# TOPICS IN TROPICAL GEOMETRY

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Conversely, let  $x \in E$  and let  $\xi \in \mathbf{R}^n$  be such that  $x + \mathbf{R}_+ \xi \subset E$ . Then  $x + \mathbf{R}_{+} \xi \subset \mathbf{E}'$ , with the notation of the proof, and we have seen how this implies that  $\xi \in N_{\nu^E}(NP_f)$ . This concludes the proof.

### 2.6. The logarithmic limit set of a variety

Definition (2.6.1). — Let V be an algebraic subvariety of  $(\mathbf{C}^*)^n$ . The logarithmic limit set of V is the set of points  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that there exists sequences  $(x_k) \in \lambda(V)$  and  $(h_k) \in \mathbf{R}_+^*$  such that  $h_k \to 0$  and  $h_k x_k \to x$ . We denote it by  $\lambda_{\infty}(V)$ .

This set has been introduced by Bergman (1971) who gave a description of the set when V is a hypersurface. His work has been completed by Bieri & Groves (1984).

It is also called the *asymptotic cone* of  $\lambda(C)$ , and can be defined as the limit of the closed subsets  $h\lambda(V)$ , when  $h \to 0$  (restricted to h > 0) for the topology defined by the Hausdorff distance on compact sets.

In this section, we describe  $\lambda_{\infty}(V)$  when  $V = \mathcal{V}(f)$  is defined by a nonzero Laurent polynomial in  $C[T_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$ .

Lemma (2.6.2). — Let V be a nonempty closed algebraic subvariety of  $(\mathbf{C}^*)^n$ . Then its logarithmic limit set  $\lambda_{\infty}(V)$  is a closed conic subset of  $I\!\!R^n$  .

*Proof.* — Since V is nonempty, one has  $\lambda(V) \neq \emptyset$ ; one then may choose  $x_k$  to be equal to a given element of  $\lambda(V)$  and  $h_k = 1/k$ ; this shows that

Let  $x \in \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ ; write  $x = \lim h_k x_k$ , with  $x_k \in \lambda(V)$  and  $(h_k) \to 0$ . For every t > 0, one has  $tx = \lim(th_k)x_k$ , and  $th_k \to 0$ , so that  $tx \in \lambda_\infty(V)$ . This proves that  $\lambda_\infty(V)$  is a cone. Let us prove that it is closed.

Let  $(x^{(m)})$  be a sequence of points of  $\lambda_{\infty}(V)$  that converges to a point  $x \in$  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and let us prove that  $x \in \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ . For every m, choose a point  $x_m \in \lambda(V)$  and a real number  $h_m$  such that  $0 < h_m < 1/m$  and  $\|x^{(m)} - h_m x_m\| < 1/m$ . Then  $\|x - h_m x_m\| < \|x - x^{(m)}\| + 1/m$ , so that  $x = \lim h_m x_m$ , hence  $x \in \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ . This proves that  $\lambda_{\infty}(V)$  is closed.

Definition (2.6.3). — Let  $f \in C[T_1^{\pm 1}, \ldots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$  be a nonzero Laurent polynomial and let  $S \subset \mathbf{Z}^n$  be its support. The tropical variety defined by f is the

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set of all points  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\sup_{m \in \mathbb{S}} \langle x, m \rangle$  is attained for at least two values of  $m \in V$ . We denote it by  $\mathcal{T}_f$ .

It follows from the definition of  $\mathcal{T}_f$  that it is a closed **Q**-rational cone

(non convex, in general). In general, if V is a closed subvariety of  $(C^*)^n$ , one defines its *tropi*cal variety  $\mathcal{T}_V$  as the intersection of all  $\mathcal{T}_f$ , for  $f \in \mathcal{F}(V) = \{0\}$ , where  $\mathcal{F}(V)$  is the ideal of V, namely the ideal of all Laurent polynomials  $f \in \mathbb{C}[T_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$  such that  $f|_{\mathbb{V}} \equiv 0$ .

If  $V \subset W$ , one has  $\mathcal{F}(W) \subset \mathcal{F}(V)$ , hence  $\mathcal{T}_V \subset \mathcal{T}_W$ .

The tropical variety  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a closed conic subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , as an intersection of a family of such subsets.

Lemma (2.6.4). — Assume that  $V = \mathcal{V}(f)$  is a hypersurface defined by a nonzero Laurent polynomial  $f \in \mathbf{C}[T_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}_V = \mathcal{T}_f$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a **Q**-rational polyhedral set.

