

Commutative Algebra notes

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Abstract

Notes taken while studying Commutative Algebra, mostly from Atiyah & MacDonald book [1] and Reid's book [2].

Usually while reading books and papers I take handwritten notes in a notebook, this document contains some of them re-written to *LaTeX*.

The proofs may slightly differ from the ones from the books, since I try to extend them for a deeper understanding.

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1 Ideals

1.1 Definitions

Definition ideal. $I \subset R$ (R ring) such that $0 \in I$ and $\forall x \in I, r \in R, xr, rx \in I$.

ie. I absorbs products in R .

Definition prime ideal. if $a, b \in R$ with $ab \in P$ and $P \neq R$ (P a prime ideal), implies $a \in P$ or $b \in P$.

Definition principal ideal. generated by a single element, (a) .

(a) : principal ideal, the set of all multiples xa with $x \in R$.

Definition maximal ideal. $\mathfrak{m} \subset A$ (A ring) with $\mathfrak{m} \neq A$ and there is no ideal I strictly between \mathfrak{m} and A . ie. if \mathfrak{m} maximal and $\mathfrak{m} \subseteq I \subseteq A$, either $\mathfrak{m} = I$ or $I = A$.

Definition unit. $x \in A$ such that $xy = 1$ for some $y \in A$. ie. element *which divides 1*.

Definition zerodivisor. $x \in A$ such that $\exists 0 \neq y \in A$ such that $xy = 0 \in A$. ie. x *divides 0*.

If a ring does not have zerodivisors is an integral domain.

Definition prime spectrum - $\text{Spec}(A)$. set of prime ideals of A . ie.

$$\text{Spec}(A) = \{P \mid P \subset A \text{ is a prime ideal}\}$$

Definition integral domain. Ring in which the product of any two nonzero elements is nonzero.

ie. no zerodivisors.

ie. $\forall 0 \neq a, 0 \neq b \in A, ab \neq 0 \in A$.

Every field is an integral domain, not the converse.

Definition principal ideal domain - PID. integral domain in which every ideal is principal. ie. ie. $\forall I \subset R, \exists a \in I$ such that $I = (a) = \{ra \mid r \in R\}$.

Definition nilpotent. $a \in A$ such that $a^n = 0$ for some $n > 0$.

Definition nilrad A . set of all nilpotent elements of A ; is an ideal of A .

if $\text{nilrad}A = 0 \implies A$ has no nonzero nilpotents.

$$\text{nilrad}A = \bigcap_{P \in \text{Spec}(A)} P$$

Definition idempotent. $e \in A$ such that $e^2 = e$.

Definition radical of an ideal.

$$\text{rad}I = \{f \in A \mid f^n \in I \text{ for some } n\}$$

$\text{rad}I$ is an ideal.

$$\text{nilrad}A = \text{rad}0$$

$$\text{rad}I = \bigcap_{\substack{P \in \text{Spec}(A) \\ P \supset I}} P$$

Definition local ring. A *local ring* has a unique maximal ideal.

Notation: local ring A , its maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} , residue field $K = A/\mathfrak{m}$:

$$A \supset \mathfrak{m} \text{ or } (A, \mathfrak{m}) \text{ or } (A, \mathfrak{m}, K)$$

1.2 \mathbb{Z} and $K[X]$, two Principal Ideal Domains

Lemma . \mathbb{Z} is a PID.

Proof. Let I a nonzero ideal of \mathbb{Z} .

Since $I \neq \{0\}$, there is at least one nonzero integer in I . Choose the smallest element of I , namely d .

Observe that $(d) \subseteq I$, since $d \in I$. Then, every multiple $nd \in I$, since I is an ideal.

Take $a \in I$. By the Euclidean division algorithm in \mathbb{Z} , $a = qd + r$, with $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $0 \leq r < d$.

Then $r = a - qd \in I$, but d was chosen to be the smallest positive element of I , so the only possibility is $r = 0$.

Hence, $a = qd$, so $a \in (d)$, giving $I \subseteq (d)$.

Since we had $(d) \subseteq I$ and now we got $I \subseteq (d)$, we have $I = (d)$, so every ideal of \mathbb{Z} is principal. Thus \mathbb{Z} is a Principal Ideal Domain (PID). \square

Lemma . $K[X]$ is a PID.

Proof. This proof follows very similarly to the previous proof.

Let K be a field, $K[X]$ a polynomial ring.

Take $\{0\} \neq I \subseteq K[X]$.

Since $I \neq \{0\}$, there is at least one non-zero polynomial in I .

Let $p(X) \in I$ be of minimal degree among nonzero elements of I .

Observe that $(p(X)) \subseteq I$, because $p(X) \in I$ and I is an ideal.

Let $f(X) \in I$. By Euclidean division algorithm in $K[X]$, $\exists q, r \in K[X]$ such that $f(X) = q(X) \cdot p(X) + r(X)$ with either $r(X) = 0$ or $\deg(r) < \deg(p)$.

Since $f, p \in I$, then $r(X) = f(X) - q(X) \cdot p(X) \in I$

If $r(X) \neq 0$, then $\deg(r) < \deg(p)$, which contradicts the minimality of $\deg(p)$ in I .

Therefore, $r(X) = 0$, thus $f(X) = q(X) \cdot p(X)$, hence $f(X) \in (p(X))$. Henceforth, $I \subseteq (p(X))$.

