# COMPUTING IRREDUCIBLE REPRESENTATIONS OF SUPERSOLVABLE GROUPS OVER SMALL FINITE FIELDS 

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#### Abstract

We present an algorithm to compute a full set of irreducible representations of a supersolvable group $G$ over a finite field $K$, char $K \nmid|G|$, which is not assumed to be a splitting field of $G$. The main subroutines of our algorithm are a modification of the algorithm of Baum and Clausen (Math. Comp. 63 (1994), 351-359) to obtain information on algebraically conjugate representations, and an effective version of Speiser's generalization of Hilbert's Theorem 90 stating that $H^{1}(\operatorname{Gal}(L / K), \operatorname{GL}(n, L))$ vanishes for all $n \geq 1$.


## 1. Introduction and main results

Recently Baum and Clausen [1] published an efficient algorithm for computing the absolutely irreducible representations of a supersolvable group $G$ given in pcpresentation. The matrix representations their algorithm computes are adapted to a chief series $\mathcal{T}:=\left(G=G_{n}>G_{n-1}>\cdots>G_{0}=\{1\}\right)$, i.e., any such representation $D$ satisfies the following conditions: (1) the restriction $D \downarrow G_{j}$ of $D$ to $G_{j}$ is equal to a direct sum of irreducible matrix representations of $G_{j}$, and (2) equivalent irreducible constituents of $D \downarrow G_{j}$ are equal. The algorithm traverses the chief series $\mathcal{T}$ bottom-up and constructs in each step $j$ among other data a complete set of inequivalent absolutely irreducible representations of $G_{j}$. These representations are almost unique: if $L$ is a field containing a primitive $e$ th root of unity, $e$ being the exponent of $G$, and $D$ and $\Delta$ are two equivalent irreducible $\mathcal{T}$-adapted representations of $L G$ of degree $d$, say, then the intertwining space

$$
\operatorname{Int}(D, \Delta):=\left\{X \in L^{d \times d} \mid \forall g \in G: \quad X D(g)=\Delta(g) X\right\}
$$

is generated over $L$ by a monomial matrix (see [2, Theorem 7.4]).
Now let $K$ be a finite field, $G$ be a supersolvable group such that char $K \nmid$ $|G|, \mathcal{T}$ be a chief series of $G$, and $L$ be a finite extension of $K$ which contains a primitive eth root of unity. The Galois group $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$ acts on the irreducible matrix representations of $L G$ in a straightforward manner. In Section 2 we shall modify the algorithm of Baum and Clausen by collecting at each step information about the $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$-orbits of the representations constructed. We then employ the information obtained at level $n$ to compute realizations of direct sums of these representations over the field $K$. By a realization of a matrix representation $D$ of $L G$ over $K$ we mean a matrix $T \in \operatorname{GL}(d, L), d$ being the degree of $D$, such

[^0]that $T^{-1} D(g) T$ has entries in $K$ for all $g \in G$. Not every representation has a realization over $K$. Even more, if $K$ is a prime field, $\chi$ denotes the character of $D$, and $K(\chi):=K(\chi(g) \mid g \in G)$ its character field, then $D$ cannot have a realization over a proper subfield of $K(\chi)$. The question whether an absolutely irreducible representation $D$ of $G$ has a realization over $K(\chi)$ is hard to answer in general, i.e., for arbitrary $K$ and arbitrary $G$. (This amounts to the question whether the Schur-index of the character of $D$ equals 1, see [3, Kapitel V, §14].) It is, however, well known that for finite fields and arbitrary finite groups the question has an affirmative answer [3, Kapitel V, Satz 14.10].

