



## The Maximal Subgroups of Sylow Subgroups and the Structure of Finite Groups\*

Changwen Li, Xuemei Zhang, Jianhong Huang

ABSTRACT: In this paper we investigate the influence of some subgroups of Sylow subgroups with semi cover-avoiding property and  $E$ -supplementation on the structure of finite groups. Some recent results are generalized and unified.

Key Words: Semi cover-avoiding property,  $E$ -supplemented,  $p$ -nilpotent.

### Contents

<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>2 Preliminaries</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>3 Main results</b>	<b>115</b>

### 1. Introduction

All groups considered in this paper will be finite.

A subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is said to be  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$  if  $H$  permutes with every Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . This concept was introduced by Kegel. In 2007, Skiba (see [22]) introduced the concept of  $S$ -supplemented subgroup. A subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  is said to be  $S$ -supplemented in  $G$  if there is a subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  such that  $G = HK$  and  $H \cap K \leq H_{sG}$ , where  $H_{sG}$  denotes the subgroup of  $H$  generated by all those subgroups of  $H$  which are  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . As another generalization of the  $S$ -quasinormality, the concept of  $S$ -quasinormally embedded subgroup was given by Ballester-Bolinches and Pedraza-Aguilera (see [2]). A subgroup  $H$  is said to be  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$  if for each prime  $p$  dividing  $|H|$ , a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$  is also a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of some  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup of  $G$ . In 2012, Li (see [4]) proposed the definition of  $E$ -supplemented subgroup which covers properly both  $S$ -quasinormally embedding property and Skiba's weakly  $S$ -supplementation. A subgroup  $H$  is said to be  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$  if there is a subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  such that  $G = HK$  and  $H \cap K \leq H_{eG}$ , where  $H_{eG}$  denotes the subgroup of  $H$  generated by all those subgroups of  $H$  which are  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ .

On the other hand, we say that a subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  covers  $G$ -chief factor  $A/B$  if  $HA = HB$ , and  $H$  avoids  $A/B$  if  $H \cap A = H \cap B$ . If  $H$  covers or

\* The project is supported by the Natural Science Foundation of China (No: 11401264 and 11571145)

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: 20D10, 20D20.

Submitted March 18, 2013. Published December 10, 2016

avoids every chief factor of  $G$ , then  $H$  is said to have the cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . This conception was first studied by Gaschütz (see [2]) to study the solvable groups, later by Gillam (see [3]) and Ezquerro (see [5]), et al. As a generalization of the cover-avoiding property, Fan, Guo and Shum (see [8]) defined the semi cover-avoiding property. A subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is said to have the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , if there exists a chief series of  $G$  such that  $H$  either covers or avoids every  $G$ -chief factor of this series.

A subgroup that satisfies the cover-avoiding property does not necessary need to be  $E$ -supplemented and vice-versa. In this paper, we will focus on the two kinds of subgroups and establish the structure of groups under the assumption that all maximal subgroups of a Sylow subgroup either have the semi cover-avoiding property or are  $E$ -supplemented subgroups. A series of previously known results are generalized, such as in [6,9,11,13,15,16,17,18,19,21,23,24,25].

## 2. Preliminaries

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

**Lemma 2.1** ([11, Lemmas 2.5 and 2.6]). *Suppose that  $H$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ .*

- (1) *If  $H \leq L \leq G$ , then  $H$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $L$ .*
- (2) *If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq H \leq G$ , then  $H/N$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G/N$ .*
- (3) *If  $H$  is a  $\pi$ -subgroup and  $N$  is a normal  $\pi'$ -subgroup of  $G$ , then  $HN/N$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G/N$ .*

**Lemma 2.2** ([4, Lemma 2.3]). *Let  $H$  be a  $E$ -supplemented subgroup of a group  $G$ .*

- (1) *If  $H \leq L \leq G$ , then  $H$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $L$ .*
- (2) *If  $N \triangleleft G$  and  $N \leq H \leq G$ , then  $H/N$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/N$ .*
- (3) *If  $H$  is a  $\pi$ -subgroup and  $N$  is a normal  $\pi'$ -subgroup of  $G$ , then  $HN/N$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/N$ .*

