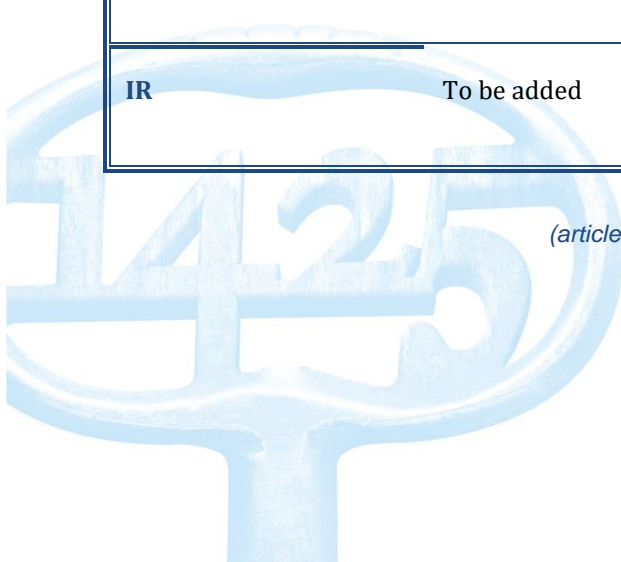




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<b>Author contact</b>	<a href="mailto:lieven.delathauwer@kuleuven.be">lieven.delathauwer@kuleuven.be</a> <a href="tel:+3256246062">+32 56 24 60 62</a>
<b>Abstract</b>	See below.
<b>IR</b>	To be added

*(article begins on next page)*



1        **SYSTEMS OF POLYNOMIAL EQUATIONS, HIGHER-ORDER**  
2        **TENSOR DECOMPOSITIONS AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL**  
3        **HARMONIC RETRIEVAL: A UNIFYING FRAMEWORK.**  
4        **PART I: THE CANONICAL POLYADIC DECOMPOSITION\***

5                    JEROEN VANDERSTUKKEN<sup>†</sup> AND LIEVEN DE LATHAUWER<sup>†</sup>

6        **Abstract.** We propose a multilinear algebra framework to solve systems of polynomial equations  
7 with simple roots. We translate connections between univariate polynomial root-finding, eigenvalue  
8 decompositions and harmonic retrieval to their higher-order counterparts: a Canonical Polyadic  
9 Decomposition (CPD) that exploits shift invariance structures in the null space of the Macaulay  
10 matrix reveals the roots of the polynomial system. The new framework allows us to use numerical  
11 CPD algorithms for solving systems of polynomial equations. For the same degree of the Macaulay  
12 matrix as in Numerical Polynomial Algebra/Polynomial Numerical Linear Algebra (NPA/PNLA),  
13 the CPD is interpreted as the joint eigenvalue decomposition of the multiplication tables. In our  
14 approach the degree can also be lower. Affine roots and roots at infinity can be handled in the  
15 same way. With minor modifications, the technique can be used to estimate approximate roots of  
16 over-constrained systems.

17        **Key words.** system of polynomial equations, multilinear algebra, canonical polyadic decompo-  
18 sition, harmonic retrieval, Macaulay matrix, Vandermonde matrix

19        **AMS subject classifications.** 13P15, 15A69, 65H04

20        **1. Introduction.** Systems of polynomial equations arise often in science and  
21 engineering (chemistry, mechanics, optimization etc.). Solving such a system means  
22 finding all the common roots of the polynomials. Formally, the roots of a system of  $s$   
23 polynomial equations in  $n$  complex variables  $x_j \in \mathbb{C}$

24 (1)                    
$$\begin{cases} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ f_s(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \end{cases}$$

25 are all points  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  that satisfy (1). The problem has been studied extensively in al-  
26 gebraic geometry. Most of the algebraic geometry-based methods compute a Gröbner  
27 basis for the system, the common roots of which are easier to obtain. One semi-  
28 nal method to compute a Gröbner basis is due to Buchberger (1965) [3]. However,  
29 the implied symbolic manipulations are subject to numerical instabilities and they  
30 are not very meaningful when the polynomial coefficients are derived from measured  
31 data [13, 14]. Arguably the most popular numerical method to solve a system of  
32 polynomial equations is numerical Polynomial Homotopy Continuation (PHC) [37].

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<sup>†</sup>Group Science, Engineering and Technology, KU Leuven Kulak, E. Sabbelaan 53, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium and Department of Electrical Engineering ESAT/STADIUS, KU Leuven, Kasteelpark Arenberg 10, 3001 Leuven, Belgium ([vanderstukken.jeroen@gmail.com](mailto:vanderstukken.jeroen@gmail.com), [lieven.delathauwer@kuleuven.be](mailto:lieven.delathauwer@kuleuven.be)).

Continuation retrieves the roots of an easy, parametrized system that can be continuously transformed into the more difficult given system. Among the first to look at (1) from a linear algebra point of view, were Sylvester (1853) and Macaulay (1902). Their work introduced a resultant (matrix) — itself a polynomial (matrix) that generalizes the characteristic polynomial in the univariate case. In his Numerical Polynomial Algebra (NPA), Stetter (2004) linked the problem to eigenvalue computations of so-called “multiplication tables” and brought it to the field of numerical linear algebra [30]. Batselier and Dreesen (2013) developed Polynomial Numerical Linear Algebra (PNLA): applying a reasoning known as “Estimation of Signal Parameters by Rotational Invariance Techniques” (ESPRIT) in array processing to the multivariate monomials in the null space of the system’s Macaulay (resultant) matrix yields an eigenvalue decomposition (EVD) that reveals the roots of the system [1, 12, 25].

A higher-order tensor is a multi-way array indexed by three or more indexes.<sup>1</sup> As such, a tensor naturally generalizes the concept of a one-way vector, which is indexed by one index, and a two-way matrix, which is indexed by two indexes. Tensor decompositions like the Canonical Polyadic Decomposition (CPD) [19] are then generalizations of matrix decompositions. Whereas the matrix Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) is only unique due to the imposed orthogonality constraints, the CPD is unique under much milder conditions, making it a crucial tool for data analysis [4, 26].

An isomorphism between polynomials and higher-order tensors has been long known in algebraic geometry. Yet, this paper translates the well-known connections between univariate polynomial root-finding, linear algebra and harmonic retrieval (HR) to their higher-order counterparts: systems of multivariate polynomial equations, multilinear algebra and multidimensional harmonic retrieval (MHR). As does PNLA, we exploit the structure of the null space of a system’s Macaulay matrix — to then build a third-order tensor of which the CPD reveals the roots of the system. Moreover, we explain that this CPD may be seen as the *joint* EVD of NPA’s multiplication tables — opposed to only *one* EVD in PNLA. In our framework there is no need to handle affine and projective roots in a different manner. Numerical experiments confirm that the precision of our framework is as good as the precision of PHC. The roots may be found from a Macaulay matrix of lower degree. The framework also allows us to find the approximate roots of over-constrained systems.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 will review our notation and introduce some elementary definitions. In sections 3–4 we will derive a connection between the null space of the Macaulay matrix of a generic system of polynomial equations, i.e. a system that has only (i) simple and (ii) affine roots, the MHR problem and CPD. The material will be discussed in a discipline-specific manner in section 3 and combined in section 4. At the end of section 4 we will have expressed the problem as a so-called coupled CPD. This is the polynomial equations counterpart of a recently developed technique for MHR [28, 29]. In section 5 we will go further and reduce the polynomial problem to a single CPD. In subsection 5.1 we focus on the case of affine roots only and in subsection 5.2 we will generalize to the projective case, i.e. in subsection 5.2 we will drop constraint (ii) above. In section 6 we will make the connection with the generalized eigenvalue decomposition (GEVD) of a matrix pencil and with NPA/PNLA. In section 7 we will extend our approach to Macaulay matrices of degree one less than the degree required in PNLA. Section 8 will present the overall multilin-

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<sup>1</sup>An  $N$ th-order tensor can be thought of as the outer product of  $N$  vector spaces. Mathematicians tend to prefer this coordinate-free definition [23].

80 ear algebra-based algorithm to find the roots of a system of polynomial equations that  
 81 has only (i) simple roots. The companion paper [36] will drop constraint (i) as well  
 82 and relates the topics to a third-order tensor block-term decomposition. Section 9  
 83 will present the results of two numerical experiments. Section 10 will summarize our  
 84 findings.

## 85 2. Notation.

86 **2.1. Higher-order tensors.** To infer the type of a quantity from its notation,  
 87 scalars, vectors, matrices and tensors are denoted by italic, boldface lowercase, bold-  
 88 face uppercase and calligraphic letters respectively:  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2}$   
 89 and the  $N$ th-order tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times \dots \times I_N}$ . In this paper we will mainly work with  
 90 third-order tensors ( $N = 3$ ). We will consistently write  $a_{i_1} = \mathbf{a}(i_1) = (\mathbf{a})_{i_1}$  for the  
 91  $i_1$ th (scalar) entry of the vector  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $a_{i_1, i_2} = \mathbf{A}(i_1, i_2) = (\mathbf{A})_{i_1, i_2}$  for the entry of  
 92 the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  with row index  $i_1$  and column index  $i_2$ . Using Matlab colon notation,  
 93  $\mathbf{a}_{i_2} = \mathbf{A}(:, i_2) = (\mathbf{A})_{i_2}$  denotes the  $i_2$ th column of  $\mathbf{A}$ . Likewise for tensor entries and  
 94 for fibers: a mode- $n$  fiber of a tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is a vector obtained when all but the  $n$ th  
 95 index of  $\mathcal{A}$  are kept fixed. Mode-1 and mode-2 fibers correspond to column and row  
 96 vectors, respectively. We denote the  $i_3$ th matrix slice of  $\mathcal{A}$  as  $\mathbf{A}_{i_3} = \mathcal{A}(:, :, i_3)$ . We  
 97 use  $\cdot^*$ ,  $\cdot^T$ ,  $\cdot^H$ ,  $\cdot^{-1}$  and  $\cdot^\dagger$  for the complex conjugate, transpose, Hermitian transpose,  
 98 inverse and Moore–Penrose pseudoinverse, respectively.

