

# COURSE 3

## Some important examples of rings

We remind that  $(R, +, \cdot)$  is a **ring** if  $(R, +)$  is an Abelian group,  $\cdot$  is associative and the distributive laws hold (that is,  $\cdot$  is distributive with respect to  $+$ ). The ring  $(R, +, \cdot)$  is a **unitary ring** if it has a multiplicative identity element.

## The polynomial ring over a field

Let  $(K, +, \cdot)$  be a field and let us denote by  $K^{\mathbb{N}}$  the set

$$K^{\mathbb{N}} = \{f \mid f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow K\}.$$

If  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow K$  then, denoting  $f(n) = a_n$ , we can write

$$f = (a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots).$$

For  $f = (a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots)$ ,  $g = (b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots) \in K^{\mathbb{N}}$  one defines:

$$f + g = (a_0 + b_0, a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots) \quad (1)$$

$$f \cdot g = (c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots) \quad (2)$$

where

$$c_0 = a_0 b_0,$$

$$c_1 = a_0 b_1 + a_1 b_0,$$

$$\vdots$$

$$c_n = a_0 b_n + a_1 b_{n-1} + \dots + a_n b_0 = \sum_{i+j=n} a_i b_j, \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\vdots$$

**Theorem 1.**  $K^{\mathbb{N}}$  forms a commutative unitary ring with respect to the operations defined by (1) and (2) called **the ring of formal power series over  $K$** .

*Proof.* HOMEWORK

$(0, 0, \dots)$ ,  $(1, 0, 0, \dots)$  the id. elements  $\square$

Let  $f = (a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots) \in K^{\mathbb{N}}$ . The **support of  $f$**  is the subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  defined by

$$\text{supp } f = \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid a_k \neq 0\}.$$

We denote by  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  the subset consisting of all the sequences from  $K^{\mathbb{N}}$  with a finite support. Then

$$f \in K^{(\mathbb{N})} \Leftrightarrow \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } a_i = 0 \text{ for } i \geq n \Leftrightarrow f = (a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}, 0, 0, \dots). \quad \leftarrow$$

For instance,  $f = (0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 5, 0, 0, \dots) \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  then

$$\text{supp } f = \{1, 2, 3, 5\} \quad (a_i = 0, \forall i \geq 6)$$

$$\text{supp } (0, 1, 0, 0, \dots) = \{1\} \quad (a_i = 0, \forall i \geq 2)$$

Remark:  $\varphi: K \rightarrow K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  inj. morphism  $\Rightarrow \varphi': K \rightarrow \varphi(K), \varphi'(k) = \varphi(k)$   
 $\varphi(K) = \{ \varphi(a) \mid a \in K \}$  subring of  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$   $\nwarrow$  itow.

$\Rightarrow K \simeq \varphi(K)$  and this allows us to identify  $a \in K$  with  $(a, 0, 0, \dots)$

Theorem 2. i)  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  is a subring of  $K^{\mathbb{N}}$  which contains the multiplicative identity element.

ii) The mapping  $\varphi: K \rightarrow K^{(\mathbb{N})}, \varphi(a) = (a, 0, 0, \dots)$  is an injective unitary ring morphism.

Proof.

i) Let  $f = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, 0, 0, \dots) = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k, 0, 0, \dots)$   
 $g = (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_m, 0, 0, \dots) = (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k, 0, 0, \dots)$

$k = \max\{n, m\}$

$f+g = (a_0+b_0, a_1+b_1, \dots, a_k+b_k, 0, 0, \dots) \xrightarrow[\subseteq \{0,1,\dots,k\}]{\text{supp}(f+g) \subseteq} f+g \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$

Let  $f = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, 0, 0, \dots), g = (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_m, 0, 0, \dots)$

$fg = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_k, \dots)$ . Let  $k \geq n+m+1$ . Then

$$c_k = \sum_{i+j=k} a_i b_j = \underbrace{a_0 b_k}_{=0} + \underbrace{a_1 b_{k-1}}_{=0} + \dots + \underbrace{a_n b_{k-n}}_{\substack{=0 \\ \geq n+1}} + \underbrace{a_{n+1} b_{k-n-1}}_{=0} + \dots + \underbrace{a_k b_0}_{=0} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow fg = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n+m}, 0, 0, \dots) \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$

$(K^{(\mathbb{N})}, +, \cdot)$  unitary ring which preserves the multipl. id. elem (1)  
 $\nwarrow$  ind. op.  $\quad +$  assoc., comm.

