

# Solving zero-dimensional polynomial systems: a practical method using Bezout matrices

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## Abstract

Let  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  be the algebra of polynomials, with rational coefficients in the variables  $x = x_1, \dots, x_n$ . Given in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  a zero-dimensional ideal  $\langle f \rangle = \langle f_1, \dots, f_n \rangle$ , we present a practical and efficient method to compute the algebraic structure of the quotient algebra  $A = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f \rangle$ . The entire method consists in matrix computations. A set of experiments illustrate the method's effectiveness.

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# 1 Univariate case

We recall some well-known facts about univariate polynomials; in this section we consider a polynomial  $f = a_0x^d + \dots + a_{d-1}x + a_d \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  in the variable  $x$ , with rational coefficients; we denote by  $A = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f \rangle$  the quotient algebra of  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  by the ideal  $\langle f \rangle$ , and we denote indifferently by  $x$  the variable  $x$ , its projection on the quotient algebra  $A$  and the multiplication map  $x : |h \mapsto xh$  defined on  $A$ . The special basis  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x, \dots, x^{d-1})$  of the vector space  $A$  is called the **monomial basis**.

## 1.1 Multiplication maps

The multiplication map  $x : |h \mapsto xh$  is an endomorphism of  $A$  which, when written in the monomial basis, has a matrix  $X$  called the **companion matrix** of  $f$ . The matrix  $X$  is Hessenberg and writes

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & -a_d/a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \dots & -a_{d-1}/a_0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 1 & -a_1/a_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

**Proposition 1.** *The characteristic polynomial of  $X$  is  $f$ .*

*Remark 1.* We deduce from Proposition 1 that the eigenvalues of  $X$  are the roots of  $f$ , taking account the multiplicities. Moreover, as the matrix  $X$  is Hessenberg, we can use reliable techniques, like the QR algorithm, to compute its eigenvalues. This gives a practical and fast method to compute numerical approximations of the roots of  $f$ .

*Remark 2.* If  $g_1, g_2$  are two polynomials of  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  that are equal modulo  $f$ , then  $g_1(X) = g_2(X)$ ; therefore, if  $g \in A$ , then the matrix  $g(X)$  is defined without any ambiguity; this matrix does not depend on the choice of the particular representative of  $g$ , and it is the matrix of the map  $g : |h \mapsto gh$ , written in the monomial basis.

## 1.2 Bezout polynomials and Bezout matrices

As we have seen, the companion matrix can be used to calculate the roots of a univariate polynomial. Interestingly, this can be naturally extended to zero-dimensional multivariate systems; if we have  $n$  polynomials  $f = f_1, \dots, f_n$  in the variables  $x = x_1, \dots, x_n$ , then we simply define the companion matrices as the matrices of the multiplication maps  $x_j : |h \mapsto x_j h$  defined on the quotient algebra  $A = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f \rangle$ , written in some basis of  $A$ . However, in the multivariate case,  $A$  has no canonical basis, and the companion matrices do not have an obvious form. We can nonetheless resolve this problem by using a family of matrices, the so-called Bezout matrices, that exists both in the univariate case and in the multivariate case, and that serve as intermediate matrices to construct

the companion matrices. Let's introduce the Bezout matrices in the case of univariate polynomials.

**Definition 1.** Let  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  be a fixed polynomial. Let us introduce a new variable  $y$  and let  $g$  be any other polynomial. The **Bezout polynomial**  $\delta(g)$ , or **bezoutian**, is defined as the polynomial in the two variables  $x, y$

$$\delta(g) = \frac{f(x)g(y) - f(y)g(x)}{x - y}$$

This polynomial is of degree  $m - 1$  in both variables  $x, y$ , where  $m$  is the maximum of the degrees of  $f$  and  $g$ . If we write the bezoutian

$$\delta(g) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta=0, \dots, m-1} b_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta \quad (2)$$

then the matrix of coefficients  $B(g) = [b_{\alpha\beta}]$  is called the **Bezout matrix**.

*Remark 3.* The size of a Bezout matrix may be loosely defined; when working with several Bezout matrices, it may be desirable to pad some of them with extra columns or lines of zeros to get compatible sizes.

*Remark 4.* The Bezout polynomial  $\delta(g)$  and the Bezout matrix  $B(g)$  satisfy the following equality

$$\delta(g) = \mathbf{x}B(g)\mathbf{y}^T \quad (3)$$

with  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x, \dots, x^{m-1}) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]^m$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (1, y, \dots, y^{m-1}) \in \mathbb{Q}[y]^m$  are two vectors of monomials.

**Example 1.** We choose  $f = x^2 - 3x + 2$  as the fixed polynomial, and we examine the two cases  $g = 1$  and  $g = x^3$ . The Bezout polynomials are  $\delta(1) = -3 + x + y$  and  $\delta(x^3) = -2x^2 - 2xy - 2y^2 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 - x^2y^2$ . The Bezout matrices  $B(1)$  et  $B(x^3)$  appear when we write  $\delta(1)$  and  $\delta(x^3)$  as double-entry arrays indexed by the monomials  $1, x, x^2$  and  $1, y, y^2$ .

