

The Division Algorithm

Definition: Let $f, g \in R[x]$ be polynomials. Then we say that f divides g in $R[x]$, if there is a polynomial $h \in R[x]$ such that

$$g = f \cdot h;$$

we then write $f|_R g$ (or just $f|g$, if the reference to R is clear).

Theorem 2 (Division algorithm for $F[x]$)

Let $F = \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}$ or \mathbb{F}_p (but not \mathbb{Z} !). Then for each pair $f, g \in F[x]$, $g \neq 0$, there exist **unique** polynomials $q, r \in F[x]$ such that

$$(1) \quad f(x) = q(x)g(x) + r(x),$$

$$(2) \quad \deg(r) < \deg(g).$$

Notation: We write

$\text{quot}(f, g) := q(x)$, the **quotient** of f by g ,

$\text{rem}(f, g) := r(x)$, the **remainder** of f by g .

Corollary 1: $g|_F f \iff \text{rem}(f, g) = 0$.

Corollary 2: If $f, g \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, then

$$f|_{\mathbb{Q}} g \iff f|_{\mathbb{R}} g \iff f|_{\mathbb{C}} g.$$