Foundations of Representation Theory

Lecture Notes in the Winter Term 2018/19

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INTRODUCTION

These are my personal lecture notes for the lecture *Foundations of Representation Theory* held by Dr. Hans Franzen at the University of Bonn in the winter term 2018/19.

I try to update them on my website, `https://pankratius.github.io`.

Conventions: In this lecture, rings will always be unital, and ring homomorphisms f always fulfill $f(1) = 1$. Rings do *not* have to be commutative.

1.1 Algebras - Basics

Let k be a commutative ring.

Definition 1.1.1. A k-**algebra** A is a ring A, togehter with a structure of a k-module on A, such that

$$\text{for all } a, b \in A, \lambda \in K: \ (\lambda a)b = a(\lambda b) = \lambda(ab) \tag{$*$}$$

Definition 1.1.2. Let A, B be k-algebras. A **homomorphism of algebras** is a map $f : A \to B$ that is both k-linear and a ring homomorphism.

Remark 1.1.3. Let A be a ring. Define

$$Z(A) := \{a \in A \mid \forall b \in A : ab = ba\},$$

which is a commutative subring and is called the **center** of A.

Remark 1.1.4. Let A be a ring. Giving a k-algebra structure on A is the same as giving a ring homomorphism $k \to Z(A)$. More precisley:

i) If A is a k-algebra, then $p : k \to A, \ \lambda \mapsto \lambda 1$ satisfies $\operatorname{Im} p \subseteq Z(A)$ and is a ring homomorphism. (the first statement follows from ($*$) and the second one from the fact that A has a k-module structure).

ii) Let $\varphi : k \to Z(A)$ be a ring homomorphism. Define

$$\lambda a := \varphi(\lambda) a,$$

for all $\lambda \in k$. This defines a k-algebra structure on A (Scalar multiplication with elements from k in A follows from the distributivity in A, and ($*$) since $\operatorname{Im}(\varphi) \subseteq Z(A)$).

iii) Let A, B be k-algebras and $f : A \to B$ a homomorphism of rings. Then f is a homomorphism of k-algebras if and only if the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{tikzcd}
A \arrow[rr, "f"] & & B \\
Z(A) \arrow[u, hook] & & Z(B) \arrow[u, hook] \\
& k \arrow[ul, "\phi_A"] \arrow[ur, "\phi_B"'] &
\end{tikzcd} .$$

Example 1.1.5. i) Let V be a k-module. Consider $\operatorname{End}_k(V)$. This has a ring structure given by

$$\operatorname{End}_k(V) \times \operatorname{End}_k(V) \to \operatorname{End}_k(V), \ (\phi, \psi) \mapsto \varphi \circ \psi.$$

Then $\mathrm{End}_k(V)$ is both a ring and a k-module, and becomes a k-algebra via

$$\varphi : k \to \mathrm{End}_k(V),\ \ \lambda \mapsto \lambda\,\mathrm{id}\,.$$

Note that $\mathrm{Im}\,\varphi \subseteq Z(A)$. If k is a field, then $Z(\mathrm{End}_k(V)) = \{\lambda\,\mathrm{id}\ \mid \lambda \in k\}$.

ii) Take $V = k^n$ (free module of rank n). Then $\mathrm{End}_k(V) \cong \mathrm{M}_n(k)$. Define

$$T_u := \{n\varphi \in \mathrm{M}_n(k) \mid \varphi \text{ is upper triangular}\},$$

i.e. T_u presevers flags in k^n. Then T_u is a **subalgebra** of $\mathrm{M}_n(k)$, i.e. is both a subring and a k-submodule of the original algebra.

iii) Let G be a group. Define to be the **group algebra** of $k[G]$ as follows:

- As k-module, is defined as the free module on G,

$$k[G] := k^{(G)} = \{\sum_{g\in G} \lambda_g g \mid \lambda_g \in k,\ \lambda_g \neq 0 \text{ for only finitely many } g \in G\}.$$

- Multiplication: Let $a := \sum \lambda_g g$, $b = \sum \mu_g g$ and define:

$$ab := \sum_{g\in G, h\in G} \lambda_g \mu_h (gh) = \sum_{j\in G} \left(\sum_{gh=j} \lambda_g \mu_h \right) j.$$

This multiplication is associative, k-bilinear, distributive and $1|_{k[G]} = e$. In addition, $(*)$ is satisfied.

