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Intersection and self-intersection of surfaces by means of Bezoutian matrices

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Abstract

The computation of intersection and self-intersection loci of parameterized surfaces is an important task in Computer Aided Geometric Design. We address these problems via four resultants with separated variables; two of them are specializations of general multivariate resultants and the two others are specializations of determinantal resultants. We give a rigorous study in these four cases and provide new formulas in terms of Bezoutian matrix.

Key words: Algebraic surfaces, intersection locus, self-intersection locus, resultants, Bezoutian.

1 Introduction

A common representation of surfaces in Solid Modeling and Computer Aided Geometric Design (CAGD) uses parameterized patches, i.e. images of maps of the form

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \\ (u, v) &\mapsto \Phi(u, v) = \left(\frac{\Phi_1(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_2(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_3(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)} \right)\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

where $\Phi_0, \Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Phi_3$ are polynomials with real coefficients and bi-degree (m, n) . When $\Phi_0(u, v)$ is a non-zero constant (independent of u and v), Φ is called

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a *polynomial map*, otherwise Φ is called a *rational map*. These patches are encountered in many applications [10], and spline surfaces are made by gluing them together.

There are many articles presenting methods and algorithms to intersect two patches [24,20,15,23] and to compute self-intersections loci [13,21,25,27,26]. These operations still need to be improved and computer algebra techniques can help. Among them, generalized resultant (for instance sparse resultant) techniques have been successfully employed [18,19,7].

The computation of self-intersection of a patch or intersection of two patches are important problems in CAGD; they were the main topics of the European project GAIA II [12]. Several strategies have been developed to address these problems: either via multivariate resultants [7], or via special case study [14], or via approximate implicitization [9,26], or via numerical methods [13].

Numerical methods algorithms are very efficient, however they often rely on samplings, and have the weakness common to these techniques: if the size of a loop in the (self-)intersection locus is smaller than the step-size of the sampling, it might become invisible and the program is unable to compute it. There are heuristics to choose the step-size, but they do not really overcome this difficulty.

Therefore, symbolic (or semi-numeric) methods are essential in order to solve completely these tasks. For that purpose, the parameterizations should be also algebraic. The most commonly used algebraic representations in CAGD are the so-called NURBS and particularly the polynomial patches.

In this paper, we will present new tools developed for this purpose. Namely specific sparse resultants and corresponding Bezoutian formulas allowing to compute, in each case presented below, a bivariate polynomial which is the equation of a plane projection of the double points locus. This polynomial is represented as the determinant of a small matrix, and thus it is useful for further post-processing.

For this setting, we prepare the equations for the elimination procedure in order to get a special format that we call *with separated variables*. Then we show that the obtained systems have nice properties that we further study and exploit.

We construct an unmixed bivariate resultant $\text{Res}(P_1, P_2, P_3)$ where the three polynomials $P_i(x, y) = f_i(x) - g_i(y)$, and apply it to the computation of implicit equations of self-intersection and intersection loci of polynomial surfaces which is an important task in CAGD and Solid Modeling. In practice, this resultant is computed via a Bezoutian matrix, and it is related to (but different from) the toric resultant studied in [19,18]. In the case of rational surfaces,

we will use an anisotropic resultant to address the intersection problem and a determinantal resultant in the presence of base points to address the self-intersection problem. For each case, we show how to build a square matrix (namely a Bezoutian matrix) whose determinant is the expected resultant.

We implemented our algorithms in Maple; an illustration and comparisons with the Maple package `bi-res` written by Amit Khetan are presented. We will show that the size of the matrix used in our approach to compute the different resultants are smaller than those given by Khetan's method [18].

The methodology that we will use along this paper to obtain an elimination formula adapted to our special situations can be summarized as follows. Starting from a given polynomial system E , the first step is to "homogenize" it (i.e. to embed it into an irreducible projective variety) with the condition that the obtained homogeneous system E^h do not have base-points. Then, by the general theory of resultants, this system can be seen as a particular instance of a general resultant which is not identically zero. Moreover, the particular instance is always geometrically irreducible because, due to the hypothesis that E^h is base-point free, the incidence variety is a vector bundle. However, it need not to be algebraically reduced, but this property can be shown through well chosen specializations. This approach will be applied to the four different cases corresponding respectively to intersection and self-intersection of polynomial and rational parameterizations.

The paper is organized as follows. The next section provides a short overview on the Bezoutian matrix and its main property. In section 3, we precise the applications in CAGD and set the equations and the elimination problems for intersection and self-intersection. In section 4, we go back to our main CAGD applications and make explicit how our resultants can be used. We sketch also the algorithms and present examples. Sections 5 and 6 are more theoretical and they contain the proofs of our results. In section 5, we prove that in our situation, the specialization process is valid and that resultants (which are anisotropic) can be computed by nice Bezoutian formulas. In section 6, we describe an adapted version of the determinantal resultant and prove that these resultants can also be computed by simple Bezoutian formulas.

2 Overview on the Bezoutian matrix

In this short section we recall a well known matrix construction to eliminate variables from polynomial systems. We will apply it to prove formulas for bivariate resultants that will be used to solve the intersection and the self-intersection problems that we address.

Definition 1 Let $f_0, \dots, f_n$ be $n + 1$ polynomials in n variables $x_1, \dots, x_n$ with coefficients in a commutative ring R . The Bezoutian of $f_0, \dots, f_n$ is the following polynomial in $2n$ variables $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$:

$$\text{Bez}_{f_0, \dots, f_n}(x; y) := \begin{vmatrix} f_0(x) & \partial_1 f_0(x, y) & \cdots & \partial_n f_0(x, y) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ f_n(x) & \partial_1 f_n(x, y) & \cdots & \partial_n f_n(x, y) \end{vmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where

$$\partial_i f_j(x, y) := \frac{f_j(y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x_i, \dots, x_n) - f_j(y_1, \dots, y_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)}{x_i - y_i}.$$

Set $\text{Bez}_{f_0, \dots, f_n}(x; y) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha, \beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$ with $c_{\alpha, \beta} \in R$. Fixing an order on the monomials, the matrix $(c_{\alpha, \beta})_{\alpha, \beta}$ whose rows are indexed by the y^β such that there exists α with $c_{\alpha, \beta} \neq 0$, and columns are indexed by the x^α such that there exists β with $c_{\alpha, \beta} \neq 0$, is called the Bezoutian matrix of $f_0, \dots, f_n$.

Notice that we can substitute x by y in the first column of the determinant $\text{Bez}_{f_0, \dots, f_n}(x; y)$ since $f_j(x) - f_j(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i) \partial_i f_j(x, y)$. Observe also that the Bezoutian matrix does not have a null row or a null column.