**Lemma 2.3** ([11, Lemma 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of the group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$  and let  $P$  be a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . If there is a maximal subgroup  $P_1$  of  $P$  such that  $P_1$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -solvable.*

**Lemma 2.4** ([18, Lemma 2.8]). *Let  $M$  be a maximal subgroup of  $G$  and  $P$  a normal  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G = PM$ , where  $p$  is a prime. Then  $P \cap M$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .*

**Lemma 2.5** ([19, Lemma 2.7]). *Let  $G$  be a group and  $p$  a prime dividing  $|G|$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ .*

- (1) *If  $N$  is normal in  $G$  of order  $p$ , then  $N \leq Z(G)$ .*
- (2) *If  $G$  has cyclic Sylow  $p$ -subgroup, then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*
- (3) *If  $M \leq G$  and  $|G : M| = p$ , then  $M \trianglelefteq G$ .*

**Lemma 2.6** ([20, Main Theorem]). *Suppose that  $G$  has a Hall  $\pi$ -subgroup where  $\pi$  is a set of odd primes. Then all Hall  $\pi$ -subgroups of  $G$  are conjugate.*

**Lemma 2.7** ([21, Lemma 2.6]). *Let  $H \neq 1$  be a solvable normal subgroup of a group  $G$ . If every minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  which is contained in  $H$  is not contained in  $\Phi(G)$ , then the Fitting subgroup  $F(H)$  of  $H$  is the direct product of minimal normal subgroups of  $G$  which are contained in  $H$ .*

**Lemma 2.8** ([22, Lemma 2.16]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If  $N$  is cyclic, then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Lemma 2.9** ([27, Lemma 2.3]). *Suppose that  $H$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ , and let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ . If  $H_G = 1$ , then  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ .*

**Lemma 2.10** ([28, Lemma A]). *If  $P$  is an  $S$ -quasinormal  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G$  for some prime  $p$ , then  $N_G(P) \geq O^p(G)$ .*

**Lemma 2.11** ([27, Lemma 2.4]). *Suppose that  $P$  is a  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G$  contained in  $O_p(G)$ . If  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ .*

### 3. Main results

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . If  $G$  has a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Proof:** Assume that the assertion is false and let  $G$  be a minimal counterexample. We will derive a contradiction in several steps.

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

Assume that  $O_{p'}(G) \neq 1$ . 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 of the theorem,  $P_1$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then  $M/O_{p'}(G) = P_1O_{p'}(G)/O_{p'}(G)$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/O_{p'}(G)$  by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. It is clear that  $(|G/O_{p'}(G)|, p-1) = 1$ . 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 not, suppose that  $O_p(G) = 1$ . If there is a maximal subgroup of  $P$  which has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -solvable by Lemma 2.3. Since  $O_{p'}(G) = 1$  by step (1), we have  $O_p(G) \neq 1$ , a contradiction. Thus we may assume that all maximal subgroups of  $P$  are  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . If  $p \neq 2$ , then  $G$  is odd from the assumption that  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . By the Feit-Thompson Theorem,  $G$  is solvable. It follows that  $O_p(G) \neq 1$  by step (1), a contradiction. If  $p = 2$ , then we get also  $G$  is solvable by [4, Lemma 3.1], the same contradiction.

(3) If  $N \leq O_p(G)$ , then  $G/N$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Consequently,  $G$  is solvable.

Suppose that  $M/N$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P/N$ . Then  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P$ . By the hypothesis of the theorem,  $M$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then  $M/N$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/N$  by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. Therefore  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. The minimal choice of  $G$  implies that  $G/N$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. If  $p$  is odd, then  $G$  is solvable. If  $p = 2$ , then  $G/N$  is solvable, and so  $G$  is solvable.

(4)  $O_p(G)$  is the unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ .

Let  $N$  be a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . Since  $G$  is solvable by step (3),  $N$  is an elementary abelian subgroup. Note that  $O_{p'}(G) = 1$ , then we have  $N$  is a  $p$ -subgroup and so  $N \leq O_p(G)$ . Step (3) implies that  $G/O_p(G)$  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  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . Choose  $M$  to be a maximal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G = NM$ . Obviously,  $G = O_p(G)M$  and so  $O_p(G) \cap M$  is normal in  $G$  by Lemma 2.4. The uniqueness of  $N$  yields  $N = O_p(G)$ .

