

Theorem!—

Intersection of two subrings of a ring R is a subring of that ring.

⇒ Let S_1 and S_2 be two subring of a ring R .

Since $0 \in S_1$ and $0 \in S_2$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \in S_1 \cap S_2$$

So, $S_1 \cap S_2 \neq \emptyset$.

Let $a, b \in S_1 \cap S_2$ be arbitrary.

$$\Rightarrow a, b \in S_1 \text{ and } a, b \in S_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} a-b \in S_1 \\ a \cdot b \in S_1 \end{array} \text{ and } \begin{array}{l} a-b \in S_2 \\ a \cdot b \in S_2 \end{array} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{since } S_1, S_2 \text{ are} \\ \text{subrings} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} a-b \in S_1 \cap S_2 \\ a \cdot b \in S_1 \cap S_2 \end{array}$$

Since a, b are arbitrary,
so, $S_1 \cap S_2$ is a subring of R .

Note: \rightarrow

The union of two subrings may not be a subring of R .

For example, $(2\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ and $(3\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ are subrings of the ring $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ but $2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$ is not a subring of \mathbb{Z} , in fact $2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$ is not a subgroup of \mathbb{Z} .

Ideal of a Ring:

A subring S of a ring R is said to be

- (i) a left ideal of R if $a \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow r \cdot a \in S$.
- (ii) a right ideal of R if $a \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot r \in S$.
- (iii) a both sided ideal (i.e. an ideal) of R if $a \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot r \in S$ and $r \cdot a \in S$.

Result:

Let R be a ring and S be a non-empty subset of R . Then S is an ideal of R iff

- (i) $a, b \in S \Rightarrow a-b \in S$
- (ii) $a \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot r \in S$ and $r \cdot a \in S$.

Proof: Let S be an ideal of R . Then S is a subring of R such that $a \in S, r \in R \Rightarrow r \cdot a \in S$ and $a \cdot r \in S$.

Since S is a ring, $a \in S, b \in S \Rightarrow a-b \in S$

Therefore both the condition (i) and (ii) holds.

conversely, let S be a non-empty subset of R such that (i) and (ii) both hold.

Since (i) holds, $(S, +)$ is a subgroup of the group $(R, +)$

Since (ii) holds, $a \in S, b \in S \Rightarrow a \in S, b \in R \Rightarrow a \cdot b \in S$
Therefore S is a non-empty subset of R such that $(S, +)$ is a subgroup of the group $(R, +)$ and $a \in S, b \in S \Rightarrow a \cdot b \in S$.

Hence S is a subring of R .

Since S is a subring of R and (ii) holds so S is an ideal of R .

Examples :-

(i) $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ is a subring of $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ but not an ideal of $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$ because let,

$$R = (\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot), \quad S = (\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$$

Then $\frac{2}{3} \in R$ and $2 \in S$

so $2 \cdot \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{3} \notin S$ hence S is not an ideal of R .

(ii) Every subring of \mathbb{Z} is an ideal of \mathbb{Z} .

(iii) Every subring of \mathbb{Z}_n is an ideal.