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A probabilistic and deterministic modular algorithm for computing Groebner basis over \mathbb{Q} .

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Abstract

Modular algorithm are widely used in computer algebra systems (CAS), for example to compute efficiently the gcd of multivariate polynomials. It is known to work to compute Groebner basis over \mathbb{Q} , but it does not seem to be popular among CAS implementers. In this paper, I will show how to check a candidate Groebner basis (obtained by reconstruction of several Groebner basis modulo distinct prime numbers) with a given error probability, that may be 0 if a certified Groebner basis is desired. This algorithm is now the default algorithm used by the Giac/Xcas computer algebra system with competitive timings, thanks to a trick that can accelerate computing Groebner basis modulo a prime once the computation has been done modulo another prime.

1 Introduction

During the last decades, considerable improvements have been made in CAS like Maple or specialized systems like Magma, Singular, Cocoa, Macaulay... to compute Groebner basis. They were driven by implementations of new algorithms speeding up the original Buchberger ([3]) algorithm: Gebauer and Möller criterion ([6]), F4 and F5 algorithms from J.-C. Faugère ([4], [5]), and are widely described in the literature if the base field is a finite field. Much less was said about computing over \mathbb{Q} . It seems that implementers are using the same algorithm as for finite fields, this time working with coefficients in \mathbb{Q} or in \mathbb{Z} , despite the fact that an efficient p-adic or Chinese remaindering algorithm were described as soon as in year 2000 by E. Arnold ([1]). The reason might well be that these modular algorithms suffer from a time-consuming step at the end: checking that the reconstructed Groebner basis is indeed the correct Groebner basis.

Section 2 will show that if one accepts a small error probability, this check may be fast, so we can let the user choose between a fast conjectural Groebner basis to make his own conjectures and a slower certified Groebner basis once he needs a mathematical proof.

Section 3 will explain learning, a process that can accelerate the computation of a Groebner basis modulo a prime p_k once the same computation but modulo another prime p has already been done ; learning is an alternative to the F5 algorithm in order to avoid computing useless critical pairs that reduce to 0. The idea is similar to F4_{remake} by Joux-Vitse ([7]) used in the context of computing Groebner basis in large finite fields.

In section 4, we will show in more details how the gbasis algorithm is implemented in Giac/Xcas ([8]) and show that - at least for the classical academic benchmarks Cyclic and Katsura - the deterministic modular algorithm is competitive or faster than the best open-source implementations and the modular probabilistic algorithm is comparable to Maple (but slower than Magma), while computation modulo p are faster for characteristics in the 24-31 bits range.

2 Checking a reconstructed Groebner basis

Let f_1, \dots, f_m be polynomials in $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle$ be the ideal generated by f_1, \dots, f_m . Without loss of generality, we may assume that the f_i have coefficients in \mathbb{Z} by multiplying by the least common multiple of the denominators of the coefficients of f_i . We may also assume that the f_i are primitive by dividing by their content.

Let $<$ be a total monomial ordering (for example `revlex` the total degree reverse lexicographic ordering). We want to compute the Groebner basis G of I over \mathbb{Q} (and more precisely the inter-reduced Groebner basis, sorted with respect to $<$). Now consider the ideal I_p generated by the same f_i but with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ for a prime p . Let G_p be the Groebner basis of I_p (also assumed to be inter-reduced, sorted with respect to $<$, and with all leading coefficients equal to 1).

Assume we compute G by the Buchberger algorithm with Gebauer and Möller criterion, and we reduce in \mathbb{Z} (by multiplying the s-poly to be reduced by appropriate leading coefficients), if no leading coefficient in the polynomials are divisible by p , we will get by the same process but computing modulo p the G_p Groebner basis. Therefore the computation can be done in parallel in \mathbb{Z} and in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ except for a finite set of *unlucky* primes (since the number of intermediate polynomials generated in the algorithm is finite). If we are choosing our primes sufficiently large (e.g. about 2^{31}), the probability to fall on an unlucky prime is very small (less than the number of generated polynomials divided by about 2^{31} , even for really large examples like Cyclic9 where there are a few 10^4 polynomials involved, it would be about $1e-5$).

