

# The Fitting Submodule

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## Abstract

Let  $H$  be a finite group,  $\mathbb{F}$  a field and  $V$  a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module. We introduce the Fitting submodule  $F_V(H)$ , an  $\mathbb{F}H$  submodule of  $V$  which has properties similar to the generalized Fitting subgroup of a finite group.

## 1 Introduction

Throughout this paper  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of characteristic  $p$ ,  $p$  a prime,  $H$  is a finite group, and  $V$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module.

We will use the concept of the generalized Fitting subgroup of a finite group as a model for our definition of the Fitting submodule  $F_V(H)$  of  $V$ . In particular,  $F_V(H)$  will be defined by means of components which in turn resemble components of finite groups.

Our first result can be stated without mentioning the Fitting submodule:

**Theorem 1.1** *Suppose that  $V$  is faithful and  $O_p(H) = 1$ . Then there exists an  $\mathbb{F}H$ -section of  $V$  that is faithful and semisimple.*

In fact 1.1 is a corollary of 1.3 and 1.4 below, which show that  $F_V(H)/\text{rad}_{F_V(H)}(H)$  has the desired properties.

To introduce the concept of a Fitting submodule we need a few basic definitions, some of them inspired by corresponding definitions in finite group theory.

**Definition 1.2** (a)  $H$  acts nilpotently on  $V$  if  $[W, H] < W$  for all non-zero  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules  $W$  of  $V$ .

(b)  $C_H^*(V)$  is the largest normal subgroup of  $H$  acting nilpotently on  $V$ . It is elementary to show that  $C_H^*(V)/C_H(V) = O_p(H/C_H(V))$  and that  $C_H^*(V)$  is the largest subnormal subgroup of  $H$  acting nilpotently on  $V$ .

(c)  $V$  is  $H$ -reduced if  $C_H^*(V) = C_H(V)$  (that is if any normal subgroup of  $H$  which acts nilpotently on  $V$  already centralizes  $V$ ).

(d)  $C_V^*(H)$  is largest  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $V$  on which  $H$  acts nilpotently (so  $C_V^*(H) = C_V(O^p(H))$ );

(e)  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  is the intersection of the maximal  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules of  $V$  (so  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  is the smallest  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule with semisimple quotient).

- (f) Let  $W$  be an  $\mathbb{F}H$  submodule of  $V$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Then  $W$  is  $N$ -quasisimple if  $W$  is  $H$ -reduced,  $W/\text{rad}_W(H)$  is simple,  $W = [W, N]$  and  $N$  acts nilpotently on  $\text{rad}_W(H)$ . If  $N = H$  we often write quasisimple rather than  $H$ -quasisimple.
- (g)  $S_V(H)$  is the sum of all simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules of  $V$ , and  $E_H(V) := C_{\mathbb{F}^*(H)}(S_V(H))$ .
- (h)  $W$  is a component of  $V$  (or an  $H$ -component if we want to emphasize the dependence on  $H$ ) if either  $W$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule with  $[W, \mathbb{F}^*(H)] \neq 0$  or  $W$  is an  $E_H(V)$ -quasisimple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule. The Fitting submodule  $F_V(H)$  of  $V$  is the sum of all components of  $V$ .
- (i)  $R_V(H) := \sum \text{rad}_W(H)$ , where the sum runs over all the components of  $V$ , and  $\overline{F_V(H)} := F_V(H)/R_V(H)$ .

**Theorem 1.3** *The Fitting submodule  $F_V(H)$  is  $H$ -reduced and  $R_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}^*(H)$ -module. Moreover,  $R_V(H) = \text{rad}_{F_V(H)}(H)$ ; in particular  $F_V(H)/R_V(H)$  is semisimple.*

**Theorem 1.4** *Let  $V$  be faithful and  $H$ -reduced. Then also  $F_V(H)$  and  $F_V(H)/R_V(H)$  are faithful and  $H$ -reduced.*

In section 3 we will discuss the relation between the Fitting submodule  $F_V(H)$  and the Fitting submodule  $F_V(N)$ , where  $N$  is a subnormal subgroup of  $H$ . Finally, in section 4 the structure of the  $\mathbb{F}^*(H)$ -components of  $V$  is given in the case where  $\mathbb{F}$  is a finite or algebraically closed field.

## 2 The Fitting Submodule

We will frequently use the following well-known and elementary properties of the generalized Fitting subgroup  $\mathbb{F}^*(H)$  of  $H$ , see for example [1]:

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $E \leq H$ .*

- (a) *If  $E \trianglelefteq H$ , then  $\mathbb{F}^*(E) = E \cap \mathbb{F}^*(H)$ .*
- (b) *If  $E = \mathbb{F}^*(E)$ , then  $E = O_p(E)O^p(E)$  and  $[O^p(E), O_p(E)] = 1$ .*
- (c) *If  $E$  is a product of components of  $H$ , then  $\mathbb{F}^*(H) = EC_{\mathbb{F}^*(H)}(E)$ .*
- (d) *If  $E$  is a component of  $H$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$ , then either  $E \leq N$  or  $[E, N] = 1$ .*

□

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $E$  and  $P$  be normal subgroups of  $H$  with  $[E, P] \leq C_H(V)$ . Suppose that  $V = [V, E]$  and  $V/C_V^*(E)$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module. Then the following hold:*

- (a)  $\text{rad}_V(H) = C_V^*(E)$ .
- (b)  $V$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module, and every simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodule of  $V$  is isomorphic to a simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodule of  $V/\text{rad}_H V$ . In particular, if  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodules of  $V$ , then there exists  $h \in H$  such that  $I_1$  and  $I_2^h$  are isomorphic as  $\mathbb{F}P$ -modules.
- (c) If  $E = \mathbb{F}^*(E)$ , then  $C_H(V/\text{rad}_V(H)) = C_H(V)$ ,  $V$  is  $H$ -reduced and  $V$  is  $E$ -quasisimple as an  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module.
- (d) If  $E = \mathbb{F}^*(E)$ , then  $E$  centralizes  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  and  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  is semisimple as an  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module.
- (e) Either  $[V, P] = 0$ , or  $C_V(P) = 0$  and  $[V, P] = V$ .

