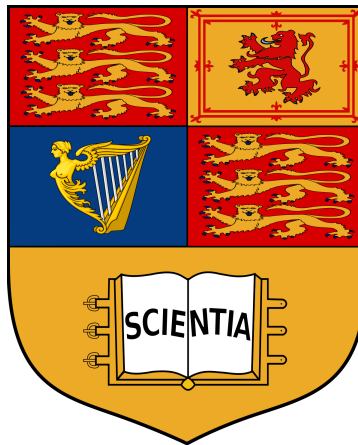


Groups & Rings - Concise Notes

MATH50005

Arnav Singh



Colour Code - **Definitions** are **green** in these notes, **Consequences** are **red** and **Causes** are **blue**

Content from MATH40003 assumed to be known.

*”Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.”*

– J.R.R Tolkien, *Rings of Power*

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Part I

Groups

1 Homomorphisms + Normal Subgroups

1.1 Homomorphisms, Isomorphisms and Automorphisms

Group Axioms

G is a group w.r.t a binary operation $\iff \forall g, h, i \in G$

- **G1** - $gh \in G$ (**Closure Axiom**)
- **G2** - $(gh)i = g(hi)$ (**Associativity Axiom**)
- **G3** - $\exists e \in G$ s.t $\forall g \in G, ge = e = eg$ (**Existence of identity**)
- **G4** - $\forall g \in G, \exists g^{-1}$ s.t $gg^{-1} = e = g^{-1}g$ (**Existence of inverses**)

Definition 1.1 A function $f : G \rightarrow H$ is a **Homomorphism** if $\forall a, b \in G$ we have $f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$.
Note ab operation of G , $f(a)f(b)$ operation of H

corollary: $f(e_G) = e_H \implies f(g^{-1}) = f(g)^{-1}$

Definition 1.4 A function $f : G \rightarrow H$ an **Isomorphism** if f a **bijective homomorphism**.
We write $f : G \xrightarrow{\sim} H$ or $G \cong H$

Definition 1.6 A function f an isomorphism, $f : G \xrightarrow{\sim} G$ is called an **Automorphism**

Extend this to define $Aut(G)$ as the group of automorphisms of G under composition. Conjugation by an element in G is an automorphism.

Definition, for a homomorphism $f : G \rightarrow H$ associate:

1. $Im(f) = f(G) = \{f(x) | x \in G\}$
2. $Ker(f) = \{x \in G | f(x) = e_H\}$

1.2 Normal subgroups, quotient groups and the isomorphism theorem

Definition 1.11 Normal Subgroups,

$$N \subset G \text{ normal in } G \iff gng^{-1} \in N, \forall g \in G \text{ and } n \in N$$

We say that N is stable under the conjugation by any element in G .

Definition 1.12 Simple Groups - **group G simple** if G has no normal subgroups aside from $\{e\}$ and G

Define

- $gS := \{gs | s \in S\}$ - **Left cosets** of S
- $Sg := \{sg | s \in S\}$ - **Right cosets** of S

Lemma - $H \subset G$ a subgroup. If $gH = Hg \forall g \in G \implies H$ a **normal subgroup**

Lemma - $N \subset G$ a **normal subgroup**. Then $(g_1N)(g_2N) = (g_1g_2N)$

Quotient Group - N a normal subgroup of G . G/N the quotient group of G modulo N is the set of all left cosets of N in G . $G/N = \{aN | a \in G\}$

Lemma - N a normal subgroup of G . The set G/N of left cosets of G modulo N is a **group** under group law $(g_1N, g_2N) \mapsto (g_1g_2N)$.

