

* A ring is a set R with operations $+$ and \cdot such that

① R is closed under $+$ and \cdot

② $(R, +)$ is a commutative ring.
(and we denote the "identity of $+$ operations by 0)

③ \cdot is associative.

$$(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$$

④ The operation \cdot is distributive over $+$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{That is } a \cdot (b + c) \\ = a \cdot b + b \cdot c \end{aligned}$$

* A ring is commutative (or Abelian)

$$\text{if } a \cdot b = b \cdot a$$

* Example #1: $Z^{m \times m}$ the integer matrices

is a ring.

is a ring.

Example #2: $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$ w. addition and multiplication under modulo m is a commutative ring

Example #3: The set of "binary polynomials" is a commutative ring

Fields.

Def'n: A Field F with \cdot and $+$ must satisfy

① F is a commutative group with respect to $+$ (The identity of $+$ is denoted by 0)

② $F \setminus \{0\}$ is a commutative group under \cdot

③ The \cdot and $+$ distribute:

$$a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

Summary		Associativity	Identity	Inverse	Commutative	Distributive
Groups	\bullet	✓	✓	✓		
Commutative group	\bullet	✓	✓	✓	✓	
rings	$+$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	\bullet	✓				✓
Commutative rings	$+$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	\bullet	✓			✓	✓
Fields	$+$	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	\bullet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Intuition: Groups \Rightarrow add or subtract
Rings \Rightarrow add, subtract, multiply
Fields \Rightarrow add, subtract, multiply, division

Example: \mathbb{R} : all real numbers.

\mathbb{C} : all complex numbers.

\mathbb{Q} : all rational numbers

\mathbb{Z} : all integers are NOT a field.

* Fields of finite order (finite # of elements)
is of the main interest to us.

* They were discovered by Everiste Galois

* Denoted by $GF(q)$ where q
is the order G : Galois