

# On Variations of $m, n$ -Totally Projective Abelian $p$ -Groups

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ABSTRACT. We define some new classes of  $p$ -torsion Abelian groups which are closely related to the definitions of  $n$ -totally projective, strongly  $n$ -totally projective and  $m, n$ -totally projective groups introduced by P. Keef and P. Danchev in J. Korean Math. Soc. (2013). We also study their critical properties, one of which is the so-named *Nunke's-esque* property.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

All groups examined in the current paper will be  $p$ -primary Abelian, where  $p$  is an arbitrary fixed prime, and  $m$  and  $n$  are both non-negative integers which will be used in the sequel as parameters. Most of our notions and notations will be standard being in agreement with [5] and [6]; for the specific ones, we refer the readers to [9], [10] and [11]. About the unstated explicitly terminology, it will be given in all details. We shall say that the group  $G$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic if it is isomorphic to a direct sum of cyclic groups. Likewise, in [12] was established that a group  $G$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective precisely when there is  $P \leq G[p^n]$  with the property that  $G/P$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic. Generalizing this concept, in [9] were introduced the following two notions:

- The group  $G$  is said to be  $n$ -simply presented if there exists  $P \leq G[p^n]$  with  $G/P$  simply presented.
- The group  $G$  is said to be *strongly (or nicely)  $n$ -simply presented* if there exists a nice subgroup  $N \leq G$  with  $N \subseteq G[p^n]$  such that  $G/N$  is simply presented.

It is self-evident that strongly  $n$ -simply presented groups are of necessity  $n$ -simply presented; in [9] a concrete example was constructed showing that the converse is false. Furthermore, it was proved again in [9] that  $G$  is  $n$ -simply presented precisely when it is  $n$ -co-simply presented, that is,  $G \cong$

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2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary: 20K10, 20K40.

*Key words and phrases.*  $m, n$ -simply presented groups,  $m, n$ -totally projective groups, nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective groups, nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective groups, nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective groups, nicely  $m, n$ -co-strongly totally projective groups.

$E/F$  where  $E$  is simply presented and  $F \subseteq E[p^n]$ . So, by analogy, there was stated the following:

The group  $G$  is said to be *strongly  $n$ -co-simply presented* if  $G \cong H/K$  for some simply presented group  $H$  and its nice subgroup  $K \leq H[p^n]$ .

Unfortunately, an explicit construction from [11] demonstrates that there exists a strongly 1-co-simply presented group of length  $\omega + 1$  that is not strongly 1-simply presented. However, for groups of length  $\omega$  these two classes coincide with the class of  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projectives. Even more, each strongly  $n$ -simply presented group of length  $\omega + n$ , being  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective, is strongly  $n$ -co-simply presented.

Later on, strengthening the classical notion of total projectivity, in [11] were defined the concepts of  $n$ -totally projective groups and strongly  $n$ -totally projective groups as follows:

- The group  $G$  is said to be  *$n$ -totally projective* if, for every (limit) ordinal  $\lambda$ ,  $G/p^\lambda G$  is  $p^{\lambda+n}$ -projective.
- The group  $G$  is said to be *strongly  $n$ -totally projective* if, for each (limit) ordinal  $\lambda$ ,  $G/p^{\lambda+n} G$  is  $p^{\lambda+n}$ -projective.

Notice that, when  $n = 0$ , these groups are just the totally projectives. It is also readily verified that strongly  $n$ -totally projective groups are  $n$ -totally projective, whereas the converse implication is not true (cf. [11]). However, it was proved in [10] that  $n$ -totally projective  $A$ -groups are themselves strongly  $n$ -totally projective. (For the full definition of an  $A$ -group, the reader is referred to [7].)

Likewise, note that (strongly)  $n$ -simply presented groups are (strongly)  $n$ -totally projective, respectively.

- The group  $G$  is said to be *weakly  $n$ -totally projective* if, for each (limit) ordinal  $\lambda$ ,  $G/p^\lambda G$  is  $p^{\lambda+2n}$ -projective.
- The group  $G$  is said to be *strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective* if, for every (limit) ordinal  $\lambda$ ,  $G/p^{\lambda+n} G$  is  $p^{\lambda+2n}$ -projective.

It is apparent that the following inclusions hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{strongly } n\text{-totally projective}\} &\subseteq \{n\text{-totally projective}\} \\ &\subseteq \{\text{strong weakly } n\text{-totally projective}\} \\ &\subseteq \{\text{weakly } n\text{-totally projective}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, in [11] were defined a few more concepts as well. In fact, the above versions of generalizations of simple presentness suggest the following improvements:

- A group  $G$  is said to be  *$m, n$ -simply presented* if there exists  $P \leq G[p^n]$  such that  $G/P$  is strongly  $m$ -simply presented.

In [4] was showed that  $G$  is  $m, n$ -simply presented if and only if there is a strongly  $m$ -totally projective group  $A$  and its  $p^n$ -bounded subgroup  $B$  such that  $G \cong A/B$ , that is,  $G$  is  *$m, n$ -co-simply presented*.

- A group  $G$  is said to be *weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented* if there exists  $N \leq G[p^m]$  such that  $N$  is nice in  $G$  and  $G/N$  is  $n$ -simply presented.

A very difficult challenging conjecture says that weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented groups are  $m, n$ -simply presented, but the most real probability is it to be resolved in the negative. However, for groups of lengths  $< \omega^2$  the conjecture holds in the affirmative (see [4]).

- A group  $G$  is said to be  *$m, n$ -co-weakly simply presented* if there exists an  $n$ -simply presented group  $U$  and its  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $V$  such that  $G \cong U/V$ .

Again it is interesting what is the relationship between the classes of  $m, n$ -co-simply presented groups and  $m, n$ -co-weakly simply presented groups.

- A group  $G$  is said to be *strongly  $m, n$ -simply presented* if there exists  $N \leq G[p^m]$  such that  $N$  is nice in  $G$  and  $G/N$  is strongly  $n$ -simply presented.
- A group  $G$  is said to be  *$m, n$ -co-strongly simply presented* if there exists a strongly  $n$ -simply presented group  $X$  and its  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $Y$  such that  $G \cong X/Y$ .

A common generalization of both  $m, n$ -simply presented groups and weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented groups is the following:

- A group  $G$  is said to be *widely  $m, n$ -simply presented* if there exists  $Z \leq G[p^m]$  such that  $G/Z$  is  $n$ -simply presented.

As in [4] a parallel reformulation of  $G$  to be widely  $m, n$ -simply presented is that  $G \cong J/Q$ , where  $J$  is  $n$ -simply presented and  $Q \subseteq J[p^m]$ , that is, the group is *widely  $m, n$ -co-simply presented*.

The alluded to above versions of extensions of total projectivity propose the next further refinements (cf. [11]):

- A group  $G$  is said to be  *$m, n$ -totally projective* if, for any ordinal  $\lambda$ ,  $G/p^{\lambda+m}G$  is  $p^{\lambda+m+n}$ -projective.

Apparently, if  $m = 0$ , we get  $n$ -totally projective groups, while if  $n = 0$ , we obtain strongly  $m$ -totally projective groups. The combination  $m = n = 0$  gives totally projective groups.

Notice also that both  $m, n$ -simply presented and weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented groups are themselves  $m, n$ -totally projective.

Analogously to Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 from [4], and especially similarly to the proof of Proposition 2.1, it follows that even widely  $m, n$ -simply presented groups are  $m, n$ -totally projective.

Finally, mimicking [3], a group  $G$  is termed *nicely  $m$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective* if there exists a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $Y$  such that  $G/Y$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective. More generally, a group  $G$  is named *strongly  $m$ - $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective* provided that there is a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $T$  such that  $G/T$  is strongly  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective in the sense of [1], that is, a group  $A$  is called *strongly  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective* if there exists a  $p^n$ -bounded nice subgroup  $B$  such that

$G/B$  is the direct sum of a countable group and a  $\Sigma$ -cyclic group. Note that  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projectives are obviously strongly  $\omega_1 p^{\omega+n}$ -projective, by taking the countable summand to be zero. Some other interesting definitions of this kind the reader can see in [2].

Our goal here is to introduce certain non-trivial variations of the given above concepts, needed for applicable purposes. Namely, we state the following definitions.

**Definition 1.1.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N$  is  $n$ -totally projective.

Clearly, if  $m = 0$ , we obtain  $n$ -totally projective groups, whereas if  $n = 0$ , we get strongly  $m$ -simply presented groups (see [9]). Besides, choosing  $m = n = 0$ , we also retrieve totally projective (= simply presented) groups.

On the other hand, it is immediate that weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented group are necessarily nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective.

**Definition 1.2.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $M$  of  $G$  such that  $G/M$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective.

Observe that nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective groups are obviously nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective. Likewise, notice that if  $m = 0$ , we obtain strongly  $n$ -totally projective groups, whereas if  $n = 0$ , we get strongly  $m$ -simply presented groups (cf. [9]). In particular, if both  $m = n = 0$ , we just retrieve totally projective (= simply presented) groups.

The last definition can be enlarged to the following one:

**Definition 1.3.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -strongly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that  $G/P$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective.

Note that  $n, m$ -simply presented groups are  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective.

**Definition 1.4.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -weakly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $X$  of  $G$  such that  $G/X$  is weakly  $n$ -totally projective.

**Definition 1.5.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -weakly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $Y$  of  $G$  such that  $G/Y$  is weakly  $n$ -totally projective.

**Definition 1.6.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -strong weakly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  such that  $G/K$  is strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective.

**Definition 1.7.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -strong weakly totally projective* if there is a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $S$  of  $G$  such that  $G/S$  is strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective.

**Definition 1.8.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective* if there is an  $n$ -totally projective group  $T$  with a nice  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $L$  such that  $G \cong T/L$ .

Apparently, when  $m = 0$ , we obtain  $n$ -totally projective groups, while if  $n = 0$ , we get strongly  $m$ -co-simply presented groups (see [9]). If both  $m = n = 0$ , we come to totally projective (= simply presented) groups.

**Definition 1.9.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -co-strongly totally projective* if there is a strongly  $n$ -totally projective group  $S$  with a nice  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $K$  such that  $G \cong S/K$ .

