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Superinduction for pattern groups

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that the representation theory of the finite group of unipotent upper-triangular matrices U_n over a finite field is a wild problem. By instead considering approximately irreducible representations (supercharacters), one obtains a rich combinatorial theory analogous to that of the symmetric group, where we replace partition combinatorics with set-partitions. This paper studies Diaconis–Isaacs’ concept of superinduction in pattern groups. While superinduction shares many desirable properties with usual induction, it no longer takes characters to characters. We begin by finding sufficient conditions guaranteeing that superinduction is in fact induction. It turns out for two natural embeddings of U_m in U_n , superinduction is induction. We conclude with an explicit combinatorial algorithm for computing this induction analogous to the Pieri-formulas for the symmetric group.

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1. Introduction

Understanding the representation theory of the finite group of upper-triangular matrices U_n is a well-known wild problem. Therefore, it came as somewhat of a surprise when C. André was able to show that by merely “clumping” together some of the conjugacy classes (creating superclasses) and some of the irreducible representations (creating supercharacters) one attains a workable approximation to the representation theory of U_n [1–4]. In his PhD thesis [13], N. Yan showed how the algebraic geometry of the original construction could be replaced by more elementary constructions. E. Arias-Castro, P. Diaconis, and R. Stanley [7] then demonstrated that this theory can in fact be used to study random walks on U_n using techniques that traditionally required the knowledge of the full character theory [10]. Thus, the approximation is fine enough to be useful, but coarse enough to be

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computable. Furthermore, this approximation has a remarkable combinatorial structure analogous to that of the symmetric group, where we replace partitions with set-partitions,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Supercharacters} \\ \text{of } U_n \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Labeled set partitions} \\ \text{of } \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \end{array} \right\}.$$

One of the main results of this paper is to extend the analogy with the symmetric group by giving a combinatorial Pieri-like formula for set-partitions that corresponds to induction in U_n .

In [9], P. Diaconis and M. Isaacs generalized this approximating approach to develop the concept of a *supercharacter theory* for all finite groups, where irreducible characters are replaced by supercharacters and conjugacy classes are replaced by superclasses. In particular, their paper generalized André’s original construction by giving an example of a supercharacter theory for a family of groups called algebra groups. For this family of groups, they show that supercharacters restrict to $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -linear combination of supercharacters, tensor products of supercharacters are $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -linear combinations of supercharacters, and they develop a notion of superinduction that is the adjoint functor to restriction for supercharacters. Unfortunately, a superinduced supercharacter is not necessarily a $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -linear combination of supercharacters; in fact, it need not be a character at all. This paper examines superinduction more closely, giving sufficient conditions for when superinduction is induction (in which case they are guaranteed to be characters).

Section 2 reviews the notion of a supercharacter theory, and defines the fundamental combinatorial and algebraic objects needed for the main results. Section 3 proceeds to compare superinduction to induction, where the main results – Theorems 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 – give sufficient conditions for when superinduction is induction. As a consequence, we prove that superinduction between $U_m \subseteq U_n$ is induction. Section 4 decomposes induced supercharacters from U_m to U_n as combinatorial “products” on set-partitions μ of the form

$$\text{Ind}_{U_m}^{U_n}(\chi^\mu) = \chi^\mu *_1 \chi^{\{m+1\}} *_1 \chi^{\{m+2\}} *_1 \dots *_1 \chi^{\{n\}}.$$

This paper is a companion paper to [12]. Some of the main results of these papers, such as Theorem 4.2 and [12, Corollary 5.1] are related by Frobenius reciprocity, but the methods used to arrive at these results are significantly different. This paper studies the relationship between induction and superinduction and how to compute induced supercharacters directly, while [12] instead studies the supercharacter theory of a family of pattern groups that interpolate between U_{n-1} and U_n . By understanding the restrictions between these interpolating subgroups, the authors deduce the corresponding restriction from U_n to U_{n-1} .

Other work related to supercharacter theory of unipotent groups include C. André and A. Neto’s exploration of supercharacter theories for unipotent groups of Lie types B , C , and D [5], C. André and A. Nicolás’ analysis of supertheories over other rings [6], and an intriguing possible connection between supercharacter theories and Boyarchenko and Drinfeld’s work on L -packets [8].

2. Preliminaries

This section reviews the concept of a supercharacter theory, defines a family of groups called pattern groups, and establishes the combinatorial notation for labeled set-partitions.

2.1. Supercharacter theory

Let G be a group. A *supercharacter theory* for G is a partition S^\vee of the elements of G and a set of characters \mathcal{S} , such that

- (a) $|\mathcal{S}| = |S^\vee|$.
- (b) Each $S \in S^\vee$ is a union of conjugacy classes.

(c) For each irreducible character γ of G , there exists a unique $\chi \in \mathcal{S}$ such that

$$\langle \gamma, \chi \rangle > 0,$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the usual inner-product on class functions.

(d) Every $\chi \in \mathcal{S}$ is constant on the elements of \mathcal{S}^\vee .

(e) The conjugacy class $\{1\} \in \mathcal{S}^\vee$.

We call \mathcal{S}^\vee the set of *superclasses* and \mathcal{S} the set of *supercharacters*. Note that every group has two trivial supercharacter theories – the usual character theory and the supercharacter theory with $\mathcal{S}^\vee = \{\{1\}, G \setminus \{1\}\}$ and $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbb{1}, \gamma_G - \mathbb{1}\}$, where $\mathbb{1}$ is the trivial character of G and γ_G is the regular character.

There are many ways to construct supercharacter theories, but this paper will study a particular version developed in [9] to generalize André’s original construction to a larger family of groups called algebra groups.

2.2. Pattern groups

Let \mathfrak{n} be a finite-dimensional nilpotent \mathbb{F}_q -algebra, where \mathbb{F}_q is the finite field with q elements. The corresponding algebra group $U_{\mathfrak{n}}$ is the group

$$U_{\mathfrak{n}} = \{1 + X \mid X \in \mathfrak{n}\},$$

where $(1 + X)(1 + Y) = 1 + X + Y + XY$, for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{n}$.

While many results can be stated in the generality of algebra groups, many statements become simpler if we restrict our attention to a subfamily called pattern groups. Let U_n denote the set of $n \times n$ unipotent upper-triangular matrices with entries in \mathbb{F}_q . Let \mathcal{P} be a poset on the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. The pattern group $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ is given by

$$U_{\mathcal{P}} = \{u \in U_n \mid u_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ implies } i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{P}\},$$

where the underlying nilpotent algebra is $U_{\mathcal{P}} - \text{Id}_n$ (making pattern groups algebra groups). Examples of groups in this family include all the unipotent radicals of rational parabolic subgroups of the finite general linear groups $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$, of which U_n is the pattern group corresponding to the total order $1 < 2 < 3 < \dots < n$.

An obvious advantage to pattern groups is the associated poset structure, which can be used to describe a variety of group theoretic structures, such as the center, the Frattini subgroups, etc. (see [11] for explicit examples). We can also describe coset representatives using the poset structure as follows.

Let $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$ be pattern groups with corresponding posets \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{R} . Let \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P} be the set of relations given by

$$i \leq j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P}, \text{ if } i \leq j \text{ in } \mathcal{R} \text{ and } i \not\leq j \text{ in } \mathcal{P}.$$

Note that \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P} is not necessarily a poset.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$ be pattern groups. Then*

$$I = \{u \in U_{\mathcal{R}} \mid u_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ implies } i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P}\}$$

is a set of left coset representatives for $U_{\mathcal{R}}/U_{\mathcal{P}}$ and a set of right coset representatives for $U_{\mathcal{P}} \backslash U_{\mathcal{R}}$.

