

# Algebra I exercises

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Many exercises here are adaptations of exercises from Hungerford [3]. In that case, a reference is given.

The notation  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  and  $\omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  is used. If  $A$  and  $B$  are sets, then the set of functions from  $A$  to  $B$  is denoted by  $B^A$ .

Unless otherwise noted, the signature of groups is  $\{e, {}^{-1}, \cdot\}$ . Thus, if  $\mathfrak{G}$  is a group, this means  $\mathfrak{G}$  is the structure  $(G, e^{\mathfrak{G}}, {}^{-1\mathfrak{G}}, \cdot^{\mathfrak{G}})$ . Usually we can abbreviate this as  $(G, e, {}^{-1}, \cdot)$ . This group is an expansion of the monoid  $(G, e, \cdot)$  and the semigroup  $(G, \cdot)$ .

**Exercise 1** (I.1.2). If  $A$  is a set and  $\mathfrak{G}$  is a group, show that the set  $G^A$  expands to a group in which  $\cdot$  is given by

$$(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x).$$

**Exercise 2** (I.1.3). (a) Find a set  $A$  and a subset  $B$  of  $A^A$  such that

- [i]  $B$  is closed under functional composition,
- [ii]  $B$  contains a right identity with respect to composition,
- [iii] every element of  $B$  has a left inverse with respect to this right identity, but
- [iv] the semigroup  $(B, \circ)$  does not expand to a group.

(b) Same problem, with “left” and “right” interchanged.

**Exercise 3** (I.1.7). The **Euclidean Algorithm** is a way to find the greatest common divisor  $\gcd(a, b)$  of two integers  $a$  and  $b$ , not both 0; it is established in the first two propositions of Book VII of Euclid’s *Elements* [1]. By means of the algorithm, we can find integral solutions to the equation

$$ax + by = \gcd(a, b).$$

Given a positive integer  $n$ , we let  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  denote the set of congruence-classes of integers *modulo*  $n$ . In the first section of his *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae* (published when he was 23), Gauss [2] shows in effect that

- the map taking an integer to its congruence-class is a bijection from  $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ , and
- the usual ring-structure on  $\mathbb{Z}$  induces a ring-structure on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

Let us take all of the foregoing as proved.

- Prove **Euclid’s Lemma** (which is Proposition VII.30 of the *Elements*): If  $p$  is prime, and  $p \mid ab$ , show that  $p$  divides  $a$  or  $b$ .
- Show that  $n$  is prime if and only if the set  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  is closed under multiplication. (Of course 0 here means literally the set of multiples of  $n$ .)
- If  $p$  is prime, show that the semigroup  $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  expands to a group.

**Exercise 4** (I.1.14). Let  $p$  be a prime number, and let  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  be denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ . We may identify this set with  $\{1, \dots, p-1\}$ .

- Prove that 1 and  $p-1$  are the only solutions of  $x^2 = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ .
- Prove  $(p-2)! = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ .
- Obtain **Wilson’s Theorem**, namely  $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ .
- Let  $G$  be a finite group. **Cauchy’s Theorem** is that, if  $|G|$  is a multiple of  $p$ , then  $G$  contains a nontrivial solution (that is, a solution other than  $e$ ) of  $x^p = e$ . Prove this in case  $p = 2$ . (Use the idea of the proof of Wilson’s Theorem. In fact our proof of Cauchy’s Theorem is going to use a generalization of this idea.)

**Exercise 5** (I.1.9). Let  $p$  be a prime.

- Show that  $\{x/y : p \nmid y\}$  is the universe of a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ .

(b) Show that  $\{x/p^n : n \in \omega\}$  is the universe of a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ .

**Exercise 6** (I.1.11). (a) Show that each of the following conditions defines the same class of groups:

[i]  $xy = yx$  (that is, the group is abelian).

[ii]  $(xy)^2 = x^2y^2$ .

[iii]  $(xy)^{-1} = x^{-1}y^{-1}$ .

[iv]  $(xy)^n = x^n y^n$  for all  $n$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

[v]  $\bigwedge_{i \in \mathbb{3}} (xy)^{n+i} = x^{n+i} y^{n+i}$  for some  $n$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

(b) Show that possibly  $(xy)^n = x^n y^n$  and  $(xy)^{n+1} = x^{n+1} y^{n+1}$ , although  $xy = yx$  may fail.

