Chaper 11: Rings

11.1: Definition of a Ring

- **Ring**: A *ring* R is a set with two laws of composition $+$ and $\times$, called addition and multiplication, that satisfy these axioms:
    (a) With the law of composition $+$, R is an abelian group that we denote by R^+; its identity is denoted by 0.
    (b) Multiplication is commutative and associative, and has an identity denoted by 1.
    (c) *Distributive law*: For all a, b and c in R, $(a + b)c = ac + bc$.
    - **Subring**: Subset which is closed under addition, subtraction, multiplication and which contains 1.
    - **Noncommutative Ring**: Satisfies al of the above axioms, except for the commutative law for multiplication.
- **Gauss integers**: The complex numbers of the form $a + bi$ where a and b are integers form a subring of $\mathbb{C}$ that we denote by $\mathbb{Z}[\mathrm{i}] = \{a+bi \mid b, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Its elements are points of a square lattice in the complex plane.
    - $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ **subring**: Ccontains every complex number $\beta = a_n\alpha^n + ... + a_1\alpha + a_0$ where a_i are in $\mathbb{Z}$ and α is a complex number.
        * Analogous to the ring of Gauss integers.
        * Subring generated by α
        * Usually not represented as a lattice in the complex plane
- A complex number α is **algebraic** if it is a root of a (nonzero) polynomial with integer coefficients (i.e. if some expression of the form $a_n\alpha^n + ... + a_1\alpha + a_0$ evaluates to 0)
    - When α is algebraic there will be many polynomial expressions that represent the same complex number.
- If there is no polynomial with integer coefficients having α as a root, α is **transcendental**
    - When α is transcendental, two distinct polynomial expressions represent distinct complex numbers, and the elements of the ring $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ correspond bijectively to polynomials $p(x)$ with integer coefficients.
- A polynomial in x with coefficients in a ring R is an expression of the form

$$a_nx^n + ... + a_1x + a_0$$

with a_i in R.

- **Zero Ring**: A ring containing only the element 0.
  - A ring R in which the elements 1 and 0 are equal is the zero ring.
- **Unit**: A *unit* of a ring is an element that has a multiplicative inverse (if it exists, it is unique)
  - Units in the ring of integers are 1 and -1
  - Units in the ring of Gauss integers are ± 1 and $\pm$i
  - Units in the ring $\mathbb{R}[x]$ of real polynomials are the nonzero constant polynomials
  - The identity element 1 of a ring is always a unit

11.2: Polynomial Rings

- **Formal Polynomial**: A polynomial with coefficients in a ring R is a (finite) linear combination of powers of the variable: $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + ... + a_1 x + a_0$ where the coefficients a_i are elements of R.
  - The set of polynomials with coefficients in a ring R will be denoted $R[x]$
  - Thus $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is the set of *integer polynomials*
- The *monomials* x^i are considered independent, so if $\exists$ another polynomial with coefficients in R, then $f(x) = g(x)$ only if $a_i = b_i$ for all $i = 0, 1, 2, ...$
- **Degree**: The *degree* of a nonzero polynomial (denoted deg f) is the largest integer n such that the coefficient a_n of x_n is not zero
  - A polynomial of degree zero is called a *constant* polynomial
  - The zero polynomial is also a constant polynomial, but its degree will not be defined
- **Leading Coefficient**: The nonzero coefficientof highest degree of a polynomial
  - **Monic Polynomial**: Polynomial with a leading coefficient of 1
- A polynomial is determined by its vector of coefficients a_i: $a = (a_0, a_1, ...)$ where a_i are elements of R, all but a finite number zero.
- When R is a field, these infinite vectors form the vector space Z with the infinite basis e_i. The vector e_i corresponds to the monomial x_i, and the monomials form a basis of the space of all polynomials.

- **Addition of polynomials**: $f(x) + g(x) = (a_0 + b_0) + (a_1 + b_1)x + ...$ where $(a_i + b_i)$ is addition in R
- **Multiplication of polynomials**: $f(x)g(x) = (a_0 + a_1 x + ...)(b_0 + b_1 x + ...)$ where $a_i b_j$ are to be evaluated in the ring R.
- There is a unique commutative ring structure on the set of polynomials $R[x]$ having these properties:
  - Additions of polynomials as defined above
  - Multiplication of polynomials as defined above
  - The ring R becomes a subring of $R[x]$ when the elements of R are identifies with the constant polynomials
- **Division with Remainder**: Let R be a ring, f is a monic polynomial, and g is any polynomial, both with coefficients in R. There are uniquely determined polynomials q and r in $R[x]$ s.t. $g(x) = f(x)q(x) + r(x)$ where r has degree $\geqslant 0$ and $\leqslant f$
  - Division with remainder can be done whenever the leading coefficient of f is a unit
  - If $g(x)$ is a polynomial in $R[x]$ and α is an element of R, the remainder of division of $g(x)$ by $x - \alpha$ is $g(\alpha)$. Thus $x - \alpha$ divides g in $R[x]$ iff $g(\alpha) = 0$
- **Monomial**: a formal product of some variables $x_1, ..., x_n$ of the form

  $$x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} ... x_n^{i_n}$$

  where i_v are non-negative integers.
  - **Degree**: the sum $i_1 + ... + i_n$, sometimes called *total degree*
  - **Multi-index**: an n-tuple that can be represented with vector notation e.g. $i = (i_1, ... i_n)$.
  - A monomial can be written as x^i $(= x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} ... x_n^{i_n})$ using multi-index form
  - The monomial x^0 is denoted by 1
- With multi-index notation, a polynomial $f(x) = f(x_1, ..., x_n)$ can be written in exactly one way in the form

  $$f(x) = \sum_i a_i x^i$$

  where i runs through all multi-indices $(i_1, ..., i_n)$, the coefficients a_i are in R and only finitely many of these coefficients are not 0.
- **Homogeneous Polynomial**: A polynomial in which all monomials with nonzero coefficients have degree d

1.3: Homomorphisms and Ideals

- **Ring Homomorphism**: A *ring homomorphism* $\phi : R \to R'$