

## Section 13 Homomorphisms

An isomorphism  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is a bijection satisfying  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ .  $\forall a, b \in G$ . In words, it respects the algebraic structure of  $G$ . Some maps are like isomorphisms, but they are not bijective. Such maps are called homomorphisms.

Definition A map  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism if  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$   $\forall a, b \in G$ .

### Examples:

1. Any isomorphism is a homomorphism.
2. Trivial homomorphism  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$   $\varphi(g) = e$ .
3. Any linear map  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$   $T(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = T(\vec{x}) + T(\vec{y})$
4.  $\det: GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$   $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$ .
5.  $\ln: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $\ln(ab) = \ln(a) + \ln(b)$
6.  $||: \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$   $|ab| = |a||b|$
7.  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$   $\varphi(x) = x \pmod n$   $\varphi(x+y) = (x+y) \pmod n = x \pmod n + y \pmod n$
8. Let  $F = \{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is a function}\}$  Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $\varphi_a: F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as  $\varphi_a(f) = f(a)$ .

Homomorphism:  $\varphi_a(f+g) = (\varphi_a + \varphi_a)(a) = f(a) + g(a) = \varphi_a(f) + \varphi_a(g)$

Called the evaluation homomorphism

9.  $\mathcal{P} = \{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is a polynomial}\}$

Homomorphism  $\frac{d}{dx}: \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$   $\frac{d}{dx}(f) = f'$   
 $\frac{d}{dx}[f+g] = \frac{d}{dx}[f] + \frac{d}{dx}[g]$ .

Homomorphism Properties: Suppose  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is homo.

1.  $\varphi(e_G) = e_K$       Reason  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(ae_G) = \varphi(a)\varphi(e_G)$   
 $e_K = \varphi(e_G)$ . (cancel.)

2.  $\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1}$       Reason  $\varphi(a)\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(aa^{-1}) = \varphi(e_G) = e_K$   
 $\uparrow$  acts as  $\varphi(a)^{-1}$ .

Definition Kernel of a homomorphism  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is  
 $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{ a \in G \mid \varphi(a) = e \}$ .

Observation  $\text{Ker}(\varphi) \leq G$ .

1.  $\text{Ker}(\varphi)$  is closed. If  $a, b \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$  then  $\varphi(a) = e = \varphi(b)$ .  
 Thus  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b) = ee = e$ . So  $ab \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$ .
2.  $\varphi(e) = e$  so  $e \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$ .
3. If  $a \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$  then  $\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1} = e^{-1} = e$ . so  $a^{-1} \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$ .

Ex  $\frac{d}{dx}: \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$        $\text{Ker}\left(\frac{d}{dx}\right) = \{ a + 0x + 0x^2 + 0x^3 \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cong \mathbb{R}$   
 = constant polynomials.

Ex  $||: \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$        $\text{Ker}(||) = \{ 1, -1 \}$   
 $\uparrow$  subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}^*$

Ex  $||: \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$        $\text{Ker}(||) = \mathbb{U}$   
 $\uparrow$  subgroup of  $\mathbb{C}^*$

Ex  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_5$        $\varphi(n) = n \pmod{5}$        $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = 5\mathbb{Z}$ .

Ex  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$        $\varphi(a) = e_K$        $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = G$ .

Ex  $\ln: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$        $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{ 1 \}$

Ex  $\phi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow S_8$       where  $\varphi(x) = ((1, 4, 2, 6)(2, 5, 7))^x$        $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = 6\mathbb{Z}$

In linear algebra, a linear map  $T: V \rightarrow W$  is determined entirely by what  $T$  does to a basis of  $V$ .

If  $B = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and you know  $T(v_i) = w_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then  $T(x) = T(\sum a_i v_i) = \sum a_i T(v_i) = \sum a_i w_i$ .

Homomorphisms of finitely generated groups are entirely analogous.

Ex Suppose  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_8$  is a homomorphism and I tell you that  $\varphi(1) = (2, 7)$ .

Then:

$$\varphi(0) = (0, 0)$$
$$\varphi(1) = (2, 7)$$

$$\varphi(2) = \varphi(1+1) = \varphi(1) + \varphi(1) = (2, 7) + (2, 7) = (4, 6)$$

$$\varphi(3) = \varphi(2+1) = \varphi(2) + \varphi(1) = (4, 6) + (2, 7) = (1, 5)$$

$$\varphi(4) = \varphi(3+1) = \varphi(3) + \varphi(1) = (1, 5) + (2, 7) = (3, 4)$$

⋮

Here's another similarity between this and linear algebra.

Recall that if  $T: V \rightarrow W$  is linear and  $\text{Null}(T) = \text{Ker}(T) = \{0\}$  then  $T$  is 1-1.

Theorem Homomorphism  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is one-to-one  $\iff \text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{e\}$ .

Proof  $\implies$  Suppose  $\varphi$  is 1-1. ~~If  $\varphi(a) = e_K$  then  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(e_K)$ , so  $a = e_K$ .~~ If  $a \in \text{Ker}(\varphi)$ , then  $\varphi(a) = e_K$  so  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(e_K)$ . Then  $a = e_K$ . Conclusion:  $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{e\}$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Suppose  $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{e\}$

$$\text{If } \varphi(a) = \varphi(b) \text{ then } \varphi(a)\varphi(b)^{-1} = e_K$$

$$\varphi(a)\varphi(b^{-1}) = e_K \quad \varphi(ab^{-1}) = e_K$$

Thus  $ab^{-1} \in \text{Ker}(\varphi) = \{e\}$ , so  $ab^{-1} = e_K$ , so  $a = b$ .

### Example

Find the kernel of the homomorphism  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}_{40} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_8$  where  $\varphi(1) = (2, 7)$ .  
To do this, first notice that  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(1 + 1 + \dots + 1) = \varphi(1) + \varphi(1) + \dots + \varphi(1) = (2, 7) + (2, 7) + \dots + (2, 7) = n(2, 7) = (2n \pmod{5}, 7n \pmod{8})$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ker}(\varphi) &= \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid \varphi(n) = (0, 0)\} = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid (2n \pmod{5}, 7n \pmod{8}) = (0, 0)\} \\ &= \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid 5 \text{ divides } 2n \text{ and } 8 \text{ divides } 7n\} = \{0\}. \end{aligned}$$

$n=0, 8, 16, 24, 32$   
 $n=0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25$

Thus the Kernel is trivial, so the homomorphism is one-to-one.

### Example

Find the kernel of the homomorphism  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}_{40} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_8$  where  $\varphi(1) = (0, 2)$ .  
To do this, first notice that  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(1 + 1 + \dots + 1) = \varphi(1) + \varphi(1) + \dots + \varphi(1) = (0, 2) + (0, 2) + \dots + (0, 2) = n(0, 2) = (0, 2n \pmod{8})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } \text{Ker}(\varphi) &= \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid \varphi(n) = (0, 0)\} = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid (0, 2n \pmod{8}) = (0, 0)\} = \\ &= \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{40} \mid 8 \text{ divides } 2n\} = \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the Kernel is NOT trivial, so the homomorphism is NOT one-to-one.

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \varphi: \mathbb{Z}_5 &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_6 \\ \varphi(x) &= (0, 0, x, 0) \\ \text{Ker}(\varphi) &= \{0\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \varphi: \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_6 &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_5 \\ \varphi(u, v, w, x) &= w \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \{0\} \times \mathbb{Z}_6$$

$$\underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \varphi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow S_8 \quad \varphi(1) = (1, 4, 2, 6)(2, 5, 7) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 4 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 7 & 1 & 6 & 8 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 & 5 & 7 & 6 & & \end{pmatrix}$$

Proved in Homework:

If  $H \leq G$  has property  $g^{-1}hg \in H \quad \forall g \in G, h \in H$ , then  
 $aH = Ha \quad \forall a \in G$ .

Note  $\text{Ker}(\varphi)$  has this property.

Suppose  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is a homo and  $H = \text{Ker}(\varphi)$ .

Take  $h \in H, g \in G$

$$\varphi(g^{-1}hg) = \varphi(g^{-1})\varphi(h)\varphi(g) = \varphi(g^{-1})e\varphi(g) = \varphi(gg^{-1}) = \varphi(e) = e.$$

Therefore  $g^{-1}hg \in H$ .

Theorem: If  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism and  $H = \text{Ker}(\varphi)$   
then  $aH = Ha \quad \forall a \in G$ .

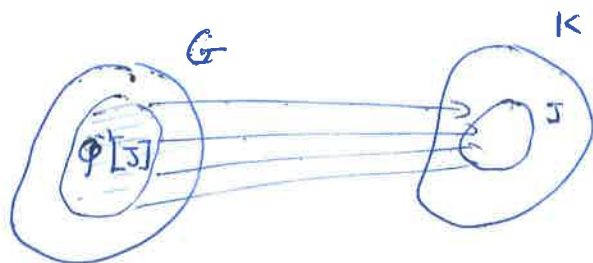
Other definitions and ideas

Suppose  $\varphi: G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism,  $H \leq G, J \leq K$

Image of  $G$  in  $K$ :  $\varphi[G] = \{\varphi(g) \mid g \in G\} \leq K$

Image of  $H$  in  $K$ :  $\varphi[H] = \{\varphi(h) \mid h \in H\} \leq K$

Inverse image of  $J$ :  $\varphi^{-1}[J] = \{x \in G \mid \varphi(x) \in J\} \leq G$



Thus, in particular,  $\text{Ker}(\varphi) = \varphi^{-1}[e]$