Full Notes

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Contents

1 Wednesday January 8

Course text: `http://math.uga.edu/~pete/integral2015.pdf`

Summary: The study of commutative rings, ideals, and modules over them.

The chapters we'll cover:

- 1 (Intro),
- 2 (Modules, partial),
- 3 (Ideals, CRT),
- 7 (Localization),
- 8 (Noetherian Rings),
- 11 (Nullstellensatz),
- 12 (Hilbert-Jacobson rings),
- 13 (Spectrum),
- 14 (Integral extensions),
- 17 (Valuation rings),
- 18 (Normalization),
- 19 (Picard groups),
- 20 (Dedekind domains),

- 22 (1-dim Noetherian domains)

In number theory, arises in the study of $\mathbb{Z}_k$, the ring of integers over a number field k, along with *localizations* and *orders* (both preserve the fraction field?).

In algebraic geometry, consider $R = k[t_1, \cdots, t_n]/I$ where k is a field and I is an ideal.

Some preliminary results:

1. In $\mathbb{Z}_k$, ideals factor uniquely into primes (i.e. it is a Dedekind domain).
2. $\mathbb{Z}_k$ has an integral basis (i.e. as a $\mathbb{Z}$-modules, $\mathbb{Z}_k \cong \mathbb{Z}^{[k:\mathbb{Q}]}$).
3. The Nullstellansatz: there is a bijective correspondence

$$\left\{\text{Irreducible Zariski closed subsets of } \mathbb{C}^n\right\} \iff \left\{\text{Prime ideals in } \mathbb{C}[t_1, \cdots, t_n]\right\}.$$

4. Noether normalization (a structure theorem for rings of the form R above).

All of these results concern particularly "nice" rings, e.g. $\mathbb{Z}_k, \mathbb{C}[t_1, \cdots, t_n]$. These rings are

- Domains
- Noetherian
- Finitely generated over other rings
- Finite Krull dimension (supremum of length of chains of prime ideals)
  - In particular, $\dim \mathbb{Z}_k = 1$ since nonzero prime ideals are maximal in a Dedekind domain
- Regular (nonsingularity condition, can be interpreted in scheme-theoretic language)

> Note: schemes will have "local charts" given by commutative rings, analogous to building a manifold from Euclidean n-space. General philosophy (Grothendieck): Every commutative ring is the ring of functions on some space, so we should study the category of commutative rings as a whole (i.e. let the rings be arbitrary). This does not hold for non-commutative rings! I.e. we can't necessarily associate a geometric space to every non-commutative ring. A common interesting example: $k[G]$, the group ring of an arbitrary group. Good references: Lam, 'Lectures on Modules and Rings'.

Example: Let X be a topological space and $C(X)$ be the continuous functions $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$. This is a ring under pointwise addition/multiplication. (This generally holds for the hom set into any commutative ring.)

Example: Take $X = [0, 1]$ and $C(X)$ as a ring.

Exercise:

1. Show that $C(X)$ is a not a domain. > Hint: find two nonzero functions whose product is identically zero, e.g. bump functions. > Note that they are not analytic/holomorphic.
2. Show that it is not noetherian (i.e. there is an ideal that is *not* finitely generated).
3. Fix a point $x \in [0, 1]$ and show that the ideal $\mathfrak{m}_x = \left\{f \mid f(x) = 0\right\}$ is maximal.
4. Are all maximal ideals of this form? > Hint: See textbook chapter 5, or Gilman and Jerison 'Rings of Continuous Functions'.

Theorem of Swan: A theorem about topological vector bundles over $C([0, 1])$, see textbook. There is a categorical equivalence between vector bundles on a compact space and f.g. projective modules over this ring. (So commutative algebra has something to say about other branches of Mathematics!)

Definition: A topological space is called *boolean* (or a *Stone space*) iff it is compact, hausdorff, and totally disconnected.

Example: A projective variety over p-adics with $\mathbb{Q}_p$ points plugged in.

Definition: A ring is boolean if every element is idempotent, i.e. $x \in R \implies x^2 = x$.

Exercise: If R is a boolean domain, then it is isomorphic to the field with 2 elements.

Lemma: There is a categorical equivalence between Boolean spaces, Boolean rings, and so-called "Boolean algebras".

