

## $C_p(2)$ CAN BE CHARACTERIZED BY ITS ORDER COMPONENTS

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### Abstract

It is proved that if  $M = C_p(2)$ ,  $p$  is an odd prime, and  $G$  is a finite group with the same order components of  $M$ , then  $G \cong M$ .

### 1. Introduction

If  $G$  is a finite group, then we define the prime graph  $\Gamma(G)$  as follows: its vertices are the primes dividing the order of  $G$ , and two vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are joined by an edge if and only if there is an element in  $G$  of order  $pq$ . We denote the set of all connected components of graph  $\Gamma(G)$  by  $T(G) = \{\pi_i(G), \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, t(G)\}$ , where  $t(G)$  is the number of connected components of  $\Gamma(G)$ , and if  $G$  is of even order we always assume 2 in  $\pi_1(G)$ . We also denote the set of all primes dividing  $n$  by  $\pi(n)$ , where  $n$  is

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a natural number. Obviously  $|G|$  can be expressed as a product of  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{t(G)}$ , where  $m_i$  is a positive integer with  $\pi(m_i) = \pi_i(G)$ . All  $m_i$  are called the *order components* of  $G$ . Let  $OC(G) = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{t(G)}\}$  be the set of order components of  $G$ . The order components of non-abelian simple groups having at least two prime graph components have been attained in [4].

Some simple groups can be characterized by their order components, such as a finite simple group with at least three prime graph components [3], sporadic simple groups [4], Suzuki-Ree groups [6],  $G_2(q)$ , where  $q \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  [5],  $E_8(q)$  [1],  $PSL_2(q)$  [7],  ${}^3D_4(q)$  [8],  ${}^2D_n(3)$ ,  $9 \leq n = 2^m + 1 \neq p$  [9],  ${}^2D_{p+1}(2)$ ,  $5 \leq p \neq 2^m - 1$  [24],  $A_p$ , where  $p$  and  $p - 2$  are primes [12],  $PSL(5, q)$  [13],  $PSL(3, q)$ , where  $q$  is an odd prime power [14],  $PSL(3, q)$  for  $q = 2^n$  [15],  $F_4(q)$ , where  $q$  is even [16],  $C_2(q)$ , where  $q > 5$  [17],  $PSU_5(q)$  [18],  $PSU(3, q)$  for  $q > 5$  [19],  ${}^2D_4(q)$  [20],  ${}^2E_6(q)$  [22],  $E_6(q)$  [21]. In this paper we continue this work and shall prove the following theorem:

**Theorem.** *Let  $M = C_p(2)$ ,  $p$  be an odd prime. If a finite group  $G$  has the same order components of  $M$ , then  $G \cong M$ .*

## 2. Preliminary Results

**Lemma 1** [4, Lemma 6]. *If  $t(G) \geq 2$ ,  $H$  is a  $\pi_i$  subgroup of  $G$ , and  $H \triangleleft G$ , then  $\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^{t(G)} m_j \mid (|H| - 1)$ .*

**Lemma 2** [2, Theorem 2]. *Let  $G$  be a 2-Frobenius group of even order. Then  $t(G) = 2$ ,  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $|K/H| = m_2$ ,  $|H| \cdot |G/K| = m_1$ ,  $|G/K| \mid (|K/H| - 1)$ ,  $|G/K| \mid \varphi(|K/H|)$ , and  $H$  is nilpotent.*

**Lemma 3** [25, Lemma 3]. *If  $M$  is a simple group with  $t(M) = 2$ ,  $G$  is a finite group and  $OC(G) = OC(M)$ , then one of the following holds:*

(1)  $G$  is a Frobenius group or 2-Frobenius group.

(2)  $G$  has a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $H$  is a nilpotent  $\pi_1$ -group,  $K/H$  is a non-abelian simple group, the odd order component of  $M$  is equal to one of those of  $K/H$ ,  $G/K$  is a cyclic  $\pi_1$ -group, and  $|G/K| \mid |Out(K/H)|$ .

