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proof of fourth isomorphism theorem

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First we must prove that the map defined by  $A \mapsto A/N$  is a bijection. Let  $\theta$  denote this map, so that  $\theta(A) = A/N$ . Suppose  $A/N = B/N$ , then for any  $a \in A$  we have  $aN = bN$  for some  $b \in B$ , and so  $b^{-1}a \in N \subseteq B$ . Hence  $A \subseteq B$ , and similarly  $B \subseteq A$ , so  $A = B$  and  $\theta$  is injective. Now suppose  $S$  is a subgroup of  $G/N$  and  $\phi : G \rightarrow G/N$  by  $\phi(g) = gN$ . Then  $\phi^{-1}(S) = \{s \in G : sN \in S\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$  containing  $N$  and  $\theta(\phi^{-1}(S)) = \{sN : sN \in S\} = S$ , proving that  $\theta$  is bijective.

Now we move to the given properties:

1.  $A \leq B$  iff  $A/N \leq B/N$

If  $A \leq B$  then trivially  $A/N \leq B/N$ , and the converse follows from the fact that  $\theta$  is bijective.

2.  $A \leq B$  implies  $|B : A| = |B/N : A/N|$

Let  $\psi$  map the cosets in  $B/A$  to the cosets in  $(B/N)/(A/N)$  by mapping the coset  $bA$   $b \in B$  to the coset  $(bN)(A/N)$ . Then  $\psi$  is well defined and injective because:

$$\begin{aligned} b_1A = b_2A &\iff b_1^{-1}b_2 \in A \\ &\iff (b_1N)^{-1}(b_2N) = b_1^{-1}b_2N \in A/N \\ &\iff (b_1N)(A/N) = (b_2N)(A/N). \end{aligned}$$

Finally,  $\psi$  is surjective since  $b$  ranges over all of  $B$  in  $(bN)(A/N)$ .

3.  $\langle A, B \rangle/N = \langle A/N, B/N \rangle$

To show  $\langle A, B \rangle/N \subseteq \langle A/N, B/N \rangle$  we need only show that if  $x \in A$  or  $x \in B$  then  $xN \in \langle A/N, B/N \rangle$ . The other cases are dealt with using the fact that  $(xy)N = (xN)(yN)$ . So suppose  $x \in A$  then clearly  $xN \in \langle A/N, B/N \rangle$  because  $xN \in A/N$ . Similarly for  $x \in B$ . Similarly, to show  $\langle A/N, B/N \rangle \subseteq \langle A, B \rangle/N$  we need only show that if  $xN \in A/N$  or  $xN \in B/N$  then  $x \in \langle A, B \rangle$ . So suppose  $xN \in A/N$ , then  $xN = aN$  for some  $a \in A$ , giving  $a^{-1}x \in N \subseteq A$  and so  $x \in A \subseteq \langle A, B \rangle$ . Similarly for  $xN \in B/N$ .

4.  $(A \cap B)/N = (A/N) \cap (B/N)$

Suppose  $xN \in (A \cap B)/N$ , then  $xN = yN$  for some  $y \in (A \cap B)$  and since  $N \subseteq (A \cap B)$ ,  $x \in (A \cap B)$ . Therefore  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ , and so  $xN \in (A/N) \cap (B/N)$  meaning  $(A \cap B)/N \subseteq (A/N) \cap (B/N)$ . Now

suppose  $xN \in (A/N) \cap (B/N)$ . Then  $xN = aN$  for some  $a \in A$ , giving  $a^{-1}x \in N \subseteq A$  and so  $x \in A$ . Similarly  $x \in B$ , therefore  $xN \in (A \cap B)/N$  and  $(A/N) \cap (B/N) \subseteq (A \cap B)/N$ .

5.  $A \trianglelefteq G$  iff  $(A/N) \trianglelefteq (G/N)$

Suppose  $A \trianglelefteq G$ . Then for any  $g \in G$  we have  $(gN)(A/N)(gN)^{-1} = (gAg^{-1})/N = A/N$  and so  $(A/N) \trianglelefteq (G/N)$ .

Conversely suppose  $(A/N) \trianglelefteq (G/N)$ . Consider  $\sigma: g \mapsto (gN)(A/N)$ , the composition of the map from  $G$  onto  $G/N$  and the map from  $G/N$  onto  $(G/N)/(A/N)$ .  $g \in \ker \pi$  iff  $(gN)(A/N) = (A/N)$  which occurs iff  $gN \in A/N$  therefore  $gN = aN$  for some  $a \in A$ . However  $N$  is contained in  $A$ , so this statement is equivalent to saying  $g \in A$ . So  $A$  is the kernel of a homomorphism, hence is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .