

MOONSHINE FOR FINITE GROUPS

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HISTORY OF FINITE SIMPLE GROUPS

- (1832) Galois finds A_n ($n \geq 5$) and $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ ($p \geq 5$).
- (1861-1873) Mathieu finds $M_{11}, M_{12}, M_{22}, M_{23}$ and M_{24} .
- (1893) Cole classifies all simple groups with order ≤ 660 .
- (1890s-1972)
Brauer, Burnside, Feit, Frobenius, Dickson, Hall, Thompson,.....
- (1972-1983: Gorenstein Program: “The Classification”)
Aschbacher, Fischer, Glauberman, Gorenstein, Greiss, Tits,.....

THE MONSTER

CONJECTURE (FISCHER AND GRIESS (1973))

There is a huge simple group \mathbb{M} with order

$$2^{46} \cdot 3^{20} \cdot 5^9 \cdot 7^6 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13^3 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23 \cdot 29 \cdot 31 \cdot 41 \cdot 47 \cdot 59 \cdot 71.$$

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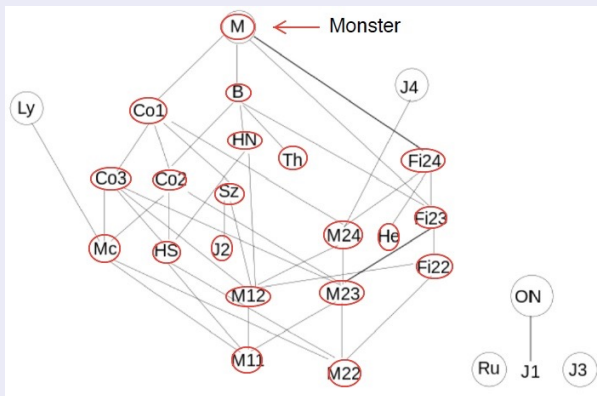
THEOREM (GRIESS (1982))

The Monster group \mathbb{M} exists.

CLASSIFICATION OF FINITE SIMPLE GROUPS

THEOREM (“THE CLASSIFICATION” (1983))

Finite simple groups live in natural infinite families, apart from 26 sporadic groups.



MODULAR CURVES

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FACTS

- ① $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ acts on the upper-half complex plane \mathbb{H} by

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \gamma\tau \mapsto \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$$

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- ② For **congruence subgroups** $\Gamma \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$, number theorists are interested in the quotients

$$Y(\Gamma) := \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}.$$

- ③ These may be compactified by “adding cusps” to obtain compact Riemann surfaces, the **modular curves** $X(\Gamma)$.

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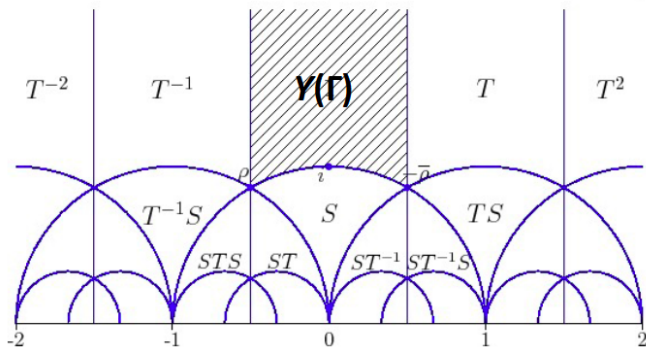
$$T\tau \mapsto \tau + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad S\tau \mapsto \frac{-1}{\tau}.$$

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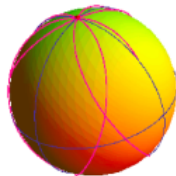
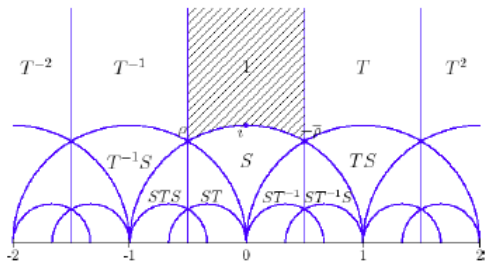
The group $\Gamma = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is generated by

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Therefore, $Y(\Gamma)$ can be represented by:

