

Fast and Reliable Evaluation of the Distribution of Quadratic Forms of Gaussian Random Variables

ISSAC 2026

Oldenburg, Germany

July 17, 2026

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Finite-Precision CDF evaluation for Gaussian Quadratic Forms

Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) for Noncentral Quadratic Sums

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^d X_i^2 \quad X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2) \text{ independent} \quad g(\xi) = \mathbb{P}[Q \leq \xi]$$

$$g(\xi) = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^d \sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \int_{\sum_{i=1}^d x_i^2 \leq \xi} \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{(x_i - \mu_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right) dx_1 \cdots dx_d$$

Up to renormalization, assume $\xi = 1$

Parameters: $m_i = \frac{\mu_i^2}{2\sigma_i^2}$, $p_i = \frac{1}{2\sigma_i^2}$, $p_1 \geq p_2 \geq \cdots \geq p_d$

Applications to: test statistics, spectral analysis and optimal control, space collision risk evaluation, radioastronomie, quantitative finance, SKAT (Sequence Kernel Association Test) in bioinformatics, ...

State of the Art and Contributions

Existing methods:

- Numerical inversion of the characteristic function, e.g. [Imhof-1961, Davies-1973]
- Divergent series using saddlepoint methods, e.g. [Daniels-1954, Kuonen-1999]
- Convergent power series expansions, e.g. [Ruben-1962, Johnson-Kotz-1970]
- Various holonomic approaches, e.g., [Serra-Arzelier-Joldes-et-al-2016, Oaku-2018]

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Previous Contributions

- case $d = 2$ applied to orbital collision probability in the short-term encounter model, with explicit truncation bounds
- Recurrence unrolling rounding error analysis using Mezzarobba's method
- Extension to the case $d = 3$ (instantaneous probability of collision)

Roadmap of the approach and new contributions:



closed-form Laplace transform $\Rightarrow$ D-finite power series $\Rightarrow$ truncation and roundoff error control

State of the Art and Contributions

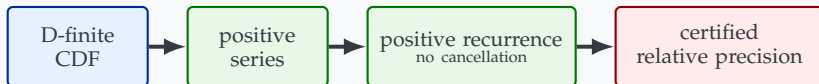
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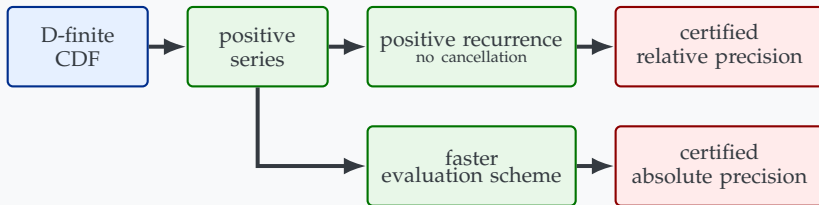
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Algorithm CDFREC:

Extending the Recurrence to Arbitrary Dimension

Recurrence Through Closed-Form Laplace Transform – One Dimension

$$Q = X^2, \quad X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad p = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}, \quad m = \frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$g(\xi) = \mathbb{P}[Q \leq \xi]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \int_{-\sqrt{\xi}}^{\sqrt{\xi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) dx$$

P-recursive $(g_n)_{n \geq 0}$

$$g(\xi) = \sum_{n \geq 0} g_n \xi^{n+1/2}$$

Recurrence Through Closed-Form Laplace Transform – One Dimension

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Laplace Transform $\mathcal{L}_g(\lambda) = \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-\lambda\xi} g(\xi) d\xi$

$$\hat{g}(\lambda) = \frac{\mathcal{L}_g(\lambda^{-1})}{\lambda^{3/2}} = \frac{\sqrt{p} \exp\left(-\frac{m}{1+p\lambda}\right)}{\sqrt{1+p\lambda}}$$

