

# A Note on $B_{\pi'}$ -Characters

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**Abstract**—Let  $\pi$  be a set of primes. Isaacs established the  $\pi$ -theory of characters, which generalizes the theory of Brauer module characters. Based on Isaacs's work, the concept of principal indecomposable  $B_{\pi'}$ -characters of  $G$  is introduced, where  $\pi'$  denotes the complement set of  $\pi$ . It is shown that some characteristics of the principal indecomposable  $B_{\pi'}$ -characters of  $G$ .

**Keywords**-  $\pi$ -separable group;  $\pi$ -regular class functions;  $B_{\pi}$ -character

## I. INTRODUCTION

In literature [1], Isaacs introduced the concept of  $B_{\pi}$ -characters of a  $\pi$ -separable group  $G$ , where  $\pi$  denotes a set of primes.  $B_{\pi}$ -character of  $G$  are also called  $\pi$ -Brauer characters. Denote by  $B_{\pi}(G)$  the set of all  $\pi$ -Brauer characters of  $G$ . Let  $\chi$  be a character of  $G$  and denote by  $\chi^*$  the restriction of  $\chi$  to the set of all  $\pi$ -elements of  $G$ . In literature [1], Isaacs proved that the set of  $\chi^*$  forms a basis of the space of  $\pi$ -class functions of  $G$ . In addition, he also proved that the number of  $\pi$ -characters of  $G$  equals the number of conjugacy classes of  $\pi$ -elements of  $G$ .

We shall establish some elementary facts on  $P$ -modular representations for a fixed prime number  $P$ . Let  $R$  be a complete discrete valuation ring with quotient field  $K$  of characteristic 0. We assume that the residue field  $F = R/(\pi)$  has characteristic  $P$ , where  $(\pi)$  denotes the unique maximal ideal of  $R$ . With this assumption we refer to the triple  $(K, R, F)$  as a  $P$ -modular system. We fix a valuation  $v$  of  $K$  such that  $v(\pi) = 1$ , and denote by  $\alpha^*$  the image of  $\alpha \in R$  under the natural map  $R \rightarrow F = R/(\pi)$ .

For  $\alpha \in RG$ ,  $\alpha^*$  denote the image of  $\alpha$  under the natural map

$$RG \rightarrow RG/\pi(RG) = FG(\sum_{x \in G} \alpha_x x \rightarrow \sum_{x \in G} \alpha_x^* x)$$

Write  $P_i = e_i RG$ , and so  $P_i^* = e_i^* FG = P_i / \pi P_i$ . Then  $\{P_i, 1 \leq i \leq l\}$  and  $\{P_i^*, 1 \leq i \leq l\}$  give complete sets of representatives for nonisomorphic principal indecomposable

$RG$ - and  $FG$ -modules, respectively. Let  $\eta_i$  be the  $R$ -character defined by  $P_i = e_i RG$ , which is called a principal indecomposable character of  $G$ . Thus the Brauer character defined by  $P_i^*$  coincides with  $\eta_i|_{G_P}$ . Refer to the literature [2], [5] or [8].

Motivated by these results due to Isaacs, we want to know if other properties of Brauer characters can be generalized? In this note, by using the decomposition matrices in the  $\pi$ -theory of characters, the concept of principal indecomposable  $B_{\pi'}$ -characters of  $G$  is introduced, where  $\pi'$  denotes the complement set of  $\pi$ .

It is shown that some characteristics of the principal indecomposable  $B_{\pi'}$ -characters of  $G$ . Refer to the literature [3], [6] or [7].

Throughout this paper, groups considered are finite  $\pi$ -separable.  $\text{Irr}(G)$  denotes the set of all irreducible ordinary characters of  $G$ ;  $G_{\pi'}$  denotes the set of all  $\pi$ -regular elements of  $G$ ;  $\chi^*$  denotes the restriction of  $\chi$  to  $G_{\pi'}$ . Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\chi$  and  $\phi$  be characters of  $G$  and  $H$  respectively. Then we write  $\chi_H$  the restriction of  $\chi$  to  $H$  and  $\phi^G$  the lift of  $\phi$  to  $G$ . Unless stated otherwise, other notation and terminologies used are standard, refer to the literature [1], [4] or [9].

## II. PRELIMINARIES

First we recall some basis concepts and present some lemmas which will be used in the sequel.

**Definition 2.1** ([4, Definition 2.1]) Write  $\mathfrak{N}_{\pi}(G)$  for the set of  $\chi$  in  $\text{Irr}(G)$  such that  $\chi(1)$  is a number and for every  $M \triangleleft G$  and every irreducible constituent  $\phi$  of  $\chi_M$ ,  $o(\phi)$  is a  $\pi$ -number.

