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## **Problem Sheet 3**

# **B3.3: Algebraic Number Theory**

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Topics covered: factorisation of ideals.

**Remark.** To avoid confusion, the ideal generated by the subset  $S$  will be denoted by  $\langle S \rangle$  instead of  $(S)$  throughout this problem sheet.

### Question 1

Prove that the equivalence relation defined in the lectures on the set of non-zero ideals is indeed an equivalence relation.

*Proof.* For  $I, J \triangleleft \mathcal{O}_K$ ,

$$I \sim J \iff \exists \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{O}_K \ I \langle \alpha \rangle = J \langle \beta \rangle$$

- Reflexivity:  $I = I \langle 1 \rangle \sim I \langle 1 \rangle$ .
- Symmetry: Obvious from definition.
- Transitivity: Suppose that  $I \sim J$  and  $J \sim K$ . There exists  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{O}_K$  such that  $I \langle \alpha \rangle = J \langle \beta \rangle$  and  $J \langle \gamma \rangle = K \langle \delta \rangle$ . Then

$$I \langle \alpha \gamma \rangle = I \langle \alpha \rangle \langle \gamma \rangle = J \langle \beta \rangle \langle \gamma \rangle = K \langle \delta \rangle \langle \beta \rangle = K \langle \beta \delta \rangle$$

Hence  $I \sim K$ .

We conclude that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation. □

### Question 2

Let  $P$  be a prime ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , the ring of integers of a number field  $K$ . Show that if  $\alpha \in P, \alpha \neq 0$ , is chosen so that  $|\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)|$  is minimal, then  $\alpha$  is an irreducible element. Deduce that if  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a UFD then every prime ideal is principal, and so  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a PID.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\alpha = \beta\gamma$  for some  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K$ . Since  $P$  is prime, we have  $\beta \in P$  or  $\gamma \in P$ . Without loss of generality let  $\beta \in P$ . Since the norm is multiplicative, we have

$$|\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)| = |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)| |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\gamma)| \implies |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)| \geq |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)|$$

**A** By minimality of the norm of  $\alpha$ , we must have

$$|\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)| = |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)| \implies |\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\gamma)| = 1$$

Hence  $\gamma$  is a unit in  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . We deduce that  $\alpha$  is irreducible.

Suppose that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a UFD. Then  $\alpha$  is also a prime. In particular  $\langle \alpha \rangle$  is a prime ideal contained in  $P$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is integral over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\langle \alpha \rangle \cap \mathbb{Z}$  is a prime ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . But since  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a PID,  $\langle \alpha \rangle \cap \mathbb{Z}$  is a maximal ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , and hence  $\langle \alpha \rangle$  is a maximal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . We must have  $\langle \alpha \rangle = P$ .  $P$  is a principal ideal. (*The ring of integers has Krull dimension 1*.)

Next we shall present a proof, which is valid for general integral domains, that the condition that all prime ideals are principal implies that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a PID.

Suppose for contradiction that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is not a PID. Let  $S$  be the set of all non-principal ideals of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . By assumption  $S \neq \emptyset$ . For an ascending chain  $\{I_j : j \in J\} \subseteq S$ , it is clear that  $I := \bigcup \{I_j : j \in J\}$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . Suppose that  $I = \langle x \rangle$  for some  $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$ . Then  $x \in I_j$  for some  $j \in J$  and hence  $I = \langle x \rangle \subseteq I_j$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $I \in S$ . Now Zorn's lemma suggests that  $S$  has a maximal element  $Q$ . We claim that  $Q$  is prime.

Suppose that  $Q$  is not prime. Then there exists  $a, b \in \mathcal{O}_K$  such that  $ab \in Q$  and  $a, b \notin Q$ . Note that  $Q + \langle a \rangle$  contains  $Q$  and  $a$ , and hence is principal by maximality of  $Q$  in  $S$ . There exists  $c \in \mathcal{O}_K$  such that  $Q + \langle a \rangle = \langle c \rangle$ . Also, note that the ideal quotient  $(Q : \langle a \rangle) := \{r \in \mathcal{O}_K : ra \in Q\}$  contains  $Q$  and  $b$ , and hence is also principal. There exists  $d \in \mathcal{O}_K$  such that  $(Q : \langle a \rangle) = \langle d \rangle$ . We claim that  $Q = \langle cd \rangle$ .

