Gröbner bases algorithms Third year research project: M3R

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Gröbner bases: motivation

The algebra of the polynomial rings $k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ and the geometry of affine algebraic varieties are linked. Gröbner bases allow us to solve problems about polynomial ideals in an algorithmic fashion [1].

Gröbner bases: motivation

Problems concerning the algebra of polynomial ideals and the geometry of affine varieties:

- ▶ The ideal membership problem: given $f \in k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ and an ideal $I = \langle f_1, ..., f_s \rangle$, determine if $f \in I$. Closely related to determining whether $\mathbf{V}(f_1, ..., f_s)$ lies on the variety $\mathbf{V}(f)$.
- ▶ The problem of solving polynomial equations: find all common solutions in k^n of a system of polynomial equations $f_1(x_1,...,x_n)=\cdots=f_s(x_1,...,x_n)=0$. This is the same as asking for the points in the affine variety $\mathbf{V}(f_1,...,f_s)$.

Gröbner bases: history

Gröbner bases were developed by Bruno Buchberger in 1965 in his PhD. thesis. He developed this theory throughout his career. He named these objects after his advisor Wolfgang Gröbner [2].

We need a way to order monomials. For example, in dividing $f(x) = x^5 - 3x^2 + 1$ by $g(x) = x^2 - 4x + 7$ by the Euclidean algorithm, we:

- ▶ Write the terms in the polynomials in decreasing order by degree in x.
- ► The leading term in f is $x^5 = x^3 \cdot (\text{leading term in g})$. Thus, subtract $x^3g(x)$ from f to cancel the leading term.
- ▶ Repeat the same process on $f(x) x^3 \cdot g(x)$, etc., until we obtain a polynomial of degree less than 2.

For the division algorithm on polynomials in one variable, we are dealing with the degree ordering on the one-variable monomials:

$$\cdots > x^{m+1} > x^m > \cdots > x^2 > x > 1$$

The success of the algorithm depends on working systematically with the leading terms in f and g, and not removing terms "at random" from f using arbitrary terms from g.

A major component of any extension of division to arbitrary polynomials in several variables will be an ordering on the terms in polynomials in $k[x_1,...,x_n]$. There are different ways to define orderings on monomials (or equivalently $\mathbb{Z}_{>0}^n$).

Definition

A total ordering satisfies:

- the ordering is a partial ordering (transitive, antisymmetric, reflexive)
- for every pair of monomials x^{α} and x^{β} , exactly one of the three statements $x^{\alpha} > x^{\beta}$, $x^{\alpha} = x^{\beta}$, $x^{\beta} > x^{\alpha}$ should be true

We must take into account the effect of the sum and product operations on polynomials.

Definition (Monomial ordering)

A monomial ordering > on $k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$ is a relation > on the set of monomials x^{α} , $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}^n_{>0}$, satisfying:

- ▶ > is a total (or linear) ordering on $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$.
- ▶ If $\alpha > \beta$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$, then $\alpha + \gamma > \beta + \gamma$.
- ▶ > is a well-ordering on $\mathbb{Z}^n_{\geq 0}$. This means that every nonempty subset of $\mathbb{Z}^n_{\geq 0}$ has a smallest element under >.

Definition (Lexicographic Order)

Let $\alpha=(\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_n)$ and $\beta=(\beta_1,\ldots,\beta_n)$ be in $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$. We say $\alpha>_{lex}\beta$ if the leftmost nonzero entry of the vector difference $\alpha-\beta\in\mathbb{Z}^n$ is positive. We will write $x^\alpha>_{lex}x^\beta$ if $\alpha>_{lex}\beta$. This is a monomial ordering.

Definition (Graded Lex Order)

Let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$. We say $\alpha >_{\textit{grlex }} \beta$ if $|\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i > |\beta| = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i$ or $|\alpha| = |\beta|$ and $\alpha >_{\textit{lex }} \beta$. This is a monomial ordering.

We see that grlex orders by total degree first, then "break ties" using lex order.

