $12 + 3k_1 + 4k_2 = 2^{m-1} \times 3^n$ . Since  $3 \mid k_2$ , it follows that  $k_2 = 0$ . It is easy to check that the only solutions of equation are  $(k_1, k_2, m, n) = (0, 0, 3, 1)$  or  $(2, 0, 2, 2)$ .

If  $(k_1, k_2, m, n) = (2, 0, 2, 2)$ , then  $|G| = 36$  and  $|\pi_e(G)| = 6$ . On the other hand,  $|P_2| = 4$  so  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , a contradiction.

Therefore  $(k_1, k_2, m, n) = (0, 0, 3, 1)$ ,  $|G| = 24$  and  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , which implies that  $G \cong S_4$ .

**Case 3.** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_5) = \{1, 20, 24, 25, 30\}$ . First we prove that  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5\}$ . Since  $25 \in \text{nse}(G)$ , it follows that  $2 \in \pi(G)$  and  $m_2 = 25$ . Let  $2 \neq p \in \pi(G)$ . By (\*),  $p \in \{3, 5, 31\}$ .

If  $p = 31$ , then  $m_{31} = 30$ . On the other hand, if  $62 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_{62} = 30$  and  $62 \mid 1 + m_2 + m_{31} + m_{62} = 86$ , a contradiction. So  $62 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Then the group  $P_{31}$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. Thus  $|P_{31}| \mid m_2$ , a contradiction.

Therefore,  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5\}$ . If  $3, 5 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $m_3 = 20$  and  $m_5 = 24$ . It is clear that by (\*),  $G$  does not contain any elements of order 15, 16, 18 or 25. If  $4, 16 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_4 = 30$  and  $m_8 = 24$ . If  $2^i \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $i \geq 2$ , then  $2^{i-1} \mid m_{2^i}$  where  $m_{2^i} \in \{20, 24, 30\}$ . Hence  $2 \leq i \leq 3$ . If  $3^j \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $j \geq 2$ , then  $2 \times 3^{j-1} \mid m_{3^j}$  where  $m_{3^j} \in \{24, 30\}$ . Thus  $j = 2$ . If  $5^k \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $k \geq 2$ , then  $4 \times 5^{k-1} \mid m_{5^k}$  where  $m_{5^k} \in \{20, 24\}$ . Thus  $k = 2$ . Since  $25 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , we get a contradiction.

Therefore  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24\}$  and  $|G| = 100 + 20k_1 + 24k_2 + 30k_3 = 2^m \times 3^n \times 5^r$  where  $k_1, k_2, k_3, m, n$  and  $r$  are non-negative integers. Now we consider the following subcases:

Subcase (a). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2\}$ . Then  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 4$ . Since  $\text{nse}(G)$  have five elements and  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 4$ , we get a contradiction.

Subcase (b). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 5\}$ . Then  $|G| = 100 + 20k_1 + 24k_2 + 30k_3 = 2^m \times 5^n$  and by  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 6$ , we have  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 \leq 1$ . Hence  $5 \mid k_2$ , which implies that  $k_2 = 0$ , and so  $50 + 10k_1 + 15k_3 = 2^{m-1} \times 5^n$ . Hence  $2 \mid k_3$ , which implies that  $k_3 = 0$ . It is easy to check that the only solution of the equation is  $(k_1, k_2, k_3, m, n) = (0, 0, 0, 2, 2)$ . Thus  $|G| = 2^2 \times 5^2$ . It is clear that  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 10\}$ , and so  $\exp(P_2) = 4$ . Then  $P_2$  is cyclic. Thus  $n_2 = m_4 / \phi(4) = 15$ . Since every cyclic Sylow 2-subgroup has one element of order 2,  $m_2 \leq 15$ , a contradiction.

