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## О ПОЛУПОКРЫВАЮЩИХ-ИЗОЛИРУЮЩИХ ПОДГРУППАХ ИЛИ S-КВАЗИНОРМАЛЬНО ВЛОЖЕННЫХ ПОДГРУППАХ КОНЕЧНЫХ ГРУПП

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## ON SEMI COVER-AVOIDING OR S-QUASINORMALLY EMBEDDED SUBGROUPS OF FINITE GROUPS

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В данной работе мы изучаем нильпотентность и сверхразрешимость конечных групп  $G$ , некоторые примарные подгруппы которых являются либо полупокрывающими-изолирующими, либо  $S$ -квазинормально вложенными в  $G$ . Получено обобщение некоторых известных результатов.

**Ключевые слова:** полупокрывающая-изолирующая подгруппа;  $S$ -квазинормально вложенная подгруппа;  $p$ -нильпотентная группа; сверхразрешимая группа.

In this paper, we characterize the nilpotency and supersolvability of a finite group  $G$  by assuming some subgroups of prime power order are either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Some known results are generalized.

**Keywords:** semi cover-avoiding subgroup;  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroup;  $p$ -nilpotent group; supersolvable group.

### Introduction

All groups considered in this paper are finite and  $G$  always denotes a finite group. The following notations are used in the paper:  $O_p(G)$  is the maximal normal  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ ,  $\Phi(G)$  is the Frattini subgroup of  $G$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  is the class of all supersolvable groups. A class of groups  $\mathcal{F}$  is called a formation if  $\mathcal{F}$  is closed under taking homomorphic images and subdirect products. A formation  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be saturated if  $G \in \mathcal{F}$  whenever  $G/\Phi(G) \in \mathcal{F}$ . All unexplained terminology and notations are standard, as in [13], [9].

If  $M$  and  $N$  are normal subgroups of  $G$  with  $N < M$ , then we call  $M/N$  a normal factor of  $G$ . A subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  is said to cover the normal factor  $M/N$  of  $G$  provided that  $HM = HN$ , and  $H$  is said to avoid  $M/N$  provided that  $H \cap M = H \cap N$ . If  $H$  either covers or avoids each chief factor of  $G$ , then  $H$  is said to possess the cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . This concept was introduced by Gaschütz [6] in 1962 and studied by many authors (see, for example, [7], [12], [22], [18]). In 2006, Fan, Guo and Shum [5] introduced the semi cover-avoiding property: a subgroup  $H$  is said to be semi cover-avoiding in  $G$  if there is a chief series  $1 = G_0 < G_1 < \dots < G_l = G$  of  $G$  such that  $H$  either covers or avoids  $G_j/G_{j-1}$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, l$ . Many authors have investigated the structures of the

group  $G$  under the assumption that some subgroups of  $G$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$  and obtained some interesting results (see [10], [11], [25]).

Recall that a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  is called  $S$ -quasinormal [14] in  $G$  provided that  $H$  permutes with all Sylow subgroups of  $G$ . A subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is said to be  $S$ -quasinormally embedded [3] in  $G$  if for each prime  $p$  dividing the order of  $H$ , a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$  is also a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of some  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup of  $G$ . By using  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroups, some authors have obtained many interesting results (see, for example, [1], [2], [15], [17]).

The following examples show that semi cover-avoiding subgroups and  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroups are two independent concepts.

**Example 0.1.** Let  $G = A_4 \times Z_2$ , where  $A_4$  is an alternating group and  $Z_2 = \langle c \rangle$  is a cyclic group of order 2. Let  $K_4 = \langle a, b \rangle$  be the Sylow 2-group of  $A_4$  generated by two elements  $a$  and  $b$  of order 2 and let  $H = \langle a, bc \rangle$ . Then  $1 \trianglelefteq Z_2 \trianglelefteq K_4 Z_2 \trianglelefteq G$  is a chief series of  $G$ . It is easy to prove that  $H$  covers  $K_4 Z_2 / Z_2$  and avoids the factors  $G / K_4 Z_2$  and  $Z_2 / 1$ , but  $H$  is not  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ .

**Example 0.2.** Let  $G = A_5$  be the alternative group of degree 5. Since  $A_5$  is simple, there is no nontrivial semi cover-avoiding subgroup in  $A_5$ .

