



# P.R. GOVT COLLEGE (A) KAKINADA



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## RING THEORY-SEM-IV

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INTRODUCTION TO RINGS, SUBRINGS, IDEALS,  
HOMOMORPHISM, POLYNOMIAL RINGS

## UNIT 5: POLYNOMIAL RINGS

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be an arbitrary ring and  $x$  is called an indeterminate means any symbol but not an element of  $R$ . By a polynomial in  $x$  over  $R$  means an expression of the form

$$f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + \infty$$

i. e  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_nx^n$  where  $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  are elements of  $\mathbb{R}$  and only a finite number

of them are not zero.

Here  $a_0x^0, a_1x, a_2x^2, a_3x^3 \dots$  are called terms of the polynomials. and

$a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  are called coefficients of these terms.

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be an arbitrary ring and  $x$  is an indeterminate. The set of all polynomials  $f(x)$ ,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_nx^n = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + \infty \text{ is called } R[x]$$

i. e  $R[x] =$  The set of all polynomials in  $x$  over  $R$

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be an arbitrary ring and  $f(x), g(x)$  be any two elements in  $R[x]$ .

Now  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$  and

$g(x) = b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots$  then

(i)  $f(x) = g(x) \Leftrightarrow a_n = b_n$  for every non – negative integers.

(i. e Two polynomials are equal iff theirco – efficient are equal.)

(ii)  $f(x) + g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_nx^n = c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots + \infty$  where  $c_n = a_n + b_n$

for every non – negative integers.

Since  $c_n \in R$  and a finite number of  $c$ 's can not equal to zero.

$\therefore f(x) + g(x)$  is also an element of  $R[x]$ . Thus  $R[x]$  is closed under addition.

(iii)  $f(x)g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_nx^n = d_0x^0 + d_1x + d_2x^2 + d_3x^3 + \dots + \infty$

Where  $d_n = a_0b_n + a_1b_{n-1} + a_2b_{n-2} + \dots + a_nb_0$

$$(a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots)(b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots)$$

$$= (a_0b_0)x^0 + (a_1b_0 + a_0b_1)x + (a_2b_0 + a_1b_1 + a_0b_2)x^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{i.e } d_n = \sum_{i+j=n}^{\infty} a_ib_j, \text{ in particular } d_0 = a_0b_0; d_1 = a_1b_0 + a_0b_1; d_2 = a_2b_0 + a_1b_1 + a_0b_2$$

Since  $d_n \in R$  and a finite number of  $d$ 's can not equal to zero.

$\therefore f(x)g(x)$  is also an element of  $R[x]$ . Thus  $R[x]$  is closed under Multiplication.

**Definition:** A polynomial  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$  is said to be zero polynomial if for each  $a_n = 0 \quad \forall$  non – negative integers.

$$\text{i.e } f(x) = 0.x^0 + 0.x + 0.x^2 + 0.x^3 + \dots$$

**Degree of polynomial:** A polynomial  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$

is said to be degree  $n$  if  $a_n \neq 0$  and  $a_m = 0 \quad \forall m > n$

$$\text{i.e } f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + a_nx^n \quad \text{if } a_n \neq 0 \text{ and } a_m = 0 \quad \forall m > n$$

$\therefore a_nx^n$  is called leading term of  $f(x)$  and  $a_n$  is called leading coefficient of  $f(x)$  and  $a_0x^0$  is called constant term of  $f(x)$  and  $a_0$  is called coefficient of zero th term  $f(x)$

**Constant polynomial:** A polynomial containing only constant term is called constant polynomial. Ex:  $5x^0$

**Note:** 1. The degree of constant polynomial is zero

2. The degree of zero polynomial is undefine

$$\text{i.e } 0(x) = 0.x^0 + 0.x + 0.x^2 + 0.x^3 + \dots$$

3. Degree of  $(f(x) + g(x)) \leq$  Maximum of  $\{\deg f(x), \deg(g(x))\}$

if  $f(x) + g(x)$  are not zero polynomial.

**Example:**  $f(x) = 3x + 5x^2 - 7x^4$  and  $g(x) = 2x^2 + 5x^3$  are two polynomial over the ring of integers.

$$\text{Now } f(x) + g(x) = 3x + 7x^2 + 5x^3 - 7x^4$$

So  $\deg\{f(x) + g(x)\} = 4 = \deg \text{ of } g(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} 4. f(x)g(x) &= (3x + 5x^2 - 7x^4)(2x^2 + 5x^3) = 6x^3 + 10x^4 - 14x^6 + 15x^4 + 25x^5 - 35x^7 \\ &= 6x^3 + 25x^4 + 25x^5 - 14x^6 - 35x^7 \end{aligned}$$

i.e  $\deg\{f(x).g(x)\} = 7 \leq \deg \text{ of } f(x) + \deg \text{ of } g(x)$

if  $f(x).g(x)$  are not zero polynomial.

