

MTH4104 Introduction to Algebra

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Semester B, 2021

Definition (1.1)

Let X and Y be any two sets.

We define their **Cartesian product** $X \times Y$ to be the set of all ordered pairs (x, y) , with $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$; that is, all ordered pairs which can be made using an element of X as first coordinate and an element of Y as second coordinate.

We write this as follows:

$$X \times Y = \{(x, y) : x \in X, y \in Y\}.$$

Proposition (1.2)

Let X and Y be sets with $|X| = p$ and $|Y| = q$. Then

1. $|X \times Y| = pq$;
2. $|X^n| = p^n$.

Definition (1.3)

A **relation** R on a set X is a subset of the Cartesian product $X^2 = X \times X$.

That is, it is a set of ordered pairs of elements of X .

Definition (1.4)

Let R be a relation on a set X . We say that R is

reflexive if $(x, x) \in R$ for all $x \in X$;

symmetric if $(x, y) \in R$ implies that $(y, x) \in R$;

transitive if $(x, y) \in R$ and $(y, z) \in R$ together imply that $(x, z) \in R$.

An **equivalence relation** is a relation which is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

2016 exam, question 5

- a. Give complete definitions of the terms
- a.1 **Cartesian product** of two sets;
 - a.2 **relation** on a set;
 - a.3 **equivalence relation** on a set.
- b. Write down examples of:
- b.1 a relation which is transitive but not reflexive;
 - b.2 an equivalence relation on $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with exactly three equivalence classes.
- c. Let X and Z be any two sets, and $f : X \rightarrow Z$ any function. Prove that

$$\{(x, y) \in X^2 : f(x) = f(y)\}$$

is an equivalence relation on X .

Definition (1.5)

Let X be a set. A **partition** of X is a set P of subsets of X , whose elements are called its **parts**, having the following properties:

- \emptyset is not a part of P ;
- if A and B are distinct parts of P , then $A \cap B = \emptyset$;
- The union of all parts of P is X .

Definition (1.6)

If R is an equivalence relation on the set X , then the sets

$$[x]_R = \{y \in X : (x, y) \in R\}$$

are called the **equivalence classes** of R .

The Equivalence Relation Theorem

Theorem (1.7)

- a. *Let R be an equivalence relation on X . Then the sets $[x]_R$, for $x \in X$, form a partition of X .*
- b. *Conversely, given any partition P of X , there is a unique equivalence relation R on X such that the parts of P are the same as the sets $[x]_R$ for $x \in X$, namely*

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- Conversely, given any partition P of X , there is a unique equivalence relation R on X such that the parts of P are the same as the sets $[x]_R$ for $x \in X$, namely*

$$R = \{(x, y) : x \text{ and } y \text{ lie in the same part of } P\}.$$

Which equivalence classes are equal?

Corollary (1.8)

*Let R be an equivalence relation on a set X , and $x, y \in X$.
Then $[x]_R = [y]_R$ if and only if xRy .*

The division rule

Proposition (2.1)

Let a and b be integers, and assume that $b > 0$. Then there exist integers q and r such that

- 1. $a = bq + r$;*
- 2. $0 \leq r < b$.*

Moreover, q and r are unique.

The relation “divides”

Definition (2.2)

Let a and b be integers. Then a **divides** b if and only if there exists an integer c such that $b = ac$. The notation for “ a divides b ” is $a \mid b$.

- a. Define what it means for $P = \{A_1, A_2, \dots\}$ to be a **partition** of a set X .
- b. Let \mathcal{A} be a partition of X . Prove that

$$R = \{(x, y) \in X : \text{there exists } i \text{ such that } x \in A_i \text{ and } y \in A_i\}$$

is an equivalence relation on X .

- c. Write down a partition of \mathbb{Z} into three parts, exactly two of which are infinite.

Definition (2.3)

We define a relation \equiv_m on \mathbb{Z} , called **congruence mod m** , where m is a positive integer, as follows:

$$a \equiv_m b \text{ if and only if } b - a \text{ is a multiple of } m.$$

We read $a \equiv_m b$ as “ a is congruent to b mod(ulo) m ”.

