

Algebraic approach to discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization

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Abstract. In this paper we propose an algebraic approach to the discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization problem, which has a significant importance in signal processing and control for finite dimensional linear systems. We also attempt to generalize the approach and establish a new framework of symbolic optimization of algebraic functions that is relevant to possibly a wide variety of practical application areas. The crucial aspects of the framework are the suitable use of algebraic methods coupled with the discovery and exploitation of structural properties of the problem in the conversion process into the framework, and the feasibility of algebraic methods when performing the optimization. Two examples are also included to demonstrate the significance and relevance of the proposed approach and framework.

Keywords. Polynomial spectral factorization, discrete-time systems, parametric optimization, Gröbner basis, quantifier elimination

1. INTRODUCTION

Whilst numerical computation based on floating-point arithmetic is prevalent in the applied science and engineering fields, algebraic methods and algebraic algorithms have been attracting much attention from those application areas due to computed results of different quality such approaches can potentially offer. The early days saw results of theoretical interest, but even a tiny toy problem could hardly be solved because of lack of effective algorithms and implementation and also because of the limited computation power available at that time. Algorithmic development, coupled with the ever increasing computation capability, made it possible to find solutions for (sometimes more than) toy problems. The achievement further stimulated both computer algebraists and people on the application side. Solution for larger, more realistic problems has been envisaged and formulation of a wider class of practical problems in the algebraic framework pursued.

In this paper an algebraic approach is developed for the discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization problem, which is a fundamental mathematical tool in signal processing and control for finite dimensional linear systems. The proposed approach is applied to a particular control problem so-called “ \mathcal{H}_2 regulation problem” which frequently appears in a research area of the characterization of performance limitations [1] to demonstrate the effectiveness and applicability of our framework.

This paper also attempts to establish a new framework of symbolic optimization which encompasses the approach to discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization and an optimization framework and moreover has relevance to practical problems. Emphasized in the development is the sig-

nificance of the appropriate use of algebraic methods and of the discovery of structural properties inherent in original problems in the application areas. More specifically algebraic methods play a vital rôle in converting the original problem into the suggested optimization framework and moreover in solving the resulting optimization problem. As an example we consider a particular control problem which falls into the framework, but the framework in fact encompasses a wide class of problems in signal processing and control. The authors believe that a large number of problems from the application side can be dealt with in a similar fashion and that the framework indeed embraces an extensive area of problems of practical significance. It is thus hoped that this paper will stimulate the research in various fields of application and also the computer algebra community into the search of latent structures and exciting algorithmic improvements.

This work is based on an earlier work published in [2] and is its complete version. In particular the proof of Lemma 2, which is a key lemma in the solution approach proposed in this paper, is provided.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to the formulation of the new framework this paper proposes, and some discussions are given on how to achieve the framework and to solve the formulated optimization problem effectively. Section 3 then considers the main theme of the paper, namely, the discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization problem, and discusses that the solution approach can help convert various problems in signal processing and control into the suggested framework, indicating the relevance of the framework in the context of the solution of problems arising from application fields. Then two examples are given for demonstration purposes in

Section 4. Some concluding remarks are made in Section 5.

2. NEW FRAMEWORK OF SYMBOLIC OPTIMIZATION

In this section we present a new framework of symbolic optimization which covers a wide range of practical engineering problems including the discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization problem studied in the next section.

Before discussing the framework we briefly mention main algebraic methods employed in this paper. Two algebraic techniques most commonly relied upon to solve problems from applied fields may be Gröbner bases and quantifier elimination (QE). After the formal establishment of the notion of Gröbner bases, endeavours based on Gröbner basis theory have been made for the solution of various problems. For instance the power of Gröbner basis theory is exerted to observe the structure of the solution set of algebraic equations [3], and also to reduce the number of variables (or elucidate free variables) for parameterization of solutions [4]. The technique of QE, originated by Tarski in 1950s, has a long history of application examples, but more recently benefits from the algorithmic development [5, 6, 7, 8] and easy-to-use implementation [9] and also from the computation capability of modern computers. Typical usages of QE include computation of algebraic expressions for feasible regions of parameters [10, 11, 12, 13, 14] and (possibly non-convex) optimization of a cost function which is rational in parameters under some algebraic constraints on parameters [15, 16, 17]. Possibilities of other methods are explored as well and new application examples have been constantly appearing [18].

However, in order to make such algebraic methods more useful in practice, it is of crucial importance to greatly reduce computation time and moreover to allow treatment of a wider class of problems that are relevant to practical applications. For the reduction of the computation burden, it is never sufficient to solely expect improvements in algorithms. Extensive efforts are also to be made to pursue methods that exploit the structural properties of the problems which are being solved, and furthermore the discovery of better representations of the problems that reveal desirable structures is to be made. More importantly several techniques need to be organically blended so that sundry problems of practical significance may be formulated appropriately in the algebraic framework.

2.1. PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this subsection a new framework of symbolic optimization is proposed that may overcome current limitations and proceed in the direction mentioned above. The purpose is twofold:

- to show the significance of combining various algebraic techniques in reducing a practical problem to the new framework of symbolic optimization suggested here and further performing optimization; and

- to indicate that the suggested framework has relevance to practical problems by giving a particular example in control.

The suggested formulation is written as

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} \text{maximize/minimize } \phi(\mathbf{p}) \\ \text{subject to } \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}) \end{cases}$$

where $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots)$ is a vector of real parameters, $\phi(\mathbf{p}) \in L$ with $L/\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$ being a finite algebraic extension of $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$, and $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p})$ is a set of algebraic constraints on \mathbf{p} . In this paper we call $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ a real algebraic function for simplicity. Namely, $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ is a rational function in ζ and \mathbf{p} , where ζ is some algebraic number defined as a particular root of a minimal polynomial over $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$. By \mathcal{F} , the feasible region of parameters are specified algebraically, e.g., $-1 \leq p_1 < 2$ or $p_1^2 + 2p_2^2 \leq 1$. Furthermore, as a special case of (1), we consider the situation where the cost function $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ is the *largest real root* of a polynomial whose coefficients are polynomials/rational functions in \mathbf{p} .

