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A skew morphism of a group  $A$  is a permutation  $\phi$  of  $A$  fixing the identity such that for any  $a \in A$  there is an integer  $\pi(a)$  such that  $\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi^{\pi(a)}(b)$  for all  $b \in A$ . An automorphism is the case where  $\pi(a) = 1$  for all  $a$ . Given a group factorization  $AY$  where  $Y = \langle y \rangle$  and  $A \cap Y = \{1\}$ , left multiplication by  $y$  defines a skew morphism  $ya = \phi(a)y^{\pi(a)}$ , and, conversely any skew morphism defines a factored group  $G = AY$ . Their introduction and study were motivated by the observation that rotation about the identity of a regular Cayley map for  $A$  is a skew morphism. We present a number of new techniques for skew morphisms using the group-factorization viewpoint. This allows short, elementary proofs of work by Kovacs and Nedela on cyclic groups. Other results include that all skew morphisms of an elementary abelian 2-group are automorphisms and that any map skew morphism for the cyclic group  $C_n$  preserves all subgroups when  $n$  is odd and all subgroups of order dividing  $n/2$ , when  $n$  is even. (Received September 14, 2013)