

Personal Notes for Commutative Algebra

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About the Course

The course website is <https://metaphor.ethz.ch/x/2017/hs/401-3132-00L/>.

The topic includes

- Basics about rings, ideals and modules
- Localization
- Primary decomposition
- Integral dependence and valuations
- Noetherian rings
- Completions
- Basic dimension theory

Prerequisite:

Rings, homomorphism, ideals, quotient rings, zero divisors, prime/maximal ideals, fields.

Convention: Ring, we mean a commutative ring with identity. In particular for a ring homomorphism $f : R \rightarrow S$. We have $f(1_R) = 1_S$. Remark: we allow $1=0$ but then $R=0$. Caution, by definition $1 \neq 0$ in a field .

1 Rings, ideals, radicals

1.1 Lecture 1. Motivation and Basics by Paul Steinmann

In differential geometry, we have the theorem of level sets:

Theorem 1.1. *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. If $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a regular value of f then $f^{-1}(0)$ is a submanifold.*

In algebraic geometry, we look at $f^{-1}(0)$ for polynomial f . More precisely, fix an algebraic-closed field \mathbb{K} and an integer $n > 0$, consider the ring $R := \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. Def: For a subset $S \subset R$ we define the **affine algebraic variety** by

$$V(S) := \{x \in \mathbb{K}^n \mid \forall f \in S, f(x) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{K}^n \quad (1)$$

Remark 1.2. *With the affine algebraic varieties defined above, we have:*

- $V(\emptyset) = \mathbb{K}^n$
- $V(\{1\}) = \emptyset$
- For an non empty collection of subsets $(S_i)_{i \in I}$ $S_i \subset R$ we have

$$\bigcap_{i \in I} V(S_i) = V(\bigcup_{i \in I} S_i)$$

- S and S' are subsets in R

$$V(S) \cup V(S') = V(\{fg | f \in S, g \in S'\})$$

as a consequence, $(V(S))_{S \subset R}$ form the closed sets of a topology on \mathbb{K}^n called **Zariski topology**.

Example 1.3. $n=2$, $R = \mathbb{K}[X_1, X_2]$

$V(\{X_1\})$ is the X_2 axis in \mathbb{K}^2

$V(\{X_2 - X_1^2\})$ is the parabola in \mathbb{K}^2

Definition 1.4. Conversely for all subset $X \subset \mathbb{K}^n$, consider

$$I(X) := \{f \in R | \forall x \in X : f(x) = 0\} \subset R.$$

Remark 1.5. Fact: For S in R and X subset in \mathbb{K}^n , we have,

- $S \subset I(V(S))$
- $X \subset V(I(X))$
- For $S \subset S' \subset R$, we have $V(S) \supset V(S')$
- For $X \subset X' \subset \mathbb{K}^n$, we have $I(X) \supset I(X')$
- $I(X) \subset R$ is an ideal.

Definition 1.6. The **radical of an ideal** $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ is $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}) := \{a \in R | \exists n \geq 1 \text{ s.t. } a^n \in \mathfrak{a}\} \subset R$. An ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ with $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}) = \mathfrak{a}$ is called **radical**.

Remark 1.7. Fact, for every ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ we have $\mathfrak{a} \subset \text{rad}(\mathfrak{a})$.

$\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a})$ is an ideal, proof in exercise.

For $X \subset \mathbb{K}^n$ the ideal $I(X)$ is radical.

Theorem 1.8. (The Hilbert's Nullstellensatz) For any ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ we have

$$I(V(\mathfrak{a})) = \text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}).$$

An important consequence of the theorem:

the maps V and I induce the one to one correspondence between

$$\{\text{radical ideals in the polynomial ring}\} \iff \{\text{affine algebraic varieties}\}$$

and this correspondence inverse the inclusion.

Example 1.9. For any point $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{K}^n$ the ideal

$$I(x) = \mathfrak{m}_x := (X_1 - x_1, \dots, X_n - x_n)$$

is maximal.

Proof. If not, then there exists an ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset R$ s.t.

$$R \supsetneq \mathfrak{a} \supsetneq \mathfrak{m}_x,$$

but then by the Nullstellensatz,

$$\emptyset \subsetneq V(\mathfrak{a}) \subsetneq V(\mathfrak{m}_x) = \{x\},$$

which makes the contradiction. \square

Weak Nullstellensatz the ideals \mathfrak{m}_x are precisely the maximal ideals of $\mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, where \mathbb{K} needs to be algebraically closed

Example 1.10. $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}, n = 1$. $X^2 + 1$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{R}[X]$. And $\mathbb{R}[X]/(X^2 + 1) \cong \mathbb{C}$ is maximal. Consequence, we have a bijection

$$\{\text{max ideals of } R \text{ polynomial ring } \mathbb{K}[X_1, \dots, X_n]\} \iff \{\text{Points in } \mathbb{K}^n\}$$

Let A be a ring. Remember

An element $a \in A$ is **nilpotent** if there $\exists n > 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $a^n = 0$.

An element $a \in A$ is a **zero divisor** if there is an element $b \in A, b \neq 0$ s.t. $ab = 0$.

Fact: every nilpotent element is a zero divisor but not conversely.

Example 1.11. take $(0, 1) \in A \times A$ then $(0, 1) \cdot (1, 0) = (0, 0)$

Definition 1.12. The ideal $N : \text{rad}((0))$ is called the **nil radical** of A .

Then we have:

1. \mathcal{N} is the set of all nilpotent elements of A

2. A/\mathcal{N} has no nilpotent elements.

Proof. 1. From definitions. 2. Let $x \in A$ s.t. $\bar{x} \in A/\mathcal{N}$ is nilpotent. Let $n > 0$ s.t. $\bar{x}^n = 0$ then $x^n \in \mathcal{N}$. Thus there exists $k > 0$ s.t. $(x^n)^k = 0$ hence $x^{nk} = 0$, $x \in \mathcal{N}$. \square

Proposition 1.13. *The nil radical of A is the intersection of all prime ideals of A .*

Proof. Denote by \mathcal{N}' the intersection of all prime ideals of A . For any nilpotent element $f \in A$ with $n > 0$ s.t. $f^n = 0$, We have $f^n \in \mathfrak{p}$ for every prime ideal \mathfrak{p} . Hence $f \in \mathfrak{p}$. We conclude $f \in \mathcal{N}'$. Conversely, suppose $f \in A$ is not nilpotent. Define $\Sigma := \{\mathfrak{a} \subset A \text{ ideals} \mid \forall n > 0 : f^n \notin \mathfrak{a}\}$. We will apply Zorn's lemma. We have

1. $(0) \in \Sigma$, so Σ is nonempty,
2. Σ is partially ordered by inclusion.
3. For any chain $(a_i)_{i \in I} \subset \Sigma$, the set $\mathfrak{a} := \cup_{i \in I} a_i$ is an ideal and for all $n > 0$, we have $f^n \notin \mathfrak{a}$, hence $\mathfrak{a} \in \Sigma$. By Zorn's lemma we conclude that there is a maximal element $\mathfrak{p} \in \Sigma$. We show that \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal.

For any $x, y \notin \mathfrak{p}$, consider the ideals $\mathfrak{p} + (x), \mathfrak{p} + (y)$. They strictly contain \mathfrak{p} and are thus not in Σ . Let $n, m > 0$ s.t. $f^n \in (x), f^m \in \mathfrak{p} + (y)$. We conclude that $f^{n+m} \in \mathfrak{p} + (xy)$, so $\mathfrak{p} + (xy) \notin \Sigma$. Hence $xy \notin \mathfrak{p}$, which means, \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal so $f \notin \mathcal{N}'$. \square

Remember let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a ring morphism. And $\mathfrak{p} \subset B$ a prime ideal. Then $f^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})$ is a prime ideal of A . Caution: Not true for maximal ideals in general.

Proposition 1.14. *Let $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ be an ideal, $\pi : A \rightarrow A/\mathfrak{a}$. There is a one to one correspondence between ideals of A/\mathfrak{a} and ideals in A which contain \mathfrak{a} via $\mathfrak{c} = \pi^{-1}(\mathfrak{b})$*

Corollary 1.15. *Let $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ be an ideal, then $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a})$ is the intersection of all prime ideals which contain \mathfrak{a} .*

Proof. consider the homomorphism $\pi : A \rightarrow A/\mathfrak{a}$. Then $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}) = \pi^{-1}(\mathcal{N}_{A/\mathfrak{a}})$. By the above proposition $\mathcal{N}_{A/\mathfrak{a}}$ is the intersection of all prime ideals of A/\mathfrak{a} . By the correspondence we conclude the statement. \square

Definition 1.16. *The **Jacobson Radical** \mathcal{R} of A is the intersection of all maximal ideals in A .*

Proposition 1.17. *We have $x \in \mathcal{R} \iff \forall y \in A : 1 - xy$ is a unit.*

Proof. “ \implies ” let $x \in \mathcal{R}$ and $y \in A$ s.t. $1 - xy$ is not a unit. Then $1 - xy \in \mathfrak{m}$ for some maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m} \subset A$. But $x \in \mathcal{R} \subset \mathfrak{m}$, hence $1 \in \mathfrak{m}$ contradiction.

