

Discrete Structures and Theory of Logic

Lecture-22

Dharmendra Kumar

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Field

An algebraic structure $(F, +, \cdot)$, where F is a set and $+$ and \cdot are two binary operators defined on set F , is said to be field if it satisfies following properties:-

- (1)** $(F, +)$ is an abelian group.
- (2)** (F', \cdot) is an abelian group, where $F' = F - \{0\}$.
- (3)** Distributive property must hold i.e. $a \cdot (b+c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$ and $(b+c) \cdot a = b \cdot a + c \cdot a$, $\forall a, b, c \in F$.

Field

Example: The ring of rational numbers $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ is a field.

Solution: Since $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ is a ring therefore we have to show only second property of field i.e. (\mathbb{Q}', \cdot) is an abelian.

Since $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ is ring therefore (\mathbb{Q}', \cdot) is a semigroup. Now, we have to find identity element and inverse.

Clearly 1 is an identity element.

Consider an element $a \in \mathbb{Q}'$. clearly the inverse of a is $1/a$. Therefore inverse property is also satisfied.

If $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}'$ then $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$, therefore commutative property is satisfied. Since all the properties of an abelian group is satisfied within \mathbb{Q}' . Therefore, (\mathbb{Q}', \cdot) is an abelian group.

Therefore, $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ is a field.

Example: $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$ is a field.

Ring with zero divisors

If a and b are two non-zero elements of a ring R such that $a.b = 0$, then a and b are divisors of 0 (or zero divisors). In particular, a is a left divisor of 0 and b is right divisor of 0.

Example: The ring of integers do not have zero divisors. Because there exist no two non-zero integers such that their product is zero.

Ring homomorphism

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ and (S, \oplus, \odot) be rings. A mapping $f: R \rightarrow S$ is called a ring homomorphism from $(R, +, \cdot)$ to (S, \oplus, \odot) if for any $a, b \in R$,

$$f(a+b) = f(a) \oplus f(b) \text{ and } f(a \cdot b) = f(a) \odot f(b)$$

Boolean ring

A ring R is said to be boolean ring if $a^2 = a, \forall a \in R$.

Example: Show that a Boolean ring is always commutative.

Solution: It is proved in the previous example.

Example: If $(R, +, \cdot)$ is a ring with unity, then show that, for all $a \in R$,

(i) $(-1) \cdot a = -a$

(ii) $(-1) \cdot (-1) = 1$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i) } a + (-1) \cdot a &= 1 \cdot a + (-1) \cdot a \\ &= (1 + (-1)) \cdot a \\ &= 0 \cdot a \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow -a = (-1) \cdot a$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(ii) } (-1) \cdot (-1) &= -((-1) \cdot 1) = -(-(1 \cdot 1)) = -(-(1)) = 1 \text{ (since } (a^{-1})^{-1} \\ &= a) \end{aligned}$$

Example: Explain Boolean ring with suitable example.

Solution: A ring R is said to be boolean ring if $a^2 = a, \forall a \in R$.

Example of Boolean ring is $(Z_2, +_2, \times_2)$ because

$Z_2 = \{0,1\}$ and $0^2 = 0 \times_2 0 = 0, 1^2 = 1 \times_2 1 = 1$.

Note: $(Z_n, +_n, \times_n)$ is a field iff n is prime number.

Example: Determine all values of x from the given field which satisfies the given equation:-

(i) $x + 1 = -1$ over Z_2, Z_3, Z_5 and Z_7

(ii) $2x + 1 = 2$ over Z_3 , and Z_5

(iii) $5x + 1 = 2$ over Z_5

Solution:

(i) Consider field Z_2 . $Z_2 = \{0,1\}$. Now, we have to find which values of Z_2 satisfies following $x + 1 = -1$.

Here, -1 indicate the additive inverse of 1 . Clearly, in this field, additive inverse of 1 is 1 , therefore the given equation is modified as $x + 1 = 1$.

Clearly $x = 0$ satisfies this equation.

Consider field Z_3 . $Z_3 = \{0,1,2\}$. In this field, additive inverse of 1 is 2, therefore the given equation is modified as $x + 1 = 2$.

Clearly $x = 1$ satisfies this equation.

Consider field Z_5 . $Z_5 = \{0,1,2,3,4\}$. In this field, additive inverse of 1 is 4, therefore the given equation is modified as $x + 1 = 4$.

Clearly $x = 3$ satisfies this equation.

Consider field Z_7 . $Z_7 = \{0,1,2,3,4,5,6\}$. In this field, additive inverse of 1 is 6, therefore the given equation is modified as $x + 1 = 6$.

Clearly $x = 5$ satisfies this equation.

(ii) Consider field Z_3 . $Z_3 = \{0,1,2\}$. Now, we have to find which values of Z_3 satisfies following $2x + 1 = 2$.

Clearly $x = 2$ satisfies this equation.

Consider field Z_5 . $Z_5 = \{0,1,2,3,4\}$. Now, we have to find which values of Z_5 satisfies following $2x + 1 = 2$.

Clearly $x = 3$ satisfies this equation.

(iii) Consider field Z_5 . $Z_5 = \{0,1,2,3,4\}$. Now, we have to find which values of Z_5 satisfies following $5x + 1 = 2$.

Clearly there is no x in Z_5 which satisfies this equation.

Exercise

1. Show that $(\mathbb{Z}_7, +_7, \times_7)$ is a commutative ring with identity.
2. We are given the ring $(\{a,b,c,d\}, +, \cdot)$, whose operations are given by the following table:-

+	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d
b	b	c	d	a
c	c	d	a	b
d	d	a	b	c

.	a	b	c	d
a	a	a	a	a
b	a	c	a	c
c	a	a	a	a
d	a	c	a	a

Is it commutative ring? Does it have an identity? what is the zero of this ring? Find the additive inverse of each of its elements.

Exercise

1. Show that (I, \oplus, \odot) is a commutative ring with identity, where the operations \oplus and \odot are defined, for any $a, b \in I$ as $a \oplus b = a + b - 1$ and $a \odot b = a + b - ab$.
2. Prove that $(R, +, *)$ is a ring with zero divisors, where R is 2×2 matrix and $+$ and $*$ are usual addition and multiplication operations.