

3. Let  $G$  be an abelian group with identity element  $e$ . Let

$$H = \{x \in G \mid x^2 = e\}.$$

Prove that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

$e \in H$  because  $e^2 = e$

closed Take  $x$  and  $y \in H$ .  $(xy)^2 = xyxy = x^2y^2 = e$   
 $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   
 $G$  is abelian  $x, y \in H$

thus  $xy \in H$

inverses Take  $x \in H$  we know  $x^2 = e \therefore xx = e$   
 multiply by  $x^{-1}$  twice  $e = x^{-1}x^{-1}$  Thus  $(x^{-1})^2 = e$

and  $x^{-1} \in H$ .

4. Let  $G$  be a group with identity element  $e$ . Suppose that  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are elements of  $G$  with  $c * b * a = e$ . Prove that  $b * a * c$  is also equal to  $e$ .

We know  $cba = e$ .

Multiply by  $c^{-1}$   $ba = c^{-1}$

Multiply by  $c$   $bac = e$ .