
CHARACTER THEORY OF FINITE GROUPS — EXERCISE SHEET 5

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Throughout this exercise sheet $K = \mathbb{C}$ is the field of complex numbers, (G, \cdot) is a finite group, and V a finite-dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space.

EXERCISE 15

Let G and H be two finite groups. Prove that:

- if $\lambda, \chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ and $\lambda(1) = 1$, then $\lambda \cdot \chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$;
- the set $\{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G) \mid \chi(1) = 1\}$ of linear characters of G forms a group for the product of characters;
- $\text{Irr}(G \times H) = \{\chi \cdot \psi \mid \chi \in \text{Irr}(G), \psi \in \text{Irr}(H)\}$.

[Hint: Use Corollary 9.8(d) and the degree formula.]

EXERCISE 16

- Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ and let $\rho : G/N \longrightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ be a \mathbb{C} -representation of G/N with character χ .
 - Prove that if ρ is irreducible, then so is $\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\rho)$.
 - Compute the kernel of $\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\rho)$ provided that ρ is faithful.
- Let $\rho : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ be a \mathbb{C} -representation of G with character χ . Prove that

$$\ker(\chi) = \ker(\rho),$$

thus is a normal subgroup of G .

- Prove that if $N \trianglelefteq G$, then

$$N = \bigcap_{\substack{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G) \\ N \subseteq \ker(\chi)}} \ker(\chi).$$

- Prove that G is simple if and only if $\chi(g) \neq \chi(1)$ for each $g \in G \setminus \{1\}$ and each $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G) \setminus \{\mathbf{1}_G\}$.

EXERCISE 17 (Exercise to hand in / 8 points)

- Compute the character tables of the dihedral group D_8 of order 8 and of the quaternion group Q_8 .

[Hint: In each case, determine the commutator subgroup and deduce that there are 4 linear characters.]

- If $\rho : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ is a \mathbb{C} -representation of G and $\det : \text{GL}(V) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ denotes the determinant homomorphism, then we define a linear character of G through

$$\det_\rho := \det \circ \rho : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^*,$$

called the **determinant** of ρ . Prove that, although the finite groups D_8 and Q_8 have the "same" character table, they can be distinguished by considering the determinants of their irreducible \mathbb{C} -representations.

EXERCISE 18 (This exercise can be handed in for bonus points / 4 points)

Compute the complex character table of the alternating group A_4 through the following steps:

1. Determine the conjugacy classes of A_4 (there are 4 of them) and the corresponding centraliser orders. [Justify your computations / arguments.]
2. Determine the degrees of the 4 irreducible characters of A_4 .
3. Determine the linear characters of A_4 .
4. Determine the non-linear character of A_4 using the 2nd Orthogonality Relations.