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virtually abelian subgroup theorem

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Let us suppose that  $G$  is virtually abelian and  $H$  is an abelian subgroup of  $G$  with a the finite right coset partition

$$G = He \sqcup Hx_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup Hx_q, \quad (*)$$

so if  $K$  is any other subgroup in  $G$  we are going to prove:

*$K$  is also virtually abelian*

**Proof:** From  $(*)$  above we have

$$\begin{aligned} K &= K \cap G = K \cap (He \sqcup Hx_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup Hx_q), \\ &= (K \cap H) \sqcup (K \cap Hx_2) \sqcup \dots \sqcup (K \cap Hx_q). \end{aligned} \quad (**)$$

Here we consider the two cases:

- 1)  $x_i \in K$
- 2)  $x_j \notin K$

In the first case  $K = Kx_i$ , and then  $K \cap Hx_i = Kx_i \cap Hx_i = (K \cap H)x_i$ . In the second, find  $y_j \in K \cap Hx_j$  hence  $K \cap Hx_j = Ky_j \cap Hy_j = (K \cap H)y_j$

So, in the equation  $(**)$  above we can replace (reordering subindexation perhaps) to get

$$K = \underbrace{(K \cap H) \sqcup (K \cap H)x_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup (K \cap H)x_s}_{1)} \sqcup \underbrace{(K \cap H)y_{s+1} \sqcup \dots \sqcup (K \cap H)y_q}_{2)}$$

relation which shows that the index  $[K : K \cap H] \leq [G : H]$ .

It could be  $<$  since it is possible that  $K \cap Hx_r = \emptyset$  for some indexes  $r$   $\square$