

## Objectives

- ① Define a field
- ② Give examples of vector spaces over fields.



Q Is  $\mathbb{R}_+ := \{ x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \geq 0 \}$  a vector space?  
defined to be <sup>min</sup> such that the set of

No.

ex.  $-x \notin \mathbb{R}_+$  <sub>not in</sub>  $\leadsto$  no additive inverse.

Check "well-definedness" first (my personal rule of thumb)  
Is  $c \cdot x \in \mathbb{R}_+ \quad \forall c \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ?

no if  $c < 0$  then  $c \cdot x < 0$ .

[Q] Are there different definitions of '+' and '·' that could make  $\mathbb{R}_+$  into a vector space?

$$\mathbb{R}_+ \xrightarrow{\log} \mathbb{R}$$

So define:  $x + y$  by

$$\log^{-1} [\log(x) + \log(y)]$$

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Define

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x + y &= x \cdot y \\ c \cdot x &= x^c \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Let's check some vector space properties:

1.  $x + y := xy = yx =: y + x$  ✓

2. Additive identity?  $1 + x := 1x = x$  ✓

3. Additive inverse?  $\frac{1}{x} + x := \frac{1}{x}x = 1$  ✓

4.  $1 \cdot x = x$ ?  $1 \cdot x := x^1 = x.$

Q Why does 'c' have to be in  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

A No reason. We can replace  $\mathbb{R}$  by  
any field.

Defn. A field  $\mathcal{F}$  is a set with operations  $+$ ,  $\cdot$  satisfying

$$\forall x, y \in \mathcal{F}, \quad x + y \in \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \\ x \cdot y \in \mathcal{F}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \forall a, b, c \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \left. \begin{aligned} a + (b + c) &= (a + b) + c \\ a \cdot (b \cdot c) &= (a \cdot b) \cdot c \end{aligned} \right\} \text{associativity}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{F}, \quad a + b = b + a \quad \text{and} \quad a \cdot b = b \cdot a \quad \left. \right\} \text{commutativity}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \exists 0, 1 \in \mathcal{F} \text{ s.t. } \forall a \in \mathcal{F}, \quad 0 + a = a \quad \text{and} \quad 1 \cdot a = a$$

such that

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{F} \quad \exists -a \in \mathcal{F} \text{ s.t. } a + (-a) = 0$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{F}^{\wedge a \neq 0} \quad \exists a^{-1} \in \mathcal{F} \text{ s.t. } a \cdot a^{-1} = 1$$

$$6) \forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{F} \quad a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

distributivity

## Examples of fields

$\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Q}$

↑ for some people, this is always assumed. Let me know if you want me to make slides.

## Examples of non-fields

$\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N}$  ← no additive inverses  
↙ no multiplicative inverses.



## ② Adjoining elements

ex.  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) := \{ a + b\sqrt{2} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q} \}$   
w/ addition and multiplication inherited  
from  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$$(a + b\sqrt{2}) \cdot (c + d\sqrt{2}) =$$
$$a \cdot c + a \cdot d\sqrt{2} + c \cdot b\sqrt{2} + d \cdot b \cdot 2.$$

the multiplicative inverse of  $\sqrt{2}$  is

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{2}.$$

ex.  $\mathbb{R}(i) = \mathbb{C}.$

### ③ Finite fields

i)  $\mathbb{Z}_2 := \{0, 1\}$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$0 + 1 = 1$$

$$1 + 1 = 0$$

additive identity  $\rightarrow$

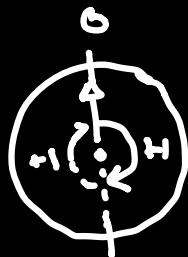
$$0 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$0 \cdot 1 = 0$$

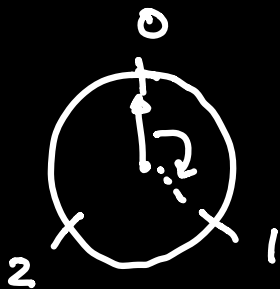
$$1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

mult. identity  $\uparrow$

"modular arithmetic"



ii)  $\mathbb{Z}_3 := \{0, 1, 2\}, +, \cdot$



$$1 + 1 = 2$$

$$1 + 2 = 0$$

$$2 + 2 = 1$$

$$0 \cdot 1 = 0$$

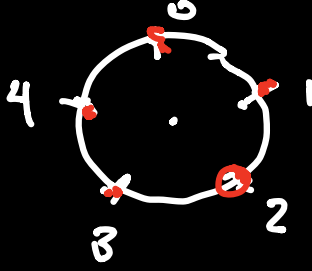
$$2 \cdot 1 = 2$$

$$2 \cdot 2 = 1$$

$\hookrightarrow$   
add 2  
twice

iii)  $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} := \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $+$ ,  $\cdot$

$3 \cdot 4 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 2$



Alternatively, write  $3 \cdot 4 \equiv 12 \pmod{5}$

Note  $12 = (2 \cdot 5) + 2$  is congruent to

iv)  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ , for any prime  $p$ .

