

# Separating Variables in Bivariate Polynomial Ideals

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joint work with  
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Intersection of  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebras.

Let  $u, v \in \mathbb{K}[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ . The intersection  $\mathbb{K}[u] \cap \mathbb{K}[v]$  can be computed by determining pairs  $(f, g) \in \mathbb{K}[x] \times \mathbb{K}[y]$  such that  $f(u) = g(v)$ , i.e. such that  $f(x) - g(y) \in \langle x - u, y - v \rangle \cap \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ .

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An elimination procedure for Laurent series as in Mireille Bousquet-Mélou's proof of the algebraicity of the generating function of Gessel's walks.

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Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  be an ideal. Then

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## Problem

Given generators of an ideal  $I \subseteq \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ , determine a set of generators for the algebra  $A(I)$  of separated polynomials.

## Examples

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What is  $A(I)$  for the ideal  $I$  generated by  
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A list of generators for  $A(I)$  is  $x$

$$(x^{12} - 2x^6, y^{12} - 2y^6),$$

$$(9x^{15} - 26x^9 + 17x^3, 9y^{15} - 26y^9 + 17y^3),$$

$$(81x^{18} - 323x^6, 81y^{18} - 323y^6),$$

$$(81x^{21} - 539x^9 + 458x^3, 81y^{21} - 539y^9 + 458y^3).$$

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- 4 Compute the intersection  $A(I) = A(I_0) \cap A(I_1)$ .

## Zero-Dimensional Ideals

When  $I$  is zero-dimensional, there are

$p, q \in \mathbb{K}[x, y] \setminus \{0\}$  such that

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It is therefore sufficient to find all pairs  $(f, g) \in A(I)$  with

$$\deg_x f < \deg_x p \quad \text{and} \quad \deg_y g < \deg_y q.$$

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3 Make an ansatz  $h = \sum_{i=0}^{\deg_x p-1} a_i x^i - \sum_{j=0}^{\deg_y q-1} b_j y^j$  with undetermined coefficients  $a_i, b_j$ .

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- 6 Return  $(f_1, g_1), \dots, (f_d, g_d), (p, 0), \dots, (x^{\deg_x p-1} p, 0), (0, q), \dots, (0, y^{\deg_y q-1} q)$ .

## Principal Ideals

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Let  $f, g, F, G$  be nonconstant polynomials. Then  $f(x) - g(y)$  divides  $F(x) - G(y)$  if and only if there is a polynomial  $r$  such that

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**Theorem**

If  $I$  is principal, then  $A(I)$  is simple.

## Definition

A function  $\omega$  from the set of monomials in  $x$  and  $y$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  is called a **weight function** if there are  $\omega_x, \omega_y \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  such that  $\omega(x^i y^j) = \omega_x i + \omega_y j$  for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

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If  $p$  is separable and  $P$  is its minimal separated multiple, then there is a unique weight function  $\omega$  such that

- (a)  $lp_\omega(p)$  involves at least two monomials, and
- (b) the minimal separated multiple of  $lp_\omega(p)$  is  $lp_\omega(P)$ .

## An Example

Is the polynomial

$$p(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y + xy^2 + y^3 + x^2 + xy + y^2$$

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Yes, because

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Its leading part  $lp(p)$  is  $x^3 + x^2y + xy^2 + y^3$ , and the minimal separated multiple of  $lp(p)$  is  $x^4 - y^4$ .

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Make an ansatz

$$P(x, y) = x^4 - y^4 + \sum_{i+j<4} P_{ij}x^i y^j$$

for the minimal separated multiple  $P$  of  $p$ , divide it by  $p$ , and set the coefficients of the remainder equal to zero.

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The resulting linear system does not have a solution, and therefore,  $p$  is not separable.

## The Homogeneous Case

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- (b) all the roots of  $p(x, 1)$  in  $\bar{\mathbb{K}}$  are distinct and the ratio of every two of them is a root of unity.

Moreover, if  $p$  is separable and  $N$  is the minimal number such that the ratio of every pair of roots of  $p(x, 1)$  is an  $N$ -th root of unity, then the weight of the minimal separated multiple is  $N\omega_x$ .

