

MATH-UA 349: Homework 1

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Contents

1 Problem 1	2
2 Problem 2	2
3 Problem 3	3
4 Problem 4	3
5 Problem 5	4
5.1 Part (a)	4
5.2 Part (b)	6
6 Problem 6	6
7 Problem 7	7
8 Problem 8	7
9 Problem 9	9
9.1 Part (a)	9
9.2 Part (b)	9
10 Problem 10	10

1 Problem 1

Proof. The number $7 + \sqrt[3]{2}$ is a root of the polynomial $x^3 - 21x^2 + 147x - 345 = (x - 7)^3 - 2$ in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, as verified by the following computation:

$$\begin{aligned} ((7 + \sqrt[3]{2}) - 7)^3 - 2 &= (\sqrt[3]{2})^3 - 2 \\ &= 2 - 2 \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that $7 + \sqrt[3]{2}$ is algebraic. □

2 Problem 2

Proof. We begin by characterizing the subring R generated by $\alpha = \frac{i}{2}$. For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$:

1. If $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, then $\alpha^n = \frac{1}{2^n}$.
2. If $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then $\alpha^n = \frac{i}{2^n}$.
3. If $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, then $\alpha^n = -\frac{1}{2^n}$.
4. If $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then $\alpha^n = -\frac{i}{2^n}$.

Claim 1. *If n is an odd integer and $b + ci$ is a Gaussian integer, then $\frac{a+bi}{2^n} \in R$*

Proof. Suppose that $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Then

$$\frac{b + ci}{2^n} = \frac{b}{2^n} + \frac{ci}{2^n} = -2b \left(-\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \right) + c \left(\frac{i}{2^n} \right) = -2b\alpha^{n+1} + b\alpha^n,$$

which lies in R by closure. Similarly, $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ yields that

$$\frac{b + ci}{2^n} = \frac{b}{2^n} + \frac{ci}{2^n} = 2b \left(\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \right) - c \left(-\frac{i}{2^n} \right) = 2b\alpha^{n+1} - b\alpha^n,$$

which also lies in R .

We now examine closure. Let z be a complex number, and define $S_n = \left\{ \frac{a+bi}{2^n} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$ for odd integers n ; observe that $S_n \subset R$. It is a trivial exercise in geometry that the farthest z lie away from an element of S is “half of the main diagonal” of the smallest square — more formally,

$$\min\{|z - s| \mid s \in S_n\} \leq \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2^{n+1}}.$$

For all $\epsilon > 0$, the Archmedian Property ensures the existence of an integer N such that $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2^{N+1}} < \epsilon$. Then $N < n$ implies

$$\min\{|z - s| \mid s_n \in S_n\} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2^{n+1}} < \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2^{N+1}} < \epsilon,$$

so there exists $s \in S_n \subset R$ such that $|z - s| < \epsilon$ for all ϵ . We conclude that the subring generated by α is dense in R . \square

3 Problem 3

Proof. We tackle Part (c) first:

Claim 2. *A number $m \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ is a unit if and only if $\gcd(n, m) = 1$.*

Proof. Realize the following:

$$\begin{aligned} m \text{ is a unit in } \mathbb{Z}_n &\iff ma \equiv 1 \pmod{n} \text{ for some } a \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff n \mid (ma - 1) \text{ for some } a \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff nb = ma - 1 \text{ for some } a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff nb - ma = 1 \text{ for some } a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff \gcd(n, m) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

The last step is a direct application of Bézout's Identity.

We deduce the following answers for each part:

- (a) The units are 1, 5, 7, and 11.
- (b) The units are 1, 3, 5, and 7.
- (c) The units are all $m \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ such that $\gcd(n, m) = 1$,

as desired. \square

4 Problem 4

Proof. Performing polynomial division yields that

$$x^4 + 3x^3 + x^2 + 7x + 5 = (x^2 + 2x - 2)(x^2 + x + 1) + (7x + 7).$$

If $x^4 + 3x^3 + x^2 + 7x + 5$ divides $x^2 + x + 1$ in \mathbb{Z}_n , then $7x + 7$ must be the zero polynomial — which occurs if and only if $7 \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$. The answer is all positive n such that $7 \mid n$, with a *potential* inclusion of $n = 1$ if deemed a valid modulus. \square

5 Problem 5

5.1 Part (a)

Proof. Rather routine calculations verify that $F[[x]]$ is a ring. We must first prove that $(F[[x]], +)$ is an Abelian group:

1. **Closure:** It is clear that if $f, g \in F[[x]]$, then $f + g \in F[[x]]$.
2. **Associativity:** Since F is a field, $f, g, h \in F[x]$ implies
$$((f + g) + h)(k) = (f(k) + g(k)) + h(k) = f(k) + (g(k) + h(k)) = (f + (g + h))(k)$$
for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$; thus $(f + g) + h = f + (g + h)$
3. **Identity:** It is easy to verify that $f(k) = 0$ is an additive identity of $F[[x]]$.
4. **Invertability:** For $f \in F[[x]]$, define $-f$ by $(-f)(k) = -f(k)$. Then
$$(-f)(k) + f(k) = -f(k) + f(k) = 0 = f(k) - f(k) = f(k) + (-f)(k)$$
for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$; thus $-f + f = 0$.
5. **Commutativity:** See that $(f + g)(k) = f(k) + g(k) = g(k) + f(k) = (g + f)(k)$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$; hence $f + g = g + f$.

