

# The kernel method and automated positive part extraction

Manfred Buchacher  
JKU Linz, Austria

joint work with Manuel Kauers

## Definition

Given a series

$$F = \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{Q}^n} f_{\mathbf{i}} x^{\mathbf{i}}, \quad f_{\mathbf{i}} \in \mathbb{C},$$

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## Question

How can  $[x^>]$  be applied to algebraic series when they are encoded by their minimal polynomials?

A motivating **example** from combinatorics

What is the solution of

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in  $F(x; t)$  over  $\mathbb{Q}[x][[t]]$ ?

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and discarding non-positive powers in  $x$  results in

$$xF(x; t) = [x^{>}] \frac{x - \bar{x}}{1 - t(\bar{x} + x)}.$$



The expression is equivalent to

$$F(x; t) = [x^{\geq}] \frac{1 - \bar{x}^2}{1 - t(\bar{x} + x)}$$

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**Creative telescoping** gives  $U \in \mathbb{Q}(x, t)$  and  $L \in \mathbb{Q}(t)\langle \partial_t \rangle$  with

$$L \cdot \left( \frac{\bar{x}}{1 - \bar{x}} \frac{1 - \bar{x}^2}{1 - t(\bar{x} + x)} \right) = \partial_x \cdot U.$$

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Applying  $[\bar{x}]$  then gives

$$L \cdot F(1; t) = 0.$$

The transformations of the functional equation are algebraic but in general they are not necessarily rational.

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### Corollary

Let  $E/F$  be a separable field extension of finite degree. Then there is a polynomial  $m \in F[X]$  such that

$$E \cong F[X]/\langle m \rangle.$$

### Theorem (Shape Lemma)

Let  $K$  be a field with  $\text{char}(K) = 0$  and let  $I \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a 0-dimensional radical ideal in normal  $x_n$ -position. Then  $I$  has a Gröbner basis w.r.t. lex order of the form

$$\{x_1 - g_1, \dots, x_{n-1} - g_{n-1}, g_n\}$$

for  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in K[x_n]$ .



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and the minimal polynomials

$$m_1, m_2, m_3, m \in \mathbb{Q}(x, y)[Z]$$

of  $p_1(\alpha), p_2(\alpha), p_3(\alpha)$  and  $\alpha$ , respectively?

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- 2) What are the series that correspond to  $\alpha$  and the  $p_i(\alpha)$ 's?
- 3) What are their supports?



Another example

What is the positive part of the solution  $F(x)$  to the equation

$$(1 - x)F(x) - 1 = 0?$$

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The equation has two series solutions

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The positive part depends on over which field of Laurent series,

$$\mathbb{Q}((x)) \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbb{Q}((\bar{x})),$$

the equation is solved.

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$$\mathbb{C}_{\preceq}((\mathbf{x})) := \left\{ \phi \mid \phi \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{Q}^n} \text{ and } \exists C \in \mathcal{C} \text{ s.t. } \text{supp}(\phi) \subseteq C \right\}$$

is a field with respect to addition and multiplication.

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## Proposition

Let  $\preceq$  be a total order on  $\mathbb{Q}^n$  and  $q(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{x}] \setminus \{0\}$ , and let  $c_e \mathbf{x}^e$  be its leading term w.r.t.  $\preceq$ .

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and its support satisfies

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Furthermore, there is a bijection between the series solutions of the equation and the vertices of the convex hull of the support of  $q(\mathbf{x})$ .

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Furthermore, the integer  $N \geq k$  is minimal.

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### Corollary

Given the minimal polynomial  $m \in \mathbb{C}[\mathbf{x}][Z]$  of a series  $\phi$  and a polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{C}(\mathbf{x})[Z]$  we can determine all vectors  $\mathbf{e}$  and all strictly convex minimal cones  $C$  in  $\mathbb{Q}^n$  such that

$$\text{lexp}_{\preceq}(p(\phi)) = \mathbf{e} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp}_{\preceq}(p(\phi)) \subseteq \mathbf{e} + C$$

for some total order  $\preceq$  on  $\mathbb{Q}^n$ .

$$F(x, y; t) + \sum_{(p_1, p_2, p_3)} p_3(\phi) F(p_1(\phi), p_2(\phi); t)$$

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**Question:** How can we determine (minimal) cones  $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  s.t.

$$\text{supp}_{\preceq} (F(p_1(\phi), p_2(\phi); t)) \subseteq C?$$

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[Aparicio Monforte, Kauers] allows one to determine  $C$  based on a cone that contains  $\text{supp}(F)$  and pairs  $(e_1, C_1)$  and  $(e_2, C_2)$  such that

$$\text{lexp}(p_i(\phi)) = e_i \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp}(p_i(\phi)) \subseteq e_i + C_i.$$



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To summarize, we have an effective **sufficient** condition for

$$F(x, y; t) = [x^{\geq} y^{\geq}] \text{rat}(x, y, t)$$

to hold.

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To summarize, we have an effective **sufficient** condition for

$$F(x, y; t) = [x^{\geq} y^{\geq}] \text{rat}(x, y, t)$$

to hold. But in general the condition is **not necessary**.

## References

Mireille Bousquet-Mélou and Marni Mishna, *Walks with small steps in the quarter plane*, 2008

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