WEIGHT CONJECTURES FOR FUSION SYSTEMS

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Abstract. Many of the conjectures of current interest in the representation theory of finite groups in characteristic $p$ are local-to-global statements, in that they predict consequences for the representations of a finite group $G$ given data about the representations of the $p$-local subsystems of $G$. The local structure of a block of a group algebra is encoded in the fusion system of the block together with a compatible family of Külshammer–Puig cohomology classes. Motivated by conjectures in block theory, we state and initiate investigation of a number of seemingly local conjectures for arbitrary triples $(S, F, \alpha)$ consisting of a saturated fusion system $F$ on a finite $p$-group $S$ and a compatible family $\alpha$.

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper we fix a prime number $p$ and an algebraically closed field $k$ of characteristic $p$. A block $B$ of a finite group algebra $kG$ gives rise to three fundamental invariants encoding the local structure of $B$: a defect group $S$, a saturated fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ on $S$, and a family $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c}$ of second cohomology classes $\alpha_Q \in H^2(\text{Out}_F(Q), k^\times)$. The $\alpha_Q$ are called the Külshammer–Puig classes of the block $B$. They are defined for each $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$, and satisfy a certain compatibility condition (recalled in Section 4). The triple $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is determined by $B$ uniquely up to $G$-conjugacy. If $B$ is the principal block of $kG$, then $S$ is a Sylow $p$-subgroup, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{S}(G)$, and all the classes $\alpha_Q$ are trivial. In what follows, we freely use standard notation on fusion systems as in [AKO11]. For a finite dimensional $k$-algebra $B$, we denote by $\ell(B)$ the number of isomorphism classes of simple $B$-modules and by $z(B)$ the number of isomorphism classes of simple and projective $B$-modules. If $B$ is a block of a finite group algebra $kG$, then we denote by $k(B)$ the number of ordinary irreducible characters of $G$ associated with $B$.

The prominent counting conjectures in the block theory of finite groups express numerical invariants of $B$ in terms of $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$. Alperin’s weight conjecture (henceforth abbreviated AWC) predicts the equality

$$\ell(B) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c/F} z(k_{\alpha} \text{Out}_F(Q)),$$

where $\mathcal{F}^c/F$ is a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes in $\mathcal{F}$ of $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroups of $S$, and where $k_{\alpha} \text{Out}_F(Q)$ is the group algebra of $\text{Out}_F(Q) = \text{Aut}_F(Q)/\text{Inn}(Q)$ twisted by $\alpha_Q$. The right side in this version of AWC clearly makes sense for arbitrary saturated fusion systems and arbitrary choices of second cohomology, classes, and this is the starting point of the present paper.

Let $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ be a triple consisting of a finite $p$-group $S$, a saturated fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ on $S$, and a family $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c}$ of classes $\alpha_Q \in H^2(\text{Out}_F(Q); k^\times)$, for any $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$.

Key words and phrases. fusion system, block, finite group.
of $S$, such that the family $\alpha$ is $\mathcal{F}$-compatible in the sense of Definition 4.1 below. If $\alpha$ is the family of Külshammer-Puig classes of a fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ of a block $B$ with defect group $S$, then $\alpha$ is $\mathcal{F}$-compatible by Theorem [Lin18 8.14.5]; in that case we will say that the triple $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is block realizable and that it is realized by the block $B$.

For any $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$ and any subgroup $H$ of $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$ or of $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$, by $k_\alpha H$ we will mean the twisted group algebra of $H$ over $k$ with respect to the restriction of $\alpha_Q$ to $H$. Using the notation in [Lin18, Section 8.15], the number of weights of $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is the positive integer $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ defined by

$$w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) := \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{F}} z(k_\alpha \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)),$$

where the notation $Q \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{F}$ means that $Q$ runs over a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes in $\mathcal{F}$ of $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroups of $S$. Note that $z(k_\alpha \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)) = 0$ unless $Q$ is also $\mathcal{F}$-radical (cf. Lemma 4.11 below), and hence we have $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{F}} z(k_\alpha \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q))$. By Proposition 4.5 or the above remarks, if $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ of a finite group algebra, then $B$ satisfies AWC if and only if $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \ell(B)$.

If $x$ is an element in $S$ such that $\langle x \rangle$ is a fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized, then $C_\mathcal{F}(x)$ is a saturated fusion system on $C_S(x)$, there is a canonical functor $C_\mathcal{F}(x)^c \to \mathcal{F}^c$, and restriction along this functor sends the $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$ to a $C_\mathcal{F}(x)$-compatible family $\alpha(x)$; see Proposition 4.5 below. Denote by $[S/\mathcal{F}]$ a set of $\mathcal{F}$-conjugacy class representatives of elements of $S$ such that $\langle x \rangle$ fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized. We set

$$k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) := \sum_{x \in [S/\mathcal{F}]} w(C_\mathcal{F}(x), \alpha(x)).$$

By Proposition 4.5, if $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ of a finite group algebra such that $B$ and the $B$-Brauer pairs satisfy AWC, then $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(B)$.

For any $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$ we define the set $\mathcal{N}_Q$ to be the set of non-empty normal chains $\sigma$ of $p$-subgroups of $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$ starting at the trivial subgroup; that is, chains of the form

$$\sigma = (1 = X_0 < X_1 < \cdots < X_m)$$

with the property that $X_i$ is normal in $X_m$ for $0 \leq i \leq m$. We set $|\sigma| = m$, and call $m$ the length of $\sigma$. We define the following two sets:

$$\mathcal{W}_Q = \mathcal{N}_Q \times \text{Irr}(Q),$$
$$\mathcal{W}_Q^* = \mathcal{N}_Q \times Q^{\text{cl}},$$

where $\text{Irr}(Q)$ is the set of ordinary irreducible characters of $Q$ and where $Q^{\text{cl}}$ is the set of conjugacy classes of $Q$. There are obvious actions of the group $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$ on the sets $\mathcal{N}_Q$, $\text{Irr}(Q)$, and $Q^{\text{cl}}$, hence on the sets $\mathcal{W}_Q$, $\mathcal{W}_Q^*$. We denote by $I(\sigma, \mu)$ and by $I(\sigma, [x])$ the stabilisers in $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$ under these actions, where $(\sigma, \mu) \in \mathcal{W}_Q$ and $(\sigma, [x]) \in \mathcal{W}_Q^*$, with $[x]$ the conjugacy class in $Q$ of an element $x \in Q$. For any $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$ we set

$$w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{(\sigma, \mu) \in \mathcal{W}_Q / \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha I(\sigma, \mu)).$$
\[
\omega_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{(\sigma, [x]) \in W_Q^*/\text{Out}_F(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k, I(\sigma, [x])),
\]
and we set
\[
m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c/\mathcal{F}} \omega_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha),
\]
\[
m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c/\mathcal{F}} \omega_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha).
\]

There are refinements of the above numbers which take into account defects of ordinary irreducible characters and which appear in conjectures of Dade and Robinson. These will be considered in Section 2.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a saturated fusion system on a finite \( p \)-group \( S \) and let \( \alpha \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-compatible family. Then
\[
m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha).
\]

Theorem 1.1 is a cancellation theorem for arbitrary fusion systems inspired by cancellation theorems of Robinson such as in [Rob96, Theorem 1.2].

**Theorem 1.2.** Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a saturated fusion system on a finite \( p \)-group \( S \) and let \( \alpha \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-compatible family. If AWC holds, then \( m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).

Theorem 1.2 shows that AWC implies an equality (for arbitrary fusion systems) of two numerical invariants dual to each other in the sense that one is obtained by summing over conjugacy classes of \( p \)-groups and the other by summing over irreducible characters. Given that the numerical invariants \( m, m^*, k \) are entirely defined at the ‘local’ level of fusion systems and compatible families, it seems surprising that Alperin’s Weight Conjecture is needed to obtain the conclusion of Theorem 1.2.

**Corollary 1.3.** Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a saturated fusion system on a finite \( p \)-group \( S \) and let \( \alpha \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-compatible family. If AWC holds, then \( m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).

If \((S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)\) is block realizable, then Corollary 1.3 follows from work of Robinson and expresses the fact that a coarse version of the Ordinary Weight Conjecture is implied by AWC (see Theorem 2.4 below).

The paper is organised as follows. Section 2 contains a list of conjectures inspired by their block theoretic counterparts. In Section 3 we collect background material, Section 4 contains relevant properties of \( \mathcal{F} \)-compatible families, Section 5 contains technicalities needed for the proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 in Section 6 and Section 7, respectively. Section 8 verifies some of the conjectures in Section 2 for certain exotic fusion systems. In an Appendix, we collect some foundational material from work of Robinson.

**Acknowledgements.** Many of the key ideas in this paper were worked out during the workshop “Group Representation Theory and Applications” at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in February 2018. The authors would like to thank MSRI for its hospitality, and for providing such a pleasant environment in which to carry out research. The first and second authors were MSRI members during the Spring 2018 semester which was supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DMS-1440140.
The second author acknowledges support from EPSRC grant EP/M02525X/1. The fourth author gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Heilbronn Institute.

2. Conjectures

We formulate conjectures for fusion systems which are motivated by conjectural or known statements in block theory. For each of these conjectures, the link with a block theoretic conjecture is made either via AWC or via the Ordinary Weight Conjecture, the statement of which will be recalled below. Note that by work of Robinson the Ordinary Weight Conjecture implies the AWC.

These conjectures make precise the idea that the gap between various local-global block theoretic conjectures is purely local. Proving or disproving any of these is a win-win scenario. If one can prove one of these conjectures at the fusion system level, then one would get that AWC (or the ordinary weight conjecture) implies the corresponding block theoretic version. If on the other hand one could disprove any of these, one would either have found a counter example to the corresponding block theoretic conjecture, or one would have found a way to distinguish exotic fusion systems from block realizable fusion systems. Either outcome would be interesting.

We keep the notation of the previous section. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family (see Definition 4.1). Recall from Proposition 4.5 that if $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ which satisfies AWC, then $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \ell(B)$, and if all Brauer correspondents of $B$ also satisfy AWC, then $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(B)$.

Conjecture 2.1. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Then $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \leq |S|$.

By the above remark, if $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realizable by a block $B$ such that AWC holds for all $B$-Brauer pairs, then Conjecture 2.1 holds if and only if $B$ satisfies Brauer's $k(B)$-conjecture, which predicts the inequality $k(B) \leq |S|$. Also, note that by Theorem 1.1 the inequality of Conjecture 2.1 is equivalent to the inequality $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \leq |S|$. In view of Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.3 (see also Conjecture 2.3), one could consider versions of the inequality with $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ replaced by $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$.

Conjecture 2.2. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Then $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \leq p^s$, where $s$ is the sectional rank of $S$.

If $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realizable by a block $B$ such that AWC holds for $B$, then the above is equivalent to the statement that $B$ satisfies the conjecture by Malle and Robinson [MR17] predicting the inequality $\ell(B) \leq p^s$. Conjecture 2.2 has been shown to hold for the exotic Solomon fusion systems by Lynd and Semeraro [LS17].

Next, we refine the integers $w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$, $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$, $m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ by taking into account defects of characters. For $Q$ a subgroup of $S$ and $d$ a non-negative integer, we set

$$\text{Irr}_d^d(Q) := \{ \mu \in \text{Irr}_d^d(Q) \mid v_p(|Q|/\mu(1)) = d \} ;$$

this is the set of ordinary irreducible characters of $Q$ of defect $d$. Note that this set is $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$-stable. As in the previous section, we denote by $\mathcal{N}_Q$ the set of nonempty normal chains of $p$-subgroups of $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$ starting with the trivial subgroup of $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$. Given such
a chain $\sigma$ and an irreducible character $\mu$ of $Q$, we denote by $I(\sigma)$ and $I(\sigma, \mu)$ the stabilisers of $\sigma$ and of the pair $(\sigma, \mu)$ in $\text{Out}_F(Q)$.

Given a saturated fusion system $F$ on a finite $p$-group $S$, an $F$-compatible family $\alpha$, and a non-negative integer $d$, following [AKO11, Part IV, Section 5.7], we set

$$w_Q(F, \alpha, d) := \sum_{\sigma \in N_Q / \text{Out}_F(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}_d^F(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(\alpha I(\sigma, \mu)).$$

and

$$m(F, \alpha, d) := \sum_{Q \in F/F_c} w_Q(F, \alpha, d).$$

We clearly have

$$m(F, \alpha) = \sum_{d \geq 0} m(F, \alpha, d).$$

The Ordinary Weight Conjecture (henceforth abbreviated OWC), first stated in [Rob96] and reformulated in [Rob04], states that if $B$ is a block of the group algebra $kG$ of a finite group $G$ with defect group $S$, fusion system $F$ and family of Külshammer–Puig classes $\alpha$, then for each $d \geq 0$, $m(F, \alpha, d)$ equals the number of ordinary irreducible characters of defect $d$ associated to the block $B$ (cf. [AKO11 IV.5.49]). As noted above, $m(F, \alpha) = \sum_{d \geq 0} m(F, \alpha, d)$. Thus, OWC implies the following “summed up version” (henceforth abbreviated SOWC): if $B$ is a block of the group algebra $kG$ of a finite group $G$ with defect group $S$, fusion system $F$ and family of Külshammer–Puig classes $\alpha$, then $m(F, \alpha) = k(B)$, the number of ordinary irreducible characters of $G$ associated with $B$. On the other hand, AWC predicts that $k(F, \alpha)$ equals $k(B)$. This leads to the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 2.3.** Let $F$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $F$-compatible family. We have

$$k(F, \alpha) = m(F, \alpha).$$

Now Corollary 1.3 may be restated as follows.

**Theorem 2.4.** Suppose that AWC holds for all blocks. Then Conjecture 2.3 holds for all $(S, F, \alpha)$, $S$ a finite $p$-group, $F$ a saturated fusion system on $S$ and $\alpha$ an $F$-compatible family.

By [Rob96], [Rob04], AWC is equivalent to SOWC in the sense that a minimal counterexample to AWC is a a minimal counter-example to the other. The difficult implication is that AWC implies SOWC. Theorem 2.4 may be viewed as an extension of Robinson’s result to arbitrary fusion systems.

**Conjecture 2.5.** Let $F$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $F$-compatible family. For each positive integer $d$, we have $m(F, \alpha, d) \geq 0$.

**Remark 2.6.** With the above notation, suppose that $d$ is the integer such that $|S| = p^d$. The only chain contributing to the expression for $m(F, \alpha, d)$ is the chain $S$ of length zero and the contribution of this chain is a strictly positive integer. This is because $\text{Out}_F(S)$ is a $p'$-group.

We consider next Brauer’s height zero conjecture.
Proposition 2.7. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Suppose that $S$ is abelian of order $p^d$. Then $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d') = 0$ for all $d' \neq d$.

Proof. Since $S$ is abelian, $S$ is the only $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup of $S$, and all characters of $S$ are linear, hence of defect $d$. The result follows. □

Conjecture 2.8. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Suppose that $S$ is nonabelian of order $p^d$. Then $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d') \neq 0$ for some $d' \neq d$.

If $S$ is non-abelian and $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ satisfying OWC, then the above is equivalent to the statement that $B$ satisfies Brauer’s height zero conjecture. Note that Navarro and Tiep [NT13] have proved that the height zero conjecture is a consequence of the Dade projective conjecture and of the fact that the Brauer height zero conjecture has been checked for finite quasi-simple groups [KM17]. Eaton has proved in [Eat04] that the Dade projective conjecture is equivalent to the OWC in the sense that a minimal counter-example to one is a minimal counter-example to the other. Thus the above conjecture for block realizable triples is a consequence of OWC.

Conjecture 2.9. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Suppose that $S$ is nonabelian of order $p^d$. Let $r > 0$ be the smallest positive integer such that $S$ has a character of degree $p^r$. Then $r$ is the smallest positive integer such that $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d - r) \neq 0$.

If $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ satisfying OWC, then the above is equivalent to the statement that $B$ satisfies the conjecture by Eaton and Moreto in [EM14].

Conjecture 2.10. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ of order $p^d$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Then

1. $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)/m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d)$ is at most the number of conjugacy classes of $[S, S]$.
2. $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)/w(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is at most the number of conjugacy classes of $S$.

If $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ satisfying OWC, then the above is equivalent to the statement that $B$ satisfies the conjecture by Malle and Navarro in [MN06]. Similar to Conjecture 2.1, one could consider versions of the above inequalities with $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ replaced by $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ or $m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$.

If $\mathcal{F}$ is $p$-solvable (i.e. if $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained with $p$-solvable model) then for any $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$, the triple $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realizable by a block of a $p$-solvable group (see Proposition 4.8). The OWC has been shown to hold for blocks of $p$-solvable groups by Robinson, and AWC for $p$-solvable groups was proved earlier by Okuyama. The $k(B)$ conjecture for finite $p$-solvable groups was proved in [GMRS04] and the height zero conjecture for $p$-solvable groups was shown to hold by Gluck and Wolf [GW84]. Thus Conjectures 2.1, 2.9, 2.8 all hold for solvable fusion systems. If moreover $\mathcal{F} = N_{\mathcal{F}}(S)$, then for any $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$, the triple $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realizable by a block of a finite group $G$ containing $S$ as a normal (and Sylow) subgroup, hence Conjecture 2.10 holds by [MR17, Theorem 2] and Conjecture 2.9 holds by [EM14].
Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a non-trivial finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\mathcal{C}$ be the full subcategory of $\mathcal{F}$ of nontrivial subgroups of $S$. Following the terminology in [Lin09b], briefly reviewed at the end of the next section, we denote by $S_\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C})$ the subcategory of the subdivision category $S(\mathcal{C})$ of chains

$$\sigma = (Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m)$$

where the $Q_i$ are nontrivial subgroups of $S$ which are normal in the maximal term $Q_m$. Such a chain $\sigma$ is called fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized if $Q_0$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized, and either $m = 0$ or $\sigma_{\geq 1} = (Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m)$ is fully $N_\mathcal{F}(Q_0)$-normalized. Denote by $S_\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C})^f$ the set of all fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized chains. For $\sigma \in S_\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C})^f$, we denote by $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$ the saturated fusion system on $N_S(\sigma)$ as in [Lin09b] 5.2, 5.3. By Proposition 16 below, an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$ induces a canonical $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-compatible family $\alpha(\sigma)$, for each fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized chain $\sigma$ in $S_\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C})^f$. The translation to fusion systems of the Knörr-Robinson reformulation of Alperin’s Weight Conjecture in [KR89] reads as follows.

**Conjecture 2.11.** Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite non-trivial $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. We have

$$k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_\sigma (-1)^{|\sigma|} k(N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma), \alpha(\sigma))$$

where in the sum $\sigma$ runs over a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes of fully normalized normal chains of non-trivial subgroups of $S$.

Again, one could consider versions of the above replacing $k$ with $m$ or $m^*$. Taking into account defects of characters, we get the following conjecture, which is an analogue of Dade’s ordinary conjecture:

**Conjecture 2.12.** Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite non-trivial $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family of $\mathcal{F}$. For each $d \geq 0$ we have

$$m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d) = \sum_\sigma (-1)^{|\sigma|} m(N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma), \alpha(\sigma), d),$$

where in the sum $\sigma$ runs over a set of representatives of the isomorphism classes of fully normalized normal chains of non-trivial subgroups of $S$.

3. **Background material**

**Lemma 3.1** (Thompson’s $A \times B$ Lemma). Let $S$ be a finite $p$-group and $A \times B \leq \text{Aut}(S)$ be such that $A$ is a $p'$-group and $B$ is a $p$-group. If $A$ centralizes $C_S(B)$, then $A = 1$.

*Proof.* See [Gor80] Theorem 5.3.4].

We will use standard terminology on saturated fusion systems, as can be found in many sources, including [Cra11], [AKO11], for instance. We assume familiarity with the notions of centralizers and normalizers in fusion systems.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$. Fix $Q \leq S$ and $K \leq \text{Aut}(Q)$. Assume that $Q$ is fully $K$-normalized. Then $PQ$ is $\mathcal{F}$-centric for each $N_\mathcal{F}^K(Q)$-centric subgroup $P \leq N_S^K(Q)$. 
Proof. The argument given in the proof of [BLO03, Lemma 6.2] generalizes: Let $P \leq N^K_S(Q)$ be an $N^K_S(Q)$-centric subgroup and let $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_F(PQ, S)$. Then $\varphi(PQ) \leq N^{\varphi^{-1}K}\varphi^{-1}(\varphi(Q))\varphi(Q)$. Since $Q$ is fully $K$-normalized in $F$, there is a morphism

$$
\psi \in \text{Hom}_F(N^{\varphi^{-1}K}\varphi^{-1}(\varphi(Q))\varphi(Q), S)
$$

such that $\psi\varphi(Q) = Q$ and $(\psi\varphi)|Q \leq K$ by [AKO11, Proposition I.5.2(c)]. This means that $\psi\varphi$ is a morphism in $\text{Hom}_{N^K_S(Q)}(PQ, S)$. Since $C_S(\varphi(PQ)) \leq N^{\varphi^{-1}K}\varphi^{-1}(\varphi(Q))$,

$$
\psi(C_S(\varphi(PQ))) \leq C_S(\psi\varphi(PQ)) \leq C_S(\psi\varphi(P)) \cap N^K_S(Q) \leq \psi\varphi(P),
$$

where the middle inequality holds because $\psi\varphi K\varphi^{-1}\psi^{-1} = K$, and where the last inequality holds since $P$ is $N^K_F(Q)$-centric. Hence, $C_S(\varphi(PQ)) \leq \varphi(P) \leq \varphi(PQ)$. Since $\varphi$ was chosen arbitrarily, this shows that $PQ$ is $F$-centric.