99  $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$  represents a diagonal matrix with the vector  $\mathbf{d}$  on its diagonal and  
 100  $\mathbf{D}_i(\mathbf{C}) = \text{diag}(\mathbf{C}(i, :))$  holds the  $i$ th row of the matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ .  $\mathbf{I}_I$  is the identity matrix  
 101 of order  $I \times I$ .  $\text{span}(\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_I\})$  is the span of the vectors  $\mathbf{a}_1$  through  $\mathbf{a}_I$ .  $\text{col}(\mathbf{A})$ ,  
 102  $\text{row}(\mathbf{A})$  and  $\text{null}(\mathbf{A})$  are used to denote the column, row and right null space of  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  
 103 respectively. The dimension of a vector space is denoted by  $\dim \cdot$ . The rank of matrix  
 104  $\mathbf{A}$  is denoted by  $r_{\mathbf{A}} = \dim \text{col}(\mathbf{A}) = \dim \text{row}(\mathbf{A})$  while  $k_{\mathbf{A}}$  is its Kruskal rank, i.e. the  
 105 largest number  $k$  such that any subset of  $k$  columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  is linearly independent. The  
 106 Kronecker product of  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times J_1}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_2 \times J_2}$  is given by

$$107 \quad \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1}\mathbf{B} & \cdots & a_{1,J_1}\mathbf{B} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{I_1,1}\mathbf{B} & \cdots & a_{I_1,J_1}\mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 I_2 \times J_1 J_2}.$$

108 The Khatri–Rao or column-wise Kronecker product of  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times R}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_2 \times R}$  is  
 109 given by  $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathbf{a}_1 \otimes \mathbf{b}_1 \cdots \mathbf{a}_R \otimes \mathbf{b}_R) \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 I_2 \times R}$ .

110 A third-order tensor  $\mathcal{A}$  is vectorized into  $\text{vec}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathbf{a}_{[3,2,1]}$  by vertically stacking all  
 111 entries such that  $i_3$  varies slowest and  $i_1$  varies fastest. In other words, the tensor entry  
 112  $a_{i_1, i_2, i_3}$  corresponds to the entry of  $\text{vec}(\mathcal{A})$  with index  $(i_3 - 1)I_2 I_1 + (i_2 - 1)I_1 + i_1$ .  
 113 The mode-1 matrix representation denoted by  $\mathbf{A}_{[1,3,2]}$  is obtained by horizontally  
 114 stacking the columns of  $\mathcal{A}$  in such a way that  $i_2$  varies fastest along the second  
 115 dimension. In other words,  $a_{i_1, i_2, i_3}$  corresponds to the entry of  $\mathbf{A}_{[1,3,2]}$  with row index  
 116  $i_1$  and column index  $(i_3 - 1)I_2 + i_2$ . Similarly,  $a_{i_1, i_2, i_3}$  corresponds to the entry of  
 117  $\mathbf{A}_{[1,2,3]}$  with row index  $(i_1 - 1)I_2 + i_2$  and column index  $i_3$ . Other mode- $n$  matrix  
 118 representations are defined analogously. The mode-1 product  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A} \cdot_1 \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{J \times I_2 \times I_3}$   
 119 of a tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  and a matrix  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{J \times I_1}$  has the matrix representation  
 120  $\mathbf{C}_{[1,3,2]} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}_{[1,3,2]}$ , i.e. it is the result of multiplying all columns of  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $\mathbf{B}$ .  
 121 Like-wise, the mode-2 product  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{A} \cdot_2 \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times \tilde{J} \times I_3}$  is obtained by multiplying all  
 122 rows of  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $\tilde{\mathbf{B}} \in \mathbb{C}^{\tilde{J} \times I_2}$ . The mode- $n$  rank  $R_n = \text{rank}_n(\mathcal{A})$  is the dimension of  
 123 the mode- $n$  fiber space, i.e.  $R_n = r_{\mathbf{A}_{[n, \bullet]}}$ , in which  $\bullet$  indicates that the order of the

indices different from  $n$  does not matter. In particular,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are known as the column rank and row rank of  $\mathcal{A}$ , respectively. The tuple  $\text{rank}_{\boxplus}(\mathcal{A}) = (R_1, R_2, R_3)$  is called the multilinear rank of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

The outer product  $\mathcal{T} = \mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b} \otimes \mathbf{c}$  with non-zero  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  yields a rank-1 tensor with entries  $t_{i_1, i_2, i_3} = a_{i_1} b_{i_2} c_{i_3}$ . In matrix format we can write  $\mathbf{T}_{[1,2;3]} = (\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b}) \mathbf{c}^T$ . Note that the larger symbol  $\otimes$  denotes the Kronecker product whereas the smaller symbol  $\otimes$  denotes the outer product. We further define the inner product of two tensors as  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  as  $\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \rangle = \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3} a_{i_1, i_2, i_3} b_{i_1, i_2, i_3}^*$  and the induced Frobenius norm as  $\|\mathcal{A}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A} \rangle}$ .

**2.2. Polynomial equations.** In the system of polynomial equations (1), the basic building blocks are monomials  $\mathbf{x}^\alpha = \prod_{j=1}^n x_j^{\alpha_j}$  with exponent vector  $\alpha$ , and polynomials  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{l=1}^p f_l \mathbf{x}_l^{\alpha_l}$  with coefficient vector  $\mathbf{f}$ . The degree of a monomial is defined as  $\deg(\mathbf{x}^\alpha) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j$ . There exist several schemes for ordering monomials by their exponent vector. In this paper, we will adopt the degree negative lexicographic order. The monomials  $\mathbf{x}^\alpha < \mathbf{x}^\beta$  if one of the following two conditions is satisfied: (i)  $\deg(\mathbf{x}^\alpha) < \deg(\mathbf{x}^\beta)$ ; or (ii)  $\deg(\mathbf{x}^\alpha) = \deg(\mathbf{x}^\beta)$  and the leftmost nonzero entry of  $\beta - \alpha$  is negative.

**EXAMPLE 2.1.** Consider monomials in two variables. We have that (i)  $x_2 < x_1^2$  because  $\deg(x_2) = 1 < 2 = \deg(x_1^2)$  and (ii)  $x_1^2 < x_1 x_2$  because  $\deg(x_1^2) = \deg(x_1 x_2) = 2$  and  $\beta - \alpha = (-1 \ 1)^T$ , the first entry of which is negative.

Each polynomial  $f_i$  has a degree  $d_i$  equal to the degree of the monomial with the highest degree in  $f_i$ . The ring of all polynomials in  $n$  variables is denoted by  $\mathcal{C}^n$ . The vector space  $\mathcal{C}_d^n$  is the subset of the ring  $\mathcal{C}^n$  that contains all polynomials up to degree  $d$ . Its dimension is given by

$$q(d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \dim \mathcal{C}_d^n = \binom{n+d}{n}.$$

A polynomial is homogeneous if all its monomials have equal degree. One can homogenize a polynomial  $f$  of degree  $d$  to  $f^h$  by multiplying each monomial  $\mathbf{x}_l^{\alpha_l}$  in  $f$  with a power  $\beta_l$  of the variable  $x_0$  such that  $\deg(x_0^{\beta_l} \mathbf{x}_l^{\alpha_l}) = d$  for all  $l$ . The ring (vector space) of all homogeneous polynomials in  $n+1$  variables (up to degree  $d$ ) is then denoted by  $\mathcal{P}^n$  ( $\mathcal{P}_d^n$ ). Having introduced the variable  $x_0$ , the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^n$  arises as the set of equivalence classes on  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ : we have that  $(x'_0 \ x'_1 \ \dots \ x'_n)^T \sim (x_0 \ x_1 \ \dots \ x_n)^T$  if there exists a  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $(x'_0 \ x'_1 \ \dots \ x'_n)^T = \lambda (x_0 \ x_1 \ \dots \ x_n)^T$ . Points with  $x_0 = 0$  cannot be normalized to their affine counterpart  $(1 \ \frac{x_1}{x_0} \ \dots \ \frac{x_n}{x_0})^T$ : they are points at infinity.

The degree of the system (1) is  $d_0 = \max_{i=1}^s d_i$ . The set of all roots of (1) is called the solution set. For square ( $n = s$ ) systems with individual degrees  $d_i$ ,  $i = 1 : n$ , and under the important assumption that the solution set is 0-dimensional, meaning that all roots are isolated and that their number is finite<sup>2</sup>, the number of roots in the projective space, counting multiplicities, is given by the Bézout number

$$m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^n d_i.$$

<sup>2</sup>The solution set is called a variety in algebraic geometry. Its dimension equals the degree of the Hilbert polynomial. As long as the greatest common divisor of the multivariate polynomials  $f_i$  is a constant, the solution set is 0-dimensional.

164 The  $m$  roots of (1) will be represented by  $(x_1^{(k)} \ x_2^{(k)} \ \dots \ x_n^{(k)})^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $k = 1 : m$ .  
 165 If there are roots of multiplicity greater than 1,  $m_0 < m$  denotes the number of  
 166 disjoint roots.<sup>3</sup>

167 **2.3. Vandermonde matrices.** A (univariate) Vandermonde matrix is of the  
 168 following form:

169  
 170 (2)  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}(\{z_r\}_{r=1}^R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathbf{v}_1^{(1)} \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_R^{(1)}) \in \mathbb{C}^{I \times R}$ ,  
 171  
 172  $\mathbf{v}_r^{(1)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 \ z_r \ z_r^2 \ \dots \ z_r^{I-1})^T$ ,  $r = 1 : R$ .

173 The scalars  $z_r \in \mathbb{C}$  are sometimes called the generators of  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}$ . The  $((d+1) \times m)$   
 174 univariate Vandermonde matrix generated by the  $j$ th coordinate of the  $m$  roots of  
 175 (1), i.e. by  $\{x_j^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^m$ , will specifically be denoted as  $\mathbf{V}^{(j)}(d)$ ,  $j = 1 : n$ .

