

# Lecture 21: Linearly Recurrent Sequences

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# Overview

- Administrivia
- Linearly Recurrent Sequences
- Finding the Minimal Polynomial
- Conclusion

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To provide us (and the school) with your evaluation and feedback on the course!

- This would really help me figuring out what worked and what didn't for the course
- And let the school (and santa) know if I was a good boy this term!
- Teaching this course is also a learning experience for me :)

- Administrivia
- Linearly Recurrent Sequences
- Finding the Minimal Polynomial
- Conclusion

# Linearly Recurrent Sequences

- **Setup:**  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field,  $V$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector space  
Let  $\mathcal{A} := (\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of elements  $\mathbf{a}_i \in V$

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- A sequence  $\mathcal{A}$  is *linearly recurrent* over  $\mathbb{F}$  if there are  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and scalars  $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathbb{F}$  with  $f_n \neq 0$  such that:

$$\underbrace{f_n}_{\neq 0} \mathbf{a}_{i+n} + \underbrace{f_{n-1}} \mathbf{a}_{i+n-1} + \dots + \underbrace{f_0} \mathbf{a}_i = 0 \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{N}$$

$a_{i+n}$  depends linearly on  $a_{i+n-1}, \dots, a_i$   
uniformly  
 $n$  preceding terms

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$$f_n \mathbf{a}_{i+n} + f_{n-1} \mathbf{a}_{i+n-1} + \dots + f_0 \mathbf{a}_i = 0 \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{N}$$

- The polynomial

$$f(x) := f_n x^n + f_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + f_0$$

is called a *characteristic* (or *annihilating*, *generating*) *polynomial* of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Examples

- $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$

Any non-zero polynomial annihilates this sequence.

$$(\vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \dots)$$

$$\boxed{f_0 = 1 \quad n=0}$$

$$\vec{a}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\boxed{f_0 = 1 \quad f_1 = 2 \quad n=1}$$

$$2\vec{a}_{i+1} + \vec{a}_i = \mathbf{0}$$



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Any non-zero polynomial annihilates this sequence.

- $\mathbb{F} = V = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{a}_{i+2} = \mathbf{a}_{i+1} + \mathbf{a}_i$ , with  $\mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a}_1 = 1$ .

*Fibonacci sequence*

$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$  is a characteristic polynomial.

$$f_0 = -1 \quad f_1 = -1 \quad f_2 = 1 \quad n = 2$$

$$(1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, \dots)$$

$$a_{i+2} - a_{i+1} - a_i = 0$$

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- $V = \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $A \in V$  be any matrix,  $\mathbf{a}_i = A^i$ .

$$p_A(A) = 0$$

Cayley-Hamilton theorem implies that

$$p_A(x) = \det(x \cdot I - A)$$

is a characteristic polynomial of  $(\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

$$(\mathbf{I}, A, A^2, A^3, \dots)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = A \quad A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(tI - A) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} t-1 & -1 \\ 0 & t-2 \end{pmatrix} = \\ &= t^2 - 3t + 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$A^2 - 3A + 2 \cdot I$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} - 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Examples

- *Krylov subspaces*

$V = \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$  be any matrix and  $\mathbf{b} \in V$ . Define  $\mathbf{a}_i = A^i \mathbf{b}$ .

$$p_A(t) = \underline{\det(t \cdot I - A)}$$

is a characteristic polynomial of  $(\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

$$(b, Ab, A^2b, A^3b, \dots)$$

$$p_A(A) = 0$$

$$A^n \sum_{i=0}^n A^{i+n} f_i = 0 \cdot A^n$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^n f_i \cdot (A^{i+n} \mathbf{b}) = 0$$

$\hookrightarrow \vec{a}_{i+n}$

Cayley-Hamilton

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- $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$  be any matrix and  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{F}^n$

Define  $\mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{u}^T A^i \mathbf{b}$ .

$$p_A(x) = \det(x \cdot I - A)$$

is a characteristic polynomial of  $(\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

## Remarks

- A linearly recurrent sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  with a characteristic polynomial of degree  $n$  is *completely determined* by its  $n$  initial values

$$\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{n-1}$$

$$\boxed{\vec{a}_0, \vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_{n-1}}$$

$$f(x) = f_n x^n + \dots + f_0$$

$$i \geq 0 \quad \underbrace{f_n}_{\neq 0} \vec{a}_{i+n} + f_{n-1} \vec{a}_{i+n-1} + \dots + f_0 \vec{a}_i = 0$$

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$$\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{n-1}$$

- Given enough initial values and characteristic polynomial, can compute the  $m^{\text{th}}$  term in  $O(m)$  operations

$$\vec{a}_0 \quad \vec{a}_1 \quad \dots \quad \vec{a}_{n-1} \quad \vec{a}_n \quad \vec{a}_{n+1} \quad \dots \quad \vec{a}_m$$

$1 + n$  operations  
each time

$n$  constant

$$O(m)$$

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$$\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{n-1}$$

- Given enough initial values and characteristic polynomial, can compute the  $m^{\text{th}}$  term in  $O(m)$  operations
- A linear recurrent sequence  $\mathcal{A}$  has *infinitely many* valid characteristic polynomials!

