

1. (a) i. State and prove Wilson's Theorem.
- ii. Show that, if p is a prime number congruent to 1 modulo 4, then there exists a solution to the congruence $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.
- (b) i. Let $p(x), q(x)$ be polynomials in $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]$, given by $p(x) = x^6 + 2x^5 + 2x^4 + 2x^2 + x + 1$ and $q(x) = x^5 + 2x^3$. Find all gcds of $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ in $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]$.

Solution: Using long division of polynomials, the Euclidean algorithm gives:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 x^6 + 2x^5 + 2x^4 + 2x^2 + x + 1 & = & (x+2) \quad (x^5 + 2x^3) \quad + \quad (2x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 1) \\
 \quad \quad \quad (x^5 + 2x^3) & = & (2x^2 + x + 2) \quad (2x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 1) \quad + \quad (2x^2 + 1) \\
 \quad \quad \quad (2x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 1) & = & (x+1) \quad (2x^2 + 1) \quad + \quad 0
 \end{array}$$

Hence the gcds are $2x^2 + 1, x^2 + 2$.

- ii. Is $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]$ a principal ideal domain? Is $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]/\langle p(x) \rangle$ a field? Justify your answers.

Solution: Since \mathbb{Z}_3 is a field, $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]$ is a Euclidean ring and therefore a PID.

Since $(x^2 + 2) | p(x)$, $p(x)$ is not irreducible; hence $\mathbb{Z}_3[x]/\langle p(x) \rangle$ is not a field.

- iii. Give a single generator for the ideal $\langle p(x), q(x) \rangle$.

Solution: $x^2 + 2$

- iv. Give a brief explanation as to why the Euclidean algorithm is guaranteed to terminate.

Solution: The norm of the remainder, which is non-negative integer, is strictly decreasing at every step.

2. (a) Find a gcd of $x^3 - 2x$ and $x^2 - 2x + 1$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$.

Solution: Using long division of polynomials, the Euclidean algorithm gives:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 x^3 - 2x & = & (x-2) \quad (x^2 - 2x + 1) \quad + \quad (x-2) \\
 x^2 - 2x + 1 & = & (x-4) \quad (x+2) \quad + \quad 9 \\
 (x+2) & = & \left(\frac{1}{9}x + \frac{2}{9}\right) \quad (9) \quad + \quad 0
 \end{array}$$

Hence 9 (or 1) is a gcd of the two polynomials. In other words, the two polynomials are relatively prime.

Alternatively, one can spot that $x^2 - 2x + 1 = (x - 1)^2$ and then it is sufficient to show that $(x - 1) \nmid (x^2 - 2)$.

(b) State and prove one of the following:

- Gauss' Lemma
- Eisenstein Criterion

Note: In the literature "Gauss' Lemma" can refer to various (related) results. Here we mean that, for a UFD R , if f, g are primitive in $R[x]$, then so is fg . This is the simplest version.

The version of the Eisenstein Criterion as we saw it in class was the following:

Suppose R is a unique factorization domain with quotient field F . Let $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$ be a polynomial of degree at least 1 with coefficients in R . Suppose there exists an irreducible element p of R such that:

$$\forall i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1, \quad p \mid a_i; \quad p \nmid a_n, \quad p^2 \nmid a_0.$$

Then $f[x]$ is irreducible in $F[x]$.

(c) State what it means for a field \mathbb{F} to be a *field of fractions* of an integral domain R .

(d) Show that the polynomial $x^2 - 2$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$.

Solution: We have $x^2 - 2 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, and \mathbb{Q} is the field of quotients of the UFD \mathbb{Z} . Clearly 2 is a prime integer which divides all the coefficients (0, -2) except the leading coefficient (1), and 2^2 does not divide -2 . Hence by the Eisenstein criterion $x^2 - 2$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$.

