# ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS OF PERMUTABLE SUBGROUPS 

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Dedicated to the memory of Alexander Grant Robertson Stewart


#### Abstract

In this paper, we study the structure of finite groups $G=A B$ which are a weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, that is, $A$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup of $B$ containing $A \cap B$ and $B$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup of $A$ containing $A \cap B$. We obtain generalisations of known results on mutually $s n$-permutable products.


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## 1. Introduction

All groups considered here will be finite.
Mutually permutable products, that is, products $G=A B$ such that $A$ permutes with every subgroup of $B$ and $B$ permutes with every subgroup of $A$, have been extensively studied by many authors [3]. In recent years, some other permutability connections between the factors have also been considered. In particular, the rich normal structure of a mutually permutable product of two nilpotent groups [3, Ch. 5] has motivated interest in the study of mutually $s n$-permutable products.
DEFInition 1.1. We say that a group $G=A B$ is the mutually $s n$-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$ if $A$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup of $B$ and $B$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup of $A$.

Carocca [5] showed that a mutually $s n$-permutable product of two soluble groups is also soluble. In [1], the authors analyse the structure of mutually sn-permutable products and prove the following extension of a classical result of Asaad and Shaalan [2].

[^0]THEOREM 1.2 [1, Theorem B]. Let $G=A B$ be the mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $A$ is supersoluble and $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then the group $G$ is supersoluble.

Following [8], we say that a subgroup $H$ of a group $G$ is $\mathbb{P}$-subnormal in $G$ whenever either $H=G$ or there exists a chain of subgroups $H=H_{0} \leq H_{1} \leq \cdots \leq H_{n-1} \leq H_{n}=$ $G$ such that $\left|H_{i}: H_{i-1}\right|$ is a prime for every $i=1, \ldots, n$. It turns out that supersoluble groups are exactly those groups in which every subgroup is $\mathbb{P}$-subnormal. Having in mind this result and the influence of the embedding of Sylow subgroups on the structure of a group, the following extension of the class of supersoluble groups introduced in [8] seems to be natural.

Definition 1.3. A group $G$ is called widely supersoluble, $w$-supersoluble for short, if every Sylow subgroup of $G$ is $\mathbb{P}$-subnormal in $G$.

The class of all finite $w$-supersoluble groups, denoted by $w \mathcal{U}$, is a saturated formation of soluble groups containing $\mathcal{U}$, the class of all supersoluble groups, which is locally defined by a formation function $f$, such that for every prime $p, f(p)$ is composed of all soluble groups $G$ whose Sylow subgroups are abelian of exponent dividing $p-1$ [8, Theorems 2.3 and 2.7]. Not every group in $w \mathcal{U}$ is supersoluble [8, Example 1]. However, every group in $w \mathcal{U}$ has an ordered Sylow tower of supersoluble type [8, Proposition 2.8].

In [4], mutually $s n$-permutable products in which the factors are $w$-supersoluble are analysed. The following extension of Theorem 1.2 holds.

Theorem 1.4 [4, Theorem 4]. Let $G=A B$ be the mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $A$ is w-supersoluble and $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then the group $G$ is w-supersoluble.

Assume that $G=A B$ is the mutually $s n$-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$. Then, by [3, Proposition 4.1.16 and Corollary 4.1.17], $A \cap B$ is subnormal in $G$ and permutes with every subnormal subgroup of $A$ and $B$. Assume now that $G=A B$ and $A \cap B$ satisfy this condition. Then $G$ is the mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$ if and only if $A$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup $V$ of $B$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant V$ and $B$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup $U$ of $A$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant U$. This motivates the following definition.

Definition 1.5. Let $A$ and $B$ be two subgroups of a group $G$ such that $G=A B$. We say that $G$ is the weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of $A$ and $B$ if $A$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup $V$ of $B$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant V$ and $B$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup $U$ of $A$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant U$.

Obviously, mutually $s n$-permutable products are weakly mutually $s n$-permutable, but the converse is not true in general, as the following example shows.

Example 1.6. Let $G=\Sigma_{4}$ be the symmetric group of degree 4. Consider a maximal subgroup $A$ of $G$ which is isomorphic to $\Sigma_{3}$, and $B=A_{4}$, the alternating group of
degree 4 . Then $G=A B$ is the weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$. However, the product is not mutually $s n$-permutable because $A$ does not permute with a subnormal subgroup of order 2 of $B$.

The first goal of this paper to prove weakly mutually sn-permutable versions of the aforesaid theorems. We show that Theorem 1.4 holds for weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products.

THEOREM A. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $A$ is w-supersoluble and $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then the group $G$ is w-supersoluble.

