# On groups G of p-length 2 whose nilpotency indices of J(KG) are a(p-1)+1

Dedicated to Professor Tosiro TSUZUKU on his 60th birthday

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## 1. Introduction

Let G be a finite p-solvable group with a Sylow p-subgroup P of order  $p^a$ , K a field of characteristic p, KG the group algebra of G over K, and t(G) the nilpotency index of the radical J(KG) of KG.

D. A. R. Wallace [9] proved that  $a(p-1)+1 \le t(G) \le p^a$ . Y. Tsushima [8] proved that the second equality  $t(G) = p^a$  holds if and only if Pis cyclic. Here we shall study the structure of G with t(G) = a(p-1)+1. If G has p-length 1, then t(G) = t(P) by Clarke [1]. From this, we can easily see that t(G) = a(p-1)+1 if and only if P is elementary abelian. Therefore we shall be interested in the structure of G of p-length 2 with t(G) = a(p-1)+1. As such examples, we know the followings.

We set  $q=p^r$  and  $l=(q^p-1)/(q-1)$ . Then q-1 and l are relatively prime. Let  $F=GF(q^p)$  be a finite field of  $q^p$  elements,  $\lambda$  a generator of the multiplicative group  $F^*$  of F, and  $\nu = \lambda^{q-1}$ . Let V be the additive group of F. If we define  $v^x = \nu v$ , where  $\nu v$  means a multiplication in the field F, then  $x \in \operatorname{Aut}(V)$ . Let U be the Galois group of F over GF(q), and  $H = \langle x \rangle$ . Then  $HU \subseteq \operatorname{Aut}(V)$ . So we can consider the semidirect product of V by HU. We set  $M_{p,r} = VHU$ . Then HU is a Frobenius group and |H| = l, |U| = p, and VU is a Sylow p-subgroup of  $M_{p,r}$  of order  $p^{pr+1}$ . In [5], Motose proved  $t(M_{p,r}) = (pr+1)(p-1)+1$ .

Let  $G = M_{p,r}$ , then  $G = O_{p,p,p}(G)$  and  $G/O_p(G)$  is a Frobenius group. So can we consider conversely that if G satisfies such conditions and t(G) = a (p-1)+1, then is G isomorphic to  $M_{p,r}$ ? Concerning this problem, we have the following result.

THEOREM. Let V be a normal p-subgroup of G with G = VN and  $V \cap N = 1$  for some Frobenius group N with complement U and kernel H, where U and H are p-group and abelian p'-group, respectively. Then the

follwing conditions are equivalent.

- (i) t(G) = a(p-1)+1, where  $p^a$  is the order of a Sylow p-subgroup of G.
- (ii) (A) U and V are elementary abelian.
  (B) C<sub>G</sub>(x) contains a Sylow p-subgroup of G for every element x of V.
- (iii) Set  $\overline{G} = G/O_{p'}(G)$ . Then  $\overline{G} = [\overline{V}, \overline{H}] \overline{N} \times C_{\overline{V}}(\overline{H})$  and  $[\overline{V}, \overline{H}] = \overline{V}_1 \times \cdots \times \overline{V}_m$ , where  $V_i$  is a minimal normal subgroup of VH,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Furthermore  $[\overline{V}, \overline{H}] \overline{H} = (\overline{V}_1 \overline{H}_1) \times \cdots \times (\overline{V}_m \overline{H}_m)$ , where  $H_i$  is a subgroup of H and  $\overline{V}_i \overline{H}_i \overline{U} \simeq M_{p,r_i}$  for some  $r_i$ .

### 2. Preliminaries

In this section we shall prove some lemmas which will be used to prove the theorem.

From Theorem 3. 1 of Wallace [9], we have immediately the following result.

LEMMA 1. Let G be a p-solvable group of order  $p^am$ , (p, m)=1, and have the following normal series

 $1 = P_0 \subseteq N_0 \subseteq P_1 \subseteq N_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq P_n = G$ 

such that  $P_{i+1}/N_i$ ,  $N_i/P_i$  are p and p'-groups, respectively,  $0 \le i \le n-1$ . If t(G) = a(p-1)+1, then  $P_{i+1}/N_i$  is elementary abelian,  $0 \le i \le n-1$ .

