

CONSTRUCTING THE DISCRETE SERIES REPRESENTATION OF $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we construct the *discrete series representations*, a collection of irreducible representations of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$. The representations arise from one-dimensional representations ν of a subgroup $K \leq \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ which can be likened to the orthogonal subgroup $O(2, \mathbb{R}) \leq \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. The manner in which the discrete series representation is obtained from a representation of K is not immediately obvious; for example, taking the induced representation from K to $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ yields a reducible representation. However, for a certain class of “indecomposable” representations $\nu: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$, one obtains an irreducible representation $\sigma_\nu: \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V)$ where V is the vector space of functions $\mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ (see Chapter 21 of [T]). To construct this representation, we define σ_ν on the generators of a particular presentation of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$, and check that σ_ν respects the relations of the presentation.

2. REPRESENTATIONS OF A SUBGROUP OF $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$

Suppose $q \neq 2$. One may pick a nonsquare element $\delta \in \mathbb{F}_q$ ¹ and write $\mathbb{F}_{q^2} = \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$, defining the subgroup

$$(2.1) \quad K = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b\delta \\ b & a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q) \right\}.$$

One has an isomorphism $\phi: \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times \rightarrow K$ given by

$$(2.2) \quad a + b\delta \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} a & b\delta \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}.$$

Checking this is simple; observe that $\begin{bmatrix} a & b\delta \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$ is the matrix representation of the linear map $\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$ given by multiplication by $a + b\delta$. Here, the basis of $\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$ as an \mathbb{F}_q -vector space is chosen to be $\{1, \delta\}$.

Definition 2.1. A multiplicative character $\nu: \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is said to be **decomposable** if $\nu = \chi \circ N$, where χ is a multiplicative character of \mathbb{F}_q^\times and N is the norm, defined by $N = \det \circ \phi$.

Essentially, a decomposable character is given by the “pullback” of a representation π of \mathbb{F}_q^\times to a representation $\pi \circ N$ of $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times$. In order to determine when a given multiplicative character is decomposable we introduce the following lemmas:

Proposition 2.2. *The norm map $N: \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ is a surjective homomorphism.*

¹Such δ exists for $q > 2$. To see, note that the squaring map is not injective since $(-x)^2 = x^2$, hence its image is not the entire field.

Proof. It is well known that the Galois group $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times/\mathbb{F}_q^\times)$ is generated by the Frobenius automorphism $\alpha \mapsto \alpha^q$. But the Galois group only contains two elements: the identity and the conjugation map swapping $\delta \mapsto -\delta$. Thus $N(\alpha) = \alpha\bar{\alpha} = \alpha^{q+1}$. By considering primitive elements, can view $N: \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^\times$, as a map $\mathbb{Z}/(q^2-1)\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/(q-1)\mathbb{Z}$ given by multiplication by $q+1$. Hence, the kernel of N consists of $(q^2-1)/(q-1) = q+1$ elements. Consequently the image of N consists of $(q^2-1)/(q+1) = q-1$ elements, which is the order of \mathbb{F}_q^\times . Hence N is surjective. \square

Proposition 2.3. *The map $\psi: \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times \rightarrow \ker N$ taking $\alpha \mapsto \bar{\alpha}\alpha^{-1}$ is surjective.*

Proof. The map $\psi: \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times \rightarrow \ker N$ taking $\alpha \mapsto \bar{\alpha}\alpha^{-1}$ is a homomorphism, as a product of homomorphisms into an abelian group. The kernel is given by

$$\ker \phi = \{\alpha \mid \bar{\alpha} = \alpha\} = \mathbb{F}_q^\times,$$

which has order $q-1$. Thus the image of ψ has order $(q^2-1)/(q-1) = q+1$, which is the order of $\ker N$ (see Proposition 2.2). Hence ψ is surjective. \square

Lemma 2.4. *A multiplicative character ν of $\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]^\times$ is decomposable if and only if $\nu(\alpha) = \nu(\bar{\alpha})$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$.*

Proof. Suppose that $\nu = \chi \circ N$, where N is the norm from \mathbb{F}_{q^2} to \mathbb{F}_q . Since the norm is preserved under conjugation, one obtains that ν is preserved under conjugation as well.

