

On σ -Subnormal Subgroups of Finite Groups*

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Abstract. Throughout this paper, all groups are finite and σ is some partition of the set of all primes \mathbb{P} (that is, $\sigma = \{\sigma_i \mid i \in I\}$, where $\mathbb{P} = \cup_{i \in I} \sigma_i$ and $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$). A subgroup A of a group G is said to be σ -subnormal in G if there is a subgroup chain $A = A_0 \leq A_1 \leq \dots \leq A_n = G$ such that either $A_{i-1} \trianglelefteq A_i$ or $A_i/(A_{i-1})_{A_i}$ is a σ_j -group for some $j = j(i)$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$.

In this review, we discuss some known results of the theory of σ -subnormal subgroups and also some open questions in this line research.

Keywords: Finite group; σ -soluble group; σ -nilpotent group; $P\sigma T$ -group; σ -subnormal subgroup.

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, all groups are finite and G always denotes a finite group;

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$\mathcal{L}(G)$ is the lattice of all subgroups of G . Moreover, \mathbb{P} is the set of all primes, $\pi \subseteq \mathbb{P}$ and $\pi' = \mathbb{P} \setminus \pi$. If n is an integer, the symbol $\pi(n)$ denotes the set of all primes dividing n ; as usual, $\pi(G) = \pi(|G|)$, the set of all primes dividing the order of G .

Following Shemetkov [46], we use σ to denote some partition of \mathbb{P} , that is, $\sigma = \{\sigma_i \mid i \in I\}$, where $\mathbb{P} = \cup_{i \in I} \sigma_i$ and $\sigma_i \cap \sigma_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$.

The σ -property of a group G [49, 50] is any its property which does not depend on the the choice of the partition of σ of \mathbb{P} .

Before continuing, we recall some concepts of the papers [49]–[52] which play a fundamental role in the theory of σ -properties of groups.

First of all, recall that a set \mathcal{H} of subgroups of G is a *complete Hall σ -set* of G if every member $\neq 1$ of \mathcal{H} is a Hall σ_i -subgroup of G for some $\sigma_i \in \sigma$ and \mathcal{H} contains exactly one Hall σ_i -subgroup of G for every $\sigma_i \in \sigma(G)$ (here $\sigma(G) = \{\sigma_i \mid \sigma_i \cap \pi(G) \neq \emptyset\}$); a complete Hall σ -set \mathcal{H} of G is a σ -basis of G if every its two members A and B are permutable, that is, $AB = BA$. The group G is called σ -full if G possesses a complete Hall σ -set.

The group G is said to be: σ -primary if G is a σ_i -group for some $i = i(G)$; σ -soluble if every chief factor of G σ -primary; σ -nilpotent if every chief H/K of G is σ -central in G , that is, $(H/K) \times (G/C_G(H/K))$ is σ -primary.

Definition 1.1. [49, 50] *A subgroup A of G is said to be σ -subnormal in G if there is a subgroup chain $A = A_0 \leq A_1 \leq \dots \leq A_n = G$ such that either $A_{i-1} \trianglelefteq A_i$ or $A_i/(A_{i-1})_{A_i}$ is σ -primary for all $i = 1, \dots, n$.*

Remark 1.2.

- (i) The group G is σ -nilpotent if and only if every subgroup of G is σ -subnormal [50].
- (ii) Let \mathfrak{F} be a class of groups. Then a subgroup A of G is said to be \mathfrak{F} -subnormal in G in the sense of Kegel [37] or K - \mathfrak{F} -subnormal in G [12, 6.1.4] if there is a subgroup chain $A = A_0 \leq A_1 \leq \dots \leq A_n = G$ such that either $A_{i-1} \trianglelefteq A_i$ or $A_i/(A_{i-1})_{A_i} \in \mathfrak{F}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. It is not difficult to show that A is σ -subnormal in G if and only if it is \mathfrak{N}_σ -subnormal in G in the sense of Kegel, where \mathfrak{N}_σ is the class of all σ -nilpotent groups.

