Department of Mathematics - University of Trento

## Algorithms for rank and cactus rank of a polynomial

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## **Outline**



## [BCMT] Symmetric Tensor Decomposition, 2010

J. Brachat, P. Comon, B. Mourrain and E. Tsigaridas. Linear Algebra and its Applications, 433 (11–12), pp. 1851-1872.

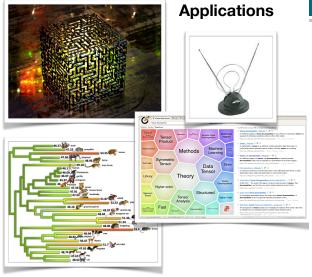
#### The STD algorithm

Proposed refinements

# What we can learn more Tangential decomposition Cactus decomposition

Further work







You have...

$$F = -4xy + 2xz + 2yz + z^2.$$



You want...

$$F = (x - y)^{2} - 2(x + y)^{2} + (x + y + z)^{2}.$$



You have...

$$F = -4xy + 2xz + 2yz + z^{2},$$
  
$$f = F_{x=1} = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^{2}.$$



You want...

$$F = (x - y)^2 - 2(x + y)^2 + (x + y + z)^2.$$

$$f = F_{x=1} = (1 - y)^2 - 2(1 + y)^2 + (1 + y + z)^2.$$



$$R = \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

## Apolar polynomial

$$f = \sum_{|\alpha| \le d} f_{\alpha} \mathbf{x}^{\alpha} \in R_{\le d}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$f^*: R_{\leq d} \to \mathbb{K},$$

$$g = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq d} g_{\alpha} \mathbf{x}^{\alpha} \mapsto \langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq d} \frac{f_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}}{\binom{d}{\alpha}}$$



## Apolar polynomial

$$f^* = \left(\sum_{|\alpha| \le d} f_{\alpha} \mathbf{x}^{\alpha}\right)^* : R_{\le d} \to \mathbb{K},$$

$$g = \sum_{|\alpha| \le d} g_{\alpha} \mathbf{x}^{\alpha} \mapsto \langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{|\alpha| \le d} \frac{f_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}}{\binom{d}{\alpha}}$$

## **Dual** map

$$\tau:R_{\leq d}\hookrightarrow R_{\leq d}^*,$$
 
$$f=\sum_{i=1}^r\lambda_i\big(1+I_{1i}x_1+\cdots+I_{ni}x_n\big)^d\mapsto f^*=\sum_{i=1}^r\lambda_i\mathbb{1}_{(I_{1i},\ldots,I_{ni})}.$$



## **Dual map**

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$$f = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i (1 + I_{1i}x_1 + \dots + I_{ni}x_n)^d \mapsto f^* = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \mathbb{1}_{(I_{1i},\dots,I_{ni})}.$$

#### Aim

Find  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$  that restricts to  $f^*$  on  $\mathbb{R}_{\leq d}$ :

$$\Lambda|_{R_{\leq d}} = f^*$$
.



#### Let $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . Define

the Henkel operator of Λ as

$$H_{\Lambda}: R \to R^*,$$
  
 $r \mapsto r \star \Lambda = (t \mapsto \Lambda(rt)),$ 

- $I_{\Lambda} = \ker H_{\Lambda}$ ,
- $A_{\Lambda} = R/I_{\Lambda}$ ,
- the multiplication by r operators on  $\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}$  and  $\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}^{*}$  as

$$M_r: \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda} \to \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}, \qquad M_r^t: \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}^* \to \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}^*,$$
  
 $t \mapsto r \cdot t, \qquad \phi \mapsto r \star \phi.$ 



## [BCMT] Theorem

Let  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$  and  $r \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$ . The following are equivalent:

▶ There exist non-zero constants  $\{\lambda_i\}_{i \in \{1,...,r\}}$  and distinct points  $\{\zeta_i\}_{i \in \{1,...,r\}} \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$  such that

$$\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}.$$

•  $rkH_{\Lambda} = r$  and  $I_{\Lambda}$  is a radical ideal.



