

## POSITIVE CARATHÉODORY INTERPOLATION ON THE POLYDISC

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The positive Carathéodory interpolation problem in the Agler-Herglotz class on the polydisc is solved, along with a several variable version of the Naimark dilation theorem. In addition, the positive Carathéodory interpolation problem for general holomorphic functions is discussed and numerical results are presented.

### 1 Introduction

Given a set of indices  $\Lambda = \{0, \dots, n_1\} \times \dots \times \{0, \dots, n_d\} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ , and complex numbers  $c_k$ ,  $k \in \Lambda$ , with  $c_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , one may consider the following problems:

1. *Carathéodory interpolation problem*: find an analytic function  $\phi : \mathbb{D}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  so that  $\operatorname{Re} \phi(z) \geq 0$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{D}^d$  (that is,  $\phi$  belongs to the *Carathéodory class*),  $\phi(0) = c_0$  and  $\frac{\phi^{(k)}(0)}{k!} = 2c_k$ ,  $k \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}$ .
2. *Moment problem*: Find a positive measure  $\sigma$  on  $\mathbb{T}^d$  with moments  $\hat{\sigma}(k) := \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} z^k d\sigma = c_k$ ,  $k \in \Lambda$ .
3. *Autoregressive filter problem*: find a polynomial  $p(z) = \sum_{k \in \Lambda} p_k z^k$  with  $p(z) \neq 0$ ,  $z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}^d$  ( $p(z)$  is *stable*), so that the Fourier coefficients  $\hat{f}(k)$  of  $f(z) := \frac{p_0}{|p(z)|^2}$  satisfy  $\hat{f}(k) = c_k$ ,  $k \in \Lambda$ .

Here we used the notations  $z^k = (z_1, \dots, z_d)^{(k_1, \dots, k_d)} := z_1^{k_1} \dots z_d^{k_d}$ ,  $\phi^{(k)} = \frac{\partial^{k_1}}{\partial z_1^{k_1}} \dots \frac{\partial^{k_d}}{\partial z_d^{k_d}} \phi$ , and  $k! = (k_1, \dots, k_d)! := k_1! \dots k_d!$ .

In the classical one-variable case ( $d = 1$ ) there is a tight connection between these three problems. The Riesz-Herglotz representation of functions in the Carathéodory class connects the problems 1 and 2, so that they are only solvable simultaneously. Next, if  $p(z)$  is a solution to 3, then  $f(z)d\mu(z)$ , where  $\mu$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure, is a solution to 2. Finally, if 2 has a strictly positive absolutely continuous solution  $f(z)d\mu$  (with  $f(z) > 0$  on  $\mathbb{T}$ ), then a combination of the maximum entropy principle and the Riesz-Fejer factorization lemma shows that it has in fact a solution of the form  $\frac{p_0}{|p(z)|^2} d\mu$ , with  $p$  a stable polynomial, thus providing a solution for 3. In fact, as is well-known, 1 and 2 are solvable if

and only if  $T \geq 0$  and 3 is solvable if and only if  $T > 0$ , where  $T$  is the finite Toeplitz matrix  $T = (c_{i-j})_{i,j=0}^n$ . There is a vast literature on this subject, and as a guide to it we refer to the books [17], [3], [14], and [12].

When  $d > 1$  one may again observe that if  $p$  is a solution to 3 then we have that  $\sigma = \frac{p_0}{|p|^2} d\mu$  is a solution to 2. In addition, it follows from Theorem 1 in [19] that a solution to 1 gives a solution to 2. In contrast to the single variable case none of the other directions hold (even in the strict positive case). Consider the following examples.

**Example 1.** Let  $\Lambda = \{0, 1\}^2$  and  $c_{00} = 1, c_{10} = c_{01} = c_{11} = 0.9$ . Then 2 has a solution namely  $0.1d\mu + 0.9\delta_{(1,1)}$ , where  $d\mu$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{T}^2$  and  $\delta_p$  is the Dirac mass at the point  $p$ . Furthermore, with these data problem 1 does not have a solution as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.9 & 0.9 & 0.9 \\ 0.9 & 1 & \bar{x} & 0.9 \\ 0.9 & x & 1 & 0.9 \\ 0.9 & 0.9 & 0.9 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is not positive semidefinite when  $x = 0$ . The autoregressive filter problem does have a solution as with the choice  $x = 0.81$  the conditions of Theorem 1.1 in [16] are satisfied.

**Example 2.** Let  $\Lambda = \{0, 1\}^2$  and  $c_{00} = 1, c_{10} = 0.3, c_{01} = 0.7$  and  $c_{11} = 0.8$ . One may check that the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.7 & 0.3 & 0.8 \\ 0.7 & 1 & \bar{x} & 0.3 \\ 0.3 & x & 1 & 0.7 \\ 0.8 & 0.3 & 0.7 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is positive definite e.g. when  $x = 0$ . By Theorem 5.10 in [15] therefore a (strictly positive) solution to problem 2 exists. When  $x = \frac{0.0581}{c_{00}} = 0.21$  the matrix has determinant equal to  $-\frac{589}{250000}$  and is therefore not positive definite. Hence by Theorem 1.1 in [16] it follows that no solution to 3 exists for these data. Finally, a solution to problem 1 does exist as we shall see in Section 4.

