

# The degree and the order of polynomials in the ring

$$R\left[F_A^1\right]$$

Ronnason Chinram<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

Chinram, R.

The degree and the order of polynomials in the ring  $R\left[F_A^1\right]$

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In this research, we generalize some properties of the degree and the order of polynomials in the ring  $R[x]$ .

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**Key words :** polynomials, degree, order

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<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. (Mathematics), Asst. Prof., Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla, 90112 Thailand.

Corresponding e-mail : [ronnason.c@psu.ac.th](mailto:ronnason.c@psu.ac.th)

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บทคัดย่อ

รณสรพรพ์ จินรัมย์

ระดับชั้นและอันดับของพหุนามในริง  $R[F_A^1]$

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ในงานวิจัยนี้ เราขยายสมบัติบางอย่างของระดับชั้นและอันดับของพหุนามในริง  $R[x]$ .

ภาควิชาคณิตศาสตร์ คณะวิทยาศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยสงขลานครินทร์ อำเภอหาดใหญ่ จังหวัดสงขลา 90112

Let  $R$  be a ring.  $f$  is said to be a *polynomial* in  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$  if  $f$  is the form of sum

$$f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \text{ where } a_n \in R \text{ for all } n \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{0\}$$

such that  $a_n = 0$  for all but a finite number of indices  $n$ .

Let  $R[x]$  be the set of all polynomials in  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$ .

For any  $f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$  and  $g = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n$ , define binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $R[x]$  by

$$f + g = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) x^n$$

and

$$f \cdot g = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^n a_i b_{n-i} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^n a_n b_m x^{n+m}.$$

Then  $R[x]$  is a ring under these two binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$ . The ring  $R[x]$  is called the *ring of polynomials in  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$*  or the *polynomial ring* (see Hungerford, 1980).

Let  $f \in R[x]$  where  $f \neq 0$ . The *degree* of  $f$  is  $\max\{n \mid a_n \neq 0\}$ . The degree of  $f$  is denoted by  $\deg f$ . A polynomial  $f \in R[x]$  such that  $\deg f = n$  will always be written in the form  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_n x^n$  where  $a_i \in R$  and  $a_n \neq 0$ . The next theorem shows some properties of the degree of polynomials in the ring  $R[x]$ .

**Theorem 1.1** (See Hungerford, 1980).

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $f, g \in R[x] \setminus \{0\}$ . The following statements are true.

- (i)  $fg = 0$  or  $\deg(fg) \leq \deg f + \deg g$ .

- (ii) If  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $\deg(fg) = \deg f + \deg g$ .
- (iii)  $f + g = 0$  or  $\deg(f + g) \leq \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}$ .
- (iv) If  $\deg f \neq \deg g$ , then  $\deg(f + g) = \max\{\deg f(x), \deg g(x)\}$ .

Let  $f \in R[x]$  where  $f \neq 0$ . The order of  $f$  is  $\min\{n \mid a_n \neq 0\}$  and the order of  $0$  is  $\infty$ . The order of  $f$  is denoted by  $\text{ord } f$  (see Grillet, 1999). The next theorem shows some properties of the order of the polynomials in the ring  $R[x]$ .

**Theorem 1.2** (see Grillet, 1999).

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $f, g \in R[x] \setminus \{0\}$ . The following statements are true.

- (i)  $fg = 0$  or  $\text{ord}(fg) \geq \text{ord } f + \text{ord } g$ .
- (ii) If  $R$  is an integral domain, then  $\text{ord}(fg) = \text{ord } f + \text{ord } g$ .
- (iii)  $f + g = 0$  or  $\text{ord}(f + g) \geq \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}$ .
- (iv) If  $\text{ord } f \neq \text{ord } g$ , then  $\text{ord}(f + g) = \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}$ .

In this paper, we generalize Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2.

**The semigroup  $F_A^1$ .**

Let  $A$  be any nonempty set and

$$F_A = \{a_1 a_2 \dots a_m \mid m \in \mathbf{N}, a_i \in A \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, m\}\}.$$

For  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_m, b_1 b_2 \dots b_n \in F_A$  define a binary operation on  $F_A$  by

$$(a_1 a_2 \dots a_m)(b_1 b_2 \dots b_n) = a_1 a_2 \dots a_m b_1 b_2 \dots b_n. \tag{2.1}$$

It is easy to prove that  $F_A$  is a semigroup under this binary operation.  $F_A$  is said to be a *free semigroup* generated by the set  $A$  and  $A$  is called a *generating set* of  $F_A$  (see Howie, 1975).

