# An effective version <br> of Pólya's theorem <br> on positive definite forms 

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#### Abstract

Given a real homogeneous polynomial $F$, strictly positive in the non-negative orthant, Pólya's theorem says that for a sufficiently large exponent $p$ the coefficients of $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right) \cdot\left(x_{1}+\cdots+x_{n}\right)^{p}$ are strictly positive. The smallest such $p$ will be called the Pólya exponent of $F$. We present a new proof for Pólya's result, which allows us to obtain an explicit upper bound on the Pólya exponent when $F$ has rational coefficients. An algorithm to obtain reasonably good bounds for specific instances is also derived.

Pólya's theorem has appeared before in constructive solutions of Hilbert's 17th problem for positive definite forms [4]. We also present a different procedure to do this kind of construction.


## 1 Introduction

In 1928 G. Pólya [7] proved the following theorem (see also [5]):
Theorem 1.1 (Pólya) Let $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ be a real homogeneous polynomial which is positive in $x_{i} \geq 0, \sum x_{i}>0$. Then, for a sufficiently large integer $p$, the product

$$
F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right) \cdot\left(x_{1}+\cdots+x_{n}\right)^{p}
$$

has all its coefficients strictly positive.
The smallest exponent $p$ that satisfies the properties of the theorem will be called the Pólya exponent of $F$. Our purpose is to show an elementary derivation for an upper bound of the Pólya exponent. Using an effective Lojasiewicz inequality for the case of rational coefficients [10], this upper bound can be written in terms of the degree, the number of variables and the size of the coefficients of $F$. This is done in the following theorem.

[^0]Theorem 1.2 Let $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ be a real homogeneous polynomial of degree $d$ whose coefficients are bounded in absolute value by $l \geq 2$. Suppose that $F$ is strictly positive in the non-negative orthant (minus the origin). Denote by $\lambda$ the minimum of $F$ in the unit simplex $\Delta=\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}=1, \quad x_{i} \geq 0 \quad \forall i\right\}$. Call $D$ the maximum of $d+1$ and $n+1$. Under these assumptions:

1. If $F$ has integer coefficients, then $1 / \lambda$ is bounded above by $l^{D^{O(n)}}$.
2. For any integer $p$ greater than $\frac{l n d^{2}+d n}{\lambda}$, the product

$$
F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right) \cdot\left(x_{1}+\cdots+x_{n}\right)^{p}
$$

has all its coefficients strictly positive.
We remark that recent work by Reznick (see [8]) contains results similar to part two of our theorem. Observe that Theorem 1.1. implies that $F$ can be written in the form $F=G / H$, where $G$ and $H$ are homogeneous polynomials with only positive coefficients. This is a necessary and sufficient condition for $F$ to be strictly positive in the non-negative orthant. In a similar way, Artin decomposition of a polynomial as a quotient of two sums of squares is necessary and sufficient to guarantee positive semidefiniteness in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$. W. Habicht found a way to construct an Artin decomposition of a positive definite form using Pólya's theorem [4]. In section 3 we present a new method to do this.

Let us finally indicate that a slightly more general version of Pólya's theorem appears in the theory of Geometric Design (see Theorem 1.3 in [3]) in connection with the approximation of polynomial functions in a simplicial region. The generalization comes from the fact that the convergence result in the proof of Lemma 2.1 is still true for $F$ not necessarily positive. This implies that, for large $p$, the coefficients of the polynomials $\left(x_{1}+\cdots+x_{n}\right)^{p} F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ approximate $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ (up to a normalization) at some test points in the simplex $\Delta=\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}=1, \quad x_{i} \geq 0 \quad \forall i\right\}$

## 2 Proof of the main result

We will first present some notation. We will abbreviate $F\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ by $F(X)$. The polynomial $F(X)$ can be written as a difference $F_{+}(X)-F_{-}(X)$ where the polynomials $F_{+}(X)$ and $F_{-}(X)$ have only positive coefficients. We use $\sum X$ to denote $x_{1}+x_{2}+\ldots+x_{n}$, and $X+d$ to abbreviate $\left(x_{1}+d, \ldots, x_{n}+d\right)$. Finally $X>0$ will indicate that $x_{i}>0$ for $i=1, \ldots, n$.

Lemma 2.1 Let $F(X)$ be a real homogeneous polynomial of degree $d$, strictly positive in the non-negative orthant (minus the origin).

1. The semialgebraic region $G:=\left\{X: F_{+}(X)-F_{-}(X+d) \leq 0, X \geq 0\right\}$ is bounded.
2. For any $p$ greater or equal than dn plus the maximum of $\sum X$ on the region $G$, the product $F(X) \cdot\left(\sum X\right)^{p}$ has all its coefficients strictly positive.

## Proof:

Observe that the part of largest degree of $F_{*}(X)=F_{+}(X)-F_{-}(X+d)$ is the polynomial $F(X)$ and the remaining terms have negative coefficients. Hence for
each point $Q$ in the simplex $\Delta=\left\{\sum X=1, X \geq 0\right\}$ the univariate polynomial $H_{Q}(\lambda)=F_{*}(\lambda Q)$ has positive leading term and the rest of its terms negative. Call $r(Q)$ the only positive real root of $H_{Q}(\lambda)$. The function $r(Q)$ is continuous in $\Delta$ which is compact and thus attains a maximum. This finishes the proof of part (1).