Since  $(Q : \langle a \rangle) = \langle d \rangle$ , we have  $d \in (Q : \langle a \rangle)$  and hence  $ad \in Q$ . Since  $Q + \langle a \rangle = \langle c \rangle$ , there exists  $q \in Q$  and  $r \in R$  such that  $c = q + ra$ . Then  $cd = qd + rad \in Q$ .  $\langle cd \rangle \subseteq Q$ . On the other hand, consider  $s \in Q$ . Since  $Q \subseteq \langle c \rangle$ , there exists  $t \in R$  such that  $s = tc$ . Since  $a \in \langle c \rangle$ , there exists  $u \in R$  such that  $a = uc$ . Then  $ts = utc = ua \in Q$ . We have  $u \in (Q : \langle a \rangle) = \langle d \rangle$ . Then there exists  $v \in R$  such that  $t = vd$ . We have  $s = tc = vcd \in \langle cd \rangle$ . Hence  $Q \subseteq \langle cd \rangle$ . We deduce that  $Q = \langle cd \rangle$  is a principal.

But  $Q \in S$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $Q$  is a prime ideal. But by assumption, every prime ideal is principal, which is also a contradiction. We must have  $S = \emptyset$ . We conclude that  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is a PID.

(Alternatively, we can invoke the prime decomposition and write the proof in one line. However this is uninteresting...) □

Nice!

### Question 3

The rings  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{6}]$  and  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{7}]$  are PIDs. Exhibit generators for their ideals  $\langle 3, \sqrt{6} \rangle$ ,  $\langle 5, 4 + \sqrt{6} \rangle$ ,  $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{7} \rangle$

[Hint: Compute the norm of each of the given ideals of the form  $\langle p, \alpha \rangle$  and find an element  $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_K$  of suitable norm.]

*Proof.* • The first one is simple. By direct observation we claim that  $\langle 3, \sqrt{6} \rangle = \langle 3 + \sqrt{6} \rangle$ .

It is clear that  $3 + \sqrt{6} \in \langle 3, \sqrt{6} \rangle$ . On the other hand, we observe that  $3 = (3 + \sqrt{6})(3 - \sqrt{6})$  and  $\sqrt{6} = (3 + \sqrt{6}) - 3$ . Hence  $3, \sqrt{6} \in \langle 3 + \sqrt{6} \rangle$ .

• Suppose that  $\langle 5, 4 + \sqrt{6} \rangle = \langle a + b\sqrt{6} \rangle$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can compute the norms:

$$\text{Norm}(5) = 25, \quad \text{Norm}(4 + \sqrt{6}) = 10, \quad \text{Norm}(a + b\sqrt{6}) = a^2 - 6b^2$$

Hence  $a^2 - 6b^2 \mid \gcd(25, 10) = 5$ . Since  $\langle a + b\sqrt{6} \rangle \neq \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{6}]$ , we deduce that  $a^2 - 6b^2 = \pm 5$ .

We try  $a + b\sqrt{6} = 1 - \sqrt{6}$ . Note that  $1 - \sqrt{6} = 5 - (4 + \sqrt{6}) \in \langle 5, 4 + \sqrt{6} \rangle$ . On the other hand, we observe that  $5 = (1 - \sqrt{6})(-1 - \sqrt{6})$  and  $4 + \sqrt{6} = 5 - (1 - \sqrt{6})$ . Hence  $\langle 5, 4 + \sqrt{6} \rangle \subseteq \langle 1 - \sqrt{6} \rangle$ . We deduce that  $\langle 5, 4 + \sqrt{6} \rangle = \langle 1 - \sqrt{6} \rangle$ .

• Suppose that  $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{7} \rangle = \langle a + b\sqrt{7} \rangle$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can compute the norms:

$$\text{Norm}(2) = 4, \quad \text{Norm}(1 + \sqrt{7}) = -6, \quad \text{Norm}(a + b\sqrt{7}) = a^2 - 7b^2$$

Hence  $a^2 - 7b^2 \mid \gcd(4, -6) = 2$ . Since  $\langle a + b\sqrt{7} \rangle \neq \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{7}]$ , we deduce that  $a^2 - 7b^2 = \pm 2$ .