176 A *multivariate* Vandermonde matrix is of the following form:

177  
 178 (3)  $\mathbf{V}(\{z_{j,r}, 1 \leq j \leq n, 1 \leq r \leq R\}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathbf{v}_1 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_R) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times R}$ ,  
 179  $\mathbf{v}_r \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1 \ z_{1,r} \ z_{2,r} \ \dots \ z_{1,r}^2 \ z_{1,r}z_{2,r} \ \dots \ z_{n-1,r}z_{n,r}^{d-1} \ z_{n,r}^d)^T$ ,  $r = 1 : R$ .

181 The entries of multivariate Vandermonde vectors are ordered by the degree negative  
 182 lexicographic order. The  $(q(d) \times m)$  multivariate Vandermonde matrix generated  
 183 by the coordinates of the  $m$  roots of (1), i.e. by  $\{x_j^{(k)}, 1 \leq j \leq n, 1 \leq k \leq m\}$ , will  
 184 specifically be denoted as  $\mathbf{V}(d)$ .

185 **3. CPD, PNLA and MHR.** In this paper we combine insights from three  
 186 disciplines: tensor methods, PNLA and MHR. This section puts the ingredients that  
 187 we will need on the table, presented in a way that will facilitate their combination.

188 **3.1. Tensor CPD and matrix GEVD.** An  $R$ -term Polyadic Decomposition  
 189 (PD) expresses a tensor  $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  as a sum of  $R$  rank-1 terms

190 (4) 
$$\mathcal{T} = \sum_{r=1}^R \mathbf{a}_r \otimes \mathbf{b}_r \otimes \mathbf{c}_r \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [[\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}]],$$

191 where  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_2 \times R}$  and  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_3 \times R}$  are called factor matrices. If  $R$   
 192 is minimal, then the PD is called a *Canonical* Polyadic Decomposition (CPD). The  
 193 minimal number of rank-1 terms is called *the* rank of  $\mathcal{T}$  and denoted as  $r_{\mathcal{T}}$ . The  
 194 decomposition is visualized in Figure 1. In terms of matrix slices, (4) can be written  
 195 as

196 (5) 
$$\mathbf{T}_{i_3} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{D}_{i_3}(\mathbf{C}) \cdot \mathbf{B}^T, \quad i_3 = 1 : I_3.$$

197 Working with matrix representations, (4) can also be written as

198 (6) 
$$\mathbf{T}_{[1,2;3]} = \sum_{r=1}^R (\mathbf{a}_r \otimes \mathbf{b}_r) \mathbf{c}_r^T = (\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{C}^T.$$

<sup>3</sup>This case is handled in the companion paper [36].

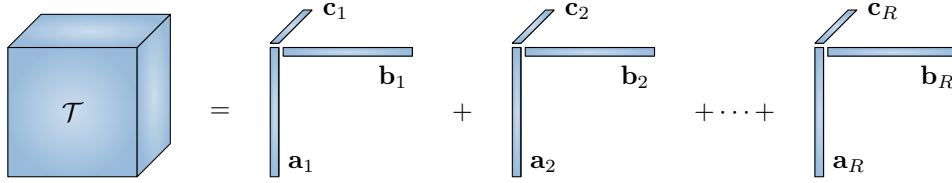


Fig. 1: (C)PD of a third-order tensor is a decomposition in a (minimal) number of rank-1 terms.

Obviously, the rank-1 terms in a CPD can be arbitrarily permuted and the corresponding columns of the different factor matrices can be scaled/counterscaled. Formally, the CPD of a rank- $R$  tensor  $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  is said to be essentially *unique* iff  $\mathcal{T} = \llbracket \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket = \llbracket \tilde{\mathbf{A}}, \tilde{\mathbf{B}}, \tilde{\mathbf{C}} \rrbracket$  implies that there exist a permutation matrix  $\mathbf{\Pi} \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  and nonsingular diagonal matrices  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_A \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_B \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  and  $\mathbf{\Lambda}_C \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  such that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{\Pi}\mathbf{\Lambda}_A, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{\Pi}\mathbf{\Lambda}_B, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{C}} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{\Pi}\mathbf{\Lambda}_C \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{\Lambda}_A\mathbf{\Lambda}_B\mathbf{\Lambda}_C = \mathbf{I}_R.$$

For brevity, we will drop the term “essential” from now on. The following theorem presents a first sufficient uniqueness condition.

**THEOREM 3.1.** [24] *Let  $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  admit a PD  $\mathcal{T} = \llbracket \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket$  where  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times R}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_2 \times R}$  have full column rank, then*

$$r_{\mathcal{T}} = R^4 \text{ and the CPD of } \mathcal{T} \text{ is unique} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad k_{\mathbf{C}} \geq 2.$$

Under the conditions in [Theorem 3.1](#), the CPD is not only unique; it can directly be obtained from a matrix GEVD. To explain this, let us consider two matrices  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2 \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2}$ , with  $I_1 \geq I_2$  (w.l.o.g.), structured as  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1 = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}_1\mathbf{B}^T$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2 = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}_2\mathbf{B}^T$ . Here we assume that  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times R}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_2 \times R}$  have full column rank, that  $\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2 \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  are diagonal and that there are no collinear vectors in the set  $\{((\mathbf{D}_1)_{r,r}, (\mathbf{D}_2)_{r,r})^T\}_{r=1}^R$ . Clearly, the columns of  $\mathbf{B}^{\dagger, T}$  are generalized eigenvectors of the pencil  $(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2)$  and the GEVD is unique since all the generalized eigenvalues are distinct. Condition  $k_{\mathbf{C}} \geq 2$  in the theorem means that no two columns of  $\mathbf{C}$  are collinear. This implies that it is possible to take  $\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_2$  equal to two of the tensor slices  $\mathbf{T}_{i_3}$ , or to suitable linear combinations of the slices if this is needed to ensure that all the generalized eigenvalues are distinct. Note that CPD may be seen as an extension of GEVD to more than two matrices.

One could say that, under the conditions in [Theorem 3.1](#), the computation of a CPD is a task of linear algebra. However, this is a matter of perspective. Although the CPD has *algebraically* been reduced to a matrix GEVD, there are *numerical* differences. Formally, collapsing the structure of the full tensor into the structure of a matrix pencil may increase the condition number [2]. Moreover, in many applications the tensor  $\mathcal{T}$  is only known with limited precision (e.g. it consists of noisy measurements) and the CPD structure does not hold exactly. In such cases, the factor matrices are most often estimated by a numerical optimization routine that fits the CPD model to the given tensor [27, 39, 26], and this is clearly a multilinear problem.

<sup>4</sup>In other words,  $R$  is the minimal number of rank-1 terms and the PD is canonical.

233 In practice, one often initializes the optimization algorithm with estimates obtained  
 234 by GEVD. In other words, the problem of linear algebra is solved to obtain a first  
 235 estimate of the solution of the multilinear problem.

236 It may come as a surprise that the CPD of  $\mathcal{T}$  can be obtained from a matrix  
 237 GEVD, while CPD is known to be an NP-hard problem [18]. Again this is a matter  
 238 of perspective. The qualification “NP-hard” concerns “CPD in general”. However,  
 239 in [Theorem 3.1](#) we consider a specific class of CPDs, namely the class for which  
 240  $r_{\mathbf{A}} = r_{\mathbf{B}} = R$  and  $k_{\mathbf{C}} \geq 2$ . Under these conditions it *is indeed* possible to obtain  
 241 the factors from a GEVD. At least, there is an algebraic guarantee for CPDs that  
 242 are exact. However, as mentioned above, there are numerical aspects and also data  
 243 quality aspects. For instance, the CPD structure that we will discuss in [subsection 3.3](#)  
 244 is, under certain application-specific assumptions, known to hold exactly for a range of  
 245 array processing problems in the absence of noise. In practice, data are noisy and the  
 246 CPD model describes what happens with the “true” underlying signals. One assumes  
 247 that the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) is high enough to allow the factor matrices to  
 248 be estimated with reasonable accuracy. Simulations may give an idea of the SNR that  
 249 is required. The numerical experiment in [subsection 9.2](#) will be an example of this  
 250 approach.

251 [Theorem 3.1](#) assumes that two factor matrices,  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ , have full column rank.  
 252 The next theorem relaxes this to a full column rank assumption on a single factor  
 253 matrix; for notational convenience we take  $\mathbf{C}$  for the latter. The theorem is formu-  
 254 lated in terms of compound matrices. For  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{I \times R}$ , the second compound matrix  
 255  $\mathbf{M}_2(\mathbf{A}) \in \mathbb{C}^{\binom{I}{2} \times \binom{R}{2}}$  is the matrix that contains all  $(2 \times 2)$  minors, ordered lexicograph-  
 256 ically [10, Section 2].

257 **THEOREM 3.2.** [[7](#), [20](#)] *Let  $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3}$  admit a PD  $\mathcal{T} = \llbracket \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket$  where*  
 258  *$\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_3 \times R}$  has full column rank. If  $\mathbf{M}_2(\mathbf{A}) \odot \mathbf{M}_2(\mathbf{B}) \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{I}{2} \binom{J}{2} \times \binom{R}{2}}$  has full column*  
 259 *rank, then  $r_{\mathcal{T}} = R$  and the CPD of  $\mathcal{T}$  is unique.*

260 Like [Theorem 3.1](#), [Theorem 3.2](#) admits a constructive interpretation [7]. Let  $\mathbf{T}_{[1,2;3]} =$   
 261  $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T$  denote a rank-revealing decomposition of  $\mathbf{T}_{[1,2;3]}$ . Comparing with (6), we want  
 262 to find a nonsingular matrix  $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  such that  $\mathbf{E}\mathbf{G}$  takes the form of a Khatri-  
 263 Rao product. If the matrix  $\mathbf{G}$  is unique (up to trivial indeterminacies), then  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  
 264  $\mathbf{C}$  follow immediately from the connection with (6). It turns out that, under the  
 265 conditions in [Theorem 3.2](#), an auxiliary tensor  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R \times R}$  can be derived from  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  
 266 with CPD given by  $\mathcal{U} = \llbracket \mathbf{G}^{-1}, \mathbf{G}^{-1}, \mathbf{F} \rrbracket$ , in which  $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{C}^{R \times R}$  is also nonsingular.  
 267 As the auxiliary CPD satisfies the conditions of [Theorem 3.1](#), the desired  $\mathbf{G}$  can  
 268 be obtained from a GEVD. The auxiliary tensor  $\mathcal{U}$  itself can be obtained from an  
 269 overdetermined set of linear equations.

