

# Solutions to the book: *Fulton, Algebraic Curves*

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# Chapter 1: Affine Algebraic Sets

## 1.1. Algebraic Preliminaries

### Problem 1.1.\*

Let  $R$  be a domain.

- (a) If  $f, g$  are forms of degree  $r, s$  respectively in  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , show that  $fg$  is a form of degree  $r + s$ .
- (b) Show that any factor of a form in  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is also a form.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Write

$$f = \sum_{(i)} a_{(i)} x^{(i)},$$
$$g = \sum_{(j)} b_{(j)} x^{(j)},$$

where  $\sum_{(i)}$  is the summation over  $(i) = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$  with  $i_1 + \dots + i_n = r$  and  $\sum_{(j)}$  is the summation over  $(j) = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$  with  $j_1 + \dots + j_n = s$ .

- (2) Hence,

$$fg = \sum_{(i)} \sum_{(j)} a_{(i)} b_{(j)} x^{(i)} x^{(j)}$$
$$= \sum_{(i), (j)} a_{(i)} b_{(j)} x^{(k)}$$

where  $(k) = (i_1 + j_1, \dots, i_n + j_n)$  with  $(i_1 + j_1) + \dots + (i_n + j_n) = r + s$ . Each  $x^{(k)}$  is the form of degree  $r + s$  and  $a_{(i)} b_{(j)} \in R$ . Hence  $fg$  is a form of degree  $r + s$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Given any form  $f \in R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , and write  $f = gh$ . It suffices to show that  $g$  is a form as well. (So does  $h$ .)
- (2) Write

$$g = g_0 + \dots + g_r, \quad h = h_0 + \dots + h_s$$

where  $g_r \neq 0$  and  $h_s \neq 0$ . So

$$f = gh = g_0h_0 + \cdots + g_rh_s.$$

Since  $R$  is a domain,  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a domain and thus  $g_rh_s \neq 0$ . The maximality of  $r$  and  $s$  implies that  $\deg f = r + s$ . Therefore, by the maximality of  $r + s$ ,  $f = g_rh_s$ , or  $g = g_r$ , or  $g$  is a form.

□

**Problem 1.2.\***

Let  $R$  be a UFD,  $K$  the quotient field of  $R$ . Show that every element  $z$  of  $K$  may be written  $z = a/b$ , where  $a, b \in R$  have no common factors; this representative is unique up to units of  $R$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that every element  $z$  of  $K$  may be written  $z = a/b$ , where  $a, b \in R$  have no common factors. Given any  $z = a/b \in K$  where  $a, b \in R$ . Write

$$\begin{aligned} a &= p_1 \cdots p_n, \\ b &= q_1 \cdots q_m \end{aligned}$$

where all  $p_1, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_m$  are irreducible in  $R$ . (It is possible since  $R$  is a UFD.) For each  $i$ , suppose  $p_i \mid q_j$  for some  $i, j$ . Write  $q_j = p_i u$  for some  $u \in R$ . By the irreducibility of  $p_i$  and  $q_j$ ,  $u$  is a unit. So

$$z = \frac{a}{b} = \frac{p_1 \cdots \widehat{p_i} \cdots p_n}{q_1 \cdots \widehat{q_j} \cdots q_m} = \frac{p_1 \cdots \widehat{p_i} \cdots p_n}{u q_1 \cdots \widehat{q_j} \cdots q_m}.$$

Continue this method we can write  $z = \frac{a'}{b'}$  where  $a'$  and  $b'$  have no common factors.

- (2) Write  $z = a/b = a'/b'$  where

- (a)  $a, b, a', b' \in R$ ,
- (b)  $a$  and  $b$  have no common factors,
- (c)  $a'$  and  $b'$  have no common factors.

Write

$$\begin{aligned} a &= p_1 \cdots p_n, \\ b &= q_1 \cdots q_m, \\ a' &= p'_1 \cdots p'_{n'}, \\ b' &= q'_1 \cdots q'_{m'} \end{aligned}$$

where all  $p_i, q_j, p'_{i'}, q'_{j'}$  are irreducible in  $R$ . As  $z = a/b = a'/b'$ ,  $ab' = a'b$  or

$$p_1 \cdots p_n q'_1 \cdots q'_{m'} = p'_1 \cdots p'_{n'} q_1 \cdots q_m.$$

- (3) For  $i = 1$ ,  $p_1 = u_1 p'_{i'}$  for some unit  $u_1 \in R$  since  $a$  and  $b$  have no common factors and all  $p_1, q_j, p'_{i'}$  are irreducible. Hence

$$u_1 \widehat{p_1} p_2 \cdots p_n q'_1 \cdots q'_{m'} = p'_1 \cdots \widehat{p'_{i'}} \cdots p'_{n'} q_1 \cdots q_m.$$

Continue this method, we have  $n \leq n'$  and all  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are canceled.

- (4) Conversely, we can apply the argument in (3) to  $i' = 1, \dots, n'$  to conclude that  $n' \leq n$ . Therefore,  $n = n'$  and

$$\underbrace{u_1 \cdots u_n}_{\text{a unit in } R} q'_1 \cdots q'_{m'} = q_1 \cdots q_m.$$

Hence,  $b = ub'$  where  $u = u_1 \cdots u_n$  is a unit in  $R$ . Similarly,  $a = va'$  where  $v$  is a unit in  $R$ . So the representative of  $z \in K$  is unique up to units of  $R$ .

□

### Problem 1.3.\*

Let  $R$  be a PID. Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a nonzero, proper, prime ideal in  $R$ .

- (a) Show that  $\mathfrak{p}$  is generated by an irreducible element.
- (b) Show that  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Let  $\mathfrak{p} = (a)$  be a nonzero, proper, prime ideal in  $R$ . It suffices to show that  $a$  is irreducible.
- (2) Suppose  $a = bc$ . By the primality of  $\mathfrak{p}$ ,  $b \in \mathfrak{p}$  or  $c \in \mathfrak{p}$ . Suppose  $b \in \mathfrak{p} = (a)$ . (The case  $c \in \mathfrak{p}$  is similar.) Then there is a  $d \in R$  such that  $b = ad$ . Hence,  $a = bc = adc$  or  $(1 - dc)a = 0$ .
- (3) Since  $R$  is a domain,  $1 = dc$  or  $a = 0$ .  $a = 0$  implies that  $\mathfrak{p} = (0)$  is a zero ideal, contrary to the assumption. Therefore,  $1 = dc$ , or  $c$  is a unit, or  $a$  is irreducible.

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Given any ideal  $I = (b)$  of  $R$  containing  $\mathfrak{p} = (a)$ . As the generator  $a$  of  $\mathfrak{p}$  is in  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq I$ , there is some  $c \in R$  such that  $a = bc$ . By the irreducibility of  $a$  (in  $(a)$ ),  $b$  is a unit or  $c$  is a unit.
- (2)  $b$  is a unit implies that  $I = R$ .  $c$  is a unit implies that  $I = \mathfrak{p}$ . In any case, we conclude that  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal.

□

**Problem 1.4.\***

Let  $k$  be an infinite field,  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Suppose  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$  for all  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ . Show that  $f = 0$ . (Hint: Write

$$f = \sum f_i x_n^i, \quad f_i \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}].$$

Use induction on  $n$ , and the fact that  $f(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, x_n)$  has only a finite number of roots if any  $f_i(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \neq 0$ .)

*Proof.*

- (1) Induction on  $n$ . The case  $n = 1$ . (Reductio ad absurdum) If there were a nonzero  $f \in k[x_1]$  such that  $f(a) = 0$  for all  $a \in k$ . Note that  $f$  has at most  $\deg f < \infty$  roots, contrary to the infinity of  $k$ .
- (2) Assume that the conclusion holds for  $n - 1$ , then for any  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  we can write

$$f = \sum f_i x_n^i, \quad f_i \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$$

as  $f \in (k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}])[x_n]$ . Suppose  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$  for all  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ . For fixed  $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}$ , the polynomial  $f(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, x_n) \in k[x_n]$  has all distinct roots in an infinite field  $k$ . By (1),  $f(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, x_n) = 0 \in k[x_n]$ , or each  $f_i(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) = 0$ . As all  $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}$  run over  $k$ , we can apply the induction hypothesis each  $f_i(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) = 0 \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ . Hence,  $f = 0 \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

□

*Note.* If  $k$  is a finite field of order  $q = p^k$ , then the polynomial  $f(x) = x^q - x$  has  $q$  distinct roots in  $k$ .



**Problem 1.5.\***

Let  $k$  be any field. Show that there are an infinitely number of irreducible monic polynomials in  $k[x]$ . (Hint: Suppose  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  were all of them, and factor  $f_1 \cdots f_n + 1$  into irreducible factors.)

*Proof (Due to Euclid).*

- (1) If  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  were all irreducible monic polynomials, then we consider

$$g = f_1 \cdots f_n + 1 \in k[x].$$

So there is an irreducible monic polynomial  $f = f_i$  dividing  $g$  for some  $i$  since

$$\deg g = \deg f_1 + \cdots + \deg f_n \geq 1$$

and  $k[x]$  is a UFD.

- (2) However,  $f$  would divide the difference

$$g - f_1 \cdots f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \cdots f_n = 1,$$

contrary to  $\deg f_i \geq 1$ .

□

**Problem 1.6.\***

Show that any algebraically closed field is infinite. (Hint: The irreducible monic polynomials are  $x - a$ ,  $a \in k$ .)

*Proof (Due to Euclid).*

- (1) Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. If  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  were all elements in  $k$ , then we consider a monic polynomials

$$f(x) = (x - a_1) \cdots (x - a_n) + 1 \in k[x].$$

- (2) Since  $k$  is algebraically closed, there is an element  $a \in k$  such that  $f(a) = 0$ . By assumption,  $a = a_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and thus  $f(a) = f(a_i) = 1$ , contrary to the fact that a field is a commutative ring where  $0 \neq 1$  and all nonzero elements are invertible.

□

**Problem 1.7.\***

Let  $k$  be a field,  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ .

(a) Show that

$$f = \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}, \quad \lambda_{(i)} \in k.$$

(b) If  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$ , show that  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - a_i)g_i$  for some (not unique)  $g_i$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

*Proof of (a).*

(1) Regard  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  as  $(k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}])[x_n]$ . Since  $(k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}])[x_n]$  is a Euclidean domain with a function

$$f \in (k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}])[x_n] \mapsto \deg_{x_n} f \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

satisfying the division-with-remainder property.

(2) Apply the division algorithm for  $f$  and nonzero  $x_n - a_n$  to produce a quotient  $q$  and remainder  $r$  with  $f = (x_n - a_n)q + r$  and either  $r = 0$  or  $\deg_{x_n}(r) < \deg_{x_n}(x_n - a_n) = 1$ . That is,  $r \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$  is a constant in  $(k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}])[x_n]$ . Continue this process to get that  $f$  is of the form

$$f = \sum_{i_n} f_{i_n} (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}$$

where  $f_{i_n} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ .

(3) Use the same argument in (2) for each  $f_{i_n} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{i_n} &= \sum_{\substack{i_{n-1} \\ \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-2}]}} \underbrace{f_{i_n, i_{n-1}}}_{\in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-2}]} (x_{n-1} - a_{n-1})^{i_{n-1}} \\ f_{i_n, i_{n-1}} &= \sum_{\substack{i_{n-2} \\ \in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-3}]}} \underbrace{f_{i_n, i_{n-1}, i_{n-2}}}_{\in k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-3}]} (x_{n-2} - a_{n-2})^{i_{n-2}}, \\ &\dots \\ f_{i_n, \dots, i_2} &= \sum_{\substack{i_1 \\ \in k}} \underbrace{f_{i_n, \dots, i_1}}_{\in k} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $f_{i_n, \dots, i_1} \in k$ , we can write

$$f = \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}, \quad \lambda_{(i)} \in k.$$

by replacing all  $f_{i_n, \dots, i_k}$  by  $f_{i_n, \dots, i_{k-1}}$  for  $k = n, n-1, \dots, 2$ .

(4) Or use the induction on  $n$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

(1) Write

$$f = \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}, \quad \lambda_{(i)} \in k$$

by (a).