In this paper we shall address the  $d$ -variable Carathéodory interpolation problem. The two-variable autoregressive filter problem was solved in [16] where a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of a solution was given in terms of the existence of a solution of a matrix completion problem. Numerical solutions to the autoregressive filter problem were presented in [11]. For the moment problem the connection with its dual problem of representing trigonometric polynomials as sums of squares, is very useful. This connection allowed [10] and [23] to construct examples of so-called “non-extendable patterns”. Subsequent results may be found in [24], [15], [5] and [20].

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we use the results of [1] and [8] to obtain a solution to the Carathéodory problem in the class of functions introduced by Agler. We thus completely solve the Carathéodory problem in case  $d = 2$  and give sufficient conditions in case  $d \geq 3$ . In Section 3 we record some necessary conditions for the Carathéodory problem. Finally in Section 4 we briefly discuss some numerical results.

## 2 Carathéodory interpolation in the Agler-Herglotz class

Based on ideas in [1] and [8] we address in this section the Carathéodory interpolation problem in the Agler-Herglotz class. Other related papers in the area are [2], [13] and [22].

We first remind the reader of a class of functions introduced by J. Agler [1]. Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a Hilbert space, and  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$  denotes the space of bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{E}$ . We denote  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ . Let  $\phi$  be a holomorphic  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ -valued function defined on the polydisc  $\mathbb{D}^d = \{(z_1, \dots, z_d) : |z_i| < 1, i = 1, \dots, d\}$ , and let  $\phi(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} \phi_k z^k$ ,  $(z_1, \dots, z_d)^{(k_1, \dots, k_d)} := z_1^{k_1} \dots z_d^{k_d}$ ,  $\phi_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ , be its series expansion. For a commuting collection of strict contractions  $R = (R_1, \dots, R_d) \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})^d$  we may define  $\phi(R) = \phi(R_1, \dots, R_d)$  to be an operator in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E}) \otimes \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}) \equiv \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{K})$  by  $\phi(R) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} \phi_k \otimes R^k$ , where  $(R_1, \dots, R_d)^{(k_1, \dots, k_d)} := R_1^{k_1} \dots R_d^{k_d}$ . We say that  $\phi$  is *Agler-Herglotz* if  $\operatorname{Re} \phi(R) \geq 0$  for all commuting collections of strict contractions  $R = (R_1, \dots, R_d)$ . Here  $\operatorname{Re} A = \frac{1}{2}(A + A^*)$  denotes the real part of the operator  $A$ . We shall denote the class of Agler-Herglotz  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ -valued functions on  $\mathbb{D}^d$  by  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$ . By taking  $R_j = z_j I$  one sees immediately that  $\phi \in \mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  implies that  $\operatorname{Re} \phi(z) \geq 0$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{D}^d$ . The converse holds when  $d = 1, 2$  (see [1], which is based on a result by Ando [4]), but not when  $d \geq 3$  (follows from the results of either [21] or [25], and performing a Cayley transform). It was shown in [1] that a holomorphic  $\phi$  with  $\phi(0) = \frac{1}{2}I$  belongs to  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  if and only if there exists a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d$ , an isometry  $V : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and a unitary  $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  so that

$$\phi(z) = \frac{1}{2}I + V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}Z(z)V, z \in \mathbb{D}^d, \tag{2.1}$$

where  $(Z(z))(\oplus_{i=1}^d h_i) := \oplus_{i=1}^d (z_i h_i)$ .

We next state our interpolation problem. Let  $\leq$  be the partial order on  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$  defined by  $(k_1, \dots, k_d) \leq (l_1, \dots, l_d)$  if and only if  $k_i \leq l_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ . A subset  $K$  of  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$  will be called *lower-inclusive* if  $k \in K$  and  $l \leq k$  imply  $l \in K$ . Given a finite lower-inclusive subset  $K$  of  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$  and operators  $C_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k \in K$ , the *Carathéodory interpolation* problem asks for a  $\phi \in \mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  so that  $\phi_k = C_k$ ,  $k \in K$ , where  $\phi(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} \phi_k z^k$ .

Before we can state our main result, we first have to recall the notion of words. Let  $A_1, \dots, A_d$  be operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ . An expression of the form

$$A_1^{n_{11}} \dots A_d^{n_{1d}} \dots \bar{A}_1^{n_{p1}} \dots A_d^{n_{pd}}$$

is called a *word* in  $(A_1, \dots, A_d)$  of *multilength*  $(\sum_{j=1}^p n_{j1}, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^p n_{jd})$ . Typically, factors with an exponent 0 are left out, and subexpressions  $A_i^p A_i^q$  are contracted to  $A_i^{p+q}$ . Words are equal when after leaving out factors with a zero exponent and contracting as above, the expressions are equal. So, for example, there are exactly three different words in  $(A, B)$  of multilength  $(2, 1)$ , namely  $A^2 B$ ,  $ABA$ , and  $B^2 A$ . Notice that even though it may happen that these three operators are equal (e.g., when  $A$  and  $B$  commute), the words are considered to be different. When  $w$  is a word in  $(A_1, \dots, A_d)$ , its multilength is denoted by  $ml(w) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$  we denote the set of all words of multilength  $k$  in  $(A_1, \dots, A_d)$  by  $W_k(A_1, \dots, A_d)$ .

