

For problems 1-3, let  $H, K \leq G$ .

1. Prove that  $H \subseteq K \implies H \leq K$ .

Suppose  $H \subseteq K$ . We want to show that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $K$ , that is, we want to show that  $H$  satisfies the three axioms of a group.

First, since  $H$  is a subset of  $K$ , any element of  $H$  is also an element of  $K$ . So  $H$  inherits the associative property of the binary operation from  $K$ .

Second, since  $H \subseteq K$ , the identity element of  $K$  must also be an element of  $H$ . Therefore,  $H$  has an identity element.

Third, for any element  $h$  in  $H$ , its inverse in  $K$  is also in  $H$  because  $H \subseteq K$ . Therefore,  $H$  has inverses for all its elements.

Since  $H$  satisfies the three axioms of a group, we can conclude that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $K$ .

2. Show that  $H \cap K \leq G$ .

3. Let  $G$  be an abelian group, and define  $HK$  as follows:

$$HK = \{hk \mid h \in H \text{ and } k \in K\}$$

Prove that  $HK \leq G$ .

4. Suppose a group  $G$  is generated by two elements  $a$  and  $b$ .  
Prove that  $ab = ba \implies G$  is abelian.

*Proof.* Let us assume that  $ab = ba$ . We know that  $G$  is a group and hence we only need to prove  $G$  is commutative for the group to be abelian. ■

5. Define the center of a group to be

$$C = \{g \in G \mid gx = xg, \forall x \in G\},$$

that is, the set of all elements of  $G$  that commute with every element of  $G$ .

Prove  $C \leq G$ .