$\delta(1)$	$1$	$y$	$y^2$	$\delta(x^3)$	$1$	$y$	$y^2$
$1$	$-3$	$1$	$0$	$1$	$0$	$0$	$-2$
$x$	$1$	$0$	$0$	$x$	$0$	$-2$	$3$
$x^2$	$0$	$0$	$0$	$x^2$	$-2$	$3$	$-1$

**Proposition 2.** Let  $f$  be a fixed polynomial and  $g$  be another polynomial; if we denote by  $m$  the maximum of the degrees of  $f$  and  $g$  and put  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x, \dots, x^{m-1})$ , then

$$\mathbf{x}B(1)g = \mathbf{x}B(g) \quad (4)$$

where the equality must be understood componentwise in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]^m$  and modulo  $f$ .

*Proof.* We rewrite  $\delta(g)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(g) &= g(x) \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y} - f(x) \frac{g(x) - g(y)}{x - y} \\ \delta(g) &= g(x)\delta(1) - f(x) \frac{g(x) - g(y)}{x - y} \end{aligned}$$

This equality holds between elements of  $\mathbb{Q}[x][y]$ . If  $h \in \mathbb{Q}[x][y]$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ , we denote by  $h_\beta \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  the coefficient of  $y^\beta$  in the polynomial  $h$ ; then

$$\delta(g)_\beta = g(x)\delta(1)_\beta - f(x) \left( \frac{g(x) - g(y)}{x - y} \right)_\beta$$

which holds in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Thus, we have  $\delta(g)_\beta = g(x)\delta(1)_\beta$  modulo  $f$ ; as this is true for all  $\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ , Equality (4) follows.  $\square$

*Remark 5.* Each column of a Bezout matrix, when left-multiplied by  $\mathbf{x}$ , is a polynomial in the variable  $x$ ; when this does not bring to confusion, we will think of columns of a Bezout matrix as elements of  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ , and lines as elements of  $\mathbb{Q}[y]$ . Saying Proposition 2 differently : each column of  $B(1)$ , when multiplied by  $g$ , equals the column of same index of  $B(g)$ , modulo  $f$ .

**Example 2.** Returning to Example 1, Proposition 2 says that the following equalities hold, modulo  $f$

$$\begin{aligned} (-3 + x)x^3 &= -2x^2, \\ (1)x^3 &= -2x + 3x^2, \\ (0)x^3 &= -2 + 3x - x^2 \end{aligned}$$

*Remark 6.* If we work with lines instead of columns, then Proposition 2 says that  $gB(1)\mathbf{y}^T = B(g)\mathbf{y}^T$ , giving equalities in  $\mathbb{Q}[y]/\langle f \rangle$ .

### 1.3 Bezout matrices are related to the companion matrix

Given a fixed polynomial  $f$  of degree  $d$ , the bezoutians  $\delta(1)$  and  $\delta(x)$  write

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} \delta(1) & 1 & y & \dots & y^{d-1} \\ \hline 1 & a_{d-1} & \dots & \dots & a_0 \\ x & a_{d-2} & \dots & a_0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{d-1} & a_0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cccc} \delta(x) & 1 & y & \dots & y^{d-1} \\ \hline 1 & -a_d & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & 0 & a_{d-2} & \dots & a_0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{d-1} & 0 & a_0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} . \quad (5)$$

The corresponding arrays of coefficients are the Bezout matrices  $B(1)$ , which is clearly invertible, and  $B(x)$ . These two matrices are specially important because they are related to the companion matrix:

**Proposition 3.** *The compaignon matrix  $X$  is related to the Bezout matrices  $B(x), B(1)$  by the **Barnett decomposition formula** [2]*

$$X = B(x)B(1)^{-1} \quad (6)$$

*Proof.* Let us consider the two vectors of elements of  $A$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}B(1) &= (a_{d-1} + a_{d-2}x + \dots + a_0x^{d-1}, \dots, a_1 + a_0x, a_0). \\ \mathbf{x}B(x) &= (-a_d, a_{d-2}x + \dots + a_0x^{d-1}, \dots, a_0x) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

and put  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}B(1)$ . As  $B(1)$  is invertible,  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is a basis of the vector space  $A^d$ , called the **Horner basis**. From Proposition 2, we have  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}x = \mathbf{x}B(1)$ . By construction,  $B(1)$  is the matrix of the Horner basis  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  written on the monomial basis  $\mathbf{x}$ , and  $B(x)$  is the matrix of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}x$  written on the monomial basis;  $B(1)^{-1}B(x)$  is thus the matrix of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}x$  written on the Horner basis  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ . This means that the multiplication map  $|h \mapsto xh$  is represented in the Horner basis  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  by the matrix  $B(1)^{-1}B(x)$ , and is therefore represented in the monomial basis  $\mathbf{x}$  by the matrix  $B(1)(B(1)^{-1}B(x))B(1)^{-1} = B(x)B(1)^{-1}$ .  $\square$

