

**Algebra 2**  
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**Krull-Schmidt Examples**

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Krull-Schmidt examples

Example: Finitely generated abelian groups (finitely generated  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules).

Let  $A$  be a finitely generated abelian group. For each prime  $p$ ,

define  $A_p = \{a \in A \mid p^n a = 0 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\}$ .

Then  $A \cong \mathbb{Z}^n \oplus \left( \bigoplus_p A_p \right)$

So if  $A$  is indecomposable, either  $A \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , or  $A = A_p$  for some  $p$ .

If  $A = A_p$ , then  $A \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_1} \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_k} \mathbb{Z}$   
 for  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k$ .

Uniqueness of  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  in a special case of



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Uniqueness of  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  in a special case of  
 the Krull-Schmidt theorem.



Let us look at some examples related to the Krull-Schmidt theorem. So, first example what is the Krull-Schmidt decomposition when we look at finitely abelian groups or maybe I could even say a little more generally, finitely generated abelian or what we are also talking about, finitely generated  $\mathbb{Z}$  modules, we want to see it in the language of modules.

These finitely generated abelian groups satisfy both the ascending chain condition and the descending chain condition and therefore, the Krull-Schmidt theorem applies. So, let us just see how the Krull-Schmidt works for this class of modules. So, suppose  $A$  is finitely

generated abelian group, then define its  $p$  primary part to be those elements  $a$  in  $A$  such that  $p^n a = 0$  for some  $n$  greater than or equal to 0 for a fixed prime  $p$ . So, for each prime  $p$ , you make this definition.

Then we know from the theory of finitely abelian groups that  $A$  is isomorphic to  $\bigoplus_p A_p$  and this part the only finitely key many non-zero,  $A_p$  is nonzero for only finitely remaining  $p$  and so, this is going to be a finitely direct sum. So, all this follows from the structure theorem of finitely abelian groups.

In fact, from this decomposition, you will be able to see that  $A$  satisfies the ascending chain condition and the descending chain condition. So, if  $A$  is indecomposable, either  $A$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $A$  is  $A_p$  for some  $p$ , for some prime number  $p$ . So, either  $A$  is free and it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $A$  is what is known as  $p$  prime varying for some prime  $p$ .

And furthermore, if  $A$  is  $p$  primary, then the structure theorem for finitely abelian group says that  $A$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_1}\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_2}\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_r}\mathbb{Z}$  for some integers  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_r$ .

And, in fact, these integers are uniquely determined. That is the, that is a consequence on the structure theorem for finitely generated abelian groups. Now, in this decomposition the uniqueness of these integers  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$  can also be viewed as a consequence of the Krull-Schmidt theorem. We have already seen that every indecomposable finite where every indecomposable finitely abelian group is in fact of the form  $\mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda}\mathbb{Z}$  and this is exactly a Krull-Schmidt kind of decomposition.

And seeing that, when arranged in weakly decreasing increasing order, these invariants  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$  are uniquely determined is in fact the statement of the Krull-Schmidt theorem. So, uniqueness of  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$  is a special case of the Krull-Schmidt theorem. Let us look at another example that we have encountered in algebra 1.

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Example: Finite dimensional  $K[t]$ -modules ( $K$  field) (a.k.a matrices).

$M$ : finite dim.  $K[t]$ -module. Take  $p(t) \in \text{Irr}(K[t])$   
(Irreducible, monic polys. in  $K[t]$ )

Define:  $M_p = \{m \in M \mid p(t)^n m = 0 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\}$ .

$M = \bigoplus_{p \in \text{Irr}(K[t])} M_p$

So if  $M$  is indecomposable, then  $M = M_p$  for some  $p(t) \in \text{Irr}(K[t])$ .

Moreover,  $M \cong K[t]/p(t)^{\lambda_1} \oplus \dots \oplus K[t]/p(t)^{\lambda_r}$   
 $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_r$ .

