

Chapter 13. Decomposition of Projective Modules

MODERN CLASSICAL ALGEBRA

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Chapter 13: Decomposition of Projective Modules.

1. The Prime Spectrum

Let R be a commutative ring, \mathcal{P} the set of prime ideals in R and \mathcal{M} the set of maximal ideals in R . We define a topology in \mathcal{P} . Each ideal I in R determines a closed set

$$W(I) = \{p \in \mathcal{P} \mid p \supset I\}.$$

If $\{I_j\}$ is a family of ideals in R , then

$$W(I_j) \cup W(I_k) = W(I_j \cap I_k)$$

$$\bigcap_j W(I_j) = W(\sum_j I_j)$$

are closed. \mathcal{P} resp. \mathcal{M} endowed with this topology are called the prime spectrum resp. maximal ideals spectrum of R .

Proposition 1.1 R has non-trivial idempotents if and only if its prime spectrum is disconnected.

Proof: Suppose $e \in R$ is a non-trivial idempotent. Let

$$A = \{p \in \mathcal{P} \mid e \in p\}, B = \{p \in \mathcal{P} \mid 1-e \in p\}, I = \bigcap_{p \in A} p, J = \bigcap_{p \in B} p.$$

We have $A, B \neq \emptyset$, $A \cap B = \emptyset$ and $A \cup B = \mathcal{P}$, the latter because $e(1-e) = 0 \in p$ implies $e \in p$ or $1-e \in p$ for $p \in \mathcal{P}$.

Clearly $A = W(I)$ and $B = W(J)$. Thus $\mathcal{P} = A \cup B$ is disconnected.

Conversely, suppose $\mathcal{P} = W(I) \cup W(J)$ and $W(I) \cap W(J) = \emptyset$, i.e.

$I + J = R$ and $I \cap J \subset \sqrt{0}$. Pick $x \in I$ and $y \in J$ such that

$x + y = 1$. $(xy)^n = 0$ for some n since $xy \in \sqrt{0}$. We claim

$Rx^k + Ry^k = R$ for every integer $k \geq 0$. For if not $Rx^k + Ry^k$

would be contained in some maximal ideal M , say $M \in W(I)$; then

$y^k \in M$. Since also $x^i y^{k-i} \in M$ for $i > 0$, $(x+y)^k = 1 \in M$, a

contradiction. Thus $1 = ax^n + by^n$ for suitable $a, b \in R$. Let

$e = ax^n$; then $e^2 = e$ and $e \neq 0$ or 1 .

A topological space E is noetherian if the descending chain condition holds for closed sets. Suppose now E is noetherian. A closed set $W \neq \emptyset$ is irreducible if whenever $W = W_1 \cup W_2$, W_1 and W_2 closed, then $W = W_1$ or $W = W_2$. Every closed set $W \neq \emptyset$ in E is union of a finite number of irreducible closed sets; these irreducible closed sets are uniquely determined by W . The verification of this statement is immediate.

Let W be an irreducible closed set, and

$$W \subset W_1 \subset W_2 \subset \dots \subset W_n$$

a chain of closed sets (\subset stands for proper inclusion). n is called the height of the chain. The supremum over the heights of all such chains is called the height of W , $ht(W)$. In general, if W is any closed set, $ht(W)$ is the infimum of the heights of the irreducible components of W . We let $ht(\emptyset) = \infty$.

$$\sup\{ht(W) \mid W \neq \emptyset \text{ is closed in } E\}$$

is the dimension of the noetherian space E .

The prime spectrum and the maximal ideal spectrum of a noetherian ring R are noetherian. The irreducible closed sets in \mathcal{P} are of the form $W(p)$ where p is prime; for if A is closed, let $p = \bigcap_{q \in A} q$; clearly p is prime and $A = W(p)$.

Proposition 1.2 Let R be a commutative noetherian ring, and P a projective module over R . $\text{rank}_P P$ depends only on the connected component of p in \mathcal{P} .

Proof: $p, q \in \mathcal{P}$ are in the same connected component of \mathcal{P} if and only if there is a chain of closed sets W_0, \dots, W_n such that $W_i \cap W_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$ and $q \in W_0, p \in W_n$. For if p and q are in the same connected component W of \mathcal{P} , consider an irreducible decomposition of W into irreducible closed sets. These irreducible closed sets can be arranged into a chain with the desired properties because W is not the union of two disjoint closed subsets different from W . For the converse note that an irreducible closed set is connected. Suppose $W_i = W(p_i)$ with p_i being prime ideals. If $W_i \cap W_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$, then there is a maximal ideal p in this intersection, $p \supset p_i, p_{i+1}$. In general, if p and q are prime and $p \supset q$, then $\text{rank}_p P = \text{rank}_q P$ because P_p is free and $(P_p)_q = P_q$.

Corollary 1.3 For a noetherian ring R the following are equivalent:

- (1) R is coherent.
- (2) R contains no non-trivial idempotents.
- (3) The prime spectrum of R is connected.
- (4) For any projective R -module P , $\text{rank}_p P$ is independent of the prime ideal p .

Clearly $(2) \Rightarrow (3) \Rightarrow (4) \Rightarrow (1) \Rightarrow (2)$.

2. J.-P. Serre's Structure Theorem

Our aim is the following structure theorem [Module projectifs et espaces fibrés à fibre vectorielle; exposé 23 in Séminaire Dubreil-Pisot 11 (1957/58)].

Theorem 2.1 Suppose R is a commutative noetherian ring with connected prime spectrum. Every finitely generated projective R -module P is of the form $F \oplus P'$ where F is free and P' is projective of rank $\leq \dim \mathcal{M}$ (\leq Krull dimension of R).

Let P be^a finitely generated Projective module over R . We write $P(p)$ for P/pP and $p \in \mathcal{M}$. Each element $s \in P$ induces an element in $P(p)$ which we will denote by $s(p)$. s_1, \dots, s_k are called linearly independent at $p \in \mathcal{M}$ if $s_1(p), \dots, s_k(p)$ are linearly independent in the vector space $P(p)$ over the field $R(p)$.

