Zero Testing of p-adic and Modular Polynomials

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Abstract

We obtain new algorithms to test if a given multivariate polynomial over p-adic fields is identical to zero. We also consider zero testing of polynomials in residue rings. The results complement a series of known results about zero testing of polynomials over integers, rationals and finite fields.

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1 Introduction

One of the central questions of zero-testing of functions can be formulated as follows.

Assume that a function f from some family of functions $\mathcal{F}$ is given by a black box $\mathfrak{B}$, that is for each point x from the definition domain of f entered into $\mathfrak{B}$ it computes the value of f at this point. The task is to design an efficient algorithm testing if f is identical to zero and using as little of calls of $\mathfrak{B}$ as possible.

In a number of papers this question was considered for polynomials, rational functions and algebraic functions belonging various families of functions over various algebraic domains [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 16, 18], some additional references can be found in Section 4.4 of [15] and in Chapter 12 of [17].

In this paper we consider similar questions for multivariate polynomials over p-adic fields.

As usual $\mathbb{Q}_p$ denotes the p-adic completion of the field of rationals, and $\mathbb{C}_p$ the p-adic completion of its algebraic closure.

We normalize the additive valuation $\operatorname{ord}_p t$ such that $\operatorname{ord}_p p = 1$.

The ring of p-adic integers $\mathbb{Z}_p$ is the set

$$\mathbb{Z}_p = \{t \in \mathbb{Q}_p \ : \ \operatorname{ord}_p t \ge 0\}.$$

We consider exponential polynomials of the class $\mathcal{P}_p(m, n)$ which consist of the multivariate polynomials of the shape

$$f(X_1, \ldots, X_m) = \sum_{i_1,\ldots,i_m=0}^{n} a_{i_1,\ldots,i_m} X_1^{i_1} \ldots X_m^{i_m} \tag{1}$$

of degree at most n over $\mathbb{C}_p$ with respect to each variable and such that either f is identical to zero or

$$\min_{0\le i_1,\ldots,i_m\le n} \operatorname{ord}_p a_{i_1,\ldots,i_m} = 0.$$

Generally speaking, two different types of black boxes are possible.

We say that a multivariate polynomial (1) over a ring $\mathcal{R}$ is given by an *exact* black box $\mathfrak{B}$ of the *exact* if for any point $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \ldots x_m) \in \mathcal{R}^m$ it outputs the exact value $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})$ and it does it in time which does not depend on $\mathbf{x}$.

For zero testing over finite fields and rings black boxes of this type are quite natural but for infinite algebraic domains they are not.

For example for testing over $\mathbb{C}_p$ the following we consider the following weaker but more realistic black boxes.

We say that a multivariate polynomial (1) over $\mathbb{C}_p$ is given by an *approximating* black box $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}$ if for any point $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots x_m) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^m$ and any integer $k \geq 0$ it computes a p-adic approximation $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(\mathbf{x})$ to $f(\mathbf{x})$ of order k, that is

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \left(\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \right) \geq k$$

and does it in time $T(k)$ depends on k polynomially, $T(k) = k^{O(1)}$.

Informally, an approximating black box can make no miracles but just performs 'honest' computation, its only advantage is that it knows the polynomial $f(x)$ explicitly.

Here we design a polynomial time algorithms of zero testing of polynomials of class $\mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ by using a black box of the aforementioned type. Sparse polynomials are considered as well. Using the Strassman theorem [9] one can apply our result to zero testing of various analytic functions over p-adic fields, exponential polynomials of the form

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{r} f_i(X) \varphi_i^{g_i(X)}, \qquad (2)$$

where $\varphi_i \in \mathbb{C}_p$, $f_i(X) \in \mathbb{C}_p[X]$, $g_i(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$, in particular.

The we consider polynomials (1) with coefficients from the residue ring $\mathbb{Z}/M$ modulo an integer $M \geq 2$.

Our methods is based on some ideas of [10, 11, 12, 13] related to p-adic Lagrange interpolation and estimating of p-adic orders of some determinants.

