

sum of the cyclic factors whose elementary divisors are powers of  $p$ ) is isomorphic to the  $p$ -primary submodule of  $M_2$ , since these are the submodules of elements which are annihilated by some power of  $p$ . We are therefore reduced to the case of proving that if two modules  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  which have annihilator a power of  $p$  are isomorphic then they have the same elementary divisors.

We proceed by induction on the power of  $p$  in the annihilator of  $M_1$  (which is the same as the annihilator of  $M_2$  since  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isomorphic). If this power is 0, then both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are 0 and we are done. Otherwise  $M_1$  (and  $M_2$ ) have nontrivial elementary divisors. Suppose the elementary divisors of  $M_1$  are given by

$$\text{elementary divisors of } M_1: \underbrace{p, p, \dots, p}_{m \text{ times}}, p^{\alpha_1}, p^{\alpha_2}, \dots, p^{\alpha_s},$$

where  $2 \leq \alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2 \leq \dots \leq \alpha_s$ , i.e.,  $M_1$  is the direct sum of cyclic modules with generators  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m, x_{m+1}, \dots, x_{m+s}$ , say, whose annihilators are  $(p), (p), \dots, (p), (p^{\alpha_1}), \dots, (p^{\alpha_s})$ , respectively. Then the submodule  $pM_1$  has elementary divisors

$$\text{elementary divisors of } pM_1: p^{\alpha_1-1}, p^{\alpha_2-1}, \dots, p^{\alpha_s-1}$$

since  $pM_1$  is the direct sum of the cyclic modules with generators  $px_1, px_2, \dots, px_m, px_{m+1}, \dots, px_{m+s}$  whose annihilators are  $(1), (1), \dots, (1), (p^{\alpha_1-1}), \dots, (p^{\alpha_s-1})$ , respectively. Similarly, if the elementary divisors of  $M_2$  are given by

$$\text{elementary divisors of } M_2: \underbrace{p, p, \dots, p}_{n \text{ times}}, p^{\beta_1}, p^{\beta_2}, \dots, p^{\beta_t},$$

where  $2 \leq \beta_1 \leq \beta_2 \leq \dots \leq \beta_t$ , then  $pM_2$  has elementary divisors

$$\text{elementary divisors of } pM_2: p^{\beta_1-1}, p^{\beta_2-1}, \dots, p^{\beta_t-1}.$$

Since  $M_1 \cong M_2$ , also  $pM_1 \cong pM_2$  and the power of  $p$  in the annihilator of  $pM_1$  is one less than the power of  $p$  in the annihilator of  $M_1$ . By induction, the elementary divisors for  $pM_1$  are the same as the elementary divisors for  $pM_2$ , i.e.,  $s = t$  and  $\alpha_i - 1 = \beta_i - 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , hence  $\alpha_i = \beta_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ . Finally, since also  $M_1/pM_1 \cong M_2/pM_2$  we see from (3) of the lemma above that  $F^{m+s} \cong F^{n+t}$ , which shows that  $m + s = n + t$  hence  $m = n$  since we have already seen  $s = t$ . This proves that the set of elementary divisors for  $M_1$  is the same as the set of elementary divisors for  $M_2$ .

We now show that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  must have the same invariant factors. Suppose  $a_1 | a_2 | \dots | a_m$  are invariant factors for  $M_1$ . We obtain a set of elementary divisors for  $M_1$  by taking the prime power factors of these elements. Note that then the divisibility relations on the invariant factors imply that  $a_m$  is the product of the largest of the prime powers among these elementary divisors,  $a_{m-1}$  is the product of the largest prime powers among these elementary divisors once the factors for  $a_m$  have been removed, and so on. If  $b_1 | b_2 | \dots | b_n$  are invariant factors for  $M_2$  then we similarly obtain a set of elementary divisors for  $M_2$  by taking the prime power factors of these elements. But we showed above that the elementary divisors for  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are the same, and it follows that the same is true of the invariant factors.

