

The Diamond Lemma for non-terminating rewriting systems using deterministic reduction strategies (Long Version)

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Abstract

We study the confluence property for rewriting systems whose underlying set of terms admits a vector space structure. For that, we use deterministic reduction strategies. These strategies are based on the choice of standard reductions applied to basis elements. We provide a sufficient condition of confluence in terms of the kernel of the operator which computes standard normal forms. We present a local criterion which enables us to check the confluence property in this framework. We show how this criterion is related to the Diamond Lemma for terminating rewriting systems.

plan:

- **Section I: IWC theorem**
- **Section 2: rew on rationnal Weyl algebras**
 - definition of rew. rules and rew. steps
 - proposition: convergent implies general form of solution to PDE
 - Janet bases: Janet complete implies existence of a strategy, passivity implies h -confluence criterion, as a consequence we recover formal solutions to PDE
 - $y' = xy$ and Janet example

Example $y' = xy$, main steps:

- general solution is given by $\langle u \mid x^{2n+1} \rangle = 0$ and $\langle u \mid x^{2n} \rangle = u(0)/(2^n n!)$
- we recover this by rew: we need $(\partial_x)^n x = x(\partial_x)^n + n(\partial_x)^{n-1}$ (using Leibniz identity and induction) and $\langle u \mid x^n \rangle = 1/(n!)(\partial_x)^n(u)|_0$ and we prove the previous two formulas by induction (use this example as a running example?)

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1 Introduction

The fact that local confluence together with termination implies confluence has been known for abstract rewriting systems since Newman's work [9]. For rewriting on noncommutative polynomials, a similar result known as the Diamond lemma was introduced by Bergman [3] nearly 30 years later, in order to compute normal forms in noncommutative algebras using

rewriting theory. It asserts that for terminating rewriting systems, the local confluence property can be checked on monomials.

One difficulty of rewriting polynomials is that the naive notion of rewriting path (obtained as the closure of the generating rewriting relations under reflexivity, transitivity, sum and product by a scalar) does not terminate. Instead, one needs to first consider well-formed rewriting steps before forming the reflexive transitive closure.

Nevertheless the Diamond lemma has proved to be very useful : together with the works of Bokut [4], it has given birth the theory of noncommutative Gröbner bases [8]. The latter have provided applications to various areas of noncommutative algebra such as the study of embedding problems (which appear in the works of Bokut and Bergman), homological algebra [5, 6] or Koszul duality [2, 10].

Computation of normal forms in noncommutative algebra is also used to provide formal solutions to partial differential equations. In this framework, a confluence criterion analogous to the Diamond Lemma is given by Janet bases [11], which specify a deterministic way to reduce each polynomial into normal form using standard reductions [7]. The confluence criterion may then be asserted as follows: for each monomial m and each non-standard reduction $m \rightarrow f$, f is reducible into \hat{m} , where the latter is obtained from m using only standard reductions.

In the presented paper, we propose an extension of the Diamond Lemma which offers two improvements over the one from Bergman: first it allows the treatment of non-terminating rewriting relations, and second it does not presuppose a notion of well-formed rewriting steps. This last property seems particularly promising in order to extend the Diamond Lemma to other structures.

Instead of supposing that the rewriting relation studied is terminating, we suppose given an ordering on the monomials, independent of the rewriting relation. We then use methods based on standard reductions: for every monomial m , we select exactly one reduction with left-hand side m , which is decreasing for the ordering chosen. Such choices induce a deterministic way to reduce each polynomial, obtained by applying simultaneously standard reductions on every monomial appearing in its decomposition. When these deterministic reductions terminate, one defines an operator which maps every polynomial to its unique standard normal form.

From this operator, we define a suitable notion of confluence in our setting, and show in Proposition ?? that it implies the usual notion of confluence for the rewriting system studied. We then provide an effective method for checking this criterion in Theorem 2.10. This method is based on a local analysis corresponding to checking local confluence on monomials. In particular, when the rewriting system is terminating, we show (Theorem 2.12) that we recover the Diamond Lemma as a particular case of Theorem 2.10.

