

## SOLVABILITY OF A NORMAL SUBGROUP IN RELATION TO ITS CHARACTER DEGREES

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### ABSTRACT

In this work, how the structure of a normal subgroup of a group  $G$  is influenced by the degrees of an appropriate subset of irreducible character of a group  $G$  was verified. The characters that were used in controlling the structure of  $N \triangleleft G$  are exactly those whose kernels do not contain  $N$ .

Given that  $N \triangleleft G$ ,

$$\text{Irr}(G/N) = \{ \chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N) \mid \chi \notin \ker \psi \}$$

and

$$\text{cd}(G/N) = \{ \chi(1) \mid \chi \in \text{Irr}(G/N) \}$$

**Keywords:** Normal Subgroup, Character degrees, Solvable groups, Derived length and irreducible Character.

### INTRODUCTION

In group theory, the character of a group representation is a function on the group which associates to each group element, the trace of the corresponding matrix. The character carries the essential information about the representation in a more condensed form.

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space

over a field  $F$  and let  $\rho : G \rightarrow GL(V)$  be a representation of a group  $G$  on  $V$ . The

character of  $\rho$  is the function.

$$\chi : G \rightarrow F \text{ given by}$$

$$\chi(g) = \text{Tr}(\rho(g)). \text{ Where Tr is the}$$

trace.

A character  $\chi$  is called irreducible if  $\rho$  is an irreducible representation. A character

$\chi$  is linear if the dimension of  $\rho$  is 1. If

$\chi$  is a character of  $G$ , then the kernel of

$\chi$  is given by:

$$\text{Ker } \chi = \{ g \in G : \chi(g) = \chi(1) \} \quad (1)$$

Characters are class functions i.e. they take a constant value on a given conjugacy class. Isomorphic representations have the same characters and if a representation is the direct sum of subrepresentations, then the corresponding character is the sum of the char-

acters of those subrepresentations.

Let P and s be representations of G, then the following identities hold:

$$\chi_{e \oplus s} = \chi_e + \chi_s$$

$$\chi_{e \otimes s} = \chi_e \cdot \chi_s$$

$$\chi_e = \bar{\chi}_p$$

$$\chi_{\text{Alt}^2 p}(g) = \frac{1}{2} [(\chi_p(g))^2 - \chi_p(g^2)]$$

$$\chi_{\text{sym}^2 p}(g) = \frac{1}{2} (\chi_p(g))^2 + \chi_p(g^2)$$

Where  $p \oplus s$  is the direct sum,  $p \otimes s$  is the tensor product,  $p^*$  denotes the conjugate transpose of  $p$ ,  $\text{Alt}^2$  is the alternating product and  $\text{sym}^2$  is the symmetric square.

Garrison (1973) wrote on 'on groups with a small number of character degrees' where he stated that if  $|\text{cd}(G)| = 4$ , then  $\text{dl}(G) \leq |\text{cd}(G)|$  for all solvable groups. Isaacs (1975) also stated that if  $|\text{cd}(G)| \leq 3$ , then G is necessarily solvable and  $\text{dl}(G) \leq |\text{cd}(G)|$  in his work character degrees and derived length of a solvable group.

Berger (1976) 'characters and derived length in groups of odd order' wrote that if  $|G|$  is odd, then  $\text{dl}(G) \leq |\text{cd}(G)|$ . Also, Gluck (1985) wrote on Bounding the number of character degrees of a solvable groups where he stated that  $\text{dl}(G) \leq 2/|\text{cd}(G)|$  holds for all solvable group.

Mark (1998) wrote on derived lengths and character degrees. Gustavo and Alexander (2001) treated groups with two extreme character degrees and their normal sub-

groups. Isaacs and Moreto (2001) established a linkage between the character degrees and Nilpotency class of a P-group.

Alexander and Sanus (2005) wrote on character degrees, blocks and normal subgroup. Chen et al (2006) worked on groups with character degrees of two distinct primes. Cossey (2006) showed the bounds on the number of lifts of a Brauer Character in a P-solvable group.

