



# Fields

Book III

We have been talking about number fields: finite extensions  $E \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$  i.e.  $[E:\mathbb{Q}] = n < \infty$ .  
(Some are Galois i.e.  $G = \text{Aut } E$  satisfies  $|G| = n$ ; but in general  $|G| \leq n$ .)

Back to basics:

In a field  $F$ , if  $\underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_{n \geq 1} = 0$  then the smallest  $n$  for which this occurs is the characteristic of  $F$ .

If  $F$  has characteristic  $n > 0$  then  $n$  must be prime. If  $n = ab$ ,  $a, b \geq 1$  then

$$\underbrace{(1+1+\dots+1)}_a \underbrace{(1+1+\dots+1)}_b = \underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_{n=ab} = 0$$

By minimality of  $n$ ,  $n$  is prime.

If  $\underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_n \neq 0$  for any  $n \geq 1$ , then we say  $n$  has characteristic 0.

Given a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F =$  characteristic of  $F$  is either 0 or  $p$  (some prime  $p$ ).

• If  $\text{char } F = p$  then  $F \supseteq \mathbb{F}_p =$  field of order  $p$  ( $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, p-1\} =$  "integers mod  $p$ ").

eg.  $\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_{p^2}, \mathbb{F}_{p^3}, \mathbb{F}_{p^4}, \dots, \mathbb{F}_p(x) = \{ \text{all rational functions in } x \text{ with coefficients in } \mathbb{F}_p \}, \dots$

• If  $\text{char } F = 0$  then  $F \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ . Eg.  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Q}$ , number fields,  $A = \{ \text{algebraic numbers} \} \subset \mathbb{C}$   
eg.  $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$

In either case  $F$  has a unique smallest subfield, either  $\mathbb{F}_p$  or  $\mathbb{Q}$ , called the prime subfield of  $F$ .

All fields of characteristic 0 are infinite. (They are extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , hence vector spaces over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .)

If  $E \supseteq F$  is a field extension (i.e.  $E, F$  are fields with  $F$  a subfield of  $E$ ) then  $E$  is a vector space over  $F$ . The dimension of this vector space is the degree  $[E:F]$  of this extension eg.

$$[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{R}] = 2$$

$\{1, i\}$  basis

$$[\mathbb{R}:\mathbb{Q}] = \infty$$

$1, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{6}, \sqrt{7}, \sqrt{10}, \sqrt{11}, \dots$   
are lin. indep.

$$[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{Q}] = \underbrace{[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{R}]}_2 \underbrace{[\mathbb{R}:\mathbb{Q}]}_{\infty} = \infty$$

For fields of characteristic a prime  $p$ , some are finite, some are infinite.

Given  $p$  prime and  $k \geq 1$  (positive integer), there is a unique field of order  $q = p^k$  (up to isomorphism)

Finite fields:  $\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_3, \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_5, \mathbb{F}_7, \mathbb{F}_8, \mathbb{F}_9, \mathbb{F}_{11}, \mathbb{F}_{13}, \mathbb{F}_{16}, \mathbb{F}_{17}, \dots$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, \alpha, \beta\}$$

+	0	1	$\alpha$	$\beta$
0	0	1	$\alpha$	$\beta$
1	1	0	$\beta$	$\alpha$
$\alpha$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	0	1
$\beta$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	1	0

$$\alpha + \alpha = (1+1)\alpha = 0\alpha = 0$$

$\times$	0	1	$\alpha$	$\beta$
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	$\alpha$	$\beta$
$\alpha$	0	$\alpha$	$\beta$	1
$\beta$	0	$\beta$	1	$\alpha$

$$\text{char } \mathbb{F}_4 = 2.$$

$\mathbb{F}_4 \supset \mathbb{F}_2$  of degree  $[\mathbb{F}_4:\mathbb{F}_2] = 2$

with basis  $1, \alpha$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{F}_4 &= \{a \cdot 1 + b\alpha : a, b \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \\ &= \{0, 1, \alpha, 1+\alpha\} \quad \text{where } \alpha^2 = \alpha+1. \\ &= \{0, 1, \alpha, \alpha^2\} \quad \beta \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[\alpha]$$

The minimal poly. of  $\alpha$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is  $x^2 + x + 1$ .

