

§6.3)

Definition a non-constant poly f is
irreducible:

$$f = gh \implies \begin{matrix} g = \text{constant or} \\ h = \text{constant} \end{matrix}$$

Ex) $1, x-3$

Definition a non-constant poly f is
prime:
 f divides $rs \implies f$ divides r or
 f divides s .

For $f \in \mathbb{C}[x], \mathbb{R}[x]$ these notions are
equivalent as they are for numbers.
There are ~~fields~~ ^{Rings} for which these
notions are not equivalent, $\mathbb{F}[x]$.

Prop | $f \in \mathbb{R}[x], \mathbb{C}[x], \mathbb{Z}_p[x]$

If f is irreducible then f is prime.

Pf) f is irreducible and

- 2 -

f divides rs

The $\gcd(f, r) = c$ on f .
 $\uparrow$ constant

If $\gcd(f, r) = f$ then f divides r . Done.

Suppose $\gcd(f, r) = c$. Then f does not divide r .

The division algorithm gives poly u, v s.t.

$$c = fu + rv.$$

So

$$cs = f us + rsv \Rightarrow f \text{ divides } s.$$

f divides rs □.

Corollary If f is irreducible and

f divides $f_1 f_2 \dots f_r$

then $\exists i$ s.t.

f divides f_i .

Prop | If f is prime then f
is irreducible. $(f \in \mathbb{R}[x], \mathbb{C}[x])$
 $\mathbb{Z}_p[x]$

Pf | Suppose f is prime and

$$f = gh$$

Then f divides either g or h .
(because f is prime).

Suppose

$$\deg(f) = n \quad \deg(g) = m \quad \deg(h) = k$$

then $n = m + k$.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f \text{ divides either } g \text{ or } h. \text{ so} \\ n \leq m \text{ or } n \leq k. \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow$$

either $m = 0$ or $k = 0$. This means
either g or h is a constant. So
 f is irreducible □.

$$f \in \mathbb{R}[x], \mathbb{C}[x], \mathbb{Z}_p[x]$$

f is prime $\Leftrightarrow f$ is irreducible. - 4 -

The same as for numbers.

What about factorization of poly.?

Thm $\forall f \in \mathbb{R}[x] \text{ or } \mathbb{C}[x]$

$$f = f_1 \cdots f_r$$

where each f_i is irreducible. This factorization is unique. (

$$f_1 f_2 \cdots f_r = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_s \Rightarrow r=s \text{ and}$$

$$f_i = c_i g_i)$$

Pf Part I : there exists a factorization.

The proof is by induction in the degree of f .

If $\deg(f)=1$ then $f = c(x-\alpha)$. Hence f is irreducible.

Suppose the existence has been shown for all degrees $\leq n$.

let f with $\deg(f) = n+1$ - 5 -

If f is irreducible then $f_1 = f$. Done

If f is not irreducible then

$$f = g \cdot h$$

with $\deg(g), \deg(h) \leq n$. So

by Induction

$$g = g_1 \cdots g_r \quad g_i \text{ irreducible}$$

$$h = h_1 \cdots h_s \quad h_j \text{ irreducible}$$

$$\text{So } f = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_r h_1 h_2 \cdots h_s$$

f has a factorization in irreducible factors

Part II Uniqueness:

Proof by induction in r , the number of factors.

$r=1$: f is irreducible.

If $f = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_s$ then $s=1$ Done

Suppose the uniqueness has been shown for poly with r factors. — 6 —

Suppose

$$f = f_1 \cdots f_{r+1} = g_1 g_2 \cdots g_s.$$

where f_i and g_j are irreducible.

f_1 divides f . Hence f_1 divides $g_1 g_2 \cdots g_s$.

So f_1 divides some g_j (say f_1 divides g_1).

f_1, g_1 are both irreducible: $g_1 = c_1 f_1$,
 c_1 a constant.

So

$$\underbrace{f_2 \cdots f_{r+1}}_{r \text{ factors}} = g_2 \cdots g_s$$

The Induction hypothesis says. $s = r+1$

$f_i = g_i$ (up to a constant).

□

Ex) $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - x - 2$ - 7 -

$$f(1) = 0 \quad f(-1) = 0 \quad f(-2) = 0$$

$$f(x) = (x-1)(x+1)(x+2).$$

irreducible.