**Corollary 10.** Let  $R$  be a P.I.D. and let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module.

- (1) The elementary divisors of  $M$  are the prime power factors of the invariant factors of  $M$ .
- (2) The largest invariant factor of  $M$  is the product of the largest of the distinct prime powers among the elementary divisors of  $M$ , the next largest invariant factor is the product of the largest of the distinct prime powers among the remaining elementary divisors of  $M$ , and so on.

*Proof:* The procedure in (1) gives a set of elementary divisors and since the elementary divisors for  $M$  are unique by the theorem, it follows that the procedure in (1) gives the set of elementary divisors. Similarly for (2).

**Corollary 11. (The Fundamental Theorem of Finitely Generated Abelian Groups)** See Theorem 5.3 and Theorem 5.5.

*Proof:* Take  $R = \mathbb{Z}$  in Theorems 5, 6 and 9 (note however that the invariant factors are listed in reverse order in Chapter 5 for computational convenience).

The procedure for passing between elementary divisors and invariant factors in Corollary 10 is described in some detail in Chapter 5 in the case of finitely generated abelian groups.

Note also that if a finitely generated module  $M$  is written as a direct sum of cyclic modules of the form  $R/(a)$  then the ideals  $(a)$  which occur are not in general unique unless some additional conditions are imposed (such as the divisibility condition for the invariant factors or the condition that  $a$  be the power of a prime in the case of the elementary divisors). To decide whether two modules are isomorphic it is necessary to first write them in such a standard (or *canonical*) form.

## EXERCISES

1. Let  $M$  be a module over the integral domain  $R$ .

- (a) Suppose  $x$  is a nonzero torsion element in  $M$ . Show that  $x$  and 0 are “linearly dependent.” Conclude that the rank of  $\text{Tor}(M)$  is 0, so that in particular any torsion  $R$ -module has rank 0.
- (b) Show that the rank of  $M$  is the same as the rank of the (torsion free) quotient  $M/\text{Tor}M$ .

2. Let  $M$  be a module over the integral domain  $R$ .

- (a) Suppose that  $M$  has rank  $n$  and that  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  is any maximal set of linearly independent elements of  $M$ . Let  $N = R x_1 + \dots + R x_n$  be the submodule generated by  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ . Prove that  $N$  is isomorphic to  $R^n$  and that the quotient  $M/N$  is a torsion  $R$ -module (equivalently, the elements  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are linearly independent and for any  $y \in M$  there is a nonzero element  $r \in R$  such that  $ry$  can be written as a linear combination  $r_1x_1 + \dots + r_nx_n$  of the  $x_i$ ).
- (b) Prove conversely that if  $M$  contains a submodule  $N$  that is free of rank  $n$  (i.e.,  $N \cong R^n$ ) such that the quotient  $M/N$  is a torsion  $R$ -module then  $M$  has rank  $n$ . [Let  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n+1}$  be any  $n+1$  elements of  $M$ . Use the fact that  $M/N$  is torsion to write  $r_i y_i$  as a linear combination of a basis for  $N$  for some nonzero elements  $r_1, \dots, r_{n+1}$  of  $R$ . Use an argument as in the proof of Proposition 3 to see that the  $r_i y_i$ , and hence also the  $y_i$ , are linearly dependent.]

