

## NON-ABELIAN TENSOR ANALOGUES OF 2-AUTO ENGEL GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. The concept of tensor analogues of right 2-Engel elements in groups were defined and studied by Biddle and Kappe [1] and Moravec [9]. Using the automorphisms of a given group  $G$ , we introduce the notion of tensor analogue of 2-auto Engel elements in  $G$  and investigate their properties. Also the concept of  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel groups is introduced and we prove that if  $G$  is a  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel group, then  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian.

Finally, we construct a non-abelian 2-auto-Engel group  $G$  so that its non-abelian tensor product by  $\text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be groups equipped with the actions of  $G$  on  $H$  and  $H$  on  $G$  (both from the right), written as  $h^g$  and  $g^h$  for all  $g \in G$  and  $h \in H$ , respectively. It is always understood that a group acts on itself by conjugation. As in [2, 3], all these actions must be *compatible* in the sense that

$$g^{(h^g)} = ((g^{g^{-1}})^h)^g, \quad h^{(g^h)} = ((h^{h^{-1}})^g)^h,$$

for all  $g, g' \in G$  and  $h, h' \in H$ .

Considering the above compatibilities of groups actions, the *non-abelian tensor product*  $G \otimes H$  is the group generated by the symbols  $g \otimes h$ , satisfying the following relations:

$$gg' \otimes h = (g^{g'} \otimes h^{g'})(g' \otimes h),$$

$$g \otimes hh' = (g \otimes h')(g^{h'} \otimes h^{h'}),$$

for all  $g, g' \in G$  and  $h, h' \in H$ . The concept of non-abelian tensor product of groups was introduced by Brown and Loday in [3]. Brown, Johnson and Robertson in [2] started the investigation of non-abelian tensor product as a group theoretical object. As a special case,  $G \otimes G$  is said to be the tensor square of a group  $G$ .

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Recall that the set of all right  $n$ -Engel elements of a group  $G$  is defined by  $R_n(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, {}_n h] = 1, \forall h \in G\}$ . Here  $[g, h] = g^{-1}h^{-1}gh$ ,  $[g_1, \dots, g_n, g_{n+1}] = [[g_1, \dots, g_n], g_{n+1}]$  and  $[g, {}_n h] = [g, \underbrace{h, \dots, h}_n]$ . It is shown

in [6] that  $R_2(G)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

Using the non-abelian tensor square, the set of all right  $n_{\otimes}$ -Engel elements of a group  $G$  is defined as follows:

$$R_n^{\otimes}(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, {}_{n-1} h] \otimes h = 1_{\otimes}, \forall h \in G\},$$

see also [1, 9]. The set of right  $n_{\otimes}$ -Engel elements has been studied by several authors (see [1, 9, 11, 12]). Biddle and Kappe [1] proved that  $R_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is always a characteristic subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $R_2(G)$ . In [9], Moravec determined some further information on  $R_2^{\otimes}(G)$  and defined the concept of  $2_{\otimes}$ -Engel groups, which reads as  $G$  is a  $2_{\otimes}$ -Engel group when  $[g, h] \otimes h = 1_{\otimes}$  for all  $g, h \in G$ . He also showed that if  $G$  is a  $2_{\otimes}$ -Engel group, then the non-abelian tensor square  $G \otimes G$  is abelian.

The automorphisms group of a given group  $G$  is denoted by  $\text{Aut}(G)$  and inner automorphisms by  $\text{Inn}(G)$ . In the present article, using the non-abelian tensor product  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$ , we introduce the concept of tensor analogue of 2-auto Engel elements in a group  $G$  and denote it by  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$ .

**Definition.** Let  $G$  be any group. Then

$$AR_2^{\otimes}(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = 1_{\otimes}, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}$$

is the set of  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel elements of  $G$ .

In Section 3, we show that  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $R_2^{\otimes}(G)$  and give some of its properties. Also we introduce the notion of  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel groups and prove that if  $G$  is a  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel group, then  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian.