**Proof:** (a): Let  $Y$  be a maximal  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $V$ . If  $C_V^*(E) \not\leq Y$  then  $V = Y + C_V^*(E)$ . So  $E$  acts nilpotently on  $V/Y$ , contradicting  $V = [V, E]$ . Thus  $C_V^*(E) \leq Y$  and so  $C_V^*(E) \leq \text{rad}_V(H)$ . The other inclusion follows from the simplicity of  $V/C_V^*(E)$ .

(b): Since  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$  is a simple  $H$ -module, Clifford Theory shows that  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module and that any two simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodules of  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$  are isomorphic up to conjugacy under  $H$ . Let  $U$  be the sum of all  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodules of  $V$  that are isomorphic to some simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodule of  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$ . It remains to show that  $V = U$ .

Let  $x \in O^p(E)$ . Then

$$\phi : V \rightarrow [V, x] \text{ with } v \mapsto [v, x]$$

is an  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module homomorphism since  $[E, P] \leq C_H(V)$ , so  $[V, x] \cong_{\mathbb{F}P} V/C_V(x)$ . As  $\text{rad}_V(H) \leq C_V(x)$  and  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module,  $[V, x] \leq U$ . Hence also

$$V = [V, E] = [V, O^p(E)] \leq U$$

and thus  $V = U$ .

(c): Put  $C := C_H(V/\text{rad}_V(H))$ . By (a)  $C \cap E$  acts nilpotently on  $V/\text{rad}_V(H)$  and on  $\text{rad}_V(H)$ . Thus  $O^p(C \cap E)$  centralizes  $V$ . By 2.1(a),  $C \cap E = F^*(C \cap E)$ , and by 2.1(b),

$$C \cap E = O_p(C \cap E)O^p(C \cap E) \leq O_p(E)C_E(V) \text{ and } [O_p(E), O^p(E)] = 1.$$

Thus  $[O^p(E), C \cap E] \leq C_E(V)$ . Since

$$[V, C, O^p(E)] \leq [\text{rad}_V(H), O^p(E)] = 0 \text{ and } V = [V, O^p(E)],$$

the Three Subgroups Lemma gives  $C \cap E \leq C_H(V)$  and then that  $C \leq C_H(V)$ . Clearly  $C_H(V) \leq C$  and so  $C = C_H(V)$ . Since  $C_H^*(V)$  acts trivially on every simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -section of  $V$ ,  $C_H^*(V) \leq C = C_H(V)$  and so  $V$  is  $H$ -reduced. Together with (a) we see that  $V$  fulfills all the conditions of an  $E$ -quasisimple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module.

(d): According to (c),  $[\text{rad}_V(H), O^p(E)] = 0$  and  $[V, O_p(E)] = 0$ . Hence  $E$  centralizes  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  since  $E = F^*(E) = O_p(E)O^p(E)$ .

By (b)  $V$  and so also  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module. Thus  $\text{rad}_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module.

(e): This is an immediate consequence of (b).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3** *Let  $N \trianglelefteq H$  with  $N \leq E_H(V)$  and  $N \not\leq C_H^*(V)$ . Let  $W$  be an  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $V$  that is minimal with respect to  $N \not\leq C_H^*(W)$ . Then*

- (a)  $W$  is a  $H$ -component of  $V$ .
- (b)  $W = [W, N]$  and  $C_W^*(N) = \text{rad}_W(H) = C_W(E_H(V)) \neq 0$ .
- (c) There exists a unique normal subgroup  $M$  of  $H$  minimal with respect to  $M \leq E_H(V)$  and  $[W, M] \neq 0$ .
- (d)  $M \leq N$ ,  $W = [W, M]$  and  $M$  is a product of components of  $H$  transitively permuted by  $H$ .
- (e)  $C_{E_H(V)}(M) = C_{E_H(V)}(W)$ .

**Proof:** The minimality of  $W$  implies that  $C_W^*(N)$  is the unique maximal  $H$ -submodule of  $W$ . Thus

$$1^\circ \quad C_W^*(N) = \text{rad}_W(H) \text{ and } W/\text{rad}_W(H) \text{ is a simple } \mathbb{F}H\text{-module,}$$

If  $[W, N] \leq C_W^*(N)$ , then  $N$  acts nilpotently on  $W$ , a contradiction. Thus  $[W, N] \not\leq C_W^*(N)$  and the minimality of  $W$  gives

$$2^\circ \quad W = [W, N].$$

Observe that by 2.1  $N = F^*(N)$ . Hence by 2.2(c) applied with  $N$  and  $W$  in place of  $E$  and  $V$ , respectively:

3°  $W$  is a  $H$ -reduced.

Since  $[W, N] \neq 0$  and  $N \leq E_H(V)$ ,  $W$  is not a simple  $H$ -module. Thus

4°  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ .

Choose  $M \trianglelefteq H$  minimal in  $N$  with  $[W, M] \not\leq \text{rad}_W(H)$ . Then

5°  $W = [W, M] = [W, O^p(M)]$ ,

and so by the minimality of  $M$  and 2.1,  $M = O^p(M) = F^*(M)$ . Hence  $M$  is a  $p'$ -group or a product of components transitively permuted by  $H$ . As a subgroup of  $N$ ,  $M$  acts nilpotently on  $\text{rad}_W(H)$ , so

6°  $[\text{rad}_W(H), M] = 0$ .

Assume that  $M$  is a  $p'$ -group. Then Maschke's Theorem implies  $W = C_W(M) \oplus [W, M]$  and  $\text{rad}_W(M) = C_W(M) = 0$ , which contradicts (4°). Thus

7°  $M$  is the product of components of  $H$  transitively permuted by  $H$ .

By 2.1(c)

$$(*) \quad E_H(V) = MC_{E_H(V)}(M).$$

We now apply 2.2(e) with  $E := M$ ,  $P := C_{E_H(V)}(M)$  and  $W$  in place of  $V$ . Since  $P \leq E_H(V)$ ,  $P$  centralizes all simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules of  $W$ . Thus  $C_W(P) \neq 0$  and 2.2(e) implies  $[W, P] = 0$ . Hence by (6°)

8°  $[W, P] = 0$ , and  $E_H(V) = MP$  centralizes  $\text{rad}_W(H)$ .

Since  $N \leq E_H(V)$ , (2°) implies

9°  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$ .

If  $M_1$  is any normal subgroup of  $H$  with  $M_1 \leq E_H(V)$  and  $M_1 \not\leq P$ , then  $1 \neq [M, M_1] \leq M \cap M_1$ , and (7°) shows that  $M = [M, M_1] \leq M_1$ . In particular,

$[W, M_1] \neq 0$  and so by (8°)

10°  $C_{E_H(V)}(W) = P = C_{E_H(V)}(M)$ .

Hence  $M_1$  is an arbitrary normal subgroup of  $E_H(V)$  not centralizing  $W$ . Thus  $M \leq M_1$  implies (c). By (1°), (4°) (8°) and (9°)  $W$  is  $E_H(V)$ -quasisimple and so (a) holds. Moreover, (b) follows from (1°), (2°), (3°) and (8°), and (d) follows from (5°) and (7°). Finally (e) is (10°).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4** (a)  $\overline{F_V(H)}$  is a semisimple  $H$ -module and  $[F_V(H), F^*(H)] = F_V(H)$ .

(b)  $F_V(H)$  is  $H$ -reduced.

(c)  $R_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}F^*(H)$ -module.

**Proof:** Let  $W$  be a component of  $V$ . Note that either  $W \leq R_V(H)$  or  $W \cap R_V(H) = \text{rad}_W(H)$ .

(a): Using the above observation, (a) is an immediate consequence of the definition of  $F_V(H)$ .

(b): By definition all components are either simple or  $E_H(V)$ -quasisimple, so they are reduced. Clearly sums of reduced modules are reduced and so (b) holds.

(c): Let  $W$  be a non-simple component of  $V$ . Then by 2.2(d) applied with  $E := E_H(V)$ ,  $P := C_{F^*(H)}(E)$  and  $W$  in place of  $V$ ,  $\text{rad}_W H$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module. By 2.1  $F^*(H) = EP$  and so (c) holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5** *The following hold:*

- (a)  $C_{F_V(H)}^*(E_H(V)) = [S_V(H), F^*(H)] + R_V(H) = C_{F_V(H)}(E_H(V))$
- (b)  $C_{F^*(H)}^*(V) = C_{F^*(H)}(F_V(H)) = O_p(H)C_{F^*(H)}(V) \leq E_H(V)$ .
- (c)  $F(H) \cap E_H(V) = C_{F(H)}^*(V) = C_{F(H)}(F_V(H)) = O_p(H)C_{F(H)}(V)$ .
- (d) *If  $V$  is faithful and  $H$ -reduced, then  $E_H(V)$  is the direct product of perfect simple groups.*

**Proof:**

(a): Let  $W$  be a component of  $V$ . Then either  $\text{rad}W = 0$  and  $W \leq [S_V(H), F^*(H)]$  or  $\text{rad}W \neq 0$ ,  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$  and  $W/\text{rad}W(H)$  is simple. Thus  $U := F_V(H)/[S_V(H), F^*(H)] + R_V(H)$  is a sum of simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module that are not centralized by  $E_H(V)$ . So  $C_U(E_H(V)) = 0$  and  $C_{F_V(H)}^*(E_H(V)) \leq [S_V(H), F^*(H)] + R_V(H)$ .

Let  $W$  be a component of  $V$  with  $\text{rad}W(H) \neq 0$ . Then by 2.3(b), applied with  $N := E_H(V)$ ,  $[F_V(H), E_H(V)] = 0$ . The definition of  $E_H(V)$  shows that  $[S_V(H), E_H(V)] = 0$  and so

$$[S_V(H), F^*(H)] + R_V(H) \leq C_{F_V(H)}(E_H(V)).$$

Clearly  $C_{F_V(H)}(E_H(V)) \leq C_{F_V(H)}^*(E_H(V))$  and so (a) holds.

(b): Since  $F_V(H)$  is  $H$ -reduced by 2.4(b),  $C_{F^*(H)}^*(V) \leq C_{F^*(H)}(F_V(H)) =: N$ . Then  $N \leq E_H(V)$  since

$$S_V(H) = (S_V(H) \cap F_V(H)) + C_V(F^*(H)).$$

If  $N$  does not act nilpotently on  $V$ , then 2.3 gives a component  $W$  of  $V$  with  $[W, N] \neq 0$ , which contradicts  $[F_V(H), N] = 0$ . Thus  $N$  acts nilpotently on  $V$  and so  $O^p(N) \leq C_N(V)$ . By 2.1(b)  $N = O_p(N)O^p(N) = O_p(N)C_N(V) \leq O_p(H)C_{F^*(H)}(V)$ .