Irreducible polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$

degree 1:  $x, x+1$  (both irreducible)

degree 2:  $x^2, x^2+1, x^2+x, x^2+x+1$   
 $\underbrace{x \cdot x \quad (x+1)(x+1) \quad x(x+1)}_{\text{reducible}}$  irreducible

degree 3:  $x^3 = x \cdot x \cdot x$   
 $x^3+1 = (x+1)(x^2+x+1)$   
 $x^3+x = x \cdot (x+1)^2$   
 $x^3+x+1$  irreducible  
 $x^3+x^2 = x \cdot x \cdot (x+1)$   
 $x^3+x^2+1$  irreducible  
 $x^3+x^2+x = x(x^2+x+1)$   
 $x^3+x^2+x+1 = (x+1)^3$

There are 2<sup>n</sup> polynomials of degree n:  $x^n + c_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + c_1x + c_0$   
 and they are all monic.  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in \mathbb{F}_2$

Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $x^2+x+1$ . The other root is  $\alpha+1$ .

$$\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha^2 = -\alpha - 1 = \alpha + 1$$

Note: The roots of  $ax^2+bx+c=0$  are  $\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$   
 except in characteristic 2.

$\mathbb{F}_8 = \mathbb{F}_2[\gamma]$  where  $\gamma$  is a root of  $x^3+x+1$   
 $= \{a + b\gamma + c\gamma^2 : a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_2\}$   
 $= \{0, 1, \gamma, \gamma+1, \gamma^2, \gamma^2+1, \gamma^2+\gamma, \gamma^2+\gamma+1\}$   
 $\quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^3} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^6} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^4} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^5}$

ie.  $\gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^0 = 1$

$\gamma^1 = \gamma$

$\gamma^2 = \gamma^2$

$\gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^4 = \gamma^2 + \gamma$

$\gamma^5 = \gamma^3 + \gamma^2 = \gamma^2 + \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^6 = \gamma^3 + \gamma^2 + \gamma = (\gamma + 1) + \gamma^2 + \gamma$

$= \gamma^2 + 1$

$\gamma^7 = \gamma^3 + \gamma = (\gamma + 1) + \gamma = 1$

$x^3+x+1$  has three roots in  $\mathbb{F}_8$ :  
 $\gamma, \gamma^2, \gamma^4$

$x^3+x^2+1$  has three roots in  $\mathbb{F}_8$ :  
 $\gamma^3, \gamma^5, \gamma^6 = \gamma^7$

In general the nonzero elements of  $\mathbb{F}_q$   
 form a cyclic group of order  $q-1$ .

There is only one finite field of each order  $q=p^k$   
 ( $p$  prime,  $k \geq 1$ ) up to isomorphism.

If  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is a finite field then it must have  $\text{char } \mathbb{F}_q = p$  for some prime  $p$

$|\mathbb{F}_q| = q < \infty$

So  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is an extension  $\mathbb{F}_q \supseteq \mathbb{F}_p$  hence a vector space of some dimension  $k$ .  
 Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  be a basis for  $\mathbb{F}_q$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  ie.  $\mathbb{F}_q = \{a_1\alpha_1 + a_2\alpha_2 + \dots + a_k\alpha_k : a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{F}_p\}$

$q = |\mathbb{F}_q| = p^k$

$$\mathbb{F}_9 = \mathbb{F}_3[i] \quad \text{compare: } \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}[i],$$

$$= \{a+bi : a, b \in \mathbb{F}_3\}$$

$$= \{0, 1, 2, i, 1+i, 2i, 1+2i, 2+2i\}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \theta^0 & \theta^1 & \theta^2 & \theta^3 & \theta^4 & \theta^5 & \theta^6 & \theta^7 & \theta^8 \end{matrix}$$

$\theta$  is a primitive element: its powers give all the nonzero elements of  $\mathbb{F}_9$ .

$\mathbb{Q}[i] \supset \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ .  $\{1, i\}$  is a basis of the extension in each case.

$$i = \sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{2} \quad \mathbb{F}_9 = \mathbb{F}_3[i] = \mathbb{F}_3[\sqrt{2}]$$

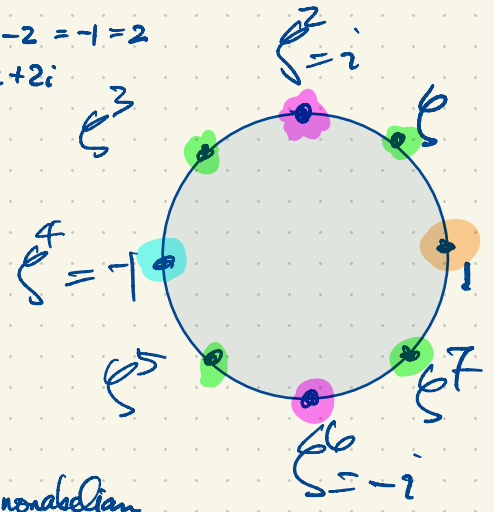
$$\begin{aligned} \theta^0 &= 1 \\ \theta^1 &= \theta = 1+i \\ \theta^2 &= (1+i)^2 = 1+2i+i^2 = 2i \\ \theta^3 &= \frac{2i(1+i)}{\theta^2 \theta} = -2+2i = 1+2i \\ \theta^4 &= \theta^2 \cdot \theta = (1+2i)(1+i) = 1-2 = -1 = 2 \\ \theta^5 &= \theta^4 \cdot \theta = -\theta = 2\theta = 2+2i \\ \theta^6 &= \theta^4 \cdot \theta^2 = -\theta^2 \\ \theta^7 &= \theta^4 \cdot \theta^3 = -\theta^3 \\ \theta^8 &= \theta^4 \cdot \theta^4 = -\theta^4 \end{aligned}$$

