

## EXTENDING UFDS TO PIDS WITHOUT ADDING UNITS

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ABSTRACT. If  $U$  is a UFD, then there is a PID  $P$  containing  $U$  that has the same unit group as  $U$ . Moreover,  $P$  can be taken so that its field of fractions is a pure transcendental extension of the field of fractions of  $U$  with transcendence degree at most  $|U|$ .

**1. Introduction.** At a recent conference, A. Romanowska raised the question of whether there is a PID  $P$  such that

- (i)  $P$  is a proper subring of the real numbers;
- (ii)  $P$  properly contains the ring of integers; and
- (iii)  $P$  has unit group  $P^\times = \{\pm 1\}$ .

She was presenting her joint paper with G. Czédli [2], which studies convex sets in generalized affine spaces. A classical real affine space may be described algebraically as an  $\mathbb{R}$ -module equipped with the affine operations  $ax + (1 - a)y$  for  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . The convex subsets are those closed under the operations  $ax + (1 - a)y$  where  $a \in [0, 1]$ . The Czédli-Romanowska generalization replaces  $\mathbb{R}$  with a subring  $P \leq \mathbb{R}$  that is a PID.

Affine spaces over  $P$  are  $P$ -modules equipped with the operations  $ax + (1 - a)y$ ,  $a \in P$ , and convex subsets of such faithful spaces are the subsets closed under those operations  $ax + (1 - a)y$  where  $a \in P \cap [0, 1]$ . It turns out that any invertible element in  $P \cap [0, 1]$  gives rise to a congruence (called an *aiming congruence*) on  $C \times C$  for each convex subset  $C$  of an affine space over  $P$  [2, Section 5]. Such congruences play an essential role in the algebraic description of the topological closure of  $C$ .

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This explains the source of Romanowska's question: can the PID  $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be chosen so that its notion of convexity is nontrivial, i.e.,  $P \neq \mathbb{Z}$ , and such that all aiming congruences are trivial, i.e.,  $P^\times = \{\pm 1\}$ ?

In this note, Romanowska's question is considered as a question of pure commutative ring theory, and the question is answered affirmatively. In fact, it will be shown that, if  $U$  is any UFD, then there is a PID  $P$  containing  $U$  that has the same unit group as  $U$ . Moreover,  $P$  can be taken so that its field of fractions is a pure transcendental extension of the field of fractions of  $U$  with transcendence degree at most  $|U|$ .

This answers Romanowska's question as follows:  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$  is a UFD that is a subring of  $\mathbb{R}$  that properly contains  $\mathbb{Z}$  and has only  $\pm 1$  as units. Extend  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$  to a PID  $P$  without adding units using the theorem of this paper. The field of fractions of  $P$  will be a pure transcendental extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$  of countable degree, and hence, will be embeddable in  $\mathbb{R}$  since the field extension  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$  has uncountable transcendence degree. Thus, there is a PID  $P$  contained properly between  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  whose only units are  $\pm 1$ .

The main result is proven in Section 2. This note concludes with Section 3, where the following observations are explained:

- (i) if  $P$  is any PID answering Romanowska's question, then every number in the difference  $P - \mathbb{Z}$  must be transcendental;
- (ii) there are integral domains that cannot be extended to PID's without adding units; and
- (iii) there are UFD's that can be extended to PID's without adding units but which cannot be extended further to Euclidean domains without adding units.

**2. The proof.** If  $A$  is an integral domain, then  $\widehat{A}$  denotes its field of fractions and  $A^\times$  denotes its group of units. If  $S \subseteq A$  is a multiplicatively closed subset, then the localization of  $A$  at  $S$  is denoted  $S^{-1}A$ , although, if  $S = \{b^n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is generated by a single element  $b$ , then we typically write  $A_b$  for  $S^{-1}A$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *If  $U$  is a UFD,  $a, b \in U$  are coprime, and  $X$  and  $Y$  are indeterminates, then*

$$U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$$

is a UFD that extends  $U$ . The field of fractions of  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  is a pure transcendental extension of  $\widehat{U}$  of transcendence degree 1.

