

Tower Number Field Sieve Variant of a Recent Polynomial Selection Method

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Abstract. At Asiacrypt 2015, Barbulescu et al. performed a thorough analysis of the tower number field sieve (TNFS) variant of the number field sieve algorithm. More recently, Kim and Barbulescu combined the TNFS variant with several polynomial selection methods including the Generalised Joux-Lercier method and the Conjugation method proposed by Barbulescu et al. at Eurocrypt 2015. Sarkar and Singh (Eurocrypt 2016) proposed a polynomial selection method which subsumes both the GJL and the Conjugation methods. This study was done in the context of the NFS and the multiple NFS (MNFS). The purpose of the present note is to show that the polynomial selection method of Sarkar and Singh subsumes the GJL and the Conjugation methods also in the context of the TNFS and the multiple TNFS variants. This was not clear from the recent work by Kim and Barbulescu. Applying the new polynomial selection method to the TNFS variants results in new asymptotic complexities for certain ranges of primes.

1 Introduction

There has been a recent increase in the interest of applying the number field sieve (NFS) algorithms and its several variants to the study of the discrete logarithm problem on finite fields \mathbb{F}_{p^n} with $n > 1$. The work by Barbulescu et al. [1] at Eurocrypt 2015 proposed two new methods for polynomial selections and worked out the asymptotic complexities of these methods as applied to the NFS algorithm. These polynomial selection methods were named the generalised Joux-Lercier (GJL) method and the Conjugation method. At the same conference, Pierrot [5] showed how to combine these polynomial selection methods with the multiple NFS (MNFS) variant [5] and worked out the corresponding asymptotic complexities. Sarkar and Singh (Eurocrypt 2016) proposed [6] a new polynomial selection method which subsumes both the GJL and the Conjugation methods. Using this method, the asymptotic complexity of both the NFS and the MNFS were worked out in [6].

At Asiacrypt 2015, Barbulescu et al., [2] presented a detailed analysis of the tower number field sieve (TNFS) variant. In a recent paper, Kim and Barbulescu [4] applied previous polynomial selection methods to the TNFS, the

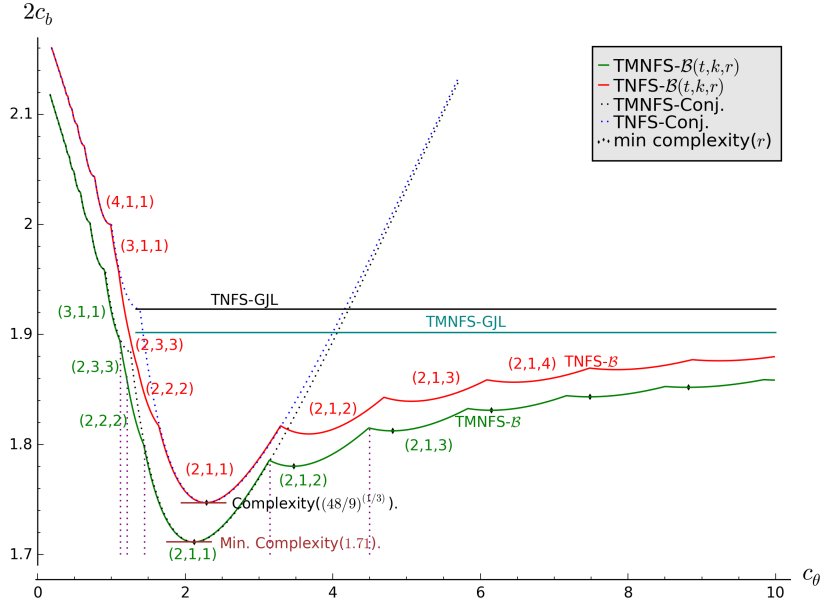


Fig. 1. Complexity plot for medium prime case

The first $n \times n$ principal sub-matrix of $M_{\varphi,r}$ is $\text{diag}[p, p, \dots, p]$ corresponding to the polynomials p, px, \dots, px^{n-1} . The last $r - n + 1$ rows correspond to the polynomials $\varphi(x), x\varphi(x), \dots, x^{r-n}\varphi(x)$.

