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Universal deformation rings and fusion.

Let Γ be a finite group, and V be an absolutely irreducible $\mathbb{F}_p\Gamma$ -module. By Mazur, V has a universal deformation ring $R(\Gamma, V)$. This ring is characterized by the property that the isomorphism class of every lift of V over a complete local commutative Noetherian ring R with residue field \mathbb{F}_p arises from a unique local ring homomorphism $\alpha : R(\Gamma, V) \rightarrow R$. The structure of $R(\Gamma, V)$ is closely related to the cohomology groups $H^i(\Gamma, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(V, V))$ for $i = 1, 2$. In this talk, we consider the case when Γ is an extension of a group G with order relatively prime to p , by an elementary abelian p -group N . We discuss $H^i(\Gamma, \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(V, V))$ for $i = 1, 2$ and the extent to which $R(\Gamma, V)$ can see the fusion of N in Γ . (Received September 16, 2013)