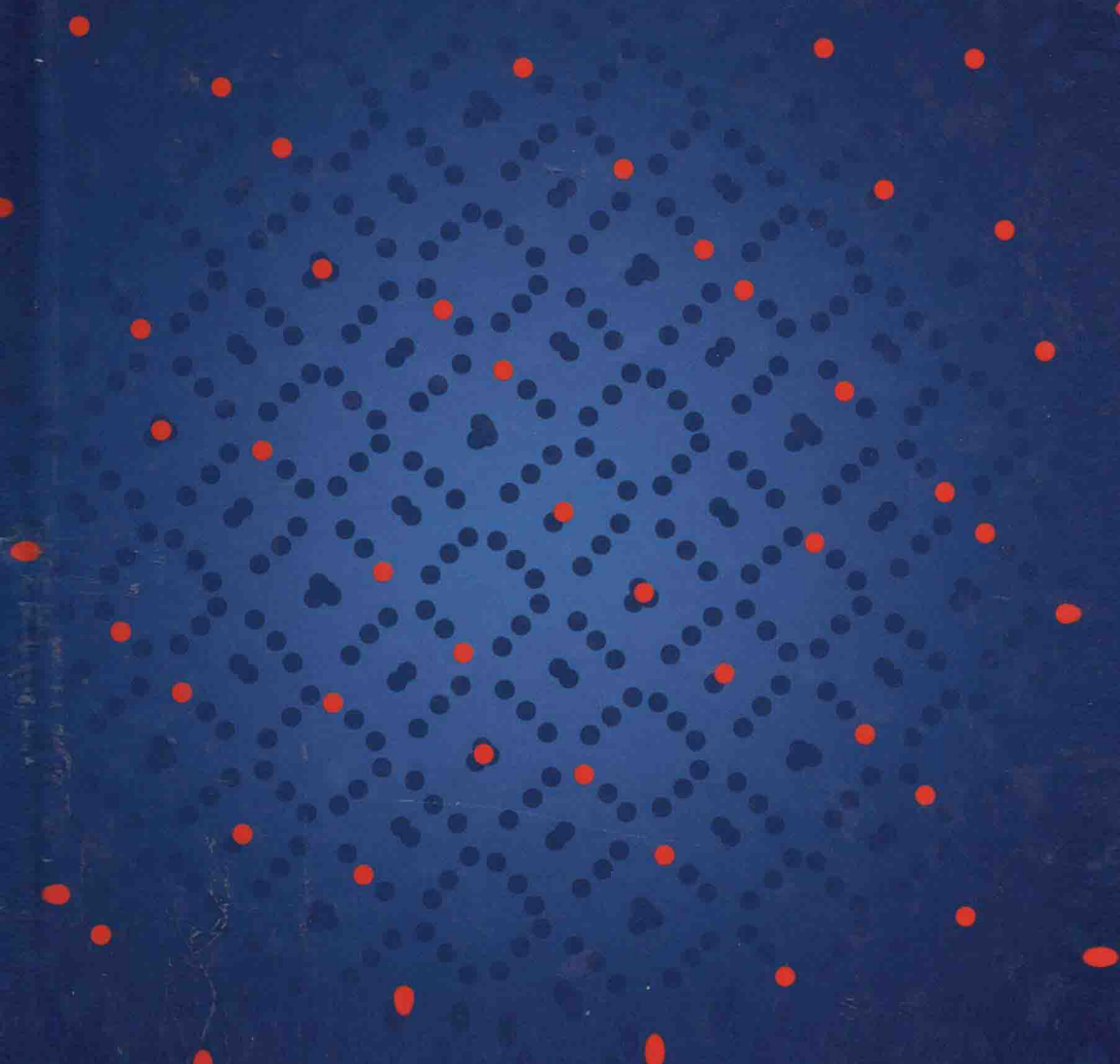


# Applied Algebra and Number Theory



EDITED BY

Gerhard Larcher, Friedrich Pillichshammer,  
Arne Winterhof and Chaoping Xing



# Applied Algebra and Number Theory

Essays in Honor of Harald Niederreiter on the occasion  
of his 70th birthday

*Edited by*

GERHARD LARCHER

*Johannes Kepler University Linz*

FRIEDRICH PILLICHSHAMMER

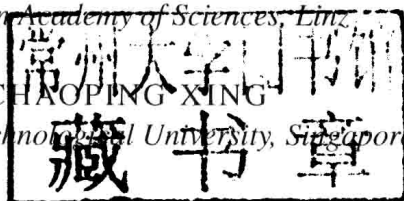
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## **Applied Algebra and Number Theory**

Essays in Honor of Harald Niederreiter on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Harald Niederreiter's pioneering research in the field of applied algebra and number