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Questions about the construction of formations occupy a central position in the theory of formations. In addition to methods of constructing formations by means of group functions and screens (see Chap. I of [1], also [2-8]), there exist methods for constructing from two formations, say \mathfrak{F} and \mathfrak{H} , a third, which is naturally called a formation product. The simplest case of a formation product was introduced by L. A. Shemetkov [1]. Five important types of formation products are known (see [5-7]): the formation products $\mathfrak{F} *_{i} \mathfrak{H}$ of the i -th kind, $1 \leq i \leq 5$. There arises the following problem: Find those formations \mathfrak{F} and \mathfrak{H} for which the formation $\mathfrak{F} *_{i} \mathfrak{H}$ is local.

In the present note we consider this problem, which was suggested to the author by L. A. Shemetkov, for the formation products of the second kind.

Suppose we are studying a nonempty class of groups \mathcal{U} , closed under the operations S , Q , and $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{U}}$, such that each group G in \mathcal{U} possesses at least one \mathfrak{F} -projector and any two \mathfrak{F} -projectors are conjugate in G (\mathfrak{F} is a local formation in \mathcal{U}). In what follows, by a group we will always mean a group of class \mathcal{U} , and by a class of groups (in particular, a formation) we will mean a subclass (formation) of \mathcal{U} .

Definition 1. Suppose \mathfrak{F} is a local formation and \mathfrak{H} an arbitrary formation. Let $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} \mathfrak{H}$ denote the class of all groups in which an \mathfrak{F} -projector belongs to \mathfrak{H} .

If $\mathfrak{H} = \emptyset$, then $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} \mathfrak{H} = \emptyset$.

The class $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} \mathfrak{H}$ is obviously a formation, which, in general, is not local. Note that special cases of the formation $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} \mathfrak{H}$ have been studied by various authors. In the class of solvable groups, Doerk [8], D'Arcy [9], and Beidleman and Makan [10] studied the formation $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} f(p)$ (f a maximal inner local screen of the formation \mathfrak{F} and p a prime), Bleszenohl [11] the formation $\mathfrak{E}_{\pi} *_{2} \mathfrak{H}$ and Doerk [12] the formation $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} \mathfrak{H}$ in the case where \mathfrak{H} is local. The formation $\mathfrak{F} *_{2} f(p)$ in the class of groups with $\pi(\mathfrak{F})$ -solvable \mathfrak{F} -coradical was studied in [5-7].

We will denote by \mathcal{U}_{π} the formation of all π -groups of class \mathcal{U} .

A local screen f will be called:

- 1) complete if $\mathfrak{R}_p f(p) = f(p)$ for each prime p ;
- 2) S -closed if the formation $f(p)$ is S -closed for each prime p .

All other notation and definitions can be found in Shemetkov's monograph [1].

We first state as lemmas, without giving the proofs, three results from [5, 6].

LEMMA 1. Suppose f_1, f_2 are maximal inner local screens of the formations $\mathfrak{F}_1, \mathfrak{F}_2$ respectively. Then \mathfrak{F}_1 is a subformation of \mathfrak{F}_2 if and only if $f_1 \leq f_2$.

Recall that if \mathfrak{F} is a formation with maximal inner local screen f , then we have denoted by f^* (see [5]) the local screen such that $f^*(p) = \mathfrak{F} *_{2} f(p)$ for each prime p .

LEMMA 2. Suppose \mathfrak{F} is a formation with maximal inner local screen f . If each group in \mathcal{U} has a $\pi(\mathfrak{F})$ -solvable \mathfrak{F} -coradical, then:

- 1) an \mathfrak{F} -projector F of the group G covers each f^* -central chief factor of G ;
- 2) each chief factor of G covered by an \mathfrak{F} -projector F of G is f^* -central.

LEMMA 3. If \mathfrak{F} is a nonempty formation, π is some set of primes, and $\mathcal{U}_{\pi} \mathfrak{F} = \mathfrak{F}$, then the local screen f such that

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{F}, & \text{if } p \in \pi, \\ \mathfrak{U}_\pi \mathfrak{F}, & \text{if } p \in \pi' \end{cases}$$

is a maximal inner local screen of the formation $\mathfrak{U}_\pi \mathfrak{F}$.

LEMMA 4. If \mathfrak{F} is a local formation and φ a complete local screen, then the local screen φ^* such that $\varphi^*(p) = \mathfrak{F} * \varphi(p)$ for each prime p is complete.

