

Gröbner bases methods in affine and projective variety codes

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CoCoA 2015 - Combinatorics and Computer Algebra
Colorado State University, July 19–25, 2015

Partially supported by CNPq (480477/2013-2)

Facts from Gröbner bases theory

Let \mathcal{M} be the set of monomials of $k[X_1, \dots, X_n] =: k[\mathbf{X}]$ and endow \mathcal{M} with a monomial order \prec . Given $f \in k[\mathbf{X}] \setminus \{0\}$ the **leading monomial** of f ($\text{lm}(f)$) is the greatest monomial appearing in f . Let $I \subset k[\mathbf{X}]$ be an ideal, we say that $\{g_1, \dots, g_s\} \subset I$ is a **Gröbner basis** for I (w.r.t. \prec) if the leading monomial of any nonzero polynomial in I is multiple of $\text{lm}(g_i)$ for some $i = 1, \dots, s$. One can prove that such a set is a basis for I in the usual sense $I = (g_1, \dots, g_s)$ and that any ideal has a Gröbner basis.

A related and very important concept is the **footprint** of I (w.r.t. \prec) defined as

$$\Delta(I) = \{M \in \mathcal{M} \mid M \text{ is not the leading monomial of any polynomial in } I\}$$

Buchberger (1965) proved that $\{M + I \mid M \in \Delta(I)\}$ is a basis for $k[\mathbf{X}]/I$ (considered as a k -vector space).

If I is homogeneous then $\{M + I \mid M \in \Delta(I), \deg(M) = d\}$ is a basis for $k[\mathbf{X}]_d/I(d)$.

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Gröbner bases and coding theory

A (linear error correcting) code of length N defined over \mathbb{F}_q is an \mathbb{F}_q -vector subspace $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^N$. Given an N -tuple $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N) \in \mathbb{F}_q^N$ the weight of α is $w(\alpha) = \#\{i \mid \alpha_i \neq 0\}$ and the minimum distance of C is $d_{\min}(C) := \min\{w(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in C \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}\}$.

One may use a set $X = \{P_1, \dots, P_N\} \subset \mathbb{A}^N(\mathbb{F}_q)$ to construct a code in the following way. Let $I_X \subset \mathbb{F}_q[X_0, \dots, X_N] = \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]$ be the ideal of X and let $\varphi : \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I_X \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^N$ be given by $\varphi(f + I_X) = (f(P_1), \dots, f(P_N))$. It is not difficult to show that φ is an isomorphism of \mathbb{F}_q -vector spaces. Thus, for any subspace $L \subset \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I_X$ we have a code $C_L := \varphi(L)$.

Let d be a nonnegative integer and let

$$L_d := \{f + I_X \mid f = 0 \text{ or } \deg(f) \leq d\}.$$

In this case we say that C_{L_d} is “of Reed-Muller type” and has order d .

From Buchberger’s result we know that the classes of the monomials in $\Delta(I_X)$ form a basis for $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I_X$ (in particular $\#\Delta(I_X) = N$) and one may prove that the set $\Delta(I_X)_d := \{M + I_X \mid M \in \Delta(I_X), \deg(M) \leq d\}$ is a basis for L_d , so that $\dim(C_{L_d}) = \#\Delta(I_X)_d$.

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Gröbner basis methods and the parameters of C_L