Remark (a) If  $G$  is a  $\pi$ -group, then we have  $\mathfrak{N}_{\pi}(G) = \text{Irr}(G)$ .

(b) If  $G$  is a  $\pi'$ -group, then we have  $\mathfrak{N}_{\pi}(G) = \{1_G\}$

(c) Every automorphism of  $G$  leaves  $\mathfrak{N}_{\pi}(G)$  invariant.

**Definition2.2** ([1,Definition5.1]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group. We write  $B_\pi(G)$  to denote the set of  $\chi \in Irr(G)$  such that some (and therefore each) nucleus character of  $\chi$  is a  $\pi$ -special.

Note that if  $\chi \in Irr(G)$  is  $\pi$ -special, then it is its own nucleus character and so lies in  $B_\pi(G)$ .

**Definition2.3** Let  $\chi \in Irr(G)$ . Then  $\chi^*$  is said to be irreducible if  $\chi^*$  can not be expressed as  $\chi^* = \mu^* + \nu^*$ , where  $\mu, \nu$  are two class functions of  $G$ .

$I^\pi(G)$  denotes the set of all irreducible  $\chi^*$ .

**Lemma2.4** ([1,Corollary9.1]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group.

Then  $\{\chi^* | \chi \in B_\pi(G)\}$  are linearly independent.

**Lemma2.5** ([1,Corollary9.2]) Let  $G$  be a finite  $\pi$ -separable group.

Then  $|B_\pi(G)|$  equals the number of  $\pi$ -regular classes of  $G$ .

**Lemma2.6** ([1,Corollary10.1]) Let  $G$  be a finite  $\pi$ -separable group,

$\xi \in Irr(G)$  and  $\eta \in B_\pi(G)$ . Then there exists a nonnegative integral "decomposition number"  $d_{\xi\eta}$  such that  $\xi^* = \sum_{\eta \in B_\pi(G)} d_{\xi\eta} \eta$  for any  $\xi \in Irr(G)$ .

**Lemma2.7** ([1,Theorem7.1]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group,  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/N$  be a  $\pi'$ -group. If  $\psi \in Irr(G)$  and  $\chi \in Irr(G|\psi)$ , then  $\psi \in B_\pi(N)$  if and only if  $\chi \in B_\pi(G)$ .

**Lemma2.8** ([1,Corollary10.2]) Let  $G$  be a finite  $\pi$ -separable group. Then the map  $B_\pi(G) \rightarrow I_\pi(G) (\psi \mapsto \psi^*)$  is a bijection. In particular,  $I_\pi(G)$  is a basis of the space of  $\pi'$ -class function of  $G$ .

**Lemma2.9** ([1,Corollary10.3]) Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -solvable group. Then the map

$B_p(G) \rightarrow IBr(G) (\psi \mapsto \psi^*)$  is a bijection.

**Lemma2.10** ([1,Corollary6.3]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group,  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/N$  be a  $\pi$ -group. If  $\psi \in B_\pi(N)$  is a  $G$ -invariant, then there exists a unique

$\chi \in B_\pi(G)$  such that  $\chi_N = \psi$ .

**Lemma2.11** ([1,Corollary6.4]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group and

$N \leq K \leq G$ , where  $N$  is normal in  $G$  such that  $G/N$  is a  $\pi$ -group. If  $\eta \in B_\pi(K)$ , then there exists an irreducible constituent  $\chi$  of  $\eta^G$  such that  $\chi$  belongs to  $B_\pi(G)$ .

**Lemma2.12** ([1,Corollary6.6]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group and

$N \leq K \leq G$ , where  $N$  is normal in  $G$  such that  $G/N$  is a  $\pi$ -group. If  $\chi \in B_\pi(G)$ , then every irreducible constituent of  $\chi_K$  belongs to  $B_\pi(K)$ .

**Lemma2.13** ([1,Corollary6.5]) Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group,  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $G/N$  be a  $\pi$ -group. If  $\chi \in B_\pi(G)$ , then every irreducible constituent of  $\chi_N$  belongs to  $B_\pi(N)$ .

**Lemma2.14** ([8,Theorem6.8]) Let  $D = (d_{ij})$  and  $C = (c_{ij})$  be the decomposition and Cartan matrices of  $G$ , respectively. Then

$$(i) \quad \eta_i = \sum_{j=1}^k d_{ji} \chi_j \quad (1 \leq i \leq l).$$

$$(ii) \quad C = {}^t D D.$$

**Lemma2.15** ([8,Theorem6.9])

(i) For  $y \in G_p$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i(y) = \delta_{x,y} |C_G(x)|.$$

(ii) If  $x \in G - G_p$ , then  $\eta_i(x) = 0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq l$ ).

