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# Introduction To Commutative Algebra

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## **Contents**

## 1 Rings and Ideals

A **unit** is an element  $u$  with a **reciprocal**  $1/u$  or the **multiplicative in-**

**verse**. The units form a multiplicative group, denoted  $R^\times$

A ring **homomorphism**, or simply a **ring map**,  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  is a map

preserving sum, products and 1

If there is an unspecified isomorphism between rings  $R$  and  $R'$ , then we

write  $R = R'$  when it is **canonical**; that is, it does not depend on any

artificial choices.

A subset  $R'' \subset R$  is a **subring** if  $R''$  is a ring and the inclusion  $R'' \hookrightarrow R$

is a ring map. In this case, we call  $R$  a **(ring) extension**.

An  $R$ -**algebra** is a ring  $R'$  that comes equipped with a ring map  $\varphi : R \rightarrow$

$R'$ , called the **structure map**, denoted by  $R'/R$ . For example, every ring

is canonically a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra. An  $R$ -**algebra homomorphism**, or  $R$ -**map**,

$R' \rightarrow R''$  is a ring map between  $R$ -algebras.

A group  $G$  is said to **act** on  $R$  if there is a homomorphism given from

$G$  into the group of automorphism of  $R$ . The **ring of invariants**  $R^G$  is the

subring defined by

$$R^G := \{x \in R \mid gx = x \text{ for all } g \in G\}$$

Similarly a group  $G$  is said to **act** on  $R'/R$  if  $G$  acts on  $R'$  and each

$g \in G$  is an  $R$ -map. Note that  $R'^G$  is an  $R$ -subalgebra

## Boolean rings

The simplest nonzero ring has two elements, 0 and 1. It's denoted  $\mathbb{F}_2$

Given any ring  $R$  and any set  $X$ , let  $R^X$  denote the set of functions

$f : X \rightarrow R$ . Then  $R^X$  is a ring.

For example, take  $R := \mathbb{F}_2$ . Given  $f : X \rightarrow R$ , put  $S := f^{-1}\{1\}$ . Then

$f(x) = 1$  if  $x \in S$ . In other words,  $f$  is the **characteristic function**  $\chi_S$ .

Thus *the characteristic functions form a ring, namely,  $\mathbb{F}_2^X$*

Given  $T \subset X$ , clearly  $\chi_S \cdot \chi_T = \chi_{S \cap T}$ .  $\chi_S + \chi_T = \chi_{S \Delta T}$ , where  $S \Delta T$  is

the **symmetric difference**:

$$S \Delta T := (S \cup T) - (S \cap T)$$

Thus *the subsets of  $X$  form a ring: sum is symmetric difference, and product*

*is intersection. This ring is canonically isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_2^X$*

A ring  $B$  is called **Boolean** if  $f^2 = f$  for all  $f \in B$ . If so, then  $2f = 0$

$$\text{as } 2f = (f + f)^2 = f^2 + 2f + f^2 = 4f$$

Suppose  $X$  is a topological space, and give  $\mathbb{F}_2$  the **discrete** topology;

that is, every subset is both open and closed. Consider the continuous

functions  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$ . Clearly, they are just the  $\chi_S$  where  $S$  is both open

and closed.



## Polynomial rings

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ .  $P$  has this **Universal Mapping**

**Property (UMP):** *given a ring map  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  and given an element  $x_i$*

*of  $R'$  for each  $i$ , there is a unique ring map  $\pi : P \rightarrow R'$  with  $\pi|_R = \varphi$  and*

$\pi(X_i) = x_i$ . In fact, since  $\pi$  is a ring map, necessarily  $\pi$  is given by the

formula:

$$\pi\left(\sum a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n}\right) = \sum \varphi(a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)}) x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n} \quad (1.0.1)$$

In other words,  $P$  is universal among  $R$ -algebras equipped with a list of  $n$

elements

Similarly let  $\mathcal{X} := \{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  be any set of variables. Set  $P' := R[\mathcal{X}]$ ; the elements of  $P'$  are the polynomials in any finitely many of the  $X_\lambda$ .  $P'$  has essentially the same UMP as  $P$

## Ideals

Let  $R$  be a ring. A subset  $\mathfrak{a}$  is called an **ideal** if

1.  $0 \in \mathfrak{a}$
2. whenever  $a, b \in \mathfrak{a}$ , also  $a + b \in \mathfrak{a}$
3. whenever  $x \in R$  and  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$  also  $xa \in \mathfrak{a}$

Given a subset  $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ , by the ideal  $\langle \mathfrak{a} \rangle$  that  $\mathfrak{a}$  **generates**, we mean the smallest ideal containing  $\mathfrak{a}$

All ideal containing all the  $a_\lambda$  contains any (finite) **linear combination**

$\sum x_\lambda a_\lambda$  with  $x_\lambda \in R$  and almost all 0.

Given a single element  $a$ , we say that the ideal  $\langle a \rangle$  is **principal**

Given a number of ideals  $\mathfrak{a}_\lambda$ , by their **sum**  $\sum \mathfrak{a}_\lambda$  we mean the set of all

finite linear combinations  $\sum x_\lambda a_\lambda$  with  $x_\lambda \in R$  and  $a_\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}_\lambda$

Given two ideals  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}$ , by the **transporter** of  $\mathfrak{b}$  into  $\mathfrak{a}$  we mean the

set

$$(\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b}) := \{x \in R \mid x\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a}\}$$

$(\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b})$  is an ideal. Plainly,

$$\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, \quad \mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}, \quad \mathfrak{a} \subset (\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b})$$

Further, for any ideal  $\mathfrak{c}$ , the distributive law holds:  $\mathfrak{a}(\mathfrak{b} + \mathfrak{c}) = \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} + \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{c}$

Given an ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$ , notice  $\mathfrak{a} = R$  if and only if  $1 \in \mathfrak{a}$ . It follows that

$\mathfrak{a} = R$  iff  $\mathfrak{a}$  contains a unit.

Given a ring map  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$ , denote by  $\mathfrak{a}R'$  or  $\mathfrak{a}^e$  the ideal of  $R'$

generated by the set  $\varphi(\mathfrak{a})$ . We call it the **extension** of  $\mathfrak{a}$

Given an ideal  $\mathfrak{a}'$  of  $R'$ , its preimage  $\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{a}')$  is an ideal of  $R$ . We call

$\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{a}')$  the **contraction** of  $\mathfrak{a}'$  and sometimes denote it by  $\mathfrak{a}'^c$

## Residue rings

**kernel**  $\ker(\varphi)$  is defined to be the ideal  $\varphi^{-1}(0)$  of  $R$

Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Form the set of cosets of  $\mathfrak{a}$

$$R/\mathfrak{a} := \{x + \mathfrak{a} \mid x \in R\}$$

$R/\mathfrak{a}$  is called the **residue ring** or **quotient ring** or **factor ring** of  $R$

**modulo  $\mathfrak{a}$** . From the **quotient map**

$$\kappa : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{a} \quad \text{by } \kappa x := x + \mathfrak{a}$$

The element  $\kappa x \in R/\mathfrak{a}$  is called the **residue** of  $x$ .

If  $\ker(\varphi) \supset \mathfrak{a}$ , then there is a ring map  $\psi : R/\mathfrak{a} \rightarrow R'$  with  $\psi\kappa = \varphi$ ; that

is, the following diagram is commutative

$$R[\mathfrak{r}, \kappa][dr, \varphi] R/\mathfrak{a}[d, \psi]$$

$R'$

by  $\psi(x\mathfrak{a}) = \varphi(x)$ . Then we only need to verify that  $\psi$  is a map

Conversely, *if  $\psi$  exists, then  $\ker(\varphi) \supset \mathfrak{a}$ , or  $\varphi\mathfrak{a} = 0$ , or  $\mathfrak{a}R' = 0$ , since*

$$\kappa\mathfrak{a} = 0$$

Further, *if  $\psi$  exists, then  $\psi$  is unique* as  $\kappa$  is surjective

Finally, as  $\kappa$  is surjective, *if  $\psi$  exists, then  $\psi$  is surjective iff  $\psi$  is so.* In

addition,  *$\psi$  is injective iff  $\mathfrak{a} = \ker(\varphi)$ .* Hence  *$\psi$  is an isomorphism iff  $\varphi$  is*

*surjective and  $\mathfrak{a} = \ker(\varphi)$ .* Therefore,

$$R/\ker(\varphi) \xrightarrow{\sim} (\varphi)$$

$R/\mathfrak{a}$  has UMP:  $\kappa(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$ , and given  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  s.t.  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  s.t.

$\varphi(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$ , there is a unique ring map  $\psi : R/\mathfrak{a} \rightarrow R'$  s.t.  $\psi\kappa = \varphi$ . In other

words,  $R/\mathfrak{a}$  is universal among  $R$ -algebras  $R'$  s.t.  $\mathfrak{a}R' = 0$

If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is the ideal generated by elements  $a_\lambda$ , then the UMP can be usefully

rephrased as follows:  $\kappa(a_\lambda) = 0$  for all  $\lambda$ , and given  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  s.t.  $\varphi(a_\lambda) = 0$

for all  $\lambda$ , there is a unique ring map  $\psi : R/\mathfrak{a} \rightarrow R'$  s.t.  $\psi\kappa = \varphi$

*The UMP serves to determine  $R/\mathfrak{a}$  up to unique isomorphism. Say  $R'$ ,*

equipped with  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  has the UMP too.  $\kappa(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  so there is a unique

$\psi' : R' \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{a}$  with  $\psi'\varphi = \kappa$ . Then  $\psi'\psi\kappa = \kappa$ . Hence  $\psi'\psi = 1$  by uniqueness.

Thus  $\psi$  and  $\psi'$  are inverse isomorphism

$$R/a[dd,"1"][dl,"\psi"]$$

$$R[urr,"\kappa"][r,"\varphi"][drr,"\kappa"]R'[dr,"\psi'"]$$

$$R/a$$

**Proposition 1.1** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[X]$ ,  $a \in R$  and  $\pi : P \rightarrow R$  the*

*$R$ -algebra map defined by  $\pi(X) := a$ . Then*

$$1. \ker(\pi) = \{F(X) \in P \mid F(a) = 0\} = \langle X - a \rangle$$

$$2. R/\langle X - a \rangle \simeq R$$

Set  $G := X - a$ . Given  $F \in P$ , let's show  $F = GH + r$  with  $H \in P$

and  $r \in R$ . By linearity, we may assume  $F := X^n$ . If  $n \geq 1$ , then  $F =$



$(G + a)X^{n-1}$ , so  $F = GH + aX^{n-1}$  with  $H := X^{n-1}$ .

Then  $\pi(F) = \pi(G)\pi(H) + \pi(r) = r$ . Hence  $F \in \ker(\pi)$  iff  $F = GH$ . But

$\pi(F) = F(a)$  by ??