2 Monday January 13

2.1 Logistics

Some topics for final projects

- The cardinal Krull dimension of $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$.
- Galois connections
- Ordinal filtrations
- Lam-Reyes prime ideal principal
- $C(X)$
- $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$
- Semigroup rings
- Swan's Theorem
    - Vector bundles on a compact space
- Boolean rings and Stone duality
- More Nullstellansatz
    - Beyond Hilbert's usual one
- Hochster's Theorem
    - Characterizes $\mathrm{Spec}R$ as a topological space, i.e. when is a topological space homeomorphic to the spectrum of some commutative ring.
- Invariant theory (quotients of rings under finite group actions, i.e. R^G for $|G| < \infty$)
    - For $R = k$ a field, this is Galois theory
    - Easy case of geometric invariant theory, when G is infinite
- UFDs
    - What conditions does a ring need to have to ensure unique factorization?
- Euclidean rings
- Claborn (Leedham-Green-Clark): Every commutative group is (up to isomorphism) the class group of some Dedekind domain.
    - A type of inverse problem, class group measures deviation from being a UFD
    - Uses ordinal filtrations, transfinite induction
    - See proof in elliptic curves course

2.2 Rings of Functions

Let k be a field, X a set of cardinality $|X| \geq 2$, and define $k^X := \mathrm{Maps}(X.k) = \{f : X \to K\}$ is a ring under pointwise addition and multiplication. As a ring, this is a (big!) cartesian product.

Some facts:

- k^X is not a domain (**exercise**), and there are nontrivial idempotents ($e^2 = e$) > Note: it could be worse and have nilpotents.
- k^X is *reduced*, i.e. it has no nonzero nilpotents, where $z \in R$ is nilpotent iff $\exists n \geq 1$ such that $z^n = 0$.
  - Note: domains are reduced, cartesian products of reduced rings are reduced.
- Every subring of k^X is reduced. > Moral: should be viewing every ring as functions on some space, but this can't literally be true because of the above restrictions. > Nilpotent elements are "hard to view as functions".
- For X a topological space, $C(X)$ the ring of continuous functionals to $\mathbb{R}$, then $C(X) \subset \mathbb{R}^X$.

Exercise: When is $C(X)$ a domain? (Note that we can have products of nonzero functions being identically zero.)

Example: Let R be the ring of holomorphic functions $\mathbb{C}\circlearrowleft$, i.e. $\mathrm{Hol}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}) := \left\{ f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C} \;\middle|\; f \text{ is holomorphic} \right\}$.

The set of zeros of such an f must be discrete, the example of bump functions doesn't go through holomorphically.

This is a domain, not Noetherian, not a PID, but every f.g. ideal is principal (thus this is a Bezout domain, a non-Noetherian analog of a PID).

It has infinite Krull dimension: recall that ideals are prime iff $xy \in \mathfrak{p} \implies x \in \mathfrak{p}$ or $y \in \mathfrak{p}$ iff $R/\mathfrak{p}$ is a domain, and the Krull dimension is the supremum S of lengths of chains of prime ideals (only when S is finite).

If $C \subset (X, \leq)$ is a finite-length chain in a totally ordered set, then the length $\ell(C) = |C| - 1$ (1 less than the number of elements appearing). The *cardinal Krull dimension* of a ring R is the actual supremum.

> Note: in Noetherian rings, there can still be finite but unbounded length chains.

Letting X be a complex manifold (i.e. covered by subsets of $\mathbb{C}^n$ with holomorphic transition functions) and let $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$ be the holomorphic functionals $f : X \to \mathbb{C}$. Then $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$ is a domain iff X is connected.

> Note that if X is disconnected, we can take a function that is constant on one component and zero on another, then switch, then multiply to get a zero function.

If X is a compact connected projective variety, then $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$ is just constant functions by the open mapping functions. So $\mathrm{Hol}(X) = \mathbb{C}$, and $\mathrm{carddim}\mathbb{C} = 0$ because for any field there are only two ideals, and here (0) is prime. Moreover, $\mathrm{carddim}\mathrm{Hol}(\mathbb{C}) \geq \alpha_0$.

> Note that for complex manifolds, X is either compact or supports many holomorphic functions.

