

Exercise 15.42: Determine all ring homomorphisms from \mathbb{Q} to \mathbb{Q} .

Suppose $\phi : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is a homomorphism. Suppose $\phi(1) = a$. Note that $a^2 = a$ and thus either $a = 1$ or $a = 0$.

In the case that $a = 0$, $\phi(n/m) = \phi(n) * \phi(1/m) = n\phi(1) * \phi(1/m) = n * 0 * \phi(1/m) = 0$.

In the case where $a = 1$, note that for any integer m , $\phi(m^{-1}) * \phi(m) = \phi(1) = 1$ and thus $\phi(m^{-1}) = \phi(m)^{-1}$. Note that $\phi(n/m) = \phi(n)[\phi(m)]^{-1} = n\phi(1)[m\phi(1)]^{-1} = n1[m1]^{-1} = n[m]^{-1} = n/m$.

We have now found the only two possible homomorphisms, note that both are actually homomorphisms:

$$x \rightarrow 0$$

$$x \rightarrow x$$

Exercise 15.44: Let R be a commutative ring of prime characteristic p . Show that the Frobenius map $\phi : x \rightarrow x^p$ is a ring homomorphism from R to R .

Note that $\phi(a+b) = (a+b)^p = \sum_{k=0}^p \alpha_k a^k b^{p-k}$ for some integers α_k . Note that the number of copies of $a^k b^{p-k}$ appearing here is exactly how many ways we can choose which term to take the a 's from in $(a+b) * \dots * (a+b)$ which is $\binom{p}{k}$ (for more info read about Pascal's triangle), thus $\alpha_k = \binom{p}{k} = \frac{p!}{(p-k)!k!}$.

Consider α_k when $k \neq 0$ and $k \neq p$. In this case note that p will be one of the multiples in $p!$ but not in $(p-k)!k!$ in other words p appears in the prime factorization of the top but not in the prime factorization of the bottom of $\frac{p!}{(p-k)!k!}$ (here we are using the fact that p is prime). Note that in the reduced form of $\frac{p!}{(p-k)!k!}$, p must still appear in the top thus noting that in the reduced form the bottom must be 1 since α_k is a integer we conclude that $p \mid \alpha_k$.

Define β_k for $2 \leq k \leq p-1$ such that $p\beta_k = \alpha_k$.

Now note that $\phi(a+b) = \sum_{k=0}^p \alpha_k a^k b^{p-k} = a^p + b^p + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \alpha_k a^k b^{p-k} = a^p + b^p + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \beta_k p(a^k b^{p-k}) = a^p + b^p + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \beta_k 0_R = a^p + b^p = \phi(a) + \phi(b)$, thus ϕ preserves addition.

Note that $\phi(ab) = [ab]^p = a^p b^p = \phi(a)\phi(b)$ thus ϕ is operation preserving under multiplication. Note that ϕ is a homomorphism.

Exercise 15.46: Show that a homomorphism from a field onto a ring with more than one element must be an isomorphism.

Let F be a field and $R \neq \{0_R\}$ be a ring. Suppose ϕ is a homomorphism from F onto R . Note that $\ker(\phi)$ must be an ideal in F . Note that the only ideals in a field are $\{0_F\}$ and F . Choose $a \in R - \{0_R\}$. Note that there must exist $a' \in F$ such that $\phi(a') = a$ thus $a' \notin \ker(\phi)$ and thus $\ker(\phi) \neq F$. Note that $\ker(\phi) = \{0_F\}$, thus ϕ is an isomorphism.

Exercise 15.48: A principal ideal ring is a ring with the property that every ideal has the form $\langle a \rangle$. Show that the homomorphic image of a principal ideal ring is a principal ideal ring.

Suppose R is a principal ideal ring and ϕ is a homomorphism to some other ring, let $\phi(R) = H$, thus ϕ becomes a homomorphism from R onto H . Let $K = \phi(\langle a \rangle) = \phi(\{r * a \mid r \in R\}) = \{\phi(r * a) \mid r \in R\} = \{\phi(r) * \phi(a) \mid r \in R\} = \{h * \phi(a) \mid h \in \phi(R)\} = \{h * \phi(a) \mid h \in H\} = \langle \phi(a) \rangle$ in the ring H . Thus the homomorphic image of a principal ideal ring is

a principal ideal ring.

Exercise 15.53: Determine all ring homomorphisms from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} .

Note that \mathbb{R} is a field and thus the ideals are $\{0\}$ and \mathbb{R} . Suppose ϕ is a homomorphism from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} . Note that $\ker(\phi)$ is ideal and thus $\ker(\phi) = \{0\}$ or $\ker(\phi) = \mathbb{R}$.

In the case that $\ker(\phi) = \mathbb{R}$, we only have one possibility for ϕ and that is $\phi(x) = 0$.

In the case that $\ker(\phi) = \{0\}$ note that $\phi(1) = 1$ and ϕ is an isomorphism. Note that if $n \in \mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $\phi(n) = \phi(n * 1) = n\phi(1) = n$ thus ϕ acts as identity on \mathbb{N} . Note that if $(-n) \in (-1) * \mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ then $\phi(-n) + n = \phi(-n) + \phi(n) = \phi(0) = 0$ thus $\phi(-n) = -n$ and we know that ϕ acts as identity on all of \mathbb{Z} . If $q/p \in \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ then $\phi(q/p) = \phi(q)\phi(p^{-1}) = \phi(q)\phi(p)^{-1} = qp^{-1} = q/p$ thus ϕ acts as identity on all of \mathbb{Q} .

Exercise 15.56: