

# Preliminary Material

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## 1 Gröbner Bases

Throughout this section, let  $K$  be a field, and let  $S$  denote the polynomial ring  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . In this section, we state all of our lemmas, propositions, and theorems without proof. All of the proofs can be found in [?] and [?].

### 1.1 Monomials and Polynomials in $S$

A **monomial**  $m$  in  $S$  is a product in  $S$  of the form

$$m = x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n},$$

where all of the exponents  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  are nonnegative integers. Sometimes we will use the notation  $x^\alpha$  to denote a monomial, where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  is an  $n$ -tuple of nonnegative integers. Note that  $x^\alpha = 1$  when  $\alpha = (0, \dots, 0)$ . If  $m = x^\alpha$  is a monomial in  $S$  then the **degree** of  $m$ , denoted  $\deg(m)$  or  $|x^\alpha|$ , is the sum  $\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n$ .

A **polynomial**  $f$  in  $S$  is a finite linear combination of monomials. We will write a polynomial  $f$  in the form

$$f = \sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}, \quad a_{\alpha} \in K,$$

where the sum is over a finite number of  $n$ -tuples  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ . We call  $a_{\alpha}$  the **coefficient** of the monomial  $x^{\alpha}$ . If  $a_{\alpha} \neq 0$ , then we call  $a_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}$  a **term** of  $f$ . The **total degree** of  $f \neq 0$ , denoted  $\deg(f)$ , is the maximum  $|\alpha|$  such that the coefficient  $a_{\alpha}$  is nonzero.

*Remark.* If we replace the field  $K$  with a ring  $R$ , then the same terminology applies to  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . For instance, a **monomial**  $m$  in  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is a product of the form  $m = x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ , and etc...

#### 1.1.1 Monomial Orderings on $S$

A **monomial ordering** on  $S$  is a total ordering  $>$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ , or equivalently, a total ordering on the set of monomials  $x^{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ , satisfying

$$x^{\alpha} > x^{\beta} \implies x^{\gamma} x^{\alpha} > x^{\gamma} x^{\beta},$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ . We say  $>$  is a **global monomial ordering** if  $x^{\alpha} > 1$  for all  $\alpha \neq 0$ .

*Remark.* By a total ordering, we mean for all distinct pairs of monomials  $x^{\alpha}$  and  $x^{\beta}$ , we either have  $x^{\alpha} > x^{\beta}$  or  $x^{\beta} > x^{\alpha}$ . This property is used in induction arguments.

**Lemma 1.1.** *Let  $>$  be a monomial ordering, then the following conditions are equivalent.*

1.  $>$  is a well-ordering, i.e. every nonempty set of monomials has a smallest element, or equivalently, every decreasing sequence

$$x^{\alpha(1)} > x^{\alpha(2)} > x^{\alpha(3)} > \cdots$$

eventually terminates.

2.  $x_i > 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

3.  $>$  is global.

4.  $\alpha \geq_{\text{nat}} \beta$  and  $\alpha \neq \beta$  implies  $x^{\alpha} > x^{\beta}$ , where  $\geq_{\text{nat}}$  is a partial order on  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$  defined by

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \geq_{\text{nat}} (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n) \text{ if and only if } \alpha_i \geq \beta_i \text{ for all } i.$$

### 1.1.2 Examples of Monomial Orderings

We now describe some important examples of global monomial orderings: Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ .

1. (Lexicographical ordering): We say  $x^\alpha >_{lp} x^\beta$  if

$$\text{there exists } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ such that } \alpha_1 = \beta_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1} = \beta_{i-1}, \alpha_i > \beta_i.$$

2. (Degree reverse lexicographical ordering) We say  $x^\alpha >_{dp} x^\beta$  if

$$|\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i > |\beta| = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i, \quad \text{or} \quad |\alpha| = |\beta| \text{ and there exists } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ such that } \alpha_n = \beta_n, \dots, \alpha_{i+1} = \beta_{i+1}, \alpha_i < \beta_i.$$

3. (Degree lexicographical ordering) We say  $x^\alpha >_{Dp} x^\beta$  if

$$|\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i > |\beta| = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i, \quad \text{or} \quad |\alpha| = |\beta| \text{ and there exists } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ such that } \alpha_1 = \beta_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1} = \beta_{i-1}, \alpha_i > \beta_i.$$

**Example 1.1.** With respect to the lexicographical ordering on  $K[x, y, z]$ , we have  $x^3y^2z >_{lp} x^3yz^3$  and  $xy^2z >_{lp} xyz^2$ . With respect to the degree reverse lexicographical ordering on  $K[x, y, z]$ , we have  $x^2y^2z^2 >_{dp} x^3yz^3$  and  $z^2 >_{dp} x$ . With respect to the degree lexicographical ordering on  $K[x, y, z]$ , we have  $x^3yz^3 >_{Dp} x^2y^2z^2$  and  $z^2 >_{Dp} x$ .

### 1.1.3 Multidegree, Leading Coefficients, Leading Monomials, and Leading Terms

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

1. The **multidegree** of  $f$  is

$$\text{multdeg}(f) = \max(\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n \mid c_{\alpha} \neq 0).$$

2. The **leading coefficient** of  $f$  is

$$\text{LC}(f) = c_{\text{multdeg}(f)} \in K.$$

3. The **leading monomial** of  $f$  is

$$\text{LM}(f) = x^{\text{multdeg}(f)}.$$

4. The **leading term** of  $f$  is

$$\text{LT}(f) = \text{LC}(f) \cdot \text{LM}(f).$$

**Example 1.2.** Let  $f = 4xy^2z + 4z^2 - 5x^3 + 7x^2z^2$ . With respect to lexicographical ordering we have

$$\text{multdeg}(f) = (3, 0, 0)$$

$$\text{LC}(f) = -5$$

$$\text{LM}(f) = x^3$$

$$\text{LT}(f) = -5x^3.$$

With respect to degree reverse lexicographical ordering we have

$$\text{multdeg}(f) = (2, 0, 2)$$

$$\text{LC}(f) = 7$$

$$\text{LM}(f) = x^2z^2$$

$$\text{LT}(f) = 7x^2z^2.$$

## 1.2 Monomial Ideals

An ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is called a **monomial ideal** if there is a subset  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$  (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  $h_{\alpha} \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . In this case, we write  $I = \langle x^{\alpha} \mid \alpha \in A \rangle$ .