Theorem: If X is a connected complex manifold which has a nontrivial holomorphic function, i.e. $\mathrm{Hol}(X) \supset \mathbb{C}$, then there exists a chain of prime ideals in $\mathrm{Hol}(X)$ of length $|\mathbb{R}| > \aleph_0$, i.e. it has at least the cardinality of the continuum.

> Note: the cardinality could be even bigger!

> Maximals are prime: equivalent to fields are integral domains.

2.3 Rings

Take all rings to be unital, i.e. containing 1. A ring without identity is referred to as an *rng*. In this course, all rings are commutative.

Example: This is a fairly special restriction. Take $(A, +)$ a commutative group and define $\operatorname{End}(A) = \{f : A \to A\}$ the ring of group homomorphisms under pointwise addition and composition. This is generally not commutative, i.e. $\operatorname{End}(\mathbb{Z}/(2) \oplus \mathbb{Z}/(2)) = M_2(\mathbb{Z}/(2))$ the ring of matrices with $\mathbb{Z}/(2)$ entries, which is not commutative.

Exercise: Given $(A, +)$, show that $\operatorname{End}(\bigoplus^n A) = M_n(\operatorname{End}(A))$.

Generally, if R is a ring and M is as R-module, then $\operatorname{End}_R(M) = \{f : M \to M\}$ of R-module homomorphisms is always a ring under pointwise addition and composition, and is (probably) non-commutative.

3 Wednesday January 15th

Cayley's theorem: For G a group, then there is a canonical injective group homomorphism $\Phi : G \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Sym}(G) \cong S_n$ for $n = |G|$. The map is given by $g \mapsto g\,\cdot$, i.e. multiplying on the left. Is there an analog for rings?

Take a similar map:

$$\begin{aligned} R &\to \operatorname{End}_{\mathbb{Z}}(R, +) \\ r &\mapsto (x \mapsto rx). \end{aligned}$$

Unfortunately there is no specialization for commutative groups/rings – $\operatorname{Sym}(G)$ for example is noncommutative when $|G| \geq 2$. Similarly, even if R is commutative, $\operatorname{End}(R, +)$ is probably not. As per the Grothendieck philosophy, we find that all rings are a ring of functions on something – namely themselves, since this map is injective.

All rings are commutative here, so take $R^\times = \left\{x \in R \;\middle|\; \exists y \text{s.t.} xy = 1\right\}$. For R a group, $R^\times$ is a commutative group, so this is an interesting invariant.

Another interesting invariant: the class group.

Notation: Let $R^\bullet = R \setminus 0$. An element $x \in R$ is a zero divisor iff there exists $y \in R^\bullet$ such that $xy = 0$. For $x, y \in R$ we write $x \;\middle|\; y$ iff $\exists z \in R$ such that $xz = y$.

R is a domain iff 0 is the only zero divisors, i.e. $xy = 0 \implies x = 0$ or $y = 0$. $(R^\bullet, \cdot)$ is a commutative monoid (group without inverses) iff R is a domain. Observe that R is a field iff $R^\bullet = R^\times$.

For rings R, S we have the usual definition of ring homomorphism, additionally requiring $f(1) = 1$. Note that $f(0) = 0$ follows from $f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$, but $f(1) = 1$ does not. Rings have products $R_1 \times R_2$ which is again a ring under coordinate-wise operations. Note that there are canonical projections $\pi_i R_1 \times R_2 \to R_i$. There is a dual inclusion $\iota_1 : R_1 \to R_1 \times R_2$ given by $x \mapsto (x, 0)$, but these are not ring homomorphisms (although everything is a group homomorphism). This is because $\iota_1(1) = (1, 0) \neq (1, 1)$, the identity of $R_1 \times R_2$. Note that 1 always has to map to an idempotent element, i.e. $e^2 = e$, and idempotents are always zero divisors. Also note that the map $x \mapsto 0$ is not a ring homomorphism unless $S = 0$.

A ring homomorphism is a map $f : R \to S$ is an isomorphism iff it has a two-sided inverse, i.e. there exists a morphism $g : S \to R$ with $g \circ f = \mathrm{id}_R$ and $f \circ g = \mathrm{id}_S$.

Exercise: Check that this is equivalent to f being a bijection.

Exercise: Check that the zero ring is the final object in the category of rings. Show that $\mathbb{Z}$ is the initial object in this category?

R is a subring of S iff $R \subset S$ and the inclusion $R \hookrightarrow S$ is a morphism.

