

# Coppersmith's Method: Solutions to Modular Polynomials

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June 22, 2021

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#### About this sharing session

Disclaimer

- All the content presented in this session are solely based on personal study and understanding.
- Certainly, I believe there are many theories and updates that I overlooked and not deeply familiar with.
- If there are any facts or statements presented later are wrong, please correct me, so that I can understand better too.



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#### Why Coppersmith's Method ?

Motivations

- It is a popular method in cryptanalyzing RSA cryptosystem.
- One of the powerful methods to deal with the small integer solution(s) in both integer and modular polynomials.
- It involves lattices, and frequently applied in analyzing multivariate cryptography and lattice-based cryptography.
- The method is elegant, but a bit confusing for beginners who are not familiar with it.



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## Modular Polynomials and Modular Equations

Let

$$F(x) = a_d x^d + a_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$$
(1)

be a univariate polynomial over  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  with degree d > 1. Suppose we are interested to find solutions to the modular equation of  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ .

- If the factorization of N is known, then solving  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  is easy.
- Otherwise, it could be difficult.

Introduction

Moreover, if F (x) ≡ 0 (mod N) has "small" solution, then we are not sure whether it is necessarily hard, or not?





- Håstad in 1988 firstly addressed similar problem of solving  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  with  $a_d = 1 \pmod{k}$ ,  $x < \min(N)$  and N composed by k distinct primes. Håstad proved that if  $k > \frac{d(d+1)}{2}$ , then  $x_0$  can be recovered in polynomial time.
- Coppersmith in 1996 devised a method to find such "small" solution in polynomial time of  $(\log N, d)$ , with the condition such that  $x_0$  is the solution to  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  and

$$|x_0| \leq N^{\frac{1}{d}} \tag{2}$$





## The Central Problem

Suppose we know there exists at least one solution  $x_0$  to  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  and that  $|x_0| \le N^{\frac{1}{d}}$ . How could we find them?

We know that  $|x_0^i| \le N$  for all  $0 \le i \le d$ . If the coefficients  $a_i$  is small enough, one might have  $F(x_0) = 0$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , then numerical methods (such as Newton's method) can be used to find an approximation of  $x_0$  and checks whether  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ .







#### What if those coefficients $a_i$ are **NOT** small?

## Coppersmith's Idea

Build a polynomial G(x) from F(x) that still has the same solution  $x_0$ , but with smaller coefficients  $a_i$ .

In other words, build from  $F(x_0) = 0$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_N$  to  $G(x_0) = 0$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .



# Introduction (cont.)



#### Example 1

## Let $F(x) = x^2 + 33x + 215$ . Find $x_0$ such that $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{323}$ .

## Solution 1

Set

$$G(x) = 9F(x) - 323(x+6)$$
  
= 9x<sup>2</sup> - 26x - 3  
= (9x+1)(x-3)

Then,  $x_0 = 3$  is the solution to G(x) = 0, which is also the solution to  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{323}$ .



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#### Theorem 1

**(Howgrave-Graham)** [4]. Let  $F(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{d} a_i x^i \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ . Suppose  $x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$  is a solution to  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  such that  $|x_0| < X$  for  $N, X \in \mathbb{N}$ . The following defines the row vector associated with the polynomial F(x),

$$b_{\mathsf{F}} = \left(a_o, a_1 X, \ldots, a_{d-1} X^{d-1}, a_d X^d\right).$$

If  $|| b_F || < \frac{N}{\sqrt{d+1}}$ , then  $F(x_0) = 0$ .





#### Definition 1

Let  $G_i(x) = Nx^i$  for  $0 \le i \le d$  be d + 1 polynomials that has the root  $x_0 \pmod{N}$ . Then we define a basis *B* corresponds to these polynomials  $G_i(x)$  together with F(x) for a lattice *L* as follows:

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} N & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & NX & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & NX^{d-1} & 0 \\ a_0 & a_1X & \dots & a_{d-1}X^{d-1} & X^d \end{pmatrix}$$



# Important Theorems (cont.)



#### Theorem 2

Suppose given a basis *B* as defined in **Definition 1**, and G(x) be the polynomial corresponding to the first vector in the **LLL**-reduced basis for *L*. If

$$X < \frac{N^{\frac{2}{d(d+1)}}}{\sqrt{2}\left(d+1\right)^{\frac{1}{d}}},$$

then any root  $x_0$  of  $F(x) \pmod{N}$  such that  $|x_0| \le X$  satisfies  $G(x_0) = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

#### Remark 1

Small solutions  $x_0$  may be found even when  $x_0$  does not satisfy the condition of the theorem above.