(5) The final contradiction.

By the proof in step (4),  $G$  has a maximal subgroup  $M$  such that  $G = MO_p(G)$  and  $G/O_p(G) \cong M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Clearly,  $P = O_p(G)(P \cap M)$ . Furthermore,  $P \cap M < P$ . Thus, there exists a maximal subgroup  $V$  of  $P$  such that  $P \cap M \leq V$ . Hence,  $P = O_p(G)V$ . By the hypothesis,  $V$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ .

Case I:  $V$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . Since  $O_p(G)$  is the unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $V$  covers or avoids  $O_p(G)/1$ . If  $V$  covers  $O_p(G)/1$ , then  $VO_p(G) = V$ , i.e.,  $O_p(G) \leq V$ . It follows that  $P = O_p(G)V = V$ , a contradiction. If  $V$  avoids  $O_p(G)/1$ , then  $V \cap O_p(G) = 1$ . Since  $V \cap O_p(G)$  is a maximal subgroup of  $O_p(G)$ , we have that  $O_p(G)$  is of order  $p$  and so  $O_p(G)$  lies in  $Z(G)$  by Lemma 2.5. By step (3), we have  $G/O_p(G)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Then  $G/Z(G)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, and so  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, a contradiction.

Case II:  $V$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then there is a subgroup  $T$  of  $G$  such that  $G = VT$  and  $V \cap T \leq V_{eG}$ . Assume that  $T$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Let  $T_{p'}$  be the normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup of  $T$ . Since  $M$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, we may suppose  $M$  has a normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup  $M_{p'}$  and  $M \leq N_G(M_{p'}) \leq G$ . The maximality of  $M$  implies that  $M = N_G(M_{p'})$  or  $N_G(M_{p'}) = G$ . If the latter holds, then  $M_{p'} \trianglelefteq G$  and  $M_{p'}$  is actually the normal  $p$ -complement of  $G$ , which is contrary to the choice of  $G$ . Hence, we may assume  $M = N_G(M_{p'})$ . By applying Lemma 2.6 and the Feit-Thompson Theorem, there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $T_{p'}^g = M_{p'}$ . Hence,  $T^g \leq N_G(T_{p'}^g) = N_G(M_{p'}) = M$ . However,  $T_{p'}$  is normalized by  $T$ , so  $g$  can be considered as an element of  $V$ . Thus,  $G = VT^g = VM$  and  $P = V(P \cap M) = V$ , a contradiction. Hence  $T$  is not  $p$ -nilpotent. If  $V_{eG} = 1$ , then  $|T|_p = p$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $T$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, a contradiction. Thus we may assume that  $V_{eG} \neq 1$ . Let  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_s$  be all the nontrivial subgroups of  $V$  which are  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ . For every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s\}$ , then there is an  $S$ -quasinormal subgroup  $K_i$  of  $G$  such that  $U_i$  is a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $K_i$ . Suppose that for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s\}$ , we have  $(K_i)_G \neq 1$ . Then  $O_p(G) \leq (K_i)_G \leq K_i$  by step (4). It follows that  $O_p(G) \leq U_i \leq V$ , and so

$P = O_p(G)V = V$ . This contradiction shows that for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s\}$  we have  $(K_i)_G = 1$ . By Lemma 2.9,  $U_i$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . Hence  $V_{eG}$  is  $S$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . From Lemma 2.10 we have  $O^p(G) \leq N_G(V_{eG})$ . Since  $V_{eG}$  is subnormal in  $G$ , we have  $V_{eG} \leq O_p(G)$ . Thus,  $V_{eG} \leq V \cap O_p(G)$  and  $1 < V_{eG} \leq (V_{eG})^G = (V_{eG})^{O^p(G)P} = (V_{eG})^P \leq (V \cap O_p(G))^P = V \cap O_p(G) \leq O_p(G)$ . It follows that  $(V_{eG})^G = V \cap O_p(G) = O_p(G)$ . Then  $O_p(G) \leq V$  and so  $P = V$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$  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  $P$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Proof:** In view of Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, every maximal subgroup of  $P$  has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $H$ . By Theorem 3.1,  $H$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Now, let  $H_{p'}$  be the normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Obviously,  $H_{p'} \trianglelefteq G$ .