The next corollary follows from the proof of Theorem A and generalises Theorem 1.2.

Corollary B. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $A$ is supersoluble and $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then the group $G$ is supersoluble.

The second part of the paper is concerned with weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products with nilpotent derived subgroups. Our starting point is the following extension of a classical result of Asaad and Shaalan [2].

THEOREM 1.7 [1, Theorem C]. Let $G=A B$ be the mutually sn-permutable product of the supersoluble subgroups $A$ and $B$. If the derived subgroup $G^{\prime}$ of $G$ is nilpotent, then $G$ is supersoluble.

A natural question is whether this result is true for weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products under the same conditions. The following example answers this question negatively.

EXAMPLE 1.8. Let $G=\left\langle a, b, c: a^{5}=b^{5}=c^{6}=1, a b=b a, a^{c}=a^{2} b^{3}, b^{c}=a^{-1} b^{-1}\right\rangle \simeq$ $\left[C_{5} \times C_{5}\right] C_{6}$. Then $G=A B$ is the weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of $A=\langle c\rangle$ and $B=[\langle a\rangle \times\langle b\rangle]\left\langle c^{3}\right\rangle$. Note that $B$ is a normal subgroup of $G$; therefore, it permutes with every subgroup of $A$. Moreover, $A \cap B=\left\langle c^{3}\right\rangle$ and the unique subnormal subgroup of $B$ containing $A \cap B$ is the whole of $B$. It is not difficult to see that $B$ is supersoluble. Therefore, $A$ and $B$ are supersoluble and $G^{\prime}$ is nilpotent. Moreover, $A$ is nilpotent and $B$ is a normal subgroup of $G$. Thus, in particular, it permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$.

However, an additional assumption allows us to get supersolubility.
THEOREM C. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the supersoluble subgroups $A$ and $B$. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, A permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $B$ and the derived subgroup $G^{\prime}$ of $G$ is nilpotent, then $G$ is supersoluble.

By [7, Theorem 2.6], a group $G$ is $w$-supersoluble if and only if every metanilpotent subgroup of $G$ is supersoluble. In particular, if we have a group with $G^{\prime}$ nilpotent, every $w$-supersoluble subgroup is supersoluble. Therefore, the following result is clear.

Corollary D. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the $w$-supersoluble subgroups $A$ and B. If B permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, A permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $B$ and the derived subgroup $G^{\prime}$ of $G$ is nilpotent, then $G$ is w-supersoluble.

## 2. Preliminary results

In this section we will prove some results needed for the proofs of our main results. We start by showing that factor groups of weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products are also weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products.

Lemma 2.1. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$, and let $N$ be a normal subgroup of $G$. Then $G / N=(A N / N)(B N / N)$ is the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $A N / N$ and $B N / N$.

Proof. Let us consider $G / N=(A N / N)(B N / N)$. Suppose that $H N / N$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A N / N$ such that $A N / N \cap B N / N \leqslant H N / N$. Note that $U=H N \cap A$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A$ such that $U N=H N$ and $A \cap B \leq U$. Since $U$ permutes with $B$, it follows that $H N=U N$ permutes with $B N$.

Interchanging $A$ and $B$ and arguing in the same manner proves the result.
Lemma 2.2. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$.
(a) If $H$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant H$, then $H B$ is a weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $H$ and $B$.
(b) If $A \cap B=1$, then $G=A B$ is a totally sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$.

Proof. Since every subnormal subgroup of $H$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A$, it follows that $B$ permutes with every subnormal subgroup $L$ of $H$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant L$. On the other hand, let $M$ be a subnormal subgroup of $B$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant M$. Then we have $H M=H(A \cap B) M=(A \cap H B) M=A M \cap H B=M A \cap B H=M(A \cap B H)=$ $M(A \cap B) H=M H$. Hence $H B$ is a weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $H$ and $B$.

For (b), every subnormal subgroup of $A$ permutes with $B$ by (a) and every subnormal subgroup of $B$ permutes with $A$. So $G=A B$ is the mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$. Hence $G=A B$ is the totally $s n$-permutable product of $A$ and $B$ since $A \cap B=1$.

Observe that Lemma 2.2 implies that if $G=A B$ is the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B, H$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant H$ and $K$ is a subnormal subgroup of $B$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant K$, then $H K$ is a weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of $H$ and $K$. In the next result we analyse the
behaviour of minimal normal subgroups of weakly mutually $s n$-permutable products containing the intersection of the factors.