(2) As  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$ ,  $\lambda_{(i)} = 0$  if all  $i_1, \dots, i_n$  are zero, that is, there is no nonzero constant term in the representation of  $f$ . Hence, for each term

$$f_{(i)} := \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}$$

with  $\lambda_{(i)} \neq 0$ , there exists one  $i_k > 0$  for some  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . So we can write

$$f_{(i)} = (x_k - a_k) \underbrace{(\lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_k - a_k)^{i_k-1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n})}_{:= g_{(i)} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]}.$$

Note that the expression of  $f_{(i)}$  is not unique since there may exist more than one  $i_k > 0$  as  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

(3) Now we iterate each nonzero term in  $f$ , apply the factorization in (2), and then group by each  $x_k - a_k$ . Therefore, we can write

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - a_i) g_i$$

for some  $g_i \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

(4) The expression of  $f$  is not unique. For example, take  $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2xy + y^2 \in k[x, y]$ . As  $f(0, 0) = 0$ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &= x \cdot \underbrace{(x + 2y)}_{g_1} + y \cdot \underbrace{y}_{g_2}, \text{ or} \\ &= x \cdot \underbrace{(x + y)}_{g_1} + y \cdot \underbrace{(x + y)}_{g_2}, \text{ or} \\ &= x \cdot \underbrace{x}_{g_1} + y \cdot \underbrace{(2x + y)}_{g_2}. \end{aligned}$$

□

## 1.2. Affine Space and Algebraic Sets

### Problem 1.8.\*

Show that the algebraic subsets of  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$  are just the finite subsets, together with  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$  itself.

*Proof.*

(1) Show that  $k[x]$  is a PID if  $k$  is a field.

- (a) Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $k[x]$ .
- (b) If  $I = \{0\}$  then  $I = (0)$  and  $I$  is principal.
- (c) If  $I \neq \{0\}$ , then take  $f$  to be a polynomial of minimal degree in  $I$ . It suffices to show that  $I = (f)$ . Clearly,  $(f) \subseteq I$  since  $I$  is an ideal. Conversely, for any  $g \in I$ ,

$$g(x) = f(x)h(x) + r(x)$$

for some  $h, r \in k[x]$  with  $r = 0$  or  $\deg r < \deg f$  (as  $k[x]$  is a Euclidean domain). Now as

$$r = g - fh \in I,$$

$r = 0$  (otherwise contrary to the minimality of  $f$ ), we have  $g = fh \in (f)$  for all  $g \in I$ .

(2) Let  $Y$  be an algebraic subset of  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$ , say  $Y = V(I)$  for some ideal  $I$  of  $k[x]$ . Since  $k[x]$  is a PID,  $I = (f)$  for some  $f \in k[x]$ .

- (a) If  $f = 0$ , then  $I = (0)$  and  $Y = V(0) = \mathbf{A}^1(k)$ .
- (b) If  $f \neq 0$ , then  $f(x) = 0$  has finitely many roots in  $k$ , say  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in k$ . Hence,

$$Y = V(I) = V(f) = \{f(a) = 0 : a \in k\} = \{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$$

is a finite subsets of  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$ .

By (a)(b), the result is established.

□

*Notes.*

- (1) By the Hilbert basis theorem,  $k[x]$  is Noetherian as  $k$  is Noetherian. Hence, for any algebraic subset  $Y = V(I)$  of  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$ , we can write  $I = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$ . Note that

$$Y = V(I) = V(f_1) \cap \dots \cap V(f_m).$$

Now apply the same argument to get the same conclusion.

- (2) Suppose  $k = \bar{k}$ .  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$  is irreducible, because its only proper closed subsets are finite, yet it is infinite (because  $k$  is algebraically closed, hence infinite).

**Problem 1.9.**

If  $k$  is a finite field, show that every subset of  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  is algebraic.

*Proof.*

- (1) Every subset of  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  is finite since  $|\mathbf{A}^n(k)| = |k|^n$  is finite.
- (2) Note that  $V(x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n) = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n)\} \subseteq \mathbf{A}^n(k)$  (Property (5) in §1.2) and any finite union of algebraic sets is algebraic (Property (4) in §1.2). Thus, every subset of  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  is algebraic (by (1)).

□

**Problem 1.10.**

Give an example of a countable collection of algebraic sets whose union is not algebraic.

*Proof.*

- (1) Let  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  be an infinite field.  $V(x - a) = \{a\}$  is an algebraic sets for all  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ . In particular,  $V(x - a) = \{a\}$  is algebraic for all  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (2) Note that

$$Y := \bigcup_{a \in \mathbb{Z}} V(x - a) = \mathbb{Z}$$

is a countable union of algebraic sets. Since  $Y$  is a proper subset of  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ , it cannot be algebraic by Problem 1.8.

□

**Problem 1.11.**

Show that the following are algebraic sets:

- (a)  $\{(t, t^2, t^3) \in \mathbf{A}^3(k) : t \in k\}$ ;
- (b)  $\{(\cos(t), \sin(t)) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ;
- (c) the set of points in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  whose polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  satisfy the equation  $r = \sin(\theta)$ .

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) The twisted cubic curve

$$Y = \{(t, t^2, t^3) \in \mathbf{A}^3(k) : t \in k\} = V(x^2 - y) \cap V(x^3 - z)$$

is algebraic. We say that  $Y$  is given by the parametric representation  $x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$ .

- (2) The generators for the ideal  $I(Y)$  are  $x^2 - y$  and  $x^3 - z$ .  
 (3)  $Y$  is an affine variety of dimension 1.  
 (4) The affine coordinate ring  $A(Y)$  is isomorphic to a polynomial ring in one variable over  $k$ .

□

*Proof of (b).* The circle

$$\{(\cos(t), \sin(t)) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) : t \in \mathbb{R}\} = V(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$$

is algebraic. □

*Proof of (c).* The circle

$$\{(r, \theta) : r = \sin(\theta)\} = V(x^2 + y^2 - y)$$

is algebraic again. □

### Problem 1.12.

Suppose  $C$  is an affine plane curve, and  $L$  is a line in  $\mathbf{A}^2(k)$ ,  $L \not\subseteq C$ . Suppose  $C = V(f)$ ,  $f \in k[x, y]$  a polynomial of degree  $n$ . Show that  $L \cap C$  is a finite set of no more than  $n$  points. (Hint: Suppose  $L = V(y - (ax + b))$ , and consider  $f(x, ax + b) \in k[x]$ .)

*Proof.*

- (1) Say  $L = V(y - (ax + b))$  be a line in  $\mathbf{A}^2(k)$ . (The case  $L = V(x - (ay + b))$  is similar.)  
 (2) Note that  $L \not\subseteq C$  implies that  $(y - (ax + b)) \nmid f$ . Hence, the polynomial

$$g : x \mapsto f(x, ax + b) \in k[x]$$

is nonzero and  $\deg g \leq n$ . Therefore, the number of roots of  $g$  in  $k$  is no more than  $n$ .

(3) Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
L \cap C &= V(y - (ax + b)) \cap V(f) \\
&= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(k) : y = ax + b \text{ and } f(x, y) = 0\} \\
&= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(k) : f(x, ax + b) = 0\}
\end{aligned}$$

is finite of no more than  $n$  points.

□

**Problem 1.13.**

Show that each of the following sets is not algebraic:

- (a)  $\{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) : y = \sin(x)\}$ .
- (b)  $\{(z, w) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C}) : |z|^2 + |w|^2 = 1\}$ , where  $|x + iy|^2 = x^2 + y^2$  for  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (c)  $\{(\cos(t), \sin(t), t) \in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R}) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) (Reductio ad absurdum) If

$$Y := \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) : y = \sin(x)\}$$

were algebraic, then there is a subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$  such that

$$Y = V(S) = \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f).$$

- (2)  $S \neq \emptyset$  since  $Y \neq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ . ( $(89, 64) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) - Y$ .)
- (3) Take a fixed line  $L = V(y)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ . For each affine curve  $f \in S$ , we have

$$V(f) \cap L \supseteq \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f) \cap L = Y \cap L = \{(n\pi, 0) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R}) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

which is infinite. By problem 1.12,  $y \mid f$ . As  $f$  runs over  $S$ ,  $Y \subseteq V(y) = L$ , contradicts that  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2}) \in L - Y$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Similar to (a). (Reductio ad absurdum) If

$$Y := \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C}) : |x|^2 + |y|^2 = 1\}$$

were algebraic, then there is a subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$  such that

$$Y = V(S) = \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f).$$

- (2)  $S \neq \emptyset$  since  $Y \neq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .  $((89, 64) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C}) - Y)$   
(3) Take a fixed line  $L = V(x)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ . For each affine curve  $f \in S$ , we have

$$V(f) \cap L \supseteq \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f) \cap L = Y \cap L = \{(0, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C}) : |y| = 1\},$$

which is infinite (since  $Y$  contains a unit circle in the complex plane). By problem 1.12,  $x \mid f$ . As  $f$  runs over  $S$ ,  $Y \subseteq V(x) = L$ , contradicts that the origin  $(0, 0) \in L - Y$ .

□

*Proof of (c).*

- (1) Similar to (a) and (b).  
(2) Suppose  $C$  is an affine plane curve, and  $L$  is a line in  $\mathbf{A}^3(k)$ ,  $L \not\subseteq C$ . Suppose  $C = V(f)$ ,  $f \in k[x, y, z]$  a polynomial of degree  $n$ . Show that  $L \cap C$  is a finite set of no more than  $n$  points. The proof is similar to Problem 1.12.  
(a) Say  $L = V(y - (ax + b), z - (cx + d))$  be a line in  $\mathbf{A}^3(k)$ .  
(b) Note that  $L \not\subseteq C$  implies that  $(y - (ax + b)) \nmid f$  and  $(z - (cx + d)) \nmid f$ . Hence, the polynomial

$$g : x \mapsto f(x, ax + b, cx + d) \in k[x]$$

is nonzero and  $\deg g \leq n$ . Therefore, the number of roots of  $g$  in  $k$  is no more than  $n$ .

- (c) Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} L \cap C &= V(y - (ax + b), z - (cx + d)) \cap V(f) \\ &= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(k) : y = ax + b, z = cx + d \text{ and } f(x, y) = 0\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(k) : f(x, ax + b, cx + d) = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

is finite of no more than  $n$  points.



(3) (Reductio ad absurdum) If

$$Y := \{(\cos(t), \sin(t), t) \in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R}) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

were algebraic, then there is a subset  $S$  of  $\mathbb{R}[x, y, z]$  such that

$$Y = V(S) = \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f).$$

(4)  $S \neq \emptyset$  since  $Y \neq \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R})$ . ((1989, 6, 4)  $\in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R}) - Y$ .)

(5) Take a fixed line  $L = V(x - 1, y)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R})$ . For each affine curve  $f \in S$ , we have

$$V(f) \cap L \supseteq \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f) \cap L = Y \cap L = \{(1, 0, 2n\pi) \in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{R}) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

which is infinite. By (2),  $(x - 1) \mid f$  and  $y \mid f$ . As  $f$  runs over  $S$ ,  $Y \subseteq V(x - 1, y) = L$ , contradicts that  $(1, 0, \pi) \in L - Y$ .

□

**Supplement.** A circular disk of radius 1 in the plane  $xy$  rolls without slipping along the  $x$  axis. The figure described by a point of the circumference of the disk is called a **cycloid**. The parametrized curve  $\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is

$$\begin{cases} x = t - \sin t \\ y = 1 - \cos t. \end{cases}$$

The cycloid is not algebraic (as (a)).

#### Problem 1.14.\*

Let  $f$  be a nonconstant polynomial in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $k$  algebraically closed. Show that  $\mathbf{A}^n(k) - V(f)$  is infinite if  $n \geq 1$ , and  $V(f)$  is infinite if  $n \geq 2$ . Conclude that the complement of any proper algebraic set is infinite. (Hint: See Problem 1.4.)

*Proof.*

(1) Show that  $\mathbf{A}^n(k) - V(f)$  is infinite if  $n \geq 1$ . Since  $f$  is a nonconstant polynomial in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we may assume that  $\deg_{x_n}(f) > 0$ . Hence

$$x_n \mapsto f(1, \dots, 1, x_n)$$

is a nonconstant polynomial of degree  $\deg_{x_n}(f) > 0$  in  $k[x_n]$ . So  $f$  has finitely many roots in  $k$ , say  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_m$  ( $m \geq 0$ ). Hence,

$$(1, \dots, 1, x_n) \neq 0$$

whenever  $x_n \neq \xi_m$ . Such subset in  $\mathbf{A}^1(k)$  is infinite since  $k = \bar{k}$  (Problem 1.6). Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A}^n(k) - V(f) &= \{(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbf{A}^n(k) : f(a_1, \dots, a_n) \neq 0\} \\ &\supseteq \{a_n \in \mathbf{A}^1(k) : f(1, \dots, 1, x_n) \neq 0\}\end{aligned}$$

is infinite.

(2) Show that  $V(f)$  is infinite if  $n \geq 2$ .

(a) Similar to (1). Since  $f$  is a nonconstant polynomial in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we may assume that  $m := \deg_{x_n}(f) > 0$ . Write

$$f = \sum_{i=0}^m f_i(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})x_n^i.$$

Note that each  $f_i$  is well-defined since  $n \geq 2$ .

