# ON THE CHARACTER RING OF A FINITE GROUP

by

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**Abstract.** — Let G be a finite group and let k be a sufficiently large finite field. Let  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  denote the character ring of G (i.e. the Grothendieck ring of the category of  $\mathbb{C}G$ -modules). We study the structure and the representations of the commutative algebra  $k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}(G)$ .

#### Contents

Introduction	5
1. Preliminaries	6
2. Modules for $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ and $k\mathcal{R}(G)$	7
3. Principal block	1
4. Some invariants	3
5. The symmetric group	5
6. Dihedral groups	7
7. Some tables	9
References 2	3

## Introduction

Let G be a finite group. We denote by  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  the *Grothendieck ring* of the category of  $\mathbb{C}G$ modules (it is usually called the *character ring* of G). It is a natural question to try to recover
properties of G from the knowledge of  $\mathcal{R}(G)$ . It is clear that two finite groups having the same
character table have the same Grothendieck rings and it is a Theorem of Saksonov [S] that the
converse also holds. So the problem is reduced to an intensively studied question in character
theory: recover properties of the group through properties of its character table.

In this paper, we study the k-algebra  $k\mathcal{R}(G) = k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}(G)$ , where k is a splitting field for G of positive characteristic p. It is clear that the knowledge of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is a much weaker information than the knowledge of  $\mathcal{R}(G)$ . The aim of this paper is to gather results on the representation theory of the algebra  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ : although most of the results are certainy well-known, we have not found any general treatment of these questions. The blocks of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  are local algebras which are parametrized by conjugacy classes of p-regular elements of G. So the simple  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ -modules are parametrized by conjugacy classes of p-regular elements of G. Moreover, the dimension of the projective cover of the simple module associated to the conjugacy class of the p-regular element  $g \in G$  is equal to the number of conjugacy classes of p-elements in the centralizer  $C_G(g)$ . We also prove that the radical of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is the kernel of the decomposition map  $k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}(kG)$ , where  $\mathcal{R}(kG)$  is the Grothendieck ring of the category of kG-modules (i.e. the ring of virtual Brauer characters of G).

We prove that the block of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  associated to the p'-element g is isomorphic to the block of  $k\mathcal{R}(C_G(g))$  associated to 1 (such a block is called the *principal block*). This shows that the study of blocks of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is reduced to the study of principal blocks. We also show that the principal block of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is isomorphic to the principal block of  $k\mathcal{R}(H)$  whenever H is a subgroup of p'-index which controls the fusion of p-elements or whenever H is the quotient of G by a normal p'-subgroup.

We also introduce several numerical invariants (Loewy length, dimension of Ext-groups) that are partly related to the structure of G. These numerical invariants are computed completely whenever G is the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  (this relies on previous work of the author: the descending Loewy series of  $k\mathcal{R}(\mathfrak{S}_n)$  was entirely computed in  $[\mathbf{B}]$ ) or G is a dihedral group and p=2. We also provide tables for these invariants for small groups (alternating groups  $\mathfrak{A}_n$  with  $n \leq 12$ , some small simple groups, groups PSL(2,q) with q a prime power  $\leq 27$ , exceptional finite Coxeter groups).

NOTATION - Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be a Dedekind domain of characteristic zero, let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a maximal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}$ , let K be the fraction field of  $\mathcal{O}$  and let  $k = \mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{p}$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  be the localization of  $\mathcal{O}$  at  $\mathfrak{p}$ : then  $k = \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . If  $x \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ , we denote by  $\bar{x}$  its image in  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}} = k$ . Throughout this paper, we assume that k has characteristic p > 0 and that K and k are splitting fields for all the finite groups involved in this paper. If n is a non-zero natural number,  $n_{p'}$  denotes the largest divisor of n prime to p and we set  $n_p = n/n_{p'}$ .

If F is a field and if A is a finite dimensional F-algebra, we denote by  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  its Grothendieck group. If M is an A-module, the radical of M is denoted by  $\mathrm{Rad}\,M$  and the class of M in  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  is denoted by [M]. If S is a simple A-module, we denote by [M:S] the multiplicity of S as a chief factor of a Jordan-Hölder series of M. The set of irreducible characters of A is denoted by  $\mathrm{Irr}\,A$ .

We fix all along this paper a finite group G. For simplification, we set  $\mathcal{R}(G) = \mathcal{R}(KG)$  and  $\operatorname{Irr} G = \operatorname{Irr} KG$  (recall that K is a splitting field for G). The abelian group  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  is endowed with a structure of ring induced by the tensor product. If  $\chi \in \mathcal{R}(G)$ , we denote by  $\chi^*$  its dual (as a class function on G, we have  $\chi^*(g) = \chi(g^{-1})$  for any  $g \in G$ ). If R is any commutative ring, we denote by  $\operatorname{Class}_R(G)$  the space of class functions  $G \to R$  and we set  $R\mathcal{R}(G) = R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}(G)$ . If X is a subset of G, we denote by  $1_X^R : G \to R$  the characteristic function of X. If R is a subring of K, then we simply write  $1_X = 1_X^R$ . Note that  $1_G$  is the trivial character of G. If  $f, f' \in \operatorname{Class}_K(G)$ , we set

$$\langle f, f' \rangle_G = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} f(g^{-1}) f'(g).$$

Then Irr G is an orthonormal basis of  $\operatorname{Class}_K(G)$ . We shall identify  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  with the sub- $\mathbb{Z}$ -module (or sub- $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra) of  $\operatorname{Class}_K(G)$  generated by  $\operatorname{Irr} G$ , and  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$  with  $\operatorname{Class}_K(G)$ . If  $f \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ , we denote by  $\bar{f}$  its image in  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

If g and h are two elements of G, we write  $g \sim h$  (or  $g \sim_G h$  if we need to emphasize the group) if they are conjugate in G. We denote by  $g_p$  (resp.  $g_{p'}$ ) the p-part (resp. the p'-part) of g. If X is a subset of G, we set  $X_{p'} = \{g_{p'} \mid g \in X\}$  and  $X_p = \{g_p \mid g \in X\}$ . If moreover X is closed under conjugacy, the set of conjugacy classes contained in X is denoted by  $X/\sim$ . In this case,  $1_X^R \in \operatorname{Class}_R(G)$ . The centre of G is denoted by Z(G).

REMARK - We have recently discovered that some of the questions investigated in this paper were already studied by M. Deiml in his Ph.D. Thesis [**D**, Chapter 3]. More precisely, most of the results of our Section 2 were already proved by M. Deiml.

#### 1. Preliminaries

## 1.A. Symmetrizing form. — Let

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \tau_G: & \mathcal{R}(G) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} \\ & \chi & \longmapsto & \langle \chi, 1_G \rangle_G \end{array}$$

denote the canonical symmetrizing form on  $\mathcal{R}(G)$ . The dual basis of  $\operatorname{Irr} G$  is  $(\chi^*)_{\chi \in \operatorname{Irr} G}$ . It is then readily seen that  $(\mathcal{R}(G), \operatorname{Irr} G)$  is a based ring (in the sense of Lusztig [L, Page 236]).

If R is any ring, we denote by  $\tau_G^R: R\mathcal{R}(G) \to R$  the symmetrizing form  $\mathrm{Id}_R \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \tau_G$ .

**1.B. Translation by the centre.** — If  $\chi \in \operatorname{Irr} G$ , we denote by  $\omega_{\chi} : Z(G) \to \mathcal{O}^{\times}$  the linear character such that  $\chi(zg) = \omega_{\chi}(z)\chi(g)$  for all  $z \in Z(G)$  and  $g \in G$ . If  $z \in Z(G)$ , we denote by  $t_z : K\mathcal{R}(G) \to K\mathcal{R}(G)$  the linear map defined by  $(t_z f)(g) = f(zg)$  for all  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$  and  $g \in G$ . It is clear that  $t_{zz'} = t_z \circ t_{z'}$  for all  $z, z' \in Z(G)$  and that  $t_z$  is an automorphism of algebra. Moreover,

$$t_z \chi = \omega_{\chi}(z) \chi$$

for every  $\chi \in \operatorname{Irr} G$ . Therefore,  $t_z$  is an isometry which stabilizes  $\mathcal{OR}(G)$ . If R is a subring of K such that  $\mathcal{O} \subset R \subset K$ , we still denote by  $t_z : R\mathcal{R}(G) \to R\mathcal{R}(G)$  the restriction of  $t_z$ . Let  $\bar{t}_z = \operatorname{Id}_k \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} t_z : k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . This is again an automorphism of k-algebra. If z is a p-element, then  $\bar{t}_z = \operatorname{Id}_{k\mathcal{R}(G)}$ .

