

Ring theory

A algebraic structure $(R, +, \cdot)$ consisting of non-empty set R and two binary operations addition and multiplication is said to be ring provided the following postulates are satisfied.

R① The system $(R, +)$ is an abelian group, so we have the following properties

① Closure property: if $a \in R, b \in R \Rightarrow a + b \in R, \forall a, b \in R.$

② Associative property: $\forall a, b, c \in R, a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c.$

③ Existence of Identity: $\exists 0 \in R$ such that $a + 0 = 0 + a = a, \forall a \in R.$

④ Existence of inverse: $a + (-a) = 0, \forall a \in R, -a \in R.$

⑤ Commutativity: If $a, b \in R \Rightarrow a + b = b + a, \forall a, b \in R.$

RA: The system (R, \cdot) is a semigroup
Closure property: If $a \in R, b \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot b \in R, \forall a, b \in R.$

Associativity: If $a, b, c \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot (b \cdot c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$
 $\forall a, b, c \in R$.

(R3) Distributive law: The multiplication composition is right and left distributive over addition

Right distributive Law: If $a, b, c \in R$
 $(a+b) \cdot c = ac + bc, \forall a, b, c \in R$.

Left distributive law: If $a, b, c \in R$
 $a(b+c) = ab + ac, \forall a, b, c \in R$.

Defⁿ: An algebraic structure $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be a ring if (i) $(R, +)$ is abelian group.

(ii) (R, \cdot) is semigroup.

(iii) Multiplication is distributive over addition

$$a(b+c) = ab+ac, \\ (b+c)a = ba+ca.$$

Eg: $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot), (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot), (\mathbb{Z}_n, \oplus_n, \otimes_n), (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$

$(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ are rings.

The ring $(\mathbb{Z}_n, \oplus_n, \otimes_n)$ is known as modulo ring of integers $(M_n(\mathbb{Z}), +, \cdot)$ is also a ring.

① Additive identity is called zero of the ring.
Additive inverse of $a \in R$ is $-a$.

② Multiplicative identity if it exists then it is said to be unity or unit element of the ring.

(i) Suppose multiplicative inverse of $a \in R$ exists then a is said to be invertible.

(ii) The multiplicative inverse of a is denoted by a^{-1} , zero element has no inverse.

③ Suppose $a, b \in (R, +, \cdot)$ if $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$ but $a \cdot b = 0$ then a and b are said to be zero divisors of the ring.
 a is left zero divisor and b is called ring zero divisor.

Ring has no zero divisors if $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$
 $\Rightarrow ab \neq 0, \forall a, b \in R$.

In other words, ring has no zero divisors if $ab = 0$ either $a = 0$ or $b = 0$.

Suppose ring has zero divisors then it is said to be a ring with zero divisors.

Suppose ring has no zero divisors then it is said to be a ring without zero divisors.

If a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ has unit element then it is said to be ring with unity.

A ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be commutative ring or abelian ring if multiplication is commutative. i.e., $ab=ba$.

A commutative ring with unity and without zero divisors is said to be an integral domain.

A ring with atleast 2 elements in which unity exists and every non-zero element is invertible is known as division ring or skew-field.

A commutative ^{division} ring is known as field i.e., a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be field if it

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is commutative.

*

has unity

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Every non-zero element is invertible.

i.e., $(R, +, \cdot)$ is a field if $(R, +)$ & (R, \cdot) are abelian group

Note: Every field is a division ring but every division ring need not be a field

We say cancellation laws hold in a ring if they hold good w.r.to multiplication

$$a \neq 0, ab = ac \Rightarrow b = c \quad (LCL)$$

$$ba = ca \Rightarrow b = c \quad (RCL)$$

Eg: $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n, \cdot_n)$, $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$ are all commutative rings with unity

* $(2\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is commutative without unity

* $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$ are integral domain.

* $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$ are fields.

but $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is not a field (\because all elements are not invertible)

* $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a integral domain not a field.

* $(M_2(\mathbb{Z}), +, \cdot)$ is a ring with unity but not commutative and with zero divisors

* $(\mathbb{Z}_6, +_6, \cdot_6)$ is a commutative ring with unity with zero divisors.

* $(\mathbb{Z}_7, +_7, \cdot_7)$, $(\mathbb{Z}_5, +_5, \cdot_5)$ are finite integral domains.