Lemma 3.3. Let $x \in S$ be such that $\langle x \rangle$ is fully $F$-centralized, and fix $Q \leq C_S(x)$. Then $Q$ is $C_F(x)$-centric if and only if $Q$ is $F$-centric. Moreover, $\text{Out}_{C_F(x)}(Q) = \text{Out}_F(Q)(x)$ under either of these assumptions.

Proof. Suppose first that $Q$ is $F$-centric and let $P$ be $C_F(x)$-conjugate to $Q$. Then $C_{C_S(x)}(P) \leq C_S(P) \leq P$ and hence $Q$ is $C_F(x)$-centric. Conversely if $Q$ is $C_F(x)$-centric then $x \in Z(C_S(x)) \leq C_{C_S(x)}(Q) \leq Q$ so $Q = \langle x \rangle$ is $F$-centric by Lemma 3.2 applied in the case $K = 1$. Since $\text{Out}_F(Q)$ acts by conjugation on $Z(Q)$, $\text{Out}_F(Q)(x)$ is well-defined. Now $\text{Aut}_{C_F(x)}(Q) = \text{Aut}_F(Q)(x)$ is exactly the set of $F$-automorphisms of $Q$ which fix $x$, and this group contains $\text{Inn}(Q)$ by assumption. The lemma follows.

Given an isomorphism $\varphi$ in $F$ from $Q$ to $Q'$, the conjugation map $c_\varphi: \text{Aut}_F(Q) \to \text{Aut}_F(Q')$ given by $\eta \to \varphi\eta\varphi^{-1}$ is an isomorphism which maps $\text{Inn}(Q)$ onto $\text{Inn}(Q')$. Thus, conjugation induces a well-defined isomorphism $\text{Out}_F(Q) \to \text{Out}_F(Q')$, which we denote by $\tau_\varphi$. The following direct application of the extension axiom is needed in Section 5.

Lemma 3.4. Let $Q$ and $Q'$ be $F$-centric subgroups of $S$, and let $R$ be a subgroup of $S$ containing $Q$ as a normal subgroup. Let $\varphi: Q \to Q'$ be an isomorphism in $F$. Assume that $c_\varphi(\text{Aut}_R(Q)) \leq \text{Aut}_S(Q')$, or, equivalently, that $\tau_\varphi(\text{Out}_R(Q)) \leq \text{Out}_S(Q')$. Let $R' \leq S$ be the inverse image of $c_\varphi(\text{Aut}_R(Q))$ under the canonical homomorphism $N_S(Q') \to \text{Aut}_S(Q')$. Then there exists a morphism $R \to S$ in $F$ extending $\varphi$. Moreover, $\tau(R) = R'$ for any such extension $\tau$.

Proof. Since $\text{Aut}_S(Q')$ is the full inverse image of $\text{Out}_S(Q')$ under the canonical surjection $\text{Aut}_F(Q') \to \text{Out}_F(Q')$, the two conditions on the image of $R$ are indeed equivalent. Hence, $R \leq N_\varphi$ in the notation of [AKO11, Definition 2.2]. Since each $F$-centric subgroup is fully $F$-centralised, the extension axiom of saturation yields the first assertion.

If $\tau$ and $\tau'$ are two $F$-morphisms extending $\varphi$, then one may find $z \in Z(Q)$ such that $\tau' = \tau \circ c_z$ by [BLO03, Lemma A.8]. Since $z \in Q \leq R$, this shows the second assertion. □

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a full subcategory of $F$ which is closed under isomorphisms and taking supergroups. Following the notation in [Lin18, Section 8.13], we denote by $S(\mathcal{C})$ the subdivision category of $\mathcal{C}$. The objects of $\mathcal{C}$ can be regarded as non-empty chains of non-isomorphisms

$$
Q_0 \to Q_1 \to \cdots \to Q_m
$$
in $\mathcal{F}$ with $Q_i$ belonging to $\mathcal{C}$. Any homomorphism in $S(\mathcal{C})$ is a composition of a chain preserving isomorphism in $\mathcal{F}$ and an inclusion of a chain as a subchain of another chain. There is a canonical functor $S(\mathcal{C}) \to \mathcal{C}$ mapping a chain to its maximal term.

By [Lin18, Proposition 8.13.3], any chain in $S(\mathcal{C})$ is isomorphic, in $S(\mathcal{C})$, to a chain of proper inclusions

$$Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m$$

of subgroups $Q_i$ of $S$ belonging to $\mathcal{C}$. In other words, the category $S(\mathcal{C})$ is equivalent to its full subcategory, denoted $S_<(\mathcal{C})$ consisting of non-empty chains of proper inclusions of subgroups of $S$ in $\mathcal{C}$. A chain $\sigma$ above is said to have length $m$, and we write $|\sigma| = m$. When convenient, we occasionally write $Q_\sigma$ and $Q^\tau$ for the smallest and largest subgroups in $\sigma$, respectively.

A morphism between chains $Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m$ and $R_0 < \cdots < R_n$ is a pair consisting of an injective map $\beta: \{0, \ldots, m\} \to \{0, \ldots, n\}$ together with a collection of isomorphisms $Q_i \to R_{\beta(i)}$ in $\mathcal{F}$ for each $i \in \{0, \ldots, m\}$ which satisfy the obvious compatibility conditions. Thus, the set of isomorphisms between chains $\sigma, \tau$ in $S_<(\mathcal{C})$ can be identified with the set of chain-preserving isomorphisms $\varphi: Q^\sigma \to Q^\tau$ in $\mathcal{F}$. Whenever $\sigma \in S_<(\mathcal{C})$, let $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$ be the subgroup of $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q^\sigma)$ consisting of those automorphisms which preserve each member of the chain. In other words, $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$ is the automorphism group of $\sigma$ in $S_<(\mathcal{C})$.

We denote by $S_\sigma(\mathcal{C})$ the full subcategory of $S_<(\mathcal{C})$ of all chains

$$Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m$$

in $S_<(\mathcal{C})$ satisfying the additional property that the $Q_i$ are normal in the maximal term $Q_m$, for $0 \leq i \leq m$.

We denote the set of isomorphism classes of chains in $S(\mathcal{C})$ by $[S(\mathcal{C})]$. Since $\mathcal{C}$, and hence $S(\mathcal{C})$, is an EI-category, the set $[S(\mathcal{C})]$ has a canonical partial order given by $[\sigma] \leq [\tau]$, whenever $[\sigma], [\tau]$ are the isomorphism classes of chains $\sigma, \tau$ in $S(\mathcal{C})$ such that $\text{Hom}_{S(\mathcal{C})}(\sigma, \tau)$ is non-empty.

If $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(G)$ for some finite group $G$ having $S$ as a Sylow $p$-subgroup, then $[S_<(\mathcal{C})]$ is isomorphic to the poset of $G$-conjugacy classes of chains of subgroups in $\mathcal{C}$. For a more general statement regarding $G$-conjugacy classes of chains of Brauer pairs of a block, see [Lin05, Proposition 4.6].

### 4. Compatible Families of Second Cohomology Classes

We describe properties of Külsheimer-Puig classes of blocks which are needed to ensure that the conjectures stated for saturated fusion systems do indeed specialize to the block theoretic versions from which they are inspired in case the triple $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ under consideration is realized by a block. We briefly review the construction of Külsheimer-Puig classes (see e. g. [Lin18, Theorem 5.3.12, Corollary 8.12.9, Section 8.14] for more details and proofs).

Let $M$ be a finite-dimensional simple $k$-algebra; that is, $M$ is isomorphic to a matrix algebra over $k$. Let $G$ be a finite group acting on $M$ by algebra automorphisms. By the Skolem-Noether Theorem, every automorphism of $M$ is inner, and hence for any $g \in G$ there is an element $s_g \in M^\times$ such that the action of $g$ is equal to the conjugation action of $s_g$ on $M$. Since $Z(M) \cong k$, the elements $s_g$ are only unique up to scalars in $k^\times$. Thus for $g, h \in G$ we have $s_g s_h = \alpha(g, h) s_{gh}$ for some $\alpha(g, h) \in k^\times$. The map $\alpha: G \times G \to k^\times$ is then a
2-cocycle whose class in $H^2(G, k^\times)$ is independent of the choices of the $s_g$. We call this class the \textit{class determined by the action of $G$ on $M$}. If $G$ acts trivially on $M$, then $\alpha$ is the trivial class.

Suppose now that $G$ has a normal subgroup $N$ such that the action of $N$ on the simple algebra $M$ lifts to a $G$-stable group homomorphism $\tau : N \to M^\times$. Let $[G/N]$ be a set of representatives of $G/N$ in $G$. For each $g \in [G/N]$ choose some $s_g$ as above, and for each $h \in N$ set $s_{gh} = s_g\tau(h)$. One checks that the 2-cocycle $\alpha$ determined by this choice has the property that its values $\alpha(g, h)$ depend only on the images of $g, h$ in $G/N$, for all $g, h \in G$, and hence $\alpha$ induces a 2-cocycle $\beta$ on $G/N$ whose class in $H^2(G/N, k^\times)$ does not depend on the choices of the $s_g$ (but the class of $\beta$ does depend on the choice $\tau$ lifting the action of $N$ on $M$). We call this class \textit{the class determined by the action of $G$ on $M$ together with the group homomorphism $\tau$}. Even if $G$ acts trivially on $M$ this does not necessarily imply that $\beta$ is trivial (this depends on whether $\tau$ is trivial).

This scenario arises if $M$ is a simple algebra quotient of $kN$ by a $G$-stable maximal ideal in $kN$. Here the action of $G$ is the conjugation action and the map $\tau$ is induced by the canonical algebra surjection $kN \to M$. Any such scenario determines a class $\beta$ in $H^2(G/N, k^\times)$ whose restriction to $G$ along the canonical surjection $G \to G/N$ is equal to the class $\alpha$ determined by the action of $G$ on $M$. For technical Clifford theoretic reasons it is usually more convenient to consider the inverse class.

The Külshammer–Puig classes arise in turn as special cases of this construction. Let $B$ be a block of $kG$ with maximal $B$-Brauer pair $(S, e)$ and associated fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ on $S$. Let $Q$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup of $S$. That is, if $f$ is the unique block of $kC_G(Q)$ satisfying $(Q, f) \leq (S, e)$, then $Z(Q)$ is a defect group of $f$ (which is clearly central), and hence $kC_G(Q)f$ is a nilpotent block with a unique simple algebra quotient $M_Q$. The uniqueness ensures that $M_Q$ is $N_G(Q, f)$-stable. By standard facts, $M_Q$ is also the unique simple algebra quotient of $kQC_G(Q)f$. Note that $QC_G(Q)$ is a normal subgroup of $N_G(Q, f)$, and that $N_G(Q, f)/QC_G(Q) \cong \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$. Thus the previous scenario with $N_G(Q, f)$ and $QC_G(Q)$ instead of $G$ and $N$, respectively, yields a canonical class in $H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$. The inverse of this class is the Külshammer–Puig class $\alpha_Q$. Using $N_G(Q, f)$ and $C_G(Q)$ would yield the corresponding class, abusively again denoted $\alpha_Q$, in $H^2(\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$.

Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$. We denote by $\mathcal{F}^c$ the full subcategory of $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroups of $S$. For any $Q \in \mathcal{F}^c$, we may (and will) identify without further comment the group $H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$ with $H^2(\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$ via the isomorphism induced by the canonical surjection $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \to \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$. The assignment $Q \mapsto H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$ is not functorial on $\mathcal{F}^c$. In order to interpret certain families of classes in $\prod_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c} H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$ as a limit of a functor, we need to pass to the subdivision category $S(\mathcal{F}^c)$ of $\mathcal{F}^c$. By [Lin09a, Theorem 1.1], there is a canonical functor $A^2_\mathcal{F}$ from $[S(\mathcal{F}^c)]$ to the category of abelian groups which sends an object $\sigma$ of $[S(\mathcal{F}^c)]$ to $H^2(\text{Aut}_{S(\mathcal{F}^c)}(\sigma), k^\times)$ for some $\sigma \in S(\mathcal{F}^c)$ such that $\tau = [\sigma]$. The choice of representative $\sigma$ determines this functor up to unique isomorphism.

Let $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c}$ be a family of classes $\alpha_Q \in H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$. For each $\tau \in [S(\mathcal{F}^c)]$, define the element $\alpha_\tau \in A^2_\mathcal{F}(\tau)$ to be the restriction of $\alpha_{Q_m}$ to the subgroup $\text{Aut}_{S(\mathcal{F}^c)}(\sigma)$ of $\text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q_m)$ where

$$\sigma = (Q_0 \to Q_1 \to \cdots \to Q_m)$$

is the representative of $\tau$ in $S[\mathcal{F}^c]$ as above.
Definition 4.1. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$. An $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family is a family $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}}$ of classes $\alpha_Q \in H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$ such that the corresponding family $(\alpha_\tau)_{\tau \in [S(\mathcal{F}^c)]}$ as above belongs to $\lim_{[S(\mathcal{F}^c)]} \mathcal{A}_\mathcal{F}^2$. In that case, we write $\alpha \in \lim_{[S(\mathcal{F}^c)]} \mathcal{A}_\mathcal{F}^2$ for short.

The set of $\mathcal{F}$-compatible classes forms a subgroup of the abelian group $\prod_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c} H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q), k^\times)$.

By [Lin18, Theorem 8.14.5], the family $\alpha$ of Külshammer-Puig classes of a block $B$ of some finite group algebra $kG$ with defect group $S$ and fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ is $\mathcal{F}$-compatible. By [Lin09b, Theorem 4.7] the inclusions of categories $S_c(\mathcal{F}^c) \subseteq S_c(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq S(\mathcal{C})$ induce isomorphisms

$$\lim_{[S(\mathcal{F}^c)]} \mathcal{A}_\mathcal{F}^2 \cong \lim_{[S_c(\mathcal{F}^c)]} \mathcal{A}_\mathcal{F}^2 \cong \lim_{[S_c(\mathcal{F}^c)]} \mathcal{A}_\mathcal{F}^2$$

Thus to check $\mathcal{F}$-compatibility it suffices to consider normal chains. In fact, it suffices to consider normal chains of length at most 1.

Lemma 4.2 ([Lin18, Theorem 8.14.5] and its proof). Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$, and let $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c}$ with $\alpha_Q \in H^2(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q); k^\times)$ for any $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$. The following are equivalent.

1. The family $\alpha$ is $\mathcal{F}$-compatible.

2. For any proper normal $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of an $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $R$ of $S$, the images of $\alpha_Q$ and $\alpha_R$ in $H^2(\text{Aut}_{S(\mathcal{F}^c)}(Q \triangleleft R), k^\times)$ under the maps induced by the canonical group homomorphisms

   $$\text{Aut}_{S(\mathcal{F}^c)}(Q \triangleleft R) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(Q)$$
   $$\text{Aut}_{S(\mathcal{F}^c)}(Q \triangleleft R) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_\mathcal{F}(R)$$

   are equal.

We need to follow compatible families through passages to centralizers of elements and normalizers of chains of $p$-subgroups.

Lemma 4.3. [Lin18, Proposition 8.3.7] Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$, and let $Q$ be a fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized subgroup of $S$. If $R$ is a $C_\mathcal{F}(Q)$-centric subgroup of $C_S(Q)$, then $QR$ is an $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup of $S$. The correspondence $R \mapsto QR$ extends to a unique functor

$$C_\mathcal{F}(Q)^c \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^c$$

which sends a morphism $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$ in $C_\mathcal{F}(Q)^c$ to the unique morphism $\psi : QR \rightarrow QR'$ in $\mathcal{F}^c$ which is the identity on $Q$ and coincides with $\varphi$ on $R$.

This functor extends obviously to a functor between subdivision categories, and hence this functor sends an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$ to a $C_\mathcal{F}(Q)$-compatible family $\alpha(Q)$. In order to ensure that the conjectures involving this functor specialize to known facts or conjectures, we need to check that if $\alpha$ is realized by a block $B$ of $kG$, then $\alpha(Q)$ is realized by the corresponding block of $kC_G(Q)$. 

Proposition 4.4. Let $G$ be a finite group, $B$ a block of $kG$, and $(S,e)$ a maximal $B$-Brauer pair. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be the fusion system of $B$ on $S$ determined by the choice of $e$, and let $\alpha = (\alpha_Q)_{Q \in \mathcal{F}}$ be the family of Kulshammer–Puig classes of $B$. Denote by $e_Q$ the unique block of $kC_G(Q)$ such that $(Q,e_Q) \leq (S,e)$ and by $f$ the unique block of $C_{C_G(Q)}(C_S(Q)) = C_G(QC_S(Q))$ satisfying $(C_S(Q),f) \leq (S,e)$. Then $(C_S(Q),f)$ is a maximal $(C_G(Q),e_Q)$-Brauer pair which determines the fusion system $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ on $C_S(Q)$. The restriction of $\alpha$ to a family $(\alpha_Q)$ along the canonical functor $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)^c \to \mathcal{F}^c$ is the family of Kulshammer–Puig classes of the block $kC_G(Q)e_Q$ with respect to the maximal $(C_G(Q),e_Q)$-Brauer pair $(C_S(Q),f)$.

Proof. The fact that $(C_S(Q),f)$ is a maximal $(C_G(Q),e_Q)$-Brauer pair which determines the fusion system $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ on $C_S(Q)$ is well-known, and proved, for instance, in [Lin18, Proposition 8.5.4]. For the statement on Kulshammer–Puig classes, we need the construction of these classes as reviewed at the beginning of this Section. Let $R$ be a $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$-centric subgroup of $C_S(Q)$. By Proposition 4.3 $QR$ is $\mathcal{F}$-centric. Note that $C_{CG(Q)}(R) = C_G(QR)$. Thus if $g$ is the unique block of $kC_G(QR)$ such that $(QR,g) \leq (S,e)$, then $g$ is also the unique block of $kC_{CG(Q)}(R)$ such that $(R,g) \leq (C_S(Q),f)$. These blocks have therefore the same unique simple quotient (as they are nilpotent blocks), and clearly $N_{C_G(Q)}(R,f)$ is a subgroup of $N_G(QR,f)$. Since the Kulshammer–Puig classes of $R$ and $QR$ for $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ are determined by the respective actions of the groups $N_{C_G(Q)}(R,f)$ and $N_G(QR,f)$ on that simple quotient, it follows that the class of $R$ in $C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$ is indeed obtained from restricting the class of $QR$ in $\mathcal{F}$ along the canonical map $\text{Aut}_{C_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)}(R) \to \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(QR)$.

We apply this for cyclic $Q$. Let $x$ be an element in $S$ such that $\langle x \rangle$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized. For $\alpha$ an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family, we denote by $\alpha(x)$ the corresponding $C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)$-compatible family, obtained from restricting $\alpha$ along the canonical functor $C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)^c \to \mathcal{F}^c$ from Proposition 4.3 applied with $Q = \langle x \rangle$. By Proposition 4.4 if $\alpha$ is a family of Kulshammer–Puig classes of a block, then $\alpha(x)$ is a family of Kulshammer–Puig classes of the relevant Brauer correspondent of the block.

Proposition 4.5. Suppose that $(S,\mathcal{F},\alpha)$ is realizable by a block $B$ of a finite group algebra $kG$. Then $w(\mathcal{F},\alpha)$ is the number of weights associated with $B$. In particular, AWC holds for $B$ if and only if $w(\mathcal{F},\alpha) = \ell(B)$. Moreover, if AWC holds for $B$ and all its Brauer pairs, then $k(\mathcal{F},\alpha) = k(B)$, the number of ordinary irreducible characters associated with $B$.

Proof. For the first assertion see for instance [Kes07, Proposition 5.4]. The fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ is determined by a choice of a block $e$ of $kC_G(S)$ such that $(S,e)$ is a maximal $B$-Brauer pair (see e. g. [Kes07, Definition 3.8]). Let $x \in S$ such that $\langle x \rangle$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized. Let $f$ be the block of $kC_G(x)$ such that $\langle (x),f \rangle$ is the unique $B$-Brauer pair contained in $(S,e)$. By Proposition 4.4, the triple $(C_S(x),C_{\mathcal{F}}(x),\alpha(x))$ is realized by the block $f$ of $kC_G(x)$, and hence it follows that $w(C_{\mathcal{F}}(x),\alpha(x)) = \ell(kC_G(x)f)$ thanks to the assumption that $B$-Brauer pairs satisfy AWC. A theorem of Brauer (cf. [Lin18, Theorem 6.13.12]) now implies the second assertion (see also [AKO11, IV. 5.7]).
For $\mathcal{F}$ a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$, denote by $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ the associated orbit category, obtained from $\mathcal{F}$ by taking as morphisms the orbits $\text{Inn}(R) \backslash \text{Hom}_R(Q,R)$ of morphisms in $\mathcal{F}$ from $Q$ to $R$ modulo inner automorphisms of $R$, for any two subgroups $Q$, $R$ of $S$. In particular, $\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \cong \text{Aut}_\overline{\mathcal{F}}(Q)$. Recall from [Lin09b, Definition 5.1] that a normal chain

$$\sigma = (Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m) \in S_\sigma(\mathcal{F})$$

is called fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized if $Q_0$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized and if either $m = 0$ or the chain

$$\sigma_{\geq 1} = (Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m)$$

is fully $N_\mathcal{F}(Q_0)$-normalized. Every chain in $S_\sigma(\mathcal{F})$ is isomorphic to a fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized chain. Note that since $\sigma$ is a normal chain, we have $Q_mC_S(Q_m) \leq N_S(\sigma)$. We need an analogue of Proposition 4.4 for $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$.

