

## Axioms for Fields

A field is a set  $F$  with distinguished elements  $0, 1$  and with two binary operations  $+$  and  $\times$  satisfying the following conditions—*the Axioms of Arithmetic*. Conventionally

for the function  $+$  :  $F \times F \rightarrow F$  we write  $(a, b) \mapsto a + b$ ;  
for  $\times$  :  $F \times F \rightarrow F$  we write  $(a, b) \mapsto ab$ .

- (1)  $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$  [+ is associative]
- (2)  $a + b = b + a$  [+ is commutative]
- (3)  $a + 0 = a$
- (4)  $(\forall a \in F)(\exists b \in F)(a + b = 0)$
- (5)  $a(bc) = (ab)c$  [ $\times$  is associative]
- (6)  $ab = ba$  [ $\times$  is commutative]
- (7)  $a1 = a$
- (8)  $(\forall a \in F \setminus \{0\})(\exists b \in F)(ab = 1)$
- (9)  $a(b + c) = ab + ac$  [ $\times$  distributes over +]
- (10)  $0 \neq 1$ .