#### **Theorem**

Let  $\Lambda \in R^*$  such that  $I_{\Lambda}$  is 0-dimensional and  $\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}$  is an r-dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space. Then the following are equivalent:

- ▶ Up to  $\mathbb{K}$ -multiplication, there are r distinct common eigenvectors of  $\{M_{x_i}^t\}_{i \in \{1,...,n\}}$ .
- $I_{\Lambda}$  is radical.



#### Theorem

Let  $\Lambda \in R^*$  such that  $I_{\Lambda}$  is 0-dimensional and  $\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}$  is an r-dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space.

•  $V(I_{\Lambda}) = \{\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_s\}$  is radical if and only if s = r since  $A_{\Lambda} = R/I_{\Lambda}$  and  $\dim(A_{\Lambda}) = r$ .

Then the following are equivalent:

- ▶ Up to  $\mathbb{K}$ -multiplication, there are r distinct common eigenvectors of  $\{M_{x_i}^t\}_{i \in \{1,...,n\}}$ .
  - Eigenvalues of  $M_{x_i}$  and  $M_{x_i}^t$  are  $\{x_i(\zeta_1), \dots, x_i(\zeta_s)\}$ . [Stickelberger]
  - v is an eigenvector for every  $\{M_{x_i}^t\}_{i\in\{1,\ldots,n\}}$  if and only if there exist  $\zeta_1,\ldots,\zeta_s\in\mathbb{K}^n$  and  $k\neq 0$  such that  $v=k\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$ .
- $I_{\Lambda}$  is radical.



Let  $f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$ . We know some entries of  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}$ :

$$\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda} = \left( \begin{array}{c|cccc} & 1 & y & z & y^2 & yz & z^2 \\ \hline 1 & f^*(1) & f^*(y) & f^*(z) & f^*(y^2) & f^*(yz) & f^*(z^2) \\ y & f^*(y) & f^*(y^2) & f^*(yz) \\ z & f^*(z) & f^*(yz) & f^*(z^2) \\ y^2 & f^*(y^2) & & & & ? \\ z^2 & f^*(z^2) & & & & ? \end{array} \right).$$



Let 
$$f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$$
.

$$\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h}) = \begin{pmatrix} & 1 & y & z & y^2 & yz & z^2 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ y & -2 & 0 & 1 & h_{(3,0)} & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} \\ z & 1 & 1 & 1 & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(0,3)} \\ y^2 & 0 & h_{(3,0)} & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(4,0)} & h_{(3,1)} & h_{(2,2)} \\ yz & 1 & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(3,1)} & h_{(2,2)} & h_{(1,3)} \\ z^2 & 1 & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(0,3)} & h_{(2,2)} & h_{(1,3)} & h_{(0,4)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We want values for **h** such that  $rkH_{\Lambda} = r$  and  $I_{\Lambda}$  is radical.



Let 
$$f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$$
.

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We guess that  $B = \{1, y, z\}$  is a basis for  $A_{\Lambda}$ , so that r = 3. Define

$$\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$



Let  $f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$ .

$$\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h}) = \begin{pmatrix} & 1 & y & z & y^2 & yz & z^2 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ y & -2 & 0 & 1 & h_{(3,0)} & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} \\ z & 1 & 1 & 1 & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(0,3)} \\ y^2 & 0 & h_{(3,0)} & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(4,0)} & h_{(3,1)} & h_{(2,2)} \\ yz & 1 & h_{(2,1)} & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(3,1)} & h_{(2,2)} & h_{(1,3)} \\ z^2 & 1 & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(0,3)} & h_{(2,2)} & h_{(1,3)} & h_{(0,4)} \end{pmatrix}$$

We guess that  $B = \{1, y, z\}$  is a basis for  $A_{\Lambda}$ , so that r = 3. Define

$$\mathbb{H}^{B}_{\Lambda} = \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right), \qquad \mathbb{H}^{B}_{y \star \Lambda} = \left( \begin{array}{ccc} -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & h_{(3,0)} & h_{(2,1)} \\ 1 & h_{(1,2)} & h_{(1,2)} \end{array} \right).$$



