

Research Paper

SOME CONNECTIONS BETWEEN R -MODULES AND S -ACTS VIA THE k -REALIZATION FUNCTOR

ELAHE NAFARIEH TALKHOONCHEH, MARYAM SALIMI*, HAMID RASOULI, ELHAM TAVASOLI
AND ABOLFAZL TEHRANIAN

ABSTRACT. For a commutative pointed monoid S and a commutative unital ring k , let $k[S]$ be the commutative ring consisting of finite k -linear sums of non-zero elements of S . In this paper, we investigate some properties of the k -realization functor from the category $S\text{-Act}_0$ of all pointed S -acts to the category $k[S]\text{-Mod}$ of all $k[S]$ -modules, which is a left adjoint to the forgetful functor. Using this adjunction, we show that $S\text{-Act}_0$ has enough injective objects. Finally, we prove that the functor $k[-]$ is faithful but not full.

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper, all monoids are assumed to be pointed and commutative. Let S be a monoid. An act over S is a pointed set X with an action $S \times X \rightarrow X$. These objects, called (pointed) S -acts, are the main focus of this paper. A morphism of S -acts is an S -equivariant pointed set map. A notable feature of S -acts is that the First Isomorphism Theorem does

DOI: 10.22034/as.2026.23910.1848

MSC(2010): 18G05 and 18A22.

Keywords: Injective act, k -realization functor, S -act.

Received: 03 November 2025, Accepted: 13 June 2026.

*Corresponding author

not generally hold. In other words, for an S -homomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$, it is not generally true that $X/\text{Ker}(f) \cong \text{Im}(f)$. Moreover, $\text{Ker}(f) = 0$ does not necessarily imply that f is injective. We address this by focusing on admissible morphisms, i.e., morphisms $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f : X \rightarrow f(X)$ is a cokernel. Let k be a commutative unital ring, and let $k[S]$ be a commutative ring consisting of finite k -linear sums of non-zero elements of S . In this paper, we study some properties of the forgetful functor U and the k -realization functor $k[-]$. These functors were introduced in [4], and they form an adjunction. In this paper, it is shown that the functor U is not exact in the sense that it does not carry exact sequence to admissible exact sequence. Also, it is shown that while the functor U is not exact, the functor $k[-]$ is exact in the sense that it carries admissible exact sequences to exact sequences (in the usual sense of abelian categories). Additionally, it is proved that the functor U commutes with equalizers and the functor $k[-]$ commutes with coequalizers. Also, it is shown that the k -realization functor preserves and reflects monomorphisms. As an application, we prove that the category $S\text{-Act}_0$ has enough injectives. We follow standard notation and terminology from [6]. Also, for further definitions in related algebraic structures, see [3] and [5].

2. MAIN RESULTS

Let S be a commutative pointed monoid, and if $st = 0_S$, then $s = 0_S$ or $t = 0_S$ for all $s, t \in S$. For a monoid S , a non-empty and pointed set X is called a *left S -act*, if there exists a mapping $S \times X \rightarrow X$ by $(s, x) \rightarrow sx$, satisfying the conditions $1x = x$, $0_Sx = 0_X$, $s0_X = 0_X$, $(st)x = s(tx)$, and if $sx = 0_X$, then $s = 0_S$ or $x = 0_X$, for all $s, t \in S$ and $x \in X$. Throughout this paper, all monoids are assumed to be commutative having a zero element and an S -act is a left S -act. For S -acts X and Y , an *S -homomorphism* is a map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $f(0_X) = 0_Y$, and $f(sx) = sf(x)$ for every $s \in S$ and $x \in X$. The category of all S -acts together with their S -morphisms will be denoted by $S\text{-Act}_0$. For an S -map $f : X \rightarrow Y$, $\text{Ker}(f)$ is the equalizer of f and 0 , and $\text{Coker}(f)$ is the coequalizer of f and 0 , where 0 denotes the zero morphism. In $S\text{-Act}_0$, kernels and cokernels always exist. However, unlike in some algebraic categories, in [4] it is shown that $\text{Ker}(f) = 0$ does not imply injectivity of f in $S\text{-Act}_0$. So, we restrict our attention to admissible morphisms. For such maps, the condition $\text{Ker}(f) = 0$ implies that f is injective. Furthermore, a sequence of S -acts and S -maps

