

# Comparison between XL and Gröbner Basis Algorithms

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# Algebraic Attack

- Algebraic attacks are among the most efficient attacks for public key cryptosystems, block ciphers and stream ciphers. They try to recover a secret key by solving a system of algebraic equations.
- J. Patarin '95 (applied to Matsumoto-Imai Public Key Scheme)
- For Eurocrypt 2000, N. Courtois, A. Klimov, J. Patarin and A. Shamir presents a new algorithm to solve polynomial systems on finite fields: **XL**.
- Courtois-Pieprzyk '02 (applied to block ciphers): **XSL**
- etc.

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Complexity bound of well-studied Gröbner bases can be extended to XL algorithm.
- Cryptographic results of XL algorithm gave results with Gröbner bases algorithm and conversely.
- Gröbner bases computation is implemented on many programs : very efficient implementation in latest version of Magma (Magma V2.11 : <http://magma.maths.usyd.edu.au/users/allan/gb/>)

# Gröbner basis algorithm and XL

- Gröbner basis algorithm = a general method to solve a system of algebraic equations
- XL : proposed as an efficient algorithm for algebraic attacks
- A special condition: In cryptographic scheme, a system of algebraic equations we are interested in has a unique solution over its defining field. (XL was proposed as a powerful technique to solve such special systems.)

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- We give an answer for this question in this presentation.

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- If the XL algorithm terminates, it will also terminate with a lexicographic ordering.
- XL can be viewed as a redundant variant of a Gröbner basis algorithm  $F_4$ .
- We study the XL algorithm on semi-regular sequences.
- We complete this study on generic systems with a comparison of the XL algorithm and the Buchberger algorithm for a cryptosystem HFE.

# Gröbner Basis

Need a monomial ordering

Lexicographic Order

$$x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n} > x_1^{\beta_1} \dots x_n^{\beta_n}$$



$$\exists i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \text{ st } \forall j < i,$$

$$\alpha_j = \beta_j \ \& \ \alpha_i > \beta_i$$

DRL Order

$$x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n} \succ x_1^{\beta_1} \dots x_n^{\beta_n}$$



$$\sum_i \alpha_i > \sum_i \beta_i \text{ or}$$

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$$P = x_1^6 x_2^5 x_3^3 x_4^6 + x_1^4 x_2^9 x_3^4 x_4^5 + x_1^4 x_2^{10},$$

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The  $\mathcal{S}$ -polynomial of a pair of polynomials:  $Spol(f, g) =$

$$\frac{lcm(LM(f), LM(g))}{LT(f)} \cdot f - \frac{lcm(LM(f), LM(g))}{LT(g)} \cdot g$$

# Gröbner basis (2)

**Gröbner basis** :  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_s\}$  of an ideal  $I$  is a Gröbner basis

if for all  $f \in I$ , there is  $g_i$  st  $LM(g_i)$  divide  $LM(f)$ .

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**D-Gröbner basis** :  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_s\}$ ,  $g_i$  homogeneous, of  $I$  is a  $D$ -Gröbner basis iff  $\forall i \neq j$  and  
 $degree(lcm(LM(g_i), LM(g_j))) \leq D$ ,

$$Spol(g_i, g_j) \xrightarrow{G} 0.$$

# Solving systems over finite fields

Find solution of a system

$$f_1(z_1, \dots, z_n) = 0, \dots, f_m(z_1, \dots, z_n) = 0 \text{ with} \\ (z_1, \dots, z_n) \text{ in the field } \mathbb{F}_q.$$



Consider the ideal  $I$  generated by  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  and field equations  $X_i^q - X_i$ .



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Consider the ideal  $I$  generated by  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  and field equations  $X_i^q - X_i$ .

Important cases :

- The field  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .
- The field  $\mathbb{F}_p$ ,  $p \gg n$  and  $p$  prime number, the field equations are useless.

# Gröbner basis and Gaussian Elimination

D. Lazard,

*Gröbner bases, Gaussian Elimination and Resolution of Systems of Algebraic Equations,*  
1983.

Let us consider the [Macaulay matrix](#) for a degree  $\leq d$ .

$$\mathcal{M}_{d,m} = \begin{matrix} m'_1 \times f_{i_1} \\ m'_2 \times f_{i_2} \\ m'_3 \times f_{i_3} \\ \dots \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} m_1 \succ m_2 \succ m_3 \dots \succ m_{L-2} \succ m_{L-1} \succ m_L \\ \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \dots & & \\ \dots & & \\ \dots & & \\ \dots & & \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

with  $i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots \leq m$  and  $\text{degree}(m'_k) \leq d - \text{degree}(f_{i_k})$ .

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**Theorem :** Let be  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle$ ,  $m \leq n$ , a regular sequence,  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  generic coordinates, then a Gröbner basis with a DRL order is given with

$$d \leq d_1 + \dots + d_m - n + 1.$$

# $F_4$ and $F_5$ algorithm

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Combinaison of Buchberger criteria and very efficient linear algebra.
- $F_5$  algorithm :  
Construct a matrice iteratively on *the degree* and on the *number of equations* and replace Buchberger criteria with new criteria to avoid reduction to zero

# Semi-regular sequences

M. Bardet, J.-C. Faugère and B. Salvy

*Complexity of Gröbner basis computation for Semi-regular Overdetermined sequences over  $GF(2)$  with solutions in  $GF(2)$ .*

Extend regular sequence on overdeterminate systems

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**Conjecture** : Almost all systems are a semi-regular sequences (random, generic, . . .).

- Matrix constructed by  $F_5$  have full rank.
- Example : For a system of  $n$  equation with  $n$  variables on  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , asymptotic degree reached :

$$d \simeq \frac{n}{11,11} + 1.00n^{\frac{1}{3}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{3}}}\right)$$

# The XL algorithm

**Algorithm (The XL algorithm).** *For a positive integer  $D$ , execute the following steps:*

- **Multiply:** Generate all the products  $\prod_{j=1}^r x_{\ell_j} * f_i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{A}}$  with  $r \leq D - \deg(f_i)$ .
- **Linearize:** Consider each monomial in the  $x_i$  of *degree*  $\leq D$  as a new variable and perform the Gaussian elimination on the equations obtained in Step 1. The ordering on the monomials must be such that all the terms containing one variable (say  $x_1$ ) are eliminated last.
- **Solve:** Assume that step 2 yields at least one univariate equation in the powers of  $x_1$ . Solve this equation over the finite fields (e.g., with Berlekamp's algorithm).
- **Repeat:** Simplify the equations and repeat the process to find the values of the other variables.

# Remark

- We can replace Step 1 of the XL algorithm by considering  $f_i^*$  the *homogenization* of  $f_i$ :  
 $f_i^* = Z^d f\left(\frac{x_1}{Z}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{Z}\right) \in k[x, Z]$  and products  $m f_i^*$  with  $m$  a monomial with degree  $D - \deg(f_i^*)$ .
- All the computation is exactly the same. So the behavior of XL is the same on the homogenization of the system  $\mathcal{A}$  as on  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# Remarks

The two first steps correspond to methods in article :

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Partial monomial order used in XL algorithm

Lemma :

XL terminates

for a degree  $D$   $\iff$

XL terminates

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# XL computation and $D$ -Gröbner basis

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$\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}$   list of polynomials

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$\{f_1^*, \dots, f_m^*\}$

homogenization of  $f$  :  $f^* = z^d f\left(\frac{x_1}{z}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{z}\right)$  with  $d = \text{degree}(f)$ .