theory has led to important and substantial breakthroughs in many areas. This collection of survey articles has been authored by close colleagues and leading experts to mark the occasion of his 70th birthday.

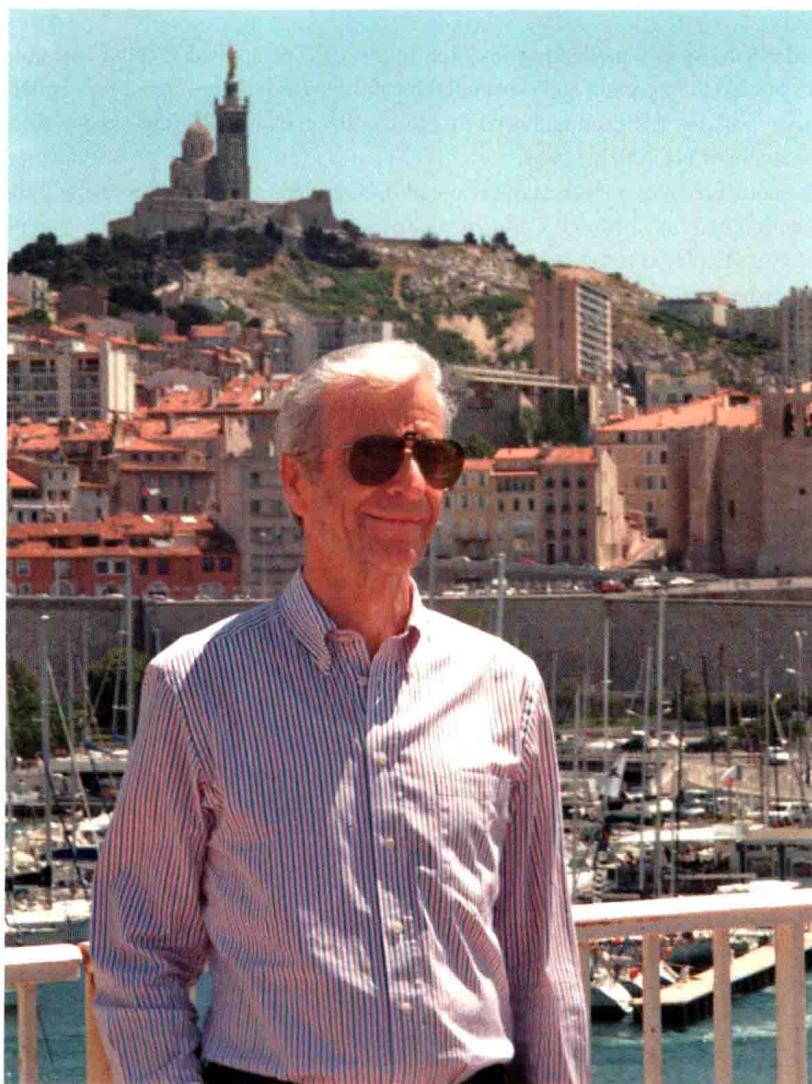
The book provides a modern overview of different research areas, covering uniform distribution and quasi-Monte Carlo methods as well as finite fields and their applications, in particular cryptography and pseudorandom number generation. Many results are published here for the first time. The book serves as a useful starting point for graduate students new to these areas, or as a refresher for researchers wanting to follow recent trends.

