

# Spectral synthesis on discrete Abelian groups

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## Abstract

We prove that spectral synthesis holds on a discrete Abelian group  $G$  if and only if the torsion free rank of  $G$  is finite.

## 1 Introduction.

Let  $G$  be a locally compact Abelian group and let  $C(G)$  denote the linear space of all complex valued continuous functions defined on  $G$  equipped with the topology of uniform convergence on compact sets. By a *variety* on  $G$  we mean a translation invariant closed subspace of  $C(G)$ . A nonzero continuous function  $m \in C(G)$  is called an *exponential* if  $m$  is multiplicative; that is, if  $m(x + y) = m(x) \cdot m(y)$  holds for every  $x, y \in G$ . A function is a *polynomial* if it belongs to the algebra generated by the continuous additive functions. An *exponential monomial* is the product of a polynomial and an exponential. If a variety is spanned by exponential monomials, then we say that *spectral (or harmonic) synthesis holds* for this variety. If spectral synthesis holds for every variety on  $G$ , then we say that *spectral (or harmonic) synthesis holds on  $G$* .

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It was proved by M. Lefranc in [7] that for every finite  $n$ , spectral synthesis holds on the group  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  equipped with the discrete topology. R. J. Elliot claimed in [2] that spectral synthesis holds on every discrete Abelian group. As it turned out, Elliot's proof was defective. In fact, by a recent result of the second author of this note [11], the statement is false. Let  $r_0(G)$  denote the torsion free rank of  $G$ ; that is, the cardinality of a maximal independent system of elements of infinite order. In [11] it is shown that spectral synthesis fails on every Abelian group  $G$  with  $r_0(G) \geq \omega$  and a problem is formulated: is it true that if spectral synthesis fails to hold on a discrete Abelian group, then its torsion free rank is at least  $\omega$ ? In this paper we answer this question in the affirmative, and thus obtain the following result.

**Theorem 1.** *Spectral synthesis holds on a discrete Abelian group  $G$  if and only if  $r_0(G)$  is finite.*

This result also verifies the conjecture formulated by the second author in [12]: spectral synthesis holds on a discrete Abelian group if and only if any complex bi-additive function on the group is a bilinear function of complex additive functions.

As an immediate corollary of Theorem 1 we obtain the following.

**Theorem 2.** *If spectral synthesis holds on the discrete Abelian groups  $G$  and  $H$ , then it also holds on  $G \times H$ .  $\square$*

It would be interesting to find a direct proof of Theorem 2. In fact, such a proof could simplify the proof of Theorem 1 considerably. As we shall see in Section 3, in order to prove Theorem 1 it is enough to check that spectral synthesis holds on the groups  $\mathbb{Q}^n \times T$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer and  $T$  is a torsion group. In possession of Theorem 2 it would be enough to prove that spectral synthesis holds on  $\mathbb{Q}$  and on every torsion group. The case of torsion groups is relatively simple, using the compactness of their character groups in the product topology (see [1], and Lemma 15 below). Also, the case of  $\mathbb{Q}$  is much easier than that of  $\mathbb{Q}^n$  with  $n > 1$ ; this is due to the fact that the structure of ideals of  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  is much simpler than those of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  for  $n > 1$ .

It should be noted that the statement of Theorem 2 is false for locally compact Abelian groups. Indeed, by L. Schwartz's celebrated theorem, spectral synthesis holds on  $\mathbb{R}$  with the usual topology (See [10], [4] and [5].) On

the other hand, as D. I. Gurevič showed, spectral synthesis does not hold on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (see [3]). Therefore, any proof of Theorem 2 must use some special properties of varieties on discrete groups. In the next section we present two such properties. First, we show that on discrete groups there is a complete duality between the varieties and the ideals of measures, unlike on some locally compact groups. Also, on discrete groups, the restriction of a variety to a subgroup is again a variety, while on a locally compact group this is not necessarily the case. This latter observation (Theorem 3) is crucial in our proof of Theorem 1.

## 2 Preliminaries.

The linear space  $C(G)$  endowed with the topology of uniform convergence on compact sets is a locally convex topological vector space. The set  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$  of all signed measures on  $G$  having compact support is a ring under the operations of addition and convolution. If  $G$  is discrete, then every function is continuous on  $G$ , and thus  $C(G)$  consists of all complex valued functions defined on  $G$ . Also, in a discrete group a set is compact if and only if it is finite, and thus  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$  consists of all measures concentrated on finite sets.

We return to general locally compact Abelian groups. According to the Riesz representation theorem, the continuous linear functionals on  $C(G)$  are of the form  $f \mapsto \int f d\mu$  ( $f \in C(G)$ ), where  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$ .

Let  $V$  be a variety on  $G$ , and put

$$V^\perp = \left\{ \mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G) : \int_G f d\mu = 0 \text{ for every } f \in V \right\}.$$

It is easy to check that  $V^\perp$  is an ideal of the ring  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$ .

If  $I \subset \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  is an ideal then we shall denote by  $I^\perp$  the set of functions  $f \in C(G)$  such that  $\int f d\mu = 0$  for every  $\mu \in I$ . Then  $I^\perp$  is a variety on  $G$ . Indeed, it is easy to see that  $I^\perp$  is a closed linear space. In order to prove translation invariance, let  $f \in I^\perp$ ,  $y \in G$  and  $\mu \in I$  be arbitrary. If  $\delta_y$  denotes the Dirac measure concentrated at the point  $y$ , then we have  $\delta_y * \mu \in I$ , as  $I$  is an ideal. Thus

$$\int_G f(x+y) d\mu = \int_G f d(\delta_y * \mu) = 0,$$

which proves that  $I^\perp$  is translation-invariant.

We shall also need the fact that  $V^{\perp\perp} = V$  for every variety  $V$ . It is clear that  $V \subset V^{\perp\perp}$  for every variety  $V$ . To prove the other inclusion, suppose that  $f \in V^{\perp\perp}$ ; that is,  $\int_G f d\mu = 0$  for every  $\mu \in V^\perp$ , but  $f \notin V$ . Then the local convexity of the space implies the existence of a continuous linear functional  $L$  such that  $Lf \neq 0$  and  $Lg = 0$  for every  $g \in V$ . Let  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  be such that  $\int_G g d\mu = Lg$  for every  $g \in C(G)$ . Then  $\mu \in V^\perp$  and  $\int_G f d\mu \neq 0$ , a contradiction.

It is obvious that  $I \subset I^{\perp\perp}$  holds for every ideal  $I \subset \mathcal{M}_c(G)$ . The inclusion can be proper, as the following simple example shows. Consider  $G = \mathbb{R}$  with the usual topology, and let  $I$  denote the ideal generated by the measures  $\mu_n = \delta_0 - \delta_{1/n}$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ). If  $f \in I^\perp$ , then  $f$  is periodic mod  $1/n$  for every  $n$ , and thus, by continuity,  $f$  must be constant. Therefore  $\delta_0 - \delta_\alpha \in I^{\perp\perp}$  for every  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . However,  $\delta_0 - \delta_\alpha \notin I$  if  $\alpha$  is irrational. Indeed, for every positive integer  $N$  there is a continuous function  $f$  such that  $f$  is periodic mod  $1/n$  for every  $n \leq N$  but  $f$  is not periodic mod  $\alpha$ . This easily implies that  $\delta_0 - \delta_\alpha$  does not belong to the ideal generated by  $\mu_n$  ( $n \leq N$ ). Now  $\delta_0 - \delta_\alpha \in I$  would imply that  $\delta_0 - \delta_\alpha$  belongs to an ideal generated by finitely many of the measures  $\mu_n$  which is not the case.

Now we prove that if the group  $G$  is discrete, then  $I^{\perp\perp} = I$  holds for every ideal  $I \subset \mathcal{M}_c(G)$ . We only have to prove  $I^{\perp\perp} \subset I$ . If  $\nu \in I^{\perp\perp}$ , then  $\int_G f d\nu = 0$  for every  $f \in I^\perp$ . Suppose  $\nu \notin I$ . Since  $I$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$  and  $\nu \notin I$ , there is a linear map  $L : \mathcal{M}_c(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $L$  vanishes on  $I$  and  $L(\nu) \neq 0$ . Let  $f(x) = L(\delta_x)$  for every  $x \in G$ . Then

$$L(\mu) = \int_G f d\mu \tag{1}$$

for every  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$ . Indeed, (1) is true for  $\mu = \delta_x$  for every  $x \in G$  by the definition of  $f$ . If  $G$  is discrete, then every  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  is a finite linear combination of measures concentrated on singletons, and thus (1) holds by the linearity of both sides. Now, if  $\mu \in I$ , then  $\int_G f d\mu = L(\mu) = 0$  by the choice of  $L$ , and thus  $f \in I^\perp$ . On the other hand,  $\int_G f d\nu = L(\nu) \neq 0$ , which contradicts  $\nu \in I^{\perp\perp}$ .