Proposition 2.2 Let $s \in P$;

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : R &\longrightarrow P \\ r &\longrightarrow rs \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism of R onto a direct summand of P if and only if $s(p) \neq 0$ for $p \in \mathcal{M}$.

Proof: Let $I = \text{im } \varphi$. Suppose $s(p) = 0$ for some $p \in \mathcal{M}$, but $P = I \oplus Q$. Then $I \subset pP = pI \oplus pQ$. Consequently $I \subset pI$, or $I = pI$, which is impossible because I is free. Conversely, suppose $s(p) \neq 0$ for all $p \in \mathcal{M}$. Let $J = \text{Kernel } (\varphi)$. $0 \longrightarrow J \longrightarrow R \longrightarrow P$ is exact, so by localization,

$$0 \longrightarrow J_p \longrightarrow R_p \longrightarrow P_p$$

is exact for $p \in \mathcal{M}$. P_p is free, say with generators y_1, \dots, y_r , and let $s(p) = \sum x_i y_i$. Then $r \cdot x_i = 0$ for $r \in J_p$. Since not all $x_i \in p_p$, one of them is a unit, thus $r = 0$. Hence $J_p = 0$ for $p \in \mathcal{M}$ which implies $J = 0$. Therefore $0 \rightarrow R \rightarrow P \rightarrow P/I \rightarrow 0$ is exact. It remains to be shown that P/I is projective. By hypothesis on s ,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & R/p \otimes R & \rightarrow & R/p \otimes P & \rightarrow & R/p \otimes P/I \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & R(p) & \rightarrow & P(p) & \rightarrow & P/I(p) \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

is exact for $p \in \mathcal{M}$. Thus since R/p is a field,

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_{R/p}(P/I(p), R/p) & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_{R/p}(P(p), R/p) & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_{R/p}(R/p, R/p) \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_R(P/I, R/p) & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_R(P, R/p) & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}_R(R, R/p) \rightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ & & & & R/p \otimes \text{Hom}_R(P, R) & \rightarrow & R/p \otimes R \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

is exact for $p \in \mathcal{M}$. Hence $\text{Hom}(P, R) \rightarrow R$ is onto, i.e. φ has a left inverse.

In order to prove the theorem it suffices now to show

Lemma 2.3 Let h be a non-negative integer such that $h \leq \text{rank}_p P$ for $p \in \mathcal{M}$; then there is $s \in P$ and a closed subset F of \mathcal{M} of height $\geq h$ such that $s(p) \neq 0$ for $p \notin F$.

In fact, if $\text{rank}_p P > \dim \mathcal{M}$ for all $p \in \mathcal{M}$, we can take $h = \dim_p P$ (supposing the prime spectrum of R is connected so that $\dim_p P$ is independent of the prime p). Then $\text{ht}(F) > \dim \mathcal{M}$, i.e. $F = \emptyset$, and we can apply proposition 2.2.

In order to be able to prove the lemma by induction on h , we have to prove a more general statement (lemma 2.6).

Lemma 2.4 Let $F \subset \mathcal{M}$ be such that $s_1, \dots, s_k \in P$ are linearly dependent exactly at $p \in F$, then F is closed.

Proof: Let Q be a projective such that $P \oplus Q = E$ is a free module of finite rank. Pick a basis for E ; this gives a basis for the homogeneous part $E_k(E)$ of degree k of the exterior algebra over E . Let I be the ideal of R generated by the coefficients of $s_1 \wedge s_2 \wedge \dots \wedge s_k$ in this basis. Now $s_1(p) \wedge \dots \wedge s_k(p) = 0$ if and only if $p \in I$, i.e. $F = W(I)$.

Lemma 2.5 Suppose $p_1, \dots, p_k \in \mathcal{M}$ are distinct, and $v_i \in P(p_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then there exists $s \in P$ such that $s(p_i) = v_i$, $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Proof: Let $I_i = \bigcap_{j \neq i} p_j$; then $\sum I_i = R$. So there are $\epsilon_i \in I_i$ with $\sum \epsilon_i = 1$. Pick $s_i \in P$ with $s_i(p_i) = v_i$ and let $s = \sum s_i \epsilon_i$.

Lemma 2.6 Let s_1, \dots, s_k be linearly dependent exactly at $p \in F \subset \mathcal{M}$. Suppose $p_1, \dots, p_k \in F$, $v_i \in P(p_i)$ $i = 1, \dots, k$, and h is a non-negative integer such that $h + k \leq \dim_p P$ for all $p \in \mathcal{M}$. Then there is $s \in P$ and a closed set $E \subset \mathcal{M}$ such that

- 1) $s(p_i) = v_i$,
- 2) s_1, \dots, s_k, s are linearly dependent exactly at $F \cup E$,
- 3) $ht(E) \geq h$.

Proof: We proceed by induction on h . This is trivial for $h = 0$: we solve first 1), and let E be the set where s_1, \dots, s_k, s are linearly dependent. Now suppose $h > 0$, and the lemma holds for $h - 1$. Let $u \in P$ and $G \subset \mathcal{M}$ be a closed set such that 1) $u(p_i) = v_i$, 2) s_1, \dots, s_k, u are linearly dependent exactly at $F \cup G$, 3) $ht(G) \geq h - 1$. Let G_1, \dots, G_m be the irreducible

components of G of height $h-1$. Pick

$$p_\alpha \in G_\alpha - (F \cup \bigcup_{\beta \neq \alpha} G_\beta).$$

$s_1(p_\alpha), \dots, s_k(p_\alpha)$ are linearly independent in $P(p_\alpha)$, but $u(p_\alpha)$ depends linearly on them. Since $h > 0$, $\dim P(p_\alpha) = \text{rank } p_\alpha P > k$. So there are $w_\alpha \in P(p_\alpha)$ linearly independent of $s_1(p_\alpha), \dots, s_k(p_\alpha)$. Using the induction hypothesis again, we can find $t \in P$ and a closed set $H \subset \mathcal{M}$ such that

- 1) $t(p_i) = 0$, $t(p_\alpha) = w_\alpha$
- 2) s_1, \dots, s_k, u, t are linearly dependent exactly at $p \in F \cup G \cup H$,
- 3) $\text{ht}(H) \geq h - 1$.

