Multiplicative bases for infinite dimensional algebras

Jan Trlifaj

Univerzita Karlova, Praha

The Legacy of Peter Gabriel, Bielefeld, August 2025



Measuring complexity of multiplication in an algebra in terms of its linear structure

Let K be a field, R be (an associative unital) K-algebra, and B be a K-linear space basis of R.

Each $r \in R$ is uniquely a K-linear combination of elements of B: $r = \sum_{b \in B} bk_b$ where $k_b = 0$ for almost all $b \in B$.

$$\operatorname{supp}(r) = \{b \in B \mid k_b \neq 0\} \text{ and } \operatorname{cs}(r) = \operatorname{card}(\operatorname{supp}(r)).$$

If $1 \le k < \omega$, then the basis B is k-bounded, if $cs(b.b') \le k$ for all $b, b' \in B$. Equivalently, $cs(r.r') \le k.cs(r).cs(r')$ for all $r, r' \in R$.

For example, if dim $R_K = d < \infty$, then each K-basis B of R is d-bounded.

A 1-bounded basis is also called a weak multiplicative basis.

B is a bounded basis of R, if B is k-bounded for some $1 \le k < \omega$.

Multiplicative bases

B is a multiplicative basis of R, if either bb'=0 or $bb'\in B$, for all $b,b'\in B$.

B is a strong multiplicative basis of R, if $bb' \in B$ for all $b, b' \in B$.

strong multiplicative \implies multiplicative \implies weak multiplicative \implies k-bounded \implies l-bounded \implies bounded $(1 \le k \le l < \omega)$.

Some cases of coincidence: If K=2, then weak multiplicative = multiplicative. If R has no zero divisors, then each multiplicative basis is strong.

The point

If B is a multiplicative basis of a K-algebra R then the K-algebra structure of R is completely determined by the multiplicative semigroup $(B \cup \{0\},.)$.

The ubiquity of multiplicative bases

Polynomial algebras

The multiplicative K-basis consisting of all monic monomials is strong.

Group algebras and their generalizations

Let G be any group. Then G is a strong multiplicative basis of the group algebra KG. More in general, if M is a monoid then M is a strong multiplicative basis of the monoid algebra KM.

If S is a semigroup such that the semigroup algebra R = KS is unital, then S is a strong multiplicative basis of the K-algebra R. Conversely: if B is a strong multiplicative basis of a (unital) K-algebra R, then R is isomorphic to the semigroup algebra KB.

A particular feature of semigroup algebras

 $\Psi: \sum_{s \in S} sk_s \mapsto \sum_{s \in S} k_s$ is a (unital) K-algebra homomorphism whose kernel (called the fundamental ideal of KS) has codimension 1.

More examples

Full matrix algebras

For each $1 \le n < \omega$, the algebra $M_n(K)$ over a field K has a multiplicative basis B consisting of the matrix units e_{ij} (i,j < n).

If $n \ge 2$, then $M_n(K)$ has no strong multiplicative basis (as $M_n(K)$ is a simple ring).

Path algebras of quivers

The standard basis B of KQ is multiplicative. If Q has no oriented cycles, then KQ has a strong multiplicative basis.

[Gabriel] Any finite dimensional indecomposable basic **hereditary** algebra over an algebraically closed field has a multiplicative basis.

[Bautista-Gabriel-Roiter-Salmeron] Any finite dimensional algebra of finite representation type over any algebraically closed field K has a multiplicative basis. However, this fails when K is not algebraically closed.

The case of skew-fields

- $\{1, i\}$ is a weak multiplicative \mathbb{R} -basis of the field \mathbb{C} .
- $\{1, i, j, k\}$ is a weak multiplicative \mathbb{R} -basis of the quaternion algebra \mathbb{H} .

Do \mathbb{C} or \mathbb{H} have a multiplicative \mathbb{R} -basis?

Lemma

Let K be field and $K \subsetneq K'$ be a skew-field extension. Then K' has no multiplicative K-basis.

Corollary

If the field K is not algebraically closed than K has a finite field extension $K \subsetneq K'$ which is of FRT, but has no multiplicative basis.

Induced multiplicative bases

Green's Lemma

Let R be a K-algebra with a multiplicative basis B, and I be an ideal in R. Let $C = \{b + I \mid b \notin I\}$.

Then C is a multiplicative K-basis of the algebra R/I, iff I is 2-nomial w.r.t. B.

