

# CHAPTER 5: INDUCTION AND RESTRICTION

Notation: Same as in chap. 4.

In part throughout this chapter  $G$  denotes a finite group.

We present here a fundamental method to construct characters of  $G$  from characters of subgroups  $H \leq G$ .

Note: From now on we work only in terms of characters for the corresponding operations in terms of representations/ $G$ -vector spaces see Representation Theory.

## 1. Induced Characters

Definition 5.1: Let  $H \leq G$  and let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(H)$  be a class function on  $H$ . Then the induced class function from  $\varphi$  to  $G$  or the induction of  $\varphi$  from  $H$  to  $G$  is the function

$$\text{Ind}_H^G(\varphi) := \varphi_H^G : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$
$$g \longmapsto \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(xgx^{-1})$$

where

$$\varphi^0(g) = \begin{cases} \varphi(g) & \text{if } g \in H \\ 0 & \text{if } g \in G \setminus H \end{cases}$$

Note  
w/  $G$ -conj. class  
space  
 $\Rightarrow \varphi^0(xgx^{-1})$   
right  $G$ -conj.  
space give  
 $\varphi^0(xgx^{-1})$

Lemma 5.2: With the notation of Def<sup>n</sup> 5.1,  $\varphi_H^G$  is again a class function.

Proof: Clear since  $G$  is a transitive  $G$ -set for its left action on itself:

$\forall y, g \in G$  we have

$$\varphi_H^G(ygy^{-1}) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(xyx^{-1}) \stackrel{s=xy}{=} \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{s \in G} \varphi^0(sgs^{-1}) = \varphi_H^G(g)$$

#

Definition 5.3: If  $H \leq G$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(G)$ , the restricted class function from  $\psi$  to  $H$  or the restriction of  $\psi$  from  $G$  to  $H$  is the function  $\text{Res}_H^G(\psi) := \psi_H := \psi|_H$ . This is obviously a class function.

## Proposition 5.4: (Frobenius Reciprocity)

Let  $H \leq G$  and let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(H)$  be a class function on  $H$ , and  $\psi$  a class function on  $G$ . Then

$$\langle \varphi \uparrow_H^G, \psi \rangle_G = \langle \varphi, \psi \downarrow_H^G \rangle_H$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi \uparrow_H^G, \psi \rangle_G &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \varphi \uparrow_H^G(g) \psi(g^{-1}) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(xgx^{-1}) \psi(g^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G||H|} \sum_{g \in G} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(g) \psi(xg^{-1}x^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{g \in G} \varphi^0(g) \psi(g^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{g \in H} \varphi^0(g) \psi(g^{-1}) \\ &= \langle \varphi, \psi \downarrow_H^G \rangle_H \end{aligned}$$

#

Example :  $G = S_3$ ,  $H = \langle (12) \rangle$ ,  $\varphi = \text{sgn}$  character

$$\varphi \uparrow_H^G : S_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$g \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(xgx^{-1})$$

Since  $\varphi \uparrow_H^G$  is a class function we compute it on one representative of each conj. class.

$$\bullet \varphi \uparrow_H^G(\text{id}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(\text{id}) = \frac{1}{2} |G| = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 6 = 3$$

$\varphi^0(\text{id}) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \varphi \uparrow_H^G((12)) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(x(12)x^{-1}) = \frac{1}{2} |C_3((12))| \varphi((12)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot (-1) = -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\bullet \varphi \uparrow_H^G((123)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi^0(x(123)x^{-1}) = 0$$

$\notin H$

Corollary 5.5 Let  $\chi$  be a character of  $H \leq G$  with  $\chi(1) = n$ .  
 Then  $\chi \uparrow_H^G(1) = n|G:H|$  and  $\chi \uparrow_H^G$  is a character of  $G$ .

Proof: For  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ , set  $m_\psi := \langle \chi \uparrow_H^G, \psi \rangle_G$   
 $\stackrel{5.4}{=} \langle \chi, \psi \downarrow_H^G \rangle_H$   
 $= \langle \chi, \sum_{i=1}^s \psi_i \rangle_H$   
 $= \sum_{i=1}^s \langle \chi, \psi_i \rangle_H \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$   
 where  $\psi \downarrow_H^G = \sum_{i=1}^s \psi_i$  is  
 a decomp into irred  $H$ -characters.

