

## Sharper ABC-based bounds for congruent polynomials

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RÉSUMÉ. Agrawal, Kayal, et Saxena ont récemment introduit une nouvelle méthode de montrer qu'un entier est premier. La vitesse de cette méthode dépend des minoration prouvées pour la taille du semi-groupe multiplicatif engendré par plusieurs polynômes modulo un autre polynôme  $h$ . Voloch a trouvé une application dans ce contexte du théorème ABC de Stothers et Mason: sous des petites hypothèses, polynômes distincts  $A, B, C$  de degré au plus  $1.2 \deg h - 0.2 \deg \text{rad } ABC$  ne peut pas être tout congru modulo  $h$ . Nous présentons deux améliorations de la partie combinatoire de l'argument de Voloch. La première amélioration augmente  $1.2 \deg h - 0.2 \deg \text{rad } ABC$  à  $2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$ . La deuxième amélioration est une généralisation à  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  du degré au plus  $((3m - 5)/(3m - 7)) \deg h - (6/(3m - 7)m) \deg \text{rad } A_1 \cdots A_m$ , avec  $m \geq 3$ .

ABSTRACT. Agrawal, Kayal, and Saxena recently introduced a new method of proving that an integer is prime. The speed of the Agrawal-Kayal-Saxena method depends on proven lower bounds for the size of the multiplicative semigroup generated by several polynomials modulo another polynomial  $h$ . Voloch pointed out an application of the Stothers-Mason ABC theorem in this context: under mild assumptions, distinct polynomials  $A, B, C$  of degree at most  $1.2 \deg h - 0.2 \deg \text{rad } ABC$  cannot all be congruent modulo  $h$ . This paper presents two improvements in the combinatorial part of Voloch's argument. The first improvement moves the degree bound up to  $2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$ . The second improvement generalizes to  $m \geq 3$  polynomials  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  of degree at most  $((3m - 5)/(3m - 7)) \deg h - (6/(3m - 7)m) \deg \text{rad } A_1 \cdots A_m$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Fix a nonconstant univariate polynomial  $h$  over a field  $k$ . Assume that the characteristic of  $k$  is at least  $3 \deg h - 1$ . The main theorem of this paper, Theorem 2.3, states that if  $m \geq 3$  distinct polynomials  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  are all congruent modulo  $h$  and coprime to  $h$  then

$$\max\{\deg A_1, \dots, \deg A_m\} > \frac{3m-5}{3m-7} \deg h - \frac{6}{(3m-7)m} \deg \text{rad } A_1 \cdots A_m.$$

As usual,  $\text{rad } X$  means the largest monic squarefree divisor of  $X$ , i.e., the product of the monic irreducibles dividing  $X$ . If  $\deg \text{rad } A_1 \cdots A_m < (m/3) \deg h$  then the bound in Theorem 2.3 is better than the obvious bound  $\max\{\deg A_1, \dots, \deg A_m\} > \deg h - 1$ .

For example, if distinct polynomials  $A, B, C$  are congruent modulo  $h$  and coprime to  $h$  then  $\max\{\deg A, \deg B, \deg C\} > 2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$ . No better bound is possible in this level of generality: if  $h = x^{10} - 1$ ,  $A = x^{20}$ ,  $B = x^{10}$ , and  $C = 1$  then  $\text{rad } ABC = \text{rad } x^{30} = x$  so  $2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC = 19$ .

The proof relies on the Stothers-Mason ABC theorem. Analogous bounds in the number-field case follow from the ABC conjecture.

**Previous work.** Voloch in [3] proved that  $\max\{\deg A, \deg B, \deg C\} > 1.2 \deg h - 0.2 \deg \text{rad } ABC$ . This paper improves Voloch's result in two ways:

- This paper is quantitatively stronger, in the interesting case that  $\deg \text{rad } ABC < \deg h$ .
- This paper applies to larger values of  $m$ .