Every finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  ( $q = p^k$ ,  $p$  prime) has a primitive element i.e. an element whose powers give all the nonzero field elements. Why? Idea of proof: Eg. to see that  $\mathbb{F}_9$  has a primitive element: The nonzero elements form a multiplicative group of order 8. There are five groups of order 8 up to isomorphism:

- dihedral group of order 8 (symmetry group of a square) } nonabelian
- quaternion " " " " }
- $C_8$  (four elements of order 8, two elements of order 4, one element of order 2)
- $C_2 \times C_4$  (four elements of order 4, three elements of order 2)
- $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$  (with seven elements of order 2)

abelian

Every abelian group is a direct product of cyclic groups.  
 $C_n =$  cyclic group of order  $n$  (multiplicative)  
 $C_n = \{1, g, g^2, \dots, g^{n-1}\}, g^n = 1.$



In a field of order  $q$ , the polynomial  $x^2-1$  has at most 2 roots.  
 (In  $F[x]$ , where  $F$  is any field, every polynomial of degree  $k$  has at most  $k$  roots.)  
 If  $f(x) \in F[x]$  has  $k$  roots  $r_1, \dots, r_k \in F$ , then  $f(x) = \underbrace{(x-r_1)(x-r_2)\dots(x-r_k)}_{\text{degree } k} h(x)$

$$x^2-1 = (x-1)(x+1)$$

$$\mathbb{F}_5 = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}] \neq \mathbb{F}_5[i], \quad i = \sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{4} = \pm 2$$

$1, \sqrt{2}$  is a basis

In  $\mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $-1$  is already a square.

$$\mathbb{F}_5[i] = \mathbb{F}_5[2] = \mathbb{F}_5$$

$$\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{4}] = \mathbb{Q}[2] = \mathbb{Q}$$

$$\mathbb{R}[\sqrt{2}] = \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathbb{R}[i] = \mathbb{C}$$

In  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ ,  $\begin{cases} x^2-2 \text{ is reducible since } x^2-2 = (x+\sqrt{2})(x-\sqrt{2}). \\ x^2+1 \text{ is irreducible.} \end{cases}$

How do we extend  $\mathbb{F}_p$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$ ? We want a quadratic extension  $[\mathbb{F}_{p^2} : \mathbb{F}_p] = 2$ .  
 A choice of basis is  $\{1, \sqrt{a}\}$  if  $a \in \mathbb{F}_p$  is not a square of any element in  $\mathbb{F}_p$  i.e.  $x^2-a \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$  should be irreducible.

When  $p$  is an odd prime, there are  $p-1$  nonzero elements and half of them are squares, half are non-squares.

When  $p=5$ , the nonzero elements of  $\mathbb{F}_5$  are  $1, 2, 3, 4$  where  $1, 4$  are squares;  $2, 3$  are non-squares.

$$\mathbb{F}_{25} = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}] = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{3}].$$

When  $p=2$ ,  $x^2-a = (x-\alpha)^2$  i.e.  $x^2 = x \cdot x$  reducible

$$x^2-1 = (x-1)^2 \text{ reducible}$$

$\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$  has squares only.

But  $x^2+x+1$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[x], \quad \alpha \text{ root of } x^2+x+1.$$

If  $q = p^k$  then  $\mathbb{F}_q \supset \mathbb{F}_p$  is an extension of degree  $[\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p] = k$  with exactly  $k$  automorphisms.

In  $\mathbb{F}_q = \mathbb{F}_3[i]$ , the map  $a+bi \mapsto a-bi$  is the nonidentity automorphism.

