Parametric Gröbner bases

Geometry & applications

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Introduction

1 Preliminaries

This project will assume familiarity with ring theory, multivariate polynomials over fields. A familiarity with Gröbner bases will be beneficial, but we will introduce the necesary notations and definitions. Let R be a Noetherian, commutative ring and $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ be an ordered collection of symbols. We denote the ring of polynomials in these variables $R[X]$. Given two (disjoint) sets of variables X and Y, we will use $R[X, Y]$ to mean $R[X \cup Y]$, which is isomorphic to $R[X][Y]$. A monomial is a product of variables and a term is a monomial times a coefficient. We denote a monomial as X^v for some $v \in \mathbb{N}^n$.

1.1 · Definition (Monomial order, leading term). A *monomial order* is a well-order[a] $<$ on the set of monomials satisfying that $u < v \implies wu < wv$.

Given a monomial order $<$ and a polynomial $f \in R[X]$, the *leading term* of f is the term with the largest monomial w.r.t. $<$ and is denoted by $\mathrm{lt}_<(f)$. If $\mathrm{lt}_<(f) = a \cdot m$ for some monomial m and $a \in R$, then we denote $\mathrm{lm}_<(f) = m$ and $\mathrm{lc}_<(f) = a$. If $<$ is clear from context, it will be omitted.

[a] A total order, for which any chain $a > b > c > \dots$ must be finite.

These definitions naturally extend to sets of polynomials, so given a set of polynomials $F \subset k[X]$, we denote $\mathrm{lm}_<(F) := \{\mathrm{lm}_<(f) \mid f \in F\}$. The above definitions work over a general ring (and we will use that), but from here, we'll work over a field k. With this, we can give the definition of a Gröbner basis.

1.2 · Definition (Gröbner basis). Let $G \subset k[X]$ be a finite set of polynomials and $<$ be a monomial order. We say G is a *Gröbner basis* if $\langle \mathrm{lt}_<(G) \rangle = \langle \mathrm{lt}_<(\langle G \rangle) \rangle$.

We say G is a Gröbner basis for an ideal I if G is a Gröbner basis and $\langle G \rangle = I$. We will also have to use an alternative description of Gröbner bases.

1.3 · Definition (Reduction modulo). Let $f, g \in R[X]$ be polynomials and $<$ be a term order. We say f *reduces modulo* g if $\mathrm{lt}(g) \mid \mathrm{lt}(f)$, since in that case $\mathrm{lt}(\mathrm{lc}(g) \cdot f - p \cdot \mathrm{lc}(f) \cdot g) < \mathrm{lt}(f)$ where $\mathrm{lm}(f) = p \cdot \mathrm{lm}(g)$. We say a polynomial reduces modulo a set of polynomials if it reduces modulo any polynomial in the set. We say a polynomial *reduces to zero* if there is a chain of reductions that end in the zero polynomial.

1.4 · Theorem. *Let $G \subset R[X]$. Then G is a Gröbner basis if and only if every polynomial in $\langle G \rangle$ reduces to 0 modulo G.*

Proof. A good exercise. □

2 Definitions and initial results

The purpose of this project is to study parametric Gröbner bases, so let's introduce those. The bare concept is rather simple.

2.1 · Definition (Parametric Gröbner basis). Let k and k_1 be fields, U and X be sets of variables and $F \subset k[X,U]$ be a finite set of polynomials. A *parametric Gröbner basis* is a finite set of polynomials $G \subset k[X,U]$ such that $\sigma(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma(F) \rangle$ for any ring homomorphism $\sigma : k[U] \to k_1$.

We call such a $\sigma : k[U] \to k_1$ a *specialization*. By the linearity of σ, all such ring homomorphisms can be characterized by their image of U. Thus, we can identify $\{\sigma : k[U] \to k_1 \mid \sigma \text{ is a ring hom.}\}$ with the affine space k_1^m when U has m elements. For $\alpha \in k_1^m$ we'll denote the corresponding map

$$\sigma_\alpha(u_i) = \alpha_i \quad \text{for } u_i \in U$$

extended linearly.

When we work with these parametric Gröbner bases, it will be more convenient to have a bit more information attached to them, namely which elements are required for which σ. Since σ is described by an $\alpha \in k_1^m$, we can restrict them using subsets of k_1^m.

2.2 · Definition (Vanishing sets & algebraic sets). Let $E \subset k[X]$. Then the *vanishing set* of E is $V(E) := \{v \in k^n \mid e(v) = 0 \ \ \forall e \in E\}$.

An *algebraic set* is a set of the form $V(E) \setminus V(N)$ for two subsets E and N of $k[X]$.

2.3 · Definition (Gröbner system). Let A be an algebraic set and $F, G \subset k[X,U]$ be finite sets. Then (A,G) is called a *segment of a Gröbner system for* F if $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$ for all $\alpha \in A$. A set $\{(A_1,G_1),\dots,(A_t,G_t)\}$ is called a *Gröbner system* if each (A_i,G_i) is a segment of a Gröbner system.

We call the algebraic sets A_i for the *conditions* on a segment.

A Gröbner system $\{(A_1,G_1),\dots,(A_t,G_t))\}$ is called *comprehensive*, if $\bigcup_{i=1}^t A_i = k_1^{|U|}$. We also say a Gröbner system is *comprehensive on* $L \subset k_1^{|U|}$ if $\bigcup_{i=1}^t A_i = L$.

We will sometimes call a triple (E,N,G) for a segment of a Gröbner system. By this we mean that $(V(E) \setminus V(N), G)$ is a segment of a Gröbner system.

