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On the topology of orbits for actions of algebraic groups and related results

Author :Dao Phuong Bac (joint work with N. Q. Thang)Address :Vietnam National University, HanoiHarvard University

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Abstract

We investigate the problem of closedness of (relative) orbits for the action of algebraic groups on affine varieties defined over complete fields, its relation with the problem of equipping a topology on cohomology groups (sets), and some estimates for relative orbits of subsets. This is joint work with Nguyen Quoc Thang.

Set up

- Let k be a local field. For any affine k-variety X, we can endow X(k) with the (Hausdorff) v-adic topology induced from that of k.
- (2) $x \in X(k)$, we are interested in a connection between the Zariski-closedness of G.x and Hausdorff closedness of G(k).x.
- (3) k = ℝ, ℚ_p: considered by Borel/Harish-Chandra (1962), D. Birkes (1971), P. Slodowy (1989). Namely, If G is a reductive group over k = ℝ or p-adic field, G.x is Zariski closed if and only if G(k).x is closed.

Set up (continued)

- (4) Aim: What extent the above result still hold for more general class of algebraic groups and complete fields?
- (5) The above problem relates to the problem of equipping a topology on cohomology groups (or sets), which has important aspects, say in duality theory for Galois or flat cohomology in general (J. Milne (1986), S. Shatz (1964, 1972)).
- (6) Note that in the case char. k = p > 0, the stabilizer G_v is not smooth in general. Therefore, it needs some careful considerations.

Theorem (B.-N.Q.Thang 2013)

Assume that k is local field, G a smooth affine k-group, acting k-regularly on an affine k-variety V, $v \in V(k)$.

- (1) (a) G(k).v is closed in (G.v)(k). Thus if G.v is closed in V, then G(k).v is Hausdorff closed in V(k).
 - (b) If moreover G_v is smooth over k, then for any w ∈ (G.v)(k) the relative orbit G(k).w is open and closed in Hausdorff topology of (G.v)(k).
- (2) Assume that G(k).v is Hausdorff closed in V(k). Then if either
 - (a) G is nilpotent, or

(b) G is reductive and the action of G is strongly separable,

then G.v is Zariski closed in V.

(3) Assume further that k is perfect, $G = L \times_k U$, where L is reductive, U is unipotent defined over k, then G(k).v is closed if and only if G.v is Zariski closed.

Notion.

The action of G is said to be strongly separable (after Ramanan-Ramanathan) at v if for all $x \in cl(G.v)$, the stablizer G_x is smooth, or equivalently, $G \to G/G_x$ is separable.

Proposition 1. (compare with Borel-Tits,

Bremigan, Gille/Moret-Bailly)

If G_v is a smooth k-subgroup of G, then for any $w \in (G.v)(k)$, the relative orbit G(k).w is open and closed in (G.v)(k).

First proof. (Basically due to Borel-Tits (1965)) G_v is smooth \Rightarrow for all $w \in (G.v)(k)$, the projection

$$\pi': G \to G.w = G.v,$$
$$g \mapsto g.w,$$

is also separable and defined over k. Therefore,

 $\pi'_k : G(k) \to (G.w)(k)$ also has surjective differential, so it is open by Implicit Function Theorem. Thus all G(k)-orbits G(k).w are open and then they are also closed in (G.v)(k).

Remark

In the case that G_v need not be smooth, the closedness of relative orbits still holds, while the openess may fail. Namely, let $G := \mathbb{G}_a \curvearrowright \mathbb{A}^1, g.x = g^p x$. Then for x = 1, $G(k).x = k^p$ is closed but not open in k. Indeed, assume that $k = k_0((T)), k_0 = \mathbb{F}_q$. Consider $u_n = 1 + t^p + t^{p^2} + \cdots + t^{p^n} + t^{p^n+1} \notin k^p$. Hence, $u_n \rightarrow u = 1 + t^p + t^{p^2} + t^{p^3} + \cdots \in k^p$. So $k \setminus k^p$ is not closed. Therefore, k^p is not open in k.

Theorem

G(k).v is closed in (G.v)(k).