The multiplicative axioms are as follows:

6. **Closure:** It is clear that if $f, g \in F[[x]]$, then $fg \in F[[x]]$.
7. **Associativity:** Observe that for all $k \in F$,

$$\begin{aligned}
((fg)h)(k) &= \sum_{i+j=k} (fg)(i)h(j) = \sum_{i+j=k} \left(\sum_{a+b=i} f(a)g(b) \right) h(j) \\
&= \sum_{a+b+c=k} f(a)g(b)h(c) \\
&= \sum_{i+j=k} f(i) \left(\sum_{a+b=j} g(a)h(b) \right) = \sum_{i+j=k} f(i)(gh)(j) \\
&= (f(gh))(k).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f(gh) = fg(h)$.

8. **Identity:** Let $g(k) = 0$ if $k \neq 0$ and $g(0) = 1$. Then for all $f \in F[[x]]$, and $k \in F$,

$$(fg)(k) = \sum_{i+j=k} f(i)g(j) = f(k) = \sum_{i+k=k} g(i)f(j) = (gf)(k).$$

We conclude that $fg = gf = f$ for all $f \in F[[x]]$, so g is a multiplicative identity.

The two distributive axioms are as follows:

9. **Left Distributivity:** For all $f, g, h \in F[[x]]$ and $k \in F$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (f(g+h))(k) &= \sum_{i+j=k} f(i)(g+h)(j) \\ &= \sum_{i+j=k} f(i)g(j) + \sum_{i+k=k} f(i)h(j) \\ &= (fg)(k) + (fh)(k). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $f(g+h) = fg + fh$.

10. **Right Distributivity:** For all $f, g, h \in F[[x]]$ and $k \in F$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((f+g)h)(k) &= \sum_{i+j=k} (f+g)(i)h(j) \\ &= \sum_{i+j=k} f(i)h(j) + \sum_{i+k=k} g(i)h(j) \\ &= (fh)(k) + (gh)(k). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $(f+g)h = fh + gh$.

Therefore, $F[[x]]$ is a ring. □

5.2 Part (b)

Proof. Recall that the identity function of $F[[x]]$ is 1 when $k = 0$ and 0 otherwise. If $f \in F[[x]]$ has a multiplicative inverse g , then expanding these equations across all $k \geq 0$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= f(0)g(0) \\ 0 &= f(1)g(0) + f(0)g(1) \\ 0 &= f(2)g(0) + f(1)g(1) + f(0)g(2) \\ &\vdots \\ 0 &= f(k)g(0) + \cdots + f(0)g(k) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

Solving for g along each equation, we obtain a recursive formula:

$$\begin{aligned} g(0) &= \frac{1}{f(0)} \\ g(1) &= -\frac{f(1)g(0)}{f(0)} \\ g(2) &= -\frac{f(2)g(0) + f(1)g(1)}{f(0)} \\ &\vdots \\ g(k) &= \frac{f(k)g(0) + \cdots + f(1)g(k-1)}{f(0)} \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

A straightforward induction verifies that this formula produces a multiplicative inverse. Naturally, this recursion can occur if and only if $\boxed{f(0) \neq 0}$. \square

6 Problem 6

Proof. Suppose \mathfrak{a} is a nonzero ideal of the Gaussian integers, and let $a + bi \in \mathfrak{a}$ for $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, not both equal to zero. Then

$$(a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2 \in \mathfrak{a};$$

noting that $a^2 + b^2 \in \mathbb{Z} + > 0$ completes the proof. \square

7 Problem 7

Proof. Since the operations upon F are pointwise, verifying that Φ is a homomorphism is easy: for all $f, g \in R$ and $a \in F$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(f + g)(a) &= (f + g)(a) = f(a) + g(a) = \Phi(f)(a) + \Phi(g)(a) \\ \Phi(fg)(a) &= (fg)(a) = f(a)g(a) = \Phi(f)(a)\Phi(g)(a).\end{aligned}$$

As for the injectivity of Φ , suppose that $\Phi(f)(a) = f(a) = 0$ for all $a \in F$. Consider f in the algebraically closed extension of F : it has more roots than its degree, since the former is finite while the latter is infinite.

