

The classification of endo-trivial modules

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1. Introduction

This paper provides the final step for the classification of all endo-trivial kP -modules, where P is a finite p -group and k is a field of characteristic p . The classification was obtained in [CaTh2] in the case that every maximal elementary abelian subgroup of P has rank at least 3. The result had been known for a long time if P has a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 1, i.e. if P is cyclic or generalized quaternion. The purpose of this paper is to handle the only remaining case that P has at least one maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2. This case is rather subtle and requires special treatment.

Let $T(P)$ be the group of equivalence classes of endo-trivial kP -modules. The classification of endo-trivial kP -modules is equivalent to the complete description of the structure of $T(P)$. It was proved in [CaTh2] that $T(P)$ is free abelian if P is not cyclic, quaternion or semi-dihedral, and that $T(P) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ in most cases, namely when every maximal elementary abelian subgroup of P has rank at least 3. Assuming now that P has at least one maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 (but P not semi-dihedral), we prove that $T(P)$ is free abelian on r explicit generators, which are classes of suitable relative syzygies of the trivial module. The torsion-free rank of $T(P)$, which is r , was described in group-theoretic terms by Alperin [Al]. The chief contribution of this paper is to show that the relative syzygies found by Alperin generate all of $T(P)$ and not just a subgroup of finite index. This is the final step in the classification of the elements of $T(P)$.

Our strategy is to solve first the problem for several small p -groups, namely all extraspecial and almost extraspecial p -groups which satisfy the

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condition of having a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 (they have order at most p^5). Then a group-theoretic argument allows us to deduce the result in general. In the (almost) extraspecial case, we use a method which appears in a different form in [CaTh2] and which turns out to be applicable again with some modification. This consists of decomposing and tensoring endo-trivial modules according to the structure of the variety of a certain quotient of the module. The method was used in [CaTh2] in a proof by contradiction. Here we adapt the method and state positive results which are then used to handle our problem.

As a by-product of the main result, we obtain that $T(P)$ is generated by relative syzygies, except for the case in which P is a generalized quaternion group and an exceptional module is known to exist. This confirms a recent conjecture and is the starting point needed by S. Bouc and N. Mazza in their work [BoMa] on the Dade group of extraspecial p -groups. Another consequence of the property that $T(P)$ is generated by relative syzygies is the fact that the classification is independent of the base field k (except for the quaternion group of order 8, see [CaTh1]). Thus, throughout this paper, k denotes an arbitrary field of characteristic p .

We should point out that there is another set of generators for $T(P)$ found by the first author using a different approach [Ca]. These generators are constructed by direct decompositions of the ordinary syzygies of the trivial module using information from group cohomology. The construction uses many of the same methods as this paper, but is completely independent. The generators must coincide with the relative syzygies used in this paper. However, we have no direct proof of the coincidence. Instead, the verification of the isomorphisms of the modules relies on the classification, and in particular, on the fact that $T(P)$ is torsion free [CaTh2]. A third collection of elements, constructed by Bouc and the second author using tensor induction [BoTh], generates a subgroup of $T(P)$ of the correct rank, but which (in general) may not be all of $T(P)$.

The paper is organized roughly as follows. The second and third sections develop some group theoretic information on p -groups with maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2, and describe the restrictions to elementary abelian subgroups of the relative syzygies defined by Alperin. Sections four and five generalize results from [CaTh2] on decompositions and tensor products of endo-trivial modules. In Sect. 6, we prove a classification of the endo-trivial modules for the extraspecial groups of rank 2. The final step in the classification comes in Sect. 7, using restriction to extraspecial subgroups and some group theoretic results.

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2. Groups with maximal elementary subgroups of rank 2

We first recall some known results concerning p -groups P having maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2. Let \mathcal{A} be the poset of all elementary abelian subgroups of P of rank at least 2. Clearly the isolated vertices of \mathcal{A} are precisely the maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2. Let \mathcal{B} be the subposet of \mathcal{A} consisting of all elementary abelian subgroups of P of rank at least 3 as well as their subgroups of rank 2. The following group-theoretic result is well-known and not very hard to prove (see Lemma 10.21 in [GLS]).

Lemma 2.1. *Let $m(P)$ be the maximal rank of an elementary abelian subgroup of P .*

- (a) *If $m(P) = 2$, then \mathcal{A} consists of isolated vertices.*
- (b) *If $m(P) \geq 3$, then \mathcal{B} is a connected component of \mathcal{A} and all other connected components (if any) are isolated vertices.*

We shall call \mathcal{B} the *big* connected component of \mathcal{A} .

By a theorem of Alperin [Al], the torsion-free rank of $T(P)$ is equal to the number of conjugacy classes of connected components of \mathcal{A} . We shall have to revisit Alperin's theorem in the next section and, to this end, we need the following more precise lemma, which appears in slightly different forms in [Al] and [GLS]. For notation, let C_m denote a cyclic group of order m , D_{2m} a dihedral group of order $2m$, and Q_{2^k} a generalized quaternion group of order 2^k .

Lemma 2.2. *Let P be a p -group with $m(P) \geq 2$. Let $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_r$ be representatives of the conjugacy classes of connected components of \mathcal{A} and assume that $r \geq 2$. For a suitable choice of numbering, these representatives can be made to satisfy the following conditions:*

- (a) *\mathcal{C}_1 contains a normal elementary abelian subgroup E of rank 2, unless $p = 2$ and P is dihedral of order ≥ 16 . Moreover, if $m(P) \geq 3$, then \mathcal{C}_1 is equal to the big component \mathcal{B} .*
- (b) *If $2 \leq i \leq r$, then $\mathcal{C}_i = \{E_i\}$ where E_i is maximal elementary abelian of rank 2. Moreover, E_i contains a non-central subgroup S_i of order p , and we have that $C_P(S_i) = S_i \times L_i$ with L_i either cyclic or generalized quaternion.*
- (c) *If $2 \leq i \leq r$, then $C_P(S_i) = C_P(E_i)$ is a subgroup of index p in $N_P(E_i)$ and $N_P(E_i) = (E \cdot E_i) * L_i$, where $*$ denotes the central product. Moreover $E \cdot E_i$ is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p if p is odd, and isomorphic to D_8 if $p = 2$.*

Proof. (a) If $P = D_8$ or if P is not dihedral, then there exists a normal elementary abelian subgroup E of rank 2, by a well-known result of Hall, using also the fact that $m(P) \geq 2$ and that P cannot be semi-dihedral because $r \geq 2$ by assumption (see Theorem 5.4.10 in [Go]). We number the representatives \mathcal{C}_i in such a way that $E \in \mathcal{C}_1$.

Assume that $m(P) \geq 3$ and let F be any elementary abelian subgroup of rank ≥ 3 . Then $C_F(E)$ has index 1 or p in F , because $F/C_F(E)$ embeds in $\text{Aut}(E)$, hence $C_F(E) \in \mathcal{A}$. In view of the sequence of inclusions

$$E \leq E \cdot C_F(E) \geq C_F(E) \leq F,$$

we conclude that $E \in \mathcal{B}$. Therefore $\mathcal{C}_1 = \mathcal{B}$, proving (a).

(b) If P is a dihedral 2-group, then there are 2 conjugacy classes of maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2 (none of them is normal if $|P| \geq 16$). For any such subgroup F , we have $F = Z \times C$ where $Z = Z(P)$ and $|C| = 2$, and moreover $C_P(C) = F$ and $N_P(F) = D_8$. So (b) and (c) hold in this case.

If P is not dihedral, let E be the normal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 considered in part (a). This subgroup E has the following properties. First E is non-central, otherwise E would be contained in every maximal elementary abelian subgroup, and the poset \mathcal{A} would be connected, contrary to the assumption that $r \geq 2$. Next $Z = E \cap Z(P) \neq \{1\}$ because E is normal and so $|Z| = p$. Note that Z is contained in every maximal elementary abelian subgroup. Finally the subgroup $M = C_P(E)$ is a proper subgroup of P , otherwise E would be central. Since $N_P(E) = P$ and P/M embeds in $\text{Aut}(E)$, M has index p in P .