## *Reduction to the Homogeneous Case*

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J. W. S. Cassels, *Factorization of polynomials in several variables*,  
Proceedings of the 15th Scandinavian Congress Oslo 1968, 1969

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The Galois group  $G$  of  $\overline{\mathbb{K}(t)}/\mathbb{K}(t)$  acts on  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n$  by

$$\pi(i, j) = (i', j') \quad :\iff \quad (\pi(\alpha_i), \pi(\beta_j)) = (\alpha_{i'}, \beta_{j'}).$$

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It restricts to a bijection between separated factors and (separated) invariant subsets  $T \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that

$$\chi_T(i, \cdot) = \chi_T(i', \cdot) \quad \text{or} \quad \chi_T(i, \cdot) \cdot \chi_T(i', \cdot) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i, i' \in \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

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Furthermore,

$$\text{if } T \subseteq \bar{T} \text{ are invariant, then } p_T(x, y) \mid p_{\bar{T}}(x, y).$$

It restricts to a bijection between separated factors and (separated) invariant subsets  $T \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that

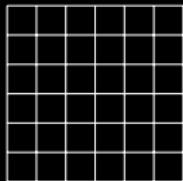
$$\chi_T(i, \cdot) = \chi_T(i', \cdot) \quad \text{or} \quad \chi_T(i, \cdot) \cdot \chi_T(i', \cdot) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i, i' \in \mathbb{Z}_m.$$

In particular,  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n$  is invariant and separated, and corresponds to the separated factor  $f(x) - g(y)$ .

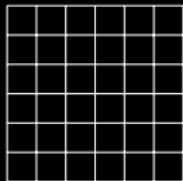
## An Example

## An Example

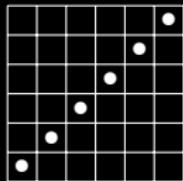
The factors of  $x^6 - y^6$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ .



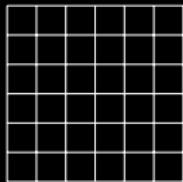
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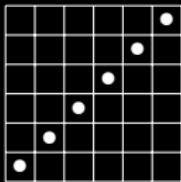
$I$



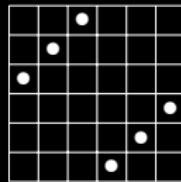
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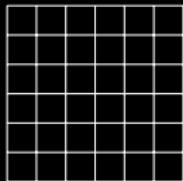
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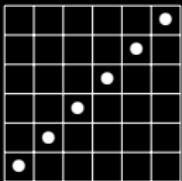
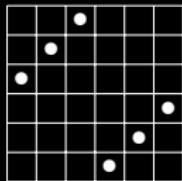
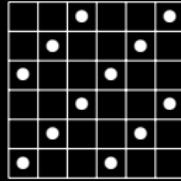
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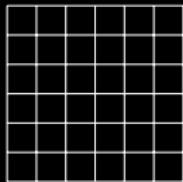


$x + y$

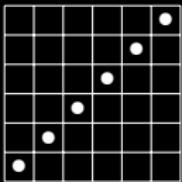


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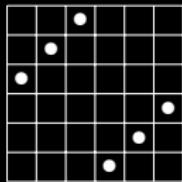
 $x - y$  $x + y$  $x^2 - y^2$



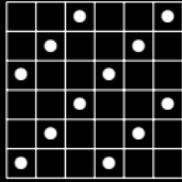
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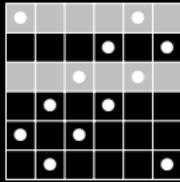
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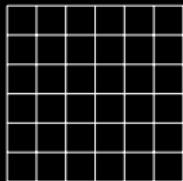
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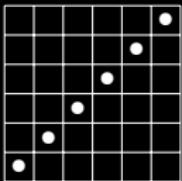
$x^2 - y^2$



