Bull. Malays. Math. Sci. Soc. (2016) 39:849–859
DOI 10.1007/s40840-015-0198-x

BULLETIN *of the* MALAYSIAN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES SOCIETY
http://www.springer.com/mathematics/journal/40840

Characterizations of Finite Groups with X-s-semipermutable Subgroups

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Received: 30 July 2013 / Revised: 14 November 2013 / Published online: 6 August 2015
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Abstract Let A be a subgroup of a group G and X a non-empty subset of G. A is said to be X-s-semipermutable in G if A has a supplement T in G such that A is X-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. In this paper, some new criteria for a finite group G to be p-nilpotent or supersoluble in terms of X-s-semipermutable subgroups are obtained. In particular, a characterization of finite groups all of whose subgroups are G-s-semipermutable is presented.

Keywords Finite groups · X-s-semipermutable subgroups · p-nilpotent groups · Supersoluble groups

Mathematics Subject Classification 20D10 · 20D15 · 20D20

1 Introduction

Guo et al. [9–12,14] introduced the following new concepts of generalized permutable subgroups. Let A and B be subgroups of a group G and X a nonempty subset of G. Then A is said to be X-permutable with B if there exists some element x in X such that $AB^x = B^x A$ (in particular, if $X = G$, then, in [10], A is said to be conditionally

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Communicated by Kar Ping Shum.

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permutable with B); A is said to be X-semipermutable in G if A is X-permutable with all subgroups of some supplement T of A in G. Based on these generalized permutable subgroups, one has given a series of new and interesting characterizations of the structure of finite groups (see [2,6,9–16,24]).

Later on, as a generalization of X-semipermutability, Hao et al. introduced the concept of X-s-semipermutability in [19]. Let A be a subgroup of a group G and X a non-empty subset of G. Then A is said to be X-s-semipermutable in G if A is X-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of some supplement T of A in G. Obviously, the X-semipermutability and S-permutability imply the X-s-semipermutability. However, the converse does not hold. For example, let $G = [\langle a, b\rangle]\langle\alpha\rangle$, where $a^4 = 1$, $a^2 = b^2 = [a, b]$ and $a^\alpha = b$, $b^\alpha = ab$. Let $A = \langle\alpha\rangle$ and $X = 1$. Clearly, A is X-s-semipermutable in G. But A is not X-semipermutable in G. On the other hand, let $G = [C_5]C_4$, where C_5 is a group of order 5 and C_4 is the automorphism group of C_5 of order 4. Let H be a subgroup of C_4 of order 2. Then H is G-s-semipermutable in G but not S-permutable in G.

Note that Li et al. [28], introduced the concept of SS-quasinormality. A subgroup H of a group G is said to be SS-quasinormal in G if H has a supplement T in G such that H is permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Clearly, SS-quasinormality implies that X-s-semipermutability, where $X = 1$. But the converse does not hold in general. The group $G = [C_5]C_4$ mentioned in the foregoing paragraph is a counterexample. Let H be a subgroup of C_4 of order 2. Then H is G-s-semipermutable in G, but not SS-quasinormal in G.

Hao et al. [19,20] investigated the influence of X-s-semipermutable subgroups on the supersolubility and p-nilpotency of finite groups. Our object in this paper is to study further this kind of generalized permutable subgroups. Moreover, we will present some new characterizations of p-nilpotency and supersolubility of finite groups under the assumption that some subgroups are X-s-semipermutable. One of our results obtained in this paper characterizes the structure of groups G all of whose subgroups are all G-s-semipermutable.

All groups considered in this paper are finite. For notation and terminology not given in this paper, the reader is referred to [8,18,22] if necessary. For some related topics, the reader is also referred to [1,5,21,25–27,29,33,35,36].

2 Preliminaries

We begin by stating some elementary facts about the classes of finite groups.

Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a class of groups. $\mathcal{F}$ is said to be a formation if $\mathcal{F}$ is a homomorph and every group G has a smallest normal subgroup (denoted by $G^{\mathcal{F}}$) whose quotient is still in $\mathcal{F}$. A formation $\mathcal{F}$ is said to be saturated if $G/\Phi(G) \in \mathcal{F}$ always implies $G \in \mathcal{F}$. A chief factor H/K of a group G is said to $\mathcal{F}$-central (or $\mathcal{F}$-eccentric) in G if $[H/K](G/C_G(H/K)) \in \mathcal{F}$ (or $[H/K](G/C_G(H/K)) \notin \mathcal{F}$ respectively). In this paper, $Z_\infty^{\mathcal{F}}(G)$ denotes the $\mathcal{F}$-hypercenter of a group G, that is, the product of all such normal subgroups H of G whose G-chief factors are $\mathcal{F}$-central. We use $\mathcal{N}$ and $\mathcal{U}$ to denote the class of all nilpotent groups and the class of all supersoluble groups, respectively.

Lemma 2.1 [19, Lemma 2.1] *Let A and X be subgroups of a group G and let N be a normal subgroup of G.*

(1) *If A is X-s-semipermutable in G, then AN/N is XN/N-s-semipermutable in G/N.*
(2) *If A is X-s-semipermutable in G, $A \leq D \leq G$ and $X \leq D$, then A is X-s-semipermutable in D.*
(3) *If A is X-s-semipermutable in G and $X \leq D$, then A is D-s-semipermutable in G.*

Lemma 2.2 [23, Lemma 3.3] *Let G be a group and X a normal p-soluble subgroup of G. Then G is p-soluble if and only if a Sylow p-subgroup P of G is X-permutable with all Sylow q-subgroups of G, where $q \neq p$.*

Lemma 2.3 [32, Lemma 2.10] *Let G be a group. Suppose that p is the smallest prime dividing the order of G and P is a non-cyclic Sylow p-subgroup of G. If every maximal subgroup of P has a p-nilpotent supplement in G, then G is p-nilpotent.*

Lemma 2.4 [31, Corollary 1] *Let A be an S-permutable subgroup of a group G. Then A is subnormal in G.*

Lemma 2.5 [6, Lemma 2.8] *Let G be a group, p a prime and $(|G|, p-1) = 1$. If M is a subgroup of G with index p, then M is normal in G.*

Lemma 2.6 [17, Lemma 2.6] *Let H be a nilpotent normal subgroup of a group G. If $H \neq 1$ and $H \cap \Phi(G) = 1$, then H has a complement in G and H is a direct product of some minimal normal subgroups of G.*

Lemma 2.7 [29, Theorem 1.3] *Let p be a prime dividing the order of a group G and P a Sylow p-subgroup of G. If every maximal subgroup of P has a p-nilpotent supplement in G, then G is p-nilpotent.*

3 Main Results

Theorem 3.1 *Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated formation containing all supersoluble groups. A group $G \in \mathcal{F}$ if and only if G has a normal soluble subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ and for every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup P of $F(E)$, every cyclic subgroup of P of order prime or order 4 (if P is a non-abelian 2-group and $H \nsubseteq Z_{\infty}(G)$) not having a supersoluble supplement in G is G-s-semipermutable in G.*

Proof The necessity is clear and we need only to prove the sufficiency.

