

# Lecture 4 Unique Factorization and Euclidean Domains

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In  $\mathbb{Z}$   $2|ab \Rightarrow 2|a$  or  $2|b$   
 $2=a \cdot b \Rightarrow a=\pm 1$  or  $b=\pm 1$  ( $a$  or  $b$  is a unit).

Def. Let  $R$  be a comm. ring. and let  $p$  be a non-zero element of  $R$  which is not a unit.

$p$  is prime if  $p|ab \Rightarrow p|a$  or  $p|b$ .

$p$  is irreducible if  $p=a \cdot b \Rightarrow a$  is a unit or  $b$  is a unit.

E.g. In  $\mathbb{Z}$   $2, -2$  are prime and irreducible.

In  $\mathbb{Z}_6$   $2$  is prime but not irreducible.

Is  $2$  irreducible?  $2 = 2 \cdot 4 \Rightarrow 2$  is not irred.   
*not units*

Is  $2$  prime?  $0 = 2 \cdot 3 \quad 2 = 2 \cdot 1 \quad 4 = 2 \cdot 2$   
 $\Rightarrow 2|0 \quad 2|2 \quad 2|4$

x \ y	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	4	0	2	4
3	3	0	3	0	3
4	4	2	0	4	2
5	5	4	3	2	1

$$2|0 = 3 \cdot 2 = 3 \cdot 4$$

$$2|2 = 2 \cdot 1 = 4 \cdot 2 = 5 \cdot 4$$

$$2|4 = 4 \cdot 1 = 2 \cdot 2 = 4 \cdot 4 = 2 \cdot 5$$

$$2|ab \Rightarrow 2|a \text{ or } 2|b.$$

Lemma. In an int. dom.  $D$  primes are irreducible.

Proof. Let  $p=ab$  and  $p$  be prime.

Now  $p=ab \Rightarrow p|ab \Rightarrow p|a$  or  $p|b$ .

CASE  $p|a \Rightarrow p \cdot 1 = (p \cdot \bar{a}) \cdot b \Rightarrow 1 = \bar{a} \cdot b \Rightarrow b$  is a unit.  
 $p$  is prime, quotient, CAN CAN

CASE  $p|b \Rightarrow p \cdot 1 = a(p \cdot \bar{b}) \Rightarrow p \cdot 1 = p(a \cdot \bar{b}) \Rightarrow 1 = a \cdot \bar{b} \Rightarrow a$  is a unit.  
quotient

Therefore  $p$  is irreducible.

Def. An int. dom  $D$  is a unique factorization domain (UFD)

Def. An int. dom  $D$  is a unique factorization domain (UFD) if  $\forall a \in D$  s.t.  $a \neq 0$  and  $a \notin D^*$ ,

(i)  $a = c_1 \cdot c_2 \cdots c_r$  for some irreducible  $c_i \in D$

(ii) If  $a = c_1 c_2 \cdots c_r$  and  $a = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$  then  $r = s$  and  $c_i \sim d_j$  for some  $i$  and  $j$ .

E.g.  $\mathbb{Z}$   $12 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = (-3) \cdot 2 \cdot (-2)$ .

Th. In a UFD irreducibles are prime and gcds exist.

$\mathbb{Q}[\sin, \cos] / (\sin^2 + \cos^2 - 1)$  is an int. dom. but not UFD.

$$\sin^2 + \cos^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \sin^2 = 1 - \cos^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin \times \sin = (1 - \cos)(1 + \cos)$$

$$\sin^6 + \cos^6 =$$

not units.  
not associates.

Question: How can we get all different factorizations?

## 2.4 Euclidean Domains

An int. dom.  $E$  is a Euclidean domain if  $\exists v: E \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  [the Euclidean norm] satisfying

(i)  $\forall a, b \in E \setminus \{0\}$   $v(a \cdot b) \geq v(a)$

(ii)  $\forall a, b \in E, b \neq 0, \exists q, r \in E$  s.t.  $(a \div b)$

$$a = bq + r \text{ and } r = 0 \text{ or } v(r) < v(b)$$

Note: this def makes the Euc. Alg. work.