$\Rightarrow \chi \uparrow_H^G = \sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(G)} m_\psi \psi$  is a character

with  $\chi \uparrow_H^G(1) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \chi^0(1) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \chi(1)$   
 $= \frac{|G|}{|H|} = |G:H| \chi(1). \quad \#$

Lemma 5.6:  $\chi_{\text{reg}} = \mathbb{1}_{\{1\}} \uparrow_{\{1\}}^G$ .

Proof: Let  $g \in G$ . Then  $\mathbb{1}_{\{1\}} \uparrow_{\{1\}}^G(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} \underbrace{\mathbb{1}_{\{1\}}^0(xgx^{-1})}_{=0 \text{ unless } g=1_G} = \delta_{1g} |G|$   
 $= \chi_{\text{reg}}(g).$

Theorem 5.7.3: Let  $K, H \leq G$ .

(a) (Transitivity): If  $K \leq H$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(K)$ , then

$$(\psi \uparrow_K^H) \uparrow_H^G = \psi \uparrow_K^G$$

(b) (Frobenius Formula): If  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(G)$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(H)$  we have

$$\varphi \cdot \psi \uparrow_H^G = (\varphi \downarrow_H^G \cdot \psi) \uparrow_H^G$$

Proof: (a) Let  $g \in G$ . Then

$$(\psi \uparrow_K^H) \uparrow_H^G(g) = \frac{1}{|H||K|} \sum_{x \in G} \sum_{y \in H} \psi^o(xygy^{-1}x')$$

$$= \frac{1}{|H||K|} \sum_{y \in H} \sum_{x \in G} \psi^o(xygy^{-1}x')$$

$$\stackrel{z=xy}{=} \frac{1}{|H||K|} \sum_{y \in H} \sum_{z \in G} \psi^o(zgz^{-1})$$

$$= \frac{1}{|H||K|} \cdot |H| \cdot \sum_{z \in G} \psi^o(zgz^{-1}) = (\psi \uparrow_K^G)(g)$$

(b) Let  $g \in G$ . Then

$$\varphi(g) \cdot \psi \uparrow_H^G(g) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi(g) \psi^o(xgx^{-1})$$

$$\stackrel{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}\ell(G)}{=} \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{x \in G} \varphi(xgx^{-1}) \psi^o(xgx^{-1})$$

$$= (\varphi \downarrow_H^G \cdot \psi) \uparrow_H^G(g)$$

Example: (The character table of the simple group  $A_5$ .)

Set  $G := A_5$ . Conj classes:  $C_1 = \{\text{id}\}$ ,  $C_2 = [(12)(34)]$   $|C_1|=1, |C_2|=15$   
 $C_3 = [(123)]$   $|C_3|=20$   
 $C_4 \cup C_5 = \{5\text{-cycles}\}$  (30 of them).  
 Easy to check  $g \in C_4 \Leftrightarrow g^{-1} \in C_4$  as well  
 but  $g^2$  and  $g^3 \in C_5$   
 $|C_4|=|C_5|=12$



- $|\text{Irr}(A_5)| = 5$

- $A_5$  simple mod  $\Rightarrow A_5/[A_5, A_5] = 1 \Rightarrow$  there is only one linear character:  $\chi_1 := 1_G$

- $A_5$  simple also mean that we cannot use inflation as in the case of  $S_4$

- But we can use induction:

let  $H := A_4 \leq A_5$ . In part  $|G:H| = 5$

We can induce  $1_H$  to  $G$ :  $1_H \uparrow_H^G (\text{id}) \stackrel{(5,5)}{=} 1 \cdot |G:H| = 5$

$$1_H \uparrow_H^G ((12)(34)) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 12 = 1$$

$$1_H \uparrow_H^G ((123)) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 24 = 2$$

$$1_H \uparrow_H^G (5\text{-cycle}) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 = 0$$

Compute:  $\langle 1_H \uparrow_H^G, 1_G \rangle = 1$

and  $\langle 1_H \uparrow_H^G - 1_G, 1_H \uparrow_H^G - 1_G \rangle = 1$

$\Rightarrow 1_H \uparrow_H^G - 1_G \in \text{Irr}(G)$ .

so we set  $\chi_4 := 1_H \uparrow_H^G - 1_G = (4, 0, 1, -1, -1)$   
of degree 4

Now by the degree formula  $60 = |A_5| = \chi_2(1)^2 + \chi_3(1)^2 + \chi_4(1)^2 + 1 + 16 = 43 + 17$

Claim: wlog  $\chi_5(1) = 5$

Recall:  $\chi_5(1), \chi_2(1), \chi_3(1) \notin \{1, 2\}$  as  $A_5$  simple

Moreover  $\chi_5(1), \chi_2(1), \chi_3(1) \mid |A_5| = 60$

$\Rightarrow \chi_5(1), \chi_2(1), \chi_3(1) \in \{3, 5, 4, 6\}$   $10^2 = 100 > 60$   
 $12^2 = 144 > 60$   
...