Subcase (c). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3\}$ . Since  $27 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\exp(P_3) = 3$  or  $9$ . If  $\exp(P_3) = 3$ , then  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24\}$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $|P_3| \mid (1 + m_3) = 21$ . Hence  $|P_3| = 3$ . Therefore,  $100 + 20k_1 + 24k_2 + 30k_3 = 2^m \times 3 = |G|$  and  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 \leq$

3. It is clear that  $100 \leq 2^m \times 3 \leq 190$ . Hence  $m = 6$  and  $20k_1 + 24k_2 + 30k_3 = 92$ . It is easy to check that the equation has no solution.

If  $\exp(P_3) = 9$ , then since  $m_9 = 24$ ,  $|P_3| \mid (1 + m_3 + m_9) = 45$ . Hence  $|P_3| = 9$  and  $n_3 = m_9/\phi(9) = 4$ . Since a cyclic group of order 9 have two elements of order 3,  $m_3 \leq 4 \times 2 = 8$ , a contradiction.

Subcase (d). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3, 5\}$ . Since  $G$  has no element of order 15, the group  $P_5$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 3. Thus  $|P_5| \mid m_3 = 20$ , which implies that  $r = 1$ . Similarly, the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 5. Thus  $|P_3| \mid m_5 = 24$ , which implies that  $n = 1$ .

We will show  $10 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Suppose that  $10 \in \pi_e(G)$ . We know that if  $P$  and  $Q$  are Sylow 5-subgroups of  $G$ , then  $P$  and  $Q$  are conjugate, which implies that  $C_G(P)$  and  $C_G(Q)$  are conjugate. Therefore  $m_{10} = \phi(10) \cdot n_5 \cdot k$ , where  $k$  is the number of cyclic subgroups of order 2 in  $C_G(P_5)$ . Since  $n_5 = m_5/\phi(5) = 6$ ,  $24 \mid m_{10}$ . Hence  $m_{10} = 24$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $10 \mid (1 + m_2 + m_5 + m_{10}) = 74$ , a contradiction.

Therefore the group  $P_2$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 5. Then  $|P_2| \mid m_5 = 24$ , which implies that  $|P_2| \mid 8$ . Thus  $100 + 20k_1 + 24k_2 + 30k_3 = 2^m \times 3 \times 5$ , where  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 \leq 4$  and  $m \leq 3$ . It is clear that  $100 \leq 2^m \times 3 \times 5 \leq 190$ , hence  $m = 3$ . It is easy to check that the only solution of the equation is  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (1, 0, 0)$ . Thus  $|G| = 2^3 \times 3 \times 5$ ,  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , and by the main result of [4],  $G \cong S_5$ .

**Case 4.** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_6) = \{1, 75, 80, 180, 144, 240\}$ . First we prove that  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5\}$ . Since  $75 \in \text{nse}(G)$ , it follows that  $2 \in \pi(G)$  and  $m_2 = 75$ . Let  $2 \neq p \in \pi(G)$ . By (\*),  $p \in \{3, 5, 181, 241\}$ . If  $181 \in \pi(G)$ , then by (\*),  $m_{181} = 180$ . If  $282 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then we conclude that  $m_{282} = 180$ , but by (\*), we get a contradiction. Therefore  $282 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Since  $282 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_{181}$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. Then  $|P_{181}| \mid m_2$ , a contradiction. Similarly, if  $241 \in \pi(G)$ , we get a contradiction. Hence  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5\}$ .

If  $3, 5 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_3 = 80$  and  $m_5 = 144$ , by (\*). If  $2^i \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $i \geq 2$ , then  $2^{i-1} = \phi(2^i) \mid m_{2^i}$ . Thus  $2 \leq i \leq 5$ . If  $3^j \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $j \geq 2$ , then  $2 \times 3^{j-1} = \phi(3^j) \mid m_{3^j}$ . Then  $2 \leq j \leq 3$ . If  $5^k \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $k \geq 2$ , then  $4 \times 5^{k-1} \mid m_{5^k}$  and so  $k = 2$ . If  $2^a \times 3^b \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $a, b > 0$ , then  $1 \leq a \leq 4$  and  $1 \leq b \leq 3$ . If  $2^a \times 5^b \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $a, b > 0$ , then  $1 \leq a \leq 5$  and  $1 \leq b \leq 2$ . If  $3^a \times 5^b \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $a, b > 0$ , then  $1 \leq a \leq 2$  and  $1 \leq b \leq 2$ . If  $2^a \times 3^b \times 5^c \in \pi_e(G)$  for some  $a, b, c > 0$ , then  $1 \leq a \leq 3$ ,  $1 \leq b \leq 2$  and  $1 \leq c \leq 2$ .

