

Example 5.5 (Essential Variety). This is an example taken from [13]. Let \mathcal{E} be the essential variety defined as:

$$\mathcal{E} = \left\{ M \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \mid \det(M) = 0, 2(MM^T)M - \text{tr}(MM^T)M = 0 \right\},$$

where $\det(M)$ is the determinant of M and $\text{tr}(MM^T)$ is the trace of MM^T .

If we write the matrix M as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ u & v & w \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix},$$

then the 10 cubics defining \mathcal{E} are:

$$\begin{aligned} & avz - awy - buz + bwx + cuy - cvx, \\ & (2a^2 + 2b^2 + 2c^2)a + (2au + 2bv + 2cw)u + (2ax + 2by + 2cz)x - ga, \\ & (2a^2 + 2b^2 + 2c^2)b + (2au + 2bv + 2cw)v + (2ax + 2by + 2cz)y - gb, \\ & (2a^2 + 2b^2 + 2c^2)c + (2au + 2bv + 2cw)w + (2ax + 2by + 2cz)z - gc, \\ & (2au + 2bv + 2cw)a + (2u^2 + 2v^2 + 2w^2)u + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)x - gu, \\ & (2au + 2bv + 2cw)b + (2u^2 + 2v^2 + 2w^2)v + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)y - gv, \\ & (2au + 2bv + 2cw)c + (2u^2 + 2v^2 + 2w^2)w + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)z - gw, \\ & (2ax + 2by + 2cz)a + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)u + (2x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2)x - gx, \\ & (2ax + 2by + 2cz)b + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)v + (2x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2)y - gy, \\ & (2ax + 2by + 2cz)c + (2ux + 2vy + 2wz)w + (2x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2)z - gz, \end{aligned}$$

where $g = (a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + u^2 + v^2 + w^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$. Let I denote the ideal generated by these 10 cubics. Take these 10 cubics as input and we obtain in 800 sec. only one minimal prime of $\sqrt[I]{I}$, which is the ideal I itself. Thus I is a real ideal.

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