

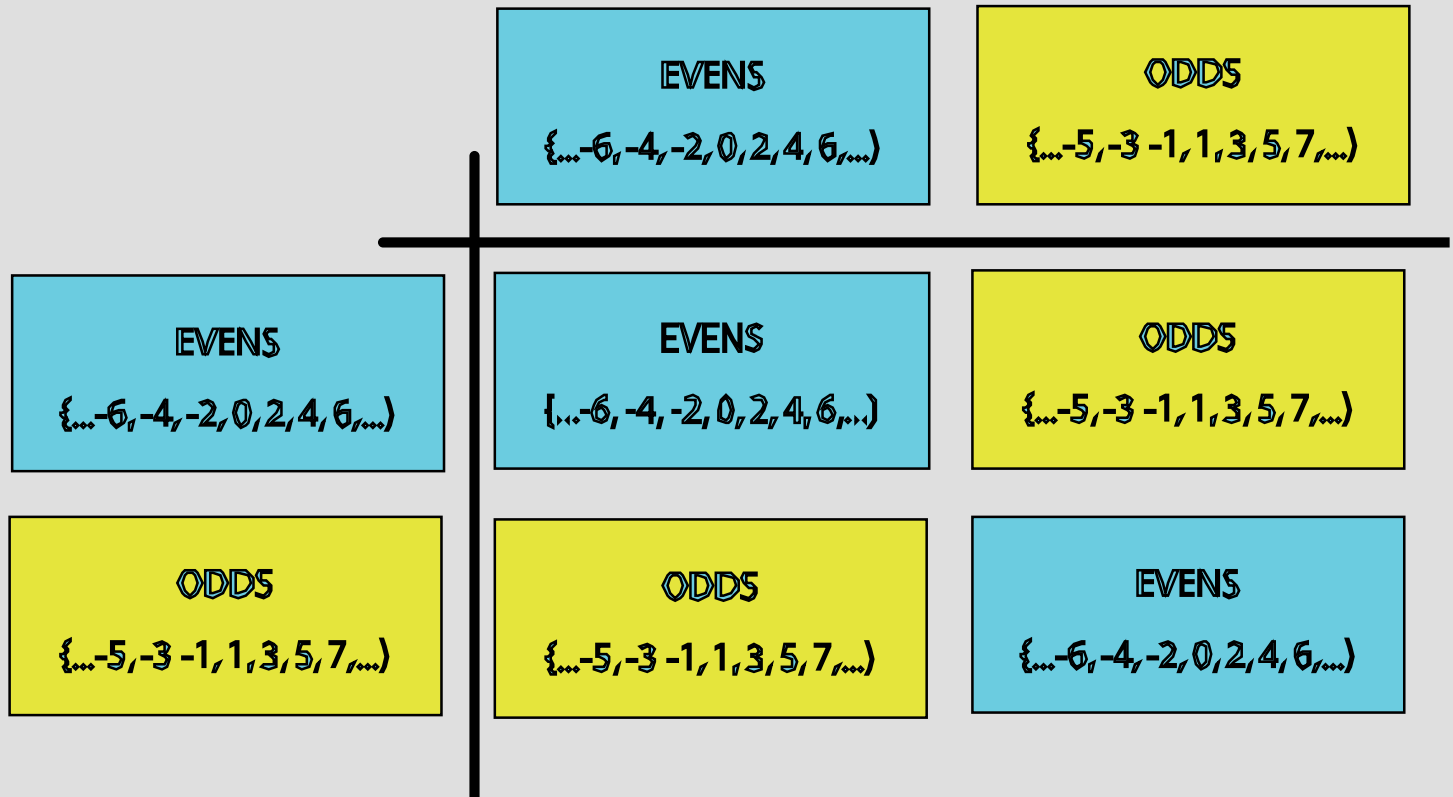


# Quotient Groups

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# Evens and Odds

- We know that  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is a group.
- We previously observed that this group could be broken up into two pieces to form a two element group:



## This is a group!

- The elements are subsets of the original group.
- You add two subsets together like so:

