

# Hierarchical Comprehensive Triangular Decomposition<sup>\*</sup>

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**Abstract.** The concept of *comprehensive triangular decomposition* (CTD) was first introduced by Chen *et al.* in their CASC'2007 paper and could be viewed as an analogue of comprehensive Gröbner systems for parametric polynomial systems. The first complete algorithm for computing CTD was also proposed in that paper and implemented in the **RegularChains** library in Maple. Following our previous work on generic regular decomposition for parametric polynomial systems, we introduce in this paper a so-called *hierarchical* strategy for computing CTDs. Roughly speaking, for a given parametric system, the parametric space is divided into several sub-spaces of different dimensions and we compute CTDs over those sub-spaces one by one. So, it is possible that, for some benchmarks, it is difficult to compute CTDs in reasonable time while this strategy can obtain some “partial” solutions over some parametric sub-spaces. The program based on this strategy has been tested on a number of benchmarks from the literature. Experimental results on these benchmarks with comparison to **RegularChains** are reported and may be valuable for developing more efficient triangularization tools.

**Keywords:** Comprehensive triangular decomposition, regular chain, hierarchical, generic regular decomposition, parametric polynomial system.

## 1 Introduction

Solving parametric polynomial system plays a key role in many areas such as automated geometry theorem deduction, stability analysis of dynamical systems, robotics and so on. For an arbitrary parametric system, in symbolic computation, solving this system is to convert equivalently the parametric system into new systems with special structures so that it is easier to analyze or solve the solutions to the new systems. There are two main kinds of symbolic methods to solve parametric systems, *i.e.*, the algorithms based on *Gröbner bases* [12, 14–17, 23] and those based on *triangular decompositions* [1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 24–27].

The methods based on triangular decompositions have been studied by many researchers since Wu's work [24] on *characteristic sets*. A significant concept in the theories of triangular sets is *regular chain* (or *normal chain*) introduced

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<sup>\*</sup> The work was supported by National Science Foundation of China (Grants 11290141 and 11271034).

by Yang and Zhang [27] and Kalkbrener [11] independently. Gao and Chou proposed a method in [9] for identifying all parametric values for which a given system has solutions and giving the solutions by  $p$ -chains without a partition of the parameter space. Wang generalized the concept of regular chain to *regular system* and gave an efficient algorithm for computing it [20–22]. It should be noticed that, due to their strong projection property, the regular systems or series may also be used as representations for parametric systems. Chen *et al.* introduced the concept of *comprehensive triangular decomposition* (CTD) [5] to solve parametric systems, which could be viewed as an analogue of comprehensive Gröbner systems. Algorithm CTD for computing CTD was also proposed in [5].

There are several implementations based on the above triangularization methods, such as `Epsilon` [22], `RegularChains` [6] and `wsolve` [19].

Suppose  $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbb{Q}[U][X]$  is a parametric polynomial system where  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  are variables and  $U = (u_1, \dots, u_d)$  are parameters. The above mentioned algorithms all solve the system in  $\mathbb{C}^{d+n}$  directly. That means all the unknowns ( $U$  and  $X$ ) are viewed as variables and triangular decompositions are computed over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . It may happen that no triangular decompositions over  $\mathbb{Q}$  can be obtained in a reasonable time for some systems while a triangular decomposition over  $\mathbb{Q}[U]$  is much easier to be computed.

Based on this observation, we propose a strategy which computes CTDs for given parametric systems hierarchically and the CTDs are called *hierarchical comprehensive triangular decompositions* (HCTD). By “hierarchical” we mean that, roughly speaking, a generic regular decomposition is computed first over  $\mathbb{Q}[U]$  and a parametric polynomial  $B(U)$  is obtained at the same time such that the solutions to the original system in  $\mathbb{C}^{d+n}$  can be expressed as the union of solutions to those regular systems in the decomposition provided that the parameter values satisfying  $B(U) \neq 0$ . Then, by applying similar procedure recursively, the solutions satisfying  $B(U) = 0$  are obtained through adding  $B(U) = 0$  to the system and treating some parameters as variables. We give an algorithm based on this hierarchical strategy which computes CTDs for given parametric systems. The algorithm has been implemented with Maple and tested on a number of benchmarks from the literature. Experimental results on these benchmarks with comparison to `RegularChains` are reported (see Tables 2) and may be valuable for developing more efficient triangularization tools. For some benchmarks, it is difficult to compute CTDs in reasonable time while our program can output “partial solutions” (see Table 4).

The rest part of this extended abstract is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces an algorithm, Algorithm HCTD, for computing CTDs hierarchically and an example is illustrated there. Section 3 compares the Algorithm HCTD and the Algorithm CTD in [5] by experiments. Section 4 introduces another hierarchical strategy for computing CTD and the comparing experiments are also shown. Section 5 shows the benefit of the hierarchical strategy by experiments.

## 2 Algorithm HCTD

For the concepts and notations without definitions, please see [2, 6, 21].

Suppose  $\mathbf{T}$  is a regular chain in  $\mathbb{Q}[U][X]$  and  $\mathbf{H} \subset \mathbb{Q}[U][X]$ .  $[\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{H}]$  is said to be a *regular system* [5] if  $\text{res}(H, \mathbf{T}) \neq 0$  for any  $H \in \mathbf{H}$ . For any  $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathbb{Q}[U]$ ,  $V^U(\mathbf{B})$  denotes the set  $\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{C}^d \mid B(a_1, \dots, a_d) = 0, \forall B \in \mathbf{B}\}$ . For any  $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbb{C}[X]$ ,  $V(\mathbf{P})$  denotes the set  $\{(b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid P(b_1, \dots, b_n) = 0, \forall P \in \mathbf{P}\}$ . For any  $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbb{Q}[U][X]$ ,  $V(\mathbf{P})$  denotes the set  $\{(a_1, \dots, a_d, b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{C}^{d+n} \mid P(a_1, \dots, a_d, b_1, \dots, b_n) = 0, \forall P \in \mathbf{P}\}$ . For  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^{d+n}$ , denote by  $\Pi_U(D)$  the set  $\{(a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{C}^d \mid (a_1, \dots, a_d, b_1, \dots, b_n) \in D\}$ . Suppose  $[\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{H}]$  is a regular system in  $\mathbb{Q}[U][X]$ . If  $\mathbf{H} = \{H\}$ , then  $[\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{H}]$  is denoted by  $[\mathbf{T}, H]$  for short.

Due to page limitation, we only present the specification of an algorithm for computing CTDs hierarchically.

### Algorithm HCTD

**Input:** a finite set  $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbb{Q}[U][X]$ , a non-negative integer  $m$  ( $0 \leq m \leq d$ )

**output:** finitely many 3-tuples  $[\mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{B}_i, \mathbb{T}_i]$ , a polynomial  $B$ , where

- $B \in \mathbb{Q}[u_{m+1}, \dots, u_d]$ ,  $\mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{B}_i \subset \mathbb{Q}[U]$
- $\mathbb{T}_i$  is a finite set of regular systems in  $\mathbb{Q}[U][X]$

such that

- $\cup_i V^U(\mathbf{A}_i \setminus \mathbf{B}_i) = (\mathbb{C}^d \setminus V^U(B)) \cap \Pi_U(V(\mathbf{P}))$
- for any  $i, j$  ( $i \neq j$ ),  $V^U(\mathbf{A}_i \setminus \mathbf{B}_i) \cap V^U(\mathbf{A}_j \setminus \mathbf{B}_j) = \emptyset$
- for any  $i$ , if  $a \in V^U(\mathbf{A}_i \setminus \mathbf{B}_i)$ , then  $[\mathbf{T}(a), \mathbf{H}(a)]$  is a regular system in  $\mathbb{C}[X]$  for any  $[\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{H}] \in \mathbb{T}_i$
- for any  $i$ , if  $a \in V^U(\mathbf{A}_i \setminus \mathbf{B}_i)$ , then  $V(\mathbf{P}(a)) = \cup_{[\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{H}] \in \mathbb{T}_i} V(\mathbf{T}(a) \setminus \mathbf{H}(a))$ .

The output of  $\text{HCTD}(\mathbf{P}, m)$  is called the  $m$ -HCTD of  $\mathbf{P}$ . Each  $[\mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{B}_i, \mathbb{T}_i]$  in the  $m$ -HCTD is called a **branch**. Each regular system in the set  $\cup \mathbb{T}_i$  is called a **grape**. By Algorithm HCTD, for any  $\mathbf{P}$ , if  $m = 0$ , the output is the so-called *generic regular decomposition* [8] of  $\mathbf{P}$ ; if  $m = d$ , the output is the *comprehensive triangular decomposition* [5] of  $\mathbf{P}$ . The Example 1 below shows how to get  $m$ -HCTD ( $m = 0, \dots, d$ ).

