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ATTI ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI  
CLASSE SCIENZE FISICHE MATEMATICHE NATURALI  
**RENDICONTI**

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**The importance of rational extensions**

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# RENDICONTI

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## SEZIONE I

(Matematica, meccanica, astronomia, geodesia e geofisica)

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**Algebra.** — *The importance of rational extensions.* Nota di FRANS LOONSTRA, presentata (\*) dal Socio G. ZAPPA.

ABSTRACT. — The rational completion  $\bar{M}$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  can be characterized as a  $\tau_M$ -injective hull of  $M$  with respect to a (hereditary) torsion functor  $\tau_M$  depending on  $M$ . Properties of a torsion functor depending on an  $R$ -module  $M$  are studied.

KEY WORDS: Torsion-functor; Rational extension.

RIASSUNTO. — *Funtore-torsione  $\tau$  dipendente di un  $R$ -modulo  $M$ .* Si considerano le estensioni razionali e i completamenti razionali degli  $R$ -moduli. Il completamento razionale  $\bar{M}$  di un  $R$ -modulo  $M$  può essere considerato come l'involuppo  $\tau$ -iniettivo  $\bar{M} = M_\tau$  di  $M$  per uno speciale funtore-torsione  $\tau$  dipendente da  $M$ . Vengono investigate le proprietà di  $\tau$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the following a rational extension  $M$  of a non-zero submodule  $N$  (of  $M$ ) will be the leading notion;  $M$  is a *rational extension* of  $N$  ( $N \subseteq_r M$ ) if for any  $m_1 \in M$ ,  $0 \neq m_2 \in M$ ,  $\exists r \in R$ , such that  $rm_1 \in N$ ,  $rm_2 \neq 0$ . We have the following equivalent statements: (i)  $N \subseteq_r M$ ; (ii)  $\text{Hom}_R(A/N; M) = 0$  whenever  $N \subseteq A \subseteq M$ ; (iii)  $\text{Hom}_R(M/N; \hat{M}) = 0$ . The  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *rationally complete* if  $M$  has no proper rational extension. E.g. an injective  $R$ -module is rationally complete. Every  $R$ -module  $M$  has a rational extension  $\bar{M} = E_r(M)$  which is rationally complete;  $\bar{M}$  is unique up to

(\*) Nella seduta del 22 giugno 1988.

isomorphism over  $M$ . We have the following representations of  $\overline{M}$  (see [1]):

$$\overline{M} = \cap \{ \ker \phi \mid \phi \in \text{End}_R(\hat{M}); \phi(M) = 0 \} = \{ x \in \hat{M} \mid \forall 0 \neq y \in \hat{M}, \exists r \in R, rx \in M, ry \neq 0 \}.$$

The rational completion  $\overline{M}$  of an  $R$ -module  $M$  can be characterized as the  $\tau$  injective hull  $M_\tau$  (of  $M$ ) for a special torsion functor (depending on  $M$ ).

Any torsion functor  $\tau$  to the category  $R\text{-Mod}$  can be defined by means of a *filter*  $L$  of left ideals of  $R$  (see e.g. [2]). If  $L$  is such a filter, then  $L$  defines for every  $R$ -module  $A$  a torsion submodule

$$(1) \quad \tau(A) = \tau_L(A) = \{ a \in A \mid \text{Ann}_R(a) \in L \};$$

conversely any torsion functor  $\tau$  determines uniquely the corresponding filter  $L_\tau$  by  $L_\tau = \{ I \subseteq_R R \mid R/I \text{ is } \tau\text{-torsion} \}$ .  $A$  is called a  $\tau_L$  *torsion*  $R$ -module if  $\tau_L(A) = A$ , and  $A$  is  $\tau_L$ -*torsionfree* if  $\tau_L(A) = 0$ .

An  $R$ -module  $A$  is called  $\tau$ -*injective*, if for every diagram

$$(*) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \rightarrow & C & \rightarrow & B \\ & & f \downarrow & \nearrow & f' \\ & & A & & \end{array}$$

with  $B/C$  being  $\tau$ -torsion, any  $R$ -homomorphism  $f: C \rightarrow A$  has an extension  $f': B \rightarrow A$  making the diagram (\*) commutative.