Let H_1, \dots, H_r be the irreducible components of H of height $h-1$.

Choose

$$q_\beta \in H_\beta - (F \cup G \cup \bigcup_{\gamma \neq \beta} H_\gamma).$$

$s_1(q_\beta), \dots, s_k(q_\beta), u(q_\beta)$ are linearly independent, and $t(q_\beta)$ depends linearly on these elements, say

$$u(q_\beta) = \delta_\beta \cdot t(q_\beta) \text{ mod } (s_1(q_\beta), \dots, s_k(q_\beta)).$$

Pick $f \in R$ such that

$$f(p_\alpha) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad f(q_\beta) \neq \delta_\beta.$$

Define $s = u - ft$. Let E' be the set where s_1, \dots, s_k, s are linearly dependent. Define E to be union of the irreducible components of E' which are not in F .

1) and 2) are fulfilled by construction. Let E_0 be an irreducible component of E . $E_0 \subset G \cup H$, so $\text{ht}(E_0) \geq h - 1$.

Suppose $\text{ht}(E_0) = h-1$, then $E_0 = G_\alpha$ or $E_0 = H_\beta$ for some α or β .

Suppose $E_0 = G_\alpha$; $s(p_\alpha) = u(p_\alpha) - t(p_\alpha)$ depends linearly on

$s_1(p_\alpha), \dots, s_k(p_\alpha)$ by definition of E_0 . On the other hand, $u(p_\alpha)$

depends linearly on $s_1(p_\alpha), \dots, s_k(p_\alpha)$ by construction of G_α . Hence

$t(p_\alpha) = w_\alpha$ depends linearly on $s_1(p_\alpha), \dots, s_k(p_\alpha)$, a contradiction

to the definition of w_α . Suppose $E_0 = H_\beta$. $s(q_\beta) = 0 \pmod{(s_1(q_\beta),$

$\dots, s_k(q_\beta))$ by construction of E_0 . On the other hand $s(q_\beta) = u(q_\beta) -$

$f(q_\beta) \cdot t(q_\beta) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{(s_1(q_\beta), \dots, s_k(q_\beta))}$ by definition of H_β .

Hence $\text{ht}(E_0) \neq h-1$, i.e. $\text{ht}(E_0) > h-1$. This shows $\text{ht}(E) > h-1$.

with respect to rows of D and multiplication on the left. With these operations D can be transformed into a diagonal matrix $D' = ADB$, A and B being product of matrices $D_{ij}(p)$ (notice that $[D_{ij}(p)]^{-1} = D_{ij}(-p)$). Since $\det D = 1$, also $\det D' = 1$, i.e. the entries in D' are elements of the field K . Now

$$D' = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \lambda_n \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & 0 \\ & \lambda_2 & \dots & \lambda_n \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & (\lambda_3 \dots \lambda_n)^{-1} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & (\lambda_1 \lambda_2)^{-1} & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & & 1 \end{vmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ & \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_4 \dots \lambda_n & \\ & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & & 1 \end{vmatrix} \dots$$

and a two-by-two matrix $\begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & y \end{pmatrix}$ with $xy = 1$ is easily seen to be a product of matrices $D_{ij}(p)$. Therefore D' is again product of matrices $D_{ij}(\alpha)$, $\alpha \in K$.

Let R be a Dedekind domain, \mathfrak{p} a prime ideal in R . Suppose P is a finitely generated projective R -module, say $P = \sum_1^n \oplus I_j$ where I_j are ideals in R . $\bar{P} = P/\mathfrak{p}P = \sum \oplus \bar{I}_j$ is R/\mathfrak{p} -free with free generators $\bar{e}_1, \dots, \bar{e}_n$, where $e_j \in I_j$ and \bar{e}_j generates \bar{I}_j .

Lemma 3.3. Every automorphism of $\bar{P}[x] = R/\mathfrak{p}[x] \otimes_{R/\mathfrak{p}} \bar{P}$ of determinant 1 is induced by an automorphism of $P[x] = R[x] \otimes_R P$.

Proof: It suffices to prove this for an automorphism with matrix $D_{ij}(\bar{q})$, $\bar{q} = \sum \bar{c}_k x^k \in R/p[x]$. Lift each \bar{c}_k to an element c_k of $I_i I_j^{-1}$ via the natural morphism

$$\begin{aligned} I_i I_j^{-1} &= I_i \otimes \text{Hom}(I_j, R) \longrightarrow R/p \otimes I_i \otimes R/p \otimes \text{Hom}(I_j, R) \\ &\longrightarrow \bar{I}_i \otimes \text{Hom}(\bar{I}_j, R/p) = R/p. \end{aligned}$$

Define $q = \sum c_k x^k$; clearly $D_{ij}(q)$ acting on $\sum \oplus I_k$ induces $D_{ij}(\bar{q})$. $D_{ij}(q)$ has the inverse $D_{ij}(-q)$, so defines an automorphism.

Proof of the theorem: P is a finitely generated projective $R[x]$ -module of rank n . Consider all submodules L of P which are isomorphic to a module of the form $\sum_1^n \oplus I_k$, I_k being an extended ideal (i.e. $I_k = R[x] \otimes I'_k$ and I'_k is an ideal in R). Let K be the field of fractions of R . Since $K \otimes_R L \cong K \otimes_R P$ and P is finitely generated, we can find $r \in R[x]$ such that $r \neq 0$ and $rP \subset L$.

