

Assignment 1.4  
 Exercises: 2, 3, 6, 7, 9

**Exercise 1.4.2**

*Proof.* Let  $I \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be an ideal, and let  $f_1, \dots, f_s \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . We wish to show that

$$f_1, \dots, f_s \in I \Leftrightarrow \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle \subseteq I.$$

( $\Rightarrow$ ): Assume that  $f_1, \dots, f_s \in I$  and let  $f \in \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle$  be arbitrary. Note that  $f = h_1 f_1 + \dots + h_s f_s$  for some  $h_1, \dots, h_s \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Since  $I$  is an ideal, we know by definition that each  $h_i f_i \in I$  and that  $h_1 f_1 + \dots + h_s f_s \in I$ . Therefore,  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle \subseteq I$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ): Assume that  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle \subseteq I$ . Note that  $f_1 \in \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle$  since

$$f_1 = 1 \cdot f_1 + 0 \cdot f_2 + \dots + 0 \cdot f_s \in \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle.$$

Thus  $f_1 \in \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle \subseteq I$ . This conclusion can be generalized for any polynomial  $f_i$  in the basis  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle$ . Therefore,  $f_1, \dots, f_s \in I$ .  $\square$

**Exercise 1.4.3**

(1.4.3a): ( $\subseteq$ ): Note that  $x \in \langle x + y, x - y \rangle$  since  $x = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (x + y) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (x - y)$ . Similarly,  $y \in \langle x + y, x - y \rangle$  since  $y = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (x + y) + \frac{-1}{2} \cdot (x - y)$ . Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,

$$x, y \in \langle x + y, x - y \rangle \Rightarrow \langle x, y \rangle \subseteq \langle x + y, x - y \rangle.$$

( $\supseteq$ ): Note that  $x + y \in \langle x, y \rangle$  since  $x + y = 1 \cdot x + 1 \cdot y$ . Similarly,  $x - y \in \langle x, y \rangle$  since  $x - y = 1 \cdot x - 1 \cdot y$ . Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,

$$x + y, x - y \in \langle x, y \rangle \Rightarrow \langle x + y, x - y \rangle \subseteq \langle x, y \rangle.$$

Therefore  $\langle x + y, x - y \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ .

(1.4.3b): ( $\subseteq$ ): Note that

$$\begin{aligned} x + xy &= 1 \cdot x + x \cdot y \in \langle x, y \rangle \\ y + xy &= y \cdot x + 1 \cdot y \in \langle x, y \rangle \\ x^2 &= x \cdot x + 0 \cdot y \in \langle x, y \rangle \\ y^2 &= 0 \cdot x + y \cdot y \in \langle x, y \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,  $\langle x + xy, y + xy, x^2, y^2 \rangle \subseteq \langle x, y \rangle$ .

( $\supseteq$ ): Note that

$$\begin{aligned}x &= (1 - y) \cdot (x + xy) + y \cdot (y + xy) + 0 \cdot x^2 + (-1) \cdot y^2 \in \langle x + xy, y + xy, x^2, y^2 \rangle \\y &= x \cdot (x + xy) + (1 - x) \cdot (y + xy) + (-1) \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot y^2 \in \langle x + xy, y + xy, x^2, y^2 \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,  $\langle x, y \rangle \subseteq \langle x + xy, y + xy, x^2, y^2 \rangle$ . Therefore,  $\langle x + xy, y + xy, x^2, y^2 \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ .

**(1.4.3c):** ( $\subseteq$ ): Note that

$$\begin{aligned}2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11 &= 2 \cdot (x^2 - 4) + 3 \cdot (y^2 - 1) \in \langle x^2 - 4, y^2 - 1 \rangle \\x^2 - y^2 - 3 &= 1 \cdot (x^2 - 4) + (-1) \cdot (y^2 - 1) \in \langle x^2 - 4, y^2 - 1 \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,  $\langle 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11, x^2 - y^2 - 3 \rangle \subseteq \langle x^2 - 4, y^2 - 1 \rangle$ .

( $\supseteq$ ): Note that

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 - 4 &= \frac{1}{5} \cdot 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11 + \frac{3}{5} \cdot x^2 - y^2 - 3 \in \langle 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11, x^2 - y^2 - 3 \rangle \\y^2 - 1 &= \frac{1}{5} \cdot 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11 + \frac{-2}{5} \cdot x^2 - y^2 - 3 \in \langle 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11, x^2 - y^2 - 3 \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2,  $\langle x^2 - 4, y^2 - 1 \rangle \subseteq \langle 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11, x^2 - y^2 - 3 \rangle$ . Therefore  $\langle 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 11, x^2 - y^2 - 3 \rangle = \langle x^2 - 4, y^2 - 1 \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ .

#### Exercise 1.4.6

**(1.4.6a):** Note that  $x^n \in \langle x \rangle$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Each term in the set of  $x^n$ s described this way is linearly independent from the others as long as we are multiplying by elements of  $k$ , so  $\langle x \rangle$  has infinite dimension. Thus, any vector space basis of  $I$  over  $k$  is infinite.

**(1.4.6b):**  $0 = y \cdot x + (-x) \cdot y.$

**(1.4.6c):**  $0 = f_j \cdot f_i + (-f_i) \cdot f_j.$

**(1.4.6d):**  $f = x^2 + xy + y^2 = (x + y) \cdot x + y \cdot y = x \cdot x + (x + y) \cdot y.$

**(1.4.6e):** We wish to show that  $x$  and  $x + x^2, x^2$  are minimal bases for the same ideal of  $k[x]$ .

*Proof.* We begin by showing that  $x$  and  $x + x^2, x^2$  are bases for the same ideal. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 1 \cdot (x + x^2) + (-1) \cdot x^2 \in \langle x + x^2, x^2 \rangle \\x^2 &= x \cdot x \in \langle x \rangle \\x + x^2 &= x + x \cdot x \in \langle x \rangle\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Exercise 1.4.2 we can conclude that  $\langle x \rangle = \langle x + x^2, x^2 \rangle$ .

Next, we show that  $x$  and  $x + x^2, x^2$  are both minimal bases. Note that  $x$  is a minimal basis because the only proper subset is the empty set, which cannot describe the same ideal

of  $k[x]$ . We can see that  $x + x^2, x^2$  is a minimal basis by noting that  $x \notin \langle x^2 \rangle$  since  $x^2$  does not divide  $x$ . Similarly, we can conclude that  $x \notin \langle x + x^2 \rangle$ . Hence  $x + x^2, x^2$  is a minimal basis.

We therefore conclude that the bases  $x$  and  $x + x^2, x^2$  both describe the same ideal and are both minimal.  $\square$

#### Exercise 1.4.7

*Proof.* Note that, since  $m, n$  are both positive,  $V(x^n, y^m) = \{(0, 0)\}$ . All that remains is to show that  $I(\{(0, 0)\}) = \langle x, y \rangle$ . To prove one direction, we see that any polynomial in the form  $A(x, y)x + B(x, y)y$  vanishes at the origin. For the other direction, suppose that  $f = \sum_{ij} a_{ij}x^i y^j \in I(\{(0, 0)\})$ . Then  $a_{00} = f(0, 0) = 0$  and we have that

$$\begin{aligned} f &= a_{00} + \sum_{i,j \neq 0,0} a_{ij}x^i y^j \\ &= 0 + \left( \sum_{i,j,i>0} a_{ij}x^{i-1}y^j \right)x + \left( \sum_{j>0} a_{0j}y^{j-1} \right)y \in \langle x, y \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $I(V(x^n, y^m)) = I(\{(0, 0)\}) = \langle x, y \rangle$ .  $\square$

#### Exercise 1.4.9

**(1.4.9a):** By definition, we have that  $f(x, y, z) = y^2 - xz \in I(V)$  if and only if  $f = 0$  on  $V$ . Let  $(a, b, c)$  be an arbitrary point contained in  $V$ . By the book's given parameterization, we have that  $(a, b, c) = (t, t^2, t^3)$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence  $b^2 - ac = (t^2)^2 - t(t^3) = t^4 - t^4 = 0$ . Since  $(a, b, c)$  is arbitrary, we now have that  $y^2 - xz = 0$  on  $V$  so  $y^2 - xz \in I(V)$ .

**(1.4.9b):** We wish to show that  $y^2 - xz \in \langle y - x^2, z - x^3 \rangle$ , or in other words,  $y^2 - xz = h_1(y - x^2) + h_2(z - x^3)$  where  $h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{R}[x, y, z]$ . We begin by expanding the terms of  $y^2 - xz$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y^2 &= x^0 y^2 z^0 = x^0 (x^2 + (y - x^2))^2 (x^3 + (z - x^3))^0 \\ &= (x^4 + 2x^2(y - x^2) + y^2 - 2x^2 y + x^4) \\ &= (2x^2 + (y - x^2))(y - x^2) + x^4 \\ &= (y + x^2)(y - x^2) + x^4 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} xz &= x^1 y^0 z^1 = x(x^2 + (y - x^2))(x^3 + (z - x^3))^1 \\ &= x(z - x^3) + x^4. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} y^2 - xz &= ((y + x^2)(y - x^2) + x^4) - (x(z - x^3) + x^4) \\ &= (y + x^2)(y - x^2) + (-x)(z - x^3) + x^4 - x^4 \\ &= h_1 \cdot (y - x^2) + h_2 \cdot (z - x^3) \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_1 = y + x^2$  and  $h_2 = -x$ . Therefore  $y^2 - xz \in \langle y - x^2, z - x^3 \rangle$  as desired.