

# Honours Algebra IV

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In **Algebra III**, we studied groups, rings (& fields), and modules (& vector spaces). In this class, we consider *composite* theories, i.e. interactions between these objects.

This course will be split into two halves: a half on **representation theory** (groups  $\leftrightarrow$  vector spaces) and a half on **Galois theory** (fields  $\leftrightarrow$  groups). We start with representation theory.

# I Representation Theory

We can understand a group  $G$  by seeing how it acts on various objects (e.g. a set).

A *linear representation* of a finite group  $G$  is a vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  equipped with a group action DEF 1.1

$$G \times V \rightarrow V$$

that respects the vector space, i.e.  $m_g : V \rightarrow V$  with  $m_g(v) = gv$  being a linear transformation. We make the following assumptions unless otherwise stated:

1.  $G$  is finite.
2.  $V$  is finite dimensional.
3.  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed and of characteristic 0 (e.g.  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ ).

Since  $V$  is a  $G$ -set,  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$  which sends  $g \mapsto m_g$  is a homomorphism. Relatedly, if  $\dim(V) < \infty$ , then  $\rho : G \mapsto \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V) = \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$ .

The *group ring*  $\mathbb{F}[G]$  is a (typically) non-commutative ring consisting of all finite linear combinations  $\{\sum_{g \in G} \lambda_g g : \lambda_g \in \mathbb{F}\}$ . It's endowed with the multiplication rule DEF 1.2

$$\left( \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g \right) \left( \sum_{h \in G} \beta_h h \right) = \sum_{g, h \in G \times G} \alpha_g \beta_h (gh)$$

where, in particular,  $(\sum \lambda_g g)v = \sum \lambda_g (gv)$ . Then, instead of viewing a representation  $V$  as a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  with the additional group action  $G \times V \rightarrow V$ , we can simply view it as a module over the group ring  $\mathbb{F}[G]$ .

A representation  $V$  of  $G$  is *irreducible* if there is no  $G$ -stable, non-trivial subspace  $W \subsetneq V$ . This definition is somewhat analogous to transitive  $G$ -sets. Note, however, that  $V$  can never be a transitive  $G$ -set, since  $g0 = 0 \forall g$  is an orbit. DEF 1.3

By  $G$ -stable, we mean  $gw \in W \forall w \in W, g \in G$

**Eg. 1.1.1** Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_2 = \{1, \tau\} : \tau^2 = 1$ . If  $V$  is a representation of  $G$ , then  $V$  is determined by  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$ , i.e.  $\rho(\tau) \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$ . What are the eigenvalues of  $\rho(\tau)$ ? It's minimal polynomial must divide  $x^2 - 1 = (x - 1)(x + 1)$ .

Supposing  $2 \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{F}$ , we have

$$V = V_+ \oplus V_- \quad V_+ = \{v \in V : \tau v = v\}, V_- = \{v \in V : \tau v = -v\}$$

$V$  is then irreducible  $\iff (\dim(V_+), \dim(V_-)) = (1, 0)$  or  $(0, 1)$ , as otherwise we could take either  $V_+$  or  $V_-$  as nontrivial  $G$ -stable subspaces.

**Eg. 1.1.2** Let  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_N\}$  be a finite abelian group. Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be algebraically closed with characteristic 0 (e.g.  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ ). If  $V$  is a representation of  $G$ , then  $T_1, \dots, T_N$  with  $T_i = \rho(g_i) \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$  commute with each other.

By complex, we mean (a vector space over) an algebraically closed field with characteristic 0.

### 1.1 Finite Abelian Representation

If  $G$  is a finite abelian group, and  $V$  is irreducible representation of  $G$  over a complex field, then  $\dim(V) = 1$ .

PROOF.

$G = \{g_1, \dots, g_N\}$ . Then consider  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V)$ , and let  $T_j : V \rightarrow V = \rho(g_j)$ . Then,  $T_j$  and  $T_i$  pairwise commute (since  $G$  is abelian).  $T_1, \dots, T_N$  have a simultaneous eigenvector  $v$  by [Prop 1.1](#). Hence,  $\text{span}(\{v\})$  is a  $G$ -stable subspace. Since  $V$  is irreducible, we conclude  $V = \text{span}(\{v\})$ .  $\square$

**PROP 1.1** If  $T_1, \dots, T_N$  is a collection of linear transformations on a complex vector space, then they have a simultaneous eigenvector, i.e.  $\exists v : T_j v = \lambda_j v \forall j$ .

PROOF.

By induction. Consider  $T_1$ . Since  $\mathbb{F}$  is complex, its minimal polynomial has a root  $\lambda$ , which is precisely an eigenvalue. Hence, an eigenvector exists.

$n \rightarrow n + 1$ . Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue for  $T_{N+1}$ . Consider  $V_\lambda := \text{Eig}_{T_{N+1}}(\lambda)$ , the eigenvectors for  $\lambda$ . We claim that  $T_j$  maps  $V_\lambda \rightarrow V_\lambda$ , i.e.  $V_\lambda$  is  $T_j$ -stable. For this, we have  $T_{N+1} T_j v = T_j T_{N+1} v = \lambda T_j v$ , so  $T_j v \in V_\lambda$ .

By induction hypothesis, there is a simultaneous eigenvector  $v$  in  $V_\lambda$  for  $T_1, \dots, T_N$ . (Thinking of  $T_j$  as a linear transformation  $V_\lambda \rightarrow V_\lambda$  via its restriction).  $\square$

**Eg. 1.2.1** Let  $G = S_3$  and  $\mathbb{F}$  be arbitrary with  $2 \neq 0$ . Then consider  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$ , an irreducible representation. What is  $T = \rho((23))$ ?  $T^2 = I$ , so  $T$  is diagonalizable with eigenvalues in  $\{1, -1\}$ .

*Case 1:*  $-1$  is the only eigenvalue of  $T$ . Then  $(23)$  acts as  $-I$ . Since  $(23)$  and  $(12), (13)$  are conjugate,  $(12), (13)$  act as  $-I$  as well (since  $-I, I$  commute with everything). What about  $\rho(123)$ ? This is  $\rho((13)(12)) = \rho(13)\rho(12) = (-I)^2 = I$ . Hence, all order 3 elements act as  $I$ . We conclude that  $\rho(g) = \text{sgn}(g)$  (i.e. 0 for even, 1 for odd permutations).

*Case 2:*  $1$  and  $-1$  are eigenvalues of  $T$ . Consider the action of  $S_3$  on 3

elements  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ , where  $\sigma e_i = e_{\sigma(i)}$ . This provides a natural representation homomorphism for  $V = \text{span}(e_1, e_2, e_3)$ .

$\hookrightarrow$  Case 2a:  $w = e_1 + e_2 + e_3$  is fixed under the action of  $S_3$ , so  $W = \text{span}(w) \subset V$  is a  $G$ -stable subspace. If  $W = V$ , then  $\rho(\sigma) = \text{Id}$ .

$\hookrightarrow$  Case 2b: We may split  $V = W \oplus W^\perp$ , i.e.  $W$  and  $\{v : v \cdot w = 0\}$ , i.e.  $\{\alpha_1 e_1 + \alpha_2 e_2 + \alpha_3 e_3 : \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 = 0, \alpha_i \in \mathbb{F}\} = \text{span}(e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3)$ . Then  $W^\perp$  is  $G$ -stable, and provides a 2-dim representation

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

There are essentially 3 distinct, irreducible representations of  $S_3$ :

1.  $\text{sgn} : S_3 \rightarrow \{1, -2\}$
2.  $\text{Id}$
3. A 2-dim representation

If  $V_1, V_2$  are two representations of a group  $G$ , a  $G$ -homomorphism from  $V_1$  to  $V_2$  is a linear map  $\phi : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  which is compatible with the action on  $G$ , i.e.  $\phi(gv) = g\phi(v) \forall g \in G, v \in V_1$ . DEF 1.4

If a  $G$ -homomorphism  $\phi : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  is a vector space isomorphism, then we say two  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are *isomorphic* as representations. DEF 1.5

**Eg. 1.3.1** Consider  $G = D_8$ , the symmetries of a square. We may label this group  $G = \{1, r, r^2, r^3, V, H, D_1, D_2\}$ . We want to think up some representation  $\rho : D_8 \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$ , where  $2 \neq 0$  by assumption.

Consider  $r^2$ . It commutes with everything. Then  $T = \rho(r^2) \in \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V)$  is an order 2 element, so  $T^2 = I$ . Since  $2 \neq 0$ ,  $V = V_+ \oplus V_-$ , where  $V_+ = \{v : Tv = v\}$  and  $V_- = \{v : Tv = -v\}$ .

We claim that  $V_+$  and  $V_-$  are both preserved by any  $g \in D_8$ . Take  $v \in V_+$ . Then  $Tgv = r^2gv = gr^2v = gTv = gv$ . The result follows similarly for  $v \in V_-$ . Hence, if  $V$  is an irreducible representation, then either  $V = V_+$  or  $V = V_-$ , i.e.  $\rho(r^2) = I$  or  $-I$ .

Case 1:  $\rho(r^2) = I$ , so  $\rho$  is not injective, and  $\ker(\rho) \supseteq \text{span}(1, r^2)$ . Then

$D_8/\ker(\rho) \hookrightarrow K_4$ . We can write the following, then:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D_8 & \xrightarrow{\rho} & \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}}(V) \\ & \searrow \pi & \nearrow \phi \\ & K_4 & \end{array}$$

Since  $2\mathbb{Z} \times 2\mathbb{Z} = K_4$  is abelian, we have 4 1-dim irreducible representations  $\phi$  into  $\text{Aut}(V)$ . (Why 4? Later we'll learn that the number of conjugacy classes coincide with the number of irreducible representations). Hence, we compose with  $\pi$  to yield these for  $D_8$ .

*Case 2:*  $\rho(r^2) = -I$ . We claim that  $\rho(H)$  has both eigenvalues  $-1$  and  $1$ . If  $\rho(H) = I$ , then  $\rho(V) = \rho(r^2H) = -I$ . But we also have  $V = rHr^{-1}$ , so  $\rho(rHr^{-1}) = \rho(r)\rho(H)\rho(r^{-1}) = I \implies \perp$ . We draw a similar contradiction by taking  $\rho(H) = -I$ . Hence,  $H$  has both eigenvalues, so  $\dim(V) \geq 2$ .

Let  $v_1, v_2 \in V$  be such that  $Hv_1 = v_1$  and  $v_2 = rv_1$ . We claim that  $\text{span}(v_1, v_2)$  is preserved by  $D_8$ , and hence  $\text{span}(v_1, v_2) = V$ .

Consider  $r \in D_8$ . We know  $rv_1 = v_2$  and  $rv_2 = r^2v_1 = -v_1$ , so  $\{1, r, r^2, r^3\}$  preserve  $\text{span}(v_1, v_2)$ .

Consider  $H \in D_8$ .  $Hv_1 = v_1$  by construction. Also,  $Hv_2 = Hr v_1 = r^{-1}Hv_1 = r^{-1}v_1 = r^3v_1 = r^2v_2 = -v_2$ . Hence,  $H$  composed with  $\{1, r, r^2, r^3\}$ , i.e. the whole group  $D_8$  preserve  $\text{span}(v_1, v_2)$ , as desired.

$$H \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad r \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{the rest follow by composition})$$

Some questions to consider:

1. Can we describe *all* irreducible representations of  $G$  up to isomorphism?
2. How is a general representation of  $G$  made up of irreducible representations?

**PROP 1.2** If  $V_1, V_2$  are representations of  $G$ , then  $V_1 \oplus V_2$  is also a representation of  $G$ , with  $g(v_1, v_2) = (gv_1, gv_2)$ . It has dimension  $\dim(V_1) + \dim(V_2)$ .

### 1.2 Maschke's Theorem

Any representation of a finite group  $G$  over a complex field can be expressed as a direct sum of irreducible representations.

Let  $V$  be a representation of  $G$ . Let  $W$  be a proper sub-representation of  $G$  in  $V$ . Let  $W'$  be the  $G$ -stable complementary subspace such that  $V = W \oplus W'$ , as in [Thm 1.3](#). Then  $\dim(W), \dim(W') < n$ . We proceed by induction, relying on this lessening of dimension.  $\square$

PROOF.

**Remark 1:** this is analogous to "every  $G$ -set is a disjoint union of transitive  $G$ -sets." However, this is a trivial result, but Maschke's is not.

**Remark 2:** generally, to prove counterexamples to Maschke's when its conditions are loosened, we find an irreducible sub-representation  $W$  of some fixed representation  $V$ , and show that any other  $G$ -stable subspace necessarily contains  $W$  (hence, no decomposition exists).

**Remark 3:** the assumption  $|G| < \infty$  is essential. As a counterexample, take  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  and  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{C}) = \rho(n) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & n \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , i.e.  $ne_1 = e_1$  and  $ne_2 = ne_1 + e_2$ . Note that the line  $\text{span}(e_1)$  is a  $G$ -stable subspace, i.e. an irreducible sub-representation of  $V$ . Are there any other invariant lines? Take  $ae_1 + be_2$ . WLOG assume  $b = 1$ . Consider  $W = G(ae_1 + e_2)$ . Then  $1 \cdot (ae_1 + e_2) = (1 + a)e_1 + e_2 \in W$ , so  $e_1 \in W \nmid$ .

**Remark 4:**  $\mathbb{C}$  is necessary. Let  $F = \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $G = S_3$ . Then let  $V$  be the 3-dim representation given by the natural action of  $S_3$  on  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  over  $F$ . Then  $\text{span}(e_1 + e_2 + e_3)$  is a 1-dim irreducible sub-representation. Let  $W$  be any  $G$ -stable subspace of  $V$ . Then  $\exists a, b, c$ , not all equal, with  $ae_1 + be_2 + ce_3 \in W$ . Multiplying by  $(123)$ ,  $ce_1 + ae_2 + be_3 \in W$ , and once more by  $(132)$  yields  $be_1 + ce_2 + ae_3 \in W$ . Hence,  $(a + b + c)(e_1 + e_2 + e_3) \in W$ , so  $\text{span}(e_1 + e_2 + e_3) \subseteq W$ . (Let  $\gamma = a + b + c$ . Since 3 is prime,  $\exists k : k\gamma = 1$  in  $F$ ).

### 1.3 Semi-Simplicity of Representations

Let  $V$  be a representation of a finite group  $G$  above a complex field. Let  $W \subseteq V$  be a sub-representation. Then  $W$  has a  $G$ -stable complement  $W'$  such that  $V = W \oplus W'$ .

Consider the standard projection  $\pi_0 : V \rightarrow W$  with  $\pi_0^2 = \pi_0$ ,  $\text{Im}(\pi_0) = W$ . Let  $\ker(\pi) = W'_0$ . Then we can write  $V = W \oplus W'_0$ . However, we have no guarantee that  $W'_0$  is  $G$ -stable. We alter  $\pi$  by replacing it with

PROOF.

$$\pi = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ \pi_0 \circ \rho(g)^{-1}$$

Some properties of  $\pi$ :

1.  $\pi \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$ .

2.  $\pi$  is a projection onto  $W$ . See that

$$\pi^2 = \left( \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} g \pi_0 g^{-1} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{h \in G} h \pi_0 h^{-1} \right) = \frac{1}{\#G^2} \sum_{g, h \in G} g \pi_0 g^{-1} h \pi_0 h^{-1}$$

where, by writing  $g$  (or  $h$ ), we mean its linear representation in  $V$ . Note that  $\pi_0 h^{-1}$  sends any  $v \in V$  to a vector in  $W$ . Since  $W$  is  $G$ -invariant,  $g^{-1} h \pi_0 h^{-1}$  also sends  $v$  to  $W$ . But now the next  $\pi_0$  acts as the identity (since we're already in  $W$ ). Hence, the above summand reduces to  $h \pi_0 h^{-1}$ , and we may write

$$\pi^2 = \frac{1}{\#G^2} \sum_{g, h \in G} h \pi_0 h^{-1} = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{h \in G} h \pi_0 h^{-1} = \pi$$

3.  $\text{Im}(\pi) = W$ .  $\text{Im}(\pi) \subseteq W$ . But let  $w \in W$ . Then  $\pi(w) = w$  (check it).

4.  $\pi(hv) = h\pi(v) \forall h \in G$ . See that

$$\pi(hv) = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} g \pi g^{-1} hv = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} g \pi (h^{-1}g)^{-1} v$$

Now, let  $\tilde{g} = h^{-1}g$ . Then  $g = h\tilde{g}$ , and we write

$$= \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{\tilde{g} \in G} h \tilde{g} \pi \tilde{g} v = h \pi(v)$$

We can now take  $W' = \ker(\pi)$  and write  $V = W \oplus W'$ . We have that  $W'$  is  $G$ -stable, now, since  $w \in W' \implies \pi(gw) = g\pi(w) = g0 = 0 \implies gw \in W'$ .  $\square$

We'll now give a second proof of [Thm 1.2](#). Consider

DEF 1.6 A Hermitian inner product of  $V$  is a Hermitian, bilinear mapping

$$V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

satisfying  $\langle v_1 + v_2, w \rangle = \langle v_1, w \rangle + \langle v_2, w \rangle$  and  $\langle \lambda v, w \rangle = \lambda \langle v, w \rangle$ . On the second coordinate, we have  $\langle v, w_1 + w_2 \rangle = \langle v, w_1 \rangle + \langle v, w_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle v, \lambda w \rangle = \overline{\lambda} \langle v, w \rangle$ . The skew linearity in the second argument allows us to conclude  $\langle v, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  and  $\langle v, v \rangle = 0 \iff v = 0$ .