In particular, every indecomposable  $K[t]$ -module  $M$



Which is finitely dimensional modules over a polynomial ring,  $K$  is a field and when we say finitely dimensional, we mean finitely dimensional over  $K$ . So, this is also known as, so finitely dimensional  $K[t]$  modules are in bisection with matrices. I will recall how this works in a bit, but you have seen this in algebra 1 if you took algebra 1.

So, suppose  $M$  is a finitely dimensional  $K[t]$  module and take  $p(t)$  to be any irreducible polynomial in  $K[t]$ . So, by this I mean irreducible polynomials in  $K[t]$ , then define again the primary part  $M_p$  equals  $m$  in  $M$  such that  $p(t)^n m = 0$  for some  $n$  and later than or equal to 0.

Then again we know from basic module theory that, if you want you can go back and look at the lectures on finitely generated modules over  $(\mathbb{C})$  (07:43)  $M$  is going to be direct sum over  $p$  irreducible  $K[t]$   $M_p$  and once again, this  $m$  being finitely dimensional only finitely many of these  $M_p$  will be nonzero and so this sum will actually be a finite direct sum.

So, you get a canonical direct sum decomposition of  $M$  there is no choice here and but then each  $M_p$  may not be indecomposable in general, but certainly if  $M$  is indecomposable, then  $M$  is equal to  $M_p$  for something. So, if  $M$  is indecomposable then  $M$  equals  $M_p$  for some polynomial, irreducible polynomial  $K[t]$ .

Moreover, by the structure theorem  $M$  is isomorphic to  $K[t] \text{ mod } p(t)^{\lambda_1} \oplus K[t] \text{ mod } p(t)^{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus K[t] \text{ mod } p(t)^{\lambda_r}$  and this again here we have  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_r$  and the uniqueness of these invariance  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_r$  is again can be viewed also as a consequence of the Krull-Schmidt theorem.

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In particular, every indecomposable  $K[t]$ -module  $M$   
 $M \cong K[t]/p(t)^\lambda$  for some  $\lambda \geq 1$ .  
Spl. case:  $K$  is algebraically closed.  
Then  $p(t) = t - \alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in K$ .  
 $M \cong K[t]/(t - \alpha)^\lambda$   
Taking basis  $1, (t - \alpha), \dots, (t - \alpha)^{\lambda-1}$  for  $M$ , then  
multiplication by  $t$  has matrix

And in particular the indecomposable  $K[t]$  modules  $M$  is isomorphic to  $K[t] \text{ mod } p(t)^\lambda$  to the power  $\lambda$  for some  $\lambda$  greater than or equal to 1. So, these are precisely the indecomposable modules. Let us take a special case, when  $K$  is algebraically closed, in this case  $p(t)$  has to be of the form  $t - \alpha$  for some  $\alpha$  in  $K$ . Here I should see that these  $p(t)$ s are only maybe we should say here, let us just to make this unique, we do not want to consider a polynomial and some  $K$  multiple of that polynomial. So, maybe here I should say irreducible monic polynomials, so we will only take polynomials with constant term equal to 1.

And so likewise here, every irreducible polynomial is linear and by scaling it, we can make it monic and hence of the form  $t - \alpha$  for some  $\alpha$  in  $K$ . And in that case,  $M$  is isomorphic to  $K[t] \text{ mod } (t - \alpha)^\lambda$  to the power  $\lambda$ . Now, if you take a basis,  $1, t - \alpha, \dots, (t - \alpha)^{\lambda-1}$  for  $M$ , then multiplication by  $t$  has matrix.

