

Enumerating big orbits and an application: B acting on the cosets of Fi_{23}

Jürgen Müller^a Max Neunhöffer^a Robert A. Wilson^b

^a*Lehrstuhl D für Mathematik
RWTH Aachen
Templergraben 64
52056 Aachen
Germany*

^b*School of Mathematical Sciences
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
United Kingdom*

Abstract

We describe a novel technique to handle big permutation domains for large groups. It is applied to the multiplicity-free action of the sporadic simple Baby Monster group on the cosets of its maximal subgroup Fi_{23} , to determine the character table of the associated endomorphism ring.

Key words: permutation groups, orbit enumeration, multiplicity-free action, character tables, sporadic simple Baby Monster group

1 Introduction

In recent years there has been increasing interest in dealing with large permutation representations, in particular of the sporadic finite simple groups. The aim of the present paper is to describe a novel technique to handle big permutation domains for large groups, and to give a substantial example application. The basic setup is as follows:

Let $G = \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$ be a finite group acting from the right on a finite set X . For a given $x_1 \in X$ we want to enumerate the G -orbit $x_1G := \{x_1g \in X; g \in G\} \subseteq X$. This can be achieved efficiently with the well-known orbit-stabiliser algorithm given as Algorithm 1. As for its correctness recall that since only elements

of G are applied, only points in x_1G are put into \mathcal{D} , and since x_1G is finite, Algorithm 1 indeed terminates. After termination all generators of G have been applied to all points in \mathcal{D} , therefore \mathcal{D} contains all points in the G -orbit x_1G exactly once. Note that here we do not need to know the group order $|G|$, nor whether G acts faithfully on X .

```

Require:  $G = \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$  acting on  $X$ ,  $x_1 \in X$ 
 $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow [x_1]$       {collects the orbit}
 $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow [1_G]$    {collects a transversal}
 $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow []$      {collects generators for the stabiliser}
 $i \leftarrow 1$ 
while  $i \leq \text{Length}(\mathcal{D})$  do
  for  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  do
     $x \leftarrow \mathcal{D}[i] \cdot g$ 
    if not ( $x$  in  $\mathcal{D}$ ) then
      append  $x$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ 
      append  $\mathcal{T}[i] \cdot g$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ 
    else
       $j \leftarrow \text{Position}(\mathcal{D}, x)$        $\{\mathcal{D}[j] = x\}$ 
      append  $\mathcal{T}[i] \cdot g \cdot \mathcal{T}[j]^{-1}$  to  $\mathcal{S}$       {Schreier generator}
    end if
  end for
   $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
end while
return  $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{S})$       {orbit, transversal, stabiliser}

```

Algorithm 1: Orbit-Stabiliser

Moreover, \mathcal{S} contains generators for the stabiliser $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$, as is implied by Schreier's Theorem, see e. g. (Johnson, 1990, La.2.3.3), which we recall for convenience: If $\mathcal{T} = \{t_x \in G; x \in x_1G\} \subseteq G$ is a transversal for the G -orbit x_1G with respect to x_1 , i. e. we have $x_1 t_x = x$ for all $x \in x_1G$, and additionally assume $t_{x_1} = 1$, then the set $\mathcal{S} := \{tg \cdot (t_{x_1 t g})^{-1} \in G; t \in \mathcal{T}, g \in \mathcal{G}\} \subseteq G$ of *Schreier generators* generates $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$. Experience suggests that most of the Schreier generators typically turn out to be superfluous for generating $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$.

To perform Algorithm 1 we have to be able to keep all points in x_1G in the list \mathcal{D} in main memory, and we have to be able to recognise whether a given point has already been stored. The necessary storing and recognising of points can of course be done using hashing techniques, such that we only need a nearly constant amount of time to look up a point, regardless of how many points have been stored. But if the G -orbit x_1G is too large to be stored completely in main memory, Algorithm 1 is no longer feasible. In this paper we present a novel technique allowing us to enumerate very big G -orbits being much too large in this sense; instead we assume that we know the group order $|G|$ and some additional information about G in advance.

In the first part, consisting of Sections 2–5, we discuss the ideas behind this technique and show how these lead to suitable generalisations of Algorithm 1. The basic idea of using a *helper subgroup* U , recalled in Section 2, was already considered by Richard Parker around 1995 (unpublished), and was independently made explicit in Lübeck et al. (2001). Based on practical experience, see e. g. Müller et al. (2002), Müller (2003), we were led to elaborate on this idea, and to use a whole chain of helper subgroups instead of a single one. To this end we first reconsider the basic idea in a more abstract context in Sections 2 and 3, and then allow for more than one helper subgroup in Section 4. The first part concludes with Section 5, where we briefly indicate how the situation needed to run these methods can be achieved in the most frequent case of linear actions.

The strategy described here has been implemented in GAP (GAP (2005)). Altogether, the implementation of the various orbit enumeration algorithms and hashing techniques needs some 3000 lines of code and will be published soon in a GAP package ORB (Müller et al. (2006)), including explicit input data for several examples, in particular the one considered below.

In the second part, consisting of Sections 6–9, we consider a particular application, which actually was part of the original motivation to develop the novel technique presented here, see Müller (2003): the multiplicity-free action of the sporadic simple Baby Monster group B on the cosets of its maximal subgroup Fi_{23} , one of the sporadic simple Fischer groups.

Multiplicity-freeness of permutation actions, by way of the associated orbital graphs, is intimately related to the notions of distance-transitivity and distance-regularity, see Ivanov et al. (1995), Brouwer et al. (1989) as well as to spectra and the Ramanujan property, see Davidoff et al. (2003), in algebraic graph theory. A lot of information is encoded in concise form in the character table of the endomorphism ring of the underlying permutation module; the necessary facts for this paper are recalled in Section 6.

The multiplicity-free actions of the sporadic simple groups have been classified in Breuer et al. (1996), and the associated character tables, including the one computed in this paper, have been collected from various sources in Müller (2007), Breuer et al. (2005). In particular, for the Baby Monster group B there are four multiplicity-free actions: on the cosets of $2.^2E_6(2).2$, of $2.^2E_6(2)$, of $2^{1+22}.Co_2$, and of Fi_{23} . The character tables for the former two actions have been determined in Higman (1976), while the character table for the third one has been computed in Müller (2003), Müller (2006), also applying the computational techniques described here.

The aim of the second part now is to determine the character table for the fourth and largest multiplicity-free action of B , on the cosets of Fi_{23} , which has

degree $\sim 10^{15}$. This action is particularly interesting, since not even the sizes of the associated Fi_{23} -orbits have been known before, and since it is related to the conjugation action of the sporadic simple Fischer–Griess Monster group \mathbb{M} on its 6-transpositions, see Ivanov et al. (1995).

In Section 7 we provide the infrastructure, consisting of helper subgroups and associated helper sets, to apply the strategy described in Section 4. In Section 8 a combination of the novel computational technique and a group theoretical analysis, using the action of \mathbb{M} on its 6-transpositions, is applied to determine the Fi_{23} -orbits and the associated stabilisers, the result being given in Table 2. Finally, in Section 9 the character table of the associated endomorphism ring is computed, and given in Tables 7–10.

2 Archiving suborbits

The basic idea of the techniques described here is not to store single points in the G -orbit x_1G , but to archive the G -orbit in bigger chunks. To this end, we use a helper subgroup $U < G$: to enumerate x_1G we may as well enumerate the set of U -orbits contained in x_1G . Thus we want to be able to perform the following two tasks:

- (1) Given a point $x \in X$, determine the size $|xU|$ and store appropriate pieces of the U -orbit xU , such that we can later perform (2).
- (2) Given a point $x \in X$, decide whether or not x lies in one of the already stored U -orbits from (1).

This of course means that this should be done in a better way than just storing all points in xU separately. This is achieved using the following idea, see also Lübeck et al. (2001): let Y be another finite U -set and let $\bar{}: X \rightarrow Y$ be a homomorphism of U -sets, i. e. we have $\overline{xu} = \bar{x}u \in Y$ for all $x \in X$ and $u \in U$.

We then do the following preparations: after enumerating Y completely, using Algorithm 1, in every U -orbit in Y we arbitrarily choose a point and call it *U-minimal*. Furthermore, for each U -minimal point $y \in Y$ we store generators for the stabiliser $\text{Stab}_U(y)$ together with its order, and for each point $y \in Y$ which is not U -minimal we store an element $u_y \in U$ such that $yu_y \in Y$ is the U -minimal point in the U -orbit yU . Here we have to assume that $\bar{}$ is efficiently computable, and that U and Y are small enough such that we can perform these preparations.

A point $x \in X$ is called *U-minimal* if $\bar{x} \in Y$ is U -minimal. Note that in a U -orbit $xU \subseteq X$ there may be more than one U -minimal point. More precisely,

if $x \in X$ is U -minimal, the set of U -minimal points in xU is exactly $x\bar{S}$, where $\bar{S} := \text{Stab}_U(\bar{x})$, because by definition \bar{x} is the only U -minimal point in $\bar{x}U$ and $\bar{}$ is a homomorphism of U -sets.

Equipped with the above data, we now archive U -orbits $xU \subseteq X$ by only storing their U -minimal points. Given any point $x \in X$, we find a U -minimal point in xU by looking up $\bar{x} \in Y$: if \bar{x} is U -minimal, then $x' := x$ is already U -minimal and we are done. Otherwise we have computed and stored an element $u_{\bar{x}} \in U$ such that $\bar{x}u_{\bar{x}}$ is U -minimal. But then $x' := xu_{\bar{x}} \in xU$ is U -minimal, because by $\bar{}$ it is mapped to $\overline{xu_{\bar{x}}} = \bar{x}u_{\bar{x}}$. The point x' is called the U -minimalisation of x .

Then to find the set $x'\bar{S}$ of all U -minimal points in $x'U$ we look up the stored generators for the stabiliser \bar{S} and compute the set $x'\bar{S}$ by an application of Algorithm 1.

Since $\bar{}$ is a homomorphism of U -sets we have $\text{Stab}_U(x') = \text{Stab}_{\bar{S}}(x')$, and thus once we know $|x'\bar{S}|$, we also know $|\text{Stab}_{\bar{S}}(x')| = |\bar{S}|/|x'\bar{S}|$ and thus $|x'U| = |U|/|\text{Stab}_U(x')|$. Therefore, both parts of task (1) are done.

If we are now given a point $x \in X$, we can decide whether we already know the U -orbit xU , by U -minimalising x and looking up its U -minimalisation x' . If we already know xU , then we have stored the U -minimal point x' . Otherwise, the U -orbit xU is new. Thus task (2) is done as well.

