

## §1. Fields

### 1. Background:

**Definition 1.** (1) A **linear equation** in variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  is of the form

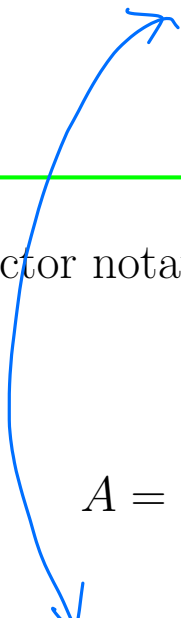
$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n = b.$$

Here,  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$  (or a field  $\mathbb{F}$ ) are **coefficients**.

(2) A **system of linear equations** (or **linear system**) is a collection of linear equations in the same variables.

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\ &\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n &= b_m \end{aligned}$$

Matrix/vector notation:


$$A = [a_{ij}] = \begin{matrix} \vec{a}_1 & \vec{a}_2 & & \vec{a}_n \\ \parallel & & & \\ \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} & & \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{matrix}$$

•  $[A | \vec{b}]$

•  $x_1 \vec{a}_1 + x_2 \vec{a}_2 + \dots + x_n \vec{a}_n = \vec{b}$

•  $A \vec{x} = \vec{b}$

**Goal:** Find the set of all solutions.

**Method: Gauss-Jordan elimination** (Gaussian elimination).

**Theorem 2.** A linear system (matrix equation  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ ) has either no solution, or exactly one solution, or infinitely many solutions.

## 2. Sets and functions

**Definition 3.** A set  $S$  is a well-defined, unordered collection of distinct elements.

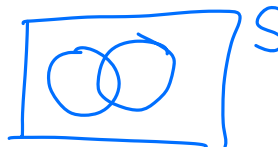
Non-well-defined example, (Russell's paradox):

$$S \in S \Leftrightarrow S \notin S$$

$S = \{x \mid x \notin x\}$ , i.e., set of all sets that are not members of themselves.

The teacher that teaches all who don't teach themselves.

**Review of set operations:**  $A, B$  subsets of  $S$



• **Union**  $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$

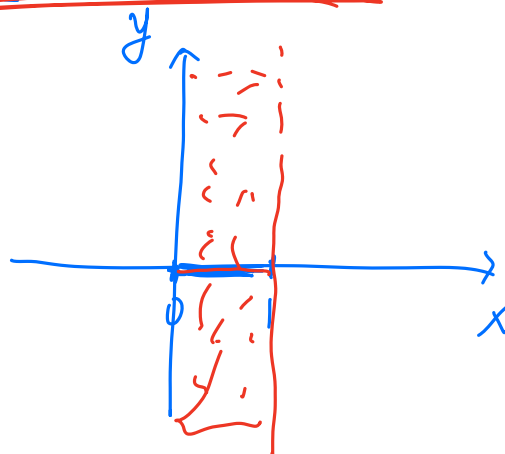
• **Intersection**  $A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$

• **Complement** of  $A \subset S$ ,  $A^c = \{x \in S \mid x \notin A\}$

• **(Cartesian) Product**  $X \times Y = \{(x, y) \mid x \in X, y \in Y\}$ .



Ex.  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$   
 $(x, y)$



Ex:  $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$   
 $\{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$