$$\cdots \rightarrow X_{n+1} \xrightarrow{f_{n+1}} X_n \xrightarrow{f_n} X_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots$$

is called *admissible* whenever f_i is admissible for all i . An admissible sequence is *exact* provided that $\text{Im}(f_{i-1}) = \text{Ker}(f_i)$ holds for every i . If a sequence

$$0 \rightarrow X_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} X_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} X_3 \rightarrow 0,$$

of S -acts and S -maps is admissible exact, then it is called an *admissible short exact sequence*. In this case, one has f_1 is an injection, f_2 is an epimorphism and $X_2/X_1 \cong X_3$.

Let \mathcal{R} denote the category of commutative unital rings and let \mathcal{M} be the category of commutative pointed monoids. Let $R \in \mathcal{R}$ and let $U(R)$ denote the underlying monoid of R obtained by forgetting addition. Then $(U(R), \cdot) \in \mathcal{M}$ is a monoid with unit 1 and basepoint 0. This construction induces a functor $U : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$, called the *forgetful functor*. This functor induces the forgetful functor $U : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow U(R)\text{-Act}_0$, where $R\text{-Mod}$ is the category of R -modules. To every R -module M , the $U(R)$ -act $U(M)$ has no addition and retains its R -action. The following example shows that the functor $U : R\text{-Mod} \rightarrow U(R)\text{-Act}_0$ is not exact in the sense that it does not carry exact sequences to admissible exact sequences.

Example 2.1. If $R = \mathbb{Z}$, the usual ring of integers, the short exact sequence of \mathbb{Z} -modules (i.e. of abelian groups) $0 \rightarrow C_3 \xrightarrow{\iota_1} C_3 \times C_4 \xrightarrow{\pi_2} C_4 \rightarrow 0$, where C_3 and C_4 are the cyclic groups of order 3 and 4, respectively, and ι_1 and π_2 are the canonical inclusion and projection, is sent by U to a sequence in which π_2 is not admissible, because its restriction to $(C_3 \times C_4) \setminus \text{Ker}(\pi_2)$ is not an injection. So, the sequence is not admissible.

Let $k \in \mathcal{R}$ and let $S \in \mathcal{M}$ with a pointed element θ . For every $s \in S$, we set

$$e_s = (\dots, 0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0, \dots),$$

where 1 is situated in the s -th component, and $1 = 1_k$, $0 = 0_k$. Then $\prod_{s \in S} k$ is the free k -module with basis $\{e_s\}_{s \in S}$. We define

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi : \prod_{s \in S} k \rightarrow \prod_{\theta \neq s \in S} k, \\ \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ s_j=\theta}}^n k_i e_{s_i} \mapsto \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ s_i \neq \theta \\ i \neq j}}^n k_i e_{s_i}. \end{array} \right.$$

It is easy to check that φ is a surjective k -homomorphism and $\text{Ker } \varphi = \langle e_\theta \rangle$. Hence, we have the k -isomorphism $\frac{\prod_{s \in S} k}{\langle e_\theta \rangle} \cong \prod_{\theta \neq s \in S} k$. Set $k[S] := \prod_{\theta \neq s \in S} k$. Therefore $k[S]$ is a free k -module and its basis is the non-zero elements of S . Hence, every arbitrary element of $k[S]$ is a finite k -linear sum of non-zero elements of S . Suppose that $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ s_i \neq \theta}}^n k_i e_{s_i}$ and $\sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ s'_j \neq \theta}}^n k'_j e_{s'_j}$ are two elements

of $k[S]$. We define

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n k_i e_{s_i} \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^n k'_j e_{s'_j} \right) := \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n k_i k'_j e_{s_i} e_{s'_j},$$

which turns $k[S]$ into a commutative ring. Note that $s_i \neq \theta$ and $s'_j \neq \theta$ imply that $s_i s'_j \neq \theta$, since S is a pointed monoid. Now, we are ready to recall the definition of the k -realization

functor. Let us first recall that a ring R is a k -algebra, where k is a commutative ring, if R is a k -module satisfying $k'(rr') = (k'r)r' = r(k'r')$ for all $r, r' \in R$ and $k' \in k$.

