

**Definition:** A subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is a **normal subgroup** iff  $aH = Ha$  for all  $a \in G$ . We denote a normal subgroup by  $H \triangleleft G$ .

**Theorem 9.1:** A subgroup  $H \leq G$  is normal  $\iff (x)^{-1}Hx \subseteq H$  for all  $x \in G$ .

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Let  $H = \{\epsilon, [1 \ 2 \ 3], [1 \ 3 \ 2]\}$ . We've seen that  $H \triangleleft S_3$ .

We let

$$\begin{aligned} S_H &= \text{the set of all left cosets of } H \text{ in } S_3 \\ &= \{\alpha H \mid \alpha \in S_3\} \\ &= \{H, [1 \ 2] H\}, \end{aligned}$$

and we defined an operation  $*$  on the elements of the set  $S_H$  as follows: For any  $\alpha H, \beta H \in S_H$ ,

$$\alpha H * \beta H \stackrel{def}{=} (\alpha \circ \beta) H.$$

We saw that if  $\alpha_1 H = \alpha_2 H$  and  $\beta_1 H = \beta_2 H$ , then  $\alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H = \alpha_2 H * \beta_2 H$ . This shows that the operation  $*$  is *well-defined*.

Let  $K = \{\epsilon, [1 \ 2]\}$ . We've seen that  $K \not\triangleleft S_3$ .

We let

$$\begin{aligned} S_K &= \text{the set of all left cosets of } K \text{ in } S_3 \\ &= \{\alpha K \mid \alpha \in S_3\} \\ &= \{K, [1 \ 3]K, [2 \ 3]K\}. \end{aligned}$$

If we use the same idea as before to define an operation  $*$  on the elements of the set  $S_K$ : For any  $\alpha K, \beta K \in S_K$ , define

$$\alpha K * \beta K \stackrel{def}{=} (\alpha \circ \beta)K,$$

then it turns out that  $*$  is *not* well-defined on  $S_K$ . For although

$$[1 \ 3]K = [1 \ 2 \ 3]K \text{ and } [2 \ 3]K = [1 \ 3 \ 2]K,$$

it is not true that

$$[1 \ 3]K * [2 \ 3]K = [1 \ 2 \ 3]K * [1 \ 3 \ 2]K.$$