

# FINITE AND LOCALLY SOLVABLE PERIODIC GROUPS WITH GIVEN INTERSECTIONS OF CERTAIN SUBGROUPS

Y. BERKOVICH<sup>1,2</sup>, P. LONGOBARDI and M. MAJ

**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $p$  be a prime. We say that two subgroups  $H, K$  are incident if either  $H \cap K = H$  or  $H \cap K = K$ . A group  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group if, for any finite non-incident subgroups  $H, K$  of  $G$ , a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $H \cap K$  is cyclic.

In this paper we give a complete classification of solvable and locally solvable periodic  $IC_p$ -groups.

1.

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $p$  a prime,  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ . We say that two subgroups  $F, H$  are incident if either  $F \cap H = F$  or  $F \cap H = H$ , non-incident in the opposite case. A group  $G$  is said to be an  $IC_p$ -group if a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of the intersection of any two non-incident subgroups is cyclic [B]. A group  $G$  is said to be an  $IC - p$ -group if the intersection of any two non-incident subgroups is cyclic whenever it is a  $p$ -group [Is]. Obviously  $IC_p \subset IC - p$ . In this note we obtain a complete classification of solvable finite and locally solvable periodic  $IC_p$ -groups; for the classification of non-solvable  $IC_2$ -groups see [B]. We feel that the description of solvable  $IC - p$ -groups is fairly difficult. As Isaacs noticed (see [Is]) generally an epimorphic image of an  $IC - p$ -group is not an  $IC - p$ -group.

We denote by  $C(m)$  the cyclic group of order  $m$ , by  $E(p^n)$  the elementary abelian group of order  $p^n$ , by  $Q(2^n)$  the generalized quaternion group of order  $2^n$ . Furthermore  $Z(p^\infty)$  denotes the Prüfer  $p$ -group,  $Q(2^\infty)$  the infinite quaternion group and  $D(2^\infty)$  the infinite locally dihedral group. Let  $A[B]$  denote a semi-direct product with kernel  $B$  and complement  $A$ , and  $(A, B)$  a Frobenius group with kernel  $B$  and complement  $A$ .

2.

**Finite solvable  $IC_p$ -groups.** - In this section we consider only finite solvable groups. We prove the following

**Main Theorem 1.** Let  $p$  be a prime divisor of the order of a finite solvable group  $G$ . Let  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ ,  $P < G$  and assume that  $P$  is not cyclic.

Then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group if and only if one of the following is true:

- (a)  $G = P \times C(q^n)$ , where either  $p = 2$ ,  $P = Q(2^3)$  and  $q \neq 2$ , or  $P = E(p^2)$  and  $p \neq q$ .
- (b)  $G = C(q^n) [P$  where either  $P = Q(2^3)$  and  $q = 3$ , or  $P = E(p^2)$  and  $p \neq q$ . Moreover, if  $P = Q(2^3)$ , then  $G / Z(G) = A_4$ , the alternating group of degree 4.
- (c)  $G = (C(q^n), E(p^3))$ , and any subgroup of order  $qp^3$  of  $G$  is minimal non-nilpotent.

<sup>1</sup>Supported in part by the Rashi Foundation and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Israel.

<sup>2</sup>This work was partially done while the first author was a C.N.R. visiting professor at the University of Naples. He wishes to thank the Department of Mathematics R. Caccioppoli for its kind hospitality.

(d)  $G = C(q^n) [P$ , where  $P$  is non-abelian of order  $p^3$  and exponent  $p$ ,  $p > 2, p \not\equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ ,  $Z(G) = Z(P)$ ,  $G / Z(P)$  is a Frobenius group with kernel  $P / Z(P)$ , and  $P / Z(P)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / Z(P)$ .

(e)  $G = P[C(q^n)$ , where  $p = 2, P = Q(2^3)$  and  $q \neq 2$ .

(f)  $G = (P, Q)$  where  $p = 2, P = Q(2^3)$ ,  $Q$  is a homocyclic  $q$ -group,  $q \neq 2$ , and  $\Omega_1(Q) = \langle x \in Q / x^q = 1 \rangle$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ .

(g)  $G = P[Q$ , where  $p = 2, P = Q(2^3)$ ,  $Q$  is an extraspecial  $q$ -subgroup of exponent  $q, q \neq 2, Q / Z(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / Z(Q)$ , and  $G / Z(Q)$  is a Frobenius group.

(h)  $G = C(p) \times (C(p), Q)$ , where  $P = E(p^2)$ ,  $Q$  is a  $q$ -group,  $q \neq p$ , and all non-nilpotent subgroups of the group  $(C(p), Q)$  have only one chief series whose  $q$ -factors have the same order  $q^n$ , where  $n$  is the order of  $q \pmod{p}$ .

(i)  $G = C(p) \times F$ , where  $F = C(p)[Q, Q$  is an extraspecial  $q$ -group,  $q \neq p, P = E(p^2)$ ,  $F / Z(Q)$  is a Frobenius group and  $Q / Z(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $F / Z(Q)$ .

This Theorem follows from a long chain of lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** (see [B]). *Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group. Then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group if and only if one of the following assertions holds:*

- (a)  $G$  is cyclic,
- (b)  $G$  contains a cyclic subgroup of index  $p$ ,
- (c)  $G$  is of order  $p^3$  and exponent  $p$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $P > 1$  be a non-cyclic Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G, P < G$ , and let  $p$  be the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . Suppose that  $G$  satisfies the following condition:*

(\*) *If  $P_1 < P$  is a Sylow subgroup of a non-primary subgroup of  $G$ , then  $P_1$  is cyclic.*

*Then one of the following assertions holds:*

- (a)  $P$  is extraspecial, and  $\exp P = p$  for  $p > 2$ ,
- (b)  $P$  is elementary abelian.

**Proof.** Suppose that  $D = O_{p'}(G) > 1$ . If  $P_1 < P$  then  $P_1 \in \text{Syl}_p(P_1 D)$  and  $P_1$  is cyclic by (\*). So all proper subgroups of  $P$  are cyclic; therefore either  $P$  is abelian of type  $(p, p)$  or  $P = Q(2^3)$ .

Suppose now that  $D = 1$ . Then by Frobenius normal  $p$ -complement Theorem there exists in  $G$  a minimal non-nilpotent subgroup  $H$  with a normal Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P_1 > 1$ . Now  $P_1$  is not cyclic since  $p$  is the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . Therefore we conclude from (\*) that  $P_1 = P$ . Since  $P$  is a normal Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$  it is special (i.e. either  $P = E(p^n)$ , or  $Z(P) = P' = \Phi(P)$  is elementary abelian). Suppose that  $P$  is not abelian. If  $Q$  is a non-normal Sylow subgroup of  $H$  then  $Z(P)$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $Z(P)Q$  so  $Z(P)$  is cyclic by (\*). Thus  $P$  is extraspecial. Assume that  $p > 2$ . Then  $P$  is a regular  $p$ -group. Thus  $\Omega_1(P)$  is a noncyclic Sylow subgroup of  $\Omega_1(P)Q$ , so  $P = \Omega_1(P)$  has exponent  $p$ .

Now we give a short proof of the main result from [Is].

**Lemma 3.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a non-primary  $IC$ - $p$ -group,  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ . Then  $P$  is cyclic, quaternion, or  $|P| \leq p^3$  and  $\exp P = p$ .*

**Proof.** By Lemma 1 we may assume that  $P$  is not cyclic,  $|P| \geq p^3$  and  $P$  contains a cyclic subgroup of index  $p$ .

Suppose that  $D = O_{p'}(G) > 1$ . Then as in Lemma 2, all proper subgroups of  $P$  are cyclic, so  $P = Q(2^3)$ . Let now  $D = 1$ .

Suppose that  $p$  is the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . Then  $G$  satisfies the condition (\*) of Lemma 2. Therefore  $P$  is either extraspecial or elementary abelian. By our hypothesis on  $P$  we get  $|P| = p^3$ . If  $P$  is not quaternion then  $\exp P = p$  by Lemma 2.

