

The following is some compiled results from Andrea Ferretti's [Commutative Algebra](#) necessary to prove Hilbert's Nullstellensatz, with some filled in details.

**Lemma 1.** Ideals of the form  $I(\{x\})$  for  $x \in k^n$  are maximal.

**Theorem 1.** (The Nullstellensatz) The following statements are equivalent:

1.  $I(V(J)) = \sqrt{J}$ .
2.  $V(J) = \emptyset \Rightarrow J = A$
3. Maximal ideals are of the form  $I(\{x\})$  for points  $x \in k^n$ .

*Proof.* 1  $\Rightarrow$  2:

$$V(J) = \emptyset \Rightarrow I(V(J)) = A = \sqrt{J}$$

But  $\sqrt{J} = A \Rightarrow J = A$ .

2  $\Rightarrow$  3 : Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be a maximal ideal. Then  $V(\mathfrak{m})$  either has to be a single point  $\{x\}$ , in which case  $I(\{x\}) = \mathfrak{m}$ , so

$$f \in \mathfrak{m} \Rightarrow f \in I(\{x\})$$

so we have  $\mathfrak{m} \subset I(\{x\})$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{m} = I(\{x\})$  from the lemma. Otherwise  $V(\mathfrak{m})$  is empty, in which case  $\mathfrak{m} = A$  by assumption, so we get a contradiction.

3  $\Rightarrow$  2: Suppose  $V(J) = \emptyset$ . Then  $J \neq A$  implies  $J \subset \mathfrak{m}$  for maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ , in which case we get a contradiction.

2  $\Rightarrow$  1 : Let  $J \subset A$ . Pick  $g \in I(V(J))$ . Inside  $A[y]$  consider  $\bar{J}$  generated by elements of  $J$  and  $yg - 1$ .  $g = 0$  on  $V(J)$ , so  $V(\bar{J})$  is empty. By 2 we say  $\bar{J} = A[y]$ . Hence we can find a combination

$$1 = h_0(yg - 1) + h_1f_1 + h_2f_2 + \dots + h_rf_r$$

for  $f_1, \dots, f_r \in J$  and  $h_0, \dots, h_r \in A[y]$ . By multiplying by a sufficiently large power of  $g$  (to clear denominators),

$$g^t = h'_0(yg - 1) + h'_1f_1 + \dots + h'_rf_r$$

for  $h'_0 \in A[y]$ ,  $h'_1, \dots, h'_r \in A$ . Now consider the image of both sides in

$$\frac{A[y]}{(yg - 1)}$$

but remember that  $h'_1f_1 + \dots + h'_rf_r \in J \subset A$  and  $g^t \in A$ . Since  $A$  injects into  $A[y]/(yg - 1)$ , we get  $h'_1f_1 + \dots + h'_rf_r = g^t \in J$  as desired.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** (Noether Normalization) Let  $k$  be a field,  $A$  be a finitely generated  $k$ -algebra. There exists  $n \geq 0$  and algebraically independent elements  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  where  $A$  is finitely generated as a module over  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

*Proof.* Let  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  be a minimal set of generators over  $A$  as a  $k$ -algebra. We argue by induction over  $m$ . The base case  $m = 0$  is true because it implies  $A = k$ . Assuming the case for  $m - 1$ , we may assume that  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  are algebraically dependent (the theorem is automatically true if they are). We get a polynomial  $f$  over  $k$  with

$$f(y_1, \dots, y_m) = 0$$

Perform the change of variables  $z_i = y_i - y_1^{r^{i-1}}$  where  $r$  is to be chosen soon. For each monomial in

$$f(y_1, z_2 + y_1^r, \dots, z_m + y_1^{r^{m-1}})$$

of say multidegree  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$ , the degree in  $y_1$  of the changed monomial is

$$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 r + \dots + \alpha_m r^{m-1}$$

This implies that  $y_1$  is integral over  $k[z_2, \dots, z_m]$ , which is already a finitely generated  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module for some algebraically independent  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . An integral extension of such a module is also finitely generated.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** (Zariski's lemma) Let  $A$  be a finitely generated  $k$ -algebra that is also a field. Then  $A$  is a finite extension of  $k$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be a finitely generated  $k$ -algebra that is also a field. By the Noether normalization lemma, we can write  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_r]$  where  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  are algebraically independent, and  $x_{m+1}, \dots, x_r$  are integral over  $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  for  $m \leq r$ . We would like to show  $m = 0$ . Suppose otherwise. Then since  $A$  is a field,

$$\frac{1}{x_1} \in A$$

so it must be integral over  $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ . This gives a nontrivial polynomial relation over  $x_1, \dots, x_m$ , contradicting the algebraic independence of the variables.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** (Nullstellensatz 3) The maximal ideals of  $A$  correspond to points of  $k^n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be a maximal ideal of  $k[x_1, \dots, x_r]$ . Then the algebra  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_r]/\mathfrak{m}$  is finitely generated as an algebra and it is also a field. By Zariski's lemma, it is a finite field extension of  $k$ , hence an algebraic extension. We have a natural inclusion  $k \hookrightarrow A$ . But  $k$  is algebraically closed, so this is actually an isomorphism

$$A \cong k.$$

If we let  $\lambda_i \in k$  be the image of  $x_i$  under the isomorphism,  $f_i = x_i - \lambda_i \in \mathfrak{m}$ . Since the ideal generated by the  $f_i$  is maximal, we have  $\mathfrak{m} = (f_1, \dots, f_r)$ .  $\square$