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Parker, Christopher; Semeraro, Jason

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Fusion systems over a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$

Chris Parker¹ · Jason Semeraro²

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Abstract For S a Sylow p -subgroup of the group $G_2(p)$ for p odd, up to isomorphism of fusion systems, we determine all saturated fusion systems \mathcal{F} on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. For $p \neq 7$, all such fusion systems are realized by finite groups whereas for $p = 7$ there are 29 saturated fusion systems of which 27 are exotic.

Keywords Groups of Lie type · Fusion systems · Exotic fusion systems

Mathematics Subject Classification 20D20 · 20D05

1 Introduction

Let $p \geq 3$ and S be a Sylow p -subgroup of the group $G_2(p)$. The purpose of this paper is to give a complete classification of all saturated fusion systems \mathcal{F} over S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. This may be viewed as a contribution to a program which aims to classify all saturated fusion systems over maximal unipotent subgroups of finite groups of Lie Type of rank 2 and is thus a natural continuation of work carried out in [6, 12, 20]. In a different direction, when $p \geq 5$ our paper contributes to the problem of listing all saturated fusion systems \mathcal{F} over a Sylow p -subgroup with an extraspecial p -subgroup of index p , currently under investigation by the first author and Raul Moragues Moncho. An infinite family of such fusion systems was discovered recently by the first author and Stroth [18], and it is the p -group underlying the smallest member of this family on which we focus our attention. It will also form part

✉ Jason Semeraro
jps1@leicester.ac.uk

Chris Parker
c.w.parker@bham.ac.uk

¹ School of Mathematics, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

² Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research, Department of Mathematics, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, UK

of the classification of fusion systems of sectional p -rank 4 for odd primes p . All of these contributions add to our knowledge of saturated fusion systems defined on p -groups for odd primes p and so extend our understanding of how exotic fusion systems arise at odd primes [1, Problem 7.4] and [2, Problem 7.6].

When $p \geq 5$, the problem naturally breaks into three stages. First in Sect. 3 we give a presentation for S and provide a concrete description of its action on the unique extraspecial subgroup Q of index p . Using this description, if \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S we whittle down the possibilities for the \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups in Sect. 4 by using results concerning the way in which automorphisms of a p -group act on various subgroups and conditions on the existence of certain lifts of automorphism groups which arise because of the saturation axiom.

Armed with a small list of possibilities for the \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups, in Sect. 5 we proceed to analyse the various combinations of essential subgroups and morphisms for \mathcal{F} which have the potential to lead to a saturated fusion system. Here we are especially reliant on a short list of possibilities for the group $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ which follows from some results obtained by the second author together with Craven and Oliver in [8]. One issue that arises during this stage is the question of whether or not a fusion system is uniquely determined by the above data. We develop some techniques to answer this, especially relying on some delicate calculations of automorphism groups carried out at the end of Sect. 3. Generally, our scheme is as follows: suppose for simplicity that we are in the typical case where there are just two essential subgroups Q and R in \mathcal{F} , which are the unipotent radical subgroups of proper parabolic subgroups of $G_2(p)$ lying in S . In this generic case we know that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ contains a normal subgroup isomorphic to $\text{SL}_2(p)$ by Lemma 4.5. The saturation axiom and the presence of this subgroup of $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ combine to give the existence of certain morphisms in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and then in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ by restriction. Now we use just the existence of these automorphisms to determine the possibilities for the structure of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(Q)$ containing $\text{Aut}_S(Q)$. Using the Model Theorem [1, Theorem I.4.9], we discover that $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ are uniquely determined. Since we are allowed to adjust a fusion system by morphisms in $\text{Aut}(S)$ while preserving its isomorphism type, we may from this point on assume that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ is a fixed subgroup of $\text{Aut}(S)$ identified as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ where B is as defined in Sect. 3. This allows us to make explicit calculations with elements of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$. Next we consider the subgroup $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))$ given by restricting the morphisms in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ to R . Employing Lemma 3.6, we already know that, in these favourable circumstances, in $\text{Aut}(R)$ there is a unique subgroup X containing $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))$ with $\text{Aut}_S(R) \in \text{Syl}_p(X)$ and $O^{p'}(X) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$. Thus we must have $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = X$ and this is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$. Thus we see that all the morphisms of the essential subgroups of \mathcal{F} are given uniquely by the group $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and so the fusion systems are uniquely determined.

In the final stage, in Sect. 6, we examine each candidate fusion system \mathcal{F} in turn and establish (a) its existence, (b) whether it is saturated and (c) whether it is realizable as the fusion system of a finite (almost simple) group. Here the fact that the fusion systems are uniquely determined by the structure of the automorphism groups of their essential subgroups is used implicitly. In all but finitely many cases, we obtain affirmative answers to (a) and (b) from an affirmative answer to (c). In the remaining cases, it is always possible to realize \mathcal{F} as the fusion system of a free amalgamated product of finite groups and saturation is established using the geometry of the associated coset graph (Theorem 6.1).

When $p = 3$, the two unipotent radical subgroups of $G_2(3)$ are isomorphic so that although the overall strategy of the proof is the same, the individual arguments are somewhat different. In addition, in this case there is only one group to consider and we can support our arguments

by computer calculations [3] especially in the proof of uniqueness of the fusion systems. This case is treated in the final section.

Our main theorem is as follows:

Theorem 1.1 *Suppose that $p \geq 3$, S is a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ and \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system over S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then either \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $G_2(p)$, $\text{Aut}(G_2(3))$ or $p \in \{5, 7\}$ and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to one of 32 examples tabulated in Table 1. Furthermore, each of the fusion systems given in Table 1 is saturated.*

The examples described in Table 1 include the fusion systems of the sporadic simple groups Ly, HN, B, the almost simple group $\text{Aut}(\text{HN})$ (all for $p = 5$) and the sporadic simple group M when $p = 7$. It also includes 27 exotic fusion systems which all occur when $p = 7$. Two of the exotic systems were discovered by Parker and Stroth [18] and the remainder are new to this article. They all are in some way related to the Monster sporadic simple group, though it is *not* the case that the Monster is “universal” in the sense that it “contains” all the smaller examples. This is somehow a subtle point. The fact is, and this plays no part in the classification, that in $\text{GSp}_4(7)$, the subgroup $3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$ does not contain $\text{GL}_2(7)$ but rather only a half of this group and so the fusion system that comes from $G_2(7)$ is not contained in the fusion system determined by the Monster when $p = 7$.

Corollary 1.2 *Suppose that $p \geq 3$, S is a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ and \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system over S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then either \mathcal{F} is realized by a finite group or $p = 7$ and \mathcal{F} is one of 27 fusion systems listed in Table 1.*

We close the introduction with a few words about our notation. We use [1, 7, 9] for standard group theoretic and fusion theoretic conventions. Particularly we use [1, 7] as a sources for the introduction of fusion systems in Sect. 2. The field of order p is denoted by \mathbb{F}_p , the symmetric and alternating groups of degree n are denoted by $\text{Alt}(n)$ and $\text{Sym}(n)$ respectively and other than that we follow classical nomenclature for the finite simple groups and their near relatives. The Frobenius group of order n is written as $\text{Frob}(n)$ and cyclic groups are mostly represented just by their order. The notation 2_-^{1+4} denotes an extraspecial group of $-$ type and order 2^5 and, for p odd, p_+^{1+2} is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p . We use $G = A \circ B$ to indicate that G is a central product of the groups A and B . We follow the ATLAS conventions for group extensions. This means that an “upper” dot informs the reader that an extension is non-split. When we write $G \sim A.B$ we read that G has a normal subgroup isomorphic to A and a corresponding quotient isomorphic to B . This provides a handy but inaccurate description of group structures. In our case, each time we use this notation the groups will be determined uniquely up to isomorphism as a subgroup of $\text{GSp}_4(p)$ or $\text{GL}_2(p)$. We point out that the notation $\text{SL}_2(7).2$ will denote the unique normal subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(7)$ of index 3.

2 Preliminaries: fusion systems and group theory

We begin by recalling the definition of a fusion system. For a group G , p -subgroup S of G and $P, Q \leq S$ define

$$N_G(P, Q) = \{g \in G \mid P^g \leq Q\} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Hom}_G(P, Q) = \{c_g \mid g \in N_G(P, Q)\},$$

where c_g is the conjugation map induced by g :

$$c_g : x \mapsto g^{-1}xg.$$

Define $\mathcal{F}_S(G)$ to be the category with objects all the subgroups of S , and for objects P and Q of $\mathcal{F}_S(G)$, the set of morphisms from P to Q is

$$\text{Mor}_{\mathcal{F}_S(G)}(P, Q) = \text{Hom}_G(P, Q).$$

Then $\mathcal{F}_S(G)$ is an example of a *fusion system* on S as defined, for example, in [1, Definition 2.1]. If S is a finite p -group and \mathcal{F} is a fusion system on S we say that \mathcal{F} is *realizable* if there exists a finite group G with $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ such that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(G)$. Otherwise \mathcal{F} is said to be *exotic*. If $P \leq S$, then define the set of \mathcal{F} -conjugates of P to be

$$P^{\mathcal{F}} = \{P\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(P, S)\}$$

and similarly, for $g \in S$, we use

$$g^{\mathcal{F}} = \{g\alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(\langle g \rangle, S)\}$$

for the set of images of g under morphisms in \mathcal{F} . For $P \leq S$, we put $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P) = \text{Mor}_{\mathcal{F}}(P, P)$, $\text{Aut}_S(P) = \text{Hom}_S(P, P)$, $\text{Inn}(P)$ the inner automorphisms of P and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(P) = \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P)/\text{Inn}(P)$. Similarly $\text{Out}_S(P) = \text{Aut}_S(P)/\text{Inn}(P)$. Note that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \cong \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P)$ for each $Q \in P^{\mathcal{F}}$. The set of all morphisms in \mathcal{F} is denoted by $\text{Mor}(\mathcal{F})$. Two fusion systems \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F}' on S are isomorphic if there exists $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(S)$ such that for all $P, Q \leq S$,

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}'}(P\alpha, Q\alpha) = \{\alpha^{-1}|_{P\alpha}\theta\alpha \mid \theta \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(P, Q)\}.$$

We write $\mathcal{F} \cong \mathcal{F}'$ or $\mathcal{F}' = \mathcal{F}^\alpha$ if we wish to specify α . A proper subgroup $H < G$ of a finite group G is *strongly p -embedded* in G if p divides $|H|$ and p does not divide $|H \cap H^g|$ for each $g \in G \setminus H$. The next definition summarizes the main concepts we will need when dealing with fusion systems:

Definition 2.1 Let \mathcal{F} be a fusion system on a finite p -group S and $P, Q \leq S$. Then,

- (a) P is *fully \mathcal{F} -normalized* provided $|N_S(P)| \geq |N_S(Q)|$ for all $Q \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{F}}$;
- (b) P is *fully \mathcal{F} -centralized* provided $|C_S(P)| \geq |C_S(Q)|$ for all $Q \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{F}}$;
- (c) P is *fully \mathcal{F} -automized* provided $\text{Aut}_S(P) \in \text{Syl}_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P))$;
- (d) P is *\mathcal{F} -centric* if $C_S(Q) = Z(Q)$ for all $Q \in P^{\mathcal{F}}$;
- (e) P is *\mathcal{F} -essential* if $P < S$, P is \mathcal{F} -centric and fully \mathcal{F} -normalized and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(P)$ contains a strongly p -embedded subgroup; write $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}}$ (or simply \mathcal{E}) to denote the set of \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups of \mathcal{F} ;
- (f) P is *strongly \mathcal{F} -closed* if for each $g \in P$, $g^{\mathcal{F}} \subseteq P$;
- (g) if $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(P, Q)$ is an isomorphism,

$$N_\alpha = \{g \in N_S(P) \mid \alpha^{-1}c_g\alpha \in \text{Aut}_S(Q)\}$$

is the α -extension control subgroup of S ;

- (h) Q is *\mathcal{F} -receptive* provided for all isomorphisms $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(P, Q)$, there exists $\tilde{\alpha} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_\alpha, S)$ such that $\tilde{\alpha}|_P = \alpha$;
- (i) P is *\mathcal{F} -saturated* provided there exists $Q \in P^{\mathcal{F}}$ such that Q is simultaneously
 1. fully \mathcal{F} -automized; and
 2. \mathcal{F} -receptive;
- (j) \mathcal{F} is *saturated* if every subgroup of S is \mathcal{F} -saturated.

Saturated fusion systems are the main focus of study. Suppose that \mathcal{F} is saturated. Then, by [1, Lemma 2.6(c)], a subgroup Q of S is fully \mathcal{F} -normalized if and only if it is fully \mathcal{F} -automized and \mathcal{F} -receptive. In particular, \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups are both fully \mathcal{F} -automized and \mathcal{F} -receptive. We shall exploit the saturation property as follows. Suppose that Q is \mathcal{F} -receptive. If $\alpha \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))$, then

$$N_\alpha = \{x \in N_S(Q) \mid \alpha^{-1}c_x\alpha \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))\} = N_S(Q)$$

and so there exists $\tilde{\alpha} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(Q), S)$ extending α . Since

$$N_S(Q)\tilde{\alpha} \leq N_S(Q\tilde{\alpha}) = N_S(Q\alpha) = N_S(Q),$$

we have $\tilde{\alpha} \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(Q))$. Therefore every $\alpha \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))$ extends to an element of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(Q))$. We shall often use the fact that $O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)) = \text{Inn}(E)$ if E is \mathcal{F} -essential which follows as $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ has a strongly p -embedded subgroup.

Recall that when G is a finite group and $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$, we have that $\mathcal{F}_S(G)$ is saturated. If X is a set of injective morphisms between various subgroups of S , then we may define $\langle X \rangle$ to be the fusion system obtained by intersecting all the fusion systems on S which have the members of X as morphisms.

The next result is commonly referred to in the literature as ‘‘Alperin’s Theorem.’’

Theorem 2.2 *Let \mathcal{F} be a saturated fusion system on a finite p -group S . Then*

$$\mathcal{F} = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E) \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}} \cup \{S\} \rangle.$$

For Q a subgroup of S , we take the definition of $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ from [1, Definition I.5.3] and note that when Q is fully \mathcal{F} -normalised, $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is a saturated fusion system on $N_S(Q)$ by [1, Theorem I.5.5].

A subgroup $Q \leq S$ is normal in \mathcal{F} if and only if $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) = \mathcal{F}$ which is if and only if $Q \leq \bigcap_{P \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}}} P$ and, for $P \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}} \cup \{S\}$, Q is $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P)$ -invariant (see [1, Proposition 4.5].) The subgroup $O_p(\mathcal{F})$ of S is the largest normal subgroup of \mathcal{F} . Recall the definition of $O^{p'}(\mathcal{F})$ which can be found in [7, Section 7.5], and that a subsystem of \mathcal{F} has index prime to p (or p' -index) in \mathcal{F} if and only if it contains $O^{p'}(\mathcal{F})$. Define

$$O_*^{p'}(\mathcal{F}) = \langle O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \mid R \leq S \rangle.$$

Then put

$$\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S) = \langle \alpha \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \mid \alpha|_P \in \text{Hom}_{O_*^{p'}(\mathcal{F})}(P, S) \text{ for some } \mathcal{F}\text{-centric } P \leq S \rangle,$$

and set

$$\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F}) = \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) / \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S).$$

We have the following:

Theorem 2.3 *Suppose that \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S . Then there is a one-to-one correspondence between saturated sub-fusion systems of \mathcal{F} on S of index prime to p and subgroups of $\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F})$.*

Proof See [1, Theorem 7.7]. □

When proving that a fusion system is saturated, the following theorem is a basic tool:

Theorem 2.4 *Let \mathcal{F} be a fusion system on a finite p -group S and let \mathcal{C} denote the set of all \mathcal{F} -centric subgroups. Suppose that $\mathcal{F} = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P) \mid P \in \mathcal{C} \rangle$. If P is \mathcal{F} -saturated for each $P \in \mathcal{C}$, then \mathcal{F} is saturated.*

Proof See [5, Theorem A]. □

Sometimes we consider the fusion system determined by G , the universal completion of an amalgam $G_1 \geq G_{12} \leq G_2$ of finite groups with S a Sylow p -subgroup of either G_1 or G_2 (or both). We define the *coset graph* of G_1 and G_2 in G to be the graph $\Gamma = \Gamma(G, G_1, G_2, G_{12})$ which has

$$V(\Gamma) = \{G_i g \mid g \in G, i \in \{1, 2\}\} \quad \text{and} \quad E(\Gamma) = \{\{G_1 g, G_2 h\} \mid G_1 g \cap G_2 h \neq \emptyset, g, h \in G\}.$$

Since G is the universal completion of the amalgam, Γ is a tree [22, Theorem 6]. It is easy to verify that G acts on Γ by right multiplication. We shall always consider amalgams which are “simple” in the sense that no normal subgroup of G is contained in G_{12} . In this case, the action of G on Γ is faithful. Finally, we note that the stabilizer of the vertex $G_i g$ is just G_i^g and that the edge-stabilizer are G -conjugate to G_{12} .

