

Tame blocks

City, University of London

Groups St Andrews, Birmingham
August 2017

Blocks

- G : a finite group
- p : a prime dividing $|G|$
- R : a field of characteristic p **or** a p -adic ring (e.g. the p -adic integers).

Blocks

- G : a finite group
- p : a prime dividing $|G|$
- R : a field of characteristic p **or** a p -adic ring (e.g. the p -adic integers).

Block decomposition of the group algebra

$$RG \cong B_0 \times \dots \times B_n$$

where each B_i is an indecomposable R -algebra. The B_i are called **blocks**.

Blocks

- G : a finite group
- p : a prime dividing $|G|$
- R : a field of characteristic p **or** a p -adic ring (e.g. the p -adic integers).

Block decomposition of the group algebra

$$RG \cong B_0 \times \dots \times B_n$$

where each B_i is an indecomposable R -algebra. The B_i are called **blocks**.

Defect groups

To each block B_i we assign a **defect group** $D_i \leq G$.

- D_i is a p -**group**, unique up to conjugation in G .

Blocks

- G : a finite group
- p : a prime dividing $|G|$
- R : a field of characteristic p **or** a p -adic ring (e.g. the p -adic integers).

Block decomposition of the group algebra

$$RG \cong B_0 \times \dots \times B_n$$

where each B_i is an indecomposable R -algebra. The B_i are called **blocks**.

Defect groups

To each block B_i we assign a **defect group** $D_i \leq G$.

- D_i is a p -**group**, unique up to conjugation in G .
- Defining property: Induction and restriction induce a “separable equivalence”

$$\mathbf{mod}\text{-}RD_i \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{mod}\text{-}B_i$$

Blocks

- G : a finite group
- p : a prime dividing $|G|$
- R : a field of characteristic p or a p -adic ring (e.g. the p -adic integers).

Block decomposition of the group algebra

$$RG \cong B_0 \times \dots \times B_n$$

where each B_i is an indecomposable R -algebra. The B_i are called **blocks**.

Defect groups

To each block B_i we assign a **defect group** $D_i \leq G$.

- D_i is a p -**group**, unique up to conjugation in G .
- Defining property: Induction and restriction induce a “separable equivalence”

$$\mathbf{mod}\text{-}RD_i \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{mod}\text{-}B_i$$

How we look at blocks

- When we say: “ B is a block” we mean: “ B is a block of RG for **some group** G ”.
- What can be said about **all** blocks that share a given defect group D ?

Tame blocks

For this slide only, let R be an alg. closed **field** of characteristic $p > 0$.

Tame blocks

For this slide only, let R be an alg. closed **field** of characteristic $p > 0$.

Defect groups determine “representation type”

If B is a block with defect group D .

- D cyclic: B is of **finite representation type** (well understood).
- $p = 2$, D (semi-)dihedral or quaternion: **tame representation type** (\rightsquigarrow we call B a **tame block**).
- All other D : **wild representation type** (“representations are unclassifiable”).

Tame blocks

For this slide only, let R be an alg. closed **field** of characteristic $p > 0$.

Defect groups determine “representation type”

If B is a block with defect group D .

- D cyclic: B is of **finite representation type** (well understood).
- $p = 2$, D (semi-)dihedral or quaternion: **tame representation type** (\rightsquigarrow we call B a **tame block**).
- All other D : **wild representation type** (“representations are unclassifiable”).

Indecomposable representations of tame blocks can in principle be classified (in each dimension they split up into finitely many 1-parameter families).

Tame blocks

For this slide only, let R be an alg. closed **field** of characteristic $p > 0$.

Defect groups determine “representation type”

If B is a block with defect group D .

- D cyclic: B is of **finite representation type** (well understood).
- $p = 2$, D (semi-)dihedral or quaternion: **tame representation type** (\rightsquigarrow we call B a **tame block**).
- All other D : **wild representation type** (“representations are unclassifiable”).

Indecomposable representations of tame blocks can in principle be classified (in each dimension they split up into finitely many 1-parameter families).

Classical results on tame blocks

- Brauer & Olsson studied the character theory of tame blocks (number of characters, their height, etc.).

Tame blocks

For this slide only, let R be an alg. closed **field** of characteristic $p > 0$.

Defect groups determine “representation type”

If B is a block with defect group D .

- D cyclic: B is of **finite representation type** (well understood).
- $p = 2$, D (semi-)dihedral or quaternion: **tame representation type** (\rightsquigarrow we call B a **tame block**).
- All other D : **wild representation type** (“representations are unclassifiable”).

Indecomposable representations of tame blocks can in principle be classified (in each dimension they split up into finitely many 1-parameter families).

Classical results on tame blocks

- Brauer & Olsson studied the character theory of tame blocks (number of characters, their height, etc.).
- Erdmann classified all “algebras of (semi-)dihedral or quaternion type”. This class of algebras
 - is defined in representation theoretic terms. *Defining properties: symmetric, indecomposable, tame rep. type, non-singular Cartan matrix and conditions on the shape of its “stable Auslander-Reiten components”.*
 - contains all tame blocks, but also algebras which aren’t blocks.

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Categories associated to an algebra...

- **mod**- A : category of finitely generated A -modules. (an “abelian category”)

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Categories associated to an algebra...

- $\mathbf{mod}\text{-}A$: category of finitely generated A -modules. (an “abelian category”)
- $\underline{\mathbf{mod}}\text{-}A = \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A / \{ \text{projectives} \}$: stable category (a “triangulated category”)

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Categories associated to an algebra...

- $\mathbf{mod}\text{-}A$: category of finitely generated A -modules. (an “abelian category”)
- $\underline{\mathbf{mod}}\text{-}A = \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A / \{ \text{projectives} \}$: stable category (a “triangulated category”)
- $\mathcal{D}(A)$: the derived category. *Constructed from the category of complexes of A -modules by factoring out null-homotopic chain maps, and then localizing at quasi-isomorphisms.* (a “triangulated category”)

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Categories associated to an algebra...

- $\mathbf{mod}\text{-}A$: category of finitely generated A -modules. (an “abelian category”)
- $\underline{\mathbf{mod}}\text{-}A = \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A / \{ \text{projectives} \}$: stable category (a “triangulated category”)
- $\mathcal{D}(A)$: the derived category. *Constructed from the category of complexes of A -modules by factoring out null-homotopic chain maps, and then localizing at quasi-isomorphisms.* (a “triangulated category”)

...and the notions of equivalence that come with them

Let A and B be two R -algebras (conditions as above). We call A and B

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Morita equivalent} & \text{derived equivalent} & \text{stably equivalent} \\ \text{if} & \text{if} & \text{if} \\ \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A \simeq \mathbf{mod}\text{-}B & \implies \mathcal{D}(A) \simeq \mathcal{D}(B) & \implies \underline{\mathbf{mod}}\text{-}A \simeq \underline{\mathbf{mod}}\text{-}B \end{array}$$

where the equivalences are equivalences of abelian respectively triangulated categories.

Equivalences of algebras

Let A be a symmetric R -algebra which is free and finitely generated as an R -module.

Categories associated to an algebra...

- **mod**- A : category of finitely generated A -modules. (an “abelian category”)
- **mod**- $A = \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A/\{\text{projectives}\}$: stable category (a “triangulated category”)
- $\mathcal{D}(A)$: the derived category. *Constructed from the category of complexes of A -modules by factoring out null-homotopic chain maps, and then localizing at quasi-isomorphisms.* (a “triangulated category”)

...and the notions of equivalence that come with them

Let A and B be two R -algebras (conditions as above). We call A and B

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Morita equivalent} & \text{derived equivalent} & \text{stably equivalent} \\ \text{if} & \text{if} & \text{if} \\ \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A \simeq \mathbf{mod}\text{-}B & \implies \mathcal{D}(A) \simeq \mathcal{D}(B) & \implies \mathbf{mod}\text{-}A \simeq \mathbf{mod}\text{-}B \end{array}$$

where the equivalences are equivalences of abelian respectively triangulated categories.