Apply the LLL algorithm to $M_{\varphi,r}$ and let the first row of the resulting LLL-reduced matrix be $[g_0, g_1, \dots, g_{r-1}, g_r]$. Define

$$g(x) = g_0 + g_1x + \dots + g_{r-1}x^{r-1} + g_rx^r. \quad (2)$$

The notation

$$g = \text{LLL}(M_{\varphi,r}) \quad (3)$$

will be used to denote the polynomial $g(x)$ given by (2). By construction, $\varphi(x)$ is a factor of $g(x)$ modulo p .

3 A New Polynomial Selection Method for TNFS

We show how to properly modify the polynomial selection method described in [6] to the TNFS variant.

Consider the field \mathbb{F}_{p^n} where $n = \eta\kappa$ with $\text{gcd}(\eta, \kappa) = 1$. Let $h(z)$ be an irreducible polynomial over \mathbb{Z} of degree η and $R = \mathbb{Z}[z]/(h(z))$. This is the basic set-up of the tower number field sieve algorithm.

Let A be a positive integer. Consider the set of all polynomials $\phi(x)$ of the form

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0(z) + \phi_1(z)x + \cdots + \phi_{t-1}(z)x^{t-1},$$

where $\phi_i(z) \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$, $\deg(\phi_i) \leq \eta - 1$ and $\|\phi_i\|_\infty \leq A$. The number of such polynomials $\phi(x)$ is at most $A^{\eta t}$. We will call any such polynomial to be a sieving polynomial. Sieving is done using such polynomials $\phi(x)$.

Define E to be $E^2 = A^{\eta t}$ and so $A^\eta = E^{2/t}$. So, the number of possible coefficient polynomials of $\phi(x)$ is $E^{2/t}$.

Let f be an irreducible polynomial over the integers. Define

$$N_f(\phi) = \text{Res}_t(\text{Res}_x(\phi(x), f(x)), h(z)).$$

If $\|h\|_\infty$ is bounded by an absolute constant H and $p = L_Q(\ell_p, c)$ for some $\ell_p > 1/3$ and $c > 0$, then following [2, 4], it can be proved that the following holds:

$$N_f(\phi) \leq E^{2\deg(f)/t} (\|f\|_\infty)^{t-1} L_Q(2/3, o(1)).$$

Algorithm \mathcal{B} describes the extension of our previous method to the TNFS setting. Note that if $\eta = 1$, then $\kappa = n$ and \mathcal{B} becomes identical to the polynomial selection algorithm \mathcal{A} defined in [6]. The following result states the basic

Algorithm: \mathcal{B} : Polynomial selection for TNFS.

Input: p , $n = \eta\kappa$, d (a factor of κ) and $r \geq \kappa/d$.

Output: $f(x)$, $g(x)$ and $\varphi(x)$.

Let $k = \kappa/d$;

repeat

Randomly choose a monic irreducible polynomial $A_1(x)$ having the following properties: $\deg A_1(x) = r + 1$; $A_1(x)$ is irreducible over the integers; $A_1(x)$ has coefficients of size $O(\ln(p))$; modulo p , $A_1(x)$ has an irreducible factor $A_2(x)$ of degree k .

Randomly choose monic polynomials $C_0(x)$ and $C_1(x)$ with small coefficients such that $\deg C_0(x) = d$ and $\deg C_1(x) < d$.

Define

$$f(x) = \text{Res}_y(A_1(y), C_0(x) + y C_1(x));$$

$$\varphi(x) = \text{Res}_y(A_2(y), C_0(x) + y C_1(x)) \bmod p;$$

$$\psi(x) = \text{LLL}(M_{A_2, r});$$

$$g(x) = \text{Res}_y(\psi(y), C_0(x) + y C_1(x)).$$

until $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are irreducible over \mathbb{Z} and $\varphi(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{F}_p .

return $f(x)$, $g(x)$ and $\varphi(x)$.

properties of Algorithm \mathcal{B} .

Proposition 1. *The outputs $f(x)$, $g(x)$ and $\varphi(x)$ of Algorithm \mathcal{B} satisfy the following.*

1. $\deg(f) = d(r+1)$; $\deg(g) = rd$ and $\deg(\varphi) = \kappa$;
2. both $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ have $\varphi(x)$ as a factor modulo p ;
3. $\|f\|_\infty = O(\ln(p))$ and $\|g\|_\infty = O(Q^{1/(d(r+1))})$.