D-finite first-order ODE for $\hat{g}$
explicit initial conditions

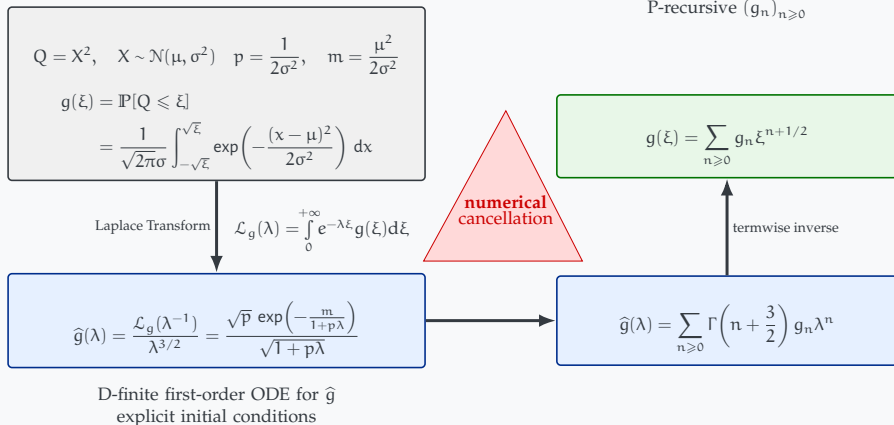
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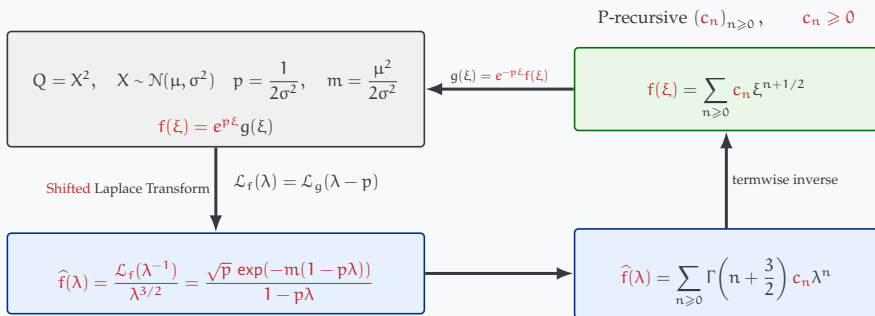
termwise inverse

$$\hat{g}(\lambda) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \Gamma\left(n + \frac{3}{2}\right) g_n \lambda^n$$

Recurrence Through Closed-Form Laplace Transform – One Dimension



Recurrence Through Closed-Form Laplace Transform – Preconditioning

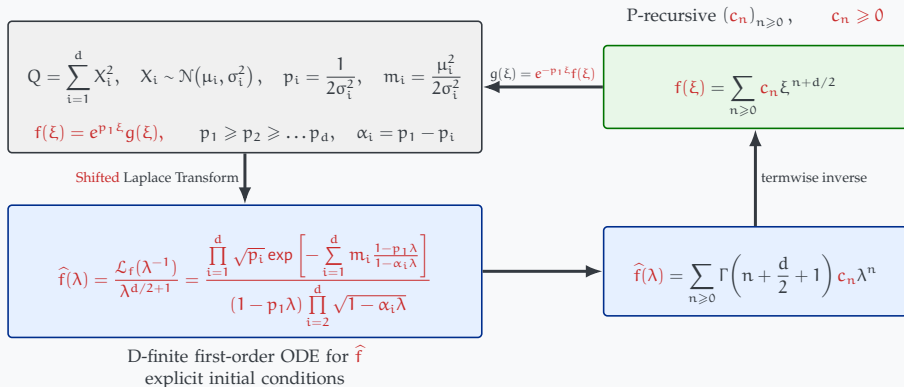


D-finite first-order ODE for $\hat{f}$
 explicit initial conditions

Differential Equation

$$\hat{f}'(\lambda) = \underbrace{\left(p m + \frac{p}{1-p\lambda}\right)}_{\geq 0} \hat{f}(\lambda), \quad \hat{f}(0) = \sqrt{p} e^{-m}$$

Recurrence Through Closed-Form Laplace Transform – d Dimensions



Differential Equation

$$\frac{\hat{f}'(\lambda)}{\hat{f}(\lambda)} = p_1 m_1 + \frac{p_1}{1-p_1 \lambda} + \sum_{i=2}^d \left(\frac{\alpha_i}{2(1-\alpha_i \lambda)} + \frac{p_i m_i}{(1-\alpha_i \lambda)^2} \right),$$

$$\hat{f}(0) = \prod_{i=1}^d \sqrt{p_i} e^{-m_i}$$

CDFREC: Evaluation of Positive Series Using Scalar Recurrence

Require: $d, (p_i)_{1 \leq i \leq d}, (m_i)_{1 \leq i \leq d}$, number of terms N .