(b) If  $f_n$  is constant in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ , then  $f_n$  is nonzero (since  $m > 0$ ) or  $V(f_n) = \emptyset$ . If  $f_n$  is nonconstant in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]$ , then the set  $\mathbf{A}^{n-1}(k) - V(f_n)$  is infinite by (1). In any case,

$$\mathbf{A}^{n-1}(k) - V(f_n)$$

is infinite.

(c) For each  $P = (a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in \mathbf{A}^{n-1}(k) - V(f_n)$ ,

$$g_P : x_n \mapsto f(P, x_n) = f(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, x_n)$$

defines a polynomial in  $k[x_n]$  of degree  $m > 0$ . Since  $k = \bar{k}$ ,  $g_P$  has at least one root  $Q \in k$ . Hence

$$V(f) \supseteq \{(P, Q) \in \mathbf{A}^n(k) : P \in \mathbf{A}^{n-1}(k) - V(f_n), g_P(Q) = 0\}$$

is infinite since the set  $\mathbf{A}^{n-1}(k) - V(f_n)$  is infinite.

*Note.* It is not true if  $k \neq \bar{k}$ . For example,  $V(x^2 + y^2 + 1) = \emptyset$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

(3) Note that

$$\mathbf{A}^n(k) - V(S) = \mathbf{A}^n(k) - \bigcap_{f \in S} V(f) = \bigcup_{f \in S} (\mathbf{A}^n(k) - V(f)).$$

Thus the complement of any proper algebraic set is infinite by (1).

□

**Problem 1.15.\***

Let  $V \subseteq \mathbf{A}^n(k)$ ,  $W \subseteq \mathbf{A}^m(k)$  be algebraic sets. Show that

$$V \times W = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m) : (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in V, (b_1, \dots, b_m) \in W\}$$

is an algebraic set in  $\mathbf{A}^{n+m}(k)$ . It is called the **product** of  $V$  and  $W$ .

*Proof.*

(1) Write

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V(S_V) = \{P \in \mathbf{A}^n(k) : f(P) = 0 \forall f \in S_V\} \\ W &= V(S_W) = \{Q \in \mathbf{A}^m(k) : g(Q) = 0 \forall g \in S_W\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $S_V \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $S_W \subseteq k[y_1, \dots, y_m]$ . It suffices to show that

$$V \times W = V(S),$$

where  $S \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m]$  is the union of  $S_V$  and  $S_W$ .

(2) Here we can identify  $S_V$  with the subset of  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m]$  by noting that

$$k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \hookrightarrow (k[y_1, \dots, y_m])[x_1, \dots, x_n] = k[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m].$$

Here we regard  $k$  as a subring of  $k[y_1, \dots, y_m]$ . Similar treatment to  $S_W$ .

(3) By construction,  $V \times W \subseteq V(S)$ . Conversely, given any  $(P, Q) \in V(S) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^{n+m}(k)$ , we have  $h(P, Q) = 0$  for all  $h \in S = S_V \cup S_W$  (by (2)). By construction,  $f(P) = 0$  for all  $f \in S_V$  since  $f$  only involve  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . Hence,  $P \in V$ . Similarly,  $Q \in W$ . Therefore,  $(P, Q) \in V \times W$ .

□

### 1.3. The Ideal of a Set of Points

**Problem 1.16.\***

Let  $V, W$  be algebraic sets in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$ . Show that  $V = W$  if and only if  $I(V) = I(W)$ .

*Proof.*

(1) (Proof of Property (6) in §1.3.) Show that if  $X \subseteq Y$ , then  $I(X) \supseteq I(Y)$ . If  $f \in I(Y)$  then  $f(P) = 0$  for all  $P \in Y$ . So  $f(P) = 0$  for all  $P \in X \subseteq Y$  or  $f \in I(X)$ .

- (2) (Proof of Property (8) in §1.3.)  $I(V(S)) \supseteq S$  for any set  $S$  of polynomials;  $V(I(X)) \supseteq X$  for any set  $X$  of points.
- (a) If  $f \in S$  then  $f$  vanishes on  $V(S)$ , hence  $f \in IV(S)$ .
  - (b) If  $P \in X$  then every polynomial in  $I(X)$  vanishes at  $P$ , so  $P$  belongs to the zero set of  $I(X)$ .
- (3) (Proof of Property (9) in §1.3.)  $V(I(V(S))) = V(S)$  for any set  $S$  of polynomials, and  $I(V(I(X))) = I(X)$  for any set  $X$  of points. So if  $V$  is an algebraic set,  $V = V(I(V))$ , and if  $I$  is the ideal of an algebraic set,  $I = I(V(I))$ .
- (a) In each case, it suffices to show that the left side is a subset of the right side. (by Properties (6)(8) in §1.3).
  - (b) If  $P \in V(S)$  then  $f(P) = 0$  for all  $f \in I(V(S))$ , so  $P \in V(I(V(S)))$ .
  - (c) If  $f \in I(X)$  then  $f(P) = 0$  for all  $P \in V(I(X))$ . Thus  $f$  vanishes on  $V(I(X))$ , so  $f \in I(V(I(X)))$ .
- (4) Show that  $V = W$  if and only if  $I(V) = I(W)$ .
- (a) By Property (6) in §1.3,  $I(V) \supseteq I(W)$  if  $V \subseteq W$  and  $I(V) \subseteq I(W)$  if  $V \supseteq W$ . Thus,  $I(V) = I(W)$  if  $V = W$ .
  - (b) Conversely,  $I(V) = I(W)$  implies that  $V(I(V)) = V(I(W))$  by Property (3) in §1.2 and similar argument in (a). By Property (9) in §1.3,  $V(I(V)) = V$  and  $V(I(W)) = W$ . Thus,  $V = W$ .

□

**Problem 1.17.\***

- (a) Let  $V$  be an algebraic set in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$ ,  $P \in \mathbf{A}^n(k)$  a point not in  $V$ . Show that there is a polynomial  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $f(Q) = 0$  for all  $Q \in V$ , but  $f(P) = 1$ . (Hint:  $I(V) \neq I(V \cup \{P\})$ .)
- (b) Let  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  be distinct points in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$ , not in an algebraic set  $V$ . Show that there are polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_r \in I(V)$  such that  $f_i(P_j) = 0$  if  $i \neq j$ , and  $f_i(P_i) = 1$ . (Hint: Apply (a) to the union of  $V$  and all but one point.)
- (c) With  $P_1, \dots, P_r$  and  $V$  as in (b), and  $a_{ij} \in k$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq r$ , show that there are  $g_i \in I(V)$  with  $g_i(P_j) = a_{ij}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . (Hint: Consider  $\sum_j a_{ij} f_j$ .)

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Since  $I(V) \subsetneq I(V \cup \{P\})$  (by Problem 1.16), there is a polynomial  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $f(Q) = 0$  for all  $Q \in V$ , but  $f(P) \neq 0$ .

- (2) Since  $k$  is a field,  $(f(P))^{-1} \in k$ . Consider the polynomial  $(f(P))^{-1}f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . It is well-defined. Also,  $((f(P))^{-1}f)(Q) = (f(P))^{-1}f(Q) = 0$  for all  $Q \in V$ , but  $(f(P))^{-1}f(P) = (f(P))^{-1}f(P) = 1$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) For  $1 \leq i \leq$ , define

$$W = V \cup \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$$

$$W_i = V \cup \{P_1, \dots, \widehat{P_i}, \dots, P_r\}.$$

Here  $W = W_i \cup \{P_i\} \neq W_i$ .

- (2) By (a), there is a polynomial  $f_i \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $f_i(Q) = 0$  for all  $Q \in W_i$ , but  $f_i(P_i) = 1$ . Here  $f_i \in I(V)$  and  $f_i(P_j) = \delta_{ij}$  where  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta.

□

*Proof of (c).*

- (1) For each  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , define

$$g_i = \sum_j a_{ij} f_j \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

- (2)  $g_i \in I(V)$  since  $g_i$  is a linear combination of  $f_j$  and  $I(V)$  is an ideal.

- (3) Also,

$$g_i(P_j) = \sum_{j'} a_{ij'} f_{j'}(P_j) = \sum_{j'} a_{ij'} \delta_{j'j} = a_{ij}.$$

□

### **Problem 1.18.\***

Let  $I$  be an ideal in a ring  $R$ . If  $a^n \in I$ ,  $b^m \in I$ , show that  $(a + b)^{n+m} \in I$ . Show that  $\text{rad}(I)$  is an ideal, in fact a radical ideal. Show that any prime ideal is radical.

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that  $(a + b)^{n+m} \in I$  if  $a^n \in I$ ,  $b^m \in I$ . By the binomial theorem,

$$(a + b)^{n+m} = \sum_{i=0}^{n+m} a^i b^{n+m-i}.$$

For each term  $a^i b^{n+m-i}$ , either  $i \geq n$  holds or  $n + m - i \geq m$  holds, and thus  $a^i b^{n+m-i} \in I$  (since  $a^n \in I$ ,  $b^m \in I$  and  $I$  is an ideal). Hence, the result is established.

- (2) Show that  $\text{rad}(I)$  is an ideal.

- (a)  $0 \in \text{rad}(I)$  since  $0 = 0^1 \in I$  for any ideal in  $R$ .
- (b)  $(a + b)^{n+m} \in I$  if  $a^n \in I$ ,  $b^m \in I$  by (1).
- (c)  $(-a)^{2n} = (a^n)^2 \in I$  if  $a^n \in I$  (since  $I$  is an ideal).
- (d)  $(ra)^n = r^n a^n \in I$  if  $a^n \in I$  and  $r \in R$  (since  $I$  is an ideal and  $R$  is commutative).

- (3) Show that  $\text{rad}(\text{rad}(I)) = \text{rad}(I)$ . It suffices to show  $\text{rad}(\text{rad}(I)) \subseteq \text{rad}(I)$ . Given any  $a \in \text{rad}(\text{rad}(I))$ . By definition  $a^n \in \text{rad}(I)$  for some positive integer  $n$ . Again by definition  $(a^n)^m = a^{nm} \in I$  for some positive integer  $m$ . As  $nm$  is a positive integer,  $a \in \text{rad}(I)$ .

- (4) Show that every prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$  is radical. Given any  $a \in \text{rad}(\mathfrak{p})$ , that is,  $a^n \in \mathfrak{p}$  for some positive integer. Write  $a^n = aa^{n-1}$  if  $n > 1$ . By the primality of  $\mathfrak{p}$ ,  $a \in \mathfrak{p}$  or  $a^{n-1} \in \mathfrak{p}$ . If  $a \in \mathfrak{p}$ , we are done. If  $a^{n-1} \in \mathfrak{p}$ , we continue this descending argument (or the mathematical induction) until the power of  $a$  is equal to 1. Hence  $\mathfrak{p}$  is radical.

□

### Problem 1.19.

Show that  $I = (x^2 + 1) \subseteq \mathbb{R}[x]$  is a radical (even a prime) ideal, but  $I$  is not the ideal of any set in  $\mathbf{A}^1(\mathbb{R})$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that  $I = (x^2 + 1)$  is a prime ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ . Given any  $fg \in I$ . It suffices to show that  $f \in I$  or  $g \in I$ . By definition of  $I$ , there is a polynomial  $h \in \mathbb{R}[x]$  such that  $fg = (x^2 + 1)h$ . So  $(x^2 + 1) \mid f$  or  $(x^2 + 1) \mid g$  since  $x^2 + 1$  is irreducible in a unique factorization domain  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ . Therefore,  $f \in I$  or  $g \in I$ .
- (2) Show that  $I$  is not the ideal of any set in  $\mathbf{A}^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Since  $x^2 + 1$  has no roots in  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $I$  cannot be the ideal of any nonempty set in  $\mathbf{A}^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Besides,  $I(\emptyset) = (1) \neq (x^2 + 1)$ .

□

**Problem 1.20.\***

Show that for any ideal  $I$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $V(I) = V(\text{rad}(I))$ , and  $\text{rad}(I) \subseteq I(V(I))$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that  $V(I) = V(\text{rad}(I))$ . Since  $I \subseteq \text{rad}(I)$ , it suffices to show that  $V(I) \subseteq V(\text{rad}(I))$ . Given any  $P \in V(I)$ . For any  $f \in \text{rad}(I)$ ,  $f^n \in I$  for some positive integer  $n > 0$ . Note that

$$0 = (f^n)(P) = f(P)^n$$

since  $f^n \in I$  and  $P \in V(I)$ . As  $k$  is a domain,  $f(P)^n = 0$  implies  $f(P) = 0$ . So  $P \in V(\text{rad}(I))$ .

