

Fast Exhaustive Search for Polynomial Systems over \mathbb{F}_3

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Abstract. Solving multivariate polynomial systems over finite fields is an important problem in cryptography. For random \mathbb{F}_2 low-degree systems with equally many variables and equations, enumeration is more efficient than advanced solvers for all practical problem sizes. Whether there are others remained an open problem.

We here study and propose an exhaustive-search algorithm for low degrees systems over \mathbb{F}_3 which is suitable for parallelization. We implemented it on Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) and commodity CPUs. Its optimizations and differences from the \mathbb{F}_2 case are also analyzed.

We can solve 30+ quadratic equations in 30 variables on an NVIDIA GeForce GTX 980 Ti in 14 minutes; a cubic system takes 36 minutes. This well outperforms existing solvers. Using these results, we compare Gröbner Bases vs. enumeration for polynomial systems over small fields as the sizes go up.

Keywords: multivariate polynomial, algebraic cryptanalysis, exhaustive search, parallelization, Graphic Processing Units (GPUs)

1 Introduction

If one can solve large systems of polynomial equations, one can break all cryptosystems. This general approach is often called algebraic cryptanalysis [9]. Unfortunately, solving such systems are not easy. Indeed, not only is this an NP-hard problem [14], the following problem is conjectured to be probabilistically hard [3]:

Problem $\mathcal{MQ}(q; n, m)$: Solve $p_1(\mathbf{x}) = p_2(\mathbf{x}) = \dots = p_m(\mathbf{x}) = 0$, where each p_i is a quadratic in $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$. All coefficients and variables are in \mathbb{F}_q .

To be exact, the QUAD stream cipher [3] can be proved secure for certain parameters under the assumption that: "If we randomly generate the $n^2(n+1)$ coefficients in a set of $2n$ quadratic equations in n bit-variables to generate instances in $\mathcal{MQ}(2; n, 2n)$, the probability for any algorithm \mathcal{A} to terminate within time $\text{poly}(n)$ with a solution would be less than any given fixed $\epsilon > 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$." To date, no one has seriously challenged this statement. Multivariate Public-Key Cryptosystems (MPKCs) [10][17][18], where the public map is a multivariate quadratic map, also require \mathcal{MQ} to be hard. However, MPKCs have built-in trapdoors, so many

effective known attacks are structural attacks solving the instance of extended Isomorphism of Polynomials. Of course, in practice \mathcal{MQ} complexity still needs to be evaluated for every MPKC, as an upper bound of security.

Since Buchberger [8], Gröbner-basis techniques have been the most prominent tool for solving systems of equations. For over a decade, the standard benchmark of cryptographic system-solving has been the Gröbner-basis algorithm \mathbf{F}_4 [11], more precisely the variant that is commercially available in the computer algebra MAGMA [16]. A more advanced (but *not* publicly available) algorithm [12] \mathbf{F}_5 was the first to break the first HFE challenge in 2002 [13]. The properties of algebraic solvers such as \mathbf{F}_4 and XL has been studied in detail [20][1][2]

In 2010, Bouillaguet *et al* showed that exhaustive search algorithms can be made extremely efficient, practically faster than existing techniques for solving generic systems over \mathbb{F}_2 using commodity computers and graphics cards and even reconfigurable computing [7]. Especially for random systems over \mathbb{F}_2 , it seems as if enumeration represent the best solution for most cases of cryptographical interest [21]. An open source software library [5] is available for use with SAGE. The leaders board of the Fukuoka MQ Challenge series I and IV (dealing with \mathbb{F}_2 systems) are dominated by enumerative solutions.

Since 2010, there seemed to have been folklore among cryptographers that similar results might hold for enumerative solutions of systems over \mathbb{F}_3 and possibly even larger fields, just as it does over \mathbb{F}_2 . However, there is no publication on record to that effect.

1.1 Our Contribution

We provide a comparative study of enumerative solutions vs. Gröbner basis methods in small fields other than \mathbb{F}_2 . Of course, \mathbb{F}_3 is very ill-suited for computers it takes two bits to represent a ternary digit (“trit”) but this is a handicap both for Gröbner basis methods and for enumeration. We can restate the end of the above section as the following open question:

Do enumerative methods hold a similar advantage over Gröbner-basis techniques for other small fields and how well does that enumeration do in practice for \mathbb{F}_3 (and $\mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_5 \dots$)?

Our answer is that Brute Force or Enumeration can achieve nearly as much for \mathbb{F}_3 as it did for \mathbb{F}_2 , although the set-up phase and book-keeping issues are messier. For quadratic systems, each test vector only takes on average two parallelized additions in \mathbb{F}_3 (which the same as \mathbb{F}_2). The enumerative approach is also extensible to higher degrees for \mathbb{F}_3 just as for \mathbb{F}_2 , although when enumerating for a degree- d system, each test vector would take more than d adds in \mathbb{F}_3 .

Our algorithm has been implemented with several optimizations on CPU and GPU using SSE2 intrinsics and the CUDA framework respectively. Although there is still room for improvement (e.g., no provision to use multiple GPUs simultaneously), it outruns all existing Gröbner solvers to which we have access.

Today, we can solve 30+ quadratic equations in 30 variables with one NVIDIA GeForce GTX 980 Ti graphics card in 14 minutes. A cubic system under the otherwise the same conditions takes 26 minutes. Using MAGMA-2.21-9 on a 4-GHz core of the AMD FX-8350, \mathbb{FF}_4 (i.e., guess an optimal number of variables before running the \mathbf{F}_4 solver, the *hybrid approach* [20][4]) would take 150 core-days to solve 30 quadratic equations in as many \mathbb{F}_3 -variables. This is the best Gröbner-basis solvers commercially available today.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Notational Conventions

In this paper, we enumerate over the finite-dimensional vector space $(\mathbb{F}_3)^n$, and use the base-3 or ternary numerals. Analogous to a bit, a ternary digit is a **trit**.