For the proof of part (2), let $F(X)=\sum c_{V} X^{V}$, and $F(X)\left(\sum X\right)^{p}=\sum C_{U} X^{U}$, where $V=\left(v_{1}, \ldots, v_{n}\right), \quad \sum v_{i}=d$ and $U=\left(u_{1}, \ldots, u_{n}\right), \sum u_{i}=p+d$. Then the coefficient $C_{U}$ equals

$$
\sum_{\sum v_{i}=d} c_{V} \frac{p!}{\left(u_{1}-v_{1}\right)!\ldots\left(u_{n}-v_{n}\right)!}=\sum c_{V} P_{U, V} .
$$

If $u_{i}>d$ for $i=1, \ldots, n$ then it is easy to see that the following two inequalities are satisfied (note that $0 \leq v_{i} \leq d$ for all $i$ ).

$$
\frac{p!}{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!} u_{1}^{v_{1}} \cdots u_{n}^{v_{n}} \geq P_{U, V} \geq \frac{p!}{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!}\left(u_{1}-d\right)^{v_{1}} \cdots\left(u_{n}-d\right)^{v_{n}} .
$$

Using one of these inequalities for each $P_{U, V}$ depending on the sign of $c_{V}$ we get

$$
\frac{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!C_{U}}{p!} \geq F_{+}\left(u_{1}-d, \ldots, u_{n}-d\right)-F_{-}\left(u_{1}, \ldots, u_{n}\right)
$$

Otherwise, one of the $u_{i}$ is smaller or equal to $d$. Without loss of generality assume $u_{1}, \ldots, u_{k}>d \geq u_{k+1}, \ldots, u_{n}$. In this case we have another pair of inequalities:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{p!}{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!}\left(u_{1}\right)^{v_{1}} \cdots\left(u_{k}\right)^{v_{k}} d^{v_{k+1}} \cdots d^{v_{n}} \geq P_{U, V} \\
P_{U, V} \geq \frac{p!}{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!}\left(u_{1}-d\right)^{v_{1}} \cdots\left(u_{k}-d\right)^{v_{k}} 0^{v_{k+1}} \cdots 0^{v_{n}}
\end{gathered}
$$

where $0^{0}$ is taken to be 1 if $v_{i}=0$ for some $i>k$. In the same way as before we conclude that

$$
\frac{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!C_{U}}{p!} \geq F_{+}\left(u_{1}-d, \ldots, u_{k}-d, 0, \ldots, 0\right)-F_{-}\left(u_{1}, \ldots, u_{k}, d, \ldots, d\right)
$$

In both cases we obtain $\frac{u_{1}!\cdots u_{n}!C_{U}}{p!} \geq F_{+}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)-F_{-}\left(x_{1}+d, \ldots, x_{n}+d\right)$ for certain $x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}$ with $\sum x_{i}>p-d n$. Using the assumption on $p$, we have $F_{+}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)-F_{-}\left(x_{1}+d, \ldots, x_{n}+d\right)>0$ and thus the coefficient $C_{U}$ is positive.

For the proof of Theorem 1.2 we want to give a procedure to find the maximum of the linear form $\sum X$ inside the region $G=\left\{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \mid F_{+}(X)-F_{-}(X+d) \leq\right.$ $0, X \geq 0\}$. We will also derive a theoretical bound for this maximum using an effective Lojasiewicz inequality. The following statement is the quantifier free case of Lemma 5 in [10] (see chapter 2 of [1] for general information on Lojasiewicz inequalities).

Lemma 2.2 (Solernó) Let $V \subset R^{n}$ be a nonempty and closed semialgebraic set and let $f: V \rightarrow R$ be a continuous semialgebraic function. Assume that both $V$
and the graph of $f$ are defined by quantifier free formulas $\Phi_{V}$ and $\Phi_{f}$ involving polynomials with integer coefficients. Denote by $D_{V}$ and $D_{f}$ the sum of the degrees of the polynomials in the respective formula. Let $D=\max \left\{D_{V}, D_{f}\right\}$ and let $l$ be the maximum absolute value of the coefficients involved in the formulas.

There exists a universal constant $c \in N$ such that, under the above conditions, we have:

$$
|f(x)| \leq l^{D^{d n+1)}}(1+|x|)^{D^{d(n+1)}}
$$

for all $x$ belonging to $V$

Proof of Theorem 1.2: In part one we use Lemma 2.2 with the simplex $\Delta$ as $V$ and $f=1 / F$. In our case $D=\max \{d+1, n+1\}$ and in the simplex $\Delta$ we have $(1+|x|) \leq 2$. Taking into account that $l$ and $D$ are bigger than 2 we obtain a bound for $1 / F$ in $\Delta$ :

$$
1 / F \leq l^{D^{c(n+1)}} 2^{D^{c(n+1)}}=l^{D^{O(n)}} .
$$

This completes the proof of part one. For part two we first note that the inequality $F_{-}(X+d) \leq F_{-}(X)+d \sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X)$ is valid in the non-negative orthant. This follows from Taylor's multivariate theorem taking into account that $F_{-}$has only positive coefficients. As a consequence, the semialgebraic region $G$ defined in Lemma 2.1 is contained in

$$
G^{\prime}=\left\{X: F(X)-d \sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X) \leq 0, X \geq 0\right\}
$$