Ex:  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{1, \dots, p\}$

$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$y = x + 7$

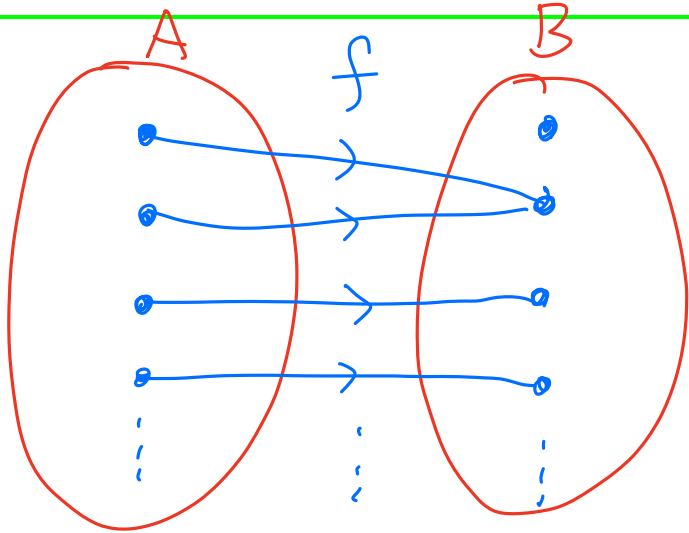
$y = e^x$

$f(x) = e^x$

**Definition 4.** A function (map)  $f$  between two sets  $A$  and  $B$  is a rule

$$f : A \rightarrow B$$

sending every  $a \in A$  to an element  $f(a) \in B$ .



one to one ✓

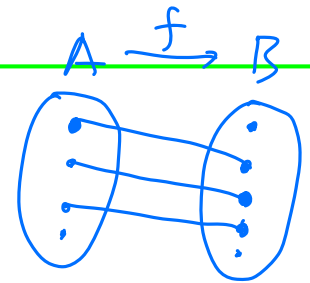
two to one ✓

one to more ✗

**Definition 5.** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function.

(1)  $f$  is called injective (one-to-one), if

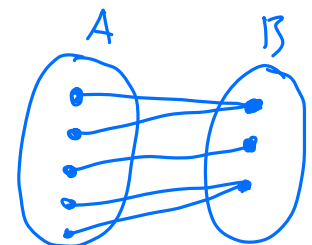
$$f(x) = f(y) \text{ implies } x = y \text{ for any } x, y \in A.$$



(2)  $f$  is called surjective (onto), if

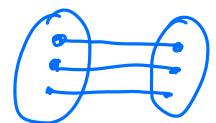
$$\forall b \in B, \exists x \in A, \text{ st. } f(x) = b.$$

for any                      there exists                      such that



(3)  $f$  is called bijective, if

$f$  is surjective and injective.



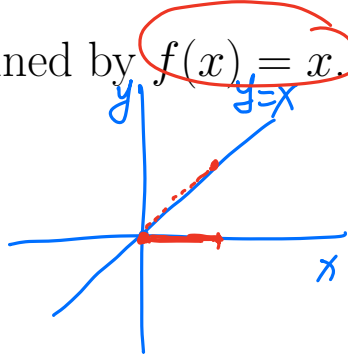
Consider a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and the equation  $f(x) = b$  for every  $b \in B$ .

**Proposition 6.**

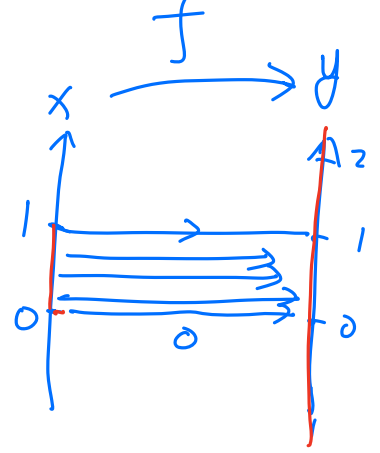
- $f$  is injective  $\Leftrightarrow f(x) = b$  has at most one solution.
- $f$  is surjective  $\Leftrightarrow f(x) = b$  has at least one solution.
- $f$  is bijective  $\Leftrightarrow f(x) = b$  has exactly one solution.

**Example 7.** Consider functions

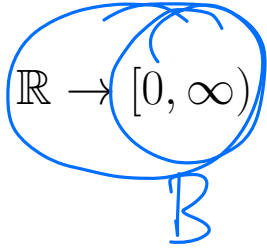
$f : \underbrace{[0, 1]}_A \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}_B$  defined by  $f(x) = x$ .