We use $\mathbf{C}_{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k}$ to stand for the coefficient of the monomial $x_{\beta_1} x_{\beta_2} \cdots x_{\beta_k}$ of a polynomial f , and use \mathbf{C} for the constant term. Because we know that any x_{β}^{α} where $\alpha \geq 1$ can be reduced to x_{β}^{γ} where $\gamma \in \{1, 2\}$, $\gamma = \alpha \bmod 2$, so the restrictions on the indices β_i can be formulated as follows for $1 \leq i \leq k - 2$:

1. $0 \leq \beta_1 \leq \beta_2 \leq \cdots \leq \beta_k < n$, and
2. $\beta_{i+1} \neq \beta_{i+2}$ if $\beta_i = \beta_{i+1}$.

In addition, we use \boxplus to denote trit-wise addition of vectors in \mathbb{F}_3^n , which means that each corresponding pairs of trits is added together (mod 3) without carry. In a similar way, trit-wise subtraction is denoted by \boxminus . We also use \gg (resp. \ll) to denote ternary right-shift (resp. left-shift) operation. Since $3 = 0$, we also have $2 = -1$ and occasionally subtracting the same variable is achieved by adding the same variable twice.

2.2 Representation used for Ternary Arithmetic

Each trit must be represented by 2 bits. In our implementation, we represent 0 as 00, 1 as 10 and 2 as 11. This representation has the advantage that it is easy to check whether a trit is equal to zero just by checking its most significant bit (MSB). Suppose we have elements $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}_3$ with their 2-bit representations being bits (x_0, x_1) , (y_0, y_1) , (z_0, z_1) , where the MSB is indexed as 1 and the LSB as 0. Formulas corresponding to basic operations in \mathbb{F}_3 are:

$$\begin{aligned} - z = x + y &\leftrightarrow z_1 = (x_1 \oplus y_1) \vee (x_0 \oplus y_1 \oplus y_0), z_0 = (x_1 \oplus y_0) \wedge (x_0 \oplus y_1). \\ - z = xy &\leftrightarrow z_1 = (x_1 \wedge y_1), z_0 = (x_1 \wedge y_0) \vee (x_0 \wedge y_1). \end{aligned}$$

2.3 Ternary Gray Code

A k -trit ternary Gray code, sometimes called a $(3, k)$ -Gray Code[15] is a Hamiltonian path in \mathbb{F}_3^k , or a sequence of all 3^k possible k -trit sequence such that two successive values differ in only one trit. Ternary gray codes are not unique, but the example given in Wikipedia[19] seems as much of a standard as any other.

Definition 1 (Standard k -trit Ternary Gray Code). Express all integers in $[0; 3^k - 1]$ as k -trit ternary numerals, then

$$\text{TERNARYGRAYCODE}(x) := x \boxminus (x \gg 1).$$

This is analogous to that of the standard Gray Code and may be in fact proved to be a valid ternary Gray Code in a similar manner[15]. Table 1 in the Appendix shows part of a standard 4-trit ternary Gray code along with their corresponding indices in ternary. For example, if $x = 012$, then $(x \gg 1) = 001$, and therefore $\text{TERNARYGRAYCODE}(x) = 012 \boxminus 001 = 011$, which can be also found in Table 1. The b_i columns in that table, is the analogue of the “the i -th rightmost non-zero bit position” of the binary case. We can capture their meaning in the following definition. Let x be written in ternary, as an index of a ternary Gray code.

Definition 2 (Position of the i -th difference vector). The notation $b_1(x)$ is defined the index of the least significant nonzero trit of x as a ternary number, and -1 if $x = 0$. For $i > 1$ we can then define recursively $b_i(x) := b_{i-1}(x - 3^{b_0(x)})$.

We can see as a corollary that if the Hamming weight of x , defined as the sum as an integer of all trits in the ternary expansion of x is equal to h , then $b_j(x) = -1$ for $h < j$.

Warning: One should note that in Definition 2, when one of the trits in x is two, the corresponding index occurs twice in the b sequence. Therefore, while $b_i(x)$ is the analogue of “the position of the i -th rightmost non-zero bit” in the binary case, for our (ternary) case Definition 2 is *not* “the position of the i -th rightmost non-zero trit”. If we want to think of b_i that way, we must split each trit further into its two-bit form and consider b_i as the i -th rightmost bit in that expansion. In the same example used above, $b_1(5) = 0, b_2(5) = 0, b_3(5) = 1$ and $b_4(5) = -1$ because $5_{10} = (012)_3$.

Lemma 1. Let e_i be the unit vector in the i -th direction (3^i as an integer), then

$$\text{TERNARYGRAYCODE}(x + 1) = \text{TERNARYGRAYCODE}(x) \boxplus e_{b_1(x+1)}.$$

Definition 3 (Partial Derivative). Let f be a scalar- or vector-valued polynomial over $(\mathbb{F}_3)^n$. Then we define: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial e_i}(x) = f(x \boxplus e_i) - f(x)$. Thus for any vector x , we have:

$$f(x \boxplus e_i) = f(x) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial e_i}(x). \quad (1)$$

For our convenience, $\text{TERNARYGRAYCODE}(x)$ is denoted by g_x in the following pages. So Lemma 1 can be re-written as

$$f(g_x) = f(g_{x-1}) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial b_1(x)}(g_{x-1}).$$

We will build on this result in our paper to construct a better exhaustive search algorithm.