$\text{supp}(0, 0, \dots, 0, \dots) = \emptyset$  finite  $\Rightarrow (0, 0, \dots) \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$

$\forall f = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, 0, 0, \dots) \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}, -f = (-a_0, \dots, -a_n, 0, 0, \dots) \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$

$\Rightarrow (K^{(\mathbb{N})}, +)$  Abelian group.

- assoc., comm.,  $(1, 0, 0, \dots) \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  ( $\text{supp}(1, 0, 0, \dots) = \{0\}$ ).
- is dist. w.r.t.  $+$  in  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$

Thus  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  is, indeed, a subring of  $K^{\mathbb{N}}$  which preserves  $(1, 0, \dots)$

ii)  $\varphi: K \rightarrow K^{(\mathbb{N})}, \varphi(a) = (a, 0, 0, \dots) \quad \forall a, b \in K$

$\varphi(a+b) = (a+b, 0, 0, \dots) = (a, 0, \dots) + (b, 0, \dots) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$

$\varphi(ab) = (ab, 0, 0, \dots) = (a, 0, \dots)(b, 0, \dots) = \varphi(a) \cdot \varphi(b)$

$\varphi(1) = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$

$\leftarrow$  unitary

$a, b \in K \varphi(a) = \varphi(b) \Leftrightarrow (a, 0, 0, \dots) = (b, 0, \dots) \Rightarrow a = b$ . Thus  $\varphi$  inj.  $\square$

$\rightarrow$  The ring  $(K^{(\mathbb{N})}, +, \cdot)$  is called polynomial ring over  $K$ . How can we make this ring look like the one we know from high school?

The injective morphism  $\varphi$  allows us to identify  $a \in K$  with  $(a, 0, 0, \dots)$ . This way  $K$  can be seen as a subring of  $K^{(\mathbb{N})}$ . The polynomial

$$\rightarrow \underline{X = (0, 1, 0, 0, \dots)} \quad \checkmark$$

is called **indeterminate** or **variable**. From (2) one deduces that:

$$X^2 = (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$$X^3 = (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$\vdots$

$$X^m = (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$m$  *or* *times*

$\vdots$

Since we identified  $\underline{a \in K}$  with  $(a, 0, 0, \dots)$ , from (2) it follows:

$$aX^m = (0, 0, \dots, 0, a, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$m$  *or* *times*

$$\begin{aligned} f &= (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, 0, 0, \dots) = \\ &= (a_0, 0, 0, \dots) + \\ &\quad (0, a_1, 0, \dots) + \dots \\ &\quad + (0, \dots, 0, a_n, 0, \dots) = \\ &= a_0 + a_1X + \dots + a_nX^n \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

This way we have

**Theorem 3.** Any  $f \in K^{(\mathbb{N})}$  which is not zero can be uniquely written as

$$\underline{f = a_0 + a_1X + a_2X^2 + \dots + a_nX^n} \quad (4)$$

where  $a_i \in K$ ,  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\underline{a_n \neq 0}$ .

We can rewrite

$$K^{(\mathbb{N})} = \{f = a_0 + a_1X + \dots + a_nX^n \mid a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \in K, \underline{n \in \mathbb{N}}\} \stackrel{\text{not}}{=} \underline{K[X]}.$$

The elements of  $K[X]$  are called **polynomials over  $K$** , and if  $f = \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1X} + \dots + \underline{a_nX^n}$  then  $a_0, \dots, a_n \in K$  are **the coefficients of  $f$** ,  $a_0, a_1X, \dots, a_nX^n$  are called **monomials**, and  $a_0$  is **the constant term of  $f$** . Now, we can rewrite the operations from  $(K[X], +, \cdot)$  as we did in high school (during the seminar).

If  $f \in K[X]$ ,  $\underline{f \neq 0}$  and  $\underline{f}$  is given by (4), then  $\underline{n}$  is called **the degree of  $f$** , and if  $\underline{f = 0}$  we say that the degree of  $f$  is  $-\infty$ . We will denote the degree of  $f$  by  $\deg f$ . Thus we have

$$\deg f = 0 \Leftrightarrow f \in K^*.$$

By definition

$$(\text{ } \Rightarrow \underline{f = a_0 \neq 0} \Leftrightarrow \underline{f \in K \setminus \{0\}} \text{ )}$$

$$-\infty + m = m + (-\infty) = -\infty, \quad -\infty + (-\infty) = -\infty, \quad -\infty < m, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Therefore:

- i)  $\deg(f + g) \leq \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}, \forall f, g \in K[X]$ ;
- ii)  $\deg(fg) = \deg f + \deg g, \forall f, g \in K[X]$ ;
- $\rightarrow$  iii)  $K[X]$  is an integral domain (during the seminar);
- $\rightarrow$  iv) a polynomial  $f \in K[X]$  is a unit in  $\underline{K[X]}$  if and only if  $\underline{f \in K^*}$  (during the seminar).