1.1. If  $A$  is any  $R$ -module, then  $A$  has a minimal  $\tau$ -injective extension  $A_\tau$ ,  $A \subseteq A_\tau \subseteq \hat{A}$ , uniquely determined by the properties: (i)  $\hat{A}/A_\tau$  is  $\tau$ -torsionfree; (ii)  $A_\tau/A \cong \tau(\hat{A}/A)$ ; (iii)  $A \subseteq_e A_\tau$ ; (iv)  $A_\tau = \{ x \in \hat{A} \mid (A: x) \in L_\tau \}$ . The minimal  $\tau$ -injective extension  $A_\tau$  of  $A$  is called the  $\tau$ -*injective hull* of  $A$ .

For more details about  $\tau$ -injectivity, see [2]. In connection with the theory of rationals we need a special torsion functor  $\tau_M$  defined by means of the *fixed* chosen  $R$ -module  $M$  and the corresponding filter

$$(2) \quad L_M = \{ I \subseteq_R R \mid \text{Hom}_R(R/I; \hat{M}) = 0 \}.$$

Then the torsion functor  $\tau_M$  belonging to (2) is given in (1):

$$(3) \quad \tau_M(A) = \{ a \in A \mid \text{Hom}_R(R/\text{Ann}(a); \hat{M}) = 0 \}.$$

This implies, that an  $R$ -module  $A$  is  $\tau_M$ -torsion if and only if

$$\text{Hom}_R(A; \hat{M}) = 0.$$

1.2. Let  $\overline{M}$  be the rational completion of the  $R$ -module  $M$ ; then (i)  $\overline{M}$  is the  $\tau_M$ -injective hull of  $M$ ; (ii)  $\overline{M} = \{ x \in \hat{M} \mid (M: x) \in L_M \}$ .

Pr.: For the proof we use the equivalent statements: (1)  $\overline{M}$  is a rational extension of  $M$ ; (2)  $M \subseteq_e \overline{M}$  and  $\overline{M}/M$  is  $\tau_M$ -torsion. Now  $\overline{M}$  satisfies the properties of the  $\tau_M$ -injective hull of  $M$ , and we have  $\overline{M} \subseteq \hat{M}$ . Let  $K/\hat{M}$  be the  $\tau_M$ -torsion submodule of  $\hat{M}/\overline{M}$  then  $K$  is a rational extension of  $\overline{M}$ ; since  $\overline{M}$  is rationally complete,  $K = \overline{M}$ , and  $\hat{M}/\overline{M}$  is  $\tau_M$ -torsionfree, and therefore  $\overline{M}$  is the  $\tau_M$ -injective hull of  $M$  (in  $\hat{M}$ ). Then 1.1 (iv) learns that the rational completion  $\overline{M}$  of  $M$  is just the  $\tau_M$ -injective hull of the  $R$ -module  $M$ .

1.3 COROLLARY. If  $M$  is a rationally complete  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is a  $\tau_M$ -injective  $R$ -module.

2. THE HEREDITARY TORSION FUNCTOR  $\tau_M$ 

We want to study the family of all torsion theories  $\tau$  of  $R\text{-Mod}$  for which  $\tau(M) = 0$  for a fixed chosen  $R$ -Module  $M$ . If  $\tau(M) = 0$  and  $M \subseteq_e M'$ , then  $\tau(M') = 0$ .

Let  $\Lambda(M)$  be the family of (hereditary) torsion functors  $\tau$  with  $\tau(M) = 0$ ; then for  $M \subseteq_e M'$  we have  $\Lambda(M) = \Lambda(M')$ ; consequently, for a given module  $M$ , the set  $\Lambda(M)$  can be obtained by using for  $M$  the injective hull  $\hat{M}$  of  $M$ .

To avoid triviality we note that  $\Lambda(0)$  is the collection of all torsion functors.

2.1. Let  $M \neq 0$  be a fixed chosen  $R$ -module,  $A$  any  $R$ -module,

$$(1) \quad \tau_M(A) = \bigcap \{ \ker(\phi) \mid \phi \in \text{Hom}_R(A; \hat{M}) \},$$

then (i)  $\tau_M$  is a hereditary torsion functor,  $\tau_M(M) = 0$ , (ii)  $\rho \in \Lambda(M)$ , if and only if  $\rho \leq \tau_M$ .

