

# Character Table

Mikyla Carpenter, John Lee

May 2015

## 1 $A_4$ : Alternating Group of 4 Symbols

Recall that  $A_4$  is a subgroup of  $S_4$  of index 2. Thus,  $|A_4| = \frac{|S_4|}{2} = \frac{4!}{2} = 12$ .

First we need to find conjugacy classes of  $A_4$ . We know that  $e$  is in its own conjugacy class. Recall, that a conjugacy class of  $a \in G$  is  $\{g^{-1}ag \mid g \in G\}$ . Plus, we know that a permutation in  $S_n$  is conjugate only to the same type of permutations. In  $S_4$ , there are four conjugacy classes,  $e$ , a set of 2-cycles, set of 3-cycles, and finally set of products of two disjoint 2-cycles.

We hope these sets act as conjugacy classes in  $A_4$  as well. In order to show whether the presented sets are conjugacy classes or not, we would like to prove the following theorem.

**Claim:** If  $C$  is a conjugacy class of  $G$ , then  $|C| \mid |G|$ .

*Proof.* Consider a conjugation action  $\circ$  over  $G$ , that is  $g \circ x = gxg^{-1}$  for every  $g, x \in G$ . Then,  $\text{Orb}(x)$  is a conjugacy class of  $x$ . By Orbit-Stabilizer theorem,  $|\text{Orb}(x)| \cdot |\text{Stab}(x)| = |G|$ . Thus,  $|\text{Orb}(x)| \mid |G|$ . Thus, if an order of a conjugacy class of  $S_n$  fails to divide the order of  $G$ , it is no longer a conjugacy class of  $A_n$ .  $\square$

Thus, in order to determine if the conjugacy classes of  $S_4$  are the same as those of  $A_4$ , we can check if the order of all the conjugacy classes of  $S_4$  that are present in  $A_4$  divide  $|A_4|$ . Note that there are three conjugacy classes of  $S_4$  present in  $A_4$ , namely  $[e]$ ,  $[(12)(34)]$ ,  $[(123)]$ , and their orders are 1, 3, and 8, respectively. All but one, the one of order 8 containing the three-cycles, does. Finding  $gag^{-1}$  (for all  $g$  in  $A_4$  and all three-cycles  $a$ ) shows that  $(123)$ ,  $(134)$ ,  $(142)$ , and  $(243)$  are in one conjugacy class, and  $(132)$ ,  $(143)$ ,  $(124)$ , and  $(234)$  are in another. Thus  $A_4$  has four conjugacy classes, and so there are four irreducible characters.

$\chi_1$  is trivial, and  $\chi_1(g) = 1$  for all  $g$  in  $A_4$ .

Let us do a little digression for now: suppose there exists a group  $K$  with a subgroup  $H$  such that  $|K : H| = 3$ . Then,  $K/H$  is a group of order three. Since  $|K/H|$  is prime, there exists a generator  $pH \leq K$  such that  $\langle pH \rangle = K/H$ . Now, let us try to define representations of degree 1 from  $K/H$  to a complex field. With the fact that  $\rho(e) = \deg \mathbb{C} = 1$  and  $\rho(g^k) = (\rho(g))^k$  for any  $g \in K/H$  and positive integer  $k$ , we can define three representations as below.

	$H$	$pH$	$p^2H$
$\rho_1$	1	1	1
$\rho_2$	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$
$\rho_3$	1	$\omega^2$	$\omega$

\* $\omega$  is the third root of unity of 1.

Since  $\rho = \text{Tr}(\rho)$  if  $\deg \rho = 1$ , the table above is indeed a character table of a group of order 3.

Now, we may apply this fact to our original group  $A_4$ . There exists a subgroup  $H = \{e, (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$  of  $G$  of index 3. Then, there exists an element  $p = (123)$  such that  $A_4 = H \cup pH \cup p^2H$ . Plus,  $pH = \{(123), (134), (142), (243)\}$  and  $p^2H = \{(132), (143), (124), (234)\}$  are already conjugacy classes. Therefore, we may import the above table to our character table as the character table of  $A_4$ .