We try  $a + b\sqrt{7} = 3 + \sqrt{7}$ . Note that  $2 = (3 + \sqrt{7})(3 - \sqrt{7})$  and  $1 + \sqrt{7} = 2 + (3 + \sqrt{7})$ . we deduce that  $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{7} \rangle = \langle 3 + \sqrt{7} \rangle$ . □

### Question 4

Find the prime factorisations of the ideals  $\langle 3 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 5 \rangle$  and  $\langle 7 \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ . Show that the prime ideal factors of  $\langle 7 \rangle$  are not principal.

*Proof.* We follow the procedure outlined in Example 7.4.

For prime  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ , by prime factorisation, there are three possible cases:

$$\langle p \rangle = \begin{cases} P & P \in \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]); & (p \text{ inert}) \\ P^2 & P \in \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]); & (p \text{ ramifies}) \\ PQ & P, Q \in \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]), P \neq Q; & (p \text{ splits}) \end{cases}$$

The minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{-5}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $m(x) = x^2 + 5$ .

• When  $p = 3$ , we have  $m(x) \equiv x^2 - 1 \equiv (x + 1)(x - 1) \pmod{3}$ . By Theorem 7.2, we have  $\langle 3 \rangle = \langle 3, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle$ .

• When  $p = 5$ , we have  $m(x) \equiv x^2 \pmod{5}$ . By Theorem 7.2, we have  $\langle 5 \rangle = \langle 5, \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2$ .

• When  $p = 7$ , we have  $m(x) \equiv x^2 - 2 \equiv (x + 3)(x - 3) \pmod{7}$ . By Theorem 7.2, we have  $\langle 7 \rangle = \langle 7, 3 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle 7, 3 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle$ . We shall show that  $\langle 7, 3 \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle$  are non-principal. Suppose that they are principal. Then there exists  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\langle a + b\sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle 7, 3 \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle$ . The norms

$$\text{Norm}(a + b\sqrt{-5}) = a^2 + 5b^2, \quad \text{Norm}(7) = 49, \quad \text{Norm}(3 \pm \sqrt{-5}) = 14$$

Hence we must have  $a^2 + 5b^2 = \gcd(49, 14) = 7$ . It is clear that the equation has no integer solutions. Hence the prime factors  $\langle 7, 3 \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle$  are non-principal. □

### Question 5

Let  $K \subseteq L$  be fields and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . Define  $I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$  to be the ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_L$  generated by the products  $i\ell$ , such that  $i \in I, \ell \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . Show that, for any ideals  $I, J$  of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any principal ideal  $(a) = a\mathcal{O}_K$  of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ ,  $(IJ) \cdot \mathcal{O}_L = (I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)(J \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)$ ,  $I^n \cdot \mathcal{O}_L = (I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)^n$  and  $(a) \cdot \mathcal{O}_L = a\mathcal{O}_L$  (the principal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_L$  generated by the same element). Let  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-13})$  and let  $I = (2, \sqrt{-13} + 1)$ . Show that  $I^2 = (2)$  and that  $I$  is not principal. Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-13}, \sqrt{2})$ . Show that  $I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$  is the principal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}_L$  generated by  $\sqrt{2}$  (we say that  $I$  has been *made principal* in the extension).

*Proof.*  $I \mapsto I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$  is the ideal extension under the ring extension  $\mathcal{O}_K \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_L$ .

Suppose that  $I, J \triangleleft \mathcal{O}_K$ . The elements in  $(IJ) \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$  are of the form  $\sum_{k=1}^n i_k j_k \ell$  for some  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in I, j_1, \dots, j_n \in J$  and  $\ell \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . Each  $i_k j_k \ell \in (I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)(J \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)$ . Hence  $\sum_{k=1}^n i_k j_k \ell \in (I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)(J \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)$ . On the other hand, the elements of  $(I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)(J \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)$  are of the form  $\sum_{k=1}^n i_k \ell_k j_k m_k$  for some  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in I, j_1, \dots, j_n \in J$  and  $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n, m_1, \dots, m_n \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . It is clear that  $\sum_{k=1}^n i_k \ell_k j_k m_k \in (IJ) \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$ . We deduce that  $(IJ) \cdot \mathcal{O}_L = (I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)(J \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)$ .