**Proposition 4.6.** Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Let $\sigma = (Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m) \in S_\sigma(\mathcal{F})$ be fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized.

1. For every $P \leq N_S(\sigma)$, if $P$ is $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-centric, then $Q_mP$ is $\mathcal{F}$-centric.
2. Let $P$, $R$ be $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-centric subgroups of $N_S(\sigma)$, let $\varphi : P \rightarrow R$ a morphism in $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$, and let $\psi, \psi' : Q_mP \rightarrow Q_mR$ be morphisms in $\mathcal{F}$ extending $\varphi$ and satisfying $\psi(Q_i) = Q_i = \psi'(Q_i)$ for $0 \leq i \leq m$. Then the classes of $\psi$ and $\psi'$ are conjugate by an element in $Z(P)$. In particular, the correspondence sending $\varphi$ to any choice of $\psi$ induces a functor

$$\Psi : N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)^c \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{F}}.$$

3. For any $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-centric subgroup $P$ of $N_S(\sigma)$, the functor $\Psi$ induces a group homomorphism

$$\text{Out}_{N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)}(P) \rightarrow \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q_mP),$$

and the restriction along these group homomorphisms induces a map from the group of $\mathcal{F}$-compatible families to the group of $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-compatible families.

4. If $(S,\mathcal{F},\alpha)$ is realized by a block $B$ with respect to a maximal $B$-Brauer pair $(S,e)$, then $(N_S(\sigma),N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma),\alpha(\sigma))$ is realized by the block $e_m$ of $kG(\sigma,e_m)$ such that $(Q_m,e_m) \leq (S,e)$, with respect to the maximal $(N_G(\sigma,e_m),e_m)$-Brauer pair $(N_S(\sigma),f)$, where $f$ is the unique block of $C_{N_G(\sigma)}(N_S(\sigma)) = C_G(N_S(\sigma))$ satisfying $(N_S(\sigma),f) \leq (S,e)$.

**Proof.** In order to prove the first statement, we argue by induction over the length $m$ of the chain $\sigma = Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m$. Suppose that $m = 0$, so $\sigma = Q_0$, and $Q_0$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalised. Let $P$ be an $N_\mathcal{F}(Q_0)$-centric subgroup of $N_S(Q_0)$. Then $Q_0P$ is $\mathcal{F}$-centric by Lemma 3.2. Suppose now that $m > 0$. Let $P \leq N_S(\sigma)$ be $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-centric. Set $\sigma' = Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_{m-1}$ and $\mathcal{F}' = N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma')$. By [Lin09b, Proposition 5.4], $\sigma'$ is a fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized chain, and $Q_m$ is fully $\mathcal{F}'$-normalized. By the statement for $m = 0$ applied to $\mathcal{F}'$, it follows that $Q_mP$ is $\mathcal{F}'$-centric. By induction, $Q_mP$ is $\mathcal{F}$-centric.

For the second statement, note that the two extensions $\psi, \psi'$ of $\varphi$ are both again morphisms in $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$, and their restrictions to the $N_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)$-centric subgroup $P$ coincide. Thus, by a standard fact (see e.g. [BLO03, Lemma A.8]) they differ by conjugation with an element in $Z(P)$. That means that the image of $\psi$ in the orbit category $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ is uniquely determined by $\varphi$, whence the second statement. The third statement is a formal consequence of the second.
For the proof of the fourth statement, note first that this makes sense: we have $C_G(Q_m) \leq N_G(\sigma, e_m) \leq N_0(Q_m, e_m)$, and $\text{Aut}_S(\sigma) \cong N_G(\sigma, e_m)/C_G(Q_m)$. In particular, by standard block theory, $e_m$ remains a block of $kN_G(\sigma, e_m)$. An interated application of [Lin18 Proposition 8.5.4] shows that $N_\sigma(\sigma)$ is the fusion system of this block with respect to the maximal Brauer pair as stated. The same argument as at the end of the proof of Proposition 4.4 shows that restricting $\alpha$ for some normal $F$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$, that $Q$ is normal in $L$ satisfying $C_L(Q) = Z(Q)$; that is, $L$ is $p$-constrained. In particular, we have canonical isomorphisms $L/Q \cong \text{Out}_F(Q)$ and $L/Z(Q) \cong \text{Aut}_F(Q)$. The group $L$ is called a model for $\mathcal{F}$.

Recall that a saturated fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ on a finite $p$-group $S$ is constrained if $\mathcal{F} = N_\sigma(\sigma)$ for some normal $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$. In that case, by [BCG+05 Proposition C] (see [AKO11 Theorem 4.9]), $\mathcal{F}$ is the fusion system of a finite group $L$ with $S$ as Sylow $p$-subgroup, such that $Q$ is normal in $L$ satisfying $C_L(Q) = Z(Q)$; that is, $L$ is $p$-constrained. In particular, we have canonical isomorphisms $L/Q \cong \text{Out}_F(Q)$ and $L/Z(Q) \cong \text{Aut}_F(Q)$. The group $L$ is called a model for $\mathcal{F}$.

**Proposition 4.7** ([Lin09a Section 6]). Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ such that $\mathcal{F} = N_\sigma(\sigma)$ for some normal $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$. Let $L$ be a finite group such that $S$ is a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $L$, such that $Q$ is normal in $L$ satisfying $C_L(Q) = Z(Q)$, and such that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(L)$. The restriction from $\mathcal{F}^c$ to $\text{Aut}_F(Q)$ and the canonical map $L \to \text{Aut}_F(Q)$ induce isomorphisms

$$H^2(\mathcal{F}^c, k^\times) \cong H^2(\text{Aut}_F(Q), k^\times) \cong H^2(L, k^\times).$$

In particular, any $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family $\alpha$ is uniquely determined by the component $\alpha_Q$.

**Proposition 4.8** (cf. [AKO11 Proposition IV.5.34], [Lin04 5.3]). Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ such that $\mathcal{F} = N_\sigma(\sigma)$ for some normal $\mathcal{F}$-centric subgroup $Q$ of $S$. Let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. Let $L$ be a finite group such that $S$ is a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $L$, such that $Q$ is normal in $L$ satisfying $C_L(Q) = Z(Q)$, and such that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(L)$. Choose a finite cyclic subgroup $Y$ of $k^\times$ containing all values of a 2-cocycle representing the class $\alpha_Q$. Then $(S, \mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by a block of the central extension $\hat{L}$ of $L$ by $Y$ determined by $\alpha_Q$, regarded as a class in $H^2(L, Y)$.

In particular $\alpha = 0$ if and only if $b$ is the principal block of $k\hat{L}$ (which is isomorphic to the principal block of $kL$). More generally, the blocks arising in the previous Proposition are twisted group algebras of $L$; we lay out the connection between $p'$-central extensions and twisted group algebras in the next result

**Proposition 4.9.** Let $G$ be a finite group, and $\alpha \in H^2(G, k^\times)$.

1. There exists a central extension

$$1 \to Z \to \tilde{G} \to G \to 1$$

where $Z$ is a cyclic group of order prime to $p$ and a primitive idempotent $e$ of $kZ$ such for any subgroup $L$ of $G$, we have an isomorphism $k_\alpha L \cong k\tilde{L}e$, where $L$ is the inverse image of $L$ in $\tilde{G}$. In particular $\ell(k_\alpha L) = \ell(k\tilde{L}e)$ and $z(k_\alpha L) = z(k\tilde{L}e)$.

2. Suppose that there exists a normal $p$-subgroup $Q$ of $G$ such that $C_G(Q) = Z(Q)$. Identify $\alpha$ with the corresponding element of $H^2(G/Q, k^\times)$. Let $L$ be a subgroup of $G$ containing $Q$, $S$ a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $L$, and $\hat{S}$ the Sylow $p$-subgroup of the inverse
image of $S$ in $\tilde{L}$. Denote also by $\alpha$ the $\mathcal{F}_S(L)$-compatible family determined by the restriction of $\alpha$ to $L$ as in Proposition 4.7. Then, $kL$ is a block of $k\tilde{L}$ realizing $(S, \mathcal{F}_S(L), \alpha)$ through the canonical isomorphism $\hat{S} \cong S$. Moreover, AWC holds for $kLe$ if and only if

$$\ell(k_\alpha L) = \sum_R z(k_\alpha N_{L/Q}(R)/R)$$

where $R$ runs over a set of representatives of the $L/Q$-classes of $p$-subgroups of $L/Q$.

**Proof.** Since $k$ is algebraically closed it is well-known that $H^2(G, k^\times)$ is finite, and hence $\alpha$ can be represented by a 2-cocycle, abusively still denoted by $\alpha$, with values in a finite subgroup $Z$ of $k^\times$. Then $Z$ is cyclic of order prime to $p$, since $k$ is a field of characteristic $p$. Represent $\alpha$ by a central extension

$$1 \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \tilde{G} \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1$$

and denote, for any $x \in G$, by $\tilde{x}$ an inverse image of $x$ in $\tilde{G}$ satisfying $\tilde{x} \tilde{y} = \alpha(x, y) \tilde{xy}$ for all $x, y \in G$. We regard the elements of $Z$ as elements in the centre of $\tilde{G}$ and not as scalars; if we do want to consider the elements of $Z$ as scalars, we denote this via the inclusion map $\iota : Z \rightarrow k^\times$. Set $e = \frac{1}{|Z|} \sum_{z \in Z} \iota(z^{-1})z$. This is a primitive idempotent in $kZ$, and $kZe$ is 1-dimensional. An easy verification shows that the map sending $xe \in k\tilde{G}e$ to $x$ induces an algebra isomorphism $k\tilde{G}e \cong k_\alpha G$. This isomorphism restricts to an isomorphism $k\tilde{L}e \cong k_\alpha L$, for any subgroup $L$ of $G$. Statement (1) follows.

Let $\hat{Q}$ be the Sylow $p$-subgroup of the inverse image $\tilde{Q}$ of $Q$ in $\tilde{L}$. Then $\tilde{Q} = Z \times \hat{Q}$, and hence $\hat{Q}$ is normal in $\tilde{L}$. Thus all block idempotents of $k\tilde{L}$ lie in $kC_{\tilde{L}}(\tilde{Q}) = k(\tilde{Z}(\hat{Q}) \times Z)$. In other words, the block idempotents of $k\tilde{L}$ are precisely the primitive idempotents of $kZ$. In particular, $k\tilde{L}e$ is a block of $k\tilde{L}$. One easily checks that this block has defect group $\tilde{S}$, which is isomorphic to $S$, and through this isomorphism, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(L)$ is the (in this situation unique) fusion system on $S$ of the block $e$ of $\tilde{L}$. We need to show that $\alpha$ is the family of Külshammer–Puig classes of this block. By Proposition 4.7 it suffices to show this for the class $\alpha_{\hat{Q}}$. We write again $\alpha$ instead of $\alpha_{\hat{Q}}$, and consider $\alpha$ as a class of $H^2(L, k^\times)$ whenever appropriate. Note that $e$ remains the unique block of $C_{\tilde{L}}(\hat{Q}) = \tilde{Z}(Q) \times Z$ such that $(\hat{Q}, e)$ is a ($\tilde{L}, e$)-Brauer pair. So the construction of the Külshammer–Puig class at $\hat{Q}$ is obtained as the special case of the construction described at the beginning of this section with $\tilde{L}$ and $Z \times \hat{Q}$ instead of $G$ and $N$, respectively, and with the 1-dimensional quotient $M \cong k$ of $k(Z \times \hat{Q})$ given by the map $\iota : Z \rightarrow k^\times$ extended trivially to $\hat{Q}$, still denoted by $\iota$. Since any group action on a 1-dimensional algebra is trivial, we may choose $s_x = 1$ for $x$ running over a set of representatives of $\tilde{L}/(\tilde{Q} \times Z) \cong L/Q$. Then also $s_x = 1$ for $x$ running over a set of representatives of $L/Z \cong L$, because $\iota$ is extended trivially to $\hat{Q}$. Thus, for a general element of the form $\tilde{x}z$, with $x \in L$ and $z \in Z$, we may choose $s_{\tilde{x}z} = \iota(z)$; in particular, $s_{\tilde{x}} = 1$ for $x \in L$. We need to show that this determines $\alpha^{-1}$. Note that $\alpha$ is determined by its restriction to $L$ via the map $L \rightarrow L/\hat{Q}$. Let $x, y \in L$. By construction, we have $s_{\tilde{x}} = s_\tilde{y} = s_{\tilde{x}\tilde{y}} = 1$. Since $\tilde{x}\tilde{y} = \tilde{x}\tilde{y}\alpha(x, y)$, it follows that

$$s_{\tilde{x}\tilde{y}} = s_{\tilde{x}\tilde{y}}\iota(\alpha(x, y)) = \iota(\alpha(x, y))$$
and hence (writing $\alpha$ instead of $\iota \circ \alpha$) we have

$$1 = s_z s_\tilde{y} = \alpha(x, y)^{-1} s_{\tilde{x} \tilde{y}}$$

This shows that $\alpha$ is the Külshammer–Puig class of this block at $\tilde{Q}$. Note that by the first statement we have $k\tilde{L}e \cong k_\alpha L$. The last statement on AWC follows from the fact that if $P \leq S$ is $\mathcal{F}_S(L)$-centric radical, then $P$ contains $Q$ and if $Q \leq P \leq S$, then $N_{L/Q}(P/Q)/(P/Q)) \cong N_L(P)/P = \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}_S(L)}(P)$.

**Lemma 4.10.** Let $G$ be a finite group with normal subgroup $N$. Fix a cohomology class $\alpha \in H^2(G, k^\times)$ and write also $\alpha$ for the restriction to $N$. If $z(k_\alpha G) \neq 0$, then $z(k_\alpha N) \neq 0$.

**Proof.** Using Proposition 4.9 we fix a $p'$-central extension $1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \to G \to 1$ corresponding to $\alpha$ and a central idempotent $e \in kZ$ such that $k_\alpha G \cong k\hat{G}e$. Then the restriction $\alpha$ is the class corresponding to the induced central extension $\hat{N}$ of $N$, and $k_\alpha N \cong k\hat{N}e$. Assume now that $k_\alpha G$ has a projective simple module. Then $k\hat{G}e$, and hence $k\hat{G}$, has a projective simple module, say $M$. The restriction of $M$ to $\hat{N}$ is both projective and semisimple. Hence, any simple summand of $\text{Res}^G_N M$ is projective. Since $e$ still acts as the identity on the restriction of $M$, we see that $k\hat{N}e$ has a projective simple module, and hence so does $k_\alpha N$. \hfill $\square$

**Lemma 4.11.** Let $G$ be a finite group and $\alpha \in H^2(G, k^\times)$. If $O_p(G) \neq 1$, then $z(k_\alpha G) = 0$.

**Proof.** As in the proof of Lemma 4.10 let $1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \to G \to 1$ be a $p'$-central extension of $G$ determined by $\alpha$, and let $e \in kZ$ be a central idempotent in $k\hat{G}$ such that $k_\alpha G \cong k\hat{G}e$. Let $P = O_p(G)$ and $\hat{P}$ be the preimage under the quotient map. Since $Z$ is a $p'$-group, the restriction of $\alpha$ to $P$ is trivial, and so $\hat{P} = Z \times P_0$ with $P_0$ mapping isomorphically to $P$. Then $O_p(\hat{P}) = P_0 \neq 1$ is a normal $p$-subgroup of $\hat{G}$. Thus, as $kP$ has no projective simple module, neither does $k\hat{G}$ by Lemma 4.10. Hence neither does $k\hat{G}e \cong k_\alpha G$. \hfill $\square$

The following calculation will be needed in Section 8.

**Lemma 4.12.** Let $G$ be a finite group with normal subgroup $N$. Suppose that $V$ is an inertial projective simple $kN$-module and that $G/N$ is a cyclic $p'$-group. Then $G$ has exactly $|G : N|$ projective simple modules lying over $V$. In particular, if $q$ is a power of $p$ and $N = \text{SL}_n(q) \leq G \leq \text{GL}_n(q)$, then $z(kG) = |G : \text{SL}_n(q)|$.

**Proof.** Since $G/N$ is a cyclic group, we have that $H^2(G/N, k^\times)$ is trivial. Thus, the hypotheses of Corollary 5.3.13 of [Lin18] hold. By that result and its proof, we may fix a simple $kG$-module $U$ with $\text{Res}^G_N(U) \cong V$, and then the collection of isomorphism classes of one dimensional $kG/N$-modules is in one-to-one correspondence with the collection of simple $kG$-modules restricting to $V$ via the map $W \mapsto U \otimes_k W$, where we regard $W$ as a module for $G$ by inflation. Also, the $U \otimes_k W$ are precisely the summands of the induced module $\text{Ind}_N^G V$, and hence all projective. This completes the proof of the first statement.

In the special case of the last statement, by results of Steinberg (see [Hum06, Theorem 3.7, Theorem 8.3]) $N = \text{SL}_n(p)$ has exactly one projective simple module, the Steinberg module, which is therefore inertial. Since $G/N$ is a cyclic $p'$-group in this case, and since any projective $kG$-module is projective also as a $kN$-module, the last statement follows. \hfill $\square$
Fix a finite group $G$ and an abelian group $A$. Let $\mathcal{P}$ be the set of all chains of proper inclusions

$$Q_0 = 1 < Q_1 \cdots < Q_m$$

of $p$-subgroups of $G$. This is a $G$-set with respect to the conjugation action of $G$ on chains, and we denote by $N_G(\sigma)$ the stabilizer of $\sigma$ in $G$. Let $\mathcal{N}$ be the subset of all such chains satisfying in addition $Q_i \leq Q_m$ for each $0 \leq i \leq m$. Let $\mathcal{E}$ be the set of chains in $\mathcal{N}$ consisting of elementary abelian subgroups. Both $\mathcal{N}$ and $\mathcal{E}$ are $G$-subsets of $\mathcal{P}$. For the purpose of calculating alternating sums indexed by chains, we can pass between $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{N}$, and $\mathcal{E}$:

**Lemma 4.13 ([KR89], Proposition 3.3]).** Let $G$, $A$, $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{N}$, and $\mathcal{E}$ be as above. Let $\mathbf{f}$ be a function from the set of subgroups of $G$ to $A$ such that $\mathbf{f}$ is constant on conjugacy classes of subgroups of $G$. Then

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}/G} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \mathbf{f}(N_G(\sigma)) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{N}/G} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \mathbf{f}(N_G(\sigma)) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{E}/G} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \mathbf{f}(N_G(\sigma)).$$

We shall need the following well-known Lemma in Section 5.

**Lemma 4.14 ([Thé92], Lemma 2.1, [KR89], Proposition 3.3]).** Let $G$, $A$, and $\mathcal{N}$ be as above and let $\mathbf{f}$ be a function from the set of subgroups of $G$ to $A$ such that $\mathbf{f}$ is constant on conjugacy classes of subgroups of $G$. If $O_{p}(G) \neq 1$, then

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{N}/G} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \mathbf{f}(N_G(\sigma)) = 0.$$

**Proof.** We sketch the proof for the convenience of the reader. Set $R := O_{p}(G)$ and assume that $R > 1$. We show that there exists a $G$-invariant involution $\eta: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ where $N_G(\sigma) = N_G(\eta(\sigma))$ and $|\eta(\sigma)| = |\sigma| \pm 1$. Given $\sigma = (Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m) \in \mathcal{N}$, choose $i$ maximal with the property that $R \not\leq Q_i$. Since $R \not\leq 1 = Q_0$, we see that there is such an $i$. By choice of $i$, we have $Q_i < Q_i R$, and we have $Q_i R \leq Q_{i+1}$ if $i < m$. Define

$$\eta(\sigma) = \begin{cases} Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m < Q_m R & \text{if } i = m, \\ Q_0 < \cdots < Q_i < Q_{i+2} < \cdots < Q_m & \text{if } Q_i R = Q_{i+1}, \text{ and} \\ Q_0 < \cdots Q_i < Q_i R < Q_{i+1} < \cdots < Q_m & \text{if } Q_i R < Q_{i+1}. \end{cases}$$

Then $\eta(\sigma) \in \mathcal{N}$ and $N_G(\sigma) = N_G(\eta(\sigma))$ for each $\sigma \in \mathcal{N}$, since $R$ is a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$. Also, $|\eta(\sigma)| = |\sigma| \pm 1$. It is a momentary exercise to verify that $\eta$ is an involution on $\mathcal{N}$. Hence, the alternating sum vanishes as claimed.

