

## ON GENERALIZED THIRD DIMENSION SUBGROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $G$  be any group, and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then M. Hartl identified the subgroup  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^3(G) + \Delta(G)\Delta(H))$  of  $G$ . In this note we give an independent proof of the result of Hartl, and we identify two subgroups  $G \cap (1 + \Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, G])\Delta(H))$ ,  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H))$  of  $G$  for some subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  containing  $[H, G]$ .

**1. Introduction.** Let  $G$  be a group,  $ZG$  the integral group ring of  $G$  and  $\Delta(G)$  the augmentation ideal of  $ZG$ . Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  and write

$$D_1(G, H) = G \cap (1 + \Delta^3(G) + \Delta(G)\Delta(H))$$

$$D_2(G, H) = G \cap (1 + \Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, G])\Delta(H)).$$

Moreover let  $w: G/H \rightarrow G$  be a map satisfying  $\pi w = \text{identity on } G/H$ , where  $\pi: G \rightarrow G/H$  is the natural projection, and  $w(1) = 1$ . Since, for any  $\alpha, \beta \in G/H$ ,

$$\pi(w(\alpha\beta)^{-1}w(\alpha)w(\beta)) = (\alpha\beta)^{-1}\alpha\beta = 1,$$

there exists a unique element  $W(\alpha, \beta) \in H$  such that

$$(1) \quad w(\alpha)w(\beta) = w(\alpha\beta)W(\alpha, \beta).$$

Define  $K$  to be the subgroup of  $H$  generated by  $\{[H, G], W(\alpha, \beta) \mid \alpha, \beta \in G/H\}$ . Write

$$D_3(G, H) = G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)).$$

Let  $\gamma_n(G)$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , denote the  $n$ -th term of the lower central series of the group  $G$ . We also write  $\gamma_2(G) = G'$ . The subgroup  $D_1(G, H)$  has been computed by Sandling [9], Passi [7], Passi-Sharma [8], Khambadkone [3] and Karan-Vermani [4], when  $H$  is a certain special subgroup of  $G$ . Recently this subgroup has been computed by Hartl [2] (which is under circulation in preprint form only) for any normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ . Since we make use of this result in our investigations, we give here an independent proof of this result of Hartl and prove

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $G$  be any group, and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$D_1(G, H) = \gamma_3(G)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in HG' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in G \rangle.$$

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Our proof of this result is via free group rings while Hartl's proof is based on homological arguments.

The subgroups  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))$  and  $G \cap (1 + \Delta(G)\Delta(H)\Delta(G))$  have been computed by Ram Karan and Vermani [5] and also by Vermani, Razdan and Karan [10], when  $H$  is a special normal subgroup of  $G$ . We are now able to compute subgroups  $D_2(G, H)$  and  $D_3(G, H)$  similar to the above subgroups. We prove

**THEOREM B.** *Let  $G$  be any group, and  $H$  be any normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$D_2(G, H) = \gamma_3(H) \langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in [H, G] \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle.$$

**THEOREM C.** *Let  $G$  be any group, and  $H$  be any normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$D_3(G, H) = \gamma_3(H) \langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in K \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle.$$

**2. Proof of Theorem A.** We record the following simple observation

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $J$  be an ideal of  $ZG$  containing  $\Delta^2(K)$ ,  $K$  being a subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$G \cap (1 + J + \Delta(K)) = (G \cap (1 + J)) \bullet K$$

Let  $F = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r \rangle$  be a free group of rank  $r$  and  $R$  be the normal closure

$$R = \langle x_1^{e_1} \xi_1, x_2^{e_2} \xi_2, \dots, x_r^{e_r} \xi_r, \xi_{r+1}, \dots \rangle^F$$

where  $e_1 | e_2 | \dots | e_r, e_r \geq 0, \xi_i \in F' (i \geq 1)$ . We prove

**THEOREM 2.2.** *With notation as in the previous paragraph,*

$$F \cap (1 + \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)) = \gamma_3(F)U,$$

where  $U$  is the subgroup  $\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in RF' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in F \rangle$  of  $F$ .