In  $\mathbb{F}_{25} = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}]$ , the map  $a+b\sqrt{2} \mapsto a-b\sqrt{2}$

$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[x]$  the map  $\begin{matrix} 0 \mapsto 0 \\ 1 \mapsto 1 \\ \alpha \mapsto \beta \\ \beta \mapsto \alpha \end{matrix}$   
 $= \{0, 1, \alpha, \beta\}$   
 $\alpha^2 = \beta$

Finite fields are Galois extensions of their prime fields:  $\mathbb{F}_q \supset \mathbb{F}_p$ ,  $q = p^k$ ,  $p$  prime  
 $[\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p] = k$  so  $G = \text{Aut } \mathbb{F}_q$  has order  $|G| = k$  and  $G = \{1, \sigma, \sigma^2, \dots, \sigma^{k-1}\}$ ,  $\sigma^k = 1$ . Here  $\sigma(x) = x^p$ .

$\sigma(xy) = (xy)^p = x^p y^p = \sigma(x)\sigma(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q$ .

$\sigma(x+y) = (x+y)^p = x^p + px^{p-1}y + \frac{p(p-1)}{2}x^{p-2}y^2 + \dots + pxy^{p-1} + y^p$  by the Binomial Theorem  $(x+y)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^{n-i} y^i$   
 where  $\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$ ,  $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n$   
 $\binom{n}{1} = \frac{n!}{1!(n-1)!} = n$   
 $\binom{n}{2} = \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$   
 $\binom{n}{0} = \frac{n!}{0!n!} = 1 = \binom{n}{n}$   
**divisible by  $p$**   
 $= x^p + y^p = \sigma(x) + \sigma(y)$

$\sigma: \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  is a homomorphism. **All elements of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  are roots of  $x^q - x$ .**

$\ker \sigma = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q : \sigma(x) = 0\} = \{0\}$  so  $\sigma$  is one-to-one.

Since  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is finite,  $\sigma$  is onto. So  $\sigma$  is an isomorphism  $\mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  i.e.  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

$\text{Aut } \mathbb{F}_q \supseteq \{1, \sigma, \sigma^2, \sigma^3, \dots\}$  but these automorphisms can't all be distinct

$$\sigma^k(x) = \underbrace{\sigma(\sigma(\sigma(\dots(\sigma(x))\dots))}_{k \text{ times}} = \underbrace{(((x^p)^p)^p)\dots)}_{k \text{ times}} = x^{p^k} = x^q = x$$

$\sigma^k = 1$

In  $\mathbb{F}_q^* = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q : x \neq 0\}$  is a multiplicative group (actually cyclic) of order  $q-1$ .  
 $x^{q-1} = 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$





If  $f(x) \in F[x]$  is irreducible, then we say any two roots  $\alpha, \beta$  of  $f(x)$  (typically in an extension field  $E \supseteq F$ ) then  $\alpha, \beta$  are conjugates.

Eg.  $f(x) = x^2 - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  has roots  $\pm\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$  or in  $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$ .  $\pm\sqrt{2}$  are conjugates.

If  $f(x) = x^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  has roots  $\pm i \in \mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{Q}[i]$ .  $\pm i$  are conjugates.

In  $E$  there can be an automorphism  $\sigma \in \text{Aut } E$  fixing every element of  $F$  and mapping a root of  $f(x)$  to any of its conjugates.

Eg.  $f(x) = x^3 - 2$  has three roots  $\alpha, \alpha\omega, \alpha\omega^2$  where  $\alpha = \sqrt[3]{2}$ ,  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3} = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}$ ,  $\omega^2 = e^{4\pi i/3} = \frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}i}{2}$ .

The elements  $\alpha, \alpha\omega, \alpha\omega^2$  are conjugates. These are all the conjugates of  $\alpha$ .

in  $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega] \supset \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega] : \mathbb{Q}] = 6$ .

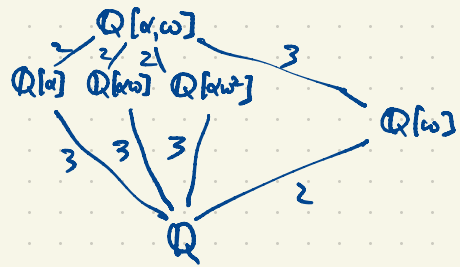
$$x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x - \alpha\omega)(x - \alpha\omega^2)$$

$\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega]$  is the splitting field of  $f(x) = x^3 - 2$

$\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$  is not the splitting field of  $f(x) = x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2)$

$$[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha] : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$$

$$[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha\omega] : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$$



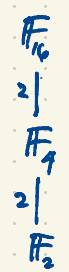


$$\mathbb{F}_5: \text{ all elements are roots of } x^5 - x = x(x^4 - 1) = x(x^2 - 1)(x^2 + 1) = x(x-2)(x-3)(x-1)(x+1)$$

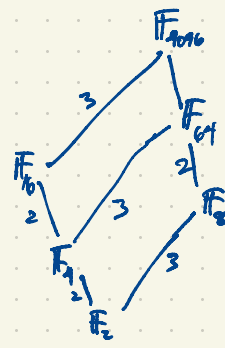
$$= x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)(x-4)$$

0   1   2   3   4

Subfields of  $\mathbb{F}_{16}$ :  $\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_8$



$$[\mathbb{F}_8 : \mathbb{F}_2] = 3$$



Math 4550 Spring 2025 = 45<sup>2</sup> Theory of Numbers  
 Putnam Exam 2024 Dec 7 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
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More examples of fields:  $F((x)) \supset F(x) \supset F$  where  $F$  is a field.

