



## Fibonacci Length of an Efficiently Presented Metabelian $p$ -Group

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### Abstract

For every integer  $n \geq 1$  and every odd prime  $p$ , an efficient presentation is given for the wreath product  $\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$  which, is of nilpotency class  $(p-1)n+1$ . Moreover, the Fibonacci length is proved to be  $8 \times 3^n$  when  $p=3$ , and in general,  $k(p) \times p^n$ , where  $k(p)$  is the period of Fibonacci length modulo  $p$  (the Wall number of  $p$ ).

**Keywords:** Presentation of groups, Efficient presentation, Schur multiplier, Fibonacci length.

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## 1 Introduction

A finite presentation  $\langle X \mid R \rangle$  of a group  $G$  is said to be an efficient presentation for  $G$ , if  $|R| - |X| = \text{rank}(M(G))$  where,  $M(G)$  is the Schur multiplier of  $G$  (see [2, 18, 19]).

Through this paper  $n$  is a positive integer and  $p$  is an odd prime. We consider the wreath product  $G(p, n) = \mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$  -studied by H. Neumann(see [24])- where, the standard wreath product  $G \wr H$  of the finite groups  $G$  and  $H$  is defined to be a semidirect product of  $G$  by the direct product  $B$  of  $|G|$  copies of  $H$ .

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Presenting the groups efficiently depending on the Schur multiplier of the group, is of interest and many efforts have been done during the years (one may see [5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33]). The article [21] also studies a 2-group of nilpotency class  $n+1$ , and our group  $G(p, n)$  for odd primes  $p$ , is indeed the generalization of [13].

Our notations are standard, we use  $H : G$  for the semidirect product of  $H$  by  $G$ .

## 2 An efficient presentation for $G(p, n)$

First we recall the celebrated theorems of Blackburn and Schur of [19]:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $m$  be the number of involutions in a group  $G$ . Then the Schur multiplier  $M(G \wr H)$  is a direct product of  $M(G)$ ,  $M(H)$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}(|G| - m - 1)$  copies of  $H \otimes H$  and  $m$  copies of  $H \# H$ . Where,  $A \otimes B$  is used for the tensor product and  $A \# A$  is the factor group of  $A \otimes A$  by the subgroup generated by all of the elements of the form  $a \otimes b + b \otimes a$ , when  $A$  is abelian. If  $S$  is an arbitrary group then we put  $S \# S = \frac{S}{S'} \# \frac{S}{S'}$ .*

**Theorem 2.2.** *For the groups  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $A \otimes B \cong \text{Hom}(A, B)$ . Moreover, for every positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_n, \mathbb{Z}_m) \cong \mathbb{Z}_k$  where,  $k = \text{g.c.d}(m, n)$ .*

An elementary presentation for the group

$$G = G(p, n) = \mathbb{Z}_p : \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{p\text{-copies}}$$

may be given by:

$$G = \langle y, x_1, \dots, x_p \mid y^p = x_i^{p^n} = 1, \quad x_i^y = x_{i+1}, (1 \leq i \leq p), \\ [x_j, x_k] = 1, (1 \leq j < k \leq p) \rangle,$$

where indices are reduced modulo  $p$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *The group  $G$  has an efficient presentation isomorphic to*

$$G = \langle x, y \mid y^p = x^{p^n} = 1, [x, x^{y^i}] = 1, (i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}) \rangle.$$

*Proof.* Eliminate the generators  $x_2, \dots, x_p$ . Indeed, we have

$$x_2 = x_1^y, x_3 = x_1^{y^2}, x_4 = x_1^{y^3}, \dots, x_p = x_1^{y^{p-1}},$$

then  $[x_i, x_j] = 1$  yields  $[x_1^{y^{i-1}}, x_1^{y^{j-1}}] = 1$ . Particularly,  $[x_1^{y^0}, x_1^{y^k}] = [x_1, x_1^{y^k}] = 1$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ . Now let  $x = x_1$ . We have  $y^p = 1$ , so  $[x, x^{y^i}] = 1$  implies (by conjugation)  $[x^{y^{p-i}}, x] = 1$  for,  $1 \leq i \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ . So, we have the claimed presentation for  $G$ .

