Week 7

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7.1 Zorn's Lemma and Intro to Modules Over PIDs

2/13:

- Picking up from last time with Zorn's lemma.
- **Partially ordered set**: A set together with a binary relation indicating that, for certain pairs of elements in the set, one of the elements precedes the other in the ordering. *Also known as* **poset**. *Denoted by* $\boldsymbol{P}$.
  - The domain of the **partial order** may be a proper subset of $P \times P$.
- **Partial order**: The binary relation on a poset.
- **Maximal** ($f \in P$): An element $f \in P$ such that for all $q \in P$, the statement $q > f$ is false.
- Example.
  - Let X be a set with $|X| \geq 2$[1].
  - Define a poset $P = \{A \subsetneq X\}$ with corresponding partial order defined by taking subsets. In particular, if $A \subset B$, write $A \leq B$.
  - For any $x \in X$, $X - \{x\}$ is a maximal element of P.
- **Chain**: A subset of a poset P such that if c_1, c_2 are in said subset, then implies $c_1 \leq c_2$ or $c_2 \leq c_1$. *Denoted by* $\boldsymbol{C}$.
  - In other words, a chain is a subset of a poset that is a **totally ordered set**.
- **Totally ordered set**: A set together with a binary relation indicating that, for any pair of elements in the set, one of the elements precedes the other in the ordering.
- Observation: If F is a subset of a nonempty finite chain C, then there exists $c \in F$ such that $c \geq q$ for all $q \in F$.
- **Upper bound** (of C): An element $p \in P$ such that $p \geq c$ for all $c \in C$.
- **Zorn's lemma**: Let P be a poset that satisfies

  (i) $P \neq \emptyset$;

  (ii) Every chain $C \subset P$ has an upper bound.

  Then P has a maximal element.

[1] Nori denotes cardinality by $\#X$.

- We will not prove Zorn's lemma. It rarely if ever gets proven in an undergraduate course, maybe in a logic course.
  - And by "prove" we mean "deduce Zorn's lemma from the Axiom of Choice."
- We now investigate a situation in which Zorn's lemma gets applied.
- Let M be a finitely generated A-module.
  - Let $v_1, \dots, v_r \in M$ be elements such that such that $M = Av_1 + \cdots + Av_r$.
  - Before we prove the proposition that requires Zorn's lemma, we will need one more definition: that of a **maximal submodule**.
- **Maximal submodule** (of M): A submodule of M that is a maximal element of the poset

$$P = \{N \subsetneq M : N \text{ is an } A\text{-submodule}\}$$

- Proposition: Every nonzero finitely generated A-module M has a maximal submodule.

Proof. To prove that M has a maximal submodule, it will suffice show that there exists a maximal element of the poset

$$P = \{N \subsetneq M : N \text{ is an } A\text{-submodule}\}$$

To do this, Zorn's lemma tells us that it will suffice to confirm that $P \neq \emptyset$ and that every chain $C \subset P$ has an upper bound. Let's begin.

We first confirm that $P \neq \emptyset$. By hypothesis, M is nonzero. Thus, the zero A-submodule is a proper subset of M, so $0 \in P$ and hence P is nonempty.

We now confirm that every chain $C \subset P$ has an upper bound. Let $C \subset P$ be an arbitrary chain. Define

$$\mathcal{N}_C = \bigcup \{N : N \in C\}$$

We will first verify that $\mathcal{N}_C \in P$, and then we will show that $\mathcal{N}_C$ is an upper bound of C. Let's begin. To verify that $\mathcal{N}_C \in P$, it will suffice to demonstrate that $\mathcal{N}_C$ is an A-submodule of M and that $\mathcal{N}_C \subsetneq M$.

