REAL SUBPAIRS AND FROBENIUS-SCHUR INDICATORS OF CHARACTERS IN 2-BLOCKS

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Abstract. Let $B$ be a real 2-block of a finite group $G$. A defect couple of $B$ is a certain pair $(D, E)$ of 2-subgroups of $G$, such that $D$ a defect group of $B$, and $D \leq E$. The block $B$ is principal if $E = D$; otherwise $[E : D] = 2$. We show that $(D, E)$ determines which $B$-subpairs are real.

The involution module of $G$ arises from the conjugation action of $G$ on its involutions. We outline how $(D, E)$ influences the vertices of components of the involution module that belong to $B$.

These results allow us to enumerate the Frobenius-Schur indicators of the irreducible characters in $B$, when $B$ has a dihedral defect group. The answer depends both on the decomposition matrix of $B$ and on a defect couple of $B$. We also determine the vertices of the components of the involution module of $B$.

Key words and phrases. Block, Dihedral Defect Group, Frobenius-Schur Indicator, Extended Defect Group, Subpairs.

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Throughout this paper $G$ is a finite group. We adopt the standard notation and results for the representation theory of $G$, as expounded in [23]. In particular $\mathcal{O}$ is a complete discrete valuation ring of characteristic 0 with residue field $k := \mathcal{O}/J(\mathcal{O})$ of characteristic $p > 0$. Mostly, but not exclusively, $p = 2$. We assume that Frak($\mathcal{O}$) and $k$ are splitting fields for all subgroups of $G$. We write $N(X) = N_G(X)$ for the normalizer and $C(X) = C_G(X)$ for the centralizer of a subset $X$ of a $G$-set. If $n$ is a natural number, we use $\nu(n)$ for the highest power of 2 that divides $n$, and $S_n$, for the symmetric group and $A_n$ for the alternating group of degree $n$.

Let $B$ be a $p$-block of $G$. There is a corresponding primitive idempotent $e_B$ of the centre $Z(kG)$ of the group algebra $kG$ and a $k$-algebra map $\omega_B : Z(kG) \to k$ such that $\omega_B(e_B) = 1_k$. Attached to $B$ is a set Irr($B$) of irreducible characters and a set IBr($B$) of irreducible Brauer characters of $G$. As is standard, $k(B) = |\text{Irr}(B)|$ and $l(B) = |\text{IBr}(B)|$.

The notion of vertex of a module, admissible block and induced block are as in [23]. Suppose that $M$ is an indecomposable module for $H \leq G$ and that $C(V) \leq H$, for some vertex $V$ of $M$. Then $M$ belongs to an admissible $p$-block $b$ of $H$. Green’s vertex theorem [14, (3.7a)] states that if $L$ is an indecomposable $kG$-module such that $M$ is a component of the restriction $L \downarrow_H$ then $L$ belongs to $b^G$.

A $B$-subsection is a pair $(x, b)$, where $x$ is a $p$-element of $G$ and $b$ is a block of the centralizer $C(x)$ of $x$ in $G$ such that $b^G = B$. If $\theta \in \text{IBr}(b)$, we call $(x, \theta)$ a column of $B$. For $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$ and $y$ a $p'$-element in $C(x)$ we have $\chi(xy) = \sum_{(x,b)} \sum_{\theta \in \text{IBr}(b)} d_{x\theta}^{(x)} \theta(y)$, where $d_{x\theta}^{(x)}$ are algebraic integers called generalized decomposition numbers. The group $G$ acts by conjugation on subsections and columns; $(x, \theta)^g = (x^g, \theta^g)$, for all $g \in G$. We say that $(x, \theta)$ is real if $(x, \theta)^g = (x^{-1}, \theta)$, for some $g \in G$.

Now identify conjugate $B$-subsections and columns. Brauer [1] showed:

$$k(B) = \sum_{(x,b)} l(b), \quad \text{where } (x,b) \text{ ranges over the } B\text{-subsections.}$$

**Lemma 1.1.** The number of real irreducible characters in $B$ equals the number of real columns in $B$.

**Proof.** Let $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$ and let $(x, \theta)$ be a column of $B$. Then

$$d_{x\theta}^{(x)} = \sum \langle \chi \downarrow_{C_G(x)}, \psi \rangle \frac{\psi(x)}{\psi(1)} d_{\psi \theta},$$
where $\psi$ runs over the irreducible characters of $C_G(x)$. Thus
\[
d_{x^{-1}}^{\chi} = \sum (\overline{\chi} \downarrow_{C_G(x)}^G, \psi) \frac{\psi(x^{-1})}{\psi(1)} d_{\chi \theta} = d_{\chi \theta}^x.
\]

The generalized decomposition matrix $[d_{x}^{\chi}]$ is nonsingular. It then follows from the previous paragraph and Brauer’s permutation lemma that the number of $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$ with $\chi = \overline{\chi}$ equals the number of Brauer subsections $(x, \theta)$ such that $(x, \theta)$ is conjugate to $(x^{-1}, \theta)$. □

The extended centralizer of $g \in G$ is $C^*(g) = C^*_G(g) := N(\{g, g^{-1}\})$. So $[C^*(g) : C(g)] \leq 2$. We use $\text{Cl}(g) = \text{Cl}_G(g)$ to denote the $G$-conjugacy class of $g$.

Now let char$(k) = 2$ and let $B$ be a real 2-block of $G$. As noted by R. Gow [12], there is a real conjugacy class $C$ of $G$, necessarily 2-regular, so that $C$ is contained in the support of $e_B$, and $\omega_B(C^+) \neq 0$. Here $C^+ = \sum_{c \in C} c$ in $Z(kG)$. Any such $C$ is called a real defect class of $B$.

**Definition 1.2.** A defect couple of a real 2-block $B$ is a pair $(D, E)$, where $E$ is a Sylow 2-subgroup of $C^*(c)$, $D = C_E(c)$ is a Sylow 2-subgroup of $C(c)$, and $c$ is an element of a real defect class of $B$.

As $D$ is a defect group of $B$, it is unique up to $G$-conjugacy. Gow [13] showed that $E$ is also unique up to $G$-conjugacy. He referred to $E$ as an extended defect group of $B$. In fact, the pair $(D, E)$ is unique up to $G$-conjugacy. This can be deduced from Proposition 14 in [21].

Note that if $\beta$ is an admissible real 2-block of $H \leq G$ with defect couple $(D_1, E_1)$, then by [22, 2.1] there is a defect group $D_2$ of $\beta^G$ such that $D_1 \leq D_2$ and $(D_2, D_2 E_1)$ is a defect couple of $\beta^G$.

The Frobenius-Schur (FS)-indicator $\epsilon(\chi)$ of a character $\chi$ of $G$ is the average value of $\chi(g^2)$, as $g$ ranges over $G$. If $\chi$ is irreducible, it is known that $\epsilon(\chi) = 0, +1, -1$, depending on whether $\chi$ is non-real, afforded by a real representation, or real-valued but not afforded by a real representation, respectively. The following is Corollary 2.5 in [22]:

**Lemma 1.3.** Let $(D, E)$ be a defect couple of $B$ and let $x \in D$. Then
\[
\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) \chi(x) \geq 0,
\]
with $> 0$ if and only if $E = D(\epsilon)$, where $\epsilon^2$ is $G$-conjugate to $x$.

The columns of $B$, weighted by FS-indicators, are locally determined, as Brauer has shown:
Lemma 1.4. Let \((x, \theta)\) be a column of \(B\), with \(\theta \in \text{IBr}(b)\). Then
\[
\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d^{(x)}_{\chi, \theta} = \sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b)} \epsilon(\psi) d^{(x)}_{\psi, \theta}.
\]
The value of these sums is non-negative if \(l(b) = 1\).

Proof. The equality is Theorem (4A) of [2]. This holds even if \(B\) is a \(p\)-block, with \(p\) odd. Suppose that \(l(b) = 1\). Then
\[
\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b)} \epsilon(\psi) d^{(x)}_{\psi, \theta} \psi(1) = \sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b)} \epsilon(\psi) \psi(x) \geq 0, \quad \text{by Lemma 1.3.}
\]
\[\square\]

The following elementary lemma is useful for computing these sums:

Lemma 1.5. Let \(m\) be an odd integer. Then for each integer \(d > 0\) with \(|m| < 2^d\), there is a unique \(d\)-tuple \((\varepsilon_0, \ldots, \varepsilon_{d-1})\) of signs such that
\[
\sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \varepsilon_j 2^j = m.
\]

We will use \([M : I]\) to denote the multiplicity with which an irreducible module \(I\) occurs in a composition series of a module \(M\). Then \([M : I]\) is well-defined, by the Jordan-Hölder theorem.

Lemma 1.6. Let \(M\) be a self-dual indecomposable reducible module and let \(I\) be a self-dual irreducible submodule of \(M\). Then \([M : I] \geq 2\).

Proof. We have \(I \subseteq \text{soc}(M) \subseteq \text{rad}(M)\) and, by duality \(I \subseteq M/ \text{rad}(M)\).

\[\square\]

The set of involutions in \(G\), and the identity element, form the \(G\)-set
\[
\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_G := \{g \in G \mid g^2 = 1_G\},
\]
under conjugation. Suppose that \(\text{char}(k) = 2\). Then we call the permutation module \(k\mathcal{I}\) the \textit{involution module} of \(G\). The involution module of \(B\) is the sum \(k\mathcal{I}B\) of all submodules of \(k\mathcal{I}\) that belong to \(B\). We showed in [21] that \(k\mathcal{I}B \neq 0\) if and only if \(B\) is \textit{strongly real} i.e. \(B\) is real and has a defect couple \((D, D(t))\), for some \(t \in \mathcal{I}\).

If \(N \trianglelefteq G\) and \(X \subseteq G\), we use \(\overline{X} = \{Nx \mid x \in X\}\) to denote the image of \(X\) in the quotient group \(G/N\). If \(N \trianglelefteq G\) and \(X \subseteq G\), we use \(\overline{X} = \{Nx \mid x \in X\}\) to denote the image of \(X\) in the quotient group \(G/N\).

Lemma 1.7. Let \(Q \trianglelefteq G\) be a \(2\)-group and let \((D, E)\) be a defect couple of \(B\). Then there is a real \(2\)-block \(\overline{B}\) of \(\overline{G}\), that is dominated by \(B\), and that has defect couple \((\overline{D}, \overline{E})\).
Proof. Write \( \pi \in kG \) for the image of \( x \in kG \), under the natural \( k \)-algebra projection \( kG \to kG \). Let \( \overline{B}_1, \ldots, \overline{B}_r \) be the blocks of \( G \) that are dominated by \( B \). The dual blocks \( \overline{B}_i \) are also dominated by \( B \).

Let \( \mathcal{C} \) be a real defect class of \( B \). Then \( \overline{C} \) is a conjugacy class of \( G \) and \( \overline{C}^+ \) appears in the support of \( \sum e_{i\overline{B}_i} + e_{i\overline{B}_i}^2 \), but not in the support of \( e_{i\overline{B}_i} + e_{i\overline{B}_i}^2 \), for any \( i \). If follows that we may choose \( i \) such that \( \overline{B}_i := \overline{B}_i \), is real and \( \overline{C}^+ \) appears in the support of \( e\overline{B}_i \). As moreover \( \omega_\overline{B}(\overline{C}) = \omega_\overline{B}(\overline{C}^+) \neq 0 \), we deduce that \( \overline{C} \) is a real defect class of \( B \). Choose \( c \in \mathcal{C} \) such that \( E \) is a Sylow 2-subgroup of \( \mathcal{C}(c) \) and \( D = E \cap C(c) \). Then \( c \) is the unique element of odd order in \( \pi \). So \( \mathcal{C}(c) = \mathcal{C}(\pi) \). It follows that \((\overline{D}, \overline{E})\) is a defect couple of \( \overline{B} \). \( \square \)

In the context of the lemma, it is known that if \( G = Q \mathcal{C}(Q) \), then \( \overline{B} \) is the only block of \( G \) dominated by \( B \).

Suppose that \( N \trianglelefteq G \) and \( b \) is a block of \( N \). Then \( N(b) \) denotes the stabilizer of \( b \) in \( G \), and \( N^* (b) \) the stabilizer of \{ \( b, b^o \) \} in \( G \), all under the conjugation action of \( G \) on the blocks of \( N \). So \( N(b) \leq N^*(b) \) and \( [N^*(b) : N(b)] \leq 2 \). We call \( N^*(b) \) the extended stabilizer of \( b \).

Lemma 1.8. Let \( N \trianglelefteq G \) and let \( b \) be an admissible 2-block of \( N \) such that \( b^G \) is real and \( G = N^*(b) \). Let \((D, E)\) be a defect couple of \( b^G \).

(i) If \( b = b^o \) then \((D \cap N, E \cap N)\) is a defect couple of \( b \).

(ii) If \( b \neq b^o \), then \( G = E N(b) \) and \( D \cap N \) is a defect group of \( b \).

(iii) Let \( F \leq E \) with \( E = DF \). Then \((D \cap NF, E \cap NF)\) is contained in a defect couple of the real block \( b^{NF} \).

Proof. Write \( e_b = \sum_{n \in N} \beta_n n \), where \( \beta_n \in k \), for each \( n \). As \( b \) is admissible, each real defect class \( \mathcal{C} \) of \( b^G \) is contained in \( N \). Let \( c \in \mathcal{C} \) have defect couple \((D, E)\) in \( G \).

