

**The Division Algorithm:** For any polynomials  $A(X)$  and  $B(X)$  with  $B(X) \neq 0$ , there are polynomials  $Q(X)$  and  $R(X)$  with

$$A(X) = Q(X) \times B(X) + R(X)$$

and  $\deg(R) < \deg(B)$ .

**Proof** (shockingly similar to the proof in the book): If  $A(X) = 0$ , then we simply let  $Q(X) = R(X) = 0$ , too, and we're done.

Suppose  $A(X) \neq 0$ . Consider the set of all polynomials of the form  $A(X) - Q(X)B(X)$ . If 0 is in this set, then we're done. If not, then this set has an element of least degree (since the set of degrees of such polynomials is a non-empty subset of the natural numbers). Let  $R(X)$  be such a polynomial. Suppose  $\deg(R) \geq \deg(B)$ . We can write

$$R(X) = r_m X^m + \cdots + r_0,$$

where  $r_m \neq 0$ . Write

$$B(X) = b_n X^n + \cdots + b_0,$$

where  $b_n \neq 0$  and  $n \leq m$ . Then

$$R(X) - \frac{r_m}{b_n} X^{m-n} B(X) = 0X^m + \cdots$$

is also in the set of polynomials above, and moreover its degree is less than  $m$ . This contradicts the way  $R(X)$  was chosen, so  $\deg(R) < \deg(B)$ .