

Discrete Structures (Monsoon 2021)

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Topic: Ring and Field

Definition (Ring)

A ring R , sometimes denoted by $(R, \circ, *)$ is a set of elements with two binary operations, \circ (e.g., ordinary addition) and $*$ (e.g., ordinary multiplication), such that for all $a, b, c \in R$ the following axioms are obeyed:

- **(A1-A5)** R is an abelian group under \circ .
- **(M1) Closure under $*$:** If $a, b \in R$, then $a * b \in R$.
- **(M2) Associativity of $*$:** $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$, for all $a, b, c \in R$.
- **(M3) Distributive Laws:**
 - (i) Left Distributive Law: $a * (b \circ c) = (a * b) \circ (a * c)$, for all $a, b, c \in R$.
 - (i) Right Distributive Law: $(a \circ b) * c = (a * c) \circ (b * c)$, for all $a, b, c \in R$.

Definition (Commutative Ring)

A ring $(R, \circ, *)$ is said to be *commutative* if it satisfies the following additional condition:

- **(M4) Commutative of $*$:** $a * b = b * a$, for all $a, b \in R$.

Example

Let E denote the set of even integers, that is,
 $E = \{0, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 6, \dots\}$. Then, $(E, +, \times)$ is a commutative ring.

Example

Let M_n denote the set of all n -square ($n \times n$) matrices over the real numbers. Then, $(M_n, +, \times)$ is a commutative ring, where $+$ and \times denote the ordinary matrix addition and multiplication, respectively.

- **Problem:** Let $(R, +, \times)$ be a ring with identity, R is the set of real numbers. Using its elements, let us define another structure (R', \oslash, \otimes) , where $R' = R$ and for $a, b \in R$,
 $a \oslash b = a + b + 1$ and $a \otimes b = a \times b + a + b$.
(i) Prove that (R', \oslash, \otimes) is a ring.
(ii) Is R' is a ring with identity? If so, which one is the multiplicative identity (under \otimes)?

Definition (Field)

A field F , sometimes denoted by $(F, +, \times)$, is a set of elements with two binary operations, say addition and multiplication (note that these operations may be any binary operations), such that for all $a, b, c \in F$, the following axioms are obeyed:

- $(F, +, \times)$ is an *integral domain*, that is,
 - ▶ (A1-M4) hold
 - ▶ **(M5) Multiplicative identity:** $\forall a \in F, \exists 1 \in F$ such that $1a = a1 = a$, 1 is called the multiplicative identity in F .
 - ▶ **(M6) No zero divisors:** If $a, b \in F$ and $ab = 0$, then either $a = 0$ or $b = 0$.
- **(M7) Multiplicative inverse:** For each $a \in F$, except 0, there is an element a^{-1} in F such that $aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = 1$.

Example

The set of real numbers is a field under addition and multiplication.

Example

Let Q denote the set of rational numbers, that is, $Q = \{\frac{a}{b} \mid a, b \text{ are reals, with } b \neq 0 \text{ and } \gcd(a, b) = 1\}$. Then, $(Q, +, \times)$ is a field.

Example

Let C be the set of complex numbers. Then, $(C, +, \times)$ is also a field.

Example

The set Z of integers is NOT a field. Note that not every element of Z has a multiplicative inverse; in fact, only the elements 1 and -1 have the multiplicative inverses in the integers.

Problem: Consider the addition and multiplication arithmetic modulo 8 in the finite set $Z_8 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$.

Construct the following composition table (addition modulo 8):

$+_8$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	1
3	3	4	5	6	7	0	1	2
4	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3
5	5	6	7	0	1	2	3	4
6	6	7	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	7	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

The additive identity is 0.

Construct the following composition table (multiplication modulo 8):

\times_8	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	0	2	4	6	0	2	4	6
3	0	3	6	1	4	7	2	5
4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
5	0	5	2	7	4	1	6	3
6	0	6	4	2	0	6	4	2
7	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Construct the following table of additive and multiplicative inverses:

w	$-w$	w^{-1}
0	0	—
1	7	1
2	6	—
3	5	3
4	4	—
5	3	5
6	2	—
7	1	7

- $-w$ is the additive inverse of w
- w^{-1} is the multiplicative inverse of w
- \mathbb{Z}_8 is **NOT** a field (only a commutative ring with identity 1)

Theorem

Let $Z_n = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$.

- (i) $\langle Z_n, +_n, \cdot_n \rangle$ is a ring, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (ii) $\langle Z_n, +_n, \cdot_n \rangle$ has a multiplicative identity 1.
- (iii) $\langle Z_n, +_n, \cdot_n \rangle$ is an integral domain.

Theorem

Let $Z_n = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$. Then,
 $\langle Z_n, +_n, \cdot_n \rangle$ is a field if and only if n is prime.

Remark: $\langle Z_p, +_p, \cdot_p \rangle$ is known as **Galois field** or finite field,
when p is a prime.