**Theorem: If  $R$  is an integral domain so is  $R[x]$**

**Proof:**  $R[x]$  = The set of all polynomials in  $x$  over  $R$ .

$$\text{Let } f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + a_mx^m + \dots$$

$$g(x) = b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots + b_nx^n + \dots$$

$$h(x) = c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots + c_px^p + \dots \text{ be three elements in } R[x]$$

so that  $a_i = 0 \forall i > m, \quad b_j = 0 \forall j > n, c_k = 0 \forall k > p$

**(i) + is a binary operation on  $R[x]$ :**

Let  $r = \text{Max}\{m, n\}$  then  $a_t = 0$  for  $t > r$  and  $b_t = 0$  for  $t > r$

$$\therefore a_t + b_t = 0 \quad \forall t > r$$

$$\therefore f(x) + g(x) = (a_0 + b_0)x^0 + (a_1 + b_1)x + (a_2 + b_2)x^2 + \dots + (a_r + b_r)x^r + \dots$$

So that  $a_t + b_t = 0 \quad \forall t > r$

By definition of the polynomial  $f(x) + g(x) \in R[x]$

**(ii)  $\cdot$  is binary operation on  $R[x]$ :**

If  $l > m + n$  then  $i + j = l$  when either  $i > m$  or  $j > n$  so  $a_ib_j = 0 \forall i + j > m + n$

$$\therefore f(x)g(x) = d_0x^0 + d_1x + d_2x^2 + \dots + d_{m+n}x^{m+n} + \dots \text{ where } d_{m+n} = \sum_{i+j=m+n}^{\infty} a_ib_j$$

so that  $d_l = 0 \quad \forall l > m + n$

$\therefore$  By definition of polynomial  $f(x)g(x) \in R[x]$

$\therefore R[x]$  is closed under multiplication.

**(iii) + is commutative:**

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) + g(x) &= (a_0 + b_0)x^0 + (a_1 + b_1)x + (a_2 + b_2)x^2 + \dots \quad (\because + \text{ is commutative in } \mathbb{R}) \\ &= g(x) + f(x) \end{aligned}$$

**(iv) + is associative:**

$$\begin{aligned} &[f(x) + g(x)] + h(x) \\ &= [(a_0 + b_0) + c_0]x^0 + [(a_1 + b_1) + c_1]x + [(a_2 + b_2) + c_2]x^2 + \dots \\ & \quad (\because + \text{ is commutative in } \mathbb{R}) \\ &= [a_0 + (b_0 + c_0)]x^0 + [a_1 + (b_1 + c_1)]x + [a_2 + (b_2 + c_2)]x^2 + \dots \\ &= f(x) + [g(x) + h(x)] \end{aligned}$$

**(v) Existence of additive identity (or) Zero element of  $R[x]$ :** For  $0 \in R$ ,

$$0(x) = 0 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots \in R[x]$$

For any  $f(x) \in R[x]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) + 0(x) &= (a_0 + 0)x^0 + (a_1 + 0)x + (a_2 + 0)x^2 + \dots \\ &= a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots = f(x) \end{aligned}$$

Since + is commutative,  $f(x) + 0(x) = f(x) = 0(x) + f(x)$

$\therefore 0(x) = 0 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots$  is the zero element of  $R[x]$

**(vi) Existence of additive inverse:**

Let  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots \in R[x]$  Then  $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots \in R$

since  $R$  is a ring so we have  $-a_0, -a_1, -a_2, -a_3, \dots \in R$

$$\Rightarrow (-a_0)x^0 + (-a_1)x + (-a_2)x^2 + (-a_3)x^3 + \dots \in R[x] \text{ say } f^1(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } f(x) + f^1(x) &= [a_0 + (-a_0)]x^0 + [a_1 + (-a_1)]x + [a_2 + (-a_2)]x^2 + \dots \\ &= 0 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots = 0(x) \end{aligned}$$

Since + is commutative,  $f(x) + f^1(x) = 0(x) = f^1(x) + f(x)$

$\therefore f^1(x)$  is additive inverse of  $f(x)$

$\therefore$  Every element of  $R[x]$  has inverse in  $R[x]$

**(vii) · is an associative:**

$$f(x)g(x) = (a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots)(b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots)$$

$$= d_0x^0 + d_1x + d_2x^2 + \dots + d_sx^s + \dots \text{ where } d_s = \sum_{i+j=s}^{\infty} a_ib_j$$

$$[f(x)g(x)]h(x) = (d_0x^0 + d_1x + d_2x^2 + \dots + d_sx^s + \dots)(c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots)$$

$$= e_0x^0 + e_1x + e_2x^2 + e_3x^3 + \dots + e_t x^t + \dots$$

Where  $e_t$  is the coefficient of  $x^t$  in  $[(f(x)g(x))h(x)]$

$$e_t = \sum_{t=s+k}^{\infty} d_s c_k \Rightarrow e_t = \sum_{t=s+k}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{i+j=s}^{\infty} a_i b_j \right) c_k = \sum_{t=i+j+k}^{\infty} a_i b_j c_k$$

Similarly we can prove that the coefficient of  $x^t$  in  $f(x)[g(x)h(x)]$  is  $\sum_{t=i+j+k}^{\infty} a_i b_j c_k$

$$\therefore [f(x)g(x)]h(x) = f(x)[g(x)h(x)]$$

Since the corresponding coefficients in these two polynomials are equal.

