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Contents

0 Preliminaries

0.1 Basics

Proposition 1. Let $f\colon A \to B$.

1. The map f is injective if and only if f has a left inverse.

2. The map f is surjective if and onbly if f has a right inverse.

3. The map f is a bijection if and only if there exist $g\colon B \to A$ such that $f \circ g$ is the indentity map on B and $g \circ f$ is the identity map on A.

4. If A and B are finte sets with the same number of elements the $f\colon A \to B$ is bijective if and only if f is injective if and only if f is surjective.

Proposition 2. Let A be a nonempty set.

1. If $\sim$ defines an equivalence relation on A then the set of equivalence classes of $\sim$ form a partision of A.

2. If $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a parttion of A then there is an equivalence relation on A whose equivalence classes are precisely the sets $A_i, i \in I$

1 Group Theory

1.1 Basic Axioms and Examples

Definition.

1. A *binary operation* $\star$ on a set G is a function $\star\colon G \times G \to G$. For any $a, b \in G$ we shall write $a \star b$ for $\star(a, b)$.

2. A binary operation $\star$ on a set G is associative if for all $a, b, c \in G$ we have $a\star(b\star c) = (a \star b) \star c$.

3. If $\star$ is a binary operation on a set G we say elements a and b of G *commute* if $a \star b = b \star a$. We say $\star$ (or G) is *commutative* if for all $a, b \in G$, $a \star b = b \star a$.

Proposition 1. If G is a group under the operation $\cdot$, then

1. The identity of G is unique

2. for each $a \in G$, a^{-1} is uninuely determined

3. $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$ for all $a \in G$

4. $(a \cdot b)^{-1} = (b^{-1}) \cdot (a^{-1})$

5. for any $a_q, a_2, \dots, a_n \in G$ the value of $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ is independent of how the expresion is bracketed

Proposition 2. Let G be a group and let $a, b \in G$. The equations $ax = b$ and $ya = b$ have unique solutions for $x, y \in G$. In particular, the left and right cancelation laws hold in G, i.e.,

1. if $au = av$, then $u = v$, and

2. if $ub = vb$, then $u = v$.

Definition. For G a group and $x \in G$ define the *order* of x to be the smallest positive integer n such that $x^n = 1$, denoted $|x|$. If there is no such integer than we define the order of x to be infinity.

1.6 Homomorphism and Isomorphisms

Definition. Let $(G, \star)$ and $(H, \diamond)$ be groups. A map $\phi\colon G \to H$ such that $\phi(x \star y) = \phi(x) \diamond \phi(y)$, for all $x, y \in G$ is called a *homomorphism.* Moreover, if ϕ is bijective it is called an *isomorphism* and we say that G and H are *isomorphic* or of the same *isomorphism type*, written $G \cong H$.

Note. If $\phi\colon G \to H$ is an isomorphism then

1. $|G| = |H|$
2. G is abelian if and only if H is abelian
3. for all $x \in G, |x| = |\phi(x)|$

1.7 Group Actions

Definition. A *group action* of a group G on a set A is a map from $G \times A$ to A (written as $g \cdot a$, for all $g \in G$ and $a \in A$) satisfying the following properties:

1. $g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot a) = (g_1 g_2) \cdot a$, for all $g_1, g_2 \in G, a \in A$, and
2. $1 \cdot a = a$ for all $a \in A$.

Note. Let the group G act on the set A. From each fixed $g \in G$ we get a map σ_g defined by

$$\begin{aligned} &\sigma_g\colon A \to A \\ &\sigma_g(a) = g \cdot a. \end{aligned}$$

The following are true

1. for each fixed $g \in G$, σ_g is a permutation of A, and
2. the map from G to S_A defined bt $g \mapsto \sigma_g$ is a homomorphism. Moreover this map is called the *permuation representation* associated to the given action.

