

MATH 26700 (Introduction to Representation Theory of Finite Groups) Problem Sets

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1 Applications of Linear Algebra to Representation Theory

10/5:

1. Read Section 1.3 in Fulton and Harris (2004).
2. Let V, W be finite-dimensional vector spaces. Construct canonical isomorphisms...

(a) $\Lambda^2(V \oplus W) \cong (\Lambda^2 V) \oplus (V \otimes W) \oplus (\Lambda^2 W)$;

Proof. Define the map \tilde{f} on the subset of $\Lambda^2(V \oplus W)$ containing all decomposable antisymmetric tensors by the rule

$$(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2) \mapsto (v_1 \wedge v_2, v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1, w_1 \wedge w_2)$$

We now have to prove that this map is bilinear.

To prove linearity in the first argument, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}[(v_1, w_1) + (v'_1, w'_1)] \wedge (v_2, w_2) &= \tilde{f}[(v_1 + v'_1, w_1 + w'_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] \\ &= ((v_1 + v'_1) \wedge v_2, \\ &\quad (v_1 + v'_1) \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes (w_1 + w'_1), \\ &\quad (w_1 + w'_1) \wedge w_2) \\ &= (v_1 \wedge v_2 + v'_1 \wedge v_2, \\ &\quad v_1 \otimes w_2 + v'_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1 - v_2 \otimes w'_1, \\ &\quad w_1 \wedge w_2 + w'_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &= (v_1 \wedge v_2, v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1, w_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &\quad + (v'_1 \wedge v_2, v'_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w'_1, w'_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &= \tilde{f}[(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] + \tilde{f}[(v'_1, w'_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}[(\lambda(v_1, w_1)) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] &= \tilde{f}[(\lambda v_1, \lambda w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] \\ &= (\lambda v_1 \wedge v_2, \lambda v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes \lambda w_1, \lambda w_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &= (\lambda(v_1 \wedge v_2), \lambda(v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1), \lambda(w_1 \wedge w_2)) \\ &= \lambda(v_1 \wedge v_2, v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1, w_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &= \lambda \tilde{f}[(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] \end{aligned}$$

The proof is symmetric in the second argument.

To prove that f respects the antisymmetry of the wedge product, it will suffice to show that

$$f[(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] = -f[(v_2, w_2) \wedge (v_1, w_1)]$$

in general. Let $(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)$ be an arbitrary decomposable element of $\Lambda^2(V \oplus W)$. Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} f[(v_1, w_1) \wedge (v_2, w_2)] &= (v_1 \wedge v_2, v_1 \otimes w_2 - v_2 \otimes w_1, w_1 \wedge w_2) \\ &= (-v_2 \wedge v_1, -(v_2 \otimes w_1 - v_1 \otimes w_2), -w_2 \wedge w_1) \\ &= -(v_2 \wedge v_1, v_2 \otimes w_1 - v_1 \otimes w_2, w_2 \wedge w_1) \\ &= -f[(v_2, w_2) \wedge (v_1, w_1)] \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

Since \tilde{f} an alternating bilinear map, the universal property of the exterior powers^[1] implies that there exists a map $f : \Lambda^2(V \oplus W) \rightarrow (\Lambda^2 V) \oplus (V \otimes W) \oplus (\Lambda^2 W)$.

¹See Fulton and Harris (2004, p. 472).

Since the domain and codomain have the same dimension, to prove that f is an isomorphism, it will suffice to prove that it's surjective. Let

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^r v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2}, \sum_{i=1}^s v_{i_3} \otimes w_{i_3}, \sum_{i=1}^t w_{i_1} \wedge w_{i_2} \right)$$

be an arbitrary element of $(\Lambda^2 V) \oplus (V \otimes W) \oplus (\Lambda^2 W)$. Decompose it into a sum of elements of the form $(a, 0, 0)$, $(0, a, 0)$, or $(0, 0, a)$. Explicitly, the above element is equal to

$$\sum_{i=1}^r (v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2}, 0, 0) + \sum_{i=1}^s (0, v_{i_3} \otimes w_{i_3}, 0) + \sum_{i=1}^t (0, 0, w_{i_1} \wedge w_{i_2})$$

