

# Finite fields for the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

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#### Introduction

- Cryptography relies heavily on mathematics
- The notion of **finite fields** and **modular polynomial arithmetic** are important in ciphers like AES and Eliptic Curves.
- These mathematical systems provide the security and operational requirements needed by the ciphers.

# Hierarchy of algebraic systems

# The familiar system $(\mathbb{R},+,\cdot)$

- Consider the set of real numbers  $\mathbb R$
- $\mathbb R$  can be thought of as consisting of every number on the *real number line*, a line extending from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$ .
- ullet Real numbers x can be written down as numbers with a (potentially infinite) decimal expansion.
- The real numbers, together with the usual operations of addition, +, and multiplication, ·, have the structure of what mathematicians call a **field**.
- ullet That is, the system  $(\mathbb{R},+,\cdot)$  satisfies the following properties.
  - $\circ$  (A1) Closure for addition: If  $a,b\in\mathbb{R}$  then  $a+b\in\mathbb{R}$ .
  - $\circ$  **(A2)** Associativity for addition: For all  $a,b,c\in\mathbb{R}$  we have (a+b)+c=a+(b+c).
  - $\circ$  (A3) Additive identity element: There is an element  $0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we have a+0=0+a=a.
  - **(A4)** Additive inverses: For each  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists an element  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that a+b=b+a=0. This element b is of course the *negative of* a and usually written as b=-a.
  - $\circ$  **(A5)** Commutativity of addition: For all  $a,b\in\mathbb{R}$  we have a+b=b+a.
- A system (S, +) satisfying (A1) (A4) is called a **group**, and if it also satisfies (A5) it is called an **abelian group**.

## Hierarchy of algebraic systems

## The familiar system $(\mathbb{R},+,\cdot)$

- The system also satisfies
  - $\circ$  **(M1)** Closure for multiplication: If  $a,b\in\mathbb{R}$  then  $a\cdot b\in\mathbb{R}$ .
  - $\circ$  **(M2)** Associativity for multiplication: For all  $a,b,c\in\mathbb{R}$  we have  $(a\cdot b)\cdot c=a\cdot (b\cdot c)$ .
  - (M3) Distributive laws:
    - $\circ$  for all  $a,b,c\in\mathbb{R}$  we have  $a\cdot(b+c)=a\cdot b+a\cdot c$ .
    - $\circ$  for all  $a,b,c\in\mathbb{R}$  we have  $(b+c)\cdot a=b\cdot a+c\cdot a$ .
  - $\circ$  **(M4)** Commutativity of multiplication: For all  $a,b\in\mathbb{R}$  we have  $a\cdot b=b\cdot a$ .
  - $\circ$  **(M5)** *Multiplicative identity:* There is an element  $1 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we have  $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$ .
  - $\circ$  **(M6)** *No zero-divisors:* If  $a,b\in\mathbb{R}$  and  $a\cdot b=0$  then a=0 or b=0.
- A system  $(S, +, \cdot)$  satisfying (A1) (A4) and (M1)-(M3) is called a **ring**, and if it also satisfies (M4) it is called an **abelian ring**.
- A system  $(S, +, \cdot)$  satisfying (A1) (A4) and (M1)-(M6) is called an **integral domain**.
- Finally,
  - **(M7)** Multiplicative inverses: If  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a \neq 0$  then there exists an element  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a = 1$ . This element b is of course the reciprocal of a and usually written as  $b = a^{-1}$ .
- ullet A system  $(F,+,\cdot)$  satisfying (A1) (A4) and (M1)-(M7) is called a **field**.

#### **Fields**

- Essentially, a field  $(F,+,\cdot)$  is a system within which we can perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, without leaving the set F, and the usual proeprties we are familiar with, from  $\mathbb R$  say, hold true.
- Subtraction and division are defined in terms of addition and multiplication as

$$egin{array}{ll} \circ & a-b=a+(-b) \ \circ & a/b=a\cdot b^{-1} \end{array}$$

- Fields provide a mathematical system in which we have a rich calculation environment following well understood rules.
- They, and other related agebraic structures, are of intense interest for their purely mathematical properties ....
- ... and also find applications in other mathematical areas such as geometry, and more practical application areas such as cryptography and computer science.

