## Algebra III: Rings and Modules Solutions for Problem Sheet 3, Autumn Term 2022-23

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- 1. Prove that the two definitions of ring localisation given in lectures are equivalent. That is, let R be a commutative ring and let  $S \subseteq R$  be a multiplicative submonoid. Show that there is a unique ring R' such that there exists a map  $\iota : R \to R'$  with the following two properties:
  - (i)  $\iota(S) \subseteq (R')^{\times}$ , i.e. everything in S gets mapped to a unit in R'.
  - (ii) For all commutative rings A and maps  $\varphi : R \to A$  with  $\varphi(S) \subseteq A^{\times}$ , there exists a unique  $\tilde{\varphi} : R' \to A$  such that  $\varphi = \tilde{\varphi} \circ \iota$ .

[First prove this in the case where R is an integral domain. The general case is more difficult.]

**Solution**: Existence follows by the definition given in lectures and results on problem sheet 2, i.e. we take  $R' = S^{-1}R$  and  $\iota : R \to S^{-1}R$ . We will show uniqueness.

Suppose  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  both have this property with maps  $\iota_1 : R \to R_1$  and  $\iota_2 : R \to R_2$ . It suffices to show that  $R_1 \cong R_2$  as rings. Consider the case  $R' = R_1$ . Since  $(A, \varphi) = (R_2, \iota_2)$ satisfy the conditions of (ii), there exists a unique map  $f : R_1 \to R_2$  such that  $\iota_2 = f \circ \iota_1$ . Similarly there exists a unique map  $g : R_2 \to R_1$  such that  $\iota_1 = g \circ \iota_2$ . This implies that  $\iota_1 = (g \circ f) \circ \iota_1$ . We claim that  $g \circ f = \mathrm{id}_{R_1}$ . [If R were an integral domain, then this would follow immediately since  $\iota_1$  is injective.] To see this, consider the ring  $R_1$  and note that  $(A, \varphi) = (R_1, \mathrm{id}_{R_1})$  satisfy the conditions of (ii). This implies that  $\mathrm{id}_{R_1}$  is the unique map such that  $\iota_1 = \mathrm{id}_{R_1} \circ \iota_1$ . Hence  $g \circ f = \mathrm{id}_{R_1}$ . Similarly we have  $f \circ g = \mathrm{id}_{R_2}$ . This implies that f is a ring isomorphism and so  $R_1 \cong R_2$  as required.

2. Let R be a unique factorisation domain, let F denote its field of fractions and let

$$f = a_0 + a_1 X + \dots + a_n X^n \in R[X].$$

Show that, if  $\frac{p}{q} \in F$  is a root of f for  $p, q \in R$  with gcd(p, q) = 1, then  $p \mid a_0$  and  $q \mid a_n$  in R. [This is a generalisation of the Rational Root theorem.]

**Solution**: Let  $f = c(f)f_1$  where  $f_1$  is primitive. Then  $\frac{p}{q} \in F$  is a root of  $f_1$ . Since F[X] is Euclidean domain, this means we can write  $f_1 = (qX - p)g$  for some  $g \in F[X]$ . Since  $f_1$  is primitive and reducible in F[X], it must be reducible in R[X] by Gauss' lemma. It follows that  $f_1 = (qX - p)g$  for some  $g \in R[X]$  (this follows from the proof of Gauss' lemma but can also be seen directly). If  $g = b_0 + b_1X + \cdots + b_{n-1}X^{n-1}$ , then  $f_1$  has constant term  $-pb_0$  and leading term  $qb_{n-1}$ . Since  $f = c(f)f_1$ , we have that  $-pb_0 \mid a_0$  and  $qb_{n-1} \mid a_n$ . Hence  $p \mid a_0$  and  $q \mid a_n$  as required.

Note that an elementary solution is also possible.

3. Show that the following polynomials are irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ :

$$3X^{3}Y^{3} + 7X^{2}Y^{2} + Y^{4} + 2XY + 4X, \qquad 2X^{2}Y^{3} + Y^{4} + 4Y^{2} + 2XY + 6.$$

## Solution:

 $3X^3Y^3 + 7X^2Y^2 + Y^4 + 2XY + 4X$ : This can be rewritten as  $Y^4 + 3X^3Y^3 + 7X^2Y^2 + 2XY + 4X$ ; we regard it as a polynomial in Y with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ . Note that it is monic, that each of the coefficients other than the leading one lies in the prime ideal  $\langle X \rangle$ , and that the "constant term" 4X does not lie in  $\langle X \rangle^2$ . Thus this polynomial is irreducible by Eisenstein's criterion.  $2X^2Y^3 + Y^4 + 4Y^2 + 2XY + 6$ : This is monic in Y, and this is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$  if, and only if, it is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}(X)[Y]$ . Since  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$  has field of fractions  $\mathbb{Q}(X)$ , and is a UFD, this polynomial is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}(X)[Y]$  if and only if it is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[X][Y]$ . But as a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[X][Y]$  this polynomial is Eisenstein mod (2), so it is irreducible.