Some people write the relation $a \equiv_m b$ as $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$.

Proposition (2.4)

The equivalence relation \equiv_m has exactly m equivalence classes, namely $[0]_m, [1]_m, [2]_m, \dots, [m-1]_m$.

We call these **congruence classes** mod m .

Definition (2.5)

We define addition, subtraction, and multiplication of congruence classes as follows:

$$[a]_m + [b]_m := [a + b]_m,$$

$$[a]_m - [b]_m := [a - b]_m,$$

$$[a]_m \cdot [b]_m := [a \cdot b]_m.$$

Tables for \mathbb{Z}_4

$+$	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$
$[0]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$
$[1]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$	$[0]_4$
$[2]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$
$[3]_4$	$[3]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$

\cdot	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$
$[0]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[0]_4$
$[1]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[1]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[3]_4$
$[2]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[2]_4$
$[3]_4$	$[0]_4$	$[3]_4$	$[2]_4$	$[1]_4$

2018 exam, question 3

1. Define the divisibility relation $|$ on the set of natural numbers.
2. A relation R on a set X is said to be **antisymmetric** if the following condition holds:
For all elements $a, b \in X$, if $a R b$ and $b R a$ both hold then $a = b$.

Prove that $|$ is antisymmetric.

3. Define the **least common multiple** of two nonzero natural numbers.
4. Compute the least common multiple of $336 = 2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$ and $180 = 2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$. Include an explanation of your method.

Definition (2.6)

Let a and b be nonnegative integers, not both zero.

A **common divisor** of a and b is a nonnegative integer d with the property that $d \mid a$ and $d \mid b$.

We call d the **greatest common divisor** if it is a common divisor, and if any other common divisor of a and b is smaller than d .

Least common multiple

Definition (2.7)

The positive integer m is a **common multiple** of a and b if both $a \mid m$ and $b \mid m$. It is the **least common multiple** if it is a common multiple which is smaller than any other common multiple.

Euclid's Algorithm

Algorithm

Input: Non-negative integers a, b .

Output: $\gcd(a, b)$.

Steps:

1. Put $b_0 = a$ and $b_1 = b$.
2. As long as the last number b_n found is non-zero, put $b_{n+1} = b_{n-1} \bmod b_n$.
3. When the last number b_n is zero, then the gcd is b_{n-1} .

Theorem (2.9)

Let a and b be nonnegative integers, and $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Then there are integers x and y such that $d = xa + yb$. Moreover, x and y can be found from Euclid's algorithm.

What's going on in one step of Euclid's algorithm

Proposition (2.8)

$$\gcd(a, b) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } b = 0, \\ \gcd(b, a \bmod b) & \text{if } b > 0. \end{cases}$$

Theorem (2.10)

The element $[a]_m$ of \mathbb{Z}_m has a multiplicative inverse if and only if $\gcd(a, m) = 1$.

Multiplicative inverses in \mathbb{Z}_m

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The element $[a]_m$ of \mathbb{Z}_m has a multiplicative inverse if and only if $\gcd(a, m) = 1$.

Theorem (2.11)

Suppose that $m > 1$. The element $[a]_m$ of \mathbb{Z}_m has no multiplicative inverse if and only if there exists $b \not\equiv_m 0$ such that $[a]_m[b]_m = [0]_m$.

2019 resit exam, question 4

- Write down the **multiplicative inverse law**. Pay attention to the quantifiers (“for all”, “there exists”) and other conditions in the law.
- Use the Euclidean algorithm to show that $\gcd(45, 59) = 1$.
- Carrying on from part (b), use the extended Euclidean algorithm to compute the multiplicative inverse of $[45]_{59}$ in \mathbb{Z}_{59} .
- Find all solutions $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{31}$ to the equation

$$[16]_{31} x + [26]_{31} = [2]_{31} x + [3]_{31}.$$

Show your working. You are given that $[14]_{31}^{-1} = [20]_{31}$.