Let  $G$  be a locally compact Abelian group, and let  $V$  be a variety on  $G$ . If  $H$  is a closed subgroup of  $G$ , then we denote by  $V|_H$  the set of functions  $\{f|_H : f \in V\}$ .

In general  $V|_H$  need not be a variety, as the following example shows. Let  $G = \mathbb{R}$  with the usual topology, and let  $\alpha$  be a fixed irrational number. We define  $V$  as the set of all functions  $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$  which are periodic mod  $\alpha$ . Clearly,  $V$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{R}$ . We show that  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is *not* a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}$ , as  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is not closed. To prove this, first we show that  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is everywhere dense in  $C(\mathbb{Z})$ . Indeed, let  $g : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be an arbitrary function and let  $U$  be an arbitrary neighbourhood of  $g$ . Then there are a positive integer  $N$  and a positive number  $\varepsilon$  such that  $U$  contains every function  $h : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  for which  $|h(n) - g(n)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $|n| \leq N$ . Now it is easy to see that there exists a function  $f \in V$  such that  $f(n) = g(n)$  for every  $|n| \leq N$ . Indeed, the set  $S = \{n + k \cdot \alpha : |n| \leq N, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is periodic mod  $\alpha$ , and only has a finite number of elements in the interval  $[0, \alpha]$ . Let  $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  be a double infinite sequence such that  $S = \{x_i : i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $x_{i-1} < x_i$  for every  $i$ . Let  $f(n + k \cdot \alpha) = g(n)$  for every  $|n| \leq N$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $f$  is defined on  $S$  and is periodic mod  $\alpha$ . Extend  $f$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  as a linear function in each interval  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ . It is easy to see that  $f$  is continuous and is periodic mod  $\alpha$ ; that is,  $f \in V$ . Since  $f(n) = g(n)$  for every  $|n| \leq N$ , it follows that  $f|_{\mathbb{Z}} \in U$ . This implies that  $g$  is in the closure of  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  and, as  $g$  was arbitrary,  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is everywhere dense in  $C(\mathbb{Z})$ . On the other hand,  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}} \neq C(\mathbb{Z})$ , since each element of  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is bounded. Therefore,  $V|_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is not closed and, consequently, is not a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

In the next theorem we show that this phenomenon cannot occur in discrete Abelian groups. For every  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  the support of  $\mu$  will be denoted by  $\text{supp } \mu$ . Clearly, if  $\mu$  has finite support then  $\text{supp } \mu = \{x : \mu(\{x\}) \neq 0\}$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $G$  be a discrete Abelian group,  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ , and let  $V$  be a variety on  $G$ . Then*

- (i)  $V|_H$  is a variety on  $H$ .
- (ii) *For every function  $f : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  we have  $f \in V|_H$  if and only if  $\int_H f d\mu = 0$  whenever  $\mu \in V^\perp$  and  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ .*

**Proof.** First we prove (ii). Suppose that  $f \in V|_H$ ,  $\mu \in V^\perp$  and  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ . Let  $g \in V$  be such that  $g|_H = f$ , and let  $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$ , where  $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x_i \in H$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Since  $\mu \in V^\perp$ , we have

$$\int_H f d\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \cdot f(x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \cdot g(x_i) = \int_G g d\mu = 0,$$

which proves the ‘only if’ part of the statement.

Next we prove the ‘if’ part of (ii). Suppose that  $f : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfies the condition formulated in (ii); we show  $f \in V|_H$ . If  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  and  $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$ , then we shall denote by  $\phi(\mu)$  the sum of those terms  $a_i \delta_{x_i}$  for which  $x_i \in G \setminus H$ . If there is no such term; that is, if  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ , then we define  $\phi(\mu) = 0$ . Clearly,  $\phi$  is a linear map from  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$  into itself. We put

$$L(\phi(\mu)) = - \int_H f d(\mu - \phi(\mu)) \quad (2)$$

for every  $\mu \in V^\perp$ . Then  $L$  is well-defined; that is, if  $\mu, \nu \in V^\perp$  and  $\phi(\mu) = \phi(\nu)$ , then

$$\int_H f d(\mu - \phi(\mu)) = \int_H f d(\nu - \phi(\nu)). \quad (3)$$

Indeed,  $\phi(\mu) = \phi(\nu)$  implies  $\phi(\mu - \nu) = 0$ ; that is,  $\text{supp } (\mu - \nu) \subset H$ . Since  $\mu - \nu \in V^\perp$ , it follows from the condition imposed on  $f$  that  $\int_H f d(\mu - \nu) = 0$ . Thus  $\int_H f d\mu = \int_H f d\nu$  and, as  $\phi(\mu) = \phi(\nu)$ , (3) holds.

Therefore, (2) defines a linear map  $L : \phi(V^\perp) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . Let  $\tilde{L}$  be a linear extension of  $L$  onto  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$ , and define

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} f(x), & \text{if } x \in H, \\ \tilde{L}(\delta_x), & \text{if } x \in G \setminus H. \end{cases}$$

Then  $g$  is an extension of  $f$ . We show that  $g \in V$ . If  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_c(G)$  and  $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_G g d\mu &= \int_{G \setminus H} g d\mu + \int_H g d\mu \\ &= \sum_{x_i \in G \setminus H} a_i \cdot g(x_i) + \sum_{x_i \in H} a_i \cdot f(x_i) \\ &= \sum_{x_i \in G \setminus H} a_i \cdot \tilde{L}(\delta_{x_i}) + \int_H f d(\mu - \phi(\mu)) \\ &= \tilde{L}(\phi(\mu)) + \int_H f d(\mu - \phi(\mu)). \end{aligned}$$

If  $\mu \in V^\perp$ , then (2) gives

$$\int_G g d\mu = \tilde{L}(\phi(\mu)) + \int_H f d(\mu - \phi(\mu)) = 0.$$

Thus  $g \in V^{\perp\perp} = V$  and  $f = g|_H$ , which completes the proof of (ii).

Now (i) is an immediate consequence of (ii). Indeed, let  $I$  denote the set of measures  $\mu \in V^\perp$  satisfying  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ , and let  $J = \{\mu|_H : \mu \in I\}$ . Since  $V^\perp$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{M}_c(G)$ , it is easy to check that  $J$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{M}_c(H)$ . By (ii) we have  $V|_H = J^\perp$ , and thus  $V|_H$  is a variety on  $H$ .  $\square$

We shall use the following notation. If  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , then  $f \otimes g$  will denote the function defined by  $f(x) \cdot g(y)$  for every  $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ .

We shall need the following simple fact about varieties on products, when one of the factors is finite.

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $V$  be a variety on  $G \times T$ , where  $G$  is a locally compact Abelian group and  $T$  is a finite and discrete Abelian group. Let  $|T| = k$ , and let  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k$  be the characters of  $T$ . Then for every  $g \in V$  there are functions  $f_1, \dots, f_k : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f_i \otimes \gamma_i \in V$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and*

$$g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^k f_i(x) \gamma_i(t) \quad (4)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in G \times T$ .

**Proof.** It is well-known that the characters  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k$  are linearly independent. Since the set  $\mathbb{C}^T = \{f : T \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  is a linear space of dimension  $k$ , it follows that every element of  $\mathbb{C}^T$  is a linear combination of  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k$ . Then, for every  $x \in G$  there are numbers  $f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x)$  such that (4) holds for every  $t \in T$ .

If  $T = \{t_j\}_{j=1}^k$ , then, by the linear independence of  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k$  we find that the determinant  $\text{Det } \{\gamma_i(t_j)\}_{i,j=1}^k$  is nonzero. Substituting  $t + t_j$  for  $t$  in (4) we obtain a system of linear equations, from which the unknowns  $f_i(x) \gamma_i(t)$  can be expressed as linear combinations of expressions of the form  $g(x, t + t_j)$ . As the functions  $(x, t) \mapsto g(x, t + t_j)$  belong to  $V$ , this proves that  $f_i \otimes \gamma_i \in V$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .  $\square$

We note that the lemma above easily implies that if spectral synthesis holds on a locally compact Abelian group  $G$ , then the same is true for  $G \times T$  for every finite discrete Abelian group  $T$ .

