Solution Set for Exercise Session No.3

Course: Mathematical Aspects of Symmetries in Physics, ICFP Master Program (for M1) 4th December, 2014, at Room 235A

Lecture by Amir-Kian Kashani-Poor (email: kashani@lpt.ens.fr) Exercise Session by Tatsuo Azeyanagi (email: tatsuo.azeyanagi@phys.ens.fr)

1 More on Representations

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1. We first recall the multiplication table for D_3 given in Table 1.

	e	c_3	c_3^{-1}	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3
e	e	c_3	c_3^{-1}	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3
c_3	c_3	c_3^{-1}	e	σ_3	σ_1	σ_2
c_3^{-1}	c_3^{-1}	e	c_3	σ_2	σ_3	σ_1
σ_1	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3	e	c_3	c_3^{-1}
σ_2	σ_2	σ_3	σ_1	c_3^{-1}	e	c_3
σ_3	σ_3	σ_1	σ_2	c_3	c_3^{-1}	e

Table 1: Multiplication table for D_3

As carried out in the lecture, let us identify $e, c_3, c_3^{-1}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$ with $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)^T$, $\mathbf{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)^T, \cdots, \mathbf{e}_6 = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)^T$. Then under the action of the regular representation $\rho^{(reg)}(g)$ with $g \in G$, \mathbf{v} defined by

$$\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_6$$
$$= \alpha_1 e + \alpha_2 c_3 + \alpha_3 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_4 \sigma_1 + \alpha_5 \sigma_2 + \alpha_6 \sigma_3$$

transforms as (as we have seen in the lecture, the action of $\rho^{(reg)}(g)$ with $g \in G$ is to multiply g from the left)

$$\begin{split} \rho^{(reg)}(e)\mathbf{v} &= e\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 e + \alpha_2 c_3 + \alpha_3 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_4 \sigma_1 + \alpha_5 \sigma_2 + \alpha_6 \sigma_3 \\ &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_6 \,, \\ \rho^{(reg)}(c_3)\mathbf{v} &= c_3 \mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 c_3 + \alpha_2 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_3 e + \alpha_4 \sigma_3 + \alpha_5 \sigma_1 + \alpha_6 \sigma_2 \\ &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_6 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_5 \,, \\ \rho^{(reg)}(c_3^{-1})\mathbf{v} &= c_3^{-1}\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_2 e + \alpha_3 c_3 + \alpha_4 \sigma_2 + \alpha_5 \sigma_3 + \alpha_6 \sigma_1 \\ &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_6 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_4 \,, \\ \rho^{(reg)}(\sigma_1)\mathbf{v} &= \sigma_1 \mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \sigma_1 + \alpha_2 \sigma_2 + \alpha_3 \sigma_3 + \alpha_4 e + \alpha_5 c_3 + \alpha_6 c_3^{-1} \\ &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_6 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_3 \,, \\ \rho^{(reg)}(\sigma_2)\mathbf{v} &= \sigma_2 \mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \sigma_2 + \alpha_2 \sigma_3 + \alpha_3 \sigma_1 + \alpha_4 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_5 e + \alpha_6 c_3 \,. \end{split}$$

$$= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_6 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_2,$$

$$\rho^{(reg)}(\sigma_3) \mathbf{v} = \sigma_3 \mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \sigma_3 + \alpha_2 \sigma_1 + \alpha_3 \sigma_2 + \alpha_4 c_3 + \alpha_5 c_3^{-1} + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_4$$

$$= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}_6 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}_4 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{e}_5 + \alpha_4 \mathbf{e}_2 + \alpha_5 \mathbf{e}_3 + \alpha_6 \mathbf{e}_1.$$

Thus we obtain the matrix representation $M^{(reg)}(g)$ of $\rho^{(reg)}(g)$ defined as

$$\rho^{(reg)}(g): \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \\ \alpha_5 \\ \alpha_6 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha'_1 \\ \alpha'_2 \\ \alpha'_3 \\ \alpha'_4 \\ \alpha'_5 \\ \alpha'_6 \end{pmatrix} = M^{(reg)}(g) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \\ \alpha_5 \\ \alpha_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

(or, equivalently, $(\mathbf{e}'_1, \cdots, \mathbf{e}'_6) = (\mathbf{e}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{e}_6) M^{(reg)}(g)$) as follows:

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Since ${\bf v}$ can be written as

$$\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{e}_6) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \\ \alpha_5 \\ \alpha_6 \end{pmatrix},$$

which transforms under the action of $\rho^{(reg)}(g)$ to

$$\rho^{(reg)}(g)\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{e}_6)M^{(reg)}(g) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \\ \alpha_5 \\ \alpha_6 \end{pmatrix},$$

one can regard this transformation as the transformation of α_i 's, $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6)^T \to M^{(reg)}(g)(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6)^T$. —— On definition of regular representation — We first start with the left action of G on a element $g \in G$, $\hat{h}(g) = hg$ $(h \in G)$. Then from this, we have

$$\hat{h}\sum_{g\in G}\alpha(g)g = \sum_{g\in G}\alpha(g)hg = \sum_{g\in G}\alpha(h^{-1}g)g$$

Then we also have

$$\begin{split} \hat{h}_1 \hat{h}_2 \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) g &= \hat{h}_1 \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) h_2 g = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) h_1 h_2 g = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) (h_1 h_2) g = \widehat{(h_1 h_2)} \sum_{g \in G} \alpha(g) g \,, \\ &= \sum_{g \in G} \alpha((h_1 h_2)^{-1} g) g \,. \end{split}$$

Thus, the action of $h \in G$ onto the function $\alpha(g)$ is given by $\hat{h}\alpha(g) = \alpha(h^{-1}g)$. In the above (as well as the lecture), we have used this definition of the regular representation.

2. Let us in general consider a finite group G and its representations $\rho^{(\alpha)}$ and $\rho^{(\beta)}$. We assume that these representations are n_{α} -dimensional and n_{β} -dimensional, respectively. We denote the matrix representation of the element $g \in G$ corresponding to these two representations by $M^{(\alpha)}(g)$ and $M^{(\beta)}(g)$, respectively. Then we consider the tensor product representation for the representations $\rho^{(\alpha)}$ and $\rho^{(\beta)}$. The matrix representation of $g \in G$ denoted by $M^{(\alpha \otimes \beta)}(g)$ is now a $(n_{\alpha}n_{\beta}) \times (n_{\alpha}n_{\beta})$ matrix whose $(n_{\beta}(i-1) + a, n_{\beta}(j-1) + b)$ component is given by $M^{(\alpha)}_{ij}(g)M^{(\beta)}_{ab}(g)$.

Now we recall that for ρ of the dihedral group D_3 , we have

$$M(e) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad M(c_3) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad M(c_3^{-1}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$M(\sigma_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad M(\sigma_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad M(\sigma_3) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, for the tensor product representation of two $\rho {\rm 's}$ we obtain

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1. For
$$g_1, g_2 \in G$$
, we confirm $\bar{\rho}(g_1)\bar{\rho}(g_2) = \bar{\rho}(g_1g_2)$:

$$\begin{split} \bar{\rho}(g_1)\bar{\rho}(g_2) &= (\rho(g_1^{-1}))^T(\rho(g_2^{-1}))^T \\ &= (\rho(g_2^{-1})\rho(g_1^{-1}))^T \\ &= (\rho(g_2^{-1}g_1^{-1}))^T \\ &= (\rho((g_1g_2)^{-1}))^T \\ &= \bar{\rho}(g_1g_2) \,. \end{split}$$

2. For $g_1, g_2 \in G$, we confirm $\rho^*(g_1)\rho^*(g_2) = \rho^*(g_1g_2)$: $\rho^*(g_1)\rho^*(g_2) = (\rho(g_1))^*(\rho(g_2))^* = (\rho(g_1)\rho(g_2))^* = (\rho(g_1g_2))^* = \rho^*(g_1g_2).$

2 Symmetry in Quantum Mechanics

1. Since

$$H|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle, \qquad H|\phi\rangle = E'|\phi\rangle,$$

we have

$$\langle \psi | H | \phi \rangle = E \langle \psi | \phi \rangle = E' \langle \psi | \phi \rangle.$$

Then we obtain

$$(E - E')\langle \psi | \phi \rangle = 0,$$

which means $\langle \psi | \phi \rangle = 0$ for $E \neq E'$.

2. The existence of id is OK from the assumption (note that obviously idH = Hid). For A, B in this set, we have

$$ABH = AHB = HAB$$
.