**Application.** Inside the unit group  $(k[x]/h)^*$  consider the subgroup  $G$  generated by  $\{x - s : s \in S\}$ , where  $S \subseteq k$  and  $0 \notin h(S)$ . The Agrawal-Kayal-Saxena primality-proving method requires a lower bound on  $\#G$  for groups  $G$  of this type, typically with  $\#S = \deg h$ . The primality-proving method becomes faster as the lower bound on  $\#G$  increases, as discussed in [1, Section 7].

This paper shows that

$$\#G \geq \frac{1}{m-1} \binom{\lfloor ((3m-5)/(3m-7)) \deg h - (6/(3m-7)m)\#S \rfloor + \#S}{\#S}$$

for any  $m \geq 3$ . Indeed, the binomial coefficient is the number of products of powers of  $\{x - s\}$  in  $k[x]$  of degree at most

$$\lfloor ((3m-5)/(3m-7)) \deg h - (6/(3m-7)m)\#S \rfloor;$$

$m$  distinct such products cannot all have the same image modulo  $h$ .

In particular, if  $\#S = \deg h$ , then  $\#G \geq \frac{1}{3} \binom{\lfloor 2.1 \deg h \rfloor}{\deg h} \approx 4.27689^{\deg h}$ . Compare this to the bound  $\#G \geq \binom{2 \deg h - 1}{\deg h} \approx 4^{\deg h}$  obtained from a degree bound of  $\deg h - 1$ . Note that the improvement requires  $m > 3$ .

Different methods from [3] produce a lower bound around  $5.828^{\deg h}$ , so the ABC-based techniques in [3] and in this paper have not yet had an impact on the speed of primality proving. However, I suspect that these techniques have not yet reached their limits.

## 2. Proofs

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $k$  be a field. Let  $h$  be a positive-degree element of the polynomial ring  $k[x]$ . Assume that  $1, 2, 3, \dots, 3 \deg h - 2$  are invertible in  $k$ . Let  $A, B, C$  be distinct nonzero elements of  $k[x]$ . If  $\gcd\{A, B, C\} = 1$  and  $A \equiv B \equiv C \pmod{h}$  then  $\max\{\deg A, \deg B, \deg C\} > 2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$ .*

*Proof.* Permute  $A, B, C$  so that  $\deg A = \max\{\deg A, \deg B, \deg C\}$ .

The nonzero polynomial  $A - B$  is a multiple of  $h$ , so  $\deg A \geq \deg(A - B) \geq \deg h > 0$ ; thus  $\deg \text{rad } ABC > 0$ .

If  $\deg A \geq 2 \deg h$  then  $\deg A > 2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$ ; done.

Define  $U = (B - C)/h$ ,  $V = (C - A)/h$ , and  $W = (A - B)/h$ . Then  $U \neq 0$ ;  $V \neq 0$ ;  $W \neq 0$ ;  $U, V, W$  each have degree at most  $\deg A - \deg h$ ; and  $UA + VB + WC = 0$ . Define  $D = \gcd\{UA, VB, WC\}$ .

If  $\deg D = \deg UA$  then  $UA$  divides  $VB, WC$ ; so  $A$  divides  $VWA, VWB, VWC$ ; so  $A$  divides  $\gcd\{VWA, VWB, VWC\} = VW$ ; but  $VW \neq 0$ , so  $\deg A \leq \deg VW \leq 2(\deg A - \deg h)$ ; so  $\deg A \geq 2 \deg h$ ; done.

Assume from now on that  $\deg D < \deg UA$  and that  $\deg A \leq 2 \deg h - 1$ . Then  $\deg(UA/D)$  is between 1 and  $2 \deg A - \deg h \leq 3 \deg h - 2$ ; so the derivative of  $UA/D$  is nonzero. Also  $UA/D + VB/D + WC/D = 0$ , and  $\gcd\{UA/D, VB/D, WC/D\} = 1$ . By Theorem 3.1 below,  $\deg(UA/D) < \deg \text{rad}((UA/D)(VB/D)(WC/D)) = \deg \text{rad}(UVWABC/D^3)$ .