$(\mathbb{Z}_7, +_7, \times_7)$ is a commutative ring with unity & without zero divisors

Theorems:

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ be a ring then

(i) $a \cdot 0 = 0$ \rightarrow zero of the ring or $0 \cdot a = 0$

(ii) $(-a)(b) = -(ab) = a(-b)$

(iii) $(-a)(-b) = ab$

(iv) $a(b-c) = ab-ac$ $\forall a, b, c \in R$
 $(b-c)a = bc-ca$

(i) $a \cdot 0 = a(0+0) = a \cdot 0 + a \cdot 0$ — (1)

also $a \cdot 0 = a \cdot 0 + a \cdot 0$ — (2)

(1) & (2) $\Rightarrow a \cdot 0 + 0 = a \cdot 0 + a \cdot 0$

$\Rightarrow a \cdot 0 = 0$

$0 \cdot a = (0+0)a = 0 \cdot a + 0 \cdot a$ — (3)

(3) \Rightarrow (4) $0 \cdot a = 0 \cdot a + 0$ — (4)

\Rightarrow $0 \cdot a + 0 = 0 \cdot a + 0 \cdot a$

$\Rightarrow 0 \cdot a = 0$

(ii) Consider $a(-b) + ab = a(-b+b) = a \cdot 0 = 0$

$ab + a(-b) = a(b+(-b)) = a \cdot 0 = 0$

$\Rightarrow a(-b) + ab = ab + a(-b)$

$\Rightarrow a(-b)$ is additive inverse of ab

i.e., $a(-b) = -ab$

Now consider $(-a)b + ab = (-a+a)b = 0 \cdot b = 0$
 $ab + (-a)b = (a-a)b = 0 \cdot b = 0$

Thus $(-a)b + ab = ab + (-a)b$

$\Rightarrow (-a)b$ is the additive inverse of ab

i.e., $(-a)b = -ab$.

(iii) $(-a)(-b)$

put $-b = x$.

$$= -ax = -(ax) = -a(-b) = -(-ab) = ab$$

(iv) $a(b-c) = a[b + (-c)] = ab + a(-c)$

(v) $(b-c)a = [b + (-c)]a = ab - ac$
 $= ba + (-c)a$
 $= ba - ca$

Theorem (2)

In a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ cancellation laws holds good iff R is without zero divisors.

Let cancellation laws hold good in $(R, +, \cdot)$

Consider $ab = 0$ where $a, b \in R$

Let $a \neq 0$, $ab = 0$ $a \cdot 0 = 0$

$$ab = a \cdot 0$$

$$\Rightarrow b = 0$$

Let $b \neq 0 \Rightarrow ab = 0$

$$ab = 0 \cdot b$$

$$a = 0$$

Thus $ab=0 \Rightarrow$ either $a=0$ or $b=0$

i.e., R is without zero divisors.

Conversely, let R be without zero divisors

let $ab=ac$ and $a \neq 0$

$$ab-ac = ac-ac$$

$$a(b-c) = 0 \Rightarrow a \neq 0 \Rightarrow b-c=0$$

$$b=c$$

but $a \neq 0 \therefore b-c=0$

$$\Rightarrow b=c.$$

Now, $ba=ca$ and $a \neq 0$

as $a \neq 0$, $b-c=0 \Rightarrow b=c$.

Thus $ba=ca \Rightarrow b=c$

Theorem 3: Every field is an integral domain

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ be a field.

$\Rightarrow R$ is a commutative ring with unity & every non zero element of R is invertible.

To prove: R is without zero divisors

Consider $ab=0$, where $a, b \in R$.

Let $a \neq 0 \Rightarrow a^{-1}$ exists ($\because R$ is a field)

$$a^{-1}(ab) = a^{-1}(0) \Rightarrow (a^{-1}a)b = 0$$

$$1 \cdot b = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{b=0}$$

Let $b \neq 0 \Rightarrow b^{-1}$ exists

$$(ab)b^{-1} = 0 \cdot b^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow a(bb^{-1}) = 0$$

$$a \cdot 1 = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$$

Then $ab = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$ or $b = 0$

$\therefore R$ is without zero divisors.

As R is commutative ring with unity and without zero divisors, hence

R is an integral domain.

Note: Converse of the theorem need not be true, Eg: $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is integral domain but not a field

Let $b \neq 0 \Rightarrow b^{-1}$ exists

$$(ab)b^{-1} = 0 \cdot b^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow a(bb^{-1}) = 0$$

$$a \cdot 1 = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$$

Then $ab = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$ or $b = 0$

$\therefore R$ is without zero divisors.

