

ALGEBRAIC ATTACKS FOR THE RANK DECODING PROBLEM

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1 NIST call for Post-Quantum cryptography

2 Algebraic Modeling

3 Complexity estimates

4 Examples

5 Rank metric codes

6 MinRank

NIST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Post-Quantum Cryptography standardization process, 2017–2022–

- ▶ KEM + Signature.
- ▶ based on mathematical problems resistant to **quantum computer**.
- ▶ 4 Rounds since 2017.
- ▶ first selection for standardization in 07/2022:
 - ▶ 1 **lattice**-based KEM;
 - ▶ 2 **lattice**-based signatures;
 - ▶ 1 **Hash**-based signature.
- ▶ 3 **code-based** KEMs in the 4th Round.

NIST CALL FOR DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Additional Digital Signature Schemes

- ▶ June 1, 2023. First Round ongoing.
- ▶ 40 submissions, with:
 - ▶ **multivariate cryptography** (12).
 - ▶ **code-based cryptography** (11).
 - ▶ **Symmetric-based cryptography** (4).
 - ▶ **Lattice-based cryptography** (7).
 - ▶ Other (6).

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Algebraic approaches are at the core of security assessment for multivariate and code-based cryptography.

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ALGEBRAIC MODELING

Principle: write a Polynomial System

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}, \quad \deg(f_i) = d_i, f_i \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

such that finding the set of solutions gives (part of) the secret:

$$V(f_1, \dots, f_m) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}^n : f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0, \forall i \in \{1..m\}\}$$

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- ▶ Key-recovery attack.
- ▶ Message-recovery attack.
- ▶ Signature forgery attack.

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- ▶ Often 0 or 1 solution, but sometimes m solutions over \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

MULTIVARIATE PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY

Signature forgery (or Message-recovery attack)

- ▶ Public key: a polynomial system, indistinguishable from a random system.

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}, \quad \deg(f_i) = 2, \quad f_i \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

- ▶ (y_1, \dots, y_m) hash of the message to be signed (or ciphertext).
- ▶ signature (or cleartext) = (x_1, \dots, x_n) such that $(y_1, \dots, y_m) = (f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_m(\mathbf{x}))$
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How hard is it to solve a **random system** of algebraic equations?

How hard is it to solve a **trapdoored system** of algebraic equations?

Solving the algebraic system using **Gröbner bases** (object)

- ▶ A particular basis of the ideal

$$I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m g_i f_i : g_i \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n] \right\}$$

that solves the ideal-membership problem: $f \stackrel{?}{\in} I$.

- ▶ Depends on the choice of a **monomial ordering**.

MONOMIAL ORDERING EXAMPLES

$$x_1 \quad x_3 \quad 1 \quad x_3^3 \quad x_1x_3 \quad x_2^2 \quad x_1^2$$

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Lexicographical ordering $x_1 > \dots > x_n$

$$x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n} > x_1^{\beta_1} \dots x_n^{\beta_n} \text{ iff } \alpha_j = \beta_j \quad \forall j < i, \text{ and } \alpha_i > \beta_i.$$

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$$x_3^3 > x_1^2 > x_2^2 > x_1x_3 > x_1 > x_3 > 1$$

SOLVING THE SYSTEM FROM A GRÖBNER BASIS

Different monomial orderings have different properties

- ▶ the *lex* order ([Lexicographical](#)): in Shape Position, for a zero-dimension ideal, the (reduced) lex basis is

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 - g_1(x_n), \\ x_2 - g_2(x_n), \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} - g_{n-1}(x_n), \\ g_n(x_n), \end{array} \right.$$

with $\deg(g_n) = D$ the number of solutions to the system.

- ▶ the *grevlex* order ([Graded Reverse Lexicographical](#)): usually the best one w.r.t. the complexity.

SYSTEMS WITH 0 OR 1 SOLUTION

The (reduced) grevlex and lex bases are the same:

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$$\begin{cases} x_1 - a_1, \\ \vdots \\ x_n - a_n, \end{cases}$$

where $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ is the solution.

CHANGE OF ORDERING

For zero-dimensional systems:

- ▶ The FGLM (J.-C. Faugère, Gianni, Daniel Lazard, and Mora (1993)) Algorithm performs a **change of ordering** in complexity

$$O(nD^3),$$

n number of variables, $n \rightarrow \infty$, D degree of the ideal (number of solutions).