**Example 1.3.** An example of a monomial ideal is given by  $I = \langle x^4y^2, x^3y^4, x^2y^5 \rangle \subseteq K[x, y]$ . A nontrivial example of a monomial ideal is given by  $J = \langle f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 \rangle = \langle x^2 + x^2y^3, -x^2y^3 + y^3, x^4, y^6 \rangle$ . It's easy to see that  $J \subset \langle x^2, y^3 \rangle$ . For the reverse inclusion, note that

$$x^2 = f_1 - x^2f_2 - y^3f_3$$

$$y^3 = f_1 + y^3f_2 - x^2f_4.$$

So  $\langle x^2, y^3 \rangle \subset J$ . Therefore  $J = \langle x^2, y^3 \rangle$ .

### 1.2.1 Monomials Ideals are Finitely-Generated

The next theorem tells us that monomials ideals are finitely generated.

**Theorem 1.2.** (*Dickson's Lemma.*) Let  $I = \langle x^\alpha \mid \alpha \in A \rangle$  be a monomial ideal. Then  $I$  can be written as  $I = \langle x^{\alpha(1)}, \dots, x^{\alpha(s)} \rangle$  where  $\alpha(1), \dots, \alpha(s) \in A$ .

## 1.3 Hilbert Basis Theorem

Throughout the rest of this section, fix a monomial ordering on  $S$ .

### 1.3.1 Lead Term Ideal

Let  $I$  be a nonzero ideal in  $S$ .

1. We denote by  $\text{LT}(I)$  the set of leading terms of nonzero elements of  $I$ . Thus,

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

2. We denote by  $\langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$  be the ideal generated by the elements of  $\text{LT}(I)$ .

It is easy to see that  $\langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$  is a monomial ideal. Therefore Theorem (1.2) implies that it is finitely-generated. Thus, there are  $g_1, \dots, g_t \in I$  such that  $\text{LT}(I) = \langle \text{LT}(g_1), \dots, \text{LT}(g_t) \rangle$ . If we are given an arbitrary finite generating set for  $I$ , say  $I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle$ , then  $\langle \text{LT}(f_1), \dots, \text{LT}(f_s) \rangle$  and  $\langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$  may be *different* ideals. To see this, consider the following example.

**Example 1.4.** Let  $I = \langle f_1, f_2 \rangle$ , where  $f_1 = x^3 - 2xy$  and  $f_2 = x^2y - 2y^2 + x$ , and use grlex ordering on monomials in  $K[x, y]$ . Then

$$x \cdot (x^2y - 2y^2 + x) - y \cdot (x^3 - 2xy) = x^2,$$

so that  $x^2 \in I$ . Thus  $x^2 = \text{LT}(x^2) \in \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$ . However  $x^2$  is not divisible by  $\text{LT}(f_1) = x^3$  or  $\text{LT}(f_2) = x^2y$ , so that  $x^2 \notin \langle \text{LT}(f_1), \text{LT}(f_2) \rangle$ .

### 1.3.2 Hilbert Basis Theorem

**Theorem 1.3.** (*Hilbert Basis Theorem.*) Let  $I$  be an ideal in  $S$ . Then  $I$  is finitely-generated.

## 1.4 Gröbner Bases

Let  $I$  be a nonzero ideal in  $S$ . A finite subset  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$  is said to be a **reduced Gröbner basis** if

1.  $\langle \text{LT}(g_1), \dots, \text{LT}(g_t) \rangle = \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$
2.  $\text{LC}(g) = 1$  for all  $g \in G$ .
3. For all  $g \in G$ , no monomial of  $g$  lies in  $\langle \text{LT}(G \setminus \{g\}) \rangle$ .

Let  $I$  be an ideal in  $S$  and let  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$  be the reduced Gröbner basis for  $I$ . Then given a polynomial  $f$  in  $S$ , it can be shown that there are unique polynomials  $\pi(f)$  and  $f^G$  in  $S$  such that  $f = \pi(f) + f^G$  and no term of  $f^G$  is divisible by any of  $\text{LT}(g_1), \dots, \text{LT}(g_t)$ . We call  $f^G$  the **normal form of  $f$  with respect to  $G$** . It follows from uniqueness of  $f^G$  and  $\pi(f)$  that taking the normal form of a polynomial is a  $K$ -linear map:

$$c_1f_1^G + c_2f_2^G = (c_1f_1 + c_2f_2)^G \quad (1)$$

for all  $c_1, c_2 \in K$  and  $f_1, f_2 \in S$ . We will denote this map as  $-^G$ . An important property of  $-^G$  is that it preserves homogeneity. The details can be found in \cite{GPO8} and \cite{CLO15}.

## 2 Graded Rings and Modules

### 2.1 Graded Rings

A **graded ring**  $R$  is a ring together with a direct sum decomposition

$$R = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} R_i,$$

where the  $R_i$  are abelian groups which satisfies the condition that if  $r_i \in R_i$  and  $r_j \in R_j$ , then  $r_i r_j \in R_{i+j}$ . The  $R_i$  are called **homogeneous components** of  $R$  and the elements of  $R_i$  are called **homogeneous elements** of **degree**  $i$ . If  $r$  is a homogeneous element in  $R$ , then we denote the degree of  $r$  as  $\deg(r)$ . When we say “Let  $R$  be a graded ring”, we denote the homogeneous components of  $R$  as  $R_i$ .