As R is commutative ring with unity and without zero divisors, hence R is an integral domain.

Note: Converse of the theorem need not be true, Eg: $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is integral domain but not a field.

Theorem 4: A finite integral domain is a field.

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ be a finite integral domain consisting of n distinct elements.

$$\text{Let } R = \{0, 1, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-2}\}$$

R is a commutative ring with unity and without zero divisors.

T.P.T: Every non-zero element is



Let $a_i (\neq 0) \in R$.

Consider $A = \{a_i \cdot 0, a_i \cdot 1, a_i \cdot a_1, a_i \cdot a_2, \dots, a_i \cdot a_{n-2}\}$.

A has n distinct elements (\because if $a_i \cdot a_k = a_i \cdot a_j \Rightarrow a_k = a_j$ which contradicts that R has n distinct elements).

$\therefore A$ has n distinct elements.

As multiplication is binary operation in R all the elements of $A \in R$. In some order,

$A = R$

\Rightarrow every element of R is multiple of a_i .

In particular, $1 \in R \therefore 1 = a_i \cdot a_j$,
for some $a_j \in R$.

$$a_i \cdot a_j = 1 = a_j \cdot a_i.$$

$a_i^{-1} = a_j \Rightarrow a_i$ is invertible.

As R is commutative ring with unity where all non-zero elements are invertible R is a field.

Thus every finite integral domain is a field.

Theorem 5: $(Z_n, +_n, \times_n)$ is without zero divisors iff n is a prime number

OR

$(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n, \times_n)$ is an integral domain iff n is a prime no.

OR $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n, \times_n)$ is a field iff n is prime no.

Pf: let $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n, \times_n)$ be without zero divisors.

Let n be a composite number
i.e., $n = ml$ where $1 < m, 1 < n$

$$\Rightarrow m \times_n l = 0$$

but $m \neq 0, l \neq 0$

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$ is with zero divisors.

This contradicts that \mathbb{Z}_n is without zero divisors.

$\therefore n$ is a prime number.

Converse, let n be a prime number

Consider $a \times_n b = 0$ where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_n$.

$n | ab \Rightarrow n | a$ or $n | b$ ($\because n$ is a prime no.) as $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_n$

$\therefore a, b < n$.

$\therefore n | a \Rightarrow a = 0$

or $n | b \Rightarrow b = 0$

Thus $a \times_n b = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$ or $b = 0$

\mathbb{Z}_n is without zero divisors.

Hence the proof.

Theorem 6: $(R, +, \cdot)$ is an integral domain. Then $R^* = R - \{0\}$ = set of non zero elements of R , forms a semigroup w.r. to multiplication.

Let $a, b \in R^* \Rightarrow a \neq 0, b \neq 0$
we know that integral domain is ring without zero divisors.

$\Rightarrow ab \neq 0 \Rightarrow a, b \in R^*$
 $\therefore R^*$ is closed under multiplication
As multiplication is associative in R
it is associative in R^* also

$\therefore (R^*, \cdot)$ is a semigroup.

Subrings of a Ring.

A non-empty subset 'S' of a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be a subring of R iff $(S, +, \cdot)$ is also a ring
 R and set containing $\{0\}$ are known as trivial or improper subring of R .

The subrings other than these two are known as non-trivial or proper subrings of R .

* $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$
 $(2\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

Theorem:

A non-empty subset S of a ring R is a subring of R iff (i) $a-b \in S$, (ii) $ab \in S$
 $\forall a, b \in S$

(OR) (The necessary and sufficient conditions for a non-empty subset S of a ring R to be a subring of R are $a-b \in S$ & $ab \in S$)

Let $(S, +, \cdot)$ be a subring of $(R, +, \cdot)$

$\Rightarrow (S, +, \cdot)$ is a ring

$\Rightarrow (S, +)$ is an abelian group.

$\Rightarrow (S, +)$ is a subgroup of $(R, +)$
($\because S \subseteq R$)

$\Rightarrow a-b \in S, \forall a, b \in S$

As $(S, +, \cdot)$ is a ring, it is closed under multiplication

$\therefore ab \in S \forall a \in S, b \in S$ [Necessary Condition]

Converse, Let $a-b \in S$ and $ab \in S, \forall a, b \in S$
 $a-b \in S \Rightarrow (S, +)$ is a subgroup of $(R, +)$
 $\Rightarrow (S, +)$ is a group.

As addition is commutative in R , it is commutative in S also

$\therefore (S, +)$ is an abelian group.