One can think of  $\langle v, v \rangle$  as the "length" of  $v$ .

#### 1.4 Special Hermitian Pairing

If  $V$  is a complex representation of a finite group  $G$ , then there is a Hermitian inner product on  $V$  such that

$$\langle gv, gw \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle \quad \forall g \in G \quad \text{and} \quad v, w \in V$$



Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$  be an arbitrary Hermitian inner product on  $V$ . To do so, choose a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  be a complex basis for  $V$ , and define

$$\langle e_i, e_j \rangle_0 = 0 \text{ if } i \neq j, 1 \text{ o.w.}$$

Then  $\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha e_i, \sum_{i=1}^n \beta e_i \rangle = \alpha_1 \overline{\beta_1} + \dots + \alpha_n \overline{\beta_n} \in \mathbb{C}$ . Similar to the proof for [Thm 1.3](#), we will take an average. Consider another inner product

$$\langle v, w \rangle = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \langle gv, gw \rangle_0$$

This has some nice properties. In particular,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is Hermitian linear, positive definite, and  $G$ -equivalent.

We'll verify positiveness:

$$\langle v, v \rangle = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \underbrace{\langle gv, gv \rangle_0}_{\geq 0} \geq 0$$

Suppose  $\langle v, v \rangle = 0$ . Then  $\sum_{g \in G} \langle gv, gv \rangle_0 = 0$ , so  $\langle gv, gv \rangle_0 = 0 \ \forall g \in G$ . In particular, for  $g = 1$ ,  $\langle v, v \rangle_0 = 0 \iff v = 0$ .

And to verify  $G$ -equivariant, we have  $\langle hv, hw \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle$ . □

PROOF.

We provide a new angle to proving [Thm 1.2](#). If  $W$  is a sub-representation, let  $W^\perp = \{v \in V : \langle v, w \rangle = 0\}$  over the Hermitian inner product outlined in [Thm 1.4](#).

Then we may write  $V = W \oplus W^\perp$ . The  $G$ -stability of  $W^\perp$  follows from equivariance of the inner product. Let  $w \in W, v \in W^\perp \implies \langle gv, w \rangle = \langle v, g^{-1}w \rangle = 0 \implies gv \in W^\perp$ .

PROOF OF 1.2

This "semi-simple" structure of representations is a rare sight: abelian groups, and especially groups generally, are not necessarily made of irreducible components.

We narrow our previous 2 questions with 2 more:

1. Given  $G$ , produce the complete list of its irreducible representations (up to isomorphism).
2. Given a general, finite dimensional representation  $V$  of  $G$ , generate

$$V = V_1^{m_1} \oplus V_2^{m_2} \oplus \dots \oplus V_t^{m_t} \quad V_i \text{ irreducible}$$

If  $V$  and  $W$  are two  $G$ -representations, we may investigate  $\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \{T : T \rightarrow W : T \text{ linear s.t. } T(gv) = gT(v)\}$ . Note that  $\text{Hom}_G(V, W)$  is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space.

### 1.5 Schur's Lemma

Let  $V, W$  be irreducible representations of  $G$ . Then

$$\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \begin{cases} 0 & V \not\cong W \\ \mathbb{C} & V \cong W \end{cases}$$

where  $\text{Hom}_G(V, W)$  is the space of  $G$ -equivariant linear transformations.

PROOF.

Suppose that  $V \not\cong W$ , and let  $T \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$ .  $\ker(T) \subseteq V$  is a sub-representation of  $G$ , since  $v \in \ker(T) \implies T(gv) = gT(v) = 0$ . Hence, since  $V$  is irreducible,  $\ker(T)$  may be trivial or  $V$  itself. If it were trivial, then  $\text{Im}(T) \cong V$ . But  $\text{Im}(T) \subseteq W$ , so by irreducibility of  $W$  we yield a contradiction. Hence,  $\ker(T) = V$ , so  $T = 0$ .

Suppose that  $V \cong W$ . Let  $T \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \text{End}_G(V)$ . Since  $\mathbb{C}$  is algebraically closed,  $T$  has an eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Then  $T - \lambda I \in \text{End}_G(V)$ .  $\ker(T - \lambda I)$  is a non-trivial sub-representation of  $V$ , and hence  $\ker(T - \lambda I) = V \implies T = \lambda I$ .  $\square$

PROP 1.3 Let  $V$  decompose as

$$V = V_1^{m_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus V_t^{m_t}$$

As a corollary, we see that  $m_j = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V)$ .

PROOF.

Unwrap  $V_i^{m_i}$  into  $m_i$  copies of  $V_i$ , and label  $1, \dots, s$ . Note that  $\text{Hom}_G(A, B \oplus C) = \text{Hom}_G(A, B) \oplus \text{Hom}_G(A, C)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V) &= \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_s) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \text{Hom}(V_j, V_i) : V_i \cong V_j \ \forall i \in I \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{C} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}}_{|I|=m_j \text{ times}} \implies \dim \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V) = m_j \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

DEF 1.7 For an endomorphism  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , the *trace*,  $\text{tr}(T)$ , is defined as  $\text{tr}([T]_{\beta})$ , where  $\beta$  is some basis. This is well-defined, since basis representations  $[T]_{\alpha}, [T]_{\beta}$  are conjugate, and trace is a conjugate-invariant function.

PROP 1.4 Let  $W \subseteq V$  be a subspace and  $\pi$  be a function  $V \rightarrow W$  such that  $\pi^2 = \pi$  and  $\text{Im}(\pi) = W$ . Then  $\text{tr}(\pi) = \dim(W)$ .

PROOF.

Let  $v_1, \dots, v_d$  be a basis for  $W$  and  $v_{d+1}, \dots, v_n$  be a basis for  $\ker(\pi)$ . Then, since we can write  $V = W \oplus \ker(\pi)$  (recall projection properties),  $\beta = v_1, \dots, v_n$  is a basis

for  $V$ . In this basis,  $\pi(v_i) = v_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Hence

$$[\pi]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix}} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

As for the rest of the matrix,  $\pi(v_i)$  for  $i > d$  will be mapped to a linear combination of basis vectors  $v_i : i \leq d$ , so, in particular, they will not have diagonal 1 entries. Since  $d = \dim(W)$ , we conclude  $\text{tr}(\pi) = \dim(W)$ .  $\square$

Define  $V^G = \{v \in V : gv = v \forall g \in G\}$  to be the members of  $V$  fixed by  $G$ .

DEF 1.8

Remark that  $V^G = \cap_{g \in G} (1\text{-eigenspaces for } \rho(g))$

### 1.6 Burnside

If  $V$  is a complex representation of a finite  $G$ , then

$$\dim(V^G) = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \text{tr}(\rho(g))$$

By [Prop 1.4](#), for a projection  $\pi : V \rightarrow W$  (i.e.  $\text{Im}(\pi) = W, \pi^2 = \pi$ ), we have  $\text{tr}(\pi) = \dim(W)$ . Consider

PROOF.

$$\pi := \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$$

Note that  $\text{Im}(\pi) \subseteq V^G$ . Let  $h \in G$  and  $v \in V$ . Then

$$h\pi(v) = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} hgv = \pi(v)$$

Conversely, if  $v \in V^G$ , then  $\pi(v) = v$ . Hence,  $V^G = \text{Im}(\pi)$  exactly. This also shows that  $\pi^2(v) = \pi(v)$ . We conclude that  $\pi$  projects  $V \rightarrow V^G$ .

$$\dim(V^G) = \text{tr}(\pi) = \text{tr}\left(\frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g)\right) = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \text{tr}(\rho(g))$$

$\square$

[Thm 1.6](#)  $\implies$  Burnside's Lemma.

PROP 1.5

PROOF.

Consider later. □

## CHARACTERS

DEF 1.9 If  $V$  is a finite dimensional, complex representation of  $G$ , then the *character* of  $V$  is the function  $\chi_V : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $\chi_V(g) = \text{tr}(\rho(g))$ .

PROP 1.6  $\chi_V$  is constant on conjugacy classes, i.e.  $\chi_V(hgh^{-1}) = \chi_V(g)$ .

PROOF.

$$\text{tr}(\rho(hgh^{-1})) = \text{tr}(\rho(h)\rho(g)\rho(h)^{-1}) = \text{tr}(\rho(g))$$
□

**Fig. 1.4.1** Let  $G = S_3$ . We discovered 3 distinct representations of  $S_3$ : the trivial action; the sgn function  $\rho(g) = \text{sgn}(g)$ ; and the two-dimensional representation given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Id} &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & (12) &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & (13) &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & (23) &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ & & (123) &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} & (132) &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Denote these representations by "triv," "sgn," and 2, respectively. The conjugacy classes and associated traces are given by

	1	(12)	(123)
$\chi_{\text{triv}}$	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}}$	1	-1	1
$\chi_2$	2	0	-1

**Fig. 1.4.2** Recall  $G = D_8 = \{1, r, r^2, r^3, V, H, D_1, D_2\}$ . We have 4 1-dim irreducible representations given by  $D_8 / \langle 1, r_2 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ , including the trivial one. Denote these by  $\chi_{\text{triv}}, \dots, \chi_4$ . We also have the unique 2-dim irrep,  $2D$ , given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Id} &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & r &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & r^2 &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} & r^3 &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ V &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & H &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} & D_1 &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & D_2 &\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

	1	$\{r^2\}$	$\{r, r^3\}$	$\{V, H\}$	$\{D_1, D_2\}$
$\chi_{\text{triv}}$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	1	1	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_4$	1	1	-1	-1	1
$\chi_{2D}$	2	-2	0	0	0

From these two examples, it seems that the number of irreducible representations coincides with the number of conjugacy classes  $h(G)$  of  $G$  (also called the *class number* of  $G$ ). It *also* seems that the sum of squares of the rows, weighted by class size, is the cardinality of the group. Even more! The row look orthogonal. To that end, we conjecture:

$$\frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_i(g) \chi_j(g) = \delta_{ij}$$

**Fig. 1.4.3** The Monster Group,  $\#G \approx 8 \cdot 10^{53}$ , has a smallest non-trivial representation of dimension  $d = 196,883$ .  $\rho_V$  then is given as a collection of  $8 \cdot 10^{53} 196,883 \times 196,883$  matrices. This is too much information to ever contain in a computer. However,  $G$  has only 194 conjugacy classes, and so  $\chi_V$ , with 194 complex numbers, defines  $V$ .

$$\chi_V(\text{triv}) = \dim(V)$$

**PROP 1.7**

Given representations  $V$  and  $W$ ,  $\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \text{Hom}(V, W)^G$ , where we view  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$  as a representation with the action  $gT = g \circ T \circ g^{-1}$ .

**PROP 1.8**

Let  $T \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$ . Then  $gT(v) = gTg^{-1} = gT(g^{-1}v) = T(gg^{-1}v) = T(v)$ , so  $T \in \text{Hom}(V, W)^G$ .

**PROOF.**

Conversely, let  $T \in \text{Hom}(V, W)^G$ . Then  $g^{-1}T(v) = g^{-1}T(g(v)) = T(v) \implies T(g(v)) = gT(v)$ , so  $T \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$ .  $\square$

Given two  $G$ -representations  $V, W$ , then  $V \oplus W$  is a representation with  $g(v, w) = (gv, gw)$ . Then

**PROP 1.9**

$$\chi_{V \oplus W} = \chi_V + \chi_W$$

Linear representations of finite groups are diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**PROP 1.10**

Fix  $g \in G$ . To be diagonalizable,  $\rho(g)$ 's minimal polynomial must split into distinct factors in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Since  $G$  is finite,  $g^{|G|} = 1$ , so  $\rho(g)^{|G|} = 1$ , so in particular  $T = \rho(g)$  satisfies  $x^{|G|} - 1$ . We conclude  $p_T | x^{|G|} - 1$ . But, in  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $x^{|G|} - 1$  splits into distinct factors, so  $p_T$  must as well.  $\square$

**PROOF.**

### 1.7 Character of $\text{Hom}(V, W)$

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

PROOF.

Let  $g \in G$ . Let  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  be a basis of eigenvectors for  $\rho_V(g)$ , with  $m = \dim(V)$ , and  $ge_i = \alpha_i e_i$ . Similarly, let  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  be a basis of eigenvectors for  $\rho_W(g)$ , with  $gf_j = \beta_j f_j$ . Then  $\chi_V(g) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i$  and  $\chi_W(g) = \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j$ .

Let  $T_{ij} \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , be the following

$$T_{ij}(e_k) = \begin{cases} 0 & k \neq i \\ f_j & k = i \end{cases}$$

We claim that  $T_{ij}$  is a basis for  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (gT_{ij})(e_k) &= gT(g^{-1}e_k) = gT(\lambda_k^{-1}e_k) = \lambda_k^{-1}gT_{ij}e_k \\ &= \lambda_k^{-1} \begin{cases} 0 & j \neq i \\ \lambda_k^{-1}\beta_j f_j & j = i \end{cases} \implies gT_{ij} = \lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j T_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $gT_{ij} = \alpha_i^{-1}\beta_j T_{ij}$ . We have that  $\rho_{\text{Hom}(V, W)}(g)$  is a  $mn \times mn$  matrix with entries  $\{\alpha_i^{-1}\beta_j\}_{j \in [m], j \in [n]}$ , so

$$\chi_{\text{Hom}(V, W)}(g) = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq m \\ 1 \leq j \leq n}} \alpha_i^{-1}\beta_j = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i^{-1} \right) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j \right) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \overline{\alpha_i} \right) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j \right)$$

since  $\alpha_i$  are roots of unity. But this is  $\overline{\chi_V(g)}\chi_W(g)$  □

### Orthogonality of Irreducible Group Characters

Let  $V_1, \dots, V_t$  be a complete list of distinct, irreducible representations of  $G$ . Call  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  the associated characters.

DEF 1.10  $\chi_j \in L^2(G)$ , the space of square integrable functions on  $G$ . Given  $f_1, f_2 \in L^2(G)$ , let  $\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{f_1(g)} f_2(g)$ . This is indeed an inner product.

### 1.8 Orthogonality of Characters

Let  $\chi_i, \chi_j$  be irreducible characters of  $G$ . Then

$$\langle \chi_i, \chi_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_i, \chi_j \rangle &= \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_i(g)} \chi_j(g) \\
&= \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\text{Hom}(V_i, V_j)}(g) && \text{by Thm 1.7} \\
&= \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\text{Hom}(V_i, V_j)^G) && \text{by Thm 1.6} \\
&= \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\text{Hom}_G(V_i, V_j)) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & i = j \\ 0 & o.w. \end{cases} && \text{by Thm 1.5} \\
&= \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & o.w. \end{cases} \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

PROOF.

$\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t$  is an orthonormal system of vectors in  $L^2(G)$ .

PROP 1.11

Follows immediately from [Thm 1.8](#). □

PROOF.

$\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t$  are linearly independent, and  $t \leq \#G$ .

PROP 1.12

Orthonormal systems are linearly independent.  $L^2(G) \cong \mathbb{C}^{\#G}$ , so  $t \leq \dim(L^2(G)) = \dim(\mathbb{C}^{\#G}) = \#G$ . □

PROOF.

$t \leq h(G)$ , the number of conjugacy classes of  $G$ .

PROP 1.13

$L^2_{\text{class}}(G) \subseteq L^2(G)$ , where  $L^2_{\text{class}}(G) = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : f(hgh^{-1}) = f(g)\}$ . The dimension of this space is  $h(G)$ . □

PROOF.

**Eg. 1.5.1**  $G = S_3$  (see [Example 1.2](#)), we had  $t = 3$ , with the dimensions of the first and second representations  $d_1 = d_2 = 1$ , and  $d_3 = 2$ .  $h(G) = 3$  is hence a tight bound.

**Eg. 1.5.2**  $G = D_8$  (see [Example 1.3](#)), we had  $t = 5$  with  $d_1 = \dots = d_4 = 1$  and  $d_5 = 2$ . Once again  $t = h(G)$ .

## 1.9 Character Characterizes Representations

If  $V$  and  $W$  are two complex representations of  $G$ , then  $V$  is isomorphic to  $W$  as a representation  $\iff \chi_V = \chi_W$ .

If  $V \cong W$ , then let  $\phi : V \rightarrow W$  be a  $G$ -equivariant isomorphism.  $\rho_{V_g}(v) = \phi^{-1} \rho_{W_g} \phi(v)$ . But trace is conjugate-invariant, so  $\chi_V(g) = \chi_W(g)$ .

Conversely, assume  $\chi_V = \chi_W$ , and write  $V = Z_1^{m_1} \oplus \dots \oplus Z_t^{m_t}$ ,  $W = Z_1^{n_1} \oplus \dots \oplus Z_t^{n_t}$ . Some  $m_i, n_i = 0$ , as needed. (In particular, let  $Z_i$  encompass all irreducible representations between  $V$  and  $W$ , shared or otherwise).

$$\chi_V = m_1 \chi_1 + \dots + m_t \chi_t \quad \chi_W = n_1 \chi_1 + \dots + n_t \chi_t$$

Observe then that  $\langle \chi_V, \chi_j \rangle = m_j$  and  $\langle \chi_W, \chi_j \rangle = n_j$ . But  $\chi_V = \chi_W$ , so  $m_i = n_i$ , and we are done.  $\square$

PROOF.