Clearly  $O_p(H)C_{F^*(H)}(V) \leq C_{F^*(H)}^*(V)$  and so (b) holds.

(c): By (b),  $C_{F(H)}^*(V) = C_{F(H)}(F_V(H)) = O_p(H)C_{F(H)}(V) \leq F(H) \cap E_H(V)$ . Suppose  $F(H) \cap E_H(V) \not\leq C_{F(H)}^*(V)$ . Then by 2.3(d),  $F(H) \cap E_H(V)$  is not nilpotent, a contradiction.

(d) If  $V$  is faithful and  $H$ -reduced,  $C_H^*(V) = 1$ . So by (c),  $F(E_H(V)) = F(H) \cap E_H(V) = 1$ . Since  $E_H(V)$  is the central product of nilpotent and quasisimple groups, (d) holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6** *Let  $W$  be an  $H$ -submodule of  $V$  such that  $W/C_W^*(E_H(V))$  is a simple  $H$ -module. Choose an  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule  $Y$  in  $W$  minimal with  $Y \not\leq C_W^*(E_H(V))$ . Then*

$$Y = [W, O^p(E_H(V))] \text{ and } W = Y + C_W^*(E_H(V)),$$

*and  $Y$  is a component of  $V$ .*

**Proof:** Since  $W/C_W^*(E_H(V))$  is simple,  $W = Y + C_W^*(E_H(V))$ . Thus  $[W, O^p(E_H(V))] \leq Y$ . Since  $[W, O^p(E_H(V))] \not\leq C_W^*(E_H(V))$ , the minimality of  $Y$  implies  $Y = [W, O^p(E_H(V))]$ . By 2.3(a),  $Y$  is a component.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7** *Put  $\mathcal{C} := \{\overline{W} \mid W \text{ component of } V, \overline{W} \neq 0\}$ . Then every  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $\overline{F_V(H)}$  is the direct sum of elements of  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

**Proof:** It suffices to show the assertion for simple submodules since  $\overline{F_V(H)}$  is semisimple by 2.4(a).

Let  $U/R_V(H)$  be a simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $\overline{F_V(H)}$ . We need to show that  $U = Y + R_V(H)$  for some component  $Y$  of  $V$ . Since by 2.5(a)  $R_V(H) \leq C_U(E_H(V))$  either  $C_U^*(E_H(V)) = R_V(H)$  or  $C_U^*(E_H(V)) = U$ . In the first case the claim for  $U$  follows from 2.6.

In the second case 2.5(a) implies  $U \leq [S_V(H), F^*(H)] + R_V(H)$  and so

$$U = (U \cap [S_V(H), F^*(H)]) + R_V(H).$$

Since  $[S_V(H), F^*(H)]$  is the sum of simple  $H$ -components of  $V$ , so is  $U \cap [S_V(H), F^*(H)]$ . Thus, also in this case the claim holds for  $U$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8** *Let  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Then*

$$C_{\overline{F_V(H)}}(N) = \overline{C_{F_V(H)}(N)}.$$

**Proof:** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be as in 2.7. Then by 2.7

$$C_{\overline{F_V(H)}}(N) = \langle \overline{W} \in \mathcal{C} \mid [\overline{W}, N] = 0 \rangle.$$

Let  $W$  be a  $H$ -component of  $V$  such that  $\overline{W} \neq 0$  and  $[\overline{W}, N] = 0$ . Since  $\overline{W}$  is semisimple and  $\text{rad}_W(H)$  is the unique maximal  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $W$ ,  $\text{rad}_W(H) = W \cap R_V(H)$ . If  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$ , this shows that  $[W, N] = 0$ . If  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ , then  $W$  is  $E$ -quasisimple for  $E := E_H(V)$ . In this case 2.2(c) with  $W$  in place of  $V$  implies that  $[W, N] = 0$ , so the lemma holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9** *Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a set of  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules of  $V$ . Then*

$$\text{rad}_{\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W}(H) = \sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \text{rad}_W(H).$$

**Proof:** Clearly  $\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W / \sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \text{rad}_W(H)$  is semisimple and so

$$\text{rad}_{\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W}(H) \leq \sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} \text{rad}_W(H).$$

On the other hand, for  $W \in \mathcal{W}$ ,  $W + \text{rad}_{\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W}(H) / \text{rad}_{\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W}(H)$  semisimple, so

$$\text{rad}_W(H) \leq \text{rad}_{\sum_{W \in \mathcal{W}} W}(H),$$

and the reverse inequality holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.10**  $R_V(H) = \text{rad}_{F_V(H)}(H)$ .

