

FILTERED COLIMITS OF COMPLETE INTERSECTION ALGEBRAS

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This is mainly a small exposition on extensions of valuation rings.

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1. INTRODUCTION

After Zariski [25], a valuation ring V containing a field K of characteristic zero is a filtered union of its smooth K -subalgebras. When V contains a field K of positive characteristic this result may fail, as we believe. A possible support for this idea is given by Example 2.8.

Then we ask if V is a filtered union of its complete intersection K -subalgebras essentially of finite type. This could hold as our Theorem 3.9 hints. We remind that for a given complete intersection local ring (R, \mathbf{m}, k) , a minimal free resolution over R of the residue field k is described in [24, Theorem 4] and others as [3, Theorem 2.7], [4, Section 6], [7, Proposition 1.5.4], [8, Section 3], [5, Theorem 2.5], [11, Theorem 4.1]. As Oana Veliche asked, we wonder if a minimal free resolution of the residue field of V could be described using somehow Theorem 3.9.

2. HENSELIAN RINGS AND SMOOTH ALGEBRAS

A *Henselian* local ring is a local ring (A, \mathbf{m}) for which the Implicit Function Theorem holds, that is for every system of polynomials $f = (f_1, \dots, f_r)$ of $A[Y]$, $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_N)$, $N \geq r$ over A and every solution $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N) \in A^N$ modulo \mathbf{m} of f in A such that an $r \times r$ -minor M of Jacobian matrix $(\partial f_i / \partial Y_j)_{1 \leq i \leq r, 1 \leq j \leq N}$ satisfies $M(y) \notin \mathbf{m}$ there exists a solution \tilde{y} of $f = 0$ in A with $y \equiv \tilde{y}$ modulo \mathbf{m} .

An A -algebra B is *smooth* if B is a localization of an A -algebra of type $(A[Y]/(f))_M$, where $f = (f_1, \dots, f_r)$ is a system of polynomials in $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_N)$, $N \geq r$ over A and M is an $r \times r$ -minor of $(\partial f / \partial Y)$. Thus, (A, \mathfrak{m}) is Henselian if for any smooth A -algebra B any A -morphism $B \rightarrow A/\mathfrak{m}$ can be lifted to an A -morphism $w : B \rightarrow A$. So w is a retraction of the canonical morphism $u : A \rightarrow B$, that is $wu = 1_A$. A retraction of $A \rightarrow B$ maps the solutions of a system of polynomials $g = (g_1, \dots, g_s) \in A[Y]^s$ in B in solutions of g in A .

We remind that a filtered colimit is a limit indexed by a small category that is filtered (see [22, 002V] or [22, 04AX]). A filtered union is a filtered direct limit in which all objects are subobjects of the final colimit, so that in particular, all the transition arrows are monomorphisms.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Let $(A, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (A', \mathfrak{m}')$ be a morphism of local rings with $A/\mathfrak{m} \cong A'/\mathfrak{m}'$, which is a filtered colimit of smooth A -algebras and $g \in A[Y]^s$ a system of polynomials which has solutions in A' . If (A, \mathfrak{m}) is Henselian, then g has also solutions in A .*

Proof. Note that a solution y in A' of a system of polynomials g over A comes from a solution y' of g in a smooth A -algebra B , which is mapped in a solution of g in A by a retraction of $A \rightarrow B$. \square

Examples of morphisms $u : (A, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (A', \mathfrak{m}')$, which are filtered colimits of smooth A -algebras are given by the following theorems.

The following result is the General Neron Desingularization [13], [14], [23].

THEOREM 2.2. *Let $u : (A, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (A', \mathfrak{m}')$ be a flat morphism of Noetherian local rings. The following statements are equivalent:*

1. u is a filtered colimit of smooth A -algebras.
2. u is regular, that is for every prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of A and every finite field extension K of the fraction field of A/\mathfrak{p} the ring $K \otimes_{A/\mathfrak{p}} A'$ is regular.

Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be a Noetherian local ring and \hat{A} its completion in the \mathfrak{m} -adic topology. A is *excellent* if the completion map $A \rightarrow \hat{A}$ is regular. The following corollary holds by Proposition 2.1.

COROLLARY 2.3 ([13]). *Let (A, \mathfrak{m}) be an excellent Henselian local ring and \hat{A} its completion. Then every system of polynomials over A which has a solution in \hat{A} has also one in A . In particular, A has the property of Artin approximation; this was conjectured by M. Artin in [2].*

THEOREM 2.4 ([25]). *A valuation ring containing a field K of characteristic zero is a filtered union of its smooth K -subalgebras.*

In the same frame, the following result holds.

THEOREM 2.5 ([18, Theorem 2]). *Let $V \subset V'$ be an extension of valuation rings containing \mathbf{Q} , $K \subset K'$ its fraction field extension, $\Gamma \subset \Gamma'$ the value group extension of $V \subset V'$ and $\mathbf{val} : K'^* \rightarrow \Gamma'$ the valuation of V' . Then V' is a filtered colimit of smooth V -algebras if and only if the following statements hold:*

1. *For each prime ideal q of V , the ideal qV' is prime.*
2. *For any prime ideals q_1, q_2 of V such that $q_1 \subset q_2$ and $\text{height}(q_2/q_1) = 1$ and any $x' \in q_2V' \setminus q_1'$, there exists $x \in V$ such that $\mathbf{val}(x') = \mathbf{val}(x)$, where the prime ideal q_1' of V' is the prime ideal corresponding to the maximal ideal of $V_{q_1} \otimes_V V'$, that is the maximal prime ideal of V' lying on q_1 .*

An *immediate extension* of valuation rings is an extension inducing trivial extensions on residue fields and group value extensions. As a consequence of Theorem 2.5, we can prove the following.

COROLLARY 2.6 ([16, Theorem 21]). *If $V \subset V'$ is an immediate extension of valuation rings containing \mathbf{Q} then V' is a filtered colimit of smooth V -algebras.*

The following corollary holds by Proposition 2.1.

COROLLARY 2.7 ([18, Proposition 18]). *Let $V \subset V'$ be an extension of valuation rings containing \mathbf{Q} with the same residue field, $K \subset K'$ its fraction field extension, $\Gamma \subset \Gamma'$ the value group extension of $V \subset V'$ and $\mathbf{val} : K'^* \rightarrow \Gamma'$ the valuation of V' . Assume that V is Henselian and the statements (1), (2) of Theorem 2.5 hold (for example, when $V \subset V'$ is immediate). Then every system of polynomials over V which has a solution in V' has also one in V .*

Let V be a valuation ring, λ be a fixed limit ordinal and $v = \{v_i\}_{i < \lambda}$ a sequence of elements in V indexed by the ordinals i less than λ . Then v is called *pseudo-convergent* if

$$\mathbf{val}(v_i - v_{i'}) < \mathbf{val}(v_{i'} - v_{i''}) \text{ for } i < i' < i'' < \lambda$$

(see [9], [21]). A *pseudo-limit* of v is an element $w \in V$ with

$$\mathbf{val}(w - v_i) < \mathbf{val}(w - v_{i'}) \text{ (that is, } \mathbf{val}(w - v_i) = \mathbf{val}(v_i - v_{i'}) \text{)} \text{ for } i < i' < \lambda.$$

The following example shows that Corollary 2.6 fails in positive characteristic.

Example 2.8 ([15, Example 3.1.3], [12], [17]). Let k be a field of characteristic $p > 0$, X a variable, $\Gamma = \mathbf{Q}$ and K the fraction field of the group algebra $k[\Gamma]$, that is the rational functions in $(X_q)_{q \in \mathbf{Q}}$. Let P be the field of all formal sums $z = \sum_{n \in \mathbf{N}} c_n X^{\alpha_n}$, where $(\alpha_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$ is a monotonically increasing sequence from Γ and $c_n \in k$. Set $\mathbf{val}(z) = \alpha_s$, where $s = \min\{n \in \mathbf{N} : c_n \neq 0\}$ if $z \neq 0$ and let V be the valuation ring defined by $\mathbf{val} : P^* \rightarrow \Gamma$, $z \rightarrow \mathbf{val}(z)$.

