

1. Definition of ring

1.3

Let R be a ring, and let S be any set. Explain how to endow the set R^S of set-functions $S \rightarrow R$ of two operations $+$, so as to make R^S into a ring, such that R^S is just a copy of R if S is a singleton.

Proof. The construction is straight forward, for any $f, g \in R^S$, let:

$$f + g : S \rightarrow R, s \mapsto f(s) + g(s)$$

$$fg : S \rightarrow R, s \mapsto f(s)g(s)$$

□

1.12

Just as complex numbers may be viewed as combinations $a + bi$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, and i satisfies the relation $i^2 = -1$ (and commutes with \mathbb{R}), we may construct a ring \mathbb{H} by considering linear combinations $a + bi + cj + dk$ where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$, and i, j, k commute with \mathbb{R} and satisfy the following relations:

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1, ij = -ji = k, jk = -kj = i, ki = -ik = j.$$

Addition in \mathbb{H} is defined componentwise, while multiplication is defined by imposing distributivity and applying the relations. For example,

$$(1+i+j)(2+k) = 12 + i2 + j2 + 1k + ik + jk = 2 + 2i + 2j + kj + i = 2 + 3i + j + k$$

- (i) Verify that this prescription does indeed define a ring.
- (ii) Compute $(a + bi + cj + dk)(a - bi - cj - dk)$, where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (iii) Prove that \mathbb{H} is a division ring
Elements of \mathbb{H} are called quaternions. Note that $\mathbb{Q}_8 := \{\pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k\}$ forms a subgroup of the group of units of \mathbb{H} ; it is a noncommutative group of order 8, called the quaternionic group.
- (iv) List all subgroups of \mathbb{Q}_8 , and prove that they are all normal.
- (v) Prove that \mathbb{Q}_8, D_8 are not isomorphic.

Proof. The proof is as follows:

- (i) It's obviously the set \mathbb{H} forms an abelian group where $0 \in \mathbb{R}$ is the identity and each element $a + bi + cj + dk$ has addition inverse $-a - bi - cj - dk$. For multiplication, the operation is close and has identity 1, and distribution law is natavly true because multiplication is defined in this way.

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
& (a + bi + cj + dk)(a - bi - cj - dk) \\
&= a^2 - (bi + cj + dk)^2 \\
&= a^2 - (-b^2 - c^2 - d^2 + bcij + bdik + cdjk + bcji + bdkj + cdkj) \\
&= a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2
\end{aligned}$$

- (iii) To prove that \mathbb{H} is a division ring, it suffices to show that each element is an unit. According to (i), we have

$$(a + bi + cj + dk)(a - bi - cj - dk) = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$$

and:

$$(a - bi - cj - dk)(a + bi + cj + dk) = a^2 + (-b)^2 + (-c)^2 + (-d)^2$$

Thus, the multiplication inverse of $a + bi + cj + dk$ is $(a - bi - cj - dk)/(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2)$

- (iv) Since the order of \mathbb{Q}_8 is 8, the only possible size of the subgroup of \mathbb{Q}_8 could only be 2 and 4. For the first case, it's impossible since no element of \mathbb{Q}_8 has order of 2. For the second case, recall that there are only two possible structure of group with order 4:

The first one is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, with means there are four elements of order 2, which is impossible as explained before.

The second one is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_4 , generated by an element of order 4. Thus, subgroups of 4 are exactly $\{i, -1, -i, 1\}$ or $\{j, -1, -j, 1\}$, $\{k, -1, -k, 1\}$. For any element g of \mathbb{Q}_8 , we have gig^{-1} is still an element of this subgroup. Thus this subgroup is normal.

(v) TODO

□

1.13

Verify that the multiplication defined in $R[x]$ is associative.