Assume the hypothesis of (i). Then \( b \) is \( G \)-invariant and hence \( e_b \) is the primitive idempotent in \( Z(kG) \) corresponding to \( b^G \). Decompose \( \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 \cup \ldots \cup \mathcal{C}_t \) into a union of conjugacy classes of \( N \), where \( c \in \mathcal{C}_i \). Now \( G \) permutes the \( \mathcal{C}_i \) transitively among themselves. It follows that \( \omega_i(\mathcal{C}_i^+) = \omega_b(\mathcal{C}_i^+) \), for all \( i \). So \( 0 \neq \omega_b(\mathcal{C}_i^+) = t \omega_b(\mathcal{C}_i^+) \). In particular \( \omega_b(\mathcal{C}_1^+) \neq 0 \). So \( \mathcal{C}_1 \) is a real defect class of \( b \). Then (i) follows from the fact that \( E \cap N \) is a Sylow 2-subgroup of \( \mathcal{C}_N(c) \) and \( D \cap N = (E \cap N) \cap \mathcal{C}_N(c) \).

Suppose in addition the hypothesis of (iii). Now \( F \leq \mathcal{C}^*(c) \) and \( \mathcal{C}_1 \) is a real class of \( N \). It follows that \( \mathcal{C}_1 \) is a real conjugacy class of \( NF \). But \( e_b \) is the block idempotent of \( b^{NF} \). So \( \mathcal{C}_1 \) is a real defect class of \( b^{NF} \). As \((D \cap NF, E \cap NF)\) is contained in a defect couple of \( c \) in \( NF \), it is also contained in a defect couple of \( b^{NF} \).
Assume the hypothesis of (ii). Then \([G : N(b)] = 2\) and \(e_b + e_c\) is the primitive idempotent in \(Z(kG)\) corresponding to \(b^G\). Regard \(e_b\) as the block idempotent of a non-real block of \(N(b)\). As \(c\) appears with nonzero multiplicity in \(e_b + e_c\), we have \(\beta_c + \beta_{c^{-1}} \neq 0\). But \(\beta\) is a class function of \(N(b)\). So \(c\) is not conjugate to \(c^{-1}\) in \(N(b)\), and in particular \(G = N(b)\). It is a standard fact that \(D \cap N\) is a defect group of \(b\).

Suppose in addition the hypothesis of (iii). Then \(b\) and \(b^o\) are conjugate in \(N^F\). So \(b^F\) is a real block. We may write \(C = (C_1 \cup ... \cup C_t) \cup (C_0^1 \cup ... \cup C_0^t)\) into a union of non-real conjugacy classes of \(N\), where \(C_1 \cup ... \cup C_t\) is a single conjugacy class of \(N(b)\). As before \(\omega_b(C_i^+) = \omega_b(C_i^+)\) and \(\omega_b(C_0^o) = \omega_b(C_0^o)\), for all \(i\). Thus \(0 \neq \omega_b(C_0^o) = t \omega_b((C_1 \cup C_0^o)^+)\). Now \(C_1 \cup C_0^o\) is a real conjugacy class of \(N^F\), and \(e_b + e_c\) is the block idempotent of \(b^NF\). We deduce that \(C_1 \cup C_0^o\) is a real defect class of \(b^NF\). As \((D \cap N^F, E \cap N^F)\) is contained in a defect couple of \(c\) in \(N^F\), it is contained in a defect couple of \(b^NF\). □

We now describe the rest of the paper. In Sections 2 and 3 our only assumptions are that \(p = 2\), \(B\) is a real 2-block of \(G\), and \((D, E)\) is a defect couple of \(B\). We prove a number of results on the Brauer category of \(B\) in Section 2. Our main result, Theorem 2.7, shows how \((D, E)\) determines the reality of each \(B\)-subpair.

Suppose that \(T\) is a conjugacy class of involutions in \(G\). Let \(kTB\) denote the sum of the components of the associated permutation module that belong to \(B\). In Section 3 we show how \((D, E)\) influences the vertices of the components of \(kTB\): Theorem 3.2 gives a connection between these vertices and the centralizers in \(D\) of elements of \(T \cap E\).

From Section 4 onwards, we assume that \(B\) is a real 2-block that has a dihedral defect group \(D\). We first enumerate the possible isomorphism types of an extension \(E\) of \(D\) with \([E : D] = 2\). Table 1 describes the \(E\)-conjugacy classes in \(E \backslash D\) for each of these types.

In Section 5, we determine, for each type of \(E\), the real subpairs of \(B\) (Lemma 5.5), and the real irreducible characters in \(B\) that have positive height (Theorem 5.7).

Section 6 reviews known results on the Morita equivalence classes of 2-blocks with dihedral defect groups. In particular, Lemma 6.1 partially describes the generalized decomposition matrices.

In Sections 7 through 11 we determine the FS-indicators of the irreducible characters in \(B\), and the vertices of the components of \(k\beta\), according to the isomorphism type of the extended defect group \(E\), and the Morita equivalence class of \(B\).

Our results for blocks with dihedral defect group are summarized in Table 2. We believe that the methods of this paper could be applied
to all blocks with tame representation type (i.e. dihedral, semidihedral or quaternion defect group) in order to determine the Frobenius-Schur indicators of the irreducible characters and the vertices of components of the involution module.

2. Real subpairs

The purpose of this section is to show how a defect couple of a real 2-block determines the reality of its subpairs. We assume that \( B \) is a real 2-block of \( G \), and let \((D, b_D)\) be a defect couple of \( B \).

A \( B \)-subpair consists of \((Q, b_Q)\) where \( Q \) is a 2-subgroup of \( G \) and \( b_Q \) is a 2-block of \( QC(Q) \) such that \( b_Q^Q = B \). By abuse of notation \( N(b_Q) \) and \( N^*(b_Q) \) denote the stabilizer and extended stabilizer of \( b_Q \) in \( N(Q) \). A \( B \)-subpair of the form \((D, b_D)\) is known as a Sylow \( B \)-subpair (or a root of \( B \)). Brauer showed that all Sylow \( B \)-subpairs \((D, b_D)\) are \( N(D) \)-conjugate, and also that \( |N(b_D) : C(D)D| \) is odd.

The set of \( B \)-subpairs is a poset. Containment \( \leq \) is generated by normal containment: \((Q, b_Q) \leq (R, b_R) \) if \( R \leq N(b_Q) \) and \( b_R^C(D) = b_Q^C(D) \). By the uniqueness property of subpairs, \((Q, b_Q) \leq (R, b_R) \). For each Sylow \( B \)-subpair \((D, b_D)\) and \( Q \leq D \), there is a unique \( B \)-subpair \((Q, b_Q)\) such that \((Q, b_Q) \leq (D, b_D)\). We will refer to this as the uniqueness property of subpairs.

**Lemma 2.1.** Suppose that \((Q, b_Q)\) and \((R, b_R)\) are \( B \)-subpairs such that \( b_R \) is real and \((Q, b_Q) \leq (R, b_R) \). Then \( b_Q \) is real.

**Proof.** We have \((Q, b_Q) \leq (R, b_R)\), and \((Q, b_Q^Q) \leq (R, b_R^Q) = (R, b_R)\). So \( b_Q^Q = b_Q \), by the uniqueness property of subpairs. \( \square \)

We now examine the relationship between the extended defect groups of \( B \) and the extended stabilizers of its Brauer subpairs.

**Lemma 2.2.** The following hold:

(i) If \((D, b_D)\) is a Sylow \( B \)-subpair, then there is a defect couple \((D, E)\) of \( B \) such that \( b_D^{Ec(D)} \) is real with defect couple \((D, E)\).

(ii) If \((D, E)\) is a defect couple of \( B \) then there is a Sylow \( B \)-subpair \((D, b_D)\) such that \( b_D^{Ec(D)} \) is real with defect couple \((D, E)\).

**Proof.** Suppose first that \( b_D \) is real, with defect couple \((D, E)\). Then \((D, E)\) is a defect couple of \( B \). Moreover, \( Ec(D) = C(D) \). Suppose then that \( b_D \) is not real. As \((D, b_D)\) and \((D, b_D^b)\) are Sylow \( B \)-subpairs, they are conjugate in \( N(D) \), and hence in \( N^*(b_D) \). Set \( b = b_D^{N^*(b_D)} \). Then each defect couple \((D, E)\) of \( b \) is a defect couple of \( B \). Lemma 1.8 implies that \( b_D^{Ec(D)} \) is real with defect couple \((D, E)\).
Now let \((D, E)\) be a defect couple for \(B\), and let \((D, b_D)\) be any Sylow \(B\)-subpair. By part (i) there exists a defect couple \((D, E_1)\) for \(B\) such that \(b_D^{E C(D)}\) is real with defect couple \((D, E_1)\). But the defect couples of \(B\) are conjugate in \(G\). So there exists \(x \in G\) such that \((D, E) = (D, E_1)^x\). Now replace \(b_D^x\) by \(b_D\). Then \((D, b_D)\) is a Sylow \(B\)-subpair such that \(b_D^{E C(D)}\) is real with defect couple \((D, E)\). □

A \(B\)-subtriple consists of \((Q, b_Q, R)\) where:

- \((Q, b_Q)\) is a \(B\)-subpair;
- \(R \leq N^*(b_Q)\) and \(b_Q^* := b_Q^{RC(Q)}\) is real;
- \(R\) is an extended defect group of \(b_Q\).

We say that this is a Sylow \(B\)-subtriple if \(Q\) is a defect group of \(B\). For two \(B\)-subtriples an inclusion \((Q, b_Q, R) \leq (S, b_S, T)\) occurs if \((Q, b_Q) \leq (S, b_S)\), in the sense of \(B\)-subpairs, and \(T = RS\). We write \((Q, b_Q, R) \preceq (S, b_S, T)\) if in addition \(Q \subseteq S\). Note that if \((Q, b_Q)\) is a real \(B\)-subpair and if \(R\) is an extended defect group of \(b_Q\), then \(b_Q^* = b_Q\) and \((Q, b_Q, R)\) is a \(B\)-subtriple.

**Lemma 2.3.** Suppose that \((D, b_D, E)\) is a Sylow \(B\)-subtriple and that \(Q \leq D\). Then \(b_Q^e = b_Q^{e^{-1}}\), for all \(e \in E\) such that \(E = D(e)\).

**Proof.** We have \(D^e = D\) and \(b_D^e = b_D\). So \((Q^e, b_Q^e) \leq (D^e, b_D^e) = (D, b_D)\). Then \(b_Q^e = b_Q^e\), by the uniqueness property of subpairs. The lemma follows from this. □

**Lemma 2.4.** All Sylow \(B\)-subtriples are conjugate in \(G\).

**Proof.** Let \((D_1, b_1, E_1)\) and \((D_2, b_2, E_2)\) be Sylow \(B\)-subtriples. Then \((D_1, b_1)\) are Sylow \(B\)-subpairs. So \((D_2, b_2)^x = (D_1, b_1)\), for some \(x \in G\). Now \((D_1, b_1, E_2^x)\) is a Sylow \(B\)-subtriple. In particular \((D_1, E_2^x)\) is a defect couple of \(b_1^x\) regarded as a block of \(N^*(b_1)\). But \((D_1, E_1)\) is another defect couple of this block. So there exists \(y \in N^*(b_1)\) such that \((D_1, E_2^x)^y = (D_1, E_1)\). Now \(b_1^y = b_1\) or \(b_1^y\). In the former case set \(z := 1\). Suppose we have the latter case. Then there exists \(z \in E_1 C(D_1)\) such that \((b_1^y)^z = b_1\). Then \((D_2, b_2, E_2)^y = (D_1, b_1, E_1)\), with \(g = xyz\). □

Let \((Q, b_Q, R)\) be a \(B\)-subtriple. So \(b_Q^*\) is a real block of \(RC(Q)\). We can choose a defect couple \((S, T)\) of \(b_Q^*\), regarded as a block of \(N^*(b_Q)\), such that \(T = RS\). Then \(S\) is a defect group of \(b_Q\), regarded as a block of \(N(b_Q)\). Lemma 2.2 implies that there is a Sylow \(b_Q^*\)-subpair \((S, b_S)\) in \(N^*(b_Q)\) such that \(b_S^{T C(S)}\) is a real block with defect couple \((S, T)\). Moreover, \(b_S^{T C(S)}\) covers \(b_Q\) or \(b_Q^*\), so by switching to \(b_S^*\), if necessary, we may assume that \((Q, b_Q) \leq (S, b_S)\). It follows that \((S, b_S, T)\) is a
B-subtriple and \((Q, b_Q, R) \leq (S, b_S, T)\). We call any such B-subtriple a normalizer-subtriple of \((Q, b_Q, R)\).

Set \((Q_1, b_1, R_1) := (Q, b_Q, R)\) and inductively choose \((Q_{i+1}, b_{i+1}, R_{i+1})\) to be a normalizer subtriple of \((Q_i, b_i, R_i)\), for \(i = 1, 2, \ldots\). Since \((Q_{i+1}, b_{i+1})\) is a normalizer-subpair of \((Q_i, b_i)\), it follows that the sequence \((Q_1, b_1, R_1) \leq (Q_2, b_2, R_2) \leq (Q_3, b_3, R_3) \leq \ldots\) terminates at a Sylow B-subtriple \((D, b_D, E)\), where \((D, E)\) is a defect couple of \(B\). In this case \(E = R_1 D\). We say that \(Q\) is really well-placed in \(D\) with respect to \((D, b_D, E)\) if such a sequence exists.

**Lemma 2.5.** Let \((D, b_D, E)\) be a Sylow B-subtriple and let \((Q, b_Q, R)\) be any B-subtriple such that \((Q, b_Q) \leq (D, b_D)\). Then there exists \(g \in G\) such that \(Q^g\) is really well-placed in \(D\) with respect to \((D, b_D, E)\) and \((Q, b_Q, R)^g \leq (D, b_D, E)\).

**Proof.** By the discussion above, there is a Sylow B-subtriple \((D_1, b_1, E_1)\) that contains \((Q, b_Q, R)\), such that \(Q\) is really well-placed in \(D_1\) with respect to \((D_1, b_1, E_1)\). By Lemma 2.4 there exists \(g \in G\) such that \((D_1, b_1, E_1)^g = (D, b_D, E)\). The lemma follows from this.

