

B.Sc Part II Paper-03
(Hons)

Integral Domain

Integral Domain: A commutative ring with unity having more than one element in which the product of non-zero elements is non-zero is called an integral domain.

A ring is said to be without zero divisor if the product of any two non-zero elements of R is zero i.e. if $ab=0 \Rightarrow a=0$ or $b=0$.

Ex-1. A ring but not integral domain.

The set E of all even integers with zero is a commutative ring w.r.t. usual addition and multiplication. This ring does not possess unity element for multiplication and hence it is not an integral domain.

Ex-2. The ring of integers I is an integral domain, with respect to addition and multiplication.

Solution: - That the set I of integers is a commutative ring with unity has been with respect to usual addition and multiplication. It is an obvious fact that the product of two non-zero integers of I is not zero.

Thus I is an integral domain.

Theorem - 1. Let D be an integral domain. Let $a, b, c \in D$ where $a \neq 0$ if $a \cdot b = a \cdot c$, then $b = c$.

Proof: — From the distributive law, we have

$$a \cdot (b-c) = a \cdot b - a \cdot c = 0$$

Now since D is an integral domain, therefore from the definition, if $a \cdot (b-c) = 0$, then either $a=0$ or $b-c=0$ but $a \neq 0$ and therefore $b-c=0$ which gives $b=c$.

Theorem (2): — If $ax = bx \Rightarrow a=b$, $a, b, x \in D$, then

$$ab=0 \Rightarrow a=0 \text{ or } b=0.$$

Proof: — Let $a, b \in D$ such that $ab=0$. We ~~show that~~
show that $a=0$ or $b=0$.

We know that the product of the zero element of any ring with any other element is zero.

Therefore we must have $a \cdot b = 0$

Since $a \cdot b = 0$, we then have $ab = 0b$.

If $b \neq 0$, then from the cancellation law
(i.e. $ax = bx \Rightarrow a=b$) we must have
 $a=0$

Hence either $a=0$ or $b=0$

~~The purpose of this is to~~ ^{proved}

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