The following result shows that the saturation of $\mathcal{F}_S(G)$ is determined to some extent by the graph Γ and the action of G on it. The proof of this result, which is taken from [16], requires that we remember that when a finite group acts on a tree without exchanging the vertices of some edge, then it fixes a vertex.

Theorem 2.5 *Let $\mathcal{A} = (G_1 \geq G_{12} \leq G_2)$ be an amalgam of finite groups, assume that $\text{Syl}_p(G_{12}) \subseteq \text{Syl}_p(G_2)$ and fix $S_i \in \text{Syl}_p(G_i)$ with $S_2 \leq S_1$. Assume that $G = G_1 *_{G_{12}} G_2$ is the universal completion of \mathcal{A} and write $\Gamma = \Gamma(G, G_1, G_2, G_{12})$ for the coset graph. Suppose that:*

- (a) *for all $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ -centric subgroups P of S_1 , Γ^P is finite; and*
- (b) *each $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ -essential subgroup is $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ -centric.*

Then $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ is saturated.

Proof Since, for $i = 1, 2$, G_i is finite, $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ is a saturated fusion system on S_i and hence $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ is generated by the $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ -automorphisms of S and $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ -automorphisms of the $\mathcal{F}_{S_i}(G_i)$ -essential subgroups by Alperin’s Theorem. Since, by [19, Theorem 1],

$$\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G) = \langle \mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G_1), \mathcal{F}_{S_2}(G_2) \rangle,$$

(b) implies that $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ is generated by the collection of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}_i}(X)$ for X an $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ -centric subgroup of S_1 . Thus, by Theorem 2.4, $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ is saturated provided each $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ -centric subgroup is $\mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ -saturated.

Put $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{S_1}(G)$ and assume that $P \leq S_1$ is an \mathcal{F} -centric subgroup of S_1 . Since G_1, G_2 and Γ^P are finite, the subgroup K of $N_G(P)$ which fixes every vertex of Γ^P is finite. Now $N_G(P)/K$ embeds into $\text{Aut}(\Gamma^P)$ and so is also finite. Thus $N_G(P)$ is finite and so $N_G(P)$ is contained in $\text{Stab}_G(\alpha)$ for some $\alpha \in \Gamma^P$. Therefore $N_G(P)$ is G -conjugate to a subgroup of either G_1 or G_2 . Hence we may choose a G -conjugate P^f of P so that either

$$N_G(P^f) \leq G_1 \quad \text{and} \quad R \in \text{Syl}_p(N_G(P^f)) \text{ has } R \leq S_1,$$

or

$$N_G(P^f) \leq G_2 \quad \text{and} \quad R \in \text{Syl}_p(N_G(P^f)) \text{ has } R \leq S_2.$$

Thus

$$\text{Aut}_{S_1}(P^f) = RC_G(P^f) / C_G(P^f) \in \text{Syl}_p(\text{Aut}_G(P^f))$$

and hence P^f is fully \mathcal{F} -automized.

It remains to prove that every \mathcal{F} -centric subgroup P in S_1 is \mathcal{F} -receptive. So assume that $c_g \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}}(U, P)$ is an isomorphism and define

$$N = N_{c_g} = \{h \in N_{S_1}(U) \mid c_{g^{-1}hg} \in \text{Aut}_{S_1}(P)\}.$$

Then

$$N^g C_G(P) \leq N_{S_1}(P) C_G(P).$$

Since P is \mathcal{F} -centric and $C_G(P)$ is finite,

$$C_G(P) = Z(P) \times O_{p'}(C_G(P)).$$

Thus $N_{S_1}(P) \in \text{Syl}_p(N_{S_1}(P)C_G(P))$. So there exists $x \in C_G(P)$ such that $N^{gx} \leq N_{S_1}(P)$. Set $y = gx$. Then $c_y \in \text{Hom}_G(N, N_{S_1}(P))$ and c_y extends $c_g \in \text{Hom}(U, P)$. We have shown that P is \mathcal{F} -receptive. In particular, P^f as in the previous paragraph is both fully \mathcal{F} -automized and \mathcal{F} -receptive. Thus P is \mathcal{F} -saturated. This completes the proof. \square

We will also need the following result from [21] which gives conditions under which one can enlarge a saturated fusion system on a p -group S to form a new saturated fusion system, by adding morphisms of certain subgroups.

Theorem 2.6 *Let \mathcal{F}_0 be a saturated fusion system on a finite p -group S . For $1 \leq i \leq m$, let $W_i \leq S$ be a fully \mathcal{F}_0 -normalized subgroup with $W_i \varphi \not\leq W_j$ for each $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{F}_0}(W_i, S)$ and $i \neq j$. Set $K_i = \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}_0}(W_i)$ and let $\Delta_i \leq \text{Out}(W_i)$ be such that K_i is a strongly p -embedded subgroup of $\tilde{\Delta}_i$. For Δ_i the full preimage of $\tilde{\Delta}_i$ in $\text{Aut}(W_i)$, write*

$$\mathcal{F} = \langle \text{Mor}(\mathcal{F}_0), \Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_m \rangle.$$

Assume further that for each $1 \leq i \leq m$,

- (a) W_i is \mathcal{F}_0 -centric and minimal under inclusion amongst all \mathcal{F} -centric subgroups; and
- (b) no proper subgroup of W_i is \mathcal{F}_0 -essential.

Then \mathcal{F} is saturated.

Proof See [21, Theorem C]. \square

We now develop some tools for listing the possible \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups of a p -group S when \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S . We need two basic facts concerning the way in which a p -group acts on its subnormal subgroups.

Lemma 2.7 *Let E be a finite p -group and $A \leq \text{Aut}(E)$. Suppose there exists a normal chain*

$$1 = E_0 \trianglelefteq E_1 \trianglelefteq E_2 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq E_m = E$$

of subgroups such that for each $\alpha \in A$, $E_i \alpha = E_i$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m$. If for all $1 \leq i \leq m$, A centralizes E_i / E_{i-1} , then $A \leq O_p(\text{Aut}(E))$.

Proof See [9, 5.3.2]. □

Lemma 2.8 (Burnside) *Let S be a finite p -group. Then $C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is a normal p -subgroup of $\text{Aut}(S)$.*

Proof See [9, 5.1.4]. □

The following result can also be found in [15, Lemma 3.4].

Lemma 2.9 *Let S be a finite p -group and $F \leq E \leq S$ be such that F is characteristic in E . If there exists $g \in N_S(E) \setminus E$ such that*

- (a) $[g, E] \leq F\Phi(E)$ and
- (b) $[g, F] \leq \Phi(E)$,

then E is not an \mathcal{F} -essential subgroup in any saturated fusion system \mathcal{F} on S .

Proof Since $C_{\text{Aut}(E)}(E/\Phi(E)) \leq O_p(\text{Aut}(E))$ by Burnside’s Lemma 2.8 and since $F\Phi(E)$ is normal in E , it follows from Lemma 2.7 that $c_g \in O_p(\text{Aut}(E))$. But then $O_p(\text{Aut}(E)) \not\leq \text{Inn}(E)$ which means that $\text{Out}_S(E) \cap O_p(\text{Out}(E)) \neq 1$ and hence $E \notin \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}}$ for any saturated fusion system \mathcal{F} on S . □

We need the next result about certain subgroups of $\text{PGL}_3(p)$.

Proposition 2.10 *Let p be an odd prime, and G be a subgroup of $\text{PGL}_3(p)$ which contains a strongly p -embedded subgroup. Then either $O^{p'}(G)$ is isomorphic to one of $\text{PSL}_2(p)$ or $\text{SL}_2(p)$ or $p = 3$ and $G \cong \text{Frob}(39)$.*

Proof See [11, Theorem 1.39]. □

We end this section with a result about finite simple groups which will be required when proving that certain saturated fusion systems we construct are exotic. The next result is a special case of [14, Theorem]. We use the following two facts about a Sylow p -subgroup S of $G_2(p)$: first $|S| = p^6$ and second if K is an abelian normal subgroup of S , then $|K| \leq p^3$ and S/K is non-abelian (see Lemma 3.2(c)).

Theorem 2.11 *Suppose that $p \geq 5$ and let G be a finite simple group with a Sylow p -subgroup isomorphic to that of $G_2(p)$. Then one of the following holds:*

- (a) $p = 5$ and $G \in \{G_2(5), B, \text{HN}, \text{Ly}\}$;
- (b) $p = 7$ and $G \in \{G_2(7), M\}$;
- (c) $p > 7$ and $G = G_2(p)$.

Proof We use the classification of finite simple groups to prove this result. Assume that G is a finite simple group with Sylow p -subgroup S isomorphic to a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ for $p \geq 5$.

If G is an alternating group $\text{Alt}(n)$, then, as S is non-abelian we require $n \geq p^2$. But then $|S| \geq p^{p+1}$. As $|S| = p^6$, we have $p = 5$ and S is isomorphic to the wreath product $5 \wr 5 \in \text{Syl}_5(\text{Alt}(25))$. But then S has an abelian subgroup of index 5, a contradiction.

Suppose that G is a Lie type group in characteristic p . Then, by [10, Theorem 2.2.9], $|S| = p^{aN}$ where N is the number of positive roots of the untwisted root system of G and p^a is the order of the centre of a long root subgroup of G . Since $|Z(S)| = p$, we have $N = 6$. The values of N are given in [10, Table 2.2] and this yields that the root systems

with exactly 6 positive roots are of type G_2 and A_3 . Thus we need to consider the groups $G_2(p)$, $A_3(p) \cong \text{PSL}_4(p)$ and ${}^2A_3(p) \cong \text{PSU}_4(p)$. In the latter two cases we see that a Sylow p -subgroup has an elementary abelian normal subgroup of order p^4 , whereas in S there is no such subgroup. Hence in this case we have $G \cong G_2(p)$.

Suppose that G is a Lie type group in characteristic $r \neq p$. Then, by [10, Theorem 4.10.2], S has a normal abelian subgroup S_T such that S/S_T is isomorphic to a subgroup of the Weyl group of G . By Lemma 3.2, S_T has order at most p^3 and S/S_T is non-abelian of order at least p^3 . Now notice that, if a Weyl group W has a non-abelian Sylow p -subgroup with $p \geq 5$, then W has type A_{n-1} , B_n , C_n or D_n with $n \geq p$. In particular, we see that W has Sylow p -subgroups of order at least p^{p+1} . Since $|S| = p^6$, we again have $p = 5$ and $S \cong 5 \wr 5$, which is a contradiction.

Finally assume that G is a sporadic simple group. Then, as $|S| = p^6$ and $p \geq 5$, using the orders of the sporadic simple groups [10, Table 5.3] yields that G must be Ly, HN or B with $p = 5$ or M with $p = 7$. □

3 Definition and basic properties of a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ when $p \geq 5$

3.1 Construction of S

Let $q = p^f$ with $p \geq 5$ a prime and \mathbb{F} be a field of order q . In what follows, we construct a group S which is isomorphic to a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(q)$ (see the ‘‘Appendix’’). To this end, we start with V the 4-dimensional subspace of homogeneous polynomials of degree 3 in $\mathbb{F}[X, Y]$. Then $L = \mathbb{F}^\times \times \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ acts on V via the \mathbb{F} -linear extension of

$$X^a Y^b \cdot \left(t, \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \right) = t \cdot (\alpha X + \beta Y)^a \cdot (\gamma X + \delta Y)^b$$

where $a + b = 3$. We define a bilinear function $\beta : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ by first defining β on basis vectors by

$$\beta(X^a Y^b, X^c Y^d) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } a \neq d; \\ \frac{(-1)^a}{\binom{3}{a}}, & \text{if } a = d \end{cases}$$

and extending linearly. Let Q be the group $(V \times \mathbb{F}^+, *)$ where

$$(v, y) * (w, z) = (v + w, y + z + \beta(v, w)),$$

for $(v, y), (w, z) \in Q$. In [18, Lemma 2.2] it is noted that Q is a special group with the property that

$$Z(Q) = \{(0, \lambda) \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{F}\}.$$

We now construct the group S by extending the action of L on V to an action on Q defined as follows: for $(t, A) \in L$ and $(v, z) \in Q$,

$$(v, z)^{(t, A)} = (v \cdot (t, A), t^2(\det A)^3 z). \tag{3.1}$$

A simple check (carried out in the discussion before [18, Lemma 2.3]) shows that this action is a group action (in the sense that $((v, y)(w, z))^{(t, A)} = (v, y)^{(t, A)}(w, z)^{(t, A)}$) and that the kernel of the action is

$$\left\{ \left(\mu^{-3}, \begin{pmatrix} \mu & 0 \\ 0 & \mu \end{pmatrix} \right) \mid \mu \in \mathbb{F}^\times \right\}. \tag{3.2}$$

As in [18], let

$$B_0 = \mathbb{F}^\times \times \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ \gamma & \beta \end{pmatrix} \mid \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}^\times, \gamma \in \mathbb{F} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad S_0 = \{1\} \times \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \gamma & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid \gamma \in \mathbb{F} \right\}$$

and set

$$B = B_0Q \quad \text{and} \quad S = S_0Q. \tag{3.3}$$

For $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$, we define the following elements of Q :

$$\begin{aligned} x_6(\lambda) &= (0, -2\lambda), \quad x_5(\lambda) = (-\lambda X^3, 0), \quad x_4(\lambda) = (3\lambda X^2 Y, 0), \\ x_3(\lambda) &= (-3\lambda X Y^2, 0), \quad x_2(\lambda) = (\lambda Y^3, 0). \end{aligned}$$

Also write

$$x_1(\lambda) = \left(1, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \in S_0.$$

Observe that

$$S = \langle x_1(\lambda), x_2(\mu), x_3(\nu), x_4(\xi), x_5(o), x_6(\pi) \mid \lambda, \mu, \nu, \xi, o, \pi \in \mathbb{F} \rangle.$$

3.2 Properties of S and some subgroups

We now specialize to the case when $f = 1$, so that S is a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$. By the discussion in Sect. 3.1, $S = \langle x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \rangle$ where for each $1 \leq j \leq 6$ we write $x_j = x_j(1)$. Note that S has nilpotency class 5 and so S is of maximal class. Thus let

$$1 < Z = Z_1 < Z_2 < Z_3 < Z_4 < Z_5 = S$$

be the upper (and lower) central series of S where, for ease of notation, we set $Z = Z(S)$ and, for $2 \leq i \leq 4$, $Z_i = Z_i(S)$. Of particular importance to us will be the groups

$$Q = \langle x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \rangle$$

and

$$R = \langle x_1, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \rangle.$$

From the construction of S , we see that

Lemma 3.1 *The subgroup Q is extraspecial of order p^5 and exponent p . □*

In fact, if $p \geq 7$, then S has exponent p and, if $p = 5$, then S has exponent 25. Indeed, $G_2(p)$ has a 7-dimensional faithful representation and so for $p \geq 7$, S has exponent p . For $p = 5$, we remark that every element of $S \setminus (R \cup Q)$ has order 25 and R and Q both have exponent 5.

