

## Moufang semidirect products of loops with groups and inverse property extensions

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*Abstract.* We investigate loops which can be written as the semidirect product of a loop and a group, and we provide a necessary and sufficient condition for such a loop to be Moufang. We also examine a class of loop extensions which arise as a result of a finite cyclic group acting as a group of semiautomorphisms on an inverse property loop. In particular, we consider closure properties of certain extensions similar to those as in [S. Gagola III, *Cyclic extensions of Moufang loops induced by semiautomorphisms*, J. Algebra Appl. **13** (2014), no. 4, 1350128], but from an external point of view.

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### 1. Introduction

A loop  $(Q, \cdot)$  consists of a set  $Q$  with a binary operation  $\cdot : Q \times Q \rightarrow Q$  such that (i) for all  $a, b \in Q$ , the equations  $ax = b$  and  $ya = b$  have unique solutions  $x, y \in Q$ , and (ii) there exists  $1 \in Q$  such that  $1x = x1 = x$  for all  $x \in Q$ . We denote these unique solutions by  $x = a \setminus b$  and  $y = b / a$ , respectively. Standard references in loop theory are [2], [12]. All loops considered here are finite loops.

If  $G$ ,  $N$ , and  $H$  are groups, then  $G$  is an *extension* of  $H$  by  $N$  if  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/N \simeq H$ . Extensions of groups are of great interest in group theory. Of particular interest are the ideas of *internal* and *external* semidirect products of groups. That is, for  $G = NH$  with  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \cap H = 1$ , the structure of  $G$  is uniquely determined by  $N$ ,  $H$ , and the action of  $H$  on  $N$  by conjugation. In this case,  $G$  is the *internal semidirect product of  $H$  acting on  $N$* . Alternatively, given groups  $N$  and  $H$  and a group homomorphism  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$  from  $H$  into the group of automorphisms of  $N$ , one can construct the external semidirect product  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  in a standard way: namely,  $G = \{(n, h) \mid n \in N, h \in H\}$  with multiplication defined by  $(n_1, h_1)(n_2, h_2) = (n_1\phi(h_1)(n_2), h_1h_2)$ . Note that for all  $h \in H$ ,  $\phi(h)$  corresponds to conjugation by  $h$  in  $N$ . There is a natural equivalence between internal and external semidirect products of groups, and both are usually referred to as *semidirect products*.

Now, let  $N$  be a loop and  $H$  a group. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Sym}(N)$  be a group homomorphism from  $H$  into the symmetric group on  $N$ . Then, the external

semidirect product  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is the quasigroup defined as  $G = \{(x, g) \mid x \in N, g \in H\}$  with multiplication given by

$$(1) \quad (x, g)(y, h) = (x\phi(g)(y), gh).$$

Such semidirect products have been studied in [8]. Note that if  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Sym}(N)_1$ , where  $\text{Sym}(N)_1$  is the stabilizer of 1 in  $\text{Sym}(N)$ , then  $G$  is a loop. In general, properties of the loop  $N$  do not necessarily extend to all of  $G$ . For example, if  $N$  is a Moufang loop,  $G$  need not be Moufang, even in the case that  $H$  acts on  $N$  as a group of automorphisms.

In §2, we provide a necessary and sufficient condition on  $N$  and  $\phi$  in order for  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  to be a Moufang loop (Theorem 5). We also provide an example which shows that it is possible to satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 5.

In [7], the author studies Moufang loops that can be written as the product of a normal Moufang subloop and a cyclic subgroup. There it is shown that given a Moufang loop  $G = NH$ , where  $N$  is a normal subloop and  $H$  is a cyclic subgroup of order coprime to 3, the multiplication in  $G$  is completely determined by a particular semiautomorphism of  $N$ . Conversely, the author notes that an arbitrary extension of a cyclic group of order coprime to 3 by a Moufang loop (with multiplication given as in the conclusion of Theorem 8) is not necessarily Moufang. In §3, our approach is to consider the *external* extension of a cyclic group  $H$  (whose order is not divisible by 3) by a loop  $N$  with multiplication defined as in [7]. In particular, we show that the class of IP loops is closed under such extensions (Theorem 10). We conclude with examples which illustrate that, in general, certain classes of loops (*i.e.* diassociative loops, power associative loops, flexible loops, etc.) are not closed under such extensions.

