

Abstract Algebra Theorems and Definitions

MTH 411 - Fall 2023

0 Preliminaries

- **Axiom Well Ordering Principle:** Every nonempty set of positive integers contains a smallest element.
- **Definition Equivalence Relation:** An *equivalence relation* on a set S is a set R of ordered pairs of elements of S such that
 1. $(a, a) \in R \ \forall a \in S$ (reflexive property).
 2. $(a, b) \in R$ implies $(b, a) \in R$ (symmetric property).
 3. $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, c) \in R$ imply that $(a, c) \in R$ (transitive property).
- **Definition Function (mapping):** A *function* ϕ from a set A to a set B is a rule that assigns to each element a of A exactly one element b of B . The set A is called the *domain* of ϕ , and B is called the *range* of ϕ . If ϕ assigns b to a , then b is called the *image of a under ϕ* . The subset of B comprising all the images of elements of A is called the *image of A under ϕ* .
- **Definition Composition of Functions:** Let $\phi : A \mapsto B$ and $\psi : B \mapsto C$. The *composition* $\psi\phi$ is the mapping from A to C defined by
$$(\psi\phi)(a) = \psi(\phi(a)), \ \forall a \in A.$$
- **Definition One-to-One Functions (injection):** A function ϕ from a set A is called *one-to-one* if for every $a_1, a_2 \in A$, $\phi(a_1) = \phi(a_2)$ implies $a_1 = a_2$.
- **Definition Onto Functions (surjection):** A function ϕ from a set A to a set B is said to be *onto* if each element of B is the image of at least one element of A . In symbols, $\phi : A \mapsto B$ is onto if for each $b \in B$ there is at least one $a \in A$ such that $\phi(a) = b$.
- **Theorem Division Algorithm:** Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $b > 0$. Then there exist unique integers q, r with the property that $a = bq + r$, where $0 \leq r < b$.
- **Theorem GCD is a Linear Combination:** For any nonzero integers a and b , there exist integers s and t such that $\gcd(a, b) = as + bt$. Moreover, $\gcd(a, b)$ is the smallest positive integer of the form $as + bt$.
- **Lemma Euclid's Lemma:** Let p be a prime, and let a, b be integers. If $p|ab$ then $p|a$ or $p|b$.

- **Theorem Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:** Every integer greater than 1 is a prime or product of primes. This product is unique, except for the order in which the factors appear. That is, if $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r$ and $n = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_s$, where the p 's and q 's are primes, then $r = s$ and, after renumbering the q 's, we have $p_i = q_i$ for all i .
- **Theorem First Principle of Mathematical Induction:** Let S be a set of integers containing a . Suppose S has the property that whenever some integer $n \geq a$ belongs to S , then the integer $n + 1$ also belongs to S . Then, S contains every integer greater than or equal to a .
- **Theorem Second Principle of Mathematical Induction:** Let S be a set of integers containing a . Suppose S has the property that n belongs to S whenever every integer less than n and greater than or equal to a belongs to S . Then, S contains every integer greater than or equal to a .
- **Theorem DeMoivre's Theorem:** For every positive integer n and every real number θ , $(\cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta))^n = \cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta$.

1 Introduction to Groups

- **Other? D_4 (Symmetries of a Square):** $D_4 = \{R_0, R_{90}, R_{180}, R_{270}, H, V, D, D'\}$.
- **Other? D_n (Dihedral Groups):** $D_n = \{R_0, R_{\frac{360}{n}}, \dots, R_{(n-1) \cdot \frac{360}{n}}\} + n$ other flips across lines.

2 Groups

- **Definition Binary Operation:** Let G be a set. A *binary operation* on G is a function that assigns each ordered pair of elements of G an element of G .
- **Definition Group:** Let G be a set together with binary operation (usually called multiplication) that assigns to each ordered pair (a, b) of elements of G an element in G denoted by ab . We say G is a *group* under this operation if the following three properties are satisfied.
 1. *Associativity.* The operation is associative; that is, $(ab)c = a(bc)$ for all $a, b, c \in G$.
 2. *Identity.* There is an element e (called the *identity*) in G such that $ae = ea = a$ for all $a \in G$.
 3. *Inverses.* For each element a in G , there is an element b in G (called an *inverse* of a) such that $ab = ba = e$.
- **Theorem Uniqueness of Identity:** In a group G , there is only one identity element.
- **Theorem Uniqueness of Inverses:** For each element a in a group G , there is a unique element $b \in G$ such that $ab = ba = e$.
- **Theorem Cancellation:** In a group G , the right and left cancellation laws hold; that is, $ba = ca$ implies $b = c$ and $ab = ac$ implies $b = c$.

