

# Gröbner-Shirshov Bases Theory for the Right Ideals of Left-Commutative Algebras

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we establish a Composition-Diamond lemma for the right ideals of free left-commutative algebras. As an application, we prove that the membership problems for the right ideals of free left-commutative algebras are decidable.

**Key Words:** Basis, Gröbner-Shirshov basis, left-commutative algebras.

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## §1. Introduction

Gröbner bases and Gröbner-Shirshov bases were invented independently by A.I. Shirshov for ideals of free (commutative, anti-commutative) non-associative algebras [33, 35] (see also [9, 10]), free Lie algebras [34, 35] and implicitly free associative algebras [34, 35] (see also [3, 4]), by H. Hironaka [30] for ideals of the power series algebras (both formal and convergent), and by B. Buchberger [20] for ideals of the polynomial algebras.

Gröbner bases and Gröbner-Shirshov bases theories have been proved to be very useful in different branches of mathematics, including commutative algebra and combinatorial algebra, see, for example, the books [1, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28], the papers [2, 3, 4], and the surveys [5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 18].

Up to now, different versions of Composition-Diamond lemma are known for the following classes of algebras apart those mentioned above: Lie  $p$ -algebras [32], associative conformal algebras [15], modules [25, 31] (see also [24]), right-symmetric algebras [8], dialgebras [11], associative algebras with multiple operators [13], matabelian Lie algebras [23], Rota-Baxter algebras [7], semirings [12], integro-differential algebras [29], and so on.

Let  $k$  be a field,  $A$  a non-associative algebra over  $k$ . We call  $A$  a left-commutative algebra over  $k$ , if  $A$  satisfies the following identity:  $x(yz) = y(xz)$ ,  $x, y, z \in A$ . The variety of Novikov algebras and the variety of dual Leibniz algebras are subvarieties of the variety of left-commutative algebras. Free left-commutative algebras were firstly studied by A. Dzhu-

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madil'daev and C. Löfwall [27]. They constructed a monomial basis for free left-commutative algebras. In this paper, we establish Gröbner-Shirshov bases theory for the right ideals of left-commutative algebras. Using this theory, we prove the decidability of the membership problems for the right ideals of free left-commutative algebras.

## §2. Free Left-Commutative Algebras

Let  $X$  be a well ordered set. Each letter  $x_i \in X$  is called a non-associative word of degree 1. Suppose that  $u$  is a non-associative word of degree  $m$  and  $v$  is a non-associative word of degree  $n$ . Then  $(uv)$  is called a non-associative word of degree  $m + n$ . Denote by  $d(u)$  the degree of the non-associative word  $u$ .

Let  $u, v \in X^{**}$  be non-associative words. Then we say that  $u > v$  if  $d(u) > d(v)$ . If  $d(u) = d(v) \geq 2$  and  $u = (u_1u_2), v = (v_1v_2)$ , then we say that  $u > v$  if either  $u_2 > v_2$  or  $u_2 = v_2$  and  $u_1 > v_1$ . This ordering is called non-associative degree inverse lexicographic ordering. Unless otherwise stated, the non-associative degree inverse lexicographic ordering is used throughout this paper.

**Definition 2.1** *Each letter  $x_i \in X$  is called a regular word of degree 1. Suppose that  $u = (vw)$  is a non-associative word of degree  $m, m > 1$ . Then  $u = (vw)$  is called a regular word of degree  $m$  if it satisfies the following conditions:*

- (S1) *both  $v$  and  $w$  are regular words, and*
- (S2) *if  $w = (w_1w_2)$ , then  $v \geq w_1$ .*

Let  $k$  be a field,  $N(X)$  the set of all regular words on  $X$ ,  $kN(X)$  the  $k$ -linear space spanned by  $N(X)$ . Let  $u, v \in N(X)$ . Then we define a product  $u \cdot v$  on  $kN(X)$  by the following way: if  $v = x_i \in X$ , then  $u \cdot v := (ux_i)$ ; if  $v = (v_1v_2)$  and  $u \geq v_1$ , then  $u \cdot v := (u(v_1v_2))$ ; if  $v = (v_1v_2)$  and  $u < v_1$ , then  $u \cdot v := (v_1(u \cdot v_2))$ .

