# SUBRESULTANTS, SYLVESTER SUMS AND THE RATIONAL INTERPOLATION PROBLEM

### CARLOS D' ANDREA, TERESA KRICK, AND AGNES SZANTO

ABSTRACT. We present a solution for the classical univariate rational interpolation problem by means of (univariate) subresultants. In the case of Cauchy interpolation (interpolation without multiplicities), we give explicit formulas for the solution in terms of symmetric functions of the input data, generalizing the well-known formulas for Lagrange interpolation. In the case of the osculatory rational interpolation (interpolation with multiplicities), we give determinantal expressions in terms of the input data, making explicit some matrix formulations that can independently be derived from previous results by Beckermann and Labahn.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The *Cauchy interpolation problem* or rational interpolation problem, considered already in [Cau1841, Ros1845, Pre1953], is the following:

Let K be a field,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , and set  $\ell = a + b$ . Given a set  $\{x_0, \ldots, x_\ell\}$  of  $\ell + 1$  distinct points in K, and  $y_0, \ldots, y_\ell \in K$ , determine –if possible– polynomials  $A, B \in K[x]$  such that  $\deg(A) \leq a, \deg(B) \leq b$  and

(1) 
$$\frac{A}{B}(x_i) = y_i, \ 0 \le i \le \ell.$$

This might be considered as a generalization of the classical Lagrange interpolation problem for polynomials, where b = 0 and  $a = \ell$ . In contrast with that case, there is not always a solution to this problem, since for instance by setting  $y_0 = \cdots = y_a = 0$ , the numerator A is forced to be identically zero, and therefore the remaining  $y_{a+k}$ ,  $1 \le k \le \ell - a$ , have to be zero as well. However, when there is a solution, then the rational function A/B is unique as shown below.

The obvious generalization of the Cauchy interpolation problem receives the name *osculatory rational interpolation problem* or rational Hermite interpolation problem:

Let K be a field,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , and set  $\ell = a + b$ . Given a set  $\{x_0, \ldots, x_k\}$  of k + 1 distinct points in  $K, a_0, \ldots, a_k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $a_0 + \cdots + a_k = \ell + 1$ , and  $y_{i,j} \in K, 0 \leq i \leq k$ ,

Date: February 26, 2014.

Carlos D'Andrea is partially supported by the Research Project MTM2007–67493, Teresa Krick is partially suported by ANPCyT PICT 2010, CONICET PIP 2010-2012 and UBACyT 2011-2014, and Agnes Szanto was partially supported by NSF grants CCR-0347506 and CCF-1217557.

 $0 \leq j < a_i$ , determine –if possible– polynomials  $A, B \in K[x]$  such that  $\deg(A) \leq a, \deg(B) \leq b$  and

(2) 
$$\left(\frac{A}{B}\right)^{(j)}(x_i) = j! y_{i,j}, \ 0 \le i \le k, \ 0 \le j < a_i.$$

This problem has also been extensively studied from both an algorithmic and theoretical point of view, see for instance [Sal1962, Kah1969, Wuy1975, BL2000, TF2000] and the references therein. A unified framework, which relates the rational interpolation problem with the Euclidean algorithm, is presented in [Ant88], and also in the book [vzGG2003, Section 5.7], where it is called called *rational function reconstruction*. In Theorem 2.2 below, we translate these results to the subresultants context, which enables us to obtain some explicit expressions in terms of the input data for both problems.

For the Cauchy interpolation problem, there exists an explicit closed formula in terms of the input data that can be derived from the results on symmetric operators in a suitable ring of polynomials presented in [Las2003], as shown in [Las]. Theorem 3.1 recovers this expression from the relationship between subresultants and the Sylvester sums introduced by Sylvester in [Syl1853], see also [LP2003, DHKS2007, DHKS2009, RS2011, KS2012].

We also present in Theorem 4.2 an explicit determinantal expression for the solution of the osculatory rational interpolation problem in terms of the input data, giving it as a quotient of determinants of generalized Vandermonde-type (and Wronskian-type) matrices. This generalizes straightforwardly the corresponding known determinantal expression for the classical Hermite interpolation problem, setting another unified framework for all these interpolation problems. As mentioned in Remark 4.4 below, this determinantal expression can actually also be derived following the work of Beckermann and Labahn in [BL2000], as we concluded from a recent useful discussion with George Labahn.

Since no closed formula for subresultants in terms of roots with multiplicities is known yet –except for very few exceptions, see [DKS2013]– a generalization of Theorem 3.1 to the osculatory rational interpolation problem is still missing, and some more work on the subject must be done in order to shed light to the problem.

## 2. Subresultants and the rational interpolation problem

Let us start by showing that a solution A/B for the rational interpolation problem, when it exists, is unique.

