

Contents

Preface *page* xi

Part I Preliminaries, examples and motivations	1
1 Finite Markov chains	3
1.1 Preliminaries and notation	3
1.2 Four basic examples	4
1.3 Markov chains	10
1.4 Convergence to equilibrium	18
1.5 Reversible Markov chains	21
1.6 Graphs	26
1.7 Weighted graphs	28
1.8 Simple random walks	33
1.9 Basic probabilistic inequalities	37
1.10 Lumpable Markov chains	41
2 Two basic examples on abelian groups	46
2.1 Harmonic analysis on finite cyclic groups	46
2.2 Time to reach stationarity for the simple random walk on the discrete circle	55
2.3 Harmonic analysis on the hypercube	58
2.4 Time to reach stationarity in the Ehrenfest diffusion model	61
2.5 The cutoff phenomenon	66
2.6 Radial harmonic analysis on the circle and the hypercube	69

Part II Representation theory and Gelfand pairs	75
3 Basic representation theory of finite groups	77
3.1 Group actions	77
3.2 Representations, irreducibility and equivalence	83
3.3 Unitary representations	83
3.4 Examples	87
3.5 Intertwiners and Schur's lemma	88
3.6 Matrix coefficients and their orthogonality relations	89
3.7 Characters	92
3.8 More examples	96
3.9 Convolution and the Fourier transform	98
3.10 Fourier analysis of random walks on finite groups	103
3.11 Permutation characters and Burnside's lemma	105
3.12 An application: the enumeration of finite graphs	107
3.13 Wielandt's lemma	110
3.14 Examples and applications to the symmetric group	113
4 Finite Gelfand pairs	117
4.1 The algebra of bi- K -invariant functions	118
4.2 Intertwining operators for permutation representations	120
4.3 Finite Gelfand pairs: definition and examples	123
4.4 A characterization of Gelfand pairs	125
4.5 Spherical functions	127
4.6 The canonical decomposition of $L(X)$ via spherical functions	132
4.7 The spherical Fourier transform	135
4.8 Garsia's theorems	140
4.9 Fourier analysis of an invariant random walk on X	143
5 Distance regular graphs and the Hamming scheme	147
5.1 Harmonic analysis on distance-regular graphs	147
5.2 The discrete circle	161
5.3 The Hamming scheme	162
5.4 The group-theoretical approach to the Hamming scheme	165
6 The Johnson scheme and the Bernoulli–Laplace diffusion model	168
6.1 The Johnson scheme	168
6.2 The Gelfand pair $(S_n, S_{n-m} \times S_m)$ and the associated intertwining functions	176

6.3	Time to reach stationarity for the Bernoulli–Laplace diffusion model	180
6.4	Statistical applications	184
6.5	The use of Radon transforms	187
7	The ultrametric space	191
7.1	The rooted tree $\mathbb{T}_{q,n}$	191
7.2	The group $Aut(\mathbb{T}_{q,n})$ of automorphisms	192
7.3	The ultrametric space	194
7.4	The decomposition of the space $L(\Sigma^n)$ and the spherical functions	196
7.5	Recurrence in finite graphs	199
7.6	A Markov chain on Σ^n	202
Part III Advanced theory		207
8	Posets and the q-analogs	209
8.1	Generalities on posets	209
8.2	Spherical posets and regular semi-lattices	216
8.3	Spherical representations and spherical functions	222
8.4	Spherical functions via Moebius inversion	229
8.5	q -binomial coefficients and the subspaces of a finite vector space	239
8.6	The q -Johnson scheme	243
8.7	A q -analog of the Hamming scheme	251
8.8	The nonbinary Johnson scheme	257
9	Complements of representation theory	267
9.1	Tensor products	267
9.2	Representations of abelian groups and Pontrjagin duality	274
9.3	The commutant	276
9.4	Permutation representations	279
9.5	The group algebra revisited	283
9.6	An example of a not weakly symmetric Gelfand pair	291
9.7	Real, complex and quaternionic representations: the theorem of Frobenius and Schur	294
9.8	Greenhalgebras	304
9.9	Fourier transform of a measure	314
10	Basic representation theory of the symmetric group	319
10.1	Preliminaries on the symmetric group	319

10.2	Partitions and Young diagrams	322
10.3	Young tableaux and the Specht modules	325
10.4	Representations corresponding to transposed tableaux	333
10.5	Standard tableaux	335
10.6	Computation of a Fourier transform on the symmetric group	343
10.7	Random transpositions	348
10.8	Differential posets	358
10.9	James' intersection kernels theorem	365
11	The Gelfand pair $(S_{2n}, S_2 \wr S_n)$ and random matchings	371
11.1	The Gelfand pair $(S_{2n}, S_2 \wr S_n)$	371
11.2	The decomposition of $L(X)$ into irreducible components	373
11.3	Computing the spherical functions	374
11.4	The first nontrivial value of a spherical function	375
11.5	The first nontrivial spherical function	376
11.6	Phylogenetic trees and matchings	378
11.7	Random matchings	380
	<i>Appendix 1 The discrete trigonometric transforms</i>	392
	<i>Appendix 2 Solutions of the exercises</i>	407
	<i>Bibliography</i>	421
	<i>Index</i>	433