Notice that $F(X)-d \sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X) \leq 0$ if and only if $\sum X \leq \frac{d\left(\sum X\right)\left(\sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X)\right)}{F(X)}$. The right hand side of the last inequality is a quotient of two homogeneous polynomials of the same degree and we can bound it by the quotient of the maximum of $d\left(\sum X\right)\left(\sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X)\right)$ and the minimum of $F(X)$ in the simplex. The minimum of $F(X)$ equals $\lambda$ and the maximum of the numerator can be seen to be bounded by $\ln d^{2}$, because of the following chain of inequalities:

$$
d\left(\sum X\right)\left(\sum \frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X)\right) \leq d^{2} n F_{-}(X) \leq d^{2} n l .
$$

We have used that $\sum X=1$ because we are in the unit simplex and $\frac{\partial F_{-}}{\partial x_{i}}(X) \leq$ $d F_{-}(X)$ because $F_{-}$has only positive coefficients. Thus $\sum X$ is bounded by $\frac{\ln d^{2}}{\lambda}$ in $G^{\prime}$ as desired. This completes the proof.

Lemma 2.1 provides us with an algorithm to find a reasonably good bound for the Pólya exponent which is a priori smaller than those given in Theorem 1.2. We need to find the maximum for the linear functional $\sum X$ in the region $G$ which was defined using $F_{*}(X)=F_{+}(X)-F_{-}(X+d)$. The maximum will be attained at a boundary point $Q=\left(q_{1}, \ldots, q_{n}\right)$ such that $F_{*}(Q)=0$ and the partial derivatives of $F_{*}$ with respect to nonzero entries are all equal. This allows us to use symbolic methods (such as Gröbner bases). Nevertheless, since we are only interested in an upper bound for the Pólya exponent, it is enough for our purposes to apply numerical optimization techniques (such as numerical Lagrange multipliers). In the
following table we show the value of the maximum $\sum X$ in $G$ for several polynomials and compare it with the Pólya exponent. The values in the last column have been found by means of Gröbner bases and real root isolation.

$$
\text { Pólya exponent } \quad\left\lceil\max _{X \in G}\left(\sum X\right)\right\rceil
$$

$1000 x^{2}-1999 x y+1000 y^{2}$
$50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2}$
$\left(50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2}\right)\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)$
$\left(50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2}\right)\left(x^{4}+x^{2} y^{2}+y^{4}\right)$
$(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4}$
$5 x^{4}+(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4}$
$10 x^{4}+(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4}$
$(x-z)^{2}+(y-z)^{2}+(x+y)^{2}$
$\left(412 x^{4}-18 x^{3} y+556 x^{2} y^{2}+40 x y^{3}+\right.$
$533 y^{4}-24 x^{3}-344 x^{2} y+184 x y^{2}-200 y^{3}+$
$\left.540 x^{2}+134 x y+678 y^{2}-182 x-92 y+444\right)$
$3997 \quad 15994$
$50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2} \quad 197 \quad 794$
$\left(50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2}\right)\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right) \quad 193 \quad 3180$
$\begin{array}{lll}\left(50 x^{2}-99 x y+50 y^{2}\right)\left(x^{4}+x^{2} y^{2}+y^{4}\right) & 187 & 7158\end{array}$
$(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4} \quad 197 \quad 1948$
$5 x^{4}+(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4} \quad 44 \quad 367$
$10 x^{4}+(x-y)^{2}(x+6 y)^{2}+y^{4} \quad 30 \quad 228$
$(x-z)^{2}+(y-z)^{2}+(x+y)^{2} \quad 3 \quad 19$
$\left(412 x^{4}-18 x^{3} y+556 x^{2} y^{2}+40 x y^{3}+20\right.$
$533 y^{4}-24 x^{3}-344 x^{2} y+184 x y^{2}-200 y^{3}+$
$\left.540 x^{2}+134 x y+678 y^{2}-182 x-92 y+444\right)$

The last example in the table is a sum of the squares of 50 randomly generated quadratic forms, and will be used in Section 3 as an example of the process described in Theorem 3.2. The coefficients of the quadratic forms were generated using MAPLE's random numbers subroutine with $[-5, \ldots, 5]$ as the range of variation. Our computational experience indicates that such 'random' polynomials tend to have a low Pólya exponent.

Let us analyze in detail an example that contains as particular cases the first two polynomials in the table. Consider $F(X)=x_{1}^{n}+\cdots+x_{n}^{n}-(n-\epsilon) x_{1} \cdots x_{n}$ for a positive and small $\epsilon$ and large $n$. As pointed out in [5] its Pólya exponent is approximately $\frac{n^{3}(n-1)}{2 \epsilon}$. The maximum of $\sum X$ in $G$ is attained at a point with $x_{0}=\cdots=x_{n}$ and it is approximately $\frac{n^{4}}{\epsilon}$. So, the bound given by Lemma 2.1 equals the Pólya exponent asymptotically up to a factor of 2 .