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Spl. case:  $\dots$   
 Then  $p(t) = t - \alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in K$ .  
 $M \cong K[t] / (t - \alpha)^n$   
 Taking basis  $1, (t - \alpha), \dots, (t - \alpha)^{n-1}$  for  $M$ , then  
 multiplication by  $t$  has matrix  

$$J_{\alpha, n} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & \alpha & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$
  
 Indecomposable  $K[t]$ -modules  $\leftrightarrow$  Jordan blocks

Given by  $1 \alpha 0, 0, 1$ . So, you have no, I think I got this wrong, it is  $\alpha 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ \alpha 1 \ 0$ . So, you have alphas along the diagonal, you have 1 just below the diagonal and everything above the diagonal is 0. This is what is known as a Jordan block with eigenvalue alpha size M. And so in decomposable  $K[t]$  modules correspond to Jordan blocks, at least when  $K$  is algebraically closed. Now, we can turn this thing backwards and we can also say that.

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Given  $A \in M_n(K)$ , let  $M^A = K^n$  and make it a  $K[t]$ -module  
 by setting  $f(t) \cdot v = f(A)v \quad \forall f \in K[t], v \in K^n$   
Defn ①  $A$  is simple if  $M^A$  is simple.  
 ②  $A$  is indecomposable if  $M^A$  is indecomposable.  
 ③  $A$  is semisimple if  $M^A$  is a direct sum of simple modules.  


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 $A$  simple  $\iff M^A \cong K[t] / p(t)$  for some  $p(t) \in \text{Irr}(K[t])$ .  
 Taking basis  $1, t, \dots, t^{d-1}$  (where  $d = \deg p(t)$ ),  
 $A \sim$

Given A matrix M by n matrix in K, we can form a K[t] module. So, we just take MA to K to the power n and make it a K[t] module by allowing t act by K or so what I will say is by setting f t times a vector v to be f A b. So, this f A means you take the polynomial F and divide. So, f is a polynomial with coefficients in K you substitute for the variable t, the matrix

A and evaluated you will get n by n matrix and you can multiply it on the right, by any vector v thought of as a column vector.

Now, using this correspondence between matrices and Kt modules, we can transfer ideas from module theory to matrix theory. So, here are some definitions motivated by this. A matrix is simple, if MA is simple, we could say a matrix A is indecomposable, if MA is indecomposable and let me just introduce a new notion, a matrix A is semi simple if MA, a module is set to be semi simple if it is isomorphic to a direct sum of simple modules. So, is a sum of simple modules, is a direct sum of simple modules.

So, for example if A is simple, then that means that MA we just seen is isomorphic to K t, mod p t for some irreducible polynomial, irreducible monic polynomial. Well, we did not quite see this, but what we saw is that if M is in decomposable, then it is a form K t mod p t to the n and since every simple module is in decomposable, it is not difficult to see that the only simple modules among K t mod p t to the n are the ones where n is equal to 1.

So, modules of the form K t mod p t and what this means is, if you taking basis, 1 t t to the power d minus 1, where d is the degree of p t, we get that A is similar to the matrix which has the following form.

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Takeing basis  $\{1, t, \dots, t^{d-1}\}$  (where  $d = \deg p(t)$ ),

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & & -a_1 \\ & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & -a_{d-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \dots + a_{d-1} t^{d-1} + t^d$ .

A indecomposable  $\Leftrightarrow M^A \cong K[t]/p(t)^n$  for  $n \geq 1$

If K is algebraically closed, so  $p(t) = (t - \alpha)^n$ ,  $\alpha \in K$ .

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \alpha \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n} \quad \text{- Jordan block.}$$



So, the first basis vectors 1 it goes to the vector t. So, it starts off like just with ones in the row just below the diagonal and so you have this last column left and there you put in the coefficients of pt. So, you put in minus A0 minus 1 minus A sub n minus 1, where p t is equal to A0 plus A1 plus An minus 1 t to the power n minus 1 plus t to the n, we assuming that p t

is monic. So, that is what simple. So, simple matrices are always similar to (companion). This is called a companion matrix of  $p(t)$ .

Simple matrices are similar to companion matrices of irreducible polynomials. If the field  $K$  were algebraically closed, then  $p(t)$  would have degree 1 and this will just be a 1 by 1 matrix. Now, let us look at what happens to indecomposable modules given  $A$  is indecomposable, then that means that  $MA$  is isomorphic to  $K[t]/(p(t)^n)$  for some  $n$  greater than or equal to 1.