It is defined as $GF(p) = \langle Z_p, +_p, \cdot_p \rangle$; p being a prime.

Definition

Given two integers a and b , the greatest common divisor (gcd) of a and b is $d = \gcd(a, b)$ if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1 $d|a$ and $d|b$
- 2 Any divisor c of a and b is also a divisor of d .

We have:

$$\gcd(a, 0) = a$$

$$\gcd(0, 0) = \textit{undefined}$$

$$\gcd(a, -b) = \gcd(-a, b) = \gcd(-a, -b) = \gcd(|a|, |b|)$$

Euclid's GCD Algorithm

Given integers $b, c > 0$, we make a repeated application of division algorithms to obtain a series of equations which yield $\gcd(b, c)$:

$$\begin{aligned}b &= q_1c + r_1, 0 \leq r_1 < c \\c &= q_2r_1 + r_2, 0 \leq r_2 < r_1 \\r_1 &= q_3r_2 + r_3, 0 \leq r_3 < r_2 \\&\vdots = \vdots \\r_{j-2} &= q_jr_{j-1} + r_j, 0 \leq r_j < r_{j-1} \\r_{j-1} &= q_{j+1}r_j + \boxed{0}\end{aligned}$$

It is worth noticing that

$$0 \leq r_j < r_{j-1} < r_{j-2} < \cdots < r_2 < r_1 < c$$

Therefore,

$$\gcd(b, c) = \gcd(c, r_1) = \gcd(r_1, r_2) = \cdots = \gcd(r_{j-1}, r_j) = r_j.$$

Algorithm: EUCLID(b, c)

To compute $\gcd(b, c)$

- 1: Initialize: $A \leftarrow b; B \leftarrow c$
- 2: **if** $B = 0$ **then**
- 3: **return** $A = \gcd(b, c)$
- 4: **end if**
- 5: Compute $R \leftarrow A \bmod B$
- 6: Set $A \leftarrow B$
- 7: Set $B \leftarrow R$
- 8: goto Step 2

Complexity: If j is the total number of iterations or steps needed to compute $\gcd(b, c)$, then $j < \lfloor 3 \cdot \log_e(c) \rfloor$, where $c = \min \{b, c\}$.

Problem: Compute $\gcd(1970, 1066)$.

Using the Euclid's gcd algorithm, we have the following computations:

$$1970 = 1 \times 1066 + 904$$

$$1066 = 1 \times 904 + 162$$

$$904 = 5 \times 162 + 94$$

$$162 = 1 \times 94 + 68$$

$$94 = 1 \times 68 + 26$$

$$68 = 2 \times 26 + 16$$

$$26 = 1 \times 16 + 10$$

$$16 = 1 \times 10 + 6$$

$$10 = 1 \times 6 + 4$$

$$6 = 1 \times 4 + 2$$

$$4 = 2 \times \boxed{2} + 0$$

Therefore, $\gcd(1970, 1066) = 2$.

We see that j = number of iterations needed to compute $\gcd(1970, 1066)$
 $= 11$ and $j < \lfloor 3 \cdot \log_e(c) \rfloor = \lfloor 3 \cdot \log_e(1066) \rfloor = 20$

Finding greatest common divisor (gcd)

Lemma

If $d = \gcd(a, b)$, then there exist integers x and y such that $d = ax + by$, where x and y are called the multipliers of a and b , respectively.

Problem: Find the multipliers x , y and z such that $\gcd(170, 128, 217) = 170x + 128y + 217z$.

Solution: We know,

$$\gcd(170, 128, 217) = \gcd[\gcd(170, 128), 217]. \quad (1)$$

To compute $\gcd(170, 128)$, we proceed as follows:

$$170 = 1 \times 128 + 42 \quad (2)$$

$$128 = 3 \times 42 + 2 \quad (3)$$

$$42 = 21 \times 2 + 0.$$

Finding greatest common divisor (gcd)

Therefore, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &= \gcd(170, 128) \\ &= 128 - 3 \times 42, \text{ using Eqn (3)} \\ &= 128 - 3 \times [170 - 1 \times 128] \text{ using Eqn (2)} \\ &= (-3) \times 170 + 4 \times 128. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Now, to compute $\gcd(2, 217)$, we proceed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 217 &= 108 \times 2 + 1 \\ 2 &= 2 \times 1 + 0. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Finding greatest common divisor (gcd)

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \gcd(2, 217) \\ &= \gcd[\gcd(170, 128), 217] \\ &= \gcd(170, 128, 217) \\ &= 217 - 108 \times 2, \text{ using Eqn (5)} \\ &= 217 - 108 \times [(-3) \times 170 + 4 \times 128], \text{ using Eqn (4)} \\ &= 324 \times 170 + (-432) \times 128 + 1 \times 217. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have: $x = 324, y = -432, z = 1$.