

Algebra II, First lecture

October 20, 2021

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- ▶ Dimension theory
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- ▶ Regular rings.

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Unless otherwise specified, \mathfrak{k} will always denote a field and R a ring. I will use the abbreviations **PID** for “principal ideal domain” and **UFD** for “factorial domain”.

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Definition

The **length** of an R -module M is the largest natural number n for which there exists a strictly ascending sequence $0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \cdots \subset M_n = M$ of submodules of M ,

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We have $\ell(M) = 0$ if and only if $M = \{0\}$.

More examples on ℓ

Fact

If I is an ideal in R and M an R -module with $I \cdot M = 0$, then $\ell_R(M) = \ell_{R/I}(M)$.

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Definition

A ring is called **Artinian** if it has these equivalent properties.

Additivity of length

Proposition

Let $0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{i} M \xrightarrow{\pi} M'' \rightarrow 0$ be a short exact sequence of R -modules and $\ell = \ell_R$. Then $\ell(M) = \ell(M') + \ell(M'')$, where the equality is between elements of $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$.

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This again confirms the suspicion that length of modules has properties similar to the dimension of vector spaces. The rest of this page and the next page are devoted to the proof.

It is easy to see that $\ell(M') \leq \ell(M)$, hence the case where $\ell(M') = \infty$ is trivial. It is also clear that the strict inequality $\ell(M') < \ell(M)$ holds when $M' \subset M$ and $\ell(M') < \infty$. Let us assume for the moment that the assertion holds when $\ell(M') = 1$. For $\ell(M') < \infty$, we may then use induction on $\ell(M')$ as follows: If $\ell(M') = 0$, then $M' = \{0\}$ and $M \cong M''$, establishing our claim. Let $\ell(M') \neq 0$ and the assertion hold when for short exact sequences starting with a module of smaller length than M' . If M' is simple, the assertion was assumed to hold, otherwise if $M' \neq 0$ there is a proper submodule $0 \subset N \subset M'$ of M' . Then $\ell(N) < \ell(M')$ as was seen above,

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as claimed.

End of the proof

We want to show $\ell(M) = \ell(M'') + 1$ for a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{\iota} M \xrightarrow{\pi} M'' \rightarrow 0 \text{ with } \ell(M') = 1,$$

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(thus $M_1 = M'$) is a similar sequence for M , showing that $\ell(M) \geq \ell(M'') + 1$.

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$$M''_j = \begin{cases} \pi(M_j) & j < i \\ \end{cases}$$

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Remark

When worked out more carefully, the argument shows that for a module of finite length the length and, up to permutation, the sequence of isomorphism classes of M_{i+1}/M_i for a longest possible strictly ascending filtration of a finite length module M by submodules M_i is independent of the choice of such a filtration.

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the dimension of the space of homogeneous polynomials of degree j in $n + 1$ variables. This is equal to the number of $(n + 1)$ -indices α with $|\alpha| = j$, or the number of ordered partitions of j into $n + 1$ natural numbers. We thus have to show, for natural numbers n and j ,

$$p_{n,j} = \binom{n+j}{n} \quad (+)$$

We use induction on n , the case $n = 0$ being trivial as both sides of (+) are 1. Let $n > 0$ and the assertion shown with n replaced by $n - 1$. We also use induction on j , the case $j = 0$ being trivial as both sides of (+) equal 1 in this case. Let $j > 0$ and the assertion be shown with j replaced by $j - 1$. The number of partitions of j into $n + 1$ natural numbers of which the zeroth is zero is equal to $p_{n-1,j}$, the number of partitions of j into n natural numbers. By decreasing the zeroth summand by 1, the partitions of j into $n + 1$ natural numbers with a positive zeroth summand are in bijection with the partitions of $j - 1$ into $n + 1$ natural numbers. Thus,

$$p_{n,j} = p_{n-1,j} + p_{n,j-1} = \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} + \binom{j+n-1}{n} = \binom{j+n}{n}$$

by the two induction assumptions

Proof of the formula for the Hilbert Polynomial of $\mathfrak{k}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$.

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$$p_{n,j} = p_{n-1,j} + p_{n,j-1} = \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} + \binom{j+n-1}{n} = \binom{j+n}{n}$$

by the two induction assumptions and a well-known property of binomial coefficients (Pascal's triangle).