

# Fast computation of Gröbner bases of ideals of $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$

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**Abstract**—This paper provides a fast algorithm for Gröbner bases of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . We show that only the S-polynomials of neighbor pairs of a strictly ordered finite generating set are needed in the computing of a Gröbner bases of the ideal. It reduces dramatically the number of unnecessary S-polynomials that are processed. Although the complexity of the algorithm is hard to evaluated, it obviously has a great improvement from Buchberger’s Algorithm.

**Keywords:** Gröbner Bases, Buchberger’s Algorithm, polynomial ideal

## I. INTRODUCTION

Gröbner bases is a powerful tool for solving algebraic systems [1], [2]. Nowadays, the application of Gröbner bases becomes more and more widely, e.g., coding theory, signal theory, and even algebraic attacks in cryptanalysis [3], [4]. However the computation of Gröbner bases is not as efficient as expected. Actually, for a general polynomial ideal  $I$ , the computation of Gröbner bases is always complex. Thus the computational complexity limits the scope of the applications of the theory. The upper boundary of the computational complexity is  $O(N^{2^n})$ , where  $N$  is the maximum degree of the generating polynomials and  $n$  is the number of variables [5]. Therefore efficient computing algorithm for Gröbner bases make a great sense.

Historically, Buchberger is the presenter of Gröbner bases theory, and Buchberger’s Algorithm is the first algorithm for computing Gröbner bases [1]. Many of improved algorithms inherit the essential ideal of the classical Buchberger’s Algorithm. They focus on how to eliminate unnecessary S-polynomials. Buchberger improves his classical algorithm by suggested criteria to remove the useless S-polynomials [2], so does the  $F_5$  algorithm [7].  $F_4$  algorithm improves the original algorithm in another perspective [6]. It exploits sparse linear algebra to allow multiple pairs to be processed simultaneously, resulting efficient processing for huge number of S-polynomials. “FGLM” algorithm is another type of method to compute Gröbner bases for a zero dimensional ideal [8]. It can convert a Gröbner bases from one term ordering to another in  $O(D^3)$  computation, where  $D = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathbb{F}[x]/I$ .

Lu finds an interesting property of the Gröbner bases of homogenous ideals of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$  [11]. The property shows that only the S-polynomials of neighbor pairs of a strictly ordered

finite generating set are needed. In this paper, we generate the property to general ideals of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ . Thus the number of S-polynomials decrease dramatically from  $\frac{1}{2}r(r-1)$  to  $(r-1)$ , where  $r$  is the number of generating polynomials for current loop round.

## II. FAST COMPUTATION OF GRÖBNER BASES OF IDEALS OF $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$

### A. Standard notations

We firstly recall the standard notations in the Gröbner bases theory [1], [2], [9], [10]. Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field.  $\mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  is denoted as the polynomial ring over  $\mathbb{F}$  in  $n$  indeterminates, and we always write  $\mathbb{F}[X]$  for short if there is no confusion in the context. For arbitrary  $i = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ , we call  $X^i = x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n}$  a power product (a monomial with coefficient ignored) of  $\mathbb{F}[X]$ . Let  $T^n = \{x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n} \mid i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then  $T^n$  is the set of all power products of  $\mathbb{F}[X]$ . “ $<$ ” is an admissible term order on  $T^n$ . For a given term order, every  $f \in \mathbb{F}[X]$  can be written as

$$f = a_1 X^{\alpha_1} + a_2 X^{\alpha_2} + \dots + a_r X^{\alpha_r}, \quad (1)$$

where  $0 \neq a_i \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $X^{\alpha_i} \in T^n$ , and  $X^{\alpha_1} > X^{\alpha_2} > \dots > X^{\alpha_r}$ .

Then, we define:

- $\text{lp}(f) = X^{\alpha_1}$ , the “leading power product” of  $f$ ;
- $\text{lc}(f) = a_1$ , the “leading coefficient” of  $f$ ;
- $\text{lt}(f) = a_1 X^{\alpha_1}$ , the “leading term” of  $f$ .

In the sequel, any discussion related to  $\text{lp}$ ,  $\text{lc}$ ,  $\text{lt}$  has defaultly specified a term ordering.

