1084-20-52 **I. M. Isaacs*** (isaacs@math.wisc.edu), **Maria Loukaki** and **Alexander Moreto**. *The average degree of an irreducible character.*

Let G be a finite group, and write $\mathrm{acd}(G) = \sum \chi(1)/|\mathrm{Irr}(G)|$, where the sum runs over $\chi \in \mathrm{Irr}(G)$. Then $\mathrm{acd}(G)$ is the average of the degrees of the irreducible characters of G, and it is easy to see that $\mathrm{acd}(G) = 1$ if and only if G is abelian. This suggests that if $\mathrm{acd}(G)$ is small, then G should be "almost" abelian. We show that if $\mathrm{acd}(G) \leq 3$, then G is solvable. (Since $\mathrm{acd}(A_5) = 3.2$, our result is probably not best-possible.) We also show that G is supersolvable if $\mathrm{acd}(G) \leq 3/2$ and G is nilpotent if $\mathrm{acd}(G) \leq 4/3$. (Received August 14, 2012)