Lemma 2.3. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $A$ and $B$. If $N$ is a minimal normal subgroup of $G$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant N$, then either $A \cap N=$ $B \cap N=1$ or $N=(N \cap A)(N \cap B)$.

Proof. Observe that $A \cap N$ is a normal subgroup of $A$ such that $A \cap B \leqslant A \cap N$ and consequently $H=(A \cap N) B$ is a subgroup of $G$. Note that $N \cap H=N \cap(A \cap N) B=$ $(A \cap N)(B \cap N)$. Since $N \cap H$ is a normal subgroup of $H$, it follows that $B$ normalises $N \cap H=(A \cap N)(B \cap N)$.

By the same argument, $K=A(B \cap N)$ is a subgroup of $G$ such that $K \cap N=$ $A(B \cap N) \cap N=(A \cap N)(B \cap N)$. Moreover, $A$ normalises $K \cap N=(A \cap N)(B \cap N)$. It follows that $(A \cap N)(B \cap N)$ is a normal subgroup of $G$. By the minimality of $N$, $A \cap N=B \cap N=1$ or $N=(N \cap A)(N \cap B)$ as required.

LEMMA 2.4. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then $A \cap B$ is a nilpotent subnormal subgroup of $G$.

Proof. It is clear that $A \cap B$ is nilpotent. The Sylow subgroups of $B$ are normal in $B$, so $A \cap B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $B$. Let $A_{q}$ be a Sylow subgroup of $A$, with $q$ a prime dividing $|A|$. Since $B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$, it follows that $B A_{q}$ is a subgroup of $G$. Hence $B A_{q} \cap A=A_{q}(A \cap B)$. Therefore $A \cap B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$. Applying [3, Theorem 1.2.14(3)], $A \cap B$ is a subnormal subgroup of both $A$ and $B$. By [3, Theorem 1.1.7], $A \cap B$ is a subnormal subgroup of $G$.

Lemma 2.5. Let $G=A B$ be the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A$ and $B$, where $A$ is soluble and $B$ is nilpotent. If $B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A$, then the group $G$ is soluble.

Proof. Suppose that the theorem is false, and let $G$ be a minimal counterexample. If $N$ is a minimal normal subgroup of $G$, then $G / N=(A N / N)(B N / N)$ is the weakly mutually sn-permutable product of the subgroups $A N / N$ and $B N / N$ by Lemma 2.1. Since $B N / N$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A N / N$, it follows that $G / N$ is soluble by the minimality of $G$. Let $N_{1}$ and $N_{2}$ be two minimal subgroups of $G$. Then $G \cong G /\left(N_{1} \cap N_{2}\right)$ is soluble, a contradiction. Hence $G$ has a unique minimal normal subgroup $N$ of $G$ and we may assume that $N$ is nonabelian. This means that $\mathbf{F}(G)=1$.

On the other hand, $A \cap B \leqslant \mathbf{F}(G)$ using Lemma 2.4. Therefore $A \cap B=1$ and then $G=A B$ is the totally $s n$-permutable product of $A$ and $B$. The result then follows by applying [5, Theorem 6].

Lemma 2.6 [1, Lemma 3]. Let $G$ be a primitive group and let $N$ be its unique minimal normal subgroup. Assume that $G / N$ is supersoluble. If $N$ is a p-group, where $p$ is the largest prime dividing $|G|$, then $N=\mathbf{F}(G)=\mathbf{O}_{p}(G)$ is a Sylow p-subgroup of $G$.