2.4 · Example. *Let $X = \{x,y\}$ and $U = \{u\}$ and consider the polynomials $f(x,y,u) = ux^2+x$ and $g(x,y,u) = xy+1$. When $u \neq 0$, a Gröbner basis of $\langle f,g \rangle$ could be $(y-u, ux+1)$, whatever u may be.* TODO

Skriv om Kalkbrener

2.5 · Definition (Leading coefficient w.r.t. variables). Let $f \in k[U][X]$. Then the leading term of f is denoted $\mathrm{lt}_U(f)$, the leading coefficient is $\mathrm{lc}_U(f)$ and the leading monomial is $\mathrm{lm}_U(f)$. These notations are also used when $f \in k[X,U]$, just viewing f as a polynomial in $k[U][X]$.

Note that $\mathrm{lc}_U(f) \in k[U]$, i.e. the leading term is a polynomial in $k[U]$ times a monomial in X.

From this point, we assume that the monomial order on $k[X,U]$ satisfies $X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$ for all $v_1 \in \mathbb{N}^{|X|}$ and $v_2 \in \mathbb{N}^{|U|}$. This monomial order restricts to a monomial order on $k[X]$, denoted by $<_X$. Note that this assumption is not too restrictive, as we're usually only interested in a certain monomial order on the variables, since the parameters will be specialized away anyway. Thus for a given monomial order $<_X$, we can construct a suitable monomial order on $k[X,U]$, by using $<_X$ and breaking ties with any monomial order on $k[U]$.

2.1 A useful criterion

In this section we will prove a criterion to decide when a Gröbner basis G of an ideal $\langle F\rangle$ maps to a Gröbner basis $\sigma(G)$ if the ideal $\langle\sigma(F)\rangle$. This is theorem 3.1 in [1].

2.6 · Lemma. *Let G be a Gröbner basis of an ideal $\langle F\rangle \subset R[X]$ w.r.t. $<$, let $\sigma : R \to K$ be a ring homomorphism to a field K and set $G_\sigma = \{g \in G \mid \sigma(\mathrm{lc}(g)) \neq 0\} = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_l\} \subset R[X]$. Then $\sigma(G_\sigma)$ is a Gröbner basis of the ideal $\langle\sigma(F)\rangle$ w.r.t. $<_X$ if and only if $\sigma(g)$ is reducible to 0 modulo $\sigma(G_\sigma)$ for every $g \in G$.*

Proof. First, we prove "$\Longrightarrow$": Suppose $\sigma(G_\sigma)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle\sigma(F)\rangle$. Since $\sigma(g) \in \langle\sigma(F)\rangle$, we get that $\sigma(g)$ reduces to zero modulo any Gröbner basis of $\langle\sigma(F)\rangle$ by theorem 1.4, in particular $\sigma(G_\sigma)$.

Next, we prove "$\Longleftarrow$": Assume that $\sigma(g)$ is reducible to 0 modulo G_σ for every $g \in G$ and let $f \in \langle F\rangle$ such that $\sigma(f) \neq 0$. It's enough to show that

$$\exists\, h \in \langle F\rangle \,:\, \sigma(\mathrm{lc}(h)) \neq 0 \wedge \mathrm{lm}(h) \mid \mathrm{lm}(\sigma(f)).$$

Indeed, since G is a Gröbner basis of $\langle F\rangle$, that implies there is some $g \in G$ such that $\mathrm{lm}(g) \mid \mathrm{lm}(h)$ and $\mathrm{lm}(h) = \mathrm{lm}(\sigma(h)) \mid \mathrm{lm}(\sigma(f))$. Furthermore, since $\mathrm{lc}(g) \mid \mathrm{lc}(h)$, we have that $\sigma(\mathrm{lc}(g)) \neq 0$, hence $\mathrm{lt}(\sigma(g)) \mid \mathrm{lt}(\sigma(f))$. Thus, if the above holds for any f, then $\sigma(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle\sigma(F)\rangle$. We prove this claim by induction on $<_X$.

The base case is when $\mathrm{lm}(f) = 1$, which means $f \in R$. Since we assumed $\sigma(f) \neq 0$, we have $\mathrm{lm}(\sigma(f)) = \mathrm{lm}(f)$ and $\sigma(\mathrm{lc}(f)) \neq 0$.

Now, the induction step. Let $f \in \langle F\rangle$ with $\sigma(\mathrm{lc}(f)) \neq 0$ and assume that every $f' \in \langle F\rangle$ with $\mathrm{lm}(f') < \mathrm{lm}(f)$ we have $\exists\, h \in \langle F\rangle \,:\, \sigma(\mathrm{lc}(h)) \neq 0 \wedge \mathrm{lm}(h) \mid \mathrm{lm}(\sigma(f'))$. If $\sigma(\mathrm{lc}(f)) \neq 0$, we can simply use $h = f$, so consider the case when $\sigma(\mathrm{lc}(f)) = 0$. If there is some $\sigma(g) \in G_\sigma$ such that $\mathrm{lm}(g) \mid \mathrm{lm}(f)$, then we can reduce f by g to get $f' = \mathrm{lc}(g)\cdot f - \mathrm{lc}(f)\cdot\frac{\mathrm{lm}(f)}{\mathrm{lm}(g)}g$.

Then $\operatorname{lm}(\sigma(f')) = \operatorname{lm}(\sigma(f))$ since $\sigma(\operatorname{lc}(f)) = 0$ and $\operatorname{lm}(f') < \operatorname{lm}(f)$, so the assertion holds by the induction hypothesis.

