

Lecture 11: A factor ring of Gaussian integers

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We were proving $\mathbb{Z}[i]/\langle 3+2i \rangle \simeq \mathbb{Z}/13\mathbb{Z}$; we defined

$\theta: \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/13\mathbb{Z}$, $\theta(a+bi) = a+5b + 13\mathbb{Z}$ and proved

θ is an onto ring homomorphism and $3+2i \in \ker \theta$.

Suppose $a+bi \in \ker \theta$. Since $\mathbb{Q}[i]$ is a field, $\exists a', b' \in \mathbb{Q}$

st. $\frac{a+bi}{3+2i} = a'+b'i = q_1 + q_2 i + e_1 + e_2 i$ for some

$q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $-\frac{1}{2} \leq e_1, e_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}$. Hence

$$\underbrace{a+bi}_{\text{in } \mathbb{Z}[i]} = \underbrace{(3+2i)(q_1+q_2 i)}_{\text{in } \mathbb{Z}[i]} + \underbrace{(3+2i)(e_1+e_2 i)}_r$$

$$\Rightarrow r \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \text{ and } |r|^2 = |3+2i|^2 |e_1+e_2 i|^2 \leq 13 \times (\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}) = 6.5.$$

As $3+2i, a+bi \in \ker \theta$, $r = r_1 + r_2 i \in \ker \theta$; and

$r_1^2 + r_2^2 \leq 6.5$. And so $|r_1| \leq 2$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} 13 \mid r_1 + 5r_2 \\ |r_1| \leq 2 \Rightarrow |r_1 + 5r_2| \leq 12 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow r_1 + 5r_2 = 0 \quad (*) \\ &\Rightarrow 5 \mid r_1 \\ &|r_1| \leq 2 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow r_1 = 0$$

And so by $(*)$ $r_2 = 0$.

Therefore $a+bi = (3+2i)(q_1+q_2 i) \in \langle 3+2i \rangle$. ■

Lecture 11: Euclidean domains

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In the examples that we have seen about \mathbb{Z} , $\mathbb{Q}[x]$, and $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ we saw the importance of having a generalized division algorithm.

So we make it more concrete now:

Def. An integral domain D is called a Euclidean Domain (ED)

if $\exists N: D \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ s.t. $N(d)=0 \iff d=0$

$\cdot \forall a \in D, b \in D \setminus \{0\}, \exists q, r \in D$ s.t.

$$a = bq + r \quad \text{and} \quad N(r) < N(b). \quad (*)$$

Proposition. \mathbb{Z} is a Euclidean Domain.

Pf. Let $N: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$, $N(a) = |a|$. Then $N(d)=0 \iff d=0$.

$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$, by the division algorithm $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t.

(1) $a = bq + r$ and (2) $0 \leq r < |b|$. Hence

$N(r) = |r| = r < |b| = N(b)$; and so \mathbb{Z} is a E.D. ■

Proposition. Suppose F is a field. Then the ring of polynomials $F[x]$ with coefficients in F is a Euclidean domain.

Lecture 11: $F[x]$ is a ED

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Pf. $\deg(a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0) = n$ if $a_n \neq 0$

$\deg(0) = -\infty$.

Let $N: F[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$, $N(p(x)) = 2^{\deg p}$ with the convention that $2^{-\infty} = 0$. So $N(p(x)) = 0 \iff p(x) = 0$.

For any $a(x) \in F[x]$ and $b(x) \in F[x] \setminus \{0\}$, by strong induction on $\deg(a)$ we prove the existence of $q(x)$ and $r(x)$.

Before we start proof of strong induction, let's consider the following two cases:

- If $a(x) = 0$, then $q(x) = 0 = r(x)$ satisfy (*).
- (I) • If $\deg a < \deg b$, then $q(x) = 0$ and $r(x) = a(x)$ satisfy (*).

Base of induction for $a \neq 0$.

$\deg a = 0$; if $\deg b > 0$, we are done by (I).

If $\deg b = 0$, then $b \in F \setminus \{0\}$; and so $q = \frac{a}{b}$, $r = 0$ satisfy (*).

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Strong induction step.

Suppose $a(x) = c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + c_0$, $c_n \neq 0$, and
 $b(x) = d_m x^m + d_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \dots + d_0$, $d_m \neq 0$. If $n < m$,
then $q(x) = 0$ and $r(x) = a(x)$ satisfy (*).

If $n \geq m$, then $a(x) - \frac{c_n}{d_m} x^{n-m} b(x)$

(getting rid of the leading term $c_n x^n$.)

$$\begin{aligned} &= (c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + c_0) \\ &\quad - (c_n x^n + \frac{c_n}{d_m} \cdot d_{m-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + \frac{c_n}{d_m} d_0 x^{n-m}) \\ &= \left(c_{n-1} - \frac{c_n d_{m-1}}{d_m} \right) x^{n-1} + \text{lower deg. terms} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \deg \left(a(x) - \frac{c_n}{d_m} x^{n-m} b(x) \right) < \deg a(x)$$

By the strong induction hypothesis, $\exists q', r \in F[x]$ s.t.

$$a(x) - \frac{c_n}{d_m} x^{n-m} b(x) = q'(x) \cdot b(x) + r(x) \text{ and } N(r) < N(b).$$

And so $a(x) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{c_n}{d_m} x^{n-m} + q'(x) \right)}_{q(x)} \cdot b(x) + r(x)$ and $N(r) < N(b)$. ■

Lecture 11: The ring of Gaussian integers is a ED

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Proposition $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is a ED.

Pf. Let $N: \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$, $N(a+bi) = a^2 + b^2$.

For $a+bi \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $c+di \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \setminus \{0\}$, since $\mathbb{Q}[i]$ is a field,

$\exists a', b' \in \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $\frac{a+bi}{c+di} = a' + b'i$. So $\exists q, q' \in \mathbb{Z}$ and

$e, e' \in \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $a' = q + e$, $b' = q' + e'$, $|e|, |e'| \leq 1/2$.

And so $a+bi = (q+q'i)(c+di) + \underbrace{(e+e'i)(c+di)}_r$

Since $a+bi$, $q+q'i$, and $c+di \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, $r \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$.

And $N(r) = |(e+e'i)(c+di)|^2 = |e+e'i|^2 |c+di|^2$

$$= (e^2 + e'^2)(c^2 + d^2) \leq \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right) N(c+di) \leq \frac{1}{2} N(c+di).$$

Since $c+di \neq 0$, $N(c+di) \neq 0$ and $\frac{1}{2} N(c+di) < N(c+di)$; and

so $N(r) < N(c+di)$. ■

In the next lecture we will prove

Theorem. A Euclidean Domain is a PID.

We will consider the "smallest" element of I and show I is generated by that element.