Introduction

Oh hey, it's another one of these independent studies. Me and a friend are going to be going through William Fulton's *Algebraic Curves*. It will be hard, it will be long, and it might not work out for me, but who cares.

Contents

Affine Algebraic Sets

Algebraic Preliminaries

We will assume all rings are commutative with unity, where $\mathbb{Z}$ is the integers, $\mathbb{Q}$ is the rationals, $\mathbb{R}$ is the reals, and $\mathbb{C}$ is the complex numbers.

Any integral domain R has a quotient field K, which contains R as a subring, and any element in K may be written as a not necessarily unique ratio of two elements of R. Any one-to-one ring homomorphism from R to a field L extends uniquely to a ring homomorphism from K to L.

If R is a ring, then $R[x]$ is the ring of polynomials with coefficients in R. The degree of a nonzero polynomial $\sum a_i x^i$ is the largest integer d such that $a_d \neq 0$. The polynomial is monic if $a_d = 1$.

The ring of polynomials in n variables over R is $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. We write $R[x, y]$ and $R[x, y, z]$ if $n = 2$ and 3 respectively. Monomials in $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ are of the form $x^{(i)} := x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \cdots x_n^{i_n}$, where i_j are nonnegative integers, and the degree of the monomial is $i_1 + \cdots i_n$. Every $F \in R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ has a unique expression $F = \sum a_{(i)} x^{(i)}$, where $x^{(i)}$ are monomials, and $a_{(i)} \in R$. We say F is homogeneous of degree d if all $a_{(i)}$ are zero except for monomials of degree d. The polynomial F is written as $F = F_0 + F_1 + \cdots F_d$, where F_i is a form of degree i, and $d = \deg(F)$ for $F_d \neq 0$.

The ring R is a subring of $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, and the ring $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is characterized by the following: if $\varphi \colon R \to S$ is a ring homomorphism, and $s_1, \dots, x_n$ are elements in S, then there is a unique extension of φ to a ring homomorphism $\overline{\varphi} \colon R[x_1, \dots, x_n] \to S$ such that $\overline{\varphi}(x_i) = s_i$. The image of F under $\overline{\varphi}$ is written $F(s_1, \dots, s_n)$. The ring $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is canonically isomorphic to $R[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}][x_n]$.

An element $a \in R$ is called irreducible if it is not a unit or zero, and any factorization $a = bc$ with $b, c \in R$ is such that either b or c is a unit. A domain R is a unique factorization domain (UFD) if every nonzero element in R can be factored uniquely up to units and ordering.

If R is a UFD with quotient field K, then any irreducible element $F \in R[x]$ remains irreducible when considered in $K[x]$.

Theorem (Gauss's Lemma for $\mathbb{Z}$)**:** If $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is a monic polynomial that is irreducible, then F is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$.

If F and G are polynomials in $R[x]$ with no common factors in $R[x]$, then they have no common factors in $K[x]$.

If R is a UFD, then $R[x]$ is also a UFD, and consequently $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is a UFD for any field k. The quotient field of $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is written $k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is called the field of rational functions in n variables over k.

If $\varphi\colon R \to S$ is a ring homomorphism, $\ker(\varphi) := \varphi^{-1}(0)$. The kernel is an ideal in R. An ideal in R is proper if $I \neq R$, and a proper ideal is known as maximal if it is not contained in any larger proper ideal.[I] An ideal $\mathfrak{p}$ is prime if, whenever $ab \in \mathfrak{p}$, then $a \in \mathfrak{p}$ or $b \in \mathfrak{p}$.[II]

Let k be a field and I a proper ideal in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. The canonical homomorphism π from $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ to $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ restricts to a ring homomorphism from k to $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$. We regard k as a subring of $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$, which is a vector space over k.

If R is an integral domain, then $\operatorname{char}(R)$, the characteristic of R, is the smallest integer p such that

$$\underbrace{1 + 1 \cdots + 1}_{p \text{ times}} = 0.$$

If p exists, we say $\operatorname{char}(R) = p$, else 0.