Our next Lemma is concerned with strongly real B-subpairs.

**Lemma 2.6.** Let \((D, b_D, E)\) be a Sylow B-subtriple and let \((Q, b_Q) \leq (D, b_D)\) be such that \(E = D C_E(Q)\). Then \(b_Q\) is real and has a defect couple containing \((Q C_D(Q), Q C_E(Q))\). In particular, if \(E = D(t)\), for some \(t \in \mathfrak{S}_C(Q)\), then \(b_Q\) is strongly real.

**Proof.** If \(Q = D\), the result follows from Lemma 1.8. So we may assume that \(Q < D\). Set \(b_Q, D_0 := Q\) and inductively \(D_i := N_D(D_{i-1})\) and \(E_i := N_E(D_{i-1})\), for \(i > 0\). Then \([E_i : D_i] \leq 2\) and \(E = D E_i\). For each positive \(i\) there is a unique subpair \((Q, b_Q) \leq (D_i, b_i) \leq (D, b)\). Let \(t\) be the smallest positive integer such that \(D_t = D\) and \(E_t = E\).

We use downwards induction on \(i\) to prove that \(b_i := b_i^{E_i C(D_i)}\) is real with a defect couple containing \((D_i, E_i)\). The base case \(i = t\) follows from the hypothesis. Assume the result for \(i + 1\). Set \(b_{i+1}^{*} := b_{i+1}^{E_{i+1} C(D_{i+1})}\). Then \(b_{i+1}^{*} = (b_{i+1}^{*})^{E_{i+1} C(D_{i+1})}\). So \(b_{i+1}^{*}\) is real with a defect couple containing \((D_{i+1}, E_{i+1})\). Part (iii) of Lemma 1.8, applied with \(N = D_i C(D_i)\), \(b = b_i\), \(G = E_{i+1} C(D_{i+1})\) and \(F = E_i\), gives the inductive step.

The previous paragraph shows that \(b_i^{*}\) is a real block of \(N_{E_i}(Q) C(Q)\) that covers the block \(b_Q\) of \(Q C(Q)\). We apply part (iii) of Lemma 1.8, with \(N = Q C(Q)\), \(b = b_Q\), \(G = N_{E_i}(Q) C(Q)\) and \(F = C_E(Q)\). Then \(NF = Q C(Q)\). So \(b_Q\) is a real block with a defect couple containing \((Q C_D(Q), Q C_E(Q))\).

**Proof.** We use \(\sim\) for \(G\)-conjugacy. Our main result on real subpairs is:
Theorem 2.7. Let \((D, b_D, E)\) be a Sylow \(B\)-subtriple. Set
\[
\mathcal{R}(D, b_D, E) := \{(Q, b_Q) \leq (D, b_D) \mid E = D C_E(Q)\}.
\]
Then a \(B\)-subpair \((R, b_R)\) is real if and only if \((R, b_R) \sim (Q, b_Q)\), for some \((Q, b_Q) \in \mathcal{R}(D, b_D, E)\). Moreover, \((R, b_R)\) is strongly real if and only if \((R, b_R) \sim (Q, b_Q)\), where \(E = D(t)\), for some \(t \in \mathcal{I}(Q)\).

Proof. Suppose first that \((Q, b_Q) \in \mathcal{R}(D, b_D, E)\). Then by Lemma 2.2 we can choose \(e \in C_E(Q)\) such that \(b_Q^e = b_D\). Then \((Q, b_Q^o) = (Q, b_Q^o) = (Q, b_Q^o) = (D, b_D)\). But \((Q, b_Q)\) is the unique \(B\)-subpair involving \(Q\) and contained in \((D, b_D)\). So \((Q, b_Q) = (Q, b_Q)\), whence \(b_Q\) is real. Now suppose that \(x \in G\) and \((Q, b_Q)^x \leq (D, b_D)\). Then \((b_Q)^x = (b_Q^o)^x = b_Q^x\). So \((Q, b_Q)^x\) is a real \(B\)-subpair contained in \((D, b_D)\). If in addition \(E = D(t)\), for some \(t \in \mathcal{I}(Q)\), then \(b_Q\) is strongly real, by Lemma 2.6. This completes the ‘if’ part of the theorem.

The ‘only if’ statement follows from Lemma 2.5. \(\square\)

3. The involution module

In this section we survey known facts about the involution module \(k\mathcal{I}\) of \(G\), and prove a number of new results about the vertices of its components. As in the previous section, \(B\) is a real 2-block of \(G\) that has defect couple \((D, E)\). Fix a conjugacy class \(T \subseteq \mathcal{I}\) of \(G\).

Suppose that \(I\) is an irreducible \(B\)-module, with Brauer character \(\theta\). The projective character of \(G\) associated with \(\theta\) is \(\Phi = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} d_{\chi\theta} \chi\). Here the \(d_{\chi\theta}\) are non-negative integers called decomposition numbers. Lemma 1 of [24] implies that
\[
\epsilon(\Phi) = [k\mathcal{I} : I].
\]

Now suppose that \(I\) is also self-dual and projective. Then \(D = \langle 1_G \rangle\) and \(\Phi\) is the unique irreducible character in \(B\). So \([k\mathcal{I} : I] = \epsilon(\Phi) = +1\). Conversely, by [20], each projective component of \(k\mathcal{I}\) is self-dual and irreducible and belongs to a real 2-block with a trivial defect group.

Let \(M\) be a component of \(kTB\) and let \(V\) be a vertex of \(M\). As \(M\) has a trivial source, the Green correspondent \(P\) of \(M\) with respect to \((G, V, N(V))\) is a component of \(kC_T(V)\). In particular, \(P\) is projective as \(N(V)/V\)-module. Clifford theory shows that \(P|_{VC(V)} = m \sum R^n\), where \(m > 0\), \(R\) is indecomposable with vertex \(V\) and \(n\) ranges over a set of representatives for the cosets of the stabilizer of \(R\) in \(N(V)\). Moreover, \(R\) is projective as \(VC(V)/V\)-module, and is a component of \(kC_T(V)|_{VC(V)}\). Let \(b_V\) be the block of \(VC(V)\) that contains \(R\). Then \((V, b_V)\) is a \(B\)-subpair and \(P\) belongs to \(b_V^0(V)\). Given \(V\), \(R\) is uniquely determined up to \(N(V)\)-conjugacy. We call \((V, b_V)\) a vertex \(B\)-subpair.
and $R$ a $b_V$-root of $M$. These notions are set out in a more general context in [17].

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that $D$ is non-trivial and $(V, b_V)$ is a vertex $B$-subpair of a component of $kTB$. Then there is an involution $v \in V$, and a $B$ subsection $(v, b)$, such that some component of $kC_T(v)b$ has vertex $b$-subpair $(V, b_V)$.

*Proof.* The hypothesis on $D$, and the discussion prior to the lemma, implies that $V \neq \{1_G\}$. Choose an involution $v \in Z(V)$. Then $VC(V) \leq C(v)$. Let $M$ be a component of $kTB$ that has vertex $B$-subpair $(V, b_V)$. Then some component of $M|_{C(v)}$ has vertex subpair $(V, b_V)$. Green’s vertex theorem implies that this module belongs to a block $b$ such that $(v, b)$ is a $B$-subsection.

Our main result in this section sharpens Theorem 1.5 of [22]:

**Theorem 3.2.** The following hold:

(i) If $kTB \neq 0$ and $M$ is a component of $kTB$, then there exists $t \in T$ such that $E = D(t)$ and $C_D(t)$ contains a vertex of $M$.

(ii) Suppose that $E = D(t)$, with $t \in T$, but $C_D(t) \not\leq G C_D(s)$ for any $s \in T \cap D t$. Then some component of $kTB$ has vertex $C_D(t)$.

*Proof of (i).* For both parts we use induction on $|D|$. The base case $|D| = 1$, is dealt with by Theorem 19 of [21]. So we may assume that $|D| > 1$. Let $V$ be a vertex of $M$ and set $H := V C(V)$. Then $V \neq \{1_G\}$. Let $(V, b)$ be a vertex $B$-subpair and let $R$ be a $b$-root of $M$. So $R$ is a component of $kC_T(V)b$. Choose $t \in C_T(V)$ such that $R$ is a component of $kC_H(t)$.

Set $\overline{H} := H/Z$, where $Z \leq Z(V)$ has order 2. By Lemma 1.7, there is a unique block $\overline{b}$ of $\overline{H}$ that is dominated by $b$. Now $N_H(\overline{t})$ is the preimage of $C_{\overline{H}}(\overline{t})$ in $H$ and $[N_H(\overline{t}) : C_H(t)] \leq 2$. So either $k_{N_H(\overline{t})} \uparrow H = kC_H(t)$ or there is a short exact sequence of $kH$-modules

$$0 \to k_{N_H(\overline{t})} \uparrow H \to kC_H(t) \to k_{N_H(\overline{t})} \uparrow H \to 0.$$ 

In any event each composition factor of $R$ is a composition factor of $kC_H(t) \overline{b}$. As $\overline{b}$ has a smaller defect group than $B$, the inductive hypothesis implies that $\overline{b}$ has a defect couple of the form $(\overline{D}_1, \overline{D}_1(\overline{t}))$. Lemma 1.7 now shows that $b$ has a defect couple $(D_1, D_1(t))$. As $b^G = B$, we may assume that $D$ is chosen so that $D_1 \leq D$ and $(D, D(t))$ is a defect couple of $B$. Thus also $V \leq C_D(t)$.

*Proof of (ii).* Set $V := C_D(t)$ and $H := V C(V)$. Let $Br_V : Z(kG) \to Z(kC(V))$ be the Brauer homomorphism with respect to $V$. Then $Br_V(e_B) = \sum e_b$, where $b$ ranges over the 2-blocks of $H$ such that
$b^G = B$. Note that $(b^c)^G = b^G$, as $B$ is real. Choose $c$ in a real defect class of $B$ such that $D(t)$ is a Sylow 2-subgroup of $C^+(c)$ and $c^t = c^{-1}$. In particular, $c, t \in H$. Set $C := Cl_H(c)$. Then $C^+$ is a real conjugacy class of $H$ that appears in $Br_V(e_B)$. As $e_b + e_b^c$ is supported on the non-real classes of $H$, for each block $b$ of $H$, it follows that there exists a real block $b$ of $H$ such that $C^+$ appears in $e_b$ and $b^G = B$. Theorem 3.3 of [19] implies that $b$ has a defect couple of the form $(D_1, D_1^t)$. Lemma 1.7 implies that $b$ dominates a real block $\overline{b}$ of $\overline{H} := H/V$ such that $\overline{b}$ has defect couple $(\overline{D_1}, \overline{D_1^t})$. As $|\overline{D_1}| < |D_1| \leq |D|$, the inductive hypothesis implies that $kCl_{\overline{H}}(\overline{b}) \neq 0$. The inflation of this module to $H$ is a quotient module of $kCl_H(t)b$. So $kCl_H(t)b \neq 0$.

Let $M_1$ be a component of $kCl_H(t)b$. Then $V$ is contained in each vertex of $M_1$. Let $M$ be a component of $kT$ such that $M_1$ is a component of $M \downarrow_H$. Then $M$ belongs to $B$ and $V$ is contained in some vertex $V_1$ of $M$. Now from part (i) of this theorem $V_1 \leq_G C_D(s)$, for some $s \in T \cap Dt$. Since $C_D(t) \leq V_1 \leq_G C_D(s)$, it follows from the hypothesis that $V = V_1$ is a vertex of $M$. □

**Corollary 3.3.** Suppose that $t$ is an involution in $O_2(G)$. Then every component of $k_{C_G(t)}^{1_G}$ belongs to the principal 2-block of $G$.

**Proof.** Let $B$ be a 2-block of $G$ such that $k_{C_G(t)}^{1_G}B \neq 0$. Then each defect group $D$ of $B$ contains $O_2(G)$. In particular $t \in D$. But then $D = D(t)$ is an extended defect group of $B$. It follows from this that $B$ has a real defect class in $\mathfrak{J}$. Since a defect class is necessarily 2-regular, the class $\{1_G\}$ is a defect class of $B$. As $B$ is real, it follows from this that $B$ is the principal 2-block of $G$. □

We take the opportunity to correct an error in the hypothesis of Lemma 2.11 of [22]. We also strengthen the conclusion. Fortunately, we only used that lemma in its correct form.

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose that $D < G$ and $E = D \times \langle e \rangle$. Then there is a self-dual irreducible $B$-module $I$, such that $I$ has vertex $D$ and

$$\bigoplus_{i \geq 0} I \otimes \text{rad}^i(k\mathfrak{J}_Z(D))/\text{rad}^{i+1}(k\mathfrak{J}_Z(D))$$

is the sum of all components of $k\mathfrak{J}B$ that have vertex $D$.

**Proof.** By hypothesis $e^2 = 1$ and $e \in C(D)$. This is what we needed, and used, in the proof of Lemma 2.11 of [22]. So that proof gives all but the last statement.

We make a very general remark. Let $H$ be a finite group, and let $M$ be an indecomposable $kH$-module that has vertex $V$ and source $k_Y$. Set
Suppose that \( V \leq W \leq N_H(V) \). Then \( fM |_W \) is the sum of all components of \( M |_W \) that have vertex \( V \).

We can now prove the last statement of the lemma. Adopt the notation of Lemma 2.11 of [22]. We apply the previous paragraph with \( H = G \wr \Sigma, M = B, V = \Delta D \times \Sigma \) and \( W = \Delta G \times \Sigma \). Then by Lemma 2.9 of [22], \( B(V) |_{\Delta G} \) can be identified with the sum of all components of \( k \mathcal{J} B \) that have vertex \( D \). We get the equivalent result for \( k \mathcal{J} B \) using Lemma 2.8 of [22].

