

This document lists out definitions in Math that I couldn't possibly organize in my tiny brain. The definitions are expected to be built off of the previous ones.

1 Binary Relations

Definition 1.1 (Binary Relation)

A **binary relation** R over sets X, Y is a subset of $X \times Y$. $(x, y) \in R$ is equivalent to xRy . We say x is R -related to y .

In other words, R imposes some condition that $(x, y) \in R$ must satisfy to be included in the set.

e.g. $x \geq y$

Definition 1.2 (Homogenous Relation/Endorelation)

A **homogenous relation** is a binary relation from a set to itself, i.e. $R : X \times X \rightarrow X$.

Definition 1.3 (Reflexive, Irreflexive, Symmetric, Antisymmetric, Asymmetric, Transitive, Connected, Strongly Connected)

Let R be a homogenous relation over set X . Then the following properties are defined as:

1. R is **reflexive** if $\forall x \in X, xRx$ e.g. \geq
2. R is **irreflexive** if $\forall x \in X, \neg xRx$ e.g. $>$
3. R is **symmetric** if $\forall x, y \in X, xRy \Leftrightarrow yRx$ e.g. shares the same house
4. R is **antisymmetric** if $\forall x, y \in X, xRy \wedge yRx \Rightarrow x = y$ e.g. \geq
5. R is **asymmetric** if $\forall x, y \in X, xRy \Rightarrow \neg yRx$ e.g. $>$
6. R is **transitive** if $\forall x, y, z \in X, xRy \wedge yRz \Rightarrow xRz$ e.g. $>, \geq$
7. R is **connected** if $\forall x, y \in X, x \neq y \Rightarrow xRy \vee yRx$
8. R is **strongly connected** if $\forall x, y \in X, xRy \vee yRx$

Remark

In some sense, **asymmetry** is **antisymmetry** + **irreflexivity**; antisymmetry gets upgraded when there is irreflexivity.

Definition 1.4 (Partial Order)

A **partial order** is a relation that is reflexive, antisymmetric and transitive.

e.g. \geq

Definition 1.5 (Strict Partial Order)

A **strict partial order** is a relation that is irreflexive, asymmetric and transitive.

e.g. $>$

Definition 1.6 (Total Order)

A **total order** is a relation that is reflexive, antisymmetric, transitive and connected.

Definition 1.7 (Strict Total Order)

A **strict total order** is a relation that is irreflexive, asymmetric, transitive and connected.

Remark

In short, *total* adds on the requirement that it must be *connected*, while *strict* changes *reflexivity* into *irreflexivity* (and since everyone has *antisymmetry*, this changes into *asymmetry* too)

Definition 1.8 (Equivalence Relation)

An **equivalence relation** is a relation that is reflexive, symmetric and transitive.

2 Basic Algebraic Structures

Definition 2.1 (Group)

A non-empty set G equipped with a binary operation $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$ is called a **group** if they satisfy the following *group axioms*:

1. (Associativity) $\forall a, b, c \in G, (a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
2. (Identity) $\exists e \in G$ s.t. $\forall g \in G, e \cdot g = g \cdot e = g$
3. (Inverse) $\forall g \in G, \exists g' \in G$ s.t. $g'g = e$. Then $g^{-1} := g'$

Remark

The above axioms of a group imply:

1. Identity is unique
2. Inverse is unique

Even when one restricts the axioms to just simply having left identity and left inverse, the above remark still holds

Definition 2.2 (Subgroup)

$H \subseteq G$ is a **subgroup** of G if

1. $e \in H$
2. H is closed under \cdot and taking inverses

Definition 2.3 (Abelian Group)

A **group** (G, \cdot) is **Abelian** if the operation \cdot is also commutative.

Recap: Associativity, Commutativity, Identity, Inverse

Definition 2.4 (Ring)

A **ring** is a set R equipped with two binary operations (addition, multiplication) $+, \cdot : R \times R \rightarrow R$ s.t. they satisfy the following *ring axioms*:

1. $(R, +)$ is an Abelian group (Associativity, Commutativity, Identity, Inverse)
2. (Multiplicative Associativity) $\forall a, b, c \in R, (a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
3. (Multiplicative Identity) $\forall r \in R, \exists 1 \in R$ s.t. $1 \cdot r = r \cdot 1 = r$
4. (Left, Right Distributivity) This property governs how the 2 operations interact

$$a \cdot (b + c) = (a \cdot b) + (a \cdot c)$$

$$(b + c) \cdot a = (b \cdot a) + (c \cdot a)$$

Note that multiplicative commutativity and multiplicative inverse are not here!

Remark

One can derive that when a ring has $0 = 1$ (additive identity = multiplicative identity), then it must be a trivial *zero ring* of $\{0\}$

Definition 2.5 (Rng)

A **rng** is a ring without the requirement of a multiplicative identity.

Recap: Abelian group, multiplicative associativity, distributivity

Definition 2.6 (Commutative Ring)

A **commutative ring** is a ring, with the additional requirement of multiplication being commutative.

Recap: Abelian group; multiplicative associativity, commutativity and identity; distributivity

Definition 2.7 (Field)

A **field** is a set F equipped with 2 binary operations (addition, multiplication) $+, \cdot : F \times F \rightarrow F$ s.t.

1. Addition and multiplication are associative
2. Addition and multiplication are commutative
3. There is an additive inverse 0
4. $\forall a \in F \setminus 0, \exists a^{-1}$ s.t. $a^{-1}a = 1$
5. Distributivity

In short, a field is a commutative ring where non-zero elements have multiplicative inverses. The non-zero elements then form a group equipped with multiplication with 1 as their identity.

Recap: Abelian group; multiplicative associativity, commutativity, identity and inverse (inverse only for non-zero); distributivity

Definition 2.8 (Ordered Field)

[Munkres - Ch.1 p.32]

3 The -isms

Definition 3.1 (Homomorphism)

homo: Greek *homos*, meaning “same”

morphism: Greek *morphism*, meaning “shape, form”

A **homomorphism** is a map $f : A \rightarrow B$, where A, B are (very generically) algebraic structures of the same type G and are therefore equipped with the same kind(s) of operation, WLOG, namely $\cdot_A, \cdot_B : G^k \rightarrow G$ (e.g. groups, vector spaces). A homomorphism f then preserves the structures of these operations, i.e.

$$f(x) \cdot_B f(y) = f(x \cdot_A y) \quad \forall x, y \in A$$

if \cdot is binary, and the same concept applies for the general k -ary case.

Example

A **group homomorphism** is a homomorphism in a group, where the homomorphism preserves the \cdot equipped by the group.

Definition 3.2 (Isomorphism)

iso: Greek *isos*, meaning “equal”

An **isomorphism** is a homomorphism that is bijective.

Remark

For me, it’s so common to just intuitively think that a homomorphism must be bijective, but no!
e.g. $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \{0\}$, both equipped with $+$

Definition 3.3 (Endomorphism)

endo: Greek *endon*, meaning “in, within”

An **endomorphism** is a homomorphism that has the same domain and codomain, i.e.

$$f : A \rightarrow A$$

Definition 3.4 (Automorphism)

auto: Greek *autos*, meaning “self”

An **automorphism** is an endomorphism that is also an isomorphism, (or vice versa)

4 The -algebras

This section stemmed from my need to study probability and felt the urgent need to categorize what I’m working with immediately.

Definition 4.1 (Field of sets, Algebra)

A **field of sets** is a pair (X, \mathcal{F}) , where X is a set and \mathcal{F} is a *collection* of subsets of X , that satisfies:

1. $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$
2. (Closed under complementation)

$$\mathcal{F} \setminus F \in \mathcal{F} \forall F \in \mathcal{F}$$

3. (Closed under finite unions)

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^n F_k \in \mathcal{F} \forall F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n \in \mathcal{F}$$

\mathcal{F} is then called an **algebra over X**

Remark

The property that \mathcal{F} is closed under finite unions also implies that it is closed under finite intersections, simply by applying De Morgan’s Law.

Furthermore, one can think of \mathcal{F} as consisting of *the admissible sets of X* , the *complexes of X* , the nice ones that we can handle and get a hold of. In most contexts, this \mathcal{F} would be where we define a lot of things on, as not all subsets of X are nice to work with.

Definition 4.2 (σ -field of sets, σ -algebra)

A **σ -field of sets** is a field of sets (X, \mathcal{F}) that also satisfies:

4. (Closed under countable unions)

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i \in \mathcal{F} \forall F_1, F_2, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$$

\mathcal{F} is then called a σ -**algebra over** X

Remark

The property that a σ -algebra is closed under countable unions also implies that it is closed under countable intersections, again, by an application of De Morgan's Law.

