Representation theory

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Do not hand in solutions to problems that you consider trivial (unless too few are left). Do hand in the solutions to the hardest problems you can actually solve.

Theorem 1 (Frobenius, 1901)**.** *Let G be a group acting transitively on a finite set X such that for all $\sigma \in G \setminus \{1\}$ one has $\#\{x \in X : \sigma x = x\} \leq 1$. Then*

$$N = \{1\} \cup \{\sigma \in G : \forall x \in X : \sigma x \neq x\}$$

is a (normal) subgroup of G.

A group G is called a *Frobenius group* if an X and an action as in the theorem exist with $\#X \geq 2$ and the additional property that there are $\sigma \in G \setminus \{1\}$ and $x \in X$ with $\sigma x = x$; also, N is called the *Frobenius kernel* of G, and $\#X$ is called the *degree*.

Exercise L.1. Let G, X, N be as in the theorem of Frobenius, with $n = \#X \geq 2$.

(a) Prove: $\#N = n$.

(b) Suppose N is a subgroup. Prove: N is normal, and N acts transitively on X.

(c) Prove: $\#G = nd$ for some divisor d of $n - 1$.

Exercise L.2. Show by means of an example that the condition that X is finite cannot be omitted from Frobenius' theorem.

Exercise L.3. (a) Let R be a ring, $I \subset R$ a left ideal of finite index, and H a subgroup of the group R^* of units of R such that for all $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$ one has $R = (a-1)R + I$. Prove that $X = R/I$ and $G = \{\sigma : X \to X : \text{there exist } a \in H,\ b \in R : \text{for all } x \in R : \sigma(x \bmod I) = (ax + b \bmod I)\}$ satisfy the conditions of Frobenius' theorem. What is N?

(b) Show how to recover the examples D_n (n odd) from (a).

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Exercise L.4. (a) Apply Exercise L.3 to the subring $R = \mathbb{Z}[i,j]$ of the division ring $\mathbb{H} = \mathbb{R} + \mathbb{R}\cdot i + \mathbb{R}\cdot j + \mathbb{R}\cdot ij$ of quaternions to construct a Frobenius group G of order $8\cdot 9$ and degree 9 such that G contains the quaternion group $Q = \langle i,j\rangle$ of order 8.

(b) Apply Exercise L.3 to $R = \mathbb{Z}[i,(1+i+j+ij)/2]$ to construct a Frobenius group of order $24\cdot 25$ and degree 25 that contains Q.

Exercise L.5*. Can you think of an example of a Frobenius group whose Frobenius kernel is non-abelian?

Exercise L.6. (a) Let R be a ring. Prove that there is a unique ring homomorphism $\mathbb{Z} \to R$.

(b) Let M be an abelian group. Prove that M has a unique $\mathbb{Z}$-module structure.

Exercise L.7 Chinese reminder theorem. (a) Let R be a commutative ring, $t \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 2}$, and let $I_1, \ldots, I_t$ be ideals of R such that for any two distinct indices i, j one has $I_i + I_j = R$. Prove that $\bigcap_{i=1}^{t} I_i = \prod_{i=1}^{t} I_i$, and show that the ring $R/\prod_{i=1}^{t} I_i$ is isomorphic to the product ring $\prod_{i=1}^{t} R/I_i$.

(b) Let the commutativity assumption on R in (a) be dropped, and interpret "ideal" to mean "two-sided ideal". Show how one can replace the product ideal by a suitable sum of product ideals so that the statements in (a) remain correct.

Exercise L.8. Let R be a ring, M an R-module, and $x \in M$. Write $\operatorname{Ann} x = \{r \in R : rx = 0\}$ (the *annihilator* of x), and $Rx = \{rx : r \in R\} \subset M$.

(a) Prove that $\operatorname{Ann} x$ is a left ideal of R, that Rx is a sub-R-module of M, and that there is an isomorphism $R/\operatorname{Ann} x \cong Rx$ of R-modules.

(b) We call M *cyclic* (as an R-module) if there exists $x \in M$ with $M = Rx$. Prove: M is cyclic if and only if there exists a left ideal $I \subset R$ with $M \cong R/I$.

Exercise L.9. (a) Let R be a domain, i.e. a commutative ring with $1 \neq 0$ without zero-divisors, and let M be an R-module. A *torsion element* of M is an element $x \in M$ with $\operatorname{Ann} x \neq \{0\}$ (see Exercise L.8). Prove that the set M_{tor} of torsion elements is a submodule of M.

(b) Give an example of a ring R and an R-module M for which $\{x \in M : \operatorname{Ann} x \neq \{0\}\}$ is not a submodule of M.

Exercise L.10. Let k be a field, and denote by R the ring $\{\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & c \end{smallmatrix}\right) : a,\, b,\, c \in k\}$ of lower-triangular 2×2-matrices over k. In this exercise all R-modules are described.

(a) Let V and W be k-vector spaces, and let $f\colon V \to W$ be a k-linear map. Prove that the group $V \oplus W$ is an R-module with multiplication $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & c \end{smallmatrix}\right)\cdot(v,w) = (av, b\cdot f(v) + cw)$ (for $a,\, b,\, c \in k$, $v \in V$, $w \in W$).

(b) Prove that, up to isomorphism, any R-module is obtained as in (a).

Exercise L.11. Let $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ be the polynomial ring in one indeterminate X over the field $\mathbb{Q}$ of rational numbers, and let M be the $\mathbb{Q}$-vector space consisting of all sequences $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} = (a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots)$ of elements a_i of $\mathbb{Q}$. Make M into a $\mathbb{Q}[X]$-module by putting

$$X \cdot (a_0, a_1, a_2, \ldots) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots).$$

Let $(F_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} = (F_0, F_1, F_2, \ldots) = (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \ldots)$ be the sequence of *Fibonacci numbers*, defined by $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$, $F_{i+2} = F_{i+1} + F_i$ $(i \geq 0)$. Prove that $\mathrm{Ann}\big((F_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}\big)$ is the $\mathbb{Q}[X]$-ideal generated by $X^2 - X - 1$.

Exercise L.12. Let A be one of the groups $\mathbb{Z}$, $\mathbb{Q}$, $\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$, and let B be one of the groups $\mathbb{Z}$, $\mathbb{Q}$, $\mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}$. To which 'known' group is $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, B)$ isomorphic? Motivate all your nine answers.

Exercise L.13. Let R, S, T be rings, let M be an R-S-bimodule, and let N be an R-T-bimodule. Exhibit an S-T-bimodule structure on the group ${}_R\mathrm{Hom}(M, N)$ of R-linear maps $M \to N$.

Exercise L.14. Let R_1 and R_2 be rings, and let R be the ring $R_1 \times R_2$. Let L_i and M_i be R_i-modules, for $i = 1, 2$, and define the R-modules L and M by $L = L_1 \times L_2$ and $M = M_1 \times M_2$. Prove that there is a bijective map $\mathrm{Hom}_{R_1}(L_1, M_1) \times \mathrm{Hom}_{R_2}(L_2, M_2) \to \mathrm{Hom}_R(L, M)$ sending the pair (f_1, f_2) to the map $f \colon L \to M$ defined by $f(x_1, x_2) = (f_1(x_1), f_2(x_2))$ (for $x_1 \in L_1$, $x_2 \in L_2$).

Exercise L.15. Let $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ be a group of order 2, and let $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ be the group ring of G over the ring $\mathbb{Z}$ of integers. For a $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-module M, write $M_+ = \{x \in M : \sigma x = x\}$ and $M_- = \{x \in M : \sigma x = -x\}$. Prove: for every $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-module M there is an exact sequence

$$0 \to L \to M_+ \oplus M_- \to M \to N \to 0$$

of $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-modules, where the middle arrow sends (x, y) to $x + y$, and where L and N are $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-modules with $L = L_+ = L_-$ and $N = N_+ = N_-$.

Can you find an example of a $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-module M for which L and N are both non-zero?