Proof. For $i < j$, let

e_{ij} = the $n \times n$ matrix with 1 in position (i, j) and zeroes elsewhere.

Given any total order \mathcal{T} on $\{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ and $u \in U_n$, there exist unique coefficients $t_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q$ such that

$$u = \prod_{i < j} (1 + t_{ij}e_{ij}),$$

where the product is ordered from smallest to largest according to the total order \mathcal{T} .

Fix the total order \mathcal{T}_0 on $\{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ given by

$$(k, l) \leq (i, j), \quad \text{if } i < k \quad \text{or} \quad \text{if } i = k \text{ and } j \leq l.$$

For example, the ordering on $\{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq 4\}$ is

$$(3, 4) < (2, 4) < (2, 3) < (1, 4) < (1, 3) < (1, 2).$$

If $u \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$, then

$$u = \prod_{i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{P}} (1 + t_{ij}e_{ij}) \prod_{i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P}} (1 + t_{ij}e_{ij}), \tag{2.1}$$

where $t_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q$ and each product individually is ordered from smallest to largest according to \mathcal{T}_0 (that is, we are additionally taking all pairs in \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P} to be greater than those in \mathcal{P}). Thus,

$$\prod_{i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P}} (1 + t_{ij}e_{ij}) \in I$$

is in the same right coset as u . Furthermore, since (2.1) is unique, two elements of I cannot be in the same right coset. The argument for left coset representatives is similar. \square

2.3. Superclasses

The group $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ has a two-sided action on the \mathbb{F}_q -algebra

$$n_{\mathcal{P}} = \{u - 1 \mid u \in U_{\mathcal{P}}\},$$

by both left and right multiplication. Two elements $u, v \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ are in the same *superclass* if $u - 1$ and $v - 1$ are in the same two-sided orbit in $n_{\mathcal{P}}$.

Superclass row and column reducing. Note that since every element of $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ can be decomposed as a product of elementary matrices, every element in the orbit containing $v - 1 \in n_{\mathcal{P}}$ can be obtained by applying a sequence of the following row and column operations.

- (a) A scalar multiple of row j may be added to row i if $j > i$ in \mathcal{P} .
- (b) A scalar multiple of column k may be added to column l if $k < l$ in \mathcal{P} .

Example. Let

$$\mathcal{P} = \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ | \\ 4 \\ / \quad | \\ 1 \quad 3 \\ | \\ 2 \end{array} \tag{2.2}$$

Then the matrices

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_q \right\} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{P}}$$

form a superclass of $U_{\mathcal{P}}$.

2.4. Supercharacters

The group $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ has a two-sided action on the dual space

$$\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^* = \text{Hom}(\mathfrak{n}, \mathbb{F}_q)$$

given by

$$(u\lambda v)(x - 1) = \lambda(u^{-1}(x - 1)v^{-1}), \quad \text{where } \lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*, u, v, x \in U_{\mathcal{P}}.$$

Fix a nontrivial group homomorphism $\theta : \mathbb{F}_q^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$. The *supercharacter* χ^λ corresponding to $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$ is given by

$$\chi^\lambda(u) = \frac{|U_{\mathcal{P}}\lambda|}{|U_{\mathcal{P}}\lambda U_{\mathcal{P}}|} \sum_{\mu \in U_{\mathcal{P}}(-\lambda)U_{\mathcal{P}}} \theta \circ \mu(u - 1), \quad \text{for } u \in U_{\mathcal{P}}. \tag{2.3}$$

The corresponding modules $V^{-\lambda}$ are given by

$$V^{-\lambda} = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_\mu \mid \mu \in U_{\mathcal{P}}(-\lambda)\},$$

with the $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ -action on $V^{-\lambda}$ given by

$$uv_\mu = \theta(\mu(u^{-1} - 1))v_{u\mu}, \quad \text{where } u \in U_{\mathcal{P}}, \mu \in U_{\mathcal{P}}(-\lambda).$$

Remarks.

- (a) Diaconis and Isaacs [9] first defined these modules as a generalization of André’s and Yan’s work, and they computed their characters [9, Theorem 5.6]. In fact, they defined supercharacters and superclasses for arbitrary algebra groups, which one can obtain by replacing $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$ by the underlying nilpotent algebra \mathfrak{n} in the definitions above.
- (b) Given $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$, there are two natural choices for the supercharacters χ^λ – whether to sum over $U_{\mathcal{P}}\lambda U_{\mathcal{P}}$ or $U_{\mathcal{P}}(-\lambda)U_{\mathcal{P}}$. We use the convention of [9] rather than the one in [11]. With this choice, the character formulas are slightly simpler.

Supercharacter row and column reducing. We identify the functions $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$ with matrices by the vector space isomorphism,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^* &\rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{F}_q)/\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^{\perp}, \\ \lambda &\mapsto \lambda = \sum_{i < j \in \mathcal{P}} \lambda_{ij}(e_{ij} + \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^{\perp}), \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where $e_{ij} \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$ has (i, j) entry 1 and zeroes elsewhere, $\lambda_{ij} = \lambda(e_{ij})$, and

$$\begin{aligned} M_n(\mathbb{F}_q) &= \{n \times n \text{ matrices with entries in } \mathbb{F}_q\}, \\ \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^{\perp} &= \{y \in M_n(\mathbb{F}_q) \mid y_{ij} = 0 \text{ for all } i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{P}\}. \end{aligned}$$

We will typically choose the quotient representative to be in $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$. In fact, for $u, v \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$,

$$(u^{-1}\lambda v^{-1})(e_{ij}) = \lambda(ue_{ij}v) = \sum_{1 \leq k, l \leq n} u_{ki}\lambda_{kl}v_{jl} = (\text{Tr}(u)\lambda \text{Tr}(v))_{ij},$$

where $\text{Tr}(u)$ is the transpose of the matrix u . Thus, we can compute the function $(u\lambda v)$ directly by computing the matrix $\text{Tr}(u^{-1})\lambda \text{Tr}(v^{-1})$ and setting all entries to zero that cannot be nonzero in $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$. Alternatively, we can apply a sequence of column operations:

- (a) A scalar multiple of row i may be added to row j if $i < j$ in \mathcal{P} .
- (b) A scalar multiple of column l may be added to column k if $l > k$ in \mathcal{P} .

Note that since we are in the quotient space $M_n(\mathbb{F}_q)/\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^{\perp}$, we quotient by all nonzero entries that might occur through these operations that are not allowable in $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$.

Example. Let \mathcal{P} be as in (2.2). Then the set of matrices

$$\left\{ \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & b & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & ac & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{F}_q \right\} \subseteq \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}},$$

all give rise to the same supercharacter of $U_{\mathcal{P}}$, since we can apply row and column operations to get

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) &\xrightarrow{2 < 3, 2 < 4 \in \mathcal{P}} \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{4 < 5 \in \mathcal{P}} \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & ac & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\ &\xrightarrow{3 < 5 \in \mathcal{P}} \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & b & a & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & ac & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & d \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Remark. In general finding a set of superclass and supercharacter representatives is an open and possibly intractable problem. The paper [12] finds several sets of representatives for a family of pattern groups, but even in that case it is not clear that there is a “best” choice.

