

Systems of quadratic and cubic diagonal equations

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The question

Consider systems of diagonal equation

$$c_{i,1}x_1^{k_i} + \cdots + c_{i,s}x_s^{k_i} = 0 \quad (1 \leq i \leq r).$$

What is the number $N(P)$ of integral solutions $1 \leq x_1, \dots, x_s \leq P$ to such a system?

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\rightarrow expect $N(P) \sim cP^{s - \sum k_i}$ for $s \geq 2 \sum k_i + 1$.

What do we know?

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For what systems

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This talk:

- One cubic and r_2 quadratic equations,
- One quadratic and r_3 cubic equations.

Warm-up: One quadratic and one cubic equation

Wooley's theorem ($r_2 = r_3 = 1$) by the circle method: Count solutions $1 \leq x_i \leq P$ to

$$c_1 x_1^2 + \cdots + c_s x_s^2 = 0$$

$$d_1 x_1^3 + \cdots + d_s x_s^3 = 0.$$

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Let

$$f(\alpha_2, \alpha_3) = \sum_{x=1}^P e(\alpha_2 x^2 + \alpha_3 x^3).$$

Then by orthogonality,

$$N(P) = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_s} \int_0^1 e(\alpha \sum c_i x_i^2) d\alpha \int_0^1 e(\beta \sum d_i x_i^3) d\beta$$

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Idea:

dissect unit interval in

- major arcs \mathfrak{M} , where the integrand is large \rightarrow main term,
- minor arcs \mathfrak{m} , where the integrand is small \rightarrow error term.

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Take $[0, 1]^2 = \mathfrak{M} \cup \mathfrak{m}$, where

$$\mathfrak{M} = \{\alpha \in [0, 1]^2 : |q\alpha_i - a_i| \leq P^{-9/4}, q \leq P^{3/4}, a_i, q_i \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

By fairly standard methods ($s \geq 11$):

$$N(P; \mathfrak{M}) = \int_{\mathfrak{M}} \prod_{i=1}^s f(c_i\alpha_2, d_i\alpha_3) d\alpha \sim cP^{s-5}.$$

Need to understand contribution from minor arcs.

Let $s \geq 11$, then

$$N(P; \mathfrak{m}) = \int_{\mathfrak{m}} \prod_{i=1}^s f(c_i \alpha_2, d_i \alpha_3) d\alpha \ll \sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |f(\alpha)|^{s-10} \int_{[0,1]^2} |f(\alpha)|^{10} d\alpha.$$

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Classical: $\sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |f(\alpha)| \ll P^{3/4+\varepsilon}$.

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Theorem (Wooley 2015)

$$\int_{[0,1]^2} |f(\alpha)|^{10} d\alpha \ll P^{5+1/6+\varepsilon}.$$

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Altogether, when $s \geq 11$:

$$\begin{aligned} N(P) &= N(P; \mathfrak{M}) + O(N(P; \mathfrak{m})) \\ &\sim cP^{s-5} + O(P^{(3/4)(s-10)+\varepsilon} P^{5+1/6+\varepsilon}) \\ &= cP^{s-5} + O(P^{s-5-\delta}). \end{aligned}$$

What happens for larger systems?

We have

$$N(P) = \int_{[0,1]^{r_2+r_3}} \prod_{i=1}^s f(\gamma_{i,2}, \gamma_{i,3}) d\alpha,$$

where

$$f(\alpha_2, \alpha_3) = \sum_{x=1}^P e(\alpha_2 x^2 + \alpha_3 x^3) \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_{i,k} = \sum_{j=1}^{r_k} c_{i,j} \alpha_{j,k} \quad (k = 2, 3).$$

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Major arcs dissection as before. Need to understand minor arcs contribution. We have (morally)

$$N(P; \mathfrak{m}) \ll \sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |f(\alpha)|^{s-4r_2-6r_3} \int_{[0,1]^{r_2+r_3}} \prod_{i=1}^{r_3} |f(\gamma_{i,2}, \gamma_{i,3})|^{10} \prod_{i=r_3+1}^{r_2} |f(\gamma_{i,2}, \gamma_{i,3})|^4 d\alpha.$$

