FINITE *p*-GROUPS WHICH ARE NON-INNER NILPOTENT

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Abstract. A group G is called a non-inner nilpotent group, whenever it is nilpotent with respect to a non-inner automorphism. In 2018, all finitely generated abelian non-inner nilpotent groups have been classified. Actually, the authors proved that a finitely generated abelian group G is a non-inner nilpotent group, if G is not isomorphic to cyclic groups $\mathbb{Z}_{p_1p_2...p_t}$ and \mathbb{Z} , for a positive integer t and distinct primes p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_t . In this paper, we make this conjecture that all finite non-abelian p-groups are non-inner nilpotent and we prove this conjecture for finite p-groups of nilpotency class 2 or of co-class 2.

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 ${\bf Key}$ words. Central automorphism, inner automorphism, nilpotent group, non-inner nilpotent group.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let G be a group and $\alpha \in \operatorname{Aut}(G)$ be a fixed automorphism of G. An α -commutator of elements $x, y \in G$ is defined as $[x, y]_{\alpha} = x^{-1}y^{-1}xy^{\alpha}$. The subgroup

$$Z^{\alpha}(G) = \{ x \in G : [y, x]_{\alpha} = 1, \forall y \in G \}$$

is called the α -center subgroup of G, is the intersection of subgroups Z(G) and Fix $(\alpha) = \{x \in G : x^{\alpha} = x\}$, so is a normal subgroup of G which is invariant under α . Now, assume that N is an arbitrary normal subgroup of G which is invariant under α and $\bar{\alpha}$ is an automorphism of quotient group G/N by the rule $gN^{\bar{\alpha}} = g^{\alpha}N$. Then the following normal series

$$\{1\} = G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \cdots \trianglelefteq G_n = G,$$

is called a central α -series whenever $G_i^{\alpha} = G_i$ and $G_{i+1}/G_i \leq Z^{\bar{\alpha}}(G/G_i)$, for $0 \leq i \leq n-1$. An α -nilpotent group is a group which possesses at least a central α -series. Here, we recall the definition of two normal series that have been introduced by Barzegar et al. in [1], to find necessary and sufficient conditions for a given group G to be α -nilpotent, for an automorphism $\alpha \in \operatorname{Aut}(G)$. Put $Z_1^{\alpha}(G) = Z^{\alpha}(G)$ and define $Z^{\bar{\alpha}}(\frac{G}{Z_{i-1}^{\alpha}(G)}) = \frac{Z_i^{\alpha}(G)}{Z_{i-1}^{\alpha}(G)}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$, then the normal series

$$\{1\} = Z_0^{\alpha}(G) \trianglelefteq Z_1^{\alpha}(G) \trianglelefteq Z_2^{\alpha}(G) \trianglelefteq \dots$$

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is said to be an upper central α -series. For a group G and $\alpha \in \operatorname{Aut}(G)$, the subgroup $\Gamma_2^{\alpha}(G) = \langle [x, y]_{\alpha} : x, y \in G \rangle$ is called the α -commutator subgroup. The normal series

$$G = \Gamma_1^{\alpha}(G) \supseteq \Gamma_2^{\alpha}(G) \supseteq \cdots \supseteq \Gamma_{n+1}^{\alpha}(G) \supseteq \dots,$$

is called a lower central α -series, where

$$\Gamma_{n+1}^{\alpha}(G) = [G, \Gamma_n^{\alpha}(G)]_{\alpha} = \langle [x, y] : x \in G, y \in \Gamma_n^{\alpha}(G) \rangle$$