Now, if  $K$  this could have a slightly complicated form though in most cases, especially when  $K$  is a perfect field, it can be simplified. But for now I just keep this simple and let us assume that  $K$  is algebraically closed. Then what we have seen is that just  $p(t)$  has to be of the form  $t - \alpha$  for some  $\alpha$  in  $K$  and what we get is that  $A$  is similar to a 1, this Jordan block of some size, size  $n$  here and finally, let us look at the case  $A$  is semi simple.

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$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \alpha \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n}$$


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$A$  semisimple  $\Leftrightarrow A \sim \begin{pmatrix} C_{p_1} & & 0 \\ & C_{p_2} & \\ 0 & & \ddots \\ & & & C_{p_k} \end{pmatrix}$  (block form)

where  $p_1(t), \dots, p_k(t) \in \text{Irr}(K[t])$ .

For  $K$  algebraically closed

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \alpha_k \end{pmatrix} \quad \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in K$$


In this case,  $A$  similar to, so direct sum of simples and so is similar to  $C_{p_1}, C_{p_2}$  to a block diagonal matrix, where the diagonal blocks are companion matrices of irreducible, monic irreducible polynomial and if  $K$  were algebraically closed this would mean that  $A$  is similar to  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$ , because these irreducible polynomials would be of the form  $t - \alpha_1, t - \alpha_2, \dots, t - \alpha_k$  for some  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  in  $K$ .

In other words,  $K$ , semi simple matrices in an algebraically closed field are precisely the diagonalizable ones. I will end this session with a very interesting example.

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Example: The Prüfer group.

$$P = (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})_p = \{a \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \mid p^n a = 0 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\}$$

$$\frac{1}{p}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z} \cup \frac{1}{p^2}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z} \cup \frac{1}{p^3}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}$$



Example: The Prüfer group.

$$P = (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})_p = \{a \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \mid p^n a = 0 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\}$$

Note:  $P = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} \left( \frac{1}{p^n} \mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{Z} \right)$  is not finitely generated

and does not satisfy the A.C.C.

Claim:  $P$  is indecomposable.

Suppose  $P = P_1 \oplus P_2$ .

Then either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  is infinite.



Which is called the Prüfer group, which we have briefly encountered during one of the lectures. So, this is  $\mathbb{Z}$  module, it is an abelian group. So, the definition of this Prüfer group, which I will denote by  $P$ , is the  $P$  primary part of  $\mathbb{Q} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  of the group  $\mathbb{Q} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$ . What is this? So, these are those elements of  $\mathbb{Q} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  which are killed by some power of  $p$ , if you ask what are the elements of  $\mathbb{Q} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  that are killed by  $p$ , then that is  $\frac{1}{p}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$ .

What are the elements that are killed by  $p$  squared, that is  $\frac{1}{p^2}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$ . What are the elements that are killed by  $p$  cube, that is  $\frac{1}{p^3}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$ . So of course, this is an increasing chain  $\frac{1}{p^2}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  contains  $\frac{1}{p}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  contains  $\frac{1}{p^3}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  contains  $\frac{1}{p^4}\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  and so on. So, these this is an increasing chain, but what we want is an infinitely union and that will give you the full Prüfer group.

So, what I am saying is that the profer group  $P$  is equal to union  $n$  greater than or equal to 1,  $1$  over  $P$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$ . So, it is a, this is an increasing union of subgroups of the profer groups and this group  $1$  over  $p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  is of course, just isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z}$  just scaling everything up by a factor of  $p$  to the  $n$ . And this is not finite, degenerated and it does not satisfy the ascending chain condition.