**Remark 4.15.** We finish this section with a mention of a recurrent elementary tool for reordering sums indexed by two or more sets acted upon by a finite group $G$, which we will use without much further comment. Let $X$, $Y$ be finite $G$-sets and denote by $\pi_X : X \times Y \rightarrow X$, $\pi_Y : Y \times X \rightarrow X$ the projection maps. Let $A$ be a $G$-invariant subset of $X \times Y$ under the diagonal action of $G$ on $X \times Y$. Suppose that for any $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ we have an element $\alpha(x, y)$ in some abelian group depending only on the $G$-orbit of $(x, y)$. Then

$$\sum_{(x, y) \in A/G} \alpha(x, y)$$
is equal to any of the following double sums
\[
\sum_{x \in X/G} \sum_{y \in \pi_Y(\pi_X^{-1}(x) \cap A)/G_x} \alpha(x, y)
\]
\[
\sum_{y \in Y/G} \sum_{x \in \pi_X(\pi_Y^{-1}(y) \cap A)/G_y} \alpha(x, y).
\]

Note that the two double sums make sense as by the \(G\)-invariance of \(A\), for each \(x \in X\), \(\pi_Y(\pi_X^{-1}(x) \cap A)\) is \(G_x\)-invariant and for each \(y \in Y\), \(\pi_X(\pi_Y^{-1}(y) \cap A)\) is \(G_y\)-invariant. Let \(X\) be a set of representatives of the \(G\)-orbits of \(X\) and for each \(x \in X\), let \(Y_x\) be a set of representatives of the \(G_x\)-orbits of \(X\) and set
\[
U := \{(x, y) : x \in X, y \in Y_x\}.
\]
Then, \(U \subseteq A\). We will show that \(U\) is a set of representatives of the \(G\)-orbits of \(A\), and this will yield the equality of \(\sum_{(x,y) \in A/G} \alpha(x, y)\) with the first double sum. Suppose that \(x, x' \in X\), \(y, y' \in Y_x\) are such that \((x, y)\) and \((x', y')\) are in the same \(G\)-orbit and let \(g \in G\) be such that \((x', y') = g(x, y)\). By comparing the first components, it follows that \(x' = x\) and \(g \in G_x\). Now comparing the second components implies \(y' = y\). Conversely, let \((x_0, y_0) \in A\). We will show that \((x_0, y_0)\) is \(G\)-conjugate to an element of \(U\). By definition of \(X\), there exists \(g \in G\) and \(x \in X\) such that \(x_0 = g(x, y)\), hence by replacing \((x_0, y_0)\) by \(g(x_0, y_0)\) we may assume that \(x_0 \in X\). Since \((x_0, y_0) \in A\), \(y_0 \in \pi_Y(\pi_X^{-1}(x_0) \cap A)\). Hence by the definition of \(Y_{x_0}, y_0\) is \(G_{x_0}\)-conjugate to some element of \(Y_{x_0}\), say \(z_0 = h \cdot y_0\) with \(h \in G_{x_0}, z_0 \in Y_{x_0}\). Then
\[
h(x_0, y_0) = (h \cdot x_0, h \cdot y_0) = (x_0, z_0) \in U
\]
as required. The proof of the equality with the second sum is entirely analogous.

5. Towards Theorem 1.1

Throughout this section let \(F\) be a saturated fusion system on a finite \(p\)-group \(S\), and let \(\alpha\) be an \(F\)-compatible family.

Our first goal will be to reformulate \(m^*(F, \alpha)\) by reindexing the sum over objects in the full subcategory \(S_\alpha(F^c)\) of the subdivision category of the category of \(F\)-centric subgroups. Recall from Section 3 that \(S_\alpha(F^c)\) has as objects chains of proper inclusions
\[
Q_0 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m
\]
of \(F\)-centric subgroups with the property that the \(Q_i\) are normal in the maximal term \(Q_m\), for each \(0 \leq i \leq m\). Consider the following sets
\[
\mathcal{M} := \{(Q, \sigma, [x]) | Q \in F^c, \sigma \in \mathcal{N}_Q, [x] \in Q^{cl}\},
\]
\[
\widetilde{\mathcal{M}} := \{\sigma, x) | \sigma \in S_\alpha(F^c), x \in Q_\sigma\}.
\]
The set \(\mathcal{M}\) is equipped with the equivalence relation
\[
(Q, \sigma, [x]) \sim_{\mathcal{M}} (R, \tau, [y])
\]
whenever there exists an isomorphism \(\varphi : Q \rightarrow R\) in \(F\) such that \(\tau \varphi(\sigma) = \tau\) and such that \(\varphi([x]) = [y]\). Here \(\tau \varphi(\sigma)\) is as defined before Lemma 3.4 and we use \(\tau \varphi(\sigma)\) to denote the image of \(\sigma\) under the natural extension of \(\tau \varphi\) to a map from the set of chains of subgroups of \(\text{Out}_F(Q)\)
to the set of chains of subgroups of \( \text{Out}_F(R) \). The set \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \) is equipped with the equivalence relation
\[
(\sigma, x) \sim_{\tilde{\mathcal{M}}} (\tau, y)
\]
whenever there exists an isomorphism \( \varphi : \sigma \to \tau \) in \( S_\alpha(F) \) such that \( \varphi(x) = y \).

**Proposition 5.1.** We have
\[
m^*(F, \alpha) = \sum_{(\sigma, x) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}/\sim} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha C_{\text{Aut}_\alpha}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_\alpha}(Q^\sigma) / \text{Aut}_{Q_\alpha}(Q^\sigma)).
\]

**Proof.** This follows from Lemmas 5.4 and 5.5 below. \( \square \)

We rewrite \( m^*(F, \alpha) \) in terms of \( (\mathcal{M}, \sim) \).

**Lemma 5.2.**
\[
m^*(F, \alpha) = \sum_{(Q, \sigma, [x]) \in \mathcal{M}/\sim} z(k_\alpha C_{I(\sigma)}([x])).
\]

**Proof.** Let \( \mathcal{X} \) be a set of representatives of \( \mathcal{F} \)-classes in \( F \) and for each \( Q \in \mathcal{X} \), let \( \mathcal{Y}_Q \) be a set of \( \text{Out}_F(Q) \) representatives of \( \mathcal{W}_Q^\alpha \). Then \( \{(Q, \sigma, [x]) : Q \in \mathcal{X}, (\sigma, [x]) \in \mathcal{Y}_Q \} \) is a set of representatives of the \( \sim \)-equivalence classes of \( \mathcal{M} \) and the result follows. \( \square \)

A normal chain \( \sigma = (Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m) \) in \( S_\alpha(F) \) induces a normal chain \( \text{Aut}_\sigma(Q_0) := (\text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_0) < \cdots < \text{Aut}_{Q_m}(Q_0)) \) of \( p \)-subgroups in \( \text{Aut}_F(Q) \), and a corresponding normal chain \( \text{Out}_\sigma(Q_0) \in \mathcal{N}_{Q_0} \) upon factoring by \( \text{Inn}(Q_0) \). In this context, bars will denote quotients by \( \text{Inn}(Q_0) \). That is, we set \( \overline{Q}_i := \text{Out}_{Q_i}(Q_0) \) for each \( 0 \leq i \leq m \) and we set
\[
\overline{\sigma} := \text{Out}_\sigma(Q_0) = (\overline{Q}_0 < \overline{Q}_1 < \cdots < \overline{Q}_m)
\]
for short. Note that \( \overline{Q}_0 \) is trivial.

**Lemma 5.3.** The map \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \to \mathcal{M} \) which sends \( (\sigma, x) \) to \( (Q_\sigma, \overline{\sigma}, [x]) \) induces a bijection between \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}/\sim \) and \( \mathcal{M}/\sim \).

**Proof.** We first show that the map is well-defined. Let \( (\sigma, x) \sim (\tau, y) \) in \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \). Fix an isomorphism \( \varphi : \sigma \to \tau \) in \( S_\alpha(F) \) such that \( \varphi(x) = y \). Then \( (Q_\sigma, \overline{\sigma}, [x]) \sim (Q_\tau, \overline{\tau}, [y]) \) via the restriction of \( \varphi \) to \( Q_\sigma \).

Next, suppose \( (Q_\sigma, \overline{\sigma}, [x]), (Q_\tau, \overline{\tau}, [y]) \in \mathcal{M} \) are \( \mathcal{M} \)-equivalent. Let \( \psi : Q_\sigma \to Q_\tau \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-isomorphism such that \( \overline{\psi}(\overline{\sigma}) = \overline{\tau} \) and \( \psi([x]) = [y] \). By Lemma 5.4, \( \psi \) extends to a chain isomorphism \( \hat{\psi} : \sigma \to \tau \). Since \( \psi([x]) = [y] \), we have \( \psi(x) = uyu^{-1} \) for some \( u \in Q_\tau \). Let \( \delta : Q^\sigma \to Q^\tau \) be the composition of \( \hat{\psi} \) with conjugation by \( u \). Then \( (\sigma, x) \) and \( (\tau, y) \) are \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \)-equivalent via \( \delta \). This proves injectivity.

It remains to show that whenever \( (R, \rho, [z]) \in \mathcal{M} \), there exists \( (\sigma, x) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \) such that \( (Q_\sigma, \overline{\sigma}, [x]) \) is \( \mathcal{M} \)-equivalent to \( (R, \rho, [z]) \). Let \( \rho = (1 < X_1 < \cdots < X_m) \in \mathcal{N}_R \). Let \( \alpha : R \to R' \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-isomorphism with \( R' \) fully \( \mathcal{F} \)-normalised, and consider the chain
\[
\overline{\alpha}(\rho) = (1 < \overline{\alpha}(X_1) < \cdots < \overline{\alpha}(X_m)).
\]
Since \( R' \) is fully \( \mathcal{F} \)-normalised and \( \mathcal{F} \) is saturated, \( \text{Out}_S(R') \) is a Sylow \( p \)-subgroup of \( \text{Out}_F(R') \), so by Sylow’s theorem we may fix \( \beta \in \text{Out}_F(R') \) such that \( \beta \overline{\alpha}(X_m) \beta^{-1} \leq \]
Out_\mathcal{S}(R'). Denote by R_i the inverse image of \partial C_0(X_i)\beta^{-1} in N_\mathcal{S}(R'), and set
\sigma := (R' < R_1 < \cdots < R_m) and \ x := \tilde{\beta}\alpha(z),
where \tilde{\beta} \in \text{Aut}_F(R') is any lift of \beta. Then (\sigma, x) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}, and (Q_\sigma, \mathcal{F}, [x]) is \mathcal{M}\text{-equivalent to (}R, \rho, [z]) via \tilde{\beta}\alpha. \ \square

The following lemma is now immediate from Lemmas 5.2 and 5.3.

**Lemma 5.4.** We have

\[ m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{(\sigma, x) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}/\sim} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha C_{I(\sigma)}([x])). \]

To complete the proof of Proposition 5.1 we give an interpretation of \( z(k_\alpha C_{I(\sigma)}([x])) \) in terms of the automisers of chains in \( S_\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}^c) \).

**Lemma 5.5.** Fix \( \sigma = (Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m) \in S_\alpha(\mathcal{F}^c) \), and let \( \pi \) be the composite

\[ \text{Aut}_F(\sigma) \xrightarrow{\text{res}} N_{\text{Aut}_F(Q_0)}(\text{Aut}_\sigma(Q_0)) \xrightarrow{=} I(\mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{\Phi} N_{\text{Out}_F(Q_0)}(\text{Out}_\sigma(Q_0)), \]

which restricts to \( Q_0 \) and then factors by \( \text{Out}_Q_0(Q_0) \). Then

1. \( \pi \) is surjective,
2. \( \ker(\pi) = \text{Aut}_Q_0(Q_m) \), and
3. for each \( x \in Q_0 \), the group \( C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m) \) is the inverse image of \( C_{I(\sigma)}(x) \) under \( \pi \).

**Proof.** To prove (1), it suffices to show that the restriction map \( \text{res}: \text{Aut}_F(\sigma) \to N_{\text{Aut}_F(Q_0)}(\text{Aut}_\sigma(Q_0)) \) is surjective. Let \( \alpha \in N_{\text{Aut}_F(Q_0)}(\text{Aut}_\sigma(Q_0)) \). Then \( c_\alpha(\text{Aut}_{Q_i}(Q_0)) \leq \text{Aut}_{Q_i}(Q_0) \) for all \( 0 \leq i \leq m \). The first conclusion of Lemma 3.4 then yields an extension \( \tilde{\alpha} \) of \( \alpha \) to \( Q_m \).

Fix \( i \) with \( 0 \leq i \leq m \), and fix \( u \in Q_i \). Then since \( \tilde{\alpha} \) is defined on \( u \), we have
\[ c_{\tilde{\alpha}(u)}|_{Q_0} = \alpha(c_u|_{Q_0})\alpha^{-1} \in \text{Aut}_{Q_i}(Q_0) \]
by assumption. Hence, \( \tilde{\alpha}(u) \) lies in the full inverse image of \( \text{Aut}_{Q_i}(Q_0) \) under \( N_{\mathcal{S}(Q_0)} \to \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{S}(Q_0)} \), which is \( Q_i \) because \( Q_i \) is centric. This shows that \( \tilde{\alpha}(Q_i) = Q_i \) for each \( i \), and thus the surjectivity of the restriction map.

That \( \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m) \leq \ker(\pi) \) is clear. To see the other inclusion in (2), fix \( \varphi \in \ker(\pi) \). Then \( \varphi|_{Q_0} = c_u \) for some \( u \in Q_0 \), so we may fix \( z \in Z(Q_0) \) such that \( \varphi = c_uc_z = c_{uz} \) by [BLO03, Lemma A.8]. Thus, \( \varphi \in \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m) \), as desired.

Finally, (3) holds because \( \ker(\pi) = \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m) \) acts transitively on the \( Q_0 \)-class \([x]\). \ \square

Define the following subsets of \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \):

1. \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^e \) is the subset of \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \) consisting of those \((\sigma, x)\) for which \( Q^\sigma/Q_\sigma \) is elementary abelian.
2. \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^o \) is the subset of \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \) consisting of those \((\sigma, x)\) for which \( C_{Q^\sigma}(x) \leq Q_\sigma \).
3. \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^{e,o} \) is the intersection of \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^e \) and \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^o \).
4. \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^{e,o,c} \) is the subset of \( \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^{e,o} \) consisting of those \((\sigma, x)\) for which \( C_{Q^\sigma}(x)\Phi(Q^\sigma) \) is \( \mathcal{F} \)-centric.
Observe that all these subsets are unions of \( \hat{M} \)-equivalence classes. Let

\[
m^\circ(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) := \sum_{(\sigma, x) \in \hat{M}^c} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha C_{\text{Aut}_\sigma}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma)/\text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma))
\]

and define \( m^\circ(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \), \( m^{\circ, \sigma}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \), and \( m^{\circ, \sigma, \epsilon}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \) analogously.

**Proposition 5.6.** The following hold.

1. \( m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^\circ(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).
2. \( m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^\circ(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).
3. \( m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^{\circ, \sigma}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).

**Proof.** By Lemma 5.5, Remark 4.15, the obvious analogue of Lemma 5.2 for elementary abelian chains, and by restricting the inverse of the bijection of Lemma 5.3 to classes of elements of \( \hat{M}^c \), we have

\[
m^\circ(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{E}_Q/\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{[x] \in Q^\sigma/\text{I}(\sigma)} z(k_\alpha C_{I(\sigma)}([x])),
\]

where \( \mathcal{E}_Q \subseteq N_Q \) is the set of all elementary abelian chains. Thus (1) follows on applying Lemma 4.13 with \( G = \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) for each \( Q \in \mathcal{F}^c \). We next prove (2). Note that if \((\sigma, x) \in \hat{M} \) and \( C_{Q^\sigma}(x) \) is not contained in \( Q_\sigma \), then \( C_{\text{inn}(Q^\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma)/\text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma) \cong C_{Q^\sigma}(x)/C_{Q_\sigma}(x) \) is a non-trivial normal subgroup of \( C_{\text{Aut}_\sigma}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma)/\text{Aut}_{Q_\sigma}(Q^\sigma) \) and the result follows from Proposition 5.1(3) and Lemma 4.11. The same argument with \((\sigma, x) \in \hat{M}^c \), so (3) follows from (1). \[\square\]

Recall that

\[
k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{x \in [S/F]} \sum_{Q \in C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)^c} z(k_\alpha \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q)),
\]

where \([S/F] \subseteq S\) is a fixed set of fully \( \mathcal{F} \)-centralized \( \mathcal{F} \)-conjugacy class representatives of the elements of \( S \). Define

\[
\mathcal{C} := \{(Q, x) \mid x \in [S/F], Q \in C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)^c\}, \quad \text{and}
\]

\[
\mathcal{D} := \{(Q, x) \mid x \in Z(Q), Q \in \mathcal{F}^c\}
\]

and equivalence relations

\[(Q, x) \sim_{\mathcal{C}} (R, y) \iff x = y \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Iso}_{C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)}(Q, R) \neq \emptyset, \quad \text{and}
\]

\[(Q, x) \sim_{\mathcal{D}} (R, y) \iff \text{there exists } \varphi \in \text{Iso}_{\mathcal{F}}(Q, R) \text{ such that } \varphi(x) = y.
\]

Thus, \( \mathcal{C}/\sim \) may be viewed as an indexing set for \( k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \). Also, \( x \in Z(Q) \) whenever \( Q \in C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)^c \), so that \( \mathcal{C} \) is a subset of \( \mathcal{D} \).

**Lemma 5.7.** The inclusion \( \mathcal{C} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{D} \) induces a bijection between \( \mathcal{C}/\sim \) and \( \mathcal{D}/\sim \); in particular,

\[
k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^c} \sum_{x \in Z(Q)/\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)} z(k_\alpha C_{\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)}(x)).
\]

**Proof.** If \((Q, x) \sim_{\mathcal{C}} (R, y)\), then \( x = y \) and there is an \( \mathcal{F} \)-isomorphism from \( Q \) to \( R \) which centralizes \( x \), so that \((Q, x) \sim_{\mathcal{D}} (R, y)\). There is indeed a well-defined map on equivalence classes induced by the inclusion.
Conversely, assume that \((Q, x), (R, y) \in \mathcal{C}\) are \(\mathcal{D}\)-equivalent. Fix an \(\mathcal{F}\)-isomorphism \(\varphi\) from \(Q\) to \(R\) with \(\varphi(x) = y\). As \(x, y \in [S/\mathcal{F}]\) are \(\mathcal{F}\)-conjugate, we have \(x = y\), and so \(Q\) and \(R\) are \(\mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F}(x)\)-conjugate. This shows that \((Q, x) \sim_\mathcal{C} (R, y)\), so the induced map is injective.

To complete the proof of the first assertion, it remains to show that each element of \(\mathcal{D}\) is \(\mathcal{D}\)-equivalent to a member of \(\mathcal{C}\). Fix \((R, y) \in \mathcal{D}\). Let \(x \in [S/\mathcal{F}]\) be the unique element which is \(\mathcal{F}\)-conjugate to \(y\). Since \(x\) is fully \(\mathcal{F}\)-centralized, we may choose a morphism \(\alpha \in \text{Hom}_\mathcal{F}(\text{C}_S(\langle y \rangle), \text{C}_S(\langle x \rangle))\) such that \(\alpha(y) = x\) by [AKO11, I.2.6(c)]. Set \(Q = \alpha(R)\). Then \((R, y) \sim_\mathcal{D} (Q, x)\) via \(\alpha\). Since \(R\) is \(\mathcal{F}\)-centric, also \(Q\) is \(\mathcal{F}\)-centric, so that \(Q\) is \(\mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F}(x)\)-centric by Lemma 5.3. This yields \((Q, x) \in \mathcal{C}\) and completes the proof of the first assertion.

Now \(\text{Out}_{\mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F}(x)}(Q) = \text{Out}_{\mathcal{C}_\mathcal{F}(x)}(Q)\) for each \(x \in Z(Q)\) by Lemma 3.3. Hence, as \(\mathcal{C}/\sim\) is an indexing set for a single sum computing \(k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)\) as in (5.1), and as \(\mathcal{D}/\sim\) is an indexing set for a single sum computing the right hand side of (5.2), we have that (5.2) follows from (5.1).

**Proposition 5.8.** We have, \(k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^{e, o, c}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)\).

**Proof.** Let \(\mathcal{D}'\) be the subset of \(\tilde{M}^{e, o, c}\) consisting of the pairs \((\sigma, x)\) such that \(|\sigma| = 0\) and \(x \in Z(Q_\sigma)\). Then \(\mathcal{D}'\) is a union of \(\sim\)-equivalence classes. Regarding an \(\mathcal{F}\)-centric subgroup \(Q\) as a chain of length zero yields a canonical bijection \(\mathcal{D}/\sim_\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'/\sim_{\tilde{M}}\), and so we may regard \(k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)\) as indexed over \(\mathcal{D}'/\sim_{\tilde{M}}\). We use chain pairing to remove the terms from \(m^{e, o, c}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)\) not in \(\mathcal{D}'\). This will yield

\[
m^{e, o, c}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{(\sigma, x) \in \mathcal{D}'/\sim} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha \text{C}_\mathcal{F}(\sigma)(x) \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}_\sigma}(Q)/\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}_\sigma}(Q))\text{.}
\]

The Proposition then follows from the expression for \(k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)\) in Lemma 5.7 along with Lemma 5.5(3).