**PROOF.** Note that the left hand side in the formula of Theorem 2.2 is  $D_1(F, R)$  as defined previously. By [9],  $D_1(F, R) \subseteq [F, R]\gamma_3(F)$ .

For  $u, v \in F$ , using the identities, modulo  $\Delta^3(F)$ ,

$$(2) \quad (u^n - 1)(v - 1) \equiv n(u - 1)(v - 1) \equiv (u - 1)(v^n - 1)$$

$$(3) \quad ([u, v] - 1) \equiv \{(u - 1)(v - 1) - (v - 1)(u - 1)\}$$

in  $ZF$ , it follows that

$$U \subseteq F \cap (1 + \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)) = D_1(F, R).$$

Since  $\gamma_3(F) \subseteq D_1(F, R)$  is clear,

$$(4) \quad \gamma_3(F)U \subseteq F \cap (1 + \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)) = D_1(F, R).$$

To show reverse inclusion we proceed as follows. Suppose  $w - 1 \in \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)$ . Then by [9],  $w \in [F, R]\gamma_3(F)$ . Since

$$[F, R] = \langle [x_i^{e_i} \xi_i, x_j], [\xi_q, x_k] \mid 1 \leq i \leq r, 1 \leq j, k \leq r, q \geq r + 1 \rangle^F,$$

we can write any  $w \in [F, R]$ , modulo  $\gamma_3(F)$ , as

$$(5) \quad w \equiv \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} [x_i, x_j]^{e_j a_{ij}} \prod_{1 \leq q < k \leq r} [x_k, x_q]^{e_q b_{kq}}$$

where  $a_{ij}, b_{kq} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

For  $w \in [F, R]$  as in (5), define

$$(6) \quad s_k(w) = \prod_{i > k} x_i^{a_{ki}(e_i/e_k) - b_{ik}}, \quad 1 \leq k \leq r - 1.$$

Now it follows from (5) that, modulo  $\gamma_3(F)$ ,

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} w &\equiv \prod_{k=1}^{r-1} \left( \prod_{i > k} [x_k^{e_k}, x_i]^{(e_i/e_k)a_{ki} - b_{ik}} \right) \\ w &\equiv \prod_{k=1}^{r-1} [x_k^{e_k}, s_k(w)], s_k(w) \quad \text{as in (6)} \end{aligned}$$

We now claim that if  $w - 1 \in \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)$  with  $w \in [F, R]\gamma_3(F)$ , then

$$(s_k(w))^{e_k} \in RF' \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, r - 1,$$

and so, in view of (7),

$$w \in \langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in RF' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in F \rangle \gamma_3(F).$$

This will complete the proof of Theorem 2.2. We proceed to prove our claim.

Let  $w$ , as in (7), be such that

$$w - 1 \in \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R).$$

Expansion of  $w - 1$ , modulo  $\Delta^3(F)$ , yields (in view of (7))

$$w - 1 \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} \{ (x_k^{e_k} - 1)(s_k(w) - 1) - (s_k(w) - 1)(x_k^{e_k} - 1) \},$$

Since  $x_k^{e_k} \xi_k \in R$ , where  $\xi_k \in F'$ , so  $x_k^{e_k} \in RF'$  and thus

$$x_k^{e_k} - 1 \in \Delta^2(F) + \Delta(R).$$

Whence

$$\begin{aligned} w - 1 &\equiv \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} (x_k^{e_k} - 1)(s_k(w) - 1) \pmod{\Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)} \\ &\equiv \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} (x_k - 1)(s_k(w)^{e_k} - 1) \pmod{\Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)} \quad (\text{by (2)}). \end{aligned}$$