Multiplication is associative in R ,

\therefore it is associative in S also

Distributive laws holds good in R .

\therefore distributive laws holds good in S also.

S is closed w.r. to multiplication

as $a, b \in R$, $\forall a, b \in S$.

$\therefore (S, +, \cdot)$ is a ring.

$\Rightarrow (S, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(R, +, \cdot)$

Theorem 2: A non-empty subset S of a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of R

iff (i) $S + (-S) = S$

(ii) $SS \subseteq S$

Let S be a subring of R

Consider $x \in S + (-S)$

$\Rightarrow x = a + (-b)$ for some $a \in S$

& $-b \in -S$

$\Rightarrow x = a - b \in S$.

$\Rightarrow S + (-S) \subseteq S$ — (1)

$$\Rightarrow y + (-0) \in S + (-S) \quad (\text{here } y \in S, \neq -0 \in -S \text{ or } 0 \in S)$$

$$\Rightarrow S \subseteq S + (-S) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \& \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow S + (-S) = S$$

$$\textcircled{ii} \quad \text{Let } x \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow x = ab \quad \text{for some } a, b \in S$$

$$ab \in S \quad (\because S \text{ is a subring of } R)$$

$$\Rightarrow x \in S \therefore S \subseteq S$$

$$\text{Conversely, let } S + (-S) = S \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\& \quad S \subseteq S \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\text{Let } ab \in S \Rightarrow a \in S, -b \in -S$$

$$a + (-b) \in S + (-S)$$

$$\text{from (1), } a + (-b) \in S \quad \text{i.e., } a - b \in S \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\& \quad \text{Let } ab \in S$$

$$\text{from (2) } ab \in S \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$\therefore \textcircled{3} \& \textcircled{4} \Rightarrow S \text{ is a subring of } R.$$

Theorem: Intersection of any two subrings of a ring R is also a subring of R

Let S & T be two subrings of $(R, +, \cdot)$. $(S \cap T)$ is a non-empty subset of R . ($\because 0 \in S$ and $0 \in T \& S$ and T are subrings).

$$\text{Let } a, b \in S \cap T$$



T.S.T: $a-b \in S \cap T$ & $ab \in S \cap T$
 $a, b \in S \cap T$

$\Rightarrow a, b \in S \neq a, b \in T$

$\Rightarrow a-b \in S$ & $a-b \in T$
 $ab \in S$ & $ab \in T$

($\because S$ & T are subrings of R)

$\Rightarrow a-b \in S \cap T$ & $ab \in S \cap T$

$\therefore S \cap T$ is a subring of R .

This theorem can be generalized i.e., if S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n are subrings of R , then $S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \dots \cap S_n$ is also a subring of R .

ii) Union of 2 subrings of R need not be a subring of R

Eq: $2\mathbb{Z}, 3\mathbb{Z}$ are subrings of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

$2, 3 \in (2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z})$

but $3-2=1 \notin 2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$

$\therefore 2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$ is not a subring of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

Thm 4: The union of two subrings of R is a subring of R iff one is contained in another.

Let S & T be two subrings of $(R, +, \cdot)$
Consider $S \cup T$ as a subring of R .

To prove: $S \subseteq T$ or $T \subseteq S$.

Let $S \not\subseteq T$ or $T \not\subseteq S$

$\Rightarrow \exists \alpha \in S$ but $\alpha \notin T$ or $\exists \beta \in T$ but $\beta \notin S$.

$\alpha \in S$ & $\beta \in T \Rightarrow \alpha, \beta \in (S \cup T)$

$\Rightarrow \alpha - \beta$ and $\alpha\beta \in S \cup T$

($\because S \cup T$ is a subring of R).

$\Rightarrow \alpha - \beta, \alpha\beta \in S$ and/or

$\alpha - \beta, \alpha\beta \in T$

We have $\alpha, \alpha - \beta \in S$.

$\Rightarrow \alpha - (\alpha - \beta) \in S$

$\Rightarrow \beta \in S$.

Contradiction to our assumption that $\beta \notin S$.

Again $\beta, \alpha - \beta \in T$

$\Rightarrow \beta + \alpha - \beta \in T$ (addition is binary).

$\Rightarrow \alpha \in T$.

(\because closure law)

This is contradiction to our assumption that $\alpha \notin T$. $\therefore S \subseteq T$ or $T \subseteq S$.

Conversely, let $S \subseteq T$ or $T \subseteq S$.

$$S \subseteq T \Rightarrow S \cup T = T$$

$$T \subseteq S \Rightarrow S \cup T = S$$

$\Rightarrow S \cup T$ is a subring of R as S & T are subrings of R .