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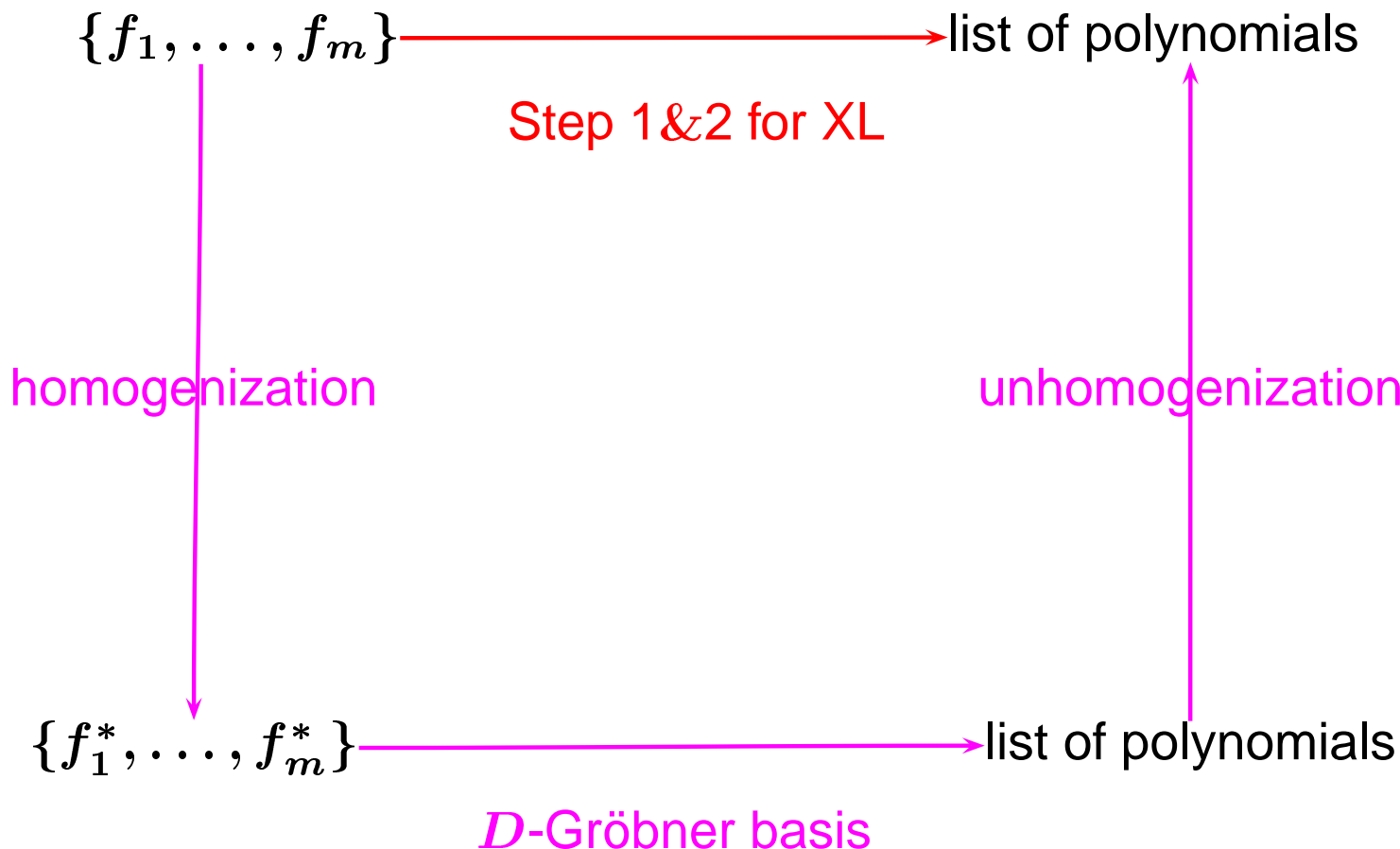
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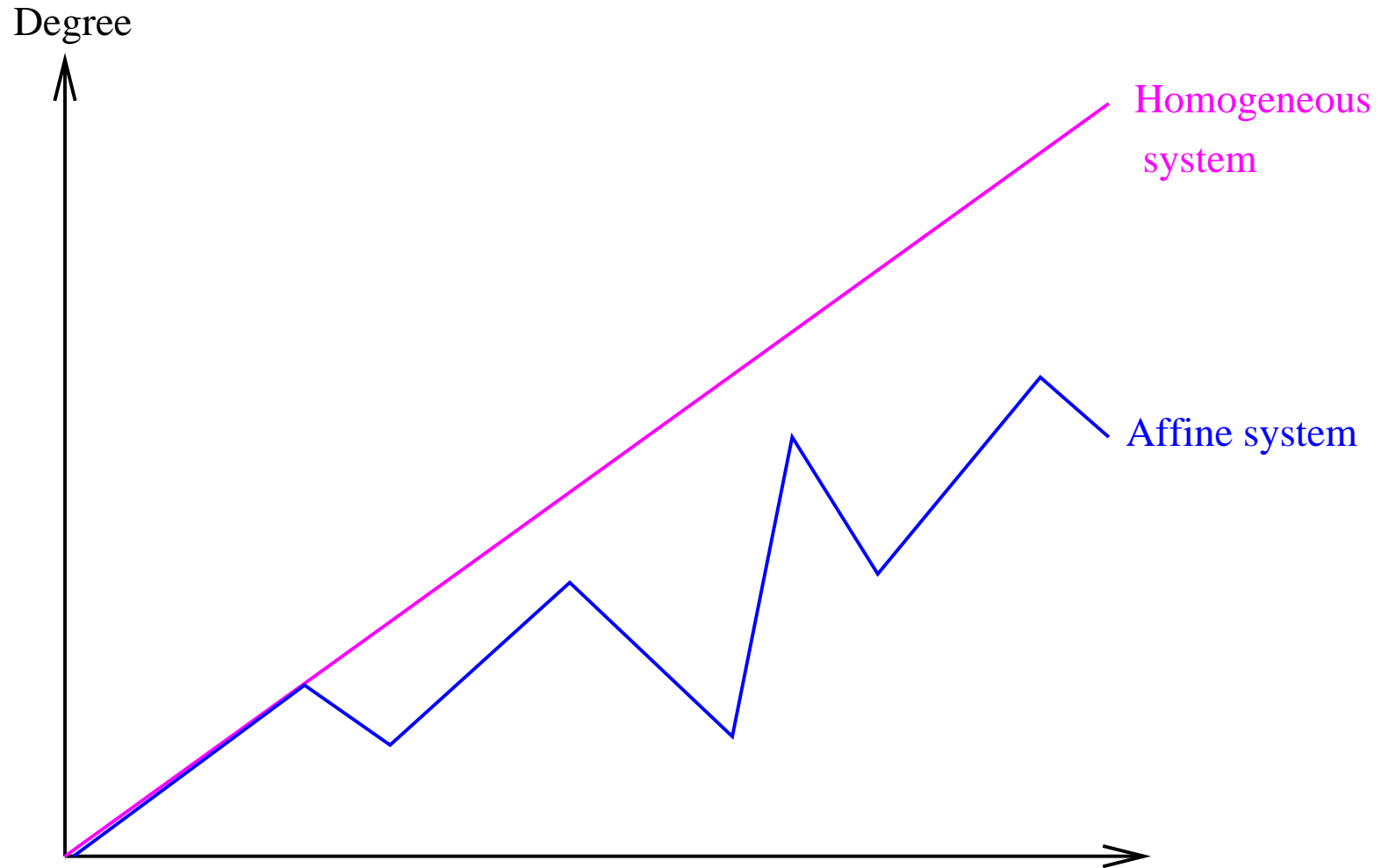
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# Homogeneous/Affine system



Behavior of degree during Gröbner basis computation

# Pre-assumption of the XL algorithm

Condition. 1

*The system  $\mathcal{A}$  has only one solution*

*$(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$  in  $\mathbf{k}^n$ . (i.e.  $\mathcal{A}$  has a solution  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  in  $\mathbf{k}^n$  and no other solution in  $\mathbf{k}^n$ .)*

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- Most stream ciphers will satisfy Condition. 1 with sufficiently large number of sequences
- HFE satisfies Condition. 1 with only 1 pair of (P/C).

# Pre-assumption of the XL algorithm

Condition. 2

*The reduced Gröbner basis of the ideal*

$\tilde{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{A}} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_m, x_1^q - x_1, \dots, x_n^q - x_n \rangle$  is  
 $\{x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n\}$ .

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Under Condition. 2, Gröbner bases may be obtained easily.



# Pre-assumption of the XL algorithm

**Theorem.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a system of multivariate equations  $f_j = 0$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ . Let  $\tilde{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{A}}$  be the ideal  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_m, x_1^q - x_1, \dots, x_n^q - x_n \rangle$ . Then,*

a solution  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in k^n$   
of  $\mathcal{A}$  is unique in  $k^n$

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i.e.

**Condition. 1  $\iff$  Condition. 2**

# Various implementations of XL

- Begin with  $D = 1$ . Do XL described as in Definition for  $\mathcal{A}$ . If you cannot obtain the solution, set  $D := D + 1$  and do XL again for  $\mathcal{A}$  with the new  $D$ : **Simple**

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- Begin with  $D = 1$ . Iterate 'Multiply' and 'Linearize' described as in Definition for  $\mathcal{A}$  by adding new equations obtained by 'Linearize' to  $\mathcal{A}$ . If you cannot solve the resulting system, then return to the original  $\mathcal{A}$ , set  $D := D + 1$  and iterate the same procedure as for  $D = 1$ . Repeat until you obtain the solution: **Iterative**

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- Begin with  $D = 1$ . Iterate 'Multiply' and 'Linearize' described as in Definition for  $\mathcal{A}$  by adding new equations obtained by 'Linearize' to  $\mathcal{A}$ . If you cannot solve the resulting system, then return to the original  $\mathcal{A}$ , set  $D := D + 1$  and iterate the same procedure as for  $D = 1$ . Repeat until you obtain the solution: **Iterative**
- Begin with  $D = 1$ . Do XL described as in Definition for  $\mathcal{A}$ . If you cannot obtain the solution, then set  $D := D + 1$ , replace  $\mathcal{A}$  by the resulting system obtained by 'Linearize' in the previous XL and do XL again for the new  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $D$ . Repeat until you obtain the solution: **Incremental**

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- Begin with  $D = 1$ . Iterate 'Multiply' and 'Linearize' described as in Definition for  $\mathcal{A}$  by adding new equations obtained by 'Linearize' to  $\mathcal{A}$ . If you cannot solve the resulting system  $\mathcal{A}'$ , then replace  $\mathcal{A}$  by  $\mathcal{A}'$ , set  $D := D + 1$  and iterate the same procedure as for  $D = 1$ . Repeat until you obtain the solution: **Both iterative and incremental**

# F4-like Representation of XL algorithm

**Definition.** A critical pair of two polynomials  $(f_i, f_j)$  is an element  $M^2 \times k[x] \times M \times k[x]$ ,  $\text{Pair}(f_i, f_j) := (\text{lcm}_{ij}, t_i, f_i, t_j, f_j)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lcm}(\text{Pair}(f_i, f_j)) &= \text{lcm}_{ij} = \text{LM}(t_i f_i) = \text{LM}(t_j f_j) \\ &= \text{lcm}(\text{LM}(f_i), \text{LM}(f_j)). \end{aligned}$$

(2) For a critical pair  $p_{ij} = \text{Pair}(f_i, f_j)$ ,  $\text{deg}(\text{lcm}_{ij})$  is called the degree of  $p_{ij}$  and denoted by  $\text{deg}(p_{ij})$ . Let  $P$  be a list of critical pairs.

