



# Automorphisms of Zero Divisor Graphs of Power Four Radical Zero Completely Primary Finite Rings

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## Abstract

Let  $R$  be a commutative unital finite rings and  $Z(R)$  be its set of zero divisors. The study of automorphisms of algebraic structures via zero divisor graphs is still an active area of research. Perhaps, because of the fact that automorphisms have got real life application in capturing the symmetries of algebraic structures. In this study, the automorphisms zero divisor graphs of such rings in which the product of any four zero divisor is zero has been determined.

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## 1 Introduction

The determination of the group of automorphisms of finite rings was invigorated by research of Alkhamees in [1], where he studied finite chain rings of characteristic  $p$ . In [2], Alkhamees considered the case of finite completely rings with minimal index of nilpotency  $J^2 = (0)$  and determined completely the group of automorphisms of such rings. If we consider the other extreme of maximal index of nilpotency, we are led naturally to the case of chain rings [3]. Therefore, in [1] he determined fully the automorphism group, in commutative case of chain rings of characteristic  $p$  and then showed how this can be used to solve non commutative case using ideas introduced in [3]. Since finite principle rings of characteristic  $p$  are direct sums of finite chain rings of characteristic  $p$ , it is possible to determine the group of automorphisms of finite principle rings of characteristic  $p$ .

The classification of automorphisms of graphs would have been exhausted if it was possible to find necessary and sufficient conditions to determine the full automorphism group. The classification is still open even though it has been done for some families of graphs. Graphs and graph automorphisms are two important structures studied in mathematics. Interestingly the theory of graphs and graph automorphisms are deeply connected. For instance, Evariste Galois characterized the general quintic univariate polynomial  $f$  over rationals by showing that the root of such polynomial cannot be expressed in terms of radicals via automorphisms of structures of the splitting fields of  $f$ . Some contributions on automorphisms can be mentioned. Ojiema et'al [4] did considerable work on automorphisms unit groups of square radical completely primary finite rings. The research on automorphisms of direct product of finite groups was extensively done by Bidwell [5] while Chikunji [6],[7],[8],[9], [10] and [11] considerable research on unit groups and automorphisms of square radical and cube radical zero completely primary finite rings while Ojiema et'al [12] characterized automorphisms of unit groups of power four radical zero finite commutative completely primary rings.

The classification of the 4-nilpotent radical of Jacobson finite rings was advanced in [4] and later by Evgeniy [13] where in both instances they determined the structures of the unit groups of primary and local rings. Moreover, an exposition of the automorphisms of such unit groups can be attributed to the findings of [12]. In all these studies, specific cases of these classes of rings have been considered. For recent survey on automorphisms of zero divisor graphs reference can be made to [14, 15, 16]. We therefore advance further, the classification by considering the graphs and the automorphisms of the zero divisor graphs of such classes of rings for the characteristics  $p$ ,  $p^2$ ,  $p^3$ , and  $p^4$ .

## 2 Power Four Radical Zero Finite Rings of Characteristic $p$

Let  $R_0 = GR(p^r, p)$  be a Galois ring,  $U, V$  and  $W$  are finitely generated  $R_0$  modules. Suppose  $u, v$  and  $w$  are the generators of  $U, V$  and  $W$  respectively, so that  $R = R_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v \oplus R_0w$  is an additive abelian group. On  $R$  define multiplication as follows:  $(r_0, r_1, r_2, r_3)(s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3) = (r_0s_0, r_0s_1 + r_1s_0, r_0s_2 + r_2s_0 + r_1s_1, r_0s_3 + r_3s_0 + r_1s_2 + r_2s_1)$ . It is well known that the multiplication turns  $R$  into a commutative ring with identity  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$ . Further, it has been proved in Ojiema and Owino [12] that

$$\begin{aligned} Z(R) &= R_0u \oplus R_0v \oplus R_0w, \\ (Z(R))^2 &= R_0v \oplus R_0w, \\ (Z(R))^3 &= R_0w, \\ (Z(R))^4 &= (0). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, the next result in the sequel holds:

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $R_0 = GR(p^r, p)$  and  $R = R_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v \oplus R_0w$  is a ring with respect to multiplication in this section. Then,

$$Aut((\Gamma(R))) \cong S_{p^{3r}-1} \times S_{p^{2r}-1} \times S_{p^{3r}-p^{2r}}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r \in R_0$  with  $\xi_1 = 1$  such that  $\bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_r \in R_0$  form a basis for  $R_0$  over its prime subfield  $R_0/pR_0$ . With respect to the multiplication in this section,  $Ann(Z(R)) = (Z(R))^3 = p^3R_0$ . Let  $V_1 = Ann(Z(R)) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $|V_1| = p^r - 1$ . Since each vertex  $x \in V_1$  is adjacent to every other vertex in the graph,  $\deg(x) = p^{3r} - 2$ . Consider  $V_2 = \{\xi_i v + a\xi_i w \mid a \in R_0\}$ . Then  $|V_2| = p^{2r} - p^r$  and each vertex in  $V_2$  is adjacent to a vertex in the form  $\xi_i v + \xi_j w$ . So the degree of  $y \in V_2$  is  $p^{2r} - 1$ . Finally,  $V_3 = \{\xi_i u + b\xi_i v + c\xi_i w, b, c \in R_0\}$ . So  $|V_3| = p^{3r} - p^{2r}$  and the degree of each  $z \in V_3$  is  $p^r - 1$  since each vertex in  $V_3$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  but not  $V_2$ .  $\square$

### 3 Power Four Radical Zero Finite Rings of Characteristic $p^2$

Let  $R_0 = GR(p^{2r}, p^2)$  be Galois ring of order  $p^{2r}$  and characteristic  $p^2$ . Suppose  $U$  and  $V$  are  $R_0$ -modules generated by  $u_1, u_2$  and  $v$  respectively, so that  $R = R_0 \oplus U \oplus V$ . If the multiplication on  $R$  is defined by  $(r_0, r_1, r_2, r_3)(s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3) = (r_0s_0 + pr_1s_1 + pr_2s_2, r_0s_1 + r_1s_0, r_0s_2 + r_2s_0, r_0s_3 + r_3s_0 + r_1s_1 + r_1s_2 + r_2s_1 + r_2s_2)$  so that  $pu_i \neq 0, p^2u_i = 0, 1 \leq i \leq 2$  and  $pv = 0$ , it has been verified in [12] that the multiplication turns  $R$  into a ring with identity  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$  and  $Z(R)$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(R) &= pR_0 \oplus R_0u_1 \oplus R_0u_2 \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^2 &= pR_0 \oplus pR_0u_1 \oplus pR_0u_2 \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^3 &= pR_0u_1 \oplus pR_0u_2, \\ (Z(R))^4 &= (0). \end{aligned}$$

The next result gives the structure of the automorphisms of the zero divisor graphs of  $R$  constructed above.

**Proposition 3.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring defined in this section. Then,

$$Aut(\Gamma(R)) \cong S_{p^{3r}-1} \times S_{p^{6r}-2p^{4r}+p^{3r}} \times S_{p^{5r}-p^{4r}-p^{3r}} \times S_{p^{4r}-p^{3r}} \times S_{p^{6r}-3p^{5r}+3p^{4r}-p^{3r}-2}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r \in R_0$  with  $\xi_1 = 1$  such that  $\bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_r \in R_0$  form a basis for  $R_0$  over its prime subfield  $R_0/pR_0$ . Using the given multiplication,  $Ann(Z(R)) = \{pa_1\xi_i u_1 + pa_2\xi_i u_2 + b\xi_i v \mid a_1, a_2, b \in R_0\}$ .

Let  $V_1 = Ann(Z(R)) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $|V_1| = p^{3r} - 1$ . Since each vertex in  $V_1$  is adjacent to other vertex in the graph, the degree of  $x \in V_1$  is  $p^{6r} - 2$ .