- $n_5 = 6$  not possible as  $36 + 7 = 43$ .

- $n_5 \leq 5$  not possible

- Only possibility  $n_5 = 5, n_2 = n_3 = 3$



- Burnside's vanishing Thm  $\Rightarrow \exists$  at least one zero per non-trivial column.  
 With Cor 4.14 we get

	id	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(123)]$	$C_4$	$C_5$
$\chi_1 = 1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	3	$a_2 = -1$	0	$C_2$	$d_2$
$\chi_3$	3	$a_3$	0	$C_3$	$d_3$
$\chi_4$	4	0	1	-1	-1
$\chi_5$	5	$a_5 = -1$	$b_5 = -1$	0	0

rec:  $|C_2| = 15$   
 $|C_3| = 20$   
 $|C_4| = |C_5| = 12$

- Orthog. relations yield:

1st & 3rd cols:  $0 = 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 0 + 3 \cdot 0 + 4 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot b_5 \Rightarrow \boxed{b_5 = -1}$

~~1st & 2nd cols:  $0 = 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot a_2 + 3 \cdot a_3 + 4 \cdot 0 + 5 \cdot a_5 \Rightarrow$~~

2nd & 3rd cols:  $0 = 1 \cdot 1 + a_5 \cdot (-1) \Rightarrow \boxed{a_5 = 1}$

- Inducing from  $H = \langle (12345) \rangle \cong C_5$  a non-trivial character  
 $\chi = \chi_2$  see Example 4 yields

$$\chi \uparrow_H^G = (12, 0, 0, \psi^2 + \psi^3, \psi + \psi^4) \quad (|G:H| = 12)$$

where  $\psi$  primitive 5-th root of unity

get  $\langle \chi \uparrow_H^G, \chi_4 \rangle = 1$

$\langle \chi \uparrow_H^G, \chi_5 \rangle = 1$

$\langle \chi \uparrow_H^G - \chi_4 - \chi_5, \chi \uparrow_H^G - \chi_4 - \chi_5 \rangle = 1 \Rightarrow$  irreducible

$(3, -1, 0, -\psi - \psi^4, -\psi^2 - \psi^3) =: \chi_2$

- Orthog relations:

Col's 1 & 2  $\Rightarrow \boxed{a_2 = -1}$

Col's 3 & 4  $\Rightarrow \boxed{C_3 = -\psi^2 - \psi^3}$

Col's 3 & 5  $\Rightarrow \boxed{d_3 = -\psi - \psi^4}$

## 2. Clifford Theory

We now want to investigate induction from normal subgroups.

Lemma 5.8 Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and let  $g \in G$ .

(a) If  $R: N \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  is a matrix representation of  $N$ , then so is the map  ${}^g R: N \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$   
 $n \mapsto R(gng^{-1})$

(b) If  $R$  affords the character  $\psi$ , then  ${}^g R$  affords the character  ${}^g \psi: N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 $n \mapsto \psi(gng^{-1})$

(c) The map  $G \times \mathcal{E}(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(N)$  is a (left) action of  $G$  on  $\mathcal{E}(N)$ .  
 $(g, \psi) \mapsto {}^g \psi$

Proof: easy check!

#

Definition 5.9: If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\psi$  is a character of  $N$ , then we denote by

$$I_G(\psi) := \{g \in G \mid {}^g \psi = \psi\}$$

the stabiliser of  $\psi$  in  $G$  and call this group the inertial group of  $\psi$  in  $G$ .