To demonstrate that $\mathcal{N}_C$ is an A-submodule, Proposition 10.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that $\mathcal{N}_C \neq \emptyset$ and $n_1 + an_2 \in \mathcal{N}_C$ for all $a \in A$ and $n_1, n_2 \in \mathcal{N}_C$. Since P is nonempty, $\mathcal{N}_C$ is nonempty by definition, as desired. Additionally, let $n_1, n_2 \in \mathcal{N}_C$ be arbitrary. It follows by the definition of $\mathcal{N}_C$ that there exist $N_1, N_2 \in C$ such that $n_i \in N_i$ $(i = 1, 2)$. WLOG, assume $N_1 \subset N_2$. Then $n_1, n_2 \in N_2$. It follows since N_2 is an A-submodule that $n_1 + an_2 \in N_2 \subset \mathcal{N}_C$ for all $a \in A$, as desired.

We know that $\mathcal{N}_C \subset M$. Thus, if $\mathcal{N}_C \not\subsetneq M$, then we must have $\mathcal{N}_C = M$. Suppose for the sake of contradiction that $\mathcal{N}_C = M$. Recall that $M = Av_1 + \cdots + Av_r$. Since the v_i are elements of M and $\mathcal{N}_C = M$, it follows that $v_i \in \mathcal{N}_C$ $(i = 1, \dots, r)$. Thus, as before, there must exist $N_1, \dots, N_r \in C$, not necessarily distinct, such that $v_i \in N_i$ $(i = 1, \dots, r)$. It follows by the observation from earlier that there is an $i \in [r]$ such that for all $j \in [r]$, $N_j \subset N_i$. Consequently, $v_j \in N_j \subset N_i$ $(j = 1, \dots, r)$. But N_i is an A-submodule, so $M = Av_1 + \cdots + Av_r \subset N_i \subset M$. But this means that $N_i = M$, contradicting the assumption that $N_i \subsetneq P$ (since $N_i \in P$). Therefore, $\mathcal{N}_C \subsetneq M$, as desired.

It follows that $\mathcal{N}_C \in P$, as desired. Lastly, we have by its definition that $N \subset \mathcal{N}_C$ for all $N \in C$, meaning that $\mathcal{N}_C$ is an upper bound of C by definition. Therefore, by Zorn's lemma, P has a maximal element, and hence M has a maximal submodule, as desired. ☐

- Corollary: Every nonzero commutative ring R has a maximal ideal.

Proof. Consider R as an R-module. Then $R = (1)$ is finitely generated. This combined with the fact that it is nonzero by hypothesis allows us to invoke the above proposition, learning that R has a maximal submodule N. But by the observation from Lecture 6.1, N is a left ideal, which is equivalent to a two-sided ideal in a commutative ring. Maximality transfers over as well (as we can confirm), proving that N is the desired maximal ideal of R. ☐

- Remark: Suppose that J is a two-sided ideal of A. Let M be an A-module such that for all $a \in J$ and $m \in M$, we have $am = 0$. Then M may be regarded as an (A/J)-module in a natural manner.
  - In particular, we may take $\rho : A \to \text{End}(M, +)$ to be a ring homomorphism.
  - We can factor $\rho = \bar{\rho} \circ \pi$, where $\pi : A \to A/J$ and $\bar{\rho} : A/J \to \text{End}(M, +)$. It follows that $\bar{\rho}$ is a ring homomorphism. Therefore, M is an A/J-module.
  - This remark will be used!
  - Review annihilators from Section 10.1!
- Remark: Given a left ideal $I \subset A$ and an A-module M, we get a whole lot of modules because each element of M generates one. In particular, we note that $Im \subset Am \subset M$, where both Im, Am are submodules for all $m \in M$.
- **Product** (of modules): The A-submodule of M defined as follows. *Denoted by* $\boldsymbol{IM}$. *Given by*

$$IM = \sum_{m \in M} Im$$

- It follows that M/IM is an A-module, but also one with a special property: $a(M/IM) = 0$ for all $a \in I$.
  - If A is commutative, then M/IM is an A/I-module.
- Proposition: Let R be a nonzero commutative ring. If $R^m \cong R^n$ as R-modules, then $m = n$.

