

Polynomial rings

Modern Algebra 1

Fall 2016

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n, a_i \in R$.

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting.
(Elements are normal forms for words.)

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting.
(Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting. (Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the free ring over $\{x\}$. The universal property is verified by **evaluation**:

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting. (Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the free ring over $\{x\}$. The universal property is verified by **evaluation**:

Any function $\{x\} \rightarrow R: x \mapsto r$ extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism

$$\mathbf{eval}_r: \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow R: p(x) \mapsto p(r).$$

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting. (Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the free ring over $\{x\}$. The universal property is verified by **evaluation**:

Any function $\{x\} \rightarrow R: x \mapsto r$ extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism

$$\mathbf{eval}_r: \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow R: p(x) \mapsto p(r).$$

If $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$, then $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ is the free commutative ring over X .

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting. (Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the free ring over $\{x\}$. The universal property is verified by **evaluation**:

Any function $\{x\} \rightarrow R: x \mapsto r$ extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism

$$\mathbf{eval}_r: \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow R: p(x) \mapsto p(r).$$

If $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$, then $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ is the free commutative ring over X . $R[X]$ is the free commutative R -algebra over X .

Book's definition: a *polynomial* over R in the variable x is a formal expression $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in R$.

What they are trying to express is that $R[x]$ is a free object in some setting. (Elements are normal forms for words.)

More precisely, every word in $X = \{x\}$ in the language of commutative rings can be reduced to a unique word of the form $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the free ring over $\{x\}$. The universal property is verified by **evaluation**:

Any function $\{x\} \rightarrow R: x \mapsto r$ extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism

$$\mathbf{eval}_r: \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow R: p(x) \mapsto p(r).$$

If $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$, then $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ is the free commutative ring over X . $R[X]$ is the free commutative R -algebra over X .

If R is a domain, then $R[x]$ is a domain.

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$.

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$.

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}),

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}),

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}), in either case I is principal,

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}), in either case I is principal, and in (ii) the principal generator can be taken to be a monic, irreducible (=nonfactorable) polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}), in either case I is principal, and in (ii) the principal generator can be taken to be a monic, irreducible (=nonfactorable) polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

What we know at this point is that I is prime.

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}), in either case I is principal, and in (ii) the principal generator can be taken to be a monic, irreducible (=nonfactorable) polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

What we know at this point is that I is prime. We also want to show that in case (ii) I is maximal.

Ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x]$

If $\mathbb{F} \leq \mathbb{K}$ are fields, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{K} - \mathbb{F}$, then we are interested in the structure of $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \langle \mathbb{F} \cup \{\alpha\} \rangle$. This is $\cong \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ where $I = \ker(\mathbf{eval}_\alpha)$. Hence $\mathbb{F}[\alpha]$ has a commutative \mathbb{F} -algebra presentation

$$\langle x \mid p_1(x) = 0, p_2(x) = 0, \dots \rangle, \quad \text{for } I = (p_1, p_2, \dots).$$

Our goal is to show that either (i) $I = (0)$ (α transcendental/ \mathbb{F}), or (ii) $I = (p(x))$ (α algebraic/ \mathbb{F}), in either case I is principal, and in (ii) the principal generator can be taken to be a monic, irreducible (=nonfactorable) polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

What we know at this point is that I is prime. We also want to show that in case (ii) I is maximal. So if α is algebraic over \mathbb{F} , then $\mathbb{F}[\alpha] = \mathbb{F}(\alpha)$ is a field.

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Df. An integral domain D is *Euclidean* if it “possesses a division algorithm”: there is a function $N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying $N(0) = 0$ such that whenever $a, b \in D$ and $b \neq 0$, there exists $q, r \in R$ such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with $r = 0$ or $N(r) < N(b)$.

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Df. An integral domain D is *Euclidean* if it “possesses a division algorithm”: there is a function $N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying $N(0) = 0$ such that whenever $a, b \in D$ and $b \neq 0$, there exists $q, r \in R$ such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with $r = 0$ or $N(r) < N(b)$.

- 1 $N(x) = |x|$ is a norm on \mathbb{Z} .

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Df. An integral domain D is *Euclidean* if it “possesses a division algorithm”: there is a function $N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying $N(0) = 0$ such that whenever $a, b \in D$ and $b \neq 0$, there exists $q, r \in R$ such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with $r = 0$ or $N(r) < N(b)$.

- 1 $N(x) = |x|$ is a norm on \mathbb{Z} .
- 2 $N(p(x)) = \deg(p(x))$ is a norm on $\mathbb{F}[x]$.

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Df. An integral domain D is *Euclidean* if it “possesses a division algorithm”: there is a function $N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying $N(0) = 0$ such that whenever $a, b \in D$ and $b \neq 0$, there exists $q, r \in R$ such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with $r = 0$ or $N(r) < N(b)$.

- 1 $N(x) = |x|$ is a norm on \mathbb{Z} .
- 2 $N(p(x)) = \deg(p(x))$ is a norm on $\mathbb{F}[x]$.

