

A note on modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups

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Abstract

Let k be an algebraically closed field of positive characteristic p , let \mathbb{G}_a denote the additive group of k , and let $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ denote the cyclic group of order p . Given a modular representation $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$, we ask whether or not ρ can be extended, by an arbitrary group embedding $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$, to a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$, i.e., $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$. We consider some classes of modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups, and give some partial positive answers to the above problem. Besides, we classify up to equivalence four-dimensional modular representations $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(4, k)$ in characteristic two.

0. Introduction

Let k be an algebraically closed field of positive characteristic p and let \mathbb{G}_a denote the additive group of k . A map $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ is said to be a *representation* of \mathbb{G}_a if φ is a homomorphism of algebraic groups over k . An *elementary abelian p -group of rank r* is a finite abelian group which is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r$, where $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ denotes the cyclic group of order p .

In this article, we consider the following problem:

Given a modular representation $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$, we ask whether or not ρ can be extended, by an arbitrary injective group homomorphism $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \hookrightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$, to a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$, i.e., the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{G}_a & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & GL(n, k) \\ \uparrow \iota & \nearrow \rho & \\ (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r & & \end{array}$$

We remark that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the set of all injective group homomorphisms $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \hookrightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$ and the set of all elements

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$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r) \in k^r$ such that $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_p .

Let \mathbb{A}_k^n denote the affine space in dimension n over k and let $E_r := (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r$. If the above problem is affirmative, any linear action of E_r on \mathbb{A}_k^n can be extended to a linear action of \mathbb{G}_a on \mathbb{A}_k^n , and then we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{A}_k^n & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_{\mathbb{A}_k^n}} & \mathbb{A}_k^n \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}_k^n/\mathbb{G}_a & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{A}_k^n/E_r \end{array}$$

However, we still do not know whether the quotient $\mathbb{A}_k^n/\mathbb{G}_a$ is an affine algebraic variety over k . We are in progress for solving this quotient problem (see [3, 4, 5, 6]). In this article, we consider the extension problem in order to study modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups through \mathbb{A}_k^1 -fibrations on the affine space \mathbb{A}_k^n .

In the following, we state our theorems and corollaries in this article:

We say that matrices X_1, \dots, X_r of $\text{Mat}(n, k)$ are *p-pyramidic* if X_1, \dots, X_r satisfy

$$\prod_{i=1}^r X_i^{l_i} = O_n \quad \text{for all } l_1, \dots, l_r \geq 0 \text{ with } l_1 + \dots + l_r \geq p.$$

For $1 \leq i \leq r$, an element e_i of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r$ is defined as the i -th component of e_i is 1 and the other components of e_i are zeros.

A modular representation $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ is said to be *p-pyramidic* if r matrices $\rho(e_1) - I_n, \dots, \rho(e_r) - I_n$ are *p-pyramidic*.

The following theorem gives a partial positive answer to the extension problem.

Theorem 1 *Let $r \geq 1$ and let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be a modular representation. Assume that one of the following conditions (1), (2) and (3) holds true:*

- (1) $r = 1$.
- (2) ρ is *p-pyramidic*.
- (3) $1 \leq n \leq p$.

Then, for any injective group homomorphism $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \hookrightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$, there exists a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ satisfying $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

Let $1 \leq j \leq r$. We say that matrices X_1, \dots, X_r of $\text{Mat}(n, k)$ are of *j-mutually annihilating* if X_1, \dots, X_r satisfy $X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_j} = O_n$ for all distinct j

integers i_1, \dots, i_j within $1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_j \leq r$.

Let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be a modular representation. For $2 \leq j \leq r$, we say that ρ is of j -mutually annihilating if the matrices $\rho(e_1) - I_n, \dots, \rho(e_r) - I_n$ are of j -mutually annihilating.

In particular when $p = 2$, we have the following partial positive answer to the problem.

Theorem 2 *Let $p = 2$ and let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be a modular representation. Assume that one of the following conditions (1) and (2) holds true:*

- (1) $2 \leq r \leq 3$.
- (2) $r \geq 4$, and ρ is of 3-mutually annihilating.

Then, for any injective group homomorphism $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \hookrightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$, there exists a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ such that $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

If the dimension n of a modular representation $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ is in the range $1 \leq n \leq 4$, we have the following partial positive answer to the problem.

Corollary 3 *Let $r \geq 1$ and let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be a modular representation. Assume that one of the following conditions (1) and (2) holds true:*

- (1) $1 \leq n \leq 3$.
- (2) $p = 2$ and $n = 4$.

Then, for any injective group homomorphism $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \hookrightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$, there exists a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ such that $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

We know the following concerning modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups: There are exactly p inequivalent indecomposable modular representations of $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. Bašev [1] classifies indecomposable modular representations of $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ over an algebraically closed field of characteristic two. Campbell, Shank and Wehlau [2] give parametrizations of modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups whose representation spaces are in dimensions two and three.

