Number Theory
MATH3431 UNSW

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Definitions: Purple, Theorems: Blue, Properties/Lemmas: Green

Contents

1 The Ring of Integers

1.1 The Set of All Integers

Divisor Let a and b be integers. We say that a is a divisor of b if there exists an integer k such that $b = ka$. If a is a divisor not equal to b we call it a proper divisor.

Divisibility Properties Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

a) If $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$ then $a \mid c$.

b) $a \mid a$.

c) If $a \mid b$ and $b \mid a$ then $b = \pm a$.

d) If $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$ then $a \mid (xb + yc)$ for any $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Euclid's Theorem There are infinitely many primes in $\mathbb{Z}$.

1.2 Ring

Ring A ring consist of a non-empty set R together with two operations defined on elements of R, addition $(+)$ and multiplication (denoted by juxtaposition, or sometimes by $\star$ or $\times$) where all the following properties hold:

1. Closure under addition: if $a, b \in R$ then $a + b \in R$.
2. Commutativity of addition: for all $a, b \in R, a + b = b + a$.
3. Associativity of addition: for all $a, b, c \in R, (a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$.
4. Zero element: There is an element 0 of R such that if $a \in R$ then $a + 0 = a/$
5. Negatives. $\forall a \in R$ there is $-a \in R$ such that $a + (-a) = 0$.
6. Closure under multiplication: if $a, b \in R$ then $ab \in R$.
7. Associativity of multiplication: $\forall a, b, c \in R, (ab)c = a(bc)$.
8. Distributive laws: for all $a, b, c \in R, a(b + c) = ab + ac$ and $(a + b)c = ac + bc$.

Subtraction For any a, b in a ring R, we define $a - b = a + (-b)$

Ring Properities Let R be a ring and $a, b, c \in R$. Then the following hold:

1. if $a + b = a + c$ then $b = c$;
2. 0 is unique and $0a = a0 = 0$;
3. for each $a, -a$ is unique;
4. $a - b = 0$ if and only if $a = b$;

5. $-(ab) = (-a)b = a(-b)$;

6. $ab - ac = a(b - c)$ and $ac - bc = (a - b)c$.

Commutative Ring A commutative ring is a ring R in which multiplication is commutative, that is, $ab = ba$ for all $a, b \in R$.

Identity Element An identity element in the ring R is an element, usually denoted by 1, with the propery that $1a = a1 = a$ for all $a \in R$. Sometimes we are more explicit and call 1 the multiplicative identity.

Divisors of Zero In a ring R, if a and b are non-zero elements such that $ab = 0$, then a and b are called divisors of zero.

Integral Domain An integeral domain is a commutative ring with identity in which there are no divisors of zero. Explicilty, an integral domain is a non-empty set R together with operations of addition and multiplcation, such that the ring axioms (1) - (8) hold as well as the following:

9. Commutativity of multiplication. If $a, b \in R$ then $ab = ba$.

10. Identity element. There exists an element 1 of R such that if $a \in R$ then $1a = a$.

11. No divisors of zero. For all $a, b \in R$, if $ab = 0$ then either $a = 0$ or $b = 0$.

Cancellation Law for Integral Domains Let R be an integral domain and $a, b, c \in R$ and suppose $a \neq 0$. If $ab = ac$ then $b = c$.

1.3 Divisibility in Commutative Rings

Divisors in Rings Let α, β be elements in a commutative ring R. We say that α is a divisor of β, denoted by $\alpha \mid \beta$, if there exists an element κ of R usch that $\beta = \kappa\alpha$.

Unit of Rings Let R be a commutative ring with identity. An element of R having a multiplicative increase is called a unit of R.

Associates, Irreducibles and Primes

- Elements a and b of an integral domain R are called associates if $a = ub$, for some unit u of R.
- An element ρ of the integral domain R is said to be irreducible if it has the property

$$\forall \alpha, \beta \in R, \quad \text{if } \rho = \alpha\beta \text{ then } \alpha \text{ or } \beta \text{ is a unit.}$$

- A non-zero, non-unit element ρ of the integral domain R is said to be prime if it has the property

$$\forall \alpha, \beta \in R, \ \text{if} \rho \mid \alpha\beta \text{ then } \rho \mid \alpha \text{ or } \rho \mid \beta.$$

Primes are Irreducible In an integral domain every prime is irreducible.

Greatest Common Divisor Let a, b be integers, not both zero. Then a positive intger g is the greatest common divisor of a and b if and only if g is a common divisor and every common divisor is a factor of g.

GCD in Rings Let a, b be elements in a commutative ring R. An element $g \in R$ is a greatest common divisor of a and b in R if $g \mid a, g \mid b$ and every common divisor of a and b is a factor of g.

1.4 Ideals

Ideal Let R be a commutative ring with identity. A subset I of R is called an ideal of R if it has the following three proprties:

- 0 is in I.
- If a, b are in I then $a + b$ is in I.
- If $a \in I$ and $x \in R$ then $ax \in I$.

Smallest Ideal Let R be a commutative ring with identity, and $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\} \subset R$. Then the set

$$\{r_1a_1 + \cdots + r_na_n : r_1, \ldots, r_n \in R\}$$

is the smallest ideal of R containing $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$.

Pinrcipal Ideal An ideal I of a ring R is said to be principal if there exists $a \in R$ such that $I = \langle a \rangle = \{ax : x \in R\}$.

Every Ideal is Principal Every ideal in $\mathbb{Z}$ is principal. In particular, if a, b are not both zero then $\langle a, b \rangle = \langle \gcd(a, b) \rangle$.

Principal Ideal Domain A principal ideal domain is an integral domain in which every ideal is principal.

Integral and Principal Ideal Domains Let R be an integral domain.

a. If R has a division algorithm then R is a principal ideal domain.

b. If R is a principal ideal domain, then every non-zero element of R which is not a unit has a unique (up to associates and order) factorisation into irreducibles.

Big-Oh and Little-Oh Notations For two functions $f(x)$, $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$, and $g(x)$, $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^+$, we say that

- $f(x) = O(g(x))$ iff $\limsup_{x\to\infty} |f(x)| / g(x) < \infty$ or, alternatively iff there is a constant $c > 0$ such that $|f(x)| \leq cg(x)$ for all sufficiently large x.

- $f(x) = o(g(x))$ iff $\lim_{x\to\infty} |f(x)|/g(x) = 0$ or, alternatively, iff for any $\epsilon > 0$ we have $|f(x)| \leq \epsilon g(x)$ for all sufficiently large x.

Prime Number Theorem (PNT) For $x \to \infty$, we have

$$\pi(x) = \frac{x}{\log x} + o\left(\frac{x}{\log x}\right) = (1 + o(1))\frac{x}{\log x}.$$