Then, since $(p(X)) \subseteq I$ and $I \subseteq (p(X))$, we have that $I = (p(X))$.

So every ideal of $K[X]$ is principal; thus $K[X]$ is a PID. \square

1.3 Lemmas, propositions and corollaries

Let Σ be a partially ordered set. Given subset $S \subset \Sigma$, an *upper bound* of S is an element $u \in \Sigma$ such that $s < u \forall s \in S$.

A *maximal element* of Σ , is $m \in \Sigma$ such that $m < s$ does not hold for any $s \in \Sigma$.

A subset $S \subset \Sigma$ is *totally ordered* if for every pair $s_1, s_2 \in S$, either $s_1 \leq s_2$ or $s_2 \leq s_1$.

Lemma R.1.7. Zorn's lemma suppose Σ a nonempty partially ordered set (ie. we are given a relation $x \leq y$ on Σ), and that any totally ordered subset $S \subset \Sigma$ has an upper bound in Σ .

Then Σ has a maximal element.

Theorem AM.1.3. Every ring $A \neq 0$ has at least one maximal ideal.

Proof. By Zorn's lemma R.1.7. □

Corollary AM.1.4. if $I \neq (1)$ an ideal of A , \exists a maximal ideal of A containing I .

Corollary AM.1.5. Every non-unit of A is contained in a maximal ideal.

Definition Jacobson radical. The *Jacobson radical* of a ring A is the intersection of all the maximal ideals of A .

Denoted $Jac(A)$.

$Jac(A)$ is an ideal of A .

Proposition AM.1.9. $x \in Jac(A)$ iff $(1 - xy)$ is a unit in A , $\forall y \in A$.

Proof. Suppose $1 - xy$ not a unit.

By AM.1.5, $1 - xy \in \mathfrak{m}$ for \mathfrak{m} some maximal ideal.

But $x \in Jac(A) \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$, since $Jac(A)$ is the intersection of all maximal ideals of A .

Hence $xy \in \mathfrak{m}$, and therefore $1 \in \mathfrak{m}$, which is absurd, thus $1 - xy$ is a unit.

Conversely:

Suppose $x \notin \mathfrak{m}$ for some maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} .

Then \mathfrak{m} and x generate the unit ideal (1) , so that we have $u + xy = 1$ for some $u \in \mathfrak{m}$ and some $y \in A$.

Hence $1 - xy \in \mathfrak{m}$, and is therefore not a unit. □

2 Modules

2.1 Modules concepts

Let A be a ring. An A -module is an Abelian group M with a multiplication map

$$\begin{aligned} A \times M &\longrightarrow M \\ (f, m) &\longmapsto fm \end{aligned}$$

satisfying $\forall f, g \in A, m, n \in M$.

- i. $f(m \pm n) = fm \pm fn$
- ii. $(f \pm g)m = fm \pm gm$
- iii. $(fg)m = f(gm)$

iv. $1_A m = m$

Let $\psi : M \rightarrow M$ an A -linear endomorphism of M .
 $A[\psi] \subset \text{End} M$ is the subring generated by A and the action of ψ .

- since ψ is A -linear, $A[\psi]$ is a commutative ring.
- M is a module over $A[\psi]$, so ψ becomes multiplication by a ring element.

2.2 Cayley-Hamilton theorem, Nakayama lemma, and corollaries

Proposition AM.2.4. (Cayley-Hamilton Theorem) Let M a finitely generated A -module. Let \mathfrak{a} an ideal of A , let ψ an A -module endomorphism of M such that $\psi(M) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}M$.

Then ψ satisfies

$$\psi^n + a_1 \psi^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} \psi + a_n = 0$$

with $a_i \in \mathfrak{a}$.

Proof. Since M finitely generated, let $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be generators of M .

By hypothesis, $\psi(M) \subseteq \mathfrak{a}M$; so for any generator x_i , its image $\psi(x_i) \in \mathfrak{a}M$.

Any element in $\mathfrak{a}M$ is a linear combination of the generators with coefficients in the ideal \mathfrak{a} , thus

$$\psi(x_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$$

with $a_{ij} \in \mathfrak{a}$.

Thus, for a module with n generators, we have n different $\psi(x_i)$ equations:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \psi(x_1) = a_{1,1}x_1 + a_{1,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{1,n}x_n \\ \psi(x_2) = a_{2,1}x_1 + a_{2,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{2,n}x_n \\ \dots \\ \psi(x_n) = a_{n,1}x_1 + a_{n,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{n,n}x_n \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} n \text{ elements } \psi(x_i) \in \mathfrak{a}M \text{ which} \\ \text{are linear combinations of the} \\ n \text{ generators of } M \end{array}$$

Next step: rearrange in order to use matrix algebra.