Lemma 3.2 *The following hold:*

- (a) $Z = \langle x_6 \rangle$ and $Z_2 = \langle x_6, x_5 \rangle$;
- (b) $R = C_S(Z_2)$;
- (c) $Z_3 = \langle x_6, x_5, x_4 \rangle$ is elementary abelian and

$$Z_4 = C_Q(Z_2) = Q \cap R = \Phi(S) = \langle x_6, x_5, x_4, x_3 \rangle$$

is not abelian.

- (d) Q and R are characteristic maximal subgroups of S ;

- (e) the non-trivial normal subgroups of S of order at most p^4 are the subgroups Z_i with $1 \leq i \leq 4$; and
- (f) the action of x_1 on Q/Z has a unique Jordan block.

Proof Parts (a) and (b) follow directly from considering the description of S . Since $\beta(X^3, X^2Y) = 0$, we have $[x_4, x_5] = 1$ so that Z_3 is abelian, and hence elementary abelian. Similarly, x_3, x_4 and x_5 all centralize x_2 so that $Z_4 \subseteq C_Q(Z_2)$. Since $\beta(X^3, Y^3) \neq 0$, $x_2 \notin C_Q(Z_2)$ so $Z_4 = C_Q(Z_2)$ and the remaining equalities in (c) are clear. To see that Q is characteristic, we note that Q/Z is the unique abelian subgroup of order p^4 in S/Z . That R is characteristic follows from the fact that $R = C_S(Z_2)$ and Z_2 is characteristic in S . Thus (d) is proved. Part (e) follows from the fact that S has maximal class so that the upper central series for S and the lower central series for S coincide. Part (f) follows from the fact that S has maximal class. □

Lemma 3.3 *Suppose X is a maximal subgroup of S with $X \neq Q$. Then*

- (a) $Z_3 = \Phi(X)$ is characteristic in X ;
- (b) Z_2 is characteristic in X ; and
- (c) either Z_4 is characteristic in X or $X = R$.

Proof As $X \neq Q$, we have $S = QX$ and, as $Z_4 = \Phi(S)$, also $Z_4 < X$. Now note that, as $[Z_4, X] \geq [Z_4, Q] = Z$,

$$[Z_4, X] = [Z_4, QX] = [Z_4, S] = Z_3$$

and so $[X, X] \geq [Z_4, X] = Z_3$. Since $|X/Z_3| = p^2$, we deduce that $[X, X] = \Phi(X) = Z_3$. In particular, Z_3 is characteristic in X . This proves (a).

Now

$$[Z_3, X] = [Z_3, QX] = [Z_3, S] = Z_2$$

and so (b) holds. By Lemma 3.2(c) Z_4 centralizes Z_2 . Let $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(X)$ and assume that $Z_4\alpha \neq Z_4$. Then $X = Z_4Z_4\alpha$. Since $Z_4\alpha$ centralizes $Z_2\alpha$, and $Z_2\alpha = Z_2$ by (b), we have $X \leq R$ and as X is maximal, $X = R$. This proves (c). □

As remarked in the introduction, we need to prove that each of the fusion systems \mathcal{F} we construct is uniquely determined by the \mathcal{F} -automorphism groups of $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}} \cup \{S\}$. For this, a detailed description of the automorphism groups of Q, R and S is helpful.

3.3 The structure of $\text{Aut}(Q)$

The structure of the automorphism group of an extraspecial p -group of exponent p is well known, and we state it here only for convenience:

Proposition 3.4 *Set $A = \text{Aut}(Q)$ and $\bar{A} = \text{Out}(Q)$. There exists $\theta \in A$ of order $p - 1$ such that $A = \langle \theta \rangle \cdot C_A(Z(Q))$ and $\langle \theta \rangle \cap C_A(Z(Q)) = 1$. Moreover $\overline{C_A(Z(Q))} \cong \text{Sp}_4(p)$ and $\bar{A} \cong \text{GSp}_4(p)$.*

Proof See [24, Theorem 1]. □

3.4 The structure of $\text{Aut}(R)$

The next lemma provides us with a rather precise description of $\text{Aut}(R)$.

Lemma 3.5 *Let $A = \text{Aut}(R)$, $\bar{A} = \text{Out}(R)$ and put*

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(x, y) \in R \times R \mid R = \langle x, y \rangle\}.$$

Then the following hold:

- (a) $\text{Inn}(R) \cong p_+^{1+2}$;
- (b) $|\text{Aut}(R)| = p^7(p^2 - 1)(p - 1)$;
- (c) *if $(x, y), (x_1, y_1) \in \mathcal{A}$, then there exists $\theta \in \text{Aut}(R)$ such that $x\theta = x_1$ and $y\theta = y_1$;*
- (d) $A/O_p(A) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$;
- (e) $O_p(\bar{A})$ *is elementary abelian of order p^3 and as an $O_{p'}(A/O_p(A))$ -module is isomorphic to the module of 2×2 -matrices over \mathbb{F}_p of trace 0 acted upon by conjugation by $\text{SL}_2(p)$;*
- (f) $Z(\bar{A})$ *has order 2; and*
- (g) *there exists a subgroup \bar{X} of \bar{A} with $\bar{X} \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$.*

Proof Since S has maximal class and $Q \cap R = Z_4$, $[R, Q \cap R] = [S, Z_4] = Z_3$ and so $\text{Inn}(R) \cong R/Z_2$ is extraspecial. Since $(Q \cap R)/Z_2$ is elementary abelian and $x_1 Z_2$ has order p , we see that $\text{Inn}(R)$ has exponent p . This proves (a).

By [17, Lemma 5.2], the map

$$\tilde{\cdot} : C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(R, Z(R))$$

which sends $\Psi \in C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ to the map $\tilde{\Psi} \in \text{Hom}(R, Z(R))$ defined, for $g \in R$, by $g\tilde{\Psi} = g^{-1}(g\Psi)$ is an isomorphism. Moreover, $\tilde{\cdot}$ is $\text{Aut}(R)$ -invariant. Indeed suppose that $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(R)$ and $g \in R$. Then, for $\theta \in \text{Hom}(R, Z(R))$, we have

$$g\theta^\alpha = g\alpha^{-1}\theta\alpha \tag{3.4}$$

and so we calculate

$$g\tilde{\Psi}^\alpha = g^{-1}(g\Psi^\alpha) = g^{-1}(g\alpha^{-1}\Psi\alpha) = (g^{-1}\alpha^{-1}(g\alpha^{-1}\Psi))\alpha = ((g\alpha^{-1})\tilde{\Psi})\alpha = g\tilde{\Psi}^\alpha.$$

Since $\text{Hom}(R, Z(R)) \cong \text{Hom}(R/\Phi(R), Z(R))$ we see that $C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ is isomorphic to the set of all linear transformations from a 2-space to a 2-space. Thus $C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ is elementary abelian of order p^4 .

Next we collect some automorphisms of R which can be obtained from a parabolic subgroup P in $G = G_2(p)$. After identifying S with a Sylow p -subgroup of G , the relevant parabolic subgroup is $P = N_G(R)$ and there we observe $P/C_G(R) = \text{Aut}_G(R) \cong p_+^{1+2} : \text{GL}_2(p)$.

Also

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Aut}_G(R) \cap C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)) &= \text{Inn}(R) \cap C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)) \\ &= Z(\text{Inn}(R)) = \Phi(R)/Z(R) = Z_3/Z_2 \end{aligned}$$

has order p . Hence $\text{Aut}(R)$ has order at least

$$\begin{aligned} |C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)) \text{Aut}_G(R)| &= \frac{p^4 \cdot p^3 \cdot p \cdot (p^2 - 1)(p - 1)}{p} \\ &= p^7(p^2 - 1)(p - 1). \end{aligned}$$

We now establish an upper bound for $|\text{Aut}(R)|$ and thus simultaneously prove parts (b) and (c). Since $R/\Phi(R) = R/Z_3$ has order p^2 , there exist $x, y \in R$ such that $R = \langle x, y \rangle$. We count the possible number of images of x and y under an automorphism θ of R . Plainly, $R = \langle x\theta, y\theta \rangle$, $x\theta \notin \Phi(R)$ and $y\theta \notin \langle x\theta \rangle \Phi(R)$. There are at most

$$|R| - |\Phi(R)| = p^5 - p^3$$

choices for $x\theta$ and then

$$|R| - |\langle x\theta \rangle \Phi(R)| = p^5 - p^4$$

choices for $y\theta$. Thus there are at most $(p^5 - p^3)(p^5 - p^4) = p^7(p^2 - 1)(p - 1)$ automorphisms of R . Thus (b) and (c) hold.

Furthermore, from the discussion in the proof of (b), we see that \bar{A} contains $\overline{\text{Aut}_G(R)} \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$ (which gives (d) and (g)) and $\text{Inn}(R) \cap C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ has order p . Hence $O_p(\bar{A}) = \text{Inn}(R)C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ and

$$O_p(\bar{A}) \cong C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))/(\text{Inn}(R) \cap C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)))$$

and this isomorphism is as A -groups. In particular, $O_p(\bar{A})$ is elementary abelian of order p^3 . Since $C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ is isomorphic to the set of all linear transformations from a 2-space to a 2-space and is also an A -group, we infer that as an $O_{p'}(A/O_p(A))$ -module, $O_p(\bar{A})$ is isomorphic to the module of trace zero 2×2 -matrices over \mathbb{F}_p with $\text{SL}_2(p)$ acting by conjugation. This proves (e).

Because $O_p(\bar{A})$ is a minimal normal subgroup of \bar{A} by (e), $Z(\bar{A}) \cap O_p(\bar{A}) = 1$ so

$$Z(\bar{A}) \cong Z(\bar{A})O_p(\bar{A})/O_p(\bar{A}) \leq Z(\bar{A}/O_p(\bar{A})) \cong Z(\text{GL}_2(p))$$

by (d). Thus we need to determine the centre of the preimage of $Z(\bar{A}/O_p(\bar{A}))$. Since $O_p(\bar{A})$ is abelian, it suffices to determine which elements of $Z(\bar{A}/O_p(\bar{A}))$ lift to elements of A which centralize $O_p(\bar{A})$.

Let $(x, y) \in A$ with $y \in Q$. Then, by (c), the map $x \mapsto x^a, y \mapsto y^a$ for $1 \leq a \leq p - 1$ extends to a unique automorphism θ of R and $\theta \in Z(\bar{A}/O_p(\bar{A}))$. Then define $l = [x, y]$, $m = [l, x]$ and $n = [l, y]$. Notice that, as $R/Z_2 \cong \text{Inn}(R)$ is extraspecial, $l \in Z_3 \setminus Z_2$. Because $C_Q(Z_3) = Z_3$, we then see that $1 \neq n \in Z$. As x acts on Q/Z with a single Jordan block, we have $C_{Q/Z}(x) = Z_2/Z$ and so $m \in Z_2 \setminus Z$. This shows that $Z_2 = \langle m, n \rangle$. Now we use [9, Lemmas 2.2.1 and 2.2.2] to notice first that

$$l\theta = [x\theta, y\theta] = [x^a, y^a] = [x, y]^{a^2} z$$

for some $z \in Z_2$ and then calculate that

$$m\theta = [l\theta, x\theta] = [[x, y]^{a^2} z, x^a] = [[x, y]^{a^2}, x^a] = [[x, y], x]^{a^3} = m^{a^3}$$

where the third equality follows from [9, Theorem 2.2.1]. Similarly, we determine

$$n\theta = [[x, y]^{a^2} z, y^a] = [[x, y]^{a^2}, y^a] = [[x, y], y]^{a^3} = n^{a^3}. \tag{3.5}$$

Now using Eq. 3.4 and noting that θ operates as the scalar a on $R/\Phi(R)$ and a^3 or Z_2 , we calculate, for $\Psi \in C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ and $g \in R/\Phi(R)$,

$$g\tilde{\Psi}^\theta = g\theta^{-1}\tilde{\Psi}\theta = g^{a^{-1}}\tilde{\Psi}\theta = ((g\tilde{\Psi})^{a^{-1}})\theta = (g\tilde{\Psi})^{a^{-1}a^3} = (g\tilde{\Psi})^{a^2}$$

Thus we see that θ centralizes $C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ if and only if $(g\tilde{\Psi})^{a^2} = g\tilde{\Psi}$ for all $g \in R/\Phi(R)$ and $\Psi \in C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ which is if and only if $a^2 = 1$. As θ induces a scalar action on $C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))$ and $O_p(\bar{A}) = C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R))/(\text{Inn}(R) \cap C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/Z(R)))$, we now deduce that $C_{\bar{A}}(O_p(\bar{A}))$ has order $2p^3$ and part (f) follows from this. \square

It is perhaps interesting to note that Eq. 3.5 implies that $\text{Aut}(R)/C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(R/\Phi(R)) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$ whereas $\text{Aut}(R)/C_{\text{Aut}(R)}(Z(R)) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)/X$ where X is central of order $(p - 1, 3)$.

Lemma 3.6 *Let $\bar{A} = \text{Out}(R)$ and suppose that $\bar{Y} \leq \bar{A}$, $\bar{T} \in \text{Syl}_p(\bar{Y})$ with $|\bar{T}| = p$ and $|C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T})| > 2$. Assume that $\bar{X} \leq \bar{A}$ with $\bar{X} \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ and $\bar{Y} \leq N_{\bar{A}}(\bar{X})$. Then $\bar{X}\bar{Y} \leq C_{\bar{A}}(C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T})) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$. In particular, if such an \bar{X} exists, then it is uniquely determined by \bar{Y} .*

Proof By Lemma 3.5(d) and (e), \bar{A} has shape $p^3:\text{GL}_2(p)$ and $\bar{U} = O_p(\bar{A})$ is a minimal normal subgroup of $\bar{U}\bar{X}$. Since \bar{Y} normalizes \bar{X} and $N_{\bar{U}}(\bar{X}) = 1$, we deduce that $\bar{X}\bar{Y}$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\bar{A}/\bar{U} \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$. In particular, $C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T}) \leq Z(\bar{X}\bar{Y})$ from the structure of $\text{GL}_2(p)$. Now, as $C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T})$ has order greater than 2, Lemma 3.5(f) and the fact that \bar{U} is a minimal normal subgroup of $\bar{U}\bar{X}$ imply that $C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T}) \cap \bar{U} = 1$ (note that $C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T}) \cap \bar{U}$ is normalized by \bar{X}). Thus $C_{\bar{A}}(C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T})) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$ and this proves the result. \square

3.5 The structure of $\text{Aut}(S)$

We conclude this section with description of $\text{Aut}(S)$.

Lemma 3.7 *Suppose that X is a group and Y is a normal subgroup of X of index p where p is a prime. Then $[X, C_{\text{Aut}(X)}(Y)] \leq C_X(Y)$.*

Proof Select $x \in X \setminus Y$ and notice that since p is prime every element z of X can be written as $z = yx^i$ for some $y \in Y$ and $1 \leq i \leq p$. Now for each $\alpha \in C_{\text{Aut}(X)}(Y)$,

$$[z, \alpha] = [yx^i, \alpha] = [y, \alpha]^{x^i} [x^i, \alpha] = [x^i, \alpha]$$

and so it suffices to show that $[x^i, \alpha] \in C_X(Y)$.

