

PROJECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF WREATHED 2-GROUPS

KILSOO CHUN AND SEUNG AHN PARK

ABSTRACT. In this paper we investigate representation groups of wreathed 2- groups and explicitly determine all the linearly inequivalent irreducible projective representations of wreathed 2-groups.

1. Introduction

Let G be a finite group and let F be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero with its multiplicative group $F^* = F - \{0\}$. A mapping

$$T : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}_n(F)$$

of G into the general linear group $\text{GL}_n(F)$ is called a *projective representation* of G of degree n over F if there exists a function $\alpha : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ such that

$$T(g)T(h) = \alpha(g, h)T(gh)$$

for all $g, h \in G$. The function $\alpha : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ is called the *factor set* of T . If $\alpha(g, h) = 1$ for all $g, h \in G$, then T is called a *linear representation* of G over F . We say that T is *irreducible* if the vector space $V = F^n$ has no nontrivial proper subspace invariant under all $T(g)$, $g \in G$.

Let $T : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_n(F)$ and $S : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_n(F)$ be projective representations of G with factor sets α and β , respectively. We say that T and S are *projectively equivalent* if there exists a nonsingular matrix $P \in \text{GL}_n(F)$ and a function $c : G \rightarrow F^*$ such that

$$S(g) = c(g)P^{-1}T(g)P, \quad g \in G.$$

In this case, α and β are *equivalent*, that is, the following holds:

Received November 5, 1998.

1991 Mathematics Subject Classification: 20C25.

Key words and phrases: wreathed 2-groups, projective representations, representation groups, Schur multipliers.

$$\beta(g, h) = \alpha(g, h)c(g)c(h)c(gh)^{-1}, \quad g, h \in G.$$

If $c(g) = 1$ for all $g \in G$, then T and S are said to be *linearly equivalent*. Linearly equivalent projective representations have the same factor set.

A 2-group G is said to be *wreathed* if G is isomorphic to the wreath product $\mathbb{Z}_{2^m} \text{ wr } \mathbb{Z}_2$ for some $m \geq 2$. In fact, the wreathed 2-group G can be presented as follows :

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, x^z = y \rangle, \quad m \geq 2.$$

The significance of wreathed 2-groups comes from the fact that they occur as Sylow 2-subgroups of known simple groups such as

$$L_3(q) = \text{PSL}_3(q), \quad q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

and

$$U_3(q) = \text{PSU}_3(q), \quad q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}.$$

It is also well-known that Sylow 2-subgroups of

$$\text{GL}_2(q), \quad q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

are wreathed (cf. [1]).

The purpose of this paper is to explicitly determine all the irreducible projective representations of wreathed 2-groups.

2. Some properties of wreathed 2-groups

We investigate some properties of wreathed 2-groups in this section.

First we classify the conjugacy classes of the wreathed 2-group G . The proof of the following can be easily established.

LEMMA 1. *Let*

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, x^z = y \rangle$$

be the wreathed 2-group of order 2^{2m+1} , $m \geq 2$. Then G has $2^{2m-1} + 3 \cdot 2^{m-1}$ conjugacy classes and they are

$$\{1\},$$

$$C_i = \{(xy)^i\} \quad (1 \leq i \leq 2^m - 1),$$

$$C'_j = \{x^j, y^j\} \quad (1 \leq j \leq 2^m - 1),$$

$$C_{ij} = \{x^i y^j, x^j y^i\} \quad (1 \leq i < j \leq 2^m - 1),$$

$$D_k = \{x^i y^j z \mid i + j \equiv k \pmod{2^m}\} \quad (0 \leq k \leq 2^m - 1).$$

PROPOSITION 2. Let

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, x^z = y \rangle$$

be the wreathed 2-group of order 2^{2m+1} , $m \geq 2$ and let F be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then the following hold.

- (1) $G' = [G, G] = \langle xy^{-1} \rangle$ and $|G/G'| = 2^{m+1}$.
- (2) We have

$$F[G] \cong F_1 \oplus \dots \oplus F_{2^{m+1}} \oplus M_1 \oplus \dots \oplus M_{2^{m-1}(2^m-1)},$$

where $F_1 = \dots = F_{2^{m+1}} = F$ and $M_1 = \dots = M_{2^{m-1}(2^m-1)} = \text{Mat}_2(F)$.