	[e]	[(12)(34)]	[(123)]	[(132)]
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$
$\chi_3$	1	1	$\omega^2$	$\omega$

But, let us be prudent. Let us check whether  $\chi_2$  and  $\chi_3$  are indeed irreducible.

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_2, \chi_2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_4|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_2(h) \overline{\chi_2(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{12} (1 + 3 + 4\omega\bar{\omega} + 4\omega^2\bar{\omega}^2) = 1 \\
\langle \chi_3, \chi_3 \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_4|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_3(h) \overline{\chi_3(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{12} (1 + 3 + 4\omega^2\bar{\omega}^2 + 4\omega\bar{\omega}) = 1
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\chi_2, \chi_3$  are both irreducible by the orthogonality of irreducible characters.

To find  $\chi_4$ , we first use the fact that  $\sum_{i=1}^n (\chi_i(e))^2 = |G|$  for any group  $G$  with the set of irreducible characters  $\{\chi_i\}_{i=1}^n$  of  $G$ . Thus,

$$(\chi_1(e))^2 + (\chi_2(e))^2 + (\chi_3(e))^2 + (\chi_4(e))^2 = 1 + 1 + 1 + (\chi_4(e))^2 = 12,$$

so  $\chi_4(e) = 3$ . Again, by the orthogonality of the irreducible characters,  $\langle \chi_1, \chi_4 \rangle = 0$ ,  $\langle \chi_2, \chi_4 \rangle = 0$ , and  $\langle \chi_3, \chi_4 \rangle = 0$ . We can ignore dividing by the order of the group since we are setting the values equal to zero anyway, and we find that

$$3 + 3\bar{b} + 4\bar{c} + 4\bar{d} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$3 + 3\bar{b} + 4\omega\bar{c} + 4\omega^2\bar{d} = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$3 + 3\bar{b} + 4\omega^2\bar{c} + 4\omega\bar{d} = 0 \tag{3}$$

$$(1) + (2) + (3) \implies 9 + 9\bar{b} + 4\bar{c}(1 + \omega + \omega^2) + 4\bar{d}(1 + \omega + \omega^2) = 0$$

$$\implies 9 + 9\bar{b} = 0 \quad (\text{Since } 1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0)$$

$$\implies b = -1$$

$$b = -1, (1) \implies 4\bar{c} + 4\bar{d} = 0 \implies \bar{c} = -\bar{d}$$

$$\bar{c} = -\bar{d}, (2) \implies 4\omega\bar{c} - 4\omega^2\bar{c} = 0$$

$$\implies 4\omega\bar{c}(1 - \omega) = 0$$

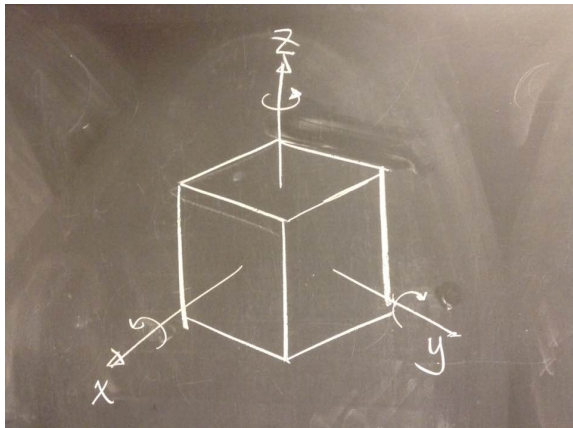
Since  $1 - \omega \neq 0$ ,  $\bar{d} = 0$  Thus,  $c = d = 0$ . Thus, the complete table of  $A_4$  would be as below.

	$[e]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(123)]$	$[(132)]$
Size	1	3	4	4
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$
$\chi_3$	1	1	$\omega^2$	$\omega$
$\chi_4$	3	-1	0	0

## 2 Group of All Rotations of a Cube

Let  $G$  be the group of all rotations of a cube. There are three axes of rotation, namely the  $x$ -axis,  $y$ -axis, and  $z$ -axis, as **Figure 1** suggests. However, since rotation

is hard to keep track of, let us name each face of the cube in the manner of a die, as in **Figure 2**. Thus, we may interpret rotations as permutations of the numbers on faces. For instance,  $90^\circ$  rotation around  $x$ -axis can be written as  $(1463)$ , as the face 1 moves to 4, 4 to 6, 6 to 3, and 3 back to 1.



