

1021-05-60

Richard P. Stanley*, Department of Mathematics 2-375, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA 02139. *A Conjectured Combinatorial Interpretation of the Normalized Irreducible Character Values of the Symmetric Group.*

Let χ^λ denote the irreducible (ordinary) character of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n indexed by the partition λ of n , and let $\chi^\lambda(\nu)$ denote the value of this character on a permutation of cycle type ν . Let μ be a partition of $k \leq n$, and let $(\mu, 1^{n-k})$ denote the partition of n obtained from μ by adjoining $n - k$ parts equal to 1. Regarding k as fixed, define the *normalized character*

$$\widehat{\chi}^\lambda(\mu, 1^{n-k}) = \frac{(n)_k \chi^\lambda(\mu, 1^{n-k})}{\chi^\lambda(1^n)},$$

where $\chi^\lambda(1^n)$ denotes the dimension of the character χ^λ and $(n)_k = n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1)$. We discuss a conjectured combinatorial formula for $\widehat{\chi}^\lambda(\mu, 1^{n-k})$ generalizing the theorem (*Sem. Lotharingien de Combinatoire* (electronic) **50** (2003), B50d) when the shape of λ is a rectangle. (Received August 16, 2006)