

Let  $G$  be a group acting on  $A$ . Fix  $a \in A$ . Show that  $G_a = \{g \in G \mid ga = a\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

To show that  $G_a \leq G$ , we need to show that  $G_a$  is nonempty and  $\forall x, y \in G_a, xy^{-1} \in G_a$ .

- nonempty:  $e \in G_a$ , trivially, since  $ea = a$ .
- Closure: Let  $g, h \in G_a$ . Need  $gh^{-1} \in G_a$ , i.e.  $gh^{-1}a = a$ .

$$gh^{-1}a = g(h^{-1}a) = ga = a, \quad (1)$$

where, we used the fact that  $h^{-1} \in G_a$  since

$$\begin{aligned} h \in G &\Rightarrow h^{-1} \in G \text{ and } ha = a \\ \Rightarrow h^{-1}ha &= h^{-1}a \Rightarrow ea = h^{-1}a \Rightarrow a = h^{-1}a. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Thus,  $G_a \leq G$ .

2.

$H$  is a group acting on  $A$ . Show that

$$a \sim b \text{ iff } \exists h \in H \text{ s.t. } a = hb \quad (3)$$

is an equivalence relation on  $A$ .

- Reflexive : true, since  $e \in H$ ,  $ea = a \Rightarrow a \sim a$ .
- Symmetric: Suppose  $a \sim b$ . Then,  $\exists h \in H$  s.t.  $ha = b$ . Since  $h \in H \Rightarrow h^{-1} \in H$ , we have  $h^{-1}b = h^{-1}ha = ea = a \Rightarrow b \sim a$ .
- Transitive: Suppose  $a \sim b, b \sim c$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \exists h_1 \in H, a &= h_1b; \exists h_2 \in H, b = h_2c \\ &\Rightarrow a = h_1h_2c \\ &\Rightarrow (h_1h_2) \in H, a = (h_1h_2)c \Rightarrow a \sim c. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Thus  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $A$ .

### 3

Let  $G$  be any group. Show that  $(g_1, g_2)a := g_1ag_1^{-1}$  gives an action of  $G \times G$  on  $G$ .  
 Show that the Kernel of this action is  $\{(g, g) \mid g \in \mathbb{Z}(G)\}$

#### 1

consider  $e_1, e_2 \in G$

$$(e_1, e_2)a = e_1ae_2^{-1} = eae = a. \quad (5)$$

• consider  $(h_1, h_2), (g_1, g_2) \in G \times G$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (h_1, h_2)((g_1, g_2)a) &= (h_1, h_2)(g_1ag_2^{-1}) \\ &= h_1g_1ag_2^{-1}h_2^{-1}. \\ ((h_1g_1), (g_2h_2))a &= (h_1g_1)a(g_2h_2)^{-1} \\ &= h_1g_1ah_2^{-1}g_2^{-1} = (h_1, h_2)((g_1, g_2)a). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

so this is an action of  $G \times G$  on  $G$ .

#### 2

Consider the kernel  $(g_1, g_2)$  s.t.  $(g_1, g_2)a = a, \forall a \in G$ . Then

$$g_1ag_2^{-1} = a \Rightarrow g_1 = ag_2a^{-1}, \forall a \in G \quad (7)$$

The only elements of  $G$  that are conjugate to each other for every  $a \in G$  must commute with every element, so  $g_2 \in \mathbb{Z}(G)$  and  $g_1 = g_2$ . Thus the kernel is  $\{(g, g) \mid g \in \mathbb{Z}(G)\}$ .

Let  $G$  be a group and let  $G$  act on itself by left conjugation, s.t. each  $g \in G$  maps  $G \rightarrow G$  by  $x \mapsto gxg^{-1}$ . For fixed  $g \in G$ , prove:

1. Conjugation by  $g$  is automorphism of  $G$ .
2.  $x, gxg^{-1}$  have same order  $\forall x \in G$ .
3.  $\forall A \subseteq G, |A| = |gAg^{-1}|$ .

1

Define  $c_g : G \rightarrow G, c_{g(x)} = gxg^{-1}$ . Now, for any  $x, g \in G$ , consider

$$\begin{aligned} c_{g(xy)} &= gxyg^{-1}; \\ c_{g(x)}c_{g(y)} &= (gxg^{-1})(gyg^{-1}) = gx(g^{-1}g)y g^{-1} = gxyg^{-1} \\ c_{g(xy)} &= c_{g(x)}c_{g(y)}. \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

So  $c_g$  is a homomorphism. Further, recall that a map  $f$  is bijective if  $\exists g : B \rightarrow A$  s.t.  $f \circ g = e_B, g \circ f = e_A$ .

We define an “inverse conjugation” as  $c_g^{-1} : G \rightarrow G, c_{g(x)} = g^{-1}xg$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} c_g \circ c_g^{-1}(x) &= c_{g(g^{-1}xg)} = g(g^{-1}xg)g^{-1} = exe = x; \\ c_g^{-1} \circ c_g(x) &= c_g^{-1}(gxg^{-1}) = g^{-1}(gxg^{-1})g = exe = x. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Therefore  $c_g \circ c_g^{-1} = e = c_g^{-1} \circ c_g$ . Thus,  $c_g$  is bijective, and hence an automorphism of  $G$ .

2

Since  $c_g$  is an automorphism, it is isomorphic, so using proposition from lecture that isomorphic elements have the same order, we have that  $x$  and  $gxg^{-1}$  have the same order.

3

Since  $c_g : G \rightarrow G$  is bijective, it is injective, and so a subset  $A \subset G$  is injective to  $c_{g(A)} = gAg^{-1}$ . Further, we can show that  $c_g$  is surjective from  $A$  to  $gAg^{-1}$ . Consider any  $y \in gAg^{-1}$ . Then,  $\exists a \in A$  s.t.  $y = gag^{-1}$ . But then,  $c_{g(a)} = gag^{-1} = y$ . Thus,  $c_g$  is surjective from  $A$  to  $gAg^{-1}$ .

Since  $c_g$  is both injective and surjective from  $A$  to  $gAg^{-1}$ ,  $c_g$  is bijective from  $A$  to  $gAg^{-1}$ , and so  $|A| = |gAg^{-1}|$ .

Give an explicit example where  $G$  is a group,  $H \subset G$ ,  $|H| = \infty$ ,  $H$  is closed under the group operation, but  $H$  is not a subgroup of  $G$ .

We can construct such an example by failing the subgroup definition that  $\forall x \in H, x^{-1} \in H$ .

Consider  $G = (\mathbb{R}, \times)$ ,  $H = \mathbb{Z}$ . It is easily verified that  $H \subset G$ ,  $|H| = \infty$ , and  $H$  is closed under multiplication. However, consider  $2 \in H$ . Its inverse would be  $\frac{1}{2}$ , but it is not in  $H$ . Thus,  $H$  is not a subgroup of  $G$ .

## 6

Prove that

1. If  $H$  and  $K$  are subgroups of  $G$ , then  $H \cap K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .
2. The intersection of an arbitrary nonempty collection of subgroups of  $G$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**1**

Consider arbitrary  $x, y \in H \cap K$ . Then  $x, y^{-1} \in H$ ,  $x, y^{-1} \in K$  and  $xy^{-1} \in H$ ,  $xy^{-1} \in K$  by subgroup definition. Then  $xy^{-1} \in H \cap K$ . Further,  $e \in H, e \in K \Rightarrow e \in H \cap K$ , nonempty. Thus,  $H \cap K \leq G$ .

**2**

Denote  $H_i \leq G (i \in I)$  for some index set  $I$ , and denote  $S = \bigcap_i H_i$ .

First, it's clear that  $e \in S$  as  $e \in H_i \forall i$ , and so  $S$  is nonempty.

Then, consider  $x, y \in S$ , then  $x, y \in H_i \forall i \in I$  by definition of intersection. By subgroup definition,  $xy^{-1} \in H_i \forall i \in I$ , and so  $xy^{-1} \in S$ . Thus,  $S \leq G$ .

Prove the following:

1. Assume  $H \leq G, K \leq G$ , then  $H \cup K$  not closed under multiplication unless  $H \leq K$  or  $K \leq H$ .
2. Let  $H_n \leq G$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) s.t.  $H_n \leq H_{n+1}$ . Prove that  $\cup_{n=1}^{\infty} H_n \leq G$ .

**1**

We need to prove :  $H \cup K$  closed under multiplication  $\Rightarrow H \leq K$  or  $K \leq H$ . Suppose not:  $H \cup K$  but  $H \not\leq K$  or  $K \not\leq H$ .

Then choose  $h \in H \setminus K, k \in K \setminus H$ . Since  $H \cup K$  closed under multiplication,  $hk \in H \cup K$ .

If  $hk \in H$ , then since  $h \in H$ , by subgroup definition,  $h^{-1} \in H$  and so  $k = h^{-1}(hk) \in H$ , a contradiction. If  $hk \in K$ , then since  $k \in K$ , by subgroup definition,  $k^{-1} \in K$  and so  $h = (hk)k^{-1} \in K$ , a contradiction.

So,  $H \cup K$  not closed under multiplication unless  $H \leq K$  or  $K \leq H$ .

**2**

Denote  $H = \cup_{n=1}^{\infty} H_n$ . Choose  $x, y \in H$ . Then  $x \in H_m, y \in H_n$  for some  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Take  $k = \max(m, n)$ , then  $x, y \in H_k$  since  $H_m \leq H_k, H_n \leq H_k$ . By subgroup definition,  $xy^{-1} \in H_k$ , and so  $xy^{-1} \in H$ . Further,  $e \in H_1 \leq H$ , so  $H$  is nonempty. Thus,  $H \leq G$ .

Let  $H \leq G$  for  $G$  a group. Prove:

1.  $H \subseteq N_G(H)$
2. Find an example where  $G$  is a group,  $A \subseteq G$ , but  $A \not\subseteq N_G(A)$
3.  $H \subseteq C_G(H)$  iff  $H$  is abelian.

1.

Recall  $N_G(H) = \{g \in G \mid gHg^{-1} = H\}$ . To show  $H \subseteq N_G(H) = \{g \in G \mid gHg^{-1} = H\}$  is to show  $\forall h \in H, hHh^{-1} = H$ .

Fix  $h \in H, h^{-1} \in H$ . Then  $\forall x \in H, h x h^{-1} \in H \Rightarrow hHh^{-1} \subseteq H$ .

Similiarly, fix  $h^{-1} \in H$ . Then  $\forall y \in H, h^{-1} y h \in H \Rightarrow y \in hHh^{-1}$ . But since  $y \in H, H \subseteq hHh^{-1}$ .

Collectively,  $hHh^{-1} = H$ , and so  $h \in N_G(H)$ . Since  $h \in H$  was arbitrary,  $H \subseteq N_G(H)$ .

2.

Consider  $G = S_3 = \{(123), (12), (13), (132), e\}$ . Consider  $A = \{(12), (13)\} \subset G$ .

Further, consider  $(12) \in G$ . Notice that it is in  $A$ , but not in  $N_G(A)$ , since:

$$\begin{aligned} (12)(12)(12) &= (12) \in A. \\ (12)(13)(12) &= (23) \notin A. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

So  $(12) \notin N_G(A)$  while  $(12) \in A$ , so  $A \not\subseteq N_G(A)$ .

3.

- Assume  $H \subseteq C_G(H) \Leftrightarrow h \in C_G(H) \forall h \in H$ , which implies for all  $a \in A, ha = ah$  by the definition of centralizer. Thus,  $H$  is abelian.
- Assume  $H$  is abelian. Then,  $\forall h \in H, \forall a \in H, ha = ah \Rightarrow hah^{-1} = ahh^{-1} = a \Rightarrow hHh^{-1} = H \Rightarrow h \in C_G(H)$ . Since  $h \in H$  was arbitrary,  $H \subseteq C_G(H)$ . Thus completes the proof.



9.

$G = Q_8$ ,  $A = \{i, -i\}$ , find  $Z(G)$ ,  $C_G(A)$ ,  $N_G(A)$ .

$$G = \{\pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k\}.$$

1.  $Z(G) = Z(Q_8) = \{g \in Q_8 \mid gx = xg, \forall x \in Q_8\} = \{1, -1\}$ , since  $i, j, k$  do not commute with each other.
2.  $C_G(A) = \{g \in Q_8 \mid ga = ag, \forall a \in A\} = \{1, -1, i, -i\} = \langle i \rangle$ , as  $Z(G) \subseteq C_G(A)$ , and  $j, k$  do not commute with  $i$ .
3.  $N_G(A) = \{g \in G \mid gAg^{-1} = A\}$ . Since  $C_G(A) \subseteq N_G(A)$ , examine only  $g = j, k$ .
  - for  $g = j$ , notice that  $jAj^{-1} = \{-i, i\} = A$ ;
  - for  $g = k$ , notice that  $kAk^{-1} = \{i, -i\} = A$ .
  - for cases  $g = -j, -k$ , the same results hold in the exact same way.
- Thus,  $N_G(A) = \{1, -1, i, -i, j, -j, k, -k\} = G_8$ .