Case I:  $H_{p'} \neq 1$ . We consider  $G/H_{p'}$ . Applying Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, it is easy to see that  $G/H_{p'}$  satisfies the hypotheses for the normal subgroup  $H/H_{p'}$ . Therefore,  $G/H_{p'}$  is  $p$ -nilpotent by induction. It follows that  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.

Case II:  $H_{p'} = 1$ , i.e.,  $H = P$  is a  $p$ -group. Since  $G/P$  is  $p$ -nilpotent, we can let  $K/P$  be the normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup of  $G/P$ . By the Schur-Zassenhaus Theorem, there exists a Hall  $p'$ -subgroup  $K_{p'}$  of  $K$  such that  $K = PK_{p'}$ . A new application of Theorem 3.1 yields that  $K$  is  $p$ -nilpotent and so  $K = P \times K_{p'}$ . It is easy to see that  $K_{p'}$  is a normal  $p$ -complement of  $G$ . Consequently,  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . If every maximal subgroup of  $P$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.4.** *Suppose that every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of a group  $G$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then  $G$  is a Sylow tower group of supersolvable type.*

**Proof:** Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$  and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . By Theorem 3.1,  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Let  $T$  be the normal Hall  $p'$ -subgroup of  $G$ . In view of Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $T$  has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $T$ . Thus  $T$  satisfies the hypothesis of the corollary. It follows by induction that  $T$ , and hence  $G$  is a Sylow tower group of supersolvable type.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.5** ([13, Theorem 3.3]). *Let  $G$  be a group,  $p$  a prime dividing the order of  $G$ , and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ . If  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$  and every maximal subgroup of  $P$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.6** ([11, Theorem 3.2]). *Let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime divisor of  $|G|$ . If  $P$  is cyclic or every maximal subgroup of  $P$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Proof:** If  $P$  is cyclic, by Lemma 2.5, we have that  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent. Thus we may assume that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . By Theorem 3.1,  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.7** ([15, Theorem 3.4]). *Let  $G$  be a group and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ . If all maximal subgroups of  $P$  are  $c$ -normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.8** ([16, Theorem 3.2]). *Let  $G$  be a group and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ . If all maximal subgroups of  $P$  are  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.9** ([29, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $P$  be a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of a group  $G$ , where  $p$  is a prime divisor of  $|G|$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . If every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.10** ([6, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . Suppose that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$  and  $G \in C_{p'}$ , then  $G/O_p(G)$  is  $p$ -nilpotent and  $G \in D_{p'}$ .*

**Corollary 3.11** ([19, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . Assume that  $H$  is 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  $c^*$ -normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.12** ([27, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.13** ([29, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing the order of a group  $G$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is weakly  $S$ -permutably embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.14** ([30, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing the order of a group  $G$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is weakly  $S$ -permutable in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.15** ([31, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is weakly  $S$ -permutable in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.16** ([32, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing the order of a group  $G$ . If there exists a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $G$  such that every maximal subgroup of  $P$  is  $S$ -permutably embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*

**Corollary 3.17** ([14, Theorem 3.1]). *Let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of a group  $G$  with  $(|G|, p-1) = 1$  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  $c$ -normal or  $S$ -permutably embedded in  $G$ , then  $G$  is  $p$ -nilpotent.*



**Theorem 3.18.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ , where  $\mathcal{U}$  is the class of all supersolvable groups. A group  $G \in \mathcal{F}$  if and only if there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any noncyclic Sylow subgroup of  $H$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ .*

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

(1)  $G$  has a minimal normal subgroup  $N \leq H$  and  $N$  is an elementary abelian  $p$ -group, where  $p$  is the largest prime in  $\pi(H)$ .