**Figure 1**

With this method, it becomes easier to figure out the order of  $G$ .

**Claim:**  $|G| = 24$ .

*Proof.* Consider a cube, and number each face. Let 1 be the top face. Then there are four possible ways to position a cube. Since there are six different possibilities for the top face, there are  $6 \times 4 = 24$  possible rotations in total. Thus,  $|G| = 24$ .  $\square$

The below is the table of all 24 elements of the group in the manner of permutations.

	$e$	$(2354)$	$(25)(34)$	$(2453)$
$e$	$e$	$(2354)$	$(25)(34)$	$(2453)$
$(1562)$	$(1562)$	$(142)(356)$	$(12)(34)(56)$	$(132)(456)$
$(16)(25)$	$(16)(25)$	$(16)(24)(35)$	$(16)(34)$	$(16)(23)(45)$
$(1265)$	$(1265)$	$(135)(264)$	$(15)(26)(34)$	$(145)(263)$
$(1463)$	$(1463)$	$(123)(465)$	$(13)(25)(46)$	$(153)(246)$
$(1364)$	$(1364)$	$(154)(236)$	$(14)(25)(36)$	$(124)(365)$

\*For row  $\pi$  and column  $\sigma$ , the entry corresponds to a permutation  $\sigma\pi$ .

We know that a conjugacy class of a symmetric group is a set of permutations of same types. Thus, we can hope that we have five conjugacy classes as below.

$$\begin{aligned}
[e] &= \{e\} \\
[(1265)] &= \{(1265), (1562), (1364), (1463), (2354), (2453)\} \\
[(16)(25)] &= \{(16)(25), (16)(34), (25)(34)\} \\
[(123)(465)] &= \{(123)(465), (124)(365), (132)(456), (135)(264), (142)(356), (145)(263), \\
&\quad (153)(246), (154)(236)\} \\
[(12)(34)(56)] &= \{(12)(34)(56), (13)(25)(46), (14)(25)(36), (15)(26)(34), (16)(24)(35), \\
&\quad (16)(23)(45)\}
\end{aligned}$$

However, since  $G$  is a subgroup of  $S_6$ , we need to check whether there is a set that fails to be a conjugacy class in  $G$ .

The order of a conjugacy class divides that of the group. However, the order of conjugacy classes are 1, 6, 3, 8, and 6 respectively, which all divide 24. Thus, all the sets above must be conjugacy classes of  $S_6$ ; in fact, we checked  $gag^{-1}$  for every  $g, a \in G$ , yet decided not to include in the paper.

Since there are five conjugacy classes, we expect to have five irreducible characters. Let us denote them  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_5$ . Note that for every  $g \in G$ ,  $g$  and  $g^{-1}$  are in the same conjugacy class. Thus, by **Problem 48** from the homework, all the entries of the character table are going to be real. Therefore,  $\overline{\chi_k(g)} = \chi_k(g)$  for every  $k$  and  $g \in G$ .

The first character,  $\chi_1$ , is a trivial character, which yields 1 for every conjugacy class.

There exists a subgroup  $H \leq G$  of index 2.

**Claim:**  $H = \{e, [(16)(25)], [(135)(264)]\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$  of index 2

*Proof.* Observe that for any  $\pi \in H$ ,  $\pi$  is a product of an even amount of 2-cycles, while  $\sigma \in G \setminus H$  is a product of odd amount of 2-cycles. Since the product of any even amount of 2-cycles is still even,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . Since  $|G/H| = 2$ ,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  of index 2.  $\square$

Thus, we have another character  $\chi_2$ , which assigns 1 for any  $\pi \in H = \{e, [(16)(25)], [(135)(264)]\}$ , and assigns  $-1$  otherwise.