Note. As a consequence of the above remark, if $\phi\colon G \to S_A$ is a homomorphism (here S_A is the symmetric group on the set A), then the map from $G \times A$ to A defined by

$$g \cdot a = \phi(g)(a) \text{for all} g \in G, \text{ and all} a \in A$$

is a group action of G on A.

2 Subgoups

2.1 Definition and Examples

Definition. Let G be a group. The subset H of G is a *subgroup* of G if H is nonempty and H is closed under products and inverse (i.e, $x, y \in H$ implies $x \in H$ and $xy \in H$). If H is a subgroup of G we shall write $H \leq G$.

Proposition 1. (The Subgroup Criterion) A subset H of a group G is a subgroup if and only if

1. $H \neq \emptyset$, and
2. for all $x, y \in H, xy^{-1} \in H$

2.2 Centralizers and Nomalizers, Stabilizers and Kernels

Let G be a group and A a nonempty subset of G.

Definition. The *centralizer* of A in G is $C_G(A) = \{g \in G \mid gag^{-1} = a \text{ for all } a \in A\}$. Note that this is the set of elements of G which commute with every element of A. Note that $C_g(A) \leq G$.

Definition. The *center* of G is the set $Z(G) = \{g \in G \mid gx = xg \text{ for all } x \in G\}$. Note that, $Z(G) = C_G(G)$, thus $Z(G) \leq G$.

Definition. Define $gAg^{-1} = \{gag^{-1} \mid a \in A\}$. The *normalizer* of A in G is the set $N_G(A) = \{g \in G \mid gAg^{-1} = A\}$. Note that, $C_G(A) \leq N_G(A) \leq G$.

2.3 Cyclic Groups and Cyclic Subgroups

Definition. A group H is *cyclic* if H can be generated by a single element, i.e, there exist some $x \in H$ such that $H = \{x^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ when using multiplicative notation and $H = \{nx \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ when using additive notation. In either case we write $H = \langle x \rangle$.

Proposition 2. If $H = \langle x \rangle$, then $|H| = |x|$. Moreover,

1. if $|H| = n < \infty$, then $x^n = 1$ and $1, x, x^2, \ldots, x^{n-1}$ are all distinct elements of H, and
2. if $|H| = \infty$, then $x^n \neq 1$ for all $n \neq 0$ and $x^a \neq x^b$ for all $a \neq b \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proposition 3. Let G be an arbitrary group, $x \in G$ and let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $x^n = 1$ and $x^m = 1$ then $x^d = 1$ where $d = (m, n)$. In particular, if $x^m = 1$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ then $|x|$ divides m.

Theorem 4. Any two cyclic groups of the same order are isomorphic. Moreover,

1. if $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $\langle x \rangle$ and $\langle y \rangle$ are both cyclic groups of orger n, then the map
$$\begin{aligned} \phi \colon \langle x \rangle &\to \langle y \rangle \\ x^k &\mapsto y^k \end{aligned}$$
is well defined and is an isomorphism
2. if $\langle x \rangle$ is an infinite cyclic group, the map
$$\begin{aligned} \phi \colon \mathbb{Z} &\to \langle x \rangle \\ k &\mapsto x^k \end{aligned}$$
is well defined and is an isomorphism

Proposition 5. Let G be a group, let $x \in G$ and let $a \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$.

1. If $|x| = \infty$, then $|x^a| = \infty$.
2. If $|x| = n < \infty$, then $|x^a| = \frac{n}{(n,a)}$.
3. In particular, if $|x| = n < \infty$ and a is a postive integer dividing n, then $|x^a| = \frac{n}{a}$.

Proposition 6. Let $H = \langle x \rangle$.

1. Assume $|x| = \infty$. Then $H = \langle x^a \rangle$ if and only if $a = \pm 1$.

2. Assume $|x| = n < \infty$. Then $H = \langle x^a \rangle$ if and only if $(a, n) = 1$. In particular, the number of generators of H is $\phi(n)$ (where ϕ is Euler's ϕ-function)

Theorem 7. Let $H = \langle x \rangle$ be a cyclic group.

