

## Twisted group algebras

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring (with 1, as always), and let

$$\beta: G \times G \longrightarrow R^*$$

be a map. We wish to use  $\beta$  to define a "twisted" version of the group algebra  $RG$ .

As  $R$ -module,  $R^\beta G$  is equal to  $RG$ , i.e., it is the free  $R$ -module on the set  $G$ .

Multiplication on  $R^\beta G$  is defined as the linear continuation of

$$g \cdot h := \beta(g, h) \cdot (gh).$$

multiplication in  $R^\beta G$                       scalar multiplication                      multiplication in  $G$

What conditions does  $\beta$  need to satisfy in order for  $R^\beta G$  to be an  $R$ -algebra with unit  $1 = 1_R \cdot 1_G$ ?

Interpret  $\mathbb{H}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  as such twisted group algebras. Argue that they are not isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}[K_4]$ , respectively  $\mathbb{R}[Z/2Z]$ .

We saw last time that a module over  $\mathbb{R}[G]$  consists of the same data as a group homomorphism

$$G \longrightarrow \text{Aut}_{R\text{-Mod}}(M)$$

for some  $R$ -module  $M$ . Make an educated guess about modules over  $R^\beta[G]$ .