Ensure: $s_N \approx g(1)$.

1: $\alpha_i = p_1 - p_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d;$

2: $\varphi(\lambda) = p_1 m_1 + \frac{p_1}{1 - p_1 \lambda} + \sum_{i=2}^d \left(\frac{\alpha_i/2}{1 - \alpha_i \lambda} + \frac{p_i m_i}{(1 - \alpha_i \lambda)^2} \right);$

3: $P(\lambda) \leftarrow \text{numerator}(\varphi), \quad Q(\lambda) \leftarrow \text{denominator}(\varphi);$

4: $c_0 = \frac{\left(\prod_{i=1}^d \sqrt{p_i} \right) \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^d m_i\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} + 1\right)}; \quad s \leftarrow c_0;$

5: **for** $n = 1$ to $N - 1$ **do**

6: $c_n \leftarrow 0; \quad \text{fac} \leftarrow 1;$

7: **for** $i = 1$ to $\min(2d, n)$ **do**

8: $\text{fac} \leftarrow \left(\frac{d}{2} + n + 1 - i\right) \text{fac};$

9: $c_n \leftarrow c_n + (-1)^{i-1} \frac{P_{i-1} + Q_i(n-i)}{\text{fac}} c_{n-i};$

10: **end for**

11: $c_n \leftarrow c_n / n;$

12: $s \leftarrow s + c_n;$

13: **end for**

14: **return** $s_N = \exp(-p_1)s.$

construct rational ODE

initial coefficient

unroll recurrence

positive summation

preconditioning

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roundoff error
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roundoff error
bound

mixed signs in the
recurrence!!

construct rational ODE

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Algorithm CDFPOSREC:

A Positive Recurrence for Reducing the Roundoff Error

Coupled Recurrence With Positive Coefficients

$$\widehat{f}' = \left(p_1 m_1 + \frac{p_1}{1 - p_1 \lambda} + \sum_{i=2}^d \left(\frac{\alpha_i/2}{1 - \alpha_i \lambda} + \frac{p_i m_i}{(1 - \alpha_i \lambda)^2} \right) \right) \widehat{f}$$

$$\gamma_n := \Gamma(n + \frac{d}{2} + 1)$$

$$p_1 m_1 \widehat{f} =$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} p_1 m_1 c_n \gamma_n \lambda^n$$

$$\frac{p_1 \widehat{f}}{1 - p_1 \lambda} =$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} p_1 a_{1,n} \gamma_n \lambda^n$$

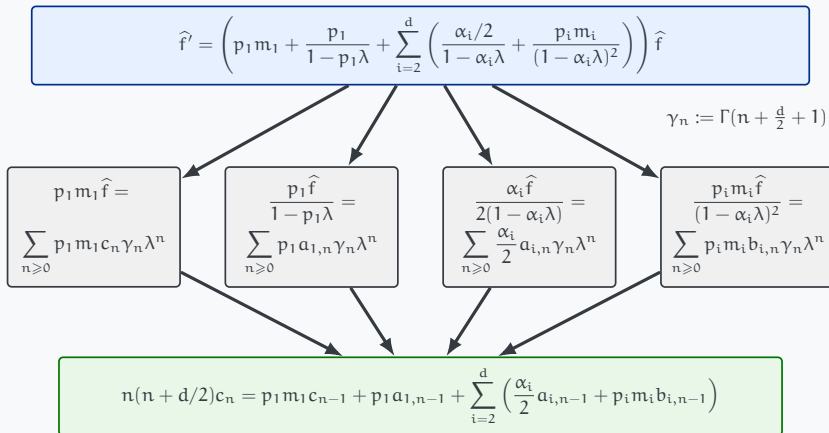
$$\frac{\alpha_i \widehat{f}}{2(1 - \alpha_i \lambda)} =$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\alpha_i}{2} a_{i,n} \gamma_n \lambda^n$$