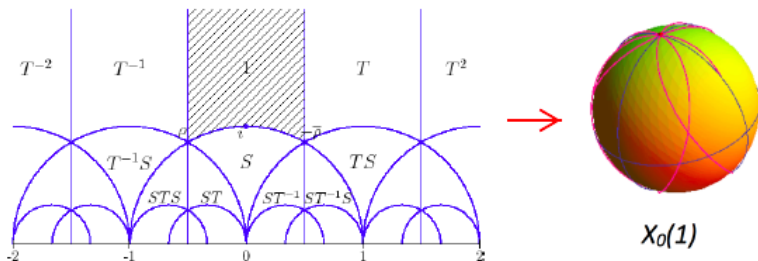


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$X_0(1)$

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IMPORTANT FACT

$X_0(1)$ has **genus 0**, which implies that its field of modular functions is $\mathbb{C}(j(\tau))$ with a **Hauptmodul** $j(\tau)$.

MODULAR FUNCTIONS

DEFINITION

A meromorphic function $f : \mathbb{H} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ is a Γ -**modular function** if for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ we have

$$f(\gamma\tau) = f(\tau).$$

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EXAMPLE ($\Gamma = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$)

The **Hauptmodul** is Klein's j -function ($q := e^{2\pi i\tau}$)

$$\begin{aligned} J(\tau) := j(\tau) - 744 &= \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} c(n)q^n \\ &= q^{-1} + 196884q + 21493760q^2 + 864299970q^3 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

GLIMPSE OF MONSTROUS MOONSHINE

THEOREM (OGG (1974))

*The modular curve $X_0(p)^+$ has **genus 0** if and only if $p \mid \#M$.*

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QUESTION

*What does having **genus 0** have to do with the Monster \mathbb{M} ?*

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$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$
Coefficients of $j(\tau)$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$
Dimensions of irreducible representations of the Monster M

THE MONSTER CHARACTERS

The character table for \mathbb{M} (ordered by size) gives dimensions:

$$\chi_1(e) = 1$$

$$\chi_2(e) = 196883$$

$$\chi_3(e) = 21296876$$

$$\chi_4(e) = 842609326$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\chi_{194}(e) = 258823477531055064045234375.$$

THOMPSON'S CONJECTURE

CONJECTURE (THOMPSON)

There is a “nice” infinite-dimensional graded module
 $V^{\mathfrak{h}} = \bigoplus_{n=-1}^{\infty} V_n^{\mathfrak{h}}$ for which $\dim(V_n^{\mathfrak{h}}) = c(n)$.

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REMARK

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- 2 We can use the trivial representation which has $\dim \chi_1 = 1$.
- 3 Using **too many** trivial representations is not “nice”.

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Assuming the conjecture, if $g \in \mathbb{M}$, then define the **McKay–Thompson series**

$$T_g(\tau) := \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} \text{Tr}(g|V_n^{\natural})q^n.$$

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QUESTION

*Is there a V^{\natural} for which **all** of the $T_g(\tau)$ are simultaneously nice?*

MONSTROUS MOONSHINE CONJECTURE

CONJECTURE (CONWAY AND NORTON, 1979)

For each $g \in \mathbb{M}$ there is an explicit genus 0 congruence subgroup $\Gamma_g \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ for which $T_g(\tau)$ is the **Hauptmodul**.

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If it exists, then the moonshine module $V^{\natural} = \bigoplus_{n=-1}^{\infty} V_n^{\natural}$ is a specific vertex operator algebra whose automorphism group is \mathbb{M} .

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THEOREM (BORCHERDS (1998 FIELDS MEDAL))

The Monstrous Moonshine Conjecture is true.

AFTERMATH

Inspired by string theory, further moonshines have been found:

- Mathieu (Gannon)
- Umbral (Cheng, Duncan, Harvey, and Duncan, O, Griffin)
- Thompson (Griffin and Mertens)
- Pariah (Duncan, O, Mertens)
- to name a few...

WITTEN'S PROBLEM

QUESTION (BLACK HOLE STATES)

Consider the monstrous moonshine expressions

$$196884 = 1 + 196883$$

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How many '1's, '196883's, etc. show up in these expressions?