Lemma 5.10: Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ ,  $\psi$  be a character of  $N$ . Then:

(a)  $\forall \chi \in G$ , we have:  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N) \Leftrightarrow {}^x \psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$

(b)  $(\psi \uparrow_N^G) \downarrow_N^G = |I_G(\psi): N| \sum_{\chi \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} {}^x \psi$

Proof: (a)  $\langle {}^x \psi, {}^x \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{n \in N} {}^x \psi(n) \overline{{}^x \psi(n)} = \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{n \in N} \psi(xn\bar{x}) \overline{\psi(xn\bar{x})}$   
 $= \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{h \in N} \psi(h) \overline{\psi(h)} = \langle \psi, \psi \rangle$

Hence  $\langle {}^x \psi, {}^x \psi \rangle = 1 \Leftrightarrow \langle \psi, \psi \rangle = 1$

and  ${}^x \psi \in \text{Irr}(N) \Leftrightarrow \psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  by 2.8(a)

(b) Let  $n \in N$ . Compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\psi \uparrow_N^G) \downarrow_N^G (n) &= (\psi \uparrow_N^G)(n) = \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{x \in G} \underbrace{\psi^o(x n x^{-1})}_{\in N} = \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{x \in G} \psi(x n x^{-1}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{x \in G} x \psi(n) \quad \begin{matrix} x = x^{-1} a \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ x \in I_G(\psi) \end{matrix} \\
 &= \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{x \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} |I_G(\psi)| x \psi(n) \\
 &= |I_G(\psi) : N| \sum_{x \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} x \psi(n) \quad \begin{matrix} \# \\ \# \end{matrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Notation: Given  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  we let

$$\text{Irr}(G | \psi) := \{ \chi \in \text{Irr}(G) \mid \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle \neq 0 \}$$

i.e.  $\psi$  is a constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$ .

### Theorem 5.11 ("Clifford Theory")

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Let  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  and let  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$ .

(a) If  $\psi$  is a constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$ , then

$$\chi \downarrow_N^G = e \sum_{g \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} g \psi$$

where  $e := \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle$  ( $\neq 0$ ) is the ramification index of  $\chi$  in  $N$

(b) All the constituents of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$  have the same degree.

(c) If  $\eta \in \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi) | \psi)$ , then  $\eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G \in \text{Irr}(G)$ .

(d) If  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G | \psi)$ , then  $\exists! \eta \in \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi) | \psi)$  st.  
 $\langle \chi \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G, \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)} \rangle \neq 0$

(e) Induction from  $I_G(\psi)$  to  $G$  induces a bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Ind}_{I_G(\psi)}^G : \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi) | \psi) & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(G | \psi) \\
 \eta & \longmapsto & \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G
 \end{array}$$

Proof: (a) We have  $0 \neq \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle \stackrel{\text{Frob rec.}}{=} \langle \chi, \psi \uparrow_N^G \rangle \geq 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \chi$  is a constituent of  $\psi \uparrow_N^G \Rightarrow \chi \downarrow_N^G | (\psi \uparrow_N^G) \downarrow_N^G$



Now if  $\eta \in \text{Irr}(N)$  is a constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$  ( $\Rightarrow \chi \downarrow_N^G = \eta + \nu$ )  
 then  $0 \neq \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \eta \rangle$  and  $\langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \eta \rangle \leq \langle \chi \uparrow_N^G \downarrow_N^G, \eta \rangle$ .

Moreover  $\eta$  must be of the form  $x\psi$  for some  $x \in G$ , since

by Lemma 5.10, the constituents of  $(\chi \uparrow_N^G) \downarrow_N^G$  are  $\{x\psi \mid x \in [G/I_G(\psi)]\}$   
 Furthermore,  $\forall g \in G$ :

$$\begin{aligned} e = \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle_N &= \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{h \in N} \chi(h) \psi(h^{-1}) \stackrel{N \trianglelefteq G}{=} \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{h \in N} \chi(ghg^{-1}) \psi(ghg^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|N|} \sum_{h \in N} \chi(h) \psi(h) = \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, g\psi \rangle_N \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, every conjugate  $g\psi$  of  $\psi$  occurs as a constituent of  $\text{Res}_N^G(\chi) = \chi \downarrow_N^G$  with the same multiplicity  $e$ .

Hence the formula. (a)

(b) follows from (a) since  $x\psi(1_N) = \psi(x^{-1}x) = \psi(1_N) \quad \forall x \in G$ .