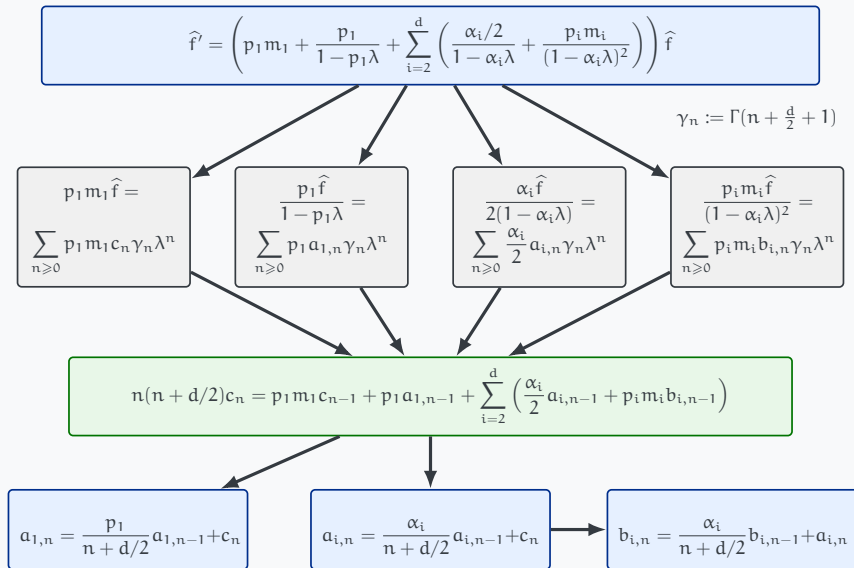
$$\frac{p_i m_i \widehat{f}}{(1 - \alpha_i \lambda)^2} =$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} p_i m_i b_{i,n} \gamma_n \lambda^n$$

Coupled Recurrence With Positive Coefficients



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CDFPosREC: Evaluation Using Coupled Recurrence With Positive Coefficients

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2: $c_0 = \frac{\left(\prod_{i=1}^d \sqrt{p_i}\right) \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^d m_i\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} + 1\right)}$; $a_{i,0} \leftarrow c_0, \quad b_{i,0} \leftarrow c_0$;

3: $s \leftarrow c_0$;

4: **for** $n = 1$ to $N - 1$ **do**

5: $c_n \leftarrow \frac{p_1 m_1 c_{n-1} + p_1 a_{1,n-1} + \sum_{i=2}^d \left(\frac{\alpha_i}{2} a_{i,n-1} + p_i m_i b_{i,n-1}\right)}{n \left(n + \frac{d}{2}\right)}$;

6: $a_{1,n} \leftarrow \frac{p_1}{n + \frac{d}{2}} a_{1,n-1} + c_n$;

7: **for** $i = 2$ to d **do**

8: $a_{i,n} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_i}{n + \frac{d}{2}} a_{i,n-1} + c_n$; $b_{i,n} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_i}{n + \frac{d}{2}} b_{i,n-1} + a_{i,n}$;

9: **end for**

10: $s \leftarrow s + c_n$;

11: **end for**

12: **return** $s_N = \exp(-p_1)s$.

initial terms

positive recurrence unrolling

positive summation

preconditioning

Complexity of CDFPOSREC with Target Relative Accuracy

Truncation Error Bounds [Arzelier-Bréhard-Joldes-2026]

Let $r_N := \left| g(1) - \exp(-p_1) \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} c_n \right|$ be the truncation error bound:

- (i) (*absolute error*) $r_N \leq 2^{-t}$ for $N = O(p_1 + t)$
- (ii) (*relative error*) $r_N \leq 2^{-t} g(1)$ for $N = O\left(p_1 + \sum_i m_i + \sum_i \ln\left(\frac{p_1}{p_i}\right) + t\right)$

Complexity of Algorithm CDFPOSREC [Arzelier-Bréhard-Joldes-2026]

CDFPOSREC computes $g(1)$ with **relative** accuracy 2^{-t} in

$$\tilde{O}\left(\underbrace{d\left(p_1 + \sum_i m_i + \sum_i \ln\left(\frac{p_1}{p_i}\right) + t\right)}_{\substack{N \text{ terms} \\ \text{working prec. up to} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}} \underbrace{t}_{\substack{\text{working prec. up to} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}}\right) \quad \text{bit operations}$$

