

LECTURE 26

Paulin Chapter 4: Rings!

Idea: Study objects like $(\mathbb{Z}, +, 0, *, 1)$, develop an abstract notion of primes and the fundamental theorem of arithmetic.

Definition (26.1). A ring $(R, +, 0, *, 1)$ is a set R equipped with binary operators $+, * : R \times R \rightarrow R$ and elements $0, 1 \in R$ such that

1. $(R, +, 0)$ is an abelian group,
2. $(R, *, 1)$ is a monoid (i.e. a group where multiplicative inverses may not exist),
3. Left/Right distributive law holds: $\forall a, b, c \in R, (a + b) * c = a * c + b * c$ and $a * (b + c) = a * b + a * c$.

Notation: $ab := a * b$ and $\forall n \geq 0 \in \mathbb{Z}, na := a + a \cdots + a$ (n times) and $a^n := a * a \cdots * a$ (n times). Note that $na \neq a^n$ in general.

Definition (26.2). A ring R is commutative iff $\forall a, b \in R, a * b = b * a$.

Basic Examples of Rings

1. $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$. Commutative.
2. $(\mathbb{Z}/n, \bar{+}, \bar{0}, \bar{*}, \bar{1})$. Commutative.
3. The Zero Ring $R = \{0_R\}$, where $1_R = 0_R$. Commutative.
4. $M_n(\mathbb{R}) := \{n \times n \text{ matrices with entries in } \mathbb{R}\}, (M_n(\mathbb{R}), +, 0_n, *, I_n)$. Non-commutative for $n \geq 2$.
5. $\mathcal{C}([0, 1]) := \{f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} | f \text{ is continuous}\}$. In this ring, $(f + g)(x) := f(x) + g(x), (fg)(x) := f(x)g(x), 0(x) := 0 \in \mathbb{R}, 1(x) := 1 \in \mathbb{R} \forall x \in [0, 1]$.

Abstract Properties of Rings

Proposition (26.3). Let R be a ring.

1. $\forall n, m \geq 1$, let $a_1, \dots, a_n \in R$ and $b_1, \dots, b_m \in R$. Then $(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i) \cdot (\sum_{j=1}^m b_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m a_i b_j$.
2. $\forall a \in R, a * 0 = 0 = 0 * a$.
3. $\forall a, b \in R, a(-b) = -a(b) = -ab$, where $-b, -a$ are the additive inverses of b, a respectively. In particular, $(-a)(-b) = ab$.

Important Example: Polynomial Rings

Let R be a commutative ring. Then

$$R[x] := \{a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \cdots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_nx^n | \forall n \geq 0 \ a_i \in R\} = "R \text{ adjoin } x"$$

Let $f, g \in R[x]$. Write $f = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i, g = \sum_{j=0}^m b_j x^j$. WLOG, assume $m \leq n$. Define $b_{m+1} = b_{m+2} = \cdots = b_n = 0 \in R$, then $f + g := \sum_{i=0}^n (a_i + b_i) x^i$. Also, $fg := \sum_{k=0}^{m+n} c_k x^k$, where $c_k := \sum_{l=0}^k a_l b_{k-l}$.

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Additive Identity: $0 := \sum_i a_i x^i, a_i = 0 \in R \forall i \geq 0$.

Multiplicative Identity: $1 := \sum_i a_i x^i, a_0 = 1 \in R, a_i = 0 \in R \forall i \geq 1$.

Proposition (27.1). R commutative implies $R[x]$ is commutative.

Remark. $R[x][y]$. This is just a polynomial in 2 variables.

Definition (27.2). Let $f = \sum a_k x^k \in R[x]$, where $\sum a_k x^k$. Then the degree of f , $\deg(f) \in \mathbb{N}$ is the largest $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a_n \neq 0$. Often, $\deg(0) := -\infty$.

Basic Constructions

Definition (27.3). Let R be a ring. A subset $S \subseteq R$ is a subring iff

1. $(S, +, 0_R) \leq (R, +, 0_R)$ is a subgroup with respect to $+$.
2. $\forall x, y \in S, x * y \in S$. i.e. S is closed under multiplication.
3. $1_R \in S$.

We write $S \leq R$ to denote that S is a subring of R .

Example. 1. We have $\mathbb{Z} \leq \mathbb{Q} \leq \mathbb{R} \leq \mathbb{C}$.

2. Let R be commutative. Then $R \leq R[x]$.

3. (Non-Commutative Examples): Let $R = M_2(\mathbb{R})$ and $S = \left\{ A \in R \mid A = \alpha = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$. Then $S \leq R$.

CAUTION!!! Some authors...

1. don't require a ring to have 1 (multiplicative identity)
2. don't require subrings to have $1_R \in S$ (no Axiom 3).

Basic Constructions

1. $n\mathbb{Z} \not\leq \mathbb{Z}, n > 1$ since $1 \notin \mathbb{Z}$.
2. If $R \neq \{0_R\}$, then $\{0_R\} \not\leq R$ since $1_R \notin \{0_R\}$.
3. Take $S = \{f = \sum a_i x^2 \in R[x] \mid a_0 = 0\} \not\leq R[x]$ since $1 \notin R[x]$.

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Ring Homomorphisms

Definition (28.1). Let R, S be rings. A ring homomorphism from R to S is a function $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ such that $\forall a, b \in R$,

1. $\varphi(a + b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$,
2. $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$, and
3. $\varphi(1_R) = 1_S$. A ring isomorphism is a ring homomorphism φ such that φ is a bijection.

Example. 1. $\text{id} : R \rightarrow R$ is a ring isomorphism. BOOOORING!!!

2. Let $n > 1$. Then $\pi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n, \pi(a) := [a]$ is a ring homomorphism.

3. (NON-EXAMPLE) Let $\det : M_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. Then Axioms 2 and 3 are satisfied, but not Axiom 1 since $\det(A + B) \neq \det(A) + \det(B)$ in general.

Proposition (28.2). Let $r \in R$. The function $\text{ev}_r(f) := f(r)$ is a ring homomorphism ("evaluation at r ").

In general, elements of $R[x]$ "aren't functions."

Example. $\mathbb{Z}/2[x]$.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \deg(-\infty) : \bar{0} & \deg(1) : x, x + \bar{1} \\ \deg(0) : \bar{1} & \deg(2) : x^2, x^2 + x, x^2 + \bar{1}, x^2 + x + \bar{1}. \end{array}$$

The number of ev homomorphisms is 2: $\text{ev}_{\bar{0}}, \text{ev}_{\bar{1}} : \mathbb{Z}/2[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Let $f := x^2 + x + \bar{1}$, $g := \bar{1}$. Then $\text{ev}_{\bar{0}}(f) = \bar{1}$, $\text{ev}_{\bar{1}}(f) = \bar{1}^2 + \bar{1} + \bar{1} = \bar{1}$.

Also, $\text{ev}_{\bar{0}}(g) = \bar{1}$, $\text{ev}_{\bar{1}}(g) = \bar{1}$, BUT $f \neq g$.

Definition (28.3). Let $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism. The **kernel** of φ is the subset $\ker(\varphi) := \{r \in R \mid \varphi(r) = 0_S\}$ of R .

The **image** of φ is the subset $\text{im}(\varphi) := \{\varphi(r) \mid r \in R\}$ of S .

Proposition (28.4). 1. $\text{im}(\varphi) \leq S$ is a subgroup of S .

2. $\ker(\varphi) \leq R$ is a subring of R iff $S = \{0_S\}$ is the trivial ring.