

# Algorithms For Sparse Rational Interpolation

Dima Yu. Grigoriev \*  
Dept. of Computer Science  
University of Bonn  
5300 Bonn 1

Marek Karpinski †  
Dept. of Computer Science  
University of Bonn  
5300 Bonn 1  
and  
International Computer Science Institute  
Berkeley, California

## Abstract

We present two algorithms for interpolating sparse rational functions. The first is the interpolation algorithm in a sense of sparse partial fraction representation of rational functions. The second is the algorithm for computing the *entier* and the *remainder* of a rational function. The first algorithm works without a priori known bound on the degree of a rational function, the second one is in the parallel class NC provided that the degree is known. The presented algorithms complement the sparse interpolation results of [GKS 90].

## 1 Introduction

We address a question of computational complexity of sparse rational interpolation and a connected question of algebraic manipulation of sparse rational functions. We study the most general method of representing rational functions by black boxes (cf. [KT 88, GKS 90]) and restrict ourselves in this paper to the univariate case only. For the technical developments which lead to this paper see [GKS 91, GKS 90, DG 91]. For the hardness results on sparse polynomial divisibility see also Plaisted [P 77b].

We present two algorithms. For the first one we consider the partial-fraction representation of a rational function and the corresponding notion of sparsity as the number of terms in this representation. An algorithm is designed for finding partial-fraction representation without knowing the degree. Of independent interest could be also construction of a new code (see Section 1), which is a generalization of Goppa and BCH code (cf. [MS 81]). The second algorithm finds an *entier* of a rational function, and a polynomial part of a partial-fraction representation. We show that finding an *entier* is in the parallel class NC (cf. [KR 90]) provided that the degree of a rational function is known. Here we measure the complexity in the combined sizes

---

\*On leave from Steklov Institute of Mathematics, Soviet Academy of Sciences, Leningrad 191011, supported in part by the Max-Planck Institute of Mathematics, Bonn

†Supported in part by the Leibniz Center for Research in Computer Science, by the DFG Grant KA 673/4-1 and by the SERC Grant GR-E 68297

Permission to copy without fee all or part of this material is granted provided that the copies are not made or distributed for direct commercial advantage, the ACM copyright notice and the title of the publication and its date appear, and notice is given that copying is by permission of the Association for Computing Machinery. To copy otherwise, or to republish, requires a fee and/or specific permission.

© 1991 ACM 0-89791-437-6/91/0006/0007...\$1.50



sending  $c_1, \dots$ , as the roots of the irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$  polynomials.

Finally, one can find  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d$  by solving a linear system

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)C_0 = (g_0, \dots, g_{d-1}).$$

Remark that for pairwise distinct  $c_1, \dots, c_d$  the described code converts into Goppa code [MS 81].

*Note:* If we take a Töplitz matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} g_l & g_{l+1} & \cdots & g_{l+d_1} \\ g_{l+1} & g_{l+2} & \cdots & g_{l+d_1+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ g_{l+d_1} & g_{l+d_1+1} & \cdots & g_{l+2d_1} \end{pmatrix}$$

for  $d_1 \geq d$  then its rank =  $d$ .

### 3 Partial-fraction sparsity of rational functions and finding highest terms

Let  $f_1/f_2 \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be a rational function given by a black-box. We assume that the black-box at every point (including  $\infty$ ) gives a value of  $f_1/f_2$  at this point (including  $\infty$ ). And the same concerns any rational function which will appear at the intermediate calculations.

We suppose also that together with the black-box for  $f_1/f_2$  we are supplied with a black-box for the derivative  $(f_1/f_2)'$ . If  $f_1/f_2$  is given by a short straight-line program, then  $(f_1/f_2)'$  can be represented also by a short straight-line program e.g. by virtue of [BS 83]. If  $(f_1/f_2)$  is given by a certain physical process, then also one can get  $(f_1/f_2)'$ .

