

## RELATIVE RELATION MODULES OF FINITE ELEMENTARY ABELIAN $p$ -GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $E$  be a free product of a finite number of cyclic groups, and  $S$  a normal subgroup of  $E$  such that  $E/S \cong G$  is finite. For a prime  $p$ ,  $\hat{S} = S/S' S^p$  may be regarded as an  $F_p G$ -module via conjugation in  $E$ . The aim of this article is to prove that  $\hat{S}$  is decomposable into two indecomposable modules for finite elementary abelian  $p$ -groups  $G$ .

### 1. Introduction

Consider a short exact sequence  $1 \rightarrow S \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{\psi} G \rightarrow 1$ , where  $G$  is a finite group of order  $n$  generated by  $X = \{g_i : 1 \leq i \leq d\}$ . Let  $E$  be a free product of cyclic groups  $E_i$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Let  $p$  be a (fixed) prime, and  $F_p$  the field of  $p$ -elements. If  $E$  is a free group,  $\hat{S} = S/S' S^p$ , regarded as an  $F_p G$ -module, is known as a relation module of  $G$ . In general  $\hat{S}$  is called a relative relation module, and it is said to be minimal if it cannot be generated by fewer than  $d$  elements.

Gaschutz [1], Gruenberg [2], Kovacs and Stohr [4], Mittal and Passi [5], and others have studied relation modules. Relative relation modules have been studied by Kimmerle [3], Yamin [8, 9], and Sharma and Yamin [7]. As a direct consequence of ([2, Theorem 2.9]), minimal relation modules of  $p$ -groups are non-projective and indecomposable. Yamin [8] has proved that relative relation modules of  $p$ -groups are non-projective. Kimmerle [3] has proved that minimal relative relation modules of finite  $p$ -groups are indecomposable if  $\delta = 1$ . The same result has been proved by Yamin [9] for  $\delta = d$ . If  $G$  is a finite elementary abelian  $p$ -group, in this article, we prove that  $\hat{S}$  is decomposable into two indecomposable modules for  $1 < \delta < d$ .

Throughout this article, concepts related with groups and their representations are used mainly from Robinson [6], often without reference.

Let  $G_i$  be the cyclic subgroup of  $G$  generated by  $g_i$  of order  $n_i$  and  $E_i$  be the cyclic group generated by  $e_i$  of order  $m_i$ , where  $m_i = k_i n_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Let

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$p$  be fixed prime and  $F_p$  the field of  $p$ -elements. Let  $k_i < \infty$  and  $p \nmid k_i$  if  $i \leq \delta$  and  $\delta \leq d$ , and  $k_i = \infty$  or  $p \mid k_i$  if  $\delta + 1 \leq i \leq d$ .

For an  $F_p G$ -module  $V$ , define  $\varphi V$  to be the smallest submodule of  $V$  such that  $V/\varphi V$  is completely reducible. Equivalently,  $\varphi V$  is the intersection of all maximal submodules of  $V$ . Set  $\varphi^0 V = V$ ,  $\varphi^k V = \varphi(\varphi^{k-1} V)$ . ( $\{\varphi^k V\}$  is known as the Loewy series of  $V$ .) From ([8, Prop 2.10]), we have an  $F_p G$  exact sequence:

$$(1.1) \quad 1 \rightarrow \hat{S} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \underline{g}_i^G \oplus \bigoplus_{i=\delta+1}^d b_i F_p G \xrightarrow{\hat{\psi}} \underline{g} \rightarrow 1,$$

where  $\underline{g}$ , which is same as  $\varphi F_p G$ , denotes the augmentation ideal of  $F_p G$  and  $\underline{g}_i^G$  that of  $b_i F_p G_i$  induced to  $G$ . Moreover  $\hat{\psi}$  is determined by  $b_i(1 - g_i) \rightarrow 1 - g_i$  if  $1 \leq i \leq \delta$ , and  $b_i \rightarrow 1 - g_i$  if  $1 + \delta \leq i \leq d$ .