### 2. Preliminary results

In this section we summarize some of the basic facts, which are needed for the proofs of our main results.

The following propositions of [2] are needed:

**Proposition 2.1** ([2, Proposition 2]). *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be groups equipped with compatible actions on each other. Then*

(i) *the groups  $G$  and  $H$  act on  $G \otimes H$  so that*

$$(g' \otimes h)^g = g'^g \otimes h^g, \quad (g \otimes h')^h = g^h \otimes h'^h,$$

*for all  $g, g' \in G, h, h' \in H$ .*

(ii) *There are group homomorphisms  $\lambda : G \otimes H \rightarrow G$  and  $\lambda' : G \otimes H \rightarrow H$  such that*

$$(g \otimes h)\lambda = g^{-1}g^h, \quad (g \otimes h)\lambda' = h^{-1}g^h,$$

for all  $g \in G$  and  $h \in H$ .

**Proposition 2.2** ([2, Proposition 3]). *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be groups equipped with compatible actions on each other. Then for all  $g, g' \in G$  and  $h, h' \in H$ , the following identities are satisfied:*

- (i)  $(g^{-1} \otimes h)^g = (g \otimes h)^{-1} = (g \otimes h^{-1})^h$ ;
- (ii)  $(g' \otimes h')^{g \otimes h} = (g' \otimes h')^{[g, h]}$ ;
- (iii)  $g^{-1}g^h \otimes h' = (g \otimes h)^{-1}(g \otimes h)^{h'}$ ;
- (iv)  $g' \otimes h^{-1g}h = (g \otimes h)^{-g'}(g \otimes h)$ ;
- (v)  $g^{-1}g^h \otimes h'^{-1g'}h' = [g \otimes h, g' \otimes h']$ .

For a given group  $G$ , we define the action of  $G$  on  $\text{Aut}(G)$  given by  $\alpha^g = \alpha^{\varphi_g} = \varphi_g^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ \varphi_g$  and the action of  $\text{Aut}(G)$  on  $G$  given by  $g^\alpha = (g)\alpha$  for all  $g \in G$ ,  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$  and  $\varphi_g \in \text{Inn}(G)$ .

In the following lemma, we show that the above actions are compatible.

**Lemma 2.3.** *The above actions are well-defined and compatible.*

*Proof.* Clearly the actions of  $G$  on  $\text{Aut}(G)$  and  $\text{Aut}(G)$  on  $G$  are well-defined. Also for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ,  $g, h \in G$  and  $\varphi_g \in \text{Inn}(G)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (h)\beta^{(g^\alpha)} &= (h)\beta^{\varphi_{(g)\alpha}} = (h)(\varphi_{(g)\alpha}^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \varphi_{(g)\alpha}) \\ &= (g^{-1})\alpha((g)\alpha h(g^{-1})\alpha)\beta(g)\alpha \\ &= (g^{-1}(g)\alpha\beta\alpha^{-1}(h)\beta\alpha^{-1}(g^{-1})\alpha\beta\alpha^{-1}g)\alpha \\ &= ((g)\alpha\beta(h)\beta(g^{-1})\alpha\beta)\alpha^{-1} \circ \varphi_g \circ \alpha \\ &= (h)(\varphi_g^{-1} \circ (\alpha \circ \beta \circ \alpha^{-1}) \circ \varphi_g)^\alpha \\ &= (h)((\beta^{\alpha^{-1}})^g)^\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\beta^{(g^\alpha)} = ((\beta^{\alpha^{-1}})^g)^\alpha$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} h^{(\alpha^g)} &= h^{(\alpha^{\varphi_g})} = (h)(\varphi_g^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ \varphi_g) \\ &= g^{-1}(g)\alpha(h)\alpha(g^{-1})\alpha g \\ &= ((ghg^{-1})^\alpha)^g \\ &= ((h^{g^{-1}})^\alpha)^g. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

*Remark 1.* One notes that we may use all the identities for the non-abelian tensor product  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$ .

