

Lecture 02: Subring criterion

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At the end of the previous lecture we mentioned a subring criterion:

• Suppose $(A, +, \cdot)$ is a ring. Then $B \subseteq A$ is a subring if and only if (1) $(B, +)$ is a subgroup, (2) B is closed under multiplication. As we combine this with a subgroup criterion we get the following:

Proposition (Subring criterion) Suppose $(A, +, \cdot)$ is a ring, and

$B \subseteq A$. Then B is a subring if and only if $\forall b_1, b_2 \in B$

(1) $b_1 - b_2 \in B$ and (2) $b_1 \cdot b_2 \in B$.

Ex. $n\mathbb{Z}$ is a subring of \mathbb{Z} which is not unital if $n > 1$.

Ex. $M_n(\mathbb{Q}) :=$ the set of $n \times n$ rational matrices with the usual addition and multiplication of matrices.

In fact for any ring R , $M_n(R)$ is a ring (Check why.)

Ex./Def. Suppose R_1, \dots, R_n are rings. Then the direct product

$R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$ is a ring with componentwise operations; that means

$(a_1, \dots, a_n) + (b_1, \dots, b_n) = (a_1 + b_1, \dots, a_n + b_n)$ and

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$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) \cdot (b_1, \dots, b_n) = (a_1 b_1, \dots, a_n b_n).$$

Notice if 1_{R_i} is the unity of R_i for $1 \leq i \leq n$, then $(\frac{1}{R_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{R_n})$ is the unity of $R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$.

Ex. Compute $(1, 0) \cdot (1, \sqrt{2})$ in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$;

$$(1, 0) \cdot (1, \sqrt{2}) = (1, 0).$$

Ex. Compute $(1, 0) + (1, \sqrt{2})$ in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$;

$$(1, 0) + (1, \sqrt{2}) = (2, \sqrt{2}).$$

Ex. Compute $\begin{bmatrix} (1, 0) & (1, \sqrt{2}) \\ (0, 1) & (1, 1) \end{bmatrix}^2$ in $M_2(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R})$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} (1, 0) & (1, \sqrt{2}) \\ (0, 1) & (1, 1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (1, 0) & (1, \sqrt{2}) \\ (0, 1) & (1, 1) \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} (1, 0)(1, 0) + (1, \sqrt{2})(0, 1) & (1, 0)(1, \sqrt{2}) + (1, \sqrt{2})(1, 1) \\ (0, 1)(1, 0) + (1, 1)(0, 1) & (0, 1)(1, \sqrt{2}) + (1, 1)(1, 1) \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} (1, 0) + (0, \sqrt{2}) & (1, 0) + (1, \sqrt{2}) \\ (0, 0) + (0, 1) & (0, \sqrt{2}) + (1, 1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1, \sqrt{2}) & (2, \sqrt{2}) \\ (0, 1) & (1, 1 + \sqrt{2}) \end{bmatrix}$$

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Remark. $(0,1) \cdot (1,0) = (0,0)$; so sometimes product of two non-zero elements is zero. Such elements are called zero-divisors.

Def. Suppose A is a commutative ring. $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ is called a zero-divisor if $\exists b \in A \setminus \{0\}$ s.t. $ab=0$.

Ex. $(1,0)$ is a zero-divisor in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$.

Pf. $(1,0)(0,1) = (0,0)$.

Ex. The ring \mathbb{Z}_n of integers modulo n . I am going to follow your book and use a bit non-standard way of defining \mathbb{Z}_n .

$\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ as set.

Division algorithm $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\exists!$ $(q, r) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$,
(a) $m = nq + r$ (b) $0 \leq r < n$.

(q is called the quotient of m divided by n and r is called the remainder.)

For $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_n$, $a \oplus b :=$ the remainder of $a+b$ divided by n .

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and $a \circ b :=$ the remainder of $a \cdot b$ divided by n .

To see why \mathbb{Z}_n is a ring, let us recall basic properties of congruence arithmetic from your previous courses:

Def. For $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, we say $a \mid b$ if $b = ak$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

For $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, we say $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ if $n \mid a - b$. (We say a is congruent to b modulo n)

Basic Properties of Congruence arithmetics

$$(1) \quad a \equiv a \pmod{n}; \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} a_1 \equiv a_2 \pmod{n} \\ a_2 \equiv a_3 \pmod{n} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow a_1 \equiv a_3 \pmod{n}.$$

$$(2) \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} a_1 \equiv a_2 \pmod{n} \\ b_1 \equiv b_2 \pmod{n} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow a_1 + b_1 \equiv a_2 + b_2 \pmod{n}$$

$$(3) \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} a_1 \equiv a_2 \pmod{n} \\ b_1 \equiv b_2 \pmod{n} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow a_1 \cdot b_1 \equiv a_2 \cdot b_2 \pmod{n}$$

(4) r is the remainder of a divided by n if and only if $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ and $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$.

Lecture 02: Basic properties of congruence arithmetic

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Pf. (1) $n \mid 0$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow n \mid a-a; \text{ and so } a \equiv a \pmod{n}. \\ a-a=0 \end{array} \right.$

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n \mid a_1 - a_2 \Rightarrow a_1 - a_2 = nk \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ a_2 &\equiv a_3 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n \mid a_2 - a_3 \Rightarrow a_2 - a_3 = nl \text{ for some } l \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\Rightarrow (a_1 - a_2) + (a_2 - a_3) = nk + nl = n \underbrace{(k+l)}_{\text{in } \mathbb{Z}} \\ &\Rightarrow n \mid a_1 - a_3 \Rightarrow a_1 \equiv a_3 \pmod{n}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2) \quad a_1 &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n \mid a_1 - a_2 \Rightarrow a_1 - a_2 = nk \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z}. \\ b_1 &\equiv b_2 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n \mid b_1 - b_2 \Rightarrow b_1 - b_2 = nl \text{ for some } l \in \mathbb{Z}. \\ \Rightarrow \underbrace{(a_1 - a_2) + (b_1 - b_2)}_{(a_1 + b_1) - (a_2 + b_2)} &= n(k+l) \left\{ \Rightarrow a_1 + b_1 \equiv a_2 + b_2 \pmod{n}. \right. \end{aligned}$$

(3) As in part (2), $a_1 - a_2 = nk$ and $b_1 - b_2 = nl$ for some k, l in \mathbb{Z} . Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 b_1 - a_2 b_2 &= a_1 b_1 - a_2 b_1 + a_2 b_1 - a_2 b_2 \\ &= (a_1 - a_2) b_1 + a_2 (b_1 - b_2) \end{aligned}$$

We will continue next time.