

# Graphs associated to commutative rings

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Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with  $1 \neq 0$ , and let  $Z(R)$  be its set of zero-divisors. Over the past several years, there has been considerable attention in the literature to associating graphs with commutative rings (and other algebraic structures) and studying the interplay between ring-theoretic and graph-theoretic properties. In this general talk, we will explore (by examples) some basic properties of the classical zero-divisor graph in the sense of Anderson-Livingston-Beck. Recall that the **zero-divisor graph** of  $R$  is the (undirected) graph with vertices  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$ , and two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $xy = 0$ . If time allows, we will touch briefly on the two graphs: **(1) The annihilator graph of  $R$ .** The annihilator graph of  $R$  is the (undirected) graph  $AG(R)$  with vertices  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$ , and two distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $ann_R(xy) \neq ann_R(x) \cup ann_R(y)$ , where if  $a \in Z(R)$ , then  $ann_R(a) = \{d \in R \mid da = 0\}$ . **(2) The total graph of  $R$ .** The total graph of  $R$  is the (undirected) graph  $TG(R)$  with all elements of  $R$  as vertices, and for distinct  $x, y \in R$ , the vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $x + y \in Z(R)$ .

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