



ON GENERALIZED M^* – GROUPS

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Abstract

Let X be a compact bordered Klein surface of algebraic genus $p \geq 2$ and let $G = \Gamma^*/\Lambda$ be a group of automorphisms of X where Γ^* is a *non-euclidian chrystalographic* group and Λ is a bordered surface group. If the order of G is $\frac{4q}{(q-2)}(p-1)$, for $q \geq 3$ a prime number, then the signature of Γ^* is $(0; +; [-]; \{(2, 2, 2, q)\})$. These groups of automorphisms are called generalized M^* -groups. In this paper, we give some results and examples about generalized M^* -groups. Then, we construct new generalized M^* -groups from a generalized M^* -group G (or not necessarily generalized M^* -group).

1 Introduction

A compact bordered Klein surface X of algebraic genus $p \geq 2$ has at most $12(p-1)$ automorphisms [9]. The groups which are isomorphic to the automorphism group of such a compact bordered Klein surface with this maximal number of automorphisms are called M^* -groups. M^* -groups were first studied in [10], and additional results about these groups are in [4, 5, 6, 12]. Also, the article [3] contains a nice survey of known results about M^* -groups.

The first important result about M^* -groups was that they must have a certain partial presentation [10]. This was established by considering an M^* -group as a quotient of an quadrilateral group $\Gamma^*[2, 2, 2, 3]$. In [13, p.223, Proposition 2], this was extended to the quadrilateral groups $\Gamma^*[2, 2, 2, q]$ where $q \geq 3$ is an integer. By using the quadrilateral groups $\Gamma^*[2, 2, 2, q]$ for $q \geq 3$ prime, Sahin et al. in [15] defined *generalized M^* -group* similar to M^* -group

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case. In [15], the authors found a relationship between extended Hecke groups and generalized M^* -groups. The relationship says that a finite group of order at least $4q$ is a generalized M^* -group if and only if it is the homomorphic image of the extended Hecke groups $\overline{H}(\lambda_q)$. In fact, by using known results about normal subgroups of the extended Hecke groups $\overline{H}(\lambda_p)$ given in [14], they obtained many results related to generalized M^* -groups. For example, if G is a generalized M^* -group, then $|G : G'|$ divides 4 and $|G' : G''|$ divides q^2 . Finally, they proved that if $q \geq 3$ prime number and G is a generalized M^* -group associated to q , then G is supersoluble if and only if $|G| = 4 \cdot q^r$ for some positive integer r .

In this paper, our main goal is to generalize some results related to the M^* -groups to the generalized M^* -groups. First, we give some results and examples about generalized M^* -groups. Then, we construct new generalized M^* -groups from a generalized M^* -group G (or not necessarily generalized M^* -group). To do these, we shall use the same methods in [3], [5] and [11] for M^* -groups.

2 Preliminaries

We shall assume that all Klein surfaces we are working with are compact and of algebraic genus $p \geq 2$. Let \mathcal{U} be the open upper half plane. A Non-Euclidean crystallographic group, *NEC group* in short, is a discrete subgroup Γ of the group $\text{PGL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ of all conformal and anti-conformal automorphisms of \mathcal{U} such that the quotient space \mathcal{U}/Γ is compact. If Γ lies wholly within the conformal group $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$, it is more usually known as a *Fuchsian group*. Also, if Γ contains both conformal and anti-conformal automorphisms of \mathcal{U} , it is known as a *proper NEC group*.

An NEC group is called a *bordered surface group* if it contains a reflection but does not contain other elements of finite order. Each compact bordered Klein surface X of algebraic genus $p \geq 2$ can be presented as the orbit space $X = \mathcal{U}/\Lambda$ for some bordered surface group Λ . Moreover, given a surface X so represented, a finite group G acts as a group automorphisms of X if and only if there exists an NEC group Γ^* and an epimorphism $\theta : \Gamma^* \rightarrow G$ such that $\ker(\theta) = \Lambda$. All groups of automorphisms of bordered Klein surfaces arise in this way. Such an epimorphism, whose kernel is a bordered surface group, is called a *bordered smooth epimorphism*.