On the other hand, if there is no such $\sigma(g) \in G_\sigma$, then we must have some $g \in G \setminus G_\sigma$ such that $\operatorname{lm}(g) \mid \operatorname{lm}(f)$. However, we can't simply reduce by g, since the factor $\operatorname{lc}(g)$ is zero under σ. Instead, we can find a subset $\{g_{j_1}, \dots, g_{j_r}\} \subset G \setminus G_\alpha$ such that

$$\operatorname{lm}(f) = \sum_{i=1}^{r} c_i \frac{\operatorname{lm}(f)}{\operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i})} \operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i}).$$

Since each of the $\sigma(g_{j_i})$ are reducible to 0 modulo G_σ, we can find some $h_i \in \langle F \rangle$ and $b_i \in R \setminus \ker(\sigma)$ such that $\sigma(b_i g_{j_i}) = \sigma(h_i)$ and $\operatorname{lm}(\sigma(h_i)) = \operatorname{lm}(\sigma(g_{j_i})) > \operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i})$ for each $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$. Let $b = \prod_{i=1}^{r} b_i$, which is non-zero, then

$$f' = bf - \sum_{i=1}^{r} c_i \frac{b}{b_i} \frac{\operatorname{lm}(f)}{\operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i})} (b_i g_{j_i} - h_i)$$

is a new polynomial with

$$\sigma(f') = \sigma(bf) - \sum_{i=1}^{r} \sigma\left(c_i \frac{b}{b_i} \frac{\operatorname{lm}(f)}{\operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i})} \right) (\sigma(b_i g_{j_i}) - \sigma(h_i)) = \sigma(bf)$$

hence $\operatorname{lm}(\sigma(f')) = \operatorname{lm}(\sigma(f))$ but also $\operatorname{lm}(f') < \operatorname{lm}(f)$ since $\operatorname{lm}(g_{j_i}) > \operatorname{lm}(h_i)$. Thus the conclusion follows from the induction hypothesis. □

We will use a consequence of this lemma, which uses a test that is much easier to check. We use the above lemma with $R = k[U]$.

2.7 · Lemma. *Let $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k\}$ be a Gröbner basis of an ideal $\langle F \rangle$ in $k[X,U]$ w.r.t $<$ and let $\alpha \in k_1^m$. If $\sigma_\alpha(\operatorname{lc}_U(g)) \neq 0$ for each $g \in G \setminus k[U]$, then $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$.*

Proof. First note that since $X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$, any Gröbner basis of $\langle F \rangle \subset k[X,U]$ is also a Gröbner basis of $\langle F \rangle \subset k[U][X]$. Let $G_\alpha = \{\sigma_\alpha(g) \mid \sigma_\alpha(\operatorname{lc}_U(g)) \neq 0\}$. If there is any $g \in G$, such that $\sigma_\alpha(g) \in k_1 \setminus \{0\}$, then $g \in G \cap k[U]$ since $\sigma_\alpha(\operatorname{lc}_U(g)) \neq 0$ for all $g \in G \setminus K[U]$. Furthermore, since $g \in \langle F \rangle$, we get that $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle = k_1[X]$ and $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis.

If there is no such g, then $\alpha \in V(G \cap k[U])$. Take any $g \in G$. If $\sigma_\alpha(g) \in G_\alpha$, then $\operatorname{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(g)) = a \cdot \operatorname{lm}_U(g)$ for some $a \in k_1$ since $X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$. Thus the monomial of its leading term is preserved by σ_α, so $\sigma_\alpha(g)$ is reducible to 0 modulo G_α, since it's leading term is divisible by its own leading term.

On the other hand, if $\sigma_\alpha(g) \notin G_\alpha$, then we must have $g \in G \cap k[U]$. Since $\alpha \in V(G \cap k[U])$ then $\sigma_\alpha(g) = 0$, so is immediately reducible to zero. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$ by lemma 2.6. □

With lemma 2.7 in mind, we can start constructing Gröbner systems. Let G be a reduced Gröbner basis of an ideal $\langle F \rangle \subset k[X,U]$, and let $H = \{\operatorname{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$. Then

$\left(k_1^m \setminus \bigcup_{h\in H} V(h), G\right)$ is a segment of a Gröbner system. Thus, to make a Gröbner system, we need to find segments covering $\bigcup_{h\in H} V(h) = V(\operatorname{lcm}(H))$.

If we take G to be a reduced Gröbner basis, then $h \notin \langle F\rangle$ for any $h \in H$ since then the corresponding leading term would be divisible by a leading term in G. This is not allowed when G is reduced. Hence, we can find a Gröbner basis G_1 of $F \cup \{h\}$, which will then form a segment $(V(h) \setminus \bigcup_{h_1\in H_1} V(h_1), G_1)$ where $H_1 = \{\operatorname{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G_1\}$. Since $k[X,U]$ is Noetherian, this will eventually stop, forming a Gröbner system.

This gives us the ingredients for a simple algorithm for computing Gröbner systems, Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: `CGS_simple`, an algorithm for computing comprehensive Gröbner systems on $V(S)$

INPUT: Two finite sets $F \subset k[X,U]$, $S \subset k[U]$
OUTPUT: A finite set of triples (E,N,G), each forming a segment of a comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(S)$.

if $\exists g \in S \cap (k \setminus \{0\})$ **then**
  return $\emptyset$;
else
  $G \leftarrow$ **groebner**$(F \cup S)$;
  $H \leftarrow \{\operatorname{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$;
  $h \leftarrow \operatorname{lcm}(H)$;
  return $\{(S,\{h\},G)\} \cup \bigcup_{h'\in H} \texttt{CGS}_{\texttt{simple}}(G \cup \{h'\}, S \cup \{h'\})$
end

2.8 · Theorem. *Let $F \subset k[X,U]$ and $S \subset k[U]$ be finite sets of polynomials. Then* $\mathbf{CGS_{simple}}(\mathbf{F},\mathbf{S})$ *terminates and the output $\mathscr{H}$ is a comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(S)$.*