“ \impliedby ” let $x \notin \mathcal{R}$ then $x \notin \mathfrak{m}$ for some maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m} \subset A$. Since \mathfrak{m} is maximal we conclude that $(x) + \mathfrak{m} = A$. Hence there exists $y \in A$, $u \in \mathfrak{m}$ s.t. $xy + u = 1$. We conclude that $1 - xy \in \mathfrak{m}$, so in particular, $1 - xy$ is not a unit. \square

1.2 Lecture 2. local rings, coprime ideals, ideal quotients by Paul Steinmann

Definition 1.18. *A ring A is called a **local ring** if A admits precisely one maximal ideal;*

Example 1.19.

- *Every field is a local ring with maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m} = 0$, because every nonzero element is a unit.*
- *$\mathbb{K}[[X]]$ is the ring of formal power series over a field \mathbb{K} , it has a unique maximal ideal (X) . One can check that every element with nonzero constant term is invertible. i.e. $(a_0(1 - g))^{-1} = a_0^{-1}(1 + g + g^2 + \dots)$*

Proposition 1.20.

- *Let A be a ring and $\mathfrak{m} \neq (1)$ is an ideal of A s.t. every $x \in A - \mathfrak{m}$ is a unit of A , then A is a local ring with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} .*
- *Let A be ring and $\mathfrak{m} \subset A$ is a maximal ideal s.t. any element of $1 + \mathfrak{m} = \{1 + a | a \in \mathfrak{m}\}$ is a unit in A . Then A is a local ring.*

Proof. For first part, every proper ideal consists of non-units, hence is contained in \mathfrak{m} . In other words, an element is a unit iff it is not contained in any maximal ideal. For the second part, let $x \in A - \mathfrak{m}$. Since \mathfrak{m} is maximal, we have $(x) + \mathfrak{m} = (1)$, hence, $\exists y \in A, t \in \mathfrak{m}$, s.t. $xy + t = 1$, which implies $xy = 1 - t \in 1 + \mathfrak{m}$. Thus, xy is a unit which implies that x is a unit. Now use the first part. \square

Definition 1.21. *A ring A is called **semilocal** if A admits finitely many maximal ideals.*

Example 1.22.

- \mathbb{Z} is not semilocal.
- Let $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\mathbb{Z}/(m\mathbb{Z})$ is a semilocal ring with maximal ideals $d\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ for prime number $d|m$.
- In particular, for $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ prime, $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is local ring.

Reminder: Let $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ be ideals their sum is

$$\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} := \{a + b | a \in \mathfrak{a}, b \in \mathfrak{b}\},$$

Which is the smallest ideal containing $\mathfrak{a} \cup \mathfrak{b}$. Also infinite sums $(\mathfrak{a}_i)_{i \in I} \subset A$ ideals,

$$\sum_{i \in I} \mathfrak{a}_i := \left\{ \sum_{i \in I} x_i | x_i \in \mathfrak{a}_i, x_i = 0 \text{ for almost all } i \right\}$$

And we also have

$$\mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{b} \text{ or } \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = \left\{ \sum_{i \in I} x_i y_i | x_i \in \mathfrak{a}, y_i \in \mathfrak{b}, \text{ all but finitely many terms are } 0 \right\}.$$

Definition 1.23. Two ideals $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ are called **coprime**¹ if $\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b} = (1)$

Remark 1.24. If $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ are coprime ideals then $\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{b}$.

For general ideals $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$:

$$(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}) \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}) \subset \mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}.$$

However, for coprime ideals, we also have $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}$, because $1 = a + b$ for $a \in \mathfrak{a}, b \in \mathfrak{b}$, then $\forall x \in \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{b}$ we have $x = x \cdot 1 = x(a + b) = xa + xb \in \mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{b}$.

Proposition 1.25. Let $\mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_n \subset A$ be ideals, denote $\varphi : A \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} (A/\mathfrak{a}_i)$ for the canonical homomorphism.

(i) if $\mathfrak{a}_i, \mathfrak{a}_j$ are coprime for $i \neq j$, then $\prod_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i = \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$.

(ii) φ is surjective iff $\mathfrak{a}_i, \mathfrak{a}_j$ are coprime for $i \neq j$.

(iii) φ is injective iff $\cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i = (0)$.

¹In some literature, it is called **comaximal**

Proof. (iii) Note that $\ker \varphi = \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$.

(i) by induction on n . For $n = 2$ it is checked above. Suppose $n > 2$ let $\mathfrak{b} := \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathfrak{a}_i = \cap_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathfrak{a}_i$. Since $\mathfrak{a}_i + \mathfrak{a}_n = (1)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$. We have $x_i + y_i = 1$ for some $x_i \in \mathfrak{a}_i, y_i \in \mathfrak{a}_n$. Thus $\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1 - y_i) \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}_n}$. We conclude that $\mathfrak{a}_n + \mathfrak{b} = (1)$, s.t.

$$\prod_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i = \mathfrak{b} \mathfrak{a}_n = \mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{a}_n = \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$$

(ii) “ \implies ”, Suppose φ is surjective. Let $i \neq j$, There exists an element $x \in A$ s.t. $\varphi(x) = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, nonzero only at the i -th entry. Thus $x \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}_i}$ and $x \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}_j}$. So $1 = (1 - x) + x \in \mathfrak{a}_i + \mathfrak{a}_j$.

“ \impliedby ” We show that for all $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there exists an element $x \in A$ s.t. $\varphi(x) = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, nonzero at the k -th entry. Let $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. For every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{k\}$. We have $\mathfrak{a}_k + \mathfrak{a}_j = (1)$, and thus there are elements $u_j \in \mathfrak{a}_k, v_j \in \mathfrak{a}_j$ s.t. $u_j + v_j = 1$. Define $x := \prod_{i \neq k} v_i$. Then $x \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}_j}, \forall j \neq k$ and $x = \prod_{i \neq k} (1 - u_i) \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}_k}$. Hence, $\varphi(x) = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ nonzero in the k -th entry.

As a result, if each pair $\mathfrak{a}_i, \mathfrak{a}_j$ is coprime, we have

$$A / \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i \right) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n (A / \mathfrak{a}_i).$$

□

Proposition 1.26. *Let $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ be ideals s.t. $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}), \text{rad}(\mathfrak{b})$ are coprime. Then $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ are coprime.*

Proof. In fact, we have

$$\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{b}) = \text{rad}(\text{rad}(\mathfrak{a}) + \text{rad}(\mathfrak{b})) = \text{rad}((1)) = (1)$$

Details in the exercise sheet.

□

Proposition 1.27.

(i) Let $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n \subset A$ prime ideals and let $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ be an ideal which is contained in $\cup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{p}_i$ then $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{p}_j$ for some j .

(ii) Let $\mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_n \subset A$ be ideals and $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$ a prime ideal s.t. $\mathfrak{p} \supset \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$. Then $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{a}_i$ for some i . If $\mathfrak{p} = \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$, then $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{a}_i$ for some i .

Proof. Induction on n . For $n = 1$, easily checked. For $n > 1$. Assume that $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset \mathfrak{p}_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. We show $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset \cup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{p}_i$. By induction hypothesis we know that $\forall k, \mathfrak{a} \not\subset \cup_{i \neq k}^n \mathfrak{p}_i$, so there exists $x_k \in \mathfrak{a}$ s.t. $x_k \notin \mathfrak{p}_i, \forall i \neq k$. We choose an x_k for each \mathfrak{p}_k in the above manner. If $x_k \notin \mathfrak{p}_k$ for some k , then we are done. If not, then $x_k \in \mathfrak{p}_k$ for all k . Consider $y := \sum_{k=1}^n \prod_{j \neq k} x_j$. We have $y \in \mathfrak{a}$ and $y \equiv \prod_{j \neq k} x_j \pmod{\mathfrak{p}_k}, \forall k$. Since $x_j \notin \mathfrak{p}_k$ for $j \neq k$ and \mathfrak{p}_k is a prime ideal, we conclude that $y \notin \mathfrak{p}_k$ for all k hence $\mathfrak{a} \not\subset \cup_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{p}_i$.
(ii) Suppose for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have $\mathfrak{p} \not\supset \mathfrak{a}_i$. Then there are $x_i \in \mathfrak{a}_i$ with $x_i \notin \mathfrak{p}$ for all i . And thus $\prod_{i=1}^n x_i \in \prod_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i \subset \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$. Since \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal $\prod_{i=1}^n x_i \notin \mathfrak{p}$, hence $\mathfrak{p} \not\supset \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i$. If $\mathfrak{p} = \cap_{i=1}^n \mathfrak{a}_i \subset \mathfrak{a}_k$ for all k , which produce the last part. \square

Definition 1.28. Let $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ be two ideals. Their **ideal quotient** is

$$(\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b}) := \{x \in A \mid x\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a}\}.$$

The **annihilator** of an ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ is

$$\text{Ann}(\mathfrak{a}) := \{(0) : \mathfrak{a}\}.$$

Notation: For $x \in A$ we write $(a : x) := (a : (x))$.