(c) Since  $I_G(\psi) = I_{I_G(\psi)}(\psi)$ , by (a) we have  $\eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)} = e'\psi$   
 for some  $e' \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ . ( $e' = \frac{\eta(1)}{\psi(1)}$ )

Let  $\tilde{\chi} \in \text{Irr}(G)$  with  $0 \neq \langle \tilde{\chi}, \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G \rangle_G \stackrel{\text{Frobenius}}{=} \langle \tilde{\chi} \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G, \eta \rangle_{I_G(\psi)}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } e &:= \langle \tilde{\chi} \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle_N = \langle \tilde{\chi} \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)}, \psi \rangle_N \\ &\geq \langle \eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)}, \psi \rangle_N = e' > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \tilde{\chi} \in \text{Irr}(G|\psi)$

Moreover by (a),  $e = \langle \tilde{\chi} \downarrow_N^G, g\psi \rangle_N \geq e' \quad \forall g \in G$ , so that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\chi}(1) &= e \sum_{g \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} g\psi(1) \stackrel{(b)}{=} e |G:I_G(\psi)| \psi(1) \\ &\geq e' |G:I_G(\psi)| \psi(1) \\ &= e' |G:I_G(\psi)| \eta(1) \\ &= \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G(1) \\ &\geq \tilde{\chi}(1) \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G = \tilde{\chi} \in \text{Irr}(G)$ . (f)

(d) Let  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|\psi)$ , s.t.  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = e \sum_{g \in [G/I_G(\psi)]} g\psi$  for some  $e \in \mathbb{N}$

(e)

Since  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = \chi \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)}$ ,  $\exists \eta \in \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi)|\psi)$  s.t.

$$\langle \chi \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G, \eta \rangle_{I_G(\psi)} \neq 0 \neq \langle \eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)}, \psi \rangle_N$$

In part.  $\eta \in \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi)|\psi)$

and by Frobenius reciprocity,  $0 \neq \langle \chi, \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G \rangle_G$

$\stackrel{(c)}{\Rightarrow} \chi = \eta \uparrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G$  and  $\eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)} = e\psi$ , so  $e$  is the ram. index of  $\psi$  in  $I$ .

We have  $\chi \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G = \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi))} a_\lambda \lambda$  for coefficients  $a_\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $a_\eta > 0$ .

Moreover

$$(a_\eta - 1) \text{Res}_N^{I_G(\psi)}(\eta) + \sum_{\lambda \neq \eta} a_\lambda \lambda \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)} = \chi \downarrow_N^G - \eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)} = e \sum_{\substack{g \neq 1 \\ g \in [G/I_G(\psi)]}} g\psi$$

so  $\psi$  does not occur in this sum, but in  $\eta \downarrow_N^{I_G(\psi)}$ , so that we must have  $a_\eta = 1$  and  $\lambda \notin \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi)|\psi) \forall \lambda \neq \eta$ .

$\Rightarrow \eta$  is uniquely determined as the only constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_{I_G(\psi)}^G$  in  $\text{Irr}(I_G(\psi)|\psi)$

The bijection of (e) follows. / #

### 3. Subgroups of index 2

Let  $N \leq G$  with  $|G:N| = 2$  ( $\Rightarrow N \trianglelefteq G$  as  $G = N \cup gN = N \cup Ng \forall g \in G$ )

In this case the character tables of  $G$  and  $N$  are closely related.

Typical examples:  $N = A_n, G = S_n$

•  $N = \text{PSL}_2(q), G = \text{SL}_2(q)$  with  $q$  odd.

•  $D_{2m}, D_{4m}$

### Lemma 5.12

If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $|G:N| = 2$  and  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ , then either

- (1)  $\chi \downarrow_N^G \in \text{Irr}(N)$ , or
- (2)  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = \psi + {}^g\psi$  for a  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  and a  $g \in G \setminus N$ .

Proof: Let  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  be a constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$ .

Since  $|G:N| = 2$ , we have two possibilities for  $I_G(\psi)$ :

- Case 1:  $I_G(\psi) = N$ .  $\Rightarrow \text{Irr}(I_G(\psi) | \psi) = \{\psi\}$

so that by Thm 5.1(e) we have

$$\chi = \psi \uparrow_N^G \quad \Rightarrow \chi(1) = 2\psi(1)$$

and Thm 5.1(a) yields  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = \psi + {}^g\psi$  with  $g \in G \setminus N$ .