Now, by the definition of f , we know that each of the individual terms in the three sums above satisfy one of

$$\begin{aligned} (v_1 \wedge v_2, 0, 0) &= f[(v_1, 0) \wedge (v_2, 0)] \\ (0, v \otimes w, 0) &= f[(v, 0) \wedge (0, w)] \\ (0, 0, w_1 \wedge w_2) &= f[(0, w_1) \wedge (0, w_2)] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have that the initial arbitrary element of $(\Lambda^2 V) \oplus (V \otimes W) \oplus (\Lambda^2 W)$ is equal to

$$f \left[\sum_{i=1}^r (v_{i_1}, 0) \wedge (v_{i_2}, 0) + \sum_{i=1}^s (v_{i_3}, 0) \wedge (0, w_{i_3}) + \sum_{i=1}^t (0, w_{i_1}) \wedge (0, w_{i_2}) \right]$$

as desired. □

(b) $S^2(V \oplus W) \cong (S^2 V) \oplus (V \otimes W) \oplus (S^2 W)$.

Proof. Define the map \tilde{f} on the subset of $S^2(V \oplus W)$ containing all decomposable symmetric tensors by the rule

$$(v_1, w_1) \cdot (v_2, w_2) \mapsto (v_1 \cdot v_2, v_1 \otimes w_2 + v_2 \otimes w_1, w_1 \cdot w_2)$$

The rest of the proof is symmetric to that of part (a). □

3. (a) Factorize the group determinant for $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. The multiplication table for G is

	(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
(0,1)	(0,1)	(0,0)	(1,1)	(1,0)
(1,0)	(1,0)	(1,1)	(0,0)	(0,1)
(1,1)	(1,1)	(1,0)	(0,1)	(0,0)

Thus, the group determinant is

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{vmatrix}$$

To factorize this group determinant, it will suffice to find the eigenvalues of the matrix it encloses. To find the eigenvalues, we may start by inspecting it for eigenvectors.

First off, recall the Sudoku Lemma from MATH 25700. It implies that every row of the matrix will list each element once, and we can confirm that this is true in this example by looking at it.

It follows that if we propose $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ as an eigenvector, we'll be able to extract an eigenvalue via the commutativity of multiplication as follows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a+b+c+d \\ b+a+d+c \\ c+d+a+b \\ d+c+b+a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a+b+c+d \\ a+b+c+d \\ a+b+c+d \\ a+b+c+d \end{bmatrix} = (a+b+c+d) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Second, we may observe that the upper-left and lower-right blocks of this matrix match, as do the lower-left and upper-right blocks. Indeed, this matrix is a block matrix of the form $\begin{bmatrix} A & C \\ C & A \end{bmatrix}$. Thus, since the eigenvector of this block matrix that is not $(1, 1)$ is $(1, -1)$, the analogous relevant eigenvector of the full matrix is $(1, 1, -1, -1)$. Once again, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a+b-c-d \\ b+a-d-c \\ c+d-a-b \\ d+c-b-a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a+b-c-d) \cdot 1 \\ (a+b-c-d) \cdot 1 \\ (a+b-c-d) \cdot -1 \\ (a+b-c-d) \cdot -1 \end{bmatrix} = (a+b-c-d) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Third, we may observe that each of the blocks referred to above is also of the form $\begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ y & x \end{bmatrix}$. Thus, we can also apply $(1, -1)$ twice — once to each block — with the eigenvector $(1, -1, 1, -1)$. Once again, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a-b+c-d \\ b-a+d-c \\ c-d+a-b \\ d-c+b-a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a-b+c-d) \cdot 1 \\ (a-b+c-d) \cdot -1 \\ (a-b+c-d) \cdot 1 \\ (a-b+c-d) \cdot -1 \end{bmatrix} = (a-b+c-d) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Lastly, we may observe while the two side columns have a or d in the top and bottom slots and b or c in the middle two slots, it is vice versa for the two middle columns. Thus, we can apply $(1, -1, -1, 1)$ to obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a-b-c+d \\ b-a-d+c \\ c-d-a+b \\ d-c-b+a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a-b-c+d) \cdot 1 \\ (a-b-c+d) \cdot -1 \\ (a-b-c+d) \cdot -1 \\ (a-b-c+d) \cdot 1 \end{bmatrix} = (a-b-c+d) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, we have found four distinct eigenvectors for a 4×4 matrix. Therefore, we have found all of the eigenvalues. Their product equals the determinant, and is also a factorization of the determinant. In particular, the factorized group determinant for K_4 is