In the following Corollary 4, with assuming $p = 2$, we describe, up to equivalence, four-dimensional modular representations of elementary abelian p -groups. We define subsets $\mathcal{A}_{2,2}, \mathcal{A}_{3,1}, \mathcal{H}_\mu$ ($\mu \in k$) of $GL(4, k)$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{A}_{2,2} := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & 1 & \gamma & \delta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \mid \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in k \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{3,1} := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & \alpha \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \beta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \gamma \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \middle| \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in k \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{H}_\mu := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \mu\beta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \mu\alpha \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \middle| \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in k \right\}.$$

Let $(U_i)_{i=1}^r$ be a sequence taken from one of the subsets $\mathcal{A}_{2,2}$, $\mathcal{A}_{3,1}$, \mathcal{H}_μ ($\mu \in k$). Then we can define a modular representation $\sigma : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(4, k)$ as $\sigma(n_1, \dots, n_r) := U_1^{n_1} \cdots U_r^{n_r}$.

Corollary 4 *Assume $p = 2$. Let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(4, k)$ be a modular representation of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r$. Then there exists a modular representation $\sigma : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(4, k)$ satisfying the following conditions (1) and (2):*

- (1) σ is equivalent to ρ .
- (2) The set $\{\sigma(e_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq r\}$ is included in one of the subsets $\mathcal{A}_{2,2}$, $\mathcal{A}_{3,1}$, \mathcal{H}_μ ($\mu \in k$),

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Notations and definitions. For any field \mathbb{F} , we denote by $\mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_r]$ a polynomial ring in r variables over \mathbb{F} . Let \mathbb{F}_p denote the finite field consisting of p elements.

For a commutative ring R with unity, we denote by $\text{Mat}(n, R)$ the ring of all $n \times n$ matrices whose entries belong to R , and write O_n (and I_n) for the zero element (resp. unity). For any $A \in \text{Mat}(n, R)$, we denote by $\det(A)$ the determinant of A . We denote by $GL(n, R)$ the group of all invertible matrices of $\text{Mat}(n, R)$.

Let G be a group. Two representations $\rho_1 : G \rightarrow GL(n, R)$ and $\rho_2 : G \rightarrow GL(n, R)$ of G are *equivalent* if there exists a regular matrix $P \in GL(n, R)$ such that $P^{-1}\rho_1(g)P = \rho_2(g)$ for all $g \in G$.

Let $k[T]$ be a polynomial ring in one variable over k . We say that a polynomial $f(T) \in k[T]$ is a *p-polynomial* if $f(T)$ has the form $f(T) = \sum_{i=0}^s a_i T^{p^i}$ for some $a_0, \dots, a_s \in k$.

1. A correspondence between $\mathfrak{N}(A)$ and $\mathfrak{U}(A)$

Let \mathbb{k} be a field of positive characteristic p and let A be a not-necessarily

commutative \mathbb{k} -algebra with unity. We denote by O the zero element of A under addition and denote by I the unity of A under multiplication. Let $\mathfrak{N}(A)$ be the set of all p -nilpotent elements of A , and let $\mathfrak{U}(A)$ be the set of all p -unipotent elements of A , i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} \mathfrak{N}(A) & := \{N \in A \mid N^p = O\}, \\ \mathfrak{U}(A) & := \{U \in A \mid U^p = I\}. \end{cases}$$

1.1 The truncated exponential of p -nilpotent elements

We can define a map $\text{Exp} : \mathfrak{N}(A) \rightarrow \mathfrak{U}(A)$ as

$$\text{Exp}(N) := \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \frac{N^i}{i!}.$$

We know the following lemma:

Lemma 5 *Let N_1, N_2 be elements of $\mathfrak{N}(A)$ satisfying both conditions $N_1 N_2 = N_2 N_1$ and $N_1^i N_2^j = O$ for all $i, j \geq 0$ with $i + j \geq p$. Then we have $\text{Exp}(N_1 + N_2) = \text{Exp}(N_1) \text{Exp}(N_2)$.*

1.2 The truncated logarithm of p -unipotent elements

We can define a map $\text{Log} : \mathfrak{U}(A) \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}(A)$ as

$$\text{Log}(U) := \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} (U - I)^i.$$

Lemma 6 *The truncated logarithm Log is injective.*

Proof. Choose arbitrary $U_1, U_2 \in \mathfrak{U}(A)$ and assume that $\text{Log}(U_1) = \text{Log}(U_2)$. Let $N_1 := U_1 - I$ and $N_2 := U_2 - I$. We have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_1^i = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_2^i.$$

Calculating the $(p-1)$ th power of both sides of the above equality, we have $N_1^{p-1} = N_2^{p-1}$, which implies

$$\sum_{i=1}^{p-2} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_1^i = \sum_{i=1}^{p-2} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_2^i.$$

Calculating $(p-2)$ th power of both sides of the above equality, we have $N_1^{p-2} = N_2^{p-2}$, which implies

$$\sum_{i=1}^{p-3} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_1^i = \sum_{i=1}^{p-3} \frac{(-1)^{i-1}}{i} N_2^i.$$

We can repeat the above arguments in finitely many steps until we have $N_1 = N_2$.
Q.E.D.