- **1.C. Restriction.** If  $\pi: H \to G$  is a morphism of groups, then the restriction through  $\pi$  induces a morphism of rings  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}: \mathcal{R}(G) \to \mathcal{R}(H)$ . If R is a subring of K, we still denote by  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}: R\mathcal{R}(G) \to R\mathcal{R}(H)$  the morphism  $\operatorname{Id}_{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \operatorname{Res}_{\pi}$ . We denote by  $\overline{\operatorname{Res}}_{\pi}: k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k\mathcal{R}(H)$  the reduction modulo  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}: \mathcal{OR}(G) \to \mathcal{OR}(H)$ . Recall that, if H is a subgroup of G and  $\pi$  is the canonical injection, then  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}$  is just  $\operatorname{Res}_{H}^{G}$ . In this case,  $\overline{\operatorname{Res}}_{\pi}$  will be denoted by  $\overline{\operatorname{Res}}_{H}^{G}$ . Note the following fact:
- (1.1) If  $\pi$  is surjective, then  $\overline{\text{Res}}_{\pi}$  is injective.

Proof of 1.1. — Indeed, if  $\pi$  is surjective, then  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}: \mathcal{R}(G) \to \mathcal{R}(H)$  is injective and its image is a direct summand of  $\mathcal{R}(H)$ .

- **1.D. Radical.** First, note that, since  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is commutative, we have
- (1.2) Rad  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is the ideal of nilpotent elements of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

So, if  $\pi: H \to G$  is a morphism of finite groups, then

(1.3) 
$$\overline{\operatorname{Res}}_{\pi}(\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G)) \subset \operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(H).$$

The Loewy length of the algebra  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is defined as the smallest natural number n such that  $(\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G))^n = 0$ . We denote it by  $\ell_p(G)$ . By 1.1 and 1.3, we have:

(1.4) If 
$$\pi$$
 is surjective, then  $\ell_p(G) \leq \ell_p(H)$ .

### 2. Modules for $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ and $k\mathcal{R}(G)$

**2.A.** Semisimplicity. — Recall that  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$  is identified with the algebra of class functions on G. If  $C \in G/\sim$  and  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$ , we denote by f(C) the constant value of f on C. We now define  $\operatorname{ev}_C : K\mathcal{R}(G) \to K$ ,  $f \mapsto f(C)$ . It is a morphism of K-algebras. In other words, it is an irreducible representation (or character) of  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{D}_C$  the corresponding simple  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ -module  $(\dim_K \mathcal{D}_C = 1$  and an element  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$  acts on  $\mathcal{D}_C$  by multiplication by  $\operatorname{ev}_C(f) = f(C)$ ). Now,  $1_C$  is a primitive idempotent of  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$  and it is easily checked that

(2.1) 
$$K\mathcal{R}(G)1_C \simeq \mathcal{D}_C.$$

Recall that

(2.2) 
$$1_C = \frac{|C|}{|G|} \sum_{\chi \in Irr \ G} \chi(C^{-1}) \chi$$

and

(2.3) 
$$\sum_{C \in G/\sim} 1_C = 1_G.$$

Therefore:

Proposition 2.4. — We have:

- (a)  $(\mathcal{D}_C)_{C \in G/\sim}$  is a family of representatives of isomorphy classes of simple  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ -modules.
- (b)  $\operatorname{Irr} K\mathcal{R}(G) = \{\operatorname{ev}_C \mid C \in G/\sim\}.$
- (c)  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$  is split semisimple.

We conclude this section by the computation of the Schur elements (see [GP, 7.2] for the definition) associated to each irreducible character of  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Since

(2.5) 
$$\tau_G^K = \sum_{C \in G/\sim} \frac{|C|}{|G|} ev_C,$$

we have by  $[\mathbf{GP}, \text{Theorem } 7.2.6]$ :

Corollary 2.6. — Let  $C \in G/\sim$ . Then the Schur element associated with the irreducible character  $\operatorname{ev}_C$  is  $\frac{|G|}{|C|}$ .

REMARK 2.7 - If  $z \in Z(G)$ , then  $t_z$  induces an isomorphism of algebras  $K\mathcal{R}(G)1_C \simeq K\mathcal{R}(G)1_{z^{-1}C}$ .

REMARK 2.8 - If  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$ , then  $f = \sum_{C \in G} f(C) 1_C$ .

EXAMPLE 2.9 - The map  $ev_1$  will sometimes be denoted by deg, since it sends a character to its degree.

**2.B. Decomposition map.** — Let  $d_{\mathfrak{p}}: \mathcal{R}(G) \to \mathcal{R}(kG)$  denote the decomposition map. If R is any commutative ring, we denote by  $d_{\mathfrak{p}}^R: R\mathcal{R}(G) \to R\mathcal{R}(kG)$  the induced map. Note that  $\mathcal{R}(kG)$  is also a ring (for the multiplication given by tensor product) and that  $d_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is a morphism of ring. Also, by [CR, Corollary 18.14],

(2.10) 
$$d_{\mathfrak{p}}$$
 is surjective.

Since  $\operatorname{Irr}(kG)$  is a linearly independent family of class functions  $G \to k$  (see [CR, Theorem 17.4]), the map  $\chi: k\mathcal{R}(kG) \to \operatorname{Class}_k(G)$  that sends the class of a kG-module to its character is (well-defined and) injective. This is a morphism of k-algebras.

Now, if C is a conjugacy class of p-regular elements (i.e.  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ ), we define

$$\mathcal{S}_{p'}(C) = \{ g \in G \mid g_{p'} \in C \}$$

(for instance,  $S_{p'}(1) = G_p$ ). Then  $S_{p'}(C)$  is called the p'-section of C: this is a union of conjugacy classes of G. Let  $\operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G)$  be the space of class functions  $G \to k$  which are constant on p'-sections. Then, by  $[\operatorname{\mathbf{CR}}$ , Lemma 17.8],  $\operatorname{Irr}(kG) \subset \operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G)$ , so the image of  $\chi$  is contained in  $\operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G)$ . But,  $\chi$  is injective,  $|\operatorname{Irr}(kG)| = |G_{p'}/\sim|$  (see  $[\operatorname{\mathbf{CR}}$ , Corollary 17.11]) and  $\dim_k \operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G) = |G_{p'}/\sim|$ . Therefore, we can identify, through  $\chi$ , the k-algebras  $k\mathcal{R}(kG)$  and  $\operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G)$ . In particular,

(2.11) 
$$k\mathcal{R}(kG)$$
 is split semisimple.

**2.C.** Simple  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ -modules. — If  $C \in G/\sim$ , we still denote by  $\operatorname{ev}_C : \mathcal{OR}(G) \to \mathcal{O}$  the restriction of  $\operatorname{ev}_C$  and we denote by  $\overline{\operatorname{ev}}_C : k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k$  the reduction modulo  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $\operatorname{ev}_C$ . It is easily checked that  $\overline{\operatorname{ev}}_C$  factorizes through the decomposition map  $d_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Indeed, if  $\operatorname{ev}_C^k : k\mathcal{R}(kG) \to k$  denote the evaluation at C (recall that  $k\mathcal{R}(kG)$  is identified, via the map  $\chi$  of the previous subsection, to  $\operatorname{Class}_k^{p'}(G)$ ), then

$$(2.12) \overline{\operatorname{ev}}_C = \operatorname{ev}_C^k \circ d_{\mathfrak{n}}^k.$$

Let  $\bar{\mathcal{D}}_C$  be the corresponding simple  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ -module. Let  $\delta_{\mathfrak{p}}: \mathcal{R}(K\mathcal{R}(G)) \to \mathcal{R}(k\mathcal{R}(G))$  denote the decomposition map (see [**GP**, 7.4] for the definition). Then

The following facts are well-known:

**Proposition 2.14.** — Let  $C, C' \in G/\sim$ . Then  $\bar{\mathcal{D}}_C \simeq \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{C'}$  if and only if  $C_{p'} = C'_{p'}$ .

*Proof.* — The "if" part follows from the following classical fact [**CR**, Proposition 17.5 (ii) and (iv) and Lemma 17.8]: if  $\chi \in \mathcal{R}(G)$  and if  $g \in G$ , then

$$\chi(g) \equiv \chi(g_{p'}) \mod \mathfrak{p}.$$

The "only if" part follows from 2.12 and from the surjectivity of the decomposition map  $d_{\mathfrak{p}}$ .

Corollary 2.15. — We have:

- (a)  $(\bar{\mathcal{D}}_C)_{C \in G_{n'}/\sim}$  is a family of representatives of isomorphy classes of simple  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ -modules.
- (b)  $\operatorname{Irr} k\mathcal{R}(G) = \{\overline{\operatorname{ev}}_C \mid C \in G_{p'}/\sim\}.$
- (c) Rad  $k\mathcal{R}(G) = \operatorname{Ker} d_{\mathfrak{n}}^k$ .
- (d)  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is split.

*Proof.* — (a) follows from 2.13 and from the fact that the isomorphy class of any simple  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ -modules must occur in some  $\delta_{\mathfrak{p}}[S]$ , where S is a simple  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$ -module. (b) follows from (a). (c) and (d) follow from (a), (b), 2.12 and 2.11.