Let  $K$  be a finite subset of  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$  with cardinality  $|K|$ . We let  $\mathcal{E}^{|K|}$  denote the Hilbert space of  $|K|$ -tuples  $\xi = (\xi_k)_{k \in K}$  with  $\|\xi\|^2 := \sum_{k \in K} \|\xi_k\|^2 (< \infty, \text{ since } K \text{ is finite})$ . Notice that instead of indexing the coordinates of the tuples by  $1, \dots, |K|$ , we prefer to index them with the elements of  $K$ . This will be convenient when we define operators on  $\mathcal{E}^{|K|}$ . If  $F_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k \in K$ , the notation  $F = \text{col}(F_k)_{k \in K}$  stands for the operator  $F : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^{|K|}$  defined by  $F\xi = (F_k\xi)_{k \in K}$ . Next, for  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})$  we denote by  $M_T$  the conjugacy operator  $M_T(X) = TXT^*$  on  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})$ . Note that  $X \geq 0$  implies that  $M_T(X) \geq 0$ . Finally, denote by  $e_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ , the  $i$ th standard vector in  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$ , and let  $\delta_{kl}$  denote the Kronecker delta function on  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *Given a nonempty finite lower-inclusive set  $K \subset \mathbb{N}_0^d$  and operators  $C_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k \in K$ , with  $C_0 = \frac{1}{2}I$ , the following are equivalent:*

- (i) *there exists a  $\phi(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} \phi_k z^k \in \mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  so that  $\phi_k = C_k$ ,  $k \in K$ ;*
- (ii) *there exist positive semidefinite operators  $G_1, \dots, G_d$  on  $\mathcal{E}^{|K|}$  so that  $\prod_{j \neq i} (I - M_{T_j})(G_i) \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ , and*

$$X + X^* = G_1 + \dots + G_d. \tag{2.2}$$

Here  $X = (C_{k-j})_{k,j \in K}$ ,  $C_k = 0$  for  $k \notin K$ , and  $T_j = (t_{k,l}^{(j)})_{k,l \in K}$ , where  $t_{k,l}^{(j)} = I$  if  $k = l + e_j$  and  $t_{k,l}^{(j)} = 0$  otherwise;

- (iii) *there exist positive definite operators  $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_d \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E}^{|K|})$  so that*

$$EC^* + CE^* = \Gamma_1 - T_1\Gamma_1T_1^* + \dots + \Gamma_d - T_d\Gamma_dT_d^*, \tag{2.3}$$

where

$$C = \text{col}(C_k)_{k \in K}, E = \text{col}(\delta_{0k})_{k \in K},$$

and  $T_j$  is as in (ii).

- (iv) *there exists a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d$ , an isometry  $V : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and a unitary  $U \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  so that  $C_k = V^*(\sum_{w \in W_k(UP_1, \dots, UP_d)} w)V$ ,  $k \in K \setminus \{0\}$ , where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  with image  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ .*

**Proof.** For the equivalence of (ii) and (iii) observe that  $T_j^{|K|} = 0$ , and thus for all  $j = 1, \dots, d$  we have that  $I - M_{T_j}$  is invertible on  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E}^{|K|})$ . But then the equalities  $\prod_{j=1}^d (I - M_{T_j})(X + X^*) = EC^* + CE^*$  and  $\Gamma_i = \prod_{j \neq i} (I - M_{T_j})(G_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ , yield the equivalence.

Next, the equivalence of (i) and (iv) follows directly from writing equation (2.1) in its series expansion. A tedious but straightforward computation will show that for  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d \setminus \{0\}$  we have that  $\phi_k = V^*(\sum_{w \in W_k(UP_1, \dots, UP_d)} w)V$ .

It remains to show the equivalence of (i) and (iii). First suppose that (i) holds, and write  $\phi$  as in (2.1). Identify  $\mathcal{E}^{|K|}$  with  $H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K) := \{f(z) = \sum_{k \in K} f_k z^k, z \in \mathbb{D}^d : f_k \in \mathcal{E}\}$ .

We may view  $T_j : H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$  as the restriction of the multiplication operator with symbol  $z_j$ , namely

$$(T_j f)(z) = P_K(z_j f(z)),$$

where  $P_K$  is the projection  $P_K(\sum g_k z^k) = \sum_{k \in K} g_k z^k$ . Likewise,  $X$  (as defined in (ii)) may be viewed as the restriction of the multiplication operator with symbol  $\phi$ , namely

$$(Xf)(z) = P_K(\phi(z)f(z)).$$

Define

$$\Omega = [\Omega_1 \ \cdots \ \Omega_d] : \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$$

by  $\Omega(\xi)(z) = P_K(V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}\xi)$ . Since  $K$  is finite, this indeed defines a bounded operator. Then (analogous as in Lemma 3.2 in [8]) one easily checks that

$$[T_1\Omega_1 \ \cdots \ T_d\Omega_d](\xi)(z) = P_K(V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}Z(z)\xi). \tag{2.4}$$

Letting  $\Gamma_i = \Omega_i\Omega_i^*$  we get that

$$CE^* + EC^* = \Gamma_1 - T_1\Gamma_1T_1^* + \cdots + \Gamma_d - T_d\Gamma_dT_d^*.$$

For the last equality, let  $h \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$  and  $x \in \mathcal{E}$  (which we may also view as the constant function in  $H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E})$  with value  $x$ ). Then, using (2.1) and (2.4), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (X^*h)(0), x \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} &= \langle X^*h, x \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} = \langle h, Xx \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} = \\ &= \langle h, \frac{1}{2}x + P_K(V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}Z(z)Vx) \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} \\ &= \langle \frac{1}{2}h(0), x \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} + \langle V^*(\Omega_1^*T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*T_d^*h), x \rangle_{\mathcal{E}}, \end{aligned}$$

and thus we have that

$$(X^*h)(0) = \frac{1}{2}h(0) + V^*(\Omega_1^*T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*T_d^*h). \tag{2.5}$$

