TRANSACTIONS OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 303, Number 1, September 1987

CHARACTER TABLE AND BLOCKS OF FINITE SIMPLE TRIALITY GROUPS ${}^3D_4(q)$

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ABSTRACT. Based on recent work of Spaltenstein [**14**] and the Deligne-Lusztig theory of irreducible characters of finite groups of Lie type, in this paper the character table of the finite simple groups ${}^3D_4(q)$ is given. As an application we obtain a classification of the irreducible characters of ${}^3D_4(q)$ into r-blocks for all primes $r > 0$. This enables us to verify Brauer's height zero conjecture, his conjecture on the bound of irreducible characters belonging to a give block, and the Alperin-McKay conjecture for the simple triality groups ${}^3D_4(q)$. It also follows that for every prime r there are blocks of defect zero in ${}^3D_4(q)$.

Introduction. Let $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ be a simple triality group defined over a finite field $\mathrm{GF}(q)$ with $q = p^n$ elements, where $p > 0$ is a prime number and n is a positive integer.

In [**14**] N. Spaltenstein computed the values of the eight unipotent irreducible characters of G_σ. Using his results we determine the character table of G_σ in §4. In Theorem 4.3 the nonunipotent irreducible characters of G_σ are presented in the form of precise linear combinations of the virtual Deligne-Lusztig characters $R_{T,\Theta}$, where Θ is a linear character of the σ-fixed points of a σ-stable maximal torus T of the corresponding algebraic group G. The values of the Deligne-Lusztig characters are given in Table 3.6.

By Lusztig's Jordan form of the irreducible characters of a finite group of Lie type [**11**] each irreducible character χ of G_σ is of the form $\chi = \chi_{t,u}$, where t is a semisimple element of G_σ and χ_u is a unipotent irreducible character of the centralizer $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$ of t. The group theoretical structure of the centralizers $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$ of the semisimple elements t of G_σ is given in Proposition 2.2, and of the 7 (up to G_σ-conjugacy) maximal tori T_i, $0 \leqslant i \leqslant 6$, in Proposition 1.2. It follows that $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$ has at most three unipotent irreducible characters, namely the trivial 1, the Steinberg character St or a unipotent character of degree either $qs = q(q+1)$ or $qs' = q(q-1)$. If $t \neq 1$ is regular, we write χ_t instead of $\chi_{t,1}$, in all other cases $\chi_{t,1}$, $\chi_{t,\mathrm{St}}$, $\chi_{t,qs}$, $\chi_{t,qs'}$ or $\chi_{t,\mathrm{St}\mathrm{St}'}$. A complete classification of the irreducible characters of G_σ with their degrees is given in Table 4.4.

On the set of conjugacy classes of semisimple elements t of G_σ one can define an equivalence relation as follows. Two such conjugacy classes $t_1^{G_\sigma}$ and $t_2^{G_\sigma}$ are equivalent if and only if their centralizers $C_{G_\sigma}(t_1)$ and $C_{G_\sigma}(t_2)$ are G_σ-conjugate. If q is odd, there are 15 equivalence classes with representatives s_i, $1 \leqslant i \leqslant 15$, where $s_1 = 1$

Received by the editors February 13, 1985 and, in revised form, June 16, 1986.
1980 *Mathematics Subject Classification* (1985 *Revision*). Primary 20C20.

and $s_2 \neq 1$ is the unique conjugacy class of involutions of G_σ. If q is even, the equivalence class of s_2 does not exist, and we have only 14 equivalence classes. Using the first author's work on the Brauer complex [**5**] of G_σ and the computer, we obtain in Table 4.4 the numbers of semisimple conjugacy classes of G_σ belonging to a given equivalence class $[s_i]$, $1 \leqslant i \leqslant 15$. Applying then Proposition 2.2 and Spaltenstein's characterization of the unipotent conjugacy classes of G_σ [**14**], we can give in Proposition 2.3 a complete classification of all conjugacy classes of G_σ. In particular, we show that the number $k(G_\sigma)$ of all conjugacy classes of G_σ is

$$k(G_\sigma) = q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 5, \quad \text{if } 2 \mid q, \text{ and}$$
$$k(G_\sigma) = q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 6, \quad \text{if } 2 \nmid q.$$

By means of these results we determine in §5 the distribution of the irreducible characters of G_σ into r-blocks, where r is a prime number dividing the group order $|G_\sigma|$. If $r = p$, then by Humphrey's theorem [**10**] G_σ has only the principal p-block B_0 and a block B of defect zero consisting of the irreducible Steinberg character. For $r \neq p$ Theorem 5.9 asserts that each r-block B with defect group D determines, up to G_σ-conjugacy, a unique semisimple r'-element s of G_σ such that an irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B if and only if t is G_σ-conjugate to sy for some $y \in D$, and χ_u is an irreducible unipotent character of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ such that $\widehat{sy}\chi_u$ belongs to an r-block $\tilde{B}$ of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with defect group D satisfying $B = \tilde{B}^G$. This result can be considered to be an analogue of the Fong-Srinivasan characterization [**8**] of the r-blocks of the general linear and unitary groups.

In Corollary 5.11 we show that for all primes $r > 0$ and all r-blocks B of G_σ with defect group $\delta(B) = {}_{G_\sigma}D$ the number of all irreducible characters of G_σ belonging to B is bounded by $k(B) \leqslant |D|$. This verifies a well-known conjecture of R. Brauer, see [**7**], in the case of the simple triality groups. He also conjectured that an r-block B of a finite group G has only irreducible characters of height zero if and only if its defect group $\delta(B) = {}_GD$ is abelian. In case $G = G_\sigma$ this is shown for all primes r in Corollary 5.10.

Let $k_0(B)$ be the number of irreducible characters of an r-block B of G with height zero. If $\delta(B) = {}_GD$ denotes the defect group of D, $H = N_G(D)$, and B_1 is the Brauer correspondent of B in H, then the Alperin-McKay conjecture asserts that $k_0(B) = k_0(B_1)$. In the case of $G = G_\sigma$, we verify it for all primes r; see Corollary 5.12.

Another application of Table 4.4 yields that in G_σ there are r-blocks B of defect zero for every prime $r > 0$; see Corollary 5.1.

Concerning the notation and terminology we refer to the books by Carter [**2**], Deriziotis [**4**], Feit [**7**], and Lusztig [**11**].

1. Notations and known results on ${}^3D_4(q)$. Let G be a simple simply connected algebraic group of Dynkin diagram type D_4 over the algebraic closure K of the prime field $\mathrm{GF}(p) = \mathbf{F}_p$, $p > 0$. Let $q = p^m$ for some positive integer m, and let $\mathrm{GF}(q) = \mathbf{F}_q$ be the field with q elements. F^* denotes the multiplicative group of every field F.

Let T be a maximal torus of G, Φ the set of roots of G relative to T, $X = \mathrm{Hom}(T, K^*)$—the group of rational characters of T, $Y = \mathrm{Hom}(K^*, T)$—the

group of one-parameter subgroups of T. On the real vector space $V = Y \otimes \mathbf{R}$ we have a Killing form $(\, , \,)$ which is transferred to an inner product $\langle \, , \, \rangle$ on the dual space V^* of V which can canonically be identified with the real vector space $X \otimes \mathbf{R}$. If r is a root in Φ, the coroot of G associated to r is defined to be the element h_r of Y such that $(h_r, h) = 2r(h)/\langle r, r\rangle$, for all $h \in Y$. In V there is an orthonormal basis $\{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_4\}$ such that the coroots in Y are the vectors $\pm\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$, $1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant 4$. We fix the fundamental basis $\Delta = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$ in Φ for which the associated coroots are $h_1 = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2$, $h_2 = \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3$, $h_3 = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4$, and $h_4 = \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4$, respectively.

Let τ be the symmetry of the Dynkin diagram D_4 of G with nodes h_1, h_2, h_3, and h_4 such that τ: $h_1 \to h_3 \to h_4 \to h_1$ and $\tau(h_2) = h_2$. Then τ induces an isometry on V which again is denoted by τ. The triality automorphism $\sigma = \tau q$ of G is induced by τ times the field automorphism $z \to z^q$ of K. The simple group ${}^3D_4(q) = G_\sigma = \{g \in G \mid \sigma(g) = g\}$ is called the Steinberg-Tits triality. Its order $|G_\sigma| = q^{12}(q^8 + q^4 + 1)(q^6 - 1)(q^2 - 1)$.

The torus T is σ-stable. The restriction of $\sigma = q\tau$ onto T induces a linear transformation of V, again denoted by σ.

Let h: $\mathrm{Hom}(X, K^*) \to T$ be defined as follows. For every $\chi \in \mathrm{Hom}(X, K^*)$, $h(\chi) = t \in T$, where $\chi(\lambda) = \lambda(t)$ for all $\lambda \in X$. Then h is an isomorphism.

Let λ_1, λ_2, λ_3, and λ_4 be the fundamental weights in X. Each element $h(\chi) \in T$ can uniquely be written as

$$h(\chi) = \prod_{i=1}^{4} h(\chi_{h_i, z_i}),$$

where $\chi_{h_r, z}(\lambda) = z^{\lambda(h_r)}$ for $r \in \Phi$, $z \in K^*$, and where $\chi(\lambda_i) = z_i$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant 4$.

Let W be the Weyl group generated by all reflections w_r at the hyperplanes of V orthogonal to the coroots h_r, $r \in \Phi$. Then σ acts on W by $\sigma(w) = \sigma w \sigma^{-1} = \tau w \tau^{-1}$. In particular, $\sigma(w_r) = w_{\tau(r)}$. W acts also on T by $wh(\chi)$, where $(w\chi)(\lambda) = \chi(w^{-1}(\lambda))$ for all $\lambda \in X$. Furthermore, $w_{i \pm j}$ denotes the reflection at the hyperplane of V orthogonal to the coroot $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$.

Let r_0 be the highest root of Φ, and $\tilde{\Delta} = \Delta \cup \{-r_0\}$.

Let J be an arbitrary τ-invariant proper subset of $\tilde{\Delta}$, and W the Weyl group of the torus T. The normalizer of J in W is denoted by Ω_J. It is a σ-stable subgroup of W. Two elements w_1, $w_2 \in \Omega_J$ are called *σ-equivalent* if $w_1 = ww_2\sigma(w^{-1})$ for some $w \in \Omega_J$. The σ-equivalence class of $w \in \Omega_J$ is denoted by $[w]$, and $H^1(\sigma, \Omega_J)$ is the set of all σ-equivalence classes $[w]$ of Ω_J. The possibilities of J and Ω_J are given in Table 1.0, up to W-conjugacy.

TABLE 1.0

J	Ω_J
$J_0 = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4\}$	$\Omega_{J_0} = 1$
$J_1 = \{r_1, r_3, r_4, -r_0\}$	$\Omega_{J_1} = \langle w_{1+4}w_{2+3}\rangle \times \langle w_{1-4}w_{1+4}\rangle \simeq (\mathbf{Z}_2)^2$
$J_2 = \{r_1, r_3, r_4\}$	$\Omega_{J_2} = \langle w_{1+2}\rangle \simeq \mathbf{Z}_2$
$J_3 = \{r_2, -r_0\}$	$\Omega_{J_3} = \langle w_{1-3}w_{2+4}w_{2-4}\rangle \simeq \mathbf{Z}_2$
$J_4 = \{-r_0\}$	$\Omega_{J_4} = \langle w_{1-2}\rangle \times \langle w_{3-4}\rangle \times \langle w_{3+4}\rangle \simeq (\mathbf{Z}_2)^3$
$J_5 = \varnothing$	$\Omega_{J_5} = W$

Let $\mathscr{C}_J$ be the collection of all σ-stable G-conjugates of $C_G(x)$ where x is a semisimple element of G with $r(x) = 1$ for all $r \in J$. Then the group G_σ acts on $\mathscr{C}_J$ by conjugation. If $J = \varnothing$ is the empty set, then $\Omega_\varnothing = W$, and x is a regular element of G_σ. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the G_σ-orbits of σ-stable maximal tori of G and the classes of $H^1(\sigma, W)$, see [**1**, p. 186]. It is known for the triality $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ that $|H^1(\sigma, W)| = 7$; cf. [**14**].

Let T be a σ-stable maximal torus of G, with Weyl group $W = N_G(T)/T$. If T' is a σ-stable maximal torus of G, then there is a unique class $[w_j] \in H^1(\sigma, W)$ with $j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, 6\}$ such that T'_σ is G-conjugate to $T_j = T_{w_j\sigma} = \{t \in T \mid w_j\sigma(t) = t\}$.

In particular, the element $h(\chi) = \prod_{i=1}^4 h(\chi_{h_i}, z_i) \in T$ belongs to T_j if and only if

$$h(\chi) = w_j\sigma h(\chi) = \prod_{i=1}^{4} h\left(\chi_{w_j\tau(h_i), z_i} q\right).$$

For the sake of simplicity, each element $h(\chi) = \prod_{i=1}^4 h(\chi_{h_i, z_i}) \in T$ is denoted by $h(\chi) = (z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)$. With this notation we can parametrize all the elements of the tori T_j.

LEMMA 1.1. *Let $q \neq 2$. Let T' be a maximal σ-stable torus of G corresponding to the class $[w_j] \in H^1(\sigma, W)$, $j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, 6\}$, and let $T_j = T_{w_j\sigma}$. Then the Weyl group W_j of T_j is given by*

$$W_j = C_{w,\sigma}(w_j) = \left\{w \in W \mid ww_j\sigma(w)^{-1} = w_j\right\} \cong N_{G_\sigma}(T_j)/T_j.$$

PROPOSITION 1.2 (P. C. GAGER). *The structure of the maximal tori T_j of G_σ and their Weyl groups W_j is given in Table* 1.1.

TABLE 1.1

$[w_j] \in H^1(\sigma, W)$	T_j	W_j
$w_0 = 1 \in W$	$T_0 = \{(z_1, z_2, z_1^q, z_1^{q^2}) \mid z_1^{q^3-1} = z_2^{q-1} = 1\}$ $T_0 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1} \times \mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$	$W_\sigma \cong D_{12}$
$w_1 = w_{1+2}$	$T_1 = \{(z, z^{1-q^3}, z^{q^4}, z^{q^2}) \mid z^{(q^3-1)(q+1)} = 1\}$ $T_1 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{(q^3-1)(q+1)}$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$
$w_2 = -w_{r_0}$	$T_2 = \{(z, z^{q^3+1}, z^{q^4}, z^{q^2}) \mid z^{(q^3+1)(q-1)} = 1\}$ $T_2 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{(q^3+1)(q-1)}$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$
$w_3 = w_{1+2}w_{2-3}$	$T_3 = \{(z_1, z_2, z_1^q z_2, (z_1^{-1}z_2)^{q+1}) \mid z_i^{q^2+q+1} = 1\}$ $T_3 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1} \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$	$\mathrm{SL}_2(3)$
$w_4 = -w_{1+2}w_{2-3}$	$T_4 = \{(z_1, z_2, z_1^{-q} z_2, (z_1 z_2^{-1})^{q-1}) \mid z_i^{q^2-q+1} = 1\}$ $T_4 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1} \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$	$\mathrm{SL}_2(3)$
$w_5 = w_{1-2}w_{2-3}$	$T_5 = \{(z, z^{q^3+1}, z^q, z^{q^2}) \mid z^{q^4-q^2+1} = 1\}$ $T_5 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^4-q^2+1}$	$\mathbf{Z}_4$
$w_6 = -1$	$T_6 = \{(z_1, z_2, z_1^{-q}, z_1^{q^2}) \mid z_1^{q^3+1} = z_2^{q+1} = 1\}$ $T_6 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^3+1} \times \mathbf{Z}_{q+1}$	$W_\sigma \cong D_{12}$

2. Structure of the centralizers of the semisimple elements and the determination of the conjugacy classes. For each $i \in \{0, 1, \ldots, 5\}$ let E_i denote the Dynkin diagram type of the root system Φ_{J_i} generated by J_i. Let $\mathscr{C}_{J_i}$ be the collection of all σ-stable G-conjugates of $C_G(x)$, where x is an element of the maximal torus T of G. By

Corollary 3 of [3] there is a one-to-one correspondence between the G_σ-orbits of $\mathscr{C}_{J_i}$ and the classes of $H^1(\sigma, \Omega_{J_i})$. Therefore each G_σ-orbit of $\mathscr{C}_{J_i}$ can be parametrized by a pair $(E_i, [w])$, where $[w] \in H^1(\sigma, \Omega_{J_i})$.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Let s_i be a representative of a semisimple conjugacy class $s_i^{G_\sigma}$ of G_σ whose centralizer $C_G(s_i)$ is in the orbit parametrized by the pair $(E_i, [w])$. Then the semisimple conjugacy classes are classified in Table* 2.1.

TABLE 2.1

$(E_i, [w])$	s_i, q even	s_i, q odd
$(E_0, [1])$	$s_1 = (1,1,1,1)$	$s_1 = (1,1,1,1)$
$(E_1, [1])$	s_2	$s_2 = (t,1,t,t)$, $t^2 = 1$, $t \neq 1$
$(E_2, [1])$	$s_3 = (t, t^2, t, t)$, $t^{q-1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$	$s_3 = (t, t^2, t, t)$, $t^{q-1} = 1$, $t^2 \neq 1$
$(E_3, [1])$	$s_4 = (t, 1, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^2+q+1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$	$s_4 = (t, 1, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^2+q+1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$
$(E_4, [1])$	$s_5 = (t, 1, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^3-1} = 1$, $t^{q^2+q+1} \neq 1$	$s_5 = (t, 1, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^3-1} = 1$, $t^{q^2+q+1} \neq 1$, $t^2 \neq 1$
$(E_5, [1])$	$s_6 = (t_1, t_2, t_1^q, t_1^{q^2})$, $t_1^{q^3-1} = t_2^{q-1} = 1$, $t_2 \neq 1$, $t_1^2 \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} \neq t_2^2$	$s_6(t_1, t_2, t_1^q, t_1^{q^2})$, $t_1^{q^3-1} = t_2^{q-1} = 1$, $t_2 \neq 1$, $t_1^2 \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} \neq t_2^2$
$(E_2, [w_{1+2}])$	$s_7 = (t, t^2, t, t)$, $t \neq 1$, $t^{q+1} = 1$	$s_7 = (t, t^2, t, t)$, $t^2 \neq 1$, $t^{q+1} = 1$
$(E_5, [w_{1+2}])$	$s_8 = (t, t^{1-q^3}, t^{q^4}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{(q^3-1)(q+1)} = 1$, $t^{q^3-1} \neq 1 \neq t^{q+1}$	$s_8 = (t, t^{1-q^3}, t^{q^4}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{(q^3-1)(q+1)} = 1$, $t^{q^3-1} \neq 1 \neq t^{q+1}$
$(E_3, [-w_{1+2}])$	$s_9 = (t, 1, t^{-q}, t^{q-1})$, $t^{q^2-q+1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$	$s_9 = (t, 1, t^{-q}, t^{q-1})$, $t^{q^2-q+1} = 1$, $t^2 \neq 1$
$(E_4, [-w_{1+2}])$	$s_{10} = (t, 1, t^{-q}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^3+1} = 1$, $t^{q^2-q+1} \neq 1$, $t \neq 1$	$s_{10} = (t, 1, t^{-q}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^3+1} = 1$, $t^{q^2-q+1} \neq 1$, $t^2 \neq 1$
$(E_5, [-w_{1+2}])$	$s_{11} = (t, t^{q^3+1}, t^{q^4}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{(q^3+1)(q-1)} = 1$, $t^{q-1} \neq 1$, $t^{q^3+1} \neq 1$	$s_{11} = (t, t^{q^3+1}, t^{q^4}, t^{q^2})$, $t^{(q^3+1)(q-1)} = 1$, $t^{q^3+1} \neq 1$, $t^{q-1} \neq 1$
$(E_5, [w_{1+2}w_{2-3}])$	$s_{12} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^q t_2, (t_1^{-1}t_2)^{q+1})$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} = t_2^{q^2+q+1} = 1$, $t_1 \neq t_2$	$s_{12} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^q t_2, (t_1^{-1}t_2)^{q+1})$, $t_1^{q^2+q+1} = t_2^{q^2+q+1} = 1$, $t_1 \neq t_2$
$(E_5, [-w_{1+2}w_{2-3}])$	$s_{13} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^{-q} t_2, (t_1 t_2^{-1})^{q-1})$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} = t_2^{q^2-q+1} = 1$, $t_1 \neq t_2$	$s_{13} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^{-q} t_2, (t_1 t_2^{-1})^{q-1})$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} = t_2^{q^2-q+1} = 1$, $t_1 \neq t_2$
$(E_5, [w_{1-2}w_{2-3}])$	$s_{14} = (t, t^{q^3+1}, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^4-q^2+1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$	$s_{14} = (t, t^{q^3+1}, t^q, t^{q^2})$, $t^{q^4-q^2+1} = 1$, $t \neq 1$
$(E_5, [-1])$	$s_{15} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^{-q}, t^{q^2})$, $t_1^{q^3+1} = t_2^{q+1} = 1$, $t_1^2 \neq t_2 \neq 1$, $t_1 \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} \neq t_2^2$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} \neq t_2$	$s_{15} = (t_1, t_2, t_1^{-q}, t_1^{q^2})$, $t_1^{q^3+1} = t_2^{q+1} = 1$, $t_1^2 \neq 1 \neq t_2^2$, $t_1 \neq t_2$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} \neq t_2^2$, $t_1^{q^2-q+1} \neq t_2$

Let $x \in G_\sigma$ be semisimple contained in the maximal torus T of G. By Proposition 2.3.2 of [4] there is a proper subset J of Δ such that $C_G(x)$ is generated by T and the root subgroups X_r, $r \in J$.

Let $M = \{ X_r \mid r \in J \}$ and let S be the connected component of the center of $C_G(x)$. Then M is semisimple, S is a torus, $C_G(x) = MS$ and $M \cap S$ is finite. Moreover, the order

$$|C_{G_\sigma}(x)| = |M_\sigma| \cdot |S_\sigma|.$$

Furthermore, $M_{\sigma u}$ denotes the subgroup of M_σ generated by all its unipotent elements. Certainly $M_{\sigma u}$ is a characteristic subgroup of $C_{G_\sigma}(x)$.

PROPOSITION 2.2. *Let $s_i \neq 1$ be a representative of a nonregular semisimple conjugacy class of G_σ. The structure of its centralizer $C = C_{G_\sigma}(s_i)$ is as given in Tables* 2.2a *and* 2.2b.

In particular, $M_\sigma = M_{\sigma u}$ for every $s_i \neq s_2$.

TABLE 2.2a. Even q

class	$M_{\sigma u}$	S_σ	$\lvert C : M_{\sigma u} * S_\sigma \rvert$	C, C', or C/S_σ
s_3	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$
s_4 if $3 \nmid q-1$	$\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_3(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$
s_4 if $3 \mid q-1$	$\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$	3	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_3(q)$
s_5	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1}$
s_7	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q+1}$
s_9 if $3 \nmid q+1$	$\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SU}_3(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$
s_9 if $3 \mid q+1$	$\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$	3	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PU}_3(q)$
s_{10}	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^3+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^3+1}$

TABLE 2.2b. Odd q

class	$M_{\sigma u}$	S_σ	$\lvert C : M_{\sigma u} * S_u \rvert$	C, C', or C/S_σ
s_2	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) * \mathrm{SL}_2(q)$	1	2	$C' = \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) * \mathrm{SL}_2(q)$
s_3	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$	2	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_2(q^3)$
s_4 if $3 \nmid q-1$	$\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SL}_3(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$
s_4 if $3 \mid q-1$	$\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$	3	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_3(q)$
s_5	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1}$	2	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_2(q)$
s_7	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q+1}$	2	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_2(q^3)$
s_9 if $3 \nmid q+1$	$\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$	1	$C \simeq \mathrm{SU}_3(q) \times \mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$
s_9 if $3 \mid q+1$	$\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^2-q+1}$	3	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PU}_3(q)$
s_{10}	$\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$	$\mathbf{Z}_{q^3+1}$	2	$C/S_\sigma \simeq \mathrm{PGL}_2(q)$

PROOF. In Table 7 of Deriziotis [**4**, p. 140], for each centralizer $C_{G_\sigma}(s_i)$ the isogeny class of the groups M_σ and the orders of the cyclic groups S_σ are given. Using similar methods as in Iwahori's paper [**1**, p. 281], the precise group structure of $C_{G_\sigma}(s_i)$ can be determined.

In order to find the mixed conjugacy classes, we use Spaltenstein's [**14**] results on the orders of the centralizers $C_{G_\sigma}(u_j)$ of the unipotent elements u_j of G_σ, with the following notation. (See Table A.)

Table A

unipotent class	1	u_1	u_2	u_3	u_4	u_5	u_6	u_7
notation of [**14**] for even q	$\varnothing$	A_1	$3A_1$	A_2'	A_2''	$D_4(a_1)$	D_4'	D_4''
for odd q	$\varnothing$	A_1	$3A_1'$	A_2'	A_2''	$D_4(a_1)$	D_4	

PROPOSITION 2.3. *G_σ has q^3+q^2+q and q^3+q^2+q-2 mixed conjugacy classes with representatives $s_i \cdot u_j = u_j \cdot s_i$ for odd and even q, respectively, where $s_i \neq 1$ is a representative of a nonregular semisimple and $u_j \neq 1$ is a representative of a unipotent conjugacy class of G_σ. These mixed conjugacy classes are given in Table* 2.4.

Furthermore, if $k(G_\sigma)$ denotes the number of all conjugacy classes of G_σ, then

$$k(G_\sigma) = \begin{cases} q^4+q^3+q^2+q+6, & \text{if } q \text{ is odd}, \\ q^4+q^3+q^2+q+5, & \text{if } q \text{ is even}. \end{cases}$$

TABLE 2.4

ss class	unipotent classes of $C_{G_\sigma}(s_i)$	Number of mixed classes $(s_iu_j)G_\sigma$ q odd	q even
s_2	u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4	4	—
s_3	u_2	$\frac{1}{2}(q-3)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q-2)$
s_4	u_1, u_3	q^2+q	q^2+q
s_5	u_1	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2-q-3)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2-q-2)$
s_7	u_2	$\frac{1}{2}(q-1)$	$\frac{1}{2}q$
s_9	u_1, u_4	q^2-q	q^2-q
s_{10}	u_1	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2+q-1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2+q)$

3. Deligne-Lusztig characters. In this section we determine the values of the Deligne-Lusztig characters of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$. Concerning the definition and the main properties of these class functions we refer to Carter [**2**] and Lusztig [**11**].

Let T_0 be a maximally split torus of the connected reductive group G, X its character group, and $V = X \otimes \mathbf{R}$. Then $\sigma = q\tau$ acts on V. *The relative rank* rel rank G *of* G is the number of eigenvalues of σ on V which are equal to q; see Carter [**2**].

DEFINITION. $\varepsilon_G = (-1)^{\text{rel rank } G}$.

By Corollary 6.5.7 of [**2**], $\varepsilon_G = \varepsilon_{T_0} = 1$ in our case $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let $s \neq 1$ be a semisimple element of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$. Then its centralizer $C_G(s)$ has sign $\varepsilon_{C_G(s)}$ which is given by Table* B.

Table B

class s	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5	s_6	s_7	s_8	s_9	s_{10}	s_{11}	s_{12}	s_{13}	s_{14}	s_{15}
$\varepsilon_{C_G(s)}$	1	1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	1	1	1	1

PROOF. This follows easily from Proposition 2.2 and Corollary 6.5.7 of [**2**].

Let s be a semisimple element and T a maximal torus of G_σ. Then as in group theory we write $s \in_{G_\sigma} T$, if $s^g \in T$ for some $g \in G_\sigma$. In the following, $C(s)$ denotes the centralizer $C_{G_\sigma}(s)$. If Θ is a linear character of T, then $R_{T,\Theta}$ is the corresponding Deligne-Lusztig character of G_σ. For any unipotent element $u \in G_\sigma$ the Green function Q_T has value $Q_T(u) = R_{T,1}(u)$. If it is necessary to indicate the ambient group we also write $Q_T^G(u)$ and $R_{T,\Theta}^G$.

For the sake of completeness the following subsidiary result is given.

LEMMA 3.2. *Let T be a maximal torus of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ with Weyl group W_T. Then for every linear character Θ of T and every $x = su \in G_\sigma$ in Jordan form the Deligne-Lusztig character $R_{T,\Theta}^G$ has value*

$$R_{T,\Theta}^G(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\varepsilon_{C(s)}\varepsilon_T|C(s)|_{p'}}{|T|}\tilde{\Theta}(s) & \text{if } u = 1 \text{ and } s \in_{G_\sigma} T, \\ \tilde{\Theta}(s)Q_T^{C(s)}(u) & \text{if } u \neq 1 \text{ and } s \in_{G_\sigma} T, \\ 0 & \text{if } s \notin_{G_\sigma} T, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\tilde{\Theta}(s) = \frac{1}{|C_{W_T}(s)|} \sum_{w \in W_T} \Theta(wsw^{-1}).$$

With the notation of Propositions 2.2 and 2.3 we state

LEMMA 3.3. *Let $s \neq 1$ be a semisimple element of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ and u a unipotent element of $C(s)$. Let T be a maximal torus of G_σ contained in $C(s)$. Then the values $Q_T(u)$ of the Green functions of $C(s)$ are given by*

(a) $Q_T(u) = 1$, *if $s \in (s_i)^{G_\sigma}$ and $i \in \{3, 5, 7, 10\}$.*

(b)

$C(s_2)$	u_1	u_2	u_3	u_4
Q_{T_0}	$q+1$	q^3+1	1	1
Q_{T_1}	$1-q$	q^3+1	1	1
Q_{T_2}	$q+1$	$1-q^3$	1	1
Q_{T_6}	$1-q$	$1-q^3$	1	1

(c)

$C(s_4)$	u_1	u_3	$C(s_9)$	u_1	u_4
Q_{T_0}	$1+2q$	1	Q_{T_2}	1	1
Q_{T_1}	1	1	Q_{T_4}	$q+1$	1
Q_{T_3}	$1-q$	1	Q_{T_6}	$1-2q$	1

PROOF. Every Green function Q_T is a linear combination of the unipotent characters of $C(s)$. Using then the character tables of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$, $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$, $\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$ of [**6** and **13**] it is easy to compute the given values of $Q_T(u)$, because Proposition 2.2 gives the group structure of $C(s)$.

