

# Goldbach Rings

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## Abstract

Let  $\mathbb{k}$  be a field. We introduce and study an infinite-dimensional  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra  $G$  which we call the Goldbach ring. As the name suggests, the Goldbach ring is closely related to Goldbach's conjecture. Properties that  $G$  satisfies as a ring (such as whether or not it is an integral domain) may give us clues about Goldbach's conjecture itself.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{k}$  be a field. We introduce and study an infinite dimensional  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra which we call the Goldbach ring, which, as the name suggests, is related to Goldbach's conjecture:

**Conjecture 1.** *Every even integer  $\geq 6$  can be expressed as the sum of two odd primes.*

The Goldbach ring  $G$  is defined to be the quotient  $G = R/I$  where

$$R = \mathbb{k}[x_p, x_{p+q} \mid p, q \text{ odd primes}] \quad \text{and} \quad I = \langle \{x_p x_q - x_{p+q} \mid p, q \text{ odd primes}\} \rangle$$

The Goldbach ring has the structure of a bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra meaning it can be decomposed as

$$G = \bigoplus_{n,d \geq 0} G_{n,d},$$

where the component  $G_{n,d}$  in bi-degree  $(n, d) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^2$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space whose dimension we are interested in counting (see subsection 2.1 for the definition of  $G_{n,d}$ ). Goldbach's conjecture itself is equivalent to the statement that  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}} G_{2k,2} = 1$  for all  $k \geq 3$ , however this is just a restatement of Goldbach's conjecture; what's more interesting and new in our view is the following conjecture that we propose:

**Conjecture 2.** *We have*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{k}} G_{n,d} \leq 1$$

for all  $n, d \in \mathbb{N}$ .

A counter-example to Conjecture 2 would be the existence of odd primes  $p_1, \dots, p_d$  and  $q_1, \dots, q_d$  such that

$$p_1 + \dots + p_d = n = q_1 + \dots + q_d$$

but  $x_{p_1} \dots x_{p_d} \neq x_{q_1} \dots x_{q_d}$  in  $G$ . However we do not believe such a counter-example exists since in practice there are usually many ways to go from  $x_{p_1} \dots x_{p_d}$  to  $x_{q_1} \dots x_{q_d}$  by applying elementary Goldbach relations of the form  $x_p x_q = x_{p+q}$ . For instance, in  $G_{36,4}$  we have  $x_3^2 x_{11} x_{19} = x_5^2 x_{13}^2$  since

$$\begin{aligned} x_3^2 x_{11} x_{19} &= x_3 x_{11} x_{22} \\ &= x_3 x_5 x_{11} x_{17} \\ &= x_5 x_{11} x_{20} \\ &= x_5 x_7 x_{11} x_{13} \\ &= x_5 x_{13} x_{18} \\ &= x_5^2 x_{13}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Note there are other paths we could have taken to get from  $x_3^2 x_{11} x_{19}$  to  $x_5^2 x_{13}^2$  however it turns out that this is the shortest path. Ultimately any attempt towards a solution to Conjecture 2 will involve tools and techniques from analytic number theory. What we find interesting is that Conjecture 2 also seems to involve a lot of commutative algebra. For example, if Conjecture 2 is true, then it would imply that  $G$  is an integral domain. Conversely, one can show that if  $G$  is an integral domain and Conjecture 2 holds for  $n, d$  sufficiently large, then Conjecture 2 is true.

## 2 Goldbach Rings

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a subset of the positive odd integers and set  $\mathcal{B} := \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A} = \{a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1, a_2 \in \mathcal{A}\}$ . We set

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \mathbb{k}[x_a, x_b \mid a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}] \\ I &= \langle x_{a_1}x_{a_2} - x_{a_1+a_2} \mid a_1, a_2 \in \mathcal{A} \rangle \\ G &= R/I. \end{aligned}$$