Numerical Experiment: CDFREC vs. CDFPOSREC

- Comparing `cdf_rec` and `cdf_pos_rec`, implemented in Julia (here in `binary64`)
- `iso` = central isotropic ($\mu_i = 0$, σ_i equal), `aniso` = central anisotropic ($\mu_i = 0$),
noncent = noncentral anisotropic, `hard` = large N , `das` = examples from [Das-2005]

Case	Type	d	p_{ref}	N	T_{posrec} (s)	T_{rec} (s)	Dig. posrec	Dig. rec
S1	iso	10	0.3555	30	1.01e-5	5.78e-5	15.9	15.9
S2	iso	30	0.4908	50	3.41e-5	1.71e-4	15.9	15.5
S3	aniso	10	0.9974	70	2.38e-5	1.61e-4	14.9	10.3
S4	aniso	10	0.8746	100	3.33e-5	2.38e-4	14.5	4.5
S5	aniso	10	0.5960	150	4.99e-5	3.67e-4	14.2	0.0
S6	aniso	10	0.2553	330	1.18e-4	8.68e-4	15.8	0.0
S7	noncent	10	0.5799	150	5.29e-5	3.85e-4	14.7	0.0
S8	noncent	10	0.5288	150	5.33e-5	3.82e-4	14.8	0.1
S9	noncent	10	0.4352	150	5.21e-5	3.85e-4	14.0	0.4
S10	noncent	10	0.2957	150	5.34e-5	3.84e-4	14.1	1.0
S11	aniso	30	0.9606	200	1.46e-4	1.36e-3	14.0	0.0
S12	aniso	30	0.5599	340	2.49e-4	2.45e-3	14.2	0.0
S13	noncent	30	0.5068	340	2.50e-4	2.44e-3	13.7	0.0
S14	noncent	30	0.3383	340	2.48e-4	2.49e-3	14.6	0.0
S15	hard	10	4.451e-04	7,910	2.93e-3	2.30e-2	12.8	0.0
S16	hard	30	2.162e-13	7,900	6.03e-3	7.44e-2	12.8	0.0
S17	hard	10	4.101e-06	183,500	9.94e-2	6.21e-1	10.7	0.0
S18	hard	30	4.515e-23	183,500	1.96e-1	1.80e+0	10.7	0.0
D1	das	3	0.4936	30	9.04e-6	2.90e-5	15.9	15.0
D5	das	8	0.5913	60	1.99e-5	1.18e-4	15.2	11.4
D9	das	10	0.5848	80	2.87e-5	1.93e-4	14.4	10.0
D11	das	34	0.5736	210	1.79e-4	1.56e-3	15.5	0.0

Algorithm CDFFAST:

An Alternative Approach for Taming High Dimensions

Overview of Algorithm CDFFAST – Taming High Dimensions

$$\hat{f}(\lambda) = \frac{\prod_i \sqrt{p_i} e^{-m_i}}{1 - p_1 \lambda} \exp \left[\underbrace{p_1 m_1 \lambda + \sum_{i=2}^d \left(\frac{p_i m_i \lambda}{1 - \alpha_i \lambda} - \frac{1}{2} \ln(1 - \alpha_i \lambda) \right)}_{\psi(\lambda): \text{analytic over } \bar{B}(0, \frac{1}{p_1})} \right]$$

1. Compute $\psi(\lambda)$ up to degree N in $\tilde{O}(\max(N, d))$ FP operations

$\rightsquigarrow$ fast transposed multipoint evaluation to compute sums $\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{w_i}{1 - \alpha_i \lambda} \% \lambda^N$

2. Compute $\exp(\psi(\lambda))$ up to degree N in $\tilde{O}(N)$ FP operations

$\rightsquigarrow$ use a FFT-based exponentiation scheme over a disk of radius $\frac{1 - \varepsilon}{p_1}$

3. Compute $\hat{f}(\lambda)$ and eventually $g(1)$ in $\tilde{O}(N)$ FP operations

A Fast Numerical Transposed Multipoint Evaluation Scheme

Transposed Multipoint Evaluation Problem

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{w_i}{1 - \alpha_i z} \% z^N = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \underbrace{\left(\sum_{i=1}^d w_i \alpha_i^n \right)}_{u_n} z^n$$

Vandermonde matrix V_α : $u = V_\alpha^T \cdot w \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad y = V_\alpha \cdot p$

Multipoint Evaluation Problem

$$p(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} p_n z^n \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad y_i = p(\alpha_i) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} p_n \alpha_i^n, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d$$

Tellegen's transposition principle

For a linear map $A : \mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^m$, if $A \cdot v$ can be computed by a SLP of size L , then $A^T \cdot w$ can be computed by a SLP of size $L - n + m$.