### Regular Representations of $G$

In [Prop 1.13](#), we argued that, for characters  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t$ ,  $t \leq h(G)$ , the class number of  $G$ , by seeing that  $\{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t\} \subseteq L_{\text{class}}^2(G)$ . We will prove a converse to this.

**DEF 1.11** Consider  $\mathbb{C}[G] = \{\sum_{g \in G} \lambda_g g : \lambda_g \in \mathbb{C}\}$ . Then  $G \curvearrowright \mathbb{C}[G]$  by left multiplication. We call  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  the *regular representation*, and denote  $V_{\text{reg}} = \mathbb{C}[G]$ .

**PROP 1.14**

$$\chi_{V_{\text{reg}}}(g) = \#\{h \in G : gh = h\} = \begin{cases} \#G & g = 1 \\ 0 & o.w. \end{cases}$$

**PROOF.**

Consider  $\rho(g)$ .  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  has a basis  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\} = \#G$ . Hence,  $\text{tr}(\rho(g)) = \#\{h \in G : gh = h\}$ . If  $g = 1$ , this is clearly all of  $G$ . Otherwise, we cannot have  $gh = h$  (or else  $g = 1$ ).  $\square$

**PROP 1.15** Every irreducible representation of  $G$  occurs in  $V_{\text{reg}}$  with multiplicity equal to its dimension, i.e. if  $d_j = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(V_j)$ , then

$$V_{\text{reg}} = V_1^{d_1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_t^{d_t}$$

**PROOF.**

We write  $V_{\text{reg}} = V_1^{m_1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_t^{m_t}$ , where  $m_i$  may be 0. Then

$$\begin{aligned} m_j &= \langle \chi_{\text{reg}}, \chi_j \rangle = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_{\text{reg}}(g)} \chi_j(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{\#G} \#G \chi_j(1) = \dim(V_j) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**PROP 1.16** We conclude  $\#G = d_1^2 + \dots + d_t^2$ .



$$\begin{aligned}\dim(V_{\text{reg}}) &= \#G = \dim(V_1^{\dim(V_1)} \oplus \cdots \oplus V_t^{\dim(V_t)}) \\ &= \dim(V_1) \dim(V_1) + \dots + \dim(V_t) \dim(V_t) \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

PROOF.

### 1.10 Class Number Coincides With Number of Irreducible Representations

Let  $t$  be the number of distinct irreducible representations of  $G$ . Let  $h(G)$  be the class number of  $G$ . Then  $t = h(G)$ .

$\mathbb{C}[G] \cong V_1^{d_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus V_t^{d_t}$ . Note that  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  is not just a  $G$ -representation, but a ring under the following multiplication rule:

PROOF.

$$\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g \sum_{h \in G} \beta_h h = \sum_{g, h \in G} \alpha_g \beta_h gh$$

Consider the map  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V_1) \times \cdots \times \text{Aut}(V_t)$  by  $\rho \mapsto (\rho_1, \dots, \rho_t)$ . We can write  $\tilde{\rho} : \mathbb{C}[G] \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_t)$  by linearity, i.e.

$$\sum \lambda_g g \mapsto \left( \sum \lambda_g \rho_1(g), \dots, \sum \lambda_g \rho_t(g) \right)$$

Observe that  $\dim(\mathbb{C}[G]) = \#G$  and  $\dim(\text{End}(V_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{End}(V_t)) = d_1^2 + \dots + d_t^2$

We show that  $\tilde{\rho}$  is an injective ring homomorphism. Let  $\theta = \ker(\tilde{\rho})$ . Then  $\tilde{\rho}_j(\theta) = \mathbb{1} \implies \theta$  acts as  $\mathbb{1}$  on  $V_j \forall j \in [t]$ . But all representations are comprised of irreps by [Thm 1.2](#), and especially the regular representation  $V_{\text{reg}}$ , so  $\theta$  acts as  $\mathbb{1}$  on  $V_{\text{reg}}$ . But then  $\theta$  is the identity on  $\mathbb{C}[G]$ , so  $\ker(\tilde{\rho})$  is trivial.

$\dim(\mathbb{C}[G]) = \dim(\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_t))$ , so  $\tilde{\rho}$  is also surjective. Hence

$$\mathbb{C}[G] = M_{d_1}(\mathbb{C}) \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{d_t}(\mathbb{C})$$

We compute the centers  $Z$  of these rings

$$\dim Z(\mathbb{C}[G]) = \dim \{x = \sum \lambda_g g : x\theta = \theta x \forall \theta \in \mathbb{C}[G]\}$$

$$\dim Z(M_{d_1}(\mathbb{C}) \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{d_t}(\mathbb{C})) \cong \dim(\mathbb{C} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{C}) = t$$

We claim that  $\theta = \sum \lambda_g g \in Z(\mathbb{C}[G]) \iff h\theta = \theta h \forall h \in G$ , i.e. it is sufficient to show that an element commutes with the group to show commutativity with the

group ring. But

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\iff \sum \lambda_g hg = \sum \lambda_g gh \\
 &\iff \lambda_g(hgh^{-1}) = \sum \lambda_g g \\
 &\iff \sum \lambda_{h^{-1}gh} g = \sum \lambda_g g \quad \forall h \in G \\
 &\iff \lambda_{h^{-1}gh} = \lambda_g \quad \forall h \in G, g \in G
 \end{aligned}$$

hence,  $g \rightarrow \lambda_g$  is a class function, so  $\dim(Z(\mathbb{C}[G])) = h(G)$ . But  $\dim(Z(\mathbb{C}[G])) = t$ , so we conclude  $t = h(G)$ .  $\square$

**PROP 1.17** As a corollary, we see that  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_t$ , the irreducible characters of  $G$ , form an orthonormal basis for  $L^2_{\text{class}}(G)$ .

PROOF.

See [Prop 1.13](#), with the added knowledge that  $t = h(G)$ .  $\square$

If  $G$  is abelian, we've seen that all irreducible representations  $V_1, \dots, V_t$  have dimension 1. From above,  $t = h(G)$ , but since  $G$  is abelian,  $t = h(G) = \#G$ . A direct proof of this fact is as follows:

PROOF.

Write

$$G \cong d_1\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times d_r\mathbb{Z} : d_1 | \dots | d_r$$

by structure theorem. Thus, let  $G$  be generated by  $\{g_1, \dots, g_r\}$ , where  $g_i^{d_i} = 1$ . If  $\rho$  is an IRREP of  $G$ , then  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}^\times$ . Then

$$G = \{g_1^{a_1} \dots g_r^{a_r} : a_i \leq d_i\}$$

so  $\rho$  is completely determined by the elements  $\rho(g_1), \dots, \rho(g_r)$ . Consider

$$\mu_d = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C}^\times : \xi^d = 1\} = \{d^{\text{th}} \text{ roots of unity}\}$$

Consider now  $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) = \mu_{d_1} \times \dots \times \mu_{d_r}$  by

$$\rho(g) \mapsto (\rho(g_1), \dots, \rho(g_r))$$

This is a natural isomorphism, where we note that  $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)$  and  $\mu_{d_1} \times \dots \times \mu_{d_r}$  have group structure. On the left,  $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)$  provides all 1-dim (and hence *all*) irrep for abelian  $G$ . On the right,  $\#(\mu_{d_1} \times \dots \times \mu_{d_r}) = d_1 \cdot \dots \cdot d_r = \#G$  by structure theorem.  $\square$

### Fourier Analysis on Finite Groups

We are primarily concerned with

$$L^2(G) = \{\text{square integrable functions from } G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\} \cong \mathbb{C}^{\#G}$$

where

$$\|f\|^2 = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} |f(g)|^2 < \infty$$

for  $g \in L^2(G)$ . Note that  $L^2(G)$  is a Hilbert space with

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{f_1(g)} f_2(g)$$

From now on, assume  $G$  is abelian, and therefore that  $L^2(G) = L^2_{\text{class}}(G)$ .

Let  $\hat{G} = \{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_N\}$  be the irreducible characters for  $G$ . Then  $\hat{G}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $L^2(G)$ , and so, for  $f \in L^2(G)$ , we can write **PROP 1.18**

$$f = \langle \chi_1, f \rangle \chi_1 + \dots + \langle \chi_N, f \rangle \chi_N$$

Given by [Prop 1.11](#) and *linear algebra*. □

**PROOF.**

Given  $f \in L^2(G)$ , the function  $\hat{f} : \hat{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by

**DEF 1.12**

$$\hat{f}(\chi) = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi(g)} f(g) = \langle \chi, f \rangle$$

is called the *Fourier transform* of  $f$  over  $G$ .

Correspondingly,

**DEF 1.13**

$$f = \sum_{\chi \in \hat{G}} \hat{f}(\chi) \chi$$

is called the *Fourier inversion formula*.

**Eg. 1.6.1**  $G = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  (the unit interval mod itself). Let  $L^2(G)$  be the space of  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued period functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ , i.e.  $f(x+1) = f(x)$ , which are square integrable on  $[0, 1]$ .

Let  $\hat{G} = \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)$ . Any homomorphism from  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  looks like  $x \mapsto e^{\lambda x}$ . But we also must satisfy

$$e^{\lambda n} = 1 \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

since  $e^{\lambda x} \cdot e^\lambda = e^{\lambda(x+1)}$  by  $f(x+1) = f(x)$ . Hence,  $\lambda = k2\pi i$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Hence,

$$\hat{G} = \{\chi_j : j \in \mathbb{Z} : \chi_j(x) = e^{2\pi i j x}\} \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

Let's define a norm on  $\hat{G}$ , as above:

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = |\mathbb{Z}[0, 1]| \int_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}} \overline{f_1(x)} f_2(x) dx = \int_0^1 \overline{f_1(x)} f_2(x) dx$$

We see that

$$\langle \chi_\ell, \chi_j \rangle = \int_0^1 \overline{\chi_\ell(x)} \chi_j(x) dx = \int_0^1 \overline{e^{\ell 2\pi i x}} e^{j 2\pi i x} dx = \int_0^1 e^{(j-\ell) 2\pi i x} dx = \begin{cases} 1 & \ell = j \\ 0 & \ell \neq j \end{cases}$$

**Fig. 1.6.2**  $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . Note that this is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  by splitting the unit interval into  $n$  equal parts of size  $\frac{1}{n}$ . In particular, then

$$\hat{G} = \{\chi_j : j \in [n] : \chi_j = e^{\frac{2\pi i j x}{n}}\}$$

so  $\chi_j \chi_\ell = \chi_{j+\ell}$ . For the inner product, we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}} \overline{\chi_\ell} \chi_j = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}} e^{\frac{2\pi i k(j-\ell)}{n}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \ell = j \\ 0 & \ell \neq j \end{cases}$$

since the sum of roots of unity is 0.

**Fig. 1.6.3** Consider  $1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{9} + \dots$ . Consider also, for  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ , the series  $S(f) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(k)}{k}$ . Since  $f \mapsto S(f)$  is linear, it suffices to consider  $S(f)$  on a basis for  $L^2(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ . In the above example, we have one:  $\hat{G} = \{e^{\frac{2\pi i j x}{n}} : j \in [n]\}$ . For  $S(\chi_j)$ , we have simpler work to do:

$$S(\chi_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i j k}{n}}}{n} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(e^{\frac{2\pi i j}{n}}\right)^k}{n} = -\ln(1 - e^{\frac{2\pi i j}{n}})$$

Notice that this diverges when  $j = n$ . By the Fourier inversion formula and linearity of  $f \mapsto S(f)$ , then

$$S(f) = S(\langle \chi_1, f \rangle \chi_1 + \dots + \langle \chi_n, f \rangle \chi_n) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \langle \chi_j, f \rangle (-\ln(1 - e^{\frac{2\pi i j}{n}}))$$

so long as  $\langle \chi_n, f \rangle = 0$  (otherwise, it diverges by the observation above).

Back to our original question concerning  $1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{9} + \dots$ . Let  $f \in L_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$  be defined by

$$f(k) = \begin{cases} 0 & k \text{ even} \\ 1 & k \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ -1 & k \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases} \implies S(f) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(k)}{k} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{9} + \dots$$

By our theory developed above, we have  $S(f)$  converges if  $\langle \chi_4, f \rangle = 0$ , but

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^4 \overline{\chi_4(k)} f(k) = \frac{1}{4} (e^{-2\pi i} \cdot 1 + e^{-4\pi i} \cdot 0 + e^{-6\pi i} \cdot -1 + e^{-8\pi i} \cdot 0) = 0$$

and identically for  $\langle \chi_2, f \rangle$ . For the odds,

$$\langle \chi_1, f \rangle = \frac{1}{4} (e^{\frac{\pi i}{2}} - e^{\frac{3\pi i}{2}}) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2i = \frac{1}{2i}$$

and similarly with  $\langle \chi_3, f \rangle = -\langle \chi_1, f \rangle$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} S(f) &= \frac{1}{2i} (-\ln(1 - e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}}) + \ln(1 - e^{\frac{6\pi i}{4}})) = \frac{1}{2\pi} (-\ln(1 - i) + \ln(1 + i)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2i} \ln\left(\frac{1+i}{1-i}\right) = \frac{1}{2i} \ln(i) = \frac{1}{2i} \frac{\pi i}{2} = \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

and we are done.

### Character Tables of $S_4$ , $A_5$ , and $GL_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$

#### Consider $S_4$ .

Recall  $\#S_4 = 24$  and there are  $h = 5$  conjugacy classes. The classes of this group are as follows:

name	rep	size
1A	(1)	1
2A	(12)(34)	3
2B	(12)	6
3A	(123)	8
4A	(1234)	6

and we have the character table (to start):

char	1A	2A	2B	3A	4A
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}} = \chi_2$	1	1	-1	1	-1

It suffices to look at abelian quotients of  $S_4$  to find its 1-dim irreducible representations, hence the normal subgroups of  $S_4$ . One can mod out by  $A_4$  to yield the sign homomorphism from  $S_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ . There are no other abelian quotients, so this is the only 1-dim rep.

Note that  $K_4$ , the Klein 4 group, is naturally embedded in  $S_4$ , and also  $S_4/K_4 = S_3$ .

A rarity!  $S_{n-1}$  is a quotient of  $S_n$  only when  $n = 4, 3$ .

Let  $\phi$  be this homomorphism. Recall the character table of  $S_3$  from [Example 1.4](#):

	1	(12)	(123)
$\chi_{\text{triv}}$	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}}$	1	-1	1
$\chi_2$	2	0	-1

We compose  $\phi$  with the 2-dim representation  $\chi_2$  above.  $2A$  (i.e.  $(12)(34)$ ) in  $S_4$  is in the kernel of  $\phi$ , so it will be mapped to the identity, i.e. have trace 2 as well. The image of  $2B$  (i.e. transpositions) are exactly transpositions in  $S_3$ , and hence we have 0. Order 3 elements in  $S_4$  get mapped to order 3 element in  $S_3$ , and hence we maintain -1 as the trace. Lastly,  $4A$  becomes a transposition.

char	1A	2A	2B	3A	4A
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}} = \chi_2$	1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	2	2	0	-1	0

We're still missing 2 representations, since  $h = 5$ . We have the natural representation given by permuting 4 basis vectors. The trace of these representations is given by how many fixed points a permutation has, i.e.  $(1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, 4A) = (4, 0, 2, 1, 0)$ . This "natural" representation may be decomposed into the trivial representation and an irreducible representation. Hence, we subtract each trace by 1 to yield

char	1A	2A	2B	3A	4A
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}} = \chi_2$	1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	2	2	0	-1	0
$\chi_4$	3	-1	1	0	-1

We still need to check that  $\chi_4$  is irreducible: for this, we compute  $\langle \chi_4, \chi_4 \rangle$ , and find that it is 1. To find the 5th representation, we can weasle our way out via number theory. To start, we know the inner product of the columns with themselves is equal to  $\#S_4 = 24$ , i.e.

$$1 + 1 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \chi_5(1)^2 = 24 \implies \chi_5(1) = 3$$

We could also try taking  $\text{Hom}(V_i, V_j)$  for two of our existing representations, and hope it is irreducible. Since  $\chi_{\text{Hom}(V_i, V_j)} = \overline{\chi_{V_i}} \chi_{V_j}$ , it should be that  $\chi_{V_i}(1) \chi_{V_j}(1) = 3$ . The trivial representation won't do us any good, so our only valid path forward is  $\text{Hom}(V_2, V_4)$ . Filling in the character table would yield

char	1A	2A	2B	3A	4A
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sgn}} = \chi_2$	1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	2	2	0	-1	0
$\chi_4$	3	-1	1	0	-1
$\chi_5$	3	-1	-1	0	1

One verifies that  $\langle \chi_5, \chi_5 \rangle = 1$ , so  $\chi_5$  is irreducible.

