

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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0. 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 0.0.1. *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

1. BASIC DEFINITIONS AND IRREDUCIBILITY

1.1. Basic Definitions.

Definition 1.1.1. *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 1.1.2. 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 1.1.3. We give following remarks:

1. ρ 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 ρ 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 1.1.4. 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 1.1.5. 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 1.1.6. For a map of representation $\varphi : V \rightarrow W$, the kernel of φ is a subrepresentation of V , image and cokernel of φ are subrepresentations of W .

Proof. Trivial. □

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

Lemma 1.1.7. 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 1.1.8. 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 1.1.9. *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 1.1.10. *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 1.1.11. Let V be a finite-dimensional over \mathbb{C} with basis X , and G acts on X via σ , 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 1.1.12. 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 1.1.13. 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 1.1.14. 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 1.1.15. 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 1.1.16. 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 1.1.17. A 2-dimension representation of S_3 : the symmetry of triangle, denoted by V

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

1.2. Irreducibility.

Definition 1.2.1. 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 1.2.2 (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 1.2.3. Maschke theorem still holds when $\text{char } k \nmid |G|$

Remark 1.2.4. 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 1.2.5 (Schur lemma). *Let V, W be irreducible representations of finite group G , and $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$, then*

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

Proposition 1.2.6. *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.

1.3. Representation of abelian groups and S_3 .

Proposition 1.3.1. *Let G be a finite abelian group, then every irreducible representation of G is 1-dimensional.*

Remark 1.3.2. 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 1.3.3. The converse statement also holds, see corollary 3.20.

Definition 1.3.4. *Let G be a finite group, then $G^\vee = \text{Hom}_G(G, \mathbb{C}^*)$ is called the dual group.*

Corollary 1.3.5. *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

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

2. CHARACTER THEORY

In this section, G denotes a finite group.

Definition 2.0.1. 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 ρ .

Remark 2.0.2. In fact, χ_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 2.0.3. 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 2.0.4 (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 2.0.5. *The character table of G is a table with the conjugacy classes listed across, the irreducible representations listed on the left.*

Example 2.0.6. 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 χ_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 2.0.7. 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 2.0.8. Nevertheless, characters can characterize the group G : order of G , order of all its normal subgroups, whether G is simple or not.

Proposition 2.0.9. *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 2.0.10. We let $(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\alpha(g)}\beta(g)$ denote a Hermitian inner product on \mathcal{C}_G .

Theorem 2.0.11 (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 Schur'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 2.0.12. *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 2.0.13. *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 2.0.14. *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 2.0.15. 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 2.0.16. 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 2.0.17. 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 two¹ 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 2.0.18. 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 $h \in G$,

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

¹Why 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 α is a class function by comparing the coefficient of two side. \square

Proposition 2.0.19. *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 schur'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 2.0.20.

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

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 $\varphi_{\alpha,V}$, schur 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 2.0.21. *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 2.0.22 (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 χ_V, χ_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 2.0.23. [Monstrous Monnlight 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 2.0.24. 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 2.0.25. We have

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

as $G \times H$ representations.

Proposition 2.0.26. 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

3. RESTRICTION AND INDUCED REPRESENTATION

Definition 3.0.1 (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 3.0.2. Restriction is transitive, i.e., for $K < H < G$, we have

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

Lemma 3.0.3. *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 3.0.4. *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 3.0.5. *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 3.0.6. *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 3.0.7. 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 3.0.8.

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

Example 3.0.9. 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 3.0.10. 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 3.0.11. 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 3.0.12. 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 3.0.13. 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 Φ 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 3.0.14. 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 Φ is an isomorphism. \square

Lemma 3.0.15. *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 3.0.16. *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 3.0.17. *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 3.0.18. These results can also be obtained by looking at characters or using group algebra.

Theorem 3.0.19. *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_σ is any representative of σ .

Proof. Let $V = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G/H} \sigma W$, $\rho(g)$ permutes the σW 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 3.0.20 (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 σW 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_σ 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 3.0.21. *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 schur's lemma

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

□

Example 3.0.22. 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 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

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

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

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

So

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

Definition 3.0.23. 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 3.0.24. We have the following remarks:

1. A character defines a ring homomorphism from $R(G)$ to \mathcal{C}_G
2. χ is injective is equivalent to a representation is determined by its character, the image of χ 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 3.0.25. 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 3.0.26. $R(S_3) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x, y]/(xy - y, x^2 - 1, y^2 - x - y - 1)$. 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

4. YOUNG TABLEAU

Definition 4.1 (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 (α_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 4.2 (Partition). A partition is any weak composition $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots)$ such that $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$ for all i . The nonzero λ_i are called parts. The number of parts is the length of λ , denoted by $l(\lambda)$. $|\lambda| = \sum \lambda_i$ is the weight of λ . If $|\lambda| = n$, then we write $\lambda \vdash n$ and say λ is a partition of n .

Notation 4.3. The set consists of all partition of n is denoted by \mathcal{P}_n .

Notation 4.4 (Exponential notation). If j appears m_j times in λ , we write $\lambda = (1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} \dots)$

Lemma 4.5. 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 4.6 (Euler). $p(n) = |\mathcal{P}_n|$, where

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

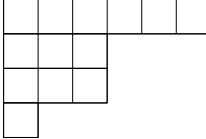
Example 4.7.

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

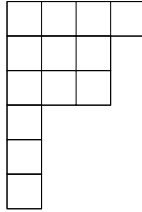
Definition 4.8 (Young subgroup). *For $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) \in \mathcal{P}_n$. A Young subgroup is a subgroup of S_n given as*

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

Definition 4.9 (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 4.10. $D((6, 3, 3, 1)) =$ 

Definition 4.11 (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 4.12. $D((6, 3, 3, 1))' =$ 

Lemma 4.13. *Let λ 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 4.14. 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 4.15 (Operations on partitions). *Let λ, μ be partitions. We define $\lambda + \mu$ by $(\lambda + \mu)_i = \lambda_i + \mu_i$; $\lambda \cup \mu$ is partition in which λ_i, μ_j are arranged decreasing in order; $\lambda \mu$ is defined by $(\lambda \mu)_i = \lambda_i \mu_i$; $\lambda \times \mu$ is the partition in which $\min\{\lambda_i, \mu_j\}$ are arranged in decreasing order.*

Example 4.16. 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 4.17. *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

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

□

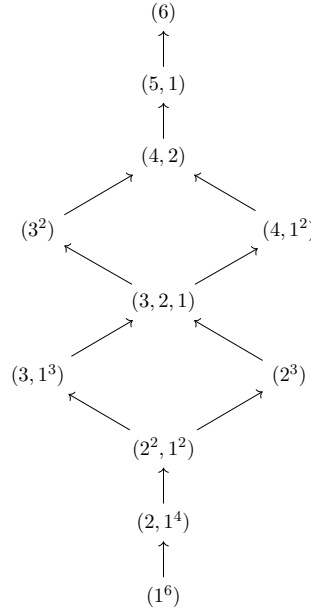
Definition 4.18 (Orderings). *Let $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$, then*

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 4.19. C_n and N_n are only partial orderings, but L_n and L'_n are total orderings.

Definition 4.20 (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 4.21. If we consider dominance ordering on \mathcal{P}_6 ²



²Here 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 4.22. *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 4.23. *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 λ 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 4.24 (Young tableau). *A Young tableau is a map $T(\lambda) : D(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, defined by $(i, j) \mapsto T(\lambda)_{i,j} = k$. λ is called the shape of $T(\lambda)$.*

Definition 4.25 (semistandard & standard). *For a Young tableau T . 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 semistandard. 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 4.26. 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 4.27 (Kostka number). *Let $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_n$, α be a weak composition of n . Then Kostka number $K_{\lambda\alpha}$ is the number of semistandard tableau $T(\lambda)$ of weight α .*

Lemma 4.28. *For $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$, then $K_{\lambda\mu} = 0$ unless $\lambda \geq \mu$.*

Proof. Let $T(\lambda)$ be a semistandard Young tableau of weight μ . 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

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

i.e. for $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, $S_n a \cap P_n = \{a^+\}$ 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 4.29. *Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, then*

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

Proof. Suppose $a \in P_n$. 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 $a \in P_n$. □

Let $\delta = (n-1, n-2, \dots, 1, 0) \in P_n$, then we have

Lemma 4.30. *Let $a \in P_n$. Then for each $w \in S_n$, we have $(a + \delta - w\delta)^+ \geq a$.*

Proof. Since $\delta \in P_n$, then we have $\delta \geq w\delta$, hence

$$a + \delta - w\delta \geq a$$

Let $b = (a + \delta - w\delta)^+$. Then again by Lemma 4.28 we have

$$b \geq a + \delta - w\delta$$

Hence $b \geq a$. □

For each pair of integers i, j such that $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ define $R_{ij} : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n$ by

$$R_{ij}(a) = (a_1, \dots, a_i + 1, \dots, a_j - 1, \dots, a_n)$$

Any product $R = \prod_{i < j} R_{ij}^{r_{ij}}$ is called a raising operator. The order of the terms in the product is immaterial, since they commute with each other.

The following lemma explains why it is called raising:

Lemma 4.31. *Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ and let R be a raising operator. Then*

$$Ra \geq a$$

Proof. For we may assume that $R = R_{ij}$, in which case the result is obvious. □

However, the converse of the lemma still holds

Lemma 4.32. *Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ be such that $a \leq b$ and $a_1 + \dots + a_n = b_1 + \dots + b_n$. Then there exists a raising operator R such that $b = Ra$.*

Proof. We omit it here, since we won't use this result later. Readers may refer to [2] for more details. □

5. 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 5.1 (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 Λ_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 5.2. 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 λ be any partition of length $\leq n$. We define the polynomial

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

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

Example 5.3. 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 5.4. The $(m_\lambda)_{l(\lambda) \leq n}$ form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Λ_n . And $(m_\lambda)_{|\lambda|=k, l(\lambda) \leq n}$ form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Λ_n^k .

Definition 5.5 (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 5.6 (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 Λ_m this gives a homomorphism as follows

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

whose effect on the basis (m_λ) 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 Λ_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 Λ^k , as what we defined, an element of Λ^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 $f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, 0, \dots, 0) = f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ 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 Λ^k has a \mathbb{Z} -basis consisting of the monomial symmetric functions m_λ (for all partitions λ of k) defined by

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

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

Example 5.7. 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 Λ_3^2 is spanned by

$$m_{(2,0)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2$$

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

and Λ_2^2 is spanned by

$$m_{(2,0)}(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$$

$$m_{(1,1)}(x_1, x_2) = x_1x_2 + x_2x_1$$

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

Definition 5.8 (The ring of symmetric functions). *We define*

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

Λ is the free \mathbb{Z} -module generated by the m_λ for all partitions λ , and is called the ring of symmetric functions. The m_λ are called monomial symmetric functions.