The Chinese remaindering algorithm is as follow: compute G_p for several primes, for all primes that have the same leading monomials in G_p (i.e. if coefficient values are ignored), reconstruct $G_{\prod p_j}$ by Chinese remaindering, then reconstruct a candidate Groebner basis G_c in \mathbb{Q} by Farey reconstruction. Once it stabilizes, do the checking step described below, and return G_c on success.

Checking step : check that the original f_i polynomials reduce to 0 with respect to G_c and check that G_c is a Groebner basis.

Theorem 1 (Arnold) *If the checking step succeeds, then G_c is the Groebner basis of I .*

This is a consequence of ideal inclusions (first check) and dimensions (second check), for a complete proof, see [1].

Probabilistic checking algorithm: instead of checking that s-polys of critical pairs of G_c reduce to 0, check that the s-polys reduce to 0 modulo several primes that do not divide the leading coefficients of G_c and stop as soon as the inverse of the product of these primes is less than a fixed $\varepsilon > 0$.

Deterministic checking algorithm: check that all s-polys reduce to 0 over \mathbb{Q} . This can be done either by integer computations (or even by rational computations, I have not tried that), or by reconstruction of the quotients using modular reduction to 0 over $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ for sufficiently many primes. Once the reconstructed quotients stabilize, we can check the 0-reduction identity, and this can be done without computing the products quotients by elements of G_c if we have enough primes (with appropriate bounds on the coefficients of G_c and the lcm of the denominators of the reconstructed quotients).

3 Speeding up by learning from previous primes

Once we have computed a Groebner basis modulo an initial prime p , if p is not an unlucky prime, then we can speedup computing Groebner basis modulo other lucky primes. Indeed, if one s-poly reduce to 0 modulo p , then it reduces most certainly to 0 on \mathbb{Q} (non zero s-poly have in general several terms, cancellation of one term mod p has probability $1/p$, simultaneous cancellation of several terms of a non-zero s-poly modulo p is highly improbable), and we discard this s-poly in the next primes computations. We name this speedup process *learning*. It can also be applied on other parts of the Groebner basis computation, like the symbolic preprocessing of the F4 algorithm, where we can reuse the same collection of monomials that were used for the first prime p to build matrices for next primes (see Algorithm F4 in the next section).

If we use learning, we have no certification that the computation ends up with a Groebner basis modulo the new primes. But this is not a problem, since it is not required by the checking correctness proof, the only requirement is that the new generated ideal is contained in the initial ideal modulo all primes (which is still true) and that the reconstructed G_c is a Groebner basis.

4 Giac/Xcas implementation and benchmarks

We describe here briefly some details of the Giac/Xcas gbasis implementation and give a few benchmarks.

The optimized algorithm runs with revlex as $<$ ordering if the polynomials have at most 15 variables (it's easy to modify for more variables, adding multiples of 4, but this will slow down a little if there are less variables). Partial and total degrees are coded as 16 bits integers (hence the 15 variables limit, since 1 slot of 16 bits is kept for total degree). Modular coefficients are coded as 31 bit integers (or 24).

The F4 algorithm is implemented modulo primes smaller than 2^{31} using total degree as selection criterion for critical pairs.

