

ON c -NORMALITY OF FINITE GROUPS

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Abstract

A subgroup H of a finite group G is said to be c -normal in G if there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G = \text{Core}_G(H)$. We are interested in studying the influence of the c -normality of certain subgroups of prime power order on the structure of finite groups.

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1. Introduction

All groups in this paper will be finite. We say, following Wang [11], that a subgroup H of G is c -normal in G if there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G$, where $H_G = \text{Core}_G(H) = \bigcap_{g \in G} H^g$ is the maximal normal subgroup of G which is contained in H .

Two subgroups H and K of G are said to permute if $HK = KH$. We say, following Kegel [9], that a subgroup of G is S-quasinormal in G if it permutes with every Sylow subgroup of G .

Let p be a prime and let P be a p -subgroup of G , we write

$$\Omega(P) = \begin{cases} \Omega_1(P) & \text{if } p > 2; \\ \Omega_2(P) & \text{if } p = 2, \end{cases}$$

where $\Omega_i(P)$ is the subgroup of P generated by its elements of order dividing p^i .

Let \mathfrak{S} be a class of groups. We call \mathfrak{S} a formation if \mathfrak{S} contains all homomorphic images of a group in \mathfrak{S} , and if G/M and G/N are in \mathfrak{S} , then $G/(M \cap N)$ is in \mathfrak{S} .

for normal subgroups M, N of G . Each group G has a smallest normal subgroup N such that G/N is in \mathfrak{S} . This uniquely determined normal subgroup of G is called the \mathfrak{S} -residual subgroup of G and will be denoted by $G^{\mathfrak{S}}$. A formation \mathfrak{S} is said to be saturated if $G/\Phi(G) \in \mathfrak{S}$ implies $G \in \mathfrak{S}$. Throughout this paper \mathfrak{U} will denote the class of supersolvable groups. Clearly, \mathfrak{U} is a formation. Since a group G is supersolvable if and only if $G/\Phi(G)$ is supersolvable [6, VI, page 713], it follows that \mathfrak{U} is saturated.

With every prime p we associate some formation $\mathfrak{S}(p)$ ($\mathfrak{S}(p)$ could possibly be empty). We say that \mathfrak{S} is the local formation, locally defined by $\{\mathfrak{S}(p)\}$ provided $G \in \mathfrak{S}$ if and only if for every prime p dividing $|G|$ and every p -chief factor H/K of G , $\text{Aut}_G(H/K) \in \mathfrak{S}(p)$ ($\text{Aut}_G(H/K)$ denotes the group of automorphisms induced by G on H/K and it is isomorphic to $G/C_G(H/K)$). It is known (see [5, IV, 4.6]) that a formation is saturated if and only if it is local.

We assume throughout that \mathfrak{S} is a formation, locally defined by the system $\{\mathfrak{S}(p)\}$ of full and integrated formations $\mathfrak{S}(p)$ (that is, $S_p\mathfrak{S}(p) = \mathfrak{S}(p) \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$ for all primes p , where S_p is the formation of all finite p -groups). It is well known (see [5, IV, 3.7]) that for any saturated formation \mathfrak{S} , there is a unique integrated and full system which locally defines \mathfrak{S} .

A solvable normal subgroup N of a group G is an \mathfrak{S} -hypercentral subgroup of G (see Huppert [7]) provided N possesses a chain of subgroups $1 = N_0 \triangleleft N_1 \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft N_r = N$ satisfying (i) every factor N_{i+1}/N_i is a chief factor of G , and (ii) if N_{i+1}/N_i has order a power of the prime p_i , then $G/C_G(N_{i+1}/N_i) \in \mathfrak{S}(p_i)$. The product of all \mathfrak{S} -hypercentral subgroups of G is again an \mathfrak{S} -hypercentral subgroup of G , denoted by $Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$ and called the \mathfrak{S} -hypercentre of a group G .

Ito in [8], proved that a group G of odd order is nilpotent provided that every subgroup of G of prime order lies in the center of G . Wang [11], proved that if all subgroups of G of prime order or order 4 are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable. Deyu and Xiuyun [4], proved the following: (i) If K is a normal subgroup of a solvable group G of odd order such that G/K is supersolvable and all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ of prime order are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable. (ii) If K is a normal subgroup of a solvable group G such that G/K is supersolvable and all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable.