Already  $w - 1 \in \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R)$ . It, therefore, follows that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{r-1} (x_k - 1)(s_k(w)^{e_k} - 1) \in \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R),$$

and consequently,  $\Delta(F)$  being free right  $ZF$ -module with  $\{x_k - 1 \mid 1 \leq k \leq r\}$  as a basis, we get

$$(s_k(w)^{e_k} - 1) \in \Delta^2(F) + ZF\Delta(R) = \Delta^2(F) + \Delta(R),$$

and so,

$$(s_k(w))^{e_k} \in F \cap (1 + \Delta^2(F) + \Delta(R)) = RF', \quad 1 \leq k \leq r - 1, \quad (\text{by Lemma 2.1})$$

as asserted in our claim.  $\blacksquare$

**PROOF OF THEOREM A.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Define  $U_1$  to be the subgroup of  $[H, G]\gamma_3(G)$  generated by  $\{[x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in HG' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in G\}$ . Then  $U_1$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  containing  $H'$ . That  $U_1\gamma_3(G)$  is contained in  $D_1(G, H)$  follows as in (4) above.

For proving the reverse inclusion, using standard arguments, we can assume  $G$  to be a finitely generated group. Let  $G = F/T, H = R/T$ , where  $F$  is a free group and  $T, R$  are normal subgroups of  $F$  with  $T \subseteq R$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} G \cap (1 + \Delta^3(G) + \Delta(G)\Delta(H)) &= F \cap (1 + \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R) + ZF\Delta(T)) / T \\ (8) \qquad \qquad \qquad &= F \cap (1 + \Delta^3(F) + \Delta(F)\Delta(R))T / T. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality holds by Lemma 2.1. On the other hand,  $\gamma_3(G)U_1 = UT/T, U$  as in Theorem 2.2. Hence, in view of (8), the proof of Theorem A follows from Theorem 2.2.  $\blacksquare$

### 3. Proof of Theorem B.

First we have the following:

**LEMMA 3.1.** *If  $H$  and  $K$  are any subgroups of a group  $G$  each contained in the normalizer of the other, then*

$$\Delta(H)\Delta(K) + \Delta([H, K]) = \Delta(K)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, K]).$$

**PROOF.** Let  $x$  be any element of  $H$ , and  $y$  be any element of  $K$ . Then

$$(x - 1)(y - 1) = (xyx^{-1} - 1)(x - 1) + (y - 1)([y, x^{-1}] - 1) + ([y, x^{-1}] - 1)$$

and so  $(x - 1)(y - 1) \in \Delta(K)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, K])$ , which implies

$$\Delta(H)\Delta(K) \subseteq \Delta(K)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, K]).$$

Similarly  $\Delta(K)\Delta(H) \subseteq \Delta(H)\Delta(K) + \Delta([H, K])$ , and the result follows.  $\blacksquare$

COROLLARY 3.2. *Let  $G$  be a group, and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$\Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta([H, G])\Delta(H) = \Delta(G)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta([H, G])\Delta(H).$$

Let  $G$  be a group,  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ , and write  $N$  for  $[H, G]$ . Let  $S$  denote a left transversal of  $H$  in  $G$ . Then each  $g \in G$  can be uniquely written as  $g = sh$  for some  $s \in S$  and  $h \in H$ . Let  $\tau_H$  denote the extension to  $ZG$  by linearity of the map defined on  $G$  by

$$g = sh \longrightarrow h.$$

Then  $\tau_H: ZG \rightarrow ZH$  is easily seen to be a homomorphism of right  $ZH$ -modules, the action of  $H$  on  $ZG$  being through multiplication in  $G$ . We know that each element  $u \in ZG$  can be written uniquely as a finite sum of the form

$$u = \sum_{s \in S} su_s, \quad \text{where } u_s \in ZH,$$

namely,  $ZG$  is a free right  $ZH$ -module with the set  $S$  as a free basis. Then  $\tau_H$  is, in fact, the map which maps  $u = \sum_{s \in S} su_s$  to  $\sum_{s \in S} u_s$ . Consequently we have