The goal of this paper is to verify how the structure of a normal subgroup of G is influenced by the degrees of an appropriate subset of  $\text{Irr}(G)$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Character table

The irreducible complex characters of a finite group form a character table which encodes much useful information about the group G in a compact form. Each row is labelled by an irreducible character and the entries in the row are the values of that character on the representatives of the respective conjugacy class of G. The columns are labelled by (representatives of) the conjugacy classes of G. It is customary to label the first row by the trivial character and the first column by (the conjugacy class of) the identity. The entries of the 1st column are the values of the irreducible characters at the identity, the degrees of the irreducible characters. Characters of degree are known as Linear Character.

The character table is always square because the number of irreducible representations is equal to the number of conjugacy classes. The first row of the character table always consist of 1's and that corresponds to the trivial representation. The order of G is given by the sum of the squares of the en-

tries of the 1st column (the degrees of the irreducible characters). More generally, the sum of the squares of the absolute values of the entries in any column gives the order of the centralizer of an element of the corresponding conjugacy classes.

All normal subgroups of G (and whether or not G is simple) can be recognised from its character table. The kernel of a character  $\chi$  is the set of elements g in G for which  $\chi(g) = \chi(1)$ . This is a normal subgroup of G.

**Orthogonality relations**

The space of complex – valued class functions of a finite group G has a natural inner product.

$$\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) \overline{\beta(g)}$$

Where  $\overline{\beta(g)}$  means the complex conjugate of the value of  $\beta$  on g. With respect to this product, the irreducible characters form an orthonormal basis for the space of class functions, and this yield the orthogonality relation for the rows of the character table.

$$\langle \chi_i, \chi_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

For g, h  $\in$  G, the orthogonality relation for

$$S_4 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1234 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1243 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1324 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1342 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1424 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 1432 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 2134 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 2143 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 2314 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1234 \\ 2341 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$(1) \quad (34) \quad (23) \quad (234) \quad (243) \quad (24) \quad (12) \quad (12)(34) \quad (123) \quad (1234)$$

column is as follows:

$$\sum_i \chi_i(g) \overline{\chi_i(h)} = \begin{cases} |C_G(g)| & \text{if } g, h \text{ are conjugate} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Where the sum is overall of the irreducible characters  $\chi_i$  of G and the symbol  $|C_G(g)|$  denotes the order of the centralizer of g. The orthogonality relations can aid many computations including: decomposing an unknown character as a linear combination of irreducible characters; constructing the complete character table when only some of the irreducible characters are known; finding the orders of the centralizers of representatives of the conjugacy classes of a group G; Finding the order of the group. *Theorem 1: Berkovich's Theorem [ 3]*

Let N  $\triangleleft$  G and suppose that every member of  $cd(G/N)$  is divisible by some fixed prime number P. Then N is solvable and has a normal P – complement.

Verification of Berkovich's Theorem  
Let S<sub>4</sub> (a symmetric group on 4 objects) be a finite group of order 24. i.e. |S<sub>4</sub>| = 24. The elements of S<sub>4</sub> include:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 2413 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 2431 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3124 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3214 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3241 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3412 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \\
 & \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 3421 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4123 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4132 \end{smallmatrix} \right) \\
 & \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 124 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 132 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1342 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 13 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 134 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 13 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 24 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1324 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1432 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right) \\
 & \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4213 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4231 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4312 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1234 \\ 4321 \end{smallmatrix} \right) \\
 & \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 143 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 14 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1423 \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 14(23) \\ 142 \end{smallmatrix} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

The set of all even permutations form a group  $A_4$  of order 12 which include.

$$A_4^1 = \{ \mathbf{(1)}, \mathbf{(12)(34)}, \mathbf{(13)(24)}, \mathbf{(14)(23)}, \mathbf{(123)}, \mathbf{(124)}, \mathbf{(132)}, \mathbf{(134)}, \mathbf{(142)}, \mathbf{(143)}, \mathbf{(234)}, \mathbf{(243)} \}$$

Which form a normal subgroup of  $S_4$ . The commutator subgroup of  $A_4$  was obtained by using the formular

$$A_4^1 = \{ [X, y] : X^{-1}y^{-1}Xy \in A_4 \}$$

$A_4^1 = \{ (1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23) \}$  which is called four group or (klein 4-group).

To get the character table of  $S_4$ ; we let (1), (12), (12)(34), (1234), (123) be representatives of its conjugacy classes. This implies that  $S_4$  have 5 irreducible characters denoted by  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4, \chi_5$

**Table 1: Character table of  $S_4$**

Representative	(1)	(12)	(12)(34)	(1234)	(123)
Class Size	1	6	3	6	8
$ CG(g) $	24	4	8	4	3
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1	-1	1
$\chi_3$	2	0	2	0	-1
$\chi_4$	3	1	-1	-1	0
$\chi_5$	3	-1	-1	1	0

By definition

$$\text{Irr}(S_4/A_4) = \{ \chi \in \text{Irr}(S_4)/A_4 \notin \ker(\chi) \}$$

$$\text{Irr}(S_4/A_4) = \{ \chi_4, \chi_5 \}$$

$$\text{And } \text{cd}(S_4/A_4) = \{ \chi(1) / \chi \in \text{Irr}(S_4/A_4) \}$$

$$\text{Pcd}(S_4/A_4) = \{ \chi_4(1), \chi_5(1) \}$$

$$\text{Pcd}(S_4/A_4) = \{ 3, 3 \}$$

Suppose every member of  $\text{cd}(S_4/A_4)$  is divisible by a fixed prime 3; then  $A_4$  is solvable

which is true and  $A_4$  has a normal P-Complement which means  $A_4$  has a normal subgroup of index P.

i.e  $A_4$  is a normal subgroup of  $A_4$  and  $[A_4 :$

$$A_4] = \frac{|A_4|}{|A_4|} = \frac{12}{4} = 3, \text{ the fixed prime}$$

*Theorem 2: Isaacs and Greg Theorem [10]*

Let  $N \triangleleft G$  and suppose that  $|\text{cd}(G/N)|$

$\leq 1$ , then  $\text{dl}(N) \leq |\text{cd}(G/N)|$  and in particular,  $N$  is abelian.

Verification:

Let  $C_4 \times C_2$  be finite group of order 8 where

$$C_4 = \{ 1, a, a^2, a^3 \}, a^4 = 1$$

$$\text{and } C_2 = \{ 1, b \}, b^2 = 1$$

$$C_4 \times C_2 = \{ (1, 1), (1, b), (a, 1), (a, b), (a^2, 1), (a^2, b), (a^3, 1), (a^3, b) \}$$

Order of each element in  $C_4 \times C_2$  include:

$(1, 1)$	-	1
$(1, b)$	-	2
$(a, 1)$	-	4
$(a, b)$	-	4
$(a^2, 1)$	-	2
$(a^2, b)$	-	2
$(a^3, 1)$	-	4
$(a^3, b)$	-	4

Subgroup of  $C_4 \times C_2$  of order one

$$H_1 = \{ (1, 1) \}$$

Subgroup of  $C_4 \times C_2$  of order two

$$H_2 = \{ (1, 1), (1, b) \}$$

$$H_3 = \{ (1, 1), (a^2, 1) \}$$

$$H_4 = \{ (1, 1), (a^2, b) \}$$

Subgroup of  $C_4 \times C_2$  of order four

$$H_5 = \{ (1, 1), (1, b), (a^2, 1), (a^2, b) \}$$

$$H_6 = \{ (1, 1), (a, 1), (a^2, 1), (a^3, 1) \}$$

$$H_7 = \{ (1, 1), (a^2, 1), (a, b), (a^3, b) \}$$

Subgroup of  $C_4 \times C_2$  of order eight

**Table 2: Character table of  $C_4$**

G	1	a	a <sup>2</sup>	a <sup>3</sup>
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	1	-1	-i
$\chi_3$	1	-1	i	1
$\chi_4$	1	-i	1	-1

