

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  $R$ .

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