

An **isomorphism**  $\phi$  from a group  $G$  to a group  $\overline{G}$  is a bijection  $\phi : G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  that is **operation preserving**, which means

$$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b).$$

If there exists an isomorphism from  $G$  to  $\overline{G}$ , then we say that  $G$  and  $\overline{G}$  are **isomorphic** and write  $G \approx \overline{G}$ .

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## Theorem

*Isomorphism is an equivalence relation on groups.*

# Properties of Isomorphisms

Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow \overline{G}$  be an isomorphism.

- 1  $|G| = |\overline{G}|$ .
- 2  $\phi(e_G) = e_{\overline{G}}$ .
- 3  $(\phi(a))^{-1} = \phi(a^{-1})$  for all  $a \in G$ .
- 4  $\phi(a^n) = (\phi(a))^n$  for all  $a \in G$  and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- 5  $a$  and  $b$  commute if and only if  $\phi(a)$  and  $\phi(b)$  commute.
- 6  $G$  is Abelian if and only if  $\overline{G}$  is Abelian.
- 7  $G = \langle a \rangle$  if and only if  $\overline{G} = \langle \phi(a) \rangle$ .
- 8  $|a| = |\phi(a)|$  for all  $a \in G$ .
- 9 For any subset  $H \subseteq G$ ,  $H \leq G$  if and only if  $\phi(H) \leq \overline{G}$ .
- 10  $\phi(Z(G)) = Z(\overline{G})$ .

## Amazing things about isomorphisms

An **automorphism** of  $G$  is an isomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow G$ .

### Theorem

*The set of automorphisms of  $G$ ,  $\text{Aut}(G)$ , forms a group under function composition.*

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### ♥♥♥ Cayley's Theorem ♥♥♥

*Every group is isomorphic to a group of permutations.  
In particular, every finite group is a subgroup of  $S_n$ .*