**Proposition 2.1.** If the osculatory rational interpolation problem (2) has a solution, then there exists a unique pair (A, B) with gcd(A, B) = 1 and A monic such that A/B is a solution.

*Proof.* If there is a solution, then, cleaning common factors and dividing by the leading coefficient of A, there is a solution satisfying the same degree bounds with gcd(A, B) = 1 and A monic. Assume  $A_1/B_1$  and  $A_2/B_2$  are both solutions of the same type. Then,  $(A_1/B_1)^{(j)}(x_i) = (A_2/B_2)^{(j)}(x_i)$ 

implies

$$\left(\frac{A_1B_2 - A_2B_1}{B_1B_2}\right)^{(j)}(x_i) = 0 \text{ for } 0 \le i \le k, \ 0 \le j < a_i,$$

which inductively implies that  $(A_1B_2 - A_2B_1)^{(j)}(x_i) = 0$  for the  $\ell + 1$  conditions. But  $A_1B_2 - A_2B_1$  is a polynomial of degree at most  $\ell$ , and therefore  $A_1B_2 = A_2B_1$ . Therefore,  $A_1 = cA_2$  and  $B_1 = cB_2$  with  $c \in K \setminus \{0\}$ . Both  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are monic, so c = 1 and the claim follows.

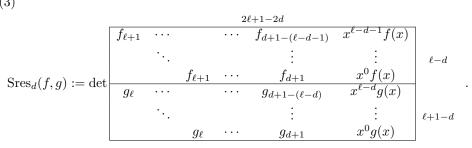
Our results are consequences of interpreting the rational interpolation problem in terms of conditions of subresultants of the following two polynomials:

- $f := \prod_{j=0}^{k} (x x_j)^{a_j}$ , which we write  $f = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell+1} f_i x^i$ . Note that  $f_{\ell+1} = 1$ .
- $g = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} g_i x^i \in K[x]$ , the Hermite interpolation polynomial associated to the input data  $(\overline{X}, Y)$  (where we assume  $g_i = 0$  for  $\deg(g) < i \le \ell$  in case  $\deg(g) < \ell$ ).

We can assume in what follows that at least one of the  $y_{i,j}$  is non-zero, as otherwise the solution of the rational interpolation problem is the 0 function.

For  $d \leq \ell$ , consider the *d*-th subresultant polynomial  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g)$  of f and g, defined as





Note that the previous definition makes sense even if  $\deg(g) = m < \ell$ , and agrees for  $d \leq m$  with the usual definition of subresultant of f and g given by the matrix of the right size  $\ell + 1 + m - 2d$ , since f is monic. For  $m < d < \ell$  we have, according to the definition above, that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) = 0$ , and for  $d = \ell$ ,  $\operatorname{Sres}_{\ell}(f, g) = g = \operatorname{Sres}_{m}(f, g)$ .

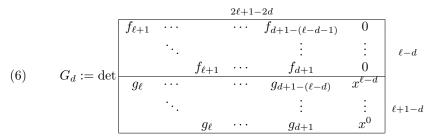
We have the universal subresultant Bézout identity

(4) 
$$\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) = F_d f + G_d g,$$

where

(5) 
$$F_{d} := \det \begin{bmatrix} f_{\ell+1} & \cdots & f_{d+1-(\ell-d-1)} & x^{\ell-d-1} \\ & \ddots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ & f_{\ell+1} & \cdots & f_{d+1} & x^{0} \\ g_{\ell} & \cdots & g_{d+1-(\ell-d)} & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ & g_{\ell} & \cdots & g_{d+1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \ell + 1 - d$$

and



Observe that  $\deg(G_d) \leq \ell - d$ , if  $G_d \neq 0$ .

The result below expresses the existence and uniqueness of the solution of the osculatory rational interpolation problem in terms of the subresultant sequence of f and g.

**Theorem 2.2.** With notation as above, let  $0 \le d \le a$  be the maximal index such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \ne 0$ . Then  $\operatorname{deg}(G_d) \le b$  and the osculatory rational interpolation problem (2) has a solution if and only if  $G_d(x_i) \ne 0$  for  $1 \le i \le k$ . In that case the solution is given by

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g)}{G_d}$$

where moreover  $gcd(Sres_d(f,g), G_d) = 1$ .

This result is strongly related to the Fundamental Theorem of Polynomial Remainder Sequences that we refer to [Col1967, BT1971] or [GCL1996, Theorem 7.4], and to the Theorem 5.16 from [vzGG2003] which expresses the existence and uniqueness of the solution of the osculatory rational interpolation problem in terms of the Extended Euclidean Algorithm for fand g. For completeness, we recall their statements before we prove Theorem 2.2, as well as Lemma 5.15 and a consequence of Lemma 3.15(v) from [vzGG2003].

