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# An Auslander-type result for Gorenstein-projective modules \*\*

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#### Abstract

An artin algebra *A* is said to be CM-finite if there are only finitely many, up to isomorphisms, indecomposable finitely generated Gorenstein-projective *A*-modules. We prove that for a Gorenstein artin algebra, it is CM-finite if and only if every its Gorenstein-projective module is a direct sum of finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules. This is an analogue of Auslander's theorem on algebras of finite representation type [M. Auslander, A functorial approach to representation theory, in: Representations of Algebras, Workshop Notes of the Third Internat. Conference, in: Lecture Notes in Math., vol. 944, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1982, pp. 105–179; M. Auslander, Representation theory of artin algebras II, Comm. Algebra (1974) 269–3101.

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#### 1. Introduction

Let A be an artin R-algebra, where R is a commutative artinian ring. Denote by A-mod (resp. A-mod) the category of (resp. finitely generated) left A-modules. Denote by A-Proj (resp. A-proj) the category of (resp. finitely generated) projective A-modules. Following [21], a chain complex  $P^{\bullet}$  of projective A-modules is defined to be *totally-acyclic*, if for every projective

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module  $Q \in A$ -Proj the Hom-complexes  $\operatorname{Hom}_A(Q, P^{\bullet})$  and  $\operatorname{Hom}_A(P^{\bullet}, Q)$  are exact. A module M is said to be *Gorenstein-projective* if there exists a totally-acyclic complex  $P^{\bullet}$  such that the 0th cocycle  $Z^0(P^{\bullet}) = M$ . Denote by A-GProj the full subcategory of Gorenstein-projective modules. Similarly, we define finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules by replacing all modules above by finitely generated ones, and we also get the category A-Gproj of finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules [17]. It is known that A-Gproj = A-GProj  $\cap A$ -mod [14, Lemma 3.4]. Finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules are also referred as maximal Cohen-Macaulay modules. These modules play a central role in the theory of singularity [10–12, 14] and of relative homological algebra [9,17].

An artin algebra A is said to be *CM-finite* if there are only finitely many, up to isomorphisms, indecomposable finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules. Recall that an artin algebra A is said to be of *finite representation type* if there are only finitely many isomorphism classes of indecomposable finitely generated modules. Clearly, finite representation type implies CM-finite. The converse is not true, in general.

Let us recall the following famous result of Auslander [3,4] (see also Ringel–Tachikawa [27, Corollary 4.4]):

**Auslander's theorem.** An artin algebra A is of finite representation type if and only if every A-module is a direct sum of finitely generated modules, that is, A is left pure semisimple, see [31].

Inspired by the theorem above, one may conjecture the following Auslander-type result for Gorenstein-projective modules: an artin algebra A is CM-finite if and only if every Gorenstein-projective A-module is a direct sum of finitely generated ones. However we can only prove this conjecture in a nice case.

Recall that an artin algebra A is said to be Gorenstein [19] if the regular module A has finite injective dimension both at the left and right sides. Our main result is

**Main theorem.** Let A be a Gorenstein artin algebra. Then A is CM-finite if and only if every Gorenstein-projective A-module is a direct sum of finitely generated Gorenstein-projective modules.

Note that our main result has a similar character to a result by Beligiannis [9, Proposition 11.23], and also note that similar concepts were introduced and then similar results and ideas were developed by Rump in a series of papers [28–30].

## 2. Proof of Main theorem

Before giving the proof, we recall some notions and known results.