Let 
$$f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$$
.  
We guess that  $B = \{1, y, z\}$  is a basis for  $A_{\Lambda}$ , so that  $r = 3$ . Define

$$\mathbb{M}^B_Z = \mathbb{H}^B_{Z \star \Lambda} \big( \mathbb{H}^B_{\Lambda} \big)^{-1} = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{8}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{8} & \frac{1}{8}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(1,2)} - \frac{3}{8} & \frac{1}{4}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{2}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{4} \\ -\frac{3}{8}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(0,3)} + \frac{1}{8} & \frac{1}{8}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(0,3)} - \frac{3}{8} & \frac{1}{4}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{2}h_{(0,3)} + \frac{1}{4} \\ \end{array} \right).$$



Let  $f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$ .

We guess that  $B = \{1, y, z\}$  is a basis for  $A_{\Lambda}$ , so that r = 3. Define

$$\mathbb{M}^B_y = \mathbb{H}^B_{y \star \Lambda} \big( \mathbb{H}^B_{\Lambda} \big)^{-1} = \left( \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{8}h_{(3,0)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(2,1)} & \frac{1}{8}h_{(3,0)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(2,1)} & \frac{1}{4}h_{(3,0)} + \frac{1}{2}h_{(2,1)} \\ -\frac{3}{8}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{8} & \frac{1}{8}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{4}h_{(1,2)} - \frac{3}{8} & \frac{1}{4}h_{(2,1)} + \frac{1}{2}h_{(1,2)} + \frac{1}{4} \\ \end{array} \right),$$

## We want multiplication operators to commute!

$$\label{eq:maps_bound} \begin{split} \mathbb{M}_y^B \mathbb{M}_z^B - \mathbb{M}_z^B \mathbb{M}_y^B &= 0. \\ \to h_{(3,0)} &= -2, \ h_{(2,1)} &= 1, \ h_{(2,1)} &= 1, \ h_{(2,1)} &= 4. \end{split}$$



Let 
$$f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$$
.

$$(\mathbb{M}_{y}^{B})^{t} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Eigenspaces:} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(\mathbb{M}_{z}^{B})^{t} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 1 & 1 & \frac{5}{2} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Eigenspaces:} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}.$$



Let 
$$f = -4y + 2z + 2yz + z^2$$
.

Common eigenspaces: 
$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \right), \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$
.

Solve in 
$$\lambda_i$$
:  $f = \lambda_1 \left( 1 - 1y + 0z \right)^2 + \lambda_2 \left( 1 + 1y - \frac{1}{2}z \right)^2 + \lambda_3 \left( 1 + 1y + 3z \right)^2$ .

$$\lambda_1 = 1 \qquad \qquad \lambda_2 = -\frac{8}{7} \qquad \qquad \lambda_3 = \frac{1}{7}$$

Conclusion: 
$$f = (1 - y)^2 - \frac{8}{7}(1 + y - \frac{1}{2}z)^2 + \frac{1}{7}(1 + y + 3z)^2$$
.

## STD algorithm

As proposed in [BCMT]

**Algorithm:** Symmetric tensor decomposition

**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  of degree d. **Output:** A decomposition of *F* as  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i L_i^d$  with *r* minimal.

- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := 1.
- repeat
  - 1. Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d connected to one with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_i = \mathbb{H}^B_{X_i \star \Lambda}(\mathbb{H}^B_{\Lambda})^{-1}$  commute.
  - 3. If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1.
  - 4. Else compute the  $n \times r$  eigenvalues  $\zeta_{i,j}$  and the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$  s.t.  $M_i$ **v**<sub>i</sub> =  $\zeta_{i,j}$ **v**<sub>i</sub>,  $i = 1, \ldots, n, j = 1, \ldots, r$ .

until the eigenvalues are simple.

▶ Solve the linear system in  $(I_i)_{i=1,...,k}$ :  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r I_i \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$  where  $\zeta_i \in \mathbb{K}^n$ are the eigenvectors found in step 4.

0) Essential variables



**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d written by using a general set of essential variables.

**Output:** A decomposition of f as  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i \mathbf{k_i}(\mathbf{x})^d$  with r minimal.

- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := 1.
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  - Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d connected to one with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $\det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{x_{i} + \Lambda}^{B} (\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
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Algorithm: Symmetric tensor decomposition

**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d written by using a general set of essential variables.

• General: De-homog. by  $x_0$  implies decomp. of type

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i (\mathbf{1} + \alpha_i I_i(X_1, \dots, X_n))^d$$

Essential variables:

$$x^3 + (x + y + z)^3$$

2 essential variables and rank  $2 \Rightarrow$  Any basis made of 2 elements  $\Rightarrow$  we can recover at most 2 coefficients of the linear forms.

1) The starting *r* 

Algorithm: Symmetric tensor decomposition

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written by using a general set of essential variables.

**Output:** A decomposition of F as  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i \mathbf{k_i}(\mathbf{x})^d$  with r minimal.

- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := #EssVar(f)?
- repeat
  - Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d connected to one with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{\mathbf{X}_{i} + \Lambda}^{B}(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
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until the eigenvalues are simple.

▶ Solve the linear system in  $(I_j)_{j=1,...,k}$ :  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r I_j \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$  where  $\zeta_i \in \mathbb{K}^n$  are the eigenvectors found in step 4.

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Algorithm: Symmetric tensor decomposition

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**Output:** A decomposition of F as  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i \mathbf{k_i}(\mathbf{x})^d$  with r minimal.

- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := 1. r := rk(Maximal numerical submatrix of  $H_{\Lambda}$ ).
- repeat
  - Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d connected to one with |B| = r.
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1) The starting *r* 



- $r := rk(Maximal numerical submatrix of <math>H_{\Lambda})$ .
- 1. (I.K.)  $\rightsquigarrow$  (rk(Maximal numerical submatrix of  $H_{\Lambda}$ )) $\leq$  rk(F) so we do not miss good decompositions.

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- 2. Not only a matter of time consuming:

$$F = x^{4} + (x + y)^{4} + (x - y)^{4} = 3x^{4} + 12x^{2}y^{2} + 2y^{4}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & h_{5} \\ 0 & 2 & h_{5} & h_{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Start with r = 2 (instead of r = 3). Only one basis:  $B = \{1, y\}$ .

$$\mathbb{M}_{y}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{2}{3} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 has two eigenvectors  $(\pm \sqrt{3/2}, 1)$ 

but the system  $F = \lambda_1(\sqrt{3/2}x + y)^3 + \lambda_2(-\sqrt{3/2}x + y)^3$  has no solutions.

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Start with r = 2 (instead of r = 3). Only one basis:  $B = \{1, y\}$ .

$$\mathbb{M}_y^B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{2}{3} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
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but the system  $F = \lambda_1(\sqrt{3/2}x + y)^3 + \lambda_2(-\sqrt{3/2}x + y)^3$  has no solutions. Ignore the condition imposed by the coefficients of  $y^3$ , then system has solution, that is  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \frac{2}{3}$  which lead to  $G = 3x^4 + 12x^2y^2 + \frac{4}{3}y^4$ .

2) Connection to one vs staircases



**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d.

written by using a general set of essential variables.

**Output:** A decomposition of F as  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i \mathbf{k_i}(\mathbf{x})^d$  with r minimal.

- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := rk(largest numerical submatrix of  $H_{\Lambda}$ ).
- repeat
  - 1. Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d connected to one which is a complete staircase with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{\mathbf{X}_{i} + \Lambda}^{B}(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
  - 3. If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1.
  - **4.** Else compute the  $n \times r$  eigenvalues  $\zeta_{i,j}$  and the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v_j}$  s.t.  $\mathbb{M}_i \mathbf{v_j} = \zeta_{i,j} \mathbf{v_j}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, r$ .

until the eigenvalues are simple.

Solve the linear system in  $(I_j)_{j=1,...,k}$ :  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r I_j \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_j}$  where  $\zeta_i \in \mathbb{K}^n$  are the eigenvectors found in step 4.

2) Connection to one vs staircases



Connection to one:  $B = \{1, y, y^2, y^2z, y^3\}$ . Complete staircase:  $B = \{1, y, z, y^2, yz\}$ .