Laurant series in  $x$   
with coefficients in  $F$

rational functions in  $x$   
with coefficients in  $F$

$x$  is an indeterminate  
(a symbol)

Eg.  $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-x-x^2} \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$  can be regarded as an infinite series in  $x$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}$

$$= F_0 + F_1 x + F_2 x^2 + F_3 x^3 + \dots \quad \text{where } F_i \in \mathbb{Q}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{(1-x-x^2) - x(-1-2x)}{(1-x-x^2)^2} = \frac{1+x^2}{(1-x-x^2)^2}$$

$$f''(x) = \frac{(1-x-x^2)^2(2x) - (1+x^2)2(1-x-x^2)(-1-2x)}{(1-x-x^2)^4} = \frac{(1-x-x^2)(2x) + 2(1+x^2)(1+2x)}{(1-x-x^2)^3} = \frac{2x-2x^2-2x^3+2(1+2x+x^2+2x^3)}{(1-x-x^2)^3}$$

$$= \frac{2+6x+2x^3}{(1-x-x^2)^3}$$

$$f^{(n)}(x) = \text{etc.}$$

$$f^{(n)}(x) = f^{(n)}(x) = \text{etc.}$$

Taylor series centered at 0 for  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2}x^2 + \frac{f'''(0)}{6}x^3 + \frac{f^{(4)}(0)}{24}x^4 + \dots$

$$= 0 + 1x + \frac{2}{2}x^2 + \frac{12}{6}x^3 + \frac{72}{24}x^4 + \dots$$

$$= x + x^2 + 2x^3 + 3x^4 + 5x^5 + 8x^6 + 13x^7 + \dots$$

The Fibonacci sequence  $F_n$  is defined recursively

$$F_n = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n=0 \\ 1, & \text{if } n=1 \\ F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, & \text{if } n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

**Alternatively:**  $f(x) = \frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 + \dots = x + x^2 + 2x^3 + 3x^4 + 5x^5 + 8x^6 + \dots$

$$x = (1-x-x^2)(a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 + \dots)$$

$$= \underbrace{a_0}_0 + \underbrace{(a_1 - a_0)}_1 x + \underbrace{(a_2 - a_1 - a_0)}_0 x^2 + \underbrace{(a_3 - a_2 - a_1)}_0 x^3 + \underbrace{(a_4 - a_3 - a_2)}_0 x^4 + \dots$$

**Third way:**  $\frac{1}{1-u} = 1 + u + u^2 + u^3 + u^4 + \dots$  (geometric series)

Since  $(1-u)(1+u+u^2+u^3+u^4+\dots) = 1 - \cancel{u} + \cancel{u} - \cancel{u^2} + \cancel{u^2} - \cancel{u^3} + \cancel{u^3} + \dots = 1$

Substitute  $u = x+x^2$

$$\frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = x(1 + (x+x^2) + (x+x^2)^2 + (x+x^2)^3 + (x+x^2)^4 + \dots)$$

$$= x(1 + (x+x^2) + (x^2+2x^3+x^4) + (x^3+3x^4+3x^5+x^6) + (x^4+4x^5+6x^6+4x^7+x^8) + \dots)$$

$$= x(1 + x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + 5x^4 + \dots)$$

$$= x + x^2 + 2x^3 + 3x^4 + 5x^5 + \dots$$

**Fourth method:**

$$\frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = \frac{x}{(1-\alpha x)(1-\beta x)} = \frac{A}{1-\alpha x} + \frac{B}{1-\beta x} \Rightarrow x = A(1-\beta x) + B(1-\alpha x) \Rightarrow$$

(for  $x = \frac{1}{\alpha}$ )  $\frac{1}{\alpha} = A(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha}) \Rightarrow 1 = A(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{\alpha}) \Rightarrow A = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - \beta} = \frac{1}{\alpha - \beta}$

(for  $x = \frac{1}{\beta}$ )  $\frac{1}{\beta} = B(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\beta}) \Rightarrow 1 = B(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{\beta}) \Rightarrow 1 = \frac{B(\beta - \alpha)}{\beta} = \frac{B(-1)}{\beta} \Rightarrow B = -\frac{1}{\beta}$