Therefore  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 2^2, 2^3, 2^4, 2^5, 3, 3^2, 3^3, 5, 5^2\} \cup \{2^a \times 3^b \mid 1 \leq a \leq 4, 1 \leq b \leq 3\} \cup \{2^a \times 5^b \mid 1 \leq a \leq 3, 1 \leq b \leq 2\} \cup \{3^a \times 5^b \mid 1 \leq a \leq 2, 1 \leq b \leq 2\} \cup \{2^a \times 3^b \times 5^c \mid 1 \leq a \leq 3, 1 \leq b \leq 2, 1 \leq c \leq 2\}$ .

Hence  $|G| = 2^m \times 3^n \times 5^r = 720 + 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4$  where  $k_1, k_2, k_3, m, n$  and  $r$  are non-negative integers. Now we consider the following subcases:

Subcase (a). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2\}$ . Then  $360 + 40k_1 + 72k_2 + 90k_3 + 120k_4 = 2^{m-1}$ . Since  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 6$ ,  $k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 = 0$ . It is easy to see that this equation has no solution.

Subcase (b). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 5\}$ . Since  $5^3 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\exp(P_5) = 5$  or  $25$ . Let  $\exp(P_5) = 5$ , then by Lemma 2.1,  $|P_5| \mid (1 + m_5) = 145$ . Hence  $|P_5| = 5$ . On the other hand,  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 10$ . Therefore  $720 + 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4 = 2^m \times 5$ , where  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 \leq 4$ . Hence  $5 \mid k_2$ , then  $k_2 = 0$ . It is easy to see that this equation has no solution.

If  $\exp(P_5) = 25$ , then by Lemma 2.1,  $|P_5| \mid (1 + m_5 + m_{25})$ . Hence  $|P_5| = 25$  and  $P_5$  is cyclic. Thus  $n_5 = m_{25}/\phi(25)$ . Since  $m_{25} \in \{80, 180\}$ ,  $n_5 = 4$  or  $9$ , a contradiction.

Subcase (c). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3\}$ . Since  $3^4 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\exp(P_3) = 3, 9$  or  $27$ . Let  $\exp(P_3) = 3$ . Then  $|P_3| \mid (1 + m_3) = 81$ , by Lemma 2.1. If  $|P_3| = 3$ , then  $n_3 = m_3/\phi(3) = 40 \mid |G|$ , we get a contradiction by  $5 \notin \pi(G)$ .

If  $|P_3| = 9$ , then  $|G| = 720 + 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4 = 2^m \times 9$ . Since  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 2^2, 2^3, 2^4, 2^5, 3, 3 \times 2, 3 \times 2^2, 3 \times 2^3, 3 \times 2^4\}$ ,  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 \leq 5$ . As  $720 \leq 2^m \times 9 \leq 1920$ ,  $m = 7$ . Therefore,  $432 = 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4$ . The only solution of this equation is  $(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) = (0, 3, 0, 0)$ . Then  $|\pi_e(G)| = 9$ , it is clear that  $\exp(P_2) = 16$  or  $32$ .

