

§5

5.1 Note that  $Xg = \{g_1g, g_2g, \dots, g_kg\}$  is a  $k$ -element subset of  $G$ . So  $Xg \in \Omega$ .

Let  $X = \{g_1, \dots, g_k\} \in \Omega$  and  $g, h \in G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}(Xg)h &= \{g_1g, g_2g, \dots, g_kg\}h \\ &= \{(g_1g)h, (g_2g)h, \dots, (g_kg)h\}\end{aligned}$$

(using the definition twice)

$$\text{And } X(gh) = \{g_1(gh), g_2(gh), \dots, g_k(gh)\} \quad (\text{by definition})$$

Since group multiplication is associative,

$$(Xg)h = X(gh).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Also } X1 &= \{g_11, g_21, \dots, g_k1\} = \\ &= \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k\} = X.\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \Omega$  is a  $G$ -set.

5.2 (i)  $\Omega$  is a  $G$ -orbit (so  $G$  is transitive on  $\Omega$ ).

(ii)  $G$  has 3 orbits on  $\Omega$ :-

$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ,  $\{7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14\}$ ,  $\{15\}$ .

5.3 (i) Since  $\sigma = (1, 2, 3, \dots, n) \in S_n$ , applying  $\sigma$  we see that

$$\Omega \subseteq \{1g \mid g \in S_n\} \subseteq \Omega.$$

So  $\Omega$  is an  $S_n$ -orbit.  $\therefore S_n$  is transitive on  $\Omega$ .

(ii) Let  $\alpha \in \Omega$  with  $\alpha \neq 1$ . Since  $n \geq 3$ ,

we may choose  $\beta \in \Omega$  with  $\alpha \neq \beta \neq 1$ .

Then  $\sigma = (1, \alpha, \beta) \in A_n$  ( $(1, \alpha, \beta)$  is an even permutation) and  $1\sigma = \alpha$ .

$$\therefore \Omega \subseteq \{1g \mid g \in A_n\} \subseteq \Omega$$

So  $\Omega$  is an  $A_n$ -orbit.  $\therefore A_n$  is transitive on  $\Omega$ .

5.4 Since  $\Omega$  is a  $G$ -orbit,

$$|G| = |\Omega| |G_x| \quad \text{by Lemma}$$

By hypothesis  $\Omega \setminus \{x\}$  is a  $G_x$ -orbit and so, using Lemma again

$$|G_x| = |\Omega \setminus \{x\}| |(G_x)_y| \quad \text{where } y \text{ is some element of } \Omega \setminus \{x\}.$$

$$= (|\Omega| - 1) |(G_x)_y|.$$

$$\therefore |G| = |\Omega| (|\Omega| - 1) |(G_x)_y|$$

$$\Rightarrow |\Omega| (|\Omega| - 1) \text{ divides } |G|.$$

5.5 Burnside's theorem (Theorem 5.9) gives (here  $t=1$ )

$$|G| = \sum_{g \in G} |\text{fix}_{\Omega}(g)|$$

$$= |\Omega| + \sum_{\substack{g \in G \\ g \neq 1}} |\text{fix}_{\Omega}(g)| \quad (*)$$

(note  $\Omega = \text{fix}_{\Omega}(1)$ )

Since  $|\Omega| > 1$ , if  $|\text{fix}_\Omega(g)| \geq 1 \quad \forall g \in G$ ,  
 then we get a contradiction to (\*).  $\therefore \exists$   
 $g \in G$  s.t.  $|\text{fix}_\Omega(g)| = 0$ . So there exist  
 elements of  $G$  having no fixed points on  $\Omega$ .

5.6 Let  $G$  act upon  $\Omega = G$  via conjugation.

For  $g \in G$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fix}_\Omega(g) &= \{x \in \Omega \mid x \overset{\text{ACTION}}{\curvearrowright} g = x\} \\ &= \{x \in G \mid g^{-1}xg = x\} \\ &= C_G(g) \end{aligned}$$

An orbit of  $G$  on  $\Omega = G$  is just a  
 conjugacy class of  $G$ .  $\therefore$  the number of  
 $G$ -orbits on  $\Omega = G$  is  $k$ .

Substituting into Theorem

(Burnside's theorem)

gives

$$k = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |C_G(g)|$$

$$\Rightarrow k|G| = \sum_{g \in G} |C_G(g)|.$$