Fact: (i) The ideal quotient of two ideals is again an ideal.

(ii) The set of zero divisors of A is

$$D = \cup_{x \neq 0} \text{Ann}(x) = \cup_{x \neq 0} (\text{Ann}(x))$$

Proof. (i) (ii) The first equality is just by definition. The the second equality.

$$D = \text{rad}(D) = \text{rad}(\cup_{x \neq 0} \text{Ann}(x)) = \cup_{x \neq 0} \text{rad}(\text{Ann}(x)),$$

where we extend rad to arbitrary subsets. \square

Properties: Let $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b} \subset A$ be ideals

(i) $\mathfrak{a} \subset (\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b})$

(ii) $(\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b})\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{a}$

(iii) $((\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b}) : \mathfrak{c}) = (\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b} \cdot \mathfrak{c}) = ((\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{c}) : \mathfrak{b})$

(iv) for ideals $(\mathfrak{a}_i)_{i \in I} \subset A$, $(\cap_{i \in I} \mathfrak{a}_i : \mathfrak{b}) = \cap_{i \in I} (\mathfrak{a}_i : \mathfrak{b})$

(v) for ideals $(\mathfrak{b}_i)_{i \in I} \subset A$, $(\mathfrak{a} : \sum_{i \in I} \mathfrak{b}_i) = \cap_{i \in I} (\mathfrak{a} : \mathfrak{b}_i)$.

Definition 1.29. Let $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ be an ideal $f : A \rightarrow B$ a ring homomorphism. We define the **extension** of \mathfrak{a} by f to be the ideal

$$\mathfrak{a}^e := f_*(\mathfrak{a}) := Bf(\mathfrak{a})$$

, Which is just the ideal in B generated by $f(\mathfrak{a})$
For an ideal $\mathfrak{b} \subset B$. We define the **contraction** of \mathfrak{b} via f to be the ideal

$$\mathfrak{b}^c := f^*(\mathfrak{b}) := f^{-1}(\mathfrak{b})$$

Properties: Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a ring homomorphism , $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ $\mathfrak{b} \subset B$ ideals. Then :

- (i) $\mathfrak{a} \subset f^*f_*(\mathfrak{a}) = \mathfrak{a}^{ec}$, $\mathfrak{b} \supset f_*f^*(\mathfrak{b}) = \mathfrak{b}^{ce}$.
- (ii) $f^*(\mathfrak{b}) = f^*f_*f^*(\mathfrak{b})$, $f_*(\mathfrak{a}) = f_*f^*f_*(\mathfrak{a})$.
- (iii) Denote by C the set of contracted ideals in A and by E the set of extended ideals in B , then

$$C = \{\mathfrak{a} \subset A \mid f^*f_*(\mathfrak{a}) = \mathfrak{a}\},$$

$$E = \{\mathfrak{b} \subset B \mid f_*f^*(\mathfrak{b}) = \mathfrak{b}\}.$$

And $f_* : C \rightarrow E$ is a bijection with inverse f^* .

Proof. For (i), $\mathfrak{a} \subset f^{-1}f(\mathfrak{a}) \subset f^{-1}f_*(\mathfrak{a}) = f^*f_*(\mathfrak{a})$. For (ii) $\mathfrak{b} \supset f(f^{-1}(\mathfrak{b}))$ and \mathfrak{b} is an ideal so $\mathfrak{b} \supset f_*f^*(\mathfrak{b})$. Part (iii) is left as an exercise. \square

2 Modules

2.1 Lecture 3. Modules, Exact sequences by Professor Kowalski

Outline of this chapter

- Definition examples and Nakayama's Lemma
- exact sequences , snake lemma
- tensor products
- Algebra over a ring

Roughly speaking, module is “vector spaces for rings”. It is closely related to fibre bundles in geometry. For the convention, we still fix commutative ring \mathcal{A} with unit.

Definition 2.1. A **module** M over \mathcal{A} is an Abelian group with a linear action of \mathcal{A} on M , i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A} \times M &\rightarrow M \\ (a, x) &\mapsto ax\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}a(x + y) &= ax + ay \\ (a + b)x &= ax + bx \\ a(bx) &= abx \\ 1x &= x\end{aligned}$$

Example 2.2. 1. $\{0\}$ is an \mathcal{A} -module

2. if \mathcal{A} is a field \mathcal{A} -module is just \mathcal{A} -vector space.

3. $I \subset \mathcal{A}$ ideal; then I is an \mathcal{A} -module (a submodule of \mathcal{A})

4. $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}$, an \mathcal{A} -module is an abelian group.

Definition 2.3. M and N are \mathcal{A} -modules $f : M \rightarrow N$ is **\mathcal{A} -linear** if $f(ax + by) = af(x) + bf(y)$. The set of such $\rho : M \rightarrow N$ is denoted $Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N)$. It is an \mathcal{A} -module with

$$\begin{aligned}(f + g)(x) &= f(x) + g(x), \\ (af)(x) &= af(x).\end{aligned}$$

If $Q \xrightarrow{h} M \xrightarrow{f} N \xrightarrow{g} P$, then $g \circ f \in Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, P)$ and $g \circ (f \circ h) = (g \circ f) \circ h$. Also, $id_M \in Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, M)$. In other word, \mathcal{A} -module is a category.

Definition 2.4. $f : M \rightarrow N$ is an **isomorphism** iff $\exists g : N \rightarrow M$ s.t. $g \circ f = id_N$ and $f \circ g = id_M$.

Remark 2.5. $Q \rightarrow (h)M \rightarrow (f)N \rightarrow (g)P$, then for any P , we get

$$\begin{aligned}f^* : Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, P) &\rightarrow Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, P) \\ g &\mapsto g \circ f\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f_* : \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(Q, M) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(Q, N) \\ h &\mapsto f \circ h \end{aligned}$$

They are \mathcal{A} -linear, because for example

$$\begin{aligned} (f^*(ah + bg))(x) &= ((ah + bg) \circ f)(x) \\ &= (ah + bg)(f(x)) \\ &= ah(f(x)) + bg(f(x)) \\ &= (af^*(h) + bf^*(g))(x). \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.6. Suppose M is an \mathcal{A} -module and $N \subset M$ as submodule, then M/N has the structure of \mathcal{A} -module such that the canonical projection $\pi : M \rightarrow M/N$ is \mathcal{A} -linear. $a(x+N) = ax+N$ is well defined because $aN \subset N$.

Definition 2.7. $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a morphism of \mathcal{A} -modules.

- $\text{Ker}(f) = f^{-1}(\{0\}) \subset M$ is a submodule of M .
- $\text{Im}(f) = f(M) \subset N$ is a submodule of N .
- $\text{Coker}(f) = N/\text{Im}(f)$ is an \mathcal{A} -module.

Remark 2.8. 1. $\text{ker}(f) = 0 \iff f$ is injective.

2. $\text{coker}(f) = 0 \iff f$ is surjective.

3. if $f : M \rightarrow N$ and $M' \subset \text{ker}(f)$, then we get an induced linear map \bar{f} , s.t the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{f} & N \\ \downarrow \pi & \nearrow \bar{f} & \\ M/M' & & \end{array}$$

commutes. It properly defined by $\bar{f}(x + M') = f(x)$ since $f(M') = \{0\}$
Then we have

$$\text{Im}(\bar{f}) = \text{Im}(f),$$

and

$$\text{Ker}(\bar{f}) = \text{Ker}(f)/M'.$$

In particular, if $M' = \text{Ker}(f)$, we get an isomorphism

$$M/\text{Ker}(f) \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} \text{Im}(f).$$

If M is an \mathcal{A} -module and $(M_i)_{i \in I}$ a family of submodules then $\cap_{i \in I} M_i$ is a submodule. If $X \subset M$ be a subset then the intersection of all submodules containing X is a submodule containing X , called the submodule generated by X , denote it by $\langle X \rangle$. One checks that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle X \rangle &= \{\text{linear combination of elements of } X\} \\ &= \left\{ \sum_i a_i x_i \mid K \geq 0\mathbb{Z}, a_i \in \mathcal{A}, x_i \in X \right\} \end{aligned}$$

We write

$$\sum_{i \in I} M_i = \langle \cup_{i \in I} M_i \rangle$$

Definition 2.9. If M satisfies $M = \langle X \rangle$ with X finite, then M is called *finitely generated*.

Warning: A submodule of a finitely generated module is not necessarily finitely generated.

