

# PRIME RINGS

§ 16/1

Given a ring  $R$ , the ring homomorphism  $\chi_R: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$   
 $n \mapsto n \cdot 1_R$

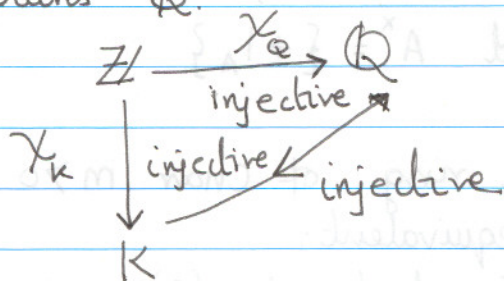
$\text{Ker } \chi_R = \mathbb{Z}n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n$  is unique.  $n = \text{order of } 1 \text{ in } (R, +)$ .

Also  $n = \text{char}(R)$ .

Examples: (i)  $\text{char}(\mathbb{Z}) = 0$ , (ii)  $\text{char}(\mathbb{R}) = \text{char}(\mathbb{Q}) = \text{char}(\mathbb{C}) = 0$ ,

(iii)  $\text{char}(\mathbb{Z}_m) = m$ , (iv) for any ordered field  $K$ ,  $\text{char}(K) = 0$ .

For  $\chi_R: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K$  ( $K$  is a field), if  $\text{Ker } \chi_R = 0$  then  $\chi_R$  is injective  $\Rightarrow \text{char}(K) = 0$ . Also,  $\text{char}(K) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_R$  is injective. Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the smallest field containing  $\mathbb{Z}$ , every field  $K$  whose  $\text{char}(K) = 0$ , contains  $\mathbb{Q}$ .



16.1 Lemma: If  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $\text{char } R = 0$  or  $p \in \mathbb{P}$ .

Proof: Suppose  $\text{char } R \neq 0$ , say it is  $n$ .

Then  $\text{Ker } \chi_R = \mathbb{Z}n$ . If  $n \notin \mathbb{P}$ , then  $n = a \cdot b$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $ka, b < n \Rightarrow (a \cdot b) \cdot 1_R = (a \cdot 1_R)(b \cdot 1_R) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  either  $(a \cdot 1_R) = 0$  or  $(b \cdot 1_R) = 0$  which is a contradiction because  $R$  is an integral domain, and  $n$  is the smallest integer such that  $n \cdot 1_R = 0$ .

Prime ring: Let  $R$  be a ring. The smallest  $\mathfrak{p}$  subring of  $R$  is called the prime ring of  $R$ . Prime ring of  $R$  is also the prime ring of any of its subring.

In other words, a ring  $R$  is called a prime ring if ~~it~~ it is a prime ring for itself. Examples:

(i)  $\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}$  (ii) PR of  $\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Z}$ , (iii) PR of  $\mathbb{Z}_n = \mathbb{Z}_n$ .

$\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_n$  are prime rings,  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{C}$  are not prime rings.

16.1 Theorem: Let  $A$  be a prime ring of characteristic  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

1)  $m$  is +ve: Then  $|A| = m$  and  $A = \{n \cdot 1_A \mid 0 \leq n < m\}$

$$r \cdot 1_A = s \cdot 1_A \Rightarrow \cancel{(r=s)}$$

$$\Rightarrow r \equiv s \pmod{m} \quad \forall r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\forall r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r \cdot 1_A$  is a non-zero divisor in  $A$

$$\iff r \cdot 1_A \in A^\times \iff \gcd(r, m) = 1$$

2)  $m = 0$ : Then  $A = \{n \cdot 1_A \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

$a \cdot 1_A \neq b \cdot 1_A \Rightarrow a \neq b$ , Also  $A$  is an integral domain, and  $A^\times = \{\pm 1_A\}$ .

Corollary 1: Let  $A$  be a prime ring of char  $m > 0$ . Then the following are equivalent:

(a)  $A$  is a field, (b)  $A$  is an integral domain, (c)  $m$  is prime.

Corollary 2: If  $A$  is a prime ring with char  $m > 0$ , then  $\text{ord } A^\times = \phi(m)$

Corollary 3: Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m \neq 0$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\gcd(r, m) = 1$ , then  $r^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  (Also called Euler's theorem).

Corollary 4: Fermat's little theorem: Let  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  with  $p \nmid r \Rightarrow r^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

Proof: ~~Take  $m = p$~~  Take  $m = p$  in Corollary 3.

Another proof: ETPT.  $r^p \equiv r \pmod{p}$ . Consider any prime ring  $A$  with characteristic  $p$ . ETPT  $a^p = a$ ,  $\forall a \in A$ ,  $a \neq 0$ . Since  $a \in A$ ,  $a = s \cdot 1_A \Rightarrow a^p = (s \cdot 1_A)^p = (1_A + 1_A + \dots + 1_A)^p$ . Using binomial expansion and  $p \cdot 1_A = 0$ , show that  $a^p = s \cdot 1_A = a$ . Thus proved.

Generally, If  $R$  is a Ring,  $a, b \in R$ ,  $\text{char } R = p$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{P}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , then  $(a+b)^{p^n} = a^{p^n} + b^{p^n}$ .

If  $K$  is a field, and  $\text{char } K = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \subseteq K$ .

If  $\text{char } K > 0 \Rightarrow \text{char } K$  is prime.  $\mathbb{Z}$

Also  $K$  contains  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . (prime ring of  $K$ ).  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is also a field.

Therefore  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and  $\mathbb{Z}_p, p \in \mathbb{P}$  are the only prime fields.

## Modules & Algebras

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Module: Let  $R$  be a ring.  $V$  is a  $R$ -module if

(a)  $(V, +)$  is an abelian group

(b) There is a scalar multiplication of  $R$  on  $V$  such that:  $R \times V \rightarrow V$

$$(a, x) \rightarrow ax$$

(c) The scalar multiplication has the following

properties (i)  $a(bx) = (ab)x$  (associative)

(ii)  $(a+b)x = ax + bx$  (distributive)

(iii)  $a(x+y) = ax + ay$

(iv)  $1 \cdot x = x$

Examples: 1. A ring  $R$  is an  $R$ -module.

2. An ideal  $A$  in  $R$  is a  $R$ -module.

3.  $V$  is any  $R$ -module,  $I$  any set

$$V^I = \{f: I \rightarrow V\}, \quad I \text{ tuples in } V.$$

Show that this is a  $R$ -module, with the operations

$$(f+g)(i) = f(i) + g(i), \quad (af)(i) = a f(i), \quad f, g \in V^I, a \in R.$$

Verify that  $V^{(I)}$  is also a module (a sub-module of  $V^I$ ).

~~$R$  is a submodule of a  $V$  module  $V$ , if  $R \subseteq V$~~