

# The Structure of Commutative Algebra Has the Only One Regular Maximal Ideal

Yuan-Liang Chien

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to characterize the commutative algebra having the only one regular maximal ideal. We will show that the following two statements are equivalent:

- (1) There exists a nonzero idempotent  $v \in A$  and a  $F$ -algebra homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow F$  such that  $xy=f(x)f(y)v, \forall x, y \in A$ .
- (2)
  1. There exists a nonzero idempotent  $u \in A$ .
  2. There exists a regular maximal ideal  $M$  such that  $MA=0$ .
  3.  $A/M \cong F$ .

We first review some definitions and properties, which are used in the proof of conclusion and also we give an example to illustrate this result.

I want to dedicate this paper to my wife Hsieh Mei-Ling, I love her with all my heart.

## I. Preliminaries

In this section,  $R$  denotes a commutative ring with identity.

Definition 1: A commutative  $R$ -algebra  $A$  is a unital  $R$ -module, that is also a commutative ring such that

$$r(ab) = (ra)b = a(rb) \quad \forall a, b \in A, r \in R.$$

If there is an element  $e \in A$  such that  $ae = a = ea \quad \forall a \in A$ , then  $A$  is called  $R$ -algebra with identity  $e$ .

Definition 2: A  $R$ -submodule  $I$  of  $A$  is called an ideal of  $A$ . If  $I$  is stable under multiplication and  $AI \subset I$ . Here  $AI$  denotes the set of all elements  $ab$ ,  $\forall a \in A, b \in I$ .

Definition 3: An element  $e \neq 0$  in  $A$  is called an idempotent, if  $e^2 = e$ .

Definition 4: A proper ideal  $I$  of a commutative  $R$ -algebra  $A$  without identity is called a regular ideal, if there exists an element  $a \in A$  such that  $ar - r \in I, \quad \forall r \in A$ . Call a regular maximal ideal, if it is a maximal ideal or equivalently the quotient ring  $A/I$  is a field.

Definition 5: The intersection of all regular maximal ideals of a  $R$ -algebra  $A$  is the radical of  $A$ , denote  $\text{Rad } A$ .

Definition 6: Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two  $R$ -algebras, A  $R$ -module homomorphism  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is called a  $R$ -algebra homomorphism, if  $f(ab) = f(a)f(b), \quad \forall a, b \in A$ .

A bijective homomorphism is called an isomorphism. A surjective homomorphism is called an epimorphism. Note that  $e$  and  $e'$  denote the identities of  $A$  and  $B$ , we will always assume that  $f(e) = e'$ .

Through this section,  $A$  denotes a commutative  $R$ -algebra without identity.

Lemma 1: If  $I$  is an ideal of  $A$  containing a regular ideal  $K$ , then  $I$  is a regular ideal.

proof: Since  $K$  is a regular ideal, there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $ax - x \in K \subset I, \forall x \in A$ .

Thus  $I$  is a regular ideal.

Lemma 2: Every regular ideal of  $A$  is contained in a regular maximal ideal.

proof: Let  $I$  be a proper regular ideal of  $A$ . Then there exists  $a \in A$  such that

$ar - r \in I, \forall r \in A$ . Set  $\Sigma = \{K \mid K \text{ is a regular ideal of } A \text{ such that } a \notin K \text{ and } I \subseteq K\}$

Then  $\Sigma \neq \Phi$ , since  $I \in \Sigma$ . (If  $a \in I$  then  $ar \in I$  and  $I = A$ , hence  $a \notin I$ ).  $\Sigma$  is

a poset with set inclusion. Let  $\{I_\alpha\}$  be any chain in  $\Sigma$ , Then  $\bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha$  is an upper

bound of the chain. We claim that  $\bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha \in \Sigma$ . It is clear that  $\bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha$  is an ideal.

Since  $\{I_\alpha\}$  is a chain,  $I \subset \bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha$  and  $a \notin \bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha$ , hence  $\bigcup_\alpha I_\alpha \in \Sigma$ . By Zorn's lemma,

$\Sigma$  has a maximal element  $M$ , then  $M$  is an ideal of  $A$ ,  $a \notin M$  and  $I \subset M$ . We claim that  $M$  is a maximal ideal. Let  $D$  be a regular ideal of  $A$  and  $M \subsetneq D \subset A$ , Then  $a \in D$ . Since  $ar - r \in M \cap D \quad \forall r \in A$ , hence  $r \in D$ , thus  $D = A$ .  $M$  is a regular maximal ideal of  $A$ .

Lemma 3: If  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is a homomorphism, then  $\text{Ker} f$  and  $A/\text{ker} f$  are  $R$ -algebras.

proof: Trivial.

Lemma 4: If  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is an epimorphism, then  $A/\text{Ker} f \cong B$ .

proof: Trivial.