Observe that each row equals 0, and rearranging the elements at each row we get

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \psi(x_1) - (a_{1,1}x_1 + a_{1,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{1,n}x_n) = 0 \\ \psi(x_2) - (a_{2,1}x_1 + a_{2,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{2,n}x_n) = 0 \\ \dots \\ \psi(x_n) - (a_{n,1}x_1 + a_{n,2}x_2 + \dots + a_{n,n}x_n) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

Then, group the x_i terms together; as example, take the row $i = 1$:

$$(\psi - a_{1,1})x_1 - a_{1,2}x_2 - \dots - a_{1,n}x_n = 0$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} (\psi - a_{1,1})x_1 - a_{1,2}x_2 - \dots - a_{1,n}x_n &= 0 \\ -a_{2,1}x_1 + (\psi - a_{2,2})x_2 - \dots - a_{2,n}x_n &= 0 \\ \dots & \\ -a_{1,1}x_1 - a_{1,2}x_2 - \dots + (\psi - a_{1,n})x_n &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

So, $\forall i \in [n]$, as a matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \psi - a_{1,1} & -a_{1,2} & \dots & -a_{1,n} \\ -a_{2,1} & \psi - a_{2,2} & \dots & -a_{2,n} \\ \vdots & & & \\ -a_{n,1} & -a_{n,2} & \dots & \psi - a_{n,n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Denote the previous matrix by Φ . Let m denote the vector $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$ (ie. the vector of generators of the A -module M).

Then we can write the previous equality as

$$\Phi \cdot m = 0 \tag{1}$$

We know that

$$\text{adj}(\Phi)\Phi = \det(\Phi)I \tag{2}$$

(aka. *fundamental identity for the adjugate matrix*).

So if at (1) we multiply both sides by $\text{adj}(\Phi)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{adj}(\Phi) \cdot \Phi \cdot m &= 0 \\ (\text{recall from (2): } \text{adj}(\Phi)\Phi &= \det(\Phi) \cdot I) \\ &= \det(\Phi) \cdot I \cdot m = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} &\det(\Phi) \cdot I \cdot m = 0 : \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \det(\Phi) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \det(\Phi) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \det(\Phi) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow & \det(\Phi) \cdot x_i = 0 \quad \forall i \in [n] \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

ie. $\det(\Phi)$ is an *annihilator* of the generators x_i of M , thus is an annihilator of the entire module M .

So, we're interested into calculating the $\det(\Phi)$.

By the Leibniz formula,

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,\sigma(i)}$$

thus,

$$\det(\Phi) = \underbrace{(\psi - a_{11})(\psi - a_{22}) \dots (\psi - a_{nn})}_{\text{diagonal of } \Phi, \text{ leading term of the determinant}} - \dots$$

The *determinant trick* is that the terms that go after the "leading term of the determinant", will belong to \mathfrak{a} and their combinations with ψ will not be bigger than ψ^n . Furthermore, when expanding it

- highest power is $1 \cdot \psi^n$
- coefficient of ψ^{n-1} is $-(\underbrace{a_{11} + a_{22} + \dots + a_{nn}}_{a_1})$,

where, since each $a_{ii} \in \mathfrak{a}$, $a_1 \in \mathfrak{a}$

- the rest of coefficients of ψ^k are also elements in \mathfrak{a}

Therefore we have

$$\det(\Phi) = \psi^n + a_1\psi^{n-1} + a_2\psi^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}\psi + a_n$$

with $a_i \in \mathfrak{a}$.

Now, notice that we had $\det(\Phi) \cdot x_i = 0 \ \forall i \in [n]$.

The matrix Φ is the *characteristic matrix*, $xI - A$, viewed as an operator.

Then,

$$\det(\Phi) = \det(xI - A) = p(x)$$

where $p(x)$ is the *characteristic polynomial*.

If a linear transformation turns every basis vector (x_i) into zero, then that transformation is the zero transformation. So in our case, $\det(\Phi)$ is the zero transformation, thus $\det(\Phi) = 0$. Therefore,

$$\psi^n + a_1\psi^{n-1} + a_2\psi^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}\psi + a_n = 0$$

□

Corollary AM.2.5. Let M a fingen A -module, let \mathfrak{a} an ideal of A such that $\mathfrak{a}M = M$.

Then, $\exists x \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$ such that $xM = 0$.

Proof. take $\psi = \text{identity}$. Then in Cayley-Hamilton (AM.2.4):

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^n + a_1\psi^{n-1} + a_2\psi^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}\psi + a_n &= 0 \\ \implies id_M + a_1id_M + a_2id_M + \dots + a_{n-1}id_M + a_n &= 0 \\ \implies (1 + a_1 + \dots + a_n)id_M &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

apply it to $m \in M$, where since $id_M(m) = m$ (by definition of the identity), we then have

$$(1 + a_1 + \dots + a_n) \cdot m = 0$$

with $a_i \in \mathfrak{a}$.

part i. $xM = 0$:

Thus the scalar $x = (1 + a_1 + \dots + a_n)$ annihilates every $m \in M$, ie. the entire module M .

part ii. $x \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$:

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}} \iff (x - 1) \in \mathfrak{a}$$

then from $x = (1 + \underbrace{a_1 + \dots + a_n}_b) \in \mathfrak{a}$, set $b = a_1 + \dots + a_n$,

so that $x = (1 + b) \in \mathfrak{a}$.

Then $x - 1 = (1 + b) - 1 = b \in \mathfrak{a}$

so $x - 1 \in \mathfrak{a}$, thus $x \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$ as stated.

□

Proposition AM.2.6. Nakayama's lemma Let M a fingen A -module, let \mathfrak{a} an ideal of A such that $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \text{Jac}(A)$.

Then $\mathfrak{a}M = M$ implies $M = 0$.