In this paper, we shall be mainly concerned with quadrilateral groups $\Gamma^*[2, 2, 2, q]$. A quadrilateral group Γ^* is an NEC group with signature

$$(0; +; [-]; \{(2, 2, 2, q)\}),$$

where $q \geq 3$ prime number [16]. Also Γ^* is isomorphic to the abstract group

with the presentation

$$\langle c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3 \mid c_i^2 = (c_0c_1)^2 = (c_1c_2)^2 = (c_2c_3)^2 = (c_3c_0)^q = I \rangle .$$

It is well-known [13] that large groups of automorphisms of bordered surfaces are quotients of the quadrilateral groups $\Gamma^*[2, 2, 2, q]$.

It is clear that Γ^* has exactly three subgroups of index 2 which contain c_1 (namely Γ_1, Γ_2 , and Γ_3) and a unique normal subgroup of index 4 which contains c_1 (namely Γ_4). In fact, Γ_1 is generated by $c_0, c_1, c_2c_0c_2$ and c_3 ; Γ_2 is generated by c_2c_3, c_3c_0 and c_1 ; Γ_3 is generated by c_1, c_2, c_3c_0 and $c_3c_1c_3$; and Γ_4 is generated by $c_0c_3, c_2c_3c_0c_2$ and c_1 . Also the signatures of $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$ and Γ_4 are $(0; +; [-]; \{(2, 2, q, q)\})$, $(0; +; [2, q]; \{(-)\})$, $(0; +; [q]; \{(2, 2)\})$ and $(0; +; [q, q]; \{(-)\})$, respectively (see, [2, p. 564]).

If Λ_{c_1} is the normal subgroup of Γ^* generated by c_1 , then $\bar{\Gamma}^* = \Gamma^*/\Lambda_{c_1}$. Also, if there exist a normal subgroup Φ in Γ^* containing c_1 , then $\Gamma^*/\Phi \cong \bar{\Gamma}^*/\bar{\Phi}$. Since $\Gamma^*/\Gamma_4 \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $\bar{\Gamma}^*/\bar{\Gamma}_4$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$. It is clear that the commutator subgroup $(\bar{\Gamma}^*)' \subset \bar{\Gamma}_4$. Notice that the quotient group $\bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ is generated by elements of order 2. Also it is easy to see that $c_0(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ and $c_3(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ commute, as $\bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ is abelian. Since c_0c_3 has order q , $c_0c_3 \in (\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$. Therefore $\bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ is generated by two elements of order q . Thus $\bar{\Gamma}_4 = (\bar{\Gamma}^*)'$ and then $\bar{\Gamma}_4$ is a free product generated by two elements of order q . This requires that $\bar{\Gamma}_4/\bar{\Gamma}_4' \cong \mathbb{Z}_q \times \mathbb{Z}_q$, which yields that $\bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'' \cong D_q \times D_q$.

From [3, Theorems 2.2.4 and 2.3.3], if $G = \Gamma^*/\Lambda$ satisfies $|G| = \frac{4q}{(q-2)}(p-1)$, for some NEC group Γ^* and for $q \geq 3$ prime number, then the signature of Γ^* is $(0; +; [-]; \{(2, 2, 2, q)\})$ and for each group G , there is a bordered smooth epimorphism $\theta : \Gamma^* \rightarrow G$ which maps $c_0 \rightarrow r_1, c_1 \rightarrow I, c_2 \rightarrow r_2$ and $c_3 \rightarrow r_3$. Thus r_1r_2 and r_1r_3 have orders 2 and q respectively and each group G admits the following partial presentation :

$$\langle r_1, r_2, r_3 \mid r_1^2 = r_2^2 = r_3^2 = (r_1r_2)^2 = (r_1r_3)^q = \dots = I \rangle .$$

Now we need a definition.