Corollary 2.16. —  $\dim_k \operatorname{Rad}(k\mathcal{R}(G)) = |G/\sim| - |G_{p'}/\sim|$ .

**Corollary 2.17.** —  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is semisimple if and only if p does not divide |G|.

EXAMPLE 2.18 - Since ev<sub>1</sub> is also denoted by deg, we shall sometimes denote by  $\overline{\deg}$  the morphism  $\overline{\operatorname{ev}}_1$ . If G is a p-group, then Corollary 2.15 shows that  $\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G) = \operatorname{Ker}(\overline{\deg})$ . In this case, if 1,  $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r$  denote the linear characters of G and  $\chi_1, \ldots, \chi_s$  denote the non-linear irreducible characters of G, then  $(\overline{\lambda}_1 - 1, \ldots, \overline{\lambda}_r - 1, \overline{\chi}_1, \overline{\chi}_s)$  is a k-basis of  $\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

**2.D. Projective modules.** — We now fix a conjugacy class C of p-regular elements (i.e.  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ ). Let

$$e_C = 1_{\mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)} = \sum_{D \in \mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)/\sim} 1_D.$$

If necessary,  $e_C$  will be denoted by  $e_C^G$ . If H is a subgroup of G, then

(2.19) 
$$\operatorname{Res}_{H}^{G} e_{C}^{G} = \sum_{D \in (C \cap H)/\sim_{H}} e_{D}^{H}.$$

**Proposition 2.20.** — Let  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ . Then  $e_C \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

Proof. — Using Brauer's Theorem, we only need to prove that  $\operatorname{Res}_N^G e_C^G \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathcal{R}(N)$  for every nilpotent subgroup N of G. By 2.19, this amounts to prove the lemma whenever G is nilpotent. So we assume that G is nilpotent. Then  $G = G_{p'} \times G_p$ , and  $G_p$  and  $G_{p'}$  are subgroups of G. Moreover,  $C \subset G_{p'}$  and  $S_{p'}(G) = C \times G_p$ . If we identify  $K\mathcal{R}(G)$  and  $K\mathcal{R}(G_{p'}) \otimes_K K\mathcal{R}(G_p)$ , we have  $e_C^G = 1_C^{G_{p'}} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} e_1^{G_p}$ . But, by 2.2, we have that  $e_C^{G_{p'}} \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G_{p'})$ . On the other hand,  $e_1^{G_p} = 1_{G_p} \in \mathcal{R}(G_p)$ . The proof of the lemma is complete.

**Corollary 2.21.** — Let  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ . Then  $e_C$  is a primitive idempotent of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

*Proof.* — By Proposition 2.15 (a), the number of primitive idempotents of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is  $|G_{p'}/\sim|$ . So the number of primitive idempotents of  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$  is also  $|G_{p'}/\sim|$  (here,  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  denotes the completion of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  at its maximal ideal). Now,  $(e_C)_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim}$  is a family of orthogonal idempotents of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$  (see Proposition 2.20) and  $1_G = \sum_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim} e_C$ . The proof of the lemma is complete.

Let  $\bar{e}_C \in k\mathcal{R}(G)$  denote the reduction modulo  $\mathfrak{p}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  of  $e_C$ . Then it follows from 2.12 that

(2.22) 
$$d_{\mathfrak{p}}^{k}\bar{e}_{C} = 1_{\mathcal{S}_{n'}(C)}^{k} \in k\mathcal{R}(kG) \simeq \operatorname{Class}_{k}^{p'}(G).$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}_C = \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)e_C$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_C = k\mathcal{R}(G)\bar{e}_C$ : they are indecomposable projective modules for  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$  and  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  respectively. Then

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G) = \bigoplus_{C \in G_{\mathfrak{p}'}/\sim} \mathcal{P}_C$$

and

$$k\mathcal{R}(G) = \bigoplus_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim} \bar{\mathcal{P}}_C.$$

Note also that

(2.23) 
$$\dim_k k\mathcal{R}(G)\bar{e}_C = \operatorname{rank}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)e_C = |\mathcal{S}_{p'}(G)/\sim|.$$

**Proposition 2.24.** — Let C and C' be two conjugacy classes of p'-regular elements of G. Then:

(a) 
$$[\bar{\mathcal{P}}_C : \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{C'}] = \begin{cases} |\mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)/\sim| & \text{if } C = C', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(b)  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_C / \operatorname{Rad} \bar{\mathcal{P}}_C \simeq \bar{\mathcal{D}}_C$ .

*Proof.* — Let us first prove (a). By definition of  $e_C$ , we have

$$[K \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} \mathcal{P}_{C}] = \sum_{D \in \mathcal{S}_{p'}(G)/\sim} [\mathcal{D}_{D}].$$

Also, by definition of the decomposition map  $\delta_{\mathfrak{p}}: \mathcal{R}(K\mathcal{R}(G)) \to \mathcal{R}(k\mathcal{R}(G))$ , we have

$$\delta_{\mathfrak{p}}[K \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} \mathcal{P}_C] = [\bar{\mathcal{P}}_C].$$

So the result follows from these observations and from 2.13. Now, (b) follows easily from (a).  $\Box$ 

**2.E.** More on the radical. — Let  $\operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$  denote the set of functions  $f \in \mathcal{O}_p\mathcal{R}(G)$  whose restriction to  $G_{p'}$  is zero. Note that  $\operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$  is a direct summand of the  $\mathcal{O}_p$ -module  $\mathcal{O}_p\mathcal{R}(G)$ . So,  $k\operatorname{Rad}_p(G) = k\otimes_{\mathcal{O}_p}\operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$  is a sub-k-vector space of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

**Proposition 2.25**. — We have:

- (a)  $\dim_k k \operatorname{Rad}_p(G) = |G/\sim| |G_{p'}/\sim|$ .
- (b)  $k \operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$  is the radical of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

*Proof.* — (a) is clear. (b) follows from 2.12 and from Corollary 2.15.

**Corollary 2.26**. — Let e be the number such that  $p^e$  is the exponent of a Sylow p-subgroup of G. If  $f \in \operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G)$ , then  $f^{p^e} = 0$ .

*Proof.* — Let  $e = e_p(G)$ . If  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$  and if  $n \ge 1$ , we denote by  $f^{(n)}: G \to K$ ,  $g \mapsto f(g^n)$ . Then the map  $K\mathcal{R}(G) \to K\mathcal{R}(G)$ ,  $f \mapsto f^{(n)}$  is a morphism of K-algebras. Moreover (see for instance [**CR**, Corollary 12.10]), we have

(2.27) If 
$$f \in \mathcal{R}(G)$$
, then  $f^{(n)} \in \mathcal{R}(G)$ .

Therefore, it induces a morphism of k-algebras  $\theta_n : k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Now, let  $F : k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k\mathcal{R}(G)$ ,  $\lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} f \mapsto \lambda^p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} f$ . Then F is an injective endomorphism of the ring  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Moreover (see for instance [I, Problem 4.7]), we have

$$(2.28) F \circ \theta_p(f) = f^p$$

for every  $f \in k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Since F and  $\theta_p$  commute, we have  $F^e \circ \theta_{p^e}(f) = f^{p^e}$  for every  $f \in k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Therefore, if  $\chi \in \operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$ , we have

$$\bar{\chi}^{p^e} = F^e(\overline{\chi^{(p^e)}}).$$

But, by hypothesis,  $g^{p^e} \in G_{p'}$  for every  $g \in G$ . So, if  $f \in \operatorname{Rad}_p(G)$ , then  $f^{(p^e)} = 0$ . Therefore,  $\bar{f}^{p^e} = 0$ . The corollary follows from this observation and from Proposition 2.25.

## 3. Principal block

If  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$  the  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)e_{C}$ . As an  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ -module, this is just  $\mathcal{P}_{C}$ , but we want to study here its structure as a ring, so that is why we use a different notation. If R is a commutative  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -algebra, we set  $R\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) = R \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ . For instance,  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) = k\mathcal{R}(G)\bar{e}_{C}$ , and  $K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$  can be identified with the algebra of class functions on  $\mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)$ .

The algebra  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$  (resp.  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$ ) will be called the *principal block* of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$  (resp.  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ ). The aim of this section is to construct an isomorphism  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) \simeq \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g),1)$ , where g is any element of C. We also emphasize the functorial properties of the principal block.

REMARK 3.1 - If  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$  and if  $z \in Z(G)$ , then  $t_z$  induces an isomorphism of algebras  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) \simeq \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,z_{p'}^{-1}C)$  (see Remark 2.7). Consequently,  $\bar{t}_z$  induces an isomorphism of algebras  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) \simeq k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,z^{-1}C)$ .

**3.A. Centralizers.** — Let  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim_G$ . Let  $\operatorname{proj}_C^G : K\mathcal{R}(G) \to K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ ,  $x \mapsto xe_C$  denote the canonical projection. We still denote by  $\operatorname{proj}_C^G : \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ , the restriction of  $\operatorname{proj}_C^G$  and we denote by  $\overline{\operatorname{proj}}_C^G : k\mathcal{R}(G) \to k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$  its reduction modulo  $\mathfrak{p}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ .

Let us now fix  $g \in C$ . It is well-known (and easy) that the map  $C_G(g)_p/\sim_{C_G(g)} \to \mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)/\sim_G$  that sends the  $C_G(g)$ -conjugacy class  $D \in C_G(g)_p/\sim_{C_G(g)}$  to the G-conjugacy class containing gD is bijective. In particular,

(3.2) 
$$|S_{p'}(C)/\sim_G| = |C_G(g)_p/\sim_{C_G(g)}|.$$

Now, let  $d_g^G: K\mathcal{R}(G) \to K\mathcal{R}(C_G(g))$  be the map defined by:

$$(d_g^G f)(h) = \begin{cases} f(gh) & \text{if } h \in C_G(g)_p, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for all  $f \in K\mathcal{R}(G)$  and  $h \in C_G(g)$ . Then  $d_g^G f \in K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g), 1)$ . It must be noticed that

(3.3) 
$$d_g^G = \operatorname{proj}_1^{C_G(g)} \circ t_g^{C_G(g)} \circ \operatorname{Res}_{C_G(g)}^G = t_g^{C_G(g)} \circ \operatorname{proj}_g^{C_G(g)} \circ \operatorname{Res}_{C_G(g)}^G.$$

In particular,  $d_g^G$  sends  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$  to  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g),1)$ . We denote by  $\operatorname{res}_g:\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)\to\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g),1)$  the restriction of  $d_g^G$  to  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ . Let  $\operatorname{ind}_g:K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g),1)\to K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$  be the map defined by

$$\operatorname{ind}_{g} f = \operatorname{Ind}_{C_{G}(g)}^{G}(t_{g^{-1}}^{C_{G}(g)}f)$$

for every  $f \in K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g), 1)$ . It is clear that  $\operatorname{ind}_g f \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G, C)$  if  $f \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g), 1)$ . Thus we have defined two maps

$$\operatorname{res}_g: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g),1)$$

and

$$\operatorname{ind}_q: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g), 1) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G, C).$$

We have:

**Theorem 3.4.** — If  $g \in G_{p'}$ , then  $\operatorname{res}_g$  and  $\operatorname{ind}_g$  are isomorphisms of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -algebras inverse to each other.

*Proof.* — We first want to prove that  $\operatorname{res}_g \circ \operatorname{ind}_g$  is the identity morphism. Let  $f \in K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(C_G(g), 1)$ . Let  $f' = t_{g^{-1}}f$  and let  $x \in C_G(g)_p$ . We just need to prove that

$$(?) \qquad (\operatorname{Ind}_{C_G(g)}^G f')(gx) = f'(gx).$$

But, by definition,

$$(\operatorname{Ind}_{C_G(g)}^G f')(gx) = \sum_{\substack{h \in [G/C_G(g)]\\ h(gx)h^{-1} \in C_G(g)}} f'(h(gx)h^{-1}).$$

Here,  $[G/C_G(g)]$  denotes a set of representatives of  $G/C_G(g)$ . Since f' has support in  $gC_G(g)_p$ , we have  $f(h(gx)h^{-1}) \neq 0$  only if the p'-part of  $h(gx)h^{-1}$  is equal to g, which happens if and only if  $h \in C_G(g)$ . This shows (?).

The fact that  $\operatorname{ind}_g \circ \operatorname{res}_g$  is the identity can be proved similarly, or can be proved by using a trivial dimension argument. Since  $\operatorname{res}_g$  is a morphism of algebras, we get that  $\operatorname{ind}_g$  is also a morphism of algebras.

**3.B. Subgroups of index prime to p.** — If H is a subgroup of G, then the restriction map  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G$  sends  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$  to  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  (indeed, by 2.19, we have  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G e_1^G = e_1^H$ ).

**Theorem 3.5.** — If H is a subgroup of G of index prime to p, then  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  is a split injection of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -modules.

*Proof.* — Let us first prove that  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G$  is injective. For this, we only need to prove that the map  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G: K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \to K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$ . But  $K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$  is the space of functions whose support is contained in  $G_p$ . Since the index of H is prime to p, every conjugacy class of p-elements of G meets  $G_p$ . This shows that  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G$  is injective.

In order to prove that it is a split injection, we only need to prove that the  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -module  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)/\operatorname{Res}_{H}^{G}(\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1))$  is torsion-free. Let  $\pi$  be a generator of the ideal  $\mathfrak{p}\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Let  $\gamma \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$  and  $\eta \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  be such that  $\pi \eta = \operatorname{Res}_{H}^{G} \gamma$ . We only need to prove that  $\gamma/\pi \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$ . By Brauer's Theorem, it is sufficient to show that, for any nilpotent subgroup N of G, we have  $\operatorname{Res}_{N}^{G} \gamma \in \pi \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathcal{R}(N)$ .

So let N be a nilpotent subgroup. We have  $N = N_p \times N_{p'}$  and, since the index of H in G is prime to p, we may assume that  $N_p \subset H$ . Since  $\operatorname{Res}_N^G \psi \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(N,1) = \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(N_p) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} e_1^{N_{p'}}$ , we have

$$\operatorname{Res}_{N}^{G} \gamma = (\operatorname{Res}_{N_{p}}^{G} \gamma) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} e_{1}^{N_{p'}}$$
$$= (\pi \operatorname{Res}_{N_{p}}^{H} \eta) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}} e_{1}^{N_{p'}} \in \pi \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathcal{R}(N),$$

as expected.

**Corollary 3.6.** — If H is a subgroup of G of index prime to p, then the map  $\overline{\mathrm{Res}}_H^G: k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \to k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  is an injective morphism of k-algebras.

**Corollary 3.7.** — If H is a subgroup of G of index prime to p which controls the fusion of p-elements, then  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  is an isomorphism of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -algebras.

*Proof.* — In this case,  $\dim_K K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) = \dim_K K\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$ , so the result follows from Corollary 3.6.

EXAMPLE 3.8 - Let P be a Sylow p-subgroup of G and assume in this example that P is abelian. Then  $N_G(P)$  controls the fusion of p-elements. It then follows from Corollary 3.7 that the restriction from G to  $N_G(P)$  induces isomorphisms of algebras  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \simeq \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(N_G(P),1)$  and  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \simeq k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(N_G(P),1)$ . In particular,  $\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(N_G(P),1)$ .

EXAMPLE 3.9 - Let N be a p'-group, let H be a group acting on N and let  $G = H \ltimes N$ . Then H is of index prime to p and controls the fusion of p-elements of G. So  $\operatorname{Res}_H^G$  induces isomorphisms of algebras  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \simeq \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$  and  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1) \simeq k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H,1)$ . In particular,  $\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(H,1)$ .

**3.C.** Quotient by a normal p'-subgroup. — Let N be a normal subgroup of G. Let  $\pi: G \to G/N$  denote the canonical morphism. Then the morphism of algebras  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G/N) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G)$  induces a morphism of algebras  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}: \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G/N,1) \to \mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1), f \mapsto (\operatorname{Res}_{\pi} f)e_1^G$ . Note that  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)} e_1^{G/N} = e_1^G$ . We denote by  $\overline{\operatorname{Res}}_{\pi}^{(1)}: k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G/N,1) \to k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,1)$  the morphism induced by  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}$ . Then:

**Theorem 3.10**. — With the above notation, we have:

- (a)  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}$  is a split injection of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -modules.
- (b) If N is prime to p, then  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}$  is an isomorphism.

Proof. — (a) The injectivity of  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}$  follows from the fact that  $(G/N)_p = G_p N/N$ . Now, let I denote the image of  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)}$ . Since  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G/N))$  is a direct summand of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ , we get that  $\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G/N,1)) = (\operatorname{Res}_{\pi}^{(1)} e_1^{G/N}) \operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G/N))$  is a direct summand of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ . Since  $I = e_1^G \operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G/N,1))$  and  $e_1^G = e_1^G \operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(e_1^{G/N})$ , we get that  $I = e_1^G \operatorname{Res}_{\pi}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G/N))$  is a direct summand of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathcal{R}(G)$ , as desired.

(b) now follows from (a) and from the fact that the map  $\pi$  induces a bijection between  $G_p/\sim_G$  and  $(G/N)_g/\sim_{G/N}$  whenever N is a normal p'-subgroup.

# 4. Some invariants

We introduce in this section some numerical invariants of the k-algebra  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  (more precisely, of the algebras  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ ): Loewy length, dimension of the Ext-groups.

**4.A.** Loewy length. — If  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ , we denote by  $\ell_p(G,C)$  the Loewy length of the k-algebra  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)$ . Then, by definition, we have

(4.1) 
$$\ell_p(G) = \max_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim} \ell_p(G, C).$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 3.4, we have

(4.2) If 
$$C \in G_{p'}/\sim$$
 and if  $g \in C$ , then  $\ell_p(G,C) = \ell_p(C_G(g),1)$ .

