

## 1

To prove the result, we will decompose an arbitrary permutation  $\sigma \in S_n$  into transpositions. We will then show that each transposition can be written as a product of transpositions of the form  $(ii+1)$ . We have  $\sigma = \tau_1 \dots \tau_r$ , where  $\tau_i$  is some transposition of the form  $(k_1 k + 1 + k_2)_i$ . Note that we can assume the first element of  $\tau_i$  is strictly lesser than the second since if it weren't we could just invert the order without any loss of generality. We state that  $(k_1 k_1 + k_2)$  can be written as a product of finite transpositions of the form  $(tt+1)$ . See that  $(k_1 k_1 + k_2 - 1) = (k_1 + k_2 - 1 k_1 + k_2)(k_1 k_1 + k_2)(k_1 + k_2 - 1 k_1 + k_2)$ . Since we have  $(k_1 k_1 + k_2 - 1)$ , we have lowered the second entry of the transposition by one. In  $k_2 - 1$  steps, we will get  $(k_1 k_1 + 1) = (k_1 + 1 k_1 + 2)(k_1 k_1 + 2)(k_1 + 1 k_1 + 2)$ , which means that we can stop. We have  $\tau_i$  as a product of  $2(k_2 - 1) + 1$  transpositions of the desired type. We can do this for all transpositions to get our result. Thus we can generate any permutation in  $S_n$  by exchanging adjacent elements. The bubble sort algorithm works this way too, which accepts a permutation then returns the list of  $n$  numbers. This is essentially the same problem.

## 2

## 3

1. For some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $G_i = \{\sigma \in S_n : \sigma(i) = i\} \cong S_{n-1}$ . Consider  $G_i$  acting on  $\{1, 2, \dots, i-1, i+1, \dots, n\}$ . If  $n = 2$ , this set will be a singleton, hence trivially transitive. For  $n \geq 3$ , the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$  has at least two elements. Then  $k, \ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, i-1, i+1, \dots, n\}$  such that they are distinct (If  $k = \ell$ , then  $i \in G_i$  works). See that  $(k\ell) \in G_i$ , as it does not affect  $i$ . Then we have  $(k\ell)k = \ell$ , which means that  $G_i$  is transitive.

2. For a doubly transitive action of  $G$  on  $X$ , see that if we choose a proper subset then since

## 4

Let us denote all elements of  $Q_8$  thus:  $1, i, j, k, -1, -i, -j, -k$  are assigned the numbers from 1 to 8. Then see that left multiplication by 1 is the identity permutation on  $S_8$ . Left multiplication by  $i$  is  $(1256)(3478)$ , by  $j$  is  $(1357)(2864)$ , and by  $k$  is  $(1458)(2367)$ . Their negatives also have a left regular representation. Now see that  $i, j$  can generate  $Q_8$  as a group, then it must stand to reason that their corresponding left regular representations will behave in the same way! Thus, see that  $G = \langle (1256)(3478), (1357)(2864) \rangle \cong Q_8$ .

## 5

We know that  $|[G : H]| = n$ . Consider the group action of left multiplication on left cosets of  $H$ . This group action has a permutation representation, let us denote that by  $\pi_H$ . Take  $K = \ker \pi_H$ , and  $|[H : K]| = k$ . Then we have  $|[G : K]| = |[G : H][H : K]| = nk$ . Since  $H$  has  $n$  many cosets, we must have  $\frac{G}{K}$  is isomorphic to some subgroup of  $S_n$ . Clearly  $K \leq H$ , and  $K \trianglelefteq G$ , and since  $nk|n!$ , we have

## 6

We shall prove a result that for  $|G| = n$  and  $p$  the smallest prime that divides  $n$ , then a subgroup of order  $p$  must be normal. Let some  $H \leq G$ , with  $|[G : H]| = p$ . Consider the group action of left multiplication on left cosets of  $H$ . This group action has a permutation representation, let us denote that by  $\pi_H$ . Take

$K = \ker \pi_H$ , and  $|[H : K]| = k$ . Then we have  $|[G : K]| = |[G : H]||[H : K]| = pk$ . We know that  $H$  has  $p$  many left cosets, hence  $\frac{G}{K}$  is isomorphic to some subgroup of  $S_p$  which is the image of  $G$  under  $\pi_H$ . Thus we must have  $pk|p! \implies k|(p-1)!$ . But since  $k$  can only have prime factors greater than or equal to  $p$  and  $(p-1)!$  has no prime factors greater than  $p$ , we must have  $k = 1$ . Thus  $H = K \trianglelefteq G$  is normal.

Let  $p$  be the smallest prime dividing  $n$ . We know that  $p < n$ , since  $n$  is composite. Then see that there must exist a subgroup of order  $\frac{n}{p}$  as given in the problem, hence this subgroup has index  $\frac{n}{\frac{n}{p}} = p$ , hence this is a normal subgroup. Thus  $G$  cannot be simple.

**7**

We know that  $|[G : Z(G)]| = n$ . We see that in the class equation we have

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{x \notin Z(G)} |[G : C(x)]|.$$

Dividing on both sides by  $|Z(G)|$  we have

$$n = 1 + \sum_{x \notin Z(G)} \frac{n}{|C(x)|}.$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{n} + \sum_{x \notin Z(G)} \frac{1}{|C(x)|} = 1.$$

**8**

**9**

**10**