**Lemma 4** [11, Remark]. *The only solution of the equation  $p^m - q^n = 1$ , where  $p, q$  are primes and  $m, n > 1$ , is  $3^2 - 2^3 = 1$ .*

**Lemma 5** [26]. *Let  $p$  be a prime and  $n$  be a natural number,  $n \geq 2$ . Then there exists a prime divisor  $r$  of  $p^n - 1$  which does not divide  $p^m - 1$  for any natural number  $m \leq n$ , except  $n = 6$ ,  $p = 2$  or  $n = 2$ ,  $p + 1$  is a power of 2. Such  $r$  is called a primitive prime divisor of  $p^n - 1$ .*

Of course a primitive prime divisor of  $p^n - 1$  cannot divide  $p^n + 1$  or  $p^m - 1$  for  $n \nmid m$ .

**Lemma 6** [23, Lemma 1]. *If  $n \geq 6$  is a natural number, then there exist at least  $s(n)$  primes  $p_i$  such that  $\frac{n+1}{2} < p_i < n$ :*

$$s(n) = 6 \text{ for } n \geq 49;$$

$$s(n) = 5 \text{ for } 42 \leq n \leq 47;$$

$$s(n) = 4 \text{ for } 38 \leq n \leq 41;$$

$$s(n) = 3 \text{ for } 18 \leq n \leq 37;$$

$$s(n) = 2 \text{ for } 14 \leq n \leq 17;$$

$$s(n) = 1 \text{ for } 6 \leq n \leq 13.$$

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $p$  be a prime,  $q > 1$  be a natural number  $e = \min\{d : p \mid (q^d - 1)\}$ ,  $q^e = 1 + p^r k$ ,  $p \nmid k$ ,  $t$  be a natural number satisfying  $t = p^s u$  and  $p \nmid u$ . If  $p > 2$  or  $r > 2$ , then  $p^{r+s} \parallel (q^{et} - 1)$ .*

**Proof.**

$$q^{et} - 1 = (1 + p^r k)^t - 1 = tp^r k + \sum_{i=2}^t \binom{t}{i} (p^r k)^i.$$

If  $s = 0$ , then  $p \nmid t$ ,  $p^r \parallel q^{et} - 1$ .

If  $s > 0$ , by calculation we can prove that  $p^{r+s+1} \mid \binom{t}{i} (p^r k)^i$  for  $2 \leq i \leq t$ , hence  $p^{r+s} \parallel (q^{et} - 1)$ .

So we have that  $p^{r+s} \parallel (q^{et} - 1)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** Set  $q > 1$  is a natural number,  $s = \prod_{i=1}^n (q^i - 1)$ ,  $p$  is a prime,  $p \mid s$ . We denote the power of  $p$  in the standard factorization of  $s$  by  $s_p$ .  $e = \min\{d : p \mid q^d - 1\}$ ,  $q^e = 1 + p^r k$ ,  $p \nmid k$ . If  $p > 2$  or  $r > 2$ , then  $s_p < q^{\frac{np}{p-1}}$ .

**Proof.** Set  $\alpha = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{e} \right\rfloor$ ,  $w = \prod_{i=1}^{\alpha} (q^{ei} - 1)$ , hence,  $s_p = w_p = p^{ra + \sum_{j=1}^{\alpha} \left\lfloor \frac{a}{p^j} \right\rfloor}$   
 $\leq p^{ra + \frac{a}{p-1}} < q^{\frac{np}{p-1}}$  by Lemma 7 and  $p > 2$  or  $r > 2$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 9.** Let  $q$  be an odd natural number,  $s = \prod_{i=1}^n (q^i - 1)$ . Then  $s_2 < q^{1.5n}$ .

