

# Group characters

## 1. Definitions and basic properties

Let  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  be a linear representation of a group  $G$  in a finite-dimensional vector space over a field  $K$ . For any element  $g \in G$  let  $A_\varphi(g)$  will be the matrix of the operator  $\varphi(g)$  with respect to some basis  $e = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$  of  $V$ . As is well known, the trace of  $A_\varphi(g)$  does not depend upon a basis, so the function  $\chi = \chi_\varphi: G \rightarrow K, \chi_\varphi(g) := \text{tr}_V \varphi(g) = \text{tr} A_\varphi(g)$  is defined;  $\chi_\varphi$  is called the character of the representation  $\varphi$ .

Let's establish basic properties of characters.

**Proposition 1.** 1)  $\chi_\varphi(1) = \dim V$  - degree (dimension) of the representation  $\varphi$ .

2)  $\forall g, h \in G, \chi_\varphi(h^{-1}gh) = \chi_\varphi(g)$ , so  $\chi_\varphi$  is constant on conjugate classes. (A function on  $G$  which is constant on its conjugate classes is called central, or class function.)

3) If  $g \in G$  has finite order and  $K = \mathbb{C}$  the field of complex numbers, then  $\chi_\varphi(g^{-1}) = \overline{\chi_\varphi(g)}$  (complex conjugate).

4) The character of the direct sum of representations equals the sum of characters of the summands:  $\chi_{\varphi \oplus \psi} = \chi_\varphi + \chi_\psi$  (and similarly for any finite number of summands).

5) Characters of equivalent representations are equal.

*Proofs.* 1)  $\chi_\varphi(1) = \text{tr} E = n = \dim V$ .

2), 5) follow from the property that  $\text{tr}(AB) = \text{tr}(BA)$  (recall that two representations are equivalent iff there is a matrix  $C$  such that  $A_\psi(g) = C^{-1}A_\varphi(g)C$ ).

3) If  $g^m = 1$  and  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\varphi(g)$ , then  $\lambda^m = 1 \Rightarrow \lambda^{-1} = \overline{\lambda}$ . Now

$$\text{tr} A_\varphi(g) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k, \text{tr} A_\varphi(g^{-1}) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^{-1} = \sum_{k=1}^n \overline{\lambda_k}, \text{ q.e.d.}$$

4) In the basis of the direct sum  $V \oplus W$  which is combined of bases of spaces  $V, W$

we have  $A_{\varphi \oplus \psi}(g) = \begin{pmatrix} A_\varphi(g) & 0 \\ 0 & A_\psi(g) \end{pmatrix}$  hence  $\text{tr} A_{\varphi \oplus \psi}(g) = \text{tr} A_\varphi(g) + \text{tr} A_\psi(g)$ , qed.

Note that the set of central functions  $ZF_G$  on  $G$  is the linear space of dimension  $r$ , the number of conjugate classes  $K_1, \dots, K_r$  of  $G$  (its basis consists of functions  $\Gamma_i: \Gamma_i(K_j) = \delta_{i,j}, 1 \leq j \leq r, i = 1, \dots, r$ ), while the set  $F_G$  of all the functions on  $G$  is the linear space of dimension  $n = |G|$  with basis of "delta-functions"  $\delta_g: \delta_g(x) = 1, x = g, 0, x \neq g \in G$ .

The character of any *irreducible representation* cannot be decomposed into sum of characters, by 4, that's why it is named **irreducible character**.

## 2. Schur's Lemma and its consequence for finite groups

Let me remind

**Schur's Lemma.** If  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V), \psi: G \rightarrow GL(W)$  are irreducible representations of a group  $G$  and  $f: V \rightarrow W$  is a homomorphism of representations (i.e.  $f\varphi = \psi f$ ), then  $f=0$  or  $f$  is isomorphism of representations.

**Consequence.** If the field of definition of  $V, W$  is algebraically closed and  $V, W$  are finite-dimensional then  $f=0$  or (when the representations are isomorphic and the spaces and representations are identified)  $f = \lambda E, \lambda \in K$ .