**Example 1.** Consider the parametric system

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{cases} 2x_2^2(x_2^2 + x_1^2) + (u_2^2 - 3u_1^2)x_2^2 - 2u_2x_2^2(x_2 + x_1) + 2u_1^2u_2(x_2 + x_1) \\ \quad - u_1^2x_1^2 + u_1^2(u_1^2 - u_2^2), \\ 4x_2^3 + 4x_2(x_2^2 + x_1^2) - 2u_2x_2^2 - 4u_2x_2(x_2 + x_1) + 2(u_2^2 - 3u_1^2)x_2 + 2u_1^2u_2, \\ 4x_1x_2^2 - 2u_2x_2^2 - 2u_1^2x_1 + 2u_1^2u_2. \end{cases}$$

where  $x_1, x_2$  are variables and  $u_1, u_2$  are parameters.

1. By the Algorithm RDU in [8], we compute a set  $\mathbb{T}_1$  of regular systems and a polynomial  $B_1(u_1, u_2)$  such that if  $B_1(u_1, u_2) \neq 0$ , then the solution set of  $\mathbf{P} = 0$  is equal to the union of the solution sets of the regular systems in  $\mathbb{T}_1$ . Then we obtain the 0-HCTD of  $\mathbf{P}$ :  $[\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbb{T}_1]$ .

2. Let  $\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{P} \cup \{B_1\}$ . Regard  $\{u_1, x_1, x_2\}$  as the new variable set. By the Algorithm RDU, we compute a set  $\mathbb{S}_1$  of regular systems and a polynomial  $B_2(u_2)$  such that if  $B_1(u_1, u_2) = 0$  and  $B_2(u_2) \neq 0$ , then the solution set of  $\mathbf{P} = 0$  is equal to the union of the solution sets of the regular systems in  $\mathbb{S}_1$ . For  $\mathbb{S}_1$ , applying the similar method as the Algorithm RegSer in [20] and the Algorithms Difference and CTD in [6], we obtain the 1-HCTD of  $\mathbf{P}$ :  $[\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbb{T}_1], \dots, [\mathbf{A}_4, \mathbf{B}_4, \mathbb{T}_4]$ .

3. Let  $\mathbf{P}_2 = \mathbf{P}_1 \cup \{B_2\}$ . Regard  $\{u_2, u_1, x_1, x_2\}$  as the new variable set. By the Algorithm RDU, we compute a set of regular systems  $\mathbb{S}_2$  and a polynomial  $B_3 = 1$  such that if  $B_1(u_1, u_2) = 0, B_2(u_2) = 0$  and  $B_3 \neq 0$ , then the solution set of  $\mathbf{P} = 0$  is equal to the union of the solution sets of the regular systems in  $\mathbb{S}_2$ . For  $\mathbb{S}_2$ , applying the similar method as the Algorithms RegSer, Difference and CTD, we obtain the 2-HCTD of  $\mathbf{P}$ :  $[\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbb{T}_1], \dots, [\mathbf{A}_6, \mathbf{B}_6, \mathbb{T}_6]$ .

Table 1.  $[\mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{B}_i, \mathbb{T}_i]$

$i$	$\mathbf{A}_i$	$\mathbf{B}_i$	$\mathbb{T}_i$
1	$\emptyset$	$\{u_1 u_2 (u_1^2 - u_2^2)\}$	$\{\{-2x_1^2 + 3x_1 u_2 - u_2^2 + u_1^2, 2x_1 x_2 + u_1^2 - u_2 x_2\}, u_1\}$
2	$\{u_1\}$	$\{u_2\}$	$\{\{-2x_1 + u_2, u_2 - 2x_2\}, 1\}$
3	$\{u_1 - u_2\}$	$\{u_2\}$	$\{\{x_1, x_2 - u_2\}, 1\}, \{2x_1 - 3u_2, x_2 + u_2\}, 1\}$
4	$\{u_1 + u_2\}$	$\{u_2\}$	$\{\{x_1, x_2 - u_2\}, 1\}, \{2x_1 - 3u_2, 2x_2 + u_2\}, 1\}$
5	$\{u_2\}$	$\{u_1\}$	$\{\{2x_1^2 - u_1^2, 2x_2^2 - u_1^2\}, 1\}$
6	$\{u_1, u_2\}$	$\{1\}$	$\{\{x_2\}, 1\}, \{x_1, x_2\}, 1\}, \{2x_1^2 - u_1^2, 2x_2^2 - u_1^2\}, 1\}$

### 3 Experiment of Comparison

We have implemented the Algorithm HCTD as a Maple function HCTD and tested a great many benchmarks from the references [5, 7, 12, 14]. Throughout this paper, all the computational results are obtained in Maple 17 using an Intel(R) Core(TM) i5 processor (3.20GHz CPU), 2.5 GB RAM and Windows 7 (32 bit). All the timings are given by seconds. The “timeout” mark means the time is greater than 1000 seconds. The Table 2 compares the functions HCTD (when  $m = d$ ) and ComprehensiveTriangularize (CTD) in RegularChains.

