

# MATH 601 (DUE 10/2)

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## CONTENTS

1. Factorization in Integral Domains	1
2. Rings of Fractions	4
3. The Quadratic Equation $x^2 - 2y^2 = n$	5

## 1. FACTORIZATION IN INTEGRAL DOMAINS

**Exercise.** (Problem 1) Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ . Compute the content of the following polynomials in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . The content is an element of the quotient group,  $\mathbb{Q}^*/\mathbb{Z}^* \simeq \mathbb{Q}^*/\{\pm 1\}$ .

- $f(x) = 2x^2 - 6x + 28$ .
- $g(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^2 - \frac{3}{5}x + \frac{7}{11}$ .

*Proof.*

- By property (i) of the content,  $\text{cont}(f(x)) = \gcd(2, -6, 28) = 2$ .

$$\bullet \text{ cont}(g(x)) = 2^{o_2(g(x))} 3^{o_3(g(x))} 5^{o_5(g(x))} \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} o_2(f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_2(2/3), \text{ord}_2(-3/5), \text{ord}_2(7/11)\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_2(2) - \text{ord}_2(3), \text{ord}_2(-3) - \text{ord}_2(5), \text{ord}_2(7) - \text{ord}_2(11)\} \\ &= \min\{1 - 0, 0 - 0, 0 - 0\} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} o_3(f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_3(2/3), \text{ord}_3(-3/5), \text{ord}_3(7/11)\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_3(2) - \text{ord}_3(3), \text{ord}_3(-3) - \text{ord}_3(5), \text{ord}_3(7) - \text{ord}_3(11)\} \\ &= \min\{0 - 1, 1 - 0, 0 - 0\} \\ &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} o_5(f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_5(2/3), \text{ord}_5(-3/5), \text{ord}_5(7/11)\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_5(2) - \text{ord}_5(3), \text{ord}_5(-3) - \text{ord}_5(5), \text{ord}_5(7) - \text{ord}_5(11)\} \\ &= \min\{0 - 0, 0 - 1, 0 - 0\} \\ &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} o_7(f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_7(2/3), \text{ord}_7(-3/5), \text{ord}_7(7/11)\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_7(2) - \text{ord}_7(3), \text{ord}_7(-3) - \text{ord}_7(5), \text{ord}_7(7) - \text{ord}_7(11)\} \\ &= \min\{0 - 0, 0 - 0, 1 - 0\} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} o_{11}(f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_{11}(2/3), \text{ord}_{11}(-3/5), \text{ord}_{11}(7/11)\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_{11}(2) - \text{ord}_{11}(3), \text{ord}_{11}(-3) - \text{ord}_{11}(5), \text{ord}_{11}(7) - \text{ord}_{11}(11)\} \\ &= \min\{0 - 0, 0 - 0, 0 - 1\} \\ &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \text{cont}(g(x)) = 2^0 3^{-1} 5^{-1} 7^0 11^{-1} = \frac{1}{165}.$$

□

**Exercise.** (Problem 2)

- Prove that if  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \in R[x]$ , then  $\text{cont}(f(x)) = \gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n)$ .
- For  $b \in F^*$ ,  $\text{cont}(b \cdot f(x)) = b \cdot \text{cont}(f(x))$ .