As for the minimum distance $d_{\min}(C_L)$, we would like to estimate the number of zero entries in $\varphi(f + I_X) = (f(P_1), \dots, f(P_N))$. Let $I_{X,f} := I_X + (f)$, we want to estimate $N - \#(V(I_{X,f}))$. From $I_X \subset I_{X,f}$ we get $\Delta(I_{X,f}) \subset \Delta(I_X)$, in particular $\Delta(I_{X,f})$ is finite which implies $\#(V(I_{X,f})) \leq \#(\Delta(I_{X,f}))$ and we get $N - \#(V(I_{X,f})) \geq N - \#(\Delta(I_{X,f}))$. From Buchberger's result we can assume that f is a linear combination of monomials in $\Delta(I_X)$ so that $\text{Im}(f) \in \Delta(I_X)$. It is not difficult to prove that $N - \#(\Delta(I_{X,f})) \geq \#\{M \in \Delta(I_X) \mid \text{Im}(f) \mid M\}$, so the idea now is to determine for each monomial $M' \in \Delta(I_X)$ the cardinality of the set $\{M \in \Delta(I_X) \mid M' \mid M\}$, and from this determine a lower bound for $d_{\min}(C_L)$. Moreover, it is true that if $\{g_1, \dots, g_s\}$ is a Gröbner basis for I_X and $\{f, g_1, \dots, g_s\}$ is a Gröbner basis for $I_{X,f}$ then this bound (with $M' = \text{Im}(f)$) is the true value of the minimum distance.

These techniques have been used to determine the parameters of codes C_{L_d} when $X = A_1 \times \dots \times A_N \in \mathbb{A}^N(\mathbb{F}_q)$, as well as some higher Hamming weights for these codes.

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Codes defined over projective varieties

One may also use a set $S = \{P_1, \dots, P_N\} \subset \mathbb{P}^\ell(\mathbb{F}_q)$ to construct a code in the following way. Let $I_S \subset \mathbb{F}_q[X_0, \dots, X_\ell] = \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]$ be the (homogeneous) ideal of S . We know that $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I_S = \bigoplus_{d=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d/I_S(d)$, then fix a d consider the evaluation morphism $\varphi : \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d/I_S(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^N$ where $\varphi(f + I_S) = (f(P_1), \dots, f(P_N))$ (with the points written in “standard notation”). Observe that φ is injective, so defining $C_d = \text{Im}(\varphi)$ we have $\dim(C_d) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_q} \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d/I_S(d)$.

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Let m and n be integers such that $1 \leq m \leq n$ and let $\ell = n + m + 1$. A **rational normal scroll** is the algebraic surface defined by

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It is not difficult to prove that $S = S_0 \cup C_\infty \cup L_0$, where

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A good place to start is to examine the ideal I generated by the set G of binomials “suggested” by the definition of S , namely

$$G = \{X_i X_j - X_{i+1} X_{j-1} \mid 0 \leq i \leq \ell - 2, i \neq n, i + 1 < j \leq \ell, j \neq n + 1\}$$

It turns out that G is a Gröbner basis for I w.r.t. the graded lexicographic order \prec where $X_\ell \prec \cdots \prec X_0$, but then $I \subsetneq I_S$. Take for example

$1 = m < n = 2$ and $q = 5$. We have $X_0 X_2 - X_1^2 \in G$ and if $I = I_S$ then we should have $X_0^5 X_2 - X_1^6 \in I$, but in this case

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Let \mathcal{B} be the image of Ψ and let's consider $\Psi : \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}] \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$.

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Codes defined on rational normal scrolls

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Codes defined on rational normal scrolls

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is a morphism of graded \mathbb{F}_q -algebras. Not surprisingly we proved that $\ker \Psi = I$, proving that $0 \rightarrow I(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d \xrightarrow{\Psi} \mathcal{B}_d \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of \mathbb{F}_q -modules for all $d \geq 0$.