Definition 1 ([15]). *Let $q \geq 3$ be a prime number. A finite group G will be called a generalized M^* -group if it is generated by three distinct nontrivial elements r_1, r_2 and r_3 of order 2 such that r_1r_2 and r_1r_3 have orders 2 and q respectively, i.e.,*

$$r_1^2 = r_2^2 = r_3^2 = (r_1r_2)^2 = (r_1r_3)^q = I. \tag{1}$$

The order t of r_2r_3 is called an index of G and G is said a *generalized M^* -group with index t* . A generalized M^* -group can have more than one

index. If G is a generalized M^* -group with index t and l is the order of $(r_1 r_2 r_3)$, then G is also a generalized M^* -group with index l [15].

From [15], if $G = \Gamma^*/\Lambda$ is a generalized M^* -group, then it can have at most three subgroups of index 2 and one normal subgroup of index 4. A generalized M^* -group G possesses either zero, one or three subgroups of index 2, $G_1 = \langle r_1, r_3, r_2 r_3 r_2 \rangle$, $G_2 = \langle r_1 r_2, r_1 r_3 \rangle$, $G_3 = \langle r_2, r_1 r_3 \rangle$, respectively. A generalized M^* -group G possesses at most one normal subgroup of index 4, $G_4 = \langle r_1 r_3, r_2 r_3 r_1 r_2 \rangle$. Here the subgroups of G corresponding to each of $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$ and Γ_4 are G_1, G_2, G_3 and G_4 , respectively.

3 Generalized M^* -Groups and Related Results

A finite group G of order $\frac{4q}{(q-2)}(p-1)$ is a generalized M^* -group if and only if G acts on a bordered Klein surface X of genus $p \geq 2$. If we take $p = (q-2)s+1$ where $q \geq 3$ prime number and $s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then we find $|G| = 4qs$. Thus for every positive integer p which is of the form $(q-2)s+1$, there are infinitely many generalized M^* -groups and for every positive integer p which is not of the form $(q-2)s+1$, there are no generalized M^* -groups.

Note that if $s = 1$, then we get $p = (q-2)1+1 = q-1$ and $|G| = 4q$. Therefore for every $q \geq 3$ a prime number, there is a generalized M^* -group G . Here this result coincides with the ones given in [1, Theorem 2.1]. Also, using a result of Bujalance [1, Theorem 2.1], it is easy to see that if X a compact bordered Klein surface of algebraic genus $p \geq 2$, $p \neq 5, 11$ and 29 , and the group $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ is isomorphic to

$$\langle r_1, r_2, r_3 \mid r_1^2 = r_2^2 = r_3^2 = (r_1 r_2)^2 = (r_1 r_3)^q = I, r_2 r_3 r_2 = r_1 (r_3 r_1)^t \rangle$$

for some t such that $t^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ and $1 \leq t \leq q-1$ then X is orientable and has $k = \gcd(q, t+1)$ boundary components. Therefore, if $q \geq 3$ prime number then X is orientable and $k = q$ boundary components or $k = 1$ boundary component. Thus G acts on a sphere with q holes and a surface of genus $\frac{q-1}{2}$ with one hole. Conversely if $p \geq 2$ and $|G| = 4q$ then Γ^* has signature $(0; +; [-]; \{(2, 2, 2, q)\})$ where Γ^* is an NEC group.

Remark 1. *Generalized M^* -groups are exactly the same as the automorphism groups of regular maps (regular tilings) of type $\{q, t\}$ where t is prime. A map is said to be of type $\{q, t\}$ if it is composed of q -gons, with exactly t , q -gons meeting at each vertex. Suppose a generalized M^* -group G acts on the bordered surface X with index t . Then the surface X corresponds to a regular map \mathcal{M} of type $\{q, t\}$ on the surface X^* obtained from X by attaching a disc to each boundary component. Also G is isomorphic to the automorphism group of the map \mathcal{M} , and the number of boundary components of X is equal to the number of vertices of \mathcal{M} .*