Let $y_1 \in Y$. Then $(x^i)^{y_1} = y_2 x^i$ for $y_2 = [y_1, x^{-i}]$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} [x^i, \alpha]^{y_1} &= (x^{-i}(x^i)\alpha)^{y_1} = (x^{-i})^{y_1} ((x^i)\alpha^{(y_1)\alpha}) = (x^{-i})^{y_1} ((x^i)^{y_1})\alpha \\ &= (y_2 x^i)^{-1} (y_2 x^i)\alpha = x^{-i} y_2^{-1} y_2 (x^i)\alpha = [x^i, \alpha] \end{aligned}$$

Hence $[x^i, \alpha] \in C_X(Y)$ and consequently $[X, \alpha] \leq C_X(Y)$. The result follows. \square

Lemma 3.8 *$\text{Aut}(S)/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is isomorphic to the subgroup of diagonal matrices in $\text{GL}_2(p)$. In particular, $|\text{Aut}(S)| = p^a(p - 1)^2$ for some natural number a . Furthermore, $\text{Aut}(S) = \text{Aut}_B(S)C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$.*

Proof By Lemma 2.8, $C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is a p -group. Taking B as defined in Eq. 3.3, using Eq. 3.2 we obtain that the image of $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ in $\text{Aut}(S)/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is isomorphic to $(p - 1) \times (p - 1)$.

As $S/\Phi(S)$ is elementary abelian of order p^2 , we know that $\text{Aut}(S)/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(p)$. By Lemma 3.2(d), Q and R are characteristic in S . Thus $\text{Aut}(S)/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of the diagonal matrices in $\text{GL}_2(p)$. This proves the main claim. \square

4 Candidates for the essential subgroups when $p \geq 5$

Suppose that $p \geq 5$ and let S be the p -group defined in Sect. 3 and adopt all the notation introduced there. We require the following additional piece of notation:

Notation 4.1 Define:

$$W_x = \langle Z, x \rangle \quad x \in S \setminus (Q \cup R); \text{ and}$$

$$U_x = \langle Z_2, x \rangle \quad x \in S \setminus Q.$$

Also put

$$\mathcal{W} = \{W_x \mid x \in S \setminus (Q \cup R)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{U} = \{U_x \mid x \in S \setminus Q\}.$$

The goal of this section is to prove the following result:

Theorem 4.2 *Let \mathcal{F} be a saturated fusion system on S and denote by \mathcal{E} the set of \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups. Then*

$$\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\} \cup \mathcal{W}.$$

Moreover, if $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E} \neq \emptyset$, then $p = 7$.

Thus our hypotheses are that \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$ and $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}}$ is the set of \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups of S . The proof of Theorem 4.2 will proceed in a series of steps.

Lemma 4.3 *If $E \leq Q$ is \mathcal{F} -essential, then $E = Q$.*

Proof Suppose that E is \mathcal{F} -essential with $E \leq Q$ but that $E \neq Q$. Then $N_Q(E) > E$ and $[E, N_Q(E)] \leq Q' = \Phi(Q)$. If $\Phi(E) \neq 1$, then we have $\Phi(E) = \Phi(Q)$, $[E, N_Q(E)] \leq \Phi(E)$ and $[\Phi(E), N_Q(E)] = 1$. Thus Lemma 2.9 implies that E is not essential, a contradiction. Therefore $\Phi(E) = 1$ and E is elementary abelian. Since $E \geq C_Q(E)$, we deduce that E is a maximal abelian subgroup of Q . Hence $|E| = p^3$. Now Q/E embeds into $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ and so Proposition 2.10 provides a contradiction as $|Q/E| = p^2$. Hence, if $E \leq Q$ and $E \in \mathcal{E}$, then $E = Q$. □

Lemma 4.4 *If $E \not\leq Q$ is \mathcal{F} -essential, then either $E = R$ or $E \in \mathcal{U} \cup \mathcal{W}$.*

Proof Since E is \mathcal{F} -centric, $Z \leq C_S(E) \leq E$, so we may assume that $|E| = p^t$ for some $2 \leq t \leq 5$. If $t = 2$ then $E = Z\langle x \rangle$ and as E must be centric, $C_S(E) \not\leq Z_2$. Hence, as $E \not\leq Q$, we have $x \in S \setminus (Q \cup R)$. Thus $E \in \mathcal{W}$ in this case.

Suppose that $t \geq 3$. Then $Z \leq Q \cap E$ and, as Q/Z is abelian, we have $Q \cap E \trianglelefteq Q$. As Q is normal in S , $Q \cap E$ is normal in E and so $Q \cap E$ is normal in $S = \langle Q, E \rangle$. Therefore, by Lemma 3.2(e) we have that $E \cap Q = Z_{t-1}$.

If $t = 3$ (so that $E \cap Q = Z_2$), then $E \in \mathcal{U}$.

It remains to show that if $t > 3$ then $E = R$. Suppose that $t = 4$. Then $E = \langle Z_3, x \rangle$ for some $x \in S \setminus Q$. We have

$$Z_2 = [E \cap Q, S] = [E \cap Q, EQ] = [E \cap Q, E] \leq [E, E]$$

and so we infer that $Z_2 = [E, E] = \Phi(E)$. By Lemma 3.2(c) Z_3 is elementary abelian. If Z_3 is normalized by $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$, then using Lemma 2.7 together with $[E, N_S(E)] \leq Z_3$

and $[Z_3, N_S(E)] \leq Z_2 = \Phi(E)$ yields that $\text{Aut}_S(E) \leq O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E))$ contrary to E being \mathcal{F} -essential. Hence there exists $\alpha \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ such that $Z_3 \neq Z_3\alpha$. As $|E| = p^4$, we have $E = Z_3Z_3\alpha$ and $Z_3 \cap Z_3\alpha = Z_2$. Since Z_3 is elementary abelian, this means that $Z_2 = \Phi(E) = Z(E)$ and we remark that this group is elementary abelian. Let $x \in Z_3 \setminus Z(E)$ and $y \in Z_3\alpha \setminus Z(E)$. Then $E = \langle x, y \rangle$ and x and y have order p . Set $N = \langle [x, y] \rangle$. Then $N \leq \Phi(E) = Z(E)$ and N has order p . But then E/N is generated by xN and yN and these elements commute and have order p . It follows that E/N has order both p^3 and p^2 , a contradiction.

Finally, suppose that $t = 5$ so E is a maximal subgroup of S which is not equal to Q . If $E \neq R$, we claim that the hypotheses of Lemma 2.9 are satisfied with $F = Z_4$. Indeed, Z_4 is characteristic in E by Lemma 3.3(c). Moreover $\Phi(E) = Z_3$, so that for any $x \in S \setminus E$,

$$[x, E] \leq \Phi(S) = Z_4 \quad \text{and} \quad [x, F] = [x, Z_4] \leq Z_3 = \Phi(E).$$

Hence by Lemma 2.9 E is not \mathcal{F} -essential. Thus, if $E \neq Q$ is an \mathcal{F} -essential subgroup of order p^5 , then $E = R$ and this completes the proof. \square

We also observe the following fact which can also be deduced from the remark after Lemma 3.5.

Lemma 4.5 *If $R \in \mathcal{E}$, then $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(p)$ and $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$. Furthermore, $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R))$ acts faithfully on $R/\Phi(R)$ and on $Z_2 = Z(R)$.*

Proof By Lemma 2.8, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ acts faithfully on $R/\Phi(R)$ which is elementary abelian of order p^2 . Since $R \in \mathcal{E}$ and any two distinct cyclic subgroups of order p in $\text{GL}_2(p)$ generate $\text{SL}_2(p)$, the main statement follows and the action of $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R))$ on $R/\Phi(R)$ is of course faithful. To see that the action on $Z(R)$ is faithful, it suffices to show that the central involution t of $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R))$ acts non-trivially on $Z(R)$. Notice that $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R))$ centralizes the cyclic group Z_3/Z_2 . Hence, as t inverts Z_4/Z_3 , t also inverts $[Z_4, Z_3] = Z$. This proves the claim. \square

Lemma 4.6 *$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ is conjugate in $\text{Out}(S)$ to a subgroup of diagonal matrices in $\text{GL}_2(p)$. In particular we may assume that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \leq \text{Aut}_B(S)$, where B is as defined in Eq. 3.3. Moreover an element*

$$d = \left(t, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \in B$$

with $t, \lambda \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ centralizes Z if and only if $t^2\lambda^3 = 1$.

Proof By Lemma 3.8 and Hall’s Theorem, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ is $\text{Out}(S)$ -conjugate to a subgroup of $\text{Out}_B(S)$. An explicit calculation using Eqs. 3.1 and 3.2 gives the second part of the result. \square

Lemma 4.7 *Suppose that $D \leq \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ normalizes a non-trivial proper subgroup of S/Z_4 which is not equal to Q/Z_4 or R/Z_4 . If D centralizes Z , then D has order dividing 5.*

Proof Let $c_d \in D^\#$. Then, by Lemma 4.6, $d = \left(t, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right)$ with $t^2\lambda^3 = 1$. We calculate that on Q/Z_4 (which is generated by Y^3) c_d acts by scaling Q/Z_4 by t , and on R/Z_4 we calculate

c_d scales by λ . Thus for a diagonal subgroup to remain fixed by d , we require $t = \lambda$. On the other hand, from Lemma 4.6 we know $t^2\lambda^3 = \lambda^5 = 1$. It follows that D is cyclic of order dividing 5. □

We use Lemmas 4.6 and 4.7 to help eliminate the possibility that \mathcal{F} contains an essential subgroup in \mathcal{U} . We achieve this in the next three lemmas.

Lemma 4.8 *If $U_x \in \mathcal{E}$ for some $x \in S \setminus Q$, then U_x is abelian (equivalently $U_x \leq R$).*

Proof Write $E = U_x$ for some $x \in S \setminus Q$. If E is non-abelian, then $x \notin R$ and, as E is \mathcal{F} -essential, $E \cong p_+^{1+2}$ with $[E, E] = Z$. Since $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ acts faithfully on $E/\Phi(E)$, we have $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(p)$ containing $\text{SL}_2(p)$ just as in Lemma 4.5. Let $C = C_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)}(Z)$. Then $C/\text{Inn}(E) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ and $N_C(\text{Aut}_5(E))$ is cyclic of order $p - 1$. Since \mathcal{F} is saturated, the elements of C extend to maps in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(E))$. Now using $x \notin R$, we see that each $\alpha \in C$ is the restriction of an element $\bar{\alpha} \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ by Lemmas 4.3 and 4.4. But then $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ contains a subgroup C_0 of order $p - 1$ which centralizes Z and whose elements restrict to elements in C . We have that C_0 normalizes Z_4E and so, as $p - 1$ does not divide 5, Lemma 4.7 implies that $EZ_4 = R$ or $EZ_4 = Q$. Since $x \notin Q \cup R$, we have a contradiction. □

We have the following observation:

Lemma 4.9 *Suppose that $U_x \in \mathcal{E}$. Then $R \notin \mathcal{E}$. In particular, $O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) = \text{Aut}_5(R) = S/Z_2$.*

Proof Suppose that $R \in \mathcal{E}$. Then Lemma 4.5 implies that $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$. By Lemma 4.8, $U_x \leq R$ and $U_x\Phi(R)$ is a maximal subgroup of R . Since $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ acts transitively on the maximal subgroups of R , we see that $U_x\Phi(R)$ is conjugate to $Q \cap R$ by some $\alpha \in O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R))$. Thus $U_0 = U_x\alpha \geq Z_2$ and $N_S(U_0) \geq Q$. Since $N_S(U_x) = U_x\Phi(R)$ by Lemma 3.5(a), we see that U_x is not fully \mathcal{F} -normalized and thus $U_x \notin \mathcal{E}$. This proves the claim. □

Lemma 4.10 *Suppose $U_x \in \mathcal{E}$ for some $x \in S \setminus Q$. Then $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ and the following statements hold:*

- (a) *As an $\mathbb{F}_p O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ -module, U_x is the direct sum of a 2-dimensional module and a 1-dimensional trivial module.*
- (b) *$Z = C_{U_x}(O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)))$.*

Proof By Lemma 4.8, U_x is elementary abelian and so, as U_x is centric we may regard U_x as a faithful $\mathbb{F}_p \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)$ -module. In particular, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\text{GL}_3(p)$. Since $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)$ has a strongly p -embedded subgroup and $p \geq 5$, Proposition 2.10 yields $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ is isomorphic to either of $\text{PSL}_2(p)$ or $\text{SL}_2(p)$. Now $\text{Aut}_5(U_x) = \text{Aut}_{Z_3}(U_x)$ and Z_3 is abelian by Lemma 3.2, we have

$$[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x), \text{Aut}_S(U_x)] = [U_x, Z_3, Z_3] \leq [Z_3, Z_3] = 1.$$

In particular, as a subgroup of $\text{GL}_3(p)$, the Jordan form of an element of $\text{Aut}_S(U_x)$ has one block of size 2 and a trivial block. It follows that $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ because a p -element of $\text{PSL}_2(p)$ has Jordan block of size 3. Let $\tau \in O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ be an involution contained in the centre of $\text{SL}_2(p)$. Then $\tau \in Z(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ and $U_x = [U_x, \tau] \oplus C_{U_x}(\tau)$ is an $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ decomposition of U_x as the direct sum of a 2-dimensional module and a 1-dimensional trivial module.

We now prove (b). We have $[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)] = [U_x, Z_3] \leq [S, Z_3] = Z_2$ and, by (a), $[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)]$ has order p . Since $\text{Aut}_S(U_x) = \text{Aut}_{Z_3}(U_x)$ and Z_3 is abelian, we have $C_{U_x}(\text{Aut}_S(U_x)) = C_{U_x}(Z_3) = Z_2$. If $[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)] \leq Z$, then $[S, Z_3] = [U_x Q, Z_3] \leq Z$, which is impossible. Thus $[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)]$ is a subgroup of Z_2 of order p which is not contained in Z . Let $\tau \in Z(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x))$ have order 2. Then $[U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)]$ is inverted by τ and to prove the result it suffices to show that Z is normalized by τ for then $Z_2 = [U_x, \text{Aut}_S(U_x)]Z$ with Z centralized by τ . Suppose that τ does not normalize Z . Since τ normalizes $\text{Aut}_S(U_x)$ and \mathcal{F} is saturated, τ lifts to $\bar{\tau} \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(U_x))$. Now using Theorem 2.2 and Lemmas 4.4 and 4.9, we see that $\bar{\tau}$ is the restriction of some $\tau^* \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$. But then

$$Z\tau = Z\bar{\tau} = Z\tau^* = Z,$$

which is a contradiction. This proves (b). □

Lemma 4.11 $U_x \notin \mathcal{E}$ for all $x \in S \setminus Q$.

Proof We have $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$ by Lemma 4.10. Let $t \in Z(O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)))$ be an involution. Then $t \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(U_x)}(\text{Aut}_S(U_x))$ and so $t = \widehat{\tau}|_{U_x}$ for some $\widehat{\tau} \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(N_S(U_x))$. Since $R \notin \mathcal{E}$ and $U_x \not\leq Q$, $\widehat{\tau}$ must extend to a map $\tau \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ by Lemmas 4.3 and 4.4. Now, by Lemma 4.10(a) and (b), τ centralizes Z , inverts Z_2/Z and inverts $R/Z_4 = U_x Z_4/Z_4 \cong U_x/Z_2$. Furthermore, as Q is characteristic in S , τ acts on Q/Z_4 . Since τ has even order, τ does not invert Q/Z_4 by Lemma 4.7. Let $a \in Q \setminus Z_4$ and $b \in Z_2 \setminus Z$ with $b\tau = b^{-1}$. Then, for some $1 \leq e \leq p - 1$, $aZ_4\tau = a^e Z_4$ and so, as $[a, b] \in Z^\#$, we obtain

$$[a, b] = [aZ_4, b]\tau = [aZ_4\tau, b^{-1}] = [a^e, b^{-1}] = [a, b]^{-e}.$$

Hence $e = p - 1$. As we have argued that Q/Z_4 is not inverted by τ , this is a contradiction. □

Lemma 4.12 Suppose that $W \in \mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W}$. Then $p = 7$ and the following hold:

- (a) $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W) \cong \text{SL}_2(7)$ is uniquely determined;
- (b) $|N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(W) \text{Inn}(S) / \text{Inn}(S)| = 6$;
- (c) there exists $\theta \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))$ such that θ induces an automorphism of order 6 on both $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ and Z .