In theory we thus know that any irreducible matrix representation $D$ of $L G$ has a realization over its character field. How can we compute such a realization? Let $M$ be a subfield of $L$ of index $\ell$, and $\beta$ be the Frobenius automorphism of $L / M$. If $D$ is an irreducible representation of $L G$ of degree $d$, then so is $D^{\beta}$, where $D^{\beta}(g):=D(g)^{\beta}$ for all $g \in G$. If $M$ is the character field of $D$, then $D$ is equivalent to $D^{\beta}$, hence $\operatorname{Int}\left(D, D^{\beta}\right)$ is generated by an invertible matrix $S$. A generalization of Hilbert's Theorem 90 due to Speiser [7] states that the first cohomology $H^{1}(\langle\beta\rangle, \mathrm{GL}(d, L))$ is trivial. (This is a modern interpretation of Speiser's result; see also $[6$, Chapter X, $\S 1]$.) Hence, for $S \in \operatorname{GL}(d, L)$ there exists $T \in \operatorname{GL}(d, L)$ such that $T^{-1} T^{\beta}=S$ if and only if the norm $S^{\beta^{\ell-1}} \cdots S^{\beta} S$ of $S$ equals the $n \times n$-identity matrix $I_{n}$. Such a matrix $T$ will give the desired realization of $D$ over its character field $M$. In our applications, $S$ is a monomial matrix and this allows to compute $T$ from $S$ efficiently, see Section 3.

Now we are almost done. Namely, we may suppose that $D$ is an absolutely irreducible representation of $G$ with character $\chi$ such that $D(g)$ has entries in $K(\chi)$. Let $\sigma$ be the Frobenius automorphism of $K(\chi) / K$. Then the trace of $D$ over $K$ defined as $\operatorname{Tr}_{K}(D):=D \oplus D^{\sigma} \oplus \cdots \oplus D^{\sigma^{m-1}}, m:=[K(\chi): K]$, has character field equal to $K$ and a realization of $\operatorname{Tr}_{K}(D)$ over $K$ can be computed easily, see Section 3. Furthermore, $\operatorname{Tr}_{K}(D)$ is an irreducible $K G$-representation (since any of its irreducible constituents over $K$ has to be invariant under $\sigma$ ); conversely, any irreducible $K G$ representation is the trace over $K$ of some irreducible $M G$-representation, where $M$ is a splitting field of the representation in question containing $K$. (For these and related facts see [4, Chapter VII, §1].) To obtain the irreducible representations of $K G$ we first compute a set $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ of representatives of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$-orbits of irreducible representations of $L G$, and for each such representation a realization of its trace over $K$. Starting from a pc-presentation of $G$ and the chief series $\mathcal{T}$ induced by that, the first two steps of our algorithm are as follows:

Step 1. We first modify the algorithm of Baum and Clausen to compute a full set $\mathcal{F}$ of pairwise inequivalent irreducible monomial and $\mathcal{T}$-adapted representations of $L G$, where $L$ is a field extension of $K$ containing a primitive $e$ th root of unity, and a permutation $\gamma$ of $\mathcal{F}$ such that $F^{\alpha}$ is equivalent to $\gamma F: F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F$. Here $\alpha$ is the Frobenius automorphism of $L / K$. We then compute a full set $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ of representatives of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$-orbits of $\mathcal{F}$ and for each $F \in \mathcal{F}$ the degree of the character field of $F$ over $K$.

Step 2. For each $F \in \mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ we compute a realization $T_{F}$ of $F$ over its character field and then a realization of the trace of $T_{F}^{-1} F T_{F}$ over $K$.

Similar to the algorithm of Baum and Clausen, the arithmetic we use in these two steps consists just of symbolic computation in $L^{\times}$, where $L$ is a field extension
of $K$ containing an $e$ th root of unity. More precisely, we represent nonzero elements of $L$ as integers $i$ with $0 \leq i<|L|-1$, where $i$ corresponds to the element $\omega^{i}$ and $\omega$ is a fixed generator of $L^{\times}$. This representation of $L$ allows to solve efficiently equations of the form $\mathrm{N}(x)=\alpha$ or $x\left(x^{\sigma}\right)^{-1}=\alpha$, where $\alpha \in L, \mathrm{~N}$ is the norm of $L$ relative to a subfield $M$, and $\sigma$ is the Frobenius automorphism of $L / M$. We shall need solutions to these kinds of equations in the second step of our algorithm. Moreover, as we will need primitive elements for subfields of $L$, this representation of $L$ allows us to compute in advance these generators and store them in a list $\Omega$.

The final step of the algorithm computes the $K G$-representations from the already computed realizations. This step requires matrix multiplication over $L$, and symbolic computation in $L^{\times}$does not suffice for this purpose. Strategies to solve this problem are discussed in the last section.