Suppose that  $p$  is not the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . Then  $p > 2$  and  $P$  is regular. Therefore, by a result of Wielandt,  $N_G(P) > P$ . As above  $\Omega_1(P) = P$  is of exponent  $p$ ,  $|P| = p^2$  – a contradiction.

For the rest of this section we make the following

**HYPOTHESIS:** (i)  $G$  is a non-primary solvable  $IC_p$ -group.

(ii)  $p$  is a prime divisor of  $|G|$ .

(iii)  $P$  is a non-cyclic Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ .

First we have

**Lemma 4.**  $G = PQ$  where  $Q \in \text{Syl}_q(G)$ ,  $q$  a prime divisor of  $|G|$ .

**Proof.** This is an easy corollary of Hall's Theorem on solvable groups.

**Lemma 5.** If  $P$  is normal in  $G$  then  $|P| < p^4$ , and  $Q$  is cyclic.

**Proof.** If  $Q_1, Q_2$  are non-incident subgroups of  $Q$  then  $PQ_1, PQ_2$  are non-incident and  $P \leq PQ_1 \cap PQ_2$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $Q$  is cyclic. The first assertion follows from Lemma 3.

If a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of a non-primary group  $G$  is normal in  $G$ ,  $G/P$  is a primary cyclic group, and either  $P$  is abelian of type  $(p, p)$  or  $P = Q(2^3)$  and  $G$  satisfies the additional hypothesis in (b) of Main Theorem 1, then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group. Therefore, if  $P$  is normal in  $G$ , we can assume  $|P| = p^3$ .

**Lemma 6.** Suppose that  $P$  is elementary abelian of order  $p^3$ . Then  $G = (Q, P)$ . Moreover, if  $L/P$  is a subgroup of order  $q$ , then  $L$  is minimal non-nilpotent group.

**Proof.** Obviously  $O_q(G) = 1$ . Since  $C_G(O_p(G)) \leq O_p(G)$ , then  $P = O_p(G)$  is normal in  $G$ . By Lemma 5,  $Q$  is cyclic, and, by Maschke's Theorem,  $P$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $G = (Q, P)$ , and any subgroup  $L$  of  $G$  with  $P < L$  and  $|L/P| = q$ , is minimal non-nilpotent, as required.

**Lemma 7.** Suppose that  $P$  is non-abelian of order  $p^3$  and exponent  $p$ . Then  $G = Q[P, Z(P) = Z(G)]$ ,  $G/Z(G)$  is a Frobenius group. Moreover, if  $S/Z(G)$  is a subgroup of order  $q$  in  $G/Z(G)$ , then  $S$  is a minimal non-nilpotent group.

**Proof.** Obviously  $O_q(G) = 1$ . Then  $D = O_p(G) > 1$ . Suppose that  $D < P$ . Since  $D = P \cap DQ$  then  $D$  is cyclic. Since  $C_G(D) \leq D$ , we get a contradiction. Thus  $D = P$ . Obviously  $P/Z(P)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G/Z(P)$ . Suppose that  $Z(P) \neq Z(G)$ , and set  $C = C_G(Z(P))$ . Then  $|G/C|$  is a non-trivial power of  $q$ , and  $p \not\equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ . Take a minimal non-nilpotent subgroup  $M/Z(P)$  of  $G/Z(P)$ . Then a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $M_p$  of  $M$  has order  $p^2$  (since

$p \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ ) and it is not cyclic. Then  $M$  and  $P$  are non-incident,  $M_p \leq M \cap P$  and  $G$  is not an  $IC_p$ -group. Thus  $Z(P) = Z(G)$ . Take a subgroup  $S/P$  of order  $q$  in  $G/P$ . Since  $P/Z(P) = P/Z(S)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $S/Z(P)$ , then  $S$  is a minimal non-nilpotent group.