Adjoining elements: Suppose $R \leq S$ is a subring and $X \subset S$ is just a subset. Then there exists a ring $R[X]$ such that

- Top-down description: $R[X] \leq S$ is a subring containing R and X, and is minimal with respect to this property (obtained by intersecting all such subrings)
- Bottom-up description: things resembling $\sum r_i x_i$

Exercise 1.6: Take $R = \mathbb{Z}, S = \mathbb{Q}$, P a arbitrary set of prime numbers. Let $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathcal{P}} = \mathbb{Z}[\left\{ \frac{1}{p} \mathrel{\Big|} p \in P \right\}]$.

a. When do we have $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathcal{P}_1} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{\mathcal{P}_2}$? (Hint: take $P_1 = \{3, 7, 11\}, P_2 = \{5\}$. Need $P_1 = P_2$!)
b. Show that every subring T such that $\mathbb{Z} \leq T \leq \mathbb{Q}$ is of the form $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathcal{P}}$ for some unique set of primes P.

Note that if T is any intermediate ring between R and S, then $R[T] = T$.

3.1 Ideals and Quotients

For $f : R \to S$ a ring homomorphism, define $I = \ker f = f^{-1}(\{0\})$. Then I is a subgroup of $(R, +)$, and for all $i \in I$ and all $r \in R$ we have $ri \in I$, since $f(ri) = f(r)f(i) = f(r)0 = 0$. In other words, $RI \subseteq I$.

By definition, an ideal I of R is an additive subgroup of R that satisfies these properties. Is every ideal the kernel of a ring homomorphism? The answer is yes, namely the quotient $\pi : R \to R/I$.

Theorem: Let $I \subset (R, +)$, then TFAE:

a. I is an ideal of R, written $I \trianglelefteq R$.
b. There exists a ring structure on the quotient group R/I such that the projection $r \mapsto r + I$ is a ring morphism.

When these conditions hold, the ring structure on R/I is *unique* and we refer to this as the *quotient ring*.

4 Friday January 17th

For a $R \subset T$ a subring of a ring, the set of intermediate rings is a large/interesting class of rings. Recall: uncountably many rings between $\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Q}$! Taking R a PID and T its fraction field, a similar result will hold.

Define $I \trianglelefteq R$ as the kernel of a ring morphism. This implies that $I \subset (R, +)$ with the absorption property $RI \subset I$. Conversely, any I satisfying these two properties is the kernel of a ring morphism: namely $R \to R/I$. This makes sense as a group morphism.

Exercise: Define $xy+I = (x+I)(y+I)$, need to check well-definedness. Write out $(x+i_1)(y+i_2) = \cdots$, need to check that $i_1 y + i_2 x + i_1 i_2 \in I$, but the absorption property does precisely this.

Note that if we were in a non-commutative setting, this would define a left ideal. These don't have to coincide with right ideals – there are rings where the former satisfy properties that the latter does not.

Example: The subrings of $R = \mathbb{Z}$ are of the form $n\mathbb{Z}$ for $n \geq 0$, with the usual quotient.

Definition: An ideal $I \trianglelefteq R$ is *proper* iff $I \subsetneq R$.

Exercise: An ideal I is not proper iff I contains a unit.

Exercise: R is a field iff the only ideals are $0, R$.

Definition: Let $\mathcal{I}(R)$ be the set of all ideals in R. What structure does it have? It is partially ordered under inclusion. It is a complete lattice, i.e. every element has an infimum (GLB) and a supremum (LUB). Namely, for a family of ideals $\{I_j\}$, the infimum is the intersection and supremum is defined as $\left\langle I_j \;\middle|\; j \in J \right\rangle$, the smallest ideal containing all of the I_j, i.e. $\langle y \rangle = \left\{ \sum^n r_i y_i \;\middle|\; n \in \mathbb{N}_{>0},\ r_i \in R,\ y_i \in y \right\}$.

Exercise: For $I_1, I_2 \trianglelefteq R$, it is the case that $I_1 + I_2 \coloneqq \{i_1 + i_2\} = \langle I_1, I_2 \rangle$.