$$(a+b+c+d)(a+b-c-d)(a-b+c-d)(a-b-c+d)$$

□

- (b) A **circulant matrix** is a square matrix in which all row vectors are composed of the same elements and each row vector is rotated one element to the right relative to the preceding row vector. Prove that for $\zeta \in \mu_n$, vector $(1, \zeta, \dots, \zeta^{n-1})$ is an eigenvector of any circulant matrix of size n .

Proof. Let

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdots & x_n \\ x_n & x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_{n-1} \\ x_{n-1} & x_n & x_1 & \cdots & x_{n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & \cdots & x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

be an arbitrary circulant matrix of size n . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdots & x_n \\ x_n & x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_{n-1} \\ x_{n-1} & x_n & x_1 & \cdots & x_{n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & \cdots & x_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \zeta \\ \zeta^2 \\ \vdots \\ \zeta^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2\zeta + x_3\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_n\zeta^{n-1} \\ x_n + x_1\zeta + x_2\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_{n-1}\zeta^{n-1} \\ x_{n-1} + x_n\zeta + x_1\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_{n-2}\zeta^{n-1} \\ \vdots \\ x_2 + x_3\zeta + x_4\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_1\zeta^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1\zeta^0 + x_2\zeta^1 + x_3\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_n\zeta^{n-1} \\ x_n\zeta^n + x_1\zeta^1 + x_2\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_{n-1}\zeta^{n-1} \\ x_{n-1}\zeta^n + x_n\zeta^{n+1} + x_1\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_{n-2}\zeta^{n-1} \\ \vdots \\ x_2\zeta^n + x_3\zeta^{n+1} + x_4\zeta^{n+2} + \cdots + x_1\zeta^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1\zeta^0 + x_2\zeta^1 + x_3\zeta^2 + \cdots + x_n\zeta^{n-1} \\ x_1\zeta^1 + x_2\zeta^2 + x_3\zeta^3 + \cdots + x_n\zeta^n \\ x_1\zeta^2 + x_2\zeta^3 + x_3\zeta^4 + \cdots + x_n\zeta^{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ x_1\zeta^{n-1} + x_2\zeta^n + x_3\zeta^{n+1} + \cdots + x_n\zeta^{2n-2} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \zeta^{i-1} \right) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \zeta \\ \zeta^2 \\ \vdots \\ \zeta^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \square

- (c) Compute the eigenvalues and the determinant of a circulant matrix. Factorize the group determinant for $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. By the same logic used in part (a), one can find by inspection that the n distinct eigenvectors are of the form $(\zeta^{j(0)}, \dots, \zeta^{j(n-1)})$, $j = 0, \dots, n-1$. It follows by similar logic once again that the corresponding eigenvalues are of the form

$$\lambda_j = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \zeta^{j(i-1)}, \quad j = 0, \dots, n-1$$

Moreover, since the determinant is the product of the eigenvalues,

$$\det = \lambda_0 \cdots \lambda_{n-1}$$

where λ_j is defined as above.

Therefore, since the multiplication table of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ converts into an $n \times n$ circulant matrix, the factorization of its group determinant is equal to the above determinant expression. \square

4. **Plethysm for S_3 .** Let (3) , $(1, 1, 1)$, and $(2, 1)$ be the trivial, alternating, and standard representations of S_3 .

- (a) Consider the permutational representation $V \cong (3) \oplus (2, 1)$. Decompose $\Lambda^2 V$ into irreducibles.

Proof. Fix a basis of V equal to $\{(1, 1, 1), (\omega, 1, \omega^2), (1, \omega, \omega^2)\} = \{\gamma, \alpha, \beta\}$. Let $\tau = (123) \in S_3$ and $\sigma = (12) \in S_3$. By Problem 2a,

$$\Lambda^2 V = \Lambda^2((3) \oplus (2, 1)) = [\Lambda^2(3)] \oplus [(3) \otimes (2, 1)] \oplus [\Lambda^2(2, 1)]$$

We now divide into three cases.