2.1. Let A be an artin R-algebra. By a subcategory  $\mathcal{X}$  of A-mod, we mean a full additive subcategory which is closed under taking direct summands. Let  $M \in A$ -mod. We recall from [6,7] that a *right*  $\mathcal{X}$ -approximation of M is a morphism  $f: X \to M$  such that  $X \in \mathcal{X}$  and every morphism from an object in  $\mathcal{X}$  to M factors through f. The subcategory  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to be *contravariantly-finite* in A-mod if each finitely generated modules has a right  $\mathcal{X}$ -approximation. Dually, one defines the notions of *left*  $\mathcal{X}$ -approximations and *covariantly-finite* subcategories. The subcategory  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to be *functorially-finite* in A-mod if it is contravariantly-finite and

covariantly-finite. Recall that a morphism  $f: X \to M$  is said to be *right minimal*, if for each endomorphism  $h: X \to X$  such that  $f = f \circ h$ , then h is an isomorphism. A right  $\mathcal{X}$ -approximation  $f: X \to M$  is said to be a *right minimal*  $\mathcal{X}$ -approximation if it is right minimal. Note that if a right approximation exists, so does right minimal one; a right minimal approximation, if in existence, is unique up to isomorphisms. For details, see [6–8].

The following fact is known.

## Lemma 2.1. Let A be an artin algebra. Then

- (1) The subcategory A-Gproj of A-mod is closed under taking direct summands, kernels of epimorphisms and extensions, and contains A-proj.
- (2) The category A-Gproj is a Frobenius exact category [22], whose relative projective-injective objects are precisely contained in A-proj. Thus the stable category A-Gproj modulo projectives is a triangulated category.
- (3) Let A be Gorenstein. Then the subcategory A-Gproj of A-mod is functorially-finite.
- (4) Let A be Gorenstein. Denote by  $\{S_i\}_{i=1}^n$  a complete list of pairwise nonisomorphic simple A-modules. Denote by  $f_i: X_i \to S_i$  the right minimal A-Gproj-approximations. Then every finitely generated Gorenstein-projective module M is a direct summand of some module M', such that there exists a finite chain of submodules  $0 = M_0 \subseteq M_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq M_{m-1} \subseteq M_m = M'$  with each subquotient  $M_j/M_{j-1}$  lying in  $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ .

**Proof.** Note that A-Gproj is nothing but  $\mathcal{X}_{\omega}$  with  $\omega = A$ -proj in [6, Section 5]. Thus (1) follows from [6, Proposition 5.1], and (3) follows from [6, Corollary 5.10(1)] (just note that in this case, the regular module  ${}_{A}A$  is a cotilting module).

Since A-Gproj is closed under extensions, thus it becomes an exact category in the sense of [22]. The property of being Frobenius and the characterization of projective-injective objects follow directly from the definition, also see [14, Proposition 3.1(1)]. Thus by [18, Chapter 1, Section 2], the stable category A-Gproj is triangulated.

By (1) and (3), we see that (4) is a special case of [6, Proposition 3.8].  $\Box$ 

Let R be a commutative artinian ring as above. An additive category  $\mathcal{C}$  is said to be R-linear if all its Hom-spaces are R-modules, and the composition maps are R-bilinear. An R-linear category is said to be hom-finite, if all its Hom-spaces are finitely generated R-modules. Recall that an R-variety  $\mathcal{C}$  means a hom-finite R-linear category which is skeletally-small and idempotent-split (that is, for each idempotent morphism  $e: X \to X$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , there exist  $u: X \to Y$  and  $v: Y \to X$  such that  $e = v \circ u$  and  $\mathrm{Id}_Y = u \circ v$ ). It is well known that a skeletally-small R-linear category is an R-variety if and only if it is hom-finite and Krull–Schmidt (i.e., every object is a finite sum of indecomposable objects with local endomorphism rings). See [26, p. 52] or [16, Appendix A]. Then it follows that any factor category [8, p. 101] of an R-variety is still an R-variety.