From Lemmas 5, 6, 7, it follows that, if  $P$  is normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  satisfies one of (a), (b), (c), (d) of Main Theorem 1. Conversely, it is easy to see that if  $G$  satisfies one of (a), (b), (c), (d), then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group.

Now we study the case:  $P$  not normal in  $G$ . Then, by Lemmas 3, 6 and 7, either  $P$  is elementary abelian of order  $p^2$ , or  $P = Q(2^3)$ .

We investigate first the case  $P = E(p^2)$ .

**Lemma 8.** *Suppose that  $P = E(p^2)$  is not normal in  $G$ . Then  $Q$  is normal in  $G$ .*

**Proof.** If  $O_q(G) = 1$ , then  $P$  is normal in  $G$  (since the  $p$ -length of  $G$  is equal to 1) - a contradiction. So assume that  $Q \neq D = O_q(G) > 1$ . By the above remark  $PD$  is normal in  $G$ ,  $PD < G$ . Then  $G = N_G(P)PD$ ,  $N_G(P)$  and  $PD$  are non-incident, and  $P \leq N_G(P) \cap PD$  is not cyclic - a contradiction.

**Lemma 9.** *Suppose that  $Q$  is normal in  $G$  and  $|P| = p^2$ . Then  $G = C(p) \times C(p)[Q]$ .*

**Proof.** We have (see [G], Theorem 5.3.16, p. 188)  $Q = \langle C_Q(x) \mid x \in P^\# \rangle$ .

Now, either there exist  $x, y \in P^\#$  such that  $C_Q(x), C_Q(y)$  are not incident, or  $C_Q(x) = Q$  for some  $x \in P^\#$ . In the second case we have  $G = \langle x \rangle \times \langle y \rangle [Q]$ . In the first case we have  $P \leq PC_Q(x) \cap PC_Q(y)$ , a contradiction.

**Lemma 10.** *Suppose that  $P = E(p^2)$  is not normal in  $G$  and  $G$  does not contain a normal subgroup of order  $q$ . Then  $G = \langle a \rangle \times (\langle b \rangle, Q)$ , and all non-nilpotent subgroups of  $(\langle b \rangle, Q)$  have only one chief series, whose indices are  $p$  and  $q^n$ , where  $n$  is the order of  $q \pmod{p}$ .*

**Proof.** By Lemmas 8, 9 we have  $G = \langle a \rangle \times (\langle b \rangle [Q])$ . By assumption any two subgroups of  $F = \langle b \rangle [Q]$  that contain  $\langle b \rangle$  are incident. Set  $q^n = |Q / \Phi(Q)|$ . If  $n = 1$  then  $Q$  is cyclic, and the result is obvious. Hence assume that  $n > 1$ . By Maschke's Theorem  $Q / \Phi(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $F / \Phi(Q)$ . So  $n$  is the order of  $q \pmod{p}$ . If  $q$  is not an index of a chief series of  $F$ , then all  $q$ -indices of this series are equal to  $q^n$ . Suppose that  $R/T$  is a chief factor of  $F$  of order  $q$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that  $T$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $F$ . By assumption  $|T| > 1$ . Since  $T \leq Z(Q)$ , then  $R$  is abelian. By Maschke's Theorem  $R$  is not elementary abelian. Then  $\Phi(R)$  is a normal subgroup of order  $q$  of  $F$  - a contradiction. Thus all  $q$ -indices of a chief series of  $F$  are equal to  $q^n$ . Now we prove that  $F$  has only one chief series. It suffices to prove that  $F$  contains only one minimal normal  $q$ -subgroup. This is obvious since any two subgroups of  $F$  that contain  $\langle b \rangle$  are incident. Finally  $F$  is a Frobenius group.

Notice that every group that satisfies the conditions of Lemma 10 is an  $IC_p$ -group.