4. Extensions of dihedral 2-groups

We need to describe the index 2-extensions of \( D \), where \( D \) is a dihedral group of order \( 2^d \). Fix a presentation \( D = \langle s, t \mid s^{2^{d-1}}, t^2, (st)^2 \rangle \).

We shall adopt the following notation for subgroups of \( D \). The maximal cyclic subgroup \( S := \langle s \rangle \) of \( D \) has order \( 2^{d-1} \) and the centre \( Z(D) = \langle s_1 \rangle \) has order 2. Also \( X_1 := \langle t \rangle \) and \( Y_1 := \langle st \rangle \) are subgroups of order 2. Set \( s_i := s^{2^{d-1-i}} \), for \( i = 1, \ldots, d - 1 \). Then \( S_i := \langle s_i \rangle \) is a cyclic group of order \( 2^i \). Moreover, \( X_2 := \langle s_1, t \rangle \) and \( Y_2 := \langle s_1, st \rangle \) are Klein-four groups, while \( X_i := \langle s_{i-1}, t \rangle \) and \( Y_i := \langle s_{i-1}, s \rangle \) are dihedral groups of order \( 2^i \), for \( i \geq 3 \). In particular, \( X_{d-1} \) and \( Y_{d-1} \) are maximal subgroups of \( G \) that are dihedral of order \( 2^{d-1} \).

**Proposition 4.1.** There are 4 isomorphism classes of index 2 extensions of \( D_8 \). There are 5 isomorphism classes of index 2 extensions \( E = D \langle e \rangle \) of \( D \cong D_{2^d} \), for \( d \geq 4 \). These are:

(a) \( E = D \times \langle e \rangle \) where \( e \in C(D) \) and \( e^2 = 1 \);
(b) \( E = D\langle e \rangle \) where \( e \in C(D) \) and \( e^2 = s_1 \);
(c) \( E = D_{2^{d+1}} \), a dihedral group of order \( 2^{d+1} \);
(d) \( E = SD_{2^{d+1}} \), a semi-dihedral group of order \( 2^{d+1} \);
(e) \( E = D \times \langle e \rangle \) where \( e^2 = 1, s^e = s_1 \), \( t^e = t \);

**Proof.** Set \( q = 2^{d-1} \). The additive group of the ring \( \mathbb{Z}_q \) of integers modulo \( q \) is cyclic, while its group of units \( U_q \) is isomorphic to the direct product \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_{2^{d-3}} \). The \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) factor is generated by \(-1\) and the involutions in \( U_q \) are \( 1, -1, 2^{d-2} - 1, 2^{d-2} + 1 \). Form the semidirect product \( U_q \ltimes \mathbb{Z}_q \). So \( U_q \) acts by multiplication on \( \mathbb{Z}_q \). We define an action of \( U_q \times \mathbb{Z}_q \) on \( D \) via

\[ s^{(a,b)} := s^a, \quad t^{(a,b)} := s^{-b} t, \quad \text{for} \ a \in U_q, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q. \]

In this way \( U_q \times \mathbb{Z}_q \) can be identified with the automorphism group of \( D \). The group of inner automorphisms of \( D \) is \( I := \langle -1 \rangle \ltimes 2\mathbb{Z}_q \). So the outer automorphism group is isomorphic to \( \mathbb{Z}_{2^{d-3}} \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \). It follows
that the image of $E$ in the automorphism group of $D$ is generated, modulo $I$ by one of $(1,0),(-1,1),(2^{d-2}+1,0)$ or $(2^{d-2}-1,1)$. We set the image of $e$ to be one of these four elements, in turn. The action of $e$ on $D$ determines the coset $e^2Z(D)$. As $Z(D)$ has order 2, we get two possibilities for $E$ in each case.

Suppose that the image of $e$ is $(1,0)$. Then $e^2 \in Z(D)$ and $E$ is the group of type (a) if $e^2 = 1$, or the group of type (b) if $e^2 = s_1$.

Suppose that the image of $e$ is $(-1,1)$. Then $e^2 \in \{1,s_1\}$ and $E$ is a dihedral group if $e^2 = 1$, or a semidihedral group, if $e^2 = s_1$.

From now on assume that $d \geq 4$. Suppose that the image of $e$ is $(2^{d-2}+1,0)$. Then $e^2 = 1$ or $s_1$. In either case we obtain a group which is isomorphic to one of type (e).

We claim that the image of $e$ cannot equal $(2^{d-2}-1,1)$. For suppose otherwise. Then $e^2 = s_1s^{-1}$. So $e$ inverts $s_2 \in \langle s^2 \rangle$. On the other hand $e^2 = s_2$ or $s_2^{-1}$. So $e$ centralizes $s_2$. This contradiction proves our claim. □

**Corollary 4.2.** $E:D$ is non-split if and only if $E$ is semi-dihedral. In all cases $E/D'$ splits over $D/D'$.

**Proof.** The first statement follows from the third column of Table 1, below. For $E \setminus D$ contains no involution if and only if $E$ is of type (d). The second statement follows from the fact that if $E$ is semi-dihedral then $D/D' \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^2$ and $E/D' \cong D_8$. □

**Corollary 4.3.** Let $B$ be a 2-block with a dihedral defect group. Then all real height zero irreducible characters in $B$ have FS-indicator $+1$.

**Proof.** This follows from Theorem 5.6 of [12] and the Corollary above. □

From now on, char($k$) = 2 and $B$ is a real 2-block that has a defect group $D \cong D_{2d}$. R. Brauer [3] showed that $B$ has $2^{d-2} + 3$ irreducible characters. Four of these, denoted $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4$, have height 0. The remaining $2^{d-2} - 1$ irreducible characters have height 1, and fall into $d - 2$ disjoint families $F_0, \ldots, F_{d-3}$. The family $F_i$ consists of $2^i$ irreducible characters, all of whom are 2-conjugate (i.e. conjugate via Galois automorphisms that fix all 2-power roots of unity).

Choose $\chi^{(j)} \in F_j$, and set $\epsilon^{(j)} = \epsilon(\chi^{(j)})$, for $j = 0, \ldots, d-3$. Note that $\epsilon^{(j)}$ does not depend on the choice of $\chi^{(j)}$ in $F_j$, as Galois conjugation preserves FS-indicators. Also set $\epsilon_i = \epsilon(\chi_i)$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

We also fix a defect couple $(D,E)$ of $B$. If $B$ is principal, then $E = D$ and we abuse notation by saying that $E$ is of type (a). Otherwise $[E : D] = 2$ and $E$ is of type (a),(b),(c),(d) or (e), as in Proposition 4.1.
We give representatives $x$ for the $E$ conjugacy classes in $E \setminus D$ in the table below. We also indicate when $x$ is an involution:

| $E$         | $x \in E \setminus D$ | $o(x) = 2$ | $C_D(x)$ |
|-------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| (a) or (b)  | $e$                    | (a)        | $D$      |
|             | $s_1e$                 | (a)        | $D$      |
|             | $s_1e, 1 \leq i \leq 2^{d-2} - 1$ | $s_2e$ if (b) | $S$      |
|             | $te$                   | (a)        | $X_2$    |
|             | $ste$                  | (a)        | $S$      |
| (c) or (d)  | $s'te, 0 \leq i \leq 2^{d-2} - 1$ | never    | $S_1$    |
|             | $te$                   | (c)        | $Y_2$    |
| (e)         | $e$                    | (e)        | $X_{d-1}$|
|             | $s_2e$                 | never      | $Y_{d-1}$|
|             | $s_1e, 1 \leq i \leq 2^{d-3} - 1$ | never    | $S_{d-2}$|
|             | $te$                   | (e)        | $X_2$    |
|             | $ss_2te$               | never      | $Y_2$    |

Table 1

5. Local structure and Real Characters

We first enumerate the real subpairs and the real irreducible characters of height 1, in a 2-block with dihedral defect group. Fix a Sylow $B$-subpair $(D, b_D)$, such that $E \leq N^*(b_D)$. So $(D, E)$ is a defect couple of $b_D^{E \cap (D)}$.

For each $Q \leq D$, there is a unique subpair $(Q, b_Q) \leq (D, b_D)$. The notation $b_Q$ is compatible with that used in [3]. We use $\sim$ or $\sim_G$ to denote $G$-conjugacy of subpairs.

**Lemma 5.1.** Let $Q \leq D$, $Q \not\leq S$ with $|Q| = 2^i$. If $Q \leq X_{d-1}$, then $(Q, b_Q) \sim_D (X_t, b_{X_t})$. If $Q \leq Y_{d-1}$, then $(Q, b_Q) \sim_D (Y_t, b_{Y_t})$. Along with these, the following generate all $G$-conjugacies among the $B$-subpairs contained in $(D, b_D)$:

(i) if $N(b_{X_t})/C(X_t) \cong S_3$ then $(t, b_{(t)}) \sim (S_1, b_{S_1})$.
(ii) if $N(b_{Y_t})/C(Y_t) \cong S_3$ then $(st, b_{(st)}) \sim (S_1, b_{S_1})$.

Following Brauer, case (aa) is the simultaneous occurrence of (i) and (ii); case (ab) is the occurrence of (i) but not (ii); case (ba) is the occurrence of (ii) but not (i); case (bb) is the occurrence of neither (i) nor (ii). Then $B$ has 3, 2 or 1 irreducible modules according as case (aa), (ab) or (ba)) or (bb) occurs. Moreover, $B$ is a nilpotent block in case (bb).
Lemma 5.2. If $E$ is of type (c) or (d) then $l(B) \neq 2$.

Proof. There exists $f \in E \setminus D$ such that $X_2^f = Y_2$. So $C(X_2)^f = C(Y_2)$. But $(X_2, b_{X_2}) = (Y_2, b_{Y_2})$, by Lemma 2.3. Thus $N(b_{X_2}) = N(b_{Y_2}) = N(b_{Y_2})$. The conclusion now follows, as $N(b_{X_2})/C(X_2) \cong N(b_{Y_2})/C(Y_2)$. □

The following three lemmas can be proved by careful applications of Theorem 2.7, using the information in Table 1. We omit the proofs.

Lemma 5.3. $(D, b_D)$ is real if and only if $E$ is of type (a) or (b).

Lemma 5.4. $(S_1, b_{S_1})$ is real. Moreover, it is strongly real if and only if $E$ is not of type (d).

Lemma 5.5. Suppose that $1 < Q < D$. Then $(Q, b_Q)$ is real if and only if one of the following holds:

- $E$ is of type (a) or (b).
- $E$ is of type (c) or (d) and $(Q, b_Q) \sim (S_i, b_{S_i})$ for some $i$.
- $E$ is of type (e) and $(Q, b_Q) \neq (S, b_S)$.

Of these, $(Q, b_Q)$ is strongly real in the following cases:

- $E$ is of type (a).
- $E$ is of type (b) and $(Q, b_Q) \sim (S_i, b_{S_i})$, for some $i$.
- $E$ is of type (c) and $(Q, b_Q) \sim (S_1, b_{S_1})$.
- $E$ is of type (e) and $(Q, b_Q) \sim (S_i, b_{S_i})$ or $(X_i, b_{X_i})$ for some $i$.

For $d \in D$ we set $b_d := b_{(d)}$. So $(d, b_d) \leq (D, b_D)$ is a B-subsection. According to [3], if $d \neq 1$ then $b_d$ has a unique irreducible Brauer character $\theta$. We use the notation $d^{(d)}_{\chi^\theta}$ for the generalized decomposition number associated with $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$ i.e. we suppress the dependence of $\theta$ on $d$. The associated B-column is $(d, \theta)$.

Lemma 5.6. The following generate all $D$-conjugacies among B-subsections:

- $(d, b_d) \sim (d^{-1}, b_d)$, for all $d \in D$.
- if $d \in X_{n-1}\setminus S_1$ then $(d, b_d) \sim (t, b_t)$.
- if $d \in Y_{n-1}\setminus S_1$ then $(d, b_d) \sim (st, b_{st})$.

Together with $D$-conjugacies, the following generate all $G$-conjugacies among B-subsections:

(i) if $N(b_{X_2})/C(X_2) \cong \mathfrak{S}_3$ then $(t, b_t) \sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$.
(ii) if $N(b_{Y_2})/C(Y_2) \cong \mathfrak{S}_3$ then $(st, b_{st}) \sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$.

Proof. Suppose that $d \in S\setminus S_1$. Then $D \leq N(b_d)$ and $d^d = d^{-1}$. So $(d, b_d)^d = (d^{-1}, b_d)$. The first statement follows from this. This was
already proved by Brauer in [3, (4.16)]. The next two statements follow from the discussion before Lemma 5.1. The remaining statements follow from Proposition (4A) of [3]. □

Brauer showed in [3] that $B$ has $2^{d-2}+3$ columns. Exactly 5 of these are 2-rational, namely those of the form $(d, \theta)$, with $d = 1, s_1, s_2, t$ or $st$ and $\theta \in \text{IBr}(C(d))$. There are $d-2$ families, with representatives $\{(s_i, \theta) \mid i = 2, \ldots, d - 1\}$. The family of $(s_i, \theta)$ contains the $2^{i-2}$ columns $\{(s^r_i, \theta) \mid 1 \leq r \leq 2^{i-1} - 1, \text{ r odd}\}$, which form a single 2-conjugate orbit. Recall the notation $\chi_{s_i}^{(i)}$ for the irreducible characters in $B$. The 5 irreducible characters which are 2-rational are $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4,$ and $\chi^{(0)}$.

We can now prove the main result of this section.

**Theorem 5.7.** The number of real 2-rational irreducible characters in $B$ equals the number of real 2-rational columns in $B$. For $d \geq 4$, all irreducible characters in $F_0, \ldots, F_{d-4}$ are real, while all irreducible characters in $F_{d-3}$ are real if and only if $E$ is not of type (e).