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## 2. Irreducible $L G$-modules and $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$-orbits

The first step of our algorithm takes as input a supersolvable group $G$ in pcpresentation and a finite extension $L$ of $K$ containing a primitive $e$ th root of unity; it outputs a list $\mathcal{F}$ of pairwise inequivalent irreducible representations of $L G$ and a permutation $\gamma$ of $\mathcal{F}$ such that $F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F, \alpha$ being the Frobenius automorphism of $L / K$.

For the rest of this section we set $\mathcal{T}_{i}:=\left(G_{i}>G_{i-1}>\cdots>G_{0}=\{1\}\right)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. In particular, $\mathcal{T}=\mathcal{T}_{n}$. We call a matrix $e$-monomial if it is monomial and its nonzero entries are $e$ th roots of unity. An $L G$ representation $F$ is called $e$-monomial if $F(g)$ is $e$-monomial for any $g \in G$.

The algorithm of Baum and Clausen in [1] computes the list $\mathcal{F}$; we modify this algorithm to obtain additional information on the orbits of $\mathcal{F}$ under the action of the Galois group of $L / K$; this information is encoded as the permutation $\gamma$.

Our algorithm works bottom up along $\mathcal{T}$. At level $i, 1 \leq i \leq n$, it takes the following input:
(1) $\mathcal{F}$, a full set of inequivalent irreducible $e$-monomial representations of $L G_{i-1}$ such that $\bigoplus_{F \in \mathcal{F}} F$ is $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$-adapted;
(2) For every $i-1<j \leq n$ a permutation $\pi_{j}$ of $\mathcal{F}$ such that $F^{g_{j}} \sim \pi_{j} F$ for all $F \in \mathcal{F}$ as well as $e$-monomial matrices $X_{j, F} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{g_{j}}, \pi_{j} F\right), F \in \mathcal{F}$;
(3) A permutation $\gamma$ of $\mathcal{F}$ such that $F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F$, as well as $e$-monomial matrices $M_{F} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\alpha}, \gamma F\right), F \in \mathcal{F} ;$
and computes the following output:
(1) $\mathcal{D}$, a full set of inequivalent irreducible $e$-monomial representations of $L G_{i}$ such that $\bigoplus_{D \in \mathcal{D}} D$ is $\mathcal{T}_{i}$-adapted;
(2) For every $i<j \leq n$ a permutation $\tau_{j}$ of $\mathcal{D}$ such that $D^{g_{j}} \sim \tau_{j} D$ for all $D \in \mathcal{D}$ as well as $e$-monomial matrices $Y_{j, D} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(D^{g_{j}}, \tau_{j} D\right), D \in \mathcal{D}$.
(3) A permutation $\delta$ of $\mathcal{D}$ such that $D^{\alpha} \sim \delta D$, as well as $e$-monomial matrices $N_{D} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(D^{\alpha}, \delta D\right), D \in \mathcal{D} ;$
Outputs (1) and (2) are computed in exactly the same way as in the algorithm of Baum and Clausen [1]. Therefore, we only discuss the computation of Output (3) and assume that we have already performed the two phases of the algorithm in [1]. Note that during the construction at level $i$ in Phase 1 there is built a bipartite
graph in which $F \in \mathcal{F}$ and $D \in \mathcal{D}$ are linked if and only if $F$ is a constituent of $D \downarrow G_{i-1}$. We will need this information to compute $\delta$ and $N_{D}$. For this we proceed in a similar way as does Phase 2 of the Baum-Clausen algorithm. Let $F \in \mathcal{F}$ and $p:=\left[G_{i}: G_{i-1}\right]$. We distinguish two cases.

