

Math494: Honors Algebra II

Yanzhi Li

January 23, 2026

Abstract

This is the note containing my personal thoughts as well as lecture notes. My course instructor is Prof. **Mircea Immanuel Mustață**.

Contents

1	Ring Theory	2
1.1	Ring and Ring Homomorphism	2
1.2	Subrings and Ideals	5
1.3	Quotient Rings	7
1.4	Isomorphism Theorem	8
1.5	Polynomial Ring and Formal Power Series Ring	9
1.5.1	R-Algebra	12
1.6	Fields and Integral Domain	12
1.7	Ring Fraction	14
1.8	Prime Ideals and Maximal Ideals	18
1.8.1	Prime Ideals	18
1.8.2	Maximal Ideals	20

Chapter 1

Ring Theory

We've learnt about group theories which represents the symmetry for objects, which is kind of abstract. Rings are groups with extra structures, it is naturally more complicated, however it is closer to our intuition due to the same reason.

1.1 Ring and Ring Homomorphism

Definition 1.1.1 (Ring). A Ring is a tuple $(R, +, \cdot)$ being a set R endowed with 2 binary operations $(+)$ and (\cdot) , s.t.:

1. $(R, +)$ is an **abelian** group, with identity element 0_R or 0 .
2. (\cdot) is associative, and has an identity element 1_R or 1 (any element multiply with it will be itself).
3. It satisfy distributivity:
 - $a \cdot (b + c) = (a \cdot b) + (a \cdot c), \forall a, b, c \in R.$
 - $(b + c) \cdot a = (b \cdot a) + (c \cdot a), \forall a, b, c \in R.$

Notation.

1. Usually write ab for $a \cdot b$.
2. If we don't use parentheses, the order of operations is First (\cdot) then $(+)$.
3. If $(+), (\cdot)$ are understood, simply denote the ring by R .
4. Write na for $a \in R$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ for addition for multiple times.
5. Write a^n for $a \in R$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ for multiplication for multiple times.

Remark 1.1.1.

1. As always, with identity elements $0_R, 1_R$ are unique.
2. For every $a \in R$, we have a unique inverse w.r.t $(+)$, denoted by $-a$.
3. In general, don't require $xy = yx \forall x, y \in R$, if this is the case, then R is a commutative ring.
4. Sometimes the definition of a ring does not require existence of 1_R , then when there is an identity it is called as unitary ring.

Example 1.1.1.

1. $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{C}$ are rings w.r.t. $(+), (\cdot)$.
2. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then $\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$ carries two operations:

$$\begin{aligned}[a] + [b] &:= [a + b] \\ [a] \cdot [b] &:= [ab]\end{aligned}$$

where $[a] := a + n\mathbb{Z}$, this is well-defined since operations holds regardless of the choice of representatives This is a ring with $0_{\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}} = [0]$ and $1_{\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}} = [1]$.

3. Let R be any ring, then:

$$M_n(R) := \{A = (a_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \mid a_{ij} \in R \forall i, j\}$$

with “usual” addition and mult. for matrices:

$$\begin{aligned}(a_{ij}) + (b_{ij}) &:= (a_{ij} + b_{ij}) \\ (a_{ij}) \cdot (b_{ij}) &:= (c_{ij}) \rightsquigarrow c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj}\end{aligned}$$

then $(M_n(R), +, \cdot)$ is a ring with w.r.t. $1_{M_n(R)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1_R & & 0_R \\ & \ddots & \\ 0_R & & 1_R \end{pmatrix}$.

Note. If $n \geq 2$, even if R is commutative, $M_n(R)$ is not commutative in general.

4. Given a family $(R_i)_{i \in I}$ of rings, where I may not be finite, define the following by **Cartesian Prod.:**

$$\prod_{i \in I} R_i := \{(a_i)_{i \in I} \mid a_i \in R_i \forall i\}$$

define the operations **componentwise:**

$$\begin{aligned}(a_i)_{i \in I} + (b_i)_{i \in I} &:= (a_i + b_i)_{i \in I} \\ (a_i)_{i \in I} \cdot (b_i)_{i \in I} &:= (a_i \cdot b_i)_{i \in I}\end{aligned}$$

with $0 = (0_{R_i})_{i \in I}$ and $1 = (1_{R_i})_{i \in I}$. If $I = [n]$, simply write: $R_1 \times \cdots \times R_n$.

Proposition 1.1.1. If R is a ring and $a, b \in R$, then:

1. $a \cdot 0_R = 0_R = 0_R \cdot a$.
2. $-(ab) = (-a) \cdot b = a \cdot (-b)$.

The proof follows quickly from distributivity and the fact that $(R, +)$ is an abelian group.

Note. If R is a set with 1 element \star , then we can make it into a ring in a unique way, namely:

$$0_R = 1_R = \star$$

If R is a ring, then the following are equiv.:

1. $\#R = 1$.
2. $R = \{0_R\}$.
3. $1_R = 0_R$.

proof is also trivial.

Definition 1.1.2 (Ring Homomorphism). Let R, S be two rings, the ring homomorphism is a map $f : R \rightarrow S$, such that:

1. $f(a + b) = f(a) + f(b) \forall a, b \in R$.
2. $f(a \cdot b) = f(a) \cdot f(b) \forall a, b \in R$.
3. $f(1_R) = 1_S$.

Remark 1.1.2.

1. If $f : R \rightarrow S$ is a ring homo., then $f : (R, +) \rightarrow (S, +)$ is a group homomorphism, with $f(0_R) = 0_S$, $f(a - b) = f(a) - f(b) \forall a, b \in R$.
2. However, in def of ring hom. condition 3 **does not** implied by 1 and 2.

Example 1.1.2. If $R = \{0_R\}$, then the only map $f : R \rightarrow S$ that satisfies 1 and 2 in definition of ring homo. will satisfy:

$$f(0_R) = 0_S$$

however, this does not satisfy condition 3 if $S \neq \{0_S\}$.

Remark 1.1.3. In homework, we shall see if $f : R \rightarrow S$, $g : S \rightarrow T$ are ring homomorphisms, then $g \circ f : R \rightarrow T$ is again a ring homomorphisms. In particular we have a **category** Rings:

- Objects: rings.
- Morphisms: ring homomorphisms.
- composition: usual function composition.