**Consider  $A_5$ .**

It's cardinality is  $\#A_5 = 60$  and it has no normal subgroups (hence, the method of finding quotients won't work!). It's conjugacy classes are as follows:

name	rep	size
1A	(1)	1
2A	(12)(34)	15
3A	(123)	20
5A	(12345)	12
5B	(12354)	12

Once again,  $h = 5$ . Let's start building the character table

#	1	15	20	12	12
char	1A	2A	3A	5A	5B
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1

We can take the standard permutation representation and subtract off the trivial representation to yield a (hopefully) irreducible representation: (1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, 5B) have (5, 1, 2, 0, 0) fixed points, so:

#	1	15	20	12	12
char	1A	2A	3A	5A	5B
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	0	1	-1	-1

One checks that  $\chi_1, \chi_2$  are orthogonal, and further that  $\langle \chi_2, \chi_2 \rangle = 1$  (for irreducibly). Recall that  $S_5$  acts transitively on  $S_5/F_{20} = A_5/D_{10} =: X$ , a set of 6 elements. Hence, we can consider how many fixed points of  $A_5$  acting on  $X$  exist. Recall that an element  $g \in A_5$  fixes a coset  $hD_{10} \iff hgh^{-1} \in D_{10}$ .

5A On  $X$ , a five cycle acts as a five cycle (can you think of any other order 5 element permuting 6 letters?), which has 1 fixed point.

5B Same as above.

3A A 3 cycle does not exist in  $D_{10}$ , so no cosets are fixed.

2A One finds two copies of (12)(34) in  $D_{10}$ , and hence two fixed cosets.

#	1	15	20	12	12
char	1A	2A	3A	5A	5B
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	0	1	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	5	1	-1	0	0

We have two more representations to weed out. We can figure their dimensions, since  $1 + 16 + 25 + d_4^2 + d_5^2 = 60 \implies d_4^2 + d_5^2 = 18 \implies d_4 = d_5 = 3$ . Hence, we will search for 3-dim representations.

It is interesting that  $A_5$  acts on 3-dim space... we know that  $A_5$  is the symmetry group of the icosahedron and dodecahedron. Consider  $g = 2A$  under the action on one of these objects.

**Consider  $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$**

Recall some key facts:  $\#\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2) = 168 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$ , and it has a Sylow 2 subgroup isomorphic to  $D_8$ . We may first consider a trivial representation. Then, typically, we consider the permutation representation of  $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$  on some transitive  $G$ -set. But  $\mathbb{F}_2^3 \neq 0$  is such a set, and we generate  $\chi_2$  by subtracting off the trivial representation.

Then, for  $\chi_3$ , we consider  $X$ , the set of Sylow 7 subgroups.  $\#X|24$  and  $\#X \equiv_7 1$ , so  $\#X = 8$ . It is not 1, or else we would find a new conjugacy class. As a  $G$  set under conjugation,  $X \cong G/H$ , where  $H$  is the normalizer of a Sylow 7 subgroup  $P_7$  (it must have cardinality 21). Then  $P_7$  is, by definition, a normal subgroup of  $H$ , so we consider  $H/P_7 \cong 3\mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $\pi : H \rightarrow 3\mathbb{Z}$  be the quotient map. Then  $\pi^{-1} = \ker(\pi) = P_7$ , and every element which maps to 1 or 2 under this map is of order 3.

Since  $3|\text{ord}(g)|21$ , and  
 $g^3 \in P_7$

$H$  has 6 elements of order 7, and 14 of order 3 (1 of order 1). Elements of order 2 or 4 in  $G$  may not fix any cosets  $G/H$ , since then  $gaH = aH \implies a^{-1}ga \in H$ , and  $2, 4 \nmid 21$ . Then, if  $g \in 7A$ , then  $g$  acts a cyclic permutation of length 7 on  $G/H$ , and therefore has a unique fixed point.

$$\mathbb{C}[V^*] = \left\{ \sum w \in V^* \lambda_w[w] : \lambda_w \in \mathbb{C} \right\} \quad \text{where} \quad V^* = \mathbb{F}_2^3 - \{0\}$$

size class	1 1A	21 2A	56 3A	42 4A	24 7A	24 7B
$\chi_{\text{triv}} = \chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	6	2	0	0	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	7	-1	1	-1	0	0

## INDUCED REPRESENTATIONS

Recall the permutation representation of  $G$ , i.e. how  $G$  permutes a transitive  $G$ -set  $X \cong G/H$ . We can view such a representation  $V$  as

$$V = \{f : G/H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$$

where  $gf(x) = f(g^{-1}(x))$ . We may also write  $V$  as

$$V = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : f(xh) = f(x) \forall h \in H\}$$

**DEF 1.14** Consider a subgroup  $H < G$  and let  $\chi : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  be a homomorphism, i.e.  $\chi \in \text{Hom}(H, \mathbb{C}^\times)$ . Then the *induced representation*  $\text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)$  is given by

$$V_\chi = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : f(xh) = \chi(h)f(x) \forall h \in H\}$$



(Hopefully) We observe some key facts about the representation  $V_\chi$ .

$V_\chi$  is preserved by the action of  $G$ , where we obey the rule  $gf(x) = f(g^{-1}x)$ .

PROP 1.19

Let  $f \in V_\chi, g \in G$ . Then  $gf(xh) = f(g^{-1}(xh)) = f(g^{-1}(x)h)$ , and since  $f \in V_\chi$ ,  $\chi(h)f(g^{-1}(x)) = \chi(h)gf(x)$ . Hence,  $gf \in V_\chi$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

$\dim(V_\chi) = \#G/H = [G : H]$ .

PROP 1.20

Let  $a_1, \dots, a_t$  be a set of coset representatives for  $G = a_1H \sqcup \dots \sqcup a_tH$ . We claim the function

$$f \mapsto (f(a_1), \dots, f(a_t)) \in \mathbb{C}^t$$

is an isomorphism from  $V_\chi \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^t$ . We find that this is injective by computing the kernel. If  $f \in \ker$ , then  $f(a_1) = \dots = f(a_t) = 0$ . But since  $f \in V_\chi$ ,  $f(a_jh) = \chi(h)f(a_j) = 0$ . Hence,  $f(g) = 0 \forall g \in G$ . Conversely, for surjectivity, if we know how  $f$  acts on  $a_1$ , then we know how  $f$  acts on all  $g \in G$ , since we may write  $g = a_ih$  for  $h \in H$  and some  $a_i$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

Hence, if  $H$  is a quotient of  $G$ , then any representation of  $H$  yields a representation for  $G$ . Quotients are quite rare, though, and we observe further that for any subgroup  $H < G$ , any character of  $H$  yields a representation for  $G$ .

### 1.11 Character of Induced Representation

Fix an induced representation  $V_\psi$ , on which we write instead  $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : f(xh) = \psi^{-1}(h)f(x)$  for  $f \in V_\psi$ . For all  $g \in G$ , then

$$\chi_{V_\psi} = \sum_{\substack{aH \in G/H \\ a^{-1}ga \in H}} \psi(a^{-1}ga)$$

We fix a basis for  $V_\psi$ . For  $a \in G$ , let  $\delta_a$  be the unique function in  $V_\psi$  satisfying

$$\delta_a(a) = 1 \quad \delta_a(x) = 0 \quad x \notin aH$$

Since  $\delta \in V_\psi$ , we have  $\delta_a(ah) = \psi^{-1}(h)$ . Then  $\delta_{a_1}, \dots, \delta_{a_t}$  are linearly independent for coset representatives  $a_i$ , since all but  $\delta_{a_i}(a_i)$  terms disappear.

Let an element  $g \in G$  map a coset  $ga_jH = a_j'H$ . Then  $ga_j = a_j'h_j$  for some  $h_j \in H$ . Observe, then,  $g\delta_a = \delta_{ga}$  and  $\delta_{ah} = \psi(h)\delta_a$ .

$$g\delta_{a_j} = \delta_{ga_j} = \delta_{a_j'h_j} = \psi(h_j)\delta_{a_j'}$$

PROOF.

Then, finally,

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = \sum_{j=1}^t \psi(h_j) = \sum_{j=1}^t \psi(a_j^{-1} g a_j) = \sum_{\substack{a \in G/H \\ gaH = aH}} \psi(a^{-1} g a)$$

*Proof under maintenance* 🔧

□

### 1.12 Character of Induced Representation (Alternate)

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = \frac{\#G}{\#H} \frac{1}{\#C(g)} \sum_{\gamma \in C(g) \cap H} \psi(\gamma)$$

PROOF.

We use the result in [Thm 1.11](#).

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = \sum_{\substack{a \in G/H: \\ gaH = aH}} \psi(a^{-1} g a) = \frac{1}{\#H} \sum_{\substack{a \in G: \\ a^{-1} g a \in H}} \psi(a^{-1} g a)$$

But if  $b \in Z(g)$  and  $a^{-1} g a \in H$ , then  $ba$  also satisfies our conditions, since  $a^{-1} b^{-1} g b a = a^{-1} g a$ . Thus, we may consider unique members of the conjugacy class of  $g$  in  $H$ , i.e.  $C(g) \cap H$ , and compensate by a factor of  $\#Z(g)$ :

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = \frac{\#Z(g)}{\#H} \sum_{\gamma \in C(g) \cap H} \psi(\gamma)$$

By Orbit-Stabilizer,  $\#C(g) = \frac{\#G}{\#Z(g)}$ , where  $G$  acts on itself by conjugation. Finally, then

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = \frac{\#G}{\#H} \frac{1}{\#C(g)} \sum_{\gamma \in C(g) \cap H} \psi(\gamma)$$

□

**Eg. 1.7.1** Recall our "natural" representation for  $G$  if  $G$  acted on a set  $X$  of size  $n$ . We claimed that the character of this representation on  $g \in G$  coincides with the number of fixed elements in  $X$  by the action of  $g$ . (And frequently "subtracted off" the trivial representation representation). We'll consider this in a new light with induced characters.

Let  $G = S_4$ , and consider the natural action on  $S_4/S_3$  (i.e. 4 letters). With  $H = S_3$  and  $\psi : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  being the trivial representation, consider

$\text{Ind}_{S_3}^{S_4}(\psi)$ . What is its character on (12)?

$$\chi_{\text{Ind}_{S_3}^{S_4}(\psi)}(12) = \frac{\#S_4}{\#S_3} \frac{1}{\binom{4}{2}} \sum_{\gamma \in C(12) \cap S_3} \psi(\gamma) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot 4 \cdot 3 = 2$$

as expected. (3 and 4 are fixed by (12)).

**Eg. 1.7.2** Let  $G = \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$  and  $H$  be the normalizer of  $P_7$ , any Sylow 7 subgroup of  $G$ . How large is  $H$ ? With  $168 = 7 \cdot 3 \cdot 2^3$ , we know  $N_7 | 24$  and  $N_7 = 1 \pmod{7}$ , so there are either 1 or 8 such subgroups  $P_7$ . By the simplicity of  $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{F}_2)$ , there must be 8. By Sylow 3, the normalizer  $H$  has size  $\frac{168}{8} = 21$ .

Consider now  $H/P_7$ , a group of size 3, and hence  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ . We can thus consider a representation of  $H$  via the quotient map  $H \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$  and a 1-dim representation of  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ . In particular, consider the non-trivial representation of  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$  given by  $i \mapsto \xi^i$ , where  $i$  is a primitive 3<sup>rd</sup> root of unity. Then, let  $\psi$  be this representation pre-composed with the quotient:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathbb{C}^\times \\ & \searrow \text{\scriptsize } /P_7 & \nearrow \text{\scriptsize } i \mapsto \xi^i \\ & \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} & \end{array}$$

Consider now  $V_\psi = \text{Ind}_H^G(\psi)$ , where  $\psi$  is as above. By the theorem above, its character on the identity is

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(1) = 8 \cdot \frac{1}{1} \sum_1 \psi(1) = 8$$

so the dimension of this representation is 8. In generality,

$$\chi_{V_\psi}(g) = 8 \cdot \frac{1}{Z(g)} \sum_{\gamma \in C(g) \cap H} \psi(\gamma)$$

per [Thm 1.12](#). For  $g = 2A, 4A$ , we know  $C(g) \cap H = \emptyset$ , since  $H$  has odd order, and so  $2, 4 \nmid \#H$ . We conclude that  $\chi_{V_\psi}(2A) = \chi_{V_\psi}(4A) = 0$ .

For order 3 elements, we look for the preimage of 1 and 2 under the quotient map  $H \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ . We know  $P_7 \mapsto 0$ , so  $\# \ker(H \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}) \geq 7$ . But it must divide 21, as a subgroup, and is not trivial, so it is exactly  $P_7$ . Hence, the remaining 14 elements in  $H$  must be mapped to 1 or 2. Since the quotient map is surjective, there exists elements which map

to either. But: if  $a \mapsto 1$ , then  $a^2 \mapsto 2$ , and if  $b \mapsto 2$ , then  $b^2 \mapsto 1$ . Thus, the preimages of 1 and 2 have equal cardinality (i.e.  $\frac{14}{2} = 7$  each). We write, by the theorem above:

$$8 \times \frac{1}{56} \sum_{g \in H: \text{ord}(g)=3} \psi(g) = \frac{1}{7} (7\xi + 7\xi^2) = -1$$

For order 7 elements, we consider both  $7A \cap H$  and  $7B \cap H$ . We have 6 yet unmapped elements in  $H$  ( $P_7 \subset H$ , in particular). One would imagine that the classes are split 3 and 3. But this is true if  $g \in 7A$ , then  $g^2$  and  $g^4$  belong to  $7A$ , but  $g^6, g^5, g^3$  belong to  $7B$ . We yield 6 distinct elements, and hence conclude that they are distributed 3 and 3.

$$8 \times \frac{1}{24} \sum_{7A \cap H} \psi(g) = \frac{24}{24} = 1$$

The same will occur for  $7B$ , and we add a character row.

size	1	21	56	42	24	24
class	1A	2A	3A	4A	7A	7B
$\chi_{\text{triv}} = \chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	6	2	0	0	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	7	-1	1	-1	0	0
$\chi_4 = \chi_{V_\psi}$	8	0	-1	0	1	1

One checks the inner product of  $\langle \chi_4, \chi_4 \rangle$  to conclude that it is irreducible. To find the dimensions of the remaining characters,  $d_5, d_6$ , we have

$$1 + 6^2 + 7^2 + 8^2 + d_5^2 + d_6^2 = 168 \implies d_5^2 + d_6^2 = 18 \implies d_5 = d_6 = 3$$

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Tensor Products

Previously, we've seen how to generate new representations from old ones, e.g. with direct sums  $V_1 \oplus V_2$ , where  $g(v, w) = (gv, gw)$  and  $\text{Hom}(V_1, V_2)$ , where  $gT = gTg^{-1}$ . The characters of these new representations are  $\chi_1 + \chi_2$  and  $\overline{\chi_1}\chi_2$ , respectively.

One could also take  $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbb{C}) := V^*$ , the space of linear functionals on  $V$  (one envisages  $\mathbb{C}$  as the trivial representation). Then  $\chi_{V^*} = \overline{\chi_V}$ .

**DEF 1.15**  $V_1 \otimes V_2 := \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_1^*, V_2)$  is the *tensor product* of  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ .

**PROP 1.21**  $\dim(V_1 \otimes V_2) = \dim(V_1) \dim(V_2)$ .

PROOF.

$$\dim(\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_1^*, V_2)) = \dim(V_1^*) \dim(V_2) = \dim(V_1) \dim(V_2). \quad \square$$

Given  $v_1 \in V_1, v_2 \in V_2$ , we define  $v_1 \otimes v_2 \in V_1 \otimes V_2$  to take  $\ell \in V_1^* \mapsto \ell(v_1)v_2$ .

DEF 1.16

Let  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  be a basis for  $V_1$  and  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  be a basis for  $V_2$ . Then  $\beta = \{e_i \otimes f_j : i \in [n], j \in [m]\}$  is a basis for  $V_1 \otimes V_2$ . PROP 1.22

Let  $v_1 = a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_n e_n$  and  $v_2 = b_1 f_1 + \dots + b_m f_m$ . Then

PROOF.

$$v_1 \otimes v_2 = (a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_n e_n) \otimes (b_1 f_1 + \dots + b_m f_m) = \sum_{i \in [n], j \in [m]} a_i b_j (e_i \otimes f_j)$$

so  $\beta$  is spanning. But  $|\beta| = \dim(V_1) \dim(V_2) = \dim(V_1 \oplus V_2)$ , and we are done. □

$G$  acts on  $V_1 \otimes V_2$  by  $g(v_1 \otimes v_2) = (gv_1) \otimes (gv_2)$ . Then  $\chi_{V_1 \otimes V_2} = \chi_{V_1} \chi_{V_2}$ .

PROP 1.23

Fix  $g \in G$ . Let  $\{e_i\}$  and  $\{f_j\}$  be bases of eigenvectors for  $g$ . Then let  $ge_i = \lambda_i e_i$  and  $gf_j = \mu_j f_j$ . We have

PROOF.

$$g(e_i \otimes f_j) = (ge_i) \otimes (gf_j) = (\lambda_i e_i) \otimes (\mu_j f_j) = \lambda_i \mu_j (e_i \otimes f_j)$$

Then  $\operatorname{tr}(\rho_{V_1 \otimes V_2}(g)) = \sum_{i \in [n], j \in [m]} \lambda_i \mu_j = (\sum_{i \in [n]} \lambda_i) (\sum_{j \in [m]} \mu_j) = \operatorname{tr}(\rho_{V_1}(g)) \operatorname{tr}(\rho_{V_2}(g))$ .  
One may also observe directly by combining  $\chi_{\operatorname{Hom}(V_1, V_2)} = \overline{\chi_{V_1}} \chi_{V_2}$  and  $\chi_{V^*} = \overline{\chi_V}$ . □

### Further Applications

We consider  $G$ -equivariant endomorphisms on  $G$ -representations  $V$ , and use the heaviest machinery yet to conclude, as we did early in our algebraic journey, that linear transformations on  $\mathbb{F}^n$  are exactly  $n \times n$  matrices in  $\mathbb{F}^n$ .

