

# Finite flavour groups of fermions

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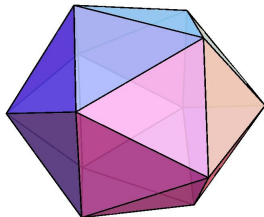
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## Review:

W. Grimus, P.O. Ludl

*Finite flavour groups of fermions*

J. Phys. A **45** (2012) 233001 [arXiv:1110.6376]



**Definition:** group  $(G, \circ)$

$$\begin{aligned} \circ : \quad G \times G &\rightarrow G \\ (g_1, g_2) &\mapsto g_1 \circ g_2 \end{aligned}$$

① Associative law:

$$(g_1 \circ g_2) \circ g_3 = g_1 \circ (g_2 \circ g_3)$$

② Neutral element:

$$\exists e \in G \text{ with } e \circ g = g \quad \forall g \in G$$

③ Inverse element:

$$\forall g \in G \exists g^{-1} \in G \text{ with } g^{-1} \circ g = e$$

“Any set of  $n \times n$  matrices, closed under multiplication and formation the inverse matrix, is a group.”

- **Gauge group:**
  - completely fixes gauge interactions
  - flavour-blind (Yukawa couplings free)
- **Flavour group:** determines flavour sector?
  - Lie group? Gauged?
  - Spontaneous symmetry breaking: Goldstone bosons?

Flavour group:

Discrete  $\leftrightarrow$  avoid Goldstone bosons

There are no compelling argument in favour of discrete flavour groups!

**Lepton mixing:** until 2011 **tri-bimaximal mixing** and group  $A_4$   
TBM: Harrison, Perkins, Scott (2002)

$$U_{\text{PMNS}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

**$\theta_{13}$  revolution:**

Daya Bay, RENO exps. (2012):  $\theta_{13} \neq 0$


Gonzalez-Garcia et al.:  $\sin^2 \theta_{13} = 0.023 \pm 0.0023$  or  $\theta_{13} \simeq 9^\circ \pm 0.5^\circ$

Tri-bimaximal not a good approximation anymore!

**TBM no good guiding principle anymore for discrete flavour group!**

## New approach for lepton mixing:

Majorana neutrinos, flavour group  $G_f$

Symmetry breaking:  $G_f$  

$$G_\ell \subset U(1) \times U(1) \times U(1)$$
$$G_\nu \subset \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$$

$G_\ell$  = residual symmetry group in charged-lepton sector

$G_\nu$  = residual symmetry group neutrino sector

**Idea:** purely group-theoretical approach

- $G_\ell \cup G_\nu$  determines  $G_f$
- Mismatch  $G_\ell \neq G_\nu$  determines  $U_{\text{PMNS}}$
- Lam; Adelhart Toorop, Feruglio, Hagedorn; Hernandez, Smirnov; Holthausen, Lim, Lindner (2012):

$$G_e = \mathbb{Z}_3, |G_f| \leq 1536, \text{ group scan using GAP} \Rightarrow$$
$$\Delta(6 \times 10^2), (\mathbb{Z}_{18} \times \mathbb{Z}_6) \rtimes S_3, \Delta(6 \times 16^2)$$

- ① General properties of discrete groups and their representations
  - Subgroups and normal subgroups
  - Semidirect products
  - Characters and character tables
- ② Symmetric and alternating groups
  - $A_4$ ,  $S_4$
- ③ The finite subgroups of  $SU(3)$

## Basic notions

### Generators

Subset  $S$  of  $G$  such that every element of  $G$  can be written as a finite product of elements of  $S$  and their inverses

### Presentation of a group

Set  $S$  of generators and a set  $R$  of relations among the generators

Examples:

- Cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  with one generator  $a$  and  $a^n = e$
- Two generators  $a, b$  with  $a^3 = b^2 = (ab)^2 = e \Rightarrow$  group with 6 elements ( $S_3$ ) due to  $ba = a^2b$