### 3 Reduction.

In this section our aim is to show that if spectral synthesis holds on the groups  $\mathbb{Q}^n \times T$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer and  $T$  is torsion, then it also holds on every group satisfying  $r_0(G) < \infty$ . This is an immediate consequence of the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 5.** *Every Abelian group with finite torsion free rank can be embedded into a group  $\mathbb{Q}^n \times T$ , where  $n = r_0(G)$  and  $T$  is a torsion group.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $G$  is an Abelian group with  $n = r_0(G) < \infty$ . It is well known [9, Theorem 10.23] that  $G$  can be embedded as a subgroup in a divisible group  $H$ . Let  $H_1$  denote the set of those elements  $x \in H$  for which  $mx \in G$  for a suitable positive integer  $m$ . Clearly,  $G \subset H_1$ . It is easy to check that  $H_1$  is a divisible subgroup of  $H$  and  $r_0(H_1) = n$ . Let  $T$  denote the torsion subgroup of  $H_1$ . Then  $T$  is also divisible, and thus  $T$  is a direct summand of  $H_1$  by [9, Corollary 10.10]. Let  $H_1 = H_2 \times T$ , then  $H_2$  is divisible, torsion free and its torsion free rank is  $n$ . Consequently,  $H_2$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of dimension  $n$ . Thus  $H_2$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Q}^n$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** *If spectral synthesis holds on the discrete Abelian group  $G$ , then the same is true for every subgroup of  $G$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ , and let  $V \subset C(H)$  be a variety on  $H$ . Let  $T_x$  denote the operator of translation by  $x$ . Then  $W = \{f \in \mathbb{C}^G : (T_x f)|_H \in V \text{ for every } x \in G\}$  is a variety on  $G$ . We claim that every function  $f \in V$  can be extended to  $G$  as an element of  $W$ . Indeed, let  $U$  be a subset of  $G$  containing exactly one element of each coset of  $H$ ; we may assume that  $U \cap H = \{0\}$ . If  $f \in V$ , then the function  $g : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $g(u + x) = f(x)$  ( $u \in U, x \in H$ ) belongs to  $W$ .

By assumption, the set of all exponential polynomials contained by  $W$  is dense in  $W$ . Now, it is easy to check that the restrictions of these exponential monomials to  $H$  constitute a dense subset of  $V$ , which proves that spectral synthesis holds on  $H$ .  $\square$



## 4 Modules of polynomials.

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  denote the ring of partial differential operators of  $n$  variables. Since the partial derivatives of a polynomial are also polynomials, the ring  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a  $\mathcal{D}$ -module. The submodules of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  are those linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  which are closed under partial differentiation. These submodules can be described as follows.

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $M$  be a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then the following are equivalent.*

- (i)  *$M$  is invariant under translations.*
- (ii) *There exists a nonzero complex number  $s$  such that  $M$  is invariant under translations by vectors of  $s \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n$ .*
- (iii)  *$M$  is a submodule of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .*

**Proof.** (i) $\implies$ (ii) is obvious. Suppose (ii), and let  $p \in M$  be arbitrary. If the total degree of  $p$  is  $d$ , then Taylor's formula gives

$$\sum_{i=0}^d (ks)^i \cdot \frac{1}{i!} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x_1^i} p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = p(x_1 + ks, x_2, \dots, x_n) \quad (5)$$

for every  $k = 0, 1, \dots, d$ . Now (5) is a system of linear equations with unknowns  $\frac{1}{i!} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x_1^i} p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  ( $i = 0, \dots, d$ ). Since the determinant of this system is non-zero, it follows that the partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial^i}{\partial x_1^i} p$  are linear combinations of the functions  $p(x_1 + ks, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  ( $k = 0, \dots, d$ ). By assumption, these functions belong to  $M$  for every  $k$ , and thus  $\frac{\partial^i}{\partial x_1^i} p \in M$  for every  $i$ . By the same argument,  $\frac{\partial^i}{\partial x_j^i} p \in M$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, n$  and  $i \geq 0$ ; that is,  $M$  is a submodule of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . This proves (ii) $\implies$ (iii).

The implication (iii) $\implies$ (i) is an immediate consequence of Taylor's formula.  $\square$

The following statement is probably known, but we were unable to find a reference. We are grateful to L. Rónyai for communicating the following proof.

**Lemma 8.** *The module  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  has the minimal condition. In other words, if  $M_1 \supset M_2 \supset \dots$  is a descending sequence of submodules of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , then there is an  $N$  such that  $M_i = M_N$  for every  $i \geq N$ .*

**Proof.** We order the monomials  $x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n}$  according to the lexicographic order of the  $n$ -tuples  $(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . By the leading monomial of a nonzero polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  we mean the largest monomial that appears in  $p$  with a nonzero coefficient.

For every submodule  $M \subset \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  we denote by  $S(M)$  the set of leading monomials of the nonzero elements of  $M$ . It is easy to see, using the fact that  $M$  is closed under partial differentiation, that if  $m_1, m_2$  are monomials,  $m_2$  is a multiple of  $m_1$  and  $m_2 \in S(M)$ , then  $m_1 \in S(M)$ .

We show that if  $M_1 \supsetneq M_2$ , then  $S(M_1) \supsetneq S(M_2)$ . It is clear that  $S(M_1) \supset S(M_2)$ . Let  $p_0 \in M_1 \setminus M_2$  have a minimal leading monomial  $m_0$  among all polynomials  $p \in M_1 \setminus M_2$ . Then  $m_0 \notin S(M_2)$ . Indeed, suppose that  $m_0$  is a leading monomial of  $q \in M_2$ . Then  $p_0 - c \cdot q \in M_1 \setminus M_2$  for every  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , and for a suitable  $c$  the leading monomial of  $p_0 - c \cdot q$  is smaller than  $m_0$ , which is impossible. This proves  $m_0 \in S(M_1) \setminus S(M_2)$  and  $S(M_1) \supsetneq S(M_2)$ .

Now suppose that  $M_1 \supsetneq M_2 \supsetneq \dots$  is a strictly decreasing sequence of submodules of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then we have  $S(M_1) \supsetneq S(M_2) \supsetneq \dots$ . Let  $m_i \in S(M_i) \setminus S(M_{i+1})$  for every  $i \geq 1$ . It is not difficult to prove that in every sequence of monomials  $(m_i)$  there is an  $m_i$  which is a multiple of some  $m_j$  with  $j < i$  (see [8, the Theorem on p. 147]). In our case, however, this would imply  $m_j \in M_i$ , which contradicts  $m_j \notin M_{j+1} \supset M_i$ .  $\square$

## 5 Varieties on $\mathbb{Z}^n$ .

Let  $n$  be a fixed positive integer. In this section we shall write  $\mathcal{M}$  for  $\mathcal{M}_c(\mathbb{Z}^n)$ . If  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mu = \sum a_{i_1 \dots i_n} \cdot \delta_{(i_1 \dots i_n)}$ , then we put

$$q_\mu = \sum a_{i_1 \dots i_n} \cdot x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n}.$$

The map  $\mu \mapsto q_\mu$  is a ring isomorphism between  $\mathcal{M}$  and the ring  $R_n$  of functions of the form  $x_1^{j_1} \cdots x_n^{j_n} \cdot q$ , where  $j_1, \dots, j_n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . If  $I \subset \mathcal{M}$ , then we put  $\widehat{I} = \{q_\mu : \mu \in I\}$ . Obviously, if  $I$  is an ideal in  $\mathcal{M}$ , then  $\widehat{I}$  is an ideal in  $R_n$ .

Because of the isomorphism of the rings  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $R_n$  we could actually identify them. We shall not do so; however, if  $A$  is an ideal of  $R_n$ , then we shall write

$$A^\perp = \{\mu \in \mathcal{M} : q_\mu \in A\}^\perp.$$

Note that if  $A, B$  are ideals of  $R_n$  and  $A \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = B \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , then  $A = B$ . Indeed, for every  $q \in A$  there is a monomial  $p = x_1^{j_1} \cdots x_n^{j_n}$  such that  $p \cdot q$  is a polynomial. Then  $p \cdot q \in A \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = B \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \subset B$ , and hence  $q = (p \cdot q) \cdot x_1^{-j_1} \cdots x_n^{-j_n} \in B$ . Thus  $A \subset B$ , and the same argument shows  $B \subset A$ .

