

**Algebra – II**  
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**Examples related to the Jordan-Holder Theorem**

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Exercise on the Jordan-Holder theorem

Problem 1: Find refinements that are equivalent for the composition series

$$\mathbb{Z} \supset 12\mathbb{Z} \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \supset 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbb{Z} \supset 18\mathbb{Z} \supset 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0 \quad (2)$$

of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules.

Solution: Refine (1) using (2)

$$\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$12\mathbb{Z} \supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$36\mathbb{Z} \supset (36\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0$$

of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules.

Solution: Refine (1) using (2)

$$\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$12\mathbb{Z} \supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$36\mathbb{Z} \supset (36\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0$$

$a\mathbb{Z} + b\mathbb{Z} = (a,b)\mathbb{Z}$   
 $a\mathbb{Z} \cap b\mathbb{Z} = (a,b)\mathbb{Z}$   
lcm

Given:  $\mathbb{Z} \supset 6\mathbb{Z} \supset 12\mathbb{Z} \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \supset 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0$  refine (1)

Now refine (2) using (1)

$$\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) + 18\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) + 18\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$18\mathbb{Z} \supset (18\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) + 72\mathbb{Z} \supset (18\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) + 72\mathbb{Z} \supset$$

$$72\mathbb{Z} \supset (72\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) \supset (72\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) \supset 0$$

Let us solve some exercises related to the Jordan-Holder theorem. So, here is problem 1. So, I will give you two composition series for the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module. And you have to find refinements that are equivalent for the composition series. The first one is  $\mathbb{Z}$  contains  $12\mathbb{Z}$  contains  $36\mathbb{Z}$  contains  $0$ , and the second one, so, we call this number 1 and number 2 is  $\mathbb{Z}$  contains  $18\mathbb{Z}$ , which contains  $72\mathbb{Z}$ , which contains  $0$  this is number 2, and these composition series of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module. So, you should pause the video and try to solve this yourself.

We will be using the argument that we used in the proof of Schreier's theorem. So, let me solve this for you. So, the idea is to refine each of these series using the other one. So, firstly, let us refine 1 using 2. So, refining 1 using 2 means that, first we will take this part between  $Z$  and  $Z \bmod 12Z$ , and we will find the terms in between this corresponding to this filtration. So, what we do is first we take  $Z$  and then we take  $Z \cap 18Z$  plus  $12Z$ . So, this is something in between  $Z$  and  $Z \bmod 12Z$ .

And the next thing in between  $Z$  and  $Z \bmod 12Z$  is  $Z \cap 72Z$  plus  $12Z$ , once again. And then the last thing is  $Z \cap 18Z$  plus  $0$  which is just  $Z \cap 18Z$ . So, I will write that on the next,  $Z \cap 0$  plus  $12Z$ , which is just  $12Z$ . So, I will write that on the next slide. And now we go down and find terms between  $12Z$  and  $36Z$  again using  $Z \cap 18Z$  and  $72Z$ .

So, what I have to do is now I will take  $12Z \cap 18Z$  plus  $36Z$ , and then I take  $12Z \cap 72Z$  plus  $36Z$ , and then I will get here  $36Z$ . And now  $36Z \cap 18Z$  plus  $0$ , containing  $36Z \cap 72Z$  and that finally contains  $0$ . So, now let us write out the actual terms of the series. We will use two facts, one is that if you have a  $Z$  plus  $bZ$ , then this is the GCD of a  $b$  type  $Z$  and a  $Z \cap bZ$  then this is the LCM of a  $b$  times  $Z$ .

So, here, this denotes the LCM. So, using those, we can simplify these terms here. And so, what we get? So, first time is of course  $Z$ , then this is  $Z \cap 18Z$ , so we have to take the, that is just  $18Z$ ,  $18Z$  plus  $12Z$ . So, that is the GCD of 12 and 18, which is  $6Z$ . And now, let us do it here. So, this  $Z$  in the sec  $72Z$  is just  $72Z$ . And now we have to take  $72Z$  plus  $12Z$ . So, that is the GCD of 12 and 72, which is  $12Z$ . So, this is  $12Z$ . And of course, that is still  $12Z$  there.

And so, the next step  $12Z \cap 18Z$ . So, that is the LCM of 12 and 18, which is I believe 36, so  $36Z$  plus  $36Z$ . So, that is just  $36Z$  because the GCD of 36 and 36 is still 36. And then, we have  $12Z \cap 72Z$ , well, that is  $72Z$ , but  $72Z$  plus  $36Z$  is 36. So, we still have  $36Z$ , I will not write it again. And so, again,  $36Z$  over here. Then here we have  $36Z \cap 18Z$ , which is again,  $36Z$ . And then finally,  $36Z \cap 72Z$ , which is  $72Z$ .

So, I am not written the repeated terms, because they will not clearly be needed to write down the common refinement. So, this is the first, this is a refinement of 1. And now, let us refine 2 using 1. So, let us start again with  $Z$ . Then we have, we are going to take plus  $18Z$  now. So, we will take  $Z \cap 12Z$  plus  $18Z$ , then this contains  $Z \cap 36Z$  plus  $18Z$ .

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{Z} &\supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 12\mathbb{Z} \supset \\
 12\mathbb{Z} &\supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset (12\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z}) + 36\mathbb{Z} \supset \\
 36\mathbb{Z} &\supset (36\mathbb{Z} \cap 18\mathbb{Z}) \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \cap 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Given:  $\mathbb{Z} \supset 6\mathbb{Z} \supset 12\mathbb{Z} \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \supset 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0$  refine (1)

Now refine (2) using (1)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{Z} &\supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) + 18\mathbb{Z} \supset (\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) + 18\mathbb{Z} \supset \\
 18\mathbb{Z} &\supset (18\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) + 72\mathbb{Z} \supset (18\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) + 72\mathbb{Z} \supset \\
 72\mathbb{Z} &\supset (72\mathbb{Z} \cap 12\mathbb{Z}) \supset (72\mathbb{Z} \cap 36\mathbb{Z}) \supset 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Given:  $\mathbb{Z} \supset 6\mathbb{Z} \supset 18\mathbb{Z} \supset 36\mathbb{Z} \supset 72\mathbb{Z} \supset 0$  refine (2)

And now this contains 18Z itself, which in term contains 18Z intersect 12Z plus and the next term which is 72Z, and then that contains 18Z intersect 36Z last 72Z. And then finally, we will have the last row, which will be, so we will start with 72Z, and then we will filter it by the, so we will take 72Z, intersect 12Z, and that contains 72Z intersect 36Z. So, that is the series we get.

And now simplifying it, we get Z contains, and here Z intersect 12Z is 12Z, 12Z plus 18Z, so we have to look at the GCD of 12 and 18, which I believe is 6 again. And then, here we have the 36Z, 36 and 18 GCD is 18. Now, it is different from the previous series we had, and 18 intersect 12. So, that is the LCM of 18 and 12, that is 36 plus 72. So, that is still 36Z. And then, here again, we have 18 intersect 36, that is 36Z plus 72Z, that is still 36Z, so that is the same. And then, we have 72Z, and you do not really, these are now both 72Z. So, the final step is 0.

Let us just check that. So, this refines 2. So, let us just check that these are indeed equivalent by writing down the quotients. So, I just write on the order of the quotient in each case. So, that is because just going to be a cyclic group. So, here it is 6, and then this is 2 and then, so 6 Z mod 12Z, this is a group of order 2, 12Z mod 36Z is a group of order 3, 36Z mod 72Z is again a group of order 2. So, the quotients here are Z mod 6Z, Z mod 2Z, Z mod 3Z, Z mod 2Z, the questions are Z mod 6Z, Z mod 3Z, Z mod 2Z, Z mod 2Z. So, this is just a slight permutation here, these 2 and 3 get interchanged.

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Problem 2: Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , let  $M^A$  denote the  $\mathbb{R}[t]$ -module  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , where  $p(t) \in \mathbb{R}[t]$  acts on  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  by  $p(t)\vec{v} = p(A)\vec{v}$ . What is  $\ell(M^A)$ ?

Soln:  $A$  has characteristic poly:  $(t-1)(t^2+1)$   
 So  $\mathbb{R}[t] \cong \mathbb{R}[t]/(t-1) \oplus \mathbb{R}[t]/(t^2+1)$   
 So  $M^A \supset \mathbb{R}[t]/(t-1) \supset 0$  is a Jordan-Hölder series  
 So  $\ell(M^A) = 2$ .

Now, let us come to problem 2. Let  $A$  be the matrix  $0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0$ . And let  $M^A$  superscript  $A$  denote the  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  module with the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  cubed, where  $p(t)$  a polynomial in  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  acts on  $v$ , which I will write as a column vector  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  belongs to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  by  $p(t)v$  equals  $p(A)v$ . So, this is the usual way in which we attach  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  modules to matrices with increase in  $\mathbb{R}$ . So, the problem is, what is the length of  $M^A$ ?

So, just take a minute, pause the video take a minute and try to solve it yourself. Otherwise, let me solve it for you. So, you see  $A$  has characteristic polynomial, I guess this  $t$  minus 1 it has one eigenvalue 1 and then it has two eigenvalues which are not real plus or minus  $i$ . So, it has characteristic polynomial  $t$  minus 1 times  $t$  square plus 1, and these are both irreducible. So, this is a factorization of the characteristic polynomial into irreducible factors.

And so,  $\mathbb{R}[t]$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}[t] \text{ mod } (t-1)$  plus  $\mathbb{R}[t] \text{ mod } (t^2+1)$ . And both these are simple because these polynomials are irreducible over  $\mathbb{R}$ . So, if we take  $M^A$  contains  $\mathbb{R}[t]$ , you could take either one of them, is a Jordan-Hölder series. And so, length of  $M^A$  is equal to 2. And a similar problem, in the same way, let us solve.

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Problem 3: Same as problem 2, except,  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Solution: A has kernel spanned by  $e_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  &  $e_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

So  $\mathbb{R}^3 \supset \text{span}(e_2, e_3) \supset \text{span}(e_3) \supset 0$   
in a Jordan-Hölder series of length 3.

$\therefore \ell(M^A) = 3$ .

So, problem 3 is the same as problem 2, except we will change the matrix A. And let us take A to be this matrix just a 1 in the corner, and 0's everywhere else. So, pause the video and try to solve it. Here is the solution, so A has kernel spanned by two vectors, e2 and e3. So, e2 is the vector, maybe I will just write it down, 0, 1, 0 and e3 equals 0, 0, 1, this is easy to check. And so, R cubed contains span of e2, e3 contains a span of e3 contain 0, this is certainly a composition series because the kernel is invariant.

And of course, also in subspace of the kernel is invariant for a linear operator. And these portions are 1-dimensional over R. So, they have to be simple because every submodule of an R t module is going to be an R subspace. So, this is a Jordan-Hölder series. And so, since this is M0, M1, M2, M3 this is has length 3. Therefore, M A has length equal to 3.