



Group Theory

Solutions to Problems in Homework Assignment 11

Spring, 2020

Consider the permutation group S_4 .

1. Consider some of the properties of S_4 .

- (a) What are the classes in S_4 ?
- (b) What are the inequivalent irreducible representations of S_4 ?
- (c) Write down all the Young tableaux in each irreducible representation of S_4 . What is the dimension of each irreducible representation of S_4 ?

- (a) From the partition $\sum_{j=1}^m \ell_j = n$ with $n = 4$, we see that the classes in S_4 are $(4), (3, 1), (2^2), (2, 1^2), (1^4)$.
- (b) From the partition $\sum_{j=1}^m \ell_j = n$ with $n = 4$, we see that the inequivalent irreducible representations of S_4 are $[4], [3, 1], [2^2], [2, 1^2], [1^4]$.
- (c) The standard Young tableau in the irreducible representation $[4]$ is

1	2	3	4
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Because there is only one standard Young tableau in the irreducible representation $[4]$, the dimension of the irreducible representation $[4]$ is one.

The standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ are

1	2	3	
4			

1	2	4	
3			

1	3	4	
2			

Because there are three standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$, the dimension of the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ is three.

The standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[2^2]$ are

1	2		
3	4		

1	3		
2	4		

Because there are two standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[2^2]$, the dimension of the irreducible representation $[2^2]$ is two.

The standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[2, 1^2]$ are

1	2		
3			
4			

1	3		
2			
4			

1	4		
2			
3			

Because there are three standard Young tableaux in the irreducible representation $[2, 1^2]$, the dimension of the irreducible representation $[2, 1^2]$ is three.

The standard Young tableau in the irreducible representation $[1^4]$ is

1
2
3
4

Because there is only one standard Young tableau in the irreducible representation $[1^4]$, the dimension of the irreducible representation $[1^4]$ is one.

A summary on the inequivalent irreducible representations of S_4 is given in Table I.

2. Consider the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 .

- (a) Write down all the Young tableaux and the corresponding Young operators $\mathcal{Y}_\mu^{[3,1]}$'s in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 .

TABLE I: Inequivalent irreducible representations of S_4

	Standard Young tableau(x)	Dimension																		
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1																				
2																				
3																				
4																				

(b) Argue that all the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 are orthogonal.

(a) For the standard Young tableaux

1	2	3
4		

, the horizontal permutations are

$$P_1 = E, (1\ 2), (1\ 3), (2\ 3), (1\ 2\ 3), (3\ 2\ 1),$$

the vertical permutations are

$$Q_1 = E, (1\ 4),$$

and the Young operator is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Y}_1 &= [E + (1\ 2) + (1\ 3) + (2\ 3) + (1\ 2\ 3) + (3\ 2\ 1)] [E - (1\ 4)] \\ &= E + (1\ 2) + (1\ 3) + (2\ 3) + (1\ 2\ 3) + (3\ 2\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 4) - (1\ 2)(1\ 4) - (1\ 3)(1\ 4) - (2\ 3)(1\ 4) - (1\ 2\ 3)(1\ 4) - (3\ 2\ 1)(1\ 4) \\ &= E + (1\ 2) + (1\ 3) + (2\ 3) + (1\ 2\ 3) + (3\ 2\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 4) - (2\ 1\ 4) - (3\ 1\ 4) - (2\ 3)(1\ 4) - (2\ 3\ 1\ 4) - (3\ 2\ 1\ 4). \end{aligned}$$

For the standard Young tableaux

1	2	4
3		

, the horizontal permutations are

$$P_1 = E, (1\ 2), (2\ 4), (1\ 4), (1\ 2\ 4), (4\ 2\ 1),$$

the vertical permutations are

$$Q_1 = E, (1\ 3),$$

and the Young operator is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Y}_2 &= [E + (1\ 2) + (2\ 4) + (1\ 4) + (1\ 2\ 4) + (4\ 2\ 1)] [E - (1\ 3)] \\ &= E + (1\ 2) + (2\ 4) + (1\ 4) + (1\ 2\ 4) + (4\ 2\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 3) - (1\ 2)(1\ 3) - (2\ 4)(1\ 3) - (1\ 4)(1\ 3) - (1\ 2\ 4)(1\ 3) - (4\ 2\ 1)(1\ 3) \\ &= E + (1\ 2) + (2\ 4) + (1\ 4) + (1\ 2\ 4) + (4\ 2\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 3) - (2\ 1\ 3) - (2\ 4)(1\ 3) - (4\ 1\ 3) - (2\ 4\ 1\ 3) - (4\ 2\ 1\ 3). \end{aligned}$$

