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kernel

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Let  $\rho : G \rightarrow K$  be a group homomorphism. The preimage of the codomain identity element  $e_K \in K$  forms a subgroup of the domain  $G$ , called the *kernel* of the homomorphism;

$$\ker(\rho) = \{s \in G \mid \rho(s) = e_K\}$$

The kernel is a normal subgroup. It is the trivial subgroup if and only if  $\rho$  is a monomorphism.