Next, by induction on  $n$ , we have  $(I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)^n = I^n \cdot \mathcal{O}_L$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**A** For  $r \in a\mathcal{O}_L$ ,  $r = a\ell$  for some  $\ell \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . Hence  $r \in \langle a \rangle \mathcal{O}_L$ . For  $r \in \langle a \rangle \mathcal{O}_L$ ,  $r = ak\ell$  for some  $k \in \mathcal{O}_K$  and  $\ell \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . But  $k\ell \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . Hence  $r \in a\mathcal{O}_L$ . We deduce that  $a\mathcal{O}_L = \langle a \rangle \mathcal{O}_L$ .

Now  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-13})$ . Since  $-13 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , we have  $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-13}]$ . Let  $I = \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-13} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K}$ . Suppose that  $I$  is principal. There exists  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $I = \langle a + b\sqrt{-13} \rangle$ . Note that  $\text{Norm}_{K|\mathbb{Q}}(a + b\sqrt{-13}) = a^2 + 13b^2$  divides  $\text{Norm}_{K|\mathbb{Q}}(2) = 4$  and  $\text{Norm}_{K|\mathbb{Q}}(1 + \sqrt{-13}) = 14$ . We must have  $a^2 + 13b^2 = \pm 2$ . But it is clear that the equation has no solution.  $I$  is not principal.

$$I^2 = \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-13} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K} \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-13} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K} = \langle 4, -12 + 2\sqrt{-13}, 2 + 2\sqrt{-13} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K} \subseteq \langle 2 \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K}$$

And  $2 = 4 \times 4 + (-12 + 2\sqrt{-13}) - (2 + 2\sqrt{-13})$ . We deduce that  $I^2 = \langle 2 \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_K}$ .

Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-13}, \sqrt{2})$ . Note that  $2/\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2} \in \mathcal{O}_L$ , so  $2 \in \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}$ . We claim that  $\alpha := \frac{1 + \sqrt{-13}}{\sqrt{2}} \in \mathcal{O}_L$ . Indeed,

$$\alpha = \frac{1 + \sqrt{-13}}{\sqrt{2}} \implies 2\alpha^2 = (1 + \sqrt{-13})^2 = -12 + 2\sqrt{-13} \implies (\alpha^2 + 6)^2 = -13 \implies \alpha^4 + 12\alpha^2 + 49 = 0$$

Hence  $1 + \sqrt{-13} \in \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}$ . We deduce that  $I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L \subseteq \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}$ . By Proposition 6.23, there exists  $J \triangleleft \mathcal{O}_L$  such that  $(I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)J = \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}$ . But we know that  $(I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L)^2 = \langle 2 \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L} = \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}^2$ . Hence  $N(I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L) = N(\langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L})$  by multiplicativity of the ideal norm. Hence  $N(J) = 1$ . We deduce that  $J = \mathcal{O}_L$  and  $I \cdot \mathcal{O}_L = \langle \sqrt{2} \rangle_{\mathcal{O}_L}$ .  $\square$

### Question 6

Let  $P, Q$  be distinct nonzero prime ideals in  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . Show that  $P + Q = \mathcal{O}_K$  and  $P \cap Q = PQ$ .

*Proof.* In Question 2, we have shown that all non-zero prime ideals in  $\mathcal{O}_K$  are maximal (by contracting the ideals to  $\mathbb{Z}$ ). Therefore  $P$  and  $Q$  are distinct maximal ideals. Note that  $P \subsetneq P + Q$ . We must have  $P + Q = \mathcal{O}_K$ . Hence  $P$  and  $Q$  are coprime. There exists  $p \in P$  and  $q \in Q$  such that  $p + q = 1$ . For  $x \in P \cap Q$ ,  $x = xp + xq \in PQ$ . Hence  $P \cap Q \subseteq PQ$ . The other direction  $PQ \subseteq P \cap Q$  is immediate by definition.  $\square$

**A**

### Question 7

Let  $d \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  be a square-free integer and define  $K := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ ; so  $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$ . Let  $p$  be a rational prime. Suppose that  $d \equiv a^2 \pmod{p}$ . Define  $P := (p, a + \sqrt{d}), P' := (p, a - \sqrt{d}) \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ . Show that  $P$  and  $P'$  are both prime ideals with  $N(P) = N(P') = p$ , and that  $(p) = PP'$ . Show that  $P = P'$  if and only if  $p \mid 2d$ .