Since $\mathcal{C}_1 = \mathcal{B}$ whenever $m(P) \geq 3$, it follows that in all cases, for $2 \leq i \leq r$, we have $\mathcal{C}_i = \{E_i\}$ where E_i is maximal elementary abelian of rank 2. Moreover, as before, E_i cannot be central, otherwise \mathcal{A} would be connected, and therefore E_i contains a non-central subgroup S_i of order p . Also $Z \leq E_i$ and so $E_i = Z \times S_i$. Now S_i does not centralize E , otherwise $E_i < E \times S_i$, contrary to the maximality of E_i . Therefore $S_i \not\leq M$ and since M has index p we have that $P = S_i \cdot M$. Hence $C_P(S_i) = S_i \cdot C_M(S_i)$, that is, $C_P(S_i) = S_i \times L_i$ where $L_i = C_M(S_i)$. If A is a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of L_i , then $Z \leq A$ and

$$E_i = Z \times S_i \leq A \times S_i,$$

hence $Z = A$ by maximality of E_i . This shows that $m(L_i) = 1$ and therefore L_i is cyclic or generalized quaternion (Theorem 5.4.10 in [Go]). This completes the proof of (b).

(c) Clearly $C_P(E_i) = C_P(S_i)$ because $E_i = Z \times S_i$. Since E is normal and $E \cap E_i = Z$, $E \cdot E_i$ is a group of order p^3 and E_i has index p in $E \cdot E_i$. Therefore E normalizes E_i . But we have seen that E does not centralize S_i and so $|N_P(E_i) : C_P(E_i)| \neq 1$. Since $N_P(E_i)/C_P(E_i)$ embeds in $\text{Aut}(E_i)$, we have $|N_P(E_i) : C_P(E_i)| = p$. Moreover, since $E \cdot E_i$ is non-abelian of order p^3 and has two elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2, it has to be extraspecial of exponent p if p is odd and isomorphic to D_8 if $p = 2$. Finally, we have

$$N_P(E_i) = E \cdot C_P(E_i) = E \cdot E_i \cdot L_i$$

and we obtain a central product $(E \cdot E_i) * L_i$ because $(E \cdot E_i) \cap L_i = Z$. \square

Remark 2.3. Note that Lemma 2.1 follows from the argument of the proof of (a) and that this argument also shows that if $m(P) \geq 3$ then every normal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 belongs to \mathcal{B} .

3. Alperin’s theorem revisited

We begin by recalling basic definitions and establishing some notation that is of use throughout the paper. The group $T(P)$ has elements consisting of equivalence classes $[M]$ of endo-trivial modules M . The equivalence relation is that $[M] = [N]$ if $M \oplus Q_1 \cong N \oplus Q_2$ for some projective modules Q_1 and Q_2 . We use an additive notation for the group law in $T(P)$. That is the operation is given by

$$[M] + [M'] = [M \otimes M'].$$

For a kP -module M , let $\Gamma(M)$ be the sum of all the indecomposable components of M having vertex P . Thus, $M \cong \Gamma(M) \oplus U$, where U is a direct sum of submodules with vertex properly contained in P . Both $\Gamma(M)$ and U are well defined up to isomorphism. Let $M^{\otimes n}$ denote the tensor product of n copies of M .

An endo-permutation module is a finitely generated module M whose endomorphism ring $\text{Hom}_k(M, M)$ is a permutation module. In the Dade group $D(P)$, the elements are classes $[M]$ of endo-permutation modules M having at least one indecomposable summand with vertex P (unique up to isomorphism). Hence for M such a module $[M] = [\Gamma(M)]$. The operation is given by

$$[M] + [N] = [M \otimes N] = [\Gamma(M \otimes N)].$$

The group of endo-trivial modules $T(G)$ injects into $D(P)$ and can be considered as a subgroup of the Dade group in a natural way. In particular, we use the symbol $[M]$ to denote the class of M in either $D(P)$ or $T(P)$, as appropriate. The reader should be warned that the classes do *not* mean the same thing in the two different groups. However, a class $[M]$ in $D(P)$ is in the image of a class in $T(P)$ if and only if the module $\Gamma(M)$ is an endo-trivial module. We emphasize also that $\Gamma(M)$ is well defined up to isomorphism by its class $[M]$ in $D(P)$.

Alperin’s theorem asserts that the torsion free rank of $T(P)$ is equal to the number r of conjugacy classes of connected components of the poset \mathcal{A} of the previous section. The proof uses relative syzygies (see also [BoTh] for another approach using tensor induction). For later use, we need to revisit Alperin’s proof in more detail, taking also into account that $T(P)$ has no torsion, by one of the main results of [CaTh2].

For any p -group P and for any finite P -set X , we let $\Omega_X^1(k)$ denote the first relative syzygy of the trivial kP -module, that is, the kernel of the map $kX \rightarrow k$ mapping every element of X to 1, where kX denotes the permutation module with basis X . We shall use the relative syzygies $\Omega_{P/Q}^1(k)$ for suitable subgroups Q . When $Q = 1$, we obtain the ordinary

syzygy $\Omega_P^1(k)$ of the trivial kP -module, that is, the augmentation ideal of the group algebra kP . Also, $\Omega_P^{-1}(k)$ denotes the dual of $\Omega_P^1(k)$, whose class in $T(P)$ is the inverse of the class of $\Omega_P^1(k)$. For any kP -module M , let $\Omega_X^1(M)$ denote the kernel of a relative kX -projective cover $U \rightarrow M$. Then inductively, we define $\Omega_X^n(M) = \Omega_X^1(\Omega_X^{n-1}(M))$. The usual calculus for these modules is that

$$\Omega_X^m(M) \otimes \Omega_X^n(N) \cong \Omega_X^{m+n}(M \otimes N) \oplus W$$

where W is some relatively X -projective module. Note that if $X = P$, W is a projective kP -module.

We select maximal elementary abelian subgroups E_2, \dots, E_r of rank 2 as in Lemma 2.2 and we let S_i denote a non-central subgroup of E_i , for every $i = 2, \dots, r$. Moreover, we choose arbitrarily a subgroup E_1 in the remaining connected component \mathcal{C}_1 . Recall that the group $T(E_i)$ of endotrivial modules for E_i is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} , generated by the class of $\Omega_{E_i}^1(k)$ (Dade [Da]). We define

$$\alpha_i : T(P) \xrightarrow{\text{Res}_{E_i}^P} T(E_i) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{Z}.$$

That is, $\alpha_i([M]) = n$ if $M \downarrow_{E_i}^P \cong \Omega_{E_i}^n(k) \oplus U$ for some projective kE_i -module U . Let

$$\alpha = \prod_{i=1}^r \alpha_i : T(P) \rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^r \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}^r.$$

Theorem 3.1. *Let P be a finite p -group having a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2, and suppose that P is not semi-dihedral. Let α be defined as above.*

- (a) *The map α is injective.*
- (b) (Alperin [Al]) *The map α has a finite cokernel. In other words it is a rational isomorphism. In particular $T(P)$ is free abelian of rank r .*
- (c) *The classes of the modules $\Omega_P^1(k), N_2, \dots, N_r$ defined below form a rational basis of $\mathbb{Q} \otimes T(P)$. If $2 \leq i \leq r$, define the kP -module $M_i = \Omega_P^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)$. If $C_P(S_i)/S_i$ is cyclic of order ≥ 3 , then $N_i \cong \Gamma(M_i^{\otimes 2})$ is endo-trivial and we have*

$$\alpha_j([N_i]) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j \neq i, \\ -2p & \text{if } j = i. \end{cases}$$

If $p = 2$ and $C_P(S_i)/S_i$ is cyclic of order 2, then $N_i \cong M_i$ is endo-trivial and we have

$$\alpha_j([N_i]) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j \neq i, \\ -2 & \text{if } j = i. \end{cases}$$

If $p = 2$ and $C_P(S_i)/S_i$ is generalized quaternion, then $N_i \cong \Gamma(M_i^{\otimes 4})$ is endo-trivial and we have

$$\alpha_j([N_i]) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j \neq i, \\ -8 & \text{if } j = i. \end{cases}$$

Finally, $\alpha_j([\Omega_p^1(k)]) = 1$ for every j .

Proof. The group P cannot be cyclic nor quaternion and is not semi-dihedral by assumption. Therefore, by Theorem 1.2 of [CaTh2], the restriction map

$$\text{Res} : T(P) \longrightarrow \prod_E T(E) \cong \prod_E \mathbb{Z}$$

is an injection, where E runs through the set of all elementary abelian subgroups of P of rank 2. Clearly, it suffices to choose representatives of conjugacy classes of such subgroups. This proves (a) when $m(P) = 2$. Now if $m(P) \geq 3$, then there is a big component \mathcal{B} and the restriction map $T(E) \longrightarrow T(F)$ is an isomorphism whenever $E, F \in \mathcal{B}$ with $F \leq E$, because both groups are isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} , generated by the class of $\Omega^1(k)$. Therefore it suffices to choose the single subgroup $E_1 \in \mathcal{B}$ and (a) also follows in this case.

It is clear that (c) implies (b). Actually (c) is implicit in Alperin’s paper [Al] and all the ideas come from that paper. We now indicate how to prove (c) and refer to Bouc’s paper [Bo] for a detailed exposition of the machinery concerning relative syzygies. We remind the reader of the notational convention regarding the classes $[M]$ in $D(P)$ and $T(P)$, that was stated at the beginning of the section.

By Theorem 1 of [Al] or Lemma 2.3.3 of [Bo], the module $\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)$ is an endo-permutation module. Hence, so is M_i . In order to prove that a suitable multiple in the Dade group of $[\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]$ is endo-trivial, it suffices to prove that its class in $D(P)$ lies in the kernel of the deflation–restriction map

$$\text{Def}_{N_P(Q)/Q}^{N_P(Q)} \text{Res}_{N_P(Q)}^P : D(P) \longrightarrow D(N_P(Q)/Q)$$

for every non-trivial subgroup Q of P (see 2.1.2 in [Pu]). Now by Lemma 4.2.1 in [Bo],

$$\text{Def}_{N_P(Q)/Q}^{N_P(Q)} \text{Res}_{N_P(Q)}^P ([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = [\Omega_{(P/S_i)^Q}^1(k)]$$

where $(P/S_i)^Q$ is the set of Q -fixed points in P/S_i , viewed as an $N_P(Q)/Q$ -set. If Q is not conjugate to S_i , then $(P/S_i)^Q$ is empty and therefore

$$\text{Def}_{N_P(Q)/Q}^{N_P(Q)} \text{Res}_{N_P(Q)}^P ([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = 0.$$

If Q is conjugate to S_i then we can assume that $Q = S_i$ and we have that

$$\text{Def}_{N_P(S_i)/S_i}^{N_P(S_i)} \text{Res}_{N_P(S_i)}^P ([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = [\Omega_{N_P(S_i)/S_i}^1(k)].$$

But we have $N_P(S_i)/S_i = C_P(S_i)/S_i \cong L_i$ by Lemma 2.2 and $[\Omega_{L_i}^1(k)]$ has order 2 if L_i is cyclic of order ≥ 3 , order 1 if L_i is cyclic of order 2, and order 4 if L_i is generalized quaternion. This shows that the corresponding multiple of $[\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]$ lies in the kernel of the deflation–restriction map. Consequently, the class of the corresponding multiple of M_i in the Dade group is also the class of an endo-trivial module.

In order to compute the image of N_i under the map α_j , we need to compute the restriction $M_i \downarrow_{E_j}^P$, and also $\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k) \downarrow_{E_j}^P$. By Corollary 4.1.2 in [Bo], we have that

$$[\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k) \downarrow_{E_j}^P] = [\Omega_{\text{Res}_{E_j}^P(P/S_i)}^1(k)] = \begin{cases} [\Omega_{E_j}^1(k)] & \text{if } j \neq i, \\ [\Omega_{\text{Res}_{E_i}^P(P/S_i)}^1(k)] & \text{if } j = i. \end{cases}$$

Now the Mackey decomposition shows that $\text{Res}_{E_i}^P(P/S_i)$ is the disjoint union of a free E_i -set and of $|C_P(E_i) : E_i|$ copies of

$$\bigsqcup_{g \in [N_P(E_i)/C_P(E_i)]} E_i/S_i^{g_s} = \bigsqcup_{s=1}^p E_i/S_i^{g_s},$$

where g_1, \dots, g_p are representatives of $N_P(E_i)/C_P(E_i)$ (see Lemma 2.2). By Lemma 3.2.7 in [Bo], we deduce that

$$[\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k) \downarrow_{E_i}^P] = [\Omega_{\bigsqcup_{s=1}^p E_i/S_i^{g_s}}^1(k)].$$

Now by repeated applications of Lemma 5.2.1 of [Bo] (which is also the method used on pp. 9–10 of [Al]), we obtain

$$[\Omega_{\bigsqcup_{s=1}^p E_i/S_i^{g_s}}^1(k)] = -(p-1)[\Omega_{E_i}] + \sum_{s=1}^p [\Omega_{E_i/S_i^{g_s}}^1(k)].$$

But $E_i/S_i^{g_s}$ is cyclic of order p , so $[\Omega_{E_i/S_i^{g_s}}^1(k)] = 0$ if $p = 2$ and $2[\Omega_{E_i/S_i^{g_s}}^1(k)] = 0$ if p is odd. This shows that

$$\alpha_j([\Gamma(\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)^{\otimes m})]) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } j \neq i, \\ -m(p-1) & \text{if } j = i, \end{cases}$$

where we take $m = 1$ (resp. 2, resp. 4) if $C_P(S_i)/S_i \cong L_i$ is cyclic of order 2 (resp. cyclic of order ≥ 3 , resp. generalized quaternion). The class $[N_i]$ is now obtained by adding $[\Omega_P^{-1}(k)^{\otimes m}] = m[\Omega_P^{-1}(k)]$, whose image under α is $(-m, -m, \dots, -m)$. The result of the computation for $\alpha_j([N_i])$ follows. □

Theorem 3.1 raises the question of describing explicitly the image of α and this is the main purpose of the present paper. We prove that the basis appearing in Theorem 3.1 is actually an integral basis of $T(P)$.

Note that we can assume that the integer r is at least 2, for if $r = 1$ then $\text{Res}_{E_1}^P : T(P) \rightarrow T(E_1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ is an isomorphism and $T(P)$ is generated by the class of the ordinary syzygy $\Omega_p^1(k)$. One of the effects of the assumption that $r \geq 2$ is that all E_i 's intersect in the subgroup Z of order p considered in Sect. 2, namely the unique central subgroup of order p . This motivates the situation considered in the next two sections, where Z will denote a central subgroup of order p .

Remark 3.2. In the first case of (c), the module N_i has the form of a translate of a relative syzygy, $N_i \cong \Omega^{-2}(\Omega_{P/S_i}^2(k))$. Likewise, in the third case, that $p = 2$ and $C_P(S_i)/S_i$ is generalized quaternion, we have that $N_i \cong \Omega^{-4}(\Omega_{P/S_i}^4(k))$. That is, in all cases, the module N_i is a translate of a relative syzygy of the trivial module.

4. Decomposing endo-trivial modules

The purpose of this section is to show that Theorem 5.6 of [CaTh2] is still valid under different assumptions. The hypotheses in [CaTh2] is about a critical endo-trivial module, but it was shown later in the paper that no such module exists. So the result needs to be revisited in order to be used in a different context.

Throughout this section, we let P be a p -group, Z be a central subgroup of order p generated by z , and we write $\overline{P} = P/Z$. Let M be a kP -module such that $M \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Recall that projective modules are free because P is a p -group. We define $M' = \{m \in M \mid (z - 1)^{p-1}m = 0\}$ and we set

$$\overline{M} = M/M'.$$

Since $(z - 1)\overline{M} = 0$, the module \overline{M} can be viewed as a $k\overline{P}$ -module. Moreover, by Lemma 5.2 in [CaTh2], we have $\text{Dim}(M) = p \text{Dim}(\overline{M}) + 1$ and

$$\overline{M} \cong (z - 1)^i M / (z - 1)^{i+1} M \cong (z - 1)^{p-1} M, \quad (i = 1, \dots, p - 1).$$

In fact, $(z - 1)M$ is free as a module over $kZ/(z - 1)^{p-1}$.