3 Known Techniques for Enumerations

3.1 Naïve Evaluation

The simplest way to perform an enumeration algorithm is to evaluate the polynomial f over $(\mathbb{F}_3)^n$. For every integer $0 \leq i < 3^n$, we can form a vector of trits from its ternary expansion zero-padded to n trits, and term that x_i , the vector formed by integer i . So numeration means we check whether $f(x_i)$ is equal to zero or not for $i = 0, 1, \dots, 3^n - 1$. The process of naïve evaluation is shown in Fig. 1.

```

1 Sol ← ∅;
2 for i = 0 to 3n - 1 do
3   δ ← f(xi);
4   if δ = 0 then
5     Sol ← Sol ∪ {xi};
6   end
7 end
8 return Sol;

```

Fig. 1. Pseudocode of Naïve Evaluation

3.2 Basic Ternary Gray Code Enumeration

According to the proposition 1, we compute $f(g_i)$ by updating $f(g_{i-1})$ with their difference $\frac{\partial f}{\partial b_{1(i)}}(g_{i-1})$. Therefore, this indicates that searching the candidate vectors in the order of ternary Gray code requires less arithmetical operations than the requirement in naïve evaluation. The pseudocode is shown in Fig. 2.

3.3 Generalized Ternary Gray Code Enumeration

From the last section, we have known that while any two successive values differ in only one trit, the evaluations can be accelerated. In this section, we introduce a new algorithm, which we call generalized ternary Gray code enumeration (GTGCE). This method is the extension of section 3.2. It not only keeps the advantage as mentioned above but also makes use of the recursive technique.

First of all, let us consider a special situation in proposition 1. If $\frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(x)$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(x \boxplus e_j)$ are known differences, the equation $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial i \partial j}(x) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(x \boxplus e_j) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(x)$ can be derived by the definition. Similarly, the ternary Gray code form can be represented as $\frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(g_k) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial i}(g_{k-1}) + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial b_{1(x_k)} \partial b_{2(x_k)}}(g_{k-1})$. In summary, we can extend the proposition to any higher degree.

Now we are going to illustrate the algorithm. The pseudocode of GTGCE is shown in Fig. 3. At the beginning, some variables need to be initialized (line

```

1 Sol ← ∅;
2 δ ← C;
3 for i = 0 to 3n - 1 do
4   β1 ← b1(i);
5   if β1 ≥ 0 then
6     δ ← δ +  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \beta_1(i)}$ (gi-1);
7   end
8   if δ = 0 then
9     Sol ← Sol ∪ {gi};
10  end
11 end
12 return Sol;

```

Fig. 2. Pseudocode of Basic Ternary Gray Code Enumeration

1-5). δ , which is also used in Fig. 2, stores $f(g_i)$ and $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}$ store all kinds of differences $\frac{\partial^k f}{\partial \beta_1(x) \dots \partial \beta_k(x)}(g)$. Further, we need to notice that addition in the subscript of g is trit-wise operation. For example, given $\beta_1 = 2, \beta_2 = 4$, we can derive $(3^2 - 1) \boxplus (3^4 - 1) = 0022 \boxplus 2222 = 2211$, and then g_{2211} equals 2020. Therefore, the following equations can be derived.

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_{2,4} &= \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial 2 \partial 4}(2020) \\
&= \frac{\partial f}{\partial 2}(12020) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial 2}(2020) \\
&= (f(12120) - f(12020)) - (f(2120) - f(2020)) \\
&= \mathbf{C}_{2,4} + \mathbf{C}_{2,2,4} + \mathbf{C}_{2,4,4} - \mathbf{C}_{1,2,4} - \mathbf{C}_{2,3,4}. \tag{2}
\end{aligned}$$

Initialization of $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}$ is listed in Table 2 and Table 3 (see Appendix). These differences will always stay up-to-date (correct) because their values will be updated every round in the *for* loop. After initialization, the process will enter exhaustive search stage. The stage can be divided into three steps roughly.

The first step (line 7-8) is finding corresponding indices of the differences (where the non-zero trits are, 2's counting twice) in the ternary index i . If the degree of a polynomial system is d , we only need to record d least significant nonzero bits at most.

The second step (line 9-11) is updating the variable differences and the result according to the indices determined in the first step. In Fig. 2, the formula $\delta+ = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \beta_1(x_i)}(g_{i-1})$ updates the result. However, the value of $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \beta_1(x_i)}(g_{i-1})$ must be updated with the second order difference prior to being used. In short, we add one higher-order difference into a lower-order one to get its new value, recursively. These actions are clarified by the following expression (with $\alpha \geq 3$):

$$\delta+ = (\delta_{\beta_1} + = (\delta_{\beta_1, \beta_2} + = (\delta_{\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3} + = \dots))) . \tag{3}$$

These recursive in-place prefix-sum operations do not halt until we meet a terminal condition, which means a difference that need not be updated. Moreover, we sometimes need to add more than one higher-order difference in an update. That is, having to add several $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_j}$ to $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{j-1}}$ is possible. If this happens in a terminal step (meaning, for a degree- d system, we are using one or more order- d differences), we would always precompute the sum of all involved differences to get a new difference constant $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_j}^*$, and in such case only one addition is needed. However, when $d > 2$, sometimes this situation happens in the middle of the recursive process in Eq. 2, and we cannot precompute so easily because every $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_j}$ must be updated individually before a dependent lower-order difference can be updated. In short, the process of updating depend on indices we find in the first step. The relation between these is illustrated in Table 4 and Table 5 (see Appendix), and we illustrate their correctness with Table 1.

Now we are going to introduce the terminal conditions of the recursion. Note that a difference $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d}$ will be initialized to $\frac{\partial^d f}{\partial \beta_1(x) \dots \partial \beta_d(x)}(g)$, and its value is equal to or some multiple of the monomial coefficient $\mathbf{C}_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d}$. It depends on β_i . If every β_i is different, the multiplier is 1; for every pair of $\beta_i = \beta_{i+1}$ (which means that a trit is 2), the multiplier will be doubled; thus with ℓ equal pairs of indices, the multiple is equal to 2^ℓ . Since these differences are always constants, the multiplier values need no updates. So, there are two ways we stop the recursive updating:

1. $\alpha = d$, and we have reached the highest degree difference, which is constant.
2. $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\alpha}$ appears for the first time and we use its known initial value.