270 Summarizing, also under the conditions in [Theorem 3.2](#), the computation of an  
 271 exact CPD can be reduced to a matrix GEVD. If the tensor  $\mathcal{T}$  is only known with  
 272 limited precision, then we may proceed as follows. The GEVD derived from the  
 273 auxiliary tensor  $\mathcal{U}$  may be used to initialize a numerical optimization algorithm that  
 274 fits a CPD model to  $\mathcal{U}$ . The resulting estimate of  $\mathbf{G}$  yields first estimates of the factor  
 275 matrices  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{C}$  of the original tensor  $\mathcal{T}$ . The latter may in turn be used to initialize  
 276 a numerical optimization algorithm that fits a CPD model to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

277 The conditions in [Theorem 3.2](#) can be relaxed further; see [[26](#), Section IV] for a  
 278 short tutorial on CPD uniqueness results.

279 **3.2. The Macaulay matrix.** To fully comprehend the construction of the  
 280 Macaulay matrix, polynomial ideals and their quotient rings need to be introduced



281 first. A polynomial is defined as a linear combination of  $p$  monomials. An extension  
 282 is given by a polynomial combination  $g = \sum_{i=1}^s c_i f_i$  where both  $f_i$  and  $c_i$  are poly-  
 283 nomials in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $i = 1 : s$  [5]. The subset of the ring  $\mathbb{C}^n$  that is reached by polynomial  
 284 combinations of the elements of  $\mathcal{F} = \{f_i\}_{i=1}^s$  is an ideal: it is closed under polynomial  
 285 combination. On the other hand, given a fixed set of  $m$  points  $\mathcal{Z} = \{\mathbf{z}_k\}_{k=1}^m \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  
 286 the subset  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  of polynomials that attain zero in  $\mathcal{Z}$  is also an ideal. Indeed, every  
 287 polynomial combination of the polynomials in  $\mathcal{I}$  is again zero in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is now a  
 288 (non-unique) basis for  $\mathcal{I}$ <sup>5</sup>, we write  $\mathcal{I} = \langle \mathcal{F} \rangle$  and we know that  $\mathcal{Z}$  is nothing but the  
 289 solution set of the system defined by the basis  $\mathcal{F}$ .

290 If  $g$  is a polynomial that satisfies  $\exists \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z} : g(\mathbf{z}) = a \neq 0$ , then  $g \in \mathcal{I}$  is impossible.  
 291 Instead, we can write  $g = \sum_{i=1}^s c_i f_i + r$  with  $r(\mathbf{z}) = a$ , or, more generally,  $g(\mathbf{z}_k) =$   
 292  $r(\mathbf{z}_k)$  for all  $k$ . We say that  $g \sim r \Leftrightarrow g - r \in \mathcal{I}$  and that the residue class of  $g \pmod{\mathcal{I}}$   
 293 is the set  $[g] = \{r \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid g \sim r\}$  [32]. In particular,  $[0] = \mathcal{I}$ . If  $g \in \mathcal{I}$ , it follows that  
 294  $g(\mathbf{z}_k) = r(\mathbf{z}_k) = 0$  for all  $k$ . One can show that, if all roots in  $\mathcal{Z}$  defined by the  
 295 elements of  $\mathcal{F}$  are simple, then the converse is true, i.e.  $g(\mathbf{z}_k) = 0$  for all  $k$  is sufficient  
 296 for  $g \in \mathcal{I}$ . The set of all residue classes  $[r]$  is a quotient ring  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{I}$  of the polynomial  
 297 ideal  $\mathcal{I}$ . From the above reasoning, any residue class is completely characterized by  
 298 the values its members take on  $\mathcal{Z}$  and  $\dim \mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{I} = m$ .

299 **Definition 3.3** defines the aforementioned Macaulay matrix. The definition is  
 300 most easily understood by means of **Example 3.4**. For a given system (1) and a  
 301 chosen degree  $d \geq d_0$ , the Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  is a matrix constructed from the  
 302 polynomial coefficients in such a way that its row space  $\mathcal{M}_d$  is the set of polynomial  
 303 combinations

$$304 \quad \mathcal{M}_d = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^s c_i f_i \mid c_i \in \mathbb{C}_{d-d_i}^n \right\}.$$

305 **DEFINITION 3.3.** [14, p. 263] Let  $f_i \in \mathbb{C}_{d_i}^n$ ,  $i = 1 : s$ , be  $s$  polynomials of degree  
 306  $d_i$  in  $n$  variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , then the Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  of degree  $d$  contains as  
 307 its rows the coefficients of

$$308 \quad \mathbf{M}(d) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ x_1 f_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n^{d-d_1} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ x_1 f_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n^{d-d_s} f_s \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times q(d)}$$

309 where each polynomial  $f_i$ ,  $i = 1 : s$ , is multiplied with all possible monomials  $\mathbf{x}^\alpha$ ,  
 310  $\deg(\alpha) = 0 : d - d_i \in \mathbb{N}$  — eventually determining the number of rows  $p$ .

311 **EXAMPLE 3.4.** [12, p. 17] Consider the system of  $s = 2$  polynomial equations in  
 312  $n = 2$  variables  $x_1$  and  $x_2$

$$313 \quad \begin{cases} f_1(x_1, x_2) = -x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2 + 5x_1 - 3x_2 - 4 = 0 \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2 - 1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

<sup>5</sup>One such basis is the Gröbner basis for the ideal.

314 where  $d_1 = d_2 = 2$ . The system has  $m = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$  solutions  $(x_1^{(k)} \ x_2^{(k)})^T$ ,  
 315  $k = 1 : 4$ , namely  $(0 \ -1)^T$ ,  $(1 \ 0)^T$ ,  $(3 \ -2)^T$  and  $(4 \ -5)^T$ .

316 We start constructing the Macaulay matrix at  $d = 2 \geq 2 = d_0$ . The rows of  
 317  $\mathbf{M}(2)$  are shifted versions of the polynomial coefficient vectors that are the result of  
 318 multiplying each  $f_i$  with each  $x_j^{2-2} = x_j^0 = 1$ ,  $j = 1 : 2$ . Simply stated,  $\mathbf{M}(2)$  does not  
 319 involve any shifts:

$$320 \quad \mathbf{M}(2) = \begin{array}{c} f_1(x_1, x_2) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_1^2 \\ x_1 x_2 \\ x_2^2 \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 5 & -3 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

321 Note that we have adopted the degree negative lexicographic order for the monomials  
 322 in the columns.

323 It should be clear that the common roots of  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  generate bivariate Vander-  
 324 monde vectors in the null space of  $\mathbf{M}(2)$ :

$$325 \quad (7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 5 & -3 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_1^2 \\ x_1 x_2 \\ x_2^2 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

326 The rank  $r_{\mathbf{M}(2)} = 2$ , hence the nullity of  $\mathbf{M}(2)$  is  $m = 4$ .

327 At  $d = 3$ ,  $\mathbf{M}(3)$  contains four additional rows, which are the result of multiplying  
 328 both  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  with both  $x_1^1$  and  $x_2^1$ :

$$329 \quad \mathbf{M}(3) = \begin{array}{c} f_1(x_1, x_2) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) \\ x_1 f_1(x_1, x_2) \\ x_2 f_1(x_1, x_2) \\ x_1 f_2(x_1, x_2) \\ x_2 f_2(x_1, x_2) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_1^2 \\ x_1 x_2 \\ x_2^2 \\ x_1^3 \\ x_1^2 x_2 \\ x_1 x_2^2 \\ x_2^3 \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 5 & -3 & -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 & 5 & -3 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 0 & 5 & -3 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

330 The bivariate Vandermonde vectors in the null space of  $\mathbf{M}(3)$  reach the additional  
 331 monomials  $x_1^3$ ,  $x_1^2 x_2$ ,  $x_1 x_2^2$  and  $x_2^3$  and the dimension of the embedding space  $\mathbb{C}^{10}$  of  
 332  $\mathcal{M}_3$  has grown to 10. It can be verified that also  $r_{\mathbf{M}(3)}$  has increased to 6, so that the  
 333 nullity  $10 - 6 = 4$  has remained unchanged: it is still equal to the number of solutions  
 334  $m$  of our set of polynomial equations.

335 Say we flip the columns of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  from left to right and bring the flipped matrix into  
 336 reduced row echelon form. The monomials that correspond to the linearly dependent  
 337 columns of the result are known as the *standard monomials* or the *normal set* [1, p.  
 338 97]. They constitute a basis for the orthogonal complement of  $\mathcal{M}_d$ . For  $d$  greater than  
 339 or equal to the so-called *degree of regularity*  $d^*$ , the null space of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  is completely  
 340 isomorphic with  $\mathcal{C}_d^n / \mathcal{I}$ , its dimension  $r(d) = \dim \mathcal{C}_d^n / \mathcal{I} = m$  and, most important, it  
 341 contains all the necessary information to determine whether the associated system

342 has any common roots [14, p. 275]. This implies that for  $d \geq d^*$  the nullity of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$   
 343 does not change. From the study of resultants, for the square homogeneous case, i.e.  
 344  $s = n + 1$ ,  $d^*$  is bounded by [5, p. 104]:

$$345 \quad (8) \quad d^* \leq \sum_{i=1}^s (d_i - 1) + 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} d_i - n.$$

346 For the square affine case, i.e.  $s = n$ , where one is interested in solutions in the  
 347 projective space, one can take  $d_{n+1} = 0$  in the right-hand side in (8) [22]. [Example 3.5](#)  
 348 illustrates how PNLA finds the solutions of a square affine system from an EVD of a  
 349 basis matrix for the null space of the Macaulay matrix constructed at degree  $d^* + 1$   
 350 [12].