Let

$$\rho_n = (p^{n+1} - 1)/(p - 1)p^{n+1}, \quad y = -1 + \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n X^{\rho_n}$$

$$\text{and } a_i = -1 + \sum_{0 \leq n \leq i} (-1)^n X^{\rho_n}.$$

We have $1 + \rho_n = p(\rho_{n+1})$ for $n \geq 0$ and $p\rho_0 = 1$ and y is a pseudo-limit of the pseudo-convergent sequence $a = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbf{N}}$, which has no pseudo-limit in K . Then y is a root of the separable polynomial $g = Y^p + XY + 1 \in K[Y]$ and the algebraic separable extension $V_0 = V \cap K \subset V_1 = V \cap K(y)$ is not dense, in particular V_1 is not a filtered colimit of smooth V_0 -algebras (apply [15, Theorem 6.9], or [17, Theorem 2]).

However, there exists an important result when $\text{char } k = p > 0$.

THEOREM 2.9 ([1, Theorem 4.1.1]). *Every perfect valuation ring of characteristic $p > 0$ is a filtered union of its smooth \mathbf{F}_p -subalgebras.*

We mention also the following result.

THEOREM 2.10 ([19]). *Let V be a one dimensional valuation ring with value group Γ containing its residue field and U a set with $\text{card}(U) > \text{card}(\Gamma)$. Then there exists an ultrafilter \mathcal{U} on U such that taking the ultrapower \tilde{V} of V with respect to \mathcal{U} and $\bar{V} = \tilde{V} / \cap_{z \in V, z \neq 0} z\tilde{V}$, the following assertions hold:*

1. \bar{V} contains the completion of V .
2. If V' is an immediate extension of V contained in \bar{V} with V'/V separable then V' is a filtered colimit of smooth V -algebras.

3. COMPLETE INTERSECTION ALGEBRAS

For a general immediate extension of valuation rings $V \subset V'$, we should expect that V' is a filtered union of its complete intersection V -subalgebras. In the Noetherian case, a morphism of rings is a filtered direct limit of smooth algebras if and only if it is a regular morphism (see Theorem 2.2).

A *complete intersection V -algebra essentially of finite type* is a local V -algebra of type $C/(P)$, where C is a localization of a polynomial V -algebra of finite type and P is a regular sequence of elements of C . Theorem 3.8 stated below says that V' is a filtered union of its V -subalgebras of type $C/(P)$. Since V' is local, it is enough to say that V' is a filtered union of its V -subalgebras of type $T_h/(P)$, T being a polynomial V -algebra of finite type, $0 \neq h \in T$ and P is a regular sequence of elements of T . Clearly, T_h is a smooth V -algebra and, in fact, it is enough to say that V' is a filtered union of its V -subalgebras of type $G/(P)$, where G is a smooth V -algebra of finite type and P is a regular sequence of elements of G . Conversely, a V -algebra of such type $G/(P)$ has the form $T_h/(P)$ for some T, h, P using [23, Theorem 2.5]. By abuse, we understand by a *complete intersection V -algebra of finite type* a V -algebra of such type $G/(P)$, or $T_h/(P)$ which are not assumed to be flat over V .

The following lemma is a variant of Ostrowski ([12, Chapters IV and III], see also [21, (II,4), Lemma 8] and [20, Lemma 2]).

LEMMA 3.1 ([12]). *Let β_1, \dots, β_m be any elements of an ordered abelian group G , λ a limit ordinal and let $\{\gamma_s\}_{s < \lambda}$ be a well-ordered, monotone increasing set of elements of G , without a last element. Let t_1, \dots, t_m , be distinct integers. Then there exists an ordinal $\nu < \lambda$ such that $\beta_i + t_i \gamma_s$ are different for all $s > \nu$. Also, there exists an integer $1 \leq r \leq m$ such that*

$$\beta_i + t_i \gamma_s > \beta_r + t_r \gamma_s$$

for all $i \neq r$ and $s > \nu$.