Case 1. Suppose that $\pi_{i} F=F$, i.e., $F^{g_{i}} \sim F$. Since $\left(F^{g_{i}}\right)^{\alpha}=\left(F^{\alpha}\right)^{g_{i}}$, we obtain

$$
(\gamma F)^{g_{i}} \sim\left(F^{\alpha}\right)^{g_{i}}=\left(F^{g_{i}}\right)^{\alpha} \sim F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F
$$

We already know $p$ extensions $D_{0}, \ldots, D_{p-1}$ of $F$ and $p$ extensions $\Delta_{0}, \ldots, \Delta_{p-1}$ of $\gamma F$. For $0 \leq k<p$ we have

$$
D_{k}^{\alpha} \downarrow G_{i-1}=\left(D_{k} \downarrow G_{i-1}\right)^{\alpha}=F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F
$$

hence $D_{k}^{\alpha}$ is equivalent to one of the representations $\Delta_{0}, \ldots, \Delta_{p-1}$. Thus there exists a permutation $\rho$ of $\{0, \ldots, p-1\}$ such that $D_{k}^{\alpha} \sim \Delta_{\rho k}$ for $0 \leq k<p$. Since $\operatorname{Int}\left(D_{k}^{\alpha}, \Delta_{\rho k}\right)=\operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\alpha}, \gamma F\right)$, we may set $N_{D_{k}}:=M_{F}$. To determine $\delta D_{k}$, note that

$$
M_{F} D_{0}^{\alpha}\left(g_{i}\right) M_{F}^{-1}=\Delta_{\ell}\left(g_{i}\right)=\chi^{\ell}\left(g_{i} G_{i-1}\right) \Delta_{0}\left(g_{i}\right)
$$

for a unique integer $\ell$ with $0 \leq \ell<p$, where $\chi$ is a nontrivial representation of $G_{i} / G_{i-1}$. To compute $\ell$, we just need to compare a nonzero entry of both sides of the above $e$-monomial matrix equation. We then set $\delta D_{0}:=\Delta_{\ell}$. For other values of $k$ we can determine $\delta D_{k}$ by cyclic shifts: $D_{k}^{\alpha}=\left(\chi^{k} \otimes D_{0}\right)^{\alpha}=$ $\left(\chi^{k}\right)^{\alpha} \otimes D_{0}^{\alpha} \sim\left(\chi^{\alpha}\right)^{k} \otimes\left(\chi^{\ell} \otimes \Delta_{0}\right)$. Hence $\delta D_{k}=\Delta_{(k q+\ell) \bmod p}$, since $\alpha$ is the Frobenius automorphism over $K=\mathbb{F}_{q}$.
Case 2. Suppose that $\pi_{i} F \neq F$, i.e., $F^{g_{i}} \nsim F$. In Phase 1 we have already constructed $D \in \mathcal{D}$ such that $D \downarrow G_{i-1}=\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} F_{k}$ and $F_{k}=\pi_{i}^{k} F$ is of degree, say, $f$. Since $\left(F \uparrow G_{i}\right)^{\alpha}=F^{\alpha} \uparrow G_{i}$ and $F^{\alpha} \sim \gamma F, \delta D$ is the unique representation $\Delta \in \mathcal{D}$ such that $\gamma F$ is an irreducible constituent of $\Delta \downarrow G_{i-1}$. According to our construction, $\Delta \downarrow G_{i-1}=\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} \Phi_{k}$ with $\Phi_{k}=\pi_{i}^{k} \Phi$ for some $\Phi \in \mathcal{F}$. There is a permutation $\rho$ of $\{0, \ldots, p-1\}$ such that $\gamma F_{k}=\Phi_{\rho k}$ as well as $e$ monomial matrices $M_{k}:=M_{F_{k}} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F_{k}^{\alpha}, \Phi_{\rho k}\right)$. To compute $N_{D} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(D^{\alpha}, \delta D\right)$, we consider $\operatorname{Int}\left(D^{\alpha} \downarrow G_{i-1}, \delta D \downarrow G_{i-1}\right)$. By Schur's Lemma there exist constants $d_{0}, \ldots, d_{p-1} \in L^{\times}$such that

$$
N_{D}=\left(P_{\rho} \otimes I_{f}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} d_{k} M_{k}\right)
$$

where $P_{\rho}$ is the $p \times p$ permutation matrix whose rows have been permuted according to $\rho$. We may assume that $d_{0}=1$. To determine the other $d_{k}$, we use the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
N_{D} D^{\alpha}\left(g_{i}\right) N_{D}^{-1}=(\delta D)\left(g_{i}\right) \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