**Proof:** This follows immediately from 2.9 and the definition of  $R_V(H)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.11**  $C_H(F_V(H)) = C_H(\overline{F_V(H)})$

**Proof:** Let  $N = C_H(F_V(H))$ . Then by 2.8,  $F_V(H) = C_{F_V(H)}(N) + R_V(H)$ , and by 2.10,  $F_V(H) = C_{F_V(H)}(N)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.12** *Suppose that  $V$  is faithful and  $H$ -reduced. Then  $F_V(H)$  and  $F_V(H)/R_H(V)$  are faithful and  $H$ -reduced  $\mathbb{F}H$ -modules.*

**Proof:** By 2.4(b)  $F_V(H)$  is reduced. Moreover  $\overline{F_V(H)}$  is semisimple and thus also  $H$ -reduced. From 2.5(b) we get  $C_{F^*(H)}(F_V(H)) \leq C_H^*(V) = 1$ . Hence  $F^*(C_H(F_V(H))) = 1$  and so  $C_H(F_V(H)) = 1$ . Thus  $F_V(H)$  is faithful. Now 2.11 implies that also  $\overline{F_V(H)}$  is faithful.  $\square$

**The proof of the Theorems 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4:** Theorem 1.3 is 2.4(a), (c) and 2.10, while Theorem 1.4 is 2.12. Moreover, Theorem 1.1 is a direct consequence of these two theorems.

### 3 The Fitting Submodule for Normal Subgroups

In this section we investigate the relationship between the Fitting submodules for  $H$  and for normal subgroups.

**Lemma 3.1** *Let  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Then  $S_V(H) \leq S_V(N)$  and  $E_H(V) \cap N = E_N(V)$ .*

**Proof:** Using induction on the subnormal defect of  $N$  in  $H$ , it suffices to treat the case  $N \trianglelefteq H$ .

Let  $W$  be a simple  $H$ -submodule. Then by Clifford Theory  $W$  is a semisimple  $N$ -module and so  $S_V(H) \leq S_V(N)$ . Thus together with 2.1  $E_N(V) \leq E_H(V) \cap N$ .

Conversely, let  $Y$  be a simple  $N$ -submodule of  $V$  and let  $U$  be the sum of all  $N$ -submodule of  $V$  isomorphic to some  $H$ -conjugate of  $Y$ . Then  $U$  is an  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodule of  $V$  and we can choose a simple  $H$ -submodule  $W$  of  $U$ . As an  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module,  $W$  is a direct sum of modules isomorphic to  $H$ -conjugates of  $Y$ , with each  $H$ -conjugate appearing at least once. Hence  $E_H(V) \cap N \leq C_{\mathbb{F}^*(N)}(W) \leq C_{\mathbb{F}^*(N)}(Y)$ . Intersecting over all the possible  $Y$  gives  $E_H(V) \cap N \leq E_N(V)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $W$  be a  $H$ -component of  $V$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Then there exists a  $\mathbb{F}N$ -submodule  $Y \leq W$  with  $W = \langle Y^H \rangle$  such that either  $Y$  is an  $N$ -component of  $V$  or  $Y$  is simple and  $[W, F^*(N)] = 1$ . In particular,  $F_V(H) \leq S_V(N) + F_V(N)$ .*

**Proof:** Again we use induction on the defect  $d_H(N)$  of  $N$  in  $H$ . Assume that  $d_H(N) > 1$ . Then there exists  $N \leq N_1 \trianglelefteq H$  so that  $d_{N_1}(N) < d_H(N)$ . By induction there exists an  $\mathbb{F}N_1$ -submodule  $Y_1$  of  $W$  with  $W = \langle Y_1^H \rangle$  such that either  $Y_1$  is simple and  $[W, F^*(N_1)] = 0$  or  $Y_1$  is a  $N_1$ -component of  $V$ . In the first case by 2.1 also  $[W, F^*(N)] = 0$  and we can choose a simple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -submodule  $Y$  of  $Y_1$ . In the second case induction applies to every  $H$ -conjugate of  $Y_1$  in  $W$ , so either  $[W, F^*(N)] = 0$  and  $Y_1 = \langle Y^{N_1} \rangle$  for a simple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -submodule  $Y$  of  $Y_1$  or there exists  $h \in H$  and an  $N$ -component  $Y$  of  $V$  with  $W^h = \langle Y^{N_1} \rangle$ . In any case  $W = \langle Y^H \rangle$  and the lemma holds.

Thus it remains to treat the case  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Let  $Y \leq W$  be a  $N$ -submodule minimal with  $Y \not\leq \text{rad}_W(H)$ . Then  $Y/Y \cap \text{rad}_W(H)$  is a simple  $N$ -module and  $W = \langle Y^H \rangle$ .

Suppose that  $Y$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module, then the minimality of  $Y$  shows that  $Y$  is simple. If  $[Y, F^*(N)] = 0$ , then also  $[W, F^*(N)] = 0$ ; and if  $[Y, F^*(N)] \neq 0$ , then  $Y$  is a  $N$ -component of  $V$ .

Suppose that  $Y$  is not a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module. Then  $Y \cap \text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$  and also  $W$  is not a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module. By the definition of a component,  $W$  is  $E_H(V)$ -quasisimple. Now 2.2(b), with  $(N, E_H(V), W)$  in place of  $(P, E, V)$ , shows that  $R := [E_H(V), N] \not\leq C_H(W)$ .

Since  $W$  is reduced,  $R$  does not act nilpotently on  $W$ , so  $C_W^*(E_N(V)) \leq C_W^*(R) \leq \text{rad}_W(H)$ . On the other hand  $E_H(V) \leq C_H^*(\text{rad}_W(H))$  and so by 3.1  $\text{rad}_W(H) \leq C_W^*(E_N(V))$ . This shows that  $C_W^*(E_N(V)) = \text{rad}_W(H)$ . Hence by 2.6, applied to  $(N, Y)$  in place of  $(H, W)$ , and the minimality of  $Y$  show that  $Y$  is a  $N$ -component of  $V$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3**  $E_{\mathbb{F}^*(H)}(V) = E_H(V)$  and  $F_V(H) \leq F_V(F^*(H))$ .