Let  $f, g, h \in \mathbb{F}[X]$ , and  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}[X]$ . Then we say that:

- $f$  reduces to  $h$  modulo  $g$  in one step, denoted  $f \xrightarrow{g} h$ , if and only if  $\text{lp}(g)$  divides a non-zero term  $X$  that appears in  $f$  and  $h = f - \frac{X}{\text{lt}(g)}g$ .
- $f$  top reduces to  $h$  modulo  $g$ , if and only if  $f \xrightarrow{g} h$ , and  $\text{lt}(f) > \text{lt}(h)$ . That is  $h = f - \frac{\text{lt}(f)}{\text{lt}(g)}g$ .
- $f$  reduces to  $h$  modulo  $G$ , denoted  $f \xrightarrow{G} h$ , if and only if there exists  $g_i \in G$  such that  $f \xrightarrow{g_i} h$ .
- $f$  top reduces to  $h$  modulo  $G$ , if and only if  $f \xrightarrow{G} h$ , and  $\text{lt}(f) > \text{lt}(h)$ .
- “ $\xrightarrow{G}_+$ ” is the reflexive-transitive closure of “ $\xrightarrow{G}$ ”.

- The S-polynomial of  $f$  and  $g$ , denoted  $S(f, g)$ , is defined as

$$S(f, g) = \frac{L}{\text{lt}(f)}f - \frac{L}{\text{lt}(g)}g, \quad (2)$$

where  $L = \text{lcm}(\text{lp}(f), \text{lp}(g))$ .

**Theorem 1 [2], [9], [10].** Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $\mathbb{F}[X]$ , and  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  a subset of  $I$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

- i)  $f \in I$ , if and only if  $f \xrightarrow{G} + 0$ .
- ii)  $f \in I$ , if and only if

$$f = h_1g_1 + h_2g_2 + \dots + h_rg_r, \quad (3)$$

where  $h_1, \dots, h_r \in \mathbb{F}[X]$ ,  $\text{lp}(f) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} \{\text{lp}(h_i) \text{lp}(g_i)\}$ .

- iii)  $S(g_i, g_j) \xrightarrow{G} + 0$ , for arbitrary  $1 \leq i < j \leq r$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $\mathbb{F}[X]$ , and  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  a subset of  $I$ . Then  $G$  is called a Gröbner bases of  $I$ , if  $G$  satisfies any equivalent condition in Theorem 1. When we say “ $G$  is a Gröbner bases of  $\mathbb{F}[X]$ ”, it means that “ $G$  is a Gröbner bases of  $\langle G \rangle$ ”.

**Definition 2.** Let  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  be a Gröbner bases. Then  $G$  is called a minimal Gröbner bases, if for arbitrary  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq r$ ,  $\text{lt}(g_i) \nmid \text{lt}(g_j)$ .

### B. Strictly ordering

From now on, we specify our discussion on the polynomial ring in two indeterminates, i.e.,  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ . And the the lexicographic order ( $y < x$ ) is chosen as the fixed term order on  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ .

**Definition 3.** Let  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ . With a fixed term order, if  $\text{lp}(g_1) > \text{lp}(g_2) > \dots > \text{lp}(g_r)$ , and  $\text{lp}(g_i) \nmid \text{lp}(g_j)$ ,  $i \neq j$ , then the leading terms of  $G$  are called to be strictly ordered.

Given a subset of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ , denoted  $K$ , how can we change it into a strictly ordered one,  $G$ , such that  $\langle K \rangle = \langle G \rangle$ ? Actually, if there exists  $f_i, f_j \in K$  such that  $\text{lp}(f_i) \mid \text{lp}(f_j)$ , we can top reduce  $f_j$  by  $f_i$ , and replace  $f_j$  in  $K$  by the remainder of the reduction. We repeat the action (top reduction and replacing) until there is no more such pairs ( $f_i$  and  $f_j$ ). Since the order of leading term of the replaced polynomial decreases by every replacing, the action will terminate in finite steps. And then we will get a strictly ordered polynomial set  $G$ , such that  $\langle K \rangle = \langle G \rangle$ .

Based on the upper analysis, we strictly present it as Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 1 :** Finding a strictly ordered generator for an ideal

**Input:** A polynomial set  $K = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\} \subset \mathbb{F}[x, y]$ .

**Output:** A strictly ordered generator  $G$ , such that  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ .

**Initial:**  $G := K$

**While** there exists  $f, g \in G, f \neq g$ , such that  $\text{lp}(f) \mid \text{lp}(g)$

$G := G \setminus \{g\}$ ,

$g \xrightarrow{f} h$ .