With the help of  $(f_1/f_2)'$  one can recover the highest term of  $f_1/f_2$  at  $\infty$ . Namely, if  $f_1/f_2 = ax^m + O(x^{m-1})$ , where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \neq 0$ , then  $x(f_1/f_2)'/(f_1/f_2) = m + O(x^{-1})$ , so we recover  $m$  and then calculate in NC  $x^m$  and since  $(f_1/f_2)/x^m = a + O(x^{-1})$ , we recover  $a$ .

A rational function  $f_1/f_2$  is uniquely represented as a sum of its partial fractions  $f_1/f_2 = P + \sum_i \frac{\alpha_{i,1}}{x-c_i} + \sum_i \frac{\alpha_{i,2}}{(x-c_i)^2} + \dots$ , where  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  is a polynomial,  $c_i, \alpha_{i,j} \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ . We call  $P = [f_1/f_2]$  an entier of  $f_1/f_2$  (see the last section). We call  $f_1/f_2$  *t-sparse* if the number of nonzero terms in this representation is at most  $t$ . We'll assume in the sequel that  $f_1/f_2$  is *t-sparse*. The problem we deal with is to find partial-fraction representation.

Firstly we find  $P$  term by term starting with the highest one. Thus, we can suppose that  $f_1/f_2 = \sum_i \frac{\alpha_{i,1}}{x-c_i} + \dots$ . Then  $\text{res}_\infty(f_1/f_2) = \sum_i \alpha_{i,1}$ , and if it does not vanish then  $(\sum_i \alpha_{i,1})x^{-1}$  is the highest term. Thus, we can find  $\text{res}_\infty(f_1/f_2)$ . Later on we'll calculate  $g_k = \text{res}_\infty x^k(f_1/f_2)$  for different  $k$ , we call them successive residues. Remark that  $g_k = \sum_i \alpha_{i,1}c_i^k + \alpha_{i,2}k c_i^{k-1} + \dots$ , thus it coincides with the formula for  $g_k$  in the extended Goppa code (see the previous section).

Observe that if  $(f_1/f_2)^{-1}$  is also *sparse* then one can recover both  $f_1/f_2$  and  $f_2/f_1$  by applying extended Goppa code (or even the usual Goppa code) to  $(f_1/f_2)'/(f_1/f_2) = \sum \frac{m_i}{x-c_i}$  (being *sparse* by the same token) where  $m_i$  is the multiplicity of the pole  $c_i$  (when  $m_i < 0$ ) or of the root  $c_i$  (when  $m_i > 0$ ) of  $f_1/f_2$ . Thus, one can find  $c_i, m_i$  and considering expansions in the neighbourhood of  $c_i$ , to find (involving the procedure for recovering highest terms) the terms of the form  $\frac{\alpha_{i,j}}{(x-c_i)^j}$ .

### 4 A bound on the least nonzero successive residue

If  $f_1/f_2 = \sum \frac{\alpha_{i,k}}{(x-c_i)^k} + \dots$  then we call  $k$  an order of  $f_1/f_2$ . Evidently  $g_j = 0$  for  $j < k$ . Let us estimate the least  $j_0$  s.t.  $g_{j_0} \neq 0$ . Denote  $\tilde{g}_{m-k+1} = g_m / \frac{m!}{(m-k+1)!}$ . Then  $\tilde{g}_{m-k+1}$  plays the role of  $g_{m-k+1}$  for the function  $\sum \frac{\alpha_{i,k}}{(x-c_i)^k} + \sum \frac{\alpha_{i,k+1}}{(x-c_i)^{k+1}} + \dots = \widetilde{(f_1/f_2)}$

$\sum \frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{i,1}}{(x-c_i)} + \sum \frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{i,2}}{(x-c_i)^2} + \dots$  in other words all the exponents in the denominators of partial fractions are diminished by  $(k-1)$ . Assume that  $\tilde{g}_0 = \dots = \tilde{g}_{N-1} = 0$  for some  $N$ . Consider any  $N_1 \leq N$ . For any  $i$  denote by  $d_i(N_1)$  the maximal  $j < N_1$  s.t.  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$ , and by  $d(N_1) = \sum_i d_i(N_1)$ .