- (2) By Properties (6)(8) in §1.3,

$$I(V(I)) = I(V(\text{rad}(I))) \supseteq \text{rad}(I).$$

□

*Note.*

- (1) By the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz,  $I(V(I)) = \text{rad}(I)$  if  $k = \bar{k}$ .  
 (2) Take  $I = (x^2 + 1)$  as an ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ . Note that  $I(V(I)) = I(\emptyset) = (1)$  and  $\text{rad}(I) = I = (x^2 + 1)$ . So the equality in  $\text{rad}(I) \subsetneq I(V(I))$  might not hold if  $k \neq \bar{k}$ . (See Problem 1.19.)

**Problem 1.21.\***

Show that  $I = (x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n) \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a maximal ideal, and that the natural homomorphism from  $k$  to  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  is an isomorphism.

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that  $I$  is a maximal ideal. Suppose that  $J$  is an ideal such that  $J \supsetneq I$ . Take any  $f \in J - I$ . By Problem 1.7(a),

$$f = \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}.$$

As  $f \notin I$ , there is a nonzero constant term in  $f$ , say  $\lambda \in k - \{0\}$ . Note that  $f - \lambda \in I \subsetneq J$ . Hence,

$$\lambda = f - (f - \lambda) \in J$$

since  $J$  is an ideal. As  $\lambda \neq 0$ ,  $J = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is not a proper ideal containing  $I$ .

- (2) Let  $\varphi : k \rightarrow k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  be the natural homomorphism. (That is,  $\varphi : \lambda \rightarrow \lambda + I \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ .)
- (3) Show that  $\varphi$  is surjective. Given any  $f + I \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ . By Problem 1.7(a),

$$f = \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n}.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} f + I &= \sum \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n} + I \\ &= \left( f(a_1, \dots, a_n) + \sum_{\text{nonconstant}} \lambda_{(i)} (x_1 - a_1)^{i_1} \cdots (x_n - a_n)^{i_n} \right) + I \\ &= f(a_1, \dots, a_n) + I. \end{aligned}$$

(Here the summation over all nonconstant terms is in  $I$ .) Hence

$$\varphi : f(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in k \mapsto f + I.$$

- (4) Show that  $\varphi$  is injective.  $\ker(\varphi) = \{\lambda \in k : \lambda \in I\} = k \cap I = \{0\}$  since  $I$  is a proper ideal.
- (5) By (2)(3)(4),  $\varphi : k \rightarrow k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n)$  is an isomorphism.

□

## 1.4. The Hilbert Basis Theorem

### Problem 1.22.\*

Let  $I$  be an ideal in a ring  $R$ ,  $\pi : R \rightarrow R/I$  the natural homomorphism.

- (a) Show that for every ideal  $J'$  of  $R/I$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(J') = J$  is an ideal of  $R$  containing  $I$ , and for every ideal  $J$  of  $R$  containing  $I$ ,  $\pi(J) = J'$  is an ideal of  $R/I$ . This sets up a natural one-to-one correspondence between  $\{\text{ideals of } R/I\}$  and  $\{\text{ideals of } R \text{ that contain } I\}$ .
- (b) Show that  $J'$  is a radical ideal if and only if  $J$  is radical. Similarly for prime and maximal ideals.



- (c) Show that  $J'$  is finitely generated if  $J$  is. Conclude that  $R/I$  is Noetherian if  $R$  is Noetherian. Any ring of the form  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  is Noetherian.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Show that for every ideal  $J'$  of  $R/I$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(J') = J$  is an ideal of  $R$  containing  $I$ .

- (a) Show that  $J$  contains  $I$ . Note that  $\pi^{-1}(0) = I \subseteq \pi^{-1}(J') = J$ . So  $J$  contains  $I$ . In particular,  $J \neq \emptyset$  since  $I \neq \emptyset$ .  
(b) Show that  $J$  is a additive subgroup of  $R$ . It suffices to show that  $a - b \in J$  for any  $a \in J$  and  $b \in J$ . Actually,

$$\pi(a - b) = \pi(a) - \pi(b) \in J'$$

implies  $a - b \in \pi^{-1}(J') = J$ .

- (c) Show that for every  $r \in R$  and every  $a \in J$ , the product  $ra \in J$ . In fact,

$$\pi(ra) = \pi(r)\pi(a) \in J'$$

implies  $ra \in \pi^{-1}(J') = J$ .

- (2) Show that for every ideal  $J$  of  $R$  containing  $I$ ,  $\pi(J) = J'$  is an ideal of  $R/I$ .

- (a) Show that  $J'$  is nonempty. Note that  $\pi(a) = 0 \in \pi(I) \subseteq \pi(J) = J'$  for any  $a \in I$ . So  $J'$  is nonempty since  $J$  is nonempty.  
(b) Show that  $J'$  is a additive subgroup of  $R/I$ . It suffices to show that  $\pi(a) - \pi(b) \in J'$  for any  $\pi(a) \in J'$ ,  $\pi(b) \in J'$ ,  $a \in J$  and  $b \in J$ . It is trivial since

$$\pi(a) - \pi(b) = \pi(a - b) \in \pi(J) = J',$$

$\pi$  is a ring homomorphism and  $J$  is an ideal.

- (c) Show that for every  $\pi(r) \in R/I$  ( $r \in R$ ) and every  $\pi(a) \in J'$  ( $a \in J$ ), the product  $\pi(r)\pi(a) \in J'$ . It is trivial since

$$\pi(r)\pi(a) = \pi(ra) \in \pi(J) = J',$$

$\pi$  is a ring homomorphism and  $J$  is an ideal.

- (3) By (1)(2), we setup the correspondence between

$$\{\text{ideals of } R/I\} \longleftrightarrow \{\text{ideals of } R \text{ that contain } I\}.$$

Note that this correspondence preserves the subset relation, and thus this correspondence is one-to-one.

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) *Show that  $J'$  is radical if  $J$  is radical.* It suffices to show that  $(a + I)^n = a^n + I \in J'$  implies that  $a + I \in J'$ . Note that

$$(a + I)^n = a^n + I \in J'$$

implies that  $a^n \in J$  or  $a \in J$  since  $J$  is radical. Hence  $a + I \in J/I = J'$ .

- (2) *Show that  $J$  is radical if  $J'$  is radical.* It suffices to show that  $a^n \in J$  implies that  $a \in J$ . Note that

$$\pi(a^n) = \pi(a)^n \in J'$$

implies that  $\pi(a) \in J'$  since  $J'$  is radical.  $a \in \pi^{-1}(J') = J$ .

- (3) *Show that  $J'$  is prime if  $J$  is prime.* It suffices to show that  $(a + I)(b + I) = ab + I \in J'$  implies that  $a + I \in J'$  or  $b + I \in J'$ . Note that

$$(a + I)(b + I) = ab + I \in J'$$

implies that  $ab \in J$ . So  $a \in J$  or  $b \in J$  by the primality of  $J$ . Hence  $a + I \in J'$  or  $b + I \in J'$ .

- (4) *Show that  $J$  is prime if  $J'$  is prime.* It suffices to show that  $ab \in J$  implies that  $a \in J$  or  $b \in J$ . Note that

$$\pi(ab) = \pi(a)\pi(b) \in J'$$

implies that  $\pi(a) \in J'$  or  $\pi(b) \in J'$  by the primality of  $J'$ . So  $a \in \pi^{-1}(J') = J$  or  $b \in \pi^{-1}(J') = J$ .

- (5) *Show that  $J'$  is maximal if  $J$  is maximal.* Suppose  $\mathfrak{m}$  is an ideal containing  $J'$ . By (a),  $\pi^{-1}(\mathfrak{m})$  is an ideal containing  $J$ . So  $\pi^{-1}(\mathfrak{m}) = J$  or  $\pi^{-1}(\mathfrak{m}) = R$  by the maximality of  $J$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{m} = \pi(J) = J'$  or  $\mathfrak{m} = \pi(R) = R/I$ .

- (6) *Show that  $J$  is maximal if  $J'$  is maximal.* Suppose  $\mathfrak{m}$  is an ideal containing  $J$ . By (a),  $\pi(\mathfrak{m})$  is an ideal containing  $J'$ . So  $\pi(\mathfrak{m}) = J'$  or  $\pi(\mathfrak{m}) = R/I$  by the maximality of  $J'$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{m} = \pi^{-1}(J') = J$  or  $\mathfrak{m} = \pi^{-1}(R/I) = R$ .

□

*Note.*

- (1) Note that

$$R/J \cong (R/I)/(J/I)$$

if  $J$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $I \subseteq J$ .

- (2) Hence,  $J$  is prime iff  $R/J \cong (R/I)/(J/I)$  is a domain iff  $J/I$  is prime.  
(3) Also,  $J$  is maximal iff  $R/J \cong (R/I)/(J/I)$  is a field iff  $J/I$  is maximal.

*Proof of (c).*

- (1) *Show that  $J'$  is finitely generated if  $J$  is.* Suppose  $J$  is generated by  $a_1, \dots, a_m$ . It suffices to show that  $J'$  is generated by

$$a_1 + I, \dots, a_m + I \in J/I.$$

Given any  $a + I \in J'$  where  $a \in J$ . Write  $a = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq m} r_i a_i$  for some  $r_i \in R$ . Then

$$a + I = \sum r_i a_i + I = \sum (r_i + I)(a_i + I)$$

is generated by  $a_1 + I, \dots, a_m + I$ .

- (2) *Show that  $R/I$  is Noetherian if  $R$  is Noetherian.* Note that  $R$  is an ideal of itself.  
(3) *Show that any ring of the form  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  is Noetherian.* By the corollary to the Hilbert basis theorem,  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noetherian. By (2), the ring  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$  is Noetherian.

□

## 1.5. Irreducible Components of an Algebraic Set

### Problem 1.23.

*Give an example of a collection of ideals  $\mathcal{S}$  ideals in a Noetherian ring such that no maximal member of  $\mathcal{S}$  is a maximal ideal.*

*Proof.*

- (1) Let  $R$  be any Noetherian ring. Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be any collection of ideals containing  $R$  itself. Then the only maximal member of  $\mathcal{S}$  is  $R$ , which is not a maximal ideal.  
(2) Or let  $R$  be any Noetherian ring and  $R$  is not a field. ( $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  where  $k$  is a field for example.) Let  $\mathcal{S} = \{(0)\}$ . Then the only maximal member of  $\mathcal{S}$  is  $(0)$ , which is not maximal since  $R$  is not a field.

□

**Problem 1.24.**

Show that every proper ideal in a Noetherian ring is contained in a maximal ideal. (Hint: If  $I$  is the ideal, apply the lemma to  $\{\text{proper ideals that contain } I\}$ .)

*Proof.*

- (1) Say  $I$  be any proper ideal in a Noetherian ring. Let

$$\mathcal{S} = \{\text{proper ideals that contain } I\}.$$

Apply the lemma to  $\mathcal{S}$  to get that  $\mathcal{S}$  has a maximal member  $\mathfrak{m} \in \mathcal{S}$ .

- (2) Show that  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal. Since  $\mathfrak{m} \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}$  is a proper ideal in  $R$ . Suppose  $\mathfrak{m}' \supsetneq \mathfrak{m}$  is a proper ideal containing  $\mathfrak{m}$ . As  $\mathfrak{m}$  contains  $I$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}'$  also contains  $I$  or  $\mathfrak{m}' \in \mathcal{S}$ . By the maximality of  $\mathfrak{m}$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}' \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$ . So  $\mathfrak{m}' = \mathfrak{m}$ .

□

**Problem 1.25.**

- (a) Show that  $V(y - x^2) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$  is irreducible, in fact,  $I(V(y - x^2)) = (y - x^2)$ .
- (b) Decompose  $V(y^4 - x^2, y^4 - x^2y^2 + xy^2 - x^3) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$  into irreducible components.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Let  $I = (y - x^2)$  be an ideal of  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ . Since  $\mathbb{C}$  is algebraically closed,

$$I(V(I)) = \text{rad}(I)$$

by the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz. It suffices to show that  $I$  is prime, or to show that  $y - x^2$  is prime. Since  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$  is a UFD, it suffices to show that  $y - x^2$  is irreducible.

- (2) Show that  $y - x^2$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ . Write

$$y - x^2 \in (\mathbb{C}[y])[x].$$

Note that  $\mathbb{C}[y]$  is a UFD and  $y$  is the constant term. If we can show that  $y$  is prime in  $\mathbb{C}[y]$ , then by the Eisenstein's criterion we can say  $y - x^2$  is irreducible in  $(\mathbb{C}[y])[x]$ .

- (3) As  $\mathbb{C}[y]/(y) \cong \mathbb{C}$  is a field or a domain,  $(y)$  is maximal or prime. Hence,  $y - x^2$  is irreducible.

(4) Or apply Corollary 1 to Proposition 2 in the next section to (2)(3).

