

**Exercise 9.9.** Let  $G = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$  and define a binary operation on  $G$  by

$$a * b = a + b + ab.$$

Prove that  $G$  is a group under this operation. Show that  $(G, *)$  is isomorphic to the multiplicative group of nonzero real numbers.

*Proof.* By **Exercise 3.7** from homework #2,  $(G, *)$  is an abelian group.

The map  $\phi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$  given by  $\phi(x) = 1 + x$  is clearly a bijection and well defined on each set.  $\phi$  preserves group operations as for any  $a, b \in G$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(a) \cdot \phi(b) &= (1 + a) \cdot (1 + b) \quad \text{by definition of } \phi \\ &= 1 + b + a + ab = a + b + ab + 1 \\ &= \phi(a + b + ab) \quad \text{by definition of } \phi \\ &= \phi(a * b) \quad \text{by definition of } *\end{aligned}$$

So  $(G, *) \simeq (\mathbb{R}^*, \cdot)$ . □

**Exercise 9.12.** Prove that  $S_4$  is not isomorphic to  $D_{12}$ .

*Proof.* Consider  $(1, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2) \in D_{12}$  which has order 12. Because every element of  $S_4$  has order less than or equal to 4, the two groups cannot be isomorphic by Theorem from class that  $\text{ord}[\phi(g_1)] = \text{ord}(g_1)$ . □

**Exercise 9.14.** Show that the set of all matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is isomorphic to  $D_n$  where all entries in the matrix are in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : k \in \mathbb{Z}_n \right\}$ . Notice for any  $\begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in S$ , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^k \begin{bmatrix} \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . So  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  generate  $S$ . Furthermore,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  has order  $n$ , and  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  has order 2, and

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

By Theorem 5.10,  $D_n$  is generated by all the products of  $r, s \in D_n$  such that  $r^n = s^2 = id$  and  $srs = r^{-1}$ . Define  $f : S \rightarrow D_n$  by  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^k$  and  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^k s$ . To check that  $f$  preserves group operations, there are four cases to check:

1.  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k+\ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^{k+\ell} = r^k r^\ell = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) \cdot f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ . ✓
2.  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k-\ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^{k-\ell} s = r^k r^{-\ell} s = \dots = \dots = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) \cdot f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ . ✓
3.  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k+\ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^{k+\ell} s = r^k r^\ell s = r^k (r^\ell s) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) \cdot f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ . ✓
4.  $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & k-\ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = r^{k-\ell} = r^k r^{-\ell} = r (srs)^\ell \dots = \dots = f\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) \cdot f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \ell \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ . ✓

□

**Exercise 10.2.** Find all the sub-groups of  $D_4$ . Which sub-groups are normal? What are all the factors groups of  $D_4$  up to isomorphisms?

*Proof.* The sub-groups are  $D_4 = \{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3, s, \rho s, \rho^2 s, \rho^3 s\} = \{id, (1234), (13)(24), (1432), (24), (12)(34), (13), (14)(23)\}$  are

1.  $\{id\}$
2.  $\{id, \rho^2\}$
3.  $\{id, s\}$
4.  $\{id, \rho s\}$
5.  $\{id, \rho^2 s\}$
6.  $\{id, \rho^3 s\}$
7.  $\{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\}$
8.  $\{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\}$
9.  $\{id, \rho^2, \rho s, \rho^3 s\}$
10.  $D_4$

1.  $\{id\}$  is normal.
2.  $\{id, \rho^2\}$  is normal as  $(1234)\{id, \rho^2\} = \{(1234), (1432)\} = \{id, \rho^2\}(1234)$  and  $(24)\{id, \rho^2\} = \{(24), (13)\} = \{id, \rho^2\}(24)$  and  $(12)(34)\{id, \rho^2\} = \{(12)(34), (14)(23)\} = \{id, \rho^2\}(12)(34)$ . ✓
3.  $\{id, s\}$  is not normal as  $(1234)\{id, s\} = \{(1234), (12)(34)\} \neq \{(1234), (14)(23)\} = \{id, s\}(1234)$ .
4.  $\{id, \rho s\}$  is not normal as  $(1234)\{id, \rho s\} = \{(1234), (13)\} \neq \{(1234), (24)\} = \{id, \rho s\}(1234)$
5.  $\{id, \rho^2 s\}$  is not normal as  $\rho \circ (\rho^2 s) = \rho^3 s \neq \rho s = (\rho^2 s) \circ \rho$ .
6.  $\{id, \rho^3 s\}$  is not normal as  $\rho \circ (\rho^3 s) = s \neq \rho^2 s = (\rho^3 s) \circ \rho$ .
7.  $\{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\}$  is normal as  $s\{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\} = \{s, \rho^3 s, \rho^2 s, \rho s\} = \{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\} s$ . ✓
8.  $\{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\}$  is normal as  $\rho\{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\} = \{\rho, \rho^3, \rho s, \rho^3 s\} = \{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\} \rho$ . ✓
9.  $\{id, \rho^2, \rho s, \rho^3 s\}$  is normal as  $\rho\{id, \rho^2, \rho s, \rho^3 s\} = \{\rho, \rho^3, \rho^2 s, s\}$ . ✓