The aim of this paper is to improve and extend the above mentioned results in [4]. The results of our paper are obtained by independent proofs to those in [4].

Our notation is standard and taken mainly from [5].

2. Preliminary results

LEMMA 2.1. *Let $H \leq K \leq G$.*

- (i) If H is c -normal in G , then H is c -normal in K .
(ii) If H is a normal subgroup of G , then K is c -normal in G if and only if K/H is c -normal in G/H .

PROOF. See [11, Lemma 2.1, page 956]. □

LEMMA 2.2. Let P be a normal p -subgroup of G and let Q be a q -subgroup of G such that $p \neq q$. If Q is c -normal in G then QP/P is c -normal in G/P .

PROOF. See [13, Lemma 2.4]. □

LEMMA 2.3. Let p be the smallest prime dividing $|G|$ and let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of G . If all subgroups of P of order p or order 4 are S -quasinormal and, in particular normal, in G , then G is p -nilpotent.

PROOF. See [10, Theorem 3.2, page 290]. □

LEMMA 2.4. Let K be a normal subgroup of G such that $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$, where \mathfrak{S} is a saturated formation. If $\Omega(P) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$, where P is a Sylow p -subgroup of K , then $G/O_{p'}(K) \in \mathfrak{S}$.

PROOF. See [3, Theorem, page 2]. □

LEMMA 2.5. If G is a solvable group and all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(G)$ of prime order or order 4 are S -quasinormal and, in particular normal, in G , then G is supersolvable.

PROOF. See [2, Corollary 2, page 402]. □

LEMMA 2.6. If \mathfrak{S} is a saturated formation and N is an \mathfrak{S} -hypercentral subgroup of G , then $G/C_G(N) \in \mathfrak{S}$.

PROOF. This is an easy consequence of a result due to Huppert (see [5, IV, 6.10]). □

LEMMA 2.7. Let \mathfrak{S} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{A} . Suppose that G is a solvable group with a normal subgroup K such that $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$. If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ are S -quasinormal and, in particular normal, in G , then $G \in \mathfrak{S}$.

PROOF. See [1, Theorem 1.4, page 3650]. □

LEMMA 2.8. Let P be a normal p -subgroup of G . If $P \cap \Phi(G) = 1$, then P is a direct product of abelian minimal normal subgroups of G .

PROOF. See [5, Theorem 10.6, page 36]. □

3. Main results

We begin with the following lemma:

LEMMA 3.1. *Let p be the smallest prime dividing $|G|$ and let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of G . If all subgroups of P of order p or order 4 are c -normal in G , then G is p -nilpotent.*

PROOF. We prove the result by induction on $|G|$. If all subgroups of P of order p or order 4 are normal in G , then G is p -nilpotent by Lemma 2.3. Thus, we may assume that there exists a subgroup H of P of order p or order 4 such that H is not normal in G . By hypothesis, H is c -normal in G . Then there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G$, and since H is not normal in G , it follows that $N < G$. Clearly, $P \cap N$ is a Sylow p -subgroup of N . By Lemma 2.1 (i), all subgroups of $P \cap N$ of order p or order 4 are c -normal in N . Then, by induction on $|G|$, N is p -nilpotent and so also does G . □

REMARK. The formation \mathfrak{U} of all supersolvable groups is locally defined by the integrated and full system $\{\mathfrak{U}(p)\}$, where for each prime p , $\mathfrak{U}(p)$ is the class of all strictly p -closed groups (see [12, Theorem 1.9 and Corollary 1.5]). (Let p be a prime. A group G is said to be strictly p -closed whenever P , a Sylow p -subgroup of G , is normal in G with G/P abelian of exponent dividing $p - 1$.)

We can now prove:

THEOREM 3.2. *Let \mathfrak{S} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and let G be a group. Then the following two statements are equivalent:*

- (i) $G \in \mathfrak{S}$.
- (ii) *There exists a normal subgroup K in G such that $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$ and all subgroups of K of prime order or order 4 are c -normal in G .*

PROOF. (i) implies (ii): If $G \in \mathfrak{S}$, then (ii) is true with $K = 1$.