For  $p = \text{Pair}(f, g) \in P$  and  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define two functions

$\text{XLLeft}(p, d) = \{(t, f) \mid t \in M, \text{deg}(t * f) \leq d\}$ , and

$\text{XLRight}(p, d) = \{(t, g) \mid t \in M, \text{deg}(t * g) \leq d\}$ . We write

$\text{XLLeft}(P, d) = \bigcup_{p \in P} \text{XLLeft}(p, d)$  and

$\text{XLRight}(P, d) = \bigcup_{p \in P} \text{XLRight}(p, d)$ .

$\text{Left}(p_{ij}) = (t_i, f_i)$ ,  $\text{Right}(p_{ij}) = (t_j, f_j)$ .

$\text{Left}(P) = \bigcup_{p_{ij} \in P} \text{Left}(p_{ij})$ ,  $\text{Right}(P) = \bigcup_{p_{ij} \in P} \text{Right}(p_{ij})$ .

# F4-like Representation of XL algorithm

For a list of critical pairs  $P$  and a positive integer  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , we set

$$Sel_{XL}(P, d) := \{p \in P \mid \deg(lcm(p)) \leq d\}.$$

For a list  $P$  of critical pairs of a given set,

$$Sel_{F_4}(P) := \{p \in P \mid \deg(lcm(p)) = d\}$$

where  $d := \min\{\deg(lcm(p)), p \in P\}$ .



# F4-like Representation of XL

$F_4$ -like representation of XL

Input:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} F : \text{a finite subset of } k[x] \\ Sel = Sel_{XL} \end{array} \right.$

Output: a finite subset of  $k[x]$ .

$G := F, \tilde{F}_0^+ := F$  and  $d := 0$

$P := \{Pair(f, g) \mid f, g \in G \text{ with } f \neq g\}$

While  $P \neq \phi$  Do

$d := d + 1$

$P_d := Sel(P, d)$

$L_d := XLLeft(P, d) \cup XLRight(P, d)$

$P := P \setminus P_d$

$\tilde{F}_d^+ := Reduction(L_d)$

For  $h \in \tilde{F}_d^+$  Do

$P := P \cup \{Pair(h, g) \mid g \in G\}$

$G := G \cup \{h\}$

Return  $G$

$F_4$

Input:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} F : \text{a finite subset of } k[x] \\ Sel = Sel_{F_4} \end{array} \right.$

Output: a finite subset of  $k[x]$ .

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$L_d := Left(P_d) \cup Right(P_d)$

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For  $h \in \tilde{F}_d^+$  Do

$P := P \cup \{Pair(h, g) \mid g \in G\}$

$G := G \cup \{h\}$

Return  $G$

# F4-like Representation of XL algorithm

Reduction (same in  $F_4$ -like representation of XL and in  $F_4$ )

---

Input: a finite subset  $L$  of  $M \times k[x]$

Output: a finite subset of  $k[x]$  (possibly an empty set).

$F := \text{Symbolic Preprocessing}(L)$

$\tilde{F} := \text{Reduction to Row Echelon Basis of } F \text{ w.r.t. } <$

$\tilde{F}^+ := \{f \in \tilde{F} \mid \text{LM}(f) \notin \text{LM}(F)\}$

Return  $\tilde{F}^+$

---

# F4-like Representation of XL algorithm

## Symbolic Preprocessing

$F_4$ -like representation of XL

Input: a finite subset  $L$  of  $M \times k[x]$

Output: a finite subset of  $k[x]$

$$F := \{t * f \mid (t, f) \in L\}$$

Return  $F$ .

$F_4$

Input: a finite subset  $L$  of  $M \times k[x]$

Output: a finite subset of  $k[x]$

$$F := \{t * f \mid (t, f) \in L\}$$

$Done := LM(F)$

While  $M(F) \neq Done$  Do

$Done := Done \cup \{m\}$

$(m \in M(F) \setminus Done)$

If  $m$  is top reducible modulo  $G$  Then

$$m = m' * LM(f)$$

for some  $f \in G$  and some  $m' \in M$

$$F := F \cup \{m' * f\}$$

Return  $F$

# XL and Gröbner bases algorithms

**Theorem.** *Let  $F$  be a finite set of polynomials in  $k[\mathbf{x}]$ . Then XL algorithm computes a Gröbner basis  $G$  for the ideal  $\langle F \rangle$  in  $k[\mathbf{x}]$  such that  $F \subseteq G$ .*

# Semi-regular sequences

Consider a system of  $m$  quadratic equations on  $n$  variables

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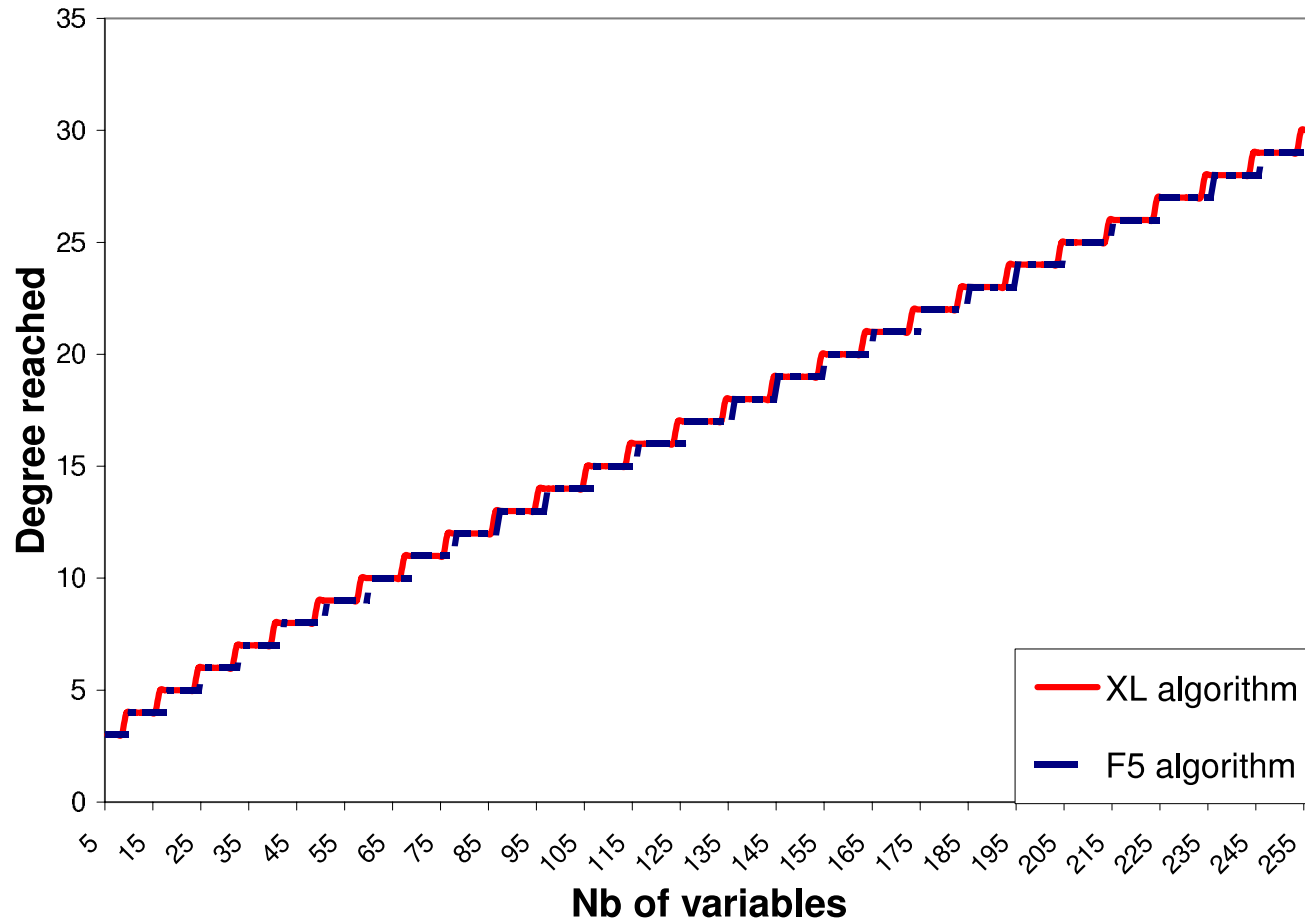
For  $F_5$  algorithm :

