

§7.30: COHEN-SEIDENBERG THEOREMS: APPLICATIONS

LYING OVER: Let $R \subseteq S$ be an integral inclusion. Then the induced map $\text{Spec}(S) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$ is surjective. That is, for any prime $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$, there is a prime $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$; i.e., a prime *lying over* \mathfrak{p} .

INCOMPARABILITY: Let $R \rightarrow S$ be integral (but not necessarily injective). Then for any $\mathfrak{q}_1, \mathfrak{q}_2 \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such¹ that $\mathfrak{q}_1 \cap R = \mathfrak{q}_2 \cap R$, we have $\mathfrak{q}_1 \not\subseteq \mathfrak{q}_2$. That is, any two primes lying over the same prime are *incomparable*.

GOING UP: Let $R \rightarrow S$ be integral (but not necessarily injective). Then for any $\mathfrak{p} \subsetneq \mathfrak{P}$ in $\text{Spec}(R)$ and $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$, there is some $\mathfrak{Q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{q} \subseteq \mathfrak{Q}$ and $\mathfrak{Q} \cap R = \mathfrak{P}$.

GOING DOWN: Let $R \subseteq S$ be an integral inclusion of domains, and assume that R is normal. Then for any $\mathfrak{p} \subsetneq \mathfrak{P}$ in $\text{Spec}(R)$ and $\mathfrak{Q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{Q} \cap R = \mathfrak{P}$, there is some $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{q} \subseteq \mathfrak{Q}$ and $\mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$.

COROLLARY: Let $R \rightarrow S$ be integral.

- (1) If S is Noetherian, then for any $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$, the set of primes in S that contract to \mathfrak{p} is finite.
- (2) If $R \subseteq S$ is an inclusion, and S is Noetherian, then for any $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$, the set of primes in S that contract to \mathfrak{p} is nonempty and finite.
- (3) For any $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$, we have $\text{height}(\mathfrak{q}) \leq \text{height}(\mathfrak{q} \cap R)$.
- (4) $\dim(S) \leq \dim(R)$.
- (5) If $R \subseteq S$ is an inclusion, then $\dim(R) = \dim(S)$.
- (6) If $R \subseteq S$ is an inclusion, R is a normal domain, and S is a domain, then for any $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$, we have $\text{height}(\mathfrak{q}) = \text{height}(\mathfrak{q} \cap R)$.

(1) Hypotheses of Lying Over and Incomparability:

- (a)** Consider the inclusion map $\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}$. Show that the conclusion of Lying Over fails. Which hypotheses are true?
- (b)** Consider the quotient map $\mathbb{C}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[X]/(X) \cong \mathbb{C}$. Show that the conclusion of Lying Over fails. Which hypotheses are true?
- (c)** Consider the inclusion map $\mathbb{C} \subseteq \mathbb{C}[X]$. Show that the conclusion of Incomparability fails. Which hypotheses are true?
- (d)** Consider the inclusion map $R := \mathbb{C}[X^2] \subseteq S := \mathbb{C}[X]$. Describe all of the primes \mathfrak{q}_i that contract to $\mathfrak{p} := (X^2 - 1)R$. Verify the conclusions on Incomparability and Lying Over for \mathfrak{p} and the \mathfrak{q}_i .

¹Reminder: by abuse of notation, even when $\phi : R \rightarrow S$ is not injective, we write $\mathfrak{q} \cap R$ for $\phi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q}) \subseteq R$.

- (a) The prime $2\mathbb{Z}$ is not the contraction of any prime; the only prime in the image is $0\mathbb{Z}$. This is an inclusion but not integral.
- (b) The prime (0) is not in the image, because the contraction of every ideal contains (X) . This is integral, but not an inclusion.
- (c) Both (0) and (X) in $\mathbb{C}[X]$ contract to (0) in \mathbb{C} , but $(0) \subsetneq (X)$.
- (d) A prime that contracts to $(X^2 - 1)$ must contain $X^2 - 1$, and hence must contain $X - 1$ or $X + 1$. We find that $\mathfrak{q}_1 = (X - 1)$ and $\mathfrak{q}_2 = (X + 1)$ both contract to $(X^2 - 1)$ in R . In particular, something contracts to \mathfrak{p} , so Lying Over holds, and the two primes that do are incomparable, so Incomparability holds.

(2) Proof of Corollary using the theorems: Let $R \rightarrow S$ be integral.

(a) Use one of the Theorems above to show that for any chain of primes

$$\mathfrak{q}_0 \subsetneq \mathfrak{q}_1 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq \mathfrak{q}_n = \mathfrak{q} \quad \text{in Spec}(S)$$

the containments

$$(\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R) \subseteq (\mathfrak{q}_1 \cap R) \subseteq \cdots \subseteq (\mathfrak{q}_n \cap R) = (\mathfrak{q} \cap R) \quad \text{in Spec}(R)$$

are proper. Explain why this implies Part (3).

(b) Deduce part (4) from part (3).

(c) Let $R \subseteq S$ be an inclusion, and take a chain of primes

$$\mathfrak{p}_0 \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_1 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq \mathfrak{p}_n \quad \text{in Spec}(R).$$

Use Lying Over and Going up to find a chain of primes

$$\mathfrak{q}_0 \subsetneq \mathfrak{q}_1 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq \mathfrak{q}_n \quad \text{in Spec}(S)$$

such that $\mathfrak{q}_i \cap R = \mathfrak{p}_i$ for all i . Deduce part (5).

