

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**REMARK ON THE PRECEDING PAPER: "IDEALS IN NEAR
RINGS OF POLYNOMIALS OVER A FIELD"**

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REMARK ON THE PRECEDING PAPER, IDEALS IN
 NEAR RINGS OF POLYNOMIALS OVER A FIELD

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In this note we extend the characterization of ideals in near rings $N = F[x, \circ]$ of polynomials over a field F under addition and composition, the most interesting and exceptional cases of which are given in the preceding paper by J. L. Brenner.

The results can be summarized in the following theorems.

THEOREM 1. *If F is infinite then N contains no nontrivial ideals.*

THEOREM 2. *If F is finite and $\text{char } F > 2$ then every ideal of N is also an ideal of the ring $F[x]$.*

THEOREM 3. *Those ideals of N which are also ideals of $F[x]$ consist of multiples of polynomials $p(x)$ of the form*

$$(1) \quad p(x) = \text{l.c.m.} [(x^{n_i} - x)^{m_i} \mid 1 \leq n_i < \dots < n_k; m_i \geq 0]$$

where $q = |F|$.

THEOREM 4. *If F is finite of characteristic 2 then $N = F[x, \circ]$ contains ideals which are not ideals of $F[x]$.*

If $|F| > 2$ then every ideal, I , of N is a module over $F[x^2]$ and contains an ideal J of $F[x]$ which is generated by the squares of the elements of I . The ideal J contains the ordinary product of every two elements of I .

Proof of Theorem 1. Let $I \neq \{0\}$ be an ideal of N and let $p(x) \in I$, $p \neq 0$. Since F is infinite there exists an element $a \in F$ so that $p(a) \neq 0$. Thus $p(a) \in I$ and hence $F \subset I$.

If $\text{char } F \neq 2$ then by Criterion 2.03 of the preceding paper we have $2x = (x+1)^2 - x^2 - 1 \in I$ and hence $x \in I$ so that $I = N$.

If $\text{char } F = 2$ then we have

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + x &= (x+1)^3 + x^3 + 1 \in I \\ ax^2 + a^2x &= (x+a)^3 + x^3 + a^3 \in I \end{aligned} \quad a \in F, a \neq 0, 1.$$

Thus

$$a(x^2 + x) + ax^2 + a^2x = (a + a^2)x \in I$$

and hence $x \in I$ so that again $I = N$.

Proof of Theorem 2. Let I be an ideal of N . Then for every $f \in N$ and $p \in I$ we have

$$fp = \frac{1}{2}((f + p)^2 - f^2 - p^2) \in I.$$

Thus I is closed under multiplication by $F[x]$ and is therefore an ideal of $F[x]$.

Proof of Theorem 3. We first show that every ring ideal $pf[x]$ with p of the form (1) satisfies the criteria of §2 of the preceding paper. Closure under addition is obvious. Criterion 2.02 follows from the fact that for $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_kx^k$ we have

$$(x^{q^n} - x) \circ f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(x^{iq^n} - x^i)$$

where the right side is obviously divisible by $x^{q^n} - x$. Criterion 2.03 is again obviously satisfied since $f(g + ph) - f(g)$ is divisible by p for all $f, g, h \in F[x]$.

Conversely, if $I = pF[x]$ is an ideal of N then we must have

$$p(x) \mid p(f(x)) \text{ for all } f \in N,$$

if θ is a zero of multiplicity m of p then it must therefore be a zero of multiplicity $\geq m$ of $p(f(x))$. In other words, $p(x)$ must have a zero of order $\geq m$ at every element of $F(\theta)$ thus $p(x)$ is divisible by $(x^{|\mathbb{F}(\theta)|} - x)^m$. Starting with a zero, θ , of highest degree over F we thus get successively the expression for p given in (1).

Proof of Theorem 4. We observe that for each $n \geq 1$ the set of polynomials

$$(2) \quad I = (x^{q^n} + x)^2 F[x^2] + (x^{q^n} + x)^4 F[x],$$

where $q = |F|$, is an ideal of N but is clearly not an ideal of $F[x]$; since it contains $p(x) = (x^{q^n} + x)^2$ but does not contain $xp(x)$. To prove that I is an ideal we observe that it is obviously closed under addition. Also for each $f, g, h, k \in N$ we have

$$f(g + ph(x^2) + p^2k(x)) - f(g) \equiv ph(x^2)f'(g(x)) \pmod{p^2}.$$

Now $f'(g(x))$ is a polynomial in g^2 and hence contained in $F[x^2]$. Thus $f(g + i) - f(g) \in I$ for all $i \in I$.

Finally, in order to show that $i(f(x)) \in I$ for all $f \in N$, $i \in I$ it suffices to show that for all $g \in N$

$$p(f)g(f^2) \equiv ph(x^2) \pmod{p^2}$$

for a suitable $h \in N$. Since $p(f_1 + f_2) = p(f_1) + p(f_2)$ it suffices to prove this fact for $f(x) = x^k$. If $k = 2l$ is even then $p(x^k) = p^2(x^l) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$. If $k = 2l + 1$ is odd then

$$p(x^k) = x^{2kq^n} + x^{2k} = (x^{2q^n} + x^2 + x^2)^k + x^{2k} \equiv x^{2k-2}p(x) \pmod{p^2}.$$

If $|F| > 2$ we can see that the construction in (2) is rather typical. Pick $a \in F$ with $a^2 + a \neq 0$ then for every $i \in I$, $f \in N$ we have

$$(a^2 + a)f^2i^2 = a((f + i)^3 + f^3 + i^3) + ((f + ai)^3 + f^3 + a^3i^3) \in I$$

and thus $f^2i^2 \in I$. In other words the squares of the elements of I generate an ideal of $F[x]$ contained in I and therefore itself an ideal J of N of the form $p^2F[x]$ where p is a polynomial of the form (1).