It is observed that nicely  $m, n$ -co-strongly totally projective groups are themselves nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective. Also, note that if  $m = 0$ , we obtain strongly  $n$ -totally projective groups, while if  $n = 0$ , we get strongly  $m$ -co-simply presented groups (cf. [9]). Likewise, the equalities  $m = n = 0$  lead to totally projective (= simply presented) groups.

**Definition 1.10.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -co-strongly totally projective* if there is a strongly  $n$ -totally projective group  $H$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $V$  such that  $G \cong H/V$ .

**Definition 1.11.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -co-weakly totally projective* if there is a weakly  $n$ -totally projective group  $R$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $C$  such that  $G \cong R/C$ .

**Definition 1.12.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -co-weakly totally projective* if there is a weakly  $n$ -totally projective group  $A$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $B$  such that  $G \cong A/B$ .

**Definition 1.13.** The group  $G$  is called *nicely  $m, n$ -co-strong weakly totally projective* if there is a strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective group  $E$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $F$  such that  $G \cong E/F$ .

**Definition 1.14.** The group  $G$  is called  *$m, n$ -co-strong weakly totally projective* if there is a strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective group  $D$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $C$  such that  $G \cong D/C$ .

In [4] the listed above variations of  $m, n$ -simply presented groups were characterized, while the main goal here is to characterize the variations of  $m, n$ -totally projectives defined above by comparing them with the previously cited ones from [4], [9] and [11].

## 2. BASIC RESULTS

We begin with the following statement which determines nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective groups of length at most  $\omega + m$ , and which improves Proposition 1.2 from [11].

**Theorem 2.1.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a group with  $p^{\omega+m}G = \{0\}$ . Then  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective if and only if  $G$  can be embedded in a  $p^{\omega+m}$ -bounded  $n$ -totally projective group.*

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Assume that  $G/N$  is  $n$ -totally projective for some nice subgroup  $N \leq G$  with  $p^m N = \{0\}$ . Hence  $G/N/p^\omega(G/N) \cong G/(N+p^\omega G)$  is separable  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective. For simpleness we put  $N + p^\omega G = P$ . Clearly  $P \supseteq p^\omega G$  remains nice in  $G$  because of separability of the above quotient (or because  $N$  is nice in  $G$ ), as well as  $P \leq G[p^m]$ .

On the other hand, let  $B$  be a totally projective group whose  $p^\omega B$  is  $p^m$ -bounded and such that there is an isomorphism  $\varphi : p^\omega B \rightarrow P$ . Note that there is an abundance of such groups.

Suppose now that  $H$  is the group that is the amalgamated sum of  $B$  and  $G$  along  $\varphi$ . In other words  $H = [B \oplus G]/\{(b, \varphi(b)) : b \in p^\omega B\}$ , i.e.,  $H = B + G$  where  $B \cap G = p^\omega B = P$ .

One may see that  $p^\omega H = p^\omega B$ , so that  $H$  will be  $p^{\omega+m}$ -bounded as well. To that goal, given  $x \in p^\omega H = \bigcap_{i < \omega} p^i H$  hence  $x = b_i + g_i = b_j + g_j = \dots$  where  $b_i \in p^i B, b_j \in p^j B$  and  $g_i \in p^i G, g_j \in p^j G$  for some arbitrary indices  $i, j$  with  $i < j$ . Thus  $b_i - b_j = g_j - g_i \in G \cap B = p^\omega B$  whence  $b_i \in p^j B$  for every index  $j < \omega$ , that is,  $b_i \in p^\omega B = P$ . Similarly,  $b_j \in p^\omega B = P$ . That is why  $g_i \in p^j G + P$  for any  $j < \omega$ , i.e.,  $g_i \in \bigcap_{j < \omega} (p^j G + P) = p^\omega G + P = P$ . Finally,  $x \in P = p^\omega B$ , as required.

Furthermore, one can observe that  $H/p^\omega H = (B/p^\omega B) \oplus (G/P)$ , and since  $B/p^\omega B$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic (cf. [5]) while  $G/P$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective, we deduce that  $H/p^\omega H$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective. We finally employ Theorem 4.5 from [9] to get appeared that  $H$  is  $n$ -simply presented. Hence [11] allows us to conclude that  $G$  is  $n$ -totally projective, as stated.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”. Let  $G \subseteq H$  where  $H$  is an  $n$ -totally projective group of length not exceeding  $\omega + m$ . Since  $G/(p^\omega H \cap G) \cong (G + p^\omega H)/p^\omega H \subseteq H/p^\omega H$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective as being a subgroup of the  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective group  $H/p^{\omega+n}H$ , and moreover  $p^\omega H \cap G$  is obviously bounded by  $p^m$  and is nice in  $G$ , we establish the wanted claim.  $\square$

We next continue with some relationships between the defined above classes of groups.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Suppose  $G$  is a group. If*

- (i)  *$G$  is  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective, then  $G$  is widely  $m, n$ -simply presented.*
- (ii)  *$G$  is strongly  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective, then  $G$  is  $m, n$ -simply presented.*

*Proof.* (i) In accordance with [8], write  $G/H$  is the direct sum of a countable group and a  $\Sigma$ -cyclic group, whence  $G/H$  is simply presented, for some  $H \leq G$  with  $p^{m+n}H = \{0\}$ . Observe that  $G/H \cong G/p^n H/H/p^n H$ . Therefore,  $G/p^n H$  is  $n$ -simply presented. Since  $p^m(p^n H) = \{0\}$ , we are finished.

(ii) In virtue of [1], one may write  $G/H$  as above into the direct sum of a countable group and a  $\Sigma$ -cyclic group, but where  $H$  is nice in  $G$  and  $p^{m+n}$ -bounded. Furthermore, the same idea as that in point (i) works, seeing that  $H/p^n H$  remains nice in  $G/p^n H$  and hence  $G/p^n H$  is strongly  $n$ -simply presented.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $G$  be a nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective group such that  $p^{\omega+m+n}G = \{0\}$ . Then  $G$  is nicely  $m$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $G/M$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective for some nice  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $M$ . Utilizing [11], the quotient  $G/M/p^{\omega+n}(G/M) \cong G/(M + p^{\omega+n}G)$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective. Since  $p^m(M + p^{\omega+n}G) = \{0\}$ , and  $M + p^{\omega+n}G$  remains nice in  $G$ , the result follows.  $\square$

With the last statement in hand, one may derive the following:

**Theorem 2.2.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a group with countable  $p^{\omega+m+n}G$ . Then  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective if and only if  $G$  is strongly  $m$ - $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective.*

*Proof.* “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Appealing to Proposition 3.1 (ii), stated and proved below, the factor-group  $G/p^{\omega+m+n}G$  is also nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective. Furthermore, Proposition 2.2 is applicable to get that  $G/p^{\omega+m+n}G$  is nicely  $m$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective and hence strongly  $m$ - $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective. Since  $p^{\omega+m+n}G$  is countable by assumption, we employ Theorem 3.11 from [3] to deduce the desired implication.

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” It follows immediately because strongly  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective groups are themselves strongly  $n$ -simply presented (see [1]) and so they are strongly  $n$ -totally projective.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.3.** *If  $G$  is a nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective group of length  $\lambda < \omega^2$ , then  $G$  is weakly  $m, n$ -simply presented, and vice versa, provided  $\text{length}(G) < \omega^2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $G$  is a nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective group. Thus  $G/N$  is  $n$ -totally projective for some nice subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  which is bounded by  $p^m$ . Since  $p^\lambda(G/N) = (p^\lambda G + N)/N = \{0\}$ , we may apply [11] to get that  $G/N$  is  $n$ -simply presented, as required.

The converse implication is elementary.  $\square$

As a consequence, we yield:

**Corollary 2.1.** *If  $G$  is a nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective group of length  $< \omega^2$ , then  $G$  is  $m, n$ -simply presented (and, in particular, is  $n, m$ -strongly totally projective).*

The same can be said adding the word “strongly”. Specifically, the following is valid:

**Proposition 2.4.** *If  $G$  is a nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective group of length  $\lambda < \omega^2$ , then  $G$  is strongly  $m, n$ -simply presented, and visa versa, provided  $\text{length}(G) < \omega^2$ .*

*Proof.* Utilizing the corresponding definitions, the same idea as that in Proposition 2.3 works.  $\square$

Similarly, we derive:

**Proposition 2.5.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a group of length strictly less than  $\omega^2$ . Then  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective if and only if  $G$  is  $m, n$ -co-weakly simply presented.*

**Proposition 2.6.** *If the group  $G$  is either*

- (a) *nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective, or*
- (b) *nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective,*

*then  $G$  is  $m, n$ -totally projective.*

*Proof.* (a) Assume that there exists a nice  $p^m$ -bounded subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  such that  $G/N$  is  $n$ -totally projective. Since we have the isomorphism sequence

$$\begin{aligned} G/N/p^\lambda(G/N) &= G/N/(p^\lambda G + N)/N \cong \\ G/(p^\lambda G + N) &\cong G/p^{\lambda+m}G/(p^\lambda G + N)/p^{\lambda+m}G \end{aligned}$$

where  $G/N/p^\lambda(G/N)$  is  $p^{\lambda+n}$ -projective for each limit ordinal  $\lambda$  and  $(p^\lambda G + N)/p^{\lambda+m}G$  is  $p^m$ -bounded, we apply [11] to infer that  $G/p^{\lambda+m}G$  is  $p^{\lambda+m+n}$ -projective, as required.

(b) Assume that there exists an  $n$ -totally projective group  $T$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $L$  such that  $G \cong T/L$ . Furthermore, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} G/p^{\lambda+m}G &\cong T/L/p^{\lambda+m}(T/L) \\ &= T/L/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L)/L \\ &\cong T/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L). \end{aligned}$$

But

$$T/p^\lambda T \cong T/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L)/p^\lambda T/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L)$$

is  $p^{\lambda+n}$ -projective for every limit ordinal  $\lambda$  and  $p^\lambda T/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L)$  is  $p^m$ -bounded, so we employ [11] to conclude that  $T/(p^{\lambda+m}T + L) \cong G/p^{\lambda+m}G$  is  $p^{\lambda+m+n}$ -projective, as requested.