3. Let  $R$  be an integral domain and let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $R$ -modules of ranks  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively. Prove that the rank of  $A \oplus B$  is  $m + n$ . [Use the previous exercise.]
4. Let  $R$  be an integral domain, let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module and let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Suppose  $M$  has rank  $n$ ,  $N$  has rank  $r$  and the quotient  $M/N$  has rank  $s$ . Prove that  $n = r + s$ . [Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s$  be elements of  $M$  whose images in  $M/N$  are a maximal set of independent elements and let  $x_{s+1}, x_{s+2}, \dots, x_{s+r}$  be a maximal set of independent elements in  $N$ . Prove that  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{s+r}$  are linearly independent in  $M$  and that for any element  $y \in M$  there is a nonzero element  $r \in R$  such that  $ry$  is a linear combination of these elements. Then use Exercise 2.]
5. Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]$  and let  $M = (2, x)$  be the ideal generated by 2 and  $x$ , considered as a submodule of  $R$ . Show that  $\{2, x\}$  is not a basis of  $M$ . [Find a nontrivial  $R$ -linear dependence between these two elements.] Show that the rank of  $M$  is 1 but that  $M$  is not free of rank 1 (cf. Exercise 2).
6. Show that if  $R$  is an integral domain and  $M$  is any nonprincipal ideal of  $R$  then  $M$  is torsion free of rank 1 but is not a free  $R$ -module.
7. Let  $R$  be any ring, let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$  be  $R$ -modules and let  $B_i$  be a submodule of  $A_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Prove that
- $$(A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_m) / (B_1 \oplus B_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus B_m) \cong (A_1 / B_1) \oplus (A_2 / B_2) \oplus \cdots \oplus (A_m / B_m).$$
8. Let  $R$  be a P.I.D., let  $B$  be a torsion  $R$ -module and let  $p$  be a prime in  $R$ . Prove that if  $pb = 0$  for some nonzero  $b \in B$ , then  $\text{Ann}(B) \subseteq (p)$ .
9. Give an example of an integral domain  $R$  and a nonzero torsion  $R$ -module  $M$  such that  $\text{Ann}(M) = 0$ . Prove that if  $N$  is a finitely generated torsion  $R$ -module then  $\text{Ann}(N) \neq 0$ .
10. For  $p$  a prime in the P.I.D.  $R$  and  $N$  an  $R$ -module prove that the  $p$ -primary component of  $N$  is a submodule of  $N$  and prove that  $N$  is the direct sum of its  $p$ -primary components (there need not be finitely many of them).
11. Let  $R$  be a P.I.D., let  $a$  be a nonzero element of  $R$  and let  $M = R/(a)$ . For any prime  $p$  of  $R$  prove that
- $$p^{k-1}M/p^kM \cong \begin{cases} R/(p) & \text{if } k \leq n \\ 0 & \text{if } k > n, \end{cases}$$
- where  $n$  is the power of  $p$  dividing  $a$  in  $R$ .
12. Let  $R$  be a P.I.D. and let  $p$  be a prime in  $R$ .
- Let  $M$  be a finitely generated torsion  $R$ -module. Use the previous exercise to prove that  $p^{k-1}M/p^kM \cong F^{n_k}$  where  $F$  is the field  $R/(p)$  and  $n_k$  is the number of elementary divisors of  $M$  which are powers  $p^\alpha$  with  $\alpha \geq k$ .
  - Suppose  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are isomorphic finitely generated torsion  $R$ -modules. Use (a) to prove that, for every  $k \geq 0$ ,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have the same number of elementary divisors  $p^\alpha$  with  $\alpha \geq k$ . Prove that this implies  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  have the same set of elementary divisors.
13. If  $M$  is a finitely generated module over the P.I.D.  $R$ , describe the structure of  $M/\text{Tor}(M)$ .
14. Let  $R$  be a P.I.D. and let  $M$  be a torsion  $R$ -module. Prove that  $M$  is irreducible (cf. Exercises 9 to 11 of Section 10.3) if and only if  $M = Rm$  for any nonzero element  $m \in M$  where the annihilator of  $m$  is a nonzero prime ideal  $(p)$ .
15. Prove that if  $R$  is a Noetherian ring then  $R^n$  is a Noetherian  $R$ -module. [Fix a basis of  $R^n$ . If  $M$  is a submodule of  $R^n$  show that the collection of first coordinates of elements of  $M$  is a submodule of  $R$  hence is finitely generated. Let  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$  be elements of  $M$