Theorem: Let $I \trianglelefteq R$ and $\phi : R \to R/I$, and define $\ell(I) = \{I \subset J \trianglelefteq R\}$. Then we can define maps

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi : \ell(R) &\to \ell(R/I) \\ J &\mapsto \frac{I+J}{J}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi : \ell(R/I) &\to \ell(R) \\ J \trianglelefteq R/I &\mapsto \phi^{-1}(J). \end{aligned}$$

We can check that $\Psi \circ \Phi)(J) = I + J$, and $\Phi \circ \Psi(J) = J$ $(= J/I?)$ So Ψ has a left inverse and is thus injective. Its image is the collection of ideals that contain J, and $\Psi : \ell(R/I) \to \ell_I(R)$ is a bijection and is in fact a lattice isomorphism with $\ell_I(R) \subset \ell(R)$.

Note that this gives us everything above (?) an ideal in the ideal lattice; the dual notion will come from localization.

Remarks:

The ideal lattice $\ell(R)$ is

- A complete lattice under subset inclusion,
- A commutative monoid under addition

- A commutative monoid under *multiplication*, which we'll define.

Definition: For $I, J \trianglelefteq R$, we define $IJ = \left\langle ij \;\middle|\; i \in I,\ j \in J \right\rangle$. Note that we have to take the ideal generated by products here.

For $\langle x \rangle = (x)$ a principal ideal and $\langle y \rangle$ principal, we do have $(x)(y) = (xy)$. Note that $IJ \subset I \bigcap J$, whereas the sum was larger than I, J.

Exercise: Note that $(\ell(R), \cdot)$ has an absorbing element, namely $(0)I = (0)$. For $(M, +)$ a commutative monoid and $M \hookrightarrow G$ a group, then multiplication by x is injective and so for all $y \in M$, $xz = yz \implies x = y$, so M is cancellative.

Question: what if we consider $\mathcal{I}^\bullet(R)$ the set of nonzero ideals of R. Does this help? We will see next time.

5 Wednesday January 22nd

Let R be a ring and let $\mathcal{I}(R)$ be the set of ideals $I \trianglelefteq R$. This algebraic structure is

- Partially ordered under inclusion
- Forms a complete lattice with sup the ideal generated by a family and inf the intersection.
- Forms a commutative monoid under $I + J$
- Forms a commutative monoid under IJ

For any commutative monoid $(M, +)$, there exists a group completion $G(M)$ such that

- $G(M)$ is a commutative group
- $g : M \to G(M)$ is a monoid homomorphism
- For any map $\phi : (M, +) \to (G, +)$ into a commutative group, we have the following diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} M \arrow[rr, "\forall\phi"] \arrow[dr, "g"'] & & G \\ & M(G) \arrow[ur, "\exists!\Phi"'] & \end{tikzcd}$$

So ϕ factors through $M(G)$.

If this exists, it is unique up to unique isomorphism (as are all objects defined by universal properties). It remains to construct it.

Exercise: For $(M, +)$ a commutative monoid, show that TFAE

1. There exists an injective $\iota : M \hookrightarrow G$ monoid homomorphism for G some commutative group.
2. The map $g : M \to G(M)$ is an injection.
3. M is cancellative, i.e. $\forall x, y, z \in M$ we have $x + z = y + z \implies x = y$, i.e. the map $p_z(x) = x + z$ is injective.

The content here is in $3 \implies 1$.

A commutative monoid is *reduced* iff $M^\times = (0)$, i.e. if "$\forall m \in M \exists n$ such that $m + n = 0$" $\implies m = 0$

Example: $(\mathbb{N}, +)$ and $(\mathbb{Z}^+, \cdot)$ are cancellative and reduced.

Definition $z \in M$ is a zero element iff $z + x = z$ for all $x \in M$.

Remark: If M has a zero element, then $G(M) = \{0\}$.

(0) is a zero element of $(\mathcal{I}(R), \cdot)$, so this is not cancellative. If we take $\mathcal{I}^\bullet$ the set of nonzero ideals with multiplication, then this is a submonoid of $\mathcal{I}(R)$ iff R is a domain.

For R a domain, let $\mathcal{I}_1(R)$ be the set of nonzero principal ideals of R, then $\mathcal{I}_1(R) = R^\bullet / R^\times$, so this is reduced and cancellative.

What is the group completion? In this case, it will consist of fractional ideals.

If R is a PID, then $\mathcal{I}_1^\bullet(R) = \mathcal{I}^\bullet(R)$ is reduced and cancellative.