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an R-variety. We will abbreviate the Hom-space  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X,Y)$  as (X,Y). Denote by  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-Mod})$  (resp.  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-mod})$ ) the category of contravariant R-linear functors from  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $R\operatorname{-Mod}$  (resp.  $R\operatorname{-mod}$ ). Then  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-Mod})$  is an abelian category and  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-mod})$  is its abelian subcategory. Denote by (-, C) the representable functor for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ . A functor F is said to be *finitely generated* if there exists an epimorphism  $(-, C) \to F$  for some object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ ; F is said to be *finitely presented* (= coherent) [2,4], if there exists an exact sequence of functors

 $(-, C_1) \to (-, C_0) \to F \to 0$ . Denote by  $\mathbf{fp}(\mathcal{C})$  the subcategory of  $(\mathcal{C}^{op}, R\text{-Mod})$  consisting of finitely presented functors. Clearly,  $\mathbf{fp}(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq (\mathcal{C}^{op}, R\text{-mod})$ . Recall the duality

$$D = \operatorname{Hom}_R(-, E) : R\operatorname{-mod} \to R\operatorname{-mod}$$

where E is the injective hull of  $R/\operatorname{rad}(R)$  as an R-module. Therefore, it induces duality D:  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-mod}) \to (\mathcal{C}, R\operatorname{-mod})$  and  $D: (\mathcal{C}, R\operatorname{-mod}) \to (\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-mod})$ . The R-variety  $\mathcal{C}$  is called a *dualizing R-variety* [5], if this duality preserves finitely presented functors.

The following observation is important.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let A be a Gorenstein artin R-algebra. Then the stable category A-Gproj is a dualizing R-variety.

**Proof.** Since A-Gproj  $\subseteq A$ -mod is closed under taking direct summands, thus idempotent-split. Therefore, we infer that A-Gproj is an R-variety, and its stable category A-Gproj is also an R-variety. By Lemma 2.1(3), the subcategory A-Gproj is functorially-finite  $\overline{\text{in } A}$ -mod, then by a result of Auslander and Smalø [7, Theorem 2.4(b)] A-Gproj has almost-split sequences, and thus theses sequences induce Auslander–Reiten triangles in A-Gproj (let us remark that it is Happel [19, 4.7] who realized this fact for the first time). Hence the triangulated category A-Gproj has Auslander–Reiten triangles, and by a theorem of Reiten and Van den Bergh [25, Theorem I.2.4] we infer that A-Gproj has Serre duality. Now by [20, Proposition 2.11] (or [13, Corollary 2.6]), we deduce that  $\overline{A}$ -Gproj is a dualizing R-variety. Let us remark that the last two cited results are given in the case where R is a field, however one just notes that the results can be extended to the case where R is a commutative artinian ring without any difficulty.  $\square$ 

For the next result, we recall more notions on functors over varieties. Let C be an R-variety and let  $F \in (C^{op}, R\text{-Mod})$  be a functor. Denote by  $\operatorname{ind}(C)$  the complete set of pairwise nonisomorphic indecomposable objects in C. The *support* of F is defined by  $\operatorname{supp}(F) = \{C \in \operatorname{ind}(C) \mid F(C) \neq 0\}$ . The functor F is *simple* if it has no nonzero proper subfunctors, and F has finite length if and only if F lies in  $(C^{op}, R\text{-mod})$  and  $\operatorname{supp}(F)$  is a finite set. The functor F is said to be *noetherian*, if its every subfunctor is finitely generated. It is a good exercise to show that a functor F is noetherian if and only if every ascending chain of subfunctors in F becomes stable after finite steps (one may use the fact: for a finitely generated functor F with an epimorphism  $(-, C) \to F$ , then for any subfunctor F' of F, F' = F provided that F'(C) = F(C). Observe that a functor having finite length is necessarily noetherian by an argument on its total length (i.e.,  $I(F) = \sum_{C \in \operatorname{ind}(C)} I_R(F(C))$ , where  $I_R$  denotes the length function on finitely generated R-modules).

The following result is essentially due to Auslander (compare [4, Proposition 3.10]).

**Lemma 2.3.** Let C be a dualizing R-variety,  $F \in (C^{op}, R\text{-mod})$ . Then F has finite length if and only if F is finitely presented and noetherian.