(e) Show that

- i. the polynomial $(p(x, y))^2$ is primitive in $(\mathbb{Q}[x])[y]$
- ii. the polynomial $p(x, y)$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$

where $p(x, y) =$

$$(x^2 - 2x + 1)y^4 + (x^3 - 2x)y^3 + (x^2 - 2)y^2 + (x^2 - 2)y + \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 2)$$

Solution: (i): The first two coefficients of $p(x, y)$ are the polynomials of part 2a. Since they are coprime, the polynomial is primitive. Hence by Gauss' Lemma, so is $p(x, y)^2$ (since \mathbb{Q} is a field, $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ is a Euclidean ring, and therefore a UFD, so Gauss' Lemma indeed does apply).

(ii) We apply the Eisenstein Criterion to $p(x, y)$, seen as an element of $(\mathbb{Q}[x])[y]$, with $R = \mathbb{Q}[x]$ (which is a UFD, as above). We take the

irreducible $p = x^2 - 2$ (from part 2d). This clearly divides all the coefficients apart from the leading coefficient. From part 2a, it does *not* divide the leading coefficient (otherwise the gcd in part 2a would not be 1). Moreover, since $\deg((x^2 - 2)^2) = 4 > 2 = \deg(\frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 2))$ and in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ the degree of a product is the sum of the degrees (\mathbb{Q} being an integral domain), $(x^2 - 2)^2$ does not divide the constant term.

Thus we may apply the Eisenstein Criterion to obtain that $p(x, y)$ is irreducible in $F[y]$, where F is the field of fractions of $\mathbb{Q}[x]$. In class we saw a Lemma stating that

Lemma: Let F be the field of fractions of the unique factorization domain R , and suppose $f(x) \in R[x]$ is primitive. Then $f(x)$ is irreducible in $R[x]$ iff $f(x)$ is irreducible in $F[x]$.

Since the polynomial is primitive, the Lemma applies; hence $p(x, y)$ is irreducible in $R[y] = (\mathbb{Q}[x])[y] \cong \mathbb{Q}[x, y]$.

Note: In class (as here) we identified, without proof, $R[x, y]$ with $(R[x])[y]$. We also saw in an exercise an application of the Eisenstein Criterion to $(\mathbb{Q}[x])[y]$.

3. (a) Let D be an integral domain with multiplicative identity, and suppose the element $a \in D$ has a factorization into irreducibles. Prove that this factorization is unique up to associates, assuming *one* of the following:
- D is a Euclidean Ring;
 - D is principal ideal domain;
 - $D = R[x]$ for some unique factorization domain R .
- (b) Consider the subring E of the field of complex numbers given by

$$E = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(a + bi) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, a - b \text{ is even} \right\}.$$

In other words, E consists of the complex numbers $x + y\sqrt{-3}$ such that x and y are either both integers or both odd multiples of $\frac{1}{2}$. For example, $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{-3}$ and $-2 + 3\sqrt{-3}$ are both in E , but $1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{-3}$ is not.

- i. Find the units of E .

Solution: Suppose

$$\frac{(x + y\sqrt{-3})}{2} \frac{(z + t\sqrt{-3})}{2} = 1$$

where x, y, z, t are integers such that $x - y$ and $z - t$ are both even.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then} \quad & (x + y\sqrt{-3})(z + t\sqrt{-3}) = 4 \\ \text{whence} \quad & |x + y\sqrt{-3}| |z + t\sqrt{-3}| = |4| \\ & |x + y\sqrt{-3}|^2 |z + t\sqrt{-3}|^2 = 16 \\ & (x^2 + 3y^2)(z^2 + 3t^2) = 16. \end{aligned}$$

The positive factors of 16 are 1, 2, 4, 8, 16. However, $x^2 + 3y^2 = 1$ can only be achieved with $|x| = 1, |y| = 0$, which is to be discarded because $x - y$ should be even. Also, $x^2 + 3y^2 = 2$ has no solutions at all for integer values of x, y . Similarly $z^2 + 3t^2 = 1$ and $z^2 + 3t^2 = 2$ can be discarded. The only way of factorizing 16 avoiding 1 and 2 is $16 = 4 \cdot 4$.