#### 1.4 Barnett decomposition formula

The Barnett decomposition formula relates the companion matrix, representing the multiplication map  $x$ , to the Bezout matrices of the polynomials 1 and  $x$ ; this can be naturally extended as follows. Let  $g \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  be any polynomial; matrix  $g(X)$  is related to the Bezout matrices  $B(1)$  et  $B(g)$  by the so-called **general Barnett decomposition formula**

$$g(X) = B(g)B(1)^{-1} \quad (8)$$

given that if the sizes of  $B(1)$  and  $B(g)$  differ then we must transform and resize  $B(g)$  according to the following procedure, explained on an example. Formula (8) is easily checked when the degree of  $g$  is smaller or equal to the degree of  $f$  because  $B(1)$  and  $B(g)$  have the same size; for example, if  $f = x^2 - 3x + 2$ , then

$$\begin{array}{c|cc} \delta(1) & 1 & y \\ \hline 1 & -3 & 1 \\ x & 1 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cc} \delta(x) & 1 & y \\ \hline 1 & -2 & 1 \\ x & 1 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cc} \delta(x^2) & 1 & y \\ \hline 1 & 0 & -2 \\ x & -2 & 3 \end{array}$$

thus

$$X = B(x)B(1)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad X^2 = B(x^2)B(1)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -6 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

which is consistent with formula (8). However, if the degree  $m$  of  $g$  is strictly larger than the degree  $d$  of  $f$ , then the sizes of  $B(g)$  and  $B(1)$  differ and the product  $B(g)B(1)^{-1}$  no longer makes sense. This can be fixed by indexing the Bezout matrices by the same monomials, namely  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x, \dots, x^{m-1})$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (1, y, \dots, y^{m-1})$ . For example, with  $f$  as above and  $g = x^3$ , we have

$$\begin{array}{c|ccc} \delta(1) & 1 & y & y^2 \\ \hline 1 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ x & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccc} \delta(x^3) & 1 & y & y^2 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ x & 0 & -2 & 3 \\ x^2 & -2 & 3 & -1 \end{array}$$

In doing so,  $B(1)$  is no longer invertible; the key to obtain simultaneously matrices of equal size and the invertibility of  $B(1)$  is to write both bezoutians modulo

$f$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(x^3) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 \\ -2 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ y \\ y^2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \delta(x^3) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 \\ -2 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ y \\ y^2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \delta(x^3) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & 2 - 3x + x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -6 & 0 \\ -6 & 7 & 0 \\ -2 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ y \\ y^2 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

To sum up, we have post-multiplied the row vector  $[1 \ x \ x^2]$  by the Gauss transform

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and pre-multiplied  $B(1)$  and  $B(g)$  by  $P^{-1}$ ; so the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|ccc} \delta(1) & 1 & y & y^2 \\ \hline 1 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ x & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 - 3x + x^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccc} \delta(x^3) & 1 & y & y^2 \\ \hline 1 & 4 & -6 & 0 \\ x & -6 & 7 & 0 \\ 2 - 3x + x^2 & -2 & 3 & -1 \end{array}$$

According to the relations (4) the third column of  $\delta(x^3)$ , which is  $-2 + 3x - x^2$ , is zero modulo  $f$ ; we recognize the simple fact  $-f = 0$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(1) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ y \end{bmatrix} \\ \delta(x^3) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -6 \\ -6 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ y \end{bmatrix} + (2 - 3x + x^2)(-2 + 3y - y^2)\end{aligned}$$

So the bezoutians, when reduced modulo  $f$ , write

$$\begin{array}{c|cc} \delta(1) & 1 & y \\ \hline 1 & -3 & 1 \\ x & 1 & 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cc} \delta(x^3) & 1 & y \\ \hline 1 & 4 & -6 \\ x & -6 & 7 \end{array}$$

We have obtained two Bezout matrices of equal size, with  $B(1)$  invertible, that satisfy the general Barnett decomposition formula (8):

$$B(x^3)B(1)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & -14 \\ 7 & 15 \end{bmatrix} = X^3 \quad (10)$$

*Remark 7.* Instead of a Gauss matrix, we may use any matrix that maps a given column vector to a column vector containing just one non-zero entry, such as, for example, a Householder orthogonal matrix; we use Householder matrices in the practical implementation given in [8].

## 2 Multivariate case

For a univariate polynomial  $f$ , the structure of the quotient algebra  $A$  consists of the monomial basis and the companion matrix; this matrix is obtained either by a direct reading of the coefficients of  $f$ , or by taking the ratio of the two matrices  $B(1), B(x)$ ; in contrast, for a multivariate polynomial system, neither a basis nor the companion matrices (matrices of the multiplication maps  $x_j : h \mapsto x_j h$  in the basis) can be read from the coefficients of the given polynomials. It is easy, however, to construct the Bezout matrices  $B(1), B(x_1), \dots, B(x_n)$ , from which one can derive a basis of  $A$  and the related companion matrices  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ . Let's set the framework: given  $n$  polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  in the variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , we denote by

- $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  the ring of polynomials in the variables  $x = x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,
- $\langle f \rangle$  the ideal generated by  $f = f_1, \dots, f_n$ ,
- $A = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle f \rangle$  the quotient algebra.