Examples:

- $(3,2,4) >_{lex} (3,2,1)$ since $\alpha \beta = (0,0,3)$.
- $(1,2,3) >_{grlex} (3,2,0)$ since |(1,2,3)| = 6 > |(3,2,0)| = 5.
- ▶ $(1,2,4) >_{grlex} (1,1,5)$ since |(1,2,4)| = |(1,1,5)| and $(1,2,4) >_{lex} (1,1,5)$.

Definition

Let $f = \sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$ be a nonzero polynomial in $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ and let > be a monomial order.

► The multidegree of *f* is:

$$multideg(f) = \max\{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n : a_\alpha \neq 0\}$$

(the maximum is taken with respect to >).

- ▶ The leading coefficient of f is $LC(f) = a_{multideg(f)} \in k$.
- ► The leading monomial of f is $LM(f) = x^{multideg(f)}$ (with coefficient 1).
- ▶ The leading term of f is: LT(f) = LC(f)LM(f).

To illustrate, let $f = 4xy^2z + 4z^2 - 5x^3 + 7x^2z^2$ as before and let > denote lex order. Then multideg(f) = (3,0,0), LC(f) = -5, $LM(f) = x^3$, $LT(f) = -5x^3$.

The goal is to divide $f \in k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ by $f_1, \ldots, f_s \in k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$. As we will see, this means expressing f in the form $f = q_1 f_1 + \cdots + q_s f_s + r$, where the "quotients" q_1, \ldots, q_s and remainder r lie in $k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$. This is where we will use the monomial orderings introduced previously.

The basic idea of the algorithm is the same as in the one-variable case:

We want to cancel the leading term of f by multiplying some f_i by an appropriate monomial and subtracting.

Let us first work through some examples to see what is involved.

Let us divide $f = x^2y + xy^2 + y^2$ by $f_1 = xy - 1$ and $f_2 = y^2 - 1$, using the lex order with x > y. The first two give us the following partially completed division:

$$x^{2}y + xy^{2} + y^{2}$$
 $xy^{2} + x + y^{2}$ x $x + y^{2} + y$ $x + y$

$$x^{2}y + xy^{2} + y^{2} | xy - 1, y^{2} - 1$$

$$xy^{2} + x + y^{2} | x$$

$$x + y^{2} + y | x + y$$

Note that neither $LT(f_1) = xy$ nor $LT(f_2) = y^2$ divides $LT(x + y^2 + y) = x$. However, $x + y^2 + y$ is not the remainder since $LT(f_2)$ divides y^2 .

Thus, the remainder is x + y + 1, and we obtain

$$x^{2}y + xy^{2} + y^{2} = (x+y)(xy-1) + 1 \cdot (y^{2}-1) + x + y + 1$$

The remainder is a sum of monomials, none of which is divisible by the leading terms $LT(f_1)$ or $LT(f_2)$.

The division algorithm is not a perfect generalisation of its univariate version.

In fact, the algorithm achieves its full potential only when coupled with the Gröbner bases [2].

Important property of the division algorithm in k[x]: the remainder is uniquely determined.

This can fail when there is more than one variable. Let us divide $f=x^2y+xy^2+y^2$ by $f_1=y^2-1$ and $f_2=xy-1$. We will use lex order with x>y. This is the same as the previous example, except that we have changed the order of the divisors.

The remainder is different from what we got previously.

$$x^{2}y + xy^{2} + y^{2} = 1 \cdot (y^{2} - 1) + (x + y)(xy - 1) + x + y + 1$$
 (1)

$$x^{2}y + xy^{2} + y^{2} = (x+1) \cdot (y^{2} - 1) + x \cdot (xy - 1) + 2x + 1 \quad (2)$$

The remainder is not uniquely characterised by the requirement that none of its terms be divisible by $LT(f_1), \ldots, LT(f_s)$.

One nice feature of the division algorithm in k[x] is the way it solves the ideal membership problem.

Do we get something similar in the multivariate case?