Proof. First, we prove termination. Let F and S be inputs to $\mathbf{CGS_{simple}}$, let G be the reduced Gröbner basis of $F \cup S$ and let $H = \{\operatorname{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$. Take any $h \in H$. Since G is reduced, $h \notin \langle F \cup S\rangle$, since then its leading term would be divisible by an element in G, but that cannot be the case. Indeed, since $h \in k[U]$, it cannot be reduced by any $g \in G \setminus k[U]$ (as $X^{v_1} > U^2$, so the leading terms of $G \setminus k[U]$ must contain a variable from X), and if it was reducible by a $p \in G \cap k[U]$, then that p would also reduce one of the elements of $G \setminus k[U]$, which is not allowed when G is reduced. Thus $\langle F \cup S\rangle \subsetneq \langle F \cup S \cup \{h\}\rangle$. Since this is the case at every recursive call, each successive call to $\mathbf{CGS_{simple}}$ will have a strictly greater ideal $\langle F \cup S\rangle$. Since $k[X,U]$ is Noetherian, this must stop eventually. Note also, that since F stays constant, this means that $\langle S\rangle \subsetneq \langle S \cup \{h\}\rangle$.

Next, we prove that if $(E,N,G) \in \mathscr{H}$, then $(V(E) \setminus V(N), G)$ is a segment of a Gröbner system. By the algorithm, $N = \operatorname{lcm}(H)$, where $H = \{\operatorname{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$ as before, for G being the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle F \cup S\rangle$. Hence, for any $\alpha \in V(E) \setminus V(N)$, we have that $\sigma_\alpha(\operatorname{lc}_U(g)) \neq 0$ for every $g \in G \setminus k[U]$. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F \cup S)\rangle$ by lemma 2.7. Also, $E = S$, so $\sigma_\alpha(S) = 0$. Hence $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F \cup S)\rangle = \langle \sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$, so $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$.

Finally, we need to prove that

$$\bigcup_{(E,N,G)\in\mathscr{K}} V(E)\setminus V(N) = V(S).$$

Note, that since $V(\operatorname{lcm}(H)) = \bigcup_{h\in H} V(H)$, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} V(S) &= (V(S)\setminus V(\operatorname{lcm}(H))) \cup \bigcup_{h\in H} V(h) \\ &= (V(S)\setminus V(\operatorname{lcm}(H))) \cup \bigcup_{h\in H} V(S\cup\{h\}) \end{aligned}$$

Inductively, the recursive calls to $\mathbf{CGS_{simple}}$ will compute Gröbner systems covering $\bigcup_{h\in H} V(S\cup\{h\})$. The base case is when $\langle S\rangle = k[U]$. In that case, $V(S) = \emptyset$, so $\emptyset$ is a comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(S)$. □

Note that in the implementation, we use $G\setminus(k[U]\setminus k)$ for the Gröbner segments. This has no impact on the validity of the segments, it just removes elements, which would specialize to 0 on that segment anyway.

However, this algorithm has a crucial flaw: if (E,N,G) is a triple returned by $\texttt{CGS}_{\texttt{simple}}$, then we don't necesarily have $G\subset\langle F\rangle$. This may or may not be a problem depending on the application. For some of the applications of this project, this is indeed a flaw. To fix this, we present an alternative algorithm, which will be extended to produce Gröbner segments, which are properly contained in $\langle F\rangle$. This algorithm depends on the following proposition.

2.9 · Proposition. *Let $F\subset k[X,U]$ and $S\subset k[U]$ be finite sets of polynomials and let G be the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle F\cup S\rangle$. Then $(V(G\cap k[U])\setminus V(h), G\setminus k[U])$ is a segment of a Gröbner system for both $\langle F\cup S\rangle$ and $\langle F\rangle$, where $h = \operatorname{lcm}\{\operatorname{lc}_U(g)\mid g\in G\setminus k[U]\}$.*

Proof. Let $h = \operatorname{lcm}\{\operatorname{lc}_U(g)\mid g\in G\setminus k[U]\}$ and let $\alpha\in V(G\cap k[U])\setminus V(h)$. Since $X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$, we have that $\langle G\cap k[U]\rangle = \langle F\cup S\rangle\cap k[U]$. Thus we can assume w.l.o.g. that $S = G\cap k[U]$.

Since $\alpha\notin V(h) = \bigcup_{g\in G\setminus k[U]} V(\operatorname{lc}_U(g))$, we have that $\sigma_\alpha(\operatorname{lc}_U(g))\neq 0$ for each $g\in G\setminus k[U]$. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle\sigma_\alpha(F\cup S)\rangle$ by lemma 2.7.

Finally, since $\alpha\in V(G\cap k[U])$, we have that $\sigma_\alpha(G) = \sigma_\alpha(G\setminus k[U])\cup\{0\}$, and since $S = G\cap k[U]$, we have $\sigma_\alpha(F\cup S) = \sigma_\alpha(F)\cup\{0\}$. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(G) = \sigma_\alpha(G\setminus k[U])\cup\{0\}$ is a Gröbner basis of both $\langle\sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$ and $\langle\sigma_\alpha(F\cup S)\rangle$. □

Armed with this proposition, we can compute Gröbner segments like this: we simply add leading terms to F until $\langle F\cup S\rangle = k[X,U]$ and compute the segment $(V(G\cup k[U])\setminus V(h), G\setminus k[U])$ at every step along the way. This algorithm is a variation on the algorithm presented in [2].