LEMMA 2. ([7, Proposition 19. 8]). Let G act faithfully on vector space V of order  $q^n$  over GF(q). Suppose A is a normal cyclic subgroup of G which acts irreducibly on V. Then we can identify V with the additive group of  $GF(q^n)$  in such a way that  $G \subseteq T(q^n)$  where  $T(q^n)$  is the set of semilinear transformations of the form  $x \rightarrow ax^{\sigma}$  with  $a \in GF(q^n)$ ,  $a \neq 0$ and  $\sigma$  a field automorphism. Furthermore  $C_G(A)$  is contained in the subgroup of  $T(q^n)$  consisting of linear transformations (that is,  $\sigma=1$ ).

LEMMA 3. ([3, Theorem 4. 6, p409]). Let G satisfy the assumption of the theorem. Then the following conditions are equivalent.

- (1) t(G) = t(U) + t(V) 1.
- (2)  $\sum_{h \in H} z^{hu} \sum_{h \in H} z^h \in J(KV)^{i+1} \text{ for all } i \ge 0, \text{ all } z \in J(KV)^i \text{ and all } u \in U.$

LEMMA. 4 Let G satisfy the assumption and (i) of the theorem. Then the following conditions hold.

- (1) |U| = p and V is elementary abelian.
- (2) If W is a H-invariant subgroup of V, then W is N-invariant.
- $(3) \quad \sum_{h \in H} z^h + (\sum_{h \in H} z^h)^s + \dots + (\sum_{h \in H} z^h)^{s^{p-1}} \in J(KV)^{i+(p-1)} \text{ for all } i \ge 0 \text{ and}$  $all \quad z \in J(KV)^i.$

PROOF. (1) Since N = HU is a Frobenius group, (1) follows immediately by Lemma 1.

(2) Since H is a p'-group, V is completely reducible as H-module. So we may assume that W is an irreducible H-module. Then we have (2) by the proof of [6, Lemma 11(7)].

(3) HU acts on KV by conjugation. So KHU acts on KV by linear extention. Then

$$z^{(\sum_{h\in H}h)(s-1)} = (\sum_{h\in H}z^h)^s - \sum_{h\in H}z^h \in J(KV)^{i+1}$$

by Lemma 3. Similarly

$$\{z^{(\sum h)(s-1)}\}^{(\sum h)(s-1)}=|H|z^{(\sum h)(s-1)^2}\!\!\in\!\! J(KV)^{i+2}$$

by Lemma 3. Hence  $z^{(\sum h)(s-1)^{p-1}} \in J(KV)^{i+2}$ . If we repeat this method, we have  $z^{(\sum h)(s-1)^{p-1}} \in J(KV)^{i+(p-1)}$ . On the other hand  $(s-1)^{p-1} = 1+s+\cdots + s^{p-1}$ , and so

$$z^{(\sum_{h\in H}h)(1+s+\cdots+s^{p-1})} = \sum_{h\in H} z^{h} + (\sum_{h\in H} z^{h})^{s} + \cdots + (\sum_{h\in H} z^{h})^{s^{p-1}} \in J(KV)^{i+(p-1)}.$$

## 3. Proof of the Theorem

(ii) 
$$\to$$
 (i) For  $z \in V$ ,  $z^{h_0} \in Z(VU)$  for some  $h_0 \in H$  by (ii)(B). Then  
 $(\sum_{h \in H} z^h)^u = \sum_{h \in H} z^{h_0} = \sum_{h \in H} z^{h_0 h_0^{-1} h u} = \sum_{h \in H} (z^{h_0})^{h u} = \sum_{h \in H} (z^{h_0})^{u^{-1} h u} = \sum_{h \in H} z^h$ .

Hence t(G) = t(U) + t(V) - 1 by Lemma 3, and so t(G) = a(p-1) + 1 by (ii)(A).

(iii)  $\rightarrow$  (ii) It is clear that (ii)(A) holds. Let  $v \in V$ , then  $v = v_1 \cdots v_m$ for some  $v_i \in V_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Since  $V_i H U \simeq M_{p,r_i}$ , there exists an element  $h_i \in H_i$  such that  $v_i^{h_i} \in C_{V_i}(U) \subseteq Z(VU)$ . Set  $h = h_1 \cdots h_m \in H$ , then  $v^h = v_1^{h_1} \cdots v_m^{h_m} \in Z(VU)$ . Hence  $C_G(v^h) \supseteq VU$ , and so  $C_G(v) \supseteq (VU)^{h^{-1}} \in Sy1_p(G)$ . This proves that (ii)(B) holds.

In the next proof, we denote by e the identity of G.