For each \(\sigma = (Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m) \in S_o(\mathcal{F}^e)\), we let \(Q_{-1} := \text{C}_{Q_m}(x)\Phi(Q_m)\). Define a map

\[
\eta: \tilde{M}^{e, o, c}
\]

\[
\mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \tilde{M}^{e, o, c}
\]

\[
\mathcal{D}'
\]

via

\[
(\sigma, x) \mapsto (\eta(\sigma), x),
\]

where

\[
\eta(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 
Q_{-1} < Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m & \text{if } Q_{-1} < Q_0, \text{ and} \\
Q_1 < \cdots < Q_m & \text{if } Q_{-1} = Q_0.
\end{cases}
\]

It is straightforward to see that \(\eta\) is an involution that preserves \(\tilde{M}\)-equivalence classes if well-defined.

To prove that \(\eta\) is well-defined, we assert three points for a given pair \((\sigma, x) \in \mathcal{D}'\) with \(\sigma\) as above. First, observe that \(\eta(\sigma)\) is a first component of some member of \(\tilde{M}^{e, o, c}\) by definition of \(Q_{-1}\) and the fact that \(Q_{-1} \in \mathcal{F}^e\) by assumption. In particular, \(\eta(\sigma)\) is never the empty chain: if \(\sigma\) has length zero, then \(\text{C}_{Q_0}(x) = \text{C}_{Q_m}(x) < Q_0\) as \((\sigma, x) \not\in \mathcal{D}'\), so also \(Q_{-1} = \text{C}_{Q_0}(x)\Phi(Q_0) < Q_0\), and hence \(\eta(\sigma)\) has length 1. Second, note that \(x \in \text{C}_{Q_m}(x) < Q_{-1}\) in case \(Q_{-1}\) is contained properly in \(Q_0\), so that indeed \((\eta(\sigma), x) \in \tilde{M}^{e, o, c}\). Lastly, continue to consider a pair \((\sigma, x) \not\in \mathcal{D}'\). We claim that \((\eta(\sigma), x) \not\in \mathcal{D}'\), and the only case where this is not immediate has \(|\sigma| = 1\) and \(|\eta(\sigma)| = 0\). In this case either \(x\) is not in
Z(Q_0), in which case x is likewise not in Z(Q_1) \leq Z(Q_0), or x \in Z(Q_0), in which case C_{Q_1}(x) = C_{Q_0}(x) = Q_0 < Q_1 so that again x is not in Z(Q_1). This shows that (\eta(\sigma), x) \notin \mathcal{D}' and completes the proof of the last point.

Having shown that \eta is a well-defined involution, it remains to prove that it preserves the value of each summand appearing in Proposition 5.11. To establish this, it suffices to show that

C_{\text{Aut}_{F}(\sigma)}(x) = C_{\text{Aut}_{F}(\eta(\sigma))}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Aut}_{C_{Q_0}(x)}(Q_m) = \text{Aut}_{C_{Q_{-1}(x)}}(Q_m).

As Q_{-1} is invariant under Aut_{F}(\sigma), one has Aut_{F}(\sigma) \leq Aut_{F}(\eta(\sigma)) if \eta(\sigma) has length one more than \sigma. Also, one has the same containment if \eta(\sigma) has length one less, since \eta(\sigma) is a subchain of \sigma in that case. Equality therefore holds in both cases, because \eta is an involution. This completes the proof of the first displayed equality. Finally, the second equality holds since C_{Q_0}(x) = C_{Q_{-1}(x)} for each (\sigma, x) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}^{e,0, c}.

6. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In light of Propositions 5.8 and 5.6(3), to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 it suffices to establish an equality between m^{e,0'}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) and m^{e,0, c}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha). We will achieve that in this section.

If G is a finite group and \sigma is a chain of p-subgroups in G such that the first subgroup is a normal subgroup of the last subgroup, then we denote by G_{\sigma} \leq G_{Q^0} the stabiliser in G of the chain and by Aut_{G}(\sigma) the image of G_{\sigma} in N_{G}(Q^0)/C_{G}(Q^0).

Lemma 6.1. Let \sigma = (Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m) be a chain of proper inclusions of subgroups of S such that Q_i is normal in Q_m for each 0 \leq i \leq m, and let x \in Q_0 be such that C_{Q_m}(x) \leq Q_0. Suppose that Q_m is F-centric, Q_0 is fully F-normalised, and Q_m is fully N_{F}(Q_0)-normalised. Let L be a model of N_{N_{F}(Q_0)}(Q_m). The following hold:

1. C_{L_{\sigma}}(x)Q_0/Q_0 \cong C_{\text{Aut}_{F}(\sigma)}(x) Aut_{Q_0}(Q_m)/Aut_{Q_0}(Q_m).
2. If Q_0 is not F-centric, then z(k_{\alpha}(C_{L_{\sigma}}(x)Q_0/Q_0)) = 0.

Proof. Set Q_{\sigma} = Q_0 and Q^\sigma = Q_m. We have

L_{\sigma}/Z(Q_m) \cong \text{Aut}_{L}(\sigma) = Aut_{N_{N_{F}(Q_0)}(Q_m)}(\sigma) = Aut_{N_{F}(Q_0)}(\sigma) = Aut_{F}(\sigma).

The quotient map \pi: L_{\sigma} \to \text{Aut}_{F}(\sigma) sends C_{L_{\sigma}}(x) to C_{\text{Aut}_{F}(\sigma)}(x). It also sends Q_m to Aut_{Q_0}(Q_m), since Z(Q_m) \leq C_{Q_m}(x) \leq Q_0 by assumption. Part (1) follows from this.

We now turn to (2), where we first claim that C_{L}(Q_0) is a p-group under the given assumptions. Let y be an element of C_{L}(Q_0) of order prime to p, and let c_y be the image of y in Aut(Q_m). Since C_{Q_m}(Aut_{Q_0}(Q_m)) = C_{Q_m}(Q_m) \leq C_{Q_m}(x) \leq Q_0, we have

[c_y, C_{Q_m}(\text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m))] \leq [c_y, Q_0] = 1.

Now Lemma 3.1 implies that c_y = Id_{Q_m}, so that y \in C_{L}(Q_m) \leq Q_m is of order a power of p, since Q_m is self-centralising in L. Hence, y = 1.

Assume that z(k_{\alpha}(C_{L_{\sigma}}(x)Q_0/Q_0)) \neq 0. As Q_0 is normal in L_{\sigma}, we know that C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0)Q_0 is likewise normal in L_{\sigma}. But C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0) \leq C_{L_{\sigma}}(x), so C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0)Q_0 is normal in C_{L_{\sigma}}(x)Q_0. Hence, z(k_{\alpha}(C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0)Q_0/Q_0)) \neq 0 by Lemma 4.10. It was just shown that C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0) is a p-group, so we have C_{L_{\sigma}}(Q_0) \leq Q_0 by Lemma 4.11. In other words, Q_0 is N_{F}^{K}(Q_0)-centric,
where $K \leq \text{Aut}_F(Q_0)$ is the subgroup consisting of those automorphisms which extend to automorphisms of $\sigma$. Hence, $Q_0$ is $F$-centric by Lemma 3.2.

**Lemma 6.2.** Let $(\sigma, x) \in \widetilde{M}^{e,o}$, with $\sigma = (Q_0 < \cdots < Q_m)$ as before. If $C_{Q_m}(x) \Phi(Q_m)$ is not $F$-centric, then $z(k_\alpha C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m)) = 0$.

**Proof.** Write $Q_{-1} = C_{Q_m}(x) \Phi(Q_m)$, and recall that $Q_{-1} \leq Q_0$ by definition of $\widetilde{M}^{e,o}$. Using [AKO11 I.2.6(c)], we choose a morphism $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_F(Q_m, S)$ with $\varphi(R)$ fully $F$-normalized, and then a morphism $\psi \in \text{Hom}_{N_F(\varphi(R))}(Q_m, N_S(\varphi(R)))$ with $\psi \varphi(Q_m)$ fully $N_F(\varphi(R))$-normalized. Set $\tau = \psi \varphi(\sigma)$ and $y = \psi \varphi(x)$. Conjugation by $\psi \varphi$ yields an isomorphism

$$C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q^*)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q^*) \cong C_{\text{Aut}_F(\tau)}(y) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q^*)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q^*).$$

Upon replacing $(\sigma, x)$ by $(\tau, y)$, we may therefore assume $Q_{-1}$ to be fully $F$-normalized and $Q_m$ to be fully $N_F(Q_{-1})$-normalized.

Assume on the contrary that $Q_{-1} = C_{Q_m}(x) \Phi(Q_m)$ is not $F$-centric, but that $z(k_\alpha C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m)) \neq 0$. As $Q_0$ is $F$-centric, $Q_{-1}$ is a proper subgroup of $Q_0$. Consider the chain

$$\sigma' = (Q_{-1} < Q_0 < \cdots Q_m).$$

It was shown in the last part of the proof of Lemma 5.8 that

$$C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma)}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_0}(Q_m) = C_{\text{Aut}_F(\sigma')}(x) \text{Aut}_{Q_{-1}}(Q_m)/ \text{Aut}_{Q_{-1}}(Q_m),$$

and that argument did not require $(\sigma, x) \in \widetilde{M}^{e,o}$. But then from Lemma 6.1 applied to $\sigma'$, we conclude that $Q_{-1}$ is $F$-centric after all, a contradiction. \hfill $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** By Proposition 5.1, Proposition 5.6(3), and Lemma 6.2 we have $m^*(F, \alpha) = m^{e,o,c}(F, \alpha)$. The result now follows from Proposition 5.8. \hfill $\square$

7. Proof of Theorem 1.2

**Lemma 7.1** (Robinson). Suppose that $G$ is a finite group, $Q \trianglelefteq G$ is a $p$-subgroup and $\alpha \in H^2(G/Q, k^\times)$. We have

$$\sum_{[x] \in Q^d/G} \ell(k_\alpha C_G([x])) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} \ell(k_\alpha C_G(\mu)).$$

This Lemma is due to Robinson, and it is obtained as a combination of [Rob87, RS90] (see discussion before Theorem 1.2 of [Rob96]). As a convenience to the reader, the main ideas of the proof are presented in the Appendix.

For a finite group $H$ denote by $S(H)$ the poset of $p$-subgroups of $H$ (including the trivial subgroup - so notation is not standard). If $Q$ is a normal $p$-subgroup of a finite group $G$, then for any $[x] \in Q^d$ (respectively $\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)$), we denote by $I([x])$ (respectively $I(\mu)$) the stabiliser in $G/Q$ of $[x]$ (respectively $\mu$) under the action of $G/Q$ and for any subgroup $R$ of $G/Q$, we denote by $I([x], R)$ the intersection of $I([x])$ with $N_{G/Q}(R)$ etc.

**Lemma 7.2.** Suppose that $G$ is a finite group, $Q \trianglelefteq G$ is a $p$-subgroup and $\alpha \in H^2(G/Q, k^\times)$. Suppose that $C_G(Q) \trianglelefteq Q$. If AWC holds, then

$$\sum_{[x] \in Q^d/G} \sum_{R \in S(I([x])/I([x]))} z(k_\alpha (I([x], R)/R)) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} \sum_{R \in S(I(\mu))/I(\mu)} z(k_\alpha (I(\mu), R)/R).$$
Proof. Let $\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)$. The full inverse image of $I(\mu) \leq G/Q$ in $G$ is $C_G(\mu)$ and for any $p$-subgroup $R$ of $L/Q = I(\mu)$, $I(\mu, R) = N_{L/Q}(R)$. Hence, by AWC and Proposition 4.9 applied with $L = C_G(\mu)$, we have that
\[
\ell(k_\alpha(kC_G(\mu))) = \sum_{R \in S(I(\mu))/I(\mu)} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \mu)/R)).
\]
Similarly, let $x \in Q^{cl}$. The full inverse image of $I([x]) \leq G/Q$ in $G$ is $C_G([x])$. Thus, by AWC and Proposition 4.9 applied with $L = C_G([x])$, we have that
\[
\ell(k_\alpha(kC_G([x]))) = \sum_{R \in S(I([x])/I([x]))} z(k_\alpha(I(R, [x])/R)).
\]

The result follows by Lemma 7.1. □

Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $\mathcal{F}$-compatible family. We recall some earlier notation. For any $\mathcal{F}$-centric $Q \leq S$, by Remark 4.13 we have
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in N_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}C_{I(\sigma)}(\mu)) \\
    w^*_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in N_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{[x] \in Q^{cl}/I(\sigma)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}C_{I(\sigma)}([x])).
\end{align*}
\]
Also, since $\text{Out}_S(Q) = \text{Out}_{N_S(Q)}(Q)$ we have
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= w_Q(N_S(Q), \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad w^*_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = w^*_Q(N_S(Q), \alpha).
\end{align*}
\]

Lemma 7.3. Suppose that $G$ is a finite group and $Q \leq G$ is a $p$-subgroup with $C_G(Q) \leq Q$. Let $S$ be a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$, $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_S(G)$, $\overline{G} = G/Q$ and let $\mathcal{P}_Q$ denote the set of all strictly increasing chains of $p$-subgroups in $\text{Out}_S(Q)$ starting at 1. Then,
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in S(I(\sigma,\mu))/I(\sigma,\mu)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R)) \\
    w^*_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{[x] \in Q^{cl}/I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in S(I(\sigma,\mu))/I(\sigma,\mu)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}I(R, \sigma, [x])/R)).
\end{align*}
\]

Proof. By definition
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in N_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}(I(\sigma, \mu))).
\end{align*}
\]
We claim that
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}(I(\sigma, \mu))).
\end{align*}
\]
Indeed, this follows immediately from Lemma 4.13 (or [KR89, Proposition 3.3]). Next, interchanging the order of summation on the right hand side of the above equation we obtain
\[
\begin{align*}
    w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) &= \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/\text{Out}_S(Q)} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/\text{Out}_S(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_{\sigma,\mu}(I(\sigma, \mu))).
\end{align*}
\]
Now we claim that

\begin{equation}
(7.4) \quad w_Q(F, \alpha) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/I(\mu)} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\sigma, \mu))/I(\sigma, \mu)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R)).
\end{equation}

To prove the claim, let $\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)$ and for $R$ a $p$-subgroup of $I(\mu)$, let $\mathcal{P}_Q^R$ be the subset of $\mathcal{P}_Q$ consisting of those chains which are normalised by $R$, i.e. those chains $\sigma$ such that $R \leq I(\sigma)$. Then

$$
\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q/I(\mu)} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\sigma, \mu))/I(\sigma, \mu)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R))
$$

is equal to

$$
\sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\mu))/I(\mu)} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q^R/I(\mu, \mu)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R)),
$$

where we use Remark 1.15 with $G = I(\mu)$, $X = \mathcal{P}_Q$, $Y = \mathcal{S}(I(\mu))$ and $A$ equal to the subset of $X \times Y$ consisting of pairs $(\sigma, R)$ such that $R \leq I(\mu, \sigma)$.

Suppose that $R \neq 1$ and let $\sigma = Q_0 := 1 < Q_1 < \cdots < Q_n$ be an element of $\mathcal{P}_Q^R$. If $R$ is not contained in $Q_n$, let $\sigma'$ be the chain obtained from $\sigma$ by appending $Q_n R$. Otherwise, let $j$ be the smallest integer such that $R$ is contained in $Q_j$. Note that $j \neq 0$ since $R > 1$. If $Q_{j-1} R = Q_j$, then let $\sigma'$ be the chain obtained from $\sigma$ by deleting $Q_j$. Otherwise, let $\sigma'$ be obtained from $\sigma$ by inserting $Q_{j-1} R$ in between $Q_{j-1}$ and $Q_j$. Then the pairing $\sigma \to \sigma'$ kills

$$
\sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\mu))/I(\mu)} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q^R/I(\mu, \mu)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R)).
$$

Hence, only the terms with $R = 1$ survive, and the claim follows. Interchanging the order of summation in the outer two terms of Equation (7.4) gives the desired expression for $w_Q(F, \alpha)$. The proof for $w_Q^*(F, \alpha)$ is entirely similar.

**Proposition 7.4.** Let $F$ be a saturated fusion system on a finite $p$-group $S$ and let $\alpha$ be an $F$-compatible family. Suppose that AWC holds. Then $w_Q(F, \alpha) = w_Q^*(F, \alpha)$ for all $F$-centric subgroups $Q$ of $S$.

**Proof.** Let $Q \leq S$ be $F$-centric. By Equation (7.3) we may assume that $F = N_F(Q)$ and hence by [BCG+05, Proposition C] that $F = \mathcal{F}_S(G)$ for some finite group $G$ with $S$ as a Sylow $p$-subgroup and containing $Q$ as a normal subgroup with $C_G(Q) = Z(Q)$. By Lemma 7.3 we have

$$
w_Q(F, \alpha) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q / \text{Out}_F(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\sigma, \mu))/I(\sigma, \mu)} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R))
$$

and

$$
w_Q^*(F, \alpha) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q / \text{Out}_F(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{[x] \in Q^\sigma / I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\sigma, [x])/I(\sigma, [x]))} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, [x])/R)).
$$

Let $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_Q$. By applying Lemma 7.2 to the inverse image $N_G(\sigma)$ of $I(\sigma)$ in $G$, we obtain

$$
\sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in \mathcal{S}(I(\sigma, \mu))/I(\sigma, \mu)} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, \mu)/R)) =
$$
We prove that

\[
\sum_{[x] \in Q^+/I(\sigma)} \sum_{R \in S(I(\sigma)/I(\sigma))} z(k_\alpha(I(R, \sigma, [x]) / R)).
\]

The result follows. \hfill \Box

Proof of Theorem 1.2. This is immediate from Proposition 7.4. \hfill \Box

We present an alternate proof of Theorem 1.2 which is shorter but makes use of the fact, due to Robinson [Rob96], that AWC implies SOWC. Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a saturated fusion system on a finite \( p \)-group \( S \), and let \( \alpha \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-compatible family. As a consequence of Lemma 4.14, the quantities \( \mathbf{m}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha), \mathbf{m}^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha), \) and \( \mathbf{m}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d) \) remain unchanged under restricting the sums over isomorphism classes of \( \mathcal{F} \)-centric subgroups of \( S \) to \( \mathcal{F} \)-centric radical subgroups. We spell this out.

Lemma 7.5. Let \( Q \) be an \( \mathcal{F} \)-centric subgroup of \( S \) and let \( d \) be a non-negative integer. Suppose that \( Q \) is not \( \mathcal{F} \)-radical. Then

\[
\mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d) = 0.
\]

Proof. Using Remark 4.15 we have

\[
\mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{\sigma \in N_Q \setminus \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(k_\alpha I(\sigma, \mu))
\]

The quantity in the second sum depends only on \( I(\sigma) \). Since \( Q \) is not radical, we have \( O_p(\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q)) \neq 1 \). Thus Lemma 4.14 applied to the group \( G = \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) and the function \( f \) on subgroups of \( G \) defined by

\[
f(H) := \begin{cases} 
\sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/I(\sigma)} z(k_\alpha I(\sigma, \mu)) & \text{if } H = I(\sigma) \text{ for some } \sigma \in N_Q \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

implies that \( \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = 0 \). Similar arguments show that \( \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha, d) = 0 \). \hfill \Box

Note that by Lemma 7.3 we have

\[
(7.5) \quad \mathbf{m}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^+/\mathcal{F}} \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{m}^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{F}^+/\mathcal{F}} \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha).
\]

Lemma 7.6. Suppose that \( \mathbf{m}^*(\mathcal{G}, \beta) = \mathbf{m}(\mathcal{G}, \beta) \) for all pairs \( (\mathcal{G}, \beta) \), where \( \mathcal{G} \) is a saturated constrained fusion system and \( \beta \) is a \( \mathcal{G} \)-compatible family. Then \( \mathbf{m}(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \mathbf{m}^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \).

Proof. We prove that \( \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \) for each fully \( \mathcal{F} \)-normalized, \( \mathcal{F} \)-centric, \( \mathcal{F} \)-radical subgroup \( Q \leq S \). Since \( \mathcal{F} \) is saturated, there is a fully \( \mathcal{F} \)-normalized subgroup in each \( \mathcal{F} \)-conjugacy class, and so the result will then follow from (7.5).

Suppose the above assertion is false, so that \( \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \neq \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \) for some \( Q \). Among all such counterexamples \( \mathcal{F} \) and \( Q \), choose one such that \( |\mathcal{F}| + |S : Q| \) is minimal, where \( |\mathcal{F}| \) denotes the number of morphisms in \( \mathcal{F} \). Note that \( \text{Out}_{N_\mathcal{F}(Q)}(Q) = \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \), and \( Q \) is also fully \( N_\mathcal{F}(Q) \)-normalized, \( N_\mathcal{F}(Q) \)-radical, and \( N_\mathcal{F}(Q) \)-centric. Since the sums \( \mathbf{w}_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \) and \( \mathbf{w}_Q^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) \) depend only on \( Q \) and \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) and not on \( \mathcal{F} \), it follows by minimality that \( \mathcal{F} = N_\mathcal{F}(Q) \).
We have shown that $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained with normal centric subgroup $Q$. In particular, $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ by assumption, and $Q$ is contained in every $\mathcal{F}$-centric radical subgroup (see e.g. [LS17] Lemma 2.4). From (7.5), $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is the sum of $w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ and $w_R(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ as $R$ ranges over the fully $\mathcal{F}$-normalized, $\mathcal{F}$-centric radical subgroups with $R > Q$. The same holds for $w^*_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$. By induction $w_R(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = w^*_R(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ for each such $R > Q$ (since $N_\mathcal{F}(R) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$). It follows that $w_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = w^*_Q(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ after all, a contradiction.