**(viii) · is distributive under addition:** Let  $t$  be any non – negative integer.

$$\text{The coefficient of } x^t \text{ in } f(x) \cdot [g(x) + h(x)] = \sum_{t=i+j}^{\infty} a_i \cdot (b_j + c_j) = \sum_{t=i+j}^{\infty} (a_i \cdot b_j + a_i \cdot c_j)$$

$$= \sum_{t=i+j}^{\infty} a_i \cdot b_j + \sum_{t=i+j}^{\infty} a_i \cdot c_j$$

$$= \text{The coefficient of } x^t \text{ in } f(x) \cdot g(x) + \text{The coefficient of } x^t \text{ in } f(x) \cdot h(x)$$

$$\therefore f(x) \cdot [g(x) + h(x)] = f(x) \cdot g(x) + f(x) \cdot h(x)$$

Since the corresponding coefficients in these two polynomials are equal.

$$\text{Similarly we can prove that } [g(x) + h(x)] \cdot f(x) = g(x) \cdot f(x) + h(x) \cdot f(x)$$

$$\therefore (R[x], +, \cdot) \text{ is ring}$$

**(ix) · is commutative:** Let  $t$  be any non – negative integer.

The coefficient of  $x^t$  in  $f(x) \cdot g(x) = \sum_{t=i+j}^{\infty} a_i \cdot b_j = \sum_{t=j+i}^{\infty} b_j \cdot a_i$  ( $\cdot$  is commutative)

= The coefficient of  $x^t$  in  $g(x) \cdot f(x)$

$$\therefore f(x) \cdot g(x) = g(x) \cdot f(x)$$

Since the corresponding coefficients in these two polynomials are equal.

$\therefore (R[x], +, \cdot)$  is commutative ring

**(x)  $R[x]$  has no zero divisors:**

Let  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + a_mx^m + \dots$ ,  $a_m \neq 0$

$g(x) = b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots + b_nx^n + \dots$ ,  $b_n \neq 0$  be two

non – zero elements in  $R[x]$

Then  $f(x)g(x)$  can not be a zero polynomial. i. e zero element of  $R[x]$ .

The reason is that at least one coefficient of  $f(x)g(x)$  namely  $a_mb_n$  of  $x^{m+n} \neq 0$ ,

because  $a_m, b_n \in R$  and  $R$  has no zero divisors

$\therefore R[x]$  has no zero divisors.

$\therefore (R[x], +, \cdot)$  is integral domain.

**Theorem 2: If  $R$  is commutative ring with unity so is  $R[x]$**

**Proof:** Write the proof of above theorem from i to ix steps

**(x)  $R[x]$  has unity element:** If  $1 \in R$  is the unity element then

$$1(x) = 1 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots \in R[x]$$

Let  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$  be any element of  $R[x]$

Now  $f(x) \cdot 1(x) = (a_0 \cdot 1)x^0 + (a_1 \cdot 1 + 0)x + (a_2 \cdot 1 + 0)x^2 + \dots$

$$= a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots = f(x)$$

Since  $\cdot$  is commutative

$$f(x) \cdot 1(x) = 1(x) \cdot f(x) = f(x)$$

$\therefore 1(x)$  is the unity element in  $R[x]$

**Note:** Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be two non – zero polynomials in  $R[x]$  then

(i) Degree of  $[f(x) + g(x)] \leq \text{Max of } \{ \text{deg}f(x), \text{deg}g(x) \}$  if  $f(x) + g(x)$  is not a zero polynomials

(ii) Degree of  $[f(x) \cdot g(x)] \leq \text{deg}f(x) + \text{deg}g(x)$  if  $f(x) \cdot g(x)$  is not a zero polynomials

(iii) If  $f(x)$  is any polynomial in  $R[x]$  then  $f(x) \cdot 0(x) = 0(x)$

(iv) If  $R$  is an Integral domain and  $f(x), g(x)$  be two non – zero polynomials in  $R[x]$  then  $\text{deg of } [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \text{deg}f(x) + \text{deg}g(x)$  if  $f(x) \cdot g(x)$  is not a zero polynomials

(v) If  $R$  is field and  $f(x), g(x)$  be two non – zero polynomials in  $R[x]$  then  $\text{deg of } [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \text{deg}f(x) + \text{deg}g(x)$  if  $f(x) \cdot g(x)$  is not a zero polynomials ( $\because$  Every field is an integral domain )

**Theorem 3: If  $F$  is a field then  $F[x]$  is an integral domain but not a field**

**Proof:** Write the proof of theorem 1

Let  $f(x)$  be any polynomial in  $F[x]$  of degree greater than zero.

The inverse of  $f(x)$  is not a zero polynomial because the product of  $f(x)$  and zero polynomial is zero polynomial {i. e  $f(x) \cdot 0(x) = 0(x)$ }

and is not equal to unity element of  $F[x]$  ( $1(x) = 1 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots$ )

Suppose  $g(x)$  is any non – zero polynomial in  $F[x]$ .