Remark 5.9. We have the following remarks

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

5.1. Elementary symmetric function. As we can see above, m_λ for any λ form a basis of the ring of symmetric functions. Now we will give several different basis of it, some of them are quite important to the representation theory of S_n .

First of them is elementary symmetric function

Definition 5.10 (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_λ is called elementary symmetric functions.

Remark 5.11. 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 5.12. If the number of variables is finite, say n , then

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

Lemma 5.13. *Let λ be a partition, λ' its conjugate. Then*

$$e_{\lambda'} = m_\lambda + \sum_{\mu < \lambda} a_{\lambda\mu} m_\mu, \quad a_{\lambda\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

Proof. When we multiply out the product $e_{\lambda'} = e_{\lambda'_1} e_{\lambda'_2} \dots$, we will obtain a sum of monomials, each of which is of the form

$$(x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots)(x_{j_1} x_{j_2} \dots) \dots = x^\alpha$$

where $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{\lambda'_1}, j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_{\lambda'_2}$, and so on.

Put the numbers $i_1, \dots, i_{\lambda'_1}$ into the first column of $D(\lambda)$ and similarly for the remaining numbers. The symbols $\leq r$ occur in the top r rows of $D(\lambda)$. Hence we have

$$\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \leq \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_r$$

for each $r \geq 1$, i.e. we have $\alpha \leq \lambda$. It follows Lemma 4.28 that

$$e_{\lambda'} = \sum_{\mu \leq \lambda} a_{\lambda\mu} m_{\mu}$$

with $a_{\lambda\mu} \geq 0$ for each $\mu \leq \lambda$, and the argument above also shows that the monomial x^{λ} occurs exactly once, so that $a_{\lambda\lambda} = 1$. \square

Proposition 5.14. *We have*

$$\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}[e_1, e_2, \dots]$$

and e_r are algebraically independent over \mathbb{Z} .

Proof. By above lemma, the e_r form a \mathbb{Z} -basis since the m_{λ} do so. Then every $f \in \Lambda$ uniquely expressible as a polynomial in $e_r, r \geq 0$. \square

5.2. Complete symmetric function.

Definition 5.15. Let $h_0 = 1$, and $h_r = \sum_{\mu \vdash r} m_{\mu}$, $r \geq 1$. For each partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$, we define $h_{\lambda} = h_{\lambda_1} h_{\lambda_2} \dots$, called the complete symmetric functions.

Remark 5.16. Note that $e_1 = h_1$. And it will be convenient to define $h_r, e_r = 0$ to be zero for $r < 0$.

Lemma 5.17. *The generating function of the h_r is*

$$H(t) = \sum_{r \geq 0} h_r t^r = \prod_{i \geq 1} (1 - x_i t)^{-1}$$

Furthermore, we have

$$H(t)E(-t) = 1$$

Proof. To see the first, use the fact

$$\frac{1}{1 - x_i t} = \sum_k x_i^k t^k$$

and multiply these geometric series together.

Use the fact that the generating function of e_r is

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

together with what we have proven to see the second. \square

Remark 5.18. $H(t)E(-t) = 1$ is equivalent to

$$\sum_{r=0}^n (-1)^r e_r h_{n-r} = 0$$

for all $n \geq 1$.

Since e_r are algebraically independent, we may define a homomorphism of graded rings as follows

Definition 5.19.

$$\begin{aligned}\omega : \Lambda &\rightarrow \Lambda \\ e_r &\mapsto h_r\end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.20. ω is a involution.

Proof. The relations

$$\sum_{r=0}^n (-1)^r e_r h_{n-r} = 0, \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

are symmetric with respect to interchanging e_r and h_r . \square

Proposition 5.21. We have

$$\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}[h_1, h_2, \dots]$$

and h_r are algebraically independent over \mathbb{Z} .

Proof. Follows from that $\omega^2 = \text{Id}$, that is ω is an automorphism of Λ . \square

Remark 5.22. If the number of variables is finite, say n , then $\omega|_{\Lambda} = \text{id}|_{\Lambda_n}$, and $\Lambda_n \cong \mathbb{Z}[h_1, \dots, h_n]$ with h_r are algebraically independent over \mathbb{Z} , but h_{r+1}, \dots are nonzero polynomials in h_1, \dots, h_n .

Remark 5.23. We could define $f_\lambda = \omega(m_\lambda)$ and would obtain another basis of Λ , but these play no role later on.

Remark 5.18 lead to a determinant identity which we shall make use of later. Let N be a positive integer and consider the matrices of $N+1$ rows and columns

$$H = (h_{i-j})_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}, \quad E = ((-1)^{i-j} e_{i-j})_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}$$

Then E, H are lower unitriangular, so we have $\det E = \det H = 1$. Moreover, Remark 5.18 shows that

$$\sum_{r=0}^N (-1)^r e_r h_{N-r} = 0$$

which implies that

$$EH = \text{Id}$$

It follows that each minor of H is equal to the complementary cofactor of E^T , the transpose of E .

Now let λ, μ be partitions of length $\leq p$ such that λ', μ' have length $\leq p$. $p+q = N+1$. And consider the minor of H with row indices $\lambda_i + p - i$ ($1 \leq i \leq p$) and columns indices $\mu_i + p - i$ ($1 \leq i \leq p$). By Lemma 4.13 the complementary cofactor of E^T has row indices $p-1+j-\lambda'_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq q$) and column indices $p-1+j-\mu'_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq p$). Hence we have

$$\det(h_{\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq p} = (-1)^{|\lambda| + |\mu|} \det((-1)^{\lambda'_i - \mu'_j - i + j} e_{\lambda'_i - \mu'_j - i + j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq q}$$

The minus signs cancel out, and we have proven the following results:

Lemma 5.24. *Let λ, μ be partitions of length $\leq p$ such that λ', μ' have length $\leq p$. $p + q = N + 1$. Then*

$$\det(h_{\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j})_{0 \leq i, j \leq p} = \det(e_{\lambda'_i - \mu'_j - i + j})_{0 \leq i, j \leq q}$$

In particular, if $\mu = \emptyset$, then $\det(h_{\lambda_i - i + j}) = \det(e_{\lambda'_j - i + j})$.

5.3. Power sums.

Definition 5.25. *Let $p_r = \sum_i x_i^r = m_{(r)}$, $r \geq 1$, p_r is call the r -th power sum. For a partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$, we define $p_\lambda = p_{\lambda_1} p_{\lambda_2} \dots$.*

Lemma 5.26. *The generating function of p_r is*

$$P(t) = \sum_{r \geq 1} p_r t^{r-1} = \frac{H(t)}{H'(t)}$$

Furthermore, we have the following properties

1. $P(-t) = \frac{E'(t)}{E(t)}$
2. $nh_n = \sum_{r=1}^n p_r h_{n-r}$
3. $ne_n = \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} p_r e_{n-r}$

Proof. We compute as follows

$$\begin{aligned} P(t) &= \sum_{i \geq 1} \sum_{r \geq 1} x_i^r t^{r-1} \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{x_i}{1 - x_i t} \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{d}{dt} \log\left(\frac{1}{1 - x_i t}\right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \log \prod_{i \geq 1} (1 - x_i t)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \log H(t) \\ &= \frac{H'(t)}{H(t)} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we have $P(-t) = \frac{d}{dt} \log E(t)$.

From above we have

$$\begin{aligned} nh_n &= \sum_{r=1}^n p_r h_{n-r} \\ ne_n &= \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} p_r e_{n-r} \end{aligned}$$

for $n \geq 1$. □

Remark 5.27. The second and third equations enable us to express the h' 's and the e' 's in terms of the p' 's, and vice versa. In fact, the third equations are due to Isaac Newton, and are known as Newton's formulas. And from the second formula, it is clear that $h_n \in \mathbb{Q}[p_1, \dots, p_n]$ and $p_n \in \mathbb{Z}[h_1, \dots, h_n]$, and hence

$$\mathbb{Q}[p_1, \dots, p_n] = \mathbb{Q}[h_1, \dots, h_n]$$

Since the h_r are algebraically independent over \mathbb{Z} , and hence also over \mathbb{Q} , it follows that:

Proposition 5.28. $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}} = \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}[p_1, p_2, \dots]$ and the p_r are algebraically independent over \mathbb{Q} . The p_r form a \mathbb{Q} -basis for $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}$.

Definition 5.29. Let $\lambda = (1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} \dots)$ be a partition in exponential notation. We define

$$\varepsilon_{\lambda} = (-1)^{m_2 + m_4 + \dots} = (-1)^{|\lambda| - l(\lambda)}$$

$$z_{\lambda} = \prod_{j \geq 1} j^{m_j} m_j!$$

Remark 5.30. Let $w \in S_n$ with cycle type $\alpha(w) = (1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} \dots)$, then

$$\varepsilon_{\alpha(w)} = \begin{cases} 1, & w \text{ is even} \\ -1, & w \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

so we have $S_n \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ defined by $w \mapsto \varepsilon_{\alpha(w)}$ is the usual sign homomorphism.

Lemma 5.31. $\omega(p_{\lambda}) = \varepsilon_{\lambda} p_{\lambda}$

Proof. Since we have

$$\omega(E(t)) = H(t), \omega(H(t)) = E(t)$$

then we have

$$\omega(P(t)) = \omega\left(\frac{H'(t)}{H(t)}\right) = \frac{E'(t)}{E(t)} = P(-t)$$

then

$$\omega(p_n) = (-1)^{n-1} p_n, \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

then

$$\omega(p_{\lambda}) = (-1)^{\sum \lambda_i - \sum 1} p_{\lambda} = \varepsilon_{\lambda} p_{\lambda}$$

□

Lemma 5.32. We have

$$H(t) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda} t^{|\lambda|}, \quad h_n = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{1}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda}$$

$$E(t) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\varepsilon_{\lambda}}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda} t^{|\lambda|}, \quad e_n = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{\varepsilon_{\lambda}}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda}$$

Proof. It suffices to prove the identity in the first row, since the one in the second row then follows by applying the involution ω and using the fact that p_k is an eigenvector of ω with respect to ε_λ .