Lemma 4.1. *Let M be a kP -module such that $M \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Then $M \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ as a kP -module if and only if \overline{M} is a free $k\overline{P}$ -module. More precisely, M has a free summand with r generators as a kP -module if and only if \overline{M} has a free summand with r generators as a $k\overline{P}$ -module. In particular, if M is indecomposable, then \overline{M} has no projective summands.*

Proof. This is Lemma 5.3 in [CaTh2]. The assumption in [CaTh2] is slightly different but the proof can be applied without change. □

We refer to [CaTh2] for the definition and properties of the variety $V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{L})$ attached to any $k\overline{P}$ -module \overline{L} .

Theorem 4.2. *Let M be a kP -module such that $M \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Suppose that $\overline{M} = \overline{M}_1 \oplus \overline{M}_2$ where \overline{M}_1 and \overline{M}_2 are $k\overline{P}$ -submodules such that the varieties satisfy*

$$V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_1) \cap V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_2) = \{0\}.$$

- (a) *There exist kP -modules N_1 and N_2 such that $N_i \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and $\overline{N}_i \cong \overline{M}_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$.*
- (b) *If moreover \overline{M}_2 is a free $k\overline{P}$ -module, then there exists a submodule N_1 of M satisfying the conditions of (a) and such that $M = N_1 \oplus (\text{free})$.*

Proof. (a) The result is similar to Theorem 5.6 in [CaTh2] and the proof is almost identical. Therefore we only indicate where the proof needs to be adapted. The construction of N_1 and N_2 is the same and we use the same notation. We have $(z - 1)M = W_1 \oplus W_2$ with $W_i/(z - 1)W_i \cong \overline{M}_i$ for $i = 1, 2$ (and it is here that the condition on the varieties is used). We let $M_i \subseteq M$ be the inverse image of \overline{M}_i under the quotient map $M \rightarrow M/M' = \overline{M}$ and we define $N_1 = M_1/W_2$ and $N_2 = M_2/W_1$. Then we have $\text{Dim}(N_i) = p \text{Dim}(\overline{M}_i) + 1$.

Next we prove that $N_1 \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ (by an argument similar to, but much easier than the one used in [CaTh2]). We have $(z - 1)^{p-1}N_1 \cong (z - 1)^{p-1}M_1$ because $N_1 = M_1/W_2$ and $(z - 1)^{p-1}W_2 = 0$. Now $(z - 1)^{p-1}M_1 \cong \overline{M}_1$ because multiplication by $(z - 1)^{p-1}$ induces an isomorphism $\overline{M} \cong (z - 1)^{p-1}M$. Therefore

$$\left(\sum_{i=0}^{p-1} z^i \right) N_1 = (z - 1)^{p-1} N_1 \cong \overline{M}_1$$

and it follows that $N_1 \downarrow_Z^P$ has a free submodule of dimension $p \text{Dim}(\overline{M}_1)$, that is, $\text{Dim}(N_1) - 1$. The only way this can happen is if $N_1 \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$.

Finally we have to show that $\overline{N}_1 \cong \overline{M}_1$, and similarly for N_2 . The proof is exactly the same as in [CaTh2]: \overline{N}_1 appears naturally as a quotient of \overline{M}_1 and they have the same dimension.

(b) This additional part, which was not proved in [CaTh2], is based on the construction of N_1 . Let $\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_m$ be a basis of \overline{M}_2 as a $k\overline{P}$ -module, let $x_i \in M_2$ be a lift of \overline{x}_i and let F be the kP -submodule of M_2 generated by x_1, \dots, x_m . By Lemma 4.1, F is free of dimension $m|P| = pm|\overline{P}| = p \text{Dim}(\overline{M}_2)$. Now

$$(z - 1)^{p-1} F \subseteq (z - 1)^{p-1} M_2 = (z - 1)^{p-2} W_2 \cong \overline{M}_2 \cong F/(z - 1)F,$$

and therefore $(z - 1)^{p-1} F = (z - 1)^{p-2} W_2$. It follows that $W_1 \cap F = \{0\}$ because if we choose $w \in W_1 \cap F$, then we can assume that $(z - 1)w = 0$

(replacing w by $(z - 1)^i w$ for some i), so that $w \in (z - 1)^{p-1} F$ which intersects W_1 trivially. Hence $W_1 \cap (z - 1)F = \{0\}$. But $\text{Dim}(F) = p \text{Dim}(\overline{M}_2) = p \text{Dim}((z - 1)^{p-2} W_2)$, hence

$$\text{Dim}((z - 1)F) = (p - 1) \text{Dim}((z - 1)^{p-2} W_2) = \text{Dim}(W_2).$$

Since $(z - 1)M = W_1 \oplus W_2$, we must also have $(z - 1)M = W_1 \oplus (z - 1)F$ and so we can choose $W_2 = (z - 1)F$ for the construction of $N_1 = M_1/W_2$.

Since $F \subseteq M_2$, we have $M_1 \cap F = M_1 \cap M_2 \cap F = M' \cap F$. But the elements of F lying in the kernel of multiplication by $(z - 1)^{p-1}$ are precisely the multiples of $(z - 1)$ and therefore $M' \cap F = (z - 1)F = W_2$. Hence $M_1 \cap F = W_2$. On the other hand, since $M' \subseteq M_1$, we have

$$M_1 + F = M_1 + M' + F = M_1 + M_2 = M.$$

It follows that

$$M/F = (M_1 + F)/F \cong M_1/(M_1 \cap F) = M_1/W_2 = N_1.$$

Since F is free, hence injective (because kP is self-injective), F is a direct summand of M and we obtain $M = F \oplus N'_1$, with N'_1 isomorphic to N_1 , as required. □

Now we apply this theorem to the case of an endo-trivial module over a p -group P having a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2. We wish to prove that the modules N_1 and N_2 are again endo-trivial in this case and that we have precise information about their restrictions to elementary abelian subgroups.

Let E_1, \dots, E_r be elementary abelian subgroups chosen as in Theorem 3.1. If M is any endo-trivial kP -module, then $\text{Res}_{E_1}^P[M] = [\Omega_{E_1}^s(k)]$ for some s , where $[M]$ denotes the class of M in the group $T(P)$ of endo-trivial kP -modules. Therefore

$$\text{Res}_{E_1}^P[\Omega_P^{-s}(M)] = \text{Res}_{E_1}^P[\Omega_P^{-s}(k) \otimes M] = [\Omega_{E_1}^{-s}(k) \otimes \Omega_{E_1}^s(k)] = [k].$$

It follows that, up to a shift, we can always choose M such that $\text{Res}_{E_1}^P[M]$ is trivial, that is, $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$.

As noticed at the end of Sect. 2, we can assume that $r \geq 2$ and therefore all E_i 's intersect in a central subgroup Z of order p . In particular $M \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and we can use Theorem 4.2.

Theorem 4.3. *Let P be a p -group having a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 and let E_1, \dots, E_r be elementary abelian subgroups chosen as in Theorem 3.1. We assume that $r \geq 2$ and we let Z be the unique central subgroup of order p (contained in every E_j). Let M be an endo-trivial kP -module such that $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Suppose that $\overline{M} = \overline{M}_1 \oplus \overline{M}_2$ where \overline{M}_1 and \overline{M}_2 are $k\overline{P}$ -submodules such that their varieties $V_1 = V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_1)$ and $V_2 = V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_2)$ satisfy*

$$V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}.$$

- (a) *There exist endo-trivial kP -modules N_1 and N_2 such that $N_i \downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and $\overline{N}_i \cong \overline{M}_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$.*
- (b) *For $E = E_1$ and for any elementary abelian subgroup E lying in the big component, we have $N_i \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$.*
- (c) *For $E = E_j$ where $j = 2, \dots, r$, one of the two modules N_1, N_2 is trivial on restriction to E . More precisely, setting $\overline{E} = E/Z$, we have the following cases:*
 - (1) $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{M}) = \{0\}$ in which case $N_i \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$;
 - (2) $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{M}) = V_{\overline{E}}(k)$ and $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k)) \subseteq V_1$ in which case $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{N}_1) = V_{\overline{E}}(k)$, $M \downarrow_E^P \cong N_1 \downarrow_E^P \oplus (\text{free})$, and $N_2 \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$;
 - (3) $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{M}) = V_{\overline{E}}(k)$ and $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k)) \subseteq V_2$ in which case $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{N}_2) = V_{\overline{E}}(k)$, $M \downarrow_E^P \cong N_2 \downarrow_E^P \oplus (\text{free})$, and $N_1 \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$.