**Lemma 2.4** ([7]). *Let  $g$  and  $h$  be elements of a group  $G$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . Then the followings are held:*

- (i)  $[gh, \alpha] = [g, \alpha]^h[h, \alpha]$ ;
- (ii)  $[g, \alpha^{-1}] = ([g, \alpha]^{-1})^{\alpha^{-1}}$ ;

- (iii)  $[g^{-1}, \alpha] = ([g, \alpha]^{-1})^{g^{-1}}$ ;
- (iv)  $[g, \alpha\beta] = [g, \beta][g, \alpha]^\beta$ ;
- (v)  $[g, \alpha]^\beta = [g^\beta, \alpha^\beta]$ .

Following [7], the set of all right 2-auto Engel elements in a given group  $G$  is defined as follows:

$$AR_2(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, {}_2\alpha] = [g, \alpha, \alpha] = 1, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}.$$

**Proposition 2.5** ([7, Lemma 3.2]). *Let  $g$  be a right 2-auto Engel element and  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  be arbitrary automorphisms of a group  $G$ . Then*

- (i)  $g^{\text{Aut}(G)} = \langle g^\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G) \rangle$  is abelian and its elements are right 2-auto Engel elements;
- (ii)  $[g, \alpha, \beta] = [g, \beta, \alpha]^{-1}$ ;
- (iii)  $[g, [\alpha, \beta]] = [g, \alpha, \beta]^2$ ;
- (iv)  $[g, \alpha, \beta, \gamma]^2 = 1$ ;
- (v)  $[g, [\alpha, \beta], \gamma] = 1$ .

The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Proposition 2.5(i).

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $G$  be a group,  $g \in AR_2(G)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . Then  $[[g, \alpha], [g, \beta]] = 1$ .*

**Theorem 2.7** ([7, Theorem 3.2]). *The set of all right 2-auto Engel elements of a given group forms a characteristic subgroup.*

### 3. Main results

The main goal of this section is to study the tensor analogues of right 2-auto Engel elements of a given group  $G$ . So we define the set of all  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel elements as follows:

$$AR_2^\otimes(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = 1_\otimes, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}.$$

We remind that  $[g, \alpha] = g^{-1}(g)\alpha = g^{-1}g^\alpha$  is the *autocommutator* elements of  $g \in G$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ , see also [5]. The subgroups  $K(G) = \langle [g, \alpha] \mid g \in G, \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G) \rangle$  and  $L(G) = \{g \in G \mid [g, \alpha] = 1, \forall \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}$  are the *autocommutator subgroup* and the *absolute centre* of  $G$ , respectively. (see [5, 8, 10], for more information.)

The following properties of  $AR_2^\otimes(G)$  are useful for our further investigations.

**Lemma 3.1.** *The set of all  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel elements of a given group  $G$  contains  $L(G)$  and is contained in the set of 2-auto Engel elements of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* It is obvious that  $L(G)$  is a subset of  $AR_2^\otimes(G)$ . Now, by Proposition 2.1(ii), there exists a homomorphism  $\theta : G \otimes \text{Aut}(G) \rightarrow K(G)$  given by  $(g \otimes \alpha)\theta = [g, \alpha]$ , which gives the claim.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a group. Then*

- (i)  $(g \otimes \alpha)^{-1} = g \otimes \alpha^{-1}$ ;

- (ii)  $([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha)([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta) = 1_{\otimes}$ ;
- (iii)  $[g, \alpha] \otimes \varphi_g = 1_{\otimes}$ ,

for all  $g \in AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .

*Proof.* (i) Proposition 2.2(iii) implies that  $1_{\otimes} = [g, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = (g \otimes \alpha)^{-1}(g \otimes \alpha)^{\alpha}$ . Thus  $(g \otimes \alpha)^{-1} = g \otimes \alpha^{-1}$ , by Proposition 2.2(i).