2.5. \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set-partitions

A fundamental example is the group of unipotent upper-triangular matrices U_n , corresponding to the total order $\mathcal{P} = \{1 < 2 < \dots < n\}$. By row and column reducing as in Section 2.2, Yan showed [13, Theorems 3.1 and 3.2] that we may choose superclass representatives for U_n such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Superclasses} \\ \text{of } U_n \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ u \in U_n \mid \begin{array}{l} u - 1 \text{ has at most one nonzero} \\ \text{element in every row and column} \end{array} \right\}, \tag{2.5}$$

and supercharacter representatives of U_n such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Supercharacters} \\ \text{of } U_n \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_n \mid \begin{array}{l} \lambda \text{ has at most one nonzero} \\ \text{element in every row and column} \end{array} \right\}. \tag{2.6}$$

The character result was proved earlier by André from a more geometric point of view [1, Theorem 1].

These representatives have a combinatorial description as labeled set partitions. A *set partition* $\lambda = \{\lambda_1 \mid \lambda_2 \mid \dots \mid \lambda_\ell\}$ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a collection of pairwise disjoint, increasing subsequences such that $\{1, 2, \dots, n\} = \lambda_1 \cup \lambda_2 \cup \dots \cup \lambda_\ell$; the subsequences λ_j are called the *parts* of the set partition. We will order the subsequences by their smallest elements.

Example. The set partitions of $\{1, 2, 3\}$ are

$$\{1 \curvearrowright 2 \curvearrowright 3\}, \quad \{1 \curvearrowright 2 \mid 3\}, \quad \{1 \curvearrowright 3 \mid 2\}, \quad \{1 \mid 2 \curvearrowright 3\}, \quad \{1 \mid 2 \mid 3\}.$$

If $q = 2$, then

$$\left\{ u \in U_n \mid \begin{array}{l} u - 1 \text{ has at most one nonzero} \\ \text{element in every row and column} \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Set partitions} \\ \text{of } \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \end{array} \right\},$$

where given a representative u , we construct a set partition by the rule

$$i \curvearrowright j \text{ if and only if } u_{ij} = 1.$$

For example,

$$u - 1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \longleftrightarrow \{1 \curvearrowright 2 \curvearrowright 4 \mid 3\}.$$

Labeled set partitions are the combinatorial generalization that arise when $q > 2$. An \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set partition is a set partition λ where we label each pair of adjacent elements $i \curvearrowright j$ with some nonzero element $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$.

Example. The \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set partitions of $\{1, 2, 3\}$ are

$$\{1 \overset{s}{\curvearrowright} 2 \overset{t}{\curvearrowright} 3\}, \quad \{1 \overset{s}{\curvearrowright} 2 \mid 3\}, \quad \{1 \overset{s}{\curvearrowright} 3 \mid 2\}, \quad \{1 \mid 2 \overset{t}{\curvearrowright} 3\}, \quad \{1 \mid 2 \mid 3\}, \quad \text{where } s, t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times.$$

With this notation, for all q ,

$$\left\{ u \in U_n(\mathbb{F}_q) \mid \begin{array}{l} u - 1 \text{ has at most one nonzero} \\ \text{element in every and column} \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{F}_q\text{-labeled set partitions} \\ \text{of } \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \end{array} \right\},$$

where if λ is an \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set partition, then the corresponding $u \in U_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ is given by $u_{ij} = t \neq 0$ if and only if $i \sim j$ is labeled by t in λ .

Let

$$S_n(q) = \{ \mathbb{F}_q\text{-labeled set partitions of } \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \}. \tag{2.7}$$

3. Superinduction

In [9], Diaconis and Isaacs introduce a notion of superinduction, as a dual functor to restriction. Specifically, if $H \subseteq G$ are algebra groups and χ is a superclass function of H , then for $g \in G$,

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(g) = \frac{1}{|G||H|} \sum_{x,y \in G} \dot{\chi}(x(g-1)y+1), \quad \text{where } \dot{\chi}(z) = \begin{cases} \chi(z), & \text{if } z \in H, \\ 0, & \text{if } z \notin H. \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

This formula generalizes induction by averaging over a superclass instead of averaging over a conjugacy class.

As a functor, superinduction exhibits several desirable qualities, including

- (a) It is adjoint to restriction on the space of superclass functions, so

$$\langle \text{SInd}_H^G(\gamma), \chi \rangle = \langle \gamma, \text{Res}_H^G(\chi) \rangle.$$

- (b) It takes superclass functions of H to superclass functions of G .
- (c) The degree of $\text{SInd}_H^G(\gamma)$ is $\gamma(1)|G|/|H|$.

However, if χ is a supercharacter of a subgroup H of a group G , then $\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)$ is not necessarily a character of G (although it is a positive rational linear combination of characters).

Example. Let $\mathbb{F}_q = \mathbb{F}_2$. Then by direct computation,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SInd}_{U_3 \times U_2}^{U_5}(\chi^{1|2|3|4|5}) &= \chi^{1|2|3|4|5} + \chi^{14|2|3|5} + \chi^{1|24|3|5} + \chi^{1|2|34|5} + \chi^{15|2|3|4} + \chi^{1|25|3|4} + \chi^{1|2|35|4} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\chi^{14|25|3} + \frac{1}{2}\chi^{14|2|35} + \chi^{15|24|3} + \frac{1}{2}\chi^{1|24|35} + \chi^{15|2|34} + \chi^{1|25|34}. \end{aligned}$$

The degree $\chi^{1|24|35}(1) = 2$, and since the coefficient in the superinduction is rational, the character $\chi^{1|24|35}$ is necessarily (by Frobenius reciprocity) reducible. Since

$$\chi^{1|24|35} = \frac{1}{c} \sum_{\chi \text{ irreducible}} \chi(1)\chi$$

for some $c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ [9], we have that $\chi^{1|24|35}$ must be the sum of two linear characters of U_5 . Thus, the superinduced superclass function is not a character.

The character $\chi^{1|24|35}$ is a small example of a non-irreducible supercharacter, and there is a well-known characterization of the irreducibility of supercharacters of U_n (see, for example, [11, Corollary 5.2]), which is corollary of a more general result for algebra groups in [9].

Theorem 3.1. *Let $\lambda \in \mathcal{S}_n(q)$ be identified with $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}^*$. Then χ^λ is an irreducible character of U_n if and only if there exist $i < j < k < l$ such that $\lambda_{ik}, \lambda_{jl} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$.*

3.1. A left–right symmetry in supercharacter theory

In Section 2.4 we defined supercharacters χ^λ in terms of left modules $V^{-\lambda}$. However, from the character formula (2.3) we obtain the same character by viewing the trace of the right module

$$M^{-\lambda} = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_\mu \mid \mu \in (-\lambda)U_{\mathcal{P}}\},$$

with action given by

$$v_\mu u = \theta(\mu(u^{-1} - 1))v_{\mu u}, \quad \text{where } u \in U_{\mathcal{P}}, \mu \in (-\lambda)U_{\mathcal{P}}.$$

Thus, the supercharacter arising from the left module $V^{-\lambda}$ indexed by $-\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$ is the same as the supercharacter arising from the right module $M^{-\lambda}$. In particular, if $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$, then for $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{R}}^*$,

$$\text{Res}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(V^\lambda) = \bigoplus_{\mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*} (V^\mu)^{\oplus m_\mu^\lambda} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \text{Res}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(M^\lambda) = \bigoplus_{\mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*} (M^\mu)^{\oplus m_\mu^\lambda},$$

and if $\text{Ind}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}$ is a superclass function for either left or right modules, then for $\mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$,

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(V^\mu) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{R}}^*} (V^\lambda)^{\oplus m_\mu^\lambda} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \text{Res}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(M^\mu) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{R}}^*} (M^\lambda)^{\oplus m_\mu^\lambda}.$$

These observations will be used below to translate sufficiency conditions that are obvious for either right or left modules to the other side.