The problem formulation (1) may be in fact contained in a general framework stated in [15], but there are two distinctive points in our framework: (i) formulation in this way and (ii) solution of this optimization problem. It can hardly be expected that a realistic optimization problem arising from a practical application is readily given in the form of (1). Indeed it is often the case that a practical problem is tackled by solving a series of equations and thus that the input to an equation depends on the output (i.e., solution) of the preceding equations. With parameters the situation is more problematic. Algebraic methods can assist reformulation of the original optimization problem in the form of (1). By way of an example we will see that sophisticated Gröbner basis techniques turn a control problem into this form.

2.2. TOWARDS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

It goes without saying that the computation cost is always the issue when an algebraic method is utilized. We therefore point out the significance of the exploitation of structural properties of the problem and of the pursuit of more desirable parametrization of variables for accomplishing this part, which cannot be overstressed.

Once converted into (1), various optimization algorithms, both numerical and algebraic [19], may be applicable, and extensive efforts have been made for improvement of the efficacy of such algorithms. It is indicated that this optimization can also be performed by means of the QE approach [15, 16, 17]. The optimization problem in (1) is in general non-convex and thus it is not an easy task for a numerical optimization algorithm to find the global optimum. Algebraic methods based on, e.g., QE have an advantage that they can in principle find the global optimum. This paper shows that a wide class of realistic practical problems can be formulated as in (1) and thus that QE-based

optimization has immense significance in the application field.

More specifically, write $\phi(\mathbf{p}) = \bar{\phi}(\zeta, \mathbf{p})$, where ζ is defined as a particular real root of a polynomial over $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$ and $\bar{\phi}(\zeta, \mathbf{p})$ is a rational function in ζ and \mathbf{p} . That ζ is a particular real root can be stated in an equivalent condition on ζ that there are a particular number of real roots between ζ and $+\infty$. Therefore, ζ can be specified algebraically by way of the defining polynomial and the condition from the Sturm-Habicht sequence [20]; see [16, 21, 23] for more details. The optimization problem is thus stated as a QE problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists \zeta \exists \mathbf{p} (\eta = \bar{\phi}(\zeta, \mathbf{p}) \wedge \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}) \\ & \wedge [\text{Condition from the Sturm-Habicht sequence}]) . \end{aligned}$$

After the elimination of variables ζ and \mathbf{p} , the condition only on η results, which indicates the range of the values $\bar{\phi}(\zeta, \mathbf{p})$ (equivalently, $\phi(\mathbf{p})$) can take when parameters \mathbf{p} change subject to $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p})$. It is immediate to find the minimum/maximum of $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ from the result.

We point out that, in this part, further exploitation of structural properties is also possible for speeding up optimization when $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ is defined as the largest real root of a polynomial over $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$. Indeed an efficient symbolic method for solving the optimization problem with the help of a specialized version of cylindrical algebraic decomposition (CAD) [6], which is a fundamental algorithm of QE, is proposed and successfully applied to solve several practical control problems in [22, 23]. This further expands the practical applicability of algebraic approaches.

It is emphasized here that all the points stated above have a significant meaning to practical applications and are indispensable for devising effective algebraic approaches. Indeed control problems considered in [16, 21, 24] are suitably transformed in the form of (1) and also solved via the QE-based optimization approach. In Section 3, we see another example of a control problem that falls into the framework suggested in this section. It is believed that these problems are convincing evidences of the versatility of this framework.

3. DISCRETE-TIME POLYNOMIAL SPECTRAL FACTORIZATION

The problem of polynomial spectral factorization is of crucial importance in signal processing [25] and control [26] for finite dimensional linear systems. The pursuit of its solution approaches thus has a long history [27]. Early results include approaches using constant matrix factorization or the Newton-Raphson method. A typical approach in recent times may be to reduce the problem to an algebraic Riccati equation and solve it by means of numerical linear algebra. The authors of this paper pointed out an intriguing and useful relationship between the *continuous-time* polynomial spectral factorization and Gröbner basis theory [28] and discussed an algebraic approach to parametric

polynomial spectral factorization based on this discovery [16, 21]. The key ingredient in this approach is a quantity called the sum of roots (SoR), and it is further indicated that this quantity also has an essential meaning in control theory [24].

This section develops a similar algebraic approach to the *discrete-time* case. Since modern signal processing and control systems utilize digital computers to fulfill severe requirements for high-level performances and accomplish complicated tasks, analysis and synthesis of discrete-time systems have become of practical significance [29]. It is thus beneficial to develop mathematical tools for discrete-time systems.

In general, given a result for the *continuous-time* case, a conceivable approach is to make use of the bilinear transform (Tustin transform) [29], which is a conformal mapping that transforms the *continuous-time* representation to the *discrete-time* one and vice versa. Indeed this approach works for the polynomial spectral factorization problem, and parametric *discrete-time* polynomial spectral factorization is feasible via the approach to the *continuous-time* counterpart. There is however a drawback in such an approach because it may obscure a fundamental quantity in the discrete-time domain.

The aim of this section is thus to develop a more direct method for parametric *discrete-time* polynomial spectral factorization which preserves a quantity that has an essential meaning in control theory, just like the SoR in the *continuous-time* case. The development turns out to be analogous to the continuous-time case [16, 21] and the approach is fairly effective. Nevertheless it is emphasized that this analogy is achieved by means of a novel parametrization. The development is thus believed to serve as a persuasive evidence for the importance of seeking nice representations.

3.1. PROBLEM FORMULATION

Consider the polynomial¹ of degree $2n$ in $\mathbb{R}[x]$ of the following form:

$$(2) \quad f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0 + \frac{a_1}{x} + \cdots + \frac{a_{n-1}}{x^{n-1}} + \frac{a_n}{x^n}, \quad a_n \neq 0,$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Here, for the brevity of the exposition, we first assume that the coefficients of $f(x)$ are real constants and do not contain parameters. The discussion on the parametric case is deferred until Subsection 3.3. The polynomial $f(x)$ is called *self-reciprocal* since $f(x)$ and its reciprocal polynomial², $f(\frac{1}{x})$, are coincident:

$$f(x) = f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right).$$

¹The polynomial (2) is obviously *not* a polynomial, but it can be easily converted to a polynomial: $x^n f(x)$. We thus regard (2) as a polynomial to follow the convention in signal processing and control and also to simplify the notation in the development in this paper.

²Again, to be precise, this is *not* a polynomial, but we also consider this one as a polynomial.