**Proof:** Since  $E_H(V) \leq F^*(H)$  the first statement follows from 3.1 applied with  $N := F^*(H)$ .

Note that  $W = [W, F^*(H)]$  for all components of  $V$ . The second statement then follows from 3.2 again with  $N := F^*(H)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $E$  and  $F$  be two distinct components of  $E_H(V)$ . Then*

$$[F_V(H), E, F] = 0$$

**Proof:** By 3.3 we may assume that  $H = F^*(H)$ . Let  $W$  be an  $H$ -component of  $V$  with  $[W, E] \neq 0$ . We can apply 2.3 with  $N := E_H(V)$ . By part (c) and (d) of that lemma  $E$  is the unique normal subgroup of  $H$  minimal with  $[W, E] \neq 0$ . Since  $[E, F] = 1$ , part (e) gives  $[W, F] = 0$ . Since  $F_V(H)$  is the sum of all the components of  $V$  the lemma holds.  $\square$

Recall that a Wedderburn-component for  $H$  on  $V$  is a maximal sum of isomorphic simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -submodules.

**Proposition 3.5** *Let  $W$  be an  $H$ -component of  $V$ ,  $N \trianglelefteq H$  and  $\text{rad}_W(H) \leq Y_1 \leq W$  such that  $Y_1/\text{rad}_W(H)$  is a Wedderburn-component for  $N$  on  $W/\text{rad}_W(H)$ . Put  $Y := Y_1$  if  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$ , and  $Y := [Y_1, E_H(V)]$  if  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ . Then  $E_H(V) \leq N_H(Y_1)$ ,  $Y = Y_1 + \text{rad}_W(H)$  and  $Y$  is a  $N_H(Y_1)$ -component of  $V$ .*

**Proof:** Set  $L := N_H(Y_1)$  and  $\widetilde{W} := W/\text{rad}_W(H)$ . Let  $D \leq H$  with  $[D, N] \leq C_N(Y_1)$  and  $U$  be any simple  $N$ -submodule of  $\widetilde{Y}_1$ . Then  $[D, N] \leq C_N(U)$ , and for all  $d \in D$  the map

$$U \rightarrow U^d \text{ with } u \mapsto u^d \quad (u \in U)$$

is an  $\mathbb{F}N$ -isomorphism. Thus  $U^d$  is in the Wedderburn-component  $\widetilde{Y}_1$ , and

$$(*) \quad D \leq L$$

By 2.5(c) and 2.1(d),  $E_H(V) = C_{E_H(V)}(F_V(H))(E_H(V) \cap N)C_{E_H(V)}(N)$  and so by (\*),  $E_H(V) \leq L$ . This is the first part of the claim.

Since  $\widetilde{W}$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module, Clifford Theory implies that  $\widetilde{Y}_1$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}L$ -module. Suppose first that  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ . With  $E_H(V)$  in place of  $N$  3.1 gives  $E_H(V) = E_{E_H(V)}(V)$ . Then with  $(L, E_H(V))$  in place of  $(H, N)$  3.1 gives  $E_H(V) \leq E_L(V)$ . Observe that  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$  since  $W$  is  $E_H(V)$ -quasisimple, so  $Y = [Y, E_H(V)] \neq 0$ . Hence 2.3(a) applied with  $(L, E_H(V), Y, V)$  in place of  $(H, N, W, V)$  shows that  $Y$  is a component for  $L$ .

Suppose now that  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$ . To show that  $Y$  is an  $L$ -component of  $V$  it suffices to show that  $[Y, F^*(L)] \neq 0$ . Observe that  $[F^*(H), N] \leq F^*(N) \leq F^*(L)$ . So if  $[F^*(H), N]$  does not centralize  $Y$ , we are done. If  $[F^*(H), N] \leq C_N(Y)$ , then (\*) implies  $F^*(H) \leq L$  and so  $F^*(H) \leq F^*(L)$ . By the definition of a component,  $[W, F^*(H)] \neq 1$ , and since  $W$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}H$ -module also  $[Y, F^*(H)] \neq 1$ . Thus  $[Y, F^*(L)] \neq 1$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.6** *Let  $N \trianglelefteq H$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (a)  $F_V(H)$  is a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module.
- (b) If  $K$  is a component of  $E_H(V)$  with  $K \leq N$ , then  $[V, K] = 0$ .
- (c)  $E_N(V) = E_H(V) \cap N \leq C_H^*(V)$ .
- (d)  $[N, E_H(V)] \leq C_H(F_V(H))$ .

**Proof:** (a) $\implies$ (b): Let  $K$  be a component of  $E_H(V)$  with  $K \leq N$ . By 3.1,  $K = E_K(V)$  and so  $K$  centralizes all simple  $\mathbb{F}K$ -submodules. Since  $F_V(H)$  is semisimple as an  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module and so also as an  $\mathbb{F}K$ -module,  $[F_V(H), K] = 1$ . Thus by 2.5(b),  $K$  centralizes  $V$ .

(b) $\implies$ (c): By 2.5(c),  $F(E_H(V) \cap N) \leq C_H^*(V)$  and by (b) any component of  $E_H(V) \cap N$  is contained in  $C_H(V)$ . Hence  $E_H(V) \cap N \leq C_H^*(V)$ , and 3.1 shows that  $E_N(V) = E_H(V) \cap N$ .

(c) $\implies$ (d): By (c)  $[N, E_H(V)] \leq C_{F^*(H)}^*(V)$  and by 2.5(c),  $C_{F^*(H)}^*(V) \leq C_H(F_V(H))$ .