Now $x^2 + 3y^2 = 4$ has 6 solutions in integers:

$(x, y) = (1, 1), (-1, 1), (1, -1), (-1, -1), (2, 0), (-2, 0)$. Note that in all cases $x - y$ is even. Thus the units are to be found among $\frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm \sqrt{-3}), \pm 1$. Simple computations show that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(1 + \sqrt{-3})}{2} \frac{(1 - \sqrt{-3})}{2} &= 1 \\ \frac{(-1 - \sqrt{-3})}{2} \frac{(-1 + \sqrt{-3})}{2} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

and 1 and -1 are clearly their own inverses. Hence the units are precisely the 6 elements $\frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm \sqrt{-3}), \pm 1$.

ii. State whether the following argument is correct:

In E , we have that $2 \cdot 2 = 4 = (1 + \sqrt{-3})(1 - \sqrt{-3})$. Therefore, E is not a unique factorization domain.

If correct, fill in the missing details. If not, explain why.

Solution: The reasoning is incorrect, because multiplying the factors $1 \pm \sqrt{-3}$ on the right hand side by the units $\frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \mp \sqrt{-3})$ we obtain the factors on the left hand side, 2 and 2. Thus the factorizations are the same up to units.

iii. State whether 13 is irreducible in E or not, and justify your answer (if irreducible, give a proof; if not, give a non-trivial factorization).

Solution: Suppose

$$\frac{(x + y\sqrt{-3})}{2} \frac{(z + t\sqrt{-3})}{2} = 13$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Then} \quad & (x + y\sqrt{-3})(z + t\sqrt{-3}) = 4 \cdot 13 \\
\text{whence} \quad & |x + y\sqrt{-3}| |z + t\sqrt{-3}| = |4 \cdot 13| \\
& |x + y\sqrt{-3}|^2 |z + t\sqrt{-3}|^2 = 4^2 \cdot 13^2 \\
& (x^2 + 3y^2)(z^2 + 3t^2) = 4^2 \cdot 13^2.
\end{aligned}$$

One way of achieving the above is $|x| = 2 = |z|, |y| = |t| = 4$. Note $x - y$ and $z - t$ are both even. Moreover, taking $x = 2 = z$, $y = 4 = -t$, we obtain the factorization

$$(1 + 2\sqrt{-3})(1 - 2\sqrt{-3}) = 13.$$

Since $1 \pm 2\sqrt{-3}$ are non-units (by part 3(b)i), this is a non-trivial factorization. This shows that 13 is not irreducible.

4. (a) Let D be an integral domain with multiplicative identity, and suppose the element $a \in D$ is not 0 and is not a unit. Show that a can be expressed as a finite product of irreducibles, assuming *one* of the following.
- D is a Euclidean Ring;
 - D is principal ideal domain;
 - $D = R[x]$ for some unique factorization domain R .
- (b) Let a, b be Gaussian integers given by $a = 1 + 12i$ and $b = 3 + 6i$. Find a gcd of a, b in the ring of Gaussian integers, and Gaussian integers x, y such that this gcd can be expressed in the form $xa + yb$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
1 + 12i &= q_0 (3 + 6i) + (1 - 3i) \\
(3 + 6i) &= q_1 (1 - 3i) + (1 + 2i) \\
(1 - 3i) &= q_2 (1 + 2i) + 0
\end{aligned}$$

where $q_0 = (2 + i), q_1 = (-1 + i), q_2 = (-1 - i)$. Thus $1 + 2i$ is a gcd and we may take $x = -q_1 = (1 - i)$ and $y = 1 + q_0q_1 = (-2 + i)$.

- (c) Show that, if m, n are relatively prime positive integers, then m is invertible in \mathbb{Z}_n . (You may assume $m < n$.)

Solution: There exist integers a, b such that $am + bn = 1$. Hence $am \equiv 1 \pmod n$.

- (d) Give an example of a unique factorization domain which is not a Euclidean ring. (You do not need to prove that your example is as claimed).

Solution: We saw in class that $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is a UFD but not a PID. Since $\text{PID} \Rightarrow \text{ER}$, $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is an example of a UFD which is not an ER.