Proof. By AM.2.5: since $\mathfrak{a}M = M$, we have $xM = 0$ for some $x \equiv 1 \pmod{\text{Jac}(A)}$. (notice that at AM.2.5 is $\pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$ but here we use $\pmod{\text{Jac}(A)}$), since we have $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \text{Jac}(A)$).

(recall AM.1.9: $x \in \text{Jac}(A)$ iff $(1 - xy)$ is a unit in A , $\forall y \in A$).

By AM.1.9, x is a unit in A (thus $x^{-1} \cdot x = 1$).

$$\text{Hence } M = x^{-1} \cdot \underbrace{x \cdot M}_{=0 \text{ (by AM.2.5)}} = 0.$$

Thus, if $\mathfrak{a}M = M$ then $M = 0$.

□

Corollary AM.2.7. Let M a fingen A -module, let $N \subseteq M$ a submodule of M , let $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \text{Jac}(A)$ an ideal.

Then $M = \mathfrak{a}M + N \xrightarrow{\text{implies}} M = N$.

Proof. The idea is to apply Nakayama (AM.2.6) to M/N .

Since M fingen $\implies M/N$ is fingen and an A -module.

Since $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq \text{Jac}(A) \implies$ Nakayama applies to M/N too.

By definition,

$$\mathfrak{a}M = \left\{ \sum a_i \cdot m_i \mid a_i \in \mathfrak{a}, m_i \in M \right\}$$

where m_i are the generators of M .

Then, for M/N ,

$$\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \left\{ \sum a_i \cdot (m_i + N) \mid a_i \in \mathfrak{a}, m_i \in M \right\}$$

observe that $a_i(m_i + N) = a_i m_i + N$, thus

$$\sum_i a_i \cdot (m_i + N) = \underbrace{\left(\sum_i a_i \cdot m_i \right)}_{\in \mathfrak{a}M} + N \in \mathfrak{a}M + N$$

Hence,

$$\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \{x + N \mid x \in \mathfrak{a}M\} = \mathfrak{a}M + N \quad (4)$$

By definition, if we take $\frac{\mathfrak{a}M+N}{N}$, then

$$\frac{\mathfrak{a}M + N}{N} = \{y + N \mid y \in \mathfrak{a}M + N\} = \mathfrak{a}M + N$$

thus every $y \in \mathfrak{a}M + N$ can be written as

$$y = x + n, \text{ with } x \in \mathfrak{a}M, n \in N$$

which comes from (4).

Thus, $y + N = (x + n) + N = x + N$, since $n \in N$ is zero in the quotient.

Hence, every element of $\frac{\mathfrak{a}M+N}{N}$ has the form

$$\frac{\mathfrak{a}M + N}{N} = \{x + N \mid x \in \mathfrak{a}M\}$$

as in (4).

Thus

$$\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \mathfrak{a}M + N = \frac{\mathfrak{a}M + N}{N} \quad (5)$$

By the Collorary assumption, $M = \mathfrak{a}M + N$; quotient it by N :

$$\frac{M}{N} = \frac{\mathfrak{a}M + N}{N} \quad (6)$$

So, from (5) and (6):

$$\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \mathfrak{a}M + N = \frac{\mathfrak{a}M + N}{N} = \frac{M}{N}$$

thus, $\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \frac{M}{N}$.

By Nakayama's lemma AM.2.6, if $\mathfrak{a}\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \frac{M}{N} \implies \frac{M}{N} = 0$

Note that

$$\frac{M}{N} = \{m + N \mid m \in M\}$$

(the zero element in $\frac{M}{N}$ is the coset $N = 0 + N$)

Then, $\frac{M}{N} = 0$ means that the quotient has exactly one element, the zero coset N .

Thus, every coset $m + N$ equals the zero coset N , so $m - 0 \in N \implies m \in N$.

Hence every $m \in M$ lies in N , ie. $\forall m \in M, m \in N$.

So $M \subseteq N$. But notice that by the Corollary, we had $N \subseteq M$, therefore $M = N$.

Thus, if $M = \mathfrak{a}M + N \implies M = N$. \square

Proposition AM.2.8. Let $x_i \forall i \in [n]$ be elements of M whose images $\frac{M}{mM}$ from a basis of this vector space. Then the x_i generate M .

Proof. Let N submodule M , generated by the x_i .

Then the composite map $N \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow \frac{M}{mM}$ maps N onto $\frac{M}{mM}$, hence $N + \mathfrak{a}M = M$, which by AM.2.7 implies $N = M$. \square

2.3 Sequences

Definition R.2.9.a. Exact Sequence Let a sequence of homomorphisms

$$L \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \xrightarrow{\beta} N$$

It is *exact* at M if $\text{im}(\alpha) = \ker(\beta)$.

ie. $\beta \circ \alpha = 0$ and α maps surjectively to $\ker(\beta)$.

Definition R.2.9.b. Short Exact Sequence (s.e.s.)

$$0 \longrightarrow L \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \xrightarrow{\beta} N \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact $\iff L \subset M$ and $N = M/L$.

Properties:

- α injective
- β surjective
- $\alpha : L \implies \ker \beta$
- β induces $M/\alpha(L) \longrightarrow N$

Proposition R.2.10. Split exact sequence For the previous s.e.s., 3 equivalent conditions:

- i. \exists isomorphism $M \cong L \oplus N$, with

$$\alpha : m \mapsto (m, 0)$$

$$\beta : (m, n) \mapsto n$$

- ii. \exists a *section* of β , that is, a map $s : N \longrightarrow M$ such that $\beta \circ s = \text{id}_N$

- iii. \exists a *retraction* of α , that is, a map $r : M \longrightarrow L$ such that $r \circ \alpha = \text{id}_L$

If all i, ii, iii are satisfied, it is a split exact sequence.

