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**Russ Woodroffe\*** ([russw@math.wustl.edu](mailto: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)