- **Theorem Socks-Shoes:** For group elements a and b , $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$.

3 Finite Groups; Subgroups

- **Definition Order of a Group:** The number of elements of a group (finite or infinite) is called its *order*. We will use $|G|$ to denote the order of G .
- **Definition Order of an Element:** The order of an element g in a group G is the smallest integer n such that $g^n = e$ (in additive notation, this would be $ng = 0$). If no such integer exists, we say that g has *infinite order*. The order of an element g is denoted $|g|$.
- **Definition Subgroup:** If a subset H of a group G is itself a group under the operation of G , we say that H is a *subgroup* of G .
- **Definition Center of a Group:** The *center*, $Z(G)$, of a group G is the subset of elements in G that commute with every element of G . In symbols,

$$Z(G) = \{a \in G \mid ax = xa, x \in G\}.$$

- **Definition Centralizer of a in G :** Let a be a fixed element of a group G . The *centralizer of a in G* , $C(a)$, is the set of all elements in G that commute with a . In symbols,

$$C(a) = \{g \in G \mid ga = ag\}.$$

- **Theorem One-Step Subgroup Test:** Let G be a group and H a nonempty subset of G . If ab^{-1} is in H whenever a, b are in H , then H is a subgroup of G (in additive notation, if $a - b$ is in H whenever a, b are in H , then H is a subgroup of G).
- **Theorem Two-Step Subgroup Test:** Let G be a group and let H be a nonempty subset of G . If ab is in H whenever a, b are in H (H is closed under the operation), and a^{-1} is in H whenever a is in H (H is closed under taking inverses), then H is a subgroup of G .
- **Theorem Finite Subgroup Test:** Let H be a nonempty finite subset of a group G . If H is closed under the operation G , then H is a subgroup of G .
- **Theorem Center of a Subgroup:** The center of a group G is a subgroup of G .
- **Theorem $C(a)$ is a Subgroup:** For each a in a group G , the centralizer of a is a subgroup of G .

4 Cyclic Groups

- **Definition Euler φ -Function:** Let $\varphi(1) = 1$, and for any integer $n > 1$, let $\varphi(n)$ denote the number of positive integers less than n and relatively prime to n .

- **Theorem Criterion for $a^i = a^j$:** Let G be a group, and let $a \in G$. If a has infinite order, then $a^i = a^j$ if and only if $i = j$. If a has finite order, say n , then $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$ and $a^i = a^j$ if and only if $n|i - j$.
- **Corollary $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$:** For any group element a , $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$.
- **Corollary $a^k = e$ Implies That $|a|$ divides k :** Let G be a group and let a be an element of order n in G . If $a^k = e$, then n divides k .
- **Corollary Relationship Between $|ab|$ and $|a||b|$:** If a and b belong to a finite group and $ab = ba$, then $|ab|$ divides $|a||b|$.
- **Theorem $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$ and $|a^k| = n/\gcd(n,k)$:** Let a be an element of order n in a group and let k be a positive integer. Then $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$ and $|a^k| = n/\gcd(n,k)$.
- **Corollary Orders of Elements in Finite Cyclic Groups:** In a finite cyclic group, the order of an element divides the order of a group.
- **Corollary Criterion for $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ and $|a^i| = |a^j|$:** Let $|a| = n$. Then $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ if and only if $\gcd(n,i) = \gcd(n,j)$, and $|a^i| = |a^j|$ if and only if $\gcd(n,i) = \gcd(n,j)$.
- **Corollary Generators of Finite Cyclic Groups:** Let $|a| = n$. Then $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ if and only if $\gcd(n,j) = 1$, and $|a| = |\langle a^j \rangle|$ if and only if $\gcd(n,j) = 1$.
- **Corollary Generators of \mathbb{Z}_n :** An integer $k \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ is a generator of \mathbb{Z}_n if and only if $\gcd(n,k) = 1$.
- **Theorem The Fundamental Theorem of Cyclic Groups:** Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Moreover, if $|\langle a \rangle| = n$, then the order of any subgroup of $\langle a \rangle$ is a divisor of n ; and, for each positive divisor k of n , the group $\langle a \rangle$ has exactly one subgroup of order k —namely, $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$.
- **Corollary Subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_n :** For each positive divisor k of n , the set $\langle n/k \rangle$ is the unique subgroup of \mathbb{Z}_n of order k ; moreover, these are the only subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_n .
- **Theorem Number of Elements of Each Order in a Cyclic Group:** If d is a positive divisor of n , the number of elements of order d in a cyclic group of order n is $\varphi(d)$.