Example 1. Let $G^{q,n,r}$ be the group with generators A, B and C and defining relations

$$A^q = B^n = C^r = (AB)^2 = (BC)^2 = (CA)^2 = (ABC)^2 = I.$$

If we set $r_1 = BC, r_2 = CA,$ and $r_3 = BCA,$ then we obtain the presentation

$$r_1^2 = r_2^2 = r_3^2 = (r_1r_2)^2 = (r_1r_3)^q = (r_2r_3)^n = (r_1r_2r_3)^r = I.$$

Thus G is a quotient of $\Gamma[2, 2, 2, q]$ by a bordered surface group if and only if G is a quotient of the group $G^{q,n,r}$ for some n and $r.$ If $q \geq 3$ is a prime and the group is finite, then we obtain a generalized M^* -group with index $n.$ Some values of n and r which make the group to be finite are given in [7] and [8].

Now using of the first and the second commutator subgroups of generalized M^* -groups, we obtain new generalized M^* -groups.

Theorem 1. Let G be a generalized M^* -group. Then there exist a normal subgroup N of $D_q \times D_q, q \geq 3$ prime, such that we have the following.

(i) $G/G'' \cong (D_q \times D_q)/N.$

(ii) For each $N_1 \triangleleft D_q \times D_q$ with $N_1 \leq N,$ let $K = N/N_1.$ Then there exists a generalized M^* -group \hat{G} such that

$$1 \rightarrow K \rightarrow \hat{G} \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1$$

is a short exact sequence. Furthermore, \hat{G} contains a subgroup isomorphic to $G'' \times K.$

Proof. We will prove our theorem as in the case of the M^* -groups in [5].

(i) Firstly, since G is a generalized M^* -group, it is known that there is a smooth epimorphism $\theta : \Gamma^* \rightarrow G,$ such that $c_1 \in \Lambda := \ker(\theta).$ Then, by using Lemma 2.1 in [5, p.342] and $G \cong \bar{\Gamma}^*/\bar{\Lambda},$ we have $G' \cong (\bar{\Gamma}^*)'\bar{\Lambda}/\bar{\Lambda}$ and $G'' \cong (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}/\bar{\Lambda}.$ Therefore, to complete the proof (i), we define $N := (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''.$ Using $\bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'' \cong D_q \times D_q,$ we get $G/G'' \cong \bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda} \cong (D_q \times D_q)/N.$ This concludes the proof of (i).

(ii) Let N_1 be a normal subgroup of $D_q \times D_q$ such that $N_1 \leq N.$ Let $K = N/N_1.$ From (i), we know that $N = (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''.$ Then there exist a NEC group $(\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1 \leq (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}$ such that $N_1 \cong (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''.$ Since $(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'' \leq (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1 \leq (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}$ we get $(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda} = (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1\bar{\Lambda}$ and $N \cong (\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)'' = (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1\bar{\Lambda}/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''.$ Define $\hat{G} = \bar{\Gamma}^*/(\bar{\Lambda} \cap (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1).$ Then \hat{G} contains the subgroup

$$\frac{\bar{\Lambda}}{\bar{\Lambda} \cap (\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1} \cong \frac{\bar{\Lambda}(\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1}{(\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1} \cong \frac{(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''\bar{\Lambda}/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''}{(\bar{\Gamma}_4)_1/(\bar{\Gamma}^*)''} \cong \frac{N}{N_1} \cong K.$$

Finally, the subgroups $G'' \cong (\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1/(\overline{\Lambda} \cap (\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1)$ and $K \cong \overline{\Lambda}/(\overline{\Lambda} \cap (\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1)$ are normal in \hat{G} . Since the subgroups G'' and K generate $\overline{\Lambda}(\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1/(\overline{\Lambda} \cap (\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1)$ and have trivial intersection, we obtain $\overline{\Lambda}(\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1/(\overline{\Lambda} \cap (\overline{\Gamma}_4)_1) \cong G'' \times K$. This completes the proof (ii). \square

This theorem provides a way for constructing new families of generalized M^* -groups and has several interesting consequences. For example, it can be applied to perfect groups, which are equal to their first commutator subgroup. Let G be a perfect group. Then $G'' = G$. Therefore, the above theorem shows that if K is a factor group of $D_q \times D_q$, then there is a generalized M^* -group \hat{G} of order $|G| |K|$ such that \hat{G} contains a subgroup isomorphic to $G \times K$. But the only normal subgroup of \hat{G} of order $|G| |K|$ is \hat{G} , then \hat{G} is isomorphic to $G \times K$.