Proof. We have to prove for any $f(x), g(x), h(x) \in R[x]$, $(f(x)g(x))h(x) = f(x)(g(x)h(x))$. Suppose that:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i, g(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m b_i x^i, h(x) = \sum_{i=0}^l c_i x^i$$

Then for $(f(x)g(x))h(x)$ the coefficient of x^p is:

$$\sum_{i+j=p} (fg)_i h_j = \sum_{i+j=p} (fg)_i c_j = \sum_{i+j=p} \left(\sum_{k+l=i} a_k b_l \right) c_j \stackrel{!}{=} \sum_{k+l+j=p} a_k b_l c_j$$

Similarly, for $f(x)(g(x)h(x))$, the coefficient of x^p is:

$$\sum_{i+j=p} f_i (gh)_j = \sum_{i+j=p} f_i \left(\sum_{k+l=j} b_k c_l \right) \stackrel{!}{=} \sum_{i+k+l=p} a_i b_k c_l$$

Note that the equation labeled with ! is induced by the associativity and distributive law of R itself. \square

1.14

Let R be a ring, and let $f(x), g(x) \in R[x]$ be nonzero polynomials. Prove that

$$\deg(f(x) + g(x)) \leq \max(\deg(f(x)), \deg(g(x))).$$

Assuming that R is an integral domain, prove that

$$\deg(f(x)g(x)) = \deg(f(x)) + \deg(g(x)).$$

Proof. Let $n = \deg(f(x) + g(x))$, then $\exists f_i \neq 0, i \geq n$ or $\exists g_i \neq 0, i \geq n$. Thus $\max(\deg(f(x)), \deg(g(x))) \geq \deg(f(x) + g(x))$

For the second part, let $n = \deg f(x), m = \deg g(x)$, then $(fg)_{n+m} = f_n g_m \neq 0$. And for any $i > n + m$, we must have $(fg)_i = 0$ as $f_i = 0, i > n$ and $g_i = 0, i > m$. \square

1.15

Prove that $R[x]$ is an integral domain if and only if R is an integral domain

Proof. If $R[x]$ is an integral domain, then R is an integral domain as R can be viewed as element of $R[x]$. If R is integral domain, then

$$\deg(fg) = \deg f + \deg g \geq \max(\deg f, \deg g) \geq 0$$

when $\deg f, \deg g \geq 0$. Thus $R[x]$ is an integral domain. \square

1.16

Let R be a ring, and consider the ring of power series $R[[x]]$

- (i) Prove that a power series $a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots$ is a unit in $R[[x]]$ if and only if a_0 is a unit in R . What is the inverse of $1x$ in $R[[x]]$?
- (ii) Prove that $R[[x]]$ is an integral domain if and only if R is.

Proof. The proof is as follows:

- (i) If $a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots$ has inverse, let the inverse be $b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= (a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots)(b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots) \\ &= a_0b_0 + (a_0b_1 + a_1b_0)x + (a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + a_2b_0)x^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

We must have $a_0b_0 = 1$, similarly we have $b_0a_0 = 1$. Thus indicates a_0 is an unit.

On the other hand, if a_0 has inverse, we formally write the inverse of f as: $f^{-1} = b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots$. Thus $ff^{-1} = 1$ implies the followings equations:

$$\begin{aligned} a_0b_0 &= 1 \\ a_0b_1 + a_1b_0 &= 0 \\ a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + a_2b_0 &= 0 \\ a_0b_3 + a_1b_2 + a_2b_1 + a_3b_0 &= 0 \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

g is constructed by solve these equations:

$$\begin{aligned} b_0 &= a_0^{-1} \\ b_1 &= -a_0^{-1}a_1b_0 \\ b_2 &= -a_0^{-1}(a_1b_1 + a_2b_0) \\ &\dots \\ b_k &= -a_0^{-1}\left(\sum_{i=1}^k a_i b_{k-i}\right) \end{aligned}$$

This indicates f is an unit.

- (ii) If $f, g \in R[[x]]$ and $f, g \neq 0$. Then write them in the following form:

$$f = x^p(a_p + a_{p+1}x + \dots), g = x^q(b_q + b_{q+1}x + \dots)$$

Then $fg = x^{p+q}(a_pb_q + \dots) \neq 0$. In addition, R is Commutative indicates $R[[x]]$ is also commutative, thus $R[[x]]$ is an integral domain.

□

2. Category Ring

2.3

Let S be a set, and consider the power set ring $\mathcal{P}(S)$ (Exercise 1.2), and the ring $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^S$ you constructed in Exercise 1.3. Prove that these two rings are isomorphic. (Cf. Exercise I.2.11.)