A subgroup A of G is σ -permutable in G [49, 50] if G possesses a complete Hall σ -set \mathcal{H} such that $AH^x = H^xA$ for all $H \in \mathcal{H}$ and all $x \in G$.

Now we give a classical interpretation for the introduced concepts.

Example 1.3.

- (i) In the classical case when $\sigma = \sigma^1 = \{\{2\}, \{3\}, \dots\}$: G is σ^1 -soluble (respectively σ^1 -nilpotent) if and only if G is soluble (respectively nilpotent); a subgroup A of G is subnormal in G if and only if it is σ^1 -subnormal in G . The σ^1 -permutable subgroups are also called S -permutable [11, 21] or *Sylow permutable*.

- (ii) In the other classical case when $\sigma = \sigma^\pi = \{\pi, \pi'\}$: G is σ^π -soluble (respectively σ^π -nilpotent) if and only if G is π -separable (respectively π -decomposable, that is, $G = O_\pi(G) \times O_{\pi'}(G)$); a subgroup A of G is σ^π -subnormal in G if and only if there is a subgroup chain $A = A_0 \leq A_1 \leq \dots \leq A_n = G$ such that either $A_{i-1} \trianglelefteq A_i$, or $A_i/(A_{i-1})_{A_i}$ is a π -group, or $A_i/(A_{i-1})_{A_i}$ is a π' -group for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. A subgroup A of G is σ^π -permutable in G if and only if G has a Hall π -subgroup V and a Hall π' -subgroup W such that $AV^x = V^xA$ and $AW^x = W^xA$ for all $x \in G$.
- (iii) In fact, in the theory of π -soluble groups ($\pi = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$) we deal with the partition $\sigma = \sigma^{1\pi} = \{\{p_1\}, \dots, \{p_n\}, \pi'\}$ of \mathbb{P} . Hence G is $\sigma^{1\pi}$ -soluble (respectively $\sigma^{1\pi}$ -nilpotent) if and only if G is π -soluble (respectively π -special [54, 24], that is, $G = O_{p_1}(G) \times \dots \times O_{p_n}(G) \times O_{\pi'}(G)$). A subgroup A of G is: $\sigma^{1\pi}$ -subnormal in G if and only if it is \mathfrak{F} -subnormal in G in the sense of Kegel, where \mathfrak{F} is the class of all π' -groups, and a subgroup A is $\sigma^{1\pi}$ -permutable in G if and only if A permutes with all Sylow p -subgroups of G for all $p \in \pi$ and G has a Hall π' -subgroup W such that $AW^x = W^xA$ for all $x \in G$.

It is necessary to mention that the σ -subnormality plays a key role in the analysis of many questions and, in particular, in the study of σ -permutable subgroups. Many important properties of such subgroups have already been described in the papers [49, 50] and this made it possible to find new interesting applications of the theory of σ -properties of a group (see, in particular, [3, 4], [13, 16, 23], [25]–[31], [33]–[35], [39, 40], [47, 48, 53]).

In this review, we discuss some applications of the theories of σ -subnormal and σ -permutable subgroups and also some open questions in this line research.

2. σ -Subnormal and σ -Permutable Subgroups

The theory of Sylow permutable subgroups had been mainly developed in the papers by Kegel [36] and Deskins [18] and one of the main results of the theory states that H^G/H_G is nilpotent for every Sylow permutable subgroup H of G and hence every Sylow permutable subgroup of G is subnormal. One of the first primary applications of the theory of σ -subnormal subgroups was found in [50], where the following generalization of this classical result was proved.

Theorem 2.1. [49, 50] *Suppose that G is σ -full. Then H^G/H_G is σ -nilpotent for every σ -permutable subgroup H of G . Hence every σ -permutable subgroup of G is σ -subnormal in G .*

Among other corollaries of Theorem 2.1 we mention also the following two its special cases.

Corollary 2.2. *Suppose that G possesses a Hall π -subgroup and a Hall π' -subgroup (this condition holds, for example, in every π -separable group). If a subgroup H*

of G permutes with all Hall π -subgroups and all Hall π' -subgroups of G , then H^G/H_G is π -decomposable. (See Example 1.3(ii)).