Moreover, again using (2.4), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h, \Omega\xi \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} &= \langle h, P_K(V^*U(I - ZU)^{-1}(I - ZU + ZU)\xi) \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} = \\ &= \langle h, V^*U\xi \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} + \langle h, [T_1\Omega_1 \ \cdots \ T_d\Omega_d]U\xi \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)} = \\ &= \langle U^*Vh(0), \xi \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} + \langle U^*(\Omega_1^*T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*T_d^*h), \xi \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\Omega_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*h = U^*Vh(0) + U^*(\Omega_1^*T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*T_d^*h). \tag{2.6}$$

Equations (2.5) and (2.6) yield that

$$\begin{pmatrix} U^* & U^*V \\ V^* & \frac{1}{2}I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_1^*T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*T_d^*h \\ h(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Omega_d^*h \\ (X^*h)(0) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.7}$$

Notice that when

$$\begin{pmatrix} U^* & U^*V \\ V^* & \frac{1}{2}I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \|a\|^2 - \|x\|^2 &= \langle U^*x + U^*Vy, U^*x + U^*Vy \rangle - \|x\|^2 = \\ 2\operatorname{Re} \langle U^*x, U^*Vy \rangle + \langle y, y \rangle &= 2\operatorname{Re} \langle V^*x + \frac{1}{2}y, y \rangle = 2\operatorname{Re} \langle b, y \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where we used that  $U$  is unitary and that  $V$  is isometric. Thus from (2.7) we obtain that

$$2\operatorname{Re} \langle (X^*h)(0), h(0) \rangle = \|\Omega_1^*h\|^2 + \dots + \|\Omega_d^*h\|^2 - (\|\Omega_1^*S_1^*h\|^2 + \dots + \|\Omega_d^*S_d^*h\|^2).$$

It is straightforward to check that this is equivalent to the statement that

$$CE^* + EC^* = (I - M_{T_1})(\Gamma_1) + \dots + (I - M_{T_d})(\Gamma_d).$$

Next, suppose that  $\Gamma_i$  exist as (iii). Equation (2.3) implies that

$$2\operatorname{Re} \langle (X^*h)(0), h(0) \rangle = \|\Gamma_1^{1/2}h\|^2 - \|\Gamma_1^{1/2}T_1^*h\|^2 + \dots + \|\Gamma_d^{1/2}h\|^2 - \|\Gamma_d^{1/2}T_d^*h\|^2,$$

for all  $h \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$ . But then

$$\|\frac{1}{2}h(0) + (X^*h)(0)\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^d \|\Gamma_i^{1/2}T_i^*h\|^2 = \|\frac{1}{2}h(0) - (X^*h)(0)\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^d \|\Gamma_i^{1/2}h\|^2.$$

Thus the map

$$\left( \Gamma_1^{1/2}T_1^*h \oplus \dots \oplus \Gamma_d^{1/2}T_d^*h \right) \rightarrow \left( \frac{1}{2}h(0) \oplus \dots \oplus \Gamma_d^{1/2}h \right)$$

defines an isometry from  $\{\Gamma_1^{1/2}T_1^*h \oplus \dots \oplus \Gamma_d^{1/2}T_d^*h \oplus (\frac{1}{2}h(0) + (X^*h)(0)) : h \in \mathcal{M}\}$  into  $\mathcal{M} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{M} \oplus \mathcal{E}$ , where  $\mathcal{M} = H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$ . Extend the isometry to a unitary operator  $\mathcal{U}$  on  $\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d \oplus \mathcal{E}$ . By composing  $\Gamma_i^{1/2}$  with the embeddings of  $\mathcal{M}$  into  $\mathcal{H}_i$ , we obtain mappings  $\Phi_i : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, d$ ) such that

$$U^* : \left( \Phi_1 T_1^*h \oplus \dots \oplus \Phi_d T_d^*h \right) \rightarrow \left( \Phi_1 h \oplus \dots \oplus \Phi_d h \right).$$

Decompose

$$U^* = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{U}_{11}^* & \mathcal{U}_{21}^* \\ \mathcal{U}_{12}^* & \mathcal{U}_{22}^* \end{pmatrix} : (\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d) \oplus \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d) \oplus \mathcal{E}.$$

Let  $\xi \in \mathcal{E}$ , and consider it as a constant function. Then, since  $T_i^*\xi = 0$  and  $(X^*\xi)(0) = \frac{1}{2}\xi$ , we get that  $\mathcal{U}_{22}^*(\xi) = 0$ . But, since this holds for all  $\xi \in \mathcal{E}$  we get that  $\mathcal{U}_{22} = 0$ . Let now  $V = -\mathcal{U}_{12}$  and  $U = \mathcal{U}_{11} - \mathcal{U}_{12}\mathcal{U}_{21}$ . Then it is not hard to check that  $V$  is an isometry,  $U$  is unitary, and  $V^*U = \mathcal{U}_{21}$ . Furthermore,

$$\begin{pmatrix} U^* & U^*V \\ V^* & \frac{1}{2}I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1 T_1^*h \oplus \dots \oplus \Phi_d T_d^*h \\ h(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1 h \oplus \dots \oplus \Phi_d h \\ (X^*h)(0) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.8}$$