*Proof.* First, we show that  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  is a domain that extends  $U$ .  $U[X]$  is a UFD whose prime elements are the irreducibles of  $U$  together with those polynomials in  $U[X]$  having content 1 that are irreducible over  $\widehat{U}$ . One such is the linear polynomial  $(aX - 1)$  since the content is  $\gcd(a, -1) = 1$ . Now,  $U[X, Y] = (U[X])[Y]$  is a UFD whose prime elements are the irreducibles of  $U[X]$ , together with those polynomials in  $U[X, Y]$  having content 1 that are irreducible over  $\widehat{U}(X)$ . One such is the linear polynomial  $bY + (aX - 1)$  due to the fact that the content is  $\gcd(b, aX - 1) = 1$ . Since  $aX + bY - 1$  is prime in  $U[X, Y]$ ,  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  is a domain. In order to see that it extends  $U$ , it suffices to note that the ideal  $(aX + bY - 1)$  restricts trivially to the subring  $U \leq U[X, Y]$  consisting of constant polynomials. This follows from the fact that every nonzero element of  $(aX + bY - 1)$  has degree at least 1 with respect to  $X$  or  $Y$ .

Next, we show that  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  satisfies the ascending chain condition on principal ideals (ACCP). Suppose that  $(d_1) \subseteq (d_2) \subseteq \dots$  is an ascending chain of principal ideals in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ . Choose elements  $e_{k+1} \in U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  such that  $d_k = d_{k+1}e_{k+1}$ . Writing  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  in the form  $U[X, (1 - aX)/b]$ , consider it to be a subring of the localization

$$(2.1) \quad \left( U \left[ X, \frac{1 - aX}{b} \right] \right)_b = U_b[X].$$

In the larger ring,  $U_b[X]$ , which is a UFD, the chain must stabilize. Assume that

$$(d_k) = (d_{k+1}) = \dots,$$

so, for sufficiently large  $k$ , there exist elements  $f_k/b^{n_k} \in U_b[X]$  with  $f_k \in U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  such that  $d_k \cdot (f_k/b^{n_k}) = d_{k+1}$ . Since  $U_b[X]$  is a domain in which  $d_k = d_{k+1}e_{k+1}$  and  $d_k \cdot (f_k/b^{n_k}) = d_{k+1}$ , it must be that

$$e_{k+1} \cdot (f_k/b^{n_k}) = 1 \quad \text{in } U_b[X],$$

or

$$e_{k+1}f_k = b^{n_k} \quad \text{in } U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1).$$

This shows that, for sufficiently large  $k$ , the element  $e_{k+1}$  divides a power of  $b$  in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ . A similar argument shows that, for sufficiently large  $k$ , the element  $e_{k+1}$  divides a power of  $a$  in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ . Since  $aX + bY = 1$  in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ ,  $e_{k+1}$  is a unit for sufficiently large  $k$ . Since  $d_k = d_{k+1}e_{k+1}$ , it follows that  $(d_k) = (d_{k+1}) = \cdots$  in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  for sufficiently large  $k$ .

Next, we claim that, if  $q$  is a prime divisor of  $b$  in  $U$ , then  $q$  remains prime in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ , i.e.,  $(q)$  is a prime ideal in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ . For this, it suffices to establish the primeness of the ideal  $(q, aX + bY - 1) = (q, aX - 1)$  in  $U[X, Y]$ . Now,

$$U[X, Y]/(q, aX - 1) \cong U/(q)[X, Y]/(aX - 1) \cong U/(q)[Y]_a,$$

where the last ring may be constructed in steps: form the quotient  $U/(q)$ ; form the polynomial ring  $U/(q)[Y]$ ; then, localize at the powers of  $a$ ,  $U/(q)[Y]_a$ . Since  $U$  itself is a domain, factoring by the prime ideal  $(q)$  preserves and creates the domain property; forming the polynomial ring  $U/(q)[Y]$  preserves the domain property; then, localizing at the nonzero element  $a$ ,  $U/(q)[Y]_a$ , also preserves the domain property. (That  $a$  is nonzero in  $U/(q)[Y]$  follows from the fact that  $q$  does not divide  $a$  in  $U$ , since  $q \mid b$  and  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ .) This shows that  $U[X, Y]/(q, aX - 1)$  is a domain; thus,  $(q, aX - 1)$  is prime in  $U[X, Y]$ , and hence,  $q$  is prime in  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ .

Nagata's Criterion states that, if  $A$  is an integral domain with ACCP,  $S$  is a multiplicatively closed subset of  $A$  that is generated by prime elements, and the localization  $S^{-1}A$  is a UFD, then  $A$  itself is a UFD. Apply this to the ring  $A = U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  with  $S$  equal to the multiplicatively closed subset of  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  that is generated by the set of all prime divisors of  $b$  in  $U$ . Here, it helps to write  $A = U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  in the form

$$U\left[X, \frac{1 - aX}{b}\right].$$

It has been shown that  $A$  has ACCP. In the localization  $S^{-1}A$ , the element  $b$  is a unit; hence,

$$S^{-1}A = S^{-1}\left(U\left[X, \frac{1 - aX}{b}\right]\right) = S^{-1}U[X, 1 - aX] = S^{-1}U[X],$$

which is a UFD since it is a localization of a polynomial ring over a UFD. By Nagata's Criterion,  $A = U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  is itself a UFD.

For the final statement of the theorem, the element  $b$  becomes a unit in the field of fractions of  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ . Hence, the field of fractions of  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  is the same as the field of fractions of the ring  $(U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1))_b = U_b[X]$ . This field of fractions is easily seen to be  $\widehat{U}(X)$ , which has transcendence degree 1 over  $\widehat{U}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Assume that  $U$  is a UFD and  $a, b \in U$  are coprime. If*

$$f, g \in U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1),$$

*$g$  divides  $f$ , and  $f \in U \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $g \in U$ . In particular (when  $f = 1$ ) any unit of  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$  lies in  $U$ . Moreover, if  $f_1, f_2 \in U$  are coprime in  $U$ , then they remain coprime in the extension  $U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1)$ .*

*Proof.* Every element of

$$U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1) = U \left[ X, \frac{1 - aX}{b} \right] \quad (\leq U_b[X])$$

is a polynomial in  $X$  over the localization  $U_b$ . If  $f \in U \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $f$  has degree zero with respect to  $X$ ; hence, any divisor of  $f$  must have degree zero with respect to  $X$ . This forces  $g \in U_b$ . A similar argument using the representation

$$U[X, Y]/(aX + bY - 1) = U \left[ \frac{1 - bY}{a}, Y \right] \leq U_a[Y]$$

shows that  $g \in U_a$ . Therefore,  $g \in U_a \cap U_b = U$ , where the last equality follows from the facts that  $U$  is a UFD and  $a$  and  $b$  are coprime.

The last two assertions of the lemma follow from the first.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *If  $U$  is a UFD, then  $U$  has an extension  $P$  that is a PID such that  $U$  and  $P$  have exactly the same set of units. Moreover,  $P$  can be chosen so that the field of fractions  $\widehat{P}$  is a pure transcendental extension of  $\widehat{U}$  of degree at most  $|U|$ .*

*Proof.* In this first paragraph, we describe the strategy of the proof. If  $U$  is already a PID, then there is nothing to do. Otherwise,  $U$  is infinite and contains elements  $a$  and  $b$  such that the ideal  $(a, b)$  is not principal. If  $c = \gcd(a, b)$ , then  $a = a'c$  and  $b = b'c$  for some coprime elements  $a'$  and  $b'$  such that the ideal  $(a', b')$  is not principal. The proof consists of a construction designed to kill off all such “bad pairs” of coprime elements, i.e., pairs of coprime elements that generate nonprincipal ideals.

The proof begins now. Assume that  $U$  is an infinite UFD. Let  $\kappa = |U|$ , and enumerate with  $\kappa$  a set of coprime pairs of elements of  $U$  which includes all bad pairs of  $U$ , that is, all pairs of coprime elements generating nonprincipal ideals. Here,  $(1, 1)$  is a coprime pair, and pairs are allowed to be reused in the enumeration, so this kind of enumeration is possible.

If the enumeration function is  $\beta: \kappa \rightarrow U^2$ , then define rings  $V_i$ ,  $i < \kappa$ , as follows.

- (i)  $V_0 = U$ .
- (ii)  $V_{i+1} = V_i[X_i, Y_i]/(a_i X_i + b_i Y_i - 1)$  if  $\beta(i) = (a_i, b_i)$ .
- (iii) If  $\lambda \leq \kappa$  is limit, then  $V_\lambda = \bigcup_{i < \lambda} V_i$ .

