

# REPRESENTATIONS OF $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ AND $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$

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For each prime power  $q$ , we will construct all irreducible representations over  $\mathbf{C}$  of the groups  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  and  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ . To find all of them, there are three parts:

- Build as many irreducible representations as the number of conjugacy classes.
- Check a representation is irreducible by checking its character has inner product 1 with itself (1-dimensional representations are automatically irreducible).
- Check irreducible representations that are not 1-dimensional are nonisomorphic by checking their characters are different (distinct 1-dimensional representations are automatically nonisomorphic).

## 1. REPRESENTATIONS OF $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$

Let  $F$  be a field. In  $\text{Aff}(F)$ , the group law is

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} aa' & ab' + b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/a & -b/a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Two subgroups of  $\text{Aff}(F)$  are

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : a \neq 0 \right\}, \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F \right\},$$

which are isomorphic to  $F^\times$  and  $F$  as groups. Matrices in  $\text{Aff}(F)$  decompose into a product of elements in these subgroups as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and the formula in alphabetical order doesn't quite work:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & ab \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conjugation in  $\text{Aff}(F)$  is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} a & bx - y(a-1) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In particular,  $\text{Aff}(F)$  has trivial center unless  $F = \mathbf{F}_2$ , in which case  $\text{Aff}(F)$  is abelian.

Here are the conjugacy classes in  $\text{Aff}(F)$ :

- the identity matrix

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

- the set

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F^\times \right\},$$

- for each  $a \in F$  with  $a \neq 0$  and  $a \neq 1$ , the set

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F \right\}.$$

So in  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  there are a total of  $1 + 1 + (q - 2) = q$  conjugacy classes and thus there are  $q$  irreducible representations of  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  over  $\mathbf{C}$ .

**One-dimensional representations:** Since the upper left entry in  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  behaves multiplicatively in the group law, for each homomorphism  $\chi: \mathbf{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  we get a one-dimensional representation  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  by

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \chi(a).$$

Since  $\mathbf{F}_q^\times$  is cyclic of order  $q - 1$ , there are  $q - 1$  such  $\chi$ , so we get  $q - 1$  one-dimensional representations of  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ .

**Remaining irreducible representation:** From the count of conjugacy classes there is one more irreducible representation of  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ . Letting  $d$  denote its degree, from  $q - 1 + d^2 = |\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)| = q(q - 1)$  we get  $d = q - 1$ , so we seek a  $(q - 1)$ -dimensional representation.

Consider the complex vector space  $V$  of functions  $f: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ . This is  $q$ -dimensional. Let each  $g \in \text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  act on  $V$  as a linear change of variables using  $g^{-1}$ :  $(\rho_V(g)f)(x) = f(g^{-1}x)$ . We need  $g^{-1}$  rather than  $g$  in the formula to get  $\rho_V(gh) = \rho_V(g)\rho_V(h)$ . Explicitly,

$$(\rho_V \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} f)(x) = f \left( \frac{1}{a}x - \frac{b}{a} \right).$$

The constant functions in  $V$  form a one-dimensional subspace on which  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  acts trivially. Another  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ -stable subspace of  $V$  is

$$W = \left\{ f \in V : \sum_{x \in \mathbf{F}_q} f(x) = 0 \right\}$$

and  $\rho_V = \rho_W \oplus 1$ , where  $\rho_W$  is the restriction of  $\rho_V$  to  $W$ . The dimension of  $W$  is  $q - 1$ .

To show  $W$  is irreducible, we compute its character from that of  $V$ :  $\chi_V = \chi_W + 1$ . A basis of  $V$  is the  $q$  delta-functions  $\delta_t: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  for  $t \in \mathbf{F}_q$ , where  $\delta_t(x)$  is 0 for  $x \neq t$  and  $\delta_t(t) = 1$ . Since  $\rho_V \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \delta_t = \delta_{at+b}$ , the matrix for  $\rho_V \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  with respect to the delta-basis of  $V$  is a permutation matrix that describes how  $t \mapsto at + b$  permutes  $\mathbf{F}_q$ . Thus

$$\chi_V \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = |\{t \in \mathbf{F}_q : at + b = t \text{ in } \mathbf{F}_q\}| = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \neq 1, \\ q, & \text{if } a = 1 \text{ and } b = 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } a = 1 \text{ and } b \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