- ▶ Complexity for **grevlex to lex** (Shape position) (J.-C. Faugère, Gaudry, Huot, and Renault (2014)):

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We focus on the grevlex ordering

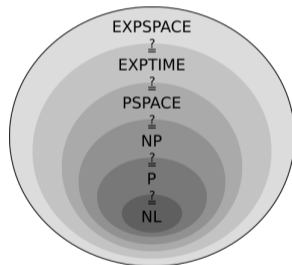
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COMPLEXITY CLASSES

A Gröbner basis solves the Ideal Membership problem.

A hard problem

- ▶ Ideal Membership testing is **EXPSPACE-complete**,
- ▶ Existence of solutions to a system of polynomial equations over a finite field is **NP-complete** (Fraenkel and Yesha (1979)),



FOR CRYPTOGRAPHIC APPLICATIONS

- ▶ We need **precise estimates** for **concrete parameters**.
- ▶ Asymptotic estimates are also appreciated.
- ▶ The security levels are 2^{143} , 2^{207} and 2^{272} bits operations.
- ▶ Take the **best** algorithm (combinatorial, algebraic, hybrid, ...).

GRÖBNER BASIS ALGORITHMS

General algorithms, for any input system:

- ▶ Buchberger (1965);
- ▶ F4 from J.-C. Faugère (1999);

The algorithms will always terminate and give the Gröbner basis.
But the **time is hard to predict** for *any* instance.

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Specific algorithms, for a particular class of systems:

- ▶ The algorithms will terminate in a **predictable time**.
- ▶ The result is **not always a Gröbner basis** of the system.
- ▶ For random instances in the specific class, the result **is a Gröbner basis**.

GRÖBNER BASIS COMPUTATION VIA LINEAR ALGEBRA

$$\text{System } \begin{cases} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}, \quad \deg(f_i) = d_i, f_i \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

- **Macaulay Matrices** Macaulay (1902):

$$\mathcal{M}_d(\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}) = \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ (\mathbf{x}^\alpha, i) \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}^\beta \\ \text{coeff}(\mathbf{x}^\alpha f_i, \mathbf{x}^\beta) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\deg(\mathbf{x}^\alpha f_i) = d = \deg(\mathbf{x}^\beta).$$

EXAMPLE: 3 QUADRATIC EQUATIONS IN 3 VARIABLES, \mathbb{F}_5

$$\begin{cases} x_1^2 + 3x_1x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_3 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2, & (f_1) \\ x_1^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2 + 4x_1x_3 + 3x_3^2, & (f_2) \\ x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 4x_2x_3 + 3x_3^2. & (f_3) \end{cases}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_2 = \begin{matrix} & & x_1^2 & x_1x_2 & x_2^2 & x_1x_3 & x_2x_3 & x_3^2 \\ \begin{matrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \end{matrix} & = & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

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$$\text{Ech}(\mathcal{M}_2) = \begin{matrix} & x_1^2 & x_1x_2 & x_2^2 & x_1x_3 & x_2x_3 & x_3^2 \\ \begin{matrix} \tilde{f}_1 \\ \tilde{f}_2 \\ \tilde{f}_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & & & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & & 1 & 4 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} X_1^2 + 3X_1X_2 + X_2^2 + X_1X_3 + 2X_2X_3 + 2X_3^2, \\ X_1^2 + 4X_1X_2 + 3X_2^2 + 4X_1X_3 + 3X_3^2, \\ X_1^2 + 2X_2^2 + 4X_2X_3 + 3X_3^2. \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \begin{matrix} & X_1^3 & X_1^2X_2 & X_1X_2^2 & X_2^3 & X_1^2X_3 & X_1X_2X_3 & X_2^2X_3 & X_1X_3^2 & X_2X_3^2 & X_3^3 \\ \begin{matrix} X_3f_1 \\ X_2f_1 \\ X_1f_1 \\ X_3f_2 \\ X_2f_2 \\ X_1f_2 \\ X_3f_3 \\ X_2f_3 \\ X_1f_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} & & & & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ & 1 & 3 & 1 & & 1 & 2 & & 2 & \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & & 1 & 2 & & 2 & & \\ & & & 1 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 0 & 3 & \\ & 1 & 4 & 3 & & 4 & 0 & & 3 & \\ & & & & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 3 \\ & 1 & 0 & 2 & & 0 & 4 & & 3 & \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & & 0 & 4 & & 3 & & \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_1^2 \quad \quad \quad + 2X_1X_3 \quad + 3X_2X_3 \quad + 4X_3^2, \\ \quad X_1X_2 \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad + 2X_2X_3 \quad + 2X_3^2, \\ \quad \quad X_2^2 \quad + 4X_1X_3 \quad + 3X_2X_3 \quad + 2X_3^2. \end{array} \right.$$