Definition 1.1.3 (Ring Isomorphism). If R, S are rings, a ring isomorphism $R \rightarrow S$ is a ring homomorphism $f : R \rightarrow S$, s.t. $\exists g : S \rightarrow R$ to be ring homomorphism, s.t. $g \circ f = \text{Id}_R$, $f \circ g = \text{Id}_S$.

Such is equivalent that $f : R \rightarrow S$ is an isomorphism in the category of Rings.

We say R and S are isomorphic, write $R \cong S$ if \exists ring isomorphism $R \rightarrow S$.

Proposition 1.1.2. A ring isomorphism $f : R \rightarrow S$ is an isomorphism if and only if f is bijective.

Proof. The only if part is trivial, consider the if part. We know f is homomorphism and bijection, we need to see f^{-1} is still a ring homomorphism. We already have corresponding results for group isomorphism for $(R, +)$:

$$f^{-1}(a + b) = f^{-1}(a) + f^{-1}(b)$$

Since $f(1_R) = 1_S \Rightarrow f^{-1}(1_S) = 1_R$. Remains to show: $f^{-1}(ab) = f^{-1}(a)f^{-1}(b) \forall a, b \in S$. Since f is injective, it is enough to show:

$$\underbrace{f(f^{-1}(ab))}_{=ab} = \underbrace{f(f^{-1}(a) \cdot f^{-1}(b))}_{=f(f^{-1}(a)) \cdot f(f^{-1}(b))=ab}$$

■

Example 1.1.3 (Chinese Remainder Theorem). Suppose $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ be relative primes:

$$f : \mathbb{Z} / mn\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} / m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$$

$$[a]_{mn} \rightarrow ([a]_m, [a]_n)$$

easily seen before that such is well-defined and being a ring homomorphism in homework. In particular, $\gcd(m, n) = 1 \Rightarrow \ker(f) = \{0\} \Rightarrow f$ is injective, thus $\#LHS = mn = \#RHS$ thus it is surjective. We thus obtain a ring **isomorphism**.

1.2 Subrings and Ideals

We consider the subobjects of ring in this section. In particular, note that sometimes people define rings by unitary ring, in such case Ideals are **unitary ring**.

Definition 1.2.1 (Subring). Let R be a ring. A Subring of R is a subset S , s.t. $(+), (\cdot)$ in R induce operations on S that make S a ring with unit 1_R .

Remark 1.2.1. Definition of subrings implies:

1. $\forall a, b \in S$, we have $a + b \in S$.
2. $\forall a, b \in S$, we have $a \cdot b \in S$.
3. With respect to these operations, S is a ring with unit 1_R .

Proposition 1.2.1. If R is a ring, a subset $S \subseteq R$ is a subring if and only if:

1. $a - b \in S, \forall a, b \in S$.
2. $ab \in S, \forall a, b \in S$.
3. $1_R \in S$.

Proof. Only left to proof if 1,2,3 holds, then S is a ring with unit 1_R w.r.t. the induced operations.

- S is a subgroup w.r.t. $(+)$: By 3, $S \neq \emptyset$, hence by 1, S is a subgroup. R is abelian thus S is also abelian.
- $1_R \in S$, this is the identity w.r.t. also in S .
- Associativity of (\cdot) and distributivity also holds in S because they hold in R .

■

Example 1.2.1.

1. $\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ are all subrings.

2. $\{\text{even numbers}\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ is not a subring since it doesn't contain 1.

Proposition 1.2.2. If $f : R \rightarrow S$ is ring homomorphism, then $\text{Im}(f) \subseteq S$ is a subring.

The proof is straightforward. With side note that $f(1_R) = 1_S \in \text{Im}(f)$.

Definition 1.2.2 (Ideal). Suppose R be a ring and $I \subseteq R$ and $I \neq \emptyset$. Then

1. I is a left ideal (preserve multiplication on the **left**) if:

- $a + b \in I \forall a, b \in I$.
- $\forall a \in R, b \in I \Rightarrow ab \in I$.

2. I is a right ideal (preserve multiplication on the **right**) if:

- $a + b \in I \forall a, b \in I$.
- $\forall a \in I, b \in R \Rightarrow ab \in I$.

3. I is a two-sided ideal if it is both left and right ideal.

If R is **commutative**, then all the above definition coincide, so we simply say ideal in this case.

Remark 1.2.2.

1. Every (left/right) ideal is a subgroup.

- $I \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \exists a \in I \Rightarrow 0a = 0 \in I$.
- $\forall a \in I \Rightarrow -a \in I, -a = (-1)a = a \cdot (-1)$.

2. If I is a left (or right) ideal and $1 \in I$, then $I = R$, since $\forall a \in R, a = a \cdot 1 \in I$.

Hence the only subring that is a left or right ideal is R .

Example 1.2.2.

1. R and $\{0\}$ are always two-sided ideals in R .

2. Say R is **commutative** and $a \in R$, let (a) to be the subset of R which contain all multiples of a :

$$(a) := \{ab \mid b \in R\}$$

is an ideal in R , such ideal are called **Principal Ideals**.

- $(a) \neq \emptyset$ since $a = a \cdot 1 \in (a)$.
- $ab_1 + ab_2 = a(b_1 + b_2) \in (a)$.
- $c \in R, (ab)c = a(bc) \in (a)$

Proposition 1.2.3. If $f : R \rightarrow S$ is a ring homomorphism, then $\ker(f) := \{a \in R \mid f(a) = 0\}$ is a two-sided ideal of R .

Proof. We know it is a subgroup of $(R, +)$, see that:

$$a \in \ker(f) \Rightarrow f(ba) = f(b) \cdot f(a) = f(b) \cdot 0 = 0 \Rightarrow ba \in \ker(f)$$

similarly, $ab \in \ker(f) \forall b \in R$. ■

Also note, $f : R \rightarrow S$ be ring homomorphism, it is injective iff $\ker(f) = \{0\}$.

1.3 Quotient Rings

In this section we construct quotient rings. Main heuristic is to follow the construction of quotient groups while maintaining the compatibility with multiplication, in particular, with **ring homomorphism**.