Since the square of every element of I is divisible by p^2 it follows that all elements of I are divisible by p . Finally we have for every $i \in I$, $f \in N$

$$(a^2 + a)f^2i = a^2((f + i)^3 + f^3 + i^3) + ((f + ai)^3 + f^3 + a^3i^3) \in I$$

and thus $f^2i \in I$, so that I is a module over $F[x^2]$. Every module over $F[x^2]$ can be expressed in the form $f(x^2)F[x^2] + g(x)F[x^2]$ where the first part gives the ideal of all polynomials in x^2 contained in the module and the second part the coset involving terms of odd degree with g chosen so that its highest term of odd degree has minimal degree. Once we have determined the polynomial p of form (1) then I has the form

$$(3) \quad I = p(x)[f(x^2)F[x^2] + g(x)F[x^2]] + p^2(x)F[x].$$

Here f , g are determined \pmod{p} so that there are only finitely many possible choices leading to ideals of N . We forego the somewhat complicated detailed description of this determination. It is clear, however, from (3) that there can be nontrivial ideals of N containing 1 only when $|F| = 2$.

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| | |
|---|-----|
| Harm Bart, <i>Spectral properties of locally holomorphic vector-valued functions</i> | 321 |
| J. Adrian (John) Bondy and Robert Louis Hemminger, <i>Reconstructing infinite graphs</i> | 331 |
| Bryan Edmund Cain and Richard J. Tondra, <i>Biholomorphic approximation of planar domains</i> | 341 |
| Richard Carey and Joel David Pincus, <i>Eigenvalues of seminormal operators, examples</i> | 347 |
| Tyrone Duncan, <i>Absolute continuity for abstract Wiener spaces</i> | 359 |
| Joe Wayne Fisher and Louis Halle Rowen, <i>An embedding of semiprime P.I.-rings</i> | 369 |
| Andrew S. Geue, <i>Precompact and collectively semi-precompact sets of semi-precompact continuous linear operators</i> | 377 |
| Charles Lemuel Hagopian, <i>Locally homeomorphic λ connected plane continua</i> | 403 |
| Darald Joe Hartfiel, <i>A study of convex sets of stochastic matrices induced by probability vectors</i> | 405 |
| Yasunori Ishibashi, <i>Some remarks on high order derivations</i> | 419 |
| Donald Gordon James, <i>Orthogonal groups of dyadic unimodular quadratic forms. II</i> | 425 |
| Geoffrey Thomas Jones, <i>Projective pseudo-complemented semilattices</i> | 443 |
| Darrell Conley Kent, Kelly Denis McKennon, G. Richardson and M. Schroder, <i>Continuous convergence in $C(X)$</i> | 457 |
| J. J. Koliha, <i>Some convergence theorems in Banach algebras</i> | 467 |
| Tsang Hai Kuo, <i>Projections in the spaces of bounded linear operations</i> | 475 |
| George Berry Leeman, Jr., <i>A local estimate for typically real functions</i> | 481 |
| Andrew Guy Markoe, <i>A characterization of normal analytic spaces by the homological codimension of the structure sheaf</i> | 485 |
| Kunio Murasugi, <i>On the divisibility of knot groups</i> | 491 |
| John Phillips, <i>Perturbations of type I von Neumann algebras</i> | 505 |
| Billy E. Rhoades, <i>Commutants of some quasi-Hausdorff matrices</i> | 513 |
| David W. Roeder, <i>Category theory applied to Pontryagin duality</i> | 519 |
| Maxwell Alexander Rosenlicht, <i>The nonminimality of the differential closure</i> | 529 |
| Peter Michael Rosenthal, <i>On an inversion theorem for the general Mehler-Fock transform pair</i> | 539 |
| Alan Saleski, <i>Stopping times for Bernoulli automorphisms</i> | 547 |
| John Herman Scheuneman, <i>Fundamental groups of compact complete locally affine complex surfaces. II</i> | 553 |
| Vashishtha Narayan Singh, <i>Reproducing kernels and operators with a cyclic vector. I</i> | 567 |
| Peggy Strait, <i>On the maximum and minimum of partial sums of random variables</i> | 585 |
| J. L. Brenner, <i>Maximal ideals in the near ring of polynomials modulo 2</i> | 595 |
| Ernst Gabor Straus, <i>Remark on the preceding paper: "Ideals in near rings of polynomials over a field"</i> | 601 |
| Masamichi Takesaki, <i>Faithful states on a C^*-algebra</i> | 605 |
| R. Michael Tanner, <i>Some content maximizing properties of the regular simplex</i> | 611 |
| Andrew Bao-hwa Wang, <i>An analogue of the Paley-Wiener theorem for certain function spaces on $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$</i> | 617 |
| James Juei-Chin Yeh, <i>Inversion of conditional expectations</i> | 631 |