Example 2.10.

$$A = \mathbb{C}[X_1, \dots, X_n, \dots].$$

A is finitely generated by 1 however, the ideal $I = (X_1, \dots, X_n, \dots)$ is not finitely generated

Lemma 2.11.

1. $L \supset M \supset N$ are \mathcal{A} -modules, then there is an isomorphism

$$(L/N)/(M/N) \rightarrow L/M$$

$$(x + N) + M/N \mapsto x + M$$

Rigorously: $\pi : L \rightarrow L/M$ is surjective

$\implies \bar{\pi} : L/N \rightarrow L/M$ is surjective

and $\text{Ker}(\bar{\pi}) = M/N$ so

$$(L/N)/(M/N) \cong \text{Im}(\bar{\pi}),$$

by Remark 2.8.

2. $(M_1 + M_2)/M_2 \cong M_1/(M_1 \cap M_2)$

Definition 2.12. $I \subset A$ ideal; M module $IM = \langle \{ax | a \in I, x \in M\} \rangle \subset M$ as a submodule.

M/IM is naturally an \mathcal{A}/I -module.

Definition 2.13. $(M_i)_{i \in I}$ is a family of \mathcal{A} -modules

1. $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$ is an \mathcal{A} -module with $a(x_i) = (ax_i)$.
2. $\oplus_{i \in I} M_i \subset \prod_{i \in I} M_i$ is the submodule of $(x_i)_{i \in I}$ s.t. $x_i = 0$ for all but finitely many $i \in I$.

Cartesian product and direct product are the same when there only finitely many summand. If $M_i = M, \forall i \in I$, we denote $M^{(I)} := \oplus_i M_i$. When I is finite, we denote it by M^I .

Definition 2.14. An \mathcal{A} -module M is called **free** if there exists a set I s.t. M is isomorphic to $\mathcal{A}^{(I)}$.

Example 2.15.

1. if \mathcal{A} is a field, then every \mathcal{A} -module is free.
2. $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z} : \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is not free.
3. **Warning!** A submodule of a free module is not necessarily free. (e.g. ideals in \mathcal{A})
4. If $\mathcal{A} \neq \{0\}$, $n, m \geq 0$ are integer and $\mathcal{A}^n \cong \mathcal{A}^m$ then $n = m$. $I \subset \mathcal{A}$ maximal ideal, then we get an isomorphism of \mathcal{A}/I -vector spaces,

$$(\mathcal{A}/I)^n \cong (\mathcal{A}/I)^m \implies n = m.$$

This is called the **invariant basis number property**, all nontrivial commutative ring has the property.

Proposition 2.16. (Nakayama's lemma)

M finitely generated \mathcal{A} -module, $I \subset$ Jacobson radical of \mathcal{A} , which is just $\bigcap_{\mathfrak{m} \subset \mathcal{A}} \mathfrak{m}$, where \mathfrak{m} are maximal ideals in \mathcal{A} . If $IM = M$, then $M = \{0\}$. e.g. \mathcal{A} being a local ring and $I = \mathfrak{m}$ the only maximal in \mathcal{A} .

Proof. Suppose $M \neq 0$, and let $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be a generating set with $n \geq 1$ minimal. Since $IM = M$, we have $x_n \in IM$, so

$$x_n = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i y_i, y_i \in M, a_i \in I$$

where $y_i = \sum_j b_{ij} x_j$. Then we have

$$x_n = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$$

$$c_j = \sum_i a_i b_{ij} \in I$$

$$\implies (1 - c_n)x_n = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_j x_j$$

and $(1 - c_n) \equiv 1 \pmod{I} \implies c_n \in \text{the Jacobson radical}$, then $1 - c_n$ is invertible by Proposition 1.17.

$$x_n = (1 - c_n)^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_j x_j,$$

which contradict the minimality of the generating set. \square

Corollary 2.17. *M fin. gen. \mathcal{A} -module, $I \subset \text{Jacobson radical}$, $N \subset M$. If $M = IM + N$, then $M = N$.*

Proof. $I(M/N) = (IM + N)/N = (M/N)$, then by Nakayama's lemma we know

$$M/N = 0.$$

\square

Corollary 2.18. *\mathcal{A} local ring, $\mathfrak{m} \subset \mathcal{A}$ the maximal ideal. M fin. gen. Then if $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in M$ are such that their classes modulo \mathfrak{m} form a basis of $M/\mathfrak{m}M$ as \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{m} -vector space, then they generate M .*

Proof. $N = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ and apply Nakayama's lemma. \square

Exact sequence

Definition 2.19. (1) $M' \rightarrow (f)M \rightarrow (g)M''$ is **exact** if $\text{Im}(f) = \ker(g)$
(2) $M' \rightarrow (f_1)M \rightarrow (f_2)M'' \rightarrow \dots$ is **exact** if it is exact at each node.

Example 2.20.

1. $0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{g} M''$ is exact, is equivalent to say that g is injective
2. $M' \xrightarrow{f} M \rightarrow 0$ is exact, it is equivalent to say that f is surjective.
3. "Short exact sequence" $0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} M'' \rightarrow 0$ For instance,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \xrightarrow{f} & M' \oplus M'' & \xrightarrow{g} & M'' \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & x & \longmapsto & (x, 0) & & \\ & & & & (x, y) & \longmapsto & y \end{array}$$

the splitting sequence is exact. In fact short exact sequence of free modules always splits.

4. $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}$, for non-free modules, for example

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/w\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & x & \longmapsto & 2x & & \\ & & & & x & \longmapsto & x \bmod 2 \end{array}$$

the exact sequence does not split.

2.2 Lecture 4. Snake Lemma, Tensor Product by Professor Kowalski

Proposition 2.21. (Snake Lemma) Suppose we have such a commutative diagram, each row is exact,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & M'' & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow f' & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow f'' & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & N'' & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

then we have a map $\delta : \text{Ker}(f'') \rightarrow \text{Coker}(f')$ s.t.

$0 \rightarrow \text{Ker}(f') \rightarrow \text{Ker}(f) \rightarrow \text{Ker}(f'') \xrightarrow{\delta} \text{Coker}(f') \rightarrow \text{Coker}(f) \rightarrow \text{Coker}(f'') \rightarrow 0$
is exact.

Proof. Consider the kernels and cokernels with the induced map between them. For notion consideration, we write $Ker(f')$ as K' and $Coker(f')$ as C' and so on. We have the extended commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & K' & \xrightarrow{\hat{u}} & K & \xrightarrow{\hat{v}} & K'' \\
& & \downarrow k' & & \downarrow k & & \downarrow k'' \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \xrightarrow{u} & M & \xrightarrow{v} & M'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow f' & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow f'' \\
0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \xrightarrow{u'} & N & \xrightarrow{v'} & N'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow q' & & \downarrow q & & \downarrow q'' \\
& & C' & \xrightarrow{\bar{u}} & C & \xrightarrow{\bar{v}} & C'' \longrightarrow 0,
\end{array}$$

where the maps k', k, k'' are inclusion of the kernels as submodules and q', q, q'' are canonical projections, hence each column become exact now. \bar{u}, \bar{v} are the morphism induced on quotient modules while \hat{u}, \hat{v} are restrictions of u, v on submodules. One can check the induced maps on Cokernels are well defined, for example, for \bar{v} to be well defined, because $q'' \circ v' \circ f = q'' \circ f'' \circ v = 0$, thus $Im(f) \subset Ker(q'' \circ v')$. One can also check that the above diagram is commutative. For example $x \in K'$, we have $f(\hat{u}(x)) = f(u(x)) = u'(f'(x)) = 0 \implies \hat{u}(x) \in K$, then we have $u \circ k' = k \circ \hat{u}$.

1. Exactness at K'

We already know $\hat{u} = u|_{Ker(f')}$, u injective implies that \hat{u} is injective.

2. Exactness at K

We easily check that $Im(\hat{u}) \subset Ker(\hat{v})$, because $k'' \circ \hat{v} \circ \hat{u} = v \circ u \circ k' = 0$, by the fact k'' is injective, we know $\hat{v} \circ \hat{u} = 0$. For the converse inclusion, if $x \in Ker(\hat{v}) = Ker(v) \cap Ker(f)$, then $x \in Im(u) \cap Ker(f)$. $\exists y \in M'$ s.t. $u(y) = x \implies f(u(y)) = 0 \implies u'(f'(y)) = 0$. Then because u' is injective, $f'(y) = 0 \implies y \in K' \implies x = \hat{u}(y)$. Then we conclude $Ker(\hat{v}) \subset Im(\hat{u})$, thus $Ker(\hat{v}) = Im(\hat{u})$.

3. Exactness at C''

$q'' \circ v' = \bar{v} \circ q$, q'', v', q are all surjective, then we conclude that \bar{v} has to be surjective.