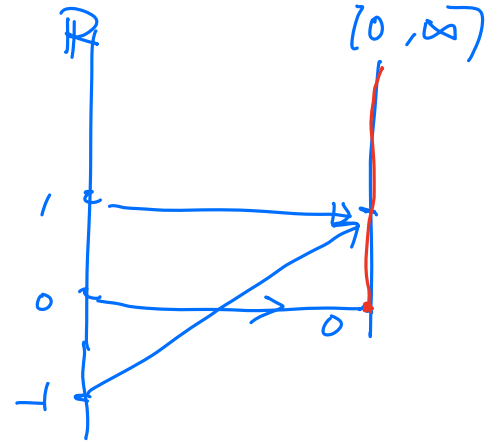
injective  
not surjective



$g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  defined by  $g(x) = x^2$ .



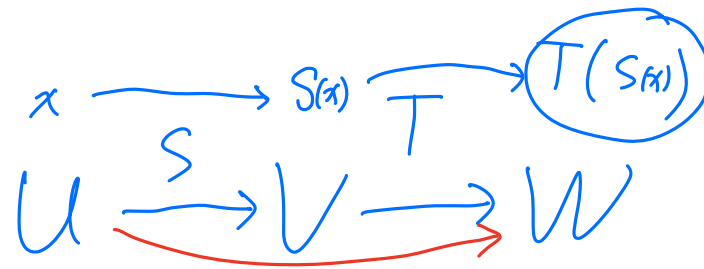
surjective  
not injective



$h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $h(x) = 2x + 1$ .

ex.  $S(x) = x^2$   
 $T(u) = e^u$   
 $T \circ S(x) = e^{x^2}$

bijective.



**Definition 8.** The composition  $T \circ S$  of two functions  $S : U \rightarrow V$  and  $T : V \rightarrow W$

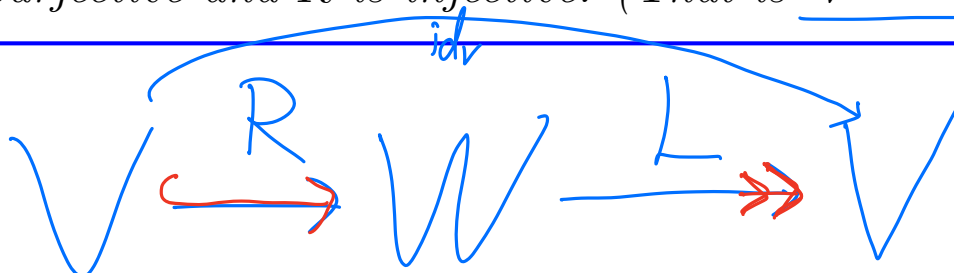
$$T \circ S : U \rightarrow W$$

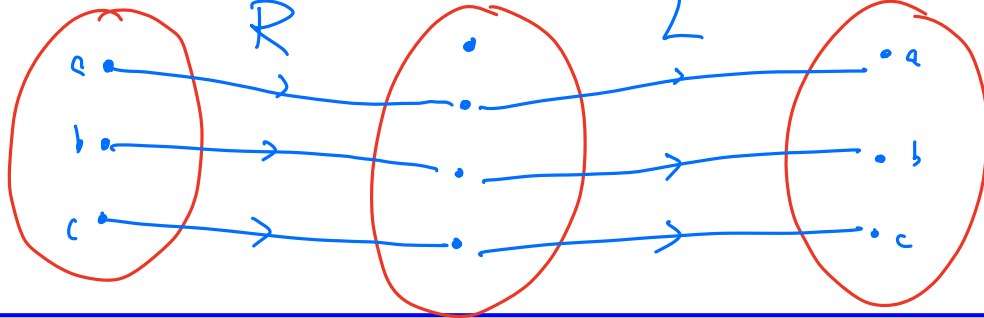
$$x \rightarrow T(S(x))$$

**Theorem 9.** Consider functions  $R : V \rightarrow W$  and  $L : W \rightarrow V$ . If

left inverse  $\rightarrow$   $L \circ R = \text{id}_V$   $\leftarrow$  right inverse