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Harald Niederreiter in Marseille, 2013

# Preface

Harald Niederreiter's pioneering research in the field of applied algebra and number theory has led to important and substantial breakthroughs in many areas, including finite fields and areas of their application such as coding theory and cryptography as well as uniform distribution and quasi-Monte Carlo methods. He is the author of more than 350 research papers and 10 books.

This book contains essays from close colleagues and leading experts in those fields in which he has worked. The essays contain short overviews of different research areas as well as some very new research results.

The articles focus on uniform distribution and quasi-Monte Carlo methods as well as finite fields and their applications, in particular cryptography and pseudorandom number generation.

The first chapter gives an overview of Harald's career and describes some scientific spotlights.

Linz and Singapore, January 2014

Gerhard Larcher, Friedrich Pillichshammer,

Arne Winterhof and Chaoping Xing



# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<b>1 Some highlights of Harald Niederreiter's work</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Gerhard Larcher, Friedrich Pillichshammer, Arne Winterhof and Chaoping Xing</i>	
1.1 A short biography	1
1.2 Uniform distribution theory and number theory	4
1.3 Algebraic curves, function fields and applications	7
1.4 Polynomials over finite fields and applications	10
1.5 Quasi-Monte Carlo methods	13
References	18
<b>2 Partially bent functions and their properties</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Ayça Çeşmelioglu, Wilfried Meidl and Alev Topuzoğlu</i>	
2.1 Introduction	22
2.2 Basic properties	24
2.3 Examples and constructions	28
2.4 Partially bent functions and difference sets	29
2.5 Partially bent functions and Hermitian matrices	35
2.6 Relative difference sets revisited: a construction of bent functions	36
References	38
<b>3 Applications of geometric discrepancy in numerical analysis and statistics</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Josef Dick</i>	
3.1 Introduction	39
3.2 Numerical integration in the unit cube	40
3.3 Numerical integration over the unit sphere	44
3.4 Inverse transformation and test sets	47



3.5	Acceptance-rejection sampler	48
3.6	Markov chain Monte Carlo and completely uniformly distributed sequences	51
3.7	Uniformly ergodic Markov chains and push-back discrepancy	53
	References	54
<b>4</b>	<b>Discrepancy bounds for low-dimensional point sets</b>	<b>58</b>
	<i>Henri Faure and Peter Kritzer</i>	
4.1	Introduction	58
4.2	Upper discrepancy bounds for low-dimensional sequences	66
4.3	Upper discrepancy bounds for low-dimensional nets	75
4.4	Lower discrepancy bounds for low-dimensional point sets	81
4.5	Conclusion	87
	References	88
<b>5</b>	<b>On the linear complexity and lattice test of nonlinear pseudorandom number generators</b>	<b>91</b>
	<i>Domingo Gómez-Pérez and Jaime Gutierrez</i>	
5.1	Introduction	91
5.2	Lattice test and quasi-linear complexity	93
5.3	Quasi-linear and linear complexity	94
5.4	Applications of our results	97
5.5	An open problem	99
	References	99
<b>6</b>	<b>A heuristic formula estimating the keystream length for the general combination generator with respect to a correlation attack</b>	<b>102</b>
	<i>Rainer Göttfert</i>	
6.1	The combination generator	102
6.2	The model	102
6.3	Preliminaries	103
6.4	The correlation attack	103
6.5	The formula	105
	References	108
<b>7</b>	<b>Point sets of minimal energy</b>	<b>109</b>
	<i>Peter J. Grabner</i>	
7.1	Introduction	109
7.2	Generalized energy and uniform distribution on the sphere	111