Definition (3.1)

A (binary) **operation** on a set X is a function whose domain is $X \times X$ and whose codomain is X .

Definition (3.2)

A **ring** is a set R that comes with two operations on R , **addition** (written $+$) and **multiplication** (written \cdot), which satisfies the following **axioms**: [...]

Definition (3.3)

A **field** is defined to be a ring satisfying the following additional axioms: [...]

[See the next slide for the axioms.]

Ring axioms: black. Field axioms: black and blue.

	Additive	Multiplicative
Closure	$\forall a, b \in R: a + b \in R$	$\forall a, b \in R: ab \in R$
Associative	$\forall a, b, c \in R:$ $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$	$\forall a, b, c \in R:$ $a(bc) = (ab)c$
Identity	$\exists 0 \in R: \forall a \in R:$ $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$	$\exists 1 \in R: \forall a \in R:$ $a1 = 1a = a$
Inverse	$\forall a \in R: \exists b \in R:$ $a + b = b + a = 0$ (notation: $b = -a$)	$\forall a \in R \setminus \{0\}: \exists b \in R:$ $ab = ba = 1$ (notation: $b = a^{-1}$)
Commutative	$\forall a, b \in R:$ $a + b = b + a$	$\forall a, b \in R:$ $ab = ba$
Distributive	left: $\forall a, b, c \in R: a(b + c) = ab + ac$ right: $\forall a, b, c \in R: (b + c)a = ba + ca$	

Nontrivial

$$1 \neq 0$$



Definitions

Let R be a ring.

- ▶ R is a **ring with identity** if it satisfies the multiplicative identity law.
- ▶ R is a **skewfield** if it is a ring with identity and also satisfies the multiplicative inverse and nontriviality laws.
- ▶ R is a **commutative ring** if it satisfies the multiplicative commutative law.

2017 resit exam, question 7

Define addition and multiplication operations on the set $U = \mathbb{R}^2$ by

$$(a, b) + (c, d) = (a + c, b + d),$$

$$(a, b) \cdot (c, d) = (ac, ad + bc).$$

- Name the multiplicative identity element in U , and prove the multiplicative identity law.
- Prove that, if $a \neq 0$, then (a, b) has a multiplicative inverse in U .

Uniqueness of identities and inverses

Proposition (3.10)

In a ring R ,

- a. there is a unique zero element;*
- b. any element has a unique additive inverse.*

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Proposition (3.11)

Let R be a ring.

- a. If R has a multiplicative identity, then this identity is unique.*
- b. If $a \in R$ has a multiplicative inverse, then this inverse is unique.*

The cancellation property

Proposition (3.12)

Let R be a ring and $a, b, c \in R$. If $a + b = a + c$, then $b = c$.

The cancellation property

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Let R be a ring and $a, b, c \in R$. If $a + b = a + c$, then $b = c$.

Proposition

Let R be a skewfield and $a, b, c \in R$ with $a \neq 0$. If $ab = ac$, then $b = c$.

Proposition (3.13)

Let R be a ring. For any element $a \in R$, we have $0a = a0 = 0$.

Associativity with more than three elements

Proposition (3.14)

Let \diamond be an operation on a set X which satisfies the associative law. Then the value of the expression

$$a_1 \diamond a_2 \diamond \cdots \diamond a_n$$

is the same, whatever (legal) way $n - 2$ pairs of brackets are inserted.

2017 exam, question 5

- a. Let R be a ring. Define what it means for R to be
- a.1 a **commutative ring**;
 - a.2 a **skewfield**.

Give the full statement of any axioms you invoke.

- b. Let R be a ring. Prove from the axioms that $a \cdot 0 = 0$ for any $a \in R$.
- c. Let R be a ring, and $a \in R$ an element such that $a^2 = 0$. Must it be true that $a = 0$? Justify your answer.

Definition (4.1)

Let R be a ring. Let x be a variable.

A **polynomial in x with coefficients in R** is an expression

$$f = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$$

where $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_n$ are elements of R . They are the **coefficients** of f .

The set of all such polynomials will be denoted by $R[x]$.

Definition (4.2)

The **degree** of a nonzero polynomial is the largest integer n for which its coefficient of x^n is non-zero.

Names for polynomials of low degree:

deg 0	deg 1	deg 2	deg 3	deg 4	deg 5	deg 6
constant	linear	quadratic	cubic	quartic	quintic	sextic

Theorem (4.3)

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Proposition (4.4)

If R is a ring, then $R[x]$ is not a skewfield.

2018 exam, question 6

- a. Let R be a ring. Give the definition of a **polynomial in x with coefficients in R** .
- b. Define the **degree** of a polynomial.
- c. Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be nonzero polynomials in $\mathbb{R}[x]$, of degrees m and n , respectively. Prove that $\deg(f(x)g(x)) = m + n$.
- d. Give a counterexample to the multiplicative inverse law for the ring $\mathbb{R}[x]$ of polynomials in x with real coefficients. Explain why your counterexample works.

Polynomial division when the divisor is linear

Proposition (4.6)

Let K be a field. Let $f \in K[x]$ and $\alpha \in K$. Then there exist $q \in K[x]$ and $r \in K$ such that

$$f = (x - \alpha) \cdot q + r.$$

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Let K be a field. Let $f \in K[x]$ and $\alpha \in K$. Then there exist $q \in K[x]$ and $r \in K$ such that

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Corollary (4.7)

The remainder obtained when dividing f by $x - \alpha$ is $f(\alpha)$.

In particular, α is a root of f if and only if the polynomial $x - \alpha$ is a factor of f .

Repeated roots

Definition (4.8)

Let k be a nonnegative integer. An element $\alpha \in K$ is a **root of multiplicity** k of the polynomial $f \in K[x]$ if $(x - \alpha)^k$ is a factor of f , but $(x - \alpha)^{k+1}$ is not.

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Theorem (Fundamental Theorem of Algebra with multiplicities)

Let $n \geq 1$, and let $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_n$ be complex numbers, where $a_n \neq 0$. The polynomial

$$a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$$

has exactly n roots in \mathbb{C} , counted with multiplicity.

The polynomial division rule

Theorem (4.10)

Let K be a field. Let f and g be two polynomials in $K[x]$, with $g \neq 0$. Then there exist a quotient q and a remainder r in $K[x]$ such that

- ▶ $f = gq + r$;
- ▶ either $r = 0$ or the degree of r is smaller than the degree of g .

Let $f, g \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ be polynomials, with $\deg g > 0$.

- a. The **division rule for polynomials** states that f can be divided by g to produce a quotient q and remainder r . Write down the two conclusions that the division rule states about q and r .
- b. How do we tell, from q and r , whether g **divides** f ?
- c. Suppose that $\deg f = 8$, and $(x - 1)^3$ divides f . What can be said about the multiplicity of $x = 1$ as a solution of $f(x) = 0$?

Theorem (5.1)

If R is a ring, then so is $M_n(R)$.

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Proposition (5.2)

If R is a ring in which not all products of two elements equal zero, and $n \geq 2$, then $M_n(R)$ is neither a commutative ring nor a skewfield.

Definition (6.1)

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Proposition (6.2)

$$|S_n| = n!.$$

Proposition (6.3)

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Proposition (6.4)

If $f \in S_n$, then the inverse function f^{-1} exists and is an element of S_n as well.

Theorem (6.5)

Any permutation can be written as a composition of disjoint cycles. The representation is unique, up to the facts that:

- ▶ *the cycles can be written in any order;*
- ▶ *each cycle can be started at any point;*
- ▶ *cycles of length 1 can be left out.*

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Definition

The **order** of the element $g \in S_n$ is the smallest positive number k for which $\underbrace{g \circ \dots \circ g}_{k \text{ times}} = e$.

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Proposition (6.6)

The order of a permutation is the least common multiple of the lengths of the cycles in its disjoint cycle representation.