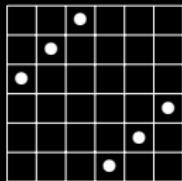
$x^2 - xy + y^2$



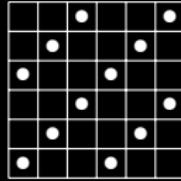
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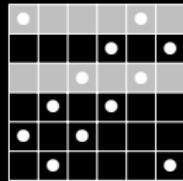
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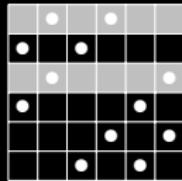
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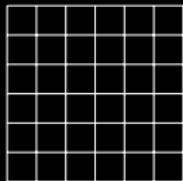
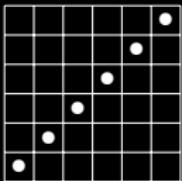
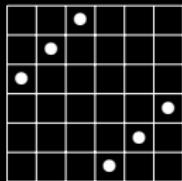
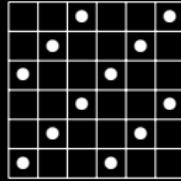
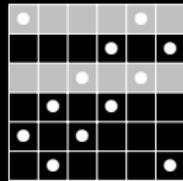
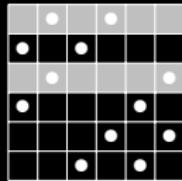
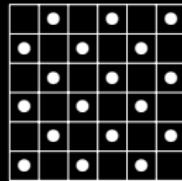
$$x^2 - y^2$$

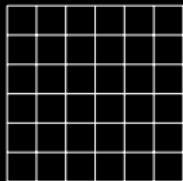


$$x^2 - xy + y^2$$

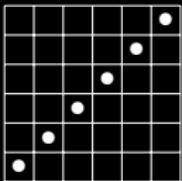


$$x^2 + xy + y^2$$

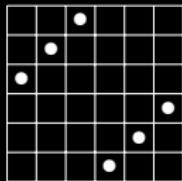
 $1$  $x - y$  $x + y$  $x^2 - y^2$  $x^2 - xy + y^2$  $x^2 + xy + y^2$  $x^3 - y^3$



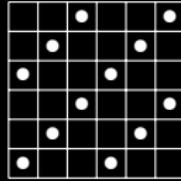
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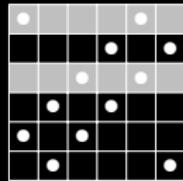
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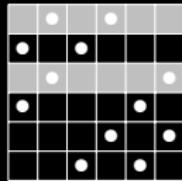
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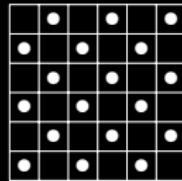
$$x^2 - y^2$$



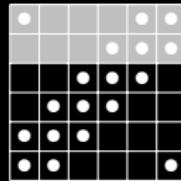
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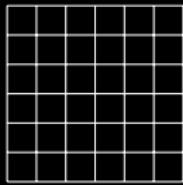
$$x^2 + xy + y^2$$



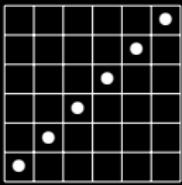
$$x^3 - y^3$$



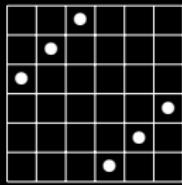
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



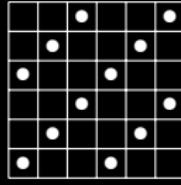
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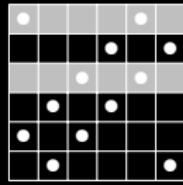
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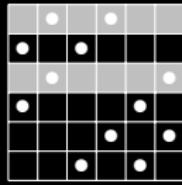
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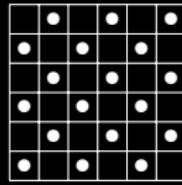
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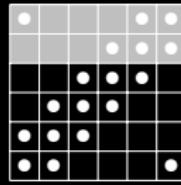
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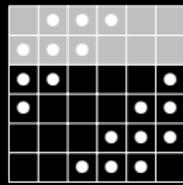
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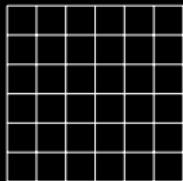
$$x^3 - y^3$$



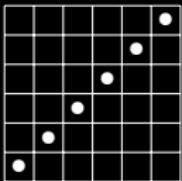
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



