

Homework 29 : Due Monday, December 6

In the first three problems below, we outline the beginnings of a construction of the integers from the natural numbers. For these purposes, suppose that we've defined \mathbb{N} equipped with two binary operations $+$ and \cdot on \mathbb{N} and two elements $0, 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

1. $k + (m + n) = (k + m) + n$ for all $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
2. $m + n = n + m$ for all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
3. $k \cdot (m \cdot n) = (k \cdot m) \cdot n$ for all $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
4. $m \cdot n = n \cdot m$ for all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
5. $n + 0 = n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
6. $n \cdot 1 = n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
7. $k \cdot (m + n) = k \cdot m + k \cdot n$ for all $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
8. If $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k + m = k + n$, then $m = n$.
9. If $k, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k \cdot m = k \cdot n$, then either $k = 0$ or $m = n$.

We want to define the integers (including the operations of addition and multiplication on them) using what we've assumed above. Perhaps the following is the most natural idea. Take two "copies" of the natural numbers (one to represent the positive integers and one to represent the negative integers) and add a new element which we denote 0. This definition is straightforward, but when it comes time to define addition and multiplication (and verify their basic properties), it becomes necessary to break things into many annoying cases.

There is a more elegant way to construct the integers from the natural numbers along the lines of how we constructed the rationals from the integers. If our whole goal in passing from the natural numbers to the integers is to allow the taking of "differences" so that we can always find a solution to the equation $x + n = m$, why not build this idea right into the definition. We don't yet have the notion of a "difference", so we instead use an ordered pair to take its place. Thus, we think of (m, n) as representing the magical "difference" of m take away n . Of course, this introduces the problem that one integer will have many different representations. For instance, $(1, 4)$ and $(5, 8)$ should be the same integer (intuitively they are both -3). This isn't really a problem because we can just define an equivalence relation.

Problem 1: Define a relation \sim on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ by letting $(k, \ell) \sim (m, n)$ if $k + n = \ell + m$. Show that \sim is an equivalence relation on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$. Only use the above properties of \mathbb{N} .

Definition: We define \mathbb{Z} to be the set of equivalence classes of $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ under \sim , i.e. $\mathbb{Z} = \{\overline{(m, n)} : m, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Problem 2: Explain how to define addition on \mathbb{Z} and verify that your definition is well-defined. Also, explain how to define multiplication on \mathbb{Z} (you need not verify that it is well-defined).

Problem 3: Determine, with proof, the additive and multiplicative identities in \mathbb{Z} .

One then goes on to use the above properties of \mathbb{N} to prove that \mathbb{Z} is an integral domain. Many of the proofs are completely straightforward (there are a couple of annoying ones), but we will not pursue that goal here. Instead, we move on to two more problems (see the back of the page).

Problem 4: Suppose that R is a PID. Let $a, b \in R$. Show that there exists a least common multiple of a and b . That is, show that there exists $c \in R$ with the following properties.

- $a \mid c$ and $b \mid c$
- Whenever $d \in R$ satisfies both $a \mid d$ and $b \mid d$, it follows that $c \mid d$.

Hint: Think about the set of common multiples of a and b and how you can describe it as an ideal.

Problem 5: Let D be a positive integer which is not divisible by the square of a prime (such integers are called *squarefree*). Let

$$R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{D} \cdot i] = \{a + b\sqrt{D} \cdot i : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Define $N: R \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ by

$$N(a + b\sqrt{D} \cdot i) = a^2 + Db^2$$

So when $D = 1$, the ring R is the Gaussian Integers and N is the usual norm function. Just as in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$, a straightforward computation shows that $N(\alpha\beta) = N(\alpha)N(\beta)$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in R$.

- Show that $\alpha \in R$ is a unit if and only if $N(\alpha) = 1$.
- Find all of the units in each $R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{D} \cdot i]$.
- Let $D = 5$. Show that $R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{5} \cdot i]$ is not a UFD by showing that 6 does not factor uniquely into irreducibles (up to associates).