

GROUP THEORY

Self Conjugate :- An element a of a group G is called self conjugate element iff $C_a = \{a\}$

i.e. iff C_a consists of the single element a

i.e. iff $x^{-1}ax = a \quad \forall x \in G$

\Rightarrow iff $ax = xa \quad \forall x \in G$

Notes:-

- (i) A self conjugate element is one which commutes with every element of the group.
- (ii) The transform of a self conjugate element remains the same.
- (iii) Self conjugate element is also called invariant element.

Conjugate Subgroup :- Transformation of an element by another element gives us a conjugate element. Similarly, transformation of a subgroup by another subgroup gives conjugate subgroups. Thus if A and B are two subgroups of a group G , then B is said to be conjugate to A if there exists an element $x \in G$ such that $B = x^{-1}Ax$. The symbol " $B \subseteq A$ " is read as B is conjugate to A .

Theorem 1:- The normalizer $N(a)$ of $a \in G$ is a subgroup of G .

Proof:- By definition, we have

$$N(a) = \{x \in G : ax = xa\}$$

Let $x_1, x_2 \in N(a)$, then $ax_1 = x_1a, ax_2 = x_2a$

To show

$$x_1 x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$$

Firstly we shall show that $x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$

We consider $ax_2 = x_2a$

$$\Rightarrow x_2^{-1}(ax_2)x_2^{-1} = x_2^{-1}(x_2a)x_2^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2^{-1}a = ax_2^{-1} \Rightarrow x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$$

Now to show

$$x_1 x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We consider } a(x_1 x_2^{-1}) &= (ax_1)x_2^{-1} = (x_1a)x_2^{-1} = x_1(ax_2^{-1}) \\ &= x_1(x_2^{-1}a) = (x_1 x_2^{-1})a \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x_1 x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 x_2 \in N(a) \Rightarrow x_1 x_2^{-1} \in N(a)$$

Hence, $N(a)$ is a subgroup of G .