Therefore

$$\chi_W \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \chi_V \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1 = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } a \neq 1, \\ q - 1, & \text{if } a = 1 \text{ and } b = 0, \\ -1, & \text{if } a = 1 \text{ and } b \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

The inner product of  $\chi_W$  with itself is

$$\frac{1}{q(q-1)} \sum_g \chi_W(g) \overline{\chi_W(g)} = \frac{1}{q(q-1)} ((q-1)^2 + (q-1)(-1)^2) = \frac{(q-1)^2 + (q-1)}{q(q-1)} = 1,$$

so  $W$  is irreducible. It is a new irreducible representation since it's not 1-dimensional, except if  $q = 2$ , in which case  $\rho_W$  is nontrivial while the single one-dimensional representation constructed earlier ( $q - 1 = 1$  if  $q = 2$ ) is trivial (note  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_2) \cong \mathbf{F}_2$ ).

## 2. REPRESENTATIONS OF $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$

For a field  $F$ , the group law in the Heisenberg group  $\text{Heis}(F)$  is

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a' & b' \\ 0 & 1 & c' \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a+a' & b+b'+ac' \\ 0 & 1 & c+c' \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with inverse formula

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -a & -b+ac \\ 0 & 1 & -c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Three subgroups of  $\text{Heis}(F)$  are

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : a \in F \right\}, \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F \right\}, \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : c \in F \right\},$$

which are each isomorphic as groups to the additive group of  $F$ . Note the subset

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : a, c \in F \right\}$$

is *not* a subgroup of  $\text{Heis}(F)$  since it's not closed under multiplication.

Each matrix in  $\text{Heis}(F)$  is a product of matrices in the three subgroups above:

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If we multiply these three matrices in the reverse order,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b+ac \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conjugation in  $\text{Heis}(F)$  is described by the formula

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b-az+cx \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In particular, the center of  $\text{Heis}(F)$  is

$$(2.4) \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F \right\}.$$

Using the conjugation formula (2.3), we get the conjugacy classes in  $\text{Heis}(F)$ :

- for each  $b \in F$ , the single matrix

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

- for each pair  $(a, c) \in F^2 - \{(0, 0)\}$ , the set

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in F \right\}.$$

When  $F = \mathbf{F}_q$ , there are  $q + (q^2 - 1) = q^2 + q - 1$  conjugacy classes in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ , so this group has  $q^2 + q - 1$  irreducible representations over  $\mathbf{C}$ .

**One-dimensional representations:** Let  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  be a nontrivial homomorphism.

An example is  $\psi(x) = e^{2\pi i \text{Tr}_{\mathbf{F}_q/\mathbf{F}_p}(x)}$ , where  $\mathbf{F}_q$  has characteristic  $p$  and  $\text{Tr}_{\mathbf{F}_q/\mathbf{F}_p}: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_p$  is the trace map. (If  $q = p$  then  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  by  $\psi(x) = e^{2\pi i x/p}$ .) Since the  $a$  and  $c$  terms of a matrix in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  each combine additively under multiplication in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ , for each  $(a, c) \in \mathbf{F}_q^2$  there is a 1-dimensional representation  $\psi_{a,c}: \text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  given by

$$(2.5) \quad \psi_{a,c} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ 0 & 1 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \psi(ax + cz).$$

Check as an exercise that from  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  being nontrivial, if  $\psi_{a,c} = \psi_{a',c'}$  then  $(a, c) = (a', c')$  in  $\mathbf{F}_q^2$ , so  $\{\psi_{a,c} : (a, c) \in \mathbf{F}_q^2\}$  is  $q^2$  irreducible representations of degree 1. (Hint: first show that if  $a \neq 0$  or  $c \neq 0$  then  $\psi_{a,c}$  is nontrivial, *i.e.*, is not identically 1.)

**Remaining irreducible representations:** The number of remaining irreducible representations is  $(q^2 + q - 1) - q^2 = q - 1$ . Their degrees  $\{d_i\}$  satisfy  $q^2 + \sum d_i^2 = |\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)| = q^3$ , so  $\sum d_i^2 = q^3 - q^2 = (q - 1)q^2$ . We will find  $q - 1$  irreducible representations of degree  $q$ .