Example: $\mathcal{I}^\bullet \cong (\mathbb{Z}^+, \cdot)$.

Warning: If R is not a PID, then $\mathcal{I}^\bullet(R)$ need not be cancellative.

Exercise: Take $R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-3}]$ and $p_2 := \left\langle 1 + \sqrt{-3}, 1 - \sqrt{-3} \right\rangle$. Show that $|R/p_2| = 2$, $|R/(2)| = 4$, and $p_2^2 = p_2(2)$ and $\left|R/p_2^2\right| = 8$. Conclude that $\mathcal{I}^\bullet(R)$ is not cancellative.

What went wrong here? Take $K = \mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{-3}]$, then $\mathbb{Z}_k[\frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}]$ is the integral closure of $\mathbb{Z}$ in K. $\mathbb{Z}_k$ is a Dedekind domain, and there are inclusions

$$\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-3}] \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}] \subseteq K.$$

Here the problem is that $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-3}]$ is not a Dedekind domain. If R is a Dedekind domain, then $\mathcal{I}^\bullet(R)$ is cancellative.

Exercise: Does the converse hold?

Things that are too small to be the full rings of integers, and things tend to wrong.

5.1 Pushing / Pulling

Let $f : R \to S$ be a ring homomorphism.

We can define a pushforward on the set of ideals $\mathcal{I}(R)$:

$$\begin{aligned} f_* : \mathcal{I}_R &\to \mathcal{I}(S) \\ I &\mapsto \langle f(I) \rangle . \end{aligned}$$

and a pullback

$$\begin{aligned} f^* : \mathcal{I}(S) &\to \mathcal{I}(R) \\ J &\mapsto f^{-1}(J). \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: Show that $f^{-1}(J) \trianglelefteq R$.

For $I \trianglelefteq R$ and $J \trianglelefteq S$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
f^* f_*(I) &\supseteq I \\
f_* f^*(J) &\subseteq J.
\end{aligned}
$$

Exercise: These are not equal in general, and give examples where equality does and does not hold.

If f is surjective, $f_* f^* J = J$.

Will also hold for localization, which is dual to taking a quotient.

Define $\overline{I} := f^* f_*(I)$ and $J^\circ := f_* f^*(J)$, the closure and interior respectively. Show that these operations are idempotent.

Definition: An ideal $\mathfrak{p}$ iff $ab \in \mathfrak{p} \implies a \in \mathfrak{p}$ or $b \in \mathfrak{p}$.

Exercise: I is prime iff R/I is a domain.

Definition: $\operatorname{Spec}(R) = \{\mathfrak{p} \trianglelefteq R\}$ the collection of prime ideals is the spectrum.

Exercise: Show that for $I \trianglelefteq R$, if we define $V(I) := \left\{ \mathfrak{p} \in \operatorname{Spec}(R) \;\middle|\; p \supseteq I \right\} \subseteq \operatorname{Spec}(R)$, then $\left\{ V(I) \;\middle|\; I \in \mathcal{I}(R) \right\}$ are the closed sets for a topology on $\operatorname{Spec}(R)$ (the Zariski topology).

Exercise: If $f : R \to S$ and $J \in \operatorname{Spec}(S)$ then $f^*(J) \in \operatorname{Spec}(R)$. Show that $f^* : \operatorname{Spec}(S) \to \operatorname{Spec}(R)$ is a continuous map. Conclude that $\operatorname{Spec}(\,\cdot\,)$ is a functor.

Definition: $I \trianglelefteq R$ is maximal iff I is proper and is not contained in any other proper ideal.

Exercise: I is maximal iff R/I is a field.

Exercise: Show that maximal ideals are prime.

Definition: Let $\operatorname{Spec}_{\max}(R)$ be the set of maximal ideals and define $V(I) = \left\{ \mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{Spec}_{\max}(R) \;\middle|\; \mathfrak{m} \supseteq I \right\}$. Show that these form the closed sets for a topology, and that this is the subspace topology for the Zariski topology.

Exercise: Show that if $f : R \to S$ and $\mathfrak{m} \in \operatorname{Spec}_{\max}(S)$ that $f^*(\mathfrak{m})$ is prime but need not be maximal.

If f is an integral extension, then maximals do pull back to maximals.