

ON INNER π' -CLOSED GROUPS AND NORMAL π -COMPLEMENTS

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Abstract

In this paper, the author classifies the finite inner π' -closed groups, and proves the following results

1. If each proper subgroup K of a group G is weak π -homogeneous and weak π' -homogeneous, then G is a Schmidt group, or a direct product of two Hall subgroups.
2. If G is a weak π -homogeneous group, then G is π' -closed if one of the following statements is true: (1) Each π -subgroup of G is 2-closed. (2) Each π -subgroup of G is 2'-closed.
3. Let G be a group and π be a set of odd primes. If $N_G(Z(J(P)))$ has a normal π -complement for a Sylow p -subgroup of G with prime p in π , then so does G .

§1. Introduction

All groups in this paper are finite. Let π be a set of primes and let π' be complementary set of π . Let G be a group. If G has a normal Hall π' -subgroup then G is called a π' -closed group, or in other words, G has a normal π -complement. A group G is said to be π -homogeneous if $N_G(K)/O_G(K)$ is a π -group for each subgroup K of G , $K \neq 1$, G is said to be weak π -homogeneous if $N_G(P)/O_G(P)$ is π -group for each p -subgroup P of G with prime p in π . It is easy to prove that G π -homogeneous if G has a normal π -complement. A group G is called a D_π -group if any two of its maximal π -subgroups are conjugate in G . Let Σ be an abstract group theoretical property. A group G is called an inner Σ -group if every proper subgroup of G is a Σ -group, but G itself is not. According to this definition Schmidt group is an inner nilpotent group.

If $\pi = \{p\}$, then a p -homogeneous group has a normal p -complement. Frobenius' Theorem ([1], Theorem 9.12). However, there are groups (see Theorem 2.4) which are π -homogeneous, but not π' -closed. Z. Arad and D. Chillag prove the following theorem in [2].

Theorem A. *If π is a set of odd primes and a group G is π -homogeneous, then*

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has a normal π -complement.

Z. Arad proved the following theorem in [3].

Theorem B. Let π be a set of primes which includes 2. Assume all π -subgroups of G are π' -closed. Then G is π' -closed if and only if G is π -homogeneous.

In [4], M. Enguehard and L. Puig proved the following theorem.

Theorem C. Let $\pi = \{p, q\}$, where p and q are odd primes and the order of $\text{mod } p$ is even. If G is weak π -homogeneous, then G has a normal π -complement.

In [5], the author suggested the following question (Problem 2.11, p. 17).

Suppose every proper subgroup of a group G is the direct product of a Hall π -subgroup and a Hall π' -subgroup, but G itself is not of this form. Is G a Schmidt group?

Using Theorem A, we know the answer is affirmative; we obtain a stronger result as follows:

Theorem 3.3. If each proper subgroup K of a group G is weak π -homogeneous and weak π' -homogeneous, then G is an inner nilpotent group (Schmidt group), or a direct product of a Hall π -subgroup and a Hall π' -subgroup.

It is easy to prove that each subgroup and any homomorphic image of a weak π -homogeneous group are also weak π -homogeneous (see Lemma 3.1). In this paper we follow the approach developed in [6] to derive a sufficient condition for a weak π -homogeneous group to have a normal π -complement. First, we have a classification theorem for inner π' -closed groups:

Theorem 2.1. If a group G is inner π' -closed, then one of the following statements holds.

- (1) G is an inner nilpotent group of order $p^a q^b$ where $p \in \pi'$, $q \in \pi$, and the Sylow p -subgroup of G is normal.
- (2) $O/\Phi(G)$ is a nonabelian simple group, and the following statements are true:
 - (a) $\phi(G) = O_\pi(G) \times O_{\pi'}(G)$, and $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$;
 - (b) $G/\phi(G)$ is also an inner π' -closed group;
 - (c) G is π -homogeneous;
 - (d) $2 \in \pi \cap \pi(G)$, and the nonabelian simple proper subgroups of $G/\Phi(G)$ are π -groups.

