962-13-30 **Michael C Axtell***, Wabash College, Department of Mathematics, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. *Some Remarks on U-factorizations.*

We call a factorization $r = a_1a_2 \cdots a_nb_1b_2 \cdots b_m$ a U-factorization if $r = a_1a_2 \cdots a_n\lceil b_1b_2 \cdots b_m\rceil$ where (1) $a_i(b_1b_2 \cdots b_m) = (b_1b_2 \cdots b_m)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ and, (2) $b_j(b_1 \cdots \widehat{b_j} \cdots b_m) \neq (b_1b_2 \cdots \widehat{b_j} \cdots b_m)$ for $1 \leq j \leq m$. A ring is called atomic if every nonzero nonunit can be written as a product of irreducible elements. A ring is called U-atomic if every nonzero nonunit has a U-factorization in which all the b_i's are irreducible. We will focus this talk on work done this year in trying to determine the equivalence of atomic and U-atomic. Other finiteness properties will be examined as time permits. (Received June 23, 2000)