However, if  $H$  is any Sylow subgroup of  $G$ , then clearly  $H$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ .

In this paper, we investigate the structure of a group  $G$  under the assumption that all maximal subgroups of a Sylow subgroup is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroups in  $G$ . Some new characterizations on the structure of finite groups are obtained and some known results are generalized.

### 1 Preliminaries

In this section, we list some known results which will be useful for the proofs of our main results.

**Lemma 1.1** [20]. *Let  $H$  be a  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  for some prime  $p$ . Then  $H$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$  if and only if  $O^p(G) \leq N_G(H)$ .*

**Lemma 1.2.** *If  $H$  is an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup of  $G$ , then*

- (1)  $H$  is subnormal in  $G$  [14];
- (2)  $H/H_G$  is nilpotent [4].

**Lemma 1.3** [1]. *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Then the following two statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $H$  is an  $S$ -quasinormal nilpotent subgroup of  $G$ .
- (2) The Sylow subgroups of  $H$  are  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ .

**Lemma 1.4** [11]. *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . If  $H$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ , then  $H$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $K$  for every subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  with  $H \leq K$ .*

**Lemma 1.5** [5]. *Let  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  and let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  which is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . Then  $HN/N$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G/N$  if one of the following holds:*

- (1)  $N \leq H$ ;
- (2)  $(|N|, |H|) = 1$ .

**Lemma 1.6** [3]. *Suppose that  $U$  is an  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroup of  $G$  and  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

- (1)  $U$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $H$  whenever  $U \leq H \leq G$ .
- (2)  $UK$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$  and  $UK/K$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/K$ .

**Lemma 1.7** [11]. *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$  and  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . If there is a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -solvable.*

**Lemma 1.8** [21]. *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing all supersolvable groups and  $G$  has a normal subgroup  $E$  such that  $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ . If  $E$  is cyclic, then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Lemma 1.9** [24]. *Let  $K$  be an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup of  $G$  and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K$ , where  $p$  is a prime. If either  $P \leq O_p(G)$  or  $K_G = 1$ , then  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ .*

**Lemma 1.10** [9]. *Let  $N$  be a nontrivial solvable normal subgroup of  $G$ . If  $N \cap \Phi(G) = 1$ , then the Fitting subgroup  $F(N)$  of  $N$  is the direct product of minimal normal subgroups of  $G$  contained in  $N$ .*

### 2 Main results

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime dividing the order of  $G$  and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . If  $N_G(P)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent and every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

*Proof.* Suppose that the theorem is false, and let  $G$  be a counterexample of minimal order. Then:

- (1)  $O_{p'}(G) = 1$ .

Suppose that  $D = O_p(G) \neq 1$ . Obviously,  $PD/D$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G/D$ . Let  $T/D$  be a maximal subgroup of  $PD/D$ . Then  $T = P_1D$  for some maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$ . By Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6 (2),  $P_1D/D$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/D$ . On the other hand, since

$$N_{G/D}(PD/D) = N_G(P)D/D$$

by [9], we see that  $N_{G/D}(PD/D)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. This shows that  $G/D$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. Thus  $G/D$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. It follows that  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, a contradiction.

- (2) *If  $M$  is a proper subgroup of  $G$  with  $P \leq M$ , then  $M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

Clearly,  $N_M(P)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. By Lemmas 1.4 and 1.6 (1), we see that  $M$  satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of  $G$  implies that  $M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.

- (3)  $G = PQ$  and  $O_p(G) \neq 1$ , where  $Q$  is a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $G$  with  $q \neq p$ .

Since  $G$  is not  $p$ -nilpotent, by Thompson's theorem [23], there is a nonidentity characteristic subgroup  $H$  of  $P$  such that  $N_G(H)$  is not  $p$ -nilpotent. Since  $N_G(P)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, we may choose a characteristic subgroup  $H$  of  $P$  such that  $N_G(H)$  is not  $p$ -nilpotent, but  $N_G(K)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent for every characteristic subgroup  $K$  of  $P$  with  $H < K \leq P$ . Since  $H \text{ char } P \trianglelefteq N_G(P)$ , we have  $H \trianglelefteq N_G(P)$ , and so  $N_G(P) < N_G(H)$ . Then by (2), we have  $G = N_G(H)$ . This shows that  $H \leq O_p(G) \neq 1$  and  $N_G(K)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent for any characteristic subgroup  $K$  of  $P$  with  $O_p(G) < K \leq P$  (if exists). In this case, using Thompson's theorem again, we see that  $G/O_p(G)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent and so  $G$  is  $p$ -solvable. Thus for any prime divisor  $q$  of  $|G|$  with  $q \neq p$ , there exists a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup  $Q$  of  $G$  such that  $PQ$  is a subgroup of  $G$  (see [8, Chapter