We will refer to  $G$  as the **Goldbach ring supported on  $\mathcal{A}$**  or just as a Goldbach ring if  $\mathcal{A}$  is understood from context. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the set of all monomials in  $R$ . There are two ways we can represent monomials both of which are convenient for our purposes. The first way is as a finite product of the indeterminates  $\{x_a, x_b \mid a \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } b \in \mathcal{B}\}$ , that is, a monomial can be expressed in the form

$$x_{\mathbf{a}}x_{\mathbf{b}} := x_{a_1} \cdots x_{a_r} x_{b_1} \cdots x_{b_s}$$

where  $\mathbf{a} = a_1, \dots, a_r$  is a (not necessarily distinct) sequence of elements in  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = b_1, \dots, b_s$  is a sequence of (not necessarily distinct) elements in  $\mathcal{B}$ . We will use this way of representing monomials when describing the bi-graded structure on  $R$ . The second way of representing monomials is described as follows: given a function  $\alpha: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we define its **support**, denoted  $\text{supp } \alpha$ , to be the set

$$\text{supp } \alpha = \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid \alpha(m) \neq 0\}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of all functions  $\alpha: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $\text{supp } \alpha$  is finite and is contained in  $\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}$ . There is a bijection from  $\mathcal{F}$  to  $\mathcal{M}$  given by assigning to  $\alpha \in \mathcal{F}$  the monomial

$$x^\alpha := \prod_{m \in \mathbb{N}} x_m^{\alpha(m)} = \prod_{m \in \text{supp } \alpha} x_m^{\alpha(m)}.$$

For instance, if  $\alpha: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is defined by

$$\alpha(m) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } m = 3 \\ 2 & \text{if } m = 6 \\ 4 & \text{if } m = 11 \\ 0 & \text{if } m \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{3, 6, 11\}. \end{cases}$$

Then  $x^\alpha = x_3^2 x_6^2 x_{11}^4$  and  $\text{supp } x^\alpha = \{3, 6, 11\}$ . This second way of expressing monomials gives us a cleaner way of expressing nonzero polynomials in  $R$ ; namely, every nonzero polynomial  $f \in R$  can be expressed in the form

$$f = c_1 x^{\alpha_1} + \cdots + c_n x^{\alpha_n}$$

for unique  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{k}$  and for unique  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathcal{F}$ .

### 2.1 Bi-Graded $\mathbb{k}$ -Structures on $R$ and $G$

We give  $R$  and  $G$  bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -structures as follows: we define  $\deg_1: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $\deg_2: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$\deg_1(x_{\mathbf{a}}x_{\mathbf{b}}) = \sum_{i=1}^r a_i + \sum_{j=1}^s b_j \quad \text{and} \quad \deg_2(x_{\mathbf{a}}x_{\mathbf{b}}) = r + 2s.$$

For each  $n, d \in \mathbb{N}$ , we set

$$R_n = \text{span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{x^\alpha \in \mathcal{M} \mid \deg_1(x^\alpha) = n\} \quad \text{and} \quad R_{n,d} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{x^\alpha \in \mathcal{M} \mid \deg_1(x^\alpha) = n \text{ and } \deg_2(x^\alpha) = d\}.$$

Then we have a decomposition of  $R$  into  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces:

$$R = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} R_n = \bigoplus_{n,d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} R_{n,d},$$

which gives  $R$  a bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -structure. Since  $I$  is homogeneous with respect to this bi-grading,  $G$  inherits the bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -structure induced by the one on  $R$ :

$$G = \bigoplus_n G_n = \bigoplus_{n,d} G_{n,d}.$$

We set  $\Delta_{n,d} = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} R_{n,d}$  and  $\delta_{n,d} = \dim_{\mathbb{k}} G_{n,d}$ . Thus  $\Delta_{n,d}$  counts the number of ways we can express  $n$  as a sum

$$n = a_1 + \cdots + a_r + b_1 + \cdots + b_s$$

where  $a_1, \dots, a_r \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $b_1, \dots, b_s \in \mathcal{B}$ , and  $d = r + 2s$ . Whenever we have  $\Delta_{n,d} \neq 0$ , we say  $(n, d)$  is a **good pair**. When  $(n, d)$  is a good pair, we are interested in determining whether or not  $\delta_{n,d} = 1$  or  $\delta_{n,d} > 1$ . See the beginning of Section 3 for an example of what  $R_{n,d}$  and  $G_{n,d}$  look like in the case where  $\mathcal{A} = \{\text{odd positive primes}\}$ .