Also, we have an "obvious" representation. Observe that any permutation of the form of  $(abcd)$  corresponds to a rotation of  $\pm 90^\circ$  around either of  $x, y$ , or  $z$ -axis. Plus, any permutation of the form of  $(ab)(cd)$  corresponds to a rotation of  $180^\circ$  around either of  $x, y$ , or  $z$ -axis. Moreover, any permutation of the form of  $(abc)(def)$

corresponds to a composition of two rotations of  $\pm 90^\circ$  around two distinct axes, and finally  $(ab)(cd)(ef)$  corresponds to a composition of a rotation of  $\pm 90^\circ$  around an axis and that of  $180^\circ$  around another axis.

Let  $R_{i,X}$  denote the rotation of  $X^\circ$  around the  $i$ -axis. Then the following holds.

$$R_{x,\pm 90} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \pm 90^\circ & -\sin \pm 90^\circ \\ 0 & \sin \pm 90^\circ & \cos \pm 90^\circ \end{pmatrix}, R_{y,\pm 90} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \pm 90^\circ & 0 & -\sin \pm 90^\circ \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \pm 90^\circ & 0 & \cos \pm 90^\circ \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_{z,\pm 90} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \pm 90^\circ & -\sin \pm 90^\circ & 0 \\ \sin \pm 90^\circ & \cos \pm 90^\circ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since  $\cos \pm 90^\circ = 0$ , the traces of all the  $90^\circ$  rotations are 1.

The matrices of  $180^\circ$  rotations are as below.

$$R_{x,180} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, R_{y,180} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, R_{z,180} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

And it is easy to notice that the traces of  $180^\circ$  rotations around any axes are  $-1$ . The trace of a product of two  $\pm 90^\circ$  rotation matrices around two different axes is  $\cos \pm 90^\circ + \cos \pm 90^\circ + (\cos \pm 90^\circ)^2 = 0$ . Finally, the trace of a product of a rotation matrix  $180^\circ$  around an axis and a rotation matrix  $90^\circ$  around another axis is  $1 \cdot +(-1) \cdot 0 + (-1) \cdot 1 = -1$ .

Let us denote the character of the "obvious" representation by  $\chi_3$ . In order to check the irreducibility of  $\chi_3$ , we will compute  $\langle \chi_3, \chi_3 \rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_3, \chi_3 \rangle &= \frac{1}{24} \sum_{h \in G} (\chi_3(h))^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{24} (3^2 + 6 \cdot 1^2 + 3 \cdot (-1)^2 + 6 \cdot (-1)^2) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\chi_3$  is an irreducible character.

With these facts, let us begin to fill out the table.

	$[e]$	$[(1265)]$	$[(16)(25)]$	$[(135)(264)]$	$[(14)(25)(36)]$
Size	1	6	3	8	6
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	3	1	-1	0	1

Now, consider a left-regular representation of  $S_6$ . The trace of the matrix corresponds to the number of fixed points of the matrix. Let us denote the character of this representation  $\chi$ . Then the following holds.

$$\chi(e) = 6, \chi([(1265)]) = \chi([(16)(25)]) = 2, \chi([(135)(264)]) = \chi([(14)(25)(36)]) = 0.$$

Let us compute  $\langle \chi, \chi \rangle$ .

$$\langle \chi, \chi \rangle = \frac{1}{24} (36 + 6 \cdot 2^2 + 3 \cdot 2^2 + 8 \cdot 0 + 6 \cdot 0) = 3.$$

This implies the representation is indeed a direct sum of three irreducible representations. Let us check  $\langle \chi, \chi_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \chi, \chi_2 \rangle$ , and  $\langle \chi, \chi_3 \rangle$ .

$$\langle \chi, \chi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{24} (6 + 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 1 \cdot 0 + 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 0) = 1.$$

$$\langle \chi, \chi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{24} (6 - 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 1 \cdot 0 - 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 0) = 0$$

$$\langle \chi, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{24} (18 + 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 - 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 0 \cdot 0 - 6 \cdot 1 \cdot 0) = 1$$

This fact implies  $\chi$  is actually equivalent to a direct sum of  $\chi_1, \chi_3$ , and another irreducible character yet determined. Since the direct sum of characters is indeed equal to sum of characters, we can determine the fourth irreducible character  $\chi_4 = \chi - \chi_1 - \chi_3$ . Thus, we may update our table as following.