**Lemma 9.** *For every positive integer  $n$ , the family of all varieties on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  satisfies the minimal condition. In other words, if  $V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \dots$  is a descending sequence of varieties on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , then there is an  $N$  such that  $V_i = V_N$  for every  $i \geq N$ .*

**Proof.** If  $V_1 \supset V_2 \supset \dots$  is a descending sequence of varieties on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , then  $V_1^\perp \subset V_2^\perp \subset \dots$  is an ascending sequence of ideals in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $I_i = (V_i^\perp)^\wedge \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  for every  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Then  $I_1 \subset I_2 \subset \dots$  is an ascending sequence of ideals in  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and thus, as  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noether, there exists an index  $N$  such that  $I_i = I_N$  for every  $i \geq N$ . Then, as we remarked above, we have  $(V_i)^\perp = (V_N)^\perp$  and  $V_i = (V_N)^{\perp\perp} = (V_N)^{\perp\perp} = V_N$  for every  $i \geq N$ .  $\square$

If  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \in (\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\})^n$ , then we shall denote by  $m_c$  the function

$$m_c(x_1, \dots, x_n) = c_1^{x_1} \cdots c_n^{x_n} \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{Z}). \quad (6)$$

Clearly,  $m_c$  is an exponential on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . A simple calculation shows that

$$q_\mu(c_1, \dots, c_n) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} m_c d\mu \quad (7)$$

for every  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$ . Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Then it follows from (7) that  $m_c \in V$  if and only if  $c$  is a root of the ideal  $(V^\perp)^\wedge$ .

In [7] Lefranc gives a condition for  $p \cdot m \in V$  for every polynomial  $p$  and exponential  $m$ . The condition is formulated in terms of the partial derivatives of  $q_\mu$  ( $\mu \in V^\perp$ ). In order to make the formulas as simple as possible, we shall slightly change the notation used by Lefranc. We denote  $x^{[0]} = 1$  and

$x^{[i]} = x \cdot (x - 1) \cdots (x - i + 1)$  for every  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Every  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  can be written uniquely in the form

$$p = \sum a_{i_1 \dots i_n} \cdot x_1^{[i_1]} \cdots x_n^{[i_n]}.$$

Then we define

$$D_p = \sum a_{i_1 \dots i_n} \cdot \frac{\partial^{i_1 + \dots + i_n}}{\partial x_1^{i_1} \cdots \partial x_n^{i_n}} \in \mathcal{D}.$$

Clearly, the map  $p \mapsto D_p$  is a linear isomorphism from  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  onto  $\mathcal{D}$ . (Note, however, that  $p \mapsto D_p$  is not a ring isomorphism.) Now we prove that

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d\mu = D_p(q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1) \quad (8)$$

for every  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$ . Since both sides of (8) are linear in both  $p$  and  $\mu$ , it is enough to check the case when  $p = x_1^{[i_1]} \cdots x_n^{[i_n]}$  and  $\mu = \delta_{(j_1, \dots, j_n)}$ . Then both sides of (8) equals  $j_1^{[i_1]} \cdots j_n^{[i_n]}$ , which completes the proof. The next lemma is an immediate corollary of (8).

**Lemma 10.** *Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and let  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then  $p \in V$  if and only if  $D_p(q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1) = 0$  for every  $\mu \in V^\perp$ .  $\square$*

**Lemma 11.** *Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and let  $(V^\perp)^\wedge = A \cap B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are ideals of  $R_n$ . Suppose that  $p \in V$ , where  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . If  $(1, \dots, 1)$  is not a root of  $B$ , then  $p \in A^\perp$ .*

**Proof.** By the previous lemma, it is enough to show that  $D_p(q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1) = 0$  for every measure  $\mu$  with  $q_\mu \in A$ . Let  $d$  denote the (total) degree of  $p$ .

Since  $(1, \dots, 1)$  is not a root of  $B$ , there is a function  $t \in B$  such that  $t(1, \dots, 1) = 1$ . If  $s = 1 - t$ , then  $1 - s^{d+1} \in B$ , as

$$1 - s^{d+1} = (1 - s)(1 + s + \dots + s^d) = t \cdot (1 + s + \dots + s^d).$$

If  $q_\mu \in A$ , then we have

$$(1 - s^{d+1}) \cdot q_\mu \in B \cdot A \subset A \cap B = (V^\perp)^\wedge. \quad (9)$$

Let  $\sigma \in \mathcal{M}$  be such that  $q_\sigma = (1 - s^{d+1})q_\mu$ , and thus  $\sigma * \mu \in V^\perp$  by (9). Therefore,  $D_p(q_{\sigma * \mu})(1, \dots, 1) = 0$  by Lemma 10. From  $q_{\sigma * \mu} = q_\mu - s^{d+1} \cdot q_\mu$  we obtain

$$D_p(q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1) = D_p(s^{d+1} \cdot q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1). \quad (10)$$

Since  $s(1, \dots, 1) = 0$  and the degree of the partial differential operator  $D_p$  equals  $d$ , it follows that the right hand side of (10) is zero. Thus  $D_p(q_\mu)(1, \dots, 1) = 0$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 12.** *Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  of finite index. Then*

- (i)  $M = \{p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] : p|_H \in V|_H\}$  is a submodule of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .
- (ii) If  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $p|_H \in V|_H$ , then  $\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d(\nu * \mu) = 0$  whenever  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $\mu \in V^\perp$ , and  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ .

**Proof.** Since  $H$  is of finite index, there is a positive integer  $N$  such that  $N \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n \subset H$ . It is clear that  $M$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , and that  $M$  is invariant under translations by elements of  $N \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n \subset H$ . By Lemma 7 we obtain (i).

In order to prove (ii) we may assume that  $\nu = \delta_{(j_1 \dots j_n)}$ . Then

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d(\nu * \mu) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p(x_1 + j_1, \dots, x_n + j_n) d\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n). \quad (11)$$

Since, by (i), the polynomial  $p(x_1 + j_1, \dots, x_n + j_n)$  belongs to  $V|_H$ , it follows from Theorem 3 that the value of the right hand side of (11) is zero.  $\square$

For every ideal  $A \subset R_n$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  we define

$$A(\alpha) = \{p \in R_n : p(\alpha x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in A\};$$

it is an ideal of  $R_n$ . If  $I$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{M}$ , then we shall write  $I(\alpha) = \{\mu : q_\mu \in \widehat{I}(\alpha)\}$ ; then  $I(\alpha)$  is also an ideal of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Lemma 13.** *Let  $H = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1\}$ , where  $N > 1$ . Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and let  $p \in C[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then  $p|_H \in V|_H$  if and only if*

$$p \in (I \cap I(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap I(\varepsilon^{N-1}))^\perp, \quad (12)$$

where  $I = V^\perp$  and  $\varepsilon = e^{2\pi i/N}$ .

**Proof.** We put  $I \cap I(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap I(\varepsilon^{N-1}) = J$ . Suppose  $p \in J^\perp$ ; we prove  $p|_H \in V|_H$ . By Theorem 3 it is enough to show that  $\int_H p d\mu = 0$ , whenever

$\mu \in I$  and  $\text{supp } \mu \subset H$ . For such a  $\mu$  the exponent of  $x_1$  in each term of  $q_\mu$  is divisible by  $N$ . Therefore,  $q_\mu(\varepsilon^j x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = q_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and thus  $\mu \in I(\varepsilon^j)$  for every  $j$ . Then  $\mu \in J$  and hence, by  $p \in J^\perp$ , we obtain  $\int_H p d\mu = \int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d\mu = 0$ . This proves the ‘if’ direction of the statement.