*Proof.*

- By Proposition 13 of P.287 (Dummit and Foote),  $\gcd(up_1^{a_1} \dots p_n^{a_n}, vp_1^{b_1} \dots p_n^{b_n}) = p_1^{\min\{a_1, b_1\}} \dots p_n^{\min\{a_n, b_n\}}$ . By mathematical induction, this property holds for greatest common divisors of  $n + 1$  elements of  $R$ . Let  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \in R[x]$  be given. Choose distinct (not equivalent) irreducible elements  $p_1, \dots, p_m \in R$ , non-negative integers  $a_{i,j}$ , and units  $u_i$  such that  $a_i = u_i p_1^{a_{i,1}} \dots p_m^{a_{i,m}}$ . Since  $R$  is a UFD, it is possible to pick such  $p_i, a_{i,j}, u_i$ . Then  $o_{p_j} = \min\{a_{0,j}, \dots, a_{n,j}\}$  for each  $j$ . Thus  $\text{cont}(f(x)) = \prod p_j^{o_{p_j}} = \prod p_j^{\min\{a_{0,j}, \dots, a_{n,j}\}} = \gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n)$
- As discussed below the definition of  $\text{ord}_p$  in the handout “Factorization in Integral Domains,”  $\text{ord}_p$  is a group homomorphism from a multiplicative group  $F^*$  to an additive group  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Let  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \in R[x]$ ,  $b \in R$  be given. Choose distinct (not equivalent) irreducible elements  $p_1, \dots, p_m \in R$ , non-negative integers  $a_{i,j}, b_j$ , and units  $u_i, w$  such that  $a_i = u_i p_1^{a_{i,1}} \cdots p_m^{a_{i,m}}$  and  $b = w p_1^{b_1} \cdots p_m^{b_m}$ . Then  $b \cdot f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n (b a_i) x^i$ , and  $b a_i = (u_i w) p_1^{a_{i,1}+b_1} \cdots p_m^{a_{i,m}+b_m}$ . Since  $\text{ord}_p$  is a group homomorphism for each  $p$ , we have that for each  $i, j$ ,  $\text{ord}_{p_j}(b a_i) = \text{ord}_{p_j}(b) + \text{ord}_{p_j}(a_i)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} o_{p_j}(b \cdot f(x)) &= \min\{\text{ord}_{p_j}(b a_i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq n\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord}_{p_j}(b) + \text{ord}_{p_j}(a_i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq n\} \\ &= \text{ord}_{p_j}(b) + \min\{\text{ord}_{p_j}(a_i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq n\} \\ &= \text{ord}_{p_j}(b) + o_{p_j}(f(x)). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cont}(f(x)) &= \prod_j p_j^{o_{p_j}(b \cdot f(x))} \\ &= \prod_j p_j^{\text{ord}_{p_j}(b) + o_{p_j}(f(x))} \\ &= \prod_j p_j^{\text{ord}_{p_j}(b)} \prod_j p_j^{o_{p_j}(f(x))} \\ &= b \prod_j p_j^{o_{p_j}(f(x))} \\ &= b \text{cont}(f(x)). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Exercise.** (Problem 3) Determine if the given polynomial is an irreducible element of the given integral domain.

- $3x^3 - 15x^2 - 21 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ .
- $3x^3 - 15x^2 - 21 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

*Proof.*

- $3x^3 - 15x^2 - 21 = 3(x^3 - 5x^2 - 7)$ . Since neither 3 nor  $x^3 - 5x^2 - 7$  is a unit,  $3x^3 - 15x^2 - 21$  is not irreducible.
- We claim that  $f(x) = 3x^3 - 15x^2 - 21 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  is irreducible. The content is  $\gcd(3, -15, -21) = 3$ , so let  $f_0(x) = f(x)/3 = x^3 - 5x^2 - 7$ . Then  $f_0(x)$  is primitive in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ . As discussed in class on 9/27,  $f_0(x)$  is irreducible if and only if it has no linear factors. If  $mx + n$  is a factor of  $f_0(x)$ , then  $m \mid 1$  and  $n \mid -7$ . Thus  $m \in \{-1, 1\}$  and  $n \in \{-1, 1, -7, 7\}$ . This implies that it is sufficient to check  $x + 1, x + 7, x - 1, x - 7$  because the other possibilities can be obtained by multiplying -1.

- $f(x) = (3x^2 - 18x + 18) * (x + 1) + (-39)$ .
- $f(x) = (3x^2 - 12x - 12) * (x - 1) + (-33)$ .
- $f(x) = (3x^2 - 36x + 252) * (x + 7) + (-1785)$ .
- $f(x) = (3x^2 + 6x + 42) * (x - 7) + (273)$ .

Since none of them is a factor of  $f(x)$ ,  $f_0(x)$  is irreducible. Since 3 is a unit in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ ,  $f(x) = 3f_0(x)$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

□

## 2. RINGS OF FRACTIONS

**Exercise.** (Problem 1 (iii)) Prove that the natural map  $i : R \rightarrow S^{-1}R$ , which maps  $r$  to  $\frac{r}{1}$  is an injective ring homomorphism.

*Proof.*

- Ring homomorphism?

- For all  $r, s \in R$ ,  $i(rs) = \frac{rs}{1} = \frac{r}{1} \cdot \frac{s}{1} = i(r)i(s)$ .
- For all  $r, s \in R$ ,  $i(r+s) = \frac{r+s}{1} = \frac{r}{1} + \frac{s}{1} = i(r) + i(s)$ .

Therefore,  $i$  is indeed a ring homomorphism.