First, we claim that any chief factor of G below $F(E)$ is of prime order. Assume that the assertion is not true and let L/K be a counterexample with $|K|$ minimal, that is, L/K is not of prime order but for every chief factor U/V of G below $F(E)$ with $|V| < |K|$, U/V is of prime order. Since E is soluble, we see that L/K is a p-chief factor for some prime p. Noticing that $L/K \simeq L \cap O_p(E)/K \cap O_p(E)$, we obtain by the choice of L/K that $L/K = L \cap O_p(E)/K \cap O_p(E)$ and so $L \subseteq O_p(E)$. Let P be the Sylow p-subgroup of $F(E)$. If P is cyclic, then L/K is cyclic of order p, a contradiction. Hence we can assume that P is non-cyclic. Let R/K be a chief factor of G_p/K, where G_p is a Sylow p-subgroup of G and $R \subseteq L$. Then $R = \langle x\rangle K$ for any $x \in R\backslash K$. Now we assume that there is some element $x \in R\backslash K$ of order p or 4 (if P is non-abelian 2-group and $\langle x\rangle \nsubseteq Z_\infty(G)$) not having a supersoluble supplement in G is G-s-semipermutable in G and prove that L/K is of order p, reaching a contradiction. If $x \in Z_\infty(G)$, then $xK/K \in L/K \cap Z_\infty(G/K)$ and so $L/K \subseteq Z_\infty(G/K)$, which implies that L/K is of order p, a contradiction. If $\langle x\rangle$ has a supersoluble supplement T in G, then $L/K \cap TK/K = 1$ or L/K. If $L/K \cap TK/K = L/K$, then L/K is a chief factor of $G/K = TK/K$, which is supersoluble. Therefore, L/K is cyclic of order p, a contradiction. If $L/K \cap TK/K = 1$, then $L/K = L/K \cap (\langle x\rangle K/K)(TK/K) = \langle x\rangle K/K(L/K \cap TK/K) = \langle x\rangle K/K$, a contradiction again. These contradictions together with our hypothesis show that $\langle x\rangle$ is G-s-semipermutable in G. Therefore, G has a subgroup T such that $\langle x\rangle$ is G-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Let T_q be a Sylow q-subgroup of T, where $q \neq p$. Then $\langle x\rangle(T_q)^g = (T_q)^g\langle x\rangle$ for some $g \in G$. Since $R/K = \langle x\rangle K/K$ is subnormal in G/K, $\langle x\rangle K/K$ is subnormal in $(\langle x\rangle K/K)((T_q)^g K/K)$ and so $\langle x\rangle K/K$ is normalized by $(T_q)^g K/K$. Now one can see that $R/K = \langle x\rangle K/K$ is normal in G/K and, therefore, $L/K = R/K$ is cyclic. This contradiction means that all elements of $R \setminus K$ of order p or order 4 (if P is a non-abelian 2-group) are contained in K. Since $L/K = (R/K)^{G/K} = R^G/K$, we have that all elements of L of order p or 4 (if P is a non-abelian 2-group) are contained in K.

Let U/V be any chief factor of G below K. Then, by the choice of L/K, U/V is of order p and so $G/C_G(U/V)$ is abelian of exponent dividing $p-1$. Put $X = \bigcap_{U\subseteq K} C_G(U/V)$. Then X is normal in G and G/X is abelian of exponent dividing $p-1$. Let Q be any Sylow q-subgroup of X, where $q \neq p$. Then Q acts trivially on K by [18, Lemma 3.2.3]. Moreover, since all elements of L of order p or 4 (if P is a non-abelian 2-group) are contained in K, Q acts trivially on L/K by the well-known Blackburn's theorem, from which we conclude that $X/C_X(L/K)$ is a p-group. It follows that $X \subseteq C_G(L/K)$ as $O_p(G/C_G(L/K)) = 1$ by [18, Lemma 1.7.11] and thereby $G/C_G(L/K)$ is abelian of exponent dividing $p-1$. Now, by [34, I, Lemma 1.3], we have that L/K is of order p, which contradicts our assumption for L/K. Hence our claim holds. Thus $F(E) \subseteq Z_\infty^{\mathcal{U}}(G)$ and thereby $F(E) \subseteq Z_\infty^{\mathcal{F}}(G)$ (see [18, Theorem 3.1.6]).

Let M/N be any chief factor of G below $F(E)$ and put $C = \bigcap C_E(M/N)$. Then $F(E) \subseteq C$ since $F(G) \subseteq C_G(M/N)$. We assert that $F(E) = C$. Suppose that it is not true and let $R/F(E)$ be a minimal normal subgroup of $G/F(E)$ with $F(E) < R \leq C$. Then $R \subseteq Z_\infty(R)$ and $R/F(E)$ is an elementary group as E is soluble. It follows that R is nilpotent and consequently $R \subseteq F(E)$, a contradiction. Hence $F(E) = C$. Since $G/C_G(M/N)$ is abelian by the preceding argument and $\mathcal{F}$ is a saturated formation, $G/F(E) = G/C \in \mathcal{F}$. Since $F(E) \subseteq Z_\infty^{\mathcal{F}}(G)$, we obtain that $G \in \mathcal{F}$. Thus the proof is complete. □

By Theorem 3.1, we have the following corollary.