SOME PROPORTIONS

| n | $\delta(\mathbf{m}_1(n))$ | $\delta(\mathbf{m}_2(n))$ | \dots | $\delta(\mathbf{m}_{194}(n))$ |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | $1/2$ | $1/2$ | \dots | 0 |

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| 80 | $4.809 \dots \times 10^{-14}$ | $7.537 \dots \times 10^{-13}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 100 | $4.427 \dots \times 10^{-18}$ | $1.077 \dots \times 10^{-16}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 120 | $1.377 \dots \times 10^{-21}$ | $5.501 \dots \times 10^{-20}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 140 | $1.156 \dots \times 10^{-24}$ | $1.260 \dots \times 10^{-22}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 160 | $2.621 \dots \times 10^{-27}$ | $3.443 \dots \times 10^{-23}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 180 | $1.877 \dots \times 10^{-28}$ | $3.371 \dots \times 10^{-23}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 200 | $1.715 \dots \times 10^{-28}$ | $3.369 \dots \times 10^{-23}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 220 | $1.711 \dots \times 10^{-28}$ | $3.368 \dots \times 10^{-23}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |
| 240 | $1.711 \dots \times 10^{-28}$ | $3.368 \dots \times 10^{-23}$ | \dots | 0.04428... |

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THEOREM (DUNCAN, GRIFFIN, O (2015))

If $1 \leq i \leq 194$, then as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ we have

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COROLLARY (DUNCAN, GRIFFIN, O)

*The Moonshine module is asymptotically **regular**.**In other words, we have*

$$\delta(\mathbf{m}_i) := \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\mathbf{m}_i(n)}{\sum_{i=1}^{194} \mathbf{m}_i(n)} = \frac{\dim(\chi_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{194} \dim(\chi_j)}.$$

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such that **for all** $g \in G$ the McKay-Thompson series

$$T_g(\tau) := \sum_n \text{Tr}(g|V_G(n))q^n$$

is a weakly holomorphic modular function.

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VARIANTS

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- 2 *We can require that each $T_g(\tau)$ is modular on $\Gamma_0(\text{ord}_G(g))$.*
- 3 *In very special cases there are analytic “group compatibility” relations between $T_g(\tau)$ and $T_{g^p}(\tau)$.*

EXAMPLE: MOONSHINE FOR D_4 AND Q_8

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| D_4 | $\{1\}$ | $\{r^2\}$ | $\{r, r^3\}$ | $\{s, r^2s\}$ | $\{rs, r^3s\}$ |
| Q_8 | $\{1\}$ | $\{-1\}$ | $\{i, -i\}$ | $\{j, -j\}$ | $\{k, -k\}$ |
| | C_1 | C_2 | C_3 | C_4 | C_5 |
| 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 |
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| χ_4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -1 | -1 |
| χ_5 | 2 | -2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

- The MT series are Hauptmodul $J_N(\tau)$ for $\Gamma_0(N)$:

$$T(C_1; \tau) = J_1(\tau)$$

$$T(C_2; \tau) = T(C_4; \tau) = T(C_5; \tau) = J_2(\tau)$$

$$T(C_3; \tau) = J_4(\tau)$$

EXAMPLE OF D_4 AND Q_8 CONTINUED

- If $1 \leq i \leq 5$ and $n \geq -1$, then let

$$m_i(n) = \#\{\text{mult. of } \rho_i \text{ in } V_G(n)\}.$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_i(\tau) := \sum_n m_i(n)q^n.$$

$$\mathcal{M}_1(\tau) = q^{-1} + 24788q + 2685440q^2 + 108044482q^3 + O(q^4),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_2(\tau) = 24640q + 2686464q^2 + 108038912q^3 + O(q^4),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_3(\tau) = 24640q + 2686464q^2 + 108038912q^3 + O(q^4),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4(\tau) = 24512q + 2687488q^2 + 108033280q^3 + O(q^4),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_5(\tau) = 49152q + 5373952q^2 + 216072192q^3 + O(q^4).$$

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To illustrate this, for $1 \leq i \leq 5$ we let

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| n | $\delta_1(n)$ | $\delta_2(n) = \delta_3(n)$ | $\delta_4(n)$ | $\delta_5(n)$ |
|----------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 0.16779... | 0.16678... | 0.16592... | 0.33271... |
| 2 | 0.16659... | 0.16665... | 0.16671... | 0.33337... |
| 3 | 0.16666... | 0.16666... | 0.16665... | 0.33332... |
| \vdots | \vdots | \vdots | \vdots | \vdots |
| ∞ | $1/6$ | $1/6$ | $1/6$ | $1/3$ |

NATURAL PROBLEM

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(2) If so, does this procedure have “uniformly bounded” length?