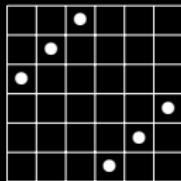
$$x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$$



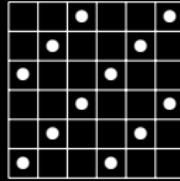
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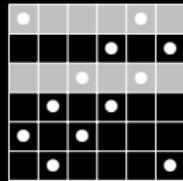
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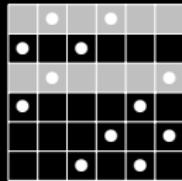
$$x + y$$



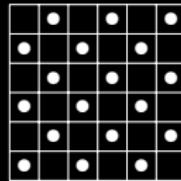
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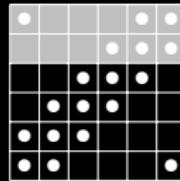
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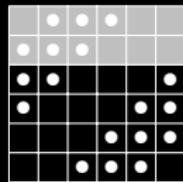
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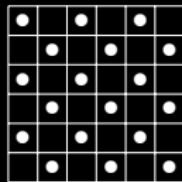
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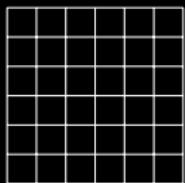
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



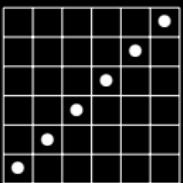
$$x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$$



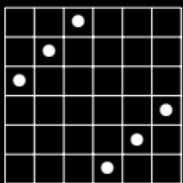
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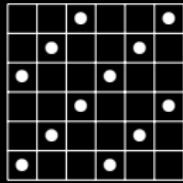
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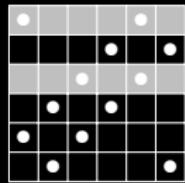
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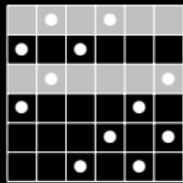
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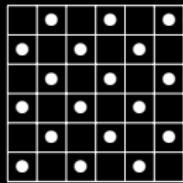
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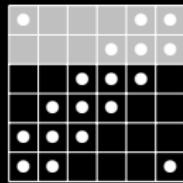
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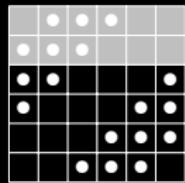
$$x^2 + xy + y^2$$



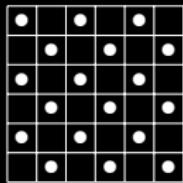
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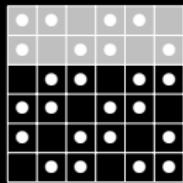
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



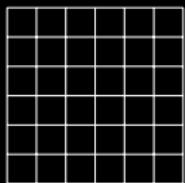
$$x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$$



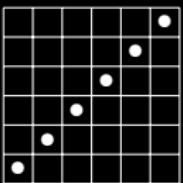
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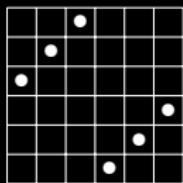
$$x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4$$



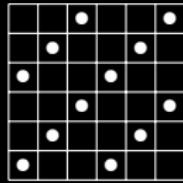
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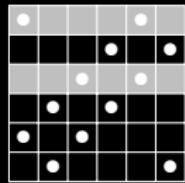
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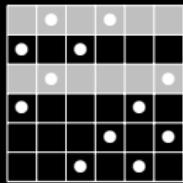
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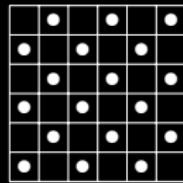
$$x^2 - y^2$$



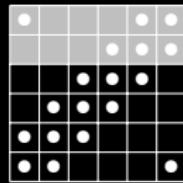
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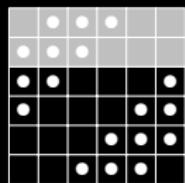
$$x^2 + xy + y^2$$



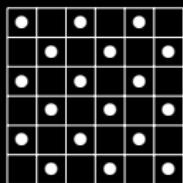
$$x^3 - y^3$$



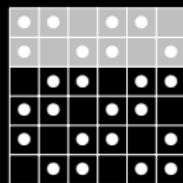
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