If  $\exp(P_2) = 16$ , then  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24\}$ . Since  $48 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 16. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_{16}$ . We have  $m_{16} \in \{144, 240\}$ . If  $m_{16} = 240$ , we get a contradiction by  $|P_3| \mid m_{16}$ . If  $m_{16} = 144$ , then by (\*),  $m_{24} = 240$ . If  $m_8 = 144$ , then  $m_4 = 180$  and if  $m_8 = 180$ , then  $m_4 = 144$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $|P_2| \mid (1 + m_2 + m_4 + m_8 + m_{16}) = 544$ . Because  $|P_2| = 2^7$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $\exp(P_2) = 32$ , then  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 32\}$ . Since  $24, 48, 96 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , then the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 8, 16 or 32. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_8, m_{16}$  or  $m_{32}$ . We know that  $m_8 \in \{144, 180, 240\}$ , if  $m_8 = 144$ , then by (\*),  $m_4 = 180$ . Therefore  $m_{16}$  or  $m_{32} \neq 144$ . Since  $|P_3| \mid m_{16}$  or  $m_{32}$ , we get a contradiction. If  $m_8 = 180$ , then  $m_4 = 144$ . Thus  $m_{16}$  or  $m_{32} \neq 144$ . Since  $|P_3| \mid m_{16}$  or  $m_{32}$ , a contradiction. Similarly, if  $m_8 = 240$ , we get a contradiction by  $|P_3| \mid m_8$ .

Suppose that  $|P_3| = 27$ . Then  $|G| = 720 + 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4 = 2^m \times 27$  where  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 \leq 5$ . Hence  $720 \leq 2^m \times 27 \leq 1920$ . Thus  $m = 5$  or  $6$ .

If  $m = 5$ , then  $144 = 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4$ . The only solution of this equation is  $(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) = (0, 1, 0, 0)$ . Thus  $|\pi_e(G)| = 7$ , it is clear that  $\exp(P_2) = 8, 16$  or  $32$ .

If  $\exp(P_2) = 8$ , then  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12\}$ . Since  $24 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 8. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_8$ , by  $m_8 \in \{144, 180, 240\}$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $\exp(P_2) = 16$ , then  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 16\}$ . Since  $12 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 4. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_4$ . By  $m_4 \in \{144, 80, 240\}$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $\exp(P_2) = 32$ , then  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 16, 32\}$ . Since  $6 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_2$ . This is a contradiction because  $|P_3| = 9$ .

If  $m = 6$ , then by arguing as above we can rule out this case. Also by arguing as above we can rule out the case  $|P_3| = 81$ .

Suppose that  $\exp(P_3) = 9$ . By (\*),  $m_9 \in \{144, 180\}$ . Then  $|P_3| \mid (1 + m_3 + m_9) = 225$  or  $261$ . Hence  $|P_3| = 9$  and  $n_3 = m_9/\phi(9) \in \{24, 30\}$ , a contradiction.

If  $\exp(P_3) = 27$ , then by (\*),  $m_{27} \in \{144, 180\}$ . If  $P_3$  be a cyclic group, then since  $\exp(P_3) = 27$ ,  $n_3 = m_{27}/\phi(27) \in \{8, 10\}$ . If  $n_3 = 8$ , then we get a contradiction by Sylow theorem and if  $n_3 = 10$ , then since a cyclic group of order 27 have two elements of order 3,  $m_3 \leq 10 \times 2 = 20$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $P_3$  is not cyclic. By Lemma 2.3,  $27 \mid m_{27}$ , a contradiction.

Subcase (d). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3, 5\}$ . We know that  $\exp(P_5) = 5$  and  $|P_5| = 5$ . Suppose that  $15 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_{15} = \phi(15) \cdot n_5 \cdot k$ , where  $k$  is the number of cyclic subgroups of order 3 in  $C_G(P_5)$ . Since  $n_5 = m_5/\phi(5) = 36, 288 \mid m_{15}$ , a contradiction. Thus  $15 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Similarly,  $10 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Since  $15 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 5. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_5 = 144$ . Then  $|P_3| = 3$  or  $9$ . Since  $10 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_2$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 5. Hence  $|P_2| \mid m_5 = 144$ . Then  $|P_2| = 2^m$ , where  $1 \leq m \leq 4$ . Therefore  $|G| = 720 + 80k_1 + 144k_2 + 180k_3 + 240k_4 = 2^m \times 3^n \times 5$  where  $1 \leq m \leq 4$  and  $1 \leq n \leq 2$ . The only solution of this equation is  $(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, m, n) = (0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 2)$ . Thus  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ,  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8\}$ ,  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9\}$ .