Theorem 1.19 - Isomorphism Theorem - Let $f : G \rightarrow H$ a homomorphism of groups. Consider the map $gKer(f) \mapsto f(g)$, this map is an **isomorphism** of groups.

$$G/Ker(f) \xrightarrow{\sim} f(G)$$

1.3 Group-Theoretic Constructions

- **Centre of a Group** $Z(G) = \{a \in G \mid ax = xa, \forall x \in G\}$. It is the set of elements in G that commute with all elements in G .
 $Z(G) = G \iff G$ abelian.
- **Inner Automorphisms** $Inn(G)$ - The set of automorphisms formed by the conjugations of elements in G , forming a subgroup of $Aut(G)$
- **Commutator** - Write $[a, b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$ this is the commutator of a and b .
- **Commutator of a Group** $[G, G]$ is the smallest subgroup in G containing the commutators $[a, b] \forall a, b \in G$. It is the subgroup generated by all the commutators.
 G abelian $\iff [G, G] = \{e_G\}$

Sending an element $g \in G$ to the conjugation by g is a homomorphism $G \rightarrow Aut(G)$ with image $Inn(G)$ and kernel $Z(G)$. Giving isomorphism $G/Z(G) \xrightarrow{\sim} Inn(G)$. using **Theorem 1.19**

Lemma 1.21 - G a group. Then $[G, G]$ a normal subgroup of G and $G/[G, G]$ is abelian.

Proposition 1.22 - N a normal subgroup of G . Then G/N is abelian if and only if N contains $[G, G]$

Lemma 1.23 - Any subgroup of G containing $[G, G]$ is normal

Behaviour of products of groups in the abelian case:

Lemma 1.25 - G an abelian group. If orders of $a, b \in G$ finite, then order of ab is finite and divides $lcm(ord(a), ord(b))$.

Torsion subgroups - The set of elements of G that have finite order is a subgroup of G , denoted G_{tors} . If $G = G_{tors}$ we say G is a torsion abelian group.

p -subgroups of G - G an abelian group, p a prime number.

The subgroup $G\{p\} = \{g \mid g \in G \text{ s.t } ord(g) = p^n\}$ is the p -primary subgroup of G

If $G = G\{p\}$ then G is called a p -primary torsion abelian group

Generators.

Lemma 1.29 - I a set s.t $\forall i \in I$, we have subgroups $H_i \subset G$. Then $H = \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ a subgroup of G .

1.30 - Generated Groups - G a group, $S \subset G$ a set. Intersection of all subgroups of G that contain S is the subgroup of G generated by S denoted $\langle S \rangle$.

If $G = \langle S \rangle$ then we say S generates G .

1.32 Finitely generated group - G finitely generated if \exists pos. integer n s.t G generated by n elements.

2 Groups Acting on Sets

2.1 Actions, Orbits and Stabilisers

Definition 2.1 Action - G a group, X a set. Let $S(X)$ be the group of bijections $X \rightarrow X$ with composition as the group law. An **action of G on X is a homomorphism $G \rightarrow S(X)$**

Associates each $g \in G$ to a bijective map $X \rightarrow X$, thought of as permutation of elements of X .

Equivalent to a function $G \times X \rightarrow X$, an action $\iff (g_1 g_2)(x) = g_1(g_2(x)) \forall g_1, g_2 \in G$ and $x \in X$

Definition 2.3 Faithful actions - an action of G on X is **faithful if $G \rightarrow S(X)$ is injective**

Equivalently, kernel of $G \rightarrow S(X)$ is trivial. $g(x) = g \forall x \implies g = e_G$

Definition 2.4.1 Orbit of elements - Let $G \times X \rightarrow X$ an action of G on a set X . The G -orbit of $x \in X$ is $G(x) = \{g(x) | g \in G\} \subset X$

Definition 2.4.2 Stabiliser of x - $\text{St}_G(x) = \{g \in G | g(x) = x\} \subset G$

Theorem 2.6 Orbit-Stabiliser Theorem

$G \times X \rightarrow X$ an action of G on X . $\forall x \in X$ the map $g \mapsto g(x)$, gives bijection from set of left cosets $G/\text{St}(x) \rightarrow G(x)$, the orbit of x .

If G a finite group $\implies |G(x)| = |G|/|\text{St}(x)| \forall x \in X$.

If X a finite set and $X = \cup_{i=1}^n G(x_i)$ is a disjoint union of G -orbits, then

$$|X| = \sum_{i=1}^n |G(x_i)| = \sum_{i=1}^n [G : \text{St}(x_i)],$$

where $[G : \text{St}(x_i)]$ is the index of $\text{St}(x_i)$ in G

2.2 Applications of the orbit-stabiliser theorem

Theorem 2.7 - (Cayley).

