
Theorem 17.2: Over \mathbb{Q} implies over \mathbb{Z} .

Let $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. If $f(x)$ is reducible over \mathbb{Q} , then it is reducible over \mathbb{Z} .

(1) Produce the factorization of $f(x) = 6x^2 + x - 2 = (3x - 3/2)(2x + 4/3)$, where $g(x) = 3x - 3/2$ and $h(x) = 2x + 4/3$ as follows.

(a) Determine that $f(x)$ is primitive.

(b) Compute a , the lcm of the denominators of the coefficients of $g(x)$, and b , the lcm of the denominators of the coefficients of $h(x)$; write $abf(x) = ag(x)bh(x)$.

(c) Compute the contents c_1 of $ag(x)$ and c_2 of $bh(x)$, and find primitive polynomials $g_1(x)$ and $h_1(x)$ with $ag(x) = c_1g_1(x)$ and $bh(x) = c_2h_1(x)$.

(d) Use Gauss' Lemma to determine the content of $c_1c_2g_1(x)h_1(x)$, and deduce a factorization of $f(x)$ over $\mathbb{Z}[x]$.

Theorem 17.3: Mod p irreducibility test.

Let p be a prime and suppose that $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ with $\deg f(x) \geq 1$. Let $\bar{f}(x)$ be the polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}_p[x]$ obtained from $f(x)$ by reducing all the coefficients of $f(x)$ modulo p . If $\bar{f}(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Z}_p and $\deg \bar{f}(x) = \deg f(x)$, then $f(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

(2) (a) Refer to the definition of irreducibility to determine why p must be prime.

(b) The implication is written in the form $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow r$. Prove this is logically equivalent to $(\neg r \wedge q) \rightarrow \neg p$ by remembering your young and idealistic days in Math 230.

(c) Given that -1 is a root of $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 + -5x + 3$ over \mathbb{Q} , reduce $\bar{f}(x)$ over \mathbb{Z}_2 , and again over \mathbb{Z}_3 and \mathbb{Z}_7 ($\bar{f}(x)$ depends on \mathbb{Z}_p).

(d) What does the mod 2 irreducibility test tell you about $f(x) = x^5 + 2x + 4$?

Theorem 17.4: Eisenstein's Criterion.

Let $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. If there is a prime p such that $p \nmid a_n$, $p \mid a_{n-1}, \dots, p \mid a_0$, and $p^2 \nmid a_0$, then $f(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

(3) What does Theorem 17.4 tell us about the following polynomials?

(a) $x^5 + 9x^4 + 12x^2 + 6$

(b) $x^4 + x + 1$

(c) $x^4 + 3x^2 + 9$

Corollary: Irreducibility of p th Cyclotomic Polynomial.

For any prime p , the p th cyclotomic polynomial

$$\Phi_p(x) = \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1} = x^{p-1} + x^{p-2} + \cdots + x + 1$$

is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .
