

A Formalization of Divided Powers in Lean

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Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Divided powers
- 3 Topology on multivariate power series rings

Motivation: $\{x \mapsto \frac{x^n}{n!}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

A primitive of a polynomial $\sum_{n=0}^N a_n X^n \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ is given by $\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{a_n}{n+1} X^{n+1}$.

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Both related to the family of maps $\{x \mapsto \frac{x^n}{n!} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

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The family $\{x \mapsto \frac{x^n}{n!} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ still makes sense if \mathbb{R} is replaced by any \mathbb{Q} -algebra (e.g., $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Q}[X], \dots$).

What happens if we work over a ring where division by nonzero integers is not always possible (e.g., $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}[X], \mathbb{Z}_p, \dots$)?

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Cartan (1950s) observed that, in some contexts, there are families of ‘divided powers’ $\{x \mapsto \gamma_n(x)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ that ‘behave like’ $\{x \mapsto \frac{x^n}{n!}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, even when division by nonzero integers is not defined.

Motivation from number theory: The ring B_{cris}

B_{cris} is a ring used in current arithmetic geometry research:

- In [p-adic Hodge theory](#) to detect “crystalline” Galois representations.
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The definition of B_{cris} is very hard (> 100 pages of math. research).

- One step is to take the [divided power envelope](#) of a certain ring.
- This universal construction relies on the theory of [divided powers](#).

History of divided powers

Divided powers were introduced by [Cartan](#) (1950s) in the context of algebraic topology (homology of Eilenberg–MacLane spaces).

The main proofs are due to [Romy](#) (1960s).

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Now, we are formalizing the theory in Lean (2020s).

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Divided powers (I)

Let I be an ideal in a commutative ring A . A **divided power structure** on I is a collection of maps $\gamma_n : I \rightarrow A$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

- i $\forall x \in I, \gamma_0(x) = 1.$
- ii $\forall x \in I, \gamma_1(x) = x.$
- iii $\forall x \in I, \forall n > 0, \gamma_n(x) \in I.$
- iv $\forall x, y \in I, \gamma_n(x + y) = \sum_{i+j=n} \gamma_i(x) \cdot \gamma_j(y).$
- v $\forall a \in A, \forall x \in I, \gamma_n(a \cdot x) = a^n \cdot \gamma_n(x).$
- vi $\forall x \in I, \forall m, n \in \mathbb{N}, \gamma_m(x) \cdot \gamma_n(x) = \binom{m+n}{m} \cdot \gamma_{m+n}(x).$
- vii $\forall x \in I, \forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \forall n > 0, \gamma_m(\gamma_n(x)) = \frac{(m \cdot n)!}{m!(n!)^m} \cdot \gamma_{m \cdot n}(x).$

We call (A, I, γ) a **divided power algebra**.

Divided powers (II)

```

structure DividedPowers {A : Type*} [CommSemiring A] (I : Ideal A)
  where
    dpow :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$ 
    dpow_null :  $\forall \{n\} x \ (\_ : x \notin I), \text{dpow } n \ x = 0$ 
    dpow_zero :  $\forall \{x\} \ (\_ : x \in I), \text{dpow } 0 \ x = 1$ 
    dpow_one :  $\forall \{x\} \ (\_ : x \in I), \text{dpow } 1 \ x = x$ 
    dpow_mem :  $\forall \{n\} x \ (\_ : n \neq 0) \ (\_ : x \in I), \text{dpow } n \ x \in I$ 
    dpow_add :  $\forall \{n\} x \ y \ (\_ : x \in I) \ (\_ : y \in I), \text{dpow } n \ (x + y) =$ 
      (antidiagonal n).sum fun k => dpow k.1 x * dpow k.2 y
    dpow_mul :  $\forall \{n\} \{a : A\} \{x\} \ (\_ : x \in I),$ 
      dpow n (a * x) = a ^ n * dpow n x
    mul_dpow :  $\forall \{m\} n \{x\} \ (\_ : x \in I),$ 
      dpow m x * dpow n x = choose (m + n) m * dpow (m + n) x
    dpow_comp :  $\forall \{m\} n \{x\} \ (\_ : n \neq 0) \ (\_ : x \in I),$ 
      dpow m (dpow n x) = uniformBell m n * dpow (m * n) x

```

Implementation remarks.

- We allow commutative semirings in the definition.
- We define $\text{dpow} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$, by imposing $\text{dpow } n \ x = 0$ if $x \notin I$.
- $\text{antidiagonal } n$ is the finite set of tuples $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$ with $i + j = n$.
- $\text{uniformBell } m \ n$ is the number of partitions of a set with mn elements into m subsets of size n .
- We prove $n! * \text{dpow } n \ a = a ^ n$ for all $a \in I$.

Examples

Let I be an ideal in a commutative ring A .

- If A is a \mathbb{Q} -algebra, $\gamma_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{n!}$ is the unique DP structure on I .
- If $A = \mathbb{Z}_p$, the ideal $I := (p)$ admits a unique DP structure, since $\frac{p^n}{n!} \in (p)$ for all $n \geq 1$.
- If $(n-1)!$ is invertible in A and $I^n = 0$, then I admits a DP structure $(x^n/n!)$. In particular:
 - if $I^p = 0$ in a ring of characteristic p .
 - if $I^p = 0$ in a ring where the prime p is nilpotent.
 - if $I^2 = 0$.