Proof. (a) We use Theorem 4.2 for the existence of N_1 and N_2 and moreover we have now to prove that N_1 and N_2 are endo-trivial. This will follow if we show that they are endo-trivial on restriction to every elementary abelian subgroup of P , by Lemma 2.9 of [CaTh1]. Thus it suffices to prove (b) and (c), because (b) and (c) show that $N_i \downarrow_E^P$ is isomorphic, up to addition or deletion of free summands, either to k or to $M \downarrow_E^P$, for every maximal elementary subgroup E of P .

(b) Since $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ by assumption, we also have $M \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for any elementary abelian subgroup E lying in the big component (see the beginning of the proof of Theorem 3.1). Thus $\overline{M} \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P$ is free by Lemma 4.1. Therefore $\overline{M}_1 \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P$ and $\overline{M}_2 \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P$ are free and so $N_1 \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and $N_2 \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$, by Lemma 4.1 again.

(c) If $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{M}) = \{0\}$, then $\overline{M} \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P$ is free and we conclude as in case (b). Since E has rank 2, \overline{E} is cyclic of order p and the only other possibility is $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{M}) = V_{\overline{E}}(k)$, which is a line. Then $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k))$ must be contained either in V_1 or in V_2 . We can assume that $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k)) \subseteq V_1$ and we must show that case (2) occurs.

Since $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k)) \subseteq V_1$, we have $\text{res}_{P, \overline{E}}^*(V_{\overline{E}}(k)) \cap V_2 = \{0\}$ and since $V_2 = V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{N}_2)$, we must have $V_{\overline{E}}(\overline{N}_2 \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P) = \{0\}$. Therefore $\overline{N}_2 \downarrow_{\overline{E}}^P$ is free and $N_2 \downarrow_E^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ by Lemma 4.1. On the other hand, part (b) of Theorem 4.2 applied to $M \downarrow_E^P$ shows that $M \downarrow_E^P \cong N_1 \downarrow_E^P \oplus (\text{free})$. □

5. Tensoring endo-trivial modules

In this section we show that Theorem 5.7 of [CaTh2] is still valid under different assumptions. As in the previous section, the result needs to be revisited in order to be used in a different context. However, there is only a cosmetic change to be made. We assume again that P is a p -group with a central subgroup Z of order p .

Theorem 5.1. *Let M_1 and M_2 be indecomposable endo-trivial kP -modules such that $(M_j)\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for $j = 1, 2$. Suppose that the varieties of \overline{M}_1 and \overline{M}_2 satisfy*

$$V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_1) \cap V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_2) = \{0\}.$$

Then $M_1 \otimes M_2 \cong M \oplus (\text{free})$ where M is an indecomposable endo-trivial kP -module such that $M\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and $\overline{M} \cong \overline{M}_1 \oplus \overline{M}_2$.

Proof. The proof is exactly the same as in Theorem 5.7 of [CaTh2], except for the following minor changes. In [CaTh2], the modules M_1 and M_2 were assumed to be critical and then M was shown to be critical. Here we only assume that M_j is indecomposable endo-trivial such that $(M_j)\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for $j = 1, 2$ and we only have to show that M is indecomposable endo-trivial such that $M\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. The new assumption has no effect on the proof and therefore only the new aspect of the conclusion needs to be proved.

Explicitly, the proof that $\overline{M}_1 \otimes \overline{M}_2 \cong \overline{M} \oplus (\text{free})$ applies without change and so does the proof that $\overline{M} \cong \overline{M}_1 \oplus \overline{M}_2$. In order to prove the new conclusion, it suffices to notice that if M_1 and M_2 are endo-trivial then so are $M_1 \otimes M_2$ and M , and moreover if $(M_j)\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for $j = 1, 2$, then $(M_1 \otimes M_2)\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$, and hence $M\downarrow_Z^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Since M_j is indecomposable, the $k\overline{P}$ -module \overline{M}_j does not have free summands by Lemma 4.1. Thus \overline{M} has no free summand and it follows that M has no free summand by Lemma 4.1 again. This shows that M is indecomposable. \square

6. Endo-trivial modules for small extraspecial groups

In this section we describe explicitly all endo-trivial modules for a p -group P which is either extraspecial or almost extraspecial. We refer to [Go] for extraspecial groups and [CaTh2] for almost extraspecial groups. If every maximal elementary abelian subgroup has rank ≥ 3 , then $T(P) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ by [CaTh2] and the only indecomposable endo-trivial modules are the syzygies $\Omega_p^s(k)$ with $s \in \mathbb{Z}$. So we can assume that there is at least one maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 and this forces P to be one of the following groups:

- (1) P is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p with p odd. Here P has $p + 1$ maximal subgroups, which are elementary abelian of rank 2.
- (2) P is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p^2 with p odd. Here P has a unique maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2. Therefore this case is of no interest for us since we know that $T(P) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, generated by $\Omega_p^1(k)$. Actually, P is metacyclic and so this case is also covered by the work of Mazza [Ma].
- (3) P is almost extraspecial of order p^4 with p odd, that is, $P = Q * C_{p^2}$, where Q is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p and C_{p^2} is cyclic

- of order p^2 . Here P has $p + 1$ maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2.
- (4) $p = 2$ and $P = D_8$ is the dihedral group of order 8. This case has been described in detail in [CaTh1]. There are two non-central subgroups S_1 and S_2 of order 2, up to conjugacy, and $T(P)$ is free abelian of rank 2, generated by the classes of $\Omega_P^1(k)$ and $\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)$ where i is either 1 or 2.
 - (5) $p = 2$ and $P = D_8 * Q_8$, the central product of the dihedral group of order 8 and the quaternion group of order 8 (so P is extraspecial of order 32). Here P has 5 maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2.
 - (6) $p = 2$ and P is almost extraspecial of order 16, that is, $P = D_8 * C_4$, the central product of the dihedral group of order 8 and the cyclic group of order 4. Here P has 3 maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2.

Note that the list is complete because the next cases are the two extraspecial groups of order p^5 with p odd and the group $D_8 * D_8$ of order 32, whose maximal elementary abelian subgroups have rank at least 3. All other extraspecial and almost extraspecial groups contain one of these groups of order p^5 and therefore do not have maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2.

We are going to treat case (1) in detail and then case (3) will follow easily. Cases (5) and (6) will be handled next.

Theorem 6.1. *Let p be an odd prime and let P be the extraspecial group of order p^3 and exponent p . Let E_1, \dots, E_{p+1} be the maximal subgroups of P (which are elementary abelian of rank 2) and for each i let S_i be a non-central subgroup of order p in E_i . Then the group $T(P)$ is free abelian generated by the classes of the modules $\Omega_P^1(k), N_2, \dots, N_{p+1}$, where $N_i = \Gamma((\Omega_{P/S_i}^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k))^{\otimes 2})$ for every $i = 2, \dots, p + 1$.*

Proof. Consider the injective map $\alpha : T(P) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{p+1}$ of Theorem 3.1. We know that $\alpha([\Omega_P^1(k)]) = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ and $\alpha([N_i]) = -2p \cdot e_i$, where e_i denotes the i -th element of the canonical basis of \mathbb{Z}^{p+1} (for every $i = 2, \dots, p + 1$). We have to prove that any class of endo-trivial modules is a linear combination of these elements.

Let M be any endo-trivial kP -module. By subtracting a multiple of $[\Omega_P^1(k)]$, we can assume that $\alpha_1([M]) = 0$ and we then have to prove that $[M]$ is a linear combination of $[N_2], \dots, [N_{p+1}]$. In other words

$$\alpha([M]) = (0, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_{p+1})$$

and we have to prove that s_i is a multiple of $2p$ for every $i = 2, \dots, p + 1$. We proceed by induction on the number of non-zero components in $\alpha([M])$. We can assume that M is indecomposable by deleting all free summands of M .

