

# Irreducibility

## Definition

Let  $A$  be an entire ring. A non-zero element  $a \in A$  will be called irreducible if it is a non-unit and any factorization

$$a = bc$$

with  $b, c \in A$  satisfies that either  $b$  or  $c$  is a unit.

## Question

In  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ , is  $x^2 + 1$  irreducible?

In  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ , is  $xy + 1$  irreducible? What about  $x^2y^2 + x + 1$ ?