The following two results use the above lemma.

LEMMA 3.2 ([20, Lemma 3]). *Let $V \subset V'$ be an immediate extension of valuation rings, $K \subset K'$ its fraction field extension, \mathbf{val} the valuation of V' and $(v_i)_{i < \lambda}$ an algebraic pseudo-convergent sequence in V , which has a pseudo-limit x in V' , but no pseudo-limit in K . Set $x_i = (x - v_i)/(v_{i+1} - v_i)$. Let $s \in \mathbf{N}$ be the minimal degree of the polynomials $f \in V[Y]$ such that $\mathbf{val}(f(v_i)) < \mathbf{val}(f(v_j))$ for large $i < j < \lambda$ and $g \in V[Y]$ a polynomial with $\deg g < s$. Then there exist $d \in V \setminus \{0\}$ and $u \in V[x_i]$ for some $i < \lambda$ with $g(x) = du$ and $\mathbf{val}(u) = 0$.*

LEMMA 3.3 ([20, Lemma 4]). *Let $V \subset V'$ be an immediate extension of valuation rings, $K \subset K'$ its fraction field extension, \mathbf{val} the valuation of V' and $(v_i)_{i < \lambda}$ an algebraic pseudo-convergent sequence in K , which has a pseudo-limit x in V' , algebraic over V , but no pseudo-limit in K . Assume that $h = \text{Irr}(x, K)$ is from $V[X]$. Then*

1. $\mathbf{val}(h(v_i)) < \mathbf{val}(h(v_j))$ for large $i < j < \lambda$,

2. if h has minimal degree among the polynomials $f \in V[X]$ such that $\mathbf{val}(f(v_i)) < \mathbf{val}(f(v_j))$ for large $i < j < \lambda$, then $V'' = V' \cap K(x)$ is a filtered union of its complete intersection V -subalgebras.

Remark 3.4. The extension $V \subset V''$ from (2) of the above lemma is isomorphic with the one constructed in [9, Theorem 3].

LEMMA 3.5 ([10, Lemma 5.2]). Assume that $(v_j)_j$ is a pseudo-convergent sequence in V with a pseudo-limit x in an extension V' of V but with no pseudo-limit in V . Let $f \in V[X]$ be a polynomial. Then $(f(v_j))_j$ is ultimately pseudo-convergent and $f(x)$ is a pseudo-limit of it.

An interesting situation is given below.

Example 3.6 (Anonymous Referee of a previous paper). Let $R = \mathbf{F}_2[[t]]$ be the formal power series ring in t over $\mathbf{F}_2 = \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$. Then the fraction field $\mathbf{F}_2((t))$ of R has a t -adic valuation which has a canonical extension denoted by \mathbf{val} to the perfect hull $K = \mathbf{F}_2((t))^{1/2^\infty}$ of $\mathbf{F}_2((t))$. Let V be the valuation ring defined by \mathbf{val} on K . Let a be a root of the polynomial $f = X^2 - X - (1/t) \in K[X]$. Then the extension of \mathbf{val} to $K(a)$ gives an immediate extension $K \subset K(a)$ with a value group Γ . This extension is closed to an example of [12] (see Example 2.8). We can assume that the root a is a pseudo-limit of the pseudo-convergent sequence $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$ given by

$$a_n = \sum_{i=1}^n t^{-2^{-i}},$$

which has no pseudo-limit in K . Note that $\mathbf{val}(a_n) < 0$ and so $a_n \notin V$ for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$.

