

1. Let R be a commutative ring with unity and $a, b \in R$.

(a) Prove that if $(a, b) = (d)$ for some $d \in R$, then d is a greatest common divisor of a and b .

Proof:

Let $I = \{ar + bs \mid r, s \in R\}$. We have shown $I = (a, b)$.

Since $(a, b) = (d)$, then $a, b \in (d)$. Thus, $a = dj$ and $b = dk$ for some $j, k \in R$.

So d is a common divisor of a and b .

Let c be a common divisor of a and b . Then $a = cm$ and $b = cn$ for some $m, n \in R$.

Also $d \in I$, hence $d = ar + bs$ for some $r, s \in R$.

And so $d = cmr + cns = c(mr + ns)$, which implies $c \mid d$.

$\therefore d$ is a greatest common divisor of a and b . •

(b) Prove that the converse of the above statement is false.

Proof:

We know a gcd of 2 and x is 1, but $(1) \neq (2, x)$. •

2. Prove that all euclidean rings are principal ideal domains.

Proof:

Let R be a euclidean ring. Let I be an ideal in R .

If $I = \{0\}$, then I is a PID. Assume $I \neq \{0\}$.

Since R is a euclidean ring, we can find an element, a , in I that is of minimal degree.

Claim: $(a) = I$.

We have $(a) \subseteq I$ by definition.

Let $b \in I$.

Since R is a euclidean ring, $\exists q, r$ such that $b = aq + r$ where $r = 0$ or $\deg r < \deg a$.

Since $b \in I$ and $aq \in I$, then $r = b - aq \in I$.

Since a is of minimal degree, then $\deg r \not< \deg a$, hence $r = 0$.

And this implies that $b = aq$, hence $b \in (a)$.

$\therefore I \subseteq (a)$. $\therefore I = (a)$.

\therefore Every ideal in R is a principal ideal.

$\therefore R$ is a PID. •

3. Let R be an integral domain, $a \in R$ and $I = (a)$.

(a) Prove that if I is maximal, then a is irreducible.

Proof:

Assume I is maximal. Let $a = bc$ be a factorization of a in R .

Then $a \in (b)$. Since I is maximal, then $I = (b)$ or $(b) = R$.

If $I = (b)$, then a and b are associates. Hence $a = bu$ for some unit u in R .

And so $bc = bu$, which gives us $c = u$ as R is an integral domain.

If $(b) = R$, then $1 = b \cdot b^{-1} \in R$. So then b is a unit.

$\therefore b$ or c is a unit, which implies a is irreducible. •

(b) Prove that the converse of the above statement is false.

Proof:

x is irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, but (x) is not maximal as $(x) \subsetneq (2, x) \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}[x]$. •

(c) Prove that x is a prime element in $R[x]$.

Proof:

R is an integral domain $\Rightarrow R[x]$ is an integral domain.

$R[x]/(x) \cong R$ as $\varphi: R[x] \rightarrow R$ defined by $\varphi(a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n) = a_0$ for any $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \in R[x]$ gives us that $\ker \varphi = (x)$.

Since R is an integral domain, then (x) is a prime ideal, hence x is a prime element. •

(d) Prove that (x) is maximal in $R[x]$ if and only if R is a field.

Proof:

Assume (x) is maximal in $R[x]$.

Then $R[x]/(x)$ is a field. As argued in part (c), $R[x]/(x) \cong R$. Thus R is a field.

Conversely, assume R is a field. Then since $R[x]/(x) \cong R$, $R[x]/(x)$ is a field.

$\therefore (x)$ is maximal. •

4. Let R be a commutative ring with unity and let I be a proper ideal in R . Recall that a ring is called local if it has a unique maximal ideal. (For this problem you may assume that a proper ideal is always contained in some maximal ideal.)

(a) Prove that if R is a local ring, then R/I is a local ring.

Proof:

Assume R is a local ring and I is a proper ideal in R .

Then $\exists m$, a unique maximal ideal in R such that $I \subseteq m$, otherwise $I = R$.

Then by the correspondence theorem $\exists M \subseteq R/I$ such that $M = m/I$.

Suppose $\exists M'$ an ideal in R/I such that M' is maximal but $M \neq M'$. Then $M' \not\subseteq M$, otherwise M' is not maximal.

And so by the correspondence theorem, $\exists m' \in R$ such that $M' = m'/I$ and $m \neq m'$ and $m' \not\subseteq m$. But since m is the unique maximal ideal in R and every proper ideal is always contained in some maximal ideal, then $m' \subseteq m$, a contradiction

$\therefore M$ is the unique maximal ideal of R/I .

$\therefore R/I$ is a local ring.

(b) Let $M = \{r \in R \mid r \notin U(R)\}$. Prove that if M is an ideal in R , then R is a local ring.

Proof:

Assume M is an ideal in R . Note that M is a proper ideal as R is a ring with unity.

So then $M \subseteq K$ where K is a maximal ideal of R as every proper ideal is contained in some maximal ideal.

Suppose K' is another maximal ideal of R such that $K' \neq K$.

Then $\exists b \in K'$ such that $b \notin K$, otherwise $K' \subseteq K$.

Thus $b \notin M$ (as $M \subseteq K$), hence b is a unit.