3.2. Superinduction and induction

This section explores some of the cases where superinduction turns out to be induction. The most basic result of this nature is a consequence of the following lemma. We state it in its more general form for algebra groups.

Lemma 3.1. *Let $H \subseteq G$ be algebra groups, and let χ be a superclass function of H . Then for $g \in G$*

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)(x(g-1) + 1).$$

Proof. For $g \in G$,

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)(g) = \frac{1}{|H||G|} \sum_{x,y \in G} \dot{\chi}(x(g-1)y + 1) = \frac{1}{|H||G|} \sum_{x,y \in G} \dot{\chi}(y^{-1}x(g-1)y + 1),$$

where the second equality is a substitution. Since $y^{-1}y = 1$,

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{y \in G} \dot{\chi}(y^{-1}(x(g-1)+1)y) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{x \in G} \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)(x(g-1)+1),$$

as desired. \square

Since superinduction takes superclass functions to superclass functions, we have the following corollary.

Corollary 3.1. *Let $H \subseteq G$ be algebra groups. Then $\text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)$ is a superclass function of G for every superclass function χ of H if and only if $\text{SInd}_H^G = \text{Ind}_H^G$.*

The following theorem applies to arbitrary algebra groups, rather than just pattern groups.

Theorem 3.2. *Let H be a subalgebra group of an algebra group G , and suppose*

- (1) *No two superclasses of H are in the same superclass of G .*
- (2) *$x(h-1)+1 \in H$ for all $x \in G, h \in H$.*

Then for any superclass function χ of H ,

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi) = \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi).$$

Proof. Let χ be a superclass function of H , and let S_1, S_2, \dots, S_r be the superclasses of H . By (1), there exist distinct superclasses T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r of G such that $S_j \subseteq T_j$. Note that by (3.1),

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)(g) = 0 = \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)(g), \quad \text{for } g \notin T_1 \cup T_2 \cup \dots \cup T_r.$$

WLOG suppose $g \in T_1$. Since $\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)$ is constant on superclasses, we may assume $g \in S_1 \subseteq G$. If $(g-1)y+1 \in H$ for $y \in G$, then by (2), $x(g-1)y+1 \in H$ for all $x \in G$. By (1), this implies $(g-1)y+1$ and $x(g-1)y+1$ are in the same superclass of H and

$$\chi(x(g-1)y+1) = \chi((g-1)y+1).$$

If $(g-1)y+1 \notin H$, then $x(g-1)y+1 \notin H$. Else, $x(g-1)y+1 = h \in H$ implies

$$x^{-1}(h-1)+1 = (g-1)y+1 \notin H, \quad \text{contradicting (1).}$$

Thus,

$$\dot{\chi}(x(g-1)y+1) = 0 = \dot{\chi}((g-1)y+1).$$

By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SInd}_H^G(\chi)(g) &= \frac{1}{|G||H|} \sum_{x,y \in G} \dot{\chi}(x(g-1)y+1) = \frac{1}{|G||H|} \sum_{x,y \in G} \dot{\chi}((g-1)y+1) \\ &= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{y \in G} \dot{\chi}(y^{-1}(g-1)y+1) = \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi)(g), \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \square

Remarks.

- (a) The theorem still holds if we replace condition (2) with (2') $(h - 1)y + 1 \in H$ for all $y \in G, h \in H$.
- (b) For two pattern groups $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$, we may translate condition (2) into the condition that if $i < j$ in \mathcal{R} and $j < k$ in \mathcal{P} , then $i < k$ in \mathcal{P} . Condition (1) is more complicated, but as we will see in Theorem 3.3 below, $U_m \subseteq U_n$ satisfy these conditions.

Example. If one embeds $H = U_m$ into U_n in either the top left-hand corner or in the bottom right-hand corner, then Theorem 3.2 applies to any group G such that $H \subseteq G \subseteq U_n$.

Theorem 3.3, below, is a variant of Theorem 3.2 specific to semi-direct products of pattern groups.

Theorem 3.3. Suppose $G = H \rtimes K$ where $G, H,$ and K are pattern groups. If $(k - 1)(h - 1) = 0$ for all $h \in H$ and $k \in K$, then

$$\text{SInd}_H^G(\chi) = \text{Ind}_H^G(\chi) \quad \text{for all superclass functions } \chi \text{ of } H.$$

Remarks.

- (a) The condition in Theorem 3.3 is equivalent to the condition $i < j$ in \mathcal{P}_K implies $j \not< k$ in \mathcal{P}_H for all $k > j > i$ in \mathcal{P}_G .
- (b) Using the arguments in Section 3.1, we can replace the condition in Theorem 3.3 by, “If $(h - 1)(k - 1) = 0$ for all $h \in H, k \in K$ ” if we switch from left modules to right modules.

We first prove a useful lemma stating that normal pattern subgroups are “super”-normal.

Lemma 3.2. Suppose $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$ are pattern groups with $U_{\mathcal{P}} \triangleleft U_{\mathcal{R}}$. Then

$$x(h - 1)y + 1 \in U_{\mathcal{P}}, \quad \text{for all } x, y \in U_{\mathcal{R}}, h \in U_{\mathcal{P}}.$$

Proof. Note that for $x, y \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$ and $h \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$,

$$1 + x(h - 1)y = 1 + xy(y^{-1}hy - 1).$$

Since $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ is normal in $U_{\mathcal{R}}$, it suffices to show that $1 + x(h - 1) \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ for all $x \in U_{\mathcal{R}}, h \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$.

For $x \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$ and $h \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$,

$$x = \prod_{i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}} (1 + r_{ij}e_{ij}), \quad \text{for some } r_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q,$$

$$h = 1 + \sum_{k < l \text{ in } \mathcal{P}} t_{kl}e_{kl}, \quad \text{for some } t_{kl} \in \mathbb{F}_q,$$

so it suffices to show that $1 + (1 + re_{ij})te_{kl} \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ for $r, t \in \mathbb{F}_q, i < j$ in \mathcal{R} , and $k < l$ in \mathcal{P} .

Suppose $i < j$ in \mathcal{R} and $k < l$ in \mathcal{P} . If $j \neq k$, then for $r, t \in \mathbb{F}_q$,

$$1 + (1 + re_{ij})te_{kl} = 1 + te_{kl} + re_{ij}e_{kl} = 1 + te_{kl} \in U_{\mathcal{P}}.$$

If $j = k$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 + (1 + re_{ij})te_{jl} &= 1 + te_{jl} + rte_{il} \\
 &= 1 + te_{jl} + rte_{il} - rte_{jle_{ij}} - r^2te_{ile_{ij}} \\
 &= 1 + (1 + re_{ij})te_{jl}(1 - re_{ij}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ is normal in $U_{\mathcal{R}}$, we have $1 + (1 + re_{ij})te_{jl}(1 - re_{ij}) \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.3. We will show that G and H satisfy (1) and (2) of Theorem 3.2.

