

Faithfully flatness of extensions of a commutative ring

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(Communicated by Prof. Nagata, Nov. 2, 1973)

All rings are assumed to be commutative and contain an identity element. Moreover, when we write " $R \subseteq S$ ", we mean that R is a subring of a ring S and that the identity of R is the identity of S . Let a_1, \dots, a_s be elements of a ring R . Then (a_1, \dots, a_s) means the ideal of R generated by a_1, \dots, a_s . The symbol \subset means proper inclusion.

Let R and S be rings with $R \subseteq S$. If S is generated as a ring by a set of elements in S over R , then S may be best described by an exact sequence of R -homomorphisms

$$(*) \quad 0 \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow R[X] \longrightarrow S \longrightarrow 0$$

where X is a set of variables over R and $R[X]$ is the polynomial ring in X over R . If $w = r_0 + r_1X^{(1)} + r_2X^{(2)} + \dots + r_nX^{(n)}$ is an element of $R[X]$ where $r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n \in R$ and $X^{(i)}$ monomials with degree ≥ 1 such that $X^{(i)} \neq X^{(j)}$ if $i \neq j$, then we define $c(w)$ (and $c'(w)$) to be (r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n) (and (r_1, \dots, r_n)).

We say that an R -module M is faithfully flat if M is flat over R and $PM \subset M$ for any maximal ideal P of R . Let the notations be as above. In this note we seek some conditions which are necessary and sufficient in order that S is, as an R -module, faithfully flat. They will be characterized in terms of the R -module I , which is also the ideal in $R[X]$.

In order to prove the Theorem 1 we need the following two Lemmas. Lemmas A and B may be found in [1, Chapter 1, §3,