

Arithmetic Geometry

Gaurish Korpai

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Given an S -algebra R , the ring of all elements of R integral over S is called the *integral closure*, or *normalization* of S in R .

The following lemma by Nagata gives us general method for finding a subring over which the given ring is integral.

Lemma 1

Let $R = k[r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n]$ be a finitely generated k -algebra and $f \in k[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ be a non-zero polynomial such that $f(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n) = 0$. Then there exist $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{n-1} \in R$ such that r_n is integral over $S = k[s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{n-1}]$ and $R = S[r_n]$.

This lets us prove the first main result of normalization, called Noether's normalization lemma.

Theorem 1

Let k be a field and R be a non-zero finitely generated k -algebra. Then there exist elements $t_1, \dots, t_d \in R$ which are algebraically independent over k and such that R is integral over $k[t_1, \dots, t_d]$.

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We can generalize Nagata's argument in the proof of previous lemma, to get the following result.

Lemma 2

Let $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a ring of polynomials and $f \in R$ be a non-constant polynomial. Then there exist $y_1, \dots, y_{n-1} \in R$ such that x_n is integral over $S = k[y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}, f]$ and $R = S[x_n]$.

Hence given a non-constant polynomial in a ring of polynomials R , we can find a subring $S \subseteq R$ such that R is integral over S .

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The concept of normalization is one of the cornerstone of dimension theory. This can be illustrated by using the previous lemma to find dimension of a polynomial ring. Let's first recall the definition of Krull dimension of a ring:

Krull dimension

The *Krull dimension* of a ring R , $\dim(R)$, is defined as

$$\dim(R) = \sup\{\text{ht}(\mathfrak{p}) : \mathfrak{p} \text{ is prime ideal of } R\}$$

where $\text{ht}(\mathfrak{p}) = \sup\{n : \mathfrak{p}_n \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_1 \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{p}_i \text{ are prime ideals of } R\}$.

Let $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be the polynomial ring. We will proceed by induction on n .

We have the following chain of prime ideals in R :

$$\langle 0 \rangle \subsetneq \langle x_1 \rangle \subsetneq \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$$

Since this is a chain of length n , we have $\dim R \geq n$.

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Now consider another chain of prime ideals in R of length ℓ :

$$\langle 0 \rangle \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_1 \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_2 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_\ell$$

Let $f \in \mathfrak{p}_1$ be a non-constant polynomial, then by the previous lemma, there exists a subring $S = k[y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}, f]$, such that R is integral over S . Now by incomparability of prime ideals under integral extensions, we get the corresponding chain of prime ideals of length ℓ in S .

$$\langle 0 \rangle \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_1 \cap S \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_2 \cap S \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_\ell \cap S$$

But $S/\langle f \rangle$ is isomorphic to a polynomial ring with $n - 1$ variables. Hence by induction hypothesis $\dim S/\langle f \rangle = n - 1$. Since $\langle f \rangle \subseteq \mathfrak{p}_1 \cap S$, we have $\dim S/(\mathfrak{p}_1 \cap S) \leq \dim S/\langle f \rangle$ and hence $\text{ht}(\overline{\mathfrak{p}_\ell \cap S}) \leq \dim S/\langle f \rangle$, i.e. $\ell - 1 \leq n - 1$, equivalently $\ell \leq n$. Now by taking supremum of both sides we conclude that $\boxed{\dim R \leq n}$. Combining both the inequalities we get that $\dim R = n$.

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Let's first recall the definition:

Dedekind domain

A *Dedekind domain* is a Noetherian, integrally closed, integral domain of Krull dimension 1.

Examples: Principal ideal domains (except fields), Ring of integers of a number field

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We know that the rings of algebraic integers do not always have unique factorization property. For example, $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ is the ring of integers of $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{-5}]$, is not a unique factorization domain since

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 = (1 + \sqrt{-5})(1 - \sqrt{-5})$$

gives two distinct factorizations of 6 into irreducibles. But in a Dedekind domain we have unique factorization of ideals.

Theorem 2

Every proper ideal in a Dedekind domain R is uniquely representable as a product of prime ideals.

Hence our motive is to find prime factorization of ideals in a Dedekind domain.

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To prove the result which will help us do ideal factorization in Dedekind domains, we will take help of the technique of localization.

Theorem 3

A Dedekind domain is a Noetherian integral domain R whose localization $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ at each non-zero prime ideal \mathfrak{p} is a principal ideal domain with non-zero maximal ideal.

Hence we have an alternate definition of Dedekind domain in terms of localization.

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Let R be a Dedekind domain with field of fractions K and S be the integral closure of R in a finite extension L of K .

Lemma 3

$\mathfrak{p}S \neq S$ for any prime ideal \mathfrak{p} in R .

Lemma 4

If S is a finitely generated R -module then S is a Dedekind domain and $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{q} \Leftrightarrow \mathfrak{q} \mid \mathfrak{p}S$ where \mathfrak{p} and \mathfrak{q} are prime ideals in R and S respectively.

Combining the above two lemmas we conclude that every prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R lies under at least one prime \mathfrak{q} of S .

