Orthogonal Representations of Finite Groups

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joint work with Thomas Breuer, Linda Hoyer, and Richard Parker

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- ► G finite group, K field
- ► $KG = \bigoplus_{g \in G} Kg$ group algebra
- ▶ $\mathbb{Q}G \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^{h} A_i$ with $A_i \cong D_i^{n_i \times n_i}$ semisimple algebra

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Determine invariants of ι_i

- $\rho_i: G \to A_i^{\times}$ group homomorphism
- $\chi_i: G \to K_i, g \mapsto \operatorname{trace}(\rho_i(g))$ character,

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 χ_i constant on conjugacy classes, $\chi_i(1) = n_i m_i$

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- if K_i is real and $\rho_i(G)$ stabilises a symplectic form S_i
- o if K_i is complex, then $\rho_i(G)$ stabilises a Hermitian form H_i $F_i := Fix_{K_i}(\iota_i)$

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 $\mathfrak{F}(\rho_i) = \{aQ_i \mid a \in K_i\} \text{ resp.} = \{aH_i \mid a \in F_i\}$ space of $\rho_i(G)$ -invariant forms.

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 $\mathcal{F}(\rho_i) = \{aQ_i \mid a \in K_i\} \text{ resp.} = \{aH_i \mid a \in F_i\}$ space of $\rho_i(G)$ -invariant forms. Invariants of ι_i are the invariants of Q_i resp. H_i that are independent of scaling.

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ι_i orthogonal

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$$\begin{split} & \mathcal{F}(\rho_i) = \{aQ_i \mid a \in K_i\}, \, \rho_i : G \to O(Q_i) \text{ orthogonal} \\ & \operatorname{disc}(aQ_i) = a^{\chi_i(1)} \operatorname{disc}(Q_i) \\ & \text{so } \operatorname{disc}(\iota_i) \in K_i^{\times} / (K_i^{\times})^2 \text{ well defined, if and only if } \chi_i(1) \text{ even.} \end{split}$$

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 $\operatorname{Irr}^+(G) := \{ \chi \in \operatorname{Irr}(G) \mid \operatorname{ind}(\chi) = + \text{ and } \chi(1) \text{ even } \}$

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Determine discriminants for the characters in $Irr^+(G)$ and $Irr^o(G)$ for all but the largest few ATLAS groups.

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 Building blocks of finite groups: finite simple groups



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- alternating groups
- classical groups

linear, symplectic, unitary, orthogonal groups over finite fields



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26 sporadic simple groups: Matthieu groups ... Monster



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- 26 sporadic simple groups: Matthieu groups ... Monster
- ATLAS of finite groups ordinary character tables of finite simple groups classifying simple QG-modules

The character table of A_7

		1a	2a	3a	3b	4a	5a	6a	7a	7b
X.1	+	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Х.2	+	6	2	3		•	1	-1	-1	-1
Х.З	0	10	-2	1	1			1	Α	В
Χ.4	0	10	-2	1	1			1	В	Α
X.5	+	14	2	2	-1		-1	2		
Х.б	+	14	2	-1	2		-1	-1		
Χ.7	+	15	-1	3		-1		-1	1	1
Χ.8	+	21	1	-3		-1	1	1		
X.9	+	35	-1	-1	-1	1		-1		

$$A = (-1 + \sqrt{-7})/2, B = (-1 - \sqrt{-7})/2$$

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Χ.1		+	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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Х.З	-1	0	10	-2	1	1			1	Α	В
Χ.4	-1	0	10	-2	1	1			1	В	Α
Χ.5	-3	+	14	2	2	-1		-1	2		
Х.б	-15	+	14	2	-1	2		-1	-1		
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Orthogonal stability

A character χ is called orthogonal if there is a representation ρ with character χ admitting a non-degenerate invariant quadratic form Q. Then $\rho: G \to O(Q)$.

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A character χ is called orthogonal if there is a representation ρ with character χ admitting a non-degenerate invariant quadratic form Q. Then $\rho : G \to O(Q)$. An orthogonal character χ is called orthogonally stable if there is a square class $d(\mathbb{Q}(\chi)^{\times})^2$ such that for all representations $\rho : G \to \operatorname{GL}_n(L)$ with character χ and all non-degenerate quadratic forms $Q \in \mathcal{F}(\rho)$

 $\operatorname{disc}(Q) = d(L^{\times})^2.$

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 χ orthogonally stable, then

$$\operatorname{disc}(\chi) := d(\mathbb{Q}(\chi)^{\times})^2$$

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is called the orthogonal discriminant of χ .

The discriminant of a quadratic form

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The discriminant of a quadratic form

- ▶ *B* non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form on *V*
- adjoint involution ι_B on $\operatorname{End}(V)$

 $B(\alpha(v), w) = B(v, \iota_B(\alpha)(w))$ for all $v, w \in V$.

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$$B(\alpha(v), w) = B(v, \iota_B(\alpha)(w))$$
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$$E_{-}(B) := \{ \alpha \in \operatorname{End}_{K}(V) \mid \iota_{B}(\alpha) = -\alpha \}$$

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▶ basis
$$(v_1, ..., v_n)$$
, End $(V) \cong K^{n \times n}$, $B := (B(v_i, v_j)) \in K^{n \times n}$
▶ $\iota_B(A) = BA^{tr}B^{-1}$ and $E_-(B) = \{BX \mid X = -X^{tr}\}$ as

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basis (v₁,..., v_n), End(V) ≅ K^{n×n}, B := (B(v_i, v_j)) ∈ K^{n×n}
 ι_B(A) = BA^{tr}B⁻¹ and E₋(B) = {BX | X = -X^{tr}} as
 ι_B(BX) = B(BX)^{tr}B⁻¹ = BX^{tr}.
 X = -X^{tr} then det(X) is a square.