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \begin{matrix} & X_1^3 & X_1^2X_2 & X_1X_2^2 & X_2^3 & X_1^2X_3 & X_1X_2X_3 & X_2^2X_3 & X_1X_3^2 & X_2X_3^2 & X_3^3 \\ \begin{matrix} X_3\tilde{f}_1 \\ X_2\tilde{f}_1 \\ X_1\tilde{f}_1 \\ X_3\tilde{f}_2 \\ X_2\tilde{f}_2 \\ X_1\tilde{f}_2 \\ X_3\tilde{f}_3 \\ X_2\tilde{f}_3 \\ X_1\tilde{f}_3 \end{matrix} & \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} & & & & 1 & & & & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ & & 1 & & & & 2 & 3 & & 4 & \\ 1 & & & & 2 & 3 & & & 4 & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & & & 2 & 2 \\ & & & 1 & & & & 2 & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & 2 & & 2 & & \\ & & & & & & & 1 & 4 & 3 & 2 \\ & & & & 1 & & 4 & 3 & & 2 & \\ & & & 1 & & 4 & 3 & & 2 & & \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

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GRÖBNER BASIS VIA LINEAR ALGEBRA

$$\text{Gröbner Basis} = \begin{cases} x_1x_3^2 + 4x_3^3, & (x_1f_2) \\ x_2x_3^2 + 4x_3^3, & (x_1f_3) \\ x_1^2 + 2x_1x_3 + 3x_2x_3 + 4x_3^2, & (f_1) \\ x_1x_2 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2, & (f_2) \\ x_2^2 + 4x_1x_3 + 3x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2 & (f_3). \end{cases}$$

One projective solution: $(1, 1, 1)$.

EXAMPLE: 3 QUADRATIC EQUATIONS IN 3 VARIABLES, \mathbb{F}_5

$$\begin{cases} x_1^2 + 3x_1x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_3 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2, \\ x_1^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2 + 4x_1x_3 + 3x_3^2, \\ x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 4x_2x_3 + 3x_3^2. \end{cases}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_2 = \begin{matrix} & x_1^2 & x_1x_2 & x_2^2 & x_1x_3 & x_2x_3 & x_3^2 \\ \begin{matrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

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$$\text{Ech}(\mathcal{M}_2) = \begin{matrix} & x_1^2 & x_1x_2 & x_2^2 & x_1x_3 & x_2x_3 & x_3^2 \\ \begin{matrix} \tilde{f}_1 \\ \tilde{f}_2 \\ \tilde{f}_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & & & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & & 1 & 4 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

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$x_1\tilde{f}_3$ vs $x_3\tilde{f}_3$: need to go to degree $D = 4$ to get the Gröbner Basis.

GRÖBNER BASIS VIA LINEAR ALGEBRA

At $D = 4$:

- ▶ $\binom{6}{4} = 15$ monomials of degree 4,
- ▶ $3\binom{4}{2} = 18$ rows tf_i of degree 4,
- ▶ \mathcal{M}_4 has rank 15 \rightarrow 3 rows reduce to 0 ($x_1^2f_2, x_1x_2f_3, x_1^2f_3$), 1 new polynomial ($x_1x_3f_3$).

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First system:

- ▶ \mathcal{M}_4 has rank 14 \rightarrow 4 rows reduce to 0, no new polynomial.

DO WE NEED TO COMPUTE THE GRÖBNER BASIS?

- ▶ easy to recover the value of all variables from the evaluation of all monomials of degree D .
e.g. from $x_n^D = \alpha$ and $x_i x_n^{D-1} = \beta$ we get $x_i = \frac{\beta}{\alpha} x_n$ (or $x_n = 0$).

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- ▶ no need for RREF!

BI-HOMOGENEOUS SYSTEMS

$$f_i = \sum_{i,j} c_{i,j} x_i y_j \in \mathbb{F}_q[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}].$$

Macaulay matrix at bi-degree (d_1, d_2) = the vector space $\langle \mathbf{x}^\alpha \mathbf{y}^\beta f_i \rangle$ with $\deg(\mathbf{x}^\alpha) = d_1 - 1$, $\deg(\mathbf{y}^\beta) = d_2 - 1$.