**Proof.** Set  $2^r \parallel q - 1$ . We divide the proof into two cases based on  $r$  is 1 or not.

**Case 1.** When  $r = 1$ ,

$$s = \prod_{i=1}^n (q^i - 1) = \prod_{i=1, 2 \nmid i}^n (q^i - 1) \cdot \prod_{j=1, 2 \nmid j}^n (q^j - 1).$$

For  $2|i$ , set  $v = q^2$ ,  $v = 1 + 2^r k$ ,  $2 \nmid k$ , clearly  $r \geq 2$ , hence, the power of 2 in the standard factorization of  $\prod_{i=1, 2|i}^n (q^i - 1) = \prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (v^i - 1)$  is less than  $q^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \cdot 2}$  by Lemma 8. For  $2 \nmid j$ , we have that  $2 \parallel q^j - 1$ , so  $2^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \parallel \prod_{j=1, 2 \nmid j}^n (q^j - 1)$ .

$$\text{Hence } s_2 < 2^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} q^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \cdot 2} < q^{1.5n}.$$

**Case 2.** When  $r \neq 1$ , by Lemma 7, we have that  $s_2 = 2^{rn + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lfloor \frac{n}{2^j} \rfloor}$   
 $< 2^{rn} \cdot 2^n < q^n \cdot 2^n < q^{1.5n}$  since  $r \neq 1$ .  $\square$

**Definition 1.** Let  $a$  and  $f$  be expressions of integers with integral coefficients. If  $f|a$  and  $(f, a/f) = 1$ , then we say that  $f$  is a *Hall factor* of  $a$ .

**Lemma 10** [10, Theorem 1]. *If  $q$  is a power of a prime number,  $c = \prod_{i=1}^n (q^{2i} - 1)$  or  $(q^n \pm 1) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (q^{2i} - 1)$ , then there exists a Hall factor  $f$  of  $c$  satisfying:*

- (1) If  $n \geq 23$ , then  $f > q^{8n}$ ;
- (2) If  $n = 22$ , then  $f > q^{7n}$ ;
- (3) If  $18 \leq n \leq 21$ , then  $f > q^{6n}$ ;
- (4) If  $16 \leq n \leq 17$ , then  $f > q^{5n}$ ;
- (5) If  $14 \leq n \leq 15$ , then  $f > q^{4n}$ .

And if the standard factorization of  $f = \prod_{k=1}^t r_k^{\delta_k}$ , then  $r_k^{\delta_k} \leq \frac{q^{n-1} - 1}{q - 1}$ .

### 3. Proof of the Theorem

**Proof.** Because  $M = C_p(2)$ , and  $G$  has the same order components with  $M$ , so the even order component of  $G$  is

$$m_1 = 2^{p^2} (2^p + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (2^{2i} - 1),$$

the odd order component of  $G$  is  $m_2 = 2^p - 1$ .

We divide the proof into 11 cases based on Lemma 3 and Tables 1-4 in [4].

**Case 1.**  $G$  cannot be a Frobenius group or a 2-Frobenius group.

**Subcase 1.1.** If  $G$  is a Frobenius group with Frobenius kernel  $H$  and complement  $K$ , then  $|H| = m_1$  and  $|K| = m_2$  since  $|k| < |h|$ . There exists a primitive prime divisor  $r$  of  $2^{2p} - 1$  since  $p$  is an odd prime. Let  $S_r \in \text{Syl}_r(H)$ , obviously  $|S_r| \mid (2^p + 1)$  and  $S_r \trianglelefteq G$ . Furthermore,  $|S_r| \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$  by Lemma 1, which is impossible.

**Subcase 1.2.** If  $G$  is a 2-Frobenius group, then there is a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $H$  is a nilpotent  $\pi_1$  group,  $|K/H| = m_2$ ,  $|G/K| \mid (|K/H| - 1) = 2^p - 2$ , it follows that  $(2^p + 1) \mid |H|$ . Similarly to Subcase 1.1, we can show that it is impossible.

From Subcase 1.1, Subcase 1.2 and Lemma 3, we have the following properties:

(1) There is a normal series  $1 \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq G$  such that  $K/H$  is a simple group,  $H$  and  $G/K$  are  $\pi_1$  group and  $H$  is nilpotent.

(2) The odd order component of  $G$  is one of those of  $K/H$ , consequently  $t(K/H) \geq 2$ . Hence  $K/H$  may be one of the simple groups listed in Tables 1-4 in [4].