6, Theorem 3.5]). If  $PQ < G$ , then  $PQ$  is  $p$ -nilpotent by (2). It follows from (1) that

$$Q \leq C_G(O_p(G)) = O_p(G),$$

a contradiction. Hence  $G = PQ$ .

(4)  $G$  has a unique minimal normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G = N \rtimes M$ , where  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $N = O_p(G) = C_G(N)$ .

Let  $N$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then by (1) and (3),  $N$  is an elementary abelian  $p$ -group, and  $N \subseteq O_p(G) < P$ . It is easy to see that  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis. Hence  $G/N$  is  $p$ -nilpotent by the choice of  $G$ . Since the class of all  $p$ -nilpotent groups is a saturated formation,  $N$  is the unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  and  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . Consequently,  $G = N \rtimes M$  for some maximal subgroup  $M$  of  $G$ . Clearly,  $N = O_p(G)$ .

(5) *Final contradiction.*

Since  $P \not\triangleleft G$  and  $P = NM_p$ , we see that  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . Hence there exists a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $N \not\leq P_1$ . If  $P_1 = 1$ , then  $P$  is a cyclic subgroup of order  $p$ . It follows that  $N_G(P) = C_G(P)$  since  $N_G(P)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Hence  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent by Burnside Theorem, a contradiction. Hence we assume that  $P_1 \neq 1$ .

Assume that  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . Then there is a chief factor series

$$1 = G_0 < G_1 < \dots < G_l = G$$

such that for every  $j = 1, \dots, l$ ,  $P_1$  either covers or avoids  $G_j / G_{j-1}$ . In particular,  $P_1$  covers or avoids  $G_1 / 1$ , which means that  $G_1 P_1 = P_1$  or  $G_1 \cap P_1 = 1$ . By (3),  $G_1 = N$ . If  $N P_1 = P_1$ , then  $N \leq P_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $N \cap P_1 = 1$  and so  $|N| = p$ . It follows that  $P = N(P \cap M) = N \times (P \cap M)$ , which contradicts (4).

Now assume that  $G$  has an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup  $K$  such that  $P_1$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K$ . If  $K_G \neq 1$ , then  $N \leq K_G \leq K$ , and thereby  $N \leq P_1$ , a contradiction. Therefore  $K_G = 1$ . Then by Lemmas 1.2 (2) and 1.3,  $P_1$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . Thus  $P_1$  is subnormal in  $G$  by Lemma 1.2(1). By [9], we have that  $P_1 \leq O_p(G) = N \leq P$ . Since  $P_1$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P$ ,  $P_1 = N$ , a contradiction also. The final contradiction completes the proof of the theorem.

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, where  $p$  is a prime dividing the order of  $G$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $H$  such that  $N_G(P)$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

*Proof.* By Lemmas 1.4 and 1.6 (1) and Theorem 2.1,  $H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Let  $H_{p'}$  be a normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Assume that  $H_{p'} \neq 1$ . Then clearly,  $(G/H_{p'})/(H/H_{p'}) \cong G/H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Applying Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6 (2) and [9], we see that  $G/H_{p'}$  satisfies the hypothesis. Hence by induction on  $|G|$ ,  $G/H_{p'}$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. It follows that  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. We may, therefore, assume  $H_{p'} = 1$ . Then  $H = P$  is a  $p$ -group. In this case,  $G = N_G(P)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$  and  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . If every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

*Proof.* Suppose that the theorem is false and let  $G$  be a counterexample of minimal order. We prove it via the following steps.