Corollary 3.2 (Asaad and Csörgö [3]) *Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated formation containing all supersoluble groups. Then a group $G \in \mathcal{F}$ if and only if G has a normal soluble* *subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ and the subgroups of prime order or order 4 of $F(E)$ are S-permutable in G.*

Theorem 3.3 *Let G be a group and $\mathcal{F}$ a saturated formation containing all supersoluble groups. Then $G \in \mathcal{F}$ if and only if G has a normal soluble subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ and every maximal subgroup of each non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of the Fitting subgroup $F(E)$ not having a supersoluble supplement in G is G-s-semipermutable in G.*

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

(1) $\Phi(G) \cap E = 1$.
Suppose that $\Phi(G) \cap E \neq 1$. Let p be a prime divisor of $|\Phi(G) \cap E|$ and P a Sylow p-subgroup of $\Phi(G) \cap E$. Since $\Phi(G) \cap E$ is a nilpotent normal subgroup of G, P is normal in G and so $P \leq F(E)$. Consider the factor group G/P. It is clear that $F(E/P) = F(E)/P$ (see [18, Lemma 1.8.1]) and $(G/P)/(E/P) \simeq G/E$ is contained in $\mathcal{F}$ by the hypothesis. Then by Lemma 2.1(2), we can see that G/P satisfies the hypothesis. Hence $G/P \in \mathcal{F}$ by the choice of G. It follows that $G \in \mathcal{F}$ as $\mathcal{F}$ is a saturated formation, a contradiction.

(2) $F(E) = N_1 \times N_2 \times \cdots \times N_t$, where N_i is a minimal normal subgroup of G, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t$.
This follows directly from Lemma 2.6 and (1).

(3) N_i is a cyclic group of prime order, for all $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, t\}$.
Without loss of generality, we may assume that $P = N_1 \times N_2 \times \cdots \times N_s$ is a Sylow p-subgroup of $F(E)$, where $s \leq t$. Let L_1 be a maximal subgroup of N_1 such that L_1 is normal in some Sylow p-subgroup G_p of G and write $B = N_2 \times \cdots \times N_s$. Then $L = L_1 B$ is a maximal subgroup of P. If P is cyclic, then clearly $N_1 = P$ is cyclic of order p. Hence we assume that P is not cyclic. Now, by the hypothesis, L has a supersoluble supplement in G or is G-s-semipermutable in G. Suppose that L has a supersoluble supplement T in G. Then $(N_1 \cap BT)^G = (N_1 \cap BT)^{L_1 BT} \subseteq N_1 \cap BT$ and so $N_1 \cap BT = 1$ or N_1. If $N_1 \cap BT = 1$, then $N_1 = N_1 \cap L_1 BT = L_1(N_1 \cap BT) = L_1$, a contradiction. If $N_1 \cap BT = N_1$, then $G = BT$ and, therefore, G/B is supersoluble. Since $N_1 B/B$ is a chief factor of G/B, $N_1 \simeq N_1 B/B$ is of order p, as desired. Now assume that L is G-s-semipermutable in G. Then G has a subgroup T such that L is G-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Let T_q be a Sylow q-subgroup of T, where $q \neq p$. Then, for some element g of G, $L(T_q)^g = (T_q)^g L$. Since L is subnormal in G, L is subnormal in $L(T_q)^g$ and so L is normalized by $(T_q)^g$. Since L is also normalized by G_p, we conclude that L is normal in G. Consequently $L_1 = L_1(N_1 \cap B) = N_1 \cap L_1 B = N_1 \cap L$ is normal in G, which implies that N_1 is cyclic of order p. Similarly we can prove that N_i is a cyclic group of prime order for $i = 2, \ldots, t$.

(4) Final contradiction.
By (3), we see that $G/C_G(N_i)$ is abelian, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t$. Hence $G' \leq C_G(N_i)$ and so $G' \leq C_G(F(E))$. It follows that $G' \cap E \leq C_H(F(E)) = F(E)$.

