

# REPRESENTATION THEORY

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ABSTRACT. In this course, we will cover the following aspects:

1. Representation of finite groups.
2. Symmetric functions.
3. Lie groups and Lie algebra.
4. Representations of complex semisimple Lie algebra.
5. Representations of compact Lie groups.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Group theory is the study of symmetries of a mathematics object. This is the point of view of geometry: given a geometry object  $X$ , what is its group of symmetries?

But representation theory reverse this question, given a group  $G$ , what object  $X$  does it act on? Here we pay more attention on linear action, i.e.,  $X$  is a vector space.

We can compare with manifolds, since every abstract manifold can be embedded into  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , every abstract group can be embedded into  $S_n$ , according to Cayley's theorem as follows

**Theorem 1.0.1.** *Any finite group of order  $n$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of the symmetric group  $S_n$ .*

In this course, we are interested in the following groups:

1. finite group, in particular symmetric group, Coxeters groups.
2. Lie groups over  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$ .

And representation theory is a very useful tool, one of the most important applications is the classification of finite simple groups, all kinds of finite simple groups are listed as follows

1. cyclic groups  $C_p$  for prime  $p$
2. alternating groups  $A_n, n \geq 5$
3. 16 simple groups of Lie type
4. 26 sporadic groups

Among those sporadic groups, the largest one is the monster  $M$ , with order  $|M| \sim 8 \cdot 10^{53}$ , but the number of irreducible representations is only 194. As we will see, all irreducible representations of one group will reflect all information about it, so it's possible for us to learn the properties of monster group, by using its irreducible representations.

It's also worth mentioning that there is a crazy conjecture about monster group, called Monstrous Moonlight conjecture, proven by Borchers in 1992, and he got his Fields medal in 1998.

## Part 1. Representation of finite group

### 2. BASIC DEFINITIONS AND IRREDUCIBILITY

#### 2.1. Basic Definitions.

**Definition 2.1.1.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $V$  is a finite-dimensional vector space over  $k$ . A **representation** of  $G$  on  $V$  is a group homomorphism  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ .*

**Notation 2.1.2.** We say  $V$  is a representation of  $G$  and often write  $gv$  instead of  $\rho(g)v$ , we also say that  $G$  acts on  $V$ .

**Remark 2.1.3.** We give following remarks:

1.  $\rho$  equips  $V$  with the  $G$ -module structure.
2. We will mostly work with  $k = \mathbb{C}$ , more generally,  $V$  can be finite-dimensional  $R$ -module for a communicative ring with 1.
3. Let  $B = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$  be a basis of  $V$ , for  $\varphi \in \text{End}_k V$ , write  $\varphi e_i = \sum a_{ji} e_j$ , and let  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_n(k)$ . If  $\rho$  is a representation, the  $\rho_B(g)$  is the matrix of  $\rho(g)$  with respect to  $B$ . Then  $g \rightarrow \rho_B(g)$  is a homomorphism from  $G$  to  $\text{GL}(n, k)$ , called the matrix representation.

**Definition 2.1.4.** Let  $V, W$  be two representations of finite group  $G$ . A linear map  $\varphi : V \rightarrow W$  is a **map of representation** of  $G$  if the following diagram commutes for all  $g \in G$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & W \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow g \\ V & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & W \end{array}$$

**Definition 2.1.5.** Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  be a representation. A **subrepresentation** of  $V$  is a vector subspace  $W$  of  $V$ , such that  $\rho(g)W \subseteq W, \forall g \in G$ . For a subrepresentation  $W$ , the map  $\rho(g)(v + W) := \rho(g)v + W$  defines a representation of  $G$  on  $V/W$ , called the **quotient representation**.

**Lemma 2.1.6.** For a map of representation  $\varphi : V \rightarrow W$ , the kernel of  $\varphi$  is a subrepresentation of  $V$ , image and cokernel of  $\varphi$  are subrepresentations of  $W$ .

*Proof.* Trivial. □

By some standard linear algebra methods, we can construct new representations from old ones:

**Lemma 2.1.7.** Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V), \sigma : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$  be a representation of  $G$ , then

1.  $\rho \oplus \sigma : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V \oplus W), g(v \oplus w) = gv \oplus gw$
2.  $\rho \otimes \sigma : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V \otimes W), g(v \otimes w) = gv \otimes gw$
3.  $\rho^{\otimes n} : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V^{\otimes n}), g(v^{\otimes n}) = (gv)^{\otimes n}$
4.  $\wedge^n \rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\wedge^n V), g(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_n) = gv_1 \wedge \dots \wedge gv_n$
5.  $\text{Sym}^n \rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\text{Sym}^n V), g(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n) = gv_1 \otimes \dots \otimes gv_n$
6.  $\rho^\vee : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V^\vee), \rho^\vee(g) = (\rho(g)^t)^{-1}$
7.  $\rho_{V,W} : G \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V, W), (\rho(g)\varphi)(v) = \rho(g)\varphi(\rho(g^{-1})v)$

are representations of  $G$ .

*Proof.* □

**Lemma 2.1.8.** We have the following isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}_G(V, W) \cong \text{Hom}(V, W)^G = G\text{-invariants of } \text{Hom}(V, W)$$

*Proof.* □

**Lemma 2.1.9.** *The following are isomorphisms of representations  $U, V, W$  of  $G$*

1.  $\text{Hom}(V, W) \cong V^\vee \otimes W$
2.  $V \otimes (U \oplus W) \cong V \otimes U \oplus V \otimes W$
3.  $\wedge^k(V \oplus W) \cong \bigoplus_{a+b=k} \wedge^a V \otimes \wedge^b W$
4.  $\wedge^k(V^\vee) \cong (\wedge^k V)^\vee$
5.  $\wedge^k(V^\vee) \cong \wedge^{n-k} V \otimes \det V^\vee$ , where  $n = \dim V$ ,  $\det V = \wedge^n V$ .

*Proof.*

□

**Definition 2.1.10.** *Let  $G$  be a group and  $X$  be a set. A **group action** of  $G$  on  $X$  is a map  $\sigma : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ , such that*

1.  $\sigma(g)x \in X, \forall x \in X$
2.  $\sigma(gh)x = \sigma(g)\sigma(h)x, \forall x \in X$
3.  $\sigma(e)x = x, \forall x \in X$

If we have such a group action, we can construct many useful representations

**Example 2.1.11.** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional over  $\mathbb{C}$  with basis  $X$ , and  $G$  acts on  $X$  via  $\sigma$ , we define  $R_X : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  as follows

$$R_X(g)\left(\sum_{x \in X} a_x e_x\right) = \sum_{x \in X} a_x e_{\sigma(g)x}$$

Here  $R_X$  is called **permutation representation**.

And the following examples are based on above one.

**Example 2.1.12.** Choose  $X$  to be  $G$  considered as a set, and  $G$  acts on  $G$  by left multiply, then  $R = R_G$  is called **regular representation**, in this case  $V$  is denoted by  $k[G]$ , called group algebra.

**Example 2.1.13.** Let  $V$  be the group algebra of  $G$ , and consider the map  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  defined as follows

$$\rho(g)\left(\sum_{x \in X} a_x e_x\right) = \sum_{x \in X} \text{sgn}(\sigma(g)) a_x e_{\sigma(g)x}$$

is called the **alternating representation**.

**Example 2.1.14.** Let  $H$  be subgroup of  $G$ , and  $X = \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  be a complete set of representatives of  $G/H$ ,  $G$  acts on  $X$  by  $g(g_i H) = gg_i H$ . In this case,  $R_X$  is called the **coset representation** of  $G$  with respect to  $H$ .

Now we consider some concrete examples which we will use later.

**Example 2.1.15.** Consider  $G = S_n$  and  $X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Let  $V = \mathbb{C}X$ , and  $W = \mathbb{C}(e_1 + \dots + e_n) \subset V$ . Consider the permutation representation  $R_X$ , then it's easy to see that  $R_X|_W$  is trivial representation.

**Example 2.1.16.** Regular representation for  $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$ , we can write down explicitly as follows

$$\begin{aligned} R(1) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & R((12)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & R((13)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ R((23)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & R((132)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & R((123)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.1.17.** A 2-dimension representation of  $S_3$  : the symmetry of triangle, denoted by  $V$

$$\begin{aligned} V(1) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & V((12)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & V((13)) &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ V((23)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, & V((132)) &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & V((123)) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

## 2.2. Irreducibility.

**Definition 2.2.1.** A representation of  $V$  is called **irreducible** if there is no proper invariant subspace  $W$  of  $V$ ; A representation of  $V$  is called **indecomposable** if it can not be written as a direct sum of two nonzero subrepresentation.