For the standard Young tableaux $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$, the horizontal permutations are

$$P_1 = E, (1\ 3), (1\ 4), (3\ 4), (1\ 3\ 4), (4\ 3\ 1),$$

the vertical permutations are

$$Q_1 = E, (1\ 2),$$

and the Young operator is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Y}_3 &= [E + (1\ 3) + (1\ 4) + (3\ 4) + (1\ 3\ 4) + (4\ 3\ 1)] [E - (1\ 2)] \\ &= E + (1\ 3) + (1\ 4) + (3\ 4) + (1\ 3\ 4) + (4\ 3\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 2) - (1\ 3)(1\ 2) - (1\ 4)(1\ 2) - (3\ 4)(1\ 2) - (1\ 3\ 4)(1\ 2) - (4\ 3\ 1)(1\ 2) \\ &= E + (1\ 3) + (1\ 4) + (3\ 4) + (1\ 3\ 4) + (4\ 3\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 2) - (3\ 1\ 2) - (4\ 1\ 2) - (3\ 4)(1\ 2) - (3\ 4\ 1\ 2) - (4\ 3\ 1\ 2). \end{aligned}$$

- (b) We use the following theorem and the corollary to argue that all the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 are orthogonal.

[Theorem] If there exist two digits a and b in one row of a Young tableau \mathcal{Y} which also occur in one column of a Young tableau \mathcal{Y}' , then $\mathcal{Y}'\mathcal{Y} = 0$.

[Corollary] For a given Young pattern, if a standard Young tableau \mathcal{Y}' is larger than a standard Young tableau \mathcal{Y} , then $\mathcal{Y}'\mathcal{Y} = 0$.

From the Corollary, we have $\mathcal{Y}_3\mathcal{Y}_2 = \mathcal{Y}_3\mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{Y}_2\mathcal{Y}_1 = 0$.

Comparing $\mathcal{Y}_1 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline 4 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$ with $\mathcal{Y}_2 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$, we see that the digits 1 and 4 occur in one row of \mathcal{Y}_2

and one column of \mathcal{Y}_1 . Hence, $\mathcal{Y}_1\mathcal{Y}_2 = 0$ according to the Theorem. From $\mathcal{Y}_2\mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{Y}_1\mathcal{Y}_2 = 0$, we conclude that \mathcal{Y}_1 and \mathcal{Y}_2 are orthogonal.

Comparing $\mathcal{Y}_2 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$ with $\mathcal{Y}_3 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$, we see that the digits 1 and 3 occur in one row of \mathcal{Y}_3

and one column of \mathcal{Y}_2 . Hence, $\mathcal{Y}_2\mathcal{Y}_3 = 0$ according to the Theorem. From $\mathcal{Y}_3\mathcal{Y}_2 = \mathcal{Y}_2\mathcal{Y}_3 = 0$, we conclude that \mathcal{Y}_2 and \mathcal{Y}_3 are orthogonal.

Comparing $\mathcal{Y}_1 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline 4 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$ with $\mathcal{Y}_3 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$, we see that the digits 1 and 4 occur in one row of \mathcal{Y}_3

and one column of \mathcal{Y}_1 . Hence, $\mathcal{Y}_1\mathcal{Y}_3 = 0$ according to the Theorem. From $\mathcal{Y}_3\mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{Y}_1\mathcal{Y}_3 = 0$, we conclude that \mathcal{Y}_1 and \mathcal{Y}_3 are orthogonal.

We have thus argued that all the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 are orthogonal. The orthogonality of the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 can be also verified directly by using the above-obtained expressions of the Young operators.

3. Write down all the standard basis vectors in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 .

In consideration that all the Young operators in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 are orthogonal, the orthogonal primitive idempotents in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ are given by