2 Zero Testing of p-adic Polynomials

Here we consider the case of general polynomials $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$. It is reasonable to accept the total number of coefficients $(n+1)^m$ as the measure of the input-size of such polynomials.

We also assume that each polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ is given by an *approximating* black box $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}$.

Theorem 1. *A polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ can be zero tested within $N = (n+1)^m$ calls of an approximating black box $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k$ with*

$$k = \left\lceil \frac{(n+1)^m}{p-1} \right\rceil .$$

Proof. First of all we consider the case of univariate polynomials .

We set $k = \lceil n/(p-1) \rceil$ and make $n+1$ calls $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(j)$, $j = 0, \ldots, n$.

If $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(1,n)$ is identical to zero then obviously $\operatorname{ord}_p \widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(j) \geq k$, $j = 0, \ldots, n$. We show that otherwise for at least one value of j we have $\operatorname{ord}_p \widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(j) < k$.

Indeed, assuming that this is not true we obtain $\operatorname{ord}_p f(j) \geq k$, $j = 0, \ldots, n$.

Using the Lagrange interpolation we obtain

$$f(X) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \frac{\prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq j}}^{n} (X - i)}{\prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq j}}^{n} (j - i)} f(j)$$

Because for every $j = 0, \ldots, n$

$$\operatorname{ord}_p \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq j}}^{n} (j - i) \leq \operatorname{ord}_p j! + \operatorname{ord}_p (n-j)! \leq \frac{n}{p-1} < k$$

we see that all coefficients of f have positive p-adic orders which contradicts our assumption $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(1,n)$. This finishes the proof of the theorem for $m = 1$.

For $m \geq 2$ for a polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ we use the substitution

$$X_i = X^{(n+1)^{\nu-1}}, \nu = 1, \ldots, m$$

and consider the polynomial

$$f\left(X, X^{n+1}, \ldots, X^{(n+1)^{m-1}}\right) \in \mathcal{P}_p(1, (n+1)^m).$$

for which we apply the algorithm above. □

Now we consider a very important subclass $\mathcal{P}_p(m,n,t)$ of t-sparse polynomials $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ with at most t non-zero coefficients. It is reasonable to accept the total number of non-zero coefficients times the bit-size of the coding the m corresponding exponents $tm \log n$ as the measure of the input-size of such polynomials.

Theorem 2. *A polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n,t)$ can be zero tested within*

$$N = \begin{cases} t, & \text{if } m = 1; \\ mt^3, & \text{if } m \geq 2; \end{cases}$$

calls of an approximating black box $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k$ with

$$k = \begin{cases} \left\lceil 0.5t^2 \log_p 4n \right\rceil, & \text{if } m = 1; \\ \left\lceil t^2 \log_p 8mnt \right\rceil, & \text{if } m \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Proof. As in the proof of Theorem 1, first of all we consider the case of univariate polynomials.

Let g be a primitive root modulo p and therefore modulo all power of p, if $p \geq 3$ and let $g = 5$ if $p = 2$. In any case the multiplicative order τ_s of g modulo p^s is at least

$$\tau_s \geq 0.25p^s \tag{3}$$

for any integer $s \geq 1$.

We set $k = \left\lceil 0.5t^2 \log_p 4n \right\rceil$ and make t calls $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(g^j)$, $j = 0, \dots, t-1$.

If $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(1,n,t)$ is identical to zero then obviously $\mathrm{ord}_p\, \widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(g^j) \geq k$, $j = 0, \dots, t-1$. We show that otherwise for at least one value of j we have $\mathrm{ord}_p\, \widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k(g^j) < k$.

Indeed, assuming that this is not true we obtain $\mathrm{ord}_p\, f(g^j) \geq k$, $j = 0, \dots, t-1$.

Let

$$f(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} A_i X^{r_i},$$

where $0 \leq r_1 < \ldots < r_t \leq n$. Recalling that

$$\min_{1 \leq i \leq t} \mathrm{ord}_p\, A_i = 0,$$

from the identities

$$\sum_{i=1}^{t} z_i g^{jr_i} = f(g^j), \qquad j = 0, \dots, t-1$$

and the Cramer rule we derive that

$$\mathrm{ord}_p\, \Delta \geq \min_{0 \leq j \leq t-1} \mathrm{ord}_p\, f(g^j) \geq k, \tag{4}$$

where Δ is the following determinant

$$\Delta = \det \left(g^{(j-1)r_i}\right)_{i,j=1}^{t}.$$

Therefore

$$\Delta = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le t} \left(g^{r_i} - g^{r_j}\right)$$

Because $g^{r_i} - g^{r_j} \in \mathbb{Z}$ its p-adic order is just the largest power p^s of p which divides this number. Therefore the multiplicative order τ_s of g modulo p^s divides $r_i - r_j$. Recalling the inequality (3) we obtain $0.25p^s \le |r_i - r_j| \le n$. Hence, obtain

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \left(g^{r_i} - g^{r_j}\right) \le \log_p 4n, \qquad 1 \le i < j \le t.$$

Finally we derive

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \Delta \le 0.5t(t-1)\log_p 4n < k$$

which contradicts the inequality (4).

For $m \ge 2$ we use the reduction to the univariate case which for the first time was used in [6].

Let l be the smallest prime number exceeding $mt(t-1)$. Obviously

$$l \le 2mt(t-1).$$

Integers $0 \le c_{uv} \le l-1$ we define from the congruences

$$c_{uv} \equiv \frac{1}{u+v} \pmod{l}, \qquad u, v = 1, \dots, (l-1)/2.$$

The matrix

$$C = (c_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{l-1}$$

is a *Cauchy* matrix which has the property that each its minor is non-singular modulo l, and therefore over integers. We claim that if f is a non identical to zero polynomial then so is at least one of the polynomials

$$f(X^{c_{1v}}, \dots, X^{c_{mv}}), \qquad v = 1, \dots, (l-1)/2. \tag{5}$$

Let

$$f(X_1, \dots, X_m) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} A_i X_1^{r_{1i}} \dots X_m^{r_{mi}}$$

with some integers r_{ij}, $i = 1, \dots, t$, $j = 1, \dots, m$. We show that for at least one $j = 1, \dots, l-1$ the powers of the monomials appearing in the polynomials (5) are pairwise different. Indeed, for each pair of distinct exponents $(r_{1i}, \dots, r_{mi})$ and $(r_{1j}, \dots, r_{mj})$, $1 \le i < j \le t$, there are at most $m-1$ values of $v = 1, \dots, (l-1)/2$ satisfying

$$c_{1v} r_{1i} + \dots + c_{mv} r_{mi} = c_{1v} r_{1j} + \dots + c_{mv} r_{mj}. \qquad (6)$$

Therefore the total number of $v = 1, \dots, (l-1)/2$ for which (6) happens for at least one pair of exponents is at most $0.5(m-1)t(t-1) < (l-1)/2$. Thus if f is not identical to zero then at least one of the polynomials (5) is not identical to zero polynomial of with at most t monomials and of degree at most $(l-1)mn \le 2m^2nt^2 \le 2m^2n^2t^2$. Thus each of them can be tested within t calls of $\widetilde{\mathfrak{B}}_k$ with $k = \left\lceil t^2 \log_p 8mnt \right\rceil$ and the total number of calls is $t(l-1)/2 \le mt^3$. $\Box$

3 Zero Testing of Sparse p-adic Polynomials

Let $\mathcal{Q}(M, m, n)$ denote the class of multivariate polynomials (1) with coefficients from $\mathbb{Z}/M$ and such that either f is identical to zero in $\mathbb{Z}/M$ or its coefficients are jointly relatively prime to M.