Define, as before,

$$\Omega = [\Omega_1 \cdots \Omega_d] : \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}_d \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathcal{E}, K)$$

by  $\Omega(\xi)(z) = P_K(V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}\xi)$ . Then (2.6) holds. Combining (2.6) and (2.8) we get that

$$U^*((\Omega_1^* - \Phi_1)T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus (\Omega_d^* - \Phi_d)T_d^*h) = (\Omega_1^* - \Phi_1)h \oplus \cdots \oplus (\Omega_d^* - \Phi_d)h, h \in \mathcal{M}.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{i=1}^d (\Omega_i^* - \Phi_i)^*(\Omega_i^* - \Phi_i) - \sum_{i=1}^d T_i(\Omega_i^* - \Phi_i)^*(\Omega_i^* - \Phi_i)T_i^* = 0.$$

Apply now Lemma 2.2 in [8] (note that  $T_i^N = 0$  for  $N \geq |K|$ ) to get that  $\Omega_i^* = \Phi_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ . Consequently, if we let

$$\phi(z) = \frac{1}{2}I + V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}Z(z)V,$$

then for  $\xi \in \mathcal{E}$  and  $h \in \mathcal{M}$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h, T_\phi \xi \rangle &= \langle h, (\frac{1}{2}I + V^*U(I - Z(z)U)^{-1}Z(z)V)\xi \rangle = \\ &= \langle h, \frac{1}{2}\xi \rangle + \langle V^*(\Phi_1 T_1^*h \oplus \cdots \oplus \Phi_d T_d^*h), \xi \rangle = \\ &= \langle \frac{1}{2}h(0), \xi \rangle + \langle -\frac{1}{2}h(0) + (X^*h)(0), \xi \rangle = \langle (X^*h)(0), \xi \rangle = \langle h, X\xi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

And thus

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_\phi^*h, S_1^{n_1} \cdots S_d^{n_d}\xi \rangle &= \langle T_\phi^*S_1^{n_1} \cdots S_d^{n_d}h, \xi \rangle = \\ \langle X^*T_1^{n_1} \cdots T_d^{n_d}h, \xi \rangle &= \langle X^*h, S_1^{n_1} \cdots S_d^{n_d}\xi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

But now it follows that  $\phi$  has the required properties.  $\square$

The process of extracting an isometry out of the given data as was done in the proof of (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i) is sometimes referred to as a “lurking isometry” technique (see, e.g., [7]). A possible alternative approach to the above problem is to use the results in [8] directly in combination with a Cayley transform.

Notice that the equivalence of (iii) and (iv) in Theorem 2.1 may be interpreted as a multivariable version of the Naimark dilation theorem on a finite index set. Recall that the Naimark dilation theorem states that a sequence of operators  $C_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , may be represented as  $C_k = V^*U^kV$  with  $V : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  an isometry and  $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  a unitary, if and only if for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$  the lower triangular Toeplitz operator matrix  $(C_{i-j})_{i,j=0}^k$ , where  $C_0 = \frac{1}{2}I$  and  $C_{-1} = C_{-2} = \dots = 0$ , has a positive semidefinite real part. The same is true for a finite collection of operators  $C_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Theorem 2.1 now extends the classical result to the case of a finite lower inclusive subset of  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$ .

By combining the results in [1] and [19] we can, in addition, state the following two-variable generalization of the Naimark dilation theorem.

**Corollary 2.2.** *Consider the doubly indexed sequence of operators  $\{C_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^2}$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{E}$  with  $C_0 = I$ . Define  $C_{-k} = C_k^*$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0^2$ , and  $C_k = 0$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus (\mathbb{N}_0^2 \cup -\mathbb{N}_0^2)$ . Then the sequence  $\{C_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^2}$  is positive definite in the sense that for every finite  $K \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  the operator matrix  $(C_{k-l})_{k,l \in K}$  is positive semidefinite, if and only if there exists a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2$ , an isometry  $V : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and a unitary  $U \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  so that*

$$C_k = V^* \left( \sum_{w \in W_k(UP_1, UP_2)} w \right) V, \quad k \in K \setminus \{0\}, \tag{2.9}$$

where  $P_i$  is the orthogonal projection in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  with image  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

**Proof.** By Corollary 1 in [19] the sequence  $\frac{1}{2}I$ ,  $\{C_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^2 \setminus \{0\}}$  are the Taylor coefficients of a Carathéodory function  $\phi$  if and only if  $\{C_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^2}$  is a positive definite sequence. By [1] the function  $\phi$  belongs to the Carathéodory class if and only if it may be represented as in (2.1), yielding the description (2.9).  $\square$

### 3 Carathéodory Interpolation for holomorphic functions

In this section we explore the Carathéodory interpolation problem in the class  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$  of holomorphic  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ -valued functions  $\phi$  defined on  $\mathbb{D}^d$  with positive real part, i.e.,  $\text{Re } \phi(z) \geq 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}^d$ . We shall confine ourselves to the situation where  $K^{(d)}(n)$  is the subset of  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$  consisting of points  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$  satisfying  $|x| := \sum_{i=1}^d x_i \leq n$ .