With the notation of Propositions 1.2 and 2.1 we state the following result.

LEMMA 3.4. *Let $q \neq 2$ and s be a semisimple element. Then for $0 \leqslant j \leqslant 6$, the centralizer $C_{W_j}(s)$ of s in the Weyl group W_j is as given in Table* 3.4.

TABLE 3.4

s	$C_{W(T_0)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_1)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_2)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_3)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_4)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_5)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_6)}(s)$
1	$W(G_2) \simeq D_{12}$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$	$Q_8 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_3$	$Q_8 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_3$	$\mathbf{Z}_4$	$W(G_2) \simeq D_{12}$
s_2	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$				$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$
s_3	$\mathbf{Z}_2$		$\mathbf{Z}_2$				
s_4	S_3	$\mathbf{Z}_2$		$\mathbf{Z}_3$			
s_5	$\mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathbf{Z}_2$					
s_6	1						
s_7		$\mathbf{Z}_2$					$\mathbf{Z}_2$
s_8		1					
s_9			$\mathbf{Z}_2$		$\mathbf{Z}_3$		S_3
s_{10}			$\mathbf{Z}_2$				$\mathbf{Z}_2$
s_{11}			1				
s_{12}				1			
s_{13}					1		
s_{14}						1	
s_{15}							1

In the following subsidiary result $H \rtimes U$ denotes the semidirect product of the normal subgroup H with the subgroup U of the finite group X.

LEMMA 3.5. *Let $q = 2$. Let s be a semisimple element and $W_j = N_{G_\sigma}(T_j)/T_j$, $0 \leqslant j \leqslant 6$. Then the centralizer $C_{W_j}(s)$ of s in W_j is as given in Table* 3.5.

TABLE 3.5

s	$C_{W(T_0)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_1)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_2)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_3)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_4)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_5)}(s)$	$C_{W(T_6)}(s)$
1	$\mathrm{SL}_3(2) \rtimes \mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$	$\mathrm{SL}_2(2) \rtimes \mathbf{Z}_2$	$Q_8 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_3$	$Q_8 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_3$	$\mathbf{Z}_4$	$W(G_2) \simeq D_{12}$
s_4	$\mathrm{SL}_3(2)$	$\mathbf{Z}_2$		$\mathbf{Z}_3$			
s_6	1						
s_7		$\mathbf{Z}_2$					$\mathbf{Z}_2$
s_8		1					
s_9			S_3		$\mathbf{Z}_3$		S_3
s_{10}			S_3				$\mathbf{Z}_2$
s_{12}				1			
s_{14}						1	

PROOF. Since no root vanishes on the tori T_1, T_3, T_4, T_5, and T_6 the proof of Lemma 3.4 remains valid for these cases by Veldkamp's theorem [**15**].

By Proposition 2.2 $H = C_{G_\sigma}(T_0) \simeq \mathrm{SL}_3(2) \times \mathbf{Z}_7$. Propositions 1.2 and 2.1 imply that $N_{G_\sigma}(T_0)/H \simeq \mathbf{Z}_2$. Thus $N_{G_\sigma}(T_0) \simeq \mathrm{SL}_3(2) \rtimes \mathbf{Z}_2$. The remaining cases are proved similarly.

In order to give the values of the Deligne-Lusztig characters $R_{T,\Theta}$ we introduce the following

Notation. For a σ-stable maximal torus T of G we fix an isomorphism $T_\sigma \simeq \hat{T}_\sigma = \mathrm{Hom}(T_\sigma, \mathbb{C}^*)$. The linear character of T_σ corresponding to $s \in T_\sigma$ under this isomorphism will be denoted by $\hat{s}$.

Let T_j be a maximal torus of G_σ, $0 \leqslant j \leqslant 6$, and $s_i \in T_j$ be a representative of a semisimple conjugacy class of G_σ, where $i \in \{2, 3, \ldots, 15\}$.

TABLE 3.6. Deligne-Lusztig characters

	s_2	s_2u_1	s_2u_2	s_2u_3	s_2u_4
$R_{0,i}$ $i = 2,3,4,5,6$	$(q^3+1)(q+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_2)$	$(q+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_2)$	$(q^3+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_2)$
$R_{1,i}$ $i = 2,4,5,7,8$	$-(q^3+1)(q-1)\eta_{1,i}(s_2)$	$-(q-1)\eta_{1,i}(s_2)$	$(q^3-1)\eta_{1,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_2)$
$R_{2,i}$ $i = 2,3,9,10,11$	$-(q^3-1)(q+1)\eta_{2,i}(s_2)$	$(q+1)\eta_{2,i}(s_2)$	$-(q^3-1)\eta_{2,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_2)$
$R_{3,i}$ $i = 4,12$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{4,i}$ $i = 9,13$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{5,i}$ $i = 14$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{6,i}$ $i = 2,7,9,10,15$	$(q^3-1)(q-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_2)$	$-(q-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_2)$	$-(q^3-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{6,i}(s_2)$	$\eta_{6,i}(s_2)$

	s_3	s_3u_2	s_4	s_4u_1	s_4u_3
$R_{0,i}$ $i = 2,3,4,5,6$	$(q^3+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_3)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_3)$	$(q+1)(q^2+q+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_4)$	$(2q+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_4)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_4)$
$R_{1,i}$ $i = 2,4,5,7,8$	0	0	$-(q^3-1)\eta_{1,i}(s_4)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_4)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_4)$
$R_{2,i}$ $i = 2,3,9,10,11$	$-(q^3-1)\eta_{2,i}(s_3)$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_3)$	0	0	0
$R_{3,i}$ $i = 4,12$	0	0	$(q-1)(q^2-1)\eta_{3,i}(s_4)$	$-(q-1)\eta_{3,i}(s_4)$	$\eta_{3,i}(s_4)$
$R_{4,i}$ $i = 9,13$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{5,i}$ $i = 14$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{6,i}$ $i = 2,7,9,10,15$	0	0	0	0	0

	s_5	s_5u_1	s_6	s_7	s_7u_2	s_8
$R_{0,i}$ $i = 2,3,4,5,6$	$(q+1)\eta_{0,i}(s_5)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_5)$	$\eta_{0,i}(s_6)$	0	0	0
$R_{1,i}$ $i = 2,4,5,7,8$	$-(q-1)\eta_{1,i}(s_5)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_5)$	0	$(q^3+1)\eta_{1,i}(s_7)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_7)$	$\eta_{1,i}(s_8)$
$R_{2,i}$ $i = 2,3,9,10,11$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{3,i}$ $i = 4,12$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{4,i}$ $i = 9,13$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{5,i}$ $i = 14$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{6,i}$ $i = 2,7,9,10,15$	0	0	0	$-(q^3-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_7)$	$\eta_{6,i}(s_7)$	0

TABLE 3.6 (continued)

	s_9	s_9u_1	s_9u_4	s_{10}	$s_{10}u_1$
$R_{0,i}$ $i = 2,3,4,5,6$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{1,i}$ $i = 2,4,5,7,8$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{2,i}$ $i = 2,3,9,10,11$	$(q^3+1)\eta_{2,i}(s_9)$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_9)$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_9)$	$(q+1)\eta_{2,i}(s_{10})$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_{10})$
$R_{3,i}$ $i = 4,12$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{4,i}$ $i = 9,13$	$-(q+1)(q^2-1)\eta_{4,i}(s_9)$	$(q+1)\eta_{4,i}(s_9)$	$\eta_{4,i}(s_9)$	0	0
$R_{5,i}$ $i = 14$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{6,i}$ $i = 2,7,9,10,15$	$-(q-1)(q^2-q+1)\eta_{6,i}(s_9)$	$-(2q-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_9)$	$\eta_{6,i}(s_9)$	$-(q-1)\eta_{6,i}(s_{10})$	$\eta_{6,i}(s_{10})$

	s_{11}	s_{12}	s_{13}	s_{14}	s_{15}
$R_{0,i}$ $i = 2,3,4,5,6$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{1,i}$ $i = 2,4,5,7,8$	0	0	0	0	0
$R_{2,i}$ $i = 2,3,9,10,11$	$\eta_{2,i}(s_{11})$	0	0	0	0
$R_{3,i}$ $i = 4,12$	0	$\eta_{3,i}(s_{12})$	0	0	0
$R_{4,i}$ $i = 9,13$	0	0	$\eta_{4,i}(s_{13})$	0	0
$R_{5,i}$ $i = 14$	0	0	0	$\eta_{5,i}(s_{14})$	0
$R_{6,i}$ $i = 2,7,9,10,15$	0	0	0	0	$\eta_{6,i}(s_{15})$

We set $R_{j,i} = R_{T_j,\hat{s}_i}$ and

$$\mathcal{N}_{j,i}(s) = \frac{1}{|C_{W_j(s)}|} \sum_{w \in W_j} \hat{s}_i(s^w),$$

where W_j is the Weyl group of T_j.

4. The irreducible characters. By Spaltenstein's paper [**14**] the character values of the unipotent irreducible characters of the triality groups ${}^3D_4(q)$ are known. In this section we determine the remaining irreducible characters of G_σ by means of the Deligne-Lusztig theory; see Lusztig's book [**11**].

G_σ is isomorphic to the fixed points $G^*_{\sigma^*}$ of the triality endomorphism σ^* of the adjoint group G^* of type D_4, which is dual to G; see [**2**, p. 112]. As G^* has a connected center, Lusztig has shown in [**11**] that there is a bijective map $\chi \to (\chi_s, \chi_u)$ between the irreducible characters χ of G_σ and pairs (χ_s, χ_u), where χ_s is a semisimple character of G_σ and χ_u is a unipotent character of the centralizer $C(s)$ of

a semisimple element $s \in G$. Furthermore, this bijection satisfies the following conditions:

$$\chi(1) = \chi_s(1)\chi_u(1), \tag{4.1}$$

$$(\chi, \varepsilon_T R_{T,\theta})_{G_\sigma} = (\chi_u, \varepsilon_{C(s)}\varepsilon_T R_{T,1})_{C(s)}, \tag{4.2}$$

because $\varepsilon_G = 1$ by Corollary 6.5.7 of [**2**].

The unipotent irreducible characters of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q^i)$ are the trivial character 1 and the Steinberg character St. Following the notation of Simpson's and Frame's [**13**] character tables, besides 1 and St the groups $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ and $\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$ each have another unipotent irreducible character denoted by χ_{qs} and $\chi_{qs'}$, respectively, where $s = q + 1$ and $s' = q - 1$.

Using now the notation of Proposition 2.1 for the semisimple conjugacy classes $s_i \neq 1$, $2 \leqslant i \leqslant 15$, and the structure of the centralizer $C(s_i)$ given in Proposition 2.2, every irreducible character $\chi = (\chi_s, \chi_u)$ of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ which is not unipotent can (up to conjugation) be uniquely denoted by

$$\chi = \begin{cases} \chi_i, & \text{if } \chi = (\chi_i, \varnothing), \text{ and } s_i \text{ is regular} \\ \chi_{i,1}, & \text{if } \chi = (\chi_{s_i}, 1), \text{ and } s_i \neq 1 \text{ is not regular} \\ \chi_{i,\mathrm{St}}, & \text{if } \chi = (\chi_{s_i}, \mathrm{St}) \\ \chi_{i,qs}, & \text{if } \chi = (\chi_{s_i}, \chi_{qs}) \\ \chi_{i,qs'}, & \text{if } \chi = (\chi_{s_i}, \chi_{qs'}) \\ \chi_{i,\mathrm{St}\mathrm{St}'}, & \text{if } i = 2 \text{ and St, St}' \text{ denote the} \\ & \text{Steinberg characters of } \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3), \\ & \mathrm{SL}_2(q), \text{ respectively.} \end{cases}$$

We keep Spaltenstein's [**14**] notation of the unipotent irreducible characters of G_σ. Their values are given in [**14**].

Therefore the following result and the table of the Deligne-Lusztig characters complete the character table of G_σ.