10.  $D_4$  is normal.

2. The factor group  $D_4/\{id, \rho^2\} = \{\{id, \rho^2\}, \{\rho, \rho^3\}, \{s, \rho^2 s\}, \{\rho s, \rho^3 s\}\}$ .
7. The factor group  $D_4/\{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\} = \{\{id, \rho, \rho^2, \rho^3\}, \{s, \rho^3 s, \rho^2 s, \rho s\}\}$ .
8.  $D_4/\{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\} = \{\{id, \rho^2, s, \rho^2 s\}, \{\rho, \rho^3, \rho s, \rho^3 s\}\}$ .
9.  $D_4/\{id, \rho^2, \rho s, \rho^3 s\} = \{\{id, \rho^2, \rho s, \rho^3 s\}, \{\rho, \rho^3, \rho^2 s, s\}\}$ .

□

**Exercise 10.7.** Prove or disprove: If  $H$  is a normal sub-group of  $G$  such that  $H$  and  $G/H$  are abelian, then  $G$  is abelian.

*Counterexample.* Let  $G = S_3$  and  $H = A_3$ .  $S_3$  is non-abelian. By Corollary 9.4,  $A_3 \simeq \mathbb{Z}_3$ , so  $A_3$  is abelian. We must show  $A_3$  is normal and  $S_3/A_3$  is abelian:

$A_3$  is normal as for any  $\sigma \in S_3$ ,  $\sigma A_3 \sigma^{-1}$  is even whether  $\sigma$  is even or odd. So  $\sigma A_3 \sigma^{-1} \subseteq A_3$ , so  $A_3$  is normal by Theorem 10.1.2. ✓

To show  $S_3/A_3$  is abelian, notice by Lagrange's Theorem,  $[S_3 : A_3] = \frac{|S_3|}{|A_3|} = \frac{6}{3} = 2$ . By Theorem 10.2,  $|S_3/A_3| = [S_3 : A_3]$ . By Corollary 9.4, since  $|S_3/A_3| = 2$  and 2 is prime,  $S_3/A_3 \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$ , so  $S_3/A_3$  is abelian. ✓ □

**Exercise 10.11.** If a group  $G$  has exactly one sub-group  $H$  of order  $k$ , prove that  $H$  is normal in  $G$ .

*Proof.* By **Exercise 3.54** from homework #4,  $gHg^{-1}$  is a sub-group of  $G$ . By the assumption that  $H$  is the only sub-group of  $G$ , we have that  $H = gHg^{-1}$ . By Theorem 10.1.3,  $H = gHg^{-1} \implies H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . □

**Exercise 10.12.** Define the **centralizer** of an element  $g$  in a group  $G$  to be the set

$$C(g) = \{x \in G : xg = gx\}.$$

Show that  $C(g)$  is a sub-group of  $G$ . If  $g$  generates a normal sub-group of  $G$ , prove that  $C(g)$  is normal in  $G$ .

*Proof.* For  $C(g) \subseteq G$  to be a sub-group of  $G$ , it is sufficient to show

1. For all  $a, b \in C(g)$ ,  $a \circ b \in C(g)$ .
2. There exists  $e \in C(g)$  such that  $a \circ e = a = e \circ a$  for all  $a \in C(g)$ .
3. For all  $a \in C(g)$  there exists  $a^{-1} \in C(g)$  such that  $a \circ a^{-1} = e = a^{-1} \circ a$ .