1.3 A correspondence between $\mathfrak{N}(A)$ and $\mathfrak{U}(A)$

We shall use the following lemma on proving Lemma 8.

Lemma 7 *Let p be a prime number. Then the following assertions (1) and (2) hold true:*

(1) *For all $0 \leq j' \leq p-2$, we have $\sum_{\ell=j'}^{p-2} \binom{\ell}{j'} \equiv (-1)^{j'+1} \pmod{p}$.*

(2) *Assume $p \geq 3$. For all $1 \leq n \leq p-2$, we have $\sum_{j=1}^{p-1} j^n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.*

Proof. (1) In the polynomial ring $\mathbb{F}_p[x]$, compare the coefficients of $x^{j'}$ ($0 \leq j' \leq p-2$) of the both sides of the equality

$$\sum_{\ell=0}^{p-2} (x+1)^\ell = \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \binom{p-1}{j} x^{j-1}.$$

(2) Let \mathbb{F}_p^* denote the set of all invertible elements of the field \mathbb{F}_p . Since \mathbb{F}_p^* is a cyclic group of order $p-1$, there exists an element $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$ such that $\mathbb{F}_p^* = \{\zeta^i \mid 1 \leq i \leq p-1\}$. Since $1 \leq n \leq p-2$, we have $\zeta^n \neq 1$, and thereby have

$$\sum_{j=1}^{p-1} j^n = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \zeta^{in} = \frac{\zeta^{pn} - \zeta^n}{\zeta^n - 1} = 0 \in \mathbb{F}_p.$$

Q.E.D.

The following lemma states that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between $\mathfrak{N}(A)$ and $\mathfrak{U}(A)$.

Lemma 8 *We have $\text{Log} \circ \text{Exp} = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{N}(A)}$ and $\text{Exp} \circ \text{Log} = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{U}(A)}$.*

Proof. We first prove $\text{Log} \circ \text{Exp} = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{N}(A)}$. Choose an arbitrary element N of $\mathfrak{N}(A)$.

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{Log} \circ \text{Exp})(N) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{\ell-1}}{\ell} (\text{Exp}(N) - I)^\ell = \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{j} \text{Exp}(jN) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \frac{-1}{\ell} I + \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{j} \text{Exp}(jN).$$

Let

$$\alpha := \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \frac{-1}{\ell} I = - \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \ell^{p-2} I \quad \text{and} \quad \beta := \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{j} \text{Exp}(jN).$$

So, we have

$$(\text{Log} \circ \text{Exp})(N) = \alpha + \beta.$$

We can express α as

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} I & \text{if } p = 2, \\ O & \text{if } p \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

We can express β as

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{j} \text{Exp}(jN) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{j} \binom{\ell-1}{j-1} \text{Exp}(jN) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \sum_{\ell=j}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{j} \binom{\ell-1}{j-1} \text{Exp}(jN) \stackrel{(a)}{=} \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \frac{-1}{j} \text{Exp}(jN) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} (-j^{m-1}) \frac{N^m}{m!} = - \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{p-1} j^{m-1} \right) \frac{N^m}{m!} \\ &\stackrel{(b)}{=} \begin{cases} - \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{j} I - (p-1) \frac{N}{1!} & \text{if } p = 2, \\ - \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{j} I - (p-1) \frac{N}{1!} - \sum_{m=2}^{p-1} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{p-1} j^{m-1} \right) \frac{N^m}{m!} & \text{if } p \geq 3 \end{cases} \\ &= \alpha + N, \end{aligned}$$

where we use assertions (1) (and (2)) of Lemma 7 for proving the above equalities (a) (resp. (b)). Thus we have $(\text{Log} \circ \text{Exp})(N) = N$.

We next prove $\text{Exp} \circ \text{Log} = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{U}(A)}$. Choose an arbitrary element U of $\mathfrak{U}(A)$. Let $U' := (\text{Exp} \circ \text{Log})(U)$. Then we have $\text{Log}(U') = \text{Log}(U)$. Since Log is injective, we know that $U' = U$. Q.E.D.