**Theorem 2.3** (Fundamental Thm of PRS, [Col1967, BT1971, GCL1996]). Let  $r_i$ ,  $i \ge 0$ , be the successive remainders of the Euclidean Algorithm for fand g (also called Polynomial Remainder Sequence) and set  $d_i := \deg(r_i)$ . Then there exist non-zero constants  $c_i, c'_i \in K$  such that for all i,

$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{Sres}_{d_i}(f,g) = c_i r_i, \\ \operatorname{Sres}_{d_{i-1}-1}(f,g) = c'_i r_i, \\ \operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) = 0 \text{ for } d_i < d < d_{i-1} - 1. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.4.** [vzGG2003, Theorem 5.16, Lemmas 5.15 and <math>3.15(v)]With notation as above, let  $r_i = s_i f + t_i g$ ,  $i \ge 0$ , be the successive remainders and corresponding Bézout coefficients in the Extended Euclidean Algorithm for f and g.

(1) The osculatory rational interpolation problem (2) has a solution A/Bif and only if the minimal row  $r_j = s_j f + t_j g$  such that  $d_j := \deg(r_j) \leq a$  satisfies  $\gcd(r_j, t_j) = 1$ . If this is the case,  $A/B = r_j/t_j$ is the solution (and in particular  $\deg(t_j) \leq b$ ). (2) Let  $r = sf + tg \neq 0$  be such that  $\deg(r_j) \leq \deg(r) < \deg(r_{j-1})$  and  $\deg(r) + \deg(t) < \ell + 1 = \deg(f)$ . Then there exists  $c \in K$  such that  $r = cr_j, s = cs_j, t = ct_j$ . Moreover,  $\gcd(s, t) = 1$ .

Proof of Theorem 2.2. We consider the minimal j in the Extended Euclidean Algorithm such that  $d_j := \deg(r_j) \leq a$ : by Theorem 2.4(1), there is a solution  $A/B = r_j/t_j$  to our problem if and only if  $\gcd(r_j, t_j) = 1$ . Observe that for  $d_{j-1} := \deg(r_{j-1})$  we have  $a < d_{j-1}$ , i.e.  $d_j \leq a < d_{j-1}$ .

Let  $d \leq a$  be the largest such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \neq 0$ . One has  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) = F_d f + G_d g$  with  $\operatorname{deg}(\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g)) + \operatorname{deg}(G_d) \leq \ell < \ell + 1 = \operatorname{deg}(f)$ . Moreover, by Theorem 2.3,  $\operatorname{Sres}_{d_j}(f,g)$  and  $\operatorname{Sres}_{d_{j-1}-1}(f,g)$  are (non-zero) constant multiples of  $r_j$ , and  $\operatorname{Sres}_{d'}(f,g) = 0$  for  $d_j < d' < d_{j-1} - 1$ . This implies that  $d_j \leq d < d_{j-1}$ . Therefore, applying Theorem 2.4 (2), there exists  $c \in K^{\times}$  such that

$$\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) = cr_j, \ F_d = cs_j \text{ and } G_d = ct_j$$

with  $gcd(F_d, G_d) = 1$ . This implies, by the definition of f,

$$gcd(Sres_d(f,g),G_d) = 1 \iff G_d(x_i) \neq 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq k.$$

This concludes the proof.

**Remark 2.5.** In the statement of Theorem 2.2, one can replace the hypothesis "let  $0 \leq d \leq a$  be the maximal index such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \neq 0$ " by "let  $a \leq d \leq \ell$  be the minimal index such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \neq 0$ ". This is due to Theorem 2.3 since if  $\operatorname{Sres}_a(f,g) = 0$ , then one has that  $\operatorname{Sres}_k(f,g)$  and  $\operatorname{Sres}_j(f,g)$  coincide, up to a non-zero constant, for the maximal k < a such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_k(f,g) \neq 0$  and the minimal j > a such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_j(f,g) \neq 0$ . Accordingly, one can replace the corresponding hypothesis in Theorems 3.1 and 4.2 below.

Theorem 2.2 has the advantage that it can be applied to produce explicit formulae for the Cauchy and the osculatory rational interpolation problems in terms of the input data, as we show in the next sections.