1. Every subgroup of H is cyclic. More precisely, if $K \leq H$, then either $K = \{1\}$ or $K = \langle x^d \rangle$, where d is the smallest positive integer such that $x^d \in K$.

2. If $|H| = \infty$, then for any distinct nonnegative integers a and b, $\langle x^a \rangle \neq \langle x^b \rangle$. Furthermore, for every integer m, $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{|m|} \rangle$, where $|m|$ denotes the absolute value of m, so that the nontrival sungroups of H correspond bijectively with the integers $1, 2, 3, \ldots$.

3. If $|H| = n < \infty$, then for each positive integer a dividing n there is a unique subgroup of H of order a. This subgroup is the cyclic group $\langle x^d \rangle$, where $d = \frac{n}{a}$. Furthermore, for every integer m, $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{(n,m)} \rangle$, so that the subgroups of H correspond bijectively with the positive divisors of n.

2.4 Subgroups Generated by Subsets of a Group

Proposition 8. If $\mathcal{A}$ is any nonempty collection of subgroups of G, then the intersection of all members of $\mathcal{A}$ is also a subgroup of G.

Definition. If A is any subset of the group G define

$$\langle A \rangle = \bigcap_{\substack{A \subseteq H \\ H \leq G}} H.$$

This is called the *subgroup of G generated by A*.

Note. $\langle A \rangle = \{a_1^{\epsilon_1} a_2^{\epsilon_2} \ldots a_n^{\epsilon_n} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 0 \text{ and } a_i \in A, \epsilon_i = \pm 1 \text{ for each } i\}$.

3 Quotient Groups and Homomorphisms

3.1 Definitions and Examples

Definition. If ϕ is a homomorphism $\phi\colon G \to H$, the *kernel* of ϕ is the set

$$\{g \in G \mid \phi(g) = 1\}$$

and will be denoted by kerϕ (here 1 is the identity of H).

Proposition 1. Let G and H be groups and let $\phi\colon H \to H$ be a homomorphism.

1. $\phi(1_G) = 1_H$, where 1_G and 1_H are the identities of G and H, respectively.

2. $\phi(g^{-1}) = \phi(g)^{-1}$ for all $g \in G$.

3. $\phi(g^n) = \phi(g)^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

4. kerϕ is a subgroup of G.

5. imϕ, the image of G uner ϕ, is a subgorup of H.

Definition. Let $\phi\colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism with kernel K. The *quotient group* or *factor group*, G/K (read G *modulo* K or simply G *mod* K), is the group whose elements are the fibers of ϕ with the following group operation: If X is the fiber above a and Y is the fiber above b then the product XY in G/K is defined to be the fiber above the product ab in G.

Proposition 2. Let $\phi\colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism with kernel K. Let $X \in G/K$ be the fiber above a, i.e., $X = \phi^{-1}(a)$. Then

1. For any $u \in X$, $X = \{uk \mid k \in K\}$

2. For any $u \in X$, $X = \{ku \mid k \in K\}$

Definition. For any $N \leq G$ and any $g \in G$ let

$$gN = \{gn \mid n \in N\} \text{ and } Ng = \{ng \mid n \in N\}$$

called respectively a *left coset* and a *right coset* of N in G. Any element of a coset is called a *representative* for the coset.

Theorem 3. Let G be a group and let K be the kernel of some homomorphism from G to another group. Then the set of whose elements are ;eft coeset of K in G with operation defined by

$$uK \circ vK = (uv)K$$

forms a group, G/K. This operation is well defined and does not depend on the choice of representatives.

Proposition 4. Let N be any subgroup of the group G. The set of left cosets of N in G form a partition of G. Furthermore, for all $u, v \in G, uN = vN$ if and only if $v^{-1}u \in N$ and in particular, $uN = vN$ if and only if u and v are representatives of the same coset.