Proof. Obviously, $\varphi^*(p) \subseteq \mathfrak{R}_p \varphi^*(p)$. Suppose $G \in \mathfrak{R}_p \varphi^*(p)$ and F is an \mathfrak{F} -projector of G . Then $F/F \cap O_p(G) \simeq FO_p(G)/O_p(G) \in \varphi(p)$. Since $F \cap O_p(G) \subseteq O_p(F)$, it follows that $F/O_p(F) \in \varphi(p)$. But φ is a complete screen. Therefore, $F \in \mathfrak{R}_p \varphi(p) = \varphi(p)$. It follows that $G \in \varphi^*(p)$. The lemma is proved.

Definition 2. Suppose \mathfrak{F} is a local formation and f a local screen of \mathfrak{F} . A subgroup H of a group G will be called an f - \mathcal{D} -subgroup if H covers only f -central chief factors of G .

If \mathfrak{F} is a local formation with maximal inner local screen f , then examples of f^* - \mathcal{D} -subgroups (f - \mathcal{D} -subgroups) in groups with $\pi(\mathfrak{F})$ -solvable \mathfrak{F} -coradical are \mathfrak{F} -projectors of groups (\mathfrak{F} -normalizers of groups).

LEMMA 5. Suppose $\mathfrak{F}_1 \supseteq \mathfrak{F}_2$ are formations with maximal inner local screens f_1, f_2 respectively. Suppose f is a maximal inner local screen of the formation $l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$. Then:

- 1) $\varphi \leq f$, where φ is the local screen such that $\varphi(p) = \mathfrak{F}_1 * f_2(p)$ for each prime p ;
- 2) if an \mathfrak{F}_i -projector of each group G is an f_i^* - \mathcal{D} -subgroup of G (f_i^* is the local screen such that $f_i^*(p) = \mathfrak{F}_i * f_i(p)$ for all primes p), $i = 1, 2$, then:
 - a) $f(p)$ is a subformation of $\varphi_1(p)$, where $\varphi_1(p) = \mathfrak{U}_p \varphi(p)$, φ is the same screen as in 1), and p is a prime such that $\mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq f_1(p)$;
 - b) $f \leq \varphi_1$ and $f = \varphi'$ if $\mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq f_1(p)$ for all primes $p \in \pi(\mathfrak{F}_1)$, and the screens φ and φ_1 are the same as in 1) and a).

Proof. We will prove the first assertion of the lemma. Assume it is false. Then there exists a prime p such that $\varphi(p)$ is not contained in $f(p)$. Choose in the class $\varphi(p) \setminus f(p)$ a group G having the smallest order. In view of Theorem 3.3 of [1], the screen f is complete, hence $O_p(G) = 1$. Consider the regular wreath product $\Gamma = P \wr G$, where $|P| = p$. Then $\Gamma = N \rtimes G$ and $N = O_p(\Gamma) = P \wr 1$. Suppose F is an \mathfrak{F}_1 -projector of G . Since $G \in \varphi(p)$, we have $F \in f_2(p)$. But $\mathfrak{F}_1 \supseteq \mathfrak{F}_2$. Consequently, by Lemma 1, $F \in f_1(p)$. Applying Lemma 2 of [13], we see that the subgroup $FC_N(F^{(p)}) = FN$ is an \mathfrak{F}_1 -projector of Γ . It follows from Theorem 3.3 of [1] that the screen f_2 is complete and $F/F \cap N \simeq FN/N \in f_2(p)$, hence $FN \in \mathfrak{R}_p f_2(p) = f_2(p)$. Consequently, $\Gamma \in \varphi(p) \subseteq l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$. It follows that $G \simeq \Gamma/N \in f(p)$. Contradiction. Assertion 1) is proved.

Let us prove assertion 2). In view of Lemma 3 and the definition of the formation $l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$, in order to establish a) it suffices to show that $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ is a subformation of the formation $\mathfrak{U}_p \varphi(p)$, where p is a prime such that $\mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq f_1(p)$. Suppose $G \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ and H/K is a pd-chief factor of G . Then $G/C_G(H/K) \in f_1^*(p)$. Consequently, an \mathfrak{F}_1 -projector F of G covers H/K . Since $\mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_1$ and $G \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$, it is easy to see that F is an \mathfrak{F}_2 -projector of G . Therefore, by hypothesis, $G/C_G(H/K) \in f_2^*(p)$. It follows that

$$G/O_p(G)/F_p(G)/O_p(G) \simeq G/F_p(G) \in f_2^*(p) \cap (\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2).$$

It is easy to see that $f_2^*(p) \cap (\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2) = \varphi(p)$. But it follows from Lemma 4 that φ is a complete screen. Consequently, $G/O_p(G) \in \varphi(p)$, hence $G \in \mathfrak{U}_p \varphi(p)$. Thus, $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{U}_p \varphi(p)$.

