

# Honours Algebra

## Quick Notes

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# 1 Vector Spaces

## 1.1 Solution of Simultaneous Linear Equations

Assume  $F = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ , where  $a_{ij}, b_i \in F$ , then

$$\sum_{j=1}^m a_{ij}x_j = b_i \quad \forall i \in [1, n] : i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

is a **system of linear Equations**

- if all  $b$ 's are 0 then the system is **homogenous**
- $L = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$  is the **solution set** of Equations

## 1.2 Fields and Vector Spaces

**DEFINITION 1.2.1.**

1. A **field**  $F$  is a set with functions:

- **addition**  $= + : F \times F \rightarrow F; (\lambda, \mu) \mapsto \lambda + \mu$
- **multiplication**  $= \cdot : F \times F \rightarrow F; (\lambda, \mu) \mapsto \lambda\mu$

such that  $(F, +)$  and  $(F \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  are abelian groups, with:

$$\lambda(\mu + \nu) = \lambda\mu + \lambda\nu \in F \quad \forall \lambda, \mu, \nu \in F$$

The neutral elements are called  $0_F, 1_F$ , in particular for all  $\lambda, \mu \in F$

- $\lambda + \mu = \mu + \lambda \in F$
- $\lambda \cdot \mu = \mu \cdot \lambda \in F$
- $\lambda + 0_F = \lambda \in F$
- $\lambda \cdot 1_F = \lambda \in F$

For all  $\lambda \in F$  there exists  $-\lambda \in F$  such that  $\lambda + (-\lambda) = 0_F \in F$

For all  $\lambda \neq 0 \in F$  there exists  $\lambda^{-1} \neq 0 \in F$  such that  $\lambda(\lambda^{-1}) = 1_F \in F$

2. A **vector space**  $V$  **over a field**  $F$  is a pair consisting of an abelian group  $V = (V, +)$  and a mapping

$$F \times V \rightarrow V; (\lambda, \vec{v})$$

such that for all  $\lambda, \mu \in F$  and  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$  the following identities hold:

- $\lambda(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \lambda\vec{v} + \lambda\vec{w}$  **Distributive Law**
- $(\lambda + \mu)\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} + \mu\vec{v}$  **Distributive Law**
- $\lambda(\mu\vec{v}) = (\lambda\mu)\vec{v}$  **Associativity Law**
- $1_F\vec{v} = \vec{v}$

**LEMMA 1.2.1.** If  $V$  is a vector space and  $\vec{v} \in V$  then  $0\vec{v} = \vec{0}$

**LEMMA 1.2.2.** If  $V$  is a vector space and  $\vec{v} \in V$  then  $(-1)\vec{v} = -\vec{v}$

**LEMMA 1.2.3.** If  $V$  is a vector space over a field  $F$  then  $\lambda\vec{0} = \vec{0} \quad \forall \lambda \in F$

### 1.3 Product of Sets and of Vector Spaces

- **Cartesian product** of sets:  $X_1 \times \dots \times X_n := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_i \in X_i \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ , an element of this product is known as a product n-tuples.

There are special mappings called **projections** for a cartesian product

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pr}_i : X_1 \times \dots \times X_n &\rightarrow X_i \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto x_i \end{aligned}$$

The cartesian product of  $n$  copies of a set  $X$  is written in short as  $X^n$

$$\forall n, m \geq 0, X^n \times X^m \xrightarrow{\sim} X^{n+m}; ((x_1, \dots, x_n), (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m})) \mapsto (x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m})$$

### 1.4 Vector Subspaces

**DEFINITION 1.4.1.** A subset  $U$  of a vector space  $V$  is called a **vector subspace** or **subspace** if  $U$  contains the zero vector ( $\vec{0}$ ) and whenever  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}$  and  $\lambda \in F$  we have  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} \in U$  and  $\lambda\vec{u} \in U$

**PROPOSITION 1.4.1.** Let  $T$  be a subset of vector space  $V$  over a field  $F$ . Then amongst all vector subspaces of  $V$  that include  $T$  there is a smallest vector subspace

$$\langle T \rangle = \langle T \rangle_F \subseteq V$$

**DEFINITION 1.4.2.** A subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  is called a **generating set** of a  $V$  if its span is all of the vector space. A vector space that has a finite generating set is **finitely generated**

**DEFINITION 1.4.3.** Check Definition 1.4.9 on Iain's (Not me I am Ian) note I dun think it's English

## 1.5 Linear Independence and Bases

**DEFINITION 1.5.1.** A subset  $L = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  of a vector subspace  $V$  is **linearly independent** if for all arbitrary scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in F$ :