The proof follows Voloch up to this point. Voloch next observes that  $D$  divides  $\gcd\{UVWA, UVWB, UVWC\} = UVW \gcd\{A, B, C\} = UVW$ . I claim that more is true:  $D \text{rad}(UVWABC/D^3)$  divides  $UVW \text{rad } ABC$ .

(In other words: If  $d = \min\{u + a, v + b, w + c\}$  and  $\min\{a, b, c\} = 0$  then  $d + [u + v + w + a + b + c > 3d] \leq u + v + w + [a + b + c > 0]$ . Proof: Without loss of generality assume  $a = 0$ . Then  $d \leq u \leq u + v + w$ . If  $d < u + v + w$  then  $d + [\dots] \leq d + 1 \leq u + v + w \leq u + v + w + [\dots]$  as claimed. If  $a + b + c > 0$  then  $d + [\dots] \leq u + v + w + 1 = u + v + w + [\dots]$  as claimed. Otherwise  $u + v + w + a + b + c = d \leq 3d$  so  $d + [u + v + w + a + b + c > 3d] = d \leq u + v + w \leq u + v + w + [\dots]$  as claimed.)

Thus  $\deg UA < \deg(D \text{rad}(UVWABC/D^3)) \leq \deg(UVW \text{rad } ABC)$ . Hence  $\deg A < \deg(VW \text{rad } ABC) \leq 2(\deg A - \deg h) + \deg \text{rad } ABC$ ; i.e.,  $\deg A > 2 \deg h - \deg \text{rad } ABC$  as claimed.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $k$  be a field. Let  $h$  be a positive-degree element of the polynomial ring  $k[x]$ . Assume that  $1, 2, 3, \dots, 3 \deg h - 2$  are invertible in  $k$ . Let  $A, B, C$  be distinct nonzero elements of  $k[x]$ . If  $\gcd\{A, B, C\}$  is coprime to  $h$  and  $A \equiv B \equiv C \pmod{h}$  then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \max\{\deg A, \deg B, \deg C\} \\ & > 2 \deg h - \deg \operatorname{rad} A - \deg \operatorname{rad} B - \deg \operatorname{rad} C \\ & \quad + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, C\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{B, C\}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Write  $G = \gcd\{A, B, C\}$ . Then  $G$  is coprime to  $h$ , so  $A/G \equiv B/G \equiv C/G \pmod{h}$ . By Theorem 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned} \max\left\{\deg \frac{A}{G}, \deg \frac{B}{G}, \deg \frac{C}{G}\right\} &> 2 \deg h - \deg \operatorname{rad} \frac{ABC}{GGG} \\ &\geq 2 \deg h - \deg \operatorname{rad} ABC. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,  $\deg G \geq \deg \operatorname{rad} G = \deg \operatorname{rad} ABC - \deg \operatorname{rad} A - \deg \operatorname{rad} B - \deg \operatorname{rad} C + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, C\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{B, C\}$  by inclusion-exclusion. Add.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $k$  be a field. Let  $h$  be a positive-degree element of the polynomial ring  $k[x]$ . Assume that  $1, 2, 3, \dots, 3 \deg h - 2$  are invertible in  $k$ . Let  $S$  be a finite subset of  $k[x] - \{0\}$ , with  $\#S \geq 3$ . If each element of  $S$  is coprime to  $h$ , and all the elements of  $S$  are congruent modulo  $h$ , then*

$$\max\{\deg A : A \in S\} > \frac{3\#S - 5}{3\#S - 7} \deg h - \frac{6}{(3\#S - 7)\#S} \deg \operatorname{rad} \prod_{A \in S} A.$$

For example,  $\max\{\deg A : A \in S\} > 1.4 \deg h - 0.3 \deg \operatorname{rad} \prod_{A \in S} A$  if  $\#S = 4$ , and  $\max\{\deg A : A \in S\} > 1.25 \deg h - 0.15 \deg \operatorname{rad} \prod_{A \in S} A$  if  $\#S = 5$ .