#### 1.13 $G$ -equivariant Endomorphisms Act as Matrices

Let  $V$  is a representation of  $G$  and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be a  $G$ -equivariant endomorphism, i.e.  $\in \operatorname{End}_G(V)$ . If  $V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_t$  for irreducible, distinct representations of multiplicities all 1, then  $T(V_j) \subseteq V_j$  and  $T(v) = \lambda_j v \forall v \in V_j$ .

Let  $\eta_j : V_j \hookrightarrow V$  be the inclusion map  $v_j \mapsto (0, \dots, v_j, \dots, 0)$  and  $\pi_i : V \twoheadrightarrow V_i$  be the "exclusion" map  $(v_1, \dots, v_i, \dots, v_t) \mapsto v_i$ . We have

PROOF.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & V & \xrightarrow{T} & V \\ & \nearrow \eta_j & & & \searrow \pi_i \\ V_j & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & & & V_i \\ & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad T_{ij} \quad\quad\quad} & & & \end{array}$$

where  $T_{ij}$  is a composition of these maps. Note that  $\eta_j \in \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V)$  and  $\pi_i \in \text{Hom}_G(V, V_i)$  are  $G$ -equivariant themselves, so  $T_{ij}$  will be. For the latter, take an arbitrary  $v = v_1 + \dots + v_t$ . Then  $g$  distributes over the sum, and so

$$g\pi_i(v) = gv_i = \pi_i g(v)$$

We write  $T_{ij} = \pi_i T \eta_j \in \text{Hom}_G(V_j, V_i)$ . By Schur's Lemma, then

$$T_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ \lambda_i & i = j \end{cases}$$

It follows that  $T(v) = \lambda_i v$  for  $v \in V_i = V_j$ : let  $v \in V_i = V_j$ . Then, by isolating each coordinate,

$$T(v) = \pi_1 T(v) + \dots + \pi_t T(v) = T_{1j}(v) + \dots + T_{tj}(v) = T_{ii}(v) = \lambda_i v$$

where  $\pi_i T(v) = T_{ij}(v)$ , since  $v \in V_j$ , so  $\eta_j(v) = v$ . Using this, we identify

$$T(v) = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} & \dots & T_{1t} \\ T_{21} & T_{22} & \dots & T_{2t} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ T_{t1} & T_{t2} & \dots & T_{tt} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_t \end{bmatrix} \quad T_{ij} \in \text{Hom}_G(V_i, V_j)$$

In the context of the theorem proven, where  $V_i \not\cong V_j$ , we write

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_t \end{bmatrix} : \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$$

□

In the extreme setting where  $V_i = \mathbb{F}$  and  $V$  is  $\mathbb{F}^t$ ,  $T_{ij} \in \text{Hom}_G(\mathbb{F}, \mathbb{F}) = \mathbb{F}$ . Then  $T : V \rightarrow V$  are represented by  $t \times t$  matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{F}$ .

**Eg. 1.8.1** Let  $X$  be the faces of a cube. Let  $G = S_4$ . Let  $V$  be finite,  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued functions on  $X$ , as in [Def 1.14](#).  $G \curvearrowright V$  via  $G \curvearrowright X$ , and  $gf(x) = f(g^{-1}x)$ . Consider

$$T : V \rightarrow V : T(\phi)(x) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{y \sim x} \phi(y)$$

where  $y \sim x \iff y$  and  $x$  are adjacent faces. We wish to decompose  $V$  into a sum of irreducible representations of  $S_4$ . Recall the characters of

$S_4$  itself:

class	1A	2A	2B	3A	4A	
size	1	6	3	8	6	
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1	triv
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1	1	-1	sgn
$\chi_3$	2	0	2	-1	0	
$\chi_4$	3	1	-1	0	-1	natural
$\chi_5$	3	-1	-1	0	1	$\chi_2 \otimes \chi_4$
$\chi_6$	6	0	2	0	2	$V$ , by calculating FP on $X$

We conclude from this table that  $V = V_1 \oplus V_3 \oplus V_5$ . The trivial representation  $V_1$  is comprised of all constant functions.

DEF 1.17 A function  $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called *even* if  $\phi(x) = \phi(x')$ , where  $x'$  is the face opposite to  $x$ . The dimension of the vector space of even functions, say  $L^2(X)_+$ , is hence 3.

If  $\phi \in L^2(X)_+$ , then  $g\phi(x) = \phi(g^{-1}x)$ , and  $g\phi(x') = \phi(g^{-1}x')$ , so  $\phi(g^{-1}x) = \phi(g^{-1}x')$ , so  $G$  preserves  $L^2(X)_+$ . We want to extract the trivial representation *out* of these functions, so define

$$L^2(X)_{+,0} := \{\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : \phi \in L^2(X)_+ \text{ and } \sum_{x \in X} \phi(x) = 0\}$$

with this we can write

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{V_1}_{\text{constant fns}} \oplus \underbrace{V_3}_{L^2(X)_{+,0}} \oplus V_5}_{L^2(X)_+}$$

Similarly, we consider the space of *odd* functions  $L^2(X)_- = \{\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : \phi(x') = -\phi(x)\}$ , and extract the trivial representation similarly to yield  $L^2(X)_{-,0}$ .

Recall that  $T$ , defined at the start, preserves  $V_1$ ,  $V_3$  and  $V_5$ .  $T(1) = 1$ , thankfully. If  $\phi \in V_5$ , then  $T(\phi) = 0$ . If  $\phi \in V_3$ , we consider

## II Galois Theory

DEF 2.1 If  $E$  and  $F$  are fields, then  $E$  is an *extension* of  $F$  if  $F$  is a subfield of  $E$ . From now on, all fields are commutative. Note: if  $E$  is an extension of  $F$ , then  $E$  is *also* a vector space over  $F$ , by "forgetting" internal multiplication of elements in  $E$ . This motivates the following definition.

DEF 2.2 The *degree* of  $E$  is  $\dim_F(E)$ , the dimension of  $E$  as an  $F$ -vector space. It is either a positive integer or infinity. We sometimes denote  $[E : F] = \dim_F(E)$ .

DEF 2.3  $E$  over  $F$  is called a *finite* extension if  $[E : F] < \infty$ .

We write  $E/F$  to mean "the extension  $E$  over  $F$ ," and, for  $[E : F] = n$ , draw

$$\begin{array}{c} E \\ | \\ n \\ | \\ F \end{array}$$

denoting inclusion by vertical position (higher containing lower).

**Eg. 2.1.1** Consider  $E = \mathbb{C}$  and  $F = \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] = 2$ , with a basis  $\{1, i\}$ .

**Eg. 2.1.2** Consider  $E = \mathbb{C}$  and  $F = \mathbb{Q}$ . Then  $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{Q}] = \infty$ .

**Eg. 2.1.3** Let  $E = F(x)$  be the fraction field of  $F[x]$ , i.e. all expressions

$$\left\{ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} : f, g \in F[x], g \neq 0 \right\}$$

Then  $[E : F] = \infty$ , in much the same spirit as Eg 2.

Let  $F$  be a field, and  $E = F[x]/\langle p(x) \rangle$ , where  $p \in F[x]$ . Then  $E$  is an extension of  $F$ , with  $[E : F] = \deg(p)$  by taking a basis  $\{1, t, \dots, t^{\deg(p)-1}\}$ .

### 2.1 Multiplicity of Degree

Let  $K \subset F \subset E$  be finite extensions. Then

$$[E : K] = [E : F][F : K]$$

PROOF.

Let  $n = [E : F]$  and  $m = [F : K]$ . Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be a basis for  $E$  as an  $F$ -vector space, and similarly,  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m$  be a basis for  $F$  as a  $K$ -vector space. Let  $a \in E$ . Then

$$a = \lambda_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + \lambda_n \alpha_n$$



uniquely for  $\lambda_i \in F$ . But each  $\lambda_i$  may be written uniquely as

$$\lambda_i = \lambda_{i1}\beta_1 + \dots + \lambda_{im}\beta_m = \vec{\lambda}_i \vec{\beta}$$

where  $\lambda_{ij} \in K$ . Then, substituting this expression in for  $\lambda_i$ , we see that

$$a = \vec{\lambda}_1 \vec{\beta} \alpha_1 + \dots + \vec{\lambda}_n \vec{\beta} \alpha_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_{ij} \alpha_i \beta_j$$

and hence  $\{\alpha_i \beta_j\}_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq n \\ 1 \leq j \leq m}}$  is a  $K$  basis for  $E$ . □

Let  $F$  be a field and  $\alpha \in E$ , where  $E/F$  is an extension. Then  $F$  *adjoined with*  $\alpha$ , denoted  $F(\alpha)$  is the smallest subfield of  $E$  containing  $\alpha$  and  $F$ .

DEF 2.4

One extends this idea for  $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ , where  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\} \subseteq E$ .

We may think of  $F(\alpha)$  outside of the context of a fixed extension  $E$ .

If  $\alpha$  is algebraic over  $F$  (see Def 2.6), then  $F(\alpha) = F[x]/p(x)|_\alpha$ , the elements  $f \in F[x]/p(x)$  evaluated at  $\alpha$ , where  $p$  is the smallest irreducible polynomial in  $F$  which  $\alpha$  satisfies. If  $\alpha$  is *not* algebraic, then  $F(\alpha) = F[\alpha]$ , all polynomials in  $F$  at  $\alpha$ .

PROP 2.2

A complex number is *constructible by ruler and compass* if it can be obtained from  $\mathbb{Q}$  by successive applications of  $+$  or  $\sqrt{\cdot}$ . Alternatively,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  is constructible if there exists extensions  $\mathbb{Q} \subset F_1 \subset \dots \subset F_n$  such that  $F_{i+1} = F_i(\sqrt{\alpha_i})$ ,  $\alpha_i \in F_i$ , and  $\alpha \in F_n$ .

DEF 2.5

Sometimes called  
"quadratic extensions"

## 2.2 Non-Constructible Roots

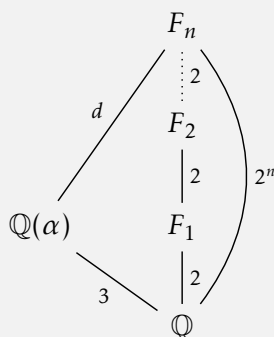
If  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfies an irreducible, cubic polynomial over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\alpha$  is not constructible by ruler and compass.

Suppose that  $\alpha$  is constructible. Then  $\mathbb{Q} \subset F_1 \subset \dots \subset F_n$ , where  $F_{i+1} = F_i(\sqrt{\alpha_i})$ ,  $\alpha_i \in F_i$ . Hence,  $[F_{i+1} : F_i] = 2$ , so  $[F_n : \mathbb{Q}] = 2^n$ . We have also  $\alpha \in F_n$ .

PROOF.

But consider  $\mathbb{Q}[x]/p(x) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  for the cubic  $p$  of interest.  $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{Q}[x]/p(x) : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$ . But  $\alpha \in F_n$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ , so  $F_n$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  vector space of dimension  $d$ .

$3d = 2^n$  by [Thm 2.1](#), which is a contradiction. Visually:



□

As a corollary, we see that, for any  $\alpha \in R$  which satisfies an irreducible polynomial over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , this polynomial must have degree  $2^t$  for some  $t$  in order to be constructible.

**Fig. 2.2.1**  $\sqrt[3]{2}$  is not constructible, since it is a root of  $x^3 - 2$ , which is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Fig. 2.2.2**  $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{9}\right)$  is not constructible, since it is a root of  $4x^3 + 3x + \frac{1}{2}$ .

The constructability of the first two values in [Example 2.2](#) are necessary to duplicate a cube and trisect an angle, respectively, with a ruler and compass.

**DEF 2.6** Let  $E/F$  be a finite extension. An element  $\alpha \in E$  is *algebraic* over  $F$  if  $\alpha$  is the root of a polynomial in  $F[x]$ .

**Fig. 2.3.1**  $\sqrt{2}$  is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$  (see  $x^2 - 2$ ), and  $i$  is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  (see  $x^2 + 1$ ).

**Fig. 2.3.2**  $\pi$  is *not* algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , but it is algebraic over  $\mathbb{C}$  (see  $x^3 - \pi^3$ ). Since we can essentially construct  $\pi$  from  $\pi^3$ , it is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . But  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countable, and hence  $\mathbb{Q}[\pi]$  is.

**Fig. 2.3.3** The set of  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  which are algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is countable!

If  $E/F$  is a finite extension, then every  $\alpha \in E$  is algebraic over  $F$ .

$\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^n\}$  cannot be linearly independent, since  $[E : F] = n$ . Hence, there exist coefficients which vanish a linear combination of these elements. □

**DEF 2.7** The automorphism group of  $E/F$  is

$$\text{Aut}(E/F) := \{\phi : E \rightarrow E : \phi(x + y) = \phi(x) + \phi(y) : \phi(xy) = \phi(x)\phi(y) : \phi|_F = 1\}$$

**PROP 2.4**  $\phi(1) = 1, \phi(0) = 0, \phi(a^{-1}) = \phi(a)^{-1}$  for  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/F)$ .

We observe that any  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/F)$  is automatically injective. In fact, if  $[E : F] < \infty$ , it is automatically surjective as well (by viewing it as an  $F$ -linear transformation).

### 2.3 $\text{Aut}(E/F)$ Has Finite Orbits on $E$

If  $E/F$  is a finite extension, then  $\text{Aut}(E/F)$  acts on  $E$  with finite orbits.

By this, we mean, when taking  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/F)$ , repeated action on some  $\alpha \in E$  yields only finitely distinct elements.

Since  $\alpha$  is algebraic for  $F$ , there is a polynomial  $f(\alpha) = \lambda_n \alpha^n + \dots + \lambda_1 \alpha + \lambda_0 = 0$ , where  $\lambda_i \in F$ . Then

$$\phi(\lambda_n \alpha^n + \dots + \lambda_1 \alpha + \lambda_0) = 0$$

by [Prop 2.4](#). But, by linearity and vanishing conditions on  $F$ , this is also

$$\phi(\lambda_n \alpha^n) + \dots + \phi(\lambda_1 \alpha) + \phi(\lambda_0) = \lambda_n \phi(\alpha)^n + \dots + \lambda_1 \phi(\alpha) + \lambda_0$$

We conclude: if  $\alpha$  is a root of  $f(x) \in F[x]$ , then  $\phi(\alpha)$  is a root of  $f(x)$ . Hence, the orbit of  $\alpha$  under the action of  $\text{Aut}(E/F)$  will be contained in the roots of  $f(x)$ , which is finite (and bounded by  $[E : F]$ , by [Prop 2.3](#)).

To be precise: the orbit of *any*  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/F)$  is contained in the roots of  $f$ , so the orbit of *all* of  $\text{Aut}(E/F)$  is contained in the roots of  $f$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

Though we contextualized [Thm 2.3](#) around finite extensions, we only used the fact that  $\alpha \in E$  is algebraic. Hence, if  $E/F$  is an infinite, algebraic extension (i.e. all  $\alpha \in E$  are algebraic), then the result also holds. We restate without proof:

If  $E/F$  is an algebraic extension, then  $\text{Aut}(E/F)$  acts on  $E$  with finite orbits.

PROP 2.5

If  $[E : F] < \infty$ , then  $\#\text{Aut}(E/F) < \infty$ .

PROP 2.6

Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be generators for  $E$  over  $F$  (i.e. every  $\alpha \in E$  can be written as a polynomial in  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ ). Let  $G = \text{Aut}(E/F)$ . Then

PROOF.

$$E = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$$

$F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \subseteq E$ , since  $\{\alpha_i\} \subseteq E$ . Conversely, since  $\{\alpha_i\}$  are generators, all elements in  $E$  are polynomials in  $\{\alpha_i\}$ , which are contained in  $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  by definition.

If  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/F)$ , then  $\phi$  is completely determined by  $\{\phi(\alpha_1), \dots, \phi(\alpha_n)\}$ , which is contained in

$$\text{orb}_G(\alpha_1) \times \dots \times \text{orb}_G(\alpha_n)$$

Since  $\text{orb}_G(\alpha_i)$  is finite by [Thm 2.3](#), this is finite, and so is  $\text{Aut}(E/F)$ .  $\square$

**Eg. 2.4.1** Suppose that  $E$  is generated over  $F$  by a single element  $\alpha$ , i.e.  $E = F(\alpha)$ . Let  $p(x) \in F[x]$  be the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$ . Then  $E = F/\langle p \rangle$  as well.

$\phi \in \text{Aut}(F(\alpha)/F)$  is determined by  $\phi(\alpha) \in \{\text{roots of } p(x)\}$ , which, as a set, is  $\leq \deg(p(x)) = [F(\alpha) : F]$ , so we have

$$\#\text{Aut}(E/F) \leq [E : F]$$

We remark that this inequality is true in general.