	$[e]$	$[(1265)]$	$[(16)(25)]$	$[(135)(264)]$	$[(14)(25)(36)]$
Size	1	6	3	8	6
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	3	1	-1	0	1
$\chi_4$	2	0	2	-1	0
$\chi_5$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$

Let us check whether  $\chi_4$  is actually irreducible.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_4, \chi_4 \rangle &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_4(h) \overline{\chi_4(h)} \\ &= \frac{1}{24} (1 \cdot 2^2 + 6 \cdot 0^2 + 3 \cdot 2^2 + 8 \cdot (-1)^2 + 6 \cdot 0^2) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

By the orthogonality of irreducible characters,  $\chi_4$  is indeed irreducible.

Since we have 4 irreducible characters, it is easy to figure out  $\chi_5$ . First of all, note that  $3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1^2 + 3^2 + 2^2 + (\chi_5(e))^2 = |G| = 24$ . Thus,  $a = 3$ .

We can obtain the last row simply by computing a set of simultaneous equations. We can ignore dividing by the order of the group, since we are setting the values equal to zero.

$$3 + 6b + 3c + 8d + 6e = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$3 - 6b + 3c + 8d - 6e = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$9 + 6b - 3c - 6e = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$6 + 6c - 8d = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$(4) + (5) \implies 6 + 6c + 16d = 0$$

$$(4) - (5) \implies 12b + 12e = 0$$

$$(4) + (5) - (7) \implies 24d = 0 \implies d = 0$$

$$(5) + (6), d = 0 \implies 12 + 12b = 0 \implies b = -1$$

$$(4) - (5), b = -1 \implies 12e = 12 \implies e = 1$$

$$(4) + (5), d = 0 \implies c = -1$$

Thus, we may complete our character table.

	$[e]$	$[(1265)]$	$[(16)(25)]$	$[(135)(264)]$	$[(14)(25)(36)]$
Size	1	6	3	8	6
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	-1	1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	2	0	2	-1	0
$\chi_4$	3	-1	-1	0	1
$\chi_5$	3	1	-1	0	-1

### 3 $A_5$ : Alternating Group of 5 Symbols

Recall that  $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$ . Thus,  $|A_5| = 60$ .

Note that a conjugacy class of an element  $a$  is  $\{g^{-1}ag \mid g \in G\}$ . And as mentioned earlier, a conjugacy class of a symmetric group is a set of permutations of same types. Let us check whether the conjugacy classes of  $S_5$  still acts as conjugacy classes in  $A_5$ .

First, observe the table of conjugacy classes of  $S_5$  and their sizes.



	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$
Size	1	20	15	24

Let us denote the set of cycles of length 5,  $C$ . Note that  $|C| = 24$  does not divide 60. Thus,  $C$  fails to be a conjugacy class in  $A_5$ .

Indeed,  $C$  in  $A_5$  is a union of two distinct conjugacy classes. Then, there are two conjugacy classes in  $A_5$  such that  $C_1 = \{\pi(12345)\pi^{-1} \mid \pi \in A_5\}$  and  $C_2 = \{\sigma(12345)\sigma^{-1} \mid \sigma \in S_5 \setminus A_5\}$ .

Indeed,  $C_2$  turns out to be a conjugacy class containing 12 elements as below.

$$\{\sigma(12345)\sigma^{-1} \mid \sigma \in S_5 \setminus A_5\} = \{(12354), (12435), (12543), (13245), (13452), (13524), \\ (14253), (14325), (14532), (15234), (15342), (15423)\}$$

Thus, there  $A_5$  has five conjugacy classes as below.

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12

Therefore, we may expect to have five irreducible characters.

The first irreducible character is a trivial character,  $\chi_1$ , of course.

For the second irreducible character, consider left-regular representation  $\rho$  of  $A_5$ . Then,  $\rho : A_5 \rightarrow GL(\mathbb{R}^5)$  so that  $\rho(g)(\vec{e}_k) = \vec{e}_{gk}$ . Let  $\chi_\rho$  be the character of this representation. Then,  $\chi_\rho(g)$  corresponds to the number of fixed points of the representation,  $\rho(g)$ .