(i) $\rightarrow$ (iii) Let  $\overline{G} = G/O_{p'}(G)$ . Then  $\overline{G}$  satisfies (i), and so we may assume that  $O_{p'}(G) = \{e\}$ . By Lemma 4(1), |U| = p and V is elementary abelian. N acts on V by conjugation. So we can regard V as N = HU

module. Since H is a p'-group, V is a completely reducible H-module. Let  $V = V_1 \times \cdots \times V_m$ , where  $V_i$  is an irreducible H-module,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Then by Lemma 4(2),  $V_i$  is N-invariant.

If  $C_V(H) \neq \{e\}$ , then we may assume that  $[V_1,H] = \{e\}$ . Since  $G \triangleright V_2 \times \cdots \times V_m H$  and  $G/V_2 \times \cdots \times V_m H \simeq V_1 U$ ,  $V_1 U$  is elementary abelian by Lemma 1, in particular  $[V_1, U] = \{e\}$ . Hence  $G = (V_2 \times \cdots \times V_m H U) \times V_1$ . Since  $V_2 \times \cdots \times V_m H U \simeq G/V_1$  satisfies (i), we may assume that  $C_V(H) = \{e\}$ .

Let  $L_i = V_i H U$  and  $\overline{L}_i = V_i H U / C_H(V_i)$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Then  $\overline{L}_i = \overline{V}_i \overline{H} \overline{U}$ and  $\overline{H}$  is cyclic since  $\overline{H}$  is abelian and  $\overline{H}$  acts irreducibly and faithfully on  $\overline{V}_i$ . Since  $\overline{V}_i \simeq V_i$  and  $\overline{U} \simeq U$ , we can identify  $\overline{V}_i$  and  $\overline{U}$  with  $V_i$  and U, respectively. By Lemma 2, we can identify  $V_i$  with the additive group of  $GF(p^{n_i})$  in such a way that  $\overline{H}\overline{U} \subseteq T(p^{n_i})$ , where  $p^{n_i} = |V_i|$ . Furthermore  $\overline{H}$  is contained in the subgroup of  $T(p^{n_i})$  consisting of linear transformations.

Let  $\operatorname{Gal}(GF(p^{n_i})/GF(p)) = \langle \tau \rangle$  and  $\sigma = \tau^{r_i}$ , where  $n_i = pr_i$ . Furthermore  $C_{v_i}(\sigma) = GF(q_i)$ , where  $q_i = p^{r_i}$ . By considering the structure of  $T(p^{n_i})$ , a conjugate subgroup of  $\overline{HU}$  in  $T(p^{n_i})$  contains  $\sigma$ . So let  $U = \langle s \rangle$ , then we may assume that  $s = \sigma$ . When we identify  $V_i$  with  $GF(p^{n_i})$ , let  $V_i^*$  be the multiplicative group of  $V_i$ . Set  $\langle \lambda_i \rangle = C_{v_i^*}(s)$  and  $\langle \nu_i \rangle = [V_i^*, \langle s \rangle]$ , then  $V_i^* = \langle \lambda_i \rangle \times \langle \nu_i \rangle$ . Let  $x \in H$  such that  $\langle \overline{x} \rangle = \overline{H}$ . Then there exists  $\xi_i \in V_i^*$  such that  $v^x = \xi_i v$  for every element  $v \in V_i$ , where  $\xi_i v$  means a multiplication of  $\xi_i$  and v in  $GF(p^{n_i})(=V_i)$ . Since  $\overline{HU}$  is a Frobenius group,  $\overline{x^s} = \overline{x^j}$  for some  $\overline{x^j} \neq \overline{x}$ . Let 1 be the identity of  $V_i^*$ , then  $(1^x)^s = \xi_i^s$  and  $(1^x)^s = 1^{xs} = 1^{s^{-1}xs} = 1^{x^j} = \xi_i^j$ . Hence  $\langle \xi_i \rangle = [\langle \xi_i \rangle, \langle s \rangle] \subseteq \langle \nu_i \rangle$ , and so  $\overline{L_i} \subseteq M_{p,r_i}$ .

Now we shall divide the remainder of the proof into several steps.

STEP 1. The following conditions hold.

(1) If  $C_{v_i}(h) \neq \{e\}$  for some  $V_i$  and  $h \in H$ , then  $[V_i, h] = \{e\}$ .