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{v}_i = 0 \rightarrow \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$$

**DEFINITION 1.5.2.** A subset  $L = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  of a vector subspace  $V$  is **linearly dependent** if it's not **linearly independent**, which means there exist some  $\alpha_j \in \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}, \alpha_j \neq 0$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{v}_i = 0$$

**DEFINITION 1.5.3.** A **basis of a vector space**  $B$  of a vector space  $V$  is a linearly independent generating set in  $V$

**DEFINITION 1.5.4.** Let  $F$  be a field,  $V$  a vector space over  $F$  and  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r \in V$  vectors. The *family*  $(\vec{v}_i)_{1 \leq i \leq r}$  is a basis of  $V$  if and only if the following "evaluation"

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi : F^r &\rightarrow V \\ (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r) &\mapsto \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r \end{aligned}$$

is a bijection

**DEFINITION 1.5.5.** The following for a subset  $E$  of a vector space  $V$  are equivalent: An isomorphism of a vector space to itself is called **an automorphism** of our vector space.

- Our subset  $E$  is a basis, ie. a linearly independent generating set;
- Our subset  $E$  is a minimal among all generating sets, meaning that  $E \setminus \{\vec{v}\}$  does not generate  $V$
- Our subset  $E$  is maximal among all linearly independent subsets, meaning that  $E \cup \{\vec{v}\}$  is not linearly independent for any  $\vec{v} \in V$

**COROLLARY 1.5.1.** Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space over a field  $F$ , then  $V$  is a basis

**THEOREM 1.5.1.** Let  $V$  be a vector space.

- If  $L \subset V$  is a linearly independent subset and  $E$  is a minimal amongst all generating sets of our vector with  $L \subseteq E$ , then  $E$  is a basis.
- If  $L \subseteq V$  is a generating set and if  $L$  is maximal amongst all linearly independent subsets of vector space with  $L \subseteq E$ , then  $L$  is a basis.

**THEOREM 1.5.2.** Let field  $F$ ,  $F$ -vector space  $V$  and family of vectors  $(\vec{v}_i)_{i \in I}$  from  $V$ , The following are equivalent:

- The family  $(\vec{v}_i)_{i \in I}$  is a basis of  $V$ ;
- For each vector  $\vec{v} \in V$  there is precisely one family  $(a_i)_{i \in I}$  of elements of field  $F$ , almost all of which are zero and such that:

$$\vec{v} = \sum_{i \in I} a_i \vec{v}_i$$

## 1.6 Dimension of a vector space

**THEOREM 1.6.1** (Fundamental Estimate of Linear Algebra). No linearly independent subset of a given vector space has more elements than a generating set. Thus if  $V$  is a vector space,  $L \subset V$  a linearly independent subset and  $E \subseteq V$  a generating set, then  $|L| \leq |E|$

**THEOREM 1.6.2** (Steinitz Exchange Theorem). Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $L \subset V$  a finite linearly independent subset and  $E \subseteq V$  a generating set. Then there is an injection  $\phi : L \hookrightarrow E$  such that  $(E \setminus \phi(L)) \cup L$  is also a generating set for  $V$

**LEMMA 1.6.1** (Exchange Lemma). Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $M \subseteq V$  a linearly independent subset, and  $E \subseteq V$  a generating subset, such that  $M \subseteq E$ . If  $\vec{w} \in V \setminus M$  is a vector not belonging to  $M$  such that  $M \cup \{\vec{w}\}$  is linearly independent, then there exists  $\vec{e} \in E \setminus M$  such that  $\{E \setminus \{\vec{e}\}\} \cup \{\vec{w}\}$  is a generating set for  $V$

**COROLLARY 1.6.1** (Cardinality of Bases). Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space.

- $V$  has a finite basis
- $V$  cannot have an infinite basis
- Any two bases of  $V$  have the same number of elements

**DEFINITION 1.6.1.** The cardinality of one (and by Cardinality of Bases each) basis of a finitely generated vector space  $V$  is called the **dimension** of  $V$  and will be denoted by  $\dim(V)$ . If the vector space is not finitely generated, then we write  $\dim(V) = \infty$  and call  $V$  infinite dimensional. As usual, we will ignore the difference between infinities.