In what follows the ground field will be the field of complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Lemma.** Let  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V), \psi: G \rightarrow GL(W)$  are finite-dimensional irreducible representations of a finite group  $G$  and  $f: V \rightarrow W$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $f: V \rightarrow W$  is some linear mapping. Then the average mapping equals

$$\tilde{f} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \psi(g) f \varphi(g)^{-1} = \begin{cases} \lambda E, & \text{if } V = W, \varphi = \psi, \text{ where } \lambda = \frac{\text{tr}f}{\dim V}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

*Proof.* It's evident that  $\tilde{f}$  is a homomorphism of representations, so, by Schur Lemma,  $\tilde{f}=0$  or (in the first case)  $\tilde{f} = \lambda E, \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \Rightarrow \text{tr}\tilde{f} = \text{tr}f = \lambda \text{tr}E = \lambda \dim V$ . ■

### Matrix version of lemma.

Fix bases in  $V, W: V = \langle v_i | i \in I \rangle, W = \langle w_j | j \in J \rangle$ , and the mappings get matrices:  $\varphi(g) = (\varphi_{i,i'}(g)), \psi(g) = (\psi_{i,i'}(g)), f = (f_{ji}), \tilde{f} = (\tilde{f}_{ji})$ . By definition,

$$\tilde{f}_{ji} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g, i', j'} \psi_{j j'}(g) f_{j' i'} \varphi_{i' i}(g^{-1}). \quad (1)$$

In particular, taking  $f = E_{j_0 i_0}, f_{j_0 i_0} = 1, f_{ji} = 0 ((j, i) \neq (j_0, i_0))$  - the matrix unit - we get

1) If  $\varphi, \psi$  are non-isomorphic, then from (1)

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \psi_{j j_0}(g) \varphi_{i_0 i}(g^{-1}) = 0, \forall i, i_0, j, j_0. \quad (2)$$

2) If  $V = W, \varphi = \psi$  then  $\tilde{f} = \frac{\text{tr}f}{\dim V} E, \text{tr}f = \sum_i f_{ii} = \sum_{j', i'} \delta_{j' i'} f_{j' i'} \Rightarrow \tilde{f}_{ji} = \delta_{ji} \frac{\text{tr}f}{\dim V} = \frac{\delta_{ji}}{\dim V} \sum_{j', i'} \delta_{j' i'} f_{j' i'}$

$$\text{In view of (1) we get } \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g, i', j'} \psi_{j j'}(g) f_{j' i'} \varphi_{i' i}(g^{-1}) = \frac{\delta_{ji}}{\dim V} \sum_{j', i'} \delta_{j' i'} f_{j' i'}.$$

Taking again  $f = E_{j_0 i_0}$ , we finally have

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \psi_{j j_0}(g) \varphi_{i_0 i}(g^{-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{\delta_{ji}}{\dim V} & \text{if } j_0 = i_0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

### 3. Orthogonality relations for characters

Introduce in the space  $F_G$  of all complex-valued functions on a finite group  $G$  the Hermitian form  $(\chi, \eta)_G = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi(g) \overline{\eta(g)} = 0 (\chi, \eta \in F_G)$ ,

that can be taken as a (Hermitian) scalar product in  $F_G$ . Taking into account the fact that characters are constant on conjugate classes, we can write the **scalar product of two characters**  $\chi, \eta$  in form

$$(\chi, \eta)_G = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{j=1}^r |K_j| \chi(g_j) \overline{\eta(g_j)}, g_j \in K_j,$$

where  $K_j, j = 1, \dots, r$  are conjugate classes of  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.** (The first orthogonality relation).

Let  $\varphi, \psi$  are (finite-dimensional) irreducible representations of a finite group  $G$ . Then

$$(\chi_\varphi, \chi_\psi)_G = \delta_{\varphi, \psi} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \varphi \cong \psi, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \quad (I)$$

*Proof.* By definition,  $\chi_\varphi(g) = \sum_i \varphi_{ii}(g), \chi_\psi(g) = \sum_j \psi_{jj}(g)$ . Putting  $i = i_0, j = j_0$  in (2) and (3) and sum on  $i, j$  we receive in the case 1) of Lemma

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \psi_{j j_0}(g) \varphi_{i_0 i}(g^{-1}) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \psi_{j j_0}(g) \overline{\varphi_{i_0 i}(g)} = (\chi_\psi, \chi_\varphi) = 0.$$

In the case 2),  $1 = \frac{\sum_{j,i} \delta_{ji}}{\dim V} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g,i,j} \varphi_{jj}(g) \varphi_{ii}(g^{-1}) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} (\sum_j \varphi_{jj}(g)) (\sum_i \varphi_{ii}(g^{-1})) = (\chi_\varphi, \chi_\psi)_G$ . ■

**Consequence 1.** The number  $s$  of equivalence classes of irreducible complex representations of a finite group  $G$  is less or equal the number of conjugate classes of  $G$ :  $s \leq r$ .