By the hypothesis of the theorem, every maximal subgroup of any noncyclic Sylow subgroup of  $H$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Consequently, by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 every one also either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $H$ . Applying Corollary 3.4,  $H$  is a Sylow tower group of supersolvable type. Let  $p$  be the largest prime divisor of  $|H|$  and  $P$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ . Then  $P$  is normal in  $H$ . Obviously,  $P$  is normal in  $G$ . Therefore,  $G$  has a minimal normal subgroup  $N \leq H$  and  $N$  is an elementary abelian  $p$ -group.

(2)  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $N = P$  is the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H$ .

First, we want to prove that  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. In fact,  $(G/N)/(H/N) \cong G/H \in \mathcal{F}$ . Let  $P_1/N$  be a maximal subgroup of the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P/N$  of  $H/N$ . Then  $P_1$  is a maximal subgroup of the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $H$ . If  $P/N$  is noncyclic, then  $P$  is also noncyclic. By the hypothesis of the theorem,  $P_1$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . By Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2,  $P_1/N$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/N$ . Let  $M_1/N$  be a maximal subgroup of the noncyclic Sylow  $q$ -subgroup  $QN/N$  of  $H/N$ , where  $q \neq p$  and  $Q$  is a noncyclic Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $H$ . It is clear that  $M_1 = Q_1N$ , where  $Q_1$  is a maximal subgroup of  $Q$ . By the hypothesis of the theorem,  $Q_1$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Hence  $M_1/N$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/N$  by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. We now have proved that  $G/N$  satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem. By the minimal choice of  $G$ , we have  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is a saturated formation,  $N$  is the unique minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $P$  and  $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$ . By Lemma 2.7, it follows that  $P = F(P) = N$ .

(3)  $|N| > p$ .

This follows from Lemma 2.8.

(4) The final contradiction.

Let  $M$  be a maximal subgroup of  $N$ . By the hypothesis,  $M$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ .

Case I:  $M$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then there is a subgroup  $T$  of  $G$  such that  $G = MT$  and  $M \cap T \leq M_{eG}$ . Thus  $G = NT$  and  $N = N \cap MT = M(N \cap T)$ . This implies that  $N \cap T \neq 1$ . But since  $N \cap T$  is normal in  $G$  and  $N$  is minimal normal in  $G$ ,  $N \cap T = N$ . It follows that  $T = G$  and so  $M = M_{eG}$ . In view of Lemma 2.11,  $M$  is  $s$ -quasinormal in  $G$ . By Lemma 2.10,  $O^p(G) \leq N_G(M)$ . Thus

$M \trianglelefteq G_p O^p(G) = G$ . It follows that  $M = 1$  and so  $|N| = p$ , which contradicts step (3).

Case II:  $M$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . Then there exists a chief series of  $G$

$$1 = G_0 < G_1 < \cdots < G_{n-1} < G_n = G$$

such that  $M$  covers or avoids every factor  $G_j/G_{j-1}$ . Since  $N$  is minimal normal in  $G$ , there exists  $j$  such that  $G_j \cap N = N$  and  $G_{j-1} \cap N = 1$ . If  $M$  covers  $G_j/G_{j-1}$ , then  $MG_j = MG_{j-1}$  and so  $MG_j \cap N = MG_{j-1} \cap N$ . Hence  $M(G_j \cap N) = M(G_{j-1} \cap N)$ , i.e.,  $MN = M$ , a contradiction. If  $M$  avoids  $G_j/G_{j-1}$ , then  $M \cap G_j = M \cap G_{j-1}$  and so  $M \cap G_j \cap N = M \cap G_{j-1} \cap N$ , i.e.,  $M = 1$ . It follows  $|N| = p$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.19** ([13, 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  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.20** ([21, Theorem 3.3]). *Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of a group  $G$  such that  $G/H$  is supersolvable. If every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is  $c$ -normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  is supersolvable.*

**Corollary 3.21** ([16, Theorem 4.2]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . If there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.22** ([23, Theorem 4.1]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . If there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any noncyclic Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.23** ([32, Theorem 3.3]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . If there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is  $S$ -quasinormally embedded in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.24** ([14, Theorem 3.3]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . A group  $G \in \mathcal{F}$  if and only if there is a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $G/H \in \mathcal{F}$  and every maximal subgroup of any Sylow subgroup of  $H$  is either  $s$ -quasinormally embedded or  $c$ -normal in  $G$ .*

