

# Invariant subspaces

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- I would like to thank the organizers and Daniel Smertnig, as my work is based on a project we wrote together two years ago, and I believe in his mathematical vision.

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- Based on the paper: *“Relative Cancellation”*, 2025.

Let  $K$  be a field, and all  $K$ -algebras are assumed to be associative

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# Kraft and His Questions

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Our story begins with a paper by Kraft.

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1996: “Challenging Problems on Affine  $n$ -Spaces”

- (CHP) Find an algebraic-geometric characterization of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

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- (CHP) Find an algebraic-geometric characterization of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .
- (ZCP) Is  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  cancellative?

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- (ZCP) Is  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  cancellative? Suppose  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n, x] \cong B[x]$ . Is it true that  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \cong B$ ?

# ZCP, case $n = 1, 2, 3$

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1972: " $K[x]$  is cancellative."

1979, 1980, 1981: " $K[x_1, x_2]$  is cancellative."

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N. Gupta (2014): If  $\text{Char}(K)$  is nonzero, then  $K[x_1, x_2, x_3]$  is NOT cancellative!

Neena Gupta, *The Zariski Cancellation Problem and Related Problems in Affine Algebraic Geometry*, 2022

To give a characterization of the polynomial ring using the concept of invariant subspaces.

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I would like to thank Mesyan for suggesting the word 'trivial' here instead of 'proper'.

# Notation

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$K$  is algebraically closed and of characteristic zero.

# Invariant subspaces of $K[x]$ ?

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# Invariant subspaces of $K[x]$ ?

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If  $f \in \text{Aut}_K(K[x])$ , then  $f(x) = ax + b$ , for some nonzero  $a \in K$  and  $b \in K$ .

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If  $f \in \text{Aut}_K(K[x])$ , then  $f(x) = ax + b$ , for some nonzero  $a \in K$  and  $b \in K$ .

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$V_d := \langle 1, x, \dots, x^d \rangle$ , for some  $d \geq 1$ ,

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This implies that the nontrivial invariant subspaces of  $K[x]$  are in form

$V_d := \langle 1, x, \dots, x^d \rangle$ , for some  $d \geq 1$ , the set of all polynomials of degree at most  $d$ .

# Connected graded

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Example:  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

# Characterization of Polynomial Rings (Huang, Nazemian, Wang and Zhang 2025)

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A  $K$ -algebra  $A \neq K$

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A  $K$ -algebra  $A \neq K$  is isomorphic to  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , with  $n \geq 2$ , if and only if the followings hold:

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- (i)  $A$  has no nontrivial invariant subspaces.

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- (i)  $A$  has no nontrivial invariant subspaces.
- (ii)  $A$  is a finitely generated connected graded algebra.

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Remark: Weyl algebras have Condition (i)

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- (i)  $A$  has no nontrivial invariant subspaces.
- (ii)  $A$  is a finitely generated connected graded algebra.

Remark: Weyl algebras have Condition (i)

Conjecture: If  $A$  is commutative, Condition (ii) is superfluous.

$$A = \mathbb{C}[X, Y, Z, T]/(X^2Y + X + Z^2 + T^3)$$

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- It is regular 3-dimensional.

# Russell cube

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- If one shows that  $A[x]$  is isomorphic to the polynomial ring with four variables, she/he has solved ZCP.

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- It is regular 3-dimensional. We know these days it is not isomorphic to a polynomial ring.
- If one shows that  $A[x]$  is isomorphic to the polynomial ring with four variables, she/he has solved ZCP.
- Can  $A[x]$  have nontrivial invariant subspaces?

# Localization and Leavitt Path Algebras

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- Local rings have nontrivial invariant subspaces.

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- Local rings have nontrivial invariant subspaces.
- The ring  $K[x, x^{-1}] = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} A_i$ , where  $A_0 = K$ , is  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded, and  $\bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \neq 0} A_i$  is an invariant subspace.

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Note that  $K[x, x^{-1}]$  is Leavitt path algebra, recall Mesyan's talk.

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Note that  $K[x, x^{-1}]$  is Leavitt path algebra, recall Mesyan's talk.
- Which Leavitt path algebras have no nontrivial invariant subspaces?

?