Next, let 1 be a new element and

$$F_A^1 = F_A \cup \{1\}.$$

Define a binary operation on  $F_A^1$  by

$$x1 = x = 1x \text{ for all } x \in F_A^1 \text{ and } 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

and if  $x, y \in F_A^1$  then  $xy$  satisfies (2.1).

We can easily see that  $F_A^1$  is a semigroup under the above binary operation.

**Example 2.1.** Let  $A = \{x\}$ . Then

1. By the definition of free semigroups  $F_A$ , we have

$$F_A = \{x, x^2, x^3, \dots\} = \{x^n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}$$

and  $x^i x^j$  for all  $i, j \in \mathbf{N}$ .

2. By the definition of the semigroups  $F_A^1$ , we have

$$F_A^1 = \{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\} = \{x^n \mid n \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{0\}\}$$

where  $1 = x^0$  and  $1x^i = x^i = x^i 1$  for all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $1 \cdot 1 = 1$  and  $x^i x^j = x^{i+j}$  for all  $i, j \in \mathbf{N}$ .

**Theorem 2.1.**

If  $|A| > 1$ , then  $F_A^1$  is not a commutative semigroup.

*Proof.* Assume that  $|A| > 1$ . Then there exist  $x, y \in A$  such that  $x \neq y$ . Then  $xy, yx \in F_A^1$  and  $xy \neq yx$ . Thus  $F_A^1$  is not a commutative semigroup.

Let  $A$  be a nonempty set. For  $s = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \in F_A$  where  $a_i \in A$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , the *length* of  $s$  is  $n$  and the *length* of 1 is 0. For  $s \in F_A^1$ , the length of  $s$  is denoted by  $L(s)$ .

**Example 2.2.**

Let  $A = \{a, b\}$ , Then  $1, aba, a^2 bab^3 \in F_A^1$ .

By definition of the length of element in  $F_A^1$ , we have that

$$L(1) = 0, L(aba) = 3 \text{ and } L(a^2 bab^3) = 7.$$

The next theorem shows some properties of the length of elements in  $F_A^1$ .

**Theorem 2.2.**

Let  $A$  be any nonempty set. For  $x, y \in F_A^1$ , we have

$$L(xy) = L(x) + L(y).$$

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be a nonempty set and  $x, y \in F_A^1$ . Then  $x = 1$  or  $x \in F_A$  and  $y = 1$  or  $y \in F_A$ .

**Case 1 :**  $x = 1$ . Then  $L(x) = 0$ . Thus

$$L(xy) = L(y) = 0 + L(y) = L(x) + L(y).$$

**Case 2 :**  $x \in F_A$ . Then  $x = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  for some  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in A$ .

*Case 2.1:*  $y = 1$ . Then  $L(y) = 0$ . Thus

$$L(xy) = L(x) = L(x) + 0 = L(x) + L(y).$$

*Case 2.2:*  $y \in F_A$ . Then there exist  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m \in A$  such that  $y = b_1 b_2 \dots b_m$ . We have that

$$xy = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n b_1 b_2 \dots b_m,$$

so

$$L(xy) = m + n = L(x) + L(y).$$

Therefore,  $L(xy) = L(x) + L(y)$  for all  $x, y \in F_A^1$ .

**The ring  $R[S]$ .**

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $S$  a semigroup.  $f$  is said to be a *polynomial on  $S$  with coefficients in  $R$*  if  $f$  is the form of finite sums  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  where  $s \in S$  and  $a_s \in S$ .

Let  $R[S]$  be the set of all polynomials on  $S$  with coefficients in  $R$ . For any  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$ , define binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $R[S]$  by

$$f + g = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s = \sum_{s \in S} (a_s + b_s) s$$

and

$$f \cdot g = \left( \sum_{s \in S} a_s s \right) \left( \sum_{s' \in S} b_{s'} s' \right) = \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{s' \in S} (a_s b_{s'}) (ss').$$

Then  $R[S]$  is a ring under these binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  (see Zhang, Chen and Li, 1996).

If  $A = \{x\}$ , by Example 2.1, we have known that  $F_A^1 = \{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$ . By the definition of the rings  $R[S]$ , it is easy to see that  $R[F_A^1] = R[x]$ . Therefore, the ring  $R[S]$  is a generalization of the ring  $R[x]$ .

**The degree of polynomials in the ring  $R[F_A^1]$ .**

Let  $A$  be a nonempty set and  $R$  a ring. Let  $f \in R[F_A^1] \setminus \{0\}$ , such that  $f = \sum_{s \in F_A^1} a_s s$ . The degree of  $f$  is  $\max\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\}$ . For  $f \in R[F_A^1]$ , the degree of  $f$  is denoted by  $\deg f$ .

**Example 4.1.**

Let  $A = \{a, b\}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  be the set of all real numbers. Let  $f = 2ab + 3a^3 + 4b^2a^2 \in \mathbf{R}[F_A^1]$ . By the definition of the degree of elements in  $\mathbf{R}[F_A^1]$ , it is easy to see that  $\deg f = 4$ .

In the remainder of this section, let  $A$  be a nonempty set and  $R$  a ring.

**Theorem 4.1.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $fg \neq 0$  or  $\deg(fg) \leq \deg f + \deg g$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ . We have  $fg = \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{s' \in S} (a_s b_{s'}) (ss')$ . Assume  $fg \neq 0$ . Thus  $\deg(fg) = \max\{L(ss') \mid a_s b_{s'} \neq 0\}$   
 $= \max\{L(s) + L(s') \mid a_s b_{s'} \neq 0\}$   
 by Theorem 2.2  
 $\leq \max\{L(s) + L(s') \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ and } b_{s'} \neq 0\}$   
 $\leq \max\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\} + \max\{L(s') \mid b_{s'} \neq 0\}$   
 $= \deg f + \deg g$ .

**Theorem 4.2.**

Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $\deg(fg) = \deg f + \deg g$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any

two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ . Assume  $\deg f = n$  and  $\deg g = m$ . Let  $u \in \{s \in F_A^1 \mid L(s) = n \text{ and } a_s \neq 0\}$  and  $v \in \{s \in F_A^1 \mid L(s) = m \text{ and } b_s \neq 0\}$ . So  $a_u \neq 0$  and  $b_v \neq 0$ . Since  $R$  is an integral domain,  $a_u b_v \neq 0$ . By properties of  $u$  and  $v$ , we have

$$f = a_u u + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \leq n \\ s \neq u}} a_s s \text{ and } g = b_v v + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \leq m \\ s \neq v}} b_s s.$$

$$\text{Thus } fg = a_u b_v uv + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(ss') \leq m+n \\ ss' \neq uv}} b_s s.$$

From Theorem 2.2, we have known that  $L(uv) = L(u) + L(v) = m + n$ . Hence,

$$\deg(fg) = m + n = \deg f + \deg g,$$

as required.

**Theorem 4.3.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $f + g = 0$  or  $\deg(f + g) \leq \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any

two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ .

Let  $\deg f = n$  and  $\deg g = m$ .

**Case 1:**  $m > n$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} f + g &= \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s \\ &= \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \leq n}} (a_s + b_s) s + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) > n}} b_s s \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(f + g) &= \max\{L(s) \mid b_s \neq 0 \text{ and } L(s) > n\} \\ &= m \\ &= \max\{m, n\} \\ &= \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2:**  $n > m$ . We have that

$$f + g = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \leq m}} (a_s + b_s)s + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) > m}} a_s s$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(f + g) &= \max\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ and } L(s) > m\} \\ &= n \\ &= \max\{m, n\} \\ &= \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 3:**  $m = n$ . We have that

$$f + g = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$$

Case 3.1 :  $g = -f$ . So  $f + g = 0$ .

Case 3.2 :  $g \neq -f$ . So  $f + g \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(f + g) &= \max\{L(s) \mid a_s + b_s \neq 0\} \\ &\leq \max\{\max\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ or } b_s \neq 0\}\} \\ &\leq \max\{\max\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\}, \max\{L(s) \mid b_s \neq 0\}\} \\ &= \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $f + g = 0$  or  $\deg(f + g) \leq \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}$ , as required.

**Corollary 4.4.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ . If  $\deg f \neq \deg g$ , then  $\deg(f + g) = \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}$ .

*Proof.* By the proof of Case 1 and Case 2 of Theorem 4.3.

**The order of polynomials in the ring  $R[F_A^1]$ .**

Let  $A$  be a nonempty set and  $R$  a ring. For  $f \in R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f = \sum_{s \in F_A^1} a_s s$ . If  $f \neq 0$ , the order of  $f$  is  $\min\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\}$  and the order of 0 is  $\infty$ . For  $f \in R[F_A^1]$ , the order of  $f$  is denoted by  $\text{ord} f$ .

