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## Zariski lemma

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**Proposition 1.** *Let  $R \subseteq S \subseteq T$  be commutative rings. If  $R$  is noetherian, and  $T$  finitely generated as an  $R$ -algebra and as an  $S$ -module, then  $S$  is finitely generated as an  $R$ -algebra.*

**Lemma 1** (Zariski's lemma). *Let  $(L : K)$  be a field extension and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in L$  be such that  $K(a_1, \dots, a_n) = K[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ . Then the elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are algebraic over  $K$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $n = 1$  is clear. Now suppose  $n > 1$  and not all  $a_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$  are algebraic over  $K$ .

Wlog we may assume  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are algebraically independent and each element  $a_{r+1}, \dots, a_n$  is algebraic over  $D := K(a_1, \dots, a_r)$ . Hence  $K[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  is a finite algebraic extension of  $D$  and therefore is a finitely generated  $D$ -module.

The above proposition applied to  $K \subseteq D \subseteq K[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  shows that  $D$  is finitely generated as a  $K$ -algebra, i.e  $D = K[d_1, \dots, d_n]$ .

Let  $d_i = \frac{p_i(a_1, \dots, a_n)}{q_i(a_1, \dots, a_n)}$ , where  $p_i, q_i \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

Now  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are algebraically independent so that  $K[a_1, \dots, a_n] \cong K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , which is a <http://planetmath.org/UFDUFD>.

Let  $h$  be a prime divisor of  $q_1 \cdots q_r + 1$ . Since  $q$  is relatively prime to each of  $q_i$ , the element  $q(a_1, \dots, a_n)^{-1} \in D$  cannot be in  $K[d_1, \dots, d_n]$ . We obtain a contradiction.  $\square$