(1) Suppose $x, y \in G$ and $z \in H$ such that $1 + x(z - 1)y \in H$. It suffices to show that there exist $h, h' \in H$ such that $1 + x(z - 1)y = 1 + h(z - 1)h'$. Since $G = HK$, we may write $x = kh$ and $y = h'k'$, where $h, h' \in H$, and $k, k' \in K$, so

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 + x(z - 1)y &= 1 + kh(z - 1)h'k' \\
 &= 1 + (k - 1)h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1) + h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1) + (k - 1)h(z - 1)h' + h(z - 1)h'.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that by Lemma 3.2,

$$(k - 1)h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1), h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1), (k - 1)h(z - 1)h' \in K - 1.$$

Since $1 + x(z - 1)y \in H$, we have

$$kh(z - 1)h'k' = (k - 1)h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1) + h(z - 1)h'(k' - 1) + (k - 1)h(z - 1)h' = 0$$

and $1 + x(z - 1)y = 1 + h(z - 1)h'$.

(2) Suppose $k \in K$ and $h \in H$. It suffices to show $1 + k(h - 1) \in H$ (since $h'(h - 1) \in H - 1$ for all $h' \in H$). By our assumption,

$$1 + k(h - 1) = 1 + (k - 1)(h - 1) + (h - 1) = 1 + (h - 1) \in H,$$

as desired. \square

Examples. The assumption of Theorem 3.3 is easily satisfied for the semi-direct product

$$U_n = U_m \ltimes U_{\mathcal{P}}$$

$$= \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c|c} U_m & 0 \\ \hline & \text{Id}_{n-m} \end{array} \right) \right\} \ltimes \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Id}_m & * \\ \hline 0 & U_{n-m} \end{array} \right) \right\}, \text{ where } \mathcal{P} =$$

so $\text{SInd}_{U_m}^{U_n} = \text{Ind}_{U_m}^{U_n}$ in this case.

Another variant is the semi-direct product

$$U_{m+n} = (U_m \times U_n) \rtimes U_{\mathcal{P}'}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} U_m & 0 \\ 0 & U_n \end{pmatrix} \right\} \times \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \text{Id}_m & * \\ 0 & \text{Id}_n \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{P}' = \begin{matrix} m+1 & m+2 & \cdots & m+n \\ \left| \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \right. \\ 1 & 2 & \cdots & m \end{matrix}$$

is the poset given by $i < j$ if $1 \leq i \leq m < j \leq m+n$. However, for m or n greater than 1, this semi-direct product does not satisfy the hypothesis of Theorem 3.3, and superinduction does not, in general, give characters for these cases (see the example preceding Lemma 3.1).

The following theorem uses Lemma 2.1 to obtain a different set of groups for which superinduction is induction.

Theorem 3.4. *Let $U_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq U_{\mathcal{R}}$ be pattern groups, and let*

$$I = \{u \in U_{\mathcal{R}} \mid u_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ implies } i < j \text{ in } \mathcal{R}/\mathcal{P}\}.$$

If $(l-1)(u-1) = 0$ for all $l \in I, u \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$, then

$$\text{SInd}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(\chi) = \text{Ind}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(\chi) \quad \text{for all superclass functions } \chi \text{ of } U_{\mathcal{P}}.$$

Proof. First note that if $l, r \in I$, then by our assumption

$$lr = 1 + (l-1) + (r-1) + (l-1)(r-1) = 1 + (l-1) + (r-1) \in I.$$

Thus, I is a subgroup and abelian ($l^{-1} = 1 + (1-l) \in I$).

By assumption, for $l, r \in I$ and $u \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + l(u-1)r &= r^{-1}r + r^{-1}rl(u-1)r = r^{-1}[(u-1) + (rl-1)(u-1)]r \\ &= 1 + r^{-1}(u-1)r = r^{-1}ur. \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

If χ a superclass function of $U_{\mathcal{P}}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SInd}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(\chi)(u) &= \frac{1}{|U_{\mathcal{P}}||U_{\mathcal{R}}|} \sum_{x,y \in U_{\mathcal{R}}} \dot{\chi}(x(u-1)y+1), \quad \text{by definition,} \\ &= \frac{1}{|U_{\mathcal{P}}||U_{\mathcal{R}}|} \sum_{l,r \in I} \sum_{h,k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}} \dot{\chi}(hl(u-1)rh'+1), \quad \text{by Lemma 2.1,} \\ &= \frac{1}{|U_{\mathcal{P}}||U_{\mathcal{R}}|} \sum_{l,r \in I} \sum_{h,k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}} \dot{\chi}(l(u-1)r+1) \\ &= \frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{l,r \in I} \dot{\chi}(l(u-1)r+1) \\ &= \sum_{r \in I} \dot{\chi}(r^{-1}(u-1)r), \quad \text{by (3.2),} \\ &= \text{Ind}_{U_{\mathcal{P}}}^{U_{\mathcal{R}}}(\chi)(u), \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \square

Remark. Using the arguments in Section 3.1, we can replace the condition in Theorem 3.4 by, “If $(u - 1)(r - 1) = 0$ for all $r \in I, u \in U_{\mathcal{R}}$ ” if we switch from left modules to right modules.

Example. Fix $n \geq 1$. For $0 \leq m \leq n$, let

$$U_{(m)} = \{u \in U_n \mid u_{ij} = 0, \text{ for } j \leq m\} = U_{\mathcal{P}_{(m)}}, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{P}_{(m)} = \begin{array}{c} n \\ | \\ \vdots \\ | \\ m+1 \\ | \\ m \\ | \\ m-1 \\ | \\ \vdots \\ | \\ 2 \end{array} .$$

Note that

$$U_{n-1} \cong U_{(n)} \triangleleft U_{(n-1)} \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft U_{(1)} \triangleleft U_{(0)} = U_n,$$

and that all of these groups satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 3.4 within one-another.

4. Superinduction for U_n

This section computes the superinduced characters from $U_m \subseteq U_n$, where U_n is the group of $n \times n$ unipotent upper-triangular matrices over \mathbb{F}_q . For this case, superinduction is the same as induction, and the theory gives rise to beautiful combinatorial algorithms for adding elements to labeled set-partitions. It should be noted that there are many embeddings of U_m in U_n ; in fact, if $m > 1$, then U_n has $\binom{n}{m}$ different pattern subgroups that are isomorphic to U_m . Unlike in the case of the symmetric group, the decomposition of the induced character strongly depends on which embedding is chosen. We therefore begin by choosing an embedding for the remainder of this paper by placing U_{n-1} in the first $n - 1$ rows and columns of U_n .

4.1. An embedding of U_{n-1} in U_n .

Let

$$U_{n-1} = \{u \in U_n \mid u_{ij} \neq 0 \text{ implies } i < j < n\},$$

$$n_{n-1}^* = U_{n-1} - 1,$$

$$n_n^* = U_n - 1.$$

Note that

$$U_n = U_{n-1} \times U_{\mathcal{P}}, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{P} = \begin{array}{c} n \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 1 \quad 2 \quad \dots \quad n-1 \end{array} .$$

The pattern group $U_{\mathcal{P}}$ is abelian, so its supercharacters are in bijection with $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$.

If $k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $u \in U_{n-1}$ and $g = ku \in U_n$ then

$$g_{ij} = \begin{cases} k_{ij}, & \text{if } j = n, \\ u_{ij}, & \text{if } j < n. \end{cases}$$

It follows that $(k - 1)(g - 1) = 0$ for all $k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $g \in U_n$. Thus, by Theorem 3.4,

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(V^\mu) = \text{SInd}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(V^\mu), \quad \text{for all } \mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{n-1}^*,$$

where V^μ is the supermodule corresponding to $\mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{n-1}^*$.

