

## THE NUMBER OF SIMPLE MODULES IN A BLOCK WITH KLEIN FOUR HYPERFOCAL SUBGROUP

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ABSTRACT. A 2-block of a finite group having a Klein four hyperfocal subgroup has the same number of irreducible Brauer characters as the corresponding 2-block of the normalizer of the hyperfocal subgroup.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $p$  be a prime and  $k$  an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $p$ . Let  $G$  be a finite group. Denote by  $G_{p'}$  the set of  $p$ -regular elements of  $G$ . Denote by  $C_n$  the cyclic group of order  $n$ . Let  $b$  be a ( $p$ -)block (idempotent) of  $kG$ . Denote by  $l(b)$  the number of isomorphism classes of simple  $kGb$ -modules. Let  $(P, b_P)$  be a maximal  $b$ -Brauer pair and let  $(S, b_S)$  be the unique  $b$ -Brauer pair contained in  $(P, b_P)$  for  $S \leq P$ . Denote by  $b_S^H$  the block of  $H$  associated with  $b_S$  where the group  $H$  is such that  $C_G(S) \leq H \leq N_G(S)$ , see [11, V, section 3]. Let  $Q$  be the hyperfocal subgroup of  $b$  with respect to  $(P, b_P)$ , that is,  $Q = \langle [S, N_G(S, b_S)_{p'}] \mid S \leq P \rangle = \langle [S, N_G(S, b_S)_{p'}] \mid S \leq P, (S, b_S) \text{ is maximal or essential} \rangle$ , see [12].

Rouquier raised a question on a derived equivalence between  $b$  and  $b_Q^{N_G(Q)}$  (see [13, A.2] for a precise statement). In this context, Watanabe showed that if  $b$  has a cyclic hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$ , then  $l(b) = l(b_Q^{N_G(Q)})$  ([16, Theorem 1(i)]). In this article, we show the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** *If  $b$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$  isomorphic to  $C_2 \times C_2$ , then  $l(b) = l(b_Q^{N_G(Q)})$ .*

Above Rouquier's problem is verified affirmatively in some concrete cases, see for example [7]. Its character version, that is, existence of a perfect isometry between the corresponding blocks, is proved in some situations, see [8], [15].

### 2. LOWER DEFECT GROUP OF A BLOCK

In this section, we collect needed facts concerning lower defect groups of a block. For basic facts on lower defect groups of a block as stated in the

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next two paragraphs, see for example [5, V section 10], [11, V section 11] and [16, section 4].

Let  $I$  be the  $k$ -subspace of  $Z(kG)$  with a basis  $\{\hat{C} \mid C \in \text{Cl}(G_{p'})\}$  where  $\text{Cl}(G_{p'})$  is the set of  $p$ -regular conjugacy classes of  $G$  and  $\hat{C} = \sum_{x \in C} x$ . Then denoting by  $\text{Bl}(G)$  the set of blocks of  $G$ ,  $I = \bigoplus_{a \in \text{Bl}(G)} Ia$  and there exists a ‘‘block partition’’  $\text{Cl}(G_{p'}) = \bigcup_{a \in \text{Bl}(G)} X(a)$  (disjoint union) of  $\text{Cl}(G_{p'})$  so that  $\{\hat{C}a \mid C \in X(a)\}$  is a  $k$ -basis of  $Ia$ .

For a  $p$ -subgroup  $S$  of  $G$ , set  $m(b, S) = |\{C \in X(b) \mid C \text{ has a defect group } S\}|$ . (We call  $S$  a lower defect group of  $b$  if  $m(b, S) \neq 0$ .) The multiplicity of  $p^n$  in elementary divisors of the Cartan matrix of  $b$  is equal to  $\sum_S m(b, S)$  where  $S$  ranges over a set of  $G$ -conjugacy classes of  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$  of order  $p^n$ , and  $m(b, S) = \sum_e m(e^{N_G(S, e)}, S)$  where  $e$  ranges over a set of  $N_G(S)$ -conjugacy classes of blocks of  $C_G(S)$  such that  $(S, e)$  is a  $b$ -Brauer pair. In particular, choosing a set  $\mathcal{T}$  of subgroups of  $P$  such that  $\{(T, b_T) \mid T \in \mathcal{T}\}$  is a set of representatives of  $G$ -conjugacy classes of not maximal  $b$ -Brauer pairs, we have  $l(b) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{T} \cup \{P\}} m(b_S^{N_G(b_S, S)}, S)$ . Here, we may take  $\mathcal{T}$  so that  $(T, b_T)$  is extremal in  $(P, b_P)$  ([1, Corollary 4.5, Remark 4.9]), that is,  $N_P(T)$  is a defect group of  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$ . Since  $m(b_P^{N_G(P, b_P)}, P) = m(b, P) = 1$ , for  $l(b)$  it suffices to know  $m(b_T^{N_G(b_T, T)}, T)$  for  $T \in \mathcal{T}$ .

