

KAPIL CHAUDHARY

MODULE THEORY

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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Kapil Chaudhary

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

<https://contact.sirkapil.me/>

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Dedicated to my family and my best friend

Neeraj K. Gaur

Introduction

Preface

This sample book discusses the course Module Theory of pure mathematics being taught to post-graduate students in University of Delhi.

Reporting Problems

Introduction to Modules

Defination of Module

Left Module:

Let R be a ring with identity and M be an abelian group with addition. We say M is a left R -module if there exists a mapping¹

¹ often called as scalar multiplication.

$$R \times M \rightarrow M$$

defined by

$$(a, x) \rightarrow ax$$

$$\forall a \in R \text{ and } x \in M$$

satisfying following properties :

$$(a + b)x = ax + bx \quad (1.1)$$

$$a(x + y) = ax + ay \quad (1.2)$$

$$(ab)x = a(bx) \quad (1.3)$$

$$1x = x \quad (1.4)$$

$$\forall a, b \in R \text{ and } x, y \in M$$

and denoted by ${}_R M$

Right Module:

Let R be a ring with identity and M be an abelian group with addition. We say M is a right R -module if there exists a mapping

$$M \times R \rightarrow M$$

defined by

$$(x, a) \rightarrow xa$$

$$\forall a \in R \text{ and } x \in M$$

satisfying following properties :

$$x(a + b) = xa + xb \quad (1.5)$$

$$(x + y)a = xa + ya \quad (1.6)$$

$$x(ab) = (xa)b \quad (1.7)$$

$$x1 = x \quad (1.8)$$

$$\forall a, b \in R \text{ and } x, y \in M$$

and denoted by M_R .

Examples :

1. Let V be a vector space over a field F then V is a left as well as right F -Module.
2. Let G be any abelian group under addition , then G is a \mathbb{Z} -Module where \mathbb{Z} is set of integers.
3. Let R be ring and $M = R[x]$ where $R[x]$ is a group of all polynomials with coefficients in R then M is a left as well as a right R -Module with scalar multiplication being usual multiplication.
4. Let M be collection of all $m \times n$ matrices over ring R , then M is left R -Module where scalar multiplication being usual multiplication of a scalar to a matrix.

Suppose ring R is a field then R -Module $R[x]$ is a vector space over field R .

In particular, if M is a set of $1 \times n$ matrices over R or $M = R^n$ (set of n -tuples) then R^n is a left R -module.

Remark: 1.1. Let R be a commutative ring then every left R -module can be transformed to right R -module and vice-versa.

Proof. Let M be left R -module and R be a commutative ring.
so, \exists a mapping

$$R \times M \rightarrow M$$

defined by

$$(a, x) \rightarrow ax$$

for each $a \in R$ and $x \in M$ satisfying following properties :

$$\forall a, b \in R \text{ and } x, y \in M$$

$$(a + b)x = ax + bx$$

$$a(x + y) = ax + ay$$

$$(ab)x = a(bx)$$

$$1x = x$$

$\therefore R$ is a commutative ring.

Now, Define an another mapping

$$M \times R \rightarrow M$$

defined by

$$(x, a) \rightarrow x * a = ax$$

To check M is a right R -Module , we need to verify properties number ??-(1.8)

(i) *Distributive Law*

$$\begin{aligned} x * (a + b) &= (a + b)x \\ &= ax + bx \\ &= (x * a) + (x * b) \end{aligned}$$

(ii) *Distributive Law*

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y) * a &= a(x + y) \\ &= ax + ay \\ &= (x * a) + (y * a) \end{aligned}$$

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} x * (ab) &= (ab)x \\ &= (ba)x \\ &= b(ax) \\ &= (ax) * b \end{aligned}$$

(iv)

$$\begin{aligned} x * 1 &= 1x \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

Thus, ${}_R M$ is transformed to M_R .

Similarly, Converse statement can be verified.

■

Remark: 1.2. Let S be a subring of ring R then ${}_S M$ exists only if ${}_R M$ exists.

by existence means M is a valid left module over mentioned ring or subring. i.e. satisfying those four properties.

Remark: 1.3. Same Abelian group can have the structure of a Module for a number of different rings.

For Instance, The field \mathbb{R} is \mathbb{R} -module, \mathbb{Q} -module and \mathbb{Z} -module.

