A CONVERSE OF THE HILBERT SYZYGY THEOREM

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Abstract. The following converse of the Hilbert Syzygy Theorem is proved. Suppose $K$ is a noetherian commutative ring with identity that has finite global dimension, and suppose that $M$ is a finitely generated abelian cancellative monoid. If $\text{gl dim } KM = n + \text{gl dim } K$ then $M$ is of the form $(\times_{i=1}^{n} M_i) \times H$ where $M_i = \mathbb{Z}$ or $\mathbb{N}$ and where $H$ is a finite group with no $K$-torsion.

Let $R$ be a ring with identity and let $M$ be a monoid. We shall denote by $RM$ the monoid ring of $M$ over $R$. The following theorems are well known (see, for example, [2, 3, 8, 10, 11]).

1 (Hilbert Syzygy). Suppose $M$ is either $\mathbb{N}$, the additive monoid of natural numbers, or $\mathbb{Z}$, the additive group of integers. Then

\[
\text{gl dim } RM = 1 + \text{gl dim } R.
\]

2 (Maschke). Suppose $M$ is a finite group. Then

\[
\text{gl dim } RM = \text{gl dim } R, \quad \text{if } |M| \text{ is invertible in } R,
\]

\[
= \infty, \quad \text{otherwise}.
\]

Using the fact that $R(M_1 \times M_2) = (RM_1)M_2$, one could combine the above results to yield the following.

(Generalized Syzygy). Suppose $R$ is a ring with identity and suppose $M$ is a monoid of form

\[
\left( \times_{i=1}^{n} M_i \right) \times H,
\]

where $M_i = \mathbb{N}$ or $\mathbb{Z}$ and where $H$ is a finite group with no $R$-torsion (i.e. $|H|$ is invertible in $R$). Then

\[
\text{gl dim } RM = n + \text{gl dim } R.
\]

In this paper we shall prove the following converse of this result.

Theorem A. Suppose $K$ is a noetherian commutative ring with identity such that $\text{gl dim } K < \infty$, and suppose that $M$ is a finitely generated abelian cancellative monoid.

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If \( \text{gl dim } KM = n + \text{gl dim } K \) then \( K \) is of form
\[
\left( \bigotimes_{i=1}^{n} M_i \right) \times H
\]
where \( M_i = \mathbb{N} \) or \( \mathbb{Z} \) and where \( H \) is a finite group with no \( K \)-torsion.

**Remark.** Combining the Generalized Syzygy Theorem with Theorem A one has the following: Suppose \( K \) is a noetherian commutative ring with identity and suppose \( M \) is a finitely generated abelian cancellative monoid. Then \( \text{gl dim } KM < \infty \) if and only if \( \text{gl dim } K < \infty \) and \( M \) is of form (1).

Using Theorem A, we obtain a corresponding result for the \( K \)-Hochschild dimension \( \dim^K M \) of \( M \) for any commutative ring \( K \) (not necessarily noetherian).

**Theorem B.** Suppose \( K \) is a commutative ring with identity and suppose that \( M \) is a finitely generated abelian cancellative monoid. Then \( \dim^K M = n < \infty \) if and only if \( M \) is of form (1).

**1. Proof of Theorem A.** Throughout \( M \) will denote a monoid and \( \hat{M} \) will denote its group reflection [4]. Suppose \( M \) is abelian and cancellative. Then \( \hat{M} \) is simply the group of quotients of \( M \), i.e. \( \hat{M} \) has elements of form \( a/b, a, b \in M \), with the obvious multiplication. In this case, the canonical map \( M \to \hat{M} \), taking \( a \in M \) to \( a/1 \), is injective and so one may assume that \( M \subseteq \hat{M} \). Note that the group ring \( RM \) over any ring \( R \) is simply the localization of \( RM \) at the central multiplicative set \( M \).

Therefore
\[
\text{gl dim } R\hat{M} \leq \text{gl dim } RM.
\]

**Lemma 1.** If Theorem A is true for any noetherian domain \( K \) then it is true for any noetherian commutative ring \( K \).

**Proof.** Suppose \( \text{gl dim } KM = n + \text{gl dim } K \) for a noetherian commutative ring \( K \). Using [9, Theorems 164, 168] together with the fact that \( \text{gl dim } K < \infty \), one sees that \( K \) is a direct product of finitely many noetherian domains \( D_j \). This implies that \( KM \) is a direct product of the monoid rings \( D_jM \). Hence
\[
\text{gl dim } D_jM \leq \text{gl dim } KM \quad \text{and} \quad \text{gl dim } D_j \leq \text{gl dim } K.
\]
Therefore, as \( \text{gl dim } D_j \leq \text{gl dim } D_jM \), one has \( \text{gl dim } D_jM = m + \text{gl dim } D_j \). Thus \( M \) must be of form (1) where \( M_i = \mathbb{N} \) or \( \mathbb{Z} \) using the Generalized Syzygy Theorem and where \( H \) is a finite group with no \( D_j \)-torsion (and, therefore, no \( K \)-torsion).

