

# MATH 502 Notes

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September 15, 2023

References:

- Atiyah and MacDonald, *Commutative Algebra*.
- J.P. Serre, *Local Algebra*.
- Zariski and Samuel, *Commutative Algebra* Volume 1 and 2.
- Matsumura, *Commutative Algebra*.
- Bourbaki, *Commutative Algebra*.

We always assume a ring  $R$  has a multiplicative identity and is commutative.

## 0 NOETHERIAN, ARTINIAN, AND LOCALIZATION

**Proposition 0.1.** Let  $R$  be a (commutative) ring, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then the following are equivalent:

- (i) Given an infinite increasing chain of submodules of  $M$

$$M_1 \subseteq M_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq M_n \subseteq M_{n+1} \subseteq \cdots$$

then there exists some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $M_N = M_{N+1} = \cdots$ , i.e., for all  $n \geq N$ ,  $M_n = M_{n+1}$ .

- (ii) Every non-empty family of submodules has a maximal element.

- (iii) Every submodule of  $M$  is finitely-generated.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii): This is a direct result of Zorn's lemma.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i): Obvious.

(i), (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii): Take any submodule  $N$  of  $M$  and take  $x_1 \in N$ . If  $(x_1) \neq N$ , then there exists  $x_2 \in N \setminus (x_1)$ , so  $(x_1, x_2) \subseteq N$ , now we proceed inductively, but by the given property we know this stops in finite number of steps, hence we have  $N = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , thus  $N$  is finitely-generated.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i): Note that the property implies  $M$  is finitely-generated, but that means the chain of submodules must be finite.  $\square$

**Definition 0.2** (Noetherian Module). If any of the conditions in [Proposition 0.1](#) holds, then  $M$  is said to be a Noetherian module. Alternatively, we say  $M$  satisfies the ascending chain condition.

**Proposition 0.3.** Let  $R$  be a (commutative) ring, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then the following are equivalent:

- (i) Given an infinite decreasing chain of submodules of  $M$

$$M_1 \supseteq M_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq M_n \supseteq M_{n+1} \supseteq \cdots$$

then there exists some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $M_N = M_{N+1} = \cdots$ , i.e., for all  $n \geq N$ ,  $M_n = M_{n+1}$ .

- (ii) Every non-empty family of submodules has a minimal element.

*Proof.* Again, Zorn's lemma. □

**Definition 0.4** (Artinian Module). If any of the conditions in [Proposition 0.3](#) holds, then  $M$  is said to be a Artinian module. Alternatively, we say  $M$  satisfies the descending chain condition.

**Example 0.5.** •  $\mathbb{Z}$  is Noetherian.

- $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  is not Noetherian.
- Let  $p$  be a prime. Let  $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)$  be the union of chains (as direct limits)

$$\left\langle \frac{1}{p} \right\rangle \subseteq \left\langle \frac{1}{p^2} \right\rangle \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \left\langle \frac{1}{p^n} \right\rangle \subseteq \cdots$$

then there is an embedding  $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $\bar{a}$  is the image of  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ . With this construction,  $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)$  is Artinian.

**Exercise 0.6.** Show that  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \cong \bigoplus_p \mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)$  where  $p$  traverses through all the primes.

**Proposition 0.7.** Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Suppose  $M$  satisfies ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition, then  $N$  and  $M/N$  also satisfy ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition. If, for some submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , we know  $N$  and  $M/N$  satisfy ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition, then  $M$  also satisfies ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition.

*Proof.* Suppose  $M$  satisfies ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition, and let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Let  $\{N_i\}$  be an increasing (respectively, decreasing) sequence of submodules of  $N$ , then they can be regarded as submodules of  $M$ , therefore by the Noetherian (respectively, Artinian) condition, we know  $N$  satisfies ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition. Now let  $\bar{M} = M/N$ , and take  $\{\bar{M}_i\}$  be an increasing (respectively, decreasing) sequence of submodules of  $\bar{M}$ . Let  $\pi : M \rightarrow M/N$  be the quotient map, then the preimages give an increasing (respectively, decreasing) sequence  $\{M_i\}$  of submodules of  $M$ , where  $M_i = \pi^{-1}(\bar{M}_i)$ , but by the Noetherian (respectively, Artinian) condition, we know the sequence stops in finite steps, therefore the original sequence stops in finite steps as well, hence  $\bar{M}$  satisfies the ascending (respectively, descending) chain condition.

Suppose a submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is such that  $N$  and  $M/N$  both satisfy ascending chain condition. Take a submodule  $T$  of  $M$ , then we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T \cap N \hookrightarrow T \longrightarrow T/(T \cap N) \longrightarrow 0$$

Now  $T \cap N$  is finitely-generated as  $N$  is finitely-generated, therefore we have an embedding  $T/(T \cap N) \hookrightarrow M/N$ , thus  $T/(T \cap N)$  is finitely-generated, therefore  $T$  is also finitely-generated by a vector space argument.

Suppose we have a decreasing sequence  $\{M_n\}$  of  $M$ , then we have a decreasing sequence  $\{N \cap M_n\}$ . Let  $\bar{M} = M/N$ , then  $\bar{M}_n := (M_n + N)/N$  defines a decreasing sequence of submodules in  $\bar{M}$ , but  $N$  satisfies the descending chain condition, so the sequence  $\{N \cap M_n\}$  stops in finite number of steps, say  $n_0$ . Moreover, the sequence of  $\bar{M}_n$ 's also stops in finite number of steps, so by definition the sequence of  $(M_n + N)/N$  stops in finite number of steps, say  $m_0$ , but by the isomorphism theorem this shows that the sequence of  $M_n/(N \cap M_n)$  stops in  $m_0$  steps. Therefore, whenever  $n \geq m_0, n_0$ , then  $N \cap M_n = N \cap M_{n+1}$ , hence  $M_n = M_{n+1} = \cdots$  for such  $n$ . □

**Remark 0.8.** The final argument should also work in the Noetherian case.

**Definition 0.9** (Simple Module). An  $A$ -module  $M$  is simple if the submodules of  $M$  are either 0 or  $M$ .

**Exercise 0.10.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, and  $M$  is an  $A$ -module, then  $M$  is simple if and only if  $M \cong A/\mathfrak{m}$  for some maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $A$ .

**Definition 0.11** (Jordan-Hölder Chain). Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. We say  $M$  has a Jordan-Hölder chain if there exists a decreasing chain of submodules  $\{M_i\}$  such that

$$M = M_0 \supsetneq M_1 \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq M_{n-1} \supsetneq M_n = 0$$

such that  $M_i/M_{i+1}$  is simple. In such a situation, we know  $n$  is the length of the Jordan-Hölder chain, and such  $n$  is unique. We say  $M$  is a module of finite length, and the length is  $\ell_A(M) = n$ .

**Exercise 0.12.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then  $M$  is of finite length if and only if  $M$  is both Noetherian and Artinian.

**Theorem 0.13.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, then  $A$  is Artinian if and only if  $A$  is Noetherian and every prime ideal of  $A$  is maximal.

*Proof.* ( $\Leftarrow$ ):

**Lemma 0.14.** Let  $A$  be Noetherian, then every ideal of  $A$  contains a product of prime ideals.

*Subproof.* Suppose, towards contradiction, that there exists some ideal  $I$  of  $A$  that does not contain a product of prime ideals. Let  $\mathcal{J}$  be the set of such ideals of  $A$ , then  $\mathcal{J} \neq \emptyset$ , and we can take a maximal element of  $\mathcal{J}$ , namely  $J$ .<sup>1</sup> By definition,  $J$  is not prime, therefore there exists  $a, b \in A$  such that  $a \notin J$  and  $b \notin J$ , but  $ab \in J$ . Now  $J \subsetneq J + Aa$  and  $J \subsetneq J + Ab$ , therefore  $J + Aa, J + Ab \notin \mathcal{J}$ , therefore  $J + Aa$  and  $J + Ab$  both contain product of prime ideals. But now  $(J + Aa)(J + Ab)$  should also contain products of prime ideals, but by distribution this is just  $J^2 + Ja + Jb + Aab$ , which is contained in  $J$  because every term is contained in  $J$ , so  $J$  contains a product of prime ideals as well, contradiction. ■

In particular,  $(0)$  contains a product of prime ideals, in particular  $(0)$  equals to this product, but every prime ideal is maximal, therefore  $(0) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_n$  becomes the product of maximal ideals (which may not necessarily be distinct), hence we have a descending chain of ideals

$$A \supseteq \mathfrak{m}_1 \supseteq \mathfrak{m}_1 \mathfrak{m}_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_n = (0),$$

and in particular  $(\mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_{i-1})/(\mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_i)$  is a finite-dimensional since  $A$  is Noetherian, and it has a natural structure as a  $A/\mathfrak{m}_i$ -vector space. From the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_i \longrightarrow \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_{i-1} \longrightarrow (\mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_{i-1})/(\mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_i) \longrightarrow 0$$

we know the two sides of the sequence are Artinian, hence the central term is Artinian. Proceeding inductively, we know that  $\mathfrak{m}_1$  is Artinian, and  $R/\mathfrak{m}_1$  would also be Artinian, hence  $A$  is Artinian.

( $\Rightarrow$ ): Now suppose  $A$  is Artinian, and we want to show that every prime ideal is maximal, and  $(0)$  is a product of maximal ideals. The result then follows from the argument above.

**Lemma 0.15.** Every Artinian domain is a field.

*Subproof.* Let  $0 \neq a \in A$ , then consider the chain

$$(a) \supseteq (a^2) \supseteq \cdots \supseteq (a^n) \supseteq \cdots$$

and by the Artinian property, for some large enough  $n$  the descending chain stops. Hence, we have  $a^n = \lambda a^{n+1}$  for some large enough  $n$  and some  $\lambda \in A$ . Hence,  $a^n(1 - \lambda a) = 0$ , by the cancellation property of a domain, since  $a \neq 0$ , we must have  $\lambda a = 1$ , therefore  $a$  is a unit, as desired. ■

**Corollary 0.16.** Let  $A$  be Artinian, then every prime ideal of  $A$  is maximal.

Finally, it suffices to show that  $(0) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_n$ . Let  $\mathfrak{J}$  be the set of finite products of maximal ideals, then  $\mathfrak{J}$  has a minimal element, and it suffices to show that this element is  $(0)$ . Suppose not, let  $I \neq (0)$  be a minimal element of  $R$ . For any two ideals  $\alpha, \beta$  of  $A$ , let  $(\alpha : \beta) = \{a \in A \mid a\beta \subseteq \alpha\}$ . Note that this has a natural structure as an ideal of  $A$ . Let  $J = ((0) : I)$ , and suppose  $J = A$ , then  $I = 0$ , contradiction, so  $J \neq A$  is a proper ideal of  $A$ , now consider  $A/J$  which is Artinian, then let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be the set of all non-zero ideals of  $A/J$ , so  $\mathfrak{G}$  has a minimal element as well, call it  $\bar{H}$ . Let  $H = \pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$  where  $\pi : A \rightarrow A/J$ , so we have  $J \subsetneq H$ , thus let  $P = (J : H)$ .