**Exercise 7** (I.1.13). Every group satisfying the identity  $x^2 = e$  is abelian.

**Exercise 8** (I.1.15). Prove:

(a) Every *finite* semigroup with left and right cancellation ( $xy = xz \Rightarrow y = z$  and  $yx = zx \Rightarrow y = z$ ) expands to a group.

(b) There is an infinite semigroup with left and right cancellation that does not expand to a group.

**Exercise 9.** (a) Show that semigroup may have a left identity that is not a right identity.

(b) If a semigroup has a left identity and a right identity, show that they are equal.

(c) In a monoid, show that there is exactly one left identity, and this is a right identity.

(d) Find monoids  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $\mathfrak{N}$  such that

$$(M, \cdot) \subseteq (N, \cdot), \quad \text{but} \quad (M, e, \cdot) \not\subseteq (N, e, \cdot).$$

(e) Find a chain  $\mathfrak{M}_0 \subseteq \mathfrak{M}_1 \subseteq \mathfrak{M}_2 \subseteq \dots$  of semigroups that expand to monoids, although the union  $\bigcup_{k \in \omega} \mathfrak{M}_k$  does not.

*Remark.* This problem yields the following model-theoretic conclusions. A monoid is a structure  $(M, e, \cdot)$  such that

- $(M, \cdot)$  is a semigroup satisfying the axiom

$$\exists x \forall y (x \cdot y = y \wedge y \cdot x = y),$$

- $e$  satisfies the formula

$$\forall y \ x \cdot y = y.$$

In this case  $e$  is the *only* element of  $M$  that satisfies this formula. Thus for every formula  $\varphi(\vec{x})$  in the signature  $\{e, \cdot\}$  of monoids, there is a formula  $\varphi^*(\vec{x})$  in the signature  $\{\cdot\}$  of semigroups such that every monoid satisfies

$$\forall \vec{x} \ (\varphi(\vec{x}) \Leftrightarrow \varphi^*(\vec{x})).$$

One obtains  $\varphi^*$  from  $\varphi$  by replacing every equation  $e \cdot x = y$  with the formula  $\exists z \ (z \cdot x = y \wedge \forall u \ z \cdot u = u)$ , and so forth. However:

- Not every function from one monoid to another that is a homomorphism of semigroups is a homomorphism of monoids.
- The theory of semigroups that expand to monoids cannot be axiomatized by  $\forall\exists$  sentences.

**Exercise 10** (I.2.9). If  $f$  is a homomorphism from a group  $\mathfrak{G}$  to a group  $\mathfrak{H}$ , and  $\mathfrak{K} < \mathfrak{H}$ , show that

- $\text{im}(f)$  is the universe of a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{H}$  (briefly,  $\text{im}(f) < H$ ),
- $f^{-1}(K)$  is the universe of a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{G}$  (i.e.  $f^{-1}(K) < G$ ),
- $\ker(f)$  is the universe of a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{G}$  (i.e.  $\ker(f) < G$ ),
- $f$  is injective if and only if  $\ker(f) = \{e^{\mathfrak{G}}\}$ .

**Exercise 11** (I.2.2). Show that a group  $\mathfrak{G}$  is abelian if and only if the permutation  $x \mapsto x^{-1}$  of  $G$  is an automorphism of  $\mathfrak{G}$ .

**Exercise 12.** In a monoid, show that, if an element has a left inverse and a right inverse, then these are equal.

**Exercise 13.** Let  $\mathbb{H}$  be the abelian group  $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}$ . We use the notation

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 0, 0, 0) &= \mathbf{1}, & (0, 1, 0, 0) &= \mathbf{i}, \\ (0, 0, 1, 0) &= \mathbf{j}, & (0, 0, 0, 1) &= \mathbf{k}. \end{aligned}$$