4. Exactness at C

We easily verify that $\bar{v} \circ \bar{u} = 0$, i.e. $\bar{v} \circ \bar{u} \circ q' = q'' \circ v' \circ u' = 0$ and

q' is surjective $\implies \bar{v} \circ \bar{u} = 0$. For the converse inclusion, we choose $x + \text{Im}(f) \in \text{Ker}(\bar{v})$, where $x \in N$. $\bar{v}(x + \text{Im}(f)) = 0 = q'' \circ v'(x)$. $v'(x) \in \text{Ker}(q'') = \text{Im}(f'')$. $\exists y \in M''$ s.t. $f''(y) = v'(x)$. On the other hand, v is surjective $\implies \exists z \in M$ s.t. $v(z) = y$. Then, we have $f''(v(z)) = v'(x) = v'(f(z))$. Then we choose $\tilde{x} = x - f(z)$, $\implies x + \text{Im}(f) = \tilde{x} + \text{Im}(f)$ & $v'(\tilde{x}) = 0$. Then there exists $w \in N'$ s.t. $u'(w) = \tilde{x}$. Then, we check that $q \circ u'(w) = q(\tilde{x}) = \tilde{x} + \text{Im}(f)$, thus $\bar{u}(q(w)) = \tilde{x} + \text{Im}(f) \implies \bar{u}(w + \text{Im}(f')) = x + \text{Im}(f)$. Then we conclude $\text{Ker}(\bar{v}) \subset \text{Im}(\bar{u})$.

5. Construct δ

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & K' & \xrightarrow{\hat{u}} & K & \xrightarrow{\hat{v}} & K'' \\
& & \downarrow k' & & \downarrow k & & \downarrow k'' \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \xrightarrow{u} & M & \xrightarrow{v} & M'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow f' & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow f'' \\
0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \xrightarrow{u'} & N & \xrightarrow{v'} & N'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow q' & & \downarrow q & & \downarrow q'' \\
& & C' & \xrightarrow{\bar{u}} & C & \xrightarrow{\bar{v}} & C'' \longrightarrow 0,
\end{array}$$

δ

For an element $x \in K''$, $k''(x) = x \in M''$ and $f''(x) = 0$. $\because v$ is surjective, $\therefore \exists y \in M$ s.t. $v(y) = x$. Then $f''(x) = f''(v(y)) = v'(f(y)) = 0 \implies f(y) \in \text{Ker}(v') = \text{Im}(u')$. Therefore, there exists $z \in N'$ s.t. $u'(z) = f(y)$. The choice of z is unique once we fix y , because u' is injective. **We define** $\delta : K'' \longrightarrow C', x \mapsto [z] = z + \text{Im}(f')$. For δ to be well defined, it can not depend on the choice of y and z . Choose another $\tilde{y} \in M$ and corresponding $\tilde{z} \in N'$ s.t. $v(\tilde{y}) = x$ and $u'(\tilde{z}) = f(\tilde{y})$. We have $v(\tilde{y} - y) = 0$, $\exists w \in M'$ s.t. $u(w) = \tilde{y} - y$. Then $f(u(w)) = u'(f'(w)) = f(\tilde{y} - y) = f(\tilde{y}) - f(y)$. Then we have $u'(\tilde{z}) - u'(z) = u'(f'(w))$. Since u' is injective, we have $\tilde{z} = z + f'(w)$, thus $\tilde{z} + \text{Im}(f') = z + \text{Im}(f')$. Then we conclude that δ is well defined.

6. Exactness at K''

For $x \in K$, we formally write

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta(\hat{v}(x)) &= u'^{-1}(f(v^{-1}(k''(\hat{v}(x)))) + \text{Im}(f')) \\
&= u'^{-1}(f(v^{-1}(v(k(x)))) + \text{Im}(f')) \\
&= u'^{-1}(f(k(x))) + \text{Im}(f') \\
&= 0 \text{ because } f \circ k = 0. \\
&\implies \text{Im}(\hat{v}) \subset \text{Ker}(\delta)
\end{aligned}$$

For the converse inclusion. $\forall x \in \text{Ker}(\delta)$, we trace back to the construction of δ , and select the corresponding $y \in M$, $z \in N'$, where $v(y) = x$ and $u'(z) = f(y)$. $\because x \in \text{Ker}(\delta), \therefore z \in \text{Im}(f')$. $\implies \exists w \in M'$ s.t. $f'(w) = z$. Then we choose another $\tilde{y} = y - u(w)$, one verifies that $v(\tilde{y}) = v(y) - v(u(w)) = v(y) = x$. (this is legal, because we know δ does not depend on the choice of y) Also, we know $f(\tilde{y}) = f(y) - f(u(w)) = f(y) - u'(f'(w)) = f(y) - u'(z) = 0$. Then we know $\tilde{y} \in \text{Ker}(f) = K$, we conclude that $\hat{v}(\tilde{y}) = x$, thus $\text{Ker}(\delta) \subset \text{Im}(\hat{v})$.

7. Exactness at C'

For $x \in K''$, we formally write

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{u}(\delta(x)) &= \bar{u}(u'^{-1}(f(v^{-1}(k''(x)))) + \text{Im}(f')) \\
&= (q \circ u')(u'^{-1}(f(v^{-1}(k''(x)))) \\
&= q(0 + f(v^{-1}(k''(x)))) \\
&= 0 \\
&\implies \text{Im}(\delta) \subset \text{Ker}(\bar{u})
\end{aligned}$$

For the converse inclusion, we choose an element $z + \text{Im}(f') \in \text{Ker}(\bar{u})$. Then $\bar{u}(z + \text{Im}(f')) = q \circ u'(z) = 0$, then we have $\exists y \in M$ s.t. $u'(z) = f(y)$. Also we have $v'(u'(z)) = v'(f(y)) = 0, \implies f''(v(y)) = 0$. $v(y) \in \text{Ker}(f'') = K''$. We can check that $\delta(v(y)) = z + \text{Im}(f')$. Hence, we conclude that $\text{Ker}(\bar{u}) \subset \text{Im}(\delta)$.

□

Example 2.22. (*Application of snake lemma*) We have such a commutative diagram, each row is exact. Suppose the middle map is isomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & M' & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & M'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow f' & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow f'' \\
0 & \longrightarrow & N' & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & N'' \longrightarrow 0
\end{array}$$

then we have a map $\delta : Ker(f'') \longrightarrow Coker(f')$ s.t.

$$0 \longrightarrow Ker(f') \longrightarrow \{0\} \rightarrow Ker(f'') \xrightarrow{\delta} Coker(f') \longrightarrow \{0\} \longrightarrow Coker(f'') \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact. Thus we get $\delta : Ker(f'') \longrightarrow Coker(f')$ is an isomorphism.

Proposition 2.23.

If $0 \longrightarrow M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \longrightarrow 0$ is exact, then for any \mathcal{A} -module N ,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M'', N) & \xrightarrow{v^*} & Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N) & \xrightarrow{u^*} & Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(M', N) \\ & & f & \longmapsto & f \circ v & & \\ & & & & g & \longmapsto & g \circ u \end{array} \quad (*)$$

is exact, in general u^* is not surjective. Also,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(N, M'') & \xrightarrow{u_*} & Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(N, M) & \xrightarrow{v_*} & Hom_{\mathcal{A}}(N, M') & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & f & \longmapsto & u \circ f & & \\ & & & & g & \longmapsto & v \circ g \end{array} \quad (**)$$

is exact but u_* is in general not always injective.

More precisely, we have **right exactness of functor** $Hom(_, N)$:

$$M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \longrightarrow 0 \text{ is exact} \iff (*) \text{ is exact for all } N$$

and **Left exactness of functor** $Hom(N, _)$:

$$0 \longrightarrow M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \text{ is exact} \iff (**) \text{ is exact for all } N.$$

Proof. For “ \implies ” part of the first statement, we assume $M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \longrightarrow 0$ is exact. Let N be \mathcal{A} -module, then we check that:

$$1. \ u^* \circ v^* = 0$$

$$\text{Let } f : M'' \longrightarrow N, (u^* \circ v^*)(f) = f \circ v \circ u = f \circ (v \circ u) = 0$$

$$2. \ v^* \text{ is injective}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } f : M'' \longrightarrow N \text{ be such that } v^*(f) = f \circ v = 0 &\implies f(Im(v)) = 0 \\ &\implies f = 0 \text{ because } v \text{ is surjective.} \end{aligned}$$

3. $\text{Ker}(u^*) \subset \text{Im}(v^*)$

Let $f : M \rightarrow N$ be such that $u^*(f) = f \circ u = 0$. Then $f(\text{Im}(u)) = 0$ so $f(\text{Ker}(v)) = 0$, so there is $\bar{f} : M/\text{Ker}(v) \rightarrow N$ s.t. $\bar{f} \circ p = f$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{f} & N \\ \downarrow p & \nearrow \bar{f} & \\ M/\text{Ker}(v) & & \end{array}$$

We know that v induces an isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Im}(v) = M'' & \xleftarrow{v} & M & \xrightarrow{f} & N \\ & \nwarrow \bar{v} & \downarrow p & \nearrow \bar{f} & \\ & & M/\text{Ker}(v) & & \end{array}$$