And an equivalence just for blocks

Two blocks A and B with a common defect group D can also be **Puig equivalent**, which is even stronger than merely being Morita equivalent.

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)
- Puig equivalence (Puig's conjecture)

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)
- Puig equivalence (Puig's conjecture)

Possible variations

- Usually, one takes R to be a field. But these conjectures also make sense (and are stronger) over a p -adic ring, assuming R is "big enough".
- One can also consider finiteness up to derived or stable equivalence.

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)
- Puig equivalence (Puig's conjecture)

Possible variations

- Usually, one takes R to be a field. But these conjectures also make sense (and are stronger) over a p -adic ring, assuming R is "big enough".
- One can also consider finiteness up to derived or stable equivalence.

What is known?

- Puig's and Donovan's conjectures are true for blocks with a cyclic defect group.

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)
- Puig equivalence (Puig's conjecture)

Possible variations

- Usually, one takes R to be a field. But these conjectures also make sense (and are stronger) over a p -adic ring, assuming R is "big enough".
- One can also consider finiteness up to derived or stable equivalence.

What is known?

- Puig's and Donovan's conjectures are true for blocks with a cyclic defect group.
- Donovan conjecture is true for the defect groups $C_{2^m} \times C_{2^m}$, $C_{2^m} \times C_{2^m} \times C_2$ and all elementary abelian 2-groups (Eaton-Kessar-Külshammer-Sambale).

Finiteness conjectures

Assume R is an algebraically closed field or a p -adic ring with algebraically closed residue field.

Donovan's conjecture and Puig's conjecture

For a fixed finite p -group D , there are only finitely many blocks with defect group D up to

- Morita equivalence (Donovan's conjecture)
- Puig equivalence (Puig's conjecture)

Possible variations

- Usually, one takes R to be a field. But these conjectures also make sense (and are stronger) over a p -adic ring, assuming R is "big enough".
- One can also consider finiteness up to derived or stable equivalence.

What is known?

- Puig's and Donovan's conjectures are true for blocks with a cyclic defect group.
- Donovan conjecture is true for the defect groups $C_{2^m} \times C_{2^m}$, $C_{2^m} \times C_{2^m} \times C_2$ and all elementary abelian 2-groups (Eaton-Kessar-Külshammer-Sambale).
- None of this is completely settled for tame blocks!

Donovan's conjecture for tame blocks

Erdmann's classification \implies Donovan conjecture over a field for most tame blocks (except quaternion defect).

Donovan's conjecture for tame blocks

Erdmann's classification \implies Donovan conjecture over a field for most tame blocks (except quaternion defect).

Question

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime element. Assume $R/\pi R$ is algebraically closed. Given two blocks A and B , is the following true?

$$A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B \stackrel{?}{\implies} A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B \quad (\star)$$

Donovan's conjecture for tame blocks

Erdmann's classification \implies Donovan conjecture over a field for most tame blocks (except quaternion defect).

Question

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime element. Assume $R/\pi R$ is algebraically closed. Given two blocks A and B , is the following true?

$$A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B \stackrel{?}{\implies} A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B \quad (\star)$$

If this is true for some class of blocks, then Donovan conjecture for this class over R follows from Donovan over $R/\pi R$.

Donovan's conjecture for tame blocks

Erdmann's classification \implies Donovan conjecture over a field for most tame blocks (except quaternion defect).

Question

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime element. Assume $R/\pi R$ is algebraically closed. Given two blocks A and B , is the following true?

$$A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B \stackrel{?}{\implies} A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B \quad (\star)$$

If this is true for some class of blocks, then Donovan conjecture for this class over R follows from Donovan over $R/\pi R$.