Proof. Intuitively, when a s.e.s. *splits* it means that the middle module M is the direct sum of the other (outer) two modules, ie. $M = L \oplus N$.

(i to ii, iii) if $M \cong L \oplus N$ such that $\alpha : m \mapsto (m, 0)$, $\beta : s(m, n) \mapsto n$, we can define the maps

for ii:

$$\begin{aligned} s : N &\longrightarrow L \oplus N \\ s(n) &\longmapsto (0, n) \end{aligned}$$

Then $\beta(s(n)) = \beta(0, n)$, so $\beta \circ s = id_N$.

for iii:

$$\begin{aligned} r : L \oplus N &\longrightarrow L \\ r(m, n) &\longmapsto m \end{aligned}$$

Then $r(\alpha(m)) = r(m, 0)$, so $r \circ \alpha = id_L$.

(ii to i) assume $s : N \longrightarrow M$ such that $\beta \circ s = id_M$

Want to show $M \cong im(\alpha) \oplus im(s)$.

$\forall m \in M$, consider $m - s(\beta(m))$, apply β to it:

$$\beta(m - s(\beta(m))) = \beta(m) - (\beta \circ s)(\beta(m)) = \beta(m) - \beta(m) = 0$$

Since $ker(\beta) = im(\alpha)$, $\exists! l \in L$ such that $\alpha(l) = m - s(\beta(m))$.

Thus $m = \alpha(l) + s(\beta(m))$.

Now, suppose $x \in im(\alpha) \cap im(s)$, then $x = \alpha(l) = s(n)$, apply β to it:
 $\beta(\alpha(l)) = \beta(s(n)) \implies 0 = n$.

If $n = 0$, then $s(n) = 0$, so the intersection is $\{0\}$.

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : L \oplus N &\longrightarrow M \\ \phi(l, n) &\longmapsto \alpha(l) + s(n) \end{aligned}$$

This isomorphism satisfies the required conditions.

(iii to i) similar to the previous one.

TL;DR:

$$0 \longrightarrow L \xrightleftharpoons[r]{\alpha} \overset{M}{\cong L \oplus N} \xrightleftharpoons[s]{\beta} N \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha : l &\longmapsto (l, 0) \\
r : (m, n) &\longmapsto m \\
\alpha \circ r &= id_L \\
\beta : (l, n) &\longmapsto n \\
s : n &\longmapsto (0, n) \\
\beta \circ s &= id_N
\end{aligned}$$

□

3 Noetherian rings

Definition . Ascending Chain Condition A partially ordered set Σ has the *ascending chain condition* (a.c.c.) if every chain

$$s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \dots \leq s_k \leq \dots$$

eventually breaks off, that is, $s_k = s_{k+1} = \dots$ for some k .

$\implies \Sigma$ has the a.c.c. iff every non-empty subset $S \subset \Sigma$ has a maximal element.

if $\neq S \subset \Sigma$ does not have a maximal element, choose $s_1 \in S$, and for each s_k , an element s_{k+1} with $s_k < s_{k+1}$, thus contradicting the a.c.c.

Definition R.3.2. Noetherian ring Let A a ring; 3 equivalent conditions:

- i. the set Σ of ideals of A has the a.c.c.; in other words, every increasing chain of ideals

$$I_1 \subset I_2 \subset \dots \subset I_k \subset \dots$$

eventually stops, that is $I_k = I_{k+1} = \dots$ for some k .

- ii. every nonempty set S of ideals has a maximal element
- iii. every ideal $I \subset A$ is finitely generated

If these conditions hold, then A is *Noetherian*.

Proof. TODO

□

Definition R.3.4.D. Noetherian modules An A -module M is Noetherian if the submodules of M have the a.c.c., that is, any increasing chain

$$M_1 \subset M_2 \subset \dots \subset M_k \subset \dots$$

of submodules eventually stops.

As in with rings, it is equivalent to say that

- i. any nonempty set of modules of M has a maximal element
- ii. every submodule of M is finite

Proposition R.3.4.P. Let $0 \longrightarrow L \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \xrightarrow{\beta} N \longrightarrow 0$ be a s.e.s. (split exact sequence, R.2.10).

Then, M is Noetherian $\iff L$ and N are Noetherian.

Proof. \implies : trivial, since ascending chains of submodules in L and N correspond one-to-one to certain chains in M .

\impliedby : suppose $M_1 \subset M_2 \subset \dots \subset M_k \subset \dots$ is an increasing chain of submodules of M .

Then identifying $\alpha(L)$ with L and taking intersection gives a chain

$$L \cap M_1 \subset L \cap M_2 \subset \dots \subset L \cap M_k \subset \dots$$

of submodules of L , and applying β gives a chain

$$\beta(M_1) \subset \beta(M_2) \subset \dots \beta(M_k) \subset \dots$$

of submodules of N .