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# Coppersmith's Method



## The Full Coppersmith's Method

Based on **Theorem 2**, the success of of finding small roots of modular polynomials is essentially

$$2^{\frac{d}{4}} N^{\frac{d}{(d+1)}} X^{\frac{d}{2}} < \frac{N}{\sqrt{d+1}}.$$
(3)

There are two strategies to allow larger value for X in (3):

- 1. Increase the dimension *n* by adding rows to *L* that contributes less than *N* to the determinant, i.e., "*x*-shift" the polynomials  $xF(x), x^2F(x), ..., x^kF(x)$ .
- 2. Increase the power of N on the right hand side using power of F(x). Since if  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , then  $F(x_0)^k \equiv 0 \pmod{N^k}$ .





At first it is not so obvious why the  $2^{nd}$  strategy is valid. In fact, since  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , then one can express F(x) as

$$F(x) = (x - x_0) p(x) + Nq(x)$$

for  $p(x), q(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ . Then,

$$F(x)^{k} = [(x - x_{0}) p(x) + Nq(x)]^{k}$$
  
=  $(x - x_{0})^{k} p^{k}(x) + {\binom{k}{1}} (x - x_{0})^{k-1} p^{k-1}(x) Nq(x) +$   
 $\cdots + {\binom{k}{k-1}} (x - x_{0}) p(x) N^{k-1} q^{k-1}(x) + N^{k} q^{k}(x)$ 





Since  $x_0$  is the root to  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{split} F(x_0)^k &= (x_0 - x_0)^k \, p^k \, (x) + \binom{k}{1} (x_0 - x_0)^{k-1} \, p^{k-1} \, (x) \, Nq \, (x) + \\ &\cdots + \binom{k}{k-1} (x_0 - x_0) \, p \, (x) \, N^{k-1} q^{k-1} \, (x) + N^k q^k \, (x) \\ &= N^k q^k \, (x) \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{N^k} \end{split}$$

Hence, if  $F(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , then  $F(x_0)^k \equiv 0 \pmod{N^k}$ .





#### Theorem 3

**(Coppersmith)** [1]. Let  $0 < \epsilon < \min\{0.18, \frac{1}{d}\}$ . Let F(x) be a monic polynomial of degree d with at least one small root  $x_0 \pmod{N}$  such that

$$|x_0| < \frac{1}{2}M^{\frac{1}{d}-\epsilon}.$$

Then  $x_0$  can be found in polynomial time in  $(d, \frac{1}{\epsilon}, \log(N))$ .





# \*Note: the M in this proof is the modular N in these entire presentation.

**Proof:** Let h > 1 be an integer that depends on d and  $\epsilon$  and will be determined in equation (19.3) below. Consider the lattice L corresponding (via the construction of the previous section) to the polynomials  $G_{i,j}(x) = M^{h-1-j}F(x)^j x^i$  for  $0 \le i < d, 0 \le j < h$ . Note that  $G_{i,j}(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{M^{h-1}}$ . The dimension of L is dh. One can represent L by a lower triangular basis matrix with diagonal entries  $M^{h-1-j}X^{jd+i}$ . Hence the determinant of L is

$$\det(L) = M^{(h-1)hd/2} X^{(dh-1)dh/2}.$$

Running LLL on this basis outputs an LLL-reduced basis with first vector  $\underline{b}_1$  satisfying

$$\|\underline{b}_1\| < 2^{(dh-1)/4} \det(L)^{1/dh} = 2^{(dh-1)/4} M^{(h-1)/2} X^{(dh-1)/2}.$$

This vector corresponds to a polynomial G(x) of degree dh - 1 such that  $G(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{M^{h-1}}$ . If  $||\underline{b}_1|| < M^{h-1}/\sqrt{dh}$  then Howgrave-Graham's result applies and we have  $G(x_0) = 0$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

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# Coppersmith's Method (cont.)