In order to prove the ‘only if’ direction, suppose  $p|_H \in V|_H$ , and let  $\mu \in J$  be arbitrary. We have to show

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d\mu = 0. \quad (13)$$

Let  $q = q_\mu$ , then  $q \in \widehat{I}(\varepsilon^j)$  for every  $j = 0, \dots, N-1$ . We denote by  $q_\ell$  the sum of those terms of  $q$  in which the exponent of  $x_1$  is congruent to  $\ell \bmod N$ . Then  $q = q_0 + \dots + q_{N-1}$ . The condition  $q \in \widehat{I}(\varepsilon^j)$  gives  $q(\varepsilon^j x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \widehat{I}$ ; that is,

$$q_0 + \varepsilon^j q_1 + \varepsilon^{2j} q_2 + \dots + \varepsilon^{(N-1)j} q_{N-1} = t_j \in \widehat{I} \quad (14)$$

for every  $j = 0, \dots, N-1$ . The system of equations (14) has a nonzero determinant, since the numbers  $1, \varepsilon, \dots, \varepsilon^{N-1}$  are different. Thus each  $q_\ell$  is a linear combination of the functions  $t_j$ , hence  $q_\ell \in \widehat{I}$  for every  $\ell = 0, \dots, N-1$ . Let  $\mu_\ell \in I$  be such that  $q_{\mu_\ell} = q_\ell$ . Then  $\mu = \mu_0 + \dots + \mu_{N-1}$  and thus, in order to prove (13), it is enough to show that  $\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d\mu_\ell = 0$  for every  $\ell$ . Since  $q_\ell \in \widehat{I}$ , we have  $x_1^{-\ell} \cdot q_\ell \in \widehat{I}$ , and the exponent of  $x_1$  in each term of  $x_1^{-\ell} \cdot q_\ell$  is divisible by  $N$ . If  $\delta = \delta_{(-\ell, 0, \dots, 0)}$ , then  $\delta * \mu_\ell \in I$ , and  $\text{supp } (\delta * \mu_\ell) \subset H$ . Since  $p \in V|_H$ , we find, by (ii) of Lemma 12, that

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d\mu_\ell = \int_{\mathbb{Z}^n} p d(\delta_{(\ell, 0, \dots, 0)} * (\delta * \mu_\ell)) = 0,$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 14.** *Let  $N > 1$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n$  be integers, and let*

$$H = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1, \dots, N \mid x_i\}.$$

*Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and let  $p \cdot m \in V|_H$ , where  $p \in C[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $m : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is an exponential. Then for every finite set  $F \subset H$  and for every  $\eta > 0$  there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  such that  $m_j|_H = m$  and  $p_j \cdot m_j \in V$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and*

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j(x) \right| < \eta \quad (15)$$

*for every  $x \in F$ .*

**Proof.** We shall prove the statement by induction on  $i$ .

I. Let  $i = 1$ ; then  $H = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1\}$ . First we shall assume that  $m \equiv 1$  on  $H$ . Then  $p|_H \in V|_H$ . In  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  every ideal is the intersection of primary ideals, and thus

$$(V^\perp)^\wedge \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = Q_1 \cap \dots \cap Q_s, \quad (16)$$

where  $Q_1, \dots, Q_s$  are primary ideals. We shall prove the lemma by induction on  $s$ . If  $s = 0$ , then  $(V^\perp)^\wedge = R_n$ ,  $V^\perp = \mathcal{M}$ ,  $V = \{0\}$ ,  $p = 0$ , and thus we can choose  $m_1 \equiv 1$  and  $p_1 = 0$ .

Suppose that  $s > 0$ , and the statement is true for  $s - 1$ . Let  $\varepsilon = e^{2\pi i/N}$ . First we assume that each ideal  $Q_j$  has a root  $c_j = (\varepsilon^{t_j}, 1, \dots, 1)$ , where  $t_j$  is an integer. It is easy to check that  $c_j$  is also a root of  $(V^\perp)^\wedge$ , and thus the exponential  $m_{c_j}$  belongs to  $V$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, s$ . Moreover, as Lefranc proved in [7], the set of functions

$$\left\{ \sum_{j=1}^s p_j \cdot m_{c_j} : p_j \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n], p_j \cdot m_{c_j} \in V \ (j = 1, \dots, s) \right\}$$

is everywhere dense in  $V$ . Since  $m_{c_j}|_H = 1$  for every  $j$ , the statement of the lemma is true.

Next suppose that some of the ideals  $Q_j$  does not have roots of the form  $(\varepsilon^{t_j}, 1, \dots, 1)$ . We may assume that  $Q_1$  is such an ideal.

We put  $V^\perp = I$  and  $J = I \cap I(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap I(\varepsilon^{N-1})$ . Then, by Lemma 13, we have  $p \in J^\perp$ .

If  $A$  is an ideal of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , then we shall denote by  $A^*$  the ideal of  $R_n$  generated by  $A$ . Obviously,

$$A^* = \{x_1^{j_1} \cdots x_n^{j_n} \cdot q : j_1, \dots, j_n \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in A\}.$$

By (16) we have  $\widehat{I} = (V^\perp)^\wedge = Q_1^* \cap \dots \cap Q_s^*$ . Let  $K \subset \mathcal{M}$  be the ideal satisfying  $\widehat{K} = Q_2^* \cap \dots \cap Q_s^*$ . Then

$$\widehat{J} = [Q_1^* \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon^{N-1})] \cap [\widehat{K} \cap \widehat{K}(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap \widehat{K}(\varepsilon^{N-1})]. \quad (17)$$

Since  $Q_1^*$  does not have roots of the form  $(\varepsilon^j, 1, \dots, 1)$ , it follows that  $(1, \dots, 1)$  is not a root of any of the ideals  $Q_1^*(\varepsilon^j)$  ( $j = 0, \dots, N - 1$ ). Let  $r_j \in Q_1^*(\varepsilon^j)$

be such that  $r_j(1, \dots, 1) \neq 0$ . Then  $r = r_0 \cdots r_{N-1} \in Q_1^* \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon^{N-1})$  and  $r(1, \dots, 1) \neq 0$ . Therefore,  $(1, \dots, 1)$  is not a root of the ideal  $Q_1^* \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap Q_1^*(\varepsilon^{N-1})$ .

As we saw above,  $p \in J^\perp$ . Then (17) and Lemma 11 imply

$$p \in [K \cap K(\varepsilon) \cap \dots \cap K(\varepsilon^{N-1})]^\perp.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 13,  $p|_H \in W|_H$ , where  $W = K^\perp$ . Since  $I \subset K$ , we obtain  $W = K^\perp \subset I^\perp = V$ . Also,

$$\widehat{K} \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = (Q_2^* \cap \dots \cap Q_s^*) \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = R_2 \cap \dots \cap R_s,$$

where  $R_i = Q_i^* \cap \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  ( $2 \leq i \leq s$ ). It is easy to check that  $R_2, \dots, R_s$  are primary ideals. Then, by the induction hypothesis, there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  such that  $p_j \cdot m_j \in W \subset V$  and  $m_j|_H \equiv 1$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and (15) holds for every  $x \in F$ . This proves the case when  $m \equiv 1$ .

Now we consider the case when  $m$  is an arbitrary exponential on  $H$ . Let  $c_1 \in \mathbb{C}$  be such that  $c_1^N = m(N, 0, \dots, 0)$ , and let  $c_j = m(0, \dots, 0, \frac{1}{j}, 0, \dots, 0)$  for every  $j = 2, \dots, n$ . It is easy to see that the exponential  $m_c$  defined by (6) is an extension of  $m$  onto  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Let  $V_1 = \{f/m_c : f \in V\}$ . Then  $V_1$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and  $p|_H \in V_1|_H$ . Let the finite set  $F \subset H$  and  $\eta > 0$  be given. We put  $\eta' = \eta / \max_{x \in F} |m_c(x)|$ . As we proved above, there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  such that  $p_j \cdot m_j \in V_1$  and  $m_j|_H \equiv 1$  for every  $j$ , and

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j(x) \right| < \eta'$$

for every  $x \in F$ . Since  $p_j \cdot (m_j m_c) \in V$  by  $p_j \cdot m_j \in V_1$  for every  $j$ , the proof of the case  $i = 1$  is complete.

II. Now let  $1 \leq i < n$ , and suppose that the statement of the lemma is true for  $i$ . We prove the statement for  $i + 1$ . Let

$$A = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1, \dots, N \mid x_{i+1}\},$$

and let  $p, m, F, \eta$  be as in the lemma, with  $A$  in place of  $H$ . Let

$$B = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1, \dots, N \mid x_i\}.$$



Then  $A$  is a subgroup of  $B$ , and there is an isomorphism  $\phi$  from  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  onto  $B$  such that

$$\phi^{-1}(A) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1\}.$$

(We define  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (Nx_2, \dots, Nx_{i+1}, x_1, x_{i+2}, \dots, x_n)$  for every  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .) Therefore, the statement of the lemma remains true if we replace  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  by  $B$  and  $H$  by  $A$ . Since  $V|_B$  is a variety on  $B$  and  $pm \in V|_A$ , we obtain the polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and the exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  defined on  $B$  such that  $m_j|_A = m$  and  $p_j \cdot m_j \in V|_B$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j(x) \right| < \eta/2$$

for every  $x \in F$ . By the induction hypothesis, the statement of the lemma is true if we replace  $H$  by  $B$ . Thus, for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$  we obtain the polynomials  $p_{j,\ell}$  and the exponentials  $m_{j,\ell}$  defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  such that  $p_{j,\ell} \cdot m_{j,\ell} \in V$  and  $m_{j,\ell}|_A = m_j$  for every  $\ell = 1, \dots, s_j$ , and

$$\left| p_j(x) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{s_j} p_{j,\ell}(x) \right| < \eta/(2k)$$

for every  $x \in F$ . It is clear that the polynomials  $p_{j,\ell}$  and the exponentials  $m_{j,\ell}$  ( $j = 1, \dots, k$ ,  $\ell = 1, \dots, s_j$ ) satisfy the requirements.  $\square$

## 6 Varieties on $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ , where $T$ is torsion.

**Lemma 15.** *Spectral synthesis holds on  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$  for every positive integer  $n$  and for every discrete torsion group  $T$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ , and let  $g \in V$  be arbitrary. We have to show that for every finite set  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^n \times T$  and for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an exponential polynomial  $\phi \in V$  such that  $|\phi(y) - g(y)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $y \in F$ . Let  $|F| = k$ , and let  $F_1 \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$  and  $F_2 \subset T$  be finite sets such that  $F \subset F_1 \times F_2$ .