**PROP 2.7** If  $E/F$  is any finite extension, then  $\#\text{Aut}(E/F) \leq [E : F]$ .

PROOF.

We'll proceed by induction on the number of generators for  $E$  over  $F$ . (A similar proof is employed for [Prop 2.15](#).) Let  $E = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ . Notice that  $\text{Aut}(E/F) = \text{Hom}_F(E, E)$ . Let  $M$  be any extension of  $F$ , and consider  $\text{Hom}_F(E, M)$ . We'll instead prove  $\#\text{Hom}_F(E, M) \leq [E : F]$ .

The  $n = 1$  case is essentially covered above in [Example 2.4](#). Let  $E = F(\alpha) = F[\langle p \rangle]$ , where  $p(x) \in F[x]$  is the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$ . Let  $d = [E : F] = \deg(p)$ . Consider  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_F(E, M)$ . Then the map  $\phi \mapsto \phi(\alpha)$  is an inclusion  $\text{Hom}_F(E, M) \hookrightarrow \{\text{roots of } p\}$ , by observing

$$\phi(a_0 + a_1\alpha + \dots + a_{d-1}\alpha^{d-1}) = a_0 + a_1\phi(\alpha) + \dots + a_{d-1}\phi(\alpha)^{d-1}$$

In particular, these are the roots of  $p$  in  $M$ , the collection of which is bound in size by  $\deg(p) = [E : F]$ .

Now we show  $n \rightarrow n + 1$ . Set  $E = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n+1})$ . Let  $F' = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ . If  $F' = E$ , then we're done. One may write  $E = F'(\alpha_{n+1})$ . Let  $[F' : F] = d_1$  and  $[E : F'] = d_2$ .

Consider the restriction map

$$\text{Hom}_F(E, M) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Hom}_{F'}(F', M)$$

We know, by induction, that  $\#\text{Hom}_{F'}(F', M) \leq [F' : F] = d_1$ . Now we ask: given  $\phi_0 \in \text{Hom}_{F'}(F', M)$ , how many  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_F(E, M)$  exist such that  $\phi|_{F'} = \phi_0$ ? In other words, we wish to describe the preimage of the map above. Define

$$g(x) = \lambda_{d_2}x^{d_2} + \dots + \lambda_1x + \lambda_0 : \lambda_i \in F'$$

to be the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha_{n+1}$  in  $F'[x]$ . Fix  $\phi_0 \in \text{Hom}_{F'}(F', M)$  and let  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_F(E, M)$  be such that  $\phi|_{F'} = \phi_0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \phi(g(\alpha_{n+1})) = \phi(\lambda_{d_2})\phi(\alpha_{n+1})^{d_2} + \dots + \phi(\lambda_1)\phi(\alpha_{n+1}) + \phi(\lambda_0) \\ &= \phi_0(\lambda_{d_2})\phi(\alpha_{n+1})^{d_2} + \dots + \phi_0(\lambda_1)\phi(\alpha_{n+1}) + \phi_0(\lambda_0) \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that  $\phi(\alpha_{n+1})$  is a root of  $\tilde{g}$ , which replaces  $g$ 's coefficients  $\lambda_i$  by  $\phi_0(\lambda_i)$ .  $\#\{\text{roots of } \tilde{g}\} \leq \deg(\tilde{g}) = \deg(g) = d_2$ , so there can be at most  $d_2$  choices

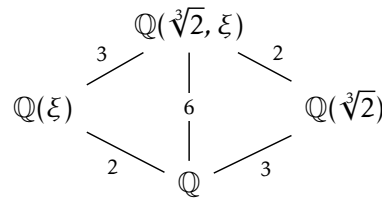
for  $\phi(\alpha_{n+1})$ . However,  $\phi$ 's behavior outside of  $F'$  is completely determined by  $\phi(\alpha_{n+1})$ . We conclude that  $\#\text{Hom}_F(E, M) \leq d_2 \cdot \#\text{Hom}_F(F', M) \leq d_2 d_1 = [E : F]$ .  $\square$

$E/F$  is called *Galois* if  $\#\text{Aut}(E/F) = [E : F]$ . We write  $\text{Gal}(E/F) := \text{Aut}(E/F)$ .

**Ex. 2.5.1** Let  $E = \mathbb{C}$  and  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , with  $[E : F] = 2$ . Consider complex conjugation  $\tau : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  by  $x + iy \mapsto x - iy$ . This is a field automorphism, so  $\{1, \tau\} \subseteq \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ , and indeed  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) = \{1, \tau\}$ , since  $\#\text{Aut}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) \leq [\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] \leq 2$ . Hence,  $\mathbb{C}$  is Galois over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Ex. 2.5.2** Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $E = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) = \mathbb{Q}[x]/(x^3 - 2) \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}) \leftrightarrow \{\text{roots of } x^3 - 2 \text{ over } \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})\}$ . But the only such root is  $\sqrt[3]{2}$ , so  $\#\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}) = 1$ . Hence,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$  is not Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . What can we do to *make* this Galois?

**Ex. 2.5.3** Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}$  as above and  $E = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}, \xi)$ , where  $\xi^3 = 1$  is a cube root of unity, and thus satisfies  $x^2 + x + 1$ . We claim that  $E$  is Galois. We can write



by observing  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}, \xi) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})(\xi)$  and noting that  $x^2 + x + 1$  is still irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ . (Then  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}, \xi) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})] = 2$ , and the rest follows).

$\implies [E : F] = 6$ . Now let  $\phi \in \text{Aut}(E/\mathbb{Q})$ .  $\phi(\xi)$  will be a root of  $x^2 + x + 1$ , i.e.  $\xi$  or  $\bar{\xi}$ . Similarly,  $\phi(\sqrt[3]{2})$  will satisfy  $x^3 - 2$ , so it may be  $\sqrt[3]{2}$ ,  $\xi\sqrt[3]{2}$ , or  $\bar{\xi}\sqrt[3]{2}$ .

$\phi$  is completely determined by where it sends  $\xi$  and  $\sqrt[3]{2}$ , as outlined above. Its action on the roots  $r_1, r_2, r_3$  of  $x^3 - 2$  follow. Fix  $r_1 = \sqrt[3]{2}$ ,  $r_2 = \xi\sqrt[3]{2}$ , and  $r_3 = \bar{\xi}\sqrt[3]{2}$ . We will construct a table of automorphisms:

	$\xi \rightarrow \xi$	$\xi \rightarrow \bar{\xi}$
$\sqrt[3]{2} \rightarrow \sqrt[3]{2}$	Id	$(r_2 \ r_3)$
$\sqrt[3]{2} \rightarrow \xi\sqrt[3]{2}$	$(r_1 \ r_2 \ r_3)$	$(r_1 \ r_2)$
$\sqrt[3]{2} \rightarrow \bar{\xi}\sqrt[3]{2}$	$(r_1 \ r_3 \ r_2)$	$(r_1 \ r_3)$

Hence,  $\text{Gal}(E/F) \cong S_3$ , and has size 6, as desired.

Let  $E/F$  be a finite extension. Consider  $G \subseteq \text{Aut}(E/F)$ . Then

DEF 2.9

$$E^G = \{\alpha \in E : g\alpha = \alpha \ \forall g \in G\}$$

is called the *fixed field* of  $G$  under  $E$ .

**PROP 2.8**  $E^G$  is a subfield of  $E$ , which contains  $F$ .

## 2.4 Galois Fixed Fields are the Base Field

If  $E/F$  is a Galois extension, with  $G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$ , then  $E^G = F$ .

PROOF.

For reference, consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} E \\ | \\ E^G \\ | \\ F \end{array}$$

We know  $\#G \leq [E : E^G]$ , since  $G \subset \text{Aut}(E/E^G)$ . (Let  $\phi \in G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$ ,  $\alpha \in E^G$ . We claim  $\phi|_{E^G} = \text{id}$ .  $\phi(\alpha) = \alpha$  by definition, since  $\phi \in G$ .) We also know  $[E : F] = \#G$ , since  $E/F$  is Galois. But  $[E : E^G]$  divides  $[E : F]$  by multiplicity, so we conclude  $[E : E^G] = [E : F] \implies [E^G : F] = 1$ . Hence,  $E^G = F$  exactly.  $\square$

## 2.5 $E/F$ Galois $\implies$ Normal

Let  $E/F$  be a Galois extension. If  $f(x)$  is an irreducible polynomial in  $F[x]$  which has a root in  $E$ , then  $f(x)$  splits completely into linear factors in  $E[x]$ . We call this property normality (see [Def 2.12](#)).

Let  $r \in E$  be a root of  $f(x)$ . Let  $\{r_1, \dots, r_n\}$  be the orbit of  $r \in E$  under  $\text{Gal}(E/F)$  (as in [Thm 2.3](#)). Consider now

PROOF.

$$g(x) := (x - r_1) \cdots (x - r_n) \in E[x]$$

Expanded out, we get

$$g(x) = x^n + \sigma_1 x^{n-1} + \sigma_2 x^{n-2} + \dots + (-1)^n \sigma_n$$

where  $\sigma_i$  are the "elementary symmetric functions" in  $r_1, \dots, r_n$ , i.e. equivalent up to permutations on the indices of  $r_i$ . For instance,  $\sigma_1 = r_1 + \dots + r_n$  and  $\sigma_n = r_1 \cdots r_n$ . We find that  $\sigma_i \in E^G$ , since  $G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$  permutes the roots  $r_1, \dots, r_n$ , and  $\sigma_i$  are symmetric. But  $E^G = F$ , so  $\sigma_i \in F$ . Hence,  $g(x) \in F[x]$ .

Since  $f$  is irreducible, it is the minimal polynomial which vanishes  $r$  over  $F$ .

But  $g \in F[x]$  vanishes  $r$ , so  $f(x)|g(x) = (x - r_1) \cdots (x - r_n)$ . We conclude that  $f(x) = \prod_{j \in I} (x - r_j)$  for some index restriction  $I \subseteq [n]$ , so it splits.  $\square$

### SPLITTING FIELDS

Let  $F$  be a field and  $f(x)$  be any polynomial in  $F[x]$ . A *splitting field* of  $f(x)$  is an extension  $E/F$  satisfying DEF 2.10

1.  $f(x)$  factors into linear factors in  $E[x]$ , i.e.

$$f(x) = (x - r_1) \cdots (x - r_n) : r_i \in E$$

2.  $E$  is generated, as a field, by the roots  $r_1, \dots, r_n$ , i.e.  $F(r_1, \dots, r_n) = E$ .

A splitting field always exists.

PROP 2.9

By induction on  $\deg(f) = n$ . If  $n = 1$ , then  $E = F$  itself.

Let  $\deg(f) = n + 1$ . Let  $p(x)$  be an irreducible factor of  $f(x)$  in  $F[x]$ . (If  $f$  is irreducible itself, then set  $p = f$ , and our argument does not change).

Consider  $L = F[x]/\langle p \rangle$ . Then  $L$  is a field containing  $F$  and a root of  $p(x)$  (and hence of  $f(x)$ ). Let  $r$  be such a root of  $p(x)$  in  $L$ . Then  $(x - r)$  divides  $p(x)$ , and hence  $f(x)$ , in  $L[x]$ , i.e. we can write  $f(x) = (x - r)g(x)$ , with  $\deg(g) = n$ .

Let  $E$  be the splitting field of  $g(x)$  over  $L$ . We claim that this is the splitting field of  $f$  over  $F$ . First note that, over  $E$ ,  $g$  splits completely. But  $f(x) = (x - r)g(x)$  in a subfield of  $L \subset E$ , so  $f$  splits completely too.  $E$  will be generated by the roots of  $g$ , which are contained in the roots of  $f$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

We remark that it is computationally hard to compute the degree of a splitting field of  $f(x)$ . In particular, if  $f(x)$  is irreducible of degree  $n$ , and  $E$  is the splitting field of  $f(x)$ , then

$$n \leq [E : F] \leq n!$$

In the best case, we have an irreducible with only one root to affix, in which we mod out by a degree  $n$  polynomial, yielding a degree  $n$  extension. In the worse case, we must affix *all* roots "manually," generating extensions-of-extensions-of-... of decrementing degree, which yields a total extension of degree  $n \cdot (n - 1) \cdot \dots \cdot 1 = n!$  by multiplicity.

## 2.6 All Splitting Fields Are Equivalent

If  $f(x) \in F[x]$  and  $E, E'$  are two splitting fields of  $f(x)$  over  $F$ , then  $E \cong E'$  as extensions of  $F$ .

By induction on the degree  $\deg(f) = n$ . If  $n = 1$ , then  $E = E' = F$ .

Let  $p(x)$ , as before, be an irreducible factor of  $f(x)$ , and let  $r$  be a root of  $p(x)$  in a splitting field  $E$  of  $p$ . Similarly, let  $r'$  be a root of  $p(x)$  in  $E'$ , another splitting field of  $p$ . We know that  $F(r)$  and  $F(r')$  are isomorphic over  $F$ , since they are both equal to  $F[x]/p(x)$ . Let  $\phi$  be the isomorphism  $F(r) \cong F(r')$ .

Denote  $L = F(r) = F(r')$ . Then  $E$  and  $E'$  are also splitting fields of  $g(x)$ , where  $(x - r)g(x) = f(x)$ , over  $L$ . By induction, then, they are  $E$  and  $E'$  are isomorphic as extensions.  $\square$

**PROP 2.10** If  $E/F$  is Galois, then  $E$  is the splitting field of a polynomial  $f(x)$  in  $F[x]$ .

PROOF.

Since  $[E : F] < \infty$ , let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be a finite set of generators for  $E/F$  (such that every generator is "necessary"). Let  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  be the minimal irreducible polynomials in  $F[x]$  having  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  as roots, respectively (e.g.  $f_1$  is minimally irreducible such that  $\alpha_1$  is a root).

Consider  $f(x) = f_1(x) \cdots f_n(x)$ . By normality of  $E[x]$  (see [Thm 2.5](#)), all the  $f_j$ 's factor completely in  $E[x]$ . Hence,  $f$  factors completely. The roots of  $f(x)$  generate  $E$  by construction, so we conclude that  $E$  is a splitting field of  $f(x)$ .

Be careful! To be the splitting field,  $E$  must be generated by  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  *exactly*, even though  $f_1 \cdots f_n$  may contain more roots. To see that this doesn't matter, if  $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}) = F'$ , we have  $F'(\alpha_n) \cong F'(\beta_n) \cong F'/\langle f_n \rangle$ , where  $\alpha_n, \beta_n$  are any two roots of  $f_n$ . We can perform this "replacement" for any choice of roots for each  $f_i$ .  $\square$

**PROP 2.11** All finite fields have cardinality  $p^n$  for some prime  $p$  and  $n > 0$ .

PROOF.

Let  $F$  be a finite field. Recall that  $\text{char}(F) = p$ , the minimal  $p$  such that  $\overbrace{1 + \dots + 1}^{p \text{ times}} = 0$ , is always prime. We can naturally extract  $\mathbb{F}_p \subset F$  by taking the subfield generated by 1. Let  $n := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}(F)$ . We have  $\#F = p^n$ .  $\square$

## 2.7 Unique Field of Prime Power Cardinality

Given a prime  $p$  and an integer  $n > 0$ , there is a field  $F$  of cardinality  $p^n$ . Furthermore, this field is unique.

This theorem implies a one-to-one correspondence between finite fields and prime powers.



PROOF.

One possible approach is to find a polynomial  $f(x)$  in  $\mathbb{F}_p[x]$  which is irreducible of degree  $n$ . Then

$$F = \mathbb{F}_p[x]/(f(x))$$

is the desired field. This is a valid approach. However, instead, we'll construct a polynomial of degree  $p^n$  whose roots form a field, and are distinct.

Let  $F$  be the splitting field of  $x^{p^n} - x$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . Note that  $x^{p^n} - x$  has distinct roots in any extension of  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . Hence,  $\#F \geq p^n$ . We now need to show that  $\#F = p^n$  exactly. To do so, recall that the set of roots of  $x^{p^n} - x$  is closed under addition and multiplication, and is hence a field, so  $\#F \leq p^n$ .

The uniqueness of  $F$  up to isomorphism follows from [Thm 2.6](#).  $\square$

Note that  $F$ , as constructed above, is an extension of  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . It happens to be Galois.

## 2.8 Extensions of $\mathbb{F}_p$ are Galois

If  $F/\mathbb{F}_p$  is a finite extension for prime  $p$ , then  $\#\text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p) = [F : \mathbb{F}_p]$ . Moreover,  $\text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p) = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ .

The map  $\phi : F \rightarrow F$  by  $a \mapsto a^p$  is called the *Frobenius automorphism*.

DEF 2.11

Consider the Frobenius homomorphism  $\phi : F \rightarrow F$ . Because  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, it is injective. But  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}(F) < \infty$ , so  $\phi$  is a bijection, and hence an automorphism.

PROOF.

$\phi^k(a) = a^{p^k}$ . Let  $k = \text{ord}(\phi)$ . This is the least  $k$  such that  $\phi^k(a) = a \forall a \in F$ . If there exists such a  $k$ , then  $x^{p^k} - x$  has at least  $p^n$  roots, and so  $k \geq n$ . But also  $\phi^n = I$ , so exactly  $k = n$ , and  $\text{ord}(\phi) = n$  in  $\text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p)$ . Hence,  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \subset \text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p)$ .