Furthermore, the subgroup $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(W) \text{Inn}(S) / \text{Inn}(S) \leq \text{Out}(S)$ is generated by the images of c_d where $d = (\lambda, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}) \in B$ with $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_7^\times$ which acts as scalars on $S/\Phi(S)$ and is independent of the choice of $W \in \mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W}$.

Proof Suppose that $W \in \mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W}$. Then $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$. Since \mathcal{F} is saturated, any element of $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)}(\text{Aut}_S(W))$ extends to an automorphism of $N_S(W)$ and then, by Theorem 2.2, to an automorphism of S . Let $\delta \in O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W))$ normalizing $\text{Aut}_S(W)$ have order $p - 1$. Then we may assume that δ scales Z by λ^{-1} and W/Z by λ where λ is a generator of \mathbb{F}_p^\times . Let $\delta^* \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ extend δ . By Lemma 4.6, we may suppose that δ^* acts as c_d where

we may assume $d = (t, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})$. Since δ^* normalizes Q , $W\Phi(S)$ and R , δ^* acts as a scalar on $S/\Phi(S)$. We calculate c_d scales $R/\Phi(S)$ by λ and $Q/\Phi(S)$ by t . Hence $t = \lambda$. Now Eq. 3.1 shows that δ^* scales z by $t^2\lambda^3 = \lambda^5$. Because δ scales W/Z as δ^* scales $W\Phi(S)/\Phi(S)$ and δ scales Z by the inverse of this (as δ as determinant 1), we have $\lambda^5 = \lambda^{-1}$. Thus we have $\lambda^6 = 1$ and we conclude that $p = 7$.

Let $D \leq \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ denote the subgroup generated by the extensions of the automorphisms in $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)}(\text{Aut}_S(W))$. Then $Q \neq W\Phi(S) \neq R$, are invariant under the action of D and so D acts as scalars on $S/\Phi(S)$. Therefore $|D \text{Inn}(S)/\text{Inn}(S)| \leq 6$. On the other hand, as $\delta^* \in D$, $|N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)}(\text{Aut}_S(W))/\text{Aut}_S(W)| \geq 6$ with equality if and only if $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W) = O_{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W))$. This proves (a) and part (b) follows as $D = N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(W)$.

Let $\delta^* \in D$ have order 6. Then $\theta = \delta^*|_Q$ induces a faithful action on $\text{Out}_S(Q) \cong S/Q$ and, as $\theta|_Z = \delta^*|_Z = (\delta^*|_W)|_Z = \delta|_Z$ acts faithfully on Z , we see that (c) holds. \square

We can now prove Theorem 4.2.

Proof of Theorem 4.2 This follows from Lemmas 4.3, 4.4, 4.11 and 4.12. \square

5 Determining the fusion systems up to isomorphism when $p \geq 5$

Our hypotheses for this section are that $p \geq 5$, \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S , a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$, with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$ and \mathcal{E} is the set of \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups of S . Here is the result we shall prove:

Theorem 5.1 *Suppose that $p \geq 5$, S is a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ and \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then either \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $G_2(p)$ on S or else $p \leq 7$ and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to a subsystem of p' -index in one of the fusion systems listed in Table 1. Furthermore in each row of Table 1, columns 3-6 determine (up to isomorphism) at most one saturated fusion system on S .*

A description of the fusion systems in Table 1 is developed throughout this section. Especially for the fusion systems $\mathcal{F}_7^1(j_i)$ see the discussion surrounding Notation 5.14. One further remark on the notation: the subscript indicates the prime p while the superscript just assists in distinguishing the different systems. Recall from Lemma 4.6 that, since we may adjust \mathcal{F} by an automorphism of S , we may assume

$$\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \text{ is a subgroup of } \text{Aut}_B(S)$$

and so

$$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \text{ is a subgroup of } \text{Out}_B(S).$$

We start by presenting an important preliminary result for the case when $Q \in \mathcal{E}$.

Lemma 5.2 *Suppose $p \geq 5$, $Q \in \mathcal{E}$ and assume*

1. *there exists $\theta \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))$ such that θ induces an automorphism of order $p - 1$ on both $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ and $Z(Q)$; and*
2. *if $p = 5$ then $\det \theta|_{Z_2} = 1$.*

Then $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is $\text{Out}(Q)$ -conjugate to one of the subgroups in the following list:

- (a) $p = 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \sim 2 \cdot \text{Alt}(6).4$;

Table 1 Exceptional fusion systems \mathcal{F} on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$

	p	$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)$	$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$	$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$	$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$	Example	$\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F})$
\mathcal{F}_5^0	5	–	$\text{GL}_2(5)$	$2 \cdot \text{Alt}(6).4$	4×4	Ly	1
\mathcal{F}_5^1	5	–	$\text{GL}_2(5)$	$4 \circ 2_-^{1+4}.\text{Frob}(20)$	4×4	$\text{Aut}(\text{HN})$	2
\mathcal{F}_5^2	5	–	$\text{GL}_2(5)$	$2_-^{1+4}.\text{Alt}(5).4$	4×4	B	1
\mathcal{F}_7^0	7	–	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	$3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$	6×6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(1_1)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(2_1)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(2_2)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(2_3)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6×2	–	2
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(3_1)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(3_2)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(3_3)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(3_4)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6×3	–	3
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(4_1)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(4_2)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(4_3)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6×2	–	2
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(5)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^1(6)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	–	6×6	–	6
$\mathcal{F}_7^2(1)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	$\text{SL}_2(7).2$	–	6×2	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^2(2)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	$\text{SL}_2(7).2$	–	6×2	–	1
$\mathcal{F}_7^2(3)$	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	–	6×6	–	3
\mathcal{F}_7^3	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	6×6	–	1
\mathcal{F}_7^4	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	–	$3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$	6×6	–	1
\mathcal{F}_7^5	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	6×6	–	1
\mathcal{F}_7^6	7	$\text{SL}_2(7)$	$\text{GL}_2(7)$	$3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$	6×6	M	1

- (b) $p = 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \sim 4 \circ 2_-^{1+4}.\text{Frob}(20)$;
- (c) $p = 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \sim 2_-^{1+4}.\text{Frob}(20)$;
- (d) $p = 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \sim 2_-^{1+4}.\text{Alt}(5).4$;
- (e) $p = 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \cong \text{GL}_2(5)$ with $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ acting reducibly on Q/Z normalizing Z_3/Z ;
- (f) $p = 7$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \sim 3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$; or
- (g) $p \geq 5$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$.

Furthermore, either $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Out}_B(S)$ is isomorphic to $(p - 1) \times (p - 1)$ or else $p = 5$, case (c) holds, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \cong 4 \times 2$ has index 2 in $\text{Out}_B(S)$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is the subgroup listed in (b). Finally, if $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is one of the groups listed in (a)-(g) then $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is uniquely determined up to isomorphism and in particular $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ are uniquely determined.

Proof Recall that $\text{Out}(Q) \cong \text{GSp}_4(p)$ by Proposition 3.4. Thus, as $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \geq \text{Inn}(Q)$, we are required to find all the possibilities for $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ up to $\text{GSp}_4(p)$ -conjugacy. Set $V = Q/Z$,

$G = \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ and $\Gamma = \text{GSp}_4(p) = \text{GSp}(V) \leq \text{GL}(V)$. We know that $\text{Out}_S(Q) = S/Q$ has order p and, by Lemma 3.2(f), the non-trivial elements of $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ act on Q/Z with a single Jordan block. Moreover, as $Q \in \mathcal{E}$, $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ is not normal in G . Furthermore, $\text{Aut}_G(\text{Out}_S(Q))$ is cyclic of order $p - 1$ by hypothesis (1). Hence G is a member of the set denoted by \mathcal{G}_p^\wedge in [8].

Suppose that the projection of G into $\text{PGL}(V)$ is almost simple. Then [8, Propositions 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3] yield candidates for $O^{p'}(G)$: if V is irreducible $p = 5$ with $O^{5'}(G) \cong 2 \cdot \text{Alt}(6)$, $p = 7$ with $O^{7'}(G) \cong 2 \cdot \text{Alt}(7)$ with $p = 7$ or $p \geq 5$ is arbitrary and $O^{p'}(G) \cong \text{SL}_2(p)$. If V is not irreducible, we have $p = 5$ and $O^{5'}(G) \cong \text{SL}_2(5)$. Assuming that V is irreducible, [4, Tables 8.12 and 8.13] shows that all the candidates for $O^{p'}(G)$ in (b) exist and are unique up to conjugacy in Γ . Furthermore, as $O^{p'}(G) \leq \text{Sp}_4(p)$, we obtain $\langle \theta \rangle \cap O^{p'}(G) = 1$, $G = N_\Gamma(O^{p'}(G)) = O^{p'}(G)\langle \theta \rangle$ and the information provided in [4, Tables 8.12 and 8.13] (and Schur’s Lemma) gives the details listed in (a), (f) and (g).

In the case V is indecomposable, the 2-space preserved by G is isotropic. Thus G is contained in a maximal parabolic subgroup P of Γ which leaves an isotropic 2-space invariant. To see uniqueness here, we note that the 1-cohomology of the 3-dimensional $\mathbb{F}_5 \text{SL}_2(5)$ -module has dimension 1 (see [8, Lemma 3.11]). Thus there are five $O^{5'}(P)$ conjugacy classes of subgroups isomorphic to $\text{SL}_2(5)$ contained in $O^{5'}(P)$. One of these acts completely reducibly on V and the others are all conjugate by an element of order 4 in P . Thus $O^{5'}(G)$ is uniquely determined and since $\theta \in G$ induces an element of order 4 on Z , we have $G \cong \text{GL}_2(5)$. This is case (e).

Suppose that the projection of G into $\text{PGL}(V)$ is not an almost simple group. Then, by [8, Proposition 4.4], $p = 5$, $P = O_5(G) = F^*(G)$ is isomorphic to one of $4 \circ 2^{1+4}$ or 2_-^{1+4} and either

- $G/P = \text{Sym}(6)$;
- $G/P = \text{Sym}(5)$; or
- $G/P = \text{Frob}(20)$.

By [4, Tables 8.12 and 8.13], the first case cannot occur.

In $\Gamma = \text{GSp}_4(5)$, P is uniquely determined up to Γ -conjugacy. It follows that $H = N_\Gamma(P)$ is also uniquely determined up to conjugacy in Γ .

Suppose $G/P \cong \text{Sym}(5)$. Then, as $G/C_G(Z(Q))$ is cyclic of order 4 generated by the image of θ , we see that $O^{5'}(G) \sim 2_-^{1+4} \cdot \text{Alt}(5)$ and $G = N_\Gamma(P)$. This is the configuration in (d) and it contains $\langle Z(\Gamma), \theta \rangle$ of order 16.

Suppose $G/P \cong \text{Frob}(20)$. Then

$$G \leq N_\Gamma([P, \text{Out}_S(Q)] \text{Out}_S(Q)) \sim 4 \circ 2^{1+4} \cdot \text{Frob}(20).$$

It follows that if $P \cong 4 \circ 2^{1+4}$, then G is uniquely determined and again it contains $\langle Z(\Gamma), \theta \rangle$ of order 16. This is listed as (b). If $P \cong 2_-^{1+4}$, then $N_\Gamma(P \text{Out}_S(Q))/P \text{Out}_S(Q)$ is abelian of type 2×4 . It follows that $N_\Gamma(P \text{Out}_S(Q))$ contains exactly two candidates for G . However, $\theta \in G$ and so we know in this case that

$$G = P \text{Out}_S(Q)\langle \theta \rangle.$$

To see that this group is unique, we show that $\langle \theta \rangle$ is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\langle Z(\Gamma), \theta \rangle$ and this is where we use hypothesis (2). In the case that 3 does not divide $p - 1$, we have that $\langle Z(\Gamma), \theta \rangle$ acts faithfully on Z_2 because the elements of $Z(\Gamma)$ scale V by some $\omega \in \mathbb{F}_5$ and then Z by ω^2 (so the determinant 1 elements in $Z(\Gamma)$ have order dividing 3). This means that when $p = 5$, $\langle \theta \rangle$ is uniquely determined as the subgroup of $\langle Z(\Gamma), \theta \rangle$ consisting of those elements which have determinant 1 on Z_2 . This gives (c).

Now we observe that in all cases other than (c), $N_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Out}_S(Q)) \cong p : (p - 1)^2$. In case (c), we have already remarked that $N_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Out}_S(Q)) \cong 5 : (4 \times 2)$. By saturation these morphisms lift to elements of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and so we have the order and isomorphism type of $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$.

It remains to prove the final uniqueness statement. Assume that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is one of the subgroups listed in (a)–(g). Then since $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is uniquely determined up to conjugacy in $\text{Out}(Q)$, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is uniquely determined up to conjugacy in $\text{Aut}(Q)$. Since \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system [1, Theorem I.4.9] uniquely determines a group M with Sylow p -subgroup S such that $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) = \mathcal{F}_S(M)$. Hence $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Aut}_{N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(S) = \text{Aut}_M(S)$ is uniquely determined. \square

The next lemma unlocks the results from Lemma 5.2.

Lemma 5.3 *Suppose that $R \in \mathcal{E}$. Then*

- (a) *there exists $\theta \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q))$ such that θ induces an automorphism of order $p - 1$ on both $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ and Z ; and*
- (b) *if $p = 5$ then $\det \theta|_{Z_2} = 1$.*

Proof By Lemma 4.5, $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) = \text{SL}_2(p)$ and this group acts faithfully on $Z_2 = Z(R)$ and on $R/\Phi(R) = R/Z_3$. Thus there exists $\theta_0 \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))$ such that θ_0 induces an automorphism of Z of order $p - 1$ and has determinant 1 when acting on Z_2 . Since \mathcal{F} is saturated, θ_0 extends to an element of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and then by restriction we obtain an element θ of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ which acts on Z with order $p - 1$. Now we note that θ acts on $R/Z_4 = R/(Q \cap R) \cong RQ/Q = S/Q$ faithfully and so we also have θ induces an automorphism of order $p - 1$ on $\text{Out}_S(Q)$. \square

5.1 The case $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$

By Theorem 4.2, $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$ implies that $p = 7$ and so the typical case occurs when $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$. We consider this scenario in this section.

Lemma 5.4 *If $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$, then $\mathcal{E} = \{Q, R\}$.*

Proof Suppose that \mathcal{E} has a unique element $X \in \{Q, R\}$. Then

$$\mathcal{F} = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(X), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \rangle$$

by Theorem 2.2. By Lemma 3.2(d), X is a characteristic subgroup of S and thus we see that $1 \neq X = O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$, which is a contradiction. \square

Lemma 5.5 *If $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$, then either*

- (a) *$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Out}_B(S)$ has order $(p - 1)^2$ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(p)$; or*
- (b) *$p = 5$, Lemma 5.2 case (c) holds, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has order 8 and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong 4 \circ \text{SL}_2(5)$.*

In both cases $|C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Out}_S(R))| > 2$.

Proof Lemmas 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 combine to give the possibilities for $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$. As the elements of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ restrict to members of $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))$ and $\text{Out}_S(R)$ has order p , if $|\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)|$ has order $(p - 1)^2$ then $|C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Out}_S(R))| = p - 1 > 2$. So suppose that Lemma 5.2 case (c) occurs. Recall that $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong \text{SL}_2(5)$. Hence, by a Frattini argument

$$\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) = N_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Out}_S(R))O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \sim \text{SL}_2(5).2$$

and this group is a subgroup of $GL_2(5)$. From these observations we conclude that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong 4 \circ SL_2(5)$. This proves the last part of the claim. \square

We next show that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ uniquely picks out a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$ to play the role of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$.