Lemma 5: Let  $A$  be a commutative  $R$ -algebra and  $u$  nonzero idempotent. Then  $u$  does not belong to the radical of  $A$ .

proof: We first show that  $u \neq au - a \quad \forall a \in A$ . If  $u = au - a$  then  $a + u = au$  and

$$ua + u^2 = u(a + u) = u \cdot au = au \Rightarrow u^2 = u = 0, \text{ a contradiction.}$$

Let  $S = \{ux - x \mid \forall x \in A\}$ , We claim that  $S$  is a regular ideal of  $A$ .

For any  $x, y \in A, r \in R, b \in A$

$$(ux - x) - (uy - y) = u(x - y) - (x - y) \in S$$

$$r(ux - x) = u(rx) - rx \in S$$

and

$$b(ux - x) = u(bx) - bx \in S$$

Thus  $S$  is a regular ideal. By lemma 2, there exists a regular maximal ideal  $M$  such that  $S \subset M$ . We claim that  $u \notin M$ . If  $u \in M$  and  $M$  is a regular maximal ideal, then  $\forall x \in A, ux - x \in S \subset M, ux \in M$  implies  $x \in M$ . Thus  $M = A$ , a contradiction.

## II : Main Result

Now, we give a characterization of a commutative  $F$ -algebra without identity having exactly one regular maximal ideal.  $F$  denote a field.

### Main theorem:

Let  $A$  be a commutative  $F$ -algebra. Then the following two conditions are equivalent :

1. There exists  $v \in A$  such that  $v \neq 0 \neq v^2$  and for any  $x, y$  in  $A$ ,  $x \cdot y = f(x)f(y)v$ , where  $f: A \rightarrow F$  is a  $F$ -algebra homomorphism such that  $f(v) = 1$ .

2. (1) There exists a non-zero idempotent  $u \in A$ .

(2) There exists exactly one regular maximal ideal  $M \subset A$ .

Furthermore,  $\forall m \in M, x \in A, mx = 0$

(3)  $A/M \cong F$ .

proof:  $(1 \Rightarrow 2)$  Since  $v \neq 0$  and any  $x, y$  in  $A$ ,  $xy = f(x)f(y)v$ ,  $f(v) = 1$ , then  $v \cdot v = f(v)f(v)v = v$ ,

hence  $v$  is nonzero idempotent in  $A$ .

- (2) Let  $M = \{m \in A \mid mx = 0, \forall x \in A\}$ . We claim that  $M$  is a regular ideal. For any  $m, n \in M, a, x \in A, r \in F$ , we have

$$(m - n)x = mx - nx = 0, m - n \in M$$

$$(mn)x = m(nx) = m \cdot 0 = 0, mn \in M$$

$$(am)x = a(mx) = a \cdot 0 = 0, am \in M$$

$$(rm)x = r(mx) = r \cdot 0 = 0, rm \in M$$

For any  $x, y \in A, (vx - x) \cdot y = (f(v)f(y)v - x)y = f(v)f(x)f(v)f(y)v - f(x)f(y)v = 0$

hence  $vx - x \in M$ , Thus  $M$  is a regular ideal of  $A$ .

We claim that  $M$  is a regular maximal ideal. If  $I$  is any regular ideal, then there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $ax - x \in I, \forall x \in A$ . Since  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $A$ , there exists  $b \in A$  and  $b \notin I$  such that  $a \cdot b - b = f(a)f(b)v - b \in I$ , hence  $f(a)f(b)v \notin I$  implies  $v \notin I$ . If there exists  $a \in I$  such that  $av \neq 0$ , then  $f(a)v = f(a)f(v)v = av \in I$ ; Since  $F$  is a field, hence  $v \in I$ , a contradiction. Thus  $xv = 0, \forall x \in I$  implies  $I \subseteq M$ . By lemma 1, we know that any ideal containing  $M$  must be regular ideal, hence  $I = M$ . Therefore  $M$  is the only regular maximal ideal.

- (3) Consider that  $f: A \rightarrow F$  is an epimorphism. Since  $f(v) = 1$  and  $f(rv) = rf(v) = r, \forall r \in F$ ; we claim that  $\text{Ker } f = M$ . For any  $m \in M$ ,

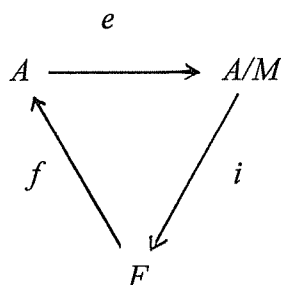
$$mv = f(m)f(v)v = f(m)v = 0 \text{ implies } f(m) = 0$$

that is  $m \in \text{Ker } f$  and  $M \subseteq \text{Ker } f$ . But  $M$  is the only regular maximal ideal, hence  $\text{Ker } f = M$ . By lemma 4, we have  $A/M \cong F$ .