**Example 5.1.**

Let  $A = \{a, b\}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  be the set of all real numbers. Let  $f = 2ab + 3a^3 + 4b^2a^2 \in \mathbf{R}[F_A^1]$ . By the definition of the order of elements in  $\mathbf{R}[F_A^1]$ , it is easy to see that  $\text{ord} f = 2$ .

In the remainder of this section, let  $A$  be a

nonempty set and  $R$  a ring.

**Theorem 5.1.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $fg = 0$  or  $\text{ord}(fg) \geq \text{ord} f + \text{ord} g$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any

two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ .

We have  $fg = \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{s' \in S} (a_s b_{s'}) (ss')$ . Assume that  $fg \neq 0$ .

Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}(fg) &= \min\{L(ss') \mid a_s b_{s'} \neq 0\} \\ &= \min\{L(s) + L(s') \mid a_s b_{s'} \neq 0\} \\ &\quad \text{by Theorem 2.2} \\ &\geq \min\{L(s) + L(s') \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ and } b_{s'} \neq 0\} \\ &\geq \min\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\} + \min\{L(s') \mid b_{s'} \neq 0\} \\ &= \text{ord} f + \text{ord} g. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\text{ord}(fg) > \text{ord} f + \text{ord} g$ .

**Theorem 5.2.**

Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $\text{ord}(fg) = \text{ord} f + \text{ord} g$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any

two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ .

Assume  $\text{ord} f = n$  and  $\text{ord} g = m$ . Let  $u \in \{s \in F_A^1 \mid L(s) = n \text{ and } a_s \neq 0\}$  and  $v \in \{s \in F_A^1 \mid L(s) = m \text{ and } b_s \neq 0\}$ . So  $a_u \neq 0$  and  $b_v \neq 0$ . Since  $R$  is an integral domain,  $a_u b_v \neq 0$ . By properties of  $u$  and  $v$ , we have

$$f = a_u u + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \geq n \\ s \neq u}} a_s s \quad \text{and} \quad g = b_v v + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \geq m \\ s \neq v}} b_s s.$$

$$\text{Thus } fg = a_u b_v uv + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(ss') \geq m+n \\ ss' \neq uv}} a_s b_{s'} ss'.$$

By Theorem 2.2, we have  $L(uv) = L(u) + L(v) = m+n$ . Hence,  $\text{ord}(fg) = m + n = \text{ord} f + \text{ord} g$ , as required.

**Theorem 5.3.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $f + g = 0$  or  $\text{ord}(f + g) \geq \min\{\text{ord} f, \text{ord} g\}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{s \in S} a_s s$  and  $g = \sum_{s \in S} b_s s$  be any two elements in  $R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ .

Let  $\text{ord } f = n$  and  $\text{ord } g = m$ .

**Case 1:**  $m > n$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} f + g &= \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s \\ &= \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \geq m}} (a_s + b_s) s + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) < m}} a_s s \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}(f + g) &= \min\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ and } L(s) < m\} \\ &= n \\ &= \min\{m, n\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2:**  $n > m$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} f + g &= \sum_{s \in S} a_s s + \sum_{s \in S} b_s s \\ &= \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) \geq n}} (a_s + b_s) s + \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ L(s) < n}} b_s s \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}(f + g) &= \min\{L(s) \mid b_s \neq 0 \text{ and } L(s) < n\} \\ &= m \\ &= \min\{m, n\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 3:**  $m = n$ . We have that

$$f + g = \sum_{s \in S} (a_s + b_s) s$$

Case 3.1:  $g = -f$ . So  $f + g = 0$ .

Case 3.2:  $g \neq -f$ . So  $f + g \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}(f + g) &= \min\{L(s) \mid a_s + b_s \neq 0\} \\ &\geq \min\{\min\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0 \text{ or } b_s \neq 0\}\} \\ &\geq \min\{\min\{L(s) \mid a_s \neq 0\}, \min\{L(s) \mid b_s \neq 0\}\} \\ &= \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $f + g = 0$  or  $\text{ord}(f + g) \geq \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}$ , as required.

**Corollary 5.4.**

Let  $f, g \in R[F_A^1]$  such that  $f \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$ . If  $\text{ord } f \neq \text{ord } g$ , then  $\text{ord}(f + g) = \min\{\text{ord } f, \text{ord } g\}$ .

*Proof.* By the proof of Case 1 and Case 2 of Theorem 5.3.

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