Assertion b) now follows directly from Lemmas 1 and 3 and from 1). The lemma is proved.

THEOREM. Suppose $\mathfrak{F}_1, \mathfrak{F}_2$ are local formations. If an \mathfrak{F}_i -projector of each group G of class \mathfrak{U} is an f_i^* - \mathcal{D} -subgroup of G ($i = 1, 2$) and $\mathfrak{F}_1 = \mathfrak{U}_\pi$, then the formation $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ is local.

Proof. Obviously, $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$. We will prove that $l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2) \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Assume this is not so. Choose in the class $l \text{ form}(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2) \setminus (\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$ a group G having the smallest order. Then G has a unique minimal normal subgroup K , which coincides with $G^{(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)}$.

Suppose K is a π' -group and F an \mathfrak{F}_1 -projector of G . Then $F \simeq F/F \cap K \in \mathfrak{F}_2$, hence $G \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Contradiction.

Assume that $O_\pi(G) = 1$. If K is non-Abelian, then obviously, $C_G(K) = 1$. Consequently, $G \in f(K)$, where f is a maximal inner local screen of the formation l form $(\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2)$. It is easy to see that \mathfrak{F}_1 has a maximal inner local screen f_1 such that

$$f_1(p) = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{F}_1, & \text{if } p \in \pi, \\ \emptyset, & \text{if } p \in \pi'. \end{cases}$$

It follows that $\mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_1 \subseteq f_1(p)$ for all primes $p \in \pi$. Let ψ be a maximal inner local screen of $\mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2$ (the formation $\mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2$ is local by virtue of Lemma 3.7 of [1]). Then, by assertion 2) of Lemma 5, we have $f(K) \subseteq f(p) \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ for some prime $p \in \pi$. But $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Therefore, $G \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Contradiction.

It remains to consider the following situation: K is an Abelian p -group, $p \in \pi$. Since $\mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq f_1(p)$, it follows from assertion 2) of Lemma 5 that $G/C_G(K) \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Consequently, $F/C_F(K) \simeq FC_G(K)/C_G(K) \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Look at the chief series

$$F_0 = F \supset F_1 \supset \dots \supset F_k = F \cap K \supset F_{k+1} \supset \dots \supset F_t = 1 \quad (*)$$

of F . In the section $F \supset \dots \supset F \cap K$ all factors of the series (*) are $(\mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2)$ -central, since $F/F \cap K \simeq FK/K \in \mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2$. It is easy to see that $C_F(K) \subseteq C_F(F_{i-1}/F_i)$, $i = k, k+1, \dots, t$. Consequently, $F/C_F(F_{i-1}/F_i) \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Thus, $F \in \mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{F}_2$, hence $G \in \mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$. Contradiction. The theorem is proved.

COROLLARY 1. Suppose \mathfrak{F}_i is a local formation ($i = 1, 2$). If each group in \mathcal{U} has a $\pi(\mathfrak{F}_i)$ -solvable \mathfrak{F}_i -coradical and $\mathfrak{F}_1 = \mathcal{U}_\pi$, then $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ is a local formation.

Proof. By Lemma 2, each \mathfrak{F}_i -projector of a group in \mathcal{U} is an \mathfrak{F}_i -subgroup of this group ($i = 1, 2$). Then $\mathfrak{F}_1 * \mathfrak{F}_2$ is local by the theorem just proved.

From Corollary 1 we easily obtain the following well-known result of Blessohl, which has been proved by other methods.

COROLLARY 2 (Blessohl [11]). Suppose $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{S}$ and \mathfrak{F} is a local formation. If H is a π -Hall subgroup of G and $H/H \cap \Phi(G) \in \mathfrak{F}$, then $H \in \mathfrak{F}$.

Proof. By Theorem 15.2 of [1], the set of all \mathcal{S}_π -projectors of G coincides with the set of all π -Hall subgroups of G . Since $H/H \cap \Phi(G) \in \mathfrak{F}$, it follows that $G/H \cap \Phi(G) \in \mathcal{S}_\pi * \mathfrak{F}$. But by Theorem 4.2 of [1] and Corollary 1 the formation $\mathcal{S}_\pi * \mathfrak{F}$ is saturated. Therefore, $G \in \mathcal{S}_\pi * \mathfrak{F}$, hence $H \in \mathfrak{F}$.

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