## 2. Semidirect products and Moufang loops

Throughout juxtaposition binds more tightly than an explicit  $\cdot$  so that, for instance,  $xy \cdot z$  means  $(xy)z$ . For  $x \in Q$ , where  $Q$  is a loop, define the *right* and *left translations* by  $x$  by, respectively,  $R_x(y) = yx$  and  $L_x(y) = xy$  for all  $y \in Q$ . The fact that these mappings are permutations of  $Q$  follows easily from the definition of a loop. It is easy to see that  $L_x^{-1}(y) = x \setminus y$  and  $R_x^{-1}(y) = y / x$ . We define the *multiplication group of  $Q$* ,  $\text{Mlt}(Q) = \langle L_x, R_x \mid \forall x \in Q \rangle$  and the *inner mapping group of  $Q$* ,  $\text{Mlt}(Q)_1 = \text{Inn}(Q) = \{\theta \in \text{Mlt}(Q) \mid \theta(1) = 1\}$ , the stabilizer of  $1 \in Q$ .

A bijection  $f : Q \rightarrow Q$  is a *semiautomorphism* of  $Q$  if (i)  $f(1) = 1$  and (ii)  $f(xy) = f(x)(f(y)f(x))$ . The *semiautomorphism group of  $Q$* ,  $\text{SemiAut}(Q)$  is defined as the set of semiautomorphisms of  $Q$  under composition. The following proposition will be helpful throughout.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $Q$  be a loop with two-sided inverses (i.e.  $1 \setminus x = 1/x = x^{-1}$  for all  $x \in Q$ ) and  $f \in \text{SemiAut}(Q)$ . Then for all  $x \in Q$ ,  $f(x^{-1}) = (f(x))^{-1}$ .*

PROOF: Since  $f$  is a semiautomorphism,  $f(x) = f(x \cdot (x^{-1}x)) = f(x)(f(x^{-1})f(x))$ . Canceling gives  $f(x)^{-1} = f(x^{-1})$ . □

*Moufang loops*, which are easily the most studied class of loops, are defined by any one of the following four equivalent identities:

$$\begin{aligned} (xy)(zx) &= x(yz \cdot x) & (xy)(zx) &= (x \cdot yz)x \\ (xy \cdot x)z &= x(y \cdot xz) & (zx \cdot y)x &= z(x \cdot yx). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, Moufang loops are *diassociative* (i.e. every subloop generated by two elements is a group). If  $Q$  is Moufang, then  $\text{Inn}(Q) \leq \text{SemiAut}(Q)$  [1].

The following shows that if  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is Moufang, then  $H$  acts on  $N$  as a group of automorphisms.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $N$  be a loop and  $H$  a group. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Sym}(N)_1$  be a group homomorphism. If  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is Moufang, then  $\phi(H) \subseteq \text{Aut}(N)$ .*

PROOF: Since  $G$  is Moufang,  $(xy)(zx) = x((yz)x)$  for all  $x, y, z \in G$ . Therefore for any  $h \in H$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} [(x, 1_H)(1, h)][(z, 1_H)(x, 1_H)] &= (x, 1_H)[(1, h)(z, 1_H) \cdot (x, 1_H)] & \Leftrightarrow \\ (x \cdot \phi(h)(zx), h) &= (x \cdot \phi(h)(z)\phi(h)(x), h) \end{aligned}$$

Cancellation gives  $\phi(h)(zx) = \phi(h)(z)\phi(h)(x)$ . □

A loop  $Q$  is an *inverse property* loop (or IP loop) if  $x$  has a two-sided inverse for all  $x \in Q$ , and  $(yx^{-1})x = y = x(x^{-1}y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in Q$ .