Conversely, let  $u$  be a nonzero idempotent in  $A$ . Put  $I = \{ux - x \mid \forall x \in A\}$ ,  $I$  is a regular

ideal and  $I \subset M$ , since  $M$  is the only one regular maximal ideal. By lemma 5, we know that  $\text{Rad } A = M$ ,  $u \notin \text{Rad } A = M$ .

Let  $i: A/M \rightarrow F$  be an isomorphism and  $e: A \rightarrow A/M$  the natural epimorphism. Put  $f = i \circ e$ , it is clear that  $f$  is an epimorphism and  $f(u) = 1$ , since  $u + M$  is the identity of  $A/M$ .



We claim that  $A = M \oplus Fu$ . For any  $a \in A$ , there exists

$$r = i(a + M) = f(a) \text{ such that } f(a - ru) = f(a) - rf(u) = r - r = 0, a - ru \in M.$$

We claim that  $M \cap Fu = \{0\}$ . If  $x \in M \cap Fu$  then  $x \in M$  and  $x \in Fu$ , hence

$$x = ru, r \in F. \text{ Since } u \notin M, r = 0 \text{ and } x = 0.$$

We show that  $x \cdot y = f(x)f(y)u, \forall x, y \in A$ . For any  $x, y \in A$ , we have  $x = m_1 + r_1u, y = m_2 + r_2u$ , where  $r_1 = f(x), r_2 = f(y)$ . Since  $mx = 0, \forall x \in A, m \in M$ , we have

$$x \cdot y = (m_1 + r_1u)(m_2 + r_2u) = m_1m_2 + r_1um_2 + r_2um_1 + r_1r_2u^2 = r_1r_2u = f(x)f(y)u.$$

The following example is to illustrate the existence of such algebra.

Example: let  $V$  be an inner product vector space over real field  $R$  and  $u$  a unit vector.

Define the multiplication "o" by  $mon = (m \cdot u)(n \cdot u)u, \forall m, n \in V$ .

It is easily check the  $(V, +, o)$  is a commutative ring, We claim that  $(V, +, o)$  has an identity.

If  $\dim V=1$  then  $V$  is generated by  $u$ ; that is, for any  $m \in V$  there exists  $r \in R$  such that  $m=ru$ ; Then

$$mou = (m \cdot u)(u \cdot u)u = (ru \cdot u)(u \cdot u)u = ru = m \quad \text{since} \quad u \cdot u = 1,$$

hence  $u$  is the identity in  $V$ .

If  $\dim V = k \geq 2$ , then  $V$  has no identity. Assume that  $e$  is an identity of  $V$ , then

$$e = eoe = (e \cdot u)(e \cdot u)u \in [u]$$

where  $[u]$  denote the ideal generated by  $u$ . Hence  $e=ru$ , for some  $r \in R$ . Since  $\dim V = k \geq 2$ , there exists  $m \notin [u]$ , then

$$m = moe = (m \cdot u)(e \cdot u)u = (m \cdot u)ru \in [u], \text{ a contradiction.}$$

Therefore  $V$  has no identity.

Define  $M = \{m \in V \mid m \cdot u = 0\}$ . We claim that  $M$  is a regular maximal ideal of  $V$ .

Clearly, it is an ideal.

$$(m-mou) \cdot u = m \cdot u - (m \cdot u)(u \cdot u)(u \cdot u) = 0 \quad \forall m \in V$$

hence  $m-mou \in M$ , therefore  $M$  is a regular ideal.

Define  $f: V/M \rightarrow R$  by  $f(v+M) = v \cdot u, \forall v \in V$ . We show that  $f$  is well-defined.

If  $a+M=b+M$  then  $a-b \in M$ ,  $(a-b) \cdot u = (a \cdot u) - (b \cdot u) = 0$  implies

$$a \cdot u = b \cdot u \quad \forall a, b \in V.$$

Now we claim that  $f$  is isomorphism. Clearly  $f$  is a homomorphism;

$$f(ru+M) = ru \cdot u = r \quad \forall r \in R, ru+M \in V/M$$

and

$$\ker f = \{a + M \mid a \cdot u = 0\} = \{a + M \mid a \in M\} = \{M\}.$$

Thus

$$V/M \cong R$$

Since  $R$  is a field, hence  $M$  is the only one maximal ideal.

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# 在交換代數中僅有一個極大理想結構性的探討

錢圓亮\*

## 摘 要

本論文是探討在可交換  $F$ -algebra 下，僅有一個正則極大理想必須具備的結構。

全文中，首先建立一些預備定理；然後提出兩等價條件，加以證明說明出只有一個正則極大理想的形態，最後再提出一個實例，說明其存在性。

本文完成要感謝我的妻子—謝美玲，僅以此文說明我對她的愛。

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\* 錢圓亮：共同科專任講師。