**If**  $h \neq 0$  **Then**  $G := G \cup \{h\}$

**Return**  $G$

### Example 1.

Let  $K = \{g_1 = x^8y^7 + x^3y^2 + 1, g_2 = x^6y^5 + x^3y + x, g_3 = x^3y^6 + y^2\}$ .

Step 1:

Since  $\text{lp}(g_3) \mid \text{lp}(g_1)$ ,

then  $g_1 \xrightarrow[\text{top reduction}]{g_3} -x^5y^3 + x^3y^2 + 1 = g'_1$ .

Update  $g_1$  by  $g'_1$ :  $K = \{g'_1, g_2, g_3\}$ .

Step 2:

Since  $\text{lp}(g'_1) \mid \text{lp}(g_2)$ ,

then  $g_2 \xrightarrow[\text{top reduction}]{g'_1} x^4y^4 + x^3y + xy^2 + x = g'_2$ .

Update  $g_2$  by  $g'_2$ :  $K = \{g'_1, g'_2, g_3\}$ .

Now, since there is no more  $g_i, g_j$  such that  $\text{lp}(g_i) \mid \text{lp}(g_j)$ , the computation terminates. And we get the strictly ordered generator  $G = \{g'_1, g'_2, g_3\}$ , such that  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ .

**Proposition 1.** Let  $K = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k\}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$  and  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  the finite set resulting from Algorithm 1. Then the leading terms of  $G$  are strictly ordered,  $r \leq k$ , and  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ .

*Proof:*  $G$  is obviously strictly ordered by the upper analysis. Let  $G_0 = K$ , and we employ the subscript  $i$  to distinguish the symbols in the  $i$ th loop round in Algorithm 1.

- If  $h_i = 0$ , then  $g_i$  is multiple of  $f_i$ . Thus  $\langle G_{i+1} \rangle = \langle G_i \setminus \{g_i\} \rangle = \langle G_i \rangle$ , and  $|G_{i+1}| = |G_i| - 1$ .

- If  $h_i \neq 0$ , then  $g_i$  can be represented as linear combination of  $f_i$  and  $h_i$ . Thus  $\langle G_{i+1} \rangle = \langle G_i \setminus \{g_i\}, h_i \rangle = \langle G_i \rangle$ , and  $|G_{i+1}| \leq |G_i|$ .

Therefore,  $\langle G_{i+1} \rangle = \langle G_i \rangle$  and  $|G_{i+1}| \leq |G_i|$ .

By induction, we have  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ , and  $|\langle G \rangle| \leq |\langle K \rangle|$ . ■

### C. Fast computation of Gröbner bases

**Theorem 2.** Let  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ , and strictly ordered, then  $G$  is a minimal Gröbner bases if and only if

$$S(g_i, g_{i+1}) \xrightarrow{G} + 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, r-1.$$

*Proof:* By Theorem 1, the necessity is obviously holds. Now we prove the sufficiency.

Suppose that  $S(g_i, g_{i+1}) \xrightarrow{G} + 0 (i=1, 2, \dots, r-1)$ . To prove that  $G$  is a Gröbner bases, we just need to prove that for  $\forall f \in \langle g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r \rangle$ ,  $f$  can be represented as

$$f = h_1g_1 + h_2g_2 + \dots + h_rg_r,$$

where  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_r \in \mathbb{F}[x, y]$ , and

$$\text{lp}(f) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} \{\text{lp}(h_i) \text{lp}(g_i)\}. \quad (4)$$

In fact, since  $f \in \langle g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r \rangle$ , it can be written as

$$f = h_1g_1 + h_2g_2 + \dots + h_rg_r, \quad (5)$$

where  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_r \in \mathbb{F}[x, y]$ .

There is a representation of  $f$  as (5), such that

$$X = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} \{\text{lp}(h_i) \text{lp}(g_i)\}$$

is minimal, and moreover the number of elements in the set

$$S = \{i \mid 1 \leq i \leq r, \text{lp}(h_i) \text{lp}(g_i) = X\}, \quad (6)$$

namely  $|S|$ , is minimal.