### Degree of a polynomial

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P$  the polynomial ring in any number of variables. If  $F$  is

a monomial, then its degree  $\deg()$  is the sum of its exponents; in general,

$\deg(F)$  is the largest  $\deg()$  of all monomials in  $F$

Given any  $G \in P$  with  $FG$  nonzero, notice that

$$\deg(FG) \leq \deg(F) + \deg(G)$$

## Order of a polynomial

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P$  the polynomial ring in variable  $X_\lambda$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , and

$(x_\lambda) \in R^\Lambda$  a vector. Let  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)} : P \rightarrow P$  denote the  $R$ -algebra map defined

by  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)} X_\mu := X_\mu + x_\mu$  for all  $\mu \in \Lambda$ . Fix a nonzero  $F \in P$

The **order** of  $F$  at the zero vector  $(0)$ , denoted  $_{(0)}F$ , is defined as the

smallest  $\deg()$  of all the monomials in  $F$ . In general, the **order** of  $F$  at the

vector  $(x_\lambda)$ , denoted  $_{(x_\lambda)}F$  is defined by the formula:  $_{(x_\lambda)}F :=_{(0)} (\varphi_{(x_\lambda)} F)$

Notice that  $_{(x_\lambda)}F = 0$  iff  $F(x_\lambda) \neq 0$  as  $(\varphi_{x_\lambda} F)(0) = F(x_\lambda)$

Given  $\mu$  and  $x \in R$ , form  $F_{\mu,x}$  by substituting  $x$  for  $X_\mu$  in  $F$ . If  $F_{\mu,x_\mu} \neq 0$

, then

$$_{(x_\lambda)}F \leq_{(x_\lambda)} F_{\mu,x_\mu}$$

If  $x_\mu = 0$ , then  $F_{\mu,x_\mu}$  is the sum of the terms without  $x_\mu$  in  $F$ . Hence if

$_{(x_\lambda)} = (0)$ , then ?? holds. But substituting 0 for  $X_\mu$  in  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)}F$  is the same

as substituting  $x_\mu$  for  $X_\mu$  in  $F$  and then applying  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)}$  to the result; that

is,  $(\varphi_{(x_\mu)}F)_{\mu,0} = \varphi_{(x_\lambda)}F_{\mu,x_\mu}$

Given any  $G \in P$  with  $FG$  nonzero,

$$_{(x_\lambda)}FG \geq_{(x_\lambda)} F +_{(x_\lambda)} G$$

## Nested ideals

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal, and  $\kappa : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{a}$  the quotient map. Given an

ideal  $\mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{a}$ , form the corresponding set of cosets of  $\mathfrak{a}$

$$\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a} := \{b + \mathfrak{a} \mid b \in \mathfrak{b}\} = \kappa(\mathfrak{b})$$

Clearly,  $\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}$  is an ideal of  $R/\mathfrak{a}$ . Also  $\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{b}(R/\mathfrak{a})$

*The operation  $\mathfrak{b} \mapsto \mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}' \mapsto \kappa^{-1}(\mathfrak{b}')$  are inverse to each other, and*

*establish a bijective correspondence between the set of ideals  $\mathfrak{b}$  of  $R$  contain-*

*ing  $\mathfrak{a}$  and the set of all ideals  $\mathfrak{b}'$  of  $R/\mathfrak{a}$ . Moreover, this correspondence*

*preserves inclusions*

Given an ideal  $\mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{a}$ , form the composition of the quotient maps

$$\varphi : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{a} \rightarrow (R/\mathfrak{a})/(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$$

$\varphi$  is surjective and  $\ker(\varphi) = \mathfrak{b}$ . Hence  $\varphi$  factors

$$R[\mathfrak{r}][\mathfrak{d}]R/\mathfrak{b}[\mathfrak{d}, " \psi ", " \simeq "']$$

$$R/\mathfrak{a}[\mathfrak{r}](R/\mathfrak{a})/(\mathfrak{b}/\mathfrak{a})$$

## Idempotents

Let  $R$  be a ring. Let  $e \in R$  be an **idempotent**; that is,  $e^2 = e$ . Then  $Re$  is

a ring with  $e$  as 1.

Set  $e' := 1 - e$ . Then  $e'$  is idempotent and  $e \cdot e' = 0$ . We call  $e$  and

$e'$  **complementary idempotents**. Conversely, if two elements  $e_1, e_2 \in R$

satisfy  $e_1 + e_2 = 1$  and  $e_1 e_2 = 0$ , then they are complementary idempotents,

as for each  $i$ ,

$$e_i = e_i \cdot 1 = e_i(e_1 + e_2) = e_i^2$$

We denote the set of all idempotents by  $(R)$ . Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a ring map.

Then  $\varphi(e)$  is idempotent. So the restriction of  $\varphi$  to  $(R)$  is a map

$$(\varphi) : (R) \rightarrow (R')$$

**Example 1.1** () Let  $R := R' \times R''$  be a **product** of two rings. Set  $e' :=$

$(1, 0)$  and  $e'' := (0, 1)$ . Then  $e'$  and  $e''$  are complementary idempotents.

**Proposition 1.2** () *Let  $R$  be a ring, and  $e', e''$  complementary idempotents.*

*Set  $R' := Re'$  and  $R'' := Re''$ . Define  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R' \times R''$  by  $\varphi(x) := (xe', xe'')$ .*

*Then  $\varphi$  is a ring isomorphism. Moreover,  $R' = R/Re''$  and  $R'' = R/Re'$*

Define a surjection  $\varphi' : R \rightarrow R'$  by  $\varphi'(x) := xe'$ . Then  $\varphi'$  is a ring map,

since  $xye' = xye'^2 = (xe')(ye')$ . Moreover,  $\ker(\varphi') = Re''$  since  $x = x \cdot 1 =$

$xe' + xe'' = xe''$ . Thus  $R' = R/Re''$

Since  $\varphi$  is a ring map. It's surjective since  $(xe', x'e'') = \varphi(xe' + x'e'')$

**Exercise**

**Exercise 1.0.1** *Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a map of rings,  $\mathfrak{a}_1, \mathfrak{a}_2, \mathfrak{a}$  ideals of  $R$ ,*

*$\mathfrak{b}_1, \mathfrak{b}_2, \mathfrak{b}$  ideals of  $R'$ . Prove*

$$1. (\mathfrak{a}_1 + \mathfrak{a}_2)^e = \mathfrak{a}_1^e + \mathfrak{a}_2^e$$

$$2. (\mathfrak{b}_1 + \mathfrak{b}_2)^c \supset \mathfrak{b}_1^c + \mathfrak{b}_2^c$$

$$3. (\mathfrak{a}_1 \cap \mathfrak{a}_2)^e \subset \mathfrak{a}_1^e \cap \mathfrak{a}_2^e$$

$$4. (\mathfrak{b}_1 \cap \mathfrak{b}_2)^c = \mathfrak{b}_1^c \cap \mathfrak{b}_2^c$$

$$5. (\mathfrak{a}_1 \mathfrak{a}_2)^e = \mathfrak{a}_1^e \mathfrak{a}_2^e$$

$$6. (\mathfrak{b}_1 \mathfrak{b}_2)^c \supset \mathfrak{b}_1^c \mathfrak{b}_2^c$$

$$7. (\mathfrak{a}_1 : \mathfrak{a}_2)^e \subset (\mathfrak{a}_1^e : \mathfrak{a}_2^e)$$

$$8. (\mathfrak{b}_1 : \mathfrak{b}_2)^c \subset (\mathfrak{b}_1^c : \mathfrak{b}_2^c)$$

**Exercise 1.0.2** Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a map of rings,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal of  $R$ , and  $\mathfrak{b}$



an ideal of  $R'$ . Prove the following statements:

1.  $\mathfrak{a}^{ec} \supset \mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}^{ce} \subset \mathfrak{b}$

2.  $\mathfrak{a}^{ece} = \mathfrak{a}^e$  and  $\mathfrak{b}^{cec} = \mathfrak{b}^c$

3. If  $\mathfrak{b}$  is an extension, then  $\mathfrak{b}^c$  is the largest ideal of  $R$  with extension  $\mathfrak{b}$

4. If two extensions have the same contraction, then they are equal

**Exercise 1.0.3** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal,  $\mathcal{X}$  a set of variables. Prove:

1. The extension  $\mathfrak{a}(R[\mathcal{X}])$  is the set  $\mathfrak{a}[\mathcal{X}]$

2.  $\mathfrak{a}(R[\mathcal{X}]) \cap R = \mathfrak{a}$

**Exercise 1.0.4** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal, and  $\mathcal{X}$  a set of variables. Set

$$P := R[\mathcal{X}]. \text{ Prove } P/\mathfrak{a}P = (R/\mathfrak{a})[\mathcal{X}]$$

**Exercise 1.0.5** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[\{X_\lambda\}]$  the polynomial ring in vari-

ables  $X_\lambda$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  a vector. Let  $\pi_{(x_\lambda)} : P \rightarrow R$  denote the  $R$ -algebra map

defined by  $\pi_{(x_\lambda)} X_\mu := x_\mu$  for all  $\mu \in \Lambda$ . Show:

$$1. \text{ Any } F \in P \text{ has the form } F = \sum a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} (X_{\lambda_1}^{i_1} - x_{\lambda_1}) \dots (X_{\lambda_n} - x_{\lambda_n})^{i_n}$$

for unique  $a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} \in R$

$$2. \ker(\pi_{(x_\lambda)}) = \{F \in P \mid F((x_\lambda)) = 0\} = \langle \{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\} \rangle$$

$$3. \pi \text{ induces an isomorphism } P/\langle \{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\} \rangle \simeq R$$

4. Given  $F \in P$ , its residue in  $P/\langle\{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\}\rangle$  is equal to  $F((x_\lambda))$

5. Let  $\mathcal{Y}$  be a second set of variables. Then  $P[\mathcal{Y}]/\langle\{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\}\rangle \simeq R[\mathcal{Y}]$

1. Let  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)}$  be the  $R$ -automorphism of  $P$ . Say  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)}F = \sum a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} X_{\lambda_1}^{i_1} \dots X_{\lambda_n}^{i_n}$

. And  $\varphi_{(x_\lambda)}^{-1} \varphi_{(x_\lambda)} F = F$

2. Note that  $\pi_{(x_\lambda)} F = F((x_\lambda))$ . Hence  $F \in \ker(\pi_{(x_\lambda)})$  iff  $F((x_\lambda)) = 0$ . If

$F((x_\lambda)) = 0$ , then  $a_{(0, \dots, 0)} = 0$ , and so  $F \in \langle\{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\}\rangle$

5. Set  $R' := R[\mathcal{Y}]$

**Exercise 1.0.6** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  the polynomial ring

in variables  $X_i$ . Given  $F = \sum a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n} \in P$ , formally set

$$\partial F / \partial X_j := \sum i_j a_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n} / X_j \in P$$

Given  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$ , set  $\mathfrak{X} := (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , set  $a_j := (\partial F / \partial X_j)(\mathfrak{X})$ , and

set  $\mathfrak{M} := \langle X_1 - x_1, \dots, X_n - x_n \rangle$ . Show  $F = F(\mathfrak{X}) + \sum a_j (X_j - x_j) + G$

with  $G \in \mathfrak{M}^2$ . First show that if  $F = (X_1 - x_1)^{i_1} \dots (X_n - x_n)^{i_n}$ , then

$$\partial F / \partial X_j = i_j F / (X_j - x_j)$$

$$(\partial F / \partial X_j)(\mathfrak{X}) = b_{(\delta_{1j}, \dots, \delta_{nj})} \text{ where } \delta_{ij} \text{ is the Kronecker delta}$$

**Exercise 1.0.7** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $X$  a variable,  $F \in P := R[x]$ , and  $a \in R$ .

Set  $F' := \partial F / \partial X$ . We call  $a$  a **root** of  $F$  if  $F(a) = 0$ , a **simple root** if also

$F'(a) \neq 0$ , and a **supersimple root** if also  $F'(a)$  is a unit.

Show that  $a$  is a root of  $F$  iff  $F = (X - a)G$  for some  $G \in P$ , and if so,

then  $G$  is unique; that  $a$  is a simple root iff also  $G(a) \neq 0$ ; and that  $a$  is a

supersimple root iff also  $G(a)$  is a unit

**Exercise 1.0.8** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ ,  $F \in P$  of degree  $d$

and  $F_i := X_i^{d_i} + a_1 X_i^{d_i-1} + \dots$  a monic polynomial in  $X_i$  also for all  $i$ .