Proof. It is easy to show that $G' = \langle xy^{-1} \rangle$ and $|G/G'| = 2^{m+1}$.

Since $U = \langle x, y \rangle$ is an abelian normal subgroup of G and $|G : U| = 2$, the degrees of the irreducible linear representations of G over F are at most 2. Since $|G/G'| = 2^{m+1}$ and G has $2^{2m-1} + 3 \cdot 2^{m-1}$ conjugacy classes, we have

$$|G| = \underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{2^{m+1} \text{ times}} + \underbrace{2^2 + \dots + 2^2}_{2^{m-1}(2^m - 1) \text{ times}}.$$

Thus the assertion holds. □

3. Representation groups of wreathed 2-groups

We now determine a representation group of the wreathed 2-group

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, x^z = y \rangle, \quad m \geq 2.$$

First we consider the Schur multiplier of the wreathed 2-group G .

PROPOSITION 3. Let G be the wreathed 2-group of order 2^{2m+1} , $m \geq 2$. Then the Schur multiplier of G is

$$M(G) \cong C_2.$$

Proof. The proof can be found in [7]. □

Using the above proposition, we can determine a representation group of G as follows.

THEOREM 4. Let

$G^* = \langle s, t, u, v \mid s^{2^m} = t^{2^m} = u^2 = v^2 = 1, [s, u] = [v, u] = 1, [s, t] = u, s^v = t \rangle$, where $m \geq 2$. Then G^* is a group of order 2^{2m+2} ,

$$[G^*, G^*] = \langle st^{-1}, u \rangle, \quad Z(G^*) = \langle s^2 t^2, u \rangle$$

and G^* is a representation group of the wreathed 2-group G .

Proof. It is easy to prove that $[G^*, G^*] = \langle st^{-1}, u \rangle$, $Z(G^*) = \langle s^2t^2, u \rangle$.
 Note that $\langle u \rangle \subseteq Z(G^*) \cap [G^*, G^*]$, $|\langle u \rangle| = |M(G)|$ and $G^*/\langle u \rangle \cong G$.
 Hence G^* is a representation group of G . \square

Now we classify the conjugacy classes of G^* . The following result can be obtained by an easy calculation.

PROPOSITION 5. *Let G^* be a representation group of the wreathed 2-group G defined by*

$G^* = \langle s, t, u, v \mid s^{2^m} = t^{2^m} = u^2 = v^2 = 1, [s, u] = [v, u] = 1, [s, t] = u, s^v = t \rangle$,
 where $m \geq 2$. Then G^* has exactly $5 \cdot 2^{2m-3} + 9 \cdot 2^{m-2}$ conjugacy classes and they are

- $\{s^{i t^i}\}, \{s^{i t^i} u\} \quad (i = 0, 2, \dots, 2^m - 2),$
- $\{s^{i t^i}, s^{i t^i} u\} \quad (i = 1, 3, \dots, 2^m - 1),$
- $\{s^{i t^j}, s^{j t^i}\}, \{s^{i t^j} u, s^{j t^i} u\} \quad (i, j = 0, 2, \dots, 2^m - 2, i \neq j),$
- $\{s^{i t^j}, s^{j t^i}, s^{i t^j} u, s^{j t^i} u\} \quad (i = 0, 1, \dots, 2^{m-1}, j = 1, 3, \dots, 2^m - 1, i \neq j),$
- $\{s^{i t^j} v \mid i + j \equiv l \pmod{2^m}\} \quad (l = 1, 3, \dots, 2^m - 1),$
- $\{s^{i t^j} uv \mid i + j \equiv l \pmod{2^m}\} \quad (l = 1, 3, \dots, 2^m - 1),$
- $\{s^{i t^j} v, s^{i t^j} uv \mid i + j \equiv l \pmod{2^m}\} \quad (l = 0, 2, \dots, 2^m - 2).$