From this theorem, we obtain a theorem which generalizes Theorems A-C:

Theorem 3.4. Assume G is a weak π -homogeneous group. Then G has a normal π -complement if one of the following statements is satisfied:

- (1) Each π -subgroup of G is 2-closed.
- (2) Each π -subgroup of G is $2'$ -closed.

Using this theorem, we can generalize Glauberman's Theorem ([7], Theorem 8.3.1.) as follows

Theorem 3.5. *Let G be a group and π be a set of odd primes. If $N_G(Z(J(P)))$ has a normal π -complement for a Sylow p -subgroup P of G with prime p in π , then so does G .*

Finally, we obtain the following result:

Theorem 3.6. *Let G be a group. Then G is weak π -homogeneous if and only if G is π -homogeneous.*

The notation in this paper is standard and follows [7].

§ 2. Inner π' -Closed Groups

We now prove Theorem 2.1, which generalizes Theorem 1 of [8].

Proof of Theorem 2.1. Let N be a maximal normal subgroup of G , G/N simple. Since N is a proper subgroup of G , N is π' -closed by the hypothesis of the theorem. Now we show that G/N is not a π -group. If G/N is a π -group and let H be the normal Hall π' -subgroup of N , then H char N and H is a normal Hall subgroup of G . This is a contradiction. Thus G/N is not a π -group. We have two cases.

Case 1. $N \not\subseteq \Phi(G)$.

By the definition of $\Phi(G)$, there exists a maximal subgroup M of G , $N \not\subseteq M$ such that $G = MN$. Thus $G/N \cong N/(M \cap N)$. Since M has a normal π -complement by the hypothesis, $M/(M \cap N)$ and G/N have also normal π -complements. Since G/N is a simple non- π -group, G/N is a π' -group. Furthermore, N is π' -closed, so G is separable. Theorem 6.8 of [1] implies there is a Hall π' -subgroup in G , say H . Set $H_1 = N \cap H_1$ then H_1 is a Hall π' -subgroup of N and H_1 char N , so $H_1 \leq G$. Since $N \leq G$, H_1 acts on N by conjugation and H_1 is an H_1 -invariant normal subgroup of N . Thus π' -group H_1 acts on π -group N/H_1 . From Theorem 7.6 of [1], there exists a Sylow q -subgroup Q of N for each q in $\pi(N/H_1)$ such that QH_1/H_1 is an H_1 -invariant Sylow q -subgroup of N/H_1 . Thus $QH_1 = QH_1 \leq G$. If $H_1 Q < G$, then $H_1 Q$ is π' -closed by the hypothesis. So $H_1 < H_1 Q$ and $Q \leq N_G(H_1)$. Since G/N is a group, it follows that $\pi \cap \pi(N) = \pi \cap \pi(G)$ and Q is a Sylow q -subgroup of G . Since $H_1 Q < G$ and $\pi \cap \pi(N) = \pi \cap \pi(G)$, there exists a Sylow r -subgroup R of G such that RH_1/H_1 is H_1 -invariant and $H_1 R < G$ for each $r \in \pi \cap \pi(G)$. This yields $N_G(H_1) = H_1 Q$. This is a contradiction and we have proved that $G = H_1 Q$.

Now we shall prove that $Q \leq G$. First, there exists a nonidentical subgroup of Q such that $Q_1 \leq G$. If not, then $N_G(Q_0) < G$ for every nonidentical subgroup Q_0 of Q . This forces $N_G(Q_0)$ to have a normal π -complement by the hypothesis. From Theorem 9.12 of [1], G has a normal π -complement, a contradiction. If $Q = G$, then $Q \leq G$. If $Q_1 < Q$, we investigate $\bar{G} = G/Q_1$. Obviously, each proper subgroup of

