

- How many different cubes can we make if we paint 2 faces white, 2 faces red and 2 faces blue?

— Again let  $A$  be the set of all colourings, then  $|A| = \binom{6}{2} \binom{4}{2} = 90$ .  
The relevant group is the set of o.p. symmetries, and  $|G| = 24$ .  
 $|\text{Fix}(1)| = 90$ . (Look again at page 24 for the group  $G$ .)

Let  $r$  be a rotation of order 2. If it's a 'face rotation' then one pair of faces will be fixed and the other 4 swapped in pairs. Hence the swapped faces must be of the same colour, so  $|\text{Fix}(r)| = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$ . If however it's an 'edge rotation' then no faces are fixed, so all 6 are swapped in pairs. So again  $|\text{Fix}(r)| = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$ .

Let  $r'$  be a rotation of order 3, then the orbit of any face has size 3, so we'd need to be able to paint 3 faces the same colour for a design to be fixed by  $r'$ , Hence  $|\text{Fix}(r')| = 0$ .

Let  $r''$  be a rotation of order 4, then 2 faces are fixed but the other four are in an orbit of size 4, which would need to be the same colour. Hence  $|\text{Fix}(r'')| = 0$ .

So  $N = \frac{1}{24} (90 + 9 \cdot 6 + 8 \cdot 0 + 6 \cdot 0) = 6$ .

- A flag has 6 horizontal bands (of the same width) where adjacent bands are allowed to have the same colour. If we have 3 colours to choose from for each band, how many different flags are there?

— Let  $A = \{(c_1, \dots, c_6)\}$  be the set of all colourings. Here two flags are indistinguishable if one can be obtained from the other by reversing the order of the colours, so the relevant group  $G = \{1, f\}$  where  $f$  is the reflection (180° flag rotation).

$|A| = 3^6$ , so  $|\text{Fix}(1)| = 3^6$ .

$f$  fixes only palindromes, so  $|\text{Fix}(f)| = |\text{palindromes}| = 3^3$ .

Hence  $N = \frac{1}{2} (3^6 + 3^3) = 378$ .