Conversely, suppose that ν is preserved under conjugation. Suppose that $N(\alpha) = N(\beta)$ for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$. Then $N(\alpha\beta^{-1}) = 1$, so by Proposition 2.3, there exists $\gamma \in \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$ such $\bar{\gamma}\gamma^{-1} = \beta$. Thus $\nu(\alpha\beta^{-1}) = \nu(\bar{\gamma}\gamma^{-1}) = 1$. Hence $\nu(\alpha) = \nu(\beta)$ by multiplicativity and the fact that ν is preserved under conjugation. Hence, using the fact N is surjective, one may factor ν as $\nu = \chi \circ N$, where $\chi: \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ is some function. We finish by showing that χ is a multiplicative character, implying ν is decomposable. To see this, observe that for $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q$, there exists $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$ such that $N(\alpha) = x$ and $N(\beta) = y$, yielding

$$(2.3) \quad \chi(xy) = \chi(N(\alpha\beta)) = \nu(\alpha\beta) = \nu(\alpha)\nu(\beta) = \chi(x)\chi(y).$$

\square

The “obvious” way to obtain a representation from a one-dimensional representation ν defined on a subgroup of K , taking the induced representation, unfortunately does not yield an irreducible representation.

Proposition 2.5. *Two elements $g, g' \in K$ are conjugate in $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ if and only if g, g' correspond to conjugates in $\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$.*

Proof. Suppose $g, g' \in K$ are conjugates in G , that is, there exists $x \in G$ such that $xgx^{-1} = g'$. Then g, g' are similar matrices, and hence share the same trace and determinant. As elements of a quadratic extension with the same trace and norm, this characterizes $\phi^{-1}(g)$ and $\phi^{-1}(g')$ up to conjugacy.

The converse follows similarly, as matrices of dimension 2 with the same trace and determinant are characterized up to similarity. \square

Lemma 2.6. *Let ν be a (indecomposable) multiplicative character of $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times \cong K$. Then the induced representation $\pi = \mathrm{Ind}_K^G \nu$ is reducible, where $G = \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$.*

Proof. First, note that by Proposition 2.5, two elements g, g' in the subgroup K are conjugate in G , if and only if g, g' correspond to conjugates in $\mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$. Again, we shall denote the conjugate of g by \bar{g} . Then $\chi_\pi(g) = \chi_\pi(\bar{g})$, which implies that $\chi_\nu(g) = \chi_\nu(\bar{g})$, so by Lemma 2.4, ν is decomposable, which contradicts the assumption of indecomposability. Relaxing this assumption still leads to a reducible representation, however.

We shall use the Frobenius formula to calculate $\langle \chi_\pi, \chi_\pi \rangle$. Given $g \in K$, one has by the Frobenius formula

$$(2.4) \quad \chi_\pi(g) = \frac{1}{|K|} \sum_{x \in G} \widetilde{\chi_\nu}(xgx^{-1}) = \begin{cases} \chi_\nu(g) + \chi_\nu(\bar{g}) & \text{if } g \text{ is elliptic} \\ (q^2 - q)\chi_\nu(g) & \text{if } g \text{ is central} \end{cases}.$$

In the first case, we used the fact that $xgx^{-1} \in K$ if and only if $xgx^{-1} \in \{g, \bar{g}\}$, and that the centralizer of g has order $|G|/(q^2 - q) = q^2 - 1$. In the second case, we used the fact that $xgx^{-1} \in K$ if and only if $xgx^{-1} = g$, and that the centralizer has size $|G|/1 = (q^2 - q)(q^2 - 1)$. One may further write $\chi_\pi(g) = 2\chi_\nu(g)$, since g, \bar{g} are conjugate.