Now let L be a maximal submodule of P of this kind (which exists because P is noetherian), and suppose $L \neq P$. Let \mathfrak{p} be a prime ideal in R which divides the annihilator $A \neq 0$ of P/L . The morphism $j: L \rightarrow L/pL \rightarrow P/pP$ has kernel $L \cap pP$. Let N and I be the kernel and image of $i: L/pL \rightarrow P/pP$.

$$0 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow L/pL \xrightarrow{i} I \longrightarrow 0$$

splits over the principal ideal domain $R/p[x]$ (because I is free over $R/p[x]$ as a submodule of the free module P/pP). We claim that $N \neq 0$. For, otherwise, i is one-to-one, i.e. $L \cap pP = pL$, and thus $p(p^{-1}A)P \subset L \cap pP = pL$, $p^{-1}AP \subset L$. This is a contradiction because A was the annihilator of P/L . We select now a basis

$\bar{e}_1, \dots, \bar{e}_n$ for L/pL such that $\bar{e}_1, \dots, \bar{e}_s$ ($s \geq 1$) is a basis for N and $i(\bar{e}_{s+1}), \dots, i(\bar{e}_n)$ is a basis for I . Since $L = \Sigma \oplus I_j$, I_j are extended ideals, we can choose a basis $\bar{e}_1, \dots, \bar{e}_n$ for L/pL such that \bar{e}_j is a generator of $\bar{I}_j = I_j/pI_j$. Let \bar{T} be the automorphism of L/pL which corresponds to the change of bases $(\bar{e}_j) \rightarrow (\bar{e}_j)$.

We may assume that $\det \bar{T} = 1$ (changing \bar{e}_1 by a factor if necessary).

Let T be an automorphism of L inducing \bar{T} . Define $I_j^! = TI_j \subset P$;

then $L = \Sigma \oplus I_j^!$. Moreover, $I_k^! \subset pP$ for $1 \leq k \leq s$. Thus

$L' = \sum_{k=1}^s p^{-1} I_k^! \oplus \sum_{j=s+1}^n I_j^! \subset P$ and $L \subset L'$, a contradiction to the maximality of L .

Hence $L = P$; P is of the form $P' \otimes R[x]$, P' being a finitely generated projective R -module of rank n . The assertion follows now from the decomposition theorem for P' (Proposition 5.6 of Chapter).

4. The Krull-Schmidt Theorem

In the following Λ will always denote a (not necessarily commutative) ring.

Definition 4.1. A (left) Λ -module A is said to be indecomposable if A is not the direct sum of two non-zero Λ -modules.

The following lemma is easily verified:

Lemma 4.2. A is indecomposable if and only if the ring $\text{Hom}(A, A)$ has no non-trivial idempotents.

Recall that a ring Λ is local if the set of non-units is an ideal in Λ ; or Λ possesses a unique maximal (two-sided) ideal which contains all right and left ideals of Λ . In the beginning of this section we will not assume that a local ring is noetherian. The following theorem is well-known from the theory of groups with operators:

Theorem 4.3. Suppose the left Λ -module M admits two decompositions

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^s \oplus M_i \quad \text{and} \quad M = \sum_{j=1}^t \oplus N_j, \quad s \leq t,$$

into indecomposable submodules M_i (resp. N_j). If $\text{Hom}(M_i, M_i)$, $1 \leq i \leq s$, is a local ring then $s = t$ and $M_i \cong N_j$ after suitable reordering.

Proof: We proceed by induction. Suppose $M_i \cong N_i$ for $i \leq r-1$ and

$$M = N_1^r \oplus \dots \oplus N_k^r \oplus M_{k+1}^r \oplus \dots \oplus M_s^r \quad \text{for } k \leq r-1,$$

where N_1^r is a submodule of M isomorphic to N_j . Consider

$$M = N_1^r \oplus \dots \oplus N_{r-1}^r \oplus M_r^r \oplus \dots \oplus M_s^r.$$

Let π_1, \dots, π_s be the projections determined by this decomposition, and η_1, \dots, η_t the idempotents of $\text{Hom}(M, M)$ determined by the representation $M = \Sigma \oplus N_j$. Evidently $\pi_r = \pi_r \circ \Sigma \eta_j = \Sigma \pi_r \circ \eta_j$. $\pi_r \circ \eta_j = \pi_r \circ \pi_j \circ \eta_j = 0$ for $j \leq r-1$, hence

$$\pi_r = \pi_r \circ \eta_r + \dots + \pi_r \circ \eta_t .$$

We operate now in M_r ; here $1 = \pi_r = \pi_r \circ \eta_r + \dots + \pi_r \circ \eta_t$. Since $\text{Hom}(M_r, M_r)$ is a local ring, one of the $\pi_r \circ \eta_j$, say $\pi_r \circ \eta_r$ is an automorphism of M_r . We show $N_r \cong M_r$ under η_r^{-1} , and that (+) holds for $k = r$.

Since $\pi_r \eta_r$ is an automorphism of M_r , $\eta_r: M_r \rightarrow N_r$ is a monomorphism. Let $\bar{N}_r = \eta_r(M_r)$ and let K be the kernel of $\pi_r: N_r \rightarrow M_r$; we have $\bar{N}_r \cap K = (0)$. If $y \in N_r$, $\pi_r(y) = \pi_r \eta_r(x)$ for some $x \in M_r$ ($\pi_r \eta_r$ being an automorphism of M_r). Thus

$$y = (y - \eta_r(x)) + \eta_r(x), \quad y - \eta_r(x) \in K, \quad \eta_r(x) \in \bar{N}_r ;$$

i.e. $N_r = K \oplus \bar{N}_r$. But N_r is indecomposable, hence $N_r = \bar{N}_r$. This implies that $\eta_r: M_r \rightarrow N_r$ is an isomorphism. It is now easily verified that

$$\pi_1 + \dots + \pi_{r-1} + \eta_r^{-1} \circ \pi_r + \pi_{r+1} + \dots + \pi_s$$

maps M isomorphically onto $N_1 \oplus \dots \oplus N_r \oplus M_r \oplus \dots \oplus M_s$.

The following proposition guarantees the existence of such decompositions in certain cases:

Proposition 4.4. Suppose Λ satisfies the ascending or the descending chain condition on left ideals. Then every finitely generated (left) Λ -module admits a decomposition into a finite direct sum of indecomposable modules.