Conventions and notations. Throughout the paper, we fix some conventions and notations that we present now. We will always work with a tuple $(\mathbb{K}, V, \mathcal{B}, <)$, where

- \mathbb{K} is a field
- V is a \mathbb{K} -vector space and \mathcal{B} is a basis of V
- $<$ is a well-founded order over \mathcal{B} .

In the sequel, such a tuple is called a **data**. Given a **data**, we simply say ground field, vectors and basis elements for \mathbb{K} , elements of V and \mathcal{B} , respectively. Moreover, every vector v admits a unique finite decomposition with respect to the basis \mathcal{B} and coefficients in the ground field:

$$v = \sum \lambda_i e_i, \quad \lambda_i \neq 0 \tag{1}$$

A basis element which is minimal for $<$ is simply called minimal. The set of basis elements which appear in the decomposition (1) is called the *support* of v , and is written $\text{lm}(v)$. We extend $<$ into the multiset order on V : for any $u, v \in V$, we have $u < v$ if $\text{supp}(u) \neq \text{supp}(v)$ and for any $e \in \text{supp}(u) \setminus \text{supp}(v)$, there exists $e' \in \text{supp}(v) \setminus \text{supp}(u)$ such that $e' > e$. Notice that this order coincides with the initial one on basis elements, so that we can denote it by $<$ without ambiguity.

2 A weak version of diamond lemma

In this section, we fix a **data** $(\mathbb{K}, V, \mathcal{B}, <)$ and we present our general framework for rewriting systems induced by this **data**. We use the standard terminology of rewriting, see [1].

2.1 Local strategies and h -normal forms

We fix a set $R \subseteq \mathcal{B} \times V$ which represents a set of rewriting rules of the form $e \rightarrow r$. The *linear extension* of R is the rewriting relation on V that reduces many basis elements at once, and which is defined as follows:

$$\sum_i \lambda_i e_i + v \rightarrow \sum_i \lambda_i r_i + v, \quad (2)$$

where v is any element of V , and for any $e_i \in \mathcal{B}$ appearing in the sum, $\lambda_i \neq 0$, $e_i \rightarrow r_i \in R$ and $e_i \notin \text{supp}(v)$. In the rest of Section 2, we use the following conventions. A set $R \subseteq \mathcal{B} \times V$ is simply given by its elements, that we denote by $e \rightarrow_R r$, and that we call rewriting rules. The linear extension of R is also denoted by \rightarrow_R , and its closures under transitivity, symmetry and sum and transitivity, symmetry, reflexivity and sum are denoted by \rightarrow_R^* and \xleftrightarrow{R}^* , respectively.

Definition 2.1. A *local strategy* h for R is the choice, for every non minimal basis element e , of a rewriting rule $h_e = e \rightarrow_h r_e \in R$ such that $r_e < e$. A vector v is said to be an *h -normal form* if it is a normal form for the linear extension of \rightarrow_h .

In the rest of this section, we suppose chosen such a local strategy h (note that such an h may not exist). Notice that a vector v can be decomposed in a unique way as $\sum \lambda_i e_i + v'$, where $e' \in \text{supp}(v')$ implies that e' is minimal, and $e_i \in \text{supp}(v) \setminus \text{supp}(v')$ is not. Hence, the linear extension of the local strategy h rewrites v as follows:

$$h_v = \sum \lambda_i e_i + v' \rightarrow_h \sum \lambda_i r_i + v'. \quad (3)$$

Also notice that if a basis element is not minimal, then it is a h -normal form.

Example 2.2. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{a, b, c, d\}$, and consider the linear extension of the rewriting rules $a \rightarrow_R b$, $b \rightarrow_R c + d$, $c \rightarrow_R b - d$. Note that this is not a terminating rewriting relation since we have the loop

$$b \rightarrow_R c + d \rightarrow_R (b - d) + d = b.$$

We choose the order $a > b > c, d$, as well as the following local strategy: $h_a = a \rightarrow_h b$ and $h_b = b \rightarrow_h c + d$. Then, the R -normal forms are the $\lambda_d d$, while the h -normal forms are all the expressions of the form $\lambda_d d + \lambda_c c$.

