

The points $(p_i)_{i=0,\dots,d}$ where $p_i = [\frac{i}{d}, a_i]$ form what is called the control polygon of the polynomial f (see [12]).

A value of a polynomial f can be easily computed from this representation, using the de Casteljau algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} b_i^0 &= a_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, d, \\ b_i^r &= (1-t)b_i^{r-1} + tb_{i+1}^{r-1}(t), \quad i = 0, \dots, d-r. \end{aligned}$$

The value of $f(t)$ is $b_0^d(t)$. This algorithm requires $\mathcal{O}(d^2)$ arithmetic operations and $\mathcal{O}(d)$ memory space. Moreover, the control polygons $\mathbf{P}^-(t) = (p_0^0, p_0^1, \dots, p_0^d)$ and $\mathbf{P}^+(t) = (q_0^d, q_1^{d-1}, \dots, q_d^0)$ (where $p_i^j = [\frac{j}{d}, b_i^j]$ and $q_i^j = [\frac{i}{d}, b_i^j]$) refer to the restriction of f on $[0, t]$ and $[t, 1]$. We consider the special value $t = \frac{1}{2}$, for the subdivision step in our algorithm. The two control polygons $\mathbf{P}^-(t), \mathbf{P}^+(t)$ describe the functions $f^0(t) = f(\frac{t}{2})$ and $f^1(t) = f(\frac{t+1}{2})$ on the interval $[0, 1]$.

A fundamental property of the Bernstein representation is that the curve defined by:

$$t \in [0, 1] \rightarrow (t, f(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^2,$$

is contained in the convex hull of the points $(k/d, a_k)$, $k = 0, \dots, d$. This follows easily from the classical equality $t = \sum_{k=0}^d \frac{k}{d} B_k^d(t)$.

We denote by $f^*(t)$ the following polynomial:

$$f^*(t) = (1+t)^d f\left(\frac{1}{1+t}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^d \binom{d}{k} a_k t^{d-k}.$$

Consequently, the localization of the real roots of $f(t)$ in the interval $[0, 1]$ is equivalent to the localization of the real roots of $f^*(t)$ in the interval $[0, +\infty[$.

Another interesting property of this representation is the following:

Proposition 2.1 *The number of sign changes of the sequence $\mathbf{a} = (a_i)_{i=0,\dots,d}$ bounds the number of roots of f in the interval $[0, 1]$. Moreover, this bound is equal to the number of roots modulo 2.*

Proof. The first point is a direct consequence of the Variation Diminishing property of Bézier curves [12, p.54].

For the second point, we remark that, by applying the change of variables $t \rightarrow \frac{t}{1+t}$, we can use the classical Descartes rule for f^* , giving a bound and the parity of the number of positive real roots of a univariate polynomial [42]. Thus the proposition is proved. \square

The control polygon of a curve is a very rough but quite intuitive description of the curve. This description can be refined by insertion of points, given by the following formula:

$$p_i' = \frac{i}{d+1} p_{i-1} + \left(1 - \frac{i}{d+1}\right) p_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, d+1,$$

which requires $\mathcal{O}(d)$ arithmetic operations. Iterating this refinement yields a sequence of polygons which converge to the curve [12].

2.2 B-splines

In our approach we also use B -splines. We briefly recall their construction (for more details see for instance [12]). Let $u_0 = a, \dots, u_L = b$ be a set of non-decreasing numbers, also called a *subdivision* of $[a, b]$. A B -spline curve of order d associated with the subdivision $\mathbf{u} = (u_0, \dots, u_L)$, is a curve which is piecewise polynomial of degree d on the interval $[a, b]$, and of class C^{r_i} at the node u_i . Notice that these nodes may not be distinct. The curve is polynomial (of degree d) on the interval $[u_i, u_{i+1}]$ and defined by the control polygon $([\xi_{i+j}, b_{i+j}])_{j=0, \dots, d-1}$ where:

$$\xi_i = \frac{1}{d}(u_i + \dots + u_{i+d-1}).$$

In order to represent a polynomial P of degree d with control values b_0, \dots, b_L on the interval $[0, 1]$, we take the subdivision $u_0 = \dots = u_{d-1} = 0, u_d = \dots = u_{2d-1} = 1$. Thus we have $\xi_j = \frac{j}{d}$, and the control polygon defining the curve is the following:

$$[\xi_0, b_0], \dots, [\xi_{L-d+1}, b_{L-d+1}].$$

The internal representation of such a B -spline is thus given by:

- the sequence of nodes u_0, \dots, u_L ,
- the control values b_0, \dots, b_L .

The abscissas $(\xi_i)_{i=0, \dots, L-d}$ can be computed directly from these values.

Refining the representation. Given a B -spline, in order to get a more precise representation of the same curve we can refine the subdivision. This task is performed by the insertion algorithm described in [12], and similar to de Casteljau algorithm. This refinement procedure has the following properties:

- **Variation diminishing property:** a line intersects the control polygon in more points than the number of real zeros of the polynomial P on the interval $[a, b]$.
- By inserting a sequence of equidistant points in $[a, b]$, the sequence of polygons converge to the curve.

Consequently, the number of sign changes in the sequence b_i bounds the number of real roots in the interval $[a, b]$. This bound is equal to the actual number of real roots, modulo 2.

2.3 Isolation of the roots

We will use Proposition 2.1 to isolate the real roots of a B -spline function $f(t)$ on an interval $[m, M]$. The control polygon is a first approximation of the curve. It can be used to give an estimation of the roots. In order to separate the roots, we can insert additional points in order to refine the polygon.

According to Proposition 2.1, if the number of crossing points of the subpolygon corresponding to the interval $[u_i, u_{i+1}]$ with the x -axis is 0 or 1, then we know the exact number of roots within this interval. If this is not the case, we perform the splitting procedure.

This algorithm is related to the algorithm proposed in [13] and [34] but the corresponding authors do not give any precise result of the complexity of this algorithm. This will be done in Section 2.4. Notice that this algorithm is also related to the Uspensky's method [56, 43], by applying the change of variable $t \in [0, +\infty[\mapsto \frac{t}{1+t} \in [0, 1[$. Here is a more precise description of the algorithm:

Algorithm 2.1 *Isolate the real roots.*

```

localization:=proc(b, [m,M])
L := {[m,M]}
Z := empty set of intervals
if size(L)>0 then
  L:=L minus {[m,M]};
  n:= Var(b)
  if b0=0 then Z= Z union {[m,m]}
  if bd=0 then Z= Z union {[M,M]}
  if n=1 then Z:= Z union {[m,M]};
  elif n>1 then
    L:=L union [m, (m+M)/2], [(m+M)/2, M];
    [b-, b+]:=subdivide(b);
    localization(b-, [m, (m+M)/2]);
    localization(b+, [(m+M)/2, M]);
  fi
fi
end
Output : Z

```

where L is the set of intervals that contain the real roots, Z is the set of intervals containing one and only one real root, $\text{Var}(\mathbf{b})$ is the number of sign changes of the sequence $\mathbf{b} = (b_0, \dots, b_d)$ and `subdivide` is the de Casteljau subdivision procedure (see above).