(ii) Using part (i), we have  $g \otimes \beta^{-1}\alpha = (g \otimes (\beta^{-1}\alpha)^{-1})^{-1}$ . By a simple calculation we obtain

$$((g \otimes \beta)^{-1}(g \otimes \beta^{-1})^{-\alpha})^{-1} = (g \otimes \alpha)^{-1}(g \otimes \alpha^{-1})^{-\beta}.$$

Hence, by Proposition 2.2(iii),  $([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha)^{-1} = ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)$ .

- (iii) Clearly  $1_{\otimes} = [g, \varphi_g \alpha] \otimes \varphi_g \alpha$ , which gives  $[g, \alpha] \otimes \varphi_g = 1_{\otimes}$ . □

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $g \in AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . Then  $[g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \alpha = 1_{\otimes}$ .*

*Proof.* Using Lemma 2.4(iv), we have

$$1_{\otimes} = ([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha \beta)^{[g, \alpha]^{\beta}} ([g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \alpha \beta),$$

or

$$1_{\otimes} = ([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha)^{[g, \alpha]^{\beta}} ([g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \beta) ([g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \alpha)^{\beta}.$$

As  $g \in AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$ , we observe that  $[g, \alpha]$  acts trivially on  $\alpha$ . Also using Lemma 3.1 and Corollary 2.6, one notes that  $[g, \alpha]$  acts trivially on  $[g, \beta]$ . Hence we obtain

$$1_{\otimes} = ([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha)^{\beta} ([g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \beta) ([g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \alpha)^{\beta}.$$

Finally, by Lemma 3.2(ii), the above equation reduces to  $1_{\otimes} = [g, \alpha]^{\beta} \otimes \alpha$ , which proves the claim. □

Biddle and Kappe in [1] proved that  $R_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ . Now we are in a position to show that  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is also a characteristic subgroup of the group  $G$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *For a given group  $G$ , the set of all  $2_{\otimes}$ -auto Engel elements is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is a characteristic set. We show that  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  is closed under the inverse and product. Assume  $g$  is any element of  $AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$ , which is also in  $AR_2(G)$ . Hence  $1 = [g, \varphi_g \alpha, \varphi_g \alpha]$ , for all  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$  and  $\varphi_g \in \text{Inn}(G)$ . This implies that  $[g, \alpha, \varphi_g] = 1$ , using Lemma 2.4(iv). Now, by Lemma 2.4(iii) and using the previous identity, we obtain  $[g^{-1}, \alpha] = [g, \alpha]^{-1}$ . So by Proposition 2.2(i), we have

$$[g^{-1}, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = [g, \alpha]^{-1} \otimes \alpha = ([g, \alpha] \otimes \alpha)^{-[g, \alpha]^{-1}} = 1_{\otimes},$$

which implies that  $g^{-1} \in AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$ . By Lemma 2.4(i) and using the rules of non-abelian tensor product, we obtain

$$[gh, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = ([g, \alpha]^{\varphi_h} \otimes \alpha)^{[h, \alpha]},$$

for all  $g, h \in AR_2^{\otimes}(G)$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . Hence, Lemma 3.3 gives the proof. □

If  $A$  is a subset of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ , we may define the *auto-tensor centralizer* of  $A$  in  $G$  as follows:

$$C_G^\otimes(A) = \{g \in G : g \otimes \alpha = 1_\otimes, \forall \alpha \in A\}.$$

It is easy to check that  $C_G^\otimes(A)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . The following proposition gives some useful properties of  $AR_2^\otimes(G)$ , which are needed in proving Theorem 3.8.