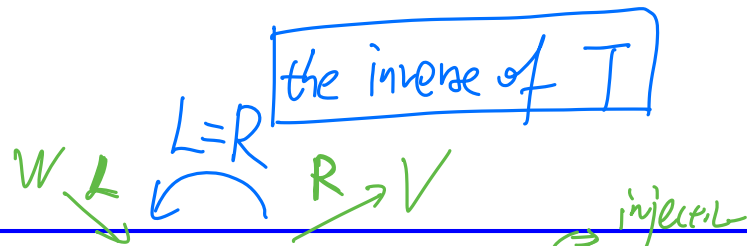
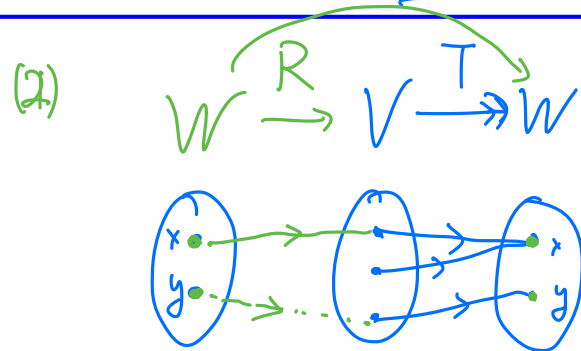
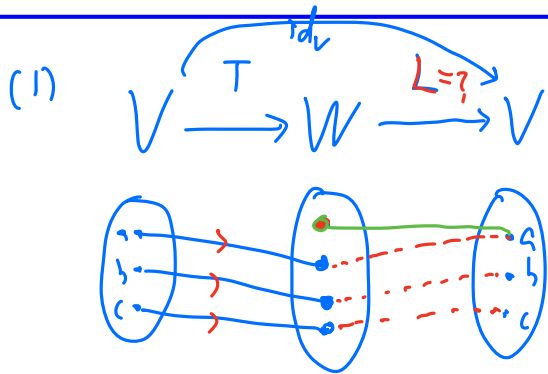
then  $L$  is surjective and  $R$  is injective. (That is  $V \xrightarrow{R} W \xrightarrow{L} V$ )





**Theorem 10.**

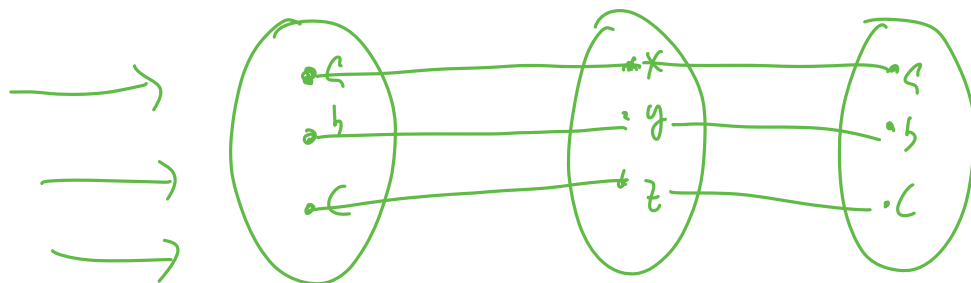
- (1) A map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is injective if and only if it has a left-inverse. not unique
- (2) A map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is surjective if and only if it has a right-inverse.



**Theorem 11.** Suppose a function  $T : V \rightarrow W$  has both a left-inverse  $L$  and a right-inverse  $R$ . Then

↔ surjective

$L = R : W \rightarrow V$



**Proposition 12.** A map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is bijective if and only if it is invertible.

set

Ex1  $\mathbb{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \left| \begin{array}{ccccccc} & -1 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 1 & e & \pi \end{array} \right. \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\}$

Two operations:

- |                          |                   |                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
|                          | <u>identities</u> | <u>inverse of a</u>         |
| 1. <u>sum</u> (+)        | <u>0</u>          | <u>-a</u>                   |
| 2. <u>product</u> (·)(x) | <u>1</u>          | $\frac{1}{a}$ if $a \neq 0$ |

$\frac{(a+b) \times (a+b)}{1}$

$(?) + (?) \neq$

$(-a) + (-b) \neq$

$\frac{1}{a+b} = (?) + (?) \neq$

with properties:

①  $(a+b)+c = a+(b+c)$  ✓

②  $a+b = b+a$  ✓

③  $(a \times b) \times c = a \times (b \times c)$  ✓

④  $ab = ba$

⑤  $(a+b) \times c = a \times c + b \times c$

Ex2

Set  $S = \{ \underline{[0]}, \underline{[1]} \} = \mathbb{Z}_2$

$-[1] = ?$

$[1] + ? = [0]$

Two operations on S

sum +	[0]	[1]
[0]	[0]	[1]
[1]	[1]	[0]

product ×	[0]	[1]
[0]	[0]	[0]
[1]	[0]	[1]

$+$       identities  
           $(0)$   
 $\times$        $(1)$

*notation* inverses  
 $(-1) = \underline{\underline{1}}$   
 $1)^{-1} = 1)$

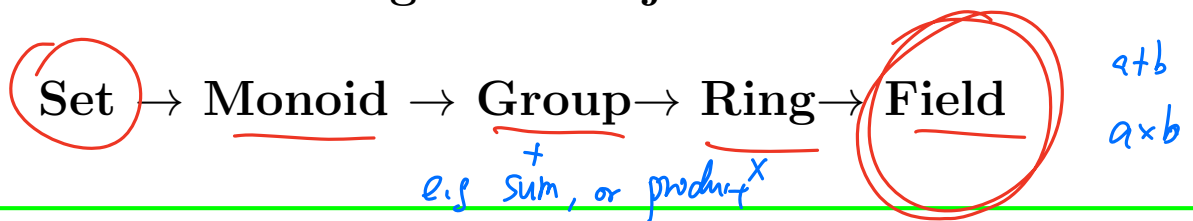
$$1) + (-1) = 0)$$

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$$\mathbb{C} = \{ a+bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

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### 3. Algebraic objects:



**Definition 13.** A binary operation  $*$  on a set  $S$  is a map/function

$$* : \begin{matrix} S \times S \\ (a, b) \end{matrix} \longrightarrow \begin{matrix} S \\ a \times b \end{matrix}$$

**Definition 14.** A monoid is a set  $M$  with a binary operation  $* : M \times M \rightarrow M$  satisfying two axioms:

(1) (Identity)  $e$  There exists  $e \in M$  such that  $e * x = x = x * e$  for any  $x \in M$ .

(2) (Associativity)  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$ . for any  $a, b, c \in M$ .

**Proposition 15.** Identity is unique in a monoid.

**Definition 16.** A monoid  $(M, *)$  is called a commutative (or abelian), if

$$a * b = b * a \quad \text{for any } a, b \in M$$



**Definition 17.** A group is a monoid  $(G, \cdot)$  satisfies

- (3) (Inverse) For any  $g \in G$ , there exist  $h \in G$  such that  $g * h = h * g = e$   
 (\*)  
 $h$  is called the inverse of  $g$ , denoted by  $h =: g^{-1}$

**Proposition 18.** In a group  $G$ , inverse is unique in for any  $g \in G$ .

Denote commutative (abelian) group as  $(G, \overset{*}{+}, \overset{e}{0})$ ; inverse of  $a$  as  $-a$ .

**Definition 19.** A **ring** (with unit/identity) is a set  $R$  with two binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$ , s.t.

(1)  $(R, +)$  is an "abelian group"

(2) (multiplicative identity)  $e' \cdot a = a \cdot e' = a$

(3) (multiplicative associative)  $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$

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

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

**Definition 20.** A ring  $R$  is called a **commutative** if

$$ab = b \cdot a$$

(Denote  $e'$  as 1 in commutative ring.)

**Example 21.** Integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a commutative ring.

$$\begin{array}{l} + \\ \times \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} a + (-a) = 0 \\ ? \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

**Example 22.** Set of all polynomials  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  with sum and product is a commutative ring.

$$a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots + a_n t^n$$

$$a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$$

**Example 23.** Set of all polynomials  $\mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  is a commutative ring.

**Example 24.**  $\textcircled{2\mathbb{Z}}$  is a ring without identity.

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{ \dots, -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots \}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{ [0], [1] \}$$

**Definition 25.** A **field**  $\mathbb{F}$  is a commutative ring  $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot)$  such that

(5) any non-zero element has a multiplicative inverse.

$$0 \neq a \in \mathbb{F}$$

$$a^{-1} \cdot a = 1$$

**Remark:**  $(\mathbb{F} - \{0\}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{F} - \{0\}, \cdot)$  are abelian groups.