Find  $G, G_i \in P$  s.t.  $F = \sum_{i=1}^n F_i G_i + G$  where  $G_i = 0$  or  $\deg(G_i) \leq d - d_i$

and where the highest power of  $X_i$  in  $G$  is less than  $d_i$

By linearity, we may assume  $F := X_1^{m_1} \dots X_n^{m_n}$ . If  $m_i < d_i$  for all  $i$ ,

set  $G_i := 0$  and  $G := F$  and we're done. Else, fix  $i$  with  $m_i \geq d_i$ , and set

$$G_i := F/X_i^{d_i} \text{ and } G := (-a_1 X_i^{d_i-1} - \dots)G_i$$

**Exercise 1.0.9 (Chinese Remainder Theorem)** *Let  $R$  be a ring*

1. *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}$  be **comaximal** ideals; that is,  $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} = R$ . Show*

$$(a) \quad \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}$$

$$(b) \quad R/\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = (R/\mathfrak{a}) \times (R/\mathfrak{b})$$

2. *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be comaximal to both  $\mathfrak{b}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}'$ . Show  $\mathfrak{a}$  is also comaximal to  $\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'$*

3. *Given  $m, n \geq 1$ , show  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}$  are comaximal iff  $\mathfrak{a}^m$  and  $\mathfrak{b}^n$  are.*

4. *Let  $\mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_n$  be pairwise comaximal. Show*

(a)  $\mathfrak{a}_1$  and  $\mathfrak{a}_2 \dots \mathfrak{a}_n$  are comaximal

(b)  $\mathfrak{a}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{a}_n = \mathfrak{a}_1 \dots \mathfrak{a}_n$

(c)  $R/(\mathfrak{a}_1 \dots \mathfrak{a}_n) \simeq \prod(R/\mathfrak{a}_i)$

5. Find an example where  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}$  satisfy 1.1 but aren't comaximal

1.  $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} = R$  implies  $x + y = 1$  with  $x \in \mathfrak{a}$  and  $y \in \mathfrak{b}$ . So given  $z \in \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}$ ,

we have  $z = xz + yz \in \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$

2.  $R = (\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b})(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}') = (\mathfrak{a}^2 + \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}') + \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}' \subseteq \mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}' \subseteq R$

3. Build with  $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}^2 = R$ . Conversely, note that  $\mathfrak{a}^n \subset \mathfrak{a}$

4. Induction

5. Let  $k$  be a field. Take  $R := k[X, Y]$  and  $\mathfrak{a} := \langle X \rangle$  and  $\mathfrak{b} := \langle Y \rangle$ . Given

$f \in \langle X \rangle \cap \langle Y \rangle$ , note that every monomial of  $f$  contains both  $X$  and

$Y$ , and so  $f \in \langle X \rangle \langle Y \rangle$ . But  $\langle X \rangle$  and  $\langle Y \rangle$  are not comaximal

**Exercise 1.0.10** *First given a prime number  $p$  and a  $k \geq 1$ , find the idem-*

*potents in  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle p^k \rangle$ . Second, find the idempotents in  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle 12 \rangle$ . Third, find the*

*number of idempotents in  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle n \rangle$  where  $n = \prod_{i=1}^N p_i^{n_i}$  with  $p_i$  distinct prime*

*numbers*

$$x = 0, 1$$



Since  $-3 + 4 = 1$ , the Chinese Remainder Theorem yields

$$\mathbb{Z}/\langle 12 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}/\langle 3 \rangle \times \mathbb{Z}/\langle 4 \rangle$$

$m$  is idempotent in  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle 12 \rangle$  iff it's idempotent in  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle 3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle 4 \rangle$

$p_i^{n_i}$  has a linear combination equal to 1. Hence  $2^N$

**Exercise 1.0.11** Let  $R := R' \times R''$  be a product of rings,  $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$  an ideal.

Show  $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{a}' \times \mathfrak{a}''$  with  $\mathfrak{a}' \subset R'$  and  $\mathfrak{a}'' \subset R''$  ideals. Show  $R/\mathfrak{a} = (R'/\mathfrak{a}') \times$

$(R''/\mathfrak{a}'')$

**Exercise 1.0.12** Let  $R$  be a ring;  $e, e'$  idempotents. Show

1. Set  $\mathfrak{a} := \langle e \rangle$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a}$  is idempotent; that is,  $\mathfrak{a}^2 = \mathfrak{a}$

2. Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a principal idempotent ideal. Then  $\mathfrak{a} = \langle f \rangle$  with  $f$  idempotent

3. Set  $e'' := e + e' - ee'$ . Then  $\langle e, e' \rangle = \langle e'' \rangle$  and  $e''$  is idempotent

4. Let  $e_1, \dots, e_r$  be idempotents. Then  $\langle e_1, \dots, e_r \rangle = \langle f \rangle$  with  $f$  idempotent

tent

5. Assume  $R$  is Boolean. Then every finitely generated ideal is principal

3.  $ee'' = e^2 = e$

**Exercise 1.0.13** Let  $L$  be a **lattice**, that is, a partially ordered set in which

every pair  $x, y \in L$  has a sup  $x \vee y$  and an inf  $x \wedge y$ . Assume  $L$  is **Boolean**;

that is:

1.  $L$  has a least element  $0$  and a greatest element  $1$

2. The operations  $\vee$  and  $\wedge$  **distribute** over each other

$$x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z) \quad \text{and} \quad x \vee (y \wedge z) = (x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee z)$$

3. Each  $x \in L$  has a unique **complement**  $x'$ ; that is,  $x \wedge x' = 0$  and

$$x \vee x' = 1 .$$

Show that the following six laws obeyed

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 x \wedge x = x & \text{and} & x \vee x = x & (\text{idempotent}) \\
 x \wedge 0 = 0, x \wedge 1 = x & \text{and} & x \vee 1 = 1, x \vee 0 = x & (\text{unitary}) \\
 x \wedge y = y \wedge x & \text{and} & x \vee y = y \vee x & (\text{commutative}) \\
 x \wedge (y \wedge z) = (x \wedge y) \wedge z & \text{and} & x \vee (y \vee z) = (x \vee y) \vee z & (\text{associative}) \\
 x'' = x & \text{and} & 0' = 1, 1' = 0 & (\text{involutory}) \\
 (x \wedge y)' = x' \vee y' & \text{and} & (x \vee y)' = x' \wedge y' & (\text{De Morgan's})
 \end{array}$$

Moreover, show that  $x \leq y$  iff  $x = x \wedge y$

**Exercise 1.0.14** Let  $L$  be a Boolean lattice. For all  $x, y \in L$ , set

$$x + y := (x \wedge y') \vee (x' \wedge y) \quad \text{and} \quad xy := x \wedge y$$

*Show*

1.  $x + y = (x \vee y)(x' \vee y')$

2.  $(x + y)' = (x'y') \vee (xy)$

3.  $L$  is a Boolean ring

**Exercise 1.0.15** Given a Boolean ring  $R$ , order  $R$  by  $x \leq y$  if  $x = xy$ .

*Show  $R$  is thus a Boolean lattice. Viewing this construction as a map  $\rho$*

*from the set of Boolean-ring structures on the set  $R$  to the set of Boolean-*

*lattice structures on  $R$ , show  $\rho$  is bijective with inverse the map  $\lambda$  associated*

*to the construction in ??*

First check  $R$  is partially ordered.

Given  $x, y \in R$ , set  $x \vee y := x + y + xy$  and  $x \wedge y := xy$ . Then  $x \leq x \vee y$

as  $x(x + y + xy) = x^2 + xy + x^2y = x + 2xy = x$ . If  $z \leq x$  and  $z \leq y$ , then

$z = zx$  and  $z = zy$ , and so  $z(x \vee y) = z$ ; thus  $z \leq x \vee y$

**Exercise 1.0.16** *Let  $X$  be a set, and  $L$  the set of all subsets of  $X$ , partially*

*ordered by inclusion. Show that  $L$  is a Boolean lattice and that the ring*

*structure on  $L$  constructed in ?? coincides with that constructed in ??*

Assume  $X$  is a topological space, and let  $M$  be the set of all its open and closed subsets. Show that  $M$  is a sublattice of  $L$ , and that the subring structure on  $M$  of ?? coincides with the ring structure of ?? with  $M$  for  $L$

## 2 Prime Ideals

### Zerodivisors

Let  $R$  be a ring. An element  $x$  is called a **zerodivisor** if there is a nonzero  $y$  with  $xy = 0$ ; otherwise  $x$  is called a **nonzerodivisor**. Denote the set of

zerodivisors by  $(R)$  and the set of nonzerodivisor by  $S_0$

### Multiplicative subsets, prime ideals

Let  $R$  be a ring. A subset  $S$  is called **multiplicative** if  $1 \in S$  and if  $x, y \in S$  implies  $xy \in S$

An ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$  is called **prime** if its complement  $R - \mathfrak{p}$  is multiplicative, or

equivalently, if  $1 \notin \mathfrak{p}$  and if  $xy \in \mathfrak{p}$  implies  $x \in \mathfrak{p}$  or  $y \in \mathfrak{p}$

## **Fields, domains**

A ring is called a **field** if  $1 \neq 0$  and if every nonzero element is a unit.

A ring is called an **integral domain**, or simply a **domain**, if  $\langle 0 \rangle$  is

prime, or equivalently, if  $R$  is nonzero and has no nonzero zerodivisors.

Every domain  $R$  is a subring of its **fraction field**  $(R)$ . Conversely, any

subring  $R$  of a field  $K$ , including  $K$  itself, is a domain. Further,  $(R)$  has this

UMP: the inclusion of  $R$  into any field  $L$  extends uniquely to an inclusion

of  $(R)$  into  $L$ .

## Polynomials over a domain

Let  $R$  be a domain,  $\mathcal{X} := \{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  a set of variables. Set  $P := R[\mathcal{X}]$ . Then

$P$  is a domain too. In fact, given nonzero  $F, G \in P$ , not only is their product

$FG$  nonzero, but also given a well ordering of the variables, the grlex leading

term of  $FG$  is the product of the grlex leading terms of  $F$  and  $G$ , and

$$\deg(FG) = \deg(F) + \deg(G)$$

Using the given ordering of the variables, well order all the monomials of the

same degree via the lexicographic order on exponents. Among the in  $F$  with

$\deg() = \deg(F)$ , the largest is called the **grlex leading monomial** (graded



lexicographic) of  $F$ . Its **grlex leading term** is the product  $a$  where  $a \in R$

is the coefficient of  $x^\alpha$  in  $F$ , and  $a$  is called the **grlex leading coefficient**

*The grlex leading term of  $FG$  is the product of those  $a$  and  $b$  of  $F$  and*

$G$ . and ?? holds, for the following reasons. First,  $ab \neq 0$  as  $R$  is domain.

Second

$$\deg(ab) = \deg(a) + \deg(b) = \deg(F) + \deg(G)$$

Third,  $\deg(ab) \geq \deg(x^\alpha)$  for every pair of monomials  $x^\alpha$  and  $x^\beta$  in  $F$  and  $G$ .

*The grlex hind term of  $FG$  is the product of the grlex hind terms of  $F$*

and  $G$ . Further, given a vector  $(x_\lambda) \in R^\Lambda$ , then

$$(x_\lambda)FG = (x_\lambda)F + (x_\lambda)G$$

Among the monomials in  $F$  with  $(\cdot) = (F)$ , the smallest is called the **grlex**

**hind monomial** of  $F$ . The **grlex hind term** of  $F$  is the product  $a$  where

$a \in R$  is the coefficient of in  $F$

The fraction field  $(P)$  is called the field of **rational functions**, and is

also denoted by  $K(\mathcal{X})$  where  $K := (R)$

## Unique factorization

Let  $R$  be a domain,  $p$  a nonzero nonunit. We call  $p$  **prime** if whenever

$p \mid xy$ , either  $p \mid x$  or  $p \mid y$ .  *$p$  is prime iff  $\langle p \rangle$  is prime*

We call  $p$  **irreducible** if whenever  $p = yz$ , either  $y$  or  $z$  is a unit. We

call  $R$  a **Unique Factorization Domain** (UFD) if

1. every nonzero nonunit factors into a product of irreducibles
2. the factorization is unique up to order and units.

