

[LECTURE 6]

ORTHOGONALITY OF CHARACTERS

Let G be a finite group. Let $\mathbb{C}^G = \{f: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$ be the set of all functions from G to \mathbb{C} . Then \mathbb{C}^G is a finite dimensional vector space (of dimension equal to $|G|$), with "pointwise" operations

$$(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x) \quad \forall x \in G$$

$$(\lambda f)(x) = \lambda f(x) \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C}, \forall x \in G.$$

We define an inner product on \mathbb{C}^G by:

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} \overline{f(x)} g(x).$$

The irreducible characters of G are orthonormal w.r.t. this inner product. Indeed, if ρ and ρ' are irreducible representations of G , then $\chi_\rho, \chi_{\rho'} \in \mathbb{C}^G$ and

$$\langle \chi_\rho, \chi_{\rho'} \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \rho \cong \rho' \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho \not\cong \rho'. \end{cases}$$

The proof of this important theorem will follow from the following lemma:

Lemma ("FIRST PROJECTION FORMULA").

Let (ρ, V) be any representation of G . The map

$$\varphi: V \rightarrow V, v \mapsto \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g)v$$

is a projection of V onto V^G .

[We have denoted by V^G the set

$$V^G = \{v \in V : \rho(g)v = v \quad \forall g \in G\}.$$

Notice that if V is reducible, V^G is the isotypical component of the trivial representation.

If V is irreducible and trivial, then $V^G = V$.

If V is irreducible and non-trivial, then $V^G = \{0\}$.]

proof - The map $\varphi = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g)$ is a projection on V^G if it satisfies these two properties:

- (i) $\varphi|_{V^G} = \mathbb{1}_{V^G}$, i.e. $\varphi(v) = v \quad \forall v \in V^G$.
- (ii) $\text{Im } \varphi \subseteq V^G$ (hence $\text{Im } \varphi = V^G$), i.e. $\rho(h)\varphi(v) = \varphi(v) \quad \forall h \in G, v \in V$.

Both conditions are very easy to prove.

(i) For $v \in V^G$, $\varphi(v) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_g \underbrace{\rho(g)v}_{=v} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} v = v$.

(ii) For $v \in V, h \in G$, $\rho(h)\varphi(v) = \rho(h) \left[\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g)v \right] =$
 $= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \underbrace{\rho(h)\rho(g)}_{=\rho(hg)} v = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(hg)v = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{s \in G} \rho(s)v = \varphi(v)$. ▣

Corollary 1 - For every representation (ρ, V) of G

$$\dim(V^G) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\rho}(g)$$

proof - Write a decomposition of V as a direct sum of isotypic components of irreducible representations:

$$V \cong V^G \oplus W_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus \dots \oplus W_k^{\oplus a_k}$$

(here V^G = the isotypic component of the trivial representation and W_1, \dots, W_k are distinct irreducible representations not isomorphic to the trivial).

Choose a basis of V that respects this decomposition. Because φ is a projection on V^G , the matrix of φ w.r.t. this basis has a block structure $\begin{bmatrix} I_m & \\ & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, with $m = \dim V^G$.

So the trace of φ equals the dimension of V^G .

By definition of character, we can write:

$$\dim V^G = \text{trace}(\varphi) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \text{trace}(\rho(g)) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\rho}(g). \quad \square$$

Corollary 2 - For every non-trivial irreducible representation ρ of G , we have:

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\rho}(g) = 0$$

Remark: Because the trivial character takes the value 1 on each element of the group, we can re-write the previous formula as

$$0 = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_{\text{triv}}(g)} \chi_{\rho}(g) = \langle \chi_{\text{triv}}, \chi_{\rho} \rangle$$

This shows that every non-trivial irreducible character of G is orthogonal to the trivial character. Hence we get the first example of orthogonality of irreducible characters.

The general case will follow by applying "Corollary 1" to the representation $\text{Hom}(V_1, V_2)$.

Theorem [Orthogonality relations for characters]

Let (ρ_1, V_1) and (ρ_2, V_2) be irreducible representations of G .

Then

$$\langle \chi_{\rho_1}, \chi_{\rho_2} \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \rho_1 \cong \rho_2 \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho_1 \not\cong \rho_2. \end{cases}$$

proof - Consider the representation $V = \text{Hom}(V_1, V_2)$ of G .