Note that the condition  $p^m L = \{0\}$  was not utilized.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** For some subclasses of groups of these alluded to above, we refer to [4].

For  $p^\omega$ -bounded groups, we can say even a little more. Especially the following is true (compare with Theorem 2.5 of [4]):

**Theorem 2.3.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a group with  $p^\omega G = \{0\}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $G$  is  $m, n$ -totally projective;
- (ii)  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective;
- (iii)  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective;
- (iv)  $G$  is  $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective.

*Proof.* The equivalence (i)  $\iff$  (iv) was proved in [11]. What remains to show is that (iv) implies both (iii) and (ii). In fact, since  $G$  is  $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective,  $G \cong S/Y$  for some  $\Sigma$ -cyclic group  $S$  with a  $p^{m+n}$ -bounded subgroup  $Y$ . Put  $X = S[p^n] \cap Y = Y[p^n]$ . Thus  $X$  is nice in  $S$  as the intersection of two closed subgroups (see, for example, [5]). Furthermore,  $G \cong S/X/Y/X$ , where  $S/X$  is obviously  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective because  $p^n X = \{0\}$ , and hence  $S/X$  is strongly  $n$ -simply presented. But  $Y/X = Y/Y[p^n] \cong p^n Y$  is bounded by  $p^m$  and is also nice in  $S/X$  taking into account that  $G$  is separable, so that  $Y$  is nice in  $S$  (cf. [5]). Now, an appeal to Definition 1.3 gives that  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective.

As for the second implication, since  $G$  is  $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective, there is  $V \leq G[p^{m+n}]$  such that  $G/V$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic. Set  $U = G[p^m] \cap V = V[p^m]$ . Hence  $U$  is nice in  $G$  as the intersection of two closed subgroups (see, for instance, [5]). Moreover,  $G/U/V/U \cong G/V$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic with  $V/U = V/V[p^m] \cong p^m V$  being bounded by  $p^n$ . Consequently,  $G/U$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective, whence  $n$ -totally projective, with  $p^m U = \{0\}$ . With Definition 1.1 at hand, this guarantees that  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective, as stated.  $\square$

The next example demonstrates that beyond lengths  $\omega$ , the last result is not longer valid, and also that the concept of  $m, n$ -totally projective groups is independent of that of nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective groups – the same can be happen for nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective groups (see [4] too).

**Example 2.1.** There exists a  $p^{\omega+1}$ -bounded 1, 1-totally projective group which is not nicely 1, 1-totally projective.

*Proof.* We begin with the following:

CLAIM 1. Let  $H$  be a  $p^{\omega+1}$ -projective group, and let  $J$  be a countable subgroup of  $H$ . Then  $p\bar{J}$  is countable.

To show this, if  $P$  is a  $p$ -bounded subgroup of  $H$  such that  $H/P$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic, then there is a subgroup  $L$  of  $H$  containing  $P$  and  $J$  such that  $L/P$  is a countable of  $H/P$ . It follows that  $L$  is closed in  $H$ , so that  $\bar{J} \subseteq L$ . Since  $L = P + X$  for some countable subgroup  $X$ , we have  $p\bar{J} \subseteq pL = pX$  is countable.

CLAIM 2. Let  $B$  be the standard separable free valuated vector space (i.e., all its finite Ulm-Kaplansky invariants equal to 1). Then there is a subspace  $V \subseteq \bar{B}$  of uncountable rank, containing  $B$ , such that if  $C$  is any closed subspace of  $\bar{B}$  contained in  $V$ , then  $C(k) = C \cap \bar{B}(k) = \{0\}$  for some  $k < \omega$

(i.e., any closed subspace of  $\overline{B}$  - which, in fact, will be a valued direct summand - contained in  $V$  is bounded).

Let  $b_i$  for  $i < \omega$  be a basis for  $B$ . Let  $C_\alpha$  for  $\alpha < c = 2^{\aleph_0}$  be a list of all the unbounded closed subspaces of  $\overline{B}$ ; note that each  $C_\alpha$  has rank  $c$ . Construct elements  $x_\alpha$  and  $y_\alpha$  for  $\alpha < c$  such that (1)  $y_\alpha \in C_\alpha$ , and (2)  $\{b_i, x_\alpha, y_\alpha : i < \omega, \alpha < c\}$  is linearly independent. If we let  $V = \text{span}\{b_i, x_\alpha : i < \omega, \alpha < c\}$ , then for any unbounded closed subspace  $C_\alpha$  of  $\overline{B}$ , we have  $y_\alpha \in C_\alpha \setminus V$ , which shows that  $C_\alpha$  is not contained in  $V$ .