From the Frobenius formula, one sees that χ_π vanishes for elements not in an elliptic or central conjugacy class, hence

$$\begin{aligned} (2.5) \quad \langle \chi_\pi, \chi_\pi \rangle &= \sum_{g \in K_{\text{central}}} (q^2 - q)^2 \chi_\nu(g)^2 + \sum_{g \in K_{\text{elliptic}}} \frac{q(q-1)}{2} \cdot 4\chi_\nu(g)^2 \\ &> \sum_{g \in K_{\text{central}}} (q^2 - q)\chi_\nu(g)^2 + \sum_{g \in K_{\text{elliptic}}} (q^2 - q)\chi_\nu(g)^2 \\ &= (q^2 - q)\langle \chi_\nu, \chi_\nu \rangle \\ &= (q^2 - q)(q^2 - 1) \\ &= |G|. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\langle \chi_\pi, \chi_\pi \rangle \neq |G|$, the induced representation is not irreducible. \square

3. THE DISCRETE SERIES REPRESENTATION

Definition 3.1. The **Borel subgroup** B is the subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ defined by

$$(3.1) \quad B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q) \right\}.$$

One can easily check that the set B indeed is a subgroup. In order to define the discrete series representation, we first express $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ as a group presentation involving the Borel subgroup. To start, consider the matrices

$$t = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_{r,s} = \begin{bmatrix} r & 0 \\ 0 & s \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 3.2. *The general linear group $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ has a group presentation*

$$\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q) \cong \langle B, w \mid wv_{r,s} = v_{s,r}w, w^2 = -\mathrm{id}, wtw = (tw)^{-1} \rangle.$$

Proof. Let $G' = \langle B, w \mid wv_{r,s} = v_{s,r}w, w^2 = -\text{id}, (wt)^3 = \text{id} \rangle$. We wish to show that $G' \cong \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$. Consider the surjective homomorphism $\theta: G' \rightarrow \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ which is the identity on B and maps w to the **Weyl element**,

$$w \mapsto w' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Checking that the Weyl element satisfies the given relations in the presentation confirms that θ is a homomorphism. By straightforward calculation, one verifies that if $c \neq 0$, then

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (bc - ad)c^{-1} & -a \\ 0 & -c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & c^{-1}d \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus θ is surjective. It suffices to show that θ has trivial kernel. We make the following claim and defer its proof to the end of this proof:

Proposition 3.3. *Let $D = \{v_{r,s} \mid r, s \in \mathbb{F}_q\}$ be the diagonal subgroup. For each $b \in B - D$, there exists $b_1, b_2 \in B$ such that $w'bw' = b_1w'b_2$.*

Now suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that there exists some $g \in \ker \theta$ such that $g \neq \text{id}$. Then g may be written as $g = b_1wb_2w \cdots b_{n-1}wb_n$, a word of length $2n - 1$ for $n \geq 2$. We show that if $n > 2$, then g may be rewritten as a word of length $\leq 2n - 3$; induction then shows that $g = a_1wa_2$ for some $a_1, a_2 \in B$. To do this, note that if $b_2 \in D$, then $wb_2w \in B$ via the group relations. Thus $g = b' \cdots wb_{n-1}wb_n$, where $b' = b_1wb_2wb_3 \in B$, which is a word of length $2n - 5$. Otherwise, if $b_2 \in B - D$, applying Proposition 3.3 allows us to write $wb_2w = c_1wc_2$ for $c_1, c_2 \in B$. Thus we may write $g = b'_1wb'_2 \cdots wb_{n-1}wb_n$, where $b'_1 = b_1c_1 \in B$ and $b'_2 = b_2c_3 \in B$, which is a word of length $2n - 3$.

Thus g is ultimately of the form a_1wa_2 for some $a_1, a_2 \in B$. One may check that such an element gets mapped by θ to matrix of the form

$$(3.2) \quad \theta(g) = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \gamma \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha' & \beta' \\ 0 & \gamma' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\alpha'\beta & \alpha\gamma' - \beta\beta' \\ -\alpha'\gamma & -\beta'\gamma \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\alpha, \gamma \neq 0$ and $\alpha', \gamma' \neq 0$, since B consists of invertible matrices. But this yields a contradiction since the previous equation implies $\alpha'\gamma = 0$. Thus the kernel of θ is trivial. \square

