

§3.14: REES RINGS AND THE ARTIN-REES LEMMA

DEFINITION: Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I$  be an ideal. The **Rees ring** of  $I$  is the  $\mathbb{N}$ -graded  $R$ -algebra

$$R[IT] := \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} I^d T^d = R \oplus IT \oplus I^2 T^2 \oplus \dots$$

with multiplication determined by  $(aT^d)(bT^e) = abT^{d+e}$  for  $a \in I^d, b \in I^e$  (and extended by the distributive law for nonhomogeneous elements). Here  $I^n$  means the  $n$ th power of the ideal  $I$  in  $R$ , and  $t$  is an indeterminate. Equivalently,  $R[IT]$  is the  $R$ -subalgebra of the polynomial ring  $R[T]$  generated by  $IT$ , with  $R[T]$  is given the standard grading  $R[T]_d = R \cdot T^d$ .

DEFINITION: Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I$  be an ideal. The **associated graded ring** of  $I$  is the  $\mathbb{N}$ -graded ring

$$\text{gr}_I(R) := \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} (I^d/I^{d+1})T^d = R/I \oplus (I/I^2)T \oplus (I^2/I^3)T^2 \oplus \dots$$

with multiplication determined by  $(a + I^{d+1}T^d)(b + I^{e+1}T^e) = ab + I^{d+e+1}T^{d+e}$  for  $a \in I^d, b \in I^e$  (and extended by the distributive law). For an element  $r \in R$ , its **initial form** in  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  is

$$r^* := \begin{cases} (r + I^{d+1})T^d & \text{if } r \in I^d \setminus I^{d+1} \\ 0 & \text{if } r \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} I^n. \end{cases}$$

ARTIN-REES LEMMA: Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring,  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ ,  $M$  a finitely generated module, and  $N \subseteq M$  a submodule. Then there is a constant<sup>1</sup>  $c \geq 0$  such that for all  $n \geq c$ , we have  $I^n M \cap N \subseteq I^{n-c} N$ .

(1) Warmup with Rees rings:

- (a) Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I$  be an ideal. Show that if  $I = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , then  $R[It] = R[a_1 t, \dots, a_n t]$ .
- (b) Let  $K$  be a field,  $R = K[X, Y]$  and  $I = (X, Y)$ . Find  $K$ -algebra generators for  $R[It]$ , and find a relation on these generators.

- (a) This follows from the Theorem we showed last time: given a (finite, though this isn't necessary) set of homogeneous elements that generate  $R_+$  as an ideal, these elements generate  $R$  as an  $R_0$ -algebra.
- (b) The elements  $X, Y, XT, YT$  generate. A relation is  $X(YT) - Y(XT)$ , or  $X_1 X_4 - X_2 X_3$  in dummy variables. In fact, this is a defining set of relations.

(2) Warmup with associated graded rings:

- (a) Convince yourself that the multiplication given in the definition of  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  is well-defined. After doing this, do *not* use coset notation for elements of  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  and instead write a typical homogeneous element as something like  $\bar{r} T^d$ .
- (b) Let  $K$  be a field,  $R = K[X, Y]$ , and  $\mathfrak{m} = (X, Y)$ . Show that  $\text{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)_d \cong R_d$  as  $K$ -vector spaces, and construct a ring isomorphism  $\text{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \cong R$ .
- (c) For the same  $R$ , show that the map  $R \rightarrow \text{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R)$  given by  $r \mapsto r^*$  is *not* a ring homomorphism.
- (d) Let  $K$  be a field,  $R = K[[X, Y]]$ , and  $\mathfrak{m} = (X, Y)$ . Show<sup>2</sup> that  $\text{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}(R) \cong K[X, Y]$ .

<sup>1</sup>The constant  $c$  depends on  $I, M$ , and  $N$  but works for all  $t$ .

<sup>2</sup>Yes, the brackets changed. This is not a typo!

(e) What happens in (b) and (d) if we have  $n$  variables instead of 2?

- (a) Let  $a \in I^d$  and  $b \in I^e$ . Then given  $a' \in I^{d+1}$  and  $b' \in I^{e+1}$ , we have  $(a + a')(b + b') = ab + a'b + ab' + a'b' \in ab + I^{d+e+1}$ .
- (b) Note that  $\text{gr}_I(R)_d$  is exactly the vector space  $fT^d$  with  $f \in R_d$ . So “ignoring”  $T$  is an isomorphism of vector spaces. One checks directly that it is compatible with multiplication by reducing to the case of homogeneous elements.
- (c) For example, if  $f = X - 1$  and  $g = 1$ , then  $f^* = -1$ ,  $g^* = 1$ , but  $(f + g)^* = X$ .
- (d) Note that  $\text{gr}_I(R)_d$  is again just the vector space  $fT^d$  with  $f \in R_d$ , and multiplication is the same as in the polynomial case.
- (e) The same thing.

- (3) Consider the special case of Artin-Rees where  $M = R$ , and  $I = (f)$  and  $N = (g)$ .
- (a) What does Artin-Rees say in this setting? Express your answer in terms of “divides”.
- (b) Take  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ . Does  $c = 0$  “work” for every  $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}$ ? Can you find a sequence of examples requiring arbitrarily large values of  $c$ ?

