

Algebraic Structures

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Fields: The standard properties of real numbers with respect to addition and multiplication are so fundamental in Mathematics that whenever any set X with two binary operations '+' and '·' (called addition and multiplication) satisfies these properties is called a field.

The following properties hold for a field

Let R be the set of Real numbers and the operation $+$ and \cdot in R

- 1) Addition is associative.
- 2) There exists an element $0 \in R$ with the property
 $0 + a = a = a + 0$ for all $a \in R$
- 3) For each $a \in R$, There exists $-a \in R$ such that
 $a + (-a) = 0 = (-a) + a$
- 4) Addition is Commutative
- 5) Multiplication is associative
- 6) There exists an element $1 \in R$ such that $1 \cdot a = a = a \cdot 1$ for all $a \in R$.
- 7) For each $a (\neq 0)$ in R , there exists an element $\frac{1}{a} \in R$ such that
 $a \cdot \frac{1}{a} = 1 = a \cdot \frac{1}{a}$
- 8) Multiplication is Commutative.
- 9) Multiplication is distributive over addition that is for all $a, b, c \in R$ such that
 $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$
and $(a + b) \cdot c = a \cdot c + b \cdot c$

Ex: 1) The set Q of Rational numbers under $+$ and \cdot is a field.
2) The set of R (Real numbers), C (Complex numbers) are fields.
 Z (Integer) is not a field under addition and multiplication (\because prop 7 is not satisfied)