Algorithm 2: $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$, an auxiliary algorithm for computing Gröbner systems

INPUT: A finite set $F \subset k[X,U]$
OUTPUT: A finite set of tuples (h,G)
$G \leftarrow$ **groebner**(F);
$H \leftarrow \{\text{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$;
$h \leftarrow \text{lcm}(H)$;
if $h = 1$ **then**
  return $\{(h,G)\}$;
else
  return $\{(h,G)\} \cup \bigcup_{h' \in H} \texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}(G \cup \{h'\})$;
end

2.10 · Lemma. *Assume that $F \subset k[X,U]$ is a Gröbner basis, and let $\mathscr{H}$ be the result of $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}(F)$. If $(h,G) \in \mathscr{H}$, then $(V(G \cap k[U]) \setminus V(h), G \setminus k[U])$ is a Gröbner system. Furthermore,*

$$\{(V(G \cap k[U]) \setminus V(h), G \setminus k[U]) \mid (h,G) \in \mathscr{H}\}$$

is a comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U])$.

Proof. We first prove that $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$ terminates on every input. Let F be the input to $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$, let G be the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle F \rangle$, and let $H = \{\text{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G \setminus k[U]\}$. Since G is reduced, $h \notin \langle F \rangle$ since then its leading term would be divisible by an element in G, but that is not the case. Indeed, since $h \in k[U]$, it cannot be reduced by any $g \in G \setminus k[U]$ (as $X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$, so the leading terms of $G \setminus k[U]$ must contain a variable from X), and if it was reducible by a $p \in G \cap k[U]$, then that p would also reduce one of the elements of $G \setminus k[U]$. Thus $\langle F \rangle \subsetneq \langle F \cup h \rangle$. Since this is the case at every recursive call, the each successive call to $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$ will have a strictly greater ideal. Since $k[X,U]$ is Noetherian, this must stop eventually.

Next, we prove that if $(h,G) \in \mathscr{H}$, then $(V(G \cap k[U]) \setminus V(h), G \setminus k[U])$ is a segment of a Gröbner system. If we let F be the original input to $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$, then each such G is the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle F \cup S \rangle$ where $S \subset k[U]$ is the set of recursively added leading coefficients. By proposition 2.9 $(V(G \cap k[U]) \setminus V(h), G \setminus k[U])$ is a segment of a Gröbner system.

Finally, we prove that $\bigcup_{(h,G) \in \mathscr{H}} V(G \cap k[U]) \setminus V(h) = V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U])$. Note, that since $V(\text{lcm}(H)) = \bigcup_{h \in H} V(h)$, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} V(\langle G \cap k[U] \rangle) &= (V(\langle G \cap k[U] \rangle) \setminus V(\text{lcm}(H))) \cup \bigcup_{h \in H} V(h) \\ &= (V(\langle G \cap k[U] \rangle) \setminus V(\text{lcm}(H))) \cup \bigcup_{h \in H} V(\langle G \cup \{h\} \rangle \cap k[U]). \end{aligned}$$

By induction, the recursive calls to $\texttt{CGS}_{\text{aux}}$ will compute Gröbner segments covering $\bigcup_{h \in H} V(\langle G \cup \{h\} \rangle \cap k[U])$. Jeg skal finde ud af hvordan jeg vil håndtere base-casen. Mit bud lige nu er, at er

Eller måske skal man kun bruge $k[U] \setminus k$, så konstanter bliver der. Der er nogle problemer med de der konstanter. □

Finally, we can use the result of this lemma to compute a comprehensive Gröbner system.

Algorithm 3: CGS, an algorithm for computing a comprehensive Gröbner system

INPUT: $F \subset k[X,U]$ a finite set of polynomials
OUTPUT: A finite set of triples (E,N,G) forming a comprehensive Gröbner system

$\mathscr{H} \leftarrow \mathrm{CGS}_{\mathrm{aux}}(\mathrm{F})$;
$G_0 \leftarrow$ **groebner**(F);
$GS \leftarrow \emptyset$;
if $\exists g \in G_0 \cap k[U]$ **then**
  $GS \leftarrow \{(\emptyset, G_0 \cap k[U], \{1\})\}$;
end
for $(h,G) \in \mathscr{H}$ **do**
  $GS \leftarrow GS \cup \{(G \cap k[U], \{h\}, G \setminus k[U])\}$;
end
return GS;

Note that if $G \cap k[U] \neq \emptyset$, then $\{1\}$ is a Gröbner basis on $k_1^{|U|} \setminus V(G \cap k[U])$. Thus the algorithm computes a comprehensive Gröbner system.

3 Parametric Gröbner bases

We now move on to the problem of computing parametric Gröbner bases, which is the problem which Weispfenning tackled in his original article [3]. Recall the definition of parametric Gröbner bases from definition 2.1

3.1 · Definition (Faithful Gröbner system). A Gröbner system $\{(A_1,G_1),\dots,(A_t,G_t)\}$ of an ideal $\langle F\rangle$ is called *faithful* if $G_i \subset \langle F\rangle$ for all i.

3.2 · Corollary. *Let $\mathscr{G} = \{(A_1,G_1),\dots,(A_t,G_t)\}$ be a faithful comprehensive Gröbner system of an ideal $\langle F\rangle$. Then $\bigcup_{(A,G)\in\mathscr{G}} G$ is a parametric Gröbner basis of $\langle F\rangle$.*

Proof. Let σ_α be a specialization. Since $\mathscr{G}$ was comprehensive, there is some l such that $\alpha \in A_l$. Then $\sigma_\alpha(G_l)$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle\sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$, so $\langle \mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(G_l))\rangle = \langle \mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(\langle F\rangle))\rangle$. Since for all i we have that $\langle\sigma_\alpha(G_i)\rangle \subset \langle\sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$, we have that $\langle \mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(G_i))\rangle = \langle \mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(\langle F\rangle))\rangle$, so $\sum_{i=1}^{t}\langle \mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(G_i))\rangle = \langle\sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$, thus $\sigma_\alpha\left(\bigcup_{(A,G)\in\mathscr{G}} G\right)$ is a Gröbner basis for $\langle\sigma_\alpha(F)\rangle$. □

The path to computing parametric Gröbner bases seem clear. We simply need to modify the segments of a comprehensive Gröbner system to be faithful, then we're done. While this is surpisingly easy to implement, proving that the way we do it works is a little more cumbersome.