Let G a finite group of order $n \implies S_n$ has a subgroup isomorphic to G

Theorem 2.8 - (Cauchy)

G a finite group of order n with p a prime factor of $n \implies G$ has an element of order p .

Definition 2.9 - p -groups - p a prime, finite group G is a p -group if order of G is a power of p .

Corollary 2.10 - G a p -group \iff order of every element of G is a power of p .

Theorem 2.11.

G a p -group, p -prime. Then $Z(G) \neq \{e_G\}$

Definition 2.13 - $G \times X \rightarrow X$ an action of G on X . If $X = G(x)$ (X a G -orbit) for some $x \in X$, then we say G **acts transitively on X** .

Definition 2.14 - Let $G \times X \rightarrow X$ an action of G on X . If $x \in X$ s.t $g(x) = x$. **We say x a fixed point.**

$\text{Fix}(g) \subset X$ - the set of fixed points of $g \in G$

Theorem 2.15 - (Jordan)

Let $G \times X \rightarrow X$ a transitive action of a finite group G on a finite set X . Then:

$$\sum_{g \in G} |\text{Fix}(g)| = |G|$$

$\exists g \in G$ s.t $\text{Fix}(g) = \emptyset$

Corollary 2.16 Let $G \times X \rightarrow X$ an action of a finite group G on a finite set X Then the number of G -orbits in X is $|G|^{-1} \sum_{g \in G} |\text{Fix}(g)|$.

3 Finitely Generated Abelian Groups

3.1 Smith Normal form

Definition 3.1 - Smith Normal Form

$A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{Z}$ a $(m \times n)$ matrix in **Smith Normal Form** if:

- $a_{ij} = 0$ if $i \neq j$ (only diagonal terms are non-zero)
- $a_i = a_{ii}$. For $k \geq 0$, $a_i > 0$ for $i \leq k$, $a_i = 0$, for $i > k$
- $a_1 | a_2 | \dots | a_k$

Theorem 3.2

Any Matrix of integer coefficients made into Smith Normal form via row/col operations.

Row Operations:

- 1 \rightarrow Swap i^{th} and j^{th} row
- 2 \rightarrow multiply i^{th} row by -1
- 3 \rightarrow replace i^{th} row; r_i by $r_i + ar_j$, $i \neq j$, $a \in \mathbb{Z}$

Notation

$$d(A) - \text{gcd of } (a_{ij})$$

$$t(A) - \text{smallest non-zero } |a_{ij}|$$

Corollary; $d(A) | t(A) \implies d(A) \leq t(A)$

Lemma; Any matrix A of integer coefficients transformed via row/col operations to B s.t $t(B) = d(B) = d(A)$

3.2 Classification of finitely generated abelian groups

Definition 3.4 - Free abelian group of rank n

$$\mathbb{Z}^n := \{(a_1, \dots, a_n) | a_i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Lemma; $\mathbb{Z}^m \cong \mathbb{Z}^n \implies m = n$, shows rank is well defined

Lemma; Any subgroup of \mathbb{Z}^n isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^m for $m \leq n$

Corollary 3.7

G a finitely generated abelian group.

$\implies \exists$ surjective homomorphism $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow$ some n

$\text{Ker}(f) \cong \mathbb{Z}^m$

Theorem 3.8

Every finitely generated abelian group is isomorphic to a product of finitely many cyclic groups

Corollary - 3.10; Any finite abelian group isomorphic to a product of its p -primary torsion subgroups.

Theorem 3.11

Every finitely generated abelian group isomorphic to a product of *finitely many infinite cyclic groups* and *finitely many cyclic groups of prime power order*

The number of infinite cyclic factors and the number of cyclic factors of order p^r , for $p \in \mathbb{P}, r \in \mathbb{N}_+$, depends only on the group.