More generally, we let

$$\begin{aligned} (x, 0, 0, 0) &= x, & (0, x, 0, 0) &= x\mathbf{i}, \\ (0, 0, x, 0) &= x\mathbf{j}, & (0, 0, 0, x) &= x\mathbf{k}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus every element  $(x, y, z, w)$  of  $\mathbb{H}$  can be written as  $x + y\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + w\mathbf{k}$ . We define a *multiplication* (that is, an operation that distributes in both senses over addition) by these rules:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{i} \cdot x = x\mathbf{i}, & \mathbf{j} \cdot x = x\mathbf{j}, & \mathbf{k} \cdot x = x\mathbf{k}, \\ \mathbf{i}^2 = -1, & \mathbf{j}^2 = -1, & \mathbf{k}^2 = -1, \\ \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k}, & \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i}, & \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j}, \\ \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{i} = -\mathbf{k}, & \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{i}, & \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{j}. \end{array}$$

So now  $\mathbb{H}$  is a (possibly non-associative) ring.

- (a) Show that multiplication on  $\mathbb{H}$  is associative, so that  $(\mathbb{H}, 1, \cdot)$  is a monoid. There are several possible approaches to this, including the following. (So the real challenge of this problem is to find the most efficient approach to it.)

[i] One can show directly

$$\begin{aligned} & ((x_0 + x_1\mathbf{i} + x_2\mathbf{j} + x_3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (y_0 + y_1\mathbf{i} + y_2\mathbf{j} + y_3\mathbf{k})) \cdot \\ & \quad \cdot (z_0 + z_1\mathbf{i} + z_2\mathbf{j} + z_3\mathbf{k}) = (x_0 + x_1\mathbf{i} + x_2\mathbf{j} + x_3\mathbf{k}) \cdot \\ & \quad \cdot ((y_0 + y_1\mathbf{i} + y_2\mathbf{j} + y_3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (z_0 + z_1\mathbf{i} + z_2\mathbf{j} + z_3\mathbf{k})). \end{aligned}$$

- [ii] Letting  $\mathbf{e}_0 = 1$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_1 = \mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_2 = \mathbf{j}$ , and  $\mathbf{e}_3 = \mathbf{k}$ , one can first observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \left( \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \right) \cdot \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \right) \cdot \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \\ & \quad = \sum_{m<4} \sum_{n<4} \sum_{r<4} x_m y_n z_r ((\mathbf{e}_m \cdot \mathbf{e}_n) \cdot \mathbf{e}_r) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \right) \cdot \left( \left( \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \right) \cdot \sum_{n<4} x_n \mathbf{e}_n \right) \\ & \quad = \sum_{m<4} \sum_{n<4} \sum_{r<4} x_m y_n z_r (\mathbf{e}_m \cdot (\mathbf{e}_n \cdot \mathbf{e}_r)). \end{aligned}$$

Also, the definition of multiplication is unaffected by the permutations  $(1\ 2\ 3)$  and  $(1\ 3\ 2)$  of the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  of indices of the  $\mathbf{e}_n$ .

- [iii] One can observe  $x + y\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + w\mathbf{k} = x + y\mathbf{i} + (z + w\mathbf{i}) \cdot \mathbf{j}$ , and the elements  $x + y\mathbf{i}$  can be considered as elements of the field  $\mathbb{C}$ . If now  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have  $\mathbf{j} \cdot z = \bar{z}\mathbf{j}$ .
- [iv] As a ring,  $\mathbb{H}$  embeds in the associative ring of  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$  under the map

$$x + y\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + w\mathbf{k} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x + y\mathbf{i} & z + w\mathbf{i} \\ -z + w\mathbf{i} & x - y\mathbf{i} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- [v] As a ring,  $\mathbb{H}$  embeds in the associative ring of  $4 \times 4$  matrices over  $\mathbb{R}$  under the map

$$x + y\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + w\mathbf{k} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x & y & z & w \\ -y & x & -w & z \\ -z & w & x & -y \\ -w & -z & y & x \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (b) The semigroup  $(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  is a group because

$$(x + y\mathbf{i})(x - y\mathbf{i}) = x^2 + y^2,$$

so that (assuming  $x + y\mathbf{i} \neq 0$ )

$$(x + y\mathbf{i}) \left( \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} \mathbf{i} \right) = 1.$$

Find an operation  $h \mapsto \bar{h}$  on  $\mathbb{H}$  such that

$$h \mapsto h \cdot \bar{h}: \mathbb{H} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}.$$

Then show that  $(\mathbb{H} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  is a group.