The last step (line 12-14) is checking whether the new result is equal to zero or not. If the condition is satisfied, we add the corresponding ternary Gray code to the group which contains all legal solutions. Of course, an actual run starts with a script which enumerate through the indices and compute the corresponding b_i 's and generate the actual C program with no unnecessary branches or table lookups. A main difference with \mathbb{F}_2 is the possibility of having to add several differences to update one lower order difference, causing the number of additions per candidate to be greater than d on average for a degree- d system when $d > 2$.

4 Variants and Analysis

4.1 Partial Evaluation

Now we understand how various exhaustive search solvers work, it is easy to see that they are suitable for parallelization. So we will divide an input system into multiple subsystems to be solved simultaneously.

Partial evaluation is an obvious method for splitting the problem. The main idea is to substitute all possible values for s variables. Therefore, we can use s to control the number of subsystems. It generates 3^s subsystems each with $n - s$ variables.

```

1  $Sol \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $\delta \leftarrow \mathbf{C}$ ;
3 foreach coefficient  $\mathbf{C}_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k}$  of  $f$  do
4    $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k} \leftarrow \frac{\partial^k f}{\partial \beta_1 (3^{\beta_1} + \dots + 3^{\beta_k}) \dots \partial \beta_k (3^{\beta_1} + \dots + 3^{\beta_k})} (\mathbf{g}_{(3^{\beta_1-1}) \boxplus \dots \boxplus (3^{\beta_k-1})})$ ;
   (see Table 2, Table 3)
5 end
6 for  $i = 0$  to  $3^n - 1$  do
7    $\alpha \leftarrow \min(\text{HammingWeight}(i), d)$ ;
8    $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\alpha \leftarrow b_{1, \dots, \alpha}(i)$ ;
9   for  $j = \alpha$  to 1 do
10     $\delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{j-1}} \leftarrow \delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{j-1}} + \delta_{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_j}$  (see Table 4, Table 5)
11  end
12  if  $\delta = 0$  then
13     $Sol \leftarrow Sol \cup \{\mathbf{g}_i\}$ ;
14  end
15 end
16 return  $Sol$ ;

```

Fig. 3. Pseudocode of Generalized Ternary Gray Code Enumeration

We illustrate with an example as below. Consider a system with $d = 2, n = 4$, and choose $s = 2$. Hence there are 4 variables, which are x_0, x_1, x_2 and x_3 in the input system, and x_2 and x_3 will be substituted to find 9 subsystem individually with only variables x_0 and x_1 . After reorganizing the coefficients, we can obtain the following expression:

$$\mathbf{C}_{0,0}x_0^2 + \mathbf{C}_{1,1}x_1^2 + \mathbf{C}_{0,1}x_0x_1 + (\mathbf{C}_{0,2}x_2 + \mathbf{C}_{0,3}x_3 + \mathbf{C}_0)x_0 + (\mathbf{C}_{1,2}x_2 + \mathbf{C}_{1,3}x_3 + \mathbf{C}_1)x_1 + (\mathbf{C}_{2,2}x_2^2 + \mathbf{C}_{3,3}x_3^2 + \mathbf{C}_{2,3}x_2x_3 + \mathbf{C}_2x_2 + \mathbf{C}_3x_3 + \mathbf{C}).$$

It is easy to see that coefficients of the highest degree still retains their original values. The new constant is $\mathbf{C}_{2,2}x_2^2 + \mathbf{C}_{3,3}x_3^2 + \mathbf{C}_{2,3}x_2x_3 + \mathbf{C}_2x_2 + \mathbf{C}_3x_3 + \mathbf{C}$; the new coefficient of x_0 is $\mathbf{C}_{0,2}x_2 + \mathbf{C}_{0,3}x_3 + \mathbf{C}_0$ and the new coefficient of x_1 is $\mathbf{C}_{1,2}x_2 + \mathbf{C}_{1,3}x_3 + \mathbf{C}_1$. We may substitute x_2 and x_3 with their different possible values (0,1 or 2) for each subsystem so that 9 subsystems will be derived. Since there may be many substituted variables, we can use the same Generalized Ternary Gray Code enumeration technique.

4.2 Early-abort Strategy

In contrast with partial evaluation, an early-abort strategy focuses on equations. Each candidate vector is first checked against a fixed portion of the equations. Only if the candidate passes that test do we check whether it satisfies the remaining equations.

This method is like a filter, which removes impossible vectors early. We call the first part "enumeration phase", and call the second part "check phase".

Suppose a system has n variables and m equations. There are total 3^n candidate vectors which need to be evaluated. Then we check only the first k equations in enumeration phase. On average only $\frac{1}{3^k}$ vectors will pass the filter so that the number of possible vectors decreases obviously.

5 Implementations on GPU

5.1 Overview

We start with an input system with n variables and m equations and we compute all differences which will be used in the enumeration. We then divide the system into numerous subsystems by guessing s variables, with each subsystem going to one thread on the GPU. The differences for 3^s subsystems may not be all the same due to the substitutions. Every thread will only test the first 32 equations with GTGCE and return at most one candidate vector which satisfies all equations during in enumeration phase. All possible solutions are then checked against the other equations. If more than one vector is found in a thread, we will need to perform GTGCE again on the CPU during the check phase because we can only return one, as in the details below.

We test 32 equations simultaneously in the enumeration phase since that is the width of a GPU register. The two bits in the 2-bit representation of each of the 32 trit-results are split into two registers to take full advantage of bit-slicing. Addition (and occasional subtraction) uses only bitwise AND, OR and XOR with no carries.