3.1 Computing faithful segments

We follow the path laid out by [2], and introduce a new variable t and extend the monomial order such that $t^n > X^{v_1} > U^{v_2}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and vectors v_1, v_2. In the CGS algorithm we added leading coefficients h to a set $S \subset k[U]$, and computed reduced Gröbner bases of $\langle F \cup S \rangle$ to produce the segments. However, this "mixes up" the original ideal with the added leading coefficients. We need a way to seperate them. We do this by replacing $F \cup S$ with $t \cdot F \cup (1-t) \cdot S$, where t is a new auxilliary variable that does not occur in F or S. Here we use the convention, that for a polynomial a and a set of polynomials F, $a \cdot F := \{a \cdot f \mid f \in F\}$. Note, that this need not be an ideal.

In this way we can seperate the original ideal from the added polynomials by specializing away t. That is the content of this first lemma.

3.3 · Lemma. *Let $F, S \subset k[X,U]$ be finite sets and let $g \in \langle t \cdot F \cup (1-t) \cdot S \rangle_{k[t,X,U]}$. Then $g(0,X,U) \in \langle S \rangle_{k[X,U]}$ and $g(1,X,U) \in \langle F \rangle_{k[X,U]}$.*

Proof. By assumption, we can find $f_1, \dots, f_n \in F$, $s_1, \dots, s_m \in S$ and $q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m \in k[t,X,U]$ such that

$$g = \sum_{i=1}^{n} t\, q_i\, f_i + \sum_{j=1}^{m} (t-1) p_j\, s_j.$$

By linearity of the evaluation map, we get that

$$g(0,X,U) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} p_j(0,X,U)\, s_j(X,U) \in \langle S \rangle_{k[X,U]}$$

and

$$g(1,X,U) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(1,X,U)\, f_i(X,U) \in \langle F \rangle_{k[X,U]}.$$

□

We're going to need these two specializations a lot, so we'll give them names. Let $\sigma^0(f) = f(0,X,U)$ and $\sigma^1(f) = f(1,X,U)$. We also need that Gröbner bases are preserved under σ^1. While that is not true in general, the following is good enough for our uses.

3.4 · Lemma. *Let $F \subset k[X,U]$, $S \subset k[U]$ be finite sets with $V(S) \subset V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U])$ and let G be the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle t \cdot F \cup (1-t) \cdot S \rangle$. Let also*

$$H = \{\mathrm{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G,\ \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}.$$

Then $\sigma_\alpha(\sigma^1(G))$ is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$ for any $\alpha \in V(S) \setminus V(\mathrm{lcm}(H))$.

Proof. First note, that $\mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U]$ means that the leading term of g contains the variable t and since t dominates the other variables, this means that $g \in k[t,X,U] \setminus k[X,U]$. Also, any polynomial in G has degree at most 1 in t, again since t dominates the other variables. For any polynomial $g \in G$ we can therefor write $g = t\, g^t + g_t$ where $g_t = \sigma^0(g)$ and $g^t = \sigma^1(g) - \sigma^0(g)$.

Let $\alpha \in V(S) \setminus V(\mathrm{lcm}(H))$. By lemma 3.3 we have that $\langle \sigma^1(G) \rangle = \langle F \rangle$ and thus $\langle \sigma_\alpha(\sigma^1(G)) \rangle = \langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$ for any specialization σ_α. Thus we only need to show that $\sigma_\alpha(\sigma^1(G))$ is a Gröbner basis for itself.

Let $G' = \{g \in G \mid \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}$. Then $\sigma_\alpha(\mathrm{lc}_U(g)) \neq 0$ for any $g \in G'$ since $\alpha \notin V(\mathrm{lcm}(H))$. We will show later, that if $g \in G \setminus G'$ then $\sigma_\alpha(g) = 0$. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(G) = \sigma_\alpha(G') \cup \{0\}$. By lemma 2.7 this means that both $\sigma_\alpha(G)$ and $\sigma_\alpha(G')$ are Gröbner bases in $k_1[t, X]$.

Now we only need to show, that $\sigma_\alpha(\sigma^1(G'))$ is a Gröbner basis in $k_1[X]$. For any $g \in G'$ we have that $\sigma_\alpha(g) = \sigma_\alpha(t \cdot g^t) + \sigma_\alpha(g_t)$. Since $g_t = \sigma^0(g) \in \langle S \rangle$ by lemma 3.3 and $\alpha \in V(S)$, we have that $\sigma_\alpha(g_t) = 0$, thus $\sigma_\alpha(g) = \sigma_\alpha(t \cdot g^t)$. This means that $\sigma_\alpha(G') = \sigma_\alpha(\{t \cdot g^t \mid g \in G'\})$. Since t divides every polynomial, and thus term, in that ideal, divisibility of leading terms is independent of t. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(\sigma^1(G'))$ is a Gröbner basis.