□

*Proof of (b).*

(1) Write

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y &:= V(y^4 - x^2, y^4 - x^2y^2 + xy^2 - x^3) \\
 &= V((y^2 - x)(y^2 + x), (y^2 - x^2)(y^2 + x)) \\
 &= V(y^2 + x) \cup V(y^2 - x, y^2 - x^2) \\
 &= V(y^2 + x) \cup V(y^2 - x, x(x - 1)) \\
 &= V(y^2 + x) \cup V(x, y) \cup V(y + 1, x - 1) \cup V(y - 1, x - 1).
 \end{aligned}$$

(2) Here  $V(y^2 + x)$  is irreducible as (a). Besides,  $V(x, y)$ ,  $V(y + 1, x - 1)$  and  $V(y - 1, x - 1)$  are irreducible since all corresponding ideals are maximal (by the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and Problem 1.21).

□

**Problem 1.26.**

Show that  $f = y^2 + x^2(x - 1)^2 \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]$  is an irreducible polynomial, but  $V(f)$  is reducible.

*Proof.*

(1) Show that  $f$  is an irreducible polynomial.

(a) Suppose

$$f = (f_2(x)y^2 + f_1(x)y + f_0(x)) \cdot g(x)$$

for some  $f_i(x), g(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ . So

$$f_2(x)g(x) = 1, \quad f_1(x)g(x) = 0, \quad f_0(x)g(x) = x^2(x - 1)^2.$$

Hence,

$$f_2(x)y^2 + f_1(x)y + f_0(x) = uf, \quad g(x) = u^{-1},$$

where  $u$  is a unit in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

(b) Suppose

$$f = (f_1(x)y + f_0(x)) \cdot (g_1(x)y + g_0(x))$$

for some  $f_i(x), g_j(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x)g_1(x) &= 1, \\ f_1(x)g_0(x) + f_0(x)g_1(x) &= 0, \\ f_0(x)g_0(x) &= x^2(x-1)^2. \end{aligned}$$

So  $f_1(x) = u$ ,  $g_1(x) = u^{-1}$  for some unit  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence,

$$u^2 g_0(x)^2 = -x^2(x-1)^2,$$

which is absurd since  $\mathbb{R}$  is not algebraically closed.

(c) By (a)(b),  $f$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ .

- (2) Show that  $V(f)$  is reducible.  $V(f) = \{(0, 0), (1, 0)\} = V(x, y) \cup V(x-1, y)$ .  
Here  $V(x, y)$  and  $V(x-1, y)$  are all proper algebraic sets in  $V(f)$ .

□

**Problem 1.27.**

Let  $V, W$  be algebraic sets in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  with  $V \subseteq W$ . Show that each irreducible component of  $V$  is contained in some irreducible component of  $W$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Write two decompositions of  $V, W$  into irreducible components as

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_r, \\ W &= W_1 \cup \cdots \cup W_s, \end{aligned}$$

- (2) For each irreducible component  $V_i$  of  $V$ , consider  $V_i \cap W$ :

$$V_i \cap W = (V_i \cap W_1) \cup \cdots \cup (V_i \cap W_s).$$

By the irreducibility of  $V_i$ , there is only one  $j$  such that  $V_i \cap W_j = V_i$  and other intersections are empty. Therefore, each irreducible component  $V_i$  is contained in some irreducible component  $W_j$  of  $W$ .

□

**Problem 1.28.**

If  $V = V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_r$  is the decomposition of an algebraic set into irreducible components, show that  $V_i \not\subseteq \bigcup_{j \neq i} V_j$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) (Reductio ad absurdum) If

$$V_i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \neq i} V_j$$

for some  $i$ , then

$$V = V_1 \cup \cdots \cup \widehat{V_i} \cup \cdots \cup V_r$$

is another decomposition of an algebraic set into irreducible components.

- (2) By Theorem 2 in §1.5, the number of irreducible components is unique determined, contrary to the assumption and (1).

□

**Problem 1.29.\***

Show that  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  is irreducible if  $k$  is infinite.

*Proof.*

- (1) (Reductio ad absurdum) If  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  were reducible, then  $\mathbf{A}^n(k) = V_1 \cup V_2$  where  $V_1, V_2$  are algebraic sets in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$ ,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are nonempty and proper in  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$ .
- (2) Take  $P_i \in V_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . By Problem 1.17, there are two polynomials  $f_1, f_2 \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $f_i(Q) = 0$  for all  $Q \in V_i$  and  $f_1(P_2) = f_2(P_1) = 1$ .
- (3) By construction,  $(f_1 f_2)(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$  for any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ . As  $k$  is infinite,  $f_1 f_2 = 0$  by Problem 1.4. Since  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a domain,  $f_1 = 0$  or  $f_2 = 0$ , contrary to  $f_1(P_2) = f_2(P_1) \neq 0$ .

□

*Note.*  $\mathbf{A}^n(k)$  is reducible if  $k$  is finite.

## 1.6. Algebraic Subsets of the Plane

### Problem 1.30.

Let  $k = \mathbb{R}$ .

- (a) Show that  $I(V(x^2 + y^2 + 1)) = (1)$ .
- (b) Show that every algebraic subset of  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  is equal to  $V(f)$  for some  $f \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]$ .

This indicates why we usually require that  $k$  be algebraically closed.

*Proof of (a).*  $I(V(x^2 + y^2 + 1)) = I(\emptyset) = (1)$  since  $x^2 + y^2 + 1 \geq 1$  is never zero for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $\square$

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Given any algebraic subset  $V$  of  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .  $V = V(1)$  if  $V = \emptyset$ .  $V = V(0)$  if  $V = \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ . Now suppose  $V$  is a nonempty proper algebraic subset  $V$  of  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ . Write  $V = V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_m$ , where each  $V_i$  is irreducible. Here  $V_i \neq \emptyset$  and  $V_i \neq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  for all  $i$ .
- (2) As  $k = \mathbb{R}$  is infinite, Corollary 2 to Proposition 2 implies that each  $V_i$  is either a point or an irreducible plane curves  $V(f_i)$ , where  $f_i$  is an irreducible polynomial and  $V(f_i)$  is infinite.
- (3) If  $V_i = \{(a_i, b_i)\}$  is a point, then define

$$f_i(x, y) = (x - a_i)^2 + (y - b_i)^2.$$

By the property of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $V_i = V(f_i)$ .

- (4) Define  $f = f_1 \cdots f_m \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_m \\ &= V(f_1) \cup \cdots \cup V(f_m) \\ &= V(f_1 \cdots f_m) \\ &= V(f). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

### Problem 1.31.

- (a) Find the irreducible components of  $V(y^2 - xy - x^2y + x^3)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ , and also in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .



(b) Do the same for  $V(y^2 - x(x^2 - 1))$ , and for  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y)$ .

*Proof of (a).*

(1) Note that

$$\begin{aligned} V(y^2 - xy - x^2y + x^3) &= V((y - x^2)(y - x)) \\ &= V(y - x^2) \cup V(y - x). \end{aligned}$$

(2) Note that  $y - x^2$  and  $y - x$  are irreducible in  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$  and thus also in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$  by the similar argument in Problem 1.25(a). Also,  $V(y - x^2)$  and  $V(y - x)$  are infinite in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  and thus also in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .

(3) Therefore,  $V(y - x^2)$  and  $V(y - x)$  are the irreducible components of  $V(y^2 - xy - x^2y + x^3)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  and also in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .

□

*Outline of (b).*

- (1) The elliptic curve  $V(y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1))$  is irreducible over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .
- (2) The elliptic curve  $V(y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1))$  is irreducible over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .
- (3) The irreducible component of  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y)$  over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  is  $V(x - y)$ .
- (4) The irreducible components of  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y)$  over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$  are  $V(x + i)$ ,  $V(x - i)$  and  $V(x - y)$ .

*Proof of (b).*

(1) Similar to Problem 1.25. To show  $y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1)$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ , we write

$$y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1) \in (\mathbb{C}[x])[y].$$

Note that  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  is a UFD and  $-x(x + 1)(x - 1)$  is the constant term. As  $\mathbb{C}[x]/(x) \cong \mathbb{C}$  is a domain,  $(x)$  is prime. Clearly,  $x \mid x(x + 1)(x - 1)$  but  $x^2 \nmid x(x + 1)(x - 1)$ . By the Eisenstein's criterion, we can say  $y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1)$  is irreducible over  $(\mathbb{C}[x])[y]$ .

- (2) Moreover,  $V(y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1))$  is infinite over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  and thus also over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ . ( $y = f(x) = \sqrt{x(x + 1)(x - 1)}$  is continuous and strictly increasing on  $[1, \infty)$  in the sense of calculus. As the measure of  $[1, \infty)$  is  $\infty$ , the set  $V(y^2 - x(x + 1)(x - 1))$  is infinite over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .)
- (3) By Corollary 1 to Proposition 2,  $V(y^2 - x(x^2 - 1))$  itself is irreducible over  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$  or  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .

- (4) Consider  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y) &= V((x^2 + 1)(x - y)) \\ &= V(x^2 + 1) \cup V(x - y) \\ &= \emptyset \cup V(x - y) \\ &= V(x - y). \end{aligned}$$

Here we use that fact that  $x^2 + 1 = 0$  has no real solution  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Similar to (a),  $V(x - y)$  is the only irreducible component of  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

- (5) Consider  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y) &= V((x + i)(x - i)(x - y)) \\ &= V(x + i) \cup V(x - i) \cup V(x - y). \end{aligned}$$

Similar to (a),  $V(x \pm i)$  and  $V(x - y)$  are the irreducible components of  $V(x^3 + x - x^2y - y)$  in  $\mathbf{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ .

□

## 1.7. Hilbert's Nullstellensatz

### Problem 1.32.

*Show that both theorems and all of the corollaries are false if  $k$  is not algebraically closed.*

*Proof.*

- (1) Weak Nullstellensatz:  $I = (x^2 + 1)$  is a proper ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  but  $V(I) = \emptyset$ .  
(2) Hilbert's Nullstellensatz: Let  $I = (y^2 + x^2(x - 1)^2)$  be an ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} I(V(I)) &= I(\{(0, 0), (1, 0)\}) && \text{(Problem 1.26.)} \\ &= (x(x - 1), y) \\ &\neq I \\ &= \text{rad}(I). \end{aligned}$$

The last equality holds since  $f$  is irreducible in a UFD  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$  and thus  $I$  is a prime ideal.

- (3) Corollary 1: Same example in the case Hilbert's Nullstellensatz. If  $I = (y^2 + x^2(x - 1)^2)$  is a radical ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ . Then  $I(V(I)) \neq I$ .

- (4) Corollary 2: Same example in the case Hilbert's Nullstellensatz. If  $I = (y^2 + x^2(x-1)^2)$  is a prime ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ , then

$$V(I) = \{(0, 0), (1, 0)\} = V(x, y) \cup V(x-1, y)$$

is reducible. Next, consider a prime ideal  $J = (x^2 + y^2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ . (Use the same argument in Problem 1.26 to get the irreducibility of  $x^2 + y^2$ .)  $V(J) = \{(0, 0)\}$  is a point but  $J$  is not a maximal ideal (since  $J \subsetneq (x^2 + y^2, x) \subsetneq (1)$ ).

- (5) Corollary 3: Same example in Corollary 2.
- (6) Corollary 4: Let  $I = (x^2 + y^2)$  be an ideal in  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ . Then  $V(I) = \{(0, 0)\}$  is a finite set. But  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]/(x^2 + y^2)$  is an infinite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ . In fact, the monomials

$$\{\overline{x^m}, \overline{x^m y} : m = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}[x, y]/(x^2 + y^2)$ .

□

**Problem 1.33.**

- (a) Decompose  $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, x^2 - z^2 - 1) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{C})$  into irreducible components.
- (b) Let  $V = \{(t, t^2, t^3) \in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{C}) : t \in \mathbb{C}\}$ . Find  $I(V)$ , and show that  $V$  is irreducible.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Write

$$\begin{aligned} & V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, x^2 - z^2 - 1) \\ &= V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y^2 + z^2) \\ &= V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, (y + iz)(y - iz)) \\ &= V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y + iz) \cup V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y - iz). \end{aligned}$$

By the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz, it suffices to show that  $(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y + iz)$  and  $(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y - iz)$  are prime.

- (2) Show that  $I = (x^2 + y^2 - 1, y + iz)$  is prime in  $\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ . Note that

$$\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/I \cong \mathbb{C}[x, y]/(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$$

is a ring isomorphism defined by

$$f(x, y, z) + I \mapsto f(x, y, -iy) + (x^2 + y^2 - 1).$$

(Use the similar argument in (b) to prove it is indeed an isomorphism.)  
So it suffices to show that

$$x^2 + y^2 - 1 \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$$

is irreducible. (Thus,  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]/(x^2 + y^2 - 1) \cong \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/I$  is a domain, or  $I$  is prime.) We can use the similar argument in Problem 1.31 (b) to show  $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = y^2 + (x+1)(x-1)$  is irreducible as showing the irreducibility of  $y^2 - x(x+1)(x-1)$ .

