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prime ideal

Canonical name PrimeIdeal

Date of creation 2013-03-22 11:50:54 Last modified on 2013-03-22 11:50:54

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Numerical id 15

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Entry type Definition
Classification msc 16D99
Classification msc 13C99
Related topic MaximalIdeal

Related topic Ideal

Related topic PrimeElement

Let R be a ring. A two-sided proper ideal \mathfrak{p} of a ring R is called a prime ideal if the following equivalent conditions are met:

- 1. If I and J are left ideals and the product of ideals IJ satisfies $IJ \subset \mathfrak{p}$, then $I \subset \mathfrak{p}$ or $J \subset \mathfrak{p}$.
- 2. If I and J are right ideals with $IJ \subset \mathfrak{p}$, then $I \subset \mathfrak{p}$ or $J \subset \mathfrak{p}$.
- 3. If I and J are two-sided ideals with $IJ \subset \mathfrak{p}$, then $I \subset \mathfrak{p}$ or $J \subset \mathfrak{p}$.
- 4. If x and y are elements of R with $xRy \subset \mathfrak{p}$, then $x \in \mathfrak{p}$ or $y \in \mathfrak{p}$.

 R/\mathfrak{p} is a prime ring if and only if \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal. When R is commutative with identity, a proper ideal \mathfrak{p} of R is prime if and only if for any $a,b\in R$, if $a\cdot b\in \mathfrak{p}$ then either $a\in \mathfrak{p}$ or $b\in \mathfrak{p}$. One also has in this case that $\mathfrak{p}\subset R$ is prime if and only if the quotient ring R/\mathfrak{p} is an integral domain.