and $\Gamma_i^{\alpha}(G)^{\alpha} = \Gamma_i^{\alpha}(G)$. In [1], it has been proved that G is α -nilpotent if and only if there is a positive integer s such that $Z_s^{\alpha}(G) = G$, if and only if there exists a positive integer r such that $\Gamma_r^{\alpha}(G) = \{1\}$. It is not difficult to see that $Z_n^{\alpha}(G) \leq Z_n(G)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so if a group G is α -nilpotent, then it is nilpotent. But the converse is not valid in general, for example, the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}_{p_1p_2...p_t}$ is nilpotent only related to the identity automorphism, for distinct primes p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_t . Therefore, it is important to discover some conditions that nilpotency and α -nilpotency are equivalent under such conditions, for a fixed automorphism α . Assume that Inn(G) contains all inner automorphisms of G and an element $\alpha_g \in \text{Inn}(G)$ acts on $x \in G$ by $x^{\alpha_g} = g^{-1}xg$, for all $g \in G$. One can prove that $Z_n^{\alpha_g}(G) = Z_n(G)$, for all $n \geq 1$, so G is nilpotent if and only if is α_g -nilpotent. Therefore, the following question comes to the mind naturally:

Question. Is there any non-inner automorphism α of a nilpotent group G such that G is α -nilpotent?

A group G is called a non-inner nilpotent group, whenever it is nilpotent related to a non-inner automorphism. We studied non-inner nilpotency of finitely generated abelian groups and some families of finite non-abelian pgroups in [3] and [4], respectively. Actually, we classified all finitely generated abelian groups that are non-inner nilpotent, in this way we have shown that a finitely generated abelian group G is a non-inner nilpotent group, if G is not isomorphic to cyclic groups $\mathbb{Z}_{p_1p_2...p_t}$ and \mathbb{Z} , for a positive integer t and distinct primes p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_t . In this paper, we make the following conjecture:

Conjecture. All finite non-abelian p-groups are non-inner nilpotent.

In paper [4], we proved that this conjecture is valid for finite non-abelian p-groups of order p^3 and for the group

$$M_n(p) = \langle x, y : x^{p^{n-1}} = y^p = 1, \ xy = yx^{p^{n-2}+1} \rangle$$

where p is an odd prime number and $n \geq 3$. Furthermore, we proved that if a group G possesses a locally inner automorphism which is not inner, then it is a non-inner nilpotent group. Corollary 2.15 of [4], is about non-inner nilpotent p-groups of order p^5 which have a non-inner locally inner automorphism. Here, we investigate non-inner nilpotency of finite p-groups of order p^4 or p^5 where not have been studied in paper [4]. Actually, we prove the above conjecture for some families of groups of order p^5 where all their locally inner automorphisms

are inner. For more details about locally inner automorphisms of some finite p-groups, see [5]. We also prove this conjecture for finite p-groups of nilpotency class 2 or of co-class 2.

An automorphism α of group G is called a central automorphism, if $x^{-1}x^{\alpha} \in Z(G)$ for all $x \in G$. We denote the subgroup of all central automorphisms of G by $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$. Assume that $C_{\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)}(Z(G))$ is the group of all central automorphisms of G fixing Z(G) element-wise, then we see that if $\alpha \in C_{\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)}(Z(G))$, then $Z_n^{\alpha}(G) = Z_n(G)$ for all $n \geq 1$, and nilpotency and α -nilpotency are equivalent. Therefore, if $C_{\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)}(Z(G)) \nleq \operatorname{Inn}(G)$, then G is a non-inner nilpotency group, so we study the non-inner nilpotency of finite groups such that $C_{\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)}(Z(G)) \leq \operatorname{Inn}(G)$. For convenience, we denote $C_{\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)}(Z(G))$ by C^* .

2. MAIN RESULT

In this section, we recall from [1], the notion non-inner nilpotent group to study our conjecture for finite p-groups of maximal class, of nilpotency class 2 or of co-class 2. The structure of non-inner automorphisms and central automorphisms of finite p-groups help us to complete our investigation.

DEFINITION 2.1. A group G is said to be non-inner nilpotent, whenever there exists a non-inner automorphism α of G such that G is α -nilpotent.

DEFINITION 2.2. An automorphism α of a group G is called central if α commutes with every inner automorphism or equivalently if $g^{-1}g^{\alpha} \in Z(G)$, for all $g \in G$. The set of all central automorphisms of group G is denoted by $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$.