## 3. Main results

We are ready to prove our main results.
Proof of Theorem A. Suppose the theorem is not true and let $G$ be a minimal counterexample. We shall prove our theorem in five steps.
(a) $G$ is a primitive soluble group with a unique minimal normal subgroup $N$ and $N=\mathbf{C}_{G}(N)=\mathbf{F}(G)=\mathbf{O}_{p}(G)$ for a prime $p$. Let $N$ be a minimal normal subgroup of $G$. By Lemma 2.1, $G / N=(A N / N)(B N / N)$ is a weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of $A N / N$ and $B N / N$ and it is clear that $B N / N$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A N / N$. Moreover, $A N / N$ is $w$-supersoluble and $B N / N$ is nilpotent. By the minimality of $G$, it follows that $G / N$ is $w$-supersoluble. Note that $w \mathcal{U}$, the class of finite $w$-supersoluble groups, is a saturated formation of soluble groups by [8, Theorems 2.3 and 2.7]. This implies that $G$ is a primitive soluble group and so $G$ has a unique minimal normal subgroup $N$ with $N=\mathbf{C}_{G}(N)=\mathbf{F}(G)=\mathbf{O}_{p}(G)$ for some prime $p$ as required.
(b) The subgroup $B N$ is $w$-supersoluble and $1 \neq A \cap B \leqslant N$. If $A \cap B=1$, then the result follows by Lemma 2.2 and Theorem 1.4. Applying Lemma 2.4, it follows that $A \cap B$ is a nilpotent subnormal subgroup of $G$. Therefore $1 \neq A \cap B \leqslant \mathbf{F}(G)=N$ and so $N=(N \cap A)(N \cap B)$ by Lemma 2.3. Hence $N B=(N \cap A)(N \cap B) B=(N \cap A) B$ is a weakly mutually sn-permutable product of $N \cap A$ and $B$. Also note that $B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $N \cap A$ (there is only one Sylow subgroup of $N \cap A$, which is $N \cap A$ ). If $N B<G$, then $N B$ is $w$-supersoluble by the choice of $G$. So we may assume that $G=N B$. In this case, consider a subgroup $N_{1} \leqslant A \cap B \leqslant N$. Note that $N_{1}$ is normal in $N$ since $N$ is abelian. Hence $N=N_{1}^{G}=N_{1}^{N B}=N_{1}^{B} \leqslant B$ and $G=B$, a contradiction. Hence the result follows.
(c) $N$ is the Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$ and $p$ is the largest prime dividing $|G|$. Let $q$ be the largest prime dividing $|G|$ and suppose that $q \neq p$. Suppose first that $q$ divides $|B N|$. Since $B N$ has a Sylow tower of supersoluble type, $B N$ has a unique Sylow $q$-subgroup, say $(B N)_{q}$. This means that $(B N)_{q}$ centralises $N$. Thus $(B N)_{q}=1$, since $\mathbf{C}_{G}(N)=N$, a contradiction.

We may assume that $q$ divides $|A|$ but does not divide $|B N|$. Since $A$ has a Sylow tower of supersoluble type, $A$ has a unique Sylow $q$-subgroup, $A_{q}$ say. This means that $A_{q}$ is normalised by $N \cap A$. Consider $A_{q}(N \cap B)=A_{q}(A \cap B)(N \cap B)$, a weakly mutually permutable product of $A_{q}(A \cap B)$ and $N \cap B$ by Lemma 2.2. Also $N \cap B$ permutes with each Sylow subgroup of $A_{q}(A \cap B)$. Suppose that $A_{q}(N \cap B)<G$. Then $A_{q}(N \cap B)$ is $w$-supersoluble by the choice of $G$. It follows that $A_{q}(N \cap B)$ has a unique Sylow $q$-subgroup since it has a Sylow tower of supersoluble type. In other words, $A_{q}$ is normalised by $N \cap B$. Hence $A_{q}$ is normalised by $(N \cap A)(N \cap B)=N$. This means that $A_{q}$ centralises $N$, a contradiction. We may assume that $A_{q}(N \cap B)=G$. Then $N \cap B=B$ and so $B$ is an elementary abelian $p$-group. Moreover, $A=A_{q}(A \cap B)$. Since $A \cap B$ is a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $A$ which is subnormal in $A$, it is normal in $A$. Hence $A \cap B$ is normal in $G$ because $A \cap B$ is normal in the abelian group $B$. By the
minimality of $N$, it follows that $N=A \cap B$, that is, $G=A_{q}(N \cap B)=A_{q}(A \cap B)=A$, a contradiction. Therefore $p$ is the largest prime dividing $|G|$.