4.2. Induction from U_{n-1} to U_n

Recall that $S_n(q)$ is given in (2.7). The following theorem gives a basis for the induced modules from U_{n-1} to U_n .

Theorem 4.1. *Suppose $\mu \in S_{n-1}(q)$ with corresponding U_{n-1} -supermodule V^μ . Then*

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(V^\mu) \cong \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_\lambda \mid \lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_n^*, \lambda|_{U_{n-1}} \in U_{n-1}\mu\}.$$

Proof. We have an alternate basis of the group algebra $\mathbb{C}U_{\mathcal{P}}$ given by

$$\mathbb{C}U_{\mathcal{P}} = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{e_\gamma \mid \gamma \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*\},$$

where for $\gamma \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$,

$$e_\gamma = \frac{1}{q^{n-1}} \sum_{k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}} \theta \circ \gamma(k^{-1} - 1)k.$$

The induced module is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(V^\mu) &= \mathbb{C}U_n \otimes_{\mathbb{C}U_{n-1}} V^\mu \\ &= \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{e_\gamma \otimes v_\nu \mid \gamma \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*, \nu \in U_{n-1}\mu\}. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : \mathbb{C}U_n \otimes_{\mathbb{C}U_{n-1}} V^\mu &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_\lambda \mid \lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_n^*, \lambda|_{U_{n-1}} \in U_{n-1}\mu\}, \\ e_\gamma \otimes v_\nu &\mapsto v_{(-\gamma) \oplus \nu}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma \in \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}}^*$ and $\nu \in U_{n-1}\mu$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \oplus \nu : \mathfrak{n}_n &= \mathfrak{n}_{\mathcal{P}} \oplus \mathfrak{n}_{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q, \\ (k - 1) + (u - 1) &\mapsto \gamma(k - 1) + \nu(u - 1). \end{aligned}$$

The map φ is well defined since $(-\gamma \oplus \nu\mu)(u - 1) = \nu\mu(u - 1)$ for all $u, \nu \in U_{n-1}$. It therefore suffices to show that φ is a U_n -module isomorphism.

For $k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$,

$$k\varphi(e_{\gamma} \otimes v_{\nu}) = kv_{(-\gamma) \oplus \nu} = \theta((-\gamma \oplus \nu)(k^{-1} - 1))v_{k(-\gamma \oplus \nu)} = \theta(\gamma(k - 1))v_{(-\gamma) \oplus \nu},$$

since $k\gamma = \gamma$ and $kv(u - 1) = v(k^{-1}(u - 1)) = v(u - 1)$ for all $u \in U_{n-1}$. On the other hand,

$$\varphi(ke_{\gamma} \otimes v_{\nu}) = \varphi(\theta(\gamma(k - 1))e_{\gamma} \otimes v_{\nu}) = \theta(\gamma(k - 1))v_{(-\gamma) \oplus \nu}.$$

Suppose $u \in U_{n-1}$. It follows from $(k - 1)u = (k - 1)$ for all $k \in U_{\mathcal{P}}$ that

$$ue_{\gamma}u^{-1} = e_{u\gamma}.$$

Thus,

$$\varphi(ue_{\gamma} \otimes v_{\nu}) = \varphi(e_{u\gamma} \otimes uv_{\nu}) = \theta(v(u^{-1} - 1))\varphi(e_{u\gamma} \otimes v_{uv}) = \theta(v(u^{-1} - 1))v_{(-u\gamma) \oplus uv}.$$

On the other hand,

$$u\varphi(e_{\gamma} \otimes v_{\nu}) = uv_{(-\gamma) \oplus \nu} = \theta(v(u^{-1} - 1))v_{u(-\gamma \oplus \nu)} = \theta(v(u^{-1} - 1))v_{(-u\gamma) \oplus uv},$$

as desired. \square

The following corollary gives a character theoretic version of Theorem 4.1. Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{n}_{n-1}^*$ and $\lambda \in \mathfrak{n}_n^*$. Then λ is left minimal over μ if

- (1) $\lambda|_{U_{n-1}} = \mu$, and
- (2) $\lambda_{in}, \lambda_{jn} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\times}$ with $i < j$ implies $\lambda_{ik} \neq 0$ for some $k > j$.

Corollary 4.1. Suppose $\mu \in S_{n-1}(q)$ with corresponding U_{n-1} -supercharacter χ^{μ} . Then

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^{\mu}) = \sum_{\substack{\lambda \text{ left minimal} \\ \text{over } \mu}} \chi^{\lambda},$$

where the supercharacters χ^{λ} are not necessarily distinct.

Proof. By Theorem 4.1, V^{λ} is a submodule of $\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(V^{\mu})$ if and only if

$$\lambda|_{U_{n-1}} \in U_{n-1}\mu.$$

For each such λ ,

$$V^{\lambda} = \mathbb{C}\text{-span}\{v_{\lambda'} \mid \lambda' \in U_n\lambda\}.$$

Note that each module V^{λ} has at least one basis vector v_{λ_0} such that $\lambda_0|_{U_{n-1}} = \mu$. Furthermore, there is a unique λ_0 that has a minimal number of nonzero entries in the n th column. This uniquely defined representative of V^{λ} is left minimal over μ .

Conversely, every λ that is left minimal over μ satisfies $\lambda|_{U_{n-1}} \in U_{n-1}\mu$ and λ has the minimal number of nonzero entries in the n th column among all $\lambda_0 \in U_n\lambda$ such that $\lambda_0|_{U_{n-1}} = \mu$. \square

Define two products on labeled set partitions by the following rule. For a labeled set partition μ and $i, k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$, let

$$\mu *_{i} \{k\} = \begin{cases} \mu \cup \{k\}, & \text{if } i = k, \\ q(\mu *_{i+1} \{k\}), & \text{if there is } l > k \text{ with } \mu_{il} \neq 0, \\ \mu|_{i \xrightarrow{\mu_{ik}} k \rightarrow i} *_{i+1} \{k\}, & \text{if } \mu_{ik} \neq 0, \\ \mu *_{i+1} \{k\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu|_{i \xrightarrow{\mu_{ij}} j \rightarrow i} \xrightarrow{t} k *_{i+1} \{j\}, & \text{if there is } j < k \text{ with } \mu_{ij} \neq 0, \\ \mu *_{i+1} \{k\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu|_{i \mapsto i} \xrightarrow{t} k, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

and for $j, l \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$, let

$$\{j\} *_{l} \mu = \begin{cases} \mu \cup \{l\}, & \text{if } j = l, \\ q(\{j\} *_{l-1} \mu), & \text{if there is } i < j \text{ with } \mu_{il} \neq 0, \\ \{j\} *_{l-1} \mu|_{j \xrightarrow{\mu_{jl}} l \rightarrow j} l, & \text{if } \mu_{jl} \neq 0, \\ \{j\} *_{l-1} \mu + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{k\} *_{l-1} \mu|_{k \xrightarrow{\mu_{kl}} l \rightarrow j} \xrightarrow{t} l, & \text{if there is } k > j \text{ with } \mu_{kl} \neq 0, \\ \{j\} *_{l-1} \mu + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu|_{j \mapsto j} \xrightarrow{t} l, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \tag{4.2}$$

where the notation $\mu|_{j \xrightarrow{\mu_{jl}} l \rightarrow j} l$ indicates replacing $j \xrightarrow{\mu_{jl}} l$ in μ with $j | l$, and leaving everything else in μ the same. For example,

$$\{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 6 \overset{c}{\frown} 7 | 2 \overset{d}{\frown} 5 | 4\}|_{3 \overset{b}{\frown} 6 \rightarrow 3} 6 = \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{d}{\frown} 5 | 4 | 6 \overset{c}{\frown} 7\}.$$