Proof of Proposition 3.3. Suppose that $b \in B - D$. Then one may write $b = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$ where $b \neq 0$, which in turn is equal to the product $v_{1,cb^{-1}}tv_{a,c}$. Since $wtw = (twt)^{-1}$, one has

(3.3)

$$wbw = (wv_{1,cb^{-1}}w^{-1})(wtw)(w^{-1}v_{a,c}w) = (wv_{1,cb^{-1}}w^{-1})t^{-1}v_{1,-1}wt^{-1}(w^{-1}v_{a,c}w),$$

which puts wbw in the desired form, with $b_1 = (wv_{1,cb^{-1}}w^{-1})t^{-1}v_{1,-1}$ and $b_2 = t^{-1}(w^{-1}v_{a,c}w)$. \square

We may finally construct the discrete series representation σ_ν associated to a indecomposable multiplicative character $\nu: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$. To do this, we shall define σ_ν on B and the Weyl element w , and verify σ_ν is a homomorphism by checking

that it respects the group presentation of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ given by Theorem 3.2. Consider the \mathbb{C} -vector space V of functions $\mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and let $\psi: \mathbb{F}_q^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ be a nontrivial additive character². Now define

$$(3.4) \quad [(\sigma_\nu[\begin{smallmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{smallmatrix}]) f](x) = \nu(c)\psi(bc^{-1}x)f(ac^{-1}x),$$

and

$$[(\sigma_\nu w)f](x) = - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(xy)f(y),$$

where $j_\psi: \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the *generalized Kloosterman sum*

$$j_\psi(x) = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{N(t)=x} \psi(t + \bar{t})\nu(t).$$

Here, the sum is taken over all $t \in \mathbb{F}_q[\sqrt{\delta}]$ with norm x .

Before continuing, we state some facts about generalized Kloosterman sums; the proofs of these can be verified by computation and can be found in [PS].

Lemma 3.4. *Let $\nu: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ be a multiplicative character and $\psi: \mathbb{F}_q^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ be a nontrivial additive character, and $j_\psi: \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the generalized Kloosterman sum associated to ψ and ν . Then the following identities hold:*

$$(3.5) \quad \sum_{v \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} j_\psi(uv)j_\psi(v)\nu(v^{-1}) = \begin{cases} \nu(-1) & \text{if } u = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } u \neq 1 \end{cases},$$

$$(3.6) \quad \sum_{v \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} j(xv)j(yv)\nu(v^{-1})\psi(v) = \nu(-1)\psi(-x - y)j(xy)$$

Theorem 3.5. σ_ν defines a representation of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$.

Proof. Let us first check that σ_ν defines a homomorphism from B to $\mathrm{GL}(V)$. For this, we simply calculate

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \gamma \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a\alpha & a\beta + b\gamma \\ 0 & c\gamma \end{bmatrix},$$

and write

$$(3.8) \quad \left[\sigma_\nu \left(\begin{bmatrix} a\alpha & a\beta + b\gamma \\ 0 & c\gamma \end{bmatrix} \right) f \right] (x) = \nu(c\gamma)\psi((a\beta + b\gamma)c^{-1}\gamma^{-1}x)f(a\alpha c^{-1}\gamma^{-1}x)$$

Writing $g(x) = \left[\sigma_\nu \left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \gamma \end{bmatrix} \right) f \right] (x)$, one has

$$(3.9) \quad [(\sigma_\nu[\begin{smallmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{smallmatrix}]) g](x) = \nu(c)\psi(bc^{-1}x)g(ac^{-1}x)$$

$$(3.10) \quad = \nu(c)\psi(bc^{-1}x)\nu(\gamma)\psi(\beta\gamma^{-1}(ac^{-1}x))f(\alpha\gamma^{-1}(ac^{-1}x))$$

$$(3.11) \quad = \nu(c\gamma)\psi((a\beta + b\gamma)c^{-1}\gamma^{-1}x)f(a\alpha c^{-1}\gamma^{-1}x)$$

$$(3.12) \quad = \left[\sigma_\nu \left(\begin{bmatrix} a\alpha & a\beta + b\gamma \\ 0 & c\gamma \end{bmatrix} \right) f \right] (x),$$

where we used the fact that ν and ψ are homomorphisms into \mathbb{C}^\times . Thus σ_ν defines a homomorphism on B . To extend this to a homomorphism on $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$, we must