$$\frac{(1 + y)^n}{(1 + y^2)^m}$$

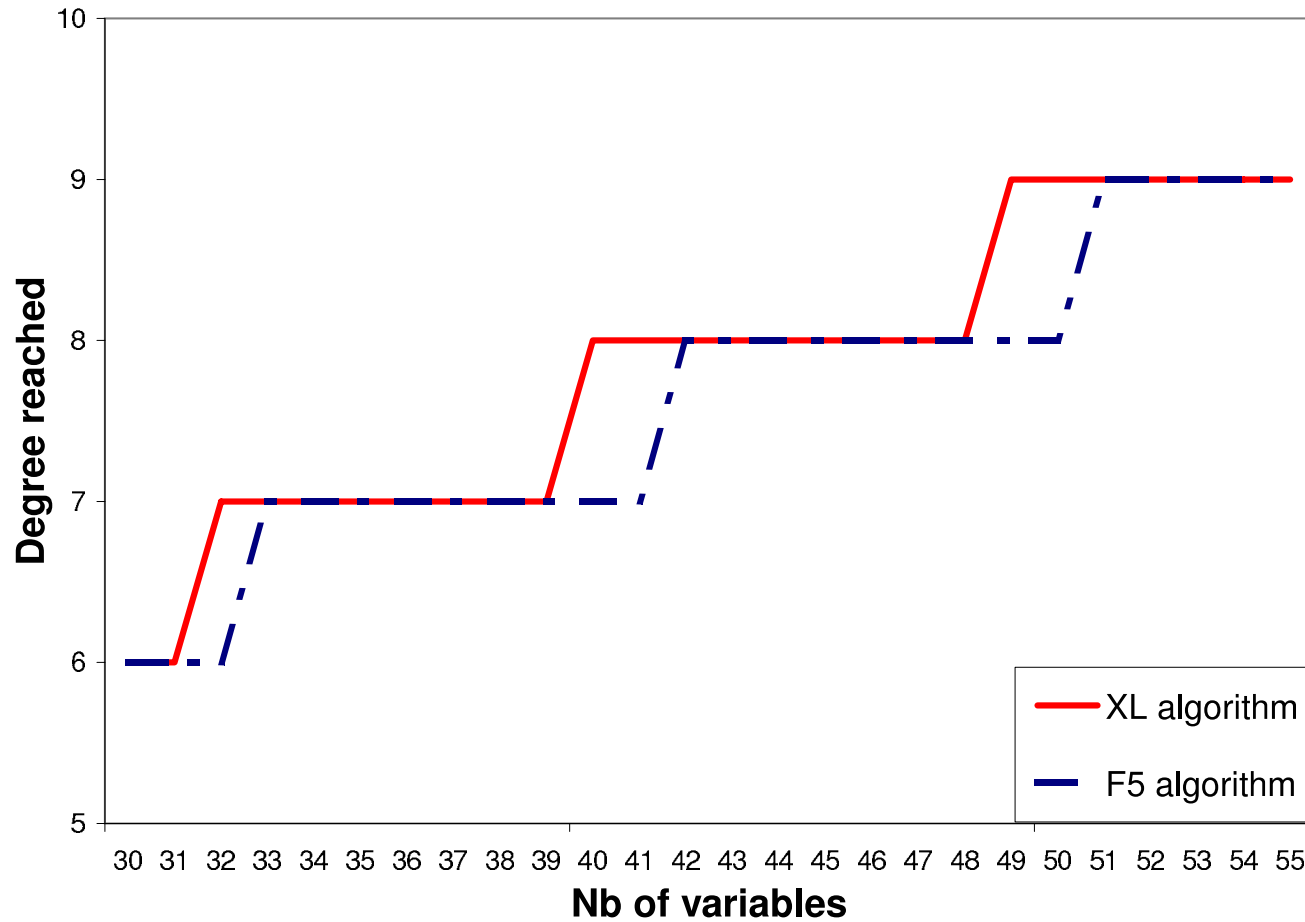
For XL algorithm :

$$\frac{(1 + y)^n}{(1 - y)(1 + y^2)^m} - \frac{1 + y}{1 - y}$$

# Semi-regular sequences: $m = n + 2$

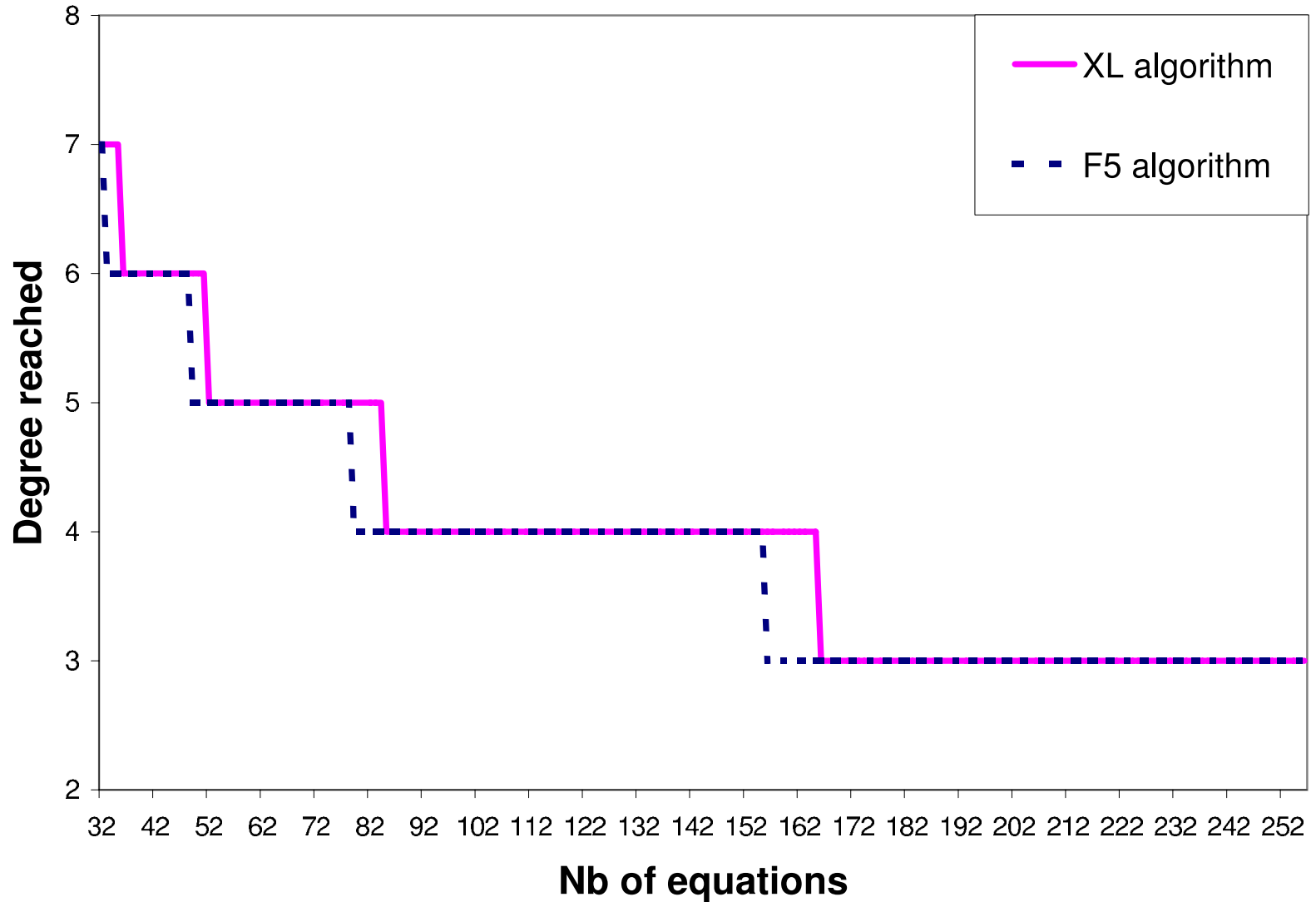


# Semi-regular sequences: $m = n + 2$





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Complexity : (size of the matrix)<sup>w</sup>

XL algorithm

Matrix

size

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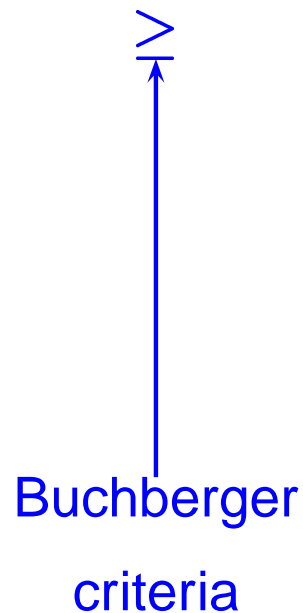
Complexity : (size of the matrix)<sup>w</sup>