- (e) Find a gcd of $x^4 + 4x^3 + 6x^2 + 4x + 1$ and $x^4 - 4x^3 + 6x^2 - 4x + 1$ in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$.

Solution: The numbers 1 4 6 4 1 constitute the fifth line of Pascal's Triangle, that is, they are the binomial coefficients $\binom{4}{i}$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, 4$. Hence the two polynomials are $(1 + x)^4$ and $(1 - x)^4$. We saw that, for an integral domain R with 1 (such as \mathbb{Z}) and a unit a of R , any polynomial $ax + b$ is irreducible in $R[x]$. Thus $1 \pm x$ are both irreducible. Since they are coprime, the two polynomials are coprime; one gcd is 1.

5. (a) Let R be a commutative ring with multiplicative identity. Show that R is a field if and only if it has no proper ideals.
- (b) State the Second Isomorphism Theorem.
- (c) Let S be a commutative ring with multiplicative identity. Let $a, b \in S$ be such that $\langle b \rangle \subseteq \langle a \rangle$. Show that $b|a$.

- (d) Let T be the ring \mathbb{Z}_{24} . Apart from the empty ideal and T itself, how many ideals are there in T ?

Solution: By the Second Isomorphism Theorem, there is a bijection between the ideals of T and the ideals of \mathbb{Z} containing $\langle 24 \rangle$. Thus it is sufficient to count the ideals in \mathbb{Z} which are strictly in between T and \mathbb{Z} . Since \mathbb{Z} is a PID, these ideals are of the form $\langle b \rangle$ for some $b \in \mathbb{Z}$. By part 5c, $b|24$. Thus $|b| \in \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12\}$. Moreover, by an exercise from class (essentially the converse of part 5c), for any such b we have $\langle 24 \rangle \subsetneq \langle b \rangle \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}$. Clearly if $b_1 = -b_2$, then $\langle b_1 \rangle = \langle b_2 \rangle$ while if $|b_1| \neq |b_2|$ then $\langle b_1 \rangle \neq \langle b_2 \rangle$. Thus there are 6 proper ideals in T .

- (e) Give a positive integer n such that \mathbb{Z}_n is not a field, but has precisely one non-trivial factor ring (that is, only one factor ring apart from \mathbb{Z}_n itself and $\{0\}$). Show that this factor ring is a field. (Note that there are various possibilities for n).

Solution: The factor rings are in one-to-one correspondence with the ideals of \mathbb{Z}_n . From part 5d it should be clear that the proper ideals of \mathbb{Z}_n are in one-to-one correspondence with the non-trivial positive integer divisors of n . Looking at the factorization of n into primes, we see that this can only be achieved by taking $n = p^2$ for some prime p . The simplest example is thus $n = 4$.

Whatever the choice of p , the unique ideal in \mathbb{Z}_n is maximal, hence the factor ring is a field.

- (f) Let J be a proper ideal in a principal ideal domain Y . Show that J is contained in a maximal ideal. Hence, or otherwise, show that there

exists a factor ring F which is a field and such that the elements of Y/J (seen as cosets of Y) partition the elements of F .

Solution: If J is maximal, we have the required maximal ideal containing J . Otherwise, there exists an ideal J_1 such that $J \subsetneq J_1 \subsetneq Y$. Again, we may assume J_1 is not maximal (otherwise we are done). In this way we obtain a chain of ideals

$$J \subsetneq J_1 \subsetneq J_2 \subsetneq \cdots$$

By the following Lemma seen in class:

Lemma: Suppose

$$I_1 \subsetneq I_2 \subsetneq I_3 \subsetneq \cdots$$

is a strictly increasing chain of ideals in a PID. Then the chain is finite

at some point we must obtain a maximal ideal J_k containing J . We take the field Y/J_k for F .

If x, y belong to the same coset with respect to J , then $x - y \in J$. Since $J \subseteq J_k$, $x - y \in J_k$, and x, y belong to the same coset with respect to J_k . Thus the partition of Y into cosets with respect to J is a refinement of the partition into cosets with respect to J_k , which are the elements of F .