# General properties: subgroup

## Subgroup

Subset  $H$  of  $G$  which is closed under multiplication and inverse

Proper subgroup:  $H \neq \{e\}$  or  $G$

## Cosets

$H$  subgroup

Left coset:  $aH := \{ah \mid h \in H\}$ ,  $a \in G$

Right coset:  $Hb := \{hb \mid h \in H\}$ ,  $b \in G$

\* Cosets  $aH, bH \Rightarrow$  either  $aH = bH$  or  $aH \cap bH = \emptyset$  \*

# General properties: subgroup

## Order of a finite group

$\text{ord } G =$  number of elements of  $G$

## Order of an element of $G$

Order of  $a \in G$  is the smallest power  $\nu$  such that  $a^\nu = e$

## Theorem (Lagrange)

- \* The number of elements of a subgroup is a divisor of  $\text{ord } G$
- \* The order of an element of  $G$  is divisor of  $\text{ord } G$

### Proof:

a) Consider cosets  $a_1H, \dots, a_kH \Rightarrow k \times \text{ord } H = \text{ord } G$

b)  $a$  generates  $\mathbb{Z}_\nu$

Q.E.D.

## Normal or invariant subgroup

$N$  is a proper normal subgroup of  $G$  ( $N \triangleleft G$ ) if  
 $gNg^{-1} = N$  for all  $g \in G$

## Factor group

The cosets  $gN = Ng$  of  $N \triangleleft G$  with the multiplication rule  
 $(aN)(bN) = (ab)N$  form a group called factor group  $G/N$

## Conjugate elements

- \*  $a, b \in G$  are called conjugate ( $a \sim b$ ) if there exists an element  $g \in G$  such that  $gag^{-1} = b$
- \* The equivalence relation  $a \sim b$  allows to divide  $G$  into distinct “classes”  $C_k$  ( $C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{n_c} = G$  with  $C_k \cap C_l = \emptyset \forall k \neq l$ )
- \* The class of an element  $a \in G$  is defined as
$$C_a = \{gag^{-1} \mid g \in G\}$$

Remarks:  $C_e \equiv C_1 = \{e\}$

$G$  Abelian  $\Rightarrow$  every element is its own class

## Direct product

The set  $G \times H$  with the multiplication law

$(g_1, h_1)(g_2, h_2) := (g_1g_2, h_1h_2) \quad g_1, g_2 \in G, h_1, h_2 \in H$  is a group which is called the *direct product* of  $G$  and  $H$ .

## Theorem (structure of Abelian groups)

- \*  $A$  Abelian,  $\text{ord } A = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_n^{a_n}$  ( $p_i$  distinct primes)  $\Rightarrow$   
 $A \cong A_1 \times \cdots \times A_n$  with  $\text{ord } A_i = p_i^{a_i}$
- \*  $A'$  Abelian,  $\text{ord } A' = p^b$  ( $p$  prime)  $\Rightarrow$   
 $\exists b_1 + \cdots + b_m = b$  with  $A' \cong \mathbb{Z}_{b_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}_{b_m}$

Examples:

$A$  Abelian with four elements  $\Rightarrow$

$A = \mathbb{Z}_4$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  (**Klein four-group**) ( $\mathbb{Z}_4 \not\cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ )

$\text{ord } A = 512 = 2^9$ : 30 Abelian groups

## Semidirect product

### Automorphisms

- \*  $\text{Aut}(G)$  = group of isomorphisms  $f : G \rightarrow G$
- \* Inner automorphisms: for every  $g \in G$   $f_g(a) = gag^{-1}$

### Semidirect product $G \rtimes_{\phi} H$

Homomorphism  $\phi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G)$  (“ $H$  acts on  $G$ ”)

$G \times H$  with the multiplication law

$$(g_1, h_1)(g_2, h_2) := (g_1\phi(h_1)g_2, h_1h_2)$$

forms a group, the semidirect product

Note: generalization of direct product with  $\phi(h) = \text{id} \forall h \in H$

\*  $G \times \{e'\}$  is a normal subgroup,  $\{e\} \times H$  a subgroup of  $G \rtimes_{\phi} H$  \*

## Decomposition of a group into a semidirect product

Group  $S$ ,  $G$  normal subgroup of  $S$ ,  $H$  subgroup of  $S$  with following properties:

- 1  $G \cap H = \{e\}$ ,
- 2 every element  $s \in S$  can be written as  $s = gh$  with  $g \in G$ ,  $h \in H$ .