Below let  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  and denote  $P' = N_P(T)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *If  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  is nilpotent, then  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $l(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}) = 1 = m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, P')$ , we have  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = 0$ .  $\square$

For a normal  $p$ -subgroup  $Z$  of  $G$ , denote by  $\mu_Z$  the canonical epimorphism  $kG \rightarrow k[G/Z]$ . When  $|G : C_G(Z)|$  is a  $p$ -power, we see  $m(b, S) = m(\mu_Z(b), S/Z)$  by [11, Theorem V.8.11, Lemma V.8.9].

**Lemma 2.2.** *If  $T \cap Q = 1$ , then  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = m(\mu_T(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}), 1)$ .*

**Proof.** For  $x \in N_G(T, b_T)_{p'}$ , we have  $[T, \langle x \rangle] = T \cap Q = 1$  and so  $x \in C_{N_G(T, b_T)}(T)$ . Hence  $|N_G(T, b_T) : C_{N_G(T, b_T)}(T)|$  is a  $p$ -power.  $\square$

The following is proved in the proof of [16, Theorem 4], in which hyperfocal subalgebra of the block is used. Note that  $m(b, 1)$  is equal to the multiplicity of 1 in the set of elementary divisors of the Cartan matrix of  $b$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** *If no simple  $kGb$ -module is relatively  $Q$ -projective, then any Cartan integer of  $b$  is divisible by  $p$  and so  $m(b, 1) = 0$ .*

From this we have:

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $Q$  is abelian,  $Q < P$  and  $|Q| \leq |Z(P)|$ , then any Cartan integer of  $b$  is divisible by  $p$  and so  $m(b, 1) = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Assume there exists a simple  $kGb$ -module  $M$  having a vertex  $V$  such that  $V \leq Q$ . Then there exists a self-centralizing  $b$ -Brauer pair  $(V, e)$  by [10, Corollary 3.7] (see [14, Section 41]). There exists  $g \in G$  such that  $(V, e)^g \leq (P, b_P)$ . Then  $C_P(V^g) \leq V^g < P$ . If  $V^g \leq Z(P)$ , then  $P = C_P(V^g) \leq V^g < P^g$ , a contradiction. If  $V^g \not\leq Z(P)$ , then  $Z(P) < V^g Z(P) \leq C_P(V^g) \leq V^g \leq Q^g$ , a contradiction. Hence, by Theorem 2.3, the assertion follows.  $\square$

### 3. HYPERFOCAL SUBGROUP OF A BLOCK

In this section, we collect needed facts concerning hyperfocal subgroup of a block.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $K$  be such that  $TC_G(T) \trianglelefteq K \trianglelefteq N_G(T, b_T)$ . Then the hyperfocal subgroup  $Q'$  of  $b_T^K$  with respect to  $(P' \cap K, b_{P' \cap K})$  is contained in  $Q$ .*

**Proof.** See the proof of [16, Lemma 6].  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *If  $Z$  is a normal  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  such that  $|G : C_G(Z)|$  is a  $p$ -power, then  $\mu_Z(b)$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $QZ/Z$ .*

**Proof.** We use  $\bar{\phantom{x}}$  for  $\mu_Z$ . Let  $S$  be such that  $Z \trianglelefteq S \leq P$ . Denote by  $\hat{C}_G(S)$  the inverse image in  $G$  of  $C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{S})$ . Then we see that  $b_S$  is covered by a unique block  $\hat{b}_S$  of  $\hat{C}_G(S)$ ,  $\bar{\hat{b}}_S$  is a block of  $C_{\bar{G}}(\bar{S})$ ,  $(\bar{P}, \bar{\hat{b}}_P)$  is a maximal  $\bar{b}$ -Brauer pair,  $(\bar{S}, \bar{\hat{b}}_S) \leq (\bar{P}, \bar{\hat{b}}_P)$ , and  $\hat{N}_G(S, b_S) = N_G(S, b_S)\hat{C}_G(S)$  where  $\hat{N}_G(S, b_S)$  is the inverse image in  $G$  of  $N_{\bar{G}}(\bar{S}, \bar{\hat{b}}_S)$ , see the proof of [16, Lemma 8] for details.