Suppose first that $\alpha([M])$ has a unique non-zero component s_q where q is some fixed integer with $2 \leq q \leq p + 1$, and write $s = s_q$ for simplicity.

By subtracting a multiple of $[N_q]$, we can assume that $0 < s \leq 2p$ and we now have to prove that $s = 2p$. Since $s_1 = \alpha_1([M]) = 0$, $[M \downarrow_{E_1}^P] = 0$, hence $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ and $\text{Dim}(M) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$. Now $\alpha_q([M]) = s$, that is,

$$M \downarrow_{E_q}^P \cong \Omega_{E_q}^1(k)^{\otimes s} \oplus (\text{free}).$$

Because $\Omega_{E_q}^1(k)$ has dimension $p^2 - 1$, we have that $\text{Dim}(M) \equiv (-1)^s \pmod{p^2}$ and it follows that s is even.

Now we claim that the automorphism group of P acts transitively on the set of maximal subgroups of P . By Lemma 6.3 in [CaTh2], the subgroup of $\text{Out}(P)$ fixing $Z(P)$ pointwise is isomorphic to $Sp_2(\mathbb{F}_p) = SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$. This acts transitively on the lines of $(\mathbb{F}_p)^2 \cong \overline{P}$, which correspond to the maximal subgroups of P . If now β_i is an automorphism of P mapping E_q to E_i , then the conjugate module $L_i = M^{\beta_i}$ satisfies

$$\alpha_j([L_i]) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } j = i, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since M is indecomposable, so is L_i for each i . By repeated applications of Theorem 5.1, we get that

$$L_1 \otimes L_2 \otimes \dots \otimes L_{p+1} = U \oplus (\text{free})$$

where U is an indecomposable endo-trivial module such that, with the notation of Sect. 4,

$$\overline{U} = \overline{L}_1 \oplus \overline{L}_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \overline{L}_{p+1}.$$

Now for all j we have that

$$\alpha_j([U]) = \alpha_j([L_1 \otimes L_2 \otimes \dots \otimes L_{p+1}]) = \alpha_j([L_1] + [L_2] + \dots + [L_{p+1}]) = s,$$

and

$$\alpha_j([\Omega_p^s(k)]) = \alpha_j([\Omega_p^1(k)^{\otimes s}]) = \alpha_j(s[\Omega_p^1(k)]) = s.$$

Therefore $[U] = [\Omega_p^s(k)]$ by injectivity of α and so $U \cong \Omega_p^s(k)$ because both modules are indecomposable. Since $\overline{M} \downarrow_{E_1}^{\overline{P}}$ is free, $\text{Dim}(\overline{M}) = mp$ for some m (hence $\text{Dim}(M) = mp^2 + 1$). It follows that $\text{Dim}(\overline{U}) = (p+1)mp$, hence

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^s(k)) = \text{Dim}(U) = (p+1)mp^2 + 1.$$

But the mod- p cohomology of P is known (see Sect. 4 in [CaTh2]) and hence also the dimensions of the syzygies of k . Explicitly, by Corollary 4.4 in [CaTh2] and its proof, we have

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^{2j}(k)) = (j+1)p^3 + 1 \quad \text{if } 2 \leq j \leq p.$$

Remembering that s is even, we write $s = 2j$ and we obtain

$$(p + 1)mp^2 + 1 = (j + 1)p^3 + 1,$$

hence $(p + 1)m = (j + 1)p$. Therefore p divides m and the only way this can happen is if $j = p$ (and $m = p$). This proves that $s = 2p$, as required.

Suppose now that the number of non-zero components in $\alpha([M])$ is at least 2. Because $\alpha_1([M]) = 0$, we have that $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$, and we are in a situation where we can apply Theorem 4.3. Since M is indecomposable, the $k\overline{P}$ -module \overline{M} has no free summands (Lemma 4.1). However, \overline{M} is free on restriction to \overline{E}_1 , because $M \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$, and since E_1 is a maximal subgroup of P we deduce that \overline{M} is a periodic $k\overline{P}$ -module (see Lemma 5.3 in [CaTh2] for details).

We use standard properties of varieties, as listed for instance in Theorem 2.2 of [CaTh2]. Since \overline{M} is periodic, the variety of \overline{M} is a union of lines. Let ℓ be one of these lines and let W be the union of all the others, so that

$$V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}) = \ell \cup W, \quad \ell \cap W = \{0\}.$$

Then $\overline{M} = \overline{M}_1 \oplus \overline{M}_2$ with $V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_1) = \ell$ and $V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{M}_2) = W$. By Theorem 4.3, there exist endo-trivial modules N_1 and N_2 satisfying the properties of that theorem. Let us write $L = N_1$ for simplicity. In particular we have $V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{L}) = \ell$ and

$$L \downarrow_{E_1}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free}), \quad V_{E_1}(\overline{L}) = \{0\}.$$

So for $j = 2, \dots, p + 1$, we have either

$$L \downarrow_{E_j}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free}), \quad V_{E_j}(\overline{L}) = \{0\}, \quad \text{res}_{\overline{P}, E_j}^*(V_{E_j}(\overline{L})) \subseteq W,$$

or

$$L \downarrow_{E_j}^P \not\cong k \oplus (\text{free}), \quad V_{E_j}(\overline{L}) = V_{E_j}(k), \quad \text{res}_{\overline{P}, E_j}^*(V_{E_j}(\overline{L})) \subseteq \ell.$$

We cannot have that $L \downarrow_{E_j}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ for all j , because otherwise $\alpha([L]) = 0$ and $L \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$ by injectivity of α . However, this would imply that \overline{L} is free (Lemma 4.1) and $V_{\overline{P}}(\overline{L}) = \{0\}$, a contradiction. Without loss of generality, we can assume that for the index $j = 2$ we have

$$L \downarrow_{E_2}^P \not\cong k \oplus (\text{free}), \quad V_{E_2}(\overline{L}) = V_{E_2}(k), \quad \text{res}_{\overline{P}, E_2}^*(V_{E_2}(\overline{L})) \subseteq \ell.$$

Actually the latter inclusion is an equality because \overline{P} is elementary abelian and $\text{res}_{\overline{P}, E_2}^*(V_{E_2}(\overline{L}))$ is a line in the plane $V_{\overline{P}}(k)$. Moreover, Theorem 4.3 also asserts that $M \downarrow_{E_2}^P \cong L \downarrow_{E_2}^P \oplus (\text{free})$ and therefore $\alpha_2([L]) = \alpha_2([M]) = s_2$.

Now if $j \geq 3$, $\text{res}_{\overline{P}, \overline{E}_j}^*(V_{\overline{E}_j}(k))$ is a line different from ℓ and therefore the other case occurs, namely $L \downarrow_{E_j}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free})$. Thus we have proved that

$$\alpha_j([L]) = \begin{cases} s_2 & \text{if } j = 2, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By the first step of induction, we know that s_2 is a multiple of $2p$.

Now let M' be an indecomposable endo-trivial module in the class of $[M] - [L]$. Then $\alpha([M'])$ has fewer non-zero components than $\alpha([M])$ and so they are all multiples of $2p$ by induction. This shows that s_j is a multiple of $2p$ for $j \geq 3$ and completes the proof. \square

The following corollary is not actually needed for the proof of the main theorem. However, we include a proof for the sake of completeness.

Corollary 6.2. *Let $P = Q * C_{p^2}$ be an almost extraspecial of order p^4 with p odd, where Q is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p and C_{p^2} is cyclic of order p^2 .*

- (a) $\text{Res}_Q^P : T(P) \longrightarrow T(Q)$ is an isomorphism.
- (b) Let E_1, \dots, E_{p+1} be the maximal subgroups of Q (which are elementary abelian of rank 2) and for each i let S_i be a non-central subgroup of order p in E_i . Then the group $T(P)$ is free abelian generated by the classes of the modules $\Omega_p^1(k), N_2, \dots, N_{p+1}$, where $N_i = \Gamma((\Omega_p^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{p/S_i}^1(k))^{\otimes 2})$ for $i = 2, \dots, p + 1$.