*Proof.* This question can be answered directly by invoking the Dedekind Theorem (7.2). Here we mimic the proof to give a complete answer.

**A**

The minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{d}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $m(x) = x^2 - d$ . We have

$$x^2 - d \equiv x^2 - a^2 \equiv (x - a)(x + a) \pmod{p}$$

Consider the composition of ring homomorphisms  $\varphi = \pi \circ \text{ev}_{\sqrt{d}}$ :

$$\mathbb{Z}[x] \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_{\sqrt{d}}} \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}] \xrightarrow{\pi} (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[\sqrt{d}]$$

We note that  $\ker \varphi = \langle p, m(x) \rangle$ . By the first isomorphism theorem, we have

$$(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[\sqrt{d}] \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{\langle p, m(x) \rangle} \cong \frac{(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]}{\langle \overline{m}(x) \rangle} = \frac{(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]}{\langle (\overline{x} + \overline{a})(\overline{x} - \overline{a}) \rangle}$$

where  $\overline{m}(x)$  is the image of  $m(x)$  under  $\pi : \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]$ .

The prime ideals of  $\frac{(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]}{\langle (\overline{x} + \overline{a})(\overline{x} - \overline{a}) \rangle}$  are  $\langle \overline{x} + \overline{a} \rangle$  and  $\langle \overline{x} - \overline{a} \rangle$ , which corresponds to  $\langle \sqrt{d} + a \rangle$  and  $\langle \sqrt{d} - a \rangle$  in  $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[\sqrt{d}]$ .

Contracting back to  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$ , we find that  $P = \langle p, a + \sqrt{d} \rangle$  and  $P' = \langle p, a - \sqrt{d} \rangle$  are prime ideals of  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$ .

Therefore

$$PP' = \langle p, a + \sqrt{d} \rangle \langle p, a - \sqrt{d} \rangle \subseteq \langle p, a^2 - d \rangle = \langle p \rangle$$

Hence there exists  $Q \triangleleft \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  such that  $PP'Q = \langle p \rangle$ . Taking norm:

$$p^2 = N(\langle p \rangle) = N(P)N(P')N(Q)$$

Since  $N(P), N(P') \neq 1$ , we must have  $N(P) = N(P') = p$  and  $N(Q) = 1$ . Hence  $Q = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  and  $\langle p \rangle = PP'$ .

Suppose that  $p \mid 2d$ . Then  $p \mid 2a^2$ . Since  $p$  is a prime, then  $p \mid 2a$ . Hence  $P = \langle p, a + \sqrt{d} \rangle = \langle p, -a + \sqrt{d} \rangle = \langle p, a - \sqrt{d} \rangle = P'$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $P = P'$ . Then  $\overline{x} - \overline{a} = \overline{x} + \overline{a}$  in  $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]$ . Hence  $p \mid 2a$ . But  $d = a^2$ . Then  $p \mid 2d = 2a^2$ .  $\square$

### Question 8

Let  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  be a square-free integer, with  $d \neq 1$ . Show that the ring  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  is never a UFD.

[Hint: Consider factoring  $d - 1$ .]

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  is a UFD. Note that  $d - 1 = (\sqrt{d} + 1)(\sqrt{d} - 1)$ .

We claim that  $2 \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  is an irreducible. Suppose that  $2 = (u + v\sqrt{d})(x + y\sqrt{d})$  for some  $u, v, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Taking the norm,

$$4 = (u^2 - dv^2)(x^2 - dy^2)$$

**A** If  $u + v\sqrt{d}$  and  $x + y\sqrt{d}$  are non-units, then by unique factorisation in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , we have  $x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 2$ . Using congruence modulo 4, we have  $x^2 - y^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . But this is impossible, as  $x^2, y^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ . Hence either  $u + v\sqrt{d}$  or  $x + y\sqrt{d}$  is a unit. We deduce that 2 is irreducible.

Since  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  is a UFD, 2 is prime in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$ . Note that  $d - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . So we have  $2 \mid (\sqrt{d} + 1)(\sqrt{d} - 1)$ . Then either  $2 \mid \sqrt{d} + 1$  or  $2 \mid \sqrt{d} - 1$ , both of which are impossible. We conclude that  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$  cannot be a UFD.  $\square$