Remark: 1.4. Let I be left ideal of R then quotient ring R/I is a left R -module.

verification: 'left to reader'

Here scalar multiplication is

$$R \times R/I \rightarrow R/I$$

defined as

$$(a, x + I) \mapsto ax + I$$

$$\forall a \in R \text{ and } \forall x + I \in R/I$$

Hint: you need to verify those four properties: (1.1)-(1.4)

■

Theorem 1.5. (Elementary Properties:)

Let M be a left R -module. Suppose 0_m and 0_r denotes additive identities of M and R respectively. Then, for each $x \in M$ and $r \in R$

(i)

$$0_m = 0_r x = r 0_m$$

(ii)

$$r(-x) = (-r)x = -rx$$

Proof. (i) As 0_m is the additive identity of M . so, $0_m = 0_m + 0_m$

$$\text{Consider } r(0_m + 0_m) = r 0_m = r 0_m + r 0_m$$

$$\text{but, } r(0_m + 0_m) = (r 0_m) + (r 0_m)$$

so, we have

$$r 0_m + r 0_m = r 0_m + 0_m$$

as $(M, +)$ is an abelian group so left and right cancellation law holds.

$$\begin{aligned} \cancel{r 0_m} + r 0_m &= \cancel{r 0_m} + 0_m \\ r 0_m &= 0_m \end{aligned}$$

a similar argument can be used to prove $0_m = 0_r x$.

(ii) as M is a left R -module so $(r, x) \mapsto rx \in M$

Now, Consider $(-r)x + rx$

using distributive law

$$\begin{aligned} (-r)x + rx &= (-r + r)x \\ &= 0_r x \\ &= 0_m \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $(-r)x$ is additive inverse of (rx) but additive inverse of (rx) is $-rx$ and it is unique for an abelian group (M here)

$$\therefore (-r)x = -rx$$

a similar argument can be used to prove that $r(-x) = -rx$. ■

Definition 1.6 (Ring Homomorphism). Let R and S be two rings with identities $1_r, 1_s$ respectively then a map (say f)

$$f : R \rightarrow S$$

is said to be a ring homomorphism or ring linear map if for every $a, b \in R$ following properties holds

$\therefore (r, 0_m) \mapsto r 0_m \in M$
so, $r 0_m = r 0_m + 0_m$
 $\therefore M$ is a left R -module.
(using distributive property)

often called as ring homo

if $R = S$ then we call ring homo as ring endomorphism. For instance, let f be ring homo from R to R . we say f is endomorphism of R and denoted by $\text{End } R$

(i) *Preserves Addition*

$$(a + b)f = (a)f + (b)f$$

(ii) *Preservers Multiplication*

$$(ab)f = (a)f.(b)f$$

(iii) *Maps identity to identity*

$$(1_r)f = 1_s$$

Remark: 1.7. Such a mapping need not to be bijective. if it is bijective then we say it is a ring isomorphism or rings are isomorphic.

Theorem 1.8. Let R be a ring and M be any abelian group with addition. then M is a right R -module if and only if there exists a map which is ring homomorphism from R to $\text{End } M$

M is a right R -module

$$\begin{array}{c} \Downarrow \\ \exists f : R \xrightarrow[\text{Homo}]{\text{Ring}} \text{End } M \end{array}$$

Proof. (Forward Part) Let us suppose that M is a right R -module.

Claim: there exists a map which is ring homomorphism from R to $\text{End } M$

$\therefore M$ is a left R -module , so there exist a map

$$f : M \times R \rightarrow M$$

defined by

$$(x, a) \mapsto ax$$

$\forall x, y \in M$ & $\forall a, b \in R$ satisfying following properties:

$$(x + y)a = (x)a + (y)a \quad (1.9)$$

$$x(a + b) = xa + xb \quad (1.10)$$

$$x(ab) = (xa)b \quad (1.11)$$

$$x1 = x \quad (1.12)$$

for each $a \in R$, define a map(say ϕ_a)

$$\phi_a : M \rightarrow M$$

such that for each $x \in M$

$$(x)\phi_a = xa \in M$$

Now, we'll show that $\phi_a \in \text{End } M$

Let $x, y \in M$

Consider $(x + y)\phi_a$

$$= (x + y)a$$

using definition of ϕ_a

$$= xa + ya$$

using (1.9)

$$= (x)\phi_a + (y)\phi_a$$

■