Proof. First note that $\mathcal{P}(S)$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^S$ are isomorphic in **Set**. For each $f \in (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^S$, maps f to $\varphi(f)$ by the following subset of S :

$$\varphi(f) = \{s \in S \mid f(s) = [1]_2\}$$

Then it's easy to show that φ is both bijective and a ring homomorphism, therefore a ring isomorphism. \square

2.6

Let $\alpha : R \rightarrow S$ be a fixed ring homomorphism, and let $s \in S$ be an element commuting with $\alpha(r)$ for all $r \in R$. Then there is a unique ring homomorphism $\bar{\alpha} : R[x] \rightarrow S$ extending α , and sending x to s

Proof. Define $\bar{\alpha}$ as follows:

$$\bar{\alpha}\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i\right) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \alpha(a_i) s^i$$

To prove this is a ring homomorphism, we need to show that $\bar{\alpha}$ maintains both addition and multiplication (and send identity to identity, which is obvious). Addition is easy to verify, for multiplication, it is worthy noted s commutes with $\alpha(r)$, $r \in R$ makes it maintains multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\alpha}\left(\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i\right)\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} b_i x^i\right)\right) &= \bar{\alpha}\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} \left(\sum_{k+l=i} a_k b_l\right) x^i\right) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \alpha\left(\sum_{k+l=i} a_k b_l\right) s^i \\ \bar{\alpha}\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i\right) \bar{\alpha}\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} b_i x^i\right) &= \left(\sum_{i \geq 0} \alpha(a_i) s^i\right) \left(\sum_{i \geq 0} \alpha(b_i) s^i\right) \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 0} \left(\sum_{k+l=i} \alpha(a_k) s^k \alpha(b_l) s^l\right) \\ &\stackrel{!}{=} \sum_{i \geq 0} \left(\sum_{k+l=i} \alpha(a_k) \alpha(b_l) s^i\right) \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 0} \left(\alpha\left(\sum_{k+l=i} a_k b_l\right) s^i\right) \\ &= \bar{\alpha}\left(\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i\right)\left(\sum_{i \geq 0} b_i x^i\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Note that ! is true because s commutes with all $\alpha(a_k)$ and $\alpha(b_l)$. The uniqueness of $\bar{\alpha}$ comes from the fact that $\bar{\alpha}$ is homomorphism, and $\bar{\alpha}(r) = \alpha(r)$, $\bar{\alpha}(x) = s$. \square

NOTE Example 2.2 asks for particular situation, where a ring homomorphism $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow S$ extends the unique homomorphism $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow S, n \mapsto n1_S$ and sends x to any element of S doesn't necessarily consider the commutativity of S . The answer is clean here, any element $s \in S$ must commutes with the image of f since $s(n1_S) = ns = (n1_S)s$

2.9

The center of a ring R consists of the elements a such that $ar = ra$ for all $r \in R$. Prove that the center is a subring of R . Prove that the center of a division ring is a field.

Proof. Denote the center of R as $Z(R)$, then for any $s, t \in Z(R), r \in R$, we have $r(s-t) = rs - rt = sr - tr = (s-t)r$, which indicates that $s-t \in Z(R)$. Thus, $Z(R)$ is an addition subgroup of R .

Moreover, $\forall s, t \in Z(R), r \in R$, we have $(st)r = s(tr) = s(rt) = (sr)t = (rs)t = r(st)$. Thus $rs \in Z(R)$, indicating $Z(R)$ is closed under multiplication. The associativity and distributive law naturally holds in $Z(R)$. And $1_R \in Z(R)$ obviousl. In conclusion, $Z(R)$ is a subring of R .

If R is a division ring, for any $s \in Z(R)$, we must prove that $s^{-1} \in Z(R)$. Actually, for any $s \in Z(R), r \in R, sr = rs \Rightarrow rs^{-1} = s^{-1}r$. Thus $s^{-1} \in Z(R)$. And $Z(R)$ is obviously commutative, and therefore a field. \square

2.10

The *centralizer* of an element a of a ring R consists of the elements $r \in R$ such that $ar = ra$. Prove that the centralizer of a is a subring of R , for every $a \in R$. Prove that the center of R is the intersection of all its centralizers. Prove that every centralizer in a division ring is a division ring.

Proof. To prove the centralizer of $a \in R$ is a subring of R basically follows the same way as exercise 2.9 does.