351 **EXAMPLE 3.5.** Consider again the system in [Example 3.4](#). For this system  $d^* + 1$   
 352 is bounded by  $2+2-2+1 = 3$ . Let us collect the  $m = 4$  bivariate Vandermonde vectors  
 353 that constitute a basis for null  $(\mathbf{M}(3))$  in a bivariate Vandermonde matrix  $\mathbf{V}(3)$ :

$$354 \quad (9) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & x_1^{(3)} & x_1^{(4)} \\ x_2^{(1)} & x_2^{(2)} & x_2^{(3)} & x_2^{(4)} \\ \hline x_1^{(1)2} & x_1^{(2)2} & x_1^{(3)2} & x_1^{(4)2} \\ x_1^{(1)}x_2^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)}x_2^{(2)} & x_1^{(3)}x_2^{(3)} & x_1^{(4)}x_2^{(4)} \\ x_2^{(1)2} & x_2^{(2)2} & x_2^{(3)2} & x_2^{(4)2} \\ \hline x_1^{(1)3} & x_1^{(2)3} & x_1^{(3)3} & x_1^{(4)3} \\ x_1^{(1)2}x_2^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)2}x_2^{(2)} & x_1^{(3)2}x_2^{(3)} & x_1^{(4)2}x_2^{(4)} \\ x_1^{(1)}x_2^{(1)2} & x_1^{(2)}x_2^{(2)2} & x_1^{(3)}x_2^{(3)2} & x_1^{(4)}x_2^{(4)2} \\ x_2^{(1)3} & x_2^{(2)3} & x_2^{(3)3} & x_2^{(4)3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ -1 & 0 & -2 & -5 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 9 & 16 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & -20 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 & 25 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 27 & 64 \\ 0 & 0 & -18 & -80 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 & 100 \\ -1 & 0 & -8 & -125 \end{pmatrix}.$$

355 Multiplication of the  $k$ th column of  $\mathbf{V}(3)$  with  $x_1^{(k)}$  yields:

$$356 \quad (10) \quad \mathbf{v}_k(3) \cdot x_1^{(k)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1^{(k)} \\ x_2^{(k)} \\ \hline x_1^{(k)2} \\ x_1^{(k)}x_2^{(k)} \\ x_2^{(k)2} \\ \hline x_1^{(k)3} \\ x_1^{(k)2}x_2^{(k)} \\ x_1^{(k)}x_2^{(k)2} \\ x_2^{(k)3} \end{pmatrix} \cdot x_1^{(k)} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^{(k)} \\ x_1^{(k)2} \\ x_1^{(k)}x_2^{(k)} \\ \hline x_1^{(k)3} \\ x_1^{(k)2}x_2^{(k)} \\ x_1^{(k)}x_2^{(k)2} \\ \hline x_1^{(k)4} \\ x_1^{(k)3}x_2^{(k)} \\ x_1^{(k)2}x_2^{(k)2} \\ x_1x_2^{(k)3} \end{pmatrix},$$

357 for every value of  $k$ . Multiplication of the first six entries in  $\mathbf{v}_k(3)$  with  $x_1^{(k)}$  has the  
 358 effect of the selection of entries from  $\mathbf{v}_k(3)$  that is visible in the right-hand side of  
 359 (10). On the other hand, the last four monomials in the right-hand side do not occur  
 360 in  $\mathbf{v}_k(3)$ . To formalize things, let  $\mathbf{S}_0, \mathbf{S}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 10}$  denote the row selection matrices  
 361 that select the rows of  $\mathbf{v}_k(3)$  from degree 0 up to  $d - 1 = 2$  and the rows onto which

362 they are mapped after multiplication with  $x_1^{(k)}$ , respectively:<sup>6</sup>

$$363 \quad (11) \quad \mathbf{S}_0 \mathbf{V}(3) \mathbf{D}_1 = \mathbf{S}_1 \mathbf{V}(3)$$

364 where  $\mathbf{D}_1 = \text{diag}(x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_1^{(4)})$ .

365 In practice, one cannot readily compute  $\mathbf{V}(3)$ , as this would require knowledge of  
 366 the roots. It is possible however to compute a numerical basis for the null space of  
 367  $\mathbf{M}(3)$  by means of standard linear algebra tools (e.g. an orthonormal basis). Stacking  
 368 the numerical basis vectors in  $\mathbf{K}(3) \in \mathbb{C}^{10 \times 4}$ , writing  $\mathbf{K}(3) = \mathbf{V}(3) \mathbf{C}(3)^T$  where  $\mathbf{C}(3)$   
 369 is an invertible basis transformation matrix, and plugging into (11), we obtain the  
 370 rectangular GEVD

$$371 \quad (12) \quad \mathbf{S}_0 \mathbf{K}(3) \mathbf{C}(3)^{-T} \mathbf{D}_1 = \mathbf{S}_1 \mathbf{K}(3) \mathbf{C}(3)^{-T}.$$

372 Equation (12) can be converted into the square EVD

$$373 \quad (13) \quad \mathbf{T} \mathbf{D}_1 \mathbf{T}^{-1} = (\mathbf{S}_0 \mathbf{K}(3))^\dagger \mathbf{S}_1 \mathbf{K}(3) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{C}(3)^{-T}.$$

374 The eigenvalues correspond to the  $x_1$  components of the solutions. The matrix  $\mathbf{V}(3) =$   
 375  $\mathbf{K}(3) \mathbf{T}$  reveals all solution components. Note that this was not possible for the smaller  
 376 Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(2)$ . Indeed, for  $d = d^*$  the selection matrices  $\mathbf{S}_0, \mathbf{S}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 6}$  lead  
 377 to a  $(3 \times 3)$  EVD that does not reveal  $m = 4 > 3$  solutions.

378 **3.3. The MHR problem.** In this section we introduce the (M)HR problem  
 379 and some relevant properties. This will help us understand how the structure in null  
 380 space of the Macaulay matrix can be exploited.

381 Given a matrix  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{C}^{I \times M}$ , the (1D) HR problem<sup>7</sup> consists of finding the factor-  
 382 ization

$$383 \quad (14) \quad \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \mathbf{C}^T = \sum_{r=1}^R \mathbf{v}_r^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{c}_r$$

384 where  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}(\{z_r\}_{r=1}^R) \in \mathbb{C}^{I \times R}$  is (univariate) Vandermonde and  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times R}$  is uncon-  
 385 strained, if  $\mathbf{W}$  admits such a factorization<sup>8</sup>. Due to its multiplicative shift structure,  
 386 a Vandermonde matrix exhibits an important property called *shift invariance* [28, p.  
 387 531]: let  $\overline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}$  denote the matrix  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}$  with its first and last row removed,  
 388 respectively, then

$$389 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \\ \overline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^{(1)} & \cdots & \mathbf{v}_R^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{v}_1^{(1)} z_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{v}_R^{(1)} z_R \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ z_1 & z_2 & \cdots & z_R \end{pmatrix} \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}.$$

390 The  $r$ th column of  $\mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}$  is the Kronecker product of two vectors. Each such

<sup>6</sup>We could as well have considered the multiplication of all rows with  $x_2^{(k)}$ . In practice, PNLA suggests to use a linear combination of multiplications with  $x_j, j = 1 : n$ . Section 9 will show that there exist means to simultaneously take *all* variables into account.

<sup>7</sup>In array processing terminology, we will more specifically discuss the “multichannel 1D HR problem”.

<sup>8</sup>For clarity,  $\mathbf{W}$  is given and both  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  are unknown.

391 a column corresponds to a vectorized  $(2 \times (I - 1))$  rank-1 Hankel matrix  
 392

$$\begin{aligned}
 393 \quad (15) \quad \left( \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \right)_r &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ z_r \\ z_r^2 \\ \vdots \\ z_r^{I-2} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ z_r \\ z_r^2 \\ \dots \\ z_r^{I-2} \end{pmatrix} = \text{vec} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ z_r \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z_r & z_r^2 & \dots & z_r^{I-2} \end{pmatrix} \right) \\
 394 &= \text{vec} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z_r & \dots & z_r^{I-2} \\ z_r & z_r^2 & \dots & z_r^{I-1} \end{pmatrix} \right). \\
 395
 \end{aligned}$$

396 Applying the same process to factorization (14), we obtain

$$397 \quad (16) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{W} \\ \underline{\mathbf{V}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \\ \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}^T = \left( \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \right) \mathbf{C}^T = \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]},$$

398 which is a matrix representation of the (C)PD of a two-slice tensor

$$399 \quad (17) \quad \mathcal{Y} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)}, \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket = \sum_{r=1}^R \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ z_r \end{pmatrix} \otimes \mathbf{v}_r^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{c}_r \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times (I-1) \times M}.$$

400 The process relying on shift invariance, outlined above, is called *spatial smoothing*;  
 401 it has allowed us to go from the second-order matrix model (14) to the third-order  
 402 tensor model (17).

403 **EXAMPLE 3.6.** *HR is one of the basic problems in signal and array processing.*  
 404 *Assume  $R = 2$  source signals  $\{c_{m1}\}$  and  $\{c_{m2}\}$ , transmitted at the same discrete time*  
 405 *instances  $m = 1, 2, \dots, M$  and at the same frequency, but from different locations. Af-*  
 406 *ter propagation, the signals are captured by a so-called uniform linear array consisting*  
 407 *of  $I = 3$  antennas, one of the antennas positioned exactly in the middle between the*  
 408 *other two. We assume that the sources are in the “far field” of the array, meaning*  
 409 *that the distance from source to array is substantially larger than the array itself. If*  
 410 *we assemble the observations in a matrix  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{C}^{I \times M}$  where  $w_{im}$  gives the observation*  
 411 *at antenna  $i$  at time  $m$ , then the data model which allows one to estimate the original*  
 412 *source signals is given by*

$$413 \quad (18) \quad \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \mathbf{C}^T = \begin{pmatrix} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 & \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^0 \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 & \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^1 \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 & \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{9} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}^T$$

414 where  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times 2}$  holds the source signal values and  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}$  is the antenna response  
 415 matrix; the latter is a Vandermonde matrix, of which the generators, here chosen  
 416 equal to  $z_1 = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $z_2 = \frac{1}{3}$ , depend on the angles of arrival with which the  $R = 2$   
 417 signals impinge on the  $M = 2$  antennas [25]. Leveraging the shift invariance property  
 418 of  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}$ , we obtain

$$419 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \\ \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{9} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} \odot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

420 Applying the very same spatial smoothing to the observed matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ , we obtain

$$421 \quad \left( \frac{\mathbf{W}}{\overline{\mathbf{W}}} \right) = \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]}$$

422 which is the matrix representation of a tensor  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$ . Re-organizing the observed  
423 samples  $w_{im}$  in such a tensor  $\mathcal{Y}$ , we obtain the CPD  $\mathcal{Y} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)}, \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket$ , with here  
424  $\mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} = \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(1)}$ . This CPD is unique if  $r_{\mathbf{C}} = 2$ , i.e. if the two source signals are not  
425 the same up to scaling.

