

Please submit answers to at least ten of the questions, if you submit more, the best ten will be counted.

Throughout these questions,  $G$  is a finite group. All representations are over a field algebraically closed of characteristic zero, which you may (and sometimes will need to) take to be  $\mathbb{C}$ .

1. Compute the character table of  $A_4$ , the alternating group on a four element set.
2. Prove that a group  $G$  is abelian if and only if all irreps are one dimensional.
3. For  $\lambda$  a linear character of  $G$ ,  $V$  is irreducible if and only if  $V \otimes \lambda$  is.
4. Show that  $V \otimes V^*$  is never irreducible if  $\dim_k(V) \geq 2$ .
5. Let  $G$  be a non-abelian group of order 8. Compute the character table of  $G$  without using the classification of nonabelian groups of order 8, showing that the character table does not determine the group. (Hint: Can  $G/Z(G)$  be cyclic?)
6. For  $N$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $G$  acts naturally on the category  $\text{Rep} N$ , by  $F_g(\rho)(n) = \rho(gng^{-1})$ , where we identify a representation with the map  $\rho : N \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V)$ . This descends to an action of  $G$  on the set of isomorphism classes of representations of  $N$ . Show that:
  - This action factors through  $G/N$ .
  - If  $V$  is an irrep of  $G$ , then the restriction of  $V$  to a representation of  $N$  decomposes into a single  $G/N$  orbit of  $N$  irreducibles, with equal multiplicity. That is:

$$\text{Res}_N^G \cong \left( \bigoplus_i V_i \right)^e$$

where the  $V_i$  are a single orbit under the action of  $G/N$ .

7. Compute the character table of  $D_n$ , the dihedral group of order  $2n$ . That is, describe its irreps and character values on those irreps. (Hint: Think geometrically about this group).
8. Explain how to answer the following questions about  $G$  from its character table:
  - What is the order of  $G$ ?
  - Is  $G$  abelian?
  - Is the centre of  $G$  trivial?
  - Is  $G$  simple?
  - Is  $G$  perfect?

9. Show that for a finite abelian group  $A$ , the group of linear characters,  $\hat{A}$  under  $\otimes$  is (noncanonically) isomorphic to  $A$ , but we have a canonical isomorphism  $A \cong \hat{\hat{A}}$ .
10. \* For a  $G$  set  $X$ , show that

$$V_X \cong \mathbf{1} \oplus U$$

with  $U$  irreducible iff  $G$  acts 2 transitively on  $X$ .

11. \* Compute the character table of the finite group  $Aff_1(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , the group of automorphisms of the affine line over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Explicitly, this is maps of the form  $x \mapsto ax + b$  for  $a \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{F}_q$ . (Hint: The irreps are either very small or very large.)
12. \* Show that if  $V$  is a faithful irrep of  $G$ , then every irrep can be found within  $V^{\otimes n}$  for some  $n$ .
13. \* Let  $A$  be an abelian subgroup of  $G$ . Show that  $\dim_k(V) \leq [G : A]$  for all irreps  $V$  of  $G$ . (Hint: Induction)
14. \*\* Let  $A$  be an abelian subgroup of  $G$ , and  $V$  an irrep of  $G$  with  $\dim_k(V) = [G : A]$ . Show that  $G$  contains a normal abelian subgroup. (Hint: Determine  $|\chi_V(g)|$  for  $g \in A$ , and  $g \notin A$ ).