- Injective? It suffices to check that  $\ker(i) = \{1\}$ . Let  $r \in R$  such that  $\ker(r)$  is the multiplicative identity in  $S^{-1}R$ . By definition,  $\ker(r) = \frac{1}{1}$ . Thus  $\frac{r}{1} = \frac{1}{1}$ , so  $r \cdot 1 - 1 \cdot 1 = 0$ . This means  $r = 1$ , so  $\ker(i) = \{1\}$ .

Therefore,  $i$  is indeed an injective ring homomorphism. □

**Exercise.** (Problem 1(iv)) Prove that given a ring homomorphism  $h : R \rightarrow T$ , such that  $h(s) \in T^\star$  for every  $s \in S$ , there exists a unique ring homomorphism  $\lambda : S^{-1}R \rightarrow T$ , such that  $h = \lambda \circ i$ .

*Proof.* Suppose such a  $\lambda$  exists. Then for all  $r \in R$ ,  $h(r) = (\lambda \circ i)(r) = \lambda(r/1)$ . Therefore,  $\lambda(r/1) = h(r)$ . Let  $s \in S$ . Then  $1_T = \lambda(1/1) = \lambda((s/1) \cdot (1/s)) = \lambda(s/1)\lambda(1/s)$ . Therefore,  $\lambda(1/s) = \lambda(s/1)^{-1} = h(s)^{-1}$ . This implies that  $\lambda(r/s) = \lambda(r/1)\lambda(1/s) = h(r)h(s)^{-1}$ .

In other words, if such a  $\lambda$  exists, it must map  $r/s$  to  $h(r)h(s)^{-1}$ . This proves the uniqueness. We will show that such a function is indeed well defined and it is a ring homomorphism.

- Well-defined? Since  $h(s) \in T^\star$  for each  $s \in S$ ,  $h(s)^{-1}$  is well defined. Let  $r/s = r'/s' \in S^{-1}R$  be given. Then  $rs' = r's$ . Since  $h$  is a ring homomorphism,  $h(r)h(s') = h(r')h(s)$ . Therefore,  $\lambda(r/s) = h(r)h(s)^{-1} = h(r')h(s')^{-1} = \lambda(r'/s')$ .
- Ring homomorphism? Let  $r/s, r'/s' \in S^{-1}R$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda\left(\frac{r}{s} \cdot \frac{r'}{s'}\right) &= \lambda\left(\frac{rr'}{ss'}\right) \\
 &= h(rr')h(ss')^{-1} \\
 &= h(r)h(r')h(s)^{-1}h(s')^{-1} \\
 &= h(r)h(s)^{-1}h(r')h(s')^{-1} \\
 &= \lambda\left(\frac{r}{s}\right)\lambda\left(\frac{r'}{s'}\right). \\
 \lambda\left(\frac{r}{s} + \frac{r'}{s'}\right) &= \lambda\left(\frac{rs' + r's}{ss'}\right) \\
 &= h(rs' + r's)h(ss')^{-1} \\
 &= (h(r)h(s') + h(r')h(s))h(s)^{-1}h(s')^{-1} \\
 &= h(r)h(s)^{-1} + h(r')h(s')^{-1} \\
 &= \lambda\left(\frac{r}{s}\right) + \lambda\left(\frac{r'}{s'}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

- Commutes? For any  $r \in R$ ,  $\lambda(i(r)) = \lambda(r/1) = h(r)h(1)^{-1} = h(r)$ . Therefore,  $\lambda \circ i$  is indeed  $h$ .

□

### 3. THE QUADRATIC EQUATION $x^2 - 2y^2 = n$

**Exercise.** (Problem 15) Find a solution to  $x^2 - 2y^2 = 7$ .

*Proof.*  $3^2 - 2 \cdot 1^2 = 9 - 2 = 7$ . Thus  $(x, y) = (3, 1)$  is a solution to  $x^2 - 2y^2 = 7$ . □

**Exercise.** (Problem 16) Is 7 irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ ? If not, find a factorization into irreducible elements.

*Proof.* By Problem 3 from the previous assignment, we know that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  is a unit if and only if  $N(\alpha) = \pm 1$ . We will use this result in this solution.

By Problem 15, we know that  $7 = (3 + \sqrt{2})(3 - \sqrt{2})$ . Since  $N(3 + \sqrt{2}) = N(3 - \sqrt{2}) = 7 \neq \pm 1$ , 7 can be expressed as a product of two non-unit elements, so 7 is not irreducible.