Theorem (E)

(\star) is true for all blocks of dihedral defect, and blocks of quaternion defect with three isomorphism classes of simple modules.

Donovan's conjecture for tame blocks

Erdmann's classification \implies Donovan conjecture over a field for most tame blocks (except quaternion defect).

Question

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime element. Assume $R/\pi R$ is algebraically closed. Given two blocks A and B , is the following true?

$$A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B \stackrel{?}{\implies} A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B \quad (\star)$$

If this is true for some class of blocks, then Donovan conjecture for this class over R follows from Donovan over $R/\pi R$.

Theorem (E)

(\star) is true for all blocks of dihedral defect, and blocks of quaternion defect with three isomorphism classes of simple modules.

Remark

- Part of the Q_8 -case was already settled by Holm-Kessar-Linckelmann.
- The only blocks of quaternion defect where (\star) is open are those with two simple modules. That is exactly where Donovan conjecture is as yet unsolved.

Lifting to a p -adic ring (a rough sketch of how (\star) is proved)

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime and $k = R/\pi R$.

- When certain invariants of a block B (the “decomposition numbers”) are ≤ 1 , then there is a good chance of describing all R -algebras A (having some properties known to hold for block algebras) with $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$. (Plesken)

Lifting to a p -adic ring (a rough sketch of how (\star) is proved)

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime and $k = R/\pi R$.

- When certain invariants of a block B (the “decomposition numbers”) are ≤ 1 , then there is a good chance of describing all R -algebras A (having some properties known to hold for block algebras) with $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$. (Plesken)
- Given two k -algebras $C \sim_{\text{derived}} D$, then there is a bijection between

$$R\text{-algebras } A \text{ with an isomorphism } A/\pi A \xrightarrow{\sim} C$$

and

$$R\text{-algebras } B \text{ with an isomorphism } B/\pi B \xrightarrow{\sim} D$$

which is well-behaved.

Lifting to a p -adic ring (a rough sketch of how (\star) is proved)

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime and $k = R/\pi R$.

- When certain invariants of a block B (the “decomposition numbers”) are ≤ 1 , then there is a good chance of describing all R -algebras A (having some properties known to hold for block algebras) with $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$. (Plesken)
- Given two k -algebras $C \sim_{\text{derived}} D$, then there is a bijection between

$$R\text{-algebras } A \text{ with an isomorphism } A/\pi A \xrightarrow{\sim} C$$

and

$$R\text{-algebras } B \text{ with an isomorphism } B/\pi B \xrightarrow{\sim} D$$

which is well-behaved.

- Conclusion: The property (\star) , $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$ implies $A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B$, is essentially a property of the derived equivalence class of $A/\pi A$. We just need to prove it for one representative to which the “decomposition numbers ≤ 1 ”-methods apply and show uniqueness there.

Lifting to a p -adic ring (a rough sketch of how (\star) is proved)

Let R be a p -adic ring, $\pi \in R$ a prime and $k = R/\pi R$.

- When certain invariants of a block B (the “decomposition numbers”) are ≤ 1 , then there is a good chance of describing all R -algebras A (having some properties known to hold for block algebras) with $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$. (Plesken)
- Given two k -algebras $C \sim_{\text{derived}} D$, then there is a bijection between

R -algebras A with an isomorphism $A/\pi A \xrightarrow{\sim} C$

and

R -algebras B with an isomorphism $B/\pi B \xrightarrow{\sim} D$

which is well-behaved.

- Conclusion: The property (\star) , $A/\pi A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B/\pi B$ implies $A \sim_{\text{Morita}} B$, is essentially a property of the derived equivalence class of $A/\pi A$. We just need to prove it for one representative to which the “decomposition numbers ≤ 1 ”-methods apply and show uniqueness there.