#### **Theorem**

Let  $F \in R$  be homogeneous written by using essential variables and let  $\Lambda \in R^*$  be an extension of  $f^* \in R^*_{\leq d}$ . Then there is a monomial basis B of  $\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda}$  such that B is a complete staircase.

## Comparison with 3 variables

Size of B	# Complete staircases	# Connected to 1
3	1	5
4	3	13
5	5	35
6	9	96
7	13	267

3) Common eigenvectors



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- Compute the coefficients of  $f^*$ :  $c_{\alpha} = a_{\alpha} {d \choose \alpha}^{-1}$ , for  $|\alpha| \le d$ .
- r := rk(largest numerical submatrix of  $H_{\Lambda}$ ).
- repeat
  - Compute a set B of monomials of degree at most d which is a complete staircase with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $\det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{X_{i} \star \Lambda}^{B} (\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
  - 3. If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1.
  - 4. Else compute the  $n \times r$  eigenvalues  $\zeta_{i,j}$  and the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v_j}$  s.t.  $\mathbb{M}_i \mathbf{v_i} = \zeta_{i,i} \mathbf{v_i}, i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, r$ .

**until** the eigenvalues are simple. there are r common eigenvectors.

Solve the linear system in (I<sub>j</sub>)<sub>j=1,...,k</sub>: Λ = ∑<sub>i=1</sub><sup>r</sup> I<sub>j</sub>1<sub>ζj</sub> where ζ<sub>i</sub> ∈ K<sup>n</sup> are the eigenvectors found in step 4.

## Example

$$F = (x + y)^{3} + (x + z)^{3} + (x + y + z)^{3}$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$M_{y}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_{z}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right).$$



## What we can learn more

## What we can learn more

Tangential decomposition



Let 
$$F := (x + y)^5 + (x + z)^5 + (x + 2y)(x - y)^4$$
.  
We check  $r = 4$  and  $B = \{1, y, z, y^2\}$ .

$$\mathbb{M}_{y}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbb{M}_{z}^{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

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$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

Tangential decomposition



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$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \leftarrow \text{Generalized!}$$

$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle.$$



#### **Definition**

The *tangential rank* of F is the minimal  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i L_i^{d-1} L_{s+i} + \sum_{i=k+1}^s \lambda_i L_i^d$$

with k + s = r and  $k \le s$ . Such a decomposition for which r is minimal is a *tangential decomposition* of F.



#### Proposition

Let  $I = 1 + I_1 x_1 + \dots + I_n x_n \in R_{\leq 1}$  and  $g = 1 + g_1 x_1 + \dots + g_n x_n \in R_{\leq 1}$ . For every  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$  we have

$$\tau(I^{d-1}g)=\mathbb{1}_I+\frac{1}{d}\mathbb{1}_I\circ\left[\sum_{i=1}^n(g_i-I_i)\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}\right]\in R_{\leq d}^*.$$

Tangential decomposition



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#### **Theorem**

Let  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$  be an extension of  $f^* \in \mathbb{R}^*_{< d}$  with  $F = L^{d-1}G$ . Then

- The common eigenvector of  $M_{x_i}^t$  is  $\mathbb{1}_l$ .
- ► The generalized rank-2 eigenvector of each  $M_{\chi_j}^t$  is  $\mathbb{1}_l \circ \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n (g_i l_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \right]$ .

#### Algorithm

Tangential decomposition

**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d. **Output:** A minimal decomposition of F as

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i L_i^{d-1} L_{s+i} + \sum_{i=k+1}^s \lambda_i L_i^d.$$