If  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9\}$ , then  $\exp(P_3) = 9$  and  $|P_3| = 9$ . Because  $m_9 \in \{144, 180\}$ ,  $n_3 = m_9/\phi(9) \in \{24, 30\}$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8\}$ , then  $6 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Thus the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. So,  $|P_3| \mid m_2 = 75$ . Since  $|P_3| = 9$ , we get a contradiction.

Therefore  $\pi_e(G) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Now by the main result of [4],  $G \cong S_6$ .

**Case 5.** Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\text{nse}(G) = \text{nse}(S_7) = \{1, 231, 350, 420, 504, 720, 840, 1470\}$ . First we prove that  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5, 7\}$ . Since  $231 \in \text{nse}(G)$ , it follows that  $2 \in \pi(G)$  and  $m_2 = 231$ . Let  $2 \neq p \in \pi(G)$ . By (\*),  $p \in \{3, 5, 29, 421, 1471\}$ . If  $29 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $m_{29} = 840$ . If  $58 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_{58} \in \{504, 420, 840\}$ , but by (\*), we get a contradiction. Thus  $58 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Since  $58 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_{29}$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 2. Then  $|P_{29}| \mid m_2$  and this is a contradiction. Similarly, if  $421$  and  $1471 \in \pi(G)$ , we get a contradiction. Hence  $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5, 7\}$ . If  $3, 5, 7 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $m_3 = 350, m_5 = 504$  and  $m_7 = 720$ . It is clear that  $G$  does not contain any elements of order 64, 81, 125 and 343.

Let  $25 \in \pi_e(G)$ . Then  $m_{25} = 420$  or  $720$  by (\*). By Lemma 2.1,  $|P_5| \mid (1 + m_5 + m_{25}) = 920$  or  $1225$ . Hence  $|P_5| = 25$  and  $n_5 = m_{25}/\phi(25) = 21$  or  $36$ . Since in a cyclic group of order 25, there are four elements of order 5, so  $m_5 \leq 21 \times 4 = 84$  or  $m_5 \leq 36 \times 4 = 144$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $25 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Let  $49 \in \pi_e(G)$ . Then  $m_{49} = 504$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $|P_7| \mid (1 + m_7 + m_{49}) = 1225$ . Then  $|P_7| = 49$ , and so  $n_7 = m_{49}/\phi(49) = 12$ . By Sylow's theorem  $n_7 = 1 + 7k$  for some  $k$ , as  $n_7 = 12$ , we get a contradiction. So  $49 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Therefore if  $5, 7 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $\exp(P_5) = 5$  and  $\exp(P_7) = 7$ , and by Lemma 2.1,  $|P_5| = 5$  and  $|P_7| = 7$ . Hence  $n_5 = m_5/\phi(5) = 2 \times 9 \times 7$  and  $n_7 = m_7/\phi(7) = 8 \times 3 \times 5$ . We conclude that if  $5 \in \pi(G)$ , then  $3, 7 \in \pi(G)$ , and if  $7 \in \pi_e(G)$ , then  $3, 5 \in \pi_e(G)$ . In follows, we show that  $\pi(G)$  could not be the sets  $\{2\}$ ,  $\{2, 3\}$ , and so  $\pi(G)$  must be equal to  $\{2, 3, 5, 7\}$ . Now we consider the following subcases:

Subcase (a). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2\}$ . Since  $64 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32\}$ . Therefore  $|G| = 2^m = 4536 + 350k_1 + 504k_2 + 420k_3 + 720k_4 + 840k_5 + 1470k_6$  where  $k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5 + k_6 = 0$ . It is easy to see that this equation has no solution.