It thus suffices by Lemma 7.6 to prove $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ in the case where $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained.

**Proposition 7.7.** Suppose AWC holds for all blocks of all finite groups. If $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained, then $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$.

**Proof.** Assume that $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained. By Proposition 4.8, we may fix a model $G$ for $\mathcal{F}$, a $p'$-central extension $\hat{G}$ of $G$, and a block $b$ of $k\hat{G}$ such that $(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ is realized by $k\hat{G}b$. By Proposition 4.5 since AWC holds for all blocks, we have

$$k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(B).$$

On the other hand, again since AWC holds for all blocks, the results of [Rob96], [Rob04] show that $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = k(B)$.

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** Assume AWC holds for all blocks of finite groups. By Theorem 1.1, we have $k(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$. Hence, $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ whenever $\mathcal{F}$ is constrained by Proposition 7.7 and assumption. Therefore, $m(\mathcal{F}, \alpha) = m^*(\mathcal{F}, \alpha)$ by Lemma 7.6.

**Remark 7.8.** Suppose that with the notation and hypothesis of Lemma 7.2 we have

$$\sum_{[x] \in Q^{-1}/G} z(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}([x])) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} z(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}(\mu)).$$

Then, Theorem 1.2 is an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.1. If $Q$ is a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$, then for all $x \in Q$, $z(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}([x])) = \ell(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}([x]))$ and for all $\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)$, $z(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}(\mu)) = \ell(k_\alpha C_{Out_G(Q)}(\mu))$, hence (7.6) is the same as the equality in Lemma 7.1. Also note that by results of Külshammer-Robinson [KR87], the right side of the equality of Lemma 7.1 is the rank of the subgroup of the group of generalised characters of $G$, generated by relatively $Q$-projective characters in a certain sum of $p$-blocks of $G$, and the right hand side of (7.6) is the number of $Q$-projective irreducible characters of $G$, again in the relevant sum of blocks.

8. **Example: Fusion Systems on an Extraspecial Group of Order $p^3$**

In this section we consider the saturated fusion systems over an extraspecial group $S$ of order $p^3$ and exponent $p$, as classified by Ruiz and Viruel [RV04]. There are three exotic fusion systems over $S$ when $p = 7$, and many of the conjectures listed in Section 2 are still nontrivial to verify in these cases. We show here that each nonconstrained saturated fusion system over $S$ supports only the zero compatible family, and we verify using computations in Magma [BCP97] that a number of the conjectures in Section 2 hold in this case.
For the remainder of this section, \( S \cong p^{1+2} \) denotes an extraspecial group of order \( p^3 \) and exponent \( p \). Fix the presentation
\[
\langle a, b, c \mid a^p = b^p = c^p = [a, c] = [b, c] = [a, b]c^{-1} = 1 \rangle
\]
for \( S \). Each element of \( S \) can then be written in the form \( a^rb^sc^t \), for unique nonnegative integers \( 0 \leq r, s, t \leq p-1 \). Let \( \varepsilon \) be a fixed primitive \( p \)th root of 1 in \( \mathbb{C} \). We first list some basic information about \( S \), along with general information about the associated saturated fusion systems on \( S \).

**Lemma 8.1.** Let \( S \) be an extraspecial \( p \)-group of order \( p^3 \) and of exponent \( p \), as given above.

1. The map which sends \( X := (\frac{x}{y}) \) to the class \([\varphi] \in \text{Out}(S)\) of the automorphism \( \varphi \) given by
   \[
   a \mapsto a^x b^y, \quad b \mapsto a^x b^y, \quad c \mapsto c^{\det(X)},
   \]
   is an isomorphism from \( \text{GL}_2(p) \) to \( \text{Out}(S) \).
2. A complete set of \( S \)-conjugacy class representatives of elements of \( S \) is given by
   \[
   \{a^i b^j \mid 0 \leq i, j \leq p-1\} \cup \{c^k \mid 1 \leq k \leq p-1\}.
   \]
3. \( \text{Irr}(S) \) consists of \( p^2 \) linear characters \( \chi_{u,v} \ (0 \leq u, v \leq p-1) \), and \( p-1 \) faithful characters \( \varphi_u \ (1 \leq u \leq p-1) \) of degree \( p \). The characters are given explicitly by
   \[
   \chi_{u,v}(a^r b^s c^t) := \varepsilon^{ru+sv} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_u(a^r b^s c^t) := \begin{cases} p^{eu} & \text{if } r = s = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}
   \]

**Proof.** See [RV04], for example, for (1) and (2). Part (3) is contained in [Gor80], Theorem 5.5.4. \( \square \)

The elementary abelian subgroups of \( S \) of order \( p^2 \) are in one-to-one correspondence with the points of the projective line over \( \mathbb{F}_p \); set
\[
Q_i := \langle c, ab^i \rangle \quad (0 \leq i \leq p-1) \quad \text{and} \quad Q_p := \langle c, b \rangle.
\]

From [AKO11, Section III.6.2], we have the following description of the fusion systems on \( S \).

**Theorem 8.2.** Let \( F \) be a saturated fusion system on \( S \). Then
\[
F^{cr} \subseteq \{Q_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq p\} \cup \{S\}
\]
and the following hold:

1. \( \text{Out}_F(S) \) is a \( p \)-group.
2. For each \( i \) and \( \alpha \in \text{Aut}_F(S) \) such that \( \alpha(Q_i) = Q_i, \alpha|_{Q_i} \in \text{Aut}_F(Q_i) \).
3. If \( Q_i \in F^r \), then \( \text{SL}_2(p) \leq \text{Aut}_F(Q_i) \leq \text{GL}_2(p) \). If \( Q_i \notin F^r \) then \( \text{Aut}_F(Q_i) = \{\varphi|_{Q_i} \mid \varphi \in N_{\text{Aut}_F(S)}(Q_i)\} \).
4. If \( Q_i \in F^r \) and \( \beta \in N_{\text{Aut}_F(Q_i)}(Z(S)) \), then \( \beta \) extends to an element of \( \text{Aut}_F(S) \).

Conversely, any fusion system \( F \) over \( S \) for which conditions (1)-(4) hold and for which each morphism is a composition of restrictions of \( F \)-automorphism of \( S \) and the \( Q_i \) is saturated. Moreover, in this case, \( F \) is constrained if and only if at most 1 of the \( Q_i \) is centric and radical.
When \( \mathcal{F} \) is nonconstrained, the possibilities for \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \) and \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q_i) \) (and hence \( \mathcal{F} \)) are given in \cite{RV04}, Tables 1.1 and 1.2. Apart from the \( p \)-fusion systems of \( \text{PSL}_3(p) \), \( p \geq 3 \) and their almost simple extensions, there are thirteen exceptional fusion systems for \( 3 \leq p \leq 13 \), three of which are exotic.

Next we show that there are no nonzero compatible families for the nonconstrained fusion systems over \( S \). Recall that the Schur multiplier \( M(G) \) of a finite group \( G \) is a finite abelian group, which may be defined as the second cohomology group \( H^2(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) \). In computing the Schur multiplier of various groups, we make use of its connection with stem extensions. A stem extension of a group \( G \) is a central extension \( 1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \xrightarrow{\pi} G \to 1 \) such that \( \ker(\pi) \leq Z(\hat{G}) \cap [\hat{G}, \hat{G}] \). We will often identify \( \ker(\pi) \) with \( Z \). If \( Z \cong M(G) \) in this situation, then the extension (or \( \pi \), or \( \hat{G} \)) is said to be a Schur covering of \( G \). Given a central extension as above, there is an associated inflation-restriction exact sequence

\[
(8.2) 1 \to H^1(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) \xrightarrow{\text{inf}} H^1(\hat{G}, \mathbb{C}^\times) \xrightarrow{\text{res}} \text{Hom}(Z, \mathbb{C}^\times) \xrightarrow{\text{tra}} H^2(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) \xrightarrow{\text{inf}} H^2(\hat{G}, \mathbb{C}^\times)
\]

in which three of the maps are given by inflation or restriction, and the fourth is the transgression map. This is defined by first choosing a cocycle \( \alpha \) representing the class \([\alpha] \in H^2(G, Z)\) of the extension. For any homomorphism \( \varphi \in \text{Hom}(Z, \mathbb{C}^\times) \), post-composition with \( \varphi \) yields a 2-cocycle with values in \( \mathbb{C}^\times \), and then \( \text{tra} (\varphi) \) is defined as the class \([\varphi \circ \alpha] \in H^2(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)\).

The next lemma collects a number of general results regarding the Schur multiplier which will be used later in special cases. The first four parts are due to Schur. In parts (4) and (5) results of Schur and of Blackburn \cite{Bla72} are quoted, and require the following additional notation. Denote the abelianization of a group \( G \) by \( G^{ab} \), and write \( G^{ab} \wedge G^{ab} \) for the quotient of \( G^{ab} \otimes Z G^{ab} \) by the subgroup generated by \( a \otimes b + b \otimes a \) as \( a \) and \( b \) range over \( G^{ab} \).

**Lemma 8.3.** The following hold for a finite group \( G \).

1. If \( 1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \to G \to 1 \) is a stem extension, then the transgression map \( \text{tra} \) in \((8.2)\) is injective, and hence \( Z \cong \text{Hom}(Z, \mathbb{C}^\times) \) is isomorphic to a subgroup of \( M(G) \).
2. There exists a Schur covering \( 1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \xrightarrow{\pi} G \to 1 \) and, for any such covering, the associated transgression map is an isomorphism.
3. If there exists a Schur covering as in (2) such that \( \pi : \pi^{-1}(H) \to H \) is a stem extension of some subgroup \( H \) of \( G \), then the restriction map \( M(G) \to M(H) \) is injective.
4. If \( G = G_1 \times G_2 \) is a direct product, then one has

\[
M(G) \cong M(G_1) \times M(G_2) \times (G_1^{ab} \otimes Z G_2^{ab}).
\]

5. (Blackburn) Assume \( G = K \wr H \) is a wreath product, and write \( m \) for the number of involutions in \( H \). Then \( M(G) \) is isomorphic to the direct product of \( M(H), M(K), \frac{1}{2}(|H| - m - 1) \) copies of \( K^{ab} \otimes K^{ab} \), and \( m \) copies of \( K^{ab} \wedge K^{ab} \).

**Proof.** We refer to \cite{CR90} Lemma 11.42] for (1) and to \cite{CR90} Theorem 11.43] for (2). Assume the hypotheses of (3) and set \( \hat{H} = \pi^{-1}(H) \). Choose a 2-cocycle \( \alpha \) representing the class of the central extension \( 1 \to Z \to \hat{G} \to G \to 1 \). Then \( \alpha|_{H \times H} \) represents the class of the
central extension $1 \to Z \to \widehat{H} \to H \to 1$, and the square
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\Hom(Z, \mathbb{C}^\times) & \overset{\tr_H}{\longrightarrow} & H^2(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) \\
\id \downarrow & & \res \downarrow \\
\Hom(Z, \mathbb{C}^\times) & \overset{\tr_G}{\longrightarrow} & H^2(H, \mathbb{C}^\times)
\end{array}
\]
commutes. As $\tr_H$ is injective by (1) and $\tr_G$ an isomorphism by (2), part (3) follows. Finally, a proof of (4) may be found in \cite[Corollary 3]{Wie71} and (5) is \cite[Theorem 1]{Bla72} but see also \cite[Theorem 2.2.10, Theorem 6.3.3]{Kar87}.

Whenever $p$ is a prime, we write $M(G)_p$ for the $p$-primary part of $M(G)$, and $M(G)_{p'}$ for the $p'$-primary part of $M(G)$. The following lemma collects some basic information about the various primary parts of the Schur multiplier.

**Lemma 8.4.** Let $G$ be a finite group, let $p$ be a prime, and let $k$ be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p$.

1. $H^2(G, k^\times)$ is isomorphic to the $p'$-part $M(G)_{p'}$ of the Schur multiplier.
2. If $H \leq G$ contains a Sylow $p$-subgroup of $G$, then the restriction map $M(G)_p \to M(H)_p$ is injective.
3. If $G$ has cyclic Sylow $p$-subgroups, then $M(G)_p = 1$.

**Proof.** See \cite[Proposition 2.1.14]{Kar87} for part (1). Part (2) is derived from the fact that restriction to $H$ followed by transfer to $G$ is multiplication by the index of $H$ in $G$, which by assumption is prime to $p$. Then part (3) follows from (2) and the fact that the second cohomology group of a finite cyclic group with coefficients in a divisible group with trivial action is trivial but see also \cite[Proposition 11.46]{CR90}.

We now specialize to the following computations of Schur multipliers of specific finite groups that appear as subgroups of automorphism groups of centric radicals in certain non-constrained saturated systems over $S$.

**Lemma 8.5.** The following hold:

1. If $p$ is any prime and $G$ is a subgroup of $\GL_2(p)$ containing $\SL_2(p)$, then $M(G) = 1$.
2. Let $G$ be a 2-group of maximal class. Then $M(G) \cong C_2$ if $G$ is dihedral, while $M(G) = 1$ if $G$ is semidihedral or quaternion. If $G$ is a dihedral 2-group and $V$ is any four subgroup of $G$, then the restriction $M(G) \to M(V)$ is injective.
3. Let $G = C_n \wr C_2$ with $n \geq 2$. Then $M(G) \cong C_2$ if $n$ is even, and $M(G) = 1$ if $n$ is odd. If $J \leq G$ is the homocyclic subgroup of rank 2 and exponent $n$, then the restriction $M(G) \to M(J)$ is injective.
4. If $G = \Out_F(S)$ for some fusion system $F$ over $S$ appearing in Table 1.2 of \cite{RV04}, then $M(G)_2 = 1$. Moreover, either $M(G)_2 = 1$, or $M(G)_2 \cong C_2$ and $G$ is $D_8$, $S_3 \times C_6$, $C_6 \wr C_2$, $D_8 \times C_3$, or $D_{16} \times C_3$.

**Proof.** The fact that $\SL_2(p)$ has trivial multiplier for all primes $p$ is standard: note that all Sylow $r$-subgroups of $\SL_2(p)$ are cyclic, except when $p \geq 3$ and $r = 2$, in which case a Sylow $r$-subgroup is generalized quaternion. It follows that $M(G)_r = 1$ for all primes $r$ by (2) below and Lemma \cite[2]{S4}. Also $\GL_2(3)$ also has trivial multiplier by (2) and Lemma \cite[2]{S4} since a
Sylow 2-subgroup of \( \text{GL}_2(3) \) is semidihedral. So to finish the proof of (1), we may assume that \( p \geq 5 \). Let \( G \) be a subgroup of \( \text{GL}_2(p) \) containing \( N = \text{SL}_2(p) \). Since \( p \geq 5 \), \( N \) is perfect. Fix a group \( \hat{G} \) having a central subgroup \( Z \) such that \( \hat{G}/Z \cong G \). Identify \( \hat{G}/Z \) with \( G \) and let \( \pi: \hat{G} \to G \) be the canonical projection. We shall show that there is a complement to \( Z \) in \( \hat{G} \).

Let \( \hat{N} \) be the preimage of \( N \) under \( \pi \). Then \( \hat{N} \) contains \( Z \) and splits over it, as \( M(N) = 1 \).

Fix any complement \( N_0 \) of \( Z \) in \( \hat{N} \), so that \( \hat{N} = N_0 \times Z \). Then \( N_0 \cong \text{SL}_2(p) \). We claim that \( N_0 \) is normal in \( \hat{G} \); it is clear that \( N_0 \) is normal in \( \hat{N} \). In general, conjugation by \( g \in \hat{G} \) sends an element \( h \in N_0 \) to \( h'\zeta_g(h) \), where \( h' \in N_0 \) and \( \zeta_g(h) \in Z \) are uniquely determined.

Also since \( Z \) is central in \( \hat{G} \), the assignment \( h \mapsto \zeta_g(h) \) is a group homomorphism from \( N_0 \) to \( Z \). Since \( N_0 \) is perfect, it follows that \( \zeta_g = 1 \) for each \( g \in \hat{G} \), i.e. \( N_0 \) is normal in \( \hat{G} \). Write quotients by \( N_0 \) with pluses. Now \( \hat{G}^+ \) is a central extension of \( Z \) by \( \hat{G}/\hat{N} \cong G/N \), which is a cyclic \( p' \)-group. On the other hand, we have \( M(G/N) = 1 \) by Lemma 8.4(3), applied with each prime divisor \( r \) of \( |G/N| \) in the role of “\( p \)” there. Thus, we may fix a complement \( K^+ \) of \( Z^+ \) in \( \hat{G}^+ \), and let \( K \) be the preimage of \( K^+ \) in \( \hat{G} \). Then \( K \) is a complement to \( Z \) in \( \hat{G} \).

Part (2) is implied by Lemma 8.3 as follows. Let \( G \) be a 2-group of maximal class, so that \( G \) is dihedral, semidihedral or quaternion. Then \( M(G) \) is a 2-group. Let \( \pi: \hat{G} \to G \) be any Schur covering of \( G \) with \( Z = \ker(\pi) \). Then since \( Z \leq [\hat{G}, \hat{G}] \), it follows that \( \hat{G}^{ab} \cong G^{ab} \) is of order 4. By [Gor80, Theorem 5.4.5], \( \hat{G} \) is of maximal class, so \( Z(\hat{G}) \) is of order 2.

Then either \( M(G) = 1 \), or \( Z(\hat{G}) = Z \) and \( M(G) = C_2 \). In the latter case, since \( \hat{G} \) is of maximal class, we have \( \hat{G}/Z \cong G \) is dihedral.

Conversely, the dihedral group \( \hat{G} = D_{2k+1} \) provides a Schur covering \( \pi: \hat{G} \to G \) of \( G = D_{2k} \). Fix a four subgroup \( V \) of \( G \). Then as \( \pi^{-1}(V) \) is dihedral of order 8, we have that the restriction map \( M(G) \to M(V) \) is injective by Lemma 8.3(3). This completes the proof of (2).

To prove (3), apply Lemma 8.3(5) with \( K = C_n \) and \( H = C_2 \). Hence, \( m = 1 \) there. By Lemma 8.4(3) and that result, \( M(G) = K^{ab} \rtimes K^{ab} \). The multiplication map \( C_n \times C_n \to C_n \) is an isomorphism, where \( C_n \) is viewed as an additive group, and under that map \( a \otimes b + b \otimes a \) is sent to \( 2ab \). Hence, \( M(G) \cong C_n/2C_n \cong C_2 \) if \( n \) is even, and \( 1 \) if \( n \) is odd. In order to prove the claim about the restriction \( J \), we may by Lemma 8.4(2) assume that \( n = 2^l \) for some \( l \), and then it suffices by Lemma 8.3(3) to produce a double covering of \( G \) which restricts to a stem extension of \( J \). To this end, the group \( G = C_{2^l} \rtimes C_2 \) has a presentation with generators \( x, y, t \) and defining relations \( x^{2^l} = y^{2^l} = t^2 = xyx^{-1}y^{-1} = 1 \) and \( txt^{-1} = y \).

Consider the group \( \hat{G} \) with generators \( x, y, t \) and defining relations \( x^{2^l} = y^{2^l} = t^2 = 1, \; txt^{-1} = y, \) and \( z = [x, y] \) is of order 2 and central. Thus \( \hat{G}/\langle x^{2^{l-1}}, y^{2^{l-1}} \rangle \cong D_{16} \), and the obvious map \( \pi: \hat{G} \to G \) is the pullback of the Schur covering \( D_{16} \to D_8 \). Let \( J \) be the preimage of \( J \) in \( \hat{G} \), and set \( Z = \ker(\pi) = \langle z \rangle \). Then by construction \( Z \leq [J, J] \cap Z(J) \), so \( \pi: J \to J \) is a stem extension of \( J \). As noted above, this completes the proof of (3).

We now prove (4). When \( G \) is \( D_8, SD_{16}, C_6 \rtimes C_2, S_3 \times C_3, S_3 \times C_6, D_8 \times C_3, D_{16} \times C_3, \) or \( SD_{32} \times C_3 \), the claim follows from (1), (2), (3), and Lemma 8.3(4). It remains to consider the groups “\( 4S_4 \)” and “\( C_3 \times 4S_4 \)” in [RV04, Table 1.2]. Note that \( 4S_4 \) as appears in [RV04] is the normalizer \( G \) in \( \text{GL}_2(5) \) of a Sylow 2-subgroup \( Q \cong Q_8 \) of \( SL_2(5) \). The normalizer \( N \) in \( SL_2(5) \) of \( Q \) is the commutator subgroup of \( G \), isomorphic to \( SL_2(3) \), and the quotient \( G/N \) is cyclic of order 4. Thus, \( G^{ab} \) is cyclic of order 4. Therefore, it suffices to show that \( M(G) = 1 \), for then by Lemma 8.3(4), we’ll have \( M(C_3 \times G) = 1 \). Since \( G \) has Sylow 3-subgroups of order
Now consider a nonconstrained fusion system appearing in Table 1. Then \( r_G \) and \( Q_M \) and in those cases there exists some \( Q \) matrices, which stabilizes \( Q \) of \( G \). Thus the restriction \( Q \) is isomorphic to \( Q^{(2)} \), in which case \( Q = Q^2 \). Let \( r = 2 \), consider a saturated fusion system on \( G/N \) of order \( p^3 \) and of exponent \( p \). Then \( \lim A^2_F = 0 \).