Proposition 5. Let G be a group and let N be a subgroup of G.

1. The operation on the set of left cosets of N in G described by

$$uN \cdot vN = (uv)N$$

   is well defined if and only if gng^{-1} for all $g \in G$ and all $n \in N$.

2. If the above operation is well defined, then it makes the set of left cosets of N in G into a group. In particular the identity of this group is the coset $1N$ and the inverse of gN is the coset g^{-1}, i.e, $(gN)^{-1} = g^{-1}N$.

Definition. The element gng^{-1} is called the *conjugate* of $n \in N$ by g. The set $gNg^{-1} = \{gng^{-1} \mid n \in N\}$ is called the *conjugate* of N by g. The element g is said to *normalize* N if $gNg^{-1} = N$. A subgroup N of a group G is called *normal* if every element of G normalizes N, i.e., if $gNg^{-1} = N$ for all $g \in G$. If N is a normal subgoup of G we shall write $N \trianglelefteq G$.

Theorem 6. Let N be a subgroup of the group G. The following are equivalent:

1. $N \trianglelefteq G$
2. $N_G(N) = G$ (recall $N_G(N)$ is the normalizer in G of N)
3. $gN = Ng$ for all $g \in G$
4. the operation on left cosets of N in G described in Proposition 5 makes the set of left cosets into a group
5. $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$ for all $g \in G$.

Proposition 7. A subgroup N of the group G is normal if and only if it is the kernel of some homomorphism.

Definition. Let $N \trianglelefteq G$. The homomorphism $\pi\colon G \to G/N$ defined by $\pi(g) = gN$ is called the *natural projection (homomorphism)* of G onto G/N. If $\overline{H} \leq G/N$, then *complete preimage* of $\overline{H}$ in G is the preimage of $\overline{H}$ under the natural projection homomorphism.

3.2 More on Cosets and Lagrange's Thoerem

Theorem 8. (*Lagrange's Theorem*) If G is a fintite group and H is a subgroup of G, then the order of H divides the order of G and the number of left cosets of H in G equals $\frac{|G|}{|H|}$.

Definition. If G is a group and $H \leq G$, the number of left cosets of H in G is called the *index* of H in G and is denoted by $|G : H|$.

Corollary 9. If G is a finite group and $x \in G$, then the order of x divides the order of G. In particular, $x^{|G|} = 1$ for all x in G.

Corollary 10. If G is a group of prime order p, then G is cyclic, hence $G \cong Z_p$ (note that this text uses Z_n to denote the cyclic group of order n written in multipicative notation and that given any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $Z_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$).

Note. For finite abelian groups the full converse of Lagrange's theorem holds, that is the group has a subgroup of order n for each n that divides the order of the group.

Theorem 11. (Cauchy's Thoerem) If G is a fintite group and p is a prime dividing $|G|$, then G has an element of order p.

Theorem 12. (Sylow) If G is a finite group of order $p^\alpha m$, where p is a prime not dividing m, then G has a subgroup of order p^α.

Definition. Let H and K be subgroups of a group and define

$$HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}.$$

Proposition 13. If H and K are finte subgroups of a group then

$$|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}.$$

Proposition 14. If H and K are subgroups of a group, HK is a subgroup if and only if $HK = KH$.

Note. $HK = KH$ does not imply that the elements of H commute with the elements of K

Corollary 15. If H and K are subgroups of G and $H \leq N_G(K)$, then Hk is a subgroup of G. In particular, if $K \trianglelefteq G$, Then $HK \leq G$ for any $H \leq G$ (Since if $K \trianglelefteq G$, $N_G(k) = G$).

Definition. If A is any subset of $N_G(K)$ (or $C_G(K)$), we shall say A *normalizes* K (*centralizes* K, respectively).