Subcase (b). Suppose that  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3\}$ . Since  $81 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\exp(P_3) = 3, 9$  or  $27$ . Let  $\exp(P_3) = 3$ . Then  $|P_3| \mid (1 + m_3) = 351$ , by Lemma 2.1. Hence  $|P_3| \mid 27$ . If  $|P_3| = 3$ , then  $n_3 = m_3/\phi(3) = 175 \mid |G|$ , because  $5 \notin \pi(G)$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $|P_3| = 9$ , then since  $\exp(P_3) = 3$  and  $64, 96 \notin \pi_e(G)$ ,  $|\pi_e(G)| \leq 11$ . Therefore  $|G| = 2^m \times 9 = 4536 + 350k_1 + 504k_2 + 420k_3 + 720k_4 + 840k_5 + 1470k_6$ , where  $k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, k_5, k_6$  and  $m$  are non-negative integers and  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5 + k_6 \leq 3$ .

We know that  $4536 \leq 2^m \times 9 \leq 4536 + 1470 \times 3$ , so  $m = 10$ . Then  $4680 = 4536 + 350k_1 + 504k_2 + 420k_3 + 720k_4 + 840k_5 + 1470k_6$  where  $0 \leq k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5 + k_6 \leq 3$ . By an easy computer calculation, it is easy to see this equation has no solution.

Similarly, we can rule out the case  $|P_3| = 27$ .

Let  $\exp(P_3) = 9$ . By (\*),  $m_9 \in \{504, 720\}$ . Hence by Lemma 2.1,  $|P_3| = 9$ . Therefore  $n_3 = m_9/\phi(9) \in \{84, 120\}$ . Because  $5, 7 \notin \pi(G)$ , we get a contradiction.

If  $\exp(P_3) = 27$ , then  $m_{27} \in \{504, 720\}$ . If  $P_3$  be a cyclic group, then since  $\exp(P_3) = 27$ ,  $n_3 = m_{27}/\phi(27) \in \{28, 40\}$ . Because  $5, 7 \notin \pi(G)$ , we get a contradiction. Thus  $P_3$  is not cyclic. By Lemma 2.3,  $27 \mid m_{27}$ , a contradiction.

Therefore  $\pi(G) = \{2, 3, 5, 7\}$ . We prove that  $21 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Suppose that  $21 \in \pi_e(G)$ . Then  $m_{21} = \phi(21) \cdot n_7 \cdot k$ , where  $k$  is the number of cyclic subgroups of order 3 in  $C_G(P_7)$ . Since  $n_7 = m_7/\phi(7) = 120$ ,  $720 \mid m_{21}$ , a contradiction. Thus  $21 \notin \pi_e(G)$ . Similarly,  $14 \notin \pi_e(G)$ .

Since  $21 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_3$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 7. Hence  $|P_3| \mid m_7 = 720$ . Then  $|P_3| = 3$  or  $9$ . Also since  $14 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , the group  $P_2$  acts fixed point freely on the set of elements of order 7. Hence  $|P_2| \mid m_7 = 720$ . Then  $|P_2| \mid 16$ . On the other hand,  $4536 \leq |G|$ , thus  $|G| = 2^4 \times 3^2 \times 5 \times 7 = |S_7|$ .

Now we claim that  $G$  is non-solvable group. Suppose that  $G$  is solvable. Since  $n_7 = 120$  by Lemma 2.4,  $3 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ , a contradiction. Hence  $G$  is non-solvable group and  $p \parallel |G|$ , where  $p \in \{5, 7\}$ . Therefore  $G$  has a normal series

$$1 \trianglelefteq N \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$$

such that  $N$  is a maximal solvable normal subgroup of  $G$  and  $H/N$  is a non-solvable minimal normal subgroup of  $G/N$ . Then  $H/N$  is a non-Abelian simple  $K_3$ -group or simple  $K_4$ -group. If  $H/N$  be simple  $K_3$ -group, then by Lemma 2.6,  $H/N$  is isomorphic to one of the groups:  $A_5$ ,  $A_6$ ,  $L_2(7)$  or  $L_2(8)$ .