## 2.2 Constructing the Minimal Free Resolution of $G$ over $R$

For each  $m \geq 1$ , we set

$$\begin{aligned} R^m &= R \cap \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m] \\ I^m &= \langle x_{a_1}x_{a_2} - x_{a_1+a_2} \mid a_1 + a_2 \leq m \rangle \\ G^m &= R^m / I^m. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $R^m$  and  $G^m$  have bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -structures:

$$R^m = \bigoplus_n R_n^m = \bigoplus_{n,d} R_{n,d}^m \quad \text{and} \quad G^m = \bigoplus_n G_n^m = \bigoplus_{n,d} G_{n,d}^m.$$

Note that if  $x_a x_b \in R_n$ , then  $a_1 + \dots + a_r + b_1 + \dots + b_s = n$  implies that the  $a_i$ 's and  $b_j$ 's must all be less than or equal to  $n$ . Thus for all  $m \geq n$  we have we have

$$R_n^m = R_n^n = R_n \quad \text{and} \quad G_n^m = G_n^n = G_n.$$

Thus we have directed systems  $(R^m)$  and  $(G^m)$  of bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras where the bi-graded components  $R_{n,d}^m$  and  $G_{n,d}^m$  in bi-degree  $(n, d)$  stabilizes to  $R_{n,d}$  and  $G_{n,d}$  respectively for  $m$  sufficiently large (for example  $m \geq n$ ). It follows that

$$R = \varinjlim R^m \quad \text{and} \quad G = \varinjlim G^m$$

as bi-graded direct limits.

Next let  $F^m$  be the minimal free resolution of  $G^m$  over  $R^m$ . We set

$$\delta^m = \text{depth}_{R^m} G^m \quad \text{and} \quad \rho^m = \text{pd}_{R^m} G^m = \text{length } F^m.$$

Note that these quantities are intrinsic to  $R^m$  and  $G^m$  (and possibly the characteristic of  $\mathbb{k}$ ), and are not intrinsic to  $R$  and  $G$ . Nevertheless, one can hope that they might give useful information for  $m$  sufficiently large. For instance, by the Auslander-Buchsbaum formula we have

$$\rho^m + \delta^m = \pi_{\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}}(m) := \#\{x \in \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B} \mid x \leq m\}. \quad (1)$$

The left-hand side of (1) is of interest in commutative algebra whereas the right-hand side of (1) is of interest in analytic number theory. Observe that  $F^m$  has the structure of a bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -complex meaning we have a decomposition of  $\mathbb{k}$ -complexes:

$$F^m = \bigoplus_n F_n^m = \bigoplus_{n,d} F_{n,d}^m,$$

where  $F_{n,d}^m$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -subcomplex of  $F^m$ . In particular, the differential of  $F^m$  is homogeneous with respect to this bi-grading, thus

$$\bigoplus_{n,d} G_{n,d}^m = G^m = H(F^m) = \bigoplus_{n,d} H(F_{n,d}^m),$$

where we view  $G^m$  as a graded module concentrated in homological degree 0. In other words, we have

$$H_i(F_{n,d}^m) = \begin{cases} G_{n,d}^m & \text{if } i = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } i \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The  $i$ th bi-graded Betti number of  $G^m$  in bi-degree  $(n, d)$  is given by

$$\beta_{i,n,d}^m := \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \text{Tor}_i^{R^m}(G^m, \mathbb{k})_{n,d} = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(F_{i,n,d}^m).$$

We also set  $\rho_{n,d}^m = \text{length } F_{n,d}^m$ . The maps  $G^m \rightarrow G^{m+1}$  induce bi-graded comparison maps  $F^m \rightarrow F^{m+1}$  for all  $m$ . In general, these comparison maps are difficult to describe, however it turns out that as  $m$  tends towards infinity the sequence of  $\mathbb{k}$ -complexes  $(F_{n,d}^m)$ , with  $n$  and  $d$  fixed, stabilizes. For instance, if  $n$  is odd, then we have  $F_{n,d}^m = F_{n,d}^{n-3d+6}$  for all  $m \geq n - 3d + 6$  (see (3.1) for how some of these  $\mathbb{k}$ -complexes look in the case where  $\mathcal{A} = \{\text{positive odd primes}\}$ ). The idea is that the coefficients for the differential all belong to  $\mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$  for some sufficiently large  $m$ . Thus if we define  $F$  to be the direct limit of bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -complexes

$$F := \varinjlim F^m,$$

then  $F$  is a free resolution of  $G$  over  $R$  which has the following bi-graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -complex structure:

$$F = \bigoplus_{n,d} F_{n,d} = \bigoplus_{n,d} F_{n,d}^m.$$

where  $m$  is a sufficiently large integer depending on  $n$  and  $d$ . In particular, we see that  $\beta_{i,n,d}^m = \beta_{i,n,d}$  where

$$\beta_{i,n,d} := \dim_{\mathbb{k}} \operatorname{Tor}_i^R(G, \mathbb{k})_{n,d} = \dim_{\mathbb{k}}(F_{i,n,d})$$

is the  $i$ th bi-graded Betti number of  $G$  in bi-degree  $(n, d)$ . Similarly,  $\rho_{n,d}^m = \rho_{n,d}$  where

$$\rho_{n,d} = \sup\{i \mid \operatorname{Tor}_i^R(G, \mathbb{k})_{n,d} \neq 0\} = \operatorname{length}(F_{n,d}).$$