**Claim 0.17.**  $P$  is a prime ideal.

*Subproof.* Given  $c, d \notin P$ , we want to show that  $cd \notin P$ . Indeed, consider  $J \subsetneq J + cH \subseteq H$ , then since  $H$  is minimal, then  $J + cH = H$ , and similarly we have that  $J + dH = H$ . Therefore, we have that  $J + cdH = J + c(dH + J) = J + cH = H$ , hence we know  $cd \notin P$ , as desired. ■

<sup>1</sup>The existence of this maximal element is the result of Zorn's lemma and ACC condition.

Now  $P = (J : H)$  and  $J = (0 : I)$ , then by definition we have  $PHI = (0)$ . Since  $P$  is a prime ideal, then  $P$  is maximal, and now

$$(0 : PI) \supseteq H \supsetneq J = (0 : I)$$

Therefore  $PI \subsetneq I$ , where  $I$  is a minimal element, contradiction, hence  $(0)$  is a product of maximal ideals.  $\square$

**Definition 0.18** (Short Exact Sequence). Consider the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} T \longrightarrow 0$$

This is called a short exact sequence if  $\ker(f) = 0$ ,  $\text{im}(g) = T$ , and  $\ker(g) = \text{im}(f)$ . In particular, one slot of the sequence is said to be exact if the kernel of the previous map equals to the image of the subsequent map.

**Definition 0.19** (Flat Module). Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then we say  $M$  is a flat  $A$ -module if for every short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow N_3 \longrightarrow 0$$

the tensored sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M \otimes_A N_1 \longrightarrow M \otimes_A N_2 \longrightarrow M \otimes_A N_3 \longrightarrow 0$$

remains exact.

**Remark 0.20.** Recall that the properties of modules have the following implications: free  $\Rightarrow$  projective  $\Rightarrow$  flat  $\Rightarrow$  torsion-free, and in the case of finitely-generated modules, torsion-free  $\Rightarrow$  free.

**Remark 0.21.** We already know that the tensor functor is right exact, namely given the short exact sequence above, then

$$M \otimes_A N_1 \longrightarrow M \otimes_A N_2 \longrightarrow M \otimes_A N_3 \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact.

**Exercise 0.22.** Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, and if there exists a short exact sequence of  $A$ -modules

$$0 \longrightarrow N_1 \longrightarrow N_2 \longrightarrow N_3 \longrightarrow 0$$

where  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are finitely-generated as  $A$ -modules, and such that tensoring  $M$  preserves the short exact sequence, then  $M$  is flat.

**Definition 0.23** (Multiplicatively Closed Subset). Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. Let  $S \subseteq A$  be a subset. We say  $S$  is a multiplicatively closed subset of  $A$  if  $1 \in S$ ,  $0 \notin S$ , and whenever  $s_1, s_2 \in S$ , then  $s_1 s_2 \in S$ .

**Definition 0.24** (Localization). Let  $S \subseteq A$  be a multiplicatively closed subset, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then  $S^{-1}M = (M \times S)/\sim$ , where  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation defined by the following:  $(m_1, s_1) \sim (m_2, s_2)$  if and only if there exists  $t \in S$  such that  $t(m_1 s_2 - m_2 s_1) = 0$ .  $S^{-1}M$  is said to be the localization of  $M$  at  $S$ .

Given  $(m, s) \in M \times S$ , we write  $\overline{(m, s)}$  to be the equivalence class in  $S^{-1}M$  represented by  $(m, s)$ .

**Exercise 0.25.** Similarly, one can define the localization  $S^{-1}A$  of  $A$  at  $S$ . In fact,  $S^{-1}A$  inherits a ring structure from  $A$ , namely

- $\frac{a_1}{s_1} + \frac{a_2}{s_2} = \frac{a_1 s_2 + a_2 s_1}{s_1 s_2}$ ,
- $\frac{a_1}{s_1} \cdot \frac{a_2}{s_2} = \frac{a_1 a_2}{s_1 s_2}$ ,
- $\frac{1}{s} \cdot \frac{s}{1} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$ .

**Remark 0.26.** Note that a ring structure does not guarantee every element to have a multiplicative inverse. The localization of  $A$  at  $S$  ensures that every element of  $S$  now becomes invertible in the new ring  $S^{-1}A$ . In particular, this induces a ring homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} f : A &\rightarrow S^{-1}A \\ a &\mapsto \frac{a}{1} \end{aligned}$$

This homomorphism is injective if  $A$  is a domain.

**Remark 0.27.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $A$ .

- Consider the ring homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow S^{-1}A$  above, then

$$S^{-1}I = IS^{-1}A = f(I)S^{-1}A.$$

In particular,  $f^{-1}(IS^{-1}A) \supseteq I$ .

- If  $I \cap S \neq \emptyset$ , then  $IS^{-1}A = S^{-1}A$ .
- If  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $A$  such that  $P \cap S = \emptyset$ , then  $f^{-1}(PS^{-1}A) = P$ .
- Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then if  $N \subseteq M$  is a submodule, then  $S^{-1}N \subseteq S^{-1}M$ . That is, given an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow M$$

then we obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow S^{-1}N \longrightarrow S^{-1}M$$

Indeed, given  $0 \rightarrow N \xrightarrow{f} M$ , say we have it sending  $\frac{n}{1} \mapsto \frac{f(n)}{1} = 0$ , then there exists  $s \in S$  such that  $sf(n) = 0$ , so  $f(sn) = 0$ , therefore  $sn = 0$  by injection, hence  $\frac{n}{1} = 0$  in  $S^{-1}N$  as well.

**Exercise 0.28.** The localization functor is exact.

**Lemma 0.29.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $S$  be a multiplicatively closed subset of  $A$ , then  $S^{-1}A \otimes_A M \cong S^{-1}M$ .

*Proof.* We define

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : S^{-1}A \otimes_A M &\rightarrow S^{-1}M \\ \frac{a}{s} \otimes m &\mapsto \frac{am}{s}. \end{aligned}$$

For any  $\frac{m}{s} \in S^{-1}M$ , we have  $\varphi\left(\frac{1}{s} \otimes m\right) = \frac{m}{s}$ , so the map is onto. Now suppose  $\varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i\right) = 0$  (since this is a finite sum), then  $\varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i m_i}{s_i} = 0$ . We make  $s = s_1 \cdots s_n$ , so

$$\frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i = \frac{a_i s_1 \cdots s_{i-1} s_{i+1} \cdots s_n}{s} \otimes m_i =: \frac{b_i}{s} \otimes m_i,$$

then  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{s} \otimes m_i$ , therefore

$$\varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i\right) = \varphi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{s} \otimes m_i\right) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n b_i m_i}{s} = 0,$$

so there exists  $t \in S$  such that  $t \sum_{i=1}^n b_i m_i = 0$ , now

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{s_i} \otimes m_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{s} \otimes m_i$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{s} \otimes b_i m_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{s} \otimes \sum_{i=1}^n b_i m_i \\
 &= \frac{t}{ts} \otimes \sum_{i=1}^n b_i m_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{ts} \otimes t \sum_{i=1}^n b_i m_i \\
 &= \frac{1}{ts} \otimes 0 \\
 &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 0.30.** The map  $A \rightarrow S^{-1}A$  is  $A$ -flat, i.e.,  $S^{-1}A$  is a flat  $A$ -module.

*Proof.* Consider

$$0 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow T \longrightarrow 0$$

By [Lemma 0.29](#) (since the isomorphism is functorial), it suffices to show the exactness of

$$0 \longrightarrow S^{-1}N \longrightarrow S^{-1}M \longrightarrow S^{-1}T \longrightarrow 0$$

and this follows from [Exercise 0.28](#). □

**Definition 0.31** (Quasi-local, Local). Let  $A$  be a commutative ring. We say  $A$  is quasi-local if  $A$  has exactly one maximal ideal. In particular, if  $A$  is also Noetherian, then we say  $A$  is a local ring.

**Definition 0.32** (Localization). Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a prime ideal of  $A$ . Note that  $S = A \setminus \mathfrak{p}$  is a multiplicatively closed subset, then we write  $S^{-1}A = A_{\mathfrak{p}}$  (in general, we have  $S^{-1}M = M_{\mathfrak{p}}$ , where  $M \otimes_A A_{\mathfrak{p}} \cong M_{\mathfrak{p}}$ ) to denote the localization of  $A$  away from the prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$ .

**Exercise 0.33.**  $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is quasi-local with unique maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p}A_{\mathfrak{p}}$ .

**Remark 0.34.** Take  $x \in M$ , then the following are equivalent:

- $x = 0$ ;
- $\frac{x}{1} = 0$  in  $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$  for any maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $A$ ;
- $\frac{x}{1} = 0$  in  $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$  for any prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $A$ .

*Proof.* We will prove the first two are equivalent. The  $(\Rightarrow)$  direction is obvious. Conversely, let  $I = \{a \in A \mid ax = 0\}$  to be the annihilator of  $x$  in  $A$ . Suppose, towards contradiction, that  $I \neq A$ , then  $I$  is contained in some maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $A$ , then consider  $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ . Since  $\frac{x}{1} = 0$  in  $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$ , then there exists  $t \in A \setminus \mathfrak{m}$  such that  $tx = 0$ , but  $I \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$  and  $t \notin \mathfrak{m}$ , then we reach a contradiction, hence  $I = A$ , and obviously we are done. □

**Exercise 0.35.** 1. Given the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} N \xrightarrow{g} T \longrightarrow 0$$

the following are equivalent:

- the sequence is exact;
- the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M_{\mathfrak{m}} \xrightarrow{f_{\mathfrak{m}}} N_{\mathfrak{m}} \xrightarrow{g_{\mathfrak{m}}} T_{\mathfrak{m}} \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $A$ ;

- the sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow M_{\mathfrak{p}} \xrightarrow{f_{\mathfrak{p}}} N_{\mathfrak{p}} \xrightarrow{g_{\mathfrak{p}}} T_{\mathfrak{p}} \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact for all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $A$ .