$$e_\mu^{[3,1]} = \frac{d_{[3,1]}}{4!} \mathcal{Y}_\mu = \frac{1}{8} \mathcal{Y}_\mu.$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} e_1^{[3,1]} &= \frac{1}{8} \mathcal{Y}_1 \\ &= \frac{1}{8} [E + (1\ 2) + (1\ 3) + (2\ 3) + (1\ 2\ 3) + (3\ 2\ 1) \\ &\quad - (1\ 4) - (2\ 1\ 4) - (3\ 1\ 4) - (2\ 3)(1\ 4) - (2\ 3\ 1\ 4) - (3\ 2\ 1\ 4)], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_2^{[3,1]} &= \frac{1}{8} \mathcal{Y}_2 \\
&= \frac{1}{8} [E + (1 \ 2) + (2 \ 4) + (1 \ 4) + (1 \ 2 \ 4) + (4 \ 2 \ 1) \\
&\quad - (1 \ 3) - (2 \ 1 \ 3) - (2 \ 4)(1 \ 3) - (4 \ 1 \ 3) - (2 \ 4 \ 1 \ 3) - (4 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3)],
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_3^{[3,1]} &= \frac{1}{8} \mathcal{Y}_3 \\
&= \frac{1}{8} [E + (1 \ 3) + (1 \ 4) + (3 \ 4) + (1 \ 3 \ 4) + (4 \ 3 \ 1) \\
&\quad - (1 \ 2) - (3 \ 1 \ 2) - (4 \ 1 \ 2) - (3 \ 4)(1 \ 2) - (3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2) - (4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2)].
\end{aligned}$$

In terms of the orthogonal primitive idempotents $e_\mu^{[3,1]}$, the standard basis vectors $b_{\mu\nu}^{[3,1]}$ are given by

$$b_{\mu\nu}^{[3,1]} = R_{\mu\nu} e_\nu^{[3,1]}, \quad \mu, \nu = 1, 2, 3.$$

We now find $b_{\mu 1}^{[3,1]}$ for $\mu = 1, 2, 3$ from $e_1^{[3,1]}$. Making use of $R_{11} = E$,

$$\begin{aligned}
R_{21} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = (3 \ 4), \\
R_{31} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = (2 \ 3 \ 4),
\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
b_{11}^{[3,1]} &= R_{22} e_1^{[3,1]} = e_1^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} [E + (1 \ 2) + (1 \ 3) + (2 \ 3) + (1 \ 2 \ 3) + (3 \ 2 \ 1) \\
&\quad - (1 \ 4) - (2 \ 1 \ 4) - (3 \ 1 \ 4) - (2 \ 3)(1 \ 4) - (2 \ 3 \ 1 \ 4) - (3 \ 2 \ 1 \ 4)], \\
b_{21}^{[3,1]} &= R_{21} e_1^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} [(3 \ 4) + (3 \ 4)(1 \ 2) + (4 \ 3 \ 1) + (4 \ 3 \ 2) + (4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2) + (4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1) \\
&\quad - (3 \ 4 \ 1) - (3 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1) - (3 \ 1) - (3 \ 2 \ 4 \ 1) - (2 \ 4)(3 \ 1) - (3 \ 2 \ 1)], \\
b_{31}^{[3,1]} &= R_{31} e_1^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} [(2 \ 3 \ 4) + (3 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1) + (4 \ 2 \ 3 \ 1) + (2 \ 4) + (2 \ 4)(1 \ 3) + (4 \ 2 \ 1) \\
&\quad - (2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 1) - (3 \ 4)(1 \ 2) - (2 \ 3 \ 1) - (2 \ 4 \ 1) - (2 \ 4 \ 3 \ 1) - (1 \ 2)].
\end{aligned}$$

We now find $b_{\mu 2}^{[3,1]}$ for $\mu = 1, 2, 3$ from $e_2^{[3,1]}$. Making use of $R_{22} = E$,

$$\begin{aligned}
R_{12} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = (3 \ 4), \\
R_{32} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = (2 \ 3),
\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
b_{12}^{[3,1]} &= R_{12}e_2^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[(3 \ 4) + (3 \ 4)(1 \ 2) + (3 \ 4 \ 2) + (3 \ 4 \ 1) + (3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2) + (3 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (4 \ 3 \ 1) - (4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1) - (4 \ 2 \ 3 \ 1) - (1 \ 4) - (1 \ 4)(2 \ 3) - (4 \ 2 \ 1) \right] \\
b_{22}^{[3,1]} &= R_{22}e_2^{[3,1]} = e_2^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[E + (1 \ 2) + (2 \ 4) + (1 \ 4) + (1 \ 2 \ 4) + (4 \ 2 \ 1) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (1 \ 3) - (2 \ 1 \ 3) - (2 \ 4)(1 \ 3) - (4 \ 1 \ 3) - (2 \ 4 \ 1 \ 3) - (4 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3) \right], \\
b_{32}^{[3,1]} &= R_{32}e_2^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[(2 \ 3) + (3 \ 2 \ 1) + (3 \ 2 \ 4) + (2 \ 3)(1 \ 4) + (3 \ 2 \ 4 \ 1) + (3 \ 2 \ 1 \ 4) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (2 \ 3 \ 1) - (1 \ 2) - (2 \ 4 \ 3 \ 1) - (2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 1) - (2 \ 4 \ 1) - (1 \ 2)(3 \ 4) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