The Bezoutian matrix is an interesting tool in elimination theory because it allows to eliminate several variables at once in polynomial systems. More precisely, suppose given a system $f_0(c, x) = \cdots = f_n(c, x) = 0$ where c denotes a collection of parameters and x denotes a collection of variables. Then, under suitable conditions of genericity [5, Theorem 2.2] it can be shown that there exists an irreducible polynomial in the parameters c which vanishes for a value c_0 of c if and only if the zero locus of $f_0(c_0, x) = \cdots = f_n(c_0, x) = 0$ is strictly larger than the zero locus of $f_0(c, x) = \cdots = f_n(c, x) = 0$. This irreducible polynomial is called the *generalized resultant* of $f_0(c, x), \dots, f_n(c, x)$ with respect to the variables x . Moreover it divides the determinant of any maximal minor of the Bezoutian matrix of $f_0(c, x), \dots, f_n(c, x)$ [5, Theorem 3.4] (see also [7, Theorem 3.7] for general statements). Therefore, if $\Delta(c)$ stands for the determinant of a maximal minor of the Bezoutian matrix of $f_0(c, x), \dots, f_n(c, x)$, then the vanishing of Δ at a given value c_0 of c is a necessary condition for the vanishing of the generalized resultant of $f_0(c, x), \dots, f_n(c, x)$ at c_0 . In general, this condition is not sufficient; for instance, in the univariate case the determinant of the Bezoutian matrix of two polynomials with different degrees differs from their resultant by a power of the leading coefficient of one of these polynomials. We refer the reader to [5, §4] for more examples and illustrations.

In this paper, we will consider four special classes of bivariate resultants for which we will prove that the determinants of the associated Bezoutian matrices

are exactly equal to the corresponding generalized resultants.

3 The main results

In this section we state four theorems addressing two important tasks in CAGD: the intersection and the self-intersection problems for polynomial and rational surfaces. The proofs of these results are rather technical as they require some knowledge in algebraic geometry and rely on the use of specific resultants; they will be given in sections 5 and 6. Note also that the condition *sufficiently generic* required in the following results will also be completely described at that time.

3.1 Intersection problem

First we describe a particular projection of the pre-image curve (i.e the curve in the parameter space which maps to the intersection locus). We consider the intersection of two patches $\mathcal{S}_1$ and $\mathcal{S}_2$ given by parameterizations $\Phi(u, v)$ and $\Psi(s, t)$ with the same features as (1) that we view in the projective space $\mathbb{P}^3$.

The set $\mathcal{S}_1 \cap \mathcal{S}_2$ corresponds to the quintuple of parameters (u, v, s, t, λ) , with $\lambda \neq 0$, such that $\Phi(u, v) = \lambda\Psi(s, t)$. This set form a curve $\mathcal{C}$ in $\mathbb{R}^5$ that we can describe (i.e. give the topology and witness points on each component) via a well chosen projection on a plane

$$\mathcal{C}_1 = \{(u, t) : \exists (v, s, \lambda) \text{ with } \lambda \neq 0 \text{ and } \Phi(u, v) = \lambda\Psi(s, t)\}.$$

Our geometric task is equivalent to describe the curve $\mathcal{C}_1$. Its implicit equation is obtained by eliminating v, s, λ in the system $\Phi(u, v) = \lambda\Psi(s, t)$ of 4 equations defining $\mathcal{C}$.

In the polynomial case (i.e. $\Phi_0(u, v) = \Psi_0(s, t) = 1$), the question reduces to the elimination of 2 variables v and s in a system of 3 polynomial equations in 4 variables (there is no λ).

Theorem 2 (see subsection 5.1) *Suppose given two sufficiently generic parameterized polynomial surfaces of bi-degree (m, n) :*

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v) &\mapsto (\Phi_1(u, v), \Phi_2(u, v), \Phi_3(u, v)), \\ (s, t) &\mapsto (\Psi_1(s, t), \Psi_2(s, t), \Psi_3(s, t)). \end{aligned}$$

The implicit equation of the projection of their intersection locus onto the plane (u, t) equals the determinant of the $mn \times mn$ Bezoutian matrix, given by the formula (2), of $\Phi_1(u, v) - \Psi_1(s, t), \Phi_2(u, v) - \Psi_2(s, t), \Phi_3(u, v) - \Psi_3(s, t)$ viewed as polynomials in v and s .

In the rational case, we have the following result:

Theorem 3 (see subsection 6.1) *Suppose given two sufficiently generic parameterized rational surfaces of bi-degree (m, n) :*

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v) &\mapsto \left(\frac{\Phi_1(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_2(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_3(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)} \right), \\ (s, t) &\mapsto \left(\frac{\Psi_1(s, t)}{\Psi_0(s, t)}, \frac{\Psi_2(s, t)}{\Psi_0(s, t)}, \frac{\Psi_3(s, t)}{\Psi_0(s, t)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The implicit equation of the projection of their intersection locus onto the plane (u, t) equals the determinant of the $mn \times mn$ matrix $\mathbb{B}(u, t)$ defined by

$$U\mathbb{B}(u, t)V^t = \frac{1}{(v - v_1)(s - s_1)} \begin{vmatrix} \Phi_0(u, v) & \Phi_0(u, v_1) & \Psi_0(s, t) & \Psi_0(s_1, t) \\ \Phi_1(u, v) & \Phi_1(u, v_1) & \Psi_1(s, t) & \Psi_1(s_1, t) \\ \Phi_2(u, v) & \Phi_2(u, v_1) & \Psi_2(s, t) & \Psi_2(s_1, t) \\ \Phi_3(u, v) & \Phi_3(u, v_1) & \Psi_3(s, t) & \Psi_3(s_1, t) \end{vmatrix}$$

where U and V denote the monomial vectors

$$U := [s^i v^j, i = 0 \dots m-1, j = 0 \dots n-1],$$

$$V := [s_1^i v_1^j, i = 0 \dots m-1, j = 0 \dots n-1].$$

Observe that $U\mathbb{B}(u, t)V^t$ in Theorem 3 is a polynomial in v, v_1, s, s_1, u, t .

3.2 Self-intersection problem

We start with a parameterization Φ given by (1) that we view in $\mathbb{P}^3$ and, as in the previous subsection, we will describe a well chosen projection of the pre-image curve of the self-intersection locus.

The set of double points of Φ can be characterized by a curve

$$\mathcal{C} = \{(u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2, \lambda) : (u_1, v_1) \neq (u_2, v_2), \lambda \neq 0, \Phi(u_1, v_1) = \lambda \Phi(u_2, v_2)\}$$

in $\mathbb{R}^5$. It can also be described in a simpler way by a curve of its well chosen projection (generically 1 to 1) $\mathcal{C}_1$ on $\mathbb{R}^2$:

$$\mathcal{C}_1 = \{(u, v); \exists (k, l, \lambda) : (k, l) \neq 0, \lambda \neq 0, \text{ and } \Phi(u, v + k) = \lambda \Phi(u + l, v)\}.$$

Our geometric task is equivalent to describe the curve $\mathcal{C}_1$. Its implicit equation is obtained by the elimination of l, k, λ in the system of 4 equations defining $\mathcal{C}_1$.

If the variables u, v are fixed, we remark that the point $(k, l, \lambda) = (0, 0, 1)$ is a base-point (i.e. a solution which is independent of u and v) of the system $\Phi(u, v + k) - \lambda \Phi(u + l, v) = 0$ defining $\mathcal{C}_1$. We will exploit this observation to develop an adapted resultant for the self-intersection problem in subsections 5.2 and 6.2.