*Remark.* Consequently  $\mathbb{H}$  (as a structure in the signature  $\{0, -, +, 1, \cdot\}$ ) is a **division ring**.

**Exercise 14** (I.2.4). (a) Show that the elements  $(0 \ 1 \ 2 \ 3)$  and  $(0 \ 3)$  generate a subgroup, called  $\text{Dih}(4)$ , of  $\text{Sym}(3)$  of order 8. One way to do this is to consider the given elements as permutations of the vertices of a square.

- (b) Show that  $\text{Dih}(4)$  is not isomorphic to the subgroup  $\mathbb{Q}_8$  of  $\mathbb{H} \setminus \{0\}$  generated by  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ .

**Exercise 15** (I.2.12). Find all  $(a, b)$  in  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  such that, for some  $(c, d)$  in  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} = \langle (a, b), (c, d) \rangle.$$

It may be useful to consider  $x(a, b) + y(c, d)$  as the matrix product

$$(x \ y) \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then the information in Exercise 3 will be useful.

**Exercise 16.** In the most general sense, an **algebra** is a structure with no distinguished relations, but only operations. Suppose  $\mathfrak{A}$  is an algebra with universe  $A$ . A **congruence-relation** on  $\mathfrak{A}$  is an equivalence-relation  $\sim$  on  $A$  such that for all  $n$  in  $\omega$ , for all distinguished  $n$ -ary operations  $f$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$ ,

$$x_0 \sim y_0 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{n-1} \sim y_{n-1} \implies f(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{y}).$$

In this case there is an  $n$ -ary operation  $\tilde{f}$  on  $A/\sim$  given by

$$\tilde{f}([x_0], \dots, [x_{n-1}]) = f(x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}).$$

(In particular,  $\tilde{f}$  exists automatically when  $n = 0$ .) If indeed  $\sim$  is a congruence-relation on  $\mathfrak{A}$ , then there is a quotient algebra  $\mathfrak{A}/\sim$  whose universe is  $A/\sim$  and whose distinguished operations are just these  $\tilde{f}$ .

Suppose  $\sim$  is a congruence-relation on a semigroup  $(G, \cdot)$ , so that there is an operation on  $G/\sim$  given by

$$[x][y] = [xy].$$

- (a) Show that  $(G, \cdot)/\sim$  is a semigroup.
- (b) If  $(G, \cdot)$  expands to a group, show that  $\sim$  is a congruence-relation on this group, and the quotient of the group by  $\sim$  is a group.
- (c) If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define  $\equiv$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  by

$$x \equiv y \iff n \mid x - y.$$

Show that  $\equiv$  is a congruence-relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a ring. (This was taken for granted in Exercise 3.)

**Exercise 17** (I.3.3). The only big theorem used by this exercise is the Lagrange Theorem, that the order of a subgroup divides the order of the group. Suppose  $G$  is a group of order  $pq$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct prime numbers. Prove the following.

- (a) If  $a$  and  $b$  are in  $G$  and  $\text{ord}(a) = p = \text{ord}(b)$ , then either  $\langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle$  or  $\langle a \rangle \cap \langle b \rangle = \langle \rangle$ .
- (b)  $G$  has an element of order  $p$  or  $q$ .
- (c)  $G = \langle a, b \rangle$  for some  $a$  and  $b$  in  $G$ .
- (d) If  $G$  is abelian, then  $G$  is cyclic.

**Exercise 18** (I.3.5, 9). (a) Find an infinite group generated by two elements, each of which has finite order. You can use the example of the subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(\mathbb{C}^\times)$  generated by the elements

$$\tau \mapsto \frac{-1}{\tau}, \quad \tau \mapsto \frac{-1}{\tau + 1}.$$

- (b) Show that no group as in (a) can be abelian.
- (c) Find an infinite group containing nontrivial elements of finite order, but generated by two elements, each having infinite order. You can let  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  be the group.

**Exercise 19** (I.3.6). Given  $n$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , describe all subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . (What are their orders? What are their generators? Are they cyclic?)

**Exercise 20** (I.4.2). Find all cosets (in terms of their elements) of  $\langle (0 \ 1) \rangle$  and of  $\langle (0 \ 1 \ 2) \rangle$  in  $\text{Sym}(3)$ .