Really, the characters  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_s$  of all nonequivalent irreducible complex representations are pairwise orthogonal, hence, linear independent, in the space  $ZF_G$  of central functions on  $G$ , consequently,  $s \leq \dim ZF_G = r$ . ■

**Consequence 2.** If two representations have equal characters, then they are equivalent.

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V), \psi: G \rightarrow GL(W)$  two representations and  $\chi_\varphi = \chi_\psi$ . Consider the canonical decomposition of  $V$  into direct sum of non-equivalent irreducible representations:  $V = n_1 V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus n_s V_s$  ( $n_i V_i$  means that there are  $n_i$  invariant subspaces isomorphic with  $V_i$  as representations. Denote  $\chi_{\varphi_i} = \chi_i, i = 1, \dots, s$ ,  $\varphi_i$  is the full system of irreducible representations.

It follows, that  $\chi_\varphi = n_1 \chi_1 \oplus \dots \oplus n_s \chi_s$ , and  $(\chi_\varphi, \chi_i) = n_1 (\chi_1, \chi_i) + \dots + n_s (\chi_s, \chi_i) = n_i (\chi_i, \chi_i) = n_i$ . Now, if  $W = m_1 W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus m_s W_s$  is canonical decomposition, then  $m_i = (\chi_\psi, \chi_i) = (\chi_\varphi, \chi_i) = n_i, i = 1, \dots, s$ . It shows that that  $V$  and  $W$  are isomorphic. ■

**Theorem 2.**  $s = r$ .

*Proof.* It is sufficient to prove that the orthogonal system  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_s$  is complete in the space  $ZF_G$  of central functions on  $G$ , that is equivalent to the condition:  $\forall f \in ZF_G$  from  $(\chi_i, f) = 0, i = 1, \dots, s$  it follows that  $f \equiv 0$ .

For arbitrary representation  $(\varphi, G, V)$  construct the linear operator  $\varphi^*(f) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) \varphi(g): V \rightarrow V$ .

Note, that  $(\varphi \oplus \psi)^*(f) = \varphi^*(f) \oplus \psi^*(f)$ .

This is evident in matrix form:

$$(\varphi \oplus \psi)(g) = \begin{vmatrix} \varphi(g) & 0 \\ 0 & \psi(g) \end{vmatrix} \Rightarrow (\varphi \oplus \psi)^*(f) = \begin{vmatrix} \varphi^*(f) & 0 \\ 0 & \psi^*(f) \end{vmatrix}.$$

For any irreducible representation  $\varphi_i$  the operator  $\varphi_i^*(f)$  is the endomorphism of  $\varphi_i$  because  $f$  is central function:  $\varphi(h) \varphi_i^*(f) \varphi(h^{-1}) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) \varphi(hgh^{-1}) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(hgh^{-1}) \varphi(hgh^{-1}) = \varphi_i^*(f)$ .

So by Schur's Lemma  $\varphi_i^*(f) = \lambda_i E$ . Calculating traces, we find  $\lambda_i \chi_i(1) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) \text{tr} \varphi_i(g) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) \chi_i(g) = |G| (\chi_i, f) = 0$ .

But for every representation  $\varphi, \chi_\varphi = n_1 \chi_1 + \dots + n_s \chi_s \Rightarrow \varphi^*(f) = 0$ . Apply this for the regular representation  $\Lambda: G \rightarrow GL(\mathbb{C}G), \Lambda(g)(x) = gx$  for  $x \in G$  and  $\mathbb{C}G$ .

Namely,  $0 = \Lambda^*(f)(1) = (\sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) \Lambda(g))(1) = \sum_{g \in G} \bar{f}(g) g$  ( $1$  is the unit element of  $G$ ).

By definition of  $\mathbb{C}G$ , the elements  $g \in G$  linearly independent  $\Rightarrow f(g) = 0, \forall g \in G$ , q.e.d.

**Consequence.** Any irreducible representation of  $G$  enters in the regular representation with multiplicity equal to its degree.

