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finitely generated torsion-free modules over Prüfer domains

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Finitely Generated Torsion free Modules Over Prufer Domains}$

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Theorem. Let M be a finitely generated torsion-free module over a Prüfer domain R. Then, M is isomorphic to a http://planetmath.org/DirectSumdirect sum

$$M \cong \mathfrak{a}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{a}_n$$

of finitely generated ideals $\mathfrak{a}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{a}_n$.

As invertible ideals are projective and direct sums of projective modules are themselves projective, this theorem shows that M is also a projective module. Conversely, if every finitely generated torsion-free module over an integral domain R is projective then, in particular, every finitely generated nonzero ideal of R will be projective and hence invertible. So, we get the following characterization of Prüfer domains.

Corollary. An integral domain R is Prüfer if and only if every finitely generated torsion-free R-module is http://planetmath.org/ProjectiveModuleprojective.