426 Given a tensor  $\mathcal{W} \in \mathbb{C}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times \dots \times I_N \times M}$ , the ( $N$ -dimensional) MHR problem con-  
427 sists of finding the constrained CPD

$$428 \quad (19) \quad \mathcal{W} = \sum_{r=1}^R \mathbf{v}_r^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{v}_r^{(2)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{v}_r^{(N)} \otimes \mathbf{c}_r = \llbracket \mathbf{V}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{V}^{(N)}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket$$

429 where  $\mathbf{V}^{(n)}(\{z_{r,n}\}_{r=1}^R) \in \mathbb{C}^{I_n \times R}$  is univariate Vandermonde,  $n = 1 : N$ , and  $\mathbf{C} \in$   
430  $\mathbb{C}^{R \times M}$  is unconstrained, if  $\mathcal{W}$  admits such a CPD. Analogous to the third-order case  
431 (6), the CPD in (19) can be matricized as:

$$432 \quad (20) \quad \mathbf{W}_{[1,2,\dots,N;N+1]} = \left( \mathbf{V}^{(1)} \odot \dots \odot \mathbf{V}^{(N)} \right) \mathbf{C}^T \in \mathbb{C}^{(\prod_{n=1}^N I_n) \times M}.$$

433 Eq. (20) is a multivariate generalization of the univariate HR problem (14). With all  
434 factor matrices  $\mathbf{V}^{(n)}$  Vandermonde, spatial smoothing is possible in each mode. Let  
435  $\overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}$  denote the row selection matrices that delete all rows of  $\mathbf{W}_{[1,2,\dots,N;N+1]}$   
436 in (20) associated with the top and bottom row of  $\mathbf{V}^{(n)}$ , respectively. Formally,  $\overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}$   
437 and  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}$  can be defined as follows. Let  $\overline{\mathbf{I}}_{I_n} \in \mathbb{R}^{(I_n-1) \times I_n}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{I}}_{I_n} \in \mathbb{R}^{(I_n-1) \times I_n}$  be ex-  
438 tracted from the identity matrix  $\mathbf{I}_{I_n}$  by deleting the top and bottom row, respectively.  
439 Then  $\overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)} = \otimes_{p=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{I}_{I_p} \otimes \overline{\mathbf{I}}_{I_n} \otimes \otimes_{p=n+1}^N \mathbf{I}_{I_p}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)} = \otimes_{p=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{I}_{I_p} \otimes \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{I_n} \otimes \otimes_{p=n+1}^N \mathbf{I}_{I_p}$ . Like spa-  
440 tial smoothing turned the 2nd-order model (14) into the  $(2+1)$ th-order model (16),  
441 exploiting the multiplicative shift structure in the Vandermonde matrix  $\mathbf{V}^{(n)}$  turns  
442 the  $(N+1)$ th-order model (20) into the  $(N+2)$ th-order model

$$443 \quad (21) \quad \mathbf{Y}^{(n)} = \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)} \mathbf{W}_{[1,2,\dots,N;N+1]} \\ \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)} \mathbf{W}_{[1,2,\dots,N;N+1]} \end{pmatrix} = \left( \mathbf{V}^{(2,n)} \odot \mathbf{B}^{(n)} \right) \mathbf{C}^T$$

444 where

$$445 \quad \mathbf{V}^{(2,n)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ z_{1,n} & z_{2,n} & \dots & z_{R,n} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B}^{(n)} = \left( \odot_{p=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{V}^{(p)} \right) \odot \underline{\mathbf{V}}^{(n)} \odot \left( \odot_{p=n+1}^N \mathbf{V}^{(p)} \right).$$

446 This can be expressed in a third-order tensor format, analogous to (17):  
447 (22)

$$447 \quad \mathcal{Y}^{(n)} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}^{(2,n)}, \mathbf{B}^{(n)}, \mathbf{C} \rrbracket = \sum_{r=1}^R \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ z_{r,n} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \mathbf{b}_r^{(n)} \otimes \mathbf{c}_r \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times \left( (\prod_{p=1}^n I_p)(I_n-1)(\prod_{p=n+1}^N I_p) \right) \times M},$$

448  $n = 1 : N$ . Let us take a step back here. So far, the 1-dimensional and  $N$ -dimensional  
449 case are not too different. By exploiting the structure of the problem, spatial smooth-  
450 ing allowed us to increase the order of the factorization by 1. The true difference



Fig. 2: Illustration of the difference between the products that appear in MHR (Section 3.3) and the products that determine the Macaulay null space (Section 3.2) for the case  $N = n = 2$  and  $I_1 = I_2 = 4$ . (a) The  $(4 \times 4)$  square represents all products that appear in the outer product of the univariate Vandermonde vectors generated by  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . The dark and light shaded entries correspond to the rows of  $\mathbf{B}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathbf{B}^{(2)}$  in (21), respectively. Clearly,  $\mathbf{B}^{(1)} \neq \mathbf{B}^{(2)}$ . (b) The triangle as a whole represents the rows of the multivariate Vandermonde matrix  $\mathbf{V}(3)$  in (9), which correspond to the 10 monomials of degree  $d \leq 3$ . The filled entries correspond to the rows of  $\mathbf{B}(2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{V}(2) = \mathbf{B}^{(j)}(2), j = 1 : 2$ , in (27).

451 arises if we exploit the structure not just once, but  $N$  times. Considered together,  
 452 the  $\{\mathcal{Y}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$  in (22) admit a *coupled* CPD where the coupling takes place through  
 453 the third factor matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ . An algebraic method to reduce such a coupled CPD to a  
 454 matrix GEVD is given in [29, Algorithm 1]. By exploiting the structure in all modes  
 455 together, [28] has derived the most relaxed MHR uniqueness conditions to date.

456 **4. From the Macaulay null space to coupled CPD.** In the previous section  
 457 we have displayed the ingredients needed to establish a connection between the struc-  
 458 ture in the null space of the Macaulay matrix and the CPD structure in the MHR  
 459 problem. In this section we will explain how the roots of (1) can be obtained from a  
 460 coupled CPD that is derived from the Macaulay null space. In section 5 the coupled  
 461 CPD will be reduced to a single CPD.

462 From Example 3.4, we know that the null space of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  (at least for  $d \geq d^*$ ) is  
 463 generated by  $m$  multivariate Vandermonde vectors. Consistent with subsection 2.3  
 464 we stack these vectors in the multivariate Vandermonde matrix

$$465 \quad (23) \quad \mathbf{V}(d) = (\mathbf{v}_1(d) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{v}_m(d)) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}.$$

466 Further,

$$467 \quad (24) \quad \mathbf{V}^{(j)}(d) = \left( \mathbf{v}_1^{(j)}(d) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{v}_m^{(j)}(d) \right) \in \mathbb{C}^{(d+1) \times m}$$

468 denotes the univariate Vandermonde matrix of which the  $k$ th column is generated by  
 469 the  $j$ th coordinate of the  $k$ th root  $x_j^{(k)}$ ,  $k = 1 : m$ ,  $j = 1 : n$ .

470 To contrast the derivation in the present section with the discussion in Section  
 471 3.3, and in particular with the structure in (20), note that  $\mathbf{v}_k(d) \neq \mathbf{v}_k^{(1)}(d) \otimes \dots \otimes$   
 472  $\mathbf{v}_k^{(n)}(d)$ . Indeed, the entries of  $\mathbf{v}_k(d)$  correspond to all the monomials up to degree  $d$ ,  
 473 while  $\mathbf{v}_k^{(1)}(d) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{v}_k^{(n)}(d)$  also involves monomials of higher degree, but not all of

474 them. (Compare (2) and (3); the difference is also illustrated in Figure 2.) Similarly,  
 475 the multivariate Vandermonde matrix  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  holds only the rows of the Khatri–Rao  
 476 product  $\mathbf{V}^{(1)}(d) \odot \cdots \odot \mathbf{V}^{(n)}(d)$  that correspond to the monomials up to degree  $d$  (and  
 477 in a different order). Formally, we have

$$478 \quad (25) \quad \mathbf{V}(d) = \mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)} \left( \mathbf{V}^{(1)}(d) \odot \cdots \odot \mathbf{V}^{(n)}(d) \right) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}$$

479 where  $\mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)} \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times (d+1)^n}$  denotes the row selection and ordering matrix that  
 480 (i) selects all rows of the Khatri–Rao product that correspond to the  $q(d)$  monomials  
 481 from degree 0 up to degree  $d$  and (ii) permutes these rows to the degree negative  
 482 lexicographic order.

483 In practice, it is a numerical basis of null( $\mathbf{M}(d)$ ) that will be computed. The  
 484 matrix  $\mathbf{K}(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}$  in which such a numerical basis is stacked, is related to the  
 485 matrix of multivariate Vandermonde vectors  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  by an invertible transformation:  
 486  $\mathbf{K}(d) = \mathbf{V}(d)\mathbf{C}(d)^T$ .<sup>9</sup> Substitution of (25) yields the following variant of the MHR  
 487 model (20):

$$488 \quad (26) \quad \mathbf{K}(d) = \mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)} \left( \mathbf{V}^{(1)}(d) \odot \cdots \odot \mathbf{V}^{(n)}(d) \right) \mathbf{C}(d)^T \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}.$$

489 Note that the matrix  $\mathbf{C}(d)$  is square and that its size corresponds to the number  
 490 of solutions to the polynomial system, i.e. in the notation of Section 3.3 we have  
 491  $M = R = m$ .

