

Lecture 18: Euclidean domains

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The main reason that we have a very good understanding of ideals of \mathbb{Z} is because of the division algorithm. That is our main motivation for the following definition.

Def. An integral domain \mathcal{D} is called a Euclidean Domain if

$$\exists N: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}, \quad (1) \quad N(d) \geq 0, \quad N(d) = 0 \iff d = 0.$$

$$(2) \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\}, \exists q, r \in \mathcal{D} \text{ st.}$$

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

(q is called a quotient of \underline{a} divided by \underline{b} , and r is called a remainder of \underline{a} divided by \underline{b} .)

Ex. Division algorithm implies \mathbb{Z} is a ED. Here $N: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$,

$$N(a) := |a| \text{ works.}$$

Ex. Suppose F is a field. Then one can run the long division algorithm in $F[x]$, and deduce $\forall a, b \in F[x] \setminus \{0\}, \exists q, r \in F[x]$ st.

$$a = bq + r \quad \text{and} \quad \deg r < \deg b. \quad \text{And so } N: F[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0},$$

$$N(a) := 2^{\deg a} \quad \text{with the convention that } 2^{-\infty} = 0 \text{ shows us}$$

that $F[x]$ is a E.D. .

Lecture 18: Gaussian integers form a ED

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Proposition $\mathbb{Z}[i] := \{a+bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is a E.D..

Pr. (Check that $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is a subring of \mathbb{C} .)

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \setminus \{0\}$. Let $z := \frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{C}$. Notice that $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is

a lattice in \mathbb{C} , and $\mathcal{F} := \{z' \in \mathbb{C} \mid |\operatorname{Re}(z')|, |\operatorname{Im}(z')| \leq 1/2\}$

is a fundamental region of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$; that means

$$\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{Z}[i] + \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \quad |z'' + \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{F}| = \emptyset \quad \text{if} \quad z'' \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \setminus \{0\}.$$

Remark. If X is a metric space, $\Gamma \subseteq \operatorname{Isom}(X)$ is a discrete

subgroup, then for any $o \in X$ one can define

$$\mathcal{F}_o := \{x \in X \mid d(x, o) \leq d(x, \gamma \cdot o) \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma\};$$

then $X = \Gamma \cdot \mathcal{F}_o$; and \mathcal{F}_o is called the Dirichlet fundamental region.)

Of course here we do not need this fancy language:

$$z = \operatorname{Re}(z) + i \operatorname{Im}(z). \quad \operatorname{Re}(z) = q_1 + \varepsilon_1 \quad \text{where} \quad q_1 \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad |\varepsilon_1| \leq 1/2$$

and $\operatorname{Im}(z) = q_2 + \varepsilon_2$ where $q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}, |\varepsilon_2| \leq 1/2$. So

$$\frac{a}{b} = \underbrace{(q_1 + iq_2)}_{q \in \mathbb{Z}[i]} + (\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2). \quad \text{Hence} \quad a = bq + \underbrace{b(\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2)}_r.$$

Lecture 18: ED implies PID

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$\Rightarrow r = a - bq \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ as $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is a subring of \mathbb{C} .

and $|r| = |b| |\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2| \leq |b| \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{|b|}{\sqrt{2}}$.

Let $N: \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$, $N(a) := |a|^2$. So by the above

argument, $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \setminus \{0\}, \exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$a = bq + r$, $N(r) \leq N(b)/2 < N(b)$; which implies $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ is

a E.D. ■

In a E.D. we get a very good understanding of ideals.

Def. An integral domain D is called a Principal Ideal Domain (PID)

if any ideal is principal (that means any ideal is generated by one element).

Theorem. E.D. \Rightarrow PID.

Pf. Suppose $\mathcal{A} \triangleleft D$. If $\mathcal{A} = \{0\}$, then it is principal. Suppose \mathcal{A}

is a non-zero ideal. Let $a_0 \in \mathcal{A}$ be such that

$N(a_0) = \min \{ N(a) \mid a \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\} \}$. (Existence follows from

the well-ordering principle of $\mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$.)

Lecture 18: Irreducible, Prime, associates

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Claim. $\mathcal{R} = \langle a_0 \rangle$.

Pf of Claim. $a_0 \in \mathcal{R} \Rightarrow \langle a_0 \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{R}$.

$a \in \mathcal{R} \Rightarrow \exists q, r \in \mathcal{D}, a = a_0 q + r$ and $N(r) < N(a_0)$.

$r = a - a_0 q \in \mathcal{R}$
 $N(r) < N(a_0)$
 $N(a_0) = \min \{ N(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{R} \setminus \{0\} \}$

$\} \Rightarrow r=0 \Rightarrow a = a_0 q \in \langle a_0 \rangle$;
and so $\mathcal{R} = \langle a_0 \rangle$. \blacksquare

We would like to do "number theory" and "arithmetic" with rings as we did with \mathbb{Z} . We would like to see in what extent we get prime factorizations.

