

Homework - 6

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Subject :
MATH 6111 - Abstract Algebra - I

1. Let G be a group and V be a representation of G . Prove that we have the following decomposition as representations of G :

$$\text{Sym}^2(V) \oplus \wedge^2(V) \cong V \otimes V$$

Proof :

Since V is a G -representation, we have a map $\rho : G \rightarrow GL(V)$ which implies that we also have a map $(\rho \otimes \rho) G \rightarrow (V \otimes V)$ as $(\rho \otimes \rho)(g)(u \otimes v) = \rho(g)(u) \otimes \rho(g)(v)$ for all $u, v \in V$, associated with the G -representation $(V \otimes V)$. Now let us define the map

$$\varphi: (V \otimes V) \rightarrow (V \otimes V) \text{ as } \varphi(u \otimes v) = (v \otimes u).$$

φ is a G -intertwiner.

First we note that given any $(u \otimes v) \in (V \otimes V)$, we have $\varphi^2(u \otimes v) = \varphi(\varphi(u \otimes v)) = \varphi(v \otimes u) = u \otimes v$ implying that $\varphi^2 = \text{Id}_{V \otimes V}$.

Also, $\varphi \circ (\rho \otimes \rho) \circ \varphi^{-1}(u \otimes v) = \varphi \circ (\rho \otimes \rho) \circ \varphi(u \otimes v) = \varphi \circ (\rho \otimes \rho)(v \otimes u) = \varphi(\rho(v) \otimes \rho(u)) = \rho(u) \otimes \rho(v) = (\rho \otimes \rho)(u \otimes v)$ which implies that $\varphi \circ (\rho \otimes \rho) \circ \varphi^{-1} = (\rho \otimes \rho)$ i.e. $\varphi \circ (\rho \otimes \rho) = (\rho \otimes \rho) \circ \varphi$ i.e. φ is a G -intertwiner.

We also note that since $\varphi^2 = \text{Id}_{V \otimes V}$ and $\varphi \neq \text{Id}_{V \otimes V}$, its eigenvalues are $+1$ and -1 . The respective eigenspaces are:

$$E_1 = \{ u \otimes v \in (V \otimes V) : \varphi(u \otimes v) = u \otimes v \} = \{ u \otimes v \in (V \otimes V) : v \otimes u = u \otimes v \} = \text{Sym}^2(V) \text{ and}$$

$$E_{-1} = \{ u \otimes v \in (V \otimes V) : \varphi(u \otimes v) = -u \otimes v \} = \{ u \otimes v \in (V \otimes V) : v \otimes u = -u \otimes v \} = \wedge^2(V).$$

Since a vector space decomposes as a direct-sum of its eigenspaces, we conclude that $V \otimes V$ decomposes as:

$$(V \otimes V) \cong (E_{-1} \oplus E_1) \cong (\text{Sym}^2(V) \oplus \wedge^2(V)) \text{ as representations because } \varphi \text{ is a } G\text{-intertwiner.}$$

2. Let G be a group and V, W be two representations of G . Recall that we have a natural map $\varphi: V^* \otimes W \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, W)$. We have to show φ is a G -intertwiner.

Proof:

Since V and W are representations of G , we have homomorphisms $\rho_1: G \rightarrow GL(V)$ and $\rho_2: G \rightarrow GL(W)$. To show that φ is an intertwiner we have to show that, for any $g \in G$,

$$g. \varphi(\zeta \otimes w) . g^{-1} = \varphi(g.(\zeta \otimes w)) \text{ for any } \zeta \in V^* \text{ and } w \in W.$$

Now for any $v \in V$, we have $g. \varphi(\zeta \otimes w) . g^{-1}(v) = g. \varphi(\zeta \otimes w)(g^{-1}v) = g.(\zeta(g^{-1}v)w) = \zeta(g^{-1}v)g.w = (g.\zeta(v))g.w = \varphi(g.\zeta \otimes gw)(v) = \varphi(g(\zeta \otimes w))(v)$ which is exactly what is required. Therefore φ is a G -intertwiner.