Let $f_1 = y^2 - 1$, $f_2 = xy + 1 \in k[x, y]$ with the lexicographic order. Dividing $f = x^2y + 2xy^2 + y$ by $F = (f_1, f_2)$, the result is

$$x^{2}y + 2xy^{2} + y = 2x \cdot (y^{2} - 1) + x \cdot (xy + 1) + x + y$$

With $F = (f_2, f_1)$, however, we have

$$x^{2}y + 2xy^{2} + y = (x + 2y) \cdot (xy + 1) - x - y$$

However:

$$x^{2}y + 2xy^{2} + y = (x + y) \cdot (xy + 1) + x \cdot (y^{2} - 1)$$

The third calculation shows that $f \in \langle f_1, f_2 \rangle$. However, it is still possible to obtain a nonzero remainder on division by $F = (f_1, f_2)$ and $F' = (f_2, f_1)$.

Definition (Monomial ideal)

An ideal $I \subseteq k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$ is a monomial ideal if there is a subset $A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ (possibly infinite) such that I consists of all polynomials which are finite sums of the form $\sum_{\alpha \in A} h_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$, where $h_{\alpha} \in k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$.

In this case, we write $I = \langle x^{\alpha} : \alpha \in A \rangle$.

Theorem

Let $I = \langle x^{\alpha} : \alpha \in A \rangle$ be a monomial ideal. Then a monomial x^{β} lies in I if and only if x^{β} is divisible by x^{α} for some $\alpha \in A$.

Theorem (Dickson's Lemma)

Let $I = \langle x^{\alpha} : \alpha \in A \rangle \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a monomial ideal. Then I can be written in the form $I = \langle x^{\alpha(1)}, \dots, x^{\alpha(s)} \rangle$, where $\alpha(1), \dots, \alpha(s) \in A$. In particular, I has a finite basis.

Definition

Let $I \subseteq k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ be an ideal other than $\{0\}$, and fix a monomial ordering on $k[x_1, ..., x_n]$. Then:

▶ We denote by LT(I) the set of leading terms of nonzero elements of I. Thus,

$$LT(I) = \{cx^{\alpha} : \text{ there exists } f \in I \setminus \{0\} \text{ with } LT(f) = cx^{\alpha}\}$$

▶ We denote by ⟨LT(I)⟩ the ideal generated by the elements of LT(I).



Theorem

Let $I \subseteq k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ be an ideal different from 0.

- ► ⟨LT(I)⟩ is a monomial ideal.
- ► There are $g_1, ..., g_t \in I$ such that $\langle \mathsf{LT}(I) \rangle = \langle \mathsf{LT}(g_1), ..., \mathsf{LT}(g_t) \rangle$.

Definition (Gröbner basis)

Fix a monomial order on the polynomial ring $k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$. A finite subset $G=\{g_1,\ldots,g_t\}$ of an ideal $I\subseteq k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$ different from $\{0\}$ is said to be a Gröbner basis (or standard basis) if $\langle \mathsf{LT}(g_1),\ldots,\mathsf{LT}(g_t)\rangle = \langle \mathsf{LT}(I)\rangle$. Using the convention that $\langle\emptyset\rangle=\{0\}$, we define the empty set \emptyset to be the Gröbner basis of the zero ideal $\{0\}$.

Equivalently, a set $\{g_1, \ldots, g_t\} \subseteq I$ is a Gröbner basis of I if and only if the leading term of any element of I is divisible by one of the $LT(g_i)$.

Theorem (Division with Gröbner bases)

Let $I \subseteq k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ be an ideal and let $G = \{g_1, ..., g_t\}$ be a Gröbner basis for I. Then given $f \in k[x_1, ..., x_n]$, there is a unique $r \in k[x_1, ..., x_n]$ with the following two properties:

- ▶ No term of r is divisible by any of LT(g_1), ..., LT(g_t).
- ▶ There is $g \in I$ such that f = g + r.

In particular, r is the remainder on division of f by G no matter how the elements of G are listed when using the division algorithm.