Corollary 2.3. *Suppose that G possesses a Hall π' -subgroup. If a subgroup H of G permutes with all Hall π' -subgroups and all Sylow p -subgroups of G for all $p \in \pi$, then H^G/H_G is a π -special group. (See Example 1.3(iii)).*

A subgroup M of G is said to be: *quasinormal* in G if M permutes with all subgroups of G ; *modular* in G if M is a modular element (in the sense of Kurosh [45, p. 43]) of the lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$, that is,

- (i) $\langle X, M \cap Z \rangle = \langle X, M \rangle \cap Z$ for all $X \leq G, Z \leq G$ such that $X \leq Z$, and
- (ii) $\langle M, Y \cap Z \rangle = \langle M, Y \rangle \cap Z$ for all $Y \leq G, Z \leq G$ such that $M \leq Z$.

Schmidt proved [45, Theorem 5.1.1] that a subgroup A of G is quasinormal in G if and only if A is modular and subnormal in G . This elegant observation is a motivation for the following

Definition 2.4. [29, Definition 1.1] *We say that a subgroup A of G is σ -quasinormal in G if A is modular and σ -subnormal in G .*

The following theorem describes the most important properties of σ -quasinormal subgroups.

Theorem 2.5. [29, Theorem C] *Let A be a σ -quasinormal subgroup of G . Then the following statements hold:*

- (i) *If G possesses a Hall σ_i -subgroup, then A permutes with each Hall σ_i -subgroup of G .*
- (ii) *The quotients A^G/A_G and $G/C_G(A^G/A_G)$ are σ -nilpotent.*
- (iii) *Every chief factor of G between A^G and A_G is σ -central in G .*

In the case when $\sigma = \sigma^1$ we get from Theorem 2.5 the following well-known results.

Corollary 2.6. *Let A be a quasinormal subgroup of G . Then the following statements hold:*

- (i) *A/A_G is nilpotent (see [32]).*
- (ii) *Every chief factor H/K of G between A^G and A_G is central in G , that is, $C_G(H/K) = G$ (see [41]).*

The classical Wielandt's result [57] states that the set $\mathcal{L}_{sn}(G)$, of all subnormal subgroups of G , forms a sublattice of the lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$ (that is, $A \cap B, \langle A, B \rangle \in \mathcal{L}_{sn}(G)$ for all $A, B \in \mathcal{L}_{sn}(G)$). The most applications of σ -subnormal subgroups are based on the following generalization of this result.

Theorem 2.7. [49, 50] *For any partition σ of the set of all primes \mathbb{P} , the set $\mathcal{L}_\sigma(G)$, of all σ -subnormal subgroups of G , forms a sublattice in $\mathcal{L}(G)$.*

Initially, this theorem was proved in the work [50] on the basis of the methods of the formation theory. Another proof of this result, based on a more detailed study of the σ -subnormal subgroups, was found in [3].

From Theorem 2.7 it follows that the intersection of any set of σ -subnormal subgroups of G is also σ -subnormal in G . In particular, the intersection of all σ -subnormal subgroups of G containing a subgroup H of G is σ -subnormal in G and such the intersection is called the σ -subnormal closure of H in G .

Among the most interesting open problems concerning σ -subnormal subgroups, the problem of describing the σ -subnormal closure of a subgroup is still remained open.

Al-Shomrani, Heliel and Ballester-Bolinches [4] provide a solution to this problem in an important for applications case where the group G is σ -soluble.

Recall that G is said to be: a D_π -group if G possesses a Hall π -subgroup E and every π -subgroup of G is contained in some conjugate of E ; a σ -full group of Sylow type [50] if every subgroup E of G is a D_{σ_i} -group for every i .

It is well known that the set of all quasinormal subgroups in the general case does not form a sublattice in the lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$ and that the set of all Sylow permutable subgroups of G is a sublattice in $\mathcal{L}(G)$ (see [36]). Theorem 2.7 allows to prove the following generalization of this Kegel's result.