Def. Let \mathcal{D} be an integral domain.

(1) $a \in \mathcal{D}$ is called irreducible if $a \neq 0$, $a \notin \mathcal{D}^\times$, and

$$a = xy \Rightarrow x \in \mathcal{D}^\times \text{ or } y \in \mathcal{D}^\times.$$

(2) $a \in \mathcal{D}$ is called prime if $a \neq 0$, $a \notin \mathcal{D}^\times$, and

$$a \mid xy \Rightarrow a \mid x \text{ or } a \mid y.$$

(3) $a, b \in \mathcal{D}$ are called associates if $\exists u \in \mathcal{D}^\times, a = bu$; and

we write $a \sim b$.

Lecture 18: These properties in terms of ideals

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Lemma. Let D be an integral domain.

(1) $a \in D$ is irreducible $\Leftrightarrow a \neq 0$ and $\langle a \rangle$ is maximal among proper principal ideals.

(2) $a \in D$ is prime $\Leftrightarrow a \neq 0$ and $\langle a \rangle$ is prime.

(3) $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow \langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle$; in particular $a \sim b$ is an equivalence relation.

Pf. (1) (\Rightarrow) a irred. $\Rightarrow a \neq 0$ and $a \notin D^\times \Rightarrow a \neq 0$ and $\langle a \rangle \neq D$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle a \rangle \subseteq \langle b \rangle \subsetneq D &\Rightarrow a \in \langle b \rangle \Rightarrow a = bc \\ &\Rightarrow b \in D^\times \text{ or } c \in D^\times \Rightarrow c \in D^\times \left. \begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow b = c^{-1}a \\ \in \langle a \rangle \end{array} \right\} \\ \langle b \rangle \neq D &\Rightarrow b \notin D^\times \end{aligned}$$

And so $\langle b \rangle \subseteq \langle a \rangle$. Therefore $\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle$.

(\Leftarrow) . $\langle a \rangle$ is proper $\Rightarrow a \notin D^\times$

$$a = bc \Rightarrow \langle a \rangle \subseteq \langle b \rangle \Rightarrow \langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle \text{ or } \langle b \rangle = D.$$

by the
max. cond.

Case 1. $\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle \Rightarrow b = ac'$, and $b \neq 0$ as $a \neq 0$.

$$\Rightarrow b = ac' = bcc'$$

$$\text{(cancellation)} \Rightarrow 1 = cc' \Rightarrow c \in D^\times$$

Case 2. $\langle b \rangle = D \Rightarrow b \in D^\times$.

(And $a \neq 0$.)

Lecture 18: These properties in terms of ideals

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$$(2) (\Rightarrow) a \notin D^{\times} \Rightarrow \langle a \rangle \neq D$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cdot bc \in \langle a \rangle &\Rightarrow a|bc \Rightarrow a|b \text{ or } a|c \\ &\Rightarrow b \in \langle a \rangle \text{ or } c \in \langle a \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

$$\cdot a \neq 0$$

$$(\Leftarrow) \langle a \rangle \neq D \Rightarrow a \notin D^{\times}.$$

$$\cdot a \neq 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cdot a|bc &\Rightarrow bc \in \langle a \rangle \Rightarrow b \in \langle a \rangle \text{ or } c \in \langle a \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow a|b \text{ or } a|c. \end{aligned}$$

$$(3) (\Rightarrow) a \sim b \Rightarrow a = bu \text{ for some } u \in D^{\times} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a \in \langle b \rangle \\ b = au^{-1} \in \langle a \rangle \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle a \rangle \subseteq \langle b \rangle \\ \langle b \rangle \subseteq \langle a \rangle \end{cases} \Rightarrow \langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle.$$

$$(\Leftarrow) \text{ If } \langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle, \text{ then } a=0 \Leftrightarrow b=0.$$

So w.l.o.g. we can and will assume $a \neq 0$ and $b \neq 0$.

$$\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a = bc & \text{for some } c, c' \in D \\ b = ac' \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} b = ac' = bcc' \\ b \neq 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow cc' = 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} c \in D^{\times} \\ a = bc \end{cases} \Rightarrow a \sim b.$$

One can easily check properties of an equivalence relation using

(3). ■

Lemma. Let D be an integral domain. Then $a \in D$ is prime implies

that $a \in D$ is irreducible.

Lecture 18: Prime implies irreducible

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Pf. a is prime $\Rightarrow a \neq 0$ and $a \notin D^\times$.