**Theorem 3.25.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a solvable normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If every maximal subgroup of each non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of  $F(N)$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

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

$$(1) \Phi(G) \cap N = 1.$$



Assume that  $\Phi(G) \cap N \neq 1$ . Then there exists a prime  $p$  dividing the order of  $\Phi(G) \cap N$ . Let  $P_0$  be the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $\Phi(G) \cap N$ . Then  $P_0 \trianglelefteq G$ . Since  $(G/P_0)/(N/P_0) \cong G/N$ , it follows that  $(G/P_0)/(N/P_0) \in \mathcal{F}$ . By [1, p.270 Satz 3.5],  $F(N/P_0) = F(N)/P_0$ . Let  $P_1/P_0$  be a maximal subgroup of the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P/P_0$  of  $F(N)/P_0$ . Then  $P_1$  is a maximal subgroup of the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P$  of  $F(N)$ . If  $P/P_0$  is non-cyclic, then  $P$  is non-cyclic. By the hypothesis,  $P_1$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Hence  $P_1/P_0$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/P_0$  by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. Set  $Q_*/P_0$  be a maximal subgroup of the non-cyclic Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $F(N)/P_0$ , where  $p \neq q$ . It is clear that  $Q_* = Q_1^*P_0$ , where  $Q_1^*$  is a maximal subgroup of the non-cyclic Sylow  $q$ -subgroup of  $F(N)$ . Then  $Q_1^*$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Hence  $Q_1^*P_0/P_0$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G/P_0$  by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. Now we have proved that  $G/P_0$  satisfies the hypotheses of the theorem. Therefore  $G/P_0 \in \mathcal{F}$  by minimal choice of  $G$ . Since  $P_0 \leq \Phi(G)$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a saturated formation, we have that  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ , a contradiction.

(2)  $F(N) = L_1 \times L_2 \times \cdots \times L_n$ , where every  $L_i$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  with prime order.

If  $N = 1$ , nothing need to be proved. So assume  $N \neq 1$ . Then  $F(N) \neq 1$  by the solvability of  $N$ . By Lemma 2.7,  $F(N)$  is the direct product of some minimal normal subgroups of  $G$ . Let  $P$  be the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $F(N)$ . We can denote  $P = R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$ , where every  $R_i$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ . We will show that  $|R_i| = p$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). If not, then there exists an index  $i$  such that  $|R_i| > p$ . Without loss of generality, suppose that  $i = 1$ . Since  $R_1 \not\leq \Phi(G)$ , there exist a maximal subgroup  $M$  of  $G$  such that  $G = R_1M$  and  $R_1 \cap M = 1$ . Then  $G_p = R_1M_p$ . Pick a maximal subgroup  $G_p^*$  of  $G_p$  containing  $M_p$ . Then  $|R_1 : G_p^* \cap R_1| = |R_1G_p^*/G_p^*| = |G_p : G_p^*| = p$ . Hence  $R_1^* = G_p^* \cap R_1$  is a maximal subgroup of  $R_1$ . This implies that  $P^* = R_1^*R_2 \cdots R_m$  is a maximal subgroup of  $P$ . Obviously,  $P$  is not cyclic. By the hypothesis,  $P^*$  either has the semi cover-avoiding property or is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Let  $K = R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$ .

Case I:  $P^*$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $P^*/K$  has the semi cover-avoiding property in  $G/K$ . Suppose that  $P^*/K$  cover-avoids a chief series  $1 = \overline{K} \triangleleft G_1/K = \overline{G}_1 \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft G/K = \overline{G}_n$  of  $G/K$ . Let  $i$  be the smallest number in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $\overline{G}_{i+1}/\overline{G}_i$  was covered by  $P^*/K$  in above chief series. Then we have  $G_i \cap P^* = K$  and  $G_{i+1} \leq G_iP^* = G_iR_1^*$ . Hence  $G_{i+1} = G_i(R_1^* \cap G_{i+1})$  and  $R_1^* \cap G_{i+1} > 1$ . Since  $R_1$  is a minimal normal subgroup of  $G$ , we have  $R_1 \leq G_{i+1}$  and  $R_1 \cap G_i = 1$ . Hence  $|R_1| = |G_{i+1}/G_i| = |R_1^* \cap G_{i+1}| < |R_1|$ , a contraction. Therefore,  $P^*/K$  does not cover any chief factor in above chief series. It follows that  $P^*/K = 1$  and  $|R_1| = p$ , a contraction.