  Proof. Let $I \subset R$ be a maximal ideal. (We know that one exists by the above corollary.) If $f : R^m \to R^n$ is an isomorphism of R-modules, then f restricts to $I(R^m) \to I(R^n)$. This gives rise to the isomorphism $\bar{f} : R^m/I(R^m) \to R^n/I(R^n)$ of R-modules, in fact of R/I modules. It follows that R/I is a field, so $m = n$. $\square$

- Classifying modules up to isomorphism under commutative rings.
  - This is a hard problem, and there are still many open problems in this field today.
  - We will not go into this, though.
- We now move on to modules over PIDs.
  - Nori will go *much* slower than the book.
  - Do you have any recommended resources??
  - Do we need to read and understand Chapters 10-11 to start on Chapter 12??
- Objective: Let R be a PID. Classify all finitely generated R-modules up to isomorphism.
  - Our first result in this field was that submodules of R^n are equal to R^m for $m \leq n$.
  - Where this is applicable: $\mathbb{Z}$ and $F[X]$.
    - Go back and check out $\mathbb{Z}$-modules and $F[X]$-modules in Section 10.1!
- **Torsion module**: An R-module M such that for all $m \in M$, there exists $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $am = 0$.
- **Torsion-free module**: An R-module M such that for all nonzero $m \in M$ and for all nonzero $a \in R$, we have $am \neq 0$.
- Theorem: If M is a finitely generated torsion-free R-module, then $M \cong R^n$ for some n.
  - With a little work, we could prove this. But Nori will postpone it.

- ***p*-primary** (module): An R-module M such that for all $m \in M$, there exists $k \geq 0$ for which $p^k m = 0$, where p is prime in R.
- We want to classify these up to isomorphism.
  - Nori can state these today, but will not have time to prove it until another day.
  - Something that gets annihilated by p is a $\mathbb{Z}/(p)$-module. The moment you go from $k = 1$ to $k = 2$, things get interesting.
- Examples: $R/(p^{n_1}) \oplus \cdots \oplus R/(p^{n_k})$, where $n_1 \geq \cdots \geq n_k \geq 1$.
  - Note that $k = 0$ is allowed.
- Uniqueness will take some time, but existence can be given as an exercise now.
- M/pM is an $R/(p)$-vector space. pM/p^2M is an $R/(p)$-vector space as well. So is $p^k M/p^{k+1}M$.
  - Use $d_0, d_1, \dots, d_k$ to denote the dimensions of the vector spaces.
  - $d_0, \dots, d_k$ is a decreasing sequence of nonnegative integers.

7.2 Office Hours (Nori)

- Homework questions.
  - See pictures + unnumbered lemma.
  - Example of the kernel being bigger than (f).
  - A ring homomorphism $\mathbb{Z}[X] \to \mathbb{R}$ must be evaluation by the universal property of polynomial rings.
  - Factoring enables a constraint on a.
- Lecture 6.1: Proposition proof?
- Lecture 6.1: $(2) \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}$ example?
- Lecture 6.1: The end of the theorem proof.
- Lecture 6.2: Does the first theorem you proved not appear in the book until Chapter 12?
- Lecture 6.2: What is A in the proof?
- Resources for the proofs in Week 6?
- Lecture 7.1: Quotient stuff.
- Recommended resources for modules over PIDs? Chapter 12?
  - We should be able to read chapter 12, since chapter 11 is just vector spaces.
  - Nori's doing Chapter 12 in the classical manner (pre-1970). Dummit and Foote (2004) just does it in the first few pages as the **elementary divisor theorem**.
- HW6: So you want us to solve 1, 10, 13 for our own edification, but we don't need to write up a solution? Will we ever be responsible for the content therein?
  - We'll need to understand them to move forward.
  - Q6.4-Q6.5 are particularly important (good for number theory).