**Case 2.**  $K/H \cong E_7(2), E_7(3), A_2(2), A_2(4), {}^2A_5(2), {}^2E_6(2), {}^2F_4(2)'$  or one of the sporadic simple groups.

If  $p = 3$ , only  $A_2(2)$ ,  $A_2(4)$ ,  ${}^2A_5(2)$ ,  $M_{22}$ ,  $J_1$ ,  $HS$  or  $J_2$  in the above-mentioned groups has an odd order component 7. If  $K/H \cong A_2(2)$ ,  $|G/K| \mid |Out(K/H)| = 2$ , furthermore there exists a Sylow-5 subgroup of  $H$  denoted by  $S_5$ , and  $|S_5| = 5$ ,  $S_5 \triangleleft G$ , hence  $5 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  by Lemma 1, which is a contradiction. Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong A_2(4)$ . And the order of  ${}^2A_5(2)$ ,  $M_{22}$ ,  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$  or  $HS$  cannot divides the order of  $C_3(2)$ .

Similarly we can prove that  $p$  cannot be 5 or 7.

If  $p \geq 11$ , then the odd order component of  $G$  is greater than any odd order components of any one of above-mentioned groups.

**Case 3.**  $K/H \not\cong A_n$ .

If  $K/H \cong A_n$ , then  $2^p - 1 = n$ ,  $n - 1$  or  $n - 2$ . Thus  $|A_{2^p-1}| \mid |A_n| \mid |C_p(2)|$ . When  $p \geq 5$ , there exist at least three primes  $p_i$  satisfying  $2^{p-1} < p_i < 2^p - 1$  by Lemma 6. But there exist at most two prime divisors of  $|C_p(2)| = 2^{p^2} \prod_{i=1}^p (2^{2i} - 1)$  between  $2^{p-1}$  and  $2^p - 1$  a contradiction.

When  $p = 3$ , only  $A_7$ ,  $A_8$  or  $A_9$  has an odd order component 7 equal to the odd order component of  $C_3(2)$ . If  $K/H \cong A_7$ , then  $|G/K| \mid |Out(K/H)| = 2$ , so there exists a Sylow-3 subgroup  $S_3$  of  $H$ , and  $|S_3| = 9$ ,  $S_3 \triangleleft G$ . Furthermore  $9 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  by Lemma 1, which is a contradiction.  $|A_8|$  and  $|A_9|$  cannot divides the order of  $C_3(2)$ .

**Case 4.**  $K/H \not\cong A_n(q)$  and  $K/H \not\cong {}^2A_n(q)$ .

**Subcase 4.1.** If  $K/H \cong A_1(q)$ , then  $2^p - 1 = q$ ,  $q \pm 1$  or  $(q \pm 1)/2$ . Whenever in any case we have that  $q \leq 2^{p+1}$ , hence  $|K/H| < 2^{3(p+1)}$ . Assume  $q = r^f$  we have that  $|G/K| < 2p + 2$  since  $|G/K| \mid |Out(K/H)| = 2f$ . If  $p + 1 \geq 14$ , there exists a Hall factor  $g$  of  $|G| =$

$2^{p^2} \prod_{i=1}^p (2^{2^i} - 1)$  such that  $g > 2^{4p}$  and  $g_{r'} \leq 2^p - 1$  for any prime  $r' | g$  by Lemma 10. Clearly  $(g, |H|) \neq 1$ . Let prime  $p'$  be satisfy  $p' | (g, |H|)$  and  $S_{p'} \in \text{Syl}_{p'}(G)$ .  $S_{p'}$  is a normal  $\pi_1$ -subgroup of  $G$  and  $|S_{p'}| < 2^p - 1$ , which contradicts Lemma 1.

By trivial calculation, we can show that  $p$  cannot be 3, 5, 7 or 11.

**Subcase 4.2.** If  $K/H \cong A_{p'}(q)$ ,  $q - 1 | p' - 1$ , then  $2^p - 1 = (q^{p'} - 1)/(q - 1)$ ,  $q^{p'} \geq 2^p$ .