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $N$  be an IP loop. Then there exists  $f \in \text{Aut}(N)$  such that*

$$(*) \quad (xy)(zf(x)) = x(yz \cdot f(x))$$

for all  $x, y, z \in N$  if and only if  $N$  is Moufang.

PROOF: Firstly, if  $N$  is Moufang, then the trivial isomorphism satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . Conversely, let  $f \in \text{Aut}(N)$  such that  $(*)$  holds for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . Note that setting  $z = 1$  in  $(*)$  gives

$$(2) \quad x \cdot yf(x) = xy \cdot f(x).$$

Since  $f$  is an automorphism and the above holds for all  $x \in N$ , replacing  $x$  with  $f^{-1}(x)$  yields

$$(3) \quad f^{-1}(x) \cdot yx = f^{-1}(x)y \cdot x.$$

Now, compute

$$\begin{aligned} (x \cdot zf(x))f(y) &= [x \cdot (y \cdot y^{-1}z)f(x)]f(y) \stackrel{(*)}{=} [(xy)(y^{-1}z \cdot f(x))]f(y) \\ &= [(xy)(y^{-1}z \cdot f(x))](f(x)^{-1} \cdot f(xy)) \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{=} (xy)[(y^{-1}z \cdot f(x))f(x)^{-1} \cdot f(xy)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (xy) \cdot (y^{-1}z)f(xy) \stackrel{(*)}{=} (xy \cdot y^{-1}) \cdot zf(xy) \\
&= x \cdot zf(xy).
\end{aligned}$$

As before, replacing  $x$  with  $f^{-1}(x)$  yields

$$(4) \quad (f^{-1}(x) \cdot zx)f(y) = f^{-1}(x) \cdot (z \cdot xf(y)).$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(x \cdot f^{-1}(y)z)(yf(x)) &\stackrel{(*)}{=} x[(f^{-1}(y)z \cdot y)f(x)] \stackrel{(3)}{=} x[(f^{-1}(y) \cdot zy)f(x)] \\
&\stackrel{(4)}{=} x[f^{-1}(y) \cdot (z \cdot yf(x))].
\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by  $f^{-1}(y)$  on the left gives

$$(5) \quad f^{-1}(y)[x \cdot f^{-1}(y)(z \cdot yf(x))] = f^{-1}(y)[(x \cdot f^{-1}(y)z)(yf(x))].$$

Now, compute

$$\begin{aligned}
f^{-1}(y)x \cdot z(yf(x)) &= f^{-1}(y)x \cdot zf(f^{-1}(y)x) \\
&= f^{-1}(y)x \cdot (x^{-1} \cdot xz)f(f^{-1}(y)x) \\
&\stackrel{(*)}{=} (f^{-1}(y)x \cdot x^{-1})(xz \cdot f(f^{-1}(y)x)) \\
&= f^{-1}(y)[xz \cdot yf(x)].
\end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $z$  with  $f^{-1}(y)z$  gives

$$(6) \quad (f^{-1}(y)x) \cdot (f^{-1}(y)z) \cdot (yf(x)) = f^{-1}(y)[(x \cdot f^{-1}(y)z) \cdot (yf(x))].$$

Combining (5) and (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f^{-1}(y)[x \cdot f^{-1}(y)(z \cdot yf(x))] &\stackrel{(5)}{=} f^{-1}(y)[(x \cdot f^{-1}(y)z) \cdot (yf(x))] \\
&\stackrel{(6)}{=} (f^{-1}(y)x)[f^{-1}(y)z \cdot yf(x)].
\end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $y$  with  $f(y)$  yields

$$(7) \quad y \cdot x(y \cdot zf(yx)) = yx \cdot (yz \cdot f(yx)).$$

Finally, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(xy \cdot x)z &= (xy \cdot x) \cdot (zf(xy)^{-1})f(xy) \stackrel{(*)}{=} xy \cdot [(x \cdot zf(xy)^{-1})f(xy)] \\
&\stackrel{(7)}{=} x \cdot y(x \cdot (zf(xy)^{-1} \cdot f(xy))) \\
&= x(y \cdot xz).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $N$  is Moufang. □