Consider  $V \subseteq \overline{B}$  as in Claim 2. Let  $Y$  be a separable group such that  $Y[p]$  is isometric to  $V$ . Let  $Y_1$  be a group with  $Y_1[p] = Y[p]$  and  $Y = pY_1 \cong Y_1/Y_1[p]$ . If  $C_1$  is the torsion completion of  $Y_1$ , then  $C = pC_1 \cong C_1/C_1[p]$  is the torsion completion of  $Y$ . Let  $P$  be the valued group

$$(C_1/Y_1[p])[p^2] = (Y_1[p^3] + C_1[p^2])/Y_1[p].$$

We can identify  $Y[p^2] \cong Y_1[p^3]/Y_1[p]$  with a subgroup of  $P$ . In addition,

$$P[p] \cong (Y_1[p^2]/Y_1[p]) \oplus (C_1[p]/Y_1[p]) \cong Y[p] \oplus (C_1[p]/Y_1[p]),$$

$P(\omega) = C_1[p]/Y_1[p]$  and  $(P/P(\omega))[p] \cong C_1[p^2]/C_1[p] \cong C[p]$ . We will be done if we can show the following:

CLAIM 3. Suppose  $G$  is a group containing  $P$  such that the valuation on  $P$  agrees with the height function on  $G$ , and so that  $G/P$  is  $\Sigma$ -cyclic. Then  $G$  is 1, 1-simply presented of length  $\omega + 1$ , and hence it is 1, 1-totally projective of the same length, but  $G$  is not weakly 1, 1-simply presented; even more,  $G \oplus X$  is not weakly 1, 1-simply presented for every  $\Sigma$ -cyclic group  $X$ . By virtue of Proposition 2.3, this means that it is not nicely 1, 1-totally projective.

To this aim, suppose  $M$  is a nice  $p$ -bounded subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/M$  is 1-simply presented. Note that  $M + p^\omega G$  will also be nice in  $G$  and  $p$ -bounded, and  $G/[M + p^\omega G] \cong G/M/p^\omega(G/M)$  will be  $p^{\omega+1}$ -projective, and so 1-simply presented. So, we may assume  $p^\omega G \subseteq M$ .

Since  $M$  is nice,  $M/p^\omega G$  will be closed in  $(G/p^\omega G)[p]$ . Consider  $M' = (M/p^\omega G) \cap (P/P(\omega))[p]$ ; so  $M'$  is closed in  $(P/P(\omega))[p] \cong C[p]$ . Observe  $M' \subseteq Y[p] = V$ , and moreover it follows from Claim 2 that  $M'$  is bounded. In other words, for some integer  $k$ , we must have  $M' \cap V(k) = \{0\}$ .

Let  $Z$  be a basic subgroup of  $Y$  and let  $Z = Z'_k \oplus Z_k$  be a decomposition, where  $Z'_k$  is a maximal  $p^k$ -bounded summand of  $Z$ . This determines a decomposition  $Y = Z'_k \oplus Y_k$  of  $Y$ .

Notice that  $Y_k[p^2] \cap M = \{0\}$ , so that it embeds isomorphically in  $G/M$ . Call this image  $L$  and let  $J \subseteq L$  be the image of  $Z_k[p^2] \subseteq Y_k[p^2] \subseteq G$  in  $G/M$ . Note that  $J$  is countable, and since  $Z_k[p^2]$  is dense in  $Y_k[p^2]$ , it follows that  $J$  is dense in  $L$ . However, since  $pL \cong pY_k$  is uncountable, we obtain that  $p\overline{J}$  is also uncountable. But this contradicts Claim 1, and thus proves our assertion after all.  $\square$

The next question arises quite naturally: Does there exist a  $p^{\omega+1}$ -bounded 1, 1-totally projective group that is not nicely 1, 1-co-totally projective? Even more, in view of Proposition 2.6, is there a nicely 1, 1-totally projective group which is not nicely 1, 1-co-totally projective?

However the converse to that question is true for the “strongly” situation.

**Example 2.2.** There exists a nicely 1, 1-co-totally projective group of length  $\omega + 1$  which is not nicely 1, 1-strongly totally projective.

*Proof.* As already mentioned before, in Example 2.1 from [9] was constructed a  $p^{\omega+1}$ -bounded strongly 1-co-simply presented group which is not strongly 1-simply presented. We furthermore wish apply Theorem 3.2 of [11] to get the desired claim.  $\square$

Recall that it was defined in [8] a group  $G$  to be  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective, provided that there exists a countable (nice) subgroup  $C$  such that  $G/C$  is  $p^{\omega+n}$ -projective.

In the light of the last constructions, we obtain the following strengthening of Theorem 2.3:

**Proposition 2.7.** *Suppose that  $G$  is a group with countable  $p^{\omega+m}G$ . Then  $G$  is  $m, n$ -totally projective if and only if  $G$  is  $\omega_1$ - $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective.*

*Proof.* “**Necessity**”: Accordingly,  $G/p^{\omega+m}G$  is  $p^{\omega+m+n}$ -projective. We therefore see that the above definition from [8] works to get the assertion.

“**Sufficiency**”: It follows directly from Proposition 2.1 (i) stated and proved above.  $\square$

### 3. ULM SUBGROUPS AND ULM FACTORS

Imitating [5] and/or [6], for any group  $G$  and any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define  $p^n G = \{p^n g \mid g \in G\}$ . Set  $p^\omega G = \bigcap_{n < \omega} p^n G$ . By induction on an arbitrary ordinal  $\alpha$ , one may state  $p^\alpha G = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} p^\beta G$  whenever  $\alpha$  is limit, whereas  $p^\alpha G = p(p^{\alpha-1}G)$  provided that  $\alpha$  is nonlimit. Clearly  $p^\alpha G \leq G$  and these subgroups are called *Ulm subgroups*, while the factor-groups  $G/p^\alpha G$  are said to be *Ulm factors*.