Remark

Bate-Martin-Roerhle-Tange (2013) consider the topology on V(k) induced from Zariski topology and show the codition that G.v is closed does not imply G(k).v is closed. Namely, let $k = \mathbb{R}$, $G = SL_2$ acting on V = G by conjugation, and let

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, w = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, g = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $v, w \in V(\mathbb{R})$, and w = g.v, so v, w are $G(\mathbb{C})$ -conjugate but not $G(\mathbb{R})$ -conjugate. Hence, w lies in the closure in $V(\mathbb{R})$ of $G(\mathbb{R}).v$, which implies that $G(\mathbb{R}).v$ is not closed in $V(\mathbb{R})$ (in the above topology induced from Zariski topology). But G.v is closed since v is semisimple.

Idea of the proof

- (1) We can claim that if $\gamma : G \to H$ is a k-morphism of algebraic groups, then the image $\gamma_k(G(k))$ is closed in H(k).
- (2) For each scheme of finite type X over k, we let F be the Frobenius map and X^(pⁿ) = X ×_k k^(pⁿ), Fⁿ : X → X^(pⁿ), FX = KerFⁿ. If X = G, then H = G/FG is smooth affine k-group for n sufficiently large.
- (3) From the equality Fⁿ(X(k)) = X^(pⁿ)(k^{pⁿ}), and by using the Frobenius power, we can reduce to the case that G → H has smooth kernel. By Implicit Function Theorem, we get the conclusion.

Zariski closed orbits for actions of algebraic groups over arbitrary complete fields

Proposition

Let k be a local field, G a smooth affine group scheme of finite type acting k-regularly on an affine k-variety V. Let $v \in V(k)$ be a k-point. Assume that G(k).v is closed in Hausdorff topology induced from V(k). Then G.v is closed (in Zariski topology) in V in either of the following cases:

- (1) G is nilpotent.
- (2) G is reductive and the action of G is strongly separable at v in the sense of Ramanan-Ramanathan, i.e. for all x ∈ cl(G.v), the stabilizer G_x is smooth, or equivalently, the induced morphism G → G/G_x is separable.

Notion

Let $f : \mathbb{G}_m \to V$ be a morphism of algebraic varieties. If f can be extended to a morphism $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{G}_a \to V$, with $\tilde{f}(0) = v$, then we write $\lim_{t\to 0} f(t) = v$.

Idea of the proof

Assume that G.v is not closed, i.e. $cl(G.v) \setminus G.v \neq \emptyset$. If G is nilpotent (resp., G is reductive with the action is strongly separable), by using Birkes (resp., Ramanan-Ramanathan), there exists $\lambda : \mathbb{G}_m \to G$ defined over k such that $\lambda(t).v \to y \in Y$ while $t \to 0$. Thus, $y \in \overline{G(k).v} \setminus G.v$. Hence, G(k).v is not closed, and we get a contradiction.

Remarks

Generally, G_v needs not be smooth. There are some counter-examples to the effect that in any characteristic, if one of the conditions on G in the above Proposition (i.e., nilpotency, or the strong separability of the action), is removed, then the assertion does not hold. It does not hold already for $G = SL_2$, if one removes some hypotheses on strong separability.

Example

Let p be a prime, $k = \mathbb{F}_q((T))$, $q = p^r$, $G = SL_2$, B the Borel subgroup of G consisting of upper triangle matrices, and let ρ the representation of G into 2-dimensional k-vector space V given by

$$\rho: G = \mathrm{SL}_2 \to \mathrm{GL}_2, g = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a^p & b^p \\ c^p & d^p \end{pmatrix}, v = (1, T) \in V(k)$$

Then

- (1) $G.v = V \setminus \{(0,0)\}$ is open (and not closed) in the Zariski topology in V and G(k).v is closed in the Hausdorff topology in V(k).
- (2) $B.v = \{(x, y) \in V \mid y \neq 0\}$ is open (and not closed) in the Zariski topology in V and B(k).v is closed in the Hausdorff topology in V(k).

