

EXAMPLES

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If  $F$  is a field and  $d$  is a polynomial in  $F[x]$ , the set  $M = dF[x]$ , of all multiples of  $d$  by arbitrary  $f$  in  $F[x]$ , is an ideal. For  $M$  is non-empty,  $M$  is in fact a subspace. If  $f, g \in F[x]$  and  $c$  is a scalar, then  $c(df) - dg = d(cf - g) \in M$ , so that  $M$  is a subspace. Finally  $M$  contains  $(df)g = d(fg)$  as well. The ideal  $M$  is called the principal ideal generated by  $d$ .  $M = (d)$ .

2. Let  $d_1, \dots, d_n$  be a finite number of polynomials over  $F$ . Then the sum  $M$  of the subspaces  $d_i F[x]$  is a subspace and is also an ideal. For suppose  $p \in M$ . Then  $\exists$  polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  in  $F[x]$  such that  $p = d_1 f_1 + \dots + d_n f_n$ .

If  $g$  is an arbitrary polynomial over  $F$ , then  $pg = d_1(f_1 g) + \dots + d_n(f_n g)$  so that  $pg$  also belongs to  $M$ . Thus  $M$  is an ideal, and we say that  $M$  is the ideal generated by the polynomials  $d_1, \dots, d_n$ .

Review: in 7 108

If  $F$  is a field, and  $M$  is any non-zero ideal in  $F[x]$ , there is a unique monic polynomial  $d$  in  $F[x]$  such that  $M$  is the principal ideal generated by  $d$ .

Proof:

By assumption,  $M$  contains a non-zero polynomial, among all non-zero polynomials in  $M$  there is a polynomial  $d$  of minimal degree.

We may assume  $d$  is monic.

Now if  $f \in M$ , by known theorem shows that

$$f = dq + r \quad \text{where } r = 0 \text{ (or) } \deg r < \deg d.$$

Since  $d$  is in  $M$ ,  $dq$  and  $f - dq = r$  also

belong to  $M$ .

Because  $d$  is an element of  $M$  of minimal

degree we cannot have  $\deg r < \deg d$ , so  $r = 0$ .

$$\text{Thus } M = dF[x].$$

If  $g$  is another monic polynomial such that

$M = gF[x]$ , then  $\exists$  non-zero polynomials  $p, q$  such that  $d = gp$  and  $g = dq$ .

$$\text{Thus } d = dpq \text{ and } \deg d = \deg d + \deg p + \deg q.$$

Hence  $\deg p = \deg q = 0$ , and as  $d, q$  are monic,  $p = q = 1$ .

This  $d = q$ .  
This completes the proof of the theorem.

Corollary:  $\Rightarrow$

If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are polynomials over a field  $F$ , not all of which are zero, there is a unique monic polynomial  $d$  in  $F[x]$  such that (a)  $d$  is in the ideal generated by  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .

(b)  $d$  divides each of the polynomials  $p_i$ .

Any polynomial satisfying (a) and (b) necessarily satisfies

(c)  $d$  is divisible by every polynomial which divides each of the polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .

Proof:  $\Rightarrow$

Let  $d$  be the monic generator of the ideal  $p_1 F[x] + \dots + p_n F[x]$ .

Every member of this ideal is divisible by  $d$ .

(20) Thus each of the polynomials  $p_i$  is divisible by  $d$ .

Now suppose  $f$  is a polynomial which divides each of the polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .

Then  $\exists$  polynomials  $q_1, \dots, q_n$  such that  $p_i = f q_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Also since  $d$  is the ideal

$$p_1 F[x] + \dots + p_n F[x]$$

$\exists$  polynomials  $q_1, \dots, q_n$  in  $F[x]$  such that

$$d = p_1 q_1 + \dots + p_n q_n.$$

$$\text{Thus } d = f [q_1 q_1 + \dots + q_n q_n].$$

We have shown that  $d$  is a monic polynomial satisfying (a), (b) and (c).

If  $d'$  is any polynomial satisfying (a) and (b) it follows, from (a) and the defn of  $d$  that  $d'$  is a scalar multiple of  $d$  and satisfies (c) as well.

Finally,  $d'$  is a monic polynomial, we have  $d' = d$ .

This completes the proof of the corollary.

DEFINITION :m

If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are polynomials in a field  $F$ , not all of which are monic, then their greatest common divisor  $d$  of the ideal  $P$  in  $F[x]$  is called the greatest common divisor of  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .

Then either

Proof in

DEFINITION :m

The polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are relatively prime if their greatest common divisor is one, or equivalently if the ideal they generate is all of  $F[x]$ .

### THE PRIME FACTORIZATION OF A POLYNOMIAL

DEFINITION :m

Let  $F$  be a field. A polynomial  $f$  in  $F[x]$  is said to be reducible over  $F$  if polynomials  $g, h$  in  $F[x]$  of degree  $\geq 1$  exist such that  $f = gh$ , and if not,  $f$  is said to be irreducible over  $F$ .

DEFINITION :m

A non-scalar irreducible polynomial over  $F$  is called a prime polynomial over  $F$ , and we sometimes say it is a prime in  $F[x]$ .

Theorem: m 8

Let  $p, f$  and  $g$  be polynomials over the field  $F$ . Suppose that  $p$  is a prime polynomial and that  $p$  divides the product  $fg$ . Then either  $p$  divides  $f$  (or)  $p$  divides  $g$ .  $P =$

Proof: m

Without loss of generality to assume that  $p$  is a monic prime polynomial.

The fact that  $p$  is prime then only monic divisors of  $p$  are 1 and  $p$ .

Let  $d$  be the g.c.d of  $f$  and  $p$ .

$d = (f, p) = 1$  or  $d = p$ , since  $d$  is a monic polynomial which divides  $p$ .

If  $d = p$ , then  $p$  divides  $f$ .

Suppose  $d = 1$ . i.e. suppose  $f$  and  $p$  are relatively prime.

We shall P.T.  $p$  divides  $g$ .

Since  $(f, p) = 1$ , there are polynomials  $f_0$  and  $p_0$  such that  $1 = f_0 f + p_0 p$ .

Multiplying by  $g$ , we obtain

$$g = f_0 fg + p_0 pg$$

$$g = (fg) f_0 + p(p_0 g)$$

since  $p$  divides  $fg$  & divides  $(fg) f_0$ ,

and certainly  $p$  divides  $p(p_0 g)$ .

Thus  $p$  divides  $g$ .

This completes the proof of the theorem.

Corollary:  $\checkmark$

If  $p$  is a prime and divides a product  $f_1 \cdots f_n$  then  $p$  divides one of the polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_n$ .

Proof:

The proof is by induction.

When  $n=2$ , the result is the statement of known theorem.

Suppose we have proved the corollary for  $n=k$ , and that  $p$  divides the product  $f_1 \cdots f_{k+1}$  of some  $(k+1)$  polynomials.

Since  $p$  divides  $(f_1 \cdots f_k) f_{k+1}$ , either  $p$  divides  $f_{k+1}$  (or)  $p$  divides  $f_1 \cdots f_k$ .

By the induction hypothesis, if  $p$  divides  $f_1 \cdots f_k$ , then  $p$  divides  $f_j$  for some  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq k$ .