7.3	Hyper-singular energies and uniform distribution	116
7.4	Discrepancy estimates	119
7.5	Some remarks on lattices	122
	References	123
<b>8</b>	<b>The cross-correlation measure for families of binary sequences</b>	<b>126</b>
	<i>Katalin Gyarmati, Christian Mauduit and András Sárközy</i>	
8.1	Introduction	126
8.2	The definition of the cross-correlation measure	129
8.3	The size of the cross-correlation measure	133
8.4	A family with small cross-correlation constructed using the Legendre symbol	135
8.5	Another construction	139
	References	141
<b>9</b>	<b>On an important family of inequalities of Niederreiter involving exponential sums</b>	<b>144</b>
	<i>Peter Hellekalek</i>	
9.1	Introduction	144
9.2	Concepts	148
9.3	A hybrid Erdős–Turán–Koksma inequality	157
	References	161
<b>10</b>	<b>Controlling the shape of generating matrices in global function field constructions of digital sequences</b>	<b>164</b>
	<i>Roswitha Hofer and Isabel Pirsic</i>	
10.1	Introduction	164
10.2	Global function fields	169
10.3	Constructions revisited	170
10.4	Designing morphological properties of the generating matrices	176
10.5	Computational results	182
10.6	Summary and outlook	185
	References	187
<b>11</b>	<b>Periodic structure of the exponential pseudorandom number generator</b>	<b>190</b>
	<i>Jonas Kaszian, Pieter Moree and Igor E. Shparlinski</i>	
11.1	Introduction	190
11.2	Preparations	194

11.3	Main results	195
11.4	Numerical results on cycles in the exponential map	199
11.5	Comments	201
	References	202
<b>12</b>	<b>Construction of a rank-1 lattice sequence based on primitive polynomials</b>	<b>204</b>
	<i>Alexander Keller, Nikolaus Binder and Carsten Wächter</i>	
12.1	Introduction	204
12.2	Integro-approximation by rank-1 lattice sequences	205
12.3	Construction	206
12.4	Applications	211
12.5	Conclusion	214
	References	214
<b>13</b>	<b>A quasi-Monte Carlo method for the coagulation equation</b>	<b>216</b>
	<i>Christian Lécot and Ali Tarhini</i>	
13.1	Introduction	216
13.2	The quasi-Monte Carlo algorithm	219
13.3	Convergence analysis	222
13.4	Numerical results	229
13.5	Conclusion	229
	References	231
<b>14</b>	<b>Asymptotic formulas for partitions with bounded multiplicity</b>	<b>235</b>
	<i>Pierre Liardet and Alain Thomas</i>	
14.1	Introduction	235
14.2	Asymptotic expansion of $M_{U,q}$	239
14.3	Proof of Theorem 14.2	246
	References	253
<b>15</b>	<b>A trigonometric approach for Chebyshev polynomials over finite fields</b>	<b>255</b>
	<i>Juliano B. Lima, Daniel Panario and Ricardo M. Campello de Souza</i>	
15.1	Introduction	255
15.2	Trigonometry in finite fields	257
15.3	Chebyshev polynomials over finite fields	265
15.4	Periodicity and symmetry properties of Chebyshev polynomials over finite fields	270

15.5	Permutation properties of Chebyshev polynomials over finite fields	273
15.6	Conclusions	278
	References	278
<b>16</b>	<b>Index bounds for value sets of polynomials over finite fields</b>	<b>280</b>
	<i>Gary L. Mullen, Daqing Wan and Qiang Wang</i>	
16.1	Introduction	280
16.2	Value sets of univariate polynomials	283
16.3	Permutation polynomial vectors	285
	References	294
<b>17</b>	<b>Rational points of the curve <math>y^{q^n} - y = \gamma x^{q^h+1} - \alpha</math> over <math>\mathbb{F}_{q^m}</math></b>	<b>297</b>
	<i>Ferruh Özbudak and Zülfükar Saygi</i>	
17.1	Introduction	297
17.2	Preliminaries	301
17.3	Proof of the main theorem	302
	References	306
<b>18</b>	<b>On the linear complexity of multisequences, bijections between <math>\mathbb{Z}</math>ahlen and <math>\mathbb{N}</math>umber tuples, and partitions</b>	<b>307</b>
	<i>Michael Vielhaber</i>	
18.1	Introduction and notation	307
18.2	Single sequences	309
18.3	Multilinear complexity	317
18.4	Partitions, bijections, conjectures	327
18.5	Open questions and further research	331
18.6	Conclusion	332
	References	332