Example

Assume further that k is a local field of characteristic 0, $G = SL_2$, *B* the Borel subgroup of *G*, consisting of upper triangular matrices. Consider the standard representation of *G* by letting *G* act on the space $V_2 = \bar{k}[X, Y]_2$, considered as 3-dimensional \bar{k} -vector space with the canonical basis $\{X^2, XY, Y^2\}$. Then for $v = (1, 0, 1) \in V_2$, we have

(1)
$$B.v = \{(x, y, z) | 4xz = y^2 + 4\} \setminus \{z = 0\}$$
 is not Zariski closed;

(2) B(k).v = {(a² + b², 2bd, d²) | ad = 1, a, b, c, d ∈ k} is closed in the Hausdorff topology, where k is either R or a p-adic field, with p = 2 or p ≡ 3 (mod 4). Moreover, if we set n := [k[×] : k^{×2}], then we have the following decomposition (B.v)(k) = ∪1≤i≤ne_i(B(k).v)), where e_i are different representatives of cosets k[×] modulo k^{×2}, thus (B.v)(k) is also closed in the Hausdorff topology.

Zariski closed orbits for actions of algebraic groups over perfect complete fields

Theorem (An extension of a theorem of Kempf)

Let k be a perfect field, $G = L \times U$, where L is reductive and U is a smooth unipotent k-group. Let G act k-regularly on an affine k-variety V, and let v be a point of instability of V(k), i.e. the orbit G.v is not closed. Let Y be any closed G-invariant subset of $cl(G.v) \setminus G.v$. Then there exist a one-parameter subgroup $\lambda : \mathbb{G}_m \to G$, defined over k and a point $y \in Y \cap V(k)$, such that $\lim_{t\to 0} \lambda(t).v = y$.

Remark

In fact, in the reductive case, original theorem of G. Kempf gives more information about the nature of instable orbits. A version of Kempf's Theorem is originated from the works of Hilbert-Mumford-Birkes-Raghunathan. Namely, in the case that the field k is an algebraically closed field **(Hilbert-Mumford)**, \mathbb{R} (Birkes), number field (Raghunathan), perfect field (Kempf).

Theorem (Hilbert-Mumford-Birkes-Raghunathan-Kempf)

Let k be a perfect field, G a reductive group defined over k. Let G act k-regularly on an affine k-variety V, and let v be an unstable point V(k), i.e. $0 \in \overline{G.v}$. Then there exist a one-parameter subgroup $\lambda : \mathbb{G}_m \to G$, defined over k such that $\lim_{t\to 0} \lambda(t).v = 0$.

Corollary

Let k be a perfect, local field.

- (1) If $G = L \times U$, then G.v is closed if and only if G(k).v is Hausdorff closed.
- (2) Let G be a smooth nilpotent k-group, T the unique maximal k-torus of G. Then TFAE:
 - (a) G.v is closed.
 - (b) T.v is closed.
 - (c) G(k).v is closed.
 - (d) T(k).v is closed.

Idea of the proof

G.v is closed $\Rightarrow T.v$ is closed: By using the closed orbit lemma, let T act on G.v, there is a closed orbit T.gv. Hence, $(g^{-1}Tg).v$ is closed. Since G is nilpotent, $g^{-1}Tg = T$, thus T.v is closed.

Remarks

By a well-known theorem of Mostow, any connected algebraic group G over a field k of char. 0 has a decomposition $G = L \cdot U$, where L is a maximal connected reductive k-subgroup. The groups which are direct product of a reductive group and an unipotent group are perhaps the best possible for the fact that "G.v is closed if and only if G(k).v is closed". The following example gives a minimum example for which G.v is not Zariski closed although G(k).v is closed.

Example

Assume further that k is a local field of characteristic 0, $G = SL_2$, *B* the Borel subgroup of *G*, consisting of upper triangular matrices. Consider the standard representation of *G* by letting *G* act on the space $V_2 = \bar{k}[X, Y]_2$, considered as 3-dimensional \bar{k} -vector space with the canonical basis $\{X^2, XY, Y^2\}$. Then for $v = (1, 0, 1) \in V_2$, we have (1) $B.v = \{(x, y, z) \mid 4xz = y^2 + 4\} \setminus \{z = 0\}$ is not Zariski

closed;

(2) B(k).v = {(a² + b², 2bd, d²) | ad = 1, a, b, c, d ∈ k} is closed in the Hausdorff topology, where k is either R or a p-adic field, with p = 2 or p ≡ 3 (mod 4).