We compute as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} H(z) &= \exp \sum_{r \geq 1} p_r t^r / r \\ &= \prod_{r \geq 1} \exp(p_r t^r / r) \\ &= \prod_{r \geq 1} \sum_{m_r=0}^{\infty} (p_r t^r)^{m_r} / r^{m_r} m_r! \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} z_{\lambda}^{-1} p_{\lambda} t^{|\lambda|} \end{aligned}$$

The first step follows from Lemma 5.26. \square

6. SCHUR FUNCTIONS

Lemma 6.1. *Let $A_n = \{f \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid w(f) = \text{sgn}(w)f, \forall w \in S_n\}$, then A_n is a free module of rank 1 over Λ_n .*

Proof. Let $f \in A_n$, then $x_i - x_j, i \neq j$ divides f , since $f|_{x_i=x_j} = 0$, so we have $\prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j)$ divides f . Then

$$f = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j) g, \quad g \in \Lambda_n$$

So A_n is generated by $\prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j)$ over Λ_n , i.e. $A_n = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j) \Lambda_n$ \square

Let $x^\alpha = x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ be a monomial, and consider the polynomial a_α obtained by antisymmetrizing x^α , that is

$$a_\alpha = \sum_{w \in S_n} \text{sgn}(w) w(x^\alpha)$$

Clearly a_α is skew-symmetric, i.e. $a_\alpha \in A_n$. In particular, therefore a_α vanishes unless $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are all distinct. Hence we may as well assume that $\alpha_1 > \dots > \alpha_n \geq 0$. And we may write $\alpha = \lambda + \delta$, where λ is a partition³ with length $\leq n$ and $\delta = (n-1, n-2, \dots, 1, 0)$. Then

$$a_\alpha = a_{\lambda+\delta} = \sum_{w \in S_n} \text{sgn}(w) w(x^{\lambda+\delta})$$

which can be written as a determinant.

Lemma 6.2. *Let λ be a partition $l(\lambda) \leq n$, then*

1. $a_{\lambda+\delta} = \det(x_i^{\lambda_j+n-j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$. In particular, $a_\delta = \det(x_i^{n-j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} = \prod (x_i - x_j)$ is the Vandermonde determinant.

³ λ is indeed a partition. Take an example, $\alpha_1 + 1 - n \geq \alpha_2 + 2 - n$ holds, since $\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$ is equivalent to $\alpha_1 \geq \alpha_2 + 1$

2. $a_{\lambda+\delta}$ is divisible by a_δ .

Proof. 1. follows from the Leibniz formula for the determinant $\det A = \sum_{w \in S_n} \text{sgn}(w) \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,w(i)}$.
 2. follows from Lemma 6.1. \square

Definition 6.3. Let λ be a partition, $l(\lambda) \leq n$, and $\delta = (n-1, n-2, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$. We define the schur polynomial

$$s_\lambda = \frac{a_{\lambda+\delta}}{a_\delta} \in \Lambda_n$$

Notice that the definition of s_λ makes sense for any integer vector $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that $\lambda + \delta$ has no negative parts. If $\lambda_i + n - i$ are not all distinct, then $s_\lambda = 0$. If they are all distinct, then we have $\lambda + \delta = w(\mu + \delta)$ for some $w \in S_n$ and some partition μ , and $s_\lambda = \text{sgn}(w)s_\mu$.

The polynomial $a_{\lambda+\delta}$ where λ runs through all partitions of length $\leq n$, form a basis of A_n . Multiplication by a_δ is an isomorphism of Λ_n onto A_n , since A_n is the free Λ_n -module generated by a_δ .

So we have proven

Lemma 6.4. The schur polynomial s_λ , where λ is a partition with $l(\lambda) \leq n$, form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Λ_n .

Proposition 6.5. The s_λ for all partitions λ form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Λ , called schur functions. The s_λ for all partitions λ with $|\lambda| = k$ form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Λ^k .

Proof. From the definition it follows that

$$a_{\lambda+\delta+(k^n)} = \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^k a_{\lambda+\delta}, \quad s_{\lambda+(k^n)} = s_\lambda$$

\square

Proposition 6.6.

$$\begin{aligned} s_\lambda &= \det(h_{\lambda_i-i+j})_{1 \leq i,j \leq n}, \quad n \leq l(\lambda) \\ s_\lambda &= \det(e_{\lambda'_i-i+j})_{1 \leq i,j \leq m}, \quad m \leq l(\lambda') \end{aligned}$$

Proof. \square

Corollary 6.7. We have the following properties

1. $\omega(s_\lambda) = s_{\lambda'}$
2. $s_{(n)} = h_n, s_{(1^n)} = e_n$

7. ORTHOGONALITY

Let $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots), y = (y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots)$ be finite or infinite sequences of variables. We denote the symmetric functions of the x 's by $s_\lambda(x), p_\lambda(x)$, etc. and the symmetric functions of the y 's by $s_\lambda(y), p_\lambda(y)$, etc.

Proposition 7.1. *We give three series expansions for the product*

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i,j} (1 - x_i y_j)^{-1} &= \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda}(x) p_{\lambda}(y) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} h_{\lambda}(x) m_{\lambda}(y) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} s_{\lambda}(x) s_{\lambda}(y) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. For the first one, Since we have

$$H(t) = \prod_i (1 - x_i t)^{-1} = \sum_{\lambda} z_{\lambda}^{-1} p_{\lambda} t^{|\lambda|}$$

Choose as variables $x_i y_j$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i,j} (1 - x_i y_j t)^{-1} &= H(t) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda}(x_1 y_1, \dots, x_i y_j, \dots, x_n y_n) t^{|\lambda|} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{z_{\lambda}} p_{\lambda}(x) p_{\lambda}(y) t^{|\lambda|} \end{aligned}$$

and set $t = 1$ to get desired result.

For the second one,

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i,j} (1 - x_i y_j t)^{-1} &= \prod_j H(y_j) \\ &= \prod_j \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} h_r(x) y_j^r \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} h_{\alpha}(x) y^{\alpha} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} h_{\lambda}(x) m_{\lambda}(y) \end{aligned}$$

where α runs through all sequences $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots)$ of non-negative integers such that $\sum \alpha_i < \infty$, and λ runs through all partitions.

For the third one is sometimes called Cauchy formula, we compute as

$$\begin{aligned}
a_\delta(x)a_\delta(y) \prod_{i,j=1}^n (1 - x_i y_j)^{-1} &= a_\delta(x) \sum_{w \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn}(w) w(y^\delta) \sum_{\lambda} h_\lambda(x) m_\lambda(y) \\
&= a_\delta(x) \sum_{w \in S_n} \sum_{\lambda} \operatorname{sgn}(w) y^{w\delta} h_\lambda(x) \sum_{\substack{\alpha \text{ is the} \\ \text{permutation of } \lambda}} y^\alpha \\
&= a_\delta(x) \sum_{w \in S_n, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} \operatorname{sgn}(w) h_\alpha(x) y^{\alpha + w\delta} \\
&= \sum_{w \in S_n, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^n} (a_\delta(x) \operatorname{sgn}(w) h_{\beta - w\delta}(x)) y^\beta \\
&= \sum_{\beta \in \mathbb{N}^n} a_\beta(x) y^\beta \quad (\alpha_\beta = 0 \text{ if } \beta \neq w(\lambda + \delta), w \in S_n) \\
&= \sum_{w \in S_n} \sum_{\lambda} w(a_{\lambda + \delta}(x)) y^{w(\lambda + \delta)} \\
&= \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda + \delta}(x) \sum_{w \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn}(w) w(y^{\lambda + \delta}) \\
&= \sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda + \delta}(x) a_{\lambda + \delta}(y)
\end{aligned}$$

This proves in the case of n variables x_i and n variables y_i , now let $n \rightarrow \infty$ as usual to complete the proof. \square

Definition 7.2. We define a \mathbb{Z} -valued bilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \Lambda \times \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by requiring

$$\langle h_\lambda, m_\mu \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$$

for all partitions λ, μ , where $\delta_{\lambda\mu}$ is the Kronecker delta.

Lemma 7.3. For each $n \geq 0$, let $(u_\lambda), (v_\lambda)$ be \mathbb{Q} -bases of $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^n$, indexed by the partition λ of n . Then the following condition are equivalent:

1. $\langle \mu_\lambda, v_\mu \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$ for all λ, μ .
2. $\sum_{\lambda} u_\lambda(x) v_\lambda(y) = \prod_{i,j} (1 - x_i y_j)^{-1}$.

Proof. Let

$$u_\lambda = \sum_{\rho} a_{\lambda\rho} h_\rho, \quad v_\mu = \sum_{\sigma} b_{\mu\sigma} m_\sigma$$

then

$$\langle u_\lambda, v_\mu \rangle = \sum_{\rho} a_{\lambda\rho} b_{\mu\rho}$$

so the first statement is equivalent to

$$\sum_{\rho} a_{\lambda\rho} b_{\mu\rho} = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$$

And note that the second statement is equivalent to

$$\sum_{\lambda} u_{\lambda}(x) v_{\lambda}(y) = \sum_{\rho} h_{\rho}(x) m_{\rho}(y)$$

so it is also equivalent to

$$\sum_{\lambda} a_{\lambda\rho} b_{\lambda\sigma} = \delta_{\rho\sigma}$$

This completes the proof. \square

So together with Proposition 7.1 with Lemma 7.3, it follows that

$$\langle p_{\lambda}, p_{\mu} \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu} z_{\lambda}$$

so that the p_{λ} form an orthogonal basis of $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}$. Likewise we have

$$\langle s_{\lambda}, s_{\mu} \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$$

so that s_{λ} form an orthonormal basis of Λ , and the s_{λ} such that $|\lambda| = n$ form an orthonormal basis of Λ^n .

Any other orthonormal basis of Λ^n must therefore be obtained from the basis (s_{λ}) by transformation by an orthonormal integer matrix. The only such matrices are signed permutation matrices, therefore the orthonormal relation s_{λ} satisfied characterizes the s_{λ} up to order and sign.

Lemma 7.4. $\omega : \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$ is an isometry for $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$.

Proof. Since we have $\omega(p_{\lambda}) = \varepsilon_{\lambda} p_{\lambda}$, hence we

$$\langle \omega(p_{\lambda}), \omega(p_{\mu}) \rangle = \varepsilon_{\lambda} \varepsilon_{\mu} \langle p_{\lambda}, p_{\mu} \rangle = \varepsilon_{\lambda} \varepsilon_{\mu} z_{\lambda} \delta_{\lambda\mu} = \langle p_{\lambda}, p_{\mu} \rangle$$

since $(\varepsilon_{\lambda})^2 = 1$. This completes the proof. \square

7.1. Transition matrices. Let λ, μ be partitions, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \{\lambda\}^j &= \{\mu \subset \lambda \mid |\mu| = |\lambda| - j, 0 \leq \lambda'_i - \mu'_i \leq 1, \forall i\} \\ \{\lambda\}_j &= \{\mu \subset \lambda \mid |\mu| = |\lambda| + j, \lambda'_i \leq \mu'_i \leq \lambda'_i + 1, \forall i\} \end{aligned}$$

Definition 7.5. A **flag** μ_{\bullet} is a sequence of partitions

$$\mu_n \subset \mu_{n-1} \subset \cdots \subset \mu_0 = \lambda$$

such that $\mu_i \in \{\mu_{i-1}\}^{a_i}$ for some $a_i \geq 0$, and all $1 \leq i \leq n$. The sequence $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ is called the **weight** of μ_0 .