If  $p' \geq 7$ , then  $q^{p'(p'+1)/2} > 2^{3p}$ , which implies  $q$  is a power of 2 by Lemmas 8 and 9. Suppose  $q = 2^r$ , hence  $(2^{rp'} - 1)/(2^r - 1) = 2^p - 1$ ,  $2^{rp'} = 2^{r+p} - 2^r - 2^p + 2$ ,  $q = 2$ ,  $p = p'$ , so  $|G/K| \cdot |H| = |G|/|K/H|$   

$$= \frac{2^{p(p-1)/2} \prod_{i=1}^p (2^i + 1)}{2^{p+1} - 1}$$
, which is impossible by Lemma 5 since  $p' \geq 7$ .

By calculation we can prove that  $p'$  cannot be 3 or 5.

**Subcase 4.3.** Similarly to Subcase 4.2 we can show that  $K/H \not\cong A_{p'-1}(q)$  and  $K/H \not\cong {}^2A_n(q)$ .

**Case 5.**  $K/H \not\cong D_n(q)$ .

If  $K/H \cong D_{p'}(5)$ ,  $p' \geq 5$ , then  $(5^{p'} - 1)/4 = 2^p - 1$ ,  $5^{p'} = 2^{p+2} - 3 > 2^{p+1}$ . Hence  $5^{p'(p'-1)} > 2^{4p}$ , which contradicts Lemma 8.

If  $K/H \cong D_{p'}(3)$ ,  $p' \geq 5$ , then  $2^p - 1 = (3^{p'} - 1)/2$ , which contradicts Lemma 4.

Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong D_{p'+1}(3)$ ,  $p' \geq 3$ .

**Case 6.**  $K/H \not\cong E_8(q)$ ,  $E_6(q)$ ,  $F_4(q)$ ,  ${}^2E_6(q)$  or  ${}^2F_4(q)$ .

If  $K/H \cong E_6(q)$ , then  $(q^6 + q^3 + 1)/(3, q - 1) = 2^p - 1$ ,  $q^9 > 2^p$ ,  $q^{36} > 2^{4p}$ , hence  $q$  is a power of 2 by Lemma 8. Let  $q = 2^r$ , we have that  $2^{6r} + 2^{3r} = 3 \cdot 2^p - 4$  or  $2^p - 2$ , which is impossible.



Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong E_8(q)$ ,  $F_4(q)$ ,  ${}^2E_6(q)$ ,  ${}^2F_4(q)$  or  ${}^2G_2(q)$ .

**Case 7.**  $K/H \not\cong {}^2B_2(q)$ ,  $q = 2^{2k+1}$ .

If  $K/H \cong {}^2B_2(q)$ ,  $q = 2^{2k+1}$ , then  $2^p - 1 = q \pm \sqrt{2q} + 1$  or  $q - 1$ .

If  $2^p - 1 = q \pm \sqrt{2q} + 1$ , then  $0 \equiv q \pm \sqrt{2q} = 2^p - 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , a contradiction.

If  $2^p - 1 = q - 1$ , then  $q = 2^p$ ,

$$|G/K| \cdot |H| = \frac{2^{p^2-2p}(2^p + 1) \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} (2^{2i} - 1)}{2^{2p} + 1}.$$

Similarly to Subcase 4.2 we can get a contradiction.

**Case 8.**  $K/H \not\cong {}^2G_2(q)$ ,  $q = 3^{2k+1}$ ;  $K/H \not\cong G_2(q)$ ,  $K/H \not\cong {}^3D_4(q)$ .

**Subcase 8.1.** If  $K/H \cong G_2(q)$ ,  $3|q$ , then  $2^p - 1 = q^2 \pm q + 1$ ,  $q(q \pm 1) = 2(2^{p-1} - 1)$ . Let  $q = 3^r$ , from Lemma 7, we have that  $2 \cdot 3^{r-1} | p - 1$ ,  $2(2^{p-1} - 1) > 2^{p-1} > 2^{2 \cdot 3^{r-1}} > 3^{3^{r-1}}$ . If  $r \geq 3$ , then  $2(2^{p-1} - 1) \geq 3^{3^r} > q^3 > q^2 \pm q$ , a contradiction. By calculation we have that  $r$  cannot be 1 or 2. Similarly we can prove  $K/H \not\cong {}^2G_2(q)$ ,  $q = 3^{2k+1}$ .

