

The Division Algorithm

Theorem (Division Alg.) ← $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$

Let $f(x), g(x) \in F[x]$ where F is a field and $g \neq 0$
 \exists unique $q(x), r(x) \in F[x]$ s.t.

$$f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x)$$

where either $\deg(r(x)) < \deg(g(x))$ or $r(x) = 0$.

Proof:

• If $f(x) = 0$ then $0 = 0 \cdot g(x) + 0$
 $\therefore q = r = 0$

Suppose $f(x) \neq 0$ Say $\deg(f(x)) = n$, $\deg(g(x)) = m$

If $m > n$ then take $q(x) = 0$, $r(x) = f(x)$

Assume $m \leq n$ do induction on n

Say $f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$

$$g(x) = b_m x^m + \dots + b_1 x + b_0$$

Let

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(x) - \frac{a_n}{b_m} x^{n-m} g(x)$$

$\deg(\hat{f}) < n$ or $\hat{f} = 0$ (by induction we may assume that q and remainder exist \uparrow $\deg < \deg(g)$)

\therefore by induction $\exists \tilde{q}(x), r(x)$ s.t.

$$\hat{f}(x) = \tilde{q}(x)g(x) + r(x)$$

where either $r = 0$
 or $\deg(r) < \deg(g)$

Set

$$q(x) = \hat{q}(x) + \frac{a_n}{b_m} x^{n-m}$$

This is why we need a f.o/d

Then

$$f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x) = g \cdot \hat{q} + g \frac{a_n}{b_m} x^{n-m} + r(x) = \hat{f} + g \frac{a_n}{b_m} x^{n-m} = f.$$

we know $r=0$ or $\deg(r) < \deg(g)$.

Now show uniqueness of q, r

Suppose $\exists q_1, r_1$ s.t. $f(x) = g(x)q_1(x) + r_1(x)$

with $\deg(r_1(x)) < \deg(g(x))$

So then

or $r_1 = 0$.

$$f(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x) = g(x)q_1(x) + r_1(x)$$

$$g(x)[q(x) - q_1(x)] = r_1(x) - r(x)$$

$$g \neq 0$$

$$\deg(g(x)[q(x) - q_1(x)]) \geq \deg(g(x)) = \deg(r_1(x) - r(x)) \geq \deg(g(x))$$

But $\deg(r(x)) < \deg(g)$ and $\deg(r_1(x)) < \deg(g(x))$

This is a contradiction $\Rightarrow r_1(x) = r(x)$

and $q_1(x) = q(x)$

□

Ex) Polynomial Long division \leftarrow Division Alg.

Suppose we want to divide $x^3 - x^2 + 2x - 3$ by $x - 2$

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 2 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} x^3 - x^2 + 2x - 3 \\ x^3 - 2x^2 \\ \hline x^2 + 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2x \\ \hline 4x - 3 \\ 4x - 8 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}} \end{array}$$

Let $p(x) \in F[x]$, $\alpha \in F$

α a root/zero of $p(x) \Leftrightarrow p(\alpha) = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow p(x) \in \ker(\phi_\alpha)$

Coro) Let F be a field. $\alpha \in F$ is a zero of $p(x) \in F[x]$ iff $x - \alpha$ is a factor of $p(x)$ in $F[x]$.

Proof: First suppose $\alpha \in F$, $p(\alpha) = 0$

By the div. alg $\exists q(x), r(x) \in F[x]$ s.t

$$p(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x) + r(x)$$

and $\deg(r(x)) < \deg(x - \alpha) = 1 \Rightarrow r(x) = b \in F$

$$\therefore p(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x) + b$$

$$0 = p(\alpha) = 0 \cdot \overset{0}{q(\alpha)} + b \Rightarrow b = 0.$$

$$\therefore p(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x)$$

Suppose $(x - \alpha)$ is a factor of $p(x)$

$$\Rightarrow p(x) = (x - \alpha) q(x) \text{ for some } q(x) \in F[x]$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\alpha) = (\alpha - \alpha) q(\alpha) = 0. \quad \square$$

Coro Let F be a field. A non-zero poly.

$p(x)$ of degree n in $F[x]$ can have at most n distinct zeros in F .

Proof: Do induction on $\deg(p(x))$

[^{special case} If $\deg(p(x)) = 0 \Rightarrow p(x) = c \in F \therefore$ has no zeros

[^{base case} If $\deg(p(x)) = 1 \Rightarrow p(x) = ax + b$ for some $a, b \in F$

Since F is a field $0 = p(\alpha) = a\alpha + b \Rightarrow \alpha = (-b)a^{-1}$

$\therefore p$ has exactly 1 root

Assume $\deg(p(x)) > 1$. If $p(x)$ has no zeros in F we are done.

Suppose $\alpha \in F$ is a root of p .

$$\Rightarrow p(x) = (x - \alpha) q(x) \text{ for some } q \in F[x]$$

Since F is a field $\Rightarrow F$ is an int. domain

$$\deg(q(x)) = n - 1$$

Let $\beta \neq \alpha$ be another root of $p(x)$

$p(\beta) = (\beta - \alpha) q(\beta) = 0$, since $\alpha \neq \beta$ and F is a field

$$\Rightarrow q(\beta) = 0$$

by induction, since $\deg(q) = n-1$

then q has at most $n-1$ roots

$\therefore p$ has at most n roots \square .

Let F be a field. A monic polynomial $d(x)$ is a greatest common divisor of $p(x), q(x) \in F[x]$

iff $d(x) \mid p(x)$ and $d(x) \mid q(x)$ and if for any other $\tilde{d}(x)$ which divides $p, q \Rightarrow \tilde{d}(x) \mid d(x)$

$$d(x) = \gcd(p(x), q(x))$$

• $p(x), q(x)$ are relatively prime if $\gcd(p(x), q(x)) = 1$.