

# Algebra II: Modules.

Def<sup>n</sup>  $R$  ring w 1. A (left)  $R$ -module  $M$  is an abelian group  $(M, +)$  and an action  $R \times M \rightarrow M$  s.t.  
 $r \cdot (x+y) = rx + ry$   $\forall r, s \in R, x, y \in M.$   
 $(r+s) \cdot x = rx + sx$   
 $(rs) \cdot x = r(sx)$   
 $1 \cdot x = x.$

Examples 1).  $R = \text{Field} \rightarrow R$ -modules are  $R$ -vector spaces.

2).  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ : Then  $R$ -modules are just abelian groups.  
 $R$ -module structure on  $G$ :

$$n > 0: ng = \underbrace{g + \dots + g}_{n \text{ times}}, \quad 0 \cdot g = 0, \quad (-n)g = -(ng).$$

3).  $R^n = \underbrace{R \times \dots \times R}_n$  is an  $R$ -module (component-wise ring mult.)

4). If  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$ , it's an  $R$ -module.

Def<sup>n</sup>  $M, N$  are  $R$ -modules. A homomorphism is  $f: M \rightarrow N$  s.t.  $f(rx + sy) = rf(x) + sf(y).$

Def<sup>n</sup>  $N \neq \emptyset, N \subseteq M$  is a submodule (written  $N \leq M$ )

if  $rx + sy \in N \quad \forall r, s \in R, x, y \in N.$

The kernel of a hom  $f: M \rightarrow N$  is a submodule of  $M$ ,  
the image is a submodule of  $N$ .

Def<sup>n</sup>:  $S \subseteq M$  is linearly independent (l.i.) if  $\sum c_i x_i = 0 \Rightarrow c_i = 0 \forall i$

$S \subseteq M$  spans  $M$  if  $\forall x \in M \exists c_1, \dots, c_n \in R, \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in S, c_i x_i = x.$   
A basis is a linearly indep. spanning set.  $\square$

A module with a basis is free.

Unlike vector spaces, not all modules are free:

Ex:  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $M = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  for  $n > 1$ .

Then  $\forall g \in M$ ,  $|M| = n \Rightarrow ng = 0$ . Thus, for any

$\{g_1, \dots, g_m\} \subseteq M$ ,  $ng_1 + \dots + ng_m = 0 + \dots + 0 = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  the set is linearly dependent  $\Rightarrow$  not a basis.

The problem here was torsion (finite order elts.)

We'd like to say  $\text{rank}(M) = \text{size of a basis}$ , but this  
isn't even well defined!

Example:  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $M = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \dots$  countable infinite direct product

Given any two  $R$ -modules  $M, N$ , we set  
 $\text{Hom}_R(M, N)$  to be the set of all  $R$ -mod. hom:  $M \rightarrow N$ .

This is an  $R$ -module under the operations:  
 $(\psi + \phi)(m) = \psi(m) + \phi(m)$ ;  $(r\psi)(m) = r \cdot (\psi(m))$ .

and given  $\psi \in \text{Hom}_R(L, M)$ ,  $\phi \in \text{Hom}_R(M, N)$ ,  $\phi \circ \psi \in \text{Hom}_R(L, N)$ .

If  $M = N$ ,  $\text{Hom}_R(M, M) = \text{End}_R(M)$  is the endomorphism ring.

For  $M = \mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}$  take  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M) =: R$ .

Two elements of  $R$  are:  $\psi_1(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots) = (a_1, a_3, a_5, \dots)$   
and  $\psi_2(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots) = (a_2, a_4, a_6, \dots)$ .

Define  $\psi_1(a_1, \dots) = (a_1, 0, a_2, 0, \dots)$ ,  $\psi_2(a_1, a_2, \dots) = (0, a_1, 0, a_2, \dots)$

Then  $\psi_1(\psi_1(a_1, a_2, \dots)) = \psi_1(a_1, 0, a_2, 0, \dots) = (a_1, a_2, \dots)$

$\psi_2(\psi_2(a_1, a_2, \dots)) = \psi_2(0, a_1, 0, a_2, \dots) = (a_1, a_2, \dots)$

$\Rightarrow \psi_i \circ \psi_i = 1$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

Similarly,  $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 = \varphi_2 \varphi_1 = 0$ .

Claim:  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  are  $R$ -lin. ind.

Why:  $\exists \pi_1, \pi_2 \in R$ , at least one non-zero, s.t.  
 $0 = \pi_1 \varphi_1 + \pi_2 \varphi_2$ , then mult. on the right by

$$\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 \rightsquigarrow 0 = (\pi_1 \varphi_1 + \pi_2 \varphi_2) (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) = \pi_1 \varphi_1 \varphi_1 + \pi_1 \varphi_1 \varphi_2 + \pi_2 \varphi_2 \varphi_1 + \pi_2 \varphi_2 \varphi_2 = \pi_1 + \pi_2 = 0.$$

Similarly, mult. on right by  $\varphi_1 - \varphi_2 \rightsquigarrow 0 = \pi_1 - \pi_2$

Adding (subtracting  $\Rightarrow$ )  $2\pi_1 = 2\pi_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \pi_1 = \pi_2 = 0 \quad \square$   
 $\uparrow$  composition with doubling map

Claim:  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  span  $M$  as  $R$ .

Why: every  $f \in M$   $f = f \cdot \varphi_1 \varphi_1 = f \cdot 1 = f$ .

Now we claim that  $R \cong R^2 \rightsquigarrow R \cong |R|^n \forall n \geq 1$ .