The following bound on the Loewy length of  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is obtained immediately from 2.23 and 3.2:

(4.3) 
$$\ell_p(G) \leqslant \max_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim} |\mathcal{S}_{p'}(C)/\sim| = \max_{g \in G_{p'}} |C_G(g)_p/\sim_{C_G(g)}|.$$

We set 
$$S_p(G) = \max_{C \in G_{p'}/\sim} |S_{p'}(C)/\sim|$$
.

EXAMPLE 4.4 - The inequality 4.3 might be strict. Indeed, if  $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ , then  $\ell_2(G) = 3 < 4 = S_2(G)$ .

EXAMPLE 4.5 - If  $S_p(G) = 2$ , then  $\ell_p(G) = 2$ . Indeed, in this case, we have that p divides |G|, so  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$  is not semisimple by Corollary 2.17, so  $\ell_p(G) \ge 2$ . The result then follows from 4.3.

**4.B. Ext-groups.** — If  $i \ge 0$  and if  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$ , we set

$$\operatorname{ext}_{p}^{i}(G,C) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_{p}} \operatorname{Ext}_{k\mathcal{R}(G)}^{i}(\bar{\mathcal{D}}_{C},\bar{\mathcal{D}}_{C}).$$

Note that  $\operatorname{ext}_p^i(G,C) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \operatorname{Ext}_{k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G,C)}^i(\bar{\mathcal{D}}_C,\bar{\mathcal{D}}_C)$ . So, if  $g \in C$ , it follows from Theorem 3.4 that

(4.6) 
$$\operatorname{ext}_{p}^{i}(G,C) = \operatorname{ext}_{p}^{i}(C_{G}(g),1).$$

**4.C. Subgroups, quotients.** — The next results follows respectively from Corollaries 3.6, 3.7 and from Theorem 3.10:

**Proposition 4.7.** Let H be a subgroup of G of index prime to p and let N be a normal subgroup of G. Then:

- (a)  $\ell_p(G,1) \leq \ell_p(H,1)$ .
- (b) If H controls the fusion of p-elements, then  $\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(H,1)$  and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^i(G,1) = \operatorname{ext}_p^i(H,1)$  for every  $i \ge 0$ .
- (c)  $\ell_p(G/N, 1) \leq \ell_p(G, 1)$ .
- (d) If |N| is prime to p, then  $\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(H,1)$  and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^i(G,1) = \operatorname{ext}_p^i(H,1)$  for every  $i \geq 0$ .
- **4.D. Direct products.** We study here the behaviour of the invariants  $\ell_p(G, C)$  and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G, C)$  with respect to taking direct products. We first recall the following result on finite dimensional algebras:

**Proposition 4.8**. — Let A and B be two finite dimensional k-algebras. Then:

- (a)  $\operatorname{Rad}(A \otimes_k B) = A \otimes_k (\operatorname{Rad} B) + (\operatorname{Rad} A) \otimes_k B$ .
- (b) If  $A/\operatorname{Rad} A \simeq k$  and  $B/\operatorname{Rad} B \simeq k$ , then

$$\operatorname{Rad}(A \otimes_k B) / \operatorname{Rad}(A \otimes_k B)^2 \simeq (\operatorname{Rad} A) / (\operatorname{Rad} A)^2 \oplus (\operatorname{Rad} B) / (\operatorname{Rad} B)^2$$
.

*Proof.* — (a) is proved for instance in [**CR**, Proof of 10.39]. Let us now prove (b). Let  $\theta$ : (Rad A)  $\oplus$  (Rad B)  $\to$  Rad( $A \otimes_k B$ )/Rad( $A \otimes_k B$ )<sup>2</sup>,  $a \oplus b \mapsto \overline{a \otimes_k 1 + 1 \otimes_k b}$ . By (a),  $\theta$  is surjective and (Rad A)<sup>2</sup>  $\oplus$  (Rad B)<sup>2</sup> is contained in the kernel of  $\theta$ . Now the result follows from dimension reasons (using (a)).

**Proposition 4.9.** Let G and H be two finite groups and let  $C \in G_{p'}/\sim$  and  $D \in H_{p'}/\sim$ . Then

$$\ell_n(G \times H, C \times D) = \ell_n(G, C) + \ell_n(H, D) - 1$$

and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G \times H, C \times D) = \operatorname{ext}_p^1(G, C) + \operatorname{ext}_p^1(H, D).$ 

*Proof.* — Write  $A = k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G, C)$  and  $B = k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(H, D)$ . It is easily checked that  $k\mathcal{R}_{\mathfrak{p}}(G \times H, C \times D) = A \otimes_k B$ . So the first equality follows from Proposition 4.8 (a) and from the commutativity of A and B. Moreover  $A/(\operatorname{Rad} A) \simeq k$  and  $B/(\operatorname{Rad} B) \simeq k$ . In particular

$$\dim_k \operatorname{Ext}_A^1(A/\operatorname{Rad} A, A/\operatorname{Rad} A) = \dim_k(\operatorname{Rad} A)/(\operatorname{Rad} A)^2$$
.

So the second equality follows from Proposition 4.8 (b).

**4.E.** Abelian groups. — We compute here the invariants  $\ell_p(G,1)$  and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G,1)$  whenever G is abelian. If G is abelian, then there is a (non-canonical) isomorphism of algebras  $k\mathcal{R}(G) \simeq kG$ . Let us first start with the cyclic case:

(4.10) if G is cyclic, then 
$$\ell_p(G) = |G|_p + 1$$
 and  $\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G, 1) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \text{ divides } |G|, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 

Therefore, by Proposition 4.9, we have: if  $G_1, \ldots, G_n$  are cyclic, then

(4.11) 
$$\ell_p(G_1 \times \dots \times G_n) = |G_1|_p + \dots + |G_n|_p - n + 1.$$

and

$$(4.12) ext_n^1(G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n) = |\{1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \mid p \text{ divides } G_i\}|.$$

### 5. The symmetric group

In this section, and only in this section, we fix a non-zero natural number n and a prime number p and we assume that  $G = \mathfrak{S}_n$ , that  $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}$  and that  $\mathfrak{p} = p\mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $\mathbb{F}_p = k$ . It is well-known that  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{F}_p$  are splitting fields for  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . For simplification, we set  $\mathcal{R}_n = \mathcal{R}(\mathfrak{S}_n)$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n = \mathbb{F}_p \mathcal{R}(\mathfrak{S}_n)$ . We investigate further the structure of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . This is a continuation of the work started in  $[\mathbf{B}]$  in which the description of the descending Loewy series of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  was obtained.

We first introduce some notation. Let  $\operatorname{Part}(n)$  denote the set of partitions of n. If  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r) \in \operatorname{Part}(n)$  and if  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , we denote by  $r_i(\lambda)$  the number of occurrences of i as a part of  $\lambda$ . We set

$$\pi_p(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{r_i(\lambda)}{p} \right]$$

where, for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x \ge 0$ , we denote by [x] the unique natural number  $m \ge 0$  such that  $m \le x < m+1$ . Note that  $\pi_p(\lambda) \in \{0,1,2,\ldots, [n/p]\}$  and recall that  $\lambda$  is p-regular (resp. p-singular) if and only if  $\pi_p(\lambda) = 0$  (resp.  $\pi_p(\lambda) \ge 1$ ). We denote by  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  the Young subgroup canonically isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_1} \times \cdots \times \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_r}$ , by  $1_{\lambda}$  the trivial character of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$ , and by  $c_{\lambda}$  an element of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  with only r orbit in  $\{1,2,\ldots,n\}$ . Let  $C_{\lambda}$  denote the conjugacy class of  $c_{\lambda}$  in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . Then the map  $\operatorname{Part}(n) \to \mathfrak{S}_n/\sim$ ,  $\lambda \mapsto C_{\lambda}$  is a bijection. Let  $W(\lambda) = N_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda})/\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$ . Then

(5.1) 
$$W(\lambda) \simeq \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathfrak{S}_{r_{i}(\lambda)}.$$

In particular,  $\pi_p(\lambda)$  is the *p-rank* of  $W(\lambda)$ , where the *p*-rank of a finite group is the maximal rank of an elementary abelian subgroup. Now, we set  $\varphi_{\lambda} = \operatorname{Ind}_{\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}}^{\mathfrak{S}_n} 1_{\lambda}$ . An old result of Frobenius says that

(5.2) 
$$(\varphi_{\lambda})_{\lambda \in Part(n)}$$
 is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis of  $\mathcal{R}_n$ 

(see for instance [**GP**, Theorem 5.4.5 (b)]). Now, if  $i \ge 1$ , let

$$\operatorname{Part}_p^{\geqslant i}(n) = \{ \lambda \in \operatorname{Part}(n) \mid \pi_p(\lambda) \geqslant i \}$$

and 
$$\operatorname{Part}_p^i(n) = \{ \lambda \in \operatorname{Part}(n) \mid \pi_p(\lambda) = i \}.$$