**Subcase 8.2.** Similarly to Subcase 4.1, we can show that  $K/H \not\cong G_2(q)$ ,  $3|q + 1$ .

**Subcase 8.3.** If  $K/H \cong G_2(q)$ ,  $3|q - 1$ , then  $2^p - 1 = q^2 - q + 1$ ,  $q^2 > 2^p$ . It follows that  $q^6 > 2^{3p}$ , hence  $q$  is a power of 2 by Lemma 8, which is impossible. Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong {}^3D_4(q)$ .

**Case 9.**  $K/H \not\cong {}^2D_n(q)$ .

**Subcase 9.1.** If  $K/H \cong {}^2D_{p'+1}(2)$ ,  $p' \neq 2^m - 1$ , then  $2^{p'} - 1 = 2^p - 1$ ,  $p = p'$ ,  $|{}^2D_{p+1}(2)| \nmid |C_p(2)|$ , which is impossible.

**Subcase 9.2.** If  $K/H \cong {}^2D_{p'}(3)$ ,  $5 \leq p' = 2^m + 1$ , then  $2^p - 1 = (3^{p'-1} + 1)/2$  or  $(3^{p'} + 1)/4$ .

If  $2^p - 1 = (3^{p'} + 1)/4$ , then  $3^{p'} > 2^p$ ,  $3^{p'(p'-1)} > 2^{4p}$ , which contradicts Lemma 8.

If  $(3^{n-1} + 1)/2 = 2^p - 1$ , then  $3^{n-1} + 3 = 2^{p+1}$ , which is impossible.

Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong {}^2D_{p'}(3)$ ,  $5 \leq p' \neq 2^n + 1$ ;  $K/H \not\cong {}^2D_n(3)$ ,  $n = 2^m + 1$  is not a prime.

**Subcase 9.3.** If  $K/H \cong {}^2D_{p'+1}(2)$ ,  $3 \leq p' = 2^n + 1$ , then  $2^p - 1 = 2^{p'} + 1$  or  $2^{p'+1} + 1$ , which is impossible.

**Subcase 9.4.** If  $K/H \cong {}^2D_n(q)$ ,  $4 \leq n = 2^m$ , then  $(q^n + 1)/(2, q - 1) = 2^p - 1$ . Clearly  $q$  cannot be a power of 2. Furthermore  $q^n > 2^p$ ,  $q^{n(n-1)} > 2^{3p}$ , which contradicts Lemma 8.

**Case 10.**  $K/H \not\cong B_n(q)$ .

**Subcase 10.1.** If  $K/H \cong B_{p'}(3)$ , then  $(3^{p'} - 1)/2 = 2^p - 1$ ,  $3^{p'} = 2^{p+1} - 1$ , which contradicts Lemma 4.

**Subcase 10.2.** Similarly to Subcase 9.4, we have that  $K/H \not\cong B_n(q)$ ,  $4 \leq n = 2^m$ .

**Case 11.** From Case 1 to Case 10 and Lemma 3, we have  $K/H$  isomorphic to one of  $C_n(q)$ .

Because  $C_{p'}(3)$  has the same order components of  $B_{p'}(3)$ , so  $K/H \not\cong C_{p'}(3)$ . Similarly we can prove that  $K/H \not\cong C_n(q)$ ,  $4 \leq n = 2^m$ .

So  $K/H \not\cong C_{p'}(2)$ ,  $2^p - 1 = 2^{p'} - 1$ . Hence  $p = p'$ ,  $G/K = 1$ ,  $H = 1$ , which implies that  $G \cong M$ , this is the end of the proof.  $\square$

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