- (a) There is some  $c$  such that  $f^n|h$  and  $g|h$  implies  $(f^{n-c}g)|h$ .
- (b) Take  $f = 2$  and  $g = 2^m$ . Then  $2^n|h$  and  $2^m|h$  implies  $2^{\max\{m,n\}}|h$ . Then  $f^{n-c}g = 2^{m+n-c}$ . To guarantee this to divide  $h$ , we must have  $c \geq m$ .

- (4) Proof of Artin-Rees: Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, and  $I$  be an ideal.
- (a) Explain why  $R[It]$  is a Noetherian ring.
- (b) Let  $M = \sum_i Rm_i$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module. Set  $\mathcal{M} := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} I^n M t^n$ . Show that this is a graded  $R[It]$ -module, and that  $\mathcal{M} = \sum_i R[It] \cdot m_i$ , where in the last equality we consider  $m_i$  as the element  $m_i t^0 \in \mathcal{M}_0$ .
- (c) Given a submodule  $N$  of  $M$ , set  $\mathcal{N} := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} (I^n M \cap N) t^n \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Show that  $\mathcal{N}$  is a graded  $R[It]$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- (d) Show that there exist  $n_1, \dots, n_k \in N$  and  $c_1, \dots, c_k \geq 0$  such that  $\mathcal{N} = \sum_j R[It] \cdot n_j t^{c_j}$ .
- (e) Show that  $c := \max\{c_j\}$  satisfies the conclusion of the Artin-Rees Lemma.

- (a) Since  $I$  is finitely generated, it is a finitely generated algebra over a Noetherian ring.
- (b) First, we check that this is an  $R[It]$ -module. It is clearly an additive group. To check that it is closed under the  $R[It]$ -action and that this yields a graded action, it suffices to check that  $R[It]_d \cdot \mathcal{M}_e \subseteq \mathcal{M}_{d+e}$ . To see it, take  $rt^d$  with  $r \in I^d$  and  $mt^e$  with  $m \in I^e M$ ; then the action yields  $rm t^{d+e}$  and  $rm \in I^d(I^e M) = I^{d+e} M$ , so  $rm t^{d+e} \in \mathcal{M}_{d+e}$ , as required.
- Clearly  $m_i \in \mathcal{M}$ , so  $\sum_i R[It] \cdot m_i \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Now we check that this generates. It suffices to check that any homogeneous element can be generated by this generating set, so take some  $mt^d \in \mathcal{M}_d$  with  $m \in I^d M$ . This means we can write  $m = \sum_j a_j u_j$  with  $a_j \in I^d$  and  $u_j \in M$ . Then we can write  $u_j = \sum b_{ij} m_i$  for some  $b_{ij} \in R$ , yielding an expression  $m = \sum_i c_i m_i$  with  $c_i \in I^d$ . Thus,  $m = \sum_i (c_i t^d) m_i \in R[It] \cdot m_i$ .
- (c) It suffices to check that  $R[It]_d \cdot \mathcal{N}_e \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{d+e}$ . Take  $rt^d$  with  $r \in I^d$  and  $nt^e$  with  $n \in (I^e M \cap N)$ . Then  $rn \in I^d(I^e M \cap N)$ , so  $rn \in I^d I^e M = I^{d+e} M$  and  $rn \in I^d N \subseteq N$ , and hence  $rn \in I^{d+e} M \cap N$ . Thus  $(rt^d)(nt^e) \in \mathcal{N}_{d+e}$ .

- (d) Since  $R[It]$  is Noetherian and  $\mathcal{M}$  is finitely generated, so is  $\mathcal{N}$ . Since it is graded and finitely generated, it can be generated by finitely many homogeneous elements. The statement is just naming them.
- (e) Let  $c = \max\{c_j\}$ . Take  $u \in I^n M \cap N$ . Then  $ut^n \in \mathcal{N}_n = \sum_j R[It] \cdot n_j t^{c_j}$ . We can then express  $u$  as a homogeneous linear combination of these generators, so  $ut^n = \sum_j (r_j t^{n-c_j})(n_j t^{c_j})$ . Since  $n - c_j \geq n - c$ , we have  $r_j \in I^{n-c}$ , and each  $n_j \in N$ , so  $u = \sum_j r_j n_j \in I^{n-c} N$ . Moving over the  $c$ , we obtain the statement.

- (5) Presentations of associated graded rings: Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I, J$  be ideals. Set  $\text{in}_I(J)$  to be the ideal of  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  generated by  $\{a^* \mid a \in J\}$ .
- (a) Show that  $\text{gr}_I(R/J) \cong \text{gr}_I(R)/\text{in}_I(J)$ .
- (b) If  $J = (f)$  is a principal ideal, show that  $\text{in}_I(J) = (f^*)$ .
- (c) Is  $\text{in}_I((f_1, \dots, f_t)) = (f_1^*, \dots, f_t^*)$  in general?
- (d) Compute  $\text{gr}_{(x,y,z)}\left(\frac{K[[X,Y,Z]]}{(X^2+XY+Y^3+Z^7)}\right)$ .

- (6) Properties of associated graded rings: Let  $R$  be a ring and  $I$  be an ideal such that  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} I^n = 0$ .
- (a) Show that if  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  is a domain, then so is  $R$ .
- (b) Show that if  $\text{gr}_I(R)$  is reduced, then so is  $R$ .
- (c) What about the converses of these statements?

- (7) Show that for the ideal  $I = (X, Y)^2$  in  $R = K[X, Y]$ , the Rees ring  $R[It]$  has defining relations of degree greater than one.