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Russ Woodroffe* (russw@math.wustl.edu), Department of Mathematics, Washington University in St. Louis, One Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO 63130. *Chains of modular elements and shellability.*

Björner proved that if a lattice L has a maximal chain consisting of modular elements, then L is shellable. I'll show that if L has a chain of length r consisting of modular elements, then the $(r - 2)$ -skeleton of L is shellable (as was conjectured by Hersh), and indeed vertex-decomposable. (Received September 15, 2010)