Suppose that $f(x)$ has no roots of unit modulus, i.e., has no roots on the unit circle. Due to the self-reciprocal property, if α is a root of $f(x)$, then so is $\frac{1}{\alpha}$. All the roots are situated symmetrically about the unit circle and there are n roots each inside and outside the unit circle. The task in the discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization problem is to decompose $f(x)$ as a product of two polynomials, a polynomial that captures all the roots inside the unit circle (namely, ‘stable’ roots) and its reciprocal.

Definition 1. The *spectral factorization* of $f(x)$ in (2) is a decomposition of $f(x)$ of the following form:

$$(3) \quad f(x) = g(x)g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right),$$

where

$$(4) \quad g(x) = b_n x^n + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + b_1 x + b_0 \in \mathbb{R}[x], \quad b_n > 0,$$

has roots strictly *inside* the unit circle only. The polynomial $g(x)$ is called the *spectral factor* of $f(x)$.

Some investigation on the structural properties of the problem is made. Let $\alpha_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, be the n roots of $f(x)$ inside the unit circle (i.e., $|\alpha_i| < 1$). The remaining n roots located outside of the unit circle can then be written as $\frac{1}{\alpha_i}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Using α_i 's, we can express $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ as

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} f(x) &= a_n \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \alpha_i) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\alpha_i x}\right), \\ g(x) &= b_n \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \alpha_i). \end{aligned}$$

Unlike the continuous-time case, the leading coefficient b_n of $g(x)$ is not immediately determined from $f(x)$, but, comparing the leading coefficients of the both sides of (3), we can observe the following relationship:

$$(6) \quad a_n = b_n b_0 = b_n^2 \prod_{i=1}^n (-\alpha_i).$$

Now, just as the SoR in the continuous-time case, let us introduce the quantity called the *product of roots* (PoR):

$$(7) \quad \pi := (-\alpha_1)(-\alpha_2) \cdots (-\alpha_n).$$

The naming may be obvious since π is the product of roots of $g(x)$ up to sign. As will be seen below, π is a crucial quantity in carrying out discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization. Since $|\alpha_i| < 1$, and also any non-real root of $f(x)$ (resp., $g(x)$) has its complex conjugate as a root of $f(x)$ (resp., $g(x)$) and their product becomes real, the following fact is immediately derived.

Fact 1. The quantity π is real and its modulus (absolute value) is strictly less than 1.

A naïve approach to polynomial spectral factorization may be to first calculate the roots α_i 's of $f(x)$ inside the

unit circle, compute b_n from (6) and then construct $g(x)$ using (5). Our main target is nevertheless parametric $f(x)$ and we pursue an algebraic approach that computes π without explicitly finding α_i 's. Also the approach is expected to reduce the polynomial spectral factorization problem in essence to the computation of π , just as in the continuous-time case where the crucial part of the approach is to obtain the SoR. In preparation for the development some polynomials which has π as one of their roots are introduced.

Definition 2. Let $\mathcal{P} = \{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n) \mid \epsilon_i \in \{1, -1\}\}$, and $C(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n) = (-\alpha_1)^{\epsilon_1} \cdot (-\alpha_2)^{\epsilon_2} \cdots (-\alpha_n)^{\epsilon_n}$ for each $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n)$ in \mathcal{P} . The *characteristic polynomial* $S_f(y)$ of π is defined as

$$S_f(y) = \prod_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n) \in \mathcal{P}} (y - C(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n)).$$

Notice that

$$\pi = C(1, 1, \dots, 1),$$

and the degree of $S_f(y)$ is 2^n . It is further noted that $S_f(y)$ belongs to $\mathbb{R}[y]$. In the case where $f(x)$ belongs to $\mathbb{Q}[x]$, $S_f(y)$ belongs to $\mathbb{Q}[y]$, as well (while $g(x) \notin \mathbb{Q}[x]$ in general).

The following lemma can be deduced in a manner analogous to the continuous-time case.

Lemma 1. The PoR π defined in (7) coincides with the real root of $S_f(y)$ with the smallest modulus. Moreover, under the assumption that $f(x)$ does not have roots on the unit circle, π is always a simple root.

In the discrete-time case we are dealing with in this section, we need an extra trick to facilitate solution of the polynomial spectral factorization problem. Using π , we can write the relationship in (6) as

$$(8) \quad b_n^2 = \frac{a_n}{\pi} \quad \left(\pi = \frac{a_n}{b_n^2}\right).$$

Then,

$$(9) \quad \tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y}) := \tilde{y}^{2^{n+1}} S_f\left(\frac{a_n}{\tilde{y}^2}\right)$$

is a polynomial in \tilde{y} of degree 2^{n+1} whose largest real root is equal to b_n (remember that we assume that $b_n > 0$). Also, b_n is always a simple root of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ when $f(x)$ has not roots on the unit circle.

The relationship (8) permits us to treat π and b_n interchangeably. The advantage of dealing with b_n (rather than π) is twofold: it allows us to solve the problem of polynomial spectral factorization effectively by means of Gröbner bases, which we will see in the following subsection; and the quantity b_n is directly related to some essential quantity in control theory [30].

The next subsection develops an algebraic approach to the problem of discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization. Since the structure of roots of $f(x)$ is clear, we can make an extensive use of its properties we have investigated in this subsection. We stress here the importance of the discovery of useful structural properties and the exploitation thereof for acquiring effective algebraic approaches.

3.2. SOLUTION APPROACH

If we compare the coefficients of the both sides of (3), a system of quadratic polynomial equations in b_i 's is obtained. Write as \bar{g}_k the coefficient of the k -th order term of $g(x)g(\frac{1}{x}) - f(x)$, that is,

$$(10) \quad g(x)g\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - f(x) = \sum_{k=-n}^n \bar{g}_{|k|} x^k .$$

Then, for each k , $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, we have

$$(11) \quad \bar{g}_k = \sum_{i=0}^{n-k} b_i b_{i+k} - a_k .$$

The polynomial spectral factorization problem thus reduces to finding a particular zero of an ideal. Considering b_i , $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$, as variables and letting $\mathbf{B}_0 = \{b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n\}$, we have an ideal $\langle \mathcal{G}_0 \rangle$ in $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}_0]$ generated by $\mathcal{G}_0 = \{\bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n\}$. Then each zero of $\langle \mathcal{G}_0 \rangle$ corresponds to the sign of b_n and $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n) \in \mathcal{P}$ through the relationships $g(x) = b_n \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \alpha_i^{\epsilon_i})$ and $a_n = b_n^2 \prod_{i=1}^n (-\alpha_i^{\epsilon_i})$. Hence the ideal $\langle \mathcal{G}_0 \rangle$ is 0 dimensional and has at most 2^{n+1} distinct zeros.