Now, we show that the above presentation is efficient. By Theorem 2.2, we have

$$\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \cong \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n}, \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}.$$

So, by Theorem 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} M(\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}) &= M(\mathbb{Z}_p) \times M(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n}) \\ &\quad \times \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{\frac{1}{2}(p-m-1)\text{-copies}} \times \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{m\text{-copies}} \end{aligned}$$

where,  $m$  is the number of involutions in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . But  $p$  is odd and so  $m = \text{inv}(\mathbb{Z}_p) = 0$ . This gives us  $M(\mathbb{Z}_p) = M(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n}) = 1$  (for every cyclic group has the trivial multiplier). So we have

$$M(\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}) = \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{\frac{1}{2}(p-1)\text{-copies}}.$$

(By Lemma 6.3.4 of [19], if  $H$  is a finite group,  $\frac{H}{H'} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^t \mathbb{Z}_{n_i}$ , and  $s$  is the number of even  $n_i$ 's then,

$$H \# H \cong \bigoplus_{1 \leq i, j \leq t}^t \mathbb{Z}_{(n_i, n_j)} \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2^{(s)},$$

where  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{(s)}$  is a direct sum of  $s$  copies of  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ . Now, if  $H = \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$ , then  $\frac{H}{H'} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$  and so,  $t = 1$ ,  $(p^n, p^n) = p^n$  and  $s = 0$ . Thus,  $H \# H = \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \# \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$ .

So,  $\text{rank}(M(\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})) = \frac{p-1}{2}$ . On the other hand, by the above presentation for  $G$ , we get  $|R| - |X| = \frac{p-1}{2} + 2 - 2 = \frac{p-1}{2}$ . Therefore,  $\text{rank}(M(G)) = |R| - |X|$  and the given presentation for  $G$ , is efficient. This completes the proof.  $\square$

Now, we prove some statements to obtain the nilpotency class of  $G$ . The following lemma is the key statement in this way.

**Lemma 2.4.** *In the group  $G$ ,*

$$[y^i, x][y^j, x] = [y^j, x][y^i, x], \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq p-1.$$

*Proof.* Let  $1 \leq i, j \leq p-1$ . Since  $x$  and  $x^{y^i}$  commute, we have:

$$[y^i, x][y^j, x] = x^{-y^i} x x^{-y^j} x = x^{-y^j} x x^{-y^i} x = [y^j, x][y^i, x]. \quad \square$$

Also, we will use the following property on commutators which holds in every group.

**Lemma 2.5.** *For every  $z$  and  $u$  in a group  $T$  we have:*

$$[z, u^i] = \prod_{k=0}^{i-1} [z, u]^{u^k}, \quad (i \geq 2).$$

*Proof.* We use an induction method on  $i$ . If  $i = 2$ , then

$$[z, u^2] = z^{-1} u^{-2} z u^2 = z^{-1} u^{-1} z u u^{-1} z^{-1} u^{-1} z u^2 = [z, u][z, u]^u,$$

and if  $i = 3$ , then

$$[z, u^2][z, u]^{u^2} = z^{-1} u^{-2} z u^2 u^{-2} (z^{-1} u^{-1} z u) u^2 = z^{-1} u^{-3} z u^3 = [z, u^3].$$

Now, let the assertion holds for  $i-1$ , namely,

$$[z, u^{i-1}] = \prod_{k=0}^{i-2} [z, u]^{u^k},$$

and then,

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{k=0}^{i-1} [z, u]^{u^k} &= \left( \prod_{k=0}^{i-2} [z, u]^{u^k} \right) \cdot [z, u]^{u^{i-1}} \\ &= [z, u^{i-1}] \cdot [z, u]^{u^{i-1}} \quad (\text{by induction hypothesis}) \\ &= z^{-1} u^{-(i-1)} z u^{i-1} u^{-(i-1)} (z^{-1} u^{-1} z u) u^{i-1} \\ &= z^{-1} u^{-(i-1)} u^{-1} z u u^{i-1} \\ &= z^{-1} u^{-i} z u^i = [z, u^i]. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Using the Lemma 2.5, we get:

**Corollary 2.6.** *For every  $x$  and  $y$  in a group  $T$ , we have:*

$$[x^{-1}x^{y^i}, y^j] = [x^{-1}x^{y^i}, y^{j-1}][x^{-1}x^{y^i}, y]^{y^{j-1}} = \prod_{k=0}^{j-1} [x^{-1}x^{y^i}, y]^{y^k}.$$