Let  $X = \{a_1\xi_i u_1 + a_2\xi_i u_2 + b\xi_i v \mid a_1, a_2, b \in R_0, a_1 + a_2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}$ . Then  $|X| = p^{2r}(p^{2r} - p) \cdot p^r = p^{5r} - p^{4r}$ . Each vertex in  $X$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $X$  or a vertex of the form  $a'_1\xi_i + a'_2\xi_i + b'v$  where  $a'_1 + a'_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . So the degree of each vertex in  $V_2$  is  $p^{3r} - 1 + p^{4r} - p^{3r} = p^{4r} - 1$ . If  $Y = \{pr_0 + a_1\xi_i u_1 + a_2\xi_i u_2 + b\xi_i v \mid pr_0 \neq 0, a_1, a_2, b \in R_0, a_1 + a_2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}$ . Then  $|Y| = (p^{4r} - p^{2r})(p^r - 1)p^r = p^{6r} - p^{5r} - p^{4r} + p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $Y$  is adjacent to a vertex in either  $V_1$  or a vertex of the form  $pr_0 + pa_1\xi_i + pa_2\xi_i + bv$  where  $pr_0 \neq 0, a_1 + a_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $Y$  is  $p^{3r} - 1 + p^{4r} - p^{3r} = p^{4r} - 1$ . So we consider  $V_2 = X \cup Y$ . Next, consider  $V_3 = \{a'_1\xi_i u_1 + a'_2\xi_i u_2 + b'\xi_i v \mid a'_1 + a'_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\} \setminus V_1$ . So  $|V_3|$  is  $p^{5r} - p^{4r} - p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_3$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1, V_2$  or  $V_3$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $V_3$  is  $p^{5r} - p^{4r} + p^{3r} - 1 + p^{5r} - p^{4r} - p^{3r} = 2p^{5r} - 2p^{4r} - 1$ . Next, Consider  $V_4 = \{pr_0 + pa_1\xi_i + pa_2\xi_i + bv \mid pr_0 \neq 0, a_1, a_2, b \in R_0, a_1 + a_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}$ . Then  $|V_4| = (p^r - 1)(p^{2r})p^r = p^{4r} - p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_4$  is adjacent to a vertex in either  $V_1$  or  $V_4$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $V_4$  is  $p^{4r} - p^{3r} - 1 + p^{3r} - 1 = p^{4r} - 2$ . Finally, consider  $V_5 = \{pr_0 + a_1\xi_i + a_2\xi_i + bv \mid pr_0 \neq 0, a_1, a_2, b \in R_0, a_1 + a_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\} - V_4$ . Then  $|V_5| = (p^r - 1)p^r(p^{2r} - p^r)(p^{2r} - p^r) = (p^{2r} - p^r)(p^{4r} - 2p^{3r} + p^{2r}) = p^{6r} - 3p^{5r} + 3p^{4r} - p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_5$  is adjacent to a vertex in either  $V_1, V_4$  or  $V_5$ . Therefore, the degree of each vertex in  $V_5$  is  $p^{3r} - 1 + p^{4r} - p^{3r} + p^{6r} - 3p^{5r} + 3p^{4r} - p^{3r} - 1 = p^{6r} - 3p^{5r} + 4p^{4r} - p^{3r} - 2$ . The result follows from the fact that  $Aut(\Gamma(R))$  permutes  $V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4$  and  $V_5$  independently.  $\square$

## 4 Power Four Radical Zero Finite Rings of Characteristic $p^3$

Let  $R_0 = GR(p^{3r}, p^3)$  be a Galois ring of order  $p^{3r}$  and characteristic  $p^3$ . Suppose  $U$  and  $V$  are  $R_0$ -module generated by  $u$  and  $v$  respectively, so that  $R = R_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v$ , if the multiplication on  $R$  is defined by  $(r_0, r_1, r_3)(s_0, s_1, s_3) = (r_0s_0, r_0s_1 + s_0r_1, r_0s_2 + s_0r_2 + r_1s_1)$  so that  $p^2u \neq 0$ ,  $p^3u = 0$  and  $pv = 0$ , it has been verified in [12] that the multiplication turns  $R$  into a ring with identity  $(1, 0, 0)$  and  $Z(R)$  satisfies the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(R) &= pR_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^2 &= p^2R_0 \oplus pR_0u \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^3 &= pR_0v, \\ (Z(R))^4 &= (0). \end{aligned}$$

