

# Elementary recursive bounds for Hilbert 17th problem (Part I)

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joint work with

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IMS, Singapore - January 13, 2014

# Hilbert 17th problem

$$P \geq 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^k \implies P = \sum_i G_i^2, \quad G_i \in \mathbb{R}(x_1, \dots, x_k) ?$$

- Artin '27: Affirmative answer. Non-constructive.
- Kreisel '57 - Daykin '61 - Lombardi '90 - Schmid '00:  
Constructive proofs leading to primitive recursive degree bounds depending on  $k$  and  $d = \deg P$ .
- Our work: Constructive proof leading to an elementary recursive degree bound:

$$2^{2^{2^{d^{4^k}}}}.$$

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# Positivstellensatz (Krivine '64, Stengle '74)

- $\mathbf{K}$  an ordered field,  $\mathbf{R}$  a real closed extension of  $\mathbf{K}$ ,
- $P_1, \dots, P_s \in \mathbf{K}[x_1, \dots, x_k]$ ,      •  $I_{\neq}, I_{\geq}, I_{=} \subset \{1, \dots, s\}$ ,

$$\mathcal{H}(x) : \begin{cases} P_i(x) \neq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\neq} \\ P_i(x) \geq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\geq} \\ P_i(x) = 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{=} \end{cases} \quad \text{no solution in } \mathbf{R}^k \iff$$

$$\exists \quad S = \prod_{i \in I_{\neq}} P_i^{2e_i}, \quad N = \sum_{I \subset I_{\geq}} \left( \sum_j k_{I,j} Q_{I,j}^2 \right) \prod_{i \in I} P_i \quad (k_{I,j} > 0),$$

$$Z \in \langle P_i \mid i \in I_{=} \rangle \subset \mathbf{K}[x]$$

such that

$$\underbrace{S}_{> 0} + \underbrace{N}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z}_{= 0} = 0.$$

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# Incompatibilities

$$\mathcal{H}(x) : \begin{cases} P_i(x) \neq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\neq} \\ P_i(x) \geq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\geq} \\ P_i(x) = 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{=} \end{cases}$$

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with

$$S \in \left\{ \prod_{i \in I_{\neq}} P_i^{2e_i} \right\} \quad \leftarrow \text{monoid associated to } \mathcal{H}$$

$$N \in \left\{ \sum_{I \subset I_{\geq}} \left( \sum_j k_{I,j} Q_{I,j}^2 \right) \prod_{i \in I} P_i \right\} \quad \leftarrow \text{cone associated to } \mathcal{H}$$

$$Z \in \langle P_i \mid i \in I_{=} \rangle \quad \leftarrow \text{ideal associated to } \mathcal{H}$$

# Degree of an incompatibility

$$\mathcal{H}(x) : \begin{cases} P_i(x) \neq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\neq} \\ P_i(x) \geq 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{\geq} \\ P_i(x) = 0 & \text{for } i \in I_{=} \end{cases}$$

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the **degree** of  $\mathcal{H}$  is the maximum degree of

$$S = \prod_{i \in I_{\neq}} P_i^{2e_i}, \quad Q_{I,j}^2 \prod_{i \in I} P_i \quad (I \subset I_{\geq}, j), \quad Q_i P_i \quad (i \in I_{=}).$$

## Example :

$$\begin{cases} x \neq 0 \\ y - x^2 - 1 \geq 0 \\ xy = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{no solution in } \mathbb{R}^2$$

↓  $x \neq 0, y - x^2 - 1 \geq 0, xy = 0$  ↓:

$$\underbrace{x^2}_{> 0} + \underbrace{x^2(y - x^2 - 1) + x^4}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{(-x^2y)}_{= 0} = 0.$$

The **degree** of this is incompatibility is 4.

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## Example 2:

$$\begin{cases} x > 0 \\ y - x \geq 0 & \text{no solution in } \mathbb{R}^2 \\ xy \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$\downarrow x > 0, y - x \geq 0, xy \leq 0 \downarrow$  equivalent to

$\downarrow x \neq 0, x \geq 0, y - x \geq 0, -xy \geq 0 \downarrow:$

$$\underbrace{x^2}_{> 0} + \underbrace{x(y - x) - xy}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{0}_{= 0} = 0.$$

The degree of this is incompatibility is 2.

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# Positivstellensatz: Constructive proofs

- Lombardi '90, Schmid '00: Primitive recursive degree bounds on  $k$ ,  $d = \max \deg P_i$  and  $s = \#P_i$ .

Lombardi '90: Based on Hörmander algorithm for quantifier elimination:

- exponential tower of height  $k + 4$ ,
  - $d \log(d) + \log \log(s) + c$  on the top.
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- Our work: Based on cylindrical algebraic decomposition + sign determination + Hermite theory + Laplace's proof of FTA. Elementary recursive degree bound in  $k, d$  and  $s$ :

$$2^{2^{\max\{2,d\}^{4^k}} + s^{2^k \max\{2,d\}^{16^k \text{bit}(d)}}}.$$

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$$P \geq 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^k \iff \begin{cases} P(x) < 0 & \text{no solution} \end{cases}$$

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$$\iff \underbrace{\begin{matrix} P^{2e} \\ > 0 \end{matrix}}_{> 0} + \underbrace{\sum_i Q_i^2 - (\sum_j R_j^2)P}_{\geq 0} = 0$$

$$\implies P = \frac{(\sum_j R_j^2)P^2}{P^{2e} + \sum_i Q_i^2} = \frac{(\sum_j R_j^2)P^2(P^{2e} + \sum_i Q_i^2)}{(P^{2e} + \sum_i Q_i^2)^2}.$$

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## Weak inferences: example

$$A > 0, \quad B \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A + B > 0.$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be any system of sign conditions.