(d) Prove part (6).

(e) Let $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ and $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$. Show that if $\mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$, then $\mathfrak{q} \supseteq \mathfrak{p}S$, and if \mathfrak{q}_0 is some prime of S such that $\mathfrak{p}S \subseteq \mathfrak{q}_0 \subseteq \mathfrak{q}$, then $\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$ also.

(f) Show that every prime that contracts to \mathfrak{p} is a minimal prime of $\mathfrak{p}S$, and deduce parts (1) and (2).

- (a) These containments are proper by incomparability. If the height of \mathfrak{q} is at least n , then there is a proper chain as above, and then there is a proper chain of primes up to $\mathfrak{q} \cap R$ of length n , so the height of $\mathfrak{q} \cap R$ is at least n .
- (b) If the dimension of S is at least n , then there is a prime of height at least n in $\text{Spec}(S)$, so there is a prime of height at least n in $\text{Spec}(R)$, and the dimension of R is at least n .
- (c) By Lying Over we can take a \mathfrak{q}_0 that contracts to \mathfrak{p}_0 . Applying Going up, we get a prime \mathfrak{q}_1 that contains \mathfrak{q}_0 and contracts to \mathfrak{p}_1 . Continuing like so, we build the chain as required. Thus, if the dimension of R is at least n , there is a chain in $\text{Spec}(S)$ of length at least n , so $\dim(S)$ is at least n . Thus, $\dim(R) \leq \dim(S)$.
- (d) Take $\mathfrak{q} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ and $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ and a chain of primes in $\text{Spec}(R)$ of length n with $\mathfrak{p}_n = \mathfrak{p}$. We can apply Going Down to find a $\mathfrak{q}_{n-1} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ such that $\mathfrak{q}_{n-1} \subsetneq \mathfrak{q}_n$ such that $\mathfrak{q}_{n-1} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}_{n-1}$. Continuing like so, we can form a chain

of primes in $\text{Spec}(S)$ of length n . This implies that the height of $\mathfrak{q} \cap R$ is less than or equal to the height of \mathfrak{q} .

- (e) By definition, any ideal of S that contains the image of \mathfrak{p} contains $\mathfrak{p}S$, so $\mathfrak{q} \cap R \supseteq \mathfrak{p}$ if and only if $\mathfrak{q} \supseteq \mathfrak{p}S$. In particular, $\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R \supseteq \mathfrak{p}S$ implies $\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R \supseteq \mathfrak{p}$ and $\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R \subseteq \mathfrak{q} \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$, so $\mathfrak{q}_0 \cap R = \mathfrak{p}$.
- (f) If \mathfrak{q} contracts to \mathfrak{p} , then \mathfrak{q} contains a minimal prime of $\mathfrak{p}S$ that contracts to \mathfrak{p} by the previous part. Then by Incomparability, \mathfrak{q} is a minimal prime of $\mathfrak{p}S$. By Noetherianity, since $\mathfrak{p}S$ has finitely many minimal primes, there are at most finitely many primes that contract to \mathfrak{p} , showing (1). Finally, (2) follows from (1) and Lying Over.

(3) Hypotheses of Going Down:

- (a) Consider the inclusion map $\mathbb{C}[X] \subseteq \mathbb{C}[X, Y]/(XY, Y^2 - Y)$. Show that² the conclusion of Going Down fails. Which hypotheses are true?
- (b) Consider the inclusion map $\mathbb{C}[X(1 - X), X^2(1 - X), Y, XY] \subseteq \mathbb{C}[X, Y]$. Show that³ the conclusion of Going Down fails. Which hypotheses are true?

- (a) Let $R = K[X] \subseteq S = K[X, Y]/(XY, Y^2 - Y)$. R is a normal domain, and the inclusion is integral: $y^2 - y = 0$ is an integral dependence relation for y over R , so S is generated by one integral element. Now, $(1 - y)$ is a minimal prime of S : $y \in S \setminus (1 - y)$, so x goes to zero in the localization (since $xy = 0$) and $1 - y$ goes to zero in the localization (since $y(1 - y) = 0$), so the localization is a copy of K , which has only one prime, (0) . We have $x = x - xy = x(1 - y) \in (1 - y)$, so the contraction contains (X) , so must be (X) . But, by minimality, we can't "go down" from $(1 - y)$ to a prime lying over (0) .
- (b) The element X is integral over R : $X(1 - X) \in R$ is a recipe: X is a root of $T^2 - T - X(1 - X)$. Note that X is in the fraction field of R , so this element shows both that S is integral over R , and that R is not normal. Now, $\mathfrak{q} = (1 - X, Y) \subseteq S$ is a maximal ideal lying over the maximal ideal $\mathfrak{p} = (X(1 - X), X^2(1 - X), Y, XY)$ in R . We have $xS \cap R = (X(1 - X), X^2(1 - X), XY)R = \mathfrak{p}'$, but we claim that no prime contained in \mathfrak{q} lies over \mathfrak{p}' . Such a prime must contain $X(1 - X)$ and XY , but not X (this would make it the unit ideal), so must contain Y and $1 - X$, and the contraction is then \mathfrak{p} , which is too big!

²Consider $(1 - y)$, (X) , and (0) .

³Consider $(1 - X, Y)$, $(X(1 - X), X^2(1 - X), Y, XY)$, and $(1 - X, Y) \cap R$.