In Table 2, the column “time” lists the timings of HCTD ( $m = d$ ) and CTD; the column “branch” lists the numbers of branches output by HCTD and CTD; and the column “grape” lists the numbers of grapes output by HCTD and CTD. It is indicated by Table 2 that

- for the benchmarks 3–27, HCTD runs faster than CTD, especially, for the benchmark 27, CTD is timeout and HCTD completes the computation in time; for the benchmarks 28–40, CTD runs faster than HCTD, especially, for the benchmarks 38–40, HCTD is timeout and CTD solves the systems efficiently; for the benchmarks 41–49, both HCTD and CTD are timeout;
- for the benchmarks 14, 31, 32, 35 and 36, the number of branches output by HCTD is much bigger than that output by CTD;
- for the benchmarks 6, 10, 12, 29, 30, 32, 35 and 37, the number of grapes output by HCTD is much bigger than that output by CTD.

## 4 Different Hierarchical Strategy

To compute a  $m$ -HCTD for a given parametric system, as shown by Example 1, we first take  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  as variable set and then add one parameter into the variable set at each recursive step. A different hierarchical strategy may be that we add a prescribed number (say  $s$ ) of parameters into the variable set at the first step and each recursive step.

The algorithm applying this different hierarchical strategy is called HCTDA and has been implemented as a function HCTDA. The comparing data of HCTD and HCTDA (for  $s = 1$ ) is shown in Table 3. It is indicated by Table 3 that

- for the benchmarks 3–11, HCTD runs faster than HCTDA, especially, for the benchmarks 10–11, HCTDA is timeout and HCTD completes the computation in time; for the benchmarks 12–18, HCTDA runs faster than HCTD, especially, for the benchmarks 19–20, HCTD is timeout and HCTDA completes the computation in time;
- the difference of the numbers of branches (grapes) output by HCTD and HCTDA is not striking.

In fact, we can input different  $s$  when calling HCTDA. For many benchmarks in Table 2, the timings of different  $s$  are similar. There are some benchmarks on which the timings of HCTDA differ greatly for different  $s$ . Due to page limitation, we do not report the timings here.

## 5 Benefit of Hierarchical Strategy

We see that the benchmarks 41–49 in Table 2 are timeout when using both CTD and HCTD ( $m = d$ ). In fact, for some polynomial systems from practical areas, the complexity of computing comprehensive triangular decomposition is way beyond current computing capabilities. However for these systems (especially the systems with many parameters), we may try to compute the  $m$ -HCTD for  $m = 0, \dots, d - 1$ . In this way, although we cannot solve the system completely, we may still get partial solutions.

We have tried the `timeout` benchmarks 41–49 in Table 2. The experimental results are shown in Table 4, where the columns “ $m = 0$ ”, “ $m = 1$ ”, “ $m = 2$ ”, “ $m = 3$ ” and “ $m = 4$ ” denote the timings of calling Algorithm HCTD for  $m = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ ; and the “`error`” mark means Maple returns an error message and stops computing. It is seen from the Table 4 that

- for all the benchmarks, we successfully get partial solutions;
- for most of the benchmarks, such as the benchmark 1 and benchmarks 3–7, we get results only when  $m = 0$ .