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 ι_B(A) = BA^{tr}B⁻¹ and E_−(B) = {BX | X = −X^{tr}} as
 ι_B(BX) = B(BX)^{tr}B⁻¹ = BX^{tr}.
 X = −X^{tr} then det(X) is a square.

Proposition (Knus, Merkurjev, Rost, Tignol, 1998) $\dim(V)$ even $\Leftrightarrow E_{-}(B) \cap \operatorname{GL}(V) \neq \{\}.$ Then $\det(B) = \det(\alpha)(K^{\times})^2$ for any invertible $\alpha \in E_{-}(B)$.

Proposition (Knus, Merkurjev, Rost, Tignol, 1998)

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Theorem (GN 22)

 χ is orthogonally stable, if and only if all its absolutely irreducible indicator + constituents have even degree.

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Proposition (Knus, Merkurjev, Rost, Tignol, 1998)

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E.g.
$$G = J_1, \chi(1) = 56, \mathbb{Q}(\chi) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}),$$

$$\operatorname{disc}(\chi) = (31 + 5\sqrt{5})/2, \ \operatorname{Gal}(\Delta(\chi))/\mathbb{Q} \cong D_8$$

2 ordinaries 20 Dec 2021 11 19 129 31 41 59 13/17 · 14 0-0+0-0+0-0-3 XX 14 0-0+0-0+0-0--3 × X 360+0+0+0+0+0+15 0-0-700-0+0-0+0-0--3 XX 700-0+0-0+0-0- -3 × X 900+0-0+0-0-0--70-0-1260-0-0+0-0+0- +7-50-0-160 0+0+0+0+0+0+ 1 of of 224 OF OF OF OF OF OF I X X 224 Ot Ot Ot Ot Ot OT I X X 288 0-0-0-0-0+0+271050+0-3000-0-0-0-0+0+210-0+ 336 0+ 0+ 0+ 0+ 0+ 0+ 1 0+ 0+ ab 63 175 189ab 225 (12/4) 8/3 6 13 (12/11/9) 9/0/7 13 (Prine) = 1+ k63+ k36 (22 k36= 224ab+70ab+21ab

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A simple algebra with orthogonal involution ι . $\Sigma^{-}(A) := \{a \in A \mid a = -\iota(a)\}.$ Subalgebra $B \leq A$ orthogonally stable if and only if (a) $\iota(B) = B$ and (b) $\Sigma^{-}(B) \cap A^{\times} \neq \emptyset.$ Then

 $\operatorname{disc}(\iota) = \operatorname{disc}(\iota|_B).$

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Discriminants of rational orthogonally stable characters are odd.

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► for the ATLAS groups up to HNorder $|HN| = 2^{14}3^65^67 \cdot 11 \cdot 19 = 273,030,912,000,000$ largest $\chi(1) = 5,103,000, \mathbb{Q}(\chi) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$

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- ▶ for all groups $GL_n(q)$, $G_2(q)$ with q odd (Linda Hoyer)
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No counterexamples to Parker's conjecture so far.

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Discriminant of quaternion algebra

• K field, $\sigma \in Aut(K)$ of order 2, $F := Fix_K(\sigma), K = F[\sqrt{-\delta}]$

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▶ $d \in F^{\times}$, quaternion algebra

$$(K,d)_F := \langle 1, i, j, k \mid i^2 = -\delta, j^2 = d, ij = -ji = k \rangle_F$$

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Discriminant of Hermitian form

- $H: V \times V \to K$ Hermitian form
- ▶ $H_B := (H(b_i, b_j))_{i,j=1}^n \in K^{n \times n}$, $B = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$ an K-basis of V
- disc $(H) := (-1)^{\binom{n}{2}} \det(H_B) N_{K/F}(K^{\times})$ discriminant of H.

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$$H_B := (H(b_i, b_j))_{i,j=1}^n \in K^{n \times n}$$
, $B = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$ an K-basis of V

- disc $(H) := (-1)^{\binom{n}{2}} \det(H_B) N_{K/F}(K^{\times})$ discriminant of H.
- $\Delta(H) := [(K, d)_F] \in Br_2(K, F)$ discriminant algebra of H.

Discriminant of quaternion algebra

• K field, $\sigma \in Aut(K)$ of order 2, $F := Fix_K(\sigma)$, $K = F[\sqrt{-\delta}]$

► $d \in F^{\times}$, quaternion algebra

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• disc_K([(K, d)_F]) =: $dN_{K/F}(K^{\times})$ K-discriminant of [(K, d)_F].

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Proof: Choose suitable orthogonal basis and use formula above for each orthogonal summand.

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Fixed algebras of certain group automorphisms are orthogonal subalgebras.

- $\chi \in \operatorname{Irr}^{o}(G), \rho : G \to \operatorname{GL}_{2m}(K)$ representation affording χ
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Parker's conjecture

 $X\in \Sigma^-(G) \Rightarrow \nu(\det(\rho(X))) \text{ even for all dyadic valuations } \nu.$