

Recall: The first isomorphism theorem says

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \psi(G) \leq H \\
 \downarrow \phi & \nearrow \exists! \eta & \\
 & G/\ker \psi &
 \end{array}$$

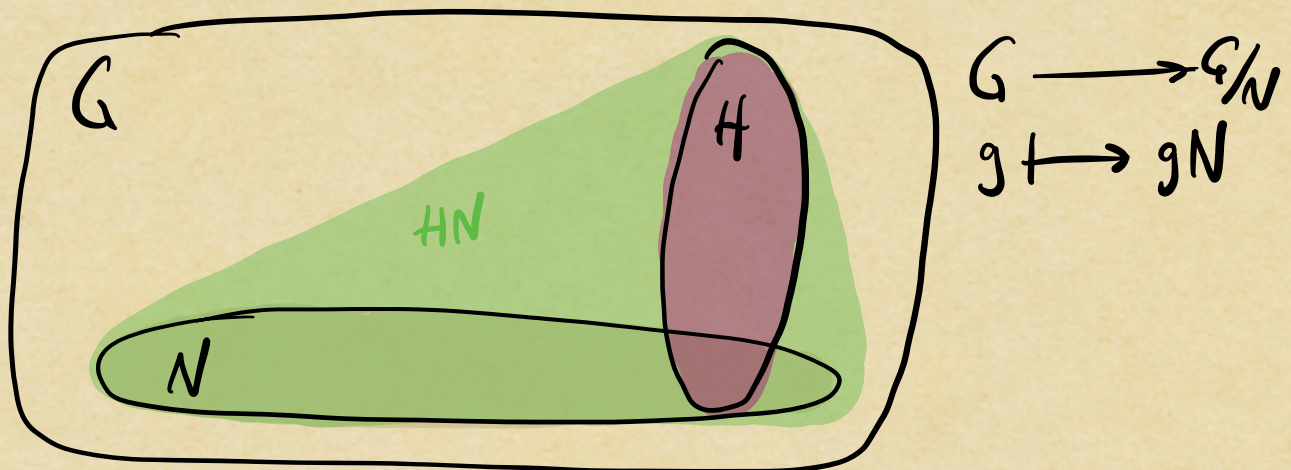
Our next isomorphism theorem addresses the question of what happens to $H \leq G$ when we pass from G to G/N .

Ex. $N = SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \leq GL_2(\mathbb{R}) = G$.

$$H = O(2) = \{A \in GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \mid A^T A = I\} \leq G.$$

Notice: $H \not\leq N$ and $N \not\leq H$.

So what happens to H in G/N ?



Natural guess: $H / H \cap N$.

- Concerns:
- ① Is $H \cap N$ definitely normal in H ?
 - ② This is not naturally a subset of G/N .

Thm. [Second Isomorphism Theorem]

Let $H, N \leq G$, with $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then

- ① $HN \leq G$ is a subgroup;
- ② $H \cap N \trianglelefteq H$ is a normal subgroup of H ;
- ③ the quotient groups

$$HN/N \quad \text{and} \quad H/H \cap N$$

are isomorphic to one another.

(Proof.) ① and ② are exercises.

③ Define $\phi: H \rightarrow HN/N$
$$h \mapsto hN.$$

Any coset of N in HN has the form

$$(hn)N = h(nN) = hN,$$

so ϕ is surjective. It's also a homom:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(h_1 h_2) &= (h_1 h_2)N \\ &= (h_1 N)(h_2 N) = \phi(h_1) \phi(h_2). \end{aligned}$$

By F.I.T.,

$$H / \ker \phi \cong \phi(H) = HN/N.$$

$$\text{But } \ker \phi = \{h \in H \mid hN = N\} = H \cap N. \quad \square$$

Ex. $N = SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \leq GL_2(\mathbb{R}) = G$. $H = O(2)$.

$$HN = \{A \in GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \mid \det A = \pm 1\}$$

$$H \cap N = SO(2).$$

Check:
$$HN/N \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \cong H/H \cap N$$

Thm [The correspondence theorem]

Let $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then

① there is a bijection

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Subgroups of } G \\ \text{which contain } N \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Subgroups} \\ \text{of } G/N \end{array} \right\},$$

given by $H \longleftrightarrow H/N$;

② under this bijection, normal subgroups are taken to normal subgroups.

(Proof.) Since $N = H \cap N$, N is a normal subgroup of H , so H/N is a well-defined quotient group. Check: H/N is a subgroup of G/N .

To show that $H \mapsto H/N$ is a bijection, we'll construct an inverse. i.e., for every $K \leq G/N$, we'll build $H_K \leq G$ which contains N and check that

$$H_{H/N} = H \quad \text{and} \quad H_K/N = K.$$

For $K \leq G/N$, we define

$$H_K := \{ g \in G \mid gN \in K \}.$$

Since $H_K = \phi^{-1}(K)$, where ϕ is the canonical quotient homom, H_K is a subgroup of G .

For every $n \in N$, $\phi(n) = nN = N \in K$,

Since $N \in G/N$ is the identity element.

$\therefore n \in \phi^{-1}(K)$. So $N \subseteq H_K$.

Exercise: Check that $H_{H/N} = H$; $H_K/N = K$.

② $\S N \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$. Consider the homom.

$$G/N \longrightarrow G/H$$

$$gN \longmapsto gH.$$

This map is surjective and its kernel is

$$\{gN \mid gH = H\} = \{gN \mid g \in H\} = H/N.$$

Since H/N is the kernel of a homom., it's normal.


$\S K \trianglelefteq G/N$. Consider

$$G \xrightarrow{\phi} G/N \longrightarrow (G/N)/K,$$

$$g \longmapsto gN \longmapsto (gN)K.$$

The kernel of this homom is

$$\begin{aligned} \{g \in G \mid (gN)K = K\} &= \{g \in G \mid gN \in K\} \\ &= \phi^{-1}(K) = H_K. \end{aligned}$$

So H_K is the kernel of a homom., and thus is normal. 

Thm [The third isomorphism theorem]

If $N \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$ and $N \trianglelefteq G$, then

$$G/H \cong (G/N)/(H/N).$$