3.3 The Isomorphism Thoerems

Theorem 16. (The First Isomorphism Theorem) If $\phi\colon G \to H$ is a homomorphism, then $\ker\phi \trianglelefteq G$ and $G/\ker\phi \cong \phi(G)$.

Corollary 17. Let $\phi\colon G \to H$ be a homomorphism.

1. ϕ is injective if and only if $\ker\phi = 1$.

2. $|G : \ker\phi = |\phi(G)|$.

Theorem 18. (The Second or Diamond Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group, let A and B be subgroups of G and assume $A \leq N_G(B)$. Then AB is a subgroup of G, $B \trianglelefteq AB$, $A \cap B \trianglelefteq A$, and $AB/B \cong A/A \cap B$.

Theorem 19. (The Third Isomorphism Thoerem) Let G be a group and let H and K be normal subgroups of G with $H \leq K$. Then $K/H \trianglelefteq G/H$ and

$$(G/H)/(K/H) \cong G/K.$$

If we denote the quotient by H with a bar, this can be written

$$\overline{G}/\overline{K} \cong G/K.$$

Theorem 20. (The Fourth or Lattice Isomorphism Theorem) Let G be a group and let N be a normal subgroup of G. Then there is a bijection from the set of subgroups A of G which contains N onto the set of subgroups $\overline{A} = A/N$ of G/N. In particular, every subgroup of $\overline{G}$ is of the form A/N for some subgroup A of G containing N (namely, its preimage in G under the natural projection homomorphism from G to G/N). This bijection has the following properties: for all $A, B \leq G$ with $N \leq A$ and $N \leq B$,

1. $A \leq B$ if and only if $\overline{A} \leq \overline{B}$,

2. if $A \leq B$, then $|B : A| = |\overline{B} : \overline{A}|$,

3. $\overline{\langle A, B\rangle} = \langle \overline{A}, \overline{B}\rangle$,

4. $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$, and

5. $A \trianglelefteq G$ if and only if $\overline{A} \trianglelefteq \overline{G}$.

3.4 Composition Series and the Hölder Program

Proposition 21. If G is a finite abelian group and p is a prime dividing $|G|$, then G contains an element of order p.

Definition. A group G is called *simple* if $|G| > 1$ and the only normal subgroups of G are 1 and G.

Definition. In a group G a sequence of subgroups

$$1 = N_0 \leq N_1 \leq N_2 \leq \ldots \leq N_{k-1} \leq N_k = G$$

is called a composition series if $N_i \trianglelefteq N_{i+1}$ and N_{i+1}/N_i is a simple group, $0 \leq i \leq k-1$. If the above sequence is a composition series, the quotient groups N_{i+1}/N_i are called *composition factors* of G.

Theorem 22. (Jordan-Hölder) Let G be a fintie group with $G \neq 1$. Then

1. G has a composition series and
2. The composition factors in a composition series are unique, namely, id $1 = N_0 \leq N_1 \leq \ldots \leq N_r = G$ and $1 = M_0 \leq M_1 \leq \ldots \leq M_s = G$ are two composition series for G, then $r = s$ and there is some permutation, π, of $\{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$ such that

$$M_{\pi(i)}/M_{\pi(i)-1} \cong N_i/N_{i-1}, \qquad 1 \leq i \leq r.$$

Theorem. There is a list consisting of 18 (infinite) familes of simple groups and 26 simples groups not belonging to these famileies (the *sporadic* simple groups) such that every fintie simple group is isomorphic to one of the groups in this list.

Theorem. (Feit-Thompson) If G is a simple group of odd order, then $G \cong Z_p$ for some prime p.

Definition. A group G is *solvable* if there is a chain of subgroups

$$1 = G_0 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq \ldots \trianglelefteq G_s = G$$

such that G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, s-1$.

Theorem. The finite group G is solvable if and only if for every divisor n of $|G|$ such that $(n, \frac{|G|}{n}) = 1$, G has a subgroup of order n.