**Proof.** Recall from [5, Corollary 3.3] that for a dualizing *R*-variety, functors having finite length are finitely presented. So the "only if" follows.

For the "if" part, assume that F is finitely presented and noetherian. Since F is finitely presented, by [5, p. 324], we have the filtration of subfunctors

$$0 = \operatorname{soc}_0(F) \subseteq \operatorname{soc}_1(F) \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \operatorname{soc}_{i+1}(F) \subseteq \cdots$$

where  $\operatorname{soc}_1(F)$  is the socle of F, and in general  $\operatorname{soc}_{i+1}$  is the preimage of the socle of  $F/\operatorname{soc}_i(F)$  under the canonical epimorphism  $F \to F/\operatorname{soc}_i(F)$ . Since F is noetherian, we get  $\operatorname{soc}_{i_0} F = \operatorname{soc}_{i_0+1}(F)$  for some  $i_0$ , and that is, the socle of  $F/\operatorname{soc}_{i_0}(F)$  is zero. However, by the dual of [5, Proposition 3.5], we know that for each nonzero finitely presented functor F, the socle  $\operatorname{soc}(F)$  is necessarily nonzero and finitely generated semisimple. In particular,  $\operatorname{soc}(F)$  has finite length, and thus it is finitely presented. Note that  $\operatorname{\mathbf{fp}}(C) \subseteq (\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-mod})$  is an abelian subcategory, and thus  $F/\operatorname{soc}_1(F)$  is finitely presented. Applying the above argument to  $F/\operatorname{soc}_1(F)$ , we obtain that  $\operatorname{soc}_2(F)$ , as an extension between the socles of two finitely presented functors, has finite length. In general, one proves that  $F/\operatorname{soc}_i(F)$  is finitely presented and  $\operatorname{soc}_{i+1}(F)$  has finite length for all i. Hence  $\operatorname{soc}(F/\operatorname{soc}_{i_0}(F)) = 0$  will imply that  $F/\operatorname{soc}_{i_0}(F) = 0$ , i.e.,  $F = \operatorname{soc}_{i_0}(F)$ , which has finite length.  $\square$ 

Let us consider the category A-GProj. Similar to Lemma 2.1(1), (2), we recall that A-GProj  $\subseteq A$ -Mod is closed under taking direct summands, kernels of epimorphisms and extensions, and it is a Frobenius exact category with (relative) projective-injective objects precisely contained in A-Proj. Consider the stable category A-GProj, which is also triangulated and has arbitrary coproducts. Recall that in an additive category T with arbitrary coproducts, an object T is said to be *compact*, if the functor  $Hom_T(T, -)$  commutes with coproducts. Denote the full subcategory of compact objects by  $T^c$ . If we assume further that T is triangulated, then  $T^c$  is a thick triangulated subcategory. We say that the triangulated category T is *compactly generated* [23,24], if the subcategory  $T^c$  is skeletally-small and for each object T0 provided that T1 HomT2 of or every compact object T2.

Note that in our situation, we always have an inclusion A-Gproj  $\hookrightarrow A$ -GProj, and in fact, we view it as A-Gproj  $\subseteq (A$ -GProj) $^c$ . Next lemma, probably known to experts, states the converse in Gorenstein case. It is a special case of [14, Theorem 4.1] (compare [10, Theorem 6.6]). One may note that in the artin case, the category A-Gproj is idempotent-split.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let A be a Gorenstein artin algebra. Then the triangulated category A-GProj is compactly generated and A-Gproj  $\subseteq$  (A-GProj)<sup>c</sup> is dense (i.e., surjective up to isomorphisms).

## 2.2. Proof of Main theorem

Assume that A is a Gorenstein artin R-algebra. Set  $\mathcal{C} = A$ -Gproj. By Lemma 2.2,  $\mathcal{C}$  is a dualizing R-variety. For a finitely generated Gorenstein-projective module M, we will denote by (-, M) the functor  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, M)$ ; for an arbitrary module X, we denote by  $(-, X)|_{\mathcal{C}}$  the restriction of the functor  $\operatorname{Hom}_A(-, X)$  to  $\mathcal{C}$ .