The statement “ $V_\mu$  is a UFD and the pairs enumerated by  $\beta$  remain coprime in  $V_\mu$ ” can be established for all  $\mu \leq \kappa$  by transfinite induction using Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2. When  $\mu = 0$ , the statement holds by our initial hypothesis that  $U$  is a UFD and by the definition of  $\beta$ . When  $\mu = i + 1$  is a successor ordinal, Lemma 2.1 proves that  $V_\mu$  is a UFD, while Lemma 2.2 proves that the pairs enumerated by  $\beta$  remain coprime in  $V_\mu$ . If  $\mu$  is a limit ordinal, any element

$$f \in V_\mu = \bigcup_{i < \mu} V_i$$

occurs first at some successor stage  $V_{i+1}$  or else in  $V_0$ , and when it first occurs, all divisors of  $f$  that lie in  $V_\mu$  already exist in  $V_i$  or  $V_0$ , respectively. Thus, unique factorization of elements and coprimeness of  $\beta$ -enumerated pairs in  $V_\mu$  is inherited from  $V_{i+1}$  or  $V_0$ .

Thus,  $U_1 := V_\kappa$  is a UFD containing  $U_0 := U$  as a subring. Since new divisors of elements are not introduced during the construction, no new units are introduced. Hence, the UFD  $U_1$  is an extension of  $U_0$

that has the same unit group; however, all bad pairs in  $U_0$  have been “killed” in  $U_1$ .

In order to keep track of the transcendence degree of the field of fractions as the construction progresses, we note the following:

**Claim 2.4.** *Let  $\kappa$  be a cardinal, and let  $F_i$ ,  $i < \kappa$ , be a sequence of fields such that*

- (i)  $F_{i+1}/F_i$  is a pure transcendental extension with transcendence base  $T_i$  for all  $i < \kappa$ ; and
- (ii)

$$F_\lambda := \bigcup_{i < \lambda} F_i$$

when  $\lambda \leq \kappa$  is limit.

Then,  $F_\kappa/F_0$  is a pure transcendental extension with transcendence base  $\bigcup_{i < \kappa} T_i$ .

*Sketch.* To prove the claim, it may be argued by transfinite induction on  $\lambda$  that  $\bigcup_{i < \lambda} T_i$  is algebraically independent and, together with  $F_0$ , generates  $F_\lambda$  as a field.  $\square$

Applying Claim 2.4 to the situation where  $F_i = \widehat{V}_i$ ,  $i < \kappa$ , we obtain that  $\widehat{U}_1/\widehat{U}_0$  is a pure transcendental extension of transcendence degree  $\kappa$ . (In particular,  $|U_1| = \kappa = |U|$ .)

We may iterate the construction from above to produce a chain  $U = U_0 \leq U_1 \leq \dots$ , where each  $U_i$  is a UFD with the same group of units as  $U$ , in each  $U_{i+1}$ , all bad pairs from  $U_i$  have been killed, any divisor of an element that first appears at the  $i$ th stage also exists at the  $i$ th stage, and each  $\widehat{U}_{i+1}$  is a pure transcendental extension of  $\widehat{U}_i$  of degree  $\kappa = |U|$ . The union

$$P = \bigcup_{i < \omega} U_i$$

is therefore a UFD with no bad pairs. Such a ring is necessarily a PID, as the following argument shows. No pair of coprime elements in  $P$  can generate a nonprincipal ideal; thus,  $P$  is a Bezout domain. In order to show that  $P$  is a PID, it suffices to show that it is Noetherian. If this is not the case, then there is a strictly increasing chain of ideals

$$I_0 \subsetneq I_1 \subsetneq \dots \quad \text{in } P.$$

This can be adjusted to a strictly increasing chain of principal ideals, as follows. Choose  $d_{i+1} \in I_{i+1} \setminus I_i$  for all  $i$ . Now, choose  $f_i$  so that  $(f_i) = (d_1, \dots, d_i)$  in  $P$  for all  $i$ . This is possible since  $P$  is Bezout. The chain

$$(f_1) \subsetneq (f_2) \subsetneq \cdots$$

of principal ideals in  $P$  has been constructed so that it is strictly increasing. This is impossible, since  $P$  is a UFD.