I 2-nomial w.r.t. B, if I is generated by (some) elements of the form $b_1 - b_2$ and b, where $b, b_1, b_2 \in B$.

C is the induced multiplicative basis on R/I.

From multiplicative to Gröbner bases

The case of polynomials

 $R = k[x_1, ..., x_n]$, B =all monic monomials in R. A well-order > on B is admissible if $1 \le b$ for all $b \in B$, and if b < b' and $c \in B$, then bc < b'c.

For each $0 \neq f \in R$, let $\ell m(f)$ be the >-largest element of B occurring in f. For a subset $S \subseteq R$, let in(S) be the initial ideal of S, i.e., the ideal of R generated by $\{\ell m(f) \mid f \in S\}$.

[Dickson]

Each ideal $0 \neq I$ of R contains a minimal finite subset $G \subseteq I$ such that in(G) = in(I). G is the Gröbner basis of I.

An application [Macaulay]

Let I be an ideal of R, G be its Gröbner basis, and $B' = \{b \in B \mid b \neq \ell m(g) \text{ for all } g \in G\}$. Then B' + I is a K-basis of R/I.

From multiplicative to Gröbner bases

General Gröbner bases

A well-order > on a multiplicative basis B of a (non-commutative) K-algebra R is admissible in case

- for all $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in B$, if $b_1 > b_2$ then $b_1b_3 > b_2b_3$ if both b_1b_3 and b_2b_3 are nonzero.
- for all $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in B$, if $b_1 > b_2$ then $b_3b_1 > b_3b_2$ if both b_3b_1 and b_3b_2 are nonzero.
- for all $b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 \in B$, if $b_1 = b_2b_3b_4$ then $b_1 \ge b_3$.

The admissible order induces the notion of a leading term (or tip) of each $0 \neq r \in R$. For a subset $S \subseteq R$, let t(S) be the ideal generated by the tips of all $0 \neq s \in S$.

Let I be an ideal of R. Then a subset G of I is a Gröbner basis of I in case t(G) = t(I).

The ubiquity of path algebras

[Green]

Let R be a K-algebra possessing a multiplicative basis with an admissible well-order. Then R has a Gröbner basis.

For example, the standard basis of a path algebra KQ of a quiver Q with a finite set of vertices admits an admissible well-order.

[Green]

Let R be a K-algebra with a multiplicative basis B equipped with an admissible order >.

Then there exists a quiver Q with a finite set of vertices, and an isomorphism $KQ/I \stackrel{\varphi}{\cong} R$ where I is some 2-nomial ideal of the path algebra KQ equipped with the standard basis S.

Moreover, $B = \{ \varphi(s+I) \mid s \notin I \}$.

Normed bases for finite representation type

[Bautista-Gabriel-Roiter-Salmerón]

Let K be an algebraically closed field and R be a finite dimensional K-algebra. Assume R is of finite representation type. Then R has a normed multiplicative K-basis B.

B is normed in case B contains a complete set of primitive orthogonal idempotents of R, as well as a K-basis of each power of the Jacobson radical of R.

A point of the proof: The standard basis of any path algebra is normed, so by Green's Lemma, it suffices to show that $R \cong KQ/I$ for a quiver Q and a 2-nomial ideal I of the path algebra KQ, and use the induced basis.

Corollary

Let K be an algebraically closed field. Then for each $n \ge 1$, there are only finitely many K-algebras of finite representation type of dimension n.

II. Transfinite extensions of simple artinian rings

Semiartinian regular rings

- A ring R is right semiartinian, if R is the last term of the right Loewy sequence of R, i.e., there are an ordinal σ and a strictly increasing sequence $(S_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \leq \sigma + 1)$, such that $S_0 = 0$, $S_{\alpha+1}/S_{\alpha} = \operatorname{Soc}(R/S_{\alpha})$ for all $\alpha \leq \sigma$, $S_{\alpha} = \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} S_{\beta}$ for all limit ordinals $\alpha \leq \sigma$, and $S_{\sigma+1} = R$.
- R is (von Neumann) regular, if all (right R-) modules are flat.
- R has right primitive factors artinian (has right pfa for short) in case R/P is right artinian for each right primitive ideal P of R.

Let R be a regular ring.

- *R* is right semiartinian, iff it is left semiartinian, and the right and left Loewy sequences of *R* coincide.
- R has right pfa, iff it has left pfa, iff all homogenous completely reducible (left or right) modules are injective.
- If R is commutative, then R has pfa.