Proof. Let R be the set of all elements of order p . We first claim that R is a subgroup and that $R = Q$. Let $u, v \in R$ and $z = v^{-1}u^{-1}vu$. Since P is almost extraspecial, z is central and therefore $(uv)^p = u^p v^p z^{\binom{p}{2}} = z^{\binom{p}{2}}$. But z has order 1 or p and p divides $\binom{p}{2}$ because p is odd. Therefore uv has order p and it follows that R is a subgroup. Now R is a proper subgroup containing the maximal subgroup Q , so $R = Q$.

Since every elementary abelian subgroup is contained in R , the subgroups E_1, \dots, E_{p+1} are the maximal elementary abelian subgroups of P . By Theorem 3.1, the map

$$\text{Res} : T(P) \longrightarrow \prod_{i=1}^{p+1} T(E_i) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{p+1}$$

is injective. Since this factors through $T(Q)$, we deduce that $\text{Res}_Q^P : T(P) \longrightarrow T(Q)$ is injective.

Both (a) and (b) will follow if we prove that the classes $[\Omega_p^1(k)], [N_2], \dots, [N_{p+1}]$ are mapped under Res_Q^P onto the corresponding generators

of $T(Q)$, namely $[\Omega_Q^1(k)], [N'_2], \dots, [N'_{p+1}]$, where $N'_i = (\Omega_Q^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{Q/S_i}^1(k))^{\otimes 2}$ for $i = 2, \dots, p + 1$. It is clear that $\text{Res}_Q^P([\Omega_P^1(k)]) = [\Omega_Q^1(k)]$, so we only need to prove that

$$\text{Res}_Q^P([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = [\Omega_{Q/S_i}^1(k)]$$

(these are classes in the Dade groups $D(P)$ and $D(Q)$ respectively). By an easy argument (see also Corollary 4.1.2 in [Bo])

$$\text{Res}_Q^P([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = [\Omega_{\text{Res}_Q^P(P/S_i)}^1(k)]$$

and $\text{Res}_Q^P(P/S_i)$ is a disjoint union of p copies of Q/S_i , because we can choose central elements in C_{p^2} as representatives of P/Q . The multiplicity of the Q -sets does not change the class of relative syzygies in the Dade group $D(Q)$, by Lemma 3.2.7 in [Bo]. Thus we are left with a single orbit Q/S_i and it follows that $\text{Res}_Q^P([\Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k)]) = [\Omega_{Q/S_i}^1(k)]$. \square

We now turn to the prime 2. The first extraspecial group to consider is the dihedral group D_8 of order 8. But this was done explicitly in [CaTh1]. The group D_8 has two elementary abelian subgroups E_1, E_2 of rank 2 and the image of the injective map

$$\alpha : T(D_8) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2$$

is generated by $\alpha([\Omega_{D_8}^1(k)]) = (1, 1)$ and $\alpha([\Omega_{D_8}^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{D_8/S}^1(k)]) = (0, -2)$, where S is non-central of order 2. Thus the rational basis in Theorem 3.1 is actually an integral basis of $T(D_8)$.

We do not have to consider the quaternion group of order 8 since it has no elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2. Actually $T(Q_8)$ has an exceptional behavior described in [CaTh1]. The group $D_8 * D_8$ has maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 3 and therefore $T(D_8 * D_8) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. Thus our next extraspecial group is $D_8 * Q_8$.

Theorem 6.3. *Let $p = 2$ and let $P = D_8 * Q_8$ be the central product of the dihedral group of order 8 and the quaternion group of order 8 (so P is extraspecial of order 32). Let E_1, \dots, E_5 be the five maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2, and for each i let S_i be a non-central subgroup of order 2 in E_i . Then the group $T(P)$ is free abelian generated by the classes of the modules $\Omega_P^1(k), N_2, N_3, N_4, N_5$, where $N_i = \Gamma((\Omega_P^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k))^{\otimes 4})$ for $2 \leq i \leq 5$.*

Proof. The strategy is exactly the same as that of the proof of Theorem 6.1. Let u, v be two elements of order 2 generating D_8 and let a, b be two generators of Q_8 . Then, up to conjugation, $u, v, uva, uvb, uvab$ are the five non-central elements of order 2 and they generate subgroups S_1, \dots, S_5 respectively. Moreover, together with the central element $a^2 = b^2$, every S_i generates one of the five maximal elementary abelian subgroups E_i of

rank 2. We have $C_P(S_i) \cong S_i \times Q_8$ so we need 4-th tensor powers in the description of the generators of $\mathbb{Q} \otimes T(P)$ given by Theorem 3.1. More precisely, Theorem 3.1 asserts that the map $\alpha : T(P) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^5$ is injective and that $\alpha([\Omega_P^1(k)]) = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $\alpha([N_i]) = -8 \cdot e_i$, where e_i denotes the i -th element of the canonical basis of \mathbb{Z}^5 (with $2 \leq i \leq 5$). We have to prove that any class of endo-trivial modules is a linear combination of these.

We follow closely the proof of Theorem 6.1 and indicate the necessary changes. Let M be any endo-trivial kP -module. By subtracting a multiple of $[\Omega_P^1(k)]$, we can assume that

$$\alpha([M]) = (0, s_2, s_3, s_4, s_5)$$

and we have to prove that s_i is a multiple of 8 for every $i = 2, \dots, 5$. We can assume that M is indecomposable and we proceed by induction on the number of non-zero components in $\alpha([M])$.

Suppose first that s_q is the unique non-zero component of $\alpha([M])$, where q is some fixed integer with $2 \leq q \leq 5$, and write $s = s_q$ for simplicity. By subtracting a multiple of $[N_q]$, we can assume that $0 < s \leq 8$, and we now have to prove that $s = 8$. We also know that s is even. The automorphism group of P acts transitively on the five maximal elementary abelian subgroups of P , so if β_i is an automorphism of P mapping E_q to E_i , then the conjugate module $L_i = M^{\beta_i}$ satisfies

$$\alpha_j([L_i]) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } j = i, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By repeated applications of Theorem 5.1, we obtain

$$L_1 \otimes L_2 \otimes L_3 \otimes L_4 \otimes L_5 = U \oplus (\text{free})$$

where U is an indecomposable endo-trivial module such that

$$\overline{U} = \overline{L}_1 \oplus \overline{L}_2 \oplus \overline{L}_3 \oplus \overline{L}_4 \oplus \overline{L}_5.$$

We obtain $[U] = [\Omega_P^s(k)]$ by injectivity of α , hence $U \cong \Omega_P^s(k)$ because both modules are indecomposable. For some m , we have that $\text{Dim}(\overline{M}) = 2m$, hence $\text{Dim}(\overline{U}) = 10m$ and $\text{Dim}(\Omega_P^s(k)) = \text{Dim}(U) = 20m + 1$.

Calculations using the MAGMA computer algebra system [BoCa] yield

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_P^2(k)) = 3 \cdot 32 + 1,$$

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_P^4(k)) = 9 \cdot 32 + 1,$$

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_P^6(k)) = 14 \cdot 32 + 1,$$

$$\text{Dim}(\Omega_P^8(k)) = 15 \cdot 32 + 1$$

(actually the mod-2 cohomology of P can be computed using Quillen's theorem [BeCa] and the dimensions of the cohomology groups turn out to

be 1, 4, 9, 15, 21, 26, 29, 30, . . .). We know that $\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^s(k)) = 20m + 1$ but the only value of s for which 5 divides $\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^s(k)) - 1$ is $s = 8$. This proves the first step of induction.

For the second part of the proof, we have to assume that the number of non-zero components in $\alpha([M])$ is at least 2. An important difference in the argument concerns the periodicity of \overline{M} . We have $S_1 < E_1 < S_1 \times Q_8$ and we know that $[M \downarrow_{E_1}^P] = 0$. But

$$\text{Res}_{E_1}^{S_1 \times Q_8} : T(S_1 \times Q_8) \longrightarrow T(E_1)$$

is an isomorphism because E_1 is the only maximal elementary abelian subgroup of $S_1 \times Q_8$ (Theorem 3.1). Therefore $[M \downarrow_{S_1 \times Q_8}^P] = 0$, that is,

$$M \downarrow_{S_1 \times Q_8}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free}).$$

By Lemma 4.1, it follows that \overline{M} is free on restriction to $\overline{S_1 \times Q_8}$. Since $\overline{S_1 \times Q_8}$ is a maximal subgroup of P we deduce that \overline{M} is a periodic $k\overline{P}$ -module (Lemma 5.3 in [CaTh2]).