5.2 Unrolling

When we update the result of $f(g_i)$, accumulating is a necessary procedure. However, another thing which is almost as important as that is finding indices, and it occupies a lot of time in this stage. For this reason, unrolling is an intuitive method for decreasing the overhead.

We illustrate the method with Table. 6. It is a scheme of unrolling with unroll factor 27. Suppose the system is cubic, so we only need to consider three b_k . Recall that $b_k(i)$ represents the index of the k -th least significant nonzero bit in ternary index i . These columns indicate some b_k are fixed even if we do not know the values of higher trits. For example, $b_1(*\dots*012)$ is a constant. Further, we can determine unknown items only if all b_k in the first index, which is $(*\dots*000)$, are evaluated. The reason is that every series of higher trits is equal in the same scheme, thus we use these b_k 's repeatedly in the other indices. For example, $b_1(*\dots*001) = b_0(*\dots*000)$.

Let us formulate the description above. We consider any scheme of unrolling with unroll factor 3^u , and the first index is i . The other indices in the same scheme can be defined as $i' = i + k$, where $0 < k < 3^u$. Hence the indices of the $\text{HammingWeight}(k)$ least significant nonzero bits in i' are constants. These values can be computed before enumeration phase. In contrast, there are still some $b_j(i')$

which can not be known beforehand ($\text{HammingWeight}(k) < d$). However, these indices can be determined by $b_j(i') = b_{j-h}(i)$, where $h = \text{HammingWeight}(k)$ and $j > h$.

Table 6. A Scheme of Unrolling with Unroll Factor 27

index	b_4	b_3	b_2	b_1	index	b_4	b_3	b_2	b_1	index	b_4	b_3	b_2	b_1
*...*000	β_4	β_3	β_2	β_1	*...*100	β_3	β_2	β_1	2	*...*200	β_2	β_1	2	2
*...*001	β_3	β_2	β_1	0	*...*101	β_2	β_1	2	0	*...*201	β_1	2	2	0
*...*002	β_2	β_1	0	0	*...*102	β_1	2	0	0	*...*202	2	2	0	0
*...*010	β_3	β_2	β_1	1	*...*110	β_2	β_1	2	1	*...*210	β_1	2	2	1
*...*011	β_2	β_1	1	0	*...*111	β_1	2	1	0	*...*211	2	2	1	0
*...*012	β_1	1	0	0	*...*112	2	1	0	0	*...*212	2	1	0	0
*...*020	β_2	β_1	1	1	*...*120	β_1	2	1	1	*...*220	2	2	1	1
*...*021	β_1	1	1	0	*...*121	2	1	1	0	*...*221	2	1	1	0
*...*022	1	1	0	0	*...*122	1	1	0	0	*...*222	1	1	0	0

5.3 Returning

Let us recap the pseudocode in Fig. 3. When a candidate vector satisfies all equations in enumeration phase it is added into a set of candidate solutions. Nevertheless there are some problems even with this simple approach. One problem is the limitation of memory, we may need to keep too many candidates. Another problem is synchronization on GPU. Every thread performs individually and finds their respective solutions. Integrating all of the solutions into an appropriate form is a complicated mission.

We use a similar techniques as in [6] to avoid branching or collecting too many solutions. Each thread has two variables: *count* the total number of possible vectors and *sol* the last candidate vector found. Since the thread keeps only one possible result. We also only care about *count* in three states: 0, 1 or 2+ (2 solutions are too many!). Since *sol* by design takes less than 32 bits, we simply assign the most significant trit (MST) of *sol* to 1 if *count* = 2+, and only returns we check whether more than one vector is founded or not by MST in CPU. Note that *sol* is always less than 32-bit, so changing the highest trit does not affect the correctness of the solution.

By the way, each of the threads does not calculate the result of $f(0, \dots, 0)$ in enumeration phase. It will be checked individually in CPU. Therefore, that *sol* equals zero represents no legal solution rather than an all zero solution.

5.4 Re-enumeration

After executions of enumeration phase, the candidate vectors which pass the first 32 equations will be tested for the rest of input equations in check phase. According to the previous section, we know that the number of solutions can be

determined by the value of MST. If it exists only one, we evaluate the equations over this vector; if there are more than one, we will execute GTGCE with the first 32 equations again on CPU, which we call re-enumeration. *sol* can be used in this stage as well. Since enumeration is performed in ternary Gray code order and *sol* is the last legal solution, re-enumeration can terminate early if the order of vector we are processing is larger than the order of *sol*. In addition, if any possible solution is found, it will be checked for the other equations immediately. The reason is that the cost of branches on CPU is less than GPU.

However, re-enumeration will spend a lot of time so that we do not want to encounter this situation. To avoid re-enumeration, we control the number of variables in every thread. That is to say, we determine variable *s* in section 4.1 to make each of the threads finds only one solution at most.

6 Implementations on CPU

6.1 Overview

The input system has *n* variables and *m* equations and all differences are computed initially. Next, the system is divided into various subsystems. This is “partial evaluation” similar to what we execute on GPU. At this point every thread processes the first 32 equations on GPU. On a CPU, each subsystem will have only 16 equations tested at a time so that a register can hold and therefore process information from more systems at the same time.

Another difference between CPU and GPU is the checking phase after enumeration. A possible solution is sent to the check queue immediately. The reason is that a CPU is comparatively much more efficient at branching and threading. It is because branches are so costly on a GPU, that there is no checking phase until all work on GPU is finished.