XL algorithm

Matrix  
size

$F_4$  algorithm

Matrix  
size



# Semi-regular sequences: $m = n + 2$

Complexity : (size of the matrix)<sup>w</sup>

XL algorithm

Matrix  
size

>  
↑  
Buchberger  
criteria

$F_4$  algorithm

Matrix  
size

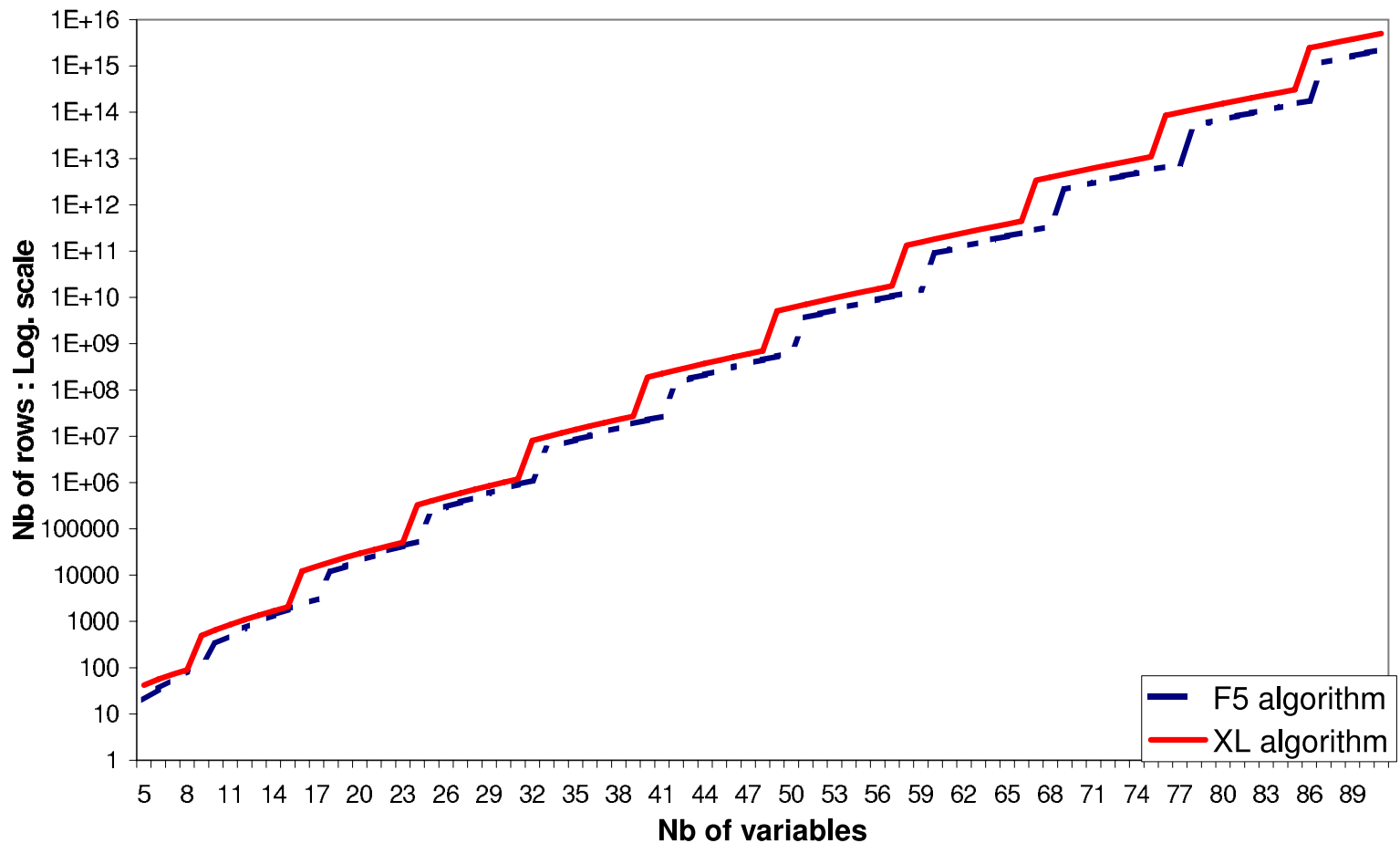
>  
↑  
 $F_5$  criteria

$F_5$  algorithm

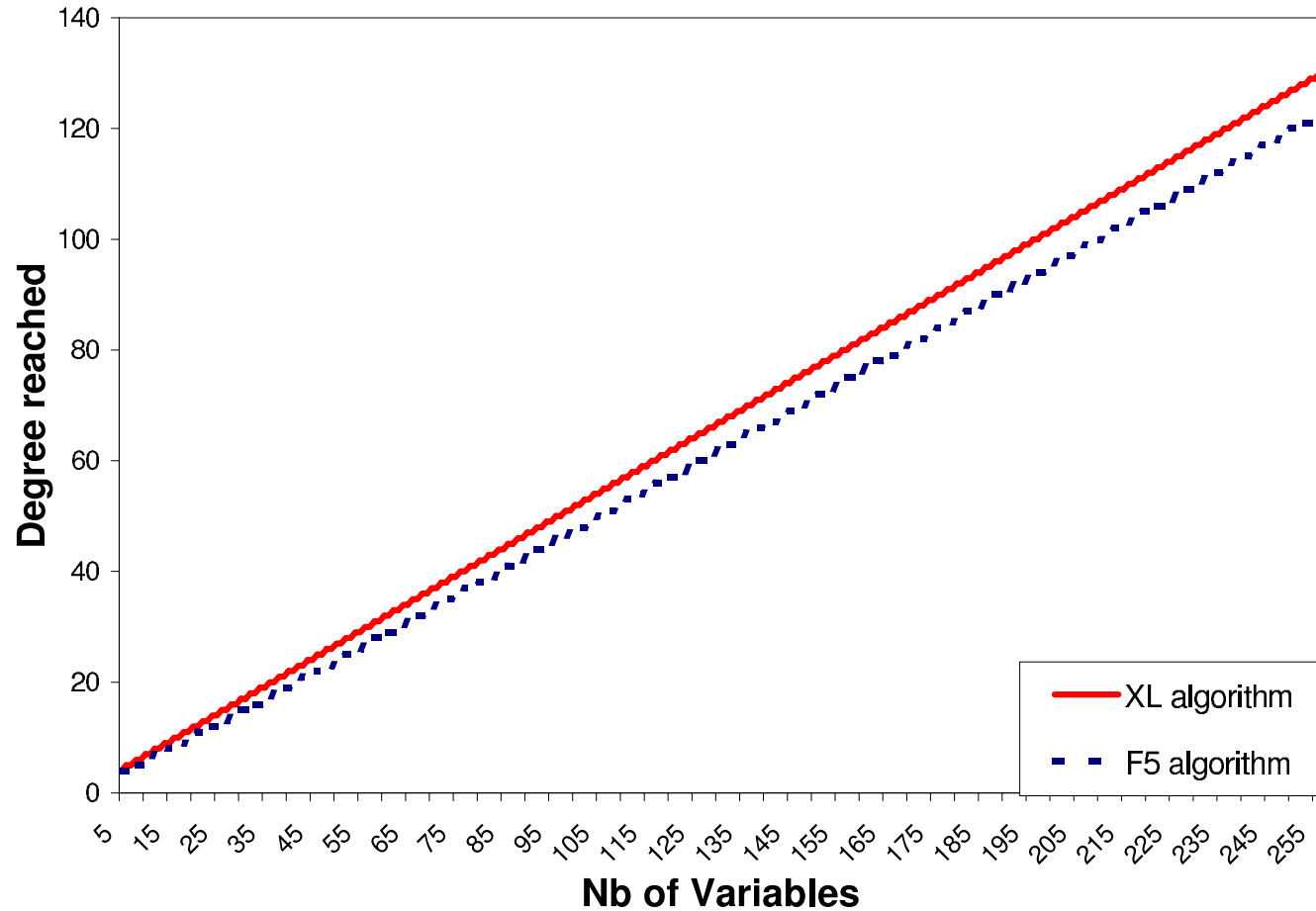
Matrix  
size  
Full rank matrix

# Semi-regular sequences: $m = n + 2$

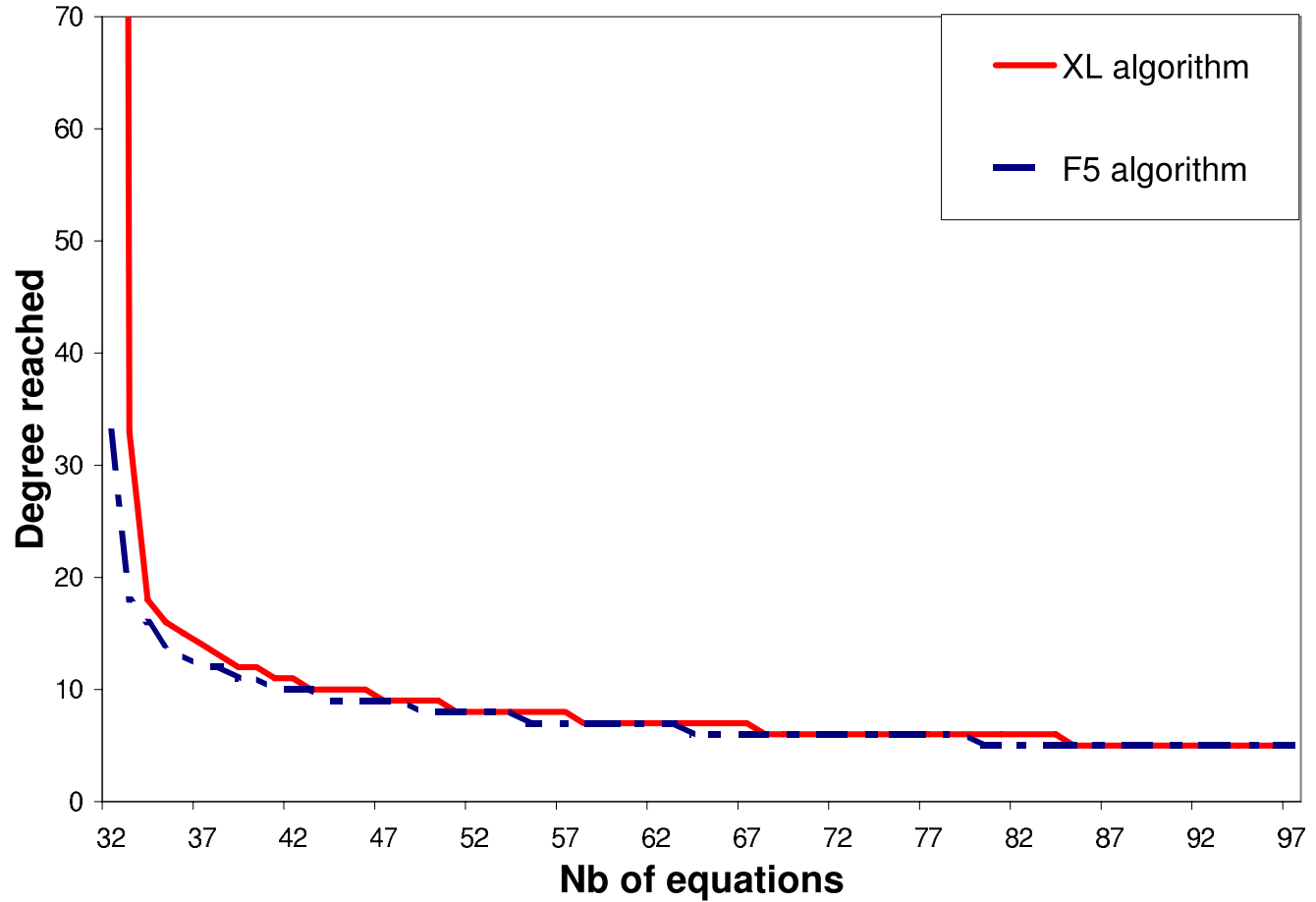