We will now study Nunke’s type results for the new group classes.

**Proposition 3.1.** (i) *If  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective, then so are  $p^\alpha G$  and  $G/p^\alpha G$  for any ordinal  $\alpha$ .*

(ii) *If  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective, then so are  $p^\alpha G$  and  $G/p^\alpha G$  for any ordinal  $\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* (i) Let  $p^m N = \{0\}$  where  $N$  is nice in  $G$  such that  $G/N$  is  $n$ -totally projective. Clearly  $N \cap p^\alpha G$  is  $p^m$ -bounded and nice in  $p^\alpha G$  (see [5]) as well as  $p^\alpha G/(p^\alpha G \cap N) \cong (p^\alpha G + N)/N = p^\alpha(G/N)$  is  $n$ -totally projective because the same is  $G/N$  (cf. [11]), thus proving the first half.

For the other part,  $(N + p^\alpha G)/p^\alpha G$  is  $p^m$ -bounded and nice in  $G/p^\alpha G$  (cf. [5]). Also,

$$\begin{aligned} G/p^\alpha G/(N + p^\alpha G)/p^\alpha G &\cong G/(N + p^\alpha G) \cong \\ &G/N/(N + p^\alpha G)/N = G/N/p^\alpha(G/N) \end{aligned}$$

is  $n$ -totally projective since so is  $G/N$  (see [11]), thus showing the second half.

(ii) Follows by similar arguments seeing that  $p^\alpha(G/N)$  and  $G/N/p^\alpha(G/N)$  are both strongly  $n$ -totally projective, provided that  $G/N$  is so (cf. [11]).  $\square$

**Proposition 3.2.** (j) *If  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective, then the same are  $p^\alpha G$  and  $G/p^\alpha G$  for any ordinal  $\alpha$ .*

(jj) *If  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-strongly totally projective, then the same are  $p^\alpha G$  and  $G/p^\alpha G$  for any ordinal  $\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* (j) Let  $G \cong T/L$  for some  $n$ -totally projective group  $T$  with a  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $L$ . Hence  $p^\alpha G \cong p^\alpha(T/L) = (p^\alpha T + L)/L \cong p^\alpha T/(p^\alpha T \cap L)$ , with  $n$ -totally projective  $p^\alpha T$  (see [11]) and  $p^\alpha T \cap L$  being  $p^m$ -bounded and nice in  $p^\alpha T$  (cf. [5]). This shows that  $p^\alpha G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective.

Furthermore, concerning the second part-half,  $G/p^\alpha G \cong T/L/p^\alpha(T/L) = T/L/(p^\alpha T + L)/L \cong T/(p^\alpha T + L) \cong T/p^\alpha T/(p^\alpha T + L)/p^\alpha T$ . The utilization of [11] ensures that  $T/p^\alpha T$  is  $n$ -totally projective. Moreover,  $(p^\alpha T + L)/p^\alpha T \cong L/(p^\alpha T \cap L)$  is  $p^m$ -bounded and nice in  $T/p^\alpha T$  because  $p^\alpha T + L$  is so in  $T$  (cf. [5]). This guarantees that  $G/p^\alpha G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -co-totally projective.

(jj) Follows via identical arguments as above, observing that  $T$  being strongly  $n$ -totally projective implies the same for both  $p^\alpha T$  and  $T/p^\alpha T$  (see [11]).  $\square$

We now have all the ingredients needed to prove the following assertion. It reduces the study of nicely  $m, n$ -strong total projectivity to Ulm subgroups and Ulm factors.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Suppose that  $\alpha$  is an ordinal. Then the group  $G$  is nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective iff both  $p^{\alpha+m+n}G$  and  $G/p^{\alpha+m+n}G$  are nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective.*

*Proof.* The necessity follows from Proposition 3.1 (ii), replacing  $\alpha$  by  $\alpha + m + n$ .

Concerning the sufficiency, denote  $k = m + n$ . With Definition 1.2 at hand, let us assume that  $p^{\alpha+k}G/H = p^{\alpha+k}(G/H)$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective for some  $p^m$ -bounded nice subgroup  $H$  of  $p^{\alpha+k}G$ . Thus  $H$  is nice in  $G$  as well (see [5]).

Also, suppose  $G/p^{\alpha+k}G/A/p^{\alpha+k}G \cong G/A$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective for some  $A \leq G$  such that  $A/p^{\alpha+k}G$  is nice in  $G/p^{\alpha+k}G$  and  $p^m A \subseteq p^{\alpha+k}G$ . Therefore,  $A$  is nice in  $G$  too (cf. [5]).