- Construct the matrix  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h})$  with the parameters  $\mathbf{h} = \{h_{\alpha}\}_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n \\ |\alpha| > d}}$
- Set  $r := \operatorname{rk} \mathbb{H}_{f^*}^{\square}$ .
- repeat
  - 1. Compute a set B of a complete staircase monomials with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $\det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{x_{i} \star \Lambda}^{B} (\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
  - 3. If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1.
  - 4. Else compute the  $\frac{r}{2} \le s \le r$  eigenvectors of a generic  $\sum_i \alpha_i \mathbb{M}_i^B$ . **until** There are r s distinct generalized of rank up to 2 eigenvectors  $v_{s+1}, \ldots, v_r$  common to  $\mathbb{M}_i^B$ 's such that
    - they have rank 2 for at least one  $\mathbb{M}_{i}^{B}$ ,
    - when they have rank 2, their chain is always  $\{v_{s+i}, v_i\}$ .
- Solve the linear system in  $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r$ :  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{r-s} v_i^{d-1} (\lambda_i v_i + \lambda_{s+i} v_{s+i}) + \sum_{i=r-s+1}^{s} \lambda_i v_i^d.$

Tangential decomposition

$$F = -2x^7 - 4x^6y + 92x^6z + 15x^5y^2 - 675x^5z^2 - 20x^4y^3 + 2700x^4z^3 + 15x^3y^4 - 6075x^3z^4 - 6x^2y^5 + 7290x^2z^5 + xy^6 - 3645xz^6.$$

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Check r = 6 and  $B = \{1, y, z, y^2, z^2, v^3\}.$ 

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$$r = 6$$
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Common eigenvectors of 
$$(\mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{Z}}^{\mathcal{B}})^t$$
 and  $(\mathbb{M}_{\mathbb{Z}}^{\mathcal{B}})^t$ :  $(1,0,0,0,0,0)$ ,  $(1,-1,0,1,0,-1)$ ,  $(1,0,-3,0,9,0)$ .

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Common eigenvectors of  $(\mathbb{M}_{y}^{B})^{t}$  and  $(\mathbb{M}_{z}^{B})^{t}$ : (1,0,0,0,0,0), (1,-1,0,1,0,-1), (1,0,-3,0,9,0). generalized eigenspaces:

$$(\mathbb{M}^{\mathcal{B}}_{y})^{t} : \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle. \\ (\mathbb{M}^{\mathcal{B}}_{z})^{t} : \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

$$F = 2x^{6}(x + y + z) + (x - y)^{6}x - 5(x - 3z)^{6}x.$$



# What we can learn more and more

Cactus decomposition



$$F = (x^2 + y^2 + 6xz - 8z^2)(4x - y - 5z)$$

Cactus decomposition



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Start with r = 3,

Cactus decomposition



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 $(\mathbb{M}_y B)^t$  and  $(\mathbb{M}_z B)^t$  commute and there is a unique common eigenvector: (4,-1,-5)

Cactus decomposition



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Start with r = 3,  $(\mathbb{M}_y B)^t$  and  $(\mathbb{M}_z B)^t$  commute and there is a unique common eigenvector: (4, -1, -5) and both their Jordan decompositions have 1 rank-3 block.



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Since r/2 > 1 there is no tg. decomposition for F with r = 3, i.e.

$$F \neq L_1^{3-1}L_2 + L_3^3$$

for any linear form  $L_1, L_2, L_3$ .

Cactus decomposition



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 $(\mathbb{M}_y B)^t$  and  $(\mathbb{M}_z B)^t$  commute and there is a unique common eigenvector: (4, -1, -5) and both their Jordan decompositions have 1 rank-3 block.

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for any linear form  $L_1, L_2, L_3$ .

**Claim**: Since we did not fill any **h**, this is the unique decomposition of *F* of type

$$F = L^{3-2}N$$

with N a quadratic form.

So, to recover N, it is sufficient to solve a linear system:

$$F = (ax^2 + bxy + cxz + dy^2 + eyz + fz^2)(4x - y - 5z)$$



#### Non-definition (yet)

A cactus decomposition of  $F \in R_d$  is a "minimal" way of writing F as

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^{s} L_i^{d-k_i} N_i$$

with  $N_i \in R_{k_i}$ .



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with  $N_i \in R_{k_i}$ .

MINIMAL in which sense?



