

If A, A' are right ideals of R , we can form the additive group $I = I(A', A) := \{r \in R : rA' \subseteq A\}$, which contains A as a subgroup. As before, we can check easily that sending $r \in I$ to the left multiplication by r defines a group isomorphism $\lambda : I/A \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(R/A', R/A)$. It follows, therefore, that $R/A \sim R/A'$ as R -modules iff there exists an element $r \in I$ such that $rR + A = R$, and $rx \in A \Rightarrow x \in A'$. The situation becomes a lot simpler if A, A' are replaced by the maximal right ideals m and m' . Since R/m and R/m' are simple R -modules, they are isomorphic iff there is a *nonzero* homomorphism from R/m' to R/m . Thus, the isomorphism criterion boils down to $I(m', m) \neq m$; that is, there exists an element $r \in R \setminus m$ such that $rm' \subseteq m$. In this case, we have $rR + m = R$ (by the maximality of m). If J is any ideal contained in m' , then $J = (rR + m)J = rJ + mJ \subseteq rm' + m = m$. By symmetry, it follows that m and m' contain exactly the same ideals of R .