(ii) implies (i): Suppose the result is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. By Lemma 2.1 (i) and Lemma 3.1, K possesses an ordered Sylow tower and so K has a normal Sylow p -subgroup P , where p is the largest prime dividing $|K|$. Clearly, P is a normal p -subgroup of G and so $(G/P)/(K/P) \cong G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$. By Lemma 2.2, all subgroups of K/P of prime order or order 4 are c -normal in G/P . Then, by the minimality of G , $G/P \in \mathfrak{S}$. Hence, $1 \neq G^{\mathfrak{S}} \leq P$. If all subgroups of $G^{\mathfrak{S}}$ of order p or order 4 are normal in G , then $\Omega(G^{\mathfrak{S}}) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$ (see the above Remark). Since \mathfrak{U} and \mathfrak{S} are saturated formations with $\mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$, it follows that $Z_{\mathfrak{U}}(G) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$ (see [5, IV, 3.11]). Hence $\Omega(G^{\mathfrak{S}}) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$. Applying Lemma 2.4, $G \in \mathfrak{S}$; a

contradiction. Thus, there exists a subgroup H of $G^{\mathfrak{S}}$ of order p or order 4 such that H is not normal in G . By hypothesis, H is c-normal in G . Then there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G$, and since H is not normal in G , it follows that $N < G$. Clearly, $G^{\mathfrak{S}} \not\leq N$. Since G/N is a p -group, it follows that $G/N \in \mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$. Hence, $G^{\mathfrak{S}} \leq N$; a final contradiction. \square

Below we list some immediate corollaries of Theorem 3.2.

COROLLARY 3.3 (Wang [11, Theorem 4.2, page 964]). *If all subgroups of G of prime order or order 4 are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable.*

COROLLARY 3.4. *If all subgroups of a group G of prime order are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable if and only if G is p -nilpotent, where p is the smallest prime dividing $|G|$.*

COROLLARY 3.5. *If G is a solvable group and all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(G)$ of prime order or order 4 are c-normal in G , then G is supersolvable.*

PROOF. We prove the result by induction on $|G|$. If all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(G)$ of prime order or order 4 are normal in G , then G is supersolvable by Lemma 2.5. Thus, we may assume that there exists a subgroup H of $\text{Fit}(G)$ of prime order or order 4 such that H is not normal in G . By hypothesis, H is c-normal in G . Then there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G$, and since H is not normal in G , it follows that $N < G$. Clearly, $G = \text{Fit}(G)N$ and $\text{Fit}(N) < \text{Fit}(G)$. By Lemma 2.1 (i), all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(N)$ of prime order or order 4 are c-normal in N . Then, by induction on $|G|$, N is supersolvable. Since $G/\text{Fit}(G) \cong N/(N \cap \text{Fit}(G))$ is supersolvable, it follows by Theorem 3.2, that G is supersolvable. \square

The following example shows that the converse of Corollary 3.3, is not true.

EXAMPLE. Let C_n be a cyclic group of order n . Consider the wreath product $G = C_9 \text{ wr } C_2$. Then $|G| = |C_2||C_9|^2$ and so G is supersolvable. It is easy to check that $\Phi(G)$ contains a subgroup H of order 3 that fails to be normal in G and hence H is not c-normal in G . The same example shows that the converse of Corollary 3.5, is not true.

We are now ready to prove:

THEOREM 3.6. *Let \mathfrak{S} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and let G be a group. Then the following two statements are equivalent:*

- (i) $G \in \mathfrak{S}$.

(ii) *There exists a normal solvable subgroup K in G such that $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$ and all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ of prime order or order 4 are c -normal in G .*

PROOF. (i) implies (ii): If $G \in \mathfrak{S}$, then (ii) is true with $K = 1$.