Lemma 5.6 *If $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$, then $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$.*

Proof Since $R \in \mathcal{E}$, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $GL_2(p)$ and $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong SL_2(p)$ by Lemma 4.5. Note that the restriction map $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \rightarrow N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))$ is a surjection and so $N_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Out}_S(R))$ is entirely determined by $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$. By Lemma 5.5 we have $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is isomorphic to $GL_2(p)$ or Lemma 5.2 case (c) holds with $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong 4 \circ SL_2(5)$. Set

$$\bar{T} = \text{Out}_S(R) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{Y} = N_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\bar{T}).$$

Then $C_{\bar{Y}}(\bar{T})$ has order greater than 2 by Lemma 5.5. Thus Lemma 3.6 implies that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$ by \bar{Y} . Since \bar{Y} is determined by $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$, this shows that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$. \square

Lemma 5.7 *If $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$, then $\mathcal{E} = \{Q, R\}$ and \mathcal{F} is uniquely determined by specifying the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(Q)$ from Lemma 5.2 which is $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$.*

Proof For this we just coalesce Lemmas 5.2, 5.5(a) and 5.6. \square

Lemma 5.8 *Suppose that $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$. Then $\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F}) = 1$ or $p = 5$, Lemma 5.2(b) holds and $\Gamma_S(\mathcal{F}) = 2$.*

Proof We have $O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) \cong SL_2(p)$ and so this group contributes a cyclic group of order $p - 1$ which acts faithfully on Z to $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S) = \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)/\text{Inn}(S)$. If $N_{O^{p'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q))}(\text{Out}_S(Q))$ has order $p - 1$, then, as $O^{p'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q))$ centralizes Z , we have $|\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)| = (p - 1)^2$ and we obtain $\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Now examining the groups in listed in Lemma 5.2, yields that the only possibility for $\Gamma_{p'}(\mathcal{F})$ to be non-trivial arises when $p = 5$ and Lemma 5.2(b) holds. In this case $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \cong 4 \times 4$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$ has index 2. \square

Theorem 5.9 *Suppose that $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \{Q, R\}$ and \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then $\mathcal{E} = \{Q, R\}$ and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $G_2(p)$ or to \mathcal{F}_5^0 , \mathcal{F}_5^1 , \mathcal{F}_5^2 or \mathcal{F}_7^0 or to a subsystem of index 2 in \mathcal{F}_5^1 as listed Table 1.*

Proof From Lemma 5.7, \mathcal{F} is uniquely determined once $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is specified. Thus we only need to check that $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. If $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ acts irreducibly on Q/Z , then the only candidates for $O_p(\mathcal{F})$ are Z and Q . Since $O_p(\mathcal{F})$ is contained in all the \mathcal{F} -essential subgroups and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ does not normalize Z , we are done. The only possibility which arises with $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ acting reducibly on Q/Z , occurs in Lemma 5.2(e). In this case, $p = 5$ and using the detail in Lemma 5.2(e), we see that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ leaves invariant the unique normal subgroup of S of order 5^3 . That is $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ leaves Z_3 invariant. Since $Z_3 = \Phi(R)$ is also invariant under the action of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$, we have $O_5(\mathcal{F}) = Z_3$ in this case, a contradiction. \square

5.2 The case $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$

In this section, we assume that $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$ and consequently $p = 7$ by Lemma 4.12. Since $G_2(7)$ has a 7-dimensional representation over \mathbb{F}_7 , S has exponent 7. In fact, as S is now a

fixed group, we may use MAGMA [3] to perform calculations in S and also to calculate in the automorphism group of subgroups of S .

Motivated by Lemma 4.12, for an arbitrary subgroup $W \in \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$ we define

$$\Delta = N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(W) \text{Inn}(S) = \langle c_d, \text{Inn}(S) \mid d = (\lambda, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}) \in B, \lambda \in \mathbb{F}_7^\times \rangle.$$

Thus $\Delta / \text{Inn}(S)$ is cyclic of order 6.

Lemma 5.10 *The following hold:*

- (a) Δ has six orbits on \mathcal{W} ;
- (b) for $W_1, W_2 \in \mathcal{W}$, $W_1\Phi(S) = W_2\Phi(S)$ if and only if W_1 and W_2 are in the same Δ -orbit;
- (c) $\text{Aut}(S)$ acts transitively on \mathcal{W} ;
- (d) \mathcal{W} is the union of $\frac{36}{|\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)|}$ \mathcal{F} -conjugacy classes of subgroups of order 49.

Proof As S has exponent 7, the number of subgroups of S of order 49 which are not contained in Q or R and contain Z is

$$|\mathcal{W}| = \frac{|S| - |Q| - (|R| - |R \cap Q|)}{(49 - 7)} = \frac{7^6 - 7^5 - (7^5 - 7^4)}{42} = 7^3 \cdot 6.$$

Here we use the fact that $W_x = W_{x'}$ if and only if $x' \in W_x \setminus Z$, where $x \in S \setminus Q \cup R$ and W_x is as defined in Notation 4.1. Let $W \in \mathcal{W}$. Then, as $W \not\subseteq Q$ and $W \not\subseteq R$, $N_S(W) = WZ_2$. Thus $|W^S| = |S : WZ_2| = 7^3$ and so \mathcal{W} is the union of six S -orbits and also six Δ -orbits. This proves (a). Now $W_x, W_y \in \mathcal{W}$ are in the same Δ -orbit if and only if $W_x\Phi(S) = W_y\Phi(S)$ which is (b). Since $\text{Aut}(S)/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S)) = \text{Aut}_B(S)C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))/C_{\text{Aut}(S)}(S/\Phi(S))$ acts as diagonal matrices on $S/\Phi(S)$ by Lemma 3.8, we see that $\text{Aut}(S)$ acts transitively on $\mathcal{X} = \{W\Phi(S) \mid W \in \mathcal{W}\}$ and hence also on \mathcal{W} . Thus (c) holds.

Now, for $W \in \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$, $|N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(W) \text{Inn}(S) / \text{Inn}(S)| = 6$ by Lemma 4.12(b). Therefore $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has $36/|\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)|$ orbits on \mathcal{X} and so there are $36/|\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)|$ \mathcal{F} -conjugacy classes. This proves (d). □

Lemma 5.11 *If $Q \in \mathcal{E}$, then*

- (a) $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Out}_B(S) \cong 6 \times 6$;
- (b) $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is a uniquely determined subgroup $\text{Aut}(Q)$; and
- (c) either $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$ or $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q) \cong 3 \times 2 \cdot \text{Sym}(7)$.

Furthermore, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ acts transitively on \mathcal{W} .

Proof Combining Lemmas 4.12(c) and 5.2 gives parts (a), (b) and (c). Lemma 5.10 shows that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ acts transitively on \mathcal{W} . □

Lemma 5.12 *If $\{Q, R\} \subset \mathcal{E}$, then $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \cong 6 \times 6$.*

Proof The proof of the uniqueness of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ follows the same steps as in Lemma 5.6. □

Theorem 5.13 *If $Q \in \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$, then \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to either $\mathcal{F}_7^3, \mathcal{F}_7^4, \mathcal{F}_7^5$ or \mathcal{F}_7^6 .*

Proof This follows by collecting the results of Lemmas 4.12, 5.11 and 5.12. □

We now move on to the case where $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W} \cup \{R\}$.

Notation 5.14 Suppose that $I = \mathbb{F}_7^\times = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$. Then the action of \mathbb{F}_7^\times by multiplication on non-empty subsets of I has orbit representatives as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} 1_1 &= \{1\}, \\ 2_1 &= \{1, 2\}, 2_2 = \{1, 3\}, 2_3 = \{1, 6\}, \\ 3_1 &= \{1, 2, 3\}, 3_2 = \{1, 2, 5\}, 3_3 = \{1, 2, 6\}, 3_4 = \{1, 2, 4\}, \\ 4_1 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, 4_2 = \{1, 2, 3, 5\}, 4_3 = \{1, 2, 5, 6\}, \\ 5_1 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \\ 6_1 &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that these orbits are regular other than $2_3, 4_3$ (both of which have length 3), 3_4 (which has length 2 and 6_1 which has length 1.)

By Lemma 5.10

$$\mathcal{X} = \{W\Phi(S)/\Phi(S) \mid W \in \mathcal{W}\}$$

consists of the six diagonal subgroups to $Q/\Phi(S)$ and $R/\Phi(S)$ in $S/\Phi(S)$ and the action of $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ on \mathcal{X} can be identified with the action of \mathbb{F}_7^\times on I . In particular, Δ is contained in the kernel of this action. This means that, if \mathcal{Y} is a union of Δ -orbits on $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$, then $\{W\Phi(S)/\Phi(S) \mid W \in \mathcal{Y}\} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$. Since the elements of \mathcal{X} correspond to Δ -orbits on \mathcal{W} , we may sensibly denote the Δ -orbits on \mathcal{W} by \mathcal{W}_i where $i \in I$. Now the $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ -orbits on the non-empty subsets of the set of Δ -orbits $\{\mathcal{W}_1, \dots, \mathcal{W}_6\}$ on \mathcal{W} have representatives as described in Notation 5.14. We may suppose that there exists $W_1 \in \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$ such that $W_1 \in \mathcal{W}_1$. Of course $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$ is a union of Δ -orbits and so corresponds to a subset j of I and any $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ translate of j corresponds to an isomorphic fusion system. Thus we may suppose that $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$ corresponds to one of the subsets listed in Notation 5.14. Now given fusion systems \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2 on S with $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}_i}(S) \leq \text{Aut}_B(S)$ and $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E} \neq \emptyset$, for \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2 to be isomorphic, the corresponding subsets of I must be $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ -conjugate. Thus, if $\mathcal{W} \supseteq \mathcal{E}$, to uniquely specify a fusion system, we need to specify a subset j of I to correspond to the Δ -orbits on \mathcal{E} and then a subgroup of $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ containing Δ and stabilizing j .

Let j_i be a subset of I as in Notation 5.14 and define

$$B(j_i) = \text{Stab}_{\text{Aut}_B(S)}(j_i).$$

For an orbit representative j_i , define the fusion systems

$$\mathcal{G}(j_i) = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W), \Delta \mid W \in \mathcal{W}_k, k \in j_i \rangle$$

and then put

$$\mathcal{F}_7^1(j_i) = \langle \mathcal{G}(j_i), B(j_i) \rangle.$$

Theorem 5.15 *Suppose that $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$. Then \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to a subsystem of \mathcal{F}_7^1 -index of $\mathcal{F}_7^1(j_i)$ containing $\mathcal{G}(j_i)$ where j_i is an $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ -orbit on the non-empty subsets of $\{\mathcal{W}_1, \dots, \mathcal{W}_6\}$. Furthermore, if these fusion systems are saturated then no two of them are isomorphic.*

Proof The claim follows from the previous discussion. □

We remark that the set of $\mathcal{F}_7^1(j_i)$ -essential subgroups in \mathcal{W} is exactly $\bigcup_{k \in j_i} \mathcal{W}_k$.

Theorem 5.16 *Suppose $R \in \mathcal{E}$ and $Q \notin \mathcal{E}$. Then $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined and either*

1. $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Out}_B(S) \cong 6 \times 6$ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ acts transitively on \mathcal{W} ; or
2. $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \sim \text{SL}_2(7).2$, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \cong 6 \times 2$ is uniquely determined in $\text{Out}_B(S)$ containing Δ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has three orbits each of length two on \mathcal{W} .

In particular, \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to either $\mathcal{F}_7^2(1)$, $\mathcal{F}_7^2(2)$, $\mathcal{F}_7^2(3)$ or $O^7(\mathcal{F}_7^2(3))$.

Proof Let $W \in \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$ and $\tilde{\Delta}$ represent the subgroup of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ obtained by restricting the morphisms in Δ to R . By Lemma 4.12, $\tilde{\Delta}$ is generated by $\text{Aut}_S(R)$ together with restrictions to R of the elements c_d where

$$d = (\lambda, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})$$

with $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_7^\times$. We calculate that $\tilde{\Delta}$ is cyclic of order 6 and that on $R/\Phi(R)$ we can select a basis so that such elements act as diagonal matrices $\text{diag}(\lambda^2, \lambda)$ and so have determinant λ^3 which is a cube. Recall from Lemma 4.12(b) that $\tilde{\Delta}$ is independent of the choice of $W \in \mathcal{W}$. Thus $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \langle O^7(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)), \tilde{\Delta} \rangle \cong \text{SL}_2(7).2$, the unique subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(7)$ of index 3. In addition, as Δ acts as scalars on $S/\Phi(S)$, $\text{Out}_S(R)$ admits $\tilde{\Delta}$ faithfully. Now calculating in $\text{Aut}(R)$ using MAGMA [3] for example, we see that there is a unique subgroup X of $\text{Aut}(R)$ containing $\text{Inn}(R)$ with $X/\text{Inn}(R) \cong \text{SL}_2(7)$ which is normalized by $\text{Aut}_S(R)\tilde{\Delta}$. Furthermore, $N_{\text{Aut}(R)}(X)/\text{Inn}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$. This means that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{SL}_2(7).2$ or $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$ and $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ is uniquely determined as a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(R)$. In the respective cases we have $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)}(\text{Aut}_S(R))/\text{Aut}_S(R) \cong 6 \times 2$ or 6×6 . The extension of the morphisms in this subgroup to $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ determine $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ to be either the unique subgroup of index 3 in $\text{Aut}_B(S)$ containing Δ or $\text{Aut}_B(S)$. In particular, either $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has three orbits of length 2 on \mathcal{X} with representative of the first orbit being given by 2_3 as in Notation 5.14 or $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ operates transitively on \mathcal{W} .

Hence, if $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{GL}_2(7)$, then $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \text{Aut}_B(S)$ is transitive on \mathcal{W} and we have no choices to make. Thus in this case

$$\mathcal{F} = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \rangle$$

and this is the fusion system $\mathcal{F}_7^2(3)$. Suppose that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has index 3 in $\text{Aut}_B(S)$. In this case, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R) \cong \text{SL}_2(7).2$ and, setting $\mathcal{W}_{k,\ell} = W_k \cup W_\ell$, the $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ orbits on \mathcal{W} are $\mathcal{W}_{1,6}$, $\mathcal{W}_{3,4}$ and $\mathcal{W}_{2,5}$. Hence, up to altering \mathcal{F} by an element of $\text{Aut}_B(S)$, we may suppose that one of the following holds

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F} &= \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W) \mid W \in \mathcal{W}_{1,6} \rangle; \\ \mathcal{F} &= \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W) \mid W \in \mathcal{W}_{1,6} \cup \mathcal{W}_{3,4} \rangle; \text{ or} \\ \mathcal{F} &= \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W) \mid W \in \mathcal{W} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

These fusion systems are $\mathcal{F}_7^2(1)$, $\mathcal{F}_7^2(2)$ and $O^7(\mathcal{F}_7^2(3))$ respectively. □

We can now complete the proof of Theorem 5.1:

Proof of Theorem 5.1 This follows from Theorem 5.9 in the case $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E} = \emptyset$ and from Theorems 5.13, 5.16 and 5.15 in the case $\mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E} \neq \emptyset$. □

6 Completing the proof of Theorem 1.1 for $p \geq 5$

In order to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1, it remains to show that each of the fusion systems described in Table 1 exists and is saturated, and to establish which ones are realizable as fusion systems of finite groups.