According to our construction in Phase 1 there are $e$-monomial matrices $T_{k}, S_{k} \in$ $L^{f \times f}$ such that

$$
D\left(g_{i}\right)=\left(P_{\pi} \otimes I_{f}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} T_{k}\right)
$$

and

$$
(\delta D)\left(g_{i}\right)=\left(P_{\pi} \otimes I_{f}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} S_{k}\right)
$$

where $\pi=(0, \ldots, p-1)$. Hence, (2.1) is equivalent to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left(P_{\pi} \otimes I_{f}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} d_{\pi k} M_{\pi k}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} T_{k}^{\alpha}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} d_{k}^{-1} M_{k}^{-1}\right) \\
& \quad=\left(P_{\rho^{-1} \pi \rho} \otimes I_{f}\right) \cdot\left(\bigoplus_{k=0}^{p-1} S_{\rho k}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Since $d_{0}=1$, we can successively determine $d_{1}, \ldots, d_{p-1}$ by comparing for each $k$ one nonzero entry of $M_{\pi k} T_{k}^{\alpha} d_{k}^{-1} M_{k}^{-1}$ and $S_{\rho k}$.

We now compute a set $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ of representatives of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$-orbits of $\mathcal{F}$ and for each $F \in \mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ with character $\chi_{F}$ the degree of the character field $d_{F}:=\left[K\left(\chi_{F}\right): K\right]$ of $F$ as well as a matrix $S_{F} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\alpha^{d_{F}}}, F\right)$. (Note that $\alpha^{d_{F}}$ generates the Galois group of $L / K\left(\chi_{F}\right)$.) Notice that $\ell:=d_{F}$ is the smallest integer $m$ such that $F^{\alpha^{m}} \sim F$, i.e., the smallest $m$ such that $\gamma^{m} F=F$. Furthermore, it is easily checked that

$$
S_{F}:=M_{\gamma^{\ell-1} F} M_{\gamma^{\ell-2} F}^{\alpha} \cdots M_{F}^{\alpha^{\ell-1}} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\alpha^{\ell}}, F\right)
$$

The algorithm to compute the required data is now straightforward. We take the first representation $F$ in $\mathcal{F}$, append it to the list $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$, and set $M:=M_{F}$. Then we go through all $\gamma^{i} F$, delete them from the list $\mathcal{F}$, update $M:=M_{\gamma^{i} F} M^{\alpha}$, and stop as soon as $\gamma^{\ell} F$ equals $F$, deleting $F$ from $\mathcal{F}$ in this last step. In this way we also obtain $d_{F}$. We repeat the whole process until the list $\mathcal{F}$ is empty.

## 3. Realization over subfields

In this step of our algorithm we take the output of the last step and compute at first for each $F \in \mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ a realization $T_{F}$ of $F$ over $K\left(\chi_{F}\right)$, where $\chi_{F}$ is the character of $F$. We then proceed by computing a realization of the trace of $T_{F} F T_{F}^{-1}$ over $K$.

It is well known that any absolutely irreducible representation of $L G$ has a realization over its character field [3, Kapitel V, Satz 14.10]. We would like to give here a proof of this fact which builds the basis of our algorithm to find such a realization. We use the following setup: $F$ is an irreducible representation of $L G$ of degree $f, M$ is the character field of $F,[L: M]=: \ell$, and $\beta$ is a generator of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / M)$. For a matrix $A \in L^{m \times m}$, we define the norm of $A$ by $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(A):=$ $A^{\beta^{\ell-1}} \cdots A$. Note that if $m \neq 1$, then the norm of $A$ does not necessarily belong to $M^{m \times m}$.