Exercise L.16. Let A be the abelian group $\prod_p \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$, and let B be the subgroup $\bigoplus_p \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ of A; in both cases, p ranges over the set of primes. Let C be the abelian group A/B.

(a) Prove: for each positive integer n, the map $C \to C$ sending x to nx is bijective.

(b) Prove: the group C has a module structure over the field $\mathbb{Q}$ of rational numbers.

Exercise L.17. Let A be the ring $\prod_p \mathbb{F}_p$ with componentwise ring operations, the product ranging over all prime numbers p.

(a) Prove that A contains $\mathbb{Z}$ as a subring.

(b) Let $R = \{a \in A : \text{ there exists } n \in \mathbb{Z},\, n \neq 0, \text{ such that } na \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Prove that R is a subring of A, and that there is an exact sequence of abelian groups

$$0 \to \bigoplus_p \mathbb{F}_p \to R \to \mathbb{Q} \to 0.$$

Does this sequence split?

Exercise L.18. Let R be a ring. The *opposite* ring R^{opp} has the same underlying additive group as R, but with multiplication $*$ defined by $a * b = ba$, for $a, b \in R^{\text{opp}}$.

(a) Prove that, for every positive integer n and every commutative ring A, the ring $M(n, A)$ of $n \times n$-matrices over A is isomorphic to its opposite.

(b) * Is every ring isomorphic to its opposite? Give a proof or a counterexample.

Exercise L.19. Let I be an infinite set, for each $i \in I$ let R_i be a non-zero ring, and let R be the product ring $\prod_{i \in I} R_i$. Construct an R-module M that is not isomorphic to an R-module of the form $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$, with each M_i being an R_i-module and $R = \prod_{i \in I} R_i$ acting componentwise on $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$.

Exercise L.20. (This exercise counts for two). Prove the structure theorem for finitely generated modules over a principal ideal domain.

Exercise L.21. Let R be a ring. In class we defined two R-modules to be *Jordan-Hölder isomorphic* if they have isomorphic chains of submodules. Prove that this is an equivalence relation on the class of all R-modules.

Exercise L.22. Are $\mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/75\mathbb{Z})$ and $\mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z}/14\mathbb{Z})$ Jordan-Hölder isomorphic as $\mathbb{Z}$-modules? Motivate your answer.

Exercise L.23. Are $\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ Jordan-Hölder isomorphic as $\mathbb{Z}$-modules? Motivate your answer.

Exercise L.24. Let R be a ring, and let M be an R-module of finite length. Prove: M and its semisimplification are Jordan-Hölder isomorphic.

Exercise L.25. Let R be a ring, let K, L, M, N be R-modules, and let $f\colon K \to L$, $g\colon L \to M$, $h\colon M \to N$ be R-linear maps such that $h \circ g \circ f = 0$ (the zero map). Construct an exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \to \ker f \to \ker(g \circ f) \to \ker g \to \big(\ker(h \circ g)\big)/\operatorname{im} f \to \\ (\ker h)/\operatorname{im}(g \circ f) \to \operatorname{cok} g \to \operatorname{cok}(h \circ g) \to \operatorname{cok} h \to 0 \end{aligned}$$

of R-modules, where ker denotes kernel, im denotes image, and cok denotes cokernel.

This result is often called the *snake lemma*. Can you see why?

Exercise L.26. (a) Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, and let $1 \to A_1 \to A_2 \to \ldots \to A_n \to 1$ be an exact sequence of groups. Suppose that all A_i with at most one exception are finite. Prove that they are all finite, and that one has $\prod_{i=1}^{n} (\# A_i)^{(-1)^i} = 1$.

(b) Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, and let $A_0 \to A_1 \to \ldots \to A_n \to A_0$ be an exact sequence of groups such that the kernel of the first map equals the image of the last. Suppose that all A_i with at most one exception are finite. Prove that they are all finite, that $\prod_{i=0}^{n} \# A_i$ is the square of some integer, and that for odd n one has $\prod_{i=0}^{n} (\# A_i)^{(-1)^i} = 1$.