*Remark.* The condition that  $r_i \in R_i$  and  $r_j \in R_j$ , then  $r_i r_j \in R_{i+j}$  is equivalent to the condition that  $R_i R_j \subset R_{i+j}$ .

**Example 2.1.** An important example of a graded ring is a ring  $R$  endowed with the **trivial grading**: The homogeneous components of  $R$  being  $R_0 := R$  and  $R_i := 0$  for all  $i > 0$ . If  $R$  is a field, then will *always* assume that  $R$  is a graded ring endowed with the trivial grading.

**Example 2.2.** Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $Q$  be an ideal in  $R$ . The **associated graded ring of  $R$  with respect to  $Q$**  is

$$\text{Gr}_Q(R) := \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} Q^i / Q^{i+1}.$$

Multiplication in  $\text{Gr}_Q(R)$  is induced by the multiplication  $Q^i \times Q^j \rightarrow Q^{i+j}$ .

#### 2.1.1 Weighted Polynomial Rings

Let  $w := (w_1, \dots, w_n)$  be an  $n$ -tuple of positive integers. We define the **weighted polynomial ring**  $S_w$  with respect to the **weighted vector**  $w$  to be the polynomial ring  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  endowed with the unique grading such that  $\deg(x_\lambda) = \alpha_\lambda$  for all  $\lambda = 1, \dots, n$ . We define the **weighted degree** of a monomial  $m = x_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots x_n^{\alpha_n}$  in  $S_w$ , denoted  $\deg_w(m)$ , to be

$$\deg_w(m) := \sum_{\lambda=1}^n w_\lambda \alpha_\lambda.$$

This grading gives  $S_w$  the structure of a graded ring, where the homogeneous components are given by

$$(S_w)_i := \text{Span}_R \langle m \in S_w \mid m \text{ is monomial of weighted degree } i \rangle.$$

*Remark.* If  $w = (1, \dots, 1)$ , then we recover the polynomial ring  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with the usual grading. If the context is clear, we simply use the letter  $S$  to denote this graded ring.

**Example 2.3.** Let  $K$  be a field and let  $S_w$  denote the weighted polynomial ring  $K[x, y, z]$  with respect to the weighted vector  $w := (1, 2, 3)$ . The first few homogeneous components of  $S_w$  start out as

$$\begin{aligned} (S_w)_0 &= K \\ (S_w)_1 &= Kx \\ (S_w)_2 &= Kx^2 + Ky \\ (S_w)_3 &= Kx^3 + Kxy + Kz \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

### 2.2 Graded $R$ -Modules

Let  $R$  be a graded ring. An  $R$ -module  $M$ , together with a direct sum decomposition

$$M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i$$

into abelian groups  $M_i$  is called a **graded  $R$ -module** if  $R_i M_j \subset M_{i+j}$  for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The  $M_i$  are called **homogeneous components** of  $M$  and the elements of  $M_i$  are called **homogeneous** of **degree**  $i$ . If  $m$  is a homogeneous element in  $M$ , then we denote the degree of  $m$  as  $\deg(m)$ . When we say “Let  $M$  be a graded  $R$ -module”, then the homogeneous components of  $M$  are denoted  $M_i$ .

*Remark.* Unlike in the case of graded rings, we do *not* usually assume that  $M_i = 0$  for  $i < 0$ .

**Example 2.4.** Here's an important example of a graded  $R$ -module where we do not necessarily have  $M_i = 0$  for  $i < 0$ : If  $M$  is a graded  $R$ -module, then for  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we define the  $j$ 'th **twist** or the  $j$ 'th **shift** of  $M$  to be the graded  $R$ -module

$$M(j) := \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M(j)_i$$

where  $M(j)_i := M_{i+j}$ .

### 2.2.1 Graded $R$ -Submodules

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $M$  be a graded  $R$ -module and  $N \subset M$  a submodule. The following conditions are equivalent:

1.  $N$  is graded  $R$ -module whose homogeneous components are  $M_i \cap N$ .
2.  $N$  is generated by homogeneous elements.
3. Let  $m = \sum m_i$  with  $m_i \in M_i$ . Then  $m \in N$  if and only if  $m_i \in N$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* The proof is straightforward and can be found in \cite{GPo8}.  $\square$

A submodule  $N \subset M$  satisfying the equivalent conditions of Lemma (2.1) is called a **graded** (or **homogeneous**)  $R$ -submodule.

**Example 2.5.** Let  $K$  be a field,  $S_w$  be the polynomial ring  $K[x, y, z]$  with respect to the weight  $w = (5, 6, 15)$ , and let  $I = \langle y^5 - z^2, x^3 - z, x^6 - y^5 \rangle$  be an ideal  $S_w$ . Then  $I$  is a homogeneous ideal in  $S_w$ .

*Remark.* Let  $R$  be a graded ring, and let  $I$  be a homogeneous ideal in  $R$ . Then the quotient  $R/I$  has an induced structure as a graded ring, where the homogeneous component of  $R/I$  is

$$(R/I)_i := (R_i + I)/I \cong R_i / I \cap R_i$$

### 2.2.2 Homomorphisms of Graded $R$ -Modules

Let  $M$  and  $N$  be graded  $R$ -modules. A homomorphism  $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$  is called **homogeneous** (or **graded**) of degree  $j$  if  $\varphi(M_i) \subset N_{i+j}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $\varphi$  is homogeneous of degree zero then we will simply say  $\varphi$  is **homogeneous**.

**Example 2.6.** Let  $R$  denote the polynomial ring  $K[x, y, z, t]$  with the natural grading. Then the matrix

$$U := \begin{pmatrix} x + y + z & w^2 - x^2 & x^3 \\ 1 & x & xy + z^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

defines a homomorphism  $U : R(-1) \oplus R(-2) \oplus R(-3) \rightarrow R \oplus R(-1)$  which is graded of degree zero.