Part II

Rings

4 Basic Theory of Rings

4.1 Motivation

Definition 4.1 - Ring

A ring a set R with 2 binary operations, $+$ and \times , satisfying:

1. $(R, +)$ an abelian group
 \hookrightarrow written additively; 0 an identity element, with $-x$ the inverse of x
2. Multiplication is **associative**
 $\hookrightarrow \forall a, b, c \in R \implies (a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
3. $\exists!$ unit element for multiplication ; 1
Satisfying: $1x = x1 = x \forall x \in R$
4. Distributivity
 $\hookrightarrow \forall a, b, c \in R; a(b + c) = ab + ac, (a + b)c = ac + bc$

R is closed under both $+$ and \times

Say R commutative if $xy = yx, \forall x, y \in R$ Lemma 4.2 - Properties of rings

- $\forall x \in R, x0 = 0x = 0$
- $\forall x, y \in R \implies (-x)y = x(-y) = -xy$
- $R \neq \{0\} \implies 1 \neq \{0\}$

Definition 4.3 - Subring

Subset of a ring which is a ring under the same $+$, *times* and same 1 is a **subring**

Lemma 4.4

S a non-empty subset of ring R Then;

S a subring of $R \iff 1 \in S$ and $\forall a, b \in S; a + b \in S, ab \in S, -a \in S$

Definition 4.6 - Invertible Elements

$x \in R$ invertible if $y, z \in R$ s.t $xy = 1$ and $zx = 1$

if $y = z$ denote $x^{-1} = y = z$

Definition 4.6.2 - Multiplicative group of R

$$R^\times = \{x \in R \mid x \text{ invertible}\}$$

Definition 4.8 - Division Ring A ring where all non-zero elements a **division ring**

Definition 4.8.2 - Field

A commutative division ring a **Field**.

4.2 Homomorphisms, ideals and quotient rings

Definition 4.12 - Homomorphism of Rings

R, S rings. $f : R \rightarrow S$ a homomorphism of rings if

- (i) $f : (R, +) \rightarrow (S, +)$ a homomorphism of abelian groups
- (ii) $f(xy) = f(x)f(y)$
- (iii) $f(1_R) = 1_S$

A subset R' of R a subring \iff tautological map $R' \rightarrow R$ a homomorphism of rings

Definition 4.16 - Ideal rings

R a ring, $I \subset R$ **ideal** if:

1. I a subgroup of $(R, +)$ w.r.t $+$
2. $\forall x \in I, \forall r \in R \implies$
 - I left ideal if only $rx \in I$
 - I right ideal if only $xr \in I$
 - I 2-sided ideal if $rx \in I$ and $xr \in I$

Mostly consider commutative rings so one condition is often enough.

An ideal ring not equal to the whole ring a **proper ideal**

Definition 4.17 - Quotient Ring

R a ring, $I \subset R$ a proper ideal

Quotient abelian group, R/I with multiplication as in R called a **quotient ring** of R by ideal I

Definition 4.18 - Principal ideal

R a commutative ring.

Take $a \in R$, consider $aR = \{ax | x \in R\}$, this is an ideal in R , called the **principal ideal with generator a**

Definition 4.19 - Types of homomorphisms

1. A bijective homomorphism of rings $f : R \rightarrow S$ called an **isomorphism of rings**
2. A homomorphism of rings $R \rightarrow R$ an **endomorphism of rings**
3. An isomorphism of rings $R \rightarrow \sim R$ an **automorphism of rings**

Theorem 4.20 - (Isomorphism Theorem)

Let $f : R \rightarrow S$ a homomorphism of rings.

Then subring $f(S)$ of S is isomorphic to quotient ring $R/\text{Ker}(f)$

4.3 Integral domains and fields**Definition 4.21. Zero-divisors**

R a ring. non-zero elements $a, b \in R$ are called **zero divisors** if $ab = 0$

Definition 4.21. Integral Domain

Commutative ring without zero divisors an **integral domain**

Lemma 4.23.

R an integral domain. $ab \in R$

$$aR = bR \iff a = br, r \in R^\times$$

Proposition 4.24.

Every field is an integral domain.

Theorem 4.25.

Every finite integral domain a field

Corollary 4.26.