Hence by (2) and (3), every G-chief factor below $G' \cap E$ is cyclic, from which we have that every chief factor of G below $G' \cap E$ is $\mathcal{F}$-central. On the other hand, since $\mathcal{F}$ is a saturated formation, $G/(G' \cap E) \in \mathcal{F}$. This induces that $G \in \mathcal{F}$. The final contradiction completes the proof. □

The corollaries below follow from Theorem 3.3.

Corollary 3.4 (Ramadan [30]) *Assume that G is a soluble group and every maximal subgroup of the Sylow subgroups of $F(G)$ is normal in G. Then G is supersoluble.*

Corollary 3.5 (Asaad et al. [4]) *A soluble group G is supersoluble if and only if G has a normal subgroup E such that G/E is supersoluble and every maximal subgroup of each Sylow subgroup of $F(E)$ is normal in G.*

Corollary 3.6 (Asaad et al. [4]) *Let G be a group with a normal supersoluble subgroup E such that G/E is supersoluble. If all maximal subgroups of any Sylow subgroup of $F(H)$ is S-permutable in G, then G is supersoluble.*

Corollary 3.7 (Chen and Li [6]) *A group G is supersoluble if and only if G has a normal soluble subgroup E such that G/E is supersoluble and every maximal subgroup of each Sylow subgroup of $F(E)$ is $F(E)$-semipermutable in G.*

Now, we can characterize the structure of groups G with all subgroups G-s-semipermutable in the light of the preceding results.

Theorem 3.8 *Let G be a group. Every subgroup of G is G-s-semipermutable in G if and only if*

(1) *$G = [H]K$, where $H = G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is a nilpotent Hall subgroup of G with odd order, and*
(2) *$G = HN_G(L)$ for every subgroup L of H.*

Proof We first prove the necessity. Suppose that each subgroup of G is G-s-semipermutable in G. Then G has a Hall $\{p, q\}$-subgroup for different primes p and q dividing the order of G. By the well-known Arad's result, we see that G is soluble. Moreover, by Theorem 3.1, G is supersoluble. It follows that $G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is nilpotent. We claim that $G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is of odd order. If not, assume that $2 \in \pi(G^{\mathcal{N}})$ and let P be a Sylow 2-subgroup of $G^{\mathcal{N}}$. Then, P is normal in G and every chief factor of G below P is of order 2. Thus, $P \le Z_\infty(G)$. Let D be a Hall p'-subgroup of $G^{\mathcal{N}}$. Then $G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is contained in D, a contradiction. Hence $G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is of odd order.