Also, in the case of solvable groups, in contrast with the nilpotent case we have

Proposition

Let G be a smooth affine solvable algebraic group defined a local field k of characteristic 0, T an arbitrary maximal k-torus of G, and let G act k-regularly on an affine k-variety V, $v \in V(k)$. We consider the following statements.

- (1) G.v is closed in Zariski topology,
- (2) For any above T, T.v is closed in Zariski topology,
- (3) G(k).v is closed in Hausdorff topology,
- (4) For any above T, T(k).v is closed in Hausdorff topology.

Then we have the following logical scheme $(2) \Leftrightarrow (4), (1) \Rightarrow (3), (1) \Rightarrow (2), (2) \Rightarrow (1), (3) \Rightarrow (4), (4) \Rightarrow (3), (3) \Rightarrow (1).$

On the topology on group cohomology of algebraic groups over complete valued fields

Set up

- Let G be an affine algebraic group scheme over k → can define the flat cohomology sets (or groups) Hⁱ_{fl}(k, G) for i = 0, 1. If G is commutative, we can define the group Hⁱ_{fl}(k, G) for i ≥ 2.
- (2) If G is smooth (i.e., absolutely reduced $(k[G] \otimes_k \overline{k} \text{ is reduced})$, then $\operatorname{H}^i_{\mathrm{fl}}(\overline{k}/k, G) = \operatorname{H}^i(k_s/k, G)$.
- (3) If k is endowed with a topology, say a v-adic topology, then $H^0_{fl}(k, G) = G(k)$ has induced v-adic topology.

Set up (continued)

- (4) In Shatz (1964, 1972), Milne (1986), due to the need of duality theory over local fields, a natural topology on the groups of cohomology has been introduced for commutative group scheme (only) and shows many applications: Tate-Nakayama duality, ...
- (5) **Question:** Are the connecting maps continuous? What can one say in the non-commutative case?
- (6) In Thang-Tan (2008), the special topology has been introduced. In this paper, we establish a relation between special topology and the canonical topology defined by S. Shatz.

Theorem (B.-N. Q. Thang)

Let G be an affine group scheme of finite type defined over a local field k. Then

- The (adelic) special and canonical topologies on H¹_{fl}(k, G) concide.
- (2) Any connecting map appearing in the exact sequence of cohomology in degree ≤ 1 induced from a short exact sequence of a finite group schemes of finite type involving G is continuous w.r.t (adelic) canonical (or special) topologies.

Applications

Second proof for the Proposition 1.

Since G_v is smooth, by the above theorem the special (or canonical) topology on $\mathrm{H}^1_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,G_v)$ is discrete. So from the exact sequence

$$G(k) \rightarrow (G.v)(k) \stackrel{\delta}{\rightarrow} \mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(k, G_{v}),$$

 $G(k).v = \delta^{-1}(1)$ is open and closed in (G.v)(k). Since δ is continuous, the conclusion holds for any other G(k)-orbit.

Special topology

 (1) A smooth (i.e. linear) algebraic k-group H is called special (over k) (after Grothendieck-Serre) if

 $\mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(L,H) = \mathrm{H}^{1}(L,H) = 0 \text{ for all } L/k.$

(2) Given a k-embedding $G \hookrightarrow H$ (special group), we have the following exact sequence of cohomology

$$1
ightarrow G(k)
ightarrow H(k)
ightarrow (H/G)(k) \stackrel{\delta}{
ightarrow} \mathrm{H}^1_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,G)
ightarrow 0.$$

Here H/G is a quasi-projective scheme of finite type defined over k.

- (3) Since δ is surjective, by using the natural (Hausdorff) topology on (H/G)(k), induced from that of k, we may endow $H^1_{fl}(k, G)$ with the strongest topology such that δ is continuous.
- (4) Definition. We call the above topology to be the *H*-special topology on H¹_{fl}(k, G).