Case II:  $P^*$  is  $E$ -supplemented in  $G$ . Then there exists a subgroup  $K$  such that  $G = P^*T$  and  $P^* \cap T \leq (P^*)_{eG}$ . Obviously,  $(P^*) \trianglelefteq G_p$ . By Lemma 2.11,  $(P^*)_{eG} = (P^*)_{sG}$ . In view of [12, Lemma 2.10],  $(P^*)_{sG} = (P^*)_G$ . Denote  $T_1 = KT$ . Then  $G = R_1^*T_1$  and  $R_1^* \cap T_1 = R_1^* \cap T_1 \cap P^* = R_1 \cap K(P^* \cap T) \leq R_1 \cap K(P^*)_G = R_1 \cap K = 1$ . Since  $R_1 \cap T_1$  is normal in  $G$ , we have  $R_1 \cap T_1 = 1$  or  $R_1$  by the minimality of  $R_1$ . If the former holds, then  $R_1 = R_1 \cap R_1^*T_1 = R_1^*(R_1 \cap T_1) = R_1^*$ ,

a contraction. Hence  $R_1 \cap T_1 = R_1$ , i.e.,  $R_1 \leq T_1$ . It follows that  $R_1^* = 1$  and so  $|R_1| = p$ , a contraction.

(3) The final contradiction.

It is easy to see that  $G/C_G(L_i)$  is abelian by step (2). Since  $C_G(F(N)) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n C_G(L_i)$ , we have that  $G/C_G(F(N))$  is abelian. Hence  $G/C_G(F(N)) \in \mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ . By the assumption,  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ , which implies that  $G/N \cap C_G(F(N)) = G/C_N(F(N)) \in \mathcal{F}$  by the properties of formations. From the solvability of  $N$ ,  $C_N(F(N)) \leq F(N)$ . In view of step (2),  $F(N)$  is abelian. Then  $F(N) \leq C_N(F(N))$ . Thus  $F(N) = C_N(F(N))$  and  $G/F(N) \in \mathcal{F}$ . By Theorem 3.18,  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.26** ([24, Theorem 1]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a solvable normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of  $F(N)$  are  $c$ -normal in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.27** ([18, Theorem 4.5]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a solvable normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of  $F(N)$  are  $c$ -supplemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.28** ([25, Theorem 1.6]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a solvable normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of  $F(N)$  are complemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

**Corollary 3.29** ([32, Corollary 3.4]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a saturated formation containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . Suppose that  $G$  is a group with a solvable normal subgroup  $N$  such that  $G/N \in \mathcal{F}$ . If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of  $F(N)$  are complemented in  $G$ , then  $G \in \mathcal{F}$ .*

## References

1. B. Huppert, *Endliche Gruppen I*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin-New York, 1967.
2. W. Gaschütz, *Praefrattinigruppen*, Arch. Math, 13 (1962) 418–426.
3. J. D. Gillam, *Cover-avoid subgroups in finite solvable groups*, J. Algebra, 29 (1974) 324–329.
4. C. Li, *A note on a result of Skiba*, J. Group Theory, 15 (2012) 385–396.
5. L. M. Ezquerro, *A contribution to the theory of finite supersolvable groups*, Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova, 89 (1993) 161–170.
6. Y. Wang, *Finite groups with some subgroups of Sylow subgroups  $c$ -supplemented*, J. Algebra, 224 (2000) 467–478.
7. X. Guo, K. P. Shum, *Cover-avoidance properties and the structure of finite groups*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra, 181 (2003) 297–308.
8. Y. Fan, X. Guo and K. P. Shum, *Remarks on two generalizations of normality of subgroups*, Chinese Ann. Math. (Chinese Series) A, 27 (2006) 169–176.
9. Y. Wang,  *$c$ -Normality of groups and its properties*, J. Algebra, 180 (1996) 954–965.
10. X. Guo, J. Wang, K. P. Shum, *On semi cover-avoiding maximal subgroup and solvability of finite groups*, Comm. Algebra, 34 (2006) 3235–3244.

