

BLUEPRINT FOR GORDAN'S LEMMA

ABSTRACT. A blueprint for Gordan's Lemma.

What we are going for is the following. Let Λ be a finite free \mathbb{Z} -module, and let $\Lambda^* := \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z})$ be its dual. If S is a subset of Λ^* (always finite, in practice, I think) then its *dual \mathbb{Z} -cone* S^\vee consists of the $t \in \Lambda$ such that $\langle s, t \rangle \geq 0$ for all $s \in S$. Our goal is:

Theorem 1. *If $S \subset \Lambda^*$ is finite, then $S^\vee \subset \Lambda$ is a finitely-generated additive monoid.*

1. ALGEBRAIC PROOF

We follow the algebraic proof in Wikipedia.

Theorem 2. *If M is an additive abelian monoid and R is a nonzero commutative ring, then M is finitely-generated as a monoid iff the monoid algebra $R[M]$ is finitely-generated as an R -algebra.*

Proof. Because R is nonzero, we can think of M as a subset of $R[M]$.

First say M is finitely generated by $S \subseteq M$. The sub- R -algebra of $R[M]$ generated by S contains all of M , and is an R -module so it's all of $R[M]$.

Conversely, say $R[M]$ is finitely-generated. If $f \in R[M]$ then it has a support, which is a finite subset of M . Now f is in the sub- R -module generated by its support, and hence is in the sub- R -algebra generated by the support. So if we have finitely many f 's which generate $R[M]$ as an R -algebra then we can replace each f by its support and get a finite subset of M which generates a subalgebra of $R[M]$ which contains all the f 's and hence is all of $R[M]$. We deduce that a finite subset S of M generates $R[M]$ as an R -algebra. We claim that S generates M as an additive monoid. This follows because the R -algebra generated by S is the R -module generated by the monoid generated by S , and the monoid generated by S is a subset of M . \square

We prove Gordan's Lemma by two layers of induction. First, proceed by induction on the rank of Λ .

The result is clear in the case in which the rank of Λ is 0: in this case, $\Lambda = 0$ and the empty set generates the unique additive submodule of $\Lambda = 0$.

Assume that the rank of Λ is strictly positive and that, for every free, finitely generated \mathbb{Z} -module Λ' of rank strictly smaller than the rank of Λ , the dual set of every finite subset of $(\Lambda')^*$ is a finitely generated additive monoid.

Proceed by induction on (the size of) S .

For S empty the result is clear: the dual of the empty set is the whole Λ and if $\lambda \in \Lambda$ generates Λ as a \mathbb{Z} -module, then $\lambda \cup \{-\ell : \ell \in \lambda\}$ generates Λ as an additive monoid.

For the inductive (in the size of $\#S$) step, it suffices to check that if S^\vee is finitely-generated then so is $(S \cup \varphi)^\vee$. We use the equality

$$(S \cup \varphi)^\vee = S^\vee \cap \{v \in \Lambda : \varphi(v) \geq 0\},$$

which follows from the definitions.

The result is clear if $\varphi = 0$: in this case φ imposes no extra condition on S^\vee , the equality

$$(S \cup \{0\})^\vee = S^\vee$$

holds, and we know the result for S^\vee .

Thus, assume that φ is non-zero. Set $M = S^\vee$ and write $A = \mathbb{C}[M]$; this is finitely-generated as a \mathbb{C} -algebra by Theorem 2. Define

$$\deg_\varphi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

by $\deg_\varphi(v) = \varphi(v)$. Define A_n to be the \mathbb{C} -module generated by the $v \in M$ with $\deg_\varphi(v) = n$; this determines a \mathbb{Z} -grading on A . By Theorem 2, it suffices to prove that the subring $A_{\geq 0} := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A_n$ is finitely-generated as a \mathbb{C} -algebra.

First note that $A_0 = \mathbb{C}[T]$ where $T = \{v \in M : \deg(v) = 0\}$ is a subalgebra, so it suffices to prove that

- A_0 is a finitely-generated \mathbb{C} -algebra, and that
- $A_{\geq 0}$ is a finitely-generated A_0 -algebra.

Lemma 3. *The \mathbb{C} -algebra $A_0 = \mathbb{C}[T]$ is finitely generated.*

Proof. We use the equivalence of Theorem 2: it suffices to show that T is finitely generated as a monoid. Recall that, by definition, T is the submonoid of Λ satisfying

$$T = \{v \in M : \deg(v) = \varphi(v) = 0\} \subset \ker \varphi.$$

Since we reduced to the case in which φ is non-zero, we know that $\ker \varphi$ is a free, finitely generated \mathbb{Z} -module of rank equal to $\text{rk } \Lambda - 1$.