**COROLLARY 1.6.2** (Cardinality Criterion for Bases). Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space.

- Each linearly independent subset  $L \subset V$  has at most  $\dim(V)$  elements, and if  $|L| = \dim(V)$  then  $L$  is actually a basis
- Each generating set  $E \subseteq V$  has at least  $\dim(V)$  elements, and if  $|E| = \dim(V)$  then  $E$  is actually a basis.

**COROLLARY 1.6.3** (Dimension Estimate for Vector Subspaces). A proper vector subspace of a finite dimensional vector space has itself a strictly smaller dimension.

**THEOREM 1.6.3** (The Dimension Theorem). Let  $V$  be vector space containing vector subspaces  $U, W \subseteq V$ . Then

$$\dim(U + W) + \dim(U \cap W) = \dim(U) + \dim(W)$$

## 1.7 Linear Mappings

**DEFINITION 1.7.1.** Let  $V, W$  be a vector spaces over a field  $F$ . A mapping  $f : V \rightarrow W$  is called **linear** or more percisely **F-linearly** or even a **homomorphism of  $F$ -vector spaces** if for all  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \in V$  and  $\lambda \in F$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2) &= f(\vec{v}_1) + f(\vec{v}_2) \\ f(\lambda \vec{v}_1) &= \lambda f(\vec{v}_1) \end{aligned}$$

- A bijective linear mapping is called as **isomorphism** of vector spaces. If there is an isomorphism bwetween two vector spaces we say them **isomorphic**.
- A **homomorphism** from one vector space to itself is called an **endomorphism** of our vector space.
- An isomorphism of a vector space to itself is called **an automorphism** of our vector space.

**DEFINITION 1.7.2.** A point that is sent to itself br a mapping is called a **fixed point** of the mapping. Given a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow X$ , we donote the set of fixed points by

$$X^f = \{x \in X : f(x) = x\}$$

**DEFINITION 1.7.3.** Two vector subspaces  $V_1, V_2$  of a vector space  $V$  are called **complementary** if addition defines a bijection  $V_1 \times V_2 \xrightarrow{\sim} V$

**THEOREM 1.7.1** (The Classification of Vector Spaces by their Dimension). Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then a vector space over a field  $F$  is isomorphic to  $F^n$  i.f.f it has dimension  $n$

**LEMMA 1.7.1** (Linear Mappings and Bases). Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $F$  and let  $B \subset V$  be a basis. Then restriction of a mapping gives a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_F(V, W) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Maps}(B, W) \\ f &\mapsto f|_B \end{aligned}$$

**PROPOSITION 1.7.1.** • Every injective linar mapping  $f : V \hookrightarrow W$  has a **left inverse**, in other words a linear mapping  $g : W \rightarrow V$  such that  $g \circ f = \text{id}_V$

- Every surjective linear mapping  $f : V \twoheadrightarrow W$  has a **right inverse**, in other words a linear mapping  $g : W \rightarrow V$  such that  $g \circ f = \text{id}_W$

## 1.8 Rank-Nullity Throrem

**DEFINITION 1.8.1.** The **image** of a linear mapping  $f : V \rightarrow W$  is the subset  $\text{im}(f) = f(V) \subseteq W$ . The **preimage** of the zero vector (**kernel**) of a linear mapping  $f : V \rightarrow W$  is denoted by

$$\ker(f) := f^{-1}(0) = \{v \in V : f(v) = 0\}$$

The kernel is a vector subspace if  $V$

**LEMMA 1.8.1.** A linear mapping  $f : V \rightarrow W$  is injective if an only if it's kernel is zero.

**THEOREM 1.8.1** (Rank-Nullity Theorem). Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear mapping between vector spaces, then  $\dim(V) = \dim(\ker f) + \dim(\text{im}(f))$

## 2 Linear Mappings and Matrices

### 2.1 Linear Mappings $F^m \rightarrow F^n$ and Matrices

**THEOREM 2.1.1** (Linear mappings  $F^m \rightarrow F^n$  and Matrices). Let  $F$  be a field and let  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  be natural numbers. There is a bijection between the space of linear mappings  $F^m \rightarrow F^n$  and the set of matrices with  $n$  rows and  $m$  columns and entries in  $F$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} : \text{Hom}_F(F^m, F^n) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Mat}(n \times m; F) \\ f &\mapsto [f] \end{aligned}$$