We now find $b_{\mu 3}^{[3,1]}$ for $\mu = 1, 2, 3$ from $e_3^{[3,1]}$. Making use of $R_{33} = E$,

$$\begin{aligned}
R_{13} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = (4 \ 3 \ 2), \\
R_{23} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = (2 \ 3),
\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
b_{13}^{[3,1]} &= R_{13}e_3^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[(4 \ 3 \ 2) + (2 \ 4 \ 3 \ 1) + (3 \ 2 \ 4 \ 1) + (2 \ 4) + (2 \ 4 \ 2) + (2 \ 4)(1 \ 3) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1) - (4 \ 3 \ 1) - (2 \ 3)(1 \ 4) - (4 \ 2 \ 1) - (1 \ 4) - (4 \ 2 \ 3 \ 1) \right], \\
b_{23}^{[3,1]} &= R_{23}e_3^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[(2 \ 3) + (2 \ 3 \ 1) + (2 \ 3)(1 \ 4) + (2 \ 3 \ 4) + (2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 1) + (2 \ 3 \ 1 \ 4) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (3 \ 2 \ 1) - (1 \ 3) - (3 \ 2 \ 4 \ 1) - (3 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1) - (3 \ 4 \ 1) - (2 \ 4)(1 \ 3) \right], \\
b_{33}^{[3,1]} &= R_{33}e_3^{[3,1]} = e_3^{[3,1]} \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \left[E + (1 \ 3) + (1 \ 4) + (3 \ 4) + (1 \ 3 \ 4) + (4 \ 3 \ 1) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - (1 \ 2) - (3 \ 1 \ 2) - (4 \ 1 \ 2) - (3 \ 4)(1 \ 2) - (3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2) - (4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

We have thus obtained all the standard basis vectors.

4. Write down all the $Q_{\nu k}$'s in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 . Find all the \mathcal{Y}' 's using $\mathcal{Y}' = Q_{\nu k}\mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}Q_{\nu k}^{-1}$. Find all the $\mathcal{Y}_\mu(S)$'s in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 for $S = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4)$ using $\mathcal{Y}_\mu(S) = S\mathcal{Y}_\mu^{[3,1]}S^{-1}$.

Since $y_1 = y_2 = y_3 = E$, we have $\delta_1 = 1$ and $T_1 = R$ for y_1, y_2 , and y_3 . Thus, $\mathcal{Y}_{\nu k} = \mathcal{Y}_\nu^{[3,1]}$ for $\nu = 1, 2, 3$ and $k = 1$. In Table II, we list all the $\mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}$'s and $Q_{\nu k}$'s.

All the $\mathcal{Y}_\mu(S)$'s in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 for $S = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4)$ are

$$\mathcal{Y}_1(S) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{Y}_2(S) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{Y}_3(S) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

5. Construct the table for $A_{\nu k}^\mu(S)$ for $S = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4)$ with $\mathcal{Y}_\mu(S)$ labeling the columns and $\sum_k \delta_k \mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}$ labeling the rows. Write down the representation matrix of $S = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4)$.

TABLE II: $\mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}$'s, $Q_{\nu k}$'s, and \mathcal{Y}' for the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 .

	$\nu = 1$ $k = 1$	$\nu = 2$ $k = 1$	$\nu = 3$ $k = 1$
$\mathcal{Y}_{\nu}^{[3,1]}$	1 2 3 4	1 2 4 3	1 3 4 2
$\mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}$	1 2 3 4	1 2 4 3	1 3 4 2
$Q_{\nu k}$	$E, (1\ 4)$	$E, (1\ 3)$	$E, (1\ 2)$
\mathcal{Y}'	1 2 3 4	1 2 4 3	1 3 4 2
	4 2 3	3 2 4	2 3 4
	1	1	1

Table III is the table for $A_{\nu k}^{\mu}(S)$ for $S = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4)$.

TABLE III: $A_{\nu k}^{\mu}(S)$ for $S = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4)$ in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 .

$\sum_k \delta_k \mathcal{Y}_{\nu k}$	$\mathcal{Y}_{\mu}(S)$		
	2 3 4	2 3 1	2 4 1
	1	4	3
1 2 3 4	-1	1	0
1 2 4 3	-1	0	1
1 3 4 2	-1	0	0

From Table III, we see that the representation matrix of $S = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4)$ in the irreducible representation $[3, 1]$ of S_4 is given by

$$D^{[3,1]}(S = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4)) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$