2.4 The complexity

The main result of this section gives the complexity of the previous algorithm. Because the B -spline insertion procedure is local, we can restrict ourself to the case where $f(t)$ is a

polynomial of degree d , represented in the Bernstein Basis. In [8, p.89], Collins and Loos study positive zero isolation by Descartes rule of sign using a modified Uspenski algorithm. In Lemma 2.1 we improve the bounds obtained by these authors.

Theorem 2.1 *Let $f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^d a_k B_k^d(t)$ be a polynomial of degree d represented in the Bernstein basis. Let $x_k, k = 1, \dots, d$ be the roots of f and $s = \min_{x_i \neq x_j} |x_i - x_j|$. Suppose that all real roots of the polynomial f are simple. Then the procedure localization terminates. Moreover the following hold:*

1. An upper bound on the number of recursion steps of the procedure localization is

$$l = \left\lceil \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{2s} \right) \right\rceil,$$

where the notation $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ refers to the smallest integer, which is not less than the real number quoted.

2. An upper bound on the number of arithmetic operations of the procedure localization is

$$v = \frac{1}{2}d(d+1)r \left(\left\lceil \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{2s} \right) \right\rceil - \log_2(r) + 4 \right),$$

where r is the number of sign changes of the sequence $(a_k)_{0, \dots, d}$.

3. The number of intervals in Z is the number of real roots of f in $[0, 1]$.

The study of complexity of the algorithm requires a reciprocal result of the Descartes rule. In fact we need to know when the number of real roots of f on $[0, 1]$, denoted by $\#Z_f(0, 1)$, equals zero implies $Var(\mathbf{b}) = 0$ and when $\#Z_f(0, 1) = 1$ implies $Var(\mathbf{b}) = 1$. We first give

Theorem 2.2 *Suppose that $f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^d a_k B_k(t)$ with zeros x_1, \dots, x_d with $x_d \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 \leq x_d \leq \frac{1}{3^{d-2}}$ or $\frac{3d-3}{3d-2} \leq x_d \leq 1$ and $|x_k| \geq \frac{1}{(3/2)^{\frac{d-1}{k}-1}}$, $k = 1, \dots, d-1$. Then, it holds that $Var(\mathbf{a}) = 1$.*

Theorem 2.3 *Suppose that $f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^d a_k B_k(t)$ with zeros x_1, \dots, x_d such that $|x_k| \geq \frac{1}{(3/2)^{\frac{d}{k}-1}}$, $k = 1, \dots, d$. Then, it holds that $Var(\mathbf{a}) = 0$.*

To prove these theorems we need

Lemma 2.1 *Let $g(x) = \prod_{k=1}^{d-1} (t+1+x_k) = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} b_k t^k$ be a real polynomial of degree $d \geq 2$ such that $|x_k| < \varepsilon_d = \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{d-1}} - 1$, $k = 1, \dots, d-1$ with $1 < \varepsilon < 2$. Then, there exist real numbers δ_k such that*

$$b_k = \binom{d}{k} (1 + \delta_k) > 0, \quad |\delta_k| \leq \varepsilon - 1, \quad k = 0, \dots, d.$$

Moreover, if $0 < x \leq \frac{2-\varepsilon}{(d-1)\varepsilon}$ or $x \geq \frac{(d-1)\varepsilon}{2-\varepsilon}$, then it follows that:

$$\text{Var}(b_{d-2} - xb_{d-1}, \dots, b_0 - xb_1) = 0.$$

Proof. For $k = 1, \dots, d-1$, we know that:

$$b_{d-1-k} = \sum_{0 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq d-1} \prod_{j=1}^k (1 + x_{i_j}).$$

Consequently it holds:

$$\left| b_{d-1-k} - \binom{d-1}{k} \right| \leq \binom{d-1}{k} \max_{0 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq d-1} \left| \prod_{j=1}^k (1 + x_{i_j}) - 1 \right|.$$

Since $|x_k| < \varepsilon_d = (3/2)^{d-1} - 1$, $k = 1, \dots, d-1$, it is easy to see that,

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{0 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq d-1} \left| \prod_{j=1}^k (1 + x_{i_j}) - 1 \right| &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \binom{k}{j} \varepsilon_d^j \\ &\leq (1 + \varepsilon_d)^k - 1 \leq (1 + \varepsilon_d)^{d-1} - 1 = \varepsilon - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for each one of $k = 1, \dots, d-1$ there exist real numbers δ_k such that $b_{d-1-k} = \binom{d-1}{k} (1 + \delta_k)$ with $|\delta_k| \leq \varepsilon - 1$. This implies that $b_{d-1-k} \geq 0$ for all $k = 1, \dots, d-1$.

On the other hand, we have

$$\frac{b_{d-k-1}}{b_{d-k}} = \frac{d-k}{k} \frac{1 + \delta_k}{1 + \delta_{k-1}}.$$

The following inequalities, for $k = 1, \dots, d-1$,

- 1) $2 - \varepsilon \leq 1 - |\delta_k| \leq 1 + \delta_k \leq 1 + |\delta_k| = \varepsilon,$
- 2) $\frac{1}{d-1} \leq \frac{d-k}{k} \leq d-1,$

imply the point estimates:

$$\frac{2-\varepsilon}{(d-1)\varepsilon} \leq \frac{b_{d-k-1}}{b_{d-k}} \leq \frac{(d-1)\varepsilon}{2-\varepsilon}.$$

Consequently, if we have

$$0 \leq x \leq \frac{2-\varepsilon}{(d-1)\varepsilon}, \quad \text{or} \quad x \geq \frac{(d-1)\varepsilon}{2-\varepsilon},$$

then all the quantities $b_{d-k-1} - xb_{d-k}$ for $k = 1, \dots, d$ have the same sign. Hence, it holds that:

$$\text{Var}(b_{d-2} - xb_{d-1}, \dots, b_0 - xb_1) = 0.$$

Thus the lemma is proved. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.2 Let us consider $f^*(t) = (1+t)^d f(1/(1+t))$. The roots x_k^* of $f^*(t)$ are $x_k^* = \frac{1}{x_k} - 1$. The polynomial $g(t) = \prod_{k=1}^{d-1} (t - x_k^*) = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} b_k t^k$ satisfies the assumption of Lemma 2.1 with $\varepsilon = 3/2$ since $\frac{1}{|x_k|} < \varepsilon_d = (3/2)^{\frac{1}{d-1}} - 1$. Since, $0 \leq x_d \leq \frac{1}{3d-2}$ or $\frac{3d-3}{3d-2} \leq x_d \leq 1$, it follows that $x_d^* \geq 3d-3$ or $0 < x_d^* \leq \frac{1}{3d-3}$. Hence, it holds that:

$$\text{Var}(b_{d-2} - x_d^* b_{d-1}, \dots, b_0 - x_d^* b_1) = 0.$$

The coefficients of the polynomial $f^*(t) = a_0(t - x_d^*)g(t)$ are:

$$\binom{d}{k} \frac{a_{d-k}}{a_0} = b_{k-1} - x_d^* b_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, d-1, \quad \frac{a_d}{a_0} = -x_d^* b_0.$$