Ex:  $\mathbb{Z}_4 = \{ [0], [1], [2], [3] \}$

$\textcircled{n=4}$

$$\begin{aligned} [-8] - [0] &= \{ 0, \underline{\pm 4}, \underline{\pm 8}, \underline{\pm 12}, \dots, \underline{\pm 4k}, \dots \} \\ [0] &= \{ 1, \pm 4, \pm 8, \pm 12, \dots, \pm 4k, \dots \} \\ [2] &= \{ \underline{2}, \underline{2 \pm 4}, \underline{2 \pm 8}, \dots \} \\ [3] &= \{ \underline{3}, \underline{3 \pm 4}, \underline{3 \pm 8}, \dots \} \end{aligned}$$

Two operations:  $[a] + [b] := [a+b]$

$[a] \times [b] := [a \times b]$

• identities for sum:  $[0]$  since  $[0] + [a] = [a]$

• prod:  $[1]$  since  $[1] \times [a] = [a]$

• sum inverse of  $[a]$

$$\underline{-[a]} =$$

• product inverse of  $[a]$   
( $a \neq 0$ )

$$\underline{\frac{1}{[a]} = [a]^{-1} =}$$

e.g.  $\frac{[?]}{[-[2]]} =$  since  $[2] + [2] = [0]$

?  $\frac{[?]}{[2]} = \text{not exist}$  since  $[2] \times [?] = [1]$

$[x] = \frac{[?]}{[3]} = [3]$   $[3] \cdot [?] = [1]$

$$\underline{[3x] = [1]}$$

For  $n > 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{[0], [1], \dots, [n-1]\}$  = the set of congruence classes modulo  $n$ .

**Proposition 26.**  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +, \times)$  is a commutative ring.

**Example 27.**  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  is a field.

$\mathbb{Z}_4$

**Example 28.**  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  is not a field. (Reason:  $[2]$  has no multiplicative inverse.)

**Proposition 29.**  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a field if and only if  $n = p$  is a prime number.

$\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  are fields.

Remark:  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the smallest field containing  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

In our class, we will focus on fields  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ , (and  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ ).

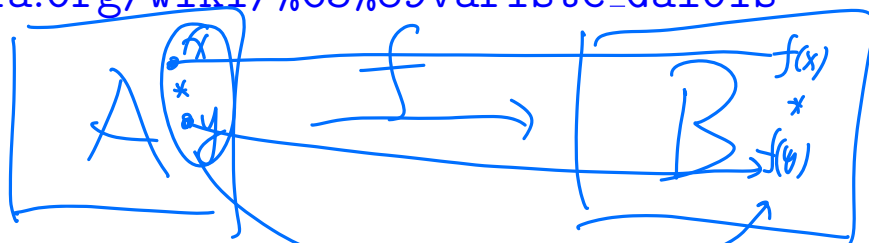
The idea of group and field was created by Évariste Galois (1811 – 1832).



$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$ax^4 + ax^3 + ax^2 + ax + 1 = 0$$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89variste\\_Galois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89variste_Galois)



## 4. Functions between algebraic objects:

**Definition 30.** A homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  between any two algebraic objects is a function preserving all operations, i.e.,

$$f(x * y) = f(x) * f(y) \text{ for any } x, y \in A$$

For ring with identity, we also need the homomorphism sends identity to identity.

**Definition 31.** (Terminology first by Nicolas Bourbaki (1934).)

- (1) An injective homomorphism is called **monomorphism**.
- (2) A surjective homomorphism is called an **epimorphism**.
- (3) A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is called **isomorphism**, if it is monomorphism and epimorphism. In this case, we consider A and B are the "same".



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas\\_Bourbaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Bourbaki)

Further extended reading:

1. Classification finite fields.
2. Classification of finite abelian groups.
3. "Classification of finite groups".

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