

First Isomorphism Theorem

Mathematics

The result that identifies every homomorphic image as a quotient.

For a homomorphism φ from G to H , the quotient of G by the kernel is isomorphic to the image of φ .

$$G / \ker \varphi \cong \operatorname{im} \varphi$$

Reduction $\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$

The kernel is $n\mathbb{Z}$.

$$\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$$

Determinant on $GL(n)$

Kernel is $SL(n)$.

GL/SL is the scalars

φ injective

Trivial kernel.

G is isomorphic to $\operatorname{im} \varphi$

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ Writing $G / \operatorname{im} \varphi$ is isomorphic to $\ker \varphi$

✓ $G / \ker \varphi$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{im} \varphi$

The kernel sits in the domain and the image in the codomain. Swapping them gives a statement whose two sides need not even be groups.

This is why kernels matter: every quotient of G is G by some kernel, and every homomorphic image of G is a quotient of G .