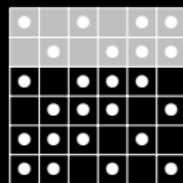
$$x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$$



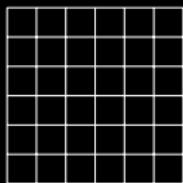
$$x^3 + y^3$$



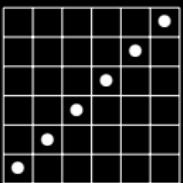
$$x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4$$



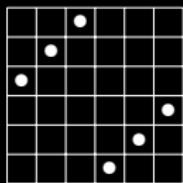
$$x^4 - x^3y + xy^3 - y^4$$



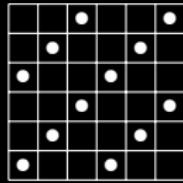
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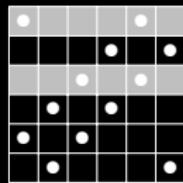
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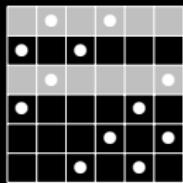
$$x + y$$



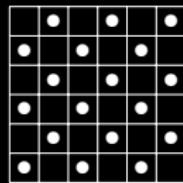
$$x^2 - y^2$$



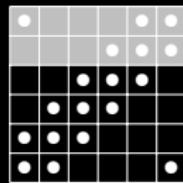
$$x^2 - xy + y^2$$



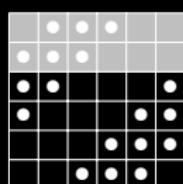
$$x^2 + xy + y^2$$



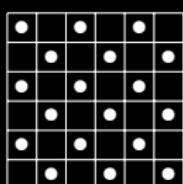
$$x^3 - y^3$$



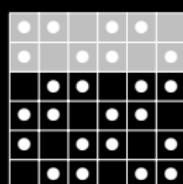
$$x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$$



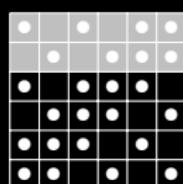
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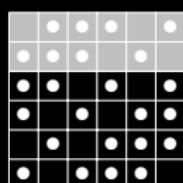
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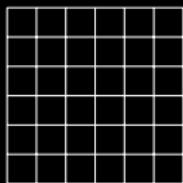
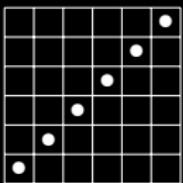
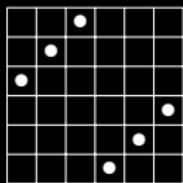
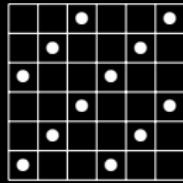
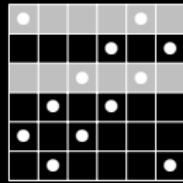
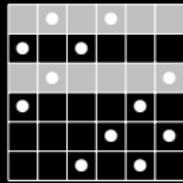
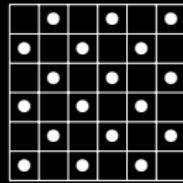
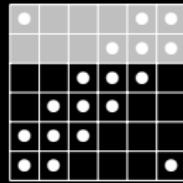
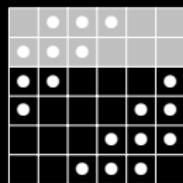
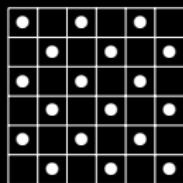
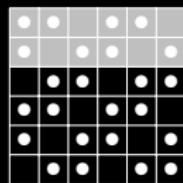
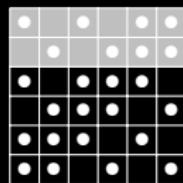
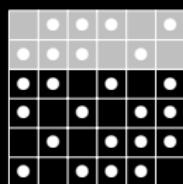
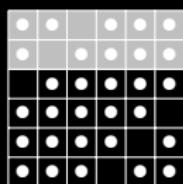
$$x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4$$

