

# Lecture 3 1/8/21

## Direct products + sums.

Def. Let  $\{M_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I\}$  is a collection of  $R$ -modules.

Then the direct product is

$\prod_{\alpha \in I} M_\alpha$  = the cartesian product

with  $R$ -action  $r \cdot (m_\alpha) = (r m_\alpha)$

and Abelian group structure given by the usual direct product  $(m_\alpha) + (n_\alpha) = (m_\alpha + n_\alpha)$ .

The direct sum is

$$\bigoplus_{\alpha \in I} M_\alpha = \left\{ (m_\alpha) \in \prod_{\alpha \in I} M_\alpha \mid m_\alpha = 0 \text{ for all but finitely many } \alpha \right\}$$

which is an  $R$ -submodule of  $\prod M_\alpha$ .

If  $I$  is finite then

$$M_1 \times \dots \times M_n = M_1 \oplus \dots \oplus M_n.$$

## Generation of Modules.

Def. If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module,  $X \subseteq M$  a subset, the submodule of  $M$  generated by  $X$  is the smallest submodule containing  $X$  ( $=$  the intersection of all submodules containing  $X$ )

Explicitly this is

$$RX = \{ r_1 x_1 + \dots + r_n x_n \mid r_i \in R, x_i \in X \}.$$

$M$  is f.g. (finitely generated)

if there is some finite  $X \subseteq M$  that generates  $M$ .

if  $M$  is generated by  $\{x\}$  we say

$M$  is cyclic. ( $M = Rx$ ).

Ex. If  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  a cyclic  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is a cyclic Abelian group.

Ex. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring,

A cyclic submodule of  $R$  is

$Rx$  for some  $x \in R$ , i.e. a principal ideal.

Ex. When  $F$  is a field, if  $V$  is an  $F$ -module and  $X \subseteq V$  then the submodule generated by  $X$  is the span of  $X$ .

Ex. Let  $R$  be arbitrary,  $M$  a cyclic left  $R$ -module. Then  $M \cong R/I$  where  $I$  is a left ideal of  $R$ .

If  $M = Rm$ , i.e.  $\{m\}$  generates  $M$ , define  $f: R \rightarrow M$  which is  
 $r \mapsto rm$ .

an  $R$ -module homomorphism. Then  $f(R) = M$ .  $\ker(f)$  is some  $R$ -submodule, so left ideal  $I$  of  $R$ . The 1st  $\cong$  thm says

$$R/I \cong M \text{ as modules.}$$

Conversely  $R/I$  is always cyclic, gen. by  $\{1+I\}$ .

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Free modules.

Def. A  $R$ -module  $F$  is free on a subset  $X \subseteq F$  if given any function  $f: X \rightarrow M$  where  $M$  is an  $R$ -module



there is a unique  $R$ -module homomorphism  
 $g: F \rightarrow M$  s.t.  $g|_X = f$ .



Thm. If  $F$  is free on  $X$  and  
 $G$  is free on  $Y$  then if  $|X| = |Y|$   
then  $F \cong G$  as  $R$ -modules.

Pf. (sketch).

There is a bijection  $h: X \rightarrow Y$ .  
Then  $h$  extends to a homomorphism  $f: F \rightarrow G$ .  
and  $h^{-1}$  " " " "  $g: G \rightarrow F$   
check  $f \circ g = 1_G$ ,  $g \circ f = 1_F$ .

Thm. Let  $F = \bigoplus_{i \in I} R$  for some index  
set  $I$ . Then  $F$  is free.

Pf. Define  $e_\beta = (r_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$  where  
 $r_\beta = 1$  and  $r_\alpha = 0$   $\alpha \neq \beta$ .

"standard basis vectors"

Claim:  $F$  is free on  $\{e_\beta \mid \beta \in I\}$ .  
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Given a function  $f: X \rightarrow M$   
 $M$  a module, define  $g: F \rightarrow M$   
 by  $g((r_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}) = \sum_{\alpha \in I} r_\alpha f(e_\alpha)$   
 Check this is a homomorphism s.t.  $g|_X = f$   
 Also  $g$  is unique since

$$\begin{aligned} (r_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I} &= \sum_{\alpha \in I} r_\alpha e_\alpha, \text{ so} \\ g(e_\alpha) &= \sum_{\alpha \in I} g(r_\alpha e_\alpha) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in I} r_\alpha g(e_\alpha) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in I} r_\alpha f(e_\alpha) \end{aligned}$$


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Cor. Every free  $R$ -module  
 is isomorphic to  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in I} R$   
 for some index set  $I$ .

Pf. if  $F$  is free on  $X$ ,  
 then since  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in X} R$  is free  
 on a set of the same cardinality,  
 $F \cong \bigoplus_{\alpha \in X} R$ .



Def. Let  $F$  be an  $R$ -module  
Then  $X \subseteq F$  is a basis if

- ①  $X$  generates  $F$
- ② if  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are distinct elements in  $X$  and 
$$r_1 x_1 + \dots + r_n x_n = 0$$
 with  $r_i \in R$ , then  $r_i = 0$  for all  $i$ .

Ex. If  $K$  is a field,  
 $V$  is a  $K$ -module  
a basis for  $V$  means  
what it always means.

Thm. An  $\mathbb{R}$ -module  $M$   
is free on  $X \subseteq M$  iff  
 $X$  is a basis for  $M$ .

Pf. (sketch)

Check if  $X$  is a basis  
then every  $m \in M$  is  
uniquely expressible as

$$m = r_1 x_1 + \dots + r_n x_n$$

with  $r_i \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x_1, \dots, x_n$

distinct elements of  $X$ .

Then use this to prove

$$M \cong \bigoplus_{x \in X} \mathbb{R}$$

Cor. if  $K$  is a field,  
every  $K$ -module is free.  
(since every  $K$ -module has  
a basis).

Remark. There are rings  
 $R$  s.t.  $R \cong R \oplus R$   
as  $R$ -modules.