Definition

We will write \overline{f}^F for the remainder on division of f by the ordered s-tuple $F = (f_1, \ldots, f_s)$.

If F is a Gröbner basis for $\langle f_1, \ldots, f_s \rangle$, then we can regard F as a set (without any particular order) by our previous results.

For instance, with $F=(x^2y-y^2,x^4y^2-y^2)\subseteq k[x,y]$, using the lex order, we have $\overline{x^5y}^F=xy^3$ since the division algorithm yields $x^5y=(x^3+xy)(x^2y-y^2)+0\cdot(x^4y^2-y^2)+xy^3$.

To study cancellation phenomenons, we introduce the following special combinations.

Definition

Let $f, g \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be nonzero polynomials.

- ▶ If $multideg(f) = \alpha$ and $multideg(g) = \beta$, then let $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)$, where $\gamma_i = \max(\alpha_i, \beta_i)$ for each i. We call x^{γ} the least common multiple of LM(f) and LM(g), written $x^{\gamma} = lcm(LM(f), LM(g))$.
- ▶ The S-polynomial of f and g is defined to be the combination

$$S(f,g) = \frac{x^{\gamma}}{\mathsf{LT}(f)} \cdot f - \frac{x^{\gamma}}{\mathsf{LT}(g)} \cdot g$$

The S-polynomial S(f,g) has leading term that is guaranteed to be strictly less than lcm(LM(f), LM(g)).

For example, let $f = x^3y^2 - x^2y^3 + x$ and $g = 3x^4y + y^2$ in $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ with the grlex order.

Then $\gamma = (4,2)$ and

$$S(f,g) = \frac{x^4 y^2}{x^3 y^2} \cdot f - \frac{x^4 y^2}{3x^4 y} \cdot g = x \cdot f - \frac{y}{3} \cdot g = -x^3 y^3 + x^2 - \frac{1}{3} y^3$$

Gröbner bases

Theorem (Buchberger's Criterion)

Let I be a polynomial ideal. Then a basis $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$ of I is a Gröbner basis of I if and only if for all pairs $i \neq j$, the remainder on division of $S(g_i, g_j)$ by G (listed in some order) is zero.

Buchberger's algorithm

Theorem (Buchberger's Algorithm)

Let $I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle \neq 0$ be a polynomial ideal. Then a Gröbner basis for I can be constructed in a finite number of steps by the following algorithm:

```
Input : F = (f_1, \ldots, f_s)

Output : a Gröbner basis G = (g_1, \ldots, g_t) for I, with F \subseteq G

G := F

REPEAT
G' := G
FOR \ each \ pair \ \{p,q\}, \ p \neq q \ in \ G' \ DO
r := \overline{S(p,q)}^{G'}
IF \ r \neq 0 \ THEN \ G := G \cup \{r\}
UNTIL G = G'

RETURN G
```

Refinement of Buchberger's criterion and first improved algorithm

We have a more general criterion to the one we presented before.

Theorem

A basis $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$ for an ideal I is a Gröbner basis if and only if $S(g_i, g_j) \rightarrow_G 0$ for all $i \neq j$.

f reduces to zero modulo G, written $f \to_G 0$, if f has a standard representation $f = A_1g_1 + \cdots + A_tg_t$, $A_{\in}k[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$, which means that whenever $A_ig_i \neq 0$, we have $multideg(f) \geq multideg(A_ig_i)$.

Refinement of Buchberger's criterion and first improved algorithm

Theorem

Given a finite set $G \subseteq k[x_1, ..., x_n]$, suppose that we have f, $g \in G$ such that the leading monomials of f and g are relatively prime. Then $S(f,g) \to_G 0$.

Faugère's F4 algorithm

The information generated by several S-polynomial remainder computations can be obtained simultaneously via row operations on a suitable matrix - this was first noted by Daniel Lazard in the 80s. This connection with linear algebra is the basis for Jean-Charles Faugère's F4 algorithm, in which the goal is to compute S-pairs and to reduce them simultaneously using linear algebra [3].