Fibonacci sequence. Let  $f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$  and  $g(x) = x - 1$ , then

$$h(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$$

is another characteristic polynomial!



$$a_{i+2} - a_{i+1} - a_i = 0$$

$$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$$

$$x \circ a_i \mapsto a_{i+1}$$

$$x^2 \circ a_i \mapsto x \circ a_{i+1} \mapsto a_{i+2}$$

$$f \circ a_i = (x^2 - x - 1) \circ a_i = -a_i - a_{i+1} + a_{i+2}$$

# Minimal Polynomial

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$h(x)$   
"  $g(x) f(x) = (x-1)(x^2-x-1)$

$= \underline{x(x^2-x-1)} - \underline{(x^2-x-1)}$

$h_0 a_i$

$$h_3 a_{i+3} + h_2 a_{i+2} + h_1 a_{i+1} + h_0 a_i = 0$$

$$(a_{i+3} - a_{i+2} - a_{i+1}) - (a_{i+2} - a_{i+1} - a_i) = 0$$

$= 0$

$\therefore h$  is also char. poly.

## Minimal Polynomial

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- Note that if  $f(x), h(x)$  are characteristic polynomials, so is  $f + h$
- Given linearly recurrent sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

$Ann(\mathcal{A}) := \{f(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x] \mid f \text{ is characteristic polynomial of } \mathcal{A}\} \cup \{0\}$

$Ann(\mathcal{A})$  is an *ideal* of  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ .

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$$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) := \{f(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x] \mid f \text{ is characteristic polynomial of } \mathcal{A}\} \cup \{0\}$$

$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A})$  is an *ideal* of  $\mathbb{F}[x]$ .

- $\mathbb{F}[x]$  is a PID. Thus, there exists *non-zero, monic*  $p_{\mathcal{A}}(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  such that

$$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = (p_{\mathcal{A}}(x))$$

$p_{\mathcal{A}}(x)$  is called the *minimal polynomial* of  $\mathcal{A}$

## Examples

- $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$

Any non-zero polynomial annihilates this sequence.

Thus,  $p_{\mathcal{A}}(x) = 1$  and  $\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbb{F}[x]$

## Examples

$$Q_1 - \alpha Q_0 = 0$$

$\alpha = 1$  cont.

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$\mathbb{R}$

*Fibonacci sequence*

$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$  is the minimal polynomial.

$$x - \alpha \mid f(x) \iff f(\alpha) = 0$$

$$\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$$

$$\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ roots of } f(x)$$

not rational

## Examples

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- $V = \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $M \in V$  be any matrix,  $\mathbf{a}_i = M^i$ .

Cayley-Hamilton implies  $p_M(x) = \det(x \cdot I - M)$  is a characteristic polynomial.

Situation here is more subtle.



## Examples

- $V = \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $M \in V$  be any matrix,  $\mathbf{a}_i = M^i$ .

- $n = 3$ ,  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$



$p_M(x) = x^3$  is the minimal polynomial

$$p_M(x) = \det(xI - M) = \underline{x^3}$$

$$M^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- $n = 3$ ,  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$p_M(x) = (x - 1)^3$  is **not** the minimal polynomial.  $\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = (x - 1)$

## Examples

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- $n = 3$ ,  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = ((x - 1)(x - 2)(x - 3))$  is the minimal polynomial. 

## Examples

- *Krylov subspaces*

$V = \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $M \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$  be any matrix and  $\mathbf{b} \in V$ . Define  $\mathbf{a}_i = M^i \mathbf{b}$ .