Then the following holds:

- $S \cong G \rtimes_{\phi} H$  with  $\phi(h)g = hgh^{-1}$ ,
- decomposition  $s = gh$  is unique,
- $S/G \cong H$ .

Semidirect product structure of  $S$  simply given by

$$* (g_1 h_1)(g_1 h_1) = (g_1 h_1 g_2 h_1^{-1})(h_1 h_2) *$$

# General properties: semidirect product

Note:  $G \triangleleft S$  alone does in general *not* result in a semidirect product on  $S$ .

Semidirect products are ubiquitous!

$S_3 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $A_4 \cong (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3$ ,  $S_4 \cong (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2) \rtimes S_3$ , etc.



Are there groups without normal subgroups?

## Simple group

A group is called simple if it has no non-trivial normal subgroups

**Finite Abelian simple groups:**  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  with  $p$  prime

**Finite non-Abelian simple groups:** All groups have been classified!

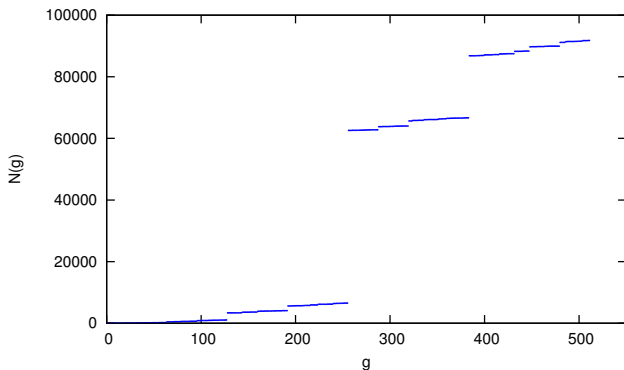
Though infinitely many, they are “rare”:

Orders below 1000 are 60 ( $A_5$ ), 168, 360, 504, 660.

- 1 Alternating groups  $A_n$  with  $n \geq 5$
- 2 16 series of Lie type
- 3 26 sporadic groups

Order of largest sporadic group  $\simeq 8 \times 10^{53}$

# General properties: number of finite groups



P.O. Ludl (2010)

$g \equiv \text{ord } G$ ,  $N(g)$  = number of non-Abelian groups with  $\text{ord } G \leq g$

Remarks: jumps in  $N(g)$  at  $g = 2^8 = 256$  and  $3 \times 2^7 = 384$

Jump at  $g = 512$ :  $N(511) = 91774 \rightarrow N(512) = 10494193$

There are groups without normal subgroups, however, every group except  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  with  $p$  prime has subgroups!

## First theorem of Sylow

ord  $G = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_n^{a_n}$  (prime factor decomposition)  $\Rightarrow G$  possesses subgroups of all orders  $p_i^{s_i}$  with  $0 \leq s_i \leq a_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ )

## Representation of group $G$

$\mathcal{V}$  vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$

Homomorphism  $D : G \rightarrow \text{Lin}(\mathcal{V})$  with  $D(e) = \mathbb{1}$

All representations of finite groups are equivalent to unitary representations  $\Rightarrow$  If  $D$  is reducible, there exists a basis such that

$$D(g) = \begin{pmatrix} D_1(g) & 0 \\ 0 & D_2(g) \end{pmatrix}$$

**Irreducible representations (irreps)** are basic building blocks of representations.

## Character of a representation

The character  $\chi_D : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is defined by  
 $\chi_D(a) := \text{Tr } D(a), \quad a \in G.$

### Properties:

- Equivalent representations have the same character
- $a \sim b$ , i.e.  $a, b$  in same class  $\Rightarrow \chi_D(a) = \chi_D(b)$
- $\chi_D(a^{-1}) = \chi_D^*(a)$
- $\chi_{D \oplus D'}(a) = \chi_D(a) + \chi_{D'}(a)$
- $\chi_{D \otimes D'}(a) = \chi_D(a) \chi_{D'}(a).$

# General properties: orthogonality theorem

Bilinear form on space of functions  $G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ :

$$(f|g) = \frac{1}{\text{ord } G} \sum_{a \in G} f(a^{-1})g(a)$$

Real subspace of functions with property  $f(a^{-1}) = f^*(a)$

$\Rightarrow (\cdot|\cdot)$  scalar product on this space.