\bar{v}^{-1} (curved arrow from $M/\text{Ker}(v)$ to M'')

Let $f' = \bar{f} \circ \bar{v}^{-1} \in \text{Hom}(M'', N)$, we compute $v^*(f') = f' \circ v = \bar{f} \circ \bar{v}^{-1} \circ v = \bar{f} \circ p = f$ thus $f \in \text{Im}(v^*)$

We then give an example where the surjectivity of u^* fails

Consider $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}$, $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$ is exact.

$$\begin{aligned} v^* : \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, N) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, N) \\ f &\mapsto f \circ (\times 2) \end{aligned}$$

is not surjective if $N = \mathbb{Z}$, because $f = \text{Id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$, we want to find a map g such that the following diagram commutes,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\times 2} & \mathbb{Z} \\ & & \downarrow \text{Id} & \nearrow ?g & \\ & & \mathbb{Z} & & \end{array}$$

but there is no g such that $g \circ (\times 2) = \text{Id}_{\mathbb{Z}}$ because every morphism in $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z})$ is of the form $\times q$, where $q \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Conversely, for the “ \Leftarrow ” part of the first statement, assume $(*)$ is always exact. We want to show that $M' \xrightarrow{u} M \xrightarrow{v} M'' \rightarrow 0$ is exact,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(M'', N) & \xrightarrow{v^*} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N) & \xrightarrow{u^*} & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(M', N) \\ & & f & \longmapsto & f \circ v & & \\ & & & & g & \longmapsto & g \circ u \end{array}$$

1. Let $N = \text{Coker}(v)$ and $[p : M'' \longrightarrow \text{Coker}(v)] \in \text{Hom}(M'', N)$, then $v^*(p) = p \circ v = 0$. Since v^* is injective, we have $p = 0$, in other words $M'' = \text{Ker}(p) = \text{Im}(v)$ so v is surjective.
2. Take $N = M''$ and $f = \text{Id}_{M''}$, $(u^* \circ v^*)(f) = 0$ means $\text{Id}_{M''} \circ v \circ u = 0 \implies v \circ u = 0$, hence $\text{Im}(u) \subset \text{Ker}(v)$.
3. Take $N = M/\text{Im}(u)$, and $p : M \longrightarrow N$ projection, we have $u^*(p) = p \circ u = 0$. So $p \in \text{Ker}(u^*)$, so there exists $f \in \text{Hom}(M'', N)$ s.t. $v^*(f) = f \circ v = p$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 M' & \xrightarrow{f} & N = M/\text{Im}(u) \\
 \uparrow v & \nearrow p & \\
 M & &
 \end{array}$$

Hence $\text{Ker}(v) \subset \text{Ker}(p)$ and $\text{Ker}(v) \subset \text{Im}(u)$, then we can conclude that $\text{Ker}(v) = \text{Im}(u)$.

The above steps proves the first statement and proof of the second statement is similar. \square

Tensor Product

Definition 2.24. M, N, P are \mathcal{A} -modules, A map $f : M \times N \longrightarrow P$ is called **\mathcal{A} -bilinear** if

$$f(ax + by, z) = af(x, z) + bf(y, z)$$

$$f(x, ay + bz) = af(x, y) + bf(x, z)$$

$$\text{Bil}_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N, P) = \{ \text{all } \mathcal{A}\text{-bilinear maps from } M \times N \text{ to } P \}.$$

$\text{Bil}_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N, P)$ is an \mathcal{A} -module.

Definition 2.25. M, N are \mathcal{A} -modules and the **tensor product** gives an \mathcal{A} -module $M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} N$ such that $\text{Bil}_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N; P) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} N, P)$. $\text{Bil}_{\mathcal{A}}(M, N; P)$ is obviously an \mathcal{A} -module, with sum and scalar multiplication performed value-wise.

Theorem 2.26. M, N are \mathcal{A} -modules. There exists a pair (T, β) where T is an \mathcal{A} -module and $\beta : M \times N \longrightarrow T$ s.t. any \mathcal{A} -bilinear map $b : M \times N \longrightarrow P$

factors through (T, β) , i.e. there exists a unique $f : T \rightarrow P$ s.t. the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{b} & P \\ \downarrow \beta & \nearrow \exists! f & \\ T & & \end{array}$$

This is what we call **universal property**. One can check that if it exists, it is unique.

2.3 Lecture 5. Properties of Tensor Product

The motivation of tensor product is to “classify” bilinear/multilinear maps between modules over some ring \mathcal{A} .

Definition/Theorem 2.27. *M and N are \mathcal{A} -modules, **there exists a best possible bilinear map** $M \times N \rightarrow M \otimes N$. That is to say : there exists a module T (denoted $M \otimes N$ or $M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} N$) and a bilinear map $f : M \times N \rightarrow T$. By “best possible”, we mean: For all module P and all bilinear map $b : M \times N \rightarrow P$, there exists a unique $\tilde{b} : T \rightarrow P$ s.t. the following diagram commutes.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{b} & P \\ \downarrow f & \nearrow \exists! \tilde{b} & \\ T & & \end{array}$$

What’s more (T, f) is **strongly unique** which means **it is unique up to unique isomorphism**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{f'} & T' \\ \downarrow f & \nearrow \exists! k & \\ T & \xleftarrow{\exists! j} & \end{array}$$

Proof. **Uniqueness**

The uniqueness is just the direct result of universal property. By definition, f is bilinear. Apply the universal property with $P = T'$, $b = f'$, then we know $j := \tilde{b} : T \rightarrow T'$. Similarly, we can construct k by swapping T, T' .

Consider $k \circ j : T \rightarrow T$, apply the universal property with $P := T$, $b := f$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{f} & T \\ \downarrow f & \nearrow \exists! \tilde{b} & \\ T & & \end{array}$$

We know $\exists! \tilde{b}$ s.t. the diagram commutes. Then we have $\tilde{b} \circ f = f$, but another obvious map having this property is just id_T . Then, we get to the conclusion $k \circ j = id_T$ by the uniqueness of \tilde{b} . Similarly, we get $j \circ k = id_T$. Altogether, we conclude that (T, f) is unique up to unique isomorphism.

Existence

Form the free module $C := \mathcal{A}^{M \times N}$, where

$$\mathcal{A}^{(M \times N)} = \left\{ \sum_{(x,y) \in M \times N} a_{(x,y)}(x, y) \left| a_{(x,y)} \in \mathcal{A}, \text{ almost all } a_{(x,y)} = 0 \right. \right\}.$$

We'd better mention the universal property of the free module $\mathcal{A}^{(M \times N)}$, every map $q : M \times N \rightarrow P$ can be extended to $\tilde{q} : \mathcal{A}^{(M \times N)} \rightarrow P$

Let submodule $D \subseteq C$, then there is an induced map $\bar{g} : M \times N \rightarrow C/D$ for defining map $g : M \times N \rightarrow C$ of the free module. Then we consider a certain submodule D with the following two equivalent definitions

- D is the smallest submodule for which all the induced map $\bar{g} : M \times N \rightarrow C/D$ is bilinear.
- D is the submodule generated by the following elements

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (x + x', y) - (x, y) - (x', y) \\ (x, y + y') - (x, y) - (x, y') \\ a(x, y) - (ax, y) \\ a(x, y) - (x, ay) \end{array} \right| \forall a \in \mathcal{A}, \forall x, x' \in M, \forall y, y' \in N \right\}$$

The equivalence of two definition can be explained by the definition of “bilinear maps”.

We want to show that C/D is what we are looking for. First, we claim, for all bilinear map $b : M \times N \rightarrow P$, $Ker(\tilde{b}) \supseteq D$.

The proof is to just check it by hand, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tilde{b}((x + x', y) - (x, y) - (x', y)) \\
&= \tilde{b}((x + x', y)) - \tilde{b}((x, y)) - \tilde{b}((x', y)) \\
&= b(x + x', y) - b(x, y) - b(x', y) \\
&= 0 \text{ (by } b \text{ is bilinear)}
\end{aligned}$$

The characterization of \tilde{b} determines its restriction of $g(M \times N) \subseteq T$. Clear by construction that $g(M \times N)$ generates T . We get the conclusion that $\bar{g} : M \times N \rightarrow C/D = T$. \square

Also note that, in general

$$S := \{m \otimes n \mid (m, n) \in M \times N\} \neq M \otimes N$$

, e.g. $\mathbb{Z}^n \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ but S generates $M \otimes N$ as we saw in the proof.