Let G be a group. The subgroup of $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$ which contains all central automorphisms of G fixing Z(G) element-wise is denoted by C^* . The equality of subgroups C^* , $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$ and $\operatorname{Inn}(G)$ is one of the most interesting topics between authors who are working on automorphisms of groups. For instance, authors in [2] proved that if C^* is a subgroup of $\operatorname{Inn}(G)$, then $C^* = Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$. They also proved that if $C^* = \operatorname{Aut}_c(G) = Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$, then $Z(G) \leq G'$ and if $Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$ is a cyclic group, then $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G) \geq Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$. Therefore, if G is a p-group of maximal class, then $C^* = \operatorname{Aut}_c(G) \geq Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$. Now, the following result follows.

THEOREM 2.3. If G is a finite non-abelian p-group of maximal class, then it is non-inner nilpotent.

THEOREM 2.4 ([10]). If G is a finite p-group, then $C^* = \text{Inn}(G)$ if and only if G is abelian or G is nilpotent of class 2 and Z(G) is cyclic.

Here, we prove that if G is a p-group of nilpotency class 2 with non-cyclic center, then G is a non-inner nilpotent group.

THEOREM 2.5. Let G be a finite p-group of nilpotency class 2 such that Z(G) is non-cyclic. Then G is a non-inner nilpotent group.

Proof. We show that $\operatorname{Inn}(G) \leq C^*$ if and only if G is nilpotent of class 2. If G is nilpotent of class 2, then $Z_2(G) = G$ and if $\alpha_g \in \operatorname{Inn}(G)$, then $[x,g] = x^{-1}x^{\alpha_g} \in Z(G)$ for every $x \in G$. Clearly, α_g fixes Z(G) element-wise, so $\alpha_g \in C^*$. Conversely, if $\operatorname{Inn}(G) \leq C^*$, then $x^{-1}x^{\alpha_g} \in Z(G)$ for all $x, g \in G$ and hence G is nilpotent of class 2. Now, since Z(G) is non-cyclic, then by Theorem 2.4, $\operatorname{Inn}(G)$ is a proper subgroup of C^* . Choose $\alpha \in C^* \setminus \operatorname{Inn}(G)$, then G is α -nilpotent and the proof is completed. \Box

By Theorem 2.5, a finite p-group of nilpotency class 2 with non-cyclic center is a non-inner nilpotent group. The Example 2.8. of [4], shows that the group

$$G = M_n(p) = \langle x, y : x^{p^{n-1}} = y^p = 1, \ xy = yx^{p^{n-2}+1}$$

is a finite non-inner nilpotent *p*-group of class 2 such that its center is cyclic.

The central automorphisms of groups of order p^5 or p^6 have been studied in [12], actually, they find necessary and sufficient conditions for which $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G) = Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$. For instance, they proved Theorem 2.6 on *p*-groups of order p^5 .

THEOREM 2.6. If $|G| = p^5$, p an odd prime number, and G is of nilpotency class 3, then $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G) = Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$ if and only if G is isomorphic to

$$\Phi_8(32) = \langle a, b : a^{p^2} = 1 = b^{p^3}, a^{-1}ba = b^{p+1} \rangle.$$

Note that groups of order p^5 , where p is an odd prime, are divided into ten isoclinism families in [7]. The group $\Phi_8(32)$ in the previous theorem, is the only group in the eighth family of nilpotency class 3 and $d(\Phi_8(32)) = 2$.

In [6] and [11], the equality of $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$ and C^* has been studied, next theorem is one of the results of [6].

THEOREM 2.7. If G is a non-abelian p-group and exp(Z(G)) = p, then $\operatorname{Aut}_c(G) = C^*$ if and only if $Z(G) \leq \Phi(G)$, where $\Phi(G)$ is the Frattini subgroup of G.

Finite non-inner nilpotent p-groups of order p^3 , have been studied in [4]. Here, we prove our conjecture for a finite non-abelian p-group of order p^4 by using Theorem 2.5 and Theorem 2.7. The classification of p-groups of order p^4 which is used in the following theorem, has been investigated in [9].

