Chapter 1

2024-04-21 – Cyclotomic Polynomials

1.1 Polynomials and power series with integer coefficients

Definition 1.1.1. Consider the set $\mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!] = \{ \sum_{i\geq 0} c_i X^i \mid c_i \in \mathbb{Z} \}$ of not necessarily finite sums in the monomials X^i with multiplication defined by $(f(X)g(X))_i = \sum_k f_k g_{i-k}$ for each coefficient index $i \geq 0$. It is a commutative ring with unit $1 \in \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]$.

It naturally includes the ring of integral polynomials $\mathbb{Z}[X] \subset \mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]$, which are integral power series with only finitely many non-zero coefficients and the multiplication as induced from power series. In particular $1 \in \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}[X] \subset \mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]$ each have the same unit considered along the canonical subset inclusions.

It is confusing to assemble all the facts about units and primes $\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}[X] \subset \mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]$ from the literature, so I summarise and prove them here as far as elementarily possible and conveniently enlightening.

Proposition 1.1.2. *The, multiplicative invertible elements, in short: units of $\mathbb{Z}$ are plain the signs $\mathbb{Z}^\times = \{\pm 1\}$. The units in integral power series are given by $\mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]^\times = \{ \sum_{i\geq 0} c_i X^i \mid c_i \in \mathbb{Z} \ \wedge\ c_0 \in \{\pm 1\} \}$. Since each non-constant power series which is a unit in power series is either not a polynomial itself, or its inverse is a properly infinite power series, get $\mathbb{Z}[X]^\times = \mathbb{Z}^\times = \{\pm 1\}$.*

Proof. Clearly the units in $\mathbb{Z}$ are exactly the non-zero elements n, which can be inverted in $\mathbb{Z}$, i.e. where $\frac{1}{n} \in \mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{Z}$. So $|n| \geq 2$ is clearly not invertible in $\mathbb{Z}$, 0 is not invertible anywhere, but $-1, 1$ clearly are each their own multiplicative inverse in any unital ring.

Let $p = \sum c_i X^i$ be an integral power series which is a unit, i.e. for which there is a unique $q = \sum d_i X^i$, such that:

$$p \cdot q = \sum_{i,j} c_i \cdot d_j X^{i+j} = 1.$$

In degree 0 it follows:

$$c_0 d_0 = 1,$$

since the units of $\mathbb{Z}$ are $\{\pm 1\}$ without loss of generality we can assume $c_0 = d_0 = 1$ by multiplying p, q each by -1. In particular the subset inclusion follows

$$\mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]^\times \subset \{ \sum_{i \geq 0} c_i X^i \mid c_i \in \mathbb{Z} \ \wedge \ c_0 \in \{\pm 1\} \ \}$$

.

For the $\supset$-inclusion consider without loss of generality a $p = 1 + \sum_{i \geq 1} c_i X^i$ by multiplying with -1 if necessary. As above we find necessarily an inverse power series has to start with the same constant term $d_0 = 1$. Hence we get in degree 1:

$$d_1 = -c_1.$$

It follows in degree 2:

$$c_0 d_2 + c_1 d_1 + c_2 d_0 = 0$$

giving

$$d_2 = c_1^2 - c_2.$$

Inductively assume d_i determined up to $n-1$ and consider degree n:

$$0 = \sum_{i=0,\ldots,n} c_i d_{n-i} = d_n + \sum_{i=0,\ldots,n-1} c_i d_{n-i}$$

which gives

$$d_n = - \sum_{i=0,\ldots,n-1} c_i d_{n-i}.$$

Then $q(X) = \sum_n d_n X^n$ satisfies $pq = 1$ by the inductive construction of its coefficients, so p is a unit in integral power series.

Finally consider $p \in \mathbb{Z}[X]^\times$. Clearly, since p is invertible in $\mathbb{Z}[X]$, it remains invertible in $\mathbb{Z}[\![X]\!]$. By uniqueness of inverses we get $pq = 1$ with q another polynomial with integer coefficients. $\square$

1.2 Explicit construction

Definition 1.2.1. Call a polynomial $f = \sum_i a_i X^i \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ irreducible if $f = gh$ for $g, h \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ implies $g = \pm 1$ or $h \pm 1$.

Proposition 1.2.2. *A polynomial $f = \sum_i a_i X^i \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is irreducible if and only if any and hence all of its translates $f_z(X) := f(X - z) \quad z \in \mathbb{Z}$ are irreducible.*

Proof. If $f_z(X)$ were decomposable non-trivially as $f_z(X) = g(X)h(X)$, then get $f(X - z) = g(X)h(X)$, hence $f(X) = g(X + z)h(X + z)$ decomposes f. $\square$

Proposition 1.2.3. *If $f = \sum_i a_i X^i$ is irreducible with $a_0 = 1$, then so is each of the polynomials given by inserting a power of X: $f_n(X) := f(X^n)$ with $n \geq 2$.*

Proof. Assume we had a decomposition in $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ of f_n: $\sum_i a_i X^{ni} = f(X^n) = f_n(X) = g(X)h(X)$. Show that g, h each area also of the form $\bar{g}(X^n)$ and $\bar{h}(X^n)$, hence $Z = X^n$ gives a decomposition $f(Z) = g(Z)h(Z)$.

Assume to contradiction for g and then necessarily h a coefficient g_i and h_{kn-i} both not equal to zero and g_i the i-minimal coefficient in g, such that i is not a multiple of n.

By multiplying g, h each with a sign, we can assume $1 = a_0 = 1 \cdot 1 = g_0 \cdot h_0$ with $g_0 = h_0 = 1$. It follows $g = 1 + g_i X^i + \sum_{j>i} g_j X^j$ and $h = 1 + \sum_{j \geq 1} h_j X^j$. $\square$

For the cyclotomic polynomials there is always a coefficient which is exactly $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and maps to the relevant $1 \in R$ for any commutative unital zero-divisor-free factorial ring over which we consider the cyclotomic polynomial. Hence recall the famous Eisenstein's criterion to look up in your favourite algebra reference, with simplification to $\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Q}$.

Proposition 1.2.4. *Let $f = \sum_i a_i X^i \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ be a polynomial with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}$ of degree N which is monic, i.e. a polynomial of degree N such that $a_N = 1$.*

Assume $a_0 = \pm p$ for $p \in \mathbb{N}$ a prime number, and assume in addition $p|a_i$ for each a_i with $i = 1, \ldots, N-1$. Then f is irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ and $\mathbb{Q}[X]$.

Proof. Let $f = gh$ in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$. In fact the factors can be chosen as $g, h \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ with both degrees strictly smaller than f's.

For $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ prime the ideal $(p) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ is a prime ideal, with quotient $\mathbb{Z}/(p) = \mathbb{F}_p$. On coefficients this induces a reduction ring homomorphism:

$$\pi \colon \mathbb{Z}[X] \to \mathbb{Z}/p[X].$$

By the assumptions on f get $\pi(f) = X^N$, but also $\pi(g)\pi(h) = X^N$ because $f = gh$ by the assumption before. Since $\mathbb{F}_p[X]$ is a euclidean domain it is also factorial, so $\pi(g) = a_i X^i$ and $\pi(h) = b_j X^j$ such that $i + j = N$ and $a_i b_j = 1 \in \mathbb{Z}/p$.

Hence we get for the integral g, h: $p|g_0$ and $p|h_0$, hence follows $p^2|a_0$, but we assumed $a_0 = p$ prime, which is a contradiction. So f was in fact irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ and $\mathbb{Q}[X]$. $\square$