

# Interpolation on Semigroupoid Algebras

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# The classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem

**Problem:** Given  $n$  points  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ , and  $n$  complex values  $w_1, \dots, w_n$ , does there exist an analytic function  $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  such that  $f(z_k) = w_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ?



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$H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  is the *multiplier algebra* for  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ , the analytic functions on the disk with square summable power series. That is, for all  $f \in H^2(\mathbb{D})$  and for any  $\varphi \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , the function with values  $M_\varphi f(z) = \varphi(z)f(z)$  is in  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ .



# Solution to the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem

A solution exists  $\iff$  the matrix

$$\left( \frac{1 - w_j w_k^*}{1 - z_j z_k^*} \right)_{j,k=1,\dots,n}$$

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A straightforward calculation shows  $M_\varphi^* k(z) = \varphi(z)^* k(z)$ ,  
(so in particular, if  $\varphi(z_k) = w_k$  then  $M_\varphi^* k(z) = w_k^* k(z)$ ).





# Solution to the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem, cont.

So the N-P problem has a solution iff

$$I - M_\varphi M_\varphi^* \geq 0 \text{ on } \mathcal{M} = \text{span}\{k(z_1), \dots, k(z_n)\},$$

in which case  $\varphi$  can be extended to all of  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  without increasing the norm.



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We can rewrite the condition for the existence of a solution of the Pick problem as

$$([1] - \varphi\varphi^*) \star \mathbf{k} \geq 0,$$

where  $[1]$  is the matrix which has all entries equal to 1.



## Solution to the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem, cont.

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Let  $\delta(z) = 1$ ,  $Z(z) = z$ . Then the positivity condition can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}([1] - \varphi\varphi^*) \star kk^* &= \gamma\gamma^* \iff \\ \delta\delta^* - \varphi\varphi^* &= \gamma\gamma^* \star ([1] - ZZ^*) \iff \\ Z\gamma\gamma^*Z^* + \delta\delta^* &= \gamma\gamma^* + \varphi\varphi^*\end{aligned}$$



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Then there is an isometry  $V$  such that

$$V \begin{pmatrix} Z(z)\gamma(z) \\ \delta(z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma(z) \\ \varphi(z) \end{pmatrix}$$



## Solution to the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem, cont.

Let  $V = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}$ . Then we have

$$Az\gamma(z) + B = \gamma(z)$$

$$Cz\gamma(z) + D = \varphi(z)$$



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Solve for  $\gamma$  in the first equation:

$$\gamma(z) = (1 - Az)^{-1}B.$$

Plug into the second equation:

$$\varphi(z) = D + zC(1 - Az)^{-1}B.$$





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We refer to this as a *transfer function representation* for  $\varphi$ .

## Solution to the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem, cont.

The fact that  $M_\varphi^*$  can be extended from  $\mathcal{M}$  to the whole space without increasing the norm is referred to as the *Pick property* (for  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ ). Spaces with this property are rather special.



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For example, there is no Hilbert space of functions with the Pick property having  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^2)$  as the space of multipliers. So how do we solve interpolation problems in the function algebra  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^2)$ ?



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The approach we use, due to Jim Agler, is to look at all of the spaces (and their kernels) having  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^2)$  as the multiplier algebra, and require that for all such kernels,  $([1] - \varphi\varphi^*) \star \mathbf{k} \geq 0$ .



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## Semigroupoids—Definition and basic properties

Let  $G$  be a set with a function from  $X \rightarrow G$ , where  $X \subset G \times G$ , called a *partial multiplication* and written  $xy$  for  $(x, y) \in X$ .



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We define *idempotents* as those elements  $e$  of  $G$  such that  $ex = x$  whenever  $ex$  is defined and  $ye = y$  whenever  $ye$  is defined.



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The following laws are assumed to hold:

1. (**associative law**) If either  $(ab)c$  or  $a(bc)$  is defined, then so is the other and they are equal. If  $ab, bc$  are defined, then so is  $(ab)c$ .
2. (**existence of idempotents**) For all  $a \in G$ , there exist  $e, f \in G$  with  $ea = a = af$ . Also, if  $e^2 = e$ , then  $e$  is idempotent.
3. (**nonexistence of inverses**) If  $a, b \in G$  and  $ab = e$  where  $e$  is idempotent, then  $a = b = e$ .
4. (**strong artinian law**) For all  $a \in G$ , the set  $\{z, b, w : zbw = a\}$  is finite,  $+$  . . . .