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $N$  be a loop. Then  $N$  is Moufang if and only if there exists some  $f \in \text{Aut}(N)$  which satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $x, y, z \in N$ .*

PROOF: As before, if  $N$  is Moufang, then the trivial automorphism satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . Conversely, suppose there exists an  $f \in \text{Aut}(N)$  that satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . By Lemma 3, it is enough to show that  $N$  is an IP loop. As before, we have

$$(2) \quad x \cdot yf(x) = xy \cdot f(x),$$

$$(3) \quad f^{-1}(x) \cdot yx = f^{-1}(x)y \cdot x.$$

Moreover,  $f(x) = (x \cdot x \setminus 1)f(x) = x \cdot (x \setminus 1)f(x)$ , implying  $x \setminus f(x) = x \setminus 1 \cdot f(x)$ . Applying  $f^{-1}$  yields

$$f^{-1}(x) \setminus x = f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1 \cdot x.$$

We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{(f^{-1}(x) \setminus x)(x \setminus 1)} &= [(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \cdot x](x \setminus 1) = [(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \cdot x] \cdot f(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \\ &\stackrel{(2)}{=} (f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1)(x \cdot f(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1)) = (f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \cdot x(x \setminus 1) \\ &= f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} x &= f^{-1}(x)(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \cdot x \stackrel{(3)}{=} f^{-1}(x) \underline{(f^{-1}(x) \setminus 1) \cdot x} \\ &= f^{-1}(x)[(f^{-1}(x) \setminus x)(x \setminus 1) \cdot x] = f^{-1}(x)[(f^{-1}(x) \setminus x)(x \setminus 1) \cdot f(f^{-1}(x))] \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{=} [f^{-1}(x)(f^{-1}(x) \setminus x)] \cdot [(x \setminus 1)(f(f^{-1}(x)))] = x \cdot (x \setminus 1)x. \end{aligned}$$

This immediately implies  $1/x = x \setminus 1 = x^{-1}$ .

To show that  $N$  is IP, observe that

$$xy \cdot f(x) = x \cdot yf(x) = x[x^{-1}(x^{-1} \setminus y) \cdot f(x)] \stackrel{(*)}{=} xx^{-1} \cdot (x^{-1} \setminus y)f(x) = (x^{-1} \setminus y)f(x),$$

which implies  $xy = x^{-1} \setminus y$ . Hence,  $x^{-1} \cdot xy = y$ .

To show that  $yx \cdot x^{-1} = y$ , note that  $y^{-1} \cdot yx = x$  implies  $x/(yx) = y^{-1}$ . Also note that  $(*)$  is equivalent to  $[x \cdot (yz \cdot f(x))]/(zf(x)) = xy$ . Using these two identities combined with  $x^{-1} \cdot xy = y$ , we have

$$y^{-1} = f((xy)^{-1})/[yf((xy)^{-1})] = [(xy)^{-1} \cdot (xy \cdot f((xy)^{-1}))]/[yf((xy)^{-1})] = (xy)^{-1}x.$$

Hence,  $xy \cdot y^{-1} = (xy)[(xy)^{-1}x] = x$ . □

Theorem 4 yields an equivalent definition for a loop to be Moufang in terms of the behavior of one of its automorphisms. In the same spirit, the next theorem

gives a necessary and sufficient condition for a semidirect product of a loop and group to be Moufang.