If we define that the functor  $\tau_2$  is «stronger» than  $\tau_1$  ( $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ ), if  $\tau_1(A) \subset \tau_2(A) (\forall A \in R\text{-Mod})$ , then this is equivalent with the property  $L_{\tau_1} \subset L_{\tau_2}$  for the corresponding idempotent filters; we also say then:  $\tau_1$  is «weaker» than  $\tau_2$ . Therefore the property (ii) expresses that, for a fixed chosen  $R$ -module  $M$ ,  $\tau_M$  is the strongest torsion functor  $\rho$  of  $R\text{-Mod}$  with the property  $\rho(M) = 0$ . In other words:  $\Lambda(M)$  has a «largest» element ( $\tau_M$ ), the torsion functor associated with  $M$ .

EXAMPLE. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring,  $S$  a multiplicatively closed subset of  $R$ , then  $S$  defines a torsion functor  $\mu_S$ , where

$$\mu_S(N) = \{ n \in N \mid sn = 0 \text{ for some } s \in S \}.$$

If  $P$  is a prime ideal of the (commutative) ring  $R$ , and  $S = R \setminus P$ , then  $S$  is multiplicatively closed in  $R$ , and we write  $\mu_P$  in stead of  $\mu_{R \setminus P} = \mu_S$

2.2. Let  $P$  be a proper prime ideal of the commutative ring  $R$ ; then

$$\tau_{R/P} = \mu_P \text{ (where } \mu_P \text{ means } \mu_S \text{ or } \mu_{R \setminus P} \text{)}.$$

Pr.: If  $a \in R \setminus P$ , then  $ax \in P \rightarrow x \in P$ , hence  $\mu_{R \setminus P}(R/P) = 0$ , since  $sa' = 0 (a' \in R/P, s \in R/P)$  implies that  $s = 0$ . That implies, that  $\mu_{R \setminus P} \leq \tau_{R/P}$ . Now let  $M$  be an ideal  $M \not\subseteq L_{\mu_{R \setminus P}}$ . Then  $M$  contains no element of  $R \setminus P$ , i.e.  $M \subset P$ , and then  $M$  annihilates all elements of  $R/P$ , i.e.  $M \subseteq L_{\tau_{R/P}}$  and thus  $\tau_{R/P} = \mu_P$ .

2.3. If  $\sigma$  is a hereditary torsion functor of  $R\text{-Mod}$ , then there exists an  $R$ -module  $S$  such that  $\sigma = \tau_S$ ; (see [3]).

(I.e. every hereditary torsion functor  $\sigma$  is a  $\tau_S$  for a suitable  $S \in R\text{-Mod}$ ).

Led  $X$  be a subset of all hereditary torsion functors,  $M$  an  $R$ -module; define  $\sigma(M) = \bigcap \rho(M)$ ; then  $\rho$  is a hereditary torsion functor and  $\sigma(M) \subseteq \rho(M)$  for all  $\rho \in X$  and all  $M \in R\text{-Mod}$ . Furthermore we have: if  $\tau < \rho$  for all  $\rho \in X$ , then  $\tau \leq \sigma$ . Thus it is reasonable to call  $\sigma = \inf(X)$ , and  $\sigma(M) = \bigcap_{\rho \in X} \rho(M)$  the  $\inf(\rho(M))$ ,  $\rho \in X$ .

2.4. Let  $M = \bigoplus_{\alpha} M_{\alpha}$ , and  $\rho_{\alpha} = \tau_{M_{\alpha}}$  ( $\alpha \in A$ ); then  $\tau_M = \inf_{\alpha \in A} (\tau_{M_{\alpha}})$ .

Pr.: Since  $M_{\alpha} \subset M$ , we have  $\tau_M < \tau_{M_{\alpha}}$  ( $\forall \alpha \in A$ ), i.e.  $\tau_M \leq \bigcap_{\alpha} \tau_{M_{\alpha}}$ .

If  $\sigma < \tau_M$  ( $\forall \alpha$ ), then  $\sigma < \tau_{M_{\alpha}}$ , and that implies that  $\tau_M = \inf_{\alpha \in A} (\tau_{M_{\alpha}})$ .

Moreover it implies that  $\tau_M(N) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} \tau_{M_\alpha}(N) (\forall N \in R\text{-Mod})$ .

