Math H113 - Spring 2014 Notes

April 8, 2014

Introduction

This is a sparse collection of facts taken from Dummit and Foote, 3e. The goal is to recap the most important things Prof. Vojta has covered, with an emphasis on non-obvious results.

Confusing topics

1. 4.1 (Cycle Decompositions): The proof is hard to follow, and some statements (e.g 'Since G is a cyclic group, $G_x \trianglelefteq G$') are non-intuitive.

Chapter 0/1

1. gcd: $(m, n) = am + bn$.
2. The Euler function: $\varphi(p^a) = p^{a-1}(p-1)$, $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ if $(a, b) = 1$.
3. The dihedral group: $D_{2n} = \langle r, s \mid r^n = s^2 = 1, rs = sr^{-1}\rangle$.
4. Fields (F, $F^\times = F - \{0\}$): $(F, +)$ and $(F^\times, \times)$ are abelian groups. Note: if $|F| < \infty$, $\exists p, m$ s.t $|F| = p^m$.
5. Symmetries: $|S_n| = n!$. Disjoint cycles commute, but $S_{n\geq 3}$ is non-abelian.
6. Group actions on A by G: (i) $g_1(g_2a) = (g_1g_2)a$, (ii) $1a = a$. $\forall g_1, g_2, a$.
   (a) Fixing $g \in G$ in the action gives $\sigma_g \in S_A$.
   (b) $g \mapsto \sigma_g$ is a homomorphism ($G \to S_A$, the permutation representation).

Chapter 2

1. Subgroup criterion: $H \neq \phi$ and $xy^{-1} \in H$ $\forall x, y \in H$.
2. Centralizer: $\leq G$, commutes with A. Center: $\leq G$, commutes with G itself.

3. Normalizer: $\leq G$ s.t $gAg^{-1} = A\ \forall g$.

4. Stabilizer: fixing $a \in A$, $\leq G$ s.t $ga = a$. Kernel: $\forall a \in A$, $\leq G$ s.t $ga = a$.

5. If $x^m = 1$ and $x^n = 1$, $x^{(m,n)} = 1$ (in cyclic groups).

6. Let $x \in G$, $a \neq 0$: if $|x| = \infty$ then $|x^a| = \infty$. Else, if $|x| = n$, then $|x^a| = n/(n,a)$ $(\star)$.

7. Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic, and cyclic groups of the same order are isomorphic to each other.

8. Let $|x| = n$, $H = \langle x \rangle$. Only if $(n,a) = 1$, $H = \langle x^a \rangle$ (count these with $\varphi(n)$). A general statement: $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{(n,m)} \rangle$.

9. Let $A \neq \phi$ be a set of subgroups of G. Then their intersection $\langle A \rangle = \cap A \leq G$.

Chapter 3

1. Given $\varphi : G \to H$; $\varphi(1_G) = 1_H$, $\ker\varphi \leq G$, and $\mathrm{im}(\varphi)\ \varphi \leq H$.

2. G/K is basically arithmetic on the fibers of φ, which are all cosets of $\ker\varphi$.

3. The set of left cosets of any $N \leq G$ partitions G. However, the operation $uN \cdot vN = (uv)N$ is only well defined if $N \trianglelefteq G$ (or equivalently $N_G(N) = G$, $gN = Ng\ \forall g$, or $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N\ \forall g$). [1]

4. If $|G| < \infty$ and $H \leq G$, then $|H| \mid |G|$ and $|G : H| = |G|/|H|$ $(\star)$.

5. If $|G| < \infty$ and $p \mid |G|$, $\exists x \in G$ s.t $|x| = p$.

6. If $|G| = p^\alpha m$ $(p \not| m)$, $\exists H \leq G$ s.t $|H| = p^\alpha$.

7. $\ker\varphi \trianglelefteq G$, $G/\ker\varphi \cong \varphi(G)$, φ is 1-1 iff $\ker\varphi = 1$, and $|G : \ker\varphi| = |\varphi(G)|$.

8. If finite $H, K \leq G$, then $|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}$. $HK \leq G$ only if $KH \leq G$.