**Exercise 21** (I.4.5). Find all groups of order 4 (up to isomorphism). Lagrange's Theorem and Exercise 7 may be useful.

**Exercise 22.** An **automorphism** of a group is an isomorphism from the group to itself. The set of automorphisms of a group  $G$  can be denoted by  $\text{Aut}(G)$ .

- (a) Show that  $\text{Aut}(G) < \text{Sym}(G)$ . (The first  $G$  is the group; the second, the set. Strictly one would write  $\text{Aut}(G, \cdot) < \text{Sym}(G)$ .)
- (b) Find  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$ .
- (c) Find  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .



**Exercise 23** (I.5.6). Show that there is a homomorphism  $x \mapsto f_x$  from a group  $G$  to  $\text{Aut}(G)$  given by

$$f_x(y) = xyx^{-1}.$$

**Exercise 24** (I.5.7). If  $H < G$ , show that, under either of the following two conditions,  $H \triangleleft G$ .

- (a)  $H$  is finite and is the only subgroup of  $G$  of its order.
- (b)  $[G : H]$  is finite, and  $H$  is the only subgroup of  $G$  having this index in  $G$ .

**Exercise 25** (I.5.10, 11). (a) Show that the relation  $\triangleleft$  of being a normal subgroup is not transitive. You can use subgroups of  $\text{Dih}(4)$  for an example.

- (b) Show that if  $K < H$  and  $H \triangleleft G$  and  $H$  is cyclic, then  $K \triangleleft G$ .

**Exercise 26** (I.6.4). Show  $\text{Sym}(n) = \langle (0\ 1 \ \cdots \ n-1), (0\ 1) \rangle$ .

**Exercise 27** (I.6.11). Find all normal subgroups of  $\text{Dih}(n)$ .

**Exercise 28**. Suppose  $(G_i : i \in I)$  is a family of groups, and for each  $i$  in  $I$ ,  $H_i \triangleleft G_i$ . Show

$$\prod_{i \in I} H_i \triangleleft \prod_{i \in I} G_i, \quad \prod_{i \in I} G_i / \prod_{i \in I} H_i \cong \prod_{i \in I} \frac{G_i}{H_i}.$$

**Exercise 29** (I.9.3). For any set  $A$ , let  $F(A)$  be the free group on  $A$ . If  $A \subseteq B$ , show that  $F(B)/\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle$  is a free group.

**Exercise 30**. Describe the groups

- (a)  $\langle a, b \mid a^7, b^3, a^2ba^6b^2 \rangle$ ,
- (b)  $\langle a, b \mid a^7, b^3, a^3ba^6b^2 \rangle$ .

**Exercise 31** (II.1.11). Show that  $(\mathbb{Q}^+, \cdot)$  is a free abelian group.

**Exercise 32**. How many nonisomorphic abelian groups have order  $p^n$ ?

**Exercise 33** (II.4.9). If  $G$  is not abelian, then  $G/C(G)$  is not cyclic.

**Exercise 34** (II.4.14). If  $p$  is a prime dividing  $|G|$ , and

$$1 < \frac{|G|}{p} \leq p,$$

then  $G$  is not simple.

**Exercise 35** (II.5.11). In a simple group of order 168, how many elements have order 7?

**Exercise 36.**

- (a) Find the smallest nonabelian group.
- (b) Find the smallest nonabelian soluble group.
- (c) Find the smallest nonabelian soluble group that is not nilpotent.

**Exercise 37** (II.7.8).

- (a) Find all  $n$  such that  $\text{Dih}(n)$  is nilpotent.
- (b) For such  $n$ , find the groups  $C_k(\text{Dih}(n))$ .
- (c) Find all  $m$  such that  $\text{Dih}(m)$  is soluble.
- (d) For such  $m$ , find the groups  $(\text{Dih}(m))^{(k)}$ .