2. A proof of Theorem 1

2.1 Lemmas

Let \mathbb{k} be as above, i.e., \mathbb{k} is a field of positive characteristic p . We define a

polynomial matrix $F_r(x_1, \dots, x_r)$ of $\text{Mat}(r, \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_r])$ as

$$F_r(x_1, \dots, x_r) := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_r \\ x_1^p & x_2^p & \cdots & x_r^p \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{p^{r-1}} & x_2^{p^{r-1}} & \cdots & x_r^{p^{r-1}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let ζ be a generator of the cyclic group \mathbb{F}_p^* of order $p-1$.

For any $\ell \geq 1$, we define a polynomial $g_\ell(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \in \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_\ell]$ as

$$\begin{aligned} & g_\ell(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \\ & := x_\ell \cdot \left(\prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 \leq p-1 \\ 1 \leq j_1 \leq \ell-1}} (x_\ell - \zeta^{i_1} x_{j_1}) \right) \cdot \left(\prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1, i_2 \leq p-1 \\ 1 \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq \ell-1}} (x_\ell - \zeta^{i_1} x_{j_1} - \zeta^{i_2} x_{j_2}) \right) \\ & \quad \cdots \cdots \left(\prod_{\substack{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_{\ell-1} \leq p-1 \\ 1 \leq j_1 < \cdots < j_{\ell-1} \leq \ell-1}} (x_\ell - \zeta^{i_1} x_{j_1} - \cdots - \zeta^{i_{\ell-1}} x_{j_{\ell-1}}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, $g_1(x_1) = x_1$.

Lemma 9 *We have*

$$\det(F_r(x_1, \dots, x_r)) = \prod_{\ell=1}^r g_\ell(x_1, \dots, x_\ell).$$

In particular if $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_p , then $F_r(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r)$ is a regular matrix.

Proof. We can express $\det(F_r)$ and g_r as

$$\begin{cases} \det(F_r) &= \det(F_{r-1}) \cdot x_r^{p^{r-1}} + (\text{ terms of lower degree in } x_r), \\ g_r &= x_r^{p^{r-1}} + (\text{ terms of lower degree in } x_r). \end{cases}$$

Since g_r divides $\det(F_r)$ in $\mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_r]$, we have $\det(F_r) = \det(F_{r-1}) \cdot g_r$, which implies the desired expression. Q.E.D.

For a matrix $A \in \text{Mat}(r, \mathbb{k})$, we define a submatrix $A_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell}^{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_\ell}$ ($1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_\ell \leq r$, $1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \cdots < j_\ell \leq r$) of A as

$$A_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell}^{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_\ell} := \begin{pmatrix} a_{i_1, j_1} & a_{i_1, j_2} & \cdots & a_{i_1, j_\ell} \\ a_{i_2, j_1} & a_{i_2, j_2} & \cdots & a_{i_2, j_\ell} \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{i_\ell, j_1} & a_{i_\ell, j_2} & \cdots & a_{i_\ell, j_\ell} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $\Gamma := \{(\mu, \nu) \mid 1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r\}$ be an ordered set whose ordering \preceq is given as follows: For $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \Gamma$, we write $\gamma_1 \preceq \gamma_2$ if the first non-zero component of $\gamma_2 - \gamma_1$ is positive or $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$. The number of elements of Γ is $r' := (r(r-1))/2$.

For any $A = (a_{i,j}) \in \text{Mat}(r, \mathbb{k})$, we define a matrix $\tilde{A} := (\tilde{a}_{\gamma,\delta})_{\gamma \in \Gamma, \delta \in \Gamma} \in \text{Mat}(r', \mathbb{k})$ as

$$\tilde{a}_{\gamma,\delta} := \det(A_\gamma^\delta).$$

Lemma 10 *If A is a regular matrix of $\text{Mat}(r, \mathbb{k})$, then \tilde{A} is a regular matrix of $\text{Mat}(r', \mathbb{k})$.*

Proof. For any $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \gamma_2) \in \Gamma$, we let $|\gamma| := \gamma_1 + \gamma_2$. We define a matrix $B = (b_{\gamma,\delta})_{(\gamma,\delta) \in \Gamma \times \Gamma} \in \text{Mat}(r', \mathbb{k})$ as follows: $b_{\gamma,\delta} := (-1)^{|\gamma|+|\delta|} \det(A_{s-\delta}^{s-\gamma})$, where s is a sequence defined by $s := (1, 2, \dots, r)$, and for any $(\mu, \nu) \in \Gamma$, $s - (\mu, \nu)$ is a subsequence of s obtained from s by deleting μ and ν , i.e., $s - (\mu, \nu) := (1, \dots, \hat{\mu}, \dots, \hat{\nu}, \dots, r)$. Clearly, $\tilde{A} \cdot B = \det(A) \cdot I_{r'}$. Q.E.D.