THEOREM 2.8. If G is a finite non-abelian p-group of order p^4 , p > 3, then G is a non-inner nilpotent group.

Proof. Assume first that $|G'| = p^2$, then G is nilpotent of class 3, |Z(G)| = pand $Z(G) \leq G'$, because $Z(G) \cap G' \neq \{1\}$. Since G is nilpotent, then $G' \leq \Phi(G)$ and so $Z(G) \leq \Phi(G)$ and by Theorem 2.7, $C^* = \operatorname{Aut}_c(G)$. Furthermore, $\operatorname{Inn}(G)$ is a non-abelian p-group of order p^3 , so $|Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))| = p$ and by Corollary 3.8. of [2], $C^* = \operatorname{Aut}_c(G) \geq Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$. Hence, G is a non-inner nilpotent group. Now, if |G'| = p, then G is nilpotent of class 2, $|Z(G)| = p^2$ and there exist only 6 groups of order p^4 . If Z(G) is non-cyclic, then by Theorem 2.5 G is a non-inner nilpotent group. If Z(G) is cyclic, then G is isomorphic to one of the following groups

$$G_1 = \langle a, b : a^{p^3} = b^p = 1, ba = a^{1+p^2}b \rangle,$$

$$G_2 = \langle a, b, c : a^{p^2} = b^p = c^p = 1, cb = a^p bc, ab = ba, ac = ca \rangle.$$

Obviously, $G_1 \cong M_4(p)$, which is non-inner nilpotent by Example 2.8. of [4]. If $G \cong G_2$, then we consider α as $a^{\alpha} = a$, $b^{\alpha} = a^p b$ and $c^{\alpha} = cb$, so we see that $\Gamma_2^{\alpha}(G) = \langle a^p, b \rangle, \ \Gamma_3^{\alpha}(G) = \langle a^p \rangle, \ \Gamma_4^{\alpha}(G) = \{1\}, \ \alpha \notin \operatorname{Inn}(G) \text{ and } G \text{ is a non-inner}$ nilpotent group.

The next theorem provides the condition that under which, every finite non-abelian *p*-group of co-class 2 is a non-inner nilpotent group.

THEOREM 2.9. If G is a finite non-abelian p-group of co-class 2, p is odd prime, such that $|Z(G)| \neq p$, then G is a non-inner nilpotent group.

Proof. Assume that $|G| = p^n$. Since G is of co-class 2, then $Z_{n-2}(G) = G$. If the nilpotency class of G is 2, then by assumption we should have n = 4 and by Theorem 2.8 G is a non-inner nilpotent group. So assume that the nilpotency class of G is equal or greater than 3. If $|Z(G)| = p^3$, then $|Z_2(G)| = p^4$ and $|\frac{Z_2(G)}{Z(G)}| = |Z(\frac{G}{Z(G)})| = p$ and $Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$ is a cyclic group. We know that C^* is a non-cyclic group, thus $Z(\operatorname{Inn}(G))$ is a proper subgroup of C^* and G is non-inner nilpotent. Now, if $|Z(G)| = p^2$, then $|\frac{G}{Z(G)}| = p^{n-2}$ and $\frac{G}{Z(G)}$ is of maximal class. Here, we should note that if $\frac{G}{Z(G)}$ is abelian, then $Z_2(G) = G$ and G is of nilpotency class less than 2, which is a contradiction. Hence, $Z(\frac{G}{Z(G)})$ is a proper subgroup of C^* of order p and we are done.

Now, we prove that there exists a finite non-inner nilpotent group of coclass 2 with the center of prime order p, actually we study the non-inner nilpotency of group $\Phi_8(32)$. By Theorem 2.6, we can not use the subgroup C^* for investigating non-inner nilpotency of $\Phi_8(32)$. Also, by the Theorem 2.14. of [4], all locally inner automorphisms of $\Phi_8(32)$ are inner, so we should study the non-inner nilpotency of this group by the structure of its automorphisms, directly. At first, we present a lemma which deduce some properties of $\Phi_8(32)$.