**Notation:**  $D^{(\alpha)}$  with  $\dim D^{(\alpha)} = d_\alpha$  denotes all **inequivalent irreps**  
Schur's Lemmata  $\Rightarrow$

## Orthogonality theorem

$$((D^{(\alpha)})_{ij} | (D^{(\beta)})_{kl}) = \frac{1}{d_\alpha} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{il} \delta_{jk}$$

## Orthogonality of characters

$$(\chi^{(\alpha)} | \chi^{(\beta)}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} \iff \sum_{k=1}^{n_c} c_k \left( \chi_k^{(\alpha)} \right)^* \chi_k^{(\beta)} = \text{ord } G \delta_{\alpha\beta}$$

$C_k$  ..... class of  $G$   
 $n_c$  ..... number of classes  
 $c_k$  ..... number of elements in  $C_k$   
 $\chi_k^{(\alpha)}$  ..... value of  $\chi^{(\alpha)}$  on  $C_k$

# General properties: “number theorems”

From orthogonality of characters it follows:

\* number of inequivalent irreps  $\leq n_c =$  number of classes \*

However one can show that equality holds:

## Theorem

number of inequivalent irreps = number of classes

Two more very important theorems:

## Theorems on the dimensions of irreps

$$\sum_{\alpha} d_{\alpha}^2 = \text{ord } G$$

All  $d_{\alpha}$  are divisors of  $\text{ord } G$



# General properties: character table

$G$	$C_1$	$C_2$	$\dots$	$C_{n_c}$
$(\# C)$	$(c_1)$	$(c_2)$	$\dots$	$(c_{n_c})$
$\text{ord}(C)$	$\nu_1$	$\nu_2$	$\dots$	$\nu_{n_c}$
$D^{(1)}$	$\chi_1^{(1)}$	$\chi_2^{(1)}$	$\dots$	$\chi_{n_c}^{(1)}$
$D^{(2)}$	$\chi_1^{(2)}$	$\chi_2^{(2)}$	$\dots$	$\chi_{n_c}^{(2)}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$D^{(n_c)}$	$\chi_1^{(n_c)}$	$\chi_2^{(n_c)}$	$\dots$	$\chi_{n_c}^{(n_c)}$

Lines  $\Rightarrow$  ON system  $\left( \sqrt{\frac{c_1}{\text{ord } G}} \chi_1^{(\alpha)}, \dots, \sqrt{\frac{c_{n_c}}{\text{ord } G}} \chi_{n_c}^{(\alpha)} \right)$

Columns  $\Rightarrow$  ON system  $\sqrt{\frac{c_k}{\text{ord } G}} \begin{pmatrix} \chi_k^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ \chi_k^{(n_c)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (k = 1, \dots, n_c)$

# General properties: reduction of representations

Characters and character tables: means of finding irreducible components of a representation  $D$

$$D = \bigoplus_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} D^{(\alpha)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \chi_D = \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \chi^{(\alpha)}$$

## Theorem

Let  $D$  be a representation of the group  $G \Rightarrow$   
The multiplicity  $m_{\alpha}$  with which an irrep  $D^{(\alpha)}$  occurs in  $D$   
is given by

$$m_{\alpha} = (\chi^{(\alpha)} | \chi_D)$$

\*  $(\chi_D | \chi_D) = \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha}^2 \Rightarrow D$  irreducible iff  $(\chi_D | \chi_D) = 1$  \*

Application to tensor products of irreps:

$$\chi^{(\alpha \otimes \beta)}(a) = \chi^{(\alpha)}(a) \times \chi^{(\beta)}(a) \quad \Rightarrow \quad m_{\gamma} = (\chi^{(\gamma)} | \chi^{(\alpha)} \times \chi^{(\beta)})$$