#### 3. The Cauchy interpolation problem formula

We now present the closed expression in terms of the data for the Cauchy interpolation problem. For  $U, V \subset K$ , we set  $R(U, V) := \prod_{u \in U, v \in V} (u - v)$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Given (a, b),  $X := \{x_0, \ldots, x_\ell\}$  and  $y_0, \ldots, y_\ell$  as in Problem (1). Let d be maximal such that  $0 \le d \le a$  and

$$A_0 := \sum_{X' \subset X, |X'| = d} R(x, X') \left(\prod_{x_j \notin X'} y_j\right) / R(X \setminus X', X') \in K[x]$$

is not identically zero. Set

$$B_0 := \sum_{X'' \subset X, |X''| = \ell - d} R(X'', x) \Big(\prod_{x_j \in X''} y_j\Big) / R(X'', X \setminus X'') \in K[x].$$

Then  $\deg(B_0) \leq b$  and a solution  $\frac{A}{B}$  for the Cauchy interpolation problem (1) exists if and only if  $B_0(x_i) \neq 0$  for  $0 \leq i \leq \ell$ . In that case the solution

 $\square$ 

is given by

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{A_0}{B_0}.$$

*Proof.* Let as before  $f = \prod_{i=0}^{\ell} (x - x_i)$ , and g be the unique polynomial of degree bounded by  $\ell$  which satisfies  $g(x_i) = y_i$  for  $0 \le i \le \ell$ . Denote by Z the set of roots of g in  $\overline{K}$ , the algebraic closure of K.

Let d be maximal such that  $0 \leq d \leq a$  and  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \neq 0$ . We apply Theorem 2.2 and Sylvester's single-sum formula in roots for  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g)$  (see for instance the original paper of Sylvester [Syl1853, Art. 21] or the many other references on the topic) and for  $G_d$  ([Syl1853, Art. 29], or [KS2012], Remark after Lemma 6):

$$Sres_{d}(f,g) = \sum_{|X'|=d} R(x,X') \frac{R(X \setminus X',Z)}{R(X \setminus X',X')} = \sum_{|X'|=d} R(x,X') \frac{\prod_{x_{j} \notin X'} g(x_{j})}{R(X \setminus X',X')}$$
$$= \sum_{|X'|=d} R(x,X') \frac{\prod_{x_{j} \notin X'} y_{j}}{R(X \setminus X',X')} = A_{0},$$
$$G_{d} = (-1)^{\ell-d} \sum_{|X''|=\ell-d} R(x,X'') \frac{R(X'',Z)}{R(X'',X \setminus X'')}$$

$$= \sum_{|X''|=\ell-d} R(X'',x) \frac{R(X'',Z)}{R(X'',X\setminus X'')} = \sum_{|X''|=\ell-d} R(X'',x) \frac{\prod_{x_j\in X''} g(x_j)}{R(X'',X\setminus X'')}$$
$$= \sum_{|X''|=\ell-d} R(X'',x) \frac{\prod_{x_j\in X''} y_j}{R(X'',X\setminus X'')} = B_0.$$

where both  $X', X'' \subset X$ . The claim follows from Theorem 2.2.

**Remark 3.2.** Observe that when  $a = \ell$  then  $\operatorname{Sres}_{\ell}(f,g) = g \neq 0$  and Theorem 3.1 specializes to the well-known Lagrange interpolation polynomial associated to the data  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{0 \leq i \leq \ell}$ , that is

$$\frac{A_0}{B_0} = \sum_{0 \le i \le \ell} y_i \frac{\prod_{j \ne i} (x - x_j)}{\prod_{j \ne i} (x_i - x_j)} = \sum_{0 \le i \le \ell} y_i \frac{R(x, X \setminus \{x_i\})}{R(x_i, X \setminus \{x_i\})}.$$

The gap d < a in Theorem 2.2 may appear, as the following example shows.

**Example 3.3.** We consider the Cauchy interpolation problem with  $a = 3, b = 2, \{x_0, \ldots, x_5\}$  the 6 different roots of  $x^6 - 1$  in  $\overline{K}$ , where K is a field of characteristic  $\neq 2, 3$ , and  $y_i = x_i^5 + 2$  for  $0 \le i \le 5$ . In this case we have

$$f = x^6 - 1$$
 and  $g = x^5 + 2$ 

An explicit computation shows that  $\operatorname{Sres}_3(f,g) = \operatorname{Sres}_2(f,g) = 0$ . However,

$$Sres_1(f,g) = 8 + 16x, \quad F_1 = -8, \quad G_1 = 8x.$$

We easily verify that  $G_1(x_i) \neq 0$  for  $0 \leq i \leq 5$ . Hence by Theorem 2.2, d = 1 and

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{8+16x}{8x} = \frac{1+2x}{x}$$

6

is the solution to this Cauchy interpolation problem, which can be checked straightforwardly since

$$\frac{1+2x_i}{x_i} = \frac{1}{x_i} + 2 = x_i^5 + 2 = y_i, \quad 0 \le i \le 5.$$

## 4. The osculatory rational interpolation formula

Before stating our main result for the osculatory rational interpolation problem, we need to set a notation.