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ be a ring, if $I \subseteq R$ be subgroup, then I is automatically normal since $(R, +)$ is abelian. Thus we can construct R/I as a group:

$$R/I := R/\equiv \text{mod } I \quad a \equiv b \text{ mod } I \text{ if } a - b \in I$$

Write $a + I$ or simply \bar{a} or $[a]$ for the image of $a \in R$ in R/I . The group structure is **defined** s.t.:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : R &\rightarrow R/I \\ a &\mapsto a + I \end{aligned}$$

is **group homomorphism**. which is:

$$\bar{a} + \bar{b} = \overline{a + b}$$

We then want to see that R/I to be not just a group, but make it a **ring**, which is: π to be a **ring homomorphism**.

Since $\ker(\pi) = I$, for the above to work, we need $I \subseteq R$ is a **2-sided ideal**. So let's just assume I is a 2-sided ideal.

Since we want π to be a ring homomorphism, we have to define multiplication on R/I , which is by the most obvious way:

$$\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b} = \overline{a \cdot b}$$

The **key point** here is then to show that it is **well-defined**. And we need: if $\bar{a} = \bar{a'}, \bar{b} = \bar{b'} \Rightarrow \bar{a \cdot b} = \overline{a' \cdot b'}$. We know that $a - a' \in I, b - b' \in I$ and we want $ab - a'b' \in I$, which is:

$$\begin{aligned} ab - a'b' &= (ab - ab') + (ab' - a'b';) \\ &= \underbrace{a(b - b')}_{\substack{\in I \\ \in I \text{ since left ideal}}} + \underbrace{(a - a')b'}_{\substack{\in I \\ \in I \text{ since right ideal}}} \in I \end{aligned}$$

Once we know that multiplication is well-defined, need the following:

- multiplication is associative.

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{(\bar{a}\bar{b})\bar{c}}_{=\overline{ab\bar{c}}=\overline{(ab)c}} &= \underbrace{\bar{a}(\bar{b}\bar{c})}_{=\overline{a\bar{b}c}=\overline{a(bc)}} \quad \forall \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in R/I \\ &\quad \text{by associativity in } R \end{aligned}$$

- distributivity holds by similar argument as above.
- identity element for multiplication.

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{1}\bar{a} &= \overline{1a} = \bar{a} \\ \bar{a}\bar{1} &= \overline{a1} = \bar{a} \end{aligned}$$

- if R is commutative, then **so is** R/I .

The **upshot** is: R/I is a ring and $\pi : R \rightarrow R/I$ is a ring homomorphism, note that $\pi(1_R) = 1_{R/I}$.

Proposition 1.3.1 (Universal Property of Quotient Rings). Suppose R, I are as before, let $f : R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism, s.t. $I \subseteq \ker(f)$. There is a **unique** ring homomorphism $\bar{f} : R/I \rightarrow S$, s.t. the following diagram is **commutative**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\pi} & R/I \\ f \downarrow & \swarrow \bar{f} & \\ S & & \end{array}$$

which is $f = \bar{f} \circ \pi$.

The main idea of the proof is to inherit from our idea for universal property of quotient groups and see that is compatible with ring multiplication.

Proof. The condition $f = \bar{f} \circ \pi \Leftrightarrow \bar{f}(\bar{a}) = f(a) \forall a \in R$, this implies uniqueness, since π is surjective, as it is explicitly defined for the whole domain R/I .

By the corresponding results for groups, there exists $\bar{f} : R/I \rightarrow S$ to be group homomorphism, s.t. $f = \bar{f} \circ \pi$. Hence, it is enough to show:

- $\bar{f}(u \cdot v) = \bar{f}(u)\bar{f}(v) \forall u, v \in R/I$.
- $\bar{f}(1_{R/I}) = 1_S$.

the second assertion follows directly:

$$\bar{f}(1_{R/I}) = \bar{f}(\pi(1_R)) = f(1_R) = 1_S$$

for the first assertion, write $u = \bar{a}, v = \bar{b}$ for some $a, b \in R$, then:

$$\bar{f}(uv) = \bar{f}(\overline{ab}) = f(ab) = f(a) \cdot f(b) = \bar{f}(\bar{a})\bar{f}(\bar{b}) = \bar{f}(u)\bar{f}(v)$$

■

1.4 Isomorphism Theorem

Follow similarly with group, there is also corresponding isomorphism for rings. One should notice that the quotient ring is quite restricted since it requires I to be a **two-sided ideals**, not either left or right ideal.

Theorem 1.4.1 (Fundamental Isomorphism Theorem). If $f : R \rightarrow S$ is a **surjective** ring homomorphism, and $I = \ker(f) \Rightarrow S \cong R/I$.

Note. Note that the theorem implies that $\text{Im}(f) \cong R/I$.

Remark 1.4.1. If f be arbitrary ring homomorphism, then $\text{Im}(f) \subseteq S$ is a subring.

Proof. Since $I = \ker(f) \Rightarrow I$ is a two-sided ideal. Apply the universal property of R/I , the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\pi} & R/I \\ f \downarrow & \swarrow \bar{f} & \\ S & & \end{array}$$

there exists a unique ring homomorphism $\bar{f} : R/I \rightarrow S$, s.t. $\bar{f} \circ \pi = f$. In the context of group, we've shown that \bar{f} is a group isomorphism, so \bar{f} is bijective, thus it is a ring isomorphism. ■

We then consider the analog of the third isomorphism for groups. We want to describe the left/right/two-sided ideals of R/I in terms of the ones for R , and in fact we have the following proposition.

Proposition 1.4.1. We have an order preserving bijection:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{left/right/2-sided} \\ \text{ideals in } R/I \end{array} \right\} \xrightleftharpoons[\pi(I') \leftarrow I' \supseteq I]{J \mapsto \pi^{-1}(J)} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{left/right/2-sided} \\ \text{ideals of } R \text{ containing } I \end{array} \right\}$$

where

$$\pi : R \rightarrow R/I$$

Proof. We have already seen these two maps given **mutual inverses** for corresponding in groups, to conclude, we only need to show:

- $J \subseteq R/I$ is a left/right/two-sided ideal, then so is $\pi^{-1}(J) \subseteq R$.
- $I' \subseteq R$ is a left/right/two-sided ideal, then so is $\pi(I')$.

