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**#1** In each of the following rings,  $R$ , state the characteristic of the ring. If  $R$  has unity, give an example of a unit and its inverse (other than 1 itself). If no unit exists, explain why not. If  $R$  has zero divisors, give an example of a zero divisor. If no zero divisors exist, explain why not.

(a)  $R = \mathbb{Z}_{10} \times \mathbb{Z}_{15}$

(b)  $R = 99\mathbb{Z} = \{99k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  (multiples of 99)

(c)  $R = (\mathbb{Z}_7)^{2 \times 2}$  ( $2 \times 2$  matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{Z}_7$ )

**#2** Let  $R$  be a ring with 1. Let  $u$  be a unit and  $z$  be a zero divisor. Prove that both  $uz$  and  $zu$  are zero divisors.

*Note:* Argue carefully. You will need to write separate arguments for the cases where  $z$  is a left zero divisor and where  $z$  is a right zero divisor.

**#3** Let  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  where  $i^2 = -1$  (i.e.,  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ ).

This is the ring of Gaussian integers. This ring is equipped with an extra tool called an algebraic *norm*.

We define the normal of  $z = a + bi$  by  $N(z) = z\bar{z} = (a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$ . Notice that  $N(z) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

A very helpful observation is that for any  $w, z \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ , we have  $N(wz) = N(w)N(z)$ .

(a) Prove  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a subring of  $\mathbb{C}$ .

(b) When is  $N(z) = 0$ ? When is  $N(z) = 1$ ?

(c) If  $u \in U(\mathbb{Z}[i])$ , then what can be said about  $N(u)$ ? [*Hint:* Consider  $N(uu^{-1})$ .] Determine  $U(\mathbb{Z}[i])$ .

(d) Prove that  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  has no zero divisors. [*Hint:* Use the norm.]

*Note:* Since  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a commutative ring with  $1 \neq 0$  and it has no zero divisors, it is an *integral domain*.

**#4** Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{5}] = \{a + b\sqrt{5} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  is a field.

*Note:* Use a subring test to show it is a ring (it is a subring of  $\mathbb{R}$ ).

Then use the “conjugate trick” to show it has multiplicative inverses.