Linear Algebra I
Summary of Lectures: Vector Spaces

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1. Definition 2.1: A vector space. A vector space V over a field F (see definition 2.3) is a set containing:

   - a special zero vector $\mathbf{0}$;
   - an operation of addition of two vectors $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in V$, for $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V$; and
   - multiplication of a vector V with a number $\lambda \in F$ with $\lambda\mathbf{v} \in V$.

   The vector space must be closed under both of these operations and must satisfy the following laws $\forall \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in V$ and $\lambda, \mu \in F$:

   (1) associativity $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$;
   (2) commutativity $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$;
   (3) $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$;
   (4) $\mathbf{v} + (-1)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$;
   (5) $\lambda(\mu\mathbf{u}) = (\lambda\mu)\mathbf{v}$;
   (6) distributivity $\lambda(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \lambda\mathbf{u} + \mu\mathbf{v}$; and
   (7) distributivity $(\lambda + \mu)\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u} + \mu\mathbf{u}$.

2. Proposition 2.2 $\forall \mathbf{v} \in V$ and $\forall \lambda \in F$:

   (a) $\mathbf{v} = 1\mathbf{v}$;
   (b) $0\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$; and
   (c) $\lambda\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$.

3. Definition 2.3 A field is a set F containing distinct elements 0 and 1 with two binary operations $+$ and $\cdot$ satisfying the axioms $\forall a, b, c \in F$:

   (1) $a + b = b + a$;
   (2) $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$;
   (3) $a + 0 = a$;
   (4) $\forall a \; \exists -a$ such that $a + (-a) = 0$;
   (5) $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$;
   (6) $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$;
   (7) $a \cdot 1 = a$;
   (8) $\forall a \neq 0 \; \exists a^{-1}$ such that $a \cdot a^{-1} = 1$; and
   (9) $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$;

If a field F is finite its order is the number of elements in F.

4. Theorem 2.4: For each prime p and each positive integer n, there is a unique field of order p^n. Additionally, every finite field is of this form.