Then, by [B, Theorem A], we have

(5.3) 
$$(\operatorname{Rad} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n)^i = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_p^{(i)}(n)} \mathbb{F}_p \overline{\varphi}_{\lambda}.$$

Let  $\operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)$  denote the set of partitions of n whose parts are prime to p. Then the map  $\operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n) \to G_{p'}/\sim$ ,  $\lambda \mapsto C_{\lambda}$  is bijective. We denote by  $\tau_{p'}(\lambda)$  the unique partition of n such that  $(c_{\lambda})_{p'} \in C_{\tau_{p'}(\lambda)}$ . If  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_r)$ , the partition  $\tau_{p'}(\lambda)$  is obtained as follows. Let

$$\lambda' = (\underbrace{(\lambda_1)_{p'}, \dots, (\lambda_1)_{p'}}_{(\lambda_1)_p \text{ times}}, \dots, \underbrace{(\lambda_r)_{p'}, \dots, (\lambda_r)_{p'}}_{(\lambda_r)_p \text{ times}}).$$

Then  $\tau_{p'}(\lambda)$  is obtained from  $\lambda'$  by reordering the parts. The map  $\tau_{p'}: \operatorname{Part}(n) \to \operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)$  is obviously surjective. If  $\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)$ , we set for simplification  $\mathcal{R}_{n,p}(\lambda) = \mathcal{R}_{p\mathbb{Z}}(\mathfrak{S}_n, C_{\lambda})$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n(\lambda) = \mathbb{F}_p \mathcal{R}_{p\mathbb{Z}}(\mathfrak{S}_n, C_{\lambda})$ . In other words,

$$\mathbb{Z}_{p\mathbb{Z}}\mathcal{R}_n = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathrm{Part}_{p'}(n)} \mathcal{R}_{n,p}(\lambda)$$

and

$$\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n(\lambda)$$

are the decomposition of  $\mathbb{Z}_{p\mathbb{Z}}\mathcal{R}_n$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  as a sum of blocks. We now make the result 5.3 more precise:

**Proposition 5.4.** — If  $\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)$  and if  $i \geq 0$ , then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \left( \operatorname{Rad} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n(\lambda) \right)^i = |\tau_{p'}^{-1}(\lambda) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^{\geqslant i}(n)|.$$

*Proof.* — If  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are two partitions of n, we write  $\lambda \subset \mu$  if  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  is conjugate to a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$ . This defines an order on  $\operatorname{Part}(n)$ . On the other hand, if  $d \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , we denote by  $\lambda \cap {}^d\mu$  the unique partition  $\nu$  of n such that  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \cap {}^d\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  is conjugate to  $\mathfrak{S}_{\nu}$ . Then, by the Mackey formula for tensor product (see for instance [CR, Theorem 10.18]), we have

(1) 
$$\varphi_{\lambda}\varphi_{\mu} = \sum_{d \in [\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \setminus \mathfrak{S}_{n}/\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}]} \varphi_{\lambda \cap {}^{d}\mu}.$$

Here,  $[\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}\backslash\mathfrak{S}_{n}/\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}]$  denotes a set of representatives of the  $(\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda},\mathfrak{S}_{\mu})$ -double cosets in  $\mathfrak{S}_{n}$ . This shows that, if we fixe  $\lambda_{0} \in \operatorname{Part}(n)$ , then  $\bigoplus_{\lambda \subset \lambda_{0}} \mathbb{Z}\varphi_{\lambda}$  and  $\bigoplus_{\lambda \subseteq \lambda_{0}} \mathbb{Z}\varphi_{\lambda}$  are sub- $\mathcal{R}(G)$ -module of  $\mathcal{R}(G)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{D}_{\lambda}^{\mathbb{Z}}$  the quotient of these two modules. Then

$$(2) K \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{D}_{\lambda}^{\mathbb{Z}} \simeq \mathcal{D}_{C_{\lambda}}.$$

This follows for instance from [GP, Proposition 2.4.4]. Consequently,

$$(3) k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{D}_{\lambda}^{\mathbb{Z}} \simeq \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{C_{\lambda}}.$$

It then follows from Proposition 2.14 that

(4) 
$$k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{D}_{\lambda}^{\mathbb{Z}} \simeq k \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{D}_{\mu}^{\mathbb{Z}} \text{ if and only if } \tau_{p'}(\lambda) = \tau_{p'}(\mu).$$

Now the Theorem follows from easily from (3), (4) and 5.3.

Now, if  $\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{p'}(n)$ , then  $C_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(w_{\lambda})$  contains a normal p'-subgroup  $N_{\lambda}$  such that  $C_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(w_{\lambda})/N_{\lambda}$  is isomorphic to  $W(\lambda)$ . We denote by  $1^n$  the partition  $(1, 1, \ldots, 1)$  of n. It follows from Theorem 3.4 and Theorem 3.10 that

(5.5) 
$$\mathcal{R}_{n,p}(\lambda) \simeq \mathcal{R}_{p\mathbb{Z}}(W(\lambda), 1) \simeq \bigotimes_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{R}_{r_i(\lambda), p}(1^{r_i(\lambda)})$$

and

(5.6) 
$$\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n(\lambda) \simeq \overline{\mathcal{R}}(W(\lambda), 1) \simeq \underset{i=1}{\overset{n}{\otimes}} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_{r_i(\lambda)}(1^{r_i(\lambda)}).$$

We denote by  $\operatorname{Log}_p n$  the real number x such that  $p^x = n$ . Then:

Corollary 5.7. — If  $\lambda \in Part_{p'}(n)$ , then

$$\operatorname{ext}_p^1(\mathfrak{S}_n, C_{\lambda}) = \sum_{i=1}^n [\operatorname{Log}_p r_i(\lambda)]$$

and

$$\ell_p(\mathfrak{S}_n, C_\lambda) = \pi_p(\lambda) + 1.$$

*Proof.* — By 5.6 and by Proposition 4.9, both equalities need only to be proved whenever  $\lambda = (1^n)$ . So we assume that  $\lambda = (1^n)$ .

Let us show the first equality. By Proposition 5.4, we are reduced to show that  $|\tau_{p'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^1(n)| = [\operatorname{Log}_p n]$ . Let  $r = [\operatorname{Log}_p n]$ . In other words, we have  $p^r \leqslant n < p^{r+1}$ . If  $1 \leqslant i \leqslant r$ , write  $n - p^i = \sum_{j=0}^r a_{ij} p^j$  with  $0 \leqslant a_{ij} < p-1$  (the  $a_{ij}$ 's are uniquely determined). Let

$$\lambda(i) = (\underbrace{p^r, \dots, p^r}_{a_{ir} \text{ times}}, \dots, \underbrace{p^i, \dots, p^i}_{a_{ir} \text{ times}}, \underbrace{p^{i-1}, \dots, p^{i-1}}_{(p+a_{i-1}, r) \text{ times}}, \underbrace{p^{i-2}, \dots, p^{i-2}}_{a_{i-2}, r \text{ times}}, \dots, \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{a_{0r} \text{ times}}).$$

The result will follow from the following equality

(\*) 
$$\tau_{n'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_n^1(n) = \{\lambda(1), \lambda(2), \dots, \lambda(r)\}.$$

So let us now prove (\*). Let  $I = \{\lambda(1), \lambda(2), \dots, \lambda(r)\}$ . It is clear that  $I \subset \tau_{p'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^1(n)$ . Now, let  $\lambda \in \tau_{p'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^1(n)$ . Then there exists a unique  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$  such that  $r_{p^{i-1}}(\lambda) \geq p$ . Moreover,  $r_{p^{i-1}}(\lambda) < 2p$ . So, if we set  $r'_{p^j} = r_{r_j}(\lambda)$  if  $j \neq i-1$  and  $r'_{p^{i-1}} = r_{p^{i-1}}(\lambda) - p$ , we get that  $0 \leq r'_{n^j} \leq p-1$  and  $n-p^i = \sum_{j=0}^r r'_{n^j} p^j$ . This shows that  $r'_{n^j} = a_{ij}$ , so  $\lambda = \lambda(i)$ .

Let us now show the second equality fo the Corollary. By Proposition 5.4, we only need to show that  $|\tau_{p'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^{[n/p]}(n)| \ge 1$ . But in fact, it is clear that  $\tau_{p'}^{-1}(1^n) \cap \operatorname{Part}_p^{[n/p]}(n) = \{1^n\}$ .

Corollary 5.8. — We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \left( \operatorname{Rad} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n(1^n) \right)^{[n/p]} = 1$$

and

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \operatorname{Ext}^{1}_{\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n}(\bar{\mathcal{D}}_{1^n}, \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{1^n}) = [\operatorname{Log}_p n].$$

In particular,  $\ell_p(\mathfrak{S}_n, 1) = \ell_p(\mathfrak{S}_n) = [n/p].$ 

*Proof.* — This is just a particular case of the previous corollary. The first equality has been obtained in the course of the proof of the previous corollary.  $\Box$ 

## 6. Dihedral groups

Let  $n \ge 1$  and  $m \ge 0$  be two natural numbers. We assume in this section, and only in this subsection, that  $G = D_{2^n(2m+1)}$  is the dihedral group of order  $2^n(2m+1)$  and that p = 2.