# Finite fields of the form GF(p)

- GF(m) notation named for *Galois Field* after French mathematician Évariste Galois. It stands for a finite field containing m elements.
- In cryptography, two of the important finite fields are  $\mathrm{GF}(2)$  and, more generally,  $\mathrm{GF}(p)$ , for a prime p.
- ullet  $\operatorname{GF}(2)$ : This just consits of the binary elements 0 and 1, under the following rules.

The simplest finite field is GF(2). Its arithmetic operations are easily summarized:

In this case, addition is equivalent to the exclusive-OR (XOR) operation, and multiplication is equivalent to the logical AND operation.

# Finite fields of the form GF(p)

- A finite field  $\mathrm{GF}(p)$  can be formed by our familiar modular arithmetic modulo p, i.e.  $\mathrm{GF}(p)=\mathbb{Z}_p$ .
- Table to the right show the operation and inverse tables for  $\mathbb{Z}_7$ .
- Note that  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ , where m is not a prime, will not be a field due to the lack of multiplicative inverses for all elements.
- For example, consider the operation and inverse tables of  $\mathbb{Z}_8$  shown on the right.
- Finding mutliplicative inverses in  $\mathrm{GF}(p)=\mathbb{Z}_p$ :
  - $\circ$  If p is a prime and  $1 \leq a < p$  then necessarily  $\gcd(a,p) = 1$ .
  - $\circ$  Run the extended Euclidean algorithm to find integers x,y such that

$$ax + py = \gcd(a, p) = 1.$$

 $\circ$  Then reducing this equation modulo p gives

$$ax \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$
,

so 
$$a^{-1} = (x \mod p)$$
.

Table 5.1	Arithmetic Modulo 8 and Modulo 7
T 0000 TO TO	i intermite the frieddie o dind frieddie /

+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	1
3	3	4	5	6	7	0	1	2
4	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3
5	5	6	7	0	1	2	3	4
6	6	7	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	7	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

(	a)	Addition	modulo	8
١.	,	1 ICICILITIES	mount	-

×	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	0	2	4	6	0	2	4	6
3	0	3	6	1	4	7	2	5
4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
5	0	5	2	7	4	1	6	3
6	0	6	4	2	0	6	4	2
7	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

(b) Multiplication modulo 8

w	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
-w	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
$w^{-1}$	_	1	_	3	_	5	_	7

(c) Additive and multiplicative inverses modulo 8

+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	0
2	2	3	4	5	6	0	1
3	3	4	5	6	0	1	2
4	4	5	6	0	1	2	3
5	5	6	0	1	2	3	4
6	6	0	1	2	3	4	5

(d) Addition modulo 7

г								
l	×	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	2	0	2	4	6	1	3	5
	3	0	3	6	2	5	1	4
	4	0	4	1	5	2	6	3
	5	0	5	3	1	6	4	2
	6	0	6	5	4	3	2	1

(e) Multiplication modulo 7

w	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
-w	0	6	5	4	3	2	1
$w^{-1}$	_	1	4	5	2	3	6

(f) Additive and multiplicative inverses modulo 7

## **Polynomial arithmetic**

- ullet So for  $\mathrm{GF}(p)$  we have a model  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . But what about  $\mathrm{GF}(m)$  for other useful values of m such as  $m=2^n$ ?
- For this we will need **polynomial arithmetic**.
- ullet A **polynomial of degree** n is a function f(x) of the form

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i.$$

- The coefficients  $a_i$  will be coming from some specified set such as the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$ , modular integers  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  or some finite field.
- We will be interested in the polynomial object f itself, not so much in its particular values. So the x will remain mostly unspecified, or *indetermined*.
- Polynomial arithmetic includes the operations of addition and multiplication of polynomials. For example, with coefficients from the set S of integers

As an example, let  $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 2$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - x + 1$ , where S is the set of integers. Then

$$f(x) + g(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 3$$
  

$$f(x) - g(x) = x^3 + x + 1$$
  

$$f(x) \times g(x) = x^5 + 3x^2 - 2x + 2$$

Figures 5.5a through 5.5c show the manual calculations. We comment on division subsequently.

