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ALGEBRA I

1. Lecture 10: Quotient groups

Given a group G and normal subgroup N, we have seen that the left cosets and right cosets of N are the same. Define a binary operation on G/N as follows: $xN \cdot yN = xyN$.

Theorem 1.1. Given group G and normal subgroup N, G/N is a group under the binary operation defined above.

Example 1.2. Take G to be the group of integers and N to be the group of integers that are multiples of some fixed integer n. Then $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is a group.

Example 1.3. Let G to be the dihedral group D_n and take $N = \langle r \rangle$. Then $D_n/N \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

Theorem 1.4 (First isomorphism theorem). Given a surjective group homomorphism $\phi : G \to H$ we have $G/\ker(\phi) \cong H$.