**Table 3: Character table of  $C_2$**

g	1	b
$\psi_1$	1	1
$\psi_2$	1	-1

So that character table of  $C_4 \times C_2$  will be

*Table 4: Character table of  $C_4 \times C_2$*

g	(1,1)	(1,b)	(a,1)	(a <sup>2</sup> ,1)	(a <sup>2</sup> ,b)	(a,b)	(a <sup>2</sup> ,b)	(a <sup>3</sup> ,b)
$\chi_1 \cdot \psi_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2 \cdot \psi_2$	1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-i	-i
$\chi_3 \cdot \psi_1$	1	1	-1	-1	i	i	1	1
$\chi_4 \cdot \psi_1$	1	1	i	i	1	1	-1	-1
$\chi_1 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_2 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	1	-1	-1	1	i	i
$\chi_3 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	-1	1	i	i	1	-1
$\chi_4 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	i	i	1	-1	-1	1

$$\text{Irr}(C_4 \times C_2/H_5) = \{ \chi_3 \cdot \psi_2 \}$$

$$\text{Now, } \text{cd}(C_4 \times C_2/H_5) = \{1\}$$

$$\setminus |\text{cd}(C_4 \times C_2/H_5)| = 1$$

The derived length of  $H_5$

$$H_5 = \{(1,1), (1,b), (a^2,1), (a^2,b)\}$$

$$[(1,b), (a^2,1)] = (1,b)^{-1} (a^2,1)^{-1} (1,b) (a^2,1)$$

$$= (1,b) (a^2,1) (1,b) (a^2,1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (1,1) \\
 [(1,b), (a^2,b)] &= (1,b)^{-1} (a^2,b)^{-1} (1,b) (a^2,b) \\
 &= (1,b) (a^2,b) (1,b) (a^2,b) \\
 &= (1,1) \\
 [(a^2,1), (a^2,b)] &= (a^2,b)^{-1} (a^2,1)^{-1} (a^2,b) (a^2,1) \\
 &= (a^2,1) (a^2,b) (a^2,1) (a^2,b) \\
 &= (1,1)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \setminus H_5^1 &= (1,1), H_5 \cong H_5^1 = (1,1) \\
 \setminus \text{the derived length of } H_5 &= 1 \\
 \setminus dl(H_5) &\leq |cd(C_4 \times C_2/H_5)|
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,  $H_5$  is abelian

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1,b) \times (a^2,1) &= (a^2,b) \\
 (a^2,1) \times (a,b) &= (a^2,b) \\
 \text{Also } (a^2,a) \times (a^2 \times b) &= (1,b) \\
 (a^2,b) \times (a^2 \times 1) &= (1,b)
 \end{aligned}$$

*Theorem 3: Isaacs and Greg Theorem [10]*

Let  $N \triangleleft G$  and suppose that  $|cd(G/N)| = 2$ . If  $N$  is solvable, then  $dl(N) = 2$ .

Verification:

Let  $S_3 \times C_2$  be a finite group of order 12; where

$$S_3 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 123 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 132 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 213 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 231 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 312 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 321 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$C_2 = \{1, a\}, a^2 = 1$$

$$S_3 \times C_2 = \{ ((1), 1), ((23), 1), ((12), 1), ((123), 1), ((132), 1), ((13), 1), ((1), a), ((23), a), ((12), a), ((123), a), ((132), a), ((13), a) \}$$

Order of each element in  $S_3 \times C_2$

$((1), 1)$	-	1
$((23), 1)$	-	2
$((12), 1)$	-	2
$((123), 1)$	-	3
$((132), 1)$	-	3
$((13), 1)$	-	2
$((1), a)$	-	2
$((23), a)$	-	2
$((12), a)$	-	2
$((123), a)$	-	6
$((132), a)$	-	6
$((13), a)$	-	2