The color plates are situated between pages 294 and 295.



# 1

## Some highlights of Harald Niederreiter's work

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*Arne Winterhof*

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Linz

*Chaoping Xing*

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

*Dedicated to our teacher, colleague and friend, Harald Niederreiter, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.*

### Abstract

In this paper we give a short biography of Harald Niederreiter and we spotlight some cornerstones from his wide-ranging work. We focus on his results on uniform distribution, algebraic curves, polynomials and quasi-Monte Carlo methods. In the flavor of Harald's work we also mention some applications including numerical integration, coding theory and cryptography.

### 1.1 A short biography

Harald Niederreiter was born in Vienna in 1944 on June 7 and spent his childhood in Salzburg. In 1963 he returned to Vienna to study at the Department of Mathematics of the University of Vienna, where he finished his PhD thesis entitled "Discrepancy in compact Abelian groups" *sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae*<sup>1</sup> under the supervision of Edmund Hlawka in 1969. From 1969 to 1978 he worked as scientist and professor in the USA at four different institutes: Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and University of California at Los Angeles. From 1978 to 1981 he was Chair of Pure Mathematics at the University of the West Indies in Kingston (Jamaica). He

<sup>1</sup> The term "Promotion *sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae*" is the highest possible honor for course achievement at school and university in Austria.

returned to Austria and served as director of two institutes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, of the Institute for Information Processing until 1999 and then of the Institute of Discrete Mathematics. From 2001 to 2009 he was professor at the National University of Singapore. Since 2009 he has been located at the Johann Radon Institute for Computational and Applied Mathematics in Linz. From 2010 to 2011 he was professor at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran (Saudi Arabia).

Harald Niederreiter's research areas include numerical analysis, pseudorandom number generation, quasi-Monte Carlo methods, cryptology, finite fields, applied algebra, algorithms, number theory and coding theory. He has published more than 350 research papers and several books, including the following.

- (with L. Kuipers) *Uniform Distribution of Sequences*. Wiley-Interscience, 1974; reprint, Dover Publications, 2006.
- (with R. Lidl) *Finite Fields*. Encyclopaedia of Mathematics and its Applications, volume 20. Addison-Wesley, 1983; second edition, Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- (with R. Lidl) *Introduction to Finite Fields and their Applications*. Cambridge University Press, 1986; revised edition, 1994.
- *Random Number Generation and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods*. CBMS-NSF Regional Conference Series in Applied Mathematics, volume 63. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), 1992.
- (with C. P. Xing) *Rational Points on Curves over Finite Fields: Theory and Applications*. London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series, volume 285. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- (with C. P. Xing) *Algebraic Geometry in Coding Theory and Cryptography*. Princeton University Press, 2009.

Furthermore he is editor or co-editor of the following proceedings.

- (with P. J.-S. Shiue) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods in Scientific Computing*. Springer-Verlag, 1995.
- (with S. D. Cohen) *Finite Fields and Applications*. London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series, volume 233. Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- (with P. Hellekalek, G. Larcher and P. Zinterhof) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 1996*. Springer-Verlag, 1998.
- (with C. Ding and T. Helleseth) *Sequences and their Applications*. Springer-Verlag, 1999.