Remark

This method also allowed to show that certain algebras in Erdmann’s classification do **not** occur as blocks. Now we know exactly which algebras occur as blocks with dihedral defect groups.

Self-equivalences

For a block B we have a chain of groups of self-equivalences

$\{\text{Morita self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{“standard” derived self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{stable self-eq. (of “Morita type”)}\}$

These are induced by tensoring with bimodules respectively a complex of bimodules.

Self-equivalences

For a block B we have a chain of groups of self-equivalences

$\{\text{Morita self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{“standard” derived self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{stable self-eq. (of “Morita type”)}\}$

These are induced by tensoring with bimodules respectively a complex of bimodules.

Idea

A possible approach to Puig's conjecture for tame blocks is to lift stable equivalences (with extra structure) to Morita equivalences. The extra structure will ensure that the Morita equivalence is in fact a Puig equivalence.

Self-equivalences

For a block B we have a chain of groups of self-equivalences

$\{\text{Morita self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{“standard” derived self-eq.}\} \longrightarrow \{\text{stable self-eq. (of “Morita type”)}\}$

These are induced by tensoring with bimodules respectively a complex of bimodules.

Idea

A possible approach to Puig's conjecture for tame blocks is to lift stable equivalences (with extra structure) to Morita equivalences. The extra structure will ensure that the Morita equivalence is in fact a Puig equivalence.

Problem

What do the above groups of self-equivalences look like?

Derived self-equivalences for tame blocks

Remark: τ -tilting theory (Adachi-Iyama-Reiten)

The problem reduces to describing all “tilting complexes” over tame blocks. Among these “tilting complexes”, those of length two are parametrised by a class of modules (in the case of a block, or, a symmetric algebra):

$$\{ \text{2-term tilting complexes} \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules} \}$$

Derived self-equivalences for tame blocks

Remark: τ -tilting theory (Adachi-Iyama-Reiten)

The problem reduces to describing all “tilting complexes” over tame blocks. Among these “tilting complexes”, those of length two are parametrised by a class of modules (in the case of a block, or, a symmetric algebra):

$$\{ \text{2-term tilting complexes} \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules} \}$$

Theorem (E-Janssens-Raedschelders)

Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra, let $z \in \text{Rad}(A)$ be a central element. Then

$$\{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A/zA \}$$

Derived self-equivalences for tame blocks

Remark: τ -tilting theory (Adachi-Iyama-Reiten)

The problem reduces to describing all “tilting complexes” over tame blocks. Among these “tilting complexes”, those of length two are parametrised by a class of modules (in the case of a block, or, a symmetric algebra):

$$\{ \text{2-term tilting complexes} \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules} \}$$

Theorem (E-Janssens-Raedschelders)

Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra, let $z \in \text{Rad}(A)$ be a central element. Then

$$\{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A/zA \}$$

This reduces the determination of 2-term tilting complexes over tame blocks to an (easy) classification problem of a class of modules over much smaller “string algebras”.

Derived self-equivalences for tame blocks

Remark: τ -tilting theory (Adachi-Iyama-Reiten)

The problem reduces to describing all “tilting complexes” over tame blocks. Among these “tilting complexes”, those of length two are parametrised by a class of modules (in the case of a block, or, a symmetric algebra):

$$\{ \text{2-term tilting complexes} \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules} \}$$

Theorem (E-Janssens-Raedschelders)

Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra, let $z \in \text{Rad}(A)$ be a central element. Then

$$\{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \text{support } \tau\text{-tilting modules over } A/zA \}$$

This reduces the determination of 2-term tilting complexes over tame blocks to an (easy) classification problem of a class of modules over much smaller “string algebras”.

Conclusion

In the situation of tame blocks, this is enough to give generators for the groups of (“standard”) derived self-equivalences (Aihara-Mizuno).

Question

Can we describe the group of stable self-equivalences of “Morita type” of tame blocks?

Thank you for your attention!