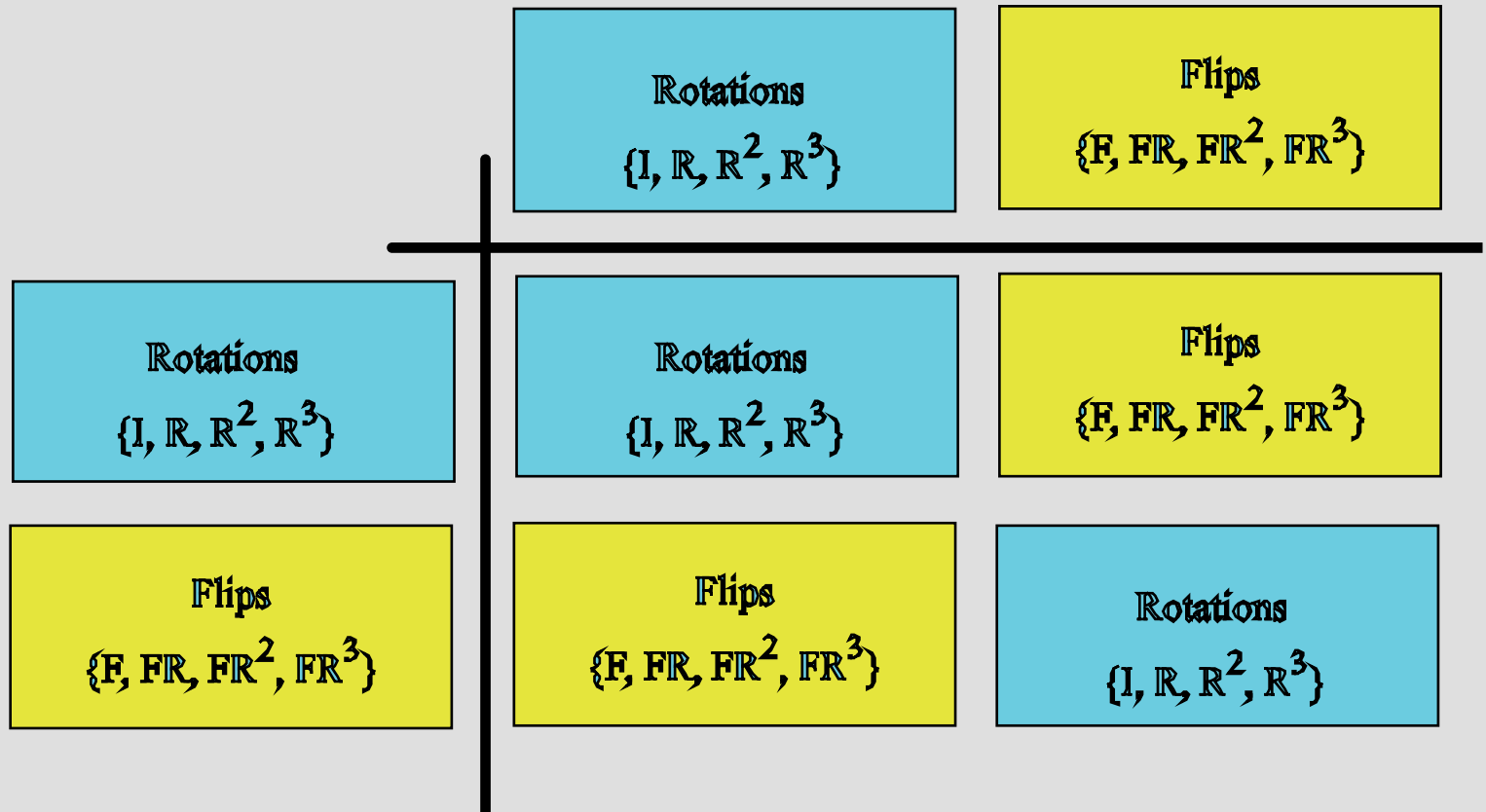
$$\text{EVENS} + \text{ODDS} = \{n + m \mid n \in \text{EVENS} \ \& \ m \in \text{ODDS}\}$$

(We found a more efficient way to add these subsets later!)