We now turn to the question of what we gain using this idea: to enumerate X completely using Algorithm 1, all points in X have to be stored. In contrast, to enumerate X as described above, for each U -orbit in Y we pick its U -minimal point, $y \in Y$ say, and only store the points in $\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\} \subseteq X$, i. e. the points in the fibre of $\bar{}$ over y . Since only the U -orbits yU being in the image of $\bar{}$ are needed, we may assume that $\bar{}: X \rightarrow Y$ is surjective. Since $\bar{}$ maps U -orbits in X to U -orbits in Y we have

$$|\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| = \sum_{xU \in X/U, \bar{x}U = yU} |\text{Stab}_U(y)|/|\text{Stab}_U(x)|.$$

Hence the number of U -minimal points in X to be stored is

$$\begin{aligned} N_X &:= \sum_{yU \in Y/U} |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| \\ &= \sum_{y \in Y} 1/|yU| \cdot |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| \\ &= 1/|U| \cdot \sum_{y \in Y} |\text{Stab}_U(y)| \cdot |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| \end{aligned}$$

$$= 1/|U| \cdot \sum_{y \in Y} \sum_{xU \in X/U, \bar{x}U = yU} |\text{Stab}_U(y)|^2 / |\text{Stab}_U(x)|.$$

We have $N_X \geq 1/|U| \cdot \sum_{y \in Y} |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| = |X|/|U|$, with equality if and only if $|\text{Stab}_U(y)| = 1$ for all $y \in Y$. Thus the saving factor is $|X|/N_X \leq |U|$, where equality is achieved if and only if Y entirely consists of regular U -orbits.

Letting ν_Y be the number of U -orbits in Y , and $\lambda_Y := |Y|/\nu_Y$ be the average length of the U -orbits in Y , we have

$$|X|/N_X = \lambda_Y \cdot \frac{1/|Y| \cdot \sum_{y \in Y} |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}|}{1/\nu_Y \cdot \sum_{yU \in Y/U} |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}|}.$$

The fraction on the right hand side can be understood as a quotient of average cardinalities of fibres, where in the numerator we average over Y , while in the denominator we average over the U -orbits in Y . Actually, for the common cases discussed in Section 5, where X and Y are linear structures and the homomorphism $\bar{\cdot}: X \rightarrow Y$ of U -sets is derived from a linear map, the fibres $\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\} \subseteq X$ all have one and the same cardinality, which hence equals $|X|/|Y|$. Thus in this case we indeed get a saving factor of $|X|/N_X = \lambda_Y$. In general, the numerator of course always equals $|X|/|Y|$, but in practice the denominator does not seem to be under good control.

Some numerical data are given in Table 4 below: e. g. letting X be the subset of the Fi_{23} -orbit $X_{23}^\pi \subseteq M_4$ enumerated as described at the end of Section 8, we have $|X| = 281\,092\,626\,984\,960 \sim 2.8 \cdot 10^{14}$, and for its image $Y \subseteq M_3$ we have $|Y| = 4\,397\,288\,393\,040 \sim 4.4 \cdot 10^{12}$ and $\nu_Y = 471$, hence $\lambda_Y \sim 9.3 \cdot 10^9$, where $|U| = 47\,377\,612\,800 \sim 4.7 \cdot 10^{10}$. Hence we have $|X|/|Y| \sim 64$, while it turns out that $1/\nu_Y \cdot \sum_{yU \in Y/U} |\{x \in X; \bar{x} = y\}| \sim 3\,038$, yielding a saving factor, compared to λ_Y , of only $|X|/N_X \sim 196\,455\,480 \sim 2 \cdot 10^8$.

Recall that the price we pay for this saving is that we need structural information about G , to build up the additional infrastructure with U and $\bar{\cdot}: X \rightarrow Y$, and to be able to compute stabiliser orders efficiently.

3 Orbit enumeration by suborbits

The algorithm presented in this section is the heart of the whole method. For the enumeration of an orbit x_1G it outperforms a standard orbit algorithm like Algorithm 1, because it can save up to a factor of $\sim |U|$ in space usage under good conditions. It is also used in a crucial way in the generalisation of the trick from Section 2 to a chain of helper subgroups that is described in Section 4.

We first describe how U -orbits are archived in the slightly more abstract situation in this section, then we present Algorithm 2 and explain all the procedures called in it, before we proceed to define a certain transversal to use Schreier's Theorem and then prove termination and correctness.

We keep the notation from Section 2, that is $U < G$ and $\bar{\cdot}: X \rightarrow Y$ is a homomorphism of U -sets, we assume that we have chosen a U -minimal point in each U -orbit in Y and again a point $x \in X$ is called U -minimal, if \bar{x} is the chosen U -minimal point in $\bar{x}U$.

Now we can perform the following tasks, which are an abstraction of what was described in Section 2, allowing us to formulate Algorithm 2:

- (a) For every $x \in X$, find $u \in U$ such that xu is U -minimal.
- (b) For every U -minimal point $x \in X$, find generators for $\bar{S} := \text{Stab}_U(\bar{x})$ and the order $|\bar{S}|$.

In the sequel let $\text{Minimaliser}_U(x)$ be the result of a procedure returning an element $u \in U$ as in (a), where we assume that $\text{Minimaliser}_U(x) = 1_U$ whenever x already is U -minimal. Moreover, let $\text{BarStabiliser}_U(x)$ be the result of a procedure returning $|\bar{S}|$ and generators for \bar{S} as in (b). Having (a) and (b) at hand, we can devise procedures **StoreSuborbit** and **LookupSuborbit** performing tasks (1) and (2) exactly as described in Section 2:

Information on the U -orbits is collected in a database \mathcal{D} . If $x \in x_1tU$ is U -minimal, where $t \in G$, then **StoreSuborbit**(\mathcal{D}, x, t) invokes **BarStabiliser** $_U(x)$, enumerates the orbit $x\bar{S}$ using Algorithm 1 thereby determining $|xU|$ exactly as described in Section 2. Then it stores the set $x\bar{S}$ of U -minimal points $x' \in xU$ in the database \mathcal{D} together with $|xU|$. Hence this allows us to keep track of the total number **Size**(\mathcal{D}) of points in all U -orbits already stored in the database \mathcal{D} . In addition, an element $t \in G$ with $x_1tU = xU$ representing the U -orbit is stored as a word in the generators of G . This is used below to define a right transversal of $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$ in G .

The procedure **LookupSuborbit**(\mathcal{D}, x), where $x \in X$ is U -minimal, returns either **true** or **false**, depending on whether xU is already stored in \mathcal{D} or not. This is just done by looking up x itself, exactly as in Section 2. If x is already stored, we also have access to a representative $t \in G$ with $x_1tU = xU$ stored above.

Note that for both procedures (1) and (2) task (a) was crucial to first reach a U -minimal x at all. Also, as in Section 2, we have to be able to compute orders of any subgroup $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle \leq G$ generated by some subset $\mathcal{S} \subseteq G$, usually by using a relatively small permutation representation for G . Note that the ability to compute subgroup orders also facilitates membership testing for $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle$. Moreover, to save memory, all group elements of G which arise are stored as

words in the given generators \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{U} .

```

Require:  $G = \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$  acting on  $X$ ,  $U = \langle \mathcal{U} \rangle \leq G$ ,  $x_1 \in X$   $U$ -minimal,  $0 \leq f \leq 1$ 
 $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow$  empty database of  $U$ -orbits
StoreSuborbit( $\mathcal{D}, x_1, 1_G$ )
 $\mathcal{R} \leftarrow [1_G]$ 
 $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow []$  {collects generators for the stabiliser}
 $p \leftarrow 1$ 
loop
   $i \leftarrow 1$ 
  while  $i \leq \text{Length}(\mathcal{R})$  do
     $r \leftarrow \mathcal{R}[i]$ 
    for  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  do
       $u \leftarrow \text{Minimaliser}_U(x_1 r g)$ 
       $l \leftarrow \text{LookupSuborbit}(\mathcal{D}, x_1 r g u)$ 
      if  $l = \text{false}$  then
        StoreSuborbit( $\mathcal{D}, x_1 r g u, r g$ ) {with determining its size}
        append  $r g$  to  $\mathcal{R}$ 
      end if
      if  $l = \text{true}$  or  $p > 1$  then
         $s \leftarrow \text{SchreierGenerator}(\mathcal{D}, x_1 r, g)$ 
        if  $s \notin \langle \mathcal{S} \rangle$  then
          append  $s$  to  $\mathcal{S}$ 
        end if
      end if
      if  $\text{Size}(\mathcal{D}) \cdot |\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle| \geq f \cdot |G|$  then
        return  $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{S})$  {database, stabiliser}
      end if
    end for
     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
  end while
   $p \leftarrow p + 1$ 
   $\mathcal{R}_0 \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ 
   $\mathcal{R} \leftarrow []$ 
  for  $t$  in  $\mathcal{R}_0$  do
    for  $u \in \mathcal{U}$  do
      append  $tu$  to  $\mathcal{R}$ 
    end for
  end for
end loop

```

Algorithm 2: Orbit-Stabiliser by Suborbits

We now proceed to prove termination and correctness of Algorithm 2. To use Schreier's Theorem from the introduction, we have to define a right transversal of $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$ in G . As this would be too big to be kept in memory completely,

we define the transversal by means of an algorithm that, given $x \in x_1G$, produces an element $t_x \in G$ with $x_1t_x = x$. Remember that for every U -orbit xU in our database we have stored an element $t \in G$ such that $xU = x_1tU$, and by U -minimalisation we can find an element $u \in U$ with x_1tu being U -minimal.

Given $x \in x_1G$, we let $v := \text{Minimaliser}_U(x)$ and then look up xv in the database finding $t \in G$ such that $xvU = xU = x_1tU$.

With $u := \text{Minimaliser}_U(x_1t)$ we have that xv and x_1tu are both U -minimal and lie in the same U -orbit, thus there is an $s \in \overline{S} := \text{Stab}_U(\overline{x_1tu})$ with $x_1tus = xv$. To compute and uniquely define s we perform Algorithm 1 with the stored and thus fixed generators of \overline{S} and set s to be the first element found with the above property. We then define $t_x := tusv^{-1}$. Note that this uniquely defines t_x using our stored data.

This definition has two important consequences: firstly because the stored representative for the very first stored U -orbit x_1U is the identity, we have $t_{x_1} = 1_G$. Secondly, if t is the stored representative for a U -orbit x_1tU then $t_{x_1t} = t$ and $t_{x_1tu} = tu$ for $u := \text{Minimaliser}_U(x_1t)$.

Now we explain what the procedure `SchreierGenerator` in Algorithm 2 does to compute generators of $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$: during the execution of Algorithm 2 we constantly apply a generator $g \in \mathcal{G}$ to some point x_1r , where $r = tw$ with t being the stored representative of the U -orbit x_1tU , and w being some element of U that comes from the last two **for** loops in the main loop. Then we try to look up the U -orbit x_1twgU .

In such a situation, x_1twgU either is a newly found U -orbit, in which case it is stored with twg as its representative, or it is already known. If in the latter case we have $w = 1$, which happens in the first iteration of the outer loop, the Schreier generator $t_{x_1t}gt_{x_1tg}^{-1}$ is trivial, because t is the stored representative for x_1tU and tg is the one for x_1tgU . Therefore Algorithm 2 does not calculate a Schreier generator in that case.

In all other cases x_1twgU is then known as a stored U -orbit $x_1t'U$. The procedure call `SchreierGenerator(\mathcal{D}, x_1t, g)` then returns $t_{tw}gt_{twg}^{-1}$ by calculating the two transversal elements as described above from stored data.