Thus $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d/I(d) \cong \mathcal{B}_d$ for all $d \geq 0$ (hence $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I \cong \mathcal{B}$) and for some ideal $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{B}$ we must have $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]/I_{\mathcal{J}} \cong \mathcal{B}/\mathcal{J}$. Based on examples like the one we saw (over \mathbb{F}_5) we defined \mathcal{J} as a graded ideal $\mathcal{J} = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} \mathcal{J}(d)$ where $\mathcal{J}(d)$, as an \mathbb{F}_q -submodule of \mathcal{B}_d , is generated by the elements $Y^yZ^zV^vW^w - Y^{\tilde{y}}Z^{\tilde{z}}V^{\tilde{v}}W^{\tilde{w}}$ where $y, z, v, w, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{w}$ are non-negative integers satisfying

$$\left. \begin{aligned}y + z &= \tilde{y} + \tilde{z} = d \\ v + w &= ny + mz, \quad \tilde{v} + \tilde{w} = n\tilde{y} + m\tilde{z} \\ q - 1 &| y - \tilde{y}, \quad q - 1 | v - \tilde{v} \\ v &= ny + mz \iff \tilde{v} = n\tilde{y} + m\tilde{z}\end{aligned} \right| \begin{aligned}y = 0 &\iff \tilde{y} = 0 \\ y = d &\iff \tilde{y} = d \\ v = 0 &\iff \tilde{v} = 0\end{aligned}$$

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Codes defined on rational normal scrolls

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We defined a order on the monomials of \mathcal{B} and proved that if we define $\Delta(\mathcal{J})$ to be the set of monomials which are not leading monomials of \mathcal{J} (with respect to that order) then the classes of the monomials of $\Delta(\mathcal{J})$ in \mathcal{B}/\mathcal{J} form a basis for \mathcal{B}/\mathcal{J} as an \mathbb{F}_q -vector space.

Moreover, the classes of the monomials of degree d which are not leading monomials of polynomials in $\mathcal{J}(d)$ form a basis as an \mathbb{F}_q -vector space basis for $\mathcal{B}_d/\mathcal{J}(d)$.

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Codes defined on rational normal scrolls

After some work we proved that the sequence

$0 \rightarrow I_S(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{X}]_d \xrightarrow{\Psi} \mathcal{B}_d/\mathcal{J}(d) \rightarrow 0$ is an exact sequence of \mathbb{F}_q -modules for all $d \geq 0$. So

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We were able to count these classes and prove that the dimension of C_d is:

$$(a) (n+m) \frac{d(d+1)}{2} + d + 1 \text{ if } d \leq q/n;$$

$$(b) (s+1) \left[\frac{(n+m)s}{2} + m(d-s) + 1 \right] + (d-s)(q+1)$$

$$\text{if } m < n \text{ and } q/n < d \leq q/m, \text{ where } s = \left\lfloor \frac{q-md}{n-m} \right\rfloor;$$

$$(c) (d+1)(q+1) \text{ if } q/m < d < q;$$

$$(d) (q+1)^2 \text{ if } q \leq d.$$

Observe that if $d \geq q$ then the evaluation morphism $\varphi : \mathbb{F}[\mathbf{X}]_d / I_S(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^N$, where $N = (q+1)^2$, is surjective, so the code is equal to $\mathbb{F}_q^{(q+1)^2}$ and the minimum distance is equal to 1.

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To estimate $d_{\min}(C_d)$, using a reasoning similar to the affine case, we proved that a lower bound for $\varphi(f + I_S(d))$ is $\#(\{M \in \Delta(\mathcal{J}) \mid \deg M = e, \text{Im}(f) \mid M\})$ for $e \gg 0$. Using these results we were able to show that $d_{\min}(C_d)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} (q - d + 1)(q - nd + 1) \leq d_{\min}(C_d) \leq q(q - nd + 1) & \quad \text{for } d \leq q/n, \\ q - d + 1 \leq \delta_S(d) \leq q - d + 1 + \sigma & \quad \text{for } q/n < d < q \end{aligned}$$

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$$\sigma = \begin{cases} \left\lfloor \frac{q - md}{n - m} \right\rfloor & \text{if } \frac{q}{n} < d \leq \frac{q}{m} \text{ and } m < n; \\ 0 & \text{if } \frac{q}{m} < d < q. \end{cases}$$

In the case when $n = m$ we manage to determine the precise values for $d_{\min}(C_d)$, which are

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