492 Now let us investigate the counterpart of the coupled CPD in (22). As in Section  
 493 3.3, we can apply spatial smoothing in each mode, i.e., for each variable  $x_j$ . Let  
 494  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times q(d)}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times q(d)}$  denote two additional row  
 495 selection matrices (i.e. they implement a further selection, on top of the selection by  
 496  $\mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)}$  in (26)). The matrix  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1)$  selects all the rows that correspond to  
 497 the  $q(d-1)$  monomials from degree 0 up to degree  $d-1$ , so that globally  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \cdot$   
 498  $\mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)} = \mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d-1)}$ . Note that  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1)$  is the same for all  $j$ . On  
 499 the other hand, the matrix  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1)$  does depend on  $j$ ; it selects all the rows that  
 500 correspond to the  $q(d-1)$  monomials up to degree  $d$  that have at least degree 1 in  
 501  $x_j$ . In Figure 2b,  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2) = \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(2)$  would select the filled entries,  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2)$  the filled  
 502 entries shifted one position down and  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(2)$  the filled entries shifted one position to  
 503 the right.

504 Exploiting the multiplicative shift structure in the corresponding univariate Van-  
 505 dermonde matrix  $\mathbf{V}^{(j)}(d)$  yields

$$506 \quad (27) \quad \mathbf{Y}^{(j)} = \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \end{pmatrix} = \left( \mathbf{V}^{(2,j)} \odot \mathbf{B}(d-1) \right) \mathbf{C}(d)^T \in \mathbb{C}^{(2 \cdot q(d-1)) \times m}$$

507 where

$$508 \quad \mathbf{V}^{(2,j)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ x_j^{(1)} & x_j^{(2)} & \cdots & x_j^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times m}$$

<sup>9</sup>Perhaps less obviously,  $\mathbf{C}(d)$  depends on  $d$  as well. Indeed, the  $q(d-1)$  top rows of  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  equal the rows of  $\mathbf{V}(d-1)$ , but this does not hold for the computed  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  and  $\mathbf{K}(d-1)$ . For instance,  $\mathbf{K}(d-1)$  and  $\mathbf{C}(d-1)^{-T}$  could be the orthogonal and triangular factor in a QR-factorization of  $\mathbf{V}(d-1)$ ; it is clear that  $\mathbf{C}(d-1)^{-T}$  does not necessarily orthogonalize the larger matrix  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  as well.



509 and  $\mathbf{B}(d-1) = \mathbf{V}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times m}$  contains the top rows of  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  that correspond  
 510 to the  $q(d-1)$  monomials from degree 0 up to degree  $d-1$ . Expressing (27) in a  
 511 third-order tensor format, similar to (22), yields:

$$512 \quad (28) \quad \mathcal{Y}^{(j)} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}^{(2,j)}, \mathbf{B}(d-1), \mathbf{C}(d) \rrbracket$$

$$513 \quad = \sum_{k=1}^m \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_j^{(k)} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \mathbf{b}_k(d-1) \otimes \mathbf{c}_k(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times q(d-1) \times m}, \quad j = 1 : n.$$

514 Equations (27)/(28) and (21)/(22) are similar but there is important difference:  
 515 the matrix  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$  in (27)/(28) is the same for all  $j$ . More precisely, we have  
 516  $\mathbf{B}(d-1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{V}(d-1) = \mathbf{B}^{(j)}(d-1), j = 1 : n$ . Indeed, to ensure that the rows, onto  
 517 which the rows of  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$  are mapped after multiplication with the second row of  
 518  $\mathbf{V}^{(2,j)}$ , occur in  $\mathbf{K}(d)$ , we need to remove *all* rows of degree  $d$  — rather than only  
 519 the rows in which  $x_j$  has degree  $d$ , as was the case in Section 3.3. Consequently, the  
 520 matrices  $\{\mathbf{Y}^{(j)}\}_{j=1}^n$  in (27) have their first  $q(d-1)$  rows in common; these are the  
 521 rows of  $\mathbf{V}(d-1)\mathbf{C}(d)^T$ . In Figure 2b the rows of  $\mathbf{V}(d-1)$  correspond to the filled  
 522 entries.

523 EXAMPLE 4.1. Consider again  $\mathbf{V}(3)$  in Example 3.5. We have

$$524 \quad \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & x_1^{(3)} & x_1^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

525 and, using Matlab notation for indexing,

$$526 \quad \mathbf{B}(2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{B}^{(1)}(2) = \mathbf{B}^{(2)}(2) = \mathbf{V}(2) = (\mathbf{v}_1(2) \quad \mathbf{v}_2(2) \quad \mathbf{v}_3(2) \quad \mathbf{v}_4(2)) = \mathbf{V}(3)(1 : 6, :),$$

527 where the rows of the latter correspond to the black triangle in Figure 2b. It is easy  
 528 to verify that

529

$$530 \quad (29) \quad \left( \mathbf{V}^{(2,1)} \odot \mathbf{B}(2) \right) \mathbf{C}(3)^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1(2) & 1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2(2) & 1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_3(2) & 1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_4(2) \\ 0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1(2) & 1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2(2) & 3 \cdot \mathbf{v}_3(2) & 4 \cdot \mathbf{v}_4(2) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}(3)^T$$

$$531 \quad = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ -1 & 0 & -2 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & 16 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & -20 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 & 25 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & 16 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & -20 \\ 0 & 1 & 27 & 64 \\ 0 & 0 & -18 & -80 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 & 100 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}(3)^T = \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2) \cdot \mathbf{K}(3) \\ \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2) \cdot \mathbf{K}(3) \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{Y}^{(1)}.$$

532

533 Note that

$$534 \quad \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{q(2)} & \mathbf{0}_{q(2) \times \binom{4}{3}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_6 & \mathbf{0}_{6 \times 4} \end{pmatrix}$$

535 deletes all rows from  $\mathbf{K}(3)$  (and  $\mathbf{V}(3)$ , see (9)) associated with the entries that are  
 536 white in Figure 2b. On the other hand,

$$537 \quad \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(2) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

538 deletes all rows associated with the entries that are white after shifting the black tri-  
 539 angle down over one position. (Like-wise,  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(2)$  deletes all rows associated with the  
 540 entries that are white after shifting the black triangle to the right over one position.)

541 **5. From coupled CPD to CPD.** When considered together, the tensors  
 542  $\{\mathcal{Y}^{(j)}\}_{j=1}^n$  in (28) admit a coupled CPD. Unlike the coupled CPD (22) that we ob-  
 543 tained for MHR in Section 4, the coupled CPD for polynomial equations in (28) can  
 544 easily be reduced to a single CPD of a third-order tensor, which in turn can be com-  
 545 puted by means of a matrix GEVD. In subsection 5.1 we first consider the case of  
 546 only affine roots. In subsection 5.2 we also allow roots at infinity.

547 **5.1. Simple affine case.** Because the  $\mathbf{Y}^{(j)}$  do not only have the third factor  
 548 matrix  $\mathbf{C}(d)$  in common but also the second factor matrix  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$ , simple stacking  
 549 yields:

$$550 \quad (30) \quad \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]}^{\text{stack}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{Y}^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{Y}^{(n)} \end{pmatrix} = \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & \dots & x_1^{(m)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_n^{(1)} & x_n^{(2)} & \dots & x_n^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \odot \mathbf{B}(d-1) \right) \mathbf{C}(d)^T.$$

551 Dropping the redundant rows of the first factor matrix in (30) and the corresponding  
 552 redundant rows of  $\mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]}^{\text{stack}}$ , we obtain:

$$553 \quad (31) \quad \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}^{(1)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \\ \vdots \\ \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$554 \quad = \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & \dots & x_1^{(m)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_n^{(1)} & x_n^{(2)} & \dots & x_n^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \odot \mathbf{B}(d-1) \right) \mathbf{C}(d)^T$$

$$555 \quad = (\mathbf{V}(1) \odot \mathbf{V}(d-1)) \mathbf{C}(d)^T \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \cdot q(d-1) \times m}.$$

556 In the third-order tensor format we have:

$$557 \quad (32) \quad \mathcal{Y} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}(1), \mathbf{V}(d-1), \mathbf{C}(d) \rrbracket = \sum_{k=1}^m \mathbf{v}_k(1) \otimes \mathbf{v}_k(d-1) \otimes \mathbf{c}_k(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times q(d-1) \times m};$$

558 see Figure 3 for an illustration.

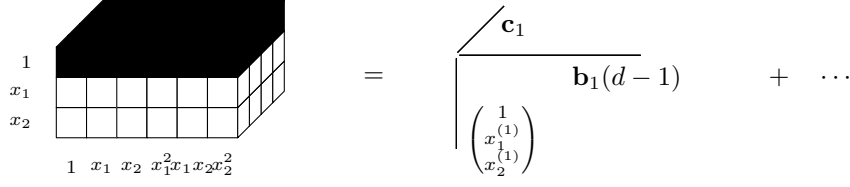


Fig. 3: The horizontal slices of the third-order tensor  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times q(d-1) \times m}$  in (32), for  $n = 2$ ,  $d = 3$  and  $m = 4$ , contain the rows that correspond to the filled entries in Figure 2b, the entries shifted one position downwards ( $x_1$ ) and the entries shifted one position to the right ( $x_2$ ), respectively.