LEMMA 2.10. Let p be an odd prime number. If $G \cong \Phi_8(32)$, then for $m, n, r \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have

(i)
$$b^n a^m = a^m b^{n(p+1)^m}$$
.

- (ii) $(a^m b^n)^r = a^{rm} b^{n(\frac{(p+1)^{rm}-1}{(p+1)^{m-1}})}$ and, in the special case, we have $(a^p b)^n = a^{np} b^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}p^2 + n}$,
- (ii) $(a^m b^n)^r = a^{rm} b^{n(\frac{(p+1)^{rm}-1}{(p+1)^{m}-1})}$ and, in the special case, we have $(a^p b)^n = a^{np} b^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}p^2+n}$,

(iii) the automorphism group of G is

 $\operatorname{Aut}(G) = \{ \alpha_{z,\omega,\mu} : a^{\alpha_{z,\omega,\mu}} = a(a^z b^\omega)^\mu, b^{\alpha_{z,\omega,\mu}} = a^z b^\omega; \ zp \stackrel{p^2}{\equiv} 0, \ \omega \stackrel{p}{\neq} 0, \ \mu p^2 \stackrel{p^3}{\equiv} 0 \}.$

Proof. One can prove parts (i) and (ii) by induction on m, n and r for positive integers m, n and r. If m, n or r is a negative integer, then use a relation between a and b as $a^{-1}ba = b^{p+1}$. Since G is a p-group with cyclic commutator subgroup, then part (iii) is done by the main result of [8].

THEOREM 2.11. If G is a p-group which is defined in Theorem 2.6 and $\alpha = \alpha_{p,1,\mu} \in \text{Aut}(G)$. Then G is an α -nilpotent group.

Proof. Since $\mu p^2 \stackrel{p^3}{\equiv} 0$, then there exists an integer $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\mu = pk$. An automorphism α acts on generators of G as $a^{\alpha} = a(a^p b)^{\mu}$ and $b^{\alpha} = a^p b$. By Lemma 2.10, we have

$$(a^{p}b)^{\mu} = a^{p\mu}b^{\frac{\mu(\mu-1)}{2}p^{2}+\mu},$$

from where we conclude that $(a^{p}b)^{\mu} = b^{\mu}$, because $\mu = pk$ and $a^{p^{2}} = b^{p^{3}} = 1$. Also, the part (ii) of Lemma 2.10 shows that $(ab^{\mu})^{p} = a^{p}b^{kp^{2}}$. It is not difficult to prove that $b^{(p+1)^{p}} = b^{p^{2}+1}$. Now, we conclude that the α -commutator subgroup of G, $\Gamma_{2}^{\alpha}(G)$, is generated by the following α -commutators

$$[a,a]_{\alpha} = b^{\mu}, \ [a,b]_{\alpha} = a^{p}b^{-(p^{2}+p)}, \ [b,a]_{\alpha} = b^{p+\mu}, \ [b,b]_{\alpha} = a^{p}b^{-p^{2}}.$$

Also, we deduce the generators of $\Gamma_3^{\alpha}(G)$ as

$$[a, b^{\mu}]_{\alpha} = b^{-kp^2}, [a, a^p b^{-p^2 - p}]_{\alpha} = b^{p^2(k+1)}, [a, b^{p+\mu}]_{\alpha} = b^{-p^2(k+1)},$$

$$[a, a^{p}b^{-p^{2}}]_{\alpha} = b^{kp^{2}}, [b, a^{p}b^{-p^{2}-p}]_{\alpha} = b^{(k+1)p^{2}},$$

and

$$[b, a^p b^{-p^2}]_{\alpha} = b^{p^2(k+1)}, [b, b^{\mu}]_{\alpha} = [b, b^{\mu+p}]_{\alpha} = 1.$$

Now, we have

$$[a, b^{kp^2}]_{\alpha} = [a, b^{(k+1)p^2}]_{\alpha} = [b, b^{kp^2}]_{\alpha} = [b, b^{(k+1)p^2}]_{\alpha} = 1$$

Hence, $\Gamma_4^{\alpha}(G) = \{1\}$ and G is an α -nilpotent group.