To apply the induction hypothesis, we check that $T \subset \ker \varphi$ is the dual of a finite subset of $\ker \varphi$. Observe that the dual of $\ker \varphi$ is the quotient of Λ^* by the saturation of the additive subgroup generated by φ . By construction, T is therefore the dual set of the image of S under the projection

$$\Lambda^* \rightarrow (\Lambda^* / \langle \varphi \rangle)^{\text{sat}} \simeq (\ker \varphi)^*.$$

By the induction step of the first induction (on the number of generators of Λ), we know that T is finitely generated, as needed. \square

Remark. The saturation can really be avoided, by working more generally, not with the dual of Λ , but with a \mathbb{Z} -module of linear functionals on Λ that surjects onto the dual of Λ . Alternatively, it can also be avoided by replacing φ by $\varphi' \in \Lambda'$, where $\varphi = a\varphi'$, with $a \in \mathbb{N}$ chosen as the largest it can be for such an identity to hold.

Lemma 4. *The A be a Noetherian \mathbb{Z} -graded ring. Denote by $A_{\geq 0} = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A_n$ the sub-algebra of A consisting of the elements of A of non-negative degree. The ring $A_{\geq 0}$ is finitely generated as an A_0 -algebra.*

Proof. Let I be the ideal of A that is generated by all the homogeneous elements of strictly positive degree. (Note that, since A might have elements of negative degree, the ideal I might contain elements of negative degree as well.)

Since A is Noetherian, the ideal A admits a finite generating set: choose one and denote its elements by f_1, \dots, f_n . We further assume that the chosen generators are

- homogeneous (by replacing the non-homogeneous ones by their homogeneous components), and
- have strictly positive degree (since the ideal I is generated by homogeneous elements of strictly positive degrees).

Let $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ be the maximum of the degrees of the generators f_1, \dots, f_n :

$$N_0 = \max\{\deg f_1, \dots, \deg f_n\}.$$

Let $G \subset A_{\geq 0}$ be the subset consisting of f_1, \dots, f_n together with all the homogeneous elements of degree at most N_0 . We show that G generates $A_{\geq 0}$ as an A_0 -algebra.

More precisely, we show that, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, every element $f \in A_{\geq 0}$ of degree at most n in the A_0 -algebra $A_{\geq 0}$ is generated by G as an A_0 -algebra. (If this is any help, this step is entirely analogous to the proof that the Weak Mordell-Weil Theorem implies the Mordell-Weil Theorem.)

Proceed by induction on n . For the base case there is nothing to prove, since the result is true if $n \leq N_0$, by definition of G .

Suppose that G generates every element of $A_{\geq 0}$ of degree at most n , for some natural number n satisfying $N_0 \leq n$. Let f be an element of $A_{\geq 0}$ of degree $n+1$. By homogeneity of the ideal, we can assume that f is homogeneous of degree $n+1$.

Since f_1, \dots, f_n generate I , the homogeneous element f admits a decomposition

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i f_i$$

with g_1, \dots, g_n homogeneous elements. Since the degree of f is $n+1$ and n satisfies $N_0 \leq n$, the degrees of g_1, \dots, g_n satisfy

$$0 \leq \deg g_1 < \deg f, \dots, 0 \leq \deg g_n < \deg f.$$

By the inductive hypothesis, each one of the elements g_1, \dots, g_n is in the A_0 -algebra generated by G , as stated.

All that is left to show is that, for each natural number n , the homogeneous degree piece A_n is finitely generated as an A_0 -module.

This is again a consequence of Noetherianity of A . Suppose that $N_1 \subset N_2 \cdots \subset N_i \subset \cdots$ is an increasing chain of A_0 -submodules of A_n , such that $\cup_i N_i = A_n$. The chain of ideals $N_1 A \subset N_2 A \cdots \subset N_i A \subset \cdots$ stabilizes, since A is Noetherian: there is an index i such that, for all $i \leq j$, the equality $N_i A = N_j A$ holds. Intersecting with A_n , we find that the sequence $N_1 A \cap A_n \subset N_2 A \cap A_n \cdots \subset N_i A \cap A_n \subset \cdots$ also stabilizes. Finally, we observe that, for all indices i , the equality $N_i A \cap A_n = N_i$ holds: since all the elements of N_i are homogeneous of degree n , the only A -multiples of the elements of N_i that have degree n are the multiples by homogeneous elements of degree 0. Since N_i is an A_0 -module, we are done. \square