- (3) Similarly,  $I = (x^2 + y^2 - 1, y - iz)$  is prime. Therefore, the irreducible components of  $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, x^2 - z^2 - 1)$  are  $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y + iz)$  and  $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1, y - iz)$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Write

$$V = \{(t, t^2, t^3) \in \mathbf{A}^3(\mathbb{C}) : t \in \mathbb{C}\} = V(x^2 - y, x^3 - z).$$

Let  $I = (x^2 - y, x^3 - z)$  in  $\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ . By the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz,  $I(V) = \text{rad}(I)$ . So it suffices to show that  $I = (x^2 - y, x^3 - z)$  is prime (and thus  $V$  is irreducible).

- (2) *Show that*

$$\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/I \cong \mathbb{C}[t]$$

*is a domain, and thus  $I = (x^2 - y, x^3 - z)$  is a prime ideal.*

- (a) Define a ring homomorphism  $\alpha : \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[t]$  by

$$\alpha : f(x, y, z) + I \mapsto f(t, t^2, t^3).$$

$\alpha$  is well-defined since  $\alpha((x^2 - y) + I) = 0$  and  $\alpha((x^3 - z) + I) = 0$ .

- (b) *Show that  $\alpha$  is surjective.*

$$\alpha : g(x) + I \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/I \mapsto g(t) \in \mathbb{C}[t]$$

for any  $g(t)$ .

- (c) *Show that  $\alpha$  is injective.* Suppose  $\alpha(f(x, y, z) + I) = 0$ . Write

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y, z) + I &= \sum_{(i)} \lambda_{(i)} x^{i_1} (y - x^2)^{i_2} (z - x^3)^{i_3} + I \\ &= \sum_i \lambda_i x^i + I. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$0 = \alpha(f(x, y, z) + I) = \alpha\left(\sum_i \lambda_i x^i + I\right) = \sum_i \lambda_i t^i.$$

Hence,  $\ker(\alpha) = I$ .

□

**Problem 1.34.**

Let  $R$  be a UFD.

- (a) Show that a monic polynomial of degree two or three in  $R[x]$  is irreducible if and only if it has no root in  $R$ .
- (b)  $x^2 - a \in R[x]$  is irreducible if and only if  $a$  is not a square in  $R$ .

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) It is equivalent to show that a monic polynomial of degree two or three in  $R[x]$  is reducible if and only if it has one root in  $R$ .
- (2) Suppose  $f$  is reducible of degree 2 or 3. Then there exist nonconstant monic polynomials  $g, h \in R[x]$  such that  $f = gh$ . By

$$\deg(g) + \deg(h) = \deg(f) = 2 \text{ or } 3,$$

we may assume that  $\deg(g) = 1$ . (Otherwise  $g$  or  $h$  will be a constant polynomial.) Say  $g(x) = x - a$  where  $a \in R$ . Now

$$f(a) = g(a)h(a) = 0$$

implies that  $a \in R$  is a root of  $f$ .

- (3) Conversely, if  $a \in R$  is a root of  $f$ , then apply the same argument in Problem 1.7 we can write

$$f = (x - a)g$$

for some  $g \in R[x]$ . Here  $\deg(g) \geq 1$  since  $\deg(f) = 1 + \deg(g) \geq 2$ . Therefore,  $f$  is reducible.

□

*Proof of (b).* By (a),  $x^2 - a \in R[x]$  is reducible  $\iff x^2 - a$  has one root  $\alpha \in R$   $\iff a = \alpha^2$  is a square in  $R$  for some  $\alpha \in R$ . □

**Problem 1.35.**

Show that  $V(y^2 - x(x - 1)(x - \lambda)) \subseteq \mathbf{A}^2(k)$  is an irreducible curve for any algebraically closed field  $k$ , and any  $\lambda \in k$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) By the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz, it suffices to show that

$$I = (y^2 - x(x-1)(x-\lambda))$$

is a prime ideal in  $k[x, y]$ , or show that

$$y^2 - x(x-1)(x-\lambda)$$

is irreducible (since  $k[x, y]$  is a UFD).

- (2) By Problem 1.34(b),  $y^2 - x(x-1)(x-\lambda) \in (\mathbb{C}[x])[y]$  is irreducible if  $x(x-1)(x-\lambda)$  is not a square in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$ . Note that every square in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  is of even degree. So  $x(x-1)(x-\lambda)$  cannot be a square in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  since  $\deg(x(x-1)(x-\lambda)) = 3$  is odd.

□

*Note.*  $V(y^2 - x(x-1)(x-\lambda))$  is the elliptic curve as Problem 1.31.

**Problem 1.36.**

Let  $I = (y^2 - x^2, y^2 + x^2) \subseteq \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ . Find  $V(I)$  and  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[x, y]/I)$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Clearly,  $V(I) = \{(0, 0)\}$  is a finite set. By Corollary 4 to the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[x, y]/I) < \infty.$$

In fact,  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[x, y]/I) = 4$ .

- (2) Given any  $f + I \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]/I$  where  $f \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ . Write

$$f(x, y) = \sum_i f_i(x) y^i$$

where  $f_i(x) = \sum_j a_{ij} x^j \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 &= \frac{1}{2}(y^2 + x^2) - \frac{1}{2}(y^2 - x^2) \in I, \\ y^2 &= \frac{1}{2}(y^2 + x^2) + \frac{1}{2}(y^2 - x^2) \in I. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x, y) + I &= \sum_i f_i(x) y^i + I \\
&= f_0(x) + f_1(x) y + I \\
&= \sum_j a_{0j} x^j + \left( \sum_j a_{1j} x^j \right) y + I \\
&= a_{00} + a_{01} x + a_{10} y + a_{11} xy + I
\end{aligned}$$

is generated by  $\mathcal{B} = \{\bar{1}, \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{xy}\}$ .

- (3) Note that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis since any linear combination of elements in  $\mathcal{B}$  is not in  $I$ . Therefore,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[x, y]/I) = |\mathcal{B}| = 4.$$

□

**Problem 1.37.\***

Let  $K$  be any field,  $f \in K[x]$  a polynomial of degree  $n > 0$ . Show that the residues  $\bar{1}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}^{n-1}$  form a basis for  $K[x]/(f)$  over  $K$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that every element in  $K[x]/(f)$  is generated by  $\mathcal{B} = \{\bar{1}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}^{n-1}\}$ . Given any  $\bar{g} \in K[x]/(f)$  with  $g \in K[x]$ . By the division-with-remainder property of  $K[x]$ , there are some polynomials  $q, r \in K[x]$  such that

$$g = fq + r$$

where  $r = 0$  or  $\deg(r) < n$  if  $r \neq 0$ . Therefore,

$$g + (f) = fq + r + (f) = r + (f).$$

Note that  $r + (f)$  is generated by  $\mathcal{B}$ .

- (2) Show that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis for  $K[x]/(f)$  over  $K$ . Suppose

$$a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} \in (f)$$

for  $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in K$ . We can regard any linear combination of  $\{1, x, \dots, x^{n-1}\}$  as a polynomial  $r(x)$  in  $K[x]$ .  $r \in (f)$  implies that there exists a polynomial  $g \in K[x]$  such that  $r = fg$ . If  $g \neq 0$ , then  $\deg(r) = \deg(f) + \deg(g) \geq n$ , which is impossible. So  $g = 0$  and thus  $r = fg = 0 \in K[x]$ . Therefore,  $a_0 = a_1 = \dots = a_{n-1} = 0 \in K$  and

$$\dim_K(K[x]/(f)) = \deg(f).$$

□

**Problem 1.38.\***

Let  $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $k$  algebraically closed,  $V = V(I)$ . Show that there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between algebraic subsets of  $V$  and radical ideals in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ , and that irreducible algebraic sets (resp. points) correspond to prime ideals (resp. maximal ideals). (See Problem 1.22.)

*Proof.*

- (1) Given any algebraic subset  $W$  of  $V$ . By the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz,

$$I(W) \supseteq I(V) = \text{rad}(I) \supseteq I.$$

- (2) By Corollary 1 to the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and Problem 1.22(b), we have a one-to-one correspondence such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\text{algebraic subsets of } V\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\text{radical ideals containing } I\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\text{radical ideals of } k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I\}. \end{aligned}$$

- (3) Again by Corollary 2 to the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and Problem 1.22(b), we have a one-to-one correspondence such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\text{irreducible algebraic subsets (resp. points) of } V\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\text{prime (resp. maximal) ideals containing } I\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\text{prime (resp. maximal) ideals of } k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I\}. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Problem 1.39.**

- (a) Let  $R$  be a UFD, and let  $\mathfrak{p} = (t)$  be a principal proper prime ideal. Show that there is no prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  such that  $0 \subsetneq \mathfrak{q} \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}$ .
- (b) Let  $V = V(f)$  be irreducible hypersurface in  $\mathbf{A}^n$ . Show that there is no irreducible algebraic set  $W$  such that  $V \subsetneq W \subsetneq \mathbf{A}^n$ .

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) (Reductio ad absurdum) Suppose that  $\mathfrak{q}$  were a prime ideal in  $R$  such that  $0 \subsetneq \mathfrak{q} \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}$ .



- (2) Show that there is an irreducible element in  $\mathfrak{q}$ . Given any  $q \in \mathfrak{q}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{q}$  is proper, we can write

$$q = q_1 \cdots q_n$$

as a product of irreducible elements in a UFD. Since  $\mathfrak{q}$  is prime, there is one irreducible element  $q_i \in \mathfrak{q}$ .

- (3) Now  $q_i \in \mathfrak{q} \subseteq \mathfrak{p} = (t)$ . So  $q_i = ut$  for some  $u \in R$ . By the irreducibility of  $q_i$ ,  $u$  is a unit or  $t$  is a unit. If  $u$  is a unit, then

$$(t) = (q_i) \subseteq \mathfrak{q} \subseteq \mathfrak{p} = (t).$$

So  $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{p}$ , which is absurd. If  $t$  is a unit, then  $\mathfrak{p} = (1)$ , contrary to the primality of  $\mathfrak{p}$ .

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) We might assume that  $k = \bar{k}$ . By Corollary 3 to the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz and the irreducibility of  $V(f)$ , there are an irreducible polynomial  $g \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and an integer  $m > 0$  such that

$$f = g^m,$$

and

$$I(V(f)) = (g).$$

- (2) (Reductio ad absurdum) Suppose that there were an irreducible algebraic set  $W$  such that  $V \subsetneq W \subsetneq \mathbf{A}^n$ . Then by Corollary 3 to the Hilbert's Nullstellensatz again,

$$(g) = I(V(f)) \supsetneq I(W) \supsetneq (1) \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

Here  $(g) = I(V(f))$  and  $I(W)$  are all prime.

- (3) Note that  $(g)$  is a principal proper prime ideal in a UFD  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . By (a), such ideal  $I(W)$  cannot be prime, which is absurd.

□

#### Problem 1.40.

Let  $I = (x^2 - y^3, y^2 - z^3) \subseteq k[x, y, z]$ . Define  $\alpha : k[x, y, z] \rightarrow k[t]$  by  $\alpha(x) = t^9$ ,  $\alpha(y) = t^6$ ,  $\alpha(z) = t^4$ .

- (a) Show that every element of  $k[x, y, z]/I$  is the residue of an element  $a + xb + yc + xzd$ , for some  $a, b, c, d \in k[z]$ .

- (b) If  $f = a + xb + yc + xyd$ ,  $a, b, c, d \in k[z]$  and  $\alpha(f) = 0$ , compare like powers of  $t$  to conclude that  $f = 0$ .
- (c) Show that  $\ker(\alpha) = I$ , so  $I$  is prime,  $V(I)$  is irreducible, and  $I(V(I)) = I$ .

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Take any element  $\bar{f} \in k[x, y, z]/I$  where  $f \in k[x, y, z]$ . Regard  $f \in (k[y, z])[x]$ , By the division-with-remainder property of  $(k[y, z])[x]$ ,

$$f = (x^2 - y^3)q + r$$

where  $q, r \in (k[y, z])[x]$  and  $r = 0$  or  $\deg_x(r) < 2$ . In any case,  $r = xr_1 + r_0$  for some  $r_1, r_0 \in k[y, z]$ .

- (2) Apply the same argument to (1), we have

$$r_0 = (y^2 - z^3)q_0 + yc + a$$

$$r_1 = (y^2 - z^3)q_1 + yd + b$$

where  $q_0, q_1 \in k[y, z]$  and  $a, b, c, d \in k[z]$ .