Note. If N and G/N are solvable, then so is G.

3.5 Transpositions and the Alternating Group

Definition. A 2-cycle is called a *transposition.*

Note. Every element of S_n may be written as a product of transpositions.

Definition. Let $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ be independent variables and let Δ be the polynomial

$$\Delta = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le n} (x_i - x_j),$$

and for $\sigma \in S_n$ let σ act on Δ by

$$\sigma(\Delta) = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le n} (x_{\sigma(i)} - x_{\sigma(j)}).$$

One can show that for all $\sigma \in S_n$ that $\sigma(\Delta) = \pm\Delta$. Now define,

$$\epsilon(\sigma) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } \sigma(\Delta) = \Delta \\ -1 & \text{if } \sigma(\Delta) = -\Delta. \end{cases}$$

Now,

1. $\epsilon(\sigma)$ is called the sign of σ and
2. σ is call an *even permutation* if $\epsilon(\sigma) = 1$ and an *odd permutation* if $\epsilon(\sigma) = -1$.

Proposition 23. The map $\epsilon \colon S_n \to \{\pm 1\}$ is a homomorphism (where $\{\pm 1\}$ is a multipicative version of the cyclic group of order 2).

Proposition 24. Transpositions are all odd permutations and ϵ is a surjective homomorphism.

Definition. The *alternating group of degree n*, denoted A_n, is the kernel of te homomorphism ϵ (i.e., the set of even permutations).

Note.

1. $|A_n| = \frac{1}{2}|S_n| = \frac{1}{2}(n!)$.
2. Due to ϵ being a homomorphism we get the rules

$$\begin{gathered} (even)(even) = (odd)(odd) = even \\ (even)(odd) = (odd)(even) = odd. \end{gathered}$$

3. An m-cycle is an odd permutation if and if only m is even

Proposition 25. The permutation σ is odd if and only if the number of cycles of even length in its cycle decomposition is odd.

Note. A_n is a non-abelian simple group for all $n \ge 5$.

4 Group Actions

4.1 Group Actions and Permutation Representations

Definition. Let G be a group acting on a set A

1. The *kernel* of the action is the set of elements of G that act trivially on every element of A: $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot a = a \text{ for all } a \in A\}$.

2. For each $a \in A$ the *stabilizer* of a in G is the set of elements of G that fix the element a: $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot a = a\}$ and is denoted by G_a.

3. An action is *faithful* if its kernel is the identity.

Note. The kernel pf an action is precisely the same as the kernel of the associated permutation representation as defined in the note in section 1.7 and is rephrased below.

Proposition 1. For any group G and any nonempty set A there is a bijection between the actions of G on A and the homomorphisms of G into S_A.

Definition. If G is a group a *permutation representation* of G into the symmetric group S_A for some nonempty set A. We shall say a given action of G on A *affords* or *induces* the associated representation of G.

Proposition 2. Let G be a group acting on the nonempty set A. the relation on A defined by

$$a \sim b \text{ if and only if } a = g \cdot b \text{ for some } g \in G$$

is an equivalence relation. For each $a \in A$, the number of elements in the equivalence class containing a is $|G : G_a|$, the index of the stabilizer of a.

Definition. Let G be a group acting on the set A.

1. The equivalence class $\{g\cdot \mid g \in G\}$ is called the *orbit* of G containing a.

2. The action of G on A is called *transitive* if there is only one orbit, i.e., given any two elements $a, b \in A$ there is some $g \in G$ such that $a = g \cdot b$.

Note.

1. Every element of S_n has a unique cycle decomposition

2. Subgroups of symmetric groups are called *permutation groups.*

3. The orbits of a permutation group will refer to its orbits on $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$

4. The orbits of an element $\sigma \in S_n$ will refer to the orbits of the group $\langle \sigma \rangle$.

4.2 Group Acting on Themselves by Left Multiplication - Cayley's Theorem

Note. In this section G is any group and we first consider G acting on itself (i.e., $A = G$) by left multiplication:

$$g \cdot a = ga \quad \text{ for all } g \in G, a \in G$$

When G is a finite group of order n it is convenient to label the elements of G with the integers $1, 2, \ldots, n$ in order to describe the permutation representation afforded by this action. In this way the elements of G are listed as $g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n$ and for each $g \in G$ the permutation σ_g may be described as a permutation of the indices $1, 2, \ldots, n$ as follows:

$$\sigma_g(i) = j \quad \text{ if and only if } \quad gg_i = g_j.$$

Theorem 3. Let G be a group, let H be a subgroup and let G act by left multiplication on the set A of left cosets of H in G. Let π_H be the associated permutation representation afforded by this action. Then

1. G acts transitively on A
2. the stabilizer of G of the point $1H \in A$ us the subgroup H
3. the kernel of the action (i.e., the kernel of π_H) is $\cap_{x\in G} xHx^{-1}$, and $\ker\pi_H$ is the largest normal subgroup of g contained in H.

Corollary 4. (Cayley's Theorem) Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of symmetric group. If G is a group of order n, then G is isomorphic to a subgroup of S_n.

Corollary 5. If G is a finite group of order n and p is the smallest prime dividing $|G|$, then any subgroup of index p is normal (Note that a group of order n need not have a subgroup of order p).

4.3 Groups Acting on Themselves by Conjugation - The Class Equation

Note. In this section we consider a group G acting on itself by *conjugation*

$$g \cdot a = gag^{-1} \quad \text{for all } g \in G, a \in G$$

Definition. Two elements a and a of G are said to be *conjugate* if G if there is some $g \in G$ such that $b = gag^{-1}$ (i.e., if and only if they are in some orbit of G acting on itself by conjugation). The orbits of G acting on itself by conjugation are called *conjugacy classes* of G.

Definition. Two subsets S and T of G are said to be *conjugate in* G if there is some $g \in G$ such that $T = gSg^{-1}$ (i.e., if and only if they are in the same orbit of G acting on its subsets by conjugation).

Proposition 6. The number of conjugates of a subset S in a group G is the index of the normalizer of S, $|G : N_G(S)|$. In particular, the number of conjugates of an element s of G is the index of the centralizer of s, $|G : C_g(s)|$.

Theorem 7. (The Class Equation) Let G be a finite group and let $g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_r$ be representatives of the distinct conjugacy classes of G not contained in the center $Z(G)$ of G. Then

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=1}^{r} |G : C_G(g_i)|.$$

Theorem 8. If p is a prime and P is a group of prime order p^α for some $\alpha \geq 1$, then P has a nontrivial center: $Z(P) \neq 1$.

Proposition 9. Let σ, τ be elements of the symmetric group S_n and suppose σ has cycle decomposition

$$(a_1 a_2 \ldots a_{k_1})(b_1 b_2 \ldots b_{k_2}) \ldots.$$

Then $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ has cycle decomposition

$$(\tau(a_1)\tau(a_2) \ldots \tau(a_{k_1}))(\tau(b_1)\tau(b_2) \ldots \tau(b_{k_2})) \ldots,$$

that is $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ is obtained from σ by replacing each i in the cycle decomposition for σ by the entry $\tau(i)$.

Definition.

1. If $\sigma \in S_n$ is the product of disjoint cycles of length $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_r$ with $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \ldots \leq n_r$ (including its 1-cycles) then the integers $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_r$ are called the *cycle type* of σ.

2. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, a *partition* of n is any nondecreasing sequence of positive integers whose sum is n.

Proposition 10. Two elements of S_n are conjugate in S_n if and only if they have the same cycle type. The number of conjugacy classes of S_n equals the number of partitions of n.

Theorem 11. A_5 is a simple group.

4.4 Automorphisms