THEOREM 4.3. *With the values of the Deligne-Lusztig characters $R_{i,j}$ given in Table 3.6, the values of the nonunipotent irreducible characters χ of G_σ are determined as follows.*

(a)
$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{2,1} &= \tfrac{1}{4}(R_{0,2} + R_{2,2} + R_{1,2} + R_{6,2}) \\ \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}} &= \tfrac{1}{4}(R_{0,2} - R_{2,2} + R_{1,2} - R_{6,2}) \\ \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'} &= \tfrac{1}{4}(R_{0,2} + R_{2,2} - R_{1,2} - R_{6,2}) \\ \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\mathrm{St}'} &= \tfrac{1}{4}(R_{0,2} - R_{2,2} - R_{1,2} + R_{6,2}) \end{aligned}$$

(b)
$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{3,1} &= \tfrac{1}{2}(R_{0,3} + R_{2,3}) \\ \chi_{3,\mathrm{St}} &= \tfrac{1}{2}(R_{0,3} - R_{2,3}) \end{aligned}$$

(c)
$$\chi_{4,1} = \tfrac{1}{6}(R_{0,4} + 3R_{1,4} + 2R_{3,4})$$
$$\chi_{4,\mathrm{St}} = \tfrac{1}{6}(R_{0,4} - 3R_{1,4} + 2R_{3,4})$$
$$\chi_{4,qs} = \tfrac{1}{3}(R_{0,4} - R_{3,4})$$

(d)
$$\chi_{5,1} = \tfrac{1}{2}(R_{0,5} + R_{1,5})$$
$$\chi_{5,\mathrm{St}} = \tfrac{1}{2}(R_{0,5} - R_{1,5})$$

(e)
$$\chi_6 = R_{0,6}$$

(f)
$$\chi_{7,1} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{1,7} + R_{6,7})$$
$$\chi_{7,\mathrm{St}} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{1,7} - R_{6,7})$$

(g)
$$\chi_8 = -R_{1,8}$$

(h)
$$\chi_{9,1} = -\tfrac{1}{6}(R_{6,9} + 3R_{2,9} + 2R_{4,9})$$
$$\chi_{9,\mathrm{St}} = \tfrac{1}{6}(R_{6,9} - 3R_{2,9} + 2R_{4,9})$$
$$\chi_{9,qs'} = -\tfrac{1}{3}(R_{6,9} - R_{4,9})$$

(i)
$$\chi_{10,1} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{2,10} + R_{6,10})$$
$$\chi_{10,\mathrm{St}} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{2,10} - R_{6,10})$$

(j)
$$\chi_{11} = -R_{2,11}$$

(k)
$$\chi_{12} = R_{3,12}$$

(l)
$$\chi_{13} = R_{4,13}$$

(m)
$$\chi_{14} = R_{5,14}$$

(n)
$$\chi_{15} = R_{6,15}$$

PROOF. Let $C(s_2)$ be the centralizer of the unique involution $s_2 \neq 1$ in case q is odd. Its commutator subgroup $C(s_2)' = \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) * \mathrm{SL}_2(q)$ by Proposition 2.2. Since the central involution s_2 of $C(s_2)$ is in the kernel of each unipotent irreducible character of $C(s_2)'$ the Green functions of $C(s_2)$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} R_{T_0,1}^{C(s_2)} &= (1 + \mathrm{St}) \otimes (1 + \mathrm{St}') \\ &= 1 \otimes 1 + \mathrm{St} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \mathrm{St}' + \mathrm{St} \otimes \mathrm{St}', \\ R_{T_1,1}^{C(s_2)} &= (1 + \mathrm{St}) \otimes (1 - \mathrm{St}') \\ &= 1 \otimes 1 + \mathrm{St} \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \mathrm{St}' - \mathrm{St} \otimes \mathrm{St}', \end{aligned}$$

$$R_{T_2,1}^{C(s_2)} = (1 - \mathrm{St}) \otimes (1 + \mathrm{St}')$$
$$= 1 \otimes 1 - \mathrm{St} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \mathrm{St}' - \mathrm{St} \otimes \mathrm{St}',$$
$$R_{T_6,1}^{C(s_2)} = (1 - \mathrm{St}) \otimes (1 - \mathrm{St}')$$
$$= 1 \otimes 1 - \mathrm{St} \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \mathrm{St}' + \mathrm{St} \otimes \mathrm{St}'.$$

By Lemma 3.1 $\varepsilon_{C(s_2)} = 1$. Therefore we obtain from (4.2) the equations

$$R_{0,2} = \chi_{2,1} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\,\mathrm{St}'},$$
$$R_{1,2} = \chi_{2,1} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\,\mathrm{St}'},$$
$$R_{2,2} = \chi_{2,1} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\,\mathrm{St}'},$$
$$R_{6,2} = \chi_{2,1} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}} - \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'} + \chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\,\mathrm{St}'}.$$

This system of linear equations has the unique solution given in assertion (a).

The unipotent irreducible characters of $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ are 1, St, and χ_{qs}. By Simpson and Frame [**13**, p. 492], and Proposition 2.2 they extend uniquely to unipotent irreducible characters of $C(s_4)$. Therefore the Green functions of $C(s_4)$ are given by

$$R_{T_0,1}^{C(s_4)} = 1 + 2\chi_{qs} + \mathrm{St},$$
$$R_{T_1,1}^{C(s_4)} = 1 - \mathrm{St},$$
$$R_{T_3,1}^{C(s_4)} = 1 - \chi_{qs} + \mathrm{St}.$$

By Lemma 3.1 $\varepsilon_{C(s_4)} = 1$. Therefore we obtain from (4.2) the equations

$$R_{0,4} = \chi_{4,1} + 2\chi_{4,qs} + \chi_{4,\mathrm{St}},$$
$$R_{1,4} = \chi_{4,1} - \chi_{4,\mathrm{St}},$$
$$R_{3,4} = \chi_{4,1} - \chi_{4,qs} + \chi_{4,\mathrm{St}}.$$

This system of linear equations has the unique solution given in (c). Using the same methods we obtain the assertions (h), (b), (d), (f) and (i).

By Corollary 7.3.5 of [**2**] $\varepsilon_{C(s_i)} R_{T,\hat{s}_i}$ is irreducible, if s_i is a regular element of G_σ. This completes the proof.

Proof of Table 4.4. The classification of the irreducible characters $\chi_{s,u}$ follows from (4.1) and Proposition 2.2. Their degrees are computed by means of (4.1) and Theorem 8.4.8 of [**2**].

The numbers of irreducible characters in each family $\chi_{s_i,u}$ equals the number $N(E_i, [w])$ of conjugacy classes of the semisimple elements s_i defined in Proposition 2.1. Let $w \in \Omega_{J_i}$ and

$$T(w, J_i) = \{ t \in T \mid w\sigma(t) = t,\ C_W(t) = W_{J_i} \}.$$

Define $Z_{J_i}(w) = \{ y \in \Omega_{J_i} \mid\ y^{-1}w\sigma(y) = w \}$. Then Lemma 3.1 of [**5**] asserts that $N(E_i, [w]) = |T(w, J_i)|/|Z_{J_i}(w)|$. As G is simply connected, Theorem 3.3 of [**5**] applies. Therefore $|T(w, J_i)| = F_{w,J_i}(q)$, where $F_{w,J_i}(X)$ is a polynomial with integral coefficients and degree $\deg(F_{w,J_i}(X)) = 4 - |J_i|$. In particular, $\deg(F_{1,\varnothing}(X)) = 4$.

TABLE 4.4. Degrees and numbers of irreducible characters of ${}^3D_4(q)$

character	degree	number, q even	number, q odd
1	1	1	1
$[\varepsilon_1]$	$q(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$[\varepsilon_2]$	$q^7(q^4-q^2+1)$		
St	q^{12}		
ρ_1	$\frac{1}{2}q^3(q^3+1)^2$		
ρ_2	$\frac{1}{2}q^3(q+1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$		
${}^3D_4[-1]$	$\frac{1}{2}q^3(q^3-1)^2$		
${}^3D_4[1]$	$\frac{1}{2}q^3(q-1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$\chi_{2,1}$	q^8+q^4+1	0	1
$\chi_{2,\mathrm{St}}$	$q^3(q^8+q^4+1)$		
$\chi_{2,\mathrm{St}'}$	$q(q^8+q^4+1)$		
$\chi_{2,\mathrm{St}\mathrm{St}'}$	$q^4(q^8+q^4+1)$		
$\chi_{3,1}$	$(q+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q-2)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q-3)$
$\chi_{3,\mathrm{St}}$	$q^3(q+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$		
$\chi_{4,1}$	$(q^3+1)(q^2-q+1)(q^4-q^2+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^2+q)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^2+q)$
$\chi_{4,\mathrm{St}}$	$q^3(q^3+1)(q^2-q+1)(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$\chi_{4,qs}$	$q(q^3+1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$\chi_{5,1}$	$(q^3+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2-q-2)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2-q-3)$
$\chi_{5,\mathrm{St}}$	$q(q^3+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$		
χ_6	$(q+1)(q^3+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{12}(q^4-4q^3+2q^2-2q+12)$	$\frac{1}{12}(q^4-4q^3+2q^2-2q+15)$
$\chi_{7,1}$	$(q-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}q$	$\frac{1}{2}(q-1)$
$\chi_{7,\mathrm{St}}$	$q^3(q-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$		
χ_8	$(q-1)(q^3+1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-2q)$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-2q+1)$
$\chi_{9,1}$	$(q^3-1)(q^2+q+1)(q^4-q^2+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^2-q)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^2-q)$
$\chi_{9,\mathrm{St}}$	$q^3(q^3-1)(q^2+q+1)(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$\chi_{9,qs'}$	$q(q^3-1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$		
$\chi_{10,1}$	$(q^3-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2+q)$	$\frac{1}{2}(q^3-q^2+q-1)$
$\chi_{10,\mathrm{St}}$	$q(q^3-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$		
χ_{11}	$(q+1)(q^3-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-2q^3)$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-2q^3+1)$
χ_{12}	$(q-1)^2(q^3+1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$	$\frac{1}{24}(q^4+2q^3-q^2-2q)$	$\frac{1}{24}(q^4+2q^3-q^2-2q)$
χ_{13}	$(q+1)^2(q^3-1)^2(q^4-q^2+1)$	$\frac{1}{24}(q^4-2q^3-q^2+2q)$	$\frac{1}{24}(q^4-2q^3-q^2+2q)$
χ_{14}	$(q^6-1)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-q^2)$	$\frac{1}{4}(q^4-q^2)$
χ_{15}	$(q-1)(q^3-1)(q^8+q^4+1)$	$\frac{1}{12}(q^4-2q^3+2q^2-4q)$	$\frac{1}{12}(q^4-2q^3+2q^2-4q+3)$

Using properties of the Brauer complex of G in [5] the first author introduced a method for finding the polynomial $F_{w,J_i}(X)$ for fixed $w \in \Omega_{J_i}$ and J_i. As an example we employ this method for the computation of $F_{1,\varnothing}(X)$, i.e., $w = 1 \in \Omega_{J_5} = W$.

The σ-conjugacy class [1] of 1 in $\Omega_\varnothing = W$ consists of 16 elements $w \in W$ by Proposition 2.1. Let $n = n(w)$ be the order of $w\tau^{-1}$. Since $0 \notin J_5 = \varnothing$ case (A) of [5] applies. Thus we have to find the number $k(1, \varnothing, q)$ of all $y \in Y \in \mathrm{Hom}(K^*, T)$ satisfying the following 16 systems of inequalities:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q^i (w\tau^{-1})^{i+1}(r_j)(\tau^{-1}(y)) > 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1,2,3,4,$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q^i (w\tau^{-1})^{i+1}(r_0)(\tau^{-1}(y)) < q^n - 1.$$

By [5] $k(1, \varnothing, q) = F_{1,\varnothing}(q)$. Since $F_{1,\varnothing}(X)$ is an integral polynomial of degree 4, its coefficients are easily found by interpolation, if these numbers $k(1, \varnothing, q)$ can be determined for five different choices of q. In case q is odd, we get the following numbers:

q	3	5	7	9	11
$F_{1,\varnothing}(q)$	0	15	94	317	796

Thus interpolation yields that $F_{1,\varnothing}(X) = q^4 - 4q^3 + 2q^2 - 2q + 15$.

As $|Z_\varnothing(1)| = |Z_{J_5}(1)| = |W_\sigma| = 12$, it follows that

$$N(E_5, 1) = \tfrac{1}{12}(q^4 - 4q^3 + 2q^2 + 15),$$

which is the number of regular conjugacy classes of G_σ intersecting T_0 nontrivially.

For even q, we interpolate at $q = 2, 4, 8, 16$ and 32. Then the same method applies here as in all other remaining cases.

5. The blocks of irreducible characters. Let $r > 0$ be a prime number. In this section we determine the distribution of the irreducible characters $\chi_{s,u}$ of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ into r-blocks. As an application we then obtain the validity of R. Brauer's height zero conjecture, his conjecture on the number of irreducible characters in a block, and the Alperin-McKay conjecture for this class of simple groups.

Let R be a complete discrete rank one valuation ring with maximal ideal $\max(R) = \pi R$, residue class field $F = R/\pi R$ of characteristic $r > 0$, and quotient field $S = \operatorname{quot}(R)$ of characteristic 0 such that S and F are splitting fields for the finite group G. The block ideals of the r-block B of G in the group algebras FG, RG and SG are denoted by B, $\hat{B}$ and $B_S = \hat{B} \otimes_R S$ respectively. In particular, $B = \hat{B} \otimes_R F$. The number of simple SG-modules of B_S is denoted by $k(B)$, and $k_0(B)$ is the number of irreducible characters χ of G_σ belonging to B with height $\operatorname{ht}\chi = 0$. The number of irreducible modular characters of B is $l(B)$.

Let B be an r-block of a finite group G with defect group $\delta(B) = {}_GD$. Let $H = N_G(D)$ and $C = DC_G(D)$. By Brauer's first main theorem there is a unique block B_1 of H with defect group $\delta(B_1) = D$ such that $B = B_1^G$; it is called the Brauer correspondent of B in H.

The Alperin-McKay conjecture claims that $k_0(B) = k_0(B_1)$. Brauer conjectured that in general $k(B) \leqslant |D|$, and his height zero conjecture says that $k_0(B) = k(B)$ if and only if $\delta(B)$ is abelian.

Let B be an r-block of a finite group G with defect group $\delta(B) = {}_GD$. Then by Brauer's extended first main theorem there is a block b of $C = DC_G(D)$ with defect group D such that $B = b^G$. Any such block b of C is called a root of B. By Corollary 4.6 of [7, p. 204], b contains exactly one irreducible character χ_s which has D in its kernel. This character χ_s of b is called the canonical character of the block B. If $H = N_G(D)$, then χ_s is uniquely determined by B up to H-conjugacy. The inertial subgroup $T_H(b) = \{x \in H \mid b^x = b\} = T_H(\chi_s) = \{x \in H \mid \chi_s^x = \chi_s\}$.

By Theorem 4.3 every irreducible character χ of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ is of the form $\chi_{t,u}$, where t is a representative of a semisimple conjugacy class of G_σ, and where χ_u is an

irreducible unipotent character of $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$. We now study the distribution of the irreducible characters of G_σ into r-blocks B of G_σ. Such a block B is called *unipotent*, if B contains a unipotent character of G_σ.

COROLLARY 5.1. (a) *For every prime number $r > 0$, $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ contains r-blocks of defect zero.*

(b) *If $r \neq 2$, then G_σ contains unipotent r-blocks of defect zero.*

PROOF. Let r^a be the order of a Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ. Then by Lemma 4.19 of [**7**, p. 159], an irreducible character χ of G_σ belongs to an r-block B with defect $d(B) = 0$ if and only if $r^a \mid \chi(1)$. Hence (b) follows immediately from Table 4.4.

If $r \mid q$, then (a) holds by Steinberg's tensor product theorem. Let $r \nmid q$. From (b) it follows that we may assume that $r = 2$. Then by Table 4.4 the $\frac{1}{4}(q^4 - q^2)$ irreducible characters χ_{14} yield 2-blocks of defect zero.

LEMMA 5.2. *Let r be a prime number, $r \notin \{2, 3, p\}$. If $D \neq 1$ is a defect group of an r-block B of G_σ, then either D is cyclic or a Sylow r-subgroup which is abelian and generated by 2 elements.*

PROOF. As $r \notin \{2, 3, p\}$, G_σ has an abelian Sylow r-subgroup S by Corollary 5.19 of [**1**, p. 212]. Proposition 1.2 asserts that S has at most two generators.

If D is not cyclic, then by Theorem 9.2 of [**7**, p. 231], there is a central element $1 \neq x \in D$ and an r-block b of $C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ such that $B = b^{G_\sigma}$ and both blocks B and b have defect group D.