Since  $F$  is a field,

Now  $\text{deg of } [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \text{deg}f(x) + \text{deg}g(x) > 0$  ( $\because \text{deg}f(x) > 0$  and  $\text{deg}g(x) \geq 0$ )

Since degree of unity element is zero,  $f(x) \cdot g(x)$  can not be equal to unity element of  $F[x]$

$\therefore f(x)$  has no inverse in  $F[x]$

**Theorem 4 (Division algorithm for polynomials):** Let  $F$  be a field. For any  $f(x), g(x) \in F[x]$  and  $g(x) \neq 0(x)$  then there exists unique polynomials  $q(x), r(x) \in F[x]$  such that  $f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x)$  Where  $r(x) = 0(x)$  or  $\text{degr}(x) < \text{degg}(x)$

*Proof:* Consider the set  $S = \{f(x) - g(x)h(x)/h(x) \in F[x]\}$

For  $0(x) \in F[x]$ ,

$$f(x) - g(x) \cdot 0(x) = f(x) - 0(x) = f(x) \in S \Rightarrow S \neq \emptyset \text{ and } S \subseteq F[x]$$

Let  $0(x) \in S$ , By the definition of  $S$ ,  $\exists q(x) \in F[x]$  such that

$$0(x) = f(x) - g(x) \cdot q(x) \Rightarrow f(x) = g(x) \cdot q(x) + 0(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = g(x) \cdot q(x) + r(x) \text{ Where } r(x) = 0(x) \in F[x]$$

The theorem is proved.

Let  $0(x) \notin S$

Then all the polynomials in  $S$  are non-zero polynomials and hence non-negative degree.

Let  $r(x) \in S$  be a polynomial of least degree

$$\text{By the def of } S, \exists q(x) \in F[x] \text{ such that } r(x) = f(x) - g(x)q(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x) \rightarrow (1)$$

Now we show that  $\text{degr}(x) < \text{degg}(x)$ .

Let  $g(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_nx^n + \dots$  where  $a_n \neq 0$  be a polynomial so that  $\text{degg}(x) = n$

.If possible suppose  $m = \text{degr}(x) \geq \text{degg}(x)$

Let  $r(x) = c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_{m-1}x^{m-1} + c_mx^m + \dots$  where  $c_m \neq 0$  be a polynomial

$$\text{Now } c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) = c_m a_n^{-1} a_0 x^{m-n} + c_m a_n^{-1} a_1 x^{m-n+1} + \dots + c_m a_n^{-1} a_n x^{m-n+n}$$

$$c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) = c_m a_n^{-1} a_0 x^{m-n} + c_m a_n^{-1} a_1 x^{m-n+1} + \dots + c_m x^m$$

$$\therefore r(x) = c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_{m-1}x^{m-1} + c_mx^m + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow r(x) = c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_{m-1}x^{m-1} + [c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) - c_m a_n^{-1} a_0 x^{m-n} - c_m a_n^{-1} a_1 x^{m-n+1} - \dots - c_m a_n^{-1} a_{n-1} x^{m-1}]$$

$$\Rightarrow r(x) = c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) + (c_{m-1} - c_m a_n^{-1} a_{n-1}) x^{m-1} + \dots + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_0 x^0$$

$$\Rightarrow r(x) = c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) + \alpha(x) \rightarrow (2)$$

$$\text{Where } \alpha(x) = (c_{m-1} - c_m a_n^{-1} a_{n-1}) x^{m-1} + \dots + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_0 x^0$$

$$\therefore \text{dega}(x) \leq m - 1 \Rightarrow \text{dega}(x) < m \Rightarrow \text{dega}(x) < \text{degr}(x)$$

From (1) & (2)

$$f(x) = g(x)q(x) + c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} g(x) + \alpha(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = g(x)[q(x) + c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n}] + \alpha(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha(x) = f(x) - g(x)\beta(x) \quad \text{Where } \beta(x) = q(x) + c_m a_n^{-1} x^{m-n} \in F[x]$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha(x) \in S$$

Thus  $\alpha(x) \in S$  and  $\text{dega}(x) < \text{degr}(x)$

Which is a contradiction to  $\text{degr}(x)$  to be the least.

$\therefore$  Our supposition is wrong.

Hence  $\text{degr}(x) < \text{degg}(x)$

Thus there exists  $q(x), r(x) \in F[x]$  so that  $f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x)$

Where  $r(x) = 0(x)$  or  $\text{degr}(x) < \text{degg}(x)$

**Uniqueness of  $q(x), r(x)$ :** If possible suppose that  $q^1(x), r^1(x) \in F[x]$  so that

$$f(x) = g(x)q^1(x) + r^1(x) \quad \text{where } r^1(x) = 0(x) \text{ or } \text{degr}^1(x) < \text{degg}(x)$$

$$\therefore g(x)q(x) + r(x) = g(x)q^1(x) + r^1(x) \Rightarrow g(x)[q(x) - q^1(x)] = r^1(x) - r(x)$$