Problems:

S.T. $(n\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

Let $x, y \in n\mathbb{Z}$

$\Rightarrow x = na, y = nb$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$x - y = na - nb = n(a - b) \in n\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\because a - b \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$xy = nanb = n(anb) \in n\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\because anb \in \mathbb{Z}$$

\therefore (1), (2) $\Rightarrow n\mathbb{Z}$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

S.T. set of all matrices of the form $M = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} / a, b \in \mathbb{Q} \right\}$ is a non-commutative ring without unity w.r. to addition and multiplication of matrices.

M is a non-empty subset of $M_2(\mathbb{Q})$ (ring of square matrices of order 2 over \mathbb{Q})



$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A - B = \begin{bmatrix} a - c & b - d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M$$

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} ac & ad \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M$$

M is a subring of $M_2(\mathbb{Q}) \Rightarrow M$ is a ring.
Matrix multiplication is not commutative.

Suppose $AX = A = XA$ where $X = \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$ap + \cancel{0} = a, \quad aq = b$$

$$\Rightarrow p = 1, \quad q = b/a$$

$$XA = A$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} pa & pb \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow pq = a \Rightarrow p = 1 \quad pb = b \Rightarrow p = 1$$

As $q = b/a$, is not unique.

$\therefore X$ is not unique.

$\Rightarrow M$ is without unity.

S.T the set of all real nos. of the form $a+b\sqrt{2}$ where a & b are integers forms a integral domain.

$$S = \{a+b\sqrt{2} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

S is a non-empty subsets of ring of real nos. $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$.

$$\text{Let } x, y \in S \Rightarrow x = a+b\sqrt{2}, y = c+d\sqrt{2}$$

$$x-y = a-c+(b-d)\sqrt{2} \in S$$

$$xy = (a+b\sqrt{2})(c+d\sqrt{2})$$

$$= (ac+2bd) + (ad+bc)\sqrt{2} \in S.$$

$\Rightarrow S$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$.

$\Rightarrow S$ is a ring w.r.to '+' & 'x'

As \mathbb{R} is commutative, S is also commutative.

$$(a+b\sqrt{2})(1+0\sqrt{2}) = a+b\sqrt{2}$$

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

$\Rightarrow 1 = 1+0\sqrt{2} \in S$ is unity of S .

$$ac+2bd=0$$

$$ad+bc=0$$

$$\Rightarrow b=0 \Rightarrow ac+2bd=0$$

$$\Rightarrow ac=0, ad+bc=0$$

$$\Rightarrow ad=0$$

$$\Rightarrow a=0, c=0, d=0$$

$\therefore a, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ which is without zero divisors

$\therefore x=0, y=0$ i.e., if $xy=0$
then $x=0, y=0$.
 $\therefore S$ is without zero divisors.
 \therefore Integral domain.

Ideals

A non-empty subset I of a ring of $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be an ideal of R if $a-b, ra, ar \in I$,
 $\forall a, b \in I$ and $r \in R$.

A non-empty subset I of a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be right ideal of R if $a-b, ar \in I, \forall a, b \in I \ \& \ r \in R$

A non-empty subset I of a ring $(R, +, \cdot)$ is said to be left ideal of R if $a-b, ra \in I, \forall a, b \in I, r \in R$.

The set containing $\{0\}$ and R are said to be improper or trivial ideals of R . The ideals other than these are known as proper or non-trivial ideals of R .

A ring is said to be simple ring if it has no proper ideal.

Theorems:

1. Every ideal (left or right) is a subring of R .

Let I be an ideal of $(R, +, \cdot)$
 $\Rightarrow a-b, ar, ra \in I, \forall a, b \in I, r \in R$.

$b \in I \Rightarrow b \in R$.

$a \in I \Rightarrow a \in R \Rightarrow ab \in I$

($\because ar \in I, \forall a \in I, r \in R$)

Thus $a-b$ and $ab \in I, \forall a, b \in I$.

$\therefore I$ is a subring of R .

Note: Every ideal is a subring but every subring need not be an ideal

i.e., Converse need not be true.

Eg: $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$

Let $7 \in \mathbb{Z}, 8/3 \in \mathbb{Q}$

$$ab = 7 \times 8/3 \notin \mathbb{Z}$$

$\therefore \mathbb{Z}$ is not an ideal of $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$

2. Intersection of any 2 ideals of a ring is also ideal of the ring
Let S and T be 2 ideals of a

ring $(R, +, \cdot)$

T.P.T: $S \cap T$ is an ideal of R .

