

## Ideals and Quotient rings L14/1

An integral domain  $R$  is called Principal ideal domain (PID) if every ideal in  $R$  is a principal ideal, i.e.  $A = Rx$  for some  $x \in R$ .

Example:  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a principal ideal domain because every ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a principal ideal.

In any ring  $R$ , for every element  $x \in R$ ,  $Rx = \{ax \mid a \in R\}$  are principal ideals in  $R$ .

For a field  $K$ , what are the ideals?

$\{0\}$  is always a ideal.  $Kx$  is a ideal.

It is obvious  $Kx \subseteq K$ .  $x \neq 0$

However, consider  $x^{-1} \in K \Rightarrow x^{-1} \cdot x = 1 \in Kx$ .

Any element  $a \in K \Rightarrow (a \cdot x^{-1})x \in Kx \Rightarrow K \subseteq Kx$

Therefore  $Kx = K$ .

14.1 lemma In any ring  $R$ ,  $x \neq 0$  in  $R$ ,  $Rx$   
 $Rx = R \iff x \in R^\times$

Proof: (1) If  $x \in R^\times \Rightarrow \exists y \in R^*$  such that  $y \cdot x = 1$   
 $\Rightarrow y \cdot x = 1 \in Rx$ . Consider any element  
 $a \in R$ .  $a \cdot y \cdot x = a \in Rx \Rightarrow R \subseteq Rx$ .

It is obvious that  $Rx \subseteq R$ .

Therefore  $Rx = R$ .

(2) Let  $Rx = R \Rightarrow \exists y \in R$  such that  $y \cdot x = 1$   
 $\Rightarrow x \in R^\times$ .

14.2 Proposition: Any ring  $R$  is a field if  $0, R$  are the only fields ideals in  $R$ .

Proof: Consider any ~~element~~ ideal  $A$  of a field  $R$ .

If  $x \in A$ , then  $x^{-1} \in R \Rightarrow x \cdot x^{-1} = 1 \in A$ .

Therefore any element  $a \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot x \cdot x^{-1} \in A$ .

Since  $A \subseteq R$ , &  $R \subseteq A \Rightarrow R = A$ . (This proof is true only if  $A \neq \{0\}$ .) Therefore, any ideal of a field is either  $R$  or  $0$ .

For the converse, it is enough to show that  $R^* \subseteq R^x$ . (Note  $R^x \subseteq R^*$ ). Let  $x \in R^*$  ( $x \neq 0$ ).

$Rx$  is an ideal. Since the only ideals are  $\{0\}$  and  $R$ ,  $Rx = R$ . From lemma 14.1,  $x \in R^x$ .

Therefore  $(R^*, \cdot)$  is a group.  $\Rightarrow R$  is a field.

If  $R \xrightarrow{\phi} R'$  is a ring homomorphism, then

$\text{Ker } \phi = \{x \in R \mid \phi(x) = 0\} \subseteq R$  is an ideal in  $R$

$x \in \text{Ker } \phi, a \in R \Rightarrow \phi(ax) = \phi(a)\phi(x) = 0$

$0 \in \text{Ker } \phi, x, y \in \text{Ker } \phi \Rightarrow (x-y) \in \text{Ker } \phi$

Therefore  $\text{Ker } \phi$  is an ideal.

Given an ideal  $A$ , is it possible to construct an homomorphism  $\phi$  such that

$$R \xrightarrow{\phi} R', \quad \text{Ker } \phi = A.$$

$X$  is any set,  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ .  
The quotient set

$$X/\sim = \{[x] \mid [x] \text{ is the equivalence class of } x \text{ under } \sim\}$$

$$[x] = \{y \in X \mid x \sim y\}$$

There exists a surjective map  $X \rightarrow X/\sim$   
 $x \mapsto [x]$

Example: In a commutative monoid  $M$ ,  $x \sim y \Leftrightarrow x, y$  are associates.  
Then, the quotient set  $M/\sim$  is also a monoid.

Verify that  $[x] \cdot [y] = [x \cdot y]$ .

Another example:  $M = (P(X), \cup)$  let  $\sim$  be the relation  $A \sim B \iff |A| = |B|$  (1.1  $\rightarrow$  Cardinality)

Show that the above relation is an equivalence relation. However, the quotient set generated by this ~~map~~ is not a monoid because the operation

$$[A][B] = [A \cup B] \text{ is not well defined.}$$

Check for  $[A] = \{a\}$ ,  $A = \{a\}$ ,  $B = \{b\}$ .

Example: On  $\mathbb{Z}$  the relation  $\sim \equiv (\text{mod } n)$

$$\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$$

$$x \mapsto r(x) \text{ mod } n$$

This relation preserves the monoid operation.

Definition: Let  $M$  be a monoid and  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on  $M$ . We say that  $\sim$  is an equivalent (congruent) relation (or  $\sim$  is compatible with the binary operation on  $M$ ) if whenever  $x \sim y$ ,  $x' \sim x'$ ,  $y' \sim y'$  then  $xy \sim x'y'$ .

In other words,

$$[x] = [x'], [y] = [y'] \implies [xy] = [x'y'].$$

Consider a group  $G$ , and a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ .

Define  $a \sim b$  if  $b^{-1}a \in H$ . i.e.,  $a \in bH$ .

Show that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation

The equivalence class  $[b] = bH$  are called the left cosets of  $H$  by  $b$ .

Define a map

$$G \xrightarrow{\pi} G/H$$

$$bH \mapsto bH.$$

L14/4

Show that  $\sim$  is an congruent relation on  $G$   
iff  $H$  is normal, i.e,  $[a] \cdot [b] = [a \cdot b]$

Also, show that  $\Pi$  has as its kernel  $H$ .  
i.e,  $\text{Ker } \Pi = H$ .

Verify that  $G$  is abelian  $\iff$  every subgroup is normal.

There exists a bijective map  $H \rightarrow bH$ . Therefore  
 $|bH|$  is the same as  $|H|$ .

$\# G/H = [G:H] = \text{index of } H \text{ in } G$ .

Since the equivalence classes are either equal  
or disjoint

$$G = \bigcup [x]$$

$$[x] \in G/H$$

$$\Rightarrow |G| = \sum_{[x] \in G/H} \# [x] = \# [x] \# G/H$$

$$= (\# H) (\# G/H)$$

Lagrange's theorem: If  $G$  is finite, and  $H$  is a subgroup,  
then  $|H| \mid |G|$ .

Corollary: let  $x \in G$ ,  $G$  is finite,  $H(x)$  is the  
subgroup generated by  $x$ . Then  $\text{ord}(x) \mid |G|$ .

In particular,  $x^{|G|} = x^{\text{ord } x \cdot \frac{|G|}{\text{ord}(x)}} = e$ .

The above statement is Fermat's little theorem.

Corollary:  $G$  is a finite group,  $|G| = p$  prime No.  
 $x \in G$ ,  $x \neq e$ , then

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} \{e\} & \text{if } x=e \\ G & \text{if } x \neq e \end{cases}$$