The following result summarizes the structure of the automorphisms of the zero divisor graphs of  $R$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $R$  be a ring defined in this section. Then*

$$Aut(\Gamma(R)) \cong S_{p^{2r}-1} \times S_{p^{3r}-p^{2r}} \times S_{p^{4r}-p^{2r}} \times S_{2p^{5r}-2p^{4r}} \times S_{p^{6r}-2p^{5r}+p^{4r}}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r \in R_0$  with  $\xi_1 = 1$  such that  $\bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_r \in R_0$  form a basis for  $R_0$  over its prime subfield  $R_0/pR_0$ . Using the given multiplication, the annihilator of  $Z(R)$ ,  $ann(Z(R)) = \{p^2\xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\}$ . Consider  $V_1 = ann(Z(R)) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $|V_1| = p^{2r} - 1$ . Every vertex in  $V_1$  is adjacent to all the other vertices in the graph. So, the degree of  $x \in V_1$  is  $p^{6r} - 2$ . Next, consider  $V_2 = \{p^2r_0 + p^2\xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid p^2r_0 \neq 0, a \in R_0\}$ . Then  $|V_2| = p^{3r} - p^{2r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_2$  is adjacent to all the other vertices in the graph except vertices of the form  $pr_0 + \xi_i u + a\xi_i v$ ,  $a \in R_0$  where  $r_0$  is not a multiple of  $p$ . So, the degree of a vertex in  $V_2$  is  $p^{5r} - 2$ . Now, let  $X = \{p^2r_0 + p\xi_i u + a\xi_i v\} \setminus V_1 \cup V_2$ . Then  $|X| = p^{4r} - p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $X$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$  or  $X$  or  $Y$  where  $Y = \{p\xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\} \setminus V_1$ . So  $|Y| = p^{3r} - p^{2r}$  which implies that the degree of each vertex in  $X$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + p^{3r} - p^{2r} + p^{3r} - p^{2r} + p^{4r} - p^{3r} - 1 = p^{4r} + p^{3r} - 2p^{2r} - 2$ , and each vertex in  $Y$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$  or  $X$  or  $Y$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $Y$  is  $p^{4r} + p^{3r} - 2p^{2r} - 2$ . Consequently, we consider  $V_3 = X \cup Y$ . Next, let  $W = \{pr_0 + p\xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\} \setminus V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ . Then  $|W| = p^{5r} - (p^{2r} + p^{4r} - p^{3r} + p^{3r} - p^{2r}) = p^{5r} - p^{4r}$ . Each vertex in  $W$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $W$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + p^{3r} - p^{2r} = p^{3r} - 1$ . Next, let  $Z = \{p^2r_0 + \xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\}$ . Then  $|Z| = p^r(p^{3r} - p^{2r}).p^r = p^{5r} - p^{4r}$ . Each vertex in  $Z$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $Z$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + p^{3r} - p^{2r} = p^{3r} - 1$ . Consequently, we consider  $V_4 = W \cup Z$ . Finally, let  $V_5 = \{pr_0 + \xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\} \setminus Z$ . Then  $|V_5| = p^{2r}(p^{3r} - p^{2r}).p^r - (p^{5r} - p^{4r}) = p^{2r}(p^{4r} - p^{3r}) - (p^{5r} - p^{4r}) = p^{6r} - 2p^{5r} + p^{4r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_5$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $X$ . So, the degree of a vertex in  $V_5$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + (p^{4r} - p^{3r}) = p^{4r} - p^{3r} + p^{2r} - 1$ .  $\square$