*Proof.* Recall, that the value of the character  $\chi(g), g \in G$  of any permutation representation of  $G$  considered as a linear representation equals the number of fixed points of  $g$  in this action. In the regular representation  $\Lambda: G \rightarrow S_{|G|}$  (action of  $G$  on itself by left multiplications) non-identity elements have no

fixed points. Therefore  $\chi_\Lambda(g) = \begin{cases} |G|, & g=1, \\ 0, & g \neq 1 \end{cases}$ , and by the proof of consequence 2, the multiplicity

$$n_i = (\chi_i, \chi_\Lambda) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \chi_i(g) \overline{\chi_\Lambda(g)} = \frac{\chi_i(1)|G|}{|G|} = \chi_i(1).$$

$$\text{Burnside's equality. } \sum_{g \in G} \chi_i(1)^2 = |G|.$$

#### 4. Character tables.

Every character  $\chi = n_1\chi_1 \oplus \dots \oplus n_r\chi_r$  of the group  $G$  is determined on the values of irreducible characters. **Character table**  $X$  is  $r \times r$ -matrix the rows of which are labeled with irreducible characters (in some order) and columns with conjugate classes (in some order).

So  $X = (x_{ij})$ ,  $x_{ij} = \chi_i(g_j)$ ,  $g_j \in K_j$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, r$ ). (Usually,  $\chi_1 = 1_G$ ,  $K_1 = \{1\}$ .)

Illustrate this by a simple example.

**Example.** Character table of  $G = S_3$ .

	$K_1$	$K_2$	$K_3$
1	1	1	1
$\varepsilon$	1	-1	1
$\chi$	2	0	1

The group  $G = S_3$  has three conjugate classes:

$K_1 = \{1\}$ ,  $K_2 = \{(1,2), (1,3), (2,3)\}$ ,  $K_3 = \{(1,2,3), (3,2,1)\}$  and hence three

irreducible characters. Two of them are one-dimensional, because  $S_3' = A_3$  has index two, namely, unit  $\chi_1 = 1_G$ ,  $\chi_2 = \varepsilon = \text{sign}$  and sign characters. The third one is two-dimensional, as  $1^2 + 1^2 + d_3^2 = 6$ . We could calculate it from the corresponding representation, as the group of triangle, but let's invoke orthogonality relation. Let  $\chi(1) = a$ ,  $\chi(K_2) = b$ ,  $\chi(K_3) = c$ .

Calculate scalar products:  $(\chi, 1) = \frac{1}{6}(a + 3b + 2c) = 0$ ,  $(\chi, \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{6}(a - 3b + 2c) = 0 \Rightarrow b = 0$ ;

$$6(\chi, \chi) = a^2 + 3|b|^2 + 2|c|^2 = a^2 + 2|c|^2 = 6 \Rightarrow a = 2, c = \pm 1.$$

From  $a + 3b + 2c = 0$ ,  $a = 2 \Rightarrow c = -1$ . So we can finish the table.

Now rewrite the first orthogonality relation  $(\chi_i, \chi_k)_G = \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{|K_j|}{|G|} \chi_i(g_j) \overline{\chi_k(g_j)} = \delta_{ik}$

in the form  $\sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\chi_i(g_j)}{\sqrt{|C_G(g_j)|}} \cdot \frac{\overline{\chi_k(g_j)}}{\sqrt{|C_G(g_j)|}} = \delta_{ik}$ ,  $g_j \in K_j$ , because of  $|K_j| = \frac{|G|}{|C_G(g_j)|}$ .

It means that the matrix  $M = \left( \frac{\chi_i(g_j)}{\sqrt{|C_G(g_j)|}} \right)$  is unitary on rows, namely  $M \cdot \bar{M}^T = E$ .

Then it is unitary on columns:  $M^T \cdot \bar{M} = E \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\chi_i(g_j)}{\sqrt{|C_G(g_j)|}} \cdot \frac{\overline{\chi_i(g_k)}}{\sqrt{|C_G(g_j)|}} = \delta_{jk}$ .

We derived

**Theorem 3.** (the *second orthogonality relation*):

$$\sum_{i=1}^r \chi_i(g) \overline{\chi_i(h)} = \begin{cases} |C_G(g)|, & \text{if } g, h \text{ are conjugate,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\text{II}).$$

**5. Theorem on the dimension of an irreducible representation.**

**Theorem 4.** The degree of any irreducible complex representation  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  of a finite group  $G$  divides the order  $|G|$  of  $G$ .

The proof uses characters and is based on the theory of algebraic numbers.

Let  $\chi$  be the character of  $\varphi$ .