### 2. Structure of relative relation modules

**Theorem 2.1.** *If  $G$  is a finite elementary abelian  $p$ -group and  $1 < \delta < d$ , then  $\hat{S}$  is decomposable into two indecomposable modules.*

In order to prove the theorem, we shall construct a minimal generating set for  $\hat{S}$ . For, we need certain bases for the Loewy factors of  $b_i F_p G$  and  $\underline{g}_i^G$ .

Let

$$B_i = \begin{cases} \underline{g}_i^G & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \delta, \\ b_i F_p G & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases} \text{ and } B = \bigoplus_{i=1}^d B_i.$$

Let

$$Y = \{y : y \in b_i F_p G; y = \prod_{i=1}^d (1 - g_i)^{\mu_i}, (1 - g_i)^0 = 1, g_i \in X, 0 \leq \mu_i \leq n_i - 1\}.$$

Clearly,  $Y$  is a set of non-zero and distinct elements of  $F_p G$  and  $|Y| = |G|$ . Then it can be checked that  $Y$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $F_p G$ . Now, for  $y \in Y$ , define  $\sum_{i=1}^d \mu_i$  as the length of  $y$ . It is easy to observe that the length of  $y$  varies from 0 to  $l = d(p - 1)$ . Corresponding to each  $k$ , let  $Y_k$  be the set of all elements of  $Y$  of length  $k$ . Then it is easy to ckeck that  $Y_k$  is a minimal generating set of  $\varphi^k(F_p G)$ , and  $\{y + \varphi^{k+1} F_p G : y \in Y_k\}$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $\varphi^k(F_p G) / \varphi^{k+1}(F_p G)$ .

For a fixed  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq \delta$ , let  $Z^i = \{z \mid z = b_i(1 - g_i)y, y \in Y \text{ and } (1 - g_i)y \neq 0\}$ . Clearly,  $(1 - g_i)y = 0$  if and only if  $y = (1 - g_i)^{p-1}y'$  for some  $y' \in Y$ . The number of such  $y$  is exactly  $p^{n-1}$ . Therefore,  $|Z^i| = p^n - p^{n-1} = p^{n-1}(p - 1) = \dim(B_i)$ . In fact  $Z^i$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $B_i$ , and  $Z_k^i$ , the set of all elements of  $Z^i$  of length  $k$ , is a minimal generating set of  $\varphi^{k-1} B_i$ . Similarly, for a fixed  $i$ ,  $\delta + 1 \leq i \leq d$ , the set  $Z^i = \{b_i y, y \in Y\}$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $b_i F_p G$  and  $Z_k^i$  is a minimal generating set of  $\varphi^k B_i$ .

Let  $Z = \cup_{i=1}^d Z^i$  and  $Z_{k+1} = \cup_{i=1}^d Z_{k+1}^i$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq l - 1$ . Then it is easy to see that  $Z$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $B$  and  $Z_{k+1}$  is a minimal generating set of  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^k B_i \oplus \bigoplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+1} B_i$ .

*Remark.* The Loewy length of  $B_i = \begin{cases} l & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \delta; \\ l + 1 & \text{for } 1 + \delta \leq i \leq d. \end{cases}$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $X_1 = \{(b_i - b_j)(1 - g_i)(1 - g_j), 1 \leq i < j \leq \delta\}$  and  $X_2 = \{b_i(1 - g_j) - b_j(1 - g_i), b_i(1 - g_i)^{n_i-1}, 1 + \delta \leq i < j \leq d\}$ . Then  $X_1 \cup X_2$  is a minimal generating set of  $\hat{S}$ .*