- Case 2:  $I_G(\psi) = G$ .  $\Rightarrow [G/I_G(\psi)] = \{1\}$

so that by Thm 5.1(a) we have

$$\chi \downarrow_N^G = e\psi \quad \text{with } e = \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle_N = \langle \chi, \psi \uparrow_N^G \rangle_G$$

Moreover by Lemma 5.10(b)

$$\psi \uparrow_N^G \downarrow_N^G = 2\psi$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\psi(1) = \psi \uparrow_N^G(1) = \psi \uparrow_N^G \downarrow_N^G(1)$$

$$\geq \chi \downarrow_N^G(1) (= \chi(1)) = e\psi(1)$$

$$\Rightarrow e \leq 2$$

Were  $e=2$ , then we would have  $\psi \uparrow_N^G(1) = 2\psi(1)$

hence  $\chi = \psi \uparrow_N^G$  and then

$$1 = \langle \chi, \psi \uparrow_N^G \rangle_G = \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle_N = e = 2 \quad \#$$

Whence  $e=1 \Rightarrow \chi \downarrow_N^G = \psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$

and  $\psi \uparrow_N^G = \chi + \chi'$  for some  $\chi' \in \text{Irr}(G)$  with  $\chi' \neq \chi$ . #

Since  $G/N \cong (C_2, \cdot)$  and  $\text{Irr}(C_2) = \{1_{C_2}, \text{sgn}\}$  where  $\text{sgn}: C_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$   
 $g \mapsto -1$   
 $\langle g^i | g^j = 1 \rangle$

we may inflate the sign character  $\text{sgn}$  to  $G$  and set

$$\lambda_{\text{sgn}} = \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\text{sgn}) : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$g \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } g \in N \\ -1 & \text{if } g \notin N \end{cases}$$

Recall from Cor. 2.25, that  $\forall \chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ ,  $\chi\lambda_{\text{syn}} \in \text{Irr}(G)$  and  $\chi, \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}$  have the same degree.

In addition  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$  and  $(\chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}) \downarrow_N^G$  are equal by def<sup>n</sup>.

Lemma 5.13 Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $|G:N|=2$  and let  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ . TFAE:

- (1)  $\chi \downarrow_N^G \in \text{Irr}(N)$  ;
- (2)  $\exists g \in G \setminus N$  s.t.  $\chi(g) \neq 0$  ;
- (3)  $\chi \neq \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}$  .

Proof: (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2):  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G) \Rightarrow 1 = \langle \chi, \chi \rangle$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi(g)\chi(g^{-1})$$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in H} \chi(g)\chi(g^{-1}) + \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G \setminus N} \chi(g)\chi(g^{-1})$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{|H| \cdot \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \chi \downarrow_N^G \rangle} \qquad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\geq 0}$

$$= \frac{|H|}{|G|} + 1 + \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G \setminus N} \chi(g)\chi(g^{-1})$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{= \frac{1}{2}} \qquad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{= \frac{1}{2}}$

$\Rightarrow \exists g \in G \setminus N$  s.t.  $\chi(g) \neq 0$ . /

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3): Let  $g \in G \setminus N$  s.t.  $\chi(g) \neq 0$

$\Rightarrow \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}(g) = \chi(g)\lambda_{\text{syn}}(g) = -\chi(g)$   
Hence  $\chi \neq \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}$ . /

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1):  $\chi \neq \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}} \Rightarrow \exists g \in G \setminus N$  s.t.  $\chi(g) \neq \chi\lambda_{\text{syn}}(g) = -\chi(g)$   
 $\Rightarrow \chi(g) \neq 0$

So  $1 = \langle \chi, \chi \rangle \stackrel{\text{see above}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \chi \downarrow_N^G \rangle + \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G \setminus N} \chi(g)\chi(g^{-1})$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\geq 1} \qquad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\neq 0}$

This forces  $\langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \chi \downarrow_N^G \rangle = 1$

$\Rightarrow \chi \downarrow_N^G \in \text{Irr}(N)$ . / #

Lemma 5.14: Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $|G:N| = 2$ .

Assume  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  is s.t.  $\chi \downarrow_N \in \text{Irr}(N)$ .

If  $\varphi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  satisfies  $\varphi \downarrow_N = \chi \downarrow_N$ , then  $\varphi \in \{\chi, \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}\}$ .

Proof:

We have  $(\chi + \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}})(g) = \begin{cases} 2\chi(g) & \text{if } g \in N \\ 0 & \text{if } g \notin N \end{cases}$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi + \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}, \varphi \rangle_G &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overset{=|G|}{2} \chi(g) \varphi(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{g \in N} \chi(g) \varphi(g) = \langle \chi \downarrow_N, \varphi \downarrow_N \rangle_N \\ &\stackrel{\text{hypothesis}}{=} 1 \end{aligned}$$

As  $\chi, \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}} \in \text{Irr}(G)$  this forces  $\varphi \in \{\chi, \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}\}$ . #

Lemma 5.15: Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $|G:N| = 2$ .