Proof: Let A be a finitely generated Λ -module. If A is not indecomposable, $A = A_1 \oplus A_2$ and $A_i \neq 0$. If A_i is not indecomposable, $A_i = A_{i1} \oplus A_{i2}$ and $A_{ij} \neq 0$; etc. Since A satisfies the ascending (descending) chain condition, we conclude easily that this process must stop after a finite number of steps.

Definition 4.5. We say that the Krull-Schmidt theorem holds for a left Λ -module A if A is the direct sum of indecomposable modules, the sum being unique up to order and isomorphism.

We give an example:

Lemma 4.6. Suppose Λ satisfies the descending chain condition for left ideals. Let R be the radical of Λ (Definition 8.28 of Chapter 9). Every idempotent of Λ/R is induced by an idempotent of Λ .

Proof: R is nilpotent by Theorem 8.35 of chapter 9, say $R^m = 0$. Let $\bar{e} \in \Lambda/R$ be an idempotent, say induced by $g \in \Lambda$. Then $z = g^2 - g \in R$. Now define g_n and $z_n \in R^{2n}$ by induction:

$$g_0 = g, \quad z_0 = z;$$

$$g_n = g_{n-1} + z_{n-1} - 2g_{n-1}z_{n-1},$$

$$z_n = g_n^2 - g_n = 4z_{n-1}^3 - 3z_{n-1}^2 \in R^{2n}.$$

Thus $z_m = 0$, or $g_m^2 = g_m = e$ is idempotent and induces \bar{e} .

Corollary 4.7. Suppose Λ is noetherian and satisfies the descending chain condition for left ideals. Then the Krull-Schmidt theorem holds for finitely generated left Λ -modules.

Proof: In view of Theorem 4.3 it suffices to prove that the non-units in $\text{Hom}(M, M)$, M finitely generated and indecomposable, form an ideal.

that $(\delta, x) \rightarrow \delta x$ and $(x, y) \rightarrow x + y$ from $L \times A$ resp. $A \times A$ into A is continuous; if A is an algebra then $(x, y) \rightarrow xy$ is also continuous.

Lemma 4.8. 1) If L is a complete local ring then each finitely generated left Λ -module A is also complete. 2) The completion \bar{L} of any local ring L is again a local ring with maximal ideal $\bar{p} = p\bar{L}$; we have $L/P \cong \bar{L}/\bar{P}$.

Proof: 1) This is obvious if A is free. Now let $A = F/B$ where F is free and of finite rank. The canonical map $\pi: F \rightarrow A$ is easily seen to be continuous. Now let $(a_n) \subset A$ be a Cauchy sequence, say $a_n - a_{n+1} \in p^n A$ (after passing to a subsequence). By induction find $b_n \in F$ with $\pi(b_n) = a_n$ such that $b_n - b_{n+1} \in p^n F$; first find $b'_{n+1} \in F$ with $\pi(b'_{n+1}) = a_{n+1}$; now $b_n - b'_{n+1} - c \in p^n F$ for some $c \in B$; define $b_{n+1} = b'_{n+1} + c$. (b_n) is Cauchy in F , thus converges to $b \in F$. Since π is continuous, $a_n \rightarrow \pi(b)$ in A .

2) \bar{L} is clearly a ring. If $\bar{x} \in \bar{L}$ is not a unit then there is a sequence of non-units $x_n \in L$ converging to \bar{x} (continuity of $y \rightarrow y^{-1}$ in L). From this remark it is obvious that the non-units in \bar{L} form an ideal which is equal to the closure \bar{p} of p . $p\bar{L}$ is an \bar{L} -module, hence complete, hence closed in \bar{L} , i.e. $p\bar{L} = \bar{p}$. $L \rightarrow \bar{L}$ induces $L/P \xrightarrow{i} \bar{L}/\bar{P}$, and the image is dense in \bar{L}/\bar{P} . \bar{L}/\bar{P} has the discrete topology, hence $\text{im}(i) = \bar{L}/\bar{P}$.

Now we can prove Lemma 4.6 for our new setting:

Lemma 4.9. Let Λ be any finitely generated L -algebra, where L is a complete local ring with maximal ideal p . Every idempotent $\bar{e} \in \Lambda/p\Lambda$ is induced by an idempotent $e \in \Lambda$.

Proof: The proof is almost the same as that of lemma 4.6;

$z_n = g_n^n - g_n \in p^{2n}\Lambda$, thus $z_n \rightarrow 0$, and $g_{n+1} - g_n = z_n(1-2g_n) \in p^{2n}\Lambda$, thus (g_n) is Cauchy and converges therefore to an element $e \in \Lambda$.

$e^2 - e = \lim z_n = 0$. Since $\pi: \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda/p\Lambda$ is continuous,
 $\pi(e) = \lim \pi(g_n) = \bar{e}$.

Proposition 4.10. Let Λ be any finitely generated L -algebra, L being a complete local ring. The Krull-Schmidt theorem holds for finitely generated Λ -modules.

Proof: Since Λ is noetherian proposition 4.4 applies. Thus we need only check the hypothesis of Theorem 4.3. Let M be a finitely generated indecomposable left Λ -module. $\text{Hom}(M, M)$ has no non-trivial idempotents (Lemma 4.2). Let R be the radical of $\text{Hom}(M, M)$.