Theorem 2.8. [50, Theorem C] *Let G be a σ -full group of Sylow type. Then the set of all σ -permutable subgroups of G forms a sublattice of the lattice of all σ -subnormal subgroups of G .*

Note, in passing, that Theorem 2.8 not only generalizes the above mentioned Kegel's result on the lattice of the Sylow permutable subgroups but also gives a new proof of it.

Theorems 2.7 and 2.8 make it possible to successfully solve the problem of describing groups with various given systems of σ -subnormal and σ -permutable subgroups. In this regard, we mention first of all the fundamental work of W. Guo and A.N. Skiba [23] devoted to the development of the well-known papers by Mann [42] and Spencer [55].

In the paper [28] it is proved the following result in this line research which gives the answer to Question 7.7 in [52].

Theorem 2.9. [31, Theorem C] *Every subgroup of G is either σ -subnormal or σ -abnormal in G if and only if G is a group of one of the following two types:*

- (i) G is σ -nilpotent;
- (ii) $G = D \rtimes P$, where
 - (a) $D = G^{\mathfrak{N}_\sigma} = G'$ is a σ -nilpotent σ -Hall subgroup of G ;
 - (b) $P = N_G(P)$ is a cyclic Sylow subgroup of G ;

(c) $Z(G)$ is the unique maximal subgroup of P .

In this theorem, $G^{\mathfrak{N}_\sigma}$ denotes the σ -nilpotent residual of G , that is, the intersection of all normal subgroups N of G with σ -nilpotent quotient G/N .

Among questions related to this direction, we mention the following two.

Problem 2.10. [50, Question 4.7] Describe groups in which every Schmidt subgroup is σ -subnormal.

In the case when $\sigma = \sigma^1$ the solution to this problem is known (see [56]).

Problem 2.11. [43, Question 19.85] Suppose that every Schmidt subgroup of G is σ -subnormal in G . Is it true that then there is a normal σ -nilpotent subgroup N such that G/N is cyclic?

On the base of Theorem 2.7, Problem 2.10 is partially solved in the papers [3, 30]. The complete positive answer to this problem was given by S.F. Kamornikov and X. Yi in [35]. But Problem 2.11 is still open.

It is quite natural and important to find characterizations and criteria for σ -subnormality and σ -permutability of subgroups.

First mention that as another application of Theorem 2.1, the following fact was proved in [50].

Theorem 2.12. [50, Theorem 4.1] *Let G be a σ -full group of Sylow type. Then a subgroup A of G is σ -permutable in G if and only if A is σ -subnormal in G and A is σ -permutable in $\langle A, x \rangle$ for all $x \in G$.*

Since a subgroup A of G is subnormal in G if and only if A is subnormal in $\langle A, x \rangle$ for all $x \in G$ [19, A, 14.10], we get from Theorem 2.12 the following known result.

Corollary 2.13. (see [9] or [11, Theorem 1.2.13]) *A subgroup A of G is Sylow permutable in G if and only if A is Sylow permutable in $\langle A, x \rangle$ for all $x \in G$.*

The following problem was posed by Skiba first in "Advances of Group Theory and Applications" (2016, **1**, p. 159) and some later in [43, Question 19.86].

The generalized Wielandt-Kegel problem:

Problem 2.14. Let A be a subgroup of a σ -full group G . Is it true then that A is σ -subnormal in G if and only if $H \cap A$ is a Hall σ_i -subgroup of A for all i and every Hall σ_i -subgroup H of G ?

Note that in the cases when $\sigma = \sigma^1$ (Kleidman [38]) or when $\sigma = \{\{p\}, \{p\}'\}$ (see [33]) the answer to this question is positive.

We also know some other special conditions under which the problem has a positive solution. For example, the problem has a positive solution in the class of all σ -soluble groups [51] and in the class of all $3'$ -groups [34].

Wielandt's classical results on subnormal subgroups motivated also the following two questions.

Problem 2.15. [50, Question 4.10] Let for each element $x \in G$ the subgroup H of G σ -subnormal in $\langle H, x \rangle$. Is it true that the subgroup H σ -subnormal in G ?