We now address the question of correctness: Algorithm 2 by construction only stores U -orbits that are contained in x_1G , thus at any time $|\mathcal{D}| \leq |x_1G|$. Moreover, in \mathcal{S} only elements of the stabiliser $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$ are collected, thus at any time $|\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle|$ is a divisor of $|\text{Stab}_G(x_1)|$.

Let first $f := 1$. In the **while** loop we first apply the generators \mathcal{G} of G to representatives of known U -orbits. At the end of the outer **loop** the generators

\mathcal{U} of U are then applied to these representatives, such that in the next iteration of **loop** new points in the same U -orbits are used. Thus the algorithm will eventually apply all generators of G to all points in all enumerated U -orbits and thus will eventually find all U -orbits. Similarly, all Schreier generators will eventually be found, which by Schreier's Theorem implies $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle = \text{Stab}_G(x_1)$. Since $|x_1G| \cdot |\text{Stab}_G(x_1)| = |G|$, this implies that Algorithm 2 terminates, and returns a database \mathcal{D} containing all U -orbits in x_1G , as well as generators for $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$.

The above analysis shows that Algorithm 2 also terminates for any $0 \leq f < 1$, and returns part of x_1G and a subgroup $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle \leq \text{Stab}_G(x_1)$. The idea behind this is as follows: as soon as we have $\text{Size}(\mathcal{D}) \cdot |\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle| > |G|/2$, we conclude that indeed $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle = \text{Stab}_G(x_1)$, and in particular we know the size $|x_1G|$. Hence if we specify $f > 1/2$, then Algorithm 2 only computes the fraction f of the whole G -orbit x_1G , which is often enough for applications, see Section 8.

The above correctness proof shows that in the worst case the running time of Algorithm 2 is no better than the running time of Algorithm 1. Still, in practice a rather small subset of Schreier generators suffices to generate the full stabiliser $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$, hence typically $\text{Stab}_G(x_1)$ is already reached after a small fraction of the whole computation. Moreover, the counter p typically assumes only very small values, in particular if we enumerate only part of the orbit by specifying $f < 1$; see also Table 4. Hence in practice the computation is dominated by enumerating U -orbits, which is done by applying the elements of \mathcal{G} only to the stored U -orbit representatives, instead of applying them to all elements of x_1G . Thus if the infrastructure is set up optimally we are able to obtain a time saving factor of $\sim |U|$ as well.

4 Iterating orbit enumeration by suborbits

To archive U -orbits we had to assume that U is small enough such that enumeration of the U -orbits in the helper U -set can be done by Algorithm 1. For large groups G this tends to imply that U is too small to be helpful. Now the idea is to use a larger helper subgroup $U < V < G$, together with a helper V -set, to enumerate a G -orbit by V -orbits using Algorithm 2, where in turn orbit enumeration in the helper V -set is done by U -orbits, for some small helper subgroup $U < V$. This is done in a way that we can iterate it to use a chain of subgroups totally ordered by inclusion.

Recall that to perform an orbit enumeration by U -orbits we need a definition of U -minimality and we need to be able to do tasks (a) and (b) from Section 3, that is we need procedures Minimaliser_U and BarStabiliser_U . We now present the setup for building this infrastructure for V , using the same infrastructure

already in place for U .

Let X be a finite G -set, let Z be a finite V -set, and let Y be a finite U -set, together with a homomorphism of V -sets $\tilde{} : X \rightarrow Z$ and a homomorphism of U -sets $\bar{} : Z \rightarrow Y$. By abuse of notation we denote the composition of $\tilde{}$ and $\bar{}$, mapping X to Y , also by $\bar{}$: it is a homomorphism of U -sets. We can now use the definition of U -minimality for both the group V acting on Z and the group G acting on X .

In a precomputation we first calculate a transversal \mathcal{L} for the left cosets of U in V , that is a subset $\mathcal{L} \subseteq V$ of size $|\mathcal{L}| = [V:U]$ such that $V = \bigcup_{t \in \mathcal{L}} tU$, where we assume the index $[V:U]$ to be small enough such that this is feasible, and that $1_V \in \mathcal{L}$.

Then we enumerate all of Z by U -orbits. Note that when the U -infrastructure is set up optimally, this saves a factor of $\sim |U|$ in space usage. In every V -orbit of Z we arbitrarily choose one U -minimal point z and call it V -minimal. We run the V -orbit by U -orbit enumeration of that V -orbit with starting point z using Algorithm 2, such that we get as an additional result the order and generators for $\text{Stab}_V(z)$, which we store together with z . Note that during this calculation we store every U -minimal point in zV .

Further, for every U -minimal point $w \in zU$, $w \neq z$, we store a word in the generators of $\text{Stab}_U(\bar{z}) = \text{Stab}_U(\bar{w})$ mapping w to z . For every U -minimal point $w \in zV \setminus zU$ we compute and store the number of an element of \mathcal{L} mapping w into the U -orbit zU . Note that this is possible, because for every point $w \in zV$ there is an element of V mapping it to z and thus an element of \mathcal{L} mapping it into zU .

We now define similarly to the above a point $x \in X$ to be V -minimal if $\tilde{x} \in Z$ is V -minimal. With these preparations we can now perform the procedures Minimaliser_V for all points in X , and BarStabiliser_V for V -minimal points in X in the following way:

Given any $x \in X$, we first use Minimaliser_U to find a U -minimal point $w := xu \in X$ for some $u \in U$. Thus by definition \tilde{w} is U -minimal as well, because it is mapped by $\bar{}$ to \bar{w} . Therefore, \tilde{w} was stored during our precomputation. Let $z \in Z$ be the chosen V -minimal point in $\tilde{w}V$.

There are three cases: firstly, if $\tilde{w} = z$, then we are done, returning $v := u$, since w is V -minimal by definition. Secondly, if $\tilde{w} \in zU$, $\tilde{w} \neq z$, then since both z and \tilde{w} are U -minimal, we have a stored element $s \in \text{Stab}_U(\bar{z}) = \text{Stab}_U(\bar{w}) \leq U$ such that $\tilde{w}s = z$ and we can return $v := us$. If $\tilde{w} \notin zU$ we have stored an element $t \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $\tilde{w}t \in zU$, thus letting $u' := \text{Minimaliser}_U(\tilde{w}t)$, the above cases finally give us an element $v := utu's$ such that $xutu's$ is V -minimal. In all three cases, we have found an element $v \in V$ such that xv is

V -minimal thereby finding $\text{Minimaliser}_V(x)$.

If $x \in X$ is V -minimal we have that \tilde{x} is the V -minimal point in $\tilde{x}V$ and thus we have stored the order and generators for $\text{Stab}_V(\tilde{x})$ during our precomputation using Algorithm 2. Therefore we can easily provide a procedure BarStabiliser_V .

The definition of V -minimality for points in X together with the procedures Minimaliser_V and BarStabiliser_V now fulfil exactly tasks (a) and (b) from Section 3 with Z in place of Y and $\tilde{}$ in place of $\bar{}$ and V in place of U . Thus we can iterate the saving trick in this way and enumerate G -orbits by V -orbits.

Note that in practice the above-mentioned precomputations can all be done on the fly whenever a point $x \in X$ is encountered which is mapped by $\tilde{}$ to an as yet unknown V -orbit $\tilde{x}V \subseteq Z$. Moreover, to compute a transversal \mathcal{L} for the left cosets of U in V , we can just use a transitive V -set a point stabiliser of which is contained in U and enumerate it by U -orbits.

Finally, this can be iterated as follows: let $U_1 < U_2 < \dots < U_k < U_{k+1} := G$ be a chain of helper subgroups, together with U_i -sets Y_i and homomorphisms $\pi_i: Y_{i+1} \rightarrow Y_i$ of U_i -sets, for $1 \leq i \leq k$, where we let $Y_{k+1} := X$. Then we are able to enumerate a G -orbit in X by U_k -orbits using Algorithm 2. To do so, for $k \geq i \geq 2$ in turn U_i -orbits in Y_i are enumerated by U_{i-1} -orbits, also using Algorithm 2. Finally U_1 -orbits in Y_1 are enumerated using Algorithm 1.

5 Common case: linear actions

In this section we describe concrete cases in which the above methods can be used, together with ways to find suitable helper sets and subgroups. These techniques have already been applied successfully in the single helper subgroup case to various substantial examples, see for example Lübeck et al. (2001), Müller et al. (2002), Müller (2003).

5.1 Action on vectors

Let X be a finite-dimensional FG -module, where F is a finite field and FG is the group algebra of G over F . Then in particular X can be considered as a G -set. Let $U < G$ be a subgroup such that there is an FU -submodule $0 < X' < X|_U$. Then the natural map $\bar{}: X \rightarrow X/X' =: Y$ to the quotient FU -module Y is a homomorphism of FU -modules, and thus is a homomorphism of U -sets.

The quotient FU -module Y has to fulfil several conditions in order to be of

practical use: on the one hand, the F -dimension of Y has to be small enough such that all its U -orbits can be enumerated in the precomputation and such that we can store the necessary information for U -minimalisation. On the other hand, the F -dimension of Y has to be big enough such that the average size of the U -orbits in Y is as big as possible.

We thus have to find an appropriate helper subgroup U together with a good quotient fulfilling these conditions simultaneously. For example, we might guess a subgroup U , and try to find a suitable FU -submodule X' by using the algorithms to compute submodule lattices described in Lux et al. (1994), available in the `MeatAxe` (Ringe (2003)).

Note that a possible pitfall is that the zero vector in Y is necessarily U -minimal, hence all points in X' are U -minimal as well. Thus, given $x_1 \in X$, all points in $x_1G \cap X'$ have to be stored, which means that for these points we do not save anything. A possible remedy is to choose $X' < X$ such that $x_1G \cap X' = \emptyset$, but this poses a further condition for the quotient to be good, which cannot always be fulfilled.

Now we proceed as follows: first we choose helper subgroups $U < V < G$. Then we try to find an FV -submodule $0 < X'' < X|_V$, and subsequently we try to find an FU -submodule $0 < X'/X'' < (X/X'')|_U$, which amounts to looking for an FU -submodule $X' < X|_U$ which contains X'' . We then let $Z := X/X''$ and $Y := X/X'$. The natural maps $\tilde{\cdot}: X \rightarrow Z$ and $\bar{\cdot}: X \rightarrow Y$ are then homomorphisms of FV -modules and FU -modules, respectively, and $\bar{\cdot}$ factors through $\tilde{\cdot}$ as required. Of course this procedure can be iterated for more than two helper subgroups to get a whole chain of submodules.

5.2 Projective action

In the situation of Section 5.1 we can also use projective action, i. e. the natural action on the set $\mathbb{P}(X)$ of one-dimensional F -subspaces of X . The action on $\mathbb{P}(X)$ is usually implemented by choosing an F -basis for X , and storing one-dimensional subspaces as normalised vectors, i. e. vectors in which the first nonzero entry is equal to 1; note that this choice of representative depends on the chosen F -basis. The action of a group element, given by a representing matrix, is then vector-matrix multiplication, followed by multiplying with a scalar to re-normalise vectors.