**Lemma 11.** *Let  $P = E(p^2)$  be not normal in  $G$ , and let  $G$  contain a normal subgroup of order  $q$ . Assume that  $Q$  is not cyclic. Then  $Q$  is extraspecial and  $Q/Z(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G/Z(Q)$ .*

**Proof.** Write  $G = \langle a \rangle \times F$ , where  $a$  has order  $p$  and  $F = \langle b \rangle [Q]$ . Then  $F$  contains only one minimal normal  $q$ -subgroup, say  $R$ , and  $|R| = q$ . By Maschke's Theorem  $R$  is the only normal elementary abelian  $q$ -subgroup of  $F$ . Therefore any abelian normal  $q$ -subgroup of  $F$  is cyclic. In particular  $Z(\Phi(Q))$  is cyclic, and  $\Phi(Q)$  is cyclic by a result of Hobby (see [H]). Also  $Q / \Phi(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $F / \Phi(Q)$ , and  $F / \Phi(Q)$  is not nilpotent. First we prove that  $|\Phi(Q)| = q$ .

If the subgroups  $\Phi(Q)$  and  $\Omega_1(Q)$  are not incident, then  $P\Phi(Q)$  and  $P\Omega_1(Q)$  are not incident, and  $P \leq P\Phi(Q) \cap P\Omega_1(Q)$  is not cyclic, a contradiction. Then either  $\Omega_1(Q) \leq \Phi(Q)$ , or  $\Phi(Q) < \Omega_1(Q)$  and  $\Omega_1(Q) = Q$ , since  $Q / \Phi(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / \Phi(Q)$ .

Now, if  $q > 2$ , then  $Q$  is regular, and  $\Omega_1(Q)$  has exponent  $q$ . Furthermore  $|\Omega_1(Q)| > q$ , since  $Q$  is not cyclic. Then  $\Omega_1(Q)$  is not contained in  $\Phi(Q)$ , and  $Q = \Omega_1(Q)$  has exponent  $q$ , so that  $|\Phi(Q)| = q$ .

Now assume that  $q = 2$ . The subgroup  $\Phi(Q)P$  is nilpotent, thus  $P \leq C_G(\Phi(Q))$ . Write  $C$  the critical subgroup of  $Q$  (see [G], p. 185). Arguing as before, either  $C \leq \Phi(Q)$ , or  $\Phi(Q) < C$  and  $C = Q$ . But  $C$  is not contained in  $\Phi(Q)$ , otherwise  $P$  acts trivially on  $Q$ , then  $C = Q$  and  $Q$  has class at most 2. Now, if  $|\Omega_1(Q)| = 2$  then  $Q = Q(2^3)$  and  $|\Phi(Q)| = 2$ . If  $Q = \Omega_1(Q)$ , then  $[a, b]^2 = 1$  for any  $a, b \in Q$  of order 2, and  $Q / \Omega_1(\Phi(Q))$  is abelian. Then  $\Omega_1(\Phi(Q)) = \Phi(Q)$ , and again  $|\Phi(Q)| = 2$ .

Thus  $|\Phi(Q)| = q$ . Suppose that  $|Z(Q)| > q$ . Then  $Z(Q) = Q$ , since  $Q \setminus \Phi(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G \setminus \Phi(Q)$  - a contradiction. Thus  $Z(Q)$  has order  $q$  and  $Q$  is extraspecial.

From Lemmas 10, 11 it follows that, if  $P = E(p^2)$  is not normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  satisfies either (h) or (i) of Main Theorem 1, and, conversely, if  $G$  satisfies (h) or (i), then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group.

It remains to consider the case  $P = Q(2^3)$  not normal in  $G$ .

**Lemma 12.** *If  $P = Q(2^3)$  is not normal in  $G$  then  $Q$  is normal in  $G$ .*

**Proof.** Set  $D = O_q(G)$ . Assume that  $D < Q$ . Suppose that  $D = 1$ . Then  $L = O_2(G) < P$  and  $C_G(L) \leq L$ . So  $|L| = 4$ ,  $G / L$  has a subgroup  $H / L$  of index 2, and  $H$  has a characteristic subgroup  $Q_0$  of index 4. Then  $Q_0 = Q$  is normal in  $G$  - a contradiction. Thus  $D > 1$ . Then by the above argument  $PD$  is normal in  $G$  and  $P$  is not normal in  $PD$ . Now  $PDN_G(P) = G, P \leq PD \cap N_G(P)$  and  $PD, N_G(P)$  are not incident - a contradiction.