For the "if" part, we assume that each Gorenstein-projective module is a direct sum of finitely generated ones. It suffices to show that the set  $\operatorname{ind}(\mathcal{C})$  is finite. For this end, assume that M is a finitely generated Gorenstein-projective module. We claim that the functor (-, M) is noetherian. In fact, given a subfunctor  $F \subseteq (-, M)$ , first of all, we may find an epimorphism

$$\bigoplus_{i\in I} (-, M_i) \to F,$$

where each  $M_i \in \mathcal{C}$  and I is an index set. Compose this epimorphism with the inclusion of F into (-, M), we get a morphism from  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} (-, M_i)$  to (-, M). By the universal property of coproducts

and then by Yoneda's lemma, we have, for each i, a morphism  $\theta_i : M_i \to M$ , such that F is the image of the morphism

$$\sum_{i \in I} (-, \theta_i) : \bigoplus_{i \in I} (-, M_i) \to (-, M).$$

Note that  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} (-, M_i) \simeq (-, \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i)|_{\mathcal{C}}$ , and the morphism above is also induced by the morphism  $\sum_{i \in I} \theta_i : \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \to M$ . Form a triangle in A-GProj

$$K[-1] \to \bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \xrightarrow{\sum_{i \in I} \theta_i} M \xrightarrow{\phi} K.$$

By assumption, we have a decomposition  $K = \bigoplus_{j \in J} K_j$  where each  $K_j$  is finitely generated Gorenstein-projective. Since the module M is finitely generated, we infer that  $\phi$  factors through a finite sum  $\bigoplus_{j \in J'} K_j$ , where  $J' \subseteq J$  is a finite subset. In other words,  $\phi$  is a direct sum of

$$M \xrightarrow{\phi'} \bigoplus_{i \in I'} K_j$$
 and  $0 \to \bigoplus_{i \in I \setminus I'} K_j$ .

By the additivity of triangles, we deduce that there exists a commutative diagram

$$\bigoplus_{i \in I} M_i \xrightarrow{\sum_{i \in I} \theta_i} M$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \parallel$$

$$M' \oplus (\bigoplus_{j \in J \setminus J'} K_j)[-1] \xrightarrow{(\theta',0)} M$$

where the left side vertical map is an isomorphism, and M' and  $\theta'$  are given by the triangle  $(\bigoplus_{j \in J'} K_j)[-1] \to M' \xrightarrow{\theta'} M \xrightarrow{\phi'} \bigoplus_{j \in J'} K_j$ . Note that  $M' \in \mathcal{C}$ , and by the above diagram we infer that F is the image of the morphism  $(-, \theta') : (-, M') \to (-, M)$ , and thus F is finitely generated. This proves the claim.

By the claim, and by Lemma 2.3, we deduce that for each  $M \in \mathcal{C}$ , the functor (-, M) has finite length, in particular,  $\operatorname{supp}((-, M))$  is finite. Assume that  $\{S_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is a complete list of pairwise nonisomorphic simple A-modules. Denote by  $f_i: X_i \to S_i$  the right minimal A-Gprojapproximations. By Lemma 2.1(4), the module M is a direct summand of M' and we have a finite chain of submodules of M' with factors being among  $X_i$ 's. Then it is not hard to see that  $\operatorname{supp}((-, M)) \subseteq \operatorname{supp}((-, M')) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n \operatorname{supp}((-, X_i))$  for every  $M \in \mathcal{C}$ . Therefore we deduce that  $\operatorname{ind}(\mathcal{C}) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \operatorname{supp}((-, X_i))$ , which is finite.