We shall denote by  $\mathcal{H}$  the family of all finite subgroups  $H \subset T$  satisfying  $F_2 \subset H$ . Let  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ , and let  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_s$  be the characters of  $H$ . By Lemma 4,

there are functions  $f_1, \dots, f_s : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f_i \otimes \gamma_i \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times H}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, s$ , and

$$g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^s f_i(x) \gamma_i(t) \quad (18)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . Now, the set of functions  $\mathbb{C}^F = \{f : F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  is a linear space of dimension  $k$ . The functions  $\phi_i = (f_i \otimes \gamma_i)|_F$  ( $i = 1, \dots, s$ ) generate a linear subspace  $L$  of  $\mathbb{C}^F$ . Thus the dimension of  $L$  is at most  $k$ , and it is generated by at most  $k$  of the functions  $\phi_i$ . We may assume that  $L$  is generated by the functions  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_k$ . Since, by (18),  $g|_F \in L$ , we have  $g(y) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \phi_i(y)$  for every  $y \in F$  with suitable constants  $c_i$ . Now we have  $c_i \phi_i = (c_i f_i) \otimes \gamma_i \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times H}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . We have proved the following statement: for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  there are characters  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k \in \widehat{H}$  and there are functions  $f_1, \dots, f_k : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f_i \otimes \gamma_i \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times H}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and

$$g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^k f_i(x) \gamma_i(t) \quad (19)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in F$ .

If  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\gamma \in \widehat{H}$ , then we shall denote by  $V(\gamma)$  the set of functions  $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f \otimes \gamma \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times H}$ . It is easy to check that  $V(\gamma)$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Note that if  $H \subset H'$ ,  $\gamma \in \widehat{H}$ ,  $\gamma' \in \widehat{H'}$  and  $\gamma'$  is an extension of  $\gamma$ , then  $V(\gamma) \supset V(\gamma')$ . We shall refer to this property by saying that the variety  $V(\gamma)$  is a decreasing function of  $\gamma$ .

For every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  let  $\Gamma_H$  denote the set of  $k$ -tuples  $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k) \in (\widehat{H})^k$  such that, for suitable functions  $f_i \in V(\gamma_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), (19) holds for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . As we proved above,  $\Gamma_H \neq \emptyset$  for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ .

Our next aim is to prove that there are characters  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_k \in \widehat{T}$  with the following property: for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ , we have  $(\chi_1|_H, \dots, \chi_k|_H) \in \Gamma_H$ . This will be shown by a compactness argument.

If  $\chi \in \widehat{T}$  and  $t \in T$  is an element of order  $d(t)$ , then  $\chi(t)$  is a root of unity of order  $d(t)$ . Consider the product  $P = \prod_{t \in T} X_t$ , where  $X_t$  is the set of roots of unity of order  $d(t)$  equipped with the discrete topology for every  $t \in T$ . Then  $P$  is a compact topological space, and  $\widehat{T} \subset P$ . The product space  $P^k$  is also compact.

For every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ , the set  $\Gamma_H$  is finite. Therefore, the set  $C_H$  of  $k$ -tuples  $(p_1, \dots, p_k) \in P^k$  such that  $(p_1|_H, \dots, p_k|_H) \in \Gamma_H$  is a closed, hence compact subset of  $P^k$ . We show that if  $H_1, \dots, H_m \in \mathcal{H}$ , then  $C_{H_1} \cap \dots \cap C_{H_m} \neq \emptyset$ . Indeed, if  $H$  denotes the group generated by  $H_1 \cup \dots \cup H_m$ , then  $H$  is finite (since  $T$  is torsion), and thus  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ . Let  $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k) \in \Gamma_H$ , and let  $p_i \in P$  be an arbitrary extension of  $\gamma_i$  to  $T$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ). It is clear that  $(p_1, \dots, p_k)$  belongs to  $C_{H_j}$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, m$ .

Therefore, by the compactness of  $P^k$ , we have  $\bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{H}} C_H \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $(\chi_1, \dots, \chi_k)$  be a common element of each  $C_H$  ( $H \in \mathcal{H}$ ). Then  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_k$  are characters of  $T$ . Indeed, let  $t_1, t_2 \in T$  be arbitrary, and let  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  be a finite subgroup containing  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ . Since  $\chi_i|_H$  is a character of  $H$ , we have  $\chi_i(t_1 + t_2) = \chi_i(t_1) \cdot \chi_i(t_2)$ , proving that  $\chi_i$  is multiplicative. We also have  $\chi_i(t) \in X_t$  for every  $t \in T$ , and thus  $\chi_i$  does not vanish. Therefore,  $\chi_i$  is a character for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

For every fixed  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , consider the family of varieties  $V(\chi_i|_H)$  ( $H \in \mathcal{H}$ ). Since the varieties on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  satisfy the minimal condition, there is a finite group  $B_i \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $V(\chi_i|_{B_i})$  is minimal among these varieties. Now, as the variety  $V(\gamma)$  is a decreasing function of  $\gamma$ , it follows that, whenever  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $B_i \subset H$  then  $V(\chi_i|_H) = V(\chi_i|_{B_i})$ . Let  $B$  denote the group generated by  $B_1, \dots, B_k$ ; then  $B \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then, for every  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  with  $B \subset H$  we have  $V(\chi_i|_H) = V(\chi_i|_B)$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

We selected  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_k$  in such a way that  $(\chi_1|_B, \dots, \chi_k|_B) \in \Gamma_B$  holds; that is, there are functions  $f_i \in V(\chi_i|_B)$  such that

$$g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^k f_i(x) \chi_i(t) \quad (20)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . As we proved above, we have  $V(\chi_i|_B) = V(\chi_i|_H)$  for every finite group  $H \supset B$ , and thus  $f_i \otimes (\chi_i|_H) \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times H}$  for every such  $H$ . In other words, if  $H \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $B \subset H$ , then there is a function  $g_H \in V$  such that  $f_i(x) \chi_i(t) = g_H(x, t)$  ( $(x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times H$ ). In particular, for every finite subset of  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ , the function  $f_i \otimes \chi_i$  equals the restriction of an element of  $V$  to the given finite set. Since  $V$  is closed, this means that  $f_i \otimes \chi_i \in V$ .

We have proved the existence of functions  $f_i$  and characters  $\chi_i \in \widehat{T}$  such that  $f_i \otimes \chi_i \in V$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and (20) holds for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . Let  $W_i$  denote the set of functions  $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f \otimes \chi_i \in V$ . Then  $W_i$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  containing  $f_i$ . By Lefranc's theorem [7], spectral synthesis

holds on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , and thus we can find, for every given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , an exponential polynomial  $\phi_i \in W_i$  such that  $|f_i(x) - \phi_i(x)| < \varepsilon/k$  for every  $x \in F_1$ . It is clear that  $\phi_i \otimes \chi_i$  is an exponential polynomial on  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$  and we also have  $\phi_i \otimes \chi_i \in V$  by  $\phi_i \in W_i$ . Then  $\phi = \sum_{i=1}^k (\phi_i \otimes \chi_i)$  is an exponential polynomial belonging to  $V$  such that  $|\phi(y) - g(y)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $y \in F$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Remark 16.** Lemma 15 actually gives the following. *If  $V$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ , then  $V$  is spanned by all functions in  $V$  having the form  $(pm) \otimes \chi$ , where  $p$  is a polynomial,  $m$  is an exponential on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  and  $\chi$  is a character of  $T$ .*

**Lemma 17.** *Let  $n, N$  be positive integers, and let*

$$H = N \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_i \ (i = 1, \dots, n)\}.$$