Unlike the quantities  $\delta^m$  and  $\rho^m$ , the quantities  $\beta_{i,n,d}^m$  and  $\rho_{n,d}^m$  actually intrinsic to  $R$  and  $G$  (and possibly depend on the characteristic of  $\mathbb{k}$  as well) when  $m$  is sufficiently large.

**Proposition 2.1.** *We have*

$$\delta_{n,d} = \Delta_{n,d} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (-1)^i \beta_{i,n,d}, \quad (3)$$

*Proof.* The  $\mathbb{k}$ -complex  $F_{n,d}$  an exact complex of finite length consisting finite dimensional  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces. Thus we have  $\chi(F_{n,d}) = 0$  where  $\chi$  is the Euler characteristic of  $F_{n,d}$ . However this is exactly what (3) says.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.2.** *We have  $G_{n,d} = H_0(F_{n,d})$ .*

*Proof.* This follows from (2) together with the fact that  $F_{n,d}^m = F_{n,d}$  and  $G_{n,d}^m = G_{n,d}$  for  $m$  sufficiently large.  $\square$

### 3 The Goldbach Ring

We now focus on the Goldbach ring that we are most interested in, namely where  $\mathcal{A} = \{\text{positive odd primes}\}$ . To get a feel for how this Goldbach ring looks, let us first write down the components of  $R_n = \bigoplus R_{n,d}$  as  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces for various  $n$ . For  $R_{18}$ , the components  $R_{18,d}$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} R_{18,6} &= \mathbb{k}x_3^6 + \mathbb{k}x_3^4x_6 + \mathbb{k}x_3^2x_6^2 + \mathbb{k}x_6^3 \\ R_{18,4} &= \mathbb{k}x_3^2x_5x_7 + \mathbb{k}x_3x_5^3 + \mathbb{k}x_3^2x_{12} + \cdots + \mathbb{k}x_5x_6x_7 + \mathbb{k}x_6x_{12} + \mathbb{k}x_8x_{10} \\ R_{18,2} &= \mathbb{k}x_5x_{13} + \mathbb{k}x_7x_{11} + \mathbb{k}x_{18} \end{aligned}$$

and  $R_{18,d} = 0$  for all  $d \neq 2, 4, 6$ . For  $R_{17}$ , the components  $R_{17,d}$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} R_{17,5} &= \mathbb{k}x_3^4x_5 + \mathbb{k}x_3^3x_8 + \mathbb{k}x_3^2x_5x_6 + \mathbb{k}x_3x_6x_8 + \mathbb{k}x_5x_6^2 \\ R_{17,3} &= \mathbb{k}x_3^2x_{11} + \mathbb{k}x_3x_7^2 + \mathbb{k}x_5^2x_7 + \mathbb{k}x_6x_{11} + \mathbb{k}x_3x_{14} + \mathbb{k}x_7x_{10} + \mathbb{k}x_5x_{12} \\ R_{17,1} &= \mathbb{k}x_{17} \end{aligned}$$

and  $R_{17,d} = 0$  for all  $d \neq 1, 3, 5$ . For instance, we see that  $\Delta_{17,3} := \dim_{\mathbb{k}} R_{17,3} = 7$ . The nonzero components for  $G_{17}$  and  $G_{18}$  are even simpler to describe, they are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{17,5} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_3^4\bar{x}_5 & G_{18,6} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_3^6 \\ G_{17,3} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_3^2\bar{x}_{11} & G_{18,4} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_3^2\bar{x}_5\bar{x}_7 \\ G_{17,1} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_{17} & G_{17,1} &= \mathbb{k}\bar{x}_{17} \end{aligned}$$

