

Using Numerical Algebraic Geometry to Solve Polynomial Systems

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The solution of polynomial systems is a critical problem in many areas of science, engineering, and mathematics. Algebraic systems are treated by computational algebraic geometry, a large field including both symbolic and numerical paradigms. Numerical algebraic geometry approaches the problem using numerical techniques and probability-one arguments for providing theoretical algorithmic guarantees. But these guarantees of solution are practically limited, since the precision of computers is finite. As a consequence, the software in this field comes with settings and parameters, and users often benefit from training. To set and control the software effectively, the scientist-user must be minimally familiar with the underlying theory. In this talk, I will give an overview of the major algorithms, and some tips and tricks to help enhance your success. My main focus will be the free software package Bertini, and a few related products.