1 element subgroup

$$H_1 = \{(1), 1\}$$

2 elements subgroup

$$H_2 = \{(1), 1, ((2,3), 1)\}$$

$$H_3 = \{(1), 1, ((12), 1)\}$$

$$H_4 = \{(1), 1, ((1,3), 1)\}$$

$$H_5 = \{(1), 1, ((1), a)\}$$

$$H_6 = \{(1), 1, ((23), a)\}$$

$$H_7 = \{(1), 1, ((12), a)\}$$

$$H_8 = \{(1), 1, ((13), a)\}$$

3 elements subgroup

$$H_9 = \{(1), 1, ((123), 1), ((132), 1)\}$$

4 elements subgroup

$$H_{10} = \{(1), 1, ((23), 1), ((1), a), ((123), 1)\}$$

$$H_{11} = \{(1), 1, ((12), 1), ((1), a), ((12), a)\}$$

$$H_{12} = \{(1), 1, ((13), 1), ((1), a), ((13), a)\}$$

6 elements subgroup

$$H_{13} = \{(1), 1, ((123), 1), ((132), 1), ((123), a), ((132), a), ((1), a)\}$$

$$H_{14} = \{(1), 1, ((23), 1), ((12), 1), ((132), 1), ((13), 1), ((123), 1)\}$$

$$H_{15} = \{(1), 1, ((23), a), ((12), a), ((132), 1), ((13), a), ((13), a)\}$$

12 element subgroup

$$H_{16} = \{(1), 1, ((23), 1), ((12), 1), ((123), 1), ((132), 1), ((13), 1)\}$$

$$\{(1), a, ((23), a), ((12), 1), ((123), a), ((132), a), ((13), a)\}$$

Testing for normal subgroup, we get

$$H_9 = \{(1), 1, ((123), 1), ((132), 1)\}$$
 to be a normal subgroup of  $S_3$

The character table of  $S_3$  is given below:

$S_3$  has 3 conjugacy classes (1), (12) and (132) with 3 irreducible characters

**Table 5: Character table of  $S_3$**

Representative	(1)	(12)	(132)
Class Size	1	3	2
$ CG(g) $	6	2	3
$\chi_1$	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1
$\chi_3$	2	0	-1

**Table 6: Character table of  $C_2$**

G	1	a
Class Size	1	1
$ CG(g) $	2	2
$\psi_1$	1	1
$\psi_2$	1	-1



So that we have the following for the character table of  $S_3 \times C_2$ .

**Table 7: Character table of  $S_3 \times C_2$**

Representatives	$((1),1)$	$((1),a)$	$((12),1)$	$((12),a)$	$((132),1)$	$(132 a)$
$\chi_1 \cdot \psi_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2 \cdot \psi_2$	1	1	-1	-1	1	1
$\chi_3 \cdot \psi_1$	2	2	0	0	-1	-1
$\chi_1 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
$\chi_2 \cdot \psi_2$	1	-1	-1	1	1	-1
$\chi_3 \cdot \psi_2$	2	-2	0	0	-1	1

So  $\text{Irr}(S_3 \times C_2 / H_9) = \{ \chi_3 \cdot \psi_1, \chi_3 \cdot \psi_2 \}$

and  $|\text{cd}(S_3 \times C_2 / H_9)| = \{2,2\}$

$\setminus |\text{cd}(S_3 \times C_2 / H_9)| = 2$

To test for the solvability of  $H_9$

$H_9 = \{((1),1), ((123), 1), ((132), 1)\}$

Picking two elements  $((123), 1)$  and  $((132), 1)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_9 &= [ \left( \begin{matrix} 123 \\ 231 \end{matrix} \right), 1 ] \left( \begin{matrix} 123 \\ 312 \end{matrix} \right), 1 ] \\
 &= \left( \begin{matrix} 231 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 312 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 123 \\ 231 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 123 \\ 312 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \\
 &= \left( \begin{matrix} 231 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 312 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 231 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \\
 &= \left( \begin{matrix} 231 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \left( \begin{matrix} 123 \\ 231 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \\
 &= \left( \begin{matrix} 231 \\ 123 \end{matrix} \right), 1 \\
 &= ((1), 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Since the commutator of  $H_9$  terminate at  $((1), 1)$ : it implies that  $H_9$  is solvable.

$\setminus H_9 \Rightarrow H_9^1 = \{1\}$

So that the derived length is 1

( the derived length which is less than 2 satisfy the condition of the theorem.