Definition 7.6. A flag is called **complete** if $n = |\lambda|$.

Example 7.7. Consider $\lambda = (6, 4, 4, 2)$, we can get a flag as follows by removing boxes.

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

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

1	2	2	3	3	5
2	3	5	5		
4	4				
5					
\emptyset					

1	2	2	3	3
2	3			
4	4			

1	2	2	3	3
2	3			

where we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_0 &= (6, 4, 4, 2) \supset \mu_1 = (6, 4, 2, 1) \supset \mu_2 = (6, 4, 2, 1) \supset \mu_3 = (5, 2, 2) \supset \\ \mu_4 &= (5, 2) \supset \mu_5 = (3, 1) \supset \mu_6 = (1) \supset \mu_7 = \emptyset\end{aligned}$$

and

$$a_1 = 3, a_2 = 0, a_3 = 4, a_4 = 2, a_5 = 3, a_6 = 3, a_7 = 1$$

that is $a = (3, 0, 4, 2, 3, 3, 1)$

Lemma 7.8.

$$\{\text{semistandard Young tableau } T(\lambda) \longleftrightarrow \{\text{flag } \mu_\bullet \text{ such that } \mu_0 = \lambda\}$$

Proof. Let $n = |\lambda|$. Given μ_\bullet with $\mu_0 = \lambda$, define $T(\lambda)$ by filling all the a_i boxes of $\mu_i - \mu_{i+1}$ with $n - i$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then $u_i \in \{\mu_{i-1}\}^{a_i}$ implies all columns are strictly increasing and $a_i \geq 0$ implies all rows are increasing.

Given a semistandard Young tableau $T(\lambda)$ of weight $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, remove a_i boxes whose entry is $n - i + 1$ to obtain μ_i and set $\mu_0 = \lambda$. Rows of $T(\lambda)$ are increasing implies $|\mu_i| - |\mu_{i-1}| = a_{i-1} \geq 0$ and columns of $T(\lambda)$ are strictly increasing implies at most one box in each column is removed, that is $0 \leq \mu'_{i-1} - \mu'_i \leq 1$. \square

Recall that we have

$$s_{(n)} = h_n, \quad s_{(1^n)} = e_n$$

Proposition 7.9 (Pier's formula). *We have*

1. $s_\lambda e_j = \sum_{\mu \in \{\lambda\}_j} s_\mu$
2. $s_\lambda h_j = \sum_{\mu' \in \{\lambda'\}_j} s_{\mu'}$

Proof. Let $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ with n sufficiently large by allowing some λ_i to be zero.

$$s_\lambda e_i a_\delta = a_{\lambda+\delta} e_i \in A_r$$

implies

$$a_{\lambda+\delta} = \sum_{\mu} B_{\lambda\mu} a_{\mu+\delta}$$

Let $l_i = \lambda_i + n - i$, then the only way to obtain a monomial $x_1^{m_1} \dots x_n^{m_n}$ with $m_1 > m_2 > \dots > m_n$ in $a_{\lambda+\delta} e_i$ is possibly by $x_1^{l_1} \dots x_n^{l_n} x_{j_1} \dots x_{j_n}$. This monomial has strictly decreasing exponents if and only if the following is satisfied: Set

$$\mu_k = \begin{cases} \lambda_k, & k \notin \{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \\ \lambda_k + 1, & k \in \{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \end{cases}$$

Then $\mu_1 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n$, i.e. $\mu \in \{\lambda\}_i$. The coefficient of such a monomial is $B_{\lambda\mu} = 1$, so we have

$$a_{\lambda+\delta} e_i = \sum_{\mu \in \{\lambda\}_i} a_{\mu+\delta}$$

And the second equation follows from the first since $\omega(e_n) = h_n, \omega(s_\lambda) = s_{\lambda'}$. \square

Use the following, we can express s_λ with $x_n = 1$ in terms of s_μ in $n - 1$ variables.

Lemma 7.10. $s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, 1) = \sum_{j=0}^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\mu \in \{\lambda\}_j} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$

Proof. By Cauchy formula

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\lambda} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, 1) s_\lambda(y_1, \dots, y_n) &= \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - x_i y_j)^{-1} \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - y_j)^{-1} \\ &= \sum_{\mu} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) s_\mu(y_1, \dots, y_n) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} h_j(y_1, \dots, y_n) \\ &= \sum_{\mu} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\lambda' \in \{\mu'\}_j} s_{\lambda'}(y_1, \dots, y_n) \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of $s_\lambda(y_1, \dots, y_n)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, 1) &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\mu, \lambda' \in \{\mu'\}_j} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\mu' \in \{\lambda\}_j} s_{\mu'}(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

since $\lambda' \in \{\mu'\}_j$ implies $j \leq |\lambda| = n$. □

Lemma 7.11. *We can write*

$$s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\substack{\mu \bullet = (\emptyset \subset \mu \subset \lambda) \\ a = |\lambda| - |\mu|}} x_n^a s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$$

Proof. $s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is homogenous of degree $|\lambda|$, then

$$\begin{aligned} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= x_n^{|\lambda|} s_\lambda\left(\frac{x_1}{x_n}, \dots, \frac{x_{n-1}}{x_n}, 1\right) \\ &= x_n^{|\lambda|} \sum_{j=0}^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\mu \in \{\lambda\}_j} s_\mu\left(\frac{x_1}{x_n}, \dots, \frac{x_{n-1}}{x_n}\right) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\mu \in \{\lambda\}_j} x_n^{|\lambda| - |\mu|} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 7.12. *We have*

$$s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\substack{T \text{ is semistandard} \\ \text{Young tableau of sharp } \lambda}} x^T$$

where

$$x^T = \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{a_{n-i+1}}$$

and a is the weight of $T(\lambda)$.

Proof.

$$s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum x_n^{a_1} x_{n-1}^{a_2} \dots x_{n-i+1}^{a_i} s_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i})$$

where the summation runs over $\mu_\bullet = (\mu_i \subset \mu_{i-1} \subset \dots \subset \mu_0 = \lambda)$ such that $|\mu_i| - |\mu_{i-1}| = a_i$ and $0 \leq \mu'_i - \mu'_{i-1} \leq 1$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= \sum_{\mu_\bullet \text{ is a flag of } \lambda} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{a_{n-i+1}} \\ &= \sum x^T \end{aligned}$$

where T runs over all semistandard Young tableau as desired. \square

Remark 7.13. In combinatorics this statement is taken as a definition, and all the properties of s_λ are derived from this. In particular, $s_\lambda \in \Lambda_n^k$ where $k = |\lambda|$.

Corollary 7.14. $s_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \leq \lambda} K_{\lambda\mu} m_\mu$, where $K_{\lambda\mu}$ is Kostka number.

Example 7.15. Let $n = 3$ and $\lambda = (3, 3, 1)$ to compute $s_\lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ use above property. All we need to do is to find out all semistandard Young tableaux, and compute the weight of flags which correspond to them.

List as follows

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3										

so we have

$$s_{(3,3,1)} = x_1 x_2^3 x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_2^2 x_3^3 + x_1^3 x_2 x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_2^3 x_3 + x_1^3 x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_1^3 x_2^3 x_3$$

Now we have already know the relations between bases (s_λ) and (m_λ) , We also want to know

$$s_\lambda = \sum F_{\lambda\mu} p_\mu$$

Definition 7.16. We arrange partition with respect to the reverse lexicographic order L_n , i.e. (n) is first and (1^n) is last. A matrix $(M_{\lambda\mu})$ indexed by $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_n$ is said to be **strictly upper triangle**, if $M_{\lambda\mu} = 0$ unless $\lambda \geq \mu$; And **strictly upper unitriangular** if also $M_{\lambda\lambda} = 1$ for all $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_n$; Similarly for strictly lower unitriangular.

We set U_n be the set of all strictly upper unitriangular matrices and U'_n be the set of all strictly lower unitriangular matrices.

Lemma 7.17. U_n, U'_n are groups with respect to matrix multiplication.

Proof. Let $M, N \in U_n$, then we have

$$(MN)_{\lambda\mu} = \sum_{\nu} M_{\lambda\nu} N_{\nu\mu} = 0$$

unless there exists ν such that $\lambda \geq \nu \geq \mu$, i.e. unless $\lambda \geq \mu$. For the same reason we have

$$(MN)_{\lambda\lambda} = M_{\lambda\lambda} N_{\lambda\lambda} = 1$$

i.e. $MN \in U_n$.

Consider $\sum_{\mu} M_{\lambda\nu} x_{\mu} = y_{\lambda}$. If $\nu \leq \lambda$, these equations involve x_{μ} for $\mu \leq \nu$, hence $\mu \leq \lambda$. The same is true for the equivalent set of equations

$$\sum_{\mu} (M^{-1})_{\lambda\mu} y_{\mu} = x_{\mu}$$

implies $(M^{-1})_{\lambda\mu} = 0$ unless $\mu \leq \lambda$. \square

Lemma 7.18. *Let*

$$J = \begin{cases} 1, & \mu = \lambda' \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then $M \in U_n$ is equivalent to $JMJ \in U'_n$

Proof. If let $N = JMJ$, then we have $N_{\lambda\mu} = M_{\mu'\lambda'}$. Then by Lemma 4.23, we have $\lambda \geq \mu$ is equivalent to $\mu' \geq \lambda'$. This completes the proof. \square

Definition 7.19. *Let $(u_{\lambda}), (v_{\lambda})$ be \mathbb{Q} bases for Λ . We denote by $M(u, v)$ the matrix $(M_{\lambda\mu})$ of coefficients in the equations*

$$u_{\lambda} = \sum_{\mu} M_{\lambda\mu} v_{\mu}$$

and $M(u, v)$ is called the transition matrix from (v_{λ}) to (u_{λ}) .