## 2.3 Graded $R$ -Algebras

Let  $R$  be a graded ring and let  $A$  be an  $R$ -algebra. We say  $A$  is a **graded  $R$ -algebra** if  $A$  is graded as a ring and  $A_0 = R$ .

*Remark.* We do not require  $A$  to be a commutative ring.

**Example 2.7.** Let  $Q$  be an ideal in  $R$ . The **blowup algebra of  $Q$  in  $R$**  is the  $R$ -algebra

$$B_Q(R) := R + tQ + t^2Q^2 + t^3Q^3 + \cdots \cong R \oplus Q \oplus Q^2 \oplus Q^3 \oplus \cdots.$$

The multiplication in  $B_Q(R)$  is induced by the multiplication  $Q^i \times Q^j \rightarrow Q^{i+j}$ .

### 2.3.1 Homomorphisms of Graded $R$ -Algebras

Let  $A$  and  $A'$  be graded  $R$ -algebras. We say  $\varphi : A \rightarrow A'$  is an  $R$ -algebra homomorphism if

1.  $\varphi$  is a homomorphism when viewed as a map of  $R$ -modules. In other words,

$$\varphi(r_1a_1 + r_2a_2) = r_1\varphi(a_1) + r_2\varphi(a_2)$$

for all  $r_1, r_2 \in R$  and  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ .

2.  $\varphi$  preserves the algebra structure. In other words

$$\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$$

for all  $a, b \in A$ .

Moreover, we say  $\varphi$  is **graded** if  $\varphi$  is a graded homomorphism when viewed as a map of graded  $R$ -modules.

### 2.3.2 Finitely-Generated Graded $R$ -Algebras

An graded  $R$ -algebra  $A$  is said to be **finitely-generated** if it is finitely-generated as an  $R$ -algebra. The next proposition gives a classification of all finitely-generated commutative  $R$ -algebras.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Every finitely-generated commutative graded  $R$ -algebra is isomorphic to  $S_w/I$ , where  $S_w$  denotes the polynomial ring  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with respect to the weighted vector  $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$  and  $I$  is a homogeneous ideal in  $S_w$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A$  be a finitely-generated commutative  $R$ -algebra with generators  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ . Then for each  $\lambda = 1, \dots, n$  we have  $a_\lambda \in A_{w_\lambda}$ , where  $w_\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Let  $\varphi : S_w \rightarrow A$  be the unique morphism of graded  $R$ -algebras such that  $\varphi(x_\lambda) = a_\lambda$  for all  $\lambda = 1, \dots, n$ . Then  $A$  is isomorphic to  $S_w/\text{Ker}(\varphi)$  as graded  $R$ -algebras.  $\square$

### 2.3.3 Algorithmic Computations in the $R$ -algebra $S/I$ using Gröbner Bases

Let  $K$  be a field,  $S$  denote the polynomials ring  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , and  $I$  be a homogeneous ideal in  $S$ . Then  $S/I$  is a graded  $K$ -algebra, where the homogeneous component  $S_i$  is the  $K$ -vector space of all homogeneous polynomials  $f \in S$  of degree  $i$ . Now fix a monomial ordering and let  $G$  be the reduced Gröbner basis of  $I$  with respect to this ordering. Define

$$S_I := \text{Span}_K(x^\alpha \mid x^\alpha \notin \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle)$$

There is an obvious decomposition of  $S_I$  into  $K$ -vector spaces  $(S_I)_i$ , where

$$(S_I)_i = \text{Span}_K(x^\alpha \mid x^\alpha \notin \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle \text{ and } \deg(x^\alpha) = i).$$

In fact,  $S/I$  and  $S_I$  are isomorphic as graded  $K$ -modules. The isomorphism is given by mapping  $\bar{f} \in S/I$  to  $f^G \in S_I$ . Indeed,  $K$ -linearity follows from (1), and the grading is preserved since  $-^G$  preserves homogeneity. This makes  $S/I$  isomorphic to  $S_I$  as graded  $K$ -modules. Using this isomorphism, we can carry multiplication from  $S/I$  over to  $S_I$  to turn  $S_I$  into a graded  $K$ -algebra: For  $f_1, f_2 \in S_I$ , we define multiplication as

$$f_1 \cdot f_2 = (f_1 f_2)^G. \quad (2)$$

Defining multiplication this way makes  $S_I$  isomorphic to  $S/I$  as graded  $K$ -algebras. For computational purposes, it is easier to work with  $S_I$  rather than  $S/I$ .

**Example 2.8.** Consider  $S = K[x, y]$  and  $I = \langle xy^2 + y^3, x^3 + x^2y \rangle$ . Then  $G = \{xy^2 + y^3, x^3 + x^2y\}$  is the reduced Gröbner basis with respect to graded reverse lexicographical order. Thus  $\text{LT}(I) = \langle xy^2, x^3 \rangle$ . Let's do some computations in  $S_I$ . First, let's write the first few homogeneous terms of  $S_I$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (S_I)_0 &= K \\ (S_I)_1 &= Kx + Ky \\ (S_I)_2 &= Kx^2 + Kxy + Ky^2 \\ (S_I)_3 &= Kx^2y + Ky^3 \\ (S_I)_4 &= Ky^4 \\ (S_I)_5 &= Ky^5 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

Next, we multiply some elements together in  $S_I$  in the multiplication table below

$\cdot$	$x$	$y$	$y^3$
$x^2y$	$y^4$	$y^4$	$y^6$
$x^2$	$x^2y$	$x^2y$	$y^5$
$x$	$x^2$	$xy$	$y^4$

**Example 2.9.** Consider  $S = K[x, y]$  and  $I = \langle xy + y^2, x^3 \rangle$ . We first use Singular to compute a Gröbner basis  $G$  of  $I$  with respect to graded reverse lexicographical ordering. We obtain  $G = \{g_1, g_2, g_3\}$ , where  $g_1 = xy + y^2$ ,  $g_2 = x^3$ , and  $g_3 = y^4$ . Then the first few homogeneous components of  $I$ ,  $S/I$  and  $S_I$  are given below