Examples. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{1} \{5\} &= \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{2} \{5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{2} \{3\} \\ &= \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{3} \{5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{t}{\frown} 5\} *_{3} \{4\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{3} \{3\} \\ &= \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} *_{4} \{5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{t}{\frown} 5\} *_{4} \{4\} \\ &\quad + \sum_{t, t' \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 \overset{t'}{\frown} 4 | 2 \overset{t}{\frown} 5\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4 | 3\} \\ &= \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4 | 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4 \overset{t}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4\} \\ &\quad + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 | 2 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 4\} + \sum_{t, t' \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{a}{\frown} 3 \overset{t'}{\frown} 4 | 2 \overset{t}{\frown} 5\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 | 2 \overset{b}{\frown} 4 | 3\}. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting on the other side gives,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \{1\} *_{5} \{2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} &= \{1\} *_{4} \{2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{3\} *_{4} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4\} \\
 &= \{1\} *_{3} \{2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{2\} *_{3} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{3\} *_{3} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4\} \\
 &= \{1\} *_{2} \{2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{2\} *_{2} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{t, t' \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 4 \mid 2 \overset{t'}{\frown} 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3\} \\
 &= \{1 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4\} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 4 \mid 2 \mid 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + \sum_{t, t' \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 4 \mid 2 \overset{t'}{\frown} 3 \overset{b}{\frown} 5\} + q \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \{1 \overset{t}{\frown} 5 \mid 2 \overset{a}{\frown} 4 \mid 3\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We will extend these product to supercharacters by the conventions

$$\begin{aligned}
 \chi^\mu *_{i} \chi^{\{k\}} &= \sum_{\lambda} c_{\mu k}^\lambda \chi^\lambda, \quad \text{if } \mu *_{i} \{k\} = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\mu k}^\lambda \lambda, \\
 \chi^{\{j\}} *_{l} \chi^\mu &= \sum_{\lambda} c_{j \mu}^\lambda \chi^\lambda, \quad \text{if } \{j\} *_{l} \mu = \sum_{\lambda} c_{j \mu}^\lambda \lambda.
 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.2. Let μ be an \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set partition of $\{1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$. Then

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n} (\chi^\mu) = \chi^\mu *_{1} \chi^{\{n\}}.$$

Proof. We induct on n , where the base case is clear. For $\mu \in n_{n-1}^*$, let

$$L_\mu = \{ \lambda \in n_n^* \mid \lambda \text{ is left minimal over } \mu \}.$$

By Corollary 4.1,

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n} (\chi^\mu) = \sum_{\lambda \in L_\mu} \chi^\lambda.$$

We will show that

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n} (\chi^\mu) = \begin{cases} \mu *_{2} \{n\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu \big|_{1 \overset{\mu_{1j}}{\frown} j \mapsto 1 \overset{t}{\frown} n} *_{2} \{j\}, & \text{if there is } j < n \text{ with } \mu_{1j} \neq 0, \\ \mu *_{2} \{n\} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu \big|_{1 \mapsto 1 \overset{t}{\frown} n}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Suppose μ has no nonzero entry in the first row. Then $\lambda \in L_\mu$ either satisfies

- (a) $\lambda_{1n} \neq 0$ and λ has no other nonzero entry in the n th column.
- (b) $\lambda_{1n} = 0$ and λ is left minimal over μ when we restrict to the pattern groups not including the first row.

Thus, in this case,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^\mu) &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n}=0}} \chi^\lambda + \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^\lambda \\ &= \text{Ind}_{U'_{n-2}}^{U'_{n-1}}(\chi^\mu) + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \chi^{\mu|_{1 \mapsto 1-t, n}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} U'_{n-1} &= \{u \in U_n \mid u_{1j} = 0, 1 < j \leq n\}, \\ U'_{n-2} &= \{u \in U'_{n-1} \mid u_{ik} = 0, k = n\}. \end{aligned}$$

However, by induction on the size of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, we have that

$$\text{Ind}_{U'_{n-2}}^{U'_{n-1}}(\chi^\mu) = \chi^\mu *_2 n,$$

as desired.

Suppose that $\mu_{1j} \neq 0$ for some $1 < j < n$. Then

$$\sum_{\lambda \in L_\mu} \chi^\lambda = \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n}=0}} \chi^\lambda + \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^\lambda. \tag{4.3}$$

Consider the first sum, and let μ' be the same as μ except with $\mu'_{1j} = 0$. Then

$$\text{Ind}_{U'_{n-2}}^{U'_{n-1}}(\chi^{\mu'}) = \sum_{\substack{\lambda' \text{ left minimal} \\ \text{over } \mu'}} \chi^{\lambda'} = \chi^{\mu'} *_2 \chi^{\{n\}},$$

by induction. Since $\lambda_{1n} = 0$, any row and column reducing will not affect the first row, it follows that

$$\chi^{\mu'} *_2 \chi^{\{n\}} = \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n}=0}} \chi^\lambda.$$

Consider the second sum on the RHS in (4.3), and let $\lambda \in L_\mu$ such that $\lambda_{1n} \neq 0$. Since $\lambda_{1n}, \lambda_{1j} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$, we can reduce

$$\left(\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mu_{1j} & \begin{array}{c} \lambda_{1n} \\ \lambda_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_{n-1,n} \\ 0 \end{array} \end{array} \right) \right) \text{ to } \lambda' = \left(\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{array}{c} \lambda_{1n} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array} \end{array} \right) \right).$$

Let λ' denote this reduction applied to λ , so

$$\sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^\lambda = \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^{\lambda'}$$

Note that this has the effect of replacing $1 \frown j$ by $1 \frown n$, and no further row or column operations will affect the first row or last column.

If $\mu_{2k} \neq 0$ for some $k > j$, then we can reduce

$$\lambda' = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 0 & & \lambda_{1n} & & \\ \hline -\mu_{1j}\lambda_{1n}^{-1}\lambda_{2n} & \mu_{2k} & 0 & & \\ \hline & \vdots & & 0 & \\ & -\mu_{1j}\lambda_{1n}^{-1}\lambda_{n-2,n} & & \vdots & \\ & 0 & & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & \end{array} \right) \text{ to } \lambda'' = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 0 & & \lambda_{1n} & & \\ \hline & & \mu_{2k} & 0 & \\ \hline -\mu_{1j}\lambda_{1n}^{-1}\lambda_{3n} & & & 0 & \\ \hline & \vdots & & & 0 \\ & -\mu_{1j}\lambda_{1n}^{-1}\lambda_{n-2,n} & & \vdots & \\ & 0 & & 0 & \\ & & & 0 & \end{array} \right).$$

That is, in this case, every possible value of λ_{2n} leads to the same reduced matrix. In particular,

$$\sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^{\lambda'} = q \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times, \lambda_{2n}=0}} \chi^{\lambda''},$$

and any further reductions will not affect the second row.

If $\mu_{2k} = 0$ for all $j < k < n$, then we proceed reducing as before, replacing 1 by 2 and n by j . Combining these steps we obtain that

$$\sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L_\mu \\ \lambda_{1n} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi^\lambda = \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \mu|_{i \frown j \rightarrow i \frown k}^{*2} *2 j,$$

as desired. \square

Examples.