Why:  $R \rightarrow R^2$   $R^2 \rightarrow R$   
inverse hom's  $f \mapsto (f\varphi_1, f\varphi_2)$   $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \mapsto \varphi_1 \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 \varphi_2$ .

So for  $F$ -vector spaces, the "big theorem" is that every finite dimensional one is  $\cong F^n$  for some unique  $n$ ; that is not true for general modules!

Quotient modules: As expected;  $N \subseteq M$   $R$ -modules.

$M/N$  is the  $R$ -module:  $r(x+N) = rx+N$ ,  $x+N$  elt's are  $x+N$ ;  $N \subseteq M$  is an abelian subgroup;  $M/N$  is the quotient  $M/N$  is abelian.

This quotient always works, basically b/c we assume  $M/N$  is abelian.

Lemma:  $R \neq 0$  a commutative ring. Then

$$R^m \cong R^n \Rightarrow m=n.$$

(Like in above example)

PF: Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be a max<sup>im</sup> ideal in  $R$ .

Let  $M = R^m$ ,  $N = R^n$ . If  $M \cong N$  as  $R$ -modules, this restricts to an isomorphism  $\mathfrak{m}M \cong \mathfrak{m}N$ .

$\leadsto$  induced isomorphism  $M/\mathfrak{m}M \cong N/\mathfrak{m}N$

$\Rightarrow (R/\mathfrak{m})^m \cong (R/\mathfrak{m})^n$  as  $R$ -modules,

hence as vector spaces  $\Rightarrow m=n$   $\square$

Isomorphism th<sup>ms</sup> hold, as expected:

1).  $M/\ker(\varphi) \cong \varphi(M)$

2).  $(A+B)/B \cong A/(A \cap B)$  (sum:  $A+B := \{a+b \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$ )

3).  $(M/A)/(B/A) \cong M/B$

4).  $\{\text{submodules of } M/N\} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} \{\text{submodules of } M \text{ containing } N\}$

It gets weirder!

Example:  $R = \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2, \dots]$  is a finitely generated  $R$ -module as  $\{1\}$  spans. Let  $S \subseteq R$  be the submodule of polys. w/o constant term.

$S$  is not finitely generated as suppose  $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  spans.

Let  $x_k$  be a variable not appearing in any  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .

Then no lin. comb. of the  $p_i$  can be  $x_k$ , as if

$$x_k = \sum a_i(x) p_i(x), \text{ and if } a_i(x) = x_k q_i(x) + r_i(x),$$

$$\text{then } x_k = \sum (x_k q_i(x) + r_i(x)) p_i(x)$$

$r_i(x)$  has no  $x_k$

$$= x_k \sum_i q_i(x) p_i(x) + A \sum_i r_i(x) p_i(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_i q_i(x) p_i(x) = 1$$

the  $\sum$  has no  $x$   
so must be 0.

This is impossible as each  $p_i$  has no constant term

Defn A cyclic module is generated by one elt.  
 $M = R \cdot a$

Recognizing direct products (same as for gps):

$N_1, \dots, N_k$  submodules of  $M$ .

then  $\pi: N_1 \times \dots \times N_k \rightarrow N_1 + \dots + N_k$

$(a_1, \dots, a_k) \mapsto a_1 + \dots + a_k$

is an isomorphism



$$N_j \cap (N_1 + \dots + \hat{N}_j + \dots + N_k) = 0 \quad \forall j$$



every  $x \in N_1 + \dots + N_k$  is unique of the form  
 $x = a_1 + \dots + a_k, a_i \in N_i$ .

In this case,  $M = N_1 \oplus \dots \oplus N_k$  is the internal direct sum.

For commutative rings, modules that are free of rank  $n$

are just  $M \cong R^n$

$$M \cong R^n$$

$$a_i e_i \mapsto (e_i)$$

uniqueness of representation  
as in lin. alg.

Ex:  $R = \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  free abelian gp. of rank  $n$  (more mch. (2). 15)

Defn  $M$  is a Noetherian module if

$M_1 \subseteq M_2 \subseteq \dots$  increasing chain of submodules terminates)  $M_k = M_{k+1} = M_{k+2} = \dots$  eventually.

•  $R$  is Noetherian if it is an  $R$ -module (chains of ideals terminate)

Example:  $F$  a field,  $R = F[x]$ ,  $V$  a vector space ( $F$ ,  $T: V \rightarrow V$  a linear transformation.

$V$  is an  $F$ -module, using  $T$ , we can make  $V$  an  $F[x]$ -module.

$T^n = \underbrace{T \circ T \circ \dots \circ T}_{n \text{ times}}$  given maps  $A, B: V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in F$ ,  
 $\alpha A + \beta B: V \rightarrow V$   
 $v \mapsto \alpha(A(v)) + \beta(B(v))$

Given  $p(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_0 \in F[x]$  define  
 $p(x) \cdot v = (a_n T^n + \dots + a_0)(v) = \sum a_i T^i(v)$

This makes  $V$  an  $F[x]$  module.

This naturally ~~also~~ extends the action of  $F$  to  $F[x]$ .

The module structure depends on the choice of  $T$ .

It turns out: all  $F[x]$  modules arise this way

Why: If  $V$  is an  $F[x]$  module,  $V$  is an  $F$ -module, everything determined by what  $x$  does, which must be

Further, an  $F[x]$  submodule  $W$  must be an  $F$ -submodule (i.e., a vector subspace of  $V$ ), and we must have  $T(W) \subseteq W \forall w \in W$ .

That is,  $W$  is a  $T$ -stable subspace of  $V$   
 $T(W) \subseteq W \Rightarrow T^n(W) \subseteq W \forall n \geq 1$ .