Note that the values of all complex characters of the group  $G$  are contained in the cyclotomic field

$$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{1}) \text{ because } \chi(g) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k, \text{ but } \lambda_k \text{ are the roots } \sqrt[n]{1} \text{ and } |g| \mid |G|, \text{ therefore } \chi(g) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{1}).$$

A complex number  $z$  is called algebraic if it is a root of a polynomial

$$p(x) = a_0x^n + \dots + a_n \quad (n \geq 1) \text{ with (rational) integer coefficients. It is **algebraic integer** if } a_0 = 1.$$

We need some lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** The set of all algebraic integer numbers is the ring (denoted  $O$ ).

*Proof.* First prove that if  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m \in \mathbb{C}, \omega_j \neq 0, j = 1, \dots, m$  and  $M = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}\omega_m$  is a ring, then all numbers of  $M$  are algebraic integers. For any  $\alpha \in M, \alpha \neq 0$ , the products  $\alpha\omega_i$  are integer linear combinations of  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m$ :

$$\alpha\omega_j = \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}\omega_i, \quad j = 1, \dots, m, \quad a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (1)$$

This is a homogeneous linear system:

$$(\alpha E - A) \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \omega_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad A = (a_{ij}) \text{ and } \omega_1, \dots, \omega_m \text{ is its nonzero solution. It follows that}$$

$\det(\alpha E - A) = 0$ , but  $\det(\alpha E - A)$  is the polynomial with integer coefficients and leading coefficient equal 1. So  $\alpha$  is algebraic integer.

For any  $\alpha, \beta \in O, \alpha^n + a_1\alpha^{n-1} + \dots + a_n = 0, \beta^k + b_1\beta^{k-1} + \dots + b_k = 0, a_i, b_j \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (2)$ ,

the set  $M = \{ \sum_{i,j \geq 0} c_{ij} \alpha^i \beta^j : c_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq i < n, 0 \leq j < k \}$

is the ring, because relations (2) enable to express  $\alpha^p \beta^q, p \geq n \text{ or } q \geq k$  through  $\alpha^i \beta^j \quad (0 \leq i < n, 0 \leq j < k)$ . Especially,  $\alpha \pm \beta, \alpha\beta \in M$ , hence, they are algebraic integers. Q.e.d.

**Lemma 2.** If the number  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$  is algebraic integer, then  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha = \frac{p}{q}, p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in \mathbb{N}, (p, q) = 1, \alpha^n + a_1\alpha^{n-1} + \dots + a_n = 0, a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$p^n + a_1p^{n-1}q + \dots + a_nq^n = 0 \Rightarrow -p^n = a_1p^{n-1}q + \dots + a_nq^n : q \Rightarrow q = 1, \text{ q.e.d.}$$

Return to characters.

**Lemma 3.** Let  $\chi$  be the character of the representation of  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ , then  $\forall g \in G: \chi(g)$  is algebraic integer and  $|\chi(g)| \leq \chi(1)$ .

*Proof.* We have  $\chi(g) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k$ , where  $\lambda_k$  are the roots the polynomial  $x^{|g|} - 1$ , hence are algebraic integers, therefore  $\chi(g) = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k$ , is algebraic integer by Lemma 1. Moreover,

$$|\chi(g)| = \left| \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k \right| \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |\lambda_k| = n = \chi(1).$$

Now let's introduce the **group algebra**  $\mathbb{C}G$  of the group  $G$  over the field  $\mathbb{C}$  of complex numbers:

$\mathbb{C}G = \{ \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g \mid \alpha_g \in \mathbb{C} \}$  is the linear space of formal linear combinations of elements of  $G$  which are

considered as a basis, and with multiplication

$$\left(\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{h \in G} \beta_h h\right) = \sum_{g, h \in G} \alpha_g \beta_h gh = (gh = x) = \sum_{x \in G} \gamma_x x, \quad \gamma_x = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g \beta_{g^{-1}x}.$$

We may consider that  $G \subset \mathbb{C}G$ . Let  $K_1, \dots, K_r$  are all conjugate classes of  $G$ . Construct the following elements of  $\mathbb{C}G$ :  $\bar{K}_i = \sum_{g \in K_i} g, i = 1, \dots, r$ .