Note that if $\varphi\colon \mathbb{Z} \to R$ is the unique ring homomorphism from $\mathbb{Z}$ to R,[III] then $\ker(\varphi) = \langle p \rangle$, so $\operatorname{char}(R)$ is prime or 0.

If R is a ring, and $F \in R[x]$, and a is a root of F, then $F = (x - a)G$ for some unique polynomial $G \in R[x]$. A field k is algebraically closed if any nonconstant $F \in k[x]$ has a root.

Exercise (Exercise 1.1)**:** Let R be an integral domain.

(a) If F and G are forms of degree r and s respectively in $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, show that FG is a form of degree $r + s$.

(b) Show that any factor of a form in $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is also a form.

Solution:

(a) Let $H = FG$, where F is a form of degree r and G is a form of degree s. Note that since F and G are forms, we know that $F = F_r$, where F_r is the form with degree r, and $G = G_s$, where G_s is the form with degree s.

Exercise (Exercise 1.2)**:** Let R be a UFD and K the quotient field of R. Show that every element $z \in K$ may be written as $z = a/b$, where $a, b \in R$ have no common factors. This representative is unique up to units of R.

Solution: Since $K = \operatorname{Frac}(R)$, we know that every $z \in K$ is of the form $z = \frac{a}{b}$. Since R a unique factorization domain, $\gcd(a, b)$ is unique and well-defined. Set $c \cdot \gcd(a, b) = a$ and $d \cdot \gcd(a, b) = b$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \frac{a}{b} \\ &= \frac{c \cdot \gcd(a, b)}{d \cdot \gcd(a, b)} \\ &= \frac{c}{d}. \end{aligned}$$

We show that this is unique up to units. Suppose

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \frac{c}{d} \\ &= \frac{c'}{d'}. \end{aligned}$$

[I] Alternatively, an ideal I is maximal if the quotient ring R/M is a field.
[II] Alternatively, an ideal $\mathfrak{p}$ is prime if $R/\mathfrak{p}$ is an integral domain.
[III] This is because $\mathbb{Z}$ is initial in the category of rings. See Aluffi.

Then, by the properties of the field of fractions, we know that

$$c'd = cd',$$

and since R is a UFD, we know that $\gcd(c, d) = \gcd(c', d') = 1$, so $c = u_1 c'$ and $d = u_2 d'$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.3)**:** Let R be a principal ideal domain, and let P be a nonzero proper prime ideal in R.

(a) Show that P is generated by an irreducible element.

(b) Show that P is maximal.

Solution:

(a) Since P is principal, we know that $P = \langle a \rangle$ for some $a \in R$. We know that a cannot be a unit, as otherwise $P = R$, contradicting the assumption that P is proper, and that $a \neq 0$ as P is not zero.

Suppose toward contradiction that $\langle a \rangle \subsetneq \langle b \rangle$ for some $b \in R$. Then, $a = bc$ for some $c \in R$. If $c \notin \langle a \rangle$, then since $\langle a \rangle$ is prime, we must have $b \in \langle a \rangle$, contradicting strict inclusion. Thus, $c \in \langle a \rangle$, so $c = at$ for some $t \in R$. Therefore, we have $a = abt$, so $bt = 1_R$, and $\langle b \rangle = R$.

(b) Since R is a PID, and P is prime, we know that $P = \langle a \rangle$ is generated by an irreducible element. Thus, if $\langle a \rangle \subseteq \langle b \rangle$, then $a = bc$ for some $c \in R$. Since we have unique factorization (as all PIDs are UFDs), and a is irreducible, this means either b or c is a unit. If b is a unit, then $\langle b \rangle = R$, and if c is a unit, then $\langle b \rangle = \langle a \rangle$. Thus, $\langle a \rangle$ is maximal.

Exercise (Exercise 1.4)**:** Let k be an infinite field, $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. Suppose $F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$ for all $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$. Show that $f = 0$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.5)**:** Let k be any field. Show that there are an infinite number of irreducible monic polynomials in $k[x]$.

Solution: Suppose $F_1, \dots, F_n$ were all the irreducible monic polynomials in $k[x]$. Consider the polynomial $P = F_1 F_2 \cdots F_n + 1$. We note that P is monic. We will show that P is irreducible.