Each of these two chains eventually stop, by the assumption on L and N , so that we only need to prove the following lemma which completes the proof. \square

Lemma R.3.4.L. for submodules $M_1 \subset M_2 \subset M$,

$$L \cap M_1 = L \cap M_2 \text{ and } \beta(M_1) = \beta(M_2) \implies M_1 = M_2$$

Proof. if $m \in M_2$, then $\beta(m) \in \beta(M_1) = \beta(M_2)$, so that there is an $n \in M_1$ such that $\beta(m) = \beta(n)$.

Then $\beta(m - n) = 0$, so that

$$m - n \in M_2 \cap \ker(\beta) = M_1 \cap \ker(\beta)$$

Hence $m \in M_1$, thus $M_1 = M_2$. \square

4 Exercises

For the exercises, I follow the assignments listed at [3].

The exercises that start with **R** are the ones from the book [2], and the ones starting with **AM** are the ones from the book [1].

4.1 Exercises Chapter 1

Exercise R.1.1. Ring A and ideals I, J such that $I \cup J$ is not an ideal. What's the smallest ideal containing I and J ?

Proof. Take ring $A = \mathbb{Z}$. Set $I = 2\mathbb{Z}$, $J = 3\mathbb{Z}$.

I, J are ideals of $A (= \mathbb{Z})$. And $I \cup J = 2\mathbb{Z} \cup 3\mathbb{Z}$.

Observe that for $2 \in I, 3 \in J \implies 2, 3 \in I \cup J$, but $2 + 3 = 5 \notin I \cup J$.

Thus $I \cup J$ is not closed under addition; thus is not an ideal.

Smallest ideal of $\mathbb{Z} (= A)$ containing I and J is their sum:

$$I + J = \{a + b \mid a \in I, b \in J\}$$

$\gcd(2, 3) = 1$, so $I + J = \mathbb{Z}$.

Therefore, smallest ideal containing I and J is the whole ring \mathbb{Z} . \square

Exercise R.1.5. let $\psi : A \longrightarrow B$ a ring homomorphism. Prove that ψ^{-1} takes prime ideals of B to prime ideals of A .

In particular if $A \subset B$ and P a prime ideal of B , then $A \cap P$ is a prime ideal of A .

Proof. (Recall: prime ideal is if $a, b \in R$ and $a \cdot b \in P$ (with $R \neq P$), implies $a \in P$ or $b \in P$).

Let

$$\psi^{-1}(P) = \{a \in A \mid \psi(a) \in P\} = A \cap P$$

The claim is that $\psi^{-1}(P)$ is prime ideal of A .

- i. show that $\psi^{-1}(P)$ is an ideal of A :
 $0_A \in \psi^{-1}(P)$, since $\psi(0_A) = 0_B \in P$ (since every ideal contains 0).
 If $a, b \in \psi^{-1}(P)$, then $\psi(a), \psi(b) \in P$, so

$$\psi(a - b) = \psi(a) - \psi(b) \in P$$

hence $a - b \in \psi^{-1}(P)$.

If $a \in \psi^{-1}(P)$ and $r \in A$, then $\psi(ra) = \psi(r)\psi(a) \in P$, since P is an ideal.
 Thus $ra \in \psi^{-1}(P)$.

\implies so ψ^{-1} is an ideal of A .

- ii. show that $\psi^{-1}(P)$ is prime:
 $\psi^{-1}(P) \neq A$, since if $\psi^{-1}(P) = A$, then $1_A \in \psi^{-1}(P)$, so $\psi(1_A) = 1_B \in P$, which would mean that $P = B$, a contradiction since P is prime ideal of B .

Take $a, b \in A$ with $ab \in \psi^{-1}(P)$; then $\psi(ab) \in P$, and since ψ is a ring homomorphism, $\psi(ab) = \psi(a)\psi(b)$.

Since P prime ideal, then $\psi(a)\psi(b) \in P$ implies either $\psi(a) \in P$ or $\psi(b) \in P$. Thus $a \in \psi^{-1}(P)$ or $b \in \psi^{-1}(P)$.

Hence $\psi^{-1}(P)$ ($= A \cap P$) is a prime ideal of A .

□

Exercise R.1.6. prove or give a counter example:

- the intersection of two prime ideals is prime
- the ideal $P_1 + P_2$ generated by 2 prime ideals P_1, P_2 is prime
- if $\psi : A \longrightarrow B$ ring homomorphism, then ψ^{-1} takes maximal ideals of B to maximal ideals of A
- the map ψ^{-1} of Proposition 1.2 takes maximal ideals of A/I to maximal ideals of A

Proof. a. let $I = 2\mathbb{Z} = (2)$, $J = 3\mathbb{Z} = (3)$ be ideals of \mathbb{Z} , both prime.

Then $I \cap J = (2) \cap (3) = (6)$.

The ideal (6) is not prime in \mathbb{Z} , since $2 \cdot 3 \in (6)$, but $2 \notin (6)$ and $3 \notin (6)$.

Thus the intersection of two primes can not be prime.

- $P_1 = (2)$, $P_2 = (3)$, both prime.

Then,

$$P_1 + P_2 = (2) + (3) = \{a + b | a \in P_1, b \in P_2\}$$

\longrightarrow in a principal ideal domain (like \mathbb{Z}), the sum of two principal ideals is again principal, and given by $(m) + (n) = (gcd(m, n))$.

(recall: principal= generated by a single element)

So, $P_1 + P_2 = (2) + (3) = (gcd(2, 3)) = (1) = \mathbb{Z}$.

