

# Sudoku verification with characteristic polynomials

Vadym Fedyukovych

Platin.io

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# About

Sudoku is an example. Yes/No verification, NOTHING else.  
Compare with electronic signatures:  
private key is hidden while verification.

Interactive and non-interactive proof systems,  
Cabbage-goat-wolf-boat complexity puzzle.  
Schnorr protocol and zk-SNARKs.  
Decision making by rejecting alternative hypothesis.  
Negligible error of accepting a false statement.

Reduced complexity with characteristic polynomials:  
sets, graphs..

# Problem statement and state of the art

Conflicting interests and solution:

buyer verifies that solution is valid and matches the puzzle,  
without access to solution.

Maxwell-Bowe pioneering sudoku verification:

<https://github.com/zcash-hackworks/pay-to-sudoku>

<https://bitcoincore.org/en/2016/02/26/>

[zero-knowledge-contingent-payments-announcement/](#)

How to explain zero-knowledge protocols to your children

<http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~mkowalczyk/628.pdf>

The Incredible Machine

<https://medium.com/qed-it/the-incredible-machine-4d1270d7363a>

# Characteristic polynomials and reducing complexity

For a set  $\mathcal{S}$  of finite field elements, consider polynomial representation:

$$f(z) = \prod_{s \in \mathcal{S}} (1 + zs)$$

Set equality is verified as equivalent polynomials. Polynomial equivalence is verified as equality as a random point.

Sudoku solution validity as set equality for all rows, columns, blocks:

[http://www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~naor/PAPERS/SUDOKU\\_DEMO/](http://www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~naor/PAPERS/SUDOKU_DEMO/)

Implementation

[https://github.com/vadym-f/Sudoku\\_solvability\\_proof](https://github.com/vadym-f/Sudoku_solvability_proof)

Circuit complexity is  $5N^4$  field multiplication gates,  
for a puzzle of  $N^2 \times N^2$ .

# Conclusion

Verification with Yes/No only

Characteristic polynomials as intermediate language

Implemented and on github