We claim that  $d(N_1) > N_1$ . Indeed

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{g}_0 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{g}_{N_1-1} \end{pmatrix} = \tilde{C}(N_1) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\alpha}_{1,1} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\alpha}_{1,d_1(N_1)} \\ \tilde{\alpha}_{2,1} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\alpha}_{2,d_2(N_2)} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

where the matrix

$$\tilde{C}(N_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & 1 & & & \\ c_1 & 1 & & c_2 & 1 & & \\ c_1^2 & 2c_1 & \ddots & c_2^2 & 2c_2 & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \end{pmatrix}$$

is similar to the matrix  $C_l$  (see the previous section), it has  $d_1(N_1)$  columns which correspond to  $c_1$ ,  $d_2(N_1)$  columns which correspond to  $c_2$ , etc. If  $d(N_1) \leq N_1$ , then the columns of the matrix  $\tilde{C}(N_1)$  cannot be linearly dependent (see the previous section); that proves the claim.

Recall that the sequence  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j}$  is  $t$ -sparse and let us find out how large is  $N_0 = \max\{j : d(N_1) > \frac{N_1}{2} \text{ for any } N_1 \leq j\}$ , being a stronger property than is necessary in our case, but we will need it later in this stronger version. Let us prove that  $N_0 \leq 3^t$  by induction on  $t$ .

Assume the contrary. Then by inductive hypothesis in the segment  $[0, 3^{t-1}]$  there are  $t-1$  indices  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for a suitable  $i$  and in the segment  $(3^{t-1}, 3^t]$  there are no such indices. Again by inductive hypothesis for these indices  $j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_{t-1}$  holds  $j_l \leq 3^{t-1}$ .

Therefore  $d(3^t) \leq \frac{3^t}{2}$  that leads to the contradiction.

Thus, the order of  $f_1/f_2$  is at least  $N - 3^t$  where  $N$  is the least index for which  $g_N \neq 0$ , and we denote later  $\tilde{g}_{s-N+3^t} = g_s / \frac{s!}{(s-N+3^t)!}$ , also  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} = \alpha_{i,j+N-3^t}$ .

## 5 Finding swarms of terms

We say that an integer  $N_2$  creates a *swarm* of terms of the rational function  $f_1/f_2$  if  $0 < \tilde{d}(N_2) < \frac{N_2}{2}$ , where  $\tilde{d}(N_2) = \sum_i \tilde{d}_i(N_2) = \sum_i (d_i(N_2) - N + 3^t)$ . In this case the rank of the matrix

$$\tilde{G}_{N_2/2} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{g}_0 & \dots & \tilde{g}_{N_2/2} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{g}_{N_2/2} & \dots & \tilde{g}_{N_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

equals to  $\tilde{d}(N_2)$  (see the section about codes).

A swarm means that in the segment  $[1, N_2]$  there is some gap, in which there are no indices  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for some  $i$ .

The Algorithm calculates  $rk(\tilde{G}_0), rk(\tilde{G}_1), \dots, rk(\tilde{G}_{3^k}), \dots, rk(\tilde{G}_{3^{t^2 \log_3 t}})$ . There exists a sequence  $t \leq l, l+1, \dots, l+2t \log_3 t \leq 2t^2 \log_3 t$  such that in the segment  $(3^l, 3^{l+2t \log_3 t})$  there are no  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for some  $i$ . Since  $\tilde{d}(3^l) \leq t3^l$ , then  $rk(\tilde{G}_{3^l + \log_3 t}) = \dots = rk(\tilde{G}_{3^l + 2t \log_3 t}) = \tilde{d}(3^l)$ .