□

We also need the following theorem about the coefficients of the binomial theorem which proved firstly by A. Fleck in 1913:

**Theorem 2.7.** *For every prime  $p$  and every positive integer  $r$ ,*

$$\sum_{m \equiv r \pmod{p}} (-1)^m \cdot \binom{k}{m} = 0 \pmod{p^{\lfloor \frac{k-1}{p-1} \rfloor}}.$$

In particular,

$$p^n | \binom{k}{0} - \binom{k}{p} + \binom{k}{2p} - \cdots + (-1)^t \binom{k}{tp},$$

and

$$p^n | -\binom{k}{1} + \binom{k}{p+1} - \binom{k}{2p+1} + \cdots - (-1)^t \binom{k}{tp+1},$$

where  $k = n(p-1) + 1$  and  $k = tp + r$ ,  $(0 \leq r < t)$ .

*Proof.* See for example [17].

□

**Remark 2.8.** *In the following proposition, we prove that  $G$  is a metabelian group of nilpotency class  $n(p-1) + 1$  (this is a special case of general formula proved by Liebeck (see [22])).*

**Proposition 2.9.** *The group  $G$  is a metabelian group of nilpotency class  $n(p-1) + 1$ .*

*Proof.* Obviously,

$$\frac{G}{G'} \cong \langle x, y | x^{p^n} = y^p = [x, y] = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \mathbb{Z}_p.$$

So,

$$|G'| = \frac{(p^n)^p \cdot p}{p^n \cdot p} = (p^n)^{p-1} = p^{n(p-1)}.$$

Now, let  $H = \langle [y, x], [y^2, x], [y^3, x], \dots, [y^{p-1}, x] \rangle$ . Since  $[x, x^{y^i}] = 1$  then,  $x^{y^i}x = xx^{y^i}$ , and hence,

$$(x^{y^i}x)^{p^n} = (x^{y^i})^{p^n} \cdot x^{p^n} = y^{-i}x^{p^n}y^ix^{p^n} = 1.$$

Also, by  $(x^{y^i})^{-1}x = x(x^{y^i})^{-1}$  we get  $|(x^{y^i})^{-1}x| = |x^{y^i}x| = p^n$ . On the other hand, the equations  $[y^i, x] = y^{-i}x^{-1}y^ix = (x^{y^i})^{-1}x$  give us,

$$|[y^i, x]| = |x^{y^i}x| = p^n, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, p-1.$$

However by Lemma 2.4, we calculate that

$$[y^i, x][y^j, x] = [y^j, x][y^i, x], \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq p-1.$$

Thus,

$$H \cong \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{(p-1)\text{-copies}}.$$

Hence,  $|H| = |G'| = p^{n(p-1)}$ . But,  $H \subseteq G'$  and therefore,  $G' = H$ , and  $G'$  is abelian.

Consequently,  $G$  is metabelian and  $G'$  is of the form

$$G' \cong \underbrace{(\mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p^n})}_{(p-1)\text{-copies}}.$$

Now, let

$$\gamma_0 = G \supseteq \gamma_1 = G' = [G, G] \supseteq \gamma_2 = [G, G'] \supseteq \dots \supseteq \gamma_j = [G, \gamma_{j-1}] \supseteq \dots$$

be the lower central series for  $G$ . Since  $[x, x^{y^i}] = 1$  holds for every  $i$  so,  $\gamma_j$  is generated by the commutators as follows:

$$\gamma_j = \langle [z, y^i] \mid z \in \gamma_{j-1}, i = 1, 2, \dots, p-1 \rangle.$$

Now, the Lemma 2.5 shows that:

$$[z, y^i] = \prod_{k=0}^{i-1} [z, y]^{y^k}.$$

Thus, it suffices to prove that for all  $z \in \gamma_{j-1}$ ,  $[z, y] = 1$ , and then  $\gamma_j = \{1\}$ , i.e.;  $G$  will be a nilpotent group of nilpotency class  $j$ . We have:

$$[x, y] = x^{-1}x^y \in \gamma_1,$$

$$[[x, y], y] = [x^{-1}x^y, y] = x^{y^2}(x^{-2})^y x \in \gamma_2,$$

$$[[[x, y], y], y] = x^{y^3}(x^{-3})^{y^2}(x^3)^y x^{-1} \in \gamma_3,$$

$$[[[[x, y], y], y], y] = x^{y^4}(x^{-4})^{y^3}(x^6)^{y^2}(x^{-4})^y x \in \gamma_4,$$