We also assume that each polynomial $f \in \mathcal{Q}(M, m, n)$ is given by an *exact* black box $\mathfrak{B}$.

We remark that as the polynomial

$$f(X_1, \dots, X_m) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} X_i(X_i - 1) \dots (X_i - n + 1)$$

shows there are non-zero polynomials of degree n which are identical to zero as functions modulo $M = n!$. So one of the necessary conditions to make such zero testing possible is

$$M \ge (n!)^m. \qquad (7)$$

We obtain an algorithm which works for such M if $m = 1$ but unfortunately only for substantially large M if $m \ge 1$.

Theorem 3. *A polynomial $f \in \mathcal{Q}(M, m, n)$ with $M > ((n+1)^m)!$ can be zero tested within $N = (n+1)^m$ calls of an approximating black box $\mathfrak{B}$.*

Proof. First of all we consider the case of univariate polynomials .

We make $n+1$ calls $\mathfrak{B}(j)$, $j = 0,\ldots,n$.

If $f \in \mathcal{Q}(M,1,n)$ is identical to zero in $\mathbb{Z}/M$ then obviously $\mathfrak{B}(j) \equiv 0 \pmod{M}$, $j = 0,\ldots,n$. We show that otherwise for at least one value of j we have $B(j) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{M}$.

Indeed, assuming that this is not true we obtain $f(j) \equiv 0 \pmod{M}$, $j = 0,\ldots,n$.

Using the Lagrange interpolation we obtain

$$f(X) \equiv \sum_{j=0}^{n} \frac{\prod\limits_{\substack{i=0\\ i\neq j}}^{n}(X-i)}{\prod\limits_{\substack{i=0\\ i\neq j}}^{n}(j-i)} f(j) \pmod{M}$$

Because for every $j = 0,\ldots,n$

$$\gcd\left(M, \prod_{\substack{i=0\\ i\neq j}}^{n}(j-i)\right) = \gcd\left(M, j!(n-j)!\right) \Bigm| \gcd\left(M, n!\right).$$

we see that all coefficients of f are divisible by $M/\gcd(M,n!) > 1$ which finishes the proof of the theorem for $m = 1$.

For $m \geq 2$ for a polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_p(m,n)$ we use the substitution

$$X_i = X^{(n+1)^{\nu-1}}, \nu = 1,\ldots,m$$

and consider the polynomial

$$f\left(X, X^{n+1},\ldots,X^{(n+1)^{m-1}}\right) \in \mathcal{P}_p(1,(n+1)^m).$$

for which we apply the algorithm above. □

4 Some Remarks and Further Applications

The Strassman's theorem claim that if a function $F(X)$ is given by a power series

$$F(X) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} a_h X^h \in \mathbb{C}_p[[X]]$$

converging on some disk

$$D = \{x \in \mathbb{C}_p \ : \ \mathrm{ord}_p\, x \geq \delta\}$$

with

$$\min_{h=0,1,\ldots} \mathrm{ord}_p\, a_h = 0$$

and n is defined by

$$n = \max\{h \ : \ \mathrm{ord}_p\, a_h = 0\}$$

then

$$F(X) = f(X)U(X)$$

where $f(X) \in \mathbb{C}_p[X]$ is a polynomial of degree at most n and the power series $U(X) \in \mathbb{C}_p[[X]]$ satisfies $\mathrm{ord}_p\, U(x) = 0$ for all $x \in D$.

Thus an estimate on the grows of coefficients of $F(X)$ is known then one can bound M and them apply our results to zero testing of F. In particular, for exponential polynomials (2 such a bound of n (under some additional conditions) can be found in [13] (see also [10, 12]).

We also remark that it would be interesting to obtain an algorithm of zero testing of t-sparse polynomials.

Finally, the lower bound on $M \geq ((n+1)^m)!$ in Theorem 3 can probably be weaken and could be make closer to the lower bound (7). In fact we conjecture that essentially smaller M can be dealt with if one considers polynomials which are either identical to zero or take at least one value relatively prime to M.

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