The whole ring is not a prime ideal (by the definition of the prime ideal), so $P_1 + P_2$ is not a prime ideal.

Henceforth, the sum of two prime ideals is not necessarily prime.

- let $A = \mathbb{Z}$, $B = \mathbb{Q}$, $\psi : A \longrightarrow B$.

Since \mathbb{Q} is a field, its only maximal ideal is (0) .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^{-1}((0)) &= (0) \subset \mathbb{Z} \\ \text{ie. } \psi^{-1}(m_B) &= (m_B) \subset A \end{aligned}$$

But (0) is not maximal in \mathbb{Z} , because $\mathbb{Z}/(0) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ is not a field.

Thus the preimages of maximal ideals under arbitrary ring homomorphisms need not be maximal.

d. $\psi : A \longrightarrow A/I$ quotient homomorphism, $I \subseteq A$ an ideal.

Let M a maximal ideal of A/I , then $\frac{(A/I)}{M}$ is a field (Proposition 1.3).

By the isomorphism theorems,

$$\frac{(A/I)}{M} \cong \frac{A}{\psi^{-1}(M)}$$

Since $\frac{(A/I)}{M}$ is a field, the quotient $\frac{A}{\psi^{-1}(M)}$ is a field, so $\psi^{-1}(M)$ is a maximal ideal of A .

\implies under ψ , preimages of maximal ideals are maximal.

□

Exercise R.1.12.a. if I, J ideals and P prime ideal, prove that

$$IJ \subseteq P \iff I \cap J \subseteq P \iff I \text{ or } J \subseteq P$$

Proof. assume $I \subseteq P$ (for $J \subseteq P$ will be the same, symmetric), take $x \in IJ$, then

$$x = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k$$

with $a_k \in I, b_k \in J$.

Each $a_k \in I \subseteq P$. Since P an ideal,

$$\sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k \in P$$

thus $x \in P$, hence $IJ \subseteq P$.

So $I \subseteq P$ or $J \subseteq P \implies IJ \subseteq P$.

Conversely,

assume P prime and $IJ \subseteq P$.

Suppose by contradiction that $I \not\subseteq P$ and $J \not\subseteq P$.

- since $I \not\subseteq P, \exists a \in I$ with $a \notin P$

- since $J \not\subseteq P, \exists b \in J$ with $b \notin P$

Since $a \in I, b \in J, ab \in IJ \subseteq P$, but P is prime, so $ab \in P$ implies that $a \in P$ or $b \in P$. This contradicts a, b being taken outside of P .

Thus $I \not\subseteq P$ and $J \not\subseteq P$ are false.

So both directions are proven, hence

$$IJ \subseteq P \implies I \subseteq P \text{ or } J \subseteq P$$

□

Exercise R.1.18. Use Zorn's lemma to prove that any prime ideal P contains a minimal prime ideal.

Proof. Let P prime ideal of R .

$$S = \{Q \subseteq R \mid Q \text{ a prime ideal AND } Q \subseteq P\}$$

Goal: show that S has a minimal element, the minimal ideal contained in P .

$P \subset S$, so S is nonempty.

Let $C \subseteq S$ be a chain (= totally ordered subset) with respect to inclusion.

Define

$$Q_C = \bigcap_{Q \in C} Q$$

Clearly $Q_C \subseteq P$, since each $Q \in C$ is $Q \subseteq P$.

Since C is ordered by inclusion, it is a decreasing chain of prime ideals.

Intersection of a decreasing chain of prime ideals is again a prime ideal:

- if $ab \in Q_C$, then $ab \in Q \forall Q \in C$
- since Q prime, $\forall Q \in C$ either $a \in Q$ or $b \in Q$

If there were some $Q_1, Q_2 \in C$ with $a \in Q_1$ and $b \notin Q_2$, then by total ordering, either $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$ or $Q_2 \subseteq Q_1$.

In either case: contradiction, since the smaller one would have to contain the element that was assumed to be excluded.

Thus $\forall Q \in C$ the same element a, b must lie in all Q . \implies lies in the intersection of them, Q_C .

Henceforth, Q_C is a prime ideal and lies in S , and its a lower bound of C in S .

Now, S is nonempty, and every chain in S has a lower bound in S (its intersection).

Therefore, S has a minimal element P_{min} .

By construction, P_{min} is a prime ideal $P_{min} \subseteq P$, and by minimality there are no strictly smaller prime ideals inside P .

So P_{min} is a minimal prime ideal, contained in P . □

Exercise R.1.10.

Proof. □

Exercise R.1.11.

Proof. □

Exercise R.1.4.

Proof. □

4.2 Exercises Chapter 2

Exercise R.2.9. $0 \longrightarrow L \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \xrightarrow{\beta} N \longrightarrow 0$ is a s.e.s. of A -modules. Prove that if N, L are finite over A , then M is finite over A .