*Proof.* — It suffices to prove that  $\mathcal{T}_f \subset \mathcal{T}_{fg}$  for every nonzero Laurent polynomial g. One has NP $_{fg} = \text{NP}_f + \text{NP}_{g'}$  indeed, if  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^n$  is a vertex of NP $_{fg'}$  it must be a vertex of both NP $_f$  and NP $_g$ . In other words, if a linear form defines a nonpunctual face of NP $_f$ , then it defines a nonpunctual face of  $NP_{fg}$ ; this means exactly that  $\mathcal{T}_f \subset \mathcal{T}_{fg}$ .

Using Gröbner bases and the notion of nonarchimedean amoebas, we shall prove in the next chapter (remark 3.6.7) a conjecture put forward by  $\underline{B_{\text{ERGMAN}}}$  (1971) and proved by  $\underline{B_{\text{IERI}}}$  & Groves (1984) that there is a finite family  $(f_i)$  of Laurent polynomials such that  $\mathcal{T}_{\underline{V}} = \bigcap_i \mathcal{T}_{f_i}$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a Q-rational polyhedral set. The motivation for the work of Bieri & Groves (1984) came from the following consequence regarding the logarithmic limit set of an algebraic variety

Theorem (2.6.5) (Bieri & Groves, 1984). — For every closed subvariety V of  $(\mathbf{C}^*)^n$ , the tropical variety of V coincides with its logarithmic limit set:  $\mathcal{F}_V = \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ . \_ wastinative

For the moment, we need to content ourselves with the weakest result.

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Lemma (2.6.4). — Assume that  $V = \mathcal{V}(f)$  is a hypersurface defined by a nonzero Laurent polynomial  $f \in \mathbf{C}[T_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}_V = \mathcal{T}_f$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a Q-rational polyhedral set.

*Proof.* — It suffices to prove that  $\mathcal{T}_f \subset \mathcal{T}_{fg}$  for every nonzero Laurent polynomial g. One has  $NP_{fg} = NP_f + NP_g$  indeed, if  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is a vertex of  $NP_{fg}$ , it must be a vertex of both  $NP_f$  and  $NP_g$ . In other words, if a linear form defines a nonpunctual face of  $NP_f$ , then it defines a nonpunctual face of  $NP_{fg}$ , this means exactly that  $\mathcal{T}_f \subset \mathcal{T}_{fg}$ . □

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Theorem (2.6.6) (Bergman, 1971). — Let V be a closed subvariety such that  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a  $\mathbf{Q}$ -rational polyhedral set. Then  $\mathcal{T}_V = \lambda_\infty(V)$ . In particular, for every non zero Laurent polynomial  $f \in \mathbf{C}[T_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, T_n^{\pm 1}]$ , one has  $\mathcal{T}_f = \lambda_\infty(\mathcal{V}(f))$ .

We split the proof of this equality as two inclusions. The proof of the first one is relatively elementary, the second will require a bit of algebraic geometry.

Proposition (2.6.7). — One has  $\lambda_{\infty}(V) \subset \mathcal{T}_V$ .

Proof. — It suffices to prove that  $\lambda_{\infty}(\mathcal{V}(f)) \subset \mathcal{T}_{\Lambda}$  for every non zero Laurent polynomial f. Fix  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let S be the support of f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ ; let  $S_x$  be the set of  $m \in S$  such that  $\langle x, m \rangle = \sup_{m \in S} \langle x, m \rangle$ . By definition,  $x \in \mathcal{T}_f$  if and only if  $Card(S_x) \geqslant 2$ . Let us assume that  $x \notin \mathcal{T}_f$ , that is,  $Card(S_x) = 1$ , and let us prove that  $x \notin \mathcal{L}_\infty(\mathcal{V}(f))$ . We argue by contradiction, assuming that there is a sequence  $(z_k)$  in  $\mathcal{V}(f)$  and a sequence  $(h_k)$  of strictly positive real numbers such that  $h_k \to 0$  and  $h_k \lambda(z_k) \to x$ . Let  $\mu \in S$  be the unique element such that  $S_x = \{\mu\}$ . By assumption, one has  $(x, m) < (x, \mu)$  for every  $m \in S - \{\mu\}$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be such that  $\langle x, m \rangle < \langle x, \mu \rangle - \varepsilon$  for every  $m \in S - \{\mu\}$ ; by continuity, this inequality holds in a neighborhood U of x. For k large enough such that  $h_k \lambda(z_k) \in U$ , one then has