**Proof.** The first statement is trivial if $d = 3$. So we assume that $d \geq 4$.

Let $m$ be the largest odd divisor of $|G|$ and let $\omega$ be a primitive $(2^{d-1}m)$-th root of unity. Then $\omega = \omega_2\omega_2^\prime$, where $\omega_2$ is a primitive $2^{d-1}$-th root of unity and $\omega_2^\prime$ is a primitive $m$-th root of unity. Let $\gamma, \sigma \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\omega)/\mathbb{Q})$ be such that $\omega_2^\gamma = \omega_2^3\omega_2^\prime$ and $\omega_2^\sigma = \overline{\omega}$. Then $\gamma$ has order $2^{d-3}$ and $\sigma$ is an involution. Set $\tau := \gamma^{2d-4}$. So $\tau$ is the unique involution in $\langle \gamma \rangle$.

Set $G := \langle \gamma \rangle \times \langle \sigma \rangle$ and let $\alpha \in G$. There is an integer $(\alpha)$ such that $\omega^\alpha = \omega^{(\alpha)}$. For $g \in G$, set $g^\alpha := g^{(\alpha)}$. If $\theta$ is a character (ordinary or Brauer) of a subgroup of $G$, define $\theta^\alpha$ by $\theta^\alpha(g) := \theta(g^\alpha)$, for all $g$ in the domain of $\theta$. Then set $(d, \theta)^\alpha := (d^\alpha, \theta^\alpha)$. In this way $G$ acts on the ordinary irreducible characters and on the columns of $B$. Note that a character is 2-rational if it is fixed by $\gamma$, and real if it is fixed by $\sigma$.

It can be checked that $d_{\chi_{s_i}^\alpha}^{(e)} = d_{\chi_\theta^\alpha}^{(e)}$, for all $\alpha \in G$. As the generalized decomposition matrix is non-singular, it follows that the characters of $G$ acting on the irreducible characters and on the columns coincide. We cannot use Brauer’s permutation lemma to deduce that the permutation actions are isomorphic, as $G$ is not cyclic. However, we can prove this fact using a careful case-by-case analysis.

Let $i = 1, \ldots, d - 1$. Lemmas 5.5 and 5.6 imply that $(s_i, \theta)$ is not real if and only if $E$ is of type (e) and $i = d - 1$. In particular the 2-rational columns $(s_1, \theta)$ and $(s_2, \theta)$ are necessarily real. Moreover, $B$ has at least one real irreducible Brauer character (this holds for any real block).
We distinguish 5 cases:

Case (I) is that \( E \) is not of type (e) and all 2-rational columns are real. Then all columns are real. We conclude from Lemma 1.1 that all irreducible characters in \( B \) are real.

Case (II) is that \( E \) is not of type (e) and two 2-rational columns are nonreal. Then there are two nonreal columns. We deduce from Lemma 1.1 that there are two nonreal irreducible characters. Consider the action of \( \langle \gamma \sigma \rangle \) on columns and on irreducible characters. The stabilizer of a nonreal column is \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \). The remaining 2-rational columns are fixed by \( \gamma \sigma \). For \( i = 3, \ldots, d - 1 \), the stabilizer of \((s_i, \theta)\) is \( \langle \gamma^{2^{i-2}} \rangle \). We deduce that exactly two orbits on the columns have stabilizer \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \). It then follows from Brauer’s permutation lemma that two orbits on the irreducible characters have stabilizer \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \). A 2-rational orbit has stabilizer \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \) if and only if it is nonreal. There is at most one such orbit. Suppose that a family \( F_i \) has stabilizer \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \), for \( i \geq 2 \). Then \( |F_i| \leq [\langle \gamma \rangle : \langle \gamma^2 \rangle] = 2 \). So \( i = 2 \). We conclude that there is a pair of nonreal 2-rational characters in \( B \). Moreover, \( F_1 \) has stabilizer \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \), whence it is real.

Case (III) is that \( E \) is of type (e) and all 2-rational columns are real. Then there are exactly \( 2^{d-3} \) nonreal columns, namely the 2-conjugates of \((s, \theta)\). We deduce from Lemma 1.1 that there are \( 2^{d-3} \) nonreal irreducible characters. As \( \langle \sigma \rangle \) acts nontrivially on the 2-conjugates of \((s, \theta)\), this column has stabilizer \( \langle \tau \sigma \rangle \) in \( G \). All other columns are fixed by \( \tau \sigma \). So by Brauer’s permutation lemma all irreducible characters are \( \langle \sigma \tau \rangle \)-invariant. Let \( \chi \in F_{d-3} \). Then \( \chi^\sigma = \chi^\tau \neq \chi \). So \( F_{d-3} \) is a nonreal family of characters. This accounts for all nonreal irreducible characters in \( B \).

Case (IV) is that \( d = 4 \), \( E \) is of type (e) and exactly two 2-rational columns are nonreal. Thus \( B \) has two nonreal 2-rational columns and 2 nonreal 2-irrational columns. It then follows from Lemma 1.1 that \( B \) has 4 nonreal irreducible characters. As \( B \) has 4 irreducible characters of height 0 and 3 of height 1, it follows that \( B \) has a pair of nonreal characters of height 0 and another pair of height 1. The latter belong to \( F_1 \).

Case (V) is that \( d > 4 \), \( E \) is of type (e) and exactly two 2-rational columns are nonreal. So \( B \) has \( 2^{d-3} + 2 \) nonreal columns and hence \( 2^{d-3} + 2 \) nonreal irreducible characters. We consider the action of \( \langle \gamma \sigma \rangle \) on columns and on irreducible characters. Just as in case (II), there are two orbits on the columns whose stabilizer is \( \langle \gamma^2 \rangle \) (as \( d > 4 \), the stabilizer \( \langle \sigma \rangle \) of \((s_{d-1}, \theta)\) in \( \langle \gamma \sigma \rangle \) has trivial intersection with \( \langle \gamma \sigma \rangle \)). Again just as in case (II), we conclude that there is a pair of nonreal
2-rational characters in $B$. Suppose that some character in $F_i$ has a trivial stabilizer. Then $|F_i| \geq |\langle \gamma \sigma \rangle| = 2^{d-3}$. So $F_i = F_{d-3}$. Let $\chi \in F_i$. Then $\chi^\sigma = \chi^{\gamma^{-1}} \neq \chi$. So $F_{d-3}$ contains $2^{d-3}$ nonreal characters. As we have accounted for all $2^{d-3} + 2$ nonreal irreducible characters in $B$, the proof is complete. □

6. Morita equivalence classes

Karin Erdmann classified the possible blocks with dihedral defect group, up to Morita equivalence, in [9]. Her results are summarized in the table on pp294–296. It is not known if each of the possible 8 Morita equivalence classes occur for all dihedral groups.

Let $B$ be a 2-block with a dihedral defect group $D$, where $|D| = 2^d$. Then by [3] $k(B) = 2^{d-2} + 3$ and $l(B) \leq 3$. If $l(B) = 1$ then $B$ is a nilpotent block. In particular $B$ is Morita equivalent to $kD$. This corresponds to Brauer’s case (bb). The case $l(B) = 3$ corresponds to Brauer’s case (aa). Then there are three possible Morita equivalence classes.

The principal 2-blocks of the groups $L_2(q)$ with $q \equiv 1$ or 3 mod 4, and the principal block of the alternating group $A_7$ provide examples of each class. As Erdmann remarks on p293 of [9], her proof in [10] that $d = 3$ for the last class is erroneous. On the other hand, there are no known examples (at least to this author) of such blocks with $d > 3$.

Finally we consider when $l(B) = 2$, which corresponds to Brauer’s cases (ab) and (ba). Then there are quivers $Q_1, Q_2$, a parameter $c = 0, 1$, and ideals $I_i(c) \leq kQ_i, i = 1, 2$ inside the ideal of paths of length $\geq 2$, such that $B$ is Morita equivalent to exactly one of the 4 algebras $kQ_i/I_i(c)$. By [11], the case $kQ_2/I_2(0)$ occurs for the principal blocks of certain quotients of the unitary groups $GU_2(q)$, where $q \equiv 3$ mod 4. The preprint [16] claims that both $kQ_1/I_1(1)$ and $kQ_2/I_2(1)$ occur for the principal blocks of $PGL_2(q)$, corresponding to $q \equiv 1$ or $-1$ mod 8, respectively. Note that in these cases $d \geq 4$. It turns out that in all cases the decomposition matrix of $B$ depends on $Q$, but not on $c$. For this reason, we will refer to $B$ as being of type $PGL_2(q)$, with $q \equiv 1$ mod 4, for $Q_1$, or $q \equiv 3$ mod 4, for $Q_2$.

The papers [3], [4], [5], [6] and [10] give more information on the decomposition matrices and modules of these blocks. Derived equivalences between the block algebras are discussed in [15] and [18].

We obtain the form of the generalized decomposition matrices given in the next lemma using [3], [5] and [10]. In particular, we make use of the parameters $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4$ introduced in Proposition (6C) of [3], and the further information given by Theorem 5 and Propositions (6H) and (6I) of that paper. The $\delta_i$ are evaluated when $l(B) = 2$ in [5]
(implicitly) and when \(l(B) = 3\) in [10]. Entries that we don’t care to specify are denoted by \(*\).

**Lemma 6.1.** For \(d \geq 3\), a block \(B\) with a dihedral defect group of order \(2^d\) has one of 6 possible generalized decomposition matrices. Allowing \(i\) to range over 0, \ldots, \(d - 4\), and \(j\) over 2, \ldots, \(d - 2\), there are signs \(\epsilon, \epsilon', \epsilon_j\) such that this matrix has the form:

(i) \(B\) is nilpotent and has one irreducible module \(M_1\).

| \(\chi\) | \(M_1\) | \(s_1\) | \(t\) | \(st\) | \(s_j\) | \(s\) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \(\chi_1\) | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | 1 | \(\epsilon'\) | \(\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_2\) | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | -1 | \(-\epsilon'\) | \(\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_3\) | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | 1 | \(-\epsilon'\) | \(\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi_4\) | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | -1 | \(\epsilon'\) | \(\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi^{(i)}\) | 2 | \(2\epsilon\) | 0 | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |
| \(\chi^{(d-3)}\) | 2 | \(-2\epsilon\) | 0 | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |

(ii) \(B\) has two irreducible modules \(M_1, M_2\) and is of type \(\text{PGL}(2, q)\) with \(q \equiv 1 \mod 4\).

| \(\chi\) | \(M_1\) | \(M_2\) | \(s_1\) | \(t\) | \(s_j\) | \(s\) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \(\chi_1\) | 1 | 0 | \(\epsilon\) | 1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_2\) | 1 | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | -1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_3\) | 1 | 0 | \(\epsilon\) | -1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi_4\) | 1 | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | 1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi^{(i)}\) | 2 | 1 | \(2\epsilon\) | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |
| \(\chi^{(d-3)}\) | 2 | 1 | \(-2\epsilon\) | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |

(iii) \(B\) has two irreducible modules \(M_1, M_2\) and is of type \(\text{PGL}(2, q)\) with \(q \equiv 3 \mod 4\).

| \(\chi\) | \(M_1\) | \(M_2\) | \(s_1\) | \(t\) | \(s_j\) | \(s\) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \(\chi_1\) | 1 | 0 | \(-\epsilon\) | 1 | \(-\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi_2\) | 1 | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | -1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_3\) | 1 | 0 | \(-\epsilon\) | -1 | \(-\epsilon_j\) | 1 |
| \(\chi_4\) | 1 | 1 | \(\epsilon\) | 1 | \(\epsilon_j\) | -1 |
| \(\chi^{(i)}\) | 0 | 1 | \(2\epsilon\) | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |
| \(\chi^{(d-3)}\) | 0 | 1 | \(-2\epsilon\) | 0 | \(*\) | \(*) |
(iv) $B$ has 3 irreducible modules $M_1, M_2, M_3$. If $d = 3$, then $B$ is Morita equivalent to the principal block of $\mathfrak{A}_7$.

\begin{tabular}{c c c c c c}
\hline
& $M_1$ & $M_2$ & $M_3$ & $s_1$ & $s_j$ & $s$
\hline
$\chi_1$ & 1 & 0 & 0 & $-\varepsilon$ & $-\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi_2$ & 1 & 1 & 0 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $1$
$\chi_3$ & 1 & 1 & 1 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi_4$ & 1 & 0 & 1 & $-\varepsilon$ & $-\varepsilon_j$ & $1$
$\chi^{(i)}$ & 0 & 1 & 0 & $2\varepsilon$ & * & *
$\chi^{(d-3)}$ & 0 & 1 & 0 & $-2\varepsilon$ & * & *
\hline
\end{tabular}

(v) $B$ has 3 irreducible modules $M_1, M_2, M_3$ and is Morita equivalent to the principal block of $\text{PSL}(2, q)$, with $q \equiv 1 \mod 4$.

\begin{tabular}{c c c c c c}
\hline
& $M_1$ & $M_2$ & $M_3$ & $s_1$ & $s_j$ & $s$
\hline
$\chi_1$ & 1 & 0 & 0 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $1$
$\chi_2$ & 1 & 1 & 1 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $1$
$\chi_3$ & 1 & 1 & 0 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi_4$ & 1 & 0 & 1 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi^{(i)}$ & 2 & 1 & 1 & $2\varepsilon$ & * & *
$\chi^{(d-3)}$ & 2 & 1 & 1 & $-2\varepsilon$ & * & *
\hline
\end{tabular}

(vi) $B$ has 3 irreducible modules $M_1, M_2, M_3$ and is Morita equivalent to the principal block of $\text{PSL}(2, q)$, with $q \equiv 3 \mod 4$.

\begin{tabular}{c c c c c c}
\hline
& $M_1$ & $M_2$ & $M_3$ & $s_1$ & $s_j$ & $s$
\hline
$\chi_1$ & 1 & 0 & 0 & $-\varepsilon$ & $-\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi_2$ & 1 & 1 & 1 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $1$
$\chi_3$ & 0 & 1 & 0 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi_4$ & 0 & 0 & 1 & $\varepsilon$ & $\varepsilon_j$ & $-1$
$\chi^{(i)}$ & 0 & 1 & 1 & $2\varepsilon$ & * & *
$\chi^{(d-3)}$ & 0 & 1 & 1 & $-2\varepsilon$ & * & *
\hline
\end{tabular}

Proof. Brauer showed in [3] that $d^{(s_1)}_{\chi,\theta} = \pm 1$ or $\pm 2$, depending on whether $\chi$ has height 0 or 1. Moreover, $d^{(s_1)}_{\chi,\theta}$ is constant on each of the families of 2-conjugate characters $F_1, \ldots, F_{d-3}$. If $B$ is of type $(bb)$ or $(ab)$, and $x = t, st$, then $d^{(\varepsilon)}_{\chi,\theta} = \pm 1$ or 0, depending on whether $\chi$ has height 0 or 1. The columns for $s_1, t, st, s_j, s$ can then be recovered, up to the signs $\varepsilon, \varepsilon', \varepsilon_j$, and possible rearranging of the $\chi_i$, using orthogonality with the columns of the decomposition matrix of $B$. □

Corollary 6.2. Suppose that $B$ has a dihedral defect group of order at least 16 and that all height 1 irreducible characters in $B$ are real-valued. Then at least one of these characters has FS-indicator $+1$. 