Using the character tables of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$, $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$, and $\mathrm{SU}_3(q)$ given in [**6** and **13**] it is easy to see that each r-block b_1 of any of these groups has a Sylow r-subgroup as defect group $\delta(b_1)$, if $\delta(b_1)$ is not cyclic. Therefore Proposition 2.2 implies that $\delta(b) = {}_{G_\sigma}D$ is a Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ. This completes the proof.

PROPOSITION 5.3. *Let q be odd, and let 2^a be the highest power of 2 dividing $q - 1$ or $q + 1$ if $q \equiv 1(4)$ or $q \equiv 3(4)$, respectively. Let Q be a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q)$ contained in a Sylow 2-subgroup P of G_σ, and let Z be a cyclic 2-subgroup of Q of order $|Z| = 2^a$. Then P contains an involution x such that $S = \{Q, x\}$ is a semi-dihedral subgroup of P of order $|S| = 2^{a+2}$.*

If B is a 2-block of G_σ with defect group $D \neq 1$, then one of the following holds:

(a) *$D = {}_{G_\sigma}P$ if and only if $B = B_0$ the principal 2-block of G_σ.*

(b) *$D \simeq S * Z$.*

(c) *$D \simeq S$.*

(d) *$D \simeq Z \times Z$.*

(e) *D is isomorphic to a Klein four subgroup of P.*

(f) *D is a cyclic Sylow 2-subgroup of a cyclic maximal torus of G_σ.*

PROOF. G_σ has only one class of involutions $s_2 \neq 1$ by Proposition 2.1. Let $C = C_{G_\sigma}(s_2)$. Then by Proposition 2.2 C' is the central product $\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3) * \mathrm{SL}_2(q)$. Hence a Sylow 2-subgroup P of G_σ contains a central product of two isomorphic generalized quaternion groups Q, and $|P : Q * Q| = 2$.

By Proposition 2.2 the defect group D of B may be chosen such that $s_2 \in Z(D)$. Thus $K = DC_{G_\sigma}(D) \leqslant_G C$. Let b be a root of B in K. Then $\delta(b) =_K D$ and $B = b^{G_\sigma}$. Furthermore, $B_1 = b^C$ exists by Lemma 6.1 of [**7**, p. 209], and $\delta(B_1) = D$, because $B = B_1^{G_\sigma} = (b^C)^{G_\sigma} = b^{G_\sigma}$.

By the character table of $U = \mathrm{SL}_2(q)$ [**6**, p. 228], we know that the principal 2-block $B_0(U)$ of U is the only 2-block of U with defect group Q, and that all other 2-blocks of U have either the center $Z(Q)$ of order $|Z(Q)| = 2$ or a cyclic group Z of order $2^a \geqslant 4$ as a defect group. Up to isomorphism Q is also a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$. As $C' = \mathrm{SL}_2(q) * \mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$, each block A of C' with defect group $\delta(A) = E$ is mapped onto a block $\tau(A)$ of $\bar{C} = C'/\{s_2\} \simeq \mathrm{PSL}_2(q) \times \mathrm{PSL}_2(q^3)$ with defect group $\delta(\tau(A)) = E/\{s_2\}$. Hence E is isomorphic to one of the 2-subgroups $Q * Q$, $Q * Z$, Q, $Z * Z$, Z, or $Z(Q)$. Since $|C : C'| = 2$ Green's theorem [**7**, p. 107] implies that every 2-block A of C' induces up to a 2-block $B' = A^C$ of C. By Theorem 3.14 of [**7**, p. 201] $\delta(B') \cap C' = \delta(A) = E$. Using now the group structure of P and C the assertions (b)–(f) follow.

Furthermore, by Brauer's third main theorem the principal 2-block B_0 of G is the only 2-block of highest defect.

PROPOSITION 5.4. *Let $3 \nmid q$. If B is a 3-block of G_σ with defect group D, then one of the following statements holds*:

(a) *D is nonabelian if and only if D is a Sylow 3-subgroup of G_σ.*

(b) *D is a noncyclic Sylow 3-subgroup of a maximal torus of G_σ.*

(c) *D is a cyclic Sylow 3-subgroup of a cyclic maximal torus of G_σ.*

PROOF. (a) Let B be a 3-block of G_σ with a nonabelian defect group D. Either $3 \mid q - 1$ or $3 \mid q + 1$. Suppose that $3 \mid q - 1$. By Theorem 9.2 of [**7**, p. 231], there is a central element $1 \neq x \in D$ of order 3 and an r-block b of $C = C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ such that $B = b^{G_\sigma}$, and D is a defect group of b. By Proposition 2.2, $C' = \mathrm{SL}_3(q) * Z$, where Z is a cyclic group with $|Z| = q^2 + q + 1$, and where the cyclic group C/C' of order 3 acts trivially on Z. By the character table of [**13**, p. 487], only the principal 3-block of $U = \mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ has a Sylow 3-subgroup D_1 of U as a defect group. Since 3 divides $|Z|$ only to the first power, C' has $\frac{1}{3}(q^2 + q + 1)$ blocks b_1 with defect group D_1, and all other blocks of C' have abelian or cyclic defect groups. As C/C' acts trivially on Z, it follows from Theorem 3.14 of [**7**, p. 201], that each 3-block $(b_1)^C$ of C has a Sylow 3-subgroup P of C and thus of G_σ as a defect group. By Proposition 2.2 all other blocks b_2 of C have abelian or cyclic defect groups. Hence $D =_{G_\sigma} P$ and $b \in \{(b_1)^C\}$ by Lemma 9.1 of [**7**, p. 230].

Because of Proposition 2.2 the same argument can also be applied in the case of $3 \mid q + 1$. The converse implication is trivial.

So we may assume that D is abelian. The assertions (b) and (c) follow from Propositions 1.2 and 2.2 and the definition of a defect group, see [**7**, pp. 126 and 231].

LEMMA 5.5. *Let T_σ be a maximal torus and D a Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ contained in T, where $r \neq p$. Let $s \in T_\sigma$ be an r'-element of T_σ, and let $\hat{s}$ denote the linear character*

of T corresponding to s. Then for every $y \in D$ the Deligne-Lusztig characters $R_{T,\widehat{sy}}$ and $R_{T,\hat{s}}$ agree on all r'-elements $x \in G_\sigma$.

PROOF. Let the r'-element $x = tu \in G_\sigma$ be in Jordan form, where t is semisimple and u is unipotent. By Lemma 3.2

$$R^G_{T,\widehat{sy}}(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\varepsilon_{C(t)}\varepsilon_T|C(t)|_{p'}}{|T|}\widetilde{sy}(t), & \text{if } u = 1, \text{ and } t \in_{G_\sigma} T, \\ \widetilde{sy}(t)Q_T^{C(t)}(u), & \text{if } u \neq 1, \text{ and } t \in_{G_\sigma} T, \\ 0, & \text{if } t \notin_{G_\sigma} T, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\widetilde{sy}(t) = \frac{1}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|}\sum_{w \in W(T)} \widehat{sy}(wtw^{-1}),$$

and $W(T) = N_{G_\sigma}(T)/T$. As $t' = wtw^{-1} \in T$ is an r'-element for each $w \in W(T)$, $\hat{y}(t') = 1$ for each $y \in D$, because D is a Sylow r-subgroup of T. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{sy}(t) &= \frac{1}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|}\sum_{w \in W(T)} \hat{s}(wtw^{-1})\hat{y}(wtw^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|}\sum_{w \in W(T)} \hat{s}(wtw^{-1}) = \tilde{s}(t).\end{aligned}$$

Hence $R^G_{T,\widehat{sy}}(x) = R^G_{T,\hat{s}}(x)$.

PROPOSITION 5.6. *Let B be an r-block of G_σ with a cyclic defect group $\delta(B) =_{G_\sigma} D \neq 1$. Then the following assertions hold*:

(a) *D is a Sylow r-subgroup of a cyclic maximal torus T of G_σ such that $D \leqslant T \leqslant C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$.*

(b) *B is either the principal r-block of G_σ or B determines (up to G_σ-conjugacy) uniquely a regular r'-element s of G_σ contained in T such that $\theta = \varepsilon_C\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}}$ is the canonical character of a root b of B in C.*

(c) *B is the principal r-block of G_σ if and only if D is the Sylow r-subgroup of the Coxeter torus T_5 of G_σ, and B has $\frac{1}{4}(|D| - 1)$ exceptional irreducible characters χ_y with $1 \neq y \in D$, and 4 nonexceptional irreducible characters which are the 4 unipotent characters 1, St, ρ_1 and ${}^3D_4[-1]$.*

(d) *If B is a nonprincipal r-block of G_σ, then an irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B if and only if $t \sim_{G_\sigma} sy$ for some $y \in D$, and χ_u is a unipotent irreducible character of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ such that $\widehat{sy}\chi_u$ belongs to an r-block β of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with $B = \beta^G$.*

If $y \neq 1$, then sy is regular in G_σ and $\chi_{t,u} = \chi_{sy}$ is an exceptional character of B. If s is regular in G_σ, then χ_s is the only nonexceptional character of B. Otherwise $\chi_{s,1}$ and $\chi_{s,St}$ are the nonexceptional characters of B.

PROOF. By Humphreys' theorem **[10]** $r \nmid q$. So, if $q = 2$, then $r \in \{3, 7, 13\}$. In each case $|D| = r$, and all assertions are easily verified by means of Propositions 1.2, 2.2 and Table 4.4. Thus we may assume also that $q \neq 2$. Let e be the smallest integer such that $r \mid q^e - 1$. Then $e \in \{1, 2, 3, 6, 12\}$.

(a) By Propositions 5.3 and 5.4 we may assume that $r \notin \{2, 3\}$. Let $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. By Dade's theorem [7, p. 270], there is an r-block b of C with defect group D such that $B = b^G$. Then by Lemma 5.2 and Corollary 5.19 of [1, p. 212], D is contained in a maximal torus T of G_σ such that $T \leqslant C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. Let $x \neq 1$ be a generator of D.

If x is regular in G_σ, then $C_{G_\sigma}(x) = T$, and b is an r-block of T with defect group D. Hence D is a Sylow r-subgroup of T. Thus T is a cyclic Coxeter torus T_5 of G_σ by Proposition 1.2.

Suppose that x is not regular. Let $e = 1$. Then by Proposition 2.2 there is an r-block b_1 of $C_1 = C_{G_\sigma}(s_3)$ or of $C_2 = C_{G_\sigma}(s_5)$ with defect group $\delta(b_1) = D$, because $r \neq 2$, and $x \in S_\sigma \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$ or $x \in S_\sigma \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1}$. Since all r-blocks of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q^k)$, $k \in \{3, 1\}$, either have a Sylow r-subgroup as a defect group or have defect zero, it follows that D is a Sylow r-subgroup of $S_\sigma = \mathbf{Z}_{q-1}$ or of $S_\sigma \cong \mathbf{Z}_{q^3-1}$. Therefore D is contained in the maximal torus $T_2 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{(q^3+1)(q-1)}$ or $T_1 \cong \mathbf{Z}_{(q^3-1)(q+1)}$ of $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. Hence D is a Sylow r-subgroup of the cyclic maximal torus T_2 or T_1.

Similarly one can show that D is the Sylow r-subgroup of T_1 or T_2 for $e \in \{2, 3, 6\}$. Hence (a) holds.

Let $e = 1$ and $T = T_2$. Suppose that $r \neq 2$. Then $C \cong C_{G_\sigma}(s_3)$, where D is a Sylow r-subgroup of the central torus S_σ of C with order $|S_\sigma| = q - 1$. The canonical character Θ of the root b of B in C has D in its kernel $\ker\Theta$ by [7, p. 205]. Furthermore, Θ is projective as an irreducible character of C/D by Brauer's extended first main theorem. Since the centralizer of all noncentral semisimple elements of $\mathrm{SL}_2(q^3)$ are cyclic, it follows from the character table [6, pp. 228 and 235], and Proposition 2.2 that there is a regular r'-element s of C in T with order $o(s) \mid q^3 + 1$ such that $\Theta = \varepsilon_{C(D)}\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,s}$, because $e = 1$. As $D \leqslant \ker\Theta$, Theorem 7.2.8 of [2] implies that $D \leqslant \ker\hat{s}$. Furthermore, $s \in \{s_{10}, s_9, s_{11}\}$ up to G_σ-conjugacy.

If $e = 1$, and $T = T_1$, then the same argument shows that $\Theta = \varepsilon_{C(D)}\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}}$, where $s = s_8$ is a regular r'-element of G_σ with order $o(s) \mid q + 1$.

Suppose that $e = 2$, and $T = T_1$. Then there exists a regular r'-element s of C such that $\Theta = \varepsilon_{C(D)}\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}}$ is the canonical character of b, where $o(s) \mid q^3 - 1$. Hence $s \in \{s_5, s_8, s_4\}$. If $e = 2$, and $T = T_2$, then by the same argument $s = s_{11}$.

Let $e = 3$. Then $r \mid q^2 + q + 1$, and $C = C_{G_\sigma}(s_4)$ by Proposition 2.2. Furthermore, $T = T_1$. By the character table [13] of $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ there is a regular r'-element s of C contained in T such that $\Theta = \varepsilon_{C(D)}\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}}$ is the canonical character of b, where $o(s) \mid q^2 - 1$. Hence $s \in \{s_8, s_7\}$.

If $e = 6$, then the same argument shows that $s \in \{s_3, s_{11}\}$, $T = T_2$.

Let $e = 12$. Then D is a Sylow r-subgroup of the cyclic Coxeter torus $T = T_5$. Its elements $t \neq 1$ are regular by Table 4.4. In particular, $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$. If B is not the principal r-block, then the canonical character Θ of the root b of B in C is of the form $\Theta = \hat{s}$, where s is a regular r'-element of T. So B is the principal r-block if and only if D is a Sylow r-subgroup of T_5 and $s = 1$.

If $r = 2$, then Proposition 5.3 asserts that the generator x of D has order 2^{a+1}, and that D is a Sylow 2-subgroup of a cyclic maximal torus T. Hence x is regular by

Propositions 2.1 and 2.2, and $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$. Therefore the canonical character Θ of the root b of B is of the form $\Theta = \hat{s}$, where $s \in T$ is a regular r'-element of G, because B has inertial index one by Dade's theorem. Thus (b) holds.

Suppose that B is a nonprincipal r-block. Then in any case for $e \in \{1, 2, 3, 5, 12\}$ we have shown that the canonical character Θ of a root b of B in $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ is of the form $\Theta = \varepsilon_{C(D)}\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}}$, where s is a regular r'-element of C contained in a cyclic torus T. Furthermore, $D \leqslant \ker \hat{s}$, where $\hat{s}$ is the linear character of T corresponding to $s \in T$. By Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 sy is a regular element of G_σ for each $1 \neq y \in D$. Hence each $\chi_{sy} = \varepsilon_T R_{T,\widehat{sy}}$ with $1 \neq y \in D \leqslant T$ is an irreducible character of G_σ by Lemma 3.1 and Corollary 7.3.5 of [**2**].