$n \in \mathbb{N}_+$, ring $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ an integral domain $\iff n \in \mathbb{P}$

Definition 4.27. Subfield

subset K of field \mathbb{F} a **subfield of \mathbb{F}** if K a field with the same addition and multiplication as in \mathbb{F} .

Say \mathbb{F} a **field extension** of K

Proposition 4.28

\forall rings $R, \exists!$ homomorphism of rings $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$

Lemma 4.29.

R an integral domain. kernel of unique homomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$ either 0-ideal; $\{0\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$ or principal ideal $p\mathbb{Z}$, $p \in \mathbb{P}$

Definition 4.30. Characteristic of integral domain

Characteristic of integral domain R is the unique non-negative generator of the kernel of a homomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$; either 0 or $p \in \mathbb{P}$.

denoted $\text{Char}(R)$

Definition 4.31.

k a field, V an abelian group with an action of elements of k (scalars) on elements of V (vectors)

Where for $x \in k$, $v \in V$, $xv \in V$

- (i) $1v = v$ and $x(yv) = (xy)v, \forall x, y \in k, v \in V$
- (ii) $(x + y)v = xv + yv, \forall x, y \in k, v \in V$
- (iii) $x(v + w) = xv + xw, \forall x \in k, \forall v, w \in V$

Lemma 4.32.

field extension \mathbb{F} of k is a vector space over k

Theorem 4.33.

k a field.

if $\text{char}(k) = 0 \implies k$ has unique subfield isomorphic to $\mathbb{Q} \implies k$ a vector space over \mathbb{Q}

if $\text{char}(k) = p \in \mathbb{P} \implies k$ contains unique subfield isomorphic to $\mathbb{F}_p \implies k$ a vector space over \mathbb{F}_p

Corollary 4.34.

Every finite field has p^n elements, $p \in \mathbb{P}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$

4.4 More on ideals**Proposition 4.35.**

A commutative ring a field \iff only proper ideal is the zero ideal.

Proposition 4.36.

$f : R \rightarrow S$ a homomorphism of rings

$J \subset S$ an ideal $\implies f^{-1}(J)$ an ideal of R

Proposition 4.37.

$f : R \rightarrow S$ surjective homomorphism of rings.

$I \subset R$ an ideal $\implies f(I)$ an ideal of S

The maps

$$I \mapsto f(I) \quad J \mapsto f^{-1}(J)$$

give a bijection between ideals of R that contain $\ker(f)$ and ideals of S

Definition 4.38.

R a commutative ring. We say a proper ideal $I \subset R$ a **prime ideal** if quotient ring R/I an integral domain.

Proposition 4.39.

R a commutative ring. Proper ideal $I \subset R$ a **maximal ideal** if quotient ring R/I a field.

Every Maximal ideal a Prime ideal.

Proposition 4.41.

$I \subset R$ a maximal ideal \iff there is no proper ideal $J \subset R$ s.t $I \subset J$ and $I \neq J$

5 PID and UFD

5.1 Polynomial rings

R an integral domain. $R[t]$ the ring of polynomials in t with coefficients in R .

$$R[t] = \{a_n t^n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 t + a_0 \mid a_i \in R\} \quad n = \deg(p(t))$$

Proposition 5.1.

R an integral domain \implies

$$\deg(p(t)q(t)) = \deg(p(t)) + \deg(q(t))$$

$R[t]$ an integral domain. $R[t]^\times = R^\times$

Proposition 5.2.

k a field

$\forall a(t), b(t) \in k[t], b(t) \neq 0$

$\implies \exists! q(t), r(t) \in k[t]$ s.t

$$a(t) = q(t)b(t) + r(t)$$

$r(t) = 0$ or $\deg(r(t)) < \deg(b(t))$

Definition 5.3.

Integral domain R with a function $\phi : R \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ a **Euclidean domain** if

(i) $\phi(xy) \geq \phi(x) \quad \forall$ non-zero $x, y \in R$

(ii) $\forall a, b \in R, \exists q, r \in R$ s.t $a = qb + r$ where $r = 0$ or $\phi(r) < \phi(b)$

Definition 5.4.