Now, we prove Theorem 1.

(1) Let $\alpha_1 := \iota(e_1)$. Clearly, $\alpha_1 \neq 0$. Let $M_1 := \rho(e_1) \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$. Clearly, $M_1^p = I_n$. So, let $N_1 := \alpha_1^{-1} \cdot \text{Log}(M_1)$. We can define a map $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ as

$$\varphi(t) := \text{Exp}(tN_1).$$

Clearly, φ is a representation of \mathbb{G}_a and $\rho(e_1) = \varphi(\alpha_1)$, which implies $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

(2) Let $\alpha_i := \iota(e_i)$ and let $M_i := \rho(e_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. Since $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ is a modular representation, we have the following (i) and (ii):

(i) $M_i^p = I_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

(ii) $M_i M_j = M_j M_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$.

Let \mathfrak{N} be the set of all p -nilpotent matrices of $\text{Mat}(n, k)$ and let \mathfrak{U} be the set of all p -unipotent matrices of $\text{Mat}(n, k)$. Let $\text{Exp} : \mathfrak{N} \rightarrow \mathfrak{U}$ be the truncated exponential map and let $\text{Log} : \mathfrak{U} \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}$ be the truncated logarithmic map. So, we have the following (iii) and (iv):

(iii) $\text{Log}(M_i) \in \mathfrak{N}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

(iv) $\text{Log}(M_i) \text{Log}(M_j) = \text{Log}(M_j) \text{Log}(M_i)$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$.

There exist matrices $N_1, \dots, N_r \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$ satisfying

$$\text{Log}(M_i) = \sum_{\lambda=1}^r \alpha_i^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq r,$$

since $\det(\alpha_i^{p^{\lambda-1}})_{1 \leq i, \lambda \leq r} \neq 0$. Thus we have the following (v) and (vi):

(v) $N_i^p = O_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

(vi) $N_i N_j = N_j N_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$.

Now, we can define a map $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ as

$$\varphi(t) := \text{Exp} \left(\sum_{\lambda=1}^r t^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda \right).$$

Since ρ is p -pyramidic, φ is a representation of \mathbb{G}_a . Clearly, $\rho(e_i) = \varphi(\alpha_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$, which implies $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

(3) It is enough to show that ρ is p -pyramidic. Let $X_i := \rho(e_i) - I_n$ ($1 \leq i \leq r$). Since $X_i X_j = X_j X_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$, there exists a regular matrix $P \in GL(n, k)$ such that $P^{-1} X_i P$'s ($1 \leq i \leq r$) are upper triangular matrices. Since $X_i^p = O_n$, the all diagonal entries of $P^{-1} X_i P$ are zeros. Since $1 \leq n \leq p$, we have

$$\prod_{i=1}^r (P^{-1} X_i P)^{\ell_i} = O_n \quad \text{for all } \ell_1, \dots, \ell_r \geq 0 \text{ with } \ell_1 + \dots + \ell_r \geq p.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

3. A proof of Theorem 2

3.1 A proof of assertion (2) of Theorem 2

Let $M_i := \rho(e_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. We can solve the following equations (*) for $N_\lambda \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$ ($1 \leq \lambda \leq r$) and $N_{\mu, \nu} \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$ ($1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r$):

$$(*) \begin{cases} \begin{cases} M_i - I_n \\ = \sum_{\lambda=1}^r \alpha_i^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda + \sum_{1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r} \alpha_i^{p^{\mu-1} + p^{\nu-1}} N_{\mu, \nu} \end{cases} & (1 \leq i \leq r), \\ \begin{cases} (M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n) \\ = \sum_{1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r} (\alpha_i^{p^{\mu-1}} \alpha_j^{p^{\nu-1}} + \alpha_i^{p^{\nu-1}} \alpha_j^{p^{\mu-1}}) N_{\mu, \nu} \end{cases} & ((i, j) \in \Gamma). \end{cases}$$

Let $A := F_r(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r) \in \text{Mat}(r, k)$. Recall that A is a regular matrix (see Lemma 9) and that \tilde{A} is also a regular matrix (see Lemma 10). It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} (N_{\mu, \nu})_{(\mu, \nu) \in \Gamma} &= ((M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n))_{(i, j) \in \Gamma} \cdot \tilde{A}^{-1}, \\ (N_\lambda)_{1 \leq \lambda \leq r} &= \left(M_i - I_n - \sum_{1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r} \alpha_i^{p^{\mu-1} + p^{\nu-1}} N_{\mu, \nu} \right)_{1 \leq i \leq r} \cdot A^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $(M_i - I_n)^2 = O_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $(M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n) = (M_j - I_n)(M_i - I_n)$ for all $1 \leq i < j \leq r$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\mu,\nu} N_{\mu',\nu'} &= O_n && ((\mu,\nu), (\mu',\nu') \in \Gamma), \\ N_\lambda^2 &= O_n && (1 \leq \lambda \leq r), \\ N_\mu N_\nu &= N_\nu N_\mu && ((\mu,\nu) \in \Gamma). \end{aligned}$$