**Lemma 13.** *Suppose that  $P = Q(2^3)$  is not normal in  $G$ . Then one of the following is true:*

(a)  $G = (P, Q)$ , where  $Q$  is homocyclic, and  $Q / \Phi(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / \Phi(Q)$ .

(b)  $G = P[Q]$  where  $Q$  is cyclic.

(c)  $G = P[Q]$  where  $Q$  is extraspecial,  $\exp Q = q, G / Z(Q)$  is a Frobenius group and  $Q / Z(Q)$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / Z(Q)$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 12 we get  $G = P[Q]$ . Set  $\langle z \rangle = Z(P), T = C_Q(z)$ .

Suppose that  $T = 1$ . Then  $G = (P, Q)$  and  $Q$  is abelian. Let  $R = \Omega_1(Q)$ . Then by Maschke's Theorem  $R$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\exp Q = q^n$ . Suppose that  $Q$  is not homocyclic. Then obviously  $n > 1$ . Set  $M = \langle x^k | x \in Q \rangle, k = p^{n-1}$ . Then  $R = M \times M_1$  where  $M_1$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  by Maschke's Theorem, and  $M < R$  since  $Q$  is not homocyclic, a contradiction since  $R$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . Thus  $Q$  is homocyclic and (a) holds.

Suppose that  $T > 1$ . Then  $C_G(z) / \langle z \rangle$  is an  $IC_2$ -group with a non-cyclic Sylow 2-subgroup  $P / \langle z \rangle$  of order 4. We have  $C_G(z) = PT$ . If  $PT$  is nilpotent then  $T$  is cyclic. Suppose that  $PT$  is not nilpotent. Then  $PT$  is supersolvable and  $T$  is cyclic by Lemma 11. Thus in any case  $T$  is cyclic. If  $T = Q$ , then (b) holds. Assume that  $T < Q$ . Then  $Q$  is noncyclic. If  $Q$  is abelian, then by Maschke's Theorem  $P\Omega_1(Q)$  is not an  $IC_2$ -group - a contradiction. So  $Q$  is not abelian. Now  $Q / Q'$  is not cyclic. So by the above remark  $G / Q'$  is a Frobenius group. Since  $p = 2$  then  $G / Q''$  is not a Frobenius group. Set  $\bar{G} = G / Q''$ . Then  $\Omega_1(\bar{Q}')$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $\bar{G}$  by Maschke's Theorem.

In particular  $\Omega_1(\bar{Q}') \leq Z(\bar{Q})$ . Hence  $\Omega_1(\bar{T})$  is normal in  $\bar{G}$ , and  $\Omega_1(\bar{Q}') \leq \bar{T}$ . This shows that  $Q'$  is cyclic. Then  $Q' \leq T$ .

Moreover  $Q$  is regular since  $q > 2$ . Hence  $H = \Omega_1(Q)$  is of exponent  $q$ . If  $|T| > q$ , then  $PT$  and  $PH$  are not incident,  $P \leq PT \cap PH$ , a contradiction. Thus  $|T| = q$  and  $T = Q'$ . Now  $Q / T$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G / T$ , hence  $Z(Q) = T$  and  $Q$  is extraspecial. Also  $H = Q$  and  $\exp Q = q$ .

The Main Theorem 1 follows from Lemmas 1-13.

3.

**Locally solvable  $IC_p$ -groups.** Let  $G$  be a locally solvable torsion group. We say that  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group if for any finite subgroups  $H, K$  of  $G$ , either  $H$  and  $K$  are incident, or a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H \cap K$  is cyclic.