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Ramification index

The exponent with which the prime ideal \mathfrak{q} occur in the prime decomposition of $\mathfrak{p}S$ is called its *ramification index*.

Residual degree

R/\mathfrak{p} is the residual field of R at \mathfrak{p} and S/\mathfrak{q} is the residual field of S at \mathfrak{q} . We define the degree of field extension of S/\mathfrak{q} over R/\mathfrak{p} as the *residual degree* of \mathfrak{q} over \mathfrak{p} .

For example, if $\mathfrak{p}S = \mathfrak{q}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{q}_\ell^{e_\ell}$ then e_i is the *ramification index* of \mathfrak{q}_i over \mathfrak{p} , denoted by $e(\mathfrak{q}_i/\mathfrak{p})$ and $f_i = [S/\mathfrak{q}_i : R/\mathfrak{p}]$ is the *residual degree* of \mathfrak{q}_i over \mathfrak{p} , denoted by $f(\mathfrak{q}_i/\mathfrak{p})$.

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Let R be a Dedekind domain with field of fractions K and L be a finite extension of K . Let S be a Dedekind domain which is the integral closure of R in L and \mathfrak{q} be a prime ideal in S lying over non-zero prime ideal \mathfrak{p} in R .

Ramification index

The exponent with which the prime ideal \mathfrak{q} occur in the prime decomposition of $\mathfrak{p}S$ is called its *ramification index*.

Residual degree

R/\mathfrak{p} is the residual field of R at \mathfrak{p} and S/\mathfrak{q} is the residual field of S at \mathfrak{q} . We define the degree of field extension of S/\mathfrak{q} over R/\mathfrak{p} as the *residual degree* of \mathfrak{q} over \mathfrak{p} .

For example, if $\mathfrak{p}S = \mathfrak{q}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{q}_\ell^{e_\ell}$ then e_i is the *ramification index* of \mathfrak{q}_i over \mathfrak{p} , denoted by $e(\mathfrak{q}_i/\mathfrak{p})$ and $f_i = [S/\mathfrak{q}_i : R/\mathfrak{p}]$ is the *residual degree* of \mathfrak{q}_i over \mathfrak{p} , denoted by $f(\mathfrak{q}_i/\mathfrak{p})$.

The following result will help us find the prime ideal factorization in Dedekind domains:

Theorem 4

Let R be a Dedekind domain with field of fractions K and S be the integral closure of R in a finite extension L of K . If S is a finitely generated R -module then

$$[L : K] = \sum_{\mathfrak{q}|\mathfrak{p}S} e(\mathfrak{q}/\mathfrak{p})f(\mathfrak{q}/\mathfrak{p})$$

for any non-zero prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of R .

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We can illustrate the application of the result to find factorization of ideals in the ring of integers of a quadratic number field. That is, we set $R = \mathbb{Z}$, $K = \mathbb{Q}$, $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$ for some square free integer m , and

$$S = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{m}] & \text{if } m \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4} \\ \mathbb{Z}\left[\frac{1+\sqrt{m}}{2}\right] & \text{if } m \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

Then for $\mathfrak{p} = \langle p \rangle$ where p is some prime integer, we get

$$\mathfrak{p}S = \begin{cases} \langle p, \sqrt{m} \rangle^2 & \text{if } p \mid m \\ \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{m} \rangle^2 & \text{if } p = 2, m \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \\ \left\langle 2, \frac{1+\sqrt{m}}{2} \right\rangle \left\langle 2, \frac{1-\sqrt{m}}{2} \right\rangle & \text{if } p = 2, m \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \\ \text{prime} & \text{if } p = 2, m \equiv 5 \pmod{8} \\ \langle p, n + \sqrt{m} \rangle \langle p, n - \sqrt{m} \rangle & \text{if } p \neq 2, p \nmid m, m \equiv n^2 \pmod{p} \\ \text{prime} & \text{if } p \neq 2, p \nmid m, \left(\frac{m}{p}\right) = -1 \end{cases}$$

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Spectrum of a ring is the collection of the prime ideals of that ring. For example, $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z} = \{\langle 0 \rangle\} \cup \{\langle p \rangle : p \text{ is a prime integer}\}$.

Zariski topology

Let R be a commutative ring with identity and \mathfrak{a} be an ideal in R . We define $V(\mathfrak{a}) = \{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R : \mathfrak{a} \subseteq \mathfrak{p}\} \subseteq \text{Spec } R$. Then the following properties hold:

- (i) $V(\mathfrak{a}) \cup V(\mathfrak{b}) = V(\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b})$
- (ii) $\bigcap_{\lambda} V(\mathfrak{a}_{\lambda}) = V(\sum_{\lambda} \mathfrak{a}_{\lambda})$
- (iii) $V(R) = \emptyset$
- (iv) $V(0) = \text{Spec } R$

Then we define topology τ on X such that the closed subsets are of the form $V(\mathfrak{a})$. Moreover, the sets of the form $D(r) = \text{Spec } R \setminus V(\langle r \rangle)$ for all $r \in R$ constitute a base of open subsets of $\text{Spec } R$.