**Lemma 4.**  $\{\bar{K}_1, \dots, \bar{K}_r\}$  is the basis of the center of the group algebra  $Z(\mathbb{C}G)$ . Moreover,  $\forall i, j: \bar{K}_i \cdot \bar{K}_j = \sum_{l=1}^r a_{ij}^l \bar{K}_l$  (1) where  $a_{ij}^l$  are non-negative integers.

*Proof.* Find by what condition an element  $z = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g$  belongs to the center of  $\mathbb{C}G$ : for any  $h \in G$  calculate  $hzh^{-1} = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g hgh^{-1}$ . Denote  $hgh^{-1} = a$ ; when  $g$  runs over  $G$  then  $a$  runs over  $G$ . So  $hzh^{-1} = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g hgh^{-1} = \sum_{a \in G} \alpha_{h^{-1}ah} a = z \Leftrightarrow \alpha_{h^{-1}ah} = \alpha_g, \forall h \in G$ , hence  $\alpha$  is a central function on  $G$ . Therefore,  $z = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{g \in K_i} \alpha_g g = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{g_i} \sum_{g \in K_i} g = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{g_i} \bar{K}_i (g_i \in K_i)$ .

Note that  $K_i K_j$  is the union of some conjugate classes: namely, if  $x \in K_l, x = x_i x_j \in K_i K_j \Rightarrow \forall g \in G, gxg^{-1} = (gx_i g^{-1})(gx_j g^{-1}) \in K_i K_j \Rightarrow K_l \subseteq K_i K_j$ . Consequently, every expression  $x = x_i x_j, x \in K_l$  contributes one into decomposition of  $\bar{K}_i \bar{K}_j$ , and the total coefficient  $a_{ij}^l$  equals the number of ways to present  $x \in K_l$  in the form  $x = x_i x_j, x_i \in K_i, x_j \in K_j$ . Q.e.d.

**Lemma 5.** Let  $\chi$  is an irreducible complex character of the group  $G$ , then for any  $g \in K_g \subset G$  the number  $\omega(\chi, g) = |K_g| \frac{\chi(g)}{\chi(1)}$  ( $K_g$  is the conjugate class containing  $g$ ) is algebraic integer.

*Proof.* First note: if  $\chi$  is the character of the representation  $\varphi: G \rightarrow GL(V)$ , we may extend it to representation  $\Phi: \mathbb{C}G \rightarrow L(V)$  of the group algebra by the rule  $\Phi\left(\sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g\right) = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g \varphi(g)$ . We receive linear operators  $\Phi_j = \Phi(\bar{K}_j) = \sum_{g \in K_j} \varphi(g), j = 1, \dots, r$ . It follows from lemma 4 that  $\Phi_j$  commute with all  $\varphi(g), g \in G$ , hence, by Schur's Lemma,  $\Phi_j = \lambda_j E$ . Calculating trace we get

$$tr \Phi_j = \sum_{g \in K_j} tr \varphi(g) = |K_j| \chi(g_j) = \lambda_j \chi(1) \Rightarrow \lambda_j = \frac{|K_j| \chi(g_j)}{\chi(1)} = \omega(\chi, g_j), \quad g_j \in K_j, \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_j = \frac{|K_j| \chi(g_j)}{\chi(1)} E.$$

On the other hand, applying  $\Phi$  to the decomposition (1) from Lemma 4, we have  $\Phi_i \Phi_j = \sum_{l=1}^r a_{ij}^l \Phi_l$  whence  $\frac{|K_i| \chi(g_i)}{\chi(1)} \cdot \frac{|K_j| \chi(g_j)}{\chi(1)} = \sum_{l=1}^r a_{ij}^l \frac{|K_l| \chi(g_l)}{\chi(1)}$  or  $\omega(\chi, g_i) \omega(\chi, g_j) = \sum_{l=1}^r a_{ij}^l \omega(\chi, g_l)$ . Consequently (confer with the proof of Lemma 1)  $\omega(\chi, g_i)$  is algebraic integer. Q.e.d.

**Proof of Theorem 4.** As  $\chi$  is irreducible,

$$|G|(\chi, \chi)_G = \sum_{g \in G} \chi(g) \overline{\chi(g)} = \sum_{i=1}^r |K_i| \chi(g_i) \overline{\chi(g_i)} = |G| \Rightarrow$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^r \frac{|K_i| \chi(g_i)}{\chi(1)} \overline{\chi(g_i)} = \frac{|G|}{\chi(1)} \in \mathbb{O} \cap \mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Z}$$

by lemmas 1,2 and 5. The theorem is proved.