Consequently, if ϕ is a sieving polynomial, then

$$N_f(\phi) = E^{2d(r+1)/t} \times L_Q(2/3, o(1)); \quad (4)$$

$$N_g(\phi) = E^{2dr/t} \times Q^{(t-1)/(d(r+1))} \times L_Q(2/3, o(1)); \quad (5)$$

$$N_f(\phi) \times N_g(\phi) = E^{(2d(2r+1))/t} \times Q^{(t-1)/(d(r+1))} L_Q(2/3, o(1)). \quad (6)$$

We note the following points.

1. If $d = 1$, then the norm bound is $E^{2(2r+1)/t} Q^{(t-1)/(r+1)}$ which is the same as that obtained using the GJL method.
2. If $d = \kappa$, then the norm bound is $E^{2\kappa(2r+1)/t} Q^{(t-1)/(\kappa(r+1))}$. Further, if $r = k = 1$, then the norm bound is the same as that obtained using the Conjugation method. So, for $d = \kappa$, Algorithm \mathcal{B} is a generalisation of the Conjugation method.
3. If κ is a prime, then the only values of d are either 1 or n . The norm bounds in these two cases are covered by the above two points.
4. If κ is composite, then there are non-trivial values for d and it is possible to obtain new trade-offs in the norm bound. For concrete situations, this can be of interest. Further, for composite κ , as value of d increases from $d = 1$ to $d = \kappa$, the norm bound nicely interpolates between the norm bounds of the GJL method and the Conjugation method.

4 Asymptotic Complexity Analysis for the Medium Prime Case

For $1/3 < a < 2/3$, write

$$p = L_Q(a, c_p), \text{ where } c_p = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{\ln Q}{\ln \ln Q} \right)^{1-a} \text{ and so } n = \frac{1}{c_p} \left(\frac{\ln Q}{\ln \ln Q} \right)^{1-a}. \quad (7)$$

For each c_p , the runtime of the NFS algorithm is the same for the family of finite fields \mathbb{F}_{p^n} where p is given by (7).

Recall that $n = \eta\kappa$ where $\gcd(\eta, \kappa) = 1$. Suppose η can be written as

$$\eta = c_\eta \left(\frac{\ln Q}{\ln \ln Q} \right)^{2/3-a}. \quad (8)$$

Define $P = p^\eta$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= L_Q(a, c_p \eta) \\
&= \exp(c_p \eta (\ln Q)^a (\ln \ln Q)^{1-a}) \\
&= \exp\left(c_p c_\eta \left(\frac{\ln Q}{\ln \ln Q}\right)^{2/3-a} (\ln Q)^a (\ln \ln Q)^{1-a}\right) \\
&= \exp\left(c_p c_\eta (\ln Q)^{2/3} (\ln \ln Q)^{1/3}\right) \\
&= L_Q(2/3, c_p c_\eta).
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

So, if p is a medium prime with $p = L_Q(a, c_p)$ with $1/3 < a < 2/3$ and η is given by (8), then P is of the form $L_Q(2/3, c_p c_\eta)$, i.e., its size corresponds to the boundary case of NFS. The tower number field sieve considers an extension of degree κ over P . So, the extension of degree $\eta\kappa$ over a medium size prime p is transformed into an extension of degree κ over a boundary case size prime power P . Consequently, for such a situation, the asymptotic results obtained earlier for the boundary case can be translated to the medium size case.

We recall the following.

1. The number of polynomials to be considered for sieving is E^2 .
2. The factor base is of size B .

Sparse linear algebra using the Lanczos or the block Wiedemann algorithm takes time $O(B^2)$. For some $0 < b < 1$, let

$$B = L_Q(b, c_b). \tag{10}$$

The value of b will be determined later. Set

$$E = B \tag{11}$$

so that asymptotically, the number of sieving polynomials is equal to the time for the linear algebra step.