To see this, apply [Remark 0.34](#).

2. Let  $A$  be a commutative ring and  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then the following are equivalent:

- $M$  is  $A$ -flat;
- $M_{\mathfrak{m}}$  is  $A_{\mathfrak{m}}$ -flat for all maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $A$ ;
- $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is  $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -flat for all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $A$ ;

Hence, exactness is a local property.

**Exercise 0.36.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, then  $A$  is Artinian if and only if  $A$  as an  $A$ -module is of finite length, i.e.,  $\ell_A(A) < \infty$ . Indeed, note that  $(0) = \mathfrak{m}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{m}_n$ , and write down the Jordan-Hölder series.

## 1 PRIMARY DECOMPOSITION THEOREM

Throughout [Section 1](#), the commutative ring  $A$  is always Noetherian. In [Section 1.1](#),  $M$  is a finitely-generated  $A$ -module; in [Section 1.2](#), we drop this assumption.

### 1.1 FINITELY-GENERATED CASE

**Definition 1.1** (Coprimary). We say  $M$  is a coprimary module if for all  $a \in A$ , the left multiplication  $m_a : M \rightarrow M$  is either injective or nilpotent (i.e., there exists  $n > 0$  such that  $a^n M = 0$ ).

**Remark 1.2.** (i) If  $M$  is coprimary, then  $N$  is coprimary for all  $N \subseteq M$ .

(ii) If  $M$  is coprimary, let  $P = \{a \in A \mid a : M \rightarrow M \text{ is nilpotent}\}$ , then  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ .

*Proof.* For  $a, b \notin P$ ,  $a, b : M \rightarrow M$  are injective maps, so  $ab : M \rightarrow M$  is injective, hence  $ab \notin P$ . □

Hence, we usually say  $M$  is  $P$ -coprimary.

(iii) Let  $M$  be  $P$ -coprimary, then there exists an injection (as  $M$ -linear map)  $A/P \hookrightarrow M$ .

*Proof.* Take any  $x \neq 0$  in  $M$ , then consider

$$\begin{aligned} a_x : A &\rightarrow M \\ 1 &\mapsto x \end{aligned}$$

Let  $I = \ker(a_x)$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} A/I &\hookrightarrow M \\ \bar{1} &\mapsto x \end{aligned}$$

Now  $I \subseteq P$  since  $I$  already kills  $x$ . Since  $A$  is Noetherian,  $P$  is finitely-generated, thus consider  $P = (a_1, \dots, a_r)$ , then  $a_i^{t_i} \cdot x = 0$  for all  $i$  and some  $t_i$ 's. Let  $t = t_1 + \dots + t_r$ , then  $P^t \cdot x = 0$  by binomial theorem, so  $P^t \subseteq I \subseteq P$ , hence there exists  $j$  such that  $P^j \subseteq I \subsetneq P^{j-1}$ . Take  $y \in P^{j-1} \setminus I$ , so  $\bar{y} \neq 0$  in  $A/P$ , taking the injection into  $M$ , then  $\text{Ann}_A(\bar{y}) = P$ . We now have the composition

$$\begin{aligned} A/P &\hookrightarrow A/I \hookrightarrow M \\ \bar{1} &\mapsto \bar{y} \end{aligned}$$

to be injective. □

(iv) Suppose  $M$  is  $P$ -coprimary, and  $Q$  is a prime ideal such that  $A/Q \hookrightarrow M$ , then  $P = Q$ .

*Proof.* By definition of  $P$ ,  $Q \subseteq P$  is obvious:  $Q$  kills elements in  $M$ , therefore the mapping becomes nilpotent. The other direction is also easy.  $\square$

**Definition 1.3** (Primary). Let  $N \subseteq M$  be a submodule. We say  $N$  is a primary submodule of  $M$  if  $M/N$  is coprimary. If  $M/N$  is  $P$ -coprimary, we say  $N$  is  $P$ -primary.

**Remark 1.4.** Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a prime ideal of  $A$ . We claim that  $\mathfrak{p}^t$  is  $P$ -primary. Consider

$$m_x : A/\mathfrak{p}^t \rightarrow A/\mathfrak{p}^t$$

then  $x^t = 0$  on  $A/\mathfrak{p}^t$ .

**Example 1.5.** Let  $A = k[X, Y, Z]/(Z^2 - XY)$ , let  $\mathfrak{p} = (x, z)$  where  $x = \text{im}(X)$  and  $z = \text{im}(Z)$ . Now  $A/\mathfrak{p} = k[Y]$ .  $\mathfrak{p}^2$  is not  $P$ -primary. Indeed, note that  $A/\mathfrak{p}^2 = k[X, Y, Z]/(z^2 - xy, x^2, z^2) \cong k[X, Y, Z]/(X^2, XY, Z^2, XZ)$ . Now the mapping given by multiplication by  $y$  on this map is injective, so  $\mathfrak{p}^2$  is not  $P$ -primary.

In particular, the represented surface is not smooth, since the origin  $(0, 0, 0)$  is a singularity.

**Theorem 1.6** (Primary Decomposition Theorem). By assumption,  $A$  is Noetherian and  $M$  is finitely-generated. Let  $N \subseteq M$  be a submodule, then there exists a decomposition

$$N = \bigcap_{i=1}^r N_i$$

where each  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary, and such that

1. all  $P_i$ 's are distinct, and
2. this decomposition is irredundant, i.e., minimal. In particular, this means removing any of the  $N_i$ 's gives a different intersection, i.e.,  $\bigcap_{j \neq i} N_j \not\subseteq N_i$ .

This is called a primary decomposition of  $N$ . Moreover, the primary decomposition is unique up to permutation of modules, that is, if there exists another primary decomposition, i.e.,  $N = \bigcap_{i=1}^s N'_i$  where  $N'_i$ 's are  $P'_i$ -primary, then  $r = s$  and  $\{N_1, \dots, N_r\} = \{N'_1, \dots, N'_s\}$ .

*Proof.*

**Definition 1.7** (Irreducible). A submodule  $T \subsetneq M$  is called irreducible if  $T \neq T_1 \cap T_2$ , where  $T_1, T_2$  are distinct proper submodules of  $M$ .

**Claim 1.8.** Every submodule  $T$  of  $M$  can be expressed by  $T = T_1 \cap \dots \cap T_l$  where each  $T_i$  is irreducible.

*Subproof.* Suppose, towards contradiction, that there exists some  $T$  for which the claim fails, then the set of all such submodules  $T$  is a non-empty set  $\mathcal{T}$ . Since  $M$  is Noetherian, then  $\mathcal{T}$  has a maximal element  $W$ , therefore  $W$  is not irreducible. By definition,  $W = W_1 \cap W_2$  where  $W_1, W_2$  are distinct proper submodules of  $M$ , so  $W_1 \notin \mathcal{T}$  and  $W_2 \notin \mathcal{T}$ , therefore  $W_1 = T_1 \cap \dots \cap T_r$  for irreducible  $T_i$ 's, and  $W_2 = T'_1 \cap \dots \cap T'_s$  where  $T'_i$  are irreducible. Therefore,  $W$  becomes an intersection of irreducible submodules, a contradiction.  $\blacksquare$

**Claim 1.9.** Suppose  $T$  is irreducible in  $M$ , then  $T$  is a primary submodule of  $M$ . That is, we need to show  $\bar{M} := M/T$  is coprimary.

*Subproof.* It suffices to show the following: for all  $a \neq 0$  in  $A$ , the multiplication map  $a : \bar{M} \rightarrow \bar{M}$  is either nilpotent or injective. Note that  $(0)$  in  $\bar{M}$  is irreducible. To see this, we take the ascending chain

$$\ker(a) \subseteq \ker(a^2) \subseteq \ker(a^3) \subseteq \dots$$

and since  $A$  is Noetherian we know  $\ker(a^n) = \ker(a^{n+1}) = \dots$  for some large enough  $n$ , therefore for  $g = a^n$  we know  $\ker(g) = \ker(g^2)$ .



**Claim 1.10.**  $\ker(g) \cap \operatorname{im}(g) = (0)$  in  $\bar{M}$ .

*Subproof of Subclaim.* Let  $x \in \ker(g) \cap \operatorname{im}(g)$ , then  $g(x) = 0$ , and there exists  $y \in \bar{M}$  such that  $x = g(y)$ , so  $0 = g(x) = g^2(y)$ , but that means  $y \in \ker(g^2) = \ker(g)$ , so  $x = 0$ . ■

Therefore,  $(0)$  is irreducible in  $\bar{M}$ , so either  $\ker(g) = (0)$  or  $\ker(g) = \bar{M}$ . If  $\ker(g) = (0)$ , we have  $g$  to be injective, hence multiplication by  $a$  is injective; if  $\ker(g) = \bar{M}$ , we have  $a^n \bar{M} = 0$ , so  $a$  becomes nilpotent. ■

**Claim 1.11.** If  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are both  $P$ -primary as submodules, then  $N_1 \cap N_2$  is also  $P$ -primary.

*Subproof.* By definition,  $M/N_1$  and  $M/N_2$  are both  $P$ -coprimary, then it is easy to see that  $M/N_1 \oplus M/N_2$  is also  $P$ -coprimary. We know there is an obvious inclusion

$$\begin{aligned} M/(N_1 \cap N_2) &\hookrightarrow M/N_1 \oplus M/N_2 \\ \bar{x} &\mapsto (\bar{x}, \bar{x}) \end{aligned}$$

so  $M/(N_1 \cap N_2)$  is also coprimary by the inclusion, therefore  $N_1 \cap N_2$  is  $P$ -primary. ■

Now by [Claim 1.8](#) we have an irreducible decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \cdots \cap N_r$  and without loss of generality let it be of the smallest length, that is, the  $N_i$ 's are irreducible modules that are irredundant. By [Claim 1.9](#), we know each of the  $N_i$ 's is primary with respect to some prime ideal. Now for any two  $P$ -primary modules  $N_i$  and  $N_j$ , we know the intersection is still  $P$ -primary according to [Claim 1.11](#), therefore we obtain an irredundant intersection  $N = N'_1 \cap \cdots \cap N'_s$  where each  $N'_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary (where  $P_i$ 's are now distinct!), and this proves the existence.