# Flips and Rotations

- We figured out that we could do the same thing with  $D_8$ , the group of symmetries of a square:



## This is a group!

- The elements are subsets of  $D_8$
- You multiply two subsets together like so:

$$\text{Flips} \times \text{Rotations} = \{ab \mid a \in \text{Flips} \ \& \ b \in \text{Rotations}\}$$


- In general, given two subsets,  $A$  and  $B$ , of a group  $G$  we can define their product as:

$$AB = \{ab \mid a \in A \ \& \ b \in B\}$$

(for cosets, though, there's an easier way)







We found, in  $D_8$ , two other ways to make a 2-element group this way:

- We could break it into:  
 $\{I, R^2, F, FR^2\}$  and  $\{R, R^3, FR, FR^3\}$
- Or we could break it into:  
 $\{I, R^2, FR, FR^3\}$  and  $\{R, R^3, F, FR^2\}$


People noted that the “EVENs” needed to be a subgroup (or at least closed so that  $EVEN \cdot EVEN = EVEN$ ).



# Breaking D8 into smaller pieces to make a group with 4 elements

We only found one way that would work

	$\{I, R^2\}$	$\{R, R^3\}$	$\{F, FR^2\}$	$\{FR, FR^3\}$
$\{I, R^2\}$	$\{I, R^2\}$	$\{R, R^3\}$	$\{F, FR^2\}$	$\{FR, FR^3\}$
$\{R, R^3\}$	$\{R, R^3\}$	$\{I, R^2\}$	$\{FR, FR^3\}$	$\{F, FR^2\}$
$\{F, FR^2\}$	$\{F, FR^2\}$	$\{FR, FR^3\}$	$\{I, R^2\}$	$\{R, R^3\}$
$\{FR, FR^3\}$	$\{FR, FR^3\}$	$\{F, FR^2\}$	$\{R, R^3\}$	$\{I, R^2\}$



These groups of subsets are called  
*quotient groups*

- What is needed to be able to construct a quotient group?
- We found out that:
  - One of the subsets has to be a subgroup
  - All of the subsets have to be the same size
  - The subsets can not overlap
  - All group elements must be used



## (Left) Cosets

- We determined how to find all of the subsets given the subgroup:
  - Multiply a group element by the subgroup to get one of your subsets.
- For example, using the subgroup  $H = \{I, R^2\}$  of  $D_8$ , we would:
  - Multiply by  $F$  (or  $FR^2$ ) to get the subset  $FH = \{F, FR^2\}$
  - Multiply by  $R$  (or  $R^3$ ) to get the subset  $RH = \{R, R^3\}$
  - Multiply by  $FR$  (or  $FR^3$ ) to get  $FRH = \{FR, FR^3\}$
- These subsets are called *cosets* of  $H$  in  $D_8$ .



## Coset notation

- Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ .
- The set of left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$  is denoted

$$G/H = \{gH \mid g \in G\}$$

where  $gH = \{gh \mid h \in H\}$

- We also use this for the quotient group, when the cosets of  $H$  actually form one.



## Normal Subgroups

- We found out that not all subgroups can be used to make quotient groups.
  - For example,  $\{I, F\}$  cannot be used to make a quotient group in  $D_8$ .
- We figured out that, in order for  $H$  to work, we needed  $gH=Hg$  for each element of  $g$ .
- Subgroups  $H$  that satisfy this condition are called normal subgroups:

Definition: Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $H$  is a *normal* subgroup of  $G$  if

$$gH=Hg \quad \forall g \in G.$$



# Why is $gH = Hg$ for all $g \in G$ needed?

Consider the case of  $H = \{I, F\}$  in  $D_8$ :

	$\{I, F\}$	$\{R, FR^3\}$	$\{R^2, FR^2\}$	$\{R^3, FR\}$
$\{I, F\}$	$\{I, F\}$	Uh OH!	Uh OH!	Uh OH!
$\{R, FR^3\}$	$\{R, FR^3\}$			
$\{R^2, FR^2\}$	$\{R^2, FR^2\}$			
$\{R^3, FR\}$	$\{R^3, FR\}$			

When we get to the second spot in row one, we have to multiply by  $R$  on the *right* of  $H$ . This gives us different stuff than what is in  $RH = \{R, FR^3\}$  which was created by multiplying by  $R$  on the *left* of  $H$ .

But  $H$  is supposed to be the identity!  
 (We should get  $RH = H = HR$ )





## An easier way to multiply cosets:

Definition: Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ . If  $a, b \in G$ , then:

$$(aH)(bH) = abH.$$

Does this match our original way of thinking about multiplying cosets?

....yes, *if*  $H$  is normal!





Theorem: Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a subgroup. Then  $G/H$  is a group (under the operation of coset multiplication) if and only if  $H$  is normal.

Proof: see last time!