Stage I: $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a Euclidean Domain

Df. An integral domain D is *Euclidean* if it “possesses a division algorithm”: there is a function $N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying $N(0) = 0$ such that whenever $a, b \in D$ and $b \neq 0$, there exists $q, r \in R$ such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with $r = 0$ or $N(r) < N(b)$.

- 1 $N(x) = |x|$ is a norm on \mathbb{Z} .
- 2 $N(p(x)) = \deg(p(x))$ is a norm on $\mathbb{F}[x]$.

Note: $N(r) = 0$ implies $r = 0$ or r is a unit.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().*

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Else $N(b)$ is positive.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Else $N(b)$ is positive. Choose any $a \in I$ and write $a = qb + r$ with $N(r) < N(b)$.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Else $N(b)$ is positive. Choose any $a \in I$ and write $a = qb + r$ with $N(r) < N(b)$.

$r = a - qb \in I$ has smaller norm, so $r = 0$.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Else $N(b)$ is positive. Choose any $a \in I$ and write $a = qb + r$ with $N(r) < N(b)$.

$r = a - qb \in I$ has smaller norm, so $r = 0$.

So $a = qb \in (b)$.

Stage II: Euclidean Domains are PID's (*)

Df. R a PID $\Leftrightarrow R$ is an integral domain where every ideal is principal.

Proof of ().* Let D be Euclidean and $I \triangleleft D, I \neq (0)$.

Choose $b \in I - \{0\}$ of least norm.

If $N(b) = 0$, then b is a unit, so $R = (b) \subseteq I$, and I is principal.

Else $N(b)$ is positive. Choose any $a \in I$ and write $a = qb + r$ with $N(r) < N(b)$.

$r = a - qb \in I$ has smaller norm, so $r = 0$.

So $a = qb \in (b)$. So $I = (b)$. \square

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$
- 7 a is associate to $b_1 b_2 \dots b_k$ iff $(a) = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k) = (b_1)(b_2) \dots (b_k)$

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$
- 7 a is associate to $b_1 b_2 \dots b_k$ iff $(a) = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k) = (b_1)(b_2) \dots (b_k)$
- 8 Given $a, b \in D$, if (d) is the smallest principal ideal satisfying $(a) + (b) \subseteq (d)$, then $d = \gcd(a, b)$.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$
- 7 a is associate to $b_1 b_2 \dots b_k$ iff $(a) = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k) = (b_1)(b_2) \dots (b_k)$
- 8 Given $a, b \in D$, if (d) is the smallest principal ideal satisfying $(a) + (b) \subseteq (d)$, then $d = \gcd(a, b)$.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$
- 7 a is associate to $b_1 b_2 \dots b_k$ iff $(a) = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k) = (b_1)(b_2) \dots (b_k)$
- 8 Given $a, b \in D$, if (d) is the smallest principal ideal satisfying $(a) + (b) \subseteq (d)$, then $d = \gcd(a, b)$.

If D is a PID, gcd's exist, and if $d = \gcd(a, b)$ then $d = au + bv$ for some $u, v \in D$.

Elements versus ideals

Throughout, D is an integral domain.

- 1 u is a unit iff $(u) = R$.
- 2 A nonzero nonunit p is a prime iff (p) is a nonzero prime ideal.
- 3 A nonzero nonunit q is irreducible iff (q) is maximal among nonzero proper principal ideals.
- 4 Fact: primes are irreducible.
- 5 Fact: in a PID, irreducibles are prime.
- 6 a and b are associate (=differ by a unit) iff $(a) = (b)$
- 7 a is associate to $b_1 b_2 \dots b_k$ iff $(a) = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k) = (b_1)(b_2) \dots (b_k)$
- 8 Given $a, b \in D$, if (d) is the smallest principal ideal satisfying $(a) + (b) \subseteq (d)$, then $d = \gcd(a, b)$.

If D is a PID, gcd's exist, and if $d = \gcd(a, b)$ then $d = au + bv$ for some $u, v \in D$. If D is Euclidean with effective division algorithm, then u, v, d can be computed algorithmically with the Euclidean algorithm.

Prime ideals in $\mathbb{F}[x]$

- 1 Every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is associate to a monic polynomial.

Prime ideals in $\mathbb{F}[x]$

- 1 Every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is associate to a monic polynomial.
- 2 $I \triangleleft \mathbb{F}[x]$ is prime iff $I = (0)$ or $I = (p(x))$ for some monic irreducible $p(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$

Prime ideals in $\mathbb{F}[x]$

- 1 Every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is associate to a monic polynomial.
- 2 $I \triangleleft \mathbb{F}[x]$ is prime iff $I = (0)$ or $I = (p(x))$ for some monic irreducible $p(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$

Prime ideals in $\mathbb{F}[x]$

- 1 Every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is associate to a monic polynomial.
- 2 $I \triangleleft \mathbb{F}[x]$ is prime iff $I = (0)$ or $I = (p(x))$ for some monic irreducible $p(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$. $I = (0)$ or I is maximal.
- 3 If $p(x)$ is a monic irreducible, then $\mathbb{F}[x]/(p)$ is a field.