*Proof.* Firstly, we note that  $|X_1 \cup X_2| = \frac{1}{2}\delta(\delta - 1) + \frac{1}{2}(d - \delta)(d - \delta + 1)$ . Now we show that  $X_1 \cup X_2$  generate  $\hat{S}$ . If  $V$  is any submodule generated by  $X_1 \cup X_2$ , then  $V \subseteq \hat{S}$ . For the other inclusion, since  $\oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^k B_i \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+1} B_i = \{0\}$ , when  $k = l$ , therefore it is sufficient to show that an arbitrary element of  $\hat{S}$  can be expressed as a sum of an element of  $V$  and an element of  $\oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^k B_i \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+1} B_i$  for all  $k, 0 \leq k \leq l$ . We shall show this by induction on  $k$ . The result is obviously true for  $k = 0$ . Let  $x \in \hat{S}$ , and for a fixed  $k, 0 \leq k \leq l - 1$ , suppose that  $x = v + x', v \in V$  and  $x' \in \oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^k B_i \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+1} B_i$ . To complete the induction argument, we shall show that  $x' = x_0 + x_1$  for some  $x_0 \in V$  and  $x_1 \in \oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^{k+1} B_i \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+2} B_i$ .

Writing  $x'$  as a linear combination of an element of  $Z_{k+1}$  and then rewriting each element of  $F_p G$  as a sum of an element of  $F_p$  and an element of  $\underline{g}$ , we have

$$x' = \sum a_{\lambda_1} b_1 (1 - g_1) y_{\lambda_1} + \dots + \sum a_{\lambda_{\delta}} b_{\delta} (1 - g_{\delta}) y_{\lambda_{\delta}} + \sum a_{\lambda_{\delta+1}} b_{\delta+1} y'_{\lambda_{\delta+1}} + \dots + \sum a_{\lambda_d} b_d y'_{\lambda_d} + x_1,$$

where  $a_{\lambda_i} \in F_p, y_{\lambda_i} \in Y_k, y'_j \in Y_{k+1}$  and  $x_1 \in \oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^{k+1} B_i \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+2} B_i$ . Clearly,  $(1 - g_i) y_{\lambda_i} \in Y_{k+1}$ , however they need not be distinct if  $x_{\lambda} = (1 - g_i) y_{\lambda_i} = (1 - g_j) y_{\lambda_j} = \dots = (1 - g_r) y_{\lambda_r} = (1 - g_s) y_{\lambda_s} = y'_{\lambda_k} = y'_{\lambda_l} = y'_{\lambda_m} = y'_{\lambda_n}$ , where  $0 \leq i, j, \dots, r, s \leq \delta$  and  $\delta + 1 \leq k, l, \dots, m, n \leq d$ . Let

$$\mu_{\lambda} = a_{\lambda_i} b_i + a_{\lambda_j} b_j + \dots + a_{\lambda_r} b_r + a_{\lambda_s} b_s + a_{\lambda_k} b_k + a_{\lambda_l} b_l + \dots + a_{\lambda_m} b_m + a_{\lambda_n} b_n.$$

Then  $x_0 = \sum_{\lambda} \mu_{\lambda} x_{\lambda}$ , where  $x_{\lambda}$  are distinct elements of  $Y_{k+1}$ . Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 \hat{\psi} &= \left[ \sum_{\lambda} \{(a_{\lambda_i} b_i + a_{\lambda_j} b_j + \dots + a_{\lambda_r} b_r + a_{\lambda_s} b_s + a_{\lambda_k} b_k + a_{\lambda_l} b_l + \dots + a_{\lambda_m} b_m + a_{\lambda_n} b_n)\} x_{\lambda} \right] \hat{\psi} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} \{(a_{\lambda_i} b_i + a_{\lambda_j} b_j + \dots + a_{\lambda_r} b_r + a_{\lambda_s} b_s) + a_{\lambda_k} (1 - g_k) + a_{\lambda_l} (1 - g_l) + \dots + a_{\lambda_m} (1 - g_m) + a_{\lambda_n} (1 - g_n)\} x_{\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Now for  $\delta + 1 \leq k, l, \dots, m, n \leq d$ , we have  $(1 - g_k) y'_{\lambda_k} = (1 - g_l) y'_{\lambda_l}$  if and only if  $y'_{\lambda_k} = (1 - g_l) y$  and  $y'_{\lambda_l} = (1 - g_k) y$  for some  $y \in Y_{k+1}$ . Let  $x_{\lambda'} = (1 - g_k) y'_{\lambda_k} = (1 - g_l) y'_{\lambda_l} = \dots = (1 - g_m) y'_{\lambda_m} = (1 - g_n) y'_{\lambda_n}$ , where the