~~Ex)~~

Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

$f \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ $\deg(f) = n$ then

$$f = c(x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2)\cdots(x-\alpha_n)$$

$$\alpha_i \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Every $f \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ can be unfactored into linear factors.

lets consider x^2+1

$$x^2+1 \in \mathbb{C}[x] : x^2+1 = (x+i)(x-i)$$

$$x^2+1 \in \mathbb{R}[x] : \text{irreducible}$$

$$x^2+1 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x] : (x^2+1) = (x+1)^2.$$

$x^2+1 \in \mathbb{Z}_3[x] :$ No zero, No linear factor
So x^2+1 is irreducible.

§6.2 continued,

Recall: * a poly f is irreducible.

$$f = gh \Rightarrow g \text{ or } h \text{ constant}$$

* a poly f is a prime

$$f \mid rs \Rightarrow f \mid r \text{ or } f \mid s.$$

* Factorization Thm $\forall f$.

$$f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_r$$

where each f_i is irreducible. The factorization is unique.

* Fund. Thm. of Alg. $f \in \mathbb{C}[x]$

$$f = c(x - \alpha_1) \cdots (x - \alpha_n)$$

Cor: over $\mathbb{C}$ only the linear poly are irreducible.

$$\text{let } f \in \mathbb{R}[x]$$

If $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ is a root then $\bar{\alpha}$ is also a root.

factorize f over $\mathbb{C}$

- 9 -

$$f = c \underbrace{(x - \alpha)(x - \bar{\alpha})}_{\mathbb{R}} \dots$$

$$= c \left(x^2 - \underbrace{(\alpha + \bar{\alpha})}_{\mathbb{R}} x + \underbrace{\alpha \bar{\alpha}}_{\mathbb{R}} \right) \dots$$

Cor: irreducible real poly are either linear or quadratic.

$$\forall f \in \mathbb{R}[x]$$

$$f(x) = c(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_r).$$

$$(x^2 + b_1x + c_1)(x^2 + b_2x + c_2) \dots (x^2 + b_sx + c_s)$$

where $\alpha_i, b_j, c_j \in \mathbb{R}$.

Rmk: To classify irreducibles over $\mathbb{Z}_p$ is not so easy. In particular

$\forall p \forall n \exists$ irreducible poly over $\mathbb{Z}_p$ with degree n .

Ex) Factorize

$$f = x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 \quad \text{over } \mathbb{Z}_2$$

First: check for roots.

$$f(0) = 1 \quad f(1) = 1 \quad : \text{no roots}$$

- No roots means no linear factors.
- So if f has irreducible factors they have to be quadratic. Say Assume

$$f = (ax^2 + bx + c)(dx^2 + ex + f).$$

write the product

$$x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 =$$

$$ad x^4 + (ae + bd)x^3 + (be + af + cd)x^2 + (ce + bf)x + cf.$$

$$x^4: \quad ad = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad a = d = 1$$

$$1: \quad cf = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c = f = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x^3: e+b=1 \\ x^2: be+1+1=1 \end{array} \} \Rightarrow \quad -11-$$

$$\begin{array}{l} e+b=1 \\ be=1 \end{array} \} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} e+b=1 \\ e=b=1 \end{array} \} \downarrow$$

So f can not be factorized in linear and quadratic factors:

f is irreducible.

Ex] Factorize

$$f = x^4 + 1 \quad \text{over } \mathbb{Z}_3.$$

First check roots.

$$f(0)=1 \quad f(1)=2 \quad f(2)=2$$

So no linear factors.

Assume f can be factorized with quadratics.

$$x^4 + 1 = (ax^2 + bx + c)(dx^2 + ex + f)$$

$$x^4+1 = adx^4 + (ae+bd)x^3 + (be+af+cd)x^2 + (ce+bf)x + cf.$$

-12-

x^4 : $ad=1 \Rightarrow a=d=1$ or $a=d=2$.
(observe 1, 2 are their own inverses).

you may assume $a=d=1$ (otherwise divide by 2)

1: $cf=1 \Rightarrow c=f=1$ or $c=f=2$.

So $\boxed{c=f}$

x^3 : $0 = \cancel{ad}e+b$ $\boxed{e=-b}$

x^2 : $0 = -b^2+f+c = -b^2+2c$.

$\boxed{2c=b^2}$

$d=1$ $b=1$ $c=2$ $d=1$ $e=-1=2$ $f=2$
is a solution. So

$$x^4+1 = (x^2+x+2)(x^2+2x+2)$$

Ex) factorize

$x^3 + x + 1$ over $\mathbb{Z}_2$

roots? $f(0) = 1$ $f(1) = 1$

No roots

So no linear factors.

If f is reducible it has two quad factors. but then the

degree = 4 $\nmid$

So f is irreducible.