**Notation 4.1.** Set  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a+b = \ell$  and  $a_0, \ldots, a_k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_0 + \cdots + a_k = \ell + 1$ , as in Problem (2). We define

- $\overline{X} := ((x_0, a_0); \ldots; (x_k, a_k))$  an array of pairs in  $K \times \mathbb{N}$  and  $Y := (\mathbf{y}_0, \ldots, \mathbf{y}_k)$  where  $\mathbf{y}_i = (y_{i,0}, \ldots, y_{i,a_i-1})$ . We call  $(\overline{X}, Y)$  the input data for the osculatory rational interpolation problem.
- Set  $u \in \mathbb{N}$ . The generalized Vandermonde or confluent matrix (e.g. [Kal1984]) of size u + 1 associated to  $\overline{X}$  is the (non-necessarily square) matrix  $V_{u+1}(\overline{X}) \in K^{(u+1) \times (\ell+1)}$  defined by

$$V_{u+1}(\overline{X}) := \boxed{V_{u+1}(x_0, a_0) \ \dots \ V_{u+1}(x_k, a_k)}_{u+1} u_{u+1}$$

where for any t,  $V_{u+1}(x_i, t+1) \in K^{(u+1) \times (t+1)}$  is defined by

$$V_{u+1}(x_i, t+1) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{t+1}{1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0} \\ x_i & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x_i^2 & 2x_i & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_i^u & ux_i^{u-1} & \binom{u}{2}x_i^{u-2} & \dots & \binom{u}{t}x_i^{u-t} \end{bmatrix} u+1$$

• We define the matrix  $U_{u+1}(\overline{X}, Y) \in K^{(u+1) \times (\ell+1)}$  associated to  $\overline{X}$  and Y as:

$$U_{u+1}(\overline{X},Y) := \boxed{U_{u+1}(x_0;\boldsymbol{y}_0) \quad \dots \quad U_{u+1}(x_k;\boldsymbol{y}_k)}_{u+1} \quad u_{u+1}(x_k;\boldsymbol{y}_k) \quad u_{u+1}(x_$$

where  $U_{u+1}(x_i, \boldsymbol{y}_i) \in K^{(u+1) \times (t+1)}$ , with  $t := a_i - 1$ , is defined by

$$U_{u+1}(x_i, \boldsymbol{y}_i) = \begin{bmatrix} y_{i,0} & y_{i,1} & \dots & y_{i,t} \\ y_{i,0}x_i & y_{i,1}x_i + y_{i,0} & \dots & y_{i,t}x_i + y_{i,t-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ y_{i,0}x_i^u & y_{i,1}x_i^u + uy_{i,0}x_i^{u-1} & \dots & \sum_{j=0}^t {u \choose j}y_{i,t-j}x_i^{u-j} \end{bmatrix}_{u+1}$$

Here

$$(U_{u+1}(x_i, \boldsymbol{y}_i))_{k+1, l+1} = \sum_{j=0}^{l} \binom{k}{j} y_{i, l-j} x_i^{k-j},$$

with the convention that when u < j,  $\binom{u}{j} x_i^{u-j} = 0$ .

The next determinantal expression presents the solution of the osculatory rational interpolation problem in terms of the input data as follows:

**Theorem 4.2.** Under the notation above, let d be maximal such that  $0 \le d \le a$  and

(7) 
$$A_0 := -\det \begin{bmatrix} \ell+1 & 1 \\ 1 \\ V_{d+1}(\overline{X}) & \vdots \\ x^d \\ U_{\ell-d+1}(\overline{X}, Y) & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}_{\ell-d+1} \in K[x]$$

is not identically zero. Set

Then  $\deg(B_0) \leq b$ , and a solution  $\frac{A}{B}$  for the osculatory rational interpolation problem (2) exists if and only if  $B_0(x_i) \neq 0$  for  $0 \leq i \leq k$ . In that case the solution is given by

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{A_0}{B_0}.$$

To prove this result we need the following lemma, that we prove at the end of the section.

Lemma 4.3. Let  $d \leq \ell$ . Then

Sres<sub>d</sub>(f,g) = 
$$(-1)^{\ell+1-d} \det \left(V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X})\right)^{-1} \det \begin{bmatrix} \ell+1 & 1 \\ 1 \\ V_{d+1}(\overline{X}) & \vdots \\ x^d \\ U_{\ell-d+1}(\overline{X},Y) & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \ell - d+1$$

and

$$G_d = (-1)^{\ell-d} \det \left( V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X}) \right)^{-1} \det \begin{bmatrix} \ell+1 & 1 \\ V_{d+1}(\overline{X}) & \mathbf{0} \\ \\ U_{\ell-d+1}(\overline{X},Y) & \frac{1}{\vdots} \\ x^{\ell-d} \end{bmatrix} \ell+1-d$$

Proof of Theorem 4.2. The maximal index  $d \leq a$  such that  $A_0 \neq 0$  clearly coincides with the maximal index  $d \leq a$  such that  $\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g) \neq 0$ , since these two quantities only differ by a non-zero constant. Analogously,  $G_d(x_i) \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow B_0(x_i) \neq 0$ . Finally,  $\frac{A_0}{B_0} = \frac{\operatorname{Sres}_d(f,g)}{G_d}$ .