(2) If  $a^h \in C_{V_i*}(s)$  for some  $a \in C_{V_i*}(s)$  and  $h \in H$ , then  $[V_i, h] = \{e\}$ .

**PROOF.** (1) Since *H* is abelian,  $C_{v_i}(h)$  is H-invariant. Moreover, since  $V_i$  is an irreducible *H*-module,  $C_{v_i}(h) = V_i$ , and so  $[V_i, h] = \{e\}$ .

(2) Two elements of Z(UV) are conjugate in G if and only if they are conjugate in  $N_G(VU)$  (See [Gorenstein, Finite groups, p. 240 Th. 1.1]). Since N = UH is a Frobenius group,  $N_G(VU) = VU$ . Hence  $a^h = a$  and so  $e \neq a \in C_{V_i*}(h)$ . Then (2) follows from (1).

Let  $A = \{(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m) | \mu_i \in \langle \nu_i \rangle, 1 \leq i \leq m\}$ . Next we define the action

of HU on A as follows:

 $(\mu_1, \cdots \mu_m)^g = (\mu_1^g, \cdots, \mu_m^g)$  for  $g \in HU$ .

STEP 2. The following conditions holds.

(1) H acts regularly on A.

(2) If H acts transitively on A, then (ii) (B) holds.

PROOF. (1) If  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m)^h = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m)$ , then  $\mu_i \in C_{V_i}(h)$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . By Step 1(1),  $[V_i, h] = \{e\}$ , and so  $[V, h] = \{e\}$ . Since  $O_{p'}(G) = \{e\}$ , h = e. Hence *H* acts regularly on *A*.

(2) Let  $a \in V$ , then  $a = (\alpha_1 \mu_1) \cdots (\alpha_m \mu_m)$ , where  $\alpha_i \in C_{V_i}(s)$  and  $\mu_i \in \langle \nu_i \rangle$ , and  $\alpha_i \mu_i$  means a multiplication of  $\alpha_i$  and  $\mu_i$  in  $GF(p^{n_i})$   $(=V_i)$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Since H acts transitively on A,  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m)^h = (1, \dots, 1)$  for some  $h \in H$ , where 1 is the identity of  $V_i^*$ . Since  $\mu_i^h = 1$ ,  $v^h = \mu_i^{-1}v$  for every element  $v \in V_i$ . In particular  $(\alpha_i \mu_i)^h = \mu_i^{-1} \alpha_i \mu_i = \alpha_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Hence  $a^h = \{(\alpha_1 \mu_1)^m \cdots (\alpha_m \mu_m)^h = \alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_m \in C_V(s) \subseteq Z(VU)$ .

Let  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_r$  be the *H*-orbits of *A*, where  $(1, \dots, 1) \in A_0$ . Since *U* normalizes *H*,  $U = \langle s \rangle$  induces a permutation on the set of the *H*-orbits of *A*.

STEP 3.  $A_0$  is the only orbit which is fixed by s.

PROOF. Since (|s|, |H|)=1, a *s*-invariant orbit contains an element which is fixed by *s*. Since  $C_{\langle\nu_i\rangle}(s)=1$ ,  $(1, \dots, 1)$  is the only element of *A* which in fixed by *s* and the assertion follows.

STEP 4. Let  $(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m) \in A$ , then there exists  $y \in Aut(V)$  which satisfies the following conditions.

- (1) y fixes  $V_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .
- (2) If we define the action of y as follows:  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m)^y = (\mu_1^y, \dots, \mu_m^y)$  for  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m) \in A$ , then y acts on A.
- (3)  $(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m)^{\nu} = (1, \dots, 1).$
- (4) y commutes with every element of H in Aut (V).

**PROOF.** If we define  $y \in Aut(V)$  as follows:

 $(v_1\cdots v_m)^{y} = (\eta_1^{-1}v_1)\cdots(\eta_m^{-1}v_m), \text{ where } v_i \in V_i, 1 \leq i \leq m,$ 

then  $y \in \operatorname{Aut}(V)$  and y fixes  $V_i$ . Furthermore  $(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m)^y = (\eta_1^y, \dots, \eta_m^y) = (1, \dots, 1)$ . Next, since  $\eta_i \in \langle v_i \rangle$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ , y acts on A. Let  $h \in H$ , then  $(v_1 \cdots v_m)^h = (\xi_1 v_1) \cdots (\xi_m v_m)$ , where  $\xi_i \in \langle v_i \rangle$  and  $v_i \in V_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Then

 $(v_1 \cdots v_m)^{hy} = \{(\xi_1 v_1) \cdots (\xi_m v_m)\}^y \\ = (\eta_1^{-1} \xi_1 v_1) \cdots (\eta_m^{-1} \xi_m v_m)$ 

and

$$(v_1 \cdots v_m)^{y_h} = \{(\eta_1^{-1} v_1) \cdots (\eta_m^{-1} v_m)\}^h \\ = (\xi_1 \eta_1^{-1} v_1) \cdots (\xi_m \eta_m^{-1} v_m),$$

and so (4) follows.

