
CHARACTER THEORY OF FINITE GROUPS — EXERCISE SHEET 2

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Throughout this exercise sheet K denotes a field of arbitrary characteristic, (G, \cdot) a finite group with neutral element 1_G , and V a finite-dimensional K -vector space.

EXERCISE 5 (Alternative proof of Maschke's Theorem over the field \mathbb{C} .)

Assume $K = \mathbb{C}$ and let $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V)$ be a \mathbb{C} -representation of G .

- (a) Prove that there exists a G -invariant scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, i.e. such that

$$\langle \rho(g)(u), \rho(g)(v) \rangle = \langle u, v \rangle \quad \forall g \in G, \forall u, v \in V.$$

[Hint: consider an arbitrary scalar product on V , say $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, which is not necessarily G -invariant. Use a sum on the elements of G weighted by the group order in order to produce a new G -invariant scalar product on V .]

- (b) Deduce that every G -invariant subspace W of V admits a G -invariant complement.

[Hint: consider the orthogonal complement of W .]

EXERCISE 6

Assume we are in the situation of Proposition 4.3. Namely, we are given a K -vector space $(V, +, \cdot)$ and we define an external multiplication on V by the elements of KG through a left action $G \times V \rightarrow V, (g, v) \mapsto g \cdot v$ of G on V which we extend by K -linearity to the whole of KG . Thus, we now have a KG -module $(V, +, \cdot)$, where the new external multiplication $\cdot : KG \rightarrow V$ extends the initial external multiplication on V by the elements of K .

Prove that checking the KG -module axioms (Appendix A, Definition A.1) for $(V, +, \cdot)$ is equivalent to checking the following axioms:

- (1) $(gh) \cdot v = g \cdot (h \cdot v)$,
- (2) $1_G \cdot v = v$,
- (4) $g \cdot (u + v) = g \cdot u + g \cdot v$,
- (3) $g \cdot (\lambda v) = \lambda(g \cdot v) = (\lambda g) \cdot v$,

for all $g, h \in G, \lambda \in K$ and $u, v \in V$.

EXERCISE 7 (Exercise to hand in / 8 points)

- (a) Check the details of the proof of Proposition 4.3.

[Hint: use Exercise 6.]

- (b) Use Proposition 4.3 to express the trivial representation in terms of KG -modules.

- (c) Use Proposition 4.3 to express the regular representation in terms of KG -modules.
Prove that the KG -module you have obtained is isomorphic to KG (the group algebra) seen as a left KG -module over itself.

(d) **Schur's Lemma for matrix representations.**

Let $n, n' \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $R : G \longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(K)$ and $R' : G \longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_{n'}(K)$ be two irreducible matrix representations. Prove that if there exists $A \in M_{n \times n'}(K) \setminus \{0\}$ such that $AR'(g) = R(g)A$ for every $g \in G$, then $n = n'$ and A is invertible (in particular $R \sim R'$).

EXERCISE 8

Prove the following assertions.

- (a) The regular \mathbb{C} -representation of any finite group is faithful.
- (b) Every finite simple group G admits a faithful irreducible \mathbb{C} -representation.
- (c) If $G = C_{n_1} \times \cdots \times C_{n_r}$ is a product of finite cyclic groups of order n_1, \dots, n_r ($r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$), then G admits a faithful \mathbb{C} -representation of degree r .