Hence, it is sufficient that

$$\sqrt{dh}2^{(dh-1)/4}M^{(h-1)/2}X^{(dh-1)/2} < M^{h-1}.$$

Rearranging gives

$$\sqrt{dh}2^{(dh-1)/4}X^{(dh-1)/2} < M^{(h-1)/2},$$

which is equivalent to

$$c(d,h)X < M^{(h-1)/(dh-1)}$$

where  $c(d, h) = (\sqrt{dh}2^{(dh-1)/4})^{2/(dh-1)} = \sqrt{2}(dh)^{1/(dh-1)}$ . Now

$$\frac{h-1}{dh-1} = \frac{1}{d} - \frac{d-1}{d(dh-1)}.$$

Equating  $(d-1)/(d(dh-1)) = \epsilon$  gives

$$h = ((d-1)/(d\epsilon) + 1)/d \approx 1/(d\epsilon).$$
(19.3)





Note that  $dh = 1 + (d-1)/(d\epsilon)$  and so  $c(d, h) = \sqrt{2}(1 + (d-1)/(d\epsilon))^{d\epsilon/(d-1)}$ , which converges to  $\sqrt{2}$  as  $\epsilon \to 0$ . Since  $X < \frac{1}{2}M^{1/d-\epsilon}$  we require  $\frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{1}{c(d,h)}$ . Writing  $x = \frac{d\epsilon}{(d-1)}$  this is equivalent to  $(1+1/x)^x \leq \sqrt{2}$ , which holds for  $0 \leq x \leq 0.18$ . Therefore, assume  $\epsilon \leq (d-1)/d$ .

Rounding h up to the next integer gives a lattice such that if

$$|x_0| < \frac{1}{2}M^{1/d-\epsilon}$$

then the LLL algorithm and polynomial root finding leads to  $x_0$ .

Since the dimension of the lattice is  $dh \approx 1/\epsilon$  and the coefficients of the polynomials  $G_{i,j}$  are bounded by  $M^h$  it follows that the running time of LLL depends on  $d, 1/\epsilon$  and  $\log(M)$ .





#### Example 2

Let N = 4611686047418417197. Consider the polynomial

F(x) = 1942528644709637042 + 1234567890123456789x+ 987654321987654321x<sup>2</sup> + x<sup>3</sup>

Find a root  $x_0 \pmod{N}$  such that  $|x_0| \le 2^{15}$ .





#### Solution 2

From the proof of Theorem 3,  $x = \frac{d\epsilon}{d-1}$  and  $0 \le x \le 0.18$ . Thus we have

$$\frac{d\epsilon}{d-1} \leq 0.18$$
 which implies  $\frac{d-1}{d\epsilon} \geq \frac{1}{0.18}$ 

and that

$$h = \frac{\frac{d-1}{d\epsilon} + 1}{d} \ge \frac{\frac{1}{0.18} + 1}{3} \approx 2.2$$

Therefore, we choose h = 3 in this case.





Since  $G_{ij} = N^{h-1-j}X^iF^j(x)$ , with  $0 \le i < d = 3$  and  $0 \le j < h = 3$ . Then,

$$\begin{array}{ll} G_{00} = N^2 & G_{01} = NF(x) & G_{02} = F^2(x) \\ G_{10} = N^2 X & G_{11} = NXF(x) & G_{12} = XF^2(x) \\ G_{20} = N^2 X^2 & G_{21} = NX^2 F(x) & G_{22} = X^2 F^2(x) \end{array}$$

Arranging all the above  $G_{ij}$  accordingly, it forms the basis lattice *B* of dimension of 9 as follows:





We denote  $a_0 = 1942528644709637042$ ,  $a_1 = 1234567890123456789$ ,  $a_2 = 987654321987654321$  here, and take  $X = 2^{15}$ .



Executing the LLL-algorithm, Maple outputs the solution  $x_0 = 16384$  to the  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  above.





## Solution 3

Notice that if we eliminate the last two rows and columns from the previous solution (that is we excluded the last two constructed G(x)) such that

 $B = \begin{pmatrix} M^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & M^2 X & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & M^2 X^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ Ma_0 & MXa_1 & MX^2a_2 & MX^3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & MXa_0 & MX^2a_1 & MX^3a_2 & MX^4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & MX^2a_0 & MX^3a_1 & MX^4a_2 & MX^5 & 0 \\ a_0^2 & 2a_0a_1 X & (2a_0a_2 + a_1^2)X^2 & 2(a_0 + a_1a_2)X^3 & (2a_1 + a_2^2)X^4 & 2a_2X^5 & X^6 \end{pmatrix}$ 

Maple also outputs the same solution  $x_0 = 16384$  to the  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$  above, but with smaller dimension of 7.





- Sometimes  $X \le |x_0|$  (just not too small) is possible and still works in finding the root  $x_0$ .
- The solution will occur at the first row post-LLL-reduced matrix in fact with suitably chosen X, the solution does appear in every row (most of the time) of the LLL-reduced matrix.
- It is helpful to consider the polynomial up to F (x)<sup>2</sup>, which sometimes helps in reducing the dimension of the basis formed. Sometimes even the original F (x) suffices to form the basis.