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $G$  be a group. Then for all  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ,  $g \in AR_2^\otimes(G)$  and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,*

- (i)  $[g, \alpha] \in C_G^\otimes(\alpha^{\text{Aut}(G)})$ ;
- (ii)  $g^{-1} \otimes \alpha = (g \otimes \alpha)^{-1}$ ;
- (iii)  $[g, \alpha]^n \otimes \beta = ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)^n$ ;
- (iv)  $g \otimes \alpha^n = (g \otimes \alpha)^n$ ;
- (v)  $[g, \alpha] \otimes [\beta, \gamma] = 1_\otimes$ ;
- (vi)  $g \otimes [\alpha, \beta] = ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)^2$ .

*Proof.* (i) It is obvious, by using Lemma 3.3.

(ii) By Proposition 2.2(i, iii) and Lemma 3.2(i, iii), we have  $g^{-1} \otimes \alpha = (g \otimes \alpha^{-1})^{\varphi_g^{-1}}$  and hence we conclude that  $g^{-1} \otimes \alpha = (g \otimes \alpha)^{-1}$ .

(iii) It suffices to assume that  $n > 0$ . By Lemma 3.2(ii) we observe that  $[g, \alpha]^n \otimes \beta = ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)([g, \alpha]^{n-1} \otimes \beta)$ . Hence the claim follows by induction on  $n$ .

(iv) Using Proposition 2.2(iii), we have

$$g \otimes \alpha\beta = (g \otimes \beta)(g \otimes \alpha)([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta).$$

Now,  $g \otimes \alpha^n = (g \otimes \alpha)^n$  is obtained by induction on  $n$ .

(v) Note that Lemma 3.2(ii) implies that the elements of the form  $a \otimes \alpha$  commute, for all  $a \in g^{\text{Aut}(G)}$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . By considering the identity  $[g, \alpha] \otimes \beta\gamma = ([g, \beta\gamma] \otimes \alpha)^{-1}$ , we obtain

$$([g, \alpha] \otimes \gamma)([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)^\gamma = ([g, \gamma] \otimes \alpha)^{-[g, \beta]^\gamma} ([g, \beta] \otimes [\gamma^{-1}, \alpha^{-1}]\alpha)^{-\gamma}.$$

Finally, Proposition 2.2(iii, v) imply that  $[g, \alpha] \otimes [\beta, \gamma] = 1_\otimes$ .

(vi) Using parts (i) and (ii), Proposition 2.2(iii), Lemma 3.2(i) and the identity  $g \otimes \alpha\beta = (g \otimes \beta)(g \otimes \alpha)([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)$  give the claim as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g \otimes [\alpha, \beta] &= (g \otimes \alpha\beta)(g \otimes \alpha^{-1}\beta^{-1}) \\ &= ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)([g, \alpha^{-1}] \otimes \beta^{-1}) \\ &= ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)^2. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

An immediate consequence of Proposition 3.5 is the following characterization of  $AR_2^\otimes(G)$ .

**Corollary 3.6.** *For any group  $G$ ,*

$$AR_2^\otimes(G) = \{g \in G : [g, \alpha] \in C_G^\otimes(\alpha^{\text{Aut}(G)}), \text{ for all } \alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)\}.$$

It is known that  $g^G$  is abelian, for each element  $g \in R_2(G)$ . Also Moravec in [9], proves that if  $g \in R_2^\otimes(G)$ , then the normal closure  $(g \otimes h)^{G \otimes G}$  is an abelian group for all  $h \in G$ .

The following corollary gives a similar result for  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel elements.