Lemma 7.20. *Let $(u_{\lambda}), (v_{\lambda}), (w_{\lambda})$ be \mathbb{Q} bases of Λ , and let $(u'_{\lambda}), (v'_{\lambda})$ be the dual bases of $(u_{\lambda}), (v_{\lambda})$ with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} M(u, v)M(v, w) &= M(v, w) \\ M(v, u) &= M(u, v)^{-1} \\ M(v', u') &= M(v, u)^T = M(u, v)^* \\ M(wv, wu) &= M(u, v) \end{aligned}$$

where T means transpose and $$ means transpose of inverse.*

Proposition 7.21. *The matrix $(K_{\lambda\mu})$ is in U_n .*

Proof. By Lemma 4.27, we have $K_{\lambda\mu} = 0$ unless $\lambda \geq \mu$. In particular, we have $K_{\lambda\lambda} = 1$. \square

Remark 7.22. In fact, all transition matrices between bases $e_{\lambda}, h_{\lambda}, m_{\lambda}, s_{\lambda}$ can be expressed in terms of J and K

Definition 7.23. *Let L denote the transition matrix $M(p, m)$, i.e.*

$$p_{\lambda} = \sum_{\mu} L_{\lambda\mu} m_{\mu}$$

Definition 7.24. *Let λ be partition, $l(\lambda) = r$. Let $f : [1, r] \subset \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. We define $f(\lambda)$ to be the vector whose i -th component is*

$$f(\lambda)_i = \sum_{f(j)=i} \lambda_j, \quad i \geq 1$$

Proposition 7.25. $L_{\lambda\mu} = |\{f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \mid f(\lambda) = \mu\}|$

Proof. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} p_\lambda &= p_{\lambda_1} p_{\lambda_2} \cdots \\ &= \sum_{f: [1, l(\lambda)] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} x_{f(1)}^{\lambda_1} x_{f(2)}^{\lambda_2} \cdots \\ &= \sum_f x^{f(\lambda)} \\ &= \sum_\mu \sum_{f(\lambda)=\mu} \sum_{w \in S_n} x^{w(\mu)} \end{aligned}$$

and $\sum_{w \in S_n} x^{w(\mu)}$ is just m_μ . \square

Definition 7.26. Let λ, μ be partitions, λ is a refinement of μ if $\lambda = \bigcup_{i \geq 1} \lambda^{(i)}$ such that $\lambda^{(i)}$ is a partition of μ_j . We write $\lambda \leq_R \mu$.

Lemma 7.27. We have

1. $\lambda \leq_R \mu$ is equivalent to $\mu = f(\lambda)$ for some $f : [1, l(\lambda)] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
2. \leq_R is a partial order on \mathcal{P}_n .
3. $\lambda \leq_R \mu$ implies $\lambda \leq \mu$.

Proof. See problem set. \square

Corollary 7.28. We have

1. $L = (L_{\lambda\mu}) \in U'_n$
2. $M(p, s) = M(p, m)M(s, m)^{-1} = LK^{-1}$

8. REPRESENTATION OF S_n

Now finally we come back to our topic, representation theory, and use what we have learnt about symmetric functions to see what's the irreducible representation ring of S_n .

Recall we have a bilinear form on $C(G, \mathbb{C})$, defined by

$$(f, g)_G = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} f(x)g(x^{-1})$$

We extend it to function $f : G \rightarrow A$, and A is any commutative \mathbb{C} -algebra. We also extend restriction Res_H^G and induction Ind_H^G from $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ to $f : G \rightarrow A$. Then Frobenius reciprocity still holds, i.e. For $H \leq G$, and $\chi : G \rightarrow A, \psi : H \rightarrow A$ are functions. If χ is a class function, then

$$(\text{Ind}_H^G \psi, \chi)_G = (\psi, \text{Res}_H^G \chi)_H$$

Lemma 8.1. Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. We embed $S_m \times S_n$ into S_{m+n} by making S_m and S_n act on complementary subsets of $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$. Then:

1. All such subgroups are conjugate to each other

2. If $v \in S_n$ has cycle type $\alpha(v)$, $w \in S_n$ has cycle type $\alpha(w)$, then $v \times w \in S_{n+m}$ is well-defined up to conjugate in S_{m+n} with cycle type $\alpha(v \times w) = \alpha(v) \cup \alpha(w)$.
3. Let $\psi : S_n \rightarrow \Lambda, w \mapsto p_{\alpha(w)}$. Then in the setting of 2., $\psi(v \times w) = \psi(v)\psi(w)$.

Proof. Clear. □

Definition 8.2. Let R^n denote the \mathbb{Z} -module generated by $V \in \text{Irr}(S_n)$ modulo the relations $V + W - V \oplus W$. Set $R = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} R^n$, where $S_0 = \{e\}$ and $R^0 = \mathbb{Z}$.

For $V \in R^m, W \in R^n$, let $V \boxtimes W$ be the corresponding representation of $S_m \times S_n$. Set

$$V \bullet W = \text{Ind}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}} (V \boxtimes W)$$

For $V = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} V_n, W = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} W_n$, where $V_n, W_n \in R^n$, we set

$$(V, W) = \sum_{n \geq 0} (V_n, W_n)_{S_n}$$

with

$$(V_n, W_n)_{S_n} = \dim \text{Hom}_{S_n}(V_n, W_n)$$

Proposition 8.3. For R , we have

1. (R, \bullet) is a communicative graded ring.
2. $(\cdot, \cdot) : R \times R \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a well-defined scalar product on R .

Proof. Omit. □

Definition 8.4. The **Frobenius characteristic** is the map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ch} : R &\rightarrow \Lambda_{\mathbb{C}} = \Lambda \otimes \mathbb{C} \\ V &\mapsto \text{ch}(V) \end{aligned}$$

where $\text{ch}^n(V) = (\chi_V, \psi)_{S_n} = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{w \in S_n} \chi_V(w) \psi(w^{-1})$ for $V \in R^n$.

Lemma 8.5. Let $V \in R^n$. Then

$$\text{ch}^n(V) = \sum_{|\lambda|=n} z_{\lambda}^{-1} \chi_V(K_{\lambda}) p_{\lambda}$$

where $\chi_V(K_{\lambda}) = \chi_V(w)$ for $w \in K_{\lambda} \in \text{Conj}(S_n)$.

Proof. Firstly, we have

$$\text{ch}^n(V) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{w \in S_n} \chi_V(w) p_{\alpha(w)}$$

since $\psi(w^{-1}) = p_{\alpha(w^{-1})} = p_{\alpha(w)}$. Note that $\chi_V(w) = \chi_V(w')$ if $\alpha(w) = \alpha(w') \in \text{Conj}(S_n)$ and $|K_{\lambda}| = n! z_{\lambda}^{-1}$, then

$$\text{ch}^n(V) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Conj}(S_n)} |K_{\lambda}| \chi_V(K_{\lambda}) p_{\lambda} = \sum_{|\lambda|=n} z_{\lambda}^{-1} \chi_V(K_{\lambda}) p_{\lambda}$$

as desired. \square

Proposition 8.6. *ch is an isometry, i.e. for $V, W \in R^n$, we have*

$$\langle \text{ch}^n(V), \text{ch}^n(W) \rangle = (V, W)$$

Proof. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{ch}^n(V), \text{ch}^n(W) \rangle &= \sum_{\lambda, \mu} z_\lambda^{-1} z_\mu^{-1} \chi_V(K_\lambda) \chi_W(K_\mu) \langle p_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} z_\lambda^{-1} \chi_V(K_\lambda) \chi_W(K_\lambda) \\ &= \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\lambda} |K_\lambda| \chi_V(K_\lambda) \chi_W(K_\lambda) \\ &= (\chi_V, \chi_W)_{S_n} \\ &= (V, W)_{R^n} \end{aligned}$$

\square

Proposition 8.7. *ch is an isometric ring isomorphism $R \cong \Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}$.*

Proof. It suffices to show ring isomorphism:

For $V \in R^m, W \in R^n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ch}(V \bullet W) &= \text{ch}(\text{Ind}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}}(V \boxtimes W)) \\ &= (\chi_{\text{Ind}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}}(V \boxtimes W)}, \psi)_{S_{m+n}} \\ &= (\text{Ind}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}}(\chi_V \boxtimes \chi_W), \psi)_{S_{m+n}} \\ &= (\chi_V \boxtimes \chi_W, \text{Res}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}} \psi)_{S_m \times S_n} \\ &= (\chi_V, \psi)_{S_m} (\chi_W, \psi)_{S_n} \\ &= \text{ch}(V) \text{ch}(W) \end{aligned}$$

i.e. ch is a homomorphism.

Let $\eta = \chi_{U_n}$, where U_n is trivial representation of S_n . Then

$$\text{ch}(U_n) = \sum_{\lambda} z_\lambda^{-1} p_\lambda = h_\lambda$$

If $\lambda \vdash n$, let $\eta_\lambda = \eta_{\lambda_1} \eta_{\lambda_2}$, which implies η_λ is a character of S_n , and

$$H_\lambda = \text{Ind}_{S_{\lambda_1} \times \dots \times S_{\lambda_n}}^{S_n}(U_{\lambda_1} \boxtimes \dots \boxtimes U_{\lambda_n})$$

so we have $\text{ch}(H_\lambda) = h_\lambda$.

Recall that

$$s_\lambda = \det(h_{\lambda_i - i + j})_{i,j}$$

For each $\lambda \vdash n$. Let $V^\lambda \in R^n$ be the isomorphism class of a representation such that

$$\chi^\lambda = \chi_{V^\lambda} = \det(\eta_{\lambda_i - i + j})_{i,j}$$

Then $\text{ch}(V^\lambda) = s_\lambda$.

By the following computation

$$(\chi^\lambda, \chi^\mu) = \langle \text{ch}(V^\lambda), \text{ch}(V^\mu) \rangle = \langle s_\lambda, s_\mu \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$$

So $\pm\chi^\lambda$ is an irreducible character of S_n . Since we have $|\text{Conj}(S_n)| = p_n = |\text{Irr}(S_n)|$, then χ^λ are all characters of S_n , so $(V^\lambda)_{\lambda \vdash n}$ forms a basis of R^n , so we have $\text{ch}|_{R_n}$ is an isomorphism. This completes the proof. \square

Theorem 8.8 (Frobenius). *The irreducible characters of S_n are $\chi^\lambda, \lambda \vdash n$. Moreover, the dimension of V^λ is $K_{\lambda(1^n)}$, the number of standard Young tableau of shape λ .*

Proof. It remains to show that χ^λ and not $-\chi^\lambda$ is an irreducible character. Need to show $\chi_\lambda(e) > 0$, where $e \in K_{(1^n)} \in \text{Conj}(S_n)$.

$$s_\lambda = \text{ch}(V^\lambda) = \sum_{\nu} z_\nu^{-1} \chi^\lambda(K_\nu) p_\nu$$

then

$$\langle s_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle = \sum_{\nu} z_\nu^{-1} \chi^\lambda(K_\nu) \langle p_\nu, p_\mu \rangle = \chi^\lambda(K_\mu)$$

since $\langle p_\nu, p_\mu \rangle = z_\mu \delta_{\mu\nu}$.