In fact, when we consider complex representation, the irreducibility and indecomposability coincides, stated as follows

**Theorem 2.2.2** (Maschke's theorem). *Let  $V$  be a representation of a finite group of  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $W \subseteq V$  is a subrepresentation, then there is a complementary invariant subrepresentation  $W'$  of  $G$ , such that  $V = W \oplus W'$ .*

**Remark 2.2.3.** Maschke theorem still holds when  $\text{char } k \nmid |G|$

**Remark 2.2.4.** Any continuous representation of a compact group has this property, but group  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$  does not, consider  $a \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a \\ a & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  fixes the x-axis, but there is no complementary subspace.

**Lemma 2.2.5** (Shur lemma). *Let  $V, W$  be irreducible representations of finite group  $G$ , and  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$ , then*

1. *either  $\varphi$  is isomorphism, or  $\varphi = 0$*
2. *If  $V = W$ , then  $\varphi = \lambda I, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$*

**Proposition 2.2.6.** *Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  be representation of finite group, then there is a unique decomposition*

$$V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^N V_i^{a_i}$$

where  $V_i$  is distinct irreducible representations.

### 2.3. Representation of abelian groups and $S_3$ .

**Proposition 2.3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group, then every irreducible representation of  $G$  is 1-dimensional.*

**Remark 2.3.2.** Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  be any representation, then map  $\rho(g) : V \rightarrow V$  is in general not a map of representations, i.e., for  $h \in G$ ,

$$\rho(g)(hv) \neq h(\rho(g)v)$$

In fact, we can prove  $\rho(g) \in \text{End}_G V$  if and only if  $g \in Z(G)$ .

**Remark 2.3.3.** The converse statement also holds, see corollary 3.20.

**Definition 2.3.4.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group, then  $G^\vee = \text{Hom}_G(G, \mathbb{C}^*)$  is called the dual group.*

**Corollary 2.3.5.** *Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group, then  $\text{Irr } G \xleftrightarrow{1:1} G^\vee$*

*Proof.* By the remark 2.25, if  $G$  is abelian, then  $G = Z(G)$ , then  $\rho(g) \in \text{End}_G V = \mathbb{C}^*, \forall g \in G$  and  $V \in \text{Irr}(G)$ .  $\square$

For  $S_3$ , we have already seen the following representations:

1. trivial representation  $U$ , with dimension 1.
2. alternating representation  $U'$ , with dimension 1.
3. the regular representation  $R$ , with dimension 3.
4. the symmetric of the triangle  $V$ , with dimension 2.

And we also note that  $R$  has a 1-dimensional subrepresentation  $V' = \mathbb{C}(e_1 + e_2 + e_3)$ , in fact, it's a trivial representation, hence it is isomorphic to  $U$ .

Consider the complementary subspace of  $V'$  in  $R$ , denoted by  $V'' = \{(v_1, v_2, v_2) \in V \mid v_1 + v_2 + v_2 = 0\}$ , we can choose a basis  $(\omega, 1, \omega^2), (1, \omega, \omega^2)$ , where  $\omega^3 = 1$ .

Now, let  $W$  be an arbitrary representation of  $S_3$ , consider  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} = \langle \sigma \rangle \subset S_3$ , and decompose  $W$  into

$$W = \bigoplus_{i=1}^3 V_i^{\oplus a_i}, \quad V_i = \mathbb{C}v_i, \sigma v_i = \omega^i v_i$$

Let  $\tau \in S_3$  be a transposition, such that

$$S_3 = \langle \sigma, \tau \rangle / (\tau \sigma \tau = \sigma^2)$$

then

$$\sigma(\tau v_i) = \tau(\sigma^2 v_i) = \tau(\omega^{2i} v_i) = \omega^{2i} \tau v_i$$

## 3. CHARACTER THEORY

In this section,  $G$  denotes a finite group.

**Definition 3.0.1.** Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  be a representation,  $\chi_V : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, g \mapsto \chi_V(g) = \text{tr}(\rho(g))$  is a character of  $\rho$ .

**Remark 3.0.2.** In fact,  $\chi_V$  is a class function, i.e.,

$$\chi_V \in \mathcal{C}_G = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f|_K = \text{constant}, \forall K \in \text{Conj}(G)\}$$

The dimension of  $\mathcal{C}_G = |\text{Conj}(G)|$ , and we have the following isomorphism

$$\mathcal{C}_G \cong \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{C}[G]]$$

defined by

$$f \mapsto \sum_{g \in G} f(g)g$$

**Proposition 3.0.3.** Let  $V, W$  be representations of  $G$ , then

1.  $\chi_{V \oplus W} = \chi_V + \chi_W$
2.  $\chi_{V \otimes W} = \chi_V \chi_W$
3.  $\chi_{V^\vee} = \overline{\chi_V}$
4.  $\chi_{\text{Sym}^2 V}(g) = \frac{1}{2}(\chi_V(g)^2 + \chi_V(g^2))$
5.  $\chi_{\wedge^2 V}(g) = \frac{1}{2}(\chi_V(g)^2 - \chi_V(g^2))$

*Proof.* Note that  $\{\lambda_i \lambda_j \mid i \leq j\}, \{\lambda_i \lambda_j \mid i < j\}$  are the eigenvalues of  $g$  on  $\text{Sym}^2 V, \wedge^2 V$  respectively, then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \leq j} \lambda_i \lambda_j &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j + \sum_i \lambda_i^2 \right) \\ \sum_{i < j} \lambda_i \lambda_j &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j - \sum_i \lambda_i^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 3.0.4** (The fixed point formula). Let  $X$  be a finite set with an action by  $G$ . Let  $V$  be the permutation representation. Let  $X^g = \{x \in X \mid gx = x\}, g \in G$ . Then  $\chi_V(g) = |X^g|$

*Proof.* Since  $\text{Aut}(X) \cong S_{|X|}$ , the matrix  $A$  representing  $\rho(g)$  is a permutation matrix: if  $ge_{x_i} = e_{x_j}$  for some  $x_i, x_j \in X$ , then

$$A_{ik} = \begin{cases} 1, & k = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then, if  $x_i \in X^g$ , then  $ge_{x_i} = e_{gx_i} = e_{x_i}$ , that is  $A_{ii} = 1$ , so

$$\text{tr}(\rho(g)) = \sum_{i: x_i \in X^g} A_{ii} = \sum_{i: x_i \in X^g} 1 = |X^g|$$

□

**Definition 3.0.5.** *The character table of  $G$  is a table with the conjugacy classes listed across, the irreducible representations listed on the left.*

**Example 3.0.6.** Character table for  $S_3$

	1	(12)	(123)
trivial $U$	1	1	1
alternating $U'$	1	-1	1
standard $V$	2	0	-1
permutation $P$	3	1	0

Observe  $W = U^{\oplus a} \oplus U'^{\oplus b} \oplus V^{\oplus c}$ , then

$$\chi_W = a\chi_U + b\chi_{U'} + c\chi_V$$

Since  $\chi_U, \chi_{U'}, \chi_V$  is independent, later we will see that  $W$  is determined by  $\chi_W$  up to isomorphism.

We can use this fact to get some interesting results. For example, since we can decompose

$$\chi_{V \otimes V} = (4, 0, 1) = (2, 0, -1) + (1, 1, 1) + (1, -1, 1)$$

So we can decompose

$$V \otimes V = U \oplus U' \oplus V$$

Similarly, we can decompose any representation of  $S_3$  in the above way, if we know what does its character look like.

**Remark 3.0.7.** Note that different groups can have identical character tables, e.g., dihedral group

$$D_{4n} = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^{2n} = (ab)^2 = e \rangle$$

and quaternionic group

$$Q_{4n} = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^{2n}, (ab)^2 = e \rangle$$

have the same character table.

**Remark 3.0.8.** Nevertheless, characters can characterize the group  $G$ : order of  $G$ , order of all its normal subgroups, whether  $G$  is simple or not.

**Proposition 3.0.9.** *Let  $V$  be a representation of  $G$ . The map  $\varphi = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} g \in \text{End } V$  as a projection from  $V$  to  $V^G = \{v \in V \mid gv = v, \forall g \in G\}$*

*Proof.* Let  $w \in W$ ,  $v = \varphi(w) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} gw$ , then for any  $h \in G$ , we have

$$hv = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} hgw = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} gw = v$$

So  $\text{im } \varphi \subset V^G$ .