Let $H = G^{\mathcal{N}}$. We prove H is a Hall subgroup of G by induction. It is trivial if $H = 1$ and so we suppose $H > 1$. Let N be a minimal normal subgroup of G contained in H and $|N| = p$, where p is a prime. Assume that G has a minimal normal subgroup R of prime order q with $q \neq p$. Since the hypothesis holds for the factor group G/R, $(G/R)^{\mathcal{N}}$=$G^{\mathcal{N}}R/R$=HR/R is a Hall subgroup of G/R by induction. Then the Sylow p-subgroup of H is also a Sylow p-subgroup of G. If there exists $r \in \pi(H)$ with $r \neq p$, then, by considering the factor group G/N, we conclude that the Sylow r-subgroup of H is a Sylow r-subgroup of G. Therefore, H is a Hall subgroup of G. Hence we can suppose that every minimal normal subgroup of G is a p-subgroup. Since G is supersoluble, $O_p(G)$ is a Sylow p-subgroup of G and consequently $H \leq O_p(G)$. If $N < H$, then, by induction, we see that H is a Hall subgroup of G. Hence, we now assume that $H = N$ is a minimal normal subgroup of G. If $H = O_p(G)$, then the conclusion is obvious. Thus, we suppose H is a proper subgroup of $O_p(G)$. We assert that $\Phi = \Phi(O_p(G)) = 1$. Assume this is not true. Then $(G/\Phi)^{\mathcal{N}}=H\Phi/\Phi$ is a Sylow p-subgroup of G. Since the class of all nilpotent groups ia a saturated formation, we have that H is not contained in Φ. Therefore, $H\Phi$ is a Sylow p-subgroup of G, which implies that H is a Sylow p-subgroup of G, a contradiction. Hence $\Phi = 1$ and so $O_p(G)$ is elementary abelian. Let L be any subgroup of $O_p(G)$. We show that L is normal in G. By the hypothesis, L has a supplement T in G and L is G-permutable with the Sylow subgroups of T. Let T_q be a Sylow q-subgroup of T, where $q \neq p$. Then, for some $x \in G$, LT_q^x is a subgroup. Since L is subnormal in G, L is normal in LT_q^x, which means that T_q^x normalizes L. In addition, since $O_p(G)$ is an elementary abelian Sylow p-subgroup, L is normal in G, as wanted. Let $O_p(G) = \langle a\rangle \times \langle a_2\rangle \times \cdots \times \langle a_t\rangle$ and $H = \langle a\rangle$, where $|a| = |a_i| = p$ for all $i = 2, \ldots, t$. Set $a_1 = aa_2 \ldots a_t$. Then we have that $O_p(G) = \langle a_1\rangle \times \langle a_2\rangle \times \cdots \times \langle a_t\rangle$. Since $1 \neq H \leq O_p(G)$, $O_p(G)$ is not contained in $Z(G)$. Hence there exists an index $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, t\}$ such that a_i is not contained in $Z(G)$. Pick a p'-element $g \in G\backslash C_G(a_i)$. Then $y = [a_i, g] \neq 1$. Since G/H is nilpotent, we know that $y = [a_i, g] \in H$. On the other hand, $y = [a_i, g] \in \langle a_i\rangle$ as $\langle a_i\rangle$ is normal in G. Hence $\langle a_i\rangle = H$, a contradiction. Therefore, $H = G^{\mathcal{N}}$ is a Hall subgroup of G.

By the well-known Shur-Zassenhaus theorem, we see that H has a complement K in G. Since G/H is nilpotent, K is a Hall nilpotent subgroup in G and $G = [H]K$, and therefore (1) holds. Finally, let L be any subgroup of H. By the preceding argument, $N_G(L)$ contains a Hall π-subgroup of G, where $\pi = \pi(K)$. It follows that $K^x \leq N_G(L)$ for some element x in G. Thus, $G = HK{=}HK^x{=}HN_G(L)$, completing the proof of (2).

From now on, we prove the sufficiency. Suppose that G is a group satisfying (1) and (2). We will show that every subgroup of G is G-permutable with all Sylow subgroups of G and so is G-s-semipermutable in G. Let $\pi = \pi(H)$ and π' the set of all primes not in π. Let D be an arbitrary subgroup of G. By the hypothesis, G is soluble and so $D = D_1D_2$, where D_1 and D_2 are Hall subgroups of D with $\pi(D_1) \subseteq \pi$ and $\pi(D_2) \subseteq \pi'$. Let P be any Sylow p-subgroup of G.

Suppose $D_2 = 1$. Then $D = D_1$. If $p \in \pi$, then P is normal in G by the hypothesis and, therefore, $DP = PD$. If $p \in \pi'$, then by condition (2), there exists an element x in G such that $P^x \leq N_G(D)$. It follows that $DP^x = P^xD$. Hence, in this case, D is G-permutable with all Sylow subgroups of G. Similarly, one can show that D is G-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of G provided $D = D_2$.

Hence, we suppose that D_1 and D_2 are non-trivial. Note that $D_1 \leq H$ by (1). Since D_1 is subnormal in D by condition (1), D_1 is normal in D. This means that $D \leq N_G(D_1)$. Since $G = HN_G(D_1)$ by (2), $N_G(D_1)$ contains a nilpotent Hall π'-subgroup of G by the solubility of G, B say. Without loss of generality, we may suppose that $D_2 \leq B$. If $p \in \pi$, then, clearly, $PD = DP$ as P is normal in G. If $p \in \pi'$, then G has an element x such that $P^x \leq B$. Since B is nilpotent, P^xD_2 is a subgroup of $N_G(D_1)$ and consequently $P^x D_2 D_1 = P^x D$ is a subgroup of G. Thus, in this case, D is also G-permutable with all Sylow subgroups of G, completing the proof of the sufficiency. □

