

# Irreducibles (Ring theory )

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  - *Date:* Wed, 4 May 2005 23:19:10 +0100
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Im trying to understand what an irreducible element is.  
i have my definition  
an element (r) is irreducible if  
it is not equal to 0  
r is not invertible  $r=ab$  a or b is invertible

then in a text book i have the irreducibles of the integers are all the  
prime numbers and their negatives...  
but what about the other numbers? whats the inverse of 4? (in the integers,  
it doesnt exist, so why is this not an irreducible?)

im struggling on the meaning of irreducible, so if anyone can shed some  
light on this, it would be greatly appreciated

Po

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- *Follow-Ups:*
    - ◆ ***Re: Irreducibles (Ring theory )***  
◇ *From:* Arturo Magidin
    - ◆ ***Re: Irreducibles (Ring theory )***  
◇ *From:* Timothy Murphy
    - ◆ ***Re: Irreducibles (Ring theory )***  
◇ *From:* Nathan
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