6.2 Batched Enumeration

In enumeration phase on CPU, we take advantage of the 128-bit XMM registers, and we make each of the subsystems process the first 16 equations. That is, all differences are only 16-bit. In this way, we can execute 8 subsystems simultaneously. Since the type of value is `_int128`, accumulating can be done by the intrinsics `_mm_and_si128`, `_mm_or_si128` and `_mm_xor_si128`. However, that a result is equal to zero does not represent a legal solution owing to 8 solutions in a register. We use some SSE2 intrinsics to solve this problem similar to [6].

The method is shown in Fig. 4. The intrinsic `_mm_cmpeq_epi16` compares the 8 unsigned 16-bit blocks in *res_x1* and the 8 unsigned 16-bit blocks in zero, which is a 128-bit all-zero variable, for equality. *res_x1* represents the higher bit in a trit. If two corresponding blocks are equal in two variables, the same position of the block in *Mask* will be assigned to 0xFFFF, and 0x0000 otherwise. Next, the intrinsic `_mm_movemask_epi8` creates a 16-bit *mask* from the most significant bits of the 16 unsigned 8-bit blocks in *Mask*; hence that *mask* is not equal to

zero represents at least one solution exists. Because a 16-bit block is all-zero in res , it makes a bit in $mask$ equals 1. Any candidate vector found is sent to the check queue to have the rest of equations tested. Note that we check every bit in $mask$ as more than one bit may be set, which means that more than one subsystem is satisfied.

7 Empirical Results and Discussion

We tabulate all results in the appendix. We can see that we can solve a 30-variable, 30-equation system over \mathbb{F}_3 on a GeForce GTX980 Ti in 14 minutes. The same run on an AMD FX-8350 core (4 GHz) takes 32 hours. For 20 variables and 20 equations, the GPU takes 0.21 seconds, and the CPU takes 1.2 seconds.

We tested MAGMA-2.21 on the same CPU with guessing (\mathbf{FF}_4 or Hybrid Approach) for the same systems and tabulate the results in the appendix. Not all runs are complete, as in some cases we only ran sufficiently many subsystems to ensure that the run with the correct guess and a run with an incorrect guess takes comparable amounts of time. From these data we may extrapolate where the Gröbner bases method will catch up to enumeration on the same CPU. *Going by just the endpoints, we expect that \mathbf{FF}_4 to catch up to enumeration at 58 equations and variables (2^{92} complexity) and if we use the regression line, the crossover point would be 60 equations and variables (2^{95} complexity).*

There are a number of caveats to this comparison. While MAGMA has well-optimized linear algebra and uses semi-sparse operations where possible, it is not specifically tuned for \mathbb{F}_3 , and we expect that a tuned solver would do better. In the other direction, Gröbner basis methods takes a huge penalty once the state becomes larger. Also, GPUs can be used effectively in enumeration, speeding it up by a factor of two orders of magnitude on a per-dollar basis. We can also expect that an FPGA implementation similar to [7] would speed enumeration up by another order of magnitude. Factoring in everything, it is likely that for a generic quadratic system with as many equations as variables over \mathbb{F}_3 , enumeration will be better than algebraic solvers for all tractable problem sizes. If we repeat the same computation for \mathbb{F}_4 , we can estimate the crossover point to be close to 40 equations and variables, or 2^{80} complexity level (close to the limit of researchers' resources). Finally, for \mathbb{F}_5 we estimate that the crossover point would be as low as 2^{60} complexity, well within reach of academics.

One *big* difference from the \mathbb{F}_2 case: We extrapolate that \mathbf{FF}_4 will catch up to enumeration on the same CPU at $n = 30$, $m = 60$. After taking into consideration special hardware, we estimate algebraic solvers to match enumeration for the $m/n = 2$ overdetermined generic case in \mathbb{F}_3 around the 2^{64} (40 trits) level.

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Table 7. Enumeration Performance on GPU (nVidia GeForce GTX 980 Ti)

quadratic system					cubic system				
equations	variables	guesses	unroll	time(sec.)	equations	variables	guesses	unroll	time(sec.)
20	20	9	5	0.21	20	20	8	4	0.31
22	22	9	5	0.34	22	22	9	4	0.71
24	24	11	5	1.27	24	24	9	4	3.19
26	26	11	5	8.75	26	26	10	4	26.34
28	28	12	5	86.72	28	28	11	4	237.98
30	30	13	5	788.83	30	30	11	4	2143.35

Table 8. Enumeration Performance on 1 CPU core (AMD FX-8350 4GHz)

quadratic system					cubic system				
equations	variables	guesses	unroll	time(sec.)	equations	variables	guesses	unroll	time(sec.)
20	20	8	5	1.20	20	20	8	5	1.80
22	22	8	5	8.40	22	22	8	5	17.40
24	24	8	5	76.80	24	24	8	5	159.60
26	26	8	5	691.20	26	26	8	5	1426.80
28	28	8	5	6241.80	28	28	8	5	12804.60
30	30	8	5	56140.80	30	30	8	5	115560.60