5 Linear Algebra

5.1 Vector Spaces

Definition 5.1 (Vector Spaces)

A **vector space** over a field F is a non-empty set V equipped with 2 binary operations (vector addition, scalar multiplication): $+: V \times V \rightarrow V, \cdot: F \times V \rightarrow V$ that satisfies:

1. (Abelian Group) $(V, +)$ forms an abelian group
2. (Scalar and Field Multiplication)

$$(a \cdot_F b) \cdot v = a \cdot (b \cdot v)$$

3. (Field Multiplicative Identity)

$$1_F \cdot v = v \quad \forall v \in V$$

4. (Distributivity) $\forall a \in F; u, v \in V$

$$a \cdot (u + v) = (a \cdot u) + (a \cdot v)$$

$$(a +_F b) \cdot v = a \cdot v + b \cdot v$$

Definition 5.2 (Linear Map)

Let V, W be vector spaces over the same field F . Then a **linear map** is a function $f: V \rightarrow W$ that is operations-preserving, i.e. satisfying:

1. (Preserving Addition)

$$f(v_1 +_V v_2) = f(v_1) +_W f(v_2) \quad \forall v_1, v_2 \in V$$

2. (Preserving Scalar Multiplication)

$$f(c \cdot_V v) = c \cdot_W f(v) \quad \forall c \in F, v \in V$$

More generally,

$$f(c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_n v_n) = c_1 f(v_1) + c_2 f(v_2) + \cdots + c_n f(v_n)$$

In other words, a linear map is a vector space homomorphism.

Definition 5.3 (Linear Isomorphism)

A **linear isomorphism** is a linear map that is also bijective.

Definition 5.4 (Linear Operator/Linear Endomorphism)

A **linear operator** or a **linear endomorphism** is a linear map that has the same domain and codomain, i.e. a linear map $f: V \rightarrow V$.

6 Analysis

6.1 Metric Spaces

Definition 6.1 (Metric Spaces)

Definition 6.2 (Isometry)

metry: Greek *metria*, meaning “measuring, measure”
An

7 Topology

Remark

On indexing:

1. $\{E_1, E_2, \dots, E_N\}$, sometimes I like to use $\{E_k\}_{k \leq N}$, suggests a finite indexing
2. $\{E_1, E_2, \dots\}$ or $\{E_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ suggests a countable indexing
3. $\{E_\alpha\}$ suggests an uncountable indexing (which kinda encompasses all previous cases and alludes to the “arbitrary” nature)

Definition 7.1 (Topology, Topological Space, Open Set)

A **topology** on set X is a collection \mathcal{T} of subsets of X having the following properties:

1. $\emptyset, X \in \mathcal{T}$
2. Arbitrary union of elements in \mathcal{T} is in \mathcal{T} , i.e.

$$\bigcup_{\alpha} E_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{T} \quad \forall \{E_{\alpha}\} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$$

3. Finite intersection of elements in \mathcal{T} is in \mathcal{T} , i.e.

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^N E_k \in \mathcal{T} \quad \forall \{E_k\}_{k \leq N} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$$

A set X with a specified topology \mathcal{T} is a **topological space**. $U \subseteq X$ is called an **open set** iff $U \in \mathcal{T}$, so think of \mathcal{T} as a (huge) collection of open sets.

Definition 7.2 (Basis For A Topology)

Oftentimes, one is unable to specify the entire topology \mathcal{T} , so we can instead specify a smaller collection of subsets of X and then define the topology using that.

Let X be a set, then a **basis** is a collection \mathcal{B} of subsets of X (called **basis elements**) s.t.

1. $\forall x \in X, \exists B \in \mathcal{B} \text{ s.t. } x \in B$ (wherever you are, I got you)
2. If $x \in B_1 \cap B_2; B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ then $\exists B_3 \in \mathcal{B} \text{ s.t. } x \in B_3 \subseteq B_1 \cap B_2$

Definition 7.3 (Topology Generated By Basis)

Call this entity that we want to generate $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{B}}$ (my own notation).

Then for subset $U \subseteq X$,

$$U \in \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{B}} \text{ if } \forall x \in U, \exists B \in \mathcal{B} \text{ s.t. } x \in B \subseteq U$$

7.1 Others

Definition 7.4 (Linear Continuum)

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Definition 8.1 (Harmonic Function)

Let U be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^d , then f is **harmonic** in U if and only if it is continuous and satisfies the mean value property: for every $x \in U$, $\forall 0 < \varepsilon < \text{dist}(x, \partial U)$,

$$f(x) = MV(f; x, \varepsilon) = \int_{|y-x|=\varepsilon} f(y) ds(y)$$