Lemma 3.9 *Let p be a prime dividing the order of a group G with $(|G|, p-1) = 1$, P a Sylow p-subgroup of G and $X = O_{p'p}(G)$. Then G is p-nilpotent if and only if every maximal subgroup of P not having a p-nilpotent supplement in G is X-s-semipermutable in G.*

Proof The necessity is obvious and we only need to prove the sufficiency. Suppose that the result is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. Then

(1) P is not cyclic.
Assume that P is cyclic. Then $N_G(P)/C_G(P)$ is a p'-group. Since $N_G(P)/C_G(P)$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of Aut(P) and $(|G|, p-1) = 1$, we have $N_G(P) = C_G(P)$ and, therefore, G is p-nilpotent by [22, IV, Theorem 2.6], a contradiction.

(2) $O_{p'}(G) = 1$.
Suppose that $O_{p'}(G) \neq 1$. Then, by Lemma 2.1, it is easy to see that $G/O_{p'}(G)$ satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of G implies that $G/O_{p'}(G)$ is p-nilpotent and so G is p-nilpotent, a contradiction.

(3) $O_p(G) \neq 1$.
If not, then $O_p(G) = 1$ and so $X = 1$. First, we assume that every maximal subgroup of P has a p-nilpotent supplement in G. If $p = 2$, then by Lemma 2.3, G is p-nilpotent, a contradiction. Hence p is an odd prime and so G is also p-nilpotent by Lemma 2.7. Therefore, by the hypothesis, some maximal subgroup R of P is X-s-semipermutable in G. Then G has a subgroup T such that $G = RT$ and R is X-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Indeed, one can easily see that R is permutable with every Sylow q-subgroup of G, where $q \neq p$. We claim that $R \cap T$ is an S-permutable subgroup of T. In fact, let Q be a Sylow subgroup of T. Then $RQ = QR$, whence $(R \cap T)Q = Q(R \cap T)$, as claimed. Thus, by Lemma 2.4, $R \cap P$ is subnormal in T and so $R \cap T \leq O_p(T)$ by [7, A, Lemma 8.6]. Since $|T : R \cap T| = |RT : R| = |G : R|$, $|T/O_p(T)| \leq p$. Similar to (1), we have that $T/O_p(T)$ is p-nilpotent. It follows that T is p-soluble. Let K be a Hall p'-subgroup of T. Then $RK = KR$ since R is permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. The fact that $|G : RK| = p$ and $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ imply that RK is normal in G by Lemma 2.5. Since R is permutable with all Sylow q-subgroups of G, where $q \neq p$, it follows from Lemma 2.2 that RK is p-soluble, which implies that either $O_{p'}(RK) \neq 1$ or $O_p(RK) \neq 1$. Consequently $O_p(G) \neq 1$ by (2), a contradiction. Thus (3) holds.

(4) $O_p(G)$ is a minimal normal subgroup of G.
It is easy to verify that $G/O_p(G)$ satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of G implies that $G/O_p(G)$ is p-nilpotent. It follows that G is p-soluble. Let N be a minimal normal subgroup of G. Then N is an elementary abelian p-group by (2). Obviously G/N satisfies the hypothesis and so G/N is p-nilpotent. Since the class of all p-nilpotent groups is a saturated formation, N is the unique minimal normal subgroup of G and $\Phi(G) = 1$. Now it is easy to see that $O_p(G) = F(G) = C_G(N) = N$. Hence $O_p(G)$ is a minimal normal subgroup of G.

Final contradiction.