$$(1) O_p(G) = 1.$$

If  $O_p(G) \neq 1$ , then  $PO_p(G)/O_p(G)$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G/O_p(G)$ . Suppose that  $M/O_p(G)$  is a maximal subgroup of  $PO_p(G)/O_p(G)$ . Then there exists a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $M = P_1 O_p(G)$ . By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Then  $M/O_p(G) = P_1 O_p(G)/O_p(G)$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/O_p(G)$  by Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6(2). The minimal choice of  $G$  implies that  $G/O_p(G)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, and so  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, a contradiction. Therefore, we have  $O_p(G) = 1$ .

$$(2) O_p(G) \neq 1.$$

If all maximal subgroups of  $P$  are  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent by [1]. Hence there exists at least a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  which is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . By Lemma 1.7,  $G$  is  $p$ -solvable. It follows from (1) that  $O_p(G) \neq 1$ .

$$(3) G \text{ is solvable.}$$

If  $G$  is not solvable, then  $p = 2$  by Feit-Thompson's theorem. Suppose that  $M/O_2(G)$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P/O_2(G)$ . Then  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P$ . By Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6(2),  $M/O_2(G)$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/O_2(G)$ . Therefore  $G/O_2(G)$  satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of  $G$  implies that  $G/O_2(G)$  is 2-nilpotent, and so  $G/O_2(G)$  is solvable. It follows that  $G$  is solvable, a contradiction. Thus (3) holds.

(4)  $G$  has a unique minimal normal subgroup  $N = O_p(G)$ ,  $G = NM$ , where  $M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent and  $|N| > p$ .

Let  $N$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . By (3),  $N$  is an elementary abelian subgroup. Since  $O_p(G) = 1$ ,  $N \leq O_p(G)$ . It is easy to see that  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis. The choice of  $G$  implies that  $G/N$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Since the class of all  $p$ -nilpotent groups is a saturated formation,  $N$  is a unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  and  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . This implies that  $G = N \rtimes M$ ,  $N = O_p(G)$  and  $M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. If  $|N| = p$ , then  $G/C_G(N)$  is an abelian group exponent  $p-1$ . It follows that  $N \leq Z(G)$  and so  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, a contradiction.

(5) *Final contradiction.*

Clearly,  $P = N(P \cap M)$  and  $P \cap M < P$ . Thus, there exists a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $P_1$  containing  $P \cap M$ . Then  $P = NP_1$  and  $P_1 \neq 1$ . By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Suppose that  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . Then  $P_1$  covers or avoids  $N/1$ . If  $P_1N = P_1$ , then  $N \leq P_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $P_1 \cap N = 1$ . Consequently  $|N| = p$ , a contradiction. Now assume that  $P_1$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Then there exists an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup  $K$  such that  $P_1$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K$ . If  $K_G \neq 1$ , then  $N \leq K_G \leq K$  by (4) and so  $N \leq P_1$ . This contradiction shows that  $K_G = 1$ . Then by Lemmas 1.2 (2) and 1.3,  $P_1$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . It follows from Lemma 1.2 (1) that  $P_1$  is subnormal in  $G$ . Now by [9], we have that  $P_1 \leq O_p(G) = N$ . The final contradiction completes the proof.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$  and  $H$  a normal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $H$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

*Proof.* By Lemmas 1.4 and 1.6 (1), every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $H$ . Applying Theorem 2.3,  $H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Let  $H_{p'}$  be the normal  $p$ -complement of  $H$ . Then  $H_{p'}$  is normal in  $G$ . By using the same argument as in the proof of Corollary 2.2, we may assume  $H_{p'} = 1$  and so  $H = P$  is a  $p$ -group. Since  $G/H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, we may let  $K/H$  be the normal  $p$ -complement of  $G/H$ . By Schur-Zassenhaus's theorem, there exists

a Hall  $p'$ -subgroup  $K_{p'}$  of  $K$  such that  $K = HK_{p'}$ . By Theorem 2.3 again, we see that  $K$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Hence  $K = H \times K_{p'}$ . In this case,  $K_{p'}$  is a normal  $p$ -complement of  $G$ , thus  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.

