

October 28, 2025

Problem Set 6

Exercise 1. Recall that the character of a finite dimensional representation V of an algebra A over a field k is defined as $\chi_V(a) = \text{Tr}_V \rho(a)$. Show that if V is a finite dimensional representation of A , and $W \subset V$ a subrepresentation, then the character $\chi_V = \chi_W + \chi_{V/W}$.

Exercise 2. Consider the group algebra $A = \mathbb{C}[S_3]$ of the group of permutations of 3 elements.

- Show that $A \simeq \mathbb{C}[D_3]$, where $D_3 = \{s, r : s^2 = 1, r^3 = 1, srs = r^{-1}\}$ is the dihedral group of order 6.
- Classify the one-dimensional irreducible representations of A up to equivalence.
- Classify the two-dimensional irreducible representations of A up to equivalence.
- Use the obtained classifications and the theorem on the structure of finite dimensional algebras to show that A is a semisimple algebra (without use of Maschke's theorem).

Exercise 3. Consider the group $D_4 = \langle r, s \mid r^4 = 1, s^2 = 1, srs = r^{-1} \rangle$. Recall the irreducible complex representations of D_4 that we have constructed earlier in class (see Section 4.1 of RT-1.pdf). Use the structure theorem for finite dimensional semisimple algebras to show that this is a complete list of irreducible representations of D_4 . Find the conjugacy classes of D_4 and compute the characters $\chi_V(g)$ for each irreducible representation V and each conjugacy class of D_4 .

Exercise 4. (a) Let V_1 and V_2 be two-dimensional complex vector spaces with bases $\{x_1, x_2\}$ and $\{y_1, y_2\}$ respectively. Let $A : V_1 \rightarrow V_1$ be the linear map given in the basis $\{x_1, x_2\}$ by the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

and $B : V_2 \rightarrow V_2$ the linear map given in the basis $\{y_1, y_2\}$ by the matrix

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} s & t \\ u & v \end{pmatrix}.$$

The linear map $A \otimes B$ is defined as follows: $(A \otimes B)(v_1 \otimes v_2) = A(v_1) \otimes B(v_2)$. Compute the matrix $A \otimes B$ in the basis $\{x_1 \otimes y_1, x_1 \otimes y_2, x_2 \otimes y_1, x_2 \otimes y_2\}$.

- Apply the above to find the matrices of the representation $\rho \otimes \rho$ of the group $D_4 = \langle s, r \mid s^2 = 1, r^4 = 1, srs = r^{-1} \rangle$, where ρ is the unique irreducible 2-dimensional representation:

$$\rho(s) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \rho(r) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Derive the decomposition of $\rho \otimes \rho$ into a direct sum of irreducible components.

Exercise 5. Let A, B be finite dimensional algebras. Then $A \otimes B$ is also an algebra, with the multiplication given by $(a_1 \otimes b_1)(a_2 \otimes b_2) = a_1 a_2 \otimes b_1 b_2$.

- Show that $\text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{K}) \otimes \text{Mat}_m(\mathbb{K}) \simeq \text{Mat}_{nm}(\mathbb{K})$ as associative algebras.
- Let V and W be irreducible finite dimensional representations of A and B , respectively. Show that $V \otimes W$ with the action $\rho(a \otimes b)(v \otimes w) = \rho(a)v \otimes \rho(b)w$, is a finite dimensional irreducible representation of $A \otimes B$. *Hint:* To show irreducibility, use the density theorem and (a).