

01204211 Discrete Mathematics

Lecture 10a: Polynomials (1)¹

Jittat Fakcharoenphol

October 15, 2024

¹This section is from Berkeley CS70 lecture notes.

Quick exercise

For any integer $a \neq 1$, $a - 1 \mid a^2 - 1$.

Quick exercise

For any integer $a \neq 1$, $a - 1 \mid a^2 - 1$.

For any integer $a \neq 1$ and $n \geq 1$, $a - 1 \mid a^n - 1$.

Polynomials

if f is a polynomial degree $\leq d$

• then $f \geq d+1$ is a polynomial

A **single-variable polynomial** is a function $p(x)$ of the form

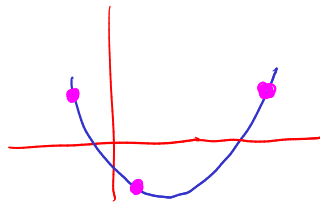
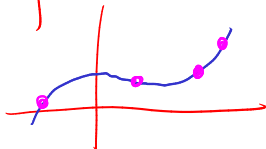
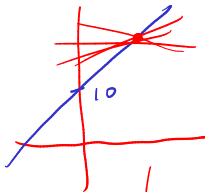
$$p(x) = a_d x^d + a_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0.$$


↳ if polynomial degree $\leq d$ 1 polynomial $\geq d+1$ is not

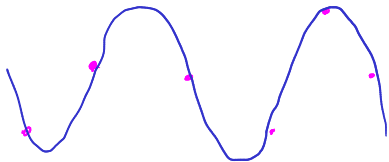
We call a_i 's **coefficients**. Usually, variable x and coefficients a_i 's are real numbers. The **degree** of a polynomial is the largest exponent of the terms with non-zero coefficients.

Examples

- ▶ $x^3 - 3x + 1$
- ▶ $x + 10$
- ▶ 10
- ▶ 0



- 
 if f is polynomial degree $\leq d$
 • then number of roots $f \geq d+1$ is
distinction of number



If polynomial degree
 $\leq d$ 1 polyn
 will have $d+1$ roots

Applications

► Secret sharing

→ polynomial.]

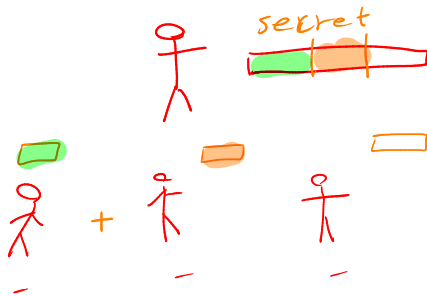
→ $\underbrace{GF(p)}_{(\text{qíu mǎn})}$]

secret

↗ 110's au n au
jǐn k wǎ

① dān k au fān → er secret 1ā -

② dān $\leq k-1$ au jǐn mǎn dǐn mǎn secret wǒ
0x.



Applications

- ▶ Secret sharing
- ▶ Error-correcting codes

Basic facts



Definition

a is a **root** of polynomial $f(x)$ if $f(a) = 0$.

Properties

- **Property 1:** A non-zero polynomial of degree d has at most d roots.
- **Property 2:** Given $d + 1$ pairs $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ with distinct x_i 's, there is a unique polynomial $p(x)$ of degree at most d such that $p(x_i) = y_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq d + 1$.

Lemma 1

If two polynomials $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ of degree at most d that share $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$, where all x_i 's are distinct, i.e., $f(x_i) = g(x_i) = y_i$, then $f(x) = g(x)$.

Proof.

Suppose that $f(x) = a_d x^d + a_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + a_0$ and $g(x) = b_d x^d + b_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + b_0$. Let $h(x) = f(x) - g(x)$, i.e., let $h(x) = c_d x^d + c_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + c_0$, where $c_i = a_i - b_i$. Note that $h(x)$ is also a polynomial of degree (at most) d .

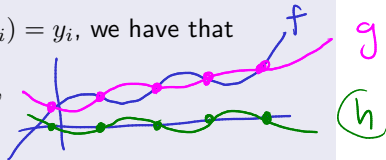
We claim that $h(x)$ has $d + 1$ roots. Note that since $f(x_i) = g(x_i) = y_i$, we have that

$$h(x_i) = f(x_i) - g(x_i) = y_i - y_i = 0,$$

i.e., every x_i is a root of $h(x)$.