Suppose toward contradiction that P were reducible. We know that $k[x]$ is a principal ideal domain, so $P \in \langle F_i \rangle$ for some irreducible monic F_i. However, we know that, for any F_i, $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, $P \nmid F_i$, as, applying the division algorithm to P, we get

$$P = (F_i) \prod_{j \neq i} F_j + 1,$$

where $r \neq 0$. Thus, P is not reducible and monic, so there are infinitely many irreducible monic polynomials in $k[x]$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.6)**:** Show that any algebraically closed field is infinite.

Solution: Note that if k is any field, then there are infinitely many irreducible monic polynoimals in $k[x]$. If k is algebraically closed, then $(x - a)$, for $a \in k$, is the only irreducible monic polynomial. Since there are infinitely many irreducible monic polynomials in $k[x]$, there are infinitely many $a \in k$ such that $(x - a)$ is irreducible in $k[x]$. Thus, k is infinite.

Exercise (Exercise 1.7)**:** Let k be any field, and $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, with $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$.

(a) Show that

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

where $\lambda_{(i)} \in k$.

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

Solution:

(a) We let

$$G = F(x_1 + a_1, x_2 + a_2, \dots, x_n + a_n).$$

Then, since $G \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, we have

$$G = \sum \lambda_{(i)} x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n}.$$

Then, we have

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

(b) Note that if $F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$, then $(x_i - a_i) \mid F(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, x_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n)$. Thus, we have

$$F(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, x_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n) = (x_i - a_i) \underbrace{g(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, x_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n)}_{G_i}.$$

This yields

$$F(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - a_i) G_i.$$

Affine Space and Algebraic Sets

Definition. If k is a field, then when we write $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$, or $\mathbb{A}^n$, to be the cartesian product of k with itself n times.

We call $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$ the affine n-space over k. Its elements are called points. We call $\mathbb{A}^1(k)$ the affine line and $\mathbb{A}^2(k)$ the affine plane.

Definition. If $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, then $P = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{A}^n(k)$ is called a zero of F if $F(P) = (a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$.

If F is not constant, then the zeros of F are called the hypersurface defined by F, defined by $V(F)$. A hypersurface in $\mathbb{A}^2(k)$ is called an affine plane curve.

If F is a polynomial of degree 1, then $V(F)$ is called a hyperplane in $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$; if $n = 2$, then an affine hyperplane is a line.

Definition. If S is any set of polynomials in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, then $V(S) = \{P \in \mathbb{A}^n \mid F(P) = 0 \text{ for all } F \in S\}$. In other words, $V(S) = \bigcap_{F \in S} V(F)$. If $S = \{F_1, \dots, F_r\}$, we write $V(F_1, \dots, F_r)$.

A subset $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n(k)$ is an affine algebraic set (or algebraic set) if $X = V(S)$ for some S.

Proposition:

(1) If I is the ideal in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ generated by S, then $V(S) = V(I)$; thus, every algebraic set is equal to $V(I)$ for some ideal I.

(2) If $\{I_\alpha\}$ is a collection of ideals, then $V(\bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha) = \bigcap_\alpha V(I_\alpha)$.

(3) If $I \subseteq J$, then $V(I) \supseteq V(J)$.

(4) For any polynomialsF, G, $V(FG) = V(F) \cup V(G)$. Furthermore, $V(I) \cup V(J) = V(\{FG \mid F \in I, G \in J\})$.

(5) We have that $V(0) = \mathbb{A}^n(k)$, $V(1) = \varnothing$, $V(x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n) = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n)\}$ for $a_i \in k$. Thus, any finite subset of $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$ is an algebraic set.

Exercise (Exercise 1.8)**:** Show that the algebraic subsets of $\mathbb{A}^1(k)$ are just the finite subsets together with $\mathbb{A}^1(k)$ itself.

Solution: Since $k[x]$ is a principal ideal domain, we know that the zero set $V(S)$ for any $S \subseteq k[x]$ is of the form $V(\langle f \rangle) = V(f)$, where $f \in k[x]$. Since f is a polynomial, f has finitely many roots, so there are finitely many elements in the algebraic subset.