$$[[[[[x, y], y], y], y], y] = x^{y^5}(x^{-5})^{y^4}(x^{10})^{y^3}(x^{-10})^{y^2}(x^5)^y x^{-1} \in \gamma_5,$$

$$[[[[[[x, y], y], y], y], y], y] = x^{y^6}(x^{-6})^{y^5}(x^{15})^{y^4}(x^{-20})^{y^3}(x^{15})^{y^2}(x^{-6})^y x \in \gamma_6,$$

$$[[[[[[[x, y], y], y], y], y], y], y]$$

$$= x^{y^7}(x^{-7})^{y^6}(x^{21})^{y^5}(x^{-35})^{y^4}(x^{35})^{y^3}(x^{-21})^{y^2}(x^7)^y x^{-1} \in \gamma_7.$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} [[\dots \underbrace{[x, y], y], \dots, y}_{k\text{-times}}] &= (x^{\binom{k}{0}})^{y^k} (x^{-\binom{k}{1}})^{y^{k-1}} (x^{\binom{k}{2}})^{y^{k-2}} \\ &\quad \dots (x^{(-1)^{k-1}\binom{k}{k-1}})^{y^1} (x^{(-1)^k\binom{k}{k}})^{y^0} \in \gamma_k. \end{aligned}$$

Now, when  $k = n(p-1) + 1$ , since  $y^k = y^{n(p-1)+1} = y^{-n+1}$ , after simplifying it by the Fleck's congruence, Theorem 2.7, we have

$$[[\dots \underbrace{[x, y], y], \dots, y}_{k\text{-times}}] = 1,$$

and so  $\gamma_k = \{1\}$ , where  $k = n(p-1) + 1$ , as desired. This completes the proof.  $\square$

### 3 The Fibonacci length of $G(p, n)$

Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group,  $G = \langle A \rangle$ , where  $A = (a_1, \dots, a_m)$  an ordered  $m$ -tuple. Then we define the Fibonacci orbit of  $G$  with respect to the generating  $m$ -tuple  $A$ , written  $F_A(G)$ , is the sequence  $x_1 = a_1, \dots, x_m = a_m, x_{i+m} = \prod_{j=1}^m x_{i+j-1}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ . If  $F_A(G)$  is periodic then the length of the period of the sequence is called the Fibonacci length of  $G$  with respect to the generating  $m$ -tuple  $A$ , written  $LEN_A(G)$ . If  $F_A(G)$  is not periodic then we say that the group  $G$  has infinite Fibonacci length on the generating  $m$ -tuple  $A$ , written  $LEN_A(G) = \infty$ . The minimal length of the period of the Fibonacci series modulo a positive integer  $m$  is denoted by  $k(m)$  and is called the Wall number of  $m$ . For more information on the Fibonacci length of groups and Wall numbers one may consult [1, 3, 4, 6, 14, 15, 16, 28].

In this section, we want to calculate the Fibonacci length of the  $p$ -groups considered in the previous section, i.e. the  $G(p, n)$ . First we prove a lemma:

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a group and  $x, y \in G$ . Then for every positive integer  $j$  and every integers  $t$  and  $s$  we have*

$$(x^{y^{t-1}})^s \cdot y^j = y^j \cdot (x^{y^{t+j-1}})^s.$$

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $j$ . If  $j = 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (x^{y^{t-1}})^s \cdot y &= \underbrace{(y^{-t+1}xy^{t-1})(y^{-t+1}xy^{t-1}) \cdots (y^{-t+1}xy^{t-1})}_{s\text{-times}} \cdot y \\ &= y \cdot \underbrace{(y^{-t}xy^t)(y^{-t}xy^t) \cdots (y^{-t}xy^t)}_{s\text{-times}} \\ &= y \cdot (x^{y^t})^s. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$(x^{y^{t-1}})^s \cdot y = y \cdot (x^{y^t})^s. \quad (*)$$