Let  $Q_{\bar{b}}$  be the hyperfocal subgroup of  $\bar{b}$  with respect to  $(\bar{P}, \bar{\hat{b}}_P)$ . Then  $Q_{\bar{b}} = \langle [\bar{S}, N_{\bar{G}}(\bar{S}, \bar{\hat{b}}_S)_{p'}] \mid \bar{S} \leq \bar{P} \rangle = \langle [\bar{S}, N_G(S, b_S)_{p'}] \mid Z \leq S \leq P \rangle$ . On the other hand,  $Q = \langle [S, N_G(S, b_S)_{p'}] \mid S \leq P, (S, b_S) \text{ is maximal or essential} \rangle = \langle [S, N_G(S, b_S)_{p'}] \mid Z \leq S \leq P \rangle$  since  $Z \trianglelefteq G$ , see [16, Lemma 2]. Hence,  $Q_{\bar{b}} = \bar{Q}$ .  $\square$

The canonical epimorphism  $\pi : N_G(P, b_P)/C_G(P) \rightarrow N_G(P, b_P)/PC_G(P)$  splits since  $p \nmid |N_G(P, b_P)/PC_G(P)|$ . Let  $\sigma : N_G(P, b_P)/PC_G(P) \rightarrow N_G(P, b_P)/C_G(P)$  be a monomorphism such that  $\pi\sigma = Id_{N_G(P, b_P)/PC_G(P)}$ . Let  $E(b) = \sigma(N_G(P, b_P)/PC_G(P))$  and  $\hat{E}(b)$  be the inverse image of  $E(b)$  in  $N_G(P, b_P)$ . Note that  $\sigma$  and  $E(b)$  are determined up to conjugation. We may view  $E(b) \leq \text{Aut}(P)$ .

Let  $C = C_G(Q)$ , and note  $N_G(P, b_P) \leq N_G(Q, b_Q)$ .

**Lemma 3.3.**  *$\hat{E}(b) \cap C = C_G(P)$  and  $E(b) \leq \text{Aut}(Q)$ .*

**Proof.** See the proof of [16, Lemma 3].  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *If  $E(b) \neq 1$  and  $E(b)$  acts regularly on  $Q - \{1\}$ , then  $P = Q \rtimes C_P(E(b))$ .*

**Proof.** See the proof of [16, Lemma 4(i)].  $\square$

Let  $\mathcal{F}_{(P, b_P)}(G, b)$  be the Brauer category of  $b$  whose objects are  $b$ -Brauer pairs contained in  $(P, b_P)$ .

**Lemma 3.5.** *If  $Q \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/C$  is abelian, then there is no essential  $b$ -Brauer pair and so  $N_G(P, b_P)$  controls fusion of  $\mathcal{F}_{(P, b_P)}(G, b)$ .*

**Proof.** See the proof of [16, Theorem 3].  $\square$

Let  $N = N_G(Q, b_Q)$  and  $c = b_Q^{N_G(Q, b_Q)}$ .

As is well-known,  $\uparrow_N^{N_G(Q)}$  gives a Morita equivalence between  $kNc$  and  $kN_G(Q)b_Q^{N_G(Q)}$ , so  $l(c) = l(b_Q^{N_G(Q)})$  ([11, Theorem V.5.10]). Hence, we will show  $l(b) = l(c)$ .

The Brauer pair  $(P, b_P)$  of  $G$  can be viewed as a Brauer pair of  $N$  and is a maximal  $c$ -Brauer pair.

**Theorem 3.6.** ([16, Theorem 2]) *If  $Q$  is abelian, then  $\mathcal{F}_{(P, b_P)}(G, b) \simeq \mathcal{F}_{(P, b_P)}(N, c)$ . In particular,  $c$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$ .*

**Lemma 3.7.** *If  $Q$  is abelian, then  $Q = \langle [Q, N_{p'}] \rangle$ . In particular,  $C_2$  cannot be a hyperfocal subgroup of a block.*

**Proof.** Clearly,  $Q \geq \langle [Q, N_{p'}] \rangle$ . We also have  $Q \leq \langle [Q, N_{p'}] \rangle$ . In fact, for  $S \leq P$  and  $x \in N_G(S, b_S)_{p'} = (N_N(S, b_S)C_G(S))_{p'}$ ,  $[S, \langle x \rangle] = [[S, \langle x \rangle], \langle x \rangle] \leq [Q, N_{p'}]$  using [6, Theorem 5.3.6].  $\square$

#### 4. PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT

Below, we assume  $p = 2$  and  $Q \simeq C_2 \times C_2$ . Note  $\text{Aut}(Q) \simeq GL(2, 2) \simeq S_3$ .

