

Abstract Algebra

August, Evelyn

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7: proposition Let R be a finite commutative ring with unity. Then for all $r \neq 0 \in R$, r is a unit or a zero divisor.

proof Suppose r is not a zero divisor. Since R is finite, it follows that the sequence $r^n_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ must be finite as well by closure. Hence $r^i = r^j$ for some integers i, j such that $i \neq j$. Without loss of generality assume $i > j$. We know that $r^i \neq 0$ and $r^j \neq 0$, because if they were, by the supposition that r is not a zero divisor $rr^{i-1} = 0$ hence r^{i-2} all the way to $r = 0$, contradicting the supposition that r is nonzero. By properties of additive inverses in a Ring, we know that r^j exists. Consider $r^i - r^j = 0$. By properties of distribution it follows that $r^i - r^j = r^j(r^{i-j} - 1) = 0$. Since r is not a zero-divisor, we know that either r^i or $(r^{j-i} - 1)$ is equal to zero. We explained earlier that $r^i \neq 0$. Thus, $(r^{j-i} - 1)$ must equal zero, which implies that $r^{j-i} = 1$ or in other words $rr^{j-i-1} = 1$, saying that r^{j-i-1} is the inverse of r . Hence, r is a unit. QED.

35: proposition Let F be a field of order 2^n . Prove that $\text{char} F = 2$.

proof Let F be a field with order 2^n . Since F is a field, it is also an integral domain, and by Theorem 13.4 it follows that $\text{char} F$ is 0 or p for some prime p . Since fields are also rings with unity 1, it follows by Theorem 13.3 that the order of 1 is equal to $\text{char} F$, so the order of 1 is either 0 or prime. By corollary 2 of Lagrange's Theorem, it follows that the order of each element in F divides the order of F , since $|F|$ is finite. Thus, the order of 1 needs to divide 2^n , so it cannot be 0, leaving us with the prime option. By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, up to rearrangement of the factors, the prime factorization of a natural number greater than 1 is unique. Hence, the only prime that divides 2^n is 2, so the order of 1 is 2 and thus $\text{char} F = 2$. QED.

lemma given a prime number p , each p th

lemma (The generalized NØØB binomial theorem)

proof

63: proposition Let F be a field with $\text{char} F = p$ for some prime p . Prove that $K = \{x \in F \mid x^p = x\}$ is a subfield in F .

proof Notice that by definition of unity and the additive identity, $0^p = 0$ and $1^p = 1$, hence $0, 1 \in K$ and there are at least two elements in K . We proceed then by the finite subfield test. Let F and K be defined as above. This proof is going to apply the subfield test, so we want to show that $a - b \in K$ and $ab^{-1} \in K$ for some $a, b \in K$.

Let a, b be arbitrary elements in K . Consider $a - b = a + (-b) = a + (-1)b$. Since $a, b \in K$, it follows by definition of K that $a - b = a^p + (-1)^p b^p$. Because p is odd by restriction of it being prime other than 2 (if it's 2 then...), $(-1)^p = (-1)$, hence $a - b = a^p + (-1)b^p = a^p + (-b)^p$. By problem 49a in this chapter it follows that $a^p + (-b)^p = (a + (-b))^p = (a - b)^p$ and hence by definition of K we know that $a - b = (a - b)^p \in K$. If $\text{char} F = 2$, then $(a - b)^2 = (a - b)(a - b) = a^2 - 2 \cdot ab + (-b)(-b) = a^2 + b^2$. But since $\text{char} F = 2$, we know that $2a = a + a = 0$, which means that $a = -a$ for all $a \in F$. It follows that $a^2 + b^2 = a^2 - b^2$.

Furthermore, consider ab^{-1} . We want to show that $(ab^{-1})^p = ab^{-1}$, as this would imply that $ab^{-1} \in K$. By the associative and commutative property of multiplication in a field, $(ab^{-1})^p = a^p(b^{-1})^p = a(b^{-1})^p$, as follows from the definition of K and the fact that $a \in K$. It remains to be shown that $(b^{-1})^p = b^{-1}$. Clearly $(b^{-1})^p \in F$ by definition of a field and closure. Consider $(b^{-1})^p b$. Since by the associative and commutative properties of multiplication in a field, and by definition of the multiplicative inverse $b^p = b$, $(b^{-1})^p b = (b^{-1})^p b^p = (b^{-1})^p b^p = (b^{-1}b)^p = 1^p = 1$, where 1 is unity in F . Hence by definition of the multiplicative inverse, $(b^{-1})^p = b^{-1}$, so by substitution $(ab^{-1})^p = ab^{-1}$, hence by definition of K $ab^{-1} \in K$.

Since a and b are arbitrary elements of K , it follows that for all $a, b \in K$, $a - b \in K$ and $ab^{-1} \in K$. So by the subfield field test it follows that K is a subfield of F . QED.

3: proposition Verify that $I = \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle = \{r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n \mid r_i \in R\}$ for $a_1, \dots, a_n \in R$ and R is a commutative ring with unity.

proof Let x, y be arbitrary elements in I . Then $x = r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n$ and $y = r'_1 a_1 + \dots + r'_n a_n$ for $a_i, r_i, r'_i \in R$. Clearly, I is non-empty. Consider $x - y = r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n - (r'_1 a_1 + \dots + r'_n a_n) = r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n - r'_1 a_1 - \dots - r'_n a_n = r_1 a_1 - r'_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n - r'_n a_n = (r_1 - r'_1) a_1 + \dots + (r_n - r'_n) a_n$ (By the properties of a ring and theorem 12.1). But since R is closed by properties of a ring, $r_i - r'_i \in R$ and thus $x - y \in I$.