We prove in this section the following

**Main Theorem 2.** *Let  $G$  be a locally solvable infinite periodic group. Then  $G$  is  $IC_p$ -group if and only if one of the following holds:*

- (a) Every Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  is either cyclic or quasi-cyclic.
- (b)  $G = Z(p^\infty) \times C(p)$ .
- (c)  $p = 2$  and  $G = D(2^\infty)$ .
- (d)  $p = 2$  and  $G = Q(2^\infty)$ .
- (e)  $G = P \times Z(q^\infty)$ , where  $p \neq q$ , and  $P$  is either quaternion or elementary abelian of order  $p^2$ .
- (f)  $p = 2$  and  $G = P[Q]$ , where  $P = Q(2^3)$ ,  $Q$  is the direct product of finitely many copies of  $Z(q^\infty)$ ,  $q \neq 2$ , and  $\Omega_1(Q)$  is the only minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ .
- (g)  $G = (\langle a \rangle [Q]) \times \langle b \rangle$ , where  $|\langle a \rangle| = |\langle b \rangle| = p$  and  $Q$  is as in (f) with  $q \neq p$ .

We start with the following

**Lemma 14.** *Let  $G$  be a locally finite infinite  $p$ -group. Then  $G$  is an  $IC_p$ -group if and only if one of the following holds:*

- (a)  $G = Z(p^\infty)$ .
- (b)  $G = Q(2^\infty)$ .
- (c)  $G = Z(p^\infty) \times C(p)$ .
- (d)  $G = D(2^\infty)$ .

**Proof.** If  $G$  has only one subgroup of order  $p$ , then  $G$  is either quaternion or locally cyclic and one of (a) or (b) holds. Then we can assume that there exists  $H \leq G$ , with  $H$  elementary

abelian of order  $p^2$ .

If  $M$  is a finite subgroup of  $G$ , then  $d(M) \leq 3$  by Lemma 1, where  $d(M)$  is the minimal number of generators of  $M$ . Hence  $G$  has finite rank and there exists a normal subgroup  $A$  in  $G$  with  $G/A$  finite and  $A = A_1 \times \dots \times A_n, A_i \cong Z(p^\infty), n \leq 3$  (see for example [R1], Part 2, Corollary 2, p. 38). Thus  $n = 1$ , otherwise with  $a \in A_1, b \in A_2, |\langle a \rangle| = |\langle b \rangle| = p^2$ , we get that  $\langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle$  is an  $IC_p$ -group, a contradiction.

Furthermore  $G = AH$ , otherwise for any  $x \in G - AH, a \in A$  with  $|\langle a \rangle| > |\langle x, H \rangle|$ , we have  $H \leq \langle x, H \rangle \cap \langle a, H \rangle$ , and  $\langle a, H \rangle$  and  $\langle x, H \rangle$  non-incident.

Finally  $A \cap H \neq 1$ , otherwise, with  $b \in H, b \neq 1, a \in A, |\langle a \rangle| = p^2$ , we get  $\langle a, b \rangle \cap \langle a^p, H \rangle \geq \langle a^p, b \rangle = \langle a^p \rangle \times \langle b \rangle$ , with  $\langle a, b \rangle$  and  $\langle a^p, H \rangle$  non-incident.

Thus  $G = \langle c \rangle[A, \text{ with } A \cong Z(p^\infty), |\langle c \rangle| = p$ , and the result follows (see for example [R1], Part 1, Lemma 3.28, p. 83).

**Proof of Main Theorem 2.** If  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, then the result follows from Lemma 14. So assume that  $G$  has an element  $x$  of order  $q^\alpha$ , where  $q \neq p$  is a prime. We can also assume that  $P \in Syl_p(G)$  is neither cyclic nor  $Z(p^\infty)$ . Then a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of every non-primary finitely generated subgroup of  $G$  is cyclic, or quaternion, or of order  $p^3$  and exponent  $p$  (Lemma 3).

If  $P$  is infinite, then  $P = Z(p^\infty)\langle b \rangle$ , by Lemma 14, and if  $a \in Z(p^\infty), |\langle a \rangle| = p^3$ , then  $\langle a, b, x \rangle$  is a finite  $IC_p$ -group, a contradiction, since  $|\langle a, b \rangle| \geq p^4$  and  $\langle a, b \rangle$  is not cyclic (Lemma 3). Thus  $P$  is finite, and or  $P = Q(2^3)$ , or  $|P| = p^3$  and  $\exp P = p$ , or  $P$  is elementary abelian of order  $p^2$ .