9. Let $A, B \leq G$ and $A \leq N_G(B)$. Then $AB \leq G$, $B \trianglelefteq AB$, $A \cap B \trianglelefteq A$, and $AB/B \cong A/(A \cap B)$.

10. Let $H \leq K$ and $H, K \trianglelefteq G$: then $K/H \trianglelefteq G/H$ so $(G/H)/(K/H) \cong G/K$.

11. To show that a homomorphism from $\varphi : G/N \to H$ is well-defined, one must prove $N \leq \ker\Phi$ (with $\Phi : G \to H$).

12. $(a_1 a_2 ... a_m) = (a_1 a_m)(a_1 a_{m-1})...(a_1 a_2)$. The sign of a permutation (i.e the parity of the number of 2-cycles $\epsilon(\sigma) \in \{\pm 1\}$ [2]) is representation-independent.

13. $\epsilon : S_n \to \{\pm 1\}$ is a surjective homomorphism. $\ker\epsilon = A_n$, the group of even permutations. Note $S_n/A_n \cong \epsilon(S_n) = \{\pm 1\}$ and $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$.

[1] A useful theorem for later: $gH = H$ iff $g \in H$.

[2] An m-cycle is composed of $m-1$ transpositions, immediately giving $\epsilon(\sigma) = Parity(m-1)$.

Chapter 4

1. $\sigma_g : A \to A$ $(a \mapsto ga)$, and $\varphi : G \to S_A$ $(g \mapsto \sigma_g)$. Note: the kernel of the action $\cap_{a\in A} G_a = \ker\varphi$. [3].

2. For $A \neq \phi$, the actions of G on A and the homomorphisms $G \to S_A$ are bijective. Let $a \sim b$ iff $a = gb$ for some $g \in G$: then $\sim$ partitions G, and the order of the equivalence class (i.e orbit) containing a is $|G : G_a|$. [4]

3. Elements in G effect the same permutation on A iff they're in the same coset of the kernel of the action.

4. Let $H \leq G$, A be the set of left cosets of H in G, and G act on A (with $\pi_H : G \to S_A$). Then the action is transitive, $G_{1H} = H$, and $\ker\pi_H = \cap_{x\in G} xHx^{-1}$ (giving the largest normal subgroup of G in H).

5. If $|G| = n$, $G \cong H$ for some $H \leq S_n$. If p is the smallest prime s.t $p|n$, then any subgroup $H \leq G$ s.t $|G : H| = p$ is normal.

Chapter 5

1. Given a direct product $G_1 \times G_2 \times ... \times G_n$, $G_i \cong \{(1, ..., g_i, ..., 1) \mid g_i \in G_i\}$. [5]

2. Let $G = \langle A\rangle$ $(A \subseteq G$, finite). Then $G \cong \mathbb{Z}^r \times Z_{n_1} \times Z_{n_2} \times ... \times Z_{n_s}$ s.t $r \geq 0$, $n_j \geq 2\ \forall j$, and $n_{i+1}|n_i$ for $1 \leq i < s$ uniquely (up to isomorphism).

3. Let $n = \Pi n_i$: if $p|n$ then $p|n_1$. If n is a product of distinct primes, then Z_n is the only abelian group of order n (up to isomorphism).

4. Let $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} ... p_k^{\alpha_k}$. Then $G \cong A_1 \times ... \times A_k$ where $|A_i| = p_i^{\alpha_i}$. Each $A_i \cong Z_{p_i^{\beta_1}} \times ... \times Z_{p_i^{\beta_t}}$ where $\beta_i \geq \beta_{i+1}$ and $\sum_i^t \beta_i = \alpha_i$.

5. $Z_m \times Z_n \cong Z_{mn}$ iff $(m, n) = 1$, so $Z_n \cong Z_{p_1^{\alpha_1}} \times ... \times Z_{p_k^{\alpha_k}}$.

6. The group exponent is the smallest positive integer s.t $x^n = 1\ \forall x \in G$.

[3]'Faithful' actions have kernels equal to $\{1_G\}$
[4]'Transitive' actions induce only one orbit in A.
[5]The projection $\pi : G \to G_i$ is $g \mapsto g[i]$.