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $N$  be a loop and  $H$  a group. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Sym}(N)_1$  be a group homomorphism. Then  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is a Moufang loop if and only if  $\phi(H) \subseteq \text{Aut}(N)$  and  $\phi(h)$  satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $h \in H$  and for all  $x, y, z \in N$ .*

PROOF: Suppose  $\phi(H) \subseteq \text{Aut}(N)$  and  $\phi(h)$  satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $h \in H$  and for all  $x, y, z \in N$ , and let  $(x, g), (y, h), (z, k) \in G$ . Then, by hypothesis,

$$[x\phi(g)(y)] \cdot [\phi(gh)(z)\phi(ghk)(x)] \stackrel{(*)}{=} x[\phi(g)(y)\phi(gh)(z) \cdot \phi(ghk)(x)].$$

Hence,

$$([x\phi(g)(y)] \cdot [\phi(gh)(z)\phi(ghk)(x)], ghkg) = (x[\phi(g)(y)\phi(gh)(z) \cdot \phi(ghk)(x)], ghkg),$$

and thus

$$[(x, g)(y, h)][(z, k)(x, g)] = (x, g) \cdot [(y, h)(z, k) \cdot (x, g)],$$

which shows that  $G$  is Moufang.

Conversely, if  $G$  is Moufang, then by Lemma 2 we have  $\phi(H) \subseteq \text{Aut}(N)$ . Therefore

$$[(x, 1_H)(y, 1_H)][(z, h)(x, 1_H)] = (x, 1_H)[(y, 1_H)(z, h) \cdot (x, 1_H)],$$

which is equivalent to

$$(xy \cdot z\phi(h)(x), h) = (x(yz \cdot \phi(h)(x)), h).$$

Hence,  $\phi(h)$  satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $h \in H$ , for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . □

Note that if  $N = \text{MoufangLoop}(12, 1)$ , then it can be verified that there are no nontrivial automorphisms  $f \in \text{Aut}(N)$  which satisfy  $(*)$  for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . Hence, for  $H$  a group and  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$  a nontrivial group homomorphism, then  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is not Moufang, which shows that the converse of Lemma 2 is false. The next example illustrates that Theorem 5 can hold nontrivially.

*Example 6.* Let  $N = \text{MoufangLoop}(16, 1)$  and  $H$  a group of order 2. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$  be a group homomorphism with  $\phi(H) = \langle (2, 6) (3, 7) (10, 14) (11, 15) \rangle$ . It can be verified that  $\phi(h)$  satisfies  $(*)$  for all  $h \in H$  and for all  $x, y, z \in N$ . Then  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is a Moufang loop of order 32 ( $\text{MoufangLoop}(32, 18)$ ).

We end this section by showing that the class of IP loops is closed under semidirect products with groups acting as automorphisms.

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $N$  be a loop and  $H$  a group. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$  be a group homomorphism. Then  $G = N \rtimes_{\phi} H$  is an IP loop if and only if  $N$  is an IP loop.*

PROOF: Clearly, if  $G$  is IP, then  $N$  is IP. Conversely, if  $N$  is IP,  $x^{-1}$  and  $g^{-1}$  exist for all  $x \in N$  and  $g \in G$ . It is easy to verify that  $(x, g)^{-1} = (\phi(g^{-1})(x^{-1}), g^{-1})$ . To show  $G$  is IP, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} (x, g)^{-1}[(x, g)(y, h)] &= (\phi(g^{-1})(x^{-1}), g^{-1})(x \cdot \phi(g)(y), gh) \\ &= (\phi(g^{-1})(x^{-1}) \cdot \phi(g^{-1})[x \cdot \phi(g)(y)], g^{-1}gh) \\ &= ((\phi(g^{-1})(x))^{-1}[\phi(g^{-1})(x) \cdot y], h) \\ &= (y, h). \\ [(y, h)(x, g)](x, g)^{-1} &= (y \cdot \phi(h)(x), hg)(\phi(g^{-1})(x^{-1}), g^{-1}) \\ &= ([y \cdot \phi(h)(x)]\phi(hg)(\phi(g^{-1})(x^{-1})), hgg^{-1}) \\ &= ([y \cdot \phi(h)(x)](\phi(h)(x))^{-1}, h) \\ &= (y, h). \end{aligned}$$

□

### 3. Extensions and inverse property loops

We now turn our attention to extensions of loops as considered in [7].