$\bar{G}$ has a normal π -complement. If $\bar{G}$ is π' -closed, then H_1Q_1/Q_1 is the normal Hall π' -subgroup of $\bar{G}$. Since $Q_1 < Q$, H_1Q_1 is a nontrivial normal subgroup of G and $H_1Q_1 = H_1 \times Q_1$, $H_1 \text{ char } H_1Q_1$. Thus $H_1 \leq G$, a contradiction. So $\bar{G}$ is also inner π' -closed. Furthermore, we claim that $Q_1 \subseteq \Phi(G)$. Indeed, if $Q \subseteq \Phi(G)$, then there exists a maximal subgroup M_1 of G such that $G = M_1Q_1$. But $G/Q_1 = M_1/M_1 \cap Q_1$ has normal π -complement if M_1 does. This is a contradiction. So $Q_1 \subseteq \Phi(G)$ and clearly $\Phi(G/Q_1) = \Phi(G)/Q_1$. Thus we have $N/Q_1 \subseteq \Phi(G/Q_1)$ and N/Q_1 is a maximal normal subgroup of G/Q_1 . Hence G/Q_1 has a normal Sylow q -subgroup Q/Q_1 by induction, then so does G and we have proved $Q \leq G$.

Finally, we show that H_1 is a p -group. Let $p \in \pi(H_1)$, P be a Sylow p -group of G . Then $PQ \leq G$. If $PQ < G$, then $PQ = P \times Q$ and $Q \subseteq N_G(P)$. This forces $Q \subseteq N_G(H_1)$ by the choice of p , and so $H_1 \leq G$. This contradiction proves that $H_1 = P$ and $G = PQ$. Hence G is an inner nilpotent group.

Case 2. $N \subseteq \Phi(G)$.

Clearly, $N = \Phi(G) = O_\pi(G) \times O_{\pi'}(G)$ and $G/\Phi(G) = G/N$ is a nonabelian simple group. Let y be any π' -element of G , then $O_\pi(G)\langle y \rangle \leq G$, and $O_\pi(G)\langle y \rangle = O_\pi(G) \times \langle y \rangle$ by the hypothesis of the theorem. This implies that $O_\pi(G) \leq C_G(y)$ for each π' -element y of G . We claim that $C_G(x) = G$ for any x in $O_\pi(G)$. If not, then there exists an element x of $O_\pi(G)$ such that $C_G(x) < G$. However, G is inner π' -closed, so $C_G(x)$ has a normal Hall π' -subgroup H . Since each π' -subgroup of G centralizes x , H is the unique Hall π' -subgroup of G , a contradiction. Thus $C_G(x) = G$, and consequently $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$. So (a) holds.

If $G/\Phi(G)$ is π' -closed, then $G/\Phi(G)$ is a π' -group, for it is simple non- π -group. Thus $O_\pi(G)$ is a Hall π -subgroup of G . But $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ by (a), this implies that G has a normal π -complement. This is a contradiction. Hence $G/\Phi(G)$ is also inner π' -closed and (b) holds.

Let Q be any nonidentical π -subgroup of G . If $Q \leq G$, then $P \subseteq O_\pi(G)$ and the elements of G centralize Q . So we conclude that $N_G(Q)/C_G(Q)$ is a π -group. On the other hand, if Q is not normal in G , then $N_G(Q) < G$ and $N_G(Q)$ has a normal π -complement. Set $M = N_G(Q)$. Then $N_M(Q) = N_G(Q)$, $C_M(Q) = C_G(Q)$ and $N_G(Q)/C_G(Q) = N_M(Q)/C_M(Q)$ is a π -group. Hence (c) holds.

From Theorem of [2] and (c), we obtain $2 \in \pi \cap \pi(G)$. Moreover, if there exists nonabelian simple proper subgroup of $G/\Phi(G)$, say $L/\Phi(G)$, then $L/\Phi(G)$ is π' -closed by the hypothesis. Since groups of odd order are solvable, $2 \in \pi(L/\Phi(G))$ and $L/\Phi(G)$ is a π -group. So (d) holds and the proof of the theorem is complete.

From Theorem 2.1 and Theorem of [9], we have

Corollary 2.2. *If finite group G is a D_π -group and every proper subgroup of G has a normal π -complement, then one of the following statements holds:*

- (1) G is inner nilpotent; or
- (2) G has a normal π -complement.

Itô ([10], Theorem 3.3) proved that an inner p' -closed group is an inner nilpotent group. Clearly, Corollary 2.2 generalizes Itô's result.

