

# Bivariate Hermite Interpolation

André Hirschowitz <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CNRS, UNS

Nice

10/6/2009

- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures
- 3 The results so far
- 4 Nagata's conjecture
- 5 Methods
- 6 Conclusion

## Hermite Interpolation

## The problem

## The conjectures

## The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

## Methods

## Conclusion

- Choose a number of variables  $n$  (default value  $n := 2$ )
- Choose a degree  $d$ , a number of points  $r$
- Choose a multiplicity sequence  $\underline{m} := (m_1, \dots, m_r)$
- Choose  $r$  points  $\underline{p} := (p_1, \dots, p_r)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (very general)
- Search a polynomial of degree at most  $d$  with prescribed values and derivatives up to order  $m_i - 1$  at  $p_i$  for each  $i$ .
- This amounts to search a section of the generalized evaluation  $ev : \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2]_d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\underline{p}, \underline{m}}$

# Easy remarks

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- We are only interested in the existence of a section
- hence in the surjectivity of our map  
$$ev : \mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2]_d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\underline{p}, \underline{m}}.$$
- Necessary condition on dimensions :  
$$\chi := \frac{(d+1)(d+2)}{2} - \sum_i \frac{m_i(m_i+1)}{2} \geq 0.$$
- Is it sufficient?
- In other words, is the dimension of  $\text{Ker } ev$  as expected?

# The kernel of $ev$

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- consists of equations of curves of degree  $d$
- passing through  $p_i$  with multiplicity  $m_i$ .
- Thus we search for the dimension of this "linear" system of curves.

# Obstructions I

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- $r = 2, m_1 + m_2 \geq d + 2$   
(perfectly compatible with  $\chi \geq 0$ ):
- interpolation for  $(d, m_1, m_2)$  is not possible on the line  $(p_1, p_2)$ .

# Obstructions II

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- $r = 5, m_1 + \cdots + m_5 \geq 2d + 2$   
(perfectly compatible with  $\chi \geq 0$ ):
- interpolation for  $(d, \underline{m})$  is not possible on the conic through  $(p_1, \cdots, p_5)$ .

# Analysis or geometry?

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

Four surveys around 2000 : 75 percent geometry!

- Miranda (Notices 1999)
- Ciliberto (European Congress 2000)
- Harbourne (Napoli 2000)
- Lorentz : Hermite interpolation by algebraic polynomials: A survey,  
in Numerical Analysis 2000 (Elsevier).



# The point of view of geometry

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- Algebraic geometers give a highly abstract interpretation involving
- punctual schemes, compactification, coherent modules, line bundles, blow-up, genericity, cohomology
- beyond language, is all this stuff helpful?

- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures**
- 3 The results so far
- 4 Nagata's conjecture
- 5 Methods
- 6 Conclusion

# Blowing-up

- The line and the conic above are  $(-1)$ -curves on the surface obtained by *blowing-up*  $(p_1, \dots, p_r)$  in the projective plane.
- Blowing-up  $p_i$  replaces  $p_i$  by a  $(-1)$ -curve  $E_i$ .
- Two lines through  $p_i$  do not meet anymore on the blown-up surface:
  - they meet  $E_i$  in different points.
  - Two curves of degree  $d$  and  $d'$  through the  $p_i$ 's have  $dd'$  common points in the plane (Bezout)
  - and only  $dd' - r$  points on the blown-up plane.

# $(-1)$ -curves

- A  $(-1)$ -curve is a smooth rational curve of "self-intersection"  $-1$ .
- The line  $p_i p_j$  yields a  $(-1)$ -curve (self-intersection  $d^2 - r$  with  $d := 1, r := 2$ ).
- The conic through  $(p_1, \dots, p_5)$  yields a  $(-1)$ -curve (self-intersection  $d^2 - r$  with  $d := 2, r := 5$ ).
- There are 27  $(-1)$ -curves on the general cubic surface (plane blown-up at six points,  $k = \mathbb{C}$ )
- There are infinitely many  $(-1)$ -curves on the plane blown-up at  $r$  points if  $r \geq 9$

# The generic rational surface

- So we work on the (generic) surface  $S_r$  obtained by blowing-up the projective plane at  $r$  generic points.

# The Neron-Severi group of $S_r$

- This is the group of equivalence classes of "virtual curves" on  $S_r$  (divisors)
- Two curves are equivalent iff they are in the same linear system
- The class of a curve is determined by its degree  $d$  and its multiplicities at the  $p_i$ 's (the  $m_i$ 's)
- $NS(S_r)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^{r+1}$
- each class  $C$  has its linear system (possibly "empty"), with a dimension denoted  $H^0(C)$ .
- We search for this dimension.