**Theorem 2.2**([27]) *Let  $LC(X)$  be the free left-commutative algebra generated by  $X$ . Then the algebra  $kN(X)$  is isomorphic to  $LC(X)$ .*

According to Theorem 2.2, each non-zero element  $f$  in  $LC(X)$  can be uniquely presented as

$$f = \alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m,$$

where  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $u_i \in N(X)$  for all  $i$ ,  $\alpha_1 \neq 0$ ,  $u_1 > u_2 > \dots > u_m$ . Here, the regular word  $u_1$  is called the leading term of  $f$ , denoted by  $\bar{f}$  and  $\alpha_1$  the leading coefficient of  $f$ , denoted by  $\alpha_{\bar{f}}$ . If  $\alpha_{\bar{f}} = 1$ , then  $f$  is called a monic polynomial.

For every  $f \in LC(X)$  denote by  $L_f$  the operator of left multiplication by  $f$  acting on  $LC(X)$ , i.e.,  $L_f(g) = fg$  for all  $g \in LC(X)$ . In particular, if  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m, g \in LC(X)$ , then  $L_{f_m} \dots L_{f_2} L_{f_1}(g) = (f_m(\dots(f_2(f_1g))\dots))$ .

**Lemma 2.3**([27]) *Let  $u \in N(X)$  be a regular word. Then  $u$  can be uniquely presented as*

$$u = L_{u_n} \dots L_{u_1}(x_i),$$

where  $x_i \in X$ ,  $u_n \geq \dots \geq u_1, u_j \in N(X), 1 \leq j \leq n, n \geq 0$ .

**Lemma 2.4** *Let  $u, v \in N(X)$  be regular words and  $v = L_{v_n} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i)$ , where  $n \geq 1, x_i \in X$ . Then*

$$u \cdot v = L_{v_n} \dots L_{v_t} L_u L_{v_{t-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i),$$

where  $v_n \geq \dots \geq v_t > u \geq v_{t-1} \geq \dots \geq v_1$ .

*Proof* Let us use induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 1$  and  $u \geq v_1$ , then  $u \cdot v = L_u L_{v_1}(x_i)$ . If  $n = 1$  and  $u < v_1$ , then  $u \cdot v = L_{v_1} L_u(x_i)$ . Suppose that  $n > 1$ . If  $u \geq v_n$ , then  $u \cdot v = L_u L_{v_n} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i)$ . If  $u < v_n$ , then  $u \cdot v = v_n(u \cdot L_{v_{n-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i))$ . By the inductive hypothesis,  $u \cdot L_{v_{n-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i) = L_{v_{n-1}} \dots L_{v_t} L_u L_{v_{t-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i)$ , where  $v_{n-1} \geq \dots \geq v_t > u \geq v_{t-1} \geq \dots \geq v_1$ . Therefore,

$$u \cdot v = L_{v_n} \dots L_{v_t} L_u L_{v_{t-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i),$$

where  $v_n \geq \dots \geq v_t > u \geq v_{t-1} \geq \dots \geq v_1$ . □

**Lemma 2.5**([27]) *If  $u, v, w \in N(X)$  and  $u > v$ , then  $u \cdot w > v \cdot w, w \cdot u > w \cdot v$ .*

From Lemma 2.5, it follows that

**Corollary 2.6** *If  $f, g \in LC(X)$ , then  $\overline{(f \cdot g)} = \overline{(f \cdot \overline{g})}$ .*

### §3. Composition-Diamond Lemma for Right Ideals of Free Left-Commutative Algebras

**Definition 3.1** *Let  $S \subset LC(X)$  be a set of monic polynomials. Each polynomial  $s \in S$  is called an  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length one. Suppose that  $(u)_s$  is an  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length  $m$  and  $v$  is a regular word of degree  $n$ . Then  $(u)_s \cdot v$  is an  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length  $m + n$ .*

**Definition 3.2** *Let  $S \subset LC(X)$  be a set of monic polynomials. Each polynomial  $s \in S$  is called a normal  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length one. Suppose that  $(u)_s$  is a normal  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length  $m$  and  $x_i \in X, v_j \in N(X), 1 \leq j \leq n, 0 \leq n$ . Then  $L_{v_n} \dots L_{v_t} L_{(u)_s} L_{v_{t-1}} \dots L_{v_1}(x_i)$  is called a normal  $S$ -word of  $s$ -length  $m + 1 + \sum_j d(v_j)$  if  $v_n \geq \dots \geq v_t > (u)_s \geq v_{t-1} \geq \dots \geq v_1$ . We denote  $(u)_s$  by  $[u]_s$  if  $(u)_s$  is a normal  $S$ -word.*