We can deduce some important consequences of this example: Pólya's theorem is not true if $F$ is only non-negative [5] or if it is strictly positive only in the open orthant (e.g. $F(x, y, z)=(x-y)^{2}+z^{2}$ ). The theorem is again not true over nonArchimedian fields (taking $\epsilon$ to be an infinitesimal). Finally, the Pólya exponent $p$ cannot be bounded only by the degree $d$ and the number of variables $n$ of $F$ ( for these last two comments see [9]). Any bound will necessarily include the size $l$ of its coefficients.

## 3 Decomposition of strictly positive polynomials

In this section we will connect Pólya's theorem to Hilbert's 17th problem. This problem asked whether every nonnegative real polynomial can be expressed as a quotient of sums of squares of real polynomials. It was non-constructively solved by Artin in 1928 and other solutions have been proposed later, which are constructive or give conditions and bounds on the output polynomials. We recommend [1] and [2]
for a brief history of the problem ([2] puts special emphasis on constructive aspects of the solution).

Pólya's theorem was used by Habicht [4] to give explicit solutions to Hilbert's 17th problem in the case of positive definite homogeneous polynomials. Here, we present a different way to do this. If we have a positive definite homogeneous polynomial $F$ in $n$ variables, Pólya's theorem can be applied to $F\left(\epsilon_{1} x_{1}, \epsilon_{2} x_{2}, \ldots, \epsilon_{n} x_{n}\right)$, where $\epsilon_{i} \in\{+,-\}$. In this way we have $2^{n}$ Pólya-like expressions, each of them certifying the positiveness of $F$ inside a different orthant. We proceed to glue these local certificates with techniques similar to those in [6]. The decomposition of $F$ obtained in this way is a quotient of two sums of even powers of monomials in the "variables" $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}, F$. Let us remark that B. Reznick [8] has also given, using less elementary techniques, concrete decompositions for the same family of polynomials. His decomposition has a sum of even powers of linear forms in the numerator and a power of $\sum x_{i}^{2}$ in the denominator.

For convenience we will state all results in this section for an inhomogeneous polynomial $F$. This is possible provided that its homogenization is positive definite or, equivalently, if $F$ is strictly positive and its largest degree part is positive definite. Reciprocally any positive definite homogeneous polynomial can be dehomogenized yielding an inhomogeneous polynomials with the above conditions. Hence Theorem 3.2 applies to homogeneous polynomials as well. In the following discussion $\mathbf{K}$ will denote any ordered field and $\mathbf{K}_{+}$denotes the set of strictly positive elements in $\mathbf{K}$. Only in the last part of Theorem 3.2 we need $\mathbf{K}$ to be the rationals in order to apply the bound in part one of Theorem 1.2.

Lemma 3.1 Let $F \in \mathbf{K}\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$. Suppose that for a given $x_{i}$ we have two identities $F \cdot A_{1}=B_{1}$ and $F \cdot A_{2}=B_{2}$ where $A_{1}, B_{1}$ are polynomials in $\mathbf{K}_{+}\left[x_{i}, T, F^{2}\right]$ and $A_{2}, B_{2}$ are polynomials in $\mathbf{K}_{+}\left[-x_{i}, T, F^{2}\right]$, for some arbitrary set of indeterminates T. Assume that both $B_{1}$ and $B_{2}$ have a nonzero constant term. Then we can find an expression of the form $F \cdot R=S$ where $R$ and $S$ are polynomials in $\mathbf{K}_{+}\left[x_{i}^{2}, T, F^{2}\right]$ and $S$ has a nonzero constant term. Moreover $\operatorname{deg}(S) \leq \operatorname{deg}\left(B_{1}\right)+\operatorname{deg}\left(B_{2}\right)$.

Proof: We can decompose $A_{1}=A_{1,1}+x_{i} A_{1,2}, \quad B_{1}=B_{1,1}+x_{i} B_{1,2}, \quad A_{2}=A_{2,1}-$ $x_{i} A_{2,2}$, and $B_{2}=B_{2,1}-x_{i} B_{2,2}$ with $A_{1,1}, A_{1,2}, B_{1,1}, B_{1,2}, A_{2,1}, A_{2,2}, B_{2,1}$ and $B_{2,2} \in$ $\mathbf{K}_{+}\left[x_{i}^{2}, T, F^{2}\right]$. Separate the two identities in the form:

$$
F A_{1,1}-B_{1,1}=-x_{i} F A_{1,2}+x_{i} B_{1,2}, \quad F A_{2,1}-B_{2,1}=x_{i} F A_{2,2}-x_{i} B_{2,2}
$$

Multiplying side by side the above equations and grouping together terms with $F$ we obtain:

$$
\begin{gathered}
F \cdot\left(A_{1,1} B_{2,1}+B_{1,1} A_{2,1}+x_{i}^{2} A_{1,2} B_{2,2}+x_{i}^{2} B_{1,2} A_{2,2}\right)= \\
F^{2}\left(A_{1,1} A_{2,1}+x_{i}^{2} A_{1,2} A_{2,2}\right)+B_{1,1} B_{2,1}+x_{i}^{2} B_{1,2} B_{2,2}
\end{gathered}
$$

By hypothesis both $B_{1,1}$ and $B_{2,1}$ have a nonzero constant term and thus $B_{1,1} B_{2,1}$ has a nonzero constant term. The constant term of $F^{2} A_{1,1} A_{2,1}$ is either zero or positive, and thus the constant term of the right hand side of the equation above is positive. From the above expression it is clear that $\operatorname{deg}(S) \leq \operatorname{deg}\left(B_{1}\right)+\operatorname{deg}\left(B_{2}\right)$.

