

MATH 5590H BONUS

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Exercise. Find a group $G = \langle S \rangle$ s.t. $G' \neq [S, S]$.

Proof. Consider $A_4 = \langle (1, 2, 3), (1, 2, 4) \rangle$. Then

$$[S, S] = \langle (1, 2, 3)(1, 2, 4)(1, 3, 2)(1, 4, 2), (1, 2, 4)(1, 2, 3)(1, 4, 2)(1, 3, 2) \rangle.$$

Now note

$$(1, 2, 3)(1, 2, 4)(1, 3, 2)(1, 4, 2) = (1, 3)(2, 4)(1, 4)(2, 3) = (1, 2)(3, 4).$$

And

$$(1, 2, 4)(1, 2, 3)(1, 4, 2)(1, 3, 2) = (1, 2)(3, 4).$$

Thus $[S, S] = \langle (1, 2)(3, 4) \rangle$. Now note that $[(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 4)] \in [G, G]$, and

$$[(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 4)] = (1, 2, 3)(2, 3, 4)(1, 3, 2)(2, 4, 3) = (1, 4)(2, 3).$$

Then since $(1, 4)(2, 3) \notin \langle (1, 2)(3, 4) \rangle$, we know $[S, S] \neq G'$. □