

DADE'S CONJECTURE FOR FINITE SPECIAL LINEAR GROUPS

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1. DADE'S CONJECTURE

Let p be a prime number, and let G a finite group. A p -chain C of G is any strictly increasing chain

$$(1-1) \quad C : U_0 < U_1 < \cdots < U_m$$

of p -subgroups U_i of G . We denote the length m of C by $|C|$. If K is any group acting (exponentially) as automorphisms of G , then any $g \in K$ sends the p -chain C to the p -chain

$$(1-2) \quad C^g : U_0^g < U_1^g < \cdots < U_m^g$$

of G . The normalizer $N_K(C)$ of C in K is the subgroup of all $g \in K$ such that $C = C^g$, i.e.,

$$N_K(C) = \bigcap_{i=0}^m N_K(U_i).$$

We say that the p -chain C in (1-1) is radical (with respect with G) if U_0 is the largest normal p -subgroup $O_p(G)$ of G and

$$U_i = O_p\left(\bigcap_{j=0}^i N_G(U_j)\right) \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

We denote by $\mathfrak{R}(G)$ the set of all radical p -chains of G . The set $\mathfrak{R}(G)$ is closed under the conjugation action (1-2) of G on its p -chains. We denote by $\mathfrak{R}(G)/G$ any complete representatives for the G -conjugacy classes in $\mathfrak{R}(G)$.

For a p -block B of G and a non negative integer d , we denote by $\text{Irr}(H, B, d)$ the set of complex irreducible characters ψ of H such that

- (i) the p -part of $|H|/\psi(1)$ is p^d , and
- (ii) ψ lies in a p -block b of H such that $b^G = B$.

In [D1], E. C. Dade gives the following conjecture.

Conjecture 1 (Dade's ordinary conjecture). *If $O_p(G) = 1$ and the defect of B is positive, then*

$$\sum_{C \in \mathfrak{R}(G)/G} (-1)^{|C|} |\text{Irr}(N_G(C), B, d)| = 0.$$

We mention a stronger conjecture.

Let E be a finite group such that $G \triangleleft E$. By the conjugation action of E on G , we define an action (1-2) of E on the p -chains C of G . So any such C has a normalizer $N_E(C)$ in E , and we have $N_G(C) \triangleleft N_E(C)$. Thus $N_E(C)$ acts by conjugation on $\text{Irr}(N_G(C))$. For $\phi \in \text{Irr}(N_G(C))$, we write

$$T_{N_E(C)}(\phi) = \{g \in N_E(C) \mid \phi^g = \phi\}.$$

For $\bar{F} \triangleleft E/G$, we denote by $\text{Irr}(N_G(C), B, d, \bar{F})$ the set of $\phi \in \text{Irr}(N_G(C), B, d)$ such that

$$(iii) \quad G \cdot T_{N_E(C)}(\phi)/G = \bar{F}.$$

The following conjecture is given in [D2].

Conjecture 2 (Dade's invariant conjecture). *If $O_p(G) = 1$ and the defect of B is positive, then*

$$\sum_{C \in \mathfrak{R}(G)/G} (-1)^{|C|} |\text{Irr}(N_G(C), B, d, \bar{F})| = 0.$$

Here, we treat a verification of Dade's invariant conjecture for $G = SL(n, q)$ and $E = GL(n, q)$ with $p|q$. This implies Dade's invariant conjecture for $G = PSL(n, q)$ and $E = PGL(n, q)$.

2. ON RADICAL p -CHAINS OF A CHEVALLEY GROUP

In this section, let G be a Chevalley group and let the defining field of G characteristic p . Then $\mathfrak{R}(G)$ is the set of p -chains consisting of unipotent radicals of parabolic subgroups of G [BT] [BW]. Now we fix a Borel subgroup U . Then we may take $\mathfrak{R}(G)/G$ to be the set of p -chains consisting of unipotent radicals of parabolic subgroups of G containing U . Thus, for any $C \in \mathfrak{R}(G)/G$, $N_G(C)$ is some parabolic subgroup of G containing U .

It is well known that the set of all parabolic subgroups of G containing U is parametrized by the set of subsets of a fundamental root system I of G . Thus we denote by P_J the parabolic subgroup corresponding to $J \subseteq I$.

By the above argument and [W] [KR], Conjecture 2 is equivalent to the following.

Conjecture 3. *If $O_p(G) = 1$ and the defect of B is positive, then*

$$\sum_{J \subseteq I} (-1)^{|I \setminus J|} |\text{Irr}(P_J, B, d, \bar{F})| = 0.$$

3. THE CASE FOR $G = SL(n, q)$ AND $E = GL(n, q)$ ($p|q$)

We consider the case for $G = SL(n, q)$ and $E = GL(n, q)$ with $p|q$.

We take $I = \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ as a fundamental root system and take the subgroup U of lower triangular matrices in $GL(n, q)$ as a Borel subgroup of $GL(n, q)$. Then, if $J \subseteq I$ satisfying $I \setminus J = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$, the parabolic subgroup P_J of $GL(n, q)$ is

$$\{(p_{ij}) \in GL(n, q) \mid \text{If some } k \text{ satisfies } i \leq a_k \text{ and } j > a_k, \text{ then } p_{ij} = 0\}.$$

Moreover $U \cap SL(n, q)$ is a Borel subgroup of $SL(n, q)$ and $P_J \cap SL(n, q)$ is a parabolic subgroup of $SL(n, q)$ containing $U \cap SL(n, q)$.

Here we restate Dade conjecture for $SL(n, q)$ to a statement on $GL(n, q)$. For a positive integer s , we denote by $\text{Irr}(J, B, d, s)$ the set of irreducible characters ψ in $\text{Irr}(P_J \cap SL(n, q), B, d)$ such that the $GL(n, q)$ -conjugacy class containing ψ has s elements. Because $GL(n, q)/SL(n, q)$ is cyclic and its order is relatively prime to p , Conjecture 3 for $G = SL(n, q)$ and $E = GL(n, q)$ is equivalent to the following: For any p -block B of $SL(n, q)$ whose defect is positive, any non negative integer d and any positive integer s ,

$$\sum_{J \subseteq I} (-1)^{|I \setminus J|} |\text{Irr}(J, B, d, s)| = 0.$$

For a positive integer s and a p -block $\bar{B}$ of $GL(n, q)$, we denote by $\widetilde{\text{Irr}}(J, \bar{B}, d, s)$ the set of irreducible characters ϕ in $\text{Irr}(P_J, \bar{B}, d)$ such that the restriction of ϕ to $P_J \cap SL(n, q)$ has s irreducible constituents. Then, we have the following theorem on $GL(n, q)$, slightly stronger than the above statement.

Theorem[S]. *For any p -block $\bar{B}$ of $GL(n, q)$ whose defect is positive, any non negative integer d and positive integer s , the following holds:*

$$\sum_{J \subseteq I} (-1)^{|I \setminus J|} |\widetilde{\text{Irr}}(J, \bar{B}, d, s)| = 0.$$

The proof of this theorem is an extension of the proof of Dade's ordinary conjecture for $GL(n, q)$ [OU].

Thus, we have

Corollary. *If $p|q$, Conjecture 3 for $G = SL(n, q)$ and $E = GL(n, q)$ is true. Moreover conjecture 3 for $G = PSL(n, q)$ and $E = PGL(n, q)$ is true.*

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