Note.  $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$  is not a field ... '2' has

no multiplicative inverse.

$2 \cdot 0 = 0$	$2 \cdot 3 = 2$
$2 \cdot 1 = 2$	
$2 \cdot 2 = 0$	

A vector space  $\mathcal{V}$  is a set with operations  $+$ ,  $\cdot$  so that  $\mathcal{V}$  over  $F$

$$\forall v_1, v_2 \in \mathcal{V} \quad \text{and} \quad \forall c \in F$$

$$v_1 + v_2 \in \mathcal{V} \quad \text{and}$$

$$c \cdot v_1 \in \mathcal{V} \quad \text{and}$$

the 8 properties that we saw for v.s.

over  $\mathbb{R}$  hold, with  $c$  now living  
in  $F$ .

# Examples

$$\mathbb{Q}^n, \mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{Z}_p^n$$



very cool.

e.g. Binary codes:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 001000 \\ 011010 \\ 011100 \\ 100000 \end{array} \right\}$$

elements

$$\mathbb{Z}_2^6$$

e.g. the game of Set.

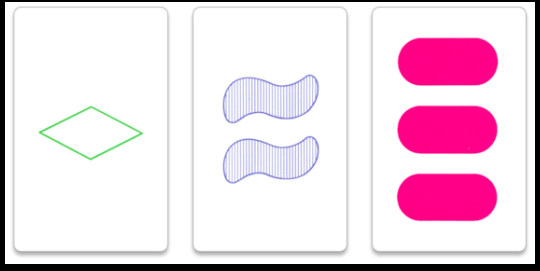
A set consists of three cards satisfying all of these conditions:

They all have the same number or have three different numbers. — 1, 2, 3

They all have the same shape or have three different shapes. —  $\diamond$ ,  $\infty$ ,  $\circ$

They all have the same shading or have three different shadings. —  $\square$   $\square$   $\square$

They all have the same color or have three different colors.



e.g. the game of Set.

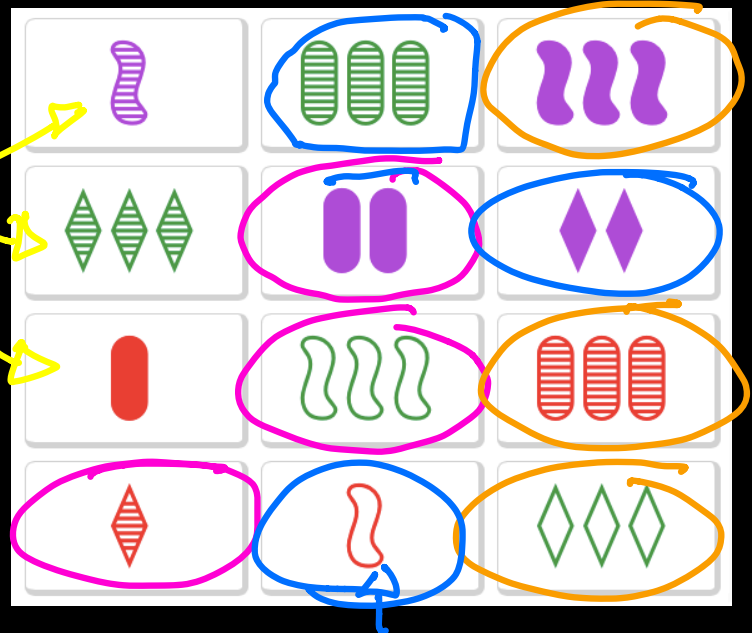
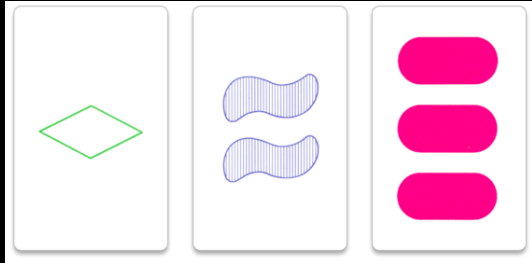
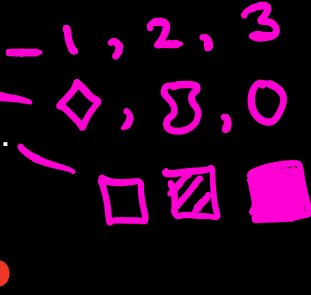
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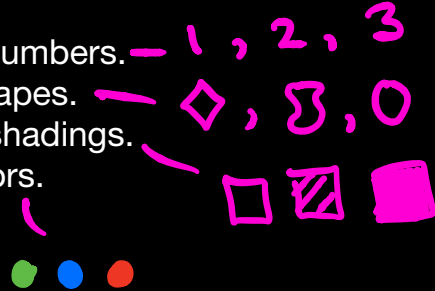
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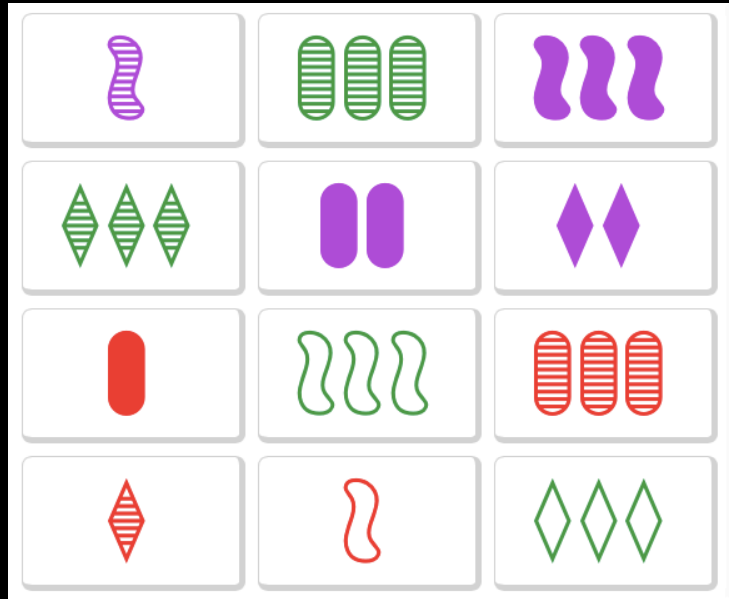