$\alpha, \beta$  are the reciprocal roots of  $1-x-x^2 = x^2(x^{-1}-x-1)$

$$\alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad \beta = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad \alpha - \beta = \sqrt{5}$$

$\approx 1.618$        $\approx -0.618$

$$\frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = \frac{x}{(1-\alpha x)(1-\beta x)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1}{1-\alpha x} - \frac{1}{1-\beta x} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n x^n \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\alpha^n - \beta^n) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n x^n = x + x^2 + 2x^3 + 3x^4 + 5x^5 + \dots$$

where  $F_n = \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\sqrt{5}}$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \rightarrow \alpha$        $F_n \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \alpha^n$        $F_n = \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{5}}$  rounded to the nearest integer.

$| \beta | < 1$  so  $\beta^n \rightarrow 0$   
 $| \alpha | > 1$  so  $\alpha^n \rightarrow$  no grows exponentially

Ex. Count the number  $a_n$  of sequences of 0's and 1's of length  $n$  having no two consecutive 1's.

$n$		
0	''	$a_0 = 1$
1	'0', '1'	$a_1 = 2$
2	00, 10, 01	$a_2 = 3$
3	000, 100, 010, 001, 101	$a_3 = 5$
4	-----	$a_4 = 8$

Other series are relevant in combinatorial applications in which  $f(x)$  cannot converge anywhere eg.

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 6x^3 + 24x^4 + \dots$$



$$f(x)^2 = (1 + x + 2x^2 + 6x^3 + \dots)^2 = 1 + 2x + 5x^2 + \dots$$

$$\frac{f(x)}{x} = \frac{1}{x} + 1 + 2x + 6x^2 + 24x^3 + \dots$$



$$\frac{x}{1-x-x^2} = x + x^2 + 2x^3 + 3x^4 + 5x^5 + 8x^6 + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{1-x-x^2} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{x-x^2-x^3} = \frac{1}{x} + 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 5x^3 + \dots$$

What is a series  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$  really?

We think of  $f$  as the sequence  $(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots)$

So if  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots$  then  $g$  is really  $g$  is  $(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots)$

$f+g = (a_0+b_0, a_1+b_1, a_2+b_2, a_3+b_3, \dots)$  entrywise addition

$fg = (a_0b_0, a_0b_1 + a_1b_0, a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + a_2b_0, a_0b_3 + a_1b_2 + a_2b_1 + a_3b_0, \dots)$   
multiplication is by convolution (not entrywise)

$$fg = (c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots), \quad c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$$

$F[[x]] =$  power series in  $x$  with coefficients in  $F$  (a ring)

$F((x)) =$  field of quotients of  $F[[x]]$  (like  $F[[x]]$  but with some negative powers of  $x$ )

eg.  $F = \mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$

$$\frac{x^2 + x^4 + x^5 + x^7 + \dots}{x^5 + x^6 + x^9 + x^{11} + \dots} = x^{-3} + x^{-2} + 1 + \dots \quad (\text{higher degree terms})$$

$$x^2 + x^4 + x^5 + x^7 + \dots = (x^5 + x^6 + x^9 + x^{11} + \dots) (x^{-3} + x^{-2} + 1 + \underbrace{\underbrace{\underbrace{\underbrace{x^2 \dots}}_{0x}}_{x^0=1}}_{0x^{-1}} + \underbrace{\underbrace{x^{-2}}_{1x^{-2}}}_{0x})$$

In the ring  $F[[x]]$ , the units (ie. invertible elements) are all the elements with nonzero constant term.

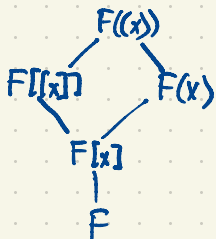
$F((x))$  is however a field ie. all nonzero elements are units

Why can't we allow infinitely many powers of  $x$  with negative exponents as well as positive exponents?