Have two sequences  $\mathcal{A} = (\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = (M^i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

$P_{\mathcal{A}}(x)$  may not be minimal polynomial  
of  $\mathcal{B}$

Q: will it be the case the minimal polynomial

$$P_{\mathcal{B}} = P_{\mathcal{A}} ?$$

NO.

$$\boxed{P_{\mathcal{A}} \mid P_{\mathcal{B}}}$$

all we can say

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Have two sequences  $\mathcal{A} = (\mathbf{a}_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = (M^i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

- $n = 3$ ,  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{B}) = (x^2) \text{ whereas } \underline{\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbb{F}[x] = (1)}$$

$$M^i b = \vec{0}$$

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$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{B}) = (x^2)$  whereas  $\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbb{F}[x]$

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$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{B}) = (x^2) = \text{Ann}(\mathcal{A})$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dots$$

$a_{i+2} = 0$   $a_{i+1} > 0$

## Examples

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- $n = 3$ ,  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$\text{Ann}(\mathcal{B}) = (x^3)$  whereas  $\text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}) = (x^2)$



- Administrivia
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## Computing the Minimal Polynomial

- For this part of the lecture,  $V = \mathbb{F}$
- **Input:** bound  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  on the degree of the minimal polynomial, initial terms  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1} \in \mathbb{F}$
- **Output:** minimal polynomial for the sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

$$\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$$

$$h(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots \\ \in \mathbb{F}[[x]]$$

$$f(x) = f_0 + f_1x + \dots + f_dx^d \iff \text{rev}_d(f) = x^d f(x^{-1}) \\ = f_0x^d + f_1x^{d-1} + \dots + f_d$$

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- **Input:** bound  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  on the degree of the minimal polynomial, initial terms  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1} \in \mathbb{F}$
- **Output:** minimal polynomial for the sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$
- The following lemma gives us equivalent ways of describing characteristic polynomials

## Lemma (Description of Characteristic Polynomials)

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be our sequence,  $h(x) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i$  be the formal power series defined by  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  **non-zero** of degree  $d$  and  $r(x) = \text{rev}_d(f)$  be the reversal of  $f$ . The following are equivalent:

- 1  $f \in \text{Ann}(\mathcal{A})$   $f$  is characteristic polynomial
- 2  $r \cdot h$  is a **polynomial** of degree  $< d$

$$g = h \cdot x$$

Moreover, if  $f(x)$  is the **minimal polynomial** of  $\mathcal{A}$ , then

$$d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg r\} \quad \text{and} \quad \gcd(g, r) = 1$$

# Characterizing Minimal Polynomial

characteristic

- (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): we know that  $f(x)$  is a ~~minimal~~ polynomial.

Compute coefficient of  $x^{d+k}$  of the power series  $h(x) \cdot r(x)$

$$f(x) = f_d x^d + f_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + f_0$$

$$r(x) = f_d + f_{d-1} x + \dots + f_0 x^d$$

polynomial of degree  $< d$

$$[h \cdot r]_{d+k} = \left[ (a_0 + a_1 x + \dots) (f_d + f_{d-1} x + \dots + f_0 x^d) \right]_{d+k}$$

$$= f_d \cdot a_{d+k} + f_{d-1} \cdot a_{d+k-1} + f_{d-2} \cdot a_{d+k-2} + \dots + f_0 a_k$$

$$\{ \text{characteristic} \Rightarrow f_d a_{d+k} + \dots + f_0 a_k = 0 \quad \forall k \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow [h \cdot r]_{d+k} = 0 \quad \forall k \geq 0$$

## Characterizing Minimal Polynomial

- (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): we know that  $f(x)$  is a minimal polynomial.

Compute coefficient of  $x^{d+k}$  of the power series  $h(x) \cdot r(x)$

- (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): we know that  $h \cdot r$  is a polynomial of degree  $< d = \deg(f)$

Compute coefficient of  $x^{d+k}$  of the power series  $h(x) \cdot r(x)$

$k \geq 0$

$$0 = [h \cdot r]_{d+k} = f_d a_{d+k} + f_{d+1} a_{d+k-1} + \dots + f_0 a_k$$



$f(x)$  is characteristic polynomial.

## Characterizing Minimal Polynomial

- (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): we know that  $f(x)$  is a minimal polynomial.  
Compute coefficient of  $x^{d+k}$  of the power series  $h(x) \cdot r(x)$
- (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): we know that  $h \cdot r$  is a polynomial of degree  $< d = \deg(f)$   
Compute coefficient of  $x^{d+k}$  of the power series  $h(x) \cdot r(x)$
- Moreover part: if  $f$  is the minimal polynomial,

$$d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg r\} \quad \text{and} \quad \gcd(g, r) = 1$$

## Characterizing Minimal Polynomial

$$\deg(g) < \deg(f) = d$$

$$\deg(\alpha) = d$$

$$\pi(x) = x^d \cdot \psi\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

$$\deg(\pi) < \deg(f)$$

iff  $\pi \mid f$  ( $f \neq 0$ )

$$\boxed{p = \frac{f}{\pi}}$$

Characteristic polynomial

- Moreover part: if  $f$  is the minimal polynomial,

$$d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg r\} \quad \text{and} \quad \gcd(g, r) = 1$$