Problem 2.16. (see [43, Question 19.86] or [52, Question 7.5]) Is it true that a subgroup H is σ -subnormal in G if H is σ -subnormal in $\langle H, H^x \rangle$ for any element $x \in G$?

A positive solution to Problem 2.15 was found by A. Ballester-Bolinches, S.F. Kamornikov, M.C. Pedraza-Aguilera and V. Perez-Calabuig in [13]. A counterexample to Problem 2.16 was found in [14].

3. $P\sigma T$ -groups and $Q\sigma T$ -groups

Many parers are related to the study of T -groups and various their generalizations, in particular, of PT -groups and PST -groups.

Recall that a group G is a T -group if normality is a transitive relation in G , that is, if K is a normal subgroup of H and H is a normal subgroup of G , then K is a normal subgroup of G . It is rather clear that the T -groups are exactly the groups G in which every subnormal subgroup is normal in G .

A group G is called a PT -group (respectively, a PST -group) [11] if permutability (respectively, Sylow permutability) is a transitive relation in G . Since every Sylow permutable subgroup is subnormal in the group, G is a PST -group if and only if every subnormal subgroup is Sylow permutable in G ; G is PT -group if and only if every its subnormal subgroup is modular (and so quasinormal) in G .

The group G is called a $P\sigma T$ -group [50] (respectively, a $Q\sigma T$ -group) if σ -permutability (respectively, σ -quasinormality) is a transitive relation in G , that is, if K is a σ -permutable (respectively, σ -quasinormal) subgroup of H and H is a σ -permutable (respectively, σ -quasinormal) subgroup of G , then K is a σ -permutable (respectively, σ -quasinormal) subgroup of G .

In view of Theorem 2.1, G is a $P\sigma T$ -group if and only if every σ -subnormal subgroup of G is σ -permutable in G ; G is a $Q\sigma T$ -group if and only if every σ -subnormal subgroup of G is modular in G . Therefore G is a PT -group (respectively, a PST -group) if and only if G is a $Q\sigma T$ -group (respectively, a $P\sigma T$ -group), where $\sigma = \sigma^1$.

The description of PST -groups was first obtained by Agrawal [1], for the soluble case, and by Robinson in [44], for the general case. In the further pub-

lications, authors (see, for example, the recent papers [2], [5]–[8], [10, 15, 17, 58]) have found out and described many other interesting characterizations of soluble PST -groups. A significant place to the theory of PST -groups is given in the nice book [11].

A new approach to the study of PST -groups and PT -groups was also proposed in the recent publication [20].

Let \mathfrak{F} be a class of groups. We call, following Guo, Shum and Skiba [22], a set Σ of subgroups of G a G -covering subgroup system for the class \mathfrak{F} if $G \in \mathfrak{F}$ whenever $\Sigma \subseteq \mathfrak{F}$.

In [20], the following two results are proved.

Theorem 3.1. [20, Theorem B] *Suppose that a set of subgroups Σ contains at least one supplement to each maximal subgroup of every Sylow subgroup of G . Then G is a soluble PT -group (respectively, a soluble T -group) if and only if every subgroup in Σ is a soluble PT -group (respectively, a soluble T -group) and at least one of the non-identity Sylow subgroups of G is an Iwasawa (respectively, a Dedekind) group.*

The example of extraspecial 3-group of order p^3 shows that the set Σ in Theorem 3.1 is not a G -covering subgroup system for the classes of all soluble PT -groups and all soluble T -groups.

Now we indicate a system of subgroups that is a G -covering subgroup system simultaneously for classes of all soluble PST -, PT -, and T -groups.

Theorem 3.2. [20, Theorem C] *Let Σ be the set of all two-generated subgroups of G . Then Σ is a G -covering subgroup system for any class \mathfrak{F} in the following list:*

- (i) \mathfrak{F} is the class of all soluble PST -groups.
- (ii) \mathfrak{F} is the class of all soluble PT -groups.
- (iii) \mathfrak{F} is the class of all soluble T -groups.

Theorem 3.2 partially answers the following open question.