From now on we assume that  $\langle f \rangle$  is **zero-dimensional**, that is to say the vector space  $A$  is finite dimensional [7, p. 234]. This is always the case when  $n = 1$ .

### 2.1 Construction of Bezout polynomials and Bezout matrices

#### 2.1.1 Extension of Definition 14 to the multivariate case

**Definition 2.** Let  $x^\gamma = x_1^{\gamma_1} \dots x_n^{\gamma_n} \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  be some monomial. We introduce a new variable set  $y = y_1, \dots, y_n$  and we consider, for each couple of indices  $i, j = 1 \dots n$ , the ratio

$$\delta_{i,j}(x^\gamma) = \frac{y_j^{\gamma_j} f_i(y_1, \dots, y_{j-1}, x_j, \dots, x_n) - x_j^{\gamma_j} f_i(y_1, \dots, y_j, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_n)}{x_j - y_j} \quad (11)$$

which is a polynomial in the variables  $x, y$ . We get a matrix of finite differences, something like a multivariate rate of increase

$$\Delta(x^\gamma) = (\delta_{ij}(x^\gamma))_{ij} \quad (12)$$

The **Bezout polynomial**, or **Bezoutian**, of the monomial  $x^\gamma$  is by definition

$$\delta(x^\gamma) = \det(\Delta(x^\gamma)) \quad (13)$$

which belongs to  $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ . For a more general polynomial  $g = \sum_\gamma g_\gamma x^\gamma \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ , this definition is extended by linearity

$$\delta(g) = \sum_\gamma g_\gamma \delta(x^\gamma)$$

The **Bezout matrix**  $B(g) = [b_{\alpha\beta}]$  is then defined as the matrix of the coefficients of  $\delta(g)$  expressed on the monomials  $(x^\alpha y^\beta)_{0 \leq \alpha, \beta}$  appearing in  $\delta(g)$

$$\delta(g) = \sum_{0 \leq \alpha, \beta} b_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta \quad (14)$$

If we denote by  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  the sets of all the monomials  $x^\alpha$  et  $y^\beta$  that appear in 14, then we have the following relation, similar to (3)

$$\delta(g) = \mathbf{x}B(g)\mathbf{y}^T \quad (15)$$

The following example, from [4], will illustrate this construction

**Example 3.** We consider  $n = 2$ ,  $f_1 = x_1^2 + x_1x_2^2 - 1$ ,  $f_2 = x_1^2x_2 + x_1$  and we are interested by the calculation of the Bezout matrices  $B(1), B(x_1), B(x_2)$ , which are useful for computing the companion matrices  $X_1, X_2$ . To begin with, let us compute the finite differences matrices, as defined in (12)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(1) &= \begin{pmatrix} x_1 + x_2^2 + y_1 & x_2y_1 + y_1y_2 \\ 1 + x_1x_2 + x_2y_1 & y_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \Delta(x_1) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + x_1y_1 & x_2y_1 + y_1y_2 \\ 1 + x_1x_2 + x_2y_1 & y_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \Delta(x_2) &= \begin{pmatrix} x_1 + x_2^2 + y_1 & 1 - y_1^2 + x_2y_1y_2 \\ 1 + x_1x_2 + x_2y_1 & -y_1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

whose determinants are the bezoutians

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(1) &= -x_2y_1 - x_1x_2^2y_1 + x_1y_1^2 + y_1^3 - y_1y_2 - x_1x_2y_1y_2 - x_2y_1^2y_2 \\ \delta(x_1) &= y_1^2 - x_1x_2^2y_1^2 + x_1y_1^3 - x_1x_2y_1^2y_2 \\ \delta(x_2) &= -1 - x_1x_2 - x_1y_1 - x_2y_1 - x_2^2y_1 + x_1x_2y_1^2 + x_2y_1^3 - x_2y_1y_2 - x_1x_2^2y_1y_2 - x_2^2y_1^2y_2 \end{aligned}$$

The monomial sets appearing in these polynomials are  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x_2, x_2^2, x_1, x_1x_2, x_1x_2^2)$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (1, y_1, y_1y_2, y_1^2, y_1^2y_2, y_1^3)$ ; the Bezout matrices  $B(1), B(x_1), B(x_2)$  appear when we write these bezoutians as double-entry arrays indexed by  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$

$\delta(1)$	1	$y_1$	$y_1y_2$	$y_1^2$	$y_1^2y_2$	$y_1^3$
1			-1			1
$x_2$		-1			-1	
$x_2^2$						
$x_1$				1		
$x_1x_2$			-1			
$x_1x_2^2$		-1				
$\delta(x_1)$	1	$y_1$	$y_1y_2$	$y_1^2$	$y_1^2y_2$	$y_1^3$
1				1		
$x_2$						
$x_2^2$						
$x_1$						1
$x_1x_2$					-1	
$x_1x_2^2$				-1		



$\delta(x_2)$	1	$y_1$	$y_1 y_2$	$y_1^2$	$y_1^2 y_2$	$y_1^3$
1	-1					
$x_2$		-1	-1			1
$x_2^2$		-1			-1	
$x_1$		-1				
$x_1 x_2$	-1			1		
$x_1 x_2^2$			-1			

*Remark 8.* Contrasting with the univariate case,  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are not bases of the vector space  $A$ . We will see that they are, however, generating sets and we will show how to extract bases from them.