- (with J. Spanier) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 1998*. Springer-Verlag, 2000.
- (with D. Jungnickel) *Finite Fields and Applications*. Springer-Verlag, 2001.
- (with K.-T. Fang and F. J. Hickernell) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 2000*. Springer-Verlag, 2002.
- *Coding Theory and Cryptology*. World Scientific, 2002.
- *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 2002*. Springer-Verlag, 2004.
- (with K. Feng und C. P. Xing) *Coding, Cryptography and Combinatorics*. Birkhäuser-Verlag, 2004.
- (with D. Talay) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 2004*. Springer-Verlag, 2006.
- (with A. Keller and S. Heinrich) *Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods 2006*. Springer-Verlag, 2008.
- (with Y. Li, S. Ling, H. Wang, C. P. Xing and S. Zhang) *Coding and Cryptology*. World Scientific, 2008.
- (with A. Ostafe, D. Panario and A. Winterhof) *Algebraic Curves and Finite Fields: Cryptography and Other Applications*. de Gruyter, 2014.
- (with P. Kritzer, F. Pillichshammer and A. Winterhof) *Uniform Distribution and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods: Discrepancy, Integration and Applications*. de Gruyter, 2014.

Some important methods are named after him, such as the Niederreiter public-key cryptosystem, the Niederreiter factoring algorithm for polynomials over finite fields, and the Niederreiter and Niederreiter–Xing low-discrepancy sequences.

Some of his honors and awards are

- full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- full member and former member of the presidium of the German Academy of Natural Sciences Leopoldina
- Cardinal Innitzer Prize for Natural Sciences in Austria
- invited speaker at ICM 1998 (Berlin) and ICIAM 2003 (Sydney)
- Singapore National Science Award 2003
- honorary member of the Austrian Mathematical Society 2012
- Fellow of the American Mathematical Society 2013.

Niederreiter was also the initiator and, from 1994 to 2006, the co-chair of the first seven biennial *Monte Carlo and quasi-Monte Carlo meetings* which took place in

- Las Vegas, NV, USA (1994)
- Salzburg, Austria (1996)



- Claremont, CA, USA (1998)
- Hong Kong (2000)
- Singapore (2002)
- Juan-Les-Pins, France (2004)
- Ulm, Germany (2006)
- Montreal, Canada (2008)
- Warsaw, Poland (2010)
- Sydney, Australia (2012)
- Leuven, Belgium (2014).

In 2006 Harald Niederreiter announced his wish to step down from the organizational role, and a Steering Committee was formed to ensure and oversee the continuation of the conference series.

## 1.2 Uniform distribution theory and number theory

When we scroll over the more than 350 scientific articles by Niederreiter which have appeared in renowned journals such as *Mathematika*, *Duke Mathematical Journal*, *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* and *Compositio Mathematica*, we find that most of these papers have connections to topics from number theory or use techniques from number theory, and many of the articles deal with problems and solve open questions, or initiate a new field of research in the theory of uniform distribution of sequences. The later sections in this overview of Harald's work on coding theory, algebraic curves and function fields, pseudorandom numbers, finite fields, and quasi-Monte Carlo methods in a certain sense will also deal with number-theoretical aspects.

Let us give just one example: the analysis and the precise estimation of exponential sums  $\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi i f(k)}$  or, in particular, of character sums plays an essential role in many different branches of mathematics and especially in number theory. In particular, it plays a basic role in many questions concerning uniform distribution of sequences, discrepancy theory, quasi-Monte Carlo methods, pseudorandom number analysis, the theory of finite fields, and many more. In a variety of papers on exponential sums and their applications, Niederreiter has proven to be a leading expert in the analysis of exponential sums and has essentially developed a variety of important techniques.

In this section we want to pick out some of the most impressive of Niederreiter's work on topics in number theory and in uniform distribution theory that will not be described explicitly in subsequent sections.

In the first years after finishing his PhD thesis "Discrepancy in compact Abelian groups" under the supervision of Edmund Hlawka, Niederreiter was