



Presentation Topic: Finite Fields

Course Title: Advanced Cryptography

Course Code: ICT-6115

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Outline

- Structure of a Finite Field
- Properties and Examples
- Polynomial Codes and Their Importance
- Applications in Coding Theory
- Summary and Conclusion

Objectives

- Understand the structure and properties of finite fields.
- Learn how polynomial codes are constructed and their significance in error correction.
- Explore applications of these concepts in real-world scenarios.

Structure of a Finite Field

Definition:

- A finite field (or Galois field) is a field with a finite number of elements.
- Denoted as $GF(p^n)$, where p is a prime, and n is a positive integer.

Properties:

- The number of elements in $GF(p^n)$ is p^n .
- Field addition and multiplication follow modulo p arithmetic.
- Multiplicative inverses exist for all nonzero elements.

Examples:

- $GF(2)$: Binary field with elements $\{0, 1\}$.
- $GF(4)$: Field with 4 elements, defined by a polynomial over $GF(2)$.

Polynomial Codes

What are Polynomial Codes?

- Error-detecting and error-correcting codes based on polynomials over finite fields.
- Includes linear codes like BCH codes, Reed-Solomon codes, etc.

Key Concepts:

- Codewords are derived from polynomial evaluations in $GF(p^n)$.
- Encoding and decoding depend on polynomial division and modular arithmetic.

Example:

- Reed-Solomon codes used in data storage and communication systems.

Applications

Finite Fields:

- Cryptography (e.g., RSA, Elliptic Curve Cryptography).
- Pseudorandom number generation.
- Algebraic geometry and number theory.

Polynomial Codes:

- Data integrity in storage devices (e.g., CDs, DVDs, RAID systems).
- Reliable communication (e.g., satellite and wireless communication).
- QR codes and barcodes.

Conclusion

- Finite fields provide the foundation for modern coding theory and cryptography.
- Polynomial codes are indispensable for ensuring data reliability and error correction.
- Applications demonstrate the practical significance of abstract algebra in technology.

References

- Judson, Thomas W. Abstract Algebra: Theory and Applications.
- Additional resources: [Your list of references].