Conversely if  $rk(\tilde{G}_{3^l + \log_3 t}) = \dots = rk(\tilde{G}_{3^l + 2t \log_3 t})$  for a certain  $l$ , then in the segment  $(3^{l+\log_3 t}, 3^{l+2t \log_3 t})$  there are no  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for some  $i$ . Indeed in the opposite case there would exist  $j_0 < 3^{\frac{l+2t \log_3 t}{t^2}}$  in this segment such that in the segment  $(j_0, t^2 j_0)$  there are no  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for some  $i$ . Then

$$rk(\tilde{G}_{3^{l+2t \log_3 t}}) \geq rk(\tilde{G}_{t j_0}) > rk(\tilde{G}_{3^{l+\log_3 t}}) ,$$

because  $2t j_0$  creates a swarm. Thus, we have proved that in the segment  $(3^{l+\log_3 t}, 3^{l+2t \log_3 t})$  there are no  $j$  such that  $\tilde{\alpha}_{i,j} \neq 0$  for some  $i$ . Hence  $3^{l+4 \log_3 t}$  creates

a swarm and the algorithm recovers it by means of the extension of Goppa code.

Actually, there could be different swarms and the algorithm will recover a swarm, after which there is a large gap, much larger than it is required by the definition of the swarm.

After finding a swarm of terms, we subtract it from the function  $f_1/f_2$  and so reduce a number of terms (sparsity) and continue until exhausting.

## 6 Analysis of the algorithm

Let us assume that we are supplied also with a black-box for computing a factorial (as a preconditioning). Then the number of arithmetic operation necessary to fulfill is at most  $3^{O(t^2 \log t)}$ , and the number of parallel steps is  $O(t^5 \log^2 t)$  by Mulmuley [M 86].

So, it is independent from the total degree  $d$  of the rational function. If we count bit complexity, then the time would be bounded by  $(dM)^{O(1)}$ , where  $d$  is the degree and  $M$  is the bit-size of the coefficients, and the parallel time  $\leq \log^{O(1)}(dM)$  (again by [M 86]).

Remark about using [CG 82] for finding roots of denominator (see Section 2).

$$f = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq t} (Y - c_i)^{\beta_i}, \quad \deg f \leq 3^t.$$

The number of  $c_i$  is at most  $t$  because of  $t$ -sparsity of  $f_1/f_2$ .

$(f/\text{GCD}(f, f')) = \prod(Y - c_i)$  – apply to it [CG 82], find  $c_i \rightarrow$  find  $\beta_i$  in parallel time  $O(t) \rightarrow \alpha_i$

## 7 Finding an entier of a sparse rational function is in NC

Let a rational function  $q \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$  be given by a black-box and we assume that  $q$  can be represented in a form  $q =$

$f/g$ , where polynomials  $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$  are both  $t$ -sparse and form a minimal  $t$ -sparse representation of  $q$  (in the sense of a degree of denominator  $g$ ) and the leading coefficient  $lc(g) = 1$ . We analyse the complexity in terms of arithmetic operations (cf. [BT 88], [GKS 91]). Unlike the previous sections we suppose that we know a bound  $d$  on the degrees  $\deg(f), \deg(g) < d$ . Under this supposition we'll show that the problem of finding the entier  $[f/g] = h \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$  is in the parallel class NC (cf. [C 85, KR 90, K 89]) in the sizes of the inputs and outputs.

Denote  $d_1 = \deg(f)$ ,  $d_0 = \deg(g)$ ,  $M$  is a maximal of bit-sizes of the coefficients of  $f, g$  (they are not supposed to be given). Represent  $q = f/g = [f/g] + \frac{\text{Rem}(f,g)}{g}$ . We call a rational number  $0 < c \in \mathbb{Q}$  big enough if  $\left| \frac{\text{Rem}(f,g)}{g}(c) \right| < \frac{1}{2}$ . Our next purpose is to construct explicitly a big enough number.

Take successive primes  $p_1, \dots, p_t$  and for each  $p$  among them calculate (by black-box)  $q(p), q(p^2), \dots, q(p^{2t^2+1})$ . For at least one  $p$  all these values are defined (let us fix it).

**Lemma** At least one of  $q(p), q(p^2), \dots, q(p^{2t^2+1})$  has an absolute value greater than  $2^{M/2t}/t^{4dt^2}$ .