Moroz' Fast Numerical Multipoint Evaluation Algorithm (assume $N = d$)

Multipoint Evaluation Problem

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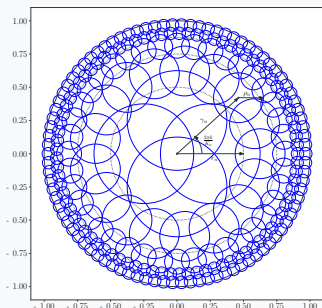
- Symbolic algorithms in $\tilde{O}(d)$ arithmetic operations, e.g. [\[Bostan-Lecerf-Schost-2003\]](#)
- in FP arithmetic $\rightsquigarrow$ eval. error = $O(2^d)$ $\rightsquigarrow$ need extra d bits

Moroz' Fast Numerical Multipoint Evaluation Algorithm (assume $N = d$)

Multipoint Evaluation Problem

$$p(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} p_n z^n \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad y_i = p(\alpha_i) = \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} p_n \alpha_i^n, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d$$

- Symbolic algorithms in $\tilde{O}(d)$ arithmetic operations, e.g. [Bostan-Lecerf-Schost-2003]
- in FP arithmetic $\rightsquigarrow$ eval. error = $O(2^d)$ $\rightsquigarrow$ need extra d bits
- [Moroz-2022]' **hyperbolic approximation** data structure (given target accuracy 2^{-t})



Credit: Guillaume Moroz

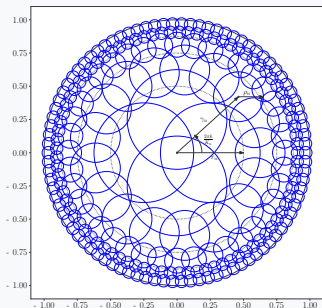
0. Compute the t -hyperbolic covering of the unit disk
 $\rightsquigarrow$ radii tend to zero close to the boundary
1. Shift and truncate p to degree t on each small disk
2. On each small disk, evaluate all $p(\alpha_i)$ for α_i in the disk (with error $O(2^t)$)

Moroz' Fast Numerical Multipoint Evaluation Algorithm (assume $N = d$)

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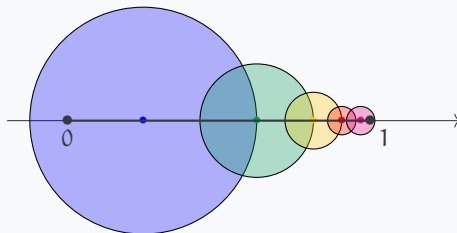
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$$\text{Error} \leq \|p\|_1 2^{-t} \text{ in } \tilde{O}(d(t + \ln \|p\|_1)) \text{ bit op.}$$

Transposing Numerical Fast Multipoint Evaluation

0. Compute the t-hyperbolic covering of $[0, 1]$

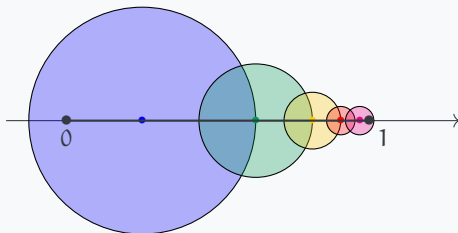
$\rightsquigarrow$ Disks $D_k := \overline{B}(\gamma_k, \rho_k)$; $\alpha_i \mapsto \beta_i = \frac{\alpha_i - \gamma_k}{\rho_k}$ with k such that $\alpha_i \in D_k$



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2^T . Compute $U_k := \sum_{i|\alpha_i \in D_k} \frac{w_i}{1 - \beta_i z} \% z^t$ using a transposed multipoint evaluation algorithm (with error $O(2^t)$)