Integral domain R a **principal ideal domain (PID)** if every ideal of R is principal. i.e of form $aR, a \in R$

Theorem 5.5.

Any euclidean domain is a PID.

5.2 Factorisation in Integral Domains

Definition 5.5.

R an integral domain.

non-zero $x \in R \setminus R^\times$ an **irreducible element** if x not a product of 2 elements of $R \setminus R^\times$

Lemma 5.7.

R an integral domain.

if x irreducible, $a \in R^\times \implies ax$ also irreducible

Definition 5.8.

An integral domain R a **unique factorisation domain (UFD)** if every element of $R \setminus R^\times$ a product of finitely many irreducibles.

This decomposition is unique up to changing order of factors and multiplication of factors by elements in R^\times .

Also called **factorial rings**

Definition 5.9.

R an integral domain. $a, b \in R$

Say $a \in R$ **divides** $b \in R; a|b$ if $b = ra, r \in R$

a **properly divides** b if $b = ra$ and $r \notin R^\times$

if $b = ra, r \in R^\times \implies a$ and b **associates**

Proposition 5.10.

R a UFD $\implies \nexists$ infinite sequence of non-zero elements r_1, r_2, \dots of R s.t r_{n+1} properly divides $r_n \quad \forall n \geq 1$

Proposition 5.11.

Let R be a UFD. If p is irreducible and $p|ab \implies p|a$ or $p|b$

Theorem 5.12.

R an integral domain. R a UFD \iff

- (i) There is no infinite sequence r_1, r_2, \dots of elements of R such that r_{n+1} properly divides $r_n \forall n \geq 1$
- (ii) For every irreducible elements $p \in R$ if $p|ab \implies p|a$ or $p|b$

Proposition 5.14.

Suppose R a PID and $I_1 \subset I_2 \subset \dots$ are ideals in R Then for some n we have $I_n = I_{n+1} = \dots$
 We say that an ascending chain of ideals **stabilises**

Proposition 5.16.

Suppose R a PID. $p \in R$ an irreducible element such that $p|ab \implies p|a$ or $p|b$

Theorem 5.17.

Every PID is a UFD.

6 Fields

6.1 Field extensions

Definition 6.1.

An extension of fields $k \subset K$ is called **finite** if K a finite-dimensional vector space over k
 $\dim_k(K) = \text{degree}$ of the extension. We write $[K : k] = \dim_k(K)$

Theorem 6.2.

$k \subset F$ and $F \subset K$ field extensions. Then K a finite extension of $k \iff F$ a finite extension of k and K a finite extension of F

i.e we have $[K : k] = [K : F][F : k]$

6.2 Constructing fields from irreducible polynomials

Proposition 6.3.

Let R a PID and let $a \in R, a \neq 0$.
 aR maximal $\iff a$ irreducible.

Corollary 6.4.

R a PID and $a \in R$ irreducible then R/aR a field.

Proposition 6.6.

Let k a field. A polynomial $f(t) \in k[t]$ of degree 2 or 3 irreducible \iff has no roots in k

Proposition 6.8.

$p \neq 2$ prime. Field $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ contains $(p-1)/2 \geq 1$ non-squares.
 $\forall a \in \mathbb{F}_p$ non-square we have $t^2 - a$ irreducible in $\mathbb{F}_p[t]$ with $\mathbb{F}_p[t]/(t^2 - a)\mathbb{F}_p[t]$ a quadratic extension of \mathbb{F}_p

6.3 Existence of finite fields

Lemma 6.10

k a field s.t $\text{char}(k) = p, p$ a prime. $\forall x, y \in k$

$$(x + y)^{p^m} = x^{p^m} + y^{p^m}$$

$\forall x, y \in k, m \in \mathbb{Z}$

Lemma 6.11

k a field $p(t) = (t - \alpha_1) \dots (t - \alpha_n)$ for $\alpha_i \in k, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$
 Then $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j$ for $i \neq j \iff p(t), q(t)$ have no common root.

Theorem 6.12.

Let p prime, $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$

\exists field of p^n elements.