**Exercise 38.** In a commutative ring, by definition, a proper ideal  $P$  is prime if and only if, for all  $x$  and  $y$  in the ring,

$$xy \in P \ \& \ x \notin P \implies y \in P.$$

Prove that the proper ideal  $P$  is prime if and only if, for all all ideals  $I$  and  $J$ ,

$$IJ \subseteq P \ \& \ I \not\subseteq P \implies J \subseteq P.$$

Here

$$IJ = (\{xy : x \in I \ \& \ y \in J\}).$$

*Proof.* The sufficiency of the given condition follows because

$$\begin{aligned} (xy) &= (x)(y), \\ x \in P &\iff (x) \subseteq P. \end{aligned}$$

For necessity, suppose  $P$  is prime, and  $IJ \subseteq P$ , but  $I \not\subseteq P$ . Then some element  $x$  of  $I$  is not in  $P$ . For all  $y$  in  $J$ , we have  $xy \in IJ$ , so  $xy \in P$ , and therefore  $y \in P$ . Thus  $J \subseteq P$ .  $\square$

**Exercise 39.** Given a commutative ring  $R$  with an ideal  $I$ , show that every ideal of  $R/I$  is of the form  $J/I$  for some ideal  $J$  of  $R$ .

*Proof.* Say  $K$  is an ideal of  $R/I$ . Let  $J = \{x \in R: x + I \in K\}$ . For all  $x, y$ , and  $r$  in  $R$ , if  $x + I$  and  $y + I$  are in  $K$ , then

$$(x + I) - (y + I) \in K, \quad (r + I)(x + I) \in K,$$

and therefore  $x - y \in J$  and  $rx \in J$ . Thus  $J$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Moreover, since  $x + I \in K \iff x \in J$ , and  $x \in J \iff x + I \in J/I$ , we have  $K = J/I$ .  $\square$

**Exercise 40.** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with proper ideal  $I$ .

- (a) If  $R$  is an integral domain, must  $R/I$  be an integral domain?
- (b) If  $R$  is a unique factorization domain (UFD) and  $R/I$  is an integral domain, must  $R/I$  be a UFD?
- (c) If  $R$  is a principal ideal domain (PID) and  $R/I$  is a unique factorization domain, must  $R/I$  be a PID?
- (d) If  $R$  is a field, must  $R/I$  be a field?

Note:  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$  is not a UFD.

**Exercise 41** (III.2.21). If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , find all prime ideals and all maximal ideals of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

*Proof.* By Exercise 40,  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a PID. Every ideal  $(k)$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is equal to  $(d)$ , where  $d = \gcd(k, n)$ : this is because the equation  $kx + ny = d$  is soluble. Thus every quotient of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is  $\mathbb{Z}_n/(d)$  for some divisor  $d$  of  $n$ ; and this quotient is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_d$ . This is an integral domain if and only if  $d$  is prime, and in this case the domain is a field. Thus the prime ideals of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  are the ideals  $(p)$ , where  $p$  is a prime factor of  $n$ ; and these prime ideals are all maximal.  $\square$

**Exercise 42** (III.1.11, 6.10).

- (a) Prove the Binomial Theorem: In every commutative ring, for every  $n$  in  $\omega$ ,

$$(x + y)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^{n-i} y^i,$$

where

$$\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i! \cdot (n-i)!}.$$

- (b) Let  $R$  be an integral domain with quotient field  $K$ . Thus, if  $a \in R$  and  $b \in R \setminus (0)$ , then  $a/b \in K$ . Assume  $a/b$  is an element  $c$  of  $R$ , and  $\pi$  is an irreducible of  $R$  such that  $\pi \mid a$ , but  $\pi \nmid b$ . Can you conclude that  $p \mid c$ ?
- (c) Let  $p$  be a prime number. If  $0 < i < p$ , prove

$$p \mid \binom{p}{i}.$$

- (d) Prove the identity

$$(x + y)^p = x^p + y^p$$

in all commutative rings having characteristic  $p$ .

- (e) Prove that  $x \mapsto x^p$  is an endomorphism of every commutative ring having characteristic  $p$ .
- (f) For all  $n$  in  $\omega$ , prove that  $x \mapsto x^{p^n}$  is an endomorphism of every commutative ring having characteristic  $p$ .
- (g) For all  $n$  in  $\omega$ , prove the identity

$$(x + y)^{p^n} = x^{p^n} + y^{p^n}$$

in all commutative rings having characteristic  $p$ .

- (h) If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $0 < i < p^n$ , prove

$$p \mid \binom{p^n}{i}.$$

- (i) Prove the irreducibility over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of the polynomial

$$1 + X + \cdots + X^{p-1}.$$

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