It will be proved in homework. ■

Notation. if $I' \subseteq I$ be ideal, we denote $\pi(I')$ by I'/I .

Theorem 1.4.2 (Third Isomorphism Theorem). If R is a ring and $I \subseteq I'$ are two-sided ideals, then:

$$R/I/I' \cong R/I'$$

Note that quotient rings doesn't make sense when I is left ideal or right ideal.

Proof. By the universal property of R/I for $R \xrightarrow{p} R/I'$, there exists a unique $\bar{p} : R/I \rightarrow R/I'$, s.t. $\bar{p}(a+I) = a+I' \forall a \in R$.

Easy to see that \bar{p} is surjective and $\ker(\bar{p}) = I'/I$ as we've concluded in context of groups, then by the fundamental isomorphism theorem, yields the result. ■

Example 1.4.1. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, in \mathbb{Z} , we have ideal:

$$(n) := \{nk \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

then $\mathbb{Z}/(n)$ is exactly $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, $(d) \supseteq (n) \Leftrightarrow d|n$. We have an ideal:

$$(\bar{d}) := \{\bar{d}a \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}\} = (d)/(n)$$

and the theorem implies:

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}/(\bar{d}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z}$$

1.5 Polynomial Ring and Formal Power Series Ring

In this section we define two important examples of commutative ring derived from a given commutative ring, namely the polynomial rings and formal power series ring. They are recursively define so one shall first define them for one variable.

Definition 1.5.1. Fix R to be a **commutative ring**, define:

$$R[X] := \{a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, a_0, \dots, a_n \in R\}$$

note that x which is the variable here is to help track how ring multiplication is defined.

Define the operations as:

1. $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i + \sum_{i=0}^m b_i x^i := \sum_{i=0}^{\max(n,m)} (a_i + b_i) x^i$.
2. $(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i) \cdot (\sum_{j=0}^m b_j x^j) := \sum_{k=0}^{n+m} (\sum_{i+j=k} a_i b_j) x^k$.

See that $(R[X], +, \cdot)$ is a **commutative ring**, with

- zero element: 0, all coefficients being 0.

- unit element: 1, all coefficients of x^i , $i \geq 1$ are 0.

One shall see that we have a **injective** ring homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} R &\xrightarrow{i} R[X] \\ a &\mapsto a \end{aligned}$$

which yields the universal property of $R[X]$.

Theorem 1.5.1 (Universal Property of $R[X]$). For every ring homomorphism $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ with R, S commutative and for every $a \in S$, there is a **unique** ring homomorphism $\psi : R[X] \rightarrow S$, s.t.

1. The following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S \\ \downarrow i & \nearrow \psi & \\ R[X] & & \end{array}$$

i.e. $\psi(b) = \varphi(b) \forall b \in R$.

2. $\psi(x) = a$.

Proof. Suppose we have such $\psi : \psi(x^i) = a^i \forall i > 0$, then $\psi \circ i = \varphi \Rightarrow$ if $P = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \dots + \alpha_n x^n \Rightarrow$

$$\psi(P) = \underbrace{\varphi(\alpha_0) + \varphi(\alpha_1)a + \dots + \varphi(\alpha_n)a^n}_{\text{denoted by } P(a)}$$

this is explicitly defined, yields uniqueness.

For existence, we use this formula to define $\psi : R[X] \rightarrow S$ explicitly, thus property 1 and 2 is clear, only left to check that ψ is actually a ring homomorphism:

- $\psi(P + Q) = \psi(P) + \psi(Q)$ is straightforward.
- $\psi(1) = 1$ is also straightforward.
- $\psi(PQ) = \psi(P)\psi(Q) \forall P, Q$. Suppose that $P = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i x^i$, $Q = \sum_{j=0}^m \beta_j x^j$, then:

$$\begin{aligned} PQ &= \sum_{k=0}^{m+n} \left(\sum_{i+j=k} \alpha_i \beta_j \right) x^k \\ \Rightarrow \psi(PQ) &= \sum_{k=0}^{m+n} \varphi \left(\sum_{i+j=k} \alpha_i \beta_j \right) a^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{m+n} \left(\sum_{i+j=k} \varphi(\alpha_i) \cdot \varphi(\beta_j) \right) a^k \quad (\varphi \text{ is a ring homomorphism}) \\ \text{And } \psi(P)\psi(Q) &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \varphi(\alpha_i) a^i \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{j=0}^m \varphi(\beta_j) a^j \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m \varphi(\alpha_i) \varphi(\beta_j) a^i a^j \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \left(\sum_{i+j=k} \varphi(\alpha_i) \varphi(\beta_j) \right) a^{i+j=k} \quad (R \text{ is commutative}) \\ &= \psi(PQ) \end{aligned}$$

One can iterate this since $R[X]$ is still a commutative ring, and thus get multi-variable polynomial ring over R , which is defined recursively by:

$$R[X_1, \dots, X_n] := (R[X_1, \dots, X_{n-1}])[X_n]$$

This is again a commutative ring.

Theorem 1.5.2 (Universal Property of $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$). \forall ring homomorphism $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$, R, S commutative, and $\forall a_1, \dots, a_n \in S$, there exists a **unique** ring homomorphism $\psi : R[X_1, \dots, X_n] \rightarrow S$, s.t.

1. the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} R & \longrightarrow & R[X_1] & \longrightarrow & R[X_1, X_2] & \longrightarrow & \dots \longrightarrow R[X_1, \dots, X_n] \\ & \searrow \varphi & & & & & \nearrow \psi \\ & & S & & & & \end{array}$$

2. $\psi(x_i) = a_i \forall i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$.

Example 1.5.1. $X_1^2 + X_1X_3 + X_2^4 \in R[X_1, X_2, X_3]$

The proof is straightforward by using induction on n with the previous universal property of $R[X]$.

Example 1.5.2. If $\sigma \in S_n \Rightarrow \exists!$ ring homomorphism, s.t. the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R[X_1, \dots, X_n] \\ \downarrow & \nearrow f_\sigma & \\ R[X_1, \dots, X_n] & & \end{array}$$

and $f_\sigma(x_i) = X_{\sigma(i)} \forall i$. In fact this is a ring isomorphism, thus be a automorphism, with inverse being $f_{\sigma^{-1}}$. In particular it shows that the process of constructing $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ is just labelling and **doesn't matter with order** of X_1, \dots, X_n .