## 5 Power Four Radical Zero Finite Rings of Characteristic $p^4$

Let  $R_0 = GR(p^{4r}, p^4)$  be a Galois ring of order  $p^{4r}$  and characteristic  $p^4$ . Suppose  $U$  and  $V$  are  $R_0$ -module generated by  $u$  and  $v$  respectively, so that  $R = R_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v$ . If the multiplication on  $R$  is defined by  $(r_0, r_1, r_3)(s_0, s_1, s_3) = (r_0s_0, r_0s_1 + s_0r_1, r_0s_2 + s_0r_2 + r_1s_1)$  with  $p^4u = 0$ ,  $p^3u \neq 0$  and  $pv = 0$ , it has been verified that  $R$  is a ring with identity  $(1, 0, 0)$  and satisfies the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(R) &= pR_0 \oplus R_0u \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^2 &= p^2R_0 \oplus R_0v, \\ (Z(R))^3 &= p^3R_0, \\ (Z(R))^4 &= (0). \end{aligned}$$

The following result summarizes the structure of the automorphisms of the zero divisor graphs of  $R$ .

**Proposition 5.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring defined in this section. Then,

$$Aut(\Gamma(R)) \cong S_{p^{2r}-1} \times S_{p^{3r}-2p^{2r}+p^r} \times S_{p^{3r}-p^{2r}} \times S_{p^{3r}-p^{2r}+2} \times S_{p^{4r}-p^{3r}}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r \in R_0$  with  $\xi_1 = 1$  such that  $\bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_r \in R_0$  form a basis for  $R_0$  over its prime subfield  $R_0/pR_0$ . Using the given multiplication, the annihilator of  $Z(R)$ ,  $ann(Z(R)) = \{p^3r_0 + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\}$ . Let  $V_1 = ann(Z(R)) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $|V_1| = p^{2r} - 1$ . Each vertex in  $V_1$  is adjacent to every other vertex in the graph. So the degree of  $x \in V_1$  is  $p^{5r} - 2$ . Let  $V_2 = \{p^3r_0 + \xi_i u + a\xi_i v \mid a \in R_0\}$ . Then  $|V_2| = (p^r - 1)(p^r - 1)p^r = p^{3r} - 2p^{2r} + p^r$ . Every vertex in  $V_2$  is adjacent to a vertex of the form  $pr_0 + a\xi_i v$ . So, the degree of a vertex in  $V_2$  is  $p^{6r} - 2$ . Next, let  $V_3 = \{p^2r_0 + b\xi_i v \mid b \in R_0\}$ . Then  $|V_3| = (p^{2r} - p^r)p^r = p^{3r} - p^{2r}$ . Every vertex in  $V_3$  is adjacent to a vertex of the form  $p^2s_0 + a\xi_i u + b\xi_i v$ . Then the degree of a vertex in  $V_3$  is  $p^{4r} - 2$ . Next, let  $V_4 = \{p^2r_0 + \xi_i u + \xi_i v\} \setminus V_2$ . Then  $|V_4| = p^{3r} - (p^{2r} - 2) = p^{3r} - p^{2r} + 2$ . Each vertex in  $V_4$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_3$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $V_4$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + p^{3r} - p^{2r} = p^{3r} - 1$ . Finally, let  $V_5 = \{pr_0 + \xi_i v\} \setminus V_1 \cup V_3$ . Then  $|V_5| = p^{4r} - (p^{2r} + p^{3r} - p^{2r}) = p^{4r} - p^{3r}$ . Each vertex in  $V_5$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V_1$  or  $V_2$ . So the degree of a vertex in  $V_5$  is  $p^{2r} - 1 + p^{3r} - 2p^{2r} + p^r = p^{3r} - p^{2r} + p^r - 1$ .  $\square$

## 6 Conclusion

This study has determined the automorphisms of such rings in which the product of any four zero divisor is zero and revealed the structures and order formulae for automorphisms. The method of study involved partitioning the ring under consideration into mutually disjoint subset of invertible elements and zero divisors, isolation of zero divisors and determination of there graphs using case to case basis. In view of the aforementioned, we recommend other researchers to carry out more studies regarding automorphisms of zero divisor graphs of index of nil-potency greater than four.

## Competing Interests

Authors have declared no competing interest.

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