Let  $M \neq 0$  be a uniform  $R$ -module, and suppose that we have for the associated torsion functor  $\tau_M$ ,  $\tau_M = \rho \wedge \sigma$  for some pair of torsion functors  $\rho, \sigma$ . Then  $0 = \tau_M(M) = \rho(M) \cap \sigma(M)$ . Since  $M$  is uniform we have  $\rho(M) = 0$  or  $\sigma(M) = 0$ , and that implies that  $\rho \leq \tau_M$  or  $\sigma \leq \tau_M$ ; but from  $\tau_M \leq \rho$  (resp.  $\tau_M \leq \sigma$ ) we conclude that  $\tau_M = \rho$  or  $\tau_M = \sigma$ ; *i.e.*

2.5. If  $M \neq 0$  is a uniform  $R$ -module, then  $\tau_M$  is indecomposable in the sense that  $\tau_M = \rho \wedge \sigma \rightarrow \tau_M = \rho$  or  $\tau_M = \sigma$ .

If  $M$  is an injective uniform  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is an indecomposable injective  $R$ -module. Now suppose that  $R$  is a (left) Noetherian ring; then every injective  $R$ -module is a direct sum of indecomposable injective submodules. If now  $\tau$  is a hereditary torsion functor, then (by 2.3) there exists an  $R$ -module  $\hat{M}$  such that  $\tau = \tau_{\hat{M}}$ .

Since  $\hat{M} = \bigoplus_{\alpha} M_\alpha$  is a direct sum of indecomposable injective submodules  $M_\alpha$ , we have

$$(**) \quad \tau = \inf_{\alpha \in A} (\tau_{M_\alpha}),$$

and each  $\tau_{M_\alpha}$  is an indecomposable torsion functor in the sense of 2.5.:

2.6. If  $R$  is a (left) Noetherian ring, every hereditary torsion functor  $\tau$  of  $R\text{-Mod}$  is generated by all  $\tau_{M_\alpha}$ , where  $M_\alpha$  is an indecomposable injective  $R$ -module, and where «generated» has the sense of (\*\*).

We return to the hereditary torsion functor  $\tau_K$  associated with a fixed  $R$ -module  $K$ , and

$$\tau_K(M) = \bigcap \{ \ker(\phi) \mid \phi: M \rightarrow \hat{K} \}.$$

Then  $\tau_K(K) = 0$ ,  $\tau_K \in \Lambda(K)$ , while  $\rho \in \Lambda(K)$  iff  $\rho \leq \tau_K$ .

For any  $R$ -module  $M$  we then have, if  $\rho \in \Lambda(K)$ :

$\rho(M) \subseteq \tau_K(M) (\forall M \in R\text{-Mod})$ ,  $\rho(M/\tau_K(M)) \subseteq \tau_K(M/\tau_K(M)) = 0$  for all  $\rho \in \Lambda(K)$  and all  $M \in R\text{-Mod}$ , *i.e.*  $\rho(M/\tau(M)) = 0$ . Conclusion:

2.7. If  $K \neq 0$  is a fixed  $R$ -module,  $\rho \in \Lambda(K)$ , and  $M \in R\text{-Mod}$ , then  $\tau_K(M)$  is, among the submodules  $\rho(M)$ , the unique maximal submodule  $N \subseteq M$  with  $\rho(M/N) = 0$ . We have  $\tau_K(M) = M$  if and only if  $\text{Hom}_R(M; \hat{K}) = 0$ .

2.8. If  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are complements of a submodule  $K \subseteq M$ , then  $\tau_{K_1} = \tau_{K_2}$ .

Pr.: If  $\pi: M \rightarrow M/K$ , then  $K_i \cong \pi(K_i) \subseteq M/K (i = 1, 2)$ ; therefore  $\tau_{K_1} = \tau_{K_2} = \tau_{M/K}$ .

If therefore  $K \neq 0$  is a submodule of the uniform module  $M$ , then  $\tau_K = \tau_M$ .

In the following we consider a locally uniform  $R$ -module  $M$ , *i.e.* every submodule  $0 \neq N \subseteq M$  contains a uniform submodule. Let  $\{N_i \mid i \in I\}$  be a maximal independent set of uniform submodules  $\neq 0$  of  $M$ , *i.e.*  $\sum N_i = \bigoplus_i N_i \subseteq_e M$ .