5 Permutation Groups

- **Definition Permutation of A:** A *permutation* of a set A is a function from A to A that is both one-to-one and onto.
- **Theorem Products of Disjoint Cycles:** Every permutation of a finite set can be written as a cycle or as a product of disjoint cycles.
- **Theorem Disjoint Cycles Commute:** If the pair of cycles $\alpha = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$ and $\beta = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m)$ have no entries in common, then $\alpha\beta = \beta\alpha$.

- **Theorem Order of a Permutation:** The order of permutation of a finite set written in disjoint cycle form is the least common multiple of the lengths of the cycles.
- **Theorem Product of 2-Cycles:** Every permutation in S_n , $n > 1$, is a product of 2-cycles.
- **Theorem Always Even or Always Odd:** If a permutation α can be expressed as a product of an even (odd) number of 2-cycles, then every decomposition of α into a product of 2-cycles must have an even (odd) number of 2-cycles. In symbols, if

$$\alpha = \beta_1\beta_2 \cdots \beta_r \text{ and } \alpha = \gamma_1\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_s,$$

where the β 's and γ 's are 2-cycles, then r and s are both even or both odd.

- **Definition Even/Odd Permutations:** A permutation that can be expressed as a product of an even number of 2-cycles is called an *even* permutation. A permutation that can be expressed as a product of an odd number of 2-cycles is called an *odd* permutation.
- **Theorem Even Permutations From a Group:** The set of even permutations in S_n forms a subgroup of S_n .
- **Definition Alternating Group A_n :** The group of even permutations of n symbols is denoted by A_n and is called the *alternating group of degree n* .
- **Theorem $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$:** For $n > 1$, A_n has order $\frac{n!}{2}$.

6 Isomorphisms

- **Definition Group Isomorphism:** An *isomorphism* ϕ from a group G onto a group \overline{G} is a one-to-one mapping from G onto \overline{G} that preserves the group operation. That is,

$$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b) \quad \forall a, b \in G.$$

If there is an isomorphism from G onto \overline{G} , we say that G and \overline{G} are *isomorphic* and write $G \approx \overline{G}$.

- **Theorem Cayley's Theorem:** Every group is isomorphic to a group of permutations.
- **Theorem Properties of Isomorphisms (acting on elements):** Suppose that ϕ is an isomorphism from a group G onto a group \overline{G} . Then,
 1. ϕ carries the identity of G to the identity of \overline{G} .
 2. For every integer n and for every group element $a \in G$, $\phi(a^n) = [\phi(a)]^n$.
 3. For any elements $a, b \in G$, a and b commute if and only if $\phi(a)$ and $\phi(b)$ commute.

4. $G = \langle a \rangle$ if and only if $\overline{G} = \langle \phi(a) \rangle$.
 5. $|a| = |\phi(a)|$ for all $a \in G$.
 6. For a fixed integer k and a fixed group element $b \in G$, the equation $x^k = b$ has the same number of solutions in G as does the equation $x^k = \phi(b)$ in \overline{G} .
 7. If G is finite, then G and \overline{G} have exactly the same number of elements of every order.
- **Theorem Properties of Isomorphisms (acting on groups):** Suppose that ϕ is an isomorphism from a group G onto a group \overline{G} . Then,
 1. ϕ^{-1} is an isomorphism from \overline{G} onto G .
 2. G is Abelian if and only if \overline{G} is Abelian.
 3. G is cyclic if and only if \overline{G} is cyclic.
 4. If K is a subgroup of G , then $\phi(K) = \{\phi(k) | k \in K\}$ is a subgroup of \overline{G} .
 5. If \overline{K} is a subgroup of \overline{G} , then $\phi^{-1}(\overline{K}) = \{g \in G | \phi(g) \in \overline{K}\}$ is a subgroup of G .
 6. $\phi(Z(G)) = Z(\overline{G})$.
 - **Definition Automorphism:** An isomorphism from a group G onto itself is called an automorphism.
 - **Definition Inner Automorphism induced by a :** Let G be a group, and let $a \in G$. The function ϕ_a defined by $\phi_a(x) = axa^{-1}$, $\forall x \in G$ is called the *inner automorphism of G induced by a* .
 - **Theorem Aut(G) and Inn(G) Are Groups:** The set of automorphisms of a group and the set of inner automorphisms of a group are both groups under the operation of function composition.
 - **Theorem Aut(Z_n) \approx $U(n)$:** For every positive integer n , $\text{Aut}(Z_n)$ is isomorphic to $U(n)$.