We have the following necessary condition. Denote

$$K_j^{(d)} = \{(x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d : x_1 + \dots + x_d = j\}.$$

Further, for  $j = 1, \dots, d$  let  $S_j : H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathbb{C})$  be the multiplication operator with symbol  $z_j$ , namely

$$(S_j f)(z) = z_j f(z).$$

For  $k = (k_1, \dots, k_d)$  we let  $S^k$  denote the operator  $S_1^{k_1} \dots S_d^{k_d}$  on  $H^2(\mathbb{D}^d, \mathbb{C})$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $K^{(d)}(n) = \cup_{j=0}^n K_j^{(d)}$ . Given are operators  $C_k \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{E})$ ,  $k \in K^{(d)}(n)$ , with  $C_0 = \frac{1}{2}I$ . If there exists  $f(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} f_k z^k \in \mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$  with  $f_k = C_k$ ,  $k \in K$ , then the operator*

$$\Gamma := (\Gamma_{p-q})_{p,q=0}^n \tag{3.1}$$

has positive semidefinite real part. Here  $\Gamma_p = \sum_{k \in K_p^{(d)}} C_k \otimes S^k$ . When  $n = 1$  the converse is also valid.

**Proof of Theorem 3.1.** First suppose that  $f \in \mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$  exists with  $f_k = C_k$ ,  $k \in K^{(d)}(n)$ . We can find unitary liftings  $U_i : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  of  $S_i$  so that  $U_1, \dots, U_d$  commute. Let now  $g(w) = \sum_{j=0}^\infty w^j (\sum_{k \in K_j^{(d)}} f_k \otimes U^k)$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , where  $U^k = U_1^{k_1} \dots U_d^{k_d}$ . Then  $g \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{K})$ , and thus by the classical one-variable result we get that  $\Gamma + \Gamma^* \geq 0$ .



Let now  $n = 1$  and suppose that  $\Gamma + \Gamma^* \geq 0$ . We let  $e_1, \dots, e_d$  denote the standard basis in  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$ . Since  $\Gamma + \Gamma^* \geq 0$  it follows that  $\|\sum_{i=1}^d z_i C_{e_i}\| < 1$  for all  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_d) \in \mathbb{D}^d$ . But then

$$f(z) := \frac{1}{2}I + (I - \sum_{i=1}^d z_i C_{e_i})^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i C_{e_i}, z \in \mathbb{D}^d,$$

has the required properties.  $\square$

We observe that even in the case  $n = 1$  the condition on  $C_k, k \in K^{(d)}(n)$ , in Theorem 3.1 is much weaker than the condition in Theorem 2.1. In fact, the following data provides an example for which the Carathéodory interpolation problem is solvable in  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$  but not in  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$ .

**Example.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space of dimension more than one, and  $U_1$  and  $U_2$  be non-commuting unitary operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Put  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}$  and let  $T_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ , be the pairwise commuting contractions that were introduced in [21], i.e.,

$$T_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ U_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, T_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ U_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, T_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ I_{\mathcal{H}} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $I_{\mathcal{H}}$  is the identity operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . By the main result in [18], there exist an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \times n$  matrices  $A_1, A_2$  and  $A_3$  so that

$$\|A_1 \otimes T_1 + A_2 \otimes T_2 + A_3 \otimes T_3\| > 1 \geq \max_{z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{T}} \|z_1 A_1 + z_2 A_2 + z_3 A_3\|. \tag{3.2}$$

Let now  $C_{(0,0,0)} = \frac{1}{2}I, C_{(1,0,0)} = A_1, C_{(0,1,0)} = A_2$ , and  $C_{(0,0,1)} = A_3$ . The right hand inequality in (3.2) implies that the condition in Theorem 3.1 is satisfied. Thus the Carathéodory interpolation problem with data  $C_k, k \in K^{(3)}(1)$ , has a solution in  $\mathcal{M}_3(\mathcal{E})$ . The left hand inequality in (3.2) implies, however, that the Carathéodory interpolation problem with data  $C_k, k \in K^{(3)}(1)$ , does not have a solution in  $\mathcal{A}_3(\mathcal{E})$ . Indeed, if a solution  $\phi \in \mathcal{A}_3(\mathcal{E})$  exists, then the single variable function

$$f(z) := \phi(zT_1, zT_2, zT_3)$$

should have the property that  $\text{Re } f(z) \geq 0$  for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . In particular,

$$\frac{df}{dz}(0) = A_1 \otimes T_1 + A_2 \otimes T_2 + A_3 \otimes T_3$$

should be a contraction, which contradicts (3.2).

Though the Carathéodory interpolation problems in  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$  and  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  are in general different, there are also cases when the Carathéodory interpolation problem in both classes are only solvable simultaneously. This happens for instance when  $\mathcal{E} = \mathbb{C}$  and  $n = 1$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *Given are complex numbers  $c_k, k \in K^{(d)}(1)$ , with  $c_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ . The following are equivalent.*

- (i) There exist  $f(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} f_k z^k \in \mathcal{A}_d(\mathbb{C})$  with  $f_k = c_k, k \in K^{(d)}(1)$ .
- (ii) There exist  $f(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0^d} f_k z^k \in \mathcal{M}_d(\mathbb{C})$  with  $f_k = c_k, k \in K^{(d)}(1)$ .
- (iii)  $\sum_{i=1}^d |c_{e_i}| \leq 1$ , where  $e_1, \dots, e_d$  is the standard basis in  $\mathbb{N}_0^d$ .

**Proof.** We will prove (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i).

Since  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathbb{C}) \subset \mathcal{M}_d(\mathbb{C})$ , the implication (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii) follows.