As an immediate application of the above lemma and as a preparation for the multivariate case we present a method to decompose a real univariate strictly positive polynomial $F$ as a quotient of two sums of squares. We remark that in the univariate case, the additional condition of $F$ having a strictly positive largest degree part is redundant. Applying Theorem 1.2 to the homogenization of $F$ we have the following expression where $B_{1}(x)$ has only positive coefficients

$$
F(x)(x+1)^{p}=B_{1}(x) .
$$

With the same process applied to the polynomial $F(-x)$ we obtain:

$$
F(x)(1-x)^{q}=B_{2}(-x)
$$

Taking $A_{1}=(x+1)^{p}, \quad A_{2}=(1-x)^{q}$ and $T=\emptyset$ we are in the situation of Lemma 3.1. This will give an expression $F \cdot R=S$ with $R, S$ polynomials in $\mathbb{R}_{+}\left[x^{2}, F^{2}\right]$ and thus sums of squares.

Theorem 3.2 Let $F\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ be a real strictly positive polynomial of degree d, whose homogenization is positive definite. For each $\epsilon=\left(\epsilon_{1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{n}\right)$ in $E^{n}=$ $\{+,-\}^{n}$, let $p_{\epsilon}$ be the Polya exponent of the homogenization of $F$ in the orthant where the sign of the ith coordinate equals $\epsilon_{i}$. Let $P=\sum_{\epsilon \in E^{n}} p_{\epsilon}$ and $D$ be the maximum of $d+1$ and $n+1$. Then we can write:

$$
F \cdot R=S
$$

where $R, S \in \mathbb{R}_{+}\left[x_{1}^{2}, x_{2}^{2}, \ldots, x_{n}^{2}, F^{2}\right]$ and $\operatorname{deg}(S) \leq P+2^{n}$ d (where $S$ is considered as a polynomial in the original variables $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}$ to compute deg $(S)$ ).

If $F \in \mathbf{Q}\left[x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$, then we can find $R$ and $S$ in $\mathbf{Q}_{+}\left[x_{1}^{2}, x_{2}^{2}, \ldots, x_{n}^{2}, F^{2}\right]$. We can also choose $R$ and $S$ with $l^{D^{O(n)}}$ monomials, where $l$ is an upper bound for the absolute values of the coefficients of $F$.

Proof: Let $E^{n}=\{+,-\}^{n}$. For each $\epsilon=\left(\epsilon_{1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{n}\right) \in E^{n}$ we have a Pólya expression in the corresponding orthant

$$
F\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right) \cdot A_{\epsilon}=B_{\epsilon}
$$

where $A_{\epsilon}, B_{\epsilon} \in R_{+}\left[\epsilon_{1} x_{1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{n} x_{n}\right]$. Moreover $A_{\epsilon}=\left(1+\epsilon_{1} x_{1}+\ldots+\epsilon_{n} x_{n}\right)^{p_{\epsilon}}$ and thus $B_{\epsilon}$ has degree $p_{\epsilon}+d$ and non-zero constant term. Our goal is to glue the $2^{n}$ expressions in pairs using Lemma 3.1. More explicitly, for each $\sigma \in E^{n-1}$ consider the two expressions $F A_{\epsilon}=B_{\epsilon}$ and $F A_{\epsilon^{\prime}}=B_{\epsilon^{\prime}}$ where $\epsilon=(\sigma,+)$ and $\epsilon^{\prime}=(\sigma,-)$.

We can apply Lemma 3.1 with $T=\left\{\sigma_{1} x_{1}, \sigma_{2} x_{2}, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1} x_{n-1}\right\}$. This will give $2^{(n-1)}$ expressions (one for each $\sigma=\left(\sigma_{1}, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1}\right)$ in $E^{n-1}$ ) where the variable $x_{n}$ always appears squared. Inductively, for each $\tau \in E^{n-2}$, we take the two expressions $F A_{\sigma}=B_{\sigma}$ and $F A_{\sigma^{\prime}}=B_{\sigma^{\prime}}$ with $\sigma=(\tau,+)$ and $\sigma^{\prime}=(\tau,-)$ and apply Lemma 3.1 with $T=\left\{\tau_{1} x_{1}, \tau_{2} x_{2}, \ldots, \tau_{n-2} x_{n-2}, x_{n}^{2}\right\}$. This process can be continued until all the variables appear squared.

For the degrees we note that in each gluing the degrees of the expressions glued are added. The degree of the final expression will be the sum of the degrees of the $2^{n}$ equations derived from Theorem 1.2. This gives the bound $P+d 2^{n}$.

We want to illustrate our method with a simple example. Consider the last polynomial given as an example in section 2: $F:=134 x y-92 y-182 x-24 x^{3}+$ $412 x^{4}+540 x^{2}+678 y^{2}+533 y^{4}-200 y^{3}-18 x^{3} y+556 x^{2} y^{2}-344 x^{2} y+40 x y^{3}+$ $184 x y^{2}+444$.