Conversely, if  $v \in V^G$ , then  $\varphi(v) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} gv = v$ , this implies  $V^G \subset \text{im } \varphi$ . Moreover,  $\varphi \circ \varphi = \varphi$ .  $\square$



**Definition 3.0.10.** We let  $(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\alpha(g)}\beta(g)$  denote a Hermitian inner product on  $\mathcal{C}_G$ .

**Theorem 3.0.11** (First orthogonality relation). *Let  $V, W \in \text{Irr}(G)$ , then*

$$(\chi_V, \chi_W) = \begin{cases} 1, & V \cong W \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* If  $V, W$  are irreducible representations, then Shur's lemma implies

$$\dim \text{Hom}(V, W)^G = \dim \text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \begin{cases} 1, & V \cong W \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

However,  $\chi_{\text{Hom}(V, W)} = \chi_{V \vee \otimes W} = \chi_V \vee \chi_W = \overline{\chi_V} \chi_W$ .

Let  $\varphi = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} g \in \text{End}(\text{Hom}(V, W))$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \text{Hom}(V, W)^G &= \text{tr}_{\text{Hom}(V, W)^G} \varphi = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \text{tr}_{\text{Hom}(V, W)}(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\text{Hom}(V, W)}(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_V(g)} \chi_W(g) \end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 3.0.12.** *Any representation of a finite group  $G$  is determined by its character up to isomorphism, i.e.,  $V \cong W \iff \chi_V(g) = \chi_W(g), \forall g \in G$ .*

**Corollary 3.0.13.** *If  $V = \bigoplus_i V_i^{\oplus a_i}$ ,  $V_i$  are irreducible, distinct representations, then*

$$a_i = (\chi_{V_i}, \chi_V)$$

*In particular,  $V$  is irreducible if and only if  $(\chi_V, \chi_V) = 1$ .*

**Corollary 3.0.14.** *The multiplicity of any irreducible representation  $V$  of  $G$  in the decomposition of the regular representation  $R = \mathbb{C}[G]$  is equal to its dimension. In particular,  $|\text{Irr}(G)| < \infty$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that  $(e_g)_{g \in G}$  is a basis for  $R$ , and  $ge_h = e_{gh}, \forall g, h \in G$ . For the fixed point formula

$$\chi_R(g) = \begin{cases} 0, & g \neq e \\ |G|, & g = e \end{cases}$$

Then  $R$  is not irreducible unless  $G$  is trivial. Write  $R = \bigoplus_i V_i^{\oplus a_i}$ , then

$$a_i = (\chi_{V_i}, \chi_R) = \frac{1}{|G|} \chi_{V_i}(e) |G| = \dim V_i$$

□

**Remark 3.0.15.** If  $R = \bigoplus_i V_i^{\oplus a_i}$ ,  $a_i = \dim V_i$ , then

$$|G| = \dim R = \sum_i (\dim V_i)^2$$

**Remark 3.0.16.** If  $g \neq e$ , then  $0 = \chi_R(g) = \sum_i \dim V_i \chi_{V_i}(g)$ . If we know all but one row of character table, we can calculate the remaining one using this remark.

**Example 3.0.17.** Character table of  $S_4$

We already have trivial representation, alternating representation and standard representation. Since  $24 = 1 + 1 + 9 + \sum_i (\dim V_i)^2$ , so there exist two\* other representation  $\tilde{V}, W$ , such that  $\dim \tilde{V} = 3, \dim W = 2$ .

Consider  $\tilde{V} = U' \otimes V, \dim \tilde{V} = 3$ , then

$$\chi_{\tilde{V}} = \chi_{U'} \chi_V = (3, -1, 0, 1, -1)$$

Then

$$(\chi_{\tilde{V}}, \chi_{\tilde{V}}) = 1$$

So it is irreducible. And the remaining one can be calculate from remark 3.16

	1	(12)	(123)	(1234)	(12)(34)
trivial $U$	1	1	1	1	1
alternating $U'$	1	-1	1	-1	1
standard $V$	3	1	0	-1	-1
$\tilde{V}$	3	-1	0	1	-1
$W$	2	0	-1	0	2
permutation $P$	4	2	1	0	0

**Proposition 3.0.18.** Let  $\alpha : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be any function. Set  $\varphi_{\alpha, V} = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g)g : V \rightarrow V$  for any representation  $V$ . Then  $\varphi_{\alpha, V} \in \text{End}_G V$  for all  $V$  if and only if  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}_G$ .

*Proof.* Condition for  $\varphi_{\alpha, V}$  to be  $G$ -linear: For  $h \in G$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi_{\alpha, V}(hv) &= \sum_g \alpha(g)g(hv) = \sum_g \alpha(h^{-1}gh)hgh^{-1}(hv) \\
&= h\left(\sum_g \alpha(hgh^{-1})gv\right) \\
&\stackrel{\alpha \text{ is class function}}{=} h\left(\sum_g \alpha(g)gv\right) = h\varphi_{\alpha, V}(v)
\end{aligned}$$

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\*Why there is no other 1-dimensional representation? In fact, we will learn later that the number of irreducible representations is equal to the number of the conjugate classes.

Conversely, Consider  $\varphi_{\alpha,V}(hv) = h\varphi_{\alpha,V}(v)$  and take for  $V$  the regular representation  $R$ . For  $x \in G$ ,

$$\varphi_{\alpha,R}(he_x) = \varphi_{\alpha,R}(e_{hx}) = \sum_g \alpha(g)e_{hx} = \sum_g \alpha(g)e_{ghx}$$

But we also have

$$h(\varphi_{\alpha,R}(e_x)) = h\left(\sum_g \alpha(g)ge_x\right) = \sum_g \alpha(g)hge_x = \sum_g \alpha(g)e_{hgx} = \sum_g \alpha(h^{-1}gh)e_{ghx}$$

Thus  $\alpha$  is a class function by comparing the coefficient of two side.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.0.19.** *If  $V = \bigoplus_i V_i^{\otimes a_i}$  is the isotypical decomposition, of a representation  $V$ . Then the projection  $\pi_i : V \rightarrow V_i^{\otimes a_i}$  is given by*

$$\pi_i = \frac{\dim V_i}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_{V_i}(g)} g$$

*Proof.* Let  $W$  be fixed irreducible representation,  $V$  be any representation. Since  $\overline{\chi_W} \in \mathcal{C}_G$ , then

$$\psi_{\overline{\chi_W}, V} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_W(g)} g \in \text{End}_G(V)$$

If  $V$  is irreducible, then Shur's lemma implies  $\psi_{\overline{\chi_W}, V} = \lambda \text{id}$ , where

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{\dim V} \text{tr}_V \psi_{\overline{\chi_W}, V} = \frac{1}{\dim V \cdot |G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_W(g)} \chi_V(g) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\dim V}, & V \cong W \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If  $V$  is arbitrary, then  $\dim W \psi_{\overline{\chi_W}, V}$  is a projection onto  $W^a$  where  $a$  is the number of times  $W$  appears in  $V$ .

So, if  $V = \bigoplus_i V_i^{\otimes a_i}$  is the isotypical decomposition, then

$$\pi_i = \frac{\dim V_i}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_{V_i}(g)} g$$

is the projection onto  $V_i^{\oplus a_i}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.0.20.**

$$|\text{Irr}(G)| = |\text{Conj}(G)|$$

*In other words,  $\{\chi_{V_i} \mid V_i \in \text{Irr}(G)\}$  forms an orthogonal basis for  $\mathcal{C}_G$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}_G$ ,  $(\alpha, \chi_V) = 0, \forall V \in \text{Irr}(G)$ , we must show  $\alpha = 0$ .

For any representation  $V$ , consider  $\varphi_{\alpha,V}$ , Shur lemma implies  $\varphi_{\alpha,V} = \lambda \text{id}_V$ , let  $n = \dim V$ , this implies

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{n} \text{tr}(\varphi_{\alpha,V}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_g \alpha(g) \chi_V(g) = \frac{|G|}{n} \overline{(\alpha, \chi_{V^\vee})} = 0$$

Thus  $\varphi_{\alpha,V} = 0$ , that is,

$$\sum_g \alpha(g)g = 0, \quad \text{for any representation } V \text{ of } G.$$

In particular, for  $V = R$ , the set  $\{\rho(g) \in \text{End } R \mid g \in G\}$  consists of linearly independent elements, thus  $\alpha(g) = 0, \forall g \in G$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.0.21.** *If  $G$  is a finite group, the following are equivalent*

1.  $G$  is abelian.
2. Every irreducible representation of  $G$  has dimension 1.

