

Th7: Let  $G' = \{aH / a \in G\}$ ,  $G'' = \{Ha / a \in G\}$  and  $f: G' \rightarrow G''$ , then

(i)  $f$  is bijective.

(ii) The number of distinct right cosets of  $H$  in  $G =$  the number of distinct left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Proof: Let  $f: G' \rightarrow G''$  be defined by  $f(aH) = Ha^{-1} \forall a \in G$

We shall show that  $f$  is well defined, since

$$\begin{aligned} aH = bH &\Rightarrow b \in aH \Rightarrow a^{-1}b \in eH = H \\ &\Rightarrow a^{-1}(b^{-1})^{-1} \in H \Rightarrow Ha^{-1} = Hb^{-1} \text{ [by Th 4 (iv)]} \\ &\Rightarrow f(aH) = f(bH) \end{aligned}$$

Again  $f$  is one-one (injective) since

$$\begin{aligned} f(aH) = f(bH) &\Rightarrow Ha^{-1} = Hb^{-1} \\ &\Rightarrow a^{-1}(b^{-1})^{-1} \in H \text{ [by Th. 4 (iv)]} \\ &\Rightarrow a^{-1}b \in H \Rightarrow aH = bH \text{ [by Th 4 (iv)]} \end{aligned}$$

Now for each  $Ha \in G''$ ,  $\exists a^{-1}H \in G'$  such that  $f(a^{-1}H) = H(a^{-1})^{-1} = Ha$

so  $f$  is onto i.e. surjective.

Therefore  $f$  is bijective.

(ii) follows from (i) immediately.

Ex: Determine whether or not the following cosets of the subgroup  $H = 5\mathbb{Z}$  in the group  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  are equal:

(i)  $-1+H$  and  $5+H$

(ii)  $3+H$  and  $2+H$ .

(Home work)

### Index of a subgroup

If  $H$  be a sub-group of  $(G, \cdot)$ , then the number of distinct right (left) cosets

of  $H$  in  $G$  is called the index of  $H$  in  $G$  and is denoted by  $[G:H]$

Theorem 1 Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $(G, \cdot)$  and  $f: Ha \rightarrow Hb$ , where  $Ha$  and  $Hb$  are any two right cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ ;  $a, b \in G$ . Then  $f$  is bijective.

Proof: Let  $f: Ha \rightarrow Hb$  be defined by  $f(ha) = hb$   $\forall h \in H$ .

For  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ ,  $f(h_1a) = h_1b$  and  $f(h_2a) = h_2b$   
then  $f(h_1a) = f(h_2a) \Rightarrow h_1b = h_2b$   
 $\Rightarrow h_1 = h_2$  by cancellation law in  $G$ .  
 $\Rightarrow f$  is one-one.

Again for each  $hb \in Hb$ ,  $\exists$  an element  $ha$  in  $Ha$  such that  $f(ha) = hb \forall h \in H$ .  
So  $f$  is onto.

Hence  $f$  is bijective.

Note: The above theorem also holds for any two left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Definition: Let  $H$  and  $K$  be two subgroups of a group  $G$ . Then we define  $HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}$ , then  $HK$  will be a non-empty subset of  $G$ .

Th: 2  $HK$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $HK = KH$ .  
(Home Exercise)