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Affine line

Let k be a field, then we define the affine line $\mathbb{A}_k^1 = \text{Spec } k[x]$ where $k[x]$ is the ring of polynomials with coefficients in the field k . Since $k[x]$ is a principal ideal domain, we have $\mathbb{A}_k^1 = \{\langle 0 \rangle\} \cup \{\langle f(x) \rangle : f(x) \text{ is a monic irreducible polynomial}\}$.

But, in general, determining all the prime ideals of a given ring is not easy. In the above two cases, we were able to write the prime ideals since the ring R was a principal ideal domain. Our motive is to determine the elements of spectrum of given ring R in general. For that we will take help of topological structure of the spectrum.

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Theorem 5

Let $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism, where R and S are commutative rings with identity. We define the map of sets

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^* : \text{Spec } S &\rightarrow \text{Spec } R \\ \mathfrak{q} &\mapsto \varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q})\end{aligned}$$

which is continuous. Moreover, following properties are true:

- (i) If φ is a localization morphism, i.e. $S = D^{-1}R$ for some multiplicatively closed subset D of R , then φ^* is a homeomorphism onto the subspace $\{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R : \mathfrak{p} \cap D = \emptyset\}$ of $\text{Spec } R$.
- (ii) If φ is surjective, then φ^* induces a homeomorphism onto the closed subspace $V(\ker(\varphi))$.

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We can illustrate the application of the result to find prime ideals of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$. Consider the canonical ring homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi : \mathbb{Z} &\hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x] \\ n &\mapsto n\end{aligned}$$

Then we have the following corresponding map of the sets:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^* : \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x] &\rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z} \\ \mathfrak{p} &\mapsto \varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})\end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}) = \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathbb{Z}$. Also, we know that

$$\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z} = \{\langle 0 \rangle\} \cup \left(\bigcup_p \{p\mathbb{Z}\} \right)$$

By the above result we know that φ^* is a continuous map, and hence

$$\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x] = \varphi^{*-1}(\{\langle 0 \rangle\}) \cup \left(\bigcup_p \varphi^{*-1}(\{p\mathbb{Z}\}) \right)$$

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We will now analyse the preimage of zero ideal and non-zero prime ideals of \mathbb{Z} under the φ^* map. Consider the multiplicative closed subset $D = \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$. Then we have the canonical ring homomorphism between $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $D^{-1}\mathbb{Z}[x] = \mathbb{Q}[x]$:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi : \mathbb{Z}[x] &\rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[x] \\ f(x) &\mapsto \frac{f(x)}{1}\end{aligned}$$

Then we have the following map of sets:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi^* : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}^1 &\rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x] \\ \mathfrak{q} &\mapsto \psi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q})\end{aligned}$$

Now by previous result we know that ψ^* is a homeomorphism from $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}^1$ onto $\varphi^{*-1}(\{\langle 0 \rangle\})$.

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Consider the natural surjective ring homomorphism between $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $\mathbb{Z}[x]/\langle p \rangle = \mathbb{F}_p[x]$:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_p : \mathbb{Z}[x] &\rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p[x] \\ f(x) &\mapsto f(x) \pmod{p}\end{aligned}$$

where $f(x) \pmod{p} = f(x) + \langle p \rangle$. Then we have the following map of sets

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_p^* : \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^1 &\rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x] \\ \mathfrak{q} &\mapsto \sigma_p^{-1}(\mathfrak{q})\end{aligned}$$

Now by previous result we know that σ_p^* is a homeomorphism from $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^1$ onto $\varphi^{*-1}(\{p\mathbb{Z}\})$.

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Now using the above two homeomorphisms (bijection) we get

$$\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x] = \psi^* (\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}^1) \cup \left(\bigcup_p \sigma_p^* (\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^1) \right)$$

as sets.

Next we note that:

- (i) $\psi^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle) = \langle 0 \rangle$
- (ii) $\psi^{-1}(\langle g(x) \rangle) = \langle f(x) \rangle$ for any monic irreducible polynomial $g(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, where $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is \mathbb{Q} -irreducible polynomial with 1 as the gcd of the coefficients.
- (iii) $\sigma_p^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle) = \langle p \rangle$
- (iv) $\sigma_p^{-1}(\langle g(x) \rangle) = \langle p, f(x) \rangle$ for any monic irreducible polynomial $g(x) \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$, where $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is \mathbb{F}_p -irreducible polynomial such that $g(x) \equiv f(x) \pmod{p}$.

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Hence we conclude that the prime ideals in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ are:

- (i) principal prime ideal $\langle f \rangle$, where f is either 0, a prime integer p , or a \mathbb{Q} -irreducible polynomial written so that its coefficients have gcd 1
- (ii) maximal ideals $\langle p, f \rangle$, where p is a prime integer and f is a monic integral polynomial irreducible modulo p .

This illustrates a real mixing of arithmetic and geometric properties; $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[x]$ can be seen as a family of affine lines, parametrized by the points of $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$, and over fields of different characteristics.

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