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## Some Related Applications

- The small exponent attacks on RSA variants.
  - 1. Small public exponent *e*.
  - 2. Small private exponent *d*.
  - 3. Partial secret key exposure with certain bits of *d*, *p*, *q* or *N*, it is possible to recover all completely.
- Factoring N = pq with partial knowledge of p.
- Factoring moduli in the form of  $p^r q$ .
- Lattice-based cryptography and Learning with Errors (LWE).
- Solving the Hidden Number Problem (HNP) in finite fields and its applications to bit security of Diffie-Hellman key exchange.





- The Coppersmith's method discussed previously is of univariate (single variable x) case.
- The method is very straight forward and can be easily implemented to search for the small solution to modular equations.
- What about the case of finding roots of multivariate (integer/modular) polynomials?



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The Problem of Modular Bivariate Polynomial Suppose given  $F(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$ , find at least one root  $(x_0, y_0)$  to

 $F(x,y)\equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ 

such that  $|x_0| < X$  and  $|y_0| < Y$ .

Of course, one can apply the same strategy of Coppersmith, hoping to find two polynomials  $F_1(x, y), F_2(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$  such that

$$F_1(x_0, y_0) = F_2(x_0, y_0) = 0$$

over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , and that both  $F_1(x, y)$ ,  $F_2(x, y)$  are algebraically independent (its resultant is not zero).



# Multivariate Polynomials (cont.)



#### Theorem 4

Let  $F(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$  be a polynomial of total degree d, and  $X, Y, N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $XY < N^{\frac{1}{d}-\epsilon}$ . Then one can find polynomials  $F_1(x, y)$ ,  $F_2(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$  such that for all  $(x_0, y_0) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  with  $|x_0| < X$ ,  $|y_0| < Y$  and  $F(x_0, y_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , one has

$$F_1(x_0, y_0) = F_2(x_0, y_0) = 0$$

over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

As the above theorem considers the case of modular form, readers may consider the proof given by Jutla [6] and Nguyen & Stern [7] for details.





- I considered the work done by Jochemz-May, as their heuristic strategy generally covers in finding both the modular and integer roots of multivariate polynomials by modifying the strategy accordingly.
- There are many strategies that had been proposed. For instance by Boneh & Durfee and Blömer & May.
- I personally found that Jochemz-May's strategy for finding roots of modular multivariate polynomials is easier to understand (from the beginner point of view).





#### Jochemz-May's Basic Strategy [5]

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be an arbitrary small constant. Depending on  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ , fixed an integer h. For  $j \in \{0, ..., h+1\}$ , define the set  $M_i$  of monomials

$$\begin{split} M_{j} &:= \left\{ x_{1}^{i_{1}} x_{2}^{i_{2}} \dots x_{n}^{i_{n}} \mid x_{1}^{i_{1}} x_{2}^{i_{2}} \dots x_{n}^{i_{n}} \text{ is a monomial of } F_{N}^{h} \right. \\ & \text{ and } \frac{x_{1}^{i_{1}} x_{2}^{i_{2}} \dots x_{n}^{i_{n}}}{l^{j}} \text{ is a monomial of } F_{N}^{h-j} \right\} \end{split}$$

where *I* is the leading monomial of  $F_N$  with coefficient  $a_I$ . It is assumed that the monomials of  $F_N, ..., F_N^{h-1}$  are all contained in the monomials of  $F_N^h$ .





#### The Shift Polynomials

The following defines the shift polynomial that has the similar strategy as in Coppersmoth's method, i.e.,  $G_{ij} = N^{h-1-j}x^i F^j(x)$ .

$$G_{i_1...i_n}(x_1,...,x_n) \coloneqq \frac{x_1^{i_1}x_2^{i_2}...x_n^{i_n}}{\mu} F_N^j(x_1,...,x_n) N^{h-j}$$
(4)

for j = 0, ..., h and  $x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} ... x_n^{i_n} \in M_j \setminus M_{j+1}$ .





#### Example 3

Suppose we consider a small example of modular bivariate polynomial  $F_N(x, y) = 1 + xy^2 + x^2y$ . Let's assume  $l = x^2y$  be the leading monomial and let h = 2.

Then,  $F_N^2(x,y) = 1 + 2xy^2 + 2x^2y + x^2y^4 + 2x^3y^3 + x^4y^2$  with 6 monomials of  $\{1, xy^2, x^2y, x^2y^4, x^3y^3, x^4y^2\}$ . Now, we want to build a lattice having all the above monomials in its column.