The representations $F$ and $F^{\beta}$ are equivalent since they have the same character. Hence there exists an invertible matrix $S \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\beta}, F\right)$. Suppose that there exists $T \in \mathrm{GL}(f, L)$ such that $T^{-1} T^{\beta}=S$. Then, $S F S^{-1}=F^{\beta}$ implies that $T F T^{-1}$ is invariant under $\beta$, hence $T$ is a realization of $F$ over $M$. By Speiser's Theorem [7] mentioned in the introduction such a matrix $T$ exists if and only if $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S)=I_{f}$. (Speiser's original proof works only over infinite fields; for a general proof, see [6, page 151].) A straightforward calculation shows that $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S) \in \operatorname{Int}(F, F)$. Hence, Schur's Lemma implies that $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S)=c I_{f}$ for some $c \in L$. But $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S)^{\beta}=$ $S^{-1} \mathrm{~N}_{L / M}(S) S=c I_{f}$, hence $c \in M$. Since $L$ is finite, any element in $M$ is the norm of an element in $L$, hence there exists $d \in L$ such that $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(d S)=I_{f}$. Replacing $S$
by $d S$ if necessary, we obtain the existence of $T$, a realization of $F$ over its character field. (See also [3, Kapitel V, Bemerkung 14.14].)

From the second step we know $\ell:=[L: K] / d_{F}$ and an $e$-monomial matrix $S=S_{F} \in \operatorname{Int}\left(F^{\beta}, F\right), \beta=\alpha^{d_{F}}$. Let $S=: P_{\pi} \operatorname{diag}(S(1), \ldots, S(f))$. We first compute some auxiliary data. Suppose that $\pi$ can be written as the product of $\nu$ disjoint cycles of lengths $\ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{\nu}$ and let $\rho_{1}, \ldots, \rho_{\nu}$ be a complete set of disjoint representatives of each cycle. We compute $\nu, \ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{\nu}$ and $\rho_{1}, \ldots, \rho_{\nu}$, then a nonzero entry $\gamma:=\prod_{j=0}^{\ell-1} S\left(\pi^{j} 1\right)^{\beta^{\ell-1-j}}$ of $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S)$, and some element $c$ of $L$ satisfying $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(c)=\gamma^{-1}$; we then replace $S$ by $c S$. Now we have $\mathrm{N}_{L / M}(S)=I_{f}$. As $\ell_{i}$ divides the order of $\pi$ and the latter divides $\ell$, we have $\ell_{i} \mid \ell$. Hence, we can extract from the precomputed list $\Omega$ of primitive elements of subfields of $L$ elements $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{\nu} \in L$ such that $y_{i}$ has degree $\ell_{i}$ over $K$. The rest of the algorithm, written in pseudo code, is now as follows ( $0^{j}$ means $0, \ldots, 0 j$-times):

```
\(t:=0 ;\)
for \(i=1\) to \(\nu\) do
                    \(\gamma_{i}:=\prod_{j=0}^{\ell_{i}-1} S\left(\pi^{j} \rho_{i}\right)^{\beta^{\left(\ell_{i}-1-j\right)}} ;\)
            Compute \(x_{i} \in L\) such that \(\gamma_{i}=x_{i}^{-1} x_{i}^{\beta^{\ell_{i}}}\);
    \(T[i]:=\left(0^{t}, x_{i}, x_{i} y_{i}, \ldots, x_{i} y_{i}^{\ell_{i}-1}, 0^{m-t-\ell_{i}}\right)^{\top} ;\)
    for \(j=1\) to \(\ell_{i}-1\) do
        \(T\left[\pi^{j} \rho_{i}\right]:=S\left(\pi^{j-1} \rho_{i}\right)^{-1} T\left[\pi^{j-1} \rho_{i}\right]^{\beta} ;\)
    od;
    \(t:=t+\ell_{i} ;\)
od;
\(T_{F}:=(T[1]|T[2]| \cdots \mid T[f])\).
```

It is not clear in advance that the above algorithm is executable since there might be no element $x_{i}$ satisfying the equation in line 4 . In the following we show that such an $x_{i}$ always exists and prove that the matrix $T$ obtained by our algorithm is in fact a realization of $F$ over $M$.