Next, consider rx for $r \in R, x \in I$. Then $rx = r(r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n) = rr_1 a_1 + \dots + rr_n a_n = (rr_1) a_1 + \dots + (rr_n) a_n$ by the distributive property and associative property of multiplication in a ring. But since R is closed under multiplication, $rr_i \in R$ and $rx = rr_1 a_1 + \dots + rr_n a_n \in I$. Likewise for xr , as the commutativity of R implies that $xr = rx$. Since x and y were arbitrary, it follows for all $x, y \in I$ and for all $r \in R$, $x - y \in I$ and $ar = ra \in R$. Hence by the Ideal Test it follows that I is an ideal of R . QED.

3: proposition II If J is any ideal of R that contains a_1, \dots, a_n , then $I \subseteq J$.

proof Let I and J be defined as above. Let x be an arbitrary element in I . Then $x = r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n$ for $r_i, a_i \in R$, as follows by definition of I . Furthermore, since $r_1, \dots, r_n \in R$, it follows by definition of an ideal that, as J is an ideal of R , $r_1 a_1, \dots, r_n a_n \in J$. Furthermore, since ideals are subrings, which are closed under the additive operation, it follows that $r_1 a_1 + r_2 a_2 \in J$. Hence by associativity $(r_1 a_1 + r_2 a_2) + r_3 a_3 = r_1 a_1 + r_2 a_2 + r_3 a_3 \in J$. Continuing on until each multiple is added in, we arrive at $x = r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n \in J$. Since x is an arbitrary element of I , it follows that for all $x \in I$, $x \in J$ as well. Hence by definition of a subset, $I \subseteq J$.

Q.E.D.

proposition : 29 In $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, let $I = \{f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x] : f(0) = 0\}$. Then $I = \langle x \rangle$.

proof First, we digest what this statement means. Note that $\langle x \rangle = \{g(x)x : g(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]\}$. Both I and $\langle x \rangle$ are sets, hence this will be a set equality proof, as the operations are directly inherited from the ring which these two things are ideals of.

To prove that $\langle x \rangle \subseteq I$, take some arbitrary $f(x) \in \langle x \rangle$. By definition of $\langle x \rangle$, $f(x) = g(x)x$ for some $g(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. By definition of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, $g(x) = a_1 + a_2 x + \dots + a_n x^{n-1}$ for some $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and non-negative integer $n - 1$. Substituting back in and applying the distributive and associative laws, and using the fact that polynomial multiplication is commutative, we find $f(x) = g(x)x = (a_1 + a_2 x + \dots + a_n x^{n-1})x = a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_n x^n$. Now evaluating $f(0)$, we have, by the properties of a ring, $a_1(0) + \dots + a_n(0)^n = 0$. Hence by definition of I , $f(x) \in I$. Since $f(x)$ is an arbitrary element in $\langle x \rangle$, it follows that for all $f(x) \in I$, $f(x) \in I$. Hence $\langle x \rangle \subseteq I$.

To prove that $I \subseteq \langle x \rangle$, let $f(x) \in I$ be arbitrary. Since $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ by definition of I , $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$ for some $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and some $n \in \mathbb{N}^0$, and since $f(0) = a_0 + a_1 0 + \dots + a_n 0^n = a_0 + 0 + \dots + 0 = a_0$, we have that $a_0 = 0$. Hence by

the distributive property of rings $f(x) = a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n = x(a_1 + \dots + a_nx^{n-1})$. By definition of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, $a_1 + \dots + a_nx^{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, hence by definition of $\langle x \rangle$, $f(x) \in \langle x \rangle$. Since $f(x)$ is arbitrary it follows that for all elements $f(x) \in I$, $f(x) \in \langle x \rangle$ as well. Hence $I \subseteq \langle x \rangle$.

Since $\langle x \rangle \subseteq I$ and $I \subseteq \langle x \rangle$, it follows by definition of set equality that $\langle x \rangle = I$.

Q.E.D.

problem : 39 Let $I = \langle x^2 + x + 2 \rangle$ be the principle ideal of $x^2 + x + 2$ in $\mathbb{Z}_5[x]$. Find the multiplicative inverse of $2x + 3 + I$ in the factor ring $\mathbb{Z}_5[x]/I$.

solution First, note that the multiplicative identity is $1 + I$, not I . This can be seen easily, as $(1 + I)(f(x) + I) = 1f(x) + I = f(x) + I$ for all $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}_5[x]$. Hence we are looking for an element in the factor ring, $f(x) + I \in \mathbb{Z}_5[x]/I$, represented by some polynomial $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}_5[x]$, such that $(f(x) + I)(2x + 3 + I) = 1 + I$.

Notice that, should such an element exist, it would follow by definition of the factor ring and by properties of cosets that, $(f(x) + I)(2x + 3 + I) = f(x)(2x + 3) + I = 1 + I$, hence $(f(x))(2x + 3) - 1 \in I$. By definition of I , this means that $(f(x))(2x + 3) - 1 = (x^2 + x + 2)g(x)$ for some $g(x) \in \mathbb{Z}_5[x]$. Luckily, only a couple guesses lead to the observation that $(2x + 3)(3x + 1) = 6x^2 + 11x + 3 = x^2 + x + 3 = (x^2 + x + 2) + 1$. So the multiplicative inverse of $2x + 3 + I$ in $\mathbb{Z}_5[x]/I$ is $3x + 1 + I$.