

Modules

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Overview

Modules

Flat Modules

Observe

Suppose D is a right R -module. For any homomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$, $1 \otimes f : D \otimes_R X \rightarrow D \otimes_R Y$ is a group homomorphism of abelian groups.

$$D \otimes_R _ : \text{left } R\text{-modules} \rightarrow \text{abelian groups}$$

If $\psi : L \rightarrow M$ is injective, $1 \otimes \psi$ may not be injective. If $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ is surjective, for any $d \otimes n \in D \otimes_R N$, $(1 \otimes \varphi)(d \otimes m) = d \otimes n$ for some $m \in M$ with $\varphi(m) = n$. So $1 \otimes \varphi$ is surjective.

Theorem

Suppose D is a right R -module and L, M , and N are left R -modules.

(1) If $0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{\psi} M \xrightarrow{\varphi} N \rightarrow 0$ is exact, then

$$D \otimes_R L \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \psi} D \otimes_R M \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \varphi} D \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0 \text{ is exact.}$$

(2) If D is an (S, R) -bimodule, then the associated sequence is exact as left S -modules.

(3) The sequence

$$D \otimes_R L \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \psi} D \otimes_R M \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \varphi} D \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0 \text{ is exact}$$

for all right R -module (resp. (S, R) -bimodule) if and only if

$$L \xrightarrow{\psi} M \xrightarrow{\varphi} N \rightarrow 0 \text{ is exact}$$

as abelian sequence (resp. S -modules sequences).

Proposition

Let A be a right R -module. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) For any left R -modules L , M , and N , if $0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{\psi} M \xrightarrow{\varphi} N \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence, then

$$0 \rightarrow D \otimes_R L \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \psi} D \otimes_R M \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \varphi} D \otimes_R N \rightarrow 0 \text{ is also a exact sequence.}$$

- (2) For any left R -modules L and M , if $0 \rightarrow L \xrightarrow{\psi} M$ an exact sequence of left R -modules, then $0 \rightarrow D \otimes_R L \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \psi} D \otimes_R M$ is an exact sequence of abelian groups.

Corollary

- (1) For any right R -module D , $D \otimes _$ is a covariant right exact functor.
- (2) $D \otimes _$ is exact functor if and only if D is flat.

Corollary

Free modules are flat; more generally, projective modules are flat.

Example

- (1) Since \mathbb{Z} is a projective \mathbb{Z} -module, it is flat. $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is not a flat \mathbb{Z} -module.
- (2) \mathbb{Z} -module \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} is injective, but is not flat.
- (3) The direct sum of flat modules is flat. In particular, $\mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ is flat which is neither projective nor injective.

Let M be a right R -module, N be an (S, R) -bimodule, and L be a right S -module. Then there is a group isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Hom}_S(M \otimes_R N, L) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_R(M, \mathrm{Hom}_S(N, L)),$$

such that $f \mapsto \tilde{f}$ where $\tilde{f}(m)(n) = f(m \otimes n)$.

Let M be an (S, R) -module, N be a left R -module, and L be a left S -module. Then there is a group isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Hom}_S(M \otimes_R N, L) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_R(N, \mathrm{Hom}_S(M, L)),$$

such that $f \mapsto \tilde{f}$ where $\tilde{f}(n)(m) = f(m \otimes n)$.

Application

We can prove that $D \otimes_R _$ is a right exact functor using the fundamental theorem of tensor product.

Corollary

If R is commutative, then the tensor product of two projective R -modules is projective.

Summary

- (1) Let A be a left R -module. The functor $\text{Hom}_R(A, _)$ is covariant and left exact; A is projective if and only if $\text{Hom}_R(A, _)$ is exact.
- (2) Let A be a left R -module. The functor $\text{Hom}_R(_, A)$ is contravariant and left exact; A is injective if and only if $\text{Hom}_R(_, A)$ is exact.
- (3) Let A be a right R -module. The functor $A \otimes_R _$ is covariant and right exact; A is flat if and only if $A \otimes_R _$ is exact.
- (4) Let A be a left R -module. The functor $_ \otimes_R A$ is covariant and right exact; A is flat if and only if $_ \otimes_R A$ is exact.
- (5) Projective modules are flat. The \mathbb{Z} -module \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} is injective but not flat. The \mathbb{Z} -module $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Q}$ is flat but neither projective nor injective.

Exercise

Let A_1 and A_2 be R -modules. Prove that $A_1 \oplus A_2$ is a flat R -module if and only if both A_1 and A_2 are flat. More generally, an arbitrary direct sum $\bigoplus A_i$ of R -modules is flat if and only if each A_i is flat.

Exercise

Prove that the module $M \otimes_R S$ obtained by changing the base from the ring R to the ring S of the flat R -module M is a flat S -module.

Exercise

Prove that A is a flat R -module if and only if for any left R -modules L and M where L is finitely generated, then $\psi : L \rightarrow M$ injective implies that also $1 \otimes \psi : A \otimes_R L \rightarrow A \otimes_R M$ is injective.

Theorem

A is a flat R -module if and only if for every finitely generated ideal of R , the map from $A \otimes_R I \rightarrow A \otimes_R R \cong A$ induced by the inclusion $I \subset R$ is again injective (equivalently, $A \otimes_R I \cong AI \subset A$).

Step 1

If A is flat, then $A \otimes_R I \cong AI$.

Theorem

A is a flat R -module if and only if for every finitely generated ideal of R , the map from $A \otimes_R I \rightarrow A \otimes_R R \cong R$ induced by the inclusion $I \subset R$ is again injective (equivalently, $A \otimes_R I \cong AI \subset A$).

Step 2

If $A \otimes_R I \rightarrow A \otimes_R R$ is injective for every finitely generated ideal I , $A \otimes_R I \rightarrow A \otimes_R R$ is injective for every ideal I . Moreover, if K is any submodule of a finitely generated free module F , then $A \otimes_R K \rightarrow A \otimes_R F$ is injective. The same is true for any free module F .

Theorem

A is a flat R -module if and only if for every finitely generated ideal of R , the map from $A \otimes_R I \rightarrow A \otimes_R R \cong R$ induced by the inclusion $I \subset R$ is again injective (equivalently, $A \otimes_R I \cong AI \subset A$).

Step 3

Under the assumption of Step 2, Suppose L and M are R -modules and $\psi : L \rightarrow M$ is injective. Then $1 \otimes \psi : A \otimes_R L \rightarrow A \otimes_R M$ is injective and hence A is flat.

The End