If  $R$  is a UFD, then  $\gcd(x, y)$  always exists

**Lemma 2.1** () *Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a ring map, and  $T \subset R'$  a subset. If*

*$T$  is multiplicative, then  $\varphi^{-1}T$  is multiplicative; the converse holds if  $\varphi$  is*

*surjective*

**Proposition 2.2** () *Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a ring map, and  $\mathfrak{q} \subset R'$  an ideal.*

*Set  $\mathfrak{p} := \varphi^{-1}\mathfrak{q}$ . If  $\mathfrak{q}$  is prime, then  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime; the converse holds if  $\varphi$  is*

*surjective*

**Corollary 2.3** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{p}$  an ideal. Then  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime iff  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a domain*

By Proposition ??,  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime iff  $\langle 0 \rangle \subset R/\mathfrak{p}$  is

**Exercise 2.0.1** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P := R[\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]$  the polynomial ring in two sets of variables  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Set  $\mathfrak{p} := \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle$ . Show  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime iff  $R$  is a domain*

$\mathfrak{p}$  is prime iff  $R[\mathcal{Y}]$  is a domain

**Definition 2.4** () *Let  $R$  be a ring. An ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  is said to be **maximal** if  $\mathfrak{m}$  is proper and if there is no proper ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  with  $\mathfrak{m} \subsetneq \mathfrak{a}$*

**Example 2.1** () *Let  $R$  be a domain,  $R[X, Y]$  the polynomial ring. Then*

$\langle X \rangle$  is prime. However,  $\langle X \rangle$  is not maximal since  $\langle X \rangle \subsetneq \langle X, Y \rangle$

**Proposition 2.5** () *A ring  $R$  is a field iff  $\langle 0 \rangle$  is a maximal ideal*

If  $\langle 0 \rangle$  is maximal. Take  $x \neq 0$ , then  $\langle x \rangle \neq 0$ . So  $\langle x \rangle = R$  and  $x$  is a unit.

**Corollary 2.6** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{m}$  an ideal. Then  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal iff  $R/\mathfrak{m}$  is a field.*

$\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal iff  $\langle 0 \rangle$  is maximal in  $R/\mathfrak{m}$  by Correspondence Theorem.

**Example 2.2** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $P$  the polynomial ring in variable  $X_\lambda$ ,*

*and  $x_\lambda \in R$  for all  $\lambda$ . Set  $\mathfrak{m} := \langle \{X_\lambda - x_\lambda\} \rangle$ . Then  $P/\mathfrak{m} = R$  by Exercise*

???. Thus  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal iff  $R$  is a field

**Corollary 2.7** () *In a ring, every maximal ideal is prime*

### Coprime elements

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $x, y \in R$ . We say  $x$  and  $y$  are **(strictly) coprime** if

their ideals  $\langle x \rangle$  and  $\langle y \rangle$  are comaximal

Plainly,  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime iff there are  $a, b \in R$  s.t.  $ax + by = 1$

Plainly,  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime iff there is  $b \in R$  with  $by \equiv 1 \pmod{\langle x \rangle}$  iff

the residue of  $y$  is a unit in  $R/\langle x \rangle$

Fix  $m, n \geq 1$ . By Exercise ??,  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime iff  $x^m$  and  $x^n$  are.

If  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime, then their images in algebra  $R'$  too.

## PIDs

A domain  $R$  is called a **Principal Ideal Domain** (PID) if every ideal is principal. A PID is a UFD

Let  $R$  be a PID,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a nonzero prime ideal. Say  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle p \rangle$ . Then  $p$  is prime, so irreducible. Now let  $q \in R$  be irreducible. Then  $\langle q \rangle$  is maximal for: if  $\langle q \rangle \subsetneq \langle x \rangle$ , then  $q = xy$  for some nonunit  $y$ ; so  $x$  must be a unit as  $q$  is irreducible. So  $R/\langle q \rangle$  is a field. Also  $\langle q \rangle$  is prime; so  $q$  is prime. Thus every irreducible element is prime, and every nonzero prime ideal is maximal

**Exercise 2.0.2** Show that, in a PID, nonzero elements  $x$  and  $y$  are *rela-*

**tively prime** (share no prime factor) iff they are coprime

Say  $\langle x \rangle + \langle y \rangle = \langle d \rangle$ . Then  $d = \gcd(x, y)$

**Example 2.3** () Let  $R$  be a PID, and  $p \in R$  a prime. Set  $k := R/\langle p \rangle$ . Let

$X$  be a variable, and set  $P := R[X]$ . Take  $G \in P$ ; let  $G'$  be its image in

$k[X]$ ; assume  $G'$  is irreducible. Set  $\mathfrak{m} := \langle p, G \rangle$ . Then  $P/\mathfrak{m} \simeq k[X]/\langle G' \rangle$  by

?? and ?? and  $k[X]/\langle G' \rangle$  is a field; hence  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal

**Theorem 2.8** () Let  $R$  be a PID. Let  $P := R[X]$  and  $\mathfrak{p}$  a nonzero prime

ideal of  $P$

1.  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle F \rangle$  with  $F$  prime or  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal



2. Assume  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal. Then either  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle F \rangle$  with  $F$  prime, or  $\mathfrak{p} =$

$\langle p, G \rangle$  with  $p \in R$  prime,  $pR = \mathfrak{p} \cap R$  and  $G \in P$  prime with image

$G' \in (R/pR)[X]$  prime

$P$  is a UFD.

If  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle F \rangle$  for some  $F \in P$ , then  $F$  is prime. Assume  $\mathfrak{p}$  isn't principal

Take a nonzero  $F_1 \in \mathfrak{p}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime,  $\mathfrak{p}$  contains a prime factor  $F'_1$

of  $F_1$ . Replace  $F_1$  by  $F'_1$ . As  $\mathfrak{p}$  isn't principal,  $\mathfrak{p} \neq \langle F_1 \rangle$ . So there is a

prime  $F_2 \in \mathfrak{p} - \langle F_1 \rangle$ . Set  $K := (R)$ , Gauss's lemma implies that  $F_1$  and

$F_2$  are also prime in  $K[X]$ . So  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are relatively prime in  $K[X]$ .

So ?? yield  $G_1, G_2 \in P$  and  $c \in P$  with  $(G_1/c)F_1 + (G_2/c)F_2 = 1$ . So

$c = G_1F_1 + G_2F_2 \in R \cap \mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $R \cap \mathfrak{p} \neq 0$ . But  $R \cap \mathfrak{p}$  is prime, and  $R$  is a

PID; so  $R \cap \mathfrak{p} = pR$  where  $p$  is prime. Also  $pR$  is maximal.

Set  $k := R/pR$ . Then  $k$  is a field. Set  $\mathfrak{q} := \mathfrak{p}/pR \subset k[X]$ . Then

$k[X]/\mathfrak{q} = P/\mathfrak{p}$  by ?? . But  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime, so  $P/\mathfrak{p}$  is a domain. So  $k[X]/\mathfrak{q}$  is a

domain too. So  $\mathfrak{q}$  is prime. So  $\mathfrak{q}$  is maximal. So  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal.

Since  $k[X]$  is a PID and  $\mathfrak{q}$  is prime,  $\mathfrak{q} = \langle G' \rangle$  where  $G'$  is prime in  $k[X]$ .

Take  $G \in \mathfrak{p}$  with image  $G'$

**Theorem 2.9 ()** *Every proper ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  is contained in some maximal ideal*

Set  $\mathcal{S} := \{\text{ideals } \mathfrak{b} \mid \mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{a} \text{ and } \mathfrak{b} \not\supset 1\}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a} \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{S}$  is partially

ordered by inclusion. By Zorn's Lemma

**Corollary 2.10** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $x \in R$ . Then  $x$  is a unit iff  $x$  belongs*

*to no maximal ideal*

### Exercise

**Exercise 2.0.3** *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{b}$  be ideals, and  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime ideal. Prove that these*

*conditions are equivalent*

1.  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{p}$  or  $\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{p}$

2.  $\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{p}$

3.  $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{p}$

**Exercise 2.0.4** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime ideal, and  $\mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_n$  maximal

ideals. Assume  $\mathfrak{m}_1 \dots \mathfrak{m}_n = 0$ . Show  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{m}_i$  for some  $i$

Note  $\mathfrak{p} \supset 0 = \mathfrak{m}_1 \dots \mathfrak{m}_n$ . So  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{m}_1$  or  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{m}_2 \dots \mathfrak{m}_n$  by ??

**Exercise 2.0.5** Let  $R$  be a ring, and  $\mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_n$  ideals with  $\mathfrak{p}$  prime

1. Assume  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \bigcap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$ . Show  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}_j$  for some  $j$

2. Assume  $\mathfrak{p} = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$ . Show  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{a}_j$  for some  $j$

**Exercise 2.0.6** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of all ideals that consist en-

tirely of zerodivisors. Show that  $\mathcal{S}$  has maximal elements and they're prime.

Conclude that  $(R)$  is a union of primes.

Order  $\mathcal{S}$  by inclusion.  $\mathcal{S}$  is not empty.  $\mathcal{S}$  consists of a maximal element

$\mathfrak{p}$ .

Given  $x, x' \in R$  with  $xx' \in \mathfrak{p}$ , but  $x, x' \notin \mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $\langle x \rangle + \mathfrak{p}, \langle x' \rangle + \mathfrak{p} \notin \mathcal{S}$ .

So there are  $a, a' \in R$  and  $p, p' \in \mathfrak{p}$  s.t.  $y := ax + p$  and  $y' := a'x' + p'$  are

not zerodivisors. Then  $yy' \in \mathfrak{p}$ . So  $yy' \in (R)$ , a contradiction. Thus  $\mathfrak{p}$  is

prime.

Given  $x \in (R)$ , note  $\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{S}$ . So  $\langle x \rangle$  lies in a maximal element  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Thus  $x \in \mathfrak{p}$  and  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime

**Exercise 2.0.7** *Given a prime number  $p$  and an integer  $n \geq 2$ , prove that*

*the residue ring  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle p^n \rangle$  does not contain a domain as a subring*

Any subring of  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle p^n \rangle$  must contain 1, and 1 generates  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle p^n \rangle$  as an

Abelian group. So  $\mathbb{Z}/\langle p^n \rangle$  contains no proper subrings.

**Exercise 2.0.8** *Let  $R := R' \times R''$  be a product of two rings. Show that  $R$*

*is a domain if and only if either  $R'$  or  $R''$  is a domain and the other 0*

Assume  $R$  is a domain. As  $(1, 0) \cdot (0, 1) = (0, 0)$ , either  $R'$  or  $R''$  is 0.

**Exercise 2.0.9** *Let  $R := R' \times R''$  be a product of rings,  $\mathfrak{p} \subset R$  an ideal.*

*Show  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime iff either  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{p}' \times R''$  with  $\mathfrak{p}' \subset R'$  prime or  $\mathfrak{p} = R' \times \mathfrak{p}''$*

*with  $\mathfrak{p}'' \subset R''$  prime*

$1 \in \mathfrak{p}$ .  $(1, 0)(0, 1) \in \mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $(1, 0) \in \mathfrak{p}$  or  $(0, 1) \in \mathfrak{p}$ .

**Exercise 2.0.10** Let  $R$  be a domain, and  $x, y \in R$ . Assume  $\langle x \rangle = \langle y \rangle$ .

Show  $x = uy$  for some unit  $u$

$$(1 - tu)y = 0 \text{ and domain}$$

**Exercise 2.0.11** Let  $k$  be a field,  $R$  a nonzero ring,  $\varphi : k \rightarrow R$  a ring map.

Prove  $\varphi$  is injective

Since  $1 \neq 0$ ,  $\ker(\varphi) \neq k$ . And by ??,  $\ker(\varphi) = 0$  and hence  $\varphi$  is injective

**Exercise 2.0.12** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime,  $\mathcal{X}$  a set of variables. Let  $\mathfrak{p}[\mathcal{X}]$

denote the set of polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathfrak{p}$ . Prove

1.  $\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}]$  and  $\mathfrak{p}[\mathcal{X}]$  and  $\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle$  are primes of  $R[\mathcal{X}]$ , which contract

to  $\mathfrak{p}$

2. Assume  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal. Then  $\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle$  is maximal

1.  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a domain.  $\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] = \mathfrak{p}[\mathcal{X}]$  by ??.