1. Consider  $a, b \in C(g)$ . Then  $a, b \in G$  as  $C(g) \subseteq G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (ab)x &= a(bx) && \text{by associativity of elements of } G \\ &= a(xb) && \text{by assumption that } b \in C(g) \\ &= (ax)b && \text{by associativity of elements of } G \\ &= (xa)b && \text{by assumption that } a \in C(g) \\ &= x(ab) && \text{by associativity of elements of } G \end{aligned}$$

So  $ab \in C(g)$ . ✓

2. Because  $e \in G$  by definition commutes with every element of  $G$ ,  $e \in C(g)$ . ✓

3. Consider  $c \in C(g)$ . Then  $c \in G$  and  $c^{-1} \in G$  as  $G$  is a group and  $C(g) \subseteq G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} c \in C(g) &\implies cx = xc \\ &\implies c^{-1}cxc^{-1} = c^{-1}xcc^{-1} && \text{by left and right multiplying by } c^{-1} \\ &\implies xc^{-1} = c^{-1}x && \text{by condensing the “} c^{-1}c \text{” and “} cc^{-1} \text{” terms} \end{aligned}$$

So  $c \in C(g) \implies c^{-1} \in C(g)$ . ✓

So  $C(g)$  is a sub-group of  $G$ .

Because  $C(g)$  is clearly abelian, it follows that the left and right co-sets must be equal, and  $C(g)$  must be normal. □

**Exercise 11.2.** Which of the following maps are homomorphisms? If the map is a homomorphism, what is the kernel?

(a)  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow GL_2(\mathbb{R})$  defined by

$$\phi(a) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix}$$

(b)  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow GL_2(\mathbb{R})$  defined by

$$\phi(a) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(c)  $\phi : GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$\phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) = a + d$$

(d)  $\phi : GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$  defined by

$$\phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) = ad - bc$$

(e)  $\phi : M_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$\phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) = b$$

*Proof.*

(a)  $\phi$  is a homomorphism as for  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^*$ ,

$$\phi(a)\phi(b) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & ab \end{bmatrix} = \phi(ab)$$

and  $\ker \phi := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^* \text{ such that } \phi(x) = id\} = \{1\}$ . □

(b)  $\phi$  is not a homomorphism as

$$\phi(a)\phi(b) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ a+b & 1 \end{bmatrix} \neq \phi(ab).$$

□

(c)  $\phi$  is not a homomorphism as

$$\phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right) = \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a\alpha + b\gamma & a\beta + b\delta \\ c\alpha + d\gamma & c\beta + d\delta \end{bmatrix}\right) = a\alpha + b\gamma + c\beta + d\delta \neq a\alpha + a\delta + d\alpha + d\delta = \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

(d)  $\phi$  is a homomorphism as

$$\begin{aligned} \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right) &= \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a\alpha + b\gamma & a\beta + b\delta \\ c\alpha + d\gamma & c\beta + d\delta \end{bmatrix}\right) = (a\alpha + b\gamma)(c\beta + d\delta) - (a\beta + b\delta)(c\alpha + d\gamma) \\ &= ac\alpha\beta + ad\alpha\delta + bc\beta\gamma + bd\gamma\delta - ac\alpha\beta - ad\beta\gamma - bc\alpha\delta - bd\gamma\delta \\ &= ad\alpha\delta + bc\beta\gamma - ad\beta\gamma - bc\alpha\delta \\ &= (ad - bc)(\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma) = \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and  $\ker \phi := \{M \in GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \text{ such that } \phi(M) = 1\} = SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ . □

(e)  $\phi$  is not a homomorphism as

$$\phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right) = \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a\alpha + b\gamma & a\beta + b\delta \\ c\alpha + d\gamma & c\beta + d\delta \end{bmatrix}\right) = a\beta + b\delta \neq b\beta = \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) \phi\left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{bmatrix}\right). \quad \square$$

**Exercise 11.17.** If  $H$  and  $K$  are normal sub-groups of  $G$  and  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ , prove that  $G$  is isomorphic to a sub-group of  $G \setminus H \times G \setminus K$ .

*Proof.* content... □

Homework exercises I cited:

**Exercise 3.7** Let  $S = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$  and define a binary operation on  $S$  by  $a * b = a + b + ab$ . Prove that  $(S, *)$  is an abelian group. An *abelian group* is a group  $G$  such that  $a * b = b * a$  for all  $a, b \in G$ .