Additionally, since $0 \in k[x]$, we know that k is also an algebraic subset.

Exercise (Exercise 1.14)**:** Let F be a nonconstant polynomial in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, where k is algebraically closed. Show that $\mathbb{A}^n(k) \setminus V(F)$ is infinite if $n \geqslant 1$ and that $V(F)$ is infinite if $n \geqslant 2$. Conclude that the complement of any proper algebraic set is infinite.

Solution: We know that k is infinite as k is algebraically closed.

Let $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \cong k[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}][x_n]$.

In the base case with $n = 1$, we know that there are finitely many roots in $\mathbb{A}^1(k)$, so we have the base case. If $n \geqslant 2$, then we write $F = \sum G_i x_n^i$. We know that since F is nonzero, then there is at least one nonzero G_i. We showed in Exercise 1.4 that there is some $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in k$ such that $G_i(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \neq 0$. Thus, $F(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, x_n)$ is not the zero polynomial, meaning there are finitely many roots, and thus infinitely many non-roots.

Thus, there are infinitely many $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$ with $a_1, \dots, a_n \neq 0$.

We write $F = \sum G_i x_n^i$. We know that if all the G_i are constant, then we have a single-variable polynomial in x_n, and any choice of $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in k$ provide other elements of $V(F)$. We assume that there is some G_i that is a nonconstant polynomial in $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$.

Since G_i is nonzero, we may use the previous paragraph to state that G_i has infinitely many non-roots, and for each choice of those $a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}$, we have a polynomial in x_n. This polynomial has a root, meaning there are infinitely many roots.

Exercise (Exercise 1.15)**:** Let $V \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n(k)$ and $W \subseteq \mathbb{A}^m(k)$ be algebraic sets. Show that

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

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

Solution: Consider the set of polynomials in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}]$ given by $P = F(x_1, \dots, x_n) + G(x_{n+1}, \dots, x_m)$, where F is a polynomial in the ideal whose algebraic set is V and G is an ideal in the algebraic set whose ideal is W. Then, the collection of zeros are those of the form $(a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m)$, where $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in V$ and $(b_1, \dots, b_m) \in W$.

Solution (A Real Solution)**:** We have that V and W are defined by $\{F_1, \dots, F_r\}$ and $\{G_1, \dots, G_s\}$ for some polynomials. We define $V \times W$ to be the algebraic set defined by the polynomials in $\{F_1, \dots, F_r, G_1, \dots, G_s\}$ that are constant with respect to the other variables.

The Ideal of a Set of Points

Definition. If $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n(k)$, then the polynomials that vanish on X form an ideal in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, called the ideal of X, or $I(X)$.

$$I(X) := \{F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0 \text{ for all } (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in X\}.$$

The following hold.

- If $X \subseteq Y$, then $I(X) \supseteq I(Y)$.
- We have $I(\varnothing) = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $I(\mathbb{A}^n(k)) = \langle 0 \rangle$ if k is infinite, and $I(\{(a_1, \dots, a_n)\}) = \langle x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n \rangle$ for $a_1, \dots, a_n \in k$.
- We have $I(V(S)) \supseteq S$ for any set S of polynomials, and $V(I(X)) \supseteq X$ for any set X of points.
- We have $V(I(V(S))) = V(S)$ for any set of polynomials S, and $I(V(I(X))) = I(X)$ for any set X of points. If V is an algebraic set, $V = V(I(V))$ and if I is the ideal of an algebraic set, then $I = I(V(I))$.

Definition. If I is any ideal in a ring R, we define the radical of I, written $\operatorname{rad}(I) = \{a^n \mid a \in I \text{ for some } n > 0\}$. We have that $\operatorname{rad}(I)$ is an ideal containing I. An ideal I is called a radical ideal if $I = \operatorname{rad}(I)$.

- We have $I(X)$ is a radical ideal for any $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n(k)$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.16)**:** Let V and W be algebraic sets in $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$. Show that $V = W$ if and only if $I(V) = I(W)$.