**PROOF** Denote  $\mathcal{N} = \max\{|q(p)|, \dots, |q(p^{2t^2+1})|\}$ . Denote  $f = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \alpha_i x^{j_i}$ ,  $g = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq t} \beta_i x^{k_i}$ . The homogeneous linear system in the indeterminates  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$

$$\sum \alpha_i p^{s j_i} = \left( \sum \beta_i p^{s k_i} \right) q(p^s), \quad 1 \leq s \leq 2t^2 + 1$$

has a unique solution, since the polynomials  $f, g$  provide a minimal  $t$ -sparse representation of  $q$ , hence these equalities imply that  $(\sum \alpha_i x^{j_i}) / (\sum \beta_i x^{k_i}) = q(x)$ . Therefore, each  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$  equals to an appropriate  $(2t-1) \times (2t-1)$  minor of this system. Then  $2^M \leq \max\{|\alpha_i|, |\beta_i|\} \leq (\mathcal{N} p^{2t^2 d} 2t)^{2t} \leq (\mathcal{N} t^{4dt^2})^{2t}$ . Lemma is proved.

Then one can produce in NC ([BC 86]) an integer  $t^{4dt^2}$  and multiply it on  $\mathcal{N}$ , so we get a rational number greater than  $2^{M/2t}$ . Then again involving [BC 86], one

can construct a rational number  $N_0 > 36 \cdot 2^{3M} \cdot d^5$ .

Calculate  $q(N_0)$ . W.l.o.g. assume that  $lc(f) > 0$ . Then  $f(N_0) > N_0^{d_1} - dN_0^{d_1-1}2^M > \frac{1}{2}N_0^{d_1}$ ,  $g(N_0) < N_0^{d_0} + dN_0^{d_0-1}2^M < \frac{3}{2}N_0^{d_0}$ . Thus,  $q(N_0) > \frac{1}{3}N_0^{d_1-d_0}$ . On the other hand  $f(N_0) < 2^M dN_0^{d_1}$ ,  $g(N_0) > N_0^{d_0} - dN_0^{d_0-1}2^M$ , therefore  $q(N_0) < 3 \cdot 2^M dN_0^{d_1-d_0}$ . Thus if  $q(N_0) < \frac{1}{3}$  then  $d_1 - d_0 < 0$  and  $h = [f/g] = 0$ , if  $d_1 - d_0 \geq 0$  and  $q(N_0) < \frac{1}{3}N_0$  then  $d_1 - d_0 = 0$ . Assume now that  $d_1 - d_0 > 0$ . Notice that the absolute value of each coefficient of  $\text{rem}(f, g)$  is at most  $(2^{M(d_1-d_0+2)})(d_1 - d_0 + 2)^{d_1-d_0+2}$  (see [L 82]). Calculate then  $N_1 = q(q(N_0)) > 3^{d_0-d_1-1}N_0^{(d_1-d_0)^2}$ . We claim that  $N_1$  is big enough. Indeed,  $g(N_1) > N_1^{d_0} - 2^M d_0 N_1^{d_0-1} > \frac{1}{2}N_1^{d_0}$ ,  $|\text{rem}(f, g)(N_1)| < (2^{M(d_1-d_0+2)})(d_1 - d_0 + 2)^{d_1-d_0+2}d_0 N_1^{d_0-1} < \frac{1}{4}N_1^{d_0}$ . Take an integer  $N = [N_1] + 1$ , which is also a big enough number.

Having a big enough integer  $N$ , we'll find the entier  $[f/g] = h$  by a method similar to [BT 88] (see also [GK 87]), which one can call an approximative polynomial interpolation. We compute  $q(N), q(N^2), \dots, q(N^{2t})$  and take the nearest integers to them, respectively,  $A_1, \dots, A_{2t}$ . Then  $A_i = h(N^i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 2t$ , since  $N$  is big enough, and one can apply BCH-codes (as in [BT 88]) to recover the powers of  $X$  occurring in  $h$ , and also the coefficients.