$(\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle / \mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}])$  is equal to  $\langle \mathcal{X} \rangle \subset (R/\mathfrak{p})[\mathcal{X}]$ .  $(R/\mathfrak{p})\langle \mathcal{X} \rangle / \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle$  is

equal to  $R/\mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $R[X]/(\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle) = (R[x]/\mathfrak{p}R[X]) / ((\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] +$

$\langle \mathcal{X} \rangle) / \mathfrak{p}R[X]) = R/\mathfrak{p}$

Since the canonical map  $R/\mathfrak{p} \rightarrow R[\mathcal{X}]/(\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle)$  is bijective, it's

injective.

2.  $R/\mathfrak{p} \simeq R[\mathcal{X}]/(\mathfrak{p}R[\mathcal{X}] + \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle)$



**Exercise 2.0.13** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $X$  a variable,  $H \in P := R[X]$  and  $a \in$

$R$ . Given  $n \geq 1$ , show  $(X - a)^n$  and  $H$  are coprime iff  $H(a)$  is a unit.

$(X - a)^n$  and  $H$  are coprime iff  $X - a$  and  $H$  are coprime.  $R[x]/\langle X - a \rangle =$

$\langle H \rangle / \langle X - a \rangle$ , which implies the residue of  $H$  modulo  $X - a$  is a unit. Hence

$H(a)$  is a unit.

**Exercise 2.0.14** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $X$  a variable,  $F \in P := R[X]$ , and  $a \in R$ .

Set  $F' := \partial F / \partial X$ . Show the following statements are equivalent

1.  $a$  is a supersimple root of  $F$

2.  $a$  is a root of  $F$ , and  $X - a$  and  $F'$  are coprime

3.  $F = (X - a)G$  for some  $G$  in  $P$  coprime to  $X - a$

Show that if (3) holds, then  $G$  is unique

**Exercise 2.0.15** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime;  $\mathcal{X}$  a set of variables;  $F, G \in$

$R[\mathcal{X}]$ . Let  $c(F)$ ,  $c(G)$ ,  $c(FG)$  be the ideals of  $R$  generated by the coefficients

of  $F, G, FG$

1. Assume  $\mathfrak{p}$  doesn't contain either  $c(F)$  or  $c(G)$ . Show  $\mathfrak{p}$  doesn't contain

$c(FG)$

2. Assume  $c(F) = R$  and  $c(G) = R$ . Show  $c(FG) = R$

1. Denote the residues of  $F, G, FG$  in  $(R/\mathfrak{p})[\mathcal{X}]$  by  $F$ ,  $G$  and  $FG$ . Since

$\mathfrak{p} \not\subset c(F), c(G), F, G \neq 0$ . Since  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a domain, so is  $(R/\mathfrak{p})[\mathcal{X}]$  and

we have  $FG \neq 0$ . Note that  $FG = GF$ , we have  $FG \neq 0$ .

2. Assume  $c(F) = c(G) = R$ , since  $\mathfrak{p} \not\subset c(F), c(G)$  we have  $\mathfrak{p} \not\subset c(FG)$

for any prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $c(FG) = R$ .

If  $c(FG) = R$ ,  $c(FG) \subset c(F)$

**Exercise 2.0.16** *Let  $B$  be a Boolean ring. Show that every prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  is*

*maximal, and that  $B/\mathfrak{p} = \mathbb{F}_2$*

$x(x - 1) = 0$  in  $B/\mathfrak{p}$ . Since  $B/\mathfrak{p}$  is a domain,  $x = 0$  or  $x = 1$ .

**Exercise 2.0.17** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Assume that, given any  $x \in R$ , there is*

an  $n \geq 2$  with  $x^n = x$ . Show that every prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  is maximal

Same. Every element has an inverse

**Exercise 2.0.18** *Prove the following statements or give a counterexample*

1. *The complement of a multiplicative subset is a prime ideal*
2. *Given two prime ideals, their intersection is prime*
3. *Given two prime ideals, their sum is prime*
4. *Given a ring map  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$ , the operation  $\varphi^{-1}$  carries maximal ideals of  $R'$  to maximal ideals of  $R$*
5. *An ideal  $\mathfrak{m}' \subset R/\mathfrak{a}$  is maximal iff  $\kappa^{-1}\mathfrak{m}' \subset R$  is maximal in ??*

1. 0 can be belongs to the multiplicative subset

2. False. In  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\langle 2 \rangle \cap \langle 3 \rangle = \langle 6 \rangle$

3. False. In  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\langle 2 \rangle + \langle 3 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}$

4. False. Consider  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ .  $\varphi^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle) = \langle 0 \rangle$

5.

### 3 Radicals

**Definition 3.1** () Let  $R$  be a ring. Its (Jacobson) **radical** ( $R$ ) is defined

*to be the intersection of all its maximal ideals*

**Proposition 3.2** () Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal,  $x \in R, u \in R^\times$ . Then

$x \in (R)$  iff  $u - xy \in R^\times$  for all  $x \in R$ . In particular, the sum of an element

of  $(R)$  and a unit is a unit, and  $\mathfrak{a} \subset (R)$  if  $1 - \mathfrak{a} \in R^\times$

Assume  $x \in (R)$ . Given a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ , suppose  $u - xy \in \mathfrak{m}$ . Since

$x \in \mathfrak{m}$  too, also  $u \in \mathfrak{m}$ , a contradiction. Thus  $u - xy$  is a unit by ?? . In

particular, taking  $y := -1$  yields  $u + x \in R^\times$

Conversely, assume  $x \notin (R)$ . Then there is a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  with

$x \notin \mathfrak{m}$ . So  $\langle x \rangle + \mathfrak{m} = R$ . Hence there exists  $y \in R$  and  $m \in \mathfrak{m}$  s.t.

$xy + m = u$ . Then  $u - xy = m \in \mathfrak{m}$ . A contradiction

In particular, given  $y \in R$ , set  $a := u^{-1}xy$ . Then  $u - xy = u(1 - a) \in R^\times$

if  $1 - a \in R^\times$

**Corollary 3.3** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal,  $\kappa : R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{a}$  the quotient*

*map. Assume  $\mathfrak{a} \subset (R)$ . Then  $(\kappa)$  is injective*

Given  $e, e' \in (R)$  with  $\kappa(e) = \kappa(e')$ , set  $x := e - e'$ . Then

$$x^3 = e - e' = x$$

Hence  $x(1 - x^2) = 0$ . But  $\kappa(x) = 0$ ; so  $x \in \mathfrak{a}$ . But  $\mathfrak{a} \subset (R)$ . Hence  $1 - x^2$  is

a unit by ???. Thus  $x = 0$ . Thus  $(\kappa)$  is injective

**Definition 3.4** () *A ring is called **local** if it has exactly one maximal ideal,*

*and **semilocal** if it has at least one and at most finitely many*

*By the **residue field** of a local ring  $A$ , we mean the field  $A/\mathfrak{m}$  where  $\mathfrak{m}$*

is the maximal ideal of  $A$

**Lemma 3.5 (Nonunit Criterion)** *Let  $A$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{n}$  the set of nonunits.*

*Then  $A$  is local iff  $\mathfrak{n}$  is an ideal; if so, then  $\mathfrak{n}$  is the maximal ideal*

Assume  $A$  is local with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Then  $A - \mathfrak{n} = A - \mathfrak{m}$  by ??.

Thus  $\mathfrak{n}$  is an ideal

**Example 3.1** () *The product ring  $R' \times R''$  is not local by ?? if both  $R'$  and*

*$R''$  are nonzero.  $(1, 0)$  and  $(0, 1)$  are nonunits, but their sum is a unit.*

**Example 3.2** () *Let  $R$  be a ring. A **formal power series** in the  $n$  vari-*

*ables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  is a formal infinite sum of the form  $\sum a_{(i)} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n}$  where*



$a_{(i)} \in R$  and where  $(i) := (i_1, \dots, i_n)$  with each  $i_j \geq 0$ . The term  $a_{(0)}$  where

$(0) := (0, \dots, 0)$  is called the **constant term**. Addition and multiplication

are performed as for polynomials; with these operations, these series form a

ring  $R[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$

Set  $P := R[[X_1, \dots, X_n]]$  and  $\mathfrak{a} := \langle X_1, \dots, X_n \rangle$ . Then  $\sum a_{(i)} X_1^{i_1} \dots X_n^{i_n} \mapsto$

$a_{(0)}$  is a canonical surjective ring map  $P \rightarrow R$  with kernel  $\mathfrak{a}$ ; hence  $P/\mathfrak{a} = R$

Given an ideal  $\mathfrak{m} \subset R$ , set  $\mathfrak{n} := \mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{m}P$ . Then ?? yields  $P/\mathfrak{n} = R/\mathfrak{m}$

A power series  $F$  is a unit iff its constant term is a unit. If  $a_{(0)}$  is a

unit, then  $F = a_{(0)}(1 - G)$  with  $G \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Set  $F' := a_{(0)}^{-1}(1 + G + G^2 + \dots)$ ;

Suppose  $R$  is a local ring with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Given a power series

$F \notin \mathfrak{n}$ , its constant term lies outside  $\mathfrak{m}$ , so is a unit. So  $F$  is itself a unit.

Hence the nonunits constitutes  $\mathfrak{n}$ . Thus  $P$  is local.

**Example 3.3** () Let  $k$  be a ring, and  $A := k[[X]]$  the formal power series

ring in one variables. A **formal Laurent series** is a formal sum of the

form  $\sum_{i=-m}^{\infty} a_i X^i$  with  $a_i \in k$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Plainly, these seires form a ring

$k\{\{X\}\}$ . Set  $K := k\{\{X\}\}$

Set  $F := \sum_{i=-m}^{\infty} a_i X^i$ . If  $a_{-m} \in k^\times$ , then  $F \in K^\times$ ; indeed,  $F =$

$a_{-m} X^{-m} (1 - G)$  where  $G \in A$  and

Assume  $k$  is a field. If  $F \neq 0$ , then  $F = X^{-m} H$  with  $H := a_{-m} (1 - G) \in$

$A^\times$ . Let  $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$  be a nonzero ideal. Suppose  $F \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Then  $X^{-m} \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Let  $n$

be the smallest integer s.t.  $X^n \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Then  $-m \geq n$ . Set  $E := X^{-m-n}H$ .

Then  $E \in A$  and  $F = X^n E$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{a} = \langle X^n \rangle$ . Thus  $A$  **is** a PID

Further,  $K$  is a field. In fact,  $K = (A)$ .

Let  $A[Y]$  be the polynomial ring in one variable, and  $\iota : A \hookrightarrow K$  the

inclusion. Define  $\varphi : A[Y] \rightarrow K$  by  $\varphi|_A = \iota$  and  $\varphi(Y) = X^{-1}$ . Then  $\varphi$

is surjective. Set  $\mathfrak{m} := \ker(\varphi)$ . Then  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal. So by ??  $\mathfrak{m}$  has the

form  $\langle F \rangle$  with  $F$  irreducible, or the form  $\langle p, G \rangle$  with  $p \in A$  irreducible and

$G \in A[Y]$ . But  $\mathfrak{m} \cap A = \langle 0 \rangle$  as  $\iota$  is injective. So  $\mathfrak{m} = \langle F \rangle$ . But  $XY - 1$

belongs to  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and is clearly irreducible; hence  $XY - 1 = FH$  with  $H$  a unit.

Thus  $\langle XY - 1 \rangle$  is maximal

In addition,  $\langle X, Y \rangle$  is maximal. Indeed,  $A[Y]/\langle X, Y \rangle = A/\langle X \rangle = k$ .

However,  $\langle X, Y \rangle$  is not principal, as no nonunit of  $A[Y]$  divides both  $X$

and  $Y$ . Thus  $A[Y]$  has both principal and nonprincipal maximal ideals, two

types allowed by ??