$$\log(z_k^{m-\mu}) = \langle \lambda(z_k), m - \mu \rangle = h_k^{-1} \langle h_k \lambda(z_k), m - \mu \rangle \leq -h_k^{-1} \varepsilon$$

for all  $m \in S - \{\mu\}$ . Since  $h_k$  tends to 0, this shows that  $\log(|z_k^{m-\mu}|$  converges to  $-\infty$ , hence  $|z_k^{m-\mu}|$  converges to 0. From the equality  $f(z_k) = 0$ , we deduce that

$$1 = -\sum_{m \in S - \{\mu\}} \frac{c_m}{c_{\mu}} z_k^{m-\mu}.$$

By the preceding estimate, the right hand side of the previous equality converges to 0, whence the desired contradiction.  $\ \Box$ 

Lemma (2.6.8). — Let  $t \in \mathbf{R}_+$  and let  $x = (0, \dots, 0, -t)$ ; if  $x \in \mathcal{T}_V$ , then  $x \in \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ .

*Proof.* — The result is obvious if x = 0. Since both  $\mathcal{T}_V$  and  $\lambda_\infty(V)$  are invariant by multiplication by a positive real number, we may assume that  $x = (0, \dots, 0, -1)$ .

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\mathcal{E}_{V} &= \bigcap \mathcal{E}_{f$$

 $x \in \mathbb{R}^{r}$  on raisonne la l'abord  $x \notin \mathbb{P}_{+}$  let  $x \in \lambda_{+}(v(x))$  this inequality holds in a neighborhood U of x. For k large enough such that  $h_k\lambda(z_k)\in {\sf U}$ , one then has

$$\log(z_k^{m-\mu}) = \left< \lambda(z_k), m - \mu \right> = h_k^{-1} \left< h_k \lambda(z_k), m - \mu \right> \le -h_k^{-1} \varepsilon$$

for all  $m \in S - \{\mu\}$ . Since  $h_k$  tends to 0, this shows that  $\log(|z_k^{m-\mu}|$  converges to  $-\infty$ , hence  $|z_k^{m-\mu}|$  converges to 0. From the equality  $f(z_k) = 0$ , we deduce that

$$1 = -\sum_{m \in \mathbb{S} - \{\mu\}} \frac{c_m}{c_\mu} z_k^{m-\mu}.$$

By the preceding estimate, the right hand side of the previous equality converges to 0, whence the desired contradiction.

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 $\sum_{m \neq \mu} \frac{c_m}{c_{\mu}} = -1$ 

 $x = \lim_{k \to \infty} h_k \lambda(z_k)$   $\lim_{k \to \infty} \lambda(z_k) \in V$   $\lim_{k \to \infty} \lambda(z_k) \in V$   $\lim_{k \to \infty} \lambda(z_k) = 0$   $\lim_{k \to \infty} \lambda(z_k) = 0$ 

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contradiction.

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 $T_{s} = \varphi(I')$ 

Let us prove that  $I_0 \neq (1)$ . Otherwise, there exists  $f \in I' = I \cap R'$  such that  $\varphi(f) = 1$ ; let S be the support of f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so

$$\varphi(f) = \sum_{\substack{m \in S \\ m_n = 0}} c_m T_1^{m_1} \dots T_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}}.$$

Since  $f \in I'$ , one has  $S \subset \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \times \mathbf{N}$ , so that  $\langle x, m \rangle = -m_n \leq 0$  for all  $m \in S$ . From the equality  $\varphi(f) = 1$ , we see that there exists  $m \in S$ such that  $m_n = 0$  and  $(m_1, \ldots, m_{n-1}) = 0$ , that is,  $0 \in S$ . In particular,  $\sup_{m \in \mathbb{S}} \langle x, m \rangle = 0.$ 

Since  $x \in \mathcal{T}_f$ , there are at least two distinct elements  $m, m' \in S$  such that  $0 = \langle x, m \rangle = \langle x, m' \rangle$ , that is,  $m_n = m'_n = 0$ . Then  $(m_1, \dots, m_{n-1}) \neq 0$  $(m'_1,\ldots,m'_{n-1})$ , hence  $\varphi(f)$  is not a monomial, contrary to the hypothesis  $\varphi(f)=1$ . Consequently,  $V_0\neq\varnothing$ . Let  $z\in (\mathbf{C}^*)^{n-1}$  be a point such that