The number of sign changes of the sequence

$$-x_d^* b_0, \quad b_{d-2} - x_d^* b_{d-1}, \quad \dots, \quad b_0 - x_d^* b_1, \quad 1,$$

is one. Thus the theorem is proved. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.3 Let us again consider $f^*(t) = (1+t)^d f(1/(1+t))$. The roots x_k^* of $f^*(t)$ are $x_k^* = \frac{1}{x_k} - 1$. The roots of the polynomial $\prod_{k=1}^d (t - x_k^*) = \sum_{k=0}^d \binom{d}{k} a_k t^k$ satisfy the assumption of Lemma 2.1 with $\varepsilon = 3/2$ since $\frac{1}{|x_k|} \leq (3/2)^{1/d} - 1$. Consequently, the coefficients a_k are positive numbers and $\text{Var}(\mathbf{a}) = 0$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.1 At the level n of the recursion step, the algorithm localization computes polynomials $f^r(t) = f(t/2^n + r_n/2^n + \dots + r_1/2)$ where $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$, $r_i \in \{0, 1\}$. A root t of f^r is linked with a root x of f by

$$x = t/2^n + r_n/2^n + \dots + r_1/2.$$

If f has a multiple real root, the algorithm localization does not terminate since the condition $\text{Var}(f^r) \leq 1$ cannot to be reached.

We first compute an upper bound for the number of recursion steps to get $\text{Var}(f^r) = 1$ in the case where f has simple real roots. Let $x_d \in [0, 1]$ be a simple real root of f . From Lemma 2.1, we obtain sufficient conditions for which $\text{Var}(f^r) = 1$. These are $t_d \leq \frac{1}{3d-2}$ and $|t_k| \geq \frac{1}{(\frac{3}{2})^{\frac{1}{d-1}} - 1}$. We now estimate n for which

$$t_d = 2^n \left(x_d - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{r_k}{2^k} \right) \leq \frac{1}{3d-2} \leq 2^n s,$$

and

$$|t_k| \geq |t_k - t_d| - t_d \geq 2^n |x_k - x_d| - 1 \geq 2^n s - 1 \geq \frac{1}{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{s-1}} - 1}, \quad k = 1, \dots, d-1.$$

Since $\frac{5}{2}(d-1) > \frac{1}{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{s-1}} - 1}$, the previous inequalities hold when

$$n \geq \max \left\{ \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{(3d-2)s} \right), \log_2 \left(\frac{5d-3}{2s} \right) \right\} = \log_2 \left(\frac{5d-3}{2s} \right).$$

Next, we give an upper bound for the number of recursion steps to get $Var(f^r) = 0$. From Theorem 2.3, we have $Var(f^r) = 0$ when $|t_k| \geq \frac{5}{2}d$ for $k = 1, \dots, d$. This previous inequality holds when $2^n s \geq \frac{5d}{2}$ i.e., $n \geq \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{2s} \right)$. Finally, the number of recursion steps is bounded by $\lceil \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{2s} \right) \rceil$.

There are 2^k polynomials of type f^r at the level k of recursion. The De Casteljaou algorithm needs additions and divisions by 2: it is easy to see that there are $d(d+1)$ arithmetic operations. Moreover, when we split the interval, the total number r of sign variations can only decrease (because of the variation diminishing property). Moreover, we remove the interval with sign variation equal to 0 and do not split anymore those with sign variation equal to 1. Consequently, the recursion tree of height at most $l = \lceil \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{2s} \right) \rceil$ has a maximal number of edges when its $\log_2 \left(\frac{r}{2} \right)$ first levels are filled and the subtrees are of maximal height. The number of edges is thus bounded by:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\log_2(r/2)} 2^k + \left(l - \log_2 \left(\frac{r}{2} \right) + 1 \right) \frac{r}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2} r (l - \log_2(r) + 4).$$

As each step requires $d(d+1)$ operations, we obtain the desired complexity bound. \square

3 The topological degree and its complexity

We briefly outline topological degree theory for determining the exact number of zeros of a system of nonlinear transcendental equations by computing the value of the topological degree using Kronecker's integral [3, 14, 22, 31, 36, 50] on Picard's extension [18, 19, 39, 40, 49].

Suppose that a function $F_n = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n): \overline{\mathcal{D}_n} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is defined and twice continuously differentiable in an open and bounded domain \mathcal{D}_n of \mathbb{R}^n with boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_n$. Suppose further that the zeros of the equation $F_n(x) = p$, where $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a given vector, are not located on $\partial\mathcal{D}_n$, and that they are simple, i.e., the determinant, $\det J_{F_n}$, of the Jacobian matrix of F_n at these zeros is non-zero.

Definition 3.1 *The topological degree of F_n at p relative to \mathcal{D}_n is denoted by $\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$ and is defined by the following sum:*

$$\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, p] = \sum_{x \in F_n^{-1}(p) \cap \mathcal{D}_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\det J_{F_n}(x)), \quad (1)$$

where $\operatorname{sgn}(\psi)$ defines the well known three valued sign function:

$$\operatorname{sgn}(\psi) = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } \psi < 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } \psi = 0, \\ 1, & \text{if } \psi > 0. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The topological degree is invariant under changes of the vector p in the sense that, if $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is any vector, then it holds that [38, p.157]:

$$\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, p] \equiv \deg[F_n - q, \mathcal{D}_n, p - q],$$

where $F_n - q$ denotes the mapping $F_n(x) - q$, $x \in \mathcal{D}_n$. Thus, for simplicity reason, we consider the case where the topological degree is defined at the origin $\Theta_n = (0, \dots, 0)$ in \mathbb{R}^n .

The topological degree $\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n]$ can be represented by the Kronecker integral which is closely tied with facts used later and is defined as follows:

$$\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n] = \frac{\Gamma(n/2)}{2\pi^{n/2}} \int_{\vartheta \mathcal{D}_n} \int \dots \int \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i dx_1 \dots dx_{i-1} dx_{i+1} \dots dx_n}{(f_1^2 + f_2^2 + \dots + f_n^2)^{n/2}}, \quad (3)$$

where A_i define the following determinants:

$$A_i = (-1)^{n(i-1)} \det \begin{bmatrix} F_n & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_{i-1}} & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_{i+1}} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

where $\frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_k} = \left(\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_k}, \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_k}, \dots, \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_k} \right)$ is the k th column of the determinant $\det J_{F_n}$ of the Jacobian matrix J_{F_n} .