Algorithm F4 modulo a prime

1. Initialize the basis to the empty list, and a list of critical pairs to empty
2. Add one by one all the f_i to the basis and update the list of critical pairs with Gebauer and Möller criterion, by calling the gbasis update procedure (described below step 9)
3. Begin of a new iteration:
All pairs of maximal total degree are collected to be reduced simultaneously, they are removed from the list of critical pairs.
4. The symbolic preprocessing step begins, a list of monomials is created by gluing together all monomials of the corresponding s-polys (this is done with a heap data structure).
5. The list of monomials is “reduced” by division with respect to the current basis, using heap division (like Monagan-Pearce) without taking care of the real value of coefficients. This gives a list of all possible remainder monomials and a list of all possible quotient monomials and a list of all quotient times corresponding basis element monomial products. This last list together with the remainder monomial list is the list of all possible monomials that may be generated reducing the list of critical pairs of maximal total degree, it is ordered with respect to $<$. We record these lists for further primes during the first prime computation.
6. The list of quotient monomials is multiplied by the corresponding elements of the current basis, this time doing the coefficient arithmetic. The result is recorded in a sparse matrix, each row is a list of pairs [coefficients, index of monomial], where the index is relative to the ordered list of possible monomials. We sort the matrix by decreasing order of leading monomial.
This step is the most memory consuming step. This is the step where it may be interesting to compress data. For example, if the prime is less than¹ 2^{24} , instead of using a 32 bit signed integer for the coefficient and a 32 bit unsigned integer for the index, one can use a 25 bit signed integer for the coefficient and a 7 bit unsigned shift from previous index.
7. Each s-polynomial is written as a dense vector with respect to the list of all possible monomials, and reduced with respect to the sparse matrix, by decreasing order with respect to $<$. (To avoid reducing modulo p each time, we are using a dense vector of 128 bits integers on 64 bits architectures, and we reduce mod p only at the end of the reduction. If we work on 24 bit signed integers, and have less than 2^{15} rows, we can use a dense vector of 63 bits signed integer).
8. Then inter-reduction happens on all the dense vectors representing the reduced s-polynomials, this is dense row reduction to echelon form. Care must be taken at this step to keep row ordering when learning is active.

¹This is the limit for small modular Groebner basis computation in magma according to Allan Steel Groebner basis webpage [9]

9. procedure gbasis update
Each non zero row will bring a new entry in the current basis (we record zero reducing pairs during the first prime iteration, this information will be used during later iterations with other primes to avoid computing and reducing useless critical pairs). New critical pairs are created with this new entry (discarding useless pairs by applying Gebauer-Möller criterion). An old entry in the basis may be removed if its leading monomial has all partial degrees greater or equal to the leading monomial corresponding degree of the new entry. Old entries are also reduced with respect to the new entries (this can be done one by one, or all together like for the simultaneous reduction of the s-polynomials, but without the final dense row reduction step).
10. If there are new critical pairs remaining start a new iteration (step 3). Otherwise the current basis is the Groebner basis.

Modular algorithm

1. Set a list of reconstructed basis to empty.
2. Learning prime: Take a prime number of 31 bits (or a 24 bits prime to spare memory for the first run), run the F4 algorithm modulo this prime recording symbolic preprocessing data and critical pairs reducing to 0 information.
3. Loop begin: Take a prime of 31 bits size. Run the F4 algorithm. Check if the output has the same leading terms than one of the chinese remainder reconstructed outputs from previous primes, if so combine them by Chinese remaindering and go to step 4, otherwise add a new entry in the list of reconstructed basis and continue with next prime at step 3 (clearing all learning data is probably a good idea here).
4. If the Farey \mathbb{Q} -reconstructed basis is not identical to the previous one, go to the loop iteration step 3. Otherwise run the final check : the initial polynomials f_i must reduce to 0 modulo the reconstructed basis and the reconstructed basis s-polys must reduce to 0 (this is done on \mathbb{Q} either directly or by modular reconstruction for the deterministic algorithm, or checked modulo several primes for the probabilistic algorithm). On success output the \mathbb{Q} Groebner basis, otherwise continue with next prime at step 3.

Benchmarks

Comparison of giac (1.1.0-11) with Singular 3.1 (from sage 5.10) on Mac OS X.6, Dual Core i5 2.3Ghz, RAM 2*2Go at 1333Mhz :

- Mod timings were computed modulo `nextprime(2^24)` and modulo `1073741827` (`nextprime(2^30)`).
- Probabilistic check on \mathbb{Q} depends linearly on log of precision, two timings are reported, one with error probability less than $1e-7$, and the second one for $1e-16$.