Theorem 6.1 *Each of the fusion systems listed in Theorem 5.1 exists and is saturated.*

Proof Examining the list of maximal subgroups of $G_2(p)$, Ly , $\text{Aut}(\text{HN})$, B and M yields that the fusion systems $\mathcal{F}_S(G_2(p))$, \mathcal{F}_5^0 , \mathcal{F}_5^1 , \mathcal{F}_5^2 and \mathcal{F}_7^6 are respectively isomorphic to the fusion systems of $G_2(p)$, Ly , $\text{Aut}(\text{HN})$, B and M on their Sylow p -subgroups. In particular, each of these fusion systems is saturated. Let $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_7^0$. Then $\mathcal{E} = \{Q, R\}$ and $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ and $N_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ are saturated fusion systems on S with $O_7(N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)) = Q$ and $O_7(N_{\mathcal{F}}(R)) = R$. Hence by [1, Theorem I.4.9] there exist finite groups G_1 and G_2 which realize $N_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ and $N_{\mathcal{F}}(R)$ respectively. Moreover $O_p(G_1) = Q$ and $O_p(G_2) = R$ and Q and R are self-centralizing in these groups. In addition, we may realize $N_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ by G_{12} which may be embedded into both G_1 and G_2 . Note that this configuration appears in the Monster sporadic simple group and so exists. Let G^* be the free amalgamated product $G_1 *_{G_{12}} G_2$ and let Γ be the coset graph $\Gamma(G^*, G_1, G_2, G_{12})$. Since the only $\mathcal{F}_S(G_1)$ -essential subgroup is Q and the only $\mathcal{F}_S(G_2)$ -essential subgroup is R , to invoke Theorem 2.5, we only have to demonstrate that for any $\mathcal{F}_S(S)$ -centric subgroup A , the fixed vertex set Γ^A is finite.

For adjacent vertices $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ with α a coset of G_1 and β a coset of G_2 , we set $Q_\alpha = O_7(G_\alpha)$ and $R_\beta = O_7(G_\beta)$. Thus Q_α is G^* -conjugate to Q and R_β is G^* -conjugate to R . We also set $S_{\alpha\beta} = O_7(G_{\alpha\beta})$ where $G_{\alpha\beta} = G_\alpha \cap G_\beta$. Notice that $G_{\alpha\beta} = N_{G_\alpha}(S_{\alpha\beta}) = N_{G_\beta}(S_{\alpha\beta})$ and $G_{\alpha\beta}$ is a maximal subgroup of G_α and G_β .

Assume that $A \leq S_{\alpha\beta}$ is $S_{\alpha\beta}$ -centric. Seeking a contradiction we further assume that Γ^A is infinite. Notice first that any 7-group which stabilizes an arc $\gamma, \delta, \varepsilon$ of length 2 is contained in $S_{\gamma\delta} \cap S_{\delta\varepsilon} = O_7(G_\delta)$ which is one of R_δ or Q_δ . Since Γ^A is infinite, we may consider a path emanating from the arc α, β of infinite length. We choose notation so that $G_\alpha = G_2$ and $G_\beta = G_1$ and consider a path

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \zeta, \eta$$

which is fixed by A . Since A stabilizes the arc $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$, A is contained in $Q_\beta \cap R_\gamma$. In particular, $A \leq Q_\beta$ and, as A is $S_{\alpha\beta}$ -centric, $Z(Q_\beta) = Z(S_{\alpha\beta}) \leq A$. Thus Q_β normalizes A .

Notice that $Z(Q_\delta) \leq Z(R_\gamma) \leq Q_\beta \leq S_{\alpha\beta}$. Therefore, using the fact that A fixes the arc $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon$, we deduce first that $A \leq Q_\delta$ and second that $Z(Q_\delta) \leq A$. Now we have

$$Z(R_\gamma) = Z(Q_\beta)Z(Q_\gamma) \leq A \leq Q_\beta \cap R_\gamma \cap Q_\delta = \Phi(R_\gamma).$$

Since $\Phi(R_\gamma)$ is abelian and $\Phi(R_\gamma) \leq Q_\beta \leq S_{\alpha\beta}$, we now see that $A = \Phi(R_\gamma)$ because A is $S_{\alpha\beta}$ -centric. In particular, A is normalized by G_γ . Since A fixes the arc $\gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \zeta, \eta$ we have

$$A \leq Q_\delta \cap R_\varepsilon \cap Q_\zeta = \Phi(R_\varepsilon).$$

Since $|A| = 7^3$, we must have $A = \Phi(R_\varepsilon)$. Hence $\Phi(R_\varepsilon) = \Phi(R_\gamma)$ and this subgroup is normalized by $\langle G_{\gamma\delta}, G_{\delta\varepsilon} \rangle = G_\delta$. But then $A = \Phi(R_\gamma)$ is normalized by $\langle G_\gamma, G_\delta \rangle = G^*$ which is absurd. We conclude that Γ^A is finite and thus that \mathcal{F}_7^0 is saturated.

We are left only with the cases where $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} \neq \emptyset$ and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to $\mathcal{F}_7^1(j_i)$, $\mathcal{F}_7^2(j)$ or \mathcal{F}_7^i with $3 \leq i \leq 5$. Let $\mathcal{E}_0 = \mathcal{E} \setminus (\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W})$ (so $\mathcal{E}_0 \subseteq \{Q, R\}$) and define $\mathcal{F}_0 = \langle \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(P) \mid P \in \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle$. Then \mathcal{F}_0 is saturated because in each case it is the fusion system of a finite group. We intend to apply Lemma 2.6 with $\{W_1, W_2, \dots, W_m\}$ a set of representatives for the set of \mathcal{F}_0 -conjugacy classes of subgroups in $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W}$. Observe that:

- W_i is \mathcal{F}_0 -centric and minimal under inclusion amongst all \mathcal{F} -centric subgroups (note that any \mathcal{F} -centric subgroup must properly contain $Z(S)$);
- no proper subgroup of W_i is \mathcal{F}_0 -essential.

Hence the hypotheses of Theorem 2.6 are satisfied and \mathcal{F} is saturated and exists as the fusion system of a tree of groups. Finally, we note that by Theorem 2.3, the fusion systems corresponding to subgroups of $\Gamma_{\gamma}(\mathcal{F})$ are also saturated. □

Theorem 6.2 *Let $p \geq 5$, S be a Sylow p -subgroup of $G_2(p)$ and \mathcal{F} be a saturated fusion system on S with $O_p(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then either \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $G_2(p)$ or $p \leq 7$ and one of the following holds:*

- (a) \mathcal{F} is exotic;
- (b) \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of one of the simple groups listed in Theorem 2.11 parts (a) and (b);
- (c) $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_5^1$ and \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $\text{Aut}(\text{HN})$.

Proof Suppose that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(G)$ for some finite group G with $S \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$. Since $\mathcal{F}_S(G) = \mathcal{F}_{\overline{S}}(\overline{G})$ where $\overline{G} = G/O_{p'}(G)$, we may suppose that $O_{p'}(G) = 1$. Let N be a minimal normal subgroup of G . Then $1 \neq S \cap N$ is a normal subgroup of S and so $Z(S) \leq N$.

If $W \in \mathcal{W} \cap \mathcal{E}$, then $p = 7$ and $W = \langle Z(S)^{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(W)} \rangle = \langle Z(S)^M \rangle \leq N$ where $M = N_G(W)$. Hence

$$WZ_4 = W[W, Q] \leq W[W, S] = \langle W^S \rangle \leq N.$$

Thus $(N \cap M)C_G(W)/C_G(W)$ contains a Sylow p -subgroup of $M/C_G(W)$ and so, as $N \cap M$ is normal in M and $M/C_G(W) \cong \text{SL}_2(7)$, $(N \cap M)C_G(W) = M$. So $\mathcal{F}_S(NS)$ must contain one of the fusion systems $O^{7^i}(\mathcal{F}_7^1(j))$ for $j \subseteq I$ as in Notation 5.14. But by Lemma 4.12, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}_S(NS)}(S)$ satisfies $[S, \text{Out}_{NS}(S)] = S$ and this means that $S \leq N$.

If $\mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{W} = \emptyset$, then $\mathcal{E} = \{Q, R\}$ by Lemma 5.4. Thus $Z_2 = Z(R) \leq \langle Z(S)^{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)} \rangle \leq N$, and then $Q = \langle Z(R)^{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)} \rangle \leq N$. Now $Z_4 \leq N$ and so $R = \langle Z_4^{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(R)} \rangle \leq N$. Thus $S = QR \leq N$.

We have shown that for all the fusion systems under investigation, we have $S \in \text{Syl}_p(N)$. Plainly N is non-abelian and so N is a direct product of isomorphic non-abelian simple groups. Therefore, as $Z(S)$ has order p , we have that N is simple and that G is almost simple. Since $S \in \text{Syl}_p(N)$, Theorem 2.11 shows that either $N \cong G_2(p)$ or $p \leq 7$ and N is one of the sporadic simple groups Ly, HN, B or M. Furthermore, in all cases except for $N \cong \text{HN}$ we have $\text{Out}(N) = 1$ and so either $G = N$ or $G = \text{Aut}(\text{HN})$. It is now straight forward to match fusion systems to groups and this proves the theorem. □

We now complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 for $p \geq 5$.

Proof of Theorem 1.1 This follows on combining Theorems 5.1, 6.1 and 6.2. □

7 Fusion systems on a Sylow 3-subgroup of $G_2(3)$

We classify all saturated fusion systems on S where, in this section, S is the group U constructed in the appendix in the case $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_3$. For α in the root system of G_2 , we use x_α to denote $x_\alpha(1)$. Set

$$Q_1 = \langle x_\beta, x_{\alpha+\beta}, x_{\alpha+2\beta}, x_{\alpha+3\beta}, x_{2\alpha+3\beta} \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad Q_2 = \langle x_\alpha, x_{\alpha+\beta}, x_{\alpha+2\beta}, x_{\alpha+3\beta}, x_{2\alpha+3\beta} \rangle.$$

In particular we note that S has order 3^6 and Q_1 and Q_2 have order 3^5 .

Lemma 7.1 *Suppose that $G = G_2(3)$, $G_1 = \text{Aut}(G)$, $S \in \text{Syl}_3(G)$, $B = N_G(S)$ and $B_1 = N_{G_1}(S)$. Then*

- (a) Q_1 and Q_2 are isomorphic to $3^2 \times 3^{1+2}$ and have exponent 3;
- (b) $Q_1 \cup Q_2$ is the set of elements in S of order dividing 3;
- (c) every element of $S \setminus Q_1 \cup Q_2$ has order 9;
- (d) if M is a maximal subgroup of S then either $M \in \{Q_1, Q_2\}$ or $M' \geq Z(S)$;
- (e) $[Q_i, S, S] \not\leq \Phi(Q_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$;
- (f) $[Z(Q_i), S] \not\leq \Phi(Q_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$;
- (g) $|\text{Aut}(S)| = 2^3 \cdot 3^{10}$ and a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\text{Aut}(S)$ is conjugate to a subgroup of $\text{Aut}_{B_1}(S)$;
- (h) if $t \in \text{Aut}_B(S)$ has order 2 then $C_{Q_i}(t)$ has order 3 or 9 for $i = 1, 2$.

Proof Some of these results can be found in [17, Lemma 6.5], and others are well-known. They are also elementary to produce using MAGMA [3]. □

In this section we complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 by proving the following result.

Theorem 7.2 *Let S be a Sylow 3-subgroup of $G_2(3)$ and \mathcal{F} be a saturated fusion system on S with $O_3(\mathcal{F}) = 1$. Then \mathcal{F} is isomorphic to the fusion system of $G_2(3)$ or $\text{Aut}(G_2(3))$.*

Assume that \mathcal{F} is a saturated fusion system on S . To prove Theorem 7.2 it suffices to demonstrate that up to isomorphism there are exactly two possible fusion systems on S with $O_3(\mathcal{F}) = 1$.

Lemma 7.3 *Suppose that $E \leq S$ is an \mathcal{F} -essential subgroup of \mathcal{F} . Then $E \leq Q_1$ or $E \leq Q_2$.*

Proof Suppose that the claim is false. We first examine the possibility that $E \cap Q_1 = E \cap Q_2$. In this case $|E/(E \cap Q_1 \cap Q_2)| = 3$ and every element of $E \setminus Q_1$ has order 9. Thus

$$E \cap Q_1 = E \cap Q_2 = E \cap Q_1 \cap Q_2 = \Omega_1(E)$$

and this group has index 3 in E . Because E is centric, $E \cap Q_1 \geq Z(S)$. Since $E \geq Z(S)$ and $[S, Q_1 \cap Q_2] = Z(S)$, E is normalized by $Q_1 \cap Q_2$ and so

$$[E, Q_1 \cap Q_2] \leq E \cap Q_1 \cap Q_2 = \Omega_1(E).$$

Furthermore, as $\Omega_1(E) \leq Q_1 \cap Q_2$ and $Q_1 \cap Q_2$ is abelian, $[\Omega_1(E), Q_1 \cap Q_2] = 1$. Hence

$$1 \leq \Omega_1(E) \leq E$$

is an $\text{Aut}_{Q_1 \cap Q_2}(E)$ -invariant chain and we conclude from Lemma 2.7 that $\text{Aut}_{Q_1 \cap Q_2}(E) \leq O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)) = \text{Inn}(E)$. Thus $Q_1 \cap Q_2 \leq E$ and

$$E \text{ is normalized by } S = Q_1 Q_2.$$

Since $Z(Q_1) \leq Q_1 \cap Q_2 \leq E$, we now have $Z(E) \leq C_S(Z(Q_i)) = Q_i$ and so $Z(S) \leq Z(E) \leq Q_1 \cap Q_2$. Suppose that $Z(E) > Z(S)$. Since, for $i = 1, 2$, E does not centralizes $Z(Q_i)$, and $|Z(Q_i)| = 3^3$, we have $Q_1 \cap Q_2 = Z(Q_1)Z(E) = Z(Q_2)Z(E)$. But then

$$\begin{aligned} [Q_1 \cap Q_2, E] &= [Z(Q_1)Z(E), E] = [Z(Q_1), E] = [Z(Q_1), Q_1 E] \\ &= [Z(Q_1), Q_1 Q_2] = [Z(Q_1), Q_2] = \Phi(Q_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} [Q_1 \cap Q_2, E] &= [Z(Q_2)Z(E), E] = [Z(Q_2), E] = [Z(Q_2), Q_2 E] \\ &= [Z(Q_2), Q_1 Q_2] = [Z(Q_2), Q_1] = \Phi(Q_1) \end{aligned}$$

whereas we know $\Phi(Q_1) \neq \Phi(Q_2)$. This contradiction shows that $Z(E) = Z(S)$. Now, recalling that $\Omega_1(E) = Q_1 \cap E = E \cap Q_1 \cap Q_2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [E, Q_1] &\leq \Omega_1(E) \\ [\Omega_1(E), Q_1] &\leq [Q_1 \cap Q_2, Q_1] = \Phi(Q_1) \leq Z(E) \quad \text{and} \\ [Z(E), Q_1] &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$1 \trianglelefteq Z(E) \trianglelefteq \Omega_1(E) \trianglelefteq E$$

is an $\text{Aut}_{Q_1}(E)$ -invariant chain so $\text{Aut}_{Q_1}(E) \leq O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)) = \text{Inn}(E)$ which means that $Q_1 \leq E$ and $S = E$, a contradiction. Hence $E \cap Q_1 \neq E \cap Q_2$.