A block is nilpotent if and only if its hyperfocal subgroup is trivial. Hence, from Lemma 2.1, Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.7, if  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$ , then  $Q$  is a hyperfocal subgroup of  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  with respect to  $(P', b_{P'})$ .

Let  $F = N/C$ . We may view  $F \leq \text{Aut}(Q)$ .

Since  $b_Q$  is nilpotent ([12, Proposition 4.2]) and  $c$  is not nilpotent,  $F$  is not a  $p$ -group by [4, Theorem 2] and so

$$F \simeq C_3 \text{ (Case(i)) or } F \simeq S_3 \text{ (Case(ii))}.$$

(Principal 2-blocks of  $A_4$  and  $S_4$  give Case(i) and Case(ii) respectively.) Then there exists a unique subgroup  $H$  such that  $C \triangleleft H \trianglelefteq N$ , and  $H/C \simeq C_3$ . The subgroup  $H$  is  $P$ -invariant since  $C$  and  $N$  are so. Let  $U = C_P(Q)$ . Note

that Case(i) means  $H = N$ ,  $Q \leq Z(P)$  and  $U = P$ , and Case(ii) means  $H < N$ ,  $Q \not\leq Z(P)$  and  $U < P$ .

Let  $f = b_Q^H$ . Then  $f$  and  $b_Q$  have a defect group  $P \cap H = P \cap C = U$ . Since  $l(f) = 3$ ,  $f$  is not nilpotent and so has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$ .

**Lemma 4.1.**  $l(c) = \begin{cases} 3 & (\text{Case}(i)) \\ 2 & (\text{Case}(ii)). \end{cases}$

**Proof.** Case(ii): Since  $|N : H| = 2$  and  $l(f) = 3$ , there exists an  $N$ -invariant simple  $kHf$ -module. The other two simple  $kHf$ -modules are permuted by conjugation by  $N$ , and the assertion follows.  $\square$

For a maximal  $f$ -Brauer pair  $(U, b_U)$ ,  $E(f)$  is such that  $\text{Aut}(U) \geq N_H(U, b_U)/C_H(U) = UC_H(U)/C_H(U) \rtimes E(f)$ , and  $\hat{E}(f)$  is the inverse image of  $E(f)$  in  $N_H(U, b_U)$ .

**Lemma 4.2.**  $E(f) \simeq C_3$ .

**Proof.** By the Frattini argument, we have  $H = N_H(U, b_U)C$  and so  $H = \hat{E}(f)C$ . Then  $E(f) = \hat{E}(f)/C_H(U) = \hat{E}(f)/\hat{E}(f) \cap C \simeq \hat{E}(f)C/C = H/C \simeq C_3$  using Lemma 3.3 for  $f$ .  $\square$

Since  $(U, b_U) \trianglelefteq (P, b_P)$ ,  $P$  normalizes  $(U, b_U)$  and so  $N_H(U, b_U)$ . The conjugation action of  $P$  on  $N_H(U, b_U)$  induces the action of  $P$  on  $N_H(U, b_U)/C_H(U)$ . By the uniqueness of the  $p$ -complement up to conjugation, for  $u \in P$  there exists  $w \in U$  such that  $E(f)^u = E(f)^w$ .

Let  $R = C_U(E(f))$ . Note that  $(R, b_R)$  is extremal in  $(P, b_P)$  by Lemma 4.3(ii) below, and so we will assume  $R \in \mathcal{T}$ .

**Lemma 4.3.** (i)  $U = Q \times R$ . (ii)  $R \triangleleft P$ .

**Proof.** (i) We can apply Lemma 3.4 for  $f$  and  $U$ .

(ii) For  $u \in P$ , there exists  $w \in U$  so that  $R^u = C_{U^u}(E(f)^u) = C_{U^w}(E(f)^w) = R^w = R$ .  $\square$

Note that  $R$  does not depend on the choice of  $E(f)$  since  $R \triangleleft U$ .

**Proposition 4.4.** Let  $T \leq R$ .

(i) If  $T = R$ , then  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = \begin{cases} 2 & (\text{Case}(i)) \\ 1 & (\text{Case}(ii)). \end{cases}$

(ii) If  $T < R$ , then  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = 0$ .