**Remark 4.4.** As we checked after a useful discussion with George Labahn at the 2013 SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry, the matrix formulations for  $A_0$  and  $B_0$  in Theorem 4.2 can actually be derived from the *Mahler systems* introduced by Beckermann and Labahn in [BL2000] to solve a more general class of problems. Indeed, by translating our situation into their general framework (see [BL2000, Example 2.3]), and using the standard Hermite dual basis to produce their matrices, it can be seen that the determinants appearing in the right hand side of (7) and (8) coincide with those defining  $p^{(\ell)}(\vec{n}, z)$  in [BL2000, Section 5].

**Remark 4.5.** Let us note that in particular, Problem (2) for  $a = \ell$  corresponds to the ordinary *Hermite interpolation problem*, i.e. the determination of the Hermite interpolation polynomial g associated to the input data

$$\overline{X} = ((x_0, a_0), \dots, (x_k, a_k)), Y = (\boldsymbol{y}_0, \dots, \boldsymbol{y}_k) \text{ where } \boldsymbol{y}_i = (y_{i,j})_{0 \le j < a_i},$$

which is the unique polynomial of degree less than or equal to  $\ell$  such that

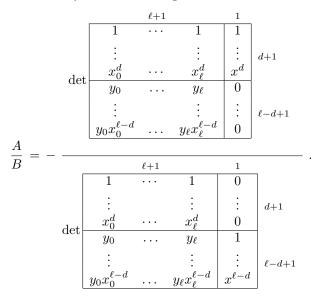
$$g^{(j)}(x_i) = j! y_{i,j}, \ 0 \le i \le k, \ 0 \le j < a_i.$$

In this case, Theorem 4.2 specializes to the well-known determinantal expression for the polynomial g, that is

$$g = -\frac{\det \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X}) & \vdots\\ x^{\ell}\\ \hline Y & 0\\ \det \left(V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X})\right) \end{bmatrix}},$$

setting in this way a unified determinantal framework for polynomial and rational interpolation problems.

**Remark 4.6.** We remark that for the Cauchy interpolation problem (1), the solution described by Theorem 4.2 gives



**Example 4.7.** We consider the osculatory rational interpolation problem with a = b = 2, k = 2, and the associated input data

 $\overline{X} = ((x_0, a_0), (x_1, a_1)) \text{ with } (x_0, a_0) = (1, 2), (x_1, a_1) = (2, 3)$  $Y = (\boldsymbol{y}_0, \boldsymbol{y}_1) \text{ with } \boldsymbol{y}_0 = (y_{0,0}, y_{0,1}) = (2, 3), \boldsymbol{y}_1 = (y_{1,0}, y_{1,1}, y_{1,2}) = (6, 7, 8).$ We have

$$f = (x-1)^2(x-2)^3$$
 and  $g = -8 + 23x - 20x^2 + 8x^3 - x^4$ .

By explicit computation, we get

Sres<sub>2</sub> $(f,g) = 35x - 25x^2$ ,  $F_2 = -25 + 5x$ ,  $G_2 = 25 - 25x + 5x^2$ . We easily verify that  $G_2(x_i) \neq 0$  for i = 1, 2 if  $5 \neq 0$  in K. Hence by Theorem 2.2, d = a = 2, and

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{35x - 25x^2}{25 - 25x + 5x^2} = \frac{7x - 5x^2}{5 - 5x + x^2}$$

is the solution to the rational interpolation problem, which can be checked straightforwardly.