(ii) implies (i): Suppose the result is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. By Lemma 2.1 (i) and Corollary 3.5, K is supersolvable. Then by [12, Theorem 1.8, page 6], K possesses an ordered Sylow tower and so K has a normal Sylow p -subgroup P , where p is the largest prime dividing $|K|$. Clearly, P is a normal p -subgroup of G . If all subgroups of P of order p or order 4 are normal in G , then $\Omega(P) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. Since \mathfrak{U} and \mathfrak{S} are saturated formations with $\mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$, it follows that $Z_{\mathfrak{U}}(G) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$ (see [5, IV, 3.11]). Hence $\Omega(P) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$. By Lemma 2.6, $G/C_G(\Omega(P)) \in \mathfrak{S}$ and since $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$, it follows that $G/C_K(\Omega(P)) \in \mathfrak{S}$. Let V be a Sylow p -subgroup of $C_K(\Omega(P))$. Clearly, $\Omega(V) \leq \Omega(P) \leq Z_{\mathfrak{S}}(G)$. Then by Lemma 2.4, $G/O_{p'}(C_K(\Omega(P))) \in \mathfrak{S}$ and since $O_{p'}(C_K(\Omega(P))) \leq O_{p'}(K)$, it follows that $G/O_{p'}(K) \in \mathfrak{S}$. Then

$$(G/P)/(O_{p'}(K)P/P) \cong G/O_{p'}(K)P \cong (G/O_{p'}(K))/(O_{p'}(K)P/O_{p'}(K)) \in \mathfrak{S}$$

Put $\text{Fit}(O_{p'}(K)P/P) = L/P$. Clearly, $L = P(L \cap O_{p'}(K))$ and so $L/P \cong L \cap O_{p'}(K)$ is nilpotent. Since P and $L \cap O_{p'}(K)$ are normal nilpotent subgroups of K , it follows that $L = P(L \cap O_{p'}(K))$ is a normal nilpotent subgroup of K . Then $L \leq \text{Fit}(K)$ and so $\text{Fit}(O_{p'}(K)P/P) = \text{Fit}(K)/P$. Hence, by Lemma 2.2, all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(O_{p'}(K)P/P)$ of prime order or order 4 are c -normal in G/P . By the minimality of G , $G/P \in \mathfrak{S}$. Then by Theorem 3.2, $G \in \mathfrak{S}$; a contradiction. Thus, there exists a subgroup H of P of order p or order 4 such that H is not normal in G . By hypothesis, H is c -normal in G . Then there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $G = HN$ with $H \cap N \leq H_G$ and since H is not normal in G , it follows that $N < G$. Clearly, $G = PN = KN$ and so $G/K \cong N/(N \cap K) \in \mathfrak{S}$. Since $N \cap K$ is a normal subgroup of K , it follows that $\text{Fit}(N \cap K) \leq \text{Fit}(K)$. Hence, by Lemma 2.1 (i), all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(N \cap K)$ of prime order or order 4 are c -normal in N . By the minimality of G , $N \in \mathfrak{S}$. Since $G/P \cong N/(N \cap P) \in \mathfrak{S}$, it follows by Theorem 3.2, that $G \in \mathfrak{S}$; a final contradiction. \square

Finally we prove the following result:

THEOREM 3.7. *Let \mathfrak{S} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and let G be a solvable group. Then the following two statements are equivalent:*

- (i) $G \in \mathfrak{S}$.
- (ii) *There exists a normal subgroup K in G such that $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$ and all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ are c -normal in G .*

PROOF. (i) implies (ii): If $G \in \mathfrak{S}$, then (ii) is true with $K = 1$.

(ii) implies (i): Suppose the result is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. We separate the proof into two cases:

Case 1. $K \cap \Phi(G) \neq 1$. Then there exists a prime p such that p divides $|K \cap \Phi(G)|$. Let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of $K \cap \Phi(G)$. Clearly, P is a normal p -subgroup of G and so $(G/P)/(K/P) \cong G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$. By [6, Satz 3.5, page 270], $\text{Fit}(K/P) = \text{Fit}(K)/P$. Then by Lemma 2.1 (ii) and Lemma 2.2, all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K/P)$ are c-normal in G/P . By the minimality of G , $G/P \in \mathfrak{S}$. Since $P \leq \Phi(G)$ and \mathfrak{S} is a saturated formation, it follows that $G \in \mathfrak{S}$; a contradiction.