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COROLLARY (D-O)

If $s \geq 3$, then **complete width s weak moonshine determines finite groups up to isomorphism**.

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- Let $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_t$ be the corresponding **characters**, and so

$$\chi_i(e) = d_i.$$

NOTATION

- G is a finite group
- Let $\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_t$ be the irreducible representations

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- Let $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_t$ be the corresponding **characters**, and so

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GOAL

Extend V_G to “width s weak moonshine”.

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DEFINITION (FROBENIUS, 1896)

Let χ be a character of G , and for positive integers r we let

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- (3) If $r \geq 3$, then $\chi^{(r)}(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r)$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \chi^{(r)}(g_1, \dots, g_r) &:= \chi(\mathbf{g}_1) \chi^{(r-1)}(g_2, \dots, g_r) \\ &\quad - \chi^{(r-1)}(\mathbf{g}_1 g_2, \dots, g_r) - \cdots - \chi^{(r-1)}(g_2, \dots, \mathbf{g}_1 g_r). \end{aligned}$$

BASIC FACTS ABOUT r -CHARACTERS

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FACT (EXPANSION AS 1-CHARACTERS)

If $r \geq 2$, then $\chi^{(r)}(g_1, \dots, g_r)$ is a **signed** sum over S_r action on

$$\chi(g_1), \chi(g_2), \dots, \chi(g_r).$$

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- (2) Previous research focused on the entire “group determinant”.*
- (3) Infinitely many nonisomorphic groups share 1 and 2-character tables.*

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is a weakly holomorphic modular function.

COMPUTING $\text{Frob}_r(\bar{g}; n)$

LEMMA

If the $m_i(n)$ are the multiplicities of ρ_i in $V_G(n)$, then

$$\text{Frob}_r(\underline{g}; n) = \text{Tr}(\underline{g}|V_G^{(r)}(n)) := \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} m_i(n) \chi_i^{(r)}(\underline{g}).$$

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THEOREM 1 (D-O)

*If G is a finite group and $s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then weak moonshine for G extends to **width s weak moonshine**. Moreover, G admits **asymptotically regular width s weak moonshine**.*

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COROLLARY (D-O)

If $s \geq 3$, then **complete width s weak moonshine determines finite groups up to isomorphism**.

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- Each $\mathcal{M}_i(\tau)$ is a weakly holomorphic modular function.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1 CONTINUED

- For each $r \geq 2$, we have that

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- The higher dimensional McKay-Thompson series are modular functions because the $\mathcal{M}_i(\tau)$ are. □

HIGHER DIMENSIONAL MT SERIES

QUESTION

What information do the higher dimensional MT series

$$\left\{ T(r, \underline{g}; \tau) : \underline{g} \in G^{(r)} \right\}$$

encode about structure of the “seed” module V_G ?

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ANSWER

The r -dimensional MT series know the part of V_G assembled from the characters with $\dim \chi_i \geq r$.

HIGHER DIMENSIONAL MT SERIES

THEOREM 2 (D-O)

If width s weak moonshine holds for G , $1 \leq r \leq s$ and $\dim \chi_i \geq r$, then the χ_i multiplicity generating function satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_i(\tau) &:= \sum_{n \gg -\infty} m_i(n) q^n \\ &= \frac{(\dim \chi_i)^{r-1}}{r! |G|^r (\dim \chi_i - 1) \cdots (\dim \chi_i - (r-1))} \sum_{\underline{g} \in G^{(r)}} \overline{\chi_i^{(r)}(\underline{g})} T(r, \underline{g}; \tau). \end{aligned}$$

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REMARK

Theorem 2 follows from new orthogonality relations for Frobenius r -characters.

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REMARKS

- (1) The $r = 1$ case is due to Schur.
- (2) The $i \neq j$ case is due to Frobenius and Johnson.
- (3) Our contribution is the $i = j$ case which gives the “norms” of Frobenius r -characters.

SCHUR'S LEMMA

LEMMA (SCHUR'S LEMMA)

Let G be a finite group, and let ρ_V and ρ_W be irreducible reps

$$\rho_V: G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V),$$

$$\rho_W: G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(W).$$

If $f: V \rightarrow W$ is a G -linear map, then f is a scalar multiple of the identity map if $V \cong W$ and $f = 0$ if $V \not\cong W$.