Theorem

Let k be a local field and G an affine k-group scheme of finite type. Then the special topology on $H^1_{fl}(k, G)$ does not depend on the choice of the embedding into special groups and it depends only on k-isomorphism class of G.

Canonical topology. Non-commutative case

 Let G be a non-commutative k-group scheme of finite type. Let k ⊆ L ⊆ k̄ a normal extention. Let

$$heta_L: Z^1(L/k, G(L)) \subseteq G(L^{\otimes 2}) \to Z^1(L/k, G(L))/\sim$$

be the quotient map.

- (2) Definition
 - (a) The topology on $Z^1(L/k, G(L))$ induced from that of $G(L \otimes_k L)$ is called L/k-canonical topology on $Z^1(L/k, G(L))$.
 - (b) $\operatorname{H}^{1}_{fl}(L/k, G(L)) = Z^{1}(L/k, G(L))/\sim$ with quotient topology w.r.t. $\theta_{L}: Z^{1}(L/k, G(L)) \to Z^{1}/\sim$ is called L/k-canonical topology. (Denoted by $\tau_{L/k,c}$.)
 - (c) If $L = \overline{k}$, it is called canonical topology on $Z^1(\overline{k}/k, G(\overline{k}))$ (resp., on $H^1_{fl}(k, G)$). (Denoted by τ_c .)
 - (d) The topology on $H^1_{fl}(L/k, G(L))$ which is induced from τ_c on $H^1_{fl}(k, G)$ will be denoted by $\tau_{c,L/k}$.

Theorem

Let k be a local field. Then for any affine k-group scheme of finite type G and any special k-embedding $G \hookrightarrow H$, the H-special topology on $\mathrm{H}^1(k, G)$ concides with canonical topology there. In particular, the H-special topology does not depend on the choice of the embedding $G \hookrightarrow H$.

Ideal of the proof

(1) We have the following commutative diagram

Theorem

Let k be a local field, and let be given an exact sequence of affine k-group schemes of finite type:

$$1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \xrightarrow{\pi} C \rightarrow 1.$$

- All connecting maps between cohomology sets in degree ≤ 1 induced from the above diagram are continuous in their natural (i.e. v-adic or adelic) and the (adelic) special (resp. the canonical) topology on these sets.
- (2) If A is central in B and C is smooth, then the coboundary map $H^1_{fl}(k, C) \to H^2_{fl}(k, A)$ is also continuous w.r.t. (adelic) canonical topologies.
- (3) If, moreover, B is commutative, then all connecting maps in the exact sequence of flat cohomology, induced from above exact sequence, are continuous w.r.t. (adelic) canonical topology.

Proposition

If k as above, $X \hookrightarrow Y$ (as a closed subgroup scheme) Y/X is smooth, then the induced map $\mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,X) \to \mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,Y)$ is open in the special (thus also in canonical) topology on $\mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,X)$ and $\mathrm{H}^{1}_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,Y)$.

Corollary

If k is as above, then for any smooth k-group G, the canonical (or special) topology on $H^1(k, G)$ is the discrete topology.

Remark

The above Corollary is not valid anymore if we drop the smoothness assumption. Indeed, $G = \alpha_p$ implies that $\mathrm{H}^1_{\mathrm{fl}}(k,G) = k/k^p$, and that k^p is closed but not open in k. Thus the trivial class $\{*\}$ is merely closed and not open in the special topology.

Some estimes for actions of algebraic tori over complete fields

Some questions

Let k be a global field (a finite extension of \mathbb{Q} or a finite separable extension of $\mathbb{F}_p(T)$), T a k-torus, and let v be a discrete valuation on k, k_v the completion of k with respect to v, \mathcal{O}_v the ring of v-adic integers.

- (1) (Bruhat-Tits' question) Let $T(\mathcal{O}_v)$ be the maximal compact subgroup of $T(k_v)$. Then $T(k)T(\mathcal{O}_v) = T(k_v)$?
- (2) (Weak approximation question) Let S be a finite set of inequivalent valuations over k and φ : T(k) → Π_{v∈S} T(k_v) the diagonal embedding. Then φ has dense image in Π_{v∈S} T(k_v)?
- (3) (Rationality question) Is the variety T always k-rational?