$$(9) \quad \tau_H(\Delta(G)\Delta^n(H)) = \Delta^{n+1}(H) \quad \text{for all } n \geq 1.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM B. Since  $D_2(G, H) \subseteq H' \subseteq H$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} G \cap (1 + \Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)) &= H \cap (1 + \Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)) \\ &= H \cap (1 + \Delta(G)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)) \end{aligned}$$

by Corollary 3.2 of Lemma 3.1, and hence

$$\begin{aligned} G \cap (1 + \Delta(H)\Delta(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)) &\subseteq H \cap (1 + \tau_H(\Delta(G)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H))) \\ &= H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)), \quad \text{by (9)} \\ &\subseteq H \cap (1 + \Delta(G)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$D_2(G, H) = H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(N)\Delta(H)).$$

The result then follows from Theorem A. ■

**4. The proof of Theorem C.** Let  $G$  a group, and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then we can take  $w(G/H)$  as representatives of  $H$  in  $G$ , and any element of  $G$  can be uniquely written in the form

$$g = w(\alpha)x \quad \text{with } \alpha \in G/H, x \in H.$$

Let  $W(\alpha, \beta)$  and  $K$  be as in the introduction. For any elements  $w(\alpha)x, w(\beta)y$  ( $\alpha, \beta \in G/H, x, y \in H$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} (10) \quad \tau_H((w(\alpha)x - 1)(w(\beta)y - 1)) &= W(\alpha, \beta)x[x, w(\beta)]y - x - y + 1 \\ &\equiv (W(\alpha, \beta) - 1) + ([x, w(\beta)] - 1) \pmod{\Delta^2(H)}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\tau_H(\Delta^2(G)) \subseteq \Delta^2(H) + \Delta(K).$$

For  $h \in H, g \in G$ , it follows that

$$[h, g] - 1 = \tau_H([h, g] - 1) \in \tau_H(\Delta^2(G)),$$

and hence  $\Delta(N) \subseteq \tau_H(\Delta^2(G))$ . Moreover, by (10),

$$W(\alpha, \beta) - 1 \equiv \tau_H\left((w(\alpha)x - 1)(w(\beta)y - 1)\right) - ([x, w(\beta)] - 1) \pmod{\Delta^2(H)},$$

and so

$$\Delta(K) \subseteq \tau_H(\Delta^2(G)),$$

which implies  $\Delta^2(H) + \Delta(K) \subseteq \tau_H(\Delta^2(G))$ . Thus it follows that

$$\Delta^2(H) + \Delta(K) = \tau_H(\Delta^2(G)).$$

Since  $\tau_H$  is right  $ZH$ -module homomorphism, we have

PROPOSITION 4.1.

$$\tau_H(\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) = \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H).$$

PROOF OF THEOREM C.

$$\begin{aligned} D_3(G, H) &= G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)) \\ &\subseteq G \cap (1 + \Delta(G)\Delta(H)) = H' \subseteq H, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} D_3(G, H) &= H \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)) \\ &= \tau_H\left(H \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H))\right) \\ &\subseteq H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)) \\ &\subseteq G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$D_3(G, H) = H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)).$$

Thus the result follows from Theorem A. ■

COROLLARY 4.2. *Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of a group  $G$  such that  $W(\alpha, \beta) \in H \cap G'$  for any  $\alpha, \beta \in G/H$ . Then*

$$G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) = \gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle.$$

PROOF. Assume that  $W(\alpha, \beta) \in H \cap G'$  for any  $\alpha, \beta \in G/H$ . Then  $K = \langle [H, G], W(\alpha, \beta) \mid \alpha, \beta \in G/H \rangle \subseteq H \cap G'$ , and hence

$$\begin{aligned} G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) &= H \cap (1 + \tau_H(\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))) \\ &= H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta(H)) \quad \text{by Proposition 4.1} \\ &\subseteq H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(H \cap G')\Delta(H)) \\ &\subseteq G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) + \Delta(H \cap G')\Delta(H)) \\ &= G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus it follows

$$\begin{aligned} G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) &= H \cap (1 + \Delta^3(H) + \Delta(H \cap G')\Delta(H)) \\ &= \gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

■

We again obtain an identification of the normal subgroup  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))$  similar to the one in Corollary 4.2 for a suitable normal subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$ .