In the *continuous-time* case, the set of polynomials derived in an analogous fashion forms a Gröbner basis of the ideal generated by itself and we can immediately employ various results from Gröbner basis theory [28, 16]. Unfortunately the same is not true for the *discrete-time* case under investigation. However we can show that a different representation of the coefficients of $g(x)$ and some manipulation of the set of polynomials yield a desired Gröbner basis.

Another representation of $g(x)$ we use is

$$(12) \quad g(x) = \beta_n (x+1)^n + \beta_{n-1} (x+1)^{n-1} + \dots + \beta_0 .$$

Notice that b_i and β_j are related as

$$(13) \quad b_i = \sum_{j=i}^n \binom{j}{i} \beta_j$$

$$\beta_j = \sum_{i=j}^n \binom{i}{j} (-1)^{i-j} b_i, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, n ,$$

where $\binom{j}{i}$ is the binomial coefficient for $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$. Denote $\{\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$ by \mathbf{B} . Then the conversion between \mathbf{B}_0 and \mathbf{B} is linear and there is a one-to-one relationship. Also notice that $\beta_n = b_n (> 0)$, and we develop our approach around β_n .

We can transform each $\bar{g}_k(\mathbf{B}_0)$ to a polynomial in \mathbf{B} , which we denote by $\bar{g}_k(\mathbf{B})$. The set of polynomials $\{\bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n\}$ is still not a Gröbner basis, but a Gröbner basis can be computed in a very simple manner from \bar{g}_k without resorting to algorithms such as Buchberger's algo-

rithm. Let $c_{k,\ell}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, $k \leq \ell \leq n$, be

$$\begin{cases} c_{k,k} = 1 & k = 0, 1, \dots, n, \\ c_{0,\ell} = (-1)^\ell 2 & \ell = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ c_{k,\ell} = (-1)^{k+\ell} \cdot \frac{2}{(2k)!} \cdot \frac{(k+\ell-1)!}{(\ell-k)!} \cdot \ell & \begin{cases} k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ k < \ell \leq n. \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Lemma 2. *Let*

(14)

$$\bar{g}_k := \sum_{\ell=k}^n c_{k,\ell} \bar{g}_\ell \quad \left(= \bar{g}_k + \sum_{\ell=k+1}^n c_{k,\ell} \bar{g}_\ell \right), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n .$$

Then the set of polynomials

$$(15) \quad \mathcal{G} := \{\bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n\} ,$$

forms the reduced Gröbner basis of the ideal generated by $\{\bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n\}$ in $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]$ with respect to the graded reverse lexicographic order $\beta_n \succ \beta_{n-1} \succ \dots \succ \beta_0$, with β_k^2 being the leading monomial of \bar{g}_k . (The leading coefficients are 1.)

The proof is given in the Appendix.

We call the ideal $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$ of $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]$ the *ideal of spectral factorization*. The set of the leading monomials of the elements of \mathcal{G} is $\{\beta_0^2, \beta_1^2, \dots, \beta_n^2\}$. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{LB} := \{\beta_0^{d_0} \beta_1^{d_1} \dots \beta_n^{d_n} \mid d_k \in \{0, 1\}\}$$

forms a basis of the residue class ring $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]/\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$ as an \mathbb{R} -linear space, and $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]/\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle = \#\mathcal{LB} = 2^{n+1}$. These facts lead to the following lemma.

Lemma 3. *The ideal of spectral factorization is 0 dimensional and the number of its zeros with multiplicities counted is 2^{n+1} .*

Once this ideal of spectral factorization is established based on the unconventional representation (12) of $g(x)$, the rest of the development follows essentially in the same line as the *continuous-time* case. Here some vital points are presented. Readers are referred to [21, 16] for full details of the continuous-time case. If $f(x)$ does not have multiple roots, there are exactly 2^n distinct possible root combinations and thus 2^{n+1} different polynomials $g(x)$ that satisfy (3). This also implies that there are exactly 2^{n+1} zeros of $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$. The 'true' $g(x)$, namely the spectral factor, corresponds to a zero with the largest real β_n . In order to simplify the search for this particular zero, we convert the Gröbner basis \mathcal{G} into the so-called shape basis.

The ideal of spectral factorization for the discrete-time system has two cases, the *generic* case and the *singular* case, just as for the continuous-time system. Almost all $f(x)$ arising from practical applications fall into the *generic* case and we mainly discuss the generic case; some remark on the *singular* case will be made at the end of this subsection.

Definition 3. Given $f(x)$, when distinct $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n) \in \mathcal{P}$ give distinct $C(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n)$, we call the situation a *generic case*. Otherwise it is called a *singular case*.

In either case we can show by using ‘generic coefficient’ and Lemma 4 in the next subsection that $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ in (9) is identical to the characteristic polynomial of β_n modulo $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$, i.e., the characteristic polynomial of the linear map derived from the multiplication map [31]:

$$\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]/\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle \ni g \rightarrow \beta_n g \in \mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]/\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle .$$

Moreover, in the generic case, $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ is square-free and its degree is 2^{n+1} . Noting that the ideal of spectral factorization has at most 2^{n+1} distinct zeros, we can immediately deduce that β_n is a separating element [32]. Due to the facts that $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$ is 0 dimensional and radical and that β_n is a separating element, we can obtain a special Gröbner basis called the *shape basis* in the discrete-time case as well.

Theorem 2. *In the generic case the ideal of spectral factorization has a Gröbner basis so-called shape basis with respect to any elimination ordering $\{\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_{n-1}\} \succ \beta_n$:*

$$\mathcal{F} := \{ \tilde{S}_f(\beta_n), \beta_{n-1} - \tilde{h}_{n-1}(\beta_n), \dots, \beta_0 - \tilde{h}_0(\beta_n) \} ,$$

where \tilde{S}_f is a polynomial of degree exactly 2^{n+1} and \tilde{h}_i 's are polynomials of degree strictly less than 2^{n+1} .