Given an FU -submodule $X' < X|_U$, the natural map $\bar{\cdot}: X \rightarrow X/X' =: Y$ induces a map from $\mathbb{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(Y) \dot{\cup} \{0\}$, where all one-dimensional F -subspaces of X' are mapped to the zero-space $\{0\} \leq Y$. Since $0 \in Y$ is fixed under the action of U , this again is a homomorphism of U -sets.

In practice, if we have $\dim_F(X) = d$ and $\dim_F(X') = e$, we may choose an F -basis (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_d) of X such that $(b_{d-e+1}, b_{d-e+2}, \dots, b_d)$ is an F -basis for X' . Writing the vectors in X with respect to this F -basis, and writing the vectors in Y with respect to the truncated F -basis $(b_1 + X', b_2 + X', \dots, b_{d-e} + X')$, the natural map $\bar{}$ is just taking the first $d - e$ components. Note that using these F -bases we do not have to re-normalise vectors after applying the natural map.

5.3 Action on d -dimensional subspaces

Similar to the projective action case, for any $1 < d \leq \dim_F(X)$ we get a natural homomorphism of U -sets from the set of d -dimensional F -subspaces of X to the set of F -subspaces of Y of dimension at most d .

After choosing an F -basis for X , the d -dimensional F -subspaces of X are described by matrices of full rank d in full echelon form. Hence the action of a group element, given by a representing matrix, on such a d -dimensional F -subspace is matrix-matrix multiplication, followed by computing the full echelon form of the resulting matrix. In practice, we choose F -bases as described in Section 5.2.

Note that typically the set of F -subspaces of Y of dimension at most d , where we assume $\dim_F(Y) > d$, is too large to be enumerated completely. Thus in practice we only consider the F -subspaces of dimension exactly d in Y , and treat the F -subspaces of X being mapped by $\bar{}$ to F -subspaces of dimension less than d as “zero vectors”. But since for the latter we do not save anything, the saving factor might become too small. A possible remedy is to consider various quotients X/X' , X/X'' , X/X''' , \dots , and to treat only those F -subspaces of X as “zero vectors” which by all associated natural maps are mapped to F -subspaces of dimension less than d . For an application of this idea see (Müller, 2003, Sect.III.15.2) and Müller et al. (2002).

6 Endomorphism rings and their character tables

We recall the necessary facts about permutation modules and their endomorphism rings; as general references see e. g. Müller (2003), Zieschang (1996), Bannai et al. (1984).

Let G be a finite group, let $H \leq G$ and let $n := [G:H]$. Let $X \neq \emptyset$ be a transitive G -set such that $\text{Stab}_G(x_1) = H$, for some $x_1 \in X$, and let $X = \dot{\bigcup}_{i=1}^r X_i$, where the $X_i \subseteq X$ are the H -orbits. The number $r \in \mathbb{N}$ is called the

rank of X . For all $1 \leq i \leq r$ we choose $x_i \in X_i$ and $g_i \in G$ such that $x_1 g_i = x_i$, where we assume $g_1 = 1$ and $X_1 = \{x_1\}$, and we let $H_i := \text{Stab}_H(x_i) \leq H$ and $k_i := |X_i| = |H|/|H_i|$.

For $1 \leq i \leq r$, the orbits $\Gamma_i := (x_1 g, x_i g)G \subseteq X \times X$ of the diagonal action of G on $X \times X$ are called *orbitals*; hence we have $|\Gamma_i| = |G|/|H_i| = nk_i$. Let $1 \leq i^* \leq r$ be defined by $\Gamma_{i^*} = (x_i, x_1)G$, then X_{i^*} is called the H -orbit *paired* to X_i ; note that we have $k_{i^*} = k_i$. Let the i -th *orbital graph* be the simple directed graph with vertex set X and edge set Γ_i , and let $A_i = [a_{i,x,y}] \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$, with row index $x \in X$ and column index $y \in X$, be its adjacency matrix, i. e. we have $a_{i,x,y} = 1$ if and only if $(x, y) \in \Gamma_i$.

Let $\mathbb{Z}X$ be the associated permutation $\mathbb{Z}G$ -module, and let $E := \text{End}_{\mathbb{Z}G}(\mathbb{Z}X)$ be its endomorphism ring, i. e. the set of all \mathbb{Z} -linear maps $\mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}X$ commuting with the action of G . By Schur (1933), see also (Landrock, 1983, Ch.II.12), the set $\{A_i; 1 \leq i \leq r\} \subseteq E$ is a \mathbb{Z} -basis for E , called the *Schur basis*, and it can also be considered as a \mathbb{C} -basis for $E_{\mathbb{C}} := E \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C} \cong \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}G}(\mathbb{C}X)$, which is a split semisimple \mathbb{C} -algebra. Moreover, E is commutative if and only if the permutation character $1_H^G \in \mathbb{Z}\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(G)$ associated with the G -set X is *multiplicity-free*, i. e. all the constituents of 1_H^G occur with multiplicity 1, where $\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(G)$ denotes the set of irreducible \mathbb{C} -valued characters of G .

From now on suppose E is commutative. Then letting $\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ be the set of irreducible \mathbb{C} -valued characters of $E_{\mathbb{C}}$, we have $|\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)| = r$, and $\lambda(A_1) = 1$ for all $\lambda \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$. The *character table* of E is defined as the matrix $\Phi_E := [\lambda(A_i)] \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times r}$, with row index $\lambda \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ and column index $1 \leq i \leq r$. Hence in particular Φ_E is invertible. Moreover, there is a natural bijection, called the *Fitting correspondence*, between the irreducible characters of $E_{\mathbb{C}}$ and the constituents of 1_H^G ; the Fitting correspondent of $\lambda \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)$ is denoted by $\chi_{\lambda} \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(G)$. In particular, we have $1/\chi_{\lambda}(1) = (1/n) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^r \|\lambda(A_i)\|^2/k_i$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the complex absolute value; thus degrees of Fitting correspondents are easily computed from Φ_E .

For $1 \leq i \leq r$ let $P_i = [p_{h,i,j}] \in \mathbb{Z}^{r \times r}$, with row index $1 \leq h \leq r$ and column index $1 \leq j \leq r$, be the representing matrix of A_i for its right regular action on E , with respect to the Schur basis, i. e. we have $A_h A_i = \sum_{j=1}^r p_{h,i,j} A_j$. Hence the map $E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{r \times r} : A_i \mapsto P_i$, for $1 \leq i \leq r$, is a faithful representation of E . The matrices P_i are called *collapsed adjacency matrices* or *intersection matrices*, since their entries are given by $p_{h,i,j} = |X_h \cap X_{i^*} g_j| \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

In particular, the first row and the first column of P_i are given as $p_{1,i,j} = \delta_{i,j}$ and $p_{h,i,1} = k_h \cdot \delta_{h,i^*}$, where $\delta_{\cdot,\cdot} \in \{0, 1\}$ denotes the Kronecker function, and the column sums of P_i are for all j identically given as $\sum_{h=1}^r p_{h,i,j} = \sum_{h=1}^r |X_h \cap X_{i^*} g_j| = k_i$. Moreover, we have $k_j \cdot |X_h \cap X_{i^*} g_j| = k_h \cdot |X_j \cap X_i g_h|$, implying the identity $p_{h,i,j} = |X_j \cap X_i g_h| \cdot k_h/k_j = p_{j,i^*,h} \cdot k_h/k_j$. Thus from

$\sum_{j=1}^r |X_j \cap X_i g_h| = k_i$, depending on h we get the weighted row sums of P_i as $\sum_{j=1}^r k_j p_{h,i,j} = k_h k_i$.

The character table of E and the intersection matrices are related as follows: if Φ_E is given, the P_i are easily computed using the formula $P_i = \Phi_E^{\text{tr}} \cdot \text{diag}[\lambda(A_i); \lambda \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)] \cdot \Phi_E^{-\text{tr}}$, where $\text{diag}[\cdot] \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times r}$ denotes the diagonal matrix having the indicated entries. Conversely, if the P_i are given, the set $\{[\lambda(A_i); 1 \leq i \leq r] \in \mathbb{C}^r; \lambda \in \text{Irr}_{\mathbb{C}}(E)\}$, consisting of the rows of Φ_E to be computed, is characterised as the unique \mathbb{C} -basis of \mathbb{C}^r consisting of simultaneous eigenvectors for all the matrices $P_i^{\text{tr}} \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times r}$, for $1 \leq i \leq r$, and having 1 as their first entry.

7 B acting on the cosets of Fi_{23}

We are now ready to consider the promised example. The group theoretical and representation theoretic data concerning the groups involved is available in Conway et al. (1985). Computations with characters and with permutation and matrix representations are done with GAP (GAP (2005)) and the MeatAxe (Ringe (2003)), in particular we make use of the algorithms to compute submodule lattices described in Lux et al. (1994). We only indicate the major steps; for more technical details we refer to Müller (2003), where we have already reported on these computations.

From now on let $G := B$ be the sporadic simple Baby Monster group, and let $H := Fi_{23}$ be the sporadic simple Fischer group, which is a maximal subgroup of G . Then the permutation character 1_H^G has degree $1\,015\,970\,529\,280\,000 \sim 10^{15}$, and by Breuer et al. (1996) it is multiplicity-free of rank $r = 23$, its constituents have pairwise distinct degrees, and hence in particular are \mathbb{Q} -valued. We consider the action of G on the set of right cosets of H , the ultimate aim being to determine the character table of the associated endomorphism ring; recall that not even the sizes of the H -orbits have been known before.

First we construct an $\mathbb{F}_2 G$ -module, containing an H -invariant but not G -invariant vector, placing ourselves into the situation described in Section 5.1: let $4370a$ be the absolutely irreducible $\mathbb{F}_2 G$ -module of \mathbb{F}_2 -dimension 4370; by Jansen (2005) this is the smallest faithful representation of G over fields of characteristic 2. Representing matrices for standard generators, in the sense of Wilson (1996), have been constructed in Wilson (1993) and are available in Wilson et al. (2005), where also words in the standard generators giving standard generators for H are available. It turns out that $4370a|_H$ has absolutely irreducible constituents $782a$ and $3588a$, the notation as usual indicating \mathbb{F}_2 -dimensions. Thus $4370a$ does not serve our purposes, and we proceed as follows:

Table 1
The subgroup chain

| i | U_i | $ U_i $ | $[U_i:U_{i-1}]$ | $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2}(M_i)$ |
|-----|--------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 5 | B | 4 154 781 481 226 426 191 177 580 544 000 000 | $\sim 10^{15}$ | 4371 |
| 4 | Fi_{23} | 4 089 470 473 293 004 800 | 86 316 516 | 782 |
| 3 | $S_8(2)$ | 47 377 612 800 | 2 295 | 42 |
| 2 | $2^{10}:A_8$ | 20 643 840 | 8 192 | 31 |
| 1 | A_7 | 2 520 | 2 520 | 18 |

Since the unique absolutely irreducible ordinary representation of G of degree 4371 has 2-modular constituents $4370a$ and $1a$, where the latter denotes the trivial \mathbb{F}_2G -module, by Thompson's Theorem, see (Landrock, 1983, Cor.I.17.5), there is a uniserial \mathbb{F}_2G -module M having descending composition series $(1a, 4370a)$. Since $4371|_H$ has absolutely irreducible ordinary constituents having degrees 1, 782 and 3588, we conclude by Zassenhaus's Theorem, see (Landrock, 1983, Cor.I.17.3), that $M|_H \cong 1a \oplus 782a \oplus 3588a$ as \mathbb{F}_2H -modules. Hence we let $0 \neq x_1 \in M$ be the non-trivial H -invariant vector, which is not G -invariant, and thus its G -orbit $X := x_1G \subseteq M$ is isomorphic as a G -set to the set of right cosets of H .

To construct the \mathbb{F}_2G -module M explicitly, we consider the cohomology group $\text{Ext}_{\mathbb{F}_2G}^1(1a, 4370a) \cong H_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a) := Z_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a)/B_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a)$, where the latter are the groups of 1-cocycles and 1-coboundaries of G with values in $4370a$, respectively, see (Benson, 1983, Ch.3.4). As we already know that there is a non-split extension of $1a$ with $4370a$, we conclude by (Benson, 1983, Cor.2.5.4) that $H_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a) \neq \{0\}$. By an application of the probabilistic technique to compute upper bounds on dimensions of group 1-cohomology described in Lux (1997), we find $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2}(H_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a)) \leq 1$, hence we have equality, and thus the probabilistic technique indeed yields a genuine non-trivial 1-cocycle in $Z_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a) \setminus B_{\mathbb{F}_2}^1(G, 4370a)$. Using the interpretation in (Benson, 1983, Prop.3.7.2) any such 1-cocycle describes the matrix entries for a non-split extension M of $1a$ with $4370a$.

Note that to store a point in M we need $\lceil 4371/8 \rceil = 547$ Bytes, hence to store all of X needs $555\,735\,879\,516\,160\,000 \sim 5.6 \cdot 10^{17}$ Bytes. Hence we are indeed tempted to apply the strategy described in Section 4. We choose the following chain of subgroups, see Table 1:

$$G = B > H = Fi_{23} > U_3 := S_8(2) > U_2 := 2^{10}:A_8 > U_1 := A_7$$

Words in the standard generators for H giving non-standard generators for

the maximal subgroup $S_8(2)$ are available in Wilson et al. (2005). We derive a suitable small faithful permutation representation of $S_8(2)$, and by a random search we find standard generators for $S_8(2)$. The subgroup $2^{10}:A_8 < S_8(2)$ again is maximal, and since the unique transitive permutation representation of $S_8(2)$ on 2295 points also is available in terms of standard generators in Wilson et al. (2005), Algorithm 1 yields generators for $2^{10}:A_8$. By a random search we find generators for a complement A_8 of the normal subgroup $2^{10} \triangleleft 2^{10}:A_8$, and finally generators for $A_7 < A_8$.

As described in Section 5.1, we specify a chain of smaller and smaller quotients M_i of M : first let $M_5 := M$ and $M_4 := 782a$ and let $\pi = \pi_4$ be the natural projection of $M|_H$ onto its direct summand isomorphic to M_4 . We find that $M_4|_{U_3}$ has a uniquely determined quotient module M_3 being isomorphic to a uniserial module with descending composition series $(16a, 26a)$. Moreover, we similarly find that $M_3|_{U_2}$ has a uniquely determined submodule of \mathbb{F}_2 -dimension 11. The quotient module M_2 with respect to this submodule has Loewy series $(1a, 4a, 6a \oplus 6a, 14a)$. Finally, $M_2|_{U_1}$ turns out to have a uniquely determined quotient module $M_1 \cong 4a \oplus 14a$. The associated homomorphisms $\pi_i: M_{i+1} \rightarrow M_i$, for $1 \leq i \leq 3$, are just the natural maps.

8 The Fi_{23} -orbits

Keeping the notation of Section 6, the next task is to determine the partition $X = \bigcup_{i=1, \dots, 23} X_i \subseteq M$ of X into the H -orbits $X_i = x_i H$ by finding suitable representatives $x_i \in X$; note that we do not even know the sizes $k_i = |X_i|$ in advance. To do this, we do not describe the X_i directly, but instead find the H -orbits $X_i^\pi = x_i^\pi H \subseteq M_4$. These in turn are enumerated using the strategy described in Section 4, applied to the group H and the chain of helper subgroups $U_3 > U_2 > U_1$. The final result is given in Table 2, where the H -orbits X_i are sorted according to their size k_i .

If we are given some $x_i \in X$, to enumerate $x_i^\pi H$ we run Algorithm 2 with some parameter $1/2 < f < 1$; some numerical data on how this behaves in practice is given in Table 4 at the end of this section. This ensures that we find $\widetilde{H}_i := \text{Stab}_H(x_i^\pi) \leq H$. Then we compute $x_i \widetilde{H}_i \subseteq X_i$ by Algorithm 1. Thus we obtain $H_i := \text{Stab}_H(x_i) \leq \widetilde{H}_i$, and we have $[H_i: \widetilde{H}_i] = |x_i \widetilde{H}_i|$ as well as $k_i = [H: H_i]$. For group theoretical computations, such as the determination of subgroup orders, we use the smallest faithful permutation representation of H on 31671 points, being available in Wilson et al. (2005).

Hence we have to find suitable representatives $x_i \in X$ for the H -orbits X_i . Beginning with $x_1 \in X$, we apply a few random elements of G , and for the points $x \in X$ thus obtained we enumerate $x^\pi H$. This random search yields 14

Table 2
 H -orbits in X .

| i | k_i | $ H_i $ | H_i | \tilde{H}_i | $[\tilde{H}_i: H_i]$ |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>1</u> | 1 | $\sim 4.1 \cdot 10^{18}$ | Fi_{23} | | |
| 2 | 412 896 | 9 904 359 628 800 | $O_8^+(3):2_2$ | | |
| 3 | 86 316 516 | 47 377 612 800 | $S_8(2)$ | Fi_{23} | 86 316 516 |
| 4 | 195 747 435 | 20 891 566 080 | $2^{11}.M_{23}$ | Fi_{23} | 195 747 435 |
| 5 | 8 537 488 128 | 479 001 600 | S_{12} | | |
| 6 | 23 478 092 352 | 174 182 400 | $O_8^+(2)$ | | |
| <u>7</u> | 33 816 182 400 | 120 932 352 | $[3^9].[2^{10}].S_3$ | $[3^9].[2^{10}].3^2.2$ | 3 |
| 8 | 113 778 447 552 | 35 942 400 | $2 \times {}^2F_4(2)'$ | $2.Fi_{22}$ | 3 592 512 |
| 9 | 160 533 964 800 | 25 474 176 | $S_3 \times G_2(3)$ | $S_3 \times O_7(3)$ | 1 080 |
| 10 | 504 245 392 560 | 8 110 080 | $2^{10}.M_{11}$ | $2^{11}.M_{11}$ | 2 |
| <u>11</u> | 1 044 084 577 536 | 3 916 800 | $S_4(4):4$ | | |
| 12 | 1 152 560 897 280 | 3 548 160 | $(2 \times 2.M_{22}).2$ | | |
| <u>13</u> | 1 584 771 233 760 | 2 580 480 | $2^7.A_8$ | | |
| <u>14</u> | 5 282 570 779 200 | 774 144 | $2^7.U_3(3)$ | $2^7.U_3(3).2$ | 2 |
| <u>15</u> | 7 888 639 030 272 | 518 400 | $(A_6 \times A_6):2^2$ | | |
| <u>16</u> | 12 678 169 870 080 | 322 560 | $2^2.L_3(4).2^2$ | | |
| <u>17</u> | 21 514 470 082 560 | 190 080 | $2 \times M_{12}$ | | |
| <u>18</u> | 43 028 940 165 120 | 95 040 | M_{12} | | |
| <u>19</u> | 50 712 679 480 320 | 80 640 | $2.L_3(4).2_2$ | | |
| <u>20</u> | 133 120 783 635 840 | 30 720 | $2^4.2^4.A_5.2$ | | |
| <u>21</u> | 190 172 548 051 200 | 21 504 | $2^6:L_3(2):2$ | | |
| <u>22</u> | 262 954 634 342 400 | 15 552 | $3^4.2^{1+4}.S_3$ | | |
| <u>23</u> | 283 991 005 089 792 | 14 400 | $(A_5 \times A_5):2^2$ | | |

of the H -orbits, namely those for $i \in \{1, 7, 11, 13, \dots, 23\}$, being underlined in Table 2. These H -orbits of course tend to be the large ones, and summing up the associated orbit sizes k_i , and dividing by $|X|$, we obtain a fraction of $\sim 499/500$. Hence it seems rather improbable to find further H -orbits using such a random search. As the small H -orbits for $i \in \{2, \dots, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12\}$ are missing, we are tempted to look for large candidate subgroups of H instead which might occur as stabilisers H_i .

Now the Schur double cover $2.G := 2.B$ of the Baby Monster group is a subgroup of the sporadic simple Fischer–Griess Monster group \mathbb{M} . More precisely, it is the involution centraliser $2.G = C_{\mathbb{M}}(a)$ of an element a in the $2A$ -conjugacy class in \mathbb{M} , where a is a 6-*transposition*, since the product of a with any of its conjugates has order at most 6.

Let $Z := Z(2.G) = \langle a \rangle$ and let $H' < 2.G$ be a subgroup isomorphic to the Fischer group Fi_{23} , hence we have $H' \cong (H' \times Z)/Z$. By Norton (1985) we have $H' = C_{\mathbb{M}}(a, b)$, where $\langle a, b \rangle \cong S_3$, where in turn b also is a 6-*transposition* and ab belongs to the $3A$ -conjugacy class in \mathbb{M} . Given $g \in 2.G$ we have $H' \cap H'^g = C_{\mathbb{M}}(\langle a, b \rangle, \langle a, c \rangle) = C_{\mathbb{M}}(a, b, c)$, where $c = a^g$ also is a 6-*transposition* and $\langle a, c \rangle \cong S_3$. Since $N_{2.G}(H') = \langle a \rangle \times H'$, we may assume that $H'^g \neq H'$, and thus $\langle a, b \rangle \cap \langle a, c \rangle = \langle a \rangle$.

To deduce the corresponding information in G itself, we need to quotient by the subgroup Z , i. e. we have to determine $((H' \times Z) \cap (H'^g \times Z))/Z$. Since $(H' \times Z) \cap (H'^g \times Z) = (H' \cap (H'^g \times Z)) \times Z$, there are two cases: in the *split* case we have $(H' \cap H'^g) \times Z = (H' \times Z) \cap (H'^g \times Z)$, while in the *non-split* case we have $(H' \cap H'^g) \times Z \triangleleft (H' \times Z) \cap (H'^g \times Z)$, a normal subgroup of index 2. Thus we are in the non-split case if and only if

$$C_{\mathbb{M}}(a, b, c) = H' \cap H'^g < H' \cap (H'^g \times Z) = C_{\mathbb{M}}(a, b) \cap (C_{\mathbb{M}}(a, c) \times \langle a \rangle).$$

This in turn is the case if and only if there is $x \in N_{\mathbb{M}}(\langle a, b, c \rangle)$ such that $a^x = a$, $b^x = b$ and $c^x = c^a$.