Since A in this set is invertible, there exists A^{-1} such that $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = E$. By multiplying A^{-1} both from the left and right of AH = HA, we have

$$(LHS) = A^{-1}AHA^{-1} = HA^{-1}, \qquad (RHS) = A^{-1}HAA^{-1} = A^{-1}H.$$

Thus we have $HA^{-1} = A^{-1}H$. The associativity of the elements in this set is obviously satisfied.

3. Since A commutes with H, we have

$$HA|\psi\rangle = AH|\psi\rangle = EA|\psi\rangle$$

4. We first define a matrix M as (for representations of G labeled by α and β and an element $A \in G$)

$$P = \sum_{A \in G} M^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1})QM^{(\beta)}(A) \,.$$

Here Q is an arbitrary $n_{\alpha} \times n_{\beta}$ matrix which we will take to a specific matrix later. Then we have (for $B \in G$)

$$\begin{split} M^{(\alpha)}(B)P &= \sum_{A \in G} M^{(\alpha)}(B) M^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1}) Q M^{(\beta)}(A) \\ &= \sum_{A \in G} M^{(\alpha)}(BA^{-1}) Q M^{(\beta)}(A) \\ &= \sum_{A' \in G} M^{(\alpha)}(A'^{-1}) Q M^{(\beta)}(A'B) \\ &= \sum_{A' \in G} M^{(\alpha)}(A'^{-1}) Q M^{(\beta)}(A') M^{(\beta)}(B) \\ &= P M^{(\beta)}(B) \,. \end{split}$$

In the middle, we have defined $A'^{-1} = BA^{-1}$ and replaced $\sum_{A \in G}$ by $\sum_{A' \in G}$ since $\{A' = AB^{-1} | A \in G\} = G$.

Thus from the Schur's lemma, if $\alpha \neq \beta$ we have P = 0. By taking N to be $Q_{ab} = 1$ and otherwise 0 (that is, (a, b)-component is 1 while the others are all zero), we can write P = 0 as

$$0 = \sum_{A \in G} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1}) M_{bd}^{(\beta)}(A) = \sum_{A \in G} M_{ac}^{(\alpha)}(A)^* M_{bd}^{(\beta)}(A) \,.$$

Here we have used the fact that $M^{(\alpha)}$ is unitary:

$$M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1}) = (M^{(\alpha)}(A)^{-1})_{ca} = (M^{(\alpha)}(A)^{\dagger})_{ca} = (M^{(\alpha)}(A)^{*})_{ac} = M_{ac}^{(\alpha)}(A)^{*}.$$

For $\alpha = \beta$, from the Schur's lemma, we have $P = C \mathbf{1}_{n_{\alpha}}$ where C is a constant and $\mathbf{1}_{n_{\alpha}}$ is $n_{\alpha} \times n_{\alpha}$ unit matrix. Then, by taking Q as above, we obtain

$$C\delta_{cd} = \sum_{A \in G} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1})M_{bd}^{(\alpha)}(A) \,.$$

By taking the trace with respect to (c, d), we obtain

$$Cn_{\alpha} = \sum_{A \in G} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1})M_{bc}^{(\alpha)}(A)$$
$$= \sum_{A \in G} M_{ba}^{(\alpha)}(AA^{-1})$$
$$= \sum_{A \in G} M_{ba}^{(\alpha)}(id)$$
$$= |G|\delta_{ab}.$$

Here we have used the fact that $M_{ba}^{(\alpha)}(id) = \delta_{ab}$. From this, we have $C = |G|\delta_{ab}/n_{\alpha}$. Therefore we have obtained

$$\frac{|G|}{n_{\alpha}}\delta_{ab}\delta_{cd} = \sum_{A \in G} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1})M_{bc}^{(\alpha)}(A) = \sum_{A \in G} (M_{ac}^{(\alpha)}(A))^*M_{bd}^{(\alpha)}(A)$$

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Schur's lemma

Let us consider two complex irreducible representations $\rho^{(\alpha)}: G \to GL(n_\alpha, \mathbb{C})$ and $\rho^{(\beta)}: G \to GL(n_\beta, \mathbb{C})$ of a finite group G. We denote their matrix representation by $M^{(\alpha)}$ and $M^{(\beta)}$, respectively. We denote a matrix expression of an equivariant from \mathbb{C}^{n_α} to \mathbb{C}^{n_β} by N which satisfies $NM^{(\alpha)}(g) = M^{(\beta)}(g)N$ for $g \in G$. Then

- (a) if N is not isorporphic, then N = 0.
- (b) if $n_{\alpha} = n_{\beta}$, then $N = \lambda \mathbf{1}_{n_{\alpha}}$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

Thus for $\alpha \neq \beta$, we have N = 0, while for $\alpha = \beta$ we have $N = \lambda \mathbf{1}_{n_{\alpha}}$.