1. The induction of the trivial character is

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n} (\chi^{\{1|2|\dots|n-1\}}) = \chi^{\{1|2|\dots|n-1|n\}} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \chi^{\{1|\dots|j-1|j \frown n|j+1|\dots|n-1\}}.$$

2. If the labeled set partition has exactly one part of size two, with all other parts having size 1, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n} (\chi^{\{1|2|\dots|j-1|j \frown k|\dots|n-1\}}) &= \chi^{\{1|2|\dots|j-1|j \frown k|\dots|n\}} + \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \chi^{\{1|\dots|i \frown n|\dots|j \frown k|\dots|n-1\}} \\ &\quad + \chi^{\{1|\dots|j \frown n|\dots|n-1\}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ \sum_{j'=j+1}^{k-1} \sum_{t, t' \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \chi^{\{1|\dots|j \xrightarrow{t} n|\dots|j' \xrightarrow{t'} k|\dots|n-1\}} \\
 &+ \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-1} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \chi^{\{1|\dots|j \xrightarrow{a} k|\dots|i \xrightarrow{t} n|\dots|n-1\}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

3. If $\mathbb{F}_q = \mathbb{F}_2$, then we obtain a Pieri-type product on set partitions using Theorem 4.2 as follows. Let $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\} = A \cup B$ with $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and $B = \{b_1 < b_2 < \dots < b_m\}$. For $\lambda = \{\lambda_1 | \lambda_2 | \dots | \lambda_k\}$ of A , define recursively

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\lambda *_i \{b_1 \frown b_2 \frown \dots \frown b_m\} \\
 &= 2^{|\{j \frown k \in \lambda | i \leq j < b_1 < k\}|} \{\lambda | b_1 \frown b_2 \frown \dots \frown b_m\} + \sum_{\substack{a|\in\lambda \\ i < a < b_1}} \lambda_{|a| \mapsto a} b_1 \frown b_2 \frown \dots \frown b_m | \\
 &+ \sum_{\substack{a_1 \frown a_2 \frown \dots \frown a_r | \in \lambda \\ i < a_1 < a_2 < b_1}} 2^{|\{j \frown k \in \lambda | i \leq j < a_1 < b_1 < k\}|} \lambda_{|a_1 \frown a_2 \frown \dots \frown a_r| \mapsto a_1 \frown b_1 \frown \dots \frown b_m} *_{a_1+1} \{a_2 \frown \dots \frown a_r\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} *_1 \{7\} &= \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 7\} + (\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} \\
 &+ \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 \frown 7 | 3 \frown 5\} + \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 \frown 7\}) \\
 &+ \{1 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} *_2 \{4 \frown 6\} + \{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} *_5 \{6\} \\
 &+ \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 7\} *_4 \{5\},
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \{1 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} *_2 \{4 \frown 6\} &= 2\{1 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 4 \frown 6\} + \{1 \frown 7 | 2 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 3 \frown 5\}, \\
 \{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\} *_5 \{6\} &= \{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 6\} + \{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 \frown 6\}, \\
 \{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 7\} *_4 \{5\} &= 2\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 7 | 5\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Ind}_{\mathbb{F}_6}^{U_7} (\chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\}}) &= \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 7\}} + \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5\}} + \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 \frown 7 | 3 \frown 5\}} \\
 &+ \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 \frown 7\}} + 2\chi^{\{1 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 4 \frown 6\}} + \chi^{\{1 \frown 7 | 2 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 3 \frown 5\}} \\
 &+ \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 | 6\}} + \chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 7 | 2 | 3 \frown 5 \frown 6\}} + 2\chi^{\{1 \frown 4 \frown 6 | 2 | 3 \frown 7 | 5\}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

There is a similar formula for arbitrary q obtained by summing over all $\sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} a \xrightarrow{t} b$ whenever we add an arc.

The following corollary gives a nice alternate characterization of when supercharacters of U_n are irreducible.

Corollary 4.2. *The supercharacter $\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^\lambda)$ is multiplicity free (as a linear combination of supercharacters) if and only if χ^λ is an irreducible character.*

Proof. If χ^λ is reducible, then by Theorem 3.1 there exist $1 \leq i < j < k < l \leq n - 1$ such that $\lambda_{ik}, \lambda_{jl} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$. We may embed λ in \mathfrak{n}_n^* by adding a column of zeroes. Let $\lambda' \in \mathfrak{n}_n^*$ be the same as λ except with replacements of the (i, k) th entry with 0 and the (i, n) th entry by 1. It follows from Theorem 4.2 that $\chi^{\lambda'}$ is a constituent of $\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^\lambda)$ with coefficient q .

Conversely, if χ^λ is irreducible, then $i < j < k < l$ implies either $\lambda_{ik} = 0$ or $\lambda_{jl} = 0$. The only way we obtain a coefficient greater than 1 in our algorithm is to apply the second condition. For this to occur, we must have replaced $i \frown k$ with $i \frown r$ for some $r > k$, and then for some $i < j < k$ we must find $l > k$ such that $\lambda_{jl} \neq 0$. However, these steps imply that $\lambda_{ik}, \lambda_{jl} \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ and $i < j < k < l$, contradicting our assumption. \square

By iterating Theorem 4.2, we obtain the following corollary, which should be relatively easy to implement. Unfortunately, while it is clear that the coefficients will be polynomial in q , a combinatorial formula for the coefficients remains an open problem.

Corollary 4.3. *Let $\mu \in S_m(q)$. Then*

$$\text{Ind}_{U_m}^{U_n}(\chi^\mu) = \chi^\mu *_1 \chi^{\{m+1\}} *_1 \chi^{\{m+2\}} *_1 \dots *_1 \chi^{\{n\}}.$$

The paper [12] proves the following theorem.

Theorem 4.3. *For $\lambda \in S_n(q)$,*

$$\text{Res}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^\lambda) = \begin{cases} \chi^{\{i\}} *_n \chi^\lambda, & \text{if } \lambda_{in} \neq 0, \\ \chi^{\lambda|_{U_{n-1}}}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By applying Frobenius reciprocity, we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 4.4. *Suppose $\mu \in S_{n-1}(q)$ and $\lambda \in S_n(q)$.*

(a) *If $\lambda_{in} \neq 0$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$, then*

$$\langle \chi^\lambda, \chi^\mu *_1 \chi^{\{n\}} \rangle = \langle \chi^{\{i\}} *_n \chi^\lambda, \chi^\mu \rangle.$$

(b) *If $\lambda_{in} = 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$, then*

$$\langle \chi^\lambda, \chi^\mu *_1 \chi^{\{n\}} \rangle = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \lambda|_{U_{n-1}} = \mu, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

4.3. An alternate embedding of U_{n-1}

The paper [12] uses a different embedding of U_{n-1} into U_n (obtained by removing the first row rather than the last column). This embedding no longer satisfies the conditions of Theorem 3.3 for its left modules. However, by Section 3.1, we may instead consider right modules. In this case, Theorem 3.3 applies and we get the same sequence of results with left and right reversed. In fact, we have the following corollary.

Corollary 4.5. Let $U_{n-1} \subseteq U_n$ be the embedding obtained by setting the first row of U_n equal to zero. Then for μ an \mathbb{F}_q -labeled set-partition of $\{2, 3, \dots, n\}$,

$$\text{Ind}_{U_{n-1}}^{U_n}(\chi^\mu) = \chi^{\{1\}} *_n \chi^\mu.$$

In particular, unlike in the symmetric group representation theory, the decomposition of induced characters depends on the embedding of U_{n-1} into U_n (unlike in the case of the symmetric group, not all embeddings are related by inner automorphisms).

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