7 Cosets and La Grange's Theorem

- **Definition Coset of H in G :** Let G be a group and let H be a nonempty subset of G . For any $a \in G$, the set $\{ah | h \in H\}$ is denoted by aH . Analogously, $Ha = \{ha | h \in H\}$ and $aHa^{-1} = \{aHa^{-1} | h \in H\}$. When H is a subgroup of G , the set aH is called the *left coset of H in G containing a* , whereas Ha is called the *right coset of H in G containing a* . In this case, the element a is called the *coset representative of aH (or Ha)*.
- **Theorem Properties of Cosets:** Let H be a subgroup of G , and let $a, b \in G$. Then,
 1. $a \in aH$.
 2. $aH = H$ if and only if $a \in H$.

3. $(ab)H = a(bH)$ and $H(ab) = (Ha)b$.
 4. $aH = bH$ if and only if $a \in bH$.
 5. $aH = bH$ or $aH \cap bH = \emptyset$.
 6. $aH = bH$ if and only if $a^{-1}b \in H$.
 7. $|aH| = |bH|$.
 8. $aH = Ha$ if and only if $H = aHa^{-1}$.
 9. aH is a subgroup of G if and only if $a \in H$.
- **Theorem La Grange's Theorem:** If G is a finite group and H is a subgroup of G , then $|H|$ divides $|G|$. Moreover, the number of distinct left (right) cosets of H in G is $|G|/|H|$.
 - **Corollary** $|G : H| = |G|/|H|$: If G is a finite group and $H \leq G$, then $|G : H| = |G|/|H|$.
 - **Corollary** $|a|$ divides $|G|$: In a finite group, the order of each element of the group divides the order of the group.
 - **Corollary Groups of Prime Order are Cyclic:** A group of prime order is cyclic.
 - **Corollary** $a^{|G|} = e$: Let G be a finite group, and let $a \in G$. Then $a^{|G|} = e$.
 - **Corollary Fermat's Little Theorem:** For every integer a and every prime p , $a^p \bmod p = a \bmod p$.
 - **Theorem** $|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}$: For two finite subgroups H and K of a group, define the set $HK = \{hk | h \in H, k \in K\}$. Then $|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}$.
 - **Theorem Classification of Groups of Order $2p$:** (SKIPPED FOR NOW)
 - **Definition Stabilizer of a Point:** Let G be a group of permutations of a set S . For each $i \in S$, let $\text{stab}_G(i) = \{\phi \in G | \phi(i) = i\}$. We call $\text{stab}_G(i)$ the *stabilizer* of i in G .
 - **Definition Orbit of a Point:** Let G be a group of permutations of a set S . For each $i \in S$, let $\text{orb}_G(i) = \{\phi(i) | \phi \in G\}$. The set $\text{orb}_G(i)$ is a subset of S called the *orbit of i under G* . We use $|\text{orb}_G(i)|$ to denote the number of elements in $\text{orb}_G(i)$.
 - **Theorem Orbit-Stabilizer Theorem:** Let G be a finite group of permutations of a set S . Then, for any $i \in S$, $|G| = |\text{orb}_G(i)| |\text{stab}_G(i)|$.

8 External Direct Products

- **Definition External Direct Product:** Let G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n be a finite collection of groups. The *external direct product* of G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n , written

as $G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus G_n$, is the set of all n -tuples for which the i th component is an element of G_i and the operation is component wise.

$$G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus G_n = \{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) \mid g_i \in G_i\}$$

- **Other Example Classification of Groups of Order 4:** A group of order 4 is isomorphic to Z_4 or $Z_2 \oplus Z_2$.
- **Theorem Order of an Element in a Direct Product:** The order of an element in a direct product of a finite number of finite groups is the least common multiple of the orders of the components of the element. In symbols,

$$|(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n)| = \text{lcm}(|g_1|, |g_2|, \dots, |g_n|).$$

- **Theorem Criterion for $G \oplus H$ to be Cyclic:** Let G and H be finite cyclic groups. Then $G \oplus H$ is cyclic if and only if $|G|$ and $|H|$ are relatively prime.