(d) $\implies$ (a): Let  $W$  be a component of  $V$ . If  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$ ,  $W$  is a simple  $H$ -module and so a semisimple  $N$ -module. Suppose that  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ . Then  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$  and by 2.2(b) with  $(W, N, E_H(V))$  in place of  $(V, P, E)$ ,  $W$  is a semisimple  $N$ -module.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7** *Let  $W$  be component of  $V$  and  $N \trianglelefteq H$  such that  $W$  is semisimple as an  $\mathbb{F}N$ -module. Let  $Y$  be a Wedderburn-component for  $N$  on  $W$ . Then  $Y$  is an  $N_H(Y)$ -component of  $V$ .*

**Proof:** Define  $\widetilde{W} := W/\text{rad}_W(H)$ . Then since  $W$  is a semisimple  $N$ -module,  $\widetilde{Y}$  is a Wedderburn component for  $N$  on  $\widetilde{W}$ . If  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$  we are done by 3.5.

Suppose that  $\text{rad}_W(H) \neq 0$ . Then  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$  and clearly  $W = F_W(H)$ . Since 3.6(a) holds for  $W$  in place of  $V$ , 3.6(d) implies  $[N, E_H(W)] \leq C_H(W)$ . Thus also  $[N, E_H(V)] \leq C_H(W)$  since  $E_H(V) \leq E_H(W)$ . This shows that  $E_H(V)$  normalizes every Wedderburn component for  $N$  on  $W$ .

Let  $Y_1, \dots, Y_r$  be the Wedderburn components of  $N$  on  $W$ . Then

$$W = Y_1 \oplus \dots \oplus Y_r \text{ and } [W, E_H(V)] = [Y_1, E_H(V)] \oplus \dots \oplus [Y_r, E_H(V)].$$

From  $W = [W, E_H(V)]$  we conclude that  $Y_i = [Y_i, E_H(V)]$  for  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . On the other hand by 2.2(d) and 3.5

$$[Y_i + \text{rad}_W(H), E_H(V)] = [Y_i, E_H(V)] = Y_i$$

is a  $N_H(Y_i + \text{rad}_W(H))$ -component of  $W$ . Then  $N_H(Y_i + \text{rad}_W(H)) = N_H(Y_i)$ , and  $Y_i$  is a  $N_H(Y_i)$ -component.  $\square$

## 4 The Structure of an $F^*(H)$ -component of $V$

In this section we determine the structure the  $F^*(H)$ -components of  $V$  for the case that  $\mathbb{F}$  is finite or algebraically closed.

**Lemma 4.1** *Suppose  $\mathbb{F}$  is finite or algebraically closed. Let  $E, P \leq H$  with  $[E, P] = 1$ . Suppose there exists a simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module  $Y$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $V \cong Y^n$  has an  $\mathbb{F}P$ -module. Put  $\mathbb{K} = \text{End}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y)$ . Then  $\mathbb{K}$  is a finite field extension of  $\mathbb{F}$  and there exists an  $\mathbb{K}E$ -module  $X$  with  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} X = n$  such that*

$$V \cong_{\mathbb{F}(E \times P)} X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$$

Moreover, the following hold:

- (a) *If  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{F}EP}(V) = \mathbb{F}$ , then  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}$ .*
- (b) *If  $V$  is a simple  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module, then  $X$  is a simple  $\mathbb{K}E$ -module.*
- (c) *If  $V$  is an  $E$ -quasisimple  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module, then  $X$  is a quasisimple  $\mathbb{K}E$ -module.*

**Proof:** By Schur's Lemma  $\mathbb{K}$  is a division ring. Since  $V$  is finite dimensional,  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathbb{K}$  is finite. More precisely, if  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed then  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{K}$ ; and if  $\mathbb{F}$  is finite then  $\mathbb{K}$  is finite. In any case  $\mathbb{K}$  is a field.

Let  $X = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y, V)$ . Then  $X$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{K}$  via

$$(kx)(y) := x(ky) \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{K}, y \in Y \text{ and } x \in X.$$

Moreover,  $E$  acts on  $X$  by  $(x^e)(y) := x(y)^e$  and this action is  $\mathbb{K}$ -linear. Thus  $X$  is a  $\mathbb{K}E$ -module. We now regard  $X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$  as an  $\mathbb{F}(E \times P)$ -module via  $(x \otimes y)^{ea} = x^e \otimes y^a$  for  $e \in E$ ,  $a \in P$ . Let

$$\phi : X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y \rightarrow V \text{ with } x \otimes y \rightarrow x(y).$$

Then  $\phi$  is well-defined since  $\phi(kx \otimes y) = (kx)(y) = x(ky) = \phi(x \otimes ky)$ . Also if  $e \in E$  and  $a \in P$ , then

$$\phi((x \otimes y)^{ea}) = \phi(x^e \otimes y^a) = (x^e)(y^a) = x((y^a))^e = (x(y)^a)^e = (x(y)^{ae}) = x(y)^{ea} = \phi(x \otimes y)^{ea}.$$

So  $\phi$  is an  $\mathbb{F}(E \times P)$ -module homomorphism. Note that for each submodule  $Z$  of  $V$  isomorphic to  $Y$ , there exists  $x \in X$  with  $x(Y) = Z$  and so  $\phi(x \otimes Y) = Z$ . Since  $V$  is the sum of such submodules,  $\phi$  is surjective. As  $V \cong Y^n$ ,

$$X = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y, V) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y, Y^n) \cong \text{End}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y)^n = \mathbb{K}^n.$$

Hence the  $\mathbb{F}$ -spaces  $X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$  and  $Y^n$  and thus also  $V$  have the same finite dimension. So  $\phi$  is also injective and  $\phi$  is an  $\mathbb{F}(E \times P)$ -isomorphism.