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Rows of Macaulay matrices:

- ▶ Describes the **vector space** $\langle tf_i : \deg(tf_i) = d \rangle_{\mathbb{F}_q}$.
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Main challenges to get complexity estimates for Gröbner Basis computations

- ▶ Estimate D .
- ▶ Estimate the cost of linear algebra.

\mathbb{C} OF LINEAR ALGEBRA. JEANNEROD, PERNET, AND STORJOHANN (2013)

Matrix \mathcal{M} with N rows, Mon columns, rank Rk , and δ non-zero elements per row. Echelon Form can be computed in:

$$C_\omega \times N \times \text{Mon} \times \text{Rk}^{\omega-2} + o(N \text{Mon} \text{Rk}^{\omega-2}), \quad N, \text{Mon}, \text{Rk} \rightarrow \infty,$$

For instance:

- ▶ $(\omega, C_\omega) = (3, 1)$ for Gaussian Elimination;
- ▶ $(\omega, C_\omega) = (\log_2(7), 4.4)$ for the Strassen Algorithm;

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These are **upper** bounds.

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 - ⚠ we cannot remove rows at random ⚠

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If the system has 1 (resp. 0) (projective) solution:

- ▶ then D is bounded by the smallest value such that

$$Rk_d = \text{Mon}_d - 1 \quad (\text{resp. } Rk_d = \text{Mon}_d).$$

HILBERT SERIES (HOMOGENEOUS SYSTEM)

$$I \subset R = \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n], \quad R = \bigoplus_d R_d, \quad I_d = R_d \cap I.$$

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GENERIC COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

- ▶ Over an infinite field: [Zariski topology](#), non-empty open sets are dense.

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c-ex: there is no boolean semi-regular quadratic system of 1 polynomial in $n > 6$ variables. Hodges, Molina, and Schlather (2017).

More generally, if $n \gg m$ there is no boolean semi-regular sequence of m polynomials of degree $d_1, \dots, d_m \geq 2$.

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 - ▶ The complexity can be smaller or larger 🤔!?

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- ▶ second case: need another $D = 2$ matrix to get $I = \langle 1 \rangle$.

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- ▶ deduce the **maximal degree** $D \rightarrow$ complexity estimates,
- ▶ design a **specific Gb algorithm** that is more efficient.

- 1 NIST call for Post-Quantum cryptography
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LET'S PLAY A GAME

Some important parameters to estimate the complexity of solving a polynomial system:

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But not sufficient!

Given a polynomial system of equations, **what can you say “a priori”** about its complexity?

COMPLEXITY OF SOLVING A SYSTEM

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_5 + 2x_6 + 1, \\ x_1 + x_5 + x_6 + 2, \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 + x_6 + 1, \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_4 + 2x_5 + x_6 + 1, \\ x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6, \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + 1 \end{cases}$$

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Linear system, polynomial time complexity.

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Linear system, polynomial time complexity.

Number of solutions? (\mathbb{F}_3)

EXAMPLE (BAYER-STILLMAN 1988)

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{ex}} = \begin{cases} f_0 c_{0,l} b_{0,l}^2 + s_0 c_{0,l}, \\ s_i c_{i,1} + s_{i+1}, \\ s_i c_{i,4} + f_{i+1}, \\ f_i c_{i,1} + s_i c_{i,2}, \\ s_i c_{i,3} + f_i c_{i,4}, \\ f_i c_{i,2} b_{i,1} + f_i c_{i,3} b_{i,4}, \\ s_i c_{i,2} + s_i c_{i,3}, \\ f_i c_{i,2} b_{i,3} c_{i+1,l} b_{i+1,l} + f_i c_{i,l} c_{i,2} b_{i,2}, \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} i \in \{0..2\} \\ l \in \{1..4\} \end{array}$$

$\mathcal{S}_{\text{ex}} \in \mathbb{F}_2[f_i, s_i, c_{i,l}, b_{i,l}]$ for $i \in \{0..3\}, l \in \{1..4\}$.

40 variables, **34 polynomials** of degrees 2:15, 3:3, 4:4, 5:12.