THEOREM 2.12. Assume that $G \cong \Phi_8(32)$ and $\alpha = \alpha_{0,\omega,\mu} \in \operatorname{Aut}(G)$. Then G is α -nilpotent if and only if $\omega \stackrel{p}{\equiv} 1$.

Proof. Let $\mu = pk$, for some integer $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. We see that

$$[a, b^{m}]_{\alpha} = a^{-1}b^{-m}ab^{m\omega} = a^{-1}ab^{-m(p+1)}b^{m\omega} = b^{m(\omega-p-1)}b^{m\omega}$$

and $[b, b^n]_{\alpha} = b^{n(\omega-1)}, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Also, $[a, a]_{\alpha} = b^{p\omega k}, [a, b]_{\alpha} = b^{\omega-p-1}, [b, a]_{\alpha} = b^{-1}a^{-1}bab^{p\omega k} = b^{p(\omega k+1)}, [b, b]_{\alpha} = b^{\omega-1}$. Therefore,

$$\Gamma_2^{\alpha}(G) = \langle b^{p\omega k}, b^{\omega - p - 1}, b^{p(\omega k + 1)}, b^{\omega - 1} \rangle.$$

As we mentioned at the first part of the proof of theorem, $[a, b^m]_{\alpha} = b^{m(\omega-p-1)}$ and $[b, b^n]_{\alpha} = b^{n(\omega-1)}$, therefore we conclude that

$$\begin{split} \Gamma_4^{\alpha}(G) &= \langle b^{p(\omega-p-1)^2}, b^{p(\omega-p-1)(\omega-1)}, b^{(\omega-p-1)^3}, b^{p(\omega-1)^2}, b^{(\omega-p-1)^2(\omega-1)}, \\ & b^{(\omega-p-1)(\omega-1)^2}, b^{(\omega-1)^3} \rangle. \end{split}$$

Now, if $\omega \stackrel{p}{\equiv} 1$, then $\Gamma_4^{\alpha}(G) = \{1\}$ and G is an α -nilpotent group. Otherwise, if $\omega \stackrel{p}{\equiv} 1$, then $b^{(\omega-1)^n} \in \Gamma_{n+1}^{\alpha}(G)$ and $\Gamma_{n+1}^{\alpha}(G)$ is a non-trivial subgroup of G for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and G can not be α -nilpotent.

THEOREM 2.13. Let $G \cong \Phi_8(32)$. Then G is a non-inner nilpotent group.

Proof. Define $\alpha \in \operatorname{Aut}(G)$ as $a^{\alpha} = a$, $b^{\alpha} = a^{p}b$, then by Theorem 2.11, G is an α -nilpotent. The automorphism α is a non-inner automorphism of G, because if there exists $x = a^{i}b^{j} \in G$ such that $\alpha = \alpha_{x}$ then $b^{\alpha} = b^{\alpha_{x}}$. Now, we have

$$a^{p}b = x^{-1}bx = (a^{i}b^{j})^{-1}b(a^{i}b^{j}) = b^{-j}a^{-i}ba^{i}b^{j} = b^{(p+1)^{i}},$$

therefore, $a^p b = b^{(p+1)^i}$ and so

$$a^{p}b = b^{p^{i} + \binom{i}{1}p^{i-1} + \binom{i}{2}p^{i-2} + \dots + \binom{i}{i-1}p},$$

by the relation $ba^p = a^p b^{(p+1)^p}$, we can see that $b = b^{(p+1)^p}$ and $p^3 \mid (p+1)^p - 1$. But

$$(p+1)^{p} - 1 = {\binom{p}{0}}p^{p} + {\binom{p}{1}}p^{p-1} + {\binom{p}{2}}p^{p-2} + \dots + {\binom{p}{p-1}}p$$

and we should have $p^3 \mid {p \choose 0} p^p + \cdots + p^2$, which is a contradiction. Hence, α is a non-inner automorphism of G.

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