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*No commutativity or cancellation required!*



## Semigroupoids—Order

Define a partial order on  $G$  as follows:

$b \leq a$  if there exist  $z, w \in G$  such that  $a = zbw$

Check:  $a \leq a$  since  $a = eaf$  for some idempotents  $e, f$ , etc.



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A set  $F \subset G$  is *lower* if  $a \in F$  and  $b \leq a$  then  $b \in F$ .



# Convolution products

The formal “power series” on a lower set  $F$  (ie, functions  $f, g : F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ) form a complex vector space  $\mathcal{P}(F)$  indexed by  $F$  with pointwise addition.

Since  $G$  is artinian there is a well-defined product given by

$$(f \star g)(a) = \sum_{rs=a} f(r)g(s) \in \mathcal{P}(F).$$



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Multiplicative unit:

$$\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in F_e, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

A function  $f$  is invertible if and only if  $f(x)$  is invertible for all  $x \in F_e$ .



## Convolution products, cont.

We also introduce the reverse product

$$(f \hat{\star} g)(a) = \sum_{rs=a} f(s)g(r).$$

The multiplicative unit remains  $\delta$  and the invertibility condition is the same.

It is unimportant that the functions map into  $\mathbb{C}$ .





## A bivariate $\star$ product—definition

Michael Jury defines a generalization of the Schur product which is a useful tool for interpolation problems. The equivalent in our setting is the following, which can be viewed as a bivariate version of the convolution product.



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### Definition

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$$(A \star B)(a, b) = \sum_{pq=a} \sum_{rs=b} A(p, r)B(q, s).$$



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The assumption that the entries of  $A$  and  $B$  are in  $\mathbb{C}$  is not important, and we will at times use the  $\star$  and  $\hat{\star}$  product when the entries are in other algebras.



## The bivariate $\star$ product—properties

- ▶ Associative:  $C \star (A \star B) = (C \star A) \star B$ .
- ▶ *Not necessarily commutative!*
- ▶  $A, B \geq 0 \implies A \star B \geq 0$ .
- ▶  $[1] = \delta\delta^*$  (that is,  $[1]_{a,b}$  is 1 for  $a, b$  both elements of  $F_e$  and zero otherwise) is the multiplicative unit.
- ▶  $A$  invertible  $\iff A_{ab}$  is invertible for all  $a, b \in F_e$ . The inverse is unique.
- ▶ *The inverse of a positive matrix need not be positive!*
- ▶ Inverses of selfadjoint elements are selfadjoint.
- ▶  $(A \star B)^* = A^* \star B^*$ .
- ▶ Equivalent statements apply to  $A \hat{\star} B$ .



# Toeplitz representations

Let  $\varphi$  be a function on a (finite) lower set  $F$ . Define the associated Toeplitz representation  $\mathfrak{T}$  by

$$(\mathfrak{T}(\varphi))_{a,b} = \begin{cases} \sum_c \varphi(c), & cb = a; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Note that  $\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)f = \varphi \star f$ .

In the case that  $G$  is the semigroupoid  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)$  is precisely the Toeplitz matrix associated with the sequence  $\{\varphi(j)\}$ .

At the other extreme, when  $G = G_e$ ,  $\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)$  is simply the diagonal matrix with diagonal entries  $\varphi(a)$  for  $a \in G$  which, despite our terminology, is very un-Toeplitz like!



# Generalized Szegő kernels

## Theorem

*Let  $A \in M(F)$  be positive, and suppose  $\|A \star 1\| < 1$ . Then  $[1] - A$  is invertible (with respect to the  $\star$  product) and  $([1] - A)^{-1} \geq 0$ .*





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Set  $A_{a,b} = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)^*$ . Then  $\|A \star 1\| < 1$ . The result then follows from the last theorem.



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## Example

*Take  $G = G_e = \mathbb{D}$ ,  $\varphi(z) = z$ , then  $([1] - \varphi\varphi^*)^{-1}$  is the Szegő kernel.*



## Interpolation problem

Let  $G$  be semigroupoid,  $\mathcal{A}$  a normed algebra of functions on  $G$ .

Let  $F$  be a finite lower set,  $\xi : F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given.

Does there exists a  $\varphi \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{A}} \leq 1$  and  $\varphi|_F = \xi$ ?



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Ideally, we want to not only characterize when a solution exists, but also explicitly give the solution.