PROPOSITION 6. *Let G^* be a representation group of the wreathed 2-group G defined by*

$G^* = \langle s, t, u, v \mid s^{2^m} = t^{2^m} = u^2 = v^2 = 1, [s, u] = [v, u] = 1, [s, t] = u, s^v = t \rangle$,
 where $m \geq 2$ and let F be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then we have

$$F[G^*] \cong F_1 \oplus \dots \oplus F_{2^{m+1}} \oplus M_1 \oplus \dots \oplus M_{2^{m-1}(2^{m+1})} \oplus N_1 \oplus \dots \oplus N_{2^{m-2}(2^{m-1}-1)},$$

where

$$F_1 = \dots = F_{2^{m+1}} = F, \quad M_1 = \dots = M_{2^{m-1}(2^{m+1})} = \text{Mat}_2(F)$$

and

$$N_1 = \dots = N_{2^{m-2}(2^{m-1}-1)} = \text{Mat}_4(F).$$

Proof. Since $V = \langle s^2, st, u \rangle$ is an abelian normal subgroup of G^* and $|G^* : V| = 4$, the degrees of the irreducible linear representations of G^* over F are at most 4. Since $|G^*/[G^*, G^*]| = 2^{m+1}$ and G^* has $5 \cdot 2^{2m-3} + 9 \cdot 2^{m-2}$ conjugacy classes, we have

$$|G^*| = \underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{2^{m+1} \text{ times}} + \underbrace{2^2 + \dots + 2^2}_{2^{m-1}(2^m + 1) \text{ times}} + \underbrace{4^2 + \dots + 4^2}_{2^{m-2}(2^{m-1} - 1) \text{ times}} .$$

Thus the assertion holds. □

4. Projective representations of wreathed 2-groups

In this section we explicitly determine all the inequivalent irreducible projective representations of wreathed 2-groups using the previous results.

We first consider factor sets of the wreathed 2-group G .

LEMMA 7. *Let*

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, xz = y \rangle$$

be the wreathed 2-group of order 2^{2m+1} , $m \geq 2$ and let F be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then there exists a factor set $\beta : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ of G over F such that

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(x^i y^j, x^k y^l z) &= \beta(x^i y^j, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{jk}, \\ \beta(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l z) &= \beta(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{(j+k+1)l-k} \end{aligned}$$

for all $0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq 2^m - 1$ and β is not equivalent to the trivial factor set 1.

Proof. Let

$$G^* = \langle s, t, u, v \mid s^{2^m} = t^{2^m} = u^2 = v^2 = 1, [s, u] = [v, u] = 1, [s, t] = u, s^v = t \rangle$$

be a representation group of G . Define a (non-homomorphic) map $\tau : G \rightarrow G^*$ (inverse to the obvious homomorphism that goes in the other direction) by setting

$$\tau(x^i y^j) = s^i t^j, \quad \tau(x^i y^j z) = s^i t^j v.$$

As the regular representation of G^* is faithful and is a direct sum of irreducibles, G^* has at least one irreducible representation ρ which does not have u in its kernel. Then $T(g) = \rho(\tau(g))$ ($g \in G$) defines a projective representation of G . The corresponding factor set β may be calculated from

$$T(g)T(h)T(gh)^{-1} = \beta(g, h)I, \quad g, h \in G,$$

where I is the identity matrix.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(y, x)I &= T(y)T(x)T(yx)^{-1} = \rho(\tau(y)\tau(x)\tau(yx)^{-1}) = \rho(u), \\ \beta(y, x)^2I &= \rho(u)^2 = \rho(u^2) = \rho(1) = I. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\rho(u) \neq I$, we have $\beta(y, x) = -1$ and so $\rho(u) = -I$. Using that

$$\beta(g, h)I = T(g)T(h)T(gh)^{-1} = \rho(\tau(g)\tau(h)\tau(gh)^{-1})$$

and $\rho(u) = -I$, we can show that β has the following properties :

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(x^i y^j, x^k y^l z) &= \beta(x^i y^j, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{jk}, \\ \beta(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l z) &= \beta(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{(j+k+1)l-k} \end{aligned}$$

for all $0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq 2^m - 1$.