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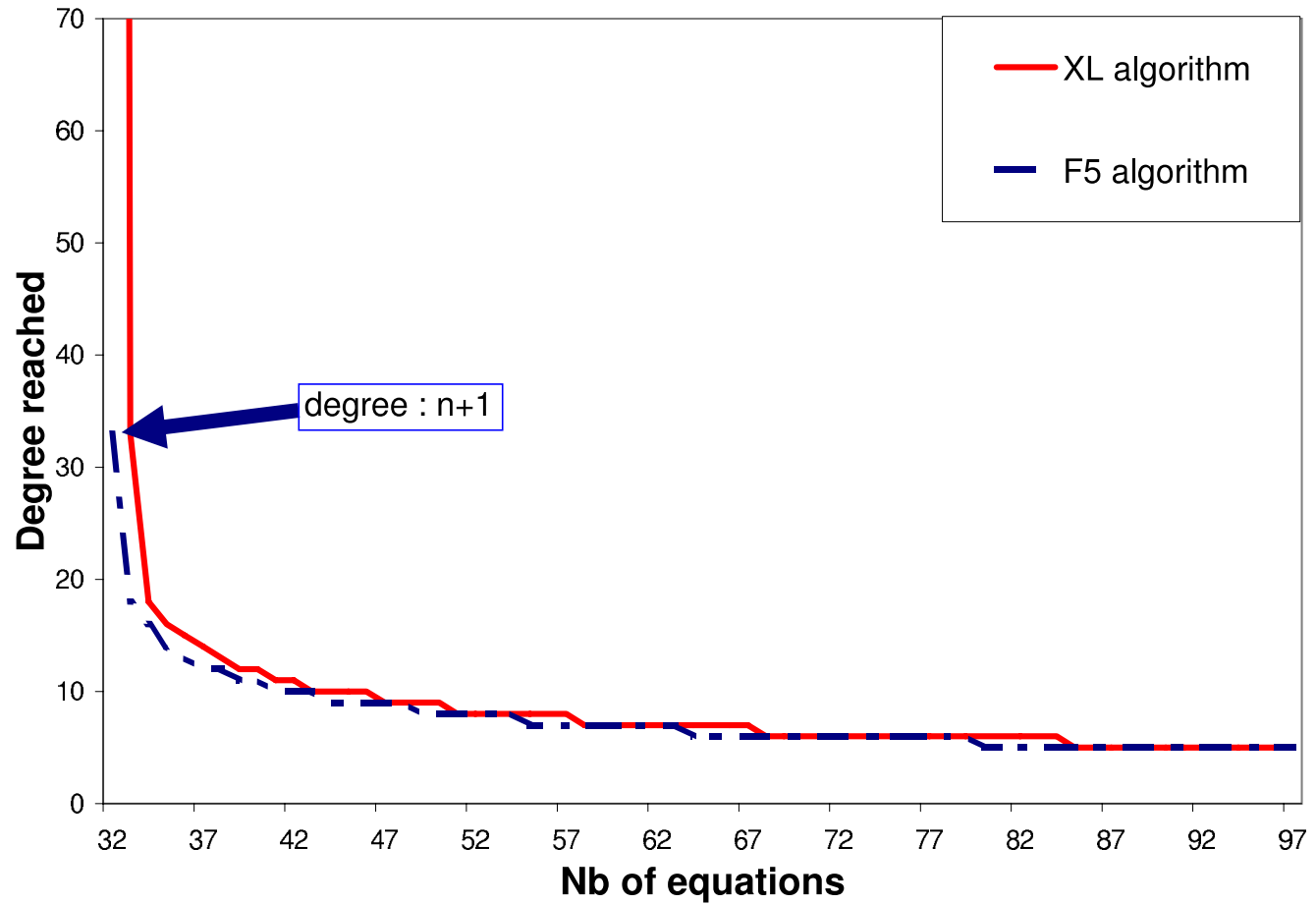
# Semi-regular sequences: $m = n + 2$



# Semi-regular sequences: $n = 32$

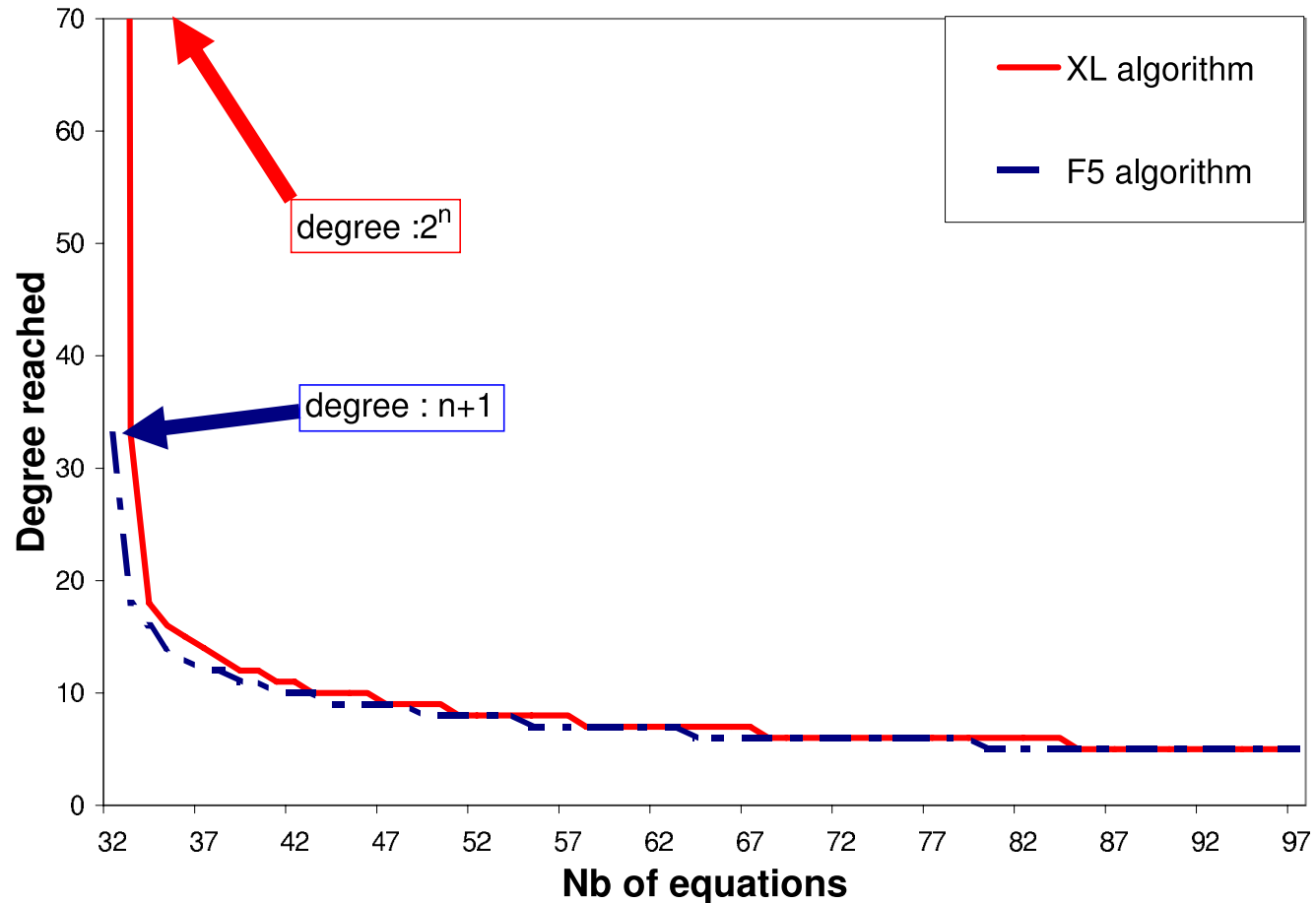


# Semi-regular sequences: $n = 32$





# Semi-regular sequences: $n = 32$



For random system of  $n$  quadratic equations on  $n$  variables, univariate polynomial will have a degree  $2^n$ .