For the "only if" part, assume that the Gorenstein artin algebra A is CM-finite. Then the set  $\operatorname{ind}(\mathcal{C})$  is finite, say  $\operatorname{ind}(\mathcal{C}) = \{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_m\}$ . Set  $B = \operatorname{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(\bigoplus_{i=1}^m G_i)^{\operatorname{op}}$ . Then B is also an artin R-algebra. Note that for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ , the Hom-space  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\bigoplus_{i=1}^m G_i, C)$  has a natural left B-module structure, moreover, it is a finitely generated projective B-module. In fact, we get an equivalence of categories

$$\Phi = \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}} \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} G_{i}, - \right) : \mathcal{C} \to B$$
- proj.

Then the equivalence above naturally induces the following equivalences, still denoted by  $\Phi$ ,

$$\Phi: \mathbf{fp}(\mathcal{C}) \to B\text{-mod}, \qquad \Phi: (\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}, R\text{-Mod}) \to B\text{-Mod}.$$

In what follows, we will use these equivalences. By [24, p. 169] (or [13, Proposition 2.4]), we know that the category  $\mathbf{fp}(\mathcal{C})$  is a Frobenius category. Therefore, via  $\Phi$ , we get that B is a self-injective algebra. Therefore by [1, Theorem 31.9], we get that B-Mod is also a Frobenius category, and by [1, p. 319], every projective-injective B-module is of form  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^m Q_i^{(I_i)}$ , where  $\{Q_1, Q_2, \ldots, Q_m\}$  is a complete set of pairwise nonisomorphic indecomposable projective B-modules such that  $Q_i = \Phi(G_i)$ , and each  $I_i$  is some index set, and  $Q_i^{(I_i)}$  is the corresponding coproduct.

Take  $\{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n\}$  to be a complete set of pairwise nonisomorphic indecomposable projective A-modules. Let  $G \in A$ -GProj. We will show that G is a direct sum of some copies of the modules  $G_i$  and  $P_j$ . Then we are done. Consider the functor  $(-, G)|_{\mathcal{C}}$ , which is cohomological, and thus by [13, Lemma 2.3] (or [24, p. 258]), we get  $\operatorname{Ext}^1(F, (-, G)|_{\mathcal{C}}) = 0$  for each  $F \in \operatorname{fp}(\mathcal{C})$ , where the Ext group is taken in  $(\mathcal{C}^{\operatorname{op}}, R\operatorname{-Mod})$ . Via  $\Phi$  and applying the Baer's criterion, we get that  $(-, G)|_{\mathcal{C}}$  is an injective object, and thus by the above, we get an isomorphism of functors

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} (-, G_i)^{(I_i)} \to (-, G)|_{\mathcal{C}},$$

where  $I_i$  are some index sets. As in the first part of the proof, we get a morphism  $\theta: \bigoplus_{i=1}^m G_i^{(I_i)} \to G$  such that it induces the isomorphism above. Form a triangle in A-GProj

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} G_{i}^{(I_{i})} \xrightarrow{\theta} G \to X \to \left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^{m} G_{i}^{(I_{i})}\right) [1].$$

For each  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ , applying the cohomological functor  $\operatorname{Hom}_{A\operatorname{\underline{-GProj}}}(C,-)$  and by the property of  $\theta$ , we obtain that

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{A\operatorname{-}\operatorname{GProj}}(C,X)=0, \quad \forall C\in\mathcal{C}.$$

By Lemma 2.4, the category A-GProj is generated by C, and thus  $X \simeq 0$ , and hence  $\theta$  is an isomorphism in the stable category A-GProj. Thus it is well known (say, by [15, Lemma 1.1]) that this will force an isomorphism in the module category

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^m G_i^{(I_i)} \oplus P \simeq G \oplus Q,$$

where P and Q are projective A-modules. Now by [1, p. 319], again, P is a direct sum of copies of the modules  $P_j$ . Hence the combination of Azumaya's theorem and Crawlay–Jønsson–Warfield's theorem [1, Corollary 26.6] applies in our situation, and thus we infer that G is isomorphic to a direct sum of copies of the modules  $G_i$  and  $P_j$ . This completes the proof.

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