But  $\#\text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p) \leq [F : \mathbb{F}_p] = n$ , so in fact  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} = \text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{F}_p)$ , with a canonical generator  $\phi$  of order  $n$ :

$$\text{Gal}(F/\mathbb{F}_p) = \{\phi, \dots, \phi^{n-1}, \phi^n\} \quad \square$$

## NORMAL, SEPARABLE, AND GALOIS

$E/F$  is called *normal* if every irreducible polynomial  $f \in F[x]$  with a root in  $E$  splits completely in  $E$ .

DEF 2.12

Any Galois extension  $E/F$  is normal.

PROP 2.12

See proof of [Thm 2.5](#).  $\square$

PROOF.

An extension  $E$  over  $F$  is *separable* if every irreducible polynomial  $f \in F[x]$  with a root in  $E$  has no multiple roots. DEF 2.13

A polynomial  $f \in F[x]$  is called *separable* if it is irreducible and has no repeated roots in its splitting field. Equivalently,  $f$  is irreducible and  $\gcd(f, f') = 1$ . DEF 2.14

**PROP 2.13** If  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ , then every extension  $E/F$  is separable.

PROOF.

If  $\gcd(f, f') = 1$ , where  $f'$  is the formal derivative, then  $E/F$  is separable. (This is necessary and sufficient—if a root appears with multiplicity  $> 1$ , it will show up in the gcd). We show this is the case when  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ .

We write

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 : a_i \in F \implies f'(x) = n a_n x^{n-1} + (n-1) a_{n-1} x^{n-2} + \dots + 2 a_2 x + a_1$$

We know that  $\gcd(f, f') \mid f$ . But  $f$  is irreducible, so  $\gcd(f, f') = f$  or 1. If  $\gcd(f, f') = f$ , then  $n = n-1$  in  $F$  (as  $\deg(f) = n, \deg(f') = n-1$ ). But  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ , so this can't occur.  $\square$

**PROP 2.14** A finite Galois extension  $E/F$  is separable.

PROOF.

We repeat the proof in [Thm 2.5](#). By necessity, the orbit of a root contains distinct elements. Assume we "terminate" the orbit, i.e. observe  $\mapsto \alpha \mapsto \beta \mapsto \beta \mapsto$ . Let  $\phi$  be the automorphism we take the orbit through.  $\phi(\alpha) = \beta$  and  $\phi(\beta) = \beta \implies \phi(\alpha^{-1}\beta) = 1 \implies \alpha^{-1}\beta = 1 \implies \alpha = \beta$ .  $\square$

If  $E/F$  is finite, normal, and separable, then  $E/F$  is Galois.

PROOF We provide a similar proof to that of [Prop 2.7](#). In particular, we show  $\#\text{Hom}_F(K, E) = [K : F]$  for  $F \subset K \subset E$  by induction over  $n = [K : F]$ . Then,  $\#\text{Aut}(E/F) = [E : F]$  as desired. If  $n = 1$ , then  $K = F$ , so  $\#\text{Hom}_F(F, E) = \{1\}$ , since, for  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_F(F, E)$ ,  $\phi(\alpha) = \alpha\phi(1) = \alpha$ .

We show for  $n > 1$ . Let  $K$  be some intermediate extension of  $F$  with generators  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t$ , i.e.  $K = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t)$  with  $[K : F] = n$ . We can write  $K = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{t-1})(\alpha_t) =: K_{t-1}(\alpha_t)$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $\#\text{Hom}_F(K_{t-1}, E) = [K_{t-1} : F]$ .

We now wish to show that there exist  $[K : K_{t-1}]$  ways to extend the domain of  $\phi_0 \in \text{Hom}_F(K_{t-1}, E)$  to a homomorphism  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_F(K, E)$ . Then,  $\#\text{Hom}_F(K, E) = [K : K_{t-1}][K_{t-1} : F] = [K : F]$ .

Let  $\alpha_t \in K$  have minimal polynomial  $p(x) \in K_{t-1}[x]$ , so that  $K = K_{t-1}[x]/\langle p(x) \rangle$ . Fix  $\phi_0 \in \text{Hom}_F(K_{t-1}, E)$  with  $\phi|_{K_{t-1}} = \phi_0$ . The remainder of  $\phi$ 's mapping is determined by  $\phi(\alpha_t)$ .

$\phi(\alpha_t)$  will be a root of  $p$ , since  $\alpha_t$  is a root of  $p$ . Let  $[K : K_{t-1}] = d$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \phi(p(\alpha_t)) = \phi(\lambda_n \alpha_t^d + \dots + \lambda_1 \alpha_t + \lambda_0) \\ &= \phi_0(\lambda_n) \phi(\alpha_t)^d + \dots + \phi_0(\lambda_1) \phi(\alpha_t) + \phi_0(\lambda_0) \end{aligned}$$

where we note that  $\phi(\lambda_i) = \phi_0(\lambda_i)$ , since  $\phi|_{K_{t-1}} = \phi_0$ . We conclude that  $\phi(\alpha_t)$  is a root of  $\tilde{p}$ , the polynomial  $p$  with its coefficients composed with  $\phi_0$ . In any case, it is of degree  $d$ , so we can find at most  $d$  roots, and hence  $d$  mappings for  $\phi(\alpha_t)$ .

We need to demonstrate that there are *exactly*  $d$  ways to extend  $\phi_0$ , i.e. exactly  $d$  distinct roots of  $\tilde{p}$  in  $E$ .  $p$  is minimal in  $K_{t-1}$ , so it divides  $g$ , the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha_t$  in  $E$ . Composing  $p$  and  $g$ 's coefficients with  $\phi_0$  yields  $\tilde{p}|\tilde{g}$ . But  $g$  has coefficients in  $F$ , so  $\phi_0$  doesn't alter the polynomial, i.e.  $g = \tilde{g}$ .   
 Why is  $\tilde{g}$  in  $E$ ? Composing  $p$  and  $g$ 's coefficients with  $\phi_0$  yields  $\tilde{p}|\tilde{g}$ . But  $g$  has coefficients in  $F$ , so  $\phi_0$  doesn't alter the polynomial, i.e.  $g = \tilde{g}$ .  $\tilde{g}$  is minimal in  $K_{t-1}[x]$  with this property.

By normality and separability,  $g$  splits into distinct linear factors in  $E[x]$ , and therefore  $\tilde{p}$  does as well. We conclude that  $\tilde{p}$  attains all its roots in  $E[x]$ , so  $\phi(\alpha_t)$  has exactly  $d$  valid mappings.  $\square$

If  $E/F$  is a finite extension, then the following are equivalent:

PROP 2.16

1.  $\#\text{Aut}(E/F) = [E : F]$
2.  $E$  is normal and separable
3.  $E$  is the splitting field of a separable polynomial over  $F$ .

(1  $\implies$  2) is done in [Prop 2.14](#) and [Thm 2.5](#). (2  $\implies$  1) was completed above. (1  $\implies$  3) is completed in [Prop 2.10](#), noting the separability of  $f$  as defined (there are some fine points here to deduce from the separability of each  $f_i$ ). (3  $\implies$  2) is left as an exercise.  $\square$

PROOF.

If  $E/F$  is Galois, and  $K$  is a subfield of  $E$  containing  $F$ , then  $E$  is Galois over  $K$ .

PROP 2.17

Since  $E/F$  is normal and separable, if  $\alpha \in E$ , there exists a polynomial  $f \in F[x]$  which is irreducible, splits distinctly in  $E$ , and is satisfied by  $\alpha$  (take the minimal polynomial).

PROOF.

Let  $g$  be the minimal irreducible polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $K$ . Then  $g|f$ . But in  $E[x]$ ,  $f$  factors into distinct linear factors, and, therefore, so does  $g$ . We conclude that  $E/K$  is normal and separable.

---

*Caveat:*  $K$  need not be Galois over  $F$ . Let  $G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$ ,  $X = \text{Hom}_F(K, E)$ . Then  $\#X = [K : F]$  by the induction argument employed in [Prop 2.15](#).

---

$\text{Hom}_F(K, K) \subsetneq \text{Hom}_F(K, E) = X$  is reasonable, where then  $\#\text{Aut}(K/F) < [K : F]$ .

---

The idea above can also prove that  $E/K$  is Galois. We write, by orbit stabilizer,

$$\#X = \frac{\#G}{\text{stab}(\phi)} \implies \text{stab}(\phi) = \frac{\#G}{\#X} = \frac{[E : F]}{[K : F]} = [E : K]$$

where we take the action  $g\phi = g \circ \phi$  for  $\phi \in X$ . Then  $\text{stab}(\phi) = \text{Aut}(E/K)$  exactly. For this, let  $g\phi = \phi$  and  $\alpha \in K$ . Then  $g\phi(\alpha) = \phi(\alpha)$ , but  $\phi(\alpha) = \alpha$ , so  $g\alpha = \alpha \implies g \in \text{Aut}(E/K)$ . The converse holds similarly.  $\square$

**Eg. 2.6.1** Recall that, if  $E/\mathbb{F}_p$  is a finite extension, then  $E/\mathbb{F}_p$  is Galois with Galois group  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  (see [Thm 2.8](#)).

Consider then  $K = \mathbb{F}_{p^t}$ , with  $\mathbb{F}_p \subset K \subset E$ , then  $E$  is Galois over  $K$ .  $\text{Gal}(E/K) = \langle \phi^t \rangle$ , with  $\phi^t : x \rightarrow x^{p^t}$ . (The "relative Frobenius" over  $K$ ).

### GALOIS CORRESPONDENCE

**PROP 2.18** Let  $F \subset E$  be a finite Galois extension. The map  $K \mapsto \text{Gal}(E/K)$  is an injection from  $\{\text{subfields } K : F \subset K \subset E\} \hookrightarrow \{\text{subgroups of } \text{Gal}(E/F)\}$

PROOF.

We'll construct a left inverse for  $K \mapsto \text{Gal}(E/K)$ . Let  $H = \text{Gal}(E/K) \subset \text{Gal}(E/F)$ . Consider  $E^H$  (recalling [Def 2.9](#)). This is  $K$  exactly by [Thm 2.4](#).  $\square$

**PROP 2.19** If  $E/F$  is finite and Galois, then there are finitely many fields  $K$  such that  $F \subset K \subset E$ .

**PROP 2.20** If  $E/F$  is finite and separable, then there are finitely many subfields  $F \subset K \subset E$ .

PROOF.

Let  $E/F$  be separable and finite. Then  $E$  is generated by  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t$ , where  $\alpha_j$  is the root of a separable polynomial  $g_j(X) \in F[x]$ . Hence,  $\tilde{E}$ , the splitting field of  $g_1 \cdots g_t$ , contains the generators of  $E$ , and hence  $E \subset \tilde{E}$ . Since  $g_1, \dots, g_t$  is separable,  $\tilde{E}/F$  is Galois. By the previous corollary, there are finitely many  $K : F \subset K \subset \tilde{E}$ , and so finitely many  $K : F \subset K \subset E$ .  $\square$

**Eg. 2.7.1** We remark that  $E/F$  being separable is *essential*. As a counterexample, take  $F = \mathbb{F}_p(u, v)$ , the field of rational functions on two variables  $u, v$ , over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . We then adjoin to  $F$  the  $p^{\text{th}}$  roots of  $u$  and  $v$ , and write  $E = F(u^{1/p}, v^{1/p})$ . Then  $K_\alpha = F(u^{1/p} + \alpha v^{1/p})$  as  $\alpha \in F$  are all distinct subfields  $F \subset K \subset E$ .

As proof, first note that  $[E : F] = p^2$ , since  $u^{1/p}$  and  $v^{1/p}$  are the roots of irreducible polynomials  $x^p - u$  and  $x^p - v$ , respectively. Writing  $E = F(u^{1/p})(v^{1/p})$ , and noting that  $x^p - v$  is still irreducible in  $F(u^{1/p})$ ,

delivers this fact.

Fix  $\alpha \in F$ . Then  $K_\alpha = F(u^{1/p} + \alpha v^{1/p}) \subset E$ , since we can write  $u^{1/p} + \alpha v^{1/p}$  in  $E$ , and  $F \subset E$ . We also claim that  $K_\alpha, K_\beta$  are distinct fields. If this were not the case, then  $u^{1/p} + \alpha v^{1/p} - (u^{1/p} + \beta v^{1/p}) = (\alpha - \beta)v^{1/p}$ . But then  $(\alpha - \beta)^{-1}(\alpha - \beta)v^{1/p} = v^{1/p} \in K_\alpha = K_\beta$ . But then  $u^{1/p} + \beta v^{1/p} - \beta v^{1/p} = u^{1/p} \in K_\alpha = K_\beta$ . Then  $K_\alpha = K_\beta = E$ . But  $E$  is of degree  $p^2 \nmid$ .

## 2.9 Primitive Element Theorem

Let  $E/F$  be finite and separable. Then  $\exists \alpha \in E$  such that  $E = F(\alpha) = F/\langle p(x) \rangle$ , where  $p$  is the minimal irreducible polynomial of  $\alpha$  in  $F[x]$ .

Let  $H \subset \text{Gal}(E/F)$ . Then  $[E : E^H] = \#H$ .

PROP 2.21

*Proof under construction* 

□

PROOF.

## 2.10 Galois Correspondence

Let  $F/E$  be finite and Galois. The maps

$$\{\text{subfields } F \subset K \subset E\} \rightleftharpoons \{\text{subgroups } H \subset \text{Gal}(E/F)\}$$

given by  $K \mapsto \text{Gal}(E/K)$  and  $H \mapsto E^H$  are mutual, inclusion-reversing inverses.

We know that  $H \mapsto E^H$  inverts  $K \mapsto \text{Gal}(E/K)$ . To show the converse, consider  $E^H$ . We claim that  $\text{Gal}(E/E^H) = H$ . But  $H \subseteq \text{Gal}(E/E^H)$ , since  $\phi(\alpha) = \alpha$  for  $\phi \in H$ ,  $\alpha \in E^H$ , by construction. [Prop 2.21](#) establishes  $\#H = \text{Gal}(E/E^H)$ , and we are done.

PROOF.

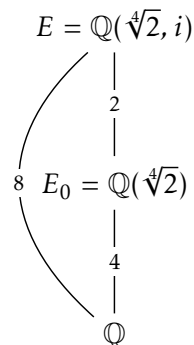
If  $K \subset L$  as subfields, then  $\text{Gal}(E/L) < \text{Gal}(E/K)$  as subgroups (anything that fixes  $L$  will also fix  $K$ ), so this map is inclusion reversing. □

**Eg. 2.8.1** Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $E$  be the splitting field of  $x^4 - 2$ . Let  $E_0 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2})$ . In this field, then

$$x^4 - 2 = (x - \sqrt[4]{2})(x + \sqrt[4]{2})(x^2 + \sqrt{2})$$

But  $E_0 \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  (not  $\mathbb{C}$ ), so we cannot factor the last term further. We conclude that  $E = E_0[x]/(x^2 + \sqrt{2})$ . This will have a root  $i(\sqrt[4]{2})$ , so we

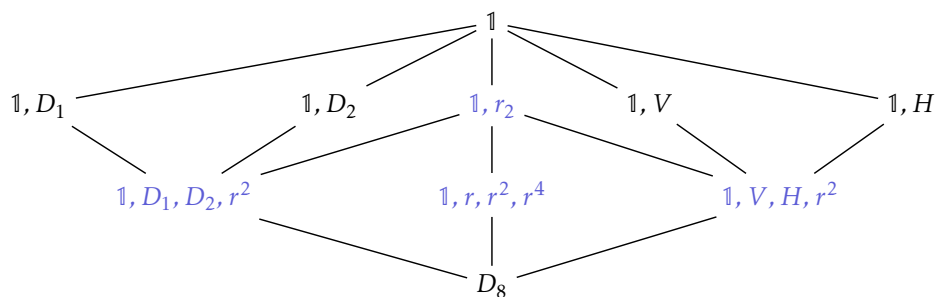
may adjoin  $E = E_0(i(\sqrt[4]{2})) = E_0(i)$ , and conclude  $E = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2}, i)$ .



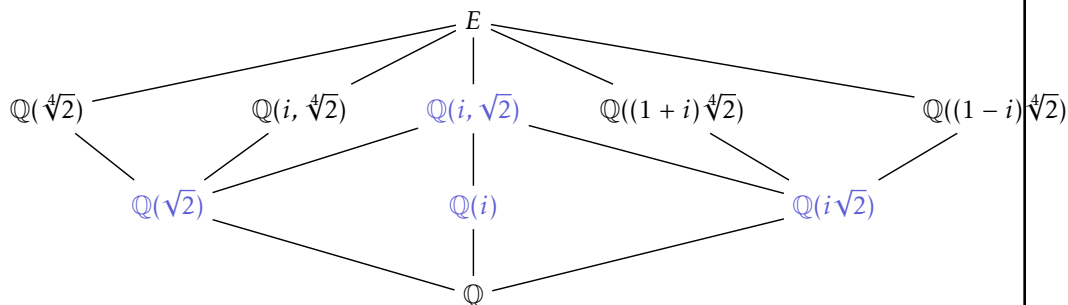
Let  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q})$ . It is determined by where it sends  $\sigma(r)$  and  $\sigma(i)$ , where  $r = \sqrt[4]{2}$ :

$$\sigma(r) \in \{r, -r, ir, -ir\} \quad \sigma(i) \in \{i, -i\}$$

One computes the action of  $\sigma$  on the roots to find that  $\text{Gal}(E, \mathbb{Q}) \cong D_8$ . We list the subgroup structure of  $D_8$  (nontrivial normal subgroups in blue):



Using the Galois correspondence, with  $H \mapsto E^H$ , we generate the associated fixed fields (non-trivial Galois extensions in blue):



Note that each intermediary extension is of degree 2.

