These are some notes I have taken from Gerald B. Folland's *A Course in Abstract Harmonic Analysis*, with some other textbooks for various sources.

Topological Groups

Definition: A *topological group* is a group G with a topology such that the operation

$$\begin{aligned} m\colon G \times G &\to G \\ (x, y) &\mapsto xy \end{aligned}$$

is continuous with respect to the product topology on $G \times G$ and the operation

$$\begin{aligned} i\colon G &\to G \\ x &\mapsto x^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

is continuous with respect to the topology on G.

For a topological group G, we denote the unit element as 1_G, and we set

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= \{yx \mid y \in A\} \\ xA &= \{xy \mid y \in A\} \\ A^{-1} &= \left\{y^{-1} \,\middle|\, y \in A\right\} \\ AB &= \{xy \mid x \in A, y \in B\} \end{aligned}$$

for all subsets $A, B \subseteq G$ and elements $x \in G$.

Definition: A subset $A \subseteq G$ is called *symmetric* if $A = A^{-1}$.

Proposition: Let G be a topological group.

(i) The topology of G is invariant under translations and inversion; that is, if U is open, then xU, Ux, U^{-1}, AU, UA are open for any $x \in G$ and subset $A \subseteq G$.

(ii) For every neighborhood U of 1_G, there is a symmetric neighborhood V of 1_G such that $VV \subseteq U$.

(iii) If H is a subgroup of G, so is $\overline{H}$.

(iv) Every open subgroup of G is closed.

(v) If A and B are compact sets in G, so is AB.

Proof.

(i) This is equivalent to the separate continuity of $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ and $x \mapsto x^{-1}$; furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} AU &= \bigcup_{x \in A} xU \\ UA &= \bigcup_{x \in A} Ux. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Since $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ is continuous at 1_G, then for every neighborhood U of 1_G, there are neighborhoods $W_1, W_2 \subseteq U$. We may take $V = W_1 \cap W_2 \cap W_1^{-1} \cap W_2^{-1}$.

(iii) For $x, y \in \overline{H}$, there are nets $(x_\alpha)_\alpha \to x$ and $(y_\alpha)_\alpha \to y$; since $(x_\alpha y_\alpha) \to xy$ and $\left(x_\alpha^{-1}\right)_\alpha \to x^{-1}$ by continuity of the operations, we have $xy, x^{-1} \in \overline{H}$.

(iv) If H is open, then so are all the cosets xH; since $G \setminus H$ is the union of all the cosets of H except for H itself, $G \setminus H$ is open, so H is closed.

(v) Since $A \times B$ is compact, and AB is the continuous image of $A \times B$ under $(x, y) \mapsto xy$, we have AB is compact.

□

Now, if H is a subgroup of G, we let G/H be the space of left cosets of H, and $q\colon G \to G/H$ is the canonical quotient map, we may impose the quotient topology on G/H, meaning that $U \subseteq G/H$ is open if and only if $q^{-1}(U)$ is open. Thus, q maps open sets in G to open sets in G/H, as if $V \subseteq G$ is open, $q^{-1}(q(V)) = VH$ is also open, so $q(V)$ is open.

Proposition: Let H be a subgroup of a topological group G.

(i) If H is closed, then G/H is Hausdorff.

(ii) If G is locally compact, so is G/H.

(iii) If H is normal, then G/H is a topological group.

Proof.

(i) If $\overline{x} = q(x)$ and $\overline{y} = q(y)$ are distinct points in G/H, and since H is closed, xHy^{-1} is a closed set that does not contain 1_G. There is a symmetric neighborhood U of 1_G such that $UU \cap xHy^{-1} = \emptyset$; since $U = U^{-1}$ and $H = HH$ (H is a subgroup), we have $1_G \notin UxH(Uy)^{-1} = (UxH)(UyH)^{-1}$, so $UxH \cap UyH = \emptyset$. Therefore, $q(Ux)$ and $q(Uy)$ are disjoint neighborhoods of $\overline{x}$ and $\overline{y}$.

(ii) If U is a compact neighborhood of 1_G, $q(Ux)$ is a compact neighborhood of $q(x)$ in G/H.

(iii) If $x, y \in G$, and U is a neighborhood of G/H, continuity of multiplication in G implies that there are neighborhoods V of x and W of y such that $VW \subseteq q^{-1}(U)$. We see that $q(V)$ and $q(W)$ are neighborhoods of $q(x)$ and $q(y)$ such that $q(V)q(W) \subseteq U$, meaning multiplication is continuous in G/H. Similarly, inversion is continuous.

□

Corollary: If G is T1, then G is Hausdorff, and if G is not T1, then $\overline{\{1_G\}}$ is a closed normal subgroup, and $G/\overline{\{1_G\}}$ is a Hausdorff topological group.

Proof. Since singletons are closed in any T1 space, the first assertion follows from part (i) in the previous proposition by taking $H = \{1_G\}$.

To see the second assertion, we note that $\overline{\{1_G\}}$ is a subgroup, and it is the smallest closed subgroup of G; it is normal, as otherwise we would obtain a smaller closed subgroup by intersection with one of the conjugates, meaning the result follows from parts (i) and (iii) in the previous proposition by taking $H = \overline{\{1_G\}}$. □

Thus, without loss of generality, we may assume that a topological group is Hausdorff (else take $G/\overline{\{1_G\}}$), and when we talk about locally compact groups, we are talking about topological groups that are locally compact and Hausdorff.