

A Computer Algebra Approach to the Discrete Dirichlet Problem]A Computer Algebra Approach to the Discrete Dirichlet Problem
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The Gröbner Basis Algorithm is used to find closed form expressions for the generating functions of finite difference

*Introduction Solutions to the Dirichlet problem for (elliptic) partial difference equations are needed both in the so-

In order to approximate solutions of boundary value problems in partial differential equations, one sets up a so-called

In random walk problems, the value of interest is either the probability of getting from a fixed point to another point

As far as we know, the only method that is used for obtaining exact solutions for such discrete Dirichlet problems is

Here we propose a new method for solving such problems, that reduces the problem to a much smaller system of linear

Our method uses a very small part of Buchberger's celebrated method of Gröbner basis, namely taking the "normal

We will illustrate our method by a detailed example: The two-dimensional gambler's ruin problem, for which no closed

*Gambler's Ruin Examples

with Generating Functions Consider a gambler who wins a dollar or loses a dollar with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. The gambler starts

Now consider a two-dimensional version of this game: the gambler has two piles of money, say i dollars and j shekels

Consider first the one-dimensional(pile) game. Let $f(i) = f_n(i)$ be the expected duration of the game. Then

Let

be the generating function for the problem. Then,

Now let $f(n-1) = f(1) = c$. Then

So,

Now F , we know, is a polynomial by definition. So it can be determined that $c = n-1$ by long division and setting

Therefore, we can find $F(i)$ by finding the constant term of $F(x)/x^i$.

which is the expected result.

The two-dimensional(pile) case is more difficult, since we will not be able to do simple long division at the end to get

Let $f(i, j) = f_{M,N}(i, j)$ be the expected duration of the game when the gambler has i dollars and j shekels. Then

with

Let

Then,