Well, that is obvious, because here is an ascending chain which never stabilizes. And it is not finitely generated because you took any finite subset of  $P$ , it could be contained in one of these subgroups and so, it could not generate all of  $P$ . Now, I claim that  $P$  is indecomposable. Suppose that, so what we need to show that if  $P$  can be written as a direct sum  $P_1$  plus  $P_2$ . We need to show that one of these is equal to  $P$  and the other is  $0$ .

Then, but we cannot have both. So, how to show that 1 of them is equal to  $P$ . Now, if  $P$  is  $P_1$  plus  $P_2$  we cannot have that both  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are finite, because then  $P$  would be forced to be finite, but it is clearly infinite. So, then either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  is infinite and I show that whichever 1 is infinitely is going to be all of  $P$  and the other 1 has to be  $0$ .

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and does not satisfy the A.C.C.

Claim:  $P$  is indecomposable.

Suppose  $P = P_1 \oplus P_2$ .

Then either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  is infinite. Say  $|P_1| = \infty$ .

Then  $P_1 \not\subseteq (\frac{1}{p^n} \mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{Z})$  for each  $n \geq 1$ .

$\therefore \exists \frac{a}{p^m} \in P_1, (a, p) = 1, m > n$ .

Since  $(a, p) = 1, (a, p^n) = 1$ , so  $\exists b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{p^n}$



So, let us say that, say  $P_1$  is infinite. So, then, what we have is that since  $P_1$  is infinite,  $P_1$  cannot be contained in a finitely subgroups  $P_1$  is not contained in finite sub group so  $P_1$  is not contained in  $1$  over  $p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } \mathbb{Z}$  for any  $n$ . So, that means that there exists an element,  $a \text{ mod } p$  to the  $m$  in  $P_1$ , where  $a, p$  the GCD of  $a$  is not divisible by  $p$  and  $m$  is greater than  $n$ .

Any element which is not of this form could be further reduced to the form where  $a, p$  is 1 and then if the  $m$  is less than or equal to  $n$ , then we would have inside this subgroup  $1$  over  $p$

to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } p^n$ . So, there exists an element of this form since  $a, p$  the GCD of  $a$  and  $p$  is 1, the GCD of  $a, p$  to the  $m$  is also 1. So, there exists an integer  $b$  such that  $ab$  is congruent to 1 mod  $p$  to the  $m, p$  to the  $n$  let us say.

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Since  $(a, p) = 1$ ,  $(a, p^n) = 1$ , so  $\exists b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{p^n}$ .

$$\frac{ab}{p^n} = \frac{1}{p^n} \text{ in } P.$$

$$\frac{1}{p^n} \in P_1 \Rightarrow P_1 \supseteq \frac{1}{p^n} \mathbb{Z} / \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall n \geq 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow P_1 = P, \text{ and } P_2 = \{0\}$$

$\therefore P$  is indecomposable.

Challenge: What is  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{Z}} P$ ?

So, what I can do is I can write  $ab$ , maybe I should say  $ab$  is congruent to 1 mod  $p$  to the  $m$ . So,  $ab \text{ mod } p$  to the  $m$  is going to be equal to 1 mod  $p$  to the  $m$  in the profer group  $P$  and so, 1 mod  $p$  to the  $m$  belongs to this  $P_1$  which also implies that  $P_1$  contains 1 over  $p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } p^n$  this is because, every element in 1 mod  $p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } p^n$  is a multiple of 1, an integer multiple of 1 over  $p$  to the  $m$ .

So, since  $P_1$  is a subgroup, if it contains this element, it will contain every multiple of it and so it must contain this. So, what we see is that  $P_1$  contains 1 over  $p$  to the  $n \mathbb{Z} \text{ mod } p^n$  for all  $n$  greater than or equal to 1. But this clearly that implies that  $P_1$  is equal to  $P$ , because  $P$  is precisely the union of these subgroups and  $P_2$  is 0. So, this means that the profer group  $P$  is indecomposable. Now, here is a small challenge for you. What is this local ring and end  $\mathbb{Z}$  of the profer group, give it this, I will stop.