If  $\text{lp}(f) \geq X$ , then formula (4) is true. Now, let  $\text{lp}(f) < X$ .

If  $|S|=1$ , then there is only one maximal term in the summations which is on the right side of formula (5). Thus,  $\text{lp}(f)=X$ , which contradicts with the hypothesis.

Therefore,  $|S| \geq 2$ . We further suppose that the interval between the least two elements in  $S$  is minimal. That's to say, if  $S = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{|S|}\}$ , where  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{|S|} \leq r$ , then  $|S|$  and  $i_2 - i_1$  are both minimal.

For arbitrary  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , let  $n_i = \deg_x \text{lp}(g_i)$ ,  $m_i = \deg_y \text{lp}(g_i)$ . Since  $G$  is strictly ordered, thus

$$n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_r, m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_r. \quad (7)$$

For convenience in description, let  $j=i_1, k=i_2, 1 \leq j < k \leq r$ . Then

$$X = \text{lp}(h_j) \text{lp}(g_j) = \text{lp}(h_k) \text{lp}(g_k), \quad (8)$$

and for arbitrary  $j \leq t_1, t_2 \leq k$ ,

$$x^{n_{t_1}} y^{m_{t_2}} | X. \quad (9)$$

For  $l < k$ , let  $\Delta = \text{lc}(h_k) \text{lc}(g_k)$ ,  $\delta = \frac{\Delta}{\text{lc}(g_l)}$ .

From the definition of S-polynomial (2), there is

$$S(g_l, g_k) = \frac{1}{\text{lc}(g_l)} y^{m_k - m_l} g_l - \frac{1}{\text{lc}(g_k)} x^{n_l - n_k} g_k, \quad (10)$$

and then

$$h_k g_k - \Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_l} y^{m_k}} S(g_l, g_k) = (h_k - \text{lt}(h_k)) g_k + \left( \delta \frac{X}{x^{n_l} y^{m_l}} \right) g_l.$$

Let  $l=k-1$ , thus (5) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} f &= h_j g_j + h_k g_k + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S} h_i g_i \\ &= \Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) - \Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) \\ &\quad + h_j g_j + h_k g_k + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S} h_i g_i \\ &= -\Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) + h_j g_j + \delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_{k-1}}} g_{k-1} \\ &\quad + (h_k - \text{lt}(h_k)) g_k + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S} h_i g_i, \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\omega = -\Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) + (h_k - \text{lt}(h_k)) g_k. \quad (11)$$

Then

$$f = h_j g_j + \delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_{k-1}}} g_{k-1} + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S} h_i g_i + \omega.$$

Since  $S(g_{k-1}, g_k) \xrightarrow{G} +0$  and  $x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k} | X$ , thus  $-\Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) \xrightarrow{G} +0$ . So

$$-\Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) = h'_1 g_1 + h'_2 g_2 + \dots + h'_r g_r,$$

where

$$X > \text{lp} \left( -\Delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_k}} S(g_{k-1}, g_k) \right) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} \{ \text{lp}(h'_i) \text{lp}(g_i) \}.$$

Since  $\text{lp}(h_k - \text{lt}(h_k)) g_k < \text{lp}(h_k g_k) = X$ , then  $\omega$  can be written as

$$\omega = h''_1 g_1 + h''_2 g_2 + \dots + h''_r g_r,$$

where

$$X > \text{lp}(\omega) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} \{ \text{lp}(h''_i) \text{lp}(g_i) \}.$$

a) If  $j=k-1$ , then

$$f = \left( 1 + \frac{\delta}{\text{lc}(h_j)} \right) h_j g_j + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S} h_i g_i + \omega.$$

Now,  $f$  can be represented as a summation in which the number of maximal monomials is not exceed  $|S|-1$ , which contradicts the hypothesis that  $|S|$  is minimal.

b) If  $j < k-1$ , let  $\bar{h}_{k-1} = (\delta \frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_{k-1}}} + h_{k-1})$ , then

$$f = h_j g_j + \bar{h}_{k-1} g_{k-1} + \sum_{i \in S, i \neq j, i \neq k} h_i g_i + \sum_{i \notin S, i \neq k-1} h_i g_i + \omega.$$

Since  $X = \text{lp}(\frac{X}{x^{n_{k-1}} y^{m_{k-1}}} g_{k-1})$ ,  $X > \text{lp}(h_{k-1}) \text{lp}(g_{k-1})$ , then  $X = \text{lp}(\bar{h}_{k-1} \text{lp}(g_{k-1}))$ .

