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the derived subgroup is normal

Canonical name TheDerivedSubgroupIsNormal

Date of creation 2013-03-22 16:04:39 Last modified on 2013-03-22 16:04:39 Owner juanman (12619) Last modified by juanman (12619)

Numerical id 8

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Entry type Proof

Classification msc 20A05 Classification msc 20E15 Classification msc 20F14 We are going to prove:

"The derived subgroup (or commutator subgroup) [G, G] is normal in G"

Proof:

We have to show that for each $x \in [G, G]$, gxg^{-1} it is also in [G, G].

Since [G, G] is the subgroup generated by the all commutators in G, then for each $x \in [G, G]$ we have $x = c_1 c_2 \cdots c_m$ –a word of commutators– so $c_i = [a_i, b_i]$ for all i.

Now taking any element of $g \in G$ we can see that

$$g[a_{i}, b_{i}]g^{-1} = ga_{i}b_{i}a_{i}^{-1}b_{i}^{-1}g^{-1}$$

$$= ga_{i}g^{-1}gb_{i}g^{-1}ga_{i}^{-1}g^{-1}gb_{i}^{-1}g^{-1}$$

$$= (ga_{i}g^{-1})(gb_{i}g^{-1})(ga_{i}g^{-1})^{-1}(gb_{i}g^{-1})^{-1}$$

$$= [ga_{i}g^{-1}, gb_{i}g^{-1}],$$

that is

$$g[a_i, b_i]g^{-1} = [ga_ig^{-1}, gb_ig^{-1}]$$

so a conjugation of a commutator is another commutator, then for the conjugation

$$gxg^{-1} = gc_1c_2 \cdots c_mg^{-1}$$

$$= gc_1g^{-1}gc_2g^{-1}g \cdots g^{-1}gc_mg^{-1}$$

$$= (gc_1g^{-1})(gc_2g^{-1}) \cdots (gc_mg^{-1})$$

is another word of commutators, hence gxg^{-1} is in [G,G] which in turn implies that [G,G] is normal in G, QED.