Notation. Every element of $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ can be written as

$$f = \sum_{u=(u_1, \dots, u_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n} a_u X^u$$

where $X^u = X_1^{u_1} \dots X_n^{u_n}$ with $a_u \in R$ which is a monomial.

Example 1.5.3.

$$f(x, y) = 3x^2y + 5xy^2 + 7$$

We then define the ring for formal power series, basically it allows infinite sum in this case.

Definition 1.5.2 (Ring of Formal Power Series). Suppose R a commutative ring, define the ring of formal power series as:

$$R[[X]] := \left\{ \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i \mid a_i \in R, \forall i \geq 0 \right\}$$

with the operations defined:

- addition: $\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i + \sum_{i \geq 0} b_i x^i := \sum_{i \geq 0} (a_i + b_i) x^i$.
- multiplication:

$$\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{j \geq 0} b_j x^j \right) := \sum_{k \geq 0} c_k x^k$$

where $c_k = \sum_{i+j=k} a_i b_j \in R$

See that $(R[[X]], +, \cdot)$ is again a **commutative ring**, s.t. we have $R[X] \subseteq R[[X]]$ being a subring.

1.5.1 R-Algebra

Definition 1.5.3 (R-Algebra). Suppose that R is a commutative ring, an R-Algebra is a ring S together with a ring homomorphism $R \xrightarrow{\varphi} S$, s.t. $\varphi(a)b = b\varphi(a) \ \forall a \in R, b \in S$.

Example 1.5.4.

1. $R[X], R[[X]]$ have natural structures of R -Algebras $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$.
2. here is a non-commutative ring example: $M_n(R)$ with the ring homomorphism defined as:

$$R \rightarrow M_n(R)$$

$$a \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & a \end{pmatrix}$$

See that we can derive a category of R -Algebras, with objects being the R -algebras and the morphisms are given by the ring homomorphism that makes the following diagram commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \longrightarrow & S_1 \\ & \searrow & \downarrow u_1 \\ & & S_2 \end{array}$$

such category is w.r.t. the usual function composition.

1.6 Fields and Integral Domain

It will be better to think fields and integral domain as very special ring, as they are already endowed with relatively complex structure, thus they are more closer to our intuition sometimes, and easier to construct examples from $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 1.6.1 (Invertible). Fix a ring R , $a \in R$ is invertible if there exists $b \in R$, s.t. $ab = 1_R = ba$. b is the inverse of a and denoted as a^{-1} .

Definition 1.6.2 (Field). A ring R is a field if;

1. R is commutative.
2. $1_R \neq 0_R$, namely it is not a 0 ring.
3. Every $a \in R \setminus \{0\}$ is invertible.

Example 1.6.1. $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ are fields, \mathbb{Z} is not a field.

Definition 1.6.3 (Zero-Divisor). If R is a commutative ring, $a \in R$ is a zero-divisor if $\exists b \neq 0$ in R , s.t. $ab = 0$. Otherwise, we say a is a non-zero-divisor.

Definition 1.6.4 (Integral Domain). A ring R is an integral domain or simply a domain if:

1. R is commutative.
2. $1_R \neq 0_R$.
3. Every $a \neq 0$ is a non-zero-divisor. Or it is equivalent to say:

$$\forall a, b \in R, ab = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0 \text{ or } b = 0$$

Remark 1.6.1. If R is a domain, then we have **cancellation rule w.r.t. multiplication**. Namely if $ab = bc$, $a, b, c \in R$, $a \neq 0 \Rightarrow b = c$.

Proof. $a(b - c) = 0 \Rightarrow b - c = 0$. ■

Example 1.6.2. If $n > 0$, then $\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$ is a domain if and only if n is **prime number**.

Proof. Suppose $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in \mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$, with $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow a \nmid a, n \nmid b$, and $\bar{a}\bar{b} = 0 \Leftrightarrow n \mid ab$. Now if n is prime number, then $n \nmid a, n \nmid b \Rightarrow n \nmid ab$, hence $\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$ is a domain.

Now if n is not a prime, then $n = n_1 \cdot n_2$ for some $n_1, n_2 > 1$, which means $\bar{n}_1, \bar{n}_2 \neq 0$, but $\bar{n}_1 \cdot \bar{n}_2 = 0$ in $\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$. ■

Proposition 1.6.1. If \mathbb{K} is a field, then \mathbb{K} is an integral domain.

Proof. \mathbb{K} is commutative with $1_{\mathbb{K}} \neq 0_{\mathbb{K}}$. Suppose that $a, b \in \mathbb{K}$, $ab = 0$, $a \neq 0$ means that it will attain an inverse by field property, denote it as a^{-1} . Thus we have:

$$\begin{aligned} b &= (a^{-1}a)b = a^{-1}(ab) = a^{-1}0 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow b &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

■

Proposition 1.6.2. If R is a finite domain, then R is a field.

Proof. R being a domain means that R is commutative and $1_R \neq 0_R$.

Now fix $a \in R$, $a \neq 0$, and consider the function given by:

$$\begin{aligned} f : R &\rightarrow R \\ f(b) &= ab \end{aligned}$$

By cancellation w.r.t. multiplication, since $a \neq 0$, this function is thus injective. But R is finite, meaning f is also surjective, and thus bijective. So there exists $b \in R$, s.t. $ab = 1 \Rightarrow a$ is invertible, thus being a field. ■

Example 1.6.3. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then $\mathbb{Z} / n\mathbb{Z}$ is field if and only if n is prime.

Remark 1.6.2. If R is a domain, then every subring of R is a domain. In particular, every subring of a field is a domain.

Our goal then now switch to focus on R being a domain implies that $R[X]$ is also a domain, for formal power series, the proof is almost the same.

Definition 1.6.5 (Degree of $R[X]$). Fix R to be a commutative ring. If $f \in R[X]$, $f \neq 0$, write:

$$f = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$$

s.t. $a_n \neq 0$, then the degree of f is $\deg(f) = n$. And we follow the convention that $\deg(0) = -\infty$.