$a = bc \Rightarrow a|bc \Rightarrow a|b$ or $a|c$. By symmetry we can and will assume $a|b$. Hence $b = ac'$; therefore

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} b = ac' = bcc' \\ a \neq 0 \Rightarrow b \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow 1 = cc' \Rightarrow c \in D^\times. \quad \blacksquare$$

In general converse of the previous lemma is NOT correct. Often it is easier to check if an element is irreducible; but it is not easy to show something is prime. In \mathbb{Z} , Euclid's lemma implies irreducible \iff prime. Next we generalize this to any PID.

Proposition. Suppose D is a PID. Then

$$a \in D \text{ is irreducible} \iff a \in D \text{ is prime.}$$

Pf. (\Leftarrow) is a consequence of the previous lemma.

(\Rightarrow) $a \in D$ irred. $\Rightarrow a \neq 0$ and $\langle a \rangle$ is maximal among proper principal ideal. Since all the ideals are principal, we deduce

Lecture 18: UFD and Noetherian

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that $\langle a \rangle$ is a maximal ideal; and so $\langle a \rangle$ is a prime ideal. As a is also $\neq 0$, we deduce that a is prime. ■

To get that "prime \iff irreducible" one does not need to assume D is a PID; for instance this property holds in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$; but $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is not a PID (we will see both of these claims later.)

The key point is the Uniqueness of Factorization into irred.

Def. An integral domain D is called a Unique Factorization

Domain (UFD) if $\forall a \in D \setminus (\{0\} \cup D^\times)$,

(1) (Existence) $\exists p_i$'s irreducible st. $a = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot \dots \cdot p_n$

(2) (Uniqueness) If $a = q_1 \cdot q_2 \cdot \dots \cdot q_m$ and q_i 's irreducible, then

$m = n$ and $\exists \sigma \in S_n, p_i \sim q_{\sigma(i)}$.

We often prove these properties separately. Let's recall how

we prove the existence part for \mathbb{Z} .

. If a is irred., we are done. If not, $a = bc$ and $b, c \notin \mathbb{Z}^\times$.

And so $|b|, |c| < |a|$. Therefore by repeating this argument

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for b and c , ... in finitely many steps we get to the desired decomposition. In general it is not clear if this process ends in finitely many steps:

$$a = a_1 a'_1; \quad a_1 = a_2 a'_2; \quad a_2 = a_3 a'_3; \quad \dots \quad \text{then}$$

$\langle a \rangle \subseteq \langle a_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle a_2 \rangle \subseteq \dots$. If $a_i, a'_i \notin \mathcal{D}^\times$, then

$\langle a \rangle \subsetneq \langle a_1 \rangle \subsetneq \langle a_2 \rangle \subsetneq \dots$. We would like to avoid this case.

Def. A ring A is called Noetherian if any non-empty chain of ideals has a maximum.

Lemma. A is Noetherian if and only if it satisfies the ascending chain condition (a.c.c.); that means

$$\mathcal{A}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{A}_2 \subseteq \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{A}_i \triangleleft A \quad \text{imply} \quad \mathcal{A}_{n_0} = \mathcal{A}_{n_0+1} = \dots \quad \text{for some} \\ n_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

Pf. (\Rightarrow) $\{\mathcal{A}_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ is a non-empty chain of ideals. So it has a maximum, say \mathcal{A}_{n_0} . So for any $i \geq n_0$, $\mathcal{A}_{n_0} \supseteq \mathcal{A}_i$ and $\mathcal{A}_{n_0} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_i$; thus $\mathcal{A}_{n_0} = \mathcal{A}_i$ for $i \geq n_0$.

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(\Leftarrow) Suppose C is a non-empty chain of ideals. And suppose to the contrary that C does not have a maximum. We recursively define

a sequence $\{\mathcal{A}_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ of ideals.

$C \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \exists \mathcal{A}_1 \in C$

. Suppose we have already defined $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{A}_i \in C \text{ and } \mathcal{A}_1 \subsetneq \mathcal{A}_2 \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq \mathcal{A}_n.$$

Since C does not have a maximum, $\exists \mathcal{A}_{n+1} \in C$ s.t.

$\mathcal{A}_{n+1} \not\subseteq \mathcal{A}_n$. As C is a chain, $\mathcal{A}_n \subsetneq \mathcal{A}_{n+1}$. Therefore we

get a strictly ascending chain of ideals $\mathcal{A}_1 \subsetneq \mathcal{A}_2 \subsetneq \dots$

which is a contradiction. \blacksquare

We will show the existence part of factorization for any Noetherian integral domain; but first we want to have a more structural understanding of Noetherian rings.

Prop. A is Noeth. \Leftrightarrow any ideal of A is finitely generated.

(Next lecture).