7.3 Office Hours (Ray)

- Universal properties save you from having to do pages upon pages of ring homomorphism checks (think Q3.10).
- Algebra: Chapter 0 by Paolo Aluffi for learning quotienting by polynomials.
  - Universal properties show up on page 30.
  - Read stuff before as needed.
  - Has a chapter called universal properties of polynomial rings. Universal properties of quotients, too.
- Direct sums and direct products.
  - Let M, N be R-modules. Then $M \times N$ is an R-module defined by the Cartesian product of the sets and with **diagonal** module action $r(m,n) = (rm, rn)$ (diagonal meaning we just act on two elements).
  - $M \oplus N = M \times N$.
  - For infinite sets, we get a difference. Indeed, $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} M_i \neq \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\infty} M_i$.

7.4 Classifying Modules Over PIDs

2/15:
- We pick up from yesterday, classifying finitely generated R-modules M up to isomorphism when R is a PID.
- In particular, we begin with a further investigation of the properties of torsion modules.
- **Lift** (of $x \in M/M'$): The choice of an element $y \in M$ such that $\pi(y) = x$.
- Lemma:

  (i) $\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is an R-submodule of M.

  Proof. To prove that $\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is an R-submodule of M, Proposition 10.1 tells us that it will suffice to show that $\operatorname{Tor}(M) \neq \emptyset$ and that $x + ry \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$ for all $r \in R$, $x, y \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$. Consider $0 \in M$. By definition, $r \cdot 0 = 0$. Thus, $0 \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$ as desired. Additionally, let $r \in R$ and $x, y \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$ be arbitrary. Since $x, y \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$, there exist nonzero $a, b \in R$ such that $ax = 0$ and $by = 0$. Because R is an integral domain (as a PID), a, b nonzero implies that $ab \neq 0$. Thus, since

  $$ab(x + ry) = abx + abry = b(ax) + ar(by) = b(0) + ar(0) = 0$$

  we have that $x + ry \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$, as desired. $\square$

  (ii) The quotient module $M/\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is torsion-free.

  Proof. To prove that $M/\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is torsion-free, it will suffice to show that every torsion element of $M/\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is 0. Let's begin. Let $v \in M/\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ be an arbitrary torsion element. Then there exists $a \in R$ nonzero such that $av = 0$. Now lift $v \in M/\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ to $w \in M$. The constraint $av = 0 = 0 + \operatorname{Tor}(M)$ from the quotient module implies that $0 = a\pi(w) = \pi(aw)$, hence $aw \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$. Thus, there exists $b \in R$ nonzero such that $b(aw) = 0$. It follows that $(ba)w = 0$, where $ba \neq 0$ since $a, b \neq 0$ by the fact that R is an integral domain. Thus, $w \in \operatorname{Tor}(M)$, and hence $v = \pi(w) = 0$, as desired. $\square$

- We now give some claims that will be useful later today, but whose proofs we will delay until next lecture.
- The first one pertains to the properties of finitely generated torsion-free modules over an integral domain.

- Lemma: Let R be an integral domain, and let M be a finitely generated R-module. Then there exists a submodule $M' \subset M$ such that...
  (i) $M' \cong R^h$ for some $h \geq 0$;
  (ii) There exists a nonzero $a \in R$ such that $aM \subset M'$ (equivalently, $a(M/M') = 0$).
- The next two pertain to the properties of finitely generated modules over a PID.
- Corollary: Every finitely generated torsion-free module M over a PID R is isomorphic to R^h for some $h \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.
- Theorem: Let M be a finitely generated R-module, where R is a PID. Then...
  (i) $\operatorname{Tor}(M) \oplus R^h \cong M$ for some $h \geq 0$;
  (ii) $\operatorname{Tor}(M)$ is finitely generated.
- **Rank** (of a module): The number h pertaining to an R-module M, where $M/\operatorname{Tor}(M) \cong R^h$. *Denoted by* $\boldsymbol{\operatorname{rank}(M)}$.
  - It follows by the proposition from last lecture (Lecture 7.1) that rank is well-defined.
- Corollary: Finitely generated R-modules M_1 and M_2 are isomorphic to each other iff
  (i) M_1 and M_2 have the same rank;
  (ii) $\operatorname{Tor}(M_1)$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{Tor}(M_2)$.

  Proof. Suppose first that $\phi : M_1 \to M_2$ is an isomorphism. Then naturally they will have the same ranks and torsion submodules.

