

The McKay–Navarro Conjecture: The Conjecture That Keeps on Giving!

Mandi A. Schaeffer Fry



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Binghamton University
Algebra Seminar
COVID-19 Remote Edition

The Basic Set-Up

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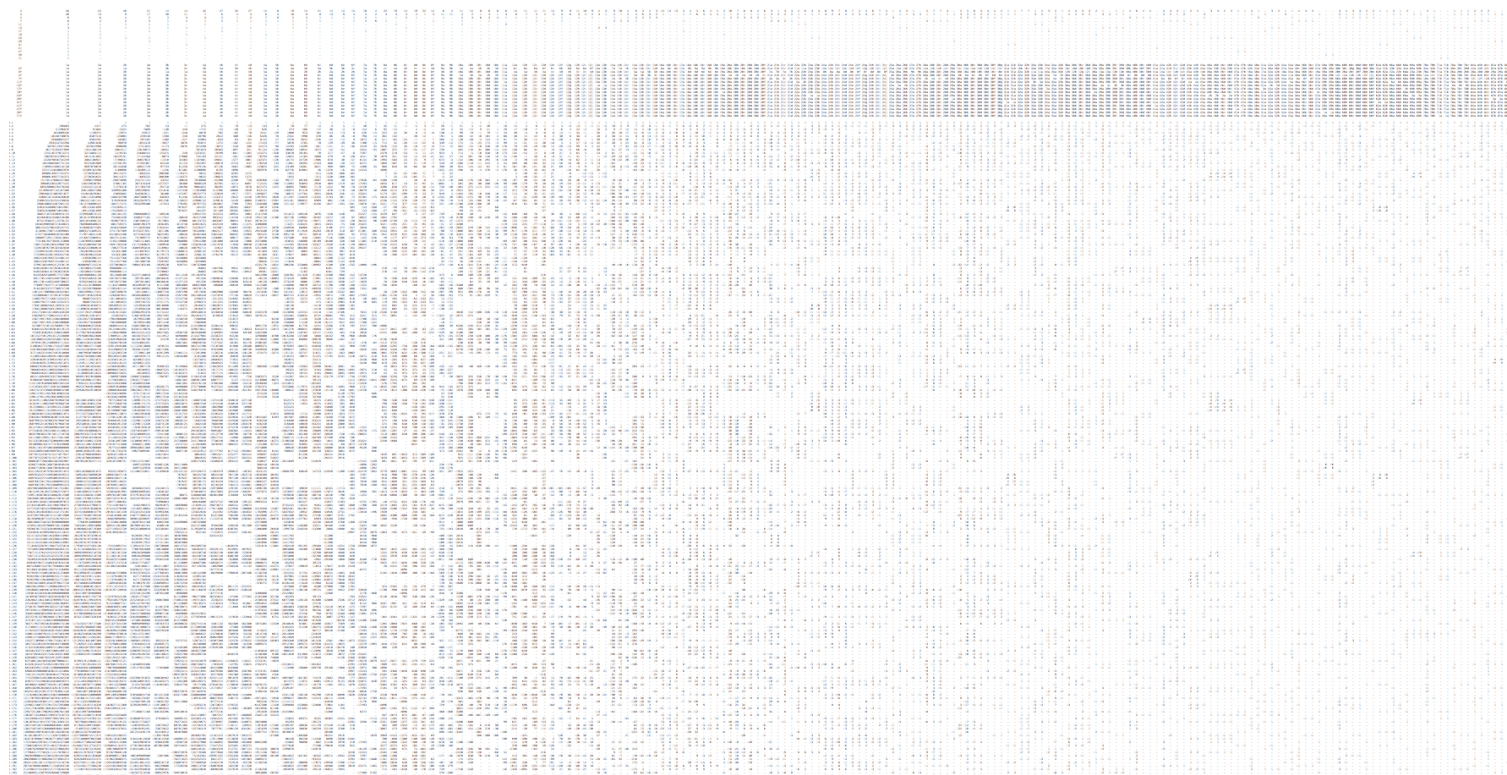
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 - entries: $\chi(g)$

Example: The 194×194 Character Table of the “Monster”



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 - ↪ The Local-Global Philosophy
- ② In general, what can we say about the group from the character table? (A classical question!)

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- The “local-global” conjectures relate the representation theory of G to that of certain proper subgroups
 - e.g. normalizer $N_G(P)$ of a Sylow subgroup.
- Often, these have to do with the number of characters of the group of a given type.

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Fix a prime p and a (Sylow) p -subgroup P of G

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Global Side

Say something about
 $\text{Irr}(G)$

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$$|\text{Irr}_{p'}(G)| \longleftrightarrow |\text{Irr}_{p'}(N_G(P))|$$

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- Lots of refinements!

X.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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[illegible]

A More Managable Example...

Example (Character Table of $G = A_5$)

Class → Character ↓	(1)	(12)(34)	(123)	(12345)	(13524)
χ_1	1	1	1	1	1
χ_2	3	-1	0	α	α'
χ_3	3	-1	0	α'	α
χ_4	4	0	1	-1	-1
χ_5	5	1	-1	0	0

$$\alpha = 1 + \zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4$$

$$\alpha' = 1 + \zeta_5^2 + \zeta_5^3 \text{ where } \zeta_5 := e^{2\pi i/5}$$

Case $p = 2$ Example ($\text{Irr}_{2'}(A_5):$)

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Character Table of $N_G(P)$:

χ_1	1	1	1	1
χ_2	1	1	β	$\bar{\beta}$
χ_3	1	1	$\bar{\beta}$	β
χ_4	3	-1	0	0

$$\beta = \zeta_3$$

Case $p = 3$ Example $(\text{Irr}_3(A_5):)$

Class → Character ↓	(1)	(12)(34)	(123)	(12345)	(13524)
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Character Table of $N_G(P)$:

χ_1	1	1	1
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Case $p = 5$ Example $(\text{Irr}_{5'}(A_5):)$

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Conjecture (Navarro 2004 - **strong version**)

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McKay–Navarro reduced!