Assume  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  is s.t.  $\chi \downarrow_N = \psi + \theta \psi$  with  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  and  $\theta \in \{1, -1\}$  as in Lemma 5.12.

If  $\varphi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  satisfies  $\varphi \downarrow_N$  has  $\psi$  or  $\theta \psi$  as a constituent, then  $\varphi = \chi$ .

Proof: Lemma 5.13  $\Rightarrow \chi(g) = 0 \forall g \in G \setminus N$  as  $\chi \downarrow_N$  is reducible.

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \langle \varphi, \chi \rangle_G &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \varphi(g) \chi(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in N} \varphi(g) \chi(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \varphi \downarrow_N, \chi \downarrow_N \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \varphi \downarrow_N, \underbrace{\psi + \theta \psi}_{\substack{= \psi + \theta \psi \\ (\text{resp. } 2\psi + \theta \psi)}} \rangle \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \varphi, \chi \rangle_G \neq 0 \Rightarrow \langle \varphi, \chi \rangle_G = 1 \Rightarrow \varphi = \chi. \#$$

Conclusion: If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  with  $|G:N| = 2$  and the character table of  $G$  is known, then we can list the irreducible characters of  $N$  as follows

• Step 1: Each  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  which is non-zero somewhere outside  $N$  restricts to  $N$  irreducibly: i.e.  $\chi \downarrow_N^G \in \text{Irr}(N)$ .  
Such characters of  $G$  occur in pairs  $\chi, \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}$   
s.t.  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = (\chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}) \downarrow_N^G$

• Step 2: Each  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  which vanishes outside  $N$  restricts to  $N$  as a sum of two conjugate irreducible characters of  $N$ :  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = \psi + \psi^g$  ( $g \in G \setminus N$ )  
 $\psi$  and  $\psi^g$  do not occur as constituents of  $\chi' \downarrow_N^G$  for  $\chi \neq \chi' \in \text{Irr}(G)$

• Every irred. character of  $N$  occurs as a constituent of  $\chi \downarrow_N^G$  for some  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ , hence we are done.

Exercise: Compute the character table of  $A_5$  from that of  $S_5$  using the above method.

#### 4. Extending characters

Using Clifford Theory we understand that irreducibility of characters is preserved between  $\uparrow_G(\psi)$  and  $G$  under induction.

We need to understand the step  $\psi \uparrow_N^{\uparrow_G(\psi)}$ .

In particular, what happens when  $\uparrow_G(\psi) = G$  itself?  
Can we say sth. about  $\text{Irr}(G | \psi)$ ?

Lemma 5.16: Let  $N \triangleleft G$  and  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  s.t.  $\uparrow_G(\psi) = G$ .

Then: (a)  $\psi \uparrow_N^G = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} e_\chi \chi$  where  $e_\chi = \langle \chi \downarrow_N^G, \psi \rangle$ , and

$$(b) \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} e_\chi^2 = |G : N|.$$

Proof: Write  $\psi \uparrow_N^G = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} a_\chi \chi$  with  $\{a_\chi\}_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

Frob. reciprocity:  $a_\chi \neq 0 \iff \chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)$

$$(a_\chi = \langle \psi \uparrow_N^G, \chi \rangle = \langle \psi, \chi \downarrow_N^G \rangle)$$

But by Clifford theory: if  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)$ , then  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = e_\chi \psi$

$$\implies a_\chi = e_\chi \quad \forall \chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore } |G:N| \psi(1) &= \psi \uparrow_N^G(1) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)} e_\chi \underbrace{\chi(1)}_{= e_\chi \psi(1)} \\ &= \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)} e_\chi^2 \psi(1) \\ &= \psi(1) \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)} e_\chi^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence } |G:N| = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)} e_\chi^2. \quad \#$$

Therefore the multiplicities  $\{e_\chi\}_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|N)}$  behave like the degrees of the irreducible characters of  $G/N$ .

This is not a coincidence in many cases.

Definition 5.17:

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and let  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ . If  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  is such that  $\chi \downarrow_N^G = \psi$ , then we say that  $\chi$  is an extension of  $\psi$  or that  $\psi$  extends to  $G$ .

Proposition 5.18: Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$ . Then

$$\chi \downarrow_N^G \uparrow_N^G = \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\chi \downarrow_N^G) \cdot \chi$$

Proof: Exercise, sheet 7.