Example 2.28. *Natural isomorphisms, $\exists!$ isomorphisms*

1. $M \otimes N \cong N \otimes M$
2. $(M \otimes N) \otimes P \cong M \otimes (N \otimes P)$
3. $M \otimes (N_1 \oplus N_2) \cong (M \otimes N_1) \oplus (M \otimes N_2)$
4. $\mathcal{A} \otimes M \cong M$

Proof. we prove part 3. Consider a map:

$$\begin{aligned}
b : M \times (N_1 \oplus N_2) &\rightarrow M \otimes N_1 \oplus M \otimes N_2 \\
(m, (n_1, n_2)) &\mapsto (m \otimes n_1, m \otimes n_2).
\end{aligned}$$

We can check that b is bilinear, for example

$$\begin{aligned}
& b(m + m', (n_1, n_2)) \\
&= ((m + m') \otimes n_1, (m + m') \otimes n_2) \\
&= (m \otimes n_1 + m' \otimes n_1, m \otimes n_2 + m' \otimes n_2) \\
&= (m \otimes n_1, m \otimes n_2) + (m' \otimes n_1, m' \otimes n_2) \\
&= b(m, (n_1, n_2)) + b(m', (n_1, n_2)).
\end{aligned}$$

As a result the bilinear map b must factor through $M \otimes (N_1 \oplus N_2)$, and we denote the corresponding map $f : M \otimes (N_1 \oplus N_2) \rightarrow M \otimes N_1 \oplus M \otimes N_2$.

$$f(m \otimes (n_1, n_2)) = (m \otimes n_1, m \otimes n_2).$$

We use the terminology **pure tensor** to name the tensors like $x \otimes y \in M \otimes N$, obviously, $M \otimes N$ is linearly generated by pure tensors. We want to show that f is an isomorphism. Need to find the inverse map g of f .

define

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 : M \otimes N_1 &\longrightarrow M \otimes (N_1 \oplus N_2) \\ (m \otimes n_1) &\longmapsto m \otimes (n_1, 0) \end{aligned}$$

similarly, we can construct

$$\begin{aligned} g_2 : M \otimes N_2 &\longrightarrow M \otimes (N_1 \oplus N_2) \\ (m \otimes n_2) &\longmapsto m \otimes (0, n_2) \end{aligned}$$

Then, we define $g = g_1 \oplus g_2$. We want to show $f \circ g = id, g \circ f = id$.

$$\begin{aligned} f \circ g(m \otimes n, m' \otimes n_2) &= f(m \otimes (n_1, 0) + m' \otimes (0, n_2)) \\ &= (m \otimes n_1, 0) + (0, m' \otimes n_2) \\ &= (m \otimes n_1, m' \otimes n_2) \end{aligned}$$

Then $f \circ g = id$ on pure tensors, hence it is identity on all tensors, because $f \circ g$ is linear, and pure tensor generates the whole tensor product module. \square

Consider $\mathcal{A}^m = \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{A} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{A}$ (finite free module), by the isomorphism 4 in the above example

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} &\cong \mathcal{A} \\ x \otimes y &\mapsto xy \end{aligned}$$

also by iterating (3) and (4), we get

$$\mathcal{A}^m \otimes \mathcal{A}^n \cong \mathcal{A}^{mn},$$

compared to the known result

$$\mathcal{A}^m \oplus \mathcal{A}^n \cong \mathcal{A}^{m+n}.$$

More directly, if $e_1^{(1)}, \dots, e_m^{(1)}$ standard basis for \mathcal{A}^m , $e_1^{(2)}, \dots, e_n^{(2)}$ standard basis for \mathcal{A}^n , then

$$\left\{ e_i^{(1)} \otimes e_j^{(2)} \mid m \geq i \geq 1, n \geq j \geq 1 \right\}$$

form a basis of $\mathcal{A}^m \otimes \mathcal{A}^n$ and induces $\cong \mathcal{A}^{mn}$

To see this directly, consider a bilinear map $f : \mathcal{A}^m \times \mathcal{A}^n \longrightarrow P$, where P is some module.

$$\mathcal{A}^m \ni x = x_1 e_1^{(1)} + \dots + x_m e_m^{(1)}, \quad x_i \in \mathcal{A}$$

$$\mathcal{A}^n \ni y = y_1 e_1^{(1)} + \dots + y_n e_n^{(1)}, \quad y_i \in \mathcal{A}$$

Then

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{\substack{i=1 \dots m \\ j=1 \dots n}} x_i y_j f(e_i^{(1)} \otimes e_j^{(2)}),$$

where we can define $f(e_i^{(1)} \otimes e_j^{(2)}) =: a_{ij} \in P$. Generally, given an mn -tuple (a_{ij}) in P we may define a bilinear $f : \mathcal{A}^m \times \mathcal{A}^n \longrightarrow P$ by the above formula.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (e_i^{(1)}, e_j^{(2)}) & \mapsto & e_i^{(1)} \otimes e_j^{(2)} \\ \mathcal{A}^m \times \mathcal{A}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{A}^{\oplus \{e_i^{(1)} \otimes e_j^{(2)}\}} \\ \downarrow f & \swarrow \exists! \tilde{f} \text{ s.t. } \tilde{f}(e_{ij}) = a_{ij} & \\ P & & \end{array}$$

Remark 2.29. More generally, we may define the n -fold tensor products $M_1 \otimes \dots \otimes M_n$.

$$\{\text{multilinear maps } :M_1 \times \dots \times M_n \longrightarrow P\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{linear maps } :M_1 \otimes \dots \otimes M_n \longrightarrow P\}$$

Let $V = \mathbb{R}^n$, then

$$\{\text{inner products on } V\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{linear functions on } V \otimes V\}$$

Remark 2.30. Extension of scalars Consider a ring morphism $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and an \mathcal{A} -module M , we can construct a \mathcal{B} -module

$$M_{\mathcal{B}} := M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{B},$$

where \mathcal{B} is regarded as an \mathcal{A} -module via f , i.e. $a \cdot b = f(a)b$. And the \mathcal{B} action on $M_{\mathcal{B}}$ is like $b \cdot (m \otimes z) := m \otimes bz$

Example 2.31.

- $M = \mathcal{A}^m \implies M_{\mathcal{B}} = \mathcal{B}^m$
- $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C} \implies (\mathbb{R}^n)_{\mathbb{C}} := (\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{C}^n$

2.4 Lecture 6. Flatness

The meaning of $x \otimes y$ depends on the modules to which we regard x and y are belonging. In fact, one can have $x \in M' \subseteq M$ and $y \in N' \subset N$ but

$$M' \otimes N' \ni x \otimes y \neq x \otimes y \in M \otimes N$$

Example 2.32. $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}$, $M' = 2\mathbb{Z} \subseteq M = \mathbb{Z}$, $N' = \mathbb{Z}/2 = N$, then $2\mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \ni 2 \otimes 1 \neq 0$, but $\mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \ni 2 \otimes 1 = 0$

In summary, we no $M' \subset M, N' \subset N$ does not indicate that $M' \otimes N' \subset M \otimes N$, which means the simple inclusion is not an injective morphism.

But \otimes is indeed a **bifunctor**. Given module morphisms

$$\begin{aligned} f : M' &\longrightarrow M \\ g : N' &\longrightarrow N \\ \exists! f \otimes g : M' \otimes N' &\longrightarrow M \otimes N \\ x \otimes y &\longmapsto f(x) \otimes g(y) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(f \circ f') \otimes (g \circ g') = (f \otimes g) \circ (f' \otimes g')$$

For example, we always consider the case $g = 1_N$ with N \mathcal{A} -module, then each morphism $f : M' \longrightarrow M$ is mapped to $f \otimes 1_N : M' \otimes N \longrightarrow M \otimes N$.

Definition 2.33. N is **flat** if $\forall f : M' \longrightarrow M$ s.t.

$$f : \text{injective} \implies f \otimes 1_N \text{ is injective}$$

In other words,

$$M' \subset M \implies "M' \otimes N \subset M \otimes N"$$

Example 2.34.

- $\{0\}$ is a flat \mathcal{A} -module
- \mathcal{A} is a flat \mathcal{A} -module, because $M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{A} = M$ and $f = f \otimes 1_{\mathcal{A}}$

Lemma 2.35. Let $(N_i)_{i \in I}$ be a family of modules over \mathcal{A} , then $\oplus_{i \in I} N_i$ is flat iff each N_i is flat.