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_\rho$	5	2	1	0	0

Computing  $\langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\rho \rangle$  results as below.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\rho \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_5|} \sum_{h \in A_5} \chi_\rho(h) \overline{\chi_\rho(h)} \\ &= \frac{1}{60} (1 \cdot 5^2 + 20 \cdot 2^2 + 15 \cdot 1^2) = 2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, it implies  $\chi_\rho$  is indeed a direct sum of two irreducible representations. Let us compute the inner product of  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_\rho$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_1, \chi_\rho \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_5|} \sum_{h \in A_5} \chi_1(h) \overline{\chi_\rho(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{60} (1 \cdot 5 + 20 \cdot 2 + 15 \cdot 1) = 1
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\chi_\rho = \chi_1 + \chi_2$  where  $\chi_2$  is another irreducible character. Thus, we can now figure out the second character,  $\chi_2(g) = \chi_\rho(g) - \chi_1(g) = \chi_\rho(g) - 1$ . Thus, the table can be updated as below.

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	1	0	-1	-1

But, let us once more clarify whether  $\chi_2$  is indeed an irreducible character by computing  $\langle \chi_2, \chi_2 \rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_2, \chi_2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_5|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_2(h) \overline{\chi_2(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{60} (1 \cdot 4^2 + 20 \cdot 1^2 + 12 \cdot (-1)^2 + 12 \cdot (-1)^2) = 1.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\chi_2$  is an irreducible character as expected.

Now, consider an icosahedron. We claim that  $A_5$  is isomorphic to a group of rotations of an icosahedron,  $G$ . In order to do so, first, I would like to show that their orders are equal, and point out the bijection by stating how we can interpret a rotation of icosahedron in the manner of alternating group of 5 symbols.

An icosahedron has 12 vertices, and each vertex is surrounded by five equilateral triangles. Name each vertex after the letters  $A, \dots, L$ . Let  $A$  come to the top; then there are five possible rotations, since there are five triangles around  $A$ . Since we have 11 other possibilities for the top vertex, we have  $12 \times 5 = 60$  possible rotations in total. Thus,  $|G| = |A_5|$ .

Observe that an icosahedron is composed of 30 edges. Note that for each edge in an icosahedron, there are four perpendicular edges and one parallel edge. Thus, if we form a group  $K$ , of edges that are perpendicular and parallel to each other, then  $|K| = 6$ . Thus, we may form 5 distinct groups  $K_1, \dots, K_5$  out of 30 edges of icosahedron. The parallelism and perpendicularity of two edges are invariant under

any rotation. Thus, we may view a rotation of icosahedron as a permutation of  $K_1, \dots, K_5$ . Thus,  $A_5$  is isomorphic to a group of rotations of an icosahedron,  $G$ .

Now, we can define a representation  $\phi : A_5 \rightarrow GL(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and denote  $\chi_\phi$  as its character. First,  $e$  is an identity matrix of degree 3, thus  $\chi_\phi(e) = 3$ .

For any permutation,  $\pi \in [(123)]$ ,  $\pi$  can be interpreted as either  $60^\circ$  or  $120^\circ$  rotation around an axis penetrating through a center of a triangular face of the solid. Observe that the rotation has order of 3 just like any permutation of the form  $(abc)$ . Let the rotation axis be  $z$ -axis for the sake of computation. Then,

$$\phi(\pi) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \theta = 60^\circ \text{ or } 120^\circ. \text{ For either case, } \chi_\phi(\pi) = 0.$$

For any permutation,  $\sigma \in [(12)(34)]$ ,  $\sigma$  can be interpreted as  $180^\circ$  rotation around an axis penetrating through a midpoint of an edge of the solid. The rotation has order of 2 as any permutation just as any permutation of the form  $(ab)(cd)$ . Let the axis, again, be  $z$ -axis for the sake of computation. Then,  $\phi(\sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos 180^\circ & -\sin 180^\circ & 0 \\ \sin 180^\circ & \cos 180^\circ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Thus,  $\chi_\phi(\sigma) = -1$ .