Problem 3.3. Let Σ be the set of all two-generated subgroups of G . Is it true then that Σ is a G -covering subgroup system simultaneously for the classes of all PST -groups, all PT -groups, and all T -groups?

In the most general case (i.e., without of any restriction on σ), the following theorem is true, which in fact is the main result of the observations found in [50, 54].

Problem 3.4. [54, Theorem B]) If G is a σ -soluble $P\sigma T$ -group and $D = G^{\mathfrak{M}\sigma}$, then the following conditions hold:

- (i) $G = D \rtimes M$, where D is an abelian Hall subgroup of G of odd order, M is σ -nilpotent and every element of G induces a power automorphism in D ;
- (ii) $O_{\sigma_i}(D)$ has a normal complement in a Hall σ_i -subgroup of G for all i .

Conversely, if Conditions (i) and (ii) hold for some subgroups D and M of G , then G is a $P\sigma T$ -group.

In the case when $\sigma = \sigma^1$, we get from Theorem 3.4 the following

Corollary 3.5. [1, Theorem 2.3] *Let $D = G^{\mathfrak{N}}$ be the nilpotent residual of G . If G is a soluble PST -group, then D is an abelian Hall subgroup of G of odd order and every element of G induces a power automorphism in D .*

In the case when $\sigma = \sigma^\pi$ we get from Theorem 3.4 the following corollary.

Corollary 3.6. *G is a π -separable $P\sigma^\pi T$ -group if and only if the following conditions hold:*

- (i) $G = D \rtimes M$, where D is an abelian Hall subgroup of G of odd order, M is π -decomposable and every element of G induces a power automorphism in D ;
- (ii) $O_\pi(D)$ has a normal complement in a Hall π -subgroup of G ;
- (iii) $O_{\pi'}(D)$ has a normal complement in a Hall π' -subgroup of G .

In the case when $\sigma = \sigma^{1\pi}$ we get from Theorem 3.4 the following

Corollary 3.7. *G is a π -soluble $P\sigma^{1\pi}T$ -group if and only if the following conditions hold:*

- (i) $G = D \rtimes M$, where D is an abelian Hall subgroup of G of odd order, $M = O_{p_1}(M) \times \cdots \times O_{p_n}(M) \times O_{\pi'}(M)$ and every element of G induces a power automorphism in D ;
- (ii) $O_{\pi'}(D)$ has a normal complement in a Hall π' -subgroup of G .

Theorem 3.4 gives a solution to the following problem in the class of all σ -soluble groups.

Problem 3.8. (see Question in [50]) *Let G be a σ -full group. What is the structure of G provided that every σ -subnormal subgroup of G is σ -permutable ?*

In [28], Theorem 3.4 was used to obtain the description of σ -soluble $Q\sigma T$ -groups.

Theorem 3.9. [28, Theorem C] *If G is a σ -soluble $Q\sigma T$ -group and $D = G^{\mathfrak{N}_\sigma}$, then the following conditions hold:*

- (i) $G = D \rtimes M$, where D is an abelian Hall subgroup of G of odd order and M is a σ -nilpotent group with modular lattice $\mathcal{L}(M)$;
- (ii) every element of G induces a power automorphism in D ,
- (iii) $O_{\sigma_i}(D)$ has a normal complement in a Hall σ_i -subgroup of G for all i .

Conversely, if Conditions (i), (ii) and (iii) hold for some subgroups D and M of G , then G is a $Q\sigma T$ -group.

Note that, in view of [45, 2.3.2, 2.4.4], if G is a nilpotent group with modular lattice $\mathcal{L}(G)$, then G is an *Iwasawa group* [11, 1.4.2], that is, every subgroup of G is quasinormal in G . Therefore in the case where $\sigma = \sigma^1$, we get from Theorem 3.9 the following well-known result.

Corollary 3.10. [59] *A group G is a soluble PT -group if and only if the following conditions hold:*

- (i) the nilpotent residual $D = G^{\sigma^n}$ of G is an abelian Hall subgroup of odd order;
- (ii) every element of G induces a power automorphism in D ,
- (iii) G/D is an *Iwasawa group*.

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