*Proof.* (2)  $\rightarrow$  (1).

$$|G| = \sum_{i=1}^{|\text{Conj}(G)|} (\dim V_i)^2 = |\text{Conj}(G)|$$

So  $|K| = 1, \forall K \in \text{Conj}(G)$ , that is,  $G$  is abelian.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.0.22** (Second orthogonality relation).

$$\sum_{i: V_i \in \text{Irr}(G)} \overline{\chi_{V_i}(g)} \chi_{V_i}(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{|G|}{|K_g|}, & K_g = K_h \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $K_g$  is the conjugacy class of  $g$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\chi_V, \chi_W$  be irreducible characters. First orthogonality relation implies

$$\delta_{V,W} = (\chi_V, \chi_W) = \frac{1}{|G|} = \sum_g \overline{\chi_V(g)} \chi_W(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} = \sum_{K \in \text{Conj}(G)} \overline{\chi_V(K)} \chi_W(K) |K|$$

Then

$$U = \left( \sqrt{\frac{|K|}{|G|}} \chi_V(K) \right)$$

is a unitary matrix. Orthogonality of the columns of  $U$  yields the claim  $\square$

**Example 3.0.23.** [Monstrous Monolith Conjecture] Let  $G = \mathbb{M}$  be the monster group, i.e., the sporadic finite simple group with  $|M| \sim 8 \cdot 10^{53}$ . One can show that  $|\text{Irr}(G)| = |\text{Conj}(G)| = 194$ , a relatively small number.

To compare,  $|\text{Irr } S_{15}| = 176, |\text{Irr } S_{16}| = 231$ . Let  $V_i \in \text{Irr}(G)$  be ordered by their dimension.

$V$	$V_0$	$V_1$	$V_2$	$V_3$
$\dim V$	1	196883	21296876	842609256

Complex analysis tells Eisenstein series

$$G_k(\tau) = \sum_{\substack{(m,n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \\ (m,n) \neq (0,0)}} \frac{1}{(m\tau + n)^k}$$

converges for  $k \geq 3$  normally and defines a holomorphic function on  $\mathbb{H}$ .  $G_k(\tau)$  admits a Fourier expansion

$$G_k(\tau) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_k(n)q^n, \quad q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$$

Consider

$$j(\tau) = \frac{172820G_4(\tau)^3}{20G_4(\tau)^3 + 49G_6(\tau)^2}$$

Then  $j(\tau) - 744 = q^{-1} + 196884q + 21493690q^2 + 864299970q^3 + \dots$

Mckay 1978 wrote a letter to Thompson

$$196884 = 196883 + 1$$

Thompson: the next term work similarly.

Suggestion: there exists  $V = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} V_i$  infinitely-dimensional graded representation of  $\mathbb{M}$  such that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \chi_{V_n} q^{n-1} = j(q) - 744$$

Moreover,

$$T_q(\tau) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \chi_{V_n}(g)q^{n-1} = \text{other well-known functions in complex analysis}$$

Corway-Norton verified this in 1979 on a computer.

Borcherds proved this conjecture in 1992 by  $V$  the structure of a module over a vertex operator algebra.

**Definition 3.0.24.** Let  $G, H$  be finite groups,  $V$  is a representation of  $G$ ,  $W$  is a representation of  $H$ , we define the external tensor product representation  $V \boxtimes W$  of  $G \times H$  by

$$(g, h)(v, w) = gv \otimes hw, \quad \forall g \in G, h \in H, v \in V, w \in W.$$

and extension by linearity to  $V \otimes W$ .

Similarly, we define a  $G \times H$  action on  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$  by

$$((g, h)\varphi)v = h\varphi(g^{-1}v), \quad g \in G, h \in H, v \in V, \varphi \in \text{Hom}(V, W).$$

and extension by linearity.

**Remark 3.0.25.** We have

$$\text{Hom}(V, W) \cong V^\vee \boxtimes W$$

as  $G \times H$  representations.

**Proposition 3.0.26.** We have the following well-defined bijection:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Irr}(G) \times \text{Irr}(H) &\rightarrow \text{Irr}(G \times H) \\ (V, W) &\rightarrow V \boxtimes W \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* It suffices to look at characters. By property of trace we have

$$\chi_{V \boxtimes W}((g, h)) = \chi_V(g) \chi_W(h)$$

Recall that

$$\dim \operatorname{Hom}_G(V, W) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_V(g)} \chi_W(g) = (\chi_V, \chi_W)_G$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\chi_{V_1 \boxtimes W_1}, \chi_{V_2 \boxtimes W_2}) &= \frac{1}{|G \times H|} \sum_{g, h \in G \times H} \overline{\chi_{V_1}(g)} \overline{\chi_{W_1}(g)} \chi_{V_2}(g) \chi_{W_2}(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_g \overline{\chi_{V_1}(g)} \chi_{V_2}(g) \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{h \in H} \overline{\chi_{W_1}(g)} \chi_{W_2}(g) \\ &= (\chi_{V_1}, \chi_{V_2})_G (\chi_{W_1}, \chi_{W_2})_H \end{aligned}$$

So  $V \boxtimes W \in \operatorname{Irr}(G \times H)$ , if  $V \in \operatorname{Irr}(G), W \in \operatorname{Irr}(H)$ .

By calculating the cardinality of both sides we get the desired result.  $\square$

#### 4. RESTRICTION AND INDUCED REPRESENTATION

**Definition 4.0.1** (restriction representation). *Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup,  $V$  be a representation of  $G$ , we define  $\operatorname{Res} V = \operatorname{Res}_H^G V : H \rightarrow \operatorname{GL}(V)$  to be the restriction of  $V$  onto  $H$ ,  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G V$  is a representation of  $H$ .*

**Remark 4.0.2.** Restriction is transitive, i.e., for  $K < H < G$ , we have

$$\operatorname{Res}_K^H \operatorname{Res}_H^G = \operatorname{Res}_K^G$$

**Lemma 4.0.3.** *Let  $H < G$ ,  $W \in \operatorname{Irr}(H)$ , then there exists  $V \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)$  such that*

$$(\operatorname{Res}_H^G \chi_V, \chi_W)_H \neq 0$$

*Proof.* Consider the regular representation  $R$ , then

$$(\operatorname{Res}_H^G \chi_R, \chi_W) = \frac{|G|}{|H|} \chi_W(e) \neq 0$$

But the left term also equals to  $\sum_i \dim V_i (\operatorname{Res}_H^G \chi_{V_i}, \chi_W)_H$ , so there must be at least one  $V_i$ , such that

$$(\operatorname{Res}_H^G \chi_{V_i}, \chi_W) \neq 0$$

$\square$

**Lemma 4.0.4.** *Let  $H < G$ ,  $V \in \operatorname{Irr}(G)$ ,  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G V = \bigoplus W_i^{\otimes a_i}$ ,  $W_i \in \operatorname{Irr}(H)$ . Then  $\sum a_i^2 \leq [G : H]$  with equality if and only if  $\chi_V(\sigma) = 0, \forall \sigma \in G/H$ .*

*Proof.* We have

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{h \in H} |\chi_V(h)|^2 = (\operatorname{Res}_H^G V, \operatorname{Res}_H^G V) = \sum a_i^2$$

Since  $V$  is irreducible, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &= (\chi_V, \chi_V)_G = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |\chi_V(g)|^2 \\
 &= \frac{1}{|G|} \left( \sum_{h \in H} |\chi_V(h)|^2 + \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} |\chi_V(\sigma)|^2 \right) \\
 &= \frac{|H|}{|G|} \sum_i a_i^2 + \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} |\chi_V(\sigma)|^2 \\
 &\geq \frac{|H|}{|G|} \sum_i a_i^2
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 4.0.5.** *Let  $V, W$  be representation of  $G$ . Then  $V \cong W \iff \text{Res}_H^G V \cong \text{Res}_H^G W$ , for all cyclic subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* One direction is obvious, consider the other: Let  $g \in G, H = \langle g \rangle$ , then  $\chi_V(g) = \chi_{\text{Res}_H^G V}(g)$ , the claim follows from  $V \cong W \iff \chi_V(g) = \chi_W(g), \forall g \in G$ . □

**Definition 4.0.6.** *Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup,  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  be a representation,  $W \subset V$  be a  $H$ -invariant subspace, i.e.,  $\psi : H \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$  is a representation. Then the subspace  $gW \subset V$  depends only on  $gH$ . Therefore, for  $\sigma \in G/H$ , we write  $\sigma W = gW, g \in \sigma$ . If  $V$  has a unique decomposition  $V = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma W$ , we write  $V = \text{Ind}_H^G W$ . In this case,  $V$  is called a representation induced by  $W$ .*

**Remark 4.0.7.** Alternative formulations: for any  $v \in V$ , there exists a unique  $v_\sigma \in \sigma W$ , such that

$$v = \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} v_\sigma$$

or if  $\{g_1, \dots, g_N\}, |N| = |G/H| = [G : H]$  is a complete system of representatives of  $G/H$ , then

$$V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^N g_i W$$

**Remark 4.0.8.**

$$\dim V = [G : H] \dim W$$

**Example 4.0.9.** Let  $R$  be the regular representation of  $G$ , then

$$W = \bigoplus_{h \in H} \mathbb{C} e_h$$

is  $H$ -invariant. then  $\psi : H \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$  is a representation, in fact,  $W \cong R_H$  and clearly  $R_G = \text{Ind}_H^G R_H$ .