# Symmetric and alternating groups

**Symmetric group  $S_n$ :** Group of all permutations of  $n$  objects

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ p_1 & p_2 & \cdots & p_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{ord } S_n = n!$$

Cycle of length  $r$ :  $(n_1 \rightarrow n_2 \rightarrow n_3 \rightarrow \cdots n_r \rightarrow n_1) \equiv (n_1 n_2 n_3 \cdots n_r)$   
All numbers  $n_1, \dots, n_r$  are different

## Theorem

Every permutation is a unique product of cycles which have no common elements

Example:  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 4 & 6 & 3 & 5 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = (145)(3)(26)$

Remarks:

Cycles which have no common element commute

A cycle which consists of only one element is identical with the unit element of  $S_n$

# Symmetric and alternating groups

## Even and odd permutations:

Every permutation of  $S_n$  is associated with an  $n \times n$  permutation matrix  $M(p)$

## Even and odd permutations

Sign of a permutation:  $\text{sgn}(p) = \det M(p)$

A permutation  $p$  is called even (odd) if  $\text{sgn}(p) = +1$  ( $-1$ )

For instance:  $(1)(23) \in S_3 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

## Alternating group $A_n$ :

Group of all *even* permutations of  $n$  objects

## Theorem

$A_n$  normal subgroup of  $S_n$  with  $n!/2$  elements,  $S_n \cong A_n \times \mathbb{Z}_2$

## Classes of $S_n$ and $A_n$

### The classes of $S_n$ :

Consist of the permutations with the same cycle structure

### The classes of $A_n$ :

Obtained from those of  $S_n$  in the following way:

- All classes of  $S_n$  with even permutations are also classes of  $A_n$ ,
- except those which consist exclusively of cycles of unequal odd length.
- Each of the latter classes of  $S_n$  refines in  $A_n$  into two classes of equal size.

Examples:

$S_4$ :  $(a)(b)(c)(d), (a)(b)(cd), (a)(bcd), (abcd), (ab)(cd) \Rightarrow n_c = 5$

$A_4$ :  $(a)(b)(c)(d), (a)(bcd) \rightarrow 2$  classes,  $(ab)(cd) \Rightarrow n_c = 4$

## One-dimensional irreps of $S_n$

$S_n$  has exactly two 1-dimensional irreps:

$p \mapsto 1$  and  $p \mapsto \text{sgn}(p)$

### Discussion of $S_4$ and $A_4$

Dimensions if irreps of  $S_4$ :  $1^2 + 1^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 + d_5^2 = 24 \Rightarrow$

$d_3 = 2, d_4 = d_5 = 3$

Dimensions if irreps of  $A_4$ :  $1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 = 12 \Rightarrow$

$d_2 = d_3 = 1, d_4 = 3$

Structure of  $A_4$  and  $S_4$ :

Klein's four-group:  $k_1 k_2 = k_2 k_1 = k_3$  plus permutations of indices

$$K = \{e, (12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\} \equiv \{e, k_1, k_2, k_3\}$$

\*  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $A_4$  and  $S_4$  \*

$K$  and  $s \equiv (123)$  generate  $A_4$ :

$$k_1^2 = k_2^2 = k_3^2 = e, \quad s^3 = e, \quad sk_1s^{-1} = k_2, \quad sk_2s^{-1} = k_3$$

$K$ ,  $s$  and  $t \equiv (12)$  generate  $S_4$ :

$$t^2 = e, \quad tk_1t^{-1} = k_1, \quad tk_2t^{-1} = k_3, \quad tst^{-1} = s^2$$

## Theorem

Every element of  $p \in S_4$  can be uniquely decomposed into  $p = kq$  with  $k \in K$  and  $q$  being a permutation of the numbers 1,2,3.

$$A_4 \cong K \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3 \quad \text{and} \quad S_4 \cong K \rtimes S_3$$

Note:  $\{e\} \triangleleft K \triangleleft A_4 \triangleleft S_4$

Every kernel of a non-faithful irrep is a normal subgroup  $\Rightarrow$

In non-faithful irrep of  $A_4$  and  $S_4$  always  $K \mapsto \mathbb{1}$

Side remark: \* Simple groups have only faithful non-trivial irreps \*



## Irreps of $A_4$ :

One-dimensional irreps:

$\mathbf{1}^{(p)}$  :  $k_j \mapsto 1$ ,  $s \mapsto \omega^p$  ( $p = 0, 1, 2$ ) with  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$

Three-dimensional irrep:  $K$  represented as diagonal matrices

$$\mathbf{3} : k_1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} =: A, \quad s \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} =: E$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$k_2 = sk_1s^{-1} \mapsto \text{diag}(-1, -1, 1), \quad k_3 = sk_2s^{-1} \mapsto \text{diag}(-1, 1, -1)$$

## Irreps of $S_4$ :

$$\mathbf{1}: \quad p \mapsto 1$$

$$\mathbf{1}': \quad p \mapsto \text{sign}(p)$$

$$\mathbf{3}: \quad k_1 \mapsto A, \quad s \mapsto E, \quad t \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} =: R_t$$

$$\mathbf{3}': \quad k_1 \mapsto A, \quad s \mapsto E, \quad t \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{2}: \quad k_i \mapsto 1, \quad s \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \omega & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad t \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Remarks:  $\mathbf{2}$  is irrep of  $S_3 \cong S_4/K$ ,  $\mathbf{3}' = \mathbf{1}' \otimes \mathbf{3}$

## Character table of $A_4$ :

$T \cong A_4$ (# $C$ ) ord( $C$ )	$C_1(e)$ (1) 1	$C_2(s)$ (4) 3	$C_3(s^2)$ (4) 3	$C_4(k_1)$ (3) 2
$\mathbf{1}^{(0)}$	1	1	1	1
$\mathbf{1}^{(1)}$	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$	1
$\mathbf{1}^{(2)}$	1	$\omega^2$	$\omega$	1
$\mathbf{3}$	3	0	0	-1

**Character table of  $S_4$ :**  $r := s^{-1}k_1st = (1423)$

$O \cong S_4$ (# $C$ ) $\text{ord}(C)$	$C_1(e)$ (1) 1	$C_2(t)$ (6) 2	$C_3(k_1)$ (3) 2	$C_4(s)$ (8) 3	$C_5(r)$ (6) 4
<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>1'</b>	1	-1	1	1	-1
<b>2</b>	2	0	2	-1	0
<b>3</b>	3	-1	-1	0	1
<b>3'</b>	3	1	-1	0	-1

## Remark:

Of the non-trivial symmetric and alternating groups, only

$S_3$ ,  $A_4$ ,  $S_4$ ,  $A_5$

can be considered as finite subgroups of  $SO(3)$ ,

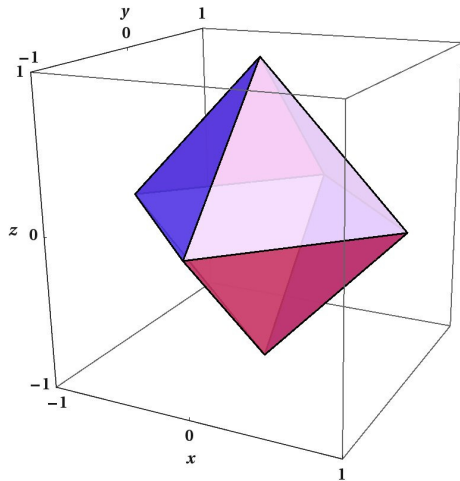
i.e. possess a faithful representation by  $3 \times 3$  rotation matrices.

- $S_3 \cong S_\Delta =$  symmetry group of **unilateral triangle**
- $A_4 \cong T =$  symmetry group of **tetrahedron**
- $S_4 \cong O =$  symmetry group of **octahedron**
- $A_5 \cong I =$  symmetry group of **icosahedron**

$A_4$ ,  $S_4$ ,  $A_5$  are the symmetry groups of the Platonic solids

**Classes of rotation groups:**  $R_2 R(\alpha, \vec{n}) R_2^{-1} = R(\alpha, R_2 \vec{n})$

# Symmetric and alternating groups



# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$

H.F. Blichfeldt (1916)<sup>1</sup>:

Classification of the finite subgroups of  $SU(3)$  into five types:

- (A) Abelian groups.
- (B) Finite subgroups of  $U(2)$
- (C) The groups  $C(n, a, b)$  generated by the matrices

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad F(n, a, b) = \text{diag}(\eta^a, \eta^b, \eta^{-a-b}),$$

where  $\eta = \exp(2\pi i/n)$ .