1^T . (Shift and Truncate) T = Pad and Transposed Shift

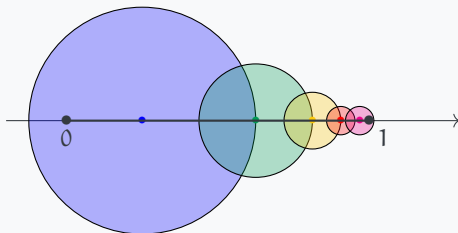
$$\text{shift}_{\gamma_k, \rho_k}^T : U(z) \mapsto \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_k z} U\left(\frac{\rho_k z}{1 - \gamma_k z}\right) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1 - \beta_i z} \mapsto \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_i z}$$

$\Rightarrow$ Sum the $V_k := \text{shift}_{\gamma_k, \rho_k}^T(U_k)$

Transposing Numerical Fast Multipoint Evaluation

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Error $\leq \|w\|_1 2^{-t}$ in $\tilde{O}(d(t + \ln \|w\|_1))$ bit op.

Complexity of CDFFAST vs. CDFPOSREC with Target Absolute Accuracy

Complexity of Algorithm CDFPOSREC [Arzelier-Bréhard-Joldes-2026]

CDFPOSREC($d, (p_i), (m_i)$) computes $g(1)$ with **absolute** accuracy 2^{-t} in

$$\tilde{O}\left(\underbrace{(p_1 + t)}_{\substack{\text{N terms} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}} \underbrace{d \ t}_{\substack{\text{working prec. up to} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}}\right) \quad \text{bit operations}$$

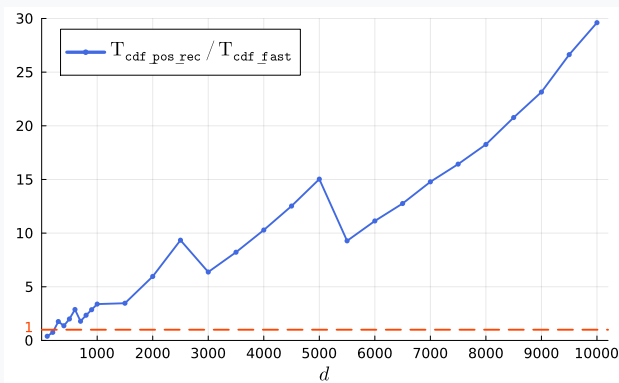
Complexity of Algorithm CDFFAST [Arzelier-Bréhard-Joldes-2026]

CDFFAST($d, (p_i), (m_i)$) computes $g(1)$ with **absolute** accuracy 2^{-t} in

$$\tilde{O}\left(\underbrace{(p_1 + t + d)}_{\substack{\text{N terms} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}} \underbrace{t}_{\substack{\text{working prec. up to} \\ \text{log factors in } p_1, d, m_i, t}}\right) \quad \text{bit operations}$$

Numerical Experiment in High Dimensions: CDFFAST vs. CDFPOSREC

- $\sigma_i \sim \mathcal{U}([1, 2]); \quad \mu_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1); \quad \text{rescale by } \left(\sum_i (\sigma_i^2 + \mu_i^2)\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \rightsquigarrow g(1) \approx \frac{1}{2}$
- Set $N = 2d$ and use 64-bit precision $\rightsquigarrow$ absolute error bounded by 10^{-10}



- Speedup of CDFFAST over CDFPOSREC reaches **30** for $d = 10,000$ (3.5 s vs. 104 s)
- Fast polynomial multiplication (FFT) and fast transposed multipoint evaluation (for base case t-blocks) not implemented yet

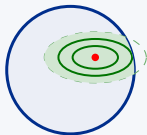
Conclusion and Future Work

Contributions:

- Generalization of [Serra-Arzelier-Joldes-et al-2016] to arbitrary dimension d
- Reduced evaluation error using a positive coupled recurrence
- Faster algorithm for high-dimensional cases
- Prototype implementations in Julia and Matlab

Future Research Directions: Handling χ^2 distributions (σ_i equal) more efficiently? Relative error bounds for CDFFAST? Connections with Fast Multipole Methods (FMM)? ...

Applications: ill-conditioned and high-dimensional instances (e.g., SKAT)



Quadratiques.jl

fast and reliable CDF evaluation

gitlab.laas.fr/arzelier/quadratic



Scan for repository

Thank you!