**Proposition 6.1**. — If  $n \ge 1$  and  $m \ge 0$  are natural numbers, then

$$\ell_2(D_{2^n(2m+1)}, 1) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 3 & \text{if } n = 2, \\ 2^{n-2} + 1 & \text{if } n \geqslant 3. \end{cases}$$

and

$$\operatorname{ext}_{2}^{1}(D_{2^{n}(2m+1)}, 1) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n = 2, \\ 3 & \text{if } n \geqslant 3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* — Let N be the normal subgroup of G of order 2m + 1. Then  $G \simeq D_{2^n} \ltimes N$ . So, by Proposition 4.7 (d), we may, and we will, assume that m = 0. If n = 1 or 2 the the result is easily checked. Therefore, we may, and we will, assume that  $n \ge 3$ .

Write  $h = 2^{n-1}$ . We have

$$G = \langle s, t \mid s^2 = t^2 = (st)^h = 1 \rangle$$
.

Let  $H = \langle st \rangle$  and  $S = \langle s \rangle$ . Then  $|H| = 2^{n-1} = h$  and  $G = S \ltimes H$ . We fix a primitive h-th root of unity  $\zeta \in \mathcal{O}^{\times}$ . If  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we denote by  $\xi_i$  the unique linear character of H such that  $\xi_i(st) = \zeta^i$ . Then  $\operatorname{Irr} H = \{\xi_0, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_{h-1}\}$ , and  $\xi_0 = 1_H$ .

Since  $n \ge 3$ , h is even and, if we write h = 2h', then  $h' = 2^{n-2}$  is also even. For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we set

$$\chi_i = \operatorname{Ind}_H^G \xi_i.$$

It is readily seen that  $\chi_i = \chi_{-i}$ , that  $\chi_{i+h} = \chi_i$  and that

$$\chi_i \chi_j = \chi_{i+j} + \chi_{i-j}.$$

Let  $\varepsilon$  (resp.  $\varepsilon_s$ , resp.  $\varepsilon_t$ ) be the unique linear character of order 2 such that  $\varepsilon(st) = 1$  (resp.  $\varepsilon_s(s) = 1$ , resp.  $\varepsilon_t(t) = 1$ ). Then

$$\chi_0 = 1_G + \varepsilon$$
,

$$\chi_{h'} = \varepsilon_s + \varepsilon_t,$$

and, if h' does not divide i,

$$\chi_i \in \operatorname{Irr} G$$
.

Moreover,  $|\operatorname{Irr} G| = h' + 3$  and

$$\operatorname{Irr} G = \{1_G, \varepsilon, \varepsilon_s, \varepsilon_t, \chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_{h'-1}\}.$$

Finally, note that

$$\varepsilon_s \chi_i = \varepsilon_t \chi_i = \chi_{i+h'}.$$

Let us start by finding a lower bound for  $\ell_2(G)$ . First, notice that the following equality holds: for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$  and every  $r \geq 0$ , we have

(6.4) 
$$(\bar{\chi}_i + \bar{\chi}_j)^{2^r} = \bar{\chi}_{2^r i} + \bar{\chi}_{2^r j}.$$

Proof of 6.4. — Recall that  $\bar{\chi}_i$  denotes the image of  $\chi_i$  in  $k\mathcal{R}(G)$ . We proceed by induction on r. The case r=0 is trivial. The induction step is an immediate consequence of 6.2.

Note also the following fact (which follows from Example 2.18):

(6.5) If 
$$i \in \mathbb{Z}$$
, then  $\bar{\chi}_i \in \operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

Therefore,

(6.6) 
$$\ell_2(G) \geqslant 2^{n-2} + 1.$$

Proof of 6.6. — By 6.4, we have immediately that  $(\bar{\chi}_0 + \bar{\chi}_1)^{2^{n-2}} = \bar{\chi}_0 + \bar{\chi}_{h'} \neq 0$  and, by 6.5,  $\bar{\chi}_0 + \bar{\chi}_1 \in \operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G)$ .

By Example 2.18, we have

(6.7) 
$$(\bar{1}_G + \bar{\varepsilon}_s, \bar{\chi}_0, \bar{\chi}_1, \dots, \bar{\chi}_{h'}) \text{ is a } k\text{-basis of } \operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G).$$

By 6.3 and 6.2, we get that

(6.8) 
$$(\bar{\chi}_i + \bar{\chi}_{i+2})_{0 \leqslant i \leqslant h'-2} \text{ is a } k\text{-basis of } (\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G))^2.$$

This shows that  $\operatorname{ext}_{p}^{1}(G)=3$ , as expected. It follows that, if  $n\geqslant 3$  and  $2\leqslant i\leqslant 2^{n-2}+1$ , then

(6.9) 
$$\dim_k (\operatorname{Rad} k \mathcal{R}(D_{2^n}))^i = 2^{n-2} + 1 - i$$

Proof of 6.9. — Let  $d_i = \dim_k (\operatorname{Rad} k \mathcal{R}(D_{2^n}))^i$ . By 6.8, we have  $d_2 = 2^{n-2} - 1$ . By 6.6, we have  $d_{2^{n-2}} \ge 1$ . Moreover,  $d_1 > d_2 > d_3 > \dots$  So the proof of 6.9 is complete.

In particular, we get:

(6.10) If 
$$n \ge 3$$
, then  $\left(\operatorname{Rad} k \mathcal{R}(D_{2^n})\right)^{2^{n-2}} = k(\bar{1}_{D_{2^n}} + \bar{\varepsilon} + \bar{\varepsilon}_s + \bar{\varepsilon}_t)$ .  
and  $\ell_2(D_{2^n}) = 2^{n-2} + 1$ , as expected.

#### 7. Some tables

For  $0 \le i \le \ell_p(G) - 1$ , we set  $d_i = \dim_k(\operatorname{Rad} k\mathcal{R}(G))^i$ . Note that  $d_0 = |G/\sim|$  and  $d_0 - d_1 = |G_{p'}/\sim|$ . In this section, we give tables containing the values  $\ell_p(G)$ ,  $\ell_p(G,1)$ ,  $S_p(G)$ ,  $\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G,1)$  and the sequence  $(d_0, d_1, d_2, \ldots)$  for various groups. These computations have been made using GAP3 [GAP3].

These computations show that, if G satisfies at least one of the following conditions:

- (1)  $|G| \leq 200$ ;
- (2) G is a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{S}_8$ ;
- (3) G is one of the groups contained in the next tables;

then  $\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(N_G(P),1)$  (here, P denotes a Sylow p-subgroup of G). Note also that this equality holds if P is abelian (see Example 3.8).

**Question.** Is it true that 
$$\ell_p(G,1) = \ell_p(N_G(P),1)$$
?

The first table contains the datas for the exceptional Weyl groups, the second table is for the alternating groups  $\mathfrak{A}_n$  for  $5 \leq n \leq 12$ , the third table is for some small finite simple groups, and the last table is for the groups PSL(2,q) for q a prime power  $\leq 27$ .

G	G	p	$\ell_p(G)$	$S_p(G)$	$d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots$	$\ell_p(G,1)$	$\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G,1)$
$W(E_6)$	51840	2	5	10	25, 19, 9, 3, 1	5	3
	$2^7.3^4.5$	3	4	5	25, 13, 4, 1	4	2
		5	2	2	25, 2	2	1
$W(E_7)$	2903040	2	7	24	60, 52, 35, 18, 7, 3, 1	7	4
	$2^{10}.3^4.5.7$	3	4	5	60, 30, 8, 2	4	2
		5	2	2	60, 6	2	1
		7	2	2	60, 2	2	1
$W(E_8)$	696729600	2	8	32	112, 100, 68, 36, 17, 7, 3, 1	8	5
	$2^{14}.3^{5}.5^{2}.7$	3	5	8	112,65,24,7,2	5	2
		5	3	3	112, 17, 2	3	1
		7	2	2	112, 4	2	1
$W(F_4)$	1152	2	5	14	25, 21, 12, 4, 1	5	4
	$2^7.3^2$	3	3	4	25, 11, 2	3	2
$W(H_3)$	120	2	3	4	10, 6, 1	3	2
	$2^3.3.5$	3	2	2	10, 2	2	1
		5	3	3	10, 4, 2	3	1
$W(H_4)$	14400	2	4	7	34, 24, 9, 1	4	3
	$2^6.3^2.5^2$	3	3	3	34, 11, 2	3	1
		5	5	6	34, 20, 11, 4, 2	5	2