**Proposition 3.6** () Let  $R$  be a ring,  $S$  a multiplicative subset, and  $\mathfrak{a}$  an

ideal with  $\mathfrak{a} \cap S = \emptyset$ . Set  $\mathcal{S} := \{\text{ideals } \mathfrak{b} \mid \mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{a} \text{ and } \mathfrak{b} \cap S = \emptyset\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{S}$  has

a maximal element  $\mathfrak{p}$ , and every such  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime

Take  $x, y \in R - \mathfrak{p}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{p} + \langle x \rangle$  and  $\mathfrak{p} + \langle y \rangle$  are strictly larger than

$\mathfrak{p}$ . So there are  $p, q \in \mathfrak{p}$  and  $a, b \in R$  with  $p + ax, q + by \in S$ . Hence

$pq + pby + qax + abxy \in S$ . But  $pq + pby + qax \in \mathfrak{p}$ , so  $xy \notin \mathfrak{p}$ . Thus  $\mathfrak{p}$  is

prime

**Exercise 3.0.1** *Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  be a ring map,  $\mathfrak{p}$  an ideal of  $R$ . Show*

1. *there is an ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  of  $R'$  with  $\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q}) = \mathfrak{p}$  iff  $\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}R') = \mathfrak{p}$*
2. *if  $\mathfrak{p}$  is prime with  $\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}R') = \mathfrak{p}$ , then there is a prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  of  $R'$  with*

$$\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q}) = \mathfrak{p}$$

**Saturated multiplicative subsets**

Let  $R$  be a ring, and  $S$  a multiplicative subset. We say  $S$  is **saturated** if

given  $x, y \in R$  with  $xy \in S$ , necessarily  $x, y \in S$

**Lemma 3.7 (Prime Avoidance)** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  a subset of  $R$  that is*

stable under addition and multiplication, and  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$  ideals s.t.  $\mathfrak{p}_3, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$

are prime. If  $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset \mathfrak{p}_j$  for all  $j$ , then there is an  $x \in \mathfrak{a}$  s.t.  $x \notin \mathfrak{p}_j$  for all  $j$ ; or

equivalently, if  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{p}_i$ , then  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{p}_i$  for some  $i$

Assume there is an  $x_i \in \mathfrak{a}$  s.t.  $x_i \notin \mathfrak{p}_j$  for all  $i \neq j$  and  $x_i \in \mathfrak{p}_i$  for

every  $i$ . If  $n = 2$  then clearly  $x_1 + x_2 \notin \mathfrak{p}_j$  for  $j = 1, 2$ . If  $n \geq 3$ , then

$(x_1 \dots x_{n-1}) + x_n \notin \mathfrak{p}_j$  for all  $j$  as, if  $j = n$ , then  $x_n \in \mathfrak{p}_n$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_n$  is prime.

### Other radicals

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  a subset. Its **radical**  $\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}}$  is the set

$$\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}} := \{x \in R \mid x^n \in \mathfrak{a} \text{ for some } n \geq 1\}$$

If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is an ideal and  $\mathfrak{a} = \sqrt{\mathfrak{a}}$ , then  $\mathfrak{a}$  is said to be **radical**. For example,

suppose  $\mathfrak{a} = \bigcap \mathfrak{p}_\lambda$  with all  $\mathfrak{p}_\lambda$  prime. If  $x^n \in \mathfrak{a}$  for some  $n \geq 1$ , then  $x \in \mathfrak{p}_\lambda$ .

Thus  $\mathfrak{a}$  is radical. Hence two radicals coincide

We call  $\sqrt{\langle 0 \rangle}$  the **nilradical**, and sometimes denote it by  $(R)$ . We call

an element  $x \in R$  **nilpotent** if  $x$  belongs to  $\sqrt{\langle 0 \rangle}$ . We call an ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$

**nilpotent** if  $\mathfrak{a}^n = 0$  for some  $n \geq 1$

$\langle 0 \rangle \subset (R)$ . So  $\sqrt{\langle 0 \rangle} \subset \sqrt{(R)}$ . Thus

$$(R) \subset (R)$$

We call  $R$  **reduced** if  $(R) = \langle 0 \rangle$

**Theorem 3.8 (Scheinnullstellensatz)** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal. Then*

$$\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}} = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}} \mathfrak{p}$$

*where  $\mathfrak{p}$  runs through all the prime ideals containing  $\mathfrak{a}$ . (By convention, the*

*empty intersection is equal to  $R$ )*

Take  $x \notin \sqrt{\mathfrak{a}}$ . Set  $S := \{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$ . Then  $S$  is multiplicative, and

$\mathfrak{a} \cap S = \emptyset$ . By ?? there is a  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}$ , but  $x \notin \mathfrak{p}$ , but  $x \notin \mathfrak{p}$ . So  $x \notin \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}} \mathfrak{p}$ .

Thus  $\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}} \supset \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}} \mathfrak{p}$ .

**Proposition 3.9 ()** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal. Then  $\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}}$  is an ideal*



Assume  $x^n, y^m \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Then

$$(x + y)^{m+n-1} = \sum_{i+j=m+n-1} \binom{n+m-1}{j} x^i y^j$$

Thus  $x + y \in \mathfrak{a}$

Alternatively by ??

**Exercise 3.0.2** Use Zorn's lemma to prove that any prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$  contains

a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  that is minimal containing any given subset  $\mathfrak{s} \subset \mathfrak{p}$

### Minimal primes

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal,  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime. We call  $\mathfrak{p}$  a **minimal prime** of

$\mathfrak{a}$ , or over  $\mathfrak{a}$ , if  $\mathfrak{p}$  is minimal in the set of primes containing  $\mathfrak{a}$ . We call  $\mathfrak{p}$  a

**minimal prime** of  $R$  if  $\mathfrak{p}$  is a minimal prime of  $\langle 0 \rangle$

Owing to ??, every prime of  $R$  containing  $\mathfrak{a}$  contains a minimal prime of

$\mathfrak{a}$ . So owing to the Scheinnullstellensatz ??, the radical  $\sqrt{\mathfrak{a}}$  is the intersection

of all the minimal primes of  $\mathfrak{a}$ .

**Proposition 3.10** () *A ring  $R$  is reduced and has only one minimal prime*

*if and only if  $R$  is a domain*

?? implies  $\langle 0 \rangle = \mathfrak{q}$

**Exercise 3.0.3** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal,  $X$  a variable,  $R[[X]]$  the formal*

*power series ring,  $\mathfrak{M} \subset R[[X]]$  an ideal,  $F := \sum a_n X_n \in R[[X]]$ . Set*

$\mathfrak{m} := \mathfrak{M} \cap R$  *and*  $\mathfrak{A} := \{\sum b_n X^n \mid b_n \in \mathfrak{a}\}$ . *Prove the following statements:*

1. If  $F$  is a nilpotent, then  $a_n$  is nilpotent for all  $n$ . The converse is false

2.  $F \in (R[[X]])$  iff  $a_0 \in (R)$

3. Assume  $X \in \mathfrak{M}$ . Then  $X$  and  $\mathfrak{m}$  generate  $\mathfrak{M}$

4. Assume  $\mathfrak{M}$  is maximal. Then  $X \in \mathfrak{M}$  and  $\mathfrak{m}$  is maximal

5. If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is finitely generated, then  $\mathfrak{a}R[[X]] = \mathfrak{A}$ . However, there's an ex-

ample of an  $R$  with a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  s.t.  $\mathfrak{a}R[[X]] \neq \mathfrak{A}$

1. Assume  $F$  and  $a_i$  for  $i < n$  nilpotent. Set  $G := \sum_{i \geq n} a_i X^i$ . Then

$G = F - \sum_{i < n} a_i X^i$ . So  $G$  is nilpotent by ??; say  $G^m = 0$  for some

$m \geq 1$ . Then  $a_n^m = 0$

Set  $P := \mathbb{Z}[X_2, X_3, \dots]$ . Set  $R := P/\langle X_2^2, X_3^3, \dots \rangle$ . Let  $a_n$  be the

residue of  $X_n$ . Then  $a_n^n = 0$ , but  $\sum a_n X^n$  is not nilpotent.

2. By ??, suppose  $G = \sum b_i X^i$

$$F \in (R[[X]]) \iff 1 + FG \in R[[X]]^\times \iff 1 + a_0 b_0 \in R^\times \iff a_0 \in (R)$$

5. Take  $R := \mathbb{Z}[a_1, a_2, \dots]$  and  $\mathfrak{a} := \langle a_1, \dots \rangle$ . Then  $R/\mathfrak{a} = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathfrak{a}$  is

prime.

Given  $G \in \mathfrak{a}R[[X]]$ , say  $G = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i G_i$  with  $b_i \in \mathfrak{a}$  and  $G_i =$

$\sum_{n \geq 0} b_{in} X^n$  and  $F \neq G$  for any  $m$

**Example 3.4** () *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $R[[X]]$  the formal power series ring. Then*

every prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $R$  is the contraction of a prime of  $R[[X]]$ . Indeed  $\mathfrak{p}R[[X]] \cap$

$R = \mathfrak{p}$ . So by ?? there is a prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  of  $R[[X]]$  with  $\mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$ . In fact

, a specific choice for  $\mathfrak{q}$  is the set of series  $\sum a_n X^n$  with  $a_n \in \mathfrak{q}$ . Indeed,

the canonical map  $R \rightarrow R/\mathfrak{p}$  induces a surjection  $R[[X]] \rightarrow (R/\mathfrak{p})[[X]]$  with

kernel  $\mathfrak{q}$ ; so  $R[[X]]/\mathfrak{q} = (R/\mathfrak{p})[[X]]$ . But ?? shows  $\mathfrak{q}$  may not be equal to

$\mathfrak{p}R[[X]]$

### Exercise

**Exercise 3.0.4** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{a} \subset (R)$  an ideal,  $w \in R$  and  $w' \in R/\mathfrak{a}$  its

residue. Prove that  $w \in R^\times$  iff  $w' \in (R/\mathfrak{a})^\times$ . What if  $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset (R)$ ?

Assume  $\mathfrak{a} \subset (R)$ .  $\mathfrak{m} \mapsto \mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{a}$  is a bijection for maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ . So  $w$

belongs to a maximal ideal of  $R$  iff  $w'$  belongs to one of  $R/\mathfrak{a}$

Assume  $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset (R)^\times$ , then there is a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  s.t.  $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset \mathfrak{m}$ . So

$\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{m} = R$ . So there are  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$  and  $v \in \mathfrak{m}$  s.t.  $a + v = w$ . Then  $v \notin R^\times$  but

the residue of  $v$  is  $w'$ , even if  $w' \in (R/\mathfrak{a})^\times$ . For example, take  $R := \mathbb{Z}$  and

$\mathfrak{a} = \langle 2 \rangle$  and  $w := 3$ . Then  $w \notin R^\times$  but the residue of  $w$  is  $1 \in (R/\mathfrak{a})^\times$

**Exercise 3.0.5** *Let  $A$  be a local ring,  $e$  an idempotent. Show  $e = 1$  or  $e = 0$*

$1 - e + e = 1$ . Since  $1 \notin \mathfrak{m}$ , at least one of  $1 - e$  and  $e$  doesn't belong to

$\mathfrak{m}$

**Exercise 3.0.6** *Let  $A$  be a ring,  $\mathfrak{m}$  a maximal ideal s.t.  $1 + m$  is a unit*

for every  $m \in \mathfrak{m}$ . Prove  $A$  is local. Is this assertion still true if  $\mathfrak{m}$  is not maximal?

Let  $y \in A - \mathfrak{m}$ . Then  $\langle y \rangle + \mathfrak{m} = A$  and there is a  $x \in A$  s.t.  $xy + m = 1$ .

Hence  $xy$  is a unit and  $\langle xy \rangle = \langle y \rangle$ .  $y$  is a unit.

**Exercise 3.0.7** Let  $R$  be a ring, and  $S$  a subset. Show that  $S$  is saturated

multiplicative iff  $R - S$  is a union of primes.

Assume  $S$  is saturated multiplicative. Take  $x \in R - S$ . Then  $xy \notin S$  for

all  $y \in R$ ; in other words,  $\langle x \rangle \cap S = \emptyset$ . Then ?? gives a prime  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \langle x \rangle$  with

$\mathfrak{p} \cap S = \emptyset$ . Thus  $R - S$  is a union of primes.

