Exercises from Chapter 8

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Problem 1.3. Let R be a Euclidean Domain. Let m be the minimum integer in the set of norms of nonzero elements of R. Prove that every nonzero element of R of norm m is a unit. Deduce that a nonzero element of norm zero (if such an element exists) is a unit.

Proof. Let x be the element of R with norm m. By definition of a Euclidean Domain, there must be some elements q, r in R such that $1 = qx + r$, where $N(r) < N(x)$ or $r = 0$ and 1 is unity. Since x has minimal norm, $r = 0$. Hence, $1 = qx$ and x is a unit. Since the minimal possible norm is always 0, any nonzero element of norm 0 will hence be a unit. □

Problem 1.4. Let R be a Euclidean Domain.

(a) Prove that if $(a, b) = 1$ and a divides bc, then a divides c. More generally, prove that if a divides bc with nonzero a, b then $\frac{a}{(a,b)}$ divides c.

(b) Consider the Diophantine equation $ax + by = N$ where a, b and N are integers and a, b are nonzero. Suppose x_0, y_0 is a solution: $ax_0 + by_0 = N$. Prove that the full set of solutions to this equation is given by $x = x_0 + m\frac{b}{(a,b)}$, $y = y_0 - m\frac{a}{(a,b)}$ as m ranges over the integers. [If x, y is a solution to $ax + by = N$, show that $a(x - x_0) = b(y_0 - y)$ and use (a).]

Proof. For part a, we have that $xa = bc$ for some x in R. The existence of a division algorithm means we must have $a = qc + r$. We wish to show that r is 0. Substituting out $qc + r$ for a in the above, we have $qc + r = bc$. Which can be rewritten as $c(-q - b) = r$. r cannot divide c unless it is zero. Therefore, $r = 0$ and a divides b. For the general case, let $a' = \frac{a}{(a,b)}$ and $b' = \frac{b}{(a,b)}$. Clearly, $(a, b) = 1$ and $a' = b'c$. By the previous proof, $a' = \frac{a}{(a,b)}$ divides c.

For part b, □

Problem 2.1. Prove that in a Principle Ideal Domain two ideals (a) and (b) are comaximal if and only if a greatest common divisor of a and b is 1.

Proof. Since we are in a PID, there must be some e in R such that $(e) = (a) + (b)$. Suppose d be the gcd of a and b. Any element of $(a) + (b)$ is also in (d) meaning d generates $(a) + (b)$. Since d is the gcd of a and b, it follows that (d) is the smallest ideal containing $(a) + (b)$. (d) cannot be larger than (e) for this reason. (d) also cannot be smaller than (e), otherwise (e) would contain elements outside of $(a) + (b)$. Therefore, $(d) = (e)$. It is now obvious that $(a) + (b) = R$ if and only if $(d) = 1$. □

Problem 2.2. Prove than any two nonzero elements of a PID have a least common multiple.

Proof. For any a and b in R, having an lcm is equivalent to there being a single element L generating the largest possible ideal contained in both (a) and (b). The intersection of (a) and (b) is the largest possible ideal contained in both (a) and (b). This intersection must have a single generator (L). Therefore, L is the lcm of a and b. □

Problem 1.3. Prove that the quotient of a PID by a prime ideal is again a PID.

Proof. Let R be the PID and P be a prime ideal in R. Let I be an ideal in R/P then $I' = \{r : r + P \in I\}$ is an ideal in R. I' must have a single generator i, in R. Therefore, $I = (i) + P$ and I is a principle ideal. □

Problem 2.4. Let R be an integral domain. Prove that if the following two conditions hold, then R is a PID. (i) any two nonzero elements a and b of R have a greatest common divisor which can be written in the form $ra + sb$ for some $r, s \in R$, and (ii) if $a_1, a_2, a_3, ...$ are nonzero elements of R such that $a_{i+2}|a_i$ for all i, then there is a positive integer N such that a_n is a unit for all $n \geq N$.

Proof. Let I be any ideal in R. Let a_1 be any element of I. If a_1 generates I, then I is principle. Otherwise, there must be some b_1 in I, which does not divide a_1. Let a_2 be the gcd of a_1 and b_1. If a_2 generates I, then I is, again, principle. Otherwise, we continue the process to find a sequence of elements $a_1, a_2, a_3, ...$ If this sequence terminates with a generator, I is ideal. Otherwise, since we have $a_{i+2}|a_i$ for all i, there must be some N such that $a_{n \geq N}$ are all units. This would mean that (1) is a generator of I and I is principle. Therefore, must be I principle. □

Problem 2.5. Let R be the quadratic integer ring $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$. Define the ideals $I_2 = (2, 1 + \sqrt{-5})$, $I_3 = (3, 2 + \sqrt{-5})$, and $I_3' = (3, 2 - \sqrt{-5})$.

(a) Prove that I_2, I_3 and I_3' are nonprinciple ideals in R.

(b) Prove that the product of two nonprinciple ideals can be principle by showing that $I_2^2 = (2)$.

(c) Prove similarly that $I_2 I_3 = (1 - \sqrt{-5})$ and $I_2 I_3' = (1 + \sqrt{-5})$ are principle. Conclude that the principle ideal (6) is the product of four ideals $I_2^2 I_3 I_3'$.

Proof. For (a), the ideals all have relatively prime generators. So, their single element generator would need to be 1. But 1 itself is not contained in any of the ideals. Therefore, none of them are principle.
For (b) The generators for I_1^2 are 4, $2+2\sqrt{-5}$, and $4-2\sqrt{-5}$. These give the term $2(2+2\sqrt{-5})+(4-4\sqrt{-5}) = 2$. So 2 is in I_2^2. Since 2 can generate all the generators, $(2) = I_2^2$.
For c, ... □

Problem 2.6. Let R be an integral domain and suppose that every prime ideal in R is principle. This exercise proves that every ideal of R is principle i.e. R is a PID.

(a) Assume that the set of ideals of R that are not principle is nonempty and prove that this set has a maximal element under inclusion (which by hypothesis is not prime). [Use Zorn's Lemma.]

(b) Let I be an ideal which is maximal with respect to being nonprinciple, and let $a, b \in R$ with $ab \in R$ but $a \notin I$ and $b \notin I$. Let $I_a = (I, a)$ be the ideal generated by I and a, let $I_b = (I, b)$ be the ideal generated by I and b, and define $J = \{r \in R | rI_a \subseteq I\}$