This attaches to each linear mapping  $f$  its **representing matrix**  $\mathbf{M}(f) := [f]$ . The columns of this matrix are the images under  $f$  of the standard basis elements of  $F^m$ :

$$[f] = (f(\vec{e}_1) | f(\vec{e}_2) | \dots | f(\vec{e}_m))$$

**DEFINITION 2.1.1.** Let  $n, m, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $F$  a field and let  $A \in \text{Mat}(n \times m; F)$  and  $B \in \text{Mat}(m \times l; F)$  be matrices. The **product**  $A \circ B = AB \in \text{Mat}(n \times l; F)$  is the matrix defined by

$$(AB)_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^m A_{ij} B_{jk}$$

**THEOREM 2.1.2** (Composition of Linear Mapping and Products of Matrices). Let  $g : F^l \rightarrow F^m$  and  $f : F^m \rightarrow F^n$  be linear mappings. Then  $[f \circ g] = [f] \circ [g]$

### 2.2 Basic Properties of Matrices

**DEFINITION 2.2.1.** A matrix  $A$  is called **invertible** if there exist matrices such that  $BA = I$  and  $AC = I$

**DEFINITION 2.2.2.** will define an **elementary matrix** to be any square matrix that differs from the identity matrix in at most one entry.

**THEOREM 2.2.1.** Every square matrix with entries in a field can be written as a product of elementary matrices.

**DEFINITION 2.2.3.** Any matrix whose only non-zero entries lie on the diagonal, and which has first 1's along the diagonal and then 0's, is said to be in **Smith Normal Form**:

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{if } A_{(i+1)(j+1)} = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**THEOREM 2.2.2** ((Transformation of a Matrix into Smith Normal Form). For each matrix  $A \in \text{Mat}(n \times m; F)$  there exist invertible matrices  $P, Q$  such that  $PAQ$  is a matrix in Smith Normal Form.

**DEFINITION 2.2.4.** The **column rank** of a matrix  $A \in \text{Mat}(n \times m; F)$  is the dimension of the subsequence of  $F^n$  generated by the columns of  $A$ . Similarly, the **row rank** of  $A$  is the dimension of the subspace of  $F^m$  generated by the rows of  $A$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.3.** The column rank and the row rank of any matrix are equal.

Let's now refer the column and row rank as **rank** for the sake of not losing any generality.

**DEFINITION 2.2.5.** When the rank is as big as possible, meaning that it's equal to either the number of rows or number of columns (whichever is smaller), then the matrix has **full rank**

## 2.3 Abstract Linear Mappings and Matrices

**THEOREM 2.3.1** (Abstract Linear Mappings and Matrices). Let  $F$  be a field,  $V, W$  vector spaces over  $F$  with ordered bases  $\mathcal{A} = (\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m)$  and  $\mathcal{B} = (\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_n)$ . Then to each linear mapping  $f : V \rightarrow W$  we associate bases a **representing matrix**  ${}_B[f]_A$  whose entries  $a_{ij}$  are defined by the identity

$$f(\vec{v}_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \vec{w}_i \in W$$

This produces a bijection, which is even an isomorphism of vector spaces:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M}_B^A : \text{Hom}_F(V, W) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Mat}(n \times m; F) \\ f &\mapsto {}_B[f]_A \end{aligned}$$

We call  $\mathbf{M}_B^A(f) = {}_B[f]_A$  the **representing matrix of the mapping with respect to the bases  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$**

**THEOREM 2.3.2** (The Representing Matrix of a Composition of Linear Mappings). Let  $F$  be a field and  $U, V, W$  finite dimensional vector spaces over  $F$  with ordered bases  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$ . If  $f : U \rightarrow V$  and  $g : V \rightarrow W$  are linear mappings, then the representing matrix of the composition  $g \circ f : U \rightarrow W$  is the matrix product of the representing matrix of  $f$  and  $g$ :

$${}_C[g \circ f]_A = {}_C[g]_B \circ {}_B[f]_A$$

**DEFINITION 2.3.1.** Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space with an ordered basis  $\mathcal{A} = (\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m)$ . We will denote the inverse to the bijection of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{A}} : V \xrightarrow{\sim} \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \vec{v}_i$  by

$$\vec{v} \mapsto {}_{\mathcal{A}}[\vec{v}]$$

**THEOREM 2.3.3** (Representation of the Image of a Vector). Let  $V, W$  be finite dimensional vector spaces over  $F$  with ordered bases  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$  and let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear mapping. The following holds for  $\vec{v} \in V$ :

$${}_B[f(\vec{v})] = {}_B[f]_A \circ {}_{\mathcal{A}}[\vec{v}]$$



## 2.4 Change of Matrix by Change of Basis

**DEFINITION 2.4.1.** Let  $\mathcal{A} = (\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n), \mathcal{B} = (\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_n)$  be ordered bases of the same  $F$ -vector space  $V$ . Then the matrix representing the identity mapping with respect to the bases  $\mathcal{B}[\text{id}_V]_{\mathcal{A}}$  is called a **change of basis matrix**. By definition, its entries are given by the equalities  $\vec{v}_j = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \vec{w}_i$