 $\varphi(f) = 1. \text{ Consequently, } v_0 \neq \emptyset. \text{ Let } z \in (C), \text{ Suppose the proof of t$ and  $u_k \to 0$ . In particular,  $\lambda(z_k) \to \lambda(z)$  and  $\lambda(u_k) \to -\infty$ ; For k large enough, one thus has  $log(u_k) < 0$ ; removing a few terms, we assume that  $\log(u_k) < 0$  for all k; setting  $h_k = -1/\log(u_k)$ , the sequence  $(h_k)$ converges to 0 and consists of strictly positive real numbers. Then,  $h_k\lambda(z_k')=(h_k\lambda(z_k),h_k\lambda(u_k))$  converges to (0,-1)=x. This proves that

Lemma (2.6.8). — Let  $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$  and let x = (0, ..., 0, -t); if  $x \in \mathcal{T}_V$ , then  $x \in \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ 

*Proof.* — The result is obvious if x = 0. Since both  $\mathcal{T}_V$  and  $\lambda_\infty(V)$  are invariant by multiplication by a positive real number, we may assume

construit une limite en géométre algébrique des transhes  $V \cap (T_n = E)$  quand  $E \rightarrow 0$ se, there exists  $f \in I' = 1 \cap R'$  such of f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so f and fLet us prove that  $I_0 \neq (1)$ . Otherwise, there exists  $f \in I' = I \cap R'$  such that  $\varphi(f) = 1$ ; let S be the support of f and write  $f = \sum_{m \in S} c_m T^m$ , so  $\varphi(f) = \sum_{m \in S \atop m \in S} c_m \mathbf{T}_1^{m_1} \dots \mathbf{T}_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}}.$ Since  $f \in I'$ , one has  $S \subset \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{N}$ , so that  $\langle x, m \rangle = -m_n \leq 0$  for all  $m \in S$ . From the equality  $\varphi(f) = 1$ , we see that there exists  $m \in S$ such that  $m_n = 0$  and  $(m_1, \ldots, m_{n-1}) = 0$ , that is,  $0 \in S$ . In particular,  $\sup\nolimits_{m\in S}\langle x,m\rangle=0.$ Since  $x \in \mathcal{T}_f$ , there are at least two distinct elements  $m, m' \in S$  such that  $0 = \langle x, m' \rangle = \langle x, m' \rangle$ , that is,  $m_n = m'_n = 0$ . Then  $(m_1, \dots, m_{n-1}) \neq (m'_1, \dots, m'_{n-1})$ , hence  $\varphi(f)$  is not a monomial, contrary to the hypothesis  $\varphi(f) = 1$ . Consequently,  $V_0 \neq \varnothing$ . Let  $z \in (\mathbf{C}^*)^{n-1}$  be a point such that  $(z,0) \in V_0$ .  $m \neq m \in S$  deny m = 0 menó  $m \in C(f)$ 

that

 $\varphi(f)=1$ . Consequently,  $V_0\neq\varnothing$ . Let  $z\in (\mathbf{C}^*)^{n-1}$  be a point such that  $(z,0)\in V_0$ .

By definition, V is a dense open subset of V' for the Zariski topology. It is therefore an open subset of V' for the classical topology. Moreover, a basic but nontrivial result of algebraic geometry asserts it is also dense; see, for example,  $(\mathbf{M}_{\mathsf{LMMFORD}}, 1994)$ , p. 58, theorem 1. Consequently, there is a sequence  $(z_k')$  of points of V such that  $z_k \to (\overline{z}, 0)$ . If one writes  $z_k' = (z_k, u_k)$ , with  $z_k \in (\mathbf{C}')^{n-1}$  and  $u_k \in \mathbf{C}'$ , this means that  $z_k \to z$  and  $u_k \to 0$ . In particular,  $\lambda(z_k) \to \lambda(z)$  and  $\lambda(u_k) \to -\infty$ ; For k large enough, one thus has  $\log(u_k) < 0$ ; removing a few terms, we assume that  $\log(u_k) < 0$  for all k; setting  $h_k = -1/\log(u_k)$ , the sequence  $(h_k)$  converges to 0 and consists of strictly positive real numbers. Then,  $h_k\lambda(z_k') = (h_k\lambda(z_k), h_k\lambda(u_k))$  converges to (0, -1) = x. This proves that  $x \in A_\infty(V)$ .