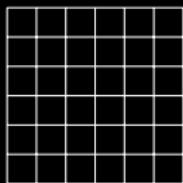


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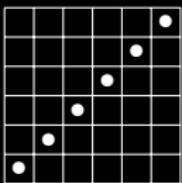


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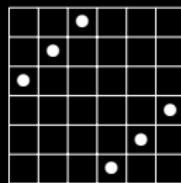
 $1$  $x - y$  $x + y$  $x^2 - y^2$  $x^2 - xy + y^2$  $x^2 + xy + y^2$  $x^3 - y^3$  $x^3 - 2x^2y + 2xy^2 - y^3$  $x^3 + 2x^2y + 2xy^2 + y^3$  $x^3 + y^3$  $x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4$  $x^4 - x^3y + xy^3 - y^4$  $x^4 + x^3y - xy^3 - y^4$  $x^5 - x^4y + \dots - y^5$



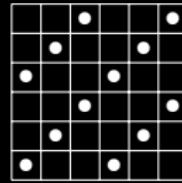
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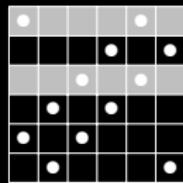
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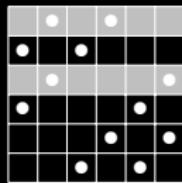
$$x + y$$



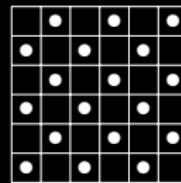
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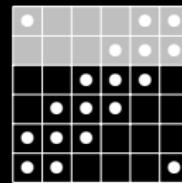
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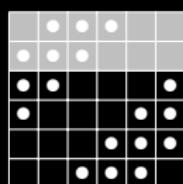
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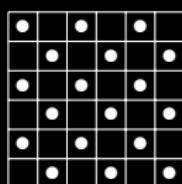
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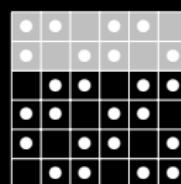
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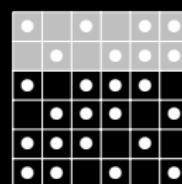
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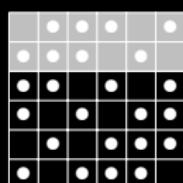
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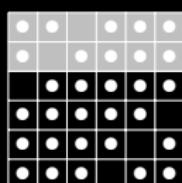
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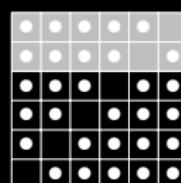
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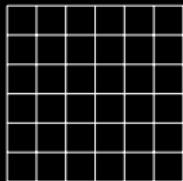
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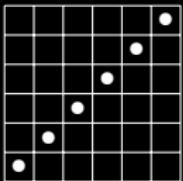
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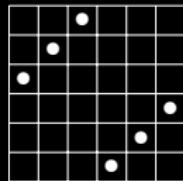
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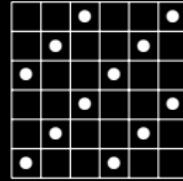
$$1$$



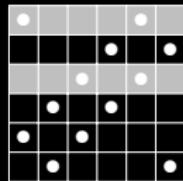
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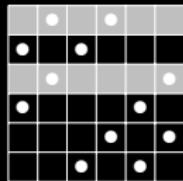
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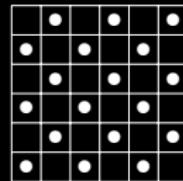
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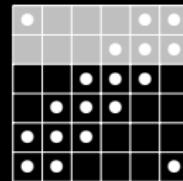
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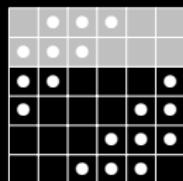
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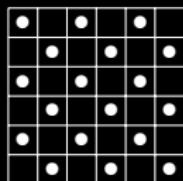
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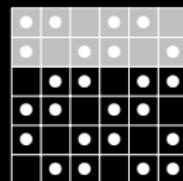
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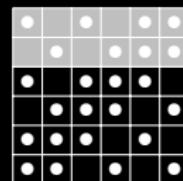
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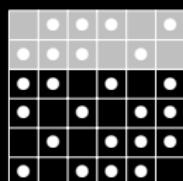
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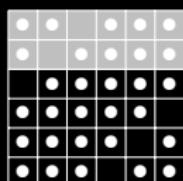
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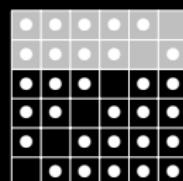
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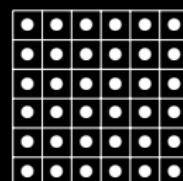
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$$x^6 - y^6$$