**Proposition 8.6.** Let \( p \) be an odd prime, and let \( F \) be a nonconstrained saturated fusion system on an extraspecial \( p \)-group \( S \) of order \( p^3 \) and of exponent \( p \). Then \( \lim A^2_F = 0 \).

**Proof.** Consider the cochain complex \((C^*(A^2_F), \delta)\) computing the limits of \( A^2_F \) as in \([\text{Lin09b}]\).

By Lemma 8.5(1), \( M(\text{Out}_F(Q))_{p^2} = 1 \) for all elementary abelian subgroups \( Q \in F^{cr} \). Thus, the 0-th cochain group is \( C^0(A^2_F) = M(\text{Out}_F(S))_{p^2} = M(\text{Out}_F(S)) \), and the coboundary map

\[
\delta^0: M(\text{Out}_F(S)) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{Q \in F^{cr}, |Q| = p^2} M(\text{Out}_F([Q < S]))
\]

is the sum of the restriction maps \( M(\text{Out}_F(S)) \rightarrow M(\text{Out}_F([Q < S])) \). Thus, to complete the proof it suffices to show that at least one of these restriction maps is injective.

We regard \( \text{Out}_F(S) \leq GL_2(p) \) as acting on \( \{Q_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq p\} \) as it does on the projective line, and then \( \text{Out}_F([Q < S]) \) is the stabilizer of the point \( Q \). We go through the possibilities for \( F \) appearing in Tables 1.1 and 1.2 of \([\text{RV04}]\). Consider first a fusion system \( F \) over \( S \) occurring in Table 1.2. Then \( C^0(A^2_F) = 1 \) unless \( G := \text{Out}_F(S) \) appears in Lemma 8.5(4), and in those cases there exists some \( Q \in F^{cr} \) with \( |Q| = p^2 \) such that \( M(\text{Out}_F([Q < S])) \) is a four subgroup. Hence, \( \ker(\delta^0) = 1 \) by Lemma 8.5(2), and so \( \lim A^2_F = 0 \) in this case.

Now consider a nonconstrained fusion system appearing in Table 1.1. Then \( F^{cr} = \{Q_0, Q_p\} \), and \( G := \text{Out}_F(S) \) may be taken in the normalizer in \( GL_2(p) \) of the subgroup \( T \) of diagonal matrices, which stabilizes \( Q_0 \) and \( Q_p \). Write \( G_0 = \text{Out}_F([Q_0 < S]) \), for short. Then \( G_0 = G \cap T \). Assume first that \( r \neq p \) is an odd prime. If \( r \) divides \( p+1 \), then a Sylow \( r \)-subgroup of \( GL_2(p) \) is cyclic, and hence \( M(G)_{r} = 1 \) by Lemma 8.4(3). Suppose \( r \) divides \( p-1 \). Then a Sylow \( r \)-subgroup of \( G \) is contained in \( T \), and so \( G_0 \) contains a Sylow \( r \)-subgroup of \( G \). Thus the restriction \( M(G)_{r} \rightarrow M(G_0)_{r} \) is injective by Lemma 8.5(2). It remains to consider \( r = 2 \). Inspection of Table 1.1 of \([\text{RV04}]\) shows that either a Sylow 2-subgroup of \( G \) stabilizes \( Q_0 \), in which case \( M(G)_2 \rightarrow M(G_0)_2 \) is injective by Lemma 8.4(2), or a Sylow 2-subgroup \( R \) of \( G \) is isomorphic to \( C_2 \wr C_2 \) for some \( l \geq 1 \), and \( R \cap G_0 \) is the homocyclic subgroup of \( R \) of index 2. The restriction map \( M(G)_2 \rightarrow M(G_0)_2 \) is injective in this latter case by Lemma 8.5(3).

We now verify a number of the conjectures in Section 2 for a nonconstrained saturated fusion system over \( S \). In the thirteen exceptional cases complete proofs by hand could be written down, but since we have no reasonably general argument for the specific numerical computations, the conjectures are ultimately verified using computer calculations in Magma \([\text{BCP97}]\).

In a saturated fusion system \( F \) on \( S \), Lemma 8.1(a) and Lemma 8.2(1) allow one to identify \( \text{Out}_F(S) \) with a subgroup of \( GL_2(p) \) of order prime to \( p \). Relative to this setup, we will identify elements of \( \text{Out}_F(S) \) with matrices with respect to the basis \( \{a, b\} \) (or rather, the basis \( \{aZ(S), bZ(S)\} \) of \( S^{ab} \)). Write \( \text{Out}_F^+(S) \) for those elements of \( \text{Out}_F(S) \) which have determinant 1. The next lemma gives a general calculation of the quantity \( m(F, 0, d) \).

**Lemma 8.7.** Let \( F \) be a saturated fusion system on \( S \). Then
(1) \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 0) = m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 1) = 0, \)

(2) \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) = \frac{p-1}{l} \cdot |\text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S)|, \) where \( l \) denotes the index of \( \text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S) \) in \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \), and

(3) \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 3) = \sum_\mu z(k\text{C}_{\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)}(\mu)), \) where \( \mu \) runs over a set of representatives for the \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \)-orbits of linear characters of \( S \), and where \( \text{C}_{\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)}(\mu) \) denotes the stabilizer of \( \mu \) in \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \).

Thus,

\[
m(\mathcal{F}, 0) = \frac{p-1}{l} \cdot |\text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S)| + \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}^3(S)/\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)} z(k\text{C}_{\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)}(\mu)).
\]

Proof. Each character of \( Q_i \cong C_p \times C_p \) is linear, so has defect 2, while each character of \( S \) has defect 2 or 3 by Lemma 8.1(3). This shows (1).

The quantity \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) \) is a sum over \( \mathcal{F} \)-conjugacy classes of centric radicals \( Q \) of the quantities \( w_Q(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) \). Fix first a centric radical \( Q \) of order \( p^2 \). We claim \( w_Q(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) = 0 \). By Theorem 8.2 \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) is a subgroup of \( \text{GL}_2(p) \) containing \( \text{SL}_2(p) \) with index \( a \), say. First consider the trivial chain \( \sigma = (Q) \in \mathcal{N}_Q \). Then \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) stabilizes \( \sigma \). There are two orbits on characters, one nontrivial and one trivial. Given a nontrivial character \( \mu \), the stabilizer of \( \mu \) in \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) is a Frobenius group with normal subgroup of order \( p \), and so has 0 projective simple modules by Lemma 4.11. Also, the trivial character has stabilizer \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \), which by Lemma 4.12 has a projective simple module. Thus, the contribution to \( w_Q(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) \) from the trivial chain is \( a \). Next let \( \sigma = (Q < S) \in \mathcal{N}_Q \) be the nontrivial chain. The stabilizer \( I(\sigma) \) in \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(Q) \) of \( \sigma \) has a normal subgroup \( S \) and the quotient by \( S \) is abelian order \( (p-1)a \). Then \( I(\sigma) \) has one orbit of size 1 containing the trivial character, and one of size \( p-1 \) consisting of those characters with kernel \( Z(S) \). The respective stabilizers have \( S \) as a normal subgroup, so the contribution from these orbits is 0, by Lemma 4.11. The group \( S \) acts regularly on the remaining points of \( \mathbb{P}^1(Q) \), and a subgroup in \( I(\sigma) \cap \text{SL}(Q) \) of order \( p-1 \) acts regularly on the characters with kernel a given point. Thus, there is one further orbit with stabilizer of order \( a \), and this contributes \(-a\) to \( w_Q(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) \). Hence, \( w_Q(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) = a - a = 0 \), as claimed.

Lastly, consider \( w_S(\mathcal{F}, 0, 2) \). Here, there is only the trivial chain with stabilizer \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \). Note that \( \text{Irr}^2(S) \) consists of the \( p-1 \) faithful characters denoted \( \varphi_a \) in Lemma 8.1. Let \( l \) be the index of \( \text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S) \) in \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \). The action of \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \) on \( \text{Irr}^2(S) \) is the same as the action on \( Z(S)^\# \) (nonidentity elements), and there \( \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \) acts semiregularly via the determinant map. So there are \((p-1)/l\) orbits, each of size \( l \), and a representative for each orbit has stabilizer \( \text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S) \). As \( \text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S) \) is a \( p' \)-group, we have \( z(\text{C}_{\text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S)}(\mu)) \) the number of simple \( k \text{Out}^*_\mathcal{F}(S) \)-modules, which is the number of conjugacy classes. This completes the proof of (2).

In (3), since \( \text{Irr}^3(Q_i) \) is empty, there is only one pair \((Q, \sigma)\) for which the innermost sum in \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 3) \) is nonzero, namely the pair \((S, 1)\). We thus have \( I(\sigma) = \text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S) \) for this pair. Thus,

\[
m(\mathcal{F}, 0, 3) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}^3(S)/\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)} z(k\text{C}_{\text{Out}_\mathcal{F}(S)}(\mu)),
\]

which completes the proof of (3). The last statement then follows from (1)-(3), since clearly \( m(\mathcal{F}, 0, d) = 0 \) for \( d > 3 \).

We now calculate \( k(\mathcal{F}, 0) \).
Lemma 8.8. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a saturated fusion system on $S$. Then

$$k(\mathcal{F}, 0) = w(\mathcal{F}, 0) + \frac{p - 1}{l} \cdot |\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)| + \sum_{\langle x \rangle \in S \setminus \{1, c\} / \mathcal{F}} z(kC_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x])).$$

Proof. By definition, we have

$$k(\mathcal{F}, 0) = w(\mathcal{F}, 0) + w(C_{\mathcal{F}}(c), 0) + \sum_{[x] \in (S \setminus \{1, c\}) / \mathcal{F}} w(C_{\mathcal{F}}(x), 0),$$

where in the latter sum $[x]$ runs over $S$-classes for which $\langle x \rangle$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralized. Let $1 \neq x \in S$ be such that $x$ is not $\mathcal{F}$-conjugate to $c$ and $\langle x \rangle$ is fully $\mathcal{F}$-centralised. If $Q \leq C_S(x)$ is $C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)$-centric radical, then $|Q| = p^2$ and $x \in C_S(Q) = Q$. Therefore $Q = \langle x, c \rangle$ and $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(x)(Q)$ does not contain a copy of $\text{SL}_2(p)$, a contradiction. We conclude that $C_S(x) \leq C_{\mathcal{F}}(x)$, and

$$w(C_{\mathcal{F}}(x), 0) = z(k \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(x)(C_S(x))) = z(kC_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x])),$$

by Lemma 3.3. We claim that $C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x]) \cong C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x])$. Since $\mathcal{F}$ is saturated, the restriction map

$$\text{res} : C_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(x) \to C_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(C_S(x))}(x)$$

is surjective with kernel containing $C_{\text{Inn}(S)}(x)$ as a Sylow $p$-subgroup. If $A$ is a $p'$-subgroup of $\ker(\text{res})$ then $A$ commutes with both $C_{\text{Inn}(S)}(x) \cong \langle x \rangle$ and $C_S(C_{\text{Inn}(S)}(x))$. Hence Lemma 3.3 implies that $A = 1$, and $C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x]) \cong C_{\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}(x)/C_{\text{Inn}(S)}(x) \cong C_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([x])$ as claimed.

Clearly $S \leq C_{\mathcal{F}}(c)$ and so

$$w(C_{\mathcal{F}}(c), 0) = z(k \text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(c)(S)) = z(kC_{\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)}([c])) = \frac{p - 1}{l} \cdot |\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(S)|,$$

where $l$ is as given in Lemma 3.7. This completes the proof. \qed

Remark 8.9. From the classification in [RV04] we see that for any nonconstrained fusion system $\mathcal{F}$ over $S$, one has $l = p - 1$ in Lemmas 3.7 and 8.8. Indeed, if $\mathcal{F}$ is nonconstrained, then $Z(S) = ZJ(S)$ is not weakly $\mathcal{F}$-closed, and then a result of Glauberman then suggests that $\text{Out}_{\mathcal{F}}(Z(S)) \cong C_{p - 1}$ for any nonconstrained fusion system over $S$; c.f. [Gla71, Theorem 14.14].

Lemma 8.10. Let $\omega$ be a generator of the multiplicative group $\mathbb{F}_p^\times$.

1. The wreath product $\langle (\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle \cong C_{p - 1} \triangleright C_2$ has $(p - 1)(p + 2)/2$ conjugacy classes.

2. $\langle (\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle \cong C_{p - 1} \triangleright C_2$ has $(p + 5)/2$ conjugacy classes.

3. If $3 | p - 1$ then $\langle (\begin{smallmatrix} \omega^3 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^3 \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & \omega^{-3} \\ \omega & 0 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle$ has $(p - 1)(p + 8)/6$ conjugacy classes.

4. If $3 | p - 1$ then $\langle (\begin{smallmatrix} \omega^3 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^{-3} \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle$ has $(p + 17)/2$ conjugacy classes.

Proof. If $B$ denotes the base of the wreath product $G := C_n \triangleright C_2$, then $Z(G)$ is a cyclic subgroup of order $n$ in $B$ so $B \setminus Z(G)$ is the union of $(n^2 - n)/2$ classes. There are $n$ classes of elements in $G$ outside $B$ which yields $n(n + 3)/2$ classes altogether and (1) holds. Next, if $G$ denotes the group in (2) and $H$ is the cyclic subgroup of order $p - 1$, we see that, apart from $Z(G)$ (of order 2), there are $(p - 3)/2$ classes of elements in $H$. There are 2 classes of elements outside of $H$, which yields $(p + 5)/2$ classes altogether. A similar argument proves (4). Finally, we prove (3). Let $G$ denote the group in question, and set $B := \langle (\begin{smallmatrix} \omega^3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}), (\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & \omega \\ \omega & 0 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle$. 
We see that $Z(G)$ has order $p - 1$ and so $B \setminus Z(G)$ is the union of $(p - 1)(p - 4)/6$ classes. There are $p - 1$ classes of elements in $G$ outside $B$ and this yields $(p - 1)(p + 8)/6$ classes altogether, as needed.

We now describe the computations of the quantities $m(F, 0)$, $w(F, 0)$, and $k(F, 0)$ that were carried out in Magma [BCP97] and listed in Tables 1 and 2. The list of nonconstrained saturated fusion systems on $S$ is given in Table 1 based on the list in [RV04, Tables 1.1, 1.2]. Generators for $\mathrm{Out}_F(S)$ are listed in the third column of Table 1 for the convenience of the reader: in each case there is exactly one $\mathrm{Out}(S)$-conjugacy class of subgroups isomorphic with $\mathrm{Out}_F(S)$, and a representative is chosen to contain as many diagonal matrices as possible. Then $\mathrm{Out}_F(S)$-orbit representatives and stabilizers for the actions on linear characters of $S$ and $S$-conjugacy classes were computed and listed in columns four through seven, using the notation of Lemma 8.1. In each case, $m(F, 0, 3)$ is computed using Lemma 8.7(3), by summing up the number of projective simple modules of the stabilizers listed in the fifth column of Table 1. Then $m(F, 0, 3)$ is listed in Table 2. The quantity $m(F, 0, 2)$ is computed using Lemma 8.7(2) and Lemma 8.10, which computes the number of conjugacy classes of the various $\mathrm{Out}^*(S)$ listed in Table 2. This completes the description of the computation of $m(F, 0)$ as the sum of $m(F, 0, 2)$ and $m(F, 0, 3)$. Then $w(F, 0)$ is calculated using the list of outer automorphism groups of centric radicals in [RV04, Tables 1.1 and 1.2]. For example, we have denoted the three exotic fusion systems at the prime 7 by $RV_1$, $RV_2$, and $RV_2 : 2$ in the tables, where $\mathrm{Out}_{RV_1}(S) \cong C_6 \wr C_2$, $\mathrm{Out}_{RV_2}(S) \cong D_{16} \times C_3$, and $\mathrm{Out}_{RV_2:2}(S) \cong SD_{32} \times C_3$. Note that $RV_2 : 2$ contains $RV_2$ as a normal subsystem of index 2. These systems have the following invariants.

- $m(RV_1, 0) = 41$ and $w(RV_1, 0) = 35$,
- $m(RV_2, 0) = 33$ and $w(RV_2, 0) = 25$, and
- $m(RV_2 : 2, 0) = 42$ and $w(RV_2 : 2, 0) = 35$.

Finally, $k(F, 0)$ is calculated using Lemma 8.8 by adding $w(F, 0)$ and $|\mathrm{Out}^*_F(S)\text{cl}|$ to the sum of the number of projective simple modules of the stabilizers listed in the seventh column of Table 1.

**Proposition 8.11.** Let $F$ be a nonconstrained saturated fusion system on $S$. Then $k(F, 0) = m(F, 0)$, and Conjectures 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 all hold for $F$.

**Proof.** This can be easily verified using the tables. □
Table 1. $\text{Out}_F(S)$-orbits of $\text{Irr}^3(S)$, $F$-classes of $S^cl$ and their $\text{Out}_F(S)$-stabilisers

| $p$ | $F$ | $\text{Out}_F(S)$ | $\text{Irr}^3(S)/\text{Out}_F(S)$ | stabilisers | $(S^{cl}\{1, c\})/F$ | stabilisers |
|-----|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ | $\langle (\omega, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1$ | $C^2_{p-1}, C_{p-1}, C_{p-1}, 1$ | $[ab]$ | 1 |
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p) : 2$ | $\langle (\omega, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 1, x_1, x_1$ | $C_{p-1} \cdot C_2, C_{p-1}, C_2$ | $[ab]$ | $C_2$ |
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ | $\langle (\omega^2, 0, 1), (\omega, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $C_{p-1} \times C_{(p-1)/3}^3, C_{(p-1)/3}, 1, 1, 1$ | $[ab], [ab^\omega], [a^\omega b]$ | $1, 1, 1$ |
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p) : 2$ | $\langle (\omega^2, 0, 1), (\omega, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $(C_{p-1} \times C_{(p-1)/3}^3) : C_2, C_{(p-1)/3} : C_2, C_2$ | $[ab], [ab^\omega]$ | $C_2, 1$ |
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p) : 3$ | $\langle (\omega^2, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $C^2_{p-1}, C_{p-1}, C_{p-1}, 1$ | $[ab]$ | $1$ |
| 3 $\nmid (p-1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p) : S_3$ | $\langle (\omega, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $C_{p-1} \cdot C_2, C_{p-1}, C_2$ | $[ab]$ | $C_2$ |
| 3 | $2F_4(2)'$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1$ | $D_8, C_2, C_2$ | $-$ | $-$ |
| 3 | $J_4$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_4 \times S_3$ | $[a], [b], [a^3], [a^3b]$ | $C_3, C_3, C_2, C_2$ |
| 5 | $\text{Th}$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_2, C_3$ | $[a], [b], [a^3b]$ | $C_3, C_2, C_2$ |
| 7 | $\text{He}$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[a], [a^3]$ | $C_3, C_2$ |
| 7 | $\text{He} : 2$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[a], [a^3]$ | $C_3, C_2$ |
| 7 | $\text{Fi}_2^4$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_3$ |
| 7 | $\text{Fi}_{24}$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 7 | $\text{RV}_1$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 7 | $\text{ON}$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 7 | $\text{ON} : 2$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 7 | $\text{RV}_2$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 7 | $\text{RV}_2 : 2$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
| 13 | $M$ | $\langle (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1) \rangle$ | $x_0, 0, x_0, 1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1, x_1$ | $S_3 \times C_6, C_3, C_2, C_2$ | $[b]$ | $C_6$ |
Table 2. $w(F, 0)$ and $m(F, 0, d)$ for $d = 2, 3$

| $p$ | $F$ | $\text{Out}^*(S)$ | $m(F, 0, 2)$ | $m(F, 0, 3)$ | $w(F, 0)$ |
|-----|-----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ | $C_{p-1}$ | $p - 1$ | $p^2$ | $p^2 - 1$ |
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ : $2$ | $C_{p-1}.C_2$ | $(p + 5)/2$ | $(p+3)/2$ | $(p - 1)(p + 4)/2$ |
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ | $C_{(p-1)/3}$ | $(p - 1)/3$ | $(p^2 + 8)/3$ | $(p^2 - 1)/3$ |
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ : $2$ | $C_{(p-1)/3}.C_2$ | $(p + 17)/6$ | $(p + 1)(p + 8)/6$ | $(p - 1)(p + 10)/6$ |
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ : $3$ | $C_{p-1}$ | $p - 1$ | $p^2$ | $p^2 - 1$ |
| 3 $| (p - 1)$ | $\text{PSL}_3(p)$ : $S_3$ | $C_{p-1}.C_2$ | $(p + 5)/2$ | $(p+3)/2$ | $(p - 1)(p + 4)/2$ |
| 3 | $2F_4(2)'$ | $C_4$ | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| 3 | $J_4$ | $Q_8$ | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| 5 | Th | $\text{SL}_2(3)$ | 7 | 20 | 20 |
| 7 | He | $C_3$ | 3 | 20 | 10 |
| 7 | He : $2$ | $C_6$ | 6 | 25 | 20 |
| 7 | $\text{Fi}_{24}'$ | $C_6$ | 6 | 25 | 22 |
| 7 | $\text{Fi}_{24}$ | $D_{12}$ | 6 | 35 | 29 |
| 7 | RV$_1$ | $D_{12}$ | 6 | 35 | 35 |
| 7 | O’N | $C_4$ | 4 | 20 | 19 |
| 7 | O’N : $2$ | $C_8$ | 8 | 25 | 23 |
| 7 | RV$_2$ | $C_8$ | 8 | 25 | 25 |
| 7 | RV$_2$ : $2$ | $Q_{16}$ | 7 | 35 | 35 |
| 13 | M | $\text{SL}_2(3)$ | 7 | 55 | 52 |

Appendix A. On Lemma 7.1

By Proposition 4.9 Lemma 7.1 is equivalent to the following.