Two irreducible characters of G_σ belong to the same r-block of G_σ if they agree on all r'-elements, see [**7**, p. 150 and p. 179]. Thus all irreducible characters χ_{sy}, $1 \neq y \in D$, belong to one r-block B_1 of G_σ by Lemma 5.5. Let D_1 be its cyclic defect group. For $x \in D$ $\chi_{sy}(x) = \varepsilon R_{T,\hat{s}}(x) = \varepsilon\varepsilon_{C(x)}\varepsilon_T|C(x)|_{p'}\tilde{s}(x)$ by Lemmas 3.2 and 5.5, where

$$\tilde{s}(x) = \frac{1}{|C_{W(T)}(x)|} \sum_{w \in W(T)} \hat{s}(wxw^{-1}).$$

As $D \leqslant \ker \hat{s}$, $\tilde{s}(x) = |W(T) : C_{W(T)}(x)| \neq 0$ by Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5. Thus $\chi_{sy}(x) \neq 0$ for every $x \in D$, and $D =_{G_\sigma} D_1$ by Lemma 59.5 of [**6**] and (a). Let b_1 be a root of B_1 in $C = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. As shown above there is a regular element s_1 of T such that the canonical character of b_1 is of the form $\Theta_1 = \varepsilon_C\varepsilon_T R^C_{T,\hat{s}_1}$. Let $\mathscr{H}$ be the Brauer homomorphism from the center ZFG_σ into ZFC with respect to D. Let ω_s be the central character of χ_{sy}, and ω_{s_1} the one of Θ_1. As $B_1 = b_1^{G_\sigma}$ it follows from Brauer's extended first main theorem that $\omega_s = \omega_{s_1}\mathscr{H}$ on ZFG_σ.

From [**7**, p. 144], we obtain for every r'-element $x \in T$ that

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{sy}(x)}{\chi_{sy}(1)} \equiv \frac{|x^C|\Theta_1(x)}{\Theta_1(1)} \mod \pi R.$$

Applying Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 7.5.1 of [**2**] we get

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\varepsilon_{C_{G_\sigma}(x)}\varepsilon_T|C_G(x)|_p, s(x)}{|T|\,|G_\sigma : T|_{p'}} \equiv \frac{|x^C|\varepsilon_{C_C(x)}\varepsilon_T|C_C(x)|_p, s_1(x)}{|T|\,|C : T|_{p'}}.$$

Hence $\varepsilon_{C_{G_\sigma}(x)}|G_\sigma : C_{G_\sigma}(x)|_p s(x) \equiv \varepsilon_{C_C(x)}|C : C_C(x)|_p s_1(x)$. Corollary 6.5.7 of [**2**] and Proposition 2.2 assert that $\varepsilon_{C_{G_\sigma}(x)} = \varepsilon_{C_C}(x)$ for all r'-elements $x \in T$. Let $C_1 = C_{W(T)}(x)$, and $W_1 = W(T)$. Then

$$\tilde{s}(x) = \frac{1}{|C_1|} \sum_{w \in W_1} \hat{s}(wxw^{-1}) \equiv s_1(x) = \frac{1}{|C|} \sum_{w \in W} \hat{s}_1(wxw^{-1}).$$

Since $(|T/D|, r) = 1$, and D is in the kernel of s and s_1, it follows that $\hat{s}$ and $\hat{s}_1$ are $W(T)$-conjugate. Hence θ and θ_1 are $N_{G_\sigma}(D)$-conjugate, because $W(T) = N_{G_\sigma}(D)/C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ by Proposition 1.2. Therefore $B = B_1$. Let $t = |C_W(s)|$. Then t is

the inertial index of B, and it follows from Dade's theorem [7, p. 177] that the $(|D|-1)t^{-1}$ irreducible characters χ_{sy}, $1 \neq y \in D$, are the exceptional characters of B.

If s is regular in G_σ, then $\chi_s = \varepsilon_T R_{T,\hat{s}}$ is an irreducible character of G_σ, which by the previous argument belongs to B. By Lemma 3.4 $t = 1$. Hence by Dade's theorem χ_s is the only nonexceptional character of B.

Suppose that s is not regular. Let $e = 1$. Then $T = T_2$ and $s \in \{s_{10}, s_9\}$ by the proof of (b). B has inertial index $t = 2$ by Lemma 3.4. Let $s = s_{10}$. Then by Theorem 4.3

$$\chi_{s,1} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{2,10} + R_{6,10}), \quad \chi_{s,\mathrm{St}} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{2,10} - R_{6,10}).$$

Using Proposition 2.2 and Tables 3.6 and 4.4 it follows that $|x^{G_\sigma}|R_{6,10}(x)/\chi_{s,u}(1) \equiv 0 \mod \pi R$ for every r'-element x of G_σ. Let $1 \neq y \in D$. Then χ_{sy} belongs to B. Since $e = 1$, $v = \chi_{sy}(1)/2\chi_{s,u}(1) \equiv 1 \mod \pi R$ by Table 4.4. $\chi_{sy}(x) = -R_{2,s}(x)$ for every r'-element $x \in G_\sigma$ by Theorem 4.3 and Lemma 5.5. Hence

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{s,u}(x)}{\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|[-R_{2,s}(x)]}{2\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv v\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{sy}(x)}{\chi_{sy}(1)} \equiv \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{sy}(x)}{\chi_{sy}(1)}.$$

Therefore $\chi_{10,1}$ and $\chi_{10,\mathrm{St}}$ are the two nonexceptional characters of B. Now let $s = s_9$. Then by Theorem 4.3

$$\chi_{s,1} = -\tfrac{1}{6}(R_{6,9} + 3R_{2,9} + 2R_{4,9}), \qquad \chi_{s,\mathrm{St}} = \tfrac{1}{6}(R_{6,9} - 3R_{2,9} + 2R_{4,9}).$$

Using Proposition 2.2 and Tables 3.6 and 4.4 it follows that

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|R_{6,9}(x)}{\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv 0 \equiv \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|R_{4,9}(x)}{\chi_{s,u}(1)} \mod \pi R$$

for every r'-element x of G_σ. Applying the above argument again we see that $\chi_{9,1}$ and $\chi_{9,\mathrm{St}}$ are the nonexceptional characters of B.

Let $e = 3$. Then $T = T_1$ and $s = s_7$ by the proof of b). Now

$$\chi_{s,1} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{1,7} + R_{6,7}), \qquad \chi_{s,\mathrm{St}} = -\tfrac{1}{2}(R_{1,7} - R_{6,7})$$

by Theorem 4.3. Using Proposition 2.2 and Tables 3.6 and 4.4 it follows that for every r'-element $x \in G_\sigma$

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|R_{6,7}(x)}{\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv 0 \mod \pi R.$$

Let $1 \neq y \in D$. Then χ_{sy} belongs to B. Since $e = 3$,

$$v = \frac{\chi_{sy}(1)}{2\chi_{s,u}(1)} = \frac{q^3+1}{2q^n} \equiv 1 \mod \pi R$$

by Table 4.4, where $n \in \{0, 3\}$. From Theorem 4.3 and Lemma 5.5 follows that $\chi_{sy}(x) = -R_{1,s}(x)$ for every r'-element x of G_σ. Hence

$$\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{s,u}(x)}{\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|[-R_{1,s}(x)]}{2\chi_{s,u}(1)} \equiv v\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{sy}(x)}{\chi_{sy}(1)} \equiv \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{sy}(x)}{\chi_{sy}(1)}.$$

Therefore χ_7 and $\chi_{7,\mathrm{St}}$ are the two nonexceptional characters of B.

Replacing q by $-q$ the cases $e = 2, 6$ follow from the cases $e = 1,3$, respectively.

Let β be the r-block of $C_{G_\sigma}(s)$ containing the unipotent characters $\hat{s}\chi_u$ corresponding to $\chi_{s,u}$ of B. Then $B = \beta^{G_\sigma}$ by [7, p. 136], because the linear character $\hat{s}$ of $T = C_{G_\sigma}(s) \cap C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ is the canonical character of β. Hence (d) holds.

Finally let B be the principal r-block. Then D is the Sylow r-subgroup of the Coxeter torus T_5. Therefore every element $1 \neq y \in D$ is regular by Propositions 2.1 and 2.2, and B has inertial index $t = 4$ by Proposition 1.2. Hence B has $\frac{1}{4}(|D| - 1)$ irreducible nonexceptional characters χ_y with $1 \neq y \in D$ by Lemma 5.5 and the proof of (b). Furthermore, the following 4 unipotent irreducible characters 1, St, ρ_1 and ${}^3D_4[-1]$ belong to B by Table 4.4. Hence by Dade's theorem we have found all the characters of B. This completes the proof.

LEMMA 5.7. *Let $r \notin \{p, 2, 3\}$, and let B be an r-block of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ with a noncyclic defect group D. Let $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D)$. Then:*

(a) *$C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ is a maximal torus of G_σ.*

(b) *Up to G_σ-conjugacy there exists a unique r'-element $s \in T$ and a root b of B in $C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ such that the linear character $\hat{s}$ of T is the canonical character of B.*

(c) *Let $W(T)$ be the Weyl group of T. Then the inertial subgroup $T_H(b) = T(D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s))$, where $D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)$ denotes the split extension of D by $C_{W(T)}(s)$ induced by the action of $W(T)$ on T.*

(d) *If B_1 is the Brauer correspondent of B in H, then its r-adic block ideal $\hat{B}_1$ is Morita equivalent to the group algebra $R[D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)]$, and $k(B_1) = k_0(B_1) = k(S[DC_{W(T)}(s)]) \leqslant |D|$.*

PROOF. (a) As D is not cyclic, Lemma 5.2 asserts that D is an abelian Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ. By Corollary 5.19 of [**1**, p. 212] and Proposition 2.2, $C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ is a maximal torus of G_σ.

(b) Let the r-block b of $C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ be a root of B, and let $\Theta \in \mathrm{Irr}_S(b)$ be the canonical character of B. Certainly Θ is a linear character of T. As $D \subseteq \ker_\Theta$ there is up to H-conjugacy a unique element s of T such that $\Theta = \hat{s} \in \mathrm{Irr}_S(T)$. As $r \nmid |T:D|$, s is clearly an r'-element. Furthermore, $\mathrm{Irr}_S(b) = \{\widehat{sy} \mid y \in D\}$.

(c) The inertial subgroups of b and χ are given by

$$T_H(b) = T_H(\Theta) = T\big(D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)\big),$$

because $W(T) = N_{G_\sigma}(T)/T = N_{G_\sigma}(D)/T$. Since $r \notin \{2, 3, p\}$, it follows from Proposition 1.2 and the lemma of Schur and Zassenhaus that $D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)$ is the split extension of D by $C_{W(T)}(s)$ induced by the action of $W(T)$ on T.

(d) Let $B' = b^{T_H(b)}$ be the block of $T_H(b)$ with the same block idempotent as b, and let $\hat{B}$ be its r-adic block ideal. If $\hat{B}_1$ denotes the r-adic block ideal of the Brauer correspondent B_1 of B in H, then by Theorem 2.5 of [7, p. 197], the algebras $\hat{B}$ and $\hat{B}_1$ are Morita equivalent, and $k(B') = k(B_1)$, $k_0(B') = k_0(B_1)$.

It is easy to see that $\hat{B}' \simeq R[D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)]$. By Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5 $|C_{W(T)}(s)|$ divides 24. As D is abelian and $r \notin \{2, 3\}$, it follows that

$$k(B') = k_0(B') = k\big(S\big[D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)\big]\big).$$

Hence $k(B_1) = k_0(B_1) \leqslant |D|$, the latter inequality follows by application of Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5 and the structure of the group algebra $S[D \cdot C_{W(T)}(s)]$.

PROPOSITION 5.8. *Let B be an r-block of G_σ with a noncyclic abelian defect group $\delta(B) = {}_{G_\sigma}D$. Then the following assertions hold*:

(a) *$C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ is a maximal torus of G_σ, and D is a Sylow r-subgroup of T.*

(b) *Up to G_σ-conjugacy there exists a unique r'-element $s \in T$ and a root b of B in $C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$ such that the linear character $\hat{s}$ of T is the canonical character of B.*

(c) *If $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D)$, and $T_H(b)$ denotes the inertial subgroup of b in H, then $T_H(b)/T \simeq C_{W(T)}(s)$, where $W(T) = N_{G_\sigma}(T)/T$.*

(d) *An irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B if and only if $t \sim_{G_\sigma} sy$ for some $y \in D$, and χ_u is a unipotent irreducible character of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ such that $\widehat{sy}\chi_u$ belongs to an r-block β of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with $B = \beta^{G_\sigma}$.*

(e) *B is the principal r-block of G_σ if and only if $s = 1$ and $r \geqslant 5$.*

(f) *The number $l(B)$ of modular irreducible characters of B equals the number of unipotent irreducible characters of $C_{G_\sigma}(s)$, provided $s \neq 1$.*

PROOF. By Humphreys' theorem [**10**] $r \nmid q$. If $r \neq 3$, then assertions (a), (b), and (c) hold by Proposition 5.3 and Lemmas 5.7 and 5.2.

Let $r = 3$. Then by Lemma 5.4 D is a Sylow 3-subgroup of a maximal torus T of G_σ. As D is not cyclic, T is isomorphic to T_0, T_3, T_4, or T_6 by Proposition 1.2. From Corollary 5.19 of [**1**, p. 212], and Proposition 2.2 it follows that $C_{G_\sigma}(D) = T$. Thus (a) holds, and (b) can now be shown as in Lemma 5.7. If $\hat{s} \in \hat{T}$ denotes the canonical character of B, then $T_H(b) = T_H(\hat{s}) = \{h \in H \mid s^h = s\}$. Hence (c) holds also for $p = 3$.

(e) is a consequence of (b) and Brauer's third main theorem, because by Propositions 5.3 and 5.4 we may assume that $r \geqslant 5$.

(d) Fix $s \in T = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ such that its corresponding linear character $\hat{s}$ of T is the canonical character of a block b of $C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ satisfying $B = b^{G_\sigma}$. Then s is uniquely determined by B up to G_σ-conjugation and $\mathrm{Irr}_S(b) = \{\widehat{sy} \mid y \in D\}$. Furthermore, $D \leqslant \ker \hat{s}$.

Let $\mathscr{H}$ be the Brauer homomorphism with respect to D from ZFG_σ into $ZFC_{G_\sigma}(D)$. As $T = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$ and $B = b^{G_\sigma}$, Brauer's extended first main theorem implies that on each r-regular conjugacy class x^{G_σ} of G_σ with defect group D the central linear character λ of B agrees with $\tau(x) = 1/|C_{\overline{H}}(x)|\sum_{w \in \overline{H}} \hat{s}(wxw^{-1})$, where $\overline{H} = H/T$. Since by (a) D is a Sylow r-subgroup of T it follows from Proposition 1.2 that $W(T) = H/T$. Using now the notation introduced before Table 3.6 we obtain $\tau(x) = \mathscr{N}_{T,\hat{s}}(x)$. Therefore by [**7**, p. 144], an irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B if and only if

$$(*) \qquad \frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{t,u}(x)}{\chi_{t,u}(1)} \equiv \mathscr{N}_{T,\hat{s}}(x) \bmod \pi R \text{ for every } r'\text{-element } x \text{ of } T$$

with defect group D.

