Chapter 1

Vector Spaces

1.1 Groups and Abelian Groups

Definition 1.1. A binary operation on a set G is a mapping from $G \times G$ to G.

Definition 1.2. A binary operation $\star$ on a set G is called *associative* if for all $a, b, c \in G$, $(a \star b) \star c = a \star (b \star c)$ holds.

Definition 1.3. Let G be a set and $\star$ be a binary operation on G. An *identity* of G with respect to $\star$ is an element $e \in G$ such that $a \star e = a$ and $e \star a = a$ for all $a \in G$.

Theorem 1.4. The identity of G with respect to $\star$ is unique if it exists.

Proof. If e and e' are identity of G with respect to $\star$, then $e = e \star e' = e'$. $\square$

Notation. The identity of G is denoted by 1_G. However, if the binary operation is written additively, the identity is denoted by 0_G instead.

Definition 1.5. Let $\star$ be a binary operation on G with identity e. Let a be an element of G. An element $b \in G$ is called an *inverse* of a if $a \star b = e$ and $b \star a = e$.

Theorem 1.6. For all $a \in G$, the inverse of $a \in G$ is unique if it exists.

Proof. If both b and b' are inverses of a, then

$$b = b \star 1_G = b \star (a \star b') = (b \star a) \star b' = 1_G \star b' = b'. \qquad \square$$

Notation. The inverse of a in G is denoted by a^{-1}. However, if the binary operation is written additively, the inverse of a is denoted by $-a$ instead.

Definition 1.7. A set G and a binary operation $\star$ on G form a *group* $(G, \star)$ if the following conditions hold.

(a) The operation $\star$ is associative.

(b) 1_G exists.

(c) For all $a \in G$, a^{-1} exists.

Example. Let S denote the set of permutations of $\{1, 2, 3\}$ and $\circ$ denote the composition of permutations. Then $(S, \circ)$ is a group.

Definition 1.8. A binary operation $\star$ on a set G is called *commutative* if for all $a, b, \in G$, $a \star b = b \star a$ holds.

Definition 1.9. A group $(G, \star)$ is called an *Abelian group* if $\star$ is commutative.

Example. $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ and $(\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$ are Abelian groups.

Theorem 1.10. Let $(G, \star)$ be a group. Then for all $a \in G$, $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$.

Proof. Since $a \star a^{-1} = 1_G$, a is the inverse of a^{-1} in G. Thus, $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$. $\square$

Theorem 1.11 (Cancellation Law)**.** Let $(G, \star)$ be a group. Then the following statements are true.

(a) For all $a, b, c \in G$, if $c \star a = c \star b$, then $a = b$.

(b) For all $a, b, c \in G$, if $a \star c = b \star c$, then $a = b$.

Proof.

(a) We have

$$a = 1_G \star a = (c^{-1} \star c) \star a = c^{-1} \star (c \star a)$$

and

$$b = 1_G \star b = (c^{-1} \star c) \star b = c^{-1} \star (c \star b).$$

Because $c \star a = c \star b$, we have $a = b$.

(b) The proof is similar to (a). $\square$

1.2 Fields

Definition 1.12. Let F be a set. Let $+$ and $\cdot$ be binary operations on F.

(a) The operation $\cdot$ is called *left-distributive* over $+$ if $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$ for all $a, b, c \in F$.

(b) The operation $\cdot$ is called *right-distributive* over $+$ if $(a + b) \cdot c = a \cdot c + b \cdot c$ for all $a, b, c \in F$.

(c) The operation $\cdot$ is called *distributive* over $+$ if it is both left-distributive and right-distributive.

Definition 1.13. A set F and two binary operations $+$ and $\cdot$ on F form a *field* $(F, +, \cdot)$ if the following conditions hold.

- $(F, +)$ is an Abelian group.
- $(F \setminus \{0_F\}, \cdot)$ is an Abelian group.
- The operation $\cdot$ is distributive over the operation $+$.

Example. $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$, and $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$ are fields.

Example. $(\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}], +, \cdot)$ is a field, where

$$\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}] = \{a + b\sqrt{2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}.$$

Theorem 1.14. Let $(F, +, \cdot)$ be a field. Then the following statements are true.

(a) For all $a \in F$, $a \cdot 0_F = 0_F = 0_F \cdot a$.

(b) For all $a, b \in F$, $(-a) \cdot b = -(a \cdot b) = a \cdot (-b)$.

(c) For all $a, b \in F$, $(-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b$.

Proof.

(a) We have

$$a \cdot 0_F + a \cdot 0_F = a \cdot (0_F + 0_F) = a \cdot 0_F = a \cdot 0_F + 0_F.$$

Thus, $a \cdot 0_F = 0_F$ by cancelltaion law (Theorem 1.11). The proof of $0_F \cdot a = 0_F$ is similar.

(b) By (a), we have

$$a \cdot b + (-a) \cdot b = (a + (-a)) \cdot b = 0_F \cdot b = 0_F.$$

Thus, $(-a) \cdot b = -(a \cdot b)$. The proof of $a \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot b)$ is similar.