We conclude that f must be the zero polynomial in this algebraically closed extension. Thus $f = 0$ in $F[x]$ as well, so Φ is injective. \square

8 Problem 8

Proof. Suppose $\phi : \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is an automorphism, and let $p = a_n x^n + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$ be any polynomial of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, where $a_n \neq 0$. Then

$$\phi(p) = \phi(a_n x^n + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0) = a_n \phi(x)^n + \cdots + a_1 \phi(x) + a_0 \phi(1).$$

Hence, ϕ is uniquely determined by $\phi(x)$ and $\phi(1)$. **We claim the answer is as follows:** ϕ is an automorphism if and only if ϕ is an endomorphism and $\phi(x)$ is an affine function with leading coefficient 1 or -1 .

Let ϕ be an automorphism. We wish to demonstrate that $\phi(x)$ is an affine function with leading coefficient 1 or -1 .

Claim 3. $\phi(x)$ is an affine function with leading coefficient 1 or -1 .

Proof. Suppose for contradiction that $\deg \phi(x) > 1$; then the degree of all nonconstant polynomials in $\phi(\mathbb{Z}[x])$ is an integer multiple of $\deg \phi(x)$, violating the injectivity of ϕ . Hence $\phi(x)$ is an affine function of the form $bx + c$ for some $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$.

As noted in Claim 1, $b \neq 0$. Realize that the leading term of $\phi(p)$ is the leading term of $a_n \phi(x)^n$, which is

$$a_n b^n x^n.$$

We must have that $b^n = \pm 1$ in order for ϕ to be injective; thus $b = \pm 1$.

Now, let ϕ be an endomorphism of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ such that $\phi(x) = bx + c$, where $b \in \{-1, 1\}$ and $c \in \mathbb{Z}$. We wish to demonstrate that ϕ is an automorphism.

Claim 4. ϕ is injective.

Proof. Let $p = a_n x^n + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$ be a polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ of degree n such that $\phi(p) = 0$; suppose for contradiction that $n \geq 1$. Then the leading coefficient $\pm a_n x^n$ of $\phi(p)$ must be zero; hence $a_n = 0$, which violates the degree of n .

Thus p must be constant. Since $\phi(p) = p$ for all constant polynomials (a consequence of the fact $\phi(1) = 1$), we must have $p = 0$; thus $\text{Ker } \phi = 0$, so ϕ is injective.

Claim 5. ϕ is surjective.

Proof. We prove that for all $p \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, there exists $s \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ such that $\phi(s) = p$ by induction on the degree of p . For the base case: clearly if p is constant, then $\phi(p) = p$.

For the inductive step: suppose that all polynomials of degree $n - 1$ or smaller lie within $\phi(\mathbb{Z}[x])$, and let $p = a_n x^n + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$, where $a_n \neq 0$. Then

$$p \pm a_n (bx + c)^n$$

is of degree $n - 1$ or smaller, where \pm cancels out the leading coefficient of p , sign being dependent on b and the parity of n . Our inductive hypothesis guarantees the existence of a polynomial $s \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ such that

$$\phi(s) = p \pm a_n (bx + c)^n.$$

Hence, we deduce that

$$\phi(s \mp a_n x^n) = \phi(s) \mp a_n \phi(x)^n = p \pm a_n (bx + c)^n \mp a_n (bx + c)^n = p.$$

Thus all polynomials of degree n lie within $\phi(\mathbb{Z}[x])$. This completes the induction.

We conclude that ϕ is an automorphism, which implies the required result. \square

9 Problem 9

9.1 Part (a)

Proof. We claim that $\boxed{\mathbb{Z}[i] / (2 + i) \cong \mathbb{Z}_5}$, by the isomorphism: $\phi(a + bi) = a + 3b \pmod{5}$. Verifying that ϕ is a homomorphism is straightforward: if $a + bi$ and $c + di$ are Gaussian integers,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(a + bi) + \phi(c + di) &= a + 3b + c + 3d \pmod{5} \\ &\equiv (a + c) + 3(b + d) \pmod{5} \\ &= \phi(a + c + i(b + d)) \\ &= \phi((a + bi) + (c + di)). \end{aligned}$$

As per the multiplicative condition,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(a + bi)\phi(c + di) &= (a + 3b)(c + 3d) \pmod{5} \\ &\equiv ac + 3(ad + bc) + 9bd \pmod{5} \\ &\equiv (ac - bd) + 3(ad + bc) \pmod{5} \\ &= \phi((ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)) \\ &= \phi((a + bi)(c + di)). \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $\phi(1) = 1$, so ϕ is a homomorphism; it is surjective, as $\phi(n) = n$ for $n \in \{0, \dots, 4\}$. We need only demonstrate that ϕ is injective. Suppose that $\phi(a + bi) = 0$, which implies $a + 3b \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$; we wish to demonstrate that $a + bi = (2 - i)z$ for a Gaussian integer z . See that

$$2a + b \equiv 2(a + 3b) \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \quad \text{and} \quad -a + 2b = -1(a + 3b) \equiv 0 \pmod{5}.$$