Remark 1.6.3. $\deg(f + g) \leq \max\{\deg(f), \deg(g)\}$

Proposition 1.6.3. If R is a domain, and $f, g \in R[X]$ are non-zero, we have:

$$\deg(f \cdot g) = \deg(f) + \deg(g)$$

In particular, $f \cdot g \neq 0$ thus being a domain by contraposition. Note that if it is not a domain, it is not generally true as one can cancel out the highest degree coefficient by product.

Proof. Suppose that:

$$\begin{aligned} f &= a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m & a_m \neq 0 & \deg(f) = m \\ g &= b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx^n & b_n \neq 0 & \deg(g) = n \end{aligned}$$

then:

$$\begin{aligned} fg &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \left(\sum_{i+j=k} a_ib_j \right) x^k \\ &= \underbrace{a_mb_n}_{\neq 0} x^{m+n} + \text{lower degree monomials} \end{aligned}$$

Since R is a domain, then $a_mb_n \neq 0 \Rightarrow \deg(f \cdot g) = m + n$. ■

Corollary 1.6.1. If $n \geq 1$, then R is a domain if and only if $R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ is a domain.

Proof. Arguing by induction on n , and it is enough to treat $n = 1$. R being a domain implies that $R[X]$ also be a domain. And if $R[X]$ being a domain, we have a injective ring homomorphism $R \hookrightarrow R[X]$, thus it is a subring of a domain, thus be a domain. ■

1.7 Ring Fraction

In this section, we want to construt the ring fraction. Our goal is to show that starting with a domain, we want to have fraction field. More generally, we don't require R to be a domain, and start with arbitrary "set of denominators", just like from \mathbb{Z} to get \mathbb{Q} .

Definition 1.7.1 (Multiplication System). Fix R be commutative ring, $S \subseteq R$ be a multiplication system if:

1. $1 \in S$.
2. If $s_1, s_2 \in S \Rightarrow s_1 \cdot s_2 \in S$.

We can make an attempt to construct ring fraction:

Consider pairs (a, s) where $a \in R, s \in S$, up to equivalence relation, we want to see:

$$\begin{aligned} (a_1, s_1) \sim (a_2, s_2) &\Leftrightarrow s_2a_1 = s_1a_2 \\ \text{denoted as} \quad \frac{a_1}{s_1} &= \frac{a_2}{s_2} \end{aligned}$$

The issue is that in general this is not an equivalence relation, as it will fail **transitivity**: Let

$$(a, s) \sim (a', s') \quad (a', s') \sim (a'', s'') \\ \Leftrightarrow s'a = sa' \quad s''a' = s'a''$$

We want to see that $(a, s) \sim (a'', s'') \Leftrightarrow s''a = sa''$. And see that:

$$\textcolor{blue}{s'}s''a = s''sa' = ss'a'' = \textcolor{red}{s'}sa''$$

And it is not clear that the **blue** one is equal to the **red** one by definition. Thus we make some modification to the definition.

Definition 1.7.2. Let R be a commutative ring and $S \subseteq R$ be a multiplication system. Consider pairs a, s where $a \in R, s \in S$, write $(a, s) \sim (a', s')$ if there exists $t \in S$, s.t. $t(s'a - sa') = 0$.
Note that 0 is not necessarily in S .

Claim. Above definition is a **equivalence relation**.

Notation. Write $\frac{a}{s}$ denote the equivalence class of (a, s) .

Proof of Claim.

- Reflexive and symmetric is straightforward.
- Consider Transitivity:

$$(a, s) \sim (a', s') \quad (a', s') \sim (a'', s'') \\ \Rightarrow t_1(s'a - sa') = 0 \quad t_2(s''a' - s'a'') = 0 \quad \text{for some } t_1, t_2 \in S$$

We now interest in:

$$\begin{aligned} \textcolor{red}{t}_1\textcolor{red}{t}_2s'(s''a - sa'') &= t_2s'' \underbrace{t_1(s'a - sa')}_{=0} + \underbrace{t_2t_1s''sa' - t_1t_2s'sa''}_{=t_1s \underbrace{t_2(s''a' - s'a'')}_{=0}} \\ &= 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (a, s) \sim (a'', s'') \end{aligned}$$

note that $\textcolor{red}{t}_1\textcolor{red}{t}_2s' \in S$ since $s', t_1, t_2 \in S$ and S being a multiplication system. ■

And thus we denote:

$$S^{-1}R := \{(a, s) \mid a \in R, s \in S\}$$

We want to then define the $(+)$ and (\cdot) operations on it to make it a ring.

Define:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a_1}{s_1} + \frac{a_2}{s_2} &:= \frac{s_2a_1 + s_1a_2}{s_1s_2} \\ \frac{a_1}{s_1} \cdot \frac{a_2}{s_2} &:= \frac{a_1a_2}{s_1s_2} \end{aligned}$$

See that it is well-defined: suppose $\frac{a_1}{s_1} = \frac{b_1}{t_1}$ and $\frac{a_2}{s_2} = \frac{b_2}{t_2}$, we want:

$$\frac{s_2a_1 + s_1a_2}{s_1s_2} = \frac{t_2b_1 + t_1b_2}{t_1t_2} \tag{1.1}$$

$$\frac{a_1a_2}{s_1s_2} = \frac{b_1b_2}{t_1t_2} \tag{1.2}$$

Proof of Equation 1.1. By our hypothesis, there exists $u, v \in S$, s.t.:

$$\begin{aligned} u(t_1 a_1 - s_1 b_1) &= 0 \\ v(t_2 a_2 - s_2 b_2) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Consider:

$$t_1 t_2 (s_2 a_1 + s_1 a_2) - s_1 s_2 (t_2 b_1 + t_1 b_2) = t_2 s_2 (t_1 a_1 - s_1 b_1) + t_1 s_1 (t_2 a_2 - s_2 b_2)$$

If we multiply with $uv \in S$, we get 0, which shows that they are in the same equivalence class thus equal. ■

Proof of Equation 1.2. Similarly:

$$t_1 t_2 a_1 a_2 - s_1 s_2 b_1 b_2 = t_2 a_2 (t_1 a_1 - s_1 b_1) + s_1 b_1 (t_2 a_2 - s_2 b_2)$$

Multiply $uv \in S$, we get 0. ■

Proposition 1.7.1. With $(+)$ and (\cdot) , $S^{-1}R$ is a **commutative ring**. This is the ring of fraction of “ R with denominator in S ” or the “localization of R w.r.t. S ”.