For the uniqueness, suppose we have  $N = N_1 \cap \cdots \cap N_r$  where  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary, where  $P_i$ 's are distinct, and suppose we have  $N = N'_1 \cap \cdots \cap N'_s$  where  $N'_i$  is  $P'_i$ -primary, where all  $P'_i$  are distinct as well. It is enough to show the following:

**Claim 1.12.** For any prime ideal  $p$  of  $A$ ,  $p \in \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$  if and only if there exists an injection  $A/p \hookrightarrow M/N$ .

*Subproof.* Let  $p \in \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ , without loss of generality denote  $p = P_1$ , then we have an injection  $A/p \hookrightarrow M/N_1$  by [Remark 1.2](#). In  $\bar{M} = M/N$ , we have  $(0) = N_1/N \cap \cdots \cap N_r/N =: \bar{N}_1 \cap \cdots \cap \bar{N}_r$ , therefore  $\bar{N}_2 \cap \cdots \cap \bar{N}_r \hookrightarrow \bar{M}/\bar{N}_1 = M/N_1$ . But  $M/N_1 = \bar{M}/\bar{N}_1$ , so this gives an injection  $\bar{N}_2 \cap \cdots \cap \bar{N}_r \hookrightarrow M/N_1$ , but  $M/N_1$  is  $P_1$ -coprimary, so  $\bar{N}_2 \cap \cdots \cap \bar{N}_r$  is also  $P_1$ -coprimary, therefore  $A/P_1 \hookrightarrow \bar{N}_2 \cap \cdots \cap \bar{N}_r \hookrightarrow \bar{M} = M/N$  by [Remark 1.2](#).

Now suppose  $A/p \hookrightarrow M/N$ , to show  $p \in \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ , it suffices to show  $A/p \hookrightarrow M/N_i$  is injective for some  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . We have

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \varphi_i & & \\ & \nearrow & & \searrow & \\ A/p & \xhookrightarrow{\varphi} & M/N = \bar{M} & \xrightarrow{\eta_i} & \bar{M}/\bar{N}_i = M/N_i \end{array}$$

and we want to show there exists some injective  $\varphi_i$ . Suppose not, then  $\ker(\varphi_i) \neq 0$  in  $A/p$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . But  $A/p$  is an integral domain, therefore  $\bigcap_{i=1}^r \ker(\varphi_i) \neq 0$ . Therefore, we have

$$A/p \xhookrightarrow{\varphi} M/N \xrightarrow{(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_r)} \bigoplus_{i=1}^r M/N_i$$

Thus, the defined composition above is the injection  $(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_r)$ . This implies  $\bigcap_{i=1}^r \ker(\varphi_r) = \ker(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_r) = 0$ , a contradiction. Thus, there exists some injective  $\varphi_i$ , and therefore  $p \in \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ . ■

□

**Definition 1.13** (Zero-divisor). Let  $A$  be Noetherian and  $M$  be a finitely-generated  $A$ -module. We say  $0 \neq a \in A$  is a zero-divisor on  $M$  if there exists  $0 \neq x \in M$  such that  $ax = 0$ . Otherwise, we say  $a$  is a non-zero-divisor on  $M$ .

**Definition 1.14** (Essential prime ideal, Associated prime ideal). Given a primary decomposition  $N = \bigcap_{i=1}^r N_i$ , the corresponding prime ideals  $\{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$  are called the essential prime ideals of  $N$ . In particular, if  $N = (0)$ , we say these are the associated prime ideals of  $M$ , denoted by  $\operatorname{Ass}_A(M) = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ .

**Corollary 1.15.** Let  $A$  be Noetherian and  $M$  be a finitely-generated  $A$ -module, and let  $\text{Ass}_A(M) = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ , then  $\bigcup_{i=1}^r P_i$  is the set of all zero-divisors on  $M$ .

*Proof.* If  $p \in \text{Ass}_A(M)$ , then there exists an injection  $A/p \hookrightarrow M$  mapping  $\bar{1} \mapsto x$  by Claim 1.12. Therefore,  $px = 0$ , so elements of  $p$  are zero-divisors of  $M$ . Let  $a$  be a zero-divisor on  $M$ , i.e., let  $0 \neq x \in M$  be such that  $ax = 0$ . Take the primary decomposition  $(0) = N_1 \cap \dots \cap N_r$  in  $M$ , where  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary, then there exists  $i$  such that  $x \notin N_i$ . Since  $\bar{x} \neq 0$  in  $M/N_i$ , then  $a : M/N_i \rightarrow M/N_i$  is such that  $a\bar{x} = 0$ , so  $a$  is nilpotent on  $M/N_i$ . Therefore,  $M/N_i$  is  $P_i$ -coprimary, and by definition  $a \in P_i$ .  $\square$

**Exercise 1.16.** Let  $\text{Ass}_A(M) = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$ , then the set of all nilpotent elements of  $M$  is  $\bigcap_{i=1}^r P_i$ .

**Corollary 1.17.** Suppose  $N \subseteq M$  is a submodule, then

$$\text{Ass}_A(N) \subseteq \text{Ass}_A(M) \subseteq \text{Ass}_A(N) \cup \text{Ass}_A(M/N).$$

*Proof.* The first inclusion is obvious by  $A/p \hookrightarrow N \hookrightarrow M$ . We now show the second inclusion. Let  $p \in \text{Ass}_A(M)$ , and suppose  $p \notin \text{Ass}_A(N)$ , and we have an inclusion  $i : A/p \rightarrow M$ .

**Claim 1.18.**  $i(A/p) \cap N = (0)$ .

*Subproof.* Suppose not, then let  $0 \neq x \in i(A/p) \cap N$ , then  $x \in N$  and  $x \in i(A/p)$ , but  $A/p$  is an integral domain and is  $p$ -coprimary, so  $i(A/p) \cap N$  is  $p$ -coprimary. Therefore, we have

$$A/p \hookrightarrow i(A/p) \cap N \hookrightarrow N$$

and so  $p \in \text{Ass}_A(N)$ , a contradiction.  $\blacksquare$

Therefore, we have the composition  $A/p \rightarrow M \rightarrow M/N$  to be injection, thus  $p \in \text{Ass}_A(M/N)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.19.** Let  $M$  be finitely-generated, and let  $I = \text{Ann}_A(M)$ , then the essential prime ideals of  $I$  is contained in  $I$ .

*Proof.* Note that the essential prime ideals of  $I$  are just  $\text{Ass}_A(A/I)$ , so if we write  $I = I_1 \cap \dots \cap I_r$  where  $I_i$  is a  $P_i$ -primary. Therefore, we have  $A/I = \bar{I}_1 \cap \dots \cap \bar{I}_r$ , where  $\bar{I}_i = I_i/I$ , and  $\bar{I}_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary.

Now let  $M = \langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \rangle$  be given by a set of generators, so  $M = \{\sum a_i \alpha_i \mid a_i \in A\}$ , now we look at the map

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : A &\rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^n M \\ 1 &\mapsto (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \end{aligned}$$

then the kernel  $\ker(\varphi) = I$ , so  $\bar{\varphi} : A/I \hookrightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^n M$  is an injection. By Corollary 1.17,  $\text{Ass}_A(M_1 \oplus M_2) = \text{Ass}_A(M_1) \cup \text{Ass}_A(M_2)$ , hence we know

$$\text{Ass}(A/I) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{Ass}_A(M) = \text{Ass}_A(M).$$

$\square$

**Definition 1.20** (Support). The support of  $M$  over  $A$ , denoted  $\text{Supp}_A(M)$ , is the set  $\{P \mid P \subseteq \text{prime ideal such that } P \supseteq I = \text{Ann}_A(M)\}$ .

**Theorem 1.21** (Prime Filtration). Let  $M$  be finitely-generated, then we have a descending chain

$$M = M_0 \supseteq M_1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq M_{n-1} \supseteq M_n = (0)$$

of prime ideals such that  $M_i/M_{i+1} \cong A/P_{i+1}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ , where  $P_i$ 's are prime ideals of  $A$ , and  $\text{Ass}_A(M) \subseteq \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $P \in \text{Ass}_A(M)$  if and only if  $i : A/P \hookrightarrow M$ , therefore  $i(A/P)$  satisfies the condition stated in the theorem. Therefore, take  $\mathcal{A} = \{N \subseteq M \mid N \text{ satisfies the condition of the theorem}\}$ . Since  $A$  is Noetherian, we take a maximal element  $T$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Claim 1.22.**  $T = M$ .

*Subproof.* Suppose, towards contradiction, that  $T \neq M$ , then we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow M/T \longrightarrow 0$$

such that  $M/T \neq (0)$ .

**Exercise 1.23.** Let  $L$  be a finitely-generated  $A$ -module, then  $L = 0$  if and only if  $\text{Ass}_A(L) = \emptyset$ .

Let  $q \in \text{Ass}_A(M/T)$ , then we have

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & A/q & & \\ & & & & \downarrow j & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & T & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{\eta} & M/T \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

and take  $W = \eta^{-1}(j(A/q))$ , so we have a new short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T \longrightarrow W \longrightarrow j(A/q) \cong A/q \longrightarrow 0$$

Thus,  $W \supsetneq T$  satisfies the condition in the theorem. By the maximality of  $T$ , we have a contradiction. ■

□

**Remark 1.24.** Let  $A$  be Noetherian and  $\mathfrak{m} \subseteq A$  be a maximal ideal, then for any ideal  $I \subseteq A$  such that there exists  $n$  with  $\mathfrak{m}^n \subseteq I \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$ , then  $I$  is  $\mathfrak{m}$ -primary.