Suppose $E \cap Q_1 \not\leq Q_2$. As $Q'_1 \leq Z(S) \leq E$, Q_1 normalizes $E \cap Q_1$ and therefore $E Q_1 = S$ normalizes $E \cap Q_1$. It follows that

$$(E \cap Q_1)Z(Q_1)/Z(Q_1) \geq C_{Q_1/Z(Q_1)}(S) = (Q_1 \cap Q_2)/Z(Q_1)$$

and this implies that

$$(E \cap Q_1)Z(Q_1) = Q_1$$

and $EZ(Q_1) = S$. Now noting that $E \geq Z(S)$ and $|Z(Q_1) : Z(S)| = 3$ yields $|E| = 3^5$. Thus E is a maximal subgroup of S . By Lemma 7.1(d), $E' \geq Z(S)$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} [E, S] &= [E, EZ(Q_1)] = E'[E, Z(Q_1)] \\ &\leq E'[S, Z(Q_1)] \leq E'Z(S) = E'. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\text{Aut}_S(E)$ centralizes E/E' and this means that $\text{Aut}_S(E) \leq O_p(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E))$, a contradiction. □

Lemma 7.4 *We have $Q_1 \cap Q_2$ is not \mathcal{F} -essential.*

Proof Suppose to the contrary that $E = Q_1 \cap Q_2$ is \mathcal{F} -essential. Then $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ has a strongly 3-embedded subgroup. Since E is normalized by S , $\text{Out}_S(E)$ is elementary abelian of order 9. It follows from [10, Theorem 7.6.1] that, setting $X = \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$, $O^{3'}(X/Z(X))$ is isomorphic to one of $\text{PSL}_2(9)$, $\text{PSL}_3(4)$, or $\text{Mat}(11)$. Because the latter two groups have order which does not divide $|\text{GL}_4(3)|$, we conclude that $O^{3'}(X/Z(X)) \cong \text{PSL}_2(9)$. Since $C_E(S) = Z(S)$ has order 9, we deduce that $O^{3'}(X) \cong \text{SL}_2(9)$. But then, by [1, Theorem 4.9], $N_{\mathcal{F}}(E)$ is realized by a group which contains $3^4 : \text{SL}_2(9)$ and this group has Sylow 3-subgroups of exponent 3, a contradiction. □

Lemma 7.5 *The following hold.*

- (a) $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ is a subgroup of $\text{Dih}(8)$;
- (b) $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(Q_1) = N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(Q_2)$ has index at most 2 in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(Q_1)/\text{Inn}(S)$ is elementary abelian of order at most 4; and
- (c) if $t \in N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(Q_1)$ is an involution, then $C_{Q_i}(t)$ has order either 3 or 3^2 .

Proof Parts (a) and (b) follow from Lemma 7.1(g) while part (c) follows from Lemma 7.1(h). □

Lemma 7.6 *Suppose that for $i = 1$ or 2 , $E < Q_i$ is \mathcal{F} -essential. Then $|E| = 3^4$, E is elementary abelian, $O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)) \cong \text{SL}_2(3)$ and $|[E, t]| = 9$ for $t \in Z(O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)))$ of order 2.*

Proof Without loss of generality, assume that $E \leq Q_1$. Then, by Lemma 7.4, $E \neq Q_1 \cap Q_2$. Since $E \leq Q_1$, $Z(Q_1) \leq E$ and, as E is centric, $E > Z(Q_1)$. Since, by assumption, $E \neq Q_1$ and using Q_1 has exponent 3, we obtain E is elementary abelian of order 3^4 . As $E \neq Q_1 \cap Q_2$, we have $N_S(E) = Q_1$ and so $\text{Aut}_S(E) = \text{Aut}_{Q_1}(E)$ has order 3. Since $[E, Q_1] = \Phi(Q_1)$ has order 3 we may apply the main result of [13] to see that $O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)) \cong \text{SL}_2(3)$ and that $||[E, t]|| = 9$ for $t \in Z(O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)))$ of order 2. \square

Lemma 7.7 *Suppose that for $i = 1$ or 2 , $E < Q_i$ is \mathcal{F} -essential. Then Q_i is \mathcal{F} -essential.*

Proof Assume that Q_i is not \mathcal{F} -essential. By Lemma 7.6 there exists $t \in Z(O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(E)))$ of order 2. Then t normalizes $\text{Aut}_S(E) = Q_i/Z(E)$ and hence lifts to $\tau \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)$ by saturation. Since Q_i is not \mathcal{F} -essential, Lemma 7.3 implies that $\tau = \sigma|_{Q_i}$ for some $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$. Now $|C_{Q_i}(\tau)| = |Q_i/E||C_E(t)| = 27$ by Lemma 7.6. On the other hand, by Lemma 7.5 we have $|C_{Q_i}(\sigma|_{Q_i})| \leq 9$, a contradiction. Hence Q_i is \mathcal{F} -essential. \square

Lemma 7.8 *Suppose that Q_i is \mathcal{F} -essential for some $1 \leq i \leq 2$. Then $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)$ acts faithfully on $Q_i/Z(Q_i)$. In particular, $O^{3'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)) \cong \text{SL}_2(3)$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ embeds into $\text{GL}_2(3)$.*

Proof We may as well suppose that $i = 1$. Let $X = C_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)}(Q_1/Z(Q_1))$, we will show that $X = \text{Inn}(Q_1)$. Since $\text{Out}_S(Q_1)$ acts faithfully on $Q_1/Z(Q_1)$ and $\text{Out}_S(Q_1)$ has order 3, we have $X/\text{Inn}(Q_1)$ has 3'-order. Thus

$$Q_1/\Phi(Q_1) = [Q_1/\Phi(Q_1), X] \times C_{Q_1/\Phi(Q_1)}(X)$$

by coprime action. Since X is normal in $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$, this is a non-trivial decomposition which is $\text{Aut}_S(Q_1)$ -invariant. Suppose that $C_{Q_1/\Phi(Q_1)}(X) \cap Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1) \neq 1$. Then

$$Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1) = (C_{Q_1/\Phi(Q_1)}(X) \cap Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1)) \times [Q_1/\Phi(Q_1), X]$$

as $[Q_1/\Phi(Q_1), X] = [Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1), X]$. This decomposition is also non-trivial and we deduce that $\text{Aut}_S(Q_1)$ centralizes $Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1)$ which contradicts Lemma 7.1(f). Hence $C_{Q_1/\Phi(Q_1)}(X) \cap Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1) = 1$ and so $[Q_1/\Phi(Q_1), X] = Z(Q_1)/\Phi(Q_1)$. Now

$$|C_{Q_1/\Phi(Q_1)}(X)| = |[Q_1/\Phi(Q_1), X]| = 9.$$

Thus $[Q_1, S, S] \leq \Phi(Q_1)$ against Lemma 7.1(e). Hence $X = \text{Inn}(Q_1)$. Therefore, $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(3)$ and, as $\text{Out}_S(Q_1)$ is not normal in $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$, this proves the lemma. \square

Proposition 7.9 *If $E \leq S$ is \mathcal{F} -essential, then $E \in \{Q_1, Q_2\}$.*

Proof Suppose that E is \mathcal{F} -essential and that $E \notin \{Q_1, Q_2\}$. Then by Lemma 7.3, without loss of generality we may assume $Z(Q_1) < E < Q_1$. Then by Lemma 7.7, Q_1 is \mathcal{F} -essential and, by Lemma 7.8, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$ acts transitively on the maximal subgroups of Q_1 containing $Z(Q_1)$. In particular, E is \mathcal{F} -conjugate to $Q_1 \cap Q_2$ and this contradicts E being fully \mathcal{F} -normalized. This contradiction shows that if E is \mathcal{F} -essential, then $E \in \{Q_1, Q_2\}$. \square

Lemma 7.10 *We have $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1) \cong \text{GL}_2(3) \cong \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ is either elementary abelian of order 4 or dihedral of order 8.*

Proof By Proposition 7.9, we may assume that Q_1 is \mathcal{F} -essential. If $Q_1^{\mathcal{F}}$ is the only class of essential subgroups, then, as $O_3(\mathcal{F}) = 1$, we must have that $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has an element α

which does not normalize Q_1 . But then $Q_1\alpha = Q_2$. It follows that either Q_1 and Q_2 are not \mathcal{F} -conjugate and are both \mathcal{F} -essential or that they are \mathcal{F} -conjugate. Thus, by Lemma 7.8,

$$O^{3'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)) \cong O^{3'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)) \cong \text{SL}_2(3).$$

For $1 \leq i \leq 2$, let $\tau_i \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)$ project to an involution in $Z(O^{3'}(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)))$. Then τ_i lifts to $\widehat{\tau}_i \in \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S_i)$ of order 2. Furthermore, on $S/(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$, these maps normalize both $Q_1/(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$ and $Q_2/(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$ with $\widehat{\tau}_1$ centralizing S/Q_1 and inverting $Q_1/(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$ whereas $\widehat{\tau}_2$ centralizes S/Q_2 and inverts $Q_2/(Q_1 \cap Q_2)$ by Lemma 7.8. It follows that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \geq \langle \widehat{\tau}_1, \widehat{\tau}_2 \rangle \text{Inn}(S)/\text{Inn}(S)$ which is elementary abelian of order 4. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1) &= \langle \widehat{\tau}_2|_{Q_1}, O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)) \rangle / \text{Inn}(Q_1) \cong \text{GL}_2(3), \quad \text{and} \\ \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2) &= \langle \widehat{\tau}_1|_{Q_2}, O^{3'}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)) \rangle / \text{Inn}(Q_2) \cong \text{GL}_2(3). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, either $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) = \langle \widehat{\tau}_1, \widehat{\tau}_2 \rangle \text{Inn}(S)/\text{Inn}(S)$ or $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) \cong \text{Dih}(8)$ by Lemma 7.5. \square

Proof of Theorem 7.2 By Lemmas 7.5 and 7.10 $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has a subgroup $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$ of index at most 2 which has order $2^2 3^4$ with elementary abelian Sylow 2-subgroups. This subgroup normalizes both Q_1 and Q_2 and is uniquely determined up to conjugacy in $\text{Aut}(S)$. We fix it once and for all. Let $N = N_{\text{Aut}(S)}(\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S))$. Then N has a subgroup N^0 of index 2 which normalizes both Q_1 and Q_2 . Now we calculate using MAGMA that, for $i = 1, 2$, the restriction K of $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$ to Q_i is contained in exactly three subgroups X of $\text{Aut}(Q_i)$ containing $\text{Inn}(Q_i)$ which have $X/\text{Inn}(Q_i) \cong \text{GL}_2(3)$. Since K must coincide with $N_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_i)}(\text{Aut}_S(Q_i)) \sim 3_+^{1+2}.2^2$ we see, using Lemma 7.10, that there are exactly three candidates for the subgroup $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$ of $\text{Aut}(Q_1)$ and also three candidates for the subgroup $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)$ of $\text{Aut}(Q_2)$. Next we calculate that N_0 restricted to Q_1 conjugates these three candidates for $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$ together and thus we have a subgroup N^1 of index 3 in N_0 which normalizes $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$, $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$. We calculate that the restriction of N^1 to Q_2 acts transitively on the three candidates for $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)$. Thus the triple $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1), \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)$ is uniquely determined up to $\text{Aut}(S)$ conjugacy. If $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ has order 4, then $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S) = \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$ and \mathcal{F} is uniquely determined up to isomorphism. If $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S) > \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$, we check that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}^0(S)$ is contained in a unique subgroup of order 8 which conjugates $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_1)$ to $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q_2)$. This proves that there are exactly two saturated fusion systems on S up to isomorphism. Since $\mathcal{F}_S(\text{G}_2(3))$ and $\mathcal{F}_S(\text{Aut}(\text{G}_2(3)))$ provide examples of fusion systems, we have completed the proof of the theorem. \square

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Appendix

8.1 Construction of a Sylow p -subgroup of $\text{G}_2(q)$

Following Wilson [23], we construct the Sylow p -subgroup U of $\text{G}_2(q)$. Let \mathbb{F} denote a finite field of order $q = p^f$ for some prime $p \geq 3$ and let $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{F}[i_0, i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5, i_6]$ be the octonion algebra where, taking subscripts modulo 7, i_t, i_{t+1}, i_{t+3} satisfy same multiplication rules as i, j, k in the quaternions. For completeness, we give the multiplication table below:

	i_0	i_1	i_2	i_3	i_4	i_5	i_6
i_0	-1	i_3	i_6	$-i_1$	i_5	$-i_4$	$-i_2$
i_1	$-i_3$	-1	i_4	i_0	$-i_2$	i_6	$-i_5$
i_2	$-i_6$	$-i_4$	-1	i_5	i_1	$-i_3$	i_0
i_3	i_1	$-i_0$	$-i_5$	-1	i_6	i_2	$-i_4$
i_4	$-i_5$	i_2	$-i_1$	$-i_6$	-1	i_0	i_3
i_5	i_4	$-i_6$	i_3	$-i_2$	$-i_0$	-1	i_1
i_6	i_2	i_5	$-i_0$	i_4	$-i_3$	$-i_1$	-1

Wilson defines an additional basis for \mathbb{O} as follows: first choose $a, b \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $a^2 + b^2 = -1, b \neq 0$ and define a new basis $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_8\}$ of \mathbb{O} by setting:

$$\begin{aligned}
 2y_1 &= i_4 + ai_6 + bi_0, & 2y_8 &= i_4 - ai_6 - bi_0 \\
 2y_2 &= i_2 + bi_3 + ai_5, & 2y_7 &= i_2 - bi_3 - ai_5, \\
 2y_3 &= i_1 - bi_6 + ai_0, & 2y_6 &= i_1 + bi_6 - ai_0, \\
 2y_4 &= 1 + ai_3 - bi_5, & 2y_5 &= 1 - ai_3 + bi_5.
 \end{aligned}$$

The new multiplication table is given on [23, p. 123] and involves coefficients ± 1 . Moreover, on [23, p. 124] Wilson gives a maximal unipotent subgroup U of $G_2(q)$ in terms of its action with respect to this basis. Let $\mathcal{R} = \{\alpha, \beta, \alpha + \beta, \alpha + 2\beta, \alpha + 3\beta, 2\alpha + 3\beta\}$ be a set of positive roots for the G_2 root system. Then, for $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$, U is generated by the matrices

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{2\alpha+3\beta}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & x_{\alpha+3\beta}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & x_{\alpha+2\beta}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \lambda^2 & 0 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\
 x_{\alpha+\beta}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^2 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & x_{\beta}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & x_{\alpha}(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda^2 & \lambda & -\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For $\theta \in \mathcal{R}$, the elements $x_{\theta}(\lambda), \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ generate the root group corresponding to θ . It is straightforward to verify that the following relations hold for all $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{F}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 [x_{\beta}(\lambda), x_{\alpha}(\mu)] &= x_{2\alpha+3\beta}(2\mu^3\lambda^2)x_{\alpha+3\beta}(-\mu^3\lambda)x_{\alpha+2\beta}(\mu^2\lambda)x_{\alpha+\beta}(-\mu\lambda) \\
 [x_{\alpha+\beta}(\lambda), x_{\alpha}(\mu)] &= x_{2\alpha+3\beta}(-3\mu\lambda^2)x_{\alpha+3\beta}(3\mu^2\lambda)x_{\alpha+2\beta}(-2\mu\lambda) \\
 [x_{\alpha+2\beta}(\lambda), x_{\alpha}(\mu)] &= x_{\alpha+3\beta}(-3\mu\lambda) \\
 [x_{\alpha+3\beta}(\lambda), x_{\beta}(\mu)] &= x_{2\alpha+3\beta}(3\mu\lambda) \\
 [x_{\alpha+2\beta}(\lambda), x_{\alpha+\beta}(\mu)] &= x_{2\alpha+3\beta}(-\mu\lambda) \\
 [x_r(\lambda), x_s(\mu)] &= 1 \quad \text{for all other } \{r, s\} \subset \mathcal{R}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall the definitions of the elements $x_1(\lambda), x_2(\lambda), \dots, x_6(\lambda)$ in Sect. 3.1.

Proposition 8.1 *Let $\phi : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ be the mapping which sends the tuple of elements $(\alpha, \beta, \alpha + \beta, \alpha + 2\beta, \alpha + 3\beta, 2\alpha + 3\beta)$ to $(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$. Then the induced map $U \rightarrow S$ given for each $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ by $x_r(\lambda) \mapsto x_{r\phi}(\lambda)$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof This is routine to check. □

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