If  $q(x) - q^1(x) \neq 0(x)$  then  $\text{deg}(g(x) \cdot [q(x) - q^1(x)]) = \text{degg}(x) + \text{deg}(q(x) - q^1(x))$

[Since  $F[x]$  is an I.D,  $g(x) \neq 0(x), q(x) - q^1(x) \neq 0(x) \Rightarrow g(x)[q(x) - q^1(x)] \neq 0(x)$ ]

$$\therefore \text{deg}[r^1(x) - r(x)] = \text{degg}(x) + \text{deg}(q(x) - q^1(x))$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{deg}[r^1(x) - r(x)] \geq \text{degg}(x)$$

Which is a contradiction to  $\text{degr}(x) < \text{degg}(x), \text{degr}^1(x) < \text{degg}(x)$

$$\therefore q(x) - q^1(x) = 0(x) \text{ and } r^1(x) - r(x) = 0(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow q(x) = q^1(x) \text{ and } r^1(x) = r(x)$$

**Theorem 5: If  $F$  is a field then  $F[x]$  is principal ideal domain.**

**Proof:** Since  $F$  is a field

$F[x]$  = The set of all polynomials in  $x$  over  $F$ .

$\therefore F[x]$  is an integral domain.

Let  $I$  be any ideal of  $F[x]$ .

Let  $I = \{0(x)\}$  where  $0(x)$  is the zero element of  $F[x]$

Then  $I = \langle 0(x) \rangle$  is the ideal generated by  $0(x)$

$\therefore I$  is a principal ideal.

Let  $I \neq \{0(x)\}$  so there exists  $g(x) \neq 0(x) \in I$  so that the set  $\{\text{deg } g(x)/g(x) \neq 0(x)\}$  is non - negative integers.

By the well ordering principle  $\exists f(x) \neq 0(x) \in I$  so that  $\text{deg } f(x) \leq \text{deg } g(x)$

for  $g(x) \neq 0(x) \in I$

To prove that  $I = \langle f(x) \rangle$

Let  $h(x)$  be any element of  $I$

By division algorithm for polynomials so  $\exists$  unique  $q(x), r(x) \in F[x]$  so that

$$h(x) = f(x)q(x) + r(x) \text{ where } r(x) = 0(x) \text{ or } \text{deg } r(x) < \text{deg } f(x)$$

Since  $f(x) \in I, q(x) \in F[x]$  and  $I$  is an ideal  $\Rightarrow f(x)q(x) \in I$

Since  $h(x) \in I, f(x)q(x) \in I$  and  $I$  is an ideal  $\Rightarrow h(x) - f(x)q(x) \in I$

$$\Rightarrow h(x) - f(x)q(x) = r(x) \in I \Rightarrow r(x) \in I$$

Since  $r(x) \in I$  and  $r(x) = 0(x)$  or  $\text{deg } r(x) < \text{deg } f(x)$

If  $r(x) \in I$  and  $r(x) \neq 0(x)$  then  $\text{deg } r(x) < \text{deg } f(x)$

Which is a contradiction to  $\text{deg } f(x)$  is the least.  $\therefore r(x) = 0(x)$

$$\therefore h(x) = f(x)q(x) + 0(x) \text{ for some } q(x) \in F[x]$$

$$\therefore I = \{f(x)q(x)/q(x) \in F[x]\}$$

$I = \langle f(x) \rangle$  is a principal ideal.

$\therefore$  Every ideal is a principal ideal.

$\therefore F[x]$  is a principal ideal domain.

### Problems

**1. Find the sum and product of the polynomial  $f(x) = 2 + 3x - 4x^2 + 5x^3$ ,**

**$g(x) = 5 - 2x + 3x^2 - 2x^3 + 2x^4$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 2 + 3x - 4x^2 + 5x^3, g(x) = 5 - 2x + 3x^2 - 2x^3 + 2x^4$

$$f(x) + g(x) = (2 + 3x - 4x^2 + 5x^3) + (5 - 2x + 3x^2 - 2x^3 + 2x^4)$$

$$= 7 + x - x^2 + 3x^3 + 2x^4$$

$$f(x) \cdot g(x) = (2 + 3x - 4x^2 + 5x^3) \cdot (5 - 2x + 3x^2 - 2x^3 + 2x^4)$$

$$= 10 + (-4 + 15)x + (6 - 6 - 20)x^2 + (-4 + 9 + 8 + 25)x^3 + (4 - 6 - 12 - 10)x^4 \\ + (6 + 8 + 15)x^5 + (-8 - 10)x^6 + 10x^7$$

$$= 10 + 11x - 20x^2 + 38x^3 - 24x^4 + 29x^5 - 18x^6 + 10x^7$$

**2. Find the sum and product of all the polynomials  $f(x) = 2 + 3x + 5x^2, g(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2$  over  $Z_6$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 2 + 3x + 5x^2, g(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2$  over  $Z_6$

$$f(x) + g(x) = (2 + 3x + 5x^2) + (1 + 2x + 3x^2) = (2+_61) + (3+_62)x + (5+_63)x^2$$

$$= 3 + 5x + 2x^2$$

$$f(x) \cdot g(x) = (2 + 3x + 5x^2) \cdot (1 + 2x + 3x^2)$$

$$= (1 \times_6 2) + [(1 \times_6 3) + (2 \times_6 2)]x + [(1 \times_6 5) + (2 \times_6 3) + (3 \times_6 2)]x^2$$

$$+ [(3 \times_6 3) + (2 \times_6 5)]x^3 + (3 \times_6 5)x^4 = 2 + x + 5x^2 + x^3 + 3x^4$$

