

Let $H \leq G$

Define "left" relation on G by $a \sim_L b$ iff
 $a^{-1} \cdot b \in H$

Similarly we can define the
"right" relation: $a \sim_R b$ iff
 $ab^{-1} \in H$

The left relation is reflexive

$$\forall a \in G \quad a \sim_L a \quad \text{bcs}$$

$$a^{-1}a = e \in H \quad \text{by ident. prop}$$

and symmetric

$$\forall a, b \in G \quad a \sim_L b \iff a^{-1}b \in H$$

$$b \sim_L a \iff b^{-1}a \in H$$

by inverse prop

and transitive

$$\forall a, b, c \in G \quad a \sim_L b \wedge b \sim_L c \iff a^{-1}b \in H \wedge b^{-1}c \in H$$

$$a \sim_L c \Leftrightarrow a^{-1}c = (a^{-1}b)(b^{-1}c) \in H$$

by closure prop

$\therefore \sim_L$ is an equivalence relation

(the right relation is also an equiv. relation)

\therefore The left relation partitions G into nonempty, disjoint subsets called equiv. classes of form

$$\begin{aligned} Ea &= \{ b \in G \mid a \sim_L b \} \\ &= \{ b \in G \mid a^{-1}b \in H \} \\ &= \{ b \in G \mid a^{-1}b = h, h \in H \} \\ &= \{ b \in G \mid b = ah, h \in H \} \\ &= \{ ah \mid h \in H \} \\ &= aH \quad \text{is the left coset} \\ &\quad \text{of } H \text{ in } G \end{aligned}$$

(for some $a \in G$)

Also $Ha = \{h \cdot a \mid h \in H\}$
is the right coset

Fact If G is an abelian group & $H \leq G$, then
the left & right cosets for H in G
coincide

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } a \in G \quad \text{so} \quad aH &= \{ah \mid h \in H\} \\ &= \{ha \mid h \in H\} \\ &= Ha \end{aligned}$$

Examples

Find all left & right cosets for
the subgroups

1) $\langle 3 \rangle \leq \mathbb{Z}_6$ under addition

$$\overset{||}{\{3, 0\}} \quad \overset{||}{\{\cancel{0}, 1, 2, \cancel{3}, 4, 5\}}$$

$$0 + \langle 3 \rangle = \langle 3 \rangle + 0 = \{0, 3\} = 3 + \langle 3 \rangle$$

$$1 + \langle 3 \rangle = \langle 3 \rangle + 1 = \{1, 4\}$$

$$2 + \langle 3 \rangle = \langle 3 \rangle + 2 = \{2, 5\}$$

Since $\langle 3 \rangle \cup \langle 3 \rangle + 1 \cup \langle 3 \rangle + 2 = \mathbb{Z}_6$

there are 3 left & right cosets
& they coincide bcs \mathbb{Z}_6 is abelian

\mathbb{Z}_6

$+$	0	3	1	4	2	5
0	0	3	1	4	2	5
3	3	0	4	1	5	2
1	1	4	2	5	3	0
4	4	1	5	2	0	3
2	2	5	3	0	4	1
5	5	2	0	3	1	4

$$\begin{array}{c|ccc}
 & & \text{red line} & \\
 \hline
 \begin{array}{c} +_3 \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 0 \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 1 \\ \hline \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 0 \\ \hline \end{array} & \langle 3 \rangle + 0 & \langle 3 \rangle + 1 & \langle 3 \rangle + 2 \\
 \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 1 \\ \hline \end{array} & \langle 3 \rangle + 1 & \langle 3 \rangle + 2 & \langle 3 \rangle + 0 \\
 \begin{array}{c} \langle 3 \rangle + 2 \\ \hline \end{array} & \langle 3 \rangle + 2 & \langle 3 \rangle + 0 & \langle 3 \rangle + 1
 \end{array}$$

has group structure

$$\{ \langle 3 \rangle + 0, \langle 3 \rangle + 1, \langle 3 \rangle + 2 \} \cong (\mathbb{Z}_3, +_3)$$