Thus Conjecture 2 holds at least in the case for all pairs of the form  $(17, d)$  and  $(18, d)$ . In order to prove Conjecture 2, we would need to prove that for all good pairs  $(n, d)$ , we can represent each basis element in  $G_{n,d}$  by a monomial of the form  $x_{\mathbf{p}} = x_{p_1} \cdots x_{p_d}$  where  $\mathbf{p} = p_1, \dots, p_d$  are  $d$  odd primes such that  $n = p_1 + \cdots + p_d$ . However if  $x_{\mathbf{q}} = x_{q_1} \cdots x_{q_d}$  where  $\mathbf{q} = q_1, \dots, q_d$  are  $d$  odd primes such that  $n = q_1 + \cdots + q_d$ , then it is not obvious why  $x_{\mathbf{p}}$  and  $x_{\mathbf{q}}$  should represent the same basis element in  $G_{n,d}$ . Indeed, in  $G_{27,3}$ , we have  $\bar{x}_3\bar{x}_{11}\bar{x}_{13} = \bar{x}_5^2\bar{x}_{17}$ , however it takes some work to show this:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}_3\bar{x}_{11}\bar{x}_{13} &= \bar{x}_{11}\bar{x}_{16} \\ &= \bar{x}_5\bar{x}_{11}\bar{x}_{11} \\ &= \bar{x}_5\bar{x}_{22} \\ &= \bar{x}_5^2\bar{x}_{17}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that at each step in the computation above, we are only allowed to use a relation of the form  $\bar{x}_p \bar{x}_q = \bar{x}_{p+q}$ . For another example, in  $G_{36,4}$  we have  $\bar{x}_3^2 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{19} = \bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{13}^2$  since

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}_3^2 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{19} &= \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{22} \\ &= \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{17} \\ &= \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{20} \\ &= \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{13} \\ &= \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} \bar{x}_{18} \\ &= \bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{13}^2. \end{aligned}$$

The path we took to get from  $\bar{x}_3^2 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{19}$  to  $\bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{13}^2$  was longer than the path we took to get from  $\bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{13}$  to  $\bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{17}$ , so one can imagine that for  $n$  and  $d$  large, the path from  $x_p$  to  $x_q$  may be even longer. Nevertheless, the reason we believe Conjecture 2 to be true is that there are *more* ways to get from  $\bar{x}_3^2 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{19}$  to  $\bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{13}^2$  than there are to get from  $\bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{13}$  to  $\bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{17}$ , and hence for  $n$  and  $d$  large, our intuition tells us that there should be many ways to get from  $\bar{x}_p$  to  $\bar{x}_q$  (as there are many such relations of the form  $\bar{x}_p \bar{x}_q = \bar{x}_{p+q}$ ). In order to prove Conjecture 2, we only need to find *one* path from  $\bar{x}_p$  to  $\bar{x}_q$ .

### 3.1 Is the Goldbach Ring an Integral Domain?

If Conjecture 2 is true, then  $G$  has a nice property as a ring:

**Proposition 3.1.** *Assume Conjecture 2 is true. Then  $G$  is an integral domain.*

*Proof.* Let  $f \in G_{n,d} = \mathbb{k} \bar{x}^\alpha$  and  $f' \in G_{n',d'} = \mathbb{k} \bar{x}^{\alpha'}$  such that  $ff' = 0$ . Express  $f$  and  $f'$  as

$$f = c \bar{x}^\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad f' = c' \bar{x}^{\alpha'}.$$

Then clearly since  $\bar{x}^{\alpha+\alpha'} \neq 0$ , so we must have  $cc' = 0$ , which implies either  $c = 0$  or  $c' = 0$  which implies either  $f = 0$  or  $f' = 0$ .  $\square$

*Remark 1.* Note that for  $m$  sufficiently large,  $G^m$  tends to have lots of zerodivisors. For instance, in  $G^{16}$  we have  $\bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} = \bar{x}_5^2 \bar{x}_{11} = \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11}$  which implies

$$\bar{x}_3 (\bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11}) = 0.$$

Since  $\bar{x}_3 \neq 0$  and  $\bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11} \neq 0$ , we see that  $\bar{x}_3$  and  $\bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11}$  form a zerodivisor pair. The ring homomorphism  $G^{16} \rightarrow G^{18}$  kills this zerodivisor pair by sending  $\bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11}$  to 0, however we pick up another zero-divisor pair in  $G^{20}$ : namely  $\bar{x}_3$  and  $\bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{11} - \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{17}$ . Indeed, in  $G^{20}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{11} &= \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{11} \\ &= \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_7 \bar{x}_{13} \\ &= \bar{x}_3 \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{17}, \end{aligned}$$

but  $\bar{x}_{11} \bar{x}_{11} - \bar{x}_5 \bar{x}_{17} \neq 0$  in  $G^{20}$ .

Thus we see a necessary condition for Conjecture 2 to be true is that  $G$  is an integral domain.