5. (i) Proof by using the orthogonality relation of the representation

$$\begin{split} \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | A^{-1} A O | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | A^{-1} O A | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_c \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | A^{-1} | \psi_c^{(\gamma)} \rangle \langle \psi_c^{(\gamma)} | O A | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{c,d,e} \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | \psi_d^{(\gamma)} \rangle M_{dc}^{(\gamma)} (A^{-1}) \langle \psi_c^{(\gamma)} | O | \psi_e^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{eb}^{(\beta)} (A) \end{split}$$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{c,d,e} \delta_{ad} \delta_{\alpha\gamma} M_{dc}^{(\gamma)}(A^{-1}) \langle \psi_{c}^{(\gamma)}|O|\psi_{e}^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{eb}^{(\beta)}(A)$$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{c,e} M_{ac}^{(\alpha)}(A^{-1}) \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)}|O|\psi_{e}^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{eb}^{(\beta)}(A)$$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{c,e} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A)^{*} \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)}|O|\psi_{e}^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{eb}^{(\beta)}(A)$$

$$= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{A \in G} \sum_{c,e}^{n_{\alpha}} \sum_{c,e}^{n_{\beta}} M_{ca}^{(\alpha)}(A)^{*} M_{db}^{(\beta)}(A) \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)}|O|\psi_{d}^{(\beta)} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_{\alpha}} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \sum_{c=1}^{n_{\alpha}} \sum_{d=1}^{n_{\beta}} \delta_{ab} \delta_{cd} \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)}|O|\psi_{d}^{(\beta)} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_{\alpha}} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{ab} \sum_{c=1}^{n_{\alpha}} \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)}|O|\psi_{c}^{(\alpha)} \rangle.$$

This is what we want to prove with $C^{(\alpha)} = (1/n_{\alpha}) \sum_{c} \langle \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_{c}^{(\alpha)} \rangle$. Here we have used the orthogonality relation of the irreducible representationa

$$\sum_{A \in G} (M_{ac}^{(\alpha)}(A))^* M_{bd}^{(\beta)}(A) = \frac{|G|}{n_{\alpha}} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{ab} \delta_{cd} \,.$$

(ii) Proof by directly using the Schur's lemma We notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | A | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle &= \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | \sum_{c=1}^{n_\beta} | \psi_c^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{cb}^{(\beta)}(A) \\ &= \sum_{c=1}^{n_\beta} \delta_{ac} \delta_{\alpha\beta} M_{cb}^{(\beta)}(A) \\ &= \delta_{\alpha\beta} M_{ab}^{(\beta)}(A) \,. \end{aligned}$$

Since [O, A] = 0 for $A \in G$, we have by inserting the identity operator $id = \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{a} |\psi_{a}^{(\alpha)}\rangle \langle \psi_{a}^{(\alpha)}|$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | [O, A] | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | OA | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle - \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | AO | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | OA | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle - \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | AO | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\gamma} \sum_c \left(\langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_c^{(\gamma)} \rangle \langle \psi_c^{(\gamma)} | A | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle - \langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | A | \psi_c^{(\gamma)} \rangle \langle \psi_c^{(\gamma)} | O | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \right) \\ &= \sum_c \left(\langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_c^{(\beta)} \rangle M_{cb}^{(\beta)} (A) - M_{ac}^{(\alpha)} (A) \langle \psi_c^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle \right) \end{aligned}$$

Because of the Schur's lemma, we first notice that $\langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_c^{(\beta)} \rangle$ is zero unless $\alpha = \beta$. Moreover, from this lemma, for $\alpha = \beta$ we also have $\langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_c^{(\alpha)} \rangle$ is proportional to δ_{ac} . Thus we finally have

$$\langle \psi_a^{(\alpha)} | O | \psi_b^{(\beta)} \rangle = C^{(\alpha)} \delta_{ab} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \,,$$

where $C^{(\alpha)}$ is a constant independent of a. One can determine $C^{(\alpha)}$ by setting $\alpha = \beta$ and taking the trace with respect to (a, b). Then we reproduce $C^{(\alpha)}$ obtained by using the method (i).