**THEOREM 2.4.1** (Change of Basis). Let  $V, W$  be finite dimensional vector spaces over  $F$  and let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear mapping. Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}'$  are ordered bases of  $V$  and  $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B}'$  are ordered bases of  $W$ . Then:

$${}_{\mathcal{B}'}[f]_{\mathcal{A}'} = {}_{\mathcal{B}'}[\text{id}_W]_{\mathcal{B}} \circ {}_{\mathcal{B}}[f]_{\mathcal{A}} \circ {}_{\mathcal{A}}[\text{id}_V]_{\mathcal{A}'}$$

**COROLLARY 2.4.1.** Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space and let  $f : V \rightarrow V$  be an endomorphism of  $V$ . Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}'$  are ordered bases of  $V$ . Then

$${}_{\mathcal{A}'}[f]_{\mathcal{A}'} = {}_{\mathcal{A}}[\text{id}_V]_{\mathcal{A}'}^{-1} \circ {}_{\mathcal{A}}[f]_{\mathcal{A}} \circ {}_{\mathcal{A}}[\text{id}_V]_{\mathcal{A}'}$$

**THEOREM 2.4.2** (Smith Normal Form). Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear mapping between finite dimensional  $F$ -vector spaces. There exist an ordered basis  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $V$  and an ordered basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $W$ , such that the representing matrix  ${}_{\mathcal{B}}[f]_{\mathcal{A}}$  has zero entries everywhere except possibly on one diagonal, and along the diagonal there are 1's first, followed by 0's

**DEFINITION 2.4.2** (Trace). The trace of a square matrix is defined to be the sum of its diagonal entries:

$$\text{tr}(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$$

## 3 Rings and Modules

### 3.1 Rings

**DEFINITION 3.1.1.** A **ring** is a set with two operations  $(R, +, \cdot)$  that satisfy:

1.  $(R, +)$  is an abelian group
2.  $(R, \cdot)$  is a **monoid**, meaning that the second operation  $\cdot : R \times R \rightarrow R$  is associative and that there is an **identity element**  $1 = 1_R \in R$ , often called just the **identity**, with the property that  $1 \cdot a = a \cdot 1 = a \quad \forall a \in R$
3. The Distributive laws hold, meaning that for all  $a, b, c \in R$

$$a \cdot (b + c) = (a \cdot b) + (a \cdot c) \quad \text{addition}$$

$$(a + b) \cdot c = (a \cdot c) + (b \cdot c) \quad \text{multiplication}$$

A ring which element is commutative, that means  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a \quad \forall a, b \in R$ , is a **commutative ring**

**PROPOSITION 3.1.1** (Divisibility by Sum). A natural number is divisible by 3 (respectively by 9) precisely when the sum of its digits is divisible by 3 (or 9)

**DEFINITION 3.1.2.** A **field** is a non-zero commutative ring  $F$  in which every non-zero element  $a \in F$  has an inverse  $a^{-1} \in F$ , that is an element  $a^{-1}$  with the property that  $a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = 1$

**PROPOSITION 3.1.2.** Let  $m$  be a positive integer. The commutative ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is a field i.f.f.  $m$  is prime.

## 3.2 Properties of Rings

**LEMMA 3.2.1** (Multiplying by zero and negatives). Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $a, b \in R$ . Then:

1.  $0a = 0 = a0$
2.  $(-a)b = -(ab) = a(-b)$
3.  $(-a)(-b) = ab$

**LEMMA 3.2.2** (Rules of multiples). Let  $R$  be a ring, let  $a, b \in R$  and  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then:

1.  $m(a + b) = ma + mb$
2.  $(m + n)a = ma + na$
3.  $m(na) = (mn)a$
4.  $m(ab) = (ma)b = a(mb)$
5.  $(ma)(nb) = (mn)(ab)$

**DEFINITION 3.2.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring. An element  $a \in R$  is called a **unit** if it is **invertable** in  $R$  or in other words **has a multiplicative inverse in  $R$** , meaning that  $\exists a^{-1} \in R$  such that

$$aa^{-1} = 1 = a^{-1}a$$

**PROPOSITION 3.2.1.** The set  $R^\times$  of units in a ring  $R$  forms a group under multiplication.