Definition 2.2. [4, Page 46] Let $k \in \mathcal{R}$ and $S \in \mathcal{M}$. The k -realization functor $k[-] : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow k$ -algebra assigns to every monoid S the free k -module $k[S]$ with basis the non-zero elements of S , endowed with multiplication induced by that of S . This can be extended to the k -realization of S -acts denoted as $k[-] : S - \mathbf{Act}_0 \rightarrow k[S]\text{-Mod}$. If X is an S -act, then $k[X]$ is the free $k[S]$ -module with a basis as the set of non-zero elements of X and the $k[S]$ -action given by S -action on X .

Remark 2.3. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an S -homomorphism. Then $k[f] : k[X] \rightarrow k[Y]$ is a $k[S]$ -homomorphism which is defined by

$$k[f]\left(\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in X}}^n k_i e_{x_i}\right) = \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq f(x_i) \in Y}}^n k_i e_{f(x_i)},$$

for every $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in X}}^n k_i e_{x_i} \in k[X]$. Therefore, $k[-] : S - \mathbf{Act}_0 \rightarrow k[S]\text{-Mod}$ is a covariant functor.

In the sequel, we investigate some properties of the functor $k[-]$.

Proposition 2.4. [4, Proposition 3.2.6] *The functor $k[-]$ is exact in the sense that it carries admissible exact sequences to exact sequences (in the usual sense of abelian categories).*

Proposition 2.5. *Let $a \in S$, and let $f : S \rightarrow S$ be a monoid homomorphism, such that $f(s) = as$, for every $s \in S$. Then $k[S/aS] \cong k[S]/ak[S]$.*

Proof. The sequence $0 \rightarrow aS \xrightarrow{\iota} S \xrightarrow{\pi} S/aS \rightarrow 0$ is an admissible exact sequence of S -acts by [8, Proposition 3.2]. Then the sequence $0 \rightarrow k[aS] \xrightarrow{k[\iota]} k[S] \xrightarrow{k[\pi]} k[S/aS] \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of $k[S]$ -modules, by Proposition 2.4. Then $k[S/aS] \cong k[S]/k[aS]$. Note that, $k[aS] = ak[S]$, and so we get the assertion. \square

It is well-known that the functors $k[-]$ and U form an adjunction with $k[-]$ a left adjoint to U by [4]. According to this fact and [7, Lemma 7.5.1], we have the following result.

Corollary 2.6. *Let $S \in \mathcal{M}$. Then the following statements hold.*

- (i) *For a family $\{X_i\}_{i \in I}$ of S -acts, $k[\prod_{i \in I} X_i] \cong \prod_{i \in I} k[X_i]$.*
- (ii) *For a family $\{M_i\}_{i \in I}$ of $k[S]$ -modules, $U(\prod_{i \in I} M_i) \cong \prod_{i \in I} U(M_i)$.*
- (iii) *For an S -homomorphism $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$,*

$$k[\text{coeq}(f, g)] \cong \text{coeq}(k[f], k[g]),$$

where $\text{coeq}(f, g)$ is the coequalizer of f and g .

(iv) For an $k[S]$ -homomorphism $f, g : M \rightarrow N$,

$$U(\text{eq}(f, g)) \cong \text{eq}(U(f), U(g)),$$

where $\text{eq}(f, g)$ is the equalizer of f and g .

(v) For an S -homomorphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$,

$$k[\text{Coker}(f)] \cong \text{Coker}(k[f]).$$

(vi) For an $k[S]$ -homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$,

$$U(\text{Ker}(f)) \cong \text{Ker}(U(f)).$$

Proposition 2.7. *Let $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ be S -homomorphisms. Then $k[\text{eq}(f, g)] \subseteq \text{eq}(k[f], k[g])$.*

Proof. Let $E = \text{eq}(f, g)$ and $E' = \text{eq}(k[f], k[g])$. If $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in E}}^n k_i e_{x_i} \in k[E]$, then $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in E}}^n k_i e_{f(x_i)} = \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in E}}^n k_i e_{g(x_i)}$, and so $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in E}}^n k_i e_{x_i} \in E'$, as desired. \square

In the following, we show that the k -realization functor preserves and reflects monomorphisms.