$I_0 = 0$	$(S/I)_0 = K \cdot \bar{1}$	$(S_I)_0 = K$
$I_1 = 0$	$(S/I)_1 = K\bar{x} + K\bar{y}$	$(S_I)_1 = Kx + Ky$
$I_2 = Kg_1$	$(S/I)_2 = K\bar{x}^2 + K\bar{y}^2$	$(S_I)_2 = Kx^2 + Ky^2$
$I_3 = Kxg_1 + Kyg_1 + Kg_2$	$(S/I)_3 = K\bar{y}^3$	$(S_I)_3 = Ky^3$
$I_4 = S_4$	$(S/I)_4 = 0$	$(S_I)_4 = 0$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$

### 3 Homological Algebra

Throughout this section, let  $R$  be a ring.

#### 3.1 Chain Complexes over $R$

A **chain complex**  $(A, d)$  **over**  $R$ , or simply a **chain complex** if the base ring  $R$  is understood from context, is a sequence of  $R$ -modules  $A_i$  and morphisms  $d_i : A_i \rightarrow A_{i-1}$

$$(A, d) := \cdots \longrightarrow A_{i+1} \xrightarrow{d_{i+1}} A_i \xrightarrow{d_i} A_{i-1} \longrightarrow \cdots$$

such that  $d_i \circ d_{i+1} = 0$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The condition  $d_i \circ d_{i+1} = 0$  is equivalent to the condition  $\text{Ker}(d_i) \supset \text{Im}(d_{i+1})$ . With this in mind, we define the  **$i$ th homology of the chain complex**  $(A, d)$  to be

$$H_i(A, d) := \text{Ker}(d_i) / \text{Im}(d_{i+1}).$$

Let  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$  be two chain complexes. A **chain map**  $\varphi : (A, d) \rightarrow (A', d')$  is a sequence of  $R$ -module homomorphisms  $\varphi_i : A_i \rightarrow A'_i$  such that  $d'_i \varphi_i = \varphi_{i-1} d_i$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can view a chain map visually as illustrated in the diagram below:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} (A, d) := \cdots & \longrightarrow & A_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{d_{i+1}} & A_i & \xrightarrow{d_i} & A_{i-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \\ & & \downarrow \varphi_{i+1} & & \downarrow \varphi_i & & \downarrow \varphi_{i-1} \\ (A', d') := \cdots & \longrightarrow & A'_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{d'_{i+1}} & A'_i & \xrightarrow{d'_i} & A'_{i-1} \longrightarrow \cdots \end{array}$$

##### 3.1.1 Simplifying Notation

To simplify notation in what follows, we think of  $R$  as a trivially graded ring. If  $(A, d)$  is a chain complex over  $R$ , then we think of  $(A, d)$  as a graded  $R$ -module  $A$  together with a graded endomorphism  $d : A \rightarrow A$  of degree  $-1$  such that  $d^2 = 0$ . We think of  $d_i$  as being the restriction of  $d$  to  $A_i$  and we often refer to  $d$  as the **differential**. An element in  $\text{Ker}(d)$  is called a **cycle** of  $(A, d)$  and an element in  $\text{Im}(d)$  is called a **boundary** of  $(A, d)$ . We define the **homology** of  $(A, d)$  to be

$$H(A, d) := \text{Ker}(d) / \text{Im}(d)$$

Note that  $H(A, d) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} H_i(A, d)$ . We sometimes write  $H(A)$  instead of  $H(A, d)$  if the differential is understood from context.

Let  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$  be chain complexes. A chain map  $\varphi : (A, d) \rightarrow (A', d')$  can be thought of as a homogeneous homomorphism of graded  $R$ -modules such that  $\varphi d = d' \varphi$ .

##### 3.1.2 Homotopy Equivalence

Let  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  be chain maps of chain complexes  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$ . We say  $\varphi$  is **homotopic** to  $\psi$  if there is a graded homomorphism  $h : A \rightarrow A'$  of degree 1 such that  $\varphi - \psi = d'h + hd$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  be chain maps of chain complexes  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$ . Then  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  induce the same map on homology.*

*Proof.* The proof is straightforward and can be found in [?]. □

#### 3.2 Exact Sequences of Chain Complexes over $R$

Let  $(A, d)$ ,  $(A', d')$ , and  $(A'', d'')$  be chain complexes and let  $\varphi : (A', d') \rightarrow (A, d)$  and  $\psi : (A, d) \rightarrow (A'', d'')$  be chain maps. Then we say that

$$0 \longrightarrow A' \xrightarrow{\varphi} A \xrightarrow{\psi} A'' \longrightarrow 0$$

is a **short exact sequence** of chain complexes if the following diagram is commutative with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \\
& \downarrow d'_{i+2} & & \downarrow d_{i+2} & & \downarrow d''_{i+2} & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & A'_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{i+1}} & A_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{\psi_{i+1}} & A''_{i+1} \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow d'_{i+1} & & \downarrow d_{i+1} & & \downarrow d''_{i+1} & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & A'_i & \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} & A_i & \xrightarrow{\psi_i} & A''_i \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow d'_i & & \downarrow d_i & & \downarrow d''_i & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & A'_{i-1} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{i-1}} & A_{i-1} & \xrightarrow{\psi_{i-1}} & A''_{i-1} \longrightarrow 0 \\
& \downarrow d'_{i-1} & & \downarrow d_{i-1} & & \downarrow d''_{i-1} & \\
& \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & 
\end{array}$$

Given such a short exact sequence, we get induced maps  $\varphi_i : H_i(A') \rightarrow H_i(A)$  and  $\psi_i : H_i(A) \rightarrow H_i(A'')$ , and **connecting homomorphisms**  $\gamma_i : H_i(A'') \rightarrow H_{i-1}(A')$  which gives rise a long exact sequence in homology:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\cdots \longrightarrow H_{i+1}(A'') \\
\searrow \gamma_{i+1} \\
H_i(A') \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} H_i(A) \xrightarrow{\psi_i} H_i(A'') \\
\searrow \gamma_i \\
H_{i-1}(A') \xrightarrow{\varphi_{i-1}} H_{i-1}(A) \xrightarrow{\psi_{i-1}} \cdots
\end{array}$$

*Remark.* It is a nice exercise in homological algebra to work out the details of the connecting map.