*Proof.* Consider the map

$$A/I \xrightarrow{\cdot x^n} A/I$$

for  $x \in \mathfrak{m}$ , then this is the zero map. Therefore, multiplication by  $x$  is nilpotent. Now suppose  $x \notin \mathfrak{m}$ , then we want to show that  $A/I \xrightarrow{\cdot x} A/I$  is injective. Indeed, since  $x \notin \mathfrak{m}$ , then  $\mathfrak{m} + Ax = A$ , hence we have that  $y + ax = 1$  for some  $y \in \mathfrak{m}$  and  $a \in A$ , so  $(y + ax)^n = 1$ ,  $y^n + \mu x = 1$ , but that means the map  $A/I \rightarrow A/I$  is given by multiplication by  $\mu x$ , so  $\bar{\mu}\bar{x} = \bar{1}$  since  $y$  vanishes. That is,  $\bar{x}$  is invertible over  $A/I$ , hence multiplication by  $x$  is an isomorphism. □

**Exercise 1.25.** Let  $A$  be a ring and  $S$  be a multiplicatively closed subset of  $A$ , and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, then  $S^{-1}M$  is an  $S^{-1}A$ -module. Let  $T \subseteq S^{-1}M$  be an  $S^{-1}A$ -submodule, then there exists  $N \subseteq M$  such that  $T = S^{-1}N$ .

**Remark 1.26.** Localization functor is fully faithful.

**Remark 1.27.** Let  $A$  be Noetherian and  $S$  be a multiplicatively closed subset of  $A$ .

1. Let  $M$  be  $P$ -coprimary, then

- if  $S \cap P = \emptyset$ , then  $S^{-1}M$  is  $S^{-1}P$ -coprimary;
- if  $S \cap P \neq \emptyset$ , then  $S^{-1}M = 0$ .

*Proof.* Indeed, suppose  $S \cap P \neq \emptyset$ , let  $a : M \rightarrow M$  be the multiplication map by  $a$ , so  $a \in P$  gives  $a^n M = 0$  for some  $n$ , and if  $a \notin P$ , then this is injective. Let  $\frac{a}{s} : S^{-1}M \rightarrow S^{-1}M$  be the multiplication map, but  $\frac{a}{s}$  is a unit, so multiplication by  $s$  or  $\frac{1}{s}$  is an isomorphism, hence we can take this to be  $\frac{a}{1}$  with  $s = 1$ . If  $s \in P$ , then  $s^n : M \rightarrow M$  is the zero map, therefore  $s^n : S^{-1}M \rightarrow S^{-1}M$  is also the zero map, so  $s$  is a unit. This only happens if  $S^{-1}M = 0$ . □

2. Let  $N$  be  $P$ -primary, then

- if  $S \cap P = \emptyset$ , then  $S^{-1}N$  is  $S^{-1}P$ -primary in  $S^{-1}M$ ;
- if  $S \cap P \neq \emptyset$ , then  $S^{-1}N = S^{-1}M$ .

**Remark 1.28.** Consider the localization  $S^{-1}M$ . Take a submodule  $T$  of  $S^{-1}M$ , then by [Exercise 1.25](#),  $T = S^{-1}N$  for some  $N \subseteq M$ . There is now a primary decomposition on  $N$  given by  $N = N_1 \cap \cdots \cap N_t$  where  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary.

**Exercise 1.29.** Let  $W_1, W_2 \subseteq M$ , then  $S^{-1}(W_1 \cap W_2) = S^{-1}(W_1) \cap S^{-1}(W_2)$  in  $S^{-1}M$ .

**Remark 1.30.** This is true whenever we have a flat ring extension.

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T &= S^{-1}N \\ &= S^{-1}N_1 \cap \cdots \cap S^{-1}N_t \\ &= S^{-1}N_{i_1} \cap \cdots \cap S^{-1}N_{i_r}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $S^{-1}N_{i_j}$  is  $S^{-1}P_{i_j}$ -primary, and  $P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_r}$  are prime ideals for which  $S \cap P_j = \emptyset$ , where  $P_j \in \{P_1, \dots, P_t\}$ .

**Exercise 1.31.** Let  $N$  be  $P$ -primary in  $M$ .

- if  $S \cap P = \emptyset$ , then  $i_M : M \rightarrow S^{-1}M$  and  $i_N : N \rightarrow S^{-1}N$  gives  $i_M^{-1}(S^{-1}N) = N$ ;
- if  $S \cap P \neq \emptyset$ , then  $i_M^{-1}(S^{-1}N) = i_M^{-1}(S^{-1}M) = M$ .

**Corollary 1.32.** Consider a primary decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \cdots \cap N_t$  where  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary. Suppose we have a different primary decomposition  $N = N'_1 \cap \cdots \cap N'_t$  where  $N'_i$  is also  $P_i$ -primary. Suppose  $P_1$  is a minimal element in  $\{P_1, \dots, P_t\}$ , then  $N_1 = N'_1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S = A \setminus P_1$ , then  $S^{-1}N = S^{-1}N_1 = S^{-1}N'_1$ . Now consider  $i_M : M \rightarrow S^{-1}M$ , this descends to  $N_1 \rightarrow S^{-1}N_1 = S^{-1}N'_1$  and  $N'_1 \rightarrow S^{-1}N'_1$ , so  $i_M^{-1}(S^{-1}N_1 = S^{-1}N'_1) = N_1 = N'_1$ .  $\square$

Consider flat ring maps (as a ring extension) like  $A \rightarrow A[x]$  and  $A \rightarrow A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  since as  $A$ -modules they are free, since we have a basis  $\{x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n}\}$ .

**Lemma 1.33.** Let  $A \rightarrow B$  be a flat map, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module. Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be  $A$ -submodules of  $M$ , then  $(N_1 \otimes_A B) \cap (N_2 \otimes_A B) = (N_1 \cap N_2) \otimes_A B$ .

*Proof.* Consider the chain complex

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N_1 \cap N_2 & \longrightarrow & N_1 & \longrightarrow & N_1/(N_1 \cap N_2) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N_2 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & M/N_2 \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N_2/(N_1 \cap N_2) & \longrightarrow & M/N_1 & \longrightarrow & M/(N_1 + N_2) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \end{array}$$

with exact rows and columns. We tensor this complex by  $-\otimes_A B$ , then since  $B$  is flat we obtain a new chain complex

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & (N_1 \cap N_2) \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & N_1 \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & (N/(N_1 \cap N_2)) \otimes_A B \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & N_2 \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & M \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & M/N_2 \otimes_A B \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & N_2/(N_1 \cap N_2) \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & M/N_1 \otimes_A B & \longrightarrow & (M/(N_1 + N_2)) \otimes_A B \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

Via diagram chasing, if  $x \in (N_1 \otimes_A B) \cap (N_2 \otimes_A B)$ , then  $x \in (N_1 \cap N_2) \otimes_A B$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.34.** Suppose we have a primary decomposition  $N = N_1 \cap \cdots \cap N_t$  in  $M$ , let  $A \rightarrow A[x]$ , then  $N[x] = N_1[x] \cap \cdots \cap N_t[x]$  in  $M[x]$  where  $N_i[x] = N_i \otimes_A A[x]$ .

*Proof.* We want to show that if  $N_i$  is  $P_i$ -primary, then  $N_i[x]$  is  $P_i[x]$ -primary. Take a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow P \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow A/p \longrightarrow 0$$

then we tensor it by  $-\otimes_A A[x]$ , then we obtain a new short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow P \otimes_A A[x] \longrightarrow A[x] \longrightarrow A/p \otimes_A A[x] \longrightarrow 0$$

(Note that we are working over the commutative case, so the left tensor and the right tensor are canonically isomorphic.) We have  $B \otimes_A A[x] = B[x]$ , now we have  $A[x] \otimes_A A/p = A[x]/PA[x] = (A/p)[x]$  which is a domain, so  $PA[x]$  is a prime ideal. It now suffices to show that if  $M$  is  $P$ -coprimary, then  $M[x]$  is  $P[x]$ -coprimary. This simplifies to showing that:

- if  $f(x) \in P[x]$ , then the multiplication map  $M[x] \xrightarrow{f(x)} M[x]$  is nilpotent;
- if  $f(x) \notin P[x]$ ,  $M[x] \xrightarrow{f(x)} M[x]$  is an injection.

Note that  $M[x] = \sum_{i \geq 0} m_i x^i$  for some  $m_i$ 's. Since  $P[x]$  is a prime ideal, then  $A[x]/P[x] \cong A/p[x]$ . If  $f(x) \in P[x]$ , we have  $f(X) = p_0 + p_1 x + \cdots + p_t x^t$  for  $p_i$ 's in  $P$ . Consider the multiplication map via  $[f(x)]^p : M[x] \rightarrow M[x]$ , where  $n = n_0 + n_1 + \cdots + n_t$  such that  $p_i^{n_i} M = 0$  by the binomial theorem. Now suppose  $f(x) \notin P[x]$ , then let us write  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_t x^t$ , and we have two cases:

- if no  $a_i$ 's are in  $P$ , then for all  $i$ , multiplication by  $a_i$  on  $M$  is an injection. If we multiply  $f(x)$  by  $m_0 + m_1 x + \cdots$ , then the constant term would be  $a_0 m_0$ , and for each term to be zero, we must have  $f(x)$  equivalent to zero, hence that means multiplication by  $f(x)$  on  $M[x]$  would be injective as well.
- Now suppose there exists some  $a_i$  that is contained in  $P$ . We can write down  $f(x) = u + v$  where  $u$  has coefficients in  $P$  and  $v$  does not have any coefficients in  $P$ . If possible, let  $f(\alpha) = 0$  for  $\alpha \in M[x]$ , then we have  $u\alpha = -v\alpha$ , and so  $u^2\alpha = v^2\alpha$  since  $u^2\alpha = u(-v\alpha) = v(-u\alpha) = v^2\alpha$ , and by induction we have  $u^n\alpha = (-1)^n v^n\alpha$ . Therefore, for large enough  $n$  such that  $u^n\alpha = 0$ , we know  $v^n\alpha = 0$ , and therefore we have a contradiction since  $v$  does not contain any coefficients in  $P$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.35.** Remark 1.24 would fail if  $P$  is not a maximal ideal:  $P^2$  may not be  $P$ -primary in this case.

Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, we let  $i_P : R \rightarrow R_P$  be the localization away from  $P$ , from  $R$  to the local ring with maximal ideal  $PR_P$ , then we have  $(PR_P)^n = P^n R_P$  to be  $PR_P$ -primary. Therefore, this gives a mapping from  $P^n$  to  $P^n R_P = (PR_P)^n$ . We now denote  $P^{(n)} := i_P^{-1}(P^n R_P)$  to be the  $n$ th symbolic power of  $P$ , then  $P^{(n)}$  is  $P$ -primary. (Indeed, we note that  $P$  is disjoint from  $R \setminus P$ , so given  $M \rightarrow S^{-1}M$  pulling  $S^{-1}P$ -primary module  $S^{-1}N$  back to  $M$  gives a  $P$ -primary module.) In particular,  $P^{(n)} \supseteq P^n$ .

**Exercise 1.36.** 1. • Let  $R$  be Noetherian and  $M$  be finitely-generated. Show that  $\ell_R(M) < \infty$  if and only if  $\text{Ass}_R(M)$  consists of maximal ideals only.

- If  $\ell_A(M) < \infty$ , then  $M$  is a direct sum of coprimary submodules of  $M$ .

2. Now let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring and  $P$  be a prime ideal. Prove that the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $P$  is an essential prime ideal of some submodule  $N$  of  $M$ .
- (ii)  $M_P \neq 0$ .
- (iii)  $P \supseteq \text{Ann}_R(M)$ .
- (iv)  $P$  contains some  $Q \in \text{Ass}(M)$ .

3. Let  $R = k[x, y, z]$  for some field  $k$ , and let  $P = (xz - y^2, x^3 - yz, z^2 - x^2y)$ .

- Prove that  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ .
- Is  $P^2$   $P$ -primary?

*Hint:* consider

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : k[x, y, z] &\rightarrow k[t] \\ x &\mapsto t^3 \\ y &\mapsto t^4 \\ z &\mapsto t^5 \end{aligned}$$

and show that  $\ker(\varphi) = P$ .

## 1.2 INFINITELY-GENERATED CASE

Now let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, and  $M$  is not finitely-generated.

**Definition 1.37** (Coprimary).  $M$  is called coprimary if for any  $a \in R$ , we have multiplication map  $a : M \rightarrow M$  to be either injective, or locally nilpotent, i.e., for all  $x \in M$ , there exists  $n_x$  such that  $a^{n_x}x = 0$ .

Therefore, any submodule of  $M$  is coprimary. Now we define the associated primes to be  $\text{Ass}_R(M)$  to be the set of prime ideals in  $R$  such that there exists an injection  $A/p \hookrightarrow M$ , i.e.,  $R/p$  is a cyclic submodule of  $M$ .

**Theorem 1.38.** Let  $R$  and  $M$  be as above. For any  $P \in \text{Ass}_R(M)$ , there exists a  $P$ -primary submodule  $N(P)$  of  $M$  such that  $(0) = \bigcap_{P \in \text{Ass}_R(M)} N(P)$ , which may be infinite.

**Example 1.39.** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be Noetherian rings and  $M$  be a finitely-generated  $A$ -module, and we say have a ring homomorphism  $\varphi : B \rightarrow A$ . Via the pullback over  $\varphi$ , we make  $M$  into a  $B$ -module, but  $M$  may not be finitely-generated as a  $B$ -module. For instance, take  $A = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $B = \mathbb{Z}[x]$ .

**Exercise 1.40.** Let  $\varphi : B \rightarrow A$  be a homomorphism of Noetherian rings. If  $M$  is a finitely-generated  $A$ -module, then via the pullback of  $\varphi$ ,  $M$  is a  $B$ -module. We write it as  ${}_{\varphi}M$ . Prove that  $\text{Ass}_A({}_{\varphi}M) = \varphi^{-1}(\text{Ass}_A(M))$ .

## 2 FILTERED RINGS AND MODULES, COMPLETIONS

**Definition 2.1** (Topological Ring). Let  $R$  be a ring with addition  $\varphi$  and multiplication  $\psi$ . Suppose  $R$  has a topology such that  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are continuous, then we say  $R$  is a topological ring with respect to the given topology. That is, the topology respects the algebraic structure.

Similarly, we can define a topological group with respect to multiplication and inverse, and a topological module with respect to addition and scalar multiplication.

**Remark 2.2.** A topological ring  $R$  (respectively, topological group  $G$ , topological module  $M$ ) is Hausdorff if and only if  $(0)$  is closed in  $R$  (respectively,  $(e)$  is closed in  $G$ ,  $(0)$  is closed in  $M$ ).

Let  $M$  be a topological module, consider

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi : M \times M &\rightarrow M \\ (x, y) &\mapsto x - y\end{aligned}$$

then the diagonal is given by  $\varphi^{-1}(0) = \{(x, x) \mid x \in M\} = \Delta_M$ . Now suppose  $(0)$  is closed, which gives  $\Delta_M$  to be closed, hence  $M$  is Hausdorff.

**Definition 2.3** (Pseudo-metric Space). We say  $(X, d)$  is a pseudo-metric space if we have a function  $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  such that

1.  $d(x, y) + d(y, z) \geq d(x, z)$ ,
2.  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ ,
3.  $d(x, x) = 0$ .

This becomes a metric space if  $d(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ .

**Remark 2.4.** A pseudo-metric space is a Hausdorff if and only if it is a metric space.

**Definition 2.5** (Completion). Let  $(X, d)$  be a (pseudo-)metric space, then the completion  $(\hat{X}, \hat{d})$  of  $(X, d)$  is a complete (all Cauchy sequences converge) metric space  $\hat{X}$  with a metric  $\hat{d}$  with a map  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \hat{X}$  such that

1.  $\varphi$  respects both  $d$  and  $\hat{d}$ ,
2.  $\varphi(X)$  is dense in  $\hat{X}$ , and
3. We have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \hat{X} \\ & \searrow \psi & \swarrow \theta \\ & Y & \end{array}$$

that is, given any complete metric space  $Y$  and a continuous map  $\psi : X \rightarrow Y$ , there exists a unique map  $\theta : \hat{X} \rightarrow Y$  such that the diagram commutes.

**Remark 2.6.** If  $W \subseteq X$ , then  $\hat{W} \cong \overline{\varphi(W)}$ .

**Definition 2.7** (Directed Set). Let  $(I, \leq)$  be a poset, then  $I$  is called a directed set if for all pairs of  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ , there exists  $\gamma \in I$  such that  $\alpha \leq \gamma$  and  $\beta \leq \gamma$ .

**Definition 2.8** (Inverse Limit). We say  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  is an inverse family indexed by  $I$  if for all  $\alpha \leq \beta$ , there exists maps  $\varphi_{\alpha, \beta} : X_\beta \rightarrow X_\alpha$  such that for all  $\alpha \leq \beta \leq \gamma$ , we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_\gamma & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{\alpha\gamma}} & X_\alpha \\ & \searrow \varphi_{\beta\gamma} & \swarrow \varphi_{\alpha\beta} \\ & X_\beta & \end{array}$$

An inverse limit of  $\{X_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  is an object  $X$  with maps  $\varphi_\alpha : X \rightarrow X_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in I$  such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\varphi_\alpha} & X_\alpha \\ & \searrow \varphi_\beta & \nearrow \varphi_{\alpha\beta} \\ & X_\beta & \end{array}$$

commutes for all  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ , and for all  $Y$  such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{\psi_\alpha} & X_\alpha \\ & \searrow \psi_\beta & \nearrow \varphi_{\alpha\beta} \\ & X_\beta & \end{array}$$

commutes for all  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ , then there exists  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \\ & \searrow \psi_\alpha & \nearrow \varphi_\alpha \\ & X_\beta & \end{array}$$

commutes for all  $\alpha$ .

**Remark 2.9.** To construct such inverse limits, we take  $\tilde{X} = \prod_{\alpha \in I} X_\alpha$ , then we have an embedding  $X \hookrightarrow \tilde{X}$  where

$$X = \left\{ \prod_{\alpha \in I} X_\alpha \mid \forall \alpha \leq \beta, \varphi_\alpha(X_\beta) = X_\alpha \right\}.$$

We denote the inverse limit to be  $X = \varprojlim X_\alpha$ .

**Exercise 2.10.** Consider  $X_0 \supseteq X_1 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq X_n \supseteq \cdots$ , then the inverse limit  $\varprojlim X_n = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} X_n$ .

**Exercise 2.11.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, and consider  $A[x]$  or  $A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Let  $I = (x)$ , or respectively the maximal ideal  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . Then we have a map  $\cdots \rightarrow A[x]/I^{n+1} \rightarrow A[x]/I^n \rightarrow A[x]/I^{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A[x]/I$ , so  $\varprojlim A[x]/I^n \cong A[[x]]$ .

**Remark 2.12.** By Hilbert's theorem, we know if  $A$  is Noetherian, then so is  $A[x]$ ; similarly, if  $A$  is Noetherian, then so is  $A[[x]]$ .

**Definition 2.13** (Graded Ring). We say a commutative ring  $A$  is graded if  $A$  contains a sequence of  $\{A_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  of subgroups such that

- $A_i \cdot A_j \subseteq A_{i+j}$ ,
- $A = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} A_i$ .

By definition, this implies  $A_0$  is a subring of  $A$ , and  $A_+ = \bigoplus_{i \geq 1} A_i$  is an ideal, usually called the irrelevant ideal.

**Exercise 2.14.** 1.  $1 \in A_0$ ,

2.  $A$  is Noetherian if and only if  $A_0$  is Noetherian and  $A_+$  is a finitely-generated ideal of  $A$ .



## 2.1 FILTRATIONS OF RINGS AND MODULES

Let  $A$  be a commutative ring, not necessarily Noetherian, and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module.

**Definition 2.15** (Filtered Ring).  $A$  is called a filtered ring if it admits a filtration  $\{A_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  where  $A_i$ 's form a descending sequence of subgroups of  $A$ .

Since the descending chain satisfies  $A_i \cdot A_j \subseteq A_{i+j}$ , then each  $A_i$  for  $i > 0$  is an ideal of  $A$ . We now write  $A \sim \{A_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ , associating  $A$  with its filtration.

**Definition 2.16** (Filtered Module).  $M$  is called a filtered  $A$ -module if there exists a descending chain of subgroups  $M_0 \supseteq M_1 \supseteq \cdots$  of  $M$  such that  $A_i \cdot M_j \subseteq M_{i+j}$ .

This implies each  $M_j$  is an  $A$ -submodule.