So then $K' = R$. And this gives us that K' is not maximal.

$\therefore K$ is the unique maximal ideal of R . $\therefore R$ is a local ring.

5. Let R be a unique factorization domain and $a, b, c \in R$. Prove that if a and b are relatively prime and $a|bc$, then $a|c$.

Proof:

Let $a, b, c \in R$ such that a and b are relatively prime and $a | bc$.

Then $bc = ar$ for some $r \in R$ and the gcd of a and b is a unit.

If $b \in U(R)$, then $bc = ar \Rightarrow c = b^{-1}ar$, hence $a | c$.

If $a \in U(R)$, then $c = aa^{-1}c$, hence $a | c$.

Assume $a, b \notin U(R)$.

Since R is a UFD, we can write

$$a = up_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_t^{e_t},$$

$$b = vp_1^{f_1} p_2^{f_2} \cdots p_t^{f_t}, \text{ and}$$

$$c = wp_1^{g_1} p_2^{g_2} \cdots p_t^{g_t} \text{ where } u, v, w \in U(R), p_1, p_2, \dots, p_t \text{ are distinct irreducibles, } e_i \geq 0, f_i \geq 0, \text{ and } g_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i.$$

Since the gcd of a and b is a unit, then $\min\{e_i, f_i\} = 0$ for all i .

And since $a | bc$, then $e_i \leq f_i + g_i$ for all i .

Let $M_i = \max\{e_i, f_i\}$. Then, by reindexing, we have

$$a = up_1^{M_1} p_2^{M_2} \cdots p_s^{M_s} p_{s+1}^0 p_{s+2}^0 \cdots p_t^0 \text{ and}$$

$$b = vp_1^0 p_2^0 \cdots p_s^0 p_{s+1}^{M_{s+1}} p_{s+2}^{M_{s+2}} \cdots p_t^{M_t} \text{ for some positive integer } s \leq t.$$

$$\text{So } bc = vp_{s+1}^{M_{s+1}} p_{s+2}^{M_{s+2}} \cdots p_t^{M_t} \cdot wp_1^{g_1} p_2^{g_2} \cdots p_t^{g_t} = up_1^{M_1} p_2^{M_2} \cdots p_s^{M_s} r = ar.$$

Since $e_i \leq f_i + g_i$, and for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s\} f_i = 0$, then $M_i \leq g_i$.

Thus we can write

$$c = wp_1^{M_1} p_1^{g_1 - M_1} p_2^{M_2} p_2^{g_2 - M_2} \cdots p_s^{M_s} p_s^{g_s - M_s} \cdots p_t^{g_t} = wp_1^{M_1} p_2^{M_2} \cdots p_s^{M_s} p_1^{g_1 - M_1} p_2^{g_2 - M_2} \cdots p_s^{g_s - M_s} p_{s+1}^{g_{s+1}} p_{s+2}^{g_{s+2}} \cdots p_t^{g_t}$$

$$\therefore a | c.$$

6. Let R be an integral domain, $Q = \text{Frac}(R)$ and $f(x) \in R[x]$ such that $\deg f(x) > 0$.

(a) Prove that if $f(x)$ is irreducible in $R[x]$, then $f(x)$ is primitive.

Proof:

Assume $f(x)$ is irreducible in $R[x]$. Then $f(x) \neq 0$ and $f(x)$ is not a unit.

Let $d = \text{gcd}$ of the coefficients of $f(x)$.

Then $f(x) = d \cdot g(x)$ for some $g(x)$ in $R[x]$.

Since $f(x)$ is irreducible, then d is a unit or $g(x)$ is a unit.

Since $R[x]$ is an integral domain, $\deg f(x) = \deg d + \deg g(x) = 0 + \deg g(x)$.

$\therefore g(x)$ is not a unit, otherwise $\deg g(x) = 0$.

$\therefore d$ is a unit.

$\therefore f(x)$ is primitive.

(b) Prove that the converse of the above statement is false.

Proof:

$x^2 + 2x + 1$ is primitive in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, but $x^2 + 2x + 1 = (x + 1)(x + 1)$.

(c) Prove that if $f(x)$ is primitive and irreducible in $Q[x]$, then $f(x)$ is irreducible over $R[x]$.

Proof:

Assume $f(x)$ is primitive and irreducible in $Q[x]$.

Let $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ be any factorization of $f(x)$ in $R[x]$.

Then $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ is also a factorization of $f(x)$ in $Q[x]$.

Since $f(x)$ is irreducible in $Q[x]$, then $g(x)$ is a unit or $h(x)$ is a unit in $Q[x]$.

Say it's $g(x)$. Then $\deg g(x) = 0$. So $\deg g(x) = 0$ in $R[x]$ also.

Thus $g(x)$ is a constant polynomial in $R[x]$, call it r .

Then r divides the coefficients of $f(x)$.

Since $f(x)$ is primitive, then the gcd of its coefficients is a unit, call it d .

So $r \mid d$. Thus $d = rs$ for some $s \in R$.

And since d is a unit, then $1 = d^{-1}rs$, hence r is a unit.

$\therefore g(x)$ is a unit in $R[x]$. $\therefore f(x)$ is irreducible in $R[x]$.