### 2.1.2 Practical computation of the Bezout matrices

In the previous example, the matrices  $\Delta(1), \Delta(x_1), \Delta(x_2)$  are of size 2 and their entries are polynomials in  $x_1, x_2$ ; it is easy to calculate their determinant. When either the number of variables  $n$ , or the degree of the input polynomials  $f_i$ , increase, then this calculation becomes impractical because one cannot use the Gauss pivot algorithm to a matrix with polynomial entries. However, one can overcome this difficulty by applying the following evaluation-interpolation process

1. A priori estimation of the set of monomials  $x^\alpha y^\beta$  appearing in the bezoutian  $\delta(x_k)$
2. Evaluation of  $\Delta(x_k)$  on an adequate set  $U \times V$  of Fourier multi-points  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in U$  et  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in V$
3. For each  $(u, v) \in U \times V$ , numerical computation, by the Gauss pivot method, of the determinant  $\Delta(x_k)(u, v)$ .
4. Interpolation of the set of calculated values  $\Delta(x_k)(u, v)$  by the desired polynomial  $\delta(x_k)$ .

Let us specify what are the monomials of  $\delta(x_k)$  and the Fourier points used to evaluate  $\delta(x_k)$ . Suppose the polynomial system  $f$  has multi-degree  $(d_1, \dots, d_n)$ , that is to say, for all  $i, j = 1..n$  the degree of  $f_i$  in the variable  $x_j$  is smaller or equal to  $d_j$ . We fix an integer  $k$  between 0 and  $n$  and we adopt the convention that  $x_0 = 1$ . It is easy to show that the polynomial  $\delta(x_k)$  has multi-degree  $(d_1, 2d_2, \dots, nd_n)$  in the variable  $x$  and has multi-degree  $(nd_1, (n-1)d_2, \dots, d_n)$  in the variable  $y$ . To evaluate  $\delta(x_k)$ , we then choose the Fourier sets  $U = \prod_{j=1..n} U_j$  where  $U_j$  is the set of complex roots of  $X^{jd_j} - 1$ . We also choose  $V = \prod_{j=1..n} V_j$  in such a way  $U_j$  et  $V_j$  are disjoint sets, so that the denominator of (11) never vanishes. This is realized, for example, when  $V_j$  is the set of complex roots of  $X^{(n-j+1)d_j} - \theta_j$  avec  $\theta_j = e^{i\pi/j}$ . These considerations lead to the following algorithm providing the sets  $U$  and  $V$ .

Then, we evaluate the bezoutian  $\delta(x_k)$  on the Fourier points  $(u, v) \in U \times V$

Let us show, to conclude, how the Bezout matrix  $B(x_k)$  is simply related to  $C^{(k)}$ . To simplify, we denote the bezoutian  $\delta(x_k)$  by  $\delta^{(k)}$  and the Bezout

**Data:**  $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ , multi-degree of polynomial system

**Result:**  $U, V$ , two sets of Fourier points

**for**  $j = 1, \dots, n$  **do**

$U_j \leftarrow$  roots of  $X^{jd_j} - 1$ ;

$V_j \leftarrow$  roots of  $X^{(n-j+1)d_j} - e^{i\pi/j}$ ;

**end**

$U \leftarrow \prod_{j=1..n} U_j$ ;

$V \leftarrow \prod_{j=1..n} V_j$ ;

**Algorithm 1:** Construction of  $U, V$ , two sets of Fourier points

**Data:** polynomial sytem  $f$ , index  $k$

**Result:** matrix  $C^{(k)}$  containing the evaluations  $\delta(x_k)(u, v)$

$(d_1, \dots, d_n) \leftarrow$  multi-degree of  $f$ ;

Get  $U, V$  via Algorithm 1;

$D \leftarrow \prod_{j=1..n} jd_j$ ;

$C^{(k)} \leftarrow \text{ZEROS}(D, D)$ ;

**for**  $(u, v) \in U \times V$  **do**

$\Delta \leftarrow \text{ZEROS}(n, n)$ ;