**Example 2.17.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $A$ , and let  $A_n = I^n$ . Let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module, with  $M_n = I^n M$ . The associated filtrations are called the  $I$ -adic filtration of  $A$  and of  $M$ .

**Definition 2.18** (Induced Filtration, Image Filtration). Let  $A \sim \{A_n\}$  and  $M \sim \{M_n\}$ . Let  $N \subseteq M$  be a submodule. The induced filtration on  $N$  is given by  $N_n = N \cap M_n$  for all  $n$ .

Let  $f : M \rightarrow T$  be a surjective  $A$ -linear map of modules, then the filtration defined by  $T_n = f(M_n)$  is the image filtration of  $T$ .

**Definition 2.19** (Filtered Map, Strict Morphism). Let  $M \sim \{M_n\}$  and  $N \sim \{N_n\}$  be filtrations. A map  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is called a filtered map if for all  $n$ ,  $f(M_n) \subseteq N_n$ .

If  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is a filtered map, suppose  $f(M)$  has an induced filtration with  $f(M)_n = f(M) \cap N_n$ , as well as an image filtration of  $\{f(M_n)\}$ . We say  $f$  is a strict morphism if for any  $n$ ,  $f(M_n) = f(M) \cap N_n = f(M)_n$ . Note that by definition we have  $f(M_n) \subseteq f(M) \cap N_n$ .

## 2.2 TOPOLOGY AND METRIC ON FILTERED RINGS AND MODULES

**Definition 2.20** (Fundamental System). Let  $A \sim \{A_n\}$  and  $M \sim \{M_n\}$ . We declare  $\{A_n\}$  (respectively,  $\{M_n\}$ ) as a fundamental system of open neighborhoods of  $(0)$  in  $A$  (respectively,  $M$ ). For any  $x \in A$  (respectively,  $x \in M$ ),  $x + A_n$  (respectively,  $x + M_n$ ) form a fundamental system of neighborhoods of  $x$ . This presumption defines a topology on  $A$  corresponding to  $\{A_n\}$  (respectively,  $M$  corresponding to  $\{M_n\}$ ).

**Remark 2.21.**  $A$  is a topological ring and  $M$  is a topological  $A$ -module with respect to this filtration.

**Lemma 2.22.** Let  $M \sim \{M_n\}$  with  $N \subseteq M$ , and let  $\bar{N}$  be the closure of  $N$  in  $M$ , then this is just  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} N + M_n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x \in \bar{N}$ , then there exists  $n$  such that  $(x + M_n) \cap N \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, there exists  $y_n \in M_n$  and  $z \in N$  such that  $x + y_n = z$ , therefore  $x = z - y_n \in N + M_n$  for all  $n$ . Conversely, let  $x \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} N + M_n$ . When  $x \in N + M_n$ , then we can write  $x = z + y_n$  for  $z \in N$  and  $y_n \in M_n$ . Therefore,  $x - y_n = z$ , so  $(x + M_n) \cap N \neq \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.23.**  $\overline{(0)} = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} M_n = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} A_n$ . Therefore,  $A$  (respectively,  $M$ ) is Hausdorff if and only if  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} A_n = 0$  (respectively,  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} M_n = 0$ ).

**Exercise 2.24.** Let  $f : M \rightarrow N$  be a filtered map, then  $f$  is continuous.

Let  $0 < c < 1$ .

If we assume  $A$  (or  $M$ ) is Hausdorff, i.e.,  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} A_n = 0$  ( $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} M_n = 0$ ). Denote  $d(x, y) = c^n$ , where  $n$  is the largest integer such that  $x - y \in M_n$ .

If we assume  $A$  (or  $M$ ) is not Hausdorff, i.e.,  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} A_n \neq 0$  ( $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} M_n \neq 0$ ). We can still define the notion of distance as above, but in addition we need: if  $x - y \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} M_n$ , then  $d(x, y) = 0$ .

Recall that a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N$  such that  $d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n, m \geq N$ . Therefore, given by  $M_n$ , there exists  $N$  such that for all  $s, r \geq N$ , then  $x_r - x_s \in M_N$ . Note that it suffices to have  $x_{N+1} - x_N \in M_N$ , since by telescoping we get what we want over the additive structure of the module. Hence,  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy if and only if  $\{x_n - x_{n-1}\} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Exercise 2.25.** Let  $M$  be a complete metric space with respect to  $\{M_n\}$ , then  $\{x_n\} \in M$  has a convergent sum  $\sum_{n \geq 0} x_n$  if and only if  $x_n \rightarrow 0$ .

**Theorem 2.26.** Let  $M \sim \{M_n\}$  be filtered and Hausdorff. Suppose  $M$  is complete with respect to  $\{M_n\}$ . Let  $N$  be a closed submodule of  $M$ , then  $\bar{M} = M/N$  with respect to the image filtration  $\{\bar{M}_n\}$  is also complete (Hausdorff).

*Proof.*  $\bar{M}$  is Hausdorff since  $N = \bar{N} = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} (N + M_n)$ . Consider  $\eta : M \rightarrow \bar{M}$ , then this is Hausdorff and we want to show this is complete. Let  $\{\bar{x}_n\}$  be a Cauchy sequence in  $\bar{M}$ , then  $\bar{x}_{n+1} - \bar{x}_n \in \bar{M}_{i(n)}$  for all  $n \geq N$ , for some  $i(n)$  corresponding to  $n$ . In particular,  $i(n) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $x_i$  be the lift of  $\bar{x}_i$  in  $M$ , then we have  $x_{n+1} - x_n = y_n + z_n$  for some  $y_n \in M_{i(n)}$  and  $z_n \in N$ . By telescoping, we have  $x_n - x_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} y_i + \tilde{z}$  for some  $\tilde{z} \in N$ . But for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have large enough  $i(n) \gg 0$ , therefore the sequence  $\{y_n\}$  satisfies  $y_n \in M_{i(n)}$ , therefore  $y_n \rightarrow 0$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , thus the sequence  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} y_n$  converges. Hence, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bar{x}_n = \bar{x}_1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{y}_n + \tilde{z} = \bar{x}_1 + \bar{y}$ .  $\square$

### 2.3 COMPLETION

**Definition 2.27** (Null Sequence, Completion). A Cauchy sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with  $x_n \rightarrow 0$  is called a null sequence.

Let  $M \sim \{M_n\}$  not necessarily be Hausdorff, then we obtain the completion  $\hat{M}$  of  $M$  with respect to  $\{M_n\}$  (or the metric defined on  $\{M_n\}$ ) by defining  $\hat{M}$  as the set of equivalence classes of all Cauchy sequences in  $M$ , over the submodules generated by null sequences.

**Remark 2.28.** Recall that we define the completion  $\hat{X}$  of a space  $X$  as the equivalence class of sets of all Cauchy sequences over the relation  $x = (x_n) \sim y = (y_n)$  if and only if  $d(x_n, y_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . In our case, we have  $\{x_n - y_n\}$  forming a null sequence.

Similarly, we can define the completion  $\hat{A}$  of a ring  $A$  to be the equivalence class of the sets of all Cauchy sequences over the ideal generated by the null sequences.

**Remark 2.29.**  $\hat{M}$  is a topological  $\hat{A}$ -module. In particular, if  $\{a_n\}$ 's define a Cauchy sequence in  $A$  and  $\{m_n\}$ 's define a Cauchy sequence in  $M$ , then  $\{a_n m_n\}$ 's define a Cauchy sequence in  $M$ .

The corresponding mapping is given by

$$\begin{aligned} i : M &\rightarrow \hat{M} \\ x &\mapsto \{x\}, \end{aligned}$$

that is, the image is the constant sequence defined by  $x_n = x$  for all  $n$ . Note that this is not necessarily injective. However,  $i(M)$  is dense in  $\hat{M}$ .

**Remark 2.30.** The completion  $\hat{M}$  of  $M$  satisfies the following property: given any complete space  $T$ , there is  $g : M \rightarrow T$  and  $f : \hat{M} \rightarrow T$  such that  $g = f \circ i$  is a commutative diagram. In particular, if  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy in  $M$ , then the image  $g(x_n)$  is Cauchy in  $T$ . If we define  $f(x = (x_n)) = y$ , then  $g(x_n) \rightarrow y$  in  $T$ .

Note that given any  $M_n$  in  $M$ , we have  $\overline{i(M_n)} = \hat{M}_n$ .

**Definition 2.31** (Hausdorffication). The quotient  $M/\ker(i)$  is called the Hausdorffication of  $M$ .

**Remark 2.32.** By Theorem 2.26,  $\hat{M}/\hat{M}_n$  is complete, then there is an induced mapping  $\bar{i}_n : M/M_n \rightarrow \hat{M}/\hat{M}_n$ . Now  $\text{im}(\bar{i}_n)$  is dense in  $\hat{M}/\hat{M}_n$ , then  $\overline{M/M_n} = \hat{M}/\hat{M}_n$ . Recall that  $M_n$  is defined to be open in  $M$  via the fundamental system, now cosets of  $M_n$  are of the form  $x + M_n \cong M_n$  with respect to a homeomorphism, hence  $M \setminus M_n$  is open, so  $M_n$  is also closed in  $M$ . Therefore,  $M/M_n$  is discrete, so  $\overline{(0)}$  is clopen, therefore  $M/M_n$  is complete, therefore  $M/M_n \cong \hat{M}/\hat{M}_n$ , i.e., isomorphic to the completion. In particular,  $i^{-1}(\hat{M}_n) = M_n$  (with  $M \cap \hat{M}_n = M_n$ ).

**Remark 2.33.**  $\bigcap \hat{M}_n = (0)$  and  $\{\hat{M}_n\}$  constitutes a fundamental system of open neighborhoods in  $\hat{M}$ .

**Definition 2.34.** Let  $A \sim \{A_n\}$  and  $M \sim \{M_n\}$ , with  $\bar{A} \sim \{\bar{A}_n\}$  and  $\bar{M} \sim \{\bar{M}_n\}$ . We define  $E_0(A) = A/A_1 \oplus A_1/A_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n/A_{n+1} \oplus \cdots$  as a graded ring, and similarly we can define  $E_0(M)$ . This is called the graded ring (respectively, module) associated to the filtration.