# On HFE systems

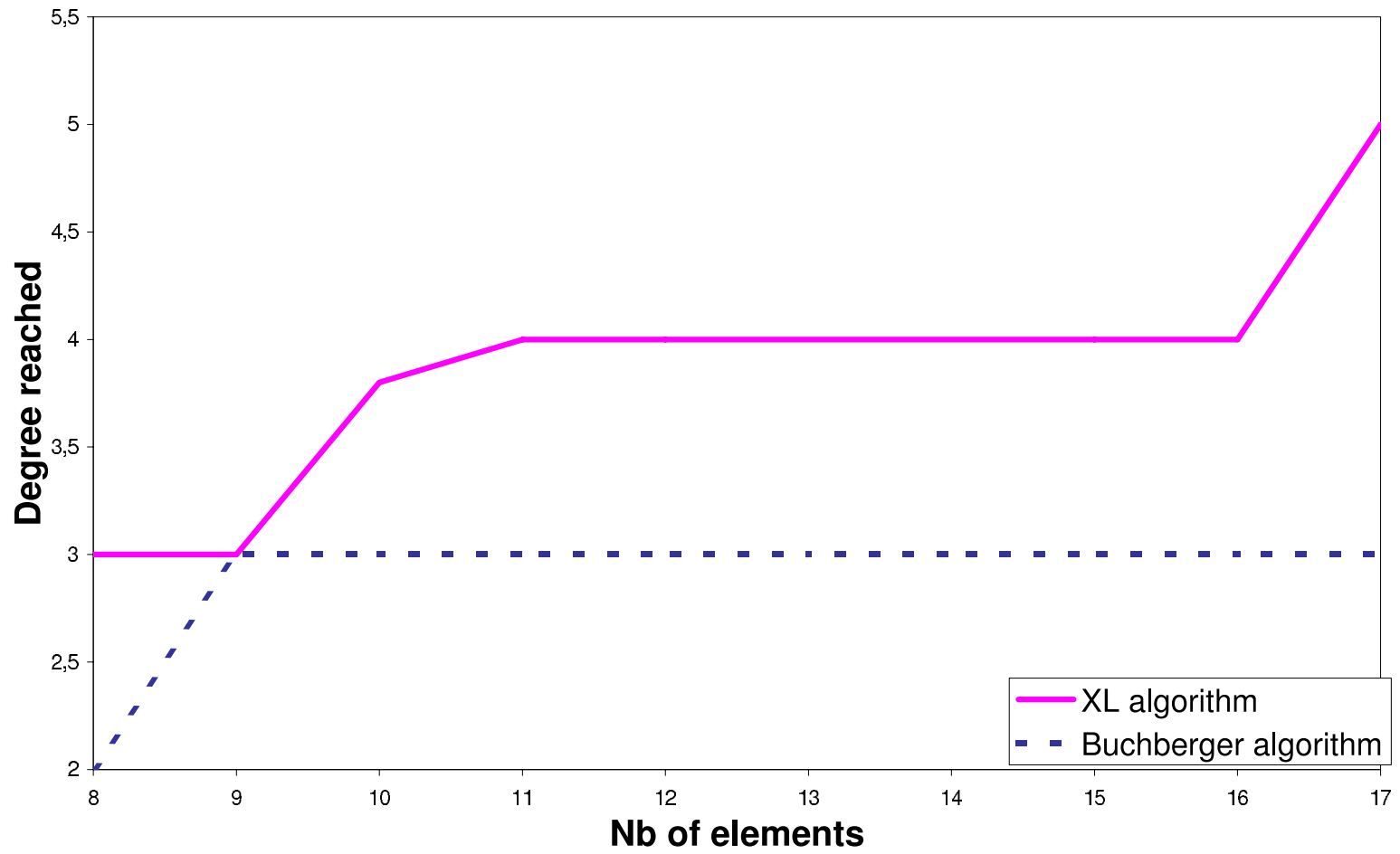
For real system :

Lower degree reached

Example : Public Key Cryptosystem HFE proposed by J. Patarin composed by a system of  $n$  quadratic equations with  $n$  variables.

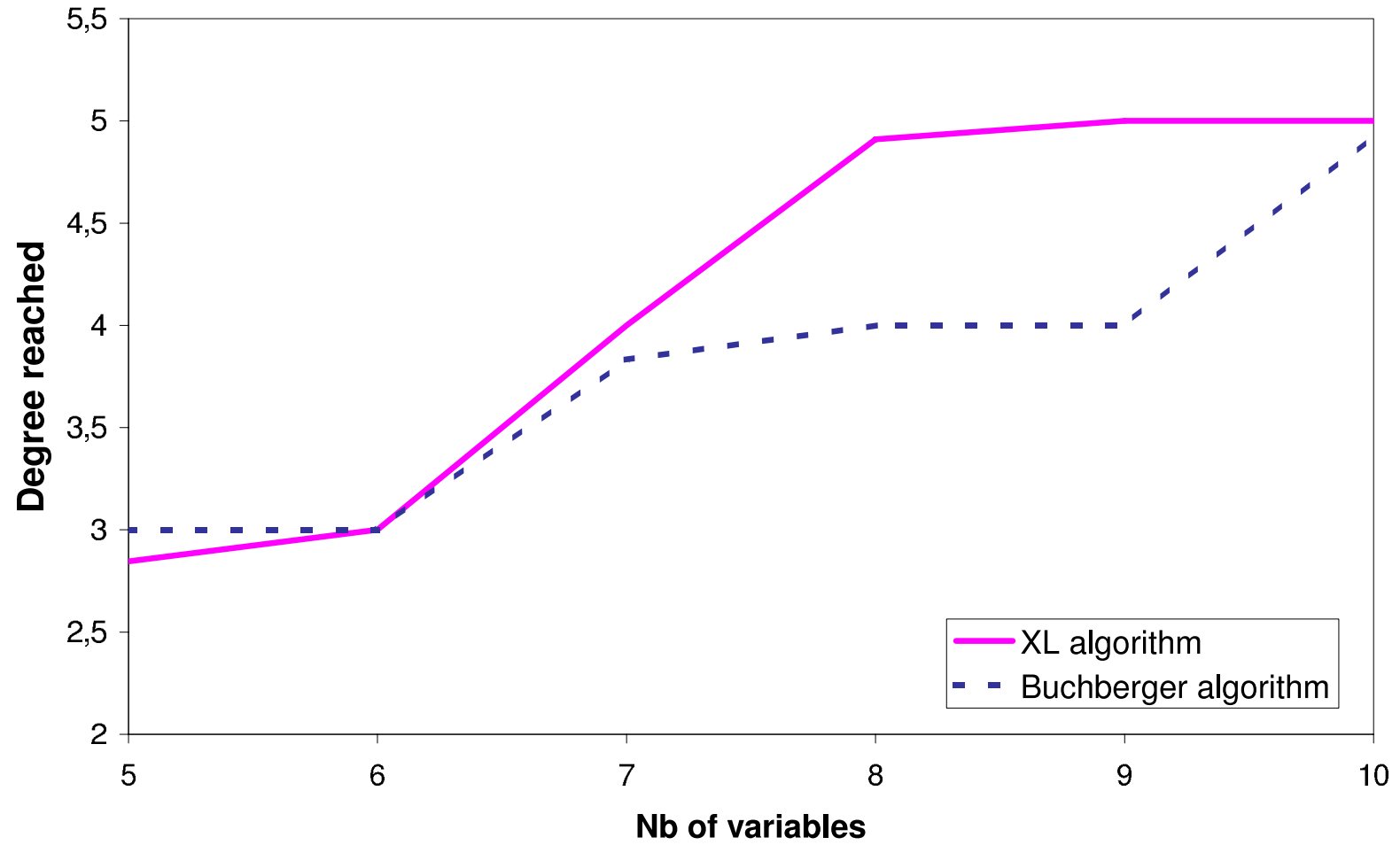
# On HFE systems

HFE :  $n$  variables and degree 24 for univariate polynomial.