**Example 4.0.10.** Let  $H < G$  and  $V$  the coset representation of  $G$ , i.e.,  $V$  has basis  $(e_\sigma)_{\sigma \in G/H}$  and  $ge_\sigma = e_{g\sigma}$ . Then

$$W = \mathbb{C}e_{eH}$$

is  $H$ -invariant, and is the trivial representation of  $H$ , then

$$V = \text{Ind}_H^G W$$

In particular, if  $H = \{e\}$ , then  $V$  is the permutation representation  $P$  of  $G$ , and  $P = \text{Ind}_{\{e\}}^G \mathbb{C}$ .

**Example 4.0.11.** If  $V_i = \text{Ind}_H^G W_i, i = 1, 2$ , then

$$V_1 \oplus V_2 = \text{Ind}_H^G (W_1 \oplus W_2)$$

**Example 4.0.12.** If  $V = \text{Ind}_H^G W$ ,  $W' \subset W$  is a  $H$ -invariant subspace, then

$$V' = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma W' \subset V$$

is  $G$ -invariant, and  $V' = \text{Ind}_H^G W'$ .

**Proposition 4.0.13.** Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup,  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  is induced by  $\psi : H \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$ , let  $\rho' : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V')$  be any representation,  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_H(W, V')$ , then there exists a unique  $\Phi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, V')$ , such that

$$\Phi|_W = \phi$$

*Proof.* For uniqueness: Let  $\Phi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, V')$  with  $\Phi|_W = \phi$ , and let  $w \in \rho(g)W, g \in G$ , then

$$\Phi(w) = \Phi(\rho(g)\rho(g^{-1})w) = \rho'(g)\Phi(\rho(g)^{-1}w) = \rho'(g)\phi(\rho(g)^{-1}w)$$

This determines  $\Phi$  on  $\rho(g)W$  for all  $g \in G$ , hence on  $V$ .

For existence: we define

$$\Phi(w) = \rho'(g)\phi(\rho(g)^{-1}w)$$

if  $w \in \rho(g)W$ , this is independent of the choice of  $g$ , since

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'(gh)\phi(\rho(gh)^{-1}w) &= \rho'(g)\rho'(h)\phi(\rho(h)^{-1}\rho(g)^{-1}w) \\ &= \rho'(g)\phi(\rho(h)\rho(h)^{-1}\rho(g)^{-1}w) \\ &= \rho'(g)\phi(\rho(g)^{-1}w) \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 4.0.14.** Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup, and  $\psi : H \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$  be a representation. Then there exists a representation  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  induced by  $W$ , which is unique up to isomorphism.

*Proof.* For existence: By example4.11 we may assume  $W \in \text{Irr}(H)$ ,  $W'$  is isomorphic to a subrepresentation of  $R_H$ , since any  $W' \in \text{Irr}(H)$  appears in  $R_H$ . By example4.9 we have

$$R_G = \text{Ind}_H^G R_H$$



and by example 4.12 with  $V = R_G, W = R_H$ , we get

$$V' = \text{Ind}_H^G W'$$

For uniqueness: Let  $V = \text{Ind}_H^G W, V' = \text{Ind}_H^G W'$ , then proposition 4.13 implies that there exists a unique  $\Phi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, V')$  such that  $\Phi|_W = \text{id}_W$ , and  $\Phi \circ \rho(g) = \rho'(g) \circ \Phi, \forall g \in G$ . Then  $\text{Im } \Phi$  contains all  $\rho'(g)W$ , so  $\text{Im } \Phi = V'$ .

By  $\dim V = [G : H] \dim W = \dim V'$ , we conclude  $\Phi$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.0.15.** *Let  $V$  be a representation of  $G$ , and  $H < G$  be a subgroup. Then*

$$V \otimes \text{Ind}_H^G W = \text{Ind}_H^G (\text{Res}_H^G V \otimes W)$$

*Proof.* Note that

$$\begin{aligned} V \otimes \text{Ind}_H^G W &= \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} V \otimes \sigma W \\ &= \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma(\text{Res}_H^G V) \otimes \sigma W = \text{Ind}_H^G (\text{Res}_H^G V \otimes W) \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Corollary 4.0.16.** *We have*

$$V \otimes P = \text{Ind}_H^G (\text{Res}_H^G V)$$

*where  $P$  is permutation representation.*

*Proof.* Take  $W$  as trivial representation, then this claim holds from lemma 4.15.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.0.17.** *Ind is transitive.*

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}_K^H \text{Ind}_H^G &= \text{Ind}_K^H \bigoplus_{\tau \in G/H} \tau V \\ &= \bigoplus_{\sigma \in H/K} \bigoplus_{\tau \in G/H} \sigma \tau V \\ &= \bigoplus_{\sigma' \in G/K} \sigma' V \\ &= \text{Ind}_K^G V \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Remark 4.0.18.** These results can also be obtained by looking at characters or using group algebra.

**Theorem 4.0.19.** *Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup, and  $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V), \psi : H \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(W)$  be two representations, such that  $V = \mathrm{Ind}_H^G W$ . Then*

$$\chi_V(g) = \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} \chi_W(g_\sigma^{-1} g g_\sigma) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\substack{x \in G, \\ x^{-1} g x \in H}} \chi_W(x^{-1} g x)$$

where  $g_\sigma$  is any representative of  $\sigma$ .

*Proof.* Let  $V = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma W$ ,  $\rho(g)$  permutes the  $\sigma W$  among themselves, i.e., if  $g_\sigma \in \sigma$  is a representative, we write  $g g_\sigma = g_\tau h$  for some  $\tau \in G/H, h \in H$ .

$$g(g_\sigma W) = (g_\tau h)W = g_\tau(hW) = g_\tau W$$

Then we can calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_V(g) &= \mathrm{tr}_V(\rho(g)) = \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} \mathrm{tr}_{\sigma W}(\rho(g)) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in G/H} \chi_W(g_\sigma^{-1} g g_\sigma) = \sum_{\tau \in G/H} \chi_W(h^{-1} g_\tau^{-1} g g_\tau h) \\ &= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\tau \in G/H} \sum_{h \in H} \chi_W(h^{-1} g_\tau^{-1} g g_\tau h) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\substack{x \in G, \\ x^{-1} g x \in H}} \chi_W(x^{-1} g x) \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 4.0.20** (Frobenius reciprocity). *Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup,  $W$  be a representation of  $H$ ,  $U$  be a representation of  $G$ . Assume that  $V = \mathrm{Ind}_H^G W$ , then*

$$\mathrm{Hom}_H(W, \mathrm{Res}_H^G U) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_G(V, U)$$

i.e., for  $\varphi \in \mathrm{Hom}_H(W, \mathrm{Res}_H^G U)$  extends uniquely to  $\tilde{\varphi} \in \mathrm{Hom}_G(V, U)$

*Proof.* We write  $V = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma W$ , define  $\tilde{\varphi}$  on  $\sigma W$  by the composition

$$\sigma W \xrightarrow{g_\sigma^{-1}} W \xrightarrow{\varphi} U \xrightarrow{g_\sigma} U$$

This is independent of the choice of  $g_\sigma$  since

$$g_\sigma h(\varphi(h^{-1} g_\sigma^{-1}(w))) = g_\sigma \varphi(h h^{-1} g_\sigma(w))$$

by  $\varphi \in \mathrm{Hom}_H(W, \mathrm{Res}_H^G U)$

□

**Corollary 4.0.21.** *Let  $H < G$  be a subgroup,  $W$  be a representation of  $H$ ,  $U$  be a representation of  $G$ . Then*

$$(\chi_W, \mathrm{Res}_H^G \chi_U)_H = (\mathrm{Ind}_H^G \chi_W, \chi_U)_G$$

*Proof.* By linearity, we can assume  $W, U$  are irreducible representations. This claim follows from the Frobenius reciprocity and shur's lemma

$$(\chi_V, \chi_U)_G = \dim \mathrm{Hom}_G(V, U)$$

□

**Example 4.0.22.** Let  $G = S_3, H = S_2$ . In  $S_2$ , the standard representation  $V_2$  is isomorphic to the alternating representation  $U'_2$ . We have seen that  $U_3, U'_3, V_3$  are all irreducible representations of  $S_3$ .

And we can write down their character tables as follows

	1	(12)		1	(12)	(123)
trivial $U_2$	1	1	trivial $U_3$	1	1	1
alternating $U'_2$	1	-1	alternating $U'_3$	1	-1	1
			standard $V_3$	2	0	-1

Note that

$$\text{Res } U_3 = U_2, \quad \text{Res } U'_3 = U'_2, \quad \text{Res } V_3 = U_2 \oplus U'_2$$

If we want to calculate  $\text{Ind}$ , firstly note that we have seen

$$P \otimes U = \text{Ind}(\text{Res } U), \quad U \text{ is any representation of } G$$

For  $U = U_3$ , we have  $P = U_3 \oplus V_3 = \text{Ind } U_2$ .

If we want to calculate  $\text{Ind } V_2$ , it's a little bit complicated.

By Frobenius reciprocity

$$\text{Hom}_{S_3}(\text{Ind } V_2, U_3) = \text{Hom}_{S_2}(V_2, \text{Res } U_3 = U_2) \stackrel{\text{shur}}{=} 0$$

$$\text{Hom}_{S_3}(\text{Ind } V_2, U'_3) = \text{Hom}_{S_2}(V_2, \text{Res } U'_3 = U'_2) \stackrel{\text{shur}}{=} \mathbb{C}$$

$$\text{Hom}_{S_3}(\text{Ind } V_2, V_3) = \text{Hom}_{S_2}(V_2, \text{Res } V_3 = U_2 \oplus U'_2) \stackrel{\text{shur}}{=} \mathbb{C}$$

So

$$\text{Ind } V_2 = U'_3 \oplus V_3$$

**Definition 4.0.23.** Let  $G$  be a finite group, and  $R_k(G)$  be the free abelian group generated by all isomorphism classes of representations of  $G$  over a field  $k$ , modulo the subgroup generated by elements of the form  $V + W - (V \oplus W)$ .  $R(G)$  is called the representation ring of  $G$ , or the Grothendieck group of  $G$ , denoted by  $K_0(G)$ , elements of  $R(G)$  are called virtual representations.

The ring structure on  $R(G)$  is the tensor product, defined on the generators of  $R(G)$ , and extended by linearity.

**Remark 4.0.24.** We have the following remarks:

1. A character defines a ring homomorphism from  $R(G)$  to  $\mathcal{C}_G$
2.  $\chi$  is injective is equivalent to a representation is determined by its character, the image of  $\chi$  are called virtual characters.
3.  $\chi_{\mathbb{C}} : R(G) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_G$  is an isomorphism.
4. The virtual characters form a lattice  $\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}^c \subset \mathcal{C}_G$ . The actual characters form a cone  $\Lambda_0 \cong \mathbb{N}^0 \subset \Lambda$ .
5. By 3. we can define an inner product on  $R(G)$  by

$$(V, W) = \dim \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$$

**Example 4.0.25.** Let  $G = C_n$ , then  $R(C_n) = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^n - 1)$ , where  $X$  correspond to the representation of a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity.

**Example 4.0.26.**  $R(S_3) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x, y]/(xy - y, x^2 - 1, y^2 - x - y - 1)$ . We can identify  $x$  to the alternating representation  $U'$ ,  $y$  to the standard representation  $V$  and 1 to the trivial representation.

Goal: Determine  $R(S_n)$  for all  $n$  and determine all irreducible representations of  $S_n$  for all  $n$ .

## Part 2. Symmetric functions

### 5. YOUNG TABLEAUX

**Definition 5.1** (Composition of  $n$ ). A composition of  $n$  is an ordered sequence  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r)$  such that  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  and  $\sum \alpha_i = n$ ; A weak composition of  $n$  is a (finite or infinite) ordered sequence  $(\alpha_1, \dots)$  such that  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ,  $\sum \alpha_i = n$  and  $|\{i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \mid \alpha_i \neq 0\}| < \infty$ .

**Definition 5.2** (Partition). A partition is any weak composition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots)$  such that  $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$  for all  $i$ . The nonzero  $\lambda_i$  are called parts. The number of parts is the length of  $\lambda$ , denoted by  $l(\lambda)$ .  $|\lambda| = \sum \lambda_i$  is the weight of  $\lambda$ . If  $|\lambda| = n$ , then we write  $\lambda \vdash n$  and say  $\lambda$  is a partition of  $n$ .

**Notation 5.3.** The set consists of all partition of  $n$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{P}_n$ .

**Notation 5.4** (Exponential notation). If  $j$  appears  $m_j$  times in  $\lambda$ , we write  $\lambda = (1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} \dots)$

**Lemma 5.5.** We have the following correspondence

$$\text{Conj}(S_n) \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{P}_n$$

*Proof.* Recall that  $w \in S_n$  factorizes uniquely as a product of disjoint cycles

$$w = (i_1 \dots i_{\alpha_1}) \dots (i_{n-\alpha_r+1} \dots i_n)$$

of order  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ . The order in which the cycles are listed is irrelevant.

If  $\alpha_1 \geq \dots \geq \alpha_r$ , then  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r)$  is a partition of  $n$ , called the cycle type  $\alpha(w)$  of  $w$ .

Let  $v, w \in S_n$ , if  $v(i) = j$ , then

$$w \circ v \circ w^{-1}(w(i)) = w(j)$$

so  $v$  and  $w \circ v \circ w^{-1}$  have the same cycle type, i.e.  $\alpha(v) = \alpha(w \circ v \circ w^{-1})$ . So  $\alpha(w)$  determines  $w \in S_n$  up to conjugacy.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6** (Euler).  $p(n) = |\mathcal{P}_n|$ , where

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)x^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^k}$$

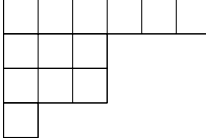
**Example 5.7.**

$n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$p(n)$	1	1	2	3	5	7	11	15	22	30	42

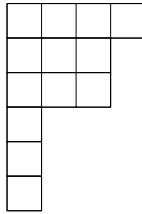
**Definition 5.8** (Young subgroup). For  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) \in \mathcal{P}_n$ . A Young subgroup is a subgroup of  $S_n$  given as

$$S_\lambda = S_{\{1, \dots, \lambda_1\}} \times S_{\{\lambda_1+1, \dots, \lambda_1+\lambda_2\}} \times \dots \times S_{\{n-\lambda_r+1, \dots, n\}}$$

**Definition 5.9** (Young diagram). The Young diagram  $D(\lambda)$  of  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_n$  is  $D(\lambda) = \{(i, j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid 1 \leq i \leq \lambda_j\}$ . We draw a box for each point  $(i, j)$ .

**Example 5.10.**  $D((6, 3, 3, 1)) =$  

**Definition 5.11** (Conjugate of a partition). The conjugate of  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_n$  is the partition  $\lambda' \in \mathcal{P}_n$  whose Young diagram  $D(\lambda')$  is the transpose of  $D(\lambda)$ .

**Example 5.12.**  $D((6, 3, 3, 1))' =$  

**Lemma 5.13.** Let  $\lambda$  be a partition, and  $m \geq \lambda_1, n \geq \lambda'_1$ . The  $m+n$  numbers  $\lambda_i + n - i (1 \leq i \leq n)$ ,  $n - 1 + j - \lambda'_j (1 \leq j \leq m)$  are a permutation of  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, m+n-1\}$

*Proof.* Clearly  $D(\lambda) \subset D(m^n)$ . Take a path corresponding to  $D(\lambda)$  from the lower left corner to the upper right corner, number the segment of the path by  $0, 1, \dots, m+n-1$ . The vertical segments are  $\lambda_i + n - 1, 1 \leq i \leq n$ . The horizontal segments (by transposition) are  $(m+n-1) - (\lambda'_j + m - j) = n - \lambda'_j + j - 1, 1 \leq j \leq m$ .  $\square$

**Remark 5.14.** The lemma is equivalent to the identity

$$f_{\lambda, n}(t) + t^{m+n-1} f_{\lambda', m}(t^{-1}) = \frac{1 - t^{m+n}}{1 - t}$$

**Definition 5.15** (Operations on partitions). Let  $\lambda, \mu$  be partitions. We define  $\lambda + \mu$  by  $(\lambda + \mu)_i = \lambda_i + \mu_i$ ;  $\lambda \cup \mu$  is partition in which  $\lambda_i, \mu_j$  are arranged decreasing in order;  $\lambda \mu$  is defined by  $(\lambda \mu)_i = \lambda_i \mu_j$ ;  $\lambda \times \mu$  is the partition in which  $\min\{\lambda_i, \mu_j\}$  are arranged in decreasing order.