**for**  $i, j = 1..n$  **do**

$\Delta_{i,j} \leftarrow \delta_{i,j}(x_k)(u, v)$

**end**

$C_{u,v}^{(k)} \leftarrow \text{DET}(\Delta)$

**end**

**Algorithm 2:** Evaluation of the bezoutian  $\delta(x_k)$  on  $U \times V$

matrix  $B(x_k)$  by  $B^{(k)}$ ; recall that  $C^{(k)}$  denotes the evaluation matrix of  $\delta^{(k)}$  on  $U \times V$ . The matrix  $B^{(k)} = [b_{\alpha\beta}^{(k)}]$  satisfies  $\delta^{(k)}(x, y) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} b_{\alpha\beta}^{(k)} x^\alpha y^\beta$ , thus  $C_{u,v}^{(k)} = \delta^{(k)}(u, v) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} b_{\alpha\beta}^{(k)} u^\alpha v^\beta$ ; this writes as a matrix product  $[C_{u,v}^{(k)}]_{u,v} = [u^\alpha]_{u,\alpha} [b_{\alpha,\beta}^{(k)}]_{\alpha,\beta} [v^\beta]_{v,\beta}^T$ . If we define the Fourier matrices  $F_u = [u^\alpha]_{u,\alpha}$  and  $F_v = [v^\beta]_{v,\beta}$ , then we get the evaluation-interpolation relation between matrices  $B^{(k)}$  and  $C^{(k)}$

$$C^{(k)} = F_u B^{(k)} F_v^T \quad (16)$$

Since  $U$  and  $V$  consist of Fourier points,  $F_u$  et  $F_v$  are unitary and  $B^{(k)}$  writes as the matrix product

$$B^{(k)} = F_u^* C^{(k)} \overline{F_v} \quad (17)$$

The computation of the Bezout matrices, as described above, have been implemented in Numpy and can be found at [8].

## 2.2 Barnett decomposition formula and structure of the quotient algebra.

Since the ideal  $\langle f \rangle$  is zero-dimensional, the dimension of the quotient algebra  $A = \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{x}]/\langle f \rangle$  is finite; we may look for some basis and its related companion matrices (matrices in the basis of the multiplication maps by  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ). For this purpose, we shall adapt the process described in Section 1.4 but, before this, we shall specify a number of algebraic properties about the polynomial  $\delta(1)$  and the Bezout matrices  $B(x_k)$ .

### 2.2.1 Algebraic properties of polynomial $\delta(1)$ and of matrix $B(1)$

The following properties are simple; for a proof, the interested reader may refer to [4]. As in Proposition 3, we define families of elements of  $A$  by forming the vector-matrix products

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \mathbf{x} B(x_k), \quad k = 0 \dots n \quad (18)$$

with the convention that  $x_0 = 1$  and where  $\mathbf{x}$  is the set of all the monomials  $x^\alpha$  that appear in the bezoutians  $\delta(1), \delta(x_1), \dots, \delta(x_n)$ . and .

**Example 4.** Following Example 3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 &= (0, -x_2 - x_1 x_2^2, -1 - x_1 x_2, x_1, -x_2, 1) \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 &= (0, 0, 0, -1 - x_2^2, -x_1 x_2, x_1) \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 &= (-1 - x_1 x_2, -x_2 - x_2^2 - x_1, -x_2 - x_1 x_2^2, x_1 x_2, -x_2^2, x_2) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

**Proposition 4.** (see [4]). For all  $k = 1 \dots n$  we have

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 x_k = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k \quad (20)$$

These relations can be easily checked on Example 3.

So far, there has been a great similarity between the univariate case and the multivariate cases; however, there is one notable difference: in the multivariate case the families  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  are, in general, no longer bases in the vector space  $A$ . We have, however, the weaker result (see [4]).

**Proposition 5.** *Both  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  are generating families in  $A$ .*

### 2.2.2 Reduction process

The previous result is important because from we can construct the whole structure of the algebra  $A$ . Following the matrix handlings described in Section 1.4, we shall show how to compute a basis of  $A$  and the companion matrices  $X_k$ , from the generating families  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  and the Bezout matrices  $B(x_k), k = 0, \dots, n$ .

Let us illustrate this process on Example 3.

The first column of  $B(x_1)$  is zero but that of  $B(x_2)$  is not; this gives the relation  $1 + x_1x_2 = 0$ , modulo  $I$ . Then, we right-multiply  $\mathbf{x}$  by the Gauss matrix  $P$  whose thith column is  $(1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)^T$  and left-multiply the Bezout matrices by  $P^{-1}$ ; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|cccccc}
 B(1) & 1 & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\
 \hline
 1 & & & & & & 1 \\
 x_2 & -1 & & & & -1 & \\
 x_2^2 & & & & & & \\
 x_1 & & & & 1 & & \\
 1 + x_1x_2 & & & -1 & & & \\
 x_1x_2^2 & -1 & & & & & 
 \end{array}$$
  

$$\begin{array}{c|cccccc}
 B(x_1) & 1 & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\
 \hline
 1 & & & & 1 & 1 & \\
 x_2 & & & & & & \\
 x_2^2 & & & & & & \\
 x_1 & & & & & 1 & \\
 1 + x_1x_2 & & & -1 & & 1 + x_1x_2 & \\
 x_1x_2^2 & & & -1 & & x_1x_2^2 & 
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c|cccccc}
 B(x_2) & 1 & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\
 \hline
 1 & & & & & -1 & \\
 x_2 & -1 & -1 & & & & 1 \\
 x_2^2 & -1 & & & & -1 & \\
 x_1 & -1 & & & & & \\
 1 + x_1x_2 & -1 & & & 1 & & \\
 x_1x_2^2 & & & -1 & & & 
 \end{array}$$

As we have  $1 + x_1x_2 = 0$  we remove the first column and the fifth row in the Bezout matrices; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
 B(1) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\
 \hline
 1 & & & & & 1 \\
 x_2 & -1 & & & -1 & \\
 x_2^2 & & & & & \\
 x_1 & & & 1 & & \\
 x_1x_2^2 & -1 & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} B(x_1) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & 1 & 1 & \\ x_2 & & & & & \\ x_2^2 & & & & & \\ x_1 & & & & 1 & \\ x_1x_2^2 & & -1 & & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccccc} B(x_2) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & -1 & & \\ x_2 & -1 & -1 & & & 1 \\ x_2^2 & -1 & & & -1 & \\ x_1 & -1 & & & & \\ x_1x_2^2 & & -1 & & & \end{array}$$

The second column of  $B(1)$  is zero but that of  $B(x_2)$  is not. This implies that  $x_2 + x_1x_2^2 = 0$ . We repeat the previous step with the Gauss matrix  $P$  whose fifth column is  $(0, 1, 0, 0, 1)^T$ ; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} B(1) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & & & 1 \\ x_2 & & & & -1 & \\ x_2^2 & & & & & \\ x_1 & & & 1 & & \\ x_2 + x_1x_2^2 & -1 & & & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} B(x_1) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & 1 & 1 & \\ x_2 & & & 1 & & \\ x_2^2 & & & & & \\ x_1 & & & & 1 & \\ x_2 + x_1x_2^2 & & -1 & & x_2 + x_1x_2^2 & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccccc} B(x_2) & y_1 & y_1y_2 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & -1 & & \\ x_2 & -1 & & & & 1 \\ x_2^2 & -1 & & & -1 & \\ x_1 & -1 & & & & \\ x_2 + x_1x_2^2 & & -1 & & & \end{array}$$

As we have  $x_2 + x_1x_2^2 = 0$ , we can remove the second column and the fifth row in each Bezout matrix; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} B(1) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & 1 & 1 & \\ x_2 & & -1 & x_2 & \\ x_2^2 & & & x_2^2 & \\ x_1 & 1 & & x_1 & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cccc} B(x_1) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & & \\ x_2 & 1 & & & \\ x_2^2 & & & & \\ x_1 & & & 1 & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cccc} B(x_2) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & -1 & & \\ x_2 & -1 & & & 1 \\ x_2^2 & -1 & & -1 & \\ x_1 & -1 & & & \end{array}$$

The first column of  $B(1)$  is zero but that of  $B(x_2)$  is not. This implies that  $x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 = 0$ . The new Gauss matrix is  $P$  whose fourth column is  $(0, 1, 1, 1)^T$ ; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} B(1) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & & 1 \\ x_2 & & -1 & -1 & \\ x_2^2 & & -1 & & \\ x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 & & 1 & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} B(x_1) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & 1 & 1 & \\ x_2 & & & & \\ x_2^2 & & & -1 & \\ x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 & & 1 & x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cccc} B(x_2) & y_1 & y_1^2 & y_1^2y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & -1 & & \\ x_2 & & & & 1 \\ x_2^2 & & & -1 & \\ x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 & -1 & & & \end{array}$$

As  $x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 = 0$ , we remove the first column and fourth row in each Bezout matrix; the bezoutians write

$$\begin{array}{c|ccc} B(1) & y_1^2 & y_1^2 y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & & & 1 \\ x_2 & -1 & -1 & \\ x_2^2 & -1 & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccc} B(x_1) & y_1^2 & y_1^2 y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & \\ x_2 & 1 & & -1 \\ x_2^2 & & & -1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|ccc} B(x_2) & y_1^2 & y_1^2 y_2 & y_1^3 \\ \hline 1 & -1 & & \\ x_2 & & & 1 \\ x_2^2 & & -1 & \end{array}$$

Matrix  $B(1)$  is now invertible; the reduction process is completed. The dimension of  $A$  is 3. We observe that  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x_2, x_2^2)$  et  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_1^2, y_1^3)$  are bases of  $A$ ; the associated Horner bases are  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (-x_2 - x_2^2, -x_2, 1)$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = (y_1^3, -y_1^2 - y_1^2 y_2, -y_1^2)$ . More generally we have ([4] p.57, [5], [6])

**Proposition 6.** *After the reduction process described above is completed, that is to say when  $B(1)$  is invertible and all the matrices  $B(x_k), k = 0, \dots, n$  have the same size and are indexed by the same families  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$ , then each family  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  is a basis of  $A$ .*

*Remark 9.* Proposition 6 is guaranteed only when the ideal is zero-dimensional; in this case, to complete the reduction process we just have to use zero-columns of  $B(1)$  or, more generally, linear combinations of columns that vanish, i.e elements of the right kernel of  $B(1)$ . If, however, the ideal is not zero-dimensional, then our experiments show that the reduction process, using both the right-kernel and the left-kernel of  $B(1)$ , generally produces an interesting result.