S and T are non-empty subsets of R .

$\therefore 0 \in S, 0 \in T$ as S and T are ideals)

$\therefore 0 \in S \cap T$

Let $a, b \in S \cap T$ and $r \in R$.

$a, b \in S \cap T \Rightarrow a, b \in S, a, b \in T$.

Now $a, b \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow a-b, ar, ra \in S$

$a, b \in T, r \in R \Rightarrow a-b, ar, ra \in T$.

$\Rightarrow a-b, ar, ra \in S \cap T, \forall a, b \in S \cap T$
and $r \in R$.

$\therefore S \cap T$ is an ideal of R .

Note:

i) Intersection of any 2 right ideals of a ring is also a right ideal of the ring.

ii) Intersection of any 2 left ideals of a ring is also a left ideal of the

ring.

iii) Suppose S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k are ideals of R
then $S_1 \cap S_2 \cap \dots \cap S_k$ are ideals of R

iv) Union of 2 ideals of R need not be an ideal of R

$2\mathbb{Z}, 3\mathbb{Z}$ are ideals of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

$$2 \in 2\mathbb{Z}, 3 \in 3\mathbb{Z}$$

$$2, 3 \in 2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\text{but } 3-2 = 1 \notin 2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$$

$\therefore (2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z})$ is not an ideal of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

3. The union of 2 ideals of a ring is an ideal of the ring iff one is contained in another.

Let S and T be 2 ideals of $(R, +, \cdot)$

Suppose $S \cup T$ is an ideal of R .

To prove: $S \subseteq T$ or $T \subseteq S$

Consider $S \not\subseteq T$ or $T \not\subseteq S$

$\Rightarrow \exists \alpha \in S$ such that $\alpha \notin T$.

or $\exists \beta \in T$ such that $\beta \notin S$.

$$\alpha, \beta \in S \cup T.$$

$\Rightarrow \alpha - \beta \in S \cup T$ ($\because S \cup T$ is an ideal).

$\Rightarrow \alpha - \beta \in S$ and/or $\alpha - \beta \in T$

Now, $\alpha \in S$ and $\alpha - \beta \in S$.

$$\Rightarrow \alpha - (\alpha - \beta) \in S.$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha - \alpha + \beta \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta \in S$$

This is a contradiction to our assumption that $\beta \notin S$.

Again $\beta, \alpha - \beta \in T$

$$\Rightarrow \beta + \alpha - \beta \in T \Rightarrow \alpha \in T$$

Contradiction.

\therefore Our assumption is wrong.

Hence $S \subseteq T$ and $T \subseteq S$.

Conversely,

Let $S \subseteq T$ & $T \subseteq S$.

$$S \subseteq T \Rightarrow S \cup T = T$$

$$T \subseteq S \Rightarrow S \cup T = S$$

$\Rightarrow S \cup T$ is an ideal of R as T and S are ideals of R .

Problems:

1. Show that $n\mathbb{Z}$ is an ideal of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

$x = na, y = nb$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$x - y = n(a - b) \in n\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$xr = (na)r = n(ar) \in n\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$rx = r(na) = (rn)a = n(ra) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

(1), (2), (3) $\Rightarrow n\mathbb{Z}$ is an ideal of $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$

Let R be ring of all 2×2 matrices with their elements as integers.

a) $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix} / a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$ is a left ideal

of R but not a right ideal.

b) $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} / a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$ is a right

ideal of R but not a left ideal.

a) $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} c & 0 \\ d & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S$.

$X = \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} \in R$.

$$A - B = \begin{bmatrix} a-c & 0 \\ b-d & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$XA = \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ap+qb & 0 \\ ar+sb & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$AX = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ap & aq \\ bp & bs \end{bmatrix} \notin S$$

\therefore (1) & (2) $\Rightarrow S$ is an left ideal of R .
As $AX \notin S$, $\therefore S$ is not right ideal.

b) $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S$

$X = \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} \in R$

$$A - B = \begin{bmatrix} a-c & b-d \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S \text{ --- (1)}$$

$$XA = \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ap & pb \\ ra & sb \end{bmatrix} \notin S \text{ --- (2)}$$

$$AX = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ap & aq \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in S \text{ --- (3)}$$

(1), (2) & (3) \Rightarrow S is a right ideal of R .
and not left ideal of R .