Then

$$\dim(V^\lambda) = \chi^\lambda(e) = \chi^\lambda(K_{(1^n)}) = \langle s_\lambda, p_{(1^n)} \rangle = K_{\lambda(1^n)}$$

\square

Corollary 8.9. *The transition matrix $M(p, s)$ is the character table of S_n .*

Proof. Note that, from above proof we have

$$\chi^\lambda(K_\mu) = \langle s_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle$$

\square

Example 8.10. Recall that we have computed $s_{(3,3,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ in Example 7.15. Use the same method, we can see

$$\begin{aligned} s_{(1^3)} &= x_1 x_2 x_3 \\ s_{(2,1)} &= x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2 x_3^2 + 2x_1 x_2 x_3 \\ s_{(3)} &= x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_2 + \cdots + x_2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2 x_3 \end{aligned}$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{(1^3)} &= p_1^3 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 x_i \right)^3 \\
 &= x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3 + 3(x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_1 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_3^2 x_1 + x_3^2 x_2) \\
 &= s_{(3)} + 2s_{(2,1)} + s_{(1^3)} \\
 p_{(2,1)} &= p_2 p_1 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 x_i^2 \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 x_i \right) \\
 &= x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_1 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_3^2 x_1 + x_3^2 x_2 \\
 &= s_{(3)} + s_{(1^3)} \\
 p_{(3)} &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 x_i^3 \right) = x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3 \\
 &= s_{(3)} - s_{(2,1)} + s_{(1^3)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have

	$1 = (1^3)$	$(12) = (2, 1)$	$(123) = (3)$
$U = V^{(3)}$	1	1	1
$U' = V^{(1^3)}$	1	-1	1
$V = V^{(2,1)}$	2	0	-1

Definition 8.11. Let U'_n denote the sign representation of S_n . We define

$$\Omega : R \rightarrow R$$

$$V \mapsto V \otimes U'_n, \quad V \in R_n$$

Lemma 8.12. $\Omega^2 = \text{id}$.

Proof. Clearly we have

$$\chi_{U'_n \otimes U'_n}(g) = \chi_{U'_n}(g) \chi_{U'_n}(g) = 1, \quad \forall g \in S_n$$

□

Proposition 8.13. $\text{ch} \circ \Omega = \omega \circ \text{ch}$

Proof. Need to use the fact $\chi_{U'_n}(K_\mu) = \varepsilon_\mu = (-1)^{|\mu| - l(\mu)}$ and $\omega(P_\lambda) = \varepsilon_\lambda p_\lambda$.

Let V^λ be the representation such that $\chi_{V^\lambda} = \chi^\lambda = s_\lambda, |\lambda| = n$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{ch}(\Omega(V^\lambda)) &= \text{ch}(V^\lambda \otimes U'_n) \\
 &= \sum_{\mu} z_\mu^{-1} \chi^\lambda(K_\mu) \chi_{U'_n}(K_\mu) p_\mu \\
 &= \sum_{\mu} z_\mu^{-1} \chi^\lambda(K_\mu) \omega(p_\mu) \\
 &= \omega(\text{ch}(V^\lambda))
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 8.14. Let λ be a partition, $D(\lambda)$ is its Young diagram. The **hook length** of λ at $x = (i, j) \in D(\lambda)$ is defined to be $h(x) = h(i, j) = \lambda_i - i + \lambda'_j - j + 1$. The hook length of λ is defined to be

$$h(\lambda) = \prod_{x \in D(\lambda)} h(x)$$

Corollary 8.15 (hook length formula).

$$\dim V^\lambda = \frac{n!}{h(\lambda)}$$

Proof. Compute directly

$$\begin{aligned} \dim V^\lambda &= K_{\lambda(1^n)} = \langle s_\lambda, p_{(1^n)} \rangle \\ &= \langle s_\lambda, (p_1)^n \rangle \\ &= \langle s_\lambda, (e_1)^n \rangle \\ &= \frac{n!}{h(\lambda)} \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 8.16. Let λ be a partition of n and length r . Let T be a Young tableau of shape λ with range in $[1, n] \subset \mathbb{Z}$. We define an action of S_n on T by

$$(wT)_{i,j} = w(T_{i,j}), \quad w \in S_n$$

Definition 8.17. We define the **row stabilizer**

$$R_{T(\lambda)} = \{w \in S_n \mid w \text{ preserves each row of } T\} \subset S_n$$

and the **column stabilizer**

$$C_{T(\lambda)} = \{w \in S_n \mid w \text{ preserves each column of } T\} \subset S_n$$

Remark 8.18. For these stabilizers, we have following remarks.

1. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} R_{wT(\lambda)} &= wR_{T(\lambda)}w^{-1} \\ C_{wT(\lambda)} &= wC_{T(\lambda)}w^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

so we always write $R_\lambda = R_{T(\lambda)}$ and $C_\lambda = C_{T(\lambda)}$.

2.

$$\begin{aligned} R_\lambda &\cong S_{\lambda_1} \times \cdots \times S_{\lambda_r} \\ C_\lambda &\cong S_{\lambda_1} \times \cdots \times S_{\lambda_c} \end{aligned}$$

are Young subgroups.

3. $R_\lambda \cap C_\lambda = \{e\}$.

4. Let $v \in C_\lambda, u \in R_\lambda, u' = vuv^{-1} \in R_{vT(\lambda)}$. Then $vuT(\lambda) = u'vT_\lambda$.

Remark 8.19. Let A be a ring, $x, y \in A$, we have Ax, Ay, Axy are A -modules, and $Axy \subset Ay$ is a submodule. Indeed, let $\varphi : A \rightarrow Ay$, defined by $a \mapsto ay$, is a module homomorphism. So we have $Axy = \varphi(Ax)$. Then the first isomorphism theorem implies

$$Axy = Ax / \ker \varphi$$

we will use this fact into what we have.

Definition 8.20. Let $A = \mathbb{C}[S_n]$ be group algebra. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} a_\lambda &= \sum_{w \in R_\lambda} e_w \in A \\ b_\lambda &= \sum_{w \in C_\lambda} \text{sgn}(w) e_w \in A \end{aligned}$$

we define $c_\lambda = a_\lambda b_\lambda \in A$, and call it **Young symmetrizer**.

Remark 8.21. $a_\lambda, b_\lambda, c_\lambda$ depend implicitly on the tableau $T(\lambda)$. For example, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{wT(\lambda)} &= \sum_{w' \in R_{wT(\lambda)}} e_{w'} = \sum_{w' \in wR_{T(\lambda)}w^{-1}} e_{w'} \\ &= \sum_{w' \in R_{T(\lambda)}} e_{w^{-1}w'} e_w \\ &= w^{-1} \left(\sum_{w' \in R_{T(\lambda)}} e_{w'} \right) w \\ &= w^{-1} a_{T(\lambda)} w \end{aligned}$$

Remark 8.22. If $w \in S_n$ could be written as

$$w = u_1 v_1 = u_2 v_2, \quad u_1, u_2 \in R_\lambda, v_1, v_2 \in C_\lambda$$

then $u_2^{-1} u_1 = v_2 v_1^{-1} \in R_\lambda \cap C_\lambda = \{e\}$, so we have $u_1 = u_2, v_1 = v_2$. So it suffices to take the sum in c_λ over $w \in S_n$ which are of the form $w = uv, u \in R_\lambda, v \in C_\lambda$. In particular,

$$c_\lambda = e_{\text{id}} + \cdots \neq 0$$

Lemma 8.23. Let U_n be the trivial representation of S_n , and U'_n be the sign representation of S_n . Let λ be a partition of n , $S_\lambda \subset S_n$ be the corresponding Young subgroup. Set

$$\begin{aligned} U_\lambda &= U_{\lambda_1} \boxtimes \cdots \boxtimes U_{\lambda_r}, \quad H_\lambda = \text{Ind}_{S_\lambda}^{S_n} U_\lambda \\ U'_{\lambda'} &= U_{\lambda'_1} \boxtimes \cdots \boxtimes U'_{\lambda'_c}, \quad E_{\lambda'} = \text{Ind}_{S_{\lambda'}}^{S_n} U'_{\lambda'} \end{aligned}$$

Let $\eta_\lambda = \chi_{H_\lambda}$ and $\varepsilon_{\lambda'} = \chi_{E_{\lambda'}}$, χ^λ is the irreducible character corresponding to V^λ . Then

1.

$$\begin{aligned} H_\lambda &\cong \mathbb{C}[S_n] a_\lambda \\ E_{\lambda'} &\cong \mathbb{C}[S_n] b_\lambda \end{aligned}$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_\lambda &= \chi^\lambda + \sum_{\mu > \lambda} K_{\lambda\mu} \chi^\mu \\ \varepsilon_{\lambda'} &= \chi^\lambda + \sum_{\mu < \lambda} K_{\lambda\mu} \chi^\mu\end{aligned}$$

Proof. See problem set. \square

Finally, we can construct V^λ explicitly here.

Theorem 8.24. *Let $\widehat{V}^\lambda = \mathbb{C}[S_n]c_\lambda$, where λ is a partition of n . Then \widehat{V}^λ is an irreducible representations of S_n with character $\chi_{\widehat{V}^\lambda} = \chi^\lambda$. Every irreducible representation is of this form.*

Proof. Let $A = \mathbb{C}[S_n]$. By the Remark 8.19 on algebra, $Ac_\lambda = Aa_\lambda b_\lambda$ is a submodule of $Aa_\lambda \cong H_\lambda$ and is quotient of $Ab_\lambda \cong E_{\lambda'}$. Lemma 8.23 implies that H_λ and $E_{\lambda'}$ have a unique common irreducible component, the irreducible representations V^λ of S_n , with character χ^λ . Thus we have $\widehat{V}^\lambda \cong V^\lambda$. \square

Remark 8.25. $c_\lambda = c_{T(\lambda)}$ depends on the choice of $T(\lambda)$, since $c_{wT(\lambda)} = wc_{T(\lambda)}w^{-1}$, $\forall w \in S_n$, so we have

$$\widehat{V^{T(\lambda)}} \cong \widehat{V^{wT(\lambda)}}$$

Corollary 8.26 (Young's rule).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Ind}_{S_\lambda}^{S_n} U_\lambda &= V^\lambda \oplus \bigoplus_{\mu \supset \lambda} (V^\mu)^{\oplus K_{\lambda\mu}} \\ \text{Ind}_{S_{\lambda'}}^{S_n} U_{\lambda'} &= V^\lambda \oplus \bigoplus_{\mu < \lambda} (V^\mu)^{\oplus K_{\lambda\mu}}\end{aligned}$$

Remark 8.27. If $\lambda = (1^n)$, then $\text{Ind}_{\{e\}}^{S_n} U_{(1^n)} = \mathbb{C}[S_n] = R$, where R is regular representation. But we have

$$R = \bigoplus_{\lambda} (V^\lambda)^{\oplus \dim V^\lambda}$$

This shows again: $\dim V^\lambda = K_{\lambda(1^n)}$.