A group G is perfect if $G' = G$. A group X is quasisimple if X is perfect and $X/Z(X)$ is simple, where X is called a covering group of simple $X/Z(X)$. Schur⁽¹¹⁾ showed that a nonabelian simple group X has a universal covering group $\hat{X}$ such that every covering group of X is a homomorphic image of $\hat{X}$, and $Z(\hat{X})$ is a Schur multiplier of X . By the table 4.1 of [12], we get the following lemma.

Lemma 2.3. (1) If $\hat{X}/Z(\hat{X}) \cong \text{PSL}_2(r)$ where $r > 3$ and $r \neq 9$ is an odd prime power, then $\hat{X} \cong \text{SL}_2(r)$ and $|Z(\hat{X})| = 2$.

(2) If $\hat{X}/Z(\hat{X}) \cong \text{PSL}_2(2^r)$ where $r \geq 3$, then $\hat{X} \cong \text{PSL}_2(2^r)$.

(3) If $\hat{X}/Z(\hat{X}) \cong \text{PSL}_3(r)$ where r is an odd prime power, then $\hat{X} \cong \text{PSL}_3(r)$.

(4) If $\hat{X}/Z(\hat{X}) \cong S_3(2^r)$ where $r > 3$, then $\hat{X} \cong S_3(2^r)$; if $\hat{X}/Z(\hat{X}) \cong S_3(2^3)$, $Z(\hat{X})$ is an elementary abelian group of order 4.

Now we can state

Theorem 2.4. If group G is inner π' -closed and each π -subgroup of G is solvable, then either G is inner nilpotent, or one of the following statements holds.

(1) $G/\Phi(G) \cong \text{PSL}_2(r)$, where $r > 3$ is a prime, $r^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$, and $2, 3 \nmid O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$, $|O_\pi(G)| \leq 2$, and if r is a π -number, then $r-1$ is a π -number, $(r+1)/2$ is not.

(2) $G/\Phi(G) \cong \text{PSL}_2(2^r)$, where $r \geq 3$ is a prime, $2 \in \pi$, 2^r-1 is a π -number and $O_\pi(G) = 1$.

(3) $G/\Phi(G) \cong \text{PSL}_3(3^r)$, where $r \geq 3$ is a prime, $2, 3 \in \pi$, 3^r-1 is a π -number and $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$, $|O_\pi(G)| \leq 2$.

(4) $G/\Phi(G) \cong \text{PSL}_3(3)$, where $2, 3 \in \pi$ and $O_\pi(G) = 1$.

(5) $G/\Phi(G) \cong S_3(2^r)$, where $r \geq 3$ is a prime, $2 \in \pi$, 2^r-1 is a π -number and $O_\pi(G) = 1$ if $r > 3$, or $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ is an elementary abelian group of order 2^r if $r = 3$.

Proof Let G be an inner π' -closed group and each π -subgroup of G is solvable. If G is not inner nilpotent, then $G/\Phi(G)$ is a minimal nonabelian simple group. By Theorem 2.1 and the assumption of the theorem. From the theorem of [13] $\Phi(G)$ is isomorphic to one of the following

1. $\text{PSL}_2(r)$, prime $r > 3$, $r^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$;

2. $\text{PSL}_2(2^r)$, prime $r \geq 3$;

3. $\text{PSL}_3(3^r)$, prime $r \geq 3$;

4. $\text{PSL}_3(3)$;

5. $S_3(2^r)$, prime $r \geq 3$.

Let $G/\Phi(G) \cong PSL_2(q)$, $q = r$, 2^r , or 3^r with prime $r \geq 3$. Set $\bar{G} = G/\Phi(G)$. By Dickson's results ([14], p. 414), any maximal subgroup of $\bar{G}$ is isomorphic to one of the following groups:

- (a) A dihedral group of order $2(q+1)/d$, where $d = (2, q-1)$;
- (b) A Frobenius group $\bar{M}$ whose kernel is a Sylow q -subgroup $\bar{S}_q$ of $\bar{G}$, and $\bar{S}_q/\bar{S}_q$ is a cyclic group of order $(q-1)/d$, $d = (2, q-1)$;
- (c) Alternating group A_4 or symmetric group S_4 , if $q \neq 2$.