Let $\pi = \Psi(\Gamma, B)$ be the probability that a random positive integer which is at most Γ is B -smooth. Let $\Gamma = L_Q(z, \zeta)$ and $B = L_Q(b, c_b)$. Using the L-notation version of the Canfield-Erdős-Pomerance theorem,

$$(\Psi(\Gamma, B))^{-1} = L_Q\left(z - b, (z - b)\frac{\zeta}{c_b}\right). \tag{12}$$

Following the usual convention, we assume that the same smoothness probability π holds for the event that a random sieving polynomial $\phi(x)$ is smooth over the factor base.

The expected number of polynomials to consider for obtaining one relation is π^{-1} . Since B relations are required, obtaining this number of relations requires trying $B\pi^{-1}$ trials. Balancing the cost of sieving and the linear algebra steps requires $B\pi^{-1} = B^2$ and so

$$\pi^{-1} = B. \tag{13}$$

Obtaining π^{-1} from (12) and setting it to be equal to B allows solving for c_b . Balancing the costs of the sieving and the linear algebra phases leads to the runtime of the NFS algorithm to be $B^2 = L_Q(b, 2c_b)$. So, to determine the runtime, we need to determine b and c_b . The value of b will turn out to be $1/3$ and the only real issue is the value of c_b .

Lemma 1. *Let $n = \eta\kappa$ and $\kappa = kd$ for positive integers η, k and d . Using the expressions for p and $E(=B)$ given by (7) and (10), we obtain the following.*

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E^{\frac{2}{t}d(2r+1)} &= L_Q \left(1 - a + b, \frac{2c_b(2r+1)}{c_p\eta kt} \right); \\ Q^{\frac{t-1}{d(r+1)}} &= L_Q \left(a, \frac{kc_p\eta(t-1)}{(r+1)} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (14)$$

If further $\eta = c_\eta(\ln Q/\ln \ln Q)^{2/3-a}$, then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E^{\frac{2}{t}d(2r+1)} &= L_Q \left(1/3 + b, \frac{2c_b(2r+1)}{c_p c_\eta kt} \right); \\ Q^{\frac{t-1}{d(r+1)}} &= L_Q \left(2/3, \frac{kc_p c_\eta(t-1)}{(r+1)} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (15)$$

Proof. The second expression follows directly from $Q = p^n$, $p = L_Q(a, c_p)$ and $n = \eta kd$. The computation for obtaining the first expression is the following.

$$\begin{aligned} E^{\frac{2}{t}d(2r+1)} &= L_Q \left(b, c_b \frac{2}{t} d(2r+1) \right) \\ &= \exp \left(c_b \frac{2}{t} (2r+1) \frac{n}{k\eta} (\ln Q)^b (\ln \ln Q)^{1-b} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(c_b \frac{2}{c_p \eta kt} (2r+1) \left(\frac{\ln Q}{\ln \ln Q} \right)^{1-a} (\ln Q)^b (\ln \ln Q)^{1-b} \right) \\ &= L_Q \left(1 - a + b, \frac{2c_b(2r+1)}{c_p \eta kt} \right). \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 1. *Let $n = \eta\kappa$; $\gcd(\eta, \kappa) = 1$; $\kappa = kd$; $r \geq k$; $t \geq 2$; $p = L_Q(a, c_p)$ with $1/3 < a < 2/3$ and $0 < c_p < 1$; and $\eta = c_\eta(\ln Q/\ln \ln Q)^{2/3-a}$. It is possible to ensure that the runtime of the NFS algorithm with polynomials chosen by Algorithm \mathcal{B} is $L_Q(1/3, 2c_b)$ where*

$$c_b = \frac{2r+1}{3c_\theta kt} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{2r+1}{3c_\theta kt} \right)^2 + \frac{kc_\theta(t-1)}{3(r+1)}} \quad \text{and} \quad (16)$$

$$c_\theta = c_p c_\eta. \quad (17)$$

Proof. Setting $b = 1/3$, the two L -expressions given by (15) have the same first component and so the product of the norms is

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &= L_Q \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2c_b(2r+1)}{c_p c_\eta kt} + \frac{kc_p c_\eta(t-1)}{(r+1)} \right) \\ &= L_Q \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2c_b(2r+1)}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{kc_\theta(t-1)}{(r+1)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then π^{-1} given by (12) is

$$L_Q \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2(2r+1)}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{kc_\theta(t-1)}{c_b(r+1)} \right) \right).$$

