



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

UNIT - IV ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURES

*) LAGRANGE'S THEOREM:

Let G be a finite group of order ' n ' & H be any subgroup of G . Then the order of H divides the order of G . (i) $O(H) | O(G)$

(or) The order of each subgroup of a finite group is a divisor of the order of the group.

Proof: Let $(G, *)$ be a group whose order is n .

$$(i) O(G) = n.$$

Let $(H, *)$ be a subgroup of G whose order is m .

$$(ii) O(H) = m$$

Let $h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_m$ be the ' m ' different elements of H .

The right coset $H * a$ of H in G is defined by

$$H * a = \{h_1 * a, h_2 * a, \dots, h_m * a\}, a \in G$$

Since there is a one-to-one correspondence between the elts. of H and $H * a$, the elts of $H * a$ are distinct.

Hence each right coset of H in G has ' m ' distinct elts.

Now any right cosets of H in G are either disjoint or identical.

The no. of distinct right cosets of H in G are either finite (say k) [$\because G$ is finite]



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The union of these k distinct cosets of H in G is equal to G .
Let these k distinct right cosets be

$$H * a_1, H * a_2, H * a_3 \dots, H * a_k$$

$$\text{then } G = (H * a_1) \cup (H * a_2) \cup \dots \cup (H * a_k)$$

$$\therefore O(G) = O(H * a_1) + O(H * a_2) + \dots + O(H * a_k)$$

$$n = m + m + \dots + m \text{ (k times)}$$

$$n = km$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{n}{m} \quad (\text{ie}) \quad \frac{O(G)}{O(H)} = k$$

Since k is an integer (time), m is a divisor of n .

$$\Rightarrow O(H) \text{ is a divisor of } O(G)$$

$$\Rightarrow O(H) \text{ divides } O(G).$$