## Definition

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Let  $T$  be an invariant subset of  $\mathbb{Z}_n \times \mathbb{Z}_m$ . The **separable closure**  $T^{\text{sep}}$  of  $T$  is defined by

$$T^{\text{sep}} := \bigcap_{\substack{S \supseteq T \\ S \text{ inv, sep}}} S.$$

## Theorem

If  $p$  is separable and  $P$  is its minimal separated multiple, then there is a unique weight function  $\omega$  such that

- (a)  $lp_{\omega}(p)$  involves at least two monomials, and
- (b) the minimal separated multiple of  $lp_{\omega}(p)$  is  $lp_{\omega}(P)$ .

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Assume  $\alpha_i, \beta_j \in \mathbb{K}^{\text{Puiseux}}(t^{-1})$ , and define

$$\bar{\alpha}_i := \text{lt}(\alpha_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\beta}_j := \text{lt}(\beta_j), \text{ and}$$

$$T := \{(i, j) \mid p(\alpha_i, \beta_j) = 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{T} := \{(i, j) \mid \text{lp}_\omega(p)(\bar{\alpha}_i, \bar{\beta}_j) = 0\}.$$

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Since

$$p(\alpha_i, \beta_j) = 0 \implies \text{lp}_\omega(p)(\bar{\alpha}_i, \bar{\beta}_j) = 0,$$

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If  $P$  is the minimal separated multiple of  $p$ , then

$$T^{\text{sep}} = \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n, \quad \text{and hence} \quad \bar{T}^{\text{sep}} = \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_n,$$

and  $\text{lp}_\omega(P)$  is the minimal separated multiple of  $\text{lp}_\omega(p)$ .

## Arbitrary Bivariate Ideals

Let  $I = I_0 \cap I_1$  be such that  $I_0$  is zero-dimensional and  $I_1$  principal. Given a set of generators of  $A(I_0)$  and the generator of  $A(I_1)$ , how can we determine a set of generators of

$$A(I) = A(I_0) \cap A(I_1)?$$

Lemma

### Lemma

Let  $I_0 \subseteq \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  be a zero-dimensional ideal. There is a finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -subspace  $V$  of  $\mathbb{K}[x] \times \mathbb{K}[y]$  such that

$$V \oplus A(I_0) = \mathbb{K}[x] \times \mathbb{K}[y].$$

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Moreover, given  $(f, g) \in \mathbb{K}[x] \times \mathbb{K}[y]$ , we can compute  $(\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \in V$  such that

$$(f, g) - (\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}) \in A(I_0).$$

## Algorithm

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Input:  $a \in \mathbb{K}[x] \times \mathbb{K}[y]$ , and  $A(I_0)$  and  $V$  as before, and a finite set  $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_m\}$  of elements of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

Output: a basis of the vector space of polynomials  $p$  such that  $\text{supp}(p) \subseteq S$  and  $p(a) \in A(I_0)$ .

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- 3 For every element  $(c_1, \dots, c_m) \in B$ , return  $c_1t^{s_1} + \dots + c_mt^{s_m}$ .

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- 3 While  $\text{gcd}(\Delta) \neq 1$ , do:

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  - 7 Return  $G$

## An Example

To compute  $A(I_0) \cap A(I_1)$  for

$$I_0 = \langle x^3 - 2xy + y^2, y^3 - 2x^2y - 1 \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad I_1 = \langle x^2 - xy + y^2 \rangle,$$

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The implementation of the algorithm can be found on  
<http://kauers.de/software/separate.m>

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Thank you for your attention.