The theorem guarantees that, in the discrete-time case, just like the continuous-time case, all the coefficients of the spectral factor can be expressed as polynomials in β_n and therefore that the problem of polynomial spectral factorization can in essence be solved by finding the largest real root of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$. Last but not least, since \mathcal{G} is already a Gröbner basis, we can effectively compute a shape basis from \mathcal{G} by way of the basis conversion (change-of-order) technique [32].

Here it should be emphasized that the proposed approach has properties favourable to practical applications. A Gröbner basis with respect to the graded reverse lexicographic order is obtained almost instantly from the problem formulation and the investigation of the properties of the ideal is thus possible. It is then seen that a shape basis is obtainable, and that relatively easily. Lastly we only have to examine the largest real root of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$. A typical scenario is that one needs to resort to an expensive calculation to derive a shape basis and then one has to investigate all the roots of the characteristic polynomial in search of the true solution. Those advantages are acquired by discovering the representation (12) that yields helpful structural properties.

Before closing this subsection we briefly discuss the *singular* case, where the characteristic polynomial $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ has multiple roots. Even in this case we are still able to derive a shape basis in the same manner as in [21]. The key point is to add the *simple part* $\tilde{T}(\tilde{y})$ of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ to the ideal, where the simple part $\tilde{T}(\tilde{y})$ is the factor of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$ obtained as the product of $\tilde{y} - \gamma_i$ for all simple roots γ_i of $\tilde{S}_f(\tilde{y})$. Note that $\tilde{T}(\tilde{y})$ can be computed by GCD of \tilde{S}_f and its derivative. Then we can show the following.

Theorem 3. *The ideal $\langle \mathcal{G}, \tilde{T}(\beta_n) \rangle$ has a shape basis with respect to any elimination ordering $\{\beta_0, \dots, \beta_{n-1}\} \succ \beta_n$:*

$$\{ \tilde{T}(\beta_n), \beta_{n-1} - \tilde{h}_{n-1}(\beta_n), \dots, \beta_0 - \tilde{h}_0(\beta_n) \} ,$$

where \tilde{h}_i 's are polynomials of degree strictly less than that of \tilde{T} .

3.3. PARAMETRIC CASE

This section deals with the case where each coefficient a_k is some polynomial in real parameters $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m)$ over \mathbb{Q} . Now the polynomial $f(x)$ is considered as a multivariate one $f(x, \mathbf{p})$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x, \mathbf{p}]$. Even in the parametric case it often happens that the ideal of spectral factorization is generic for almost all combinations of parameter values. In such a case we can apply efficient *parametric basis conversion*, where we can compute the shape basis directly over the rational function field of parameters, as pointed out in [21] (See also Remark 1 below). Nevertheless we need to pay special attention to singular situations so that optimization that follows may be carried out thoroughly. It is shown here that such singularities can also be dealt with systematically. To this end the notion of ‘comprehensive Gröbner system’ is crucial and we can apply several techniques for its computation.

For each element $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m)$ in \mathbb{R}^m , we denote by $\varphi_{\mathbf{c}}$ the ring homomorphism from $\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{p}][\mathbf{B}]$ to $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]$ obtained by substitution of \mathbf{p} with \mathbf{c} . For simplicity we denote by $f_{\mathbf{c}}(x)$ the polynomial $\varphi_{\mathbf{c}}(f) (= f(x, \mathbf{c}))$. To perform spectral factorization, we consider the following semi-algebraic set.

Definition 4. A semi-algebraic set $\mathbf{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is called a *regular region* if, for any $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{C}$, $a_n(\mathbf{c}) \neq 0$ and there exist no roots of unit modulus in $f_{\mathbf{c}}(x)$.

In the same way as the continuous-time case, the condition that f has no roots of unit modulus can be computed by the *quantifier elimination technique* or *real root counting* methods. Notice that a polynomial in x over \mathbb{R} has a root of unit modulus if and only if it has a factor of the form of $x^2 + cx + 1$, $x - 1$, or $x + 1$ over \mathbb{R} . Due to the special structure (2), factors such as $x - 1$ and $x + 1$ in fact appear in $f(x)$ as their squares and thus are represented by $x^2 + cx + 1$. Substitute c with a new variable z . Then the resultant of $x^n f(x)$ and $x^2 + zx + 1$ becomes a polynomial $R(z)$ in z over $\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{p}]$. It can be shown that, for a parameter value $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\varphi_{\mathbf{c}}(f)$ has no roots of unit modulus if and only if $\varphi_{\mathbf{c}}(R(z))$ has no real roots.

Now assume that \mathbf{C} is a regular region for $f(x, \mathbf{p})$. We can compute the polynomial set \mathcal{G} as in Lemma 2, where all polynomials are treated as ones over $\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{p}]$. Also, for each $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{C}$, we can compute the polynomial set, say $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{c}}$, for $f_{\mathbf{c}}$ as in Lemma 2. Then, $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{c}} = \varphi_{\mathbf{c}}(\mathcal{G})$. Lemma 2 now implies that \mathcal{G} and $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{c}}$ are still Gröbner bases over $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})$ and \mathbb{Q} for ideals generated by themselves with respect to the graded reverse lexicographic order $\beta_n \succ \dots \succ \beta_0$.

We now consider the ideal $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$ of spectral factorization in $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbf{p})[\mathbf{B}]$ and the ideal $\langle \mathcal{G}_{\mathbf{c}} \rangle$ of spectral factorization in $\mathbb{R}[\mathbf{B}]$.

Basis conversion then yields a shape basis:

$$(17) \quad \left\{ \beta_2^8 - \frac{13}{16}\beta_2^6 - \frac{9}{64}\beta_2^4 - \frac{13}{256}\beta_2^2 + \frac{1}{256}, \right. \\ \beta_1 + \frac{128}{5}\beta_2^7 - \frac{136}{5}\beta_2^5 + \frac{16}{5}\beta_2^3 - \frac{1}{10}\beta_2, \\ \left. \beta_0 + \frac{192}{5}\beta_2^7 - \frac{124}{5}\beta_2^5 - \frac{61}{5}\beta_2^3 - \frac{43}{20}\beta_2 \right\}.$$

Notice that the first element is a polynomial in β_2 only. Also the second (resp., third) element has β_1 (resp., β_0) in linear form.

The largest real root of the first element of (17) is 1, which gives $\beta_1 = -\frac{3}{2}$, $\beta_0 = \frac{3}{4}$. Thus the spectral factor is obtained as

$$g(x) = (x+1)^2 - \frac{3}{2}(x+1) + \frac{3}{4} = x^2 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{4}.$$

Indeed it can be verified that $g(x)$ satisfies $f(x) = g(x)g(\frac{1}{x})$ and also has roots inside the unit circle.

4.2. \mathcal{H}_2 REGULATION PROBLEM

This subsection considers a particular control problem which is called the \mathcal{H}_2 regulation problem with input penalty, one of the problems often employed in a research direction in control called the characterization of performance limitations [1]. The problem is formulated as follows. In the feedback configuration in Figure 1, $P(z)$ is a plant, i.e., a dynamical system we want to control, and $K(z)$ is a controller that we have to design. The disturbance signal $d(k)$ is taken to be a unit pulse signal:

$$d(k) = \begin{cases} 1 & k = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The cost function we employ is

$$E := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (|y(k)|^2 + |u(k)|^2).$$

The task is then to find a controller that achieves the smallest value of E among all stabilizing controllers and also the smallest value of E :

$$E^* := \min_{K \text{ stabilizing}} E.$$

Given a fixed $P(z)$, a standard numerical procedure allows us to find the value of E^* and the controller that achieves this. Our focus is thus on a plant with parameters $P(z; \mathbf{p})$, where \mathbf{p} is a vector of real parameters that can be tuned, and we aim to find the minimum value of E^* :

$$\min_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{Q}} E^*,$$

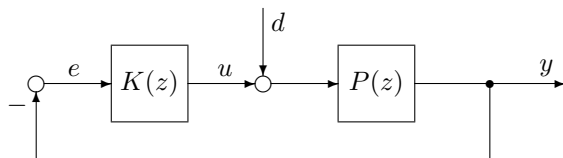


Figure 1: Unity feedback system configuration.

where \mathcal{Q} is the feasible region of \mathbf{p} , specified as $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p})$ (cf. (1)). Write an n -th order single-input-single-output plant $P(z)$ as

$$P(z) = \frac{P_N(z)}{P_D(z)},$$

where $P_N(z)$ and $P_D(z)$ are coprime polynomials and $P_D(z)$ is n -th order and monic. Construct a self-reciprocal polynomial

$$(18) \quad P_N(z)P_N\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) + P_D(z)P_D\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$$

(which corresponds to $f(x)$ in (2)), and write its spectral factor as

$$M_D(z) = m_n(z+1)^n + m_{n-1}(z+1)^{n-1} + \dots + m_0$$

(which corresponds to $g(x)$ in Definition 1 represented in the form of (12)). Under the assumptions that $P(z)$ is strictly proper and minimum-phase, it is shown that E^* can be expressed as [30]

$$(19) \quad E^* = m_n^2 - 1.$$

Notice that (19) satisfies the condition for $\phi(\mathbf{p})$ in (1) since the development in Section 3 allows us to get a polynomial which has m_n as a real root and whose coefficients are polynomial in \mathbf{p} . It is also noted that, using the expressions of m_j 's, we can get an expression for the optimal controller. Thus the essential part of the solution is to compute the shape basis for m_j 's. It is emphasized that, although it is not immediate to see the relationship between the \mathcal{H}_2 regulation problem and the problem formulation (1), Gröbner basis theory can reformulate the control problem into (1) and thus that the formulation (1) is relevant to the control problem. Other important things to be noted here are that m_n (b_n and β_n in Section 3) represents an essential quantity in control and that it is beneficial to develop a polynomial spectral factorization algorithm that directly deals with problems in the discrete-time domain.

As a numerical example we employ the following:

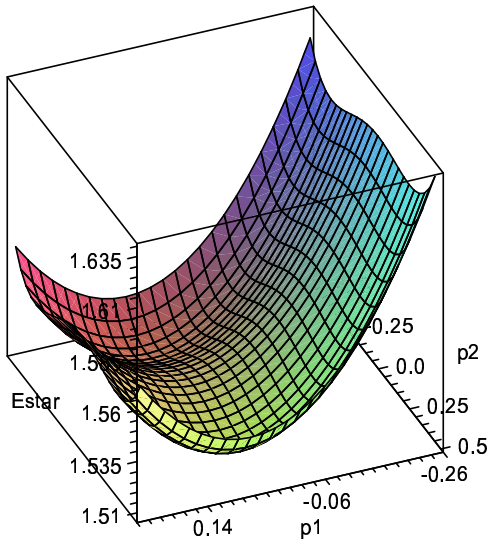
$$P(z; p_1, p_2) = \frac{z - (p_1 - \frac{1}{8})p_1}{z^2 + (1 + \frac{1}{100}p_2)z + p_2^2 + \frac{1}{4}},$$

$$(p_1, p_2) \in \mathcal{Q} := \{(p_1, p_2) \mid p_1 \in [-\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}], p_2 \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]\}.$$

Firstly it can be confirmed that the region \mathcal{Q} is regular. Comparing the coefficients of (18) and $M_D(z)M_D(\frac{1}{z})$, we obtain a set of polynomials. Using Lemma 2, we can get a Gröbner basis with respect to the graded reverse lexicographic order $m_2 \succ m_1 \succ m_0$:

$$\left\{ m_0^2 - p_1^4 - p_2^4 + \frac{1}{4}p_1^3 + \frac{1}{50}p_2^3 - \frac{129}{64}p_1^2 - \frac{5001}{10000}p_2^2 + \frac{1}{4}p_1 + \frac{1}{200}p_2 - \frac{17}{16}, \right. \\ m_1^2 - 2m_2m_0 + m_1m_0 - \frac{1}{100}p_2^3 + p_1^2 + 3p_2^2 - \frac{1}{8}p_1 - \frac{1}{80}p_2 - \frac{1}{4}, \\ \left. m_2^2 + m_2m_1 + m_2m_0 - p_2^2 - \frac{1}{4} \right\}.$$

It can further be converted into a shape basis (which is not included due to space limitation) by using the basis conversion computation over the rational function field of parameters. None of the denominators vanishes inside \mathcal{Q} and thus

Figure 2: Plot of E^* .

