

The $\wedge n$ -conjecture for metabelian groups

Autor(en): **Bieri, Robert**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **L'Enseignement Mathématique**

Band (Jahr): **54 (2008)**

Heft 1-2

PDF erstellt am: **25.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-109882>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

13

THE Σ^n -CONJECTURE FOR METABELIAN GROUPS

by Robert BIERI

Let G be a finitely generated group, m the \mathbf{Z} -rank of its abelianization G/G' , and A a G -module. The *geometric invariant* $\Sigma^n(G; A)$ is a conical subset of the \mathbf{R} -vector space $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R}^{\text{add}}) \cong \mathbf{R}^m$, which collects information on the finiteness properties of A , when regarded as a module over certain subrings $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbf{Z}G$. Recall that A is said to be *of type FP_n* over Λ if A admits a resolution by free Λ -modules which are finitely generated in all dimensions $\leq n$. To say that G is *of type FP_n* means that the trivial G -module \mathbf{Z} is of type FP_n. Following [4] we consider, for each homomorphism $\chi: G \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{\text{add}}$, the submonoid $G_\chi = \{g \in G \mid \chi(g) \geq 0\}$, and define

DEFINITION 13.1.

$$\Sigma^n(G; A) := \{\chi \mid A \text{ is of type FP}_n \text{ over the monoid ring } \mathbf{Z}G_\chi\},$$

in particular,

$$0 \in \Sigma^n(G; A) \Leftrightarrow \Sigma^n(G; A) \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow A \text{ is of type FP}_n \text{ as } \mathbf{Z}G\text{-module.}$$

It is of considerable interest to have information on these invariants, as they allow one to find all normal subgroups $N \triangleleft G$ of type FP_n, with $Q = G/N$ abelian.

THEOREM 13.2 ([4]). $N \triangleleft G$, with G/N abelian, is of type FP_n, if and only if $\chi(N) = 0$ implies $\chi \in \Sigma^n(G; \mathbf{Z})$.

Properties of $\Sigma^n(G; A)$ are often easier to state in terms of its complement in $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R})$. We will use the following notation: if X and Y are subsets of $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R})$ then $X^c := \text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R}) - X$ stands for the complement and $X + Y := \{x + y \mid x \in X, y \in Y\}$ for their sum.

The group G is *metabelian* if it contains a normal subgroup $A \triangleleft G$ with both A and $Q := G/A$ abelian. A is then a Q -module via conjugation in G . Since the group G is finitely generated, we have $\Sigma^0(G; \mathbf{Z}) = \text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R})$. In the metabelian case one observes that $\Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})$ depends only on the Q -module A , and that its complement is contained in the linear subspace $\text{Hom}(Q, \mathbf{R}) \subseteq \text{Hom}(G, \mathbf{R})$; in fact,

$$\Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})^c = \Sigma^0(Q; A)^c.$$

$\Sigma^0(Q; A)^c$ is fairly well understood. By [2] it is a *closed rational polyhedral cone* (i.e., it can be described in terms of finitely many inequalities with integer coefficients). In principle it can effectively be constructed, by Groebner-basis techniques, from a presentation of the Q -module A .

Examples show that the higher invariants $\Sigma^n(G; \mathbf{Z})$ are, in general, independent of $\Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})$; not so in the metabelian case:

CONJECTURE 13.3 (Σ^n -Conjecture). *If G is a finitely generated metabelian group, and $n > 0$, then*

$$\Sigma^n(G; \mathbf{Z})^c = \bigcup_{1 \leq k \leq n} \underbrace{(\Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})^c + \dots + \Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})^c)}_{k \text{ copies}}.$$

Note that this contains the older

CONJECTURE 13.4 (FP_n -Conjecture). *If G is a finitely generated metabelian group, and $n > 0$, then*

$$G \text{ is of type } \text{FP}_n \iff 0 \notin \underbrace{\Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})^c + \dots + \Sigma^1(G; \mathbf{Z})^c}_{n \text{ copies}}.$$

The power of these conjectures (and the partial result on low dimensions and special classes of groups) lies in the fact that neither of the two inclusions is easy. It has a number of intriguing consequences like:

- If a metabelian group G is of type FP_n , so is every homomorphic image of G .
- If $A \triangleleft G$, $Q := G/A$ as above then whether or not G is of type FP_n depends only on the Q -module A .
- If $A \triangleleft G$, $Q := G/A$ as above and $P := \{(x, y) \mid xA = yA\} \leq G \times G$ is the (untwisted) fiber product then G is of type FP_n if and only if P is of type FP_n .

The Conjectures have been open for twenty years. Progress on the Σ^n -Conjecture in special situations was always triggered by progress on the FP_n -Conjecture [5], [1], [9], [6], [13], [3]. The Σ^n -Conjecture has been settled, by Holger Meinert [12], in the case when G has finite Prüfer rank and by Dessislava Kochloukova [10] when A is torsion with Krull dimension 1. Kochloukova [11] and Harlander–Kochloukova [8] established it when $n = 2$ and, in the semi-direct product case, for $n = 3$ [7].

REFERENCES

- [1] ÅBERG, H. Bieri–Strebel valuations (of finite rank). *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3) 52 (1986), 269–304.
- [2] BIERI, R. and J. R. J. GROVES. The geometry of the set of characters induced by valuations. *J. Reine Angew. Math.* 347 (1984), 168–195.
- [3] BIERI, R. and J. HARLANDER. On the FP_3 -Conjecture for metabelian groups. *J. London Math. Soc.* (2) 64 (2001), 595–610.
- [4] BIERI, R. and B. RENZ. Valuations on free resolutions and higher geometric invariants of groups. *Comment. Math. Helv.* 63 (1988), 464–497.
- [5] BIERI, R. and R. STREBEL. Valuations and finitely presented metabelian groups. *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3) 41 (1980), 439–464.
- [6] BUX, K.-U. Finiteness properties of certain metabelian arithmetic groups in the function field case. *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3) 75 (1997), 308–322.
- [7] HARLANDER, J. and D. H. KOCHLOUKOVA. The Σ^3 -conjecture for metabelian groups. *J. London Math. Soc.* (2) 67 (2003), 609–625.
- [8] HARLANDER, J. and D. H. KOCHLOUKOVA. The Σ^2 -Conjecture for metabelian groups: the general case. *J. Algebra* 273 (2004), 435–454.
- [9] KOCHLOUKOVA D. H. The FP_m -conjecture for a class of metabelian groups. *J. Algebra* 184 (1996), 1175–1204.
- [10] —— The Σ^m -conjecture for a class of metabelian groups. *Groups St. Andrews 1997 in Bath, II*, 492–502. London Math. Soc. Lecture Note Series 261, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999.
- [11] —— The Σ^2 -conjecture for metabelian groups and some new conjectures: the split extension case. *J. Algebra* 222 (1999), 357–375.
- [12] MEINERT, H. The homological invariants of metabelian groups of finite Prüfer rank: a proof of the Σ^n -Conjecture. *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3) 72 (1996), 385–424.
- [13] NOSKOV, G. A. The Bieri–Strebel invariant and homological finiteness conditions for metabelian groups. *Algebra Logic* 36 (1997), 117–132.

Robert Bieri

Fachbereich 12
 Robert-Mayer-Strasse 6-10
 D-60325 Frankfurt am Main
 Germany
e-mail: bieri@math.uni-frankfurt.de