**3. Find the sum and product of all the polynomials  $f(x) = 2 + 3x + 4x^2, g(x) = 4 + 2x + 3x^4$  over  $Z_5$**

**Irreducible polynomials:** Let  $F$  be a field. A non – constant polynomial  $f(x) \in F[x]$

is said to be irreducible polynomial over  $F$  if  $f(x)$  cannot be expressed as the product of two

polynomials of lower degree than the degree of  $f(x)$ .

i.e.  $f(x) \neq g(x)h(x)$

## Problems

**1.  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$  is irreducible over the field of  $\mathbb{R}$  but it is reducible over  $\mathbb{C}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = x^2 + 1 = (x + i)(x - i)$  is reducible over  $\mathbb{C}$

but  $x^2 + 1 = (x + i)(x - i)$  where  $i \notin \mathbb{R}$  is irreducible over the field of  $\mathbb{R}$

**2.  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$  is irreducible over the field of  $\mathbb{Q}$  but it is reducible over  $\mathbb{R}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = x^2 - 2 = (x + \sqrt{2})(x - \sqrt{2})$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

but  $x^2 - 2 = (x + \sqrt{2})(x - \sqrt{2})$  where  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$  is reducible over the field of  $\mathbb{R}$

**Eisenstein criteria:** Let  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_nx^n \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ ,  
 $n \geq 1$ . If there is a prime  $p$  such that  $p/a_0, p/a_1, \dots, p/a_{n-1}, p \nmid a_n$  and  $p^2 \nmid a_0$  then  
 $f(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Proof:** Given that  $f(x) = a_0x^0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_nx^n \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ ,

$n \geq 1$

Assume that there exist a prime  $p$  such that  $p/a_0, p/a_1, \dots, p/a_{n-1}, p \nmid a_n$  and  $p^2 \nmid a_0$ .

If possible suppose that  $f(x)$  is reducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

By using definition of reducible polynomial

$$f(x) = (b_0x^0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \dots + b_r x^r)(c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_s x^s)$$

Where  $b_i, c_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $r < n$  and  $s < n$  and  $r + s = n$

Compare the coefficient on both side we get  $a_0 = b_0c_0, \dots, a_n = b_r c_s$

By hyp;  $p^2 \nmid a_0$  and  $p \nmid a_n \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid b_0c_0$  and  $p \nmid b_r c_s \rightarrow (1)$

But it is given that  $p^2 \nmid a_0$  and  $p/a_0 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid b_0c_0$  and  $p/b_0c_0$

(suppose that  $p/b_0c_0 \Rightarrow p/b_0$  and  $p/c_0$

$\Rightarrow b_0 = pm$ ; and  $c_0 = pl$  for some  $m, l \in \mathbb{Z}$

Now  $b_0c_0 = (pm)(pl) = p^2lm \Rightarrow b_0c_0 = p^2n$  where  $n = lm \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow p^2/b_0c_0 \Rightarrow p^2/a_0$

Which is contradiction to  $p^2 \nmid a_0$ . So  $p/b_0c_0$  is not possible

$\therefore p^2 \nmid b_0c_0 \Rightarrow$  either  $p/c_0$  and  $p \nmid b_0$  or  $p \nmid c_0$  and  $p/b_0$

Here we consider the  $p/c_0$  and  $p \nmid b_0$

From(1)  $p \nmid b_r c_s \Rightarrow p \nmid b_r$  and  $p \nmid c_s$

Let  $c_m$  be the first coefficient of  $s$  in  $c_0x^0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + \dots + c_mx^m + \dots + c_sx^s$  such that

$p \nmid c_m \Rightarrow p \nmid a_m$  because  $p/a_m \Rightarrow p/c_m$  since  $a_m =$  combination of  $c_m$  and  $b_m$

$a_m = a_n$  ( $\because p \nmid a_n$ )  $\Rightarrow m = n$

$p \nmid c_m \Rightarrow p \nmid c_s$  (last term)  $\Rightarrow m \leq s \Rightarrow m \leq s < n \Rightarrow n = m \leq s < n \Rightarrow n \leq s < n$

$\Rightarrow n < n$  Which is a contradiction.

Similarly the same absurdity happen in case  $p \nmid c_0$  and  $p/b_0$

$\Rightarrow$  In both cases we get contradiction  $\Rightarrow$  Our assumption was wrong.