Then let us divide $a + bi$ by $2 - i$: define

$$z = \frac{a + bi}{2 - i} = \frac{(a + bi)(2 - i)}{2^2 - i^2} = \frac{(2a + b) + (-a + 2b)i}{5}.$$

Since both the real and imaginary components of this fraction are divisible by 5, we deduce that z is a Gaussian integer. Then $a + bi$ is 0 modulo $(2 + i)$, so $\text{Ker } \phi = 0$. We conclude that ϕ is injective, which implies the desired isomorphism. \square

9.2 Part (b)

Proof. We claim that $\boxed{\mathbb{Z}[x] / (x^2 + 3, 5) \cong \mathbb{F}_{25}}$, the field with 25 elements; since all finite fields of the same order are isomorphic, we need only demonstrate that $\mathbb{Z}[x] / (x^2 + 3, 5)$ is a field with 25 elements.

Our proof will utilize the equivalent notation $\mathbb{Z}[x] / (x^2 + 3, 5) = \mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$.

Naturally, the elements of $\mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$ are the 25 polynomials of the form $ax + b$, for $a, b \in \{0, \dots, 4\}$; this is because if $\deg p \geq 2$, there exist polynomials q and r with integer coefficients (ensured since $x^2 + 3$ is monic) such that

$$p = (x^2 + 3)q + r$$

where r is zero or $\deg r < 2$. Hence $p \equiv r \pmod{x^2 + 3}$, and r is of the aforementioned form $ax + b$. Hence the commutative ring $\mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$ has order 25.

Claim 6. *Every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$ is a multiplicative unit.*

Proof. The nonzero constant polynomials 1, 2, 3, 4 are units by Problem 3. Now, consider ax for $a \neq 0$; since $x^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{x^2 + 3}$, we have that

$$(ax)(3a^{-1}x) \equiv (aa^{-1})3x^2 \equiv 3x^2 \equiv 6 \equiv 1 \pmod{x^2 + 3}.$$

where a^{-1} denotes the modular inverse of a ; thus ax is a unit. Now, consider $ax + b$ for $a, b \neq 0$; define n as the multiplicative inverse of $2 - (a^{-1}b)^2$ (since squares modulo 5 are congruent to 0, 1, or 4, this quantity is never zero and is thus a unit). Then

$$\begin{aligned} (ax + b)(n(a^{-1}x - a^{-2}b)) &\equiv n(ax + b)(a^{-1}x - a^{-2}b) \pmod{x^2 + 3} \\ &\equiv n(x^2 - a^{-2}b^2) \pmod{x^2 + 3} \\ &\equiv n(2 - (a^{-1}b)^2) \pmod{x^2 + 3} \\ &\equiv 1 \pmod{x^2 + 3}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus every nonzero polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$ is a unit.

We conclude that $\mathbb{Z}_5[x] / (x^2 + 3)$ is a field with 25 elements, so it is isomorphic to \mathbb{F}_{25} . \square

10 Problem 10

Proof. Suppose for contradiction that $\phi : \mathbb{Z}[x] / (2x^2 + 7) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x] / (x^2 + 7)$ is an isomorphism. Observe that $(2x^2 + 7)$ and $(x^2 + 7)$ are prime ideals of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, so both quotient rings are integral domains. Since $\phi(n) = n$ for all constant polynomials n , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(0) = 0 &\implies \phi(x^2 + 7) = 2x^2 + 7 \\ &\implies \phi(x^2) + \phi(7) = 2x^2 + 7 \\ &\implies \phi(x)^2 + 7 = 2x^2 + 7. \end{aligned}$$

We deduce that $\phi(x)^2 = 2x^2$. Let $\phi(x) = ax + b$ for integers a, b ; then

$$2x^2 = (ax + b)^2 = a^2x^2 + 2abx + b^2.$$

We must have that $2abx = 0$; thus $a = 0$ or $b = 0$. If $a = 0$, then $\phi(x)$ is a constant; the image of ϕ consists of constant polynomials, violating the injectivity of ϕ . Thus $b = 0$ and $\phi(x) = ax$. This leaves us with the equation

$$2x^2 = a^2x^2 \implies (2 - a^2)x^2 = 0.$$

Then $2 - a^2 = 0$; however, no integer a satisfies this equation. Any possibility of the value $\phi(x)$ leads to a contradiction, so the rings are not isomorphic. \square