1.2 Quivers - Basics

Definition 1.2.1. A **quiver** is a „directed graph“. Formally, a quiver is a quadruple (Q_0, Q_1, s, t) consiting of sets Q_0 (**vertices**) and Q_1 (**arrows**) and maps $s : Q_1 \to Q_0$, $t : Q_1 \to Q_0$. For $\alpha \in Q_1$, we call $s(\alpha)$ the **source** of α and $t(\alpha)$ the **target** of α:

$$s(\alpha) \xrightarrow{\alpha} t(\alpha).$$

Example 1.2.2. i) $Q = (\{1\}, \emptyset, ...)$ is visualized as: 1

ii) $Q = (\{1\}, \{\alpha\}, ...)$ is visualized as $\begin{tikzcd} 1 \arrow[loop right] \end{tikzcd}$

iii) $Q = (\{1, 2\}, \{\alpha, \beta\}, s(\alpha) = s(\beta) = 1, t(\alpha) = t(\beta) = 2)$ is visualized as $1 \underset{\beta}{\overset{\alpha}{\rightrightarrows}} 2$

Definition 1.2.3. Let Q be a quiver sucht that both Q_0 and Q_1 are finite.

i) Let $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$. A **path** of length ℓ is a sequence $\alpha_\ell ..., \alpha_1$ of arrows, such that $t(\alpha_i) = s(\alpha_{i+1})$ for $1 \leq i \leq \ell - 1$,

$$\circ \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \circ \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \circ \ldots \xrightarrow{\alpha_\ell} \circ .$$

Define Q_ℓ to be the set of all paths of length ℓ.
Let $p : \alpha_\ell ... \alpha_1$ be a path. Define $s(p) := s(\alpha_1)$ and $t(p) := s(\alpha_\ell)$.
Formally define Q_0 to be the set of all paths of length zero. Denote by ε_i for $i \in Q_0$ the constant path at i. ε_i is called a **lazy path**. We set $s(\varepsilon_i) = t(\varepsilon_i) := i$.

ii) Let $p = \alpha_\ell ... \alpha_i$ and $q = \beta_m ... \beta_1$ be paths of length ℓ and m respectivley, with $\ell, m \geq 1$. If $t(p) = s(q)$, then set $q \circ p := \beta_m .... \beta_1 \alpha_\ell ... \alpha_1$. This is a path of length $\ell + m$.
For p a path of length ≥ 0 and ε_i a lazy path:

- if $t(p) = i$, set $\varepsilon_i \circ p := p$,
- if $s(p) = i$, set $p \circ \varepsilon_i := p$.

In all others cases, the composition is not defined.

iii) Define

$$Q_* := \bigcup_{\ell \geq 0} Q_\ell,$$

the set of all paths. Define the **path-algebra** kQ:

- As a k-module, $kQ := k^{(Q_*)}$.
- Multiplication: Let $a = \sum \lambda_p p,\ b = \sum \mu_p p$. Define

$$ab := \sum_{p,q \in Q_*} \lambda_p \mu_q (p \cdot q),$$

where

$$p \cdot q := \begin{cases} p \circ q, & \text{if it is defined, i.e } t(q) = s(p) \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} .$$

The multiplication is associative (due to the associativity of the composition of paths) and k-bilinear by definition. In addition, distributivity and ($*$) are fulfilled.
- The identity is given by $\sum \varepsilon_i$.

Example 1.2.4. i) $Q = 1$, then $kQ = k$.

ii) $Q =$ $\begin{tikzcd} 1 \arrow[loop above] \end{tikzcd}$, then $Q_* = \{\alpha^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ and $kQ = k[t]$.

iii) $Q =$ $\begin{tikzcd} 1 \arrow[r, shift left, "\alpha"] \arrow[r, shift right, "\beta"'] & 2 \end{tikzcd}$. Then $Q_* = \{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \alpha^n, \beta^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ and

$$kQ = k\varepsilon_1 \oplus k\varepsilon_2 \oplus k\alpha \oplus k\beta.$$

A multiplication table is given by

	ε_1	ε_2	α	β
ε_1	ε_1	0	0	0
ε_2	0	ε_2	α	β
α	α	0	0	0
β	β	0	0	0

Lemma 1.2.5. *Let k be a field, A a k-algebra and $n := \dim(A) < \infty$. Then there exists an injective homomorphism of k-algebras $\varphi : A \to \mathrm{M}_n(k)$.*

Proof. By choosing a basis of A, we get an isomorphism $\mathrm{End}_k(A) \cong \mathrm{M}_n(k)$. So it suffices to find an injective homomorphism of k-algebras $\varphi : A \to \mathrm{End}_k(A)$.
Consider

$$\varphi : A \to \mathrm{End}_k(A),\ \varphi(a) : A \to A, b \mapsto ab.$$

- $\varphi(a)$ is k-linear for all a by the distributivity in A and the condition $(*)$.
- φ is k-linear by the distributivity in A and the condition $(*)$.
- Let $a, a' \in A$. Then

$$\varphi(aa')(b) = (aa')(b) = a(a'b) = \left(\varphi(a) \circ \varphi(a')\right)(b).$$

Hence φ is indeed a homomorphism of k-algebras.
To show that φ is injective, let $a \in \ker \varphi$, hence $ab = 0$ for all $b \in A$. But in particular, $0 = a1 = a$. $\square$

$\boxed{\text{End of Lecture 1}}$