Case 1 ($\Lambda^2(3)$): The basis for this vector space is $\{\gamma \wedge \gamma\} = \{0\}$, so

$$\Lambda^2(3) = 0$$

Case 2 ($(3) \otimes (2, 1)$): The basis for this vector space is $\{\gamma \otimes \alpha, \gamma \otimes \beta\}$. The action of τ on these basis vectors can be computed:

$$\tau(\gamma \otimes \alpha) = \omega \gamma \otimes \alpha \qquad \tau(\gamma \otimes \beta) = \omega^2 \gamma \otimes \beta$$

These equations are directly analogous to the untensored α and β equations, so this is the standard representation. Formally,

$$(3) \otimes (2, 1) = (2, 1)$$

Case 3 ($\Lambda^2(2, 1)$): The basis for this vector space is $\{\alpha \wedge \beta\}$. Thus, $\dim \Lambda^2(2, 1) = 1$, so $\Lambda^2(2, 1) \neq (2, 1)$, and we can move on to discriminating between the trivial and alternating representations. In particular, the action of σ on this basis vector is

$$\sigma(\alpha \wedge \beta) = -\alpha \wedge \beta$$

Thus, $\sigma(v)$ is not linearly independent of v . Moreover, $\sigma(v) = -v$. Thus, this is the alternating representation. Formally,

$$\Lambda^2(2, 1) = (1, 1, 1)$$

Putting everything back together, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^2 V &\cong [\Lambda^2(3)] \oplus [(3) \otimes (2, 1)] \oplus [\Lambda^2(2, 1)] \\ &\cong 0 \oplus (2, 1) \oplus (1, 1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\Lambda^2 V \cong (2, 1) \oplus (1, 1, 1)}$$

□

(b) Decompose $S^2(2, 1)$ and $S^3(2, 1)$ into irreducibles.

Proof. We will treat each case separately.

$S^2(2, 1)$: The basis for this vector space is $\{\alpha \cdot \alpha, \alpha \cdot \beta, \beta \cdot \beta\}$. The action of τ on these basis vectors can be computed:

$$\tau(\alpha \cdot \alpha) = \omega^2 \alpha \cdot \alpha \qquad \tau(\alpha \cdot \beta) = 1 \alpha \cdot \beta \qquad \tau(\beta \cdot \beta) = \omega \beta \cdot \beta$$

The action of σ on these basis vectors can also be computed:

$$\sigma(\alpha \cdot \alpha) = \beta \cdot \beta \qquad \sigma(\alpha \cdot \beta) = \alpha \cdot \beta \qquad \sigma(\beta \cdot \beta) = \alpha \cdot \alpha$$

Thus, $\alpha \cdot \alpha$ and $\beta \cdot \beta$ span a standard representation, and $\alpha \cdot \beta$ spans a trivial representation. Putting everything together, we obtain

$$\boxed{S^2(2, 1) \cong (2, 1) \oplus (3)}$$

$S^3(2, 1)$: The basis for this vector space is $\{\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha, \alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta, \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta, \beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta\}$. The action of τ on these basis vectors can be computed:

$$\tau(\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha) = 1 \alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha \qquad \tau(\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta) = \omega \alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta$$

$$\tau(\alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta) = \omega^2 \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta \qquad \tau(\beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta) = 1 \beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta$$

The action of σ on these basis vectors can also be computed:

$$\sigma(\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha) = \beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta \qquad \sigma(\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta) = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta$$

$$\sigma(\alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta) = \alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta \qquad \sigma(\beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta) = \alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha$$

Thus, $\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta$ and $\alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \beta$ span a standard representation, $\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha + \beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta$ spans a trivial representation, and $\alpha \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha - \beta \cdot \beta \cdot \beta$ spans an alternating representation. Putting everything together, we obtain

$$S^3(2, 1) \cong (2, 1) \oplus (3) \oplus (1, 1, 1)$$

□

- (c) Decompose the regular representation R into irreducibles.