## Examples

- ▶ If  $G = G_e = \mathbb{D}$ ,  $F$  a finite subset,  $\mathcal{A} = H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , this is the classical Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation problem.
- ▶ More generally, we could take  $G = G_e = R \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ , again  $F$  a finite subset,  $\mathcal{A} = H^\infty(R)$ . The case  $R$  a polydisk was done by Agler. Other generalised Cartan domains by Ambrozie, Ball, Timotin and others.
- ▶ We don't need  $R$  simply connected. For example  $R \subset \mathbb{C}$  an annulus was considered by Abrahamse.
- ▶ Let  $G = \mathbb{N}$ ,  $G_e = \{0\}$ , the  $\star$  product given by addition. Let  $F = \{0, \dots, n\}$ , a lower set. In this case we view  $\xi(k)$  as the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Taylor coefficient of a function expanded about 0. We then have the Carathéodory-Fejér interpolation problem.
- ▶  $G$  is a free semigroup on  $d$  letters,  $G_e$  contains only the empty word, the  $\star$  product is concatenation. We can take  $G$  to be commutative or noncommutative. The latter case is the sort of generalization of Carathéodory-Fejér interpolation considered by Popescu and others.



## More Examples

- ▶ More generally, it is possible to consider mixtures of problems from the last slide.
- ▶ There are also lots of exotic examples!
- ▶ In the above, the semigroupoids were rather tame. For these, if  $a$  is not an idempotent and  $eaf = a$ , then  $f = e$ . Also, there is cancellation, which is not necessary.



# Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces

We say that a function  $\mathbf{k} : G \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a *positive kernel* on  $G$  if for any finite subset  $A$  of  $G$ , the matrix  $(\mathbf{k}(a, b))_{a, b \in A}$  is positive semidefinite.

Define  $k : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  as  $k(b) = \mathbf{k}(\cdot, b)$ ,  $b \in G$ .

In the usual way we form a sesquilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  with  $\langle k(b), k(a) \rangle = \mathbf{k}(a, b)$ , mod out by the kernel, complete to a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k})$ .

On  $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k})$  addition is defined termwise.





## Reproducing kernels—the multiplier algebra for a single kernel

Define the *multiplier algebra*  $H^\infty(\mathbf{k})$  as the collection of operators  $\mathfrak{I}(\varphi) : f \mapsto \varphi \star f$  for functions  $\varphi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $\varphi \star f \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k})$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k})$ .

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The closed graph theorem implies that the elements of  $H^\infty(\mathbf{k})$  are bounded.

For  $f \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k})$ ,

$$\langle \mathfrak{I}(\varphi)f, k(a) \rangle = \left\langle f, \sum_{bc=a} \varphi(b) \star k(c) \right\rangle.$$

So  $\mathfrak{I}(\varphi) \star k(a) = \sum_{bc=a} \varphi(b) \star k(c)$ ;  
ie,  $\mathfrak{I}(\varphi) \star k(a) = (\varphi \star k)(a)$ .



## The multiplier algebra, cont.

For a lower set  $F$ , if we set  $\mathcal{M}_F$  to the closed linear span of kernel functions  $k(a)$ ,  $a \in F$ , then the usual sort of argument gives  $\mathcal{M}_F$  invariant for adjoints of multipliers  $\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)^*$ .



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The  $\star$ -product is useful in characterising multipliers.

$$\|\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)^*|\mathcal{M}_F\| \leq 1 \iff$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\langle (1 - \mathfrak{T}(\varphi)\mathfrak{T}(\varphi)^*)k(a), k(b) \rangle) \\ &= \left( \sum_{pq=a} \sum_{sr=b} ([1]_{pr} - \varphi(p)\varphi(r)^*) \mathbf{k}(q, s) \right) \\ &= ([1] - \varphi\varphi^*) \star \mathbf{k} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Test functions and families of reproducing kernels

Following Agler, let  $\Psi$  denote a collection of functions  $\{\psi\}$  with  $\|\mathfrak{F}(\psi)\| \leq 1$ ,  $\psi^{n*} \rightarrow 0$ , (and . . .) called the *test functions*.

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The *family of reproducing kernels associated to*  $\Psi$  is  $\mathcal{K}_\Psi = \{\mathbf{k}\}$ , where

$$([1] - \psi\psi^*) \star \mathbf{k} \geq 0$$

for all  $\psi \in \Psi$  and  $\mathbf{k} \in \mathcal{K}_\Psi$ . Our definition of a semigroupoid ensure that there exists a nontrivial family of test functions (corresponding to the kernel  $\mathbf{k} = 1$ ).