*Proof.* Define  $d = \max\{\deg A : A \in S\}$  and  $e = \deg \operatorname{rad} \prod_{A \in S} A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} d &> 2 \deg h - \deg \operatorname{rad} A - \deg \operatorname{rad} B - \deg \operatorname{rad} C \\ & \quad + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, C\} + \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{B, C\} \end{aligned}$$

for any distinct  $A, B, C \in S$  by Theorem 2.2. Average this inequality over all choices of  $A, B, C$  to see that  $d > 2 \deg h - 3 \operatorname{avg}_A \deg \operatorname{rad} A + 3 \operatorname{avg}_{A \neq B} \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\}$ . On the other hand,  $e \geq \#S \operatorname{avg}_A \deg \operatorname{rad} A - \binom{\#S}{2} \operatorname{avg}_{A \neq B} \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\}$  by inclusion-exclusion, so

$$d + \frac{3}{\#S} e > 2 \deg h - \frac{3\#S - 9}{2} \operatorname{avg}_{A \neq B} \deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\}.$$

Note that  $3\#S - 9 \geq 0$  since  $\#S \geq 3$ .

One can bound each term  $\deg \operatorname{rad} \gcd\{A, B\}$  by the simple observation that  $A/\gcd\{A, B\}$  and  $B/\gcd\{A, B\}$  are distinct congruent polynomials

of degree at most  $d - \deg \gcd\{A, B\}$ ; thus  $d - \deg \gcd\{A, B\} \geq \deg h$ , so  $\deg \text{rad} \gcd\{A, B\} \leq d - \deg h$ . Hence

$$d + \frac{3}{\#S}e > 2 \deg h - \frac{3\#S - 9}{2}(d - \deg h);$$

i.e.,  $d > ((3\#S - 5)/(3\#S - 7)) \deg h - (6/(3\#S - 7)\#S)e$ .  $\square$

### 3. Appendix: the ABC theorem

Theorem 3.1 is a typical statement of the Stothers-Mason ABC theorem, included in this paper for completeness. The proof given here is due to Noah Snyder; see [2].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $k$  be a field. Let  $A, B, C$  be nonzero elements of the polynomial ring  $k[x]$  with  $A + B + C = 0$  and  $\gcd\{A, B, C\} = 1$ . If  $\deg A \geq \deg \text{rad} ABC$  then  $A' = 0$ .*

In fact,  $A' = B' = C' = 0$ . As usual,  $X'$  means the derivative of  $X$ ; the relevance of derivatives is that  $X/\text{rad } X$  divides  $X'$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $\gcd\{A, B\} = \gcd\{A, B, -(A + B)\} = \gcd\{A, B, C\} = 1$ . By the same argument,  $\gcd\{A, C\} = 1$  and  $\gcd\{B, C\} = 1$ .

$C/\text{rad } C$  divides both  $C$  and  $C'$ , so it divides  $C'B - CB'$ . Similarly,  $B/\text{rad } B$  divides  $C'B - CB'$ . Furthermore,  $C' = -(A' + B')$ , so  $C'B - CB' = -(A' + B')B + (A + B)B' = AB' - A'B$ ; thus  $A/\text{rad } A$  divides  $C'B - CB'$ .

The ratios  $A/\text{rad } A, B/\text{rad } B, C/\text{rad } C$  are pairwise coprime, so their product  $ABC/\text{rad } ABC$  divides  $C'B - CB'$ . But by hypothesis

$$\deg \frac{ABC}{\text{rad } ABC} = \deg ABC - \deg \text{rad } ABC \geq \deg BC > \deg(C'B - CB');$$

so  $C'B - CB' = 0$ ; so  $AB' - A'B = 0$ ; so  $A$  divides  $A'B$ ; but  $A$  and  $B$  are coprime, so  $A$  divides  $A'$ ; but  $\deg A > \deg A'$ , so  $A' = 0$ .  $\square$

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