Definition 3.1 can be generalized when the function is only continuous [9, 38]. In this case, Kronecker's theorem [3, 9, 38] states that $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ has at least one zero in \mathcal{D}_n if $\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n] \neq 0$. Furthermore, if $\mathcal{D}_n = \mathcal{D}_n^1 \cup \mathcal{D}_n^2$ where \mathcal{D}_n^1 and \mathcal{D}_n^2 have disjoint interiors and $F_n(x) \neq \Theta_n$ for all $x \in \vartheta \mathcal{D}_n^1 \cup \vartheta \mathcal{D}_n^2$, then the topological degree is additive, i.e.:

$$\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n] = \deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n^1, \Theta_n] + \deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n^2, \Theta_n]. \quad (5)$$

Now, since $\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n]$ is equal to the number of zeros of $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ that give positive determinant of the Jacobian matrix minus the number of zeros that give negative determinant of the Jacobian matrix, the total number \mathcal{N}^r of zeros of $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ can, of course, be obtained by the value of $\deg[F_n, \mathcal{D}_n, \Theta_n]$ if all these zeros have the same sign of the determinant of the Jacobian matrix. Note that, by assumption, all the zeros of $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ are simple. To this end, Picard considered the following extension of the function F_n and the domain \mathcal{D}_n :

$$F_{n+1} = (f_1, \dots, f_n, f_{n+1}): \mathcal{D}_{n+1} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}, \quad (6)$$

where $f_{n+1} = y \det J_{F_n}$, and \mathcal{D}_{n+1} is the direct product of the domain \mathcal{D}_n with an arbitrary interval of the real y -axis containing the point $y = 0$. Then the zeros of the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \\ y \det J_{F_n}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

are the same as the zeros of $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ provided that $y = 0$. On the other hand, it is easily seen that the determinant of the Jacobian matrix of (7) is equal to $[\det J_{F_n}(x)]^2$ which is always nonnegative (positive at the simple zeros). Thus we may conclude the following.

Theorem 3.1 [39, 40]. *The total number \mathcal{N}^r of zeros of $F_n(x) = \Theta_n$ is given by*

$$\mathcal{N}^r = \deg[F_{n+1}, \mathcal{D}_{n+1}, \Theta_{n+1}], \quad (8)$$

under the hypotheses that F_n is twice continuously differentiable and that all the zeros are simple and lie in the strict interior of \mathcal{D}_{n+1} .

Based on this, we are able to give closed formulas for the total number of roots. As for example in the univariate case, let (a, b) be an open interval in \mathbb{R} , and suppose that $f: [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is twice continuously differentiable. Assume further that $f(a)f(b) \neq 0$ and that all the roots of f that lie in (a, b) are simple. Then, by applying (1) for $n = 2$ we obtain that the total number \mathcal{N}^r of roots of f that lie in (a, b) is given by [21]:

$$\mathcal{N}^r = -\frac{\gamma}{\pi} \int_a^b \frac{f(x)f''(x) - f'^2(x)}{f^2(x) + \gamma^2 f'^2(x)} dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan \left(\frac{\gamma[f(a)f'(b) - f(b)f'(a)]}{f(a)f(b) + \gamma^2 f'(a)f'(b)} \right), \quad (9)$$

where γ is an arbitrary small real positive constant. It was explicitly shown by Picard [39, 40] that Relation (9) is independent of the value of γ .

The formula (9) can be used for the isolation of all simple roots of a function f in a specific interval $[a, b]$. Results with this approach can be found in [20, 21, 41]. Also, in [20, 21] a framework for the study of the expected complexity of the problem of finding with certainty all simple roots of a function has been presented and results have been shown for the case when the roots are uniformly or arbitrarily distributed (with a continuous distribution) in the considered interval. Furthermore, in [20] it is proved that the expected value (with respect to the considered distribution) of the times that we need to apply the formula (9) in order to isolate n roots ($n \geq 2$) is $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$. Notice that an optimal algorithm for sorting has complexity time $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$. On the other hand, using our approach we are able to sort n numbers with the same cost if we consider them as roots of a univariate polynomial. We intend to present results in this direction in a future communication.

The Kronecker-Picard integral can be also applied for the determination of the total number of multiple roots [11, 19, 21, 55].

For the case of complex zeros the following theorem states that the total number of complex zeros can be obtained by the value of the topological degree without Picard's extension:

Theorem 3.2 [68]. *Let $\mathcal{D}_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$ be an open bounded region and let $f : \mathcal{D}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic. Suppose that f has no zeros on $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ and assume that all zeros of f that lie in \mathcal{D}_2 are simple. Then the total number N^r of zeros of f is equal to $\deg[F_2, \mathcal{D}_2, \Theta_2]$, where:*

$$F_2(x_1, x_2) = (f_1(x_1, x_2), f_2(x_1, x_2)) = \left(\Re(f(x_1 + \mathbf{i}x_2)), \Im(f(x_1 + \mathbf{i}x_2)) \right),$$

where $\Re(z)$ is the real and $\Im(z)$ is the imaginary part of $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

3.1 Optimal computation of 2–D topological degree

Several methods for the computation of the topological degree have been proposed in the past few years (see e.g., [6, 22, 23, 50, 52, 53]). To evaluate the topological degree, we use Stenger’s method that in some classes of functions is an almost optimal complexity algorithm (see for example [6, 47, 50]). The accurate computation of topological degree using Stenger’s or other related methods [22, 23, 52, 53], is based on suitable assumptions, including appropriate representation of the boundary of \mathcal{D}_n . In particular, if the boundary of \mathcal{D}_n can be “sufficiently refined” then Stenger’s method gives the value of topological degree.