We easily get the following characterisation of h -normal forms.

Lemma 2.3. *Let v be a vector in V . Either v is minimal, or there exists $v' < v$ such that $v \rightarrow_h v'$. In particular, h -normal forms are precisely the minimal elements of V .*

For each $v \in V$ and each local strategy h , there exists at most one v' such that $v \rightarrow_h v'$, and \rightarrow_h is compatible with the termination order $<$. As a consequence, any $v \in V$ is sent by multiple applications of \rightarrow_h to a unique h -normal form that we denote by $H(v)$. This defines a map $H : V \rightarrow V$.

Proposition 2.4. *The map H is a linear projector.*

Proof. The h -normal forms are closed under sums, so that $H(H(v)) = H(v)$ for every v , that is H is a projector. Moreover, if $u \rightarrow_h u'$ and $v \rightarrow_h v'$, then we have $u + v \rightarrow_h u' + v'$. Iterating \rightarrow_h , we get $H(u + v) = H(H(u) + H(v)) = H(u) + H(v)$. \square

2.2 A confluence criterion

In this section we investigate the confluence properties of R . The main idea behind this section is that under suitable hypotheses on a local strategy h , the rewriting relation \rightarrow_h is a terminating and confluent subrelation of \rightarrow_R .

We start in Definition 2.5 and Proposition 2.7 by relating the confluence of \rightarrow_R to properties on h . Then, in Theorem 2.10, we prove a confluence criterion to check whether R satisfies Definition 2.5.

Definition 2.5. Given a local strategy h , we say that \rightarrow_R is *h -confluent* if for every rewriting rule $h_e = e \rightarrow_h r_e$, we have $H(e - r_e) = 0$.

Example 2.6. Let us take the same example as in Example 2.2. The following identities hold:

$$H(a) = c + d = H(b), \quad H(b) = c + d = H(c + d), \quad H(c) = c = H(b - d),$$

and so that \rightarrow_R is h -confluent. If we replace the rule $c \rightarrow_R b - d$ by $c \rightarrow_R b$, we get $H(c) = c$ and $H(b) = c + d$, so \rightarrow_R is not h -confluent anymore.

Proposition 2.7. *We fix a local strategy h .*

1. *If \rightarrow_R is h -confluent, then $u \xleftrightarrow[R]{*} v$ if and only if $H(u - v) = 0$.*
2. *If \rightarrow_R is h -confluent then \rightarrow_R is confluent.*

Proof. First, we show Point 1. The relation $\xleftrightarrow[R]{*}$ is the closure of \rightarrow_R under transitivity, symmetry and sum. Since the relation $H(u - v) = 0$ is closed under these operations, we get one implication. Reciprocally, if $H(u - v) = 0$, we have $H(u) = H(v)$. Since, by definition of H , we have $u \xrightarrow[R]{*} H(u)$ and $v \xrightarrow[R]{*} H(v)$, then $u \xleftrightarrow[R]{*} v$. **Vérifier que c'est bon (ce n'est pas ce qu'on avait écrit dans IWC).**

Let us show Point 2. Let $v, v_1, v_2 \in V$ be such that $v \xrightarrow[R]{*} v_i$, for $i = 1, 2$. By Point 1, $H(v_1) = H(v_2)$, and by denoting by u this common value, we have $v_i \xrightarrow[R]{*} u$. That proves that \rightarrow_R is confluent. \square

Note that the previous proposition is a sufficient but not a necessary condition. Indeed, with \mathcal{B} the set of integers and the rewriting rules $n \rightarrow_R n + 1$, the linear extension of R is confluent, but there exist no local strategy h such that \rightarrow_R is h -confluent.

We now introduce our criterion to show that \rightarrow_R is h -confluent. For that, we assume that the set of rewriting relations is equipped with a well-founded order $<$ satisfying the following decreasingness property.