### III. MAIN THEOREM

Set  $Irr(G) = \{\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_k\}$ ,  $B_\pi(G) = \{\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_l\}$ .

By Lemma2.6[1]

$$(\chi_1^*, \chi_2^*, \dots, \chi_k^*) = (d_{ij})_{k \times l} (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_l).$$

write  $D = (d_{ij})_{k \times l}$ ,  $C = D' D$ . Then  $D$  and  $C$  are said to be the decomposition matrix and the Cartan matrix of  $G$ , respectively.

Let  $(\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_l) = D(\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_k)$ . Then  $\eta_i$  ( $1 \leq j \leq l$ ) are said to be the principal indecomposable  $B_\pi$ -characters of  $G$ . It is easy to verify that the relation of the principal indecomposable  $B_\pi$ -characters and the  $B_\pi$ -characters of  $G$  is as follows:

$$(\eta_1^*, \eta_2^*, \dots, \eta_l^*) = C(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_l)^t.$$

In particular, if  $G$  is a  $\pi'$ -group, then  $\chi_i = \eta_i = \varphi_i$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $G$  be a finite  $\pi$ -separable group and notation be as above. Then the following statements hold:

$$(1) \sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i(y) = \delta_{x^G, y^G} |C_G(x)| \text{ for any } y \in G_{\pi'};$$

$$(2) \eta_i(x) = 0 \text{ for any } x \in G - G_{\pi'}, \text{ where } 1 \leq i \leq l.$$

**Proof** (1) For any  $y \in G_{\pi'}$ , we have  $\chi_i(y) = \sum_{j=1}^l d_{ij} \varphi_j(y)$ . By the second orthogonal relation of characters, one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{x^G, y^G} |C_G(x)| &= \sum_{i=1}^k \overline{\chi_i(x)} \chi_i(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \overline{\chi_i(x)} \sum_{j=1}^l d_{ij} \varphi_j(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^l d_{ij} \overline{\chi_i(x)} \varphi_j(y) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^l d_{ji} \sum_{i=1}^k \overline{\chi_j(x)} \varphi_i(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l d_{ji} \left( \sum_{j=1}^k \overline{\chi_j(x)} \right) \varphi_i(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i(y) \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we have  $\sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i(y) = \delta_{x^G, y^G} |C_G(x)|$ .

(2) For any  $x \in G - G_{\pi'}$  and  $y \in G_{\pi'}$ , we have  $\sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i(y) = 0$

As  $y$  is arbitrary, we obtain that  $\sum_{i=1}^l \overline{\eta_i(x)} \varphi_i = 0$ . Note that  $\{\varphi_i | 1 \leq i \leq l\}$  is linearly independent, so the previous equality yields that  $\eta_i(x) = 0$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq l$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1.

Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group and let  $\varphi$  and  $\eta$  be class functions defined on  $G_{\pi'}$ . Write  $(\varphi, \eta)^t = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G_{\pi'}} \varphi(x) \overline{\eta(x)}$ .

**Theorem 3.2** Let  $G$  be a  $\pi$ -separable group and notation be as above. Then

$$(\eta_i, \varphi_j) = \delta_{ij}.$$

**Proof** By lemma 2.5 we may assume that

$$Cl(G_{\pi'}) = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_l\},$$

where  $x_i \in C_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq l$ )

Write  $\Phi = (\varphi_i(x_j))_{l \times l}$ ,  $Y = (\eta_i(x_j))_{l \times l}$  and

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} |C_G(x_1)| & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & |C_G(x_l)| \end{pmatrix}$$

By Theorem 3.1(1), we have  $\overline{Y}^t \Phi = S$  and thus  $\overline{Y}^t (\Phi S^{-1}) = I$ , i.e.,

$$(\Phi S^{-1}) \overline{Y} = I.$$

Therefore,  $\sum_v \varphi_i(x_v) \frac{1}{|C_G(x_v)|} \overline{\eta_i(x_v)} = \delta_{ij}$ , i.e.,

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{v=1}^l \varphi_i(x_v) \frac{|G|}{|C_G(x_v)|} \overline{\eta_i(x_v)} = \delta_{ij},$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{v=1}^l \varphi_i(x_v) \frac{|G|}{|C_G(x_v)|} \overline{\eta_i(x_v)} \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{v=1}^l |Cl(x_v)| \varphi_i(x_v) \overline{\eta_i(x_v)} \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G_{\pi'}} \varphi_i(x) \overline{\eta_i(x)} \\ &= (\varphi_i, \eta_j) = \delta_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,  $(\varphi_i, \eta_j) = \delta_{ij}$ .

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