

Discrete Mathematics (ITPC-309)

Algebraic Structures - Part IV



Dr. Sanga Chaki

Department of Information Technology

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar



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Cosets

1. Let H be a subgroup of the group G whose operation is written multiplicatively.
2. Given an element g of G , the left cosets of H in G are the sets obtained by multiplying each element of H by a fixed element g of G

$$gH = \{gh : h \text{ an element of } H\} \text{ for } g \text{ in } G.$$

3. This is the left coset, the element g is a left factor
4. The right cosets are defined similarly, the element g is now a right factor

$$Hg = \{hg : h \text{ an element of } H\} \text{ for } g \text{ in } G.$$

5. Any two left cosets (respectively right cosets) are either disjoint or are identical as sets

Cosets - Example

1. Let G be $\{I, a, a^2, b, ab, a^2b\}$.
2. In this group, $a^3 = b^2 = I$ and $ba = a^2b$. The Cayley table (a Cayley table describes the structure of a finite group by arranging all the possible products of all the group's elements in a square table):

*	I	a	a^2	b	ab	a^2b
I	I	a	a^2	b	ab	a^2b
a	a	a^2	I	ab	a^2b	b
a^2	a^2	I	a	a^2b	b	ab
b	b	a^2b	ab	I	a^2	a
ab	ab	b	a^2b	a	I	a^2
a^2b	a^2b	ab	b	a^2	a	I

1. Let T be the subgroup $\{I, b\}$.
 2. The (distinct) left cosets of T are:
 $IT = T = \{I, b\}$, $aT = \{a, ab\}$, and $a^2T = \{a^2, a^2b\}$.
1. Since all the elements of G have appeared in one of these cosets, generating any more can not give new cosets.
 2. For eg, $abT = \{ab, a\} = aT$.

Cosets

1. The right cosets of T are:

- $T1 = T = \{1, b\}$,
- $Ta = \{a, ba\} = \{a, a^2b\}$, and
- $Ta^2 = \{a^2, ba^2\} = \{a^2, ab\}$.

Some properties of cosets

1. A subgroup H of a group G may be used to decompose the underlying set of G into disjoint, equal-size subsets called cosets.
2. There are left cosets and right cosets.
3. Cosets (both left and right) have the same number of elements (cardinality) as does H .
4. Furthermore, H itself is both a left coset and a right coset.
5. The number of left cosets of H in G is equal to the number of right cosets of H in G . This common value is called the index of H in G and is usually denoted by $[G : H]$.

Coset Example:

1. For the group $(\mathbb{Z}_8, +)$ where the binary operation is addition modulo 8, and if $H = \{0, 4\}$
2. There are four left cosets of H : H itself, $1 + H$, $2 + H$, and $3 + H$ (written using additive notation since this is the additive group).
3. Together they partition the entire group G into equal-size, non-overlapping sets. The index $[G : H]$ is 4.
4. Find the right cosets.

G		
0	4	H
1	5	$1+H$
2	6	$2+H$
3	7	$3+H$

Normal subgroup

1. A subgroup H of a group G is normal in G if $gH=Hg$ for all $g \in G$.
2. That is, a normal subgroup of a group G is one in which the right and left cosets are precisely the same.
3. Example:

Let G be an abelian group. Every subgroup H of G is a normal subgroup.

Solution

Since $gh = hg$ for all $g \in G$ and $h \in H$, it will always be the case that $gH = Hg$.

Factor groups and Permutation groups

1. If N is a normal subgroup of a group G , then the cosets of N in G form a group G/N under the operation $(aN)(bN)=abN$. [This is pronounced $G \bmod N$]
2. This group is called the factor or quotient group of G and N .
3. A permutation group is a group G whose elements are permutations of a given set M and whose group operation is the composition of permutations in G (which are thought of as bijective functions from the set M to itself).
4. For instance, a particular permutation of the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ can be written as follows, where σ satisfies $\sigma(1) = 2$, $\sigma(2) = 5$, $\sigma(3) = 4$, $\sigma(4) = 3$, and $\sigma(5) = 1$

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

5. The elements of M need not appear in any special order in the first row, so the same permutation could also be written as

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 5 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$