Proof. The multiplicity of an irreducible $B$-module $M$ in $k\mathcal{J}B$ is given by $\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,M}$. In particular this sum is non-negative. The hypothesis on the defect group implies that $B$ has at least 3 irreducible characters of height 1. We assume that all irreducible characters in $B$ of height 1 have FS-indicator $-1$, and derive a contradiction.

Suppose that $B$ is nilpotent. So $M = M_1$. The contribution of the height zero characters to the above sum is at most +4. On the other hand, the height 1 characters contribute an integer $\leq -6$, whence the sum is negative.

Suppose that $B$ is not nilpotent. Take $M = M_2$. The contribution of the height zero characters to the above sum is at most +2. On the other hand, the height 1 characters contribute an integer $\leq -3$, whence the sum is negative. □

We will use the following rather technical result:

**Lemma 6.3.** Let $f$ be a $\mathbb{C}$-valued function on $\text{Irr}(B)$ that is constant on each of $F_1, \ldots, F_{d-3}$. Then

$$\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} f(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s^2)} = \sum_{i=1}^{4} f(\chi_i)d_{\chi_i,\theta}^{(s^2)} + f(\chi^{(0)})d_{\chi^{(0)},\theta}^{(s^2)}.$$  

Proof. Let $1 \leq r \leq d-3$. Then $\zeta + \zeta^{-1}$ takes on $2^{r-1}$ different values as $\zeta$ ranges over the primitive $2^{r+1}$-th roots of unity. A careful reading of Section 6 of [3] shows that for each $\zeta$ there are exactly two irreducible characters $\chi \in F_r$ with $d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s^2)} = \zeta + \zeta^{-1}$. Now $f(\chi)$ is constant on $F_r$. So the net contribution of the two characters associated with each of $\zeta$ and $-\zeta$ to $\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} f(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s^2)}$ is 0. The lemma follows from this. □

7. **Type (a): totally split extended defect groups**

In this section $E = D \times \langle e \rangle$ i.e. $e \in C(D)$ and $e^2 = 1_G$. This includes the principal 2-block case, when $e = 1_G$. By Theorem 5.7, all height 1 irreducible characters in $B$ are real-valued. Using Lemma 5.5 and Theorem 5.7, we can show that if $B$ is nilpotent then all its irreducible characters are real valued. This also follows from Lemma 2.2 of [22].

**Lemma 7.1.** There is an indecomposable $B$-module $M_D$ such that $M_D$ has vertex $D$ and $M_D \oplus M_D$ is the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}B$ that have vertex $D$. Moreover $\nu(\dim(M_D)) = \nu([G : D])$.

Proof. Let $b$ be the 2-block of $N(D)$ that is the Brauer correspondent of $B$. Then $b$ is real and has defect couple $(D, E)$. Now $N(D)$ acts trivially on $Z(D)$. So by Lemma 3.4, there is a self-dual irreducible $b$-module $I$, such that the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}N(D)b$ that have
vertex $D$ is isomorphic to $I \oplus I$. Set $M_D$ as the Green correspondent of $I$, with respect to $(G, D, N(D))$. Then the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}B$ that have vertex $D$ is isomorphic to $M_D \oplus M_D$.

As $I$ is irreducible and projective as $N(D)/D$-module, $\nu(\dim(I)) = \nu[N(D) : D]$. Now $I|G = M_D \oplus W$, where every component of $W$ has a vertex that is a proper subgroup of $D$. In particular $\nu(\dim(W)) > \nu[G : D]$. We conclude that $\nu(\dim(M_D)) = \nu[G : D]$. \hfill $\square$

**Lemma 7.2.** There are indecomposable $B$-modules $M_{X_2}, M_{Y_2}$ such that $M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$ is the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}B$ that have vertex $X_2$ or $Y_2$. Here $M_b$ has vertex $B$-subpair $(V, b_V)$, for $V = X_2, Y_2$.

**Proof.** Recall that $X_2$ is a Klein-four subgroup of $D$. Set $N := N(X_2)$ and $C := C(X_2)$. Then $b_{X_2}$ is real, with defect couple $(X_2, X_2 \times \langle e \rangle)$. As $b_{X_2}$ is nilpotent, Theorem 1.7 of [22] implies that $k\mathcal{J}_C b_{X_2} \cong R^4$, where $R$ is the unique irreducible $b_{X_2}$-module. Let $N(R)$ denote the common inertia group of $b_{X_2}$ and $R$ in $N$.

Set $b := b_N$. Then $b$ is real, with defect couple $(X_3, X_3 \times \langle e \rangle)$. By Lemma 7.1, there is an indecomposable $b$-module $M_{X_3}$ such that $M_{X_3} \oplus M_{X_3}$ is the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}_b$ that have vertex $X_3$. We note that $k\mathcal{J}_C b$ is the sum of all components of $k\mathcal{J}_N b$ that have vertex $X_2$ or $X_3$.

Suppose first that $N(R)/C \cong Z_2$. Then $R$ has a unique extension to $N(R)$ and $b$ is nilpotent. Let $I$ be the unique irreducible $b$-module. Then $R$ occurs once in the semisimple module $I_4^C$. As $k\mathcal{J}_C b_{X_2} \cong R^4$, it follows that $[k\mathcal{J}_C : I] = 4$. Now $\nu(\dim(M_{X_3})) = \nu[N : X_3] = \nu(\dim(I))$. So $[M_{X_3} : I]$ is odd. The only possibility is that $M_{X_3} \cong I$.

We may now write $k\mathcal{J}_C b \cong I \oplus I \oplus W$, where $[W : I] = 2$, and every component of $W$ has vertex $X_2$. As $I$ does not itself have vertex $X_2$, it follows that $W$ is indecomposable.

Suppose then that $N(R)/C \cong \mathfrak{S}_3$. Then two irreducible $N(R)$-modules lie over $R$. So $b$ has two irreducible modules $I_1$ and $I_2$. We may assume that $I_1$ has vertex $X_3$ and $I_1|C \cong R$, while $I_2$ has vertex $X_2$ and $I_2|C \cong R \oplus R$. By considering the Clifford theory of the ordinary characters of $b$, we see that $b$ is Morita equivalent to the principal 2-block of $\text{PGL}(2,3) \cong \mathfrak{S}_4$. Arguing as in the previous paragraph, $M_{X_3} \cong I_1$ and $k\mathcal{J}_C b \cong I_1 \oplus I_1 \oplus W$, where $W$ is indecomposable with vertex $X_2$. With more work, we can even show that $W \cong I_2$.

Regardless of the structure of $N(R)/C$, let $M_{X_2}$ denote the Green correspondent of $W$. Then $M_{X_2}$ is the unique component of $k\mathcal{J}B$ that has vertex $B$-subpair $(X_2, b_{X_2})$. Analogous arguments show that $k\mathcal{J}B$ has a unique component $M_{Y_2}$ that has vertex $B$-subpair $(Y_2, b_{Y_2})$. But Lemma 5.1 shows that $(X_2, b_{X_2}) \not\sim (Y_2, b_{Y_2})$. So $M_{X_2} \not\cong M_{Y_2}$.
Theorem 7.3. $k \mathcal{B} \cong M_D \oplus M_{D} \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$. If $B$ is nilpotent then all its irreducible characters have FS-indicator $+1$. $M_D$ is irreducible and $M_{X_2}, M_{Y_2}$ are each of composition length $2^{d-2}$.

Proof. Suppose first that $B$ is nilpotent, with unique irreducible module $M_1$. Let $\theta$ be the Brauer character of $M_1$. From the discussion in Section 1, $M_1$ occurs with multiplicity $\sum \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta}$ in $k \mathcal{B}$. By Part (i) of Lemma 6.1, this is at most $4 + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-3} 2^j = |D|/2 + 2$. Now $[M_D : M_1] \geq 1$ and by consideration of vertices, $|D|/4$ divides both $[M_{X_2} : M_1]$ and $[M_{Y_2} : M_1]$. It then follows from Lemmas 7.1 and 7.2 that $[k \mathcal{B} : M_1] \geq |D|/2 + 2$. All statements of the theorem now follows for nilpotent $B$.

Now let $B$ be of arbitrary Morita equivalence type and let $(V,b_V)$ be a vertex $B$-subpair of a component of $k \mathcal{B}$. Lemmas 3.1 and 5.1 imply that $(V,b_V)$ is a vertex $b_s$-subpair of a component of $k \mathcal{C}(x)b_s$, where $s = s_1,t$ or $st$. Now $b_{s_1}$ is real and nilpotent, with defect couple $(D,D \times \langle e \rangle)$. So by the previous paragraph, $(V,b_V)$ is conjugate to $(D,b_D),(X_2,b_{X_2})$ or $(Y_2,b_{Y_2})$, if $s = s_1$. The block $b_s$ is real with defect couple $(X_2,X_2 \times \langle e \rangle)$ and Sylow $B$-subpair $(X_2,b_{X_2})$. As $X_2$ is a Klein-four group, Theorem 1.7(i) of [22] implies that $(V,b_V)$ is conjugate to $(X_2,b_{X_2})$, if $x = t$. In the same way, $(V,b_V)$ is conjugate to $(Y_2,b_{Y_2})$, if $x = st$. The first statement of the Theorem now follows from Lemmas 7.1 and 7.2.

Theorem 7.4. Let $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$. Then $\nu(\chi) = +1$, unless $B$ is of type (vi) and $\chi = \chi_3$ or $\chi_4$; in that case $\overline{\chi_3} = \chi_4$.

Proof. As $b_{s_1}$ is nilpotent, real, and has defect couple $(D,D \times \langle e \rangle)$, Theorem 7.3 shows that $\epsilon(\psi) = +1$, for all $\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_1})$. From our knowledge of $d_{\psi,\theta}^{(s_1)}$, and the positivity assertion in Lemma 1.4, we get

$$\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_1})} \epsilon(\psi)d_{\psi,\theta}^{(s_1)} = 4 + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-3} 2^j = 2.$$ (2)

Let $d \geq 4$. Then $b_{s_2}$ is real, with defect couple $(S,S \times \langle e \rangle)$. Theorem 1.6 of [22] shows that $b_{s_2}$ has two real-valued irreducible characters, $\psi_1$ and $\psi_2$. Moreover, $\epsilon(\psi_i) = +1$, for $i = 1, 2$. It follows that

$$\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_2})} \epsilon(\psi)d_{\psi,\theta}^{(s_2)} = \pm \epsilon(\psi_1) \pm \epsilon(\psi_2)$$

$$= +2,$$ by Lemma 1.3, as $s^2 = (se)^2$.

Suppose first that $B$ has type (ii) or (v). Lemma 6.1 gives the form of the generalized decomposition matrix of $B$. Applying Lemma 1.4 to
the column \(d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)}\), equality (2) gives

\[
2 = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)} = \epsilon(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i) + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon(j) 2^j - 2\epsilon(2d-3)2^{d-3}.
\]

In particular \(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i \equiv 0 \pmod{4}\). It then follows from Corollary 4.3 that \(\epsilon_i = 1\), for \(i = 1, 2, 3, 4\). Then the above equation rearranges to

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon(j) 2^j - 2\epsilon(2d-3)2^{d-3} = \epsilon - 2 \in \{-1, -3\}.
\]

By Lemma 1.5 the two solutions: \(\epsilon = +1\) and \(\epsilon(j) = +1\), for \(j \geq 0\), or \(\epsilon = -1\), \(\epsilon(0) = -1\) and \(\epsilon(j) = +1\) for \(j > 0\), are the only ones. We claim that the latter solution does not occur. For, taking \(f(\chi) = d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)}\) in Lemma 6.3, we get

\[
\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)} d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)} = 4\epsilon \epsilon_{d-2} + 2\epsilon d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)}.
\]

This sum is zero, by column orthogonality. So \(d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)} = -2\epsilon d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)}\). Now

\[
2 = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)} = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_2)} = \epsilon_{d-2}(4 - 2\epsilon(0)),
\]

by (3), Lemma 1.4, and an application of Lemma 6.3, with \(f(\chi) = \epsilon(\chi)\). Thus \(\epsilon_{d-2} = +1\) and \(\epsilon(0) = +1\), which proves the claim.

Suppose then that \(B\) has type (iii), (iv) or (vi). Then from the decomposition matrices given in Lemma 6.1, we have \(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)} = 0, \pm 2\). However, just as above, this sum is \(\equiv 0 \pmod{4}\). So it must equal 0. If \(B\) is of type (iii) or (iv), we get \(\epsilon_i = +1\), for all \(i\); if \(B\) is of type (vi), we get \(\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = +1\) and \(\epsilon_3 = \epsilon_4 = 0\).