**Example 5.16.** If we take  $\lambda = (3, 2, 1)$  and  $\mu = (2, 2)$ , compute as follows to see what's going on

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda + \mu &= (5, 4, 1), & \lambda \mu &= (6, 4) \\ \lambda \cup \mu &= (3, 2, 2, 2, 1), & \lambda \times \mu &= (2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 5.17.** We have the following relation between above operations

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda \cup \mu)' &= \lambda' + \mu' \\ (\lambda \times \mu)' &= \lambda' \mu' \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*  $D(\lambda \cup \mu)$  is obtained from the rows of  $D(\lambda)$  and  $D(\mu)$  and arranging in order of decreasing length, so we have

$$(\lambda \cup \mu)'_k = \lambda'_k + \mu'_k$$

And

$$(\lambda \times \mu)'_k = \{(i, j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid \lambda_i \geq k, \mu_j \geq k\} = \lambda'_k \mu'_k$$

□

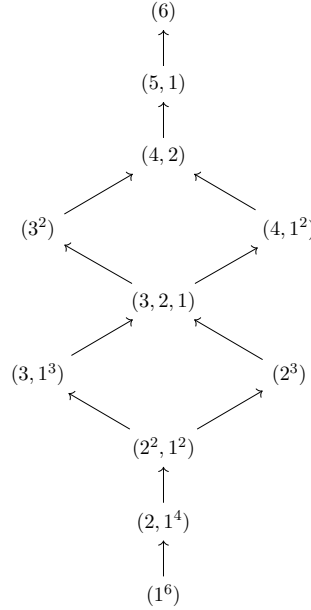
**Definition 5.18** (Orderings). *Let  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$ , then*

1. *Containing order  $C_n$ :  $(\lambda, \mu) \in C_n$  if and only if  $\mu_i \leq \lambda_i, \forall i \geq 1$ . We write  $\mu \subseteq \lambda$  instead of  $(\lambda, \mu) \in C_n$ .*
2. *Reverse lexicographic ordering  $L_n$ :  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L_n$  if and only if for  $\lambda = \mu$  or the first non-vanishing difference  $\lambda_i - \mu_i$  is positive.*
3. *reverse lexicographic ordering  $L'_n$ :  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L'_n$  if and only if  $\lambda = \mu$  or the first non-vanishing difference  $\lambda_i^* - \mu_i^*$  is negative, where  $\lambda_i^* = \lambda_{n+1-i}$ .*
4. *Natural/Dominance ordering  $N_n$ :  $(\lambda, \mu) \in N_n$  if and only if  $\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_i \geq \mu_1 + \dots + \mu_i$  for all  $i \geq 1$ . We write  $\lambda \geq \mu$  instead of  $(\lambda, \mu) \in N_n$ .*

**Remark 5.19.**  $C_n$  and  $N_n$  are only partial orderings, but  $L_n$  and  $L'_n$  are total orderings.

**Definition 5.20** (Cover & Hasse diagram). *If  $(A, \leq)$  is a poset,  $b, c \in A$ , we say that  $b$  is covered by  $c$ , written  $b \prec c$ , if  $b < c$  and there is no  $d \in A$  such that  $b < d < c$ ; The Hasse diagram of  $A$  consists of vertices corresponding to element  $a \in A$ , and an arrow from the vertex  $b$  to vertex  $c$  if  $b \prec c$ .*

**Example 5.21.** If we consider dominance ordering on  $\mathcal{P}_6^\dagger$




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<sup>†</sup>Here I really want to draw a Hasse diagram in the form of Young diagram, but there is no enough space for me to draw down all my ideas (smile).

**Lemma 5.22.** *Let  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$ . Then  $\lambda \geq \mu$  implies  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L_n \cap L'_n$*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\lambda \geq \mu$ . Then either  $\lambda_1 > \mu_1$ , in which case  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L_n$ , or else  $\lambda_1 = \mu_1$ . In that case either  $\lambda_2 > \mu_2$ , in which case again  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L_n$ , or else  $\lambda_2 = \mu_2$ . Continuing in this way, we see that  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L_n$ .

Also, for each  $i \geq 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{i+1} + \lambda_{i+2} + \dots &= n - (\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_i) \\ &\leq n - (\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_i) \\ &= \mu_{i+1} + \mu_{i+2} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Hence the same reasoning as before shows that  $(\lambda, \mu) \in L'_n$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.23.** *Let  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$ , then  $\lambda \geq \mu$  is equivalent to  $\mu' \geq \lambda'$ .*

*Proof.* It suffices to show one direction. Suppose  $\lambda' \not\geq \mu'$ , then for some  $i \geq 1$ , we have

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} \lambda'_1 + \dots + \lambda'_j \leq \mu'_1 + \dots + \mu'_j, & 1 \leq j \leq i-1 \\ \lambda'_1 + \dots + \lambda'_i > \mu'_1 + \dots + \mu'_i \end{cases}$$

which implies

$$\lambda'_i > \mu'_i$$

Let  $l = \lambda'_i$  and  $m = \mu'_i$ . From  $(*)$  it follows that

$$\lambda'_{i+1} + \lambda'_{i+2} + \dots < \mu'_{i+1} + \mu'_{i+2} + \dots$$

and denote this equation by  $(**)$ .

Now  $\lambda'_{i+1} + \lambda'_{i+2} + \dots$  is equal to the number of nodes in the diagram of  $\lambda$  which lie to the right of the  $i$ -th column, and therefore

$$\lambda'_{i+1} + \lambda'_{i+2} + \dots = \sum_{j=1}^l (\lambda_j - i)$$

Likewise

$$\mu'_{i+1} + \mu'_{i+2} + \dots = \sum_{j=1}^m (\mu_j - i)$$

Hence from  $(**)$  we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^m (\mu_j - i) > \sum_{j=1}^l (\lambda_j - i) \geq \sum_{j=1}^m (\lambda_j - i)$$

which implies

$$\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_m > \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_m$$

a contradiction.  $\square$

**Definition 5.24** (Young tableau). *A Young tableau is a map  $T(\lambda) : D(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , defined by  $(i, j) \mapsto T(\lambda)_{i,j} = k$ .  $\lambda$  is called the shape of  $T(\lambda)$ . If  $T_{i,j} \leq T_{i,j+1}$  and  $T_{i,j} < T_{i+1,j}$  for all  $(i, j) \in D(\lambda)$ , then  $T(\lambda)$  is called semi-standard. Let  $\alpha_k = |\{(i, j) \in D(\lambda) \mid T(\lambda)_{i,j} = k\}|$ , then  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots)$  is called the weight or type of  $T(\lambda)$ . If  $\alpha = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ ,  $T(\lambda)$  is called standard.*

**Example 5.25.** Consider the following two Young tableau

1	2	2	3	3	5
2	3	5	5		
4	4	7	7		
5	7				

1	3	7	12	8	15
2	5	10	14		
4	8	11	16		
6	9				

They are both Young tableau with shape  $(6, 4, 4, 2)$ , but the first one has type  $(1, 3, 3, 2, 4, 0, 3)$ , while the second one is standard.

**Definition 5.26** (Kostka number). *Let  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_n$ ,  $\alpha$  be a weak composition of  $n$ . Then Kostka number  $K_{\lambda\alpha}$  is the number of semistandard tableaux  $T(\lambda)$  of weight  $\alpha$ .*

**Lemma 5.27.** *For  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$ , then  $K_{\lambda\mu} = 0$  unless  $\lambda \geq \mu$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $T(\lambda)$  be a Young tableau of weight  $\mu$ . For all  $r \geq 1$ , there are  $\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_r$  symbols  $\leq r$  in  $T(\lambda)$ . Columns are strictly increasing, then these  $\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_r$  symbols must lie in the first  $r$  rows. So

$$\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_r \leq \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_r, \quad \forall r \geq 1$$

That is,  $\mu \leq \lambda$ . □

$S_n$  acts on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  by permuting coordinates, the fundamental domain for this action is

$$F_n = \{b \in \mathbb{Z}^n \mid b_n \geq \dots \geq b_1\}$$

i.e. for  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ ,  $S_n a \cap F_n = \{a^+\}$  for some  $a^+ \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ . In fact,  $a^+$  is obtained from  $a$  by rearranging  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  in decreasing order.