$x_{\lambda'}$  are distinct elements of  $Y_{k+1}$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_0\hat{\psi} &= \sum_{\lambda} (a_{\lambda_i} + a_{\lambda_j} + \dots + a_{\lambda_r} + a_{\lambda_s})x_{\lambda} \\ &\quad + \sum_{\lambda'} (a_{\lambda_k} + a_{\lambda_l} + \dots + a_{\lambda_m} + a_{\lambda_n})x_{\lambda'} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} \beta_{\lambda}x_{\lambda} + \sum_{\lambda'} \beta_{\lambda'}x_{\lambda'}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\beta_{\lambda} = \alpha_{\lambda_i} + \alpha_{\lambda_j} + \dots + \alpha_{\lambda_r} + \alpha_{\lambda_s}$  and  $\beta_{\lambda'} = \alpha_{\lambda_k} + \alpha_{\lambda_l} + \dots + \alpha_{\lambda_m} + \alpha_{\lambda_n}$ . Clearly,  $0 = x\hat{\psi} = v\hat{\psi} + x'\hat{\psi} = x'\hat{\psi} = x_0\hat{\psi} + x_1\hat{\psi}$ , where  $x_1\hat{\psi} \in \oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^{k+1}B_i \oplus \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+2}B_i$ .

Now  $(\oplus_{i=1}^d \varphi^{k+1}B_i)\hat{\psi} \subseteq \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g}$  and  $(\oplus_{i=1}^d \varphi^{k+2}B_i)\hat{\psi} \subseteq \varphi^{k+2}\underline{g}$ . Moreover,

$$\varphi^{k+2}\underline{g} \subseteq \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g} \text{ implies that } (\oplus_{i=1}^d \varphi^{k+1}B_i \oplus \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d \varphi^{k+2}B_i) \subseteq \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g}.$$

But  $\varphi^{k+1}\underline{g} = (x_0\hat{\psi} + x_1\hat{\psi}) + \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g} = x_0\hat{\psi} + \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g} = \sum \beta_{\lambda}x_{\lambda} + \sum \beta_{\lambda'}x_{\lambda'} + \varphi^{k+1}\underline{g}$ . Since each  $x_{\lambda}$  and  $x_{\lambda'}$  are distinct elements of  $Y_{k+1}$  and  $Y_{k+2}$ , respectively, therefore, each  $\beta_{\lambda} = \beta_{\lambda'} = 0$ . Therefore,  $\alpha_{\lambda_s} = -\alpha_{\lambda_i} - \alpha_{\lambda_j} - \dots - \alpha_{\lambda_r}$  and  $\alpha_{\lambda_n} = -\alpha_{\lambda_k} - \alpha_{\lambda_l} - \dots - \alpha_{\lambda_m}$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &= \sum_{\lambda} \{a_{\lambda_i}b_i + a_{\lambda_j}b_j + \dots + a_{\lambda_r}b_r - (a_{\lambda_i} + a_{\lambda_j} + \dots + a_{\lambda_r})b_s\}x_{\lambda} \\ &\quad + \{a_{\lambda_k}b_k + a_{\lambda_l}b_l + \dots + a_{\lambda_m}b_m - (a_{\lambda_k} + a_{\lambda_l} + \dots + a_{\lambda_m})b_n\}x_{\lambda} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} \{a_{\lambda_i}(b_i - b_s) + a_{\lambda_j}(b_j - b_s) + \dots + a_{\lambda_r}(b_r - b_s)\}x_{\lambda} \\ &\quad + \{a_{\lambda_k}(b_k y'_{\lambda_n} - b_n y'_{\lambda_k}) + a_{\lambda_l}(b_l y'_{\lambda_n} - b_n y'_{\lambda_l}) + \dots \\ &\quad + a_{\lambda_m}(b_m y'_{\lambda_n} - b_n y'_{\lambda_m})\}, \end{aligned}$$