### 2.2.3 Barnett formula and companion matrices

Following Example 3, we define the matrices  $X_1, X_2$

$$X_1 = B(x_1)B(1)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad X_2 = B(x_2)B(1)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

We see that  $X_1, X_2$  are the multiplication matrices by the variables  $x_1, x_2$  in the basis  $\mathbf{x}$ ; these are the companion matrices associated to the basis  $\mathbf{x}$ . More generally, we have

**Proposition 7.** *When the reduction process has been completed and we have at our disposal Bezout matrices  $B(x_j)$  and bases  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$ , the companion matrices  $X_j$ , i.e the multiplication matrices by the variables  $x_1, x_2$  in the basis  $\mathbf{x}$ , can be calculated by the **Barnett formulas***

$$X_j = B(x_j)B(1)^{-1} \quad (22)$$

*Remark 10.* As in the univariate case, we have, for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  
 $B(x_j)^T B(1)^{-T}$  is the multiplication matrix by  $y_j$  in the basis  $\mathbf{y}$   
 $B(1)^{-1} B(x_j)$  is the multiplication matrix by  $x_j$  in the basis  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$   
 $B(1)^{-T} B(x_j)^T$  is the multiplication matrix by  $y_j$  in the basis  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$

### 2.2.4 Numerical computation of the roots

As in the univariate case, (see Proposition 1), the roots of the polynomial system  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  are the eigenvalues of the companion matrices ([1]).

In Example 3, the eigenvalues of matrices  $X_1, X_2$  are

$x_1$	$x_2$
-1.32472	0.75488
$0.66236 + 0.56228i$	$-0.87744 + 0.74486i$
$0.66236 - 0.56228i$	$-0.87744 - 0.74486i$

Since  $A$  is a commutative algebra, the matrices  $X_1, X_2$  commute and have the same eigenvectors. We must be careful to sort the eigenvalues of  $X_1, X_2$  so that they correspond to the same eigenvectors. In Example 3, it is easy to check that the couples  $(x_1, x_2)$  are numerical approximations of the roots of the polynomial system  $f_1 = x_1^2 + x_1x_2 - 1, f_2 = x_1^2x_2 + x_1$ .

## 2.3 Numerical experiment

In this experiment, we solve the particular polynomial system  $f = [$   
 $x_0^3x_1x_2^3 + 2x_0x_1^3x_2^3 + 3x_0^3x_1^2x_2 - 4x_0^2x_1^2x_2 - 3x_0^2x_2^3 + x_0^3x_1 - x_0^3x_2 - 3x_0x_2^3 - 3x_0x_2^2 + 3x_0^2,$   
 $3x_0^2x_1^3 - 3x_0x_1^3x_2 - 2x_0x_1^2x_2^2 - 2x_0x_1^3 + 2x_0x_2^3 - 4x_1^3 + 2x_0^2x_2 - 4x_1x_2,$   
 $2x_0^3x_1^3x_2^2 + x_0^2x_1^3x_2^3 - 3x_0^3x_1^3x_2 + 2x_0^2x_1^3x_2^2 - 3x_0^3x_1x_2^3 + 2x_0^3x_2^3 - x_0^2x_2^3 - 4x_0^3 + 3x_1x_2$   
 $]$

The size of the Bezout matrix  $B(1)$  is 120; this is the maximum number of solutions that a system of degree  $[1, 1, 1, 1, 1]$  can have. To initiate the reduction process, the rank of  $B(1)$  is needed; as the matrix has integer coefficients, we use the Sage function `matrix.kernel()` to calculate its rank. This is the only computation that we do in exact arithmetic; all the subsequent computations are done in floating-point arithmetic. After the reduction process has been completed, we find that the dimension of the quotient  $A$  is 92. Since the computations have been done numerically, the Bezout matrices and the companion matrices are numerical matrices and the eigenvalues of the companion matrices  $X_j = B(x_j)B(1)^{-1}$  are numerical approximations of the roots of the polynomial system  $f$ .

### 2.3.1 Quality of the results

To check the quality of the numerical roots  $\alpha$ , we compute the errors  $f(\alpha)$ . These errors are shown in Table 1.

### 2.3.2 Timings

Table 2 shows the timings of the Bezout computations as compared to the timings of the Groebner computations.

## References

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log10 of errors	nb of roots
$[-14.6, -13.8]$	25
$[-13.8, -13.0]$	33
$[-13.0, -12.2]$	17
$[-12.2, -11.4]$	9
$[-11.4, -10.6]$	5
$[-10.6, -9.8]$	1
$[-9.8, -9.0]$	2

Table 1: histogram of errors

Mthode	Computation	Software	Arithmetic	Timing
Bezout	Bezout matrices	NumPy	floating point	0.3485 s
	rank of $B(1)$ via rref()	Sage	integer	0.0258 s
	matrices reduction	Numpy	floating point	0.0371 s
	eigenvalues	SciPy	floating point	0.0634 s
Groebner	Groebner basis computation	Sage	integer	3.4288 s

Table 2: timings