In the polynomial case, we have the following result:

Theorem 4 (see subsection 5.2) *Suppose given a sufficiently generic parameterized polynomial surface of bi-degree (m, n) :*

$$(u, v) \mapsto (\Phi_1(u, v), \Phi_2(u, v), \Phi_3(u, v)).$$

The implicit equation of the projection of its self-intersection locus onto the plane (u, v) equals the determinant of the $(mn - 1) \times (mn - 1)$ Bezoutian matrix $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$ defined by the formula (2):

$$U\mathbb{B}(u, v)V^t = \text{Bez}_{\Phi_1(u, v+k) - \Phi_1(u+l, v), \Phi_2(u, v+k) - \Phi_2(u+l, v), \Phi_3(u, v+k) - \Phi_3(u+l, v)}(k, l; k_1, l_1)$$

with $U := [l^i k^j, (i, j) \in \{0, \dots, m-1\} \times \{0, \dots, n-1\} \setminus \{0, 0\}]$, and

$$V := [l_1^i k_1^j, (i, j) \in \{0, \dots, m-1\} \times \{0, \dots, n-1\} \setminus \{0, 0\}].$$

In the rational case, we have:

Theorem 5 (see subsection 6.2) *Suppose given a sufficiently generic parameterized rational surface of bi-degree (m, n) :*

$$(u, v) \mapsto \left(\frac{\Phi_1(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_2(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)}, \frac{\Phi_3(u, v)}{\Phi_0(u, v)} \right).$$

The implicit equation of the projection of its self-intersection locus onto the plane (u, v) equals the determinant of the $(mn - 1) \times (mn - 1)$ Bezoutian

matrix $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$ defined by the formula (2):

$$U\mathbb{B}(u, v)V^t = \frac{1}{(k - k_1)(l - l_1)} \begin{vmatrix} \Phi_0(u, v + k) & \Phi_0(u, v + k_1) & \Phi_0(u + l, v) & \Phi_0(u + l_1, v) \\ \Phi_1(u, v + k) & \Phi_1(u, v + k_1) & \Phi_1(u + l, v) & \Phi_1(u + l_1, v) \\ \Phi_2(u, v + k) & \Phi_2(u, v + k_1) & \Phi_2(u + l, v) & \Phi_2(u + l_1, v) \\ \Phi_3(u, v + k) & \Phi_3(u, v + k_1) & \Phi_3(u + l, v) & \Phi_3(u + l_1, v) \end{vmatrix}$$

where U and V denote the monomial vectors

$$U := [l^i k^j, (i, j) \in \{0, \dots, m-1\} \times \{0, \dots, n-1\} \setminus \{0, 0\}],$$

$$V := [l_1^i k_1^j, (i, j) \in \{0, \dots, m-1\} \times \{0, \dots, n-1\} \setminus \{0, 0\}].$$

Notice that $U\mathbb{B}(u, v)V^t$ in Theorem 5 is a polynomial in k, k_1, l, l_1, u, v .

4 Comments and illustrations

The four theorems given in Section 3 are parts of a general approach to the intersection and self-intersection problems of algebraic surfaces that we now illustrate. For this purpose, we focus on the polynomial self-intersection problem; the three other cases can be treated similarly.

Consider a surface given by

$$(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto (\Phi_1(u, v), \Phi_2(u, v), \Phi_3(u, v)) \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

a polynomial parameterization of bi-degree (m, n) and define the polynomials

$$P_i(u, v, l, k) := \Phi_i(u, v + k) - \Phi_i(u + l, v), \quad i = 1, 2, 3,$$

of bi-degree (m, n) in the variables (l, k) with polynomial coefficients in (u, v) of bi-degree (m, n) . Set

$$R(u, v) := \text{Res}(P_1(u, v, l, k), P_2(u, v, l, k), P_3(u, v, l, k))$$

where the right hand side in this equality is a resultant operator that will be precised in subsection 5.2. In order to draw the portion of the projection of the self-intersection curve of the parameterized surface, say $\mathcal{D}$, contained in $[0, 1]^2$, we should find a point on each of its connected components. A point on a component crossing the border of the square is easily found, so the difficulty is essentially concentrated on the internal loops. A common way to find a

point on such a loop is to compute all the critical points of $\mathcal{D}$ on an axis, e.g. the u -axis. This amounts to solve the bivariate system

$$R(u, v) = \frac{\partial R}{\partial u}(u, v) = 0.$$

Once we get a point on each connected component of $\mathcal{D}$ contained in $[0, 1]^2$, the computer algebra part of the process is completed. Then a numerical marching algorithm can be used to compute the points $(u, v+k, u+l, v) \in [0, 1]^4$ needed to draw efficiently the pre-image curve or any of its plane projection. Note that a part of this process can be done by exploiting the kernel of the matrix which is used to compute the resultant $R(u, v)$: for instance, if the couple (u, v) satisfies $\det(\mathbb{B}(u, v)) = 0$, the vector U in Theorem 4 is in the kernel of the transpose of this matrix, so we can often obtain k and l as the quotient of two sub-minors of $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$ (see [4] for precise results).

An illustrative example. Let $\mathcal{S}$ be a parameterized surface of bidegree $(2, 2)$ given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_1(s, t) &:= 2s^2 - t^2s^2 - 5ts^2 + 7s + 3t^2s + st - 1 + 6t^2 - 2t, \\ \Phi_2(s, t) &:= 9t^2s^2 - 5ts^2 + 2t^2s + 4st + s - 7t^2 + 9t, \\ \Phi_3(s, t) &:= ts^2 + 2st - 2t^2.\end{aligned}$$

To find the self-intersection locus of $\mathcal{S}$, we express that this parameterization takes the same value at the two pairs of parameters $(s, t) = (u, v+k)$ and $(s, t) = (u+l, v)$. By Theorem 4 we form the Bezoutian of the three polynomials $\Phi_i(u, v+k) - \Phi_i(u+l, v)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ (see Definition 1) which can be written as $U\mathbb{B}(u, v)V^t$, with $U = (l, k, lk)$ and $V = (l_1, k_1, l_1k_1)$. The matrix $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$ is a 3×3 symmetric matrix of rank 3. Its determinant $D(u, v)$ is of bi-degree $(10, 10)$ in (u, v) and of total degree 14. At a generic point (u, v) on the curve $D(u, v) = 0$, $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$ is of rank 2, therefore the kernel of ${}^t\mathbb{B}(u, v) = \mathbb{B}(u, v)$ is generated by a vector of type U . By Cramer's rules, the entries of U are given by 2×2 -minors of $\mathbb{B}(u, v)$, and after simplifications we find that l and k are given by two rational functions $L(u, v)$ and $K(u, v)$ of total degree 6 in (u, v) .

The graph of the curve $D(u, v) = 0$ is drawn in Figure 1. We notice that at the point $(u, v) = (-1.05, -0.049)$ three local components of this curve intersect (see Figure 2). This can be checked by a formal algebraic computation.

Now the graphs spanned by $(u, v+K(u, v))$ and by $(u+L(u, v), v)$, when (u, v) ranges on the graph of $D(u, v)$, have also three local components intersecting at the two images of $(u, v) = (-1.05, -0.049)$. Geometrically, on the surface $\mathcal{S}$ this corresponds to a singularity of the self-intersection curve similar to that of the Roman Steiner's surface depicted in [8].