We use the table of centralisers of subgroups of \mathbb{M} given in (Norton, 1997, Table 1) to look for suitable subgroups being generated by triples (a, b, c) of 6-*transpositions*, such that $\langle a, b \rangle \cong \langle a, c \rangle \cong S_3$, and both ab and ac belong to the $3A$ -conjugacy class in \mathbb{M} . The subgroups leaping to mind are listed in Table 3; the fourth column indicates whether the split “+” or the non-split “−” case occurs, and in the fifth column the corresponding row of Table 2 is given.

For example, the subgroup generated might be isomorphic to S_4 , where $a = (1, 2)$ and $b = (2, 3)$, while $c = (1, 4)$ or $c = (2, 4)$. There are two such subgroups: one has centraliser $S_8(2)$ and normaliser $S_4 \times S_8(2)$ in \mathbb{M} , while the other has centraliser $2^{11}.M_{23}$ and normaliser $S_4 \times 2^{11}.M_{23}$.

In the first case the involutions in S_4 are 6-*transpositions*, since they centralise elements of order 17, but the centraliser in \mathbb{M} of the $2B$ -conjugacy class is isomorphic to $2^{1+24}.Co_1$, thus has no such elements. It follows from (Norton, 1985, Table 3) that there is a conjugacy class of subgroups isomorphic to S_4 , being generated by a triple (a, b, c) where bc also is a 6-*transposition*. This obviously is a split case, proving row $i = 3$. In the second case, considering the conjugacy class fusion from $S_4 \times 2^{11}.M_{23}$ to \mathbb{M} shows that the *transpositions*

Table 3
Centralizers of certain subgroups of M .

| $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ | $C_M(\langle a, b, c \rangle)$ | $N_M(\langle a, b, c \rangle)$ | split | i |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| $3^2:2$ | $O_8^+(3)$ | $((3^2:2) \times O_8^+(3)).S_4$ | - | 2 |
| S_4 | $S_8(2)$ | $S_4 \times S_8(2)$ | + | 3 |
| S_4 | $2^{11}.M_{23}$ | $S_4 \times 2^{11}.M_{23}$ | + | 4 |
| A_5 | A_{12} | $(A_5 \times A_{12}):2$ | - | 5 |
| $2S_4$ | $2 \times {}^2F_4(2)'$ | $(2S_4 \times {}^2F_4(2)').2$ | + | 8 |
| $3^{1+2}:2^2$ | $G_2(3)$ | $(3^{1+2}:2^2 \times G_2(3)).2$ | - | 9 |
| $4^2:S_3$ | $2^{10}.M_{11}$ | $(4^2:S_3 \times 2^{10}.M_{11}).2$ | + | 10 |
| $2 \times S_5$ | $2.M_{22}$ | $(S_5 \times 2.M_{22}).2$ | - | 12 |
| $L_2(7)$ | $S_4(4).2$ | $(L_2(7) \times S_4(4).2).2$ | - | 11 |
| $L_2(11)$ | M_{12} | $(L_2(11) \times M_{12}).2$ | +/- | 17, 18 |

in S_4 indeed are 6-transpositions. This also is a split case, proving row $i = 4$.

For the other cases we proceed similarly. To check conjugacy class fusions we use the character table library of **GAP**, even though in many cases they are well-known or easy to see. As it turns out, we rediscover rows $i = 11$ as well as $i = 17$ and $i = 18$, which have already been found by the random search. Moreover, we remark that the existence of stabilisers as in rows $i = 2$ and $i = 3$ has also been stated in (Ivanov et al., 1995, p.3422).

At this stage we have just a single orbit left to find, and the number of points left is 23 478 092 352. Hence the last stabiliser has order 174 182 400, which strongly hints at $O_8^+(2)$ as indicated in row $i = 6$.

It remains to find representatives $x_i \in X$, for $i \in \{2, \dots, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12\}$, and to prove row $i = 6$. Given generators for the associated stabiliser H_i , we compute the subspace $\text{Fix}_M(H_i) < M$ consisting of the H_i -invariant vectors, and for each $x \in \text{Fix}_M(H_i) \setminus \{0, x_1\}$ we proceed as follows: we compute a few elements $y \in xG \subseteq M$, and check whether $y^\pi \in M_4$ is a point in an H -orbit encountered earlier. If we succeed in proving $y^\pi \in X_j^\pi$, for some j , then Algorithm 2 also yields an element $h \in H$ such that $y^\pi h = x_j^\pi$. It is then checked whether $yh = x_j$ holds, which proves that $y \in X$ and hence $x \in X$. It is easy then to compute the associated subgroups \widetilde{H}_i , and we remark that it turns out that $X_i^\pi = \{0\} \subseteq M_4$ for $i \in \{3, 4\}$.

Hence we are left with actually finding generators for the various H_i : words in the standard generators of H giving generators of the maximal subgroups $H_3 = S_8(2)$, and $H_4 = 2^{11}.M_{23}$, and $H_5 = S_{12}$ are available in Wilson et al. (2005).

Moreover, we have $H_2 = O_8^+(3):2_2 < O_8^+(3):S_3$, and $H_8 = 2 \times^2 F_4(2)' < 2.Fi_{22}$, as well as $H_9 = S_3 \times G_2(3) < S_3 \times O_7(3)$, and $H_{10} = 2^{10}.M_{11} < 2^{11}.M_{23}$, and $H_{12} = (2 \times 2.M_{22}).2 < 2^2.U_6(2).2$, where the overgroups again are maximal subgroups of H , hence generators for these H_i are easy to find as well. Note that for $i = 9$ there are two conjugacy classes of subgroups of $S_3 \times O_7(3)$ isomorphic to $S_3 \times G_2(3)$ only one of which yields a suitable vector $x_9 \in X$.

For the candidate $H_6 = O_8^+(2)$ there are three conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups of H containing a subgroup isomorphic to $O_8^+(2)$, namely $S_8(2)$, and $O_8^+(3):S_3$, and $2.Fi_{22}$. Again it is easy to find generators for the relevant subgroups isomorphic to $O_8^+(2)$. Indeed it turns out that a subgroup $O_8^+(2) < S_8(2)$ yields a suitable vector $x_6 \in X$, thus proving row $i = 6$.

We conclude this section by presenting some numerical data on the enumeration of the H -orbits $X_i^\pi = x_i^\pi H \subseteq M_4$, for $i \notin \{1, 3, 4\}$, with respect to the helper subgroup U_3 and the map $\pi_3: M_4 \rightarrow M_3$. This has been done using a slight modification of Algorithm 2, where we have specified $f = 1$, but the break condition has been $p = 2$, i. e. the generators of U_3 are never applied to U_3 -orbit representatives. Moreover, motivated by the analysis at the end of Section 2, for $i \notin \{2, 8, 9\}$ all points $x \in X_i^\pi$ such that $|\text{Stab}_{U_3}(x^{\pi_3})| > 10^5$ are ignored and their U_3 -orbits simply are not stored. Thus we enumerate a certain subset $\mathcal{X} \subseteq X_i^\pi$, which still consists of U_3 -orbits. For the H -orbits whose percentage is marked with a * we increased the stabiliser limit for storing to $3 \cdot 10^{10}$, and for those marked with a # we imposed no limit at all.

In Table 4 we have compiled the following data: the H -orbits X_i^π are sorted according to their size $\tilde{k}_i := |X_i^\pi| = [H:\tilde{H}_i]$, we give the cardinality $|\mathcal{X}|$ of the subsets $\mathcal{X} \subseteq X_i^\pi$ actually enumerated, which fraction of whole H -orbit X_i^π this is, the number of U_3 -orbits in \mathcal{X} , the number $N_{\mathcal{X}}$ of U_3 -minimal points in \mathcal{X} , and the saving factor $N_{\mathcal{X}}/|\mathcal{X}|$. The fractions $|\mathcal{X}|/\tilde{k}_i$ being very close to 1 shows that indeed the generators of the helper subgroup have to be applied to orbit representatives only at the very end of an orbit enumeration.

To store a point in M_4 we need $\lceil 782/8 \rceil = 98$ Bytes, thus to store all of $X^\pi \subseteq M_4$ still needs $99\,565\,111\,869\,440\,000 \sim 10^{17}$ Bytes. To enumerate X^π applying the strategy described in Section 4 and the slight modification given above, using the ORB package, needs $\sim 1.1 \cdot 10^9$ Bytes of memory space, and ~ 4800 s ~ 80 min of CPU time on a 3.2 GHz Pentium IV processor, where both figures include the time and space required to enumerate and store the appropriate portions of the helper sets M_3 , M_2 and M_1 .

Table 4
 Statistics for H -orbits in X^π .

| i | \tilde{k}_i | $ \mathcal{X} $ | $\tilde{k}_i/ \mathcal{X} $ | U_3 -orbits | $N_{\mathcal{X}}$ | $ \mathcal{X} /N_{\mathcal{X}}$ |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 23 | 283 991 005 089 792 | 281 173 991 454 720 | 0.99 | 8 105 | 1 433 928 | 196 086 547 |
| 22 | 262 954 634 342 400 | 260 326 657 382 400 | 0.99 | 6 977 | 1 198 807 | 217 154 769 |
| 21 | 190 172 548 051 200 | 188 272 393 804 800 | 0.99 | 5 271 | 1 263 408 | 149 019 472 |
| 20 | 133 120 783 635 840 | 131 793 266 626 560 | 0.99 | 3 916 | 621 625 | 212 014 102 |
| 19 | 50 712 679 480 320 | 49 702 192 081 920 | 0.98 | 1 899 | 228 710 | 217 315 342 |
| 18 | 43 028 940 165 120 | 42 170 681 548 800 | 0.98 | 1 485 | 438 005 | 96 278 995 |
| 17 | 21 514 470 082 560 | 21 085 044 664 320 | 0.98 | 770 | 198 485 | 106 229 914 |
| 16 | 12 678 169 870 080 | 12 300 050 810 880 | 0.97 | 524 | 138 605 | 88 741 753 |
| 15 | 7 888 639 030 272 | 7 659 885 219 840 | 0.97 | 490 | 78 695 | 97 336 364 |
| 14 | 2 641 285 389 600 | 2 562 503 731 200 | 0.97 | 154 | 69 664 | 36 783 758 |
| 13 | 1 584 771 233 760 | 1 490 058 823 680 | 0.94 | 131 | 96 244 | 15 482 095 |
| 12 | 1 152 560 897 280 | 1 083 499 683 840 | 0.94 | 101 | 20 861 | 51 939 009 |
| 11 | 1 044 084 577 536 | 1 015 328 563 200 | 0.97 | 100 | 18 941 | 53 604 802 |
| 10 | 252 122 696 280 | 223 859 220 480 | 0.88 | 33 | 8 864 | 25 254 875 |
| 6 | 23 478 092 352 | 21 311 994 512 | #0.90 | 24 | 409 886 | 51 994 |
| 7 | 11 272 060 800 | 10 158 220 800 | *0.88 | 8 | 193 554 | 52 482 |
| 5 | 8 537 488 128 | 7 262 008 320 | 0.85 | 11 | 966 | 7 517 606 |
| 9 | 148 642 560 | 135 080 640 | *0.90 | 5 | 17 794 | 7 591 |
| 2 | 412 896 | 366 792 | *0.88 | 2 | 122 | 3 006 |
| 8 | 31 671 | 31 416 | #0.90 | 2 | 13 064 | 2 |

9 The character table

The final task is now to compute the intersection matrix $P_2 = [p_{h,2,j}] \in \mathbb{Z}^{23 \times 23}$ for the smallest non-trivial H -orbit X_2 , which has size $k_2 = 412\,896$, and since it is the only H -orbit having this size it is self-paired. We have

$$p_{h,2,j} = |X_2 g_h \cap X_j| \cdot k_h / k_j,$$

hence the task is to enumerate all of $X_2 g_h$ explicitly, successively for every $2 \leq h \leq 23$, and to determine which H -orbits X_j (where $1 \leq j \leq 23$) the various points $x \in X_2 g_h$ belong to; recall that we are done for $h = 1$.

Table 5

Intersection matrix P_2 .

| i | k_i | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| 2 | 412896 | 412896 | 2 | 136 | . | . | 1 | 4 | . | . | . |
| 3 | 86316516 | . | 28431 | . | . | 462 | 1 | . | . | . | . |
| 4 | 195747435 | . | . | . | . | . | 135 | . | . | . | . |
| 5 | 8537488128 | . | . | 45696 | . | . | . | 3888 | . | . | 1056 |
| 6 | 23478092352 | . | 56862 | 272 | 16192 | . | 136 | . | . | . | . |
| 7 | 33816182400 | . | 327600 | . | . | 15400 | . | 8 | . | 364 | . |
| 8 | 113778447552 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 3200 | 1134 | . |
| 9 | 160533964800 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1728 | 1600 | 728 | . |
| 10 | 504245392560 | . | . | . | . | 62370 | . | . | . | . | . |
| 11 | 1044084577536 | . | . | . | . | . | 12096 | . | . | . | . |
| 12 | 1152560897280 | . | . | . | 129536 | . | . | . | . | . | 1760 |
| 13 | 1584771233760 | . | . | 275400 | 8096 | . | 16335 | 78732 | . | . | 33440 |
| 14 | 5282570779200 | . | . | . | . | . | 16200 | . | . | 2106 | . |
| 15 | 7888639030272 | . | . | 91392 | . | 924 | 79296 | 23328 | . | . | 37312 |
| 16 | 12678169870080 | . | . | . | . | 178200 | . | . | . | 37908 | . |
| 17 | 21514470082560 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 139968 | 12480 | . | 101376 |
| 18 | 43028940165120 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 24960 | 58968 | . |
| 19 | 50712679480320 | . | . | . | 259072 | 124740 | . | . | . | . | 2112 |
| 20 | 133120783635840 | . | . | . | . | . | 226800 | 157464 | . | . | 135168 |
| 21 | 190172548051200 | . | . | . | . | . | 16200 | . | 280800 | 75816 | 10560 |
| 22 | 262954634342400 | . | . | . | . | 30800 | 33600 | 7776 | . | 235872 | . |
| 23 | 283991005089792 | . | . | . | . | . | 12096 | . | 89856 | . | 90112 |

As we have not enumerated the H -orbits X_j directly, but the H -orbits X_j^π instead, the membership test is done by checking whether $x^\pi \in X_j^\pi$ holds, whenever $j \notin \{1, 3, 4\}$; the cases $j \in \{3, 4\}$ will be commented on below, while $j = 1$ only occurs for $i = 2$ and checking whether $x = x_1$ is easy anyway.

In turn, as we have enumerated only parts of the X_j^π explicitly, we have to check a few points in $x^\pi H$ for membership. This only allows us to prove membership, but not to disprove it. Hence we let j vary, and in a first run we test a very few points in $x^\pi H$, at most 5 say, for membership in X_j^π . If x^π cannot be proven to belong to a particular H -orbit, we start a second run where we test some more points in $x^\pi H$, at most 1000 say. Now this is done for all $x \in X_2 g_h$, and it turns out that after the second run only a very few points have not been proven to belong to a particular H -orbit, in particular including those which belong to X_3 or X_4 .

Hence we have found lower bounds for the matrix entries $p_{h,2,j} \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Now we have $\sum_{j=1}^{23} p_{h,2,j} k_j = k_2 k_h$, and moreover $p_{h,2,j} = p_{j,2,h} \cdot k_j / k_h$, which is an integrality condition, and in particular implies that $p_{h,2,j} = 0$ if and only if $p_{j,2,h} = 0$. It turns out that these conditions are sufficient to find all the matrix

Table 6
Intersection matrix P_2 , continued.

| i | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| 2 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | . | . | 15 | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| 4 | . | 22 | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | . | . | . |
| 5 | . | . | . | . | 1 | 120 | . | . | 21 | . | . | 1 | . |
| 6 | 272 | . | 242 | 72 | 236 | . | . | . | . | 40 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | . | . | 1680 | . | 100 | . | 220 | . | . | 40 | . | 1 | . |
| 8 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 66 | 66 | . | . | 168 | . | 36 |
| 9 | . | . | . | 64 | . | 480 | . | 220 | . | . | 64 | 144 | . |
| 10 | . | 770 | 10640 | . | 2385 | . | 2376 | . | 21 | 512 | 28 | . | 160 |
| 11 | 1360 | 1232 | . | . | 36 | 112 | . | 1980 | 700 | . | 672 | 486 | 176 |
| 12 | 1360 | . | . | 4320 | 1575 | 1400 | . | . | 211 | 496 | 128 | 567 | 600 |
| 13 | . | . | 30 | 2376 | . | 9632 | . | 396 | 3420 | 40 | 30 | 945 | 175 |
| 14 | . | 19800 | 7920 | 128 | 1350 | . | 6270 | 990 | 2370 | 2560 | 844 | 1512 | 3300 |
| 15 | 272 | 10780 | . | 2016 | 626 | 15120 | 792 | 3696 | 12866 | 480 | 1008 | 4596 | 2546 |
| 16 | 1360 | 15400 | 77056 | . | 24300 | 240 | 29700 | 396 | 420 | 13056 | 3088 | 1350 | 5400 |
| 17 | . | . | . | 25536 | 2160 | 50400 | 440 | 6996 | 28560 | 1792 | 3136 | 13824 | 6360 |
| 18 | 81600 | . | 10752 | 8064 | 20160 | 1344 | 13992 | 21032 | 3360 | 24064 | 30016 | 11232 | 14760 |
| 19 | 34000 | 9284 | 109440 | 22752 | 82710 | 1680 | 67320 | 3960 | 5542 | 41664 | 16016 | 9828 | 24110 |
| 20 | . | 57288 | 3360 | 64512 | 8100 | 137088 | 11088 | 74448 | 109368 | 23672 | 38976 | 76707 | 45600 |
| 21 | 122400 | 21120 | 3600 | 30384 | 24300 | 46320 | 27720 | 132660 | 60060 | 55680 | 108608 | 81972 | 64800 |
| 22 | 122400 | 129360 | 156800 | 75264 | 153200 | 28000 | 168960 | 68640 | 50960 | 151520 | 113344 | 81640 | 118600 |
| 23 | 47872 | 147840 | 31360 | 177408 | 91656 | 120960 | 83952 | 97416 | 135016 | 97280 | 96768 | 128088 | 126272 |

entries $p_{h,2,j}$. The resulting intersection matrix P_2 is shown in Tables 5–6.

Finally, it turns out that all the row eigenspaces of the matrix $P_2^{\text{tr}} \in \mathbb{Q}^{23 \times 23}$ are already 1-dimensional, hence normalising the eigenvectors to have 1 as their first entry yields the character table Φ_E , which together with the degrees of the Fitting correspondents is shown in Tables 7–10.

References

- E. Bannai and T. Ito, *Algebraic combinatorics I: Association schemes*, Benjamin, 1984; MR0882540 (87m:05001).
- D. Benson, *Representations and cohomology I*, Cambridge Studies in Advanced Mathematics 30, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998; MR1644252 (99f:20001a).
- T. Breuer and K. Lux, The multiplicity-free permutation characters of the sporadic simple groups and their automorphism groups, *Comm. Algebra* 24, 1996, 2293–2316; MR1390375 (97c:20020).
- T. Breuer and J. Müller, Character tables of endomorphism rings of multi-

Table 7

The character table.

| i | $\chi_\lambda(1)$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-------------------|---|---------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 412896 | 86316516 | 195747435 | 8537488128 | 23478092352 | 33816182400 |
| 2 | 4371 | 1 | -137632 | 18115812 | -10472085 | -1159411968 | 1449264960 | 3757353600 |
| 3 | 96255 | 1 | 82016 | 8890596 | 5701995 | 457037568 | 327742272 | 1297296000 |
| 4 | 9458750 | 1 | 41888 | 3232548 | -43605 | 123026688 | 57841344 | 314160000 |
| 5 | 63532485 | 1 | -32032 | 2275812 | 414315 | -77223168 | -2312640 | 179625600 |
| 6 | 347643114 | 1 | 10208 | 704484 | 1589355 | 10679040 | 46398528 | -9609600 |
| 7 | 356054375 | 1 | -17248 | 900900 | -1508949 | -20097792 | 43902144 | 32672640 |
| 8 | 4221380670 | 1 | -3232 | 324324 | 103275 | -2453760 | 15121728 | -12297600 |
| 9 | 4275362520 | 1 | 14816 | 725796 | -43605 | 16743168 | -7316928 | 31920000 |
| 10 | 9287037474 | 1 | 6896 | 132516 | 699435 | 736128 | 11096352 | 4502400 |
| 11 | 13508418144 | 1 | -11632 | 475812 | 111915 | -9283968 | -491040 | 17673600 |
| 12 | 108348770530 | 1 | 7328 | 246564 | -43605 | 3421440 | 1729728 | 4502400 |
| 13 | 309720864375 | 1 | -1120 | 89892 | -181845 | -172800 | 3172032 | -3638400 |
| 14 | 635966233056 | 1 | 3408 | 69284 | 147755 | 295040 | 2450528 | -169600 |
| 15 | 1095935366250 | 1 | -4576 | 126756 | 2475 | -1324800 | -949824 | 1061760 |
| 16 | 6145833622500 | 1 | 2864 | 51876 | -26325 | 316800 | -507744 | 309120 |
| 17 | 6619124890560 | 1 | 1088 | 39204 | 25515 | 138240 | -300672 | -1065600 |
| 18 | 12927978301875 | 1 | -2128 | 19620 | -40149 | 67968 | 706464 | 186240 |
| 19 | 38348970335820 | 1 | -1232 | 15524 | 37675 | 19840 | -69472 | -233600 |
| 20 | 89626740328125 | 1 | 944 | 1188 | 15147 | -79488 | 61344 | 63360 |
| 21 | 211069033500000 | 1 | 560 | 1188 | -12501 | -51840 | 12960 | -68736 |
| 22 | 284415522641250 | 1 | -16 | -5724 | 8235 | 17280 | 50976 | 78720 |
| 23 | 364635285437500 | 1 | -400 | -1116 | -5589 | 26496 | -71136 | -7296 |

plicity-free permutation modules of the sporadic simple groups and their cyclic and bicyclic extensions, 2005, <http://www.math.rwth-aachen.de/~Juergen.Mueller/mferctbl/mferctbl.html>.