Lemma 2.8. *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an S -homomorphism. Then $k[f] : k[X] \rightarrow k[Y]$ is a $k[S]$ -monomorphism if and only if $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is an S -monomorphism.*

Proof. Necessity. Let $x_1, x_2 \in X$, $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$. Then $k[f](e_{x_1}) = e_{f(x_1)} = e_{f(x_2)} = k[f](e_{x_2})$ and since $k[f]$ is a $k[S]$ -monomorphism, we have $e_{x_1} = e_{x_2}$. So, $x_1 = x_2$.

Sufficiency. Let $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in X}}^n k_i e_{x_i} \in \text{Ker}(k[f])$. Then $\sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ 0 \neq x_i \in X}}^n k_i e_{f(x_i)} = 0$. Since f is an S -monomorphism and $0 \neq x_i \in X$, $f(x_i) \neq 0$. Hence, $k_i = 0$, for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, as desired.

\square

In what follows, we study some injectivity transferrings between modules and acts. Injective objects are defined in the categorical manner, see [8].

Lemma 2.9. *Let $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be two functors such that F is left adjoint to G . Also, let $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M}'$ be certain subclasses of morphisms of \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} , respectively. If for all $f \in \mathcal{M}$, $Ff \in \mathcal{M}'$, then for any \mathcal{M}' -injective object $D \in \mathcal{D}$, GD is an \mathcal{M} -injective object of \mathcal{C} .*

Proof. See [1, Page 136]. \square

Proposition 2.10. *Let M be an injective $k[S]$ -module. Then M is an injective S -act.*

Proof. The functor $k[-]$ is a left adjoint to U . Also, the functor k preserves monomorphisms by Lemma 2.8. Therefore, Lemma 2.9 implies that $U({}_k[S]M) = {}_S M$ is an injective S -act, where $U({}_k[S]M)$ is $U(M)$ viewing M as a $k[S]$ -module. \square

Corollary 2.11. *Let X be an S -act. If $k[X]$ is an injective $k[S]$ -module, then $k[X]$ is an injective S -act.*

Corollary 2.12. *Let a $k[S]$ -module M be an injective extension of a $k[S]$ -module N . Then the S -act M is an injective extension of the S -act N .*

Proof. Let $f : N \rightarrow M$ be a $k[S]$ -monomorphism, and let M be an injective $k[S]$ -module. Then $U(f) = f : N \rightarrow M$ is an S -monomorphism. On the other hand, M is an injective S -act by Proposition 2.10. So, the result is obtained. \square

In the following, we show that the category $S - \mathbf{Act}_0$ has enough injective objects. It should be noted that this fact the ordinary category of S -acts has been proved in [6, Corollary 3.1.6]. Every object in the category $S - \mathbf{Act}_0$ has a unique zero element, but in [6, Theorem 3.1.5], it was shown that an S -act X is embedded in the cofree S -act X^S which is injective and has no unique zero element. Indeed, every constant map $g_{x_0} : S \rightarrow X$, $g_{x_0}(s) = x_0$ for all $s \in S$, is a zero element of X^S .

The following theorem has been proven in [2, Corollary 1], but it is proven here using methods of functor.

Theorem 2.13. [2] *The category $S - \mathbf{Act}_0$ has enough injective objects.*

Proof. Let X be an S -act. Consider the $k[S]$ -module $k[X]$. Therefore, there exists an injective $k[S]$ -module E and a $k[S]$ -monomorphism $f : k[X] \rightarrow E$. By Corollary 2.12, the S -act E is an injective extension of the S -act $k[X]$, and $U(f) = f : k[X] \rightarrow E$ is an S -monomorphism. On the other hand, the morphism $g : X \rightarrow k[X]$ given by $g(x) = e_x$ for all $0 \neq x \in X$ and $g(0_X) = 0_{k[X]}$ is an S -monomorphism. Hence, $f \circ g : X \rightarrow E$ is an S -monomorphism, which completes the proof. \square

Recall from [7, Definition 4.1.2] that the functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is called *full* if for every object $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ and every morphism $g : F(C_1) \rightarrow F(C_2)$ in \mathcal{D} , there exists a morphism $f : C_1 \rightarrow C_2$ in \mathcal{C} such that $F(f) = g$. Moreover, F is called *faithful* if for every morphism $f, g \in \mathcal{C}$, the condition $F(f) = F(g)$ implies that $f = g$.