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $g \in AR_2^\otimes(G)$ . Then the normal closure  $(g \otimes \alpha)^{G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)}$  is an abelian group for every  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $g \in AR_2^\otimes(G)$ . We know that there exists a homomorphism  $\varphi : G \otimes \text{Aut}(G) \rightarrow K(G)$  given by  $(g' \otimes \alpha') \mapsto [g', \alpha']$ . Hence by Propositions 2.2(ii, v) and 3.5(v),

$$\begin{aligned} [(g \otimes \alpha), (g \otimes \alpha)^{(g' \otimes \alpha')}] &= [(g \otimes \alpha), (g \otimes \alpha)^{\varphi(g' \otimes \alpha')}] \\ &= [(g \otimes \alpha), (g^{[g', \alpha']} \otimes \alpha^{[g', \alpha']})] = 1_\otimes. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the result. □

Moravec in [9] shows that if  $G$  is a  $2_\otimes$ -Engel group, then the non-abelian tensor product  $G \otimes G$  is abelian and  $C_G^\otimes(g)$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , for each  $g \in G$ . We say a group  $G$  is  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel group if  $[g, \alpha] \otimes \alpha = 1_\otimes$ , for all  $g \in G$  and  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .

Using [7], we conclude that the cyclic groups of orders 2 and 4 are the only non-trivial abelian 2-auto-Engel groups. Hence one can easily calculate that they are the only abelian  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel groups.

Now we are in a position to prove the following:

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $G$  be a  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel group. Then*

- (i)  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian;
- (ii)  $C_G^\otimes(\alpha)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ .

*Proof.* (i) Using Propositions 2.2(v) and 3.5(v), we have

$$[g \otimes \alpha, h \otimes \beta] = [g, \alpha] \otimes [\varphi_h, \beta] = 1_\otimes,$$

for all  $g, h \in G$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .

(ii) It is clear that  $C_G^\otimes(\alpha)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . Then by Lemma 3.2(ii), for each  $g \in C_G^\otimes(\alpha)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} g^\beta \otimes \alpha &= g[g, \beta] \otimes \alpha = (g \otimes \alpha)^{[g, \beta]}([g, \beta] \otimes \alpha) \\ &= ([g, \alpha] \otimes \beta)^{-1} \\ &= 1_\otimes. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $C_G^\otimes(\alpha)$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ . □

In the following example we give a non-abelian 2-auto-Engel group  $G$ , for which  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian.

**Example.** Let  $G = (\mathbb{Z}_4 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_4) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_4$  be the semidirect products of cyclic group of order 4, which is the group (64,68) in the GAP small groups library [4]. Using GAP, one can check that the centre and the group of automorphisms of  $G$  are both elementary abelian 2-groups. Hence, by Proposition 3.1 in [7], the group  $G$  is a purely non-abelian 2-auto-Engel group. Now by Corollary 3.7 in [7],  $K(G) \leq Z(G)$  and  $\text{Aut}(G) = \text{Aut}_c(G)$ , where  $\text{Aut}_c(G)$  is the group of all central automorphisms of  $G$ . These automorphisms fix the central factor group of  $G$  element-wise, equivalently they commute with inner automorphisms of  $G$ . Hence, by Propositions 2.1(i) and 2.2(ii),

$$\begin{aligned} (g \otimes \alpha)^{-1}(g' \otimes \alpha')(g \otimes \alpha) &= (g' \otimes \alpha')^{[g, \alpha]} \\ &= g'^{[g, \alpha]} \otimes \alpha'^{[g, \alpha]} \\ &= g' \otimes \alpha', \end{aligned}$$

for all  $g, g' \in G$  and  $\alpha, \alpha' \in \text{Aut}(G)$ . Thus the non-abelian tensor product  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian.

Finally, using GAP one can check that  $G = (\mathbb{Z}_4 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_4) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_4$  and  $H = (\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$  are the smallest non-abelian 2-auto-Engel groups of order 64. For more descriptions of these groups see [7]. We remark that by Lemma 3.1,  $AR_2^\otimes(G)$  is contained in  $AR_2(G)$  and using Theorem 3.8 if the group  $G$  is a  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel, then  $G \otimes \text{Aut}(G)$  is abelian. Hence we strongly believe that  $G$  and  $H$  are both  $2_\otimes$ -auto Engel groups.

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