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**Sinopsis**

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The  $k(G_V)$  conjecture claims that the number of conjugacy classes (irreducible characters) of the semidirect product  $GV$  is bounded above by the order of  $V$ . Here  $V$  is a finite vector space and  $G$  a subgroup of  $GL(V)$  of order prime to that of  $V$ . It may be regarded as the special case of Brauer's celebrated  $k(B)$  problem dealing with  $p$ -blocks  $B$  of  $p$ -solvable groups ( $p$  a prime). Whereas Brauer's problem is still open in its generality, the  $k(G_V)$  problem has recently been solved, completing the work of a series of authors over a period of more than forty years. In this book the developments, ideas and methods, leading to this remarkable result, are described in detail.