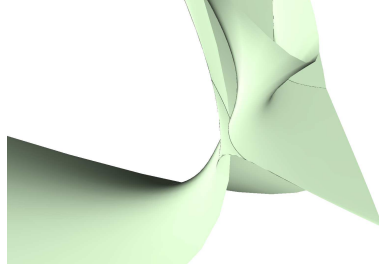


Fig. 1. A view of the double-point locus

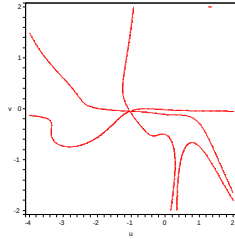


Fig. 2. The projection of the double-point locus

Comparison with Khetan's formulas. We end this section by comparing the four new elimination formulas we gave in Section 3 with the formulas given by Khetan to compute bivariate sparse resultants [18]. As far as we know, it is the lonely known matrix based method that produces exact elimination formulas. We implemented the constructions of matrices presented in Section 3 in `Maple` and used the `Maple` package `bires` written by Khetan. Khetan's formulas are designed for bivariate resultants of any three polynomials, whereas our formulas are only available for bivariate resultants of polynomials with separated variables. However, since we took into account this particular structure, our formulas compared most of the time favorably to the ones given by Khetan. Moreover, we observed sometimes that Khetan's hybrid matrix is not full rank in some cases whereas the determinant of the matrix we propose gives exactly the projection of the intersection and self-intersection curve that we are looking for.

The following table presents some experiments. In the first column, we indicate the bi-degree of a randomly chosen rational surface. The second column gives the size of the matrix constructed by `bires` to compute the self-intersection locus of this rational surface, whereas the last column yields the size of the matrix obtained by Theorem 5 to solve the same problem.

Bi-degree	Size of bires matrix	Size of Bezoutian matrix
(2, 2)	11×11	3×3
(3, 2)	17×17	5×5
(3, 3)	27×27	8×8

The size of matrices obtained by Theorem 5 are significantly smaller than the ones given by Khetan's approach. It follows that the computation of the self-intersection locus is highly increase because the more time-consuming step is by large the computation of determinants of these matrices (their construction is negligible compared to the computation of their determinants). Finally, we mention that Khetan's formulas may fail to be non-zero; for instance, for randomly chosen rational surface of bi-degree (2,2), his approach returns a 11×11 matrix which is not full rank.

From now on, we focus on the proofs of the four theorems given in Section 3.

5 Bivariate resultants with separated variables

In this section, we suppose given three univariate polynomials of degree $m \geq 1$

$$f_i(x) := a_{i,0}x^m + a_{i,1}x^{m-1} + \cdots + a_{i,m-1}x + a_{i,m} \in \mathbb{Z}[a_{i,0}, \dots, a_{i,m}][x]$$

and three univariate polynomials of degree $n \geq 1$

$$g_i(y) := b_{i,0}y^n + b_{i,1}y^{n-1} + \cdots + b_{i,n-1}y + b_{i,n} \in \mathbb{Z}[b_{i,0}, \dots, b_{i,n}][y].$$

Hereafter we will consider resultants of the three following bivariate polynomials with separated variables

$$P_i(x, y) := f_i(x) - g_i(y) \in A[x, y], \quad i = 1, 2, 3,$$

where $A := \mathbb{Z}[(a_{i,j})_{i=1,2,3;j=0,\dots,m}, (b_{i,j})_{i=1,2,3;j=0,\dots,n}]$ denotes the universal coefficients ring of these polynomials.

5.1 The dense case

This case will be applied to solve the intersection problem for polynomial surfaces.

To compute the classical resultant (sometimes called Macaulay's resultant) of the polynomials $P_1(x, y)$, $P_2(x, y)$ and $P_3(x, y)$, we first need to homogenize them to the projective space by introducing a new variable. But it is clear that this resultant is identically zero, since this homogenization produces at least one base-point (i.e. a common root) in $\mathbb{P}^2$. To overcome this problem, a natural idea is to change variables and compute the classical resultant of the polynomials $P_1(x^n, y^m)$, $P_2(x^n, y^m)$ and $P_3(x^n, y^m)$ which is not identically zero. However, this resultant could be non reduced: it could be a power of an irreducible polynomial. As described in [16], its reduced part corresponds to a resultant which is obtained by a (special) quasi-homogenization of $P_1(x, y)$, $P_2(x, y)$ and $P_3(x, y)$ to a weighted projective space ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$. We will rely on this construction which has been fully studied in [16,17].

Recall that the weighted projective plane ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ with a weight $a = (a_0, a_1, a_2) \in \mathbb{N}^3$ over a field $\mathbb{K}$ is just the quotient space by the following relation: two points (x_0, x_1, x_2) and (y_0, y_1, y_2) in $\mathbb{K}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ are equivalent if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ such that $(x_0, x_1, x_2) = (\lambda^{a_0}y_0, \lambda^{a_1}y_1, \lambda^{a_2}y_2)$. For instance, the weighted projective plane with the weight $(1, 1, 1)$ is simply the usual projective plane. For more details on this topic we refer the reader to [1].

In general, the specialization of a given resultant operator to a set of non-generic polynomials may give either an identically zero polynomial or a non irreducible polynomials on the restricted parameter space. However we will show that the specializations of some resultants are correct for our classes of non-generic polynomials but this requires a precise analysis and a rigorous proof, given below.

In our setting, introducing a new variable z , we homogenize $P_1(x, y)$, $P_2(x, y)$ and $P_3(x, y)$ to the weighted projective space ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ with homogeneous coordinates (x, y, z) of weight $(n, m, 1)$. We get, for $i = 1, 2, 3$, the quasi-homogeneous polynomials in $A[x, y, z]$:

$$f_i^h(x, z) := \sum_{j=0}^m a_{i,j} x^{m-j} z^{nj} \quad , \quad g_i^h(y, z) := \sum_{j=0}^n b_{i,j} y^{n-j} z^{mj}$$

and $P_i^h(x, y, z) := f_i^h(x, z) - g_i^h(y, z)$ of weight mn . We denote by $\text{Res}_{{}^a\mathbb{P}^2}$ the anisotropic resultant of three polynomials in ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$. Hereafter we consider the graded polynomial ring A with the usual grading: each of its variables has weight 1.

Proposition 6 *The specialization $\text{Res}_{{}^a\mathbb{P}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ of the anisotropic resultant is a non-zero polynomial. It is homogeneous of degree mn with respect to the coefficients of each polynomial P_1 , P_2 and P_3 , and hence has total degree $3mn$. Moreover it is an irreducible element in A .*

Proof. By specializing P_1^h to x^m , P_2^h to y^n and P_3^h to z^{mn} the anisotropic resul-

tant $\mathcal{R} := \text{Res}_{a\mathbb{P}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ equals 1 and it is hence non-zero. Moreover, by the general result of [16,17], $\mathcal{R}$ is homogeneous with respect to the coefficients of each polynomial P_1 , P_2 and P_3 of degree mn .