\mathcal{Q} is generic (see Remark 1). Lemma 4 then confirms that the first element is the correct characteristic polynomial of m_2 for all $\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{Q}$. In fact, since we are focusing on m_2 only in this problem, it suffices to construct the multiplication matrix of m_2 and to compute its characteristic polynomial. From the characteristic polynomial of m_2 , we can obtain a polynomial in λ whose largest real root is equal to m_2^2 :

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda^4 + (-p_1^4 - p_2^4 + \frac{1}{4}p_1^3 - \frac{1}{64}p_1^2 + \frac{14999}{10000}p_2^2 - \frac{1}{50}p_2 - \frac{41}{16})\lambda^3 \\ & + (-2p_1^4p_2^2 - \frac{19999}{10000}p_2^6 + \frac{1}{2}p_1^3p_2^2 - \frac{1}{50}p_1^2p_2^3 + \frac{1}{50}p_2^5 + \frac{1}{2}p_1^4 - \frac{65}{32}p_1^2p_2^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{400}p_1p_2^3 + \frac{30001}{20000}p_2^4 - \frac{1}{8}p_1^3 - \frac{1}{40}p_1^2p_2 + \frac{1}{4}p_1p_2^2 + \frac{1}{100}p_2^3 \\ & - \frac{319}{128}p_1^2 + \frac{1}{320}p_1p_2 - \frac{459983}{160000}p_2^2 + \frac{5}{16}p_1 + \frac{17}{800}p_2 + \frac{5}{32})\lambda^2 \\ & + (-p_1^4p_2^4 - p_2^8 + \frac{1}{4}p_1^3p_2^4 - \frac{1}{2}p_1^2p_2^4 - \frac{1}{64}p_1^2p_2^4 + \frac{9999}{10000}p_2^6 \\ & + \frac{1}{8}p_1^3p_2^2 - \frac{1}{50}p_2^5 - \frac{1}{16}p_1^4 - \frac{1}{128}p_1^2p_2^2 - \frac{37501}{20000}p_2^4 + \frac{1}{64}p_1^3 \\ & - \frac{1}{100}p_2^3 - \frac{1}{1024}p_1^2 - \frac{190001}{160000}p_2^2 - \frac{1}{800}p_2 - \frac{41}{256})\lambda \\ & + p_2^8 + p_2^6 + \frac{3}{8}p_2^4 + \frac{1}{16}p_2^2 + \frac{1}{256} . \end{aligned}$$

By means of a special QE algorithm [22, 23] and the relationship (19), we can find that the global optimum of E^* is

$$\min_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{Q}} E^* \simeq 1.508 ,$$

and that this is achieved at

$$\mathbf{p}_{\text{opt}} \simeq (0.0625, -0.3457) .$$

It is emphasized that the optimal value and \mathbf{p}_{opt} are the true global optimal values (cf. Figure 2) and moreover can be obtained as algebraic numbers and that they can be computed with arbitrary accuracy. The computation times required for obtaining the result are

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Computation of the shape basis :} & 0.01 \text{ [sec]} \\ \text{Optimization of } E^* : & 403.57 \text{ [sec]} \end{array}$$

by programs implemented in Maple running on a 1.33GHz PC with Intel Core Solo U1500.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has developed an algebraic approach to discrete-time polynomial spectral factorization, which is expected to find many applications in the area of signal processing. This paper has also proposed a new framework of symbolic optimization that may encompass a wide range of problems arising from practical applications. Algebraic approaches play a crucial rôle in the framework: formulation into this framework and solution of the problem formulated in this framework. Also emphasized is the significance of the exploitation of the structural properties inherent (sometimes in an obscure way) in the problem.

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APPENDIX: PROOF OF LEMMA 2

Firstly the conversion between \bar{g}_i and \bar{g}_k are linear and also triangular, and \bar{g}_i 's can also be expressed as linear combinations of \bar{g}_k 's. Therefore the ideals $\langle \bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n \rangle$ and $\langle \bar{g}_0, \bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n \rangle$ are identical. So it is sufficient to show that \mathcal{G} is the reduced Gröbner basis of the ideal generated by itself.

We first show that \mathcal{G} is a Gröbner basis. Each \bar{g}_k is quadratic and contains terms β_ℓ^2 , $k \leq \ell \leq n$, but not $\beta_{\ell'}^2$, $0 \leq \ell' < k$. Also the coefficient of the term β_k^2 in \bar{g}_k is 1. These facts imply that \bar{g}_k is quadratic and contains terms β_ℓ^2 , $k \leq \ell \leq n$ (but not $\beta_{\ell'}^2$, $0 \leq \ell' < k$), with the coefficient of β_k^2 being 1. Moreover Claim A below states that, when constructing \bar{g}_k , the coefficients of term $\beta_i\beta_j$, $k \leq i \leq j \leq n$, become 0 except for $i = j = k$, namely, all the terms bigger than β_k^2 disappear. Therefore the leading monomial of \bar{g}_k is β_k^2 . (It is also noted that \bar{g}_k does not have monomials of the form β_ℓ^2 except β_k^2 .) Furthermore the leading monomials of any pair of polynomials in \mathcal{G} are prime to each other. Thus Buchberger’s criterion [35, Section 2-2, Theorem 6] is satisfied, and \mathcal{G} is a Gröbner basis of $\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$.

Now the reducedness of the basis is proven. For any $\bar{g}_k \in \mathcal{G}$,

$$(20) \quad \langle \text{LT}(\mathcal{G} - \{\bar{g}_k\}) \rangle = \{\beta_0^2, \beta_1^2, \dots, \beta_n^2\} \setminus \{\beta_k^2\},$$

where $\text{LT}(\cdot)$ denotes the set of leading terms of elements. It is immediate that no monomial of \bar{g}_k lies in (20). That is, \mathcal{G} satisfies the definition of the reduced Gröbner basis [35, Section 2-2, Definition 5] and is thus the reduced Gröbner basis.