$q$  and  $r$  don't have to be unique.

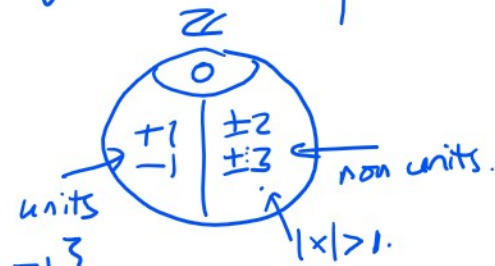
Prop. 1: If  $u$  is a unit in  $E$  then  $v(u) = v(1)$ .

Prop. 2: If  $a \in E$  and  $a \neq \pm 1$  not a unit  $v(a) > v(1)$ .



Prop. 1: If  $u$  is a unit in  $E$  then  $v(u) = 0$ .  
 Prop. 2: If  $a \in E, a \neq 0, a$  is not a unit  $v(a) > 0$ .

Ex 1.  $E = \mathbb{Z}$   $v(x) = |x|$ .  $\gcd(11, 6) = \gcd(5, 6)$   
 (i)  $|ab| = |a| \cdot |b| \geq |a|$ .  
 (ii)  $\frac{a}{b} = 1 + \frac{5}{6} = 2 + \frac{-1}{6}$   $\leftarrow \begin{matrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{matrix}$   $\gcd(11, 6) = \gcd(-1, 6)$   
 $5 < |6|$   $|1| < |6|$ .



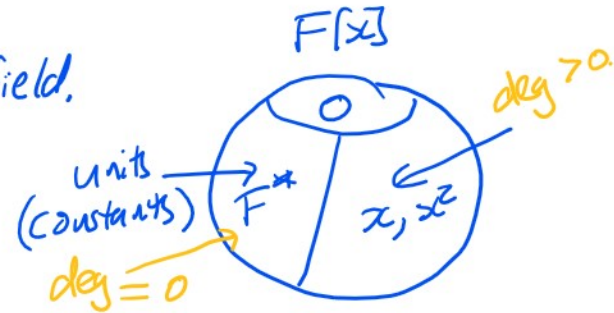
Ex 2.  $E = \mathbb{Z}[i] = \{x + iy : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}, i^2 = -1\}$ .  
 $v(a) = |a|^2 = (\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})^2 = x^2 + y^2$

Ex 3.  $E = F[x]$  where  $F$  is any field.  
 $v(a) = \deg a$ .

(i)  $v(ab) = \deg ab$   
 $= \deg a + \deg b$   
 $\geq \deg a$

(ii) 
$$\begin{array}{r} q(x) \\ b(x) \overline{) a(x)} \\ \underline{\phantom{q(x)} \phantom{b(x)} \phantom{)} \phantom{a(x)}} \\ r(x) \end{array}$$

$r(x) = 0$  or  $\deg r(x) < \deg b(x)$ .



Ex 4.  $E = F$  a field.

(i)  $v(a) = 1$   
 (ii)  $q = a/b = a \cdot b^{-1}$   
 $r = 0$ .



Theorem. All fields are Euclidean domains.  
 Theorem. All Euclidean domains are UFDs.

Proof of Prop 1.  $v(u) = v(1)$ .

$$v(u) = v(1 \cdot u) \geq v(1)$$

$$v(1) = v(u \cdot u^{-1}) \stackrel{(i)}{\geq} v(u)$$

$$v(1) \geq v(u) \text{ and } v(u) \geq v(1) \Rightarrow v(u) = v(1).$$

Prop 2.  $v(a) > v(1)$   $\leftarrow a$  is not a unit.  $1 \div a$ .

Let  $1 = a \cdot q + r$  with  $r=0$  or  $v(r) < v(a)$ .

CASE  $r=0$ :  $\Rightarrow 1 = a \cdot q \Rightarrow a$  is a unit.  $\square$

CASE  $r \neq 0$   $v(r) < v(a)$

$$v(r) = v(1 \cdot r) \geq v(1) \text{ by (i).}$$

$$v(a) > v(r) \geq v(1) \Rightarrow v(a) > v(1).$$