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A + B > 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) + B(x) > 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{no solution}$$

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$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A + B > 0 \downarrow$  equiv. to  $\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A + B \neq 0, A + B \geq 0 \downarrow$

$$\underbrace{(A+B)^{2e}S}_{> 0} + \underbrace{N + N'(A+B)}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z}_{=0} = 0$$

$$\underbrace{A^{2e}S}_{> 0} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^{2e-1} \binom{2e}{i} A^i B^{2e-1-i} S + N + N'A + N'B}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z}_{=0} = 0$$

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What about degrees?

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initial incompatibility  
degree

$$\leq \delta$$

final incompatibility  
degree

$$\leq \delta + \max\{1, 2e\} \cdot (\max\{\deg A, \deg B\} - \deg\{A + B\})$$

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What about degrees?

$$\underline{(A+B)^{2e}S} + \underline{N} + \underline{N'(A+B)} + \underline{Z} = 0$$

$$\underline{A^{2e}S} + \sum_{i=0}^{2e-1} \underline{\binom{2e}{i} A^i B^{2e-1-i} S} + \underline{N} + \underline{N'A} + \underline{N'B} + \underline{Z} = 0$$

initial incompatibility  
degree

$$\leq \delta$$

final incompatibility  
degree

$$\leq \delta + \max\{1, 2e\} \cdot$$

$$(\max\{\deg A, \deg B\} - \deg\{A + B\})$$

$$A \neq 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\textcolor{red}{\text{---}}} \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be any system of sign conditions.

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A < 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} < 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A > 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} > 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A \neq 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \Leftarrow \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} \neq 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

$$A \neq 0 \quad \textcolor{brown}{\vdash} \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

Again, from right to left.

$$A \neq 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{red}} \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be any system of sign conditions.

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A < 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} < 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A > 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} > 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A \neq 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \xleftarrow{\text{blue}} \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}(x) \\ A(x) \end{cases} \neq 0 \quad \text{no solution}$$

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Again, from right to left.

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$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A < 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \text{degree} \leq \delta_1$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A > 0 \quad \downarrow \quad \text{degree} \leq \delta_2$$

$$\underbrace{A^{2e_1}S_1}_{>0} + \underbrace{N_1 - N'_1 A}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z_1}_{=0} = 0$$

$$\underbrace{A^{2e_2}S_2}_{>0} + \underbrace{N_2 + N'_2 A}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z_2}_{=0} = 0$$

$$A^{2e_1}S_1 + N_1 + Z_1 = N'_1 A$$

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multiplying these we obtain:

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$$A = 0 \quad \vee \quad A \neq 0$$

$$A \neq 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}}$$

$$A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

---

$$A = 0 \quad \vee \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

Similarly,

$$\dashv \quad A = 0 \quad \vee \quad A \neq 0$$

$$A \neq 0 \quad \dashv \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

---

$$\dashv \quad A = 0 \quad \vee \quad A < 0 \quad \vee \quad A > 0$$

$$\vdash A = 0 \vee A \neq 0$$

$$A \neq 0 \quad \vdash A < 0 \vee A > 0$$

---

$$\vdash A = 0 \vee A < 0 \vee A > 0$$

as follows:

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A = 0 \downarrow \quad \downarrow \mathcal{H}, A < 0 \downarrow \quad \downarrow \mathcal{H}, A > 0 \downarrow$$



$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A = 0 \downarrow$$

$$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A \neq 0 \downarrow$$



$$\downarrow \mathcal{H} \downarrow$$

# Weak Existence

$$\exists t \quad | \quad At = 1 \quad \textcolor{red}{\vdash} \quad A \neq 0$$

$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad A \neq 0 \downarrow$

$$\underbrace{A^{2e}S}_{>0} + \underbrace{N}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{Z}_{=0} = 0$$

$$\underbrace{S}_{>0} + \underbrace{t^{2e}N}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{t^{2e}Z + ((At)^{2e} - 1)S}_{=0} = 0$$

$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad At = 1 \downarrow$

involves the **new** variable  $t$

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$$A \neq 0 \quad \vdash \quad \exists t \quad | \quad At = 1$$

$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, At = 1 \downarrow$

involves variable  $t$

$$\underbrace{S}_{>0} + \underbrace{\left( \sum k_{I,j} Q_{I,j}^2(t) \right) \prod P_i}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{\sum W_j(t) P_j}_{=0} + W(t)(At - 1) = 0$$

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$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, A \neq 0 \downarrow$

variable  $t$  is eliminated

$$A \neq 0 \quad \vdash \quad \exists t \quad | \quad At = 1$$

$\downarrow \mathcal{H}, \ At = 1 \ \downarrow$

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$$A \neq 0 \quad \vdash \quad \exists t \quad | \quad At = 1$$

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Simple weak inferences are combined to obtain more interesting weak inferences ([Marie-Françoise's talk.](#))

# Example

We want an incompatibility

$$\downarrow \quad y - x \neq 0, \quad y^3 - x^3 = 0 \quad \downarrow$$

$$(y - x)^{2e} + N + W(y^3 - x^3) = 0.$$

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Thank you for your attention!