Here are some useful notions and results concerning polynomials:

If  $f, g \in K[X]$  then

$$f \mid g \Leftrightarrow \exists h \in K[X], g = fh.$$

The divisibility  $\mid$  is reflexive and transitive. The polynomial 0 satisfies the following relations

$$\rightarrow f \mid 0, \forall f \in K[X] \text{ and } \nexists f \in K[X] \setminus \{0\} : 0 \mid f.$$

Two polynomials  $f, g \in K[X]$  are **associates** (we write  $f \sim g$ ) if

$$\exists a \in K^* : f = ag.$$

*the units from  $K[X]$*

The relation  $\sim$  is reflexive, transitive and symmetric.

A polynomial  $f \in K[X]^*$  is **irreducible** if  $\deg f \geq 1$  and

$$f = gh \ (g, h \in K[X]) \Rightarrow g \in K^* \text{ or } h \in K^*.$$

The gcd and lcm are defined as for integers, the product of a gcd and lcm of two polynomials  $f, g$  and the product  $fg$  are associates and the polynomials divisibility acts with respect to sum and product in the way we are familiar with from the integers case.

If  $f = a_0 + a_1X + a_2X^2 + \dots + a_nX^n \in K[X]$  and  $c \in K$ , then

$$f(c) = a_0 + a_1c + a_2c^2 + \dots + a_nc^n \in K$$

is called **the evaluation of  $f$  at  $c$** . The element  $c \in K$  is **a root of  $f$**  if  $f(c) = 0$ .

$\rightarrow$  **Theorem 4.** (The Division Algorithm in  $K[X]$ ) For any polynomials  $f, g \in K[X]$ ,  $g \neq 0$ , there exist  $q, r \in K[X]$  uniquely determined such that

$$f = gq + r \text{ and } \deg r < \deg g. \quad (5)$$

*Proof.* (optional) Let  $a_0, \dots, a_n, b_0, \dots, b_m \in K$ ,  $b_m \neq 0$  and

$$f = a_0 + a_1X + \dots + a_nX^n \text{ si } g = b_0 + b_1X + \dots + b_mX^m.$$

*The existence of  $q$  and  $r$ :* If  $f = 0$  then  $q = r = 0$  satisfy (5).

For  $f \neq 0$  we prove by induction that the property holds for any  $n = \deg f$ . If  $n < m$  (since  $m \geq 0$ , there exist polynomials  $f$  which satisfy this condition), then (5) holds for  $q = 0$  and  $r = f$ .

Let us assume the statement proved for any polynomials with the degree  $n \geq m$ . Since  $a_nX^n$  is the maximum degree monomial of the polynomial  $a_nb_m^{-1}X^{n-m}g$ , for  $h = f - a_nb_m^{-1}X^{n-m}g$ , we have  $\deg h < n$  and, according to our assumption, there exist  $q', r \in K[X]$  such that

$$h = gq' + r \text{ and } \deg r < \deg g.$$

Thus, we have  $f = h + a_nb_m^{-1}X^{n-m}g = (a_nb_m^{-1}X^{n-m} + q')g + r = gq + r$  where  $q = a_nb_m^{-1}X^{n-m} + q'$ . Now, the existence of  $q$  and  $r$  from (5) is proved.

*The uniqueness of  $q$  and  $r$ :* If we also have

$$f = gq_1 + r_1 \text{ and } \deg r_1 < \deg g,$$

then  $gq + r = gq_1 + r_1$ . It follows that  $r - r_1 = g(q_1 - q)$  and  $\deg(r - r_1) < \deg g$ . Since  $g \neq 0$  we have  $q_1 - q = 0$  and, consequently,  $r - r_1 = 0$ , thus  $q_1 = q$  and  $r_1 = r$ .  $\square$

We call the polynomials  $q$  and  $r$  from (5) **the quotient** and **the remainder** of  $f$  when dividing by  $g$ , respectively.