  On the other hand, if $\operatorname{rank}(M_1) = \operatorname{rank}(M_2)$, then $M_1/\operatorname{Tor}(M_1) \cong M_2/\operatorname{Tor}(M_2)$. This combined with the hypothesis that $\operatorname{Tor}(M_1) \cong \operatorname{Tor}(M_2)$ implies that

  $$\begin{gathered}\operatorname{Tor}(M_1) \oplus M_1/\operatorname{Tor}(M_1) \cong \operatorname{Tor}(M_2) \oplus M_2/\operatorname{Tor}(M_2)\\ M_1 \cong M_2\end{gathered}$$

  where the second line follows from the preceding theorem. □

- The classification of finitely generated R-modules (R a PID) is completed by the following results.
- ***p*-primary component** (of a module): The submodule of a module M consisting of those $m \in M$ such that $p^k m = 0$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. *Denoted by* $\boldsymbol{M_{(p)}}$.
  - Showing that $M_{(p)}$ is a submodule of M can be accomplished with the submodule criterion (Proposition 10.1), just like in the first lemma proven today.
- Notation and observations.
  1. Let $M_1, \dots, M_k$ be submodules of M. Then $T : \prod_{i=1}^k M_i \to M$ defined by

     $$T(m_1, \dots, m_k) = m_1 + \cdots + m_k$$

     is not injective in general.
     - For example, if $k = 2$, then $\ker(T) \cong M_1 \cap M_2$ in general.
     - Thus, some care is required in our selection of submodules if we want $\ker(T) = 0$.
  2. Obtaining a natural R-module homomorphism $T : \oplus_{i \in I} M_i \to M$ defined as above.
     - We have that $\oplus_{i \in I} M_i \subset \prod_{i \in I} M_i$ in general. Here's why:
     - Given a finite subset $F \subset I$, we may regard $\prod_{i \in F} M_i$ as a submodule of $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$ by taking the entries in the i^{th} place to be zero for all $i \notin F$.

- The direct sum is simply the union of the submodules $\prod_{i\in F} M_i$ taken over all finite $F \subset I$.
- We define T on the overall direct sum one submodule $\prod_{i\in F} M_i$ at a time.

- Proposition: The natural R-module homomorphism $T : \oplus_{(p)} M_{(p)} \to \mathrm{Tor}(M)$ is an isomorphism, where the direct sum is indexed by the set of nonzero prime ideals of R.

Proof. Let F be a set of r distinct primes $p_1, \dots, p_r$ (i.e., the prime ideals $(p_1), \dots, (p_r)$ are pairwise distinct sets). Let $(m_1, \dots, m_r) \in \prod_{(p)\in F} M_{(p)}$. Then as per the notation and observations section above, T is defined such that

$$T(m_1, \dots, m_r) = m_1 + \cdots + m_r$$

We first prove that T is injective. Let $(m_1, \dots, m_r) \in \ker(T)$ be arbitrary. Then $T(m_1, \dots, m_r) = m_1 + \cdots + m_r = 0$. By hypothesis, there exist $k_1, \dots, k_r$ such that $p_i^{k_i} m_i = 0$ $(i = 1, \dots, r)$. Define $a = p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_r^{k_r}$. It follows that $am_2 = \cdots = am_r = 0$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
a(0) &= 0\\
a(m_1 + \cdots + m_r) &= 0\\
am_1 + \cdots + am_r &= 0\\
am_1 &= -(am_2 + \cdots + am_r)\\
&= -(0 + \cdots + 0)\\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

Additionally, $\gcd(a, p_1^{k_1}) = 1$ by definition, so $1 \in (a, p_1^{k_1})$. It follows that there exist $b, c \in R$ such that $ba + cp_1^{k_1} = 1$. This combined with the facts that $am_1 = 0$ and $p_1^{k_1} m_1 = 0$ implies that

$$m_1 = 1 \cdot m_1 = (ba + cp_1^{k_1})m_1 = b(am_1) + c(p_1^{k_1} m_1) = b(0) + c(0) = 0$$

A symmetric argument shows that all $m_i = 0$, i.e., $(m_1, \dots, m_r) = (0, \dots, 0)$. Therefore, $\ker(T) = 0$, as desired.

