

My responses are below, in brackets. - Quimby

Show that if $n \geq 3$ for nonabelian S_n , then the only element of $\sigma \in S_n$ satisfying $\sigma\gamma = \gamma\sigma \quad \forall \gamma \in S_n$ is $\sigma = \iota$.

We know that $n \geq 3$ means 3 or more permutations since we're in S_n . [Don't write this sentence---it's not part of the proof.]

We need to show that $\sigma\gamma = \gamma\sigma$. [No! We are given that $\sigma\gamma = \gamma\sigma$. We need to show that $\sigma = \iota$. This is going to mess up the rest of your proof. I can't remember if you were in class today (Thursday), but if you weren't get the notes from someone---I gave a big hint in class.]

Let $a = \sigma\iota$ s.t. $a \neq \sigma$.

(I've realized that I should have never stated that $a \neq \sigma$, by deft of identity, $a = \sigma$ but $a \neq \iota$. Have to specify this because $\iota = \iota$ is true. Trying to prove that $\sigma = \iota$ not assume it. Does that make sense?)

Also, let $\gamma = \iota$ s.t. $\gamma\iota = \iota$. And, $b = \gamma a$ s.t. $b \neq \gamma$.

Show that $(\sigma\gamma)\iota = \gamma(\sigma\iota)$.

Working on the LHS: $(\sigma\gamma)\iota = \sigma(\gamma\iota)$ by Associativity.

$$= \sigma\iota$$

$$= a$$

Working on the RHS: $\gamma(\sigma\iota) = \gamma a$

$$= b$$

$$\therefore a \neq b \Rightarrow \sigma\gamma \neq \gamma\sigma \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

$$\therefore \sigma = 1 \quad \forall \sigma \in S_n$$