### 3.3 Differential Graded $R$ -Algebras

A **differential graded  $R$ -algebra** is a chain complex  $(A, d)$  such that  $A$  is a graded  $R$ -algebra and the differential  $d$  satisfies the **Leibniz law** with respect to this algebra structure:

$$d(ab) = d(a)b + (-1)^{\deg(a)}ad(b). \quad (3)$$

for all  $a, b \in A$ . We say that the differential graded  $R$ -algebra is **commutative** if  $ab = (-1)^{\deg(a)\deg(b)}ba$ . We say that the differential graded  $R$ -algebra is **strictly commutative** if in addition  $a^2 = 0$  for  $\deg(a)$  odd.

#### 3.3.1 Homomorphisms of Differential Graded $R$ -Algebras

Let  $(A, d)$  and  $(A', d')$  be differential graded  $R$ -algebras. We say  $\varphi : (A, d) \rightarrow (A', d')$  is **homomorphism of differential graded  $R$ -algebras** if  $\varphi$  is both a chain map and an  $R$ -algebra homomorphism.

#### 3.3.2 Differential Graded $A$ -Modules

Let  $(A, d)$  be a differential graded  $R$ -algebra. A **differential graded  $A$ -module**  $(M, d)$  is a chain complex  $(M, d)$  over  $R$  such that  $M$  is an  $A$ -module and such that the differential  $d$  satisfies the **Leibniz law** with respect to the algebra structure in  $A$ :

$$d(am) = d(a)m + (-1)^{\deg(a)}ad(m). \quad (4)$$

for all  $a \in A$  and  $m \in M$ .



### 3.3.3 Obtaining a Differential Graded $A$ -Module from a Chain Complex over $R$

Let  $(A, d_A)$  be a differential graded  $R$ -algebra. If we start with a chain complex over  $R$ , then we can construct a differential graded  $A$ -module. Indeed, suppose that  $(B, d_B)$  is a chain complex over  $R$ . Then  $A \otimes_R B$  is an  $A$ -module and a graded  $R$ -module whose homogeneous component in degree  $k$  is

$$(A \otimes_R B)_k := \bigoplus_{i+j=k} A_i \otimes_R B_j.$$

We define a differential  $d$  on  $A \otimes_R B$  by first defining it on the elementary tensors as

$$d(a \otimes b) := d_A(a) \otimes b + (-1)^{\deg(a)} a \otimes d_B(b),$$

for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , and then extending it  $R$ -linearly everywhere else. A straightforward calculation shows that  $d^2 = 0$  and that the differential satisfies Leibniz law (4). Moreover, if  $B$  is a differential graded  $R$ -algebra, then  $A \otimes_R B$  can be realized as a differential graded  $A$ -algebra and a differential graded  $B$ -algebra. Multiplication in  $A \otimes_R B$  is defined by

$$(a \otimes b)(a' \otimes b') = (-1)^{\deg(a')\deg(b)} aa' \otimes bb'.$$

for all  $a, a' \in A$  and  $b, b' \in B$ .

*Remark.* In particular, if  $M$  is an  $R$ -module endowed with the trivial grading, then  $(A \otimes_R M, d)$  is a differential graded  $A$ -module where the homogeneous component of degree  $k$  in  $A \otimes_R M$  is  $(A \otimes_R M)_k := A_k \otimes_R M$ , and  $d$  acts on elementary tensors as  $d(a \otimes m) = d(a) \otimes m$ .

## 3.4 Exterior Algebras and Koszul Complexes

### 3.4.1 Exterior Algebras

Let  $R$  be a ring and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. For  $k \geq 2$ , the  $k$ th **exterior power** of  $M$ , denoted  $\Lambda^k(M)$ , is the  $R$ -module  $M^{\otimes k} / J_k$  where  $J_k$  is the submodule of  $M^{\otimes k}$  spanned by all  $m_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes m_k$  with  $m_i = m_j$  for  $i \neq j$ . For any  $m_1, \dots, m_k \in M$ , the coset of  $m_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes m_k$  in  $\Lambda^k(M)$  is denoted  $m_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k$ . For completeness, we set  $\Lambda^0(M) = R$  and  $\Lambda^1(M) = M$ . A general element in  $\Lambda^k(M)$  will be denoted as  $\omega$  or  $\eta$ . Since  $M^{\otimes k}$  is spanned by tensors  $m_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes m_k$ , the quotient module  $M^{\otimes k} / J_k = \Lambda^k(M)$  is spanned by their images  $m_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k$ . That is, any  $\omega \in \Lambda^k(M)$  is a finite  $R$ -linear combination

$$\omega = \sum r_{i_1, \dots, i_k} m_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge m_{i_k},$$

where the coefficients  $r_{i_1, \dots, i_k}$  are in  $R$  and the  $m_i$ 's are in  $M$ . We call  $m_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k$  an **elementary wedge product**. Since  $r(m_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k) = (rm_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k$ , every element of  $\Lambda^k(M)$  is a sum (not just a linear combination) of elementary wedge products.