Solution: Let $V = W$. Then, if $F \in I(V)$, then $F = 0$ on W, so $F \in I(W)$, and vice versa.

Suppose $I(V) = I(W)$. We know that $V(I(V)) = V$ and $V(I(W)) = W$. Thus, if $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in V$, we know that for all $F \in I(W)$, that $F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$ as $F \in I(V)$, meaning $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in V(I(W)) = W$. By symmetry, we have $V = W$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.17)**:**

(a) Let V be an algebraic set in $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$ and $P \in \mathbb{A}^n(k)$ not a point in V. Show that there is a polynomial $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ such that $F(Q) = 0$ for all $Q \in V$ but $F(P) = 1$.

(b) Let $P_1, \dots, P_r$ e distinct points in $\mathbb{A}^n(k)$ not in an algebraic set V. Show that there are polynomials $F_1, \dots, F_r \in I(V)$ such that $F_i(P_j) = \delta_{ij}$.

(c) With $P_1, \dots, P_r$ and V as in (b), and $a_{ij} \in k$ for $1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant r$, show that there are $G_i \in I(V)$ such that $G_i(P_j) = a_{ij}$ for all i and j.

Solution:

(a) We know that there is some $F \in I(V)$ such that $F(P) \neq 0$. Letting $a = F(P)$, we have that $\frac{1}{a}F(P) = 1$.

(b) We find $F_i \in I(V \cup \{P_{-i}\})$, where $\{P_{-i}\} = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \setminus \{P_i\}$. Applying (a) to F_i, we get that $F_i(P_i) = 1$ and $F_i(P_j) = 0$ for $j \neq i$. By symmetry, this holds for $F_1, \dots, F_r$.

(c) With $P_1, \dots, P_r$ and V as in (b), find $F_1, \dots, F_r$ as in (b). Then, $G_i = \sum_j a_{ij}F_j$ yields our desired outcome.

Exercise (Exercise 1.18)**:** Let I be an ideal in a ring R. If $a^n \in I$ and $b^m \in I$, show that $(a + b)^{n+m} \in I$. Show that $\text{rad}(I)$ is a (radical) ideal. Show that any prime ideal is radical.

Solution:

- Applying binomial theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(a + b)^{n+m} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n+m} \binom{n+m}{k} a^{n+m-k} b^k \\ &\in I,\end{aligned}$$

  where $a^0 = b^0 := 1$.

- We have $I \subseteq \text{rad}(I)$, since we can take $n = 1$. If $a, b \in \text{rad}(I)$, we know that there is some n such that $a^n, b^m \in I$, so by the same logic as above, $(a - b)^{n+m} \in I$, meaning $a - b \in \text{rad}(I)$. Now, if $a \in \text{rad}(I)$ and $x \in R$, then we have that $a^n \in I$ for some n, meaning $x^n a^n \in I$ as I is an ideal, so $(xa)^n \in I$, so $xa \in \text{rad}(I)$, so $\text{rad}(I)$ is an ideal.

- Let I be prime, and let $a \in \text{rad}(I)$. Then, $a^n \in I$ for some $n > 0$, meaning $(a)\left(a^{n-1}\right) \in I$. Then, either $a \in I$, or $a^{n-1} \in I$, so by the implicit inductive hypothesis, we have $a \in I$, so $\text{rad}(I) \subseteq I$, so $\text{rad}(I) = I$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.20)**:** Show that for any ideal I in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $V(I) = V(\text{rad}(I))$, and $\text{rad}(I) \subseteq I(V(I))$.

Solution:

- Clearly, $V(\text{rad}(I)) \subseteq V(I)$ because $I \subseteq \text{rad}(I)$. We know that if $P \in V(I)$, then there is some polynomial $F \in I$ such that $F(P) = 0$.

Exercise (Exercise 1.21)**:** Show that any $I = \langle x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n \rangle \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is a maximal ideal, and that the natural homomorphism from k to $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ is an isomorphism.

Solution: Note that $\langle x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n \rangle \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is isomorphic to $\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \subseteq k[x_1 + a_1, \dots, x_n + a_n]$, $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I \cong k$.