# Examples of classes

- The class of the line  $p_2p_3$  on  $S_5 : (1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0)$ .
- The class of the conic through  $p_1, \dots, p_5$  on  $S_6 : (2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0)$
- The so-called canonical class  $K$  is  $(-3, -1, \dots, -1)$ .

# The intersection form

- The intersection form gives the "right" number of intersection points of two curves (generalizing Bezout formula)
- $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r)(e, n_1, \dots, n_r) := de - m_1 n_1 - \dots - m_r n_r.$
- $(1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)^2 = -1, \quad (1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0).K = -1$
- $(2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)^2 = -1,$   
 $(2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0).K = -1$
- the "expected" dimension of a class  $D$  is  $[\frac{D.D - D.K}{2} + 1]_+$  (Riemann-Roch).



# Speciality

- A class  $c$  (with positive degree) is said non-special if its dimension is the expected one, special otherwise
- We want to recognize special systems
- A class  $(d, \underline{m})$  (with  $d$  positive) is non-special iff the corresponding evaluation

$$\mathbb{R}[x_1, x_2]_d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\underline{p}, \underline{m}}$$

has maximal rank.

# $(-1)$ -classes

- Definition :  $D$  is a  $(-1)$ -class :  $\Leftrightarrow D^2 = D.K = -1$ .
- The class of a  $(-1)$ -curve is a  $(-1)$ -class.
- Conversely each  $(-1)$ -class comes from a  $(-1)$ -curve.

# The conjecture I

- Easy observation: a class  $D$  ( $d > 0$ ) is special as soon as for some  $(-1)$ -class  $C$ ,  $D.C \leq -2$  ( $d > 0$ )
- Conjecture: conversely, if a class  $D$  ( $d > 0$ ) is special, it is because it is "obstructed" by some  $(-1)$ -class  $C$  (namely  $D.C \leq -2$ ).

# The Weyl group

- The Weyl group is the group  $W$  of orthogonal transformations of  $NS(S_r)$  fixing  $K$ .
- It permutes transitively  $(-1)$ -classes.
- It is finite iff  $r \leq 8$ .
- It respects the dimension of linear systems and their expected dimension.

# Automorphisms of $S_r$

- The action of  $W$  on  $NS(S_r)$  comes from an action on  $S_r$ .
- Thus  $W$  permutes transitively  $(-1)$ -curves.

# Generators of the Weyl group

- $W$  contains permutations (of multiplicities).
- $W$  contains the quadratic transformation  $q$  :  
 $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r) \mapsto$   
 $(2d - m_1 - m_2 - m_3,$   
 $d - m_2 - m_3, d - m_1 - m_3, d - m_1 - m_2,$   
 $m_4, \dots, m_r)$
- $W$  is generated by permutations and quadratic transformations.

# Standard classes

- a class  $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r)$  is said standard iff  $d \geq m_1 + m_2 + m_3$ , and  $m_1 \geq \dots \geq m_r$
- given a class  $C$  with positive degree, the orbit  $WC$  contains a standard class which can be computed
- a standard class  $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r)$  with  $m_r \geq -1$  is not obstructed by  $(-1)$ -classes.
- This means that we can decide if a class is obstructed by  $(-1)$ -classes and reduce our problem to standard classes.

# The conjecture II

Conjecture: standard classes  $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r)$  with  $m_r \geq 0$   
(or, if you prefer,  $m_r \geq -1$ ) are non special.



- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures
- 3 The results so far**
- 4 Nagata's conjecture
- 5 Methods
- 6 Conclusion

# Low number of points

- for  $r \leq 9$  the conjecture was proved by Castelnuovo
- for  $r \leq 8$ , this concerns Del Pezzo surfaces
- in the latter case, all classes with  $d > 0$  and  $\chi = 0$  are special  
(a big trouble for induction)

# Low multiplicities and computers

- Hirschowitz 1985:  $m_i \leq 2$  (no computer)
- Mignon 2000:  $m_i \leq 4$  (some computer)
- Yang 2004:  $m_i \leq 7$  (more computer)
- Dumnicki-Jarnicki 2006:  $m_i \leq 11$  (much more computer)