Suppose that (ii) holds. Choose complex numbers  $\alpha_i, i = 1, \dots, d$ , of modulus 1 so that  $\alpha_i c_{e_i} \geq 0$ , and let  $g(w) = f(\alpha_1 w, \dots, \alpha_d w), w \in \mathbb{D}$ . Then  $\text{Re } g(w) \geq 0$  for  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , and by the one-variable results we get that  $|g'(0)| \leq 1$ . But this yields  $\sum_{i=1}^d |c_{e_i}| \leq 1$ .

Suppose that (iii) holds. Consider the functions  $g_1(z_1) = \frac{1}{2}|c_{e_1}| + c_{e_1} z_1, \dots, g_{d-1}(z_{d-1}) = \frac{1}{2}|c_{e_{d-1}}| + c_{e_{d-1}} z_{d-1}, g_d(z_d) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - |c_{e_1}| - \dots - |c_{e_{d-1}}|) + c_{e_d} z_d$ . By the one-variable result, there exist for  $i = 1, \dots, d$  functions  $f_i \in \mathcal{A}_1(\mathbb{C})$  so that  $f_i(0) = g_i(0)$  and  $f'_i(0) = g'_i(0)$ . But then  $f(z) = f_1(z_1) + \dots + f_d(z_d)$  is a function satisfying (i).  $\square$

Notice that the proof of (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i) in Proposition 3.2 goes through for operators  $C_{e_i}$ . That is, if  $\sum_{i=1}^d \|C_{e_i}\| \leq 1$ , then there exists a solution to the Carathéodory interpolation problem in  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{E})$  with given data  $C_0 = \frac{1}{2}I, C_{e_1}, \dots, C_{e_d}$ . Clearly, the condition  $\sum_{i=1}^d \|C_{e_i}\| \leq 1$  is not necessary in general as one can start with a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  of dimension greater than or equal to  $d \geq 2$ , a unitary  $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , and nontrivial orthogonal projections  $P_1, \dots, P_d$  on  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^d \text{Ran } P_i = \mathcal{H}$ , and put  $C_{e_i} = UP_i$ . Then  $\frac{1}{2}I + (I - \sum_{i=1}^d z_i C_{e_i})^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i C_{e_i} \in \mathcal{A}_d(\mathcal{H})$  but  $\sum_{i=1}^d \|C_{e_i}\| = d > 1$ .

There are many questions that remain. For instance, are in the scalar case the finite data Carathéodory interpolation problems in  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathbb{C})$  different? In other words, does there exist a finite lower-inclusive set  $K$  and data  $c_k \in \mathbb{C}, k \in K$ , for which the Carathéodory interpolation problem is solvable in  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathbb{C})$  but not in  $\mathcal{A}_d(\mathbb{C})$ ? Another open problem is the question whether the condition  $\Gamma + \Gamma^* \geq 0$  in Theorem 3.1 is also sufficient for the existence of a solution in  $\mathcal{M}_d(\mathcal{E})$ ? By Theorem 10 in [6] this condition  $\Gamma + \Gamma^* \geq 0$  is necessary and sufficient for a positive measure  $\sigma$  to exist with moments  $\hat{\sigma}(0) = I, \hat{\sigma}(k) = C_k, k \in K^{(d)}(n) \setminus \{0\}, \hat{\sigma}(k) = C_k^*, k \in -K^{(d)}(n) \setminus \{0\}$ , and  $\hat{\sigma}(k) = 0, k \in \{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d \setminus \mathbb{N}_0^d : -n \leq k_1 + \dots + k_d \leq n\}$ . In order to get a solution to the Carathéodory interpolation problem we need by Theorem 1 in [19] that  $\hat{\sigma}(0) = I, \hat{\sigma}(k) = C_k, k \in K^{(d)}(n) \setminus \{0\}, \hat{\sigma}(k) = C_k^*, k \in -K^{(d)}(n) \setminus \{0\}$ , and  $\hat{\sigma}(k) = 0, k \in \mathbb{Z}^d \setminus \mathbb{N}_0^d$ . It should be noted that Theorem 10 in [6] may also be used for index sets other than  $K^{(d)}(n)$ , namely any set  $0 \in K \subset \mathbb{N}_0^d$  that lies on one side of a hyperplane.

## 4 Numerical Results

The condition in Theorem 2.1(iii) may be checked numerically by semidefinite programming. Using Matlab's LMILab we performed a few experiments. We briefly describe three of them.

Let  $K = \{0, 1, 2\}^2$  and  $c_{00} = 1/2, c_{01} = 0, c_{02} = 0, c_{10} = 1/2\sqrt{2}, c_{11} = 1/2, c_{12} = -1/4\sqrt{2}, c_{20} = 1/2, c_{21} = 1/2\sqrt{2}$  and  $c_{22} = -1/4$ . In order to build the matrices, we order