To finish the proof, we need to prove the assertion that if $g \in G \setminus G'$ then $\sigma_\alpha(g) = 0$. If $g \in G \setminus G'$, then either $\mathrm{lt}(g) \in k[X,U]$ or $\mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \in k[U]$. In the first case, since t dominates the other variables, g cannot contain t as a variable. Thus $g = \sigma^0(g) \in \langle S \rangle_{k[X,U]}$ by lemma 3.3. Since $\alpha \in V(S)$, $\sigma_\alpha(g) = 0$. On the other hand, if $\mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U]$ but $\mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \in k[U]$, we note that $g^t = \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g)$. Since $g^t = \sigma^1(g) - \sigma^0(g)$, we get from lemma 3.3 that $g^t \in \langle F \rangle + \langle S \rangle = \langle F \cup S \rangle$. Since we also had $g^t \in k[U]$, we have $g^t \in \langle F \cup S \rangle \cap k[U]$. But by assumption $V(S) \subset V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U])$, thus $\alpha \in V(S) \cap V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U]) = V(\langle F \cup S \rangle \cap k[U])$. Hence, $\sigma_\alpha(g^t) = 0$. But we proved earlier that for any $g \in G$ we have $\sigma_\alpha(g_t) = 0$, so as $\sigma_\alpha(g) = t \cdot \sigma_\alpha(g^t) + \sigma_\alpha(g_t) = 0$, we are done. □

This lemma is a generalization of lemma 2.7, and as such, it leads us to an algorithm for computing comprehensive, faithful Gröbner systems, at least on the vanishing set of some $S \subset k[U]$. We compute the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle t \cdot F \cup (1-t) \cdot S \rangle$, which gives a faithful Gröbner segment on $V(S) \setminus V(\mathrm{lcm}(H))$, where $H = \{\mathrm{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G,\ \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}$. Then, we recursively compute faithful Gröbner segments on each $V(h)$ for $h \in H$, by adding h to S.

Algorithm 4: $\mathbf{CGB_{aux}}$

INPUT: $F \subset k[X,U]$ and $S \subset k[U]$, two finite sets such that $V(S) \subset V(\langle F \rangle \cap k[U])$
OUTPUT: A finite set of triples (E, N, G) forming a comprehensive, faithful Gröbner system on $V(S)$

if $1 \in \langle S \rangle$ **then**
  return $\emptyset$;
else
  $G \leftarrow$ **groebner**$(t \cdot F \cup (1-t) \cdot S)$;
  $H \leftarrow \{\mathrm{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G,\ \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}$;
  $h \leftarrow \mathrm{lcm}(H)$;
  return $\{(S, \{h\}, \sigma^1(G))\} \cup \bigcup_{h' \in H} \mathbf{CGB_{aux}}(F, S \cup \{h'\})$;
end

3.5 · Theorem. *Let $F \subset k[X,U]$ and $S \subset k[U]$ be finite and assume $V(S) \subset V(\langle F\rangle \cap k[U])$. Then $\mathbf{CGB_{aux}}(F,S)$ terminates, and the result is a faithful, comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(S)$ for F.*

Proof. We first show termination. Let G be the reduced Gröbner basis of $\langle t\cdot F \cup (1-t)\cdot S\rangle$, and let $h \in \{\mathrm{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G,\ \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}$. Let $g \in G$ be the element such that $\mathrm{lc}_U(g) = h$. By assumption, g is of the form $h \cdot t \cdot X^v + g'$ for some vector v and $g' \in k[X,U]$. If $g \in \langle S\rangle$, then $(1-t)\cdot h \in \langle G\rangle$, by the construction of G. This means that $\mathrm{lt}((1-t)\cdot h) = \mathrm{lt}(t\cdot h)$ is divisible by some leading term of G, and since the leading term of g doesn't divide it, $\mathrm{lt}(t\cdot h)$ must be divisible by some leading term of $G \setminus \{g\}$. But this implies that the leading term of g is divisible by some leading term in $G\setminus\{g\}$, which is not allowed as G is a *reduced* Gröbner basis. Thus $\langle S\rangle \subsetneq \langle S \cup \{h\}\rangle$. Since $k[t,X,U]$ is Noetherian, we can only expand this ideal finitely many times. Thus the algorithm terminates.

Next, observe that the precondition $V(S) \subset V(\langle F\rangle \cap k[U])$ always hold if it held initially, as $V(S') \subset V(S)$ for any $S' \supset S$. Apply this to $S' = S \cup \{h\}$.

If $(S, \{h\}, G)$ is in the output of $\mathbf{CGB_{aux}}(F,S)$, then $(V(S)\setminus V(h), G)$ is a segment of a Gröbner system by lemma 3.4. It is also faithful by lemma 3.3.

Finally, we need to show that $V(S) = \bigcup_{E,N,G \in \mathbf{CGB_{aux}}(\mathbf{F},\mathbf{S})} V(E)\setminus V(N)$. Let $H = \{\mathrm{lc}_U(g) \mid g \in G,\ \mathrm{lt}(g) \notin k[X,U],\ \mathrm{lc}_{X,U}(g) \notin k[U]\}$ and $h = \mathrm{lcm}(H)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} V(S) &= (V(S)\setminus V(h)) \cup \bigcup_{h'\in H} V(h') \\ &= (V(S)\setminus V(h)) \cup \bigcup_{h'\in H} V(S\cup\{h'\}) \end{aligned}$$

By induction, the recursive calls to $\mathbf{CGB_{aux}}$ computes segments covering each $V(S\cup\{h'\})$. The base case is when $S \cup \{h'\} = k[U]$, but in this case $V(S\cup\{h'\}) = \emptyset$, and $\emptyset$ is a comprehensive Gröbner system on $\emptyset$. □

The only thing left is to figure out what to do with that $V(S)$. With the **CGS** algorithm we could choose $S = \emptyset$, then $V(S) = k_1^{|U|}$, but that doesn't work here, as it violates the assumption that $V(S) \subset V(\langle F\rangle \cap k[U])$. However, we can choose S to be a set of generators of the ideal $\langle F\rangle \cap k[U]$. Then $S \subset \langle F\rangle$ and $\langle \sigma_\alpha(S)\rangle$ is either zero or $k_1[X]$, depending whether $\alpha \in V(S)$ or not. Hence, $(k^{|U|}\setminus V(S), S)$ is a faithful segment of a Gröbner system.