**Lemma 3.3** *For each  $S$ -word  $(u)_s$ , there exists a normal  $S$ -word  $[v]_s$  such that  $(u)_s = [v]_s$ .*

*Proof* Suppose that the  $s$ -length of  $(u)_s$  is  $m$ . Let us use induction on  $m$ . If  $m = 1$ , then  $(u)_s = s$  and the lemma holds clearly. Suppose that  $(u)_s = (v)_s \cdot w$ , where  $w \in N(X)$  and  $(v)_s$  is an  $S$ -word with  $s$ -length less than  $m$ . By the induction hypothesis, there exists a normal  $S$ -word  $[v']_s$  such that  $(v)_s = [v']_s$ . If  $w = x_i \in X$ , then the lemma holds clearly. Let us assume

that  $w = L_{w_l} \cdots L_{w_1}(x_i)$ , where  $x_i \in X$ ,  $w_l \geq \cdots \geq w_1$ ,  $w_j \in N(X)$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq l$ ,  $1 \leq l$ . Then by Lemma 2.4 we have

$$(u)_s = (v)_s \cdot w = [v']_s \cdot w = L_{w_l} \cdots L_{w_t} L_{[v']_s} L_{w_{t-1}} \cdots L_{w_1}(x_i),$$

where  $w_l \geq \cdots \geq w_t > \overline{[v']_s} \geq w_{t-1} \geq \cdots \geq w_1$ . This completes our proof.  $\square$

From Corollary 2.6, it follows that  $\overline{[u]_s} = [u]_{\overline{s}}$ .

**Definition 3.4** Let  $f, g$  be monic polynomials in  $LC(X)$ . If there exists a normal  $g$ -word  $[u]_g$  such that  $\bar{f} = \overline{[u]_g}$ , then the polynomial  $f - [u]_g$  is called a composition of inclusion of  $f$  and  $g$ , and denoted by  $(f, g)_{\bar{f}}$ .

Let  $S$  be a given nonempty subset of  $LC(X)$ . The composition of inclusion  $(f, g)_{\bar{f}}$  is said to be trivial modulo  $(S, \bar{f})$  if

$$(f, g)_{\bar{f}} = \sum_i \alpha_i [u_i]_{s_i},$$

where  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $s_i \in S$ ,  $[u_i]_{s_i}$  are normal  $S$ -words and  $\overline{[u_i]_{s_i}} < \bar{f}$ . If this is the case, then we write

$$(f, g)_{\bar{f}} \equiv 0 \pmod{(S, \bar{f})}.$$

In general, for any regular word  $w$  and  $f, g \in LC(X)$ , we write

$$f \equiv g \pmod{(S, w)}$$

which means that  $f - g = \sum \alpha_i [u_i]_{s_i}$ , where  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $s_i \in S$  and  $\overline{[u_i]_{s_i}} < w$ .

**Definition 3.5** Let  $S \subset LC(X)$  be a nonempty set of monic polynomials and  $Id_r(S)$  the right ideal of  $LC(X)$ , generated by  $S$ . Then the set  $S$  is called a Gröbner-Shirshov basis for  $Id_r(S)$  if any composition of inclusion in  $S$  is trivial modulo  $S$ .

**Lemma 3.6** Let  $[u_1]_{s_1}$ ,  $[u_2]_{s_2}$  be normal  $S$ -words. If  $S$  is a Gröbner-Shirshov basis for  $Id_r(S)$  and  $w = \overline{[u_1]_{s_1}} = \overline{[u_2]_{s_2}}$ , then

$$[u_1]_{s_1} \equiv [u_2]_{s_2} \pmod{(S, w)}.$$

*Proof* If  $[u_1]_{s_1} = s_1$  or  $[u_2]_{s_2} = s_2$ , then the lemma holds since  $S$  is a Gröbner-Shirshov basis for  $Id_r(S)$ .

