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22904. *The center of the symmetric group algebra and three generalizations.*

In a classical work, Farahat and Higman established fundamental properties for the center of the INTEGRAL symmetric group algebra which are closely related to Jucys-Murphy elements. We will explain three generalizations: (1) replace the symmetric group by a wreath product; (2) replace the symmetric group by its spin counterpart; (3) replace the symmetric group algebra by Hecke algebra. (Received August 23, 2010)