Now, following the shift polynomial described by Jochemz-May:

$$G_{i_{1}i_{2}}(x,y) \coloneqq \frac{x^{i_{1}}y^{i_{2}}}{(x^{2}y)^{j}}F_{N}^{j}(x,y) N^{h-j}$$

with h = 2 and  $j = \{0, 1, 2\}$ . We can now define the set of  $M_j$  as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll} j=0; & M_0=\left\{1,xy^2,x^2y,x^2y^4,x^3y^3,x^4y^2\right\}\\ j=1; & M_1=\left\{x^2y,x^2y^4,x^3y^3,x^4y^2\right\}\\ j=2; & M_2=\left\{x^4y^2\right\} \end{array}$$

Notice that the set  $M_j$  contains the monomials in  $F_N^2(x, y)$  that is divisible by  $(x^2y)^j$  for j = 0, 1, 2.





To construct the polynomials  $G_{i_1i_2}(x, y)$ , we sort out the sets such that  $x^{i_1}y^{i_2} \in M_j \setminus M_{j+1}$ :

Taking the first sorted set  $M_0 \setminus M_1 = \{1, xy^2\}$ , we can now construct the following shift polynomials for each element (monomial) in the set:

$$G_{00}(x,y) = \frac{x^{0}y^{0}}{(x^{2}y)^{0}} F_{N}^{0}(x,y) N^{2-0} = N^{2}$$
  
$$G_{12}(x,y) = \frac{x^{1}y^{2}}{(x^{2}y)^{0}} F_{N}^{0}(x,y) N^{2-0} = xy^{2}N^{2}$$



Multivariate Polynomials (cont.)



For the next sorted set  $M_1 \setminus M_2 = \{x^2y, x^2y^4, x^3y^3\}$ , we repeat the similar process:

$$G_{21}(x,y) = \frac{x^2 y^1}{(x^2 y)^1} F_N^1(x,y) N^{2-1} = F_N(x,y) N$$

$$G_{24}(x,y) = \frac{x^2 y^4}{(x^2 y)^1} F_N^1(x,y) N^{2-1} = y^3 F_N(x,y) N$$

$$G_{33}(x,y) = \frac{x^3 y^3}{(x^2 y)^1} F_N^1(x,y) N^{2-1} = xy^2 F_N(x,y) N$$

And for the last sorted set  $M_2 \setminus M_3 = \{x^4y^2\}$ :

$$G_{42}(x,y) = \frac{x^4 y^2}{(x^2 y)^2} F_N^2(x,y) N^{2-2} = F_N(x,y)^2$$





- Notice that all the constructed shift polynomials except  $G_{24}(x, y)$  contain the monomial from the original set.
- Since  $y^3$  is not part of the monomials, introducing it in the basis matrix will produce more new monomials of  $y^3$  and  $xy^5$  which are not in the  $F_N(x, y)$ .
- This will next enlarge the dimension of the basis formed, which contradict to the aim of having low-determinant matrix.





#### The solution?

Instead of putting monomial  $x^2y^4$  into  $M_1 \setminus M_2$ , we remain it in the first set of  $M_0 \setminus M_1$ , and proceed to compute as above:

$$G_{24}(x,y) = \frac{x^2 y^4}{(x^2 y)^0} F_N^0(x,y) N^{2-0} = x^2 y^4 N^2$$

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#### Next, we can arrange and form the basis lattice B accordingly, as follows:







Since the diagonal contains 0, this can be handled easily by swapping  $G_{24}$  and  $G_{21}$ :

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & xy^2 & x^2y & x^2y^4 & x^3y^3 & x^4y^2 \\ G_{00} & N^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ G_{12} & 0 & XY^2N^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ G_{21} & N & XY^2N & X^2YN & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ G_{24} & 0 & 0 & 0 & X^2Y^4N^2 & 0 & 0 \\ G_{33} & 0 & XY^2N & 0 & X^2Y^4N & X^3Y^3N & 0 \\ G_{42} & 1 & 2XY^2 & 2X^2Y & 2X^2Y^4 & 2X^3Y^3 & X^4Y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

By executing the **LLL**-algorithm, one can proceed **to find the resultant** matrix that reveals the root of the  $F_N(x, y) = 0$ 



Multivariate Polynomials (cont.)



## **Related Applications**

- Cryptanalysis on RSA-CRT with known difference, i.e., the difference of d<sub>p</sub> - d<sub>q</sub> is known to the attacker.
- Cryptanalysis on Common Prime RSA.



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The main reference used in preparing this sharing session.



Figure 1: Mathematics of Public Key Cryptography by Steven D. Galbraith - **Chapter 19**. E-book is available online for free.



# Other References



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