$K$  using the lexicographical order. Using LMlab we find the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} .7437 & .1813 & -.1282 & .5259 & .5000 & -.2629 & .3718 & .6165 & -.1218 \\ .1813 & .1282 & -.0906 & .1282 & .1813 & -.0641 & .0906 & .1922 & .0000 \\ -.1282 & -.0906 & .0641 & -.0906 & -.1282 & .0453 & -.0641 & -.1359 & -.0000 \\ .5259 & .1282 & -.0906 & .3718 & .3536 & -.1859 & .2629 & .4359 & -.0861 \\ .5000 & .1813 & -.1282 & .3536 & .3782 & -.1768 & .2500 & .4442 & -.0609 \\ -.2629 & -.0641 & .0453 & -.1859 & -.1768 & .0930 & -.1315 & -.2180 & .0431 \\ .3718 & .0906 & -.0641 & .2629 & .2500 & -.1315 & .1859 & .3082 & -.0609 \\ .6165 & .1922 & -.1359 & .4359 & .4442 & -.2180 & .3082 & .5320 & -.0861 \\ -.1218 & .0000 & -.0000 & -.0861 & -.0609 & .0431 & -.0609 & -.0861 & .0305 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} .2563 & -.1813 & .1282 & .1813 & -.0000 & -.0906 & .1282 & .0906 & -.1282 \\ -.1813 & .1282 & -.0906 & -.1282 & .0000 & .0641 & -.0906 & -.0641 & .0906 \\ .1282 & -.0906 & .0641 & .0906 & -.0000 & -.0453 & .0641 & .0453 & -.0641 \\ .1813 & -.1282 & .0906 & .3718 & -.1723 & .0578 & .2629 & .0641 & -.1768 \\ -.0000 & .0000 & -.0000 & -.1723 & .1218 & -.0861 & -.1218 & -.0000 & .0609 \\ -.0906 & .0641 & -.0453 & .0578 & -.0861 & .0930 & .0408 & -.0320 & .0022 \\ .1282 & -.0906 & .0641 & .2629 & -.1218 & .0408 & .1859 & .0453 & -.1250 \\ .0906 & -.0641 & .0453 & .0641 & -.0000 & -.0320 & .0453 & .0320 & -.0453 \\ -.1282 & .0906 & -.0641 & -.1768 & .0609 & .0022 & -.1250 & -.0453 & .0945 \end{pmatrix}$$

for  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ , respectively. The corresponding  $U$  and  $V$  are

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8543 \\ -0.1178 \\ 0.4141 \\ -0.2913 \end{pmatrix}, U = \begin{pmatrix} 0.7061 & 0.0036 & 0.6952 & 0.1341 \\ -0.0012 & 0.7054 & 0.1318 & -0.6964 \\ 0.6947 & 0.1346 & -0.7066 & 0.0014 \\ 0.1368 & -0.6959 & 0.0006 & -0.7050 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The projections  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the projections onto  $\text{span}\{e_1, e_2\}$  and  $\text{span}\{e_3, e_4\}$ , respectively, where  $e_1, \dots, e_4$  is the standard basis in  $\mathbb{C}^4$ . The example was constructed using

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, U = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2\sqrt{2} & 1/2\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2\sqrt{2} & -1/2\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}, P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}, P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In an attempt to create a scalar valued example for which the Carathéodory interpolation has a solution in  $\mathcal{M}_3(\mathbb{C})$  but not in  $\mathcal{A}_3(\mathbb{C})$  we tried the following based on Varapoloulos' example [25]. Let  $f(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_3^3} f_k z^k := \frac{1-\psi}{2+2\psi}$ , where

$$\psi(z) = \frac{1}{5}(z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2) - \frac{2}{5}(z_1 z_2 + z_2 z_3 + z_1 z_3),$$

and take the given data  $\{f_k, k \in K_3^{(3)}\}$ . Based on our algorithm, though, we found that the Carathéodory interpolation problem is solvable in  $\mathcal{A}_3(\mathbb{C})$ . Clearly  $f$  was not the solution as  $f \notin \mathcal{A}_3(\mathbb{C})$ .

Lastly, when we perform the algorithm on the data in Example 2 of the introduction, we obtain after rounding the following positive semidefinite matrices:

$$\Gamma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.3000 & 0.4000 & -0.1000 & 0.0952 \\ 0.4000 & 0.5523 & -0.1523 & 0.1125 \\ -0.1000 & -0.1523 & 0.0523 & -0.0173 \\ 0.0952 & 0.1125 & -0.0173 & 0.0603 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$\Gamma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.7000 & 0.3000 & 0.4000 & 0.7048 \\ 0.3000 & 0.1477 & 0.1523 & 0.2875 \\ 0.4000 & 0.1523 & 0.2477 & 0.4173 \\ 0.7048 & 0.2875 & 0.4173 & 0.7397 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In order to see that the matrices are positive semidefinite one may note that  $(-1, 1, 1, 0)^T$  belongs to the kernel of both. Furthermore, after omitting the third column and row in both matrices the determinants of the leading principal submatrices in exact arithmetic are

$$\frac{3}{10}, \frac{569}{100000}, \frac{106167}{976562500}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{1339}{100000}, \frac{993207}{3906250000},$$

yielding the positive semidefiniteness of both  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ . Next, one may easily check that

$$EC^* + CE^* - \Gamma_1 + T_1\Gamma_1T_1^* - \Gamma_2 + T_2\Gamma_2T_2^* = 0$$

where  $C, E, T_1$  and  $T_2$  are as in Theorem 2.1. Thus the Carathéodory interpolation problem is solvable for this data set. By adding a small enough  $\epsilon > 0$  to  $c_{00}$  one may even construct an example for which the autoregressive filter problem is not solvable but a solution  $\phi$  to the Carathéodory interpolation problem exists with  $\inf_{z \in \mathbb{D}^2} \operatorname{Re} \phi(z) > 0$ .

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