Since ρ is of 3-mutually annihilating, we have

$$N_\lambda N_{\mu,\nu} = O_n \quad (1 \leq \lambda \leq r, (\mu,\nu) \in \Gamma).$$

By the first equation of (*), we have

$$(M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n) = \sum_{1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r} (\alpha_i^{p^{\mu-1}} \alpha_j^{p^{\nu-1}} + \alpha_i^{p^{\nu-1}} \alpha_j^{p^{\mu-1}}) N_\mu N_\nu \quad ((i,j) \in \Gamma).$$

The second equality of (*) implies

$$N_\mu N_\nu = N_{\mu,\nu} \quad (1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq r).$$

Now, the first equation of (*) implies that

$$M_i = \prod_{\lambda=1}^r (I_n + \alpha^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda) \quad (1 \leq i \leq r).$$

Let $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be the map defined by

$$\varphi(t) = \prod_{\lambda=1}^r (I_n + t^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda).$$

Clearly, φ is a representation. So, $\rho(e_i) = \varphi(\alpha_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$, which implies $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$. Q.E.D.

3.2 A proof of assertion (1) of Theorem 2

3.2.1 $r = 2$

We first consider the case $r = 2$. Let $M_i := \rho(e_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$. Let $A := F_2(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$. We can solve the following equations (*) for $N_1, N_2, N_{1,2} \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$:

$$(*) \begin{cases} M_i - I_n = \alpha_i N_1 + \alpha_i^p N_2 + \alpha_i^{p+1} N_{1,2} & (1 \leq i \leq 2), \\ (M_1 - I_n)(M_2 - I_n) = \det(A) N_{1,2}. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, we have

$$N_1^2 = N_2^2 = O_n, \quad N_1 N_2 = N_2 N_1, \quad N_1 N_{1,2} = O_n, \quad N_2 N_{1,2} = O_n.$$

Calculate $(M_1 - I_n)(M_2 - I_n)$ by using the first equation of (*). Thus $N_{1,2} = N_1 N_2$. Hence we have $M_i = (I_n + \alpha_i N_1)(I_n + \alpha_i^p N_2)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq 2$. Now, we can define a representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ as

$$\varphi(t) := (I_n + tN_1)(I_n + t^p N_2).$$

Clearly, $\rho(e_i) = \varphi(\alpha_i)$ for all $i = 1, 2$, which implies $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

3.2.2 $r = 3$

We next consider the case $r = 3$. Let $M_i = \rho(e_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq 3$, let $A := F_3(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$ and let \tilde{A} be as above. So,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_1^p & \alpha_2^p & \alpha_3^p \\ \alpha_1^{p^2} & \alpha_2^{p^2} & \alpha_3^{p^2} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \alpha_2^p + \alpha_1^p \alpha_2 & \alpha_1 \alpha_3^p + \alpha_1^p \alpha_3 & \alpha_2 \alpha_3^p + \alpha_2^p \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_1 \alpha_2^{p^2} + \alpha_1^{p^2} \alpha_2 & \alpha_1 \alpha_3^{p^2} + \alpha_1^{p^2} \alpha_3 & \alpha_2 \alpha_3^{p^2} + \alpha_2^{p^2} \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_1^p \alpha_2^{p^2} + \alpha_1^{p^2} \alpha_2^p & \alpha_1^p \alpha_3^{p^2} + \alpha_1^{p^2} \alpha_3^p & \alpha_2^p \alpha_3^{p^2} + \alpha_2^{p^2} \alpha_3^p \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can solve the following equations (*) for $N_1, N_2, N_3, N_{1,2}, N_{1,3}, N_{2,3}, N_{1,2,3} \in \text{Mat}(n, k)$:

$$(*) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} M_i - I_n \\ = \alpha_i N_1 + \alpha_i^p N_2 + \alpha_i^{p^2} N_3 \\ \quad + \alpha_i^{p+1} N_{1,2} + \alpha_i^{p^2+1} N_{1,3} + \alpha_i^{p^2+p} N_{2,3} + \alpha_i^{p^2+p+1} N_{1,2,3} \end{array} \\ \hspace{15em} (1 \leq i \leq 3), \\ \\ \begin{array}{l} (M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n) \\ = (\alpha_i \alpha_j^p + \alpha_i^p \alpha_j) N_{1,2} + (\alpha_i \alpha_j^{p^2} + \alpha_i^{p^2} \alpha_j) N_{1,3} + (\alpha_i^p \alpha_j^{p^2} + \alpha_i^{p^2} \alpha_j^p) N_{2,3} \\ \quad + \left(\alpha_i \alpha_j^{p^2+p} + \alpha_i^p \alpha_j^{p^2+1} + \alpha_i^{p^2} \alpha_j^{p+1} \right) N_{1,2,3} \\ \quad \quad \quad \left(+ \alpha_i^{p+1} \alpha_j^{p^2} + \alpha_i^{p^2+1} \alpha_j^p + \alpha_i^{p^2+p} \alpha_j \right) N_{1,2,3} \end{array} \\ \hspace{15em} (1 \leq i < j \leq 3), \\ \\ (M_1 - I_n)(M_2 - I_n)(M_3 - I_n) = \det(A) N_{1,2,3}. \end{array} \right.$$

In fact, letting $M_{i,j} := (M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n)$ for $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ and $M_{1,2,3} := (M_1 - I_n)(M_2 - I_n)(M_3 - I_n)$, we have, from the bottom to the top of the above equations (*),

$$N_{1,2,3} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} M_{1,2,3},$$

$$(N_{1,2}, N_{1,3}, N_{2,3}) = (M_{1,2}, M_{1,3}, M_{2,3}) \cdot \tilde{A}^{-1} + (b_{1,2}, b_{1,3}, b_{2,3}) \cdot M_{1,2,3}$$

for some $b_{1,2}, b_{1,3}, b_{2,3} \in k$,

$$(N_1, N_2, N_3) = (M_1 - I_n, M_2 - I_n, M_3 - I_n) \cdot A^{-1}$$

$$+ (M_{1,2}, M_{1,3}, M_{2,3}) \cdot C + (d_{1,2}, d_{1,3}, d_{2,3}) \cdot M_{1,2,3}$$

for some $C \in \text{Mat}(3, k)$ and $d_{1,2}, d_{1,3}, d_{2,3} \in k$.

Clearly, we have $N_i^2 = O_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq 3$ and $N_i N_j = N_j N_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$. For $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$, let $A_{i,j}$ be the determinant of the submatrix formed by deleting the i -th row and the j -th column of A . So,

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{2,1} & A_{3,1} \\ A_{1,2} & A_{2,2} & A_{3,2} \\ A_{1,3} & A_{2,3} & A_{3,3} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{3,3} & A_{3,2} & A_{3,1} \\ A_{2,3} & A_{2,2} & A_{2,1} \\ A_{1,3} & A_{1,2} & A_{1,1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_3^{p^2} & \alpha_3^p & \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_2^{p^2} & \alpha_2^p & \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_1^{p^2} & \alpha_1^p & \alpha_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $A = (a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq 3}$. For all $1 \leq i \leq 3$ and $1 \leq j < \ell \leq 3$ and $m \in \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{j, \ell\}$, we have

$$N_i N_{j,\ell} = \left(\frac{1}{\det(A)} (A_{i,1}(M_1 - I_n) + A_{i,2}(M_2 - I_n) + A_{i,3}(M_3 - I_n)) \right)$$

$$\cdot \left(\frac{1}{\det(A)} (a_{m,3} M_{1,2} + a_{m,2} M_{1,3} + a_{m,1} M_{2,3}) \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\det(A)^2} (A_{i,1} a_{m,1} + A_{i,2} a_{m,2} + A_{i,3} a_{m,3}) M_{1,2,3}$$

$$= \begin{cases} O_n & \text{if } i \neq m, \\ \frac{1}{\det(A)} M_{1,2,3} & \text{if } i = m. \end{cases}$$

Calculate $(M_1 - I_n)(M_2 - I_n)(M_3 - I_n)$ by using the first equation of (*). We have

$$N_1 N_2 N_3 = \frac{1}{\det(A)} M_{1,2,3}.$$

So, the third equality of (*) implies

$$N_1 N_2 N_3 = N_{1,2,3}.$$

Expand $(M_i - I_n)(M_j - I_n)$ by using the first equation of (*). The second equality of (*) can imply

$$N_1 N_2 = N_{1,2}, \quad N_1 N_3 = N_{1,3}, \quad N_2 N_3 = N_{2,3}.$$

Hence we have

$$M_i = (I_n + \alpha_i N_1)(I_n + \alpha_i^p N_2)(I_n + \alpha_i^{p^2} N_3) \quad (1 \leq i \leq 3).$$

Let $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ be the map defined by

$$\varphi(t) = \prod_{\lambda=1}^3 (I_n + t^{p^{\lambda-1}} N_\lambda).$$

Clearly, φ is a representation. Thus, $\rho(e_i) = \varphi(\alpha_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq 3$, which implies $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$.