- $d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg r\}$  holds by definition of reversal and the fact that  $f$  is a characteristic polynomial

## Characterizing Minimal Polynomial

$$h \cdot r = q$$

$$h \cdot \left(\frac{r}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{q}{q}\right)$$

$\uparrow$   $\hat{x}$        $\downarrow$   $\hat{g}$

$$h \cdot \hat{x} = \hat{g}$$

$$l = d - e$$
$$\hat{x}(x) = \underline{x_0} + \dots + x_l x^l$$
$$\neq 0$$

$$\hat{g}(x) = g_0 + \dots +$$
$$\deg(\hat{g}) < \deg(\text{rev}(\hat{x}))$$

- Moreover part: if  $f$  is the minimal polynomial,

$$d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg r\} \quad \text{and} \quad \gcd(g, r) = 1$$

- if  $\gcd(g, r) = q(x) \neq 1$ , let  $e = \deg(q)$ . Then  $\text{rev}_{d-e}(r/q)$  is also a characteristic polynomial, since

$$\text{rev}_{d-e}(\text{rev}_{d-e}(r/q)) = r/q$$

and the first part of lemma.



# Computing the Minimal Polynomial

- Lemma gives us a way to compute minimal polynomial from power series expansion.

Given  $h$  and  $n$ , all we need to do is find  $r, g$  such that  $\deg(r) \leq n$ ,  $\deg(g) < n$ ,  $\gcd(r, g) = 1$  and  $rh = g$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>There is a more efficient way to do this, by using only the EEA. 

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- Padé approximation problem:

$$h \equiv \frac{g}{r} \pmod{x^{2n}}, \quad x \nmid r, \quad \deg(g) < n, \quad \deg(r) \leq n, \quad \gcd(r, g) = 1$$

$x_0 \neq 0$   
 $(x_0 = 1)$

---

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*enough*

- Why would a solution  $\pmod{x^{2n}}$  be good?

If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a linearly recurrence sequence of order  $n$ , then system above gives us at least  $n$  relations that  $rev(r)$  will satisfy, so it is a characteristic polynomial!

$$a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}, \underbrace{a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots, a_{2n}}_n, \underbrace{a_{2n}}_1$$

---

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# Computing the Minimal Polynomial

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- How to solve it?

Linear system of equations + Euclidean Algorithm!<sup>1</sup>

---

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# Algorithm

- **Input:** bound  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  on the degree of the minimal polynomial, initial terms  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1} \in \mathbb{F}$
- **Output:** the minimal polynomial for the sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$

# Algorithm

$$x, g \xrightarrow{EA} \gcd(x, g)$$

$$\hat{x} = \frac{x}{\gcd}$$
$$\hat{g} = \frac{g}{\gcd}$$

- **Input:** bound  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  on the degree of the minimal polynomial, initial terms  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1} \in \mathbb{F}$
- **Output:** the minimal polynomial for the sequence  $\mathcal{A} = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$
- ① Find  $g, r \in \mathbb{F}[x]$  that solve the following system:

$$h \equiv \frac{g}{r} \pmod{x^{2n}}, \quad \boxed{x \nmid r} \quad \deg(g) < n, \quad \deg(r) \leq n, \quad \gcd(r, g) = 1$$

$x_0 = \downarrow$

$$h = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_{2n-1} x^{2n-1} \pmod{x^{2n}}$$

given

$$h \cdot \pi \equiv g$$

linear system  
of equations

$$g(x) = g_0 + g_1 x + g_2 x^2 + \dots + g_{n-1} x^{n-1}$$
$$r(x) = 1 + \pi_1 x + \pi_2 x^2 + \dots + \pi_n x^n$$

# Algorithm

- **Input:** bound  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  on the degree of the minimal polynomial, initial terms  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1} \in \mathbb{F}$
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- ② Set  $d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg(r)\}$
- ③ Return  $rev_d(r)$

} moreover part  
of minimal polynomial

# Algorithm

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- ② Set  $d = \max\{1 + \deg(g), \deg(r)\}$
- ③ Return  $\text{rev}_d(r)$
- The efficient version to solve the system above performs  $O(M(n) \log n)$  operations in  $\mathbb{F}$ , where  $M(n)$  is the time it takes to multiply two degree  $n$  polynomials.



# Conclusion

- Today we learned about linearly recurrent sequences
- Learned about the minimal polynomial of a linearly recurrent sequence and how to compute it
- Next lecture: see how linearly recurrent sequences appear naturally in linear algebra
- Unfortunately, even the fast version of the algorithm of today will not be good enough for next lecture...

Good news: we will devise faster algorithms!

# References I



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Chapter 12