As R is a ring, $a \in R$ and $I = \{x \in R / ax = 0\}$. Show that I is a right ideal of R .

Let $x, y \in I, r \in R$.

$$ax = 0, ay = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow ax - ay = a(x - y) = ax - ay = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x - y \in I \text{ --- (1)}$$

$$a(xr) = (ax)r = 0 \cdot r = 0$$

$$\therefore xr \in I \text{ --- (2)}$$

(1) & (2) \Rightarrow I is a right ideal of R .

Note: $I = \{x \in R / xa = 0\}$ is a left ideal but not a right ideal of R .

Let $(R, +, \cdot)$ be a commutative ring and $a \in R$. Show that $aR = \{ar \mid r \in R\}$ is an ideal of R .

Let $x, y \in aR$ and $r \in R$
 $\Rightarrow x = ar_1, y = ar_2$ for some $r_1, r_2 \in R$.
 $\therefore r_1 - r_2 \in R$.

$$x - y = ar_1 - ar_2 = a(r_1 - r_2) \in aR.$$

$$\text{or } x - y \in aR$$

$$xr = ar_1r = a(r_1r) \in aR \quad - (2)$$

$$rx = xr \quad (\because R \text{ is commutative})$$
$$= (ar_1)r = a(r_1r) \in aR$$

$$rx \in aR \quad - (3)$$

$\therefore (1), (2) \& (3) \Rightarrow aR$ is an ideal of R .

Note: If R is not commutative, then aR is right ideal and Ra is left ideal of R .

Ideal aR .

Definition: Let R be a commutative ring and $a \in R$. The ideal $aR = \{ar \mid r \in R\}$ is known as principal ideal of the ring R generated by a .
 $aR = Ra$.

Homomorphism of Rings.

Definition: Homomorphism into: A mapping f from a ring R into a ring R' is said to be a homomorphism of R into R' if

- ① $f(a+b) = f(a) + f(b)$
- ② $f(ab) = f(a)f(b), \quad \forall a, b \in R.$

Homomorphism onto: A mapping f from a ring R onto a ring R' is said to be homomorphism of R into R' if

- i) $f(a+b) = f(a) + f(b),$
- ii) $f(ab) = f(a)f(b), \quad \forall a, b \in R$

Let $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ be the ring of integers, define $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by $f(x) = x, \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Show that f is homomorphism.

$$f(x+y) = x+y = f(x) + f(y)$$

$$f(xy) = xy = f(x)f(y).$$

$\therefore f$ is a homomorphism of \mathbb{Z} into \mathbb{Z} .

Let $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ be the ring of integers and $(2\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ be the ring of integers. Define $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 2\mathbb{Z}$ by $f(x) = 2x, \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$f(2) = 4, \quad f(3) = 6$$

$$f(2 \cdot 3) = f(6) = 12$$

$$f(2) \cdot f(3) = 4 \cdot 6 = 24$$

$$\Rightarrow f(a)f(b) \neq f(ab)$$

Let $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ be the ring of integers & $(2\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ be the ring with integers, where $*$ is defined by $a * b = ab/2$. Define $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 2\mathbb{Z}$ by $f(x) = 2x, \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Show that $f(\mathbb{Z})$ is homomorphism.

$$f(x+y) = 2(x+y) = 2x + 2y = f(x) + f(y)$$

$$f(xy) = 2xy; \quad f(x) * f(y) = 2x * 2y$$

$$= \frac{2x \cdot 2y}{2} = 2xy.$$

$$\Rightarrow f(xy) = f(x) * f(y)$$

$\therefore f$ is homomorphism.

Thm: If f is a homomorphism of a ring R into ring R' then

(i) $f(0) = 0'$ where 0 is the zero element of R and $0'$ is the zero element of R'

(ii) $f(-a) = -f(a), \forall a \in R$.

Let $a \in R$, then $f(a) \in R'$

we have $f(a) + 0' = f(a)$

($\because 0'$ is the identity element of R')

$$= f(a) = f(a+0) = f(a) + f(0)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(a) + 0' = f(a) + f(0)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0' = f(0), \quad (LCL)$$

we have $0' = f(0) = f(a+(-a)) = f(a) + f(-a)$

($\because f$ is homomorphism)

$$\therefore f(a) + f(-a) = 0'$$

$\therefore f(-a)$ is the additive inverse of $f(a)$

$$f(-a) = -f(a)$$

Corollary: If $f: R \rightarrow R'$ is a homomorphism then $f(a-b) = f(a) - f(b)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } f(a-b) &= f(a+(-b)) = f(a) + f(-b) \\ &= f(a) - f(b) \end{aligned}$$

Thm: Let R and R' be 2 rings and let the mapping $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a homomorphism from R to R' . Then the homomorphic image $f(R)$ of R is a subring of R' .