From the condition $\pi^{-1} = B$, we get

$$c_b = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2(2r+1)}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{kc_\theta(t-1)}{c_b(r+1)} \right). \quad (18)$$

Solving the quadratic for c_b and choosing the positive root gives

$$c_b = \frac{2r+1}{3c_\theta kt} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{2r+1}{3c_\theta kt} \right)^2 + \frac{kc_\theta(t-1)}{3(r+1)}}.$$

□

Note that c_b is minimised at $c_p c_\eta = c_\theta = 12^{1/3}$ whence the corresponding complexity of the TNFS algorithm is $L_Q(1/3, (48/9)^{1/3})$.

5 Multiple Number Field Sieve Variant

There are two variants of multiple number field sieve algorithm. In the first variant, the image of $\phi(x)$ needs to be smooth in at least any two of the number fields. In the second variant, the image of $\phi(x)$ needs to be smooth in the first number field and at least one of the other number fields. We discuss the second variant of MNFS only. In contrast to the number field sieve algorithm, the right number field is replaced by a collection of V number fields in the second variant of MNFS. The sieving polynomial $\phi(x)$ has to satisfy the smoothness condition on the left number field as before. On the right side, it is sufficient for $\phi(x)$ to satisfy a smoothness condition on at least one of the V number fields.

Recall that Algorithm \mathcal{B} produces two polynomials $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ of degrees $d(r+1)$ and dr respectively. The polynomial $g(x)$ is defined as $\text{Res}_y(\psi(y), C_0(x) + yC_1(x))$ where $\psi(x) = \text{LLL}(M_{A_2, r})$, i.e., $\psi(x)$ is defined from the first row of the matrix obtained after applying the LLL-algorithm to $M_{A_2, r}$.

Methods for obtaining the collection of number fields on the right have been mentioned in [5]. We adapt one of these methods to our setting. Consider Algorithm \mathcal{B} . Let $\psi_1(x)$ be $\psi(x)$ as above and let $\psi_2(x)$ be the polynomial defined from the second row of the matrix $M_{A_2, r}$. Define $g_1(x) = \text{Res}_y(\psi_1(y), C_0(x) + yC_1(x))$ and $g_2(x) = \text{Res}_y(\psi_2(y), C_0(x) + yC_1(x))$. Then choose $V - 2$ linear combinations $g_i(x) = s_i g_1(x) + t_i g_2(x)$, for $i = 3, \dots, V$. Note that the coefficients s_i and t_i are of the size of \sqrt{V} . All the g_i 's have degree dr . Asymptotically, $\|\psi_2\|_\infty = \|\psi_1\|_\infty = Q^{1/(d(r+1))}$. Since we take $V = L_Q(1/3)$, all the g_i 's have their infinity norms to be the same as that of $g(x)$ given by Proposition 1.

For the left number field, as before, let B be the bound on the norms of the ideals which are in the factor basis defined by f . For each of the right number

fields, let B' be the bound on the norms of the ideals which are in the factor basis defined by each of the g_i 's. So, the size of the entire factor basis is $B + VB'$. The following condition balances the left portion and the right portion of the factor basis.

$$B = VB'. \quad (19)$$

With this condition, the size of the factor basis is $B^{1+o(1)}$ as in the classical NFS and so asymptotically, the linear algebra step takes time B^2 . As before, the number of sieving polynomials is $E^2 = B^2$ and the coefficient polynomials of $\phi(x)$ can take $E^{2/t}$ distinct values.

Let π be the probability that a random sieving polynomial $\phi(x)$ gives rise to a relation. Let π_1 be the probability that $\phi(x)$ is smooth over the left factor basis and π_2 be the probability that $\phi(x)$ is smooth over *at least* one of the right factor bases. Further, let $\Gamma_1 = \text{Res}_x(f(x), \phi(x))$ be the bound on the norm corresponding to the left number field and $\Gamma_2 = \text{Res}_x(g_i(x), \phi(x))$ be the bound on the norm for any of the right number fields. Note that Γ_2 is determined only by the degree and the L_∞ -norm of $g_i(x)$ and hence is the same for all $g_i(x)$'s. Heuristically, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1 &= \Psi(\Gamma_1, B); \\ \pi_2 &= V\Psi(\Gamma_2, B'); \\ \pi &= \pi_1 \times \pi_2. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

As before, one relation is obtained in about π^{-1} trials and so B relations are obtained in about $B\pi^{-1}$ trials. Balancing the cost of linear algebra and sieving, we have as before $B = \pi^{-1}$.