Case 2. $K \cap \Phi(G) = 1$. If all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ are normal in G , then $G \in \mathfrak{S}$ by Lemma 2.7; a contradiction. Thus, there exists a maximal subgroup P_1 of a Sylow p -subgroup P of $\text{Fit}(K)$, for some prime p , such that P_1 is not normal in G . By hypothesis, P_1 is c-normal in G . Then there exists a normal subgroup H of G such that $G = P_1H$ with $P_1 \cap H \leq (P_1)_G$, and since P_1 is not normal in G , it follows that $H < G$. Let M be a maximal subgroup of G such that $H \leq M < G$. Then M is a normal subgroup of G as G/H is a p -group and so $G = P_1M = PM$. Since $P \cap \Phi(G) = K \cap \Phi(G) = 1$, it follows by Lemma 2.8, that $P = R_1 \times R_2 \times \dots \times R_n$, where R_i is a minimal normal subgroup of G , for every $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then $R_i \not\leq M$, for some i . Hence, $G = R_iM$ and $R_i \cap M = 1$. Clearly, $(G/R_i)/(K/R_i) \cong G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$. Put $\text{Fit}(K/R_i) = L/R_i$. Since $R_i \leq L \leq R_iM = G$, it follows that $L = R_i(L \cap M)$ and so $L/R_i \cong L \cap M$ is nilpotent. Since R_i and $L \cap M$ are normal nilpotent subgroups of G , it follows that $L = R_i(L \cap M)$ is a normal nilpotent subgroup of G . Then $L = \text{Fit}(K)$ and so $\text{Fit}(K/R_i) = \text{Fit}(K)/R_i$. Hence, by Lemma 2.1 (ii) and Lemma 2.2, all maximal subgroups of all Sylow subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K/R_i)$ are c-normal in G/R_i . By the minimality of G , $G/R_i \in \mathfrak{S}$. Since $G/M \cong R_i \in \mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$, it follows that $G \cong G/(R_i \cap M) \in \mathfrak{S}$; a final contradiction. \square

REMARKS. (i) Our results are not true for saturated formations which do not contain \mathfrak{U} . For example, if \mathfrak{S} is the saturated formation of all nilpotent groups, then the symmetric group of degree three is a counterexample.

(ii) Our results are not true for non-saturated formations. Let \mathfrak{S} be the formation composed of all groups G such that $G^{\mathfrak{U}}$, the supersolvable residual, is elementary abelian. Clearly, $\mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$ but \mathfrak{S} is not saturated. Put $G = SL(2, 3)$ and $K = Z(G)$. Then G/K is isomorphic to the alternating group of degree four and so $G/K \in \mathfrak{S}$, but G does not belong to \mathfrak{S} .

(iii) Theorem 3.2 is not true in general if we replace the condition ‘prime order or order 4’ by ‘prime order’, as the following example shows. The class $\mathfrak{S} = \mathfrak{N}\mathfrak{U}$ of groups whose derived subgroup is nilpotent is a saturated formation containing the class \mathfrak{U} of supersolvable groups (see [6, VI, 9.1 (b)]). Consider the group $G = GL(2, 3)$. This group has a normal subgroup K isomorphic to the quaternion

group of order 8 such that G/K is isomorphic to the symmetric group of degree 3. Therefore we have that $G/K \cong \mathfrak{S}_3$. Notice that the unique subgroup of K with prime order is $Z(K)$ and this is not only a c -normal subgroup of G . But the derived group $G' = SL(2, 3)$ is not nilpotent, and then $G \notin \mathfrak{S}$. Since K is a nilpotent group, the same example shows Theorem 3.6 is not true in general if we require that all subgroups of $\text{Fit}(K)$ of prime order are c -normal in G .

(iv) Theorems 3.6 and 3.7 are not true if we omit the condition of solvability. Put $G = H \times K$, where $H \in \mathfrak{U}$ and $K = SL(2, 5)$. Then $|\text{Fit}(K)| = 2$ and $G/K \cong H \in \mathfrak{U}$, but G does not belong to \mathfrak{U} .

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