Let $0 < \alpha \in \Gamma$ and $b = (b_j)_{j < \lambda}$ be a transcendental pseudo-convergent sequence over $K(a)$ such that $\mathbf{val}(b_j) = \alpha$ for high enough j . By [9, Theorem 2], there exists an unique immediate transcendental extension $K(a) \subset L = K(a, z)$ such that z is a pseudo-limit of b (the valuation of L is still denoted by \mathbf{val}). Then $\mathbf{val}(z) = \alpha > 0$. Set $x = z + a \in L$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{val}(f(x)) &= \mathbf{val}((x - a)^2 - (x - a) + a^2 - a - (1/t)) \\ &= \mathbf{val}(x - a) + \mathbf{val}(x - a - 1) = \alpha + 0 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\mathbf{val}(x - a_n) = \min\{\mathbf{val}(x - a), \mathbf{val}(a - a_n)\} = \mathbf{val}(a_{n+1} - a_n)$$

because $\mathbf{val}(x - a) = \alpha > 0$ and $\mathbf{val}(a - a_n) = \mathbf{val}(a_{n+1} - a_n) < 0$, that is x is also a pseudo-limit of $(a_n)_n$. Also, we see that $\mathbf{val}(a_n^2 - a_m - (1/t)) < 0$ for all $n, m \in \mathbf{N}$ with $m \neq n - 1$ and $a_n^2 - a_m - (1/t) = 0$ when $m = n - 1$.

Consequently, $\mathbf{val}(a_n^2 - a_m - (1/t))$ is either < 0 , or it is ∞ for all $n, m \in \mathbf{N}$ and it follows that $\mathbf{val}(a_n^2 - a_m - (1/t))$ is never $\mathbf{val}(f(x))$.

We see that the ultimately pseudo-convergent sequence $(a_n^2)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$ (using Lemma 3.5) has no pseudo-limit in K because $K^2 = K$ and a pseudo-limit of (a_n^2) in K would give a pseudo-limit of (a_n) in K , which is false. Set $y_0 = x$, $y_1 = y_0^2$, $g = tY_1 - tY_0 - 1 \in K[Y_0, Y_1]$. We have $g(y_0, y_1) = tf(x)$. Then $\mathbf{val}(g(a_n^2, a_m))$, $n, m \in \mathbf{N}$ is never $\mathbf{val}(g(y_0, y_1))$ because $\mathbf{val}(a_n^2 - a_m - (1/t))$ is never $\mathbf{val}(f(x))$ as we have seen. So Lemma 3.2 does not work for polynomials in two variables.

LEMMA 3.7 ([20, Lemma 6]). *Let B be a complete intersection algebra over a ring A and C a complete intersection algebra over B . Then C is a complete intersection algebra over A .*

Using Lemma 3.3 and the above lemma, we proved the following result.

THEOREM 3.8 ([20, Theorem 1]). *Let V' be an immediate extension of a valuation ring V and $K \subset K'$ the fraction field extension. If K'/K is algebraic then V' is a filtered union of its complete intersection V -subalgebras of finite type.*

As a consequence, the next theorem follows.

THEOREM 3.9. *Let V be a valuation ring containing its residue field k with a free value group (for example, when it is finitely generated) Γ and the valuation $\mathbf{val} : K^* \rightarrow \Gamma$. Assume that y is a system of elements of V such that $\mathbf{val}(y)$ is a basis of Γ and the fraction field of V is an algebraic extension of $k(y)$. Then V is a filtered union of its complete intersection k -subalgebras of finite type.*

Proof. By [16, Lemma 27 (1)], we see that V is an immediate extension of the valuation ring $V_0 = V \cap k(y)$, which is a filtered union of localizations of its polynomial k -subalgebras (see [6, Theorem 1, in VI (10.3)], or [16, Lemma 26 (1)]). In fact, important here is that there exists a cross-section $s : \Gamma \rightarrow K^*$ (a cross-section of V is a section in the category of abelian groups of the valuation map \mathbf{val}). Since Γ is free, we define s by $\mathbf{val}(y) \rightarrow y$. Now it is enough to apply Theorem 3.8 for $V_0 \subset V$. \square

The above theorem connects the theory of valuation rings with the theory of complete intersection local rings. We remind that for a given complete intersection local ring (R, \mathbf{m}, k) a minimal free resolution over R of the residue field k is described in [24, Theorem 4] and others as [3, Theorem 2.7], [4, Section 6], [7, Proposition 1.5.4], [8, Section 3], [5, Theorem 2.5], [11, Theorem 4.1].

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