Dummit and Foote
Answers to Exercises

Marc-André Brochu

Winter 2019

Chapter 1

Polynomial Rings

1.1 Polynomial Rings over Fields II

For the remaining exercises let F be a field, let F^n be the set of all n-tuples of elements of F (called *affine n-space over F*) and let R be the polynomial ring $F[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$. The elements of R form a ring of F-valued functions on F^n, where the value of the polynomial $p(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ on the n-tuple $(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ is obtained by substituting a_i for x_i for all i.

12. (a) Let X be any given subset of F^n. We always have $0_R \in I(X)$ and thus $I(X)$ is never empty. Take any $f, g \in I(X)$. Then for all $a \in X$, $(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x) = 0$. Thus $I(X)$ is closed under addition. Take some $h \in R$. For all $a \in X$, $(h \cdot f)(x) = h(x)f(x) = 0$ which means that $I(X)$ absorbs left multiplication. Because R is commutative, we get that $I(X)$ is an ideal in this ring.

    Let $J \subseteq R$ be arbitrarily given. If $a \in V(\langle J \rangle)$, then for all $f \in J \subseteq \langle J \rangle$, we have that $f(a) = 0$. Thus $V(\langle J \rangle) \subseteq V(J)$. Now let $a \in V(J)$. Take any $f \in \langle J \rangle$. Then f is a finite combination of R-multiples of elements of J, i.e. $f = f_1 j_1 + \cdots + f_n j_n$ with $f_i \in R$, $j_i \in J$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. So $f(a) = f_1(a)j_1(a) + \cdots + f_n(a)j_n(a)$. Since for all $j \in J$, $j(a) = 0$, we get that $f(a) = 0$ and thus $a \in V(\langle J \rangle)$. Therefore $V(J) = V(\langle J \rangle)$ for any subset J of R.

    (b) Let $f \in I(Y)$. Then for all $a \in X$, a is also an element of Y and therefore $f(a) = 0$. Thus $f \in I(X)$.

    Let $a \in V(J)$. Then for all $f \in I \subseteq J$, $f(a) = 0$. Thus $a \in V(I)$.

Chapter 2

Introduction to Module Theory

2.1 Basic Definitions and Examples

In these exercises R is a ring with 1 and M is a left R-module.

1. These statements are all equivalent to the module being unital. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} 1m = m &\iff (0+1)m = m \iff 0m + 1m = m \iff 0m + m = m \iff 0m = 0 \\ &\iff (-1+1)m = 0 \iff (-1)m + m = 0 \iff (-1)m = -m. \end{aligned}$$

2. Take $r, s \in R^\times$ and some $m \in M$. Then $r(sm) = (rs)m$ because r and s are also in R. This shows that the first axiom of a group action is satisfied. Now since R has a 1, take $1 \in R^\times$. Again, it is easy to see that $1m = m$ and thus the second axiom of a group action is satisfied.

3. Suppose there exists some $s \in R$ such that $sr = 1$. Then $(sr)m = 1m = m$. But we also have $(sr)m = s(rm) = s0 = 0$. Thus $m = 0$, which is contrary to the assumption that m is nonzero. Thus r cannot have an inverse.

   Note: for any $r \in R$, $r0 = r(0+0) = r0 + r0 \iff r0 = 0$.

4. (a) Let $N = \{(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \mid x_i \in I_i\}$. An ideal of R is also a subgroup of R: thus it contains 0. This means that $(0, \ldots, 0) \in N$; hence N is not empty. Take any $x, y \in N$ and any $\alpha \in R$. Then $x + \alpha y = (x_1 + \alpha y_1, x_2 + \alpha y_2, \ldots, x_n + \alpha y_n) \in N$ because each I_i is closed under addition and left multiplication by an element of R. By the Submodule Criterion, N is a submodule of M.

   (b) Let $N = \{(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \mid x_i \in I_i \text{ and } x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n = 0\}$. The proof goes exactly as the last one, except we need to check the sum. We have that $(x_1 + \alpha y_1) + (x_2 + \alpha y_2) + \cdots + (x_n + \alpha y_n) = (x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n) + \alpha(y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n) = 0 + \alpha 0 = 0$.

5.

8. (a) It is easy to see that $0 \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$. Therefore $\operatorname{Tor}(M) \neq \varnothing$. Now let $m, n \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$ and $\alpha \in R$. There exists nonzero elements r, s of R such that $rm = sn = 0$. Thus $rs(m + \alpha n) = (rs)m + (rs\alpha)n = s(rm) + r\alpha(sn) = s0 + r\alpha 0 = 0$. Since R is an integral domain, the product rs is nonzero. Therefore $m + \alpha n \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$. By the submodule criterion, $\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is a submodule of M.

   (b) Notice that the torsion elements in the R-module R are simply the zero divisors of R plus the zero element. Now consider the ring $\mathbb{Z}_6$ as a module over itself. In this module, 2 and 3 are torsion elements. However $2 + 3 = 5$ is not a torsion element because 5 is coprime with 6. Therefore $\operatorname{Tor}(\mathbb{Z}_6)$ is not a subgroup (and thus not a submodule) of $\mathbb{Z}_6$.

(c) Take nonzero elements a, b in R such that $ab = 0$. Take some nonzero $m \in M$. If $bm = 0$, then m is a torsion element and we are done. Else, $a(bm) = (ab)m = 0m = 0$ and bm is a torsion element. In both cases, $\mathrm{Tor}(M)$ is not trivial so the statement is proven.

9. Write $I = \{r \in R \mid rn = 0 \ \forall n \in N\}$ and take $a, b \in I$. Then, for any $n \in N$, $(a + b)n = an + bn = 0$, i.e. $a + b \in I$. Now take any $r \in R$. Firstly, $(ra)n = r(an) = r0 = 0$. Secondly, $(ar)n = a(rn)$. Since $rn \in N$ because N is a submodule, and since $a \in I$, we have that $a(rn) = 0$. Thus I absorbs multiplication by elements of R on the left and on the right: it is a 2-sided ideal of R.

10. Write $A = \{m \in M \mid am = 0 \ \forall a \in I\}$. Since it is clear that $0 \in A$, we know that $A \neq \varnothing$. Take $m, n \in A$ and $r \in R$. For all $a \in I$, we have that $a(m + bn) = am + a(bn) = (ab)n$. Since I is a right ideal of R, $ab \in I$. Thus $(ab)n = 0$, meaning that $m + bn \in A$. By the submodule criterion, A is a submodule of M.

2.2 Quotient Modules and Module Homomorphisms

1. Let M and N be R-modules and let $\varphi : M \to N$ be a R-module homomorphism. It is clear that $0 \in \ker \varphi$, so it is not empty. Take any $x, y \in \ker \varphi$ and any $r \in R$. Then $\varphi(x + ry) = \varphi(x) + r\varphi(y) = 0$ and so $x + ry \in \ker \varphi$. By the submodule criterion, we get that $\ker \varphi$ is a submodule of M. Similarily, we see that $\operatorname{im} \varphi$ is not empty because it contains 0. Take any $x, y \in \operatorname{im} \varphi$ and any $r \in R$. Then there exists $a, b \in M$ such that $\varphi(a) = x$ and $\varphi(b) = y$. Thus $\varphi(a) + r\varphi(b) = \varphi(a + rb) = x + ry$ and we get by the submodule criterion that $\operatorname{im} \varphi$ is a submodule of N.