- 4. We say a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$  is *primitive* if the greatest common divisor of its (integer) coefficients is one. Show that:
  - (i) If  $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$  are primitive, then fg is primitive.
  - (ii) If  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$  is primitive, then  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$  is irreducible if and only if  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$  is irreducible. [This is the analogue of Gauss' lemma for multivariate polynomials.]

**Solution**: (i) We first show (following the single variable setting) that if P(X, Y) and Q(X, Y) are primitive in  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$  (that is, their coefficients have GCD one) then so is their product. Suppose that p is a prime in  $\mathbb{Z}$  that divides every coefficient of the product P(X, Y)Q(X, Y). Then we have that P(X, Y)Q(X, Y) = 0 in  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ . Since the latter is a domain, we must have that either P(X, Y) or Q(X, Y) is zero mod p, contradicting the fact that P(X, Y) and Q(X, Y) are primitive.

(ii) Suppose we have P(X, Y) = Q(X, Y)R(X, Y) in  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ . Then (considering this as a factorisation in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ ) we see by irreducibility of P(X, Y) that at least one factor is a unit in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ , hence a nonzero constant. WLOG assume Q(X, Y) is this factor; then Q(X, Y) lies in  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ , so Q(X, Y) must be an integer d. But then d divides each coefficient of P(X, Y), so must be equal to  $\pm 1$ .

Now suppose that P(X, Y) is an irreducible (thus primitive) polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ , and that we have a factorization P(X, Y) = Q(X, Y)R(X, Y) in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ . Let q and r be rational numbers such that qQ(X, Y) and rR(X, Y) are primitive polynomials with integer coefficients. Then qrP(X, Y) = qQ(X, Y)rR(X, Y), so by the previous paragraph qrP(X, Y) is a primitive rational multple of P(X, Y). Thus  $qr = \pm 1$ . Thus  $P(X, Y) = \pm qQ(X, Y)rR(X, Y)$ is a factorization of P(X, Y) in  $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ , so one of qQ(X, Y) or rR(X, Y) is equal to  $\pm 1$ . But then one of Q(X, Y) or R(X, Y) is constant, so P(X, Y) is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ .

5. For each of the following elements  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  determine whether  $\alpha$  is an algebraic integer and, if so, compute its minimal polynomial  $f_{\alpha}$ .

$$(1+\sqrt{3})/2$$
,  $2\cos(2\pi/7)$ ,  $(1+i)\sqrt{3}$ ,  $\sqrt{5}/\sqrt{7}$ ,  $i+\sqrt{3}$ 

**Solution**:  $(1 + \sqrt{3})/2$ : Not an algebraic integer. If so, then  $\alpha(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1^2 - 3}{4} = -\frac{1}{2}$  is an algebraic integer. This is a contradiction since the algebraic integers in  $\mathbb{Q}$  are  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

 $2\cos(2\pi/7)$ : We claim that  $f_{\alpha} = X^3 + X^2 - 2X - 1$ . Let  $\zeta_7 = e^{2\pi i/7}$  so that  $\alpha = \zeta_7 + \zeta_7^{-1}$ . Then  $\alpha^2 = \zeta_7^2 + \zeta_7^{-2} + 2$  and  $\alpha^3 = \zeta_7^3 + \zeta_7^{-3} + 3\alpha$ . Hence have  $\alpha^3 + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha - 1 = 0$ . So  $f_{\alpha} \mid X^3 + X^2 - 2X - 1$ . But  $X^3 + X^2 - 2X - 1$  is irreducible since, by the rational root theorem and the fact that  $\pm 1$  are not roots, it has no linear factors.