**Corollary 5.** Let  $K$  be a field and  $c \in K$ . The remainder of a polynomial  $f \in K[X]$  when dividing by  $X - c$  is  $f(c)$ .

Indeed, from (5) one deduces that  $r \in K$ , and since  $f = (X - c)q + r$ , one finds that  $r = f(c)$ . For  $r = 0$  we obtain:

**Corollary 6.** Let  $K$  be a field. The element  $c \in K$  is a root of  $f$  if and only if  $(X - c) \mid f$ .

**Corollary 7.** If  $K$  is a field and  $f \in K[X]$  has the degree  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , then the number of the roots of  $f$  from  $K$  is at most  $k$ .

homework → Indeed, the statement is true for zero-degree polynomials, since they have no roots. We consider  $k > 0$  and we assume the property valid for any polynomial with the degree smaller than  $k$ . If  $c_1 \in K$  is a root of  $f$  then  $f = (X - c_1)q$  and  $\deg q = k - 1$ . According to our assumption,  $q$  has at most  $k - 1$  roots in  $K$ . Since  $K$  is a field,  $K[X]$  is an integral domain and from  $f = (X - c_1)q$  it follows that  $c \in K$  is a root of  $f$  if and only if  $c = c_1$  or  $c$  is a root of  $q$ . Thus  $f$  has at most  $k$  roots in  $K$ .

## The ring of square matrices over a field

Let  $K$  be a set and  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . A mapping

$$A : \{1, \dots, m\} \times \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow K$$

is called  $m \times n$  **matrix** over  $K$ . When  $m = n$ , we call  $A$  a **square matrix of size  $n$** . For each  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $j = 1, \dots, n$  we denote  $A(i, j)$  by  $a_{ij} (\in K)$  and we represent  $A$  as a rectangular array with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns in which the image of each pair  $(i, j)$  is written in the  $i$ 'th row and the  $j$ 'th column

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We also denote this array by

$$A = (a_{ij})_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq m \\ 1 \leq j \leq n}}$$

or, simpler,  $A = (a_{ij})$ . We denote the set of all  $m \times n$  matrices over  $K$  by  $M_{m,n}(K)$  and, when  $m = n$ , by  $M_n(K)$ .

Let  $(K, +, \cdot)$  be a field. Then  $+$  from  $K$  determines an operation  $+$  on  $M_{m,n}(K)$  defined as follows: if  $A = (a_{ij})$  and  $B = (b_{ij})$  are two  $m \times n$  matrices, then

$$A + B = (a_{ij} + b_{ij}).$$

One can easily check that this operation is associative, commutative, it has an identity element which is the matrix  $O_{m,n}$  consisting only of 0 (called **the  $m \times n$  zero matrix**) and each matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  from  $M_{m,n}(K)$  has an opposite (the matrix  $-A = (-a_{ij})$ ). Therefore,

**Theorem 8.**  $(M_{m,n}(K), +)$  is an Abelian group.

The scalar multiplication of a matrix  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_{m,n}(K)$  and a scalar  $\alpha \in K$  is defined by

$$\underline{\alpha A} = (\alpha a_{ij}).$$

One can easily check that:

i)  $\alpha(A+B) = \alpha A + \alpha B, \forall \alpha \in K, \forall A, B \in M_{m,n}(K);$

ii)  $(\alpha + \beta)A = \alpha A + \beta A, \forall \alpha, \beta \in K, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K);$

iii)  $(\alpha\beta)A = \alpha(\beta A), \forall \alpha, \beta \in K, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K);$

iv)  $\underline{1 \cdot A} = A, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K).$

*1 is the multply. id. of K.*

The matrix multiplication is defined as follows: if  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_{m,n}(K)$  and  $B = (b_{ij}) \in M_{n,p}(K)$ , then

$$\rightarrow AB = (c_{ij}) \in M_{m,p}, \text{ cu } c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj}, (i, j) \in \{1, \dots, m\} \times \{1, \dots, p\}.$$

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  we consider the  $n \times n$  square matrix

$$I_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$c_{ij} = a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \dots + a_{in}b_{nj} \in K$$

If  $m, n, p, q \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , then:

1)  $(AB)C = A(BC)$ , for any matrices  $A \in M_{m,n}(K), B \in M_{n,p}(K), C \in M_{p,q}(K);$

2)  $I_m A = A = A I_n, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K);$

3)  $A(B+C) = AB + AC$  for any matrices  $A \in M_{m,n}(K), B, C \in M_{n,p}(K);$

3')  $(B+C)D = BD + CD$ , for any matrices  $B, C \in M_{n,p}(K), D \in M_{p,q}(K);$

4)  $\alpha(AB) = (\alpha A)B = A(\alpha B), \forall \alpha \in K, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K), \forall B \in M_{n,p}(K).$

We prove 1). To prove the other properties is easier, so we consider this your HOMEWORK.

