

Cosets of Subgroups

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Definition. The **index** of S in G is the number of (left or right) cosets of S in G . Write $[G : S]$ or $|G : S|$ to denote the index of S in G .

When we say “the number of cosets” we mean “the size of a **transversal**” or “the size of a **system of distinct representatives**.”

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- 5 $(aN)(bN) = (ab)N$ for all $a, b \in G$.
- 6 $N = \text{Ker}(h)$ for some homomorphism h with domain G .

Examples/Nonexamples.

- 1 Every subgroup of an abelian group is normal.
- 2 $\langle r \rangle \triangleleft D_n$.
- 3 $\langle f \rangle \not\triangleleft D_n$ if $n > 2$.

Normal subgroups

Definition. If G is a group and $N \leq G$, then N is a **normal** subgroup of G if $G/N = N \setminus G$. Write $N \triangleleft G$ to denote this.

The following are equivalent conditions about $N \leq G$.

- 1 $N \triangleleft G$. (That is, $G/N = N \setminus G$.)
- 2 $gN = Ng$ for all $g \in G$.
- 3 $gNg^{-1} = N$ for all $g \in G$.
- 4 $g^{-1}Ng = N$ for all $g \in G$.
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