We define the **exterior algebra** of  $M$  to be

$$\Lambda(M) := \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Lambda^k(M),$$

where the multiplication rule is given by the wedge product. The exterior algebra of  $M$  is a graded  $R$ -algebra, where the degree  $k$  homogeneous component is  $\Lambda^k(M)$ . If  $R$  does not have characteristic 2, then the exterior algebra of  $M$  is **skew commutative**. This means that if  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  are homogeneous elements, then

$$\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 = (-1)^{\deg(\omega_1)\deg(\omega_2)} \omega_2 \wedge \omega_1.$$

The construction of  $\Lambda(M)$  is functorial in  $M$ . This means that if  $N$  is another  $R$ -module and  $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$  is an  $R$ -module homomorphism. Then  $\varphi$  induces a graded  $R$ -algebra homomorphism  $\wedge \varphi : \Lambda(M) \rightarrow \Lambda(N)$ , where  $\wedge \varphi$  takes the elementary wedge product  $m_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge m_k$  in  $\Lambda(M)$  and maps it to the wedge product  $\varphi(m_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge \varphi(m_k)$  in  $\Lambda(N)$ . We will write  $\wedge^k \varphi$  to be the induced  $R$ -module homomorphism from  $\Lambda^k(M)$  to  $\Lambda^k(N)$ . In particular, if  $N$  is free of rank  $n$ , then  $\Lambda^n(N) \cong R$ , and if  $\varphi : N \rightarrow N$  is an  $R$ -module homomorphism, then  $\wedge^n \varphi$  is multiplication by the determinant of any matrix representing  $\varphi$ .

**Example 3.1.** Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M = Rx_1 \oplus Rx_2 \oplus Rx_3 \cong R^3$ , and let  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$  be the  $R$ -module homomorphism induced by setting  $\varphi(x_\mu) = \sum_{\lambda=1}^3 a_{\lambda\mu} x_\lambda$  for  $1 \leq \lambda, \mu \leq 3$ . The matrix representation of  $\varphi$  with respect to the ordered basis  $\beta_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  is given by

$$[\varphi]_{\beta_1}^{\beta_1} := \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

To calculate  $\wedge^2 \varphi$ , we need to see how it acts on the basis vectors  $x_\lambda \wedge x_\mu$  where  $1 \leq \lambda < \mu \leq 3$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x_1) \wedge \varphi(x_2) &= (a_{11}x_1 + a_{21}x_2 + a_{31}x_3) \wedge (a_{12}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{32}x_3) \\ &= (a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12})x_1 \wedge x_2 + (a_{11}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{12})x_1 \wedge x_3 + (a_{21}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{22})x_2 \wedge x_3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x_1) \wedge \varphi(x_3) &= (a_{11}x_1 + a_{21}x_2 + a_{31}x_3) \wedge (a_{13}x_1 + a_{23}x_2 + a_{33}x_3) \\ &= (a_{11}a_{23} - a_{21}a_{13})x_1 \wedge x_2 + (a_{11}a_{33} - a_{31}a_{13})x_1 \wedge x_3 + (a_{21}a_{33} - a_{31}a_{23})x_2 \wedge x_3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x_2) \wedge \varphi(x_3) &= (a_{12}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{32}x_3) \wedge (a_{13}x_1 + a_{23}x_2 + a_{33}x_3) \\ &= (a_{12}a_{23} - a_{22}a_{13})x_1 \wedge x_2 + (a_{12}a_{33} - a_{32}a_{13})x_1 \wedge x_3 + (a_{22}a_{33} - a_{32}a_{23})x_2 \wedge x_3.\end{aligned}$$

So the matrix representation of  $\wedge^2 \varphi$  with respect to the ordered basis  $\beta_2 = \{x_1 \wedge x_2, x_1 \wedge x_3, x_2 \wedge x_3\}$  is

$$[\varphi]_{\beta_2}^{\beta_2} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12} & a_{11}a_{23} - a_{21}a_{13} & a_{12}a_{23} - a_{22}a_{13} \\ a_{11}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{12} & a_{11}a_{33} - a_{31}a_{13} & a_{12}a_{33} - a_{32}a_{13} \\ a_{21}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{22} & a_{21}a_{33} - a_{31}a_{23} & a_{22}a_{33} - a_{32}a_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

To calculate  $\wedge^3 \varphi$ , we need to see how it acts on the basis vector  $x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(x_1) \wedge \varphi(x_2) \wedge \varphi(x_3) &= (a_{11}x_1 + a_{21}x_2 + a_{31}x_3) \wedge (a_{12}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{32}x_3) \wedge (a_{13}x_1 + a_{23}x_2 + a_{33}x_3) \\ &= (a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} - a_{11}a_{32}a_{23} + a_{21}a_{32}a_{13} - a_{21}a_{12}a_{33} + a_{31}a_{12}a_{23} - a_{31}a_{22}a_{13})x_1 \wedge x_2 \wedge x_3 \\ &= \det \left( [\varphi]_{\beta_1}^{\beta_1} \right) e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3.\end{aligned}$$

### 3.4.2 Koszul Complexes

Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M$  an  $R$ -module, and  $\varphi : M \rightarrow R$  an  $R$ -module homomorphism. The assignment

$$(m_1, \dots, m_k) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{i+1} \varphi(m_i) m_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{m}_i \wedge \dots \wedge m_k$$

defines an alternating  $n$ -linear map  $M^k \rightarrow \Lambda^{k-1}(M)$ . By the universal property of the  $k$ th exterior power, there exists an  $R$ -linear map  $d_\varphi^{(k)} : \Lambda^k(M) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k-1}(M)$  with

$$d_\varphi^{(k)}(m_1 \wedge \dots \wedge m_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{i+1} \varphi(m_i) m_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{m}_i \wedge \dots \wedge m_k$$

for all  $m_1, \dots, m_k \in L$ . The collection of the maps  $d_\varphi^{(k)}$  defines a graded  $R$ -homomorphism

$$d_\varphi : \Lambda(M) \rightarrow \Lambda(M)$$

of degree  $-1$ . A straightforward calculation shows that  $d_\varphi$  gives  $\Lambda(M)$  the structure of a differential graded  $R$ -algebra. This differential graded  $R$ -algebra is called the **Koszul complex** of  $\varphi$  and is denoted  $\mathcal{K}_\bullet(\varphi)$ . The **dual Koszul complex** of  $\varphi$ , denoted  $\mathcal{K}^\bullet(\varphi)$ , is the chain complex over  $R$  whose underlying graded  $R$ -module is  $\text{Hom}_R(\mathcal{K}_\bullet(\varphi), R)$  and whose differential is  $d^*$ , where  $d^*$  is obtained by applying the functor  $\text{Hom}_R(-, R)$  to  $d$ .

