Facts about Rings of Fractions

1 Introduction

Fact 1.1. *If $0 \in S$, then $S^{-1}A$ is a trivial ring.*

Proof. Any $(a, s), (a', s')$ are related because $(as' - a's) \cdot 0 = 0$ with $0 \in S$. □

Fact 1.2. *For A a field, and $S = \{-1, 1\}$, $S^{-1}A \cong A$.*

Proof. It is easily verified that the standard isomorphism from A to $S^{-1}A$ is 1-1 and onto. □

Fact 1.3. *For A a field, and S a multiplicatively closed subset of A not containing zero, $S^{-1}A \cong A$.*

Proof. The standard homomorphism $f : a \mapsto a/1$ of A into $S^{-1}A$ is injectve: if $a/1 = a'/1$ then $a \cdot 1 = a1 \cdot 1$, then $a = a'$. It is surjective: $f(as^{-1}) = f(a)f(s^{-1}) = (a/1)(s^{-1}/1) = \ldots$, but $s^{-1}/1 = 1/s$ as $s^{-1}s = 1 \cdot 1$; continuing, $\ldots = (a/1)(1/s) = a/s$. □

Fact 1.4. *For A a field, and S a multiplicatively closed subset of A not containing zero, $S^{-1}A \cong A$.*

Proof. The standard homomorphism $f : a \mapsto a/1$ of A into $S^{-1}A$ is injectve: if $a/1 = a'/1$ then $a \cdot 1 = a1 \cdot 1$, then $a = a'$. It is surjective: $f(as^{-1}) = f(a)f(s^{-1}) = (a/1)(s^{-1}/1) = \ldots$, but $s^{-1}/1 = 1/s$ as $s^{-1}s = 1 \cdot 1$; continuing, $\ldots = (a/1)(1/s) = a/s$. □

Fact 1.5. *For A a field, the ring of fractions and the field of fractions are isomorphic.*

Proof. For isomorphism of A with its field of fractions, see Math Exchange 79188. About the isomorphism with its ring of fractions, is the fact above. □

Example 1.6. *Some example.*

Fact 1.7. *The quotient ring A/I can be viewed as an A-module, and then the ring of fractions $T^{-1}(A/I)$, where T is the image of S in A/I, equals the module of fractions $S^{-1}(A/I)$.*

Proof. On the left, the relation is in $(A/I) \times T$: $([a], [s]) \equiv ([a'], [s'])$ iff $([a][s'] - [a'][s])[s''] = [0]$ iff $[as's'' - a'ss''] = [0]$. On the right, the relation works in $(A/I) \times S$: $([a], s) \equiv ([a'], s')$ iff $s''(s'[a] - s[a']) = [0]$ iff $[as's'' - a'ss''] = [0]$. The conditions are identical so the classes must be in bijective correspondence. However, they are not identical as sets, so saying *equals* is too much. □

2 Saturated

Fact 2.1. *For saturated S, if $f(a)$ is a unit in $S^{-1}A$, then $a \in S$.*

Proof.

$$\frac{a}{1} \cdot \frac{b}{t} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$\frac{ab}{t} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$(ab, t) \equiv (1, 1)$$

$$(ab - t)u = 0$$

$$abu = tu$$

$$abu \in S$$

As S is saturated, $a \in S$. $\square$