DEF 2.15 Let  $\phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$ , with  $F \subset K \subset E$ . Then  $\phi K = \{\phi x : x \in K\}$ , called the *complement*, is also a subfield  $F \subset \phi K \subset E$ .

**PROP 2.22** Let  $\phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$ . If  $H \leftrightarrow K$  under the Galois correspondence, then  $\phi H \phi^{-1} \leftrightarrow \phi K$ .

$\text{Gal}(E/\phi K) = \{\alpha \in \text{Gal}(E/F) : \alpha(\phi x) = \phi x \ \forall x \in K\}$ . But then  $\phi^{-1} \alpha \phi(x) = x$ , so  $\phi^{-1} \alpha \phi \in \text{Gal}(E/K) = H$ , and hence  $\alpha \in \phi H \phi^{-1}$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

### 2.11 Galois Intermediate Fields

Given  $F \subset K \subset E$ , the following are equivalent:

1.  $\phi K = K \ \forall \phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$
2.  $K$  is Galois over  $F$
3.  $\text{Gal}(E/K)$  is a normal subgroup of  $\text{Gal}(E/F)$ , with  $\text{Gal}(E/F)/\text{Gal}(E/K) = \text{Gal}(K/F)$  (as a quotient).

1  $\implies$  3. Let  $H = \text{Gal}(E/K)$ . Then if  $\phi K = K \ \forall \phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$ , then  $\phi H \phi^{-1} = H \ \forall \phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$  by [Prop 2.22](#), i.e.  $H < \text{Gal}(E/F)$  is normal.

1, 3  $\implies$  2. Consider the restriction  $\eta : \text{Gal}(E/F) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(K/F)$  (this is valid, since  $\phi K = K$  for  $\phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$ ). This is a homomorphism. Then  $\ker(\eta) = \text{Gal}(E/K)$ , so the isomorphism theorem tells us that  $\text{Gal}(E/F)/\text{Gal}(E/K) \hookrightarrow \text{Aut}(K/F)$ .

But then  $\frac{[E:F]}{[E:K]} \leq \#\text{Aut}(K/F)$ , while also, by multiplicity,  $\frac{[E:F]}{[E:K]} = [K:F]$ . We conclude that  $[K:F] \leq \#\text{Aut}(K/F)$ , and so  $\text{Aut}(K/F) \leq [K:F]$  implies the result.

3  $\implies$  1. Let  $H = \text{Gal}(E/K)$ . Then  $H \leftrightarrow K$  in the Galois correspondence. By [Prop 2.22](#),  $\phi H \phi^{-1} \leftrightarrow \phi K$ . But  $\phi^{-1} H \phi = H$  for  $\phi \in \text{Gal}(E/F)$  by normality, so  $H \leftrightarrow \phi K$ . Since the correspondence is one-to-one,  $K = \phi K$ .  $\square$

PROOF.

An extension  $E/F$  is called a *radical extension* if  $\exists n \geq 1$  and  $\alpha \in F$  such that  $E = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}) = F[x]/\langle x^n - \alpha \rangle$  (if  $x^n - \alpha$  is irreducible) or  $E = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}) = F[x]/\langle p(x) \rangle$ , where  $p|x^n - \alpha$  is an irreducible factor (if  $x^n - \alpha$  is reducible).

**DEF 2.17** A tower of radical extensions  $E/F$  is a sequence

$$F = E_0 \subset E_1 \subset \cdots \subset E_n = E$$

where  $E_i/E_{i+1}$  is a radical extension, i.e.  $E_i = E_{i+1}(\sqrt[n_i]{\alpha_i} : n_i \geq 1, \alpha_i \in E_{i+1})$ .

This definition is motivated by the following two questions: is every finite extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  contained in a tower of radical extensions?; and, given a polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ , can its roots be expressed in terms of radicals?

Recall [Def 2.5](#): an element  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  is constructible if it is contained in a tower of quadratic tower of extensions. We showed in [Thm 2.2](#) that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  is *not* constructible if  $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$ . More generally,  $\alpha$  is constructible only if  $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2^t$  for some  $t$ .

Our goal is to find a structural invariant of  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)/\mathbb{Q}$  when  $\alpha$  is constructible by radicals (not necessarily quadratic).

Let  $E = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})$  for  $\alpha \in F, n \geq 1$ . This need not be Galois (see  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}$ ). We know  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})$  is contained in the splitting field of  $x^n - \alpha$ , i.e.  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}, \xi)$ , where  $\xi$  is a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity. Hence, if  $\xi \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})$ , then we would have a simple structure for  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})/\mathbb{Q})$ .   
roots of  $x^3 - 2$  to roots of  $x^3 - 2$ , but there is only one in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ , namely  $\sqrt[3]{2}$

## 2.12 Galois Radical Extensions

Suppose that  $F$  contains distinct  $n$ -th roots of unity. Let  $\mu_n(F) = \{x \in F^\times : x^n = 1\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})$  is Galois with an abelian Galois group. Moreover, this group is (canonically) a subgroup of  $\mu_n(F)$ .

PROOF.

Let  $F$  be as above, and let  $E = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha})$ . Consider the mapping

$$\eta : \text{Aut}(E/F) \rightarrow \mu_n(F) \quad \phi \mapsto \xi^j$$

where  $\phi(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}) = \xi^j \sqrt[n]{\alpha}$  for some  $j$ . One checks that  $\eta$  is indeed a homomorphism. It is also injective:  $\eta(\phi) = 1 \implies \phi(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}) = \sqrt[n]{\alpha}$ , so  $\phi$  is the identity on  $E$ . Hence,  $\text{Aut}(E/F) \hookrightarrow \mu_n(F)$ . Observe also that, since  $\xi \in F$ ,  $E = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}) = F(\sqrt[n]{\alpha}, \xi)$  is the splitting field of  $x^n - \alpha$ .  $\square$

**Let  $\text{char}(F) = 0$  from now on.**

A finite group is *solvable* if there is a sequence

$$\{1\} = G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots \subset G_n = G$$

where  $G_{i-1} < G_i$  is normal as a subgroup, and  $G_i/G_{i-1}$  is abelian. In particular,  $G_1$  must be abelian.

DEF 2.19 We say that an extension  $E/F$  is *solvable* or *abelian* if its Galois group is solvable or abelian, respectively.

**Eg. 2.9.1** Every abelian group  $G$  is solvable, with a trivial sequence  $\{1\} \subset G$ .

**Eg. 2.9.2**  $S_3$  and  $S_4$  are solvable, by the sequences

$$\{1\} \subset \mathbb{Z}3 = A_3 \subset S_3 \quad \text{and} \quad \{1\} \subset K_4 \subset A_4 \subset S_4$$

For  $S_3$ , observe that  $A_3$  is normal in  $S_3$ , and  $S_3/A_3 = \mathbb{Z}2$ . The same holds for  $S_4$  and  $A_4$ . We also have  $A_4/K_4 = \mathbb{Z}3$ .

**Eg. 2.9.3**  $S_5$  is *not* solvable, since it only has  $A_5$  as a normal subgroup, and  $A_5$  is simple and non-abelian.

PROP 2.23

If  $G$  is solvable, then any quotient  $\overline{G}$  is solvable.



PROOF.

Let  $\eta$  be the quotient map on  $G$ . Then we may apply this map to all subgroups  $G_i \subset G$ , i.e.  $\eta(G_i) = \overline{G_i}$ , which make up its solvable sequence.  $\eta$  then induces a surjective homomorphism  $\tilde{\eta} : G_i/G_{i-1} \rightarrow \overline{G_i}/\overline{G_{i-1}}$  by  $\eta(\alpha G_{i-1}) = \eta(\alpha)\overline{G_{i-1}}$ . We conclude that  $\overline{G_i}/\overline{G_{i-1}}$  is abelian.  $\eta$  preserves normality, so we're done.  $\square$

If  $E/F$  is a tower of radical extensions, it is contained in a Galois extension  $\tilde{E}/F$ , where  $\text{Gal}(\tilde{E}/F)$  is solvable.

PROP 2.24

*Proof under construction* 

 $\square$ 

PROOF.

### 2.13 Main Theorem of Galois Theory

If  $f(x) \in F[x]$  is solvable by radicals, then  $\text{Gal}(f)$  is a solvable group.

We say that  $f$  is solvable by radicals if all its solutions are constructible with radicals (over the base field). Then, its splitting field  $E$  (generated by these roots) is contained in a tower of radical extensions, which itself is contained in a Galois extension  $\tilde{E}$ , for which  $\text{Gal}(\tilde{E}/F)$  is solvable. Therefore,  $\text{Gal}(E/F)$  is a quotient of  $\text{Gal}(\tilde{E}/F)$ . (Refer to the proof of [Thm 2.11](#)). But solvability is preserved by taking quotients, so we are done.  $\square$

PROOF.

Every solvable extension of  $F$  is constructible by radicals.

PROP 2.25

It is enough to show this for abelian extensions, i.e.  $E/F$  such that  $\text{Gal}(E/F)$  is abelian. Recall that if *any*  $E$  is solvable, then its Galois group  $G$  is such that

PROOF.

$$\{1\} = G_0 < \cdots < G_n = G$$

with  $G_i/G_{i-1}$  abelian and  $G_{i-1} < G_i$  normal. The Galois correspondence yields

$$F = E_0 \subset \cdots \subset E_n = E$$

where  $\text{Gal}(E_i/E_{i-1})$  is abelian. Hence, if we consider the result on each sub-extension, also have the result for  $E$ . Also assume that  $F$  contains the  $n$ -th roots of unity, where  $n = [E : F]$ . (One *can* prove the result without this assumption).

We can view  $E$  as an  $F$ -linear representation of  $G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$ . But  $G$  is abelian, so all its irreducible representations are 1-dim. (In the context of our previous results,  $F$  is "complex," since  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ ). Let  $\hat{G} = \text{Hom}(G, F^\times)$  (all representations of  $G$ ), with

$$E = \bigoplus_{\chi \in \hat{G}} E[\chi]$$

where  $E[\chi] = \{v \in E : \sigma v = \chi(\sigma)v \ \forall \sigma \in G\}$ . We claim  $\dim_F(E[\chi]) \leq 1$ . Suppose  $v \in E[\chi]$ , with  $v \neq 0$ . Consider  $\frac{w}{v}$  for some  $w \in E[\chi]$ . We would like this to be in

$F$ . (Then, one could write  $w = \lambda v$  with  $\lambda \in F$  for any  $w \in E[\chi]$ , i.e.  $E[\chi] = \lambda F$ . We conclude that  $\dim_F(E[\chi]) \leq 1$ ).

$$\sigma\left(\frac{w}{v}\right) = \frac{\sigma w}{\sigma v} = \frac{\chi(\sigma)w}{\chi(\sigma)v} = \frac{w}{v} \quad \forall \sigma \in G$$

so, by prior theory,  $\frac{w}{v} \in E^G = F$ , so  $\dim_F(E[\chi]) \leq 1$  indeed. But  $\dim_F(E) = [E : F] = \#G$  and  $\dim_F(\oplus_{\chi} E[\chi]) \leq \#\hat{G} = \#G$ . Hence, exactly,  $\dim_F(E[\chi]) = 1$ . Then,  $E$  is isomorphic to  $F[G]$  as a  $G$ -representation (recall: the regular representation, [Def 1.10](#)).

For each  $\chi \in \hat{G}$ , let  $y_{\chi} \in E[\chi]$  be a basis for it. Then  $E = F(y_{\chi} : \chi \in \hat{G})$ . Consider now  $y_{\chi}^n$ :

$$\sigma(y_{\chi}^n) = [\sigma(y_{\chi})]^n = [\chi(\sigma)y_{\chi}]^n = \chi(\sigma)^n y_{\chi}^n = y_{\chi}^n$$

we conclude that  $y_{\chi}^n \in F$ . Relabeling,  $y_{\chi}^n = a_{\chi} \implies a_{\chi}^{\frac{1}{n}} = y_{\chi}$ , and we rewrite

$$E = F(a_{\chi}^{\frac{1}{n}} : \chi \in \hat{G}) \quad \square$$

*Exercise: if  $G$  is a finite group, and  $H < G$  is a solvable normal subgroup, with  $G/H$  also solvable, then  $G$  itself is solvable.*

**PROP 2.26** If  $f(x)$  is a quintic polynomial, and  $\text{Gal}(f) = S_5$ , then  $f(x)$  is not solvable by radicals.

PROOF.

If this were the case, then  $S_5$  would be solvable. But we've seen in [Example 2.9](#) that this is not possible.  $\square$

In order for this proposition to be useful, we should demonstrate some quintic polynomial which has the full Galois group  $S_5$ :

**PROP 2.27** Let  $G$  be a transitive subgroup of  $S_5$  containing a transposition. Then  $G = S_5$ .

PROOF.

Since  $G$  acts transitively on 5 element,  $5 \mid \#G$ . Hence, WLOG,  $\sigma = (12345) \in G$ . It also contains a transposition, say  $\tau = (12) \in G$ .

Conjugating by  $\sigma^i : i < 5$ , we get all the other transpositions. But  $S_5$  is generated by all transpositions, and we are done.  $\square$

Then, let  $f$  be a polynomial of degree 5 over  $\mathbb{Q}$  which is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Suppose further that  $f$  has exactly 3 real roots and 2 complex roots. Then  $\text{Gal}(f)$  is a field whose Galois group is isomorphic to  $S_5$ .

PROOF.

Let  $E$  be the splitting field of  $f$ . Then  $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) \subset S_5$  acts transitively on the 5 roots of  $f$ . Complex conjugation is an automorphism, and it must interchange

the two complex roots. Hence,  $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q})$  contains a transposition. By [Prop 2.27](#),  $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) \cong S_5$ .  $\square$

If  $n \geq 4$ , then  $S_{n-1}$  is the maximal subgroup of  $S_n$ .

PROP 2.28

*Proof under construction* 

PROOF.

$\square$

If  $\alpha$  satisfies a polynomial  $f$  of degree  $n \geq 4$ , and  $\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_n$ , then  $\alpha$  is not constructible.

PROP 2.29

We have, by the Galois correspondence,

PROOF.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)) = S_{n-1} & \cdots & \mathbb{Q}(\alpha) \\ & & \downarrow 8 \\ \text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) = \text{Gal}(f) = S_n & \cdots & \mathbb{Q} \end{array}$$

But, if  $\alpha$  were constructible, we'd need intermediate fields between  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$ . By the Galois correspondence, then, we'd find a subgroup  $S_{n-1} \subset H \subset S_n$ , violating [Prop 2.28](#).  $\square$

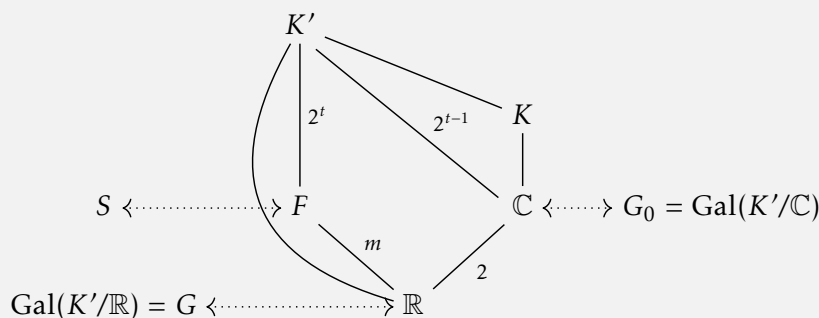
## 2.14 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

$\mathbb{C}$  is algebraically closed.

We'll use the following two (analytic) facts: every polynomial of odd degree in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  has a root in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Equivalently, every odd-degree extension of  $\mathbb{R}$  is trivial. Secondly, every quadratic equation in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  has a root in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

PROOF.

Let  $K$  be a finite extension of  $\mathbb{C}$ . Then  $K$  is an even degree extension of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $K'$  be the Galois closure of  $K$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ , and consider  $G = \text{Gal}(K'/\mathbb{R})$ . We have  $\#G = 2^t m$ , where  $m$  is odd, since this extension must be odd. By the Sylow theorems, there exists a subgroup  $S \subset G$  of size  $2^t$ .



The field  $F = K'^S$  has  $[K' : F] = 2^t$ , so  $F$  is odd degree  $m$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Hence  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , so

$G = S$ . We conclude  $\#G = 2^t$ , and  $\#G_0 := \#\text{Gal}(K'/\mathbb{C}) = 2^{t-1}$ . If  $G_0 \neq \{1\}$ , then it contains a subgroup  $G_{00}$  of index 2 in  $G_0$ . Then  $[K' : K'^{G_{00}}] = 2^{t-1}$ , so this is a quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{C}$ . But we know no such extensions exist.

$\implies G_0 = \{1\} \implies K' = \mathbb{C}$ , and we are done. □