Definition 3.2 [22, 23, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54]. *Let Π^n be an n -polyhedron. Suppose that $F_n = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) : \Pi^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous with $\Theta_n \notin F_n(\partial\Pi^n)$. If $n = 1$, $\partial\Pi^1$ is said to be sufficiently refined relative to $\text{sgn} F_1$, if $0 \notin F_1(\partial\Pi^1)$. If $n > 1$, $\partial\Pi^n$ is said to be sufficiently refined relative to $\text{sgn} F_n$, if $\partial\Pi^n$ has been subdivided so that it may be written as a union of a finite number of $(n - 1)$ -dimensional regions $Q_1^{n-1}, Q_2^{n-1}, \dots, Q_m^{n-1}$, each consisting of a union of a finite number of $(n - 1)$ -simplices with pairwise disjoint $(n - 1)$ -dimensional interiors and having the following properties:*

- a) *the interiors of the Q_i^{n-1} are pairwise disjoint and each Q_i^{n-1} is connected;*
- b) *for each region Q_i^{n-1} , there exists at least one component of F_n , (for example f_{r_i}), that does not vanish on it;*
- c) *if $f_{r_i} \neq 0$ on Q_i^{n-1} , then ∂Q_i^{n-1} is sufficiently refined relative to $\text{sgn} F_{r_i}$ where:*

$$F_{n-1}^{r_i} = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{r_i-1}, f_{r_i+1}, \dots, f_n).$$

We now concentrate on dimension 2, although many of the following results can be extended to a higher dimension.

Definition 3.3 *A segment $[p_i, p_j]$ is defined to be a closed counterclockwise oriented portion of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ with endpoints p_i and p_j and interior (p_i, p_j) . A partition P of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ is either the empty set or a set $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^g$ of counterclockwise ordered points from $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ such that*

$$\partial\mathcal{D}_2 = \sum_{i=1}^g [p_i, p_{i+1}], \quad p_{g+1} = p_1. \quad (10)$$

Lemma 3.1 *A nonempty partition P forms a sufficient refinement of the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ relative to the sign of a function $F_2 = (f_1, f_2)$ if and only if $(p_i, p_{i+1}) \cap (p_j, p_{j+1}) = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$ and on each $[p_i, p_{i+1}]$, there exists a component of F_2 , say f_j , that is of constant sign (i.e., $\neq 0$) on $[p_i, p_{i+1}]$, and the remaining component of F_2 is nonzero at p_i and p_{i+1} .*

Proof. The proof is obvious (cf. Definition 3.2). \square

Stenger proved (see [50]) that, given a sufficient refinement of the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ of \mathcal{D}_2 , the topological degree can be computed as:

$$\deg [F_2, \mathcal{D}_2, \Theta_2] = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^g (-1)^{j_i-1} \deg [f_{j_i+1}, [p_i, p_{i+1}], 0] \times \text{sign } f_{j_i}(p_i), \quad (11)$$

where j_i is the index of the component of $F_2 = (f_1, f_2)$ that has constant sign on $[p_i, p_{i+1}]$, $f_3 = f_1$, $\deg [f_j, [p_i, p_{i+1}], 0] = \{\text{sign } f_j(p_{i+1}) - \text{sign } f_j(p_i)\}/2$, and $\text{sign } f_j(p_i) = (1, \text{ if } f_j(p_i) > 0, -1 \text{ if } f_j(p_i) < 0)$.

A worst-case lower bound for the number of function evaluations needed by this algorithm is expressed in terms of the Lipschitz constant of F_2 with respect to \mathcal{D}_2 and the infinity norm of F_2 along the boundary of \mathcal{D}_2 .

More specifically, let $\mathcal{B} \equiv [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ be the unit square in \mathbb{R}^2 and $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ be the infinity norm in \mathbb{R}^2 . For given positive δ and K define

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ F_2 : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, \quad F_2 = (f_1, f_2) : \begin{aligned} \|F_2(x) - F_2(y)\|_\infty &\leq K \|x - y\|_\infty \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{B} \\ \|F_2(x)\|_\infty &\geq \delta \quad \forall x \in \partial\mathcal{B} \text{ and } K/(4\delta) \geq 1 \end{aligned} \right\}. \quad (12)$$

Boult and Sikorski presented in [6] an optimal complexity algorithm for computing the topological degree for any function from the class \mathcal{F} . Their algorithm calculates the degree using (11). They have examined the complexity, i.e. minimal cost of the problem of the calculation of topological degree for functions from class \mathcal{F} and concluded that it is an almost optimal complexity algorithm. They assumed that each arithmetic operation ($+$, $-$, $*$, \div , $\text{abs}()$), each logical operation (and, or, not) or comparison ($>$, $<$, \geq , \leq , $=$, \neq) costs unity, and that each function evaluation costs c . Also, they proved that any algorithm that solves the problem must use at least $m^* = 4 \lfloor K/(4\delta) \rfloor$ function evaluations and a lower bound on the computational complexity is $m^* \times (c + 2) - 1$.

The above can be extended to the case where the domain of interest is an arbitrary polyhedron in \mathbb{R}^2 [6]. This extension consists of choosing points on the boundary of the polyhedron separated by a distance $1/\lfloor K/(4\delta) \rfloor$ in the infinity norm [6].

3.2 A new approach

To evaluate the topological degree using the optimal complexity algorithm of [6] we need the value of the Lipschitz constant

$$K = \max_{\substack{x \neq y \\ x, y \in \mathcal{D}_2}} \frac{\|F_2(x) - F_2(y)\|_\infty}{\|x - y\|_\infty},$$

with respect to \mathcal{D}_2 and the infinity norm δ of F_2 along the boundary of \mathcal{D}_2 .

We propose another scheme that involves only $\delta = \min_{x \in \partial \mathcal{D}_2} \|F_2(x)\|_\infty$. The scheme consists of two steps:

- First, we approximate the function F_2 on the boundary by B -splines, controlling the error of approximation in terms of second derivatives. This approximation step is not required if map F_2 is a polynomial.
- Secondly, we use the B -spline approximation and the isolation procedure of Section 2, in order to compute the topological degree of F_2 .

In order to compute topological degree of F_2 from an approximation of its components on the boundary of the domain, we will exploit the homotopy invariance of the degree. More precisely, we use the following definition:

Definition 3.4 *Suppose that $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 : \overline{\mathcal{D}_n} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ are two continuous mappings defined on the closure $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}$ of an open and bounded domain \mathcal{D}_n . If $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is any point such that $p \notin \varphi_1(\partial \mathcal{D}_n)$ and $p \notin \varphi_2(\partial \mathcal{D}_n)$, and if there is a homotopy:*

$$H : \overline{\mathcal{D}_n} \times I \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad I = [0, 1],$$

such that $H(x, 0) = \varphi_1(x)$, $H(x, 1) = \varphi_2(x)$ with $H(x, t) \neq p$ for all $(x, t) \in \partial \mathcal{D}_n \times I$, then φ_1 and φ_2 are said to be homotopic avoiding p .