Now suppose that β is equivalent to the trivial factor set 1. Then there exists a function $c : G \rightarrow F^*$ such that

$$\beta(g, h) = c(g)c(h)c(gh)^{-1}, \quad g, h \in G.$$

Since $\beta(x, y) = 1$, we have $c(xy) = c(x)c(y)$. But

$$-1 = \beta(y, x) = c(y)c(x)c(yx)^{-1} = 1.$$

This is a contradiction. Thus the assertions hold. □

Now we determine all the irreducible projective representations of wreathed 2-groups. The following is our main theorem.

THEOREM 8. *Let*

$$G = \langle x, y, z \mid x^{2^m} = y^{2^m} = z^2 = 1, xy = yx, x^z = y \rangle$$

be the wreathed 2-group of order 2^{2m+1} , $m \geq 2$ and let F be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Let ξ be a primitive 2^m -th root of unity and ϵ a primitive 2^3 -th root of unity in F . Then the following hold.

(1) *For any factor set β of G over F which is not equivalent to the trivial factor set,*

$$F^\beta[G] \cong M_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{2^m} \oplus N_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus N_{2^{m-2}(2^m-1)},$$

where $M_1 = \cdots = M_{2^m} = \text{Mat}_2(F)$ and $N_1 = \cdots = N_{2^{m-2}(2^m-1)} = \text{Mat}_4(F)$.

(2) *Let $\alpha : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ be a factor set of G over F such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(x^i y^j, x^k y^l z) &= \alpha(x^i y^j, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{jk}, \\ \alpha(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l z) &= \alpha(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{(j+k+1)l-k} \end{aligned}$$

for all $0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq 2^m - 1$. Then

$$M(G) = \{\{1\}, \{\alpha\}\}.$$

(3) If $m \geq 3$, then there are 2^m inequivalent irreducible projective representations of G over F of degree 2 with factor set α and they are projective representations

$$T_i : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}_2(F), \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2^m - 1$$

defined by

$$T_i(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi^i \\ \xi^{i+2^{m-2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_i(y) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi^{i+3 \cdot 2^{m-2}} \\ \xi^{i+2^{m-1}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_i(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$T_i(x^j y^k z^l) = T_i(x)^j T_i(y)^k T_i(z)^l.$$

There are $2^{m-2}(2^{m-1} - 1)$ inequivalent irreducible projective representations of G over F of degree 4 with factor set α and they are projective representations

$$S_{ij} : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}_4(F), \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2^{m-1} - 2, \quad i + 1 \leq j \leq 2^{m-1} - 1$$

defined by

$$S_{ij}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi^i & 0 & 0 \\ \xi^{i+2^{m-2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \xi^j \\ 0 & 0 & \xi^{j+2^{m-2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S_{ij}(y) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi^{j+3 \cdot 2^{m-2}} & 0 & 0 \\ \xi^{j+2^{m-1}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \xi^{i+3 \cdot 2^{m-2}} \\ 0 & 0 & \xi^{i+2^{m-1}} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S_{ij}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$S_{ij}(x^k y^l z^n) = S_{ij}(x)^k S_{ij}(y)^l S_{ij}(z)^n.$$

(4) If $m = 2$, then there are 4 inequivalent irreducible projective representations of G over F of degree 2 with factor set α and they are projective representations

$$T_k : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}_2(F), \quad k = 1, 3, 5, 7$$

defined by

$$T_k(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^k \\ \epsilon^{k+2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_k(y) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon^{k+6} \\ \epsilon^{k+4} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_k(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$T_k(x^l y^m z^n) = T_k(x)^l T_k(y)^m T_k(z)^n.$$

There is exactly one inequivalent irreducible projective representation of G over F of degree 4 with factor set α and it is a projective representation

$$S : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}_4(F)$$

defined by

$$S(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ \epsilon^3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^3 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^5 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S(y) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ \epsilon^7 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^7 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^5 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$S(x^l y^m z^n) = S(x)^l S(y)^m S(z)^n.$$