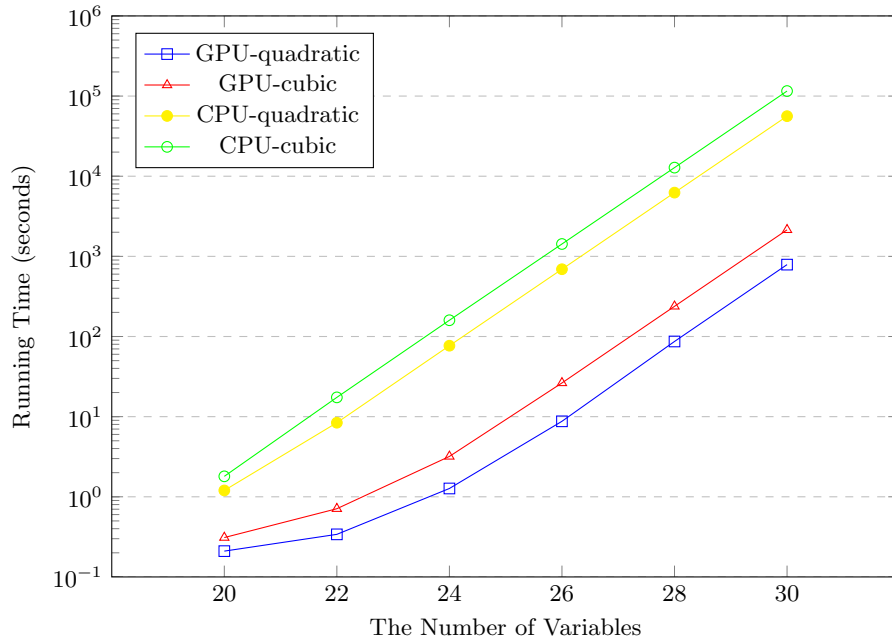


Fig. 4. Comprehensive Results

Table 9. Performance Results of Quadratic System in MAGMA

Testing platform: AMD FX(tm)-8350 Eight-Core @ 4 GHz							
\mathbb{F}_3				\mathbb{F}_4			
equations	variables	guesses	time(sec.)	equations	variables	guesses	time(sec.)
18	18	8	190.27	16	16	5	111.62
19	19	8	452.71	17	17	5	316.42
20	20	9	1180.98	18	18	6	937.98
21	21	10	2893.40	19	19	7	2768.90
22	22	11	6908.73	20	20	8	7143.42
23	23	12	20726.20	21	21	8	22937.60
24	24	12	52612.66	22	22	8	64225.28
25	25	12	121699.99	23	23	8	174325.76
26	26	12	291761.11	24	24	9	495452.16
27	27	13	829047.96				
28	28	14	2008846.98				
29	29	14	5213436.21				
30	30	15	13186645.53				
40	20	0	83.60	40	20	0	24.96
42	21	0	200.72	42	21	0	54.09
44	22	0	471.91	44	22	0	119.51
46	23	0	971.35	46	23	0	272.08
48	24	0	2857.02	48	24	0	2028.01
50	25	0	7277.18	50	25	0	4873.02

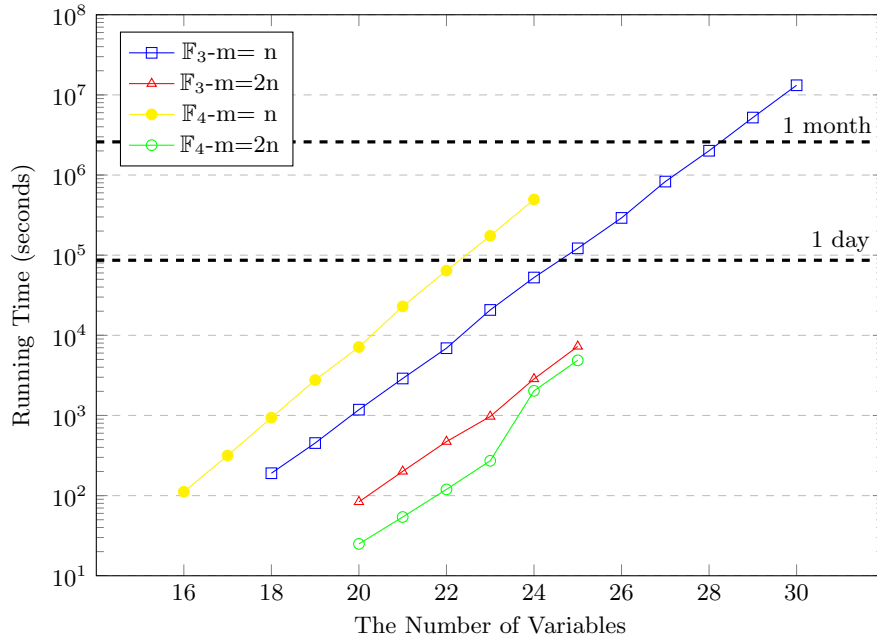


Fig. 5. Comprehensive Results in MAGMA

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Appendix

```

1 Mask_x1 = _mm_cmpeq_epi16(res_x1, zero);
2 mask = _mm_movemask_epi8(Mask_x1);
3 if(mask) check(mask, idx, x1, x0);
```

Fig. 6. A Few Lines of SSE2 Intrinsics in CPU Implementations

Table 1. 4-trit Ternary Gray Code with Index and Enumeration Actions

index	code	b_1	b_2	b_3	actions (quadratic)	actions (cubic)
000	000	-1	-1	-1		
001	001	0	-1	-1	$\delta \neq \delta_0$	$\delta \neq \delta_0$
002	002	0	0	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$
010	012	1	-1	-1	$\delta \neq \delta_1$	$\delta \neq \delta_1$
011	010	0	1	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$
012	011	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$
020	021	1	1	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (-\delta_{0,1} + \delta_{1,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}) + \delta_{1,1}))$
021	022	0	1	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1}))))$
022	020	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}))$
100	120	2	-1	-1	$\delta \neq \delta_2$	$\delta \neq \delta_2$
101	121	0	2	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,2}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,2}))$
102	122	0	0	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,2}))$
110	102	1	2	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + \delta_{1,1} + \delta_{1,2}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + (\delta_{1,1} \neq \delta_{0,1,1}) + \delta_{1,2}))$
111	100	0	1	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1}))))$
112	101	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}))$
120	111	1	1	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (-\delta_{0,1} + \delta_{1,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}) + (\delta_{1,1} \neq (-\delta_{0,1,1} + \delta_{1,1,2}))))$
121	112	0	1	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1}))))$
122	110	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}))$
200	210	2	2	-1	$\delta \neq (\delta_2 \neq (-\delta_{1,2} + \delta_{2,2}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_2 \neq ((\delta_{1,2} \neq \delta_{0,1,2}) + (\delta_{1,2} \neq \delta_{1,1,2}) + \delta_{2,2}))$
201	211	0	2	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,2}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,2} \neq (-\delta_{0,1,2} + \delta_{0,2,2}))))$
202	212	0	0	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,2}))$
210	222	1	2	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + \delta_{1,1} + \delta_{1,2}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + (\delta_{1,1} \neq \delta_{0,1,1}) + (\delta_{1,2} \neq (-\delta_{0,1,2} + \delta_{1,1,2} + \delta_{1,2,2}))))$
211	220	0	1	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1}))))$
212	221	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}))$
220	201	1	1	2	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (-\delta_{0,1} + \delta_{1,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_1 \neq (\delta_{0,1} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}) + (\delta_{1,1} \neq (-\delta_{0,1,1} + \delta_{1,1,2}))))$
221	202	0	1	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,1}))$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} + (\delta_{0,1} \neq (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1}))))$
222	200	0	0	1	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq \delta_{0,0})$	$\delta \neq (\delta_0 \neq (\delta_{0,0} \neq \delta_{0,0,1}))$