The Hilbert Basis Theorem

Earlier, we allowed any algebraic set $V(S)$ to be defined by an arbitrary set $\{F_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. However, the Hilbert Basis Theorem will show that a finite number will do.

Theorem: Every algebraic set is the intersection of a finite number of hypersurfaces.

Proof. We know that $V(I)$ is the algebraic set for some $I \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. It is enough to show that I is finitely generated, as if $I = \langle F_1, \dots, F_n \rangle$, then $V(I) = V(F_1) \cap \cdots \cap V(F_n)$. □

Now, to prove this, we need to show that any arbitrary ideal $I \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is finitely generated. This is where the Hilbert Basis Theorem comes into play.

Definition. If R is a commutative ring, with identity, we say R is Noetherian if every ideal of R is finitely generated.

Note that all PIDs are Noetherian.

Now, we may state and prove the Hilbert Basis Theorem.

Theorem (Hilbert Basis Theorem)**:** If R is a Noetherian ring, then $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is a Noetherian ring.

Proof. Since $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is canonically isomorphic to $R[x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}][x_n]$. The theorem will follow by induction if we can prove that $R[x]$ is Noetherian whenever R is Noetherian.

Let $I \subseteq R[x]$ be an ideal. We wish to find a finite set of generators for I.

Let $F = a_d x^d + \cdots a_1 x + a_0 \in R[x]$ with $a_d \neq 0$. We call a_d the leading coefficient of F. Let J be the set of leading coefficients of polynomials in I. Then, $J \subseteq R$ is an ideal, so there are polynomials $F_1, \dots, F_r \in I$ whose leading coefficients generate J.

Select N larger than the degree of each F_i. For each $m \leqslant N$, let J_m be the ideal in R consisting of all leading coefficients of polynomials $F \in I$ with $\deg(F) \leqslant m$. Let $\left\{F_{m_j}\right\}$ be the finite set of polynomials in I with degree $\leqslant m$ such that their leading coefficients generate J_m. Let I' be the ideal generated by F_i and F_{m_j} for each i, m_j. It is enough to show that $I = I'$.

Suppose $I' \subsetneq I$. Let G be an element of I of minimal degree such that $G \notin I'$. If $\deg(G) > N$, then we may find Q_i such that $\sum Q_i F_i$ and G have the same leading term. However, this means $\deg(G - \sum Q_i F_i) < \deg(G)$, so $G - \sum Q_i F_i \in I'$, meaning $G \in I'$. Similarly, if $\deg(G) = m \leqslant N$, then we may lower the degree by subtracting $\sum Q_j F_{m_j}$ for some Q_j. □

Exercise (Exercise 1.22)**:** Let I be an ideal in a ring R, $\pi\colon R \to R/I$ the canonical projection.

(a) Show that for every ideal $J' \subseteq R/I$, that $\pi^{-1}(J') = J$ is an ideal of R containing I. Furthermore, show that for every ideal $J \subseteq R$, that $\pi(J) = J'$ is an ideal of R/I. This establishes a natural correspondence between ideals of R/I and ideals of R that contain I.

(b) Show that J' is a radical ideal if and only if J is radical. Similarly, show this for J prime and maximal.

(c) Show that J' is finitely generated if J is. Conclude that R/I is Noetherian if R is Noetherian. Thus, we get that $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ is Noetherian for any ideal $I \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ by the Hilbert Basis Theorem.

Irreducible Components of an Algebraic Set

Exercise (Exercise 1.25)**:**

(a) Show that $V\left(y - x^2\right) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2(\mathbb{C})$ is irreducible; in fact, $I\left(V\left(y - x^2\right)\right) = \left\langle y - x^2 \right\rangle$.

Algebraic Subsets of the Plane

Exercise (Exercise 1.30)**:** Let $k = \mathbb{R}$.

(a) Show that $I\left(V\left(x^2 + y^2 + 1\right)\right) = \langle 1 \rangle$.

(b) Show that every algebraic subset of $\mathbb{A}^2(\mathbb{R})$ is equal to $V(F)$ for some $F \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]$.