(c) We have

$$(-a) \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot (-b)) = -(-(a \cdot b)) = a \cdot b$$

by applying (b) twice. $\square$

Remark. Let $G = F \setminus \{0_F\}$ and 1_G be the multiplicative identity of G. By Theorem 1.14 (a), we have $1_G \cdot 0_F = 0_F = 0_F \cdot 1_G$. Therefore, 1_G is also the multiplicative identity of F, and thus we denote it by 1_F.

Remark. Subtraction and division are defined in terms of addition and multiplication by using additive and multiplicative inverses.

1.3 Vector Spaces

Definition 1.15. Let F be a field. A set V and two operations $+ : V \times V \to V$, $\cdot : F \times V \to V$ form a *vector space* over F if the following conditions hold.

(a) $(V, +)$ is an Abelian group.

(b) For all $x \in V$, $1_F \cdot x = x$.

(c) For all $a, b \in F$ and for all $x \in V$, $(a \cdot b) \cdot x = a \cdot (b \cdot x)$.

(d) For all $a, b \in F$ and for all $x \in V$, $(a + b) \cdot x = a \cdot x + b \cdot x$.

(e) For all $a \in F$ and for all $x, y \in V$, $a \cdot (x + y) = a \cdot x + a \cdot y$.

Example. $(F^n, +, \cdot)$ is a vector space over F.

Example. Let $\mathcal{P}(F)$ denote the set of polynomials with coefficients in F. Then $(\mathcal{P}(F), +, \cdot)$ is a vector space over F.

Example. Let $\mathcal{F}(S, F)$ denote the set of functions from S to F. Then $(\mathcal{F}(S, F), +, \cdot)$ is a vector space over F.

Theorem 1.16. Let $(V, +, \cdot)$ be a vector space over F. Then the following statements are true.

(a) For all $x \in V$, $0_F \cdot x = 0_V$.

(b) For all $a \in F$, $a \cdot 0_V = 0_V$.

(c) For all $a \in F$ and $x \in V$, $(-a) \cdot x = -(a \cdot x) = a \cdot (-x)$.

Proof.

(a) We have

$$0_F \cdot x + 0_F \cdot x = (0_F + 0_F) \cdot x = 0_F \cdot x = 0_F \cdot x + 0_V.$$

Thus, $0_F \cdot x = 0_V$ by cancelltaion law (Theorem 1.11).

(b) It is similar to the proof of (a).

(c) By (a), we have

$$a \cdot x + (-a) \cdot x = (a + (-a)) \cdot x = 0_F \cdot x = 0_V.$$

Thus, $(-a) \cdot x = -(a \cdot x)$. By (b), we have

$$a \cdot x + a \cdot (-x) = a \cdot (x + (-x)) = a \cdot 0_V = 0_V.$$

Thus, $a \cdot (-x) = -(a \cdot x)$. $\square$

1.4 Subspaces

Definition 1.17. Let $(V, +_V, \cdot_V)$ be a vector space over a field F. Let W be a subset of V. If $+_W : W \times W \to W$ and $\cdot_W : F \times W \to W$ satisfy

$$x +_W y = x +_V y \quad \text{and} \quad a \cdot_W x = a \cdot_V x$$

for all $a \in F$ and $x, y \in W$, then we say that $+_W$ and $\cdot_W$ *inherit* $+_V$ and $\cdot_V$, respectively.

Definition 1.18. Let $(V, +_V, \cdot_V)$ be a vector space over F. A subset W of V is called a *subspace* of V if $(W, +_W, \cdot_W)$ is a vector space over F, where $+_W$ and $\cdot_W$ inherit $+_V$ and $\cdot_V$, respectively.

Theorem 1.19. Let $(V, +_V, \cdot_V)$ be a vector space over F. Let W be a subset of V. Then W is a subspace of V if the following conditions hold.

(a) For all $x, y \in W$, $x +_V y \in W$.

(b) For all $a \in F$ and $x \in W$, $a \cdot_V x \in W$.

(c) $0_V \in W$.

Proof. We can define operations $+_W : W \times W \to W$ and $\cdot_W : F \times W \to W$ such that

$$x +_W y = x +_V y \quad \text{and} \quad a \cdot_W x = a \cdot_V x$$

for all $a \in F$ and $x, y \in W$ due to (a) and (b). Then according to Definition 1.17, $+_W$ and $\cdot_W$ inherit $+_V$ and $\cdot_V$, respectively.

Now we prove that $(W, +_W, \cdot_W)$ is a vector space over F. Since a vector in W is also in V, properties (b), (c), (d), and (e) in Definition 1.18 hold trivially. Thus, one only needs to check property (a) in Definition 1.18, i.e., $(W, +_W)$ is an Abelian group.

Since $+_W$ inherits $+_V$, $+_V$ is associative implies that $+_W$ is associative. Furthermore, with $0_V \in W$ we have

$$0_V +_W x = x = x +_W 0_V \quad \text{and} \quad x +_W (-x) = 0_V = (-x) +_W x$$

hold for all $x \in W$. Thus, $0_V \in W$ is an additive identity of W, and each vector in W also has an additive inverse in W, which complete the proof. $\square$

Example. Let $\mathcal{P}_n(F)$ denote the set of polynomials in $\mathcal{P}(F)$ with degree less than or equal to n, where $n \geq -1$ is an integer. Then it follows from Theorem 1.19 that $\mathcal{P}_n(F)$ is a subspace of $\mathcal{P}(F)$.