Proposition 2.14. *The functor $k[-]$ is faithful.*

Proof. Let $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ be two S -homomorphisms such that $k[f] = k[g]$. Hence, $k[f](e_x) = k[g](e_x)$, for every $x \in X$. Therefore, $e_{f(x)} = e_{g(x)}$, for every $x \in X$, and so $f = g$. \square

The following example shows that the faithful functor $k[-]$ is not full.

Example 2.15. Let $S = \{0, 1, r\}$ be a monoid with r being an idempotent element. Then $X = rS = \{r, 0\}$ and $Y = S$ are both S -acts. Hence, $k[X] = \{k'e_r \mid k' \in k\}$ and $k[Y] = \{k_1e_1 + k_re_r \mid k_1, k_r \in k\}$ are $k[S]$ -module. Define a map $g : k[X] \rightarrow k[Y]$ by $g(k'e_r) = k'e_1 + k'e_r$. It is routine to check that g is a $k[S]$ -homomorphism. Notice that $|X| = 2$ and $|Y| = 3$. Then there are 9 maps from X to Y , only 6 of which are S -homomorphisms and for all of them $k[f] \neq g$, where, f is an S -homomorphism from X to Y . Therefore, the functor $k[-]$ is not full.

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to sincerely thank the referees for several useful comments.

REFERENCES

- [1] B. Banaschewski, *Injectivity and essential extensions in equational class of algebras*, Queen's Pap. Pure Appl. Math., **25** (1970) 131-147.
- [2] P. Berthiaume, *The injective envelope of S -sets*, Canad. Math. Bull., **10** No. 2 (1967) 261-273.
- [3] G. Cortinas, C. Haesemeyer, M. E. Walker and C. Weibel, *Toric varieties, monoid schemes and cdh descent*, J. reine angew. Math., **698** (2015) 1-54.
- [4] J. Flores, *Homological Algebra for Commutative Monoids*, PhD thesis, Rutgers University, New Jersey, 2015.
- [5] J. Flores and C. Weibel, *Picard groups and class groups of monoid schemes*, J. Algebra., **415** (2014) 247-263.
- [6] M. Kilp, U. Knauer and A. V. Mikhaev, *Monoids, Acts and Categories with Applications to Wreath Products and Graphs*, Walter de Gruyter Berlin, New York, 2000.
- [7] V. S. Krishnan, *An Introduction to Category Theory*, North-Holland, 1981.
- [8] E. Nafarieh Talkhoonchek, M. Salimi, H. Rasouli, E. Tavasoli and A. Tehranian, *Admissible (Rees) exact sequences and flat acts*, JAS., **12** No. 2 (2025) 327-346.

Elahe Nafarieh Talkhoonchek

Department of Mathematics,
SR.C., Islamic Azad University,
Tehran, Iran.

elahe.nafarieh@iaiu.ac.ir

Maryam Salimi

Department of Mathematics,
ET.C., Islamic Azad University,
Tehran, Iran.

`maryamsalimi@iau.ac.ir`

Hamid Rasouli

Department of Mathematics,
SR.C., Islamic Azad University,
Tehran, Iran.

`h.rasouli@iau.ac.ir`

Elham Tavasoli

Department of Mathematics,
ET.C., Islamic Azad University,
Tehran, Iran.

`elham.tavasoli@iau.ac.ir`

Abolfazl Tehranian

Department of Mathematics,
SR.C., Islamic Azad University,
Tehran, Iran.

`Abolfazl.Tehranian@iau.ac.ir`