$\Rightarrow f(x)$  should be irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

### Problems

**1. Show that  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = -2 + 0 \cdot x + x^2 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  Here  $a_0 = -2, a_1 = 0, a_2 = 1$

Take least prime,  $p = 2; 2/-2 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 2/0 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 2 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_2$

$p^2 = 4$  and  $4 \nmid -2 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**2. Show that  $f(x) = x^4 + 2x + 2$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 2 + 2x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + x^4 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  Here  $a_0 = 2, a_1 = 2, a_2 = 0, a_3 = 0, a_4 = 1$

Take least prime,  $p = 2; 2/2 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 2/2 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 2/0 \Rightarrow p/a_2,$

$2/0 \Rightarrow p/a_3, 2 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_4$

$p^2 = 4$  and  $4 \nmid 2 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = x^4 + 2x + 2$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**3. Show that  $f(x) = 25x^5 - 9x^4 + 3x^2 - 12$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = -12 + 0 \cdot x + 3x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 - 9x^4 + 25x^5 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

Here  $a_0 = -12, a_1 = 0, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 0, a_4 = -9, a_5 = 25$

Take  $p = 3$ ;  $3/-12 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 3/0 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 3/3 \Rightarrow p/a_2,$

$3/0 \Rightarrow p/a_3, 3/-9 \Rightarrow p/a_4, 3 \nmid 25 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_5$

$p^2 = 9$  and  $9 \nmid -12 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = 25x^5 - 9x^4 + 3x^2 - 12$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**4. Show that  $f(x) = 8x^3 + 6x^2 - 9x + 24$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 24 - 9x + 6x^2 + 8x^3 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

Here  $a_0 = 24, a_1 = -9, a_2 = 6, a_3 = 8,$

Take  $p = 3$ ;  $3/24 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 3/-9 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 3/6 \Rightarrow p/a_2,$

$3 \nmid 8 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_3$

$p^2 = 9$  and  $9 \nmid 24 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = 8x^3 + 6x^2 - 9x + 24$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**5. Show that  $f(x) = 2x^5 - 5x^4 + 5$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 5 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 - 5x^4 + 2x^5 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

Here  $a_0 = 5, a_1 = 0, a_2 = 0, a_3 = 0, a_4 = -5, a_5 = 2$

Take  $p = 5$ ;  $5/5 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 5/0 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 5/0 \Rightarrow p/a_2,$

$5/0 \Rightarrow p/a_3, 5/-5 \Rightarrow p/a_4, 5 \nmid 2 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_5$

$p^2 = 25$  and  $25 \nmid 5 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = 2x^5 - 5x^4 + 5$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**6. Show that  $f(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 + 10$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 10 + 0 \cdot x - 5x^2 + x^3 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

Here  $a_0 = 10, a_1 = 0, a_2 = -5, a_3 = 1,$

Take  $p = 2$  or  $5$ ;  $5/10 \Rightarrow p/a_0; 5/0 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 5/-5 \Rightarrow p/a_2,$

$$5 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_5$$

$$p^2 = 25 \text{ and } 25 \nmid 10 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 + 10$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

**7. Show that  $f(x) = x^4 - 22x^2 + 1$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = 1 + 0 \cdot x - 22x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + x^4 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

Here  $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 0, a_2 = -22, a_3 = 0, a_4 = 1$

Take least prime,  $p = 2$ ;  $2 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_0$

By Eisenstein criterion cannot apply.

$a_0 = 1$  has two factors  $-1$  and  $1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$

$$f(-1) = 1 - 22 + 1 = -20 \neq 0, f(1) = 1 - 22 + 1 = -20 \neq 0$$

$\therefore f(x)$  has no linear factor.

Now  $x^4 - 22x^2 + 1 = (x^2 + ax + b)(x^2 + cx + d)$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$

$$x^4 - 22x^2 + 1 = x^4 + x^3(a + c) + x^2(b + ac + d) + x(ad + bc) + bd$$

$$\Rightarrow a + c = 0 \rightarrow (1), b + d + ac = -22 \rightarrow (2), ad + bc = 0 \rightarrow (3), bd = 1 \rightarrow (4)$$

Where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$

From (4)  $\Rightarrow bd = 1 \Rightarrow b = d = 1$  or  $b = d = -1$

$$b = d = 1$$

From (2)  $\Rightarrow 2 + ac = -22 \Rightarrow ac = -24$

$$b = d = -1$$

From (2)  $\Rightarrow -2 + ac = -22 \Rightarrow ac = -20$

From (1)  $\Rightarrow a + c = 0 \Rightarrow a = -c$

$$ac = -24 \text{ and } a = -c \Rightarrow c^2 = 24 \text{ and}$$

$$ac = -20 \text{ and } a = -c \Rightarrow c^2 = 20$$

But  $c^2 = 24$  or  $c^2 = 20$  are impossible in  $\mathbb{Z}$

$\therefore f(x)$  has no factor of 2nd degree.

