

Orbit-Stabilizer Theorem

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Let some finite G act on X with the group action \circ . Then $|\text{orb}(x)||\text{stab}(x)| = |G|$.

Proof. By Lagrange's theorem, $|G| = |\text{stab}(x)|(G : \text{stab}(x))$ for all $x \in X$, because $\text{stab}(x) \leq G$. Therefore, if $|\text{orb}(x)| = (G : \text{stab}(x)) = |G/\text{stab}(x)|$, then $|\text{orb}(x)||\text{stab}(x)| = |G|$. Let $\mu : \text{orb}(x) \rightarrow G/\text{stab}(x)$. Since, by definition, all $y \in \text{orb}(x)$ can be expressed as $g \circ x$ for some $g \in G$, define $\mu(y) = \mu(g \circ x) = g[\text{stab}(x)]$.

$$\forall g_1 \circ x, g_2 \circ x \in \text{orb}(x), \mu(g_1 \circ x) = \mu(g_2 \circ x) \implies g_1 \circ x = g_2 \circ x \cdot \cdot$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(g_1 \circ x) = \mu(g_2 \circ x) &\implies g_1[\text{stab}(x)] = g_2[\text{stab}(x)] \\ &\implies g_1 \in g_2[\text{stab}(x)] \\ &\implies g_1 = g_2 s : s \in \text{stab}(x) \\ &\implies g_1 \circ x = (g_2 s) \circ x = g_2 \circ (s \circ x) = g_2 \circ x \end{aligned}$$

$\forall g[\text{stab}(x)] \in G/\text{stab}(x), \exists g \circ x \in \text{orb}(x) : \mu(g \circ x) = g[\text{stab}(x)]$ by the definition of $\text{orb}(x)$. Therefore μ is a bijection, and $|\text{orb}(x)||\text{stab}(x)| = |G|$. \square