The homotopy invariance of the degree is given by:

Theorem 3.3 [Homotopy Invariance] [4, 9, 33, 38]. *If φ_1 and φ_2 are homotopic avoiding p then $\deg[H(\cdot, t), \mathcal{D}_n, p]$ has the same value for all $t \in I$ and consequently $\deg[\varphi_1, \mathcal{D}_n, p] = \deg[\varphi_2, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$.*

As conclusion of Theorem 3.3, we find that the topological degree depends only on the values of the considered function on the boundary $\partial \mathcal{D}_n$ of the domain \mathcal{D}_n . In particular, if $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 : \overline{\mathcal{D}_n} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ are two continuous mappings defined on the closure $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}$ of an open and bounded domain \mathcal{D}_n and if $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is any point for which the $\deg[\varphi_1, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$, $\deg[\varphi_2, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$ are defined, then Theorem 3.3 implies the following three theorems:

Theorem 3.4 [Boundary-Value] [4, 9, 33, 38]. *If $\varphi_1(x) = \varphi_2(x)$ for $x \in \partial \mathcal{D}_n$, then $\deg[\varphi_1, \mathcal{D}_n, p] = \deg[\varphi_2, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$.*

Theorem 3.5 [Poincaré–Bohl] [4, 9, 33, 38]. *If for each $x \in \partial\mathcal{D}_n$ the line segment $[\varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x)]$ does not intersect the point p , then $\deg[\varphi_1, \mathcal{D}_n, p] = \deg[\varphi_2, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$.*

Theorem 3.6 [Rouché] [4, p.226],[9, 33, 38]. *If for some positive number $\eta < \pi$ it holds that $\|\varphi_1(x) - p\| > \eta$ for $x \in \partial\mathcal{D}_n$ and if $\|\varphi_1(x) - \varphi_2(x)\| < \eta$ for $x \in \mathcal{D}_n$ then $\deg[\varphi_1, \mathcal{D}_n, p] = \deg[\varphi_2, \mathcal{D}_n, p]$.*

Thus, if F_2 does not vanish on the boundary of the domain and if its components are approximated closely enough on this boundary, the topological degree of the map and its approximation will be the same. We are going to approximate components of F_2 by B -splines within $\epsilon < \delta = \min_{x \in \partial\mathcal{D}_2} \|F_2(x)\|_\infty$. By Theorem 3.6, the topological degree will not change. The approximation error is controlled as follows. Let us denote by S_d the Schoenberg operator defined by:

$$S(F_2) = \sum_{i=0}^{L-d+1} F_2(\zeta_i) B_i^d$$

where $\zeta_i = \frac{1}{d}(u_i + \dots + u_{i+d-1})$, B_i^d is the Bézier basis from Section 2.2 and $u_d \leq a$, $b \leq u_L$. The fundamental property of S is that it reproduces straight lines, i.e. $S(f) = f$ when f is a polynomial of degree one. The following well known result, is given in e.g. [35, p.8], [42, p.36].

Theorem 3.7 *Let f be a function twice differentiable on the interval $[a, b]$. Suppose further that $|\mathbf{u}| = \sup_{d \leq i \leq L} |u_{i+1} - u_i|$. Then, for all $d \geq 1$, we have:*

$$\|f - S(f)\|_\infty \leq C_d |\mathbf{u}|^d \|f^{(d)}\|_\infty.$$

First, let us consider a rectangular domain \mathcal{D}_2 . We approximate F_2 on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ by a univariate B -spline, which yields control polygons on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$. The complete B -spline $2D$ map is obtained by constructing any mesh that fits with the control polygons on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ and by computing the corresponding *tensor* B -spline, corresponding to the representation in the bivariate basis $(B_i^d(t)B_j^d(s))_{0 \leq i, j \leq d}$, (see [12]).

If we consider triangular domain, then we will use triangular meshes and B -splines. We assume hereafter that the map $F_2 = (f_1, f_2)$ is twice continuously differentiable on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ and we denote by $S(F_2) = (S(f_1), S(f_2))$ the B -spline approximation associated with Schoenberg operator on segments defining the boundary of the domain.

Proposition 3.1 *Assume that $\|F_2\| > \eta$ on $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ and that the perimeter of \mathcal{D}_2 is σ . Then a B -spline approximation of F_2 such that*

$$\deg[S(F_2), \mathcal{D}_2, \Theta_2] = \deg[F_2, \mathcal{D}_2, \Theta_2],$$

can be constructed with L nodes if

$$L \geq \left\lceil \sigma d \sqrt{\frac{\|F_2^{(2)}\|}{2\eta}} \right\rceil.$$

Proof. We take for \mathbf{u} a regular subdivision of points on the boundary \mathcal{D}_2 such that $|\mathbf{u}| < \frac{\sigma}{L}$ where L is the number of nodes and we apply Theorem 3.6. Thus the proposition is proved. \square

This result suggests that linear approximation ($d = 1$) will yield the optimal number of nodes. Higher order spline approximations can be however be exploited if the function f is of class C^k with $k \leq 2$ by using Schoenberg-like operators which reproduce polynomial functions of degree $(k - 1)$. For more details, see [44].

The next step consists of computing effectively the topological degree of the B -spline map $S(F_2)$. We use the following results.

Proposition 3.2 *Suppose that $F_2 = (f_1, f_2): \mathcal{D}_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is continuous and that $\Theta_2 \notin F_2(\partial\mathcal{D}_2)$. Then a partition P of counterclockwise ordered points $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^g$ from the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ that forms a sufficient refinement of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ relative to the sign of F_2 can be obtained by $g = 2 \times \min\{\mathcal{N}_j^r, j = 1, 2\}$ points where \mathcal{N}_j^r determines the total number of sign changes of f_j along the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$.*

Proof. By Bolzano's existence criterion for each sign change of a component of F_2 , say f_j , there exists a closed counterclockwise oriented portion of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ with endpoints p_i and p_{i+1} such that f_j vanishes exactly once within (p_i, p_{i+1}) , $f_j \neq 0$ at p_i and p_{i+1} and the remaining component of F_2 is of constant sign on $[p_i, p_{i+1}]$. The latter holds since $\Theta_2 \notin F_2(\partial\mathcal{D}_2)$. Then the proof follows by Lemma 3.1. \square

Hereafter, we will assume that F_2 is a B -spline map of degree d (and thus continuous).

Definition 3.5 *We define an optimal partition P_{opt} as the partition $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^g$ of g counterclockwise ordered points from the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ forming a sufficient refinement of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ relative to the sign of a function F_2 obtained with the minimum number g .*

Remark 3.1 The optimal partition is obtained by applying Proposition 3.2 to the longest possible portions of the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ with endpoints p_i and p_{i+1} such that a component of F_2 , say f_j , vanishes exactly once within (p_i, p_{i+1}) , $f_j \neq 0$ at p_i and p_{i+1} and the remaining component of F_2 is of constant sign on $[p_i, p_{i+1}]$.

In order to effectively compute this optimal partition, we use the isolation procedure of Section 2. We decompose the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ into segments, on which we isolate the roots of the product $f_1 f_2$. Using Theorem 2.1 we get the following results.