Suppose that the irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B. If $f = f^2 \neq 0$ denotes the block idempotent of B, then $\lambda(f) = 1 \in F$. By Lemma 7.2 of [**7**, p. 179] f is a linear combination of r-regular class sums of G_σ. Therefore $\chi_{t,u} \neq 0$ for some

r'-element x. Hence $t \in T$ (up to G_σ-conjugacy) by Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 4.3. Let $t = zy = yz$, where $z \in T$ is r-regular and $y \in D$. By Lemma 5.5, $R_{T,\widehat{zy}}$ and $R_{T,\hat{z}}$ agree on all r'-elements $x \in G_\sigma$, and D is in the kernel of $\hat{z} \in \hat{T}$.

As $q \neq 2$, we obtain from Theorem 4.3, Table 3.6, and Lemma 3.4 that for all unipotent irreducible characters χ_u in $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$ and all r'-elements $x \in T$ the following consequences hold mod πR.

$$\chi_{t,u}(1) \equiv \varepsilon_{C(t)} \frac{1}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|} \varepsilon_T R_{T,\hat{t}}(1) = \frac{|G_\sigma : T|_{p'}}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|},$$

$$\chi_{t,u}(x) \equiv \frac{\varepsilon_{C(t)}\varepsilon_T}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|} R_{T,\hat{t}}(x).$$

Here we denote $C_{G_\sigma}(t)$ and $C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ by $C(t)$ and $C(x)$, respectively. Hence, using Lemma 3.2, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{|x^{G_\sigma}|\chi_{t,u}(x)}{\chi_{t,u}(1)} &\equiv \frac{|G_\sigma : C(x)|\varepsilon_{C(t)}\varepsilon_T R_{T,\hat{t}}(x)|C_{W(T)}(t)|}{|C_{W(T)}(t)|\,|G_\sigma : T|_{p'}} \\
&\equiv \frac{|G_\sigma : C(x)|_p \varepsilon_{C(t)}\varepsilon_T R_{T,\hat{t}}(x)}{|C(x) : T|_{p'}} \\
&\equiv \frac{|G_\sigma : C(x)|_p \varepsilon_{C(t)}\varepsilon_{C(x)}|C(x)|_{p'}\mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{t}}(x)}{|C(x) : T|_{p'}|T|} \\
&\equiv \frac{|G_\sigma : C(x)|_p}{|T|_p}\varepsilon_{C(X)}\varepsilon_{C(t)}\mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{t}}(x) \\
&\equiv \mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{t}}(x)
\end{aligned}$$

because $T \in \{T_0, T_3, T_4, T_6\}$, and therefore $\varepsilon_{C(x)}\varepsilon_{C(t)} = 1$, by Proposition 2.2. Since the right-hand side is independent of the unipotent irreducible character χ_u of $C(t)$, it follows that χ_{t,u_1} and χ_{t,u_2} belong to the same r-block B of G_σ, whenever χ_{u_1} and χ_{u_2} are two unipotent irreducible characters of $C(t)$. Furthermore, $\mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{t}}(x) \equiv \mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{z}}(x)$, because $R_{T,\hat{t}} = R_{T,\widehat{zy}}$ and $R_{T,\hat{z}}$ agree on all r'-elements $x \in T$. Now $\chi_{t,u} \in B$ implies that $\mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{z}}(x) \equiv \mathcal{N}_{T,\hat{x}}(x) \bmod \pi R$. Since D is in the kernels of $\hat{s}$ and $\hat{z}$, and since D is the Sylow r-subgroup of T, it follows that z and s are $W(t)$-conjugate.

For every fixed G_σ-conjugacy class y^{G_σ} of G_σ meeting D let $sy_{G_\sigma} = \{\chi_{sy,u}\}$, where χ_u runs through all the unipotent irreducible characters of $C = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$, and where $\hat{s}$ denotes the canonical character of the root b of B in $T = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. Observe that by Proposition 2.2 $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ does not contain any unipotent irreducible characters χ_u if and only if sy is a regular element of T; in this case $(sy)_{G_\sigma}$ consists only of the irreducible character $\chi_{sy} = \pm R_{T,\widehat{sy}}$ of G_σ. The above argument with zy replaced by sy shows that for a fixed sy all $\chi_{sy,u} \in \mathrm{Irr}_S(B)$, where χ_u runs through all unipotent irreducible characters of $C = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$. Thus we have shown that $\mathrm{Irr}_S(B) = \bigcup_{y \in G_\sigma D} (sy)_{G_\sigma}$.

Let y be a representation of a conjugacy class y^{G_σ} with $y^{G_\sigma} \cap D \neq \varnothing$. If sy is not regular, then Proposition 2.2 and the character tables of [**6** and **13**] imply that all unipotent irreducible characters χ_u of $C = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ belong to the principal r-block of C. Hence the irreducible characters $\chi_u sy$ of C belong to an r-block β of C with root b in $T = C_C(D)$, because $\hat{s}$ is a canonical character of β. In particular, $B = \beta^{G_\sigma}$ by Brauer's extended first main theorem. If sy is regular, then $b = \{sy \mid y \in D\} = \beta$ and $C_{G_\sigma}(sy) = T$. Hence $B = \beta^{G_\sigma}$. This completes the proof of (d).

(f) By (d) we know that B determines up to G_σ-conjugacy a unique r'-element $s \neq 1$ of G_σ representing the canonical character $\hat{s}$ of B in $T = C_{G_\sigma}(D)$. The number of G_σ-conjugacy classes of maximal tori T_i containing s equals by Proposition 2.2 the number $|s_{G_\sigma}|$ of unipotent irreducible characters χ_u of $C_{G_\sigma}(s)$. By Lemma 5.5 and Theorem 4.3 each irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of B restricted to the r'-elements is a linear combination of the $R_{T_i,s}$. Hence $l(B) = |s_{G_\sigma}|$.

THEOREM 5.9. *Let B be an r-block of $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(g)$ with defect group $\delta(B) = {}_{G_\sigma}D \neq 1$, where the prime r does not divide q. Then the following assertions hold*:

(a) *$C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D)$ contains a maximal torus T such that $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D) \leqslant N_{G_\sigma}(T)$.*

(b) *Up to G_σ-conjugacy there exists a unique r'-element $s \in T$ and a root b of B in $C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D)$ such that the linear character $\hat{s}$ of T is the canonical character of B.*

(c) *If $T_H(b)$ denotes the inertial subgroup of b in H, then $T_H(b)/C \simeq C_{W(T)}(s)$, where $W(T) = N_{G_\sigma}(T)/T$.*

(d) *B is the principal r-block of G_σ if and only if $s = 1$ and D is a Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ.*

(e) *An irreducible character $\chi_{t,u}$ of G_σ belongs to B if and only if $t \sim_{G_\sigma} sy$ for some $y \in D$, and χ_u is a unipotent irreducible character of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ such that $sy\chi_u$ belongs to an r-block β of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with $B = \beta^G$.*

(f) *The number $l(B)$ of modular irreducible characters of B equals the number of unipotent irreducible characters of $C_{G_\sigma}(S)$, provided $s \neq 1$.*

PROOF. If the defect group D of B is cyclic or abelian, then all assertions hold by Propositions 5.6 and 5.8. Hence we may assume that D is not abelian. Thus $r \in \{2, 3\}$ by Lemma 5.2. The proof of (f) is the same as in Proposition 5.8.

Suppose that $r = 3$, and that $3 \mid q - 1$. Then $q \neq 2$. By Proposition 5.4 D is a Sylow 3-subgroup of G_σ. Theorem 9.2 of [**7**, p. 231] asserts that there is a central element $1 \neq x \in D$ of order 3 and a 3-block b_1 of $C_1 = C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ such that $B = b_1^{G_\sigma}$, and b_1 has defect group $\delta(b) = D$. From Proposition 2.2 and the proof of Proposition 5.4 it follows that $C_1 = U \times Z$, where Z is a cyclic group of order $k = \frac{1}{3}(q^2 + q + 1)$, and where U is a nonsplit extension of $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ by a cyclic group C_1/C_1' of order 3. In particular, each block b_1 is of the form $b_1 = b_0 \otimes z$, where z denotes a 3-block of defect zero of Z, and b_0 denotes the principal 3-block of U. Because of the structure of C_1 we have $C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D) \leqslant C_1$, and C contains a maximal torus $T \geqslant Z$ such that $T =_{G_\sigma} T_0$, as $3 \mid q - 1$. Now D normalizes T by Corollary 5.19 of [**1**, p. 212]. Since $D \cap T$ is a Sylow 3-subgroup of T and also the largest abelian normal subgroup of D, it follows from Propositions 1.2 and 2.2 that $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D) \leqslant N_{G_\sigma}(T)$.

The 3-block z of Z consists of one linear character $\hat{s}$ of $\hat{T}$, because $Z \leqslant T$. As $Z \leqslant C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D_1) \leqslant C_1$ and $b_1 = b_0 \otimes z$, it follows from Brauer's extended first main theorem that $\hat{s}$ is the canonical character of a common root block b of B and b_1 in C. Certainly

$$T_H(b) = \left\{ h \in N_{G_\sigma}(D) \mid s^h = s \right\} = \left\{ h \in N_{G_\sigma}(T) \mid s^h = s \right\}$$

by Proposition 1.2. Therefore $T_H(b)/C \simeq C_{W(T)}(s)$.

Since $b_1 = b_0 \otimes z$, and $z = \{\hat{s}\}$, it follows from Brauer's third main theorem that $B = B_0$ is the principal 3-block of G_σ if and only if $s = 1$ and D is a Sylow 3-subgroup of G_σ.

As shown in the proof of Proposition 5.4, the cyclic group C_1/C_1' of order 3 acts trivially on Z. Thus $y \in C_{G_\sigma}(s)$ for every $y \in D$.

Let χ_u be a fixed unipotent irreducible character of $C_y = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$. Now $D \cap T'$ is a Sylow 3-subgroup of T' for every maximal torus $T' \subseteq C_y$ containing sy. Therefore the irreducible characters $\chi_{sy,u}$ of G_σ agree on all 3′-conjugacy classes of G_σ by the proof of Lemma 5.5 and Theorem 4.3, because $D \cap T' \subseteq \ker \hat{s}$ and $s \in T'$. Hence Osima's theorem and Lemma 4.2 of [7, p. 150], imply that all $\chi_{sy,u}$ with $y \in D$ belong to the same 3-block B' of G_σ. By Proposition 2.2 the unipotent irreducible characters χ_u of C_y belong to the principal 3-block b_0^* of C_y. Hence by the structure of C_y the irreducible characters $\widehat{sy}\chi_u$ belong to one 3-block b_y of $C_y = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with defect group $D_2 = D \cap C_y$ and canonical character $\hat{s}$. As $C_{C_y}(D_2) \subseteq C_y$, Lemma 6.1 of [7, p. 209] asserts the existence of $(b_y)^{G_\sigma}$, and $B = (b_y)^{G_\sigma}$ by Brauer's extended first main theorem, because both blocks have the same canonical character. Applying now the proof of Proposition 5.8(d) we see that $B' = B$. Hence all irreducible characters $\chi_{sy,u}$ of G_σ such that $\widehat{sy}\chi_u$ belongs to a 3-block b_y of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ with $(b_y)^{G_\sigma} = B$ are contained in B.

As $3 \mid q - 1$, it follows from Theorem 4.3 and Table 4.4 that B_0 contains the unipotent irreducible characters

$$U(B_0) = \left\{1, [\varepsilon_1], [\varepsilon_2], \mathrm{St}, \rho_1, \rho_2, {}^3D_4[1]\right\}.$$

Since the order of the Sylow 3-subgroup P divides the degree of ${}^3D_4[-1]$, this unipotent irreducible character belongs to a 3-block of G_σ with defect zero. Hence all other 3-blocks of G_σ with positive defect are not unipotent.

For every fixed G_σ-conjugacy class y^{G_σ} of G_σ meeting D let $sy_{G_\sigma} = \{\chi_{sy,u}\}$, where χ_u runs through all the unipotent irreducible characters of $C_y = C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$. Let $y_1 = 1$, $y_2, \ldots, y_t$ be representatives of these conjugacy classes of 3-elements. As no y_i is conjugate to the involution s_2 it follows from Proposition 2.2 that $C_{y_i} = C_{G_\sigma}(sy_i) = C_{G_\sigma}(y_i)$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots, t$ provided sy_i is of type s_4 or s_5 and $s \neq 1$ or $s = 1$ and y_i is of type s_3, s_4, or s_5. In particular, the irreducible characters $\widehat{sy_i}\chi_u$ of C_{y_i} belong to one 3-block b_{y_i} of $C_{y_i} = C_{G_\sigma}(y_i) = C_G(sy_i)$ with $B = (b_{y_i})^{G_\sigma}$, and the number of 3-modular characters of b_{y_i} is $l(b_{y_i}) = |(sy_i)_{G_\sigma}|$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots, t$, because no sy_i is regular by Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 and Table 4.4. An application of Theorem 68.4

of [**6**] now yields that the number of ordinary irreducible characters of B is

$$k(B) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} l(b_{y_i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} |(sy_i)_{G_\sigma}|.$$

This completes the proof of (e) in the case $r = 3$ and $3 \mid q - 1$.

If $3 \mid q + 1$, then s_3, s_4, and s_5 are replaced by the representatives s_7, s_9, and s_{10}, respectively. Furthermore, it follows from Theorem 4.3 and Table 4.4 that the principal 3-block B_0 contains the unipotent irreducible characters $U(B_0) = \{1, [\varepsilon_1], [\varepsilon_2], \mathrm{St}, \rho_2, {}^3D_4[-1], {}^3D_4[1]\}$, and in this case ρ_1 is of defect zero. With these changes the above argument applies in this case. Hence Theorem 5.9 holds for $r = 3$.

So we may assume that $r = 2$, and q is odd. With the notation of Proposition 5.3 it follows that D is one of the 2-groups P, $S*Z$, or S, where P is a Sylow 2-subgroup of G_σ, S is a semidihedral group of order $|S| = 2^{a+2}$ and Z is a cyclic group of order $|Z| = 2^a$. Furthermore, by Propositions 1.2, 2.1, and 5.3 we may assume that $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$, because the case $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$ follows similarly.

