

To prove the second of claim, consider two cosets  $Ha$  and  $Hb$  which are not disjoint. We need to show that  $Ha = Hb$ .

Suppose that  $c \in Ha \cap Hb$ . Then  $c \sim_H a$  and  $c \sim_H b$ . By symmetry, the first equivalence gives that  $a \sim_H c$ . Using the second equivalence and transitivity gives that  $a \sim_H b$ . Using symmetry gives that  $b \sim_H a$ .

If  $d \in Ha$ , then  $d \sim_H a$ . Since  $a \sim_H b$ , transitivity gives that  $d \sim_H b$ , i.e. that  $d \in Hb$ . So  $Ha \subseteq Hb$ .

If  $d \in Hb$ , then  $d \sim_H b$ . Since  $b \sim_H a$ , transitivity gives that  $d \sim_H a$ , i.e. that  $d \in Ha$ . So  $Hb \subseteq Ha$ .

Hence  $Ha = Hb$ . □

**Remark 3.13.** Proposition 3.12 gives a more efficient way of finding the right cosets of a subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$ :

- write down the right coset  $H1 = H$ .
- while there exists an element of  $G$  which does not lie in any right coset that has been found so far, pick such an element  $b \in G$  and write down the coset  $Hb$  (this contains  $b$  from the proof of Proposition 3.12).

**Example 3.14.** Consider the subgroup  $4\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -12, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\}$  of the group  $\mathbb{Z}$  of integers under addition. Using the algorithm in Remark 3.13 gives the right cosets of  $4\mathbb{Z}$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 4\mathbb{Z} + 0 &= \{\dots, -12, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\}, \\ 4\mathbb{Z} + 1 &= \{\dots, -11, -7, -3, 1, 5, 9, 13, \dots\}, \\ 4\mathbb{Z} + 2 &= \{\dots, -10, -6, -2, 2, 6, 10, 14, \dots\}, \\ 4\mathbb{Z} + 3 &= \{\dots, -9, -5, -1, 3, 7, 11, 15, \dots\}. \end{aligned}$$

The procedure is complete since every element of  $\mathbb{Z}$  lies in one of the above four cosets. These cosets give the partition.

**Lemma 3.15.** *Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . For  $a, b \in G$ ,  $Ha = Hb$  if, and only if,  $a \sim_H b$  (i.e.  $ab^{-1} \in H$ ).*

**Proof** The  $\Leftarrow$  implication was show in the proof of Proposition 3.12.

To show that the  $\Rightarrow$  implication is true, pick  $a, b \in G$  such that  $Ha = Hb$ .

From the proof of Proposition 3.12,  $a \in Ha$ . Hence  $a \in Hb$ , i.e.  $a \sim_H b$ . □

**Lemma 3.16.** *For any subgroup  $H$  of order  $o(H)$  of a finite group  $G$ , each right coset of  $H$  contains  $o(H)$  elements.*