-МАТЕМАТИКА

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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 embeded in G. Some known results are generalized.

Keywords: semi cover-avoiding subgroup; S-quasinormally embeded 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 is said to avoid M/N provided that Η  $H \cap M = H \cap N$ . 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  $1 = G_0 < G_1 < \cdots < G_l = G$  of G such that H either covers or avoids  $G_i / G_{i-1}$  for every j = 1, ..., 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 coveravoiding 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  $1 \leq Z_2 \leq K_4 Z_2 \leq G$  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  $Z_2 / I$ , 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 coveravoiding 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  $O^p(G) \le N_G(H)$ .

*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-quasi-normal 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 coveravoiding 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 coveravoiding in G. Then HN/N is semi coveravoiding 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  $U \le H \le G$ .

(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  $P \le O_p(G)$  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/Dbe 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 coveravoiding 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  $P \le M$ , 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  $H < K \le P$ . Since *H* char  $P \leq N_G(P)$ , we have  $H \leq N_G(P)$ , and so  $N_G(P) < N_G(H)$ . Then by (2), we have  $G = N_G(H)$ . This shows that  $H \leq O_n(G) \neq 1$  and  $N_{G}(K)$  is *p*-nilpotent for any characteristic subgroup K of P with  $O_p(G) < K \le P$  (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  $Q \le C_G(O_n(G)) = O_n(G)$ ,

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,  $N = O_n(G) = C_G(N)$ .

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  $N \nleq \Phi(G)$ . Consequently,  $G = N \rtimes M$  for some maximal subgroup M of G. Clearly,  $N = O_p(G)$ .

(5) Final contradiction.

Since  $P \not \lhd G$  and  $P = NM_p$ , we see that  $N \not \le \Phi(G)$ . Hence there exists a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of P such that  $N \not \le P_1$ . 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,...,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  $G_1P_1 = P_1$  or  $G_1 \cap P_1 = 1$ . By (3),  $G_1 = N$ . If  $NP_1 = P_1$ , then  $N \le P_1$ , 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 coveravoiding 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  $M = P_1O_{p'}(G)$ . By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  is either semi cover-avoiding or S-quasinormally embedded in G. Then  $M / O_{p'}(G) = P_1O_{p'}(G) / O_{p'}(G)$  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 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.

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(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  $O_{p'}(G) = 1$ ,  $N \le O_p(G)$ . It is easy to see that G/Nsatisfies 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  $N \nleq \Phi(G)$ . 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  $N \le Z(G)$  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 Psuch that  $P_1$  containing  $P \cap M$ . Then  $P = NP_1$  and  $P_1 \neq 1$ . By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  is either semi coveravoiding 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  $N \le P_1$ , 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  $N \le P_1$ . 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  $P_1 \leq O_n(G) = N$ . 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 coveravoiding 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  $G/H \in F$  and every maximal subgroup of the Sylow subgroup of His 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* char  $H \leq G$ , we have that  $P \leq G$ .

(2) Let N be a minimal normal subgroup of G contained in P. Then  $G \mid N \in \mathcal{F}$  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 coveravoiding 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  $M_1 = Q_1 N$  for some maximal subgroup  $Q_1$  of Q. By the hypothesis,  $Q_1$  is either semi coveravoiding 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* 

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

such that  $P_1$  covers or avoids every factor  $G_j / G_{j-1}$ , j = 1, ..., 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  $P_1G_j = P_1G_{j-1}$ . It follows that  $P_1(G_j \cap N) = P_1(G_{j-1} \cap N)$ , that is,  $P_1N = P_1$ , 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

$$P_1 \cap G_i \cap N = P_1 \cap G_{i-1} \cap N.$$

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* char  $H \leq G$ , 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  $P = N_1 \times N_2 \times \cdots \times N_t$ , where  $N_1, \dots, N_t$  are minimal normal subgroups of G. We now prove that  $|N_i| = p$  for each  $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$ . 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  $G = N_1M$ and  $N_1 \cap M = 1$ . Let  $M_p$  be a Sylow *p*-subgroup of M. Then  $G_p = N_1M_p = PM_p$  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

and

$$P_1 = G_n^* \cap (N_1 \times N_2 \times \dots \times N_r) =$$

 $G_{p}^{*} = G_{p}^{*} \cap PM_{p} = (G_{p}^{*} \cap P)M_{p} = P_{1}M_{p}$ 

$$= (G_p^* \cap N_1)N_2 \cdots N_t = N_1^*N_2 \cdots N_t,$$

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

 $|N_1: G_p^* \cap N_1| = |N_1G_p^*: G_p^*| = |G_p: G_p^*| = p,$  $N_1^* = G_p^* \cap N_1$  is a maximal subgroup of  $N_1$ . This

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

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

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

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  $\{1,...,n\}$  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  $N_1 \le G_{i+1}$  and  $N_1 \cap G_i = 1$ . Therefore,

$$\mid N_{1} \mid = \mid G_{i+1} \ / \ G_{i} \mid = \mid N_{1}^{*} \cap G_{i+1} \mid = \mid N_{1}^{*} \mid .$$

This contradiction shows that  $P_1/T$  avoids every chief factor  $\overline{G_{i+1}}/\overline{G_i}$ , for i = 0, 1, ..., 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  $P_1 = G_p^* \cap P \leq G_p$ . Hence  $G = G_p O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_1)$ . Consequently,  $P_1 \leq G$ . Since  $N_1 \leq P_1$ , we have  $P_1 \cap N_1 = 1$ . This induces that  $|N_1| = p$ , a contradiction again.

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The above discussion shows that  $F(H) = R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_n$ , where  $R_i$  is the minimal normal subgroup of G of prime order for all i = 1, ..., n. Since  $G/C_G(R_i)$  is isomorphic to some subgroup of  $Aut(R_i)$ ,  $G/C_G(R_i)$  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,  $F(H) \le C_H(F(H))$ . On the other hand, since H is solvable,

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

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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