Suppose  $3 + \sqrt{2} = (a + b\sqrt{2})(c + d\sqrt{2})$  for some  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . By Problem 2 from the previous assignment, we know that  $N(3 + \sqrt{2}) = N(a + b\sqrt{2})N(c + d\sqrt{2})$ . Since  $N$  maps  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  into integers, exactly one of  $N(a + b\sqrt{2})$  and  $N(c + d\sqrt{2})$  must be 1 or -1, and the other one is 7 or -7. Therefore, one of  $a + b\sqrt{2}$  or  $c + d\sqrt{2}$  is a unit, so  $3 + \sqrt{2}$  is irreducible.

Similarly, if  $3 - \sqrt{2} = (a' + b'\sqrt{2})(c' + d'\sqrt{2})$ , then  $7 = N(3 - \sqrt{2}) = N(a' + b'\sqrt{2})N(c' + d'\sqrt{2})$ . Therefore, one of  $a' + b'\sqrt{2}$  or  $c' + d'\sqrt{2}$  is a unit, so  $3 - \sqrt{2}$  is irreducible. □

**Exercise.** (Problem 17) Let  $p \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  and suppose  $\alpha\beta = p$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ . Show that  $\beta = c\gamma(\alpha)$  with  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

*Proof.* Choose  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a + b\sqrt{2} = \beta, c + d\sqrt{2} = \alpha$ . Since  $\alpha\beta = p \neq 0$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$ . This implies at least one of  $c$  or  $d$  is nonzero. Therefore,  $\gamma(\alpha) = c - d\sqrt{2} \neq 0$ .

We have  $\alpha\beta = (ac + 2bd) + \sqrt{2}(ad + bc)$ . Since  $\alpha\beta \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $ad + bc = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\beta}{\gamma(\alpha)} &= \frac{a + b\sqrt{2}}{c - d\sqrt{2}} \\ &= \frac{(a + b\sqrt{2})(c + d\sqrt{2})}{c^2 - 2d^2} \\ &= \frac{(ac + 2bd) + (ad + bc)\sqrt{2}}{c^2 - 2d^2} \\ &= \frac{ac + 2bd}{c^2 - 2d^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\frac{\beta}{\gamma(\alpha)} = \frac{ac+2bd}{c^2-2d^2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ . In other words,  $\beta = \frac{ac+2bd}{c^2-2d^2}\gamma(\alpha)$ . □

**Exercise.** (Problem 18) Let  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  be an odd prime. Show that  $p = N(\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  if and only if  $p$  is not irreducible as an element of  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ .

*Proof.* By Problem 3 from the previous assignment, we know that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  is a unit if and only if  $N(\alpha) = \pm 1$ . We will use this result in this solution.

Suppose  $p = N(\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ . Since  $N(\alpha) = \alpha\gamma(\alpha)$ ,  $p$  can be written as a product of  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma(\alpha)$ .

- $N(\alpha) = p \neq \pm 1$ , so  $\alpha$  is not a unit.

- Since  $N(\gamma(\alpha)) = \gamma(\alpha)\gamma(\gamma(\alpha)) = \gamma(\alpha)\alpha = N(\alpha) = p \neq \pm 1$ ,  $\gamma(\alpha)$  is not a unit.

Therefore,  $p$  is a product of two non-unit elements  $\alpha, \gamma(\alpha)$ , so  $p$  is not irreducible.

On the other hand, suppose that  $p$  is not irreducible as an element of  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ . Then  $p = \alpha\beta$  where  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  are non-unit elements. Then  $N(p) = N(\alpha)N(\beta)$ .

- $N(p) = p^2$  because  $p$  is an integer.
- $N(\alpha) \neq \pm 1$  because  $\alpha$  is not a unit.
- $N(\beta) \neq \pm 1$  because  $\beta$  is not a unit.

Since  $N(\alpha), N(\beta)$  are both integers,  $N(\alpha) = N(\beta) = p$  or  $N(\alpha) = N(\beta) = -p$ . If  $N(\alpha) = p$ , then we are done. If  $N(\alpha) = -p$ , then  $N(\alpha(1+\sqrt{2})) = N(\alpha)N(1+\sqrt{2}) = (-p)(-1) = p$ .  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 19) Let  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  be an odd prime. Show that  $x^2 - 2y^2 = p$  has a solution if and only if  $p$  is not irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ .

*Proof.* Let an odd prime  $p$  be given. There exists an  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$  such that  $p = N(\alpha)$  if and only if there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $p = x^2 - 2y^2$  because  $N(x + \sqrt{2}y) = x^2 - 2y^2$ . By combining this with the results of Problem 18, we have  $x^2 - 2y^2 = p$  has a solution if and only if  $p$  is not irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ .  $\square$