A reminder of some useful group theory

Let (G, +) be an abelian group and let *H* be a subgroup of *G*.

1. If $x \in G$ then the right coset of *H* by *x* is the set

$$H + x = \{h + x \colon h \in H\}.$$

2. When are two of these cosets equal? Answer:

$$H + x = H + y \iff x - y \in H.$$

3. We write G/H for the collection of all of these right cosets:

$$G/H = \{H + x \colon x \in G\}.$$

4. Since *G* is abelian, *H* is a *normal* subgroup of *G*. We define an operation on G/H, which we usually also write as +, by

$$(H + x) + (H + y) = H + (x + y)$$

for all $x, y \in G$. This operation is well-defined, and (G/H, +) is a group which we call the *quotient group* of *G* by *H*.

5. Let's see how the fundamental homomorphism theorem looks when we apply it to abelian groups.

Let θ : $(G_1, +) \rightarrow (G_2, +)$ be a group homomorphism, and let $K = \ker \theta$. Then

- $\theta(G_1)$ is a subgroup of G_2 ,
- $K = \ker \theta$ is a (normal) subgroup of G_1 , and
- the quotient group G_1/K is (group)-isomorphic to G_1/K via the welldefined (group) isomorphism

$$\phi: G_1/K \to \theta(G_1), \quad \phi(K+x) = \theta(x).$$