

15

- (1) (i) Clearly $e \in C$. If $x, y \in C$ and $z \in G$, then $xyz = xzy = zxy$, so
 (2) $xy \in C$. If $x \in C$ and $y \in G$, then $x^{-1}y = (y^{-1}x)^{-1} = (xy^{-1})^{-1} = yx^{-1}$, so $x^{-1} \in C$. If $y \in C$ and $x, z \in G$, then $xyx^{-1} = xxy^{-1}y = y$, so $xyx^{-1}z = yz = zy = zxyx^{-1}$. So $xyx^{-1} \in C$.

- (ii) Assume π commutes with σ . If we use the first hint,
 (2) then $(\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_k)) = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$. So certainly $\{\pi(a_1), \dots, \pi(a_k)\} = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ and we are done. Now we give the direct proof. Consider the identity $\pi^{-1}(a_1, \dots, a_k)\pi = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ (*). Let $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and assume $\pi(a_i) \notin \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$. Applying the LHS of (*) to a_i we get a_i , but applying the RHS of (*) to a_i we get something $\neq a_i$ (a_{i+1} if $i < k$ and a_1 otherwise). Contradiction.

- (iii) Assume π is in the centre and let $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Pick $j, j' \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$ distinct. This is possible, since $n \geq 3$. Then, by (i), $\pi(\{i, j\}) \subseteq \{i, j\}$ and $\pi(\{i, j'\}) \subseteq \{i, j'\}$. So π maps $\{i\} = \{i, j\} \cap \{i, j'\}$ into itself, i.e. $\pi(i) = i$. So $\pi = \text{id}$ and the centre is trivial.

- (2) clearly $e' = f(e) \in f(N)$. If $x' = f(x), y' = f(y) \in f(N)$ ($x, y \in N$), then $x'y' = f(xy) \in f(N)$. If $x' = f(x) \in f(N)$ ($x \in N$), then $(x')^{-1} = f(x^{-1}) \in f(N)$. If $x' = f(x) \in G', y' = f(y) \in f(N)$ ($x \in G, y \in N$), then $x'y'(x')^{-1} = f(xy x^{-1}) \in f(N)$. So $f(N) \trianglelefteq G'$.

- (3) (i) Let $x \in H, y \in K$. Put $z = xyx^{-1}y^{-1}$. Then $z = (x(yx^{-1}y^{-1})) \in H$, since
 (2) $H \trianglelefteq G$ and $z = (xyx^{-1})y^{-1} \in K$, since $K \trianglelefteq G$. So $z \in H \cap K = \{e\}$, i.e. $z = e$. So $xy = yx$.

- (ii) Consider the map $\theta: H \times K \rightarrow G$ given by $\theta(x, y) = xy$ for
 (2) $(x, y) \in H \times K$. Let $(x, y), (x', y') \in H \times K$. Then $\theta((x, y)(x', y')) = \theta(xx', yy') = xx'yy' = xyx'y' = \theta(x, y)\theta(x', y')$, since the elements of H commute with those of K . So θ is a homomorphism. Now let $(x, y) \in H \times K$ and assume $\theta(x, y) = xy = e$. Then $x = y^{-1} \in H \cap K = \{e\}$. So $(x, y) = (e, e)$. So $\ker(\theta) = \{(e, e)\}$ and θ is injective. Furthermore θ is surjective, since H and K generate G . So $H \times K \cong G$.

- (2) Now define $\varphi: K \rightarrow G/H$ by $\varphi(x) = xH$. Then φ is a homomorphism, since it is the restriction of the canonical homomorphism to the subgroup H . It's kernel is $H \cap K = \{e\}$, so it's injective, and it is surjective, since H and K generate G .