[Recall that $g \in G$ acts on $T: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ by

$$\rho(g)T(v_1) = \rho_2(g)T(\rho_1(g^{-1})v_1)$$

for all $v_1 \in V_1$]. Then V^G is just the space of G -linear

isomorphisms from V_1 to V_2 .

Because (ρ_1, V_1) and (ρ_2, V_2) are both irreducible, it follows

from Schur's lemma that $\dim(V^G) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \rho_1 \cong \rho_2 \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho_1 \not\cong \rho_2. \end{cases}$

Next, we apply corollary 1 to (ρ, V) :

$$\dim(V^G) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_{\rho}(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_{\rho_1}(g)} \chi_{\rho_2}(g) = \langle \chi_{\rho_1}, \chi_{\rho_2} \rangle$$

recall that $\text{Hom}(V_1, V_2) \cong V_1^* \otimes V_2$

$$\text{so } \chi_{\rho} = \overline{\chi_{\rho_1}} \chi_{\rho_2}$$

this concludes the proof. \blacksquare

It follows from this theorem that a representation is completely determined from its character:

Let $V \cong W_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus W_2^{\oplus a_2} \oplus \dots \oplus W_k^{\oplus a_k}$ be the decom-

position of V as a direct sum of isotypic components

of irreducible representations. For all $i=1 \dots k$, the multiplicity a_i of W_i in V equal to the inner product $\langle \chi_{W_i}, \chi_V \rangle$.

Indeed we can write

$$\langle \chi_{w_i}, \chi_v \rangle = \langle \chi_{w_i}, \sum_{j=1}^k a_j \chi_{w_j} \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^k a_j \langle \chi_{w_i}, \chi_{w_j} \rangle = a_i.$$

$= \delta_{ij}$ because the w_j 's are not isomorphic...

Also notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle &= \langle \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \chi_{w_i}, \sum_{j=1}^k a_j \chi_{w_j} \rangle = \sum_{i,j=1}^k a_i a_j \langle \chi_{w_i}, \chi_{w_j} \rangle = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^2. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain an irreducibility criterion for representations:

$$\boxed{V \text{ is irreducible if and only if } \langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle = 1.}$$

(because, in the previous notations, $V = W_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus W_2^{\oplus a_2} \oplus \dots \oplus W_k^{\oplus a_k}$ is irreducible if and only if $k=1$ and $a_1=1$.)

This irreducibility criterion gives us hints ^{on how} to construct new characters from existing ones...

Lemma - The conjugate of an irreducible character is irreducible

[proof - $\overline{(\chi_v)}$ is the character of V^* . To prove that V^* is irreducible, we evaluate the inner product of $\overline{\chi_v}$ with itself:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \overline{\chi_v}, \overline{\chi_v} \rangle &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_v(g) \overline{\chi_v(g)} = \overline{\left[\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_v(g), \chi_v(g) \right]} = \\ &= \overline{\langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle} = \overline{1} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma - The product of an irreducible character by a linear

character is irreducible.

[proof] - Suppose that V is irreducible and that U is one-dimensional. Set $W = V \otimes U$. Then $\chi_w = \chi_v \cdot \chi_u$.
Let's show that W is again irreducible:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_w, \chi_w \rangle &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_w(g)} \chi_w(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\chi_v(g)} \overline{\chi_u(g)} \chi_v(g) \chi_u(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |\chi_v(g)|^2 |\chi_u(g)|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that, because (U, ρ_u) is one-dimensional, $\chi_u(g) = \rho_u(g)$ must be an m^{th} root of unity (where $m = \text{order of } g$).

So $|\chi_u(g)|^2 = 1 \quad \forall g \in G$.

It follows that

$$\langle \chi_w, \chi_w \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |\chi_u(g)|^2 = \langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle = 1. \quad \square$$

Let's now discuss another corollary of the orthogonality of irreducible characters....