**Theorem 8** ([7]). *Suppose  $G = NH$  is a Moufang loop, where  $N$  is a normal subloop of  $G$  and  $H = \langle u \rangle$  is a finite cyclic subgroup of  $G$  whose order is coprime to 3. Then for any  $xu^m, yu^n \in G$  where  $x, y \in N$ , we have*

$$(8) \quad (xu^m)(yu^n) = f^{\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{-2m-n}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{m-n}{3}}(y))u^{m+n},$$

where

$$f : N \rightarrow N \quad x \rightarrow xux^{-1}$$

is a semiautomorphism of  $N$ . Moreover,  $G$  is a group if and only if  $N$  is a group and  $f$  is an automorphism of  $N$ .

Note that if  $H = \langle u \rangle \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$ , then the multiplication in  $G$  given by (8) is

$$xu \cdot y = xf(y) \cdot u, \quad x \cdot yu = f(f(x)f(y)) \cdot u, \quad xu \cdot yu = f(f(x)y),$$

for all  $x, y \in N$ . Hence, multiplication in such a loop  $G$  is easily seen to be equivalent to the multiplication given in [4, Lemma 1, p.21]. These types of extensions have been well-studied, see [3], [4], [5].

*Example 9.* A loop  $Q$  is said to be a *semiautomorphic, inverse property loop* (or just semiautomorphic IP loop) if

- (1)  $Q$  is flexible; that is,  $(xy)x = x(yx)$  for all  $x, y \in Q$ ;
- (2)  $Q$  is an IP loop; and
- (3) every inner mapping is a semiautomorphism.

It is known that Moufang loops are semiautomorphic IP loops and that semiautomorphic IP loops are diassociative loops [9]. Let  $N$  be a semiautomorphic IP loop and  $H = \langle u \rangle$  have order 2, and let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  be the group

homomorphism such that  $\phi(u)(x) = x^{-1}$  for all  $x \in N$ . Then  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  with multiplication extended by (8) is a semiautomorphic IP loop (see [5]), but not necessarily Moufang, since it is shown in [4] that  $G$  is Moufang if and only if  $N$  is a group.

Here, we consider the *external* viewpoint. That is, the external extension of a cyclic group  $H = \langle u \rangle$  by a loop  $N$  with  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  a group homomorphism. We extend the multiplication from  $N$  to  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  as

$$(9) \quad (x, u^m)(y, u^n) = (f^{\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{\frac{-2m-n}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)), u^{m+n}),$$

where  $f(x) = \phi(u)(x)$ . As the previous example shows, if  $N$  is Moufang,  $G$  need not be Moufang. However, as the next theorem illustrates, the class of IP loops is closed under such extensions.

**Theorem 10.** *Let  $N$  be a loop,  $H = \langle u \rangle$  a cyclic group, and let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  be a group homomorphism. If  $|\phi(u)|$  is coprime to 3, define an extension  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  with multiplication given by*

$$(x, u^m)(y, u^n) = (f^{\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{\frac{-2m-n}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)), u^{m+n}),$$

where  $f(x) = \phi(u)(x)$ . Then  $G$  is an IP loop if and only if  $N$  is an IP loop.