Since $G/O_p(G)$ satisfies the hypothesis, $G/O_p(G)$ is p-nilpotent and so G is p-soluble. By (3) and (4), we have that $G = [O_p(G)]M$ for some maximal subgroup of G. In view of Lemmas 2.3 and 2.7, P has a maximal subgroup R not having a p-nilpotent supplement in G. By the hypothesis, R is $O_p(G)$-s-semipermutable in G since $X = O_p(G)$ by (1). Hence G has a subgroup T such that R is $O_p(G)$-permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Since R is normalized by $O_p(G)$, we can see that R is permutable with every Sylow subgroup of T. Let K be a Hall p'-subgroup of T. Then RK is a subgroup of G of index p by the above arguments and so RK is normal in G by Lemma 2.5. Consequently $RK \cap O_p(G) = 1$ or $O_p(G)$. Note that $O_p(G)$ is not contained in R (if not, R has a p-nilpotent supplement M in G, a contradiction) and so $P = O_p(G)R$. Now, if $O_p(G) \cap RK = O_p(G)$, then $O_p(G)$ is contained in R, a contradiction. Therefore, $O_p(G) \cap RK = 1$ and so $O_p(G)$ is of order p. Thus $O_p(G)$ is contained in $Z(G)$ as $G/C_G(O_p(G))$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $Aut(O_p(G))$ and $(|G|, p-1) = 1$. Since $G/O_p(G)$ is p-nilpotent, it follows that G is p-nilpotent, a final contradiction. □

Theorem 3.10 *Let p be a prime dividing the order of a group G with $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ and $\mathcal{F}$ a saturated formation containing all p-nilpotent groups. Then $G \in \mathcal{F}$ if and only if G has a normal subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ and E has a Sylow p-subgroup P with the property that every maximal subgroup of P not having a p-nilpotent supplement in G is X-s-semipermutable in G, where $X = O_{p'p}(E)$.*

Proof The necessity is clear and it needs only to prove the sufficiency. By Lemma 3.9, we have that E is p-nilpotent. Let K be a normal p-complement of E. If $K \neq 1$, then G/K satisfies the hypothesis by Lemma 2.1 and so belongs to $\mathcal{F}$ by induction. Let A/B be a chief factor of G below K. Since K is a p'-group, $G/C_G(A/B)$ is $\mathcal{F}$-central by [18, §3.1, Example 2] and [18, Corollary 3.1.16]. It follows that $G \in \mathcal{F}$. Now assume that $K = 1$. Then $E = P$ is a normal p-subgroup of G. Let Q be a Sylow q-subgroup of G, where $q \neq p$. Then PQ is p-nilpotent by the hypothesis and Lemma 3.9. Therefore, $Q \leq C_G(N)$. Let L/M be a chief factor of G with $L \leq E$. Then $QM/M \leq C_{G/M}(L/M)$ by above argument. Let G_p be a Sylow p-subgroup of G. Then $L/M \cap Z(G_p/M) \neq 1$ (see [8, II, Theorem 6.4]). Let L_1/M be a subgroup of $L/M \cap Z(G_p/M)$ of order p. Then $G/M \leq C_{G/M}(L_1/M)$ and so $L_1/M \leq Z(G/M)$. Consequently, $L/M = L_1/M \leq Z(G/M)$ as L/M is a chief factor of G, which implies that $E \subseteq Z_\infty(G)$. Since $G/E \in \mathcal{F}$ by the hypothesis, we have that $G \in \mathcal{F}$ by [18, Theorem 3.1.6] and so the theorem follows. □

From Theorem 3.10, we have

Corollary 3.11 (Chen and Li [6]) *Let p be a prime dividing the order of a group G with $(|G|, p-1) = 1$, P a Sylow p-subgroup of G and $X = O_{p'p}(G)$. Then G is p-nilpotent if and only if every maximal subgroup of P not having a p-nilpotent supplement in G is X-semipermutable in G.*

Acknowledgments The authors wish to acknowledge their indebtedness to the referees, whose careful reading of the manuscript and helpful comments and suggestions led to a number of improvements; they also would like to express their thanks to the referees and editor for providing some more recent articles.

This work was supported by the Scientific Research Foundation of Chongqing Municipal Science and Technology Commission (Grant No. cstc2013jcyjA00034), the Scientific Research Foundation of Yongchuan Science and Technology Commission (Grant No. Ycstc, 2013nc8006), the Scientific Research Foundation of Chongqing University of Arts and Sciences (Grant No. R2012SC21), the Program for Innovation Team Building at Institutions of Higher Education in Chongqing (Grant No. KJTD201321) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 11426053).

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