From knowledge of \(d_{\chi,\theta}^{(s_1)}\), Lemmas 1.4, (2) and the work above give

\[
2\epsilon \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon(j) 2^j - 2\epsilon(2d-3)2^{d-3} = +2.
\]

Thus \(\epsilon(j) = -\epsilon = \mp 1\), for all \(j = 0, \ldots, d-3\).

We claim that \(\epsilon = -1\) and \(\epsilon(j) = +1\), for all \(j\). If \(|D| \geq 16\), this is a consequence of Corollary 6.2. So from now on we assume that \(|D| = 8\) and \(\epsilon(0) = -1\), and argue to a contradiction.

Recall that \(k\mathcal{J}B = M_D^2 \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}\). Moreover, \(M_{X_2} \not\cong M_{Y_2}\), as \((X_2, b_{X_2}) \not\cong (Y_2, b_{Y_2})\). So \(M_{X_2}\) and \(M_{Y_2}\) are self-dual. Also \([M_D : M_i]\) is odd. We claim that \(M_D \cong M_1\). Otherwise \(M_D\) is reducible, whence by Lemma 1.6, \(M_D^2\) has a composition factor that occurs with multiplicity \(\geq 4\). Using (1), and Lemma 6.1, \([k\mathcal{J} : M_1] \leq 4\), \([k\mathcal{J} : M_2] = 1\) and \([k\mathcal{J} : M_3] \leq 2\). So \([M_D : M_1] = 2\). This contradiction proves our claim.
If $B$ is of type (iii), then $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_1] = 2$ and $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_2] = 1$, using (1) and Lemma 6.1. We choose notation so that $M_{X_2}$ is irreducible. So $M_{X_2} \cong M_2$. Now the $O$-lift of $M_{X_2}$ has character $\chi^{(0)}$. So $\chi^{(0)}$ appears with multiplicity 1 in the permutation character of $\mathcal{O}$. But then $\epsilon(\chi^{(0)}) = +1$, contrary to hypothesis.

If $B$ is of type (iv), then $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_1] = 2$, $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_2] = 1$ and $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_2] = 2$, using (1) and Lemma 6.1. Choose notation so that $[M_{X_2} : M_1] \neq 0$. Then $\chi_3$ or $\chi_4$ occurs in the character of the $O$-lift of $M_{X_2}$. So $[M_{X_2} : M_1] \neq 0$. As $M_{X_2}$ is reducible, Lemma 1.6 implies that $[M_{X_2} : M_1] = 2$. Then $[M_{Y_2} : M_1] = 0$, whence $[M_{Y_2} : M_3] = 0$. Thus $M_{Y_2} \cong M_2$, leading to the contradiction as in the previous paragraph.

Finally, if $B$ is of type (vi), then $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_1] = 0$, $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_2] = 1$ and $[M_{X_2} + M_{Y_2} : M_2] = 1$, by (1) and Lemma 6.1. We may choose notation so that $M_{X_2} \cong M_2$ and $M_{Y_2} \cong M_3$. But $\chi_3 = \chi_4$. So $M_4 \cong M_3$. We deduce that $M_{X_2} \cong M_{X_2} \cong M_{Y_2}$, which is a contradiction.

8. Type (b) extended defect groups

In this section $E = D\langle e \rangle$, where $e^2 = s_1$ and $e \in C(D)$. Table 1 shows that the involutions in $E\setminus D$ form a single $E$-class, consisting of $\{s_2, s_2^{-1}\}$. Theorem 5.7 shows that all height 1 irreducible characters in $B$ are real. We require the following subsidiary result:

Lemma 8.1. Let $b$ be a real nilpotent 2-block of a finite group $H$ that has defect couple $(Q, Q \times \langle r \rangle)$, where $Q$ is a Klein-four or dihedral group. Suppose that $\mathcal{Cl}_H(r) \cap Qr = \{r\}$. Then $k\mathcal{Cl}_H(r)b$ is irreducible.

Proof. We prove the result for the case that $Q \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^2$. The case that $Q$ is dihedral follows from similar arguments. Theorem 1.7 of [22] implies that $kJ_Hb \cong I^4$, where $I$ is the unique irreducible $b$-module. So it is enough to show that $k\mathcal{Cl}_H(r)b$ is indecomposable. Then by the Green correspondence theorem, we may assume that $H = N_H(Q)$.

Let $b_1$ be a block of $C := C_H(Q)$ that is covered by $b$. Then $b_1$ is nilpotent, real, and has defect couple $(Q, Q \times \langle r \rangle)$. So $kJ_Cb_1 \cong I^4_1$, where $I_1$ is the unique irreducible $b_1$-module. The hypothesis implies that $Qr$ meets 4 distinct conjugacy classes of involutions of $C$. Using Theorem 3.2, we deduce that $k\mathcal{Cl}_C(qr)b_1 = I_1$, for each $q \in Q$.

As $N_H(b_1) = C$, we have $I = I_1^H$ and hence $[I, C : I_1] = 1$. We then conclude from the previous paragraph that $k\mathcal{Cl}_H(r)b = I$. □

Let $X/Y/Z$ denote a module with successive Loewy factors $X, Y, Z$. 


Theorem 8.2. B is of type (i), (ii) or (v) and kΩB is indecomposable with vertex S. All $2^{d-3}$ irreducible characters in $F_{d-3}$ have FS-indicator $−1$ and the remaining $2^{d-3} + 3$ irreducible characters in B have FS-indicator $+1$. Moreover by the type of B we have:

(i) $kΩB \cong M_1/M_1$.
(ii) $kΩB \cong M_1/M_2/M_1$.
(v) $kΩB \cong M_1/(M_2 \oplus M_3)/M_1$.

Proof. Suppose that $(t, b_1) \not\sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$. Then [3] shows that $b_1 = b_{X_2}$ and both $b_{X_2}$ and $b_1$ have defect group $X_2$. Lemma 5.5 implies that $b_{X_2}$ is real, with defect couple $(X_2, X_2(e))$. Then by the results in Section 1, $b_1$ is real, and also has defect couple $(X_2, X_2(e))$. As $X_2(e)$ does not split over $X_2$, it follows from Theorem 3.2 that $kΩC_{(t)}b_t = 0$. Similarly $(s_1, b_{s_1}) \sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$ or $kΩC_{(s_1)}b_{s_1} = 0$.

Set $H := C(s_1)$. Then the first paragraph implies that $b_{s_1}$ is the unique 2-block of $H$ such that $kΩHb_{s_1} \neq 0$ and $b_{s_1}^2 = B$.

Table 1 shows that there is a single $E$-class of involutions in $E \setminus D$, consisting of $\{s_2e, s_2^{-1}t\}$. It then follows from Theorem 3.2 that $kΩB = kCl_C(s_2e)B$. Moreover, as $S = C_D(s_2e)$, each component of $kΩB$ has vertex $S_i$, for some $i > 0$, and at least one component has vertex $S$. As $N(S_i) \leq H$, Green correspondence induces a bijection between the components of $kΩB$ that have vertex $S_i$, and the components of $kCl_H(s_2e)b_{s_1}$ that have vertex $S_i$.

Now $b_{s_1}$ is nilpotent and real, and has defect couple $(D, D\langle e \rangle)$. Let $I$ be the unique irreducible $b_{s_1}$-module and set $\overline{H} := H/\langle s_1 \rangle$. Now $b_{s_1}$ dominates a unique block $\overline{b}$ of $\overline{H}$, and $\overline{b}$ is nilpotent. Moreover, Lemma 1.7 implies that $\overline{b}$ is real, and has defect couple $(\overline{D}, \overline{D} \times \langle \overline{e} \rangle)$. Table 1 shows that $\overline{e}, \overline{s_2e}, \overline{te}$ and $\overline{se}$ represent the distinct $\overline{E}$-classes of involutions in $\overline{E} \setminus \overline{D}$. Of these, only $\overline{s_2e}$ is the image of an involution in $H$. We conclude from Lemma 8.1 that $kCl_{\overline{H}}(\overline{s_2e})\overline{b} \cong I$.

Now $[N_H(\overline{s_2e}) : C_H(s_2e)] = 2$, and $N_H(\overline{s_2e})$ is the preimage of $C_{\overline{H}}(\overline{s_2e})$ in $H$. Then as $kCl_{\overline{H}}(\overline{s_2e})\overline{b} \cong I$, we get an exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow kΩHb \rightarrow I \rightarrow 0,$$

as $kH$-modules.

We cannot have $kΩHb \cong I \oplus I$, as $I$ has no vertex contained in $S$. So $kΩHb_{s_1}$ is indecomposable, with vertex $S$. We conclude from Lemma 3.1 that $kΩB$ is indecomposable, has vertex $S$, and is in Green correspondence with $kΩHb_{s_1}$.

We have $[kΩHb_{s_1} : I] = 2$. Let $\theta$ be the Brauer character of $I$. We temporarily apply the FS-indicator notation $\epsilon_i, \epsilon^{(j)}$ to $\text{Irr}(b_{s_1})$. Then
from (1) and the decomposition matrix of $b_{s_1}$ we get:

$$\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_1})} \epsilon(\psi)d_{\psi, \theta} = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-3} \epsilon^{(j)}2^j = 2.$$  

The only solution is $\epsilon_i = 1$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, $\epsilon^{(j)} = 1$, for $j = 0, \ldots, d-4$ and $\epsilon^{(d-3)} = -1$. In fact, all irreducible characters in $\mathcal{F}$ have FS-indicator 1, and these account for all characters in $\text{Irr}(b_{s_1})$ that do not belong to the family $F_{\varphi_{d-3}}$. We now use Lemma 6.1 to compute

$$\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_1})} \epsilon(\psi)d_{\psi, \theta}^{(s_1)} = \pm(4 + 2(2^{d-3} - 1) - (-1)2^{d-3}) = \pm(2^{d-1} + 2).$$

It then follows from Lemma 1.3, and the fact that $s_1 = e^2$, that

$$(4) \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi, \theta}^{(s_1)} = 2^{d-1} + 2.$$  

We claim that $B$ is not of type (iii). For otherwise $\epsilon_i = +1$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, and we use the decomposition matrix of $B$ to compute

$$\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi, \theta}^{(s_1)} = \pm 2 \epsilon \sum_{j=0}^{d-3} \epsilon^{(j)}2^j < 2^{d-1}.$$

This contradicts (4), proving our claim. Similar contradictions rule out the Morita types (iv) and (vi).

Now suppose that $B$ is of type (i), (ii) or (v). Then from the decomposition matrix of $B$, and (4) we get

$$\epsilon(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)}2^j - 2\epsilon^{(d-3)}2^{d-3}) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi, \theta}^{(s_1)} = 2^{d-1} + 2.$$  

In particular $\sum \epsilon_i \equiv 0 \mod 4$. As $\epsilon_i \geq 0$, we get $\epsilon_i = +1$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. Substituting these values into the equation above, we get

$$\sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)}2^j - \epsilon^{(d-3)}2^{d-3} = \begin{cases} 2^{d-2} - 1, & \text{if } \epsilon = +1; \\ -2^{d-2} - 3, & \text{if } \epsilon = -1. \end{cases}$$

As the left hand side has absolute value $< 2^{d-2}$, we deduce that $\epsilon = +1$. The resulting equation has the unique solution $\epsilon^{(j)} = +1$, for $j = 0, \ldots, d-4$ and $\epsilon^{(d-3)} = -1$.

Let $\theta_1$ be the Brauer character of $M_1$. Then (1) gives

$$[k\mathcal{F} : M_1] = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi, \theta_1} = 4 + 2(2^{d-3} - 1) - 2.2^{d-3} = 2.$$  

It follows from this that $k\mathcal{F}B = M_1/M_1$, if $B$ is nilpotent.
Now suppose that $B$ has type (ii) or (v). Let $\theta_2$ be the Brauer character of $M_2$. Using (1) and the decomposition matrix of $B$, we have:

$$[k\mathcal{J}B : M_2] = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta_2} = 2 + (2^{d-3} - 1) - 2^{d-3} = 1.$$ 

In the same way $[k\mathcal{J}B : M_3] = 1$, if $B$ is of Morita type (v). We deduce the structure of the successive Loewy layers of $k\mathcal{J}B$ from these facts.

□

9. Type (c): dihedral extended defect groups

In this section $B$ is a real non-principal 2-block with a dihedral defect group $D$ and a dihedral extended defect group $E = D\langle e \rangle$, where $e$ has order 2 and $s = (te)^2$. We denote the projective cover of a module $M$ by $P(M)$.

By Theorem 5.7, all height 1 irreducible characters in $B$ are real-valued. Now $s_1$ is not the square of an element of $E\setminus D$. It then follows from Lemma 1.3 that

$$\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d^{(s_1)}_{\chi,\theta} = 0.$$

Lemma 9.1. $B$ is not of type (ii), (iii) or (iv).

Proof. Lemma 5.2 implies that $B$ is not of type (ii) or (iii).

Suppose that $B$ is of type (iv). An examination of the decomposition matrix of $B$ shows that all three irreducible $B$-modules are self-dual. It then follows from Theorem 5.7 that all irreducible characters in $B$ are real-valued. Corollary 4.3 shows that $\epsilon_i = +1$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. We can now use the decomposition matrix of $B$ to compute

$$\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d^{(s_1)}_{\chi,\theta} = 2\epsilon(\sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)}2^j - \epsilon^{(d-3)}2^{d-3}) \equiv 2 \mod 4.$$

This contradiction of (5) completes the proof.

