

Consider the group $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$. Recall that if $\gcd(m,6)=1$ for some $0 \leq m \leq 6$, then $\langle [m]_6 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$. Thus the subgroups of $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ are:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle [0]_6 \rangle &= \{[0]_6\} \\ \langle [2]_6 \rangle &= \{[0]_6, [2]_6, [4]_6\} \\ \langle [3]_6 \rangle &= \{[0]_6, [3]_6\}.\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z} = G/N$, where $G = \mathbb{Z}$ and $N = 6\mathbb{Z}$. Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned}6\mathbb{Z} \subseteq 2\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow 2\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z} = \{2m + 6\mathbb{Z} : m \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{[0]_6, [2]_6, [4]_6\}.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}6\mathbb{Z} \subseteq 3\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow 3\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z} = \{3m + 6\mathbb{Z} : m \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{[0]_6, [3]_6\}.\end{aligned}$$

If we want subgroups of G/N , we should look at subgroups H of G so that $N \subseteq H \subseteq G$, where we can then form $H/N \subseteq G/N$.

Proposition: Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ and $N \subseteq H \subseteq G$. Then H/N is a subgroup of G/N .
Proof. *Verify this!*

Theorem: (3rd Isomorphism Theorem) Let K, N be normal subgroups of G with $N \subseteq K \subseteq G$. Then $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$ and $(G/N)/(K/N) \cong G/K$.

Proof. Let $\varphi: G/N \rightarrow G/K$ defined by $gN \mapsto gK$. We must show φ is well-defined. Let $g_1N = g_2N$. Then $g_2^{-1}g_1 = n$ for some $n \in N$; i.e., $g_1 = g_2n$. Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(g_1N) &= g_1K \\ &= g_2nK \\ &= g_2K \quad \text{Since } N \subseteq K. \\ &= \varphi(g_2N)\end{aligned}$$

Thus φ is well-defined. Let $g_1N, g_2N \in G/N$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(g_1Ng_2N) &= \varphi(g_1g_2N) \\ &= g_1g_2K \\ &= g_1K g_2K \\ &= \varphi(g_1N) \varphi(g_2N).\end{aligned}$$

Thus φ is a homomorphism. Let $gK \in G/K$. Then $\varphi(gN) = gK$, hence φ is surjective.

It only remains to show that $\text{Ker } \varphi = K/N$. Let $kN \in K/N$. Then

$\varphi(kN) = kK = K$; i.e., $kN \in \text{Ker } \varphi$. Hence $K/N \subseteq \text{Ker } \varphi$.

Let $gN \in \text{Ker } \varphi$; i.e., $\varphi(gN) = K$. So $gK = K$, which means $g \in K$ since $g = k$ for some $k \in K$. Hence $\text{Ker } \varphi \subseteq K/N$ and we have equality. Likewise, K/N is normal because it is the kernel of a homomorphism. Thus the first isomorphism theorem gives $(G/N)/(K/N) \cong G/K$. \square

Corollary: Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ and K any subgroup of G w/ $N \leq K$. Then $K \trianglelefteq G$ iff $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$.

Proof. If $K \trianglelefteq G$, then the third isomorphism theorem gives $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$.

Assume $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$. WTS $gKg^{-1} = K \ \forall g \in G$. Let $g \in G, k \in K$. Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} gkg^{-1}N &= gN \cdot kN \cdot g^{-1}N \\ &= gN \cdot kN \cdot (gN)^{-1} \in K/N \text{ b/c } K/N \trianglelefteq G/N \end{aligned}$$

Know this is $\in K/N$, but not $gkg^{-1}N$.

Thus $gkg^{-1} \in K$. Hence $gKg^{-1} \subseteq K$.

Let $k \in K$. Then $k = g(g^{-1}kg)g^{-1} \in g^{-1}Kg \subseteq K$. Thus $K \subseteq gKg^{-1}$, so $gKg^{-1} = K$ for all $g \in G$; i.e., $K \trianglelefteq G$. \square

Theorem: Let T be a subgroup of G/N . Then $T = H/N$ for some subgroup $H \leq G$ with $N \leq H \leq G$.

Proof. Define $H = \{g \in G : gN \in T\}$. We will show that H is a subgroup. Since $T \leq G/N$, we have that T contains eN . Thus $e \in H$. Let $g_1, g_2 \in H$; i.e., $g_1N \in T$ and $g_2N \in T$. But since $T \leq G/N$, we have that $g_2^{-1}g_1N \in T$, and similarly $g_1Ng_2^{-1}N \in T$. So $g_1g_2^{-1}N \in T$; i.e., $g_1g_2^{-1} \in H$. Thus H is a subgroup.

Let $n \in N$. We have $nN = eN \in T$ b/c T is a subgroup. Thus $n \in H$, hence $N \leq H$. We have $H/N = \{hN : h \in H\} = T$.

Exercise: List all the subgroups $(\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z})/H$ where $H = \langle [6]_{12} \rangle$.

We have that $\langle [6]_{12} \rangle \leq N \leq \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$. So $N = \langle [2]_{12} \rangle$ or $\langle [3]_{12} \rangle$. Hence $\langle [2]_{12} \rangle / \langle [6]_{12} \rangle$ and $\langle [3]_{12} \rangle / \langle [6]_{12} \rangle$ are normal to $(\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}) / \langle [6]_{12} \rangle$.

Example: What are all the homomorphic images of S_3 ? Let $\varphi: S_3 \rightarrow G$ for some group G . Recall that $\varphi: S_3 \rightarrow \text{im}(\varphi) \leq G$, so $S_3/\text{Ker } \varphi \cong \text{im } \varphi$.

Thus, no matter what φ is, $\text{Ker } \varphi \trianglelefteq S_3$. Thus $\text{Ker } \varphi$ can equal $\{e\}$, S_3 , or $\langle (123) \rangle$.

Hence $S_3/\langle (123) \rangle = \{\langle (123) \rangle, (12)\langle (123) \rangle\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.