²such characters can be obtained by pulling back a character through the trace map $\mathrm{tr}: \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$, where $q = p^r$.

check that the three relations in the group presentation are respected by σ_ν . We check that $\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(v_{r,s}) = \sigma_\nu(v_{s,r})\sigma_\nu(w')$, by first computing

$$(3.13) \quad [\sigma_\nu(v_{r,s})f](x) = \nu(s)f(rs^{-1}x).$$

Then

$$(3.14) \quad \begin{aligned} [\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(v_{r,s})f](x) &= - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(xy)\nu(s)f(rs^{-1}y) \\ &= - \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(sy^{-1})j_\psi(xy)f(rs^{-1}y). \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(3.15) \quad \begin{aligned} [\sigma_\nu(v_{s,r})\sigma_\nu(w')f](x) &= -\nu(r) \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(sr^{-1}xy)f(y) \\ &= - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(sy^{-1})j_\psi(xy)f(rs^{-1}y). \end{aligned}$$

Here, the fact that $y \mapsto rs^{-1}y$ is an automorphism of \mathbb{F}_q^\times was used in the last equality. Thus the first relation is respected by σ_ν . For the second relation, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} [\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(w')f](x) &= - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(xy)[\sigma_\nu(w')f](y) \\ &= \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(xy) \left[\sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1})j_\psi(yz)f(z) \right] \\ &= \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(xz^{-1})f(z) \left[\sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(x^{-1}y^{-1})j_\psi(yz)j_\psi(xy) \right], \end{aligned}$$

Where we used the multiplicativity of ν in the second equality. Now consider the automorphisms $y \mapsto x^{-1}y$ and $z \mapsto xz$, which allows us to rewrite

$$(3.16) \quad \begin{aligned} [\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(w')f](x) &= \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1})f(xz) \left[\sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1})j_\psi(zy)j_\psi(y) \right] \\ &= \nu(-1)f(x) \\ &= [\sigma_\nu(v_{-1,-1})f](x), \end{aligned}$$

where (3.5) was used in the second equality. Thus the second relation is respected by σ_ν . For the third relation, it suffices to check that $\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(t)\sigma_\nu(w') =$

$\sigma_\nu(-t^{-1})\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(t^{-1})$. The former is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(t)\sigma_\nu(w')f](x) &= - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1}) j_\psi(xy)[\sigma_\nu(t)\sigma_\nu(w')f](y) \\
 &= - \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1}) j_\psi(xy)\psi(y)[\sigma_\nu(w')f](y) \\
 (3.17) \quad &= \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(y^{-1}) j_\psi(xy)\psi(y) \left[\sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1}) j_\psi(yz)f(z) \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, one may write

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\sigma_\nu(-t^{-1})\sigma_\nu(w')\sigma_\nu(t^{-1})f](x) &= - [\sigma_\nu(t^{-1})\sigma_\nu(w')] \psi(-x)f(x) \\
 &= \nu(-1)\psi(-x) \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1}) j_\psi(xz)\psi(-z)f(z) \\
 &= \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1}) f(z) [\nu(-1)\psi(-x-z)j_\psi(xz)] \\
 (3.18) \quad &= \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \nu(z^{-1}) f(z) \left[\sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} j_\psi(xy)j_\psi(yz)\nu(y^{-1})\psi(y) \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

where (3.6) was used in the last equality. Comparison of (3.17) and (3.18) shows that the third relation is respected by σ_ν . Thus σ_ν is a well defined representation. \square

This establishes the discrete series representation σ_ν of $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$ which is the desired irreducible “extension” of ν ; showing that this representation is irreducible involves computing its character, which is unfortunately outside of the scope of this paper (see Chapter 21 of [T]). In particular, it turns out that the indecomposability of the character $\nu: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ is crucial to the irreducibility of the discrete series representation.

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