Suppose that

$$[u_1]_{s_1} = L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{[v]_{s_1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i),$$

$$[u_2]_{s_2} = L_{w_m} \cdots L_{w_q} L_{[w]_{s_2}} L_{w_{q-1}} \cdots L_{w_1}(x_j),$$

where  $v_l \geq \cdots \geq v_p > \overline{[v]_{s_1}} \geq v_{p-1} \geq \cdots \geq v_1$  and  $w_m \geq \cdots \geq w_q > \overline{[w]_{s_2}} \geq w_{q-1} \geq \cdots \geq w_1$ . From  $\overline{[u_1]_{s_1}} = \overline{[u_2]_{s_2}}$  and Lemma 2.3, it follows that  $x_i = x_j$ ,  $l = m$  and either  $p = q$ ,  $v_1 = w_1$ ,  $v_2 = w_2, \dots, v_l = w_l$ ,  $\overline{[v]_{s_1}} = \overline{[w]_{s_2}}$  or  $p \neq q$ , (Here without loss of generality we may assume  $p > q$ ),  $v_1 = w_1$ ,  $v_2 = w_2, \dots, v_{q-1} = w_{q-1}$ ,  $v_q = \overline{[w]_{s_2}}$ ,  $v_{q+1} = w_q, \dots, v_{p-1} = w_{p-2}$ ,  $\overline{[v]_{s_1}} =$

$w_{p-1}, v_p = w_p, \dots, v_l = w_l$ .

If  $p = q$ ,  $v_1 = w_1, v_2 = w_2, \dots, v_l = w_l, \overline{[v]_{s_1}} = \overline{[w]_{s_2}}$ , then

$$[u_1]_{s_1} - [u_2]_{s_2} = L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{([v]_{s_1} - [w]_{s_2})} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i).$$

By induction on  $w$ ,  $[v]_{s_1} \equiv [w]_{s_2} \pmod{S, \overline{[v]_{s_1}}}$ . From Lemma 3.3, it follows that  $[u_1]_{s_1} \equiv [u_2]_{s_2} \pmod{S, w}$ .

Suppose that  $p > q$ ,  $v_1 = w_1, v_2 = w_2, \dots, v_{q-1} = w_{q-1}, v_q = \overline{[w]_{s_2}}, v_{q+1} = w_q, \dots, v_{p-1} = w_{p-2}, \overline{[v]_{s_1}} = w_{p-1}, v_p = w_p, \dots, v_l = w_l$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} [u_1]_{s_1} - [u_2]_{s_2} &= L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{[v]_{s_1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{v_q} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i) \\ &\quad - L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{[v]_{s_1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{[w]_{s_2}} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i) \\ &\quad + L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{[v]_{s_1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{[w]_{s_2}} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i) \\ &\quad - L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{w_{p-1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{[w]_{s_2}} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i) \\ &= L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{([v]_{s_1} - w_{p-1})} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{[w]_{s_2}} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i) \\ &\quad - L_{v_l} \cdots L_{v_p} L_{[v]_{s_1}} L_{v_{p-1}} \cdots L_{v_{q+1}} L_{([w]_{s_2} - v_q)} L_{v_{q-1}} \cdots L_{v_1}(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\overline{[v]_{s_1}} - w_{p-1}, \overline{[w]_{s_2}} - v_q < w$ , by Lemmas 2.5 and 3.3, we conclude that

$$[u_1]_{s_1} \equiv [u_2]_{s_2} \pmod{S, w}.$$

This completes our proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7** *Let  $S \subset LC(X)$  be a nonempty set of monic polynomials,  $N(X)$  the set of all regular words on  $X$  and  $<$  the non-associative degree inverse lexicographic ordering on  $N(X)$ . Let  $Id_r(S)$  be the right ideal of  $LC(X)$  generated by  $S$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is a Gröbner-Shirshov basis for  $Id_r(S)$ ;
- (ii)  $f \in Id_r(S) \Rightarrow \overline{f} = [u]_{\overline{s}}$  for some  $s \in S$ , where  $[u]_s$  is a normal  $S$ -word;
- (iii)  $f \in Id_r(S) \Rightarrow f = \alpha_1 [u_1]_{s_1} + \alpha_2 [u_2]_{s_2} + \cdots$ , where  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $\overline{[u_1]_{s_1}} > \overline{[u_2]_{s_2}} > \cdots$ , and  $[u_i]_{s_i}$  are normal  $S$ -words.

*Proof* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $S$  be a Gröbner-Shirshov basis and  $0 \neq f \in Id_r(S)$ . We may assume, by Lemma 3.3, that

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i [u_i]_{s_i},$$

where  $\alpha_i \in k$ , and  $[u_i]_{s_i}$  are normal  $S$ -words. Let

$$w_i = \overline{[u_i]_{s_i}}, w_1 = w_2 = \cdots = w_l > w_{l+1} \geq \cdots.$$

We will use the induction on  $l$  and  $w_1$  to prove that  $\overline{f} = \overline{[u]_s}$  for some normal  $S$ -word  $[u]_s$ .