Definition 2.8. We say that \rightarrow_R is *locally h -confluent* if for every $e \in \mathcal{B}$ and every rewriting rule $f = e \rightarrow_R r$, then we have the confluence diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} e & \xrightarrow{f} & r \\ h_e \downarrow & & \uparrow * \\ r_e & \xleftarrow{*} & v, \end{array}$$

where each rewriting step occurring in the dotted arrows is strictly smaller than f with respect to \prec .

Example 2.9. Continuing with Example 2.2, let us define an order \prec on R by the following ordering: $(a \rightarrow_R b), (b \rightarrow_R c + d) \prec (c \rightarrow_R b - d)$. This is guided by the heuristic that rules advancing towards an h -normal form should be favored over rules that do not: here c is an h -normal form so its rewriting rule is large for \prec . The following diagrams show that \rightarrow_R is locally h -confluent:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{ccc} a & \xrightarrow{R} & b \\ h_a \downarrow & & \parallel \\ b & \xlongequal{\quad} & b \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc} b & \xrightarrow{R} & c + d \\ h_b \downarrow & & \parallel \\ c + d & \xlongequal{\quad} & c + d \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc} c & \xrightarrow{R} & b - d \\ h_c \parallel & & \downarrow R \\ c & \xlongequal{\quad} & c \end{array} \end{array}$$

Our main result is the following.

Theorem 2.10. Let R be a set of rewriting rules and let h be a local strategy of R . If \rightarrow_R is locally h -confluent, then \rightarrow_R is h -confluent. In particular, \rightarrow_R is confluent.

Proof. We reason by induction on rewriting rules f according to the order \prec . Looking at the square corresponding to f :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} e & \xrightarrow{f} & v \\ h_e \downarrow & & \uparrow * \\ r_e & \xleftarrow{*} & v', \end{array}$$

we have $H(e) = H(r_e)$ by definition of H , and $H(r_e) = H(v') = H(v)$ by induction hypothesis, which concludes the proof. **Ce n'est pas hyper clair pour moi. Peux-tu reprendre la fin de la preuve?.** \square

Remark 2.11. Local h -confluence implies that the pair of rewriting relations $(\rightarrow_h, \rightarrow_R)$ is decreasing with respect to conversions (see [12, Definition 3]), using the order \prec on R and the discrete ordering on \rightarrow_h . By [12, Theorem 3], this implies that $(\rightarrow_h, \rightarrow_R)$ commute. Using the fact that $\rightarrow_h \subseteq \rightarrow_R$, one can then recover that \rightarrow_R is confluent. **Rajouter un phrase au début faisant comprendre que cette remarque s'adresse à des spécialistes de réécriture.**

Let us show how the Diamond Lemma fits as a particular case of our setup.

Theorem 2.12 ([3]). *Let R be a set of rewriting rules such that its linear extension is terminating, and for every $e \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $e \rightarrow_R r$ and $e \rightarrow_R r' \in R$, r and r' are joinable. Then, \rightarrow_R is confluent.*

Proof. We define an ordering $e > e'$ on \mathcal{B} as the transitive closure of the relation “there exists $v \in V$ such that $e \rightarrow_R v$ and $e' \in \text{supp}(v)$ ”. This is well-founded since by hypotheses \rightarrow_R is terminating. By definition, if $e \in \mathcal{B}$ is not minimal for $>$, then e is not an R -normal form. Let us fix an arbitrary rewriting rule $h_e = e \rightarrow_h r_e$. By definition of $>$, for any $e' \in \text{supp}(r_e)$ we have $e' < e$ and so $r_e < e$, which shows that h is a local strategy. Ordering the rewriting rules by their left hand sides makes \rightarrow_R locally h -confluent. Theorem 2.10 finally shows that \rightarrow_R is confluent. \square

3 Rewriting and partial derivative equations

3.1 Rewriting systems on rational Weyl algebras

In this section, we introduce rewriting systems in rational Weyl algebras and relate them to the framework introduced in Section 2. Before that, we first recall the definitions of Weyl algebras and of monomial orders.

We fix a set $X := \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ of indeterminates and we denote by $\mathbb{Q}(X) := \mathbb{Q}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ the field of fractions of the polynomial algebra $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ over \mathbb{Q} . Let us introduce another set of variables $\Delta := \{\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n\}$.