The following choices of B and V are made.

$$\begin{aligned} E &= B = L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, c_b\right); \\ V &= L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, c_v\right); \text{ and so} \\ B' &= B/V = L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, c_b - c_v\right). \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Theorem 2. *Let $n = \eta\kappa$; $\gcd(\eta, \kappa) = 1$; $\kappa = kd$; $r \geq k$; $t \geq 2$; $p = L_Q(a, c_p)$ with $1/3 < a < 2/3$ and $0 < c_p < 1$; and $\eta = c_\eta(\ln Q/\ln \ln Q)^{2/3-a}$. It is possible to ensure that the runtime of the MNFS algorithm is $L_Q(1/3, 2c_b)$ where*

$$\begin{aligned} c_b &= \frac{4r+2}{6k c_\theta} + \sqrt{\frac{r(3r+2)}{(3k c_\theta)^2} + \frac{c_\theta k(t-1)}{3(r+1)}} \text{ and} \\ c_\theta &= c_p c_\eta. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Proof. Note the following computations. For a sieving polynomial ϕ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma_1 &= N_f(\phi) \\
&= E^{(2d(r+1))/t} L_Q(2/3, o(1)) \\
&= E^{(2n(r+1))/(\eta kt)} \\
&= L_Q\left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2(r+1)c_b}{k t c_p c_\eta}\right); \\
\pi_1^{-1} &= L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2(r+1)}{3 k t c_\theta}\right); \\
\Gamma_2 &= N_g(\phi) \\
&= E^{(2rd)/t} \times Q^{(t-1)/(d(r+1))} L_Q(2/3, o(1)) \\
&= E^{(2rn)/(\eta kt)} \times Q^{\eta k(t-1)/(n(r+1))} \\
&= L_Q\left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2rc_b}{c_p c_\eta kt} + \frac{k c_p c_\eta (t-1)}{r+1}\right); \\
\pi_2^{-1} &= L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, -c_v + \frac{1}{3(c_b - c_v)} \left(\frac{2rc_b}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{k c_\theta (t-1)}{r+1}\right)\right); \\
\pi^{-1} &= L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2(r+1)}{3 k t c_\theta} - c_v + \frac{1}{3(c_b - c_v)} \left(\frac{2rc_b}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{k c_\theta (t-1)}{r+1}\right)\right);
\end{aligned}$$

From the condition $\pi^{-1} = B$, we obtain the following equation.

$$c_b = \frac{2(r+1)}{3 k t c_p c_\eta} - c_v + \frac{1}{3(c_b - c_v)} \left(\frac{2rc_b}{c_\theta kt} + \frac{k c_\theta (t-1)}{r+1}\right). \quad (23)$$

We wish to find c_v such that c_b is minimised subject to the constraint (23). Using the method of Lagrange multipliers, the partial derivative of (23) with respect to c_v gives

$$c_v = \frac{r+1}{3 k t c_\theta}.$$

Using this value of c_v in (23) provides the following quadratic in c_b .

$$(3 k t c_\theta) c_b^2 - (4r+2) c_b + \frac{(r+1)^2}{3 k t c_\theta} - \frac{(c_\theta k)^2 t(t-1)}{r+1} = 0.$$

Solving this and taking the positive square root, we obtain

$$c_b = \frac{4r+2}{6 k t c_\theta} + \sqrt{\frac{r(3r+2)}{(3 k t c_\theta)^2} + \frac{c_\theta k(t-1)}{3(r+1)}}. \quad (24)$$

Hence the overall complexity of MNFS for the boundary case is $L_Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, 2c_b\right)$. \square

From Theorem 2, the entire analysis carried out in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 of [6] apply with the constant c_p replaced by c_θ leading to the new asymptotic complexity results for the medium prime case that has been mentioned in the introduction.

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