We will apply the process described in the proof of Theorem 3.2. Pólya's theorem applied to $F$ in each one of the four orthants gives the following four identities (we show the intermediate distributions of the terms with respect to parity of the powers of $y$ ):
(i) $F(1+x+y)^{2}=F\left(1+2 x+x^{2}+y^{2}+y(2+2 x)\right)=1722 x^{2} y^{2}+1442 x y^{2}+874 x^{3}+904 x^{4}+706 x+$ $620 x^{2}+938 y^{2}+811 y^{4}+444+548 x^{3} y^{2}+932 x^{4} y^{2}+930 y^{4} x+1169 y^{4} x^{2}+800 x^{5}+412 x^{6}+533 y^{6}+$ $y\left(474 x+460 x^{3}+548 x^{2}+1498 x y^{2}+796+1064 y^{2}+396 x^{4}+806 x^{5}+1106 y^{4} x+1016 x^{2} y^{2}+\right.$ $1134 x^{3} y^{2}+866 y^{4}$ ).
(ii) $F(1+x-y)^{2}=F\left(1+2 x+x^{2}+y^{2}-y(2+2 x)\right)=2562 x^{2} y^{2}+1274 x y^{2}+874 x^{3}+904 x^{4}+$ $706 x+620 x^{2}+1306 y^{2}+1611 y^{4}+444+1996 x^{3} y^{2}+1004 x^{4} y^{2}+1570 y^{4} x+1009 y^{4} x^{2}+800 x^{5}+$ $412 x^{6}+533 y^{6}-y\left(574 x+1604 x^{3}+884 x^{2}+1950 x y^{2}+980+1648 y^{2}+1156 x^{4}+842 x^{5}+1026 y^{4} x+\right.$ $\left.1944 x^{2} y^{2}+1090 x^{3} y^{2}+1266 y^{4}\right)$.
(iii) $F(1-x+y)^{2}=F\left(1-2 x+x^{2}+y^{2}+y(2-2 x)\right)=450 x^{2} y^{2}-902 x y^{2}-1286 x^{3}+1000 x^{4}-$ $1070 x+1348 x^{2}+938 y^{2}+811 y^{4}+444-300 x^{3} y^{2}+1004 x^{4} y^{2}-402 y^{4} x+1009 y^{4} x^{2}-848 x^{5}+$ $412 x^{6}+533 y^{6}+y\left(-934 x-324 x^{3}+740 x^{2}-414 x y^{2}+796+1064 y^{2}+564 x^{4}-842 x^{5}+866 y^{4}-\right.$ $\left.1026 y^{4} x+120 x^{2} y^{2}-1090 x^{3} y^{2}\right)$.
(iv) $F(1-x-y)=716 x^{2} y^{2}-628 x y^{2}-564 x^{3}+436 x^{4}-626 x+722 x^{2}+770 y^{2}+733 y^{4}+444-$ $538 x^{3} y^{2}-573 y^{4} x-412 x^{5}-y\left(-408 x-350 x^{3}+1018 x^{2}-56 x y^{2}+536+878 y^{2}+394 x^{4}+533 y^{4}+\right.$ $596 x^{2} y^{2}$ ).