From **Property 1**, if $h(x)$ is non-zero it has at most d roots; therefore, $h(x)$ must be zero, i.e.,

$h(x) = \boxed{f(x) - g(x)} = 0$ or $f(x) = g(x)$ as required. □



Polynomial interpolation - ideas

evaluation

for $p(x)$

for x_1, x_2, \dots

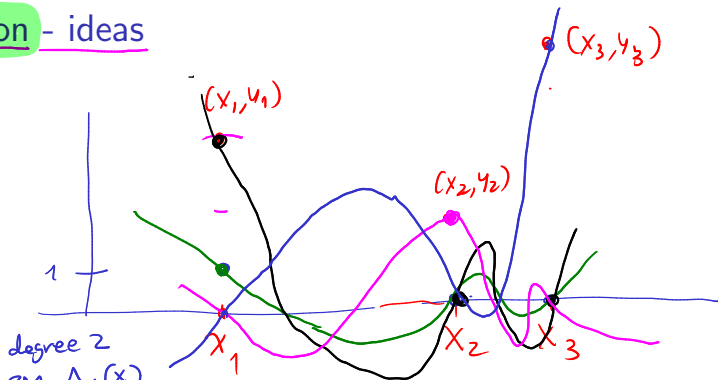
we $p(x_1), p(x_2), \dots$

interpolation

for $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots$

(x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})

we $p(x)$ is determined



degree 2
or $\Delta_1(x)$

- $\Delta_1(x_1) = 1$ *

- $\Delta_1(x_2) = \Delta_1(x_3) = 0$ --- f_1

$$y_1 \left(\boxed{\Delta_1(x)} = \frac{(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{(x_1-x_2)(x_1-x_3)} \right) y_1$$

Lagrange polynomial

For $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ where all x_i 's are distinct, let

$$\Delta_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x - x_{d+1})}{(x_i - x_1)(x_i - x_2) \cdots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{d+1})}.$$

Note that $\Delta_i(x)$ is a polynomial of degree d

$\Delta_i(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = x_j \text{ and } j \neq i \\ 1 & \text{if } x = x_i \end{cases}$



Lagrange polynomial

For $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ where all x_i 's are distinct, let

$$\Delta_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x - x_{d+1})}{(x_i - x_1)(x_i - x_2) \cdots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{d+1})}.$$

Note that $\Delta_i(x)$ is a polynomial of degree d . Also we have that

► For $j \neq i$, $\Delta_i(x_j) =$

Lagrange polynomial

For $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ where all x_i 's are distinct, let

$$\Delta_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x - x_{d+1})}{(x_i - x_1)(x_i - x_2) \cdots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{d+1})}.$$

Note that $\Delta_i(x)$ is a polynomial of degree d . Also we have that

- ▶ For $j \neq i$, $\Delta_i(x_j) = 0$, and
- ▶ $\Delta_i(x_i) =$

Lagrange polynomial

For $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ where all x_i 's are distinct, let

$$\Delta_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x - x_{d+1})}{(x_i - x_1)(x_i - x_2) \cdots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{d+1})}.$$

Note that $\Delta_i(x)$ is a polynomial of degree d . Also we have that

- ▶ For $j \neq i$, $\Delta_i(x_j) = 0$, and
- ▶ $\Delta_i(x_i) = 1$.

Lagrange polynomial

For $d + 1$ points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ where all x_i 's are distinct, let

$$\Delta_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x - x_{d+1})}{(x_i - x_1)(x_i - x_2) \cdots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \cdots (x_i - x_{d+1})}.$$

Note that $\Delta_i(x)$ is a polynomial of degree d . Also we have that

- ▶ For $j \neq i$, $\Delta_i(x_j) = 0$, and
- ▶ $\Delta_i(x_i) = 1$.

We can use $\Delta_i(x)$ to construct a degree- d polynomial

$$p(x) = y_1 \cdot \Delta_1(x) + y_2 \cdot \Delta_2(x) + \cdots + y_{d+1} \cdot \Delta_{d+1}(x).$$

What can you say about $p(x_i)$?

Property 2

Given $d + 1$ pairs $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{d+1}, y_{d+1})$ with distinct x_i 's, there is a unique polynomial $p(x)$ of degree at most d such that $p(x_i) = y_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq d + 1$.

Proof of Property 2.

→ Using Lagrange interpolation, we know that there exists a polynomial $p(x)$ of degree d such that $p(x_i) = y_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq d + 1$.

For uniqueness, assume that there exists another polynomial $g(x)$ of degree d also satisfying the condition. Since $p(x)$ and $g(x)$ agrees on more than d points, $p(x)$ and $g(x)$ must be equal from Lemma 1. □

Polynomials over a finite field $GF(p)$

Examples - evaluation

Suppose that we work over $GF(m)$ where $m = 11$. Let $p(x) = 4 \cdot x^2 + 5 \cdot x + 3$. We have

x	$p(x)$	$p(x) \bmod m$
0	3	3
1	12	1
2	29	7
3	54	10
4	87	10
5	128	7
6	177	1
7	234	3
8	299	2
9	372	9
10	453	2
11	542	3

Examples - interpolation

Let $m = 11$. Suppose that $p(x)$ is a polynomial over $GF(m)$ of degree 2 passing through $(2, 7)$, $(4, 10)$, and $(7, 3)$. Find $p(x)$.

Examples - interpolation

Let $m = 11$. Suppose that $p(x)$ is a polynomial over $GF(m)$ of degree 2 passing through $(2, 7)$, $(4, 10)$, and $(7, 3)$. Find $p(x)$.