- Check on \mathbb{Q} in giac can be done with integer or modular computations hence two times are reported.
- Cyclic9 estimation was done with giac compiled with max 11 variables (instead of 15), 1 learning run and 2 next primes run, using size of coefficients reported in [4].
- >> means timeout (3/4h or more) or memory exhausted (Katsura12 modular $1e-16$ check with giac) or test not done because it would obviously timeout (e.g. Cyclic8 or 9 with Singular)

	giac mod p 24, 31 bits	giac run2	singular mod p	giac \mathbb{Q} prob. $1e-7, 1e-16$	giac \mathbb{Q} certified	singular \mathbb{Q}
Cyclic7	0.74, 0.91	0.18	2.0	6.6, 7.2	23.2, 39.3	>2700
Cyclic8	11.9, 16.5	3.6	52.5	193, 198	346, 786	»
Cyclic9	1220, 1300	455	»	est. 1 day	»	»
Katsura8	0.078, 0.088	0.009	0.2	0.48, 0.66	6.21, 4.58	4.9
Katsura9	0.4, 0.46	0.05	1.37	3.1, 4.2	54, 37.8	41
Katsura10	2, 2.6	0.29	11.65	20, 26.7	441, 335	480
Katsura11	13.4, 17.4	2	86.8	170, 210	»	»
Katsura12	91, 120	13	885	1300, ?	»	»

This leads to the following observations :

- Computation modulo p for 24 to 31 bits is faster than Singular, but seems also faster than magma and maple.
- The probabilistic algorithm on \mathbb{Q} is much faster than Singular on these examples. Compared to maple16, it is reported to be as fast for Katsura10, and about 2 times slower for Cyclic8. Compared to magma, it is about 5 to 7 times slower (strangely enough, magma timings are faster on \mathbb{Q} than on $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$!).
- The deterministic modular algorithm is much faster than Singular for Cyclic examples, and almost as fast for Katsura examples.
- Certification is the most time-consuming part of the process (except for Cyclic8). Integer certification is significantly faster than modular certification for Cyclic examples, and almost as fast for Katsura.

Example of Giac/Xcas code:

```

cyclic5 := [x*y*z+y*z*t+z*t*u+t*u*x+u*x*y,
x*y*z*t+y*z*t*u+z*t*u*x+t*u*x*y+u*x*y*z,
x*y*z*t*u-1, x+y+z+t+u, x*y+y*z+z*t+t*u+u*x];
p1:=nextprime(2^24); p2:=nextprime(2^30);
// debug_infolevel(1); // uncomment to show intermediate steps
time(G1:=gbasis(cyclic5 % p1, indets(cyclic5), revlex));
time(G2:=gbasis(cyclic5 % p2, indets(cyclic5), revlex));
proba_epsilon:=0; // set to 1e-7 for probabilistic algorithm.
time(H1:=gbasis(cyclic5, indets(cyclic5), revlex));

```

```
time (H2:=gbasis (cyclic5, indets (cyclic5), revlex, modular_check));  
size (G1), size (G2), size (H1), size (H2);  
write ("Hcyclic5", H1);
```

Note that for small examples like Cyclic5 above, the system performs always the deterministic check (this is the case if the number of elements of the reconstructed basis to 50).

5 Conclusion

I have described some enhancements to a modular algorithm to compute Groebner basis over \mathbb{Q} which, combined to F4, gives a sometimes much faster open-source implementation than state-of-the-art open-source implementations for the deterministic algorithm. The probabilistic algorithm is also not ridiculous compared to closed-source implementations, while being much easier to implement (about 5K lines of code, while Fgb is said to be 200K lines of code, no need to have highly optimized sparse linear algebra).

This should speed up conjectures with the probabilistic algorithm and automated proofs using the deterministic algorithm (e.g. for the Geogebra theorem prover [2]), either using Giac/Xcas or adapting its implementation to other open-source systems. With fast closed-source implementations (like maple or magma), there is no certification that the result is a Groebner basis : there might be some hidden probabilistic step somewhere, in integer linear system reduction for example. I have no indication that it's the case but one can never know if the code is not public, and at least for my implementation, certification might take a lot more time than computation.

There is still room for additions and improvements

- it should be easy to parallelize this algorithm, since each prime run can be done on a separate processor/core. But this could also be memory-hungry and it is not clear that it would be faster for big examples (like Cyclic9).
- a first learning run could be done modulo a 24 bits prime, and the collected info used for f4 on \mathbb{Q} as a probabilistic alternative to F5.
- FGLM conversion is still slow in Giac/Xcas,

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