Now, suppose that the assertion holds for  $j - 1$  and we prove that the assertion is true for  $j$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x^{y^{t-1}})^s \cdot y^j &= (x^{y^{t-1}})^s \cdot y^{j-1} \cdot y \\
 &= y^{j-1} \cdot (x^{y^{t+j-2}})^s \cdot y && \text{(by the induction hypothesis)} \\
 &= y^{j-1} \cdot y \cdot (x^{y^{t+j-1}})^s && \text{(by (*))} \\
 &= y^j \cdot (x^{y^{t+j-1}})^s.
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $\{x_m\}_1^\infty$  be the Fibonacci sequence of  $G(p, n)$  with respect to  $A = \{x, y\}$ . Then,

$$x_m = y^{a_m} x^{b_{m1}} (xy)^{b_{m2}} (x^y)^{b_{m3}} \dots (x^{y^{p-1}})^{b_{mp}}, \quad m \geq 1,$$

where  $a_1 = 0, a_2 = 1, a_m = a_{m-1} + a_{m-2} \pmod{p}; m > 2$  and  $b_{11} = 1, b_{21} = 0, b_{1i} = b_{2i} = 0, \forall i > 1$ , and for  $m \geq 3$ , if  $a_{m-1} = j$  then

$$\begin{cases} b_{m1} &= b_{m-1,1} + b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)} \\ b_{m2} &= b_{m-1,2} + b_{m-2,\theta^j(2)} \\ \vdots & \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ b_{mp} &= b_{m-1,p} + b_{m-2,\theta^j(p)} \end{cases}$$

where  $0 \leq j \leq p-1$ , and  $\theta = (1 \ p \ p-1 \dots 3 \ 2)$ , the  $p$ -cycle in the cyclic group  $C_p$ .

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $m$ . We use the Lemma 3.1 and the fact that

$$y^p = x^{p^n} = 1, [x^{y^\ell}, x^{y^k}] = 1, (0 \leq k, \ell \leq p-1).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_m &= x_{m-2}x_{m-1} \\
 &= y^{a_{m-2}}x^{b_{m-2,1}}(xy)^{b_{m-2,2}}(xy^2)^{b_{m-2,3}} \dots (xy^{p-1})^{b_{m-2,p}} \\
 &\quad \cdot y^{a_{m-1}}x^{b_{m-1,1}}(xy)^{b_{m-1,2}}(xy^2)^{b_{m-1,3}} \dots (xy^{p-1})^{b_{m-1,p}} \\
 &= y^{a_{m-2}} \cdot y^{a_{m-1}} \cdot (xy^{a_{m-1}})^{b_{m-2,1}}(xy^{a_{m-1}+1})^{b_{m-2,2}}(xy^{a_{m-1}+2})^{b_{m-2,3}} \\
 &\quad \dots (xy^{a_{m-1}+p-1})^{b_{m-2,p}} \cdot x^{b_{m-1,1}}(xy)^{b_{m-1,2}}(xy^2)^{b_{m-1,3}} \dots (xy^{p-1})^{b_{m-1,p}} \\
 &= y^{a_{m-2}+a_{m-1}} \cdot x^{b_{m-1,1}+b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)}}(xy)^{b_{m-1,2}+b_{m-2,\theta^j(2)}} \\
 &\quad (xy^2)^{b_{m-1,3}+b_{m-2,\theta^j(3)}} \dots (xy^{p-1})^{b_{m-1,p}+b_{m-2,\theta^j(p)}},
 \end{aligned}$$

(where  $\theta$  is the  $p$ -cycle  $\theta = (1\ p\ p-1 \dots 3\ 2)$  in the cyclic group  $C_p$ ), since for example  $\theta^j(1) = p - j + 1$ , where  $j = a_{m-1}$  and so

$$\begin{aligned}
 (xy^{j+\theta^j(1)-1})^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)}} &= (xy^{j+p-j+1-1})^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)}} = x^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)}}, \\
 (xy^{j+\theta^j(2)-1})^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(2)}} &= (xy^{j+p-j+2-1})^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(2)}} = (xy)^{b_{m-2,\theta^j(1)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

and so on. Now, by comparing the powers the assertions conclude.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3.**  $LEN_{\{x,y\}}(G(p,n)) = k(p) \times p^n$ .

*Proof.* By the Theorem 3.2, it is clear that

$$LEN_{\{x,y\}}G(p,n) = k(p) \times p^n.$$

$\square$

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