Structure of semiartinian regular rings with pfa

Let R be a right semiartinian ring and $(S_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \leq \sigma + 1)$ be the right Loewy sequence of R with $\sigma \geq 1$. The following conditions are equivalent:

- R is regular with pfa.
- of or each $\alpha \leq \sigma$ there are a cardinal λ_{α} , positive integers $n_{\alpha\beta}$ ($\beta < \lambda_{\alpha}$) and skew-fields $K_{\alpha\beta}$ ($\beta < \lambda_{\alpha}$) such that $S_{\alpha+1}/S_{\alpha} \cong \bigoplus_{\beta < \lambda_{\alpha}} M_{n_{\alpha\beta}}(K_{\alpha\beta})$, as rings without unit. Moreover, λ_{α} is infinite iff $\alpha < \sigma$.

 The pre-image of $M_{n_{\alpha\beta}}(K_{\alpha\beta})$ in this isomorphism coincides with the β th homogenous component of $Soc(R/S_{\alpha})$, and it is finitely generated as right

 $P_{\alpha\beta}:=$ a representative of simple modules in the β th homogenous component of $S_{\alpha+1}/S_{\alpha}$. $Zg(R):=\{P_{\alpha\beta}\mid \alpha\leq\sigma,\beta<\lambda_{\alpha}\}$ is a set of representatives of all simple modules, and also the Ziegler spectrum of R. The Cantor-Bendixson rank of Zg(R) is σ .

 R/S_{α} -module for all $\beta < \lambda_{\alpha}$.

Transfinite extensions of simple artinian rings

 $\sigma + 1 =$ Loewy length of R (at least 2).

 $\lambda_{\alpha} =$ number of homogenous components of the α th layer of R ($\alpha \leq \sigma$). (Infinite except for $\alpha = \sigma$).

 $n_{\alpha\beta}=$ (finite) **dimension** of β th homogenous component in α th layer.

 $K_{\alpha\beta}=$ endomorphism skew-field of a simple module in β th homogenous component of the α th layer ($\alpha \leq \sigma$, $\beta < \lambda_{\alpha}$).

The dimension sequence

The sequence $\mathcal{D}_R = \{(\lambda_\alpha, \{(n_{\alpha\beta}, K_{\alpha\beta}) \mid \beta < \lambda_\alpha\}) \mid \alpha \leq \sigma\}$ is an invariant of R. It is called the dimension sequence of R.

The hereditary case

If the Loewy length σ of R is countable and the α th layer of the socle sequence of R is countably generated for each $0<\alpha<\sigma$, then R is hereditary. So R is always hereditary in case it has Loewy length 2.

The simplest example

The K-algebra of all eventually constant sequences in K^{ω} over a field K.

Multiplicative bases and selfinjective regular algebras

Examples

The commutative K-algebra $R = K^{\kappa}$ is regular and self-injective. If κ is finite, then R has a strong multiplicative basis, otherwise R has no bounded basis.

The endomorphism algebra R of a right K-linear space L is regular and right self-injective. If L is finite-dimensional, then R has a multiplicative basis, otherwise R has no bounded basis.

Theorem

Let K be a field and R be a K-algebra which is regular and left or right self-injective, but not completely reducible. Then R has no bounded multiplicative basis.

A multiplicative basis B of a semiartinian K-algebra R is conormed if B contains a complete set of orthogonal idempotents of R, as well as a basis of S_{α} for each $\alpha \leq \sigma$.

Commutative semiartinian regular algebras

Let K be a field. We will consider the commutative semiartinian regular K-algebras R of the following form:

$$S_{\sigma+1}/S_{\sigma} \cong \mathsf{K}^{(\lambda_{\sigma})}$$

$$...$$

$$S_{\alpha+1}/S_{\alpha} \cong \mathsf{K}^{(\lambda_{\alpha})}$$

$$...$$

$$S_{2}/S_{1} \cong \mathsf{K}^{(\lambda_{1})}$$

$$S_{1}/S_{0} = \mathsf{Soc}(\mathsf{R}) \cong \mathsf{K}^{(\lambda_{0})}$$

 $\mathcal{D}_R = (\lambda_\alpha \mid \alpha \leq \sigma)$ is the (simplified) dimension sequence of the K-algebra R.

