

The Group Theory

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1 Group

1.1 Definition

Definition: Group [1]:

A set $\mathbb{G} = a, b, c, \dots$ is called a group, if there exists a group multiplication connecting the elements in \mathbb{G} in the following way:

- (1) $a, b \in \mathbb{G} : c = ab \in \mathbb{G}$ (closure)
- (2) $a, b, c \in \mathbb{G} : (ab)c = a(bc)$ (associativity)
- (3) $\exists e \in \mathbb{G} : ae = e, \forall a \in \mathbb{G}$ (identity / neutral element)
- (4) $\forall a \in \mathbb{G}, \exists b \in \mathbb{G} : ab = e, i.e., b \equiv a^{-1}$

1.2 Public-key cryptography

“The mathematics of public-key cryptography uses a lot of group theory. Different cryptosystems use different groups, such as the group of units in modular arithmetic and the group of rational points on elliptic curves over a finite field. This use of group theory derives not from the “symmetry” perspective, but from the efficiency or difficulty of carrying out certain computations in the groups. Other public-key cryptosystems use other algebraic structures, such as lattices.” [1]

References

- [1] Luca Cardelli. Type systems. *ACM Comput. Surv.*, 28(1):263–264, March 1996.