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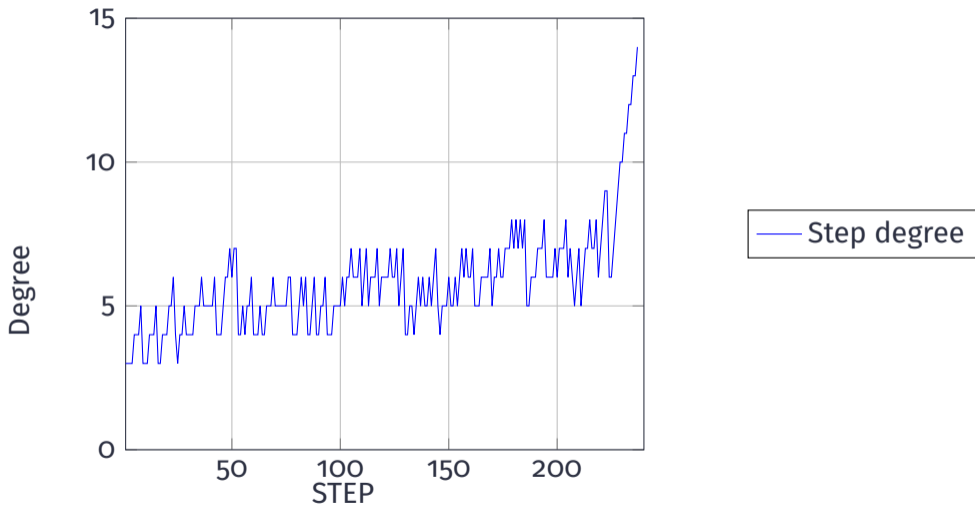
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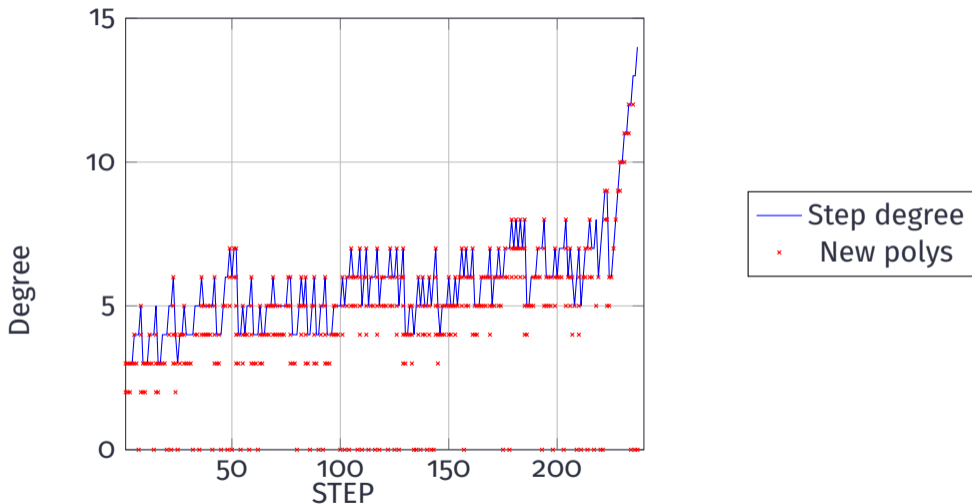
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$D = 82$ for regular systems

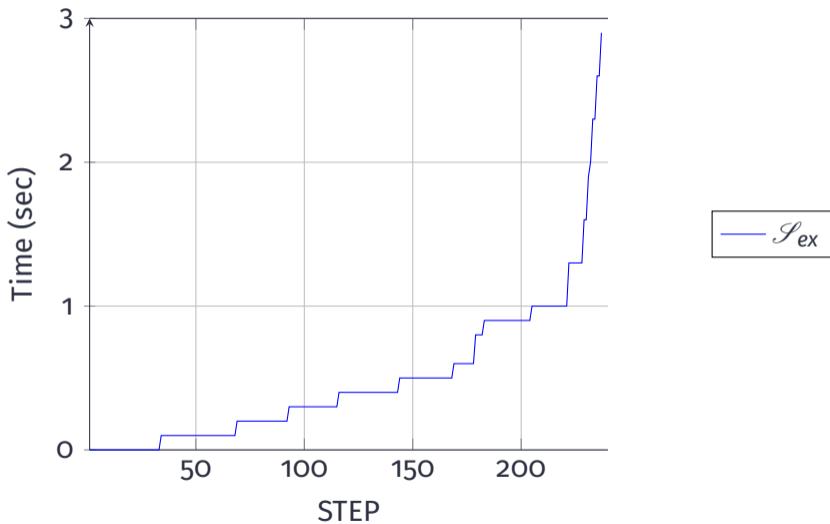
Step Degrees during the grevlex computation for \mathcal{S}_{ex} (magma V2.28-2)



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Time of the computation (in sec) for \mathcal{S}_{ex} (magma V2.28-2)



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\mathcal{S}_{ex} solved in **3.3** seconds.