Remark 8.28. Let λ be a partition of n , μ be a partition of m , then

$$\begin{aligned}V^\lambda \bullet V^\mu &= \text{Ind}_{S_m \times S_n}^{S_{m+n}} V^\lambda \boxtimes V^\mu \\ &= \bigoplus_{\gamma} N_{\lambda\mu}^\gamma V^\gamma\end{aligned}$$

where V^ν is an irreducible representation of S_{m+n} , and the sum runs over all partitions ν of $m+n$. $N_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$ can be determined combinatorially using the Littlewood-Richardson rule.

Example 8.29. Let $G = S_3$. There are three partitions of 3, that is, $(3), (2, 1), (1^3)$.

For $\lambda = (3)$, that is, the Young tableau is just one row, so every element of S_3 lie in row stabilizer, so we have

$$V^{(3)} = \mathbb{C} \sum_{w \in S_3} e_w = U, \quad \text{trivial representation.}$$

For $\lambda = (1^3)$, the Young tableau is just one column, so every element lie in column stabilizer, so we have

$$V^{(1^3)} = \mathbb{C} \sum_{w \in S_3} \text{sgn}(w) e_w = U', \quad \text{alternating representation.}$$

For $\lambda = (2, 1)$, things are a little complicated. Since we have $R_{(2,1)} \cong S_2 \times S_1$. We can take Young tableau as follows for an example

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{(2,1)} &= e_{\text{id}} + e_{(12)} \\ b_{(2,1)} &= e_{\text{id}} - e_{(13)} \\ c_{(2,1)} &= (e_{\text{id}} + e_{(12)})(e_{\text{id}} - e_{(13)}) \\ &= e_{\text{id}} + e_{(12)} - e_{(13)} - e_{(123)} \end{aligned}$$

so

$$V^{(2,1)} = \mathbb{C}[S_n]c_{(2,1)}$$

By simply computation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= c_{(2,1)} = e_{(12)}c_{(1,2)} \\ v_2 &= e_{(13)}c_{(2,1)} = e_{(13)} + e_{(123)} - e_{\text{id}} - e_{(23)} \\ e_{(23)}c_{(2,1)} &= e_{(23)} + e_{(123)} - e_{(132)} - e_{(13)} = -v_1 - v_2 \end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$V^{(2,1)} = \mathbb{C}c_{(2,1)} \oplus \mathbb{C}e_{(13)}c_{(2,1)}$$

that is standard representation.

Proposition 8.30. Let λ be a partition of n , U'_n be the alternating representation of S_n . Then $V^{\lambda'} \cong V^\lambda \otimes U'_n$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{ch} \circ \Omega)(V^\lambda) &= \text{ch}(V^\lambda \otimes U'_n) \\ (\omega \circ \text{ch})(V^\lambda) &= \omega(s_\lambda) = s_{\lambda'} = \text{ch}(V^{\lambda'}) \end{aligned}$$

□

Proposition 8.31. For any λ , $c_\lambda c_\lambda = d_\lambda c_\lambda$, where $d_\lambda = h(\lambda)$.

Proof. Let $A = \mathbb{C}[S_n]$, $\varphi_\lambda : A \rightarrow A$, defined by $v \mapsto vc_\lambda$, then

$$\varphi_\lambda(V^\lambda) = V^\lambda c_\lambda = Ac_\lambda^2 \subset Ac_\lambda = V^\lambda$$

Since V^λ is irreducible, then Schur's lemma tells us that

$$\varphi_\lambda|_{V^\lambda} = \alpha_\lambda \text{id}_{V^\lambda}$$

then

$$c_\lambda^2 = \varphi_\lambda(c_\lambda) = \alpha_\lambda c_\lambda$$

then

$$\varphi_\lambda^2(v) = vc_\lambda^2 = \alpha_\lambda vc_\lambda = \alpha_\lambda \varphi_\lambda(v)$$

implies that eigenvalues of φ_λ are zero and α_λ and the multiplicity of α_λ is $\dim V^\lambda$. So

$$\text{tr } \varphi_\lambda = \alpha_\lambda \dim V^\lambda = \alpha_\lambda \frac{n!}{h(\lambda)}$$

□

Lemma 8.32. *Let E be a finite dimensional vector space over \mathbb{C} , S_n acts on $E^{\otimes n}$ by permuting the factors. View a_λ, b_λ as a representation of $\mathbb{C}[S_n]$*

$$\mathbb{C}[S_n] \rightarrow \text{End}(E^{\otimes n})$$

Then

1. $\text{Im}(a_\lambda) = \bigotimes_{i=1}^r \text{Sym}^{\lambda_i} E \subset E^{\otimes n}$
2. $\text{Im}(b_\lambda) = \bigotimes_{i=1}^c \bigwedge^{\lambda'_i} E \subset E^{\otimes n}$

Proof. Clear. □

Remark 8.33. In particular, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_{(n)} &= a_{(n)} = \sum_{w \in S_n} e_w \\ c_{(1^n)} &= b_{(1^n)} = \sum_{w \in S_n} \text{sgn}(w) e_w \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{im } c_{(n)} &= \text{Sym}^n E \subset E^{\otimes n} \\ \text{im } c_{(1^n)} &= \bigwedge^n E \subset E^{\otimes n} \end{aligned}$$

Part 3. Representation theory of Lie groups and Lie algebras

9. LIE GROUPS

Definition 9.1. A **Lie group** is a group G that is also a smooth manifold in which the multiplication $\mu : G \times G \rightarrow G$ and inversion $\iota : G \rightarrow G$ are differentiable maps.

Definition 9.2. A **morphism of Lie groups** is a map $f : G \rightarrow H$ between Lie groups G, H that is also a group homomorphism and differentiable.

Definition 9.3. A *(closed) Lie subgroup* $H \subset G$ is a subset H of G that is a subgroup and a closed submanifold.

Definition 9.4. An *immersed Lie group* is the image of a Lie group H under an injective morphism to G .

Definition 9.5. A *complex Lie group* is a group G that is also a complex manifold in which multiplication and inversion are holomorphic maps.

Definition 9.6. A *morphism of complex Lie groups* is a map $f : G \rightarrow H$ between complex Lie groups G, H that is also a group homomorphism and a holomorphic map.

Example 9.7. $(\mathbb{R}^n, +)$ is a Lie group.

Example 9.8 (general linear group). $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an open subset of $\mathrm{Mat}(n, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^{n^2}$. The manifold structure is induced from \mathbb{R}^{n^2} , so multiplication is differentiable. And Cramer's rule implies the inversion is differentiable. In fact, $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an algebraic group. Consider

$$U = \{(A_{ij}, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2+1} \mid \det(A_{ij})t - 1 = 0, \text{ a polynomial in } A_{ij} \text{ and } t\}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) &\rightarrow U \\ (a_{ij}) &\mapsto (a_{ij}, \det(a_{ij})^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

This is a bijection, making $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ as a zero set of a polynomial in $n^2 + 1$ variables. Furthermore, you can show that this polynomial is irreducible.

Example 9.9 (special linear group). Consider

$$\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid \det A = 1\} = \ker(\det : \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(1, \mathbb{R}))$$

is also a Lie group.

Our goal is to study the representation theory of a Lie group G . Reduce this problem in several steps

1. G is connected.
2. G is simply connected.
3. The tangent space of G , that is, its Lie algebra. In this case, representation theory of G equals to the one of its Lie algebra.
4. Semisimple Lie algebra.

The following contents are a mixture of a review of concepts of differential geometry and motivational arguments for reduction process.

9.1. Review of differential geometry.

Definition 9.10. Let M, N be differentiable manifolds, a map $f : M \rightarrow N$ is called *smooth* or *differentiable*, if it is continuous and for all $p \in M$, there exists a chart (φ, U) for p and a chart (ψ, V) of $f(p)$ such that $\psi \circ f \circ \varphi^{-1}$ is smooth; f is called a *diffeomorphism* if it is bijective and f, f^{-1} are smooth.

Remark 9.11. If we replace differentiable by complex and smooth by holomorphic, we define a **holomorphic map** $f : M \rightarrow N$ between complex manifolds; f is called **biholomorphic** if it is bijective and f, f^{-1} is holomorphic.

Since a manifold is a topological space satisfying additional properties such as Hausdorff and separation axiom, the notions of topological space apply to manifolds.

Definition 9.12. A topological space is **disconnected**, if $X = X_1 \amalg X_2$ with $X_1, X_2 \neq \emptyset$, otherwise it is connected. The maximal connected subsets of X are called **connected components** of X .

Remark 9.13. For connectness, we have the following remarks

1. X is connected if and only if the only subsets of X that are both open and closed are X and \emptyset .
2. A manifold is connected if and only if it is path connected.
3. The connected components of a manifold are still manifolds.

Proposition 9.14. Let X, Y be topological spaces. If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous and X is connected, then $f(X)$ is connected.

Proof. Clear. □

Definition 9.15. A topological space X is called **compact** if each of its open covering admits a finite subcover.

Remark 9.16. If X is a subset of \mathbb{R}^n , then the Heine-Borel theorem says that X is compact if and only if X is closed and bounded.

Example 9.17. $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ is an open submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{n^2} and a closed submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{n^2+1} , and one chart gives an atlas. $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ has two connected components.

$$\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid \det A > 0\} \amalg \{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid \det A < 0\}$$

Similarly we can define $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$. However, it is connected, and $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{C}) \subset \mathrm{GL}(2n, \mathbb{R})$. To be more explicit, if $A = A_1 + iA_2$, then

$$A \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ -A_2 & A_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}(2n, \mathbb{R})$$

Example 9.18. $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid \det A = 1\}$ is a manifold with dimension $n^2 - 1$. Take $n = 2$ for an example, then

$$G = \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid ad - bc = 1 \right\}$$

that is, G is the zero locus of $p(a, b, c, d) = ad - bc - 1$, and $dp \neq 0$ on the locus $p = 0$. The implicit function theorem implies we can solve one variable

in terms of other three. Near the identity⁴, we have

$$d = \frac{1}{a}(1 + bc), \quad a = \frac{1}{d}(1 + bc)$$

So we have $\psi_1 : \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow (a, b, c)$ is a local homomorphism, since we have its inverse

$$(a, b, c) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & \frac{1}{a}(1 + bc) \end{pmatrix}$$

Similarly we can define a local homomorphism $\psi_2 : \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow (b, c, d)$.