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Define the *multiplier algebra*  $H^\infty(\mathcal{K})$  as the intersection of all  $\bigcap_{\mathbf{k} \in \mathcal{K}} H^\infty(\mathbf{k})$ , with norm of an element the infimum of its norm over all  $H^\infty(\mathbf{k})$ .





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If  $G = G_e = \mathbb{D}$ ,  $\Psi = \{z\}$ , then the family of kernels consists of kernels of the form  $\gamma \star k \hat{\star} \gamma^*$ , where  $\mathbf{k}(x, y) = (1 - xy^*)^{-1}$  (the Szegő kernel).



# The evaluation map

Let  $C(\Psi)$  be the continuous functions on  $\Psi$ , the collection of test functions.

Define  $E \in B(G, C(\Psi))$  by

$$E(x)(\psi) = \psi(x), \quad \psi \in \Psi,$$

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- ▶  $E(x)$  is the evaluation map on  $\Psi$ .
- ▶  $\|E(x)\| < 1$  for each  $x \in G_e$  and  $\|E(x)\| \leq 1$  otherwise.
- ▶ The collection  $\{E(x) : x \in G\}$  separates points, so the smallest unital  $C^*$ -algebra containing all the  $E(x)$  is  $C(\Psi)$ .



# Colligations and transfer functions

Let  $E$  be an evaluation map,

$U = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}$  unitary on  $\mathcal{E} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  a Hilbert space

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Write  $\Sigma = (U, \mathcal{E}, \rho)$  (called a *colligation*).

Define the *transfer function* by

$$W_{\Sigma}(x) = (D\delta + C\rho(E) \star (\delta - A\rho(E))^{-1} \star (B\delta)) (x).$$



# The Main Result

## Theorem (Realization)

Suppose  $\Psi$  is a collection of test functions over a semigroupoid  $G$ , with associated family of kernels  $\mathcal{K}$ . Further, assume

$$\|T_E\| < 1.$$

The following are equivalent,

- (i)  $\varphi \in H^\infty(\mathcal{K})$  and  $\|\varphi\|_{H^\infty(\mathcal{K})} \leq 1$ ;
- (iiF) for each finite lower set  $F \subset G$  there exists a positive kernel  $\Gamma : F \times F \rightarrow (C(\Psi))^*$  so that for all  $x, y \in F$

$$([1] - \varphi\varphi^*)(x, y) = (\Gamma \hat{\star}([1] - EE^*))(x, y);$$

- (iiG) there exists a positive kernel  $\Gamma : G \times G \rightarrow (C(\Psi))^*$  so that for all  $x, y \in G$

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- (iii) there is a colligation  $\Sigma$  so that  $\varphi = W_\Sigma$ .



## How the main result is proved

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(i)  $\implies$  (ii): Hahn-Banach separation argument.



# Agler-Ambrozie-Jury interpolation

Let  $F$  be a finite lower set,  $\xi : F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given.

Then there exists a  $\varphi \in H^\infty(\mathcal{K})$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{H^\infty(\mathcal{K})} \leq 1$  and  $\varphi|_F = \xi$   
 $\iff$  for each  $k \in \mathcal{K}_\Psi$ , the kernel

$$F \times F \ni (x, y) \mapsto (([1] - \phi\phi^*) \star k)(x, y)$$

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Moreover, in this case there is a transfer function representation for the solution.



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There is a similar result corresponding to left/right tangential interpolation (eg, solving  $(\varphi \star z)(a) = w(a)$  for all  $a$  in a finite lower set  $F$ ).



## More on the proof of the realization theorem

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By contradiction:

Define the cone

$$\mathcal{C}_F = \{(\Gamma \hat{\star}([1] - EE^*))_{x, y \in F} : \Gamma \in M(F, \mathfrak{B}^*)^+\},$$

and assume that

$$M_\varphi = (([1] - \varphi\varphi^*)(x, y))_{x, y \in F} \notin \mathcal{C}_F.$$



## More on the proof of the realization theorem, cont.

Use a Hahn-Banach separation argument.

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This is a cyclic representation with cyclic vector  $\delta$ .



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Since  $\|\mu(\varphi)\| > 1$ ,  $([1] - \varphi\varphi^*) \hat{\star} k \not\geq 0$ .



# Applications

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<http://front.math.ucdavis.edu/math.FA/0507083>



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