The difficult point is to prove the irreducibility of $\mathcal{R}$. We first prove that $\mathcal{R}$ is geometrically irreducible (i.e. it is a power of an irreducible polynomial). To do this we consider the incidence variety

$$\mathcal{W} := \{((x : y : z), (a_{i,j}, b_{i,j})) : P_1^h = P_2^h = P_3^h = 0\} \subset {}^a\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{A}^{3(m+n+2)}$$

and its two canonical projections π_1 and π_2 onto the first and the second factor respectively. By construction π_1 gives $\mathcal{W}$ a structure of vector bundle over ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ which is an irreducible variety. We deduce that $\mathcal{W}$ is itself an irreducible variety and therefore that its image by π_2 is irreducible in the affine space $\mathbb{A}^{3(m+n+2)}$. This image has the same support than the zero locus of $\mathcal{R}$ and hence it follows that $\mathcal{R}$ is a certain power, say e , of an irreducible polynomial. Finally, to see that $e = 1$ we need to prove that the projection of $\mathcal{W}$ by π_2 is bi-rational onto its image. This done by considering the specialization ϕ defined, for generic α_i 's and β_j 's by

$$\phi(P_1^h) = \prod_{i=1}^m (x - \alpha_i z^n), \quad \phi(P_2^h) = \prod_{j=1}^n (y - \beta_j z^m), \quad \phi(P_3^h) = x^m - y^n$$

which sends the anisotropic resultant $\mathcal{R}$ to

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\mathcal{R}) &= \text{Res}_{a\mathbb{P}^2}\left(\prod_{i=1}^m (x - \alpha_i z^n), \prod_{j=1}^n (y - \beta_j z^m), x^m - y^n\right) = \\ &\quad \prod_{i,j=1}^{m,n} \text{Res}_{a\mathbb{P}^2}(x - \alpha_i z^n, y - \beta_j z^m, x^m - y^n) = \prod_{i,j=1}^{m,n} (\alpha_i^n - \beta_j^m). \end{aligned}$$

(these two last equalities rely on properties of anisotropic resultants proved in [16]). Since the above product contains the irreducible and reduced factor $(\alpha_1 - \beta_1)$, e must be equal to 1. $\square$

We just proved the existence of a non-zero particular resultant which is adapted to our setting. The next task is to show that this resultant can be computed as the determinant of a certain square matrix, namely a Bezoutian matrix that we now describe.

It is easy to check that the Bezoutian (see Definition 1) associated to the

polynomials $P_1(x, y)$, $P_2(x, y)$ and $P_3(x, y)$:

$$\text{Bez}_{P_1, P_2, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1) = - \begin{vmatrix} f_1(x) - g_1(y) & \frac{f_1(x) - f_1(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \frac{g_1(y) - g_1(y_1)}{y - y_1} \\ f_2(x) - g_2(y) & \frac{f_2(x) - f_2(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \frac{g_2(y) - g_2(y_1)}{y - y_1} \\ f_3(x) - g_3(y) & \frac{f_3(x) - f_3(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \frac{g_3(y) - g_3(y_1)}{y - y_1} \end{vmatrix}$$

and to deduce, after manipulations on the columns, that this Bezoutian has a particular symmetry property (which is not true in general), namely

$$\text{Bez}_{P_1, P_2, P_3}(x_1, y_1; x, y) = \text{Bez}_{P_1, P_2, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1).$$

The (x_1, y_1) -monomial support of this Bezoutian (i.e. the set of monomials $x_1^i y_1^j$ having non-zero coefficients) is $\{0, \dots, m-1\} \times \{0, \dots, n-1\}$, and have hence exactly mn elements. By the symmetry property, the (x, y) -monomial support is the same. Therefore the Bezoutian matrix $\mathbb{B}$ of P_1, P_2, P_3 is, in this case, a square matrix of size mn and we have:

Theorem 7 *The determinant of the Bezoutian matrix $\mathbb{B}$ of P_1, P_2, P_3 equals the anisotropic resultant $\text{Res}_{\mathbb{A}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ up to a sign¹ in A .*

Proof. From the discussion in Section 2, $\text{Res}_{\mathbb{A}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ divides $\det(\mathbb{B})$. Moreover, it is easy to see by Definition 1 that each entry of $\mathbb{B}$ is a polynomial in A which has total degree 3 and is homogeneous of degree 1 with respect to the coefficients of each polynomial P_1, P_2 and P_3 . Therefore, $\det(\mathbb{B}) \in A$ is homogeneous with respect to the coefficients of each P_1, P_2 and P_3 of degree mn . Now, if $\det(\mathbb{B})$ is non-zero, it equals the anisotropic resultant $\text{Res}_{\mathbb{A}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ up to a non-zero constant. Considering the specialization ϕ defined by $\phi(P_1) = x^m$, $\phi(P_2) = y^n$ and $\phi(P_3) = 1$, it is easy to check that

$$\phi(\text{Bez}_{P_1, P_2, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1)) = \frac{x^m - x_1^m}{x - x_1} \times \frac{y^n - y_1^n}{y - y_1},$$

and that $\phi(\det(\mathbb{B})) = \pm 1$. So $\det(\mathbb{B}) \neq 0$ and the theorem is proved. $\square$

Note that, in more general setting, other formulations of the anisotropic resultant as a determinant of a square matrix has already been established in [17], and also in [18] as a sparse resultant. Theorem 7 is a simple expression in the particular case of polynomial systems with separated variables.

¹ It is possible to fix the sign in this equality by requiring an ordering on the (x, y) -monomial and the (x_1, y_1) -monomial supports of $\mathbb{B}$.

5.2 The residual case

This case is adapted to the determination of self-intersection loci of polynomial surfaces.

We keep the notations of the subsection 5.1, but now we assume that the polynomials $f_i(x)$ and $g_i(x)$, for all $i = 1, 2, 3$, have the same constant term (which is the case in the self-intersection problem), or in other words that

$$P_1(0, 0) = P_2(0, 0) = P_3(0, 0) = 0.$$

Thus we have for $i = 1, 2, 3$, $a_{i,m} = b_{i,n}$ and we view P_1 , P_2 and P_3 as polynomials in $A'[x, y]$, where $A' := \mathbb{Z}[(a_{i,j})_{i=1,2,3;j=0,\dots,m}, (b_{i,j})_{i=1,2,3;j=0,\dots,n-1}]$ is the universal coefficients ring.

Similarly to the previous subsection, we introduce a new variable z and homogenize the polynomials to the weighted projective space ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ with coordinates (x, y, z) of weight $(n, m, 1)$. Then we have, for $i = 1, 2, 3$,

$$f_i^h(x, z) := \sum_{j=0}^m a_{i,j} x^{m-j} z^{nj}, \quad g_i^h(y, z) := a_{i,m} z^{mn} + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} b_{i,j} y^{n-j} z^{mj}$$

and $P_i^h(x, y, z) := f_i^h(x, z) - g_i^h(x, z)$ are quasi-homogeneous of weight mn . However, in this new setting, the anisotropic resultant $\text{Res}_{{}^a\mathbb{P}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ is degenerate because P_1^h, P_2^h and P_3^h vanish at the same point $P := (0 : 0 : 1)$ independently of their coefficients.

In order to deal with this base-point and get a non-identically zero resultant, we consider the blow-up $\pi_P : {}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 \rightarrow {}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ of the weighted projective space along the point P whose definition ideal is $I_P := (x, y)$, with exceptional divisor D . Following techniques developed in [2,6] (see also [7] for a quick overview), we obtain the so-called *residual resultant*, and denoted by $\text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$. It provides a necessary and sufficient condition for the zero locus in ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ of the system $P_1^h(x, y, z) = P_2^h(x, y, z) = P_3^h(x, y, z) = 0$ to be, scheme-theoretically, strictly bigger than the point P . For more details, we refer the reader to [2,7,6].

Proposition 8 *The residual anisotropic resultant $\text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ is a non-zero polynomial. It is homogeneous of degree $mn - 1$ with respect to the coefficients of each polynomial P_1, P_2, P_3 and of total degree $3mn - 3$. Moreover it is an irreducible element in A' .*

Proof. The proof is similar to that of Proposition 6, as it amounts to consider an anisotropic residual resultant instead of a simple anisotropic one.