Assume $G/\Phi(G) \cong PSL_2(r)$ with prime $r > 3$, then $2, 3 \in \pi$ by (c) and Theorem 1. If $r \in \pi$, then $r-1$ is a π -number by (b). Since $G/\Phi(G)$ is inner π' -closed, $(r+1)/2$ is not a π -number. Conversely if $r \notin \pi$ or $r \in \pi$ and $(r+1)/2$ is not a π -number, $PSL_2(r)$ is obviously an inner π' -closed group under the assumption that $3 \in \pi$. By Theorem 2.1, $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ and $Z(G/O_\pi(G)) = (O_\pi(G) \times O_\pi(G))/O_\pi(G)$. Therefore $G/\Phi(G) \cong (G/O_\pi(G))/Z(G/O_\pi(G)) \cong PSL_2(r)$. Hence $|Z(G)/O_\pi(G)| = |Z(G)| \leq 2$ by Lemma 2.3, and the statement (1) of the theorem follows. Similarly, we can prove (2) and (3).

As above, we can prove (4) and (5) by using the results of [15] and [16], respectively. This completes the proof of the theorem.

From Burnside's $p^a q^b$ -Theorem ([7], p. 131) and Theorem 2.4 we obtain a classification of inner $\{p, q\}$ -closed groups.

Corollary 2.5. If group G is an inner $\{p, q\}$ -closed group with $p < q$, $p, q \in \pi(G)$ then one of the following statements holds.

- (1) $G/\Phi(G) \cong PSL_2(r)$, where $r \geq 2$ is a prime, $r^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$, $\{2, 3\} = \{p, q\}$, $(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ and $|O_\pi(G)| \leq 2$.
- (2) $G/\Phi(G) \cong PSL_2(2^r)$, where $r \geq 3$ is a prime, $p = 2$, $q = 2^r - 1$ is a Mersenne prime, and $O_\pi(G) = 1$.
- (3) $G/\Phi(G) \cong PSL_2(3^r)$, $p = 2$, $q = 8$ and $O_\pi(G) = 1$.
- (4) $G/\Phi(G) \cong S_4(2^r)$, where $r \geq 3$ is a prime, $p = 2$, $q = 2^r - 1$ is a Mersenne prime. Moreover, either $O_\pi(G) = 1$ if $r > 3$, or $O_\pi(G) \subseteq Z(G)$ is an elementary abelian group of order 2^e with $e \leq 2$ if $r = 3$.

§3. Normal π -Complement

Clearly we have the following lemma.

Lemma 3.1. Any subgroup and any homomorphic image of a weak π -homogeneous group are weak π -homogeneous.

Lemma 3.2. A group G has a normal π -complement if and only if G is a π -separable weak π -homogeneous group.

Proof. The necessity of the lemma is obvious. We should only prove the

sufficiency of the lemma. Suppose the conclusion is false and let G be a counterexample of the smallest order. From the minimality of G , we know that each proper subgroup of G has a normal π -complement; in other words, G is an inner π' -closed group. However, G is a D_π -group by Theorem 6.8 of [1], so G is inner nilpotent by Corollary 2.2. From Frobenius' theorem, we know this is contrary to the minimality of G , and the lemma is proved. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 3.3. Assume G is a minimal counterexample to the theorem. Then G is neither π -group nor π' -group, and for each maximal subgroup M of G , M is either a direct product of a Hall π -subgroup and a Hall π' -group or an inner nilpotent group of order $p^a q^b$. However, M is both weak π -homogeneous and weak π' -homogeneous; so M is not an inner nilpotent group of order $p^a q^b$ with $p \in \pi'$ and $q \in \pi$. Hence each proper subgroup of G is both π -closed and π' -closed. By Theorem 3.1, G is either π -closed or π' -closed. We assume G is π -closed. By the minimality of G , G is inner π' -closed and is not inner nilpotent. Hence G is π -homogeneous. Theorem 2.1. Since G is π -separable, G is π' -closed by Lemma 3.2, a contradiction. So the theorem holds. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 3.4. We shall prove the theorem by a reduction to absurdity. Let G be a minimal counterexample to the theorem. Then G is inner π -closed by the minimality of G . Theorem 2.1 implies G is either inner nilpotent or nonsolvable and $G/\Phi(G)$ is a nonabelian simple group. By Lemma 3.2, G is inner nilpotent. On the other hand, $G/\Phi(G)$ is also weak π -homogeneous and each π -subgroup of $G/\Phi(G)$ is also 2-closed, or each π -subgroup of $G/\Phi(G)$ is also closed. So $\Phi(G) = 1$ by Theorem 2.1 and the minimality of G . Theorem 2.1 implies G is π -homogeneous. If each π -subgroup of G is 2-closed, then Theorem A and Theorem B imply G is π' -closed, a contradiction. We now assume each π -subgroup of G is 2'-closed. Since a 2'-closed group is solvable, each π -subgroup of G is solvable. From Theorem 2.4, G possesses non-2'-closed π -subgroups. This is a contradiction and the proof is complete. $\square$