For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , we define

$$a \geq b \iff a_1 + \dots + a_i \geq b_1 + \dots + b_i, \quad \forall i \geq 1$$

**Lemma 5.28.** *Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , then*

$$a \in F_n \iff a \geq wa, \forall w \in S_n$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $a \in F_n$ . If  $wa = b$ , then  $(b_1, \dots, b_n)$  is a permutation of  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , so  $a_1 + \dots + a_i \geq b_1 + \dots + b_i, \forall i \geq 1$ .

Conversely, if  $a \geq wa$  for all  $w \in S_n$ . Then

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) \geq (a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_{i+1}, a_i, a_{i+2}, \dots, a_n)$$

then we get

$$a_1 + \dots + a_i \geq a_1 + \dots + a_{i-1} + a_{i+1} \implies a_i \geq a_{i+1}$$

If we do this several times, we will see  $a \in F_n$ . □



## 6. THE RING OF SYMMETRIC FUNCTIONS

The symmetric group  $S_n$  acts on the ring  $\mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  of polynomials in  $n$  variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  with integer coefficients by permuting the variables, that is

$$(wp)(x_1, \dots, x_n) = p(x_{w(1)}, \dots, x_{w(n)}), \quad w \in S_n, p \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

**Definition 6.1** (Symmetric polynomial).  $p \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is called symmetric if it is invariant under the action of  $S_n$ .

The symmetric polynomials form a subring

$$\Lambda_n = \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^{S_n} \subset \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

Note that  $\Lambda_n$  is a graded ring, i.e.  $\Lambda_n = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Lambda_n^k$ , where  $\Lambda_n^k = \{p \in \Lambda_n \mid \deg p = k\} \cup \{0\}$

**Definition 6.2.** Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ . We set  $x^\alpha = x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ . Let  $\lambda$  be any partition of length  $\leq n$ . We define the polynomial

$$m_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\alpha} x^\alpha$$

where  $\alpha$  runs over all distinct permutation of  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ .

**Example 6.3.** Let  $n = 3$  and  $\lambda = (2, 1, 0)$  to see what's going on

$$m_{(2,1)} = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3$$

Since we have all permutations of  $(2, 1, 0)$  are listed as follows

$$(2, 1, 0), (2, 0, 1), (1, 2, 0), (1, 0, 2), (0, 1, 2), (0, 2, 1)$$

**Remark 6.4.** The  $(m_\lambda)_{l(\lambda) \leq n}$  form a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis of  $\Lambda_n$ . And  $(m_\lambda)_{|\lambda|=k, l(\lambda) \leq n}$  form a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis of  $\Lambda_n^k$ .

**Definition 6.5** (Inverse system). Let  $(I, \leq)$  be a directed set. Let  $(A_i)_{i \in I}$  be a family of groups, rings, modules, indexed by  $I$ , and  $(f_{ij})_{i, j \in I}$  be a family of morphisms with  $f_{ij} : A_i \rightarrow A_j$ , such that

1.  $f_{ii} = \text{id}_{A_i}$ ;
2.  $f_{ij} = f_{ij} \circ f_{jk}$  for all  $i, j, k \in I$

The pair  $(A_i, f_{ij})_{i, j \in I}$  is called an inverse system over  $I$ .

**Definition 6.6** (Inverse limit). Let  $(A_i, f_{ij})_{i, j \in I}$  be an inverse system. Let  $x_i \in A_i, x_j \in A_j$ . We define

$$x_i \sim x_j \iff \text{there exists } k \in I \text{ with } i \leq k, j \leq k \text{ and } f_{ki}(x_i) = f_{kj}(x_j)$$

We define the inverse limit of this inverse system by

$$\varprojlim_{i \in I} A_i = \prod_{i \in I} A_i / \sim$$

We can use inverse limit to define our symmetric functions.

Let  $k$  be fixed, let  $m \geq n$ , and consider

$$\mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_m] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

Which sends each of  $x_{n+1}, \dots, x_m$  to zero and the other  $x_i$  to themselves. On restriction to  $\Lambda_m$  this gives a homomorphism as follows

$$\rho_{m,n} : \Lambda_m \rightarrow \Lambda_n$$

whose effect on the basis  $(m_\lambda)$  is easily described as follows

$$m_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_m) \mapsto \begin{cases} m_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n), & l(\lambda) \leq n \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$\rho_{m,n}$  is a surjective ring homomorphism.

On restriction to  $\Lambda_m^k$  we have homomorphisms

$$\rho_{m,n}^k : \Lambda_m^k \rightarrow \Lambda_n^k$$

for all  $k > 0$  and  $m \geq n$ , which are always surjective, and are bijective for  $m \geq n \geq k$ .

So we have  $(\Lambda_n^k, \rho_{m,n}^k)$  is an inverse system over  $\mathbb{N}$ . We define

$$\Lambda^k = \varprojlim_n \Lambda_n^k$$

Let us clarify the elements in  $\Lambda^k$ , as what we defined, an element of  $\Lambda^k$  is a sequence  $f = (f_n)_{n \geq 0}$ , where  $f_n = f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a homogenous symmetric polynomial of degree  $k$  in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , and  $f_m(x_1, \dots, x_m, 0, \dots, 0) = f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  whenever  $m \geq n$ . Since  $\rho_{m,n}^k$  is an isomorphism for  $m \geq n \geq k$ , it follows that the projection

$$\rho_n^k : \Lambda^k \rightarrow \Lambda_n^k$$

which sends  $f$  to  $f_n$  is an isomorphism for all  $n \geq k$ , and hence that  $\Lambda^k$  has a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis consisting of the monomial symmetric functions  $m_\lambda$  (for all partitions  $\lambda$  of  $k$ ) defined by

$$\rho_n^k(m_\lambda) = m_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

for all  $n \geq k$ . Hence  $\Lambda^k$  is a free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module of rank  $p(k)$ , the number of partitions of  $k$ .

**Example 6.7.** The above discussion may be a little abstract, let's compute a concrete example to show what's going on

If we let  $m = 3, n = 2$ , and let  $\lambda = (1, 1)$ , then

$$m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_2x_1 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1 + x_3x_2$$

So

$$\rho_{3,2}(m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3)) = m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2) = x_1x_2 + x_2x_1$$

and in this case,  $l(\lambda) = 2 = n$ . If we let  $\lambda = (1, 1, 1)$ , then

$$\rho_{3,2}(m_{(1,1,1)}) = \rho_{3,2}(x_1x_2x_3) = 0$$

is quite natural.

Furthermore, if we let  $k = n = 2, m = 3$ , then obviously  $\Lambda_3^2$  is spanned by

$$m_{(2,0)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2, \quad m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_2x_1 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1 + x_3x_2$$

and  $\Lambda_2^2$  is spanned by

$$m_{(2,0)}(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2, \quad m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2) = x_1x_2 + x_2x_1$$

So  $\rho_{3,2}^2$  is clearly an isomorphism. Hope this example can help you to get a better understanding.

**Definition 6.8** (The ring of symmetric functions). *We define*

$$\Lambda = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Lambda^k$$

$\Lambda$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module generated by the  $m_\lambda$  for all partitions  $\lambda$ , and is called the ring of symmetric functions. The  $m_\lambda$  are called monomial symmetric functions.

**Remark 6.9.** We have the following remarks

1. For any communicative ring  $R$  in place of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , we can define a ring  $\Lambda_R$  satisfying  $\Lambda_R \cong \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} R$ .
2. We have surjective ring homomorphisms  $\rho_n = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \rho_n^k : \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_n, n \geq 0$ .  $\rho_n$  is an isomorphism in degrees  $k \leq n$ .

**Definition 6.10** (Elementary symmetric function). *Let  $e_0 = 1$  and  $e_r = \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_r} x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_r} = m_{(1^r)}$  for some  $r \geq 1$ .*

*For each partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  define  $e_\lambda = e_{\lambda_1} e_{\lambda_2} \dots$ . Then  $e_\lambda$  is called elementary symmetric functions.*

**Remark 6.11.** The generating function for the  $e_r$  is

$$E(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} e_r t^r = \prod_{i \geq 1} (1 + x_i t)$$

**Remark 6.12.** If the number of variables is finite, say  $n$ , then

$$\rho_n(e_r) = 0 \implies \sum_{r=0}^n e_r t^r = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + x_i t) \in \Lambda_n[t]$$