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be a point such that

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2.7. MISSING

Proposition (2.6.9). — Assume that  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a Q-rational polyhedral subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}_V \subset \lambda_{\infty}(V)$ .

Proof. — Since  $\mathcal{T}_V$  is a Q-rational conic polyhedral subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , its rational points  $\mathbf{Q}^n\cap\mathcal{T}_V$  are dense in  $\mathcal{T}_V$ . Since  $\lambda_\infty(V)$  is closed in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , it thus suffices to prove that every point of  $\mathbf{Q}^n\cap \mathcal{T}_V$  belongs to  $\lambda_\infty(V).$  Let  $x \in \mathbf{Q}^n \cap \mathcal{T}_V$ . If x = 0, then  $x \in \lambda_\infty(V)$ ; let us then assume that  $x \neq 0$ . By the classification of matrices over **Z**, there exists  $A \in GL_n(\mathbf{Z})$  such that  $A^{-1}x = (0, ..., 0, -t)$ , where  $t \in \mathbf{Q}$ . Performing the monomial change of variables given by A, we are reduced to the case of x = (0, ..., 0, -1). The proposition follows from the preceding lemma.

## 2.7. Missing

Following Forsberg, Passare & Tsikh (2000); Passare & Rullgård (2004); Passare & Tsikh (2005):

- The connected components of the complement of the amoeba are maximal open sets on which the Ronkin function is affine.

- (Limit of the amoebas is the tropical hypersurface, it is purely (n-1)dimensional;) maybe explain the balancing condition, at least the local concavity, maybe not.

by = U Pr Pi polyèdres a rationnels => Pina" = Pi il suffit de prover 94 7, nQ (V)

x E E, n Q"

change t de bour c of EGL (Z)

x = Ax = (0, 10, -1)

c) changement de variable monomial dans ( [T] -- ) T. ]

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& vouite WC() ouprès charget de variable.

(0,,0,-1) ← XW onc — ∈ λω(W)

no you d'un seminare se R NONARCHIMEDEAN AMOEBAS la | |a| = 0 } = Ker (p) idéal de R pradicale

est un idéal radical

CHAPTER 3

### 3.1. Seminorms

Definition (3.1.1). — Let R be a ring. A seminorm on R is a map  $p: R \to \mathbf{R}_+$ satisfying the following properties:

- (i) One has p(0) = 0 and  $p(1) \le 1$ ;
- (ii) For every  $a, b \in A$ , one has  $p(a b) \le p(a) + p(b)$ ; (iii) For every  $a, b \in A$ , one has  $p(ab) \le p(a)p(b)$ .
- One says that the seminorm p is radical or power-multiplicative if, moreover, it satisfies
  - (iv) For every  $a \in A$  and  $n \in N$ , one has  $p(a^n) = p(a)^n$ .
  - One says that the seminorm p is multiplicative if: (v) For every  $a, b \in A$ , one has p(ab) = p(a)p(b). One says that the seminorm p is a norm if p(a) = 0 implies a = 0.

One has  $p(a) \le p(a)p(1)$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ; if  $p \ne 0$ , this implies  $1 \le p(1)$ hence p(1) = 1.

Taking a = 0 in (ii), one has  $p(-b) \le p(b)$ , hence p(-b) = p(b) for all b. Consequently,  $p(a + b) \le p(a) + p(b)$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Example (3.1.2). — Let R be a ring and let p be a seminorm on R. Let  $P = \{a \in R; p(a) = 0\}. \text{ Let } a, b \in P; \text{ then } p(a+b) \le p(a) + p(b) = 0, \text{ hence}$ p(a+b)=0 and  $a+b\in P$ . Let  $a\in R$  and  $b\in P$ ; then  $p(ab)\leqslant p(a)p(b)=0$ , hence  $ab \in P$ . This proves that P is an ideal of R.

For every  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and every  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , one has  $p(a + b) \leq p(a)$ , and  $p(a) = p((a+b) - b) \le p(a+b)$ , so that p(a+b) = p(a). Consequently, ppasses to the quotient and defines a seminorm on R/P.