Remark

Although there are some norm tori providing counter-examples for weak approximation question and rationality question, Colliot-Thelene/Sansuc (1987) showed that Bruhat-Tits question is valid for all norm tori. We propose the following question related to the Bruhat-Tits' question.

Question

Assume that T acts k-morphically on an affine k-variety X. Estimate the large measure of $T(k)X(\mathcal{O}_v)$ in $X(k_v)$ and study some topological properties of $T(k)X(\mathcal{O}_v)$.

Proposition (split torus of dim 1)

Let $\rho: G = \mathbb{G}_m \to \operatorname{GL}(V)$ be a representation defined over k, $k = \mathbb{Q}$, $v = v_p$. Then

- (1) If $V = V_0$ then $G(k)V(\mathcal{O}_v) = V(\mathcal{O}_v)$. This set is closed, open, and compact in $V(k_v)$.
- (2) We denote

 $I := \{i \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \text{the character } \alpha \mapsto \alpha^i \text{ is a weight of } \rho\}.$ If all of elements of I are positive (or negative) integers, then we have $G(k)V(\mathcal{O}_v) = V(k_v).$

(3) In all remaining cases of *I*, *G*(*k*)*V*(*O_v*) contains a subset Ω such that Ω is closed, open, non-compact and *G*(*k*)*V*(*O_v*) ⊂ *V*(*k_v*). The set *G*(*k*)*V*(*O_v*) is open and also non-compact in *V*(*k_v*).

Theorem (B.)

Let
$$k = \mathbb{Q}$$
, $G = G_d = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ db & a \end{pmatrix} \middle| a^2 - db^2 = 1 \right\}$ be the norm
torus, $d \in \mathbb{Z}$, V a \overline{k} -vector space of dimension n , $\rho : G \to GL(V)$ a
representation defined over k , $d = p^{2r}.d'$, $r \in \mathbb{N}$, $v_p(d') \in \{0, 1\}$.
(1) $v_p(d') = 0$.
(a) If $p = 2, d \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then there exists $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $m \leq 0$ such
that
 $V(\mathcal{O}_v) = \mathcal{O}_v \times \cdots \times \mathcal{O}_v \subseteq G(k)V(\mathcal{O}_v) \subseteq p^m(\mathcal{O}_v \times \cdots \times \mathcal{O}_v)$.

Theorem (B., continued)

Theorem (B., continued)

(1) (d) If
$$p \neq 2$$
, $\binom{d}{p} = 1$, then there exist $r, r' \in \mathbb{Z}$, a basis
 $(v_1, \omega_1, \dots, v_q, \omega_q, v'_1, \dots, v'_l)$ of $V(\mathbb{Q})$, $n_1, \dots, n_q \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that for
 $A = \{x_1v_1 + y_1\omega_1 + \dots + x_qv_q + y_q\omega_q + x'_1v'_1 + \dots + x'_lv'_l \mid x_i^2 - \frac{y_i^2}{d} \in \mathcal{O}_v, \forall i = \overline{1, q}, x'_1, \dots, x'_l \in \mathcal{O}_v\},$
 $B = \{x_1v_1 + y_1\omega_1 + \dots + x_qv_q + y_q\omega_q + x'_1v'_1 + \dots + x'_lv'_l \mid v_p(x_i^2 - \frac{y_i^2}{d}) \ge |n_i|, \forall i = \overline{1, q}, x'_1, \dots, x'_l \in \mathcal{O}_v\},$ we have
 $p'B \subseteq G(k_v)X(\mathcal{O}_v) \subseteq p''A$ and $G(k)X(\mathcal{O}_v)$ are dense in
 $G(k_v)X(\mathcal{O}_v).$
(2) If $v_p(d') = 1$ then
 $V(\mathcal{O}_v) = \mathcal{O}_v \times \dots \times \mathcal{O}_v \subseteq G(k)V(\mathcal{O}_v) \subseteq p^mV(\mathcal{O}_v)$, for

some integer *m*.

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