2019 resit exam, question 6

Let f be the permutation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\ 7 & 6 & 1 & 5 & 4 & 9 & 10 & 8 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in S_{10},$$

given in two-line notation.

- Write f in cycle notation.
- Let g be the permutation $(2\ 4\ 10\ 7\ 5\ 8\ 9)(3\ 6) \in S_{10}$. Compute $g \circ f \circ g^{-1}$, and write your answer in cycle notation.
- What is the order of f ? Show your working.

Definition (7.1)

A **group** is a set G with an operation \diamond on G satisfying the following axioms:

Closure law: for all $a, b \in G$, we have $a \diamond b \in G$.

Associative law: for all $a, b, c \in G$, we have
 $a \diamond (b \diamond c) = (a \diamond b) \diamond c$.

Identity law: there is an element $e \in G$ (called the *identity*) such that $a \diamond e = e \diamond a = a$ for any $a \in G$.

Inverse law: for all $a \in G$, there exists $b \in G$ such that $a \diamond b = b \diamond a = e$, where e is the identity. The element b is called the *inverse* of a , written a^* .

If in addition the following law holds:

Commutative law: for all $a, b \in G$ we have $a \diamond b = b \diamond a$

then G is called an **abelian group**.

Examples of groups we've already seen

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Let R be a ring. Take $G = R$, with operation $+$. Then G is an abelian group.

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Proposition (7.4)

S_n is an abelian group if $n \leq 2$, and is non-abelian if $n \geq 3$.

Some notations for groups

Notation	Operation	Identity	Inverse
General	$a \diamond b$	e	a^*
Multiplicative	ab or $a \cdot b$	1	a^{-1}
Additive	$a + b$	0	$-a$

Etcetera.

Proposition (7.5)

Let G be a group.

- a. The identity of G is unique.*
- b. Each element has a unique inverse.*
- c. For any $a, b \in G$, we have $(a \diamond b)^* = b^* \diamond a^*$.*
- d. Cancellation law: if $a \diamond b = a \diamond c$ then $b = c$.*

Let R be a ring with identity element 1 .

Definition (7.6)

An element $u \in R$ is called a **unit** if there is an element $v \in R$ such that $uv = vu = 1$.

The element v is called the **inverse** of u , written u^{-1} .

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Proposition (7.7)

- If R satisfies the nontrivial law, then 0 is not a unit.*
- 1 is a unit; its inverse is 1 .*
- If u is a unit, then so is u^{-1} ; its inverse is u .*
- If u and v are units, then so is uv ; its inverse is $v^{-1}u^{-1}$.*

The group of units

If R is a ring with identity, we let R^\times denote the set of units of R , with the operation of multiplication in R .

Theorem (7.8)

R^\times is a group.

We name R^\times the **group of units** of R .

Definition (7.9)

Let (G, \diamond) be a group, and H a subset of G . We say that H is a **subgroup** of G if H , with the same operation \diamond is itself a group.

Subgroups

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Proposition (7.10)

A non-empty subset H of a group (G, \diamond) is a subgroup if and only if, for all $h_1, h_2 \in H$, we have $h_1 \diamond h_2^ \in H$.*

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Theorem (Lagrange's Theorem, 7.11)

Let G be a finite group, and H a subgroup of G . Then $|H|$ divides $|G|$.

Extra question 7.2.1

Write down every possible Cayley table of a group whose set of elements is $\{a, b, c\}$.

- a. Define what it means for a set G with a binary operation $*$ to be a **group**, including the statements of every axiom you cite.
- b. Let

$$S = \{a + bi \in \mathbb{C} : a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a^2 + b^2 = 1\}$$

be the set of all complex numbers of modulus 1. Prove that S is a subgroup of the multiplicative group \mathbb{C}^\times .

Variant of Extra 2.6.4 (solving equations in \mathbb{Z}_p)

Find all $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_{13}$ that satisfy the simultaneous system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} [5]_{13} X + [2]_{13} Y &= [6]_{13} \\ [4]_{13} X + \quad \quad Y &= [2]_{13}. \end{aligned}$$

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