Definition 3.1. The *rational Weyl algebra* over $\mathbb{Q}(X)$ is the set of polynomials over the indeterminates Δ and coefficients in $\mathbb{Q}(X)$, subject to the following commutation rule:

$$\partial_i f = f \partial_i + \frac{d}{dx_i}(f), \quad f \in \mathbb{Q}(X), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

where $d/dx_i : \mathbb{Q}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(X)$ is the partial derivative operator with respect to the indeterminate x_i . This algebra is denoted by $B_n(\mathbb{Q})$.

Given $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we denote by $\partial^\alpha := \partial_1^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_n^{\alpha_n}$. Notice that $B_n(\mathbb{Q})$ is a vector space on $\mathbb{Q}(X)$ and admits as a basis the set $\{\partial^\alpha \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n\}$. Hence, elements of $B_n(\mathbb{Q})$ should be thought as differential operators with rational functions coefficients, and for this reason, a generic element of this algebra is denoted by \mathcal{D} and is called a differential operator. The framework developed in Section 2 can be applied to rational Weyl algebras by taking $\mathbb{K} := \mathbb{Q}(X)$ and $\mathcal{B} := \{\partial^\alpha \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n\}$. In particular, the support of a differential operator \mathcal{D} is the product of partial derivative operators which occur in \mathcal{D} . It remains to introduce a well-founded order on \mathcal{B} , and for that, we consider monomial orders.

Definition 3.2. A *monomial order* \preceq on \mathcal{B} is a well-founded total order that is compatible with multiplication of monomials, i.e., $\partial^\alpha \preceq \partial^\beta$ implies $\partial^{\alpha+\gamma} \preceq \partial^{\beta+\gamma}$, for every $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}^n$. For every differential operator $\mathcal{D} \in B_n(\mathbb{Q})$, let us denote by $\text{lm}(\mathcal{D})$ and $\text{lc}(\mathcal{D})$ the leading monomial and the leading coefficient of \mathcal{D} with respect to \preceq , respectively, and let us write $r(\mathcal{D}) := \text{lc}(\mathcal{D})\text{lm}(\mathcal{D}) - \mathcal{D}$.

Given an operator $\mathcal{D} \in B_n(\mathbb{Q})$, consider the rewriting relation on $B_n(\mathbb{Q})$ defined as follows. Letting $\text{lm}(\mathcal{D}) = \partial^\alpha$, we first have the rewriting steps on monomials defined by

$$\forall \beta \in \mathbb{N}^n, \quad \partial^{\alpha+\beta} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} \partial^\beta r(\mathcal{D}), \quad (4)$$

and then extend (4) by linearity. More generally, for every set $\Theta = \{\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_r\}$ of differential operators, we consider the rewriting system $(B_n(\mathbb{Q}), \rightarrow_\Theta)$ defined by $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow_\Theta \mathcal{D}'$, whenever $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}_i} \mathcal{D}'$, for some $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Il faudra remonter tout ça au cadre abstrait.

3.2 Janet bases and h -confluence

In this section, we take $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ the field of real rational functions in n variables, and look at the \mathbb{K} -algebra $A = \mathbb{K}[\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n]$. We suppose given an ordering $\partial_n > \partial_{n-1} > \dots > \partial_1$. By monomial, we mean unitary monomial.

Example 3.3. Elements of A should be thought of as systems of linear partial derivative equations. For example, the equation $x_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} - u = 0$ corresponds to the element $x_1 \partial_1 - 1$ in A .

Similarly, the 1-dimensional heat equation $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \kappa \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ corresponds (taking $x_1 = t$ and $x_2 = x$) to the element $\partial_1 - \kappa \partial_2^2$.