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<sup>1</sup> G.A. Miller, H.F. Blichfeldt and L.E. Dickson: Theory and applications of finite groups, New York (1916)

# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$

(D) The groups  $D(n, a, b; d, r, s)$  generated by  $E$ ,  $F(n, a, b)$  and

$$\tilde{G}(d, r, s) = \begin{pmatrix} \delta^r & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \delta^s \\ 0 & -\delta^{-r-s} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\delta = \exp(2\pi i/d)$ .

(E) Six exceptional finite subgroups of  $SU(3)$ :

- $\Sigma(60) \cong A_5$ ,  $\Sigma(168) \cong PSL(2, 7)$
- $\Sigma(36 \times 3)$ ,  $\Sigma(72 \times 3)$ ,  $\Sigma(216 \times 3)$  and  $\Sigma(360 \times 3)$ ,

as well as the direct products  $\Sigma(60) \times \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $\Sigma(168) \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .



# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$ : (A) Abelian groups

Simple (but powerful) theorem: [P.O. Ludl \(2011\)](#)

## Abelian finite subgroups of $SU(3)$

Every finite Abelian subgroup  $A$  of  $SU(3)$  is isomorphic to

$$\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_p,$$

where  $m$  is the maximum of the orders of the elements of  $A$  and  $n$  is a divisor of  $p$ .

# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$ : type (C) and (D)

$$C(n, a, b) \cong (\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_p) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3$$
$$D(n, a, b; d, r, s) \cong (\mathbb{Z}_{m'} \times \mathbb{Z}_{p'}) \rtimes S_3$$

Note:  $n, a, b \Rightarrow m, p$  in a complicated way  
 $n$  divisor of  $m$ ,  $p'$  divisor of  $m'$

For which  $(m, n)$ ,  $(m', n')$  do such groups exist?  
No complete solution known

Dimensions of irreps ([Grimus, Ludl \(2012\)](#)):

Type (C): 1 and 3

Type (D): 1, 2, 3 and 6

# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$ : type (C)

## Special cases of type (C):

- $p = m$ : Such groups exist  $\forall m$   
 $(\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3 \equiv \Delta(3m^2)$
- $p = 1$ :  $T_m \cong \mathbb{Z}_m \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3$  where  $m$  is a product of powers of primes of the form  $6k + 1$ .
- $A_4 \cong \Delta(12)$
- $C(9, 1, 1) \cong (\mathbb{Z}_9 \times \mathbb{Z}_3) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3$

Note:  $\Delta(3m^2)$  generated by  $E$ ,  $\text{diag}(\eta, 1, \eta^{-1})$ ,  $\text{diag}(\eta^{-1}, \eta, 1)$   
with  $\eta = \exp(2i\pi/m)$

# The finite subgroups of $SU(3)$ : groups of type (D)

## Special cases of type (D):

- $p = m$ : Such groups exist  $\forall m$   
 $(\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m) \rtimes S_3 \cong \Delta(6m^2)$
- $S_3 \cong \Delta(6)$ ,  $S_4 \cong \Delta(24)$
- $D(9, 1, 1; 2, 1, 1) \cong (\mathbb{Z}_9 \times \mathbb{Z}_3) \rtimes S_3$

# Summary: “number theorems” of finite groups

## Divisors of ord $G$ :

- order of a subgroup
- order of an element
- number of elements in a class
- dimension of an irrep

number of inequivalent irreps = number of classes

$$\text{Irreps } D^{(\alpha)} \text{ with } \dim D^{(\alpha)} = d_{\alpha} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sum_{\alpha} d_{\alpha}^2 = \text{ord } G$$

Thank you for your attention!