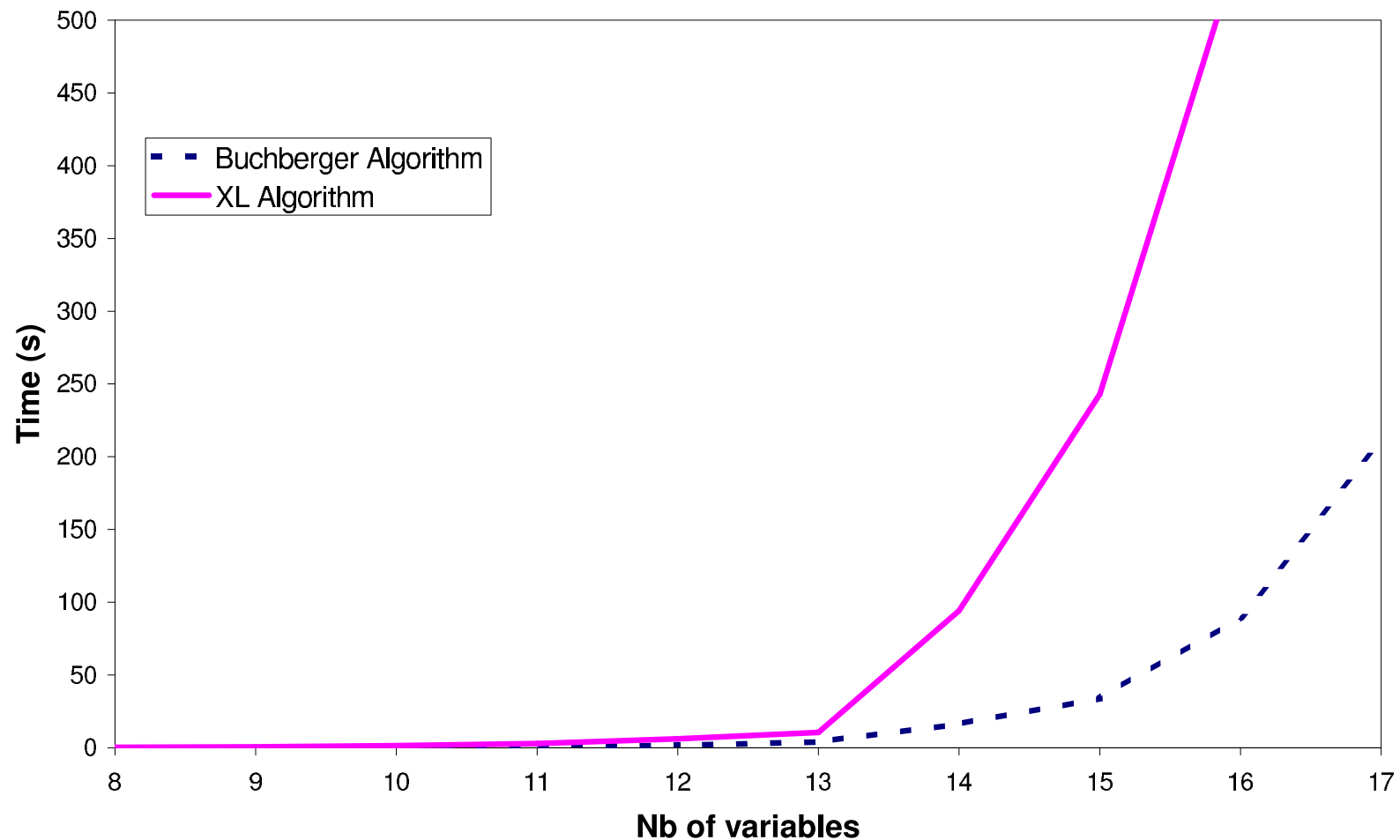
# On HFE systems

HFE :  $n$  variables and degree 24 for univariate polynomial.



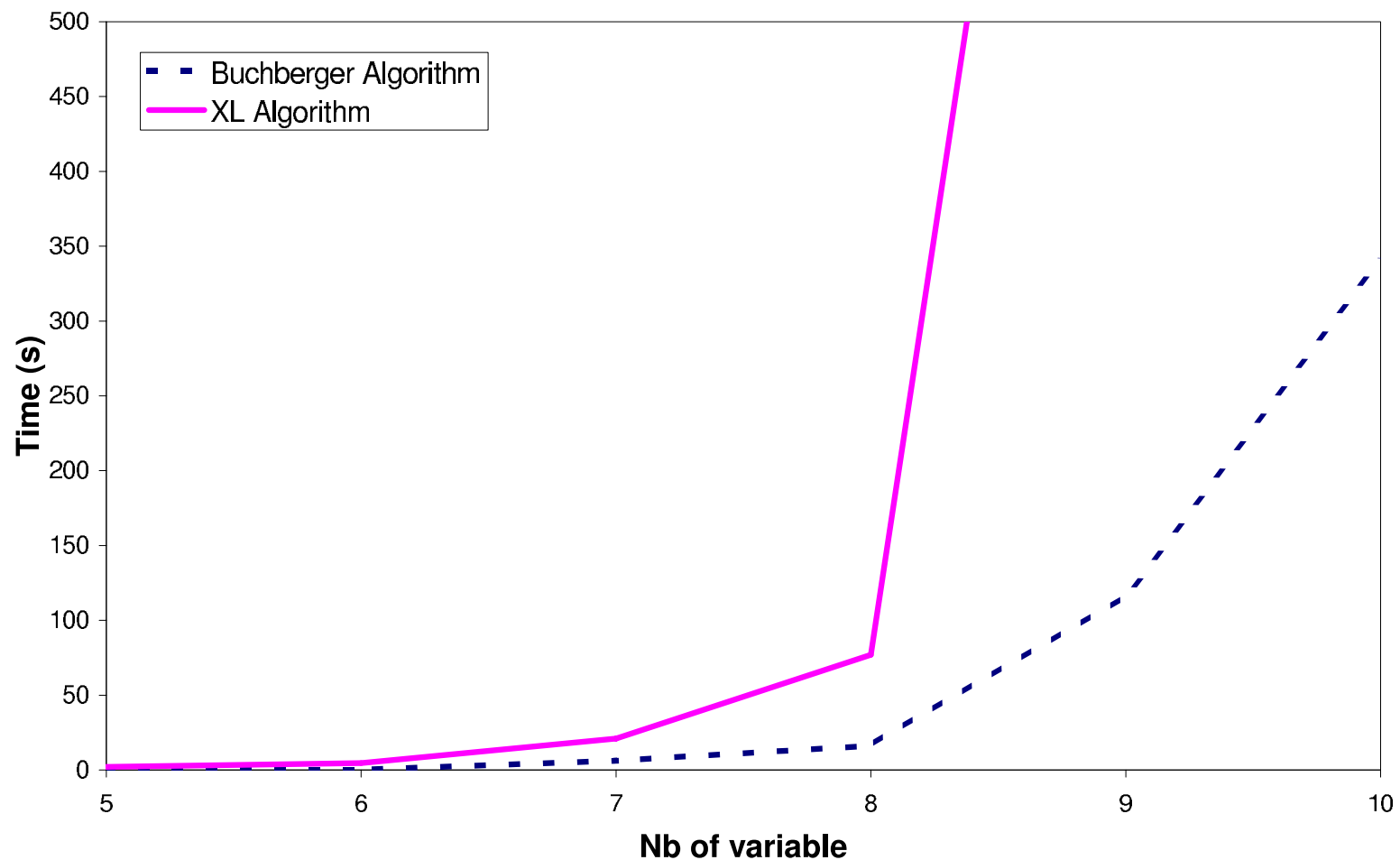
# HFE: Time computation on $F_2$

HFE :  $n$  variables and degree 24 for univariate polynomial with Magma 2.10.



# HFE: Time computation on $F_{16}$

HFE :  $n$  variables and degree 24 for univariate polynomial with Magma 2.10.



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- We showed that to solve a system of algebraic equations treated in XL is equivalent to calculate the reduced Gröbner basis of the ideal associated with the system.
- We showed XL is a redundant version of the  $F_4$  algorithm.
- We showed the result of simulations comparing XL with  $F_5$ , which is an improved version of  $F_4$ .
- Our results imply that XL is not so efficient as it was expected.

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● XL algorithm Time Experiments  $\geq$   $F_4$  algorithm Time Experiments  $\geq$   $F_5$  algorithm Time Experiments

# Homogeneous semi-regular sequence

**Definition.** Homogeneous semi-regular sequence :

Let  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  be a sequence of  $m$  homogeneous polynomials (i.e. for all monomial  $t$  of  $f_i$ ,  $\deg(t) = \deg(f_i)$  in  $\mathcal{R}_n^h := \mathbb{F}_2[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \langle x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2 \rangle$  or  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ), and  $\mathcal{I} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle$  an ideal of  $\mathcal{R}_n^h$  or  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

- The *degree of regularity* of  $\mathcal{I}$  is the minimal degree  $d$  such that  $\{LT(f) \mid f \in \mathcal{I}, \deg(f) = d\}$  is exactly the set of monomials of degree  $d$  in  $\mathcal{R}_n^h$ , denoted by  $D_{reg}(\mathcal{I})$ .
- $f_1, \dots, f_m$  is a *homogeneous semi regular sequence on  $\mathbb{F}_2$*  if  $\mathcal{I} \neq \mathcal{R}_n^h$  and for  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , if  $g_i f_i = 0$  in  $\mathcal{R}_n^h / \langle f_1, \dots, f_{i-1} \rangle$  and  $\deg(g_i f_i) < D_{reg}(\mathcal{I})$  then  $g_i = 0$  in  $\mathcal{R}_n^h / \langle f_1, \dots, f_{i-1}, f_i \rangle$ .
- $f_1, \dots, f_m$  is a *homogeneous semi regular sequence on  $\mathbb{Q}$*  if  $\mathcal{I} \neq \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and for  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , if  $g_i f_i = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \langle f_1, \dots, f_{i-1} \rangle$  and  $\deg(g_i f_i) < D_{reg}(\mathcal{I})$  then  $g_i = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \langle f_1, \dots, f_{i-1} \rangle$ .

# Affine semi-regular sequence

**Affine semi-regular sequence** : Let  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  be a sequence of  $m$  polynomials, and  $\mathcal{I} = \langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle$  an ideal of  $\mathbb{F}_2[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \langle x_1^2 - x_1, \dots, x_n^2 - x_n \rangle$  or  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Let  $f_i^h$  the homogeneous part of the largest degree of  $f_i$ .

- $f_1, \dots, f_m$  is a *semi regular sequence* if  $f_1^h, \dots, f_m^h$  is a homogeneous semi-regular sequence.
- the *degree of regularity* of  $\mathcal{I}$  is the degree of regularity of  $\langle f_1^h, \dots, f_m^h \rangle$ , denoted by  $D_{reg}$ .