- (3) By  $\bar{r}_0 = \overline{yc + a}$  and  $\bar{r}_1 = \overline{yd + b}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{f} &= \bar{r} \\ &= \overline{xr_1} + \bar{r}_0 \\ &= \overline{x(yd + b)} + (\overline{yc + a}) \\ &= \bar{a} + \bar{b} \cdot \bar{x} + \bar{c} \cdot \bar{y} + \bar{d} \cdot \overline{xy}. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof of (b).* As  $0 = \alpha(f) = a + ct^6 + bt^9 + dt^{15} \in k[t]$ ,  $a = b = c = d = 0 \in k$ .

□

*Proof of (c).*

- (1)  $I \subseteq \ker(\alpha)$  is trivial.
- (2) Show that  $\ker(\alpha) \subseteq I$ . Take any  $f \in \ker(\alpha)$ , or  $\alpha(f) = 0$ . By (a),  $f = r + f_1$  where  $f_1 \in I$  and  $r = a + bx + cy + dxy \in k[x, y, z]$  for some  $a, b, c, d \in k[z]$ . Note that  $\alpha$  is a ring homomorphism. Therefore,

$$0 = \alpha(f) = \alpha(r + f_1) = \alpha(r) + \alpha(f_1) = \alpha(r).$$

By (b),  $r = 0 \in k[x, y, z]$  and thus  $f = f_1 \in I$ .

- (3) Therefore,

$$\alpha : k[x, y, z]/(x^2 - y^3, y^2 - z^3) \hookrightarrow k[t]$$

is injective.

□

## 1.8. Modules; Finiteness Conditions

### Problem 1.41.\*

If  $S$  is module-finite over  $R$ , then  $S$  is ring-finite over  $R$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Write  $S = \sum R s_i$  for some  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in S$  since  $S$  is module-finite over  $R$ .
- (2) Show that  $\sum R s_i = R[s_1, \dots, s_n]$ .  $\sum R s_i \subseteq R[s_1, \dots, s_n]$  is trivial. Conversely, take any  $v \in R[s_1, \dots, s_n]$ . Write

$$v = \sum_{(j)} \overbrace{a_{(j)} s_1^{j_1} \cdots s_n^{j_n}}^{\in \sum R s_i}$$

$\in R \quad \in S = \sum R s_i$

Here each term  $a_{(i)} s_1^{i_1} \cdots s_n^{i_n}$  is in  $\sum R s_i$ . As  $\sum R s_i$  is an  $R$ -module,

$$v = \sum_{(i)} a_{(i)} s_1^{i_1} \cdots s_n^{i_n} \in \sum R s_i.$$

□

*Note.* The converse is not true (by Problem 1.42).

### Problem 1.42.

Show that  $S = R[x]$  (the ring of polynomials in one variable) is ring-finite over  $R$ , but not module-finite.

*Proof.*

- (1)  $S = R[x]$  is ring-finite over  $R$  by definition (as  $x \in S$ ).
- (2) (Reductio ad absurdum) If  $S = \sum R s_i$  for some  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in S$  were module-finite over  $R$ . Any element  $s \in \sum R s_i$  is of degree

$$\deg s \leq \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \deg s_i := m.$$

So that  $x^{m+1} \in S = R[x]$  but not in  $\sum R s_i$ , which is absurd.

□

**Problem 1.43.\***

If  $L$  is ring-finite over  $K$  ( $K, L$  fields) then  $L$  is a finitely generated field extension of  $K$ .

*Proof.*

- (1)  $L = K[v_1, \dots, v_n]$  for some  $v_i \in L$  since  $L$  is ring-finite over  $K$ .
- (2) Apply Proposition 4 in §1.10,  $L$  is module-finite (and hence algebraic) over  $K$ , that is,  $L = K[v_1, \dots, v_n] = K(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  is a finitely generated field extension of  $K$ .

□

**Problem 1.44.\***

Show that  $L = K(x)$  (the field of rational functions in one variable) is a finitely generated field extension of  $K$ , but  $L$  is not ring-finite over  $K$ . (Hint: If  $L$  were ring-finite over  $K$ , a common denominator of ring generators would be an element  $b \in K[x]$  such that for all  $z \in L$ ,  $b^n z \in K[x]$  for some  $n$ ; but let  $z = 1/c$ , where  $c$  doesn't divide  $b$  (Problem 1.5).)

*Proof.*

- (1) (Reductio ad absurdum) Suppose that  $L$  were ring-finite over  $K$ . Write  $L = K[v_1, \dots, v_m]$  where  $v_1, \dots, v_m \in L = K(x)$ . Let  $b \in K[x]$  be a common denominator of ring generators  $v_1, \dots, v_m$ . (So that all  $bv_i \in K[x]$ .) Therefore, for any  $z \in L = K[v_1, \dots, v_m]$ , there is an integer  $n > 0$  such that  $b^n z \in K[x]$ .
- (2) Consider  $z = 1/c \in K(x)$ , where  $c \in K[x]$  doesn't divide  $b$ . The existence of  $c$  is guaranteed by Problem 1.5. Hence, for any integer  $n > 0$

$$b^n z = b^n / c$$

is never in  $K[x]$  by the construction of  $c$ , which is absurd.

□

**Problem 1.45.\***

Let  $R$  be a subring of  $S$ ,  $S$  a subring of  $T$ .

- (a) If  $S = \sum Rv_i$ ,  $T = \sum Sw_j$ , show that  $T = \sum Rv_iw_j$ .
- (b) If  $S = R[v_1, \dots, v_n]$ ,  $T = S[w_1, \dots, w_m]$ , show that  $T = R[v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_m]$ .
- (c) If  $R, S, T$  are fields, and  $S = R(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ ,  $T = S(w_1, \dots, w_m)$ , show that  $T = R(v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_m)$ .

So each of the three finiteness conditions is a transitive relation.

*Proof of (a).*

- (1) Show that  $T \subseteq \sum Rv_iw_j$ . Given any  $t \in T = \sum Sw_j$ . There are some  $s_j \in S$  such that  $t = \sum_j s_j w_j$ . As  $s_j \in S = \sum Rv_i$ , there are some  $r_{ij} \in R$  such that  $s_j = \sum_i r_{ij} v_i$ . Hence,

$$t = \sum_j s_j w_j = \sum_j \left( \sum_i r_{ij} v_i \right) w_j = \sum_{i,j} r_{ij} v_i w_j \in \sum Rv_iw_j.$$

- (2) Show that  $T \supseteq \sum Rv_iw_j$ . Take any  $\sum r_{ij} v_i w_j \in \sum Rv_iw_j$ .

$$\sum r_{ij} v_i w_j = \sum_j \left( \sum_i r_{ij} v_i \right) w_j \in \sum_j Sw_j = T.$$

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Note that  $R[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  is canonically isomorphic to  $R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}][x_m]$ . Hence  $R[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  is isomorphic to  $R[x_1][x_2] \cdots [x_m]$ .
- (2) Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} T &= S[w_1, \dots, w_m] \\ &= R[v_1, \dots, v_n][w_1, \dots, w_m] \\ &= R[v_1, \dots, v_n][w_1] \cdots [w_m] \\ &= R[v_1] \cdots [v_n][w_1] \cdots [w_m] \\ &= R[v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_m]. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof of (c).*

- (1) By (b),  $R(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  is canonically isomorphic to  $R(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})(v_n)$ . Hence  $R(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  is isomorphic to  $R(v_1) \cdots (v_n)$ . To see this, note that  $R[x_1, \dots, x_m] \cong R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}][x_m]$  implies that

$$R(x_1, \dots, x_m) \cong R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}](x_m) \hookrightarrow R(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1})(x_m).$$

Conversely, for any  $a/b \in R(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1})(x_m)$  where

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \sum_i a_i x_m^i \in R(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1})[x_m], \\ b &= \sum_j b_j x_m^j \in R(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1})[x_m] \end{aligned}$$

and  $b \neq 0$ , there is a nonzero polynomial  $c \in R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}]$  such that all  $ca_i$  and  $cb_j$  are in  $R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}]$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{b} &= \frac{\sum_i a_i x_m^i}{\sum_j b_j x_m^j} \\ &= \frac{c \sum_i a_i x_m^i}{c \sum_j b_j x_m^j} \\ &= \frac{\sum_i ca_i x_m^i}{\sum_j cb_j x_m^j} \\ &\in R[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}](x_m). \end{aligned}$$

(2) Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} T &= S(w_1, \dots, w_m) \\ &= R(v_1, \dots, v_n)(w_1, \dots, w_m) \\ &= R(v_1, \dots, v_n)(w_1) \cdots (w_m) \\ &= R(v_1) \cdots (v_n)(w_1) \cdots (w_m) \\ &= R(v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_m). \end{aligned}$$

□

## 1.9. Integral Elements

### Problem 1.46.\* (Transitivity of integral extensions)

Let  $R$  be a subring of  $S$ ,  $S$  a subring of (a domain)  $T$ . If  $S$  is integral over  $R$ , and  $T$  is integral over  $S$ , show that  $T$  is integral over  $R$ . (Hint: Let  $z \in T$ , so we have  $z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n = 0$ ,  $a_i \in S$ . Then  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n, z]$  is module-finite

over  $R$ .)

*Proof (Hint).*

- (1) Let  $z \in T$ , so we have  $z^n + a_1 z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n = 0$ ,  $a_i \in S$ . Therefore,  $z$  is integral over  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ , or  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n, z]$  is module-finite over  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ .
- (2) Show that  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  is module-finite over  $R$  if all  $a_i \in S$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &\text{ is integral over } R, \\ a_2 &\text{ is integral over } R[a_1] \supseteq R, \\ &\dots \\ a_n &\text{ is integral over } R[a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}]. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 3,

$$\begin{aligned} R[a_1] &\text{ is module-finite over } R, \\ R[a_1][a_2] &\text{ is module-finite over } R[a_1], \\ &\dots \\ R[a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}][a_n] &\text{ is module-finite over } R[a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}]. \end{aligned}$$

Also note that  $R[a_1, \dots, a_i] = R[a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}][a_i]$  if  $i > 1$ . By the transitive relation of the module-finiteness (Problem 1.45),  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  is module-finite over  $R$ .

- (3) Again by the transitive relation of the module-finiteness (Problem 1.45),  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n, z]$  is module-finite over  $R$ . Hence,  $R[a_1, \dots, a_n, z]$  is a subring of  $T$  containing  $R[z]$  which is module-finite over  $R$ . By Proposition 3,  $z$  is integral over  $R$ .

□

#### **Problem 1.47.\***

Suppose (a domain)  $S$  is ring-finite over  $R$ . Show that  $S$  is module-finite over  $R$  if and only if  $S$  is integral over  $R$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Write  $S = R[v_1, \dots, v_m]$  for some  $v_i \in S$ .
- (2) Suppose that  $S$  is integral over  $R$ . Then all  $v_i$  are integral over  $R$ . Use the same argument in Problem 1.46, we have

$$S = R[v_1, \dots, v_n]$$

is module-finite over  $R$ .

- (3) Conversely, suppose that  $S$  is module-finite over  $R$ . Take any  $v \in S$ . Write  $v = \sum_i r_i v_i \in S$  since  $S$  is module-finite over  $R$ . Note that  $S = R[v_1, \dots, v_m]$  is a subring of  $S$  itself containing  $R[v]$  which is module-finite over  $R$ . By Proposition 3,  $v$  is integral over  $R$ .

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

- (1) PLACEHOLDER

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

- (1) PLACEHOLDER

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

- (1) PLACEHOLDER

□



## 1.10. Field Extensions

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

**Problem PLACEHOLDER**

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

## Chapter 2: Affine Varieties

### 2.1. Coordinate Rings

#### Problem 2.1.\*

Show that the map which associates to each  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  a polynomial function in  $\mathcal{F}(V, k)$  is a ring homomorphism whose kernel is  $I(V)$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Define a map  $\alpha : k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(V, k)$ . Every polynomial  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  defines a function from  $V$  to  $k$  by

$$\alpha(f)(a_1, \dots, a_n) = f(a_1, \dots, a_n)$$

for all  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in V$ .

- (2)  $\alpha$  is a ring homomorphism by construction in (1).  
(3) Show that  $\ker(\alpha) = I(V)$ . In fact, given any  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we have  $\alpha(f) = 0$  (sending all  $a \in V$  to  $0 \in k$ ) if and only if  $f(a) = 0$  for all  $a \in V$  if and only if  $f \in I(V)$ .  
(4) Hence  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I(V) = \Gamma(V) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}(V, k)$  is an injective homomorphism.