Arithmetic complexity of the whole procedure for finding entier  $h$  is  $(t \log d)^{O(1)}$  and the parallel time  $O(\log t \log \log d)$ .

**Acknowledgment:** We thank Mike Singer for the number of interesting discussions.

## References

- [BS 83] Baur, W., Strassen, V., *The Complexity of Partial Derivatives*, Theor. Comput. Sci., 1983, 22, pp. 317–330.
- [BC 86] Beame, P. W., Cook, S. A., Hoover, H. J., *Log Depth Circuits for Division and Related Problems*, SIAM J. Comput., 1986, 15, pp. 994–1003.
- [BT 88] Ben-Or, M., Tiwari, P., *A Deterministic Algorithm For Sparse Multivariate Polynomial Interpolation*, Proc. STOC ACM, 1988, pp. 301–309.
- [CG 82] Chistov, A. L., Grigoriev, D. Yu., *Polynomial-Time Factoring Multivariable Polynomials Over a Global Field*, Preprint LOMI, E-5-82, Leningrad, 1982.
- [C 85] Cook, S. A., *A Taxonomy of Problems with Fast Parallel Algorithms*, Information and Control 64 (1985), pp. 2–22.
- [DG 91] Dress, A., Grabmeier, J., *The Interpolation Problem for  $k$ -sparse Polynomials and Character Sums*, in Adv. App. Math. 12 (1991), pp. 57–75.
- [GK 87] Grigoriev, D. Yu., Karpinski, M., *The Matching Problem for Bipartite Graphs with Polynomially Bounded Permanents is in NC*, Proc. 28<sup>th</sup> IEEE FOCS (1987), pp. 166–172.
- [GKS 90] Grigoriev, D. Yu., Karpinski, M., Singer, M., *Interpolation of Sparse Rational Functions Without Knowing Bounds on Exponents*, Proc. 31<sup>st</sup> IEEE FOCS 1990, pp. 840–846.
- [GKS 91] Grigoriev, D. Yu., Karpinski, M., Singer, M., *The Interpolation Problem for  $k$ -Sparse Sums of Eigenfunctions of Operators*, in Adv. Appl. Math. 12 (1991), pp. 76–81.
- [KT 88] Kaltofen E., Trager, B., *Computing with Polynomials Given by Black Boxes for Their*

- Evaluations: Greatest Common Divisors, Factorization, Separation of Numerators and Denominators*, Proc. 29<sup>th</sup> IEEE FOCS 1988, pp. 296–305.
- [KR 90] Karp, R. M. and Ramachandran, V. L., *A Survey of Parallel Algorithms for Shared-Memory Machines*, Research Report No. UCB/CSD 88/407, University of California, Berkeley; in *Handbook of Theoretical Computer Science*, MIT Press (1990), pp. 870–941.
- [K 89] Karpinski, M., *Boolean Circuit Complexity of Algebraic Interpolation Problems*, Technical Report TR-89-027, International Computer Science Institute, Berkeley (1989); in Proc. CSL '88, *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* 385 (1989), Springer-Verlag, pp. 138–147.
- [L 82] Loos, R., *Generalized Polynomial Remainder Sequences*, in: “Computer Algebra”, Springer, 1982, pp. 115–137.
- [MS 81] Mac Williams, F. J., Sloan, N. J. A., *The Theory of Error Correcting Codes*, North-Holland, 1981.
- [M 86] Mulmuley, K., *A Fast Parallel Algorithm to Compute the Rank of a Matrix Over an Arbitrary Field*, Proc STOC ACM, 1986.
- [P 77a] Plaisted, D., *Sparse Complex Polynomials and Polynomial Reducibility*, *J. Comput. System Sci.* 14 (1977), pp. 210–221
- [P 77b] Plaisted, D., *New NP-Hard and NP-Complete Polynomial and Integer Divisibility Problems*, Proc. 18<sup>th</sup> IEEE FOCS (1977), pp. 241–253.