9 Normal Subgroups and Factor Groups

- **Definition Normal Subgroup:** A subgroup H of a group G is called a *normal* subgroup of G if $aH = Ha$, $\forall a \in G$. We denote this by $H \trianglelefteq G$.
- **Theorem Normal Subgroup Test:** A subgroup H of G is normal if and only if $xHx^{-1} \subseteq H$, $\forall x \in G$.
- **Theorem Factor Groups:** Let G be a group and let H be a normal subgroup of G . The set $G/H = \{aH \mid a \in G\}$ is a group under the operation $(aH)(bH) = abH$.
- **Theorem G/Z Theorem:** Let G be a group and let $Z(G)$ be the center of G . If $G/Z(G)$ is cyclic, the G is abelian.
- **Theorem $G/Z(G) \approx \text{Inn}(G)$:** For any group G , $G/Z(G)$ is isomorphic to $\text{Inn}(G)$.
- **Theorem Cauchy's Theorem for Abelian Groups:** Let G be a finite Abelian group and let p be a prime that divides the order of G . Then G has an element of order p .
- **Definition Internal Direct Product:** We say G is the *internal direct product* of H and K and write $G = H \times K$ if H and K are normal subgroups of G and,

$$G = HK \text{ and } H \cap K = \{e\}.$$

- **Theorem Classification of Groups of Order p^2 :** Every Group of order p^2 , where p is a prime, is isomorphic to $Z(p^2)$ or $Z_p \oplus Z_p$.

10 Group Homomorphisms

- **Definition Group Homomorphism:** A *homomorphism* ϕ from a group G to a group \overline{G} is a mapping from G into \overline{G} that preserves the group operation; that is, $\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$ for all $a, b \in G$.
- **Definition Kernel of a Homomorphism:** The *kernel* of a homomorphism ϕ from a group G to a group with identity e is the set $\{x \in G | \phi(x) = e\}$. The kernel of ϕ is denoted by $\text{Ker}\phi$.
- **Theorem Properties of Elements Under Homomorphisms:** Let ϕ be a homomorphism from a group G to a group \overline{G} and let g be an element of G . Then,
 1. ϕ carries the identity of G to the identity of \overline{G} .
 2. $\phi(g^n) = (\phi(g))^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
 3. If $|g|$ is finite, then $|\phi(g)|$ divides $|g|$.
 4. $\text{Ker}\phi$ is a subgroup of G .
 5. $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$ if and only if $a\text{Ker}\phi = b\text{Ker}\phi$.
 6. If $\phi(g) = g'$, then $\phi^{-1}(g') = \{x \in G | \phi(x) = g'\} = g\text{Ker}\phi$.
- **Theorem Properties of Subgroups Under Homomorphisms:** Let ϕ be a homomorphism from a group G to a group \overline{G} and let H be a subgroup of G . Then,
 1. $\phi(H) = \{\phi(h) | h \in H\}$ is a subgroup of \overline{G} .
 2. If H is cyclic, then $\phi(H)$ is cyclic.
 3. If H is Abelian, then $\phi(H)$ is Abelian.
 4. If H is normal in G , then $\phi(H)$ is normal in $\phi(G)$.
 5. If $|\text{Ker}\phi| = n$, then ϕ is an n -to-1 mapping from G onto $\phi(G)$.
 6. If $|H| = n$, then $|\phi(H)|$ divides n .
 7. If \overline{K} is a subgroup of \overline{G} , then $\phi^{-1}(\overline{K}) = \{k \in G | \phi(k) \in \overline{K}\}$ is a subgroup of G .
 8. If \overline{K} is a normal subgroup of \overline{G} , then $\phi^{-1}(\overline{K}) = \{k \in G | \phi(k) \in \overline{K}\}$ is a normal subgroup of G .
 9. If ϕ is onto and $\text{Ker}\phi = \{e\}$, then ϕ is an isomorphism from G to \overline{G} .
- **Corollary Kernels Are Normal:** Let ϕ be a group homomorphism from G to \overline{G} . Then $\text{Ker}\phi$ is a normal subgroup of G .
- **Theorem First Isomorphism Theorem:** Let ϕ be a group homomorphism from G to \overline{G} . Then the mapping from $G/\text{Ker}\phi$ to $\phi(G)$, given by $g\text{Ker}\phi \rightarrow \phi(g)$, is an isomorphism. In symbols, $G/\text{Ker}\phi \approx \phi(G)$.
- **Corollary $|\phi(G)|$ Divides $|G|$ and $|\overline{G}|$:** If ϕ is a homomorphism from a finite group G to \overline{G} , then $|\phi(G)|$ divides $|G|$ and $|\overline{G}|$.