Furthermore,

$$(a, b, c) \xrightarrow{\psi_1} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & \frac{1}{a}(1 + bc) \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\psi_2^{-1}} (b, c, \frac{1}{a}(1 + bc))$$

is smooth, so these two charts are compatible. Arguing in this way for any matrix in G , we get a differentiable atlas.

Using such atlas, we can check the multiplication and inversion are smooth.

Take inversion for an example. If we use ψ_i to denote $\begin{pmatrix} a_i & b_i \\ c_i & d_i \end{pmatrix} \mapsto (a_i, b_i, c_i), i = 1, 2$. Then

$$\psi_2 \circ \iota \circ \psi_1^{-1} : (a_1, b_1, c_1) \mapsto (\frac{1}{a_1}(1 + b_1 c_1), -b_1, -c_1)$$

is smooth.

Example 9.19. Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{R}^n , $V_i = \mathbb{R}\langle e_1, \dots, e_i \rangle$ and consider the flag $0 = V_0 \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_n = \mathbb{R}^n$.

$$\begin{aligned} B_n &= \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid A \text{ preserves } V_\bullet\} \\ &= \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid A \text{ is upper triangular}\} \end{aligned}$$

And we can define

$$\begin{aligned} N_n &= \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid A \text{ preserves } V_\bullet, A|_{V_{i+1}/V_i} = \text{id}\} \\ &= \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid A \text{ is upper triangular, and } A_{ii} = 1\} \end{aligned}$$

Example 9.20. Let V be a real vector space with dimension n . $Q \in (V^\vee)^{\otimes 2}$ is symmetric, positive definite.

$$\text{SO}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid Q(Av, Aw) = Q(v, w), v, w \in V\}$$

If we choose Q is skew-symmetric, non-degenerate and n is even, then

$$\text{Sp}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid Q(Av, Aw) = Q(v, w), v, w \in V\}$$

Example 9.21. $\mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{Z}^n = (S^1)^n$ is a Lie group.

Example 9.22. Any finite group is a Lie group of dimension 0, with respect to discrete topology.

⁴That is, $a \neq 0, d \neq 0$.

Remark 9.23. A closed subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ or $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ is often called a closed linear group or linear Lie group or matrix Lie group. Most examples are matrix Lie groups as they are defined by polynomial equations. An example of a subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ which is not closed is $\mathrm{GL}(n, \mathbb{Q})$. Another example is irrational line on the torus. Take $a \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, and consider

$$G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{ait} \end{pmatrix} \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

Then G is a subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{C})$, but not closed.

Our first reduction process allow us to consider only connected Lie groups, and it mainly rely on the following proposition.

Proposition 9.24. *Let G be a real or complex Lie group, use G^o to denote the connected component of the identity. Then G^o is a normal subgroups of G and is a Lie group itself. The quotient group G/G^o is discrete.*

Proof. Here we only prove G^o is a normal subgroup. For any $g \in G$, consider the map $x \mapsto gxg^{-1}$. It's a continous map, since the multiplication of Lie group is differentiable. Then gG^og^{-1} is still connected, thus $gG^og^{-1} \subset G^o$, since G^o is the connected component of identity. This proves G^o is a normal subgroup. \square

Definition 9.25. *Let M be a manifold, $p, q \in M$. A **path** from p to q in M is a continous map $\gamma : I = [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ such that $\gamma(0) = p, \gamma(1) = q$. Let $\mathcal{P}(p, q)$ to be the set of all such paths. A **loop** is an element of $\mathcal{P}(p, p)$.*

Definition 9.26. *Let $\gamma, \tilde{\gamma} \in \mathcal{P}(p, q)$, a **fixed-endpoint** homotopy from γ to $\tilde{\gamma}$ is a continous map $H : I \times I \rightarrow M$ such that*

$$\begin{aligned} H(t, 0) &= \gamma(t), & H(0, s) &= p \\ H(t, 1) &= \tilde{\gamma}(t), & H(1, s) &= q \end{aligned}$$

for all $t, s \in I$. If such a homotopy exists, γ and $\tilde{\gamma}$ are fixed-endpoint homotopic, written $\gamma \cong \tilde{\gamma}$.

Definition 9.27. *A loop γ is called **null homotopy**, if it is homotopic to the constant loop.*

Lemma 9.28. *Fixed-endpoint homotopy is an equivalence relation on $\mathcal{P}(p, q)$.*

Proof. Clear. \square

Definition 9.29. *Let $\gamma, \tilde{\gamma} \in \mathcal{P}(p, q), p, q \in M$, and define*

$$\gamma * \tilde{\gamma} = \begin{cases} \gamma(2t), & 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \tilde{\gamma}(2t - 1), & \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

*$\gamma * \tilde{\gamma}$ is called the **concatenation** of γ and $\tilde{\gamma}$. The **reverse path** γ^{-1} is defined by $\gamma^{-1}(t) := \gamma(1 - t)$.*

Proposition 9.30. *Let $p \in M$ and $\pi_1(M, p)$ is the homotopy classes of $\mathcal{P}(p, p)$. Then it is a group with respect to concatenation, called **fundamental group**.*

Proof. Standard conclusion in homotopy theory. \square

Proposition 9.31. *Let M be connected, then $\pi_1(M, p)$ are all isometric for all $p \in M$.*

Proof. For any two points p, q , consider $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(p, q)$ and the map

$$[\tilde{\gamma}] \rightarrow [\gamma * \tilde{\gamma} * \gamma^{-1}]$$

We can write $\pi_1(M)$ in this case. \square

Definition 9.32. *Let M be connected, if $\pi_1(M)$ is trivial, then M is called **simply connected**.*

Example 9.33. \mathbb{R}^n is simply connected, since any $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(0, 0)$ is homotopic to constant loop e_0 under $H(s, t) = s\gamma(t)$.

Example 9.34. S^1 is not simply connected, we will see later $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$.

Proposition 9.35. *Let M, N be connected manifolds. Then*

$$\pi_1(M \times N) \cong \pi_1(M) \times \pi_1(N)$$

Proposition 9.36. *Let $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ be a continuous map. Then there exists a group homomorphism*

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\#} : \pi_1(M, p) &\rightarrow \pi_1(N, \phi(p)) \\ [\gamma] &\mapsto [\phi \circ \gamma] \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 9.37. *Let M be a manifold, $p, q \in M, \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(p, q)$. Then there exists a piecewise smooth path $\tilde{\gamma} \in \mathcal{P}(p, q)$ homotopic to γ .*

Definition 9.38. *Let M, N be manifolds. A smooth, surjective map $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ is a **covering map**, if for all $p \in N$, there exists a neighborhood $U(p)$ such that $U(p)$ is **evenly covered**, i.e. π maps each connected components of $\pi^{-1}(U(p))$ diffeomorphically onto $U(p)$, such a component is called a **sheet**.*

Example 9.39. $\pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$, defined by $t \mapsto e^{it}$ is a covering map. But its restriction to any interval $[a, b]$ is not.

Example 9.40. A map from S^1 to S^1 defined by $z \mapsto z^n$ is a covering map for $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

Lemma 9.41. *Let $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ be a covering map, N is connected. Then $|\pi^{-1}(p)| \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ is constant for all $p \in M$. This number is called the **multiplicity** of π .*

Example 9.42. The multiplicity of map $z \mapsto z^n$ is n , and the multiplicity of $t \mapsto e^{it}$ is ∞ .

Definition 9.43. Let $\pi : M \rightarrow N, \phi : P \rightarrow N$ be smooth maps of manifolds. A **lift** of ϕ through π is a smooth map $\tilde{\phi} : P \rightarrow M$ such that $\pi \circ \tilde{\phi} = \phi$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\phi}} & M \\ & \searrow \phi & \downarrow \pi \\ & & N \end{array}$$

Lemma 9.44 (path lifting property). Let $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ be a covering map, $\gamma : I \rightarrow N$ be a smooth curve. Then there exists a lift $\tilde{\gamma} : I \rightarrow M$ of γ through π .

Corollary 9.45. Let $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ be a covering map, γ_1, γ_2 be fixed-endpoint homotopic paths in N . Then the lifts $\tilde{\gamma}_1, \tilde{\gamma}_2$ of γ_1, γ_2 through π such that $\tilde{\gamma}_1(0) = \tilde{\gamma}_2(0)$. Then $\tilde{\gamma}_1, \tilde{\gamma}_2$ are still fixed-endpoint homotopic. In particular, $\tilde{\gamma}_1(1) = \tilde{\gamma}_2(1)$. It follows that $\pi_{\#} : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(N)$ is injective.

Proposition 9.46. Let $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ be a covering map, $\phi : P \rightarrow N$ be a smooth map. Let $p_0 \in P, q_0 \in M$ such that $\pi(q_0) = \phi(p_0)$. Then

1. If P is connected, then there exists at most one lift $\tilde{\phi}$ of ϕ through π , such that $\tilde{\phi}(p_0) = q_0$.
2. If P is simply connected, such a lift exists.

Manifold properties attributed to a covering refer to the covering manifold M . For example, a simply connected covering $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ is one for which M is simply connected.

Theorem 9.47. Any connected manifold has a simply connected covering. Any two simply connected covering are diffeomorphic.

Definition 9.48. Let M be a connected manifold. Any simply connected covering is called **universal covering** of M , denoted by \tilde{M} .

Corollary 9.49. Let N be connected, H be a subgroup of $\pi_1(N)$. Then there is a connected covering $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ such that $\pi_{\#}(\pi_1(M)) = H$.

Corollary 9.50. Every covering $\pi : M \rightarrow N$ of a simply connected manifold is trivial.

Example 9.51. $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow S^1$ is the universal covering of S^1 .

Example 9.52. We will see later, $SU(2) \rightarrow SO(3)$ is a two to one covering. Furthermore, $SU(2)$ is simply connected, thus this covering is also a universal covering.

Theorem 9.53. Let G be a connected real or complex Lie group. Then its universal covering \tilde{G} has a unique structure of Lie group such that the covering map π is a morphism of Lie groups. In this case, $\ker \pi \cong \pi_1(G)$ as a group and $\ker \pi$ is discrete subgroup of $Z(\tilde{G})$.

This is reduction process two.

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