

Let $G = S_4$ and $H := \langle a := (1, 2, 3, 4), b := (1, 3) \rangle$. H has order 8 and is isomorphic to D_4 (you can see this by labeling the vertices of a square by 1,2,3 and 4 in clockwise order). More explicitly, H is

$$\{(1), a = (1234), a^2 = (13)(24), a^3 = (1432), b = (13), ab = (14)(23), a^2b = (24), a^3b = (12)(34)\}.$$

Since $(1, 2)(1, 3)(1, 2)^{-1} = (2, 3)$ which is not a symmetry of a square (i.e. is not in H), we see that H is not a normal subgroup of G . Never the less, we can still look at the set of $3 = 24/8$ left cosets, G/H .

As calculated in class, the three cosets are $\{H, (1, 2)H, (2, 3)H\}$. Now if we label the three cosets by $a := H$, $b := (1, 2)H$, and $c := (2, 3)H$, then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 2)a &= (1, 2)H = b \\ (1, 2)b &= (1, 2)(1, 2)H = (1)H = H \\ (1, 2)c &= (1, 2)(2, 3)H = (2, 3)(2, 3)(1, 2)(2, 3)H = (2, 3)(1, 3)H = (2, 3)H. \end{aligned}$$

In other words $(1, 2)$ takes a to b , and fixes c . In cycle notation $(1, 2)$ acts as $(a, b)(c) = (a, b)$. Meanwhile,

$$\begin{aligned} (2, 3)a &= (2, 3)H = c \\ (2, 3)b &= (2, 3)(1, 2)H = (1, 2)(1, 3)H = (1, 2)H = b \quad (\text{since } (1, 3) \in H) \\ (2, 3)c &= (2, 3)(2, 3)H = H = a \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (3, 4)a &= (3, 4)(1, 2)(3, 4)H = (1, 2)H = b \\ (3, 4)b &= (3, 4)(1, 2)H = (1, 2)(3, 4)H = H = a \\ (3, 4)c &= (3, 4)(2, 3)H = (2, 3)(2, 3)(3, 4)(2, 3)H = (2, 3)(2, 4)H = (2, 3)H. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $(2, 3)$ acts as (a, c) and $(3, 4)$ acts as (a, b) . This determines a homomorphism, denoted by π ,

$$\pi : S_4 = S_{\{1,2,3,4\}} \longrightarrow S_{\{a,b,c\}} \cong S_3.$$

Since every element of S_4 can be written as a product of $(1, 2)$, $(2, 3)$ and $(3, 4)$'s, we can write down the rest of the homomorphism without having to explicitly compute it. (For example one can compute where (13) goes by computing

$$(13) = (12)(23)(12) \mapsto (ab)(ac)(ab) = (bc)$$

)

$$(1) \mapsto (a)(b)(c)$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} (12) \mapsto (ab) & (23) \mapsto (ac) & (34) \mapsto (ab) \\ (13) \mapsto (bc) & (14) \mapsto (ac) & (24) \mapsto (bc) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 (123) \mapsto (acb) & (124) \mapsto (abc) \\
 (134) \mapsto (acb) & (234) \mapsto (abc) \\
 (132) \mapsto (abc) & (142) \mapsto (acb) \\
 (143) \mapsto (abc) & (243) \mapsto (acb)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 (1234) \mapsto (bc) & (1324) \mapsto (ab) & (1423) \mapsto (ab) \\
 (1243) \mapsto (ac) & (1342) \mapsto (ac) & (1432) \mapsto (bc)
 \end{array}$$

and lastly

$$(12)(24) \mapsto (a)(b)(c) \quad (13)(24) \mapsto (a)(b)(c) \quad (14)(23) \mapsto (a)(b)(c)$$

Therefore, by inspection, the kernel of this map is (since the identity of the second group is $(a)(b)(c)$)

$$\ker(\pi) = \{(1), (12)(24), (13)(24), (14)(23)\} = V.$$

Furthermore, by inspection, the homomorphism π is also surjective. Therefore, by the 1st homomorphism theorem, we have that $S_4/V \cong S_3$. (notice that indeed, $V < H$).