Let  $\hat{S} = \sum_{v \in S} v (\in KG)$  for any subset S of V and let  $V_1^* \times \cdots \times V_m^* = \{v_1 \cdots v_m | v_i \in V_i^*, 1 \le i \le m\}$ . Set  $z = \hat{V} - V_1^* \times \cdots \times V_m^*$  and

$$z_n = z + \sum_{\substack{(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m) \in A_n \\ 1 \leq i \leq m}} \sum_{\substack{\alpha_i \in C_{VI} \star (s) \\ 1 \leq i \leq m}} (\alpha_1 \mu_1) \cdots (\alpha_m \mu_m), \ 0 \leq n \leq r.$$

Since  $\{(\alpha_1\mu_1)\cdots(\alpha_m\mu_m)\}^h = (\alpha_1\mu_1^h)\cdots(\alpha_m\mu_m^h),$  $z_n = z + \sum_{h \in H} \sum_{\alpha_i} \{(\alpha_1\eta_1)\cdots(\alpha_m\eta_m)\}^h$ 

for some fixed element  $(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m) \in A_n$ , and so  $z_n^h = z_n$  for  $\forall h \in H$ .

STEP 5. Let t be the maximal positive integer such that  $z_0 \in J(KV)^t$ , then for  $z_n$ ,  $1 \leq n \leq r$ , t is also the maximal positive integer such that  $z_n \in J(KV)^t$ . Furthermore, if t = d(p-1), where  $|V| = p^d$ , then (ii) (B) holds.

PROOF. Let 
$$y \in \operatorname{Aut}(V)$$
 as in Step 4. Then  
 $z_n^y = z^y + \{\sum_{h \in H} \sum_{\alpha_i} (\alpha_1 \eta_1) \cdots (\alpha_m \eta_m)\}^{hy}$   
 $= z + \{\sum_{h \in H} \sum_{\alpha_i} (\alpha_1 \eta_1) \cdots (\alpha_m \eta_m)\}^{hy}$  (by Step 4(1))  
 $= z + \{\sum_{h \in H} \sum_{\alpha_i} (\alpha_1 \eta_1) \cdots (\alpha_m \eta_m)\}^{yh}$  (by Step 4(4))  
 $= z + \{\sum_{h \in H} \sum_{\alpha_i} (\alpha_1 1) \cdots (\alpha_m 1)\}^{h}$  (by Step 4(3))  
 $= z_0$ .

Since  $y \in Aut(V)$ , the first assertion follows.

We remark  $J(KV)^{d(p-1)} = K\hat{V}$ . Hence, if  $z_0 \in J(KV)^{d(p-1)}$ ,  $A_0 = A$ , and so H acts transitively on A. By Step 2(2), the second assertion follows.

STEP 6. (ii) (B) holds.

PROOF. Suppose false, then  $r \ge 1$  by Step 2(2). Let  $\{A_1, \dots, A_p\}$  be a *s*-orbit. For example, if  $A_1^s = A_2$ , then

$$\{\sum_{\substack{(\mu_1,\dots,\mu_m)\in A_1\\1\leq i\leq m}}\sum_{\substack{\alpha_i\in C_{VI}*(s)\\1\leq i\leq m}}(\alpha_1\mu_1)\cdots(\alpha_m\mu_m)\}^s$$
$$=\sum_{\substack{(\mu_1s,\dots,\mu_ms),\in A_2\\\alpha_i}}\sum_{\alpha_i}(\alpha_1\mu_1^s)\cdots(\alpha_m\mu_m^s).$$

Since  $\alpha_i \in C_{V_i*}(s)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ ,  $z_1^s = z_2$ . By Lemma 4(3),

$$\sum_{h \in H} z_1^h + (\sum_{h \in H} z_1^h)^s + \dots + (\sum_{h \in H} z_1^h)^{s^{p-1}} = |H|(z_1 + z_1^s + \dots + z_1^{s^{p-1}})$$
$$= |H|(z_1 + \dots + z_p) \in J(KV)^{t + (p-1)}$$

The same thing holds for another orbits, and so  $z_1 + \cdots + z_r \in J(KV)^{t+(p-1)}$  $\subseteq J(KV)^{t+1}$  by Step 3. Then

$$z_{0}+z_{1}+\dots+z_{r}$$

$$=z+\sum_{(\mu_{1},\dots,\mu_{m})\in A_{0}}\sum_{\alpha_{i}}(\alpha_{1}\mu_{1})\cdots(\alpha_{m}\mu_{m})+\sum_{j=1}^{p}\{\sum_{(\mu_{1},\dots,\mu_{m})\in A_{j}}\sum_{\alpha_{i}}(\alpha_{1}\mu_{1})\cdots(\alpha_{m}\mu_{m})\}+\dots$$

$$=z+\sum_{j=0}^{r}\sum_{(\mu_{1},\dots,\mu_{m})\in A}\sum_{\alpha_{i}}(\alpha_{1}\mu_{1})\cdots(\alpha_{m}\mu_{m})$$

$$=z+\sum_{(\mu_{1},\dots,\mu_{m})\in A}\sum_{\alpha_{i}}(\alpha_{1}\mu_{1})\cdots(\alpha_{m}\mu_{m})$$

$$=z+V_{1}^{*}\times\dots\times V_{m}^{*}$$

$$=\hat{V}\in J(KV)^{d(p-1)}\subseteq J(KV)^{t+1} \text{ by Step 5.}$$

Hence  $z_0 = \hat{V} - (z_1 + \dots + z_r) \in J(KV)^{t+1}$ , this contradicts the choice of t and the assertion follows.

STEP 7. Let  $H_i = C_H(V_1 \times \cdots \times V_{i-1} \times V_{i+1} \times \cdots \times V_m)$ , then  $H = C_H(V_i) \times H_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ .

PROOF. Let  $h \in H$ , and let  $a_i \in C_{V_i}^*(s)$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$ . Since  $a_1 \cdots a_i^h \cdots a_m \in V$ , there exists an element  $x \in H$  such that  $(a_1 \cdots a_i^h \cdots a_m)^x \in C_V(s) = \prod_i C_{V_i}(s)$  by Step 6. Then  $a_1^x \in C_{V_1*}(s), \cdots, a_i^{hx} \in C_{V_i*}(s), \cdots, a_m^x \in C_{V_m*}(s)$ . By Step 1(2),  $x \in H_i$  and  $hx \in C_H(V_i)$ , hence  $h = hxx^{-1} \in C_H(V_i)H_i$ . Furthermore  $C_H(V_i) \cap H_i = C_H(V) \subseteq O_{P'}(G) = \{e\}$  and the assertion follows.

STEP 8. (iii) holds.

PROOF. Since  $H = C_H(V_2) \times H_2$  by Step 7,  $C_H(V_1) = H_2 \times C_H(V_1 \times V_2)$ . Hence  $H = H_1 \times H_2 \times C_H(V_1 \times V_2)$ . Similarly we have  $C_H(V_1 \times V_2) = H_3 \times C_H(V_1 \times V_2 \times V_3)$ , and hence  $H = H_1 \times H_2 \times H_3 \times C_H(V_1 \times V_2 \times V_3)$ . By the similar argument,  $H = H_1 \times \cdots \times H_m \times C_H(V)$ . Since  $O_{p'}(G) = \{e\}$ ,  $C_H(V) = \{e\}$ , and so  $H = H_1 \times \cdots \times H_m$  and  $VH = (V_1H_1) \times \cdots \times (V_mH_m)$ . Then, by the first paragraph of the proof,  $M_{p,r_i} \supseteq V_i H U / C_H(V_i) = V_i H U / H_1 \times \cdots \times H_m \simeq V_i H_i U$ . If  $M_{p,r_i} \supseteq V_i H U / C_H(V_i)$ ,  $\langle \nu_i \rangle \supseteq \langle \xi_i \rangle$ , then  $\nu_i$  is not conjugate to any element of  $C_{v_1}(s)$ . This contradicts Step 6. Therefore  $V_i H_i U \simeq M_{p,r_i}$  and the assertion follows.

This proves  $(i) \rightarrow (iii)$  and completes the proof of the theorem.

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