Proof. Suppose each N_i is flat. Let $M' \xrightarrow{f} M$ be injective. Suppose,

$$M' \otimes (\oplus_i N_i) \xrightarrow{f \otimes 1} M \otimes (\oplus_i N_i)$$

is not injective, i.e. $z \in \text{Ker}(f \otimes 1_N) \neq 0$. Let N denote $\oplus_i N_i$ and the i -th projection $\pi_i : N \rightarrow N_i$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 \neq z & \in & \oplus_i (M' \otimes N_i) \xrightarrow{\rho'_i} M' \otimes N_i \\ & & \parallel \qquad \qquad \parallel \\ & & M' \otimes (\oplus_i N_i) \xrightarrow{1_{M'} \otimes \pi_i} M' \otimes N_i \\ & & \downarrow f \otimes 1_N \qquad \downarrow f \otimes 1_{N_i} \\ & & M \otimes (\oplus_i N_i) \xrightarrow{1_M \otimes \pi_i} M \otimes N_i \\ & & \parallel \qquad \qquad \parallel \\ & & \oplus_i (M \otimes N_i) \xrightarrow{\rho_i} M \otimes N_i \end{array}$$

$z \neq 0 \implies \exists i \in I$ s.t. $\rho'_i(z) \neq 0 \implies (f \otimes 1_{N_i})(\rho'_i(z)) \neq 0 \in M \otimes N_i$. But $(f \otimes 1_{N_i})(\rho'_i(z)) = \rho_i(f \otimes 1_N(z))$ is the i -th component of $(f \otimes 1_N)(z) = 0$ by assumption, which gives the contradiction. The converse is simpler. \square

Corollary 2.36. *If M is a free \mathcal{A} -module, then it is a flat module.*

Proof. We already know \mathcal{A} is flat, then by the previous lemma, we know $\oplus_{i \in I} \mathcal{A}$ is flat. \square

Example 2.37. *Consider a system of linear equations*

$$S : f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \dots = f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0,$$

where these f_i 's has coefficients in \mathbb{R} . Then S has solution over \mathbb{R} iff S has solution over \mathbb{C} (This claim works for any field extension L/K instead of \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) A simple proof goes like: " \implies " is trivial, for the converse, we take the real or the imaginary part of a complex solution.

For a second proof:

$$M' = \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{f} M = \mathbb{R}^m,$$

where $f = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$. $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}$, $N = \mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}i$ is free, then by the above corollary, we know N is flat. Then S has a solution over \mathbb{R} iff $\text{Ker}(f) \neq 0$,

and S has a solution over \mathbb{C} iff $\text{Ker}(f \otimes 1_{\mathbb{C}}) \neq 0$. If $f \otimes 1$ is not injective, by the definition of flat module, we know f is not injective, which conclude the proof. This second proof works for arbitrary field extension, because the field extensions are always free modules over the initial field.

Proposition 2.38. (Right exactness of $\otimes N$)

Consider an exact sequence of \mathcal{A} -modules

$$M' \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{g} M'' \longrightarrow 0$$

Then we have

$$M' \otimes N \xrightarrow{f \otimes 1} M \otimes N \xrightarrow{g \otimes 1} M'' \otimes N \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact for arbitrary \mathcal{A} -module N .

Proof. Obviously $g \otimes 1$ is surjective. We only need to prove the exactness at $M \otimes N$. As for the easier inclusion, $\text{Im}(f \otimes 1) \subseteq \text{Ker}(g \otimes 1)$ because $(g \otimes 1) \circ (f \otimes 1) = (g \circ f) \otimes 1 = 0$. Then it remains to show

$$\frac{M \otimes N}{\text{Im}(f \otimes 1)} \xrightarrow{\psi} M'' \otimes N$$

is an isomorphism. ψ is induced by $g \otimes 1$, well defined because $\text{Im}(f \otimes 1) \subseteq \text{Ker}(g \otimes 1)$.

Now, we construct a two-sided inverse φ of ψ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M'' \otimes N & \xrightarrow{\exists \varphi} & \frac{M \otimes N}{\text{Im}(f \otimes 1)} \\ \uparrow & \nearrow \exists \varphi_0 & \uparrow \\ M'' \times N & & \\ \uparrow g \times 1 & \nearrow \varphi_1 & \\ M \times N & & \end{array}$$

Consider the map φ_1 , it is the composition of the canonical projection and the defining map of tensor product. $\varphi_1(x, y) \mapsto x \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1)$. Consider $(x'', y) \in M'' \times N$, which is the image of (x, y) under $g \times 1$. Then we can define $\varphi_0(x'', y) := \varphi_1(x, y)$. It is well-defined, because if there is another (x_1, y) also map to (x'', y) , the difference

$$x - x_1 \in \text{Ker}(g) = \text{Im}(f),$$

hence $\exists z \in M' \ x - x_1 = f(z) \implies (x - x_1) \otimes y = (f \otimes 1)(z \otimes y)$ Then

$$\varphi_1(x, y) - \varphi(x_1, y) = (x - x_1) \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1) = 0.$$

Then it remains to check φ_0 is bilinear so that φ_0 lifts to a φ on $M'' \otimes N$. Also we need to check the φ is indeed the two-sided inverse of ψ .

Consider $\varphi_0(x'', ay + bv)$ and $\varphi_0(ax'' + bw'', y)$. Chose x and w in the preimages $g^{-1}(x'')$ and $g^{-1}(w'')$. By the linearity of g , we can safely choose $ax + bw$ in the pre-image of $ax'' + bw''$ Knowing that φ_1 is bilinear (because the defining map of tensor product is bilinear and canonical projection is linear), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_0(x'', ay + bv) &= \varphi_1(x, ay + bv) \\ &= a\varphi_1(x, y) + b\varphi_1(x, v) = a\varphi_0(x'', y) + b\varphi_0(x'', v) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_0(ax'' + bw'', y) &= \varphi_1(ax + bw, y) \\ &= a\varphi_1(x, y) + b\varphi_1(w, y) = a\varphi_0(x'', y) + b\varphi_0(w'', y). \end{aligned}$$

Explicitly, with $x \in g^{-1}(x'')$,

$$\varphi(x'' \otimes y) = x \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1)$$

and

$$\psi(x \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1)) = g(x) \otimes y$$

\implies

$$\begin{aligned} \psi \circ \varphi(x'' \otimes y) &= g(x) \otimes y = x'' \otimes y \\ \varphi \circ \psi(x \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1)) &= x_1 \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1) = x \otimes y + \text{Im}(f \otimes 1), \end{aligned}$$

where in the last line x_1 is another representative in $g^{-1}(x'')$. \square

Corollary 2.39. *N is flat iff $\otimes N$ preserves the exactness of any sequence of modules*

Proof. Any exact sequence can be split up into short exact sequence, and the flatness does indicate it preserve the exactness of short exact sequence. \square

Example 2.40. *An ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{A}$, and M is an \mathcal{A} -module,*

$$M \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} \cong M/\mathfrak{a}M,$$

where $\mathfrak{a}M := \{\sum x_i m_i | x_i \in \mathfrak{a}, m_i \in M\}$. $\mathfrak{a}M$ is a submodule of M .

Proof.

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{a} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} \longrightarrow 0$$

is an exact sequence (of \mathcal{A} -modules). Tensoring it with M , we have

$$\mathfrak{a} \otimes M \xrightarrow{\psi} M \longrightarrow M \otimes \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact, where ψ is induced by the inclusion $\mathfrak{a} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}$, $\psi : x \otimes m \mapsto xm$. $\text{Im}(\psi) = \mathfrak{a}M$. Then by the exactness, we have

$$M \otimes \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} \cong M/\text{Im}(\psi) = M/\mathfrak{a}M.$$

□

Example 2.41.

$$\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/\gcd(m, n)\mathbb{Z}.$$

Pf. Take $M = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$, $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z}$, $\mathfrak{a} = n\mathbb{Z}$. Then $\mathfrak{a}M = (n\mathbb{Z} + m\mathbb{Z})/m\mathbb{Z} = \gcd(m, n)\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. $\mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

Then by the result of Example 2.40, we have

$$M \otimes \mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{a} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{m\mathbb{Z}} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{n\mathbb{Z}} \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}}{\gcd(m, n)\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{\gcd(m, n)\mathbb{Z}} = M/\mathfrak{a}M.$$

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is flat iff $n = \pm 1, 0$, i.e. $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{0\}$ or \mathbb{Z} . This is easy to prove, consider the following short exact sequence for $|n| \geq 2$,

$$0 \longrightarrow n\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0,$$

Suppose $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is flat. Tensoring it with the above exact sequence, we get

$$0 \longrightarrow 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0,$$

which gives the contradiction.

Fact

Any finitely generated \mathbb{Z} -module is of the form

$$M = \mathbb{Z}^r \oplus (\oplus_{i \in I} (\mathbb{Z}/n_i\mathbb{Z}))$$

, the second part of M is denoted M_{tors} , then we get the corollary that a finitely generated \mathbb{Z} -module is flat iff M_{tors} vanishes.

Definition 2.42. \mathcal{A} a ring, M an \mathcal{A} -module, we call M **torsion free** if $\forall a \in \mathcal{A}$ non-zerodivisor. $m \in M$ $am = 0 \implies m = 0$

Theorem 2.43.

1. M is flat $\implies M$ is torsion free
2. If \mathcal{A} is PID, M is torsion free $\implies M$ is flat.

Proof. Bosch section 4.2

□

Some other facts about tensor product

Example 2.44. For $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{F}$ being a field, V, W finite dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}

$$\begin{aligned} V^* \otimes W &\cong \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W) \\ l \otimes w &\mapsto [v \mapsto l(v)w] \end{aligned}$$