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David F. Anderson* (anderson@math.utk.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1300, and **D. D. Anderson** (dan-anderson@uiowa.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. *Nonunique Factorization in Integral Domains*. Preliminary report.

We will discuss several unifying concepts for the theory of nonunique factorization in integral domains based on relations on the set of irreducible elements of the domain. (Received September 12, 2008)