

Primes and Irreducibles

Exposition by William Gasarch

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Hence $bq = 1$.

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Question Is the converse true? Are all irreducibles primes?

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Upshot If $p|ab$ and one of a or b is a unit then $p|a$ or $p|b$.

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$abx + pyb = b$.

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$abx + pyb = b$. Since $p|ab$, $ab = pc$.

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$abx + pyb = b$. Since $p|ab$, $ab = pc$.

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The theorem $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ then $(\exists x, y)[ax + py = 1]$ is true in $\mathbb{Z}$.

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Case 1 $p|a$. Then we are done.

Case 2 $a \in \mathbb{U}$. Then we are done.

Case 3 a divides p . Then $p = ac$.

Since p is irreducible either $a \in \mathbb{U}$ or $c \in \mathbb{U}$.

If $a \in \mathbb{U}$ then we are done.

If $c \in \mathbb{U}$. Then $p = ca$ so $a = c^{-1}p$ so $p|a$.

Case 4 a and p are coprime. Then $\gcd(a, p) = 1$.

$ax + py = 1$. Or maybe $ax + py \in \mathbb{U}$.

The theorem $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ then $(\exists x, y)[ax + py = 1]$ is true in $\mathbb{Z}$.

In what other domains is this true?

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Messy! We need better tools for these problems.

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See next page for neater way to do it.

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$N(x) = N(y)N(z)$. Since $y, z \notin \mathbb{U}$, $N(y) \neq 1$ and $N(z) \neq 1$ so $N(x)$ is reducible.

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Next Slide Shows 2 is not prime.

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$\frac{1 + \sqrt{-5}}{2} \notin \mathbb{D}$. Contradiction.

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Answer on the next slide.

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We will prove this for $d = 1$ next time (or I'll have you look it up).