# Polynomial arithmetic with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}_p$

- Can be shown that the system of polynomials  $\sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i x^i$ , with coefficients  $a_i$  coming from the field  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , will form a commutative ring.
- The division process among such polynomials can still be carried out, but it will be a process of *division with remainder* like we have seen previously in the system  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

## **Polynomial division**

- For a first example consider the system of polynomials with integer coefficients.
- ullet Let  $f(x)=x^3+x^2+2$  and  $g(x)=x^2-x+1$ , then we can say that

$$f(x) = (x+2)g(x) + x,$$

i.e. that dividing f(x) by g(x) gives a *quotient* of (x+2) and a *remainder* of x.

- We can write  $(f(x) \mod g(x)) = x$ .
- We require that the remainder polynomial has degree strictly less than the degree of the divisor polynomial, i.e. g(x) in the equation above.
- Can carry out the calculation using some form of *long division*, see boards.
- Can multiply out the above equation to verify the result.

# Polynomial arithmetic with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(2)=\mathbb{Z}_2$

- ullet For cryptography purposes, polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathrm{GF}(2)=\mathbb{Z}_2$  are of most interest.
- That is, these are polynomials with binary coefficients, i.e. 0 or 1, and these coefficients follow the rules of arithmetic in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ ,

$$0+0=0, 1+1=0, 1+0=1, 1-1=0, 0-1=1, \dots$$

- This setup can make the resulting polynomial arithmetic tricky to follow.
- See the examples on the right for polyomial arithmetic operations two such polys  $f(x)=x^7+x^5+x^4+x^3+x+1$  and  $g(x)=x^3+x+1$ .
- A polynomial f(x) with coefficients from a field F is called **irreducible** if and only if f(x) cannot be expressed as a product of two other such polynomials, both of degree greater than 0 and less than the degree of f.
- For example,
  - $\circ$  for polynomials over  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ , the poly  $f(x)=x^4+1$  is reducible as

$$x^4 + 1 = (x+1)(x^3 + x^2 + x + 1).$$

 $\circ$  but  $g(x)=x^3+x+1$  is irreducible since neither x nor x+1, the only such polys of degree 2, is a factor of it.

$$x^{7} + x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x + 1$$

$$+ (x^{3} + x + 1)$$

$$x^{7} + x^{5} + x^{4}$$

#### (a) Addition

$$x^{7} + x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x + 1$$

$$-(x^{3} + x + 1)$$

$$x^{7} + x^{5} + x^{4}$$

#### (b) Subtraction

#### (c) Multiplication

#### (d) Division

Figure 5.6 Examples of Polynomial Arithmetic over GF(2)

## GCD and Euclidean algorithm for polynomials

- For polynomials with coefficients from some particular field F we can define  $\gcd$  and the Euclidean algorithm, just like we did within the system  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
- For polynomials a(x) and b(x), their  $\gcd$  is the polynomial c(x) such that
  - $\circ \ a(x)$  and b(x) are both divisible by c(x).
  - $\circ$  Any other common divisor of a(x) and b(x), also divides c(x).
- ullet Or equivalently, the  $\gcd$  of a(x) and b(x) is the polynomial of maximum degree, that divides both a(x) and b(x).
- See specification on the right (from Stallings), which is essentially the previous specification for the Euclidean algorithm, but now taking place for polynomials.

Euclidean Algorith	Euclidean Algorithm for Polynomials								
Calculate	Which satisfies								
$r_1(x) = a(x) \bmod b(x)$	$a(x) = q_1(x)b(x) + r_1(x)$								
$r_2(x) = b(x) \bmod r_1(x)$	$b(x) = q_2(x)r_1(x) + r_2(x)$								
$r_3(x) = r_1(x) \bmod r_2(x)$	$r_1(x) = q_3(x)r_2(x) + r_3(x)$								
•	•								
•	•								
•	•								
$r_n(x) = r_{n-2}(x) \bmod r_{n-1}(x)$	$r_{n-2}(x) = q_n(x)r_{n-1}(x) + r_n(x)$								
$r_{n+1}(x) = r_{n-1}(x) \bmod r_n(x) = 0$	$r_{n-1}(x) = q_{n+1}(x)r_n(x) + 0$ $d(x) = \gcd(a(x), b(x)) = r_n(x)$								

#### GCD and Euclidean algorithm for polynomials

• On the right, from Stallings, is an example showing the EA run to find the  $\gcd(a(x),b(x))$ , where

$$a(x) = x^6 + x^5 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

and

$$b(x) = x^4 + x^2 + x + 1,$$

are polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ .

Find gcd[a(x), b(x)] for  $a(x) = x^6 + x^5 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$  and  $b(x) = x^4 + x^2 + x + 1$ . First, we divide a(x) by b(x):

$$\begin{array}{r} x^{2} + x \\
 x^{4} + x^{2} + x + 1 \overline{\smash{\big)}\ x^{6} + x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x^{2} + x + 1} \\
 \underline{x^{6} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x^{2}} \\
 \underline{x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x^{2}} \\
 \underline{x^{5} + x^{3} + x^{2} + x} \\
 \underline{x^{3} + x^{2}} + 1
 \end{array}$$

This yields  $r_1(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 1$  and  $q_1(x) = x^2 + x$ .

Then, we divide b(x) by  $r_1(x)$ .

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^3 + x^2 + 1 \\
 \hline
 x^4 + x^3 + x \\
 \hline
 x^3 + x^2 + 1 \\
 \hline
 x^3 + x^2 + 1 \\
 x^3 + x^2 + 1
 \end{array}$$

This yields  $r_2(x) = 0$  and  $q_2(x) = x + 1$ .

Therefore,  $gcd[a(x), b(x)] = r_1(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 1$ .

## Finite fields of the form $GF(2^n)$

- In computer science we commonly work with capacities (of memory size, size of comms channel, message block size, etc) of size  $2^n$ , for some integer n. As these are all based on a certain number of binary bits.
- With n bits we can represent  $2^n$  numbers: the integer 0, and the  $2^n-1$  integers  $1,2,3,\ldots,2^n-1$ .
- So we wish to have a finite field  $GF(2^n)$ . Where does such a field come from?
- It can't be the integers under the usual arithmetic modulo  $2^n$ , as this will lack multiplicative inverses for half the elements.
- See table on the right for an example showing  $GF(2^3)$  exists and then we'll describe the general construction.

Table 5	5.2 A	Arithm	etic in	GF(2 <sup>3</sup> )	)									
		000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111					
	+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	_				
000	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
001	1	1	0	3	2	5	4	7	6					
010	2	2	3	0	1	6	7	4	5	]				
011	3	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	[				
100	4	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3					
101	5	5	4	7	6	1	0	3	2					
110	6	6	7	4	5	2	3	0	1					
111	7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0					
				(a) Ad	ldition									
		000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111		w	-w	$w^{-1}$	
	×	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		0	0	_	
000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	1	1	
001	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		2	2	5	
010	2	0	2	4	6	3	1	7	5		3	3	6	
011	3	0	3	6	5	7	4	1	2		4	4	7	
100	4	0	4	3	7	6	2	5	1		5	5	2	
101	5	0	5	1	4	2	7	3	6		6	6	3	
110	6	0	6	7	1	5	3	2	4		7	7	4	
111	7	0	7	5	2	1	6	4	3	(c) A	dditive	and mu	ıltiplica	tive
(b) Multiplication inverses														

# Modular polynomial arithmetic and $GF(p^n)$

- The finite fields  $GF(p^n)$  for primes p and any positive integer exponent n do indeed exist, and can be constructed from **modular polynomial arithmetic** as follows.
- Define S to be the set of all polynomials of degree n-1, or less, and with coefficients coming from the field  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , i.e. the coefficients follow the rules of integer arithmetic modulo p.
- ullet So S consists of all polynomials f(x) of the form

$$f(x) = a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_{n-2}x^{n-2} + \cdots + a_1x + a_0 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_ix^i, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{Z}_p.$$

- In total, there are  $p^n$  such polynomials, since there is a choice of p elements for each of the n coefficients  $a_0, \ldots, a_{n-1}$ .
- ullet The behaviour of + and  $\cdot$  on S will follow the usual rules of polynomial arithmetic and
  - $\circ$  arithmetic with the coefficients  $a_i$  is done under the rules of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , i.e. integer arithmetic modulo p,
  - o if multiplication of polynomials results in a polynomial of degree n or greater then the results is reduced modulo some specified irreducible polynomial m(x), of degree m. That is, we divide the result by m(x) and keep the remainder polynomial r(x), which must have degree less than n.
- The resulting system  $(S,+,\cdot)$  will be a field of  $p^n$  elements. This shows that finite fields  $\mathrm{GF}(p^n)$  do exist.

