

Let  $G$  be a finite group. Suppose that every  $\chi \in \mathbf{Irr}(G)$  with  $\chi(1) > 1$  vanishes off of  $G'$ . Show that each nonidentity coset of  $G'$  is a conjugacy class.

*Proof.* We note that by inflation, as  $G/G'$  is abelian, each conjugacy class of  $G/G'$  corresponds to one coset of  $G'$  and therefore two cosets cannot be in the same conjugacy class.

Note that  $g, g'$  are in  $gG'$  iff  $g' = gh$  for some  $h \in G'$ . Let  $\chi$  be an irreducible linear character of  $G$ . Then if  $[a, b]$  is a generator of  $G'$ , as  $\chi$  is linear,

$$\chi([a, b]) = \chi(a^{-1})\chi(b^{-1})\chi(a)\chi(b) = \overline{\chi(a)}\chi(a)\overline{\chi(b)}\chi(b) = 1.$$

Thus for  $h \in G'$ ,  $\chi(h) = 1$  and  $\chi(gh) = \chi(g)\chi(h) = \chi(g)$ .

By assumption, for a nonlinear irreducible character  $\chi$ , if  $g \notin G'$ ,  $\chi(g) = 0 = \chi(gh)$  for  $h \in G'$  as  $gh \notin G'$ .

Therefore if  $g \notin G'$  and  $gh \in gG'$  then  $gh$  has the same character as  $g$  for every irreducible character  $\chi$  of  $G$ . As the columns of the character table are linearly independent,  $g$  and  $gh$  must be representatives of the same column. Hence  $gh$  is in the same conjugacy class as  $g$ . That is to say every non-identity coset  $gG'$  is a conjugacy class.  $\square$