Notice that the image of R in $\text{Hom}(M, M)/p\text{Hom}(M, M)$ is the radical of $\text{Hom}(M, M)/p\text{Hom}(M, M)$, and $p\text{Hom}(M, M) \subset R$; for if P is a maximal ideal in $\text{Hom}(M, M)$ and $p\text{Hom}(M, M) \not\subset P$, then $pA = A$ where $A = \text{Hom}(M, M)/P$; hence $A = 0$ by Nakayama's lemma (Proposition 4.1 of Chapter 5), a contradiction. $\text{Hom}(M, M)/p\text{Hom}(M, M)$ is finite dimensional over L/p , hence satisfies the descending chain condition. Thus every idempotent in $\text{Hom}(M, M)/R$ comes from an idempotent in $\text{Hom}(M, M)/p\text{Hom}(M, M)$ (Lemma 4.6). Lemma 4.9 shows that every idempotent in $\text{Hom}(M, M)/p\text{Hom}(M, M)$ comes from an idempotent in $\text{Hom}(M, M)$. Hence $\text{Hom}(M, M)/R$ has no non-trivial idempotents. $\text{Hom}(M, M)/R$ is finite dimensional over L/p . Thus $\text{Hom}(M, M)/R$ is semi-simple, hence a division ring, or R is a maximal ideal in $\text{Hom}(M, M)$, i.e. the only maximal ideal in $\text{Hom}(M, M)$.

5. R. G. Swan's Decomposition Theorem

The General Case

Reference: Induced Representations and Projective Modules, by R. G. Swan, Annals of Mathematics, vol. 71 (1960).

We stick to the notation used in section 6 of chapter 12.

Let L be a complete local ring, π a finite group and $P(L\pi)$ the Grothendieck group associated to the class of all finitely generated projective left $L\pi$ -modules.

Proposition 5.1. $P(L\pi)$ is free abelian with one generator for each isomorphism class of indecomposable projectives.

Proof: Let F be the free abelian group with the isomorphism classes of finitely generated indecomposable projectives as generators. Let $[P] \in P(L\pi)$, say $P = \sum \oplus P_i$ is a decomposition of P into indecomposable projectives according to Proposition 4.10. Define $\sigma[P] = \sum [P_i] \in F$. If $0 \longrightarrow P' \longrightarrow P \longrightarrow P'' \longrightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of finitely generated $L\pi$ -projectives, then $P = P' \oplus P''$. Thus the uniqueness part of Proposition 4.10 shows that the map $\sigma: P(L\pi) \longrightarrow F$ is well defined. σ is onto and has an obvious inverse, i.e. $P(L\pi) \cong F$.

Corollary 5.2. If P and P' are finitely generated $L\pi$ -projectives and $[P] = [P']$ in $P(L\pi)$ then $P \cong P'$.

Theorem 5.3. Suppose L is a complete local domain, K its field of fractions, and π a finite group of order prime to the characteristic of K . $j_*: P(L\pi) \longrightarrow P(K\pi)$ (the map induced by $j: L \longrightarrow K$, $j_*[P] = [K \otimes P]$) is a monomorphism.

Proof: 1) Suppose π is abelian. Let $L\pi = \Sigma \oplus I_1$ be a decomposition of $L\pi$ into indecomposable ideals (Theorem 4.10). Any indecomposable finitely generated projective is isomorphic to one of the I_i as follows easily from the uniqueness of decompositions. We have $1 = \Sigma e_i, e_i \in I_i, e_i e_j = \delta_{ij} e_j$ where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker symbol. Suppose $j_*([P] - [P']) = 0$, i.e. $[K \otimes P] = [K \otimes P']$, hence $K \otimes P \cong K \otimes P'$ by Corollary 7.2 of chapter 12. If $P = I_1 \oplus P_1$ then $e_1 P \neq 0$, thus $e_1(K \otimes P) \cong e_1(K \otimes P') \neq 0$, or $e_1 P' \neq 0$; hence $P' \cong I_1 \oplus P'_1$ ($e_1 I_j = \delta_{ij} I_j$ since $L\pi$ is commutative!); etc. Thus $P \cong P'$.

2) Let π be any group of order n ; then $n^2 \in G_C(Z\pi)$ by Corollary 7.10 of chapter 12, i.e. there are cyclic subgroups $\pi_k \subset \pi$ and $x_k \in G(Z\pi_k)$ such that

$$n^2 = \Sigma i_k^*(x_k), \quad i_k: \pi_k \subset \pi.$$

If $x \in P(L\pi)$ and $j_*(x) = 0$ then (Proposition 6.7 of chapter 12)

$$j_*(x_k i_k^*(x)) = j_*(x_k) i_k^* j_*(x) = 0,$$

or $x_k i_k^*(x) = 0$ by 1); thus

$$(i_k)_*(x_k i_k^*(x)) = (i_k)_*(x_k) \cdot x = 0, \\ n^2 \cdot x = 0,$$

which implies $x = 0$ since $P(L\pi)$ is free.

Let R be a Dedekind domain, π a finite group of order n prime to the characteristic of the field of fractions K of R . Suppose P is a finitely generated projective $R\pi$ -module such that $K \otimes P$ is free over $K\pi$. If $\text{char}(K) \neq 0$ then $[A] = [B]$ in $G(K\pi)$ or $G(R/p\pi)$ (p a prime ideal in R) implies $A \cong B$ (Corollary 7.2 of Chapter 12). Thus, chasing the diagram in Theorem 4.6 of chapter 12, we find that

P/pP is free. This result, the main lemma for the decomposition theorem of Swan, is needed without the restriction $\text{char}(K) \neq 0$. It is this fact which made necessary Theorem 5.3 and thus the whole machinery of sections 6 and 7 of chapter 12.

Lemma 5.4. Suppose P is $R\pi$ -projective and finitely generated. If $P \otimes K$ is $K\pi$ -free then P/pP is $R/p\pi$ -free for any prime ideal p in R .

Proof: Let L be the completion of R_p , the localization of R at p , and \bar{K} the quotient field of L . We have $R/p \cong R_p/pR_p \cong L/pL$ (Lemma 4.8). Let $\bar{P} = L \otimes_R P$; then

$$\bar{K} \otimes_L \bar{P} \cong \bar{K} \otimes_R P \cong \bar{K} \otimes_K K \otimes_R P$$

is $\bar{K}\pi$ -free. By Theorem 5.3, \bar{P} is free. Consequently

$P/pP \cong R/p \otimes_R P \cong L/pL \otimes_R P \cong L/pL \otimes_L L \otimes_R P \cong L/pL \otimes_L \bar{P}$ is free over $(L/pL)\pi \cong R/p\pi$.