Described by 4 characteristics.

$\leadsto$  4-dim. vector space (?)

Each characteristic can take 3 different values

$$\leadsto (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^4$$





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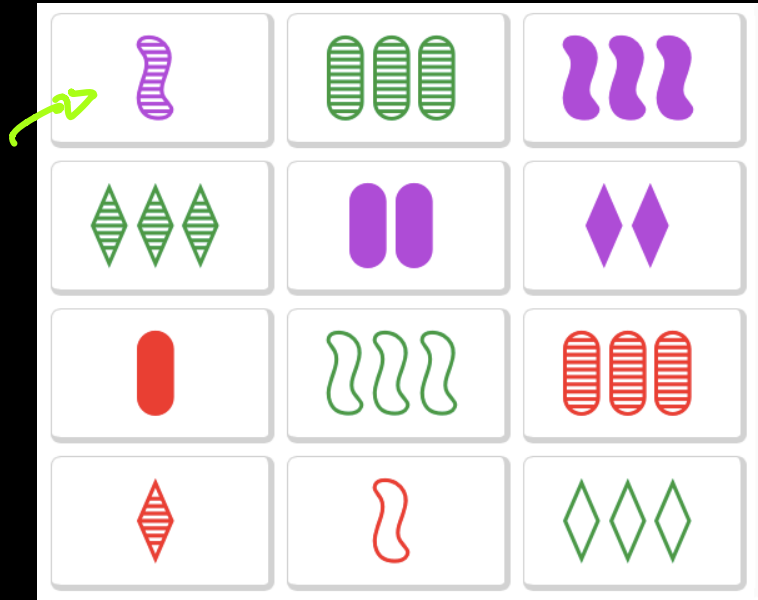
	0	1	2
one <sup>0</sup>	two <sup>1</sup>	three <sup>2</sup>	
0 <sup>0</sup>	◇ <sup>1</sup>	∩ <sup>2</sup>	
□ <sup>0</sup>	▨ <sup>1</sup>	■ <sup>2</sup>	
● <sup>0</sup>	● <sup>1</sup>	● <sup>2</sup>	

What does it mean to get a Set?

if they all have the same number.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Terry Tao: "Perhaps my favorite open question is the problem on the maximal size of a cap set."

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

a set is 3 cards that sum to  $\vec{0}$  when I view them as points in  $(\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$ .

<https://www.wired.com/2016/06/simple-proof-card-game-set-stuns-mathematicians/>