4. Proofs of Corollaries 3 and 4

4.1 Lemmas

Let

$$\mathfrak{a}_{2,2} := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 & a_{1,3} & a_{1,4} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{2,3} & a_{2,4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \mid a_{1,3}, a_{1,4}, a_{2,3}, a_{2,4} \in k \right\}$$

be a subset of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$.

Lemma 11 *Let $X = (x_{i,j})$ be an upper triangular matrix of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$ satisfying $X^2 = O_n$ and $x_{2,3} \neq 0$. Then the following assertions (1) and (2) hold true:*

- (1) $X \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$.
- (2) For any upper triangular matrix $Y = (y_{i,j})$ of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$ satisfying $Y^2 = O_n$ and $XY = YX$, we have $Y \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$.

Proof. (1) The proof is straightforward.

(2) If $y_{2,3} \neq 0$, then $Y \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$ (by the above assertion (1)). If $y_{2,3} = 0$, then $y_{1,2} = y_{3,4} = 0$ (since $XY = YX$), which implies $Y \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$. Q.E.D.

Let

$$\mathfrak{h}_4 := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 0 & h_{1,2} & h_{1,3} & h_{1,4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & h_{2,4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & h_{3,4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \mid h_{1,2}, h_{1,3}, h_{1,4}, h_{2,4}, h_{3,4} \in k \right\}$$

be a subset of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$.

Lemma 12 *Let N_i ($1 \leq i \leq r$) be upper triangular matrices of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$ satisfying both conditions $N_i^2 = O_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $N_i N_j = N_j N_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$. Then one of the following cases (1) and (2) can occur:*

(1) $N_i \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

(2) $N_i \in \mathfrak{h}_4$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Proof. Suppose that there exists at least one matrix N_j among N_i ($1 \leq i \leq r$) such that N_j does not belong to \mathfrak{h}_4 . By Lemma 11, $N_j \in \mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$ and then the other $(r - 1)$ matrices $N_1, \dots, \hat{N}_j, \dots, N_r$ belong to $\mathfrak{a}_{2,2}$. Q.E.D.

Lemma 13 *Assume $r \geq 3$. Let N_i ($1 \leq i \leq r$) be matrices of $\text{Mat}(4, k)$ satisfying both conditions $N_i^2 = O_n$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $N_i N_j = N_j N_i$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$. Then the matrices N_1, \dots, N_r are of 3-mutually annihilating.*

Proof. The proof is straightforward by the above Lemma 12. Q.E.D.

4.2 A proof of Corollary 3

If $p \geq 3$, the corollary follows from assertion (3) of Theorem 1. So, if $p = 2$ and $2 \leq r \leq 3$, the corollary follows from assertion (1) of Theorem 2. If $p = 2$ and $r \geq 4$, the corollary follows from assertion (2) of Theorem 2 and Lemma 13.

4.3 A proof of Corollary 4

Let $\rho : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(4, k)$ be a modular representation. Since k is algebraically closed, there exists an injective group homomorphism $\iota : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$. Let $\alpha_i := \iota(e_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. By Theorem 1, we can factor ρ as $\rho = \varphi \circ \iota$ for some representation $\varphi : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow GL(4, k)$. By [6, Theorem 2.1], there exists a regular matrix $P \in GL(4, k)$ such that the representation $\psi(t) := P^{-1}\varphi(t)P$ of \mathbb{G}_a has one of the following forms $A_{2,2}(t)$, $A_{3,1}(t)$, $H_\mu(t)$:

$$A_{2,2}(t) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c & d \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (a, b, c, d \text{ are } p\text{-polynomials}),$$

$$A_{3,1}(t) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (a, b, c \text{ are } p\text{-polynomials}),$$

$$H_\mu(t) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b & \mu ab + c \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \mu b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \mu a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a, b, c \text{ are } p\text{-polynomials,} \\ a, b \text{ are linearly independent} \\ \text{over } k, \text{ and } \mu \in k \end{pmatrix}.$$

If $\psi(t) = A_{2,2}(t)$, then $\psi(\alpha_i) \in \mathcal{A}_{2,2}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. If $\psi(t) = A_{3,1}(t)$, then $\psi(\alpha_i) \in \mathcal{A}_{3,1}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. If $\psi(t) = H_\mu(t)$, then $\psi(\alpha_i) \in \mathcal{H}_\mu$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. Now we define a modular representation $\sigma : (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r \rightarrow GL(n, k)$ as $\sigma(g) := P^{-1}\rho(g)P$. Clearly, σ satisfies the condition (1) of Corollary 4. And σ satisfies the condition (2) of Corollary 4 since $\sigma(e_i) = \psi(\alpha_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. This completes the proof of Corollary 4.

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