Faugère's F4 algorithm

The matrix in question is usually (very) sparse and we can use fast reduction algorithm, such as GBLA (Gröbner Bases Linear Algebra), from Faugère and Sylvian Lachartre.

One of the features of the signature-based family of Gröbner basis algorithms is the systematic use of information indicating how the polynomials generated in the course of the computation depend on the original input polynomials f_1, \ldots, f_s . The goal is to eliminate unnecessary S-polynomial remainder calculations as much as possible by exploiting relations between the f_i [4].

Idea:

If $I=\langle f_1,\ldots,f_s\rangle$ is any collection of polynomials, then the S-polynomials and remainders produced in the course of a Gröbner basis computation can all be written as

$$(a_1,\ldots,a_s)\cdot(f_1,\ldots,f_s)=a_1f_1+\cdots+a_sf_s$$

for certain $a=(a_1,\ldots,a_s)$ in $k[x_1,\ldots,x_n]^s$. We will see that there are key features of the vectors a corresponding to some S-polynomials that make computing the S-polynomial remainder unnecessary. Those key features can be recognised directly from the largest term in the vector and other information known to the algorithm. In particular, it is not necessary to compute the combination $a_1f_1+\cdots+a_sf_s$ to recognise that a key feature is present.

Definition (Signature)

Let $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, \dots, g_s) \in R^s$. Then the signature of \mathbf{g} , denoted $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{g})$, is the term appearing in \mathbf{g} that is largest in the $>_{POT}$ order.

POT order extending the order > on R:

$$x^{\alpha}\mathbf{e}_{i}>_{POT}x^{\beta}\mathbf{e}_{j}\Leftrightarrow i>j$$
, or $i=j$ and $x^{\alpha}>x^{\beta}$



Consider $f_1 = x^2 + xy$ and $f_2 = x^2 + y$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$, using the grevlex order with x > y.

$$S(f_1, f_2) = (1, -1) \cdot (f_1, f_2) = xy - y$$

Since that does not reduce to zero under $\{f_1, f_2\}$, we would include $f_3 = \overline{S(f_1, f_2)}^{\{f_1, f_2\}} = xy - y$ as a new Gröbner basis element.

$$S(f_1, f_3) = yf_1 - xf_3 = yf_1 - x(f_1 - f_2) = (y - x)f_1 + xf_2$$
$$\overline{S(f_1, f_3)}^{\{f_1, f_2, f_3\}} = y^2 + y$$

This gives another Gröbner basis element. Similarly:

$$S(f_2, f_3) = yf_2 - xf_3 = yf_2 - x(f_1 - f_2) = -xf_1 + (x + y)f_2$$
$$\overline{S(f_2, f_3)}^{\{f_1, f_2, f_3\}} = y^2 + y$$

These two remainder calculations have led to precisely the same result!

We could have predicted this.

$$S(f_1, f_3) = (y - x)f_1 + xf_2 = \mathbf{a} \cdot (f_1, f_2)$$

$$S(f_2, f_3) = -xf_1 + (x + y)f_2 = \mathbf{b} \cdot (f_1, f_2)$$

The largest terms in the POT order are the same for \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} —in both vectors, the largest term is the $x\mathbf{e}_2$.

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Thank you for listening!

Thank you for your attention!

