private void fromString(String str) {

 StringTokenizer strTok = new StringTokenizer(str, "+");

 String nextStr = null;

 Term nextTerm = null;

 this.terms.clear();

 while (strTok.hasMoreElements()){

 nextStr = (String) strTok.nextElement();

 nextTerm = TermImp.fromString(nextStr);

 // private method to store a new term into a polynomial

 this.addTerm(nextTerm);

 }

 }