 $(1+i)\sqrt{3}$ : We claim that  $f_{\alpha} = X^4 + 36$ . We have  $\alpha^2 = -2i \cdot 3 \Rightarrow \alpha^4 = -36$ , so  $f_{\alpha} \mid X^4 + 36$ . Since  $X^4 + 36$  is monic, all rational roots are in  $\mathbb{Z}$  by the rational root theorem (i.e. question 2). Clearly it has no integer roots and so  $X^4 + 36$  has no linear factors. Hence, if  $f_{\alpha}$  is not an associate of  $X^4 + 36$ , it has degree two. But  $X^4 + 36 = (X^2 + 6i)(X^2 - 6i)$ . This is a factorisation in  $(\mathbb{Z}[i])[X]$  which is a UFD since  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a UFD (this follows from the fact it is an ED).  $X^2 + 6i$  and  $X^2 - 6i$  are irreducible in  $(\mathbb{Z}[i])[X]$  since their roots are not in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ . Since  $f_{\alpha}$  has degree two and no roots in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ , it must be irreducible in  $(\mathbb{Z}[i])[X]$  and so, since  $(\mathbb{Z}[i])[X]$  is a UFD, it must be an associate of  $X^2 + 6i$  or  $X^2 - 6i$  which is a contradiction.

[A much better way to prove this would be to prove that the rational minimal polynomial has degree 4 since the field  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  has degree 4. This follows from the fact that it has distinct subfields  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ . However, this material was not included in the course.]

 $\sqrt{5}/\sqrt{7}$ : Not an algebraic integer. If so, then  $\alpha^2 = \frac{5}{7}$  is an algebraic integer. This is a contradiction since the algebraic integers in  $\mathbb{Q}$  are  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

 $i + \sqrt{3}$ : We claim that  $f_{\alpha} = X^4 - 4X^2 + 16$ . We have  $\alpha^2 = 2 + 2i\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow (\alpha^2 - 2)^2 = -12 \Rightarrow \alpha^4 - 4\alpha^2 + 16 = 0 \Rightarrow f_{\alpha} \mid X^4 - 4X^2 + 16$ . The fact this is irreducible follows by a similar argument to the case  $\alpha = (1 + i)\sqrt{3}$ .

6. Let R be a commutative ring. Show that R is Noetherian if and only if every ideal  $I \subseteq R$  is finitely generated.

**Solution**: ( $\Leftarrow$ ): Suppose every ideal of *R* is finitely generated. Given the chain  $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \cdots$ , let:

$$I = \bigcup_{i \ge 1} I_i$$

This is an ideal (e.g. we proved this in lectures). We know I is finitely generated, say  $I = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$ , with  $r_i \in I_{k_i}$ . Let

$$K = \max_{i=1,\cdots,n} \{k_i\}.$$

Then  $r_1, \cdots, r_n \in I_K$ . So  $I_K = I$ . So  $I_K = I_{K+1} = I_{K+2} = \cdots$ .

 $(\Rightarrow)$ : To prove the other direction, suppose there is an ideal  $I \triangleleft R$  that is not finitely generated. We pick  $r_1 \in I$ . Since I is not finitely generated, we know  $(r_1) \neq I$ . So we can find some  $r_2 \in I \setminus (r_1)$ .

Again  $(r_1, r_2) \neq I$ . So we can find  $r_3 \in I \setminus (r_1, r_2)$ . We continue on, and then can find an infinite strictly ascending chain

$$(r_1) \subseteq (r_1, r_2) \subseteq (r_1, r_2, r_3) \subseteq \cdots$$

So R is not Noetherian.

- 7. Let R be a commutative ring. Give a proof or counterexample to each of the following statements:
  - (i) If R is Noetherian, then R is an integral domain.
  - (ii) If R[X] is Noetherian, then R is Noetherian. [The converse to Hilbert's basis theorem.]
  - (iii) Let  $S \subseteq R$  be a multiplicative submonoid. If R is Noetherian, then  $S^{-1}R$  is Noetherian.

**Solution**: (i) False. For example, take  $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ . This is not an integral domain but it is Noetherian since it is a finite ring and all finite rings are Noetherian.

(ii) True. Let  $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \ldots$  be an infinite increasing sequence of ideals of R, and for each integer k, let  $J_k$  be the subset of R[X] consisting of polynomials all of whose coefficients lie in  $I_k$ . Then  $J_1 \subseteq J_2 \subseteq \ldots$  is an infinite increasing sequence of ideals of R[X], so it is eventually stable. But since  $I_k = J_k \cap R$ , this means the  $I_k$  are also eventually stable.

(iii) True. Recall from lectures that every ideal of  $S^{-1}R$  is of the form  $S^{-1}I = \{\frac{i}{s} : i \in I, s \in S\}$  for some ideal  $I \subseteq R$ . Suppose  $I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \cdots$  is an ascending chain in  $S^{-1}R$ . Then this implies that there exists ideals  $J_i \subseteq R$  such that  $I_i = S^{-1}J_i$  for all  $i \ge 1$ . Since  $I_i \subseteq I_{i+1}$  for all i, we have  $J_i \subseteq J_{i+1}$  for all i. Since R is Noetherian, there exists N such that  $J_{i+N} = J_N$  for all  $i \ge 0$ . This then implies that  $I_{i+N} = I_N$  for all  $i \ge 0$ . Hence  $S^{-1}R$  is Noetherian.