We show easily

LEMMA 4.3 ([5, LEMMA 2.1]). *Let  $G = H \bullet K$  where  $H$  and  $K$  are subgroups of  $G$  with  $H$  normal in  $G$ . Then*

$$\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) = \Delta^3(H) + \Delta([H, K])\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta^2(K)\Delta(H).$$

THEOREM 4.4. *Let  $G = H \mid K$ ,  $H$  and  $K$  be subgroups of  $G$  such that  $H$  is normal in  $G$  and  $H \cap K \subseteq H \cap G'$ . Then*

$$G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) = \gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle.$$

PROOF. Let  $x, y$  be any elements of  $H$  with  $x^m, y^m \in H \cap G'$  for some  $m \geq 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} [x^m, y] - 1 &\equiv -(y - 1)(x^m - 1) \pmod{\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)} \\ &\equiv -m(y - 1)(x - 1) \pmod{\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)} \\ &\equiv -(y^m - 1)(x - 1) \pmod{\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)} \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{\Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)} \end{aligned}$$

and hence  $[x^m, y] \in G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))$ . Thus

$$\gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle$$

is contained in  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))$ . To see the reverse inclusion, let  $h \in G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) \subseteq G \cap (1 + \Delta(G)\Delta(H)) = H' \subseteq H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} h - 1 &\in \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H) \cap \Delta^2(H) \\ &= (\Delta^3(H) + \Delta([H, K])\Delta(H) + \Delta(K)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta^2(K)\Delta(H)) \cap \Delta^2(H) \\ &= \Delta^3(H) + \Delta([H, K])\Delta(H) + \left( (\Delta(K)\Delta^2(H) + \Delta^2(K)\Delta(H)) \cap \Delta^2(H) \right) \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 4.3, and hence

$$h - 1 \in \Delta^3(H) + \Delta([H, K])\Delta(H) + (\Delta(K)\Delta(H) \cap \Delta^2(H))$$

It follows from [5, Lemma 2.2] that  $\Delta(K)\Delta(H) \cap \Delta^2(H) = \Delta(H \cap K)\Delta(H)$ . We thus have

$$h - 1 \in \Delta^2(H) + \Delta([H, K])\Delta(H) + \Delta(H \cap K)\Delta(H)$$

which is contained in  $\Delta^3(H) + \Delta(H \cap G')\Delta(H)$  by our hypothesis. Therefore, by Theorem A

$$h \in \gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle,$$

as desired. ■

REMARK 4.5. Observe that the hypothesis of Theorem 4.4, for example, is satisfied if the exact sequence

$$HG' / G' \longrightarrow G / G' \longrightarrow G / HG'$$

splits. This is true in the following cases, *e.g.*

- (a) if  $G/H$  is free abelian,
- (b) if  $H$  is a divisible subgroup of  $G$ ,
- (c) if  $H$  splits over  $G$ .

M. Curzio and C. K. Gupta [1] have obtained an identification of the subgroup  $G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H))$  when  $G$  is a finitely generated group and  $H$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ . We can conjecture as follows

CONJECTURE 4.6. *Let  $G$  be a group, and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then*

$$G \cap (1 + \Delta^2(G)\Delta(H)) = \gamma_3(H)\langle [x^m, y] \mid x^m, y^m \in H \cap G' \text{ for some } m \geq 1, x, y \in H \rangle.$$

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