#### **Proposition**

 $F = \sum_{i=1}^{s} L_i^{d-k_i} N_i$  iff  $\exists \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_s \in \mathbb{K}^n$ , an extension  $\Lambda \in R^*$  of  $f^* \in R^*_{\leq d}$  and  $\{p_i\}_{i \in \{1, \dots, d\}} \subseteq R$  s.t.

$$\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{s} \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ \rho_i(\delta). \tag{1}$$



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#### **Definition**

Λ as in (1) such that

$$r = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s \underbrace{\dim_{\mathbb{K}} \langle \{\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ \partial^{\alpha} p_i\}_{|\alpha| \leq \deg p_i} \rangle_{\mathbb{K}}}_{:=r_i = \text{mult} \, \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}}.$$

is minimal, is called a *generalized decomposition of*  $f^*$ .

Cactus decomposition



### Proposition

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#### Definition and Theorem [-,B,M]

The minimal r for which there exists a generalized decomposition of  $f^* \in R_d$  is the *cactus rank* of F.



#### **Proposition**

Let  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{s} \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ p_i(\delta)$  be a generalized decomposition of  $f^*$ . Then there exist  $k_i \in \mathbb{K}$ ,  $N_i \in R_{k_i}$  such that F can be written as

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^{s} L_i^{d-k_i} N_i. \tag{*}$$

(\*) is called a cactus decomposition of F.

### Proposition

Cactus decomposition

Let  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{s} \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ p_i(\delta)$  be a generalized decomposition of  $f^*$ . Then there exist  $k_i \in \mathbb{K}$ ,  $N_i \in R_{k_i}$  such that F can be written as

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(\*) is called a cactus decomposition of F.

Can we recover a cactus decomposition of a given  $F \in R_d$ ?



#### [BCMT] Theorem

Let  $F \in R_d$ .

The minim r for which  $\exists$  an extension  $\land \in R^*$  of  $f^*$  with  $rkH_{\land} = r$ 

The minimum r which allows to fill  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h})$  in order to have commuting multiplication operators.



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The minimum r which allows to fill  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h})$  in order to have commuting multiplication operators.

Find commuting operators  $\Rightarrow$  read the  $\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$ 's as the common rank-1 eigenvectors for the  $M_{x_i}^t$ .

# Algorithm Cactus rank



**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d. **Output:** The cactus rank of F and the  $L_i$  s.t.  $F = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i L_i^{d-k_i} N_i$  is a cactus decomposition of F.

- Construct the matrix  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h})$  with the parameters  $\mathbf{h} = \{h_{\alpha}\}_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n \\ |\alpha| > d}}$
- Set  $r := \operatorname{rk} \mathbb{H}_{f^*}^{\square}$ .
  - 1. Compute a set *B* of a complete staircase monomials with |B| = r.
  - 2. Find parameters **h** s.t.  $\det(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B}) \neq 0$  and the operators  $\mathbb{M}_{i} = \mathbb{H}_{X_{i} + \Lambda}^{B}(\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}^{B})^{-1}$  commute.
  - 3. If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1.
- ► Else **Output 1)** *r* is the cactus rank of *F*.
  - 4 Compute the eigenvectors  $v_1, \ldots, v_s$  of a generic  $\sum_i \alpha_i \mathbb{M}_i^B$ .
- ▶ Output 2)  $L_i := v_i, i = 1, ..., s$ .

Cactus decomposition



#### Recall

#### **Definition**

The minimal  $r = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{s} \underbrace{\dim_{\mathbb{K}} \langle \{\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_{i}} \circ \partial^{\alpha} p_{i}\}_{|\alpha| \leq \deg p_{i}} \rangle_{\mathbb{K}}}_{:=r_{i} = \operatorname{mult} \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_{i}}}$  for which there exists

a generalized decomposition of  $F \in R_d$  is the *cactus rank* of F.



#### Recall

#### Definition

The minimal  $r = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{s} \underbrace{\dim_{\mathbb{K}} \langle \{\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_{i}} \circ \partial^{\alpha} p_{i}\}_{|\alpha| \leq \deg p_{i}} \rangle_{\mathbb{K}}}_{:=r_{i} = \text{mult } \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_{i}}}$  for which there exists

a generalized decomposition of  $F \in R_d$  is the *cactus rank* of F.

The last thing that we can do is to recover each  $r_i$ .