Suppose that D is a semidihedral group of order $|D| = 2^{a+2}$, where 2^a is the highest power of 2 dividing $q - 1$. As D is a defect group of the 2-block B, Theorem 3.15 of [**12**] and the proof of Proposition 5.3 imply that $k(B) = 2^a + 4$, $k_0(B) = 4$, $k_1(B) = 2^a - 1$ and $k_v(B) = 1$, where $k_i(B)$ denotes the number of irreducible characters of B with highest i, and where $v = 2^a$. By Theorem 9.2 of [**7**, p. 231], there is a central element $1 \neq x \in D$ and a 2-block b_1 of $C_1 = C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ such that $B = b_1^{G_\sigma}$ and D is a defect group of b_1. Again by the proof of Proposition 5.3 we may assume that x is either of type s_7 or s_{10}. Let x be of type s_7. Then by Propositions 1.2 and 2.1 C_1 contains a maximal torus $T_1 \simeq \mathbf{Z}_{(q^3-1)(q+1)}$ such that $C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D) \geqslant T_1$. Furthermore, there exists up to G_σ-conjugacy a unique element $s \in T_1$ of odd order dividing $q + 1$ such that the linear character $\hat{s}$ of T_1 is the canonical character of a common root block b of C of the blocks B and b_1. Each irreducible character $\chi_{sy,u}$ of G_σ with $y \in D$ belongs to B by the proof of Proposition 5.8(d), Lemma 5.5, and Theorem 4.3. The center $Z(D)$ of D has order 4. Applying Propositions 1.2 and 2.2 and Lemma 3.4 we see that there are two conjugacy classes of G_σ of the form sy with $y \in Z(D)$. As D is a Sylow 2-subgroup of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$ for $y \in Z(D)$ it follows from Proposition 2.2 and Table 4.4 that each of the four irreducible characters $\chi_{sy,u}$ with $y \in Z(D)$ has height zero. Since $k_0(B) = 4$, all other irreducible characters of B have positive height. By Proposition 1.2 T_1 has a cyclic Sylow 2-subgroup $\langle y \rangle$ of order 2^{a+1}. Therefore $y^i \notin Z(D)$ for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant 2^a - 1$. Proposition 2.1 and Table 4.4 assert that each element sy^i of T_1 is regular. Thus each irreducible character χ_{sy^i}, $1 \leqslant i \leqslant 2^a - 1$, of B has height 1 by Table 4.4. As $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$ the Sylow 2-subgroup of the maximal torus T_6 of G_σ is a Klein four group by Proposition 1.2. Applying again Table 4.4 and Proposition 2.1, we see that there is a $y \in D$ such that sy is a regular element of T_6. Hence χ_{sy} is an irreducible character of B with height $v = 2^a$. Therefore we have found all irreducible characters of B. Replacing T_1 and s_7 by T_2 and s_{10}, respectively, the remaining case is proved similarly. Hence all assertions (a)–(e) hold for blocks B of G_σ with a semidihedral defect group D, because the same arguments hold in the case $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$.

Suppose that $D \simeq S * Z$, where S is a semidihedral group of order $|S| = 2^{a+2}$ and Z is a cyclic group of order $|Z| = 2^a$. Let $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$. By Theorem 9.2 of [**7**, p. 231], there is a central element $1 \neq x \in D$ and a 2-block b_1 of $C_1 = C_{G_\sigma}(x)$ such that $B = b_1^{G_\sigma}$ and D is a defect group of b_1. Again by proof of Proposition 5.3 we may assume that x is either of type s_3 or s_5. In both cases it follows that C_1 contains a maximal torus $T_0 \simeq Z_{q^3-1} \times Z_{q-1}$ such that $C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D) \geqslant T_0$. Let x be of type s_3, and let b be a root of B and therefore of b_1 in C. Then there exists up to G_σ-conjugacy a unique element $s \in T_0$ of odd order dividing $q-1$ and of type s_3 such that the linear character $\hat{s}$ of T_0 is the canonical character of B. Applying again Lemma 5.5, Theorem 4.3, and the proof of Proposition 5.8(d) it follows that each irreducible character $\chi_{sy,u}$ of G_σ with $y \in D$ belongs to B. Using now Proposition 2.2 and Theorem 68.4 of [**6**] as in the case $r = 3$ it follows that we have found all irreducible characters of B. The remaining cases $x \sim_{G_\sigma} s_5$ and $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$ are dealt with similarly.

By Proposition 5.3 only the principal 2-block B_0 of G_σ has a Sylow 2-subgroup P as a defect group. Furthermore, the above argument shows that each irreducible character $\chi_{y,u}$ with $y \in P$ belongs to B_0. Therefore all unipotent irreducible characters of G_σ are contained in B_0. This completes the proof of Theorem 5.9.

As a first application of Theorem 5.9 we verify Brauer's height zero conjecture in the case of the simple triality groups $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$.

COROLLARY 5.10. *Let B be an r-block of G with defect group D. Then every irreducible character χ of G_σ belonging to B has height zero if and only if D is abelian.*

PROOF. If $r \mid q$, then by Humphreys [**10**] we may assume that $B = B_0$, the principal r-block of G_σ. The Sylow r-subgroup of G_σ has order q^{12} and is not abelian. By Table 4.4, B_0 has unipotent irreducible characters of positive height. So we may suppose that $r \nmid q$.

By Lemma 5.2 and Propositions 5.3 and 5.4 the r-block B has an abelian defect group D if and only if D is a Sylow r-subgroup of a maximal torus T of G_σ. Hence, if D is abelian, then Theorem 5.9 and Table 4.4 imply that all irreducible characters of B have height zero. Suppose that D is not abelian. Then $r \in \{2, 3\}$ by Lemma 5.2. By Theorem 5.9(a) and (b) $C = DC_{G_\sigma}(D)$ contains a maximal torus T of G_σ such that there is up to G_σ-conjugacy a unique r'-element $s \in T$ which corresponds to the canonical character of B. In the proof of Theorem 5.9(e) we have shown that for every $y \in D$ which is not G_σ-conjugate to a central element of D the irreducible characters $\chi_{sy,u}$ of B have positive height. This completes the proof.

Brauer's conjecture on the number $k(B)$ of irreducible characters of an r-block B of G_σ follows also.

COROLLARY 5.11. *Let B be an r-block of G_σ with defect group D. Then $k(B) \leqslant |D|$.*

PROOF. Since $k(B) = 1$ for every r-block of defect zero, we may assume that $|D| \neq 1$.

If $r \mid q$, then B is the principal block of G_σ by [**10**], and

$$k(B) = \begin{cases} q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 4, & \text{if } 2 \mid q, \\ q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 5, & \text{if } 2 \nmid q, \end{cases}$$

by Proposition 2.3. As $|D| = q^{12}$, we get $k(B) \leqslant |D|$.

Suppose that $r \nmid q$. If D is abelian, then D is a Sylow r-subgroup of a maximal torus T of G_σ by Lemma 5.2, Proposition 5.3, and Proposition 5.4. Therefore Proposition 1.2 asserts that D can be generated by one or two elements. Thus $k(B) \leqslant |D|$ by Theorem 10.13 of [**7**, p. 316].

If D is nonabelian, then $r \in \{2, 3\}$ by Lemma 5.2. Let $r = 3$. Then $3 \nmid q$, and D is a Sylow 3-subgroup of G_σ by Proposition 5.4. Suppose that 3^a is the highest power of 3 dividing $q - 1$. By Theorem 5.9 there is a semisimple $3'$-element s of G_σ such that each irreducible character χ of B is of the form $\chi = \chi_{sy,u}$, where y is G_σ-conjugate to an element of D, and where χ_u is a unipotent irreducible character of $C_{G_\sigma}(sy)$. Furthermore, $B = B_0$ if and only if $s = 1$. Since by the proof of Theorem 5.9 the principal 3-block B_0 has 7 unipotent irreducible characters, it follows from Proposition 2.2 and Theorem 5.9(e) that

$$k(B) = \begin{cases} 6 + 4 \cdot 3^a, & \text{if } s \neq 1, \\ 10 + 4 \cdot 3^a, & \text{if } s = 1. \end{cases}$$

In any case $k(B) \leqslant 3^{2+2a} = |D|$. The same argument applies, if $3 \mid q + 1$.

Let $r = 2$. Then $2 \nmid q$, and $D \in \{P, S * Z, S\}$ by Proposition 5.3, where P is a Sylow 2-subgroup of G_σ of order $|P| = 2^{2+2a}$, S is a semidihedral group of order $|S| = 2^{a+2}$, and Z is a cyclic group of order $|Z| = 2^a$, and where 2^a is the highest power of 2 dividing $q - 1$ or $q + 1$. Furthermore, the principal 2-block B_0 is the only 2-block of highest defect, and it has 8 unipotent irreducible characters by the proof of Theorem 5.9(e). Another application of Proposition 2.2, Table 4.4, and Theorem 5.9(e) yields that for $2^a \mid q - 1$

$$k(B) = \begin{cases} 14 + 2^a & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} P \text{ and } q = 3, \\ 14 + 2^{a+1} & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} P \text{ and } q \neq 3, \\ 2 + 2^{a+1} & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} S * Z, \\ 4 + 2^a & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} S. \end{cases}$$

Hence $k(B) \leqslant |D|$ in any of these cases. If $2^a \mid q + 1$, then the assertion follows by a similar count for $k(B)$. This completes the proof.

We also can verify the Alperin-McKay conjecture for the simple triality groups.

COROLLARY 5.12. *Let B be an r-block with defect group D of G_σ. Let B_1 be the Brauer correspondent of B in $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D)$. Then $k_0(B) = k_0(B_1)$.*

PROOF. If $r = p \mid q$, then by [**9**] $k_0(B) = k_0(B_1)$, as was pointed out by Feit [**7**, p. 171].

Let $r \nmid q$. If D is abelian, then $k(B) = k_0(B)$ by Corollary 5.10. Furthermore, $k(B) = k(B_1)$ by Propositions 5.6 and 5.8 and Lemmas 3.4 it and 3.5. Using the proof of Lemma 5.7 it follows that $k_0(B_1) = k(B)$. Hence $k_0(B) = k_0(B_1)$.

Let D be nonabelian. If $r = 2$, then by the proof of Theorem 5.9 and Corollary 5.10 it follows (with the notation of Proposition 5.3) that

$$k_0(B) = k_0(B_1) = \begin{cases} 8 & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} P, \\ |Z| & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} S * Z, \\ 4 & \text{if } D =_{G_\sigma} S. \end{cases}$$

So we may assume that $r = 3$. As D is not abelian, it is a Sylow 3-subgroup of G_σ by Proposition 5.4.

If $q = 2$, then G_σ has only the principal 3-block B_0 as a 3-block of highest defect. By Table 4.4 and the proof of Theorem 5.9 the set of irreducible characters of B_0 with height zero is

$$\mathrm{Irr}^0(B_0) = \left\{1, [\varepsilon_1], [\varepsilon_2], \mathrm{St}, {}^3D_4[-1], {}^3D_4[1], \chi_{9,1}, \chi_{9,\mathrm{St}}, \chi_{9,qs'}\right\},$$

where s_9 denotes a representative of order 3. As $q = 2$ it follows from Proposition 1.2, Lemma 3.5, and Theorem 5.9 that $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D) = N_{G_\sigma}(T_6)$. Therefore $H = U_3(2)$ by Proposition 2.2. Let b_0 be the principal 3-block of H. Using the character table of Simpson and Frame [**1**] it follows that $\mathrm{Irr}^0(b_0) = \{1, 1_1, 1_2, 2, 2_2, 8, 8_1, 8_2\}$, where the irreducible characters of H with height zero are denoted by their degrees. As $B_1 = b_0$ by Brauer's third main theorem, we obtain that $k_0(B) = 9 = k_0(B_1)$.

Thus we may assume that $q > 2$. Hence either $3 \mid q - 1$ or $3 \mid q + 1$. Let $3 \mid q - 1$. Since the number of 3-blocks with highest defect equals the number of 3-regular conjugacy classes with highest defect, it follows from Table 4.4 and Proposition 2.2 that G_σ has the principal 3-block B_0 and $\frac{1}{3}(q^2 + q - 2)$ many nonunipotent 3-blocks B with defect group $\delta(B) = {}_{G_\sigma}D$. Let $B = B_0$. By the proof of Theorem 5.9

$$\mathrm{Irr}^0(B_0) = \left\{1, [\varepsilon_1], [\varepsilon_2], \mathrm{St}, \rho_1, \rho_1, \chi_{4,1}, \chi_{4,\mathrm{St}}, \chi_{4,qs'}\right\},$$

where s_4 denotes a representative of order 3. From Theorem 5.9, Proposition 1.2 and Lemma 3.4, it follows that $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D) = N_{G_\sigma}(T_0)$ and $H/T_0 \simeq D_{12}$. Using the action of D_{12} on T_0 it is easy to see that the Brauer correspondent B_1 of B_0 has $k_0(B_1) = k_0(b_0) = 9$. Thus $k_0(B_0) = 9 = k_0(B_1)$.

Now let B be a nonprincipal 3-block, and b its Brauer correspondent in $H = N_{G_\sigma}(D) = N_{G_\sigma}(T_0)$. Then $\mathrm{Irr}^0(B) = \{\chi_{4,1}, \chi_{4,\mathrm{St}}, \chi_{4,qs}\}$, where $s_4 = yc$ with y an element of order 3 in the center of $\mathrm{SL}_3(q)$ and $c \neq 1$ a fixed representative of $3'$-conjugacy class of the cyclic group $S_\sigma = \mathbf{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$ described in Proposition 2.2. Also b is determined by the conjugacy class c^H, as follows from Brauer's first main theorem. From Theorem 5.9(c) and Lemma 3.4 it follows that $k_0(b) = k_0(B)$.

The remaining case $3 \mid q + 1$ follows similarly, with q replaced by $(-q)$, which means replacing s_4 by s_9 and ρ_1, ρ_2 by ${}^3D_4[-1]$, ${}^3D_4[1]$, respectively. This completes the proof.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. Both authors gratefully acknowledge financial support by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft of the Federal Republic of Germany, grant no. 89/8-1, enabling the first author to visit Essen University in the summer term 1984.

The second author thanks the Mathematics Institute of the University of Crete for its great hospitality during his stay there in September and October 1983.

As mentioned in the introduction, the proof of Theorem 3.2 required the use of the computer. All computer work was done by Dr. G. Schneider of Essen University. Both authors are very indebted to him for his great help.

The authors also received a lot of advice from N. Spaltenstein, and they obtained from R. W. Carter a copy of P. C. Gager's unpublished thesis, who first proved Proposition 1.2 in a slightly weaker form. Thanks are given to both of them.

They also thank J. C. Jantzen for information about his student Schewe's work on the block distribution of the unipotent irreducible characters of the finite exceptional simple groups into r-blocks. In our case $G_\sigma = {}^3D_4(q)$ these results are consequences of Spaltenstein's paper [**14**].

Finally we would like to thank the referee for several very helpful and illuminating suggestions.

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