**Associative** For all  $a, b, c \in G$ ,  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (a * b) * c &= (a * b) + c + (a * b)c \quad \text{by definition of } a * b \\ &= (a + b + ab) + c + (a + b + ab)c \quad \text{by definition of } a * b \\ &= a + b + c + ab + ac + bc + abc \\ &= a + (b + c + bc) + a(b + c + bc) \\ &= a + (b * c) + a(b * c) \quad \text{by definition of } a * b \\ &= a * (b * c) \quad \text{by definition of } a * b \end{aligned}$$

**Identity element** There exists an element  $e \in G$  such that for any  $a \in G$ ,  $e * a = a * e = a$ .

For any  $a$ , let  $b = 0$ . Then  $a * b = a + 0 + a(0) = a = 0 + a + 0(a) = b * a$ . So  $b = 0$  is the identity element such that  $a * 0 = 0 * a$  for all  $a \in G$ .

**Inverse element** For each element  $a \in G$  there exists an  $a^{-1} \in G$  such that  $a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$ .

We know from above that  $e = 0$ . So given  $a \in G$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} a + b + ab &= 0 \\ \implies b(1 + a) + a &= 0 \\ \implies b &= \frac{-a}{1 + a} \end{aligned}$$

which is defined for all  $x \in S$ . So  $b = \frac{-a}{1+a}$  is the unique inverse element  $a^{-1}$  to each  $a$  such that  $a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$ .

**Commutative** For all  $a, b \in G$ ,  $a * b = b * a$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 a * b &= a + b + ab \\
 &= b + a + ab \quad \text{by commutative property of addition} \\
 &= b + a + ba \quad \text{by commutative property of multiplication} \\
 &= b * a \quad \text{by definition}
 \end{aligned}$$

So  $(S, *)$  is an abelian group. □

**Exercise 3.54.** Let  $H$  be a sub-group of  $G$ . If  $g \in G$ , show that  $gHg^{-1} := \{g^{-1}hg : h \in H\}$  is also a sub-group of  $G$ .

*Proof.* By theorem from class, for  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq G$  to be a sub-group of  $G$ , it is sufficient to show

1. For all  $a, b \in gHg^{-1}$ ,  $a \circ b \in gHg^{-1}$ .
2. There exists  $e \in gHg^{-1}$  such that  $a \circ e = a = e \circ a$  for all  $a \in gHg^{-1}$ .
3. For all  $a \in gHg^{-1}$  there exists  $a^{-1} \in gHg^{-1}$  such that  $a \circ a^{-1} = e = a^{-1} \circ a$ .

Notice that  $gHg^{-1}$  is necessarily a subset of  $G$  as every element in  $H$  is contained in  $G$  (by assumption that  $H$  is a sub-group of  $G$ ). So  $g, h, g^{-1} \in G$ . Furthermore, every element in  $gHg^{-1}$  is of the form  $g^{-1}hg$ , and  $G$  is closed by assumption that  $G$  is a group. So  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq G$ .

Let  $a, b \in gHg^{-1}$ . Then  $a = g^{-1}h_ag$  and  $b = g^{-1}h_bg$  for some  $h_a, h_b \in H$ .

1. Consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 ab &= (g^{-1}h_ag)(g^{-1}h_bg) \\
 &= (g^{-1}h_a)(gg^{-1})(h_bg) \quad \text{by associativity of elements of } G \\
 &= (g^{-1}h_a)(e)(h_bg) \quad \text{by definition of } g^{-1} \\
 &= (g^{-1}h_a)(h_bg), \quad \text{by definition of } e \\
 &= g^{-1}(h_ah_b)g \quad \text{by associativity of elements of } G
 \end{aligned}$$

and  $(h_ah_b) \in H$  as  $H$  was assumed to be a sub-group, so  $H$  is closed. So  $ab = g^{-1}(h_ah_b)g$  is of the form  $g^{-1}hg$  for some  $h \in H$ . So  $gHg^{-1}$  is closed.

2. By assumption that  $H$  is a sub-group of  $G$ ,  $e \in H$ . So  $(g^{-1}eg) \in gHg^{-1}$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
 g^{-1}eg &= g^{-1}g \quad \text{by definition of } e \\
 &= e, \quad \text{by definition of } g^{-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

So  $(g^{-1}eg) \in gHg^{-1}$  and  $g^{-1}eg = e$ . so  $e \in gHg^{-1}$ .

3. By Proposition 3.4, if  $a = g^{-1}h_ag$  then  $a^{-1} = g^{-1}h_a^{-1}g$ . So  $a^{-1} \in gHg^{-1}$  if  $h_a^{-1} \in H$ , and  $h_a^{-1}$  is necessarily an element of  $H$  by assumption that  $H$  is a sub-group of  $G$ . So  $a \in gHg^{-1} \implies a^{-1} \in gHg^{-1}$ .

So this shows that  $gHg^{-1}$  is a sub-group of  $G$ . □