A. Brouwer and A. Cohen and A. Neumaier, *Distance-regular graphs*, Ergebnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete (3) 18, Springer, 1989; MR1002568 (90e:05001).

J. Conway and R. Curtis and S. Norton and R. Parker and R. Wilson, *Atlas of finite groups*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1985; MR0827219 (88g:20025).

G. Davidoff and P. Sarnak and A. Valette, *Elementary number theory, group theory, and Ramanujan graphs*, London Mathematical Society Student Texts 55, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2003; MR1989434 (2004f:11001).

W. Feit, *The representation theory of finite groups*, North-Holland Mathematical Library 25, North-Holland, 1982; MR0661045 (83g:20001).

The GAP Group, *GAP — Groups, Algorithms, and Programming*, Version 4.4, 2005, <http://www.gap-system.org>.

D. Higman, A monomial character of Fischer's baby monster, in *Proc. of the Conference on Finite Groups*, Utah, 1975, 277–283, Academic Press, 1976; MR0409627 (53 #13379).

A. Ivanov and S. Linton and K. Lux and J. Saxl and L. Soicher, Distance-

Table 8

The character table, continued.

| i | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 113778447552 | 160533964800 | 504245392560 | 1044084577536 | 1152560897280 | 1584771233760 |
| 2 | 1404672192 | -5945702400 | 39426594480 | -21483221760 | -4743048960 | -110868769440 |
| 3 | -1788671808 | -511948800 | 12027702960 | -9527341824 | 6966984960 | 30484602720 |
| 4 | 183218112 | 258508800 | 1991288880 | 1252323072 | -1021697280 | 4906012320 |
| 5 | -32332608 | 35481600 | 1084693680 | 550851840 | -432034560 | -2400567840 |
| 6 | 57081024 | -167270400 | 224426160 | 533820672 | 271607040 | -9741600 |
| 7 | -21155904 | 63866880 | 185985072 | -186810624 | 778242816 | -259829856 |
| 8 | -15494976 | 74188800 | 87499440 | -219034368 | -142145280 | 29121120 |
| 9 | 14841792 | 4147200 | 110118960 | -61012224 | 62588160 | 198033120 |
| 10 | -38864448 | 20044800 | -21727440 | 115105536 | 171953280 | 32315760 |
| 11 | 7584192 | -18662400 | 32946480 | -61205760 | -22584960 | -74323440 |
| 12 | -11866176 | -6912000 | 5609520 | -1790208 | -28857600 | -1265760 |
| 13 | 6934464 | -6912000 | 12798000 | 19554048 | -7568640 | 3745440 |
| 14 | 6681024 | 5913600 | -1900240 | -8656128 | 8992640 | -2385200 |
| 15 | -254016 | 1935360 | -841680 | 6983424 | 3168000 | 10755360 |
| 16 | 1197504 | 691200 | -2857680 | 2467584 | -777600 | -4879440 |
| 17 | -1498176 | -460800 | 2430000 | -1928448 | 3732480 | -3810240 |
| 18 | -627264 | -414720 | -2332368 | -1292544 | -307584 | -943056 |
| 19 | -576 | 76800 | -292560 | 472832 | -1668480 | 588720 |
| 20 | 36288 | -709632 | -452304 | -850176 | 134784 | 854064 |
| 21 | -129600 | 248832 | 73008 | 200448 | -335232 | 518832 |
| 22 | -46656 | 138240 | 114480 | 532224 | -293760 | -481680 |
| 23 | 119232 | -82944 | 86832 | -352512 | 508032 | -42768 |

transitive representations of the sporadic groups, *Comm. Algebra* 23, 1995, 3379–3427; MR1335306 (96g:20019).

- C. Jansen, The minimal degrees of faithful representations of the sporadic simple groups and their covering groups, *LMS J. Comput. Math.* 8, 2005, 122–144; MR2153793.
- D. Johnson, *Presentations of groups*, London Mathematical Society Student Texts 15, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997; MR1472735 (98e:20001).
- P. Landrock, *Finite group algebras and their modules*, London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series 84, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1983; MR0737910 (85h:20002).
- F. Lübeck and M. Neunhöffer, Enumerating large orbits and direct condensation, *Experiment. Math.* 10 (2), 2001, 197–205; MR1837671 (2002m:20028).
- K. Lux, *Algorithmic methods in modular representation theory*, Habilitationsschrift, RWTH Aachen, 1997.
- K. Lux and J. Müller and M. Ringe, Peakword condensation and submodule lattices: an application of the **MeatAxe**, *J. Symbolic Comput.* 17 (6), 1994, 529–544; MR1300352 (95h:68091).
- J. Müller, On the multiplicity-free actions of the sporadic simple groups,

Table 9

The character table, continued.

| i | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 5282570779200 | 7888639030272 | 12678169870080 | 21514470082560 | 43028940165120 |
| 2 | 65216923200 | -292171815936 | 573908924160 | -796832225280 | 531221483520 |
| 3 | 28447848000 | 58091185152 | 118446831360 | 158430504960 | -222361251840 |
| 4 | -3514104000 | 3727696896 | 12802648320 | 10166446080 | 20332892160 |
| 5 | 1235995200 | -300174336 | 4718165760 | -4534548480 | -8511713280 |
| 6 | 916660800 | 2067158016 | -1656357120 | -679311360 | 1892782080 |
| 7 | -2109032640 | -1909619712 | -643458816 | 1675634688 | 1177473024 |
| 8 | 499867200 | -274627584 | -544631040 | -5806080 | 592220160 |
| 9 | 197640000 | -366363648 | 5218560 | -75479040 | -452874240 |
| 10 | 217339200 | -118153728 | 122446080 | -322237440 | 661893120 |
| 11 | -10756800 | 200600064 | -34179840 | 269982720 | 836075520 |
| 12 | -80222400 | 35030016 | -96802560 | -145152000 | -11612160 |
| 13 | -43200 | -48356352 | -17729280 | 18524160 | -16035840 |
| 14 | -15211200 | 36246016 | 7220480 | -39797760 | -41656320 |
| 15 | 2721600 | 1741824 | -31921920 | -5806080 | -58060800 |
| 16 | 5417280 | -5515776 | 518400 | 14515200 | 11612160 |
| 17 | 648000 | 5308416 | 933120 | 14100480 | -9953280 |
| 18 | 2928960 | 787968 | 6269184 | 7216128 | -6967296 |
| 19 | -1924800 | -2025984 | 4348160 | -1582080 | 5468160 |
| 20 | 938304 | -1866240 | 518400 | -746496 | -1658880 |
| 21 | -720576 | 898560 | 1237248 | -1410048 | 995328 |
| 22 | 25920 | -262656 | -1416960 | 2903040 | -1658880 |
| 23 | 191808 | 290304 | -311040 | -1741824 | 995328 |

- Preprint, 2007, <http://www.math.rwth-aachen.de/~Juergen.Mueller/>.
- J. Müller, On the action of the sporadic simple Baby Monster group on the cosets of $2^{1+22}.C_{O_2}$, Preprint, 2006, <http://www.math.rwth-aachen.de/~Juergen.Mueller/>.
- J. Müller, *On endomorphism rings and character tables*, Habilitationsschrift, RWTH Aachen, 2003.
- J. Müller and M. Neunhöffer and F. Noeske, GAP-4 package ORB, 2006, <http://www.math.rwth-aachen.de/~Max.Neunhoeffer/Computer/Software/Gap/orb.html>.
- J. Müller and M. Neunhöffer and F. Röhr and R. Wilson, Completing the Brauer trees for the sporadic simple Lyons group, *LMS J. Comput. Math.* 5, 2002, 18–33; MR1916920 (2003e:20015).
- S. Norton, Anatomy of the Monster I, in *The Atlas of finite groups: ten years on*, Birmingham, 1995, London Math. Soc. Lecture Note Ser. 249, 198–214, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998; MR1647423 (99i:20021).
- S. Norton, The uniqueness of the Fischer–Griess Monster, in *Finite groups — coming of age*, Montreal, 1982, *Contemp. Math.* 45, 271–285, 1985; MR0822242 (87b:20025).

Table 10
The character table, continued.

| i | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 50712679480320 | 133120783635840 | 190172548051200 | 262954634342400 | 283991005089792 |
| 2 | 1460859079680 | -2739110774400 | -782603078400 | 3246353510400 | -1168687263744 |
| 3 | 239651343360 | 190079809920 | -857327328000 | 28598169600 | 218194808832 |
| 4 | 7936220160 | 8210885760 | 47791814400 | -25333862400 | -90188550144 |
| 5 | -1053803520 | 12753417600 | 10828857600 | -17953689600 | 3908653056 |
| 6 | 3994721280 | -5895711360 | 1568160000 | -10005811200 | 6838013952 |
| 7 | 3238050816 | -155675520 | -44478720 | -6826659840 | 4981616640 |
| 8 | 722856960 | 813214080 | -13996800 | -1025740800 | -578285568 |
| 9 | -1233239040 | -1778474880 | 666144000 | 148377600 | 2518290432 |
| 10 | -489991680 | 959091840 | -1020988800 | 174182400 | -479582208 |
| 11 | -664312320 | -183254400 | -1004918400 | 593510400 | 125024256 |
| 12 | 83082240 | 268168320 | -170553600 | 212889600 | -59609088 |
| 13 | -61793280 | 98133120 | -116640000 | 190771200 | -74649600 |
| 14 | -22725120 | 16717440 | 9264000 | 80076800 | -41576448 |
| 15 | 36449280 | -18264960 | 41644800 | 94187520 | -83349504 |
| 16 | 15137280 | 9797760 | -15085440 | -21934080 | -10450944 |
| 17 | -9953280 | -18195840 | 27993600 | 27648000 | -35831808 |
| 18 | -2225664 | -16744320 | 22654080 | -8663040 | -276480 |
| 19 | -919040 | -1537920 | -7036800 | -17100800 | 23365632 |
| 20 | 2198016 | 3825792 | 6065280 | -4534272 | -3815424 |
| 21 | -1893888 | -4053888 | -1316736 | -2764800 | 8570880 |
| 22 | -69120 | -3058560 | 51840 | 6082560 | -2709504 |
| 23 | 705024 | 4572288 | -1026432 | -700416 | -3151872 |

M. Ringe, *The C-MeatAxe 2.4*, RWTH Aachen, 2003.

I. Schur, Zur Theorie der einfach transitiven Permutationsgruppen, Sitzungsberichte der Preußischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1933, 598–623.

R. Wilson, Standard generators for sporadic simple groups, *J. Algebra* 184, 1996, 505–515; MR1409225 (98e:20025).

R. Wilson, A new construction of the Baby Monster and its applications, *Bull. London Math. Soc.* 25 (1993), no. 5, 431–437; MR1233405 (94k:20027).

R. Wilson and R. Parker and S. Nickerson and J. Bray, Atlas of finite group representations, 2005, <http://brauer.maths.qmul.ac.uk/Atlas/>.

P. Zieschang, *An algebraic approach to association schemes*, Lecture Notes in Mathematics 1628, Springer, 1996; MR1439253 (98h:05185).