**Proposition 3.2.** *Assume  $G$  is an integral domain and that Conjecture 2 is true for all sufficiently large  $n$  and  $d$ . Then Conjecture 2 is true for all  $(n, d)$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that the conjecture is true for all pairs  $(n, d)$  with  $d$  sufficiently large. Let  $x_p = x_{p_1} \cdots x_{p_{d-1}}$  and  $x_q = x_{q_1} \cdots x_{q_{d-1}}$  such that  $p_1, \dots, p_{d-1}$  and  $q_1, \dots, q_{d-1}$  are odd primes which satisfy  $p_1 + \cdots + p_{d-1} = n = q_1 + \cdots + q_{d-1}$ . Choose an odd prime  $p$  such that the conjecture holds for  $(p+n, d)$ . Then we have

$$\bar{x}_p (\bar{x}_p - \bar{x}_q) = 0.$$

However this implies  $\bar{x}_p = \bar{x}_q$  since  $G$  is an integral domain. It follows that the conjecture holds for all  $d-1$ . Now proceed by induction.  $\square$



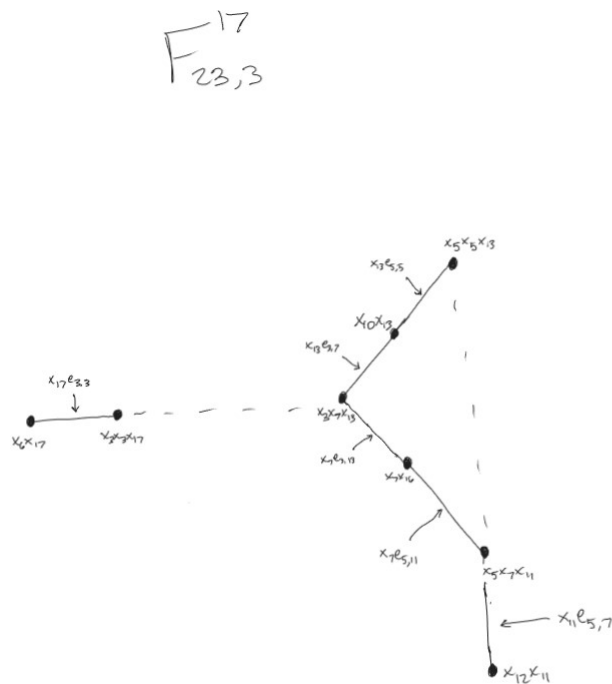
basis element in  $F_{2,23,3}$ . Again, the differential is defined as if it were a boundary map with the extra condition that  $d(x_n) = 0$  for all  $n$ . Thus for example we have

$$d(x_{13}e_{3,7}) = x_{13}d(e_{3,7}) = x_{13}(x_3x_7 - x_{10}).$$

In homological degree 2, the differential is defined by

$$d(e_{5,7,11}) = x_5(e_{7,11} - e_{5,13}) + x_7(e_{3,13} - e_{5,11}) + x_{13}(e_{5,5} - e_{3,7}).$$

Note that  $F_{23,3} = F_{23,3}^m$  for all  $m \geq 20$  since there are no indeterminates  $x_n$  with  $n > 20$  that show up in the differential. On the other hand, the  $\mathbb{k}$ -complex  $F_{23,3}^{17}$  is supported on the labeled simplicial complex below:



$$G_{23,3}^{17} = \mathbb{k}[\overline{x_3x_3x_{17}}] + \mathbb{k}[\overline{x_5x_5x_{13}}]$$

We pick up two zerodivisor pairs in  $G_{23,3}^{17}$ , namely

$$\bar{x}_3(\bar{x}_3\bar{x}_{17} - \bar{x}_7\bar{x}_{13}) = 0 = \bar{x}_5(\bar{x}_5\bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7\bar{x}_{11})$$

Notice how we needed to delete the vertices labeled  $x_3x_{20}$  and  $x_5x_{18}$  and this resulted in a simplicial complex with two connected components corresponding to the fact that  $\dim_{\mathbb{k}} G_{23,3}^{17} = 2$ . Furthermore, we also pick up two zerodivisor pairs in  $G_{23,3}^{17}$ , namely

$$\bar{x}_3(\bar{x}_3\bar{x}_{17} - \bar{x}_7\bar{x}_{13}) = 0 = \bar{x}_5(\bar{x}_5\bar{x}_{13} - \bar{x}_7\bar{x}_{11}).$$

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