**Proof of Theorem A.** By Lemma 1, we may assume that \( K \) is a noetherian domain. Since \( \text{gl dim } K < \infty \) and \( \text{gl dim } KM = n + \text{gl dim } K \), one has \( \text{gl dim } KM < \infty \) by (2). Since \( M \) is finitely generated as a monoid, \( \hat{M} \) is finitely generated as a group and so \( \hat{M} \cong \mathbb{Z}' \times H \) where \( H \) is a finite group with no \( K \)-torsion by the Generalized Syzygy Theorem. Let \( G \) be the group of invertible elements of \( M \). Then \( G \) is a subgroup of \( \hat{M} \) and, therefore, \( G = G_F \times G_T \) where \( G_F \) is a maximal torsion-free subgroup and \( G_T \) the torsion subgroup of \( G \).

Let \( N \) be the set of all noninvertible elements of \( M \). We will call an element of \( N \) **irreducible** if whenever it factors in \( M \) then one of those factors is a unit in \( M \). Define
an equivalence relation on the irreducible elements as follows: \(a \sim b\) if and only if there exists \(g \in G\) with \(ag = b\). Choose a set \(S\) of irreducible elements of \(M\), one from each equivalence class of \(\sim\). Since \(K\) is noetherian and \(M\) finitely generated abelian, \(KM\) is noetherian. Thus every element of \(M\) factors into a product of irreducible elements, in particular one has \(M = \langle G, S \rangle\). It then follows that any set generating \(M\) contains at least one irreducible from each equivalence class of \(\sim\). Since \(M\) is finitely generated, \(S\) must be finite.

Let \(S = \{x_1, \ldots, x_s\}\), and let \(r = \text{rank } G\). It is not hard to show that the rank of the group reflection of \(\langle G_F, S \rangle\) is equal to that of \(\hat{M}\). Thus \(s + r \geq t\). We will show that equality holds. Let \(p = \text{id} + I \subseteq KM\) where \(KN\) denotes the set of all linear combinations of elements of \(N\) over \(K\) and where \(I\) denotes the ideal of \(KM\) generated by elements of the form \(1 - g, g \in G_F\). Since \(KM/p \cong KGF\) is a domain, \(p\) is a prime ideal of \(KM\). The following result concerning Krull dimension is needed.

**Lemma 2** (Gilmer [7], Arnold-Gilmer [1]). If \(K\) is a commutative ring with identity and if \(M\) is an abelian cancellative monoid, then

\[
\text{Krull dim } KM = \text{Krull dim } K\hat{M} = \text{rank } \hat{M} + \text{Krull dim } M.
\]

Hence

\[
\text{Krull dim } KM_p \leq \text{Krull dim } KM - \text{Krull dim } KM/p
\]

\[
= \text{Krull dim } K\hat{M} - \text{Krull dim } KGF
\]

\[
= t - r.
\]

Therefore, in order to establish that \(t = r + s\), it is enough to show that \(\text{Krull dim } KM_p \geq s\). Since \(KM_p\) is regular, one only needs to show that \(p_p\) requires \(s\) generators by the theorem of Auslander-Buchsbaum-Serre. Let \(D\) be the set of all decomposable elements of \(M\). Then \(KM/KD = KG[x_1, \ldots, x_s]/(x_1x_s)\). Note that we have an obvious map \(KG \rightarrow KGF \rightarrow Q\) where \(Q\) is the field of quotients of \(KGF\) and that this induces a map from \(KM/KD \rightarrow B\) where \(B = Q[x_1, \ldots, x_s]/(x_1x_s)\). Composing the latter with the canonical projection we obtain a map \(\phi: KM \rightarrow B\). Let \(q\) be the ideal of \(B\) generated by \(x_1, \ldots, x_s\). Then the inverse image of \(q\) is \(p\) and so there is an induced map \(\phi': KM_p \rightarrow B_q\). Since \(\phi'(p_p)\) generates \(q_q\) we only need to show that \(q_q\) needs \(s\) generators. But this is not hard to show since \(q\) requires \(s\) generators and that \(Q\) is a field.