Sketch of Proof. It's easy to see that both $(+)$ and (\cdot) are commutative.

The 0 element is given by $\frac{0}{1}$, see that:

$$\frac{0}{1} + \frac{a}{s} = \frac{0 \cdot s + 1 \cdot a}{1 \cdot s} = \frac{a}{s}$$

and the inverse of $\frac{a}{s}$ is $-\frac{a}{s}$.

The 1 element is given by $\frac{1}{1}$.

Associativity of $(+)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{a_1}{s_1} + \frac{a_2}{s_2} \right) + \frac{a_3}{s_3} &= \frac{s_2 a_1 + a_2 s_1}{s_1 s_2} + \frac{a_3}{s_3} \\ &= \frac{s_3 s_2 a_1 + s_3 a_2 s_1 + a_3 s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 s_3} \\ &= \frac{a_1}{s_1} + \left(\frac{a_2}{s_2} + \frac{a_3}{s_3} \right) \quad \text{by symmetry} \end{aligned}$$

Associativity of (\cdot) is clear, and distributivity is similar manner. ■

Remark 1.7.1. $S^{-1}R$ has a canonical structure of R -Algebra with the following canonical ring homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : R &\rightarrow S^{-1}R \\ \varphi(r) &= \frac{r}{1} \end{aligned}$$

Note that it is not injective in general, we care whether it is injective because we want not to lose information.

Remark 1.7.2. $a \in \ker(\varphi) \Leftrightarrow \frac{a}{1} = \frac{0}{1} \Leftrightarrow \exists s \in S$, s.t. $sa = 0$.

Hence: φ is not injective if and only if $\exists s \in S$, which is a **zero divisor**.

Remark 1.7.3. $S^{-1}R = \{0\}$ iff $0 \in S$, it tells us in general we don't care about the case where $0 \in S$.

Example 1.7.1. Let R be a integral domain, and $S = R \setminus \{0\}$, then $\varphi : R \rightarrow S^{-1}R$ is injective, see

that $S^{-1}R$ in this case is a field: it is not 0, it is commutative, and if $\frac{a}{s} \neq 0 (\Leftrightarrow a \neq 0) \Rightarrow$ this has the multiplicative inverse $\frac{s}{a}$ since:

$$\frac{a}{s} \cdot \frac{s}{a} = \frac{as}{as} = \frac{1}{1}$$

We then give some example on how things are constructed:

1. If $R = \mathbb{Z} \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{Q}$.
2. If F be a field, and $R = F[X_1, \dots, X_n] \rightsquigarrow$ field of rational function $F(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ which is quotients of polynomials.

Note. In this case, by property of integral domain and property of S that $0 \notin S$, $\frac{a_1}{s_1} = \frac{a_2}{s_2}$ if and only if $s_2 a_1 - s_1 a_2 = 0$.

Example 1.7.2. Let $f \in R$ and $S = \{1, f, f^2, \dots\} = \{f^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}\}$ be a multiplicative system, then $S^{-1}R$ is denoted by R_f . There is a **universal property** of $S^{-1}R$:

Suppose $S \subseteq R$ is a multiplicative system and $\varphi : R \rightarrow S^{-1}R$ is the canonical ring homomorphism, then:

1. $\forall s \in S$, $\varphi(s)$ is invertible.
2. $S^{-1}R$ is universal with the following property: if $R \xrightarrow{\psi} T$ is commute R -Algebra, s.t. $\psi(s)$ is invertible $\forall s \in S$, then there exists a **unique** R -Algebra homomorphism $S^{-1}R \xrightarrow{f} T$, s.t. the following diagram is commutative;

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S^{-1}R \\ & \searrow \psi & \downarrow f \\ & & T \end{array}$$

Note. Proof manner is very similar to what we do for those universal property: We first suppose that it exists, try to prove uniqueness, in such process we may be able to write out the explicit formula of such morphism, so we can then proof the well-definedness and so on to see the existence.

Proof. • $\varphi(s) = \frac{s}{1}$ with inverse $\frac{1}{s}$.

• First uniqueness then existence:

- **Uniqueness:** Suppose $f : S^{-1}R \rightarrow T$ is a morphism of R -Algebra, s.t. $f(\frac{a}{1}) = \psi(a) \forall a \in R$. Given any $\frac{a}{s} \in S^{-1}R$, we have $\frac{a}{s} \cdot \frac{s}{1} = \frac{a}{1}$, see that since f is a ring homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) \cdot \underbrace{f\left(\frac{s}{1}\right)}_{\psi(s)} &= \underbrace{f\left(\frac{a}{1}\right)}_{\psi(a)} \\ \Rightarrow f\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) &= \psi(a)\psi(s)^{-1} \quad (\psi(s) \text{ is invertible by hypothesis.}) \end{aligned}$$

Hence f is unique, as we have it a formula, and clearly it is unique.

- **Existence:** Define $f : S^{-1}R \rightarrow T$ by $f(\frac{a}{s}) = \psi(a)\psi(s)^{-1}$, need to check the following:
 1. f is well-defined: Suppose $\frac{a}{s} = \frac{b}{t}$ then there exists $u \in S$, s.t. $u(ta - sb) = 0$. Apply ψ to both sides we get:

$$\psi(u)(\psi(t)\psi(a) - \psi(s)\psi(b)) = 0$$

Multiply by $\psi(u)^{-1}\psi(s)^{-1}\psi(t)^{-1}$ on both sides:

$$\psi(a)\psi(s)^{-1} - \psi(b)\psi(t)^{-1} = 0$$

Thus definition is unique.