We now prove that $N$ is the Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$. Since $G$ is a primitive soluble group, $G=N M$, where $M$ is a maximal subgroup of $G$ and $N \cap M=1$. Then $M \cong G / N$ is $w$-supersoluble. By [6, Theorem A.15.6], $\mathbf{O}_{p}(M)=1$. If $p$ divides $|M|$, then since $M$ has a Sylow tower of supersoluble type, $\mathbf{O}_{p}(M) \neq 1$, a contradiction. Hence $p$ does not divide $|M|$ and therefore $N$ is the unique Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$.
(d) $N$ is contained in $A$ and $N$ is not contained in $B$. Suppose that $B$ is a p-group. Then $G=A N$. Let $N_{1} \leqslant A \cap B$. Since $B$ is abelian, $N \leq N_{1}^{G}=N_{1}^{A N}=N_{1}^{A} \leqslant A$ and so $G=A N=A$, a contradiction. So we may assume that $B$ is not a $p$-group. If $N$ is contained in $B$, then since $B$ is nilpotent and $N=\mathbf{C}_{G}(N)$, it follows that $B$ is a $p$-group, a contradiction. Therefore $N$ is not contained in $B$. Hence $B$ has a nontrivial Hall $p^{\prime}$-subgroup, $B_{p^{\prime}}$, which is normal in $B$. Consequently, $A B_{p^{\prime}}=A(A \cap B) B_{p^{\prime}}$ is a subgroup of $G$. Then $1 \neq B_{p^{\prime}}^{G} \leqslant A B_{p^{\prime}}$ and so $N \leqslant A B_{p^{\prime}}$. Hence $N \leqslant A$ as required.
(e) Final contradiction. Let $A_{p^{\prime}}$ be a Hall $p^{\prime}$-subgroup of $A$. If $A_{p^{\prime}}=1$, then $G=$ $B N$ is $w$-supersoluble by (b), a contradiction. Hence $A_{p^{\prime}} \neq 1$. Since $B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$, it follows that $A_{p^{\prime}} B$ is a subgroup of $G$. But $N$ is not contained in $B$, so $A_{p^{\prime}} B$ is a proper subgroup of $G$. Since $N A_{p^{\prime}} B=G$, it follows that $N \cap A_{p^{\prime}} B=N \cap B$ is normal in $G$. The minimality of $N$ implies that $N=N \cap B$ or $N \cap B=1$. If $N=N \cap B$, we get a contradiction with (d). Therefore $N \cap B=1$, and then $A \cap B \leqslant N \cap B=1$, contradicting (b).

Proof of Theorem C. Assume the result is not true and let $G$ be a minimal counterexample. It is clear that $G^{\prime} \neq 1, A$ and $B$ are proper subgroups of $G$, and $G$ is a primitive soluble group. Hence there exists a unique minimal normal subgroup $N$ of $G$, such that $N=F(G)=C_{G}(N)$. Moreover, $G^{\prime}=N$. We may assume that $A^{\prime} \neq 1$ and $B^{\prime} \neq 1$, otherwise $A$ or $B$ is nilpotent and the result follows from Corollary B. If $A \cap B=1$, then $G$ is the mutually $s n$-permutable product of $A$ and $B$. By [1, Theorem C], the group is supersoluble, a contradiction. Thus we may assume $A \cap B \neq 1$. Since $A$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $B$ and $B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$, it follows that $A \cap B$ permutes with every Sylow subgroup of $A$ and every Sylow subgroup of $B$. Hence $A \cap B$ is subnormal in $A$ and it is a subnormal subgroup of $B$. Let $N_{1}$ denote a minimal normal subgroup of $A$ such that $N_{1} \leq A^{\prime}$. Since $A$ is supersoluble, it is clear that $\left|N_{1}\right|=p$. Note that $N_{1}(A \cap B)$ is a subnormal subgroup of $A$. Therefore $B N_{1}(A \cap B)=B N_{1}$ is a subgroup of $G$. Now $1 \neq N_{1}^{G}=N_{1}^{B} \leq B N_{1}$. Hence $N \leq B N_{1}$ and then $N=N_{1}(N \cap B)$. Consequently, either $N_{1} \leq N \cap B$ or $N_{1} \leq N \cap B$. Denote $T=B N$. If $N_{1} \leq N \cap B$, then $T=B$ is a supersoluble normal subgroup of $G$. Assume $N_{1} \cap(N \cap B)=1$. Then $N \cap B$ is a maximal subgroup of $N$ and so $T$ is the weakly mutually $s n$-permutable product of $B$ and $N$. Consequently, $T$ satisfies the hypotheses of the theorem. If $T$ is a proper subgroup of $G$, then $T=B N$ is supersoluble. Assume that $G=B N$. Then $B$ is a maximal subgroup of $G$ such that $B \cap N=1, B^{\prime} \leq N \cap B=1$ and $B$ is nilpotent. By Corollary $\mathrm{B}, G$ is supersoluble, contrary to assumption. Hence either $B$ is a normal subgroup of $G$ or $B N$ is a supersoluble normal subgroup of $G$.

Arguing in an analogous manner with $A$ shows that if $A N$ is a proper subgroup of $G$, then it is supersoluble. Consequently if $B N$ and $A N$ are both proper subgroups of $G$, then $G$ is the product of two supersoluble normal subgroups with $G^{\prime}$ nilpotent. Then $G$ is supersoluble, a contradiction. Therefore we may assume that $G=B N$ or $G=A N$. Suppose without loss of generality that $G=B N$. Then $N \cap B$ is a normal subgroup of $G$. If $N \cap B=N$, then $G=B$, a contradiction. Hence $N \cap B=1$. Now $B^{\prime} \leq N \cap B=1$ and $B$ is nilpotent, the final contradiction.

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