Noverforminorms sur un anreau  $a \mapsto |a| = |b| = 0$  |a| + |b| = |a| + |b| |ab| = |ab| = |a| |ab| = |a| + |b| |ab| = |a| |a| < |a| 11| | |a| < |a| = 0 | |a| = 0

CHAPTER 3. NONARCHIMEDEAN AMOEBAS

If p is radical, then P is a radical ideal. Let indeed  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $a^n \in \mathbb{P}$ ; then  $p(a)^n = p(a^n) = 0$ , hence p(a) = 0 and  $a \in \mathbb{P}$ .

Assume that p is multiplicative and  $p \neq 0$ , and let us show that P is a prime ideal. Since  $p \neq 0$ , one has P  $\neq$  R. Let also  $a, b \in R$  be such that  $ab \in P$ ; then p(ab) = p(a)p(b) = 0, hence either p(a) = 0 and  $a \in P$ , or p(b) = 0 and  $b \in P$ .

*Example* **(3.1.3).** — Let R be a ring, let S be a multiplicative subset of R, let R<sub>S</sub> be the associated fraction ring. Let p be a multiplicative seminorm on R such that  $p(s) \neq 0$  for every  $s \in S$ . There exists a unique map p': R<sub>S</sub> → R<sub>+</sub> such that p'(a/s) = p(a)/p(s) for every  $a \in A$  and every  $s \in S$ . (Indeed, if a/s = b/t, for  $a,b \in R$  and  $s,t \in S$ , there exists  $u \in S$  such that atu = bsu; then p(a)p(t)p(u) = p(b)p(s)p(u), hence p(a)/p(s) = p(b)/p(t). It is clear that p' is multiplicative:  $p'((a/s)(b/t)) = p'(ab/st) = p(ab)/p(st) = (p(a)/p(s)) \cdot (p(b)/p(t))$ . Moreover, let  $a,b \in R$  and  $s,t \in S$ ; then (a/s) + (b/t) = (at + bs)/st, so that

$$\begin{split} p'(\frac{a}{s} + \frac{b}{t}) &= p'(\frac{at + bs}{st}) = \frac{p(at + bs)}{p(st)} \\ &\leq \frac{p(at) + p(bs)}{p(st)} = \frac{p(a)}{p(s)} + \frac{p(b)}{p(t)} \\ &= p'(\frac{a}{s}) + p'(\frac{b}{t}). \end{split}$$

Definition (3.1.4). — Let R be a ring and let p be a seminorm on R. One says that the seminorm p is nonarchimedean, or ultrametric, if one has  $p(a+b) \leqslant \sup(p(a),p(b))$  for every  $a,b \in R$ .

The terminology *ultrametric* refers to the property that p satisfies an inequality stronger than the triangular inequality. The terminology *nonarchimedean* alludes to the fact that it implies that  $p(na) \leqslant p(a)$  for every  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ : no matter how many times one adds an element, it never gets higher than the initial size. The following example explains the relations between these two properties.

Lemma (3.1.5). — Let R be a ring and let p be a seminorm on R.

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a) If p is nonarchimedean, then  $p(na) \le p(a)$  for every  $n \in \mathbf{Z}$  and every

b) Conversely, let us assume that p is radical and that  $p(n) \leqslant 1$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then p is nonarchimedean.

*Proof.* — The first assertion is proved by an obvious inductive argument. Let us prove the second one. Let  $a,b\in \mathbb{R}$ . For every  $n\in \mathbb{N}$ , one

$$\begin{aligned} p(a+b)^n &= p((a+b)^n) \le p(\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k b^{n-k}) \\ &\le \sum_{k=0}^n p(\binom{n}{k}) p(a)^k p(b)^{n-k} \le \sum_{k=0}^n p(a)^k p(b)^{n-k} \\ &\le (n+1) \sup(p(a), p(b))^n. \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, one has

$$p(a+b) \le (n+1)^{1/n} \sup(p(a), p(b)).$$

When  $n \to +\infty$ , we obtain the upper bound  $p(a + b) \le \sup(p(a), p(b))$ ; this proves that p is nonarchimedean.