8. Let R and S be rings. Show that every  $(R \times S)$ -module M is isomorphic to a product  $M_1 \times M_2$ , where  $M_1$  is an R-module and  $M_2$  is an S-module, and the  $(R \times S)$ -module structure on  $M_1 \times M_2$  is given by  $(r, s) \cdot (m_1, m_2) = (rm_1, sm_2)$ .

**Solution**: Let  $e_1 = (1,0)$  and  $e_2 = (0,1)$  in  $R \times S$ , and set  $N_1 = e_1M$ ,  $N_2 = e_2M$ . Although a priori  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are  $(R \times S)$ -modules, we note that  $(r,s)e_1m = (r,0)m$  and  $(r,s)e_2m = (0,s)m$ , so that "multiplication by (r,s)" depends only on r on  $N_1$  and only on s on  $N_2$ . Give  $N_1$  the structure of an R-module by setting  $re_1m = (r,0)e_1m$  and similarly give  $N_2$  the structure of an S-module.

We then have maps  $N_1 \times N_2 \to M$  and M to  $N_1 \times N_2$  that take  $(n_1, n_2)$  to  $n_1 + n_2$  and m to  $(e_1m, e_2m)$ . It is easy to see that these are inverse to each other and define homomorphisms of  $(R \times S)$ -modules, so we have our desired isomorphism.

- 9. Let R be a ring. An R-module is M said to be *cyclic* if M it is generated by one element, and *simple* if M has no R-submodules other than 0 and M.
  - (i) Show that any cyclic R module is isomorphic to R/I for some ideal I of R.
  - (ii) Show that any simple *R*-module is cyclic.
  - (iii) Show that M is a simple R-module if and only if M is isomorphic to R/I for some maximal ideal I of R.

**Solution:** (i) Let *m* generate *M*, and consider the map  $R \to M$  of *R*-modules taking 1 to *m* (and thus taking *r* to *rm* for all  $r \in R$ ). It is clear that this is a surjective homomorphism of *R*-modules, and its kernel is an *R*-submodule (i.e. ideal) *I* of *R*. We thus get an isomorphism  $R/I \cong M$ .

(ii) Let M be simple and  $m \in M$  nonzero. The submodule of M generated by m is then nonzero, so must be all of M.

(iii) By part (i), we must show that R/I is simple if, and only if, I is maximal. Let  $f : R \to R/I$  be the natural quotient map. Then given any submodule J of R/I, its preimage  $f^{-1}(J)$  is an ideal of R containing I. This gives a bijection between the ideals of R containing I and the submodules of R/I. In particular we see that R/I is simple if, and only if, the only ideals containing I are I itself and the unit ideal; that is, if and only if I is maximal.

- 10. Let R be a ring and M an R-module. Define the *endomorphism ring* of M to be set  $\operatorname{End}_R(M) := \{f : M \to M \mid f \text{ is an } R\text{-module homomorphism}\}$  with pointwise addition and multiplication given by function composition. The *automorphism group* of M, denoted by  $\operatorname{Aut}_R(M)$ , is defined to be the group of units of  $\operatorname{End}_R(M)$ .
  - (i) Show that the two definitions of *R*-module given in lectures are equivalent. That is, for an abelian group *M*, show that the structure  $\cdot : R \times M \to M$  of a left *R*-module on *M* is the same information as a ring homomorphism  $\varphi : R \to \text{End}(M)$ .
  - (ii) Show that a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module is the same thing as an abelian group. Deduce that, for for an abelian group M, we have  $\operatorname{End}(M) \cong \operatorname{End}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M)$  and  $\operatorname{Aut}(M) \cong \operatorname{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M)$ .
  - (iii) Let G be a group and M an abelian group. Show that an R[G]-module structure on M is equivalently an R-module structure on M and a homomorphism  $\varphi: G \to \operatorname{Aut}_R(M)$ .
  - (iv) Let G be a group. Show that a  $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -module is equivalently an abelian group M with a G-action, i.e. group homomorphism  $G \to \operatorname{Aut}(M)$ . [We often call this a G-module.]

[Hint: To show that two definitions are equivalent, we need to establish a one-to-one correspondence. For example, you could show that (a) for every abelian group A, there exists a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $M_A$ , (b) For every  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module M, there exists an abelian group A(M), (c)  $A(M_A) \cong A$  as abelian groups and  $M_{A(M)} \cong M$  as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules.]