□

Theorem 9.2. $k\mathcal{J}B$ is indecomposable, has vertex $Z(D)$, and is isomorphic to its Heller translate. Moreover, by the Morita type we have:

(i),(v) Without loss of generality $\overline{\chi_3} = \chi_4$. All other irreducible characters in $B$ have FS-indicator +1 and $P(k\mathcal{J}B) \cong P(M_1)$;

(vi) All irreducible characters in $B$ have FS-indicator +1, and $P(k\mathcal{J}B) \cong P(M_1) \oplus P(M_2) \oplus P(M_3)$. 
Proof. There is a single $E$-conjugacy class of involutions in $E \setminus D$, with representative $e$. Now $C_D(e) = Z(D) = \langle s_1 \rangle$ is cyclic of order 2. So by Theorem 3.2, all components of $k\mathcal{B}$ have vertex $Z(D)$.

Suppose first that $B$ is nilpotent. Lemmas 5.5 and 5.6 show that $(t, b)$ and $(st, b_a)$ are not real. Then by Theorem 5.7, $B$ has two nonreal irreducible characters of height zero. We choose notation so that $\overline{\chi_3} = \chi_4$. Let $\theta_1$ be the Brauer character of $M_1$ and let $M$ be a component of $k\mathcal{B}$. Now $\dim(M) = [M : M_1] \dim(M_1)$, and $\nu \dim(M_1) = \nu[G : D]$. So $\nu \dim(M) = \nu[M : M_1] + \nu[G : D]$. As $M$ has vertex $Z(D)$, we have $\nu \dim(M) \geq \nu[D : Z(D)] + \nu[G : D]$. We deduce that $2^{d-1} = [D : Z(D)]$ divides $[M : M_1]$. On the other hand, $[k\mathcal{B} : M_1] = \sum_{\chi \in \Irr(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d_{\chi, \theta_1}$, which is $\leq 2^{d-1} + 2$, from the decomposition matrix of $B$. We conclude that $[M : M_1] = 2^{d-1}$, that $k\mathcal{B} = M$ is indecomposable, and that all irreducible characters in $B$, apart from $\chi_3, \chi_4$, have FS-indicator +1. It is easy to see that $k\mathcal{B}$ is the unique $B$-module that has vertex $Z(D)$. So $k\mathcal{B}$ coincides with its Heller translate $\Omega(k\mathcal{B})$. Now from the Cartan matrix of $B$, we have $[P(M_1) : M_1] = 2^d$. It follows that $P(k\mathcal{B}) \cong P(M_1)$.

Suppose that $B$ is of type (v) or (vi). Then $(t, b) \sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$ and $(st, b_a) \sim (s_1, b_{s_1})$. So $b_{s_1}$ is the unique 2-block of $H := C(s_1)$ with $b_{s_1}' = B$. The Green correspondence theorem establishes a bijection between the components of $k\mathcal{B}$ and the components of $k\mathcal{B}_{H} b_{s_1}$. Applying the previous paragraph to $b_{s_1}$, we see that $k\mathcal{B}_{H} b_{s_1}$ is indecomposable and $k\mathcal{B}_{H} b_{s_1} = \Omega(k\mathcal{B}_{H} b_{s_1})$. So $k\mathcal{B}$ is indecomposable and $k\mathcal{B} = \Omega(k\mathcal{B})$. We write $P(k\mathcal{B}) \cong P(M_1)^a \oplus P(M_2)^b \oplus P(M_3)^c$, where $a, b, c \geq 0$.

We now specialize to the case that $B$ has Morita type (v). We see from the decomposition matrix of $B$, and (5) that

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon(j)2^j - 2\epsilon(d-3)2^{d-3} = 0
$$

The only solution is $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = 1$, $\overline{\chi_3} = \chi_4$, and $\epsilon(j) = 1$, for $j = 0, \ldots, d - 3$. As $\Omega(k\mathcal{B}) = k\mathcal{B}$, we can compute $[k\mathcal{B} : M_i]$ in terms of the unknown exponents $a, b, c$, and compare these with the values given by (1):

| $\sum \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi, M_i}$ | $M_1$ | $M_2$ | $M_3$ |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| $P(\mathcal{B})$                | $2^{d-1}$ | $2^{d-2}$ | $2^{d-2}$ |
| $2^{d-1}(a + \frac{b+c}{2})$    | $2^{d-2}(a + \frac{b+c}{2}) + b$ | $2^{d-2}(a + \frac{b+c}{2}) + c$ |

The only solution is $a = 1, b = c = 0$. So $P(k\mathcal{B}) \cong P(M_1)$.
Finally, we consider the case that $B$ is of Morita type (vi). We see from the decomposition matrix of $B$, and (5) that

$$-\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 + \epsilon_4 + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon(j)2^j - 2\epsilon(d-3)2^{d-3} = 0$$

In this case the only solution is $\epsilon_i = \epsilon(j) = +1$, for all $i, j$. Proceeding as in the previous paragraph, we get the following table involving $a, b, c$:

| $\sum \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,M_i}$ | $M_1$ | $M_2$ | $M_3$ |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| $P(3B)$                       | $2$   | $2^{d-2}+1$ | $2^{d-2}+1$ |
| $a + \frac{(b+c)}{2}$        | $2^{d-3}(b+c) + \frac{a+b}{2}$ |

Thus $a = b = c = 1$, whence $P(k\mathcal{B}) \cong P(M_1) \oplus P(M_2) \oplus P(M_3)$. □

10. Type (d): semi-dihedral extended defect groups

In this section $B$ is a real non-principal 2-block with a dihedral defect group $D$ and a semi-dihedral extended defect group $E = D\langle e \rangle$, where $e^2 = s_1$ and $s_1s = (te)^2$. By Theorem 5.7, all height 1 irreducible characters in $B$ are real-valued. As $E$ does not split over $D$, Theorem 3.2 implies that $k\mathcal{B} = 0$. If $M_i$ is an irreducible $B$-module, we use $\theta_i$ to denote its Brauer character. Then by (1) we have

$$\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta_i} = 0.$$  

(6)

**Theorem 10.1.** $B$ is of Morita type (i) or (v). We may choose notation so that $\chi_3 = \chi_4$: the irreducible characters in $F_{d-3}$ have FS-indicator $-1$; all other irreducible characters have FS-indicator $+1$.

**Proof.** Lemma 5.2 implies that $B$ is not of type (ii) or (iii).

Suppose that $B$ is of Morita type (iv). Then from the decomposition matrix $\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi)d_{\chi,\theta_i} = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i > 0$. This contradicts (6). So $B$ is not of type (iv). A similar argument shows that $B$ is not of type (vi).

Assume from now on that $B$ is of Morita type (i) or (v). Taking $i = 1$ in (6), the decomposition matrix of $B$ shows that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{d-3} \epsilon(j)2^j = - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i/2.$$

Now the left hand side is odd and $\epsilon_i \geq 0$, for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. So without loss of generality $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = 1$ and $\chi_3 = \chi_4$. We then get the unique solution $\epsilon(j) = +1$, for $j = 0, \ldots, d-4$ and $\epsilon(d-3) = -1$. □
11. Type (e) extended defect groups

In this section $B$ is a real non-principal 2-block with extended defect group $E = D(\epsilon)$, where $|D| \geq 16$, $\epsilon^2 = 1$, $s^\epsilon = s_1 s$ and $t^\epsilon = t$. By Theorem 5.7, no character in $F_{d-3}$ is real, but the remaining characters of height 1 in $F_0, \ldots, F_{d-4}$ are real.

**Theorem 11.1.** $B$ is of type (i), (ii) or (v). Let $\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)$. Then $\chi$ is nonreal, if $\chi \in F_{d-3}$. Otherwise $\epsilon(\chi) = +1$. We may write $k\mathcal{B} = M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$, where $M_{X_i}$ is an indecomposable module with vertex $X_i$, for $i = d-1, 2$. If $B$ is nilpotent then $[M_{X_i} : M_1] = 2^{d-i}$.

**Proof.** By Table 1, there are two $E$-conjugacy classes of involutions in $E \setminus D$, with representatives $e$ and $te$. Now $C_D(e) = X_{d-1}$ and $C_D(te) = X_2$. So part (ii) of Theorem 3.2 implies that $k\mathcal{C}_G(e)B$ has at least one component $M_{X_{d-1}}$ that has vertex $X_{d-1}$.

Suppose that $B$ is nilpotent. Then $B$ is real and has defect couple $(D, E)$. Let $\Phi$ be the unique principal indecomposable character of $B$. Then from (1) and the decomposition matrix of $B$, we have $[k\mathcal{B} : M_i] = \epsilon(\Phi) \leq 2^{d-2} + 2$. On the other hand, $2 = [D : X_{d-1}]$ divides $[M_{X_{d-1}} : M_1]$, and $2^{d-2} = [D : X_2]$ divides $[M_{X_2} : M_1]$. We deduce that $k\mathcal{B} = M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$. Moreover, $\epsilon(\Phi) = 2^{d-2} + 2$. So $\epsilon(\chi) = +1$, if $\chi$ is an irreducible character in $B$ that does not belong to $F_{d-3}$. The last statement of the Theorem also follows.

We now remove the nilpotency assumption on $B$. The last paragraph applies to $b_{s_1}$, allowing us to compute

$$\sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(b_{s_1})} \epsilon(\psi) d_{\psi, \theta}^{(s_1)} = 2^{d-2} + 2. \tag{7}$$

Set $b_{d-1} := b_{X_{d-1}}^{N(X_{d-1})}$. Then $b_{d-1}$ is real and nilpotent, and has defect couple $(D, E)$. The last paragraph shows that $k\mathcal{J}_{N(X_{d-1})}b_{d-1}$ has one component with vertex $X_{d-1}$. Set $M_{X_{d-1}}$ as its Green correspondent with respect to $(G, X_{d-1}, N(X_{d-1}))$. Then $M_{X_{d-1}}$ is the unique component of $k\mathcal{B}$ that has vertex $B$-subpair $(X_{d-1}, b_{X_{d-1}})$.

Now let $(V, b_V)$ be a vertex $B$-subpair of a component of $k\mathcal{B}$. Lemmas 3.1 and 5.1 imply that $(V, b_V)$ is a vertex $B$-subpair of a component of $k\mathcal{C}_{(x)}b_x$, where $x = s_1, t$ or $st$. Now $b_{st}$ is real with vertex
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pair \((Y_2, Y_2\langle s_2 e \rangle)\). As \(Y_2\langle s_2 e \rangle\) does not split over \(Y_2\), Theorem 3.2 implies that \(k\mathcal{C}(s_1)b_{st} = 0\). Our work above shows that every component of \(k\mathcal{C}(s_1)b_{s_1}\) has vertex \(B\)-subpair \((X_i, b_{X_i})\), for \(i = d-1, 2\). Theorem 1.7(i) of [22] shows that every component of \(k\mathcal{C}(b_1)\) has vertex \(B\)-subpair \((X_2, b_{X_2})\). We deduce from this that \(k\mathcal{B} = M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}\). This proves one statement of the Theorem.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that \(B\) is of type (iii). Then all irreducible characters of height 0 are real, whence they have FS-indicator +1. From the decomposition matrix of \(B\), we compute

\[
\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d^{(s_1)}_{\chi} = 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)} 2^j < 2^{d-2}.
\]

This contradicts Lemma 1.4 and (7). We can show that \(B\) is not of Morita type (iv) or (vi), using similar arguments.

Now suppose that \(B\) is of type (ii) or (v). Then we compute

\[
\epsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{4} \epsilon_i + 2 \sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)} 2^j \right) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(B)} \epsilon(\chi) d^{(s_1)}_{\chi} = 2^{d-2} + 2,
\]

using Lemma 1.4 and (7). Considering this equality modulo 4, and using the fact that \(\epsilon_i \in \{0, 1\}\), we see that \(\epsilon_i = +1\), for \(i = 1, 2, 3, 4\). Substituting these values, we get two possibilities

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{d-4} \epsilon^{(j)} 2^j = \begin{cases} 2^{d-3} - 1, & \text{if } \epsilon = +1; \\ -2^{d-3} - 3, & \text{if } \epsilon = -1. \end{cases}
\]

As the left hand side has absolute value < \(2^{d-3}\), we deduce that \(\epsilon = +1\). The resulting equation has the unique solution \(\epsilon^{(j)} = +1\), for \(j = 0, \ldots, d - 4\). This completes the proof. \(\square\)

12. Summary of results for blocks with dihedral defect groups

We summarize the results of Sections 7 through 11 in the following table. Recall that \(M_V\) is an indecomposable module that has vertex \(V\).
| Block Type | $E$ | $\epsilon_i^j$ | $\epsilon_i^{(d-3)}$ | $kJB$ |
|------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Nilpotent   | (a) | $+++$          | +               | $M_1^2 \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$ |
|            | (b) | $+++$          | −               | $M_S = M_1/M_1$ |
|            | (c) | $++00$         | +               | $M_{Z(D)}$ |
|            | (d) | $++00$         | −               | $M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$ |
|            | (e) | $+++0$         | 0               | $M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$ |
| PGL($2, q$) | (a) | $+++$          | +               | $M_D^2 \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$ |
| $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ | (b) | $+++$          | −               | $M_S = M_1/M_2/M_1$ |
|            | (e) | $+++0$         | 0               | $M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$ |
| PGL($2, q$) | (a) | $+++$          | +               | $M_D^2 \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$ |
| $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ | (b) | $+++$          | −               | $M_S = M_1/M_2/M_1$ |
|            | (c) | $++00$         | +               | $M_{Z(D)}$ |
|            | (e) | $+++0$         | 0               | $M_{X_{d-1}} \oplus M_{X_2}$ |
| PSL($2, q$) | (a) | $++00$         | +               | $M_D^2 \oplus M_{X_2} \oplus M_{Y_2}$ |
| $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ | (b) | $+++$          | −               | $M_S = M_1/M_2/M_1$ |
|            | (c) | $+++$          | +               | $M_{Z(D)}$ |

Table 2. Summary of results

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