The geometric irreducibility of $\tilde{\mathcal{R}} := \text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ follows from two facts. First, the blow-up ${}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ is an irreducible projective variety, since ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$ is itself a

projective irreducible variety. Second, the incidence variety

$$\tilde{\mathcal{W}} = \{(\tilde{t}, (a_{i,j}, b_{i,j})) : \tilde{P}_1^h(\tilde{t}) = \tilde{P}_2^h(\tilde{t}) = \tilde{P}_3^h(\tilde{t}) = 0\} \subset {}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 \times \mathbb{A}^{3(m+n+1)}$$

is a vector bundle over ${}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$. Here $\tilde{P}_i^h$ denotes the virtual transform of P_i^h by the blow-up π_P (i.e. $\pi_P^*(P_i^h)$ divided only one time by the exceptional divisor D).

As P is a smooth point in ${}^a\mathbb{P}^2$, the self-intersection number $\int_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2} D^2$ of D equals -1 . Since each P_i^h is quasi-homogeneous of degree mn , the multi-degree formula for residual resultants (see [2]) shows that $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ is homogeneous, with respect to the coefficients of each P_i , of degree $mn + \int_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2} D^2 = mn - 1$.

Finally, to prove that $\tilde{\mathcal{R}} \neq 0$ and it is not a power of an irreducible polynomial, we exhibit a specialization of P_1, P_2 and P_3 such that the corresponding specialization of $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ is non-zero and contains an irreducible and reduced factor, as we did in the proof of Proposition 6. For that purpose, we compute

$$\text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(x \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x - \alpha_i z^n), y \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (y - \beta_i z^m), x^m - y^n) = \prod_{i,j=1}^{m-1, n-1} (\alpha_i^n - \beta_j^m).$$

□

Having defined the anisotropic residual resultant, we now describe how to compute it as the determinant of a Bezoutian matrix.

We proceed exactly as in the dense case, by considering the Bezoutian matrix of the polynomials P_1, P_2, P_3 . The only difference is that $a_{i,m} = b_{i,n}$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$, which implies that the (x, y) -monomial support (resp. the (x_1, y_1) -monomial support) of this Bezoutian does not contain the monomial $1 = x^0 y^0$ (resp. $1 = x_1^0 y_1^0$) and hence contains only $mn - 1$ elements. Therefore, we get a square matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}$ of size $mn - 1$ and we have:

Theorem 9 *The determinant of the Bezoutian matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}$ of P_1, P_2, P_3 is exactly the residual anisotropic resultant $\text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ up to a sign in A' .*

Proof. From the discussion in Section 2, $\text{Res}_{{}^a\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2}(P_1^h, P_2^h, P_3^h)$ divides $\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}})$. It is straightforward to check that each entry of $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}$ is a polynomial in A' which has total degree 3 and is homogeneous of degree 1 with respect to the coefficients of each P_1, P_2 and P_3 . Therefore $\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}) \in A'$ is homogeneous with respect to the coefficients of each polynomial P_1, P_2 and P_3 of degree $mn - 1$. Now, considering the specialization ϕ defined by $\phi(P_1) = x^m + x$, $\phi(P_2) = y^n$ and $\phi(P_3) = x - y$, we obtain that $\phi(\text{Bez}_{P_1, P_2, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1))$ is equal to

$$\left(\frac{x^m - x_1^m}{x - x_1} + 1\right) \left(y^n + (x - y) \frac{y^n - y_1^n}{y - y_1}\right) - (x^m + x) \left(\frac{y^n - y_1^n}{y - y_1}\right).$$

This implies that $\phi(\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}})) = \pm 1$ and concludes the proof. $\square$

6 Bivariate determinantal resultants with separated variables

With the strategy described in Section 3, the computation of the intersection locus of two rational surfaces requires the elimination of variables x, y, λ in a polynomial system of the form

$$\phi_i(x) = \lambda \psi_i(y), \quad i = 0 \dots 3 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda \neq 0,$$

where the ϕ_i 's (resp. the ψ_i 's) are univariate polynomials in the variable x (resp. y) of given degree $m \geq 1$ (resp. $n \geq 1$). This is equivalent to the fact that the 4×2 matrix defined by the ϕ_i 's and ψ_i 's has rank 1 at some point (x, y) . This leads to the notion of *determinantal resultant* introduced and studied in [2]. Therefore, to study the intersection and self-intersection problems for rational surfaces we need an extension of tools used in the polynomial case to the determinantal setting.

Introducing new variables $\bar{x}$ and $\bar{y}$, we can put this system into a (bi)-projective context to first eliminate the variable λ . Then, we eliminate the two couples of homogeneous variables $(x, \bar{x})$ and $(y, \bar{y})$ from the bi-homogeneous polynomial system

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_0^h(x, \bar{x}) : \phi_1^h(x, \bar{x}) : \phi_2^h(x, \bar{x}) : \phi_3^h(x, \bar{x})) = \\ (\psi_0^h(y, \bar{y}) : \psi_1^h(y, \bar{y}) : \psi_2^h(y, \bar{y}) : \psi_3^h(y, \bar{y})) \in \mathbb{P}^3, \end{aligned}$$

where, for $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$, $\deg(\phi_i^h) = m \geq 1$ and $\deg(\psi_i^h) = n \geq 1$.

This elimination problem does not correspond to the projection of a complete intersection incidence variety, as in Section 5, then the previous theory of resultants does not apply. However, there is a generalization of the previous approach where the incidence variety is a determinantal one, and one can define a *determinantal resultant* (see [3]). It turns out that this can be applied in our setting: this elimination problem fits into the class of *determinantal* polynomial systems (which is much larger than the class of complete intersection ones).

We re-formulate the elimination problem as the necessary and sufficient condition on the parameters of the polynomials ϕ_i^h and ψ_i^h , $i = 0 \dots 3$, so that

there exists a point $((x : \bar{x}), (y : \bar{y})) \in \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ which satisfies

$$\text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_1(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_2(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_3(x, \bar{x}) \\ \psi_0(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_1(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_2(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_3(y, \bar{y}) \end{pmatrix} < 2.$$

Let us fix the notations. From now on, we suppose given four univariate polynomials of degree $m \geq 1$, $i = 0 \dots 3$,

$$\phi_i(x) := a_{i,0}x^m + a_{i,1}x^{m-1} + \dots + a_{i,m-1}x + a_{i,m} \in \mathbb{Z}[a_{i,0}, \dots, a_{i,m}][x]$$

and their corresponding homogenizations $\phi_i^h(x, \bar{x}) \in \mathbb{Z}[a_{i,0}, \dots, a_{i,m}][x, \bar{x}]$, as well as four univariate polynomials of degree $n \geq 1$, $i = 0 \dots 3$,

$$\psi_i(y) := b_{i,0}y^n + b_{i,1}y^{n-1} + \dots + b_{i,n-1}y + b_{i,n} \in \mathbb{Z}[b_{i,0}, \dots, b_{i,n}][y]$$

and their corresponding homogenizations $\psi_i^h(y, \bar{y}) \in \mathbb{Z}[b_{i,0}, \dots, b_{i,n}][y, \bar{y}]$. We denote by $A := \mathbb{Z}[(a_{i,j})_{i=0,\dots,3;j=0,\dots,m}, (b_{i,j})_{i=0,\dots,3;j=0,\dots,n}]$ the universal coefficients ring of these polynomials.