Observe that  $E \times P$  acts  $\mathbb{K}$ -linearly on  $X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$ . So if we view  $V$  as a  $\mathbb{K}$ -space via

$$k\phi(u) = \phi(ku) \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{K}, u \in X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y,$$

then  $EP$  acts  $\mathbb{K}$ -linearly on  $V$ . Hence if  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{F}EP}(V) = \mathbb{F}$  we conclude that  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}$ . This proves (a).

Let  $X_0$  be a proper  $\mathbb{K}E$ -submodule of  $X$ , then  $\phi(X_0 \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y)$  is a proper  $\mathbb{K}EP$ -submodule of  $V$ . This gives (b). In a similar way  $[V, E] = V$  implies  $[X, E] = X$ .

Now assume that  $V$  is  $E$ -quasisimple, so  $\text{rad}_V(EP)$  is the unique maximal  $EP$ -submodule and  $\text{rad}_V(EP) = C_V^*(E)$ . Then

$$X_0 \otimes Y \leq \text{rad}_{X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y}(EP) = C_{X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y}^*(E) = C_X^*(E) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y.$$

This yields  $X_0 \leq C_X^*(E)$ . Since  $X_0$  was an arbitrary proper submodule, it also shows that  $C_X^*(E)$  is the unique maximal  $\mathbb{K}E$ -submodule of  $X$  and  $C_X^*(E) = \text{rad}_X(E)$  and (c) follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.2** *Suppose  $\mathbb{F}$  is finite or algebraically closed. Let  $W$  be an  $F^*(H)$ -component of  $V$  with  $\text{rad}_W(F^*(H)) \neq 0$ , and let  $E$  be the unique component of  $E_H(V)$  with  $[W, E] \neq 0$  (see 2.3). Put  $P := C_{F^*(H)}(E)$ . Then  $F^*(H) = EP$  and there exists a finite field extension  $\mathbb{K}$  of  $\mathbb{F}$ , a quasisimple  $\mathbb{K}E$ -module  $X$  and an absolutely simple  $\mathbb{K}P$ -module  $Y$  such that*

$$V \cong_{\mathbb{F}F^*(H)} X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$$

**Proof:** By 2.1(c),  $F^*(H) = EP$ . Let  $Y$  be a simple  $\mathbb{F}P$ -submodule of  $W$ . Since  $[E, P] = 1$ , any  $F^*(H)$  conjugate of  $Y$  is isomorphic to  $Y$ . Thus by 2.2(b) applied to  $F^*(H)$  in place of  $H$ ,  $W \cong_{\mathbb{F}P} Y^n$  for some  $n$ . Now 4.1 shows that  $V \cong_{\mathbb{F}F^*(H)} X \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Y$ . Moreover, since  $\mathbb{K} = \text{End}_{\mathbb{F}P}(Y)$  and  $\mathbb{K}$  is commutative,  $\mathbb{K} = \text{End}_{\mathbb{K}P}(Y)$ , and  $Y$  is an absolutely simple  $\mathbb{K}P$ -module. Also since  $W$  is an  $E$ -quasisimple  $\mathbb{F}EP$ -module,  $X$  is  $E$ -quasisimple.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.3** *Suppose  $\mathbb{F}$  is finite or algebraically closed. Let  $W$  be a  $F^*(H)$ -component of  $V$ , and let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the set consisting of all the components of  $H$  and all the  $O_r(H)$ ,  $r$  a prime divisor of  $|H|$ . Then there exists a finite field extension  $\mathbb{K}$  of  $\mathbb{F}$  and for each  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  a  $\mathbb{K}K$ -module  $W_K$  such that*

$$W \cong_{\mathbb{F}F^*(H)} \bigotimes_{K \in \mathcal{K}} W_K.$$

Moreover, either

1.  $\text{rad}_W(F^*(H)) = 0$  and  $W_K$  is absolutely simple for every  $K \in \mathcal{K}$ , or
2.  $\text{rad}_W(F^*(H)) \neq 0$ ,  $W_E$  is  $E$ -quasisimple and  $W_K$  is absolutely simple for every  $K \in \mathcal{K} \setminus \{E\}$ , where  $E$  is the unique component of  $E_H(V)$  with  $[W, E] \neq 0$ .

**Proof:** We may assume that  $|\mathcal{K}| > 1$ . If  $\text{rad}_W(H) = 0$  put  $Y := W$ ,  $\mathbb{K} := \text{End}_{\mathbb{F}F^*(H)}(W)$  and  $\mathcal{K}_0 := \mathcal{K}$ . Otherwise let  $X, Y$  and  $\mathbb{K}$  be as in 4.2 and put  $W_E := X$  and  $\mathcal{K}_0 := \mathcal{K} \setminus \{E\}$ . Observe that then  $W_E$  is  $E$ -quasisimple.

In any case  $Y$  is an absolutely simple  $\mathbb{K}P$ -module, where  $P := \langle \mathcal{K}_0 \rangle$ . If  $|\mathcal{K}_0| = 1$ , we are done. In the other case pick  $K \in \mathcal{K}_0$  and set  $\mathcal{K}_1 := \mathcal{K}_0 \setminus \{K\}$ . Then 4.1 applies with  $(\mathbb{K}, K, \langle \mathcal{K}_1 \rangle, Y)$  in place of  $(\mathbb{F}, E, P, V)$ . Note that in addition  $\mathbb{K} = \text{End}_{\mathbb{K}K \langle \mathcal{K}_1 \rangle}(Y)$ , so 4.1(a) also applies. Now an easy induction finishes the proof.  $\square$

## References

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