11. X. Guo, P. Guo, K. P. Shum, *On semi cover-avoiding subgroups of finite group*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra, 209 (2007) 151–158.
12. A. N. Skiba, *On two questions of L. A. Shemetkov concerning hypercyclically embedded subgroups of finite groups*, J. Group Theory, 13 (2010) 841–850.
13. X. Li, Y. Yang, *Semi CAP-subgroups and the structure of finite groups*, Acta Math. Sin. (Chinese Series) 51 (2008) 1181–1187.
14. S. Li, Y. Li, *On  $s$ -quasinormal and  $c$ -normal subgroups of a finite group*, Czech. Math. J, 58 (2008) 1083–1095.
15. X. Guo, K. P. Shum, *On  $c$ -normal maximal and minimal subgroups of Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of finite groups*, Arch. Math. 80 (2003) 561–569.
16. X. Guo, K. P. Shum, *Finite  $p$ -nilpotent groups with some subgroups  $c$ -supplemented*, J. Aust. Math. Soc. 78 (2005) 429–439.
17. X. Guo, K. P. Shum, *On  $p$ -nilpotency of finite groups with some subgroups  $c$ -supplemented*, Algebra Colloq. 10 (2003) 259–266.
18. Y. Wang, H. Wei, Y. Li, *A generalization of Kramer's theorem and its application*, Bull. Aust. Math. Soc. 65 (2002) 467–475.
19. H. Wei, Y. Wang, *On  $c^*$ -normality and its properties*, J. Group Theory, 10 (2007) 211–223.
20. F. Gross, *Conjugacy of odd order Hall subgroups*, Bull. London Math. Soc, 19 (1987) 311–319.
21. D. Li, X. Guo, *The influence of  $c$ -normality of subgroups on the structure of finite groups*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra 150 (2000) 53–60.
22. A. N. Skiba, *On weakly  $s$ -permutable subgroups of finite groups*, J. Algebra 315 (2007) 192–209.
23. Y. Wang, H. Wei, *On a problem of Skiba from the Kourovka Notebook*, Sci. China Ser. A 47 (2004) 96–103.
24. H. Wei, *On  $c$ -normal maximal and minimal subgroups of Sylow subgroups of finite groups*, Comm. Algebra, 29 (2001) 2193–2200.
25. X. Guo, K. P. Shum, *Complementarity of subgroups and the structure of finite groups*, Algebra Colloq. 13 (2006) 9–16.
26. A. Ballester-Bolinches, X. Guo, *On complemented subgroups of finite groups*, Arch. Math. 72 (1999) 161–166.
27. Y. Li, Y. Wang, H. Wei, *On  $p$ -nilpotency of finite groups with some subgroups  $\pi$ -quasinormally embedded*, Acta Math. Hungar. 108 (2005) 283–298.
28. P. Schmidt, *Subgroups permutable with all Sylow subgroups*, J. Algebra, 207 (1998) 285–293.
29. Y. Li, S. Qiao, Y. Wang, *On weakly  $s$ -permutably embedded subgroups of finite groups*, Comm. Algebra, 37 (2009), 1086–1097.
30. Y. Li, S. Qiao, Y. Wang, *A note on a result of Skiba*, Siberian Math. J. 50 (2009) 467–473.
31. L. Miao, *On weakly  $s$ -permutable subgroups*, Bull. Braz. Math. Soc, New Series, 41 (2010) 223–235.
32. M. Asaad, A. A. Heliel, *On  $s$ -quasinormally embedded subgroups of finite groups*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra, 165 (2001) 129–135.

*Changwen Li,*  
*School of Mathematics and Statistics,*  
*Jiangsu Normal University,*  
*China.*  
*E-mail address: lcw2000@126.com*

*and*

*Xuemei Zhang of Basic Sciences,*  
*Yancheng Institute of Technology,*  
*China.*

*and*

*Jianhong Huang,*  
*School of Mathematics and Statistics,*  
*Jiangsu Normal University,*  
*China.*