Upto a K-algebra isomorphism, R is a subalgebra of the K-algebra K^{λ_0} with $Soc(R) = K^{(\lambda_0)}$.

The simplified dimension sequence \mathcal{D} is countable if both the ordinal σ and all the cardinals λ_{α} ($\alpha \leq \sigma$) are countable.

Algebras of countable type and dimension sequences

Let K be a field. A commutative semiartinian regular K-algebra R of the form above is called of countable type, if it dimension sequence \mathcal{D}_R is countable.

Existence Theorem

If $\mathcal D$ is a countable dimension sequence, then there exists a K-algebra R of countable type such that $\mathcal D=\mathcal D_R$.

Uniqueness Theorem

Let R and R' be K-algebras of countable type. Then $R\cong R'$ as K-algebras, iff $\mathcal{D}_R=\mathcal{D}_{R'}$.

A key point of uniqueness: countable layers are connected, as countable sets of pairwise orthogonal idempotents lift modulo any ideal of R. Uniqueness fails even for $\sigma=1$ when λ_0 is uncountable, or when all layers are countable, but the length is \aleph_1 .

The construction

The induction step

Let K be a field, κ an infinite cardinal, and $\mathcal{R} = (R_{\alpha} \mid \alpha < \kappa)$ a sequence of K-algebras.

Let $P = \prod_{\alpha < \kappa} R_{\alpha}$ denote the *K*-algebra product of the algebras in \mathcal{R} . Let $I = \bigoplus_{\alpha < \kappa} R_{\alpha}$ (so *I* is an ideal in *P*).

Let $R = R(\kappa, K, \mathcal{R})$ denote the K-subalgebra of P defined by $R = I \oplus 1_P \cdot K$.

Assume that each K-algebra R_{α} ($\alpha < \kappa$) is semiartinian and has a conormed multiplicative basis. Then so does the K-algebra $R(\kappa, K, \mathcal{R})$.

The construction

Definition of the algebras $B_{\alpha,n}$

Let K be a field.

- (i) $B_{0,1} = K$.
- (ii) For a non-limit ordinal $\alpha=\beta+1$, we let $\mathcal{R}=(R_m\mid m<\aleph_0)$ be the constant sequence of K-algebras $R_m=B_{\beta,1}$ for each $m<\aleph_0$. We let $B_{\alpha,1}=R(\aleph_0,K,\mathcal{R})$.
- (iii) For each limit ordinal α , we put $R_{\beta} = B_{\beta,1}$ for each $\beta < \alpha$. We let $B_{\alpha,1} := R(\alpha, K, \mathcal{R})$ where $\mathcal{R} = (R_{\beta} \mid \beta < \alpha)$.
- (iv) For all $1 < n < \omega$ and all ordinals α , we let $B_{\alpha,n} = B_{\alpha,1} \boxplus \cdots \boxplus B_{\alpha,1}$ (the direct product of n copies of the K-algebra $B_{\alpha,1}$).

Example: $B_{1,1}$ is the K-algebra of all eventually constant sequences in K^{\aleph_0} .

Each of the K-algebras $B_{\alpha,n}$ ($\alpha \geq 0$, $1 \leq n < \omega$) has a conormed multiplicative basis.

Conormed multiplicative bases

Theorem

Let K be a field and $\mathcal D$ be a countable dimension sequence of length σ . Then there exists $1 \leq n < \omega$ such that $\mathcal D$ is the dimension sequence of the K-algebra $B_{\sigma,n}$.

Corollary

All algebras of countable type have conormed multiplicative bases.

References

- R. Bautista, P. Gabriel, A.V. Roiter, L. Salmerón, *Representation-finite algebras and multiplicative bases*, Invent. Math. 81(1985), 217–285.
- J. Okniński, *Semigroup Algebras*, Monographs and Textbooks in Pure Appl. Math. 138, M. Dekker, New York 1991.
- E.L. Green, *Multiplicative bases, Gröbner bases, and right Gröbner bases*, J. Symbolic Computation 29(2000), 601–623.
- A.J. Calderón Martín, F.J. Navarro Izquierdo, *Arbitrary algebras with a multiplicative basis*, Linear Algebra Appl. 498(2016), 106–116.
- K. Fuková, J.Trlifaj, *Multiplicative bases and commutative semiartinian von Neumann regular algebras*, to appear in J. Pure Appl. Algebra, arxiv.org/pdf/2501.06018.v2.