Finally, for any permutation of  $\kappa \in [(12345)]$  or  $\kappa \in [(12354)]$  can be interpreted as the multiples of  $72^\circ$  rotation around an axis from a vertex to the opposite vertex of the solid. The rotation has order 5 as any permutation of the form  $(abcde)$ . Let

the axis be  $z$ -axis for the sake of computation. Then,  $\phi(\kappa) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \vartheta & -\sin \vartheta & 0 \\ \sin \vartheta & \cos \vartheta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Indeed, it turned out to be  $\cos 72^\circ = \cos 288^\circ$  and  $\cos 144^\circ = \cos 216^\circ$ . Thus, we have two different possibilities for  $\chi_\phi(\kappa)$ , namely  $1 + 2 \cos 72^\circ$  and  $1 + 2 \cos 144^\circ$ . Let us denote them by  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_2$ , respectively. Thus, we obtained two characters,  $\chi_{\phi_1}$  and  $\chi_{\phi_2}$ .

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	1	0	-1	-1
$\chi_{\phi_1}$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_1$	$\zeta_2$
$\chi_{\phi_2}$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_1$

Now, let us check whether they are irreducible characters or not, by computing  $\langle \chi_{\phi_1}, \chi_{\phi_1} \rangle$  and  $\langle \chi_{\phi_2}, \chi_{\phi_2} \rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_{\phi_1}, \chi_{\phi_1} \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_5|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_{\phi_1}(h) \overline{\chi_{\phi_1}(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{60} (1 \cdot 3^2 + 20 \cdot 0^2 + 15 \cdot (-1)^2 + 12 \cdot (\zeta_1)^2 + 12 \cdot (\zeta_2)^2) = 1 \\
\langle \chi_{\phi_2}, \chi_{\phi_2} \rangle &= \frac{1}{|A_5|} \sum_{h \in G} \chi_{\phi_2}(h) \overline{\chi_{\phi_2}(h)} \\
&= \frac{1}{60} (1 \cdot 3^2 + 20 \cdot 0^2 + 15 \cdot (-1)^2 + 12 \cdot (\zeta_2)^2 + 12 \cdot (\zeta_1)^2) = 1
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, again by the orthogonality of the irreducible characters,  $\chi_{\phi_1}$  and  $\chi_{\phi_2}$  are irreducible characters.

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	1	0	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_1$	$\zeta_2$
$\chi_4$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_1$
$\chi_5$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$

First, we can compute  $a$  easily. Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^n (\chi_i(e))^2 = |G|$  for any group  $G$  with the set of irreducible characters  $\{\chi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . Thus,  $1^2 + 4^2 + 2 \cdot 3^2 + a^2 = 60$ . This gives out  $a = 5$ .

Now, by the orthogonality of irreducible characters,  $\langle \chi_i, \chi_5 \rangle = 0$  for any  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_5, \chi_1 \rangle &= \frac{1}{60} (5 + 20b + 15c + 12d + 12e) = 0 \\
\langle \chi_5, \chi_2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{60} (20 + 20b - 12d - 12e) = 0 \\
\langle \chi_5, \chi_3 \rangle &= \frac{1}{60} (15 - 15c + d\zeta_1 + e\zeta_2) = 0 \\
\langle \chi_5, \chi_4 \rangle &= \frac{1}{60} (15 - 15c + d\zeta_2 + e\zeta_1) = 0
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \chi_5, \chi_3 \rangle - \langle \chi_5, \chi_4 \rangle &= \frac{1}{60}(d(\zeta_1 - \zeta_2) + e(\zeta_2 - \zeta_1)) = 0 \implies d = -e \\
d = -e &\implies \langle \chi_5, \chi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{60}(20 + 20b) = 0 \implies b = -1 \\
d = -e, b = -1 &\implies \langle \chi_5, \chi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{60}(5 - 20 + 15c) = 0 \implies c = 1. \\
c = 1, d = -e &\implies \langle \chi_5, \chi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{60}(15 - 15 + d\zeta_1 - d\zeta_2) = 0 \implies d = e = 0
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the complete character table of  $A_5$  is as below.

	$[e]$	$[(123)]$	$[(12)(34)]$	$[(12345)]$	$[(12354)]$
Size	1	20	15	12	12
$\chi_1$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	4	1	0	-1	-1
$\chi_3$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_1$	$\zeta_2$
$\chi_4$	3	0	-1	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_1$
$\chi_5$	3	-1	1	0	0