3. Let V and W be two representations of a group G . We have to show that $\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, W)^G$ i.e. the subspace of intertwiners is actually equal to the linear-maps that are fixed under G (makes sense).

Proof:

Since V and W are representations we have associated maps $\rho_1 : G \rightarrow GL(V)$ and $\rho_2 : G \rightarrow GL(W)$. Then we know that G acts on $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, W)$ as: $g.f = \rho_2(g) \circ f \circ \rho_1(g^{-1})$. Therefore,

$$f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, W)^G \Leftrightarrow \rho_2(g) \circ f \circ \rho_1(g^{-1}) = f \Leftrightarrow \rho_2(g) \circ f = f \circ (\rho_1(g^{-1}))^{-1} = f \circ \rho_1(g) \Leftrightarrow f \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W).$$

Hence we have that $\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V, W)^G$.

4. **We have to show that every finite-dimensional representation of a finite group G has a G -invariant Hermitian inner product.**

Proof :

Since V is a finite dimensional representation, we can obtain an orthonormal basis of V , say $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^m$ via Gram-Schmidt-Orthogonalization-Algorithm, where $\dim(V) = m$.

Then we can define a Hermitian-Inner-Product on V by defining $\langle e_i, e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \forall 1 \leq i, j \leq m$. This inner-product is Hermitian through basic facts of Linear Algebra.

Now we define another Hermitian-Inner-Product $(,)$ on V as: $(u, v) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \langle gu, gv \rangle, \forall u, v \in V$. This can be done because $|G|$ is finite.

Since the inner-product \langle, \rangle was Hermitian $(,)$ will also be Hermitian – linearity extends by linearity of the \langle, \rangle and linearity of g action, non-negativity of \langle, \rangle implies that of $(,)$. Now we have to show that $(,)$ is G -invariant.

Let $h \in G$ and $u, v \in V$ then $(hu, hv) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \langle g(hu), g(hv) \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \langle gh(u), gh(v) \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{h' \in G} \langle h'u, h'v \rangle = (u, v)$. Therefore $(,)$ is G -invariant.

5. **We have to use the problem above to (re)prove the Maschke's Theorem: Let $V_1 \subset V$ be a subrepresentation of a finite dimensional representation. Then $\exists V_2 \subset V$ such that $V \cong V_1 \oplus V_2$.**

Proof :

From the above problem, we know that V has a G -invariant Hermitian inner product $(,)$. Given a sub-representation V_1 of V , we define $V_2 = \{u \in V : (u, v) = 0 \forall v \in V_1\}$.

Then $V_2 \subset V$ as a vector space because we know that orthogonal-complement of a subspace is another subspace, from elementary Linear Algebra.

V_2 is G -stable.

Let $u \in V_2$ then $(u, v) = 0 \forall v \in V_1$. Let $g \in G$ then we see that $(g.u, v) = g^{-1}(g.u, v)$ since $(,)$ is G -invariant. So, $(g.u, v) = g^{-1}(g.u, v) = (g^{-1}g.u, g^{-1}v) = (u, g^{-1}v) = 0$ since $u \in V_2$. Therefore, $\forall u \in V_2, g.u \in V_2$ implying that V_2 is G -stable.

Now to show that $V \cong V_1 \oplus V_2$.

First of all we note that if $v \in (V_1 \cap V_2)$ then $(v, v) = 0$ implying that $v = 0$ and hence $V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}$.

Now since V is a finite-dimensional representation, we can use Gram-Schmidt-Orthogonalization to obtain a basis $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^m$. Out of these basis- vectors some will form basis of V_1 and others of V_2 . Let $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^{m_1}$ be the basis of V_1 and $\{e_i\}_{i=m_1+1}^m$ be that of V_2 . Then given any element of $v \in V$ we have that $v = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i e_i = \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} a_i e_i + \sum_{i=m_1+1}^m a_i e_i$ where the first summand is in V_1 and second in V_2 .

$V_1 \cap V_2 = \{0\}$ in conjunction with the fact that every vector in V can be written as a sum of vectors in V_1 and V_2 implies that $V \cong V_1 \oplus V_2$ as representations because both of them are G -Stable.