Lemma 5.5. If A is a finitely generated torsion free (hence projective) R -module, then

$$\text{rank}_R A = \text{rank}_{R/p} A/pA$$

(where $\text{rank}_R A$ means the rank of A at the prime 0).

This is immediate if we write A as the sum of $\text{rank}_R A$ ideals.

If A is a $R\pi$ -module and $B \subset A$ a submodule of A , then let

$$B: A = \{r \in R \mid rA \subset B\}.$$

Proposition 5.6. Let P be a finitely generated $R\pi$ -module such that $K \otimes_R P$ is $K\pi$ -free. Let \mathcal{O}_L be any non-zero ideal in R . P contains a free $R\pi$ -module F such that

$$(F: P, \mathcal{O}_L) = 1.$$

Proof: First suppose $\mathcal{O} = p$ is prime. P/pP is free. Let $\bar{a}_1, \dots, \bar{a}_k$ be a basis for P/pP ($nk = \text{rank}_R P$). The submodule F of P generated by a_1, \dots, a_k is free: $F/pF = P/pP$, so $\text{rank}_R F = \text{rank}_{R/p} F/pF = \text{rank}_{R/p} P/pP = n \cdot k$. It is easily checked that $(F:P, p) = 1$.

In general, $\mathcal{O} = \Pi p_i$. The last step can be modified. Let $\bar{a}_1^i, \dots, \bar{a}_k^i$ be a basis for $P/p_i P$, and $\alpha_i \in R$ such that $\alpha_i = \delta_{ij} \pmod{p_j}$ (lemma 2.5). Define $a_s = \sum \alpha_i a_s^i$, $s = 1, \dots, k$.

Corollary 5.7. P can also be embedded into a free $R\pi$ -module F such that $(P: F, \mathcal{O}) = 1$.

Let $a \in \mathcal{O}$ and $b \in F: P$ such that $a + b \equiv 1$, F being the module of Proposition 5.2. Now $(bP:F, \mathcal{O}) = 1$ and $P \cong bP$.

Lemma 5.8. Suppose I is an ideal in $R\pi$ and $(I: R\pi, n) = 1$. Then I is $R\pi$ -projective.

Proof: $R\pi/I$ is a direct summand of $R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} R\pi/I$: Let $k \cdot n + b = 1$, $k \in R$ and $b \in I: R\pi$. Define

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R\pi/I \xrightarrow{\eta} R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} R\pi/I & R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} R\pi/I \xrightarrow{\varphi} & R\pi/I \\ a = kn \cdot a \longrightarrow k \cdot \sum_{x \in \pi} x \otimes a & & x \otimes a \longrightarrow a \end{array}$$

Clearly $\varphi \circ \eta = 1_{R\pi/I}$. Choose a projective resolution of $R\pi/I$ over R

$$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow P \longrightarrow R\pi/I \longrightarrow 0,$$

P finitely generated. Then

$$0 \longrightarrow R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} A \longrightarrow R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} P \longrightarrow R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} R\pi/I \longrightarrow 0$$

is a projective resolution over $R\pi$ (chapter 12, lemma 6.6). Hence

$R\pi/I$ (a direct summand of $R\pi \otimes_R^{\pi} R\pi/I$) has homological dimension

≤ 1 over $R\pi$. Since $0 \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow R\pi \longrightarrow R\pi/I \longrightarrow 0$

is exact, I must be projective [Proposition 1.2, chapter 10].

Proposition 5.9. Suppose P is a finitely generated projective $R\pi$ -module such that $K \otimes_R P$ is $K\pi$ -free. Let \mathcal{C} be a non-zero ideal in R . Then $P = \Sigma \oplus I_j$, where I_j are projective ideals in $R\pi$ with $(I_j: R\pi, \mathcal{C}) = 1$.

Proof: Let $\mathcal{O} = n \cdot \mathcal{C} \neq 0$ and F the free $R\pi$ -module of Corollary 5.3, say with basis (e_1, \dots, e_k) . Define a map

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi: F &\longrightarrow R\pi \\ \sum \delta_j e_j &\longrightarrow \delta_1. \end{aligned}$$

φP is an ideal I_1 in $R\pi$, and $I_1: R\pi \supset P: F$. So $I_1: R\pi$ is prime to n and \mathcal{C} . Since I_1 is projective (lemma 5.4), $P = I_1 \oplus P'$.

We may also assume that $K \otimes_R I_j = K\pi$. If R is a field, P is free by assumption and there is nothing to prove. Otherwise we can choose $\mathcal{C} \neq R$; then $R\pi/I_j$ is an R -torsion module, i.e. $K \otimes_R R\pi/I_j = 0$, or $K \otimes_R I_j = K \otimes_R R\pi = K\pi$.

Theorem 5.10. Let R be a Dedekind domain, π a finite group of order n prime to the characteristic of K (the field of fractions of R), and P a finitely generated projective $R\pi$ -module such that $K \otimes_R P$ is $K\pi$ -free. Suppose \mathcal{O} is a non-zero ideal in R . Then $P \cong F \oplus I$, where F is $R\pi$ -free and I is an ideal in $R\pi$ with $(I: R\pi, \mathcal{O}) = 1$.

Proof: It suffices to show that if I and J are projective ideals in $R\pi$ with $K \otimes_R I \cong K \otimes_R J \cong K\pi$, then $I \oplus J \cong R\pi \oplus L$, L being an ideal of $R\pi$ such that $(L: R\pi, \mathcal{O}) = 1$.