For the second part, if $s \in Z(R)$, then s commutes with any element $r \in R$, thus $s \in \text{Cen}_R(r), r \in R$. and $s \in \bigcap_{r \in R} \text{Cen}_R(r)$, indicating $Z(R) \subseteq \bigcap_{r \in R} \text{Cen}_R(r)$. On the other hand, any element of $\bigcap_{r \in R} \text{Cen}_R(r)$ must commute with any element of R , thus belongs to $Z(R)$. In conclusion,

$$Z(R) = \bigcap_{r \in R} \text{Cen}_R(r).$$

For the third part, it suffices to show that if r commutes with a then so does r^{-1} . It is done in exercise 2.9 already. \square

2.11

Let R be a division ring consisting of p^2 elements, where p is a prime. Prove that R is commutative.

Proof. Assume that R is not commutative, consider the center of R , denoted as $Z(R)$. Then $Z(R) \neq R$. Note that $Z(R)$ is an addition subgroup of R . Then it must have $|Z(R)| = p$ since $|Z(R)|$ divides $|R|$, which is p^2 .

Consider one element $r \in R, r \notin Z(R)$, and its centralizer, denoted as $\text{Cen}_R(r)$, then since $r \notin Z(R)$, it means $\text{Cen}_R(r) \neq R$. And exercise 2.10 indicates $\text{Cen}_R(r)$ is a subring of R , thus $|\text{Cen}_R(r)| = p$.

Exercise 2.10 also shows that $Z(R) \subseteq \text{Cen}_R(r)$, their cardinality equals to each other means $Z(R) = \text{Cen}_R(r)$. However, it's obvious that $r \in \text{Cen}_R(r)$ but $r \notin Z(R)$, a contradiction.

In conclusion, we must have $Z(R) = R$ and R is therefore commutative, further more, it's a field. \square

NOTE In fact, any finite division ring is commutative, thus a field. But the proof used here seems hard to extend to more complex condition, i.e. the case of arbitrary integer. Actually, it's even hard to extend this method to $p^n, n \geq 3$ case: $|Z(R)|$ might be p^3 and $\text{Cen}_R(r)$ might be p^2 and no contradictions so far.

2.12

Consider the inclusion map $\iota : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$. Describe the cokernel of ι in **Ab**, and its cokernel in **Ring** (as defined by the appropriate universal property in the style of the one given in § II.8.6)

Proof. Before we describe the cokernel requested above, we will review what these concepts (and kernel) means in category conception:

Kernel Let G, H be group and $f : G \rightarrow H$ is a group homomorphism.

Then Consider the following category: \mathcal{K}_φ : The object of \mathcal{K}_φ is one group S associated one morphism j , such that the following diagram holds:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 0 & & \\ & \searrow & \text{---} & \nearrow & \\ S & \xrightarrow{j} & G & \xrightarrow{f} & H \end{array}$$

And the morphism between (j_1, S_1) and (j_2, S_2) is the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 0 & & \\ & \searrow & \text{---} & \nearrow & \\ S_2 & \xrightarrow{j_2} & G & \xrightarrow{f} & H \\ & \swarrow \varphi & \uparrow j_1 & & \\ & & S_1 & & \end{array}$$

And $\ker \varphi$ is defined to be the final object of \mathcal{K}_φ . That is, the following diagram holds:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 0 & & \\ & \searrow & \text{---} & \nearrow & \\ \ker f & \xrightarrow{\iota} & G & \xrightarrow{f} & H \\ & \swarrow \exists! \varphi & \uparrow j & & \\ & & S & & \end{array}$$

And $\ker f$ exists as $\ker f = \{g \in G \mid f(g) = 0\}$. It's easy to verify such set is a subgroup of G and this subgroup associated with the injection homomorphism satisfies the universal property of \ker .

Cokernel Conceptually, cokernel just reverse all arrows in the above diagram. Let G, H be groups and $f : G \rightarrow H$ is a group homomorphism, consider the category \mathcal{C}_f of which objects and morphisms are following diagrams:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 0 & & \\ & \searrow & \text{---} & \nearrow & \\ G & \xrightarrow{f} & H & \xrightarrow{j_2} & S_2 \\ & & \downarrow j_1 & \nearrow \varphi & \\ & & S_1 & & \end{array}$$

And $\text{coker } f$ is an initial object in this category, that is, the following diagram

holds:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & 0 & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright & \\
 G & \xrightarrow{f} & H & \xrightarrow{j} & S \\
 & & \downarrow \pi & \nearrow \exists! \varphi & \\
 & & \text{coker } f & &
 \end{array}$$

As we have proved before, in **Grp**, $\text{coker } f$ is H/N , where N is the smallest normal subgroup that contains $\text{Im } f$. In particular, $\text{coker } f = H/\text{Im } f$ in **Ab**.

If we replace groups with rings and group homomorphisms with ring homomorphisms, we can naturally get the definition of kernel and cokernel in **Ring**.

Now back to the problem itself, $\text{coker } \iota$ in **Ab**, as stated, is \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} . The associated π is $\pi(q) = q + \mathbb{Z}$. And $\text{coker } \iota$ in **Ring** is $(0, \{0\})$. Actually if (j, S) where S is a ring and j is a ring homomorphism from \mathbb{Q} to S , if it satisfies $j \circ \iota = 0$. Then we have:

$$j\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = j(pq^{-1}) = j(p)j(q)^{-1} = j(\iota(p))j(\iota(q)) = 0(p)0(q)^{-1} = 0$$

Thus j maps each element to be 0 in S , thus S could only be $\{0\}$ since $1_S = f(1_{\mathbb{Q}}) = 0$. This indicates there is only one object in this category, and $\text{coker } \iota$ is this object. \square

2.13

Verify that the ‘componentwise’ product $R_1 \times R_2$ of two rings satisfies the universal property for products in a category, given in § I.5.4

Proof. $(R_1 \times R_2, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ is the product of R_1 and R_2 , where $\pi_1(r_1, r_2) = r_1$ and $\pi_2(r_1, r_2) = r_2$. It’s easy to show that π_1, π_2 are ring homomorphisms, we must show that the following diagrams holds:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & f_1 & & \\
 & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright & \\
 R & \xrightarrow{\exists! \varphi} & R_1 \times R_2 & \xrightarrow{\pi_1} & R_1 \\
 & & & \searrow \pi_2 & \\
 & & & & R_2 \\
 & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowleft & \\
 & & f_2 & &
 \end{array}$$

For (R, f_1, f_2) , defines $\varphi : R \rightarrow R_1 \times R_2, r \mapsto (f_1(r), f_2(r))$. Then the diagram is commutative. To prove the uniqueness, consider another ring homomorphism $\varphi' : R \rightarrow R_1 \times R_2$ makes this diagram commutes, then $\varphi'(r) = (r_1, r_2)$. Further we have $f_1(r) = \pi_1(\varphi(r)) = \pi_1(r_1, r_2) = r_1, f_2(r) = \pi_2(\varphi(r)) = \pi_2(r_1, r_2) = r_2$. Thus $\varphi(r) = (f_1(r), f_2(r))$, the uniqueness is proved.

In conclusion, $(R_1 \times R_2, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ is the product of R_1 and R_2 . \square

2.16

Prove that there is (up to isomorphism) only one structure of ring with identity on the abelian group $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$.

3.Ideals and quotient rings

3.2

Let $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism, and let J be an ideal of S . Prove that $I = \varphi^{-1}(J)$ is an ideal of R . Thus, the inverse image of an image is also an ideal, is the image of an ideal also an ideal? Prove it or given a counterexample.

Proof. For any $s \in \varphi^{-1}(J), r \in R$, we have $\varphi(rs) = \varphi(r)\varphi(s) \in J, \varphi(sr) = \varphi(s)\varphi(r) \in J$ since $\varphi(s) \in J, \varphi(r) \in R$, which indicates that $rs \in \varphi^{-1}(J), sr \in \varphi^{-1}(J)$. Thus $\varphi^{-1}(J)$ is an ideal.

Then second proposition is false in general, the ring homomorphism image of an ideal is not necessarily an ideal. Consider injection: $\iota : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x]$. However, the image of an ideal, say $2\mathbb{Z}$ is still $2\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[x]$ and is not an ideal of \mathbb{Z} .

However, if φ is surjective, then $\varphi(I)$ is also an ideal of the target ring. \square

3.3

Let $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism, and let J be an ideal of R .