Proof of Lemma 4.3. By [DKS2013, Theorem 2.5],

$$\operatorname{Sres}_{d}(f,g) = (-1)^{\ell+1-d} \operatorname{det} \left( V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X}) \right)^{-1} \operatorname{det} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \ell+1 & 1 \\ \hline & 1 \\ V_{d+1}(\overline{X}) & \vdots \\ x^{d} \\ \hline & \\ W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X}) & \mathbf{0} \end{array} \right)^{\ell-d+1},$$

where  $W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X})$  is the generalized Wronskian of size  $\ell - d + 1$  associated to  $\overline{X}$ , i.e. the matrix

$$W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X}) := \boxed{W_{g,\ell-d+1}(x_0, a_0) \ \dots \ W_{g,\ell-d+1}(x_k, a_k)} \ell_{-d+1} \in K^{(\ell-d+1)\times(\ell+1)}$$

where

$$W_{g,\ell-d+1}(x_i,a_i) := \begin{bmatrix} g(x_i) & g'(x_i) & \dots & \frac{g^{(a_i-1)}(x_i)}{(a_i-1)!} \\ (xg)(x_i) & (zg)'(x_i) & \dots & \frac{(xg)^{(a_i-1)}(x_i)}{(a_i-1)!} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (x^{\ell-d}g)(x_i) & (x^{\ell-d}g)'(x_i) & \dots & \frac{(x^{\ell-d}g)^{(a_i-1)}(x_i)}{(a_i-1)!} \end{bmatrix}^{\ell-d+1} \in K^{(\ell-d+1)\times a_i}$$

(with the convention that when k < j,  $\binom{k}{j}x_i^{k-j} = 0$ ). In the same way, we prove now that

$$G_d = (-1)^{\ell-d} \det \left( V_{\ell+1}(\overline{X}) \right)^{-1} \det \begin{bmatrix} \ell+1 & 1 \\ V_{d+1}(\overline{X}) & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots \\ W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X}) & \vdots \\ x^{\ell-d} \end{bmatrix} \ell+1-d$$

For that, we consider the following matrices:

$$M_{f} := \begin{bmatrix} 2\ell - d + 2 & & & 0 \\ f_{0} & \dots & f_{\ell+1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & f_{0} & \dots & f_{\ell+1} & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{\ell-d} ,$$
$$M_{g} := \begin{bmatrix} g_{0} & \dots & g_{\ell} & & x^{0} \\ & \ddots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & g_{0} & \dots & g_{\ell} & x^{\ell-d} \end{bmatrix}_{\ell+1-d}$$

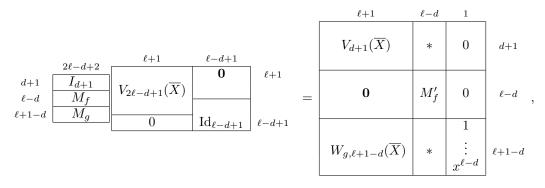
and

$$U_d := \begin{bmatrix} 2\ell - d + 2 \\ I_{d+1} \\ M_f \\ M_g \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{d+1}{\ell - d} ,$$

where  $I_{d+1}$  is the  $(d+1) \times (2\ell - d + 2)$  matrix with the identity matrix on the left and zero otherwise. Then from the definition of  $G_d$  we have that

$$G_d = \det(U_d).$$

Also, similarly as in the proof of [DKS2013, Theorem 2.5], we have



where  $M'_f$  is a triangular matrix with  $f_{\ell+1} = 1$  in its diagonal. This shows the formula for  $G_d$ .

Finally, we simply show that  $W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X}) = U_{\ell-d+1}(\overline{X},Y)$  by computing the entries of  $W_{g,\ell-d+1}(\overline{X})$ : we apply Leibniz rule and the fact that  $g^{(t-j)}(x_i) = (t-j)! y_{i,j}$  for  $0 \le i \le k$  and  $0 \le j < a_i$ :

$$\frac{(x^{u}g)^{(t)}(x_{i})}{t!} = \sum_{j=0}^{t} {\binom{u}{j}} x_{i}^{u-j} y_{i,t-j}.$$

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to Alain Lascoux for having explained us part of the results in [Las2003]. In December 2012, a preliminary version of this paper ([DKS2012]) was posted in the arxiv, and its results were further communicated in both the MEGA 2013 conference and the 2013 SIAM Algebraic Geometry Meeting, where we received a lot of comments and suggestions for improvements. In particular, we are grateful to George Labahn for having discussed with us his previous results on the topic, [BL2000], as commented in Remark 4.4. We also thank Bernard Mourrain for very helpful suggestions for future projects, and the referees for helping us improving the presentation of the results. All the examples and computations have been worked out with the aid of the software Mathematica 8.0 ([Wol2010]).

### References

- [Ant88] Antoulas, A.C. *Rational interpolation and the Euclidean algorithm*. Linear Algebra Appl. 188 (1988), 157–171.
- [BL2000] Beckermann, Bernhard; Labahn, George. Fraction-free computation of matrix rational interpolants and matrix GCDs. SIAM J. Matrix Anal. Appl. 22 (2000), no. 1, 114–144.
- [BT1971] Brown, W. S.; Traub, J. F. On Euclid's algorithm and the theory of subresultants. J. Assoc. Comput. Mach. 18 (1971), 505–514.
- [Cau1841] Cauchy, A. L. Mémoire sur les fonctions alternées et les sommes alternées. Exercices d'analyse et de phys. math. (1841) 151–159.
- [Col1967] Collins, George. Subresultants and Reduced Polynomial Remainder Sequences. J. ACM 14, 1 (1967), 128–142.