Let $\mathcal{C} = I: R\pi$. J is isomorphic to an ideal J' having the property $(J': R\pi, \mathcal{C}) = L$. We replace J by J' . So there are $a \in I: R\pi$ and $b \in J: R\pi$ so that $a + b = 1$. Let $F = R\pi \cdot e_1 \oplus R\pi \cdot e_2$ be a free module of rank 2, and $A = Ie_1 \oplus Je_2$. Then $A \cong I \oplus J$, and $A: F$ is prime to \mathcal{C} because $(I: R\pi \cdot J: R\pi, \mathcal{C}) = 1$. Define a new basis for F , $f_1 = ae_1 + be_2$ and $f_2 = e_1 - e_2$. $f_1 \in A$, thus $A = R\pi f_1 + Lf_2$ where

$$L = \{\delta \in R\pi \mid \delta f_2 \in A\}.$$

$L: R\pi = A: F$ is prime to \mathcal{C} and $I \oplus J \cong R\pi \oplus L$.

6. R. G. Swan's Decomposition Theorem

The Case of Characteristic 0

We are going to prove

Theorem 6.1. Suppose R is a Dedekind domain of characteristic 0, π a finite group of order n , and P a finitely generated projective $R\pi$ -module. Assume that no prime dividing the order n of π is a unit in R . Then $K \otimes_R P$ is $K\pi$ -free, K being the field of fractions of R .

The proof consists of several steps.

1) If L is a field of characteristic $p \neq 0$ and π a finite group of order p^e , then $L\pi$ is a (non-commutative) local ring. For, if $x \in L\pi$, then $x^{p^e} \in L$; thus x is a non-unit in $L\pi$ if and only if $x^{p^e} = 0$. $\{x \in L\pi, x^{p^e} = 0\}$ is the only maximal ideal in $L\pi$.

2) $n \mid \text{rank}_R P$. Suppose $n = p^e \cdot m$ and $(p, m) = 1$. Let σ be a Sylow subgroup of π of order p^e . p lies in a prime ideal q of R . P/qP is projective over the local ring $R/q\pi$; hence P/qP is $R/q\sigma$ -free [chapter 4, theorem 4.6]. Therefore

$$p^e \mid \text{rank}_{R/q} P/qP = \text{rank}_R P.$$

3) For any $R\pi$ -module A let $A^\pi = \{a \in A \mid xa = a \text{ for all } x \in \pi\}$. We have $K \otimes_R A^\pi = (K \otimes_R A)^\pi$.

4) If π is cyclic, then $\text{rank}_R P = n \cdot \text{rank}_R P^\pi$.

Proof: First suppose $n = p$ is prime. Let \mathfrak{q} be a prime ideal containing p . As in 2), $P/\mathfrak{q}P$ is $R/\mathfrak{q}\pi$ -free, say generated by $\bar{a}_1, \dots, \bar{a}_k$. As in proposition 5.6 we see that the submodule F of P generated by a_1, \dots, a_k is free, and $(F: P, \mathfrak{q}) = 1$. P/F is a torsion module over R . Let $r \in R - \{0\}$ with $rP \subset F$; then $rP^\pi \subset F^\pi$, so P^π/F^π is a torsion module over R , too. Consequently $K \otimes_R P = K \otimes_R F$ and $K \otimes_R P^\pi = K \otimes_R F^\pi$. In general, we proceed by induction. Let $\sigma < \pi$, $\sigma \neq \{1\}$, be a proper subgroup of π . P is projective over $R\sigma$ ($R\pi$ being free over $R\sigma$); thus $\text{rank}_R P = [\sigma: 1] \cdot \text{rank}_R P^\sigma$ by induction hypothesis. P^σ is projective over $R\pi/\sigma$ because $(R\pi)^\sigma = R\pi/\sigma$; thus again by induction hypothesis, $\text{rank}_R P^\sigma = [\pi: \sigma] \cdot \text{rank}_R (P^\sigma)^{\pi/\sigma} = [\pi: \sigma] \cdot \text{rank}_R P^\pi$.

5) The theorem holds for π a cyclic group.

Proof: By 2) there is a free $R\pi$ -module F with $\text{rank}_R F = \text{rank}_R P$; hence $K \otimes_R F = K \otimes_R P$ if we can show that the number k of occurrences of a simple module M in a Jordan-Hoelder decomposition of $K \otimes_R P$ does only depend on $\text{rank}_R P$. For any $K\pi$ -modules A, B , we make $\text{Hom}_K(A, B)$ into a $K\pi$ -module setting $x \cdot f = xofx^{-1}$ for $x \in \pi, f \in \text{Hom}_K(A, B)$. Let $M^* = \text{Hom}_K(M, K)$, and choose an $R\pi$ -module A , torsion free over R , so that $M^* = K \otimes_R A$ (chapter 12, lemma 7.5). We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_1^k \text{Hom}_{K\pi}(M, M) &= \text{Hom}_{K\pi}(M, K \otimes_R P) = (M^* \otimes_K (K \otimes_R P))^\pi \\ &= K \otimes_R (A \otimes_R P)^\pi \quad \text{by 3).} \end{aligned}$$

$A \otimes_R^\pi P$ is projective (chapter 12, lemma 6.6). Hence

$$k \cdot \dim_{K \rtimes \pi} \text{Hom}_{K \rtimes \pi}(M, M) = n^{-1} \cdot \text{rank}_R(A \otimes_R^\pi P) = n^{-1} \cdot \text{rank}_R A \cdot \text{rank}_R P .$$

6) Proof of the Theorem. Let χ be the character defined by $K \otimes_R P$ (chapter 12, proposition 7.4). $\chi(1) = \text{rank}_R P$, and $\chi(x) = 0$ for $x \in \pi$, $x \neq 1$ since $K \otimes_R P$ is free over $K(x)$ by 5). 2) assures the existence of a free $R\pi$ -module F such that $\text{rank}_R F = \text{rank}_R P$, so $\chi_{K \otimes_R F} = \chi_{K \otimes_R P}$, or

$$K \otimes_R F \cong K \otimes_R P$$

by (chapter 12, theorem 7.3).

Theorem 5.10 now implies:

Theorem 6.2. Suppose R is a Dedekind domain of characteristic 0, π a finite group, and P a finitely generated projective $R\pi$ -module. If no prime dividing the order of π is a unit in R , then P has a decomposition

$$P = F \oplus I ,$$

where F is a free $R\pi$ -module, and I is an ideal in $R\pi$.