□

#### Problem PLACEHOLDER

PLACEHOLDER

*Proof.*

- (1) PLACEHOLDER

## 2.2. Polynomial Maps

## 2.3. Coordinate Changes

## 2.4. Rational Functions and Local Rings

## 2.5. Discrete Valuation Rings

## 2.6. Forms

## 2.7. Direct Products of Rings

## 2.8. Operations with Ideals

### Problem 2.39.\*

*Prove the following relations among ideals  $I_i$ ,  $J$  in a ring  $R$ :*

(a)  $(I_1 + I_2)J = I_1J + I_2J$ .

(b)  $(I_1 \cdots I_N)^n = I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$ .

*Proof of (a).*

(1) Note that  $(I_1 + I_2)J$  and  $I_1J + I_2J$  are ideals.

(2) *Show that  $(I_1 + I_2)J \subseteq I_1J + I_2J$ .* Given any

$$(x_1 + x_2)y \in (I_1 + I_2)J$$

where  $x_i \in I_i$  and  $y \in J$ . It suffices to show that  $(x_1 + x_2)y \in I_1J + I_2J$  (by (1)). In fact,

$$(x_1 + x_2)y = x_1y + x_2y \in I_1J + I_2J.$$

(3) *Show that  $(I_1 + I_2)J \supseteq I_1J + I_2J$ .* Given any

$$x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 \in I_1J + I_2J$$

where  $x_i \in I_i$  and  $y_i \in J$ . It suffices to show that  $x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 \in (I_1 + I_2)J$  (by (1)). In fact,

$$x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 = (x_1 + \underbrace{0}_{\in I_2})y_1 + (\underbrace{0}_{\in I_1} + x_2)y_2 \in (I_1 + I_2)J$$

since  $(I_1 + I_2)J$  is an ideal.

□

*Proof of (b).*

- (1) Note that  $(I_1 \cdots I_N)^n$  and  $I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$  are ideals.
- (2) Show that  $(I_1 \cdots I_N)^n \subseteq I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$ . Given any

$$x = x_1 \cdots x_n$$

where  $x_i \in I_1 \cdots I_N$ . It suffices to show that  $x \in I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$  (by (1)). For each  $x_i \in I_1 \cdots I_N$ , write

$$x_i = \sum_{j(i)} x_{j(i),1} \cdots x_{j(i),N}$$

where  $x_{j(i),k} \in I_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq N$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x_1 \cdots x_n \\ &= \left( \sum_{j(1)} x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(1),N} \right) \cdots \left( \sum_{j(n)} x_{j(n),1} \cdots x_{j(n),N} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j(1), \dots, j(n)} (x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(1),N}) \cdots (x_{j(n),1} \cdots x_{j(n),N}) \\ &= \sum_{j(1), \dots, j(n)} \underbrace{(x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(n),1})}_{\in I_1^n} \cdots \underbrace{(x_{j(1),N} \cdots x_{j(n),N})}_{\in I_N^n} \\ &\in I_1^n \cdots I_N^n. \end{aligned}$$

- (3) Show that  $(I_1 \cdots I_N)^n \supseteq I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$ . Given any

$$x = x_1 \cdots x_N \in I_1^n \cdots I_N^n$$

where  $x_i \in I_i^n$  ( $1 \leq i \leq N$ ). It suffices to show that  $x \in (I_1 \cdots I_N)^n$  (by (1)). For each  $x_i \in I_i^n$ , write

$$x_i = \sum_{j(i)} x_{j(i),1} \cdots x_{j(i),n}$$

where  $x_{j(i),k} \in I_i$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= x_1 \cdots x_N \\
&= \left( \sum_{j(1)} x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(1),n} \right) \cdots \left( \sum_{j(N)} x_{j(N),1} \cdots x_{j(N),n} \right) \\
&= \sum_{j(1), \dots, j(N)} (x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(1),n}) \cdots (x_{j(N),1} \cdots x_{j(N),n}) \\
&= \sum_{j(1), \dots, j(N)} \underbrace{(x_{j(1),1} \cdots x_{j(N),1})}_{\in I_1 \cdots I_N} \cdots \underbrace{(x_{j(1),n} \cdots x_{j(N),n})}_{\in I_1 \cdots I_N} \\
&\in (I_1 \cdots I_N)^n.
\end{aligned}$$

□

**Problem 2.41.\***

Let  $I, J$  be ideals in  $R$ . Suppose  $I$  is finitely generated and  $I \subseteq \text{rad}(J)$ . Show that  $I^n \subseteq J$  for some  $n$ .

*Proof.*

(1) Let  $I$  be generated by  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in I$ . As  $I \subseteq \text{rad}(J)$ , there are integers  $n_i > 0$  such that  $x_i^{n_i} \in J$ .

(2) Let  $N = n_1 + \cdots + n_m$ . Given any  $x = \sum_{i=1}^m r_i x_i \in I$ , so

$$\begin{aligned}
x^N &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^m r_i x_i \right)^N \\
&= \sum_{k_1 + \cdots + k_m = N} \binom{N}{k_1, \dots, k_m} r_1^{k_1} x_1^{k_1} \cdots r_m^{k_m} x_m^{k_m}.
\end{aligned}$$

(3) Note that for each term there is some  $j$  such that  $k_j \geq n_j$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
x_j^{k_j} &= x_j^{k_j - n_j} x_j^{n_j} \in J && (J \text{ is an ideal}) \\
\Rightarrow r_1^{k_1} x_1^{k_1} \cdots r_m^{k_m} x_m^{k_m} &\in J \text{ for each term} && (J \text{ is an ideal}) \\
\Rightarrow x^N &\in J. && (J \text{ is an ideal}) \\
\Rightarrow I^N &\subseteq J.
\end{aligned}$$

□

**Supplement.** (Exercise 1.13 in the textbook: Eisenbud, Commutative Algebra with a View Toward Algebraic Geometry.) Suppose that  $I$  is an ideal in a commutative ring. Show that if  $\text{rad}(I)$  is finitely generated, then for some integer  $N$  we have  $(\text{rad}(I))^N \subseteq I$ . Conclude that in a Noetherian ring the ideals  $I$  and  $J$  have the same radical iff there is some integer  $N$  such that  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$ . Use the Nullstellensatz to deduce that if  $I, J \subseteq S = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  are ideals and  $k$  is algebraically closed, then  $Z(I) = Z(J)$  iff  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$  for some  $N$ .

*Proof.*

- (1) Show that if  $\text{rad}(I)$  is finitely generated, then for some integer  $N$  we have  $(\text{rad}(I))^N \subseteq I$ . Say  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \text{rad}(I)$  generate  $\text{rad}(I)$ .

(a) For each  $i$ , there exists an integer  $n_i > 0$  such that  $x_i^{n_i} \in I$  (since  $\text{rad}(I)$  is radical).

(b) Let  $N = n_1 + \dots + n_m$ . Given any  $x = \sum_{i=1}^m r_i x_i \in \text{rad}(I)$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} x^N &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^m r_i x_i \right)^N \\ &= \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_m = N} \binom{N}{k_1, \dots, k_m} r_1^{k_1} x_1^{k_1} \dots r_m^{k_m} x_m^{k_m}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) Note that for each term there is some  $j$  such that  $k_j \geq n_j$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} x_j^{k_j} &= x_j^{k_j - n_j} x_j^{n_j} \in I && (I \text{ is an ideal}) \\ \implies r_1^{k_1} x_1^{k_1} \dots r_m^{k_m} x_m^{k_m} &\in I \text{ for each term} && (I \text{ is an ideal}) \\ \implies x^N &\in I. && (I \text{ is an ideal}) \\ \implies (\text{rad}(I))^N &\subseteq I. \end{aligned}$$

- (2) Show that in a Noetherian ring the ideals  $I$  and  $J$  have the same radical iff there is some integer  $N$  such that  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$ .

(a) ( $\implies$ ) Since in a Noetherian ring every ideal is finitely generated,  $\text{rad}(I)$  and  $\text{rad}(J)$  are finitely generated. By (1), there is a common integer  $N$  such that

$$(\text{rad}(I))^N \subseteq I \quad \text{and} \quad (\text{rad}(J))^N \subseteq J.$$

Note that  $I^N \subseteq (\text{rad}(I))^N$  and  $J^N \subseteq (\text{rad}(J))^N$ . Since  $\text{rad}(I) = \text{rad}(J)$  by assumption,

$$\begin{aligned} I^N &\subseteq (\text{rad}(I))^N = (\text{rad}(J))^N \subseteq J, \\ J^N &\subseteq (\text{rad}(J))^N = (\text{rad}(I))^N \subseteq I. \end{aligned}$$

(b) ( $\Longleftarrow$ ) It suffices to show that  $\text{rad}(I) \subseteq \text{rad}(J)$ .  $\text{rad}(J) \subseteq \text{rad}(I)$  is similar. Given any  $x \in \text{rad}(I)$ , there is an integer  $M > 0$  such that  $x^M \in I$ . Hence  $x^{MN} \in I^N \subseteq J$ , or  $x \in \text{rad}(J)$ .

(3) Show that if  $I, J \subseteq S = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  are ideals and  $k$  is algebraically closed, then  $Z(I) = Z(J)$  iff  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$  for some  $N$ . Note that  $S$  is Noetherian and we can apply part (2). By the Nullstellensatz,  $Z(I) = Z(J)$  iff  $\text{rad}(I) = \text{rad}(J)$  iff  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$  for some  $N$ .

□

## 2.9. Ideals with a Finite Number of Zeros

## 2.10. Quotient Modules and Exact Sequences

### Problem 2.51.

Let

$$0 \longrightarrow V_1 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow V_n \longrightarrow 0$$

be an exact sequence of finite-dimensional vector spaces. Show that  $\sum (-1)^i \dim(V_i) = 0$ .

*Proof (Proposition 7 in §2.10).*

(1) For  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , by the rank-nullity theorem for a linear transformation  $\varphi_i : V_i \rightarrow V_{i+1}$ , we have

$$\dim V_i = \dim \text{im}(\varphi_i) + \dim \ker(\varphi_i).$$

(Here  $V_0 = V_{n+1} := 0$  by convention.)

(2) By the exactness of the sequence, we have

(a)  $\text{im}(\varphi_i) = \ker(\varphi_{i+1})$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n-1$ . In particular,  $\ker(\varphi_1) = \text{im}(\varphi_0) = 0$ .

(b)  $\ker(\varphi_n) = V_n$ .

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i \dim(V_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i \dim \operatorname{im}(\varphi_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i \dim \operatorname{ker}(\varphi_i) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i \dim \operatorname{ker}(\varphi_{i+1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i \dim \operatorname{ker}(\varphi_i) \\
&= (-1)^{n-1} \underbrace{\dim \operatorname{ker}(\varphi_n)}_{=V_n} + (-1)^1 \underbrace{\dim \operatorname{ker}(\varphi_1)}_{=0} \\
&= -(-1)^n \dim V_n,
\end{aligned}$$

or  $\sum (-1)^i \dim(V_i) = 0$ .

□

## 2.11. Free Modules



## Chapter 3: Local Properties of Plane Curves

### 3.1. Multiple Points and Tangent Lines

**Problem** PLACEHOLDER

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

### 3.2. Multiplicities and Local Rings

### 3.3. Intersection Numbers

## Chapter 4: Projective Varieties

### 4.1. Projective Space

**Problem** PLACEHOLDER

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

### 4.2. Projective Algebraic Sets

### 4.3. Affine and Projective Varieties

### 4.4. Multiprojective Space

## Chapter 5: Projective Plane Curves

### 5.1. Definitions

**Problem** PLACEHOLDER

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

### 5.2. Linear Systems of Curves

### 5.3. Bézout's Theorem

### 5.4. Multiple Points

### 5.5. Max Noether's Fundamental Theorem

### 5.6. Applications of Noether's Theorem

## Chapter 6: Varieties, Morphisms, and Rational Maps

### 6.1. The Zariski Topology

### 6.2. Varieties

### 6.3. Morphisms of Varieties

### 6.4. Products and Graphs

### 6.5. Algebraic Function Fields and Dimension of Varieties

### 6.6. Rational Maps

## Chapter 7: Resolution of Singularities

### 7.1. Rational Maps of Curves

**Problem** PLACEHOLDER

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

### 7.2. Blowing up a Point in $A^2$

### 7.3. Blowing up a Point in $P^2$

### 7.4. Quadratic Transformations

### 7.5. Nonsingular Models of Curves

## Chapter 8: Riemann-Roch Theorem

### 8.1. Divisors

**Problem** PLACEHOLDER

*PLACEHOLDER*

*Proof.*

(1) PLACEHOLDER

□

### 8.2. The Vector Spaces $L(D)$

### 8.3. Riemann's Theorem

### 8.4. Derivations and Differentials

### 8.5. Canonical Divisors

### 8.6. Riemann-Roch Theorem