We will use the theory of *determinantal resultants* developed in [3]. In particular, we will provide new formulas to compute determinantal resultants with separated variables using Bezoutian matrices.

6.1 The dense case

Let us denote by $X := \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$, $\mathcal{O}_X$ the vector bundle of rational functions on X , and consider two vector bundles $E := \mathcal{O}_X^4$ and $F := \mathcal{O}_X(m, 0) \oplus \mathcal{O}_X(0, n)$. Taking the coefficients of polynomials ϕ_i 's and ψ_i 's in $\mathbb{C}$, this system corresponds to a map of vector bundles on X , $\rho : E \rightarrow F$, whose matrix is given by

$$\mathbb{M}((x, \bar{x}), (y, \bar{y})) := \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_1(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_2(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_3(x, \bar{x}) \\ \psi_0(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_1(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_2(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_3(y, \bar{y}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following [3], the determinantal resultant associated to this morphism exists and corresponds to the necessary and sufficient condition on ϕ_i 's and ψ_i 's coefficients so that there exists a point $((x_0 : \bar{x}_0), (y_0 : \bar{y}_0)) \in \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ satisfying

$$\text{rank } \mathbb{M}((x_0 : \bar{x}_0), (y : \bar{y}_0)) \leq 1.$$

We denote this determinantal resultant, which is an element in A defined up to a sign, by $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$. In this case, we have the following proposition:

Proposition 10 *The determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ is a non-zero irreducible polynomial in A . Moreover, for each $j \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$, it is a homogeneous polynomial with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j of degree mn , and it is hence a homogeneous element in A of degree $4mn$.*

Proof. First, we will justify the existence of $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$. Set $H = \mathcal{H}om(E, F)$. Although the vector bundle H is not very ample on X , the proof of Theorem 1 in [3] applies. In this proof, the very ampleness hypothesis is used to show that the projection from the incidence variety W to the projectivized parameter space $\mathbb{P}(H)$:

$$W = \{(x, \phi) \in X \times \mathbb{P}(H) : \text{rank}(\phi(x)) \leq 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H)$$

is bi-rational onto its image (which is called the resultant variety). The argument is the following: given a zero-dimensional sub-scheme z of $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ of degree two (that is two distinct points or a double point), the locus of matrices ϕ in $\mathbb{P}(H)$ of rank lower or equal to 1 on z is of co-dimension twice the co-dimension of matrices of rank lower or equal to 1 on only one smooth point (which is here 3). In our particular situation, this property remains true, even if H is not very ample.

To obtain the claimed partial degrees we use the intersection theory as developed in [11]: given an integer $j \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$ we know from [3] that the degree of $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j equals the coefficient of the monomial α_j in the coefficient of t^3 in the expansion of the series

$$-\frac{\prod_{i=1}^4 (1 - \alpha_i t)}{c_t(F)} = -\frac{1}{c_t(F)} (1 - (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4)t + \dots)$$

where $c_t(F)$ denotes the Chern polynomial of F . We deduce that this degree is exactly the degree of the coefficient of t^2 in the series $1/c_t(F)$. Denoting by H_1 (resp. H_2) the class of the generic point in the first (resp. second) factor $\mathbb{P}^1$ of X , we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_t(F) &= c_t(\mathcal{O}_X(m; 0))c_t(\mathcal{O}_X(0; n)) = (1 + mH_1)(1 + nH_2) \\ &= 1 + mH_1 + nH_2 + mnH_1H_2. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\frac{1}{c_t(F)} = 1 - c_1(F)t + (c_1(F)^2 - c_2(F))t^2 + \dots$$

from which we obtain that the degree of $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j equals

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_X c_1(F)^2 - c_2(F) &= \int_X (mH_1 + nH_2)^2 - mnH_1H_2 \\
&= \int_X 2mnH_1H_2 - mnH_1H_2 = \int_X mnH_1H_2 = mn.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 11 We recall from [3] that $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ is, for all $(p, q) \in \mathbb{N}^2$ such that $p \geq 3m - 1$ and $q \geq 3n - 1$, the determinant of the following graded part of the Eagon-Northcott complex

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
S[-3, -1]_{(p-3m; q-n)} & & \\
\oplus & S[-2, -1]_{(p-2m; q-n)}^4 & \\
S[-2, -2]_{(p-2m; q-2n)} & \xrightarrow{\partial_2} & \oplus \\
\oplus & S[-1, -2]_{(p-m; q-2n)}^4 & \\
S[-1, -3]_{(p-m; p-3n)} & & \\
& \xrightarrow{\partial_1} S[-1, -1]_{(p-m; q-n)}^6 \xrightarrow{\wedge^2 \rho} S[0, 0]_{(p; q)}
\end{array}$$

where S is the ring

$$S := (\mathbb{Z}[(a_{i,j})_{i=0,\dots,3,j=0,\dots,m}] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[(b_{i,j})_{i=0,\dots,3,j=0,\dots,n}]) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} (\mathbb{Z}[x, \bar{x}] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[y, \bar{y}])$$

which is equipped (via tensor products) with two (bi-graded) gradings that we denote by $S[-, -]_{(-, -)}$. In particular, $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ vanishes if and only if the rank of the $9mn \times 24mn$ matrix

$$S[-1, -1]_{(2m-1; 2n-1)}^6 \xrightarrow{\wedge^2 \rho} S[0, 0]_{(3m-1; 3n-1)}$$

drops. Moreover, from this result we can deduce that $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M}) \in A$ is homogeneous with respect to the coefficients of $(\phi_i)_{i=0,\dots,3}$ (resp. $(\psi_i)_{i=0,\dots,3}$) of degree $2mn$.

We now turn to the computation of this determinantal resultant in our setting. We consider the four polynomials

$$P_i(x, y, \lambda) := \phi_i(x) - \lambda\psi_i(y), \quad i = 0 \dots 3,$$

and we compute the Bezoutian $\text{Bez}_{P_0, \dots, P_3}(x, y, \lambda; x_1, y_1, \lambda_1)$ which equals

$$-\lambda \begin{vmatrix} \phi_0(x) & \frac{\phi_0(x) - \phi_0(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \psi_0(y) & \frac{\psi_0(y) - \psi_0(y_1)}{y - y_1} \\ \phi_1(x) & \frac{\phi_1(x) - \phi_1(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \psi_1(y) & \frac{\psi_1(y) - \psi_1(y_1)}{y - y_1} \\ \phi_2(x) & \frac{\phi_2(x) - \phi_2(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \psi_2(y) & \frac{\psi_2(y) - \psi_2(y_1)}{y - y_1} \\ \phi_3(x) & \frac{\phi_3(x) - \phi_3(x_1)}{x - x_1} & \psi_3(y) & \frac{\psi_3(y) - \psi_3(y_1)}{y - y_1} \end{vmatrix}.$$

This Bezoutian does not depend on the variable λ_1 , and we can eliminate λ from it by defining

$$\text{Bez}'_{P_0, \dots, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1) := \frac{\text{Bez}_{P_0, \dots, P_3}(x, y, \lambda; x_1, y_1, \lambda_1)}{\lambda}.$$