Theorem 5.9 [Gallagher] (1962)

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  s.t.  $\psi := \chi \downarrow_N^G \in \text{Irr}(N)$ . Then the characters  $\{\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\chi) \cdot \chi \mid \chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N)\}$  of  $G$  are pairwise distinct

and irreducible. Moreover

$$\psi \uparrow_N^G = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \chi(1) \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\chi) \chi$$

Proof: Let  $\chi_{\text{reg}}$  be the regular character of  $G/N$ .

$$\stackrel{\text{Prop. 5.18}}{\implies} \psi \uparrow_N^G = \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\chi_{\text{reg}}) \chi$$

$$\stackrel{\text{thm}}{=} \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G \left( \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \chi(1) \chi \right) \chi$$

$$= \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \chi(1) \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\chi) \chi$$

$$\cdot \text{Now } |G:N| \stackrel{L. 5.16}{=} \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} e_{\chi}^2 \stackrel{5.16}{=} \langle \psi \uparrow_N^G, \psi \uparrow_N^G \rangle_G$$

$$= \sum_{\lambda, \mu \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \lambda(1)\mu(1) \langle \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda) \chi, \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\mu) \chi \rangle$$

$$\geq \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \lambda(1)^2 = |G:N|$$

hence equality throughout.

$$\implies \langle \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda) \chi, \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\mu) \chi \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$$

(the  $\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda) \chi$  are characters by Cor. 2.25)

$\implies \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda) \chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  and they are distinct as claimed. #

Example :

(a) See § on normal subgroups of index 2

We saw that if  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$  extends to  $G$  then  $\psi \uparrow_N^G = \chi + \chi'$  with  $\chi' = \chi \lambda_{\text{sgn}}$ , where in fact  $\lambda_{\text{sgn}} = \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\text{sgn})$  where  $\text{sgn}$  is the  $\text{sgn}$  character of  $G/N \cong C_2$ .

(b)  $G = D_8$  : See Ex sheet 5.

$N := Z(G) \cong C_2$  But we see from the character table of  $D_8$  that the  $\text{sgn}$  character of  $C_2$  does not extend to  $D_8$ . (there is no linear character of  $D_8$  taking value  $-1$  on the central involution)





Proposition 5.20: Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and let  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(N)$ . If  $I_G(\psi)/N$  has prime order, then  $\psi$  extends to  $I_G(\psi)$ .

Proof: W.l.o.g. we may assume that  $G = I_G(\psi)$ .

Set  $|G/N| =: p$ . Then  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  by (H).

$$\Rightarrow G/N \cong C_p$$

To show:  $e=1$

Let  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|\psi) \xrightarrow{\text{Prop. 5.11}} \chi \downarrow_N = e\psi$  for some  $e \in \mathbb{Z}_{>1}$

• Now because  $G/N$  is abelian, any  $\lambda \in \text{Irr}(G/N)$  is linear and

$\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$  by Cor. 2.25.

Moreover, if  $\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi = \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\mu)\chi$  for two characters  $\lambda \neq \mu \in \text{Irr}(G/N)$ , then consider

$$U = \ker(\lambda - \mu), \quad \text{for } N \leq U \leq G$$

which forces  $N=U$  as  $|G/N|=p \in \mathbb{P}$

$$\Rightarrow \chi(g) = 0 \quad \forall g \in G \setminus U = G \setminus N$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow e^2 &= \langle e\psi, e\psi \rangle = \langle \chi \downarrow_N, \chi \downarrow_N \rangle_N \\ &= |G:N| \underbrace{\langle \chi, \chi \rangle_G}_{=1} = |G:N| = p \in \mathbb{P} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence: } \lambda \neq \mu \in \text{Irr}(G/N) \Rightarrow \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi \neq \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\mu)\chi$$

$$\text{with } \langle \text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi, \psi \uparrow_N^G \rangle_G \stackrel{\text{Frobenius}}{=} \langle (\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi) \downarrow_N, \psi \rangle_N$$

$$(\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi) \downarrow_N = \chi \downarrow_N = e\psi$$

$$= \langle \chi \downarrow_N, \psi \rangle_N = e$$

$$\Rightarrow |G:N| \psi(1) = \psi \uparrow_N^G(1) \geq e \cdot \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N)} \underbrace{(\text{Inf}_{G/N}^G(\lambda)\chi)(1)}_{=\chi(1)}$$

$$= e \cdot |G:N| \chi(1)$$

$$\geq e |G:N| \psi(1)$$

$$\Rightarrow e=1 \text{ and } \chi \text{ extends to } \psi.$$