Divided power morphisms

A **DP morphism** $f : (A, I, \gamma) \rightarrow (B, J, \delta)$ is a ring homomorphism $f : A \rightarrow B$ such that $f(I) \subseteq J$ and such that $\delta_n(f(x)) = f(\gamma_n(x))$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in I$.

```
def IsDPMorphism {A B : Type*} [CommSemiring A] [CommSemiring B]
  {I : Ideal A} {J : Ideal B} (hI : DividedPowers I)
  (hJ : DividedPowers J) (f : A →+* B) : Prop where
  ideal_comp : I.map f ≤ J
  dpow_comp : ∀ {n : ℕ}, ∀ a ∈ I, hJ.dpow n (f a) = f (hI.dpow n a)
```

- The composition of DP morphisms is a DP morphism.
- If $I = \text{span}(S)$ and $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a ring homomorphism such that $f(I) \subseteq J$, and $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in S$ the equality $\delta_n(f(x)) = f(\gamma_n(x))$ holds, then f is a DP morphism.

Sub-DP-Ideals (I)

Let (A, I, γ) be a divided power algebra. A subideal $J \leq I$ is a **sub-DP-ideal** of I if $\gamma_n(x) \in J$ for all $n > 0, x \in J$.

```

structure IsSubDPIdeal {A : Type*} [CommSemiring A] {I : Ideal A}
  (hI : DividedPowers I) (J : Ideal A) : Prop where
  isSubideal : J ≤ I
  dpow_mem : ∀ {n : ℕ} (n : n ≠ 0) {j : A} (j : j ∈ J), hI.dpow n j ∈ J

structure SubDPIdeal {A : Type*} [CommSemiring A] {I : Ideal A}
  (hI : DividedPowers I) where
  carrier : Ideal A
  isSubideal : carrier ≤ I
  dpow_mem : ∀ {n : ℕ} (n : n ≠ 0), ∀ j ∈ carrier, hI.dpow n j ∈ carrier

```

Sub-DP-Ideals (II)

Let (A, I, γ) be a divided power algebra, $J \leq I$ be a sub-ideal.

- To check whether $\text{span}(S)$ is a sub-DP-ideal of (I, γ) , it suffices to check the condition on the generators.
- $J \cap I$ is a sub-DP-ideal of I iff there is a DP structure on $I \cdot A/J$ such that the quotient map is a DP morphism.
- Sub-DP-ideals of I form a complete lattice.
- Let $f : (A, I, \gamma) \rightarrow (B, K, \delta)$ be a DP morphism. Then $\text{span}(f(I))$ is a sub-DP-ideal of K and $\ker f \cap I$ is a sub-DP-ideal of I .

Divided powers on a sum of ideals

Given divided powers (A, I, γ_I) , (A, J, γ_J) that agree on $I \cap J$, $I + J$ has a unique divided power structure γ_{I+J} extending those on I and J .

First implementation:

$$\gamma_{I+J}(x + y) = \sum_{k=0}^n \gamma_{I,k}(x) \gamma_{J,n-k}(y) \quad \text{for } x \in I, y \in J.$$

Preferred implementation: Unique linear map $I + J \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(A)$ that extends $I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(A)$ and $J \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(A)$, where $\mathcal{E}(A)$ is the **exponential module** of $A \rightsquigarrow$ requires topology of power series rings.

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The exponential module

- A power series $f \in A[[X]]$ is **of exponential type** if $f(0) = 1$ and $f(X + Y) = f(X) \cdot f(Y)$.
- The **exponential module** $\mathcal{E}(A)$ is the set of power series of exponential type (with addition given by product of power series, and external law given by rescaling).
- If (A, I, γ) is a divided power algebra, then for every $a \in I$, the power series $\exp_I(aX) = \sum \gamma_n(a)X^n$ is of exponential type.
- The map $a \mapsto \exp_I(aX) : I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(A)$ is a morphism of A -modules.

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Topology on multivariate power series rings

Let A be a ring with a topology, σ a set.

The ring $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$ of multivariate power series is naturally induced with the [product topology](#), provided as scoped instance.

```
open scoped MvPowerSeries.WithPiTopology
```

With the product topology on $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$:

- If A is Hausdorff, then so is $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$.
- If A is a topological (semi)ring, then so is $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$.
- If A is a complete uniform space, then so is $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$, and $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$ is dense in $A[[X_s]_{s \in \sigma}]$.

Evaluation and substitution of multivariate power series

Let A be a topological ring, B an A -algebra, σ a set.

Assume that the topology on A is **linear** (i.e., zero has a basis of open neighborhoods consisting of two-sided ideals).

- Evaluation of polynomials $f \in A[(X_s)_{s \in \sigma}]$ is possible $\forall (b_s)_{s \in \sigma} \subseteq B$.
- **Evaluation** of power series $f \in A[[X_s)_{s \in \sigma}]]$ at $(b_s)_{s \in \sigma} \subseteq B$ is possible e.g. when σ is finite and the b_s are **topologically nilpotent**.
- **Substitution** of multivariate power series, under certain conditions.
 - E.g., if σ is finite, and $(b_s)_{s \in \sigma} \subseteq B[[X_s)_{s \in \sigma}]]$, it suffices that the constant coefficient of b_s is zero (or nilpotent) for each $s \in \sigma$.

Questions

Thanks for listening! Questions?

<https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.ITP.2025.4>

https://github.com/mariainesdff/divided_powers_journal