

3. (6 points) STATE and PROVE Lagrange's Theorem.

If  $H$  is a subgroup of the finite group  $G$ , then the order of  $H$  divides the order of  $G$ .

Proof For each  $x \in G$ , let  $Hx = \{hx \mid h \in H\}$ .

Claim 1 If  $x$  and  $y$  are in  $G$  with  $Hx \cap Hy$  non-empty, then  $Hx = Hy$ .

Pf Suppose  $hx = h_2y$  <sup>for  $h_1, h_2 \in H$</sup> . We show  $Hx \subseteq Hy$ . A typical element of  $Hx$  is  $hx$  for  $h \in H$ . We see  $hx = h_1 h_1^{-1} h_2 y \in Hy$ . Now we show  $Hy \subseteq Hx$ . A typical element of  $Hy$  is  $h_2 y$  for some  $h_2 \in H$ . We see  $h_2 y = h_2 h_2^{-1} h_1 x \in Hx$ .

Claim 2 There exist  $x_1, \dots, x_r \in H$  with every element of  $G$  in exactly one of the cosets  $Hx_1, Hx_2, \dots, Hx_r$ . <sup>Pf</sup> Start with  $x_1 = id$ . Find as many mutually disjoint cosets  $Hx_1, \dots, Hx_r$  as possible.

Observe  $G = Hx_1 \cup \dots \cup Hx_r$ . Otherwise, there exists  $x \in G$  with  $x \notin Hx_1 \cup \dots \cup Hx_r$ . We see from Claim 1 that  $Hx_1, \dots, Hx_r, Hx$  are mutually disjoint. This contradicts the hypothesis that  $Hx_1, \dots, Hx_r$  is as large a mutually disjoint set of cosets as possible. Thus

$$G = Hx_1 \cup \dots \cup Hx_r$$

Claim 3  $|H| = |Hx|$  for all  $x \in G$ .

Pf Consider the function  $\phi: H \rightarrow Hx$  given by  $\phi(h) = hx$ . We see  $\phi$  is 1-1 (if  $\phi(h_1) = \phi(h_2)$  then  $h_1x = h_2x \Rightarrow h_1 = h_2$ ) and onto. So  $H$  and  $Hx$  have been put in a one-to-one correspondence.

Thus  $|H| = |Hx|$

$G$  has been partitioned into  $r$  disjoint sets. Each set has  $|H|$  elements.  $\therefore |G| = r|H|$ .