Let  $V$ , as before, be the  $q$ -dimensional vector space of functions  $f: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ . We will define three actions of  $\mathbf{F}_q$  on  $V$ , and composing them in a suitable order will give an action of the group  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  on  $V$ . Fix a nontrivial homomorphism  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$ . For  $a, b, c \in \mathbf{F}_q$ , define the linear maps  $\sigma_a: V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\tau_b: V \rightarrow V$ , and  $\varphi_c: V \rightarrow V$  by

$$(\sigma_a f)(x) = f(x + a), \quad (\tau_b f)(x) = \psi(b)f(x), \quad (\varphi_c f)(x) = \psi(cx)f(x).$$

For  $t \in \mathbf{F}_q$ , note  $\tau_t$  multiplies each function in  $V$  by the *number*  $\psi(t)$  while  $\varphi_t$  multiplies each function in  $V$  by the *function*  $\psi(tx)$ .

Check  $\sigma_a \circ \sigma_{a'} = \sigma_{a+a'}$ ,  $\tau_b \circ \tau_{b'} = \tau_{b+b'}$ , and  $\varphi_c \circ \varphi_{c'} = \varphi_{c+c'}$  as functions  $V \rightarrow V$ , so  $a \mapsto \sigma_a$ ,  $b \mapsto \tau_b$ ,  $c \mapsto \varphi_c$  are actions of  $\mathbf{F}_q$  on  $V$  by linear maps. Check  $\tau_b$  commutes with both  $\sigma_a$  and  $\varphi_c$ , while  $\sigma_a$  and  $\varphi_c$  commute with each other up to scaling by a root of unity:

$$(2.6) \quad \sigma_a \circ \tau_b = \tau_b \circ \sigma_a, \quad \varphi_c \circ \tau_b = \tau_b \circ \varphi_c, \quad \sigma_a \circ \varphi_c = \psi(ac)\varphi_c \circ \sigma_a = \tau_{ac} \circ \varphi_c \circ \sigma_a.$$

Using (2.6), the 3-fold composites  $\sigma_a \circ \tau_b \circ \varphi_c$  compose as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma_a \circ \tau_b \circ \varphi_c) \circ (\sigma_{a'} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \varphi_{c'}) &= \sigma_a \circ \tau_b \circ (\varphi_c \circ \sigma_{a'}) \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \varphi_{c'} \\ &= \sigma_a \circ \tau_b \circ (\tau_{-a'c} \circ \sigma_{a'} \circ \varphi_c) \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \varphi_{c'} \\ &= \sigma_a \circ \tau_{b-a'c} \circ \sigma_{a'} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \varphi_c \circ \varphi_{c'} \\ &= \sigma_a \circ \sigma_{a'} \circ \tau_{b-a'c} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \varphi_c \circ \varphi_{c'} \\ &= \sigma_{a+a'} \circ \tau_{b+b'-a'c} \circ \varphi_{c+c'}. \end{aligned}$$

This is almost like the way matrices in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  multiply in (2.1), and it would match matrix multiplication if  $\tau_{b+b'-a'}c$  were  $\tau_{b+b'+ac'}$ . Matrices in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  decompose in (2.2) using reverse alphabetical order, which suggests looking at  $\varphi_c \circ \tau_b \circ \sigma_a$  instead. By calculations as above,

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi_c \circ \tau_b \circ \sigma_a) \circ (\varphi_{c'} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \sigma_{a'}) &= \varphi_c \circ \tau_b \circ (\sigma_a \circ \varphi_{c'}) \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \sigma_{a'} \\ &= \varphi_c \circ \tau_b \circ (\tau_{ac'} \circ \varphi_{c'} \circ \sigma_a) \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \sigma_{a'} \\ &= \varphi_c \circ \tau_{b+ac'} \circ \varphi_{c'} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \sigma_a \circ \sigma_{a'} \\ &= \varphi_c \circ \varphi_{c'} \circ \tau_{b+ac'} \circ \tau_{b'} \circ \sigma_a \circ \sigma_{a'} \\ &= \varphi_{c+c'} \circ \tau_{b+b'+ac'} \circ \sigma_{a+a'}. \end{aligned}$$

This is exactly how matrices in  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  multiply, so we can define a  $q$ -dimensional representation  $\rho_\psi$  of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  on  $V$  by

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \rho_\psi(g) := \varphi_c \circ \tau_b \circ \sigma_a.$$

As a formula, for  $f \in V$

$$(\rho_\psi(g)f)(x) = (\varphi_c \tau_b \sigma_a f)(x) = \psi(cx)(\tau_b \sigma_a f)(x) = \psi(cx)\psi(b)f(x+a) = \psi(cx+b)f(x+a).$$