Definition 3.4. For any monomial m and $1 \leq k \leq n$ we denote by $\nu_k(m)$ the power of ∂_k in m . For any $\vec{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we denote by $\partial^{\vec{j}}$ the monomial m such that $\nu_k(m) = j_k$ for all k . For any subset $E \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, we denote by $Mon(E)$ the set of monomials m such that $\nu_k(m) = 0$ for all $k \notin E$. In particular, $Mon(\{1, \dots, n\})$ is the set of all monomials of A which we denote simply by Mon , while $Mon(\emptyset)$ is reduced to $\{1\}$.

Definition 3.5. A *cone* is a pair (m, E) , where $m \in A$ and $E \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$. m is called the *origin of the cone*, while E is the *direction*. A cone is *monomial* if m is a monomial. We denote by $(m, E)^*$ the family of monomials of the form mp , where $p \in Mon(E)$.

If S is a family of monomials, a *cone-partition* of S is a family of monomial cones (m_i, E_i) for $i \in I$ such that for $i \neq j$, $(m_i, E_i)^* \cap (m_j, E_j)^* = \emptyset$ and $S = \coprod_{i \in I} (m_i, E_i)^*$. In other words the $(m_i, E_i)^*$ form a partition of S into monomial cones. It is a *finite cone-partition* if I is finite.

Definition 3.6. A family of monomial cones (m_i, E_i) with distinct origins is said to be *complete* if it induces a cone-partition of the monomial ideal generated by the m_i s.

A family of cones (p_i, E_i) is said to be *complete* if $(lm(p_i), E_i)$ is complete.

Lemma 3.7. *A complete family of cones gives rise to a local strategy on A .*

Sketch. We use the monomial ordering on reducible monomials, and reducible ones are bigger than irreducible ones.

Then we only need to define h on reducible ones. For $x \in Red(R)$, there exists a unique (m_i, E_i) in the cone-partition such that $x = m_i p$ with $p \in E_i$ and m_i corresponds to an element $m_i + r$ of R . Then h is defined by $h_x = x = m_i p \rightarrow_R -rp$. \square

In order to produce suitable cone-partitions as in the previous lemma, we introduce the notion of multiplicative variables.

Definition 3.8. Let M be a subset of Mon , and let $m \in M$. We define a subset $\mu_M(m)$ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let us write $m = \partial_1^{i_1} \partial_2^{i_2} \dots \partial_n^{i_n}$, and take $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then $k \in \mu_M(m)$ if the following implication is true:

$$\forall m' \in M, \quad (\forall j < k, \nu_j(m') = \nu_j(m)) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nu_k(m') \leq \nu_k(m).$$

We call $(m, \mu_M(m))$ the *cone of m in M* . If M is clear then we will just write $\mu(m)$. If $k \in \mu(m)$ we will say that ∂_k is a *multiplicative variable* of m .

Lemma 3.9. *Let $M \subset \text{Mon}$ and $m, m' \in M$. If $m \neq m'$, then $(m, \mu(m))^* \cap (m', \mu(m'))^* = \emptyset$.*

Proof. Since $m \neq m'$, there exists k minimal such that $\nu_k(m) \neq \nu_k(m')$. Without loss of generality, we can suppose $\nu_k(m) < \nu_k(m')$. By definition of μ , we therefore have that $k \notin \mu(m)$.

Take now $p \in (m, \mu(m))^* \cap (m', \mu(m'))^*$. Then $p = mq$, with $\nu_k(q) = 0$, and so $\nu_k(p) = \nu_k(m)$. But p is a multiple of m' and so $\nu_k(m) = \nu_k(p) \geq \nu_k(m')$, which is contradictory. \square

Example 3.10. **TODO.**

Definition 3.11. A set of monomials M is *Janet-complete* if the family of all $(m, \mu(m))$ is complete.

A set of polynomials R is *Janet-complete* if $\text{lm}(R)$ is Janet-complete.

Conclusion. We introduced a sufficient condition, based on deterministic reduction strategies, of confluence for rewriting systems on vector spaces. As a particular case, we recover the Diamond Lemma. This work maybe extended in particular into two main directions. The first one consists in weakening our assumption on the set \mathbb{K} of coefficients, by allowing non invertible coefficients. A second extension consists in characterising Janet bases in this framework, with the objective to develop constructive methods in the analysis and formal resolution of PDE's.

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