**Example 3.2.** Let  $R$  be a ring of characteristic 2,  $S$  denote the polynomial ring  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , and let  $\varphi : S_1 := \bigoplus_{\lambda=1}^n Rx_\lambda \rightarrow R$  be the unique  $R$ -linear map such that  $\varphi(x_\lambda) = r_\lambda \in R$  for all  $\lambda = 1, \dots, n$ . Then  $\Lambda(S_1)$  is isomorphic to  $S/\langle x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2 \rangle$  as graded  $R$ -algebras. Using this isomorphism, we give  $S/\langle x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2 \rangle$  the structure of a differential graded  $R$ -algebra by carrying over the differential  $d_\varphi$  for  $\Lambda(S_1)$  to a differential  $d$  for  $S/\langle x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2 \rangle$ . A straightforward calculation shows that  $d = \sum_{\lambda=1}^n r_\lambda \partial_{x_\lambda}$ . We denote this Koszul complex as  $\mathcal{K}(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ .

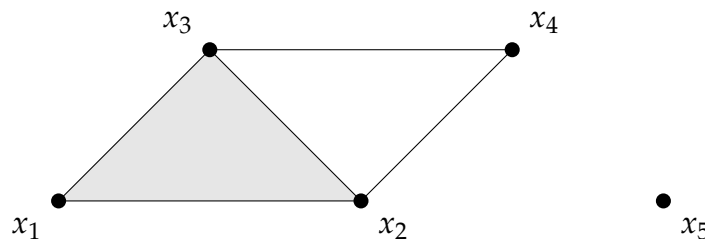
## 4 Simplicial Complexes

A **simplicial complex**  $\Delta$  on the set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  is a collection of subsets of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  such that

1. The simplicial complex  $\Delta$  contains all singletons:  $\{x_\lambda\} \in \Delta$  for all  $\lambda = 1, \dots, n$ .
2. The simplicial complex  $\Delta$  is closed under containment: if  $\sigma \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\tau \supset \sigma$ , then  $\tau \in \Delta$ .

An element of a simplicial complex is called a **face** or **simplex**, and a simplex of  $\Delta$  not properly contained in another simplex of  $\Delta$  is called a **facet**. A simplex  $\sigma \in \Delta$  of cardinality  $i + 1$  is called an  $i$ -dimensional face or an  $i$ -face of  $\Delta$ . The empty set  $\emptyset$ , is the unique face of dimension  $-1$ , as long as  $\Delta$  is not the **void complex**  $\{\}$  consisting of no subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . The **dimension** of  $\Delta$ , denoted  $\dim(\Delta)$ , is defined to be the maximum of the dimensions of its faces (or  $-\infty$  if  $\Delta = \{\}$ ).

**Example 4.1.** The simplicial complex  $\Delta$  on  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5\}$  consisting of all subsets of  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ ,  $\{x_2, x_4\}$ ,  $\{x_3, x_4\}$ , and  $\{x_4\}$  is pictured below



## 4.1 Simplicial Homology

Let  $\Delta$  be a simplicial complex on  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ . For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let

$$S_i(\Delta) := \text{Span}_K(\sigma \in \Delta \mid \dim(\sigma) = i) \quad \text{and} \quad S(\Delta) := \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} S_i(\Delta).$$

Then  $S(\Delta)$  is a graded  $K$ -module. Let  $\partial : S(\Delta) \rightarrow S(\Delta)$  be the unique graded endomorphism of degree  $-1$  such that

$$\partial(\sigma) = \sum_{\lambda \in \sigma} \sigma \setminus \{\lambda\}.$$

By a direct calculation, we have  $\partial^2 = 0$ , and so  $(S(\Delta), \partial)$  forms a chain complex over  $K$ ; it is called the **(augmented or reduced) chain complex of  $\Delta$  over  $K$** . The  $i$ th homology of  $(S(\Delta), \partial)$  is called the  **$i$ th reduced homology** of  $\Delta$  over  $K$ , and is commonly denoted as  $\tilde{H}_i(\Delta, K)$ .

**Example 4.2.** For  $\Delta$  as in Example (4.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_2(\Delta) &= \{\{1, 2, 3\}\} \\ S_1(\Delta) &= \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}\} \\ S_0(\Delta) &= \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}\} \\ S_{-1}(\Delta) &= \{\emptyset\} \end{aligned}$$

Choosing bases for the  $S_i(\Delta)$  as suggested by the ordering of the faces listed above, the chain complex for  $\Delta$  becomes

$$0 \longrightarrow K \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} K^5 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}} K^5 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}} K \longrightarrow 0$$

For example,  $\partial_2(e_{\{1,2,3\}}) = e_{\{2,3\}} + e_{\{1,3\}} + e_{\{1,2\}}$ , which we identify with the vector  $(1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$ . The mapping  $\partial_1$  has rank 3, so  $\tilde{H}_0(\Delta; K) \cong \tilde{H}_1(\Delta; K) \cong K$  and the other homology groups are 0. Geometrically,  $\tilde{H}_0(\Delta; K)$  is nontrivial since  $\Delta$  is disconnected and  $\tilde{H}_1(\Delta; K)$  is nontrivial since  $\Delta$  contains a triangle which is not the boundary of an element of  $\Delta$ .