$(\dots + x^{-3} + x^{-2} + x^{-1} + 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots) (\dots + 5x^{-3} + 2x^{-2} + 7x^{-1} + 11 + 13x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + x^4 + \dots)$  is undefined whereas

$$(x^{-2} + x^{-1} + 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots) (7x^{-1} + 11 + 13x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + x^4 + \dots) = 7x^{-3} + 18x^{-2} + 31x^{-1} + 33 + 36x + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{x^2 + x^3} \stackrel{F(x)}{=} \frac{1}{x^2(1+x)} = \frac{1}{x^2} (1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + x^4 - x^5 + \dots) = x^{-2} - x^{-1} + 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + x^4 - x^5 + \dots$$



Automorphisms of  $\mathbb{Q}(x) \supset \mathbb{Q}$  includes  $f(x) \mapsto f(x+i)$

has inverse  $f(x) \mapsto f(x-i)$

$$f(x)+g(x) \mapsto f(x+i) + g(x+i)$$

$$f(x)g(x) \mapsto f(x+i)g(x+i)$$

$$[\mathbb{Q}(x) : \mathbb{Q}] = \infty \quad (\text{actually } \aleph_0)$$

This is a start on one of the HW4 problems.

How about square roots?

For  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$ , when does  $\sqrt{f(x)} \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$ ?

$\sqrt{x} \notin \mathbb{Q}(x)$ . Very small fraction of functions  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$  have  $\sqrt{f(x)} \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$ .

eg. if  $F = \mathbb{Q}(x)$  then  $E = F(\sqrt{x}) = \mathbb{Q}(x, \sqrt{x}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{x})$  since  $x \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{x})$ , in fact  $x \in \mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{x}]$ .

$$\sqrt{1+x} \in \mathbb{Q}(\!(x)\!)$$

$$\sqrt{1+x} = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{Q}$$
$$\in \mathbb{Q}[\![x]\!]$$

$$1+x = (a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots)^2 = a_0^2 + 2a_0a_1x + (a_1^2 + 2a_0a_2)x^2 + (2a_0a_3 + 2a_1a_2)x^3 + (a_2^2 + 2a_1a_3 + 2a_0a_4)x^4 + \dots$$

$$a_0 = \pm 1. \quad \text{Let's take } a_0 = 1. \quad = 1 + 2a_1x + (a_1^2 + 2a_2)x^2 + (2a_3 + 2a_1a_2)x^3 + (a_2^2 + 2a_1a_3 + 2a_4)x^4 + \dots$$

$$\text{Now } a_1 = \frac{1}{2} \quad = 1 + x + \underbrace{(\frac{1}{4} + 2a_2)}_0 x^2 + \underbrace{(2a_3 + a_2)}_0 x^3 + (a_2^2 + a_3 + 2a_4)x^4 + \dots$$

$$a_2 = -\frac{1}{8}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{1}{16}$$

etc.

$$\sqrt{1+x} = 1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{8}x^2 + \frac{1}{16}x^3 - \dots$$

The two square roots of  $1+x$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[\![x]\!]$  are  $\pm\sqrt{1+x} = \pm(1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{8}x^2 + \frac{1}{16}x^3 - \dots)$



# Binomial Theorem

$$(1+x)^a = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{a}{k} x^k$$

$$\binom{a}{k} = \frac{a(a-1)(a-2)\dots(a-k+1)}{k(k-1)(k-2)\dots 2 \cdot 1} \leftarrow k!$$

$k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$   
 $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

(Polynomial of degree  $k$  in  $a$ ;  
but if  $a \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  then this value  $\binom{a}{k}$  is entry  $k$  in row  $a$  of Pascal's triangle).

$$\sqrt{1+x} =$$

$$(1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}} = 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{1}} x + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)}{\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{2}} x^2 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)(\frac{1}{2}-2)}{\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{3}} x^3 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}-1)(\frac{1}{2}-2)(\frac{1}{2}-3)}{\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{4}} x^4 + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{8}x^2 + \frac{1}{16}x^3 - \frac{5}{128}x^4 + \dots \in \mathbb{Q}[[x]]$$

$$-\frac{5}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{16} = -\frac{5}{128}$$

$$\sqrt{2+x} = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{1+\frac{x}{2}} \in \mathbb{R}[[x]] \notin \mathbb{Q}[[x]]$$

On HW4 about #3 (?)

$$\sqrt{4+x} = 2\sqrt{1+\frac{x}{4}} \in \mathbb{Q}[[x]]$$

If  $q = p^k$ ,  $p$  prime  $k \geq 1$  we have a field of order  $q$ , unique up to isomorphism, denoted  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

First suppose  $q$  is odd i.e.  $p = \text{char } \mathbb{F}$  is odd.

Half the nonzero elements are squares.

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Eg.  $\mathbb{F}_7 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$$\mathbb{F}_{49} = \mathbb{F}_7[\sqrt{3}] = \mathbb{F}_7[\sqrt{5}] = \mathbb{F}_7[\sqrt{6}] = \mathbb{F}_7[i], i^2 = -1$$

$x^2 - a$  is reducible iff  $a$  is a square.

$x^2 - a$  is irreducible iff  $\mathbb{F}[\sqrt{a}] > \mathbb{F}$  is a quadratic extension.