**Proof.** The pair  $(U, b_U)$  can be viewed as a  $b_R^{N_G(R, b_R)}$ -Brauer pair, and we have  $\hat{E}(f) \leq N_{N_G(R, b_R)}(U, b_U)$  and  $\hat{E}(f) \not\leq C_{N_G(R, b_R)}(U)$ . Hence,  $b_R^{N_G(R, b_R)}$  is not nilpotent, and for the statement we may assume  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$ . Then  $\mu_T(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)})$  is a block with a defect group  $P'/T$  and a hyperfocal subgroup  $QT/T \simeq Q$ , see Lemma 3.2.

Let  $m = m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = m(\mu_T(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}), 1)$ , see Lemma 2.2.

(i) An elementary divisor of the Cartan matrix of a block with dihedral defect group  $D_{2^n}$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) is  $2^n$  or 1 ([3, Proposition 4G]). In Case(i),  $P/R \simeq Q$ , and since a block having Klein four as a defect group and as a hyperfocal subgroup has three irreducible Brauer characters ([2, Proposition 7D]), we have  $m = 2$ . In Case(ii),  $P/R \simeq D_8$ , and since a block having  $D_8$  as a defect group and having Klein four as a hyperfocal subgroup has two irreducible Brauer characters ([3, Theorem 2]), we have  $m = 1$ .

(ii) We have  $C_{P'}(Q) = Q \times (P' \cap R)$  and  $P' \cap R > T$ . Then  $C_{P'}(Q)/T = QT/T \times (P' \cap R)/T$ , and  $QT/T$  and  $(P' \cap R)/T$  are non-trivial normal subgroup of  $P'/T$ . We have  $P'/T > QT/T$  and  $|Z(P'/T)| \geq 4 = |QT/T|$ , and so  $m = 0$  by Lemma 2.4.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.5.**  $l(b) = m(b, P) + m(b, R) = m(b_P^{N_G(P, b_P)}, P) + m(b_R^{N_G(R, b_R)}, R)$  when  $Q \leq G$ .

**Proof.** From Lemma 4.1 and Proposition 4.4(i), we have  $l(b) = m(b_P^{N_G(P, b_P)}, P) + m(b_R^{N_G(R, b_R)}, R)$  and so  $l(b) = m(b, P) + m(b, R)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.6.** If  $T \cap Q = Q$ , then  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G' = N_G(T, b_T)$  and  $b' = b_T^{G'}$ . We may assume  $b'$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$ . Then we have a normal subgroup  $R'$  of  $P'$  for  $b'$  as  $R$  for  $b$ . Since  $G' = N_N(T, b_T)C_G(T) \leq N$ , we have  $l(b') = m(b', P') + m(b', R')$  by Lemma 4.5 for  $b'$ , and so  $m(b', T) = 0$ . Note  $T$  and  $R'$  are not  $G'$ -conjugate since  $Q \leq T$  and  $Q \not\leq R'$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.7.** If  $T \cap Q \simeq C_2$ , then  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  is nilpotent and so  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $Q_1 = T \cap Q$ . Since  $N_G(T, b_T) \cap N \leq N_G(Q_1, b_{Q_1}) = C_G(Q_1)$ , we have  $N_G(T, b_T) = N_N(T, b_T)C_G(T) \leq C_G(Q_1)$  and  $Q_1$  is a central  $p$ -subgroup of  $N_G(T, b_T)$ . If  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  is not nilpotent, then  $\mu_{Q_1}(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)})$  would have a hyperfocal subgroup isomorphic to  $C_2$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.8.** If  $m(e^{N_G(S, e)}, S) \neq 0$  for a  $b$ -Brauer pair  $(S, e)$ , then  $(S, e)$  is  $G$ -conjugate to  $(P, b_P)$  or  $(R, b_R)$ .

**Proof.** By Proposition 4.4 it suffices to show that if  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$ , then  $T \leq R$ . The condition  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$  implies that  $b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}$  has a hyperfocal subgroup  $Q$  and that  $T \cap Q = 1$  by Lemma 4.6 and Lemma 4.7.

Firstly, assume  $N_G(T, b_T) = G$ . Then  $T \triangleleft G$ .  $QT$  is a direct product, since  $Q$  normalizes  $T$ ,  $T$  normalizes  $Q$  and  $T \cap Q = 1$ . In particular  $T < U$  and

so  $\hat{E}(f)$  acts on  $T$  through  $\hat{E}(f)/C_H(U) = E(f) \simeq C_3$ . Then  $[T, \hat{E}(f)] \leq [T, N_G(T, b_T)_{P'}] \leq T \cap Q = 1$ . Hence  $T \leq R$ .

