

MTHSC 412 SECTION 7.5 – CONGRUENCE AND LAGRANGE'S THEOREM

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DEFINITION

Suppose that G is a group and that $K \leq G$. For $a, b \in G$, we say that a and b are congruent modulo K if $ab^{-1} \in K$. In this case, we write $a \equiv b \pmod{K}$.

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THEOREM

Suppose that $K \leq G$. Then the relation $\equiv \pmod{K}$ is an equivalence relation on G .

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COROLLARY

Let $K \leq G$. Then two right cosets of K are either disjoint or identical.

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If $H \leq G$ then the number of right cosets of H in G is called the index of H in G and is denoted $[G : H]$.

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COROLLARY

Let G be a finite group.

- 1 For all $a \in G$, $|a|$ divides $|G|$.
- 2 If $|G| = k$, then $a^k = e$ for all $a \in G$.

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Every group of order 6 is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_6 or to S_3 .