**Solution:** (i) If  $R \times M \to M$  is a left module structure, then we have first to check that  $\varphi(a)(m) := a \cdot m$  defines an element  $\varphi(a) \in \operatorname{End}(M)$ , i.e., that  $\varphi(a)$  is additive (as we recall from group theory, this is enough to be a group endomorphism). It follows from the distributivity axioms of a left *R*-module that  $\varphi(a)$  is additive, as desired. Next we check that  $\varphi$  is a homomorphism. It follows from the other distributivity axiom that  $\varphi(a + b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$ , and from the associative axiom that  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ . Finally the unit axiom implies that  $\varphi(1) = \operatorname{Id}_M$ .

Similarly, if  $\varphi$  is a ring homomorphism, then the same argument in reverse shows that  $a \cdot b = \varphi(a)(m)$  defines an action. Finally, we note that if we apply the map (def 1)  $\Rightarrow$  (def 2) and then (def 2)  $\Rightarrow$  (def 1) we get the original action back, and similarly in the other direction we get the homomorphism back.

(ii) Given an abelian group A, define  $M_A$  to be the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module with abelian group A and with action  $\mathbb{Z} \to \operatorname{End}(A)$  the unique ring homomorphism  $n \mapsto \underbrace{\operatorname{id}_A + \cdots \operatorname{id}_A}$ . Given an  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module

M, let A(M) denote its underlying abelian group. By definition, we have  $A(M_A) \cong A$  as abelian groups. Finally,  $M \cong M_{A(M)}$  are isomorphic as  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules with the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions are determined by maps  $\mathbb{Z} \to \operatorname{End}(A)$  which are unique.

(iii) By part (i), an R[G]-module structure on M is a map  $\varphi : R[G] \to \operatorname{End}(M)$ . Restricting this map to R gives an R-modules structure on M. Since  $G \subseteq R[G]^{\times}$ , we have that  $\varphi(G) \subseteq$  $\operatorname{End}(M)^{\times} = \operatorname{Aut}(M)$ . Hence, by restricting to G, we get a map  $\varphi \mid_{G} : G \to \operatorname{Aut}(M)$ . We want to show this lands in  $\operatorname{Aut}_{R}(M)$ . For  $g \in G$ ,  $\varphi(g) : M \to M$  is an abelian group homomorphism and we want to show that  $\varphi(g)(r \cdot m) = r \cdot \varphi(g)(m)$ . By definition, we have  $r \cdot m = \varphi(r)(m)$  and  $r \cdot \varphi(g)(m) = \varphi(r)(\varphi(g)(m))$ . We have:

$$\begin{split} \varphi(g)(r \cdot m) &= \varphi(g)(\varphi(r)(m)) = (\varphi(g) \cdot_{\operatorname{End}(M)} \varphi(r))(m) = \varphi(gr)(m) \\ &= \varphi(rg)(m) = (\varphi(r) \cdot_{\operatorname{End}(M)} \varphi(g))(m) = \varphi(r)(\varphi(g)(m)) = r \cdot \varphi(g)(m) \end{split}$$

since  $\varphi$  is multiplicative and since  $r, g \in R[G]$  commute. Hence  $\varphi$  restricts to a map  $\varphi \mid_G$ :  $G \to \operatorname{Aut}_R(M)$ . Given an *R*-module structure on *M* given by  $h : R \to \operatorname{End}(M)$  and a homomorphism  $f: G \to \operatorname{Aut}_R(M) \subseteq \operatorname{End}(M)$ , define  $\widehat{f}: R[G] \to \operatorname{End}(M)$  by  $\sum r_i g_i \mapsto \sum h(r_i) \cdot_{\operatorname{End}(M)} f(g_i)$ . It can be easily verified that this is a ring homomorphism.

Given  $f: G \to \operatorname{Aut}_R(M)$ , it is clear that  $\widehat{f}|_G = f$ . It also needs to be verified that, given  $\varphi: R[G] \to \operatorname{End}(M)$ , we have  $\widehat{\varphi|_G} = \varphi$ .

(iv) This is essentially immediate from (ii) and (iii).

+11. If R is a ring, the formal power series ring R[[X]] is the ring with elements

$$f = a_0 + a_1 X + a_2 X^2 + \cdots,$$

where each  $a_i \in R$ . This has addition and multiplication the same as for polynomials, but without upper limits. Show that, if R is Noetherian, then R[[X]] is Noetherian.

**Solution not provided.** You may continue to work on this throughout the term and contact me to discuss ideas and/or hand in a solution. Remember that this problem is optional and may be significantly more challenging than the other problems.