Next, assume  $N_G(T, b_T) < G$ . We will show by the induction on  $|G|$ .

When  $|G|$  is sufficiently small, then  $Q \trianglelefteq G$  and the assertion holds by Lemma 4.5.

Let  $G' = N_G(T, b_T)$  and  $b' = b_T^{G'}$ . Let  $(T', b_{T'})$  be the  $b'$ -Brauer pair contained in  $(P', b_{P'})$  for  $T' \leq P'$ . Note  $(T, b_T) = (T', b_{T'})$ .

Let  $N' = N_{G'}(Q, b'_Q)$  and  $C' = C_{G'}(Q)$ . Then there exists unique  $H'$  such that  $C' \triangleleft H' \trianglelefteq N'$ , which satisfies  $H'/C' \simeq C_3$ . Let  $f' = b'_Q^{H'}$  and  $U' = C_{P'}(Q)$ . For a maximal  $f'$ -Brauer pair  $(U', b'_{U'})$ ,  $E(f')$  is such that  $\text{Aut}(U') \geq N_{H'}(U', b'_{U'})/C_{H'}(U') = U' C_{H'}(U')/C_{H'}(U') \rtimes E(f')$ . Then  $E(f') \simeq C_3$  by Lemma 4.2 for  $b'$ , and let  $R' = C_{U'}(E(f'))$ . Then  $U' = Q \times R'$  by Lemma 4.3 for  $b'$ . Note that  $R'$  does not depend on the choice of  $E(f')$ .

We can consider the statement of this proposition for  $b'$ . Since  $G' < G$ , by the induction hypothesis, if  $m(e^{N_{G'}(S', e')}, S') \neq 0$  for a  $b'$ -Brauer pair  $(S', e')$ , then  $(S', e')$  is  $G'$ -conjugate to  $(P', b_{P'})$  or  $(R', b_{R'})$ . Since the condition  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$  can be viewed as a condition  $m(b'_T^{N_{G'}(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$  of  $b'$ -Brauer pair, the assumption  $m(b_T^{N_G(T, b_T)}, T) \neq 0$  and  $T < P'$  implies  $(T, b_T)$  is  $G'$ -conjugate to  $(R', b_{R'})$  and so  $T = R'$ .

Then we see  $(U', b_{U'}) = (U', b'_{U'})$  and  $H' = N_{H'}(U')$ . Hence we have  $N_{H'}(U, b_U) \leq N_{H'}(U', b'_{U'})$ . On the other hand, since  $N_H(U, b_U)$  controls fusion of  $\mathcal{F}_{(U, b_U)}(H, f)$  by Lemma 3.5 for  $f$  and  $C_H(U') = C_{H'}(U')$ , we have  $N_{H'}(U', b'_{U'}) \leq N_{H'}(U, b_U) C_{H'}(U')$ . Therefore we have  $N_{H'}(U', b'_{U'}) = N_{H'}(U, b_U) C_{H'}(U')$ .

The quotient group  $N_{H'}(U, b_U)/C_{H'}(U)$  is a subgroup of  $N_H(U, b_U)/C_H(U)$  and acts on  $U'$  through  $N_{H'}(U, b_U)/N_{H'}(U, b_U) \cap C_{H'}(U') \simeq N_{H'}(U, b_U) C_{H'}(U')/C_{H'}(U') = N_{H'}(U', b'_{U'})/C_{H'}(U')$ . Then we can take  $E(f)$  and  $E(f')$  so that  $E(f) \leq N_{H'}(U, b_U)/C_{H'}(U)$  and  $E(f)$  acts on  $U'$  as  $E(f')$ .

Then we have  $T = R' = C_{U'}(E(f')) = C_U(E(f)) \cap U' \leq R$ .  $\square$

From Proposition 4.8 and Proposition 4.4(i), we have

**Theorem 4.9.**  $l(b) = m(b, P) + m(b, R) = m(b_P^{N_G(P, b_P)}, P) + m(b_R^{N_G(R, b_R)}, R)$   
 $= \begin{cases} 3 & (\text{Case}(i)) \\ 2 & (\text{Case}(ii)). \end{cases}$

Then Theorem 1.1 follows from Theorem 4.9.

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