Proof. Let $\beta : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ be a factor set of G which is not equivalent to the trivial factor set. Let G^* be a representation group of G . Then we have

$$F[G^*] \cong \bigoplus_{\{\alpha\}} F^\alpha[G],$$

where the sum runs over all elements $\{\alpha\}$ in $M(G)$. On the other hand, it follows from Proposition 2 and 6 that

$$F[G] \cong F_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus F_{2^{m+1}} \oplus M_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{2^{m-1}(2^m-1)}$$

and

$$F[G^*] \cong F_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus F_{2^{m+1}} \oplus M_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{2^{m-1}(2^m+1)} \oplus N_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus N_{2^{m-2}(2^m-1)},$$

where

$$F_1 = \cdots = F_{2^{m+1}} = F, \quad M_1 = \cdots = M_{2^m(2^{m-1}+1)} = \text{Mat}_2(F)$$

and

$$N_1 = \cdots = N_{2^{m-2}(2^m-1)} = \text{Mat}_4(F).$$

Since β is not equivalent to the trivial factor set, $F^\beta[G]$ is not isomorphic to $F[G]$. Hence it follows that

$$(*) \quad F^\beta[G] \cong M_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus M_{2^m} \oplus N_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus N_{2^{m-2}(2^{m-1}-1)}.$$

Let $\alpha : G \times G \rightarrow F^*$ be a factor set of G over F such that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(x^i y^j, x^k y^l z) &= \alpha(x^i y^j, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{jk}, \\ \alpha(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l z) &= \alpha(x^i y^j z, x^k y^l) = (-1)^{(j+k+1)l-k} \end{aligned}$$

for all $0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq 2^m - 1$. Then it follows from Proposition 3 and Lemma 7 that

$$M(G) = \{\{1\}, \{\alpha\}\}.$$

Since α is not equivalent to the trivial factor set, $(*)$ holds for $\beta = \alpha$. Hence there are 2^m inequivalent irreducible projective representations of G over F of degree 2 with factor set α and there are $2^{m-2}(2^{m-1} - 1)$ inequivalent irreducible projective representations of G over F of degree 4 with factor set α .

Define maps $T_i : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(F)$ and $S_{ij} : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_4(F)$ as in Theorem. Then it is easy to show that T_i and S_{ij} are projective representations of G over F with factor set α . By $(*)$, every T_i and S_{ij} is irreducible. Since, for $i \neq j$, $T_i(xz)$ and $T_j(xz)$ don't have the same eigenvalues, T_i and T_j are not linearly equivalent. If $i \neq k$ or $j \neq l$, then $S_{ij}(x)$ does not have the same eigenvalues as those of $S_{kl}(x)$. Hence S_{ij} and S_{kl} are not linearly equivalent.

This completes the proof. \square

References

- [1] J. L. Alperin, R. Brauer and D. Gorenstein, *Finite groups with quasi-dihedral and wreathed Sylow 2-subgroups*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **151** (1970), 1-261.
- [2] N. Blackburn, *Some homology groups of wreath products*, Illinois J. Math. **16** (1972), 116-129.
- [3] C. W. Curtis and I. Reiner, *Representation Theory of Finite Groups and Associative Algebras*, Interscience, New York, 1962.
- [4] D. Gorenstein, *Finite Groups*, Harper & Rows, New York, 1968.
- [5] B. Huppert, *Endliche Gruppen I*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1967.
- [6] N. Ito, *On the degrees of irreducible representations of a finite group*, Nagoya Math. J. **3** (1951), 5-6.
- [7] G. Karpilovsky, *Group Representations*, vol. 2, Elsevier Science, North-Holland, 1993.
- [8] S. A. Park, *Projective representations of some finite groups*, J. Korean Math. Soc. **22** (1985), 173-180.

- [9] I. Schur, *Untersuchungen über die Darstellung der endlichen Gruppen durch gebrochene lineare substitutionen*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **132** (1907), 85–137.
- [10] M. Suzuki, *Group Theory I, II*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1982, 1986.

Department of Mathematics
Sogang University
Seoul 121-742, Korea
E-mail: kschun@math.sogang.ac.kr