



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

proof that a Euclidean domain is a PID

Canonical name	ProofThatAEuclideanDomainIsAPID
Date of creation	2013-03-22 12:43:11
Last modified on	2013-03-22 12:43:11
Owner	rm50 (10146)
Last modified by	rm50 (10146)
Numerical id	7
Author	rm50 (10146)
Entry type	Result
Classification	msc 13F07
Related topic	PID
Related topic	UFD
Related topic	IntegralDomain
Related topic	EuclideanValuation

Let  $D$  be a Euclidean domain, and let  $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq D$  be a nonzero ideal. We show that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is principal. Let

$$A = \{\nu(x) : x \in \mathfrak{a}, x \neq 0\}$$

be the set of Euclidean valuations of the non-zero elements of  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Since  $A$  is a non-empty set of non-negative integers, it has a minimum  $m$ . Choose  $d \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $\nu(d) = m$ . Claim that  $\mathfrak{a} = (d)$ . Clearly  $(d) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$ . To see the reverse inclusion, choose  $x \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Since  $D$  is a Euclidean domain, there exist elements  $y, r \in D$  such that

$$x = yd + r$$

with  $\nu(r) < \nu(d)$  or  $r = 0$ . Since  $r \in \mathfrak{a}$  and  $\nu(d)$  is minimal in  $A$ , we must have  $r = 0$ . Thus  $d|x$  and  $x \in (d)$ .