PHYSICS 543: GROUP THEORY AND SYMMETRIES IN PHYSICS

Homework 4

 Number of Orthogonal Vectors: Prove that in an n-dimensional complex vector space, there can be a maximum of n linearly independent, mutually orthogonal vectors. We have used this in class to derive an important result that the number of irreducible representations of a finite group is equal to the number of its equivalence classes, i.e. the character table is always square.

2. Characters of A_4 :

- (a) List the equivalence classes of A_4 .
- (b) Find the dimensions of the irreducible representations of A_4 .
- (c) Derive the character table for A_4 .
- (d) How does the 4-dimensional regular representation of A_4 reduce?

3. Characters of S_4 :

- (a) Find the dimensions of the irreducible representations of S_4 .
- (b) Derive the character table for S_4 .
- (c) How does the 4-dimensional regular representation of S_4 reduce?
- (d) What happens to the 2-dimensional representation of S_4 on restriction to A_4 ?