 $F \in R_d$ ,  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^s \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ p_i(\delta) \in R^*$  a generalized decomposition of  $f^*$ .

#### **Theorem**

For every  $j \in \{1, ..., n\}$  and every  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$  the element

$$\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ (\partial^{\alpha} p_i)(\delta) \in \mathcal{A}^*_{\Lambda}$$

is either the zero map or a generalized eigenvector common to every  $M_{x_j}^t$  with eigenvalue  $(\zeta_i)_j$ .

Cactus decomposition



 $F \in R_d$ ,  $\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^s \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} \circ p_i(\delta) \in R^*$  a generalized decomposition of  $f^*$ .

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is either the zero map or a generalized eigenvector common to every  $M_{\mathbf{x}_i}^t$  with eigenvalue  $(\zeta_i)_j$ .

#### Corollary

If  $V^j[\mu]$  is the generalized eigenspace of  $M^t_{x_j}$  relative to the eigenvalue  $\mu$ , then for every  $i \in \{1,\ldots,s\}$  the multiplicity of  $\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$  is given by

$$\operatorname{mult} \mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} = \dim_{\mathbb{K}} \cap_{j=1}^n V^j[(\zeta_i)_j].$$

# Back to a previous example

Tangential decomposition was cactus



$$\begin{split} F &= 2x^6 \big( x + y + z \big) + (x - y)^6 x - 5(x - 3z)^6 x. \\ \text{Common eigenvectors of } \big( \mathbb{M}^B_y \big)^t \text{ and } \big( \mathbb{M}^B_z \big)^t \colon \\ v_1 &= (1,0,0,0,0,0) \in V^y \big[ 0 \big], \, V^z \big[ 0 \big], \\ v_2 &= (1,-1,0,1,0,-1) \in V^y \big[ -1 \big], \, V^z \big[ 0 \big], \\ v_3 &= (1,0,-3,0,9,0) \in V^y \big[ 0 \big], \, V^z \big[ -3 \big]. \end{split}$$

# Back to a previous example

Tangential decomposition was cactus



$$\begin{split} F &= 2x^6(x+y+z) + (x-y)^6x - 5(x-3z)^6x. \\ \text{Common eigenvectors of } (\mathbb{M}^B_y)^t \text{ and } (\mathbb{M}^B_z)^t: \\ v_1 &= (1,0,0,0,0,0) \in V^y[0], \ V^z[0], \\ v_2 &= (1,-1,0,1,0,-1) \in V^y[-1], \ V^z[0], \\ v_3 &= (1,0,-3,0,9,0) \in V^y[0], \ V^z[-3]. \\ \text{generalized eigenspaces:} \end{split}$$

$$(\mathbb{M}_{Z}^{\mathcal{B}})^{t} : \underbrace{\left(\left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right), \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right), \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right).$$

**Input:** A homogeneous polynomial  $F(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n)$  of degree d. **Output:** All multiplicity of the  $\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i}$ 's of the generalized decomposition of  $f^*$ .

- Construct the matrix  $\mathbb{H}_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{h})$  with the parameters  $\mathbf{h} = \{h_{\alpha}\}_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n \\ |\alpha| > d}}$ .
- Set  $r := \operatorname{rk} \mathbb{H}_{f^*}^{\square}$ .
- ► Compute a set B of a complete staircase monomials with |B| = r.
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- If there is no solution, restart the loop with r := r + 1. Else r is the cactus rank of f.
- Compute the common eigenvectors  $v_1, \ldots, v_s$  of the  $\mathbb{M}_j^B$ 's and  $V^j[(\zeta_1)_j]$  the generalized eigenspace of  $M_{x_j}^t$  relative to the eigenvalue  $(\zeta_1)_j$
- Output mult  $\mathbb{1}_{\zeta_i} = \dim_{\mathbb{K}} \cap_{i=1}^n V^j[(\zeta_i)_i].$



• Get any cactus decomposition explicitly?  $F = \sum_{i=1}^{s} \lambda_i L^{d-k_i} N_i$ . (recovering the  $k_i$ 's? recovering the  $N_i$ 's?)



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- ▶ More selective choices of *B*? May these lead to bounds on *r*?



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