**Exercise 3.0.8** Let  $R$  be a ring, and  $S$  a multiplicative subset. Define its

*saturation* to be the subset

$$S := \{x \in R \mid \text{there is } y \in R \text{ with } xy \in S\}$$

1. Show that  $S \supset S$  and that  $S$  is saturated multiplicative and that any

saturated multiplicative subset  $T$  containing  $S$  also contains  $S$

2. Set  $U := \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \cap S = \emptyset} \mathfrak{p}$ . Show that  $R - S = U$

3. Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  an ideal; assume  $S = 1 + \mathfrak{a}$ ; set  $W := \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}} \mathfrak{p}$ . Show  $R - S = W$

4. Given  $f, g \in R$ , show that  $S_f \subset S_g$  iff  $\sqrt{\langle f \rangle} \supset \sqrt{\langle g \rangle}$ , where  $S_f = \{f^n \mid$

$$n \geq 0\}$$



3. First take a prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  with  $\mathfrak{p} \cap S = \emptyset$ . Then  $1 \notin \mathfrak{p} + \mathfrak{a}$ ; else,  $1 = p + a$

and  $p = 1 - a \in \mathfrak{p} \cap S$ . So  $\mathfrak{p} + \mathfrak{a}$  lies in a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{m}$ ;

so  $\mathfrak{m} \subset W$ . But also  $\mathfrak{p} \subset W$ . So  $U \subset W$

Conversely, take  $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}$ . Then  $1 + \mathfrak{p} \supset 1 + \mathfrak{a} = S$ . But  $\mathfrak{p} \cap (1 + \mathfrak{p}) = \emptyset$ .

So  $\mathfrak{p} \cap S = \emptyset$ . Thus  $U \subset W$ . Thus  $U = W$ . Thus 2 implies (3)

4.  $S_f \subset S_g$  iff  $f \in S_g$  iff  $hf = g^n$  iff  $g \in \sqrt{\langle f \rangle}$  iff  $\sqrt{\langle g \rangle} \subset \sqrt{\langle f \rangle}$

**Exercise 3.0.9** *Let  $R$  be a nonzero ring,  $S$  a subset. Show  $S$  is maximal*

*in the  $\mathfrak{S}$  of multiplicative subsets  $T$  of  $R$  with  $0 \notin T$  iff  $R - S$  is a minimal*

*prime*

First assume  $S$  is maximal. Then  $S = S$ . So  $R - S$  is a union of primes

$\mathfrak{p}$ . Fix a  $\mathfrak{p}$ . Then ?? yields in  $\mathfrak{p}$  a minimal prime ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$ . Then  $S \subset R - \mathfrak{q}$ .

But  $R - \mathfrak{q} \in \mathfrak{S}$ .  $S = R - \mathfrak{q}$

If  $R - S$  is a minimal prime. Then  $S \in \mathfrak{S}$ . Given  $T \in \mathfrak{S}$  with  $S \subset T$ ,

note  $R - T = \bigcup \mathfrak{p}$  with  $\mathfrak{p}$  prime. Fix a  $\mathfrak{p}$ , then  $S \subset T \subset R - \mathfrak{p}$ . So  $\mathfrak{q} \supset \mathfrak{p}$ . But  $\mathfrak{q}$

is minimal and hence  $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{p}$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{q} = R - T$ . So  $S = T$

**Exercise 3.0.10** Let  $k$  be a field,  $X_\lambda$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  variables, and  $\Lambda_\pi$  for  $\pi \in \Pi$

disjoint subsets of  $\Lambda$ . Set  $P := k[\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}]$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_\pi := \langle \{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda_\pi} \rangle$  for all  $\pi \in$

$\Pi$ . Let  $F, G \in P$  be nonzero, and  $\mathfrak{a} \subset P$  a nonzero ideal. Set  $U := \bigcup_{\pi \in \Pi} \mathfrak{p}_\pi$ .

Show

1. Assume  $F \in \mathfrak{p}_\pi$  for some  $\pi \in \Pi$ , then every monomial of  $F$  is in  $\mathfrak{p}_\pi$
2. Assume there are  $\pi, \rho \in \Pi$  s.t.  $F + G \in \mathfrak{p}_\pi$  and  $G \in \mathfrak{p}_\rho$  but  $\mathfrak{p}_\rho$  contains no monomial of  $F$ . Then  $\mathfrak{p}_\pi$  contains every monomial of  $F$  and of  $G$
3. Assume  $\mathfrak{a} \subset U$ . Then  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{p}_\pi$  for some  $\pi \in \Pi$

## 4 Modules

### Modules

Let  $R$  be a ring. Recall that an  **$R$ -module**  $M$  is an abelian group, written

additively, with a **scalar multiplication**,  $R \times M \rightarrow M$ , written  $(x, m) \mapsto$

$xm$ , which is

1. **distributive**,  $x(m + n) = xm + xn$  and  $(x + y)m = xm + ym$

2. **associative**,  $x(ym) = (xy)m$

3. **unitary**,  $1 \cdot m = m$

For example, if  $R$  is a field, then an  $R$ -module is a vector space. A

$\mathbb{Z}$ -module is just an abelian group

A **submodule**  $N$  of  $M$  is a subgroup that is closed under multiplication.;

that is,  $xn \in N$  for all  $x \in R$  and  $n \in N$ . For example, the ring  $R$  is itself

an  $R$ -module, and the submodules are just the ideals. Given an ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$ , let

$\mathfrak{a}N$  denote the smallest submodule containing all products  $an$  with  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$

and  $n \in N$ .  $\mathfrak{a}N$  is equal to the set of finite sums  $\sum a_i n_i$ .

Given  $m \in M$ , we call the set of  $x \in R$  with  $xm = 0$  the **annihilator** of

$m$ , and denote it  $(m)$ . We call the set of  $x \in R$  with  $xm = 0$  for all  $m \in M$

the **annihilator** of  $M$ , and denote it  $(M)$

## Homomorphisms

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M$  and  $N$  modules. A **homomorphism**, or **module map**

is a map  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  that is  **$R$ -linear**:

$$\alpha(xm + yn) = x(\alpha m) + y(\alpha n)$$

Note that  $f$  is injective iff it has a left inverse.  $f$  is surjective iff it has

a right inverse

A homomorphism  $\alpha$  is an isomorphism iff there is a set map  $\beta : N \rightarrow M$

s.t.  $\beta\alpha = 1_M$  and  $\alpha\beta = 1_N$ , and then  $\beta = \alpha^{-1}$ .

The set of homomorphisms  $\alpha$  is denoted by  $\text{Hom}_R(M, N)$  or simply

$\text{Hom}(M, N)$ . It is an  $R$ -module with addition and scalar multiplication

defined by

$$(\alpha + \beta)m := \alpha m + \beta m \quad \text{and} \quad (x\alpha)m := x(\alpha m) = \alpha(xm)$$

Homomorphisms  $\alpha : L \rightarrow M$  and  $\beta : N \rightarrow P$  induce, via composition, a

map

$$\text{Hom}(\alpha, \beta) : \text{Hom}(M, N) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(L, P)$$

When  $\alpha$  is the identity map  $1_M$ , we write  $\text{Hom}(M, \beta)$  for  $\text{Hom}(1_M, \beta)$

**Exercise 4.0.1** *Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M$  a module. Consider the map*

$$\theta : \text{Hom}(R, M) \rightarrow M \quad \text{defined by} \quad \theta(\rho) := \rho(1)$$

*Show that  $\theta$  is an isomorphism, and describe its inverse*

First,  $\theta$  is  $R$ -linear. Set  $H := \text{Hom}(R, M)$ . Define  $\eta : M \rightarrow H$  by

$\eta(m)(x) := xm$ . It is easy to check that  $\eta\theta = 1_H$  and  $\theta\eta = 1_M$ . Thus  $\theta$  and

$\eta$  are inverse isomorphism

## Endomorphisms

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M$  a module. An **endomorphism** of  $M$  is a homomorphism

$\alpha : M \rightarrow M$ . The module of endomorphism  $\text{Hom}(M, M)$  is also denoted

${}_R(M)$ . Further,  ${}_R(M)$  is a subring of  ${}_Z(M)$

Given  $x \in R$ , let  $\mu_x : M \rightarrow M$  denote the map of **multiplication** by  $x$ ,

defined by  $\mu_x(m) := xm$ . It is an endomorphism. Further,  $x \mapsto \mu_x$  is a ring

map

$$\mu_R : R \rightarrow_R (M) \subset_{\mathbb{Z}} (M)$$

(Thus we may view  $\mu_R$  as representing  $R$  as a ring of operators on the

abelian group). Note that  $\ker(\mu_R) = (0)$

Conversely, given an abelian group  $N$  and a ring map

$$\nu : R \rightarrow_{\mathbb{Z}} (N)$$

we obtain a module structure on  $N$  by setting  $xn := (\nu x)(n)$ . Then  $\mu_R = \nu$



We call  $M$  **faithful** if  $\mu_R : R \rightarrow_R (M)$  is injective, or  $(M) = 0$ . For

example,  $R$  is a faithful  $R$ -module for  $x \cdot 1 = 0$  implies

## Algebras

Fix two rings  $R$  and  $R'$ . Suppose  $R'$  is an  $R$ -algebra with structure map

$\varphi$ . Let  $M'$  be an  $R'$ -module. Then  $M'$  is also an  $R$ -module by **restriction**

**on scalars:**  $xm := \varphi(x)m$ . In other words, the  $R$ -module structure on  $M'$

corresponds to the composition

$$R \xrightarrow{\varphi} R' \xrightarrow{\mu_{R'}}_{\mathbb{Z}} (M')$$

In particular,  $R'$  is an  $R$ -module; further, for all  $x \in R$  and  $y, z \in R'$

$$(xy)z = x(yz)$$

by restriction on scalars

Conversely, suppose  $R'$  is an  $R$ -module s.t.  $(xy)z = x(yz)$ . Then  $R'$

has an  $R$ -algebra structure that is compatible with the given  $R$ -module

structure.. Indeed, define  $\varphi : R \rightarrow R'$  by  $\varphi(x) := x \cdot 1$ . Then  $\varphi(x)z = xz$

as  $(x \cdot 1)z = x(1 \cdot z)$ . So the composition  $\mu_{R'}\varphi : R \rightarrow R' \rightarrow_{\mathbb{Z}} (R')$  is equal

to  $\mu_R$ . Hence  $\varphi$  is a ring map. Thus  $R'$  is an  $R$ -algebra, and restriction of

scalars recovers its given  $R$ -module structure

Suppose that  $R' = R/\mathfrak{a}$  for some ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Then an  $R$ -module  $M$  has

a compatible  $R'$ -module structure iff  $\mathfrak{a}M = 0$ ; if so, then the  $R'$ -structure

is unique. Indeed, the ring map  $\mu_R : R \rightarrow_{\mathbb{Z}} (M)$  factors through  $R'$  iff

$\mu_R(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$ , so iff  $\mathfrak{a}M = 0$

Again suppose  $R'$  is an arbitrary  $R$ -algebra with structure map  $\varphi$ . A

**subalgebra**  $R''$  of  $R'$  is a subring s.t.  $\varphi$  maps into  $R''$ . The subalgebra

**generated** by  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R'$  is the smallest  $R$ -subalgebra that contains

them. We denote it by  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

We say  $R'$  is a **finitely generated  $R$ -subalgebra** or is **algebra finite**

**over  $R$**  if there exist  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R'$  s.t.  $R' = R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

## Residue modules

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M$  a module,  $M' \subset M$  a submodule. Form the set of cosets

$$M/M' := \{m + M' \mid m \in M\}$$

$M/M'$  inherits a module structure, and is called the **residue module** or

**quotient of  $M$  modulo  $M'$** . Form the **quotient map**

$$\kappa : M \rightarrow M/M' \quad \text{by} \quad \kappa(m) := m + M'$$

Clearly  $\kappa$  is surjective,  $\kappa$  is linear, and  $\kappa$  has kernel  $M'$

Let  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  be linear. Note that  $\ker(\alpha') \supset M'$  iff  $\alpha(M') = 0$

If  $\ker(\alpha) \supset M'$ , then there exists a homomorphism  $\beta : M/M' \rightarrow N$  s.t.

$$\beta\kappa = \alpha$$

$$M[r, " \kappa "] [rd, " \alpha "] M/M' [d, " \beta "]$$

N

Always

$$M/\ker(\alpha)(\alpha)$$

$M/M'$  has the following UMP:  $\kappa(M') = 0$ , and given  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  s.t.