*Let  $T$  be a discrete torsion group, and let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ . Suppose that  $(p \cdot m) \otimes \chi \in V|_{H \times T}$ , where  $p \in C[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $m : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is an exponential, and  $\chi \in \widehat{T}$ . Then for every finite set  $F \subset H \times T$  with  $|F| = k$  and for every  $\eta > 0$  there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  such that  $m_j|_H = m$  and  $(p_j \cdot m_j) \otimes \chi \in V$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and*

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j(x) \right| < \eta \quad (21)$$

*for every  $(x, t) \in F$ .*

**Proof.** First we assume that  $T$  is finite. Let  $F_1 \subset H$  be a finite set such that  $F \subset F_1 \times T$  and  $|F_1| \leq k$ . Let  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_s$  be the characters of  $T$  listed in such a way that  $\chi = \chi_1$ . Since  $(p \cdot m) \otimes \chi \in V|_{H \times T}$ , there exists a  $g \in V$  such that  $(p \cdot m) \otimes \chi = g|_{H \times T}$ . By Lemma 4, there are functions  $f_1, \dots, f_s : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f_i \otimes \chi_i \in V$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, s$ , and

$$g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^s f_i(x) \chi_i(t) \quad (22)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ . If  $x \in H$ , then (22) gives

$$p(x)m(x)\chi(t) = \sum_{i=1}^s f_i(x)\chi_i(t) \quad (23)$$

for every  $t \in T$ . Since the characters  $\chi_i$  are linearly independent and  $\chi = \chi_1$ , we find that  $p(x)m(x)\chi(t) = f_1(x)\chi(t)$  for every  $x \in H$ . Therefore, we have  $pm = f_1|_H$ .

Let  $V(\chi)$  denote the set of functions  $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f \otimes \chi \in V$ . Then  $V(\chi)$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Since  $f_1 \in V(\chi)$ , we have  $pm \in V(\chi)|_H$ . Thus, we may apply Lemma 14, and obtain the polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  and the exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_r$  defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  such that  $p_i m_i \in V(\chi)$  and  $m_i|_H = m$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , and

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{i=1}^r p_i(x) \right| < \eta \quad (24)$$

for every  $x \in F_1$ . By  $p_i m_i \in V(\chi)$  we have  $(p_i m_i) \otimes \chi \in V$  for every  $i$ . Since  $F \subset F_1 \times T$ , this proves the statement of the lemma, apart from the fact that  $r$  can be larger than  $k = |F|$ . In order to reduce the number  $r$  we may apply the argument used in the previous proof. The set of functions  $\mathbb{C}^{F_1} = \{f : F_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  is a linear space of dimension  $|F_1| \leq k$ . The functions  $\psi_i = (p_i m_i)|_{F_1}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, r$ ) generate a linear subspace  $L$  of  $\mathbb{C}^{F_1}$ . Thus the dimension of  $L$  is at most  $k$ , and it is generated by at most  $k$  of the functions  $\psi_i$ . We may assume that  $L$  is generated by the functions  $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_k$ . Since

$$S = \left( \sum_{i=1}^r p_i m_i \right) \Big|_{F_1} \in L,$$

we have  $S(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \psi_i(x)$  for every  $x \in F_1$  with suitable constants  $c_i$ . Now we have  $c_i \psi_i = (c_i p_i) \cdot m_i \in V$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , which completes the proof in the case when  $T$  is finite.

Now let  $T$  be an arbitrary torsion group. Let  $F_1 \subset H$  and  $F_2 \subset T$  be finite sets such that  $F \subset F_1 \times F_2$ . We shall denote by  $\mathcal{H}$  the family of all finite subgroups  $G \subset T$  satisfying  $F_2 \subset G$ . If  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\gamma \in \widehat{G}$ , then we shall denote by  $V(\gamma)$  the set of functions  $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f \otimes \gamma \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times G}$ . It is easy to check that  $V(\gamma)$  is a variety on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Note that if  $G \subset G'$ ,  $\gamma \in \widehat{G}$ ,  $\gamma' \in \widehat{G'}$  and  $\gamma'$  is an extension of  $\gamma$ , then  $V(\gamma) \supset V(\gamma')$ . We shall refer to this property by saying that the variety  $V(\gamma)$  is a decreasing function of  $\gamma$ .

For every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  we define two sets of  $k$ -tuples as follows.  $D_G$  will denote the set of  $k$ -tuples  $(p_1 m_1, \dots, p_k m_k)$ , where  $p_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $m_i$  is an

exponential defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ ,  $m_i|_H = m$  and  $(p_i m_i) \otimes (\chi|_G) \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times G}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and (21) holds for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . Also, we shall denote by  $E_G$  the set of those  $k$ -tuples  $(m_1, \dots, m_k)$  for which  $(p_1 m_1, \dots, p_k m_k) \in D_G$  for some polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ . As we proved above,  $D_G$  and  $E_G$  are nonempty for every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$ . It is clear that if  $G, G' \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $G \subset G'$  then  $D_G \supset D_{G'}$  and  $E_G \supset E_{G'}$ . Therefore, the intersections  $D_{G_1} \cap \dots \cap D_{G_s}$  and  $E_{G_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{G_s}$  are nonempty for any  $G_1, \dots, G_s \in \mathcal{H}$ .

We prove that  $\bigcap \{D_G : G \in \mathcal{H}\} \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $H = N \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n$ , it follows that  $m$  only has **only** a finite number of extensions to  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  as an exponential. Indeed, if  $m'$  is an exponential on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  with  $m'|_H = m$  then for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  the equation  $m'(x)^N = m'(Nx) = m(Nx)$  implies that the number of possible values of  $m'(x)$  is at most  $N$ . Since  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  is generated by  $n$  elements, it follows that the number of possible exponentials defined on  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  is at most  $N^n$ . Therefore, the set  $\bigcup \{E_G : G \in \mathcal{H}\}$  is finite. Then  $\bigcap \{E_G : G \in \mathcal{H}\} = E_{G_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{G_s}$  for some  $G_1, \dots, G_s \in \mathcal{H}$ , and thus  $\bigcap \{E_G : G \in \mathcal{H}\} \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $(m_1, \dots, m_k) \in \bigcap \{E_G : G \in \mathcal{H}\}$  be fixed. For every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  we shall denote by  $M_i(G)$  the set of polynomials  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $(p \cdot m_i) \otimes (\chi|_G) \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times G}$ . Clearly,  $M_i(G)$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . We show that  $M_i(G)$  is invariant under translations by vectors of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Indeed, let  $p \in M_i(G)$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  be arbitrary, and let  $f \in V$  be such that

$$f|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times G} = (p \cdot m_i) \otimes (\chi|_G).$$

Since  $V$  is translation invariant, the function  $(x, t) \mapsto f(x + a, t)$  belongs to  $V$ . Thus

$$p(x + a) \cdot m_i(x) \chi(t) = \frac{1}{m_i(a)} \cdot p(x + a) \cdot m_i(x + a) \chi(t) = \frac{1}{m_i(a)} \cdot f(x + a, t)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times G$ , which proves that the polynomial  $x \mapsto p(x + a)$  belongs to  $M_i(G)$ .

Therefore, by Lemma 7,  $M_i(G)$  is a submodule of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . It is easy to see that  $M_i(G)$  is a decreasing function of  $G$ .

For every fixed  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , consider the family of modules  $M_i(G)$  ( $G \in \mathcal{H}$ ). Since the submodules of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  satisfy the minimal condition, there is a finite group  $B_i \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $M_i(B_i)$  is minimal among these modules. Now, as the module  $M_i(G)$  is a decreasing function of  $G$ , it follows that, whenever  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $B_i \subset G$  then  $M_i(G) = M_i(B_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).

