



## Definition

Suppose  $\mathbf{F}$  is a field. A function  $p : \mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is called a *polynomial* with coefficients in  $\mathbf{F}$  if there exist  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$  (for some  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ ) such that

$$p(z) = a_0 + a_1z + a_2z^2 + \cdots + a_mz^m \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbf{F}$$

The set of all polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathbf{F}$  is a subspace of the vector space of all function  $\mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{F}}$ .

## Notation

The set of all polynomials in  $\mathbf{F}$  is sometimes denoted by  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{F})$  or  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{F})$ .