**Corollary 2.5.** *Suppose that every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $G$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Then  $G$  is a Sylow tower group of supersolvable type.*

**Corollary 2.6** [11, Theorem 3.2]. *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing the order of  $G$  and let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . If  $P$  is cyclic or every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

*Proof.* If  $P$  is a cyclic group, then by [19],  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Hence we assume that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . By Corollary 2.3,  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$  if and only if there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of the Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ .*

*Proof.* The necessity is obvious. We only need to prove the sufficiency. Assume that it is false and let  $G$  be a counterexample of minimal order. Then:

(1) *There is a normal Sylow subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  contained in  $H$ .*

By Corollary 2.5,  $H$  has a Sylow tower of supersolvable type. Let  $p$  be the largest prime divisor of  $|H|$  and let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Then  $P$  is normal in  $H$ . Since  $P \text{ char } H \trianglelefteq G$ , we have that  $P \trianglelefteq G$ .

(2) *Let  $N$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $P$ . Then  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $N = P$ .*

It is easy to see that

$$(G/N)/(H/N) \cong G/H \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Let  $P_1/N$  be a maximal subgroup of  $P/N$ . By Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6,  $P_1/N$  is either semi cover-avoiding property or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/N$ . Let  $Q$  be a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $H$ , where  $q \neq p$ , and  $M_1/N$  be a maximal subgroup of the Sylow  $q$ -subgroup  $QN/N$  of  $H/N$ . It is clear that  $M_1 = Q_1N$  for some maximal subgroup  $Q_1$  of  $Q$ . By the hypothesis,  $Q_1$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Hence  $M_1/N$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G/N$  by Lemmas 1.5 and 1.6. Thus  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. The choice of  $G$  implies that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is a saturated formation,  $N$  is the unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $P$ ,  $\Phi(P) = 1$  and  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . It follows from Lemma 1.10 that  $P = F(P) = N$ .

(3) *Final contradiction.*

Suppose that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . Then by [1],  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ , a contradiction. So we may assume that there is some maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . Then there exists a chief series of  $G$

$$1 = G_0 < G_1 < \dots < G_l = G$$

such that  $P_1$  covers or avoids every factor  $G_j / G_{j-1}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, l$ . Since  $N = P$  is a minimal normal in  $G$ , there exists  $j$  such that  $G_j \cap N = N$  and  $G_{j-1} \cap N = 1$ . If  $P_1$  covers  $G_j / G_{j-1}$ , then  $P_1 G_j = P_1 G_{j-1}$ . It follows that  $P_1(G_j \cap N) = P_1(G_{j-1} \cap N)$ , that is,  $P_1 N = P_1$ , a contradiction. If  $P_1$  avoids  $G_j / G_{j-1}$ , then  $P_1 \cap G_j = P_1 \cap G_{j-1}$  and so

$$P_1 \cap G_j \cap N = P_1 \cap G_{j-1} \cap N.$$

This means that  $P_1 = 1$  and so  $|N| = p$ . Then by (2) and Lemma 1.8,  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ . This contradiction completes the proof.

**Corollary 2.8** [16, Theorem 3.6]. *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . If there is a normal Hall subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $H$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Theorem 2.9.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $H$  be a solvable normal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$ . If every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $F(H)$  is either semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that the theorem is false and let  $(G, H)$  be a counterexample with  $|G| + |H|$  is minimal.

Firstly, assume that  $H \cap \Phi(G) \neq 1$ . Let  $Q$  be a Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $H$ , where  $q$  is a prime divisor of  $|H|$ . Since  $Q \text{ char } H \trianglelefteq G$ , we have that  $Q \trianglelefteq G$  and so  $(G/Q)/(H/Q) \cong G/H \in \mathcal{F}$ . By [13, Chapter 3, Theorem 3.5],  $F(H/Q) = F(H)/Q$ . It is easy to see that  $(G/Q, H/Q)$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. Hence  $G/Q \in \mathcal{F}$  by minimal choice of  $G$ . Since  $Q \leq \Phi(G)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a saturated formation, we have that  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ . This contradiction shows that  $H \cap \Phi(G) = 1$ . By Lemma 1.10,  $F(H)$  is the direct product of minimal normal subgroups of  $G$  contained in  $H$ . Let  $P$  be the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $F(H)$  and assume that  $P = N_1 \times N_2 \times \dots \times N_t$ , where  $N_1, \dots, N_t$  are minimal normal subgroups of  $G$ . We now prove that  $|N_i| = p$  for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ . If  $P$  is cyclic, then it