KEY CONSEQUENCES

COROLLARY

If $h_1, h_2 \in G$, then the following are true:

- 1 We have that

$$\sum_{g \in G} \chi_i(g h_1 g^{-1} h_2^{-1}) = \frac{\chi_i(h_1) \overline{\chi_i(h_2)} |G|}{\dim \chi_i}.$$

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- 2 If χ_j is an irreducible character of G , then we have that

$$\sum_{g \in G} \chi_i(h_1g) \overline{\chi_j(gh_2)} = \frac{\chi_i(h_1h_2^{-1}) |G| \delta_{ij}}{\dim \chi_i}.$$

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$$\sigma = (a_1^\sigma(1), \dots, a_1^\sigma(k_1^\sigma)) (a_2^\sigma(1), \dots, a_2^\sigma(k_2^\sigma)) \cdots (a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(1), \dots, a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(k_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma)).$$

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- The cycles have order $k_1^\sigma, k_2^\sigma, \dots, k_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma$ and as sets

$$\{1, 2, \dots, r\} = \{a_1^\sigma(1), \dots, a_1^\sigma(k_1^\sigma), a_2^\sigma(1), \dots, a_2^\sigma(k_2^\sigma), \dots, a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(1), \dots, a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(k_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma)\}.$$

PROOF OF ORTHOGONALITY CONTINUED

- We abuse notation and use a for g_a , and note that

$$\chi^{(r)}(g_1, \dots, g_r) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_r} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \chi(a_1^\sigma(1) \cdots a_1^\sigma(k_1^\sigma)) \cdots \chi(a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(1) \cdots a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(k_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma)).$$

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- We must evaluate

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &:= \sum_{\underline{g} \in G^{(r)}} \chi^{(r)}(\underline{g}) \overline{\chi^{(r)}(\underline{g})} = \sum_{\underline{g}=(g_1, \dots, g_r) \in G^{(r)}} \chi^{(r)}(g_1, \dots, g_r) \overline{\chi^{(r)}(g_1, \dots, g_r)} \\ &= \sum_{\sigma, \tau \in S_r} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \operatorname{sgn}(\tau) \sum_{\underline{g} \in G^{(r)}} \chi(a_1^\sigma(1) \cdots a_1^\sigma(k_1^\sigma)) \cdots \chi(a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(1) \cdots a_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma(k_{n(\sigma)}^\sigma)) \\ &\quad \times \overline{\chi(a_1^\tau(1) \cdots a_1^\tau(k_1^\tau))} \cdots \overline{\chi(a_{n(\tau)}^\tau(1) \cdots a_{n(\tau)}^\tau(k_{n(\tau)}^\tau))}. \end{aligned}$$

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- By reordering we can rewrite as:

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- Apply the previous corollary to Schur's Lemma to the **red** sum and repeat.

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- Apply the previous corollary to Schur's Lemma to the **red** sum **and repeat**.
- Keep careful track of the steps. □

EXAMPLE OF D_4 AND Q_8 REVISITED

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- The MT series for $(r^3s, rs) \in D_4^{(2)}$ and $(-k, k) \in Q_8^{(2)}$ are

$$\begin{aligned} T(2, (r^3s, rs); \tau) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 5} \chi_i^{(2)}(r^3s, rs) \mathcal{M}_i(\tau) = \chi_5^{(2)}(r^3s, rs) \mathcal{M}_5(\tau) \\ &= 98304q + 10747904q^2 + 432144384q^3 + O(q^4). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T(2, (-k, k); \tau) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 5} \chi_i^{(2)}(-k, k) \mathcal{M}_i(\tau) = \chi_5^{(2)}(-k, k) \mathcal{M}_5(\tau) \\ &= -98304q - 10747904q^2 - 432144384q^3 + O(q^4). \end{aligned}$$

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- That they are unequal distinguishes D_4 from Q_8 .

SUMMARY

THEOREM 1 (D-O)

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THEOREM 2 (D-O)

If $\dim \chi_i \geq r$, then the multiplicity generating functions satisfy

$$\mathcal{M}_i(\tau) := \sum_{n \gg -\infty} m_i(n) q^n = * \sum_{g \in G^{(r)}} \overline{\chi_i^{(r)}(\underline{g})} T(r, \underline{g}; \tau).$$