**Lemma A.1.** Let $G$ be a finite group, $Q$ a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$, $Z$ a central $p'$-subgroup of $G$ and $e$ a central idempotent of $kZ$. Then

(A.1) \[
\sum_{[x] \in Q^G/G} \ell(kC_G([x])e) = \sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} \ell(kC_G(\mu)e).
\]

The rest of the section is devoted to a proof of Lemma A.1. The basic idea is that, when $e = 1_{kZ}$, then both sides count the number of $p$-sections in $G$ of elements of $Q$, or the dimension of the space of ordinary class functions of $G$ vanishing outside $p$-sections of elements of $Q$. 
**Notation.** Let \((K, \mathcal{O}, k)\) be a \(p\)-modular system which we assume is big enough for the finite groups considered in this section. Denote by \(\mathcal{C}(G)\) the \(K\)-vector space of all \(K\)-valued class functions on \(G\) and by \(\text{Irr}(G) \subset \mathcal{C}(G)\) the set of ordinary irreducible characters of \(G\) viewed as \(K\)-valued functions.

For \(X \subset G\), denote by \(d^X : \mathcal{C}(G) \to \mathcal{C}(G)\), the \(K\)-linear map defined by \(\varphi \to d^X(\varphi), \varphi \in \mathcal{C}(G)\) where \(d^X(\varphi)(g) = 0\) if \(g_p\) is not conjugate to an element of \(X\) and \(d^X(\varphi)(g) = \varphi(g)\) otherwise. Thus, \(d^X(\mathcal{C}(G))\) is the subspace of all class functions which vanish outside the \(p\)-sections of elements of \(X\), that is those class functions \(\varphi\) such that \(\varphi(x) = 0\) unless \(x_p\) is conjugate to an element of \(X\).

If \(X = \{x\}\) we write \(d^x\) for \(d^X\). For general \(X\) and \(x \in X\), \(d^x(\mathcal{C}(G))\) is a subspace of \(d^X(\mathcal{C}(G))\) and \(d^X(\mathcal{C}(G)) = \bigoplus_x d^x(\mathcal{C}(G))\), where \(x\) runs over a set of conjugacy class representatives of \(p\)-elements in \(X\). Note that if \(X\) is a normal \(p\)-subgroup of \(G\), then \(d^X(\mathcal{C}(G))\) consists of precisely those functions which take the value zero on elements \(g\) such that \(g_p \notin Q\).

For a central idempotent \(f\) of \(KG\) denote by \(\text{Irr}(G, f)\) the subset of ordinary irreducible characters of \(G\) corresponding to simple \(KGf\) modules and by \(\mathcal{C}(G, f)\) the subspace of \(\mathcal{C}(G)\) consisting of those class functions which are in the \(K\)-span of \(\text{Irr}(G, f)\). Recall that the canonical surjection \(\mathcal{O}G \to kG\) induces a bijection between the set of central idempotents of \(\mathcal{O}G\) and of \(kG\). By abuse of notation, if \(e\) is a central idempotent of \(kG\) corresponding to the central idempotent \(\tilde{e}\) of \(\mathcal{O}G\) we write \(\text{Irr}(G, e)\) for \(\text{Irr}(G, \tilde{e})\) and \(\mathcal{C}(G, e)\) for \(\mathcal{C}(G, \tilde{e})\). Thus, if \(e\) is a block of \(kG\), then \(\text{Irr}(G, e)\) is the subset of ordinary irreducible characters of \(G\) belonging to \(\tilde{e}\). For \(N\) a normal subgroup of \(G\) and \(\mu \in \text{Irr}(N)\), let \(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu)\) denote the subspace of \(\mathcal{C}(G)\) consisting of those class functions which are in the \(K\)-span of irreducible characters of \(G\) which cover \(\mu\) and for \(f\) a central idempotent of \(KG\) (or \(kG\)) denote by \(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu, f)\) the intersection of \(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu)\) and \(\mathcal{C}(G, f)\).

The following gives the desired interpretation of the left hand side of Lemma 3.1. When \(e = 1_{kZ}\), the statement is elementary. Passage to arbitrary \(e\) requires an application of Brauer’s second main theorem which we now recall. Denote by \(\text{IBr}(G)\) the set of Brauer characters of simple \(kG\)-modules viewed as \(K\)-valued class functions on \(G_{p'}\), the set of \(p\)-regular elements of \(G\). For \(x \in G\) a \(p\)-element, \(\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)\) and \(\varphi \in \text{IBr}(\mathcal{C}_G(x))\) denote by \(d^x_{\chi, \varphi}\) the corresponding generalised decomposition number. By Brauer’s second main theorem, if \(b\) is the block of \(kG\) containing \(\chi\), then \(d^x_{\chi, \varphi}\) is zero unless \(\varphi\) is the Brauer character of a simple \(k\mathcal{C}_G(x)\) module lying in a block \(c\) of \(k\mathcal{C}_G(x)\) which is in Brauer correspondence with \(b\). In other words, for all \(y \in \mathcal{C}_G(x)_{p'}\) we have that

\[
\chi(xy) = \sum_\varphi d^x_{\chi, \varphi} \varphi(y),
\]

where \(\varphi\) runs over the set of irreducible Brauer characters of \(\mathcal{C}_G(x)\) lying in Brauer correspondents of \(b\).

**Lemma A.2.** Let \(x\) be a \(p\)-element of \(G\). Let \(Z \leq G\) be a central \(p'\)-subgroup of \(G\) and \(e\) a central idempotent of \(kZ\). Then,

\[
(A.2) \quad \dim_K d^x(\mathcal{C}(G, e)) = \ell(k\mathcal{C}_G(x)e).
\]
If $Q$ is a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$, then
\begin{equation}
\dim_K d^Q(C(G, e)) = \sum_{x \in Q^G/G} \ell(kC_G([x]) e).
\end{equation}

Proof. The space $d^x(C(G))$ consists of the class functions on $G$ which vanish outside the $p$-section of $x$, hence $\dim_K d^x(C(G))$ equals the number of $p'$-conjugacy classes of $C_G(x)$ and this number is in turn equal to the number of isomorphism classes of simple $kC_G(x)$-modules. This proves that the first equation holds when $e = 1_{kZ} = 1_{kG}$. For the general case, first note that since $Z$ is central in $G$, $e$ is a central idempotent of $kG$ and of $kC_G(x)$ and $\text{Br}_{(x)}(e) = e$, where $\text{Br}_{(x)} : (kG)^{(x)} \to kC_G(x)$ denotes the Brauer homomorphism. We claim that if $b$ is a block of $kG$ such that $be = b$ and $c$ is a block of $kC_G(x)$ in Brauer correspondence with $b$, then $ce = c$. Indeed, by the uniqueness of central idempotent decompositions and the primitivity of $b$, we have $be = b$. By definition of Brauer correspondence, $\text{Br}_{(x)}(b)c = c$. Hence
\begin{equation}
\tau(xy) = \sum_{\varphi} d_{x,\varphi} \varphi,
\end{equation}
where $\varphi$ runs over the set of Brauer characters of simple $kC_G(x)e$-modules. Since $d^x\tau$ is determined by its restriction to the subset of $C_G(x)$ consisting of elements whose $p$-part is $x$, it follows that $\dim_K d^x(C(G, e)) \leq \ell(kC_G(x)e)$. By the same considerations, $\dim_K d^x(C(G, 1-e)) \leq \ell(kC_G(x)(1-e))$. Since $C(G) = C(G, e) \oplus C(G, 1-e)$, $\dim_K d^x(C(G)) \leq \dim_K d^x(C(G, e)) + \dim_K d^x(C(G, 1-e))$. The first equation now follows from the case $e = 1_{kZ}$.

Let $\overline{e}$ be the image of $e$ under the canonical surjection of $kG \to k(G/Q)$. Recall that restriction along $kG \to kG/Q$ induces a bijection between the set of isomorphism classes of simple $kG/Q$-modules and $kG$-modules sending simple $k(G/Q)\overline{e}$-modules to $kG$-modules. Also, for any $x \in Q$, $e$ is a central idempotent of $kC_G(x)$ and identifying $C_G(x)/C_G(x) \cap Q$ with $C_G(x)Q/Q$ via the isomorphism induced by inclusion of $C_G(x)$ in $C_G(x)Q$, the image of $e$ in $k(C_G(x)/C_G(x) \cap Q)$ is $\overline{e}$. Hence
\begin{equation}
\ell(kC_G([x]) e) = \ell(kC_G(x)Q e) = \ell(kC_G(x)Q/Q \overline{e}) = \ell(kC_G(x)/C_G(x) \cap Q \overline{e}) = \ell(kC_G(x)e).
\end{equation}

Now the second equation follows from the first since
\begin{equation}
d^Q(C(G, e)) = \bigoplus_{[x] \in Q^G/G} d^x(C(G, e)).
\end{equation}

\begin{lemma}
Let $Z$ be a central $p'$-subgroup of $G$ and $e$ a central idempotent of $kZ$. Let $Q$ be a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$. Then
\begin{equation}
d^Q(C(G, e)) = \bigoplus_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} d^Q(C(G, \mu, e)).
\end{equation}
\end{lemma}
We have an element of $\mathcal{C}$.

We show that the sum on the right of the second equation is direct. First note that if $p$ as a Sylow $H$ containing $Q$ are such that $\sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)} d^Q(\varphi_\mu) = 0$ and let $H$ be a subgroup of $G$ containing $Q$ as a Sylow $p$-subgroup. Then the restriction of $\sum_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} \varphi_\mu = 0$. But it is easy to see that the restriction of $\varphi_\mu$ to $H$ is in the $K$-span of irreducible characters of $H$ which cover $G$-conjugates of $\mu$. In particular the restriction of $\varphi_\mu$ and $\varphi_{\mu'}$ for $\mu' \neq \mu$ are orthogonal class functions on $H$. Hence the restriction of $\varphi_\mu$ to $H$ equals zero for all $H$ and all $\mu$. It follows that $d^Q(\varphi_\mu) = 0$ for all $\mu$. Thus

$$d^Q(\mathcal{C}(G)) = \bigoplus_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} d^Q(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu)).$$

The assertion of the lemma now follows as $\mathcal{C}(G, e)$ is the direct sum $\bigoplus_{\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)/G} \mathcal{C}(G, \mu, e)$. \hfill \Box

Given the above Lemma, it remains to analyse $d^Q(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu, e))$ for each irreducible character $\mu$ of $Q$. This is done via standard Clifford theoretic reductions.

**Lemma A.4.** Let $Z$ be a central $p'$-subgroup of $G$ and $e$ a central idempotent of $kZ$. Let $Q$ be a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$ and let $\mu \in \text{Irr}(Q)$. Then $\dim_K d^Q(\mathcal{C}(G, \mu, e)) = \dim_K \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(\mu), \mu, e))$.

**Proof.** Induction from $\mathcal{C}(\mu)$ to $G$ induces a bijection between $\text{Irr}(\mathcal{C}(\mu))$ and $\text{Irr}(G)$. Since $Z \leq \mathcal{C}(\mu)$, if $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G, \mu, e)$, then $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{C}(\mu)}^G(\chi) \in \text{Irr}(G, \mu, e)$. Hence induction induces an isometric isomorphism between $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(\mu), \mu, e)$ and $\mathcal{C}(G, \mu, e)$. Further, it is easy to check from the induction formula that $d^Q(\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{C}(\mu)}^G(\tau)) = \text{Ind}_{\mathcal{C}(\mu)}^G(d^Q(\tau))$ for all $\tau$ in $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(\mu))$. The result follows. \hfill \Box

**Lemma A.5.** Let $Q$ be a normal $p$-subgroup of $G$ and let $\mu$ be a $G$-stable irreducible character of $Q$. There exist a central extension

$$1 \to Y \to \tilde{G} \to G \to 1,$$

an irreducible character $\tilde{\mu}$ of $\tilde{G}$ and a one dimensional character $\eta$ of $Y$ such that the following holds.

1. $Y$ is a finite $p$-group, the inverse image of $Q$ in $\tilde{G}$ is a direct product of $Y$ with a normal subgroup $Q'$ of $\tilde{G}$ such that $\pi$ maps $Q'$ isomorphically onto $Q$.
2. Identifying $Q'$ with $Q$ through $\pi$, there exists a bijection

$$\text{Irr}(G, \mu) \to \text{Irr}(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1}Q), \quad \chi \to \chi_0$$

such that for any $g \in G$ and $\tilde{g} \in \tilde{G}$ lifting $g$

$$\chi(g) = \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{g})\chi_0(\tilde{g}).$$
(3) Suppose that $Z$ is a central $p'$-subgroup of $G$, and $e$ is a central idempotent of $kZ$. Let $\tilde{Z}$ be the inverse image of $Z$ in $\tilde{G}$. Then $\tilde{Z} = Y \times Z'$, where $Z'$ is a central $p'$-subgroup of $\tilde{G}$ mapping isomorphically onto $Z$ by $\pi$. Identifying $Z'$ with $Z$ the bijection $\chi \rightarrow \chi_0$ restricts to a bijection between $\text{Irr}(G, \mu, e)$ and $\text{Irr}(\tilde{G}, \hat{\eta}^{-1}1Q, e)$.

Proof. The proof combines elements of standard Clifford theory. We briefly sketch the basic constructions. Let $m$ be the dimension of $\mu$ and let $e_\mu$ be the central idempotent of $KQ$ corresponding to $\mu$. Then $S = KQe_\mu$ is a matrix algebra of dimension $m^2$. Since $\mu$ is $G$-stable, the conjugation action of $G$ on $KQ$ induces an action of $G$ on $S$. The group $\tilde{G}$ is constructed as a subgroup of $G \times S^\times$. Let $\pi : G \times S^\times \rightarrow G$ and $\pi' : G \times S^\times$ be the projections onto the first and second components respectively and identify $K$ with the scalar matrices in $S$. Let $\hat{G}$ be the subgroup of $G \times S^\times$ consisting of all elements of the form $(x, s), x \in G$ and $s \in S^\times$ such that $saxa^{-1} = x$ for all $a \in S$. Since the action of each element of $G$ on $S$ is by an inner automorphism and $K = Z(S)$, the restriction of $\pi$ to $\hat{G}$ is a surjective homomorphism with kernel $1 \times K^\times$.

Choose a transversal $I$ for $Q$ in $G$ containing $O_{p'}(G)$. In particular, $I$ contains every central $p'$-element of $G$. For each $x \in I$, choose $x \in S^\times$ such that $(x, x) \in G$ and such that the determinant $\det(x)$ of $s_x$ equals 1. This can be achieved by replacing $K$ by a suitable extension containing the $m$-th roots of $\det(x)$, $x \in G$. Further, if $z \in I$ is a central $p'$-element of $G$, we choose $s_z$ to be the identity. Extend the map $x \rightarrow s_x$ to $s : G \rightarrow S^\times$ by setting $s_g = us_x$ if $g = ux, u \in Q, x \in I$. For all $g, h \in G$, we have $s_g s_h s_{gh}^{-1} \in K^\times$ is a scalar matrix. Note that since $\mu^{[Q]} = 1$ for all $y \in Q$, we have that $\det(s_g)^{[Q]} = 1$ for all $g \in G$ and consequently by taking determinants we see that $(s_g s_h s_{gh}^{-1})^{m^2[Q]} = 1$ for all $g, h \in G$.

Let $\tilde{G}$ be the subgroup of $\hat{G}$ generated by $(s_g, g), g \in G$. The restriction $\pi : \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ of $\pi$ to $\tilde{G}$ is surjective. Let $Y \leq 1 \times K^\times$ be the kernel of $\pi$. For $g, h \in \tilde{G}$,

$$(g, s_g)(h, s_h) = (gh, s_g s_h) = (1, s_g s_h s_{gh}^{-1})(gh, s_{gh}),$$

$$(g, s_g)^{-1} = (1, s_g s_{g^{-1}})(g^{-1}, s_{g^{-1}}) = (1, s_g s_{g^{-1}} s_{gg^{-1}})(g^{-1}, s_{g^{-1}}).$$

It follows that $Y = \{(1, s_g s_{gh}^{-1}), g, h \in G\}$. As noted above, $Y$ has exponent dividing $m^2[Q]$. Since $Y$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of the multiplicative group of a field, $Y$ is cyclic of order dividing $m^2[Q]$. In particular, $Y$ is a finite $p$-group. Let $Q' = \{(u, s_u) : u \in Q\}$. Since $s_u s_v = uv$ for all $u, v \in Q$, $Q'$ is a subgroup of $\tilde{G}$ with the required properties. This proves (1).

Let $\eta : Y \rightarrow K^\times$ be the irreducible character of $Y$ which sends $1, \lambda \cdot \text{id}_S$ to $\lambda$. The map $\pi' : \tilde{G} \rightarrow S^\times$ defines a representation of $\tilde{G}$ whose restriction to $YQ$ equals $\eta$. Let $\tilde{\mu}$ be the corresponding character. Then $\tilde{\mu}$ is irreducible and covers $\eta \mu$. Let

$$\tau = \frac{1}{[Y][Q]} \sum_{y \in Y, u \in Q} \eta^{-1}(y)(uy)^{-1}$$

be the central idempotent of $KYQ$ corresponding to $\eta^{-1}1_Q$. There is a $K$-algebra isomorphism

(A.6) \[ \varphi : KGe_\mu \rightarrow S \otimes_K K\tilde{G}\tau \]

satisfying

$$\varphi(g e_\mu) = s_g \otimes (g, s_g)\tau, \ g \in G.$$
Let \( g \in G \) and let \( \tilde{g} \in \tilde{G} \) be a lift of \( g \). Then \( \tilde{g} = y(g, s_g) \) for some \( y \in Y \). Since \( y s_g = \eta(y) s_g \) and \( y(g, s_g) \tau = \eta^{-1}(g, s_g) \tau \) it follows that \( s_g \otimes (g, s_g) \tau = \pi_2(\tilde{g}) \otimes \tilde{g} \tau \). Now (2) follows since \( \text{Irr}(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q) \) coincides with the set of irreducible \( K \tilde{G} \tau \) characters.

Let \( Z \) be a central \( p' \)-subgroup of \( G \). By our choices above, \( s_z \) is the identity matrix for all \( z \in Z \). Hence \( Z' := \{(z, 1) : z \in Z\} \) is a central subgroup of \( \tilde{G} \) and the inverse image \( \tilde{Z} \) of \( Z \) in \( \tilde{G} \) is a direct product \( \tilde{Z} = Y \times Z' \). Identifying \( Z' \) with \( Z \), the image of the idempotent \( e e_\mu \) under the isomorphism \( \text{A.6} \) is \( \text{id}_\mu \otimes e_\tau \), proving (3).

\[ \text{Lemma A.6.} \] Let \( Z \) be a central \( p' \)-subgroup of \( G \) and \( e \) a central idempotent of \( kZ \). Let \( Q \) be a normal \( p \)-subgroup of \( G \) and let \( \mu \) be a \( G \)-stable irreducible character of \( Q \). Then

\[ \text{(A.7)} \quad \dim_K d^Q(C(G, \mu, e)) = \ell(kGe). \]

Proof. Let \( \tilde{G}, Y, \eta \) and \( \tilde{\mu} \) be as in Lemma \( \text{A.5} \). The bijection \( \chi \to \chi_0 \) extends by linearity to a \( K \)-linear isomorphism \( i : C(G, \mu, e) \to C(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q, e) \) defined by

\[ \varphi(g) = \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{g}) i(\varphi)(\tilde{g}), \quad i^{-1}(\psi)(g) = \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{g}) \psi(\tilde{g}) \]

for all \( \varphi \in C(G, \mu, e), \psi \in C(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q, e), g \in G \) and \( \tilde{g} \in \tilde{G} \) lifting \( g \). Now \( g_p \in Q \) if and only if \( (\tilde{g})_p \in Y Q \). It follows that

\[ i^{-1} \circ d^{Y Q} \circ i = d^Q, \]

hence

\[ d^{Y Q} \circ i = i \circ d^Q, \]

where by \( d^{Y Q} \) we mean the relevant map on class functions on \( \tilde{G} \). In particular,

\[ \dim_K d^Q(C(G, \mu, e)) = \dim_K d^Q(C(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q, e)). \]

Let \( \psi \in C(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q, e) \). For any \( u \in Q, y \in Y, \tilde{g} \in \tilde{G} \), we have \( \psi(y u \tilde{g}) = \eta(y) \psi(\tilde{g}) \) from which it follows that

\[ \dim_K d^{Y Q} C(\tilde{G}, \eta^{-1} 1_q, e) = \dim_K d^Q C(\tilde{G}, e) = \ell(k \tilde{G} e) = \ell(k Ge) \]

where the second equality holds by Lemma \( \text{A.2} \) and the last equality holds since every simple \( k \tilde{G} e \)-module has \( Y \) in its kernel.

\[ \text{Proof of Lemma A.7} \] This follows from Lemmas \( \text{A.2, A.3, A.4 and A.6} \). □

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