Proposition (3.1.6). — Let K be a field endowed with a nonarchimedean absolute value  $|\cdot|$  and let  $r=(r_1,\ldots,r_n)$  be a family of strictly positive real numbers. There is a unique absolute value  $p_r$  on  $K(T_1,\ldots,T_n)$  such that for every polynomial  $f = \sum c_m T^m$ , one has

$$p_r(f) = \sup_{m \in \mathbf{N}^n} |c_m| r_1^{m_1} \dots r_n^{m_n}.$$

Its restriction to  $K[T_1, ..., T_n]$  is the largest absolute value such that  $p_r(T_j) = r_j$  for  $j \in \{1, ..., n\}$  and which restricts to the given absolute value

*Proof.* — To prove the first assertion, it suffices to prove that the given formula defines an absolute value on  $K[T_1, \ldots, T_n]$ , because it then extends uniquely to its fraction field  $K(T_1, ..., T_n)$ . One has  $p_r(0) = 0$ ; conversely, if  $f = \sum c_m T^m$  is such that  $p_r(f) = 0$ , then  $|c_m| = 0$  for all m, hence f = 0. One also has  $p_r(1) = 1$ . Let  $f = \sum c_m T^m$  and  $g = \sum d_m T^m$  be two polynomials.

$$|a+b|^{n} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} a b^{n-k}$$

$$|a+b|^{n} | \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} a b^{n-k}$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=0}^{n} |a|^{k} |b|^{n-k}$$

$$\leq (n+1) \operatorname{sup}(|a|, |b|)^{n}$$

$$|a+b|^{n} = |(a+b)^{n}|$$

$$|a+b| \leq (n+1) \operatorname{sup}(|a|, |b|)$$

$$|a+b| \leq (n+1) \operatorname{sup}(|a|, |b|)$$

$$|a+b| \leq (n+1) \operatorname{sup}(|a|, |b|)$$

Then  $f + g = \sum (c_m + d_m) T^m$ ; for every m,

$$|c_m + d_m| r_1^{m_1} \dots r_n^{m_n} \le (\sup(|c_m|, |d_m|) r_1^{m_1} \dots r_n^{m_n}) \le \sup(p_r(f), p_r(g)),$$

so that  $p_r(f + g) \leq \sup(p_r(f), p_r(g))$ .

Moreover,  $fg = \sum_{m} (\sum_{p+q=m} c_p d_q) T^m$ . For every m, one has

$$\left|\sum_{p+q=m}c_pd_q\right|r^m\leq \sup_{p+q=m}|c_p||d_q|r^pr^q\leq p_r(f)p_r(g),$$

so that  $p_r(fg) \le p_r(f)p_r(g)$ . This shows that  $p_r$  is a norm on  $K[T_1, \ldots, T_n]$ , and it remains to prove that  $p_r$  is multiplicative.

Let P be the convex hull of the set of all  $p \in \mathbb{N}^n$  such that  $p_r(f) = |c_p|r^p$ , and let Q be the convex hull of the set of all  $q \in \mathbb{N}^n$  such that  $p_r(g) = |d_q|r^q$ . Let a and b be vertices of P and Q respectively, defined by linear forms  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ; let m = a + b. Then m is a vertex of the polytope P + Q, defined by the linear form  $\varphi + \psi$ , so that the coefficient of  $\mathbb{T}^m$  in fg is the sum of  $c_ad_b$  and of other elements  $c_pd_q$ , where  $|c_p|r^q < |c_a|r^a$  and  $|d_q|r^q < |d_b|r^b$ . This implies that

$$\left| \sum_{p+q=m} c_p d_q \right| r^m = |c_a d_b| r^m = |c_a| r^a |d_b| r^b = p_r(f) p_r(g).$$

Consequently,  $p_r(fg) = p_r(f)p_r(g)$  and  $p_r$  is a multiplicative seminorm on  $K[T_1, ..., T_n]$ .

*Example* (3.1.7). — A theorem of Ostrowski describes the multiplicative seminorms on the field  $\mathbf{Q}$  of rational numbers.

- a) The usual absolute value  $|\cdot|$ , and its powers  $|\cdot|^r$  for  $r \in ]0;1]$ ;
- b) For every prime number p, the p-adic absolute value  $|\cdot|_p$ , and its powers  $|\cdot|_p^r$ , for all  $r \in ]0; +\infty[$ ;
  - c) The trivial absolute value  $|\cdot|_0$  defined by  $|0|_0=0$  and  $|a|_0=1$  for all

 $\int_{0}^{\infty} |r|_{r} = 1/r$   $\int_{0}^{\infty} |n|_{p} = 1$   $\int_{0}^{\infty} |n|_{p} = 1$