Claim A *The coefficients of term $\beta_i\beta_j$, $k \leq i \leq j \leq n$, in the polynomial \bar{g}_k are 0 except for $i = j = k$, and the coefficient of β_k^2 is 1.*

Proof: Let $d_{i,j}^k$ be the coefficient of the term $\beta_i\beta_j$ in \bar{g}_k for $0 \leq k \leq n$, $0 \leq i \leq j \leq n$. By (11) and (13), it follows that

$$\begin{cases} d_{i,j}^k = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{i}{\ell} \binom{j}{\ell+k} + \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{j}{\ell} \binom{i}{\ell+k} & i < j, \\ d_{i,i}^k = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{i}{\ell} \binom{i}{\ell+k}, \end{cases}$$

where $\binom{s}{t}$ is the binomial coefficient for $s, t \in \mathbb{N}$ and its value is defined 0 when $t < 0$ or $t > s$. Then it is straightforward to show that

$$\sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{i}{\ell} \binom{j}{\ell+k} = \binom{i+j}{j-k},$$

which can be considered as a generalization of Pascal’s arithmetic triangle. We thus have

$$\begin{cases} d_{i,j}^k = \binom{i+j}{j-k} + \binom{i+j}{i-k} & i < j, \\ d_{i,i}^k = \binom{2i}{i-k}. \end{cases}$$

Now we consider the coefficients of \bar{g}_k . Let $e_{i,j}^k$ be the coefficient of the term $\beta_i \beta_j$ in \bar{g}_k for $0 \leq k \leq n$, $0 \leq i \leq j \leq n$. By the definition (14) of \bar{g}_k , we have

$$(21) \quad e_{i,j}^k = \sum_{\ell=k}^n c_{k,\ell} d_{i,j}^\ell.$$

Thus, $e_{k,k}^k = c_{k,k} d_{k,k}^k = 1$, as $d_{k,k}^\ell = 0$ for $\ell > k$. To show that $e_{i,j}^k = 0$ for $j > i \geq k$ and that $e_{i,i}^k = 0$ for $i > k$, we use some kind of "induction argument on $i+j$ ". By Pascal's arithmetic triangle, we have the following for $k \leq i < j$ and $k \leq \ell$:

$$\begin{aligned} d_{i,j}^\ell &= \binom{i+j}{j-\ell} + \binom{i+j}{i-\ell} \\ &= \binom{i+j-1}{j-\ell} + \binom{i+j-1}{j-1-\ell} \\ &\quad + \binom{i+j-1}{i-\ell} + \binom{i+j-1}{i-1-\ell} \\ &= \begin{cases} d_{i,j-1}^\ell + d_{i-1,j}^\ell & j-1 \neq i, \\ 2d_{i,i}^\ell + d_{i-1,i+1}^\ell & j-1 = i. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Also we have

$$d_{i,i}^\ell = \binom{2i}{i-\ell} = \binom{2i-1}{i-\ell} + \binom{2i-1}{i-1-\ell} = d_{i-1,i}^\ell.$$

Hence, by (21), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_{i,j}^k &= \begin{cases} e_{i,j-1}^k + e_{i-1,j}^k & j-1 \neq i, \\ 2e_{i,i}^k + e_{i-1,i+1}^k & j-1 = i, \end{cases} \\ e_{i,i}^k &= e_{i-1,i}^k. \end{aligned}$$

By easy calculation, we have $e_{k,k}^k = d_{k,k}^k = 1$. Using this fact, we can apply some kind of "induction argument". Assume, to the contrary, that $e_{i,j}^k \neq 0$ for some $j \geq i \geq k$ (but not $i = j = k$). Then, at least either $e_{i-1,j}^k \neq 0$ or $e_{i,j-1}^k \neq 0$. Applying this argument recursively, we reach the conclusion that there is some $i > k$ such that $e_{k,i}^k \neq 0$. Conversely, it means that, if $e_{k,i}^k = 0$ for any $i > k$, then $e_{i,j}^k = 0$ for $j \geq i \geq k$ except for the case $i = j = k$.

Finally we show that $e_{k,i}^k = 0$ for any $i > k$, which completes the proof of Claim A. To this end we use an induction argument on i .

For $i = k+1$, direct computation shows that $e_{k,k+1}^k = 0$. Thus we assume that $e_{k,k+s}^k = 0$ for some $s > 0$, and show that $e_{k,k+s+1}^k = 0$. By the definition of $e_{k,k+s+1}^k$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_{k,k+s+1}^k &= \sum_{\ell=k}^n c_{k,\ell} d_{k,k+s+1}^\ell \\ &= \sum_{\ell=k}^n c_{k,\ell} \left\{ d_{k,k+s}^\ell + \binom{2k+s}{k+s+1-\ell} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \binom{2k+s}{k-1-\ell} \right\} \\ &= e_{k,k+s}^k + \sum_{\ell=k}^{k+s+1} c_{k,\ell} \binom{2k+s}{k+s+1-\ell}. \end{aligned}$$

We note that $\binom{2k+s}{k-1-\ell} = 0$, as $\ell \geq k$, and that $d_{k,k+s}^t = 0$ for $t > k+s$.

By the assumption, $e_{k,k+s}^k = 0$ and, thus it is enough to show that the second term vanishes:

$$\sum_{\ell=k}^{k+s+1} c_{k,\ell} \binom{2k+s}{k+s+1-\ell} = 0.$$

By direct calculation, we have the desired conclusion:

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{\ell=k}^{k+s+1} c_{k,\ell} \binom{2k+s}{k+s+1-\ell} \\ &= \sum_{\ell=k}^{k+s+1} (-1)^{k+\ell} \frac{2}{(2k)!} \frac{(k+\ell-1)!}{(\ell-k)!} \ell \\ &\quad \times \frac{(2k+s)!}{(k+s+1-\ell)!(k+\ell-1)!} \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{s+1} (-1)^t \frac{2}{(2k)!} \frac{(2k+s)!(k+t)}{t!(s+1-t)!} \\ &= \Delta k \sum_{t=0}^{s+1} (-1)^t \frac{1}{t!(s+1-t)!} \\ &\quad + \Delta \sum_{t=1}^{s+1} (-1)^t \frac{1}{(t-1)!(s+1-t)!} \\ &= \Delta \frac{k}{(s+1)!} \sum_{t=0}^{s+1} (-1)^t \binom{s+1}{t} \\ &\quad + \Delta \frac{1}{s!} \sum_{t=1}^{s+1} (-1)^t \binom{s}{t-1} \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Delta = \frac{2(2k+s)!}{(2k)!}$. □

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