Let  $B$  denote the group generated by  $B_1, \dots, B_k$ ; then  $B \in \mathcal{H}$ , and for every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  with  $B \subset G$  we have  $M_i(G) = M_i(B)$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

Since  $(m_1, \dots, m_k) \in E_B$ , there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  such that  $(p_1 m_1, \dots, p_k m_k) \in D_B$ . Then  $(p_i m_i) \otimes (\chi|_B) \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times B}$ ; that is,  $p_i \in M_i(B)$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Now we prove that

$$(p_1 m_1, \dots, p_k m_k) \in D_G \quad (25)$$

for every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$ . Let  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  be arbitrary; we may assume that  $B \subset G$ . Then  $M_i(B) = M_i(G)$ , and thus  $p_i \in M_i(G)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), which implies (25). Therefore,  $(p_i m_i) \otimes (\chi|_G) \in V|_{\mathbb{Z}^n \times G}$  for every  $G \in \mathcal{H}$ . In other words, if  $G \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $B \subset G$ , then there is a function  $g_G \in V$  such that  $p_i(x) m_i(x) \chi(t) = g_G(x, t)$  ( $(x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^n \times G$ ). In particular, for every finite subset of  $\mathbb{Z}^n \times T$ , the function  $p_i(x) m_i(x) \chi(t)$  equals the restriction of an element of  $V$  to the given finite set. Since  $V$  is closed, this means that  $(p_i m_i) \otimes \chi \in V$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

## 7 Spectral synthesis on $\mathbb{Q}^n \times T$ , where $T$ is torsion.

Let  $T$  be a discrete torsion group. In this section we complete the proof of Theorem 1 by showing that spectral synthesis holds on  $\mathbb{Q}^n \times T$  for every positive integer  $n$ . Let

$$G_i = \left\{ \left( \frac{k_1}{i!}, \dots, \frac{k_n}{i!} \right) : k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

for every  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Then  $G_1, G_2, \dots$  is an increasing sequence of subgroups of  $\mathbb{Q}^n$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i = \mathbb{Q}^n$ . In addition, for every  $i < j$  there exists a isomorphism  $\phi$  from  $G_j$  onto  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  and there is an integer  $N > 1$  such that

$$\phi(G_i) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : N \mid x_1, \dots, N \mid x_n\}.$$

This implies that the statement of Lemma 17 remains valid if we replace  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  by  $G_j$  and  $H$  by  $G_i$ .

Now let  $V$  be a variety on  $\mathbb{Q} \times T$ , and let  $g \in V$  be arbitrary. We have to show that for every finite set  $F \subset \mathbb{Q}^n \times T$  and for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a exponential polynomial  $\phi \in V$  such that  $|\phi(y) - g(y)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $y \in F$ .

Let  $|F| = k$ , and let  $i_0$  be such that  $F \subset G_{i_0} \times T$ . By Theorem 3,  $V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$  is a variety on  $G_{i_0}$ . Since  $G_{i_0}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , it follows from Lemma 15 that spectral synthesis holds in  $V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$ . In other words, we can find an exponential polynomial  $\phi_0 \in V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$  such that  $|g(y) - \phi_0(y)| < \varepsilon/2$  for every  $y \in F$ . Moreover, by Remark 16, we may assume that  $\phi_0(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^s (p_i \cdot m_i) \otimes \chi_i$ , where  $p_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $m_i$  is an exponential defined on  $G_{i_0}$ ,  $\chi \in \widehat{T}$ , and  $(p_i \cdot m_i) \otimes \chi_i \in V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, s$ . Clearly, it is enough to show that for every  $i$  there is an exponential polynomial  $\phi_i \in V$  such that

$$|(p_i \cdot m_i)(x)\chi_i(t) - \phi_i(x, t)| < \varepsilon/(2s)$$

for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . Summing up: we have to show that whenever

- $p$  is a polynomial,
- $m$  is an exponential on  $G_{i_0}$ ,
- $\chi$  is a character of  $T$ ,
- $(pm) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$ ,
- $F \subset G_{i_0} \times T$  is a finite set, and
- $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

then there is an exponential polynomial  $\psi \in V$  such that  $|(p \cdot m)(x)\chi(t) - \psi(x, t)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . In the course of the following proof  $p, m, \chi, F$  and  $\varepsilon$  will be fixed. Let  $k$  denote the cardinality of  $F$ . We put  $\eta = \varepsilon / \max_{(x, t) \in F} |m(x)|$ .

Let  $i > i_0$  be given. As we remarked above, the statement of Lemma 17 remains valid if we replace  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  by  $G_i$  and  $H$  by  $G_{i_0}$ . Since  $V|_{G_i \times T}$  is a variety and  $(pm) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_{i_0} \times T}$ , we obtain the polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  and the exponentials  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  defined on  $G_i$  such that  $m_j|_{G_0} = m$  and  $(p_j m_j) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and

$$\left| p(x) - \sum_{j=1}^k p_j(x) \right| < \eta \tag{26}$$

for every  $(x, t) \in F$ . Let  $\Xi$  denote the set of  $k+1$ -tuples  $(i, m_1, \dots, m_k)$  with the following properties: (i)  $i \geq i_0$ ; (ii)  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  are exponentials defined



on  $G_i$  such that  $m_j|_{G_{i_0}} = m$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ ; (iii) there are polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  such that  $(p_j m_j) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ , and (26) holds for every  $x \in F$ . As we proved,  $\Xi$  contains  $k+1$ -tuples  $(i, m_1, \dots, m_k)$  for every  $i \geq i_0$ .

We define a partial order on  $\Xi$  as follows: if  $(i, m_1, \dots, m_k)$  and  $(i', m'_1, \dots, m'_k)$  are elements of  $\Xi$  then we write

$$(i, m_1, \dots, m_k) < (i', m'_1, \dots, m'_k)$$

if  $i < i'$  and  $m'_j|_{G_i} = m_j$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ . It is clear that this partial order makes  $\Xi$  a tree. Every level of  $\Xi$  is finite. Indeed, if  $i$  is fixed then there is an integer  $N$  such that  $N \cdot G_i = G_{i_0}$ . This implies that  $m$  only has a finite number of extensions to  $G_i$  as an exponential, and thus the number of  $k+1$ -tuples  $(i, m_1, \dots, m_k) \in \Xi$  is finite.

By König's lemma [6, 5.7. Lemma, p. 69],  $\Xi$  has an infinite chain. That is, there is a sequence of  $k+1$ -tuples  $(i, m_1^i, \dots, m_k^i) \in \Xi$  ( $i \geq i_0$ ) such that

$$m_j^{i+1}|_{G_i} = m_j^i \quad (27)$$

for every  $i \geq i_0$  and  $j = 1, \dots, k$ .

For every  $i \geq i_0$  and  $j = 1, \dots, k$  we shall denote by  $M_j^i$  the set of polynomials  $p \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $(p \cdot m_j^i) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$ . It is obvious that  $M_j^i$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . It is easy to see that  $M_j^i$  is invariant under translations by elements of  $G_i$ . Therefore, by Lemma 7,  $M_j^i$  is a submodule of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  for every  $i$  and  $j$ .

For every  $i$  and  $j$  we have  $M_j^i \supset M_j^{i+1}$ . Indeed, if  $p \in M_j^{i+1}$ , then  $(p \cdot m_j^{i+1}) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_{i+1} \times T}$ . By (27), this implies  $(p \cdot m_j^i) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$ ; that is,  $p \in M_j^i$ . Now it follows from Lemma 8, that for every  $j$  there is an index  $i(j)$  such that  $M_j^i = M_j^{i(j)}$  for every  $i \geq i(j)$ . Let  $i_1 = \max\{i_0, i(1), \dots, i(k)\}$ . Then we have  $M_j^i = M_j^{i_1}$  for every  $i \geq i_1$ .

By the definition of  $\Xi$  we can find polynomials  $p_j \in M_j^{i_1}$  ( $j = 1, \dots, k$ ) such that (26) holds for every  $x \in F$ . If  $i > i_1$  then  $M_j^i = M_j^{i_1}$  for every  $j$ , and hence  $(p_j \cdot m_j^i) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$  for every  $i > i_1$  and  $j = 1, \dots, k$ .

It follows from (27) that for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$  there is a function  $m_j : \mathbb{Q}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $m_j|_{G_i} = m_j^i$  for every  $i \geq i_1$ . It is clear that  $m_j$  is an exponential on  $\mathbb{Q}^n$ . By  $(p_j m_j^i) \otimes \chi \in V|_{G_i \times T}$  we can find a function  $g_j^i \in V$

such that  $g_j^i|_{G_i} = (p_j m_j^i) \otimes \chi$ . It is easy to see that the sequence  $(g_j^i)_{i \geq i_1}$  converges pointwise to the function  $(p_j m_j) \otimes \chi$ , and thus  $(p_j m_j) \otimes \chi \in V$ .

Now  $\psi = \sum (p_j m_j) \otimes \chi$  is an exponential polynomial belonging to  $V$ . Taking into consideration that  $m_j$  is an extension of  $m_j^{i_1}$  and that  $F \subset G_{i_0} \times T \subset G_{i_1} \times T$ , it follows from (26) that  $|(p \cdot m)(x)\chi(t) - \psi(x, t)| < \varepsilon$  for every  $x \in F$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

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