

Multiplicity-free induced characters of symmetric groups

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Necessary conditions for multiplicity-free subgroups
- 3 Combinatorics for index two subgroups
- 4 Main results

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Example: Any irreducible character is multiplicity-free. The character of the regular representation of G is multiplicity-free if and only if G is abelian.

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Q1: What are the multiplicity-free subgroups of S_n ?

Q2: For each multiplicity-free subgroup $G \leq S_n$ what are the irreducible induced-multiplicity-free characters of G ?

Characters of symmetric groups

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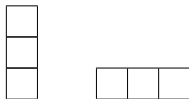
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For $S_k \times S_l$ we then have irreducible characters $\chi^\mu \boxtimes \chi^\nu$ where $\mu \vdash k$ and $\nu \vdash l$. And for wreath products $S_m \wr S_h$ we construct all irreducible characters from the **elementary irreducible characters** $(\chi^\mu)^{\widetilde{\times} h} \chi^\nu$ where $\mu \vdash m$ and $\nu \vdash h$.

Multiplicity-free characters of S_n in literature

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As a consequence of our work a classification of multiplicity-free symmetric functions $s_\lambda(s_\nu \circ s_\mu)$ is found. Moreover, for n sufficiently large, one can observe this is the only way to ‘compose’ 3 or more Schur functions and get a multiplicity-free symmetric function.

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Theorem (Maróti, 2002)

Let G be a primitive group of S_n which is not S_n or A_n . Then the order of G is less or equal to 2^{n-1} or $n \leq 24$.

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The lower bound on $|G|$, for example, also eliminates the diagonal subgroup of $S_k \times S_k$.

Non-transitive subgroups

From the following result multiplicity-free subgroups have at most two orbits.

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These results impose restrictions on non-elementary irreducible induced-multiplicity-free characters of wreath products.

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Example: Let $G = S_2 \times S_3$. Since $(\chi^{(2)} \boxtimes \chi^{(2,1)}) \uparrow_G^{S_5}$ decomposes as $\chi^{(4,1)} + \chi^{(3,2)} + \chi^{(3,1^2)} + \chi^{(2^2,1)}$, the character $(\chi^{(2)} \boxtimes \chi^{(2,1)}) \downarrow_N^G$ is not induced-multiplicity-free.

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Formula for $\left((\chi^{(a^b)})^{\widetilde{\times 2}} \chi^\nu \right) \uparrow_{S_{ab} \wr S_2}^{S_{2ab}}$

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Proposition

The character $\left((\chi^{(a^b)})^{\widetilde{\times 2}} \chi^\nu\right) \uparrow_{S_{ab} \wr S_2}^{S_{2ab}}$ with $\nu = (2)$, respectively, $\nu = (1^2)$ is multiplicity-free with constituents labelled by (a, b) -birectangular partitions λ such that $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_b$ is even, respectively, odd.

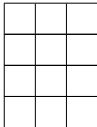
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For $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ we say that a partition λ of size $2ab$ is (a, b) -birectangular if for all $1 \leq i \leq 2b$ the equality $\lambda_i + \lambda_{2b+1-i} = 2a$ holds true.

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The character $\left((\chi^{(a^b)})^{\widetilde{\times} 2} \chi^\nu\right) \uparrow_{S_{ab} \wr S_2}^{S_{2ab}}$ with $\nu = (2)$, respectively, $\nu = (1^2)$ is multiplicity-free with constituents labelled by (a, b) -bi-rectangular partitions λ such that $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_b$ is even, respectively, odd.

Example: One of the irreducible constituents of $\left((\chi^{(3^2)})^{\widetilde{\times} 2} \chi^{(2)} \right) \uparrow_{S_6 \wr S_2}^{S_{12}}$ is labelled by (3^4) .



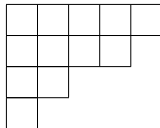
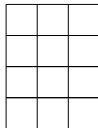
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Birectangular partitions

Proposition (T, 2023)

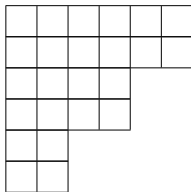
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Example: The unique partition $\lambda = (6^2, 4^2, 2^2)$ such that λ and λ' are both $(4, 3)$ -birectangular.



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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Necessary conditions for multiplicity-free subgroups
- 3 Combinatorics for index two subgroups
- 4 Main results**

Multiplicity-free subgroups of S_n

Theorem (T, 2023)

Let $n \geq 66$. A subgroup $G \leq S_n$ is multiplicity-free if and only if it belongs to the list (throughout $k, l \geq 1$, $m \geq 2$ and $h \geq 3$):

- 1 S_n and A_n ,
- 2 $S_k \times S_l$, $(S_k \times S_l) \cap A_{k+l}$ and $A_k \times S_l$ with $k \neq 2$ and $A_k \times A_l$ with $k, l \neq 2$,
- 3 $S_k \times S_m \wr S_2$ and for $k \notin \{2m-3, 2m-2, 2m-1, 2m\}$ also groups $(S_k \times S_m \wr S_2) \cap A_{k+2m}$ and $T_{k,m,2}$,
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- 8 $S_k \times L$, $A_k \times L$ and $(S_k \times L) \cap A_n$ where L is one of $\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(2, 8)$, $\text{ASL}(3, 2)$, $\text{PGL}(2, 5)$ and $\text{AGL}(1, 5)$,
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Induced-multiplicity-free characters of $S_k \times S_2 \wr S_h$

To demonstrate our partial answer to **Q2** we present the irreducible induced-multiplicity-free characters of $S_k \times S_2 \wr S_h$ (with $k \geq 2$ and $h \geq 5$) and $(S_m \wr S_2) \cap A_{2m}$.

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Let $k \geq 2, h \geq 5$ with $k + 2h \geq 18$. The irreducible induced-multiplicity-free characters of $G = S_k \times S_2 \wr S_h$ are $\chi^{(1^k)} \boxtimes \left((\chi^{(2)})^{\times h} \chi^{(h)} \right)$ and $\chi^{(k)} \boxtimes \left((\chi^{(1^2)})^{\times h} \chi^{(h)} \right)$.

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In the language of symmetric functions $s_\lambda(s_\nu \circ s_\mu)$ with $|\lambda| \geq 2 = |\mu|$ and $|\nu| \geq 5$ is multiplicity-free if and only if ν is a row partition and λ and μ are in some order a row and a column partition.

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Let $m \geq 37$. The elementary irreducible induced-multiplicity-free characters of $G = (S_m \wr S_2) \cap A_{2m}$ are the irreducible constituents of $((\chi^\mu)^{\widetilde{\times} 2} \chi^\nu) \downarrow_G^{S_m \wr S_2}$ with:

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