Let

Examples - interpolation

Let $m = 11$. Suppose that $p(x)$ is a polynomial over $GF(m)$ of degree 2 passing through $(2, 7)$, $(4, 10)$, and $(7, 3)$. Find $p(x)$.

Let

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_1(x) = \frac{(x-4)(x-7)}{(2-4)(2-7)} = \frac{x^2-11x+28}{(-2)\cdot(-5)} = \frac{x^2+6}{10} = 10x^2 + 5$$

Examples - interpolation

Let $m = 11$. Suppose that $p(x)$ is a polynomial over $GF(m)$ of degree 2 passing through $(2, 7)$, $(4, 10)$, and $(7, 3)$. Find $p(x)$.

Let

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_1(x) = \frac{(x-4)(x-7)}{(2-4)(2-7)} = \frac{x^2-11x+28}{(-2)\cdot(-5)} = \frac{x^2+6}{10} = 10x^2 + 5$$

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_2(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x-7)}{(4-2)(4-7)} = \frac{x^2-9x+14}{2\cdot(-3)} = \frac{x^2+2x+3}{5} = 9x^2 + 7x + 5$$

Examples - interpolation

Let $m = 11$. Suppose that $p(x)$ is a polynomial over $GF(m)$ of degree 2 passing through $(2, 7)$, $(4, 10)$, and $(7, 3)$. Find $p(x)$.

Let

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_1(x) = \frac{(x-4)(x-7)}{(2-4)(2-7)} = \frac{x^2-11x+28}{(-2)\cdot(-5)} = \frac{x^2+6}{10} = 10x^2 + 5$$

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_2(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x-7)}{(4-2)(4-7)} = \frac{x^2-9x+14}{2\cdot(-3)} = \frac{x^2+2x+3}{5} = 9x^2 + 7x + 5$$

$$\blacktriangleright \Delta_3(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x-4)}{(7-2)(7-4)} = \frac{x^2-6x+8}{5\cdot3} = \frac{x^2+5x+8}{4} = 3x^2 + 4x + 2$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= 7\Delta_1(x) + 10\Delta_2(x) + 3\Delta_3(x) \\ &= (70x^2 + 35) + (90x^2 + 70x + 50) + (9x^2 + 12x + 6) \\ &= 4x^2 + 5x + 3 \end{aligned}$$

Secret sharing scheme - settings

Secret sharing scheme - settings

- ▶ There are n people, a secret (s) , and an integer k .
- ▶ We want to “distribute” the secret in such a way that any set of $k - 1$ people cannot know anything about s , but any set of k people can reconstruct s .

Secret sharing scheme

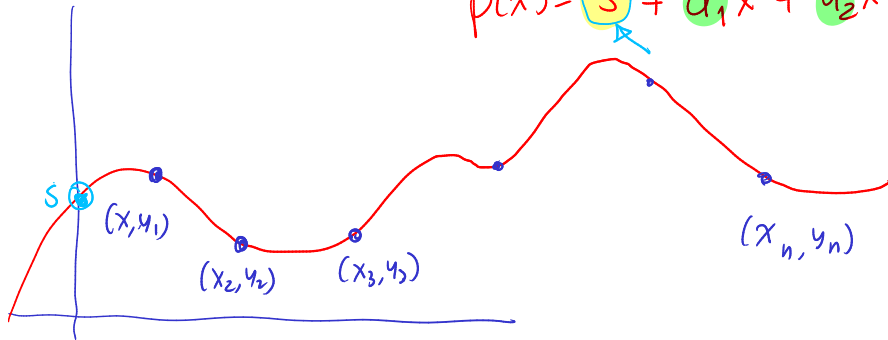
$$(S) \longrightarrow p(x)$$

▷ k ના વર્ગ અવધીલ

→ વર્ગ $p(x)$ -

$p(x)$ નો ડિગ્રી $k-1$

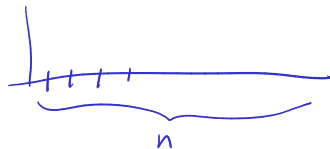
$$p(x) = S + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{k-1}x^{k-1}$$



for each $i \leftarrow (x_i, y_i)$

Secret sharing scheme

mod m



- ▶ Pick m to be larger than n and s . (Much larger than s , i.e., $m \gg s$.)
- ▶ Pick a random polynomial of degree $k-1$ such that $P(0) = s$.
- ▶ Give $P(i)$ to person i , for $1 \leq i \leq n$.
- ▶ Correctness: for any set of k people,

a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}

$(i, P(i))$

or $(p) \rightarrow P(0) \rightarrow \text{secret}$

interpolation

Secret sharing scheme

- ▶ Pick m to be larger than n and s . (Much larger than s , i.e., $m \gg s$.)
- ▶ Pick a random polynomial of degree $k - 1$ such that $P(0) = s$.
- ▶ Give $P(i)$ to person i , for $1 \leq i \leq n$.
- ▶ Correctness: for any set of k people,
- ▶ Correctness: for any set of $k - 1$ people, how many possible candidate secrets compatible with the information these people have?