2. $f \circ \varphi = \psi$: $f(\frac{a}{1}) = \psi(a)\psi(1)^{-1} = \psi(a)$.
3. f is a ring homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{a}{s} + \frac{b}{t}\right) &= f\left(\frac{ta + sb}{st}\right) \\ &= \psi(ta + sb)\psi(st)^{-1} \\ &= (\psi(t)\psi(a) + \psi(s)\psi(b))\psi(s)^{-1}\psi(t)^{-1} \\ &= \psi(a)\psi(s)^{-1} + \psi(b)\psi(t)^{-1} \\ &= f\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) + f\left(\frac{b}{t}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{a}{s} \cdot \frac{b}{t}\right) &= f\left(\frac{ab}{st}\right) \\ &= \psi(ab)\psi(st)^{-1} \\ &= \psi(a)\psi(s)^{-1}\psi(b)\psi(t)^{-1} \\ &= f\left(\frac{a}{s}\right) \cdot f\left(\frac{b}{t}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$f(1) = 1$$

■

1.8 Prime Ideals and Maximal Ideals

In this section we shall discuss prime ideals and maximal ideals

leave some overview!

1.8.1 Prime Ideals

Definition 1.8.1 (Prime Ideal). Let R be a commutative ring, an ideal $P \subseteq R$ is a prime ideal if:

1. $P \neq R$.
2. If $x, y \in R$ are s.t. $xy \in P \Rightarrow x \in P$ or $y \in P$.

Parenthesis. If P is a prime ideal, then $S = R - P$ is a **multiplicative system**, in this case $S^{-1}R$ is denoted as R_P , which is called local ring.

Proposition 1.8.1. An ideal $P \subseteq R$ is prime ideal if and only if R/P is an integral domain.

Proof. See that R/P is always commutative. $R/P \neq \{0\} \Leftrightarrow P \neq R$.

(Let $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \neq 0 \in R/P \Rightarrow \bar{x} \cdot \bar{y} \neq 0$) $\Leftrightarrow (\forall x, y \in R, x, y \notin P \Rightarrow xy \notin P)$, which, LHS is definition of integral domain, and RHS is definition of prime ideal. ■

Example 1.8.1. If $R = \mathbb{Z}$, then

1. $\{0\}$ is a prime ideal (\mathbb{Z} is an integral domain).
2. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then (n) is a prime ideal if and only if $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is an integral domain if and only if n is prime number. Namely $n\mathbb{Z}$ is prime ideal if and only if n is prime number.

Note. If I is an ideal in R , then all ideals in R/I are of the form P/I where $I \subseteq P$ is an ideal. See that by Isomorphism theorem:

$$R/I/P/I \cong R/P$$

Hence P/I is prime ideal if and only if P is prime ideal.

Example 1.8.2. The following are equivalent:

- R is a domain.
- $(x) := \{xf \mid f \in R[X]\}$ inside $R[X]$ is a prime ideal.

Proof. This follows if we show the following, which gives the result by **Proposition 1.8.1**:

$$R[X]/(x) \cong R$$

Consider the R -algebra homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} R[X] &\xrightarrow{\varphi} R \\ \varphi(x) &= 0 \\ a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n &\rightarrow a_0 \end{aligned}$$

This is a surjective homomorphism, with kernel being:

$$\ker(\varphi) = (x)$$

Then by isomorphism theorem 1.4.1, yields the result. ■

Question 1.8.1. What about now consider $(x - a) \subseteq R[x]$?

Note. There exists a R -Algebra isomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} f : R[x] &\rightarrow R[x] \\ f(x) &= (x - a) \end{aligned}$$

So see that (x) is prime ideal if and only if $(x - a)$ is prime ideal, if and only if R is a domain, thus if and only if $(x - a)$ is also a prime ideal.

By the universal property of $R[x]$: there exists a unique such morphism f of R -Algebra, and exists a unique morphism of R -Algebra $R[X] \xrightarrow{g} R[X]$, $x \mapsto x + a$, thus $g = f^{-1}$, and we can use the universal property to show that the composition $f \circ g$ and $g \circ f$ are identity, which yields isomorphism property.

1.8.2 Maximal Ideals

Definition 1.8.2 (Maximal Ideal). An ideal $M \subseteq R$ is a maximal ideal if:

1. $M \neq R$.
2. If $M \subseteq I \subseteq R$ and I be an ideal, then $I = M$ or $I = R$.

Lemma 1.8.1. If R is a commutative ring, then R is a field if and only if $\{0\}$ is a maximal ideal.

Proof.

- Suppose that R is a field, then $R \neq \{0\}$. If $I \subseteq R$ is an ideal, and $I \neq \{0\}$. Let $a \in I \setminus \{0\}$, since R is a field, see that a is **invertible**. Then:

$$\forall b \in R, \quad b = (ba^{-1})a \in I \Rightarrow I = R$$

- If $\{0\}$ is a maximal ideal, then $R \neq \{0\}$. $\forall a \in R$ with $a \neq 0$, then $a \in (a) \neq \{0\} \Rightarrow (a) = R \Rightarrow \exists b \in R$, s.t. $ab = 1 \Rightarrow a$ is invertible.

■

Corollary 1.8.1. An ideal $M \subseteq R$ is maximal if and only if R/M is a field.

Proof. By correspondance between ideals of R/M and ideals in R **containing** M , this follows from **Lemma 1.8.1**. ■

Corollary 1.8.2. Every maximal ideal is prime ideal.

Proof. This follows since **every field is a domain**. And by **Corollary 1.8.1** and **Proposition 1.8.1**. ■

Example 1.8.3. The following are ideals that are prime but not maximal:

1. $\{0\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ is a prime ideal, but not maximal ideal.
2. $(x) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is a prime ideal, but not maximal ideal.

why?

Theorem 1.8.1. If $I \subsetneq R$ is a proper ideal in a commutative ring R , then there exists M being a maximal ideal, s.t. $I \subseteq M$.

To prove it we'll need the famous **Zorn's Lemma**.

Lemma 1.8.2 (Zorn's Lemma). If (A, \leq) is a non-empty partially ordered set, s.t. every totally ordered subset $B \subseteq A$ has an upper bound in A ($\exists a \in A$, s.t. $b \leq a \forall b \in B$), then A has at least a maximal element. ($\exists a \in A$, s.t. if $a \leq a' \in A \Rightarrow a = a'$)

Proof uses Zorn's Lemma. Fix I be in the theorem, and let $\mathcal{J} = \{J \subseteq R \text{ is ideal} \mid I \subseteq J\}$. ■

Appendix