G	G	p	$\ell_p(G)$	$S_p(G)$	$d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots$	$\ell_p(G,1)$	$\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G,1)$
$\mathfrak{A}_5$	60	2	2	2	5,1	2	1
	$2^2.3.5$	3	2	2	5, 1	2	1
		5	3	3	5, 2, 1	3	1
$\mathfrak{A}_6$	360	2	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
	$2^3.3^2.5$	3	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
		5	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
$\mathfrak{A}_7$	2520	2	3	3	9, 3, 1	3	1
	$2^3.3^2.5.7$	3	3	3	9, 3, 1	3	1
		5	2	2	9, 1	2	1
		7	3	3	9, 2, 1	3	1
$\mathfrak{A}_8$	20160	2	4	5	14, 6, 2, 1	4	2
	$2^6.3^2.5.7$	3	3	3	14, 6, 2	3	1
		5	3	3	14, 3, 1	2	1
		7	3	3	14, 2, 1	3	1
$\mathfrak{A}_9$	181440	2	4	5	18, 8, 3, 1	4	2
	$2^6.3^4.5.7$	3	4	6	18, 10, 3, 1	4	3
		5	3	3	18, 4, 1	2	1
		7	2	2	18, 1	2	1
$\mathfrak{A}_{10}$	1814400	2	5	7	24, 12, 6, 2, 1	5	2
	$2^7.3^4.5^2.7$	3	4	6	24, 13, 4, 1	4	3
		5	3	3	24, 4, 1	3	1
		7	3	3	24, 3, 1	2	1
$\mathfrak{A}_{11}$	19958400	2	5	7	31, 17, 8, 3, 1	5	2
	$2^7.3^4.5^2.7.11$	3	4	5	31, 16, 6, 1	4	2
		5	3	3	31, 6, 1	3	1
		7	3	3	31, 4, 1	2	1
		11	3	3	31, 2, 1	3	1
$\mathfrak{A}_{12}$	239500800	2	6	10	43, 25, 13, 6, 2, 1	6	2
	$2^9.3^5.5^2.7.11$	3	5	8	43, 22, 9, 2, 1	5	3
		5	3	3	43, 10, 2	3	1
		7	3	3	43, 5, 1	2	1
		11	3	3	43, 2, 1	3	1

G	G	p	$\ell_p(G)$	$S_p(G)$	$d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots$	$\ell_p(G,1)$	$\operatorname{ext}^1_p(G,1)$
GL(3,2)	168	2	3	3	6, 2, 1	3	1
	$2^3.3.7$	3	2	2	6,1	2	1
		7	3	3	6, 2, 1	3	1
SL(2,8)	504	2	2	2	9,1	2	1
	$2^3.3^2.7$	3	5	5	9,4,3,2,1	5	1
		7	4	4	9, 3, 2, 1	4	1
SL(3,3)	5616	2	5	5	12, 5, 3, 2, 1	5	1
	$2^4.3^3.13$	3	3	3	12, 3, 1	3	1
		13	5	5	12, 4, 3, 2, 1	5	1
SU(3,3)	6048	2	6	7	14, 9, 6, 4, 2, 1	6	2
	$2^5.3^3.7$	3	3	3	14, 5, 1	3	1
		7	3	3	14, 2, 1	3	1
$M_{11}$	7920	2	5	5	10, 5, 3, 2, 1	5	1
	$2^4.3^2.5.11$	3	2	2	10, 2	2	1
		5	2	2	10, 1	2	1
		11	3	3	10, 2, 1	3	1
PSp(4,3)	25920	2	4	5	20, 12, 5, 1	4	2
	$2^6.3^4.5$	3	5	7	20, 14, 8, 3, 1	5	2
		5	2	2	20, 1	2	1
$M_{12}$	95040	2	4	7	15, 9, 3, 1	4	3
	$2^6.3^3.5.11$	3	3	3	15, 4, 1	3	1
		5	2	2	15, 2	2	1
		11	3	3	15, 2, 1	3	1
$J_1$	175560	2	2	2	15,4	2	1
	$2^3.3.5.7.11.19$	3	2	2	15,4	2	1
		5	3	3	15, 6, 3	3	1
		7	2	2	15, 1	2	1
		11	2	2	15, 1	2	1
		19	4	4	15, 3, 2, 1	4	1
$M_{22}$	443520	2	4	5	12, 5, 2, 1	4	2
	$2^7.3^2.5.7.11$	3	2	2	12, 2	2	1
		5	2	2	12, 1	2	1
		7	3	3	12, 2, 1	3	1
7	00.4000	11	3	3	12, 2, 1	3	1
$J_2$	$604800 \\ 2^7.3^3.5^2.7$	2	4	5	21, 11, 3, 1	4	2
	2 .3 .5 .7	3	3	3	21,7,1,	3	1
		5 7	5	5	21, 10, 6, 2, 1	5	1
TIC	44250000		2	2	21,1	2	1
HS	$44352000 2^9.3^2.5^3.7.11$	2	5	9	24, 15, 8, 3, 1	5	3
	2 .3 .5 .1.11	3	2	2	24,5	2 3	$\begin{array}{c c} 1 \\ 2 \end{array}$
		5 7	3 2	4	24, 8, 2	2	
			1	2 3	24, 1	3	1
		11	3	ა	24, 2, 1	3	1

G	G	p	$\ell_p(G)$	$S_p(G)$	$d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots$	$\ell_p(G,1)$	$\operatorname{ext}_p^1(G,1)$
PSL(2,2)	6	2	2	2	3,1	2	1
$\simeq \mathfrak{S}_3$	2.3	3	2	2	3,1	2	1
PSL(2,3)	12	2	2	2	4,1	2	1
$\simeq \mathfrak{A}_4$	$2^2.3$	3	3	3	4, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,4)	60	2	2	2	5,1	2	1
$\simeq PSL(2,5)$	$2^2.3.5$	3	2	2	5,1	2	1
$\simeq \mathfrak{A}_5$		5	3	3	5, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,7)	168	2	3	3	6, 2, 1	3	1
	$2^3.3.7$	3	2	2	6,1	2	1
		7	3	3	6, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,8)	504	2	2	2	9,1	2	1
	$2^3.3^2.7$	3	5	5	9,4,3,2,1	5	1
		7	4	4	9, 3, 2, 1	4	1
PSL(2,9)	360	2	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
$\simeq \mathfrak{A}_6$	$2^3.3^2.5$	3	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
		5	3	3	7, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,11)	660	2	2	2	8,2	2	1
	$2^2.3.5.11$	3	2	2	8,2	2	1
		5	3	3	8, 2, 1	3	1
		11	3	3	8, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,13)	1092	2	2	2	9,2	2	1
	$2^2.3.7.13$	3	2	2	9,2	2	1
		7	4	4	9, 3, 2, 1	4	1
		13	3	3	9, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,16)	4080	2	2	2	17,1	2	1
	$2^4.3.5.17$	3	3	3	17, 5, 2	2	1
		5	5	5	17, 6, 4, 2, 1	3	1
		17	9	9	17, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1	9	1
PSL(2,17)	2448	2	5	5	11, 4, 3, 2, 1	5	1
	$2^4.3^2.17$	3	5	5	11, 4, 3, 2, 1	5	1
		17	3	3	11, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,19)	3420	2	2	2	12,3	2	1
	$2^2.3^2.5.19$	3	5	5	12, 4, 3, 2, 1	5	1
		5	3 3	3	12, 4, 2	3	1
DCI (9, 99)	6070	19		3	12, 2, 1	3	1
PSL(2,23)	6072	2	$\begin{vmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix}$	4	14, 5, 3, 1	3	1
	$2^3.3.11.23$	3	3	3	14, 4, 1	2	1
		11 23	6 3	6 3	14, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1	6 3	1 1
PSL(2,25)	7800	23	4	4	14, 2, 1 15, 5, 3, 1	3	1
F3L(2, 20)	$2^3.3.5^2.13$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\begin{vmatrix} 4\\3 \end{vmatrix}$	3	15, 5, 3, 1	$\frac{3}{2}$	1
	2 .3.3 .13	5	$\begin{vmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{vmatrix}$	3	$\begin{bmatrix} 15, 4, 1 \\ 15, 2, 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} 2\\3 \end{vmatrix}$	1
		13	$\begin{vmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \end{vmatrix}$	7	$\begin{bmatrix} 15, 2, 1 \\ 15, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 \end{bmatrix}$	7	1
PSL(2,27)	9828	2	2	2	16, 4	2	1
1 5L(2, 21)	$2^2.3^3.7.13$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\begin{vmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{vmatrix}$	3	$\begin{bmatrix} 16, 4 \\ 16, 2, 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{vmatrix} 2\\3 \end{vmatrix}$	1
	2 .0 .1.10	7	$\begin{vmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{vmatrix}$	4	$\begin{bmatrix} 16, 2, 1 \\ 16, 6, 4, 2 \end{bmatrix}$	4	1
		13	7	7	$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	7	1
		10	1	1	10,0,0,4,0,4,1	1	1

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