

Solving in Computer Algebra

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Koepf

Universität Kassel

<http://www.mathematik.uni-kassel.de/~koepf>

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Douala, Cameroon

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 - Solving polynomial equations
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 - Solving modular equations: Chinese remainder theorem, discrete logarithms

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 - Solving differential equations

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- The topics considered include the following:
 - Solving linear systems
 - Solving polynomial equations
 - Solving polynomial systems
 - Solving modular equations: Chinese remainder theorem, discrete logarithms
 - Solving differential equations
 - Solving recurrence equations

Solving linear systems

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- We saw already last week that one can also work with matrices and compute determinants etc.

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- Martin Kreuzer will give more details about modern linear algebra techniques in his talk.

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Polynomial factorization

- In algebra it is proved that, in the generic case, the zeros of a polynomial of degree larger than 4 cannot be given by a formula.
- Nevertheless in special cases, polynomial zeros can be computed. For this purpose, polynomial factorization (over \mathbb{Q}) is used. This method is accessible via the `factor` and `solve` commands.

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Resultants

- Resultants can be used to **eliminate variables** in polynomial systems.
- Using this method, we solve the system

$$\begin{aligned}x + y + z &= 6 \\x^2 + y^2 + z^2 &= 14 \\x^4 + y^4 + z^4 &= 98.\end{aligned}$$

Chinese Remainder Theorem

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- Several equations of the type

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{p_1}$$

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- For the solution the **extended Euclidean algorithm** is used.
- As an example, we solve the system

$$x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$$

$$x \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{7},$$

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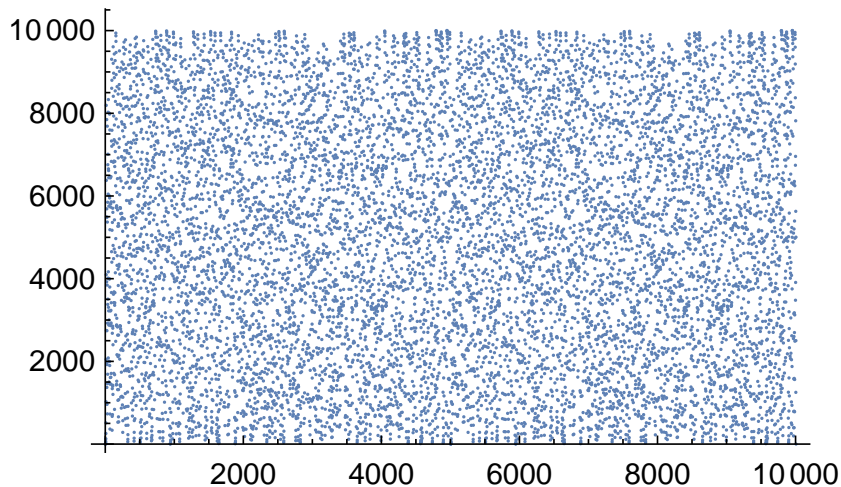
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- Why is it so difficult to compute discrete logarithms?
- To visualize the main reason for this difficulty, we plot the modular exponential function.

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Recurrence Equations

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- More details will be given in my talk next Friday.

Many thanks for your interest!