

D6 : Let us do the special case: (intersection of just two)

pg 143

Show that the intersection of any 2 normal subgroups is a normal subgroup.

Proof: Let G be any group, and let H, K be any two normal subgroups of G . (i.e. $H \trianglelefteq G$ and $K \trianglelefteq G$)

Want to show that $H \cap K \trianglelefteq G$.

Recall by definition that $H \cap K = \{x \in G \mid x \in H \text{ and } x \in K\}$.

Earlier we have shown that $H \cap K$ is a subgroup of G . Review this part and include the same here to begin with.

Now to show the 'normality', let $a \in H \cap K$ and $x \in G$ be arbit.

[Need to show that $xax^{-1} \in H \cap K$].

First, since $a \in H \cap K$, we can say that $a \in H$. Since $a \in H$, $x \in G$, and $H \trianglelefteq G$, by defn of a normal subgroup, we have that $xax^{-1} \in H$ — (1)

Secondly, since $a \in H \cap K$, we can say that $a \in K$. Since $a \in K$, $x \in G$, and $K \trianglelefteq G$, by defn of a normal subgroup, we have that $xax^{-1} \in K$ — (2)

\therefore By (1) and (2), $xax^{-1} \in H \cap K$ (by definition of intersection of 2 sets)

$\therefore \forall a \in H \cap K \forall x \in G, xax^{-1} \in H \cap K$.

\therefore By definition of a normal subgroup, $H \cap K$ is a normal subgroup of G .

Q.E.D.

Note: A more general result is true: Let G be any gp and $\{N_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in L}$ be a family of normal subgroups of G . Then $\bigcap_{\alpha \in L} N_\alpha$ is a normal subgroup of G .