Proof. The regular representation is 6-dimensional. We're in \mathbb{C}^6 with basis $\{e_e, e_{(12)}, e_{(13)}, e_{(23)}, e_{(123)}, e_{(132)}\}$. Let $\tau = (123)$ again. We get $\tau(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1) = 1(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$. We have $\tau v_1 = \omega^{\alpha_1} v_1$ □

- (d) Prove that $S^{k+6}(2, 1) \cong S^k(2, 1) \oplus R$. Compute $S^k(2, 1)$ for all k .

5. Let V be a vector space over F with a basis e_1, \dots, e_n ; let e^1, \dots, e^n be the dual basis. Prove the following.

- (a) Element $e_1 \otimes e^1 + \dots + e_n \otimes e^n \in V \otimes V^\vee$ does not depend on the choice of basis.

Proof. To prove that the given element of $V \otimes V^*$ does not depend on the choice of basis, it will suffice to show that for any choice of basis and associated dual basis, the given element maps to the same place in the isomorphic space $\text{Hom}(V, V)$. Let's begin.

Let e_1, \dots, e_n be an arbitrary basis of V , and let e^1, \dots, e^n be its dual basis. Under the isomorphism constructed in class, the element

$$e_1 \otimes e^1 + \dots + e_n \otimes e^n \mapsto [v \mapsto e^1(v)e_1] + \dots + [v \mapsto e^n(v)e_n]$$

where $[v \mapsto e^i(v)e_i]$ denotes the linear map in $\text{Hom}(V, V)$ sending v to its i^{th} component. Importantly, under the usual rules of adding functions, we can see that linear map on the right above is equal to

$$[v \mapsto e^1(v)e_1 + \dots + e^n(v)e_n] = [v \mapsto v_1 e_1 + \dots + v_n e_n] = [v \mapsto v] = 1$$

where $1 \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$ is the identity map. □

- (b) Consider a linear map $\text{ev} : V \otimes V^* \rightarrow F$ sending $v \otimes \alpha$ to $\alpha(v) \in F$. Prove that $\text{ev}(L) = \text{tr}(L)$.

Proof. Let $L \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$ be an arbitrary linear map, let its matrix be $(\ell_{ij}) \in \mathcal{M}(V, V)$ with respect to some basis e_1, \dots, e_n , and let e^1, \dots, e^n be dual to this basis. Define a map from $\mathcal{M}(V, V)$ to $V \otimes V^*$ by sending the standard basis (a_{ij}) of $\mathcal{M}(V, V)$ to $e_i \otimes e^j$. It follows that the image of $\mathcal{M}(L)$ under this map is $\sum_{i,j=1}^n \ell_{ij} e_i \otimes e^j \in V \otimes V^*$. It follows by the constructions up

to this point and the definition of the trace that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{ev}(L) &= \text{ev} \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^n \ell_{ij} e_i \otimes e^j \right) \\
 &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \ell_{ij} \text{ev}(e_i \otimes e^j) \\
 &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \ell_{ij} e^j(e_i) \\
 &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \ell_{ij} \delta_{ij} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_{ii} \\
 &= \text{tr}(L)
 \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \square

- (c) A **projector** is a linear map $P : V \rightarrow V$ such that $P^2 = P$. Prove that $\text{tr}(P) = \dim(\text{Im}(P))$.

Proof. Let $v \in \text{Im}(P)$ be arbitrary. Since $v \in \text{Im}(P)$, we have that $v = Pw$ for some $w \in V$. But since $P = P^2$, it follows that

$$Pv = P^2w = Pw = v$$

Thus, the restriction P_1 of P to $\text{Im}(P)$ is equal to the identity on $\text{Im}(P)$.

Let $v \in V \setminus \text{Im}(P)$ be arbitrary. Since $v \notin \text{Im}(P)$, $v \in \text{Ker}(P)$ so

$$Pv = 0$$

Thus, the restriction P_2 of P to $\text{Ker}(P)$ is equal to the zero map on $\text{Ker}(P)$.

Since $V = \text{Im}(P) \oplus \text{Ker}(P)$, $P = P_1 \oplus P_2$. In particular, there will exist an orthonormal basis in which the first k vectors form a basis of $\text{Im}(P)$ and the next $n - k$ vectors form a basis of $\text{Ker}(P)$. Thus, $\dim(\text{Im}(P)) = k$. Moreover, with respect to this basis, the $n \times n$ matrix of P will have a $k \times k$ block in the upper left-hand corner in which I_k resides, and it will be zeroes everywhere else. Since the trace is invariant under similarity transformations, it can be read off from this matrix as k as well. \square

- (d) Let V be a representation of a finite group G . Prove that the representation $V \otimes V^*$ has a trivial subrepresentation.

Proof. Consider the element from part (a). When considered as an element of $\text{Hom}(V, V)$, it is the identity map. Additionally, we know from class that a representation on $\text{Hom}(V, V)$ is a homomorphism $\rho : G \rightarrow GL(\text{Hom}(V, V))$ defined by $\rho(g)L = \rho_V(g) \circ L \circ \rho_V(g)^{-1}$. Thus, substituting in I for L , we learn that

$$\rho(g)I = \rho_V(g) \circ I \circ \rho_V(g)^{-1} = \rho_V(g) \circ \rho_V(g)^{-1} = I$$

Thus, regardless of what G, ρ, V are, ρ will preserve I . Therefore, $\text{span}(I)$ is a subrepresentation and, importantly, it is the trivial subrepresentation since all elements of G act as the identity on it. \square

2 Introduction to Character Theory

10/13:

1. **More linear algebra.** Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space.
 - (a) Prove that under the identification of $V \otimes V^*$ with $\text{Hom}_F(V, V)$, **simple** tensors $v \otimes \varphi$ correspond to linear maps of rank 0 or 1.
 - (b) Consider the vector space $W = \text{Hom}_F(V, V)$. Prove that any linear functional in W^* has the form $L \mapsto \text{tr}(LM)$ for some $M \in W$. Prove that the vector space $\text{Hom}_F(V, V)$ is “canonically” self-dual.

2. **Characters of abelian groups.** Let A be a finite abelian group.

- (a) A **character** of A is a homomorphism $\chi : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$. Prove that for every $g \in A$, the value $\chi(g)$ is a root of unity. Prove that the product of characters is a character. Prove that characters form an abelian group. This group is called the **dual** of A and is denoted \hat{A} .
- (b) Prove directly that for every nontrivial character $\chi \in \hat{A}$, the following identity holds.

$$\sum_{g \in A} \chi(g) = 0$$

- (c) Prove that characters are the same as the 1-dimensional representations of A ; product of characters is the same as a tensor product of representations, and the inverse of the character is the same as the dual representation.
 - (d) Find all characters for $A = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. Compute the dual group \hat{A} . Do the same for $A = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$.
 - (e) Prove that $\widehat{A_1 \times A_2}$ is isomorphic to $\hat{A}_1 \times \hat{A}_2$. Prove that groups A and \hat{A} are isomorphic as abstract groups. Deduce that an abelian group of order n has exactly n characters.
3. Consider the permutational representation of S_n . Decompose it into the sum of (two) irreducible representations.
 4. Let G be a finite group.

- (a) Define the **space of invariants** of a representation V by the formula

$$V^G = \{v \in V \mid gv = v \ \forall g \in G\}$$

Prove that V^G is a subrepresentation of V . Prove that it is isomorphic to a sum of trivial representations.

- (b) Prove that $(\text{Hom}_F(V, W))^G$ is isomorphic to $\text{Hom}_G(V, W)$.
5. Let $\rho : G \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ be a representation with character χ .
 - (a) Prove that $\text{Ker}(\rho) = \{g \in G \mid \chi(g) = n\}$.
 - (b) Prove that for any $g \in G$, we have $|\chi(g)| \leq n$.
 - (c) Prove that for a given $g \in G$, $|\chi(g)| = n$ if and only if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\rho(g) = \lambda I$.

References

Fulton, W., & Harris, J. (2004). *Representation theory: A first course* (S. Axler, F. W. Gehring, & K. A. Ribet, Eds.). Springer.