**Table 2.** Comparing HCTD and CTD

	<i>benchmark</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>branch</i>		<i>grape</i>	
				HCTD	CTD	HCTD	CTD	HCTD	CTD
1.	MontesS2	1	3	0.	0.	1	1	1	1
2.	MontesS4	2	2	0.	0.	1	1	1	1
3.	F8	4	4	0.437	1.014	18	14	14	9
4.	Hereman-2	1	7	0.093	0.468	2	2	10	6
5.	MontesS3	1	2	0.	0.031	3	2	2	2
6.	MontesS5	4	4	0.078	0.187	6	8	13	6
7.	MontesS6	2	2	0.015	0.047	4	3	5	4
8.	MontesS7	1	3	0.046	0.156	4	4	6	8
9.	MontesS8	2	2	0.	0.094	2	2	2	2
10.	MontesS12	2	6	0.593	7.925	5	5	61	27
11.	MontesS13	3	2	0.078	0.265	6	9	9	8
12.	MontesS14	1	4	0.452	4.353	6	3	28	12
13.	MontesS15	4	8	0.187	0.889	5	5	14	12
14.	MontesS16	3	12	1.198	1.825	37	8	11	7
15.	Bronstein	2	2	0.015	0.219	6	7	7	7
16.	AlkashiSinus	3	6	0.094	0.437	8	6	8	6
17.	Lanconelli	7	4	0.28	0.546	14	11	7	5
18.	zhou1	3	4	0.047	0.156	5	5	5	5
19.	zhou2	6	7	0.671	2.09	17	18	19	16
20.	zhou6	3	3	0.031	0.218	6	4	6	5
21.	SBCD13	1	3	0.015	0.094	2	2	9	6
22.	SBCD23	1	3	0.202	0.344	4	2	15	12
23.	F2	2	2	0.032	0.234	3	3	3	3
24.	F3	4	1	0.063	0.905	5	6	5	6
25.	F5	3	2	0.046	0.11	6	3	3	3
26.	F7	3	2	0.	0.016	2	2	2	2
27.	S2	4	1	44.544	timeout	150		92	
28.	MontesS9	3	3	0.693	0.468	21	13	16	13
29.	MontesS10	3	4	0.421	0.359	13	6	19	6
30.	MontesS11	3	3	0.858	0.655	12	16	20	10
31.	F4	4	2	11.637	0.375	20	3	3	3
32.	zhou5	4	5	5.616	2.902	51	19	97	22
33.	F6	4	1	0.296	0.14	13	3	11	3
34.	MontesS1	2	2	0.016	0.	4	2	3	3
35.	Hereman-8-8	3	5	96.439	10.468	108	9	161	14
36.	S3	4	3	2.618	1.436	35	13	17	11
37.	Maclane	3	7	5.242	4.009	17	9	155	27
38.	S1	3	2	timeout	4.04		10		10
39.	Neural	1	3	timeout	0.188		2		7
40.	Gerdt	3	4	timeout	0.842		4		6
41.	Lazard-ascm2001	3	4	timeout	timeout				
42.	Leykin-1	4	4	timeout	timeout				
43.	Cheaters-homotopy-easy	4	3	timeout	timeout				
44.	Cheaters-homotopy-hard	5	2	timeout	timeout				
45.	Lazard-ascm2001	3	4	timeout	timeout				
46.	MontesS18	2	3	timeout	timeout				
47.	Pavelle	4	4	timeout	timeout				
48.	p3p	5	2	timeout	timeout				
49.	z3	6	11	timeout	timeout				

**Table 3.** Comparing HCTD and HCTDA (for  $s = 1$ )

	benchmark	d	n	time		branch		grape	
				HCTD	HCTDA	HCTD	HCTDA	HCTD	HCTDA
1.	MontesS5	4	4	0.078	0.078	6	6	13	13
2.	zhou1	3	4	0.047	0.047	5	5	5	6
3.	MontesS9	3	3	0.693	0.796	21	21	16	27
4.	MontesS11	3	3	0.858	1.207	12	24	20	38
5.	MontesS12	2	6	0.593	0.671	5	5	61	60
6.	AlkashiSinus	3	6	0.094	0.109	8	10	8	10
7.	Bronstein	2	2	0.015	0.031	6	5	7	6
8.	MontesS7	2	2	0.046	0.266	4	6	4	6
9.	SBCD13	1	3	0.015	0.031	2	2	9	7
10.	F6	4	1	0.296	timeout	13		11	
11.	S2	4	1	44.544	timeout	150		92	
12.	Maclane	3	7	5.242	2.605	17	13	155	122
13.	SBCD23	1	3	0.202	0.109	4	2	15	13
14.	F4	4	2	11.637	1.653	20	26	3	3
15.	MontesS15	4	8	0.187	0.124	5	5	14	14
16.	F8	4	4	0.437	0.358	18	16	14	11
17.	MontesS16	3	12	1.198	0.951	37	21	11	8
18.	S3	4	3	2.618	1.81	35	29	17	15
19.	Neural	1	3	timeout	0.296		6		15
20.	Gerdt	3	4	timeout	288.352		4		11

**Table 4.** Timings of  $m$ -HCTD for different  $m$

	benchmark	d	n	time				
				$m = 0$	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 3$	$m = 4$
1.	Lazard-ascm2001	3	4	0.936	timeout			
2.	Leykin-1	4	4	0.203	20.436	timeout		
3.	Cheaters-homotopy-easy	4	3	3.681	timeout			
4.	Cheaters-homotopy-hard	5	2	39.640	timeout			
5.	Lazard-ascm2001	3	4	0.858	timeout			
6.	MontesS18	2	3	0.327	timeout			
7.	Pavelle	4	4	0.234	timeout			
8.	p3p	5	2	0.	0.	0.015	6.549	timeout
9.	z3	6	11	0.094	error			

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