

## Definition: Field

A field is a set  $\mathbb{F}$ , containing at least two elements on which two operations  $+$  (addition) and  $\cdot$  (multiplication) are defined so that for each pair of elements  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}$  there are unique elements  $x + y$  and  $x \cdot y$  in  $\mathbb{F}$  for which the following conditions hold for all elements  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}$

- $x + y = y + x$  (commutativity of addition)
- $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$  (associativity of addition)
- There is an element  $0 \in \mathbb{F}$ , which is named 0 such that  $x + 0 = x$  (existence of additive identity)
- For each  $x$ , we have an element  $-x \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $x + (-x) = 0$  (existence of additive inverse)
- $xy = yx$  (commutivity of multiplication)
- $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot z + y \cdot z$  and  $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$  (distributivity)
- There is an element  $1 \in \mathbb{F}$ , such that  $1 \neq 0$  and  $x \cdot 1 = x$  (existence of a multiplicative identity)
- if  $x \neq 0$ , then there is an element  $x^{-1} \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $x \cdot x^{-1} = 1$  (existence of multiplicative inverses)