

Counting representations of free groups

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(joint with S. Mozgovoy, arXiv:1402.6923)

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For a finite group Γ ,

$$\#\{\mathbb{C}\text{-irreps of } \Gamma\} / \simeq = \#\{\text{conj. classes of } \Gamma\}.$$

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Leads to concepts (*for certain classes of groups*) like

- subgroup growth: study the sequence

$$(\#\{\text{subgroups of index } n\})_n,$$

- representation growth: study the sequence

$$(\#\{\text{irreps of dimension } n\} / \simeq)_n.$$

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$$F_m = \underbrace{\mathbb{Z} * \dots * \mathbb{Z}}_{m\text{-times}}.$$

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$$G \text{ finite} : \text{gldim } \mathbb{C}G = 0; \quad \text{gldim } \mathbb{C}F_m = 1.$$

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Theorem (M. Hall, 1949)

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} s_n \frac{t^n}{n} = \log \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} (n!)^{m-1} t^n \right).$$

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Exercise: Quickly check for $m = 1$.

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We need some ingredients to state this explicit formula.

Ingredients for the explicit formula 1

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Shift operator T on R : the $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ -linear operator with

$$T(t^n) = q^{(1-m)\binom{n}{2}} t^n.$$

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To summarize, we have three ingredients: explicit series **F**, shift operator **T**, plethystic power **Pow**.

First main result - precise formulation

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Proof: Later.

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$$a_2(q) = (q - 1)^m \cdot (q^{m-1}(q - 1)^{m-1} ((q + 1)^{m-1} - 1) + \\ + \frac{1}{2}q ((q + 1)^{m-1} + (q - 1)^{m-1})).$$

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(Proof is purely combinatorial in terms of first theorem.)

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This means: the representation growth knows the subgroup growth.

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$\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ acting on m copies of itself via simultaneous conjugation.

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$$X_{F_2}(\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})) \simeq \mathbb{A}^5 \setminus \mathbb{A}^3.$$

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Remark: Positivity property $a_n(q) \in \mathbb{N}[q-1]$ suggests existence of paving of $X_{F_m}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}))$ by (quotients by finite groups of) tori.

Hall algebra

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Algebra map (integration) $\int : H((kF_m)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[[t]],$

$$\int f = \sum_V \frac{|k|^{(1-m)\binom{\dim V}{2}}}{|\text{Aut}(V)|} f(V) t^{\dim V}.$$

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