Applying Lemma 3.1, with $y$ as the distinguished variable to the pairs (i)-(ii) and (iii)-(iv) and grouping terms as in Lemma 3.1 we get (notice the expressions are presented now arranged by parity of powers of the variable $x$ ):
(i)-(ii) $F\left(7508 x^{2} y^{6}+18160 x^{2} y^{2}+6544 x^{4}+4952 x^{2}+6684 y^{2}+10090 y^{4}+20348 x^{4} y^{2}+26700 y^{4} x^{2}+\right.$ $5832 x^{6}+7752 y^{6}+8562 x^{4} y^{4}+6056 x^{6} y^{2}+824 x^{8}+1066 y^{8}+888+x\left(14264 y^{2}+5640 x^{2}+3188+\right.$ $\left.\left.22568 x^{2} y^{2}+22380 y^{4}+6964 x^{4}+14416 x^{4} y^{2}+19768 y^{4} x^{2}+13160 y^{6}+3248 x^{6}\right)\right)=$
$20679124 x^{2} y^{6}+6723652 x^{2} y^{2}+2421240 x^{4}+1048996 x^{2}+1776416 y^{2}+4654924 y^{4}+12531112 x^{4} y^{2}+$ $16893804 y^{4} x^{2}+3380292 x^{6}+6653476 y^{6}+24185356 x^{4} y^{4}+12976984 x^{6} y^{2}+3666432 x^{8} y^{4}+5547524 x^{6} y^{6}+$ $1476284 x^{10} y^{2}+4580433 x^{4} y^{8}+2295630 y^{10} x^{2}+169744 x^{12}+284089 y^{12}+6 F^{2} x^{2} y^{2}+F^{2}+6 F^{2} x^{2}+$ $6 F^{2} y^{2}+F^{2} x^{4}+F^{2} y^{4}+17274928 x^{6} y^{4}+20296116 x^{4} y^{6}+7688272 x^{8} y^{2}+13108438 x^{2} y^{8}+2726496 x^{8}+$ $5276765 y^{8}+1384896 x^{10}+2387282 y^{10}+197136+x\left(3711592 y^{2}+1651552 x^{2}+626928+10260368 x^{2} y^{2}+\right.$ $10310324 y^{4}+3070608 x^{4}+14459768 x^{4} y^{2}+22021832 y^{4} x^{2}+14337360 y^{6}+3621212 y^{10}+9347744 x^{6} y^{4}+$ $12882352 x^{4} y^{6}+3862096 x^{8} y^{2}+9701716 x^{2} y^{8}+659200 x^{10}+12 F^{2} y^{2}+2166576 x^{8}+4 F^{2}+4 F^{2} x^{2}+$ $\left.22429140 x^{4} y^{4}+22897032 x^{2} y^{6}+10878896 x^{6} y^{2}+10718648 y^{8}+3153936 x^{6}\right)$.
(iii)-(iv) $F\left(8408 x^{2} y^{2}+4572 x^{4}+4836 x^{2}+4020 y^{2}+5134 y^{4}+5584 x^{4} y^{2}+5430 y^{4} x^{2}+2520 x^{6}+\right.$ $3198 y^{6}+888-x\left(7456 y^{2}+5268 x^{2}+3028+6972 x^{2} y^{2}+6162 y^{4}+3696 x^{4}+3584 x^{4} y^{2}+4402 y^{4} x^{2}+\right.$ $\left.3198 y^{6}+824 x^{6}\right)=$
$5298888 x^{2} y^{6}+5057552 x^{2} y^{2}+3019356 x^{4}+1588900 x^{2}+1185008 y^{2}+2676988 y^{4}+6822948 x^{4} y^{2}+$ $6963772 y^{4} x^{2}+3189648 x^{6}+3371312 y^{6}+6633028 x^{4} y^{4}+5042212 x^{6} y^{2}+F^{2}+3 F^{2} x^{2}+3 F^{2} y^{2}+$ $3085788 x^{6} y^{4}+3212416 x^{4} y^{6}+1829476 x^{8} y^{2}+1989123 x^{2} y^{8}+1741568 x^{8}+2332333 y^{8}+529008 x^{10}+$ $852267 y^{10}+197136-x\left(2915800 y^{2}+2437788 x^{2}+753024+6141928 x^{2} y^{2}+4529144 y^{4}+3340724 x^{4}+\right.$ $6443844 x^{4} y^{2}+7068028 y^{4} x^{2}+4175308 y^{6}+852267 y^{10}+2123228 x^{6} y^{4}+2840400 x^{4} y^{6}+967052 x^{8} y^{2}+$ $2057377 x^{2} y^{8}+169744 x^{10}+3 F^{2} y^{2}+1014096 x^{8}+3 F^{2}+F^{2} x^{2}+5639176 x^{4} y^{4}+4866908 x^{2} y^{6}+$ $\left.3468572 x^{6} y^{2}+2264079 y^{8}+2550240 x^{6}\right)$.