# Homogeneous multiplicities

- Hirschowitz 1985:  $m_1 = \dots = m_r \leq 3$
- Caporaso-Harris 1997:  $m_1 = \dots = m_r \leq 6$
- Ciliberto-Cioffi-Miranda-Orrechia 2000:  
 $m_1 = \dots = m_r \leq 20$
- Dumnicki 2006:  $m_1 = \dots = m_r \leq 37$

# The case where $r$ is a square

- Evain 2005
- Ciliberto-Miranda 2006

# Nice examples

- $r := 10$
- $(19, 6, \dots, 6)$  Hirschowitz 1985
- $(38, 12, \dots, 12)$  Gimigliano 1987
- $(174, 55, \dots, 55)$  Ciliberto-Miranda 2008

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures
- 3 The results so far
- 4 Nagata's conjecture**
- 5 Methods
- 6 Conclusion

# The cone theory 0

- The cone theory takes place in
- $N_1(X) := NS(X) \otimes \mathbb{R} \quad (X = S_r)$
- We are interested in the subcone  $NE(X)$  generated by curves, and in its closure  $\overline{NE}(X)$ .



# The cone theory I

- The intersection bilinear form yields :
- The cone  $Q$  of classes  $D$  with  $D.D > 0$
- $Q$  splits as  $Q^+ \amalg Q^-$
- $Q^- := -Q^+$
- (the “positive” subcone  $Q^+$  is the one with positive degrees)

# The cone theory II

- $NE(X)$  contains  $Q^+$  (eventually  $D.D \geq D.K$ )
- Negative curves ( $D.D < 0$ ) yield “extremal” rays in  $\overline{NE(X)}$ .

# The cone theory III

- $\overline{NE}(X)$  is generated by  $\overline{Q^+}$  and (irreducible) negative curves
- (no closure needed)

# The cone theory IV

- The  $K$ -negative side ( $D.K < 0$ ) is easy :
- the only negative classes there are  $(-1)$ -classes
- $(2g - 2 = D.D + D.K)$

# The cone theory V

- The  $K$ -null hyperplane ( $D.K = 0$ ) is under control:
- $\overline{NE}(X)_{K=0} = \overline{Q^+}_{K=0}$  (De Fernex 2006)

# The remaining case

- Conjecture (Nagata 1959):
- (for  $r \geq 10$ )
- No curve  $D$  with  $D.D < 0$  and  $D.K > 0$ .

# Nagata's reduction

- From an inhomogeneous bad curve  $(d, m_1, \dots, m_r)$
- by symmetrization
- build a homogeneous bad curve
- (numbers follow for  $r \geq 10$ )
- This reduces the conjecture to the homogeneous case.

# Nagata's conjecture: final form

- No curve in the class  $(d, m, \dots, m)$  for  $d^2 < rm^2$
- in other words
- $(\sqrt{r}, 1, \dots, 1)$  is in the boundary of  $\overline{NE}(X)$ .



# Approaching Nagata's conjecture for $r = 10$

- (it is the hardest case)
- $\sqrt{10} = 3.162\dots$
- Problem: find  $a$  with  $(a, 1, \dots, 1)$  out of  $\overline{NE}(X)$
- $a := 3.1606$  Harbourne-Roe 2005
- $a := 3.1609\dots$  Ciliberto-Miranda 2008
- $a := 3.1615\dots$  O. Dumitrescu 2009

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures
- 3 The results so far
- 4 Nagata's conjecture
- 5 Methods**
- 6 Conclusion

# Specializing points

- Thanks to semi-continuity,
- you may treat the case where the points  $p_i$  are in special position rather than generic.

# Horace method

- Put the right number of points on a curve,
- “subtract” the curve
- and go ahead with the residual problem.

# Collisions

- You may also specialize all your points at a single one
- This method has been used successfully by Evain and by Roe.

# Specializing points on a surface

- Finally you may specialize the plane as the plane plus a new surface attached along a curve
- This method has been introduced and refined and refined by Ciliberto-Miranda.

The problem

The conjectures

The results so far

Nagata's  
conjecture

Methods

Conclusion

- 1 The problem
- 2 The conjectures
- 3 The results so far
- 4 Nagata's conjecture
- 5 Methods
- 6 Conclusion**

# An active area

- This is an active area with several satellite areas:
- consider more general singularities (than ordinary multiple points)
- study collisions for themselves
- study the resolutions of the relevant ideals (not only their Hilbert function)
- replace the plane with other surfaces
- replace the plane with higher dimensional projective spaces ...