which is an element of  $V$ . Therefore,  $\hat{S} \subseteq V$ . Since  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  lie in different direct summands of the middle term  $\oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \underline{g}_i^G \oplus \oplus_{i=\delta+1}^d b_i F_p G$  of (1.1), therefore  $X_1 \cap X_2 = 0$ . Thus in order to show that  $X_1 \cup X_2$  is a minimal generating set of  $\hat{S}$ , we only need to show that  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are minimal sets of  $U$  and  $V$ , respectively. First we shall show that  $X_1$  is a minimal generating set for  $U$ . For, since we are dealing with a finite elementary  $p$ -group case, it is sufficient to show that no proper subset of  $X_1$  generates  $U$ . For, on the contrary suppose that  $X_1$  is not minimal, and let  $(b_{\mu} - b_{\nu})(1 - g_{\mu})(1 - g_{\nu}) = \sum_{(\mu, \nu) \neq (i, j), 1 \leq i < j \leq \delta} (b_i - b_j)(1 - g_i)(1 - g_j)a_{ij} = x$ , say,  $a_{ij} \in F_p G$ . Then  $b_{\mu}(1 - g_{\mu})(1 - g_{\nu}) = x + b_{\nu}(1 - g_{\mu})(1 - g_{\nu})$ , which is a contradiction because  $\cup_{i=1}^{\delta} Z_2^i$  is a minimal generating set of  $\oplus_{i=1}^{\delta} \varphi^i B$ . This shows that  $X_1$  is minimal. For proving that  $X_2$  is a minimal generating set, for convenient reference, we shall call the elements  $b_i(1 - g_j) - b_j(1 - g_i)$  of type-I and  $b_i(1 - g_i)^{n_i - 1}$  of type-II. Then it is clear that type-I elements cannot be generated from type-II elements and vice-versa. Suppose on the contrary that the set  $X_2$  is not minimal and let  $b_{\mu}(1 - g_{\nu}) - b_{\nu}(1 -$

$g_\mu) = \sum_{(\mu,\nu) \neq (i,j), \delta+1 \leq i < j \leq d} \{b_i(1 - g_j) - b_j(1 - g_i)\}a_{ij} = y$ , say,  $a_{ij} \in F_p G$ . Then  $b_\mu(1 - g_\nu) = y + b_\nu(1 - g_\mu)$ , which is a contradiction, because an element of  $Z_1$  can not be expressed as a linear combination of the remaining elements of  $Z_1$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.3.** *If  $U$  and  $V$  are  $F_p G$  modules generated by  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , respectively, then  $\hat{S} \cong U \oplus V$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.2, it follows that  $\hat{S} = U + V$ . Moreover, since  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  lie in different direct summands of (1.1),  $U \cap V = \{0\}$ , and hence  $\hat{S} \cong U \oplus V$ .  $\square$

In view of Proposition 2.3, to complete the proof of Theorem 2.1, we only need to prove that  $U$  and  $V$  are indecomposable. For, consider a set

$$C = \{c_{ij} : c_{ij} = (b_i - b_j) \prod_{\mu=1}^d (1 - g_\mu)^{n_\mu - 1}, 1 \leq i < j \leq \delta\}.$$

Clearly  $|C| = \frac{1}{2}\delta(\delta - 1)$ . Let  $U_1$  be a submodule of  $U$  such that  $\dim((U_1 + \varphi U)/\varphi U) = r$ , where  $0 \leq r \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta(\delta - 1)$ . Now we shall prove that  $U_1$  contains at least  $r$  elements of  $C$ . For,  $r = 0$ , there is nothing to prove. Therefore, suppose that  $r > 0$  and choose  $\{u_m : u_m \in U_1, 1 \leq m \leq r\}$  such that  $\{u_m + \varphi U, 1 \leq m \leq r\}$  is an  $F_p$  basis of  $(U_1 + \varphi U)/\varphi U$ . Then