Let $a', b' \in f(R)$. Then $\exists a, b \in R$ such that $f(a) = a'$ and $f(b) = b'$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } a' - b' &= f(a) - f(b) = f(a) + f(-b) \\ &= f(a-b) \in f(R) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Again } a'b' &= f(a)f(b) = f(ab) \in f(R) \\ a', b' \in f(R) &\Rightarrow a' - b' \in f(R) \\ &\quad \& \quad a'b' \in f(R). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $f(R)$ is a subring of R' .

Kernel of a ring homomorphism.

Definition: Let $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a ring homomorphism. Then the set of all those elements of R which are mapped onto the zero element of R' is called the kernel of

the homomorphism f and denoted by $\text{Ker}f$
i.e., $\text{Ker}f = \{x \in R \mid f(x) = 0'\}$ where
 $0'$ is the zero element of R' .

If $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a homomorphism of R
into R' . Then show that $\text{Ker}f$ is an
ideal of R .

Let $K = \text{Ker}f = \{x \in R : f(x) = 0'\}$
Since $f(0) = 0'$, \dots at least $0 \in K$
 $\therefore K \neq \emptyset$.

Let $a, b \in K$, then $f(a) = 0'$, $f(b) = 0'$
we have $f(a-b) = f(a+(-b))$
 $= f(a) + f(-b) = f(a) - f(b) = 0' - 0' = 0'$

$\therefore a-b \in K$, thus $a, b \in K, a-b \in K$

Also if $r \in R$ then $f(ar) = f(a)f(r)$
 $= 0'f(r) = 0'$

$f(ra) = f(r)f(a) = f(r)f(0) = f(r)0' = 0'$

Thus $a \in K, r \in R \Rightarrow ar \in K$ and $ra \in K$
Hence $K = \text{Ker}f$ is an ideal of R .

Thm: If $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a homomorphism of
 R and R' then show that $\text{Ker}f$ is a
subring of R .

Let $K = \text{Ker}f = \{x \in R \mid f(x) = 0'\}$.
 $f(0) = 0' \Rightarrow 0 \in K \therefore K \neq \emptyset$

Let $a, b \in K$ then $f(a) = 0', f(b) = 0'$

Now $f(a-b) = f(a+(-b)) = f(a) - f(b)$
 $= 0' - 0' = 0' \Rightarrow a-b \in K$.

Also $f(ab) = f(a)f(b) = 0'0' = 0' \Rightarrow ab \in K$
 $\therefore K = \text{Ker}f$ is a subring of R .

If $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a homomorphism with Kernel K , then f is 1-1 iff $K = \{0\}$
 Let f be 1-1, $K = \{x \in R \mid f(x) = 0'\}$

Let $a \in K \Rightarrow f(a) = 0' \Rightarrow f(a) = f(0)$
 $\Rightarrow a = 0$ ($\because f$ is 1-1)
 $\Rightarrow K = \{0\}$.

Conversely, Let $K = \{0\}$
 Let $f(a) = f(b) \Rightarrow f(a) - f(b) = 0'$
 $\Rightarrow f(a-b) = 0'$
 $\Rightarrow a-b \in K$
 $\Rightarrow a-b = 0 \Rightarrow a = b$
 $\therefore f$ is 1-1.

Isomorphism of rings.

A mapping $f: R \rightarrow R'$ from the ring R into R' is said to be isomorphism if (i) f is homomorphism.

i.e., $f(a+b) = f(a) + f(b)$; $f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$

$\forall a, b \in R$.

(ii) $f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$
 f is 1-1 and onto, then
 we write $R \cong R'$.

Properties of Isomorphism:

Thm: If $f: R \rightarrow R'$ be a homomorphism of rings R into R' , then

- (i) If R is a commutative ring then R' is also a commutative.
- (ii) If R is a without zero divisors, then R' is also without zero divisors.
- (iii) If R is a ring with unity, then R' is also with unity.
- (iv) If R is an integral domain, then R' is also an integral domain.
- (v) If R is field then R' is also a field.
- (vi) If R is division ring then R' is also a division ring.

Pf: (i) Let $a', b' \in R' \Rightarrow a, b \in R$ such that
 $f(a) = a', f(b) = b'$