Using this, we obtain the following corollary and examples:

Corollary 1. *If G is a perfect generalized M^* -group, then $G \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $G \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $G \times D_q$, $G \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times D_q$, and $G \times D_q \times D_q$ are generalized M^* -groups.*

Example 2. *Many finite simple groups H have been shown to be generated by three involutions, two of which commute, are generalized M^* -groups. Also for these finite simple groups, $H \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $H \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $H \times D_q$, $H \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times D_q$, and $H \times D_q \times D_q$ are generalized M^* -groups.*

Example 3. *For any prime $q > 6$, all but finitely many alternating groups A_n are quotients of the extended $(2, 3, q)$ triangle group, and are therefore generalized M^* -groups of index 3. For these values we find that $A_n \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $A_n \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $A_n \times D_q$, $A_n \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times D_q$, and $A_n \times D_q \times D_q$ are generalized M^* -groups.*

Now, we give some methods for constructing new generalized M^* -groups from a group (not necessarily generalized M^* -groups) which may arise as a normal subgroup of index two. These constructions were obtained in [3] and [11] for M^* -groups.

Theorem 2. *Let $q \geq 3$ be a prime number. If G is a generalized M^* -group associated to q with odd index t , then $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G$ is a generalized M^* -group with index $2t$.*

Proof. Let G be a generalized M^* -group generated by r_1, r_2 and r_3 satisfying the relations in (2.1) and let G has odd index t . If a generate \mathbb{Z}_2 then we set $r_1^* = (a, r_1)$, $r_2^* = (1, r_2)$, and $r_3^* = (a, r_3)$. Therefore, r_1^* , r_2^* , and r_3^* generate the direct product $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times G$. Also, they satisfy the relations (2.1) with $o(r_2^* r_3^*) = 2t$. \square

Notice that if the index t is even, the construction will not work, since $(2, t) \neq 1$.

Theorem 3. *Let $q \geq 3$ be a prime number. Let H be a finite group generated by two elements x and y , of order 2 and q , respectively. If H admits the automorphism*

$$\gamma : x \rightarrow x^{-1} = x, \quad y \rightarrow y^{-1}$$

then the semidirect product group $G = H \rtimes_{\gamma} \mathbb{Z}_2$ is a generalized M^ -group.*

Proof. If a generate \mathbb{Z}_2 then it is easy to see that $G = H \rtimes_{\phi} \mathbb{Z}_2$ with generators with $r_1 = (y, a)$, $r_2 = (x, a)$, and $r_3 = (1, a)$ is a generalized M^* -group. \square

Theorem 4. *Let $q \geq 3$ be a prime number and let G be a generalized M^* -group associated to q . If $[G : \langle r_1 r_2, r_1 r_3 \rangle] = 2$, and t is not a multiple of 3, then $\mathbb{Z}_3 \rtimes_{\theta} G$ is a generalized M^* -group with odd index $3t$.*

Proof. Since $[G : \langle r_1 r_2, r_1 r_3 \rangle] = 2$, we take the quotient map θ ,

$$\theta : G \rightarrow G / \langle r_1 r_2, r_1 r_3 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 = \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}_3)$$

and we construct the semi-direct product $\mathbb{Z}_3 \rtimes_{\theta} G$. If a generate \mathbb{Z}_3 then we set $r'_1 = (x, r_1)$, $r'_2 = (x, r_2)$, and $r'_3 = (1, r_3)$. Thus r'_1 , r'_2 , and r'_3 generate $\mathbb{Z}_3 \rtimes_{\theta} G$ and they satisfy the relations (2.1) with $o(r'_2 r'_3) = 3t$ and $o(r'_1 r'_2 r'_3) = l = o(r_1 r_2 r_3)$. \square

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