Let p be a prime, P be a p -group, $A(P)$ be the set of abelian subgroups of P of maximal order. Define

$$J(P) = \langle A \mid A \in A(P) \rangle.$$

Let p be an odd prime and let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of a group G . A normal subgroup T of P is said to be a control strong fusion in P with respect to G , if it has the following property:

If $W \subseteq P$, $g \in G$, and $W^g \subseteq P$, then there exist $c \in C_G(W)$ and $h \in N_G(T)$ such that $ch = g$.

Proof of Theorem 3.5. Let $p \in \pi \cap \pi(G)$ and P be a Sylow p -subgroup of G . Set $M = N_G(Z(J(P)))$. Since M has a normal π -complement, $N_M(K)/O_M(K)$ is a π -

group for any subgroup K of $Z(J(P))$. By the Corollary 2 of [17], $Z(J(P))$ controls strong fusion in P with respect to G . Let W be a subgroup of P and $g \in N_G(W)$. Then there exist $c \in O_G(W)$ and $h \in N_G(Z(J(P)))$ such that $g = ch$ by the definition stated above. Furthermore, $h \in N_G(W) \cap M$ and $W \subseteq M$, so $h \in N_M(W)$. Since M has a normal π -complement, M is π -homogeneous and there exist $c_1 \in O_M(W)$ and a π -element $h_1 \in N_M(W)$ such that $h = c_1 h_1$. Hence $g = cc_1 h_1$ with $c, c_1 \in O_G(W)$ and $h_1 \in N_G(W)$. This forces $N_G(W)/O_G(W)$ to be a π -group; in other words, G is weak π -homogeneous. By Theorem 3.4, G has a normal π -complement, and the theorem is proved.

Proof of Theorem 3.6 The necessity is clear. We should only prove the sufficiency of the theorem. Assume G is a minimal counterexample for the theorem. Then every proper subgroup of G is π -homogeneous, and there exists a π -subgroup V of G such that $N_G(W)/O_G(W)$ is a non- π -group. Set $N = N_G(W)$. Then $N_N(W) = N_G(W)$ and $O_N(W) = O_G(W)$. If $N < G$, then $N_N(W)/O_N(W) = N_G(W)/O_G(W)$ is a π -group, for N is π -homogeneous. This is a contradiction. So $N_G(W) = G$, and $W \trianglelefteq G$. Assume x is a π' -element of G , then $\langle x \rangle W$ is a subgroup of G . If $\langle x \rangle W = G$, then G is a normal Hall π -subgroup, and G is π' -closed by Lemma 3.2; hence $G = \langle x \rangle W$ is π -homogeneous, a contradiction. Therefore $\langle x \rangle W$ is a proper subgroup of G , and $\langle x \rangle W$ is a π -homogeneous group. Thus $x \in O_G(W)$, and each π' -element of G centralizes W by the choice of x . So $N_G(W)/O_G(W)$ must be a π -group. This is a contradiction and the theorem is proved.

From Corollary 2.5, we can prove

Theorem 3.7. Let $\pi = \{2, p\}$, where p is not a Mersenne prime. Assume a group G is weak π -homogeneous. Then G has a normal π -complement.

Remark. From Theorem 3.6, the argument of Theorem 3.4 under the assumption of (1) is a direct consequence of Theorem A and Theorem B.

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