**Remark 2.35.** In particular,  $E_0(M)$  is a graded  $E_0(A)$ -module. We have

$$\begin{aligned} A_i/A_{i+1} \times A_j/A_{j+1} &\rightarrow A_{i+j}/A_{i+j+1} \\ (\bar{\lambda}, \bar{\mu}) &\mapsto \overline{\lambda\mu} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} A_i/A_{i+1} \times M_i/M_{i+1} &\rightarrow M_{i+j}/M_{i+j+1} \\ (\bar{\lambda}, \bar{x}) &\mapsto \overline{\lambda x} \end{aligned}$$

We have  $E_0(A) \cong E_0(\hat{A})$  and  $E_0(M) \cong E_0(\hat{M})$  since  $A_i/A_{i+1} \cong \hat{A}_i/\hat{A}_{i+1}$  and  $M_i/M_{i+1} \cong \hat{M}_i/\hat{M}_{i+1}$ .

**Remark 2.36.** Note that  $k[x]$  has transcendental degree 1 over  $k$  and  $k[[x]]$  has infinite transcendental degree over  $k$ , but by Remark 2.35 we know

$$\bigoplus \frac{x^n \cdot k[x]}{x^{n+1} \cdot k[x]} \cong \bigoplus \frac{x^n \cdot k[[x]]}{x^{n+1} \cdot k[[x]]}.$$

**Definition 2.37** (Inverse Limit). Let  $A \sim \{A_n\}$  and  $M \sim \{M_n\}$ , then we can construct the completion of  $A$  (and similarly of  $M$ ) via inverse limit. We denote  $M^* = \varprojlim M/M_n = \{\prod \bar{x}_n : (\bar{x}_n) \in \prod M/M_n, \eta_{n+1}(\bar{x}_{n+1}) = \bar{x}_n \forall n\}$  associated with the directed system

$$\cdots \longrightarrow M/M_{n+1} \xrightarrow[\bar{x}_{n+1} \mapsto \bar{x}_n]{\eta_{n+1}} M/M_n \xrightarrow{\eta_n} M/M_{n-1} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Therefore this is true if and only if  $x_{n+1} - x_n \in M_n$  for any  $n$ , so we obtain a Cauchy sequence as mentioned previously. Now  $M/M_n$  is discrete hence complete, therefore the associated topology  $\prod M/M_n$  of countable products is complete in the product topology. Therefore, since each  $M/M_n$  is a metric space, then the countable product is still a metric space  $\prod M/M_n$ .

**Exercise 2.38.** Show that  $M^*$  is a closed submodule of  $\prod M/M_n$ . In particular, since  $\prod M/M_n$  is complete, then  $M^*$  is also complete.

**Remark 2.39.** The associated map is

$$\begin{aligned} i : M &\rightarrow M^* \\ x &\mapsto (\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

and  $i(M)$  is dense in  $M^*$ . For any  $M_n$ , the image  $i(M_n) = (\bar{0}, \dots, \bar{0}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots)$  for some  $x \in M_n$  with the first  $n$  coordinates as 0. In general, we have the mapping

$$M^* \xleftarrow{j} \prod M/M_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} M/M_n$$

and  $\overline{i(M_n)} = (\pi_n j)^{-1}(\bar{0}) = j^{-1} \pi_n^{-1}(\bar{0})$ . For any  $Z_n \in M/M_n$ , the preimage

$$\pi_n^{-1}(Z_n) = M/M_1 \times M/M_{n-1} \times Z_n \times M/M_{n+1} \times \cdots,$$

so

$$j^{-1}(\pi_n^{-1}(0)) = j^{-1}(M/M_1 \times M/M_{n-1} \times \bar{0} \times M/M_{n+1} \times \cdots) = \overline{j(M_n)} = M_n^*.$$

It now follows that  $\bigcap M_n^* = (0)$ .

**Remark 2.40.** We now have the following universal property: for any  $M \rightarrow M^*$  and mapping  $f : M \rightarrow N$  for some complete Hausdorff space  $N$ , then there exists a unique  $g : M^* \rightarrow N$  such that the diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{\quad} & M^* \\ & \searrow f & \swarrow \exists! g \\ & & N \end{array}$$

Indeed,  $M^*$  is the set of elements  $(\bar{x}_n)$  with  $\eta_{n+1}(\bar{x}_{n+1}) = \bar{x}_n$ , therefore this is the set of elements  $(x_n)$  with  $x_{n+1} - x_n \in M_n$  for all  $n$ , therefore  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence, so for  $y = \varprojlim f(x_n)$ , therefore  $g((\bar{x}_n)) = y$ . Now if  $\{x'_n\}$  is another lift of  $(\bar{x}_n) \in M^*$ , then we can check that  $\{x_n - x'_n\} \rightarrow 0$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , hence  $\varprojlim f(x_n) = \varprojlim f(x'_n)$ , so  $M^* = \bar{M}$ ,  $M_n^* = \bar{M}_n$  and so on.

**Lemma 2.41.** Let  $R = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $I = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , then the  $I$ -adic completion is equivalent to the completion with respect to  $I$ -adic filtration corresponding to the topology. i.e., the completion of  $A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is  $\hat{A}[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$ .

**Lemma 2.42.** Say  $A \sim \{A_n\}$ , and suppose  $A$  is Hausdorff, i.e.,  $\bigcap A_n = (0)$ , then if  $E_0(A)$  is a domain, then  $A$  is also a domain.

*Proof.* Suppose not, then we can pick  $x \neq 0$  and  $y \neq 0$  such that  $xy = 0$ , then  $x \in A_n \setminus A_{n+1}$  and  $y \in A_m \setminus A_{m+1}$  for some  $n, m$ , then considering the decomposition of  $E_0(A)$  we have  $\bar{x} \neq 0$  in  $A_n/A_{n+1}$  and  $\bar{y} \neq 0$  in  $A_m/A_{m+1}$ , so  $\bar{y}\bar{x} = \overline{yx} = 0$ , this is a contradiction to the fact that  $E_0(A)$  is a domain, therefore  $A$  is a domain.  $\square$

**Definition 2.43.** Let  $A$  and  $M$  be filtered and Hausdorff, say  $x \in M$  be such that  $x \in M_n \setminus M_{n+1}$  with largest such  $n$ , then we say  $n$  is the filtered degree of  $x$ .

**Theorem 2.44.** Let  $A \sim \{A_n\}$  and  $M \sim \{M_n\}$  and  $N \sim \{N_n\}$ , and  $f : M \rightarrow N$  be a filtered map. Suppose that  $M$  is complete,  $N$  is Hausdorff, and  $E_0(f) : E_0(M) \rightarrow E_0(N)$  is onto, so we can write  $E_0(M) = M/M_1 \oplus M_1/M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_n/M_{n+1}$  and  $E_0(N) = N/N_1 \oplus N_1/N_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_n/M_{n+1}$ , then we have corresponding maps

$$E_0(f)_n : M_n/M_{n+1} \rightarrow N_n/N_{n+1} \\ (\bar{x}) \mapsto \overline{f(x)},$$

then  $f$  is onto,  $N$  is complete, and  $f$  is strict.

*Proof.* Since  $E_0(f)$  is onto, take  $x \in N$  and since  $N$  is Hausdorff, then  $x \in N_n \setminus N_{n+1}$  for some  $n$ . Therefore, the induced mapping  $E_0(f)_n : M_n/M_{n+1} \rightarrow N_n/N_{n+1}$  is onto. Therefore, for  $\bar{x} \in N_n/N_{n+1}$ , we can pick  $y_n \in M_n$  such that  $x - f(y_n) \in N_{n+1}$ . Therefore, on the level of  $E_0(f)_{n+1}$ , we know  $x - f(y_n) \in N_{n+1}/N_{n+2}$ , therefore we can pick  $y_{n+1} \in M_{n+1}$  such that  $x - f(y_n) - f(y_{n+1}) \in N_{n+2}$ . Proceeding inductively, we have a sequence of elements with  $y_{n+t} \in M_{n+t}$  such that  $x - \sum_{k=0}^t f(y_{n+k}) \in N_{n+t+1}$ . Hence, we have a Cauchy sequence in  $M$ , and so this is a Cauchy sequence in  $M_n$ , so  $y_{n+t} \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $\sum_t y_{n+t}$  converges, thus the sum  $y \in M_n$ . One can check that  $f(y) = \bar{x}$ , so  $f$  is onto. But that means  $f(M_n) = N_n$ , so  $f$  is strict. We also note that  $f^{-1}(0)$  is a closed submodule of  $M$  since  $N$  is Hausdorff, therefore by [Theorem 2.26](#) we know  $N$  is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.45.** Let  $A$  be complete with respect to the filtration, let  $M$  be Hausdorff. Suppose  $E_0(M)$  is a finitely-generated graded module over  $E_0(A)$ , that is, there exists  $x_1, \dots, x_t$ , where the degree of  $\bar{x}_i$  is  $r_i$ , such that  $E_0(M)$  is a graded module over  $E_0(A)$  generated by  $\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_t$ . If this is the case, then  $M$  is generated by  $x_1, \dots, x_t$  over  $A$ .

*Proof.* Denote  $F = \bigoplus_{i=1}^t Ae_i$ , then this induces a mapping

$$\varphi : F \rightarrow M \\ e_i \mapsto x_i$$

defined on the generators. Since this is a finite sum over complete ring  $A$ , then  $F$  is complete. Let  $r_i$  be the degree of  $x_i$ , then this imposes a filtration on  $Ae_i$  as follows:

$$(Ae_i)_j = \begin{cases} 0, & j \leq r_i \\ A_{j-r_i}e_i, & j > r_i \end{cases}$$

We implement this on all  $i$ 's, then the filtered degree of  $e_i$  is just  $r_i$ . Using this filtration, we induce a filtration on  $F$ , then we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_0(F) & \xrightarrow{E_0(\varphi)} & E_0(M) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ E_0(\bigoplus_{i=1}^t Ae_i) & \xrightarrow{\varphi'} & E_0(M) \end{array}$$

with induced map  $\varphi'$ , where  $\varphi'$  sends  $\bar{\varphi}_i \mapsto \bar{x}_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq t$ . Therefore,  $\varphi$  is onto as a  $E_0(A)$ -module map. By [Theorem 2.44](#) we are done.  $\square$

- 3 DIMENSION THEORY
- 4 INTEGRAL EXTENSIONS
- 5 NOETHER'S NORMALIZATION LEMMA
- 6 HOMOLOGICAL ALGEBRA