The rest of the proof is exactly the same as that of Theorem 6.1. We apply Theorem 4.3 to construct a module L such that $\alpha([L])$ has a unique non-zero component and we apply induction to $[L]$ and $[M] - [L]$. \square

Finally we consider almost extraspecial groups for the prime 2. The only case to treat is the following group of order 16.

Theorem 6.4. *Let $p = 2$ and let $P = D_8 * C_4$ be the central product of the dihedral group of order 8 and the cyclic group of order 4 (so P is almost extraspecial of order 16). Let E_1, E_2, E_3 be the three maximal elementary abelian subgroups of rank 2, and for each i let S_i be a non-central subgroup of order 2 in E_i . Then the group $T(P)$ is free abelian generated by the classes of the modules $\Omega_p^1(k), N_2, N_3$, where $N_i = \Gamma((\Omega_p^{-1}(k) \otimes \Omega_{P/S_i}^1(k))^{\otimes 2})$ for $2 \leq i \leq 3$.*

Proof. The strategy is exactly the same as that of the proof of Theorem 6.3 and we only indicate the changes. Let u, v be two elements of order 2 generating D_8 and let a be a generator of C_4 . Then, up to conjugation, u, v, uva are the three non-central elements of order 2 and they generate subgroups S_1, S_2, S_3 respectively. Moreover, together with the central element a^2 , every S_i generates one of the three maximal elementary abelian subgroups E_i of rank 2. We have $C_P(S_i) \cong S_i \times C_4$ so we need second tensor powers in the description of the generators of $\mathbb{Q} \otimes T(P)$ given by Theorem 3.1.

More precisely, Theorem 3.1 asserts that the map $\alpha : T(P) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^3$ is injective and that $\alpha([\Omega_p^1(k)]) = (1, 1, 1)$, $\alpha([N_2]) = (0, -4, 0)$, and $\alpha([N_3]) = (0, 0, -4)$. We have to prove that any class of endo-trivial modules is a linear combination of these elements.

In the first case where $\alpha([M])$ has a unique non-zero component s , we can assume that s is even and $s \leq 4$ and we have to prove that $s = 4$. We construct again an indecomposable endo-trivial module U such that

$$\overline{U} = \overline{L}_1 \oplus \overline{L}_2 \oplus \overline{L}_3,$$

where L_i is a conjugate of M by an automorphism of P . We then obtain $U \cong \Omega_p^s(k)$. We have $\text{Dim}(\overline{M}) = 2m$ for some m , hence $\text{Dim}(\overline{U}) = 6m$ and $\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^s(k)) = \text{Dim}(U) = 12m + 1$. On the other hand, by direct computation (e.g. using the MAGMA computer algebra system) we obtain $\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^2(k)) = 33$ and $\text{Dim}(\Omega_p^4(k)) = 49$. Thus the only possibility is $s = 4$.

In the second part of the proof, we assume that the number of non-zero components in $\alpha([M])$ is at least 2. We have again $[M \downarrow_{E_1}^P] = 0$ and we need to prove that M is periodic. But we have $S_1 < E_1 < S_1 \times C_4$ and

$$\text{Res}_{E_1}^{S_1 \times C_4} : T(S_1 \times C_4) \longrightarrow T(E_1)$$

is an isomorphism because E_1 is the only maximal elementary abelian subgroup of $S_1 \times C_4$. Therefore $[M \downarrow_{S_1 \times C_4}^P] = 0$, that is,

$$M \downarrow_{S_1 \times C_4}^P \cong k \oplus (\text{free}).$$

By Lemma 4.1, it follows that \overline{M} is free on restriction to $\overline{S_1 \times C_4}$. Since $S_1 \times C_4$ is a maximal subgroup of P we deduce that \overline{M} is a periodic $k\overline{P}$ -module. The rest of the proof is exactly the same as that of Theorem 6.3. \square

7. The general case

The following is the main theorem of the paper. It, together with the results of [CaTh2], give a complete classification of endo-trivial modules for p -groups.

Theorem 7.1. *Let P be a finite p -group having a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2 and suppose that P is not semi-dihedral. Fix the same notation as in Theorem 3.1. Then the group $T(P)$ is free abelian generated by the classes of the modules $\Omega_p^1(k), N_2, \dots, N_r$.*

Proof. Consider the injective map $\alpha : T(P) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^r$ of Theorem 3.1. We know that $\alpha([\Omega_p^1(k)]) = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ and that

$$\alpha([N_i]) = -n_i p \cdot e_i.$$

Here, $e_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ the i -th element of the canonical basis of \mathbb{Z}^r . We set $n_i = 1$ (resp. 2, resp. 4) if $C_P(S_i)/S_i \cong L_i$ is cyclic of order 2 (resp. cyclic of order ≥ 3 , resp. generalized quaternion). We have

to prove that any class of endo-trivial modules is a linear combination of these elements.

Let M be any endo-trivial kP -module. By subtracting a multiple of $[\Omega_p^1(k)]$, we can assume that $\alpha_1([M]) = 0$ and we then have to prove that $[M]$ is a linear combination of $[N_2], \dots, [N_r]$. In other words

$$\alpha([M]) = (0, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_r)$$

and we have to prove that s_i is a multiple of $n_i p$ for every $i = 2, \dots, r$. Without loss of generality, we can take $i = 2$.

By Lemma 2.2, we know that $N_P(E_2) = R * L$, where $R = E \cdot E_2$ is extraspecial of order p^3 and $L = L_2$ is either cyclic or generalized quaternion. Recall that R is extraspecial of exponent p if p is odd and that $R = D_8$ if $p = 2$. Clearly L contains a subgroup L' defined as follows:

$$L' = \begin{cases} C_p & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ C_2 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = C_2, \\ C_4 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = C_{2^m}, m \geq 2, \\ Q_8 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = Q_{2^m}, m \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

Then $N_P(E_2)$ contains a subgroup $Q = R * L'$ which is of the following type:

$$Q = \begin{cases} R & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \\ D_8 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = C_2, \\ D_8 * C_4 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = C_{2^m}, m \geq 2, \\ D_8 * Q_8 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } L = Q_{2^m}, m \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

The restriction map $T(P) \rightarrow T(E_2)$ factors through $T(Q)$ and so does the map α . Thus we need only consider $[M \downarrow_Q^P] \in T(Q)$. The map of Theorem 3.1 for the group Q is an injection $\alpha_Q : T(Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{r'}$ (for a certain r') and the first two components of $\alpha_Q([M \downarrow_Q^P])$ are the same as those of $\alpha([M])$, that is, 0 and s_2 . We now conclude that s_2 is a multiple of $n_2 p$ by applying the results of Sect. 6 for the group Q in each of the appropriate cases. More precisely, if p is odd, then $Q = R$ is extraspecial of order p^3 and exponent p , we have $n_2 = 2$ and Theorem 6.1 applies. If $p = 2$, then we have to apply Theorem 6.4 if $Q = D_8 * C_4$ (with $n_2 = 2$), and apply Theorem 6.3 provided $Q = D_8 * Q_8$ (with $n_2 = 4$). We apply the remarks before Theorem 6.3 in the case that $Q = D_8$ (with $n_2 = 1$). \square

Corollary 7.2. *Let P be a finite p -group. Then $T(P)$ is generated by the classes of relative syzygies of the trivial module, except in the case that $p = 2$ and P is generalized quaternion.*

Proof. If P is generalized quaternion, it is known that there are exceptional endo-trivial modules (see [CaTh1]), so we exclude this case. The result is well-known (and easy) if P is cyclic and it can be found in Theorem 7.1

of [CaTh1] if P is semi-dihedral. If now P has a maximal elementary abelian subgroup of rank 2, then the result follows from Theorem 7.1 above. If all maximal elementary abelian subgroups have rank ≥ 3 , then $T(P)$ is generated by $[\Omega_P^1(k)]$ (Corollary 1.3 in [CaTh2]). \square

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