If  $l = 1$ , then  $\bar{f} = \overline{[u_1]_{s_1}}$  and hence the statement holds. Assume that  $l \geq 2$ . Then

$$\alpha_1[u_1]_{s_1} + \alpha_2[u_2]_{s_2} = (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)[u_1]_{s_1} - \alpha_2([u_1]_{s_1} - [u_2]_{s_2})$$

and by Lemma 3.6, we have

$$[u_1]_{s_1} \equiv [u_2]_{s_2} \pmod{S, [w_1]}.$$

Thus, if  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \neq 0$  or  $l > 2$ , the result follows from the induction on  $l$ . For the case that  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 0$  and  $l = 2$ , we shall use induction on  $w_1$  and then the result follows.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Assume that (ii) and  $0 \neq f \in Id_r(S)$ . Let  $f = \alpha_1 \bar{f} + \dots$ . Then, by (ii),  $\bar{f} = \overline{[u_1]_{s_1}}$ . Therefore,

$$f_1 = f - \alpha_1[u_1]_{s_1}, \quad \bar{f}_1 < \bar{f}, \quad f_1 \in Id_r(S).$$

Now, by using induction on  $\bar{f}$ , we have (iii).

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Suppose that  $(f, g)_{\bar{f}} = f - [u]_g$  is a composition of inclusion of  $f$  and  $g$ ,  $f, g \in S$ . It is clear that  $(f, g)_{\bar{f}} \in Id_r(S)$ . Then, by (iii), we have  $(f, g)_{\bar{f}} = \alpha_1[u_1]_{s_1} + \alpha_2[u_2]_{s_2} + \dots$ , where  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $\bar{f} > (f, g)_{\bar{f}} = \overline{[u_1]_{s_1}} > \overline{[u_2]_{s_2}} > \dots$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.8** *The membership problems for the right ideals of free left-commutative algebras are decidable.*

*Proof* Let  $X$  be a finite set and  $N(X)$  all regular words on  $X$ . Let

$$T = \{(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_l) \mid u_i \in N(X), u_1 \geq u_2 \geq \dots \geq u_l, 1 \leq l\}.$$

For  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p), (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_q) \in T$ , we define  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p) > (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_q)$  if either  $p > q$  or  $p = q$  and  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p) > (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_q)$  lexicographically. Clearly, this ordering is a well ordering on  $T$ .

Let  $S = \{f_1, \dots, f_m\} \in LC(X)$ ,  $1 \leq m$ . Let us assume that  $\bar{f}_1 \geq \bar{f}_2 \geq \dots \geq \bar{f}_m$ . Then we set  $\psi(S) = (\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_2, \dots, \bar{f}_m)$ . If there exists a composition of inclusion  $(f_i, f_j)_{\bar{f}_i}$  of  $f_i$  and  $f_j$ ,  $i < j$ , then we replace  $f_i$  by  $(f_i, f_j)_{\bar{f}_i}$  and then we obtain a new set  $S_1$ . Clearly,  $Id_r(S) = Id_r(S_1)$  and  $\psi(S) > \psi(S_1)$ . Since the ordering on  $T$  is a well ordering, we may obtain a finite Gröbner-Shirshov basis  $S_c$  for the right ideal  $Id_r(S)$  of  $LC(X)$ .

Now, we show that the membership problem for the right ideal  $Id_r(S)$  is decidable. We may assume, without loss of generality, that  $S$  is a finite Gröbner-Shirshov basis for the right ideal  $Id_r(S)$ . For an element  $g \in LC(X)$ , if there is no normal  $S$ -word  $[u]_{f_i}$  such that  $\bar{g} = \overline{[u]_{f_i}}$ , then by Theorem 3.7 we may conclude that  $g \notin Id_r(S)$ . Otherwise, we let  $g_1 = g - [u]_{f_i}$ . Clearly,  $g \in Id_r(S)$  if and only if  $g_1 \in Id_r(S)$ . Since  $\bar{g}_1 < \bar{g}$ , we may complete the proof of this theorem by the induction on  $\bar{g}$ .  $\square$

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