If  $P$  is normal in  $G$ , then it is easy to see that  $G/P$  is a locally cyclic  $q$ -group. Then  $G/P$  has not proper non-trivial subgroups of finite index, and  $G = PC_G(P)$  since  $G/C_G(P)$  is finite. Hence  $G = P \times Z(q^\infty)$ , and it is easy to see that (e) holds. Therefore we can assume that  $P$  is not normal in  $G$ .

Let  $a \in G - N_G(P)$ . Then  $H = \langle a, P, x \rangle$  is a finite solvable  $IC_p$ -group and  $P$  is not normal in  $H$ . Thus by Main Theorem 1 either  $P = Q(2^3)$  or  $P$  is elementary abelian of order  $p^2$ . Moreover by the same Theorem  $|\pi(F)| \leq 2$  for any finite subgroup of  $G$ , so that  $G$  is a  $\pi$ -group where  $\pi = \pi(G) = \{p, q\}$ .

By [Z], there exists an infinite abelian subgroup  $A$  of  $G$  normalized by  $P$ , and obviously we can assume that  $A$  is a  $q$ -group. For any  $y \in \Omega_1(A) - \{1\}$ , we have  $|\langle y, P \rangle| \leq q^{|P|}|P|$ , and if  $y$  is such that  $\langle y, P \rangle$  has maximal order, we get easily that  $z \in \langle y, P \rangle$  for all  $z \in \Omega_1(A)$ . Hence  $d(\Omega_1(A)) \leq |P|$  and (see for example [R2], p. 107)  $A = A_1 \times \dots \times A_n$ , where  $A_i$  is either cyclic or quasi-cyclic. If  $A_i$  is cyclic, for any  $i$ , then  $A$  is finite, a contradiction. Thus we may assume  $A_1 \cong Z(p^\infty)$ . Let  $g \in G$ , and write  $d = |\langle g, P \rangle|$ . If  $a \in A_1, |\langle a \rangle| > d$ , we have  $P \leq \langle a, P \rangle \cap \langle g, P \rangle$ , and  $\langle a, P \rangle$  is not contained in  $\langle g, P \rangle$ . Hence  $\langle g, P \rangle < \langle a, P \rangle$ , and  $G = AP = P[A$ . Now, using Main Theorem 1, it is easy to see that either (f) holds (if  $P = Q(2^3)$ ) or (g) holds (if  $P = \langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle, |\langle a \rangle| = |\langle b \rangle| = p$ ).

## REFERENCES

- [B] YA.G. BERKOVICH, *A class of finite groups (Russian)*, Sibirsk. Mat. J. 8 (1967), 734-740 (Russian).
- [G] D. GORENSTEIN, *Finite groups*, Harper and Row, N.Y., 1968.
- [H] C. HOBBY, *The Frattini subgroup of a  $p$ -group*, Pacific J. Math. 10 (1960), 209-212.
- [Is] I.M. ISAACS, *A note on  $IC_p$ -groups*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 17 (1966), 1451-1454.
- [R1] D.J.S. ROBINSON, *Finiteness conditions and generalized soluble groups*, Parts 1, 2 Springer, Berlin, 1972.
- [R2] D.J.S. ROBINSON, *A course in the theory of groups*, Springer, Berlin, 1980.
- [Z] D.I. ZAICEV, *On solvable subgroups of locally solvable groups*, Soviet Math. Dokl., vol. 15 (1974), 342-345.

Received October 17, 1994

Y. BERKOVICH

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Afula Research Institute

University of Haifa, 31905 Haifa, ISRAEL

P. LONGOBARDI and M. MAJ

Dipartimento di Matematica e Applicazioni "R. Caccioppoli"

Università degli Studi di Napoli, Monte S. Angelo, via Cintia

80126 Naples, ITALY