Staircases

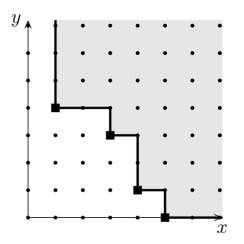


Figure 1: The ideal $I = \langle xy^4, x^3y^3, x^4y, x^5 \rangle$

Staircases

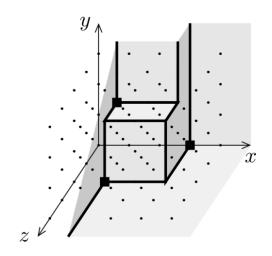


Figure 2: The ideal $I = \langle x^3, xy^2z, xz^2 \rangle$

Staircases

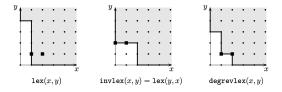


Figure 3: The ideal $I = (xy + x + y^2 + 1, x^2y + xy^2 + 1)$

$$G_1 = \{x - \frac{1}{2}y^3 + y^2 + \frac{3}{2}, y^4 - y^3 - 3y - 1\}$$

$$G_2 = \{y^2 + xy + x + 1, x^2 + x - 1\}$$

$$G_3 = \{y^3 - 2y^2 - 2x - 3, x^2 + x - 1, xy + y^2 + x + 1\}$$

Gröbner basis

The coefficients of the elements of Gröbner basis can be significantly messier than the coefficients of the original generating set. For example, for

 $I=\langle x^2+y^2+z^2-xy,x^2y^2z+z,x^2y+y^2z+z\rangle$, a Gröbner basis (with graded lexicographic order) is:

$$G = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y^3z^2 + yz^2 - z, \\ z^5 - \frac{3}{5}xyz + \frac{6}{5}xz^2 - \frac{1}{5}y^2z - yz^2 - \frac{4}{5}z^3 + \frac{1}{5}z, \\ xyz^2 - \frac{1}{4}y^3z - \frac{3}{4}y^2z^2 - \frac{5}{4}z^4 - \frac{1}{2}xz + \frac{1}{4}yz, \\ xz^3 + \frac{1}{2}y^3z - \frac{1}{2}y^2z^2 - \frac{1}{2}z^4 - xz + \frac{1}{2}yz - z^2, \\ y^4 - \frac{3}{4}y^3z + \frac{11}{4}y^2z^2 + \frac{5}{4}z^4 + \frac{1}{2}xz - \frac{5}{4}yz + 2z^2, \\ yz^3 + xz - yz + z^2, \\ xy^2 - y^3 + y^2z - yz^2 + z, \\ x^2 - xy + y^2 + z^2 \end{array} \right\}$$

```
F4 Algorithm
Input: F = (f_1, ..., f_s)
Output: a Gröbner basis G for I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle
G := F
k := s
B := \{(i, j) : 1 \le i < j \le k\}
WHILE B \neq 0 DO
  B' := \operatorname{select}(B)
  B := B \backslash B'
  G' := REDUCTION(B', G)
  FOR h in G' DO
     G := G \cup \{h\}
     k := k + 1
     B := B \cup \{(i, k) : 1 < i < k\}
return G
```

REDUCTION

Input: a set of pairs B' and a current basis G Output: a set G' of new basis elements

L := SYMBOLICPREPROCESSING(B', G) M := matrix with rows the polynomials in L M' := reduced row echelon form of M L' := polynomials corresponding to the rows of M' $G' := \{ f \in L' : \text{LM}(f) \neq \text{LM}(g) \text{ for any } g \in L \}$

RETURN G'

```
SYMBOLICPREPROCESSING
Input: a set of pairs B' and a current basis G
Output: a set L of polynomials
Left := \{\operatorname{lcm}(\operatorname{LM}(G_i), \operatorname{LM}(G_i)) / \operatorname{LT}(G_i) \cdot G_i : (i, j) \in B'\}
Right := \{ lcm(LM(G_i), LM(G_i)) / LT(G_i) \cdot G_i : (i, j) \in B' \}
L := Left \cup Right
done := \{LM(f) : f \in L\}
WHILE done \neq Mon(L) DO
   m := largest monomial in (Mon(L) \setminus done)
  done := done \cup \{m\}
  IF LM(g) divides m for some g in G THEN
      f := \text{choose } g \text{ such that } LM(g) \text{ divides } m
      L := L \cup \{m/\mathsf{LM}(f) \cdot f\}
RETURN /
```

POT order

If $\mathbf{g} = (x^3, y, x + z^2)$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x, y, z]^3$, with $>_{POT}$ extending the grevlex order with x > y > z, then $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{g}) = z^2 \mathbf{e}_3$.