Hence \(t = s + r\). Consider the map \(f: N^t \times G \rightarrow M\) induced by the elements \(x_i \in S\) and the inclusion \(G \subseteq M\). It is onto and induces \(g: Z^t \times G \rightarrow \hat{M}\) whose kernel is torsion since \(\text{rank}(Z^t \times G) = \text{rank } \hat{M}\). But the restriction of \(g\) to \(G_T\) is the inclusion \(G_T \subseteq \hat{M}\). Therefore, \(g\) is injective and so is \(f\). Hence \(M\) is of form (1).

**2. The Hochschild dimension of an abelian monoid.** Let \(K\) be a nonzero commutative ring with identity and let \(M\) be a monoid. The \(K\)-Hochschild dimension of \(M\) is defined to be the projective dimension of \(KM\) over its enveloping algebra and we shall denote it by \(\dim_K M\). Clearly \(\dim_K M = \dim_K M^\text{op}\) and it is easy to show that \(\dim_K M \leq \dim_L M\) whenever there is a ring homomorphism \(L \rightarrow K\).

Recall that if \(R\) is a ring with identity then the \(R\)-cohomological dimension of \(M\) is the projective dimension of the trivial \(RM\)-module \(R\) where the \(RM\)-action on \(R\) is
defined by \( xr = r \) for \( x \in M, r \in R \). In general, \( \text{cd}_K M \leq \dim_K M \) (see [3, p. 185]). When \( M \) is a group, the equality holds (see [3, p. 195]) and, thus, if \( M \) has \( K \)-torsion, then \( \dim_K M = \infty \).

**Lemma 3 (Eilenberg-Rosenberg-Zelinsky [6]).**

\[ \lgldim KM \leq \dim_K M + \lgldim K. \]

**Remark.** Readers should consult [10, p. 62] for a generalization of the above result as well as proof without the use of spectral sequences.

The following lemma is similar to the one due to Swan concerning \( \text{cd}_K M \). The proof is exactly the same.

**Lemma 4 (Swan [12]).** For a commutative ring \( K \) and a monoid \( M \) there exists a prime field \( F \) such that \( \dim_F M \leq \dim_K M \).

**Lemma 5.** Suppose \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) are monoids. Then \( \dim_K M_1 \times M_2 \leq \dim_K M_1 + \dim_K M_2 \).

**Proof.** This follows from [6, Remark 3, p. 75] together with the observation that

\[ KM_1 \otimes_K KM_2 = K( M_1 \times M_2 ). \]

**Lemma 6.** (a) If \( M \cong \mathbb{N} \) or \( \mathbb{Z} \) then \( \dim_K M = 1 \).

(b) If \( M \) is a finite group with no \( K \)-torsion, then \( \dim_K M = 0 \).

**Proof.** (a) is well known (see, e.g., [10, p. 119]) and (b) follows from the second paragraph of this section.

**Proof of Theorem B.** Suppose \( M \) is of form (1). Then, using Lemmas 5 and 6, one has

\[ \dim_K M \leq \sum_i \dim_K M_i + \dim_K H = n. \]

By Lemma 3, \( n + \lgldim K \leq \dim_K M + \lgldim K \) for any commutative ring \( K \). Thus \( n \leq \dim_K M \). Hence \( \dim_K M = n \). Conversely, if \( \dim_K M = n \) then \( \dim_F M \leq n \) for some prime field \( F \) and so \( \lgldim FM \leq \dim_F M \leq n \). Hence, by Theorem A, \( M \) is of the form \( ( \times_{i=1}^n M_i ) \times H \) where \( H \) is a finite group with no \( F \)-torsion. Using the "if" part of Theorem B just proved, one sees that \( m = n \) and \( H \) has no \( K \)-torsion.

In the following, we shall exhibit examples to show that some condition on the abelian monoid \( M \) is necessary in Theorems A and B.

**Example 1.** Let \( M \) be the additive group \( \mathbb{Q} \) of rationals. Then \( M \) is infinitely generated (as an abelian monoid) and, thus, is not of form (1). However, \( \dim_K \mathbb{Q} = 2 \) and \( \lgldim K\mathbb{Q} = 2 + \lgldim K \) for any noetherian commutative ring \( K \) (see, e.g., [2]).

**Example 2.** It can be shown that if \( M \) is a finite abelian monoid such that every element is an idempotent, then \( \dim_K M = 0 \). In this case \( \lgldim KM = \lgldim K \) but \( M \) does not have to be cancellative and, thus, need not be of form (1).

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References


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