3.6 · Theorem. *Let $F \subset k[X,U]$ be a finite set of polynomials. Then $\mathbf{CGB}(F)$ terminates and the output is a parametric Gröbner basis of $\langle F\rangle$.*

Proof. **CGB** doesn't loop, and every subroutine it calls terminates, so it terminates. Since S is a set of generator of the ideal $\langle F\rangle \cap k[U]$, we have that $V(S) = V(\langle F\rangle \cap k[U])$, so by theorem 3.5, $\mathscr{H}$ is a faithful, comprehensive Gröbner system on $V(S)$. Since $\langle \sigma_\alpha(S)\rangle$ is either 0 or $k_1[X]$, $(k^{|U|}\setminus V(S), S)$ is a segment of a faithful, comprehensive Gröbner system. Hence

$$\{(V(\emptyset)\setminus V(S), S)\} \cup \mathscr{H}$$

Algorithm 5: CGB

INPUT: $F \subset k[X,U]$ a finite set of polynomials
OUTPUT: $G \subset k[U,X]$ a comprehensive Gröbner basis of F
$S \leftarrow \mathbf{groebner}(F) \cap k[U]$;
$\mathscr{H} \leftarrow \mathbf{CGB_{aux}}(F,S)$;
return $S \cup \bigcup_{(E,N,G)\in\mathscr{H}} G$;

is a faithful, comprehensive Gröbner system for $\langle F\rangle$. By corollary 3.2 we get that $S \cup \bigcup_{(E,N,G)\in\mathscr{H}} G$ is a parametric Gröbner basis for $\langle F\rangle$. □

4 Applications

4.1 Quantifier elimination

One of the first applications of parametric Gröbner bases was presented by its inventor Weispfenning [3] in the original article. It concerns the problem of computing a system of polynomial equations, whose solutions are equivalent to solutions to a set of logical expressions involving polynomial equations, con- and disjunctions, negations and existential quantifiers.

Sepcifically, we're given a formula $\exists x_1,\dots,x_n : \phi(U,x_1,\dots,x_n)$ where ϕ is a combination using $\wedge$ and $\vee$ of polynomial equalities and inequalities in $k[U,X]$. If k_1 is an extension field of k, then that formula determines a partioning of $k_1^{|U|}$, namely those values of U where the formula is true and those where it isn't. Our goal is to find a system of polynomial equations in $k[U]$ that is satisfied in exactly the same points.

First, we need to normalize the logical expressions, to fit a format we can work with.

4.1 · Definition (Positive, primitive formula). A logical formula φ is called *positive and primitive* if it only involves polynomial equalities in $k[X]$, conjunctions and existential quantifiers.

4.2 · Lemma. *Let ϕ be a logical formula involving polynomial equalities, conjunctions, disjunctions, negations and existential quantifiers. Then there exists a finite set of positive, primitive formula $\varphi_1,\varphi_2,\dots,\varphi_r$ such that $\phi \iff (\varphi_1 \vee \dots \vee \varphi_r)$.*

Proof. Using standard logical rules, we can find $\phi_1,\dots,\phi_r$ containing only polynomial equalities, conjunction, negation and existential quantifiers such that

$$\phi \iff \bigvee_{i=1}^{r} \phi_r.$$

Using De Morgans law and distributivity we can assume that negations are at the lowest level of the formulas. Thus, we can see the ϕ_i's as existstential formulas containing conjunctions of polynomial equations and inequations.

Now, to eliminate the inequalities, we use the following trick:

$$f(X) \neq 0 \iff \exists t \,:\, f(X) \cdot t - 1 = 0. \qquad \square$$

Thus we can solve each of the positive, primitive formulas independently, and see if any of them are satifiable.

4.3 · Theorem. *Let $F \subset k[U, X]$ be a finite set of polynomials over an algebraically closed field and let G be a parametric Gröbner basis of F. For a polynomial $f \in k[U][X]$, let $C(f) \subset k[U]$ denote the set of coefficients of non-constant terms in f. Then*

$$\left(\exists x_1, \dots, x_n \,:\, \bigwedge_{f \in F} f(U, x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0\right) \iff \bigwedge_{g \in G} \left(g(U, 0, \dots, 0) = 0 \vee \bigvee_{c \in C(g)} c(U) \neq 0\right)$$

in any extension field $k_1 \supset k$.

Proof. Let $\alpha \in k_1^{|U|}$. Then the question of whether $\exists x_1, \dots, x_n \,:\, \bigwedge_{f \in F} f(U, x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ is satisfied in $U = \alpha$ is equivalent to whether $\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$ has a common zero, i.e. if $V(\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle) \neq \emptyset$.

For the first implication, assume $\exists x_1, \dots, x_n \,:\, \bigwedge_{f \in F} f(U, x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ is satisfied at some $\alpha \in k_1^{|U|}$. Let $\beta \in k_1^{|X|}$ be a vector of $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ such that $f(\alpha, \beta) = 0$ for all $f \in F$. Then, since all $g \in G$ are also in $\langle F \rangle$, we get $g(\alpha, \beta) = 0 \ \forall g \in G$. Hence, if $g(\alpha, 0, \dots, 0) \neq 0$, then there has to be some non-constant term in g, which is also non-zero at α.

For the other implication, assume every $g \in G$ has zero constant term or some non-zero non-constant term, when viewed as a polynomial in $k[U][X]$. Assume for a contradiction that $V(\langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle) = \emptyset$. By the weak Nullstellensatz we get that $1 \in \langle \sigma_\alpha(F) \rangle$. Since G is a parametric Gröbner basis, there is some $g \in G$ such that $\mathrm{lt}(\sigma_\alpha(g)) \mid 1$. Thus $\sigma_\alpha(g)$ is a constant polynomial with non-zero constant term, contradicting the assumption. $\square$

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