Table 2. Initialization of differences with degree = 2

first order		
difference	constraint	initialization
δ_0		$\mathbf{C}_0 + \mathbf{C}_{0,0}$
δ_i	$0 < i$	$\mathbf{C}_i - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i} + \mathbf{C}_{i,i}$
second order		
$\delta_{i,i}$		$-\mathbf{C}_{i,i}$
$\delta_{i,j}$	$i < j$	$\mathbf{C}_{i,j}$

Table 3. Initialization of differences with degree = 3

first order		
difference	constraint	initialization
δ_0		$\mathbf{C}_0 + \mathbf{C}_{0,0}$
δ_i	$0 < i$	$\mathbf{C}_i - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i} + \mathbf{C}_{i,i} + \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i-1,i} - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i,i}$
second order		
difference	constraint	initialization
$\delta_{0,0}$		$-\mathbf{C}_{0,0}$
$\delta_{0,1}$		$\mathbf{C}_{0,1} - \mathbf{C}_{0,0,1} + \mathbf{C}_{0,1,1}$
$\delta_{0,j}$	$1 < j$	$\mathbf{C}_{0,j} + \mathbf{C}_{0,0,j} - \mathbf{C}_{0,j-1,j} + \mathbf{C}_{0,j,j}$
$\delta_{i,i}$	$0 < i$	$-\mathbf{C}_{i,i} - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i,i}$
$\delta_{i,i+1}$	$0 < i$	$\mathbf{C}_{i,i+1} - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i,i+1} - \mathbf{C}_{i,i,i+1} + \mathbf{C}_{i,i+1,i+1}$
$\delta_{i,i+t}$	$0 < i \ \& \ 1 < t$	$\mathbf{C}_{i,i+t} - \mathbf{C}_{i-1,i,i+t} + \mathbf{C}_{i,i,i+t} + \mathbf{C}_{i,i+t,i+t} - \mathbf{C}_{i,i+t-1,i+t}$
third order		
difference	constraint	initialization
$\delta_{i,i,k}$	$i < k$	$-\mathbf{C}_{i,i,k}$
$\delta_{i,j,j}$	$i < j$	$-\mathbf{C}_{i,j,j}$
$\delta_{i,j,k}$	$i < j \ \& \ j < k$	$\mathbf{C}_{i,j,k}$

Table 4. formulas of Updating in Quadratic System

b_1	b_2	constraint	formula
0	0		$\delta_0 += \delta_{0,0}$
0	j	$0 < j$	$\delta_0 += (\delta_{0,0} + \delta_{0,j})$
i	i	$0 < i$	$\delta_i += (-\delta_{i-1,i} + \delta_{i,i})$
i	j	$0 < i \ \& \ i < j$	$\delta_i += (\delta_{i-1,i} + \delta_{i,i} + \delta_{i,j})$

Table 5. formulas of Updating in Cubic System

b_1	b_2	b_3	constraint	formula-1	formula-2	formula-3
0	0	k	$0 < k$			$\delta_{0,0} += \delta_{0,0,k}$
0	1	1				$\delta_{0,1} += (\delta_{0,0,1} + \delta_{0,1,1})$
0	j	j	$1 < j$			$\delta_{0,j} += (-\delta_{0,j-1,j} + \delta_{0,j,j})$
0	j	k	$1 < j \ \& \ j < k$			$\delta_{0,j} += (\delta_{0,j-1,j} + \delta_{0,j,j} + \delta_{0,j,k})$
i	i	k	$0 < i \ \& \ i < k$			$\delta_{i,i} += (-\delta_{i-1,i,i} + \delta_{i,i,k})$
i	$i+1$	$i+1$	$0 < i$			$\delta_{i,i} += \delta_{i-1,i,i-1,i}$
i	$i+1$	k	$0 < i \ \& \ i+1 < k$			$\delta_{i,i} += \delta_{i-1,i,i} + \delta_{i,i,i+1} + \delta_{i,i,i+1,i+1}$
i	$i+t$	$i+t$	$0 < i \ \& \ 1 < t$			$\delta_{i,i+t} += (-\delta_{i-1,i,i} + \delta_{i,i,i+1} + \delta_{i,i,i+1,i+1} + \delta_{i,i,i+1,k})$
i	$i+t$	k	$0 < i \ \& \ 1 < t \ \& \ i+t < k$			$\delta_{i,i+t} += (-\delta_{i,i+i-t-1,i+t} + \delta_{i,i+i-t,i+t})$
						$\delta_{i,i+t} += (\delta_{i,i+i-t-1,i+t} + \delta_{i,i+i-t,i+t} + \delta_{i,i+i-t,k})$