Proof. Denote the generators of L and N respectively as

$$\begin{aligned} \{l_1, \dots, l_k\} &\subseteq L \\ \{n_1, \dots, n_p\} &\subseteq N \end{aligned}$$

By s.e.s. definition,

- α is injective (one-to-one), so

$$\forall l_i \in L, \exists x_i \in M \text{ s.th. } \alpha(l_i) = x_i$$

- β is surjective (onto), so

$$\forall n_j \in N, \exists y_j \in M \text{ s.th. } \beta(y_j) = n_j$$

We will show that $\{x_1, \dots, x_k, y_1, \dots, y_p\}$ generate M , and thus M is finite:
Let $m \in M$, then $\beta(m) \in N$, and

$$\beta(m) = \sum_{j=1}^p a_j n_j \quad \text{with } a_j \in A$$

Take $m' \in M$, with $m' = \sum a_j y_j$, then

$$\beta(m') = \sum a_j \beta(y_j) = \sum a_j n_j = \beta(m)$$

Then, since $\beta(m) = \beta(m') \implies \beta(m - m') = 0$, thus

$$(m - m') \in \ker(\beta)$$

By *exactness* property, since $\alpha : L \longrightarrow \ker(\beta)$, we have $\ker(\beta) = \text{im}(\alpha)$.

Therefore, $\exists l \in L$ such that $\alpha(l) = m - m'$.

Since $\{l_i\}_k$ generate L ,

$$l = \sum_{i=1}^k b_i l_i$$

thus

$$m - m' = \alpha(l) = \alpha\left(\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^k b_i l_i}_l\right) = \sum_{i=1}^k b_i \underbrace{\alpha(l_i)}_{x_i} = \sum_{i=1}^k b_i x_i$$

Rearrange,

$$m = m' + \sum_{i=1}^k b_i x_i = \sum_{j=1}^p a_j y_j + \sum_{i=1}^k b_i x_i \quad \forall m \in M$$

So, L provides k generators for the kernel part of M , N provides p "lifts" for the quotient part of M ; thus M is generated by $k + p$ elements.
Thus M is finitely generated over A . □

4.3 Exercises Chapter 3

Exercise R.3.2. K a field, $A \supset K$ a ring which is finite dimensional as a K -vector space. Prove that A is Noetherian and Artinian.

Proof. $\dim(A) = n < \infty$, so every ideal \mathfrak{a} of A is a K -subspace of A , because if $x \in \mathfrak{a}$ and $c \in K$, then $c \cdot x \in \mathfrak{a}$.

1. Noetherian:

let $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \dots$ be an ascending chain of ideals in A .

Since each I_i is a subspace, we have

$$\dim_K(I_1) \leq \dim_K(I_2) \leq \dots \leq n$$

where at some $i = m$ we have $\dim_K(I_m) = \dim_K(I_{m+1})$; then since $I_m \subseteq I_{m+1}$, we have $I_m = I_{m+1}$. So A is Noetherian.

2. Artinian:

Similarly, if $I_1 \supseteq I_2 \supseteq \dots$ a descending chain of ideals in A .

then

$$n \geq \dim_K(I_1) \geq \dim_K(I_2) \geq \dots \geq 0$$

where at some $i = m$ we have $\dim_K(I_m) = \dim_K(I_{m+1})$; then since $I_m \supseteq I_{m+1}$, we have $I_m = I_{m+1}$. So A is Artinian.

□

Exercise R.3.5. Let $0 \longrightarrow L \xrightarrow{\alpha} M \xrightarrow{\beta} N \longrightarrow 0$ an exact sequence. Let $M_1, M_2 \subseteq M$ be submodules of M .

Prove if the following holds or not:

$$\beta(M_1) = \beta(M_2) \text{ and } \alpha^{-1}(M_1) = \alpha^{-1}(M_2) \implies M_1 = M_2$$

Proof. Counterexample showing that it does not hold:

Let K a field, $M = K \oplus K$, $L = K$, $N = K$.

Set, for $l \in L$, $(m_1, m_2) \in M$,

$$\alpha : l \longmapsto (l, 0)$$

$$\beta : (m_1, m_2) \longmapsto m_2$$

So we have

$$0 \longrightarrow K \xrightarrow{\alpha} K^2 \xrightarrow{\beta} K \longrightarrow 0$$

Then,

$$M_1 = \{(x, x) \mid x \in K\} \sim (\text{diagonal line})$$

$$M_2 = \{(0, x) \mid x \in K\} \sim (\text{y-axis})$$

(Geometric interpretation: M_1 , M_2 are the *diagonal line* and *y-axis* respectively; and α , β capture information about the *vertical* components (x-axis,

y-axis respectively), but not about the *diagonal* way a submodule is embedded in M).

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta(M_1) &= \{x \mid x \in K\} = K \\ \beta(M_2) &= \{x \mid x \in K\} = K\end{aligned}$$

thus, $\beta(M_1) = \beta(M_2)$.

For M_1 , $(l, 0) \in M$ iff $l = 0$, thus $\alpha^{-1}(M_1) = \{0\}$,
for M_2 , $(l, 0) \in M$ iff $l = 0$, thus $\alpha^{-1}(M_2) = \{0\}$,
thus $\alpha^{-1}(M_1) = \alpha^{-1}(M_2)$.

So we've seen that

$$\begin{aligned}\beta(M_1) &= \beta(M_2) \\ \alpha^{-1}(M_1) &= \alpha^{-1}(M_2)\end{aligned}$$

while having $M_1 \neq M_2$. □

References

- [1] M. F. Atiyah and I. G. MacDonald. Introduction to Commutative Algebra, 1969.
- [2] Miles Reid. Undergraduate Commutative Algebra, 1995.
- [3] Steven Kleiman. Commutative Algebra - MIT Open-CourseWare, 2008. <https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/18-705-commutative-algebra-fall-2008/>.