Suppose that  $H/N \cong A_5$ . If  $P_5 \in \text{Syl}_5(G)$ , then  $P_5N/N \in \text{Syl}_5(H/N)$ ,  $n_5(H/N)t = n_5(G)$  for some positive integer  $t$  and  $5 \nmid t$ , by Lemma 2.5. Since  $n_5(A_5) = 6$ ,  $n_5(G) = 6t$ . Thus  $m_5 = n_5(G) \times 4 = 24t = 504$  and so  $t = 21$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $21 \times |N_N(P_5)| = |N|$ . Since  $|N| \mid 2^3 \times 3 \times 7$ , then  $n_7(N) = 1$  or  $8$ . So  $m_7 = 6$  or  $48$ , a contradiction.

Suppose that  $H/N \cong A_6$ . If  $P_5 \in \text{Syl}_5(G)$ , then  $P_5N/N \in \text{Syl}_5(H/N)$ ,  $n_5(H/N)t = n_5(G)$  for some positive integer  $t$  and  $5 \nmid t$ , by Lemma 2.5. Since  $n_5(A_6) = 36$ ,  $n_5(G) = 36t$  and  $m_5 = n_5(G) \times 4 = 144t = 504$ , a contradiction.

Suppose that  $H/N \cong L_2(7)$ . If  $P_7 \in \text{Syl}_7(G)$ , then  $P_7N/N \in \text{Syl}_7(H/N)$ ,  $n_7(H/N)t = n_7(G)$  for some positive integer  $t$  and  $7 \nmid t$ , by Lemma 2.5. Since  $n_7(L_2(7)) = 8$ ,  $n_7(G) = 8t$  and  $m_7 = n_7(G) \times 6 = 48t = 720$ . Hence  $t = 15$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $15 \times |N_N(P_7)| = |N|$ . Since  $|N| \mid 2 \times 3^2 \times 5$ ,  $n_5(N) = 1$  or  $6$ . So  $m_5 = 4$  or  $24$ , a contradiction.

Similarly, if  $H/N \cong L_2(8)$ , we get a contradiction. Hence  $H/N$  is simple  $K_4$ -group. Then by Lemma 2.7,  $H/N$  is isomorphic to  $A_7$ . Now set  $\bar{H} := H/N \cong A_7$  and  $\bar{G} := G/N$ . We have

$$A_7 \cong \bar{H} \cong \bar{H}C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H})/C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H}) \leq \bar{G}/C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H}) = N_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H})/C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H}) \leq \text{Aut}(\bar{H}).$$

Let  $K = \{x \in G \mid xN \in C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H})\}$ , then  $G/K \cong \bar{G}/C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{H})$ . Hence  $A_7 \leq G/K \leq \text{Aut}(A_7)$ . Then  $G/K \cong A_7$  or  $G/K \cong S_7$ . If  $G/K \cong A_7$ , then  $|K| = 2$ . We have  $N \leq K$  and  $N$  is a maximal solvable normal subgroup of  $G$ , then  $N = K$ . Now we know that  $G/N \cong A_7$  where  $|N| = 2$ , so  $G$  has a normal subgroup  $G$  of order 2, generated by a central involution  $z$ . Let  $x$  be an element of order 7 in  $G$ . Since  $xz = zx$  and  $(o(x), o(z)) = 1$ ,  $o(xz) = 14$ .

Hence  $14 \in \pi_e(G)$ . We know  $14 \notin \pi_e(G)$ , a contradiction.

If  $G/K \cong S_7$ , then  $|K| = 1$  and  $G \cong S_7$ . Now the proof of the main theorem is complete.



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