$\alpha(M') = 0$ , there is a unique homomorphism  $\beta : M/M' \rightarrow N$  s.t.  $\beta\kappa = \alpha$

### Cyclic modules

Let  $R$  be a ring. A module  $M$  is said to be **cyclic** if there exists  $m \in M$

s.t.  $M = Rm$ . If so, form  $\alpha : R \rightarrow M$  by  $x \mapsto xm$ ; then  $\alpha$  induces an

isomorphism  $R/(m)M$ . Note that  $(m) = (M)$ . Conversely, given any ideal

$\mathfrak{a}$ , the  $R$ -module  $R/\mathfrak{a}$  is cyclic, generated by the coset of 1, and  $(R/\mathfrak{a}) = \mathfrak{a}$

## Noether Isomorphisms

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $N$  a module, and  $L$  and  $M$  submodules.

First, assume  $L \subset M \subset N$ . Form the following composition of quotient

maps:

$$\alpha : N \rightarrow N/L \rightarrow (N/L)/(M/L)$$

$\alpha$  is surjective and  $\ker(\alpha) = M$ . Hence

$$N[r][d]N/M[d, \beta, \simeq]$$

$$N/L[r](N/L)/(M/L)$$

Second, let  $L+M$  denote the set of all sums  $l+m$  with  $l \in L$  and  $m \in M$ .

Clearly  $L + M$  is a submodule of  $N$ . It is called the **sum** of  $L$  and  $M$

Form the composition  $\alpha'$  of the inclusion map  $L \rightarrow L + M$  and the

quotient map  $L + M \rightarrow (L + M)/M$ . Clearly  $\alpha'$  is surjective and  $\ker(\alpha') =$

$L \cap M$ . Hence

$$L[r][d]L/(L \cap M)[d, " \beta'", " \simeq "']$$

$$L+M[r](L+M)/M$$

**Cokernels, coimages**

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\alpha : M \rightarrow N$  a linear map. Associated to  $\alpha$  are its **cokernel**

and its **coimage**

$$(\alpha) := N/(\alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad (\alpha) := M/\ker(\alpha)$$

they are quotient modules, and their quotient maps are both denoted by  $\kappa$ .

UMP of the cokernel:  $\kappa\alpha = 0$  and given a map  $\beta : N \rightarrow P$  with  $\beta : N \rightarrow$

$P$  with  $\beta\alpha = 0$ , there is a unique map  $\gamma : (\alpha) \rightarrow P$  with  $\gamma\kappa = \beta$

$$M[r, \alpha][rd]N[d, \beta][r, \kappa](\alpha)[ld, \gamma]$$

P

Further,  $(\alpha)(\alpha)$

## Free modules

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\Lambda$  a set,  $M$  a module. Given elements  $m_\lambda \in M$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ ,

by the submodule they **generate**, we mean the smallest submodule that

contains them all. Clearly, any submodule that contains them all contains



any (finite) linear combination  $\sum x_\lambda m_\lambda$  with  $x_\lambda \in R$

$m_\lambda$  are said to be **free** or **linearly independent** if whenever  $\sum x_\lambda m_\lambda =$

0, also  $x_\lambda = 0$  for all  $\lambda$ . Finally, the  $m_\lambda$  are said to form a **free basis** of  $M$

if they are free and generate  $M$ ; if so, then we say  $M$  is **free** on the  $m_\lambda$

We say  $M$  is **free** if it has a free basis. Any two free bases have the same

number  $l$  of elements, and we say  $M$  is **free of rank  $l$**

For example, form the set of **restricted vectors**

$$R^{\oplus \Lambda} := \{(x_\lambda) \mid x_\lambda \in R \text{ with } x_\lambda = 0 \text{ for almost all } \lambda\}$$

It's a module under componentwise addition and scalar multiplication. It

has a **standard basis**, which consists of the vectors  $e_\mu$  whose  $\lambda$ th component

is the value of the **Kronecker delta function**

If  $\Lambda$  has a finite number  $l$  of elements, then  $R^{\oplus \Lambda}$  is often written  $R^l$  and

called the **direct sum of  $l$  copies** of  $R$

The free module  $R^{\oplus \Lambda}$  has the following UMP: given a module  $M$  and

elements  $m_\lambda \in M$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , there is a unique homomorphism

$$\alpha : R^{\oplus \Lambda} \rightarrow M \text{ with } \alpha(e_\lambda) = m_\lambda \text{ for each } \lambda \in \Lambda$$

namely,  $\alpha((x_\lambda)) = \alpha(\sum x_\lambda e_\lambda) = \sum x_\lambda m_\lambda$ . Note the following obvious state-

ments:

1.  $\alpha$  is surjective iff  $m_\lambda$  generate  $M$

2.  $\alpha$  is injective iff  $m_\lambda$  are linearly independent

3.  $\alpha$  is an isomorphism iff  $m_\lambda$  for a free basis

Thus  $M$  is free of rank  $l$  iff  $M \simeq R^l$

**Exercise 4.0.2** Take  $R := \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M := \mathbb{Q}$ . Then any two  $x, y \in M$  are not

free. Aso  $M$  is not finitely generated. Indeed, given any  $m_1/n_1, \dots, m_r/n_r \in$

$M$ , let  $d$  be a common multiple of  $n_1, \dots, n_r$ . Then  $(1/d)\mathbb{Z}$  contains every

linear combination but  $(1/d)\mathbb{Z} \neq \mathbb{Q}$

**Exercise 4.0.3** Let  $R$  be a domain, and  $x \in R$  nonzero. Let  $M$  be the

submodule of  $(R)$  generated by  $1, x^{-1}, x^{-2}, \dots$ . Suppose that  $M$  is finitely

generated. Prove that  $x^{-1} \in R$  and conclude that  $M = R$

Suppose  $M$  is generated by  $m_1, \dots, m_k$ . Say  $m_i = \sum_{j=0}^{n_i} a_{ij}x^{-j}$  for some

$n_i$  and  $a_{ij} \in R$ . Set  $n := \max\{n_i\}$ . Then  $1, x^{-1}, \dots, x^{-n}$  generate  $M$ . So

$$x^{-n+1} = a_n x^{-n} + \dots + a_0$$

Thus

$$x^{-1} = a_n + \dots + a_0 x^n$$

## Direct Products, Direct Sums

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $\Gamma$  a set,  $M_\lambda$  a module for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ . The **direct product** of

the  $M_\lambda$  is the set of arbitrary vectors:

$$\prod M_\lambda := \{(m_\lambda) \mid m_\lambda \in M_\lambda\}$$

The **direct sum** of the  $M_\lambda$  is the subset of **restricted vectors**:

$$\bigoplus M_\lambda := \{(m_\lambda) \mid m_\lambda = 0 \text{ for almost all } \lambda\} \subset \prod M_\lambda$$

The direct product comes equipped with projections

$$\pi_\kappa : \prod M_\lambda \rightarrow M_\kappa \quad \text{given by} \quad \pi_\kappa((m_\lambda)) := m_\kappa$$

$\prod M_\lambda$  has UMP: given homomorphisms  $\alpha_\kappa : N \rightarrow M_\kappa$ , there is a unique

homomorphism  $\alpha : N \rightarrow \prod M_\lambda$  satisfying  $\pi_\kappa \alpha = \alpha_\kappa$  for all  $\kappa \in \Lambda$ ; namely

$\alpha(n) = (\alpha_\lambda(n))$ . Often  $\alpha$  is denoted  $(\alpha_\lambda)$ . In other words, the  $\pi_\lambda$  induce a

bijection of sets

$$\text{Hom}(N, \prod M_\lambda) \prod \text{Hom}(N, M_\lambda)$$

Similarly, the direct sum comes equipped with injections

$$\iota_\kappa : M_\kappa \rightarrow \bigoplus M_\lambda \quad \text{given by} \quad \iota_\kappa(m) := (m_\lambda) \text{ where } m_\lambda := \begin{cases} m & \lambda = \kappa \\ 0 & \end{cases}$$

UMP: given homomorphisms  $\beta_\kappa : M_\kappa \rightarrow N$ , there is a unique homomor-

phism  $\beta : \bigoplus M_\lambda \rightarrow N$  satisfying  $\beta \iota_\kappa = \beta_\kappa$  for all  $\kappa \in \Lambda$  for all  $\kappa \in \Lambda$ ;

namely,  $\beta((m_\lambda)) = \sum \beta_\lambda(m_\lambda)$ . Often  $\beta$  is denoted  $\sum \beta_\lambda$ ; often  $(\beta_\lambda)$ . In

other words, the  $\iota_{\kappa}$  induce this bijection of sets:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\bigoplus M_{\lambda}, N) \cong \prod \operatorname{Hom}(M_{\lambda}, N) \quad (4.0.1)$$

For example, if  $M_{\lambda} = R$  for all  $\lambda$ , then  $\bigoplus M_{\lambda} = R^{\oplus \Lambda}$ . Further, if

$N_{\lambda} := N$  for all  $\lambda$ , then  $\operatorname{Hom}(R^{\oplus \Lambda}, N) = \prod N_{\lambda}$  by (??) and ??

**Exercise 4.0.4** Let  $\Lambda$  be an infinite set,  $R_{\lambda}$  a ring for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ . Endow  $\prod R_{\lambda}$

and  $\bigoplus R_{\lambda}$  with componentwise addition and multiplication. Show that  $\prod R_{\lambda}$

has a multiplicative identity (so is a ring), but  $\bigoplus R_{\lambda}$  does not (so is not a

ring)

**Exercise 4.0.5** Let  $L, M, N$  be modules. Consider a diagram

$$L[r, " \alpha ", yshift = 0.7ex]M[r, " \beta ", yshift = 0.7ex][l, " \rho ", yshift = -0.7ex]N[l, " \sigma ", yshift = -0.7ex]$$

where  $\alpha, \beta, \rho$  and  $\sigma$  are homomorphisms. Prove that

$$M = L \oplus N \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = \iota_L, \beta = \pi_N, \sigma = \iota_N, \rho = \pi_L$$

iff the following relations holds

$$\beta\alpha = 0, \beta\sigma = 1, \rho\sigma = 0, \rho\alpha = 1, \alpha\rho + \sigma\beta = 1$$

Consider the map  $\varphi : M \rightarrow L \oplus N$  and  $\theta : L \oplus N \rightarrow M$  given by

$\varphi m := (\rho m, \sigma m)$  and  $\theta(l, n) := \alpha l + \beta n$ . They are inverse isomorphism since

$$\varphi\theta(l, n) = (\rho\alpha l + \rho\beta n, \sigma\alpha l + \sigma\beta n) = (l, n) \quad \text{and} \quad \theta\varphi m = \alpha\rho m + \beta\sigma m = m$$



**Exercise 4.0.6** Let  $N$  be a module,  $\Lambda$  a nonempty set,  $M_\lambda$  a module for

$\lambda \in \Lambda$ . Prove that the injections  $\iota_\kappa : M_\kappa \rightarrow \bigoplus M_\lambda$  induce an injection

$$\bigoplus \text{Hom}(N, M_\lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Hom}(N, \bigoplus M_\lambda)$$

and that it is an isomorphism if  $N$  is finitely generated

For  $(\beta_\kappa) \in \bigoplus \text{Hom}(N, M_\lambda)$

$$\beta(n) = \begin{cases} \iota_\kappa \beta_\kappa & \text{if } \beta_\kappa \neq 0 \\ 0 & \beta_\kappa = 0 \end{cases} \in \text{Hom}(N, \bigoplus M_\lambda)$$

If  $N$  is finitely generated, suppose  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  generates  $N$  and  $\beta(a_i) = b_i \in$

$\bigoplus M_\lambda$ , which means  $\beta(N)$  is a finite direct subsum of  $\bigoplus M_\lambda$ . then we have