$$u_m = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq \delta} \alpha_{m_{ij}}(b_i - b_j)(1 - g_i)(1 - g_j) + w,$$

where  $\alpha_{m_{ij}} \in F_p$  and  $w \in \varphi U$ . Clearly, in the expression of  $u_m$ , at least one  $\alpha_{m_{ij}}$  is non-zero. Let  $y = \prod_{\lambda=1}^d (1 - g_\lambda)^{\nu_\lambda - 1}$ , where  $\nu_\lambda = \begin{cases} n_\lambda - 2, & \text{if } \lambda = i \text{ or } j; \\ n_\lambda - 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Then  $u_m y = \alpha_{m_{ij}}(b_i - b_j) \prod_{\lambda=1}^d (1 - g_\lambda)^{n_\lambda - 1}$  ( $wy = 0$ ). So, we get  $u_m y = \alpha_{m_{ij}} c_{ij}$ , and so  $(\alpha_{m_{ij}})^{-1} u_m y = c_{ij} \in U_1$ . Since at least  $r$  of the  $(b_i - b_j)(1 - g_i)(1 - g_j)$  are distinct,  $U_1$  contains at least  $r$  elements  $c_{ij}$  of  $C$ .

Suppose  $U = U_1 \oplus U_2$  and  $\dim(U_i/\varphi U_i) = \frac{1}{2}\delta(\delta - 1) = r_1 + r_2$ . From above argument, we infer that  $U_i$  contains a set  $C_i$  of at least  $r_i$  elements of  $C$ . In fact  $C = C_1 \cup C_2$  and  $C_1 \cap C_2 = \Phi$ .

Clearly,  $c_{i\delta} = c_{ik} + c_{k\delta}$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq \delta - 1$  and  $1 < k < \delta$ . Therefore  $C$  is an  $F_p$ -linear combination of  $\{c_{i\delta} : 1 \leq i \leq \delta - 1\}$ . Then it is easy to check that either  $C \subseteq U_1$  or  $C \subseteq U_2$ , and therefore,  $U$  is indecomposable.

Now we prove that  $V$  is indecomposable. If  $d - \delta = 1$ , then  $X_2$  contains only one element and therefore  $V$  is indecomposable. Now we suppose that  $d - \delta \geq 2$  and consider the set  $C' = \{b_i \prod_{\mu=1}^d (1 - g_\mu)^{n_\mu - 1} : 1 + \delta \leq i \leq d\}$ . (Note that  $|C'| = d - \delta$ .)

Suppose that  $V = V_1 + V_2$ . As before, we shall identify the elements  $b_i(1 - g_j) - b_j(1 - g_i)$  of  $X_2$  as those of type-I and  $b_i(1 - g_i)^{n_i - 1}$  of type-II. Then the following possibilities arise:

- (i)  $V_1$  contains all elements of  $X_2$  of type-I and  $V_2$  contains all elements of  $X_2$  of type-II.
- (ii)  $V_1$  contains  $r_1$  elements of type-I and  $s_1$  elements of type-II, and  $V_2$  contains  $r_2$  elements of type-I and  $s_2$  elements of type-II, where  $r_1 + r_2 = \frac{1}{2}(d - \delta)(d - \delta - 1)$  and  $s_1 + s_2 = d - \delta$
- (iii)  $V_1$  or  $V_2$  contain all elements of  $X_2$ .

We shall establish that only (iii) is true by eliminating the other two possibilities. If (i) was true, then both  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  would contain all elements of  $C'$ , which would be a contradiction because  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}$ . Similarly if (ii) was true, then the number of elements in both  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  would at least be  $\frac{1}{2}(d - \delta)(d - \delta - 1) > (d - \delta)$ , for  $(d - \delta) \geq 2$ , which would force  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  to contain some common elements of  $C'$ .

Thus only (iii) is true which implies that either  $V = V_1$  or  $V = V_2$ , and so  $V$  is indecomposable, which completes our proof.

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