Indeed, if  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_{m,n}(K), B = (b_{ij}) \in M_{n,p}(K), C = (c_{ij}) \in M_{p,q}(K)$ , the element from the row  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  and the column  $l \in \{1, \dots, q\}$  of the product  $(AB)C$  is

$$\sum_{j=1}^p \left( \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj} \right) c_{jl} = \sum_{j=1, p, k=1, n} (a_{ik} b_{kj}) c_{jl} = \sum_{j=1, p, k=1, n} a_{ik} (b_{kj} c_{jl}) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \left( \sum_{j=1}^p b_{kj} c_{jl} \right).$$

We notice that this is also the element from the row  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  and column  $l \in \{1, \dots, q\}$  of the product  $A(BC)$ .

If we work with  $n \times n$  square matrices the matrix multiplication becomes a binary (internal) operation  $\cdot$  on  $M_n(K)$ , and the equalities 1)–3') show that  $\cdot$  is associative,  $I_n$  is a multiplicative identity element (called **the identity matrix** of size  $n$ ) and  $\cdot$  is distributive with respect to  $+$ . Hence,

**Theorem 9.**  $(M_n(K), +, \cdot)$  is a unitary ring called the ring of the square matrices of size  $n$  over  $K$ .

**Remarks 10.** a) If  $n \geq 2$  then  $M_n(K)$  is not commutative and it has zero divisors. If  $a, b \in K^*$ , the non-zero matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & b \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

can be used to prove this.

b) Using the properties of the addition, multiplication and scalar multiplication, one can easily prove that

$$f: \underline{K} \rightarrow \underline{M_n(K)}, f(a) = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a \end{pmatrix} = aI_n$$

is a unitary injective ring homomorphism.

The transpose of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} = (a_{ij})$  is the  $n \times m$

matrix

$${}^t A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{m1} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{m2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{1n} & a_{2n} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} = (a_{ji}).$$

The way the transpose acts with respect to the matrix addition, matrix multiplication and scalar multiplication is given below:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^t(A+B) &= {}^t A + {}^t B, \forall A, B \in M_{m,n}(K); \\ {}^t(AB) &= {}^t B \cdot {}^t A, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K), \forall B \in M_{n,p}(K); \\ {}^t(\alpha A) &= \alpha \cdot {}^t A, \forall A \in M_{m,n}(K). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $K$  be a field. The set of the units of  $M_n(K)$  is

$$\underline{GL_n(K)} = \{A \in M_n(K) \mid \exists B \in M_n(K) : AB = BA = I_n\} = \cup (M_n(K))$$

The set  $GL_n(K)$  is closed in  $(M_n(K), \cdot)$  and  $(GL_n(K), \cdot)$  is a group called **the general linear group of degree  $n$  over  $K$** . We know from high school that if  $K$  is one of the number fields ( $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$  sau  $\mathbb{C}$ ) then  $A \in M_n(K)$  is invertible if and only if  $\det A \neq 0$ . Thus,

$$\rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C}) = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \mid \det A \neq 0\},$$

and analogously we can rewrite  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$ . We will see next that this recipe works for any matrix ring  $M_n(K)$  with  $K$  field. This is why our next course topic will be the determinant of a square matrix over a field  $K$ .

## Determinants

Let  $(K, +, \cdot)$  be a field,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \in M_n(K).$$

**Definition 11.** The determinant of (the square matrix)  $A$  is

$$\det A = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \varepsilon(\sigma) a_{1\sigma(1)} a_{2\sigma(2)} \cdots a_{n\sigma(n)} (\in K).$$

The map  $M_n(K) \rightarrow K$ ,  $A \mapsto \det A$  is also called **determinant**.

**Remark 12.** None of the products from the above definition contains 2 elements from the same row or the same column.

We also denote the determinant of  $A$  by 
$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{vmatrix}.$$

**Examples 13.** a) 
$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}.$$

b) 
$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} =$$

**Lemma 14.** The determinant of  $A$  and the determinant of the transpose matrix  ${}^tA$  are equal.

*Proof.*

□