Applying Claim 2.4 to the chain

$$\widehat{U} = \widehat{U}_0 \leq \widehat{U}_1 \leq \cdots \leq \bigcup_{i < \omega} \widehat{U}_i = \widehat{P},$$

we obtain that  $\widehat{P}$  is a pure transcendental extension of  $\widehat{U}$  of transcendence degree  $\omega \cdot \kappa = \kappa = |U|$ .  $\square$

**3. Problems and discussion.** If  $\mathcal{D}$  is a subcategory of a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , it may be asked whether each  $\mathcal{C}$ -object has a morphism to some  $\mathcal{D}$ -object. If the inclusion functor  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  has a left adjoint, then, indeed each  $\mathcal{C}$ -object has a *universal* morphism to a  $\mathcal{D}$ -object given by the unit of the adjunction. This is the case, for example, when  $\mathcal{C}$  is the category of integral domains equipped with embeddings and  $\mathcal{D}$  is the full subcategory of fields. A universal embedding of an integral domain into a field is its embedding into its field of fractions.

It may happen that each  $\mathcal{C}$ -object has a morphism to a  $\mathcal{D}$ -object, but not a universal such morphism, such as when  $\mathcal{C}$  is the category of fields and  $\mathcal{D}$  is the full subcategory of algebraically closed fields. The author does not know a conventional term for this situation, so (borrowing a term from order theory) we call  $\mathcal{D}$  a *cofinal* subcategory if each  $\mathcal{C}$ -object has a morphism to a  $\mathcal{D}$ -object.

Every ring homomorphism

$$\varphi: R \longrightarrow S$$

preserves units in the sense that  $u \in R^\times$  implies  $\varphi(u) \in S^\times$ . Say that  $\varphi$  reflects units if  $v \in S^\times$  implies that  $\varphi^{-1}(v)$  is a nonempty subset of  $R^\times$ . Thus, a unit-reflecting embedding  $\varphi: R \rightarrow S$  restricts to an isomorphism between unit groups.



The theorem of this paper may be expressed as follows: if  $\mathcal{C}$  is the category of UFD's equipped with unit-reflecting embeddings, then the full subcategory of PID's is cofinal.

This paper does not resolve the more general question:

**Question 3.1.** *Does the inclusion functor from the category of PID's (with unit-reflecting embeddings) into the category of UFD's (with unit-reflecting embeddings) have a left adjoint? Is there a universal unit-reflecting embedding of a UFD into a PID?*

Now, we turn to another observation and question. Recall that Romanowska's original question was whether there is a subring  $P \leq \mathbb{R}$  of the field of real numbers such that

- (i)  $P$  properly contains  $\mathbb{Z}$ ;
- (ii)  $P$  is a PID; and
- (iii) the only units of  $P$  are  $+1$  and  $-1$ .

**Claim 3.2.** *If  $P$  is such a ring, then any algebraic number in  $P$  must be a rational integer.*

To see this, choose any algebraic number  $\alpha \in P$ . The rings  $K := \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$  (a field) and  $P$  (a PID) are integrally closed; thus, the intersection

$$I := K \cap P$$

is integrally closed and lies between  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$  and  $P$ . It follows that  $I$  contains the integral closure of  $\mathbb{Z}$  in  $K$ , which is the ring  $\mathcal{O}_K$  of algebraic integers in  $K$ . By Dirichlet's unit theorem, the group of units in  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is the product of a finite group of roots of unity and a free abelian group of rank  $r+s-1$ , where  $r$  is the number of real embeddings of  $K$  and  $s$  is the number of pairs of conjugate complex embeddings. Since  $\mathcal{O}_K \leq I \leq P$  has  $+1$  and  $-1$  as its only units, it follows that  $r+s-1=0$ . Since  $K$  is real, it follows that  $r \geq 1$ , while, of course,  $s \geq 0$ ; hence,  $r=1$ ,  $s=0$ , and  $K$  has inclusion as its unique embedding into  $\mathbb{C}$ . If  $d$  is the degree of the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then there are at least  $d$  embeddings of  $K$  into  $\mathbb{C}$ , so,  $d=1$  and  $\alpha$  is rational. If  $\alpha = p/q$  where  $\gcd(p, q) = 1$ , then, choose  $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $pu + qv = 1$ , or

$\alpha u + v = 1/q$ . Since  $\alpha, u, v, q \in S$ , we obtain  $q, 1/q \in P$ ; hence,  $q = \pm 1$ . Therefore,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Thus, if  $P$  is any PID, answering Romanowska's question, then any number in  $P - \mathbb{Z}$  is transcendental. This suggests:

**Question 3.3.** *Given a UFD  $U$ , what is the minimum transcendence degree of the extension  $\widehat{P}/\widehat{U}$ , where  $P$  is a PID that contains  $U$  and satisfies  $P^\times = U^\times$ ? Is it always possible to find a PID  $P$  such that the transcendence degree of  $\widehat{P}/\widehat{U}$  is finite? Is it always possible to find a PID  $P$  such that the transcendence degree of  $\widehat{P}/\widehat{U}$  is 1?*

The strategy used in this paper to construct a PID satisfying  $\mathbb{Z} \subsetneq P \subsetneq \mathbb{R}$  and  $P^\times = \{\pm 1\}$  is to first adjoin a transcendental number to  $\mathbb{Z}$  (forming, say,  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$ ), and then to eliminate all occurrences of nonprincipal ideals via a sequence of extensions. But observe that this must be done carefully. If, for example, at some point of the construction, we have a ring containing the transcendentals

$$\pi, \pi^{1/2}, \pi^{1/4}, \pi^{1/8}, \dots,$$

then the ring cannot be further extended to a PID without adding units. More generally, if at some point of the construction, we have a domain containing any strictly increasing sequence of principal ideals  $(d_1) \subsetneq (d_2) \subsetneq \dots$ , then, in any larger domain with no additional units, this chain remains a properly increasing chain. This cannot occur in a PID. A stronger statement is true: if  $P \leq \mathbb{R}$  answers Romanowska's question, then, in any subring of  $P$  any principal ideal is contained in only finitely many other principal ideals. This observation shows that there exist integral domains, such as  $\mathbb{Z}[\pi, \pi^{1/2}, \pi^{1/4}, \dots]$ , which cannot be extended to PID's without adding units.

We change the question. Rather than extending a UFD to a PID without adding units, can we extend a UFD to a Euclidean domain without adding units? Interestingly, this is not always possible: there exist UFD's that cannot be extended to Euclidean domains without adding units.

For example, it is well known that  $P = \mathbb{Z}[(1 + \sqrt{-19})/2]$  is a PID that is not a Euclidean domain [3, pages 277, 282]. This ring  $P$  cannot even be extended to a Euclidean domain without adding units. This can be

established by a slight modification, described below, of the argument used in [3, page 277] to show that  $P$  is not a Euclidean domain.

Suppose that  $\varphi: P \rightarrow E$  is a unit-reflecting embedding of  $P$  into a Euclidean domain  $E$ .  $E$  has nonunits, so  $E$  is not a field. Therefore,  $E$  has an element  $u$  of least Euclidean norm among elements in  $E - (E^\times \cup \{0\})$ . Such an element  $u \in E$  is a *universal side divisor* for  $E$ , which means that every nonzero coset of the ideal  $(u)$  contains a unit. In particular,  $E/(u)$  has cardinality at most

$$|E^\times \cup \{0\}| = |E^\times| + 1.$$

$E/(u)$  has cardinality at least 2, since  $u$  is not a unit, so,

$$2 \leq [E : (u)] \leq |E^\times| + 1.$$

The units of  $P = \mathbb{Z}[(1 + \sqrt{-19})/2]$  are only  $\pm 1$ , as may be shown with a norm argument. If  $\varphi: P \rightarrow E$  is a unit-reflecting embedding, then  $E^\times = \{\pm 1\}$ . The previous displayed equation becomes

$$2 \leq [E : (u)] \leq 3,$$

so  $E$  must have an ideal  $(u)$  of index 2 or 3. Restricting  $(u)$  to  $P$ , we obtain an ideal  $(u)|_P = \varphi^{-1}((u))$  of index 2 or 3 in  $P$ . However, there is no such ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}[(1 + \sqrt{-19})/2]$ , as can be shown by a norm argument [3, page 277]. Hence, there is no unit-reflecting embedding of the PID  $\mathbb{Z}[(1 + \sqrt{-19})/2]$  into a Euclidean domain.

**Question 3.4.** *What conditions on a PID  $P$  are necessary for there to exist a unit-reflecting embedding from  $P$  into a Euclidean domain?*

**Problem 3.5.** Let  $\mathcal{ID}$  be the category of integral domains equipped with unit-reflecting embeddings. Discover interesting instances  $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$  of pairs of full subcategories where  $\mathcal{C} \supsetneq \mathcal{D}$ , and  $\mathcal{D}$  is cofinal in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

For example, this paper shows that  $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) = (\text{UFD's, PID's})$  is an instance, while  $(\text{PIDs, Euclidean domains})$  is not an instance.

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