Suppose that

$$V \cong (W_1^{\oplus m_1}) \oplus (W_2^{\oplus m_2}) \oplus \dots \oplus (W_k^{\oplus m_k})$$

is the decomposition of V as a direct sum of isotypic components. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle &= \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^k m_j \chi_{W_j}, \sum_{i=1}^k m_i \chi_{W_i} \right\rangle = \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^k m_j m_i \underbrace{\langle \chi_{W_j}, \chi_{W_i} \rangle}_{=\delta_{ij}} = \sum_{i=1}^k m_i^2. \end{aligned}$$

the relation $\langle \chi_v, \chi_v \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k m_i^2$ can give a lot of insight

on the number of irreducible constituents of a representation.

Examples:

- If $\langle \chi_V, \chi_V \rangle = 1 (= 1^2)$, then V is irreducible
- If $\langle \chi_V, \chi_V \rangle = 2$, then V is the sum of two ^{distinct} irreducible subrepresentations (each occurring with multiplicity 1).
- If $\langle \chi_V, \chi_V \rangle = 3 = 1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2$, then V is the sum of 3 ^{distinct} irreducible constituents.
- If $\langle \chi_V, \chi_V \rangle = 4 = \begin{cases} 2^2 \\ 1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2 \end{cases}$ then V is either the sum of two copies of the same irreducible representation or the sum of 4 ^{distinct} irreducible constituents. [And so on...]



The final observation of this lecture is the fact that if G has irreducible characters χ_1, \dots, χ_k , then it is possible to recover χ_k from $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_{k-1}$.

[Hence, when constructing the character table of G , you really need to work hard only on $k-1$ characters!]

The "inversion formula" is ^{given by} the following lemma:

Lemma - For all $g \neq e$, $\sum_{\text{all irreducible characters}} (\dim V) \chi_V(g) = 0$.

Proof - $\sum_{\text{all irred}} (\dim V) \chi_V(g)$ is the value of the character of the regular rep. at $g \neq e$

Examples of Character Tables

1] $G = D_6$

• $G = \langle a, b : a^3 = 1; b^2 = 1; b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle$

• conjugacy classes : $\{1\}$
 $\{a, a^{-1} = a^2\}$
 $\{b, ab, a^2b\}$

First, we look for linear characters.

If $\dim V = 1$, then $\rho(a)$ must be a cubic root of 1 and $\rho(b)$ must be ± 1 . Because of the relation $\rho(b)^{-1}\rho(a)\rho(b) = \rho(a)^{-1}$
 $(\Rightarrow) \rho(a) = \rho(a^{-1}) (\Rightarrow) \rho(a) = \overline{\rho(a)}$, $\rho(a)$ must be real.

So there are only two linear characters:

| | 1 #1 | a #2 | b #3 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 1 | 1 | -1 |

We notice that D_6 is non-abelian. So there must be an irreducible representation of dimension ≥ 2 .

But $\sum_{\text{all irred } W} (\dim W)^2 = |G| = 6$, so there is only one more irreducible representation of G , and it has dimension 2.

To find this character, we use the fact that $\sum_{i=1}^3 (\dim \chi_i) \chi_i(g) = 0$ for all $g \neq 1$.

For $g=a$, we find:

$$1 \cdot \underbrace{\chi_1(a)}_1 + 1 \cdot \underbrace{\chi_2(a)}_1 + 2 \cdot \chi_3(a) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_3(a) = -1.$$

For $g=b$, we find:

$$1 \cdot \underbrace{\chi_1(b)}_1 + 1 \cdot \underbrace{\chi_2(b)}_{-1} + 2 \cdot \chi_3(b) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_3(b) = 0$$

So we find:

| | 1 #1 | a #2 | b #3 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 1 | 1 | -1 |
| χ_3 | 2 | -1 | 0 |

Let's do some checkings:

- $\langle \chi_3, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot (-1)(-1) + 3 \cdot 0 \cdot 0] = 1 \checkmark$
- $\langle \chi_1, \chi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 + 2 + 3] = 1 \checkmark$
- $\langle \chi_2, \chi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 + 2 + 3(-1)^2] = 1 \checkmark$
- $\langle \chi_1, \chi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1)] = 0 \checkmark$
- $\langle \chi_1, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 0] = 0 \checkmark$
- $\langle \chi_2, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{6} [1 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot (-1) \cdot 0] = 0 \checkmark$

Finally we notice that we could have found $\chi_3(a)$ (and $\chi_3(b)$) in many other ways.

For instance, by imposing the orthogonality between the first and second (third) column of the character table:

$$\text{and } 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot \chi(a) = 0 \rightarrow \chi_3(a) = -1$$

$$1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot (-1) + 2 \cdot \chi(b) = 0 \rightarrow \chi_3(b) = 0$$

$G = D_8$ *

$G = \langle a, b : a^4 = 1, b^2 = 1, b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle$

- conjugacy classes:
- $\{1\}$
 - $\{a, a^3\}$
 - $\{a^2\}$
 - $\{b, a^2b\}$
 - $\{ab, a^3b\}$

First, we look for linear character.

If (ρ, V) is a 1-dimensional representation, then $\rho(b) = \pm 1$ and $\rho(a) \in \{1, -1, i, -i\}$. Because a is conjugate to its inverse, $\rho(a)$ must be real, so $\rho(a) = \pm 1$.

We obtain 4 linear characters:

| | 1 | a | a ² | b | ab |
|----------|----|----|----------------|----|----|
| | #1 | #2 | #1 | #2 | #2 |
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 | -1 |
| χ_3 | 1 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| χ_4 | 1 | -1 | 1 | 1 | -1 |

Because D_8 is non-abelian, there must be a non-linear character. From the condition $\sum_{\text{all irred}} (\dim V)^2 = 1$, we actually

conclude that there is only another character (of degree

We can find this character by orthogonality of the j^{th} column with the first column:

- $1 + 1 - 1 - 1 + 2 \chi_5(a) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_5(a) = 0$
- $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 2 \chi_5(a^2) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_5(a^2) = -2$
- $1 - 1 - 1 + 1 + 2 \chi_5(b) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_5(b) = 0$
- $1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 2 \chi_5(ab) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_5(ab) = 0$

We obtain :

| | 1 | a | a ² | b | ab |
|----------|----|----|----------------|----|----|
| | #1 | #2 | #1 | #2 | #2 |
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 | -1 |
| χ_3 | 1 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 1 |
| χ_4 | 1 | -1 | 1 | 1 | -1 |
| χ_5 | 2 | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 |

check: $\langle \chi_5, \chi_5 \rangle = \frac{1}{8} [2^2 \cdot 1 + (-2)^2 \cdot 1] = \frac{1}{8} [4 + 4] = 1 \checkmark$

$\langle \chi_1, \chi_5 \rangle = \frac{1}{8} [2 - 2] = 0 \checkmark$

Similarly, $\langle \chi_j, \chi_5 \rangle = \frac{1}{8} [2 - 2] = 0$ for $j = 2, 3, 4$. \checkmark

[3] There exists a group G of order 10 which has precisely ^{χ_1, χ_2} four conjugacy classes and has irreducible characters as follows :

| | g_1 #1 | g_2 #2 | g_3 #2 | g_4 #5 |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 2 | α | β | 0 |

with $\alpha = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$, and $\beta = \frac{-1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$.

Complete the character table.

From the character table we see that $g_1 = 1$.
We have: $\sum_{i \geq 3} \chi_i(1)^2 = |G| - 1 - 4 = 10 - 1 - 4 = 5$. So

G has at least one more linear character.

Let's call it χ_3 .

The conjugacy class of g_2 and g_3 has cardinality 2, hence their centralizer has order 5.

Because 5 is prime, we deduce that both g_2 and g_3 have order 5.

So $\chi_3(g_2)$ and $\chi_3(g_3)$ are fifth roots of unity.

We notice that g_2 is conjugate to its inverse, or $g_2^{-1} = g_k$ for some $k \neq 2$ and $\chi_2(g_k) = \chi_2(g_2^{-1}) = \overline{\chi_2(g_2)} = \bar{\alpha} = \alpha$ (contradiction, because χ_2 takes the value α only once).

Because g_2 and g_2^{-1} lie in the same conjugacy class, $\chi_3(g_2)$ must be real, but the only real fifth root of unity is one. Hence $\chi_3(g_2) = 1$.

Similarly, $\chi_3(g_3) = 1$.