Let $T \in L^{f \times f}$ have columns $T[1], \ldots, T[f]$. Then $T S=T^{\beta}$ if and only if for all $1 \leq i \leq \nu$ and all $1 \leq j \leq \ell_{i}$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
T\left[\pi^{j} \rho_{i}\right]=S\left(\pi^{j-1} \rho_{i}\right)^{-1} T\left[\pi^{j-1} \rho_{i}\right]^{\beta} \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

This implies that $T\left[\rho_{i}\right]=\gamma_{i}^{-1} T\left[\pi^{\ell_{i}} \rho_{i}\right]^{\beta^{\ell_{i}}}$, hence $T\left[\rho_{i}\right]=\mathrm{N}_{L / M_{i}}\left(\gamma_{i}\right)^{-1} T\left[\rho_{i}\right]^{\beta^{\ell_{i}}}$ which gives $\mathrm{N}_{L / M_{i}}\left(\gamma_{i}\right)=1$, where $M_{i}$ is the fixed field of $\beta^{\ell_{i}}$. Hence, by Hilbert's Theorem 90 there exists $x_{i}$ satisfying the condition in line 4 and our algorithm is executable. Line 7 guarantees that (3.1) is satisfied for all $1 \leq i \leq \nu, 1 \leq j<\ell_{i}$. To see that it is also satisfied for $j=\ell_{i}$, we only need to check that $T\left[\rho_{i}\right]=\gamma_{i}^{-1} T\left[\rho_{i}\right]^{\beta^{\ell_{i}}}$. But this follows from the choice of $x_{i}$ and the fact that $y_{i}$ is fixed under $\beta^{\ell_{i}}$. It remains to show that $T$ is invertible. This is true because the Vandermonde matrix $\left(\left(y_{i}^{\beta^{j}}\right)^{k}\right)_{0 \leq j, k \leq \ell_{i}-1}$ is invertible (since $y_{i}$ has degree $\ell_{i}$ over $K$ ).

At this stage of our algorithm we have a list $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ of representatives of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$ orbits of the irreducible representations of $L G$, for each $F \in \mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ the degree $d_{F}$ of the character field of $F$ over $K$, and a realization $T_{F}$ of $F$ over its character field. We know that $D_{F}:=\bigoplus_{i=0}^{d_{F}-1} F^{\alpha^{i}}$ is equivalent to an irreducible representation of $K G$ and that all irreducible representations of $K G$ are obtained this way.

Let $F \in \mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ be of degree $f$ and $\tilde{F}:=T_{F} F T_{F}^{-1}$. We extract from $\Omega$ a primitive element $\gamma$ of the character field of $F$ over $K$, i.e., an element having degree $d=d_{F}$ over $K$. Let $U:=V \otimes I_{f}$, where $V$ is the Vandermonde matrix $V:=\left(\left(\gamma^{i}\right)^{\alpha^{j}}\right)_{0 \leq i, j<d}$. It is easily verified that

$$
R:=U \cdot\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
T_{F} & & & \\
& T_{F}^{\alpha} & & \\
& & \ddots & \\
& & & T_{F}^{\alpha^{d-1}}
\end{array}\right)
$$

is a realization of $D=\bigoplus_{i=0}^{d-1} F^{\alpha^{i}}$ over $K$.

## 4. The final step and concluding Remarks

Given a finite field $K$, a supersolvable group $G$ of exponent $e$ in pc-presentation, and a field extension $L$ of $K$ containing a primitive $e$ th root of unity, the first two steps of our algorithm have computed a set $\mathcal{F}^{\prime}$ of representatives of $\operatorname{Gal}(L / K)$ orbits of the irreducibles of $L G$, and for each such representation a realization of its trace over $K$. One possible strategy to compute the $K G$ representations out of these data would be to represent $L$ as the residue class ring modulo an irreducible polynomial, compute a primitive element $\omega$ of $L^{\times}$, replace each entry of the matrices involved by their corresponding polynomial representations, and proceed with matrix multiplication (and inversion) over $L$. Another strategy is to start with a representation of $L$ as a polynomial residue class ring, and to go through all the steps of the algorithm using field arithmetic in $L$. Here we face the difficulty of solving equations of the type $x^{d}=\alpha$, where $d$ is a divisor of $|L|-1$. Both these strategies consume exponential time, and it seems that in practice a correct implementation of any of these strategies is rather complicated.

Nevertheless, we have implemented our algorithm in the computer algebra system GAP [5]. In this implementation the final step is performed by using a table of Jacobi logarithms for $L$, which needs exponential space (and time). Although it is impractical for large $|L|$, this strategy performs well for small sizes of $L$.

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