It is clear that $\text{Bez}'_{P_0, \dots, P_3}(x, y; x_1, y_1) = \text{Bez}'_{P_0, \dots, P_3}(x_1, y_1 : x, y)$. The (x_1, y_1) -monomial support (and hence also its (x, y) -monomial support) of this Bezoutian is $\{0 \dots m-1\} \times \{0 \dots n-1\}$. Therefore we can construct a square matrix $\mathbb{B}'$ of size mn from it and we have:

Theorem 12 *The determinant of the matrix $\mathbb{B}'$ equals to the determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ in A up to a sign.*

Proof. From the discussion in Section 2, $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M})$ divides $\det(\mathbb{B}')$. Since they have the same degree as homogeneous elements in A , we deduce that the claimed result will be proved if we show that $\det(\mathbb{B}')$ equals ± 1 for a given specialization. For this, we consider the specialization ρ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\phi_0) &= x^m, \rho(\phi_1) = 0, \quad \rho(\phi_2) = 0, \rho(\phi_3) = 1, \\ \rho(\psi_0) &= 0, \quad \rho(\psi_1) = y^n, \rho(\psi_2) = 1, \rho(\psi_3) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It is straightforward to check that $\rho(\det(\mathbb{B}')) = \pm 1$ (the sign depends on the ordering chosen on monomials to construct $\mathbb{B}'$). $\square$

6.2 The residual case

With the same notations as in subsection 6.1, we now assume that for $i = 0 \dots 3$, the polynomials $\phi_i(x)$ and $\psi_i(y)$ have the same constant term (which is the case for the self-intersection problem); that is

$$\phi_i(0) = a_{i,m} = b_{i,n} = \psi_i(0) \text{ for } i = 0, 1, 2, 3.$$

The ring $A' := \mathbb{Z}[(a_{i,j})_{i=0,1,2,3;j=0,\dots,m}, (b_{i,j})_{i=0,1,2,3;j=0,\dots,n-1}]$ denotes the universal coefficients ring.

We remark that the determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_X(\mathbb{M}) \in A'$ in Proposition 10 is identically zero in this case because the matrix $\mathbb{M}$ is always of rank less or equal to 1 at $P = ((0 : 1), (0 : 1)) \in \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$. So, we are no longer considering all the morphisms $E \rightarrow F$, but only those having rank 1 at this point P .

Similarly to what we did in subsection 5.2, we can overtake this difficulty by considering the blow-up $\pi_P : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ of X along P . Then the

morphism $\pi_P^*(E) \rightarrow \pi_P^*(F)$ have generically rank 2 outside the exceptional divisor D and rank 1 on D . Therefore, for such a general morphism, the co-kernel Q fits in the exact sequence

$$\pi_P^*(E)|_D \rightarrow \pi_P^*(F)|_D \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0$$

and is a vector bundle of rank 1 over D . It follows that the kernel $\tilde{F}$ of the canonical surjective morphism $\pi_P^*(F) \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0$ is also a vector bundle² over $\tilde{X}$ and has the same rank than F . We have the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{F} \rightarrow \pi_P^*(F) \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0. \quad (3)$$

It turns out that the morphism $\pi_P^*(E) \rightarrow \pi_P^*(F)$ factors through $\tilde{F}$ and the residual determinantal resultant we are looking for is the determinantal resultant of vector bundles $\tilde{E} := \pi_P^*(E)$ and $\tilde{F}$ over $\tilde{X}$. We will denote it by $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$. It gives a necessary and sufficient condition so that the determinantal locus in X corresponding to the condition

$$\text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_1(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_2(x, \bar{x}) & \phi_3(x, \bar{x}) \\ \psi_0(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_1(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_2(y, \bar{y}) & \psi_3(y, \bar{y}) \end{pmatrix} < 2$$

is, scheme-theoretically, strictly bigger than the point P .

Proposition 13 *The residual determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ is a non-zero irreducible polynomial in A' . Moreover, for each integer $j \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$, it is homogeneous with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j of degree $mn - 1$, and hence it is a homogeneous element in A' of degree $4mn - 4$.*

Proof. The proof of the irreducibility of $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ is exactly the same than the one given in Proposition 10 using the general theory developed in [3]. Given an integer $j \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$, the degree of $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j equals the degree of the coefficient of t^2 in the series $1/c_t(\tilde{F})$. From the exact sequence (3) we deduce that $c_t(\tilde{F})c_t(Q) = c_t(F)$. Moreover, using the definition of $\mathbb{M}$ and Q we have $Q \simeq \mathcal{O}_D$, so we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{c_t(\tilde{F})} &= \frac{c_t(\mathcal{O}_D)}{c_t(F)} = \frac{1}{c_t(F)c_t(\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}(-D))} = \frac{1}{c_t(F)} \times \frac{1}{1 - Dt} \\ &= \left(1 - c_1(F)t + (c_1(F)^2 - c_2(F))t^2 + \dots\right) (1 + Dt + D^2t^2 + \dots). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the degree of $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ with respect to the coefficients of ϕ_j and ψ_j

² this is a consequence of the fact that Q has rank 1. The construction of $\tilde{F}$ is known as an *elementary transformation* of the vector bundle F (see [22] for more details).

equals

$$\int_{\tilde{X}} D^2 - c_1(F)D + c_1(F)^2 - c_2(F) = \int_{\tilde{X}} c_1(F)^2 - c_2(F) + \int_{\tilde{X}} D^2 = mn - 1.$$

As a consequence, the residual determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ is an homogeneous element in A' of degree $4(mn - 1) = 4mn - 4$. $\square$

To compute this residual determinantal resultant we use, as before, Bezoutian matrices. With the same notations and computations as in subsection 6.1, we build the Bezoutian matrix $\mathbb{B}'$ of size $mn \times mn$. However in this more particular setting, the couple $(0,0)$ (associated to the monomial 1) is not in the (x,y) -monomial support and not also in the (x_1, y_1) -monomial support. In this way, we consider the $mn - 1 \times mn - 1$ sub-matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}'$ of $\mathbb{B}'$ corresponding to erase the row and the column which defines the monomial 1.

Theorem 14 *The determinant of the matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}'$ equals the residual determinantal resultant $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ in A' up to a sign.*

Proof. From the discussion in Section 2, $\text{Res}_{\tilde{X}}(\mathbb{M})$ divides $\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}')$. Since these two polynomials have the same degree as homogeneous elements in A' , we deduce that the claimed result is proved if we show that $\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}')$ equals ± 1 for a given specialization. To do this, we consider the specialization ρ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\phi_0) &= x^m + x, \quad \rho(\phi_1) = 0, \quad \rho(\phi_2) = x, \quad \rho(\phi_3) = 1, \\ \rho(\psi_0) &= 0, \quad \rho(\psi_1) = y^n, \quad \rho(\psi_2) = -y, \quad \rho(\psi_3) = 1, \end{aligned}$$

and it is straightforward to check that $\rho(\det(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}')) = \pm 1$ (the sign depends on the ordering chosen on monomials to construct the matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}'$). $\square$

7 Conclusion

In this paper we presented a re-formulation of computer algebra problems related to the determination of the self-intersection and intersection loci of polynomial surfaces patch and in the more general case of rational patches used for NURBS. We gave simple and efficient formulas to compute the implicit equation of certain projections of these loci. The next step is to study a numeric adaptation of the original approach described in this paper.

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