

POLYNOMIAL RINGS THAT ARE UFDs

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PROPOSITION (GAUSS'S LEMMA)

Let R be a UFD with field of fractions F and let $p(x) \in R[x]$. If $p(x)$ is reducible in $F[x]$ then $p(x)$ is reducible in $R[x]$.

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COROLLARY

Let R be a UFD with field of fractions F and let $p(x) \in R[x]$. Suppose also that the gcd of the coefficients of $p(x)$ is 1. Then $p(x)$ is irreducible in $R[x]$ if and only if it is irreducible in $F[x]$. In particular, if $p(x)$ is monic and irreducible in $R[x]$ then $p(x)$ is irreducible in $F[x]$.

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If R is a UFD, then a polynomial ring in an arbitrary number of variables with coefficients in R is also a UFD.