- **Theorem Normal Subgroups Are Kernels:** Every normal subgroup of a group G is the kernel of a homomorphism of G . In particular; a normal subgroup N is the kernel of the mapping $g \longrightarrow gN$ from G to G/N .

11 Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups

- **Theorem Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups:** Every finite Abelian group is a direct product of cyclic groups of prime-power order. Moreover, the number of terms in the product and the orders of the cyclic groups are uniquely determined by the group.

12 Introduction to Rings

- **Definition Ring:** A *ring* R is a set with two binary operations, addition (denoted by $a + b$) and multiplication (denoted by ab), such that for all $a, b, c \in R$:
 1. $a + b = b + a$.
 2. $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$.
 3. There is an additive identity 0 . That is, there is an element 0 in R such that $a + 0 = a$ for all $a \in R$.
 4. There is an element $-a \in R$ such that $a + (-a) = 0$.
 5. $a(bc) = (ab)c$.
 6. $a(b + c) = ab + ac$ and $(b + c)a = ba + ca$.
- **Theorem Rules of Multiplication:** Let a, b, c belong to a ring R . Then,
 1. $a0 = 0a = 0$.
 2. $a(-b) = (-a)b = -(ab)$.
 3. $(-a)(-b) = ab$.
 4. $a(b - c) = ab - ac$ and $(b - c)a = ba - ca$.

Furthermore, if R has a unity element 1 , then

5. $(-1)a = -a$.
 6. $(-1)(-1) = 1$.
- **Theorem Uniqueness of the Unity and Inverses:** If a ring has a unity, it is unique. If a ring element has a multiplicative inverse, it is unique.
 - **Definition Subring:** A subset S of a ring R is a *subring* of R if S is itself a ring with the operations of R .
 - **Theorem Subring Test:** A nonempty subset S of a ring R is a subring if S is closed under subtraction and multiplication, that is, if $a - b$ and ab are in S whenever $a, b \in S$.

13 Integral Domains

- **Definition Zero-Divisors:** A *zero-divisor* is a nonzero element a of a commutative ring R such that there is a nonzero element $b \in R$ with $ab = 0$.
- **Definition Integral Domains:** An *integral domain* is a commutative ring with unity and no zero-divisors.
- **Theorem Cancellation:** Let a, b, c belong to an integral domain. If $a \neq 0$ and $ab = ac$, then $b = c$.
- **Definition Field:** A *field* is a commutative ring with unity in which every nonzero element is a unit.
- **Theorem Finite Integral Domains are Fields:** A finite integral domain is a field.
- **Corollary \mathbb{Z}_p is a Field:** For every prime p , \mathbb{Z}_p , the ring of integers modulo p , is a field.
- **Definition Characteristic of a Ring:** The *characteristic* of a ring R is the least positive integer n such that $nx = 0$ for all $x \in R$. If no such integer exists, we say R has characteristic 0. The characteristic of R is denoted by $\text{char } R$.

14 Ideals and Factor Rings

- **Definition Ideal:** A subring A of a ring R is called a (two-sided) *ideal* of R if for every $r \in R$ and every $a \in A$, both ar and ra are in A .
- **Theorem Ideal Test:** A nonempty subset A of a ring R is an ideal of R if
 1. $a - b \in A$ whenever $a, b \in A$.
 2. ra and ar are in A whenever $a \in A$ and $r \in R$.
- **Theorem Existence of Factor Rings:** Let R be a ring and let A be a subring of R . The set of cosets $\{r + A \mid r \in R\}$ is a ring under the operations $(s + A) + (t + A) = s + t + A$ and $(s + A)(t + A) = st + A$ if and only if A is an ideal of R .
- **Definition Prime Ideal:** A *prime ideal* A of a commutative ring R is a proper ideal of R such that $a, b \in R$ and $ab \in A$ imply $a \in A$ or $b \in A$.
- **Definition Maximal Ideal:** A *maximal ideal* of a commutative ring R is a proper ideal of R such that, whenever B is an ideal of R and $A \subseteq B \subseteq R$, then $B = A$ or $B = R$.
- **Theorem R/A Is an Integral Domain If and Only If A Is Prime:** Let R be a commutative ring with unity and let A be an ideal of R . Then, R/A is an integral domain if and only if A is prime.

- **Theorem R/A Is an Field If and Only If A Is Maximal:** Let R be a commutative ring with unity and let A be an ideal of R . Then R/A is a field if and only if A is maximal.