If  $q = 2^k$  then every element of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  has a unique square root and  $x \mapsto \sqrt{x}$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

$a$	$a^2$
0	0
1	1
2	4
3	2
4	2
5	4
6	1

$a$	$a^2$
0	0
±1	1
±2	4
±3	2

$\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^*$   $\mathbb{R}$ : reals,  $\mathbb{R}^*$ : hyperreals

Back to basics:

Let  $R$  be an integral domain i.e. commutative ring with identity 1 having no zero divisors (i.e.  $ab \neq 0 \Rightarrow a \neq 0$ )  
 eg.  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ ,  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  An ideal in  $R$  is a subset (actually subring) which is closed under taking  $R$ -linear combinations. A subset  $A \subseteq R$  with  $0 \in A$  is an ideal if

$$r_1 a_1 + r_2 a_2 + \dots + r_k a_k \in A \quad \text{for all } a_1, \dots, a_k \in A; \quad r_1, \dots, r_k \in R.$$

Eg. if we fix  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in R$  then the ideal generated by  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  is

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \{ r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n : r_1, \dots, r_n \in R \} \quad (\text{Compare: the span of a set of vectors in a vector space is a subspace}).$$

Eg. in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , fix an integer  $m$ . The principal ideal generated by  $m$  is  
 $(m) = \{ rm : r \in \mathbb{Z} \} = \{ \dots, -2m, -m, 0, m, 2m, 3m, \dots \}$  is an ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

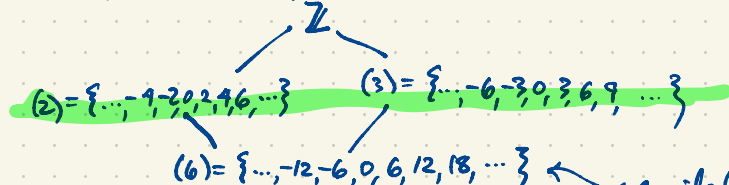
The quotient ring is  $\mathbb{Z}/(m) = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} = \{ \text{cosets of } (m) \text{ in } \mathbb{Z} \} = \{ (m), 1+(m), 2+(m), \dots, m-1+(m) \}$

$\mathbb{Z}/(p)$  is a field.  $\mathbb{Z}/(m)$  is not a prime unless  $m$  is prime. Informally  $\mathbb{Z}/(m) = \{ \bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \dots, \overline{m-1} \}$  or more informally  $\{ 0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1 \}$

$\mathbb{Z}/(6) = \{ \bar{0}, \bar{1}, \dots, \bar{5} \}$  is not a field.  $\bar{2} \cdot \bar{3} = \bar{0} = \bar{0}$  (zero divisors  $\bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}$ ; units  $\bar{1}, \bar{5} = -\bar{1}$ ).

$\mathbb{Z}/(6)$  fails to be a field because the ideal  $(6)$  is not maximal; it is contained in  $(2)$  and  $(3)$ .

$\mathbb{Z}/(2) = \mathbb{F}_2$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/(3) = \mathbb{F}_3$  are fields.



examples of maximal ideals (not contained in any larger ideals)  $\leftarrow$  an ideal which is not maximal (it's contained in larger ideals).

The quotient ring  $R/A$  is a field iff the ideal  $A$  is maximal. We use this to construct  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^*$  and essentially all other fields.

eg.  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  has many examples of subrings and ideals.

eg.  $(x^2+1) \subset \mathbb{Z}[x]$   $(x^2+1) = \{h(x)(x^2+1) : h(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]\}$

$$\mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^2+1) = \{a+bx + (x^2+1) : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cong \{a+bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z}[i].$$

The ideal  $(x^2+1)$  is not maximal.

We have a homomorphism  $\phi: \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[i]$

which is onto. Its kernel  $f(x) \mapsto f(i)$  (evaluate at  $i$ )  
is  $\ker \phi = (x^2+1)$ .

"Gaussian integers"  
Not a field.  
The only units (invertible elements) are  $1, -1, i, -i$

The first isomorphism theorem for rings:  $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^2+1) \cong \mathbb{Z}[i]$   
domain of  $\phi$     kernel of  $\phi$     image of  $\phi$

$(3) = \{3h(x) : h(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]\}$  is also an ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ .

$\mathbb{Z}[x]/(3) \cong \mathbb{F}_3[x]$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$   $\mathbb{F}_3[x]$  is a ring but not a field.  $(3)$  is not a maximal ideal.

$$\mathbb{Z}[x]/(3, x^2+1) \cong \mathbb{F}_9 = \{a+bi : a, b \in \mathbb{F}_3\}.$$

is a field