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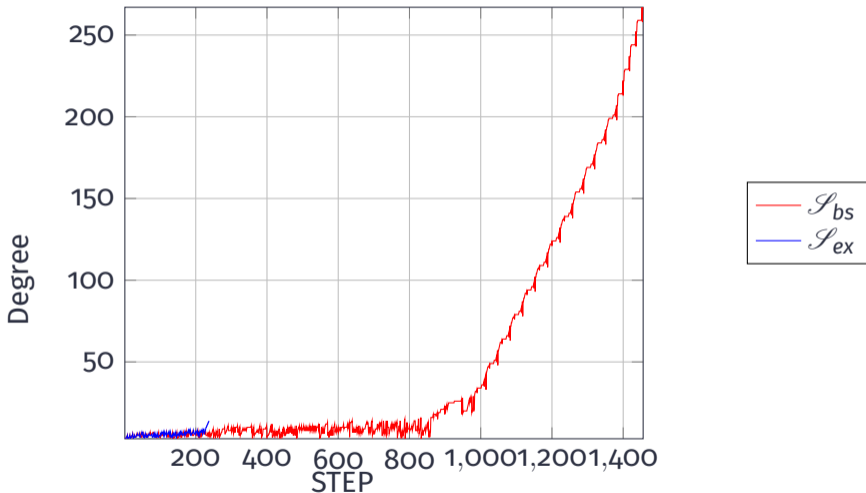
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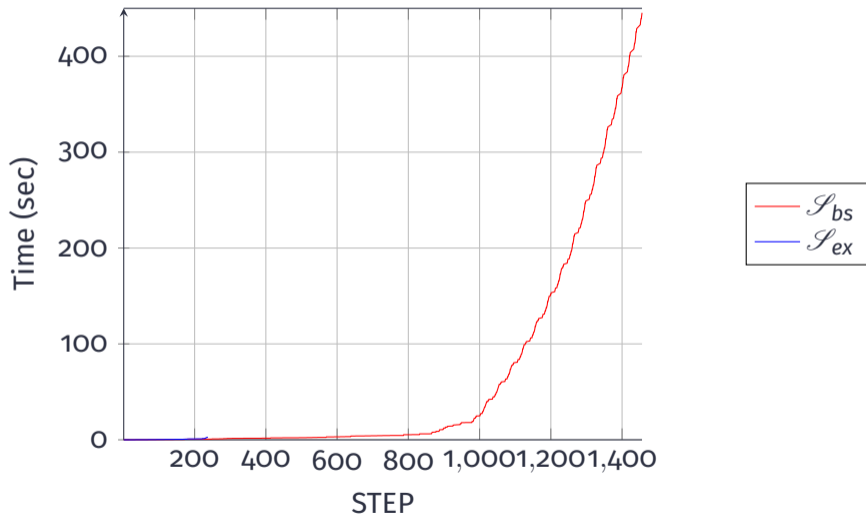
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\mathcal{S}_{bs} solved in **448.5** seconds.

Step Degrees during the computation for \mathcal{S}_{bs} and \mathcal{S}_{ex} (magma V2.28-2)



Time of the computation (in sec) for \mathcal{S}_{bs} and \mathcal{S}_{ex} (magma V2.28-2)



BAYER AND STILLMAN (1988) EXAMPLE

- ▶ parameter m ,
- ▶ $10m + 4$ equations (degrees $2:5m$, $3:m$, $4:4$, $5:4m$),
- ▶ $10(m + 1)$ variables.
- ▶ the Gröbner basis contains polynomials of degree $2^{2^m} + 2$.
- ▶ the example was $m = 3$: maximal degree $2^{2^3} + 2 = 258$.

EX vs BS EXAMPLE $m = 4$

- ▶ 703 STEPS vs > 40770
- ▶ max degree 14 vs 65538
- ▶ time 27.5 sec vs > 1131 seconds (segfault...)

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- ▶ my system:

$$\begin{cases} x_1^2, \\ x_2^2, \\ \vdots \\ x_{80}^2. \end{cases}$$

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5 Rank metric codes






6 MinRank






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