We will now use a trick used in [4], [9] and [11], respectively. Let  $V$  be a maximal  $p^m$ -bounded summand of  $p^{\alpha+n}G$ ; so there exists a decomposition  $p^{\alpha+n}G = U \oplus V$  for some  $U \leq p^{\alpha+n}G$ . Besides, let  $K$  be a  $p^{\alpha+k}$ -high subgroup of  $G$  containing  $V$ . Now, it follows that (see, for instance, [9] and [11])

$$(G/p^{\alpha+k}G)[p^m] = (U \oplus K[p^m])/p^{\alpha+k}G,$$

whence  $A \subseteq U \oplus K[p^m]$ . Therefore,  $U + A \subseteq U \oplus K[p^m]$  and hence the modular law from [5] yields  $U + A = (U \oplus K[p^m]) \cap (U + A) = U + (U + A) \cap K[p^m]$ . Letting  $(U + A) \cap K[p^m] = B$ , we deduce that  $U + A = U + B$  with  $p^m B = \{0\}$ . Since  $U \subseteq p^{\alpha+n}G \subseteq p^\alpha G$ , we have that  $p^{\alpha+n}G + A = p^{\alpha+n}G + B$ .

Next put  $Z = B + H$ . By what we have already established above, it follows that  $p^m Z = \{0\}$  and that  $p^{\alpha+n}G + Z = p^{\alpha+n}G + B = p^{\alpha+n}G + A$ . Furthermore,  $A$  being nice in  $G$  elementary insures that  $p^{\alpha+n}G + Z = p^{\alpha+n}G + A$  is nice in  $G$  as well. Moreover, the modular law ensures that  $p^{\alpha+k}G \cap Z = p^{\alpha+k}G \cap (B + H) = p^{\alpha+k}G \cap B + H = p^{\alpha+k}G \cap K[p^m] \cap (U + A) + H = H$  is nice in  $p^{\alpha+k}G$ . Applying Lemma 2.9 from [4], we conclude that  $p^{\alpha+n}G \cap Z$  is nice in  $p^{\alpha+n}G$ , and hence in  $G$  (cf. [5]), because  $k \geq n$ . Finally, we again employ [5] to get that after all  $Z$  is, in fact, nice in  $G$ .

On the other hand, using the niceness of  $Z$  in  $G$ , we derive that  $p^{\alpha+k}(G/Z) = (p^{\alpha+k}G + Z)/Z \cong p^{\alpha+k}G/(p^{\alpha+k}G \cap Z) = p^{\alpha+k}G/H$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective. So, [11] applies to infer that  $p^{\alpha+n}(G/Z)$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective since  $k \geq n$ . In virtue again of ([11], Theorem 2.5),  $G/Z/p^{\alpha+n}(G/Z) = G/Z/(p^{\alpha+n}G + Z)/Z \cong G/(p^{\alpha+n}G + Z) = G/(p^{\alpha+n}G + A) \cong G/A/(p^{\alpha+n}G + A)/A = G/A/p^{\alpha+n}(G/A)$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective, too. We once again employ ([11], Corollary 2.8) to detect that  $G/Z$  is strongly  $n$ -totally projective, as wanted.  $\square$

**Remark 2.** It seems that  $k = m + n$  cannot be minimized to  $m$  or  $n$  as it was done in [4].

#### 4. LEFT-OPEN PROBLEMS

In closing we pose the following list of still unsettled questions and conjectures.

**Question 3.1.** Suppose  $G$  is a group such that  $G/p^\lambda G$  is totally projective for some ordinal  $\lambda$ . Is then  $G$  nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective if and only if  $p^\lambda G$  is?

**Question 3.2.** Suppose  $G$  is a group such that  $G/p^\lambda G$  is totally projective for some ordinal  $\lambda$ . Is then  $G$  nicely  $m, n$ -strongly totally projective if and only if  $p^\lambda G$  is?

These questions will have a positive solution provided the following implication holds: If  $A$  is a group such that  $p^\lambda A$  is  $n$ -totally projective and  $A/p^\lambda A$  is totally projective, then  $A$  is  $n$ -totally projective.

In regard to Corollary 2.1, one can state the following:

**Question 3.3.** If  $G$  is a nicely  $m, n$ -totally projective group, is then  $G$  an  $n, m$ -strongly totally projective group?

**Conjecture 3.1.** Every  $n$ -simply presented group is a summand of a strongly  $n$ -simply presented group; in particular, for any  $n$ , there is an  $n$ -simply presented group which is not strongly  $n$ -simply presented.

Same for the co-case.

**Conjecture 3.2.** For any  $n \geq 0$ , there exists a strongly  $n$ -simply presented group of length  $\omega + n + 1$  that is not strongly  $n$ -co-simply presented.

As noted above, the definition of an A-group is stated in [7].

**Conjecture 3.3.** Let  $G$  be an A-group. Then  $G$  is  $n$ -simply presented if and only if  $G$  is strongly  $n$ -simply presented.

Same for the co-case.

Since as aforementioned  $G$  is  $n$ -simply presented exactly when it is  $n$ -co-simply presented, if the last conjecture is true one may derive that  $G$  is strongly  $n$ -simply presented uniquely when it is strongly  $n$ -co-simply presented, provided  $G$  is an A-group.

**Conjecture 3.4.** Suppose  $G$  is an A-group. Then  $G$  is weakly  $n$ -totally projective if and only if  $G$  is strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective.

Thus, since it was demonstrated in [10] that there exists a weakly  $n$ -totally projective A-group which is not  $n$ -totally projective, if this conjecture holds in the affirmative, we will have an example of a strong weakly  $n$ -totally projective A-group that is not  $n$ -totally projective.

**Acknowledgement:** The author owes his sincere thanks to the referee for the expert suggestions made.

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