Let's compute the character of  $\rho_\psi$ . Using the basis  $\{\delta_t : t \in \mathbf{F}_q\}$  of  $V$ , we have

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \implies (\rho_\psi(g)\delta_t)(x) = \psi(cx+b)\delta_t(x+a) = \begin{cases} \psi(c(t-a)+b), & \text{if } x = t-a, \\ 0, & \text{if } x \neq t-a, \end{cases}$$

so

$$\rho_\psi(g)\delta_t = \psi(c(t-a)+b)\delta_{t-a}.$$

- If  $a \neq 0$ , then the matrix of  $\rho_\psi(g)$  with respect to the delta-basis has 0's on the main diagonal, so  $(\text{Tr } \rho_\psi)(g) = 0$ .
- If  $a = 0$ , then the matrix of  $\rho_\psi(g)$  with respect to the delta-basis has diagonal entries  $\psi(ct+b)$ , so  $(\text{Tr } \rho_\psi)(g) = \sum_{t \in \mathbf{F}_q} \psi(ct+b)$ . If  $c \neq 0$  then this sum equals  $\sum_{x \in \mathbf{F}_q} \psi(x)$ , which is 0 *since  $\psi$  is nontrivial*, and if  $c = 0$  then this sum is  $q\psi(b)$ .

Thus the character  $\chi_\psi$  of  $\rho_\psi$  is

$$(2.7) \quad \chi_\psi \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{cases} q\psi(b), & \text{if } a = c = 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

so for each nontrivial homomorphism  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$ , the inner product of  $\chi_\psi$  with itself is

$$\frac{1}{q^3} \sum_g \chi_\psi(g) \overline{\chi_\psi(g)} = \frac{1}{q^3} \sum_{b \in \mathbf{F}_q} q\psi(b) \overline{q\psi(b)} = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{b \in \mathbf{F}_q} 1 = 1.$$

There are  $q-1$  nontrivial homomorphisms  $\psi: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$ , and to each we have a  $q$ -dimensional irreducible representation  $\rho_\psi$  of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ . To prove  $\rho_\psi$ 's for different  $\psi$  are nonisomorphic, we show the characters of the  $\rho_\psi$ 's are distinct. This follows from the formula

$$(2.8) \quad \psi(b) = \frac{1}{q} \chi_\psi \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

which shows we can recover the 1-dimensional character  $\psi$  of  $\mathbf{F}_q$  from the character  $\chi_\psi$  of the  $q$ -dimensional representation  $\rho_\psi$  of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$ . (Alternatively, check for different nontrivial homomorphisms  $\psi_1, \psi_2: \mathbf{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$  that the inner product of the characters of  $\rho_{\psi_1}$  and  $\rho_{\psi_2}$  is 0, so for different  $\psi$ 's the representations  $\rho_\psi$  are nonisomorphic.)

By (2.4), the center of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  is

$$Z_q := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : b \in \mathbf{F}_q \right\} \cong \mathbf{F}_q,$$

so (2.8) tells us that each irreducible character of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  of degree  $q$  is determined by its restriction to  $Z_q$ , since  $\chi_\psi$  on  $Z_q$  is enough information to determine  $\psi$  on  $\mathbf{F}_q$ , which is all we need to compute  $\chi_\psi$  on  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  in (2.7). In terms of representations rather than characters, the definition of  $\rho_\psi$  shows that  $\rho_\psi$  on  $Z_q$  is described by

$$\rho_\psi \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \tau_b: f \mapsto \psi(b)f$$

for all functions  $f \in V$ , so  $\rho_\psi$  restricted to  $Z_q$  is enough information to recover  $\psi$  on  $\mathbf{F}_q$ . Thus the degree- $q$  irreducible representations of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  are all nontrivial on  $Z_q$ , and there is a bijection between degree- $q$  irreducible representations of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  and nontrivial characters of  $Z_q$  by  $\rho_\psi \mapsto \psi$ . The other irreducible representations of  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  all have degree 1, and they are all trivial on  $Z_q$  by (2.5).

More on the irreducible representations of  $\text{Aff}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  and  $\text{Heis}(\mathbf{F}_q)$  is in [1, Chap. 16–18].

#### REFERENCES

- [1] A. Terras, “Fourier Analysis on Finite Groups and Applications,” Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999.