Now, the number of maximal monomials  $X$  in  $f$  equal to  $|S|$ , but the position set of maximum monomials  $X$  is  $\{j, k-1\} \cup S \setminus \{k\}$ , which contradicts with the hypothesis that  $k-j$  is minimal.

Here, we have finished the proof. ■

Based on Theorem 2 and Proposition 1 above, we give algorithm 2 to compute a minimal Gröbner bases for an ideal of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ .

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**Algorithm 2** : Computing a minimal Gröbner bases for an ideal of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$

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**Input**: A polynomial set  $K = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_r\} \subset \mathbb{F}[x, y]$ .

**Output**: A minimal Gröbner bases  $G$ , such that  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ .

**Initial**:  $i = 1, G'_0 = \emptyset, G_1 = K$

**While**  $K \neq \emptyset$

$K := \emptyset$

**Call** Algorithm 1 to changed  $G_i$  into a strictly ordered set  $G'_i$

**For** every neighbor pair  $(g_j, g_k)$  of  $G'_i$

**If**  $g_j$  do not neighbored  $g_k$  in  $G'_{i-1}$  **Then**

$S(g_j, g_k) \xrightarrow{G'_i} + h$

**If**  $h \neq 0$  **Then**  $K := K \cup \{h\}$

$G_{i+1} := G'_i \cup K$

$i := i + 1$

$G := G_i$

**Return**  $G$

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**Example 2.**

$K = \{f_1 = x^9 + x^6 y, f_2 = x^8 y + x^2 y^3, f_3 = x^5 y^2 + x^3 y^5, f_4 = x^2 y^3 + y^8\}, \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{Q}.$

$$G'_0 = \emptyset, G_1 = K.$$

Step 1:

$$G_1 \xrightarrow{\text{strictly ordered}} G'_1 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4\}$$

$$S(f_1, f_2) = x^6y^3 - x^2y^3 \xrightarrow{G'_1}_+ xy^8 - y^{13} = f_5,$$

$$S(f_2, f_3) = -x^6y^5 + x^2y^4 \xrightarrow{G'_1}_+ y^{20} - y^9 = f_6,$$

$$S(f_3, f_4) = -x^3y^8 + x^3y^5 \xrightarrow{G'_1}_+ xy^{13} - xy^{10} = f_7,$$

$$G_2 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f_6, f_7\}.$$

Step 2:

$$G_2 \xrightarrow{\text{strictly ordered}} G'_2 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f'_7 = y^{10} - y^9\}$$

$$S(f_4, f_5) = xy^{13} + y^{13} \xrightarrow{G'_2}_+ 2y^9 = f_8,$$

$$S(f_5, f'_7) = xy^9 - y^{15} \xrightarrow{G'_2}_+ 0,$$

$$G_3 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f'_7, f_8\}.$$

Step 3:

$$G_3 \xrightarrow{\text{strictly ordered}} G'_3 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f_8\}$$

$$S(f_5, f_8) = -2y^{14} \xrightarrow{G'_3}_+ 0,$$

$$G_4 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f_8\}.$$

Since there is no more polynomials to add to  $G'_3$ , the computation stops. And we get a minimal Gröbner bases  $G = G_4 = G'_3 = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5, f_8\}$ , such that  $\langle G \rangle = \langle K \rangle$ .

### III. CONCLUSION

Based on Theorem 2, we propose a fast algorithm for computing the Gröbner bases of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}[x, y]$ . Compared with Buchberger's Algorithm, we restrict the S-polynomials between neighbor pairs of the strictly ordered polynomials. Although there're extra computation for strictly ordering, we benefit much more from the number of S-polynomial dramatically decreasing, from  $O(r^2)$  to  $O(r)$ , where  $r$  is the count of the polynomials in the generating set. Actually, the algorithm can be combined with other algorithm improved from Buchberger's Algorithm, e.g.,  $F_4$  Algorithm. What need to be emphasized is that the computational complexity of the Algorithm is hard to evaluate. But it does not influence the efficiency of the algorithm.

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