is clear. Assume that  $P$  is not cyclic and there exists some  $N_i$  such that  $|N_i| > p$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $i = 1$ . Clearly, there exists a maximal subgroup  $M$  of  $G$  such that  $G = N_1 M$  and  $N_1 \cap M = 1$ . Let  $M_p$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $M$ . Then  $G_p = N_1 M_p = P M_p$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . Take a maximal subgroup  $G_p^*$  of  $G_p$  containing  $M_p$  and let  $P_1 = G_p^* \cap P$ . Then

$$G_p^* = G_p^* \cap P M_p = (G_p^* \cap P) M_p = P_1 M_p$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= G_p^* \cap (N_1 \times N_2 \times \dots \times N_t) = \\ &= (G_p^* \cap N_1) N_2 \dots N_t = N_1^* N_2 \dots N_t, \end{aligned}$$

where  $N_1^* = G_p^* \cap N_1$ . Since

$$|N_1 : G_p^* \cap N_1| = |N_1 G_p^* : G_p^*| = |G_p : G_p^*| = p,$$

$N_1^* = G_p^* \cap N_1$  is a maximal subgroup of  $N_1$ . This implies that  $P_1 = N_1^* N_2 \dots N_t$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P$ . By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding or  $S$ -quasinormal embedded in  $G$ . Let  $T = N_2 \times \dots \times N_t$ .

Assume that  $P_1$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G$ . Then by Lemma 1.5,  $P_1/T$  is semi cover-avoiding in  $G/T$ . Let

$$1 = \overline{T} \trianglelefteq G_1/T = \overline{G_1} \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq G/T = \overline{G_n}$$

be the chief series of  $G/T$  such that  $P_1$  either covers or avoids every factor of this series. Let  $i$  be the smallest index in  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $P_1/T$  covers  $\overline{G_{i+1}}/\overline{G_i}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $G_i \cap P_1 = T$  and

$$G_{i+1} \leq G_i P_1 = G_i N_1^*.$$

It follows that  $G_{i+1} = G_i(N_1^* \cap G_{i+1})$ , and so  $N_1^* \cap G_{i+1} > 1$ . But since  $N_1$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ , we obtain that  $N_1 \leq G_{i+1}$  and  $N_1 \cap G_i = 1$ . Therefore,

$$|N_1| = |G_{i+1}/G_i| = |N_1^* \cap G_{i+1}| = |N_1^*|.$$

This contradiction shows that  $P_1/T$  avoids every chief factor  $\overline{G_{i+1}}/\overline{G_i}$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . This implies that  $P_1/T = 1$  and  $|N_1| = p$ , a contradiction. Now we assume that there is an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  such that  $P_1$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K$ . Clearly,  $P_1 \leq O_p(G)$ . Hence by Lemma 1.9,  $P_1$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . It follows from Lemma 1.1 that  $O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_1)$ . Since  $G_p^*$  and  $P$  are both normal in  $G_p$ , we have that  $P_1 = G_p^* \cap P \trianglelefteq G_p$ . Hence  $G = G_p O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_1)$ . Consequently,  $P_1 \trianglelefteq G$ . Since  $N_1 \not\leq P_1$ , we have  $P_1 \cap N_1 = 1$ . This induces that  $|N_1| = p$ , a contradiction again.

The above discussion shows that  $F(H) = R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_n$ , where  $R_i$  is the minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  of prime order for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Since  $G/C_G(R_i)$  is isomorphic to some subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(R_i)$ ,  $G/C_G(R_i)$  is abelian. It follows that  $G/C_G(F(G)) = G/\bigcap_{i=1}^n C_G(R_i)$  is abelian and hence  $G/C_G(F(G)) \in \mathcal{F}$ . Then since  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$ , we see that

$$G/(H \cap C_G(F(H))) = G/C_H(F(H)) \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Since  $F(H)$  is abelian,  $F(H) \leq C_H(F(H))$ . On the other hand, since  $H$  is solvable,

$$C_H(F(H)) \leq F(H).$$

Thus  $F(H) = C_H(F(H))$  and so  $G/F(H) \in \mathcal{F}$ . Now by Theorem 2.7, we obtain that  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ , a contradiction. This completes the proof.

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