PROOF: Clearly,  $N$  is an IP loop if  $G$  is an IP loop. Now, suppose  $N$  is an IP loop. Note that since the order of  $f$  in  $\text{SemiAut}(N)$  is coprime to 3,  $f$  must have a unique cubed root, denoted by  $f^{\frac{1}{3}}$ . It is clear that  $G$  is a loop with identity  $(1, u^0)$ . For  $(x, u^m) \in G$ , consider the element  $(f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m})$ . Note that this is well-defined, since  $N$  is an IP loop and  $H$  is a group. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} (x, u^m)(f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m}) &= (f^{\frac{2m-m}{3}}(f^{\frac{-2m+m}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{m+m}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{m}{3}}(f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(x^{-1})), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{m}{3}}(f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(x)(f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(x))^{-1}), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{m}{3}}(1), u^0) \\ &= (1, u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(1), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{-m}{3}}((f^{\frac{-2m}{3}}(x))^{-1}f^{\frac{-2m}{3}}(x)), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{-m}{3}}(f^{\frac{-2m}{3}}(x^{-1})f^{\frac{-2m}{3}}(x)), u^0) \\ &= (f^{\frac{-2m+m}{3}}(f^{\frac{2m-m}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1})f^{\frac{-m-m}{3}}(x))), u^0) \\ &= (f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m})(x, u^m). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $G$  has two sided inverses for all  $(x, u^m) \in G$ , namely

$$(x, u^m)^{-1} = (f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m}).$$



To show that  $G$  is an IP loop, we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (x, u^m)[(f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m})(y, u^n)] \\
 &= (x, u^m)(f^{-\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{\frac{2m-n}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)), u^{-m+n}) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x)[f^{\frac{2m-n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{\frac{2m-n}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)))]), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x)[(f^{\frac{2m-n}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)]), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x)[f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x^{-1})f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)]), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x)[(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(x))^{-1}f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)]), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{m+n}{3}}(f^{-\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)), u^n) \\
 &= (y, u^n).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [(y, u^n)(f^{-m}(x^{-1}), u^{-m})](x, u^m) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}[f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y)f^{\frac{n+m}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))], u^{n-m})(x, u^m) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}[f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}[f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y)f^{\frac{n+m}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1}))])f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x)], u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}([(f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y)f^{\frac{n+m}{3}}(f^{-m}(x^{-1})))]f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x)), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}([f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y)f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x^{-1})]f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x)), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}([f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y)(f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x))^{-1}]f^{\frac{n-2m}{3}}(x)), u^n) \\
 &= (f^{\frac{2n-m}{3}}(f^{-\frac{2n+m}{3}}(y), u^n) \\
 &= (y, u^n). \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

The next two examples illustrate that if certain stronger conditions are imposed on  $N$ , then an extension as in Theorem 10 need not inherit a similar structure.

*Example 11.* Let  $N$  be the quaternion group of order 8 (`GAP SmallGroup(8,4)`) and  $H$  a group of order 2. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  a group homomorphism with  $\phi(H) = \langle (2,5) (6,8) \rangle$ . Then the extension  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  as in Theorem 10 is a power-associative (the subloop generated by  $x$  is associative for all  $x \in G$ ), IP loop. It can be verified that  $G$  is neither flexible nor diassociative, although it is clear that  $N$  has both properties.

*Steiner loops*, which arise from Steiner triple systems in combinatorics, are loops satisfying the identities  $xy = yx$ ,  $x(yx) = y$ . In particular, Steiner loops are semiautomorphic IP loops.

*Example 12.* Let  $N$  be a Steiner loop of order 8 (`SteinerLoop(8,1)`) and  $H = \langle u \rangle$  a group of order 4. Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  be a group homomorphism with  $\phi(H) = \langle (2,4,8,3) \rangle$ . Then the extension  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  as in Theorem 10 is an

IP loop of order 32 that is neither power-associative nor flexible, although it is clear that  $N$  has both properties.

**Corollary 13.** *Let  $N$  be a Moufang loop,  $H = \langle u \rangle$  a cyclic group, and let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{SemiAut}(N)$  be a group homomorphism. If  $|\phi(u)|$  is coprime to 3, define an extension  $G = (N, H, \phi)$  with multiplication given by*

$$(x, u^m)(y, u^n) = (f^{\frac{2m+n}{3}}(f^{\frac{-2m-n}{3}}(x)f^{\frac{m-n}{3}}(y)), u^{m+n}),$$

where  $f(x) = \phi(u)(x)$ . Then  $G$  is an IP loop.

PROOF: Since Moufang loops are IP loops, the desired result follows from Theorem 10.  $\square$

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