Hence  $f(x)$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}$

**8. Prove that  $x^2 + x + 4 \in \mathbb{Z}_{11}[x]$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_{11}$**

**Sol:** Let  $f(x) = x^2 + x + 4$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_{11} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots, 10\}$  Now  $f(0) = 4 \neq 0$ ;  $f(1) = 6 \neq 0$ ;

$$f(2) = 10 \neq 0$$

$$f(3) = 9 + 3 + 4 = \frac{16}{11} = 5 \neq 0, f(4) = 16 + 4 + 4 = \frac{24}{11} = 2 \neq 0,$$

$$f(5) = 25 + 5 + 4 = \frac{34}{11} = 1 \neq 0, f(6) = 36 + 6 + 4 = \frac{46}{11} = 2 \neq 0$$

$$f(7) = 49 + 7 + 4 = \frac{60}{11} = 5 \neq 0, f(8) = 64 + 8 + 4 = \frac{76}{11} = 10 \neq 0,$$

$$f(9) = 81 + 9 + 4 = \frac{94}{11} = 6 \neq 0, f(10) = 100 + 10 + 4 = \frac{114}{11} = 4 \neq 0$$

$\therefore x - \alpha$  where  $\alpha = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$  is not a factor of  $f(x)$ .

$\therefore f(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_{11}$

**9. Is  $\mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^2 - 5x + 6 \rangle$  is a field? Explain.**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x - 2)(x - 3)$

$\therefore f(x)$  is not irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and hence  $\langle f(x) \rangle$  is not a maximal ideal of  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

Hence  $\mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f(x) \rangle$  is not a field

**10. Is  $\mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^2 - 6x + 6 \rangle$  is a field? Explain.**

**Sol:**  $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 6$  Here  $a_0 = 6, a_1 = -6, a_2 = 1$

$$\text{Let } p = 2, \quad 2/6 \Rightarrow p/a_0, 2/-6 \Rightarrow p/a_1, 2 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p \nmid a_0$$

$$\text{and } p^2 = 4, \quad 4 \nmid 1 \Rightarrow p^2 \nmid a_0$$

By Eisenstein criterion  $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 6$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$

$\therefore f(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and hence  $\langle f(x) \rangle$  is a maximal ideal of  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

Hence  $\mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f(x) \rangle$  is a field

**Uniqueness of factorisation theorem:** Let  $F$  be a field and  $f(x) \in F[x]$  be a non

–constant polynomial. Then  $f(x)$  can be written as a product of irreducible polynomial in

$F[x]$  in a unique way except for order and for unit factor in  $F$ .

**Proof:** Let  $f(x) \in F[x]$  be a non – constant polynomial.

If  $f(x)$  is reducible then  $f(x) = p_1(x)h(x)$  where  $p_1(x), h(x) \in F[x]$  with degree of both  $p_1(x), h(x)$  less than the  $\deg f(x)$ .

If both  $p_1(x), h(x)$  are irreducible then proof is over.

If not, at least one of them, say  $h(x)$  can be written as  $h(x) = p_2(x)v(x)$

where  $p_2(x), v(x) \in F[x]$  with degree of both  $p_2(x), v(x)$  less than the  $\deg h(x)$ .

Proceeding in this way we get  $f(x) = p_1(x)p_2(x) \dots p_m(x)$

Where each  $p_i(x), i = 1, 2, 3 \dots m$  is irreducible.

If possible suppose that  $f(x) = q_1(x)q_2(x) \dots q_n(x)$  be another factorisation of  $f(x)$ .

$$\therefore p_1(x)p_2(x) \dots p_m(x) = q_1(x)q_2(x) \dots q_n(x) \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\text{Since } p_1(x)/f(x) \Rightarrow p_1(x)/q_1(x)q_2(x) \dots q_n(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_1(x) \text{ divides at least one of } q_1(x), q_2(x), \dots q_n(x)$$

$$\text{Let } p_1(x)/q_1(x)$$

$$\text{Since } q_1(x) \text{ is irreducible we have } q_1(x) = u_1p_1(x) \text{ where } u_1 \neq 0 \in F \text{ is a unit.}$$

$$\text{From (1); } p_1(x)p_2(x) \dots p_m(x) = u_1p_1(x)q_2(x) \dots q_n(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_2(x) \dots p_m(x) = u_1q_2(x) \dots q_n(x) \rightarrow (2)$$

Repeat, the argument on the relation (2) with  $p_2(x)$ .

$$\text{Let } p_2(x)/q_2(x)$$

$$\text{Since } q_2(x) \text{ is irreducible we have } q_2(x) = u_2p_2(x) \text{ where } u_2 \neq 0 \in F \text{ is a unit.}$$

$$\text{From (2); } p_2(x)p_3(x) \dots p_m(x) = u_1u_2p_2(x)q_3(x) \dots q_n(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_3(x) \dots p_m(x) = u_1u_2q_3(x) \dots q_n(x) \rightarrow (3)$$

If  $n > m$ , after  $m$  steps we get a relation with  $1 = u_1u_2 \dots u_m q_{m+1}(x) \dots q_n(x)$ .

Clearly, the above equation is impossible unless  $m = n$

$$\therefore \text{ We arrive at } 1 = u_1u_2 \dots u_m (\because n = m)$$

*Hence the irreducible factors  $p_i(x)$  and  $q_j(x)$  must be same except for order and for unit factor in  $F$*