1. Show that $\varphi(J)$ need not be an ideal of S .
2. Assume that φ is surjective; then prove that $\varphi(J)$ is an ideal of S .
3. Assume that φ is surjective, and let $I = \ker \varphi$; thus we may identify S with R/I . Let $\bar{J} = \varphi(J)$, an ideal of R/I by the previous point. Prove

that

$$\frac{R/I}{\bar{J}} \cong \frac{R}{I+J}$$

Proof. The first proposition are proved in exercise 3.2, and the second one is easy to be proved following the definition.

For the third proposition, note that actually we have $\bar{J} \cong (I+J)/J$, then according to proposition 3.14, we have:

$$\frac{R/I}{\bar{J}} \cong \frac{R/J}{(I+J)/J} \cong R/(I+J)$$

The proof is done. \square

3.4

Let R be a ring such that every subgroup of $(R, +)$ is in fact an ideal of R . Prove that $R \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, where n is the characteristic of R

Proof. Consider the subset:

$$S = \{n1_R \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

It is a subgroup of $(R, +)$ because:

$$(\forall a1_R, b1_R \in S, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}) : \quad a1_R - b1_R = (a - b)1_R \in S$$

According to the assumption, we have S to be an ideal, in particular, we have:

$$(\forall r \in R) : \quad r = r1_R \in S$$

this indicates that $\forall r \in R, r = m1_R$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. And therefore $R = S$. This indicates $R \cong \mathbb{Z}$ or $R \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ for n to be the characteristic of R . \square

3.8

Prove that a ring R is a division ring if and only if its only left-ideals and right-ideals are $\{0\}$ and R . In particular, a commutative ring R is a field if and only if the only ideals of R are $\{0\}$ and R .

Proof. Let R be a ring, and I be an ideal of R . Then if I contains element other than 0_R , we will have $I = R$ since $1_R \in I$. Thus the ideal of R can only be R and $\{0\}$ if R is a division ring.

On the other hand, if R has only $\{0\}$ and R as ideals, then any element of R must be an unit, otherwise aR where a is a non-unit, could be a right-ideal, a contradiction.

The second part of this problem is nothing more than a special case of field. \square

3.9

Counterpoint to Exercise 3.8: it is not true that a ring R is a division ring if and only if its only two-sided ideals are $\{0\}$ and R . A nonzero ring with this property is said to be simple; by Exercise 3.8, fields are the only simple commutative rings.

Proof. If R is a division ring, then the ideals of R could only be R or $\{0\}$. However, the ideals of R are only $\{0\}$ and R doesn't mean both left-ideals and right-ideals of R are only $\{0\}$ and R . \square

3.11

Let R be a ring containing \mathbb{C} as a subring. Prove that there are no ring homomorphisms $R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Proof. If there exists some ring homomorphism $R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then it induce a ring homomorphism from \mathbb{C} to \mathbb{R} . However, this can not be true because:

$$-1 = f(-1) = f(\mathbf{i} * \mathbf{i}) = f(\mathbf{i})^2$$

There is no such $f(\mathbf{i}) \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfies $f(\mathbf{i})^2 = -1$ \square

3.12

Let R be a commutative ring. Prove that the set of nilpotent elements of R is an ideal of R . (Cf. Exercise 1.6. This ideal is called the *nilradical* of R .) Find a non-commutative ring in which the set of nilpotent elements is not an ideal.

Proof. Let N denotes the set of all nilpotent elements of R , first to prove that N is a subgroup of $(R, +)$. For any $a, b \in N$, there exists some $m, n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ that $a^m = 0, b^n = 0$, then we shall have $(a - b)^{m+n+1} = 0$ (using binomial theorem). This indicates $a - b \in N$, and thus N is a subgroup of $(R, +)$.

The second part is to prove that for any $r \in R, a \in N, ra \in N$. Note that $(ra)^m = r^m a^m = r^m 0 = 0$. Thus $ra \in N$. In conclusion, we have N is an ideal of R .

NOTE There might be some properties of this ideal, one most notable is that the quotient ring R/N has no non-naive nilpotent element:

$$(a + N)^m = 0_{R/N} \Rightarrow a^m + N = 0_{R/N} \Rightarrow a^m \in N \Rightarrow a \in N$$

□