We find:

| | g_1 #1 | g_2 #2 | g_3 #2 | g_4 #5 |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 2 | α | β | 0 |
| χ_3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ? |

To find $\chi_3(g_4)$ we impose that $\langle \chi_3, \chi_1 \rangle = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \langle \chi_3, \chi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{10} [1 + 2 + 2 + 5 \chi_3(g_4)]$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi_3(g_4) = -1.$$

Next, we look at $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_3$ (because χ_2 is irreducible and χ_3 is 1-dimensional, $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_3$ is irreducible).

| | g_1 | g_2 | g_3 | g_4 |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| χ_2 | 2 | α | β | 0 |
| χ_3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 |
| $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_3$ | 2 | α | β | 0 |

It does not help! $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_3 = \chi_2$.

What else can we say? Let's look at $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_2$:

| | g_1 #1 | g_2 #2 | g_3 #2 | g_4 #5 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_2$ | 4 | α^2 | β^2 | 0 |

We notice that:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bullet \langle \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2, \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{10} [16 + 2(\alpha^2)^2 + 2(\beta^2)^2 + 5 \cdot 0] = \\
 &= \frac{1}{10} \left[16 + 2 \left(\frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^4 + 2 \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^4 \right] = \\
 &= \frac{1}{10} \left[16 + 2 \left(\frac{1+5-2\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^2 + 2 \left(\frac{1+2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} \right)^2 \right] = \\
 &= \frac{1}{10} \left[16 + \frac{(3-\sqrt{5})^2}{2} + \frac{(3+\sqrt{5})^2}{2} \right] = \frac{1}{10} [16 + 9 + 5] = 3.
 \end{aligned}$$

The only way to write 3 as a sum of 3 squares is $3 = 1+1+1$.
 So $\chi_2 \otimes \chi_2$ consists of a sum of 3 constituents (of dimension 1, 1 and 2).

$$\bullet \langle \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2, \chi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{10} [4 + 2\alpha^2 + 2\beta^2 + 0] =$$

$$= \frac{1}{10} \left[4 + \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right] = 1$$

$\Rightarrow \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2$ contains 1 copy of χ_1 .

$$\langle \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{10} [4 + 2\alpha^2 + 2\beta^2 + 0] = 1 \Rightarrow \chi_2 \otimes \chi_2 \text{ also contains a copy of } \chi_3.$$

Notice that

$$\chi_2 \otimes \chi_2 = \chi_1 + \chi_3 \quad \text{no}$$

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------|
| $4 - 2 = 2$ | $\alpha^2 - 2$ $= \frac{-1 - i\sqrt{5}}{2}$ $= \beta$ | $\beta^2 - 2$ $= \frac{-1 + i\sqrt{5}}{2}$ $= \alpha$ | $0 - 1 + 1$ $= 0$ |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------|

is a new irreducible character of G (\leftarrow we know it's irreducible, and it's different from χ_2).

This completes our character table.

| | g_1 #1 | g_2 #2 | g_3 #2 | g_4 #5 |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| χ_1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| χ_2 | 2 | α | β | 0 |
| χ_3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 |
| χ_4 | 2 | β | α | 0 |

Suggested problems for lectures 5 and 6

1] Use characters to show that

- (a) The permutation representation of S_5 contains one copy of the trivial representation
(b) The standard representation of S_5 is irreducible.

2] Let $G = D_{12} = \langle a, b : a^6 = b^2 = 1, b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle$, and let ρ_1, ρ_2 be the representations of G for which

$$\rho_1(a) = \begin{pmatrix} \omega & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \rho_1(b) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rho_2(a) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \rho_2(b) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$.

- (a) Find the characters of ρ_1 and ρ_2 .
(b) Decide if ρ_1 and ρ_2 are irreducible and/or faithful.
(c) Write down the complete character table of D_{12} .

3] Suppose that χ is an irreducible character of G and that $z \in Z(G)$ has order m . Prove that there exists an m^{th} root of unity $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ st. $\chi(zg) = \lambda \chi(g) \quad \forall g \in G$.

4] Prove that if χ is faithful and irreducible, then $Z(G) = \{g : |\chi(g)| = \chi(1)\}$.

5] Suppose that χ is a non-zero non-trivial character of G , and that $\chi(g)$ is a non-negative real number for all g in G . Prove that χ is reducible.