- [DHKS2007] D'Andrea, Carlos; Hong, Hoon; Krick, Teresa; Szanto, Agnes. An elementary proof of Sylvester's double sums for subresultants. J. Symbolic Comput. 42 (2007), no. 3, 290–297.
- [DHKS2009] D'Andrea, Carlos; Hong, Hoon; Krick, Teresa; Szanto, Agnes. Sylvester's double sums: the general case. J. Symbolic Comput. 44 (2009), no. 9, 1164– 1175.
- [DKS2012] D'Andrea, Carlos; Krick, Teresa; Szanto, Agnes. Subresultants, Sylvester sums and the rational interpolation problem. arXiv:1211.6895
- [DKS2013] D'Andrea, Carlos; Krick, Teresa; Szanto, Agnes. Subresultants in multiple roots. Linear Algebra Appl. 438 (2013), no. 5, 1969–1989.
- [GCL1996] Geddes, Keith; Czapor, S.; Labahn, G. Algorithms for Computer Algebra. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1996.
- [Kah1969] Kahng, S. W. Osculatory interpolation. Math. Comp. 23 1969 621-629.
- [Kal1984] Kalman, D. The generalized Vandermonde matrix. Math. Mag. 57 (1984), no. 1, 15–21.
- [KS2012] Krick, Teresa; Szanto, Agnes. Sylvester's double sums: an inductive proof of the general case. J. Symbolic Comput. 47 (2012), no. 8, 942–953.
- [Las2003] Lascoux, Alain. Symmetric functions and combinatorial operators on polynomials. CBMS Regional Conference Series in Mathematics, 99. Published for the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, Washington, DC; by the American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2003.
- [Las] Lascoux, Alain. Notes on Interpolation in one and several variables. http://igm.univ-mlv.fr/ al/ARTICLES/interp.dvi.gz
- [LP2003] Lascoux, Alain; Pragacz, Piotr. Double Sylvester sums for subresultants and multi-Schur functions. J. Symbolic Comput. 35 (2003), no. 6, 689–710.
- [Pre1953] Predonzan, Arno. Su una formula d'interpolazione per le funzioni razionali. Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova 22, (1953). 417–425.
- [Ros1845] Rosenhain, G. Neue Darstellung der Resultante der Elimination von z aus zwei algebraische Gleichungen. Crelle J. 30 (1845) 157–165.
- [RS2011] Roy, Marie-Francise; Szpirglas, Aviva. Sylvester double sums and subresultants. J. Symbolic Comput. 46 (2011), no. 4, 385–395.
- [Sal1962] Salzer, Herbert E. Note on osculatory rational interpolation. Math. Comp. 16 1962 486–491.
- [Syl1853] Sylvester, James Joseph. On a theory of syzygetic relations of two rational integral functions, comprising an application to the theory of Sturm's function and that of the greatest algebraical common measure. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Part III (1853), 407–548. Appears also in Collected Mathematical Papers of James Joseph Sylvester, Vol. 1, Chelsea Publishing Co. (1973) 429–586.
- [TF2000] Tan, Jieqing; Fang, Yi. Newton-Thiele's rational interpolants. Computational methods from rational approximation theory (Wilrijk, 1999). Numer. Algorithms 24 (2000), no. 1-2, 141–157.
- [vzGG2003] von zur Gathen, Joachim; Gerhard, Jürgen. Modern computer algebra. Second edition. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2003.
- [Wol2010] Wolfram Research, Inc. Mathematica, Version 8.0, Champaign, IL (2010).
- [Wuy1975] Wuytack, Luc. On the osculatory rational interpolation problem. Math. Comput. 29 (1975), 837–843.

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA, DEPARTAMENT D'ÀLGEBRA I GEOMETRIA. GRAN VIA 585, 08007 BARCELONA, SPAIN.

 $\label{eq:linear} E\text{-}mail\ address:\ \texttt{cdandreaQub.edu}\\ URL:\ \texttt{http://atlas.mat.ub.es/personals/dandrea}$ 

DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICA, FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS EXACTAS Y NATURALES, UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES AND IMAS, CONICET, ARGENTINA *E-mail address*: krick@dm.uba.ar

URL: http://mate.dm.uba.ar/~ krick

Department of Mathematics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695 $\operatorname{USA}$ 

E-mail address: aszanto@ncsu.edu URL: www4.ncsu.edu/~aszanto

14