Finally, applying again Lemma 3.1 with $x$ as the distinguished variable, we get the following expression from which $F$ is decomposed as a quotient of two sums of squares.
$F\left(716381628672 x^{2} y^{6}+80945077792 x^{2} y^{2}+1309788013600 x^{10} y^{4} 40286070144 x^{4}+\right.$ $8570997312 x^{2}+4739888256 y^{2}+24573722112 y^{4}+318423130400 x^{4} y^{2}+317633301040 y^{4} x^{2}+$ $99294039872 x^{6}+68743283680 y^{6}+1060688074256 x^{4} y^{4}+672316077216 x^{6} y^{2}+$ $143469890432 x^{14} y^{2}+1982702974736 x^{8} y^{4}+2814822717360 x^{6} y^{6}+768832371904 x^{10} y^{2}+$ $2303389497104 x^{4} y^{8}+990053073384 y^{10} x^{2}+125406307008 x^{12}+116435744860 y^{12}+$ $1863486418736 x^{6} y^{4}+1983138377456 x^{4} y^{6}+886558335136 x^{8} y^{2}+1032502294416 x^{2} y^{8}+$ $505612381472 x^{12} y^{4}+157752051648 x^{8}+122024198048 y^{8}+169540742272 x^{10}+$ $144755788904 y^{10}+40199723460 x^{2} y^{16}+2507919676288 x^{6} y^{8}+1687333237608 x^{4} y^{10}+$ $2293828274592 x^{8} y^{6}+621063650084 x^{2} y^{12}+1282298534376 x^{6} y^{10}+1423499576064 x^{8} y^{8}+$ $379456896112 x^{8} y^{10}+292967217500 x^{6} y^{12}+338955778976 x^{10} y^{8}+145245087972 x^{4} y^{14}+$ $1051819997200 x^{10} y^{6}+235854251632 x^{2} y^{14}+208393538448 x^{12} y^{6}+60652193280 x^{14}+$ $735231433668 x^{4} y^{12}+1817033244 y^{18}+20512201152 x^{16} y^{2}+60546876076 y^{14}+17483777024 x^{16}+$ $18186081524 y^{16}+1958166784 x^{18}+350113536+\left(39456 x^{2}+109168 x^{4}+60284 y^{4}+\right.$ $128196 x^{2} y^{8}+89728 x^{8} y^{2}+76044 y^{6}+227652 x^{4} y^{6}+395200 x^{2} y^{6}+48644 y^{8}+11536 x^{10}+$ $6396 y^{10}+208940 x^{6} y^{4}+551252 x^{4} y^{4}+342344 x^{6} y^{2}+451140 y^{4} x^{2}+430776 x^{4} y^{2}+238456 x^{2} y^{2}+$ $\left.\left.1776+72800 x^{8}+18696 y^{2}+122640 x^{6}\right) F^{2}+85194907968 x^{14} y^{4}+430307879168 x^{12} y^{2}\right)=$
( $153448078017504 x^{2} y^{6}+11011029982720 x^{2} y^{2}+851952864568912 x^{10} y^{4}+5511262925968 x^{4}+$ $992116096128 x^{2}+583803281664 y^{2}+3550450975360 y^{4}+53477285280880 x^{4} y^{2}+$ $53285071815840 y^{4} x^{2}+16742340875856 x^{6}+12247813101568 y^{6}+228076657290496 x^{4} y^{4}+$ $144275999563072 x^{6} y^{2}+177419113096224 x^{14} y^{2}+818449513424880 x^{8} y^{4}+1160297022426176 x^{6} y^{6}+$ $316404880090816 x^{10} y^{2}+943080312658456 x^{4} y^{8}+400790099977488 y^{10} x^{2}+51946321935360 x^{12}+$ $51812546094456 y^{12}+537983815619840 x^{6} y^{4}+571695232269920 x^{4} y^{6}+255064333134736 x^{8} y^{2}+$ $295172928849576 x^{2} y^{8}+613138233076304 x^{12} y^{4}+33884952842288 x^{8}+27834477697840 y^{8}+$ $48891319043696 x^{10}+44539310679888 y^{10}+132667868133349 x^{2} y^{16}+1609709073374408 x^{6} y^{8}+$ $1074117047816472 x^{4} y^{10}+1484929624125296 x^{8} y^{6}+391920773628424 x^{2} y^{12}+$ $1494743643985512 x^{6} y^{10}+1679981404535176 x^{8} y^{8}+1210562461740080 x^{8} y^{10}+$ $922584991406952 x^{6} y^{12}+1101811041447776 x^{10} y^{8}+463071536349080 x^{4} y^{14}+$
$1257591653271104 x^{10} y^{6}+274626206521816 x^{2} y^{14}+697775379415696 x^{12} y^{6}+40598074878080 x^{14}+$ $854507981216656 x^{4} y^{12}+11022901919929 y^{18}+76241258273152 x^{16} y^{2}+44002353922224 y^{14}+$ $22913533222784 x^{16}+26786486470753 y^{16}+8809248338688 x^{18}+296435588380336 x^{14} y^{4}+$ $40113876079218 y^{18} x^{2}+5607817144761 y^{20} x^{2}+25101305044221 x^{4} y^{18}+20172563339904 x^{18} y^{2}+$ $2384556922240 x^{20} y^{2}+63315154652095 x^{6} y^{16}+128071716208936 x^{10} y^{12}+11885395021040 x^{18} y^{4}+$ $106193345637816 x^{8} y^{14}+75244284164400 x^{14} y^{8}+113979811644760 x^{12} y^{10}+$ $36042080253584 x^{16} y^{6}+156928941649179 y^{16} x^{4}+87953191492976 x^{16} y^{4}+351913378400864 x^{6} y^{14}+$ $234657785839200 x^{14} y^{6}+525673478728032 x^{8} y^{12}+427778646436656 x^{12} y^{8}+$ $557728278696952 x^{10} y^{10}+38862602496+281083319515232 x^{12} y^{2}+2697191817931 y^{20}+$ $242119679763 y^{22}+2064497141504 x^{20}+201691178752 x^{22}+\left(3 y^{6}+45 x^{4} y^{2}+19 y^{4}+21 x^{2}+9 y^{2}+\right.$ $\left.1+90 x^{2} y^{2}+57 y^{4} x^{2}+35 x^{4}+7 x^{6}\right) F^{4}+\left(1011238152 x^{2} y^{6}+214583120 x^{2} y^{2}+213172104 x^{10} y^{4}+\right.$ $104354136 x^{4}+27650008 x^{2}+14240800 y^{2}+60356936 y^{4}+628009464 x^{4} y^{2}+633987416 y^{4} x^{2}+$ $191801384 x^{6}+125837552 y^{6}+1474515760 x^{4} y^{4}+929987432 x^{6} y^{2}+932892160 x^{8} y^{4}+$ $1345813968 x^{6} y^{6}+355155544 x^{10} y^{2}+1110516186 x^{4} y^{8}+486373732 y^{10} x^{2}+54326496 x^{12}+$ $45155610 y^{12}+1635596488 x^{6} y^{4}+1755400200 x^{4} y^{6}+771165424 x^{8} y^{2}+932373358 x^{2} y^{8}+$ $214189576 x^{8}+155761526 y^{8}+142279872 x^{10}+112787062 y^{10}+436152642 x^{6} y^{8}+292702206 x^{4} y^{10}+$ $\left.\left.386752696 x^{8} y^{6}+107817366 x^{2} y^{12}+7129248 x^{14}+5113602 y^{14}+1182816+65068392 x^{12} y^{2}\right) F^{2}\right)$

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