# AES and $\mathrm{GF}(2^8)$

• The Advanceed Encryption Standard (AES) uses such a field  $GF(2^8)$ , consisting of polynomials of degree less than or equal to 7, with binary coefficients and polynomial operations carried out modulo the irreducible polynomial

$$m(x) = x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x + 1.$$

• The figure on the right shows the calculation of an example product in  $\mathrm{GF}(2^8)$ .

The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) uses arithmetic in the finite field  $GF(2^8)$ , with the irreducible polynomial  $m(x) = x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x + 1$ . Consider the two polynomials  $f(x) = x^6 + x^4 + x^2 + x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^7 + x + 1$ . Then

$$f(x) + g(x) = x^{6} + x^{4} + x^{2} + x + 1 + x^{7} + x + 1$$

$$= x^{7} + x^{6} + x^{4} + x^{2}$$

$$f(x) \times g(x) = x^{13} + x^{11} + x^{9} + x^{8} + x^{7}$$

$$+ x^{7} + x^{5} + x^{3} + x^{2} + x$$

$$+ x^{6} + x^{4} + x^{2} + x + 1$$

$$= x^{13} + x^{11} + x^{9} + x^{8} + x^{6} + x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + 1$$

$$x^{5} + x^{3}$$

$$x^{8} + x^{4} + x^{3} + x + 1 / x^{13} + x^{11} + x^{9} + x^{8} + x^{6} + x^{5} + x^{4} + x^{3} + 1$$

$$x^{13} + x^{9} + x^{8} + x^{6} + x^{5}$$

$$x^{11} + x^{4} + x^{3}$$

$$x^{11} + x^{7} + x^{6} + x^{4} + x^{3}$$

$$x^{7} + x^{6} + x^{1} + x^{1} + x^{2}$$

Therefore,  $f(x) \times g(x) \mod m(x) = x^7 + x^6 + 1$ .

# $\mathrm{GF}(2^3)$ again.

- The tables below show addition and multiplication in  $\operatorname{GF}(8)$
- The Extended Euclidean algorithm can be used to obtain multiplicative inverses just as before. See Stallings for examples.
- The polynomial operations do have efficient implementations in terms of bit sequence operations which means that computations in  $\mathrm{GF}(8)$  (and by generalization other  $\mathrm{GF}(2^n)$ ) can be carried out very fast. See Stallings for details.

		000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
	+	0	1	x	x + 1	$x^2$	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2+x+1$
000	0	0	1	x	x + 1	$x^2$	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$
001	1	1	0	x + 1	x	$x^2 + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + x$
010	x	x	x + 1	0	1	$x^{2} + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>	$x^2 + 1$
011	x + 1	x + 1	х	1	0	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>
100	$x^2$	x <sup>2</sup>	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$	0	1	x	x + 1
101	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + x$	1	0	x + 1	x
110	$x^2 + x$	$x^{2} + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>	$x^2 + 1$	х	x + 1	0	1
111	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + 1$	x <sup>2</sup>	x + 1	x	1	0

(a) Addition

		000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
	×	0	1	x	x + 1	$x^2$	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2+x+1$
000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
001	1	0	1	x	x + 1	$x^2$	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$
010	x	0	х	$x^2$	$x^2 + x$	x + 1	1	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + 1$
011	x + 1	0	x + 1	$x^{2} + x$	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2$	1	x
100	$x^2$	0	$x^2$	x + 1	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^{2} + x$	x	$x^2 + 1$	1
101	$x^2 + 1$	0	$x^2 + 1$	1	$x^2$	x	$x^2 + x + 1$	x + 1	$x^2 + x$
110	$x^2 + x$	0	$x^2 + x$	$x^2 + x + 1$	1	$x^2 + 1$	x + 1	x	$x^2$
111	$x^2+x+1$	0	$x^2 + x + 1$	$x^2 + 1$	х	1	$x^2 + 1$	$x^2$	x + 1

(b) Multiplication