For each  $N_{i_0}$  ( $i_0 \in I$ ) we choose a complement  $N_{i_0}^c \supseteq \bigoplus_{i \neq i_0} N_i$ , then  $\bigcap_i N_i^c = 0$

and this is an irredundant intersection of essentially closed submodules of  $M$ . Identifying  $M_i = M/N_i^c$ , we have  $N_i \subseteq_e M_i = M/N_i^c$ , thus  $M \cong \underset{i \in I}{\times} M_i = \underset{i \in I}{\times} M/N_i^c$ .

According to the associated torsion functor  $\tau_M$  of the locally uniform  $R$ -module  $M$  we note that  $N = \bigoplus_{i \in I} N_i \subseteq_e M$ , i.e.  $\tau_M = \tau_N = \inf_{i \in I}(\tau_{N_i})$ .

On the other hand  $M = \underset{i \in I}{\times} M_i$  is an essential subdirect product in the sense that  $M \cap M_i \subseteq_e M_i (i \in I)$ . That implies, that  $\tau_{M \cap M_i} = \tau_{M_i}$ ; since  $M \cap M_i \subseteq M$ , we have  $\tau_M \subseteq \tau_{M \cap M_i} = \tau_{M_i} (\forall i \in I)$ . We prove that if  $\sigma < \tau_{m_i} (\forall i \in I)$ , then  $\sigma < \tau_M$ . If  $\sigma < \tau_M$ , then  $\sigma(M) \subset \tau_{M_i}(M) = \bigcap \{\ker \phi | \phi: M \rightarrow \hat{M}_i\} \subseteq N_i^c$ , therefore

$$\pi_i \sigma(M) \subseteq \pi_i \tau_{M_i}(M) \subseteq \pi_i N_i^c = 0, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \sigma(M) \subseteq \bigcap_i N_i^c = 0, \quad \sigma \leq \tau_M,$$

and therefore

$$\tau_M = \inf_{i \in I}(\tau_{M_i}).$$

Summarizing we have:

2.9. If  $M$  is a locally uniform  $R$ -module,  $\{N_i | i \in I\}$  a maximal independent set of non-zero uniform submodules of  $M$ ,  $\{N_i^c | i \in I\}$  a set of complements of the  $N_i$  in  $M$ ,  $N_{i_0}^c \supseteq \bigoplus_{i \neq i_0} N_i$ , then we have:

$$(i) \quad \bigoplus_{i \in I} N_i \subseteq_e M;$$

(ii)  $M \cong \underset{i}{\times} M/N_i^c$  is an irredundant essential subdirect product of the uniform modules  $M_i = M/N_i^c (i \in I)$ ;

(iii) for the corresponding associated indecomposable torsion functors  $\tau_M, \tau_{N_i}, \tau_{M_i}$  we have the relations:  $\tau_M = \inf_{i \in I}(\tau_{M_i}) = \inf_{i \in I}(\tau_{N_i})$ .

The associated torsion functor  $\tau_M$  of  $M$  represented in 2.9 (iii) is independent of the representation (ii) of  $M$ . Therefore we define: if an essential submodule  $N$  of  $M$  is isomorphic with an essential submodule  $N'$  of the  $R$ -module  $M'$ , then  $M$  and  $M'$ , are called *equivalent*, and it follows that  $\tau_M = \tau_{M'}$ . Using the notations of 2.9 we suppose that  $\{N_i | i \in I\}$  and  $\{L_j | j \in J\}$  are two maximal independent sets of uniform submodules of  $M$ . Then there exists a 1-1-map  $\phi: I \rightarrow J$  such that  $N_i$  and  $L_{\phi(i)}$  are equivalent ( $\forall i \in I$ ).

The corresponding representations of  $M$  are

$$M \cong \underset{i \in I}{\times} M/N_i^c \quad \text{and} \quad M \cong \underset{j \in J}{\times} M/L_j^c.$$

Since  $N_i \subseteq_e M/N_i^c, L_j \subseteq_e M/L_j^c$ , the equivalence of  $N_i$  and  $L_{\phi(i)}$  implies that the representation 2.9 (ii) of  $M$  as a subdirect product of uniform modules is unique up to equivalence of the components. From the equivalence of  $N_i$  and  $L_{\phi(i)}$  it follows moreover that  $\tau_{N_i} = \tau_{L_{\phi(i)}} (\forall i)$ . Therefore:

2.10. If  $M$  is a locally uniform  $R$ -module, then the associated torsion functor  $\tau_M$ , as expressed in 2.9 (iii) is independent of the choice of a maximal independent set of non-zero uniform submodules of  $M$ .

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