Consider the case $r_2 = 2, r_3 = 1$. The mean value

$$I(P) = \int_{[0,1]^3} |f(\gamma_{1,2}, \gamma_{1,3})|^{10} |f(\gamma_{2,2}, \gamma_{2,3})|^4 d\alpha$$

counts solutions to the system

$$\begin{aligned} d_{1,1}(x_1^3 + \cdots - y_5^3) &+ d_{1,2}(x_6^3 + \cdots - y_7^3) &= 0 \\ c_{1,1}(x_1^2 + \cdots - y_5^2) &+ c_{1,2}(x_6^2 + \cdots - y_7^2) &= 0 \\ c_{2,1}(x_1^2 + \cdots - y_5^2) &+ c_{2,2}(x_6^2 + \cdots - y_7^2) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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We diagonalise the bottom 2×2 matrix:

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The last equation is a quadratic form in four variables and has $\ll P^{2+\varepsilon}$ solutions. This fixes the variables x_6, x_7, y_6, y_7 , and we need to solve

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This system has $\ll P^{5+1/6+\varepsilon}$ solutions by Wooley's theorem, and we get

$$I(P) \ll P^{2+\varepsilon} P^{5+1/6+\varepsilon} \ll P^{7+1/6+\varepsilon}.$$

The results, part I

This argument leads to

Theorem 1 (JB & S. T. Parsell 2015, to appear)

Suppose that the quadratic and cubic systems are suitably non-singular. We have

$$N(P) \sim cP^{s-2r_2-3r_3},$$

with $c \geq 0$, provided that

- $s \geq 4r_2 + \lfloor (20/3)r_3 \rfloor + 1$ if $r_2 \geq r_3$

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- The argument generalises to arbitrary systems of arbitrary degrees.
- For $r_3 = 1$ we obtain essentially square root cancellation.
- The case $r_3 > r_2$ is clearly unsatisfactory...

The case $r_3 \geq 2r_2$: Complication

Recall

$$N(P) = \int_{[0,1]^{r_2+r_3}} \prod_{i=1}^s f(\gamma_{i,2}, \gamma_{i,3}) d\alpha,$$

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We have

$$N(P; \mathfrak{m}) \ll \sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |f(\alpha_2, \alpha_3)|^{s-4r_2-6r_3} J_1(P),$$

where

$$J_1(P) = \int_{[0,1]^{r_2+r_3}} \prod_{i=1}^{r_3} |f(\gamma_i)|^2 \prod_{i=r_3+1}^{r_3+r_2} |f(\gamma_i)|^8 \prod_{i=r_3+r_2+1}^{2r_3-2r_2} |f(\gamma_i)|^4 \prod_{i=2r_3-2r_2+1}^{2r_3-r_2} |f(\gamma_i)|^8 d\alpha$$

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Idea: Do the counter-intuitive thing – blow the system up!

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Cauchy-Schwarz gives

$$J_n(P) \ll (P^{(5+1/6)r_2+\varepsilon})^{1/2} J_{2n}(P)^{1/2},$$

where the cubic system is of the shape

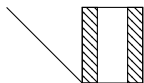


Figure: $J_1(P)$

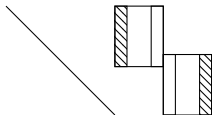


Figure: $J_2(P)$

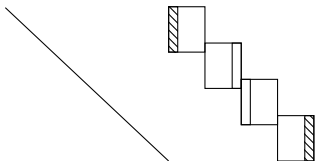


Figure: $J_4(P)$

After m inductive steps:

$$J_1(P) \ll (P^{(5+1/6)r_2+\varepsilon})^{1-2^{-m}} J_{2^m}(P)^{2^{-m}}$$

The mean value $J_n(P)$ contains $R_n = n(r_3 - r_2) + r_2$ cubic and r_2 quadratic polynomials in $6R_n + 4r_2$ variables.

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Now a miracle happens:

$$J_n(P) \ll P^{3n(r_3-r_2)+9r_2+\varepsilon} \ll P^{3R_n+6r_2+\varepsilon}.$$

We miss by a constant exponent – regardless of the value of $n!!!$

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This gives

$$\begin{aligned} J_1(P) &\ll (P^{(5+1/6)r_2+\varepsilon})^{1-2^{-m}} (P^{3 \cdot 2^m(r_3-r_2)+9r_2+\varepsilon})^{2^{-m}} \\ &\ll P^{3r_3+(2+1/6)r_2+2^{-m}\frac{23}{6}r_2+\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

The results, part II

This leads to

Theorem 2 (JB 2016, to appear)

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with $c \geq 0$, provided that

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- We have square root cancellation for $\min\{r_2, r_3\} = 1$.

The end

Thank you for your attention!