

ON GROUPS OF FINITE RANK

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Abstract: We study the structure of groups of finite (Prüfer) rank in a very wide class of groups and also of central extensions of such groups. As a result we are able to improve, often substantially, on a number of known numerical bounds, in particular on bounds for the rank (resp. Hirsch number) of the derived subgroup of a group in terms of the rank (resp. Hirsch number) of its central quotient and on bounds for the rank of a group in terms of its Hirsch number.

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