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- These iMN conditions expand on the inductive McKay conditions of Isaacs–Malle–Navarro

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- (2) extensions to automorphism groups of $\chi, \Omega(\chi)$ must “behave the same” with respect to $\mathcal{H}$

$$\text{Aut}(G)_p, \chi \quad \tilde{\chi} \quad \tilde{\chi}^\sigma = \tilde{\chi}\beta_1$$

$$| \quad /$$

$$\chi^\sigma = \chi$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_1 = \beta_2$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}(\chi) \quad \tilde{\Omega}(\chi)^\sigma = \tilde{\Omega}(\chi)\beta_2$$

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$$\Omega(\chi)^\sigma = \Omega(\chi)$$

Results on McKay–Navarro (MN) and the inductive (iMN) conditions so far

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$p \mid \ell$

$$G = G(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$$

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 - in particular, iMN now complete for $p = 2$ and G of type $B, C, G_2, F_4, E_7, E_8, {}^3D_4$

Now to Reasonable Consideration 2: What Does $CT(G)$ Tell Us?

Recall: $CT(G)$ does *not* determine G !

Example

$$D_8 = \langle a, b : a^4 = b^2 = 1, bab = a^{-1} \rangle$$

$$Q_8 = \{ \pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k : i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1 \}$$

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$$D_8 \not\cong Q_8$$

Both have character table:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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These are all what we'd call "global" properties

What about *local* properties?

Question (Brauer's Problem 12)

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Problem 12. Given the character table of a group G and a prime p dividing $n = |G|$, how much information about the structure of the p -Sylow group P can be obtained? In particular, can it be decided whether or not P is Abelian?

McKay–Navarro: a fountain of answers to Brauer’s Problem 12

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$N_G(P) = P \iff \exists! \chi \in \text{Irr}_{p'}(G) \text{ satisfying } \chi(g) \in \mathbb{Q}(e^{2\pi i/m})$
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$$\sigma_0(\alpha) = \alpha'$$

Here

$$\chi_2^{\sigma_0} = \chi_3 \quad \text{and} \quad P \neq N_G(P)$$

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- $p = 2$ finished by Malle 2020

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- The **Principal Block** B_0 is the block with $1_G \in \text{Irr}(B_0)$.

Example (2-Blocks of A_5 : B_0, B_1)

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Example (3-Blocks of A_5 : B_0 , B_1 , B_2)

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Principal Block Version of McKay–Navarro $\rightsquigarrow$ More Answers to Brauer Problem 12

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p odd:

Theorem (Navarro-Tiep-Vallejo '19)

$N_G(P) = P \rtimes V \iff \exists! \chi \in \text{Irr}_{p'}(B_0)$ satisfying
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$p = 2$:

Theorem (Navarro–Vallejo '17 + SF–Taylor '18b)

$N_G(P) = P \rtimes V \iff \text{every } \chi \in \text{Irr}_{2'}(B_0) \text{ is fixed by the}$
Galois Automorphism σ_0 .

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- (Both of these false for $p \geq 5$!)

Examples with A_5

Example (2-Blocks of A_5 : B_0, B_1)

Class → Character ↓	(1)	(12)(34)	(123)	(12345)	(13524)
χ_1	1	1	1	1	1
χ_2	3	-1	0	α	α'
χ_3	3	-1	0	α'	α
χ_4	4	0	1	-1	-1
χ_5	5	1	-1	0	0

$$\alpha = 1 + \zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4; \alpha' = 1 + \zeta_5^2 + \zeta_5^3 \text{ with } \zeta_5 := e^{2\pi i/5}$$

P is 2-generated, $\exists$ 4 σ_1 -fixed characters in $\text{Irr}_{2'}(B_0)$!

Example (3-Blocks of A_5 : B_0 , B_1 , B_2)

Class → Character ↓	(1)	(12)(34)	(123)	(12345)	(13524)
χ_1	1	1	1	1	1
χ_2	3	-1	0	α	α'
χ_3	3	-1	0	α'	α
χ_4	4	0	1	-1	-1
χ_5	5	1	-1	0	0

$$\alpha = 1 + \zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4; \alpha' = 1 + \zeta_5^2 + \zeta_5^3 \text{ with } \zeta_5 := e^{2\pi i/5}$$

P is cyclic, $\exists$ 3 σ_1 -fixed characters in $\text{Irr}_{3'}(B_0)$!

Example (5-Blocks of A_5 : B_0, B_1)

Class → Character ↓	(1)	(12)(34)	(123)	(12345)	(13524)
χ_1	1	1	1	1	1
χ_2	3	-1	0	α	α'
χ_3	3	-1	0	α'	α
χ_4	4	0	1	-1	-1
χ_5	5	1	-1	0	0

$$\alpha = 1 + \zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4; \alpha' = 1 + \zeta_5^2 + \zeta_5^3 \text{ with } \zeta_5 := e^{2\pi i/5}$$

P is cyclic, but $\exists 4 \sigma_1$ -fixed characters in $\text{Irr}_{5'}(B_0)$!

Questions?

Thank You!