Theorem 3.8 Assume that $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ is a rectangular cell and that F_2 does not vanish on $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$. Then the number of operations needed to compute a sufficiently refined subdivision of $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$ is bounded by

$$\omega = 4d(d+1)(r_1+r_2) \left(\log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{s} \right) + 4 \right),$$

where $s = \min_{i \neq j} |x_i - x_j|$ for $x_i, x_j \in \{[f_1^{-1}(0) \cup f_2^{-1}(0)] \cap \partial\mathcal{D}_2\}$, (x_i, x_j are the zeros of f_1 or f_2 along the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$), and r_i is the number of sign changes of f_i along the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$.

Proof. We apply Theorem 2.1 to the product $f_1 f_2$, each subdivision requiring $d(d+1)$ arithmetic operations and the number of segments on the boundary of a rectangular cell being 4. Thus the theorem is proved. \square

Once we have isolated the roots of f_1 and f_2 on the boundary, that is when we obtain a sequence of intervals containing exactly one of the roots of f_1 or f_2 , we derive immediately an optimal partition of the boundary, by simplifying the resulting subdivision.

We summarize the algorithm for computing topological degree of F_2 :

Algorithm 3.1 *Computing the topological degree*

Assume that \mathcal{D}_2 is a rectangle in \mathbb{R}^2 .

1. if F_2 is not polynomial, approximate F_2 on the boundary, by the B-spline map $S(F_2) = (f_1, f_2)$ of degree d ,
2. for each segment of the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$, isolate the roots of $f_1 f_2$, using Algorithm 2.1,
3. deduce a sufficiently refined subdivision of the boundary (see Lemma 3.1),
4. compute the topological degree of F_2 , according to the formula (11).

Combining previous results, we get:

Theorem 3.9 The total number of operations required to compute topological degree of polynomial map $F_2 = (f_1, f_2)$ of degree d on \mathcal{D}_2 is bounded by

$$\mathcal{O} \left(d^2 (r_1 + r_2) \log_2 \left(\frac{5d}{s} \right) \right),$$

where $s = \min_{i \neq j} |x_i - x_j|$ for $x_i, x_j \in \{[f_1^{-1}(0) \cup f_2^{-1}(0)] \cap \partial\mathcal{D}_2\}$ and r_i is the number of sign changes of f_i along the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}_2$.

3.3 The characteristic polyhedron criterion and the characteristic bisection method

The aim of this section is to describe a generalized bisection method for the computation of a solution of

$$F_n(x) = \Theta_n, \quad (13)$$

where $F_n = (f_1, \dots, f_n): \overline{D}_n \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous. This method of bisection avoids all calculations concerning the topological degree.

Once we have obtained a domain for which the value of the topological degree relative to this domain is nonzero, we are able to obtain upper and lower bounds for solution values. To this end, by computing a sequence of bounded domains with nonzero values of topological degree and decreasing diameters, we are able to obtain a region with arbitrarily small diameter that contains at least one solution of Equation (13). However, although the nonzero value of topological degree plays an important role in the existence of a solution of Equation (13), the computation of this value is a time-consuming procedure. The bisection method, on the other hand, which is briefly described below, avoids all calculations concerning the topological degree by implementing the concept of the *characteristic n -polyhedron criterion* for the existence of a solution of Equation (13) within a given bounded domain. This criterion is based on the construction of a *characteristic n -polyhedron* [64, 58, 59]. To define a characteristic n -polyhedron (n -dimensional convex polyhedron) we construct the n -complete $2^n \times n$ matrix \mathcal{M}_n whose rows are formed by all possible combinations of -1 and 1 . To this end we compute the n -binary $2^n \times n$ matrix $\mathcal{M}_n^* = [e_{ij}^*]_{i,j=1}^{2^n, n}$ where e_{ij}^* is the j th digit of the n -digit binary representation of the number $(i-1)$ counting the left-most digit first. Then the elements of $\mathcal{M}_n = [e_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^{2^n, n}$ are given by $e_{ij} = 2e_{ij}^* - 1$. Suppose now that $\Pi^n = \langle V_1, V_2, \dots, V_{2^n} \rangle$ is an oriented (i.e., an orientation has been assigned to its vertices) n -dimensional convex polyhedron with 2^n vertices, $V_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $F_n = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n): \Pi^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a continuous mapping.

Definition 3.6 The $2^n \times n$ matrix $\mathcal{S}(F_n; \Pi^n)$ whose entries in the k -th row are the corresponding coordinates of the vector:

$$\text{sgn}(F_n(V_k)) = \left(\text{sgn}(f_1(V_k)), \text{sgn}(f_2(V_k)), \dots, \text{sgn}(f_n(V_k)) \right), \quad (14)$$

will be called matrix of signs associated with F_n and Π^n , where $\text{sgn}(\psi)$ defines the three valued sign function (2).

Definition 3.7 An n -polyhedron Π^n is called characteristic n -polyhedron relative to F_n , iff the matrix $\mathcal{S}(F_n; \Pi^n)$ is identical with the matrix \mathcal{M}_n , after some permutation of its rows.

Definition 3.8 A polyhedron which is a convex hull of 2^{n-1} vertices of a characteristic n -polyhedron Π^n relative to F_n , will be called r -side of Π^n and will be noted by P_r , $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$ iff for all its vertices V_k , $k = 1, 2, \dots, 2^{n-1}$ the corresponding vectors $\text{sgn}(F_n(V_k))$ have their r -th coordinate equal to each other. Moreover, if this common r -th element is -1 (or 1) then the P_r will be called negative (or positive) r -side.

Lemma 3.2 [64]. *In each characteristic n -polyhedron relative to F_n there are n positive and n negative sides. Moreover, each side P_r of a characteristic n -polyhedron Π^n relative to $F_n = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n): \Pi^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is itself a characteristic $(n-1)$ -polyhedron relative to $F_{n-1}^r = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{r-1}, f_{r+1}, \dots, f_n): P_r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$.*

Now, if the boundary $\partial\Pi^n$ of a characteristic polyhedron Π^n can be sufficiently refined then there is (at least) one zero within Π^n . More specifically, the following theorem holds:

Theorem 3.10 [64]. *Let $\mathcal{V} = \langle V_i \rangle_{i=1}^{2^n}$ and $\mathcal{P} = \{P_i\}_{i=1}^{2^n}$ be the ordered set of vertices and the set of the sides, respectively, of a characteristic n -polyhedron Π^n relative to continuous $F_n: \Pi^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ for which $\Theta_n \notin F_n(\partial\Pi^n)$. Suppose that $S = \{S_{i,j}\}_{i=1, j=1}^{2^n, j_i}$ is a finite set of $(n-1)$ -dimensional oriented simplices which lie on $\partial\Pi^n$ with the following properties:*

- 1) $\partial\Pi^n = \sum_{i=1}^{2^n} \sum_{j=1}^{j_i} S_{i,j}$,
- 2) the interiors of the members of S are disjoint,
- 3) these simplices make $\partial\Pi^n$ sufficiently refined relative to $\text{sgn}(F_n)$, and
- 4) the vertices of each simplex $S_{i,j}$ are a subset of vertices of P_i .