We now prove that T is surjective. Let $m \in \mathrm{Tor}(M)$ be arbitrary. Consider the submodule $N = Am \subset M$. To prove that m is the sum of elements, each from a p-primary component of M, it will suffice to prove that stronger condition that every element in N is the sum of elements, each from a p-primary component of M. Equivalently, it will suffice to show that N is the isomorphic to the sum of its p-primary components, since the p-primary components of N are contained in those of M. Define $I = \{a \in R : am = 0\}$. Notice that $I = \ker(l_a)$, where $l_a : R \to N$ is the left multiplication homomorphism. It follows by the FIT that there exists an isomorphism $\overline{l_a} : R/I \to N$. Thus, we need only show that R/I is isomorphic to the direct sum of its p-primary components. But the Chinese Remainder Theorem takes care of this for us since I is a nonzero ideal. ☐

- In view of the last proposition, our final task will be to classify finitely generated p-primary modules.
- We begin with some definitions.
- ***p*-primary** (module): An R-module M such that $M = M_{(p)}$ for some prime $p \in R$.
- **Annihilator** (of a module): The set of all $a \in R$ such that $am = 0$ for all $m \in M$. *Denoted by* $\mathbf{Ann}(\boldsymbol{M})$. *Given by*
$$\mathrm{Ann}(M) = \{a \in R : am = 0 \ \forall \ m \in M\}$$
- **Annihilator** (of an element): The set of all $a \in R$ such that $am = 0$ pertaining to a specific $m \in M$. *Denoted by* $\mathbf{Ann}(\boldsymbol{m})$. *Given by*
$$\mathrm{Ann}(m) = \{a \in R : am = 0\}$$
- Consider $l_m : R \to M$ defined by $l_m(a) = am$.
  - By the FIT, there exists a module isomorphism $\overline{l_m} : R/\mathrm{Ann}(m) \to Rm$.

  - $\ker(l_m) = \operatorname{Ann}(m)$.

- **Cyclic** (module): An R-module M for which there exists $m \in M$ such that $M = Rm$.
  - Cyclic modules are isomorphic to $R/\operatorname{Ann}(m)$ for a similar reason to the above ($Rm = M$ here).
- With these definitions out of the way, we seek to show that every finitely generated R-module is the direct sum of cyclic modules.
- To prove this result, we will need the following lemma.
- Lemma: Let $M' = Re$ be a cyclic submodule of M. We assume that...
  (i) $\operatorname{Ann}(e) = (p^n)$;
  (ii) $p^n M = 0$.

  Then every $v \in M/M'$ has a lift $w \in M$ such that $\operatorname{Ann}(w) = \operatorname{Ann}(v)$.

  Proof. Let $v \in M/M'$ be arbitrary. Since $p^n M = 0$, $p^n(M/M') = 0$ and hence $\operatorname{Ann}(v) = (p^k)$ for some $k \leq n$. Now let $w \in M$ be an arbitrary lift of v. We will prove that this w satisfies all necessary constraints.

  To prove that $\operatorname{Ann}(w) \subset \operatorname{Ann}(v)$, let $a \in \operatorname{Ann}(w)$ be arbitrary. Then $aw = 0$. It follows that $0 = \pi(aw) = a\pi(w) = av$. Therefore, $a \in Ann(v)$ as well.

  To prove that $\operatorname{Ann}(v) \subset \operatorname{Ann}(w)$ □

- Proposition: For every finitely generated p-primary module M, there exist $e_1, \dots, e_s$ such that M is the direct sum of the cyclic submodules Re_i.

  Proof. Since M is finitely generated, we know that $M = Rv_1 + \cdots + Rv_r$. We induct on r.

  For the base case $r = 1$, M is cyclic by definition.

  Now suppose that we have proven the claim for some lower cases. Again with the (p^n) issue. □