Then, it holds that $\deg[F_n, \Pi^n, \Theta_n] = \pm 1$.

The above result implies the existence of at least one solution of Equation (13) within Π^n . For more details on how to construct a characteristic n -polyhedron and locate a desired solution see [58, 59, 61]. The characteristic polyhedron can be considered as a translation of the Poincaré–Miranda hypercube [32, 50, 60].

Next, we describe a generalized bisection method. This method combined with the above mentioned criterion, produces a sequence of characteristic polyhedra of decreasing size always containing the desired solution. We call it *Characteristic Bisection*. This version of bisection does not require the computation of the topological degree at each step, as others do [10, 23, 57]. It can be applied to problems with imprecise function values, since it depends only on their signs. The method simply amounts to constructing another refined characteristic polyhedron, by bisecting a known one, say Π^n . To do this, we compute the midpoint M of the longest edge $\langle V_i, V_j \rangle$, of Π^n (where the distances are measured in Euclidean norms). Then we obtain another characteristic polyhedron, Π_*^n , by comparing the sign, $\text{sgn}(F_n(M))$, of $F_n(M)$ with that of $F_n(V_i)$ and $F_n(V_j)$ and substituting M for that vertex for which the signs are identical [58, 59, 61]. Then we select the longest edge of Π_*^n and continue the above process. If the assumptions of Theorem 3.10 are satisfied, one of the $\text{sgn}(F_n(V_i))$, $\text{sgn}(F_n(V_j))$ coincides with $\text{sgn}(F_n(M))$, otherwise, we continue with another edge.

Theorem 3.11 [64]. *Suppose that Π^n is a characteristic n -polyhedron whose longest edge length is $\Delta(\Pi^n)$. Then, the minimum number ζ of bisections of the edges of Π^n required to obtain a characteristic polyhedron Π_*^n whose longest edge length satisfies $\Delta(\Pi_*^n) \leq \varepsilon$, for some accuracy $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, is given by*

$$\zeta = \lceil \log_2 (\Delta(\Pi^n) \varepsilon^{-1}) \rceil. \quad (15)$$

Notice that ζ is independent of the dimension n and that the bisection algorithm has the same number of iterations as the bisection in one-dimension which is optimal and possesses asymptotically the best rate of convergence [46].

3.4 Application to the isolation of complex roots of an analytic function

These tools can now be combined to compute complex roots of an analytic function in a bounded domain. Let $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be an analytic map and let

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 : \mathbb{R}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, \\ (x_1, x_2) &\mapsto \left(\Re(f(x_1 + \mathbf{i}x_2)), \Im(f(x_1 + \mathbf{i}x_2)) \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\Re(z)$ is the real and $\Im(z)$ is the imaginary part of $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Suppose that \mathcal{D}_2 is a bounded domain of \mathbb{R}^2 and let us assume that F_2 does not vanish on its boundary. According to Theorem 3.1, the topological degree of F_2 on \mathcal{D}_2 is the number of complex roots in the domain \mathcal{D}_2 . This criterion can be used to split a rectangular domain \mathcal{D}_2 , as described in the following algorithm¹:

Algorithm 3.2 *Isolating the complex roots within a precision s .*

While $\deg [F_2, \mathcal{D}_2, \Theta_2] > 1$ and $\text{diameter}(\mathcal{D}_2) > s$,

1. split \mathcal{D}_2 along its longest dimension (edge) into \mathcal{D}_2^1 and \mathcal{D}_2^2 ,
2. compute $\deg [F_2, \mathcal{D}_2^1, \Theta_2]$ and $\deg [F_2, \mathcal{D}_2^2, \Theta_2]$.

Notice that, if the topological degree is not well defined at Step (2), that is if F_2 vanishes on the new edge (or if the isolation process cannot separate the roots of F_2 by intervals of size greater than ϵ), we perturb the splitting by using an edge which do not split exactly into equal parts.

Proposition 3.3 *Assume that \mathcal{D}_2 is a rectangle of width a and height b . Then, the number of recursion steps in Algorithm 3.2 is bounded by*

$$\beta = 2 \log_2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{s} \right),$$

where $s = \min_{i \neq j} |z_i - z_j|$ and z_i is a root of f in \mathcal{D}_2 .

¹it can be extended to general polygonal domains

Proof. Every two steps we divide the diameter by two and we stop when this diameter is less than s . Thus, if k is the number of steps, we have:

$$\frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{2^{\frac{k}{2}}} < s \quad \Rightarrow \quad k < 2 \log_2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{s} \right).$$

Thus the proposition is proved. \square

Once the roots have been isolated, we can refine the isolation by using the characteristic polyhedron approach of the previous section.

This algorithm can be applied directly to a complex polynomial of degree d to compute all its roots in the complex plane, as follows. We replace its real part f_1 and imaginary part f_2 by the polynomials

$$\tilde{f}_i = (1 - t_1)^d (1 - t_2)^d f_i \left(\frac{t_1}{1 - t_1}, \frac{t_2}{1 - t_2} \right), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

and isolate the roots of $\tilde{F}_2 = (\tilde{f}_1, \tilde{f}_2)$ on the domain $\mathcal{D}_2 = [0, 1[\times [0, 1[$, which will yield the roots of F_2 on $[0, +\infty[\times [0, +\infty[$. Using symmetry along the axes, we compute in a similar way the roots in the other quadrants.

4 Conclusions and further research

The approach that we proposed for the computation of the topological degree consists of:

1. approximation (if required) of a function by a B -spline map on the boundary of the domain,
2. isolating of the real zeros of its components on this boundary, and
3. computation of the topological degree by direct sign computations.

We focused on the two dimensional case and analyzed in detail different steps of this approach. We provided new complexity results, that improve previously known bounds. We mentioned a direct application of this method to the isolation of complex roots of a univariate polynomial.

The interesting feature of this approach is that it is based on very simple operations such as sign evaluations, additions, divisions by 2, which may be of importance in the practical implementation of the algorithm. Also, the method can be adapted to a specific domain of interest, which is not the case of algebraic methods.

Many improvements can be added. First, most of the operations can be extended to higher dimensions, by applying recursively topological degree computation. Second, several steps can be adapted to a local behavior of the function, refining for instance the approximation where the function is small or adapting the domain to the geometry of the zeros. The

validation of numerical stability of the method in the context of equations with approximate coefficients is under study. The topological degree theory should provide pertinent answers to problems for which the roots move from the complex domain to the real domain in a neighborhood of the input coefficients.

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