559 **5.2. Simple projective case.** Let us now drop the constraint that there are  
 560 only affine roots. Equations (31) and (32) admit the projective interpretation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 561 \quad (33) \quad \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]} &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(0)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \\ \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \\ \vdots \\ \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d) \end{pmatrix} \\
 562 \quad &= \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} & x_0^{(2)} & \dots & x_0^{(m)} \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & \dots & x_1^{(m)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_n^{(1)} & x_n^{(2)} & \dots & x_n^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \odot \mathbf{B}^h(d-1) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}(d)^T \\
 563 \quad &= (\mathbf{V}^h(1) \odot \mathbf{B}^h(d-1)) \mathbf{C}(d)^T \in \mathbb{C}^{((n+1) \cdot q(d-1)) \times m},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 564 \quad (34) \quad \mathcal{Y} &= \llbracket \mathbf{V}^h(1), \mathbf{V}^h(d-1), \mathbf{C}(d) \rrbracket = \sum_{k=1}^m \mathbf{v}_k^h(1) \otimes \mathbf{v}_k^h(d-1) \otimes \mathbf{c}_k(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times q(d-1) \times m}, \\
 565 \quad &
 \end{aligned}$$

566 respectively, in which

$$567 \quad \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(0)}(d-1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(d-1),$$

568 and  $\mathbf{B}^h(d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{V}^h(d) = (\mathbf{v}_1^h(d) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{v}_m^h(d)) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}$  with

569

$$570 \quad (35) \quad \mathbf{v}_k^h(d) = (\mathbf{V}^h(d))_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 571 \quad & \left( x_0^{(k)d} \quad x_0^{(k)d-1} x_1^{(k)} \quad \dots \quad x_0^{(k)d-2} x_1^{(k)2} \quad x_0^{(k)d-2} x_1^{(k)} x_2^{(k)} \quad \dots \quad x_n^{(k)d} \right)^T \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d)}. \\
 572 \quad &
 \end{aligned}$$

573 Recall from subsection 3.1 that CPD is always subject to trivial scaling indeter-  
 574 minacies, i.e., the corresponding columns of the different factor matrices can be  
 575 scaled/counterscaled as long as the overall rank-1 terms do not change. These in-  
 576 determinacies can now be interpreted very naturally as scaling equivalences in the  
 577 coordinates of a solution point in the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . In (33), (34) roots at in-  
 578 finity are handled in the same way as affine roots. The only difference is whether the  
 579 value  $x_0^{(k)} = 0$  or not.

580 **5.3. Computing only affine roots.** In practice, computing only the affine  
 581 roots might be sufficient as the roots at infinity are typically of less interest. In [13, 12]  
 582 strategies are proposed that restrict the computation to the affine roots only. Having  
 583 computed a null space basis  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$ , one can separate the parts associated  
 584 to the roots at infinity and the affine roots by a column compression of  $\mathbf{K}(d)$ . The  
 585 number  $m_a \leq m$  of affine roots corresponds to the cardinality of the set of affine  
 586 standard monomials [1], a subset of the set of standard monomials associated to the  
 587 linearly independent rows of  $\mathbf{K}(d)$ . As shown in [12, 1] a precise knowledge of those  
 588 sets is not needed since  $m_a$  can be read off easily from  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  by basic rank decisions.  
 589 As a matter of fact, this detection can already be done during the construction of the  
 590 numerical null space [1, Alg. 5.1]. Define  $p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} q(\hat{d})$ , where  $\hat{d}$  is the highest degree  
 591 within the affine standard monomials. Let  $\mathbf{K}(d) = (\mathbf{K}_1^T \ \mathbf{K}_2^T)^T$  with  $\mathbf{K}_1 \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times m}$  be  
 592 a corresponding partition of  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  and let  $\mathbf{K}_1 = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{Q}^T$  denote the SVD of  $\mathbf{K}_1$ . Then

$$593 \quad \hat{\mathbf{K}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{K}(d)\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{K}}_{11} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hat{\mathbf{K}}_{21} & \hat{\mathbf{K}}_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

594 yields  $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_{11} \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times m_a}$ , containing all the required information for the  $m_a \leq m$  affine  
 595 roots. PNLA then continues the GEVD-based root finding as illustrated in Example  
 596 3.5 using  $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_{11}$  and appropriate selection matrices associated with the reduced  
 597 degree  $\hat{d}$ , see [12, Theorem 6.10]. For our approach this entails using  $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_{11}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(\hat{d})$ ,  
 598  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(\hat{d} - 1)$  in (31).

599 Alternatively, since the roots at infinity correspond to the highest degree stan-  
 600 dard monomials, one can work with a reduced Macaulay matrix where the associated  
 601 columns have been discarded.

602 The potential downside of both approaches is that they may still require the con-  
 603 struction of a relatively large Macaulay matrix (and the computation of its null space)  
 604 in order to extract a possibly small number  $m_a$  of affine roots. For computational  
 605 efficiency it would be desirable to a priori deflate roots at infinity from the system.  
 606 We leave this issue for future research.

## 607 6. CPD, GEVD and NPA for $d \geq d^* + 1$ .

608 **6.1. CPD and GEVD.** In the case  $d \geq d^* + 1$ , the CPD in (32)/(34) can  
 609 directly be connected to Theorem 3.1.

610 **THEOREM 6.1.** *Let  $\mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]} \in \mathbb{C}^{((n+1) \cdot q(d-1)) \times m}$  be derived from  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  with  $d \geq$   
 611  $d^* + 1$  as in subsection 5.1/subsection 5.2. Then  $r_{\mathbf{Y}} = m$  and the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}$  in  
 612 (32)/(34) is unique.*

613 *Proof.* It suffices to show that all the conditions in Theorem 3.1 are satisfied for  
 614 decomposition (32) if  $d \geq d^* + 1$ . For (34) it suffices to add the superscript  $\cdot^h$ .

- 615 • If all roots are simple, then no columns in  $\mathbf{V}(1)$  are collinear:  $k_{\mathbf{V}(1)} \geq 2$ .
- 616 • If all roots are simple and  $d \geq d^*$ , then  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  is related to  $\mathbf{V}(d)$  by  $\mathbf{K}(d) =$   
 617  $\mathbf{V}(d)\mathbf{C}(d)^T$  in which  $\mathbf{C}(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$  is invertible and thus  $\mathbf{C}(d)$  has full column  
 618 rank  $m$ .
- 619 • The  $m$  standard monomials correspond to the linearly independent rows of  
 620  $\mathbf{V}(d)$ . At least one standard monomial has exactly degree  $d^*$ , meaning that  
 621  $d \geq d^* + 1$  guarantees that  $\dim \text{row}(\mathbf{V}(d-1)) = \dim \text{row}(\mathbf{V}(d^*)) = m$ , such  
 622 that also  $\mathbf{V}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times m}$  has full column rank  $m$ .  $\square$

623 Since for  $d \geq d^* + 1$  the conditions in [Theorem 3.1](#) are satisfied, the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}$   
 624 is not only unique; it can be computed by a matrix GEVD, cf. the discussion in  
 625 [subsection 3.1](#).

626 **6.2. Connection with NPA.** The ESPRIT-like reasoning in [section 4](#) allows  
 627 us to further interpret [\(32\)](#). As illustrated in [Example 3.5](#), the exploitation of the  
 628 multiplicative shift structure in  $x_1$  in the null space of the Macaulay matrix derives  
 629 from the system of polynomial equations a single rectangular GEVD or a single square  
 630 EVD (for the example, given in [\(12\)](#) and [\(13\)](#), respectively). The exploitation of the  
 631 multiplicative shift structure in *all* variables in the CPD of the  $(n+1)$ -slice third-order  
 632 tensor  $\mathcal{Y}$  in [\(32\)](#) can be interpreted as the *joint* EVD of  $n$  matrices. [Corollary 6.3](#)  
 633 below demonstrates that there is in fact a tight connection between [\(32\)](#) and the  
 634 joint diagonalization of the  $n$  so-called “multiplication tables”  $\{\mathbf{A}_{x_j}\}_{j=1}^n$  in NPA’s  
 635 [Theorem 6.2](#) in the simple affine case.

636 **THEOREM 6.2** (Central Theorem of NPA). [[30](#), [Theorem 2.27](#)] *Let the system*  
 637 *of polynomials  $\mathcal{F}$  have  $m_0 \leq m$  disjoint roots. Consider the family of multiplication*  
 638 *tables  $\{\mathbf{A}_{x_j}\}_{j=1}^n$ . The matrix  $\mathbf{A}_h \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$  represents a multiplication with the residue*  
 639 *class  $[h]$  in the  $m$ -dimensional quotient ring  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{I} = \mathbb{C}^n/\langle \mathcal{F} \rangle$  w.r.t. an arbitrary basis,*  
 640 *e.g., the normal set denoted by  $\{[t_k]\}_{k=1}^m$ :*

$$641 \quad \phi_h : \mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{I} : \begin{pmatrix} [t_1] \\ \vdots \\ [t_m] \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} [h \cdot t_1] \\ \vdots \\ [h \cdot t_m] \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{A}_h \begin{pmatrix} [t_1] \\ \vdots \\ [t_m] \end{pmatrix}.$$

642 *For each  $\mu_k$ -fold root  $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ ,  $k = 1 : m_0$ , the matrices  $\mathbf{A}_{x_j}$  have  $x_j^{(k)}$  as an eigenvalue of*  
 643 *multiplicity  $\mu_k$  and the associated joint eigenvector*

$$644 \quad ([t_1(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})] \quad \dots \quad [t_m(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})])^T \in \text{span}(\mathbf{X}_k).$$

645 *Here,  $\text{span}(\mathbf{X}_k)$  denotes the associated joint invariant subspace of dimension  $\mu_k$ , such*  
 646 *that*

$$647 \quad (36) \quad \mathbf{A}_{x_j} (\mathbf{X}_1 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{X}_{m_0}) = (\mathbf{X}_1 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{X}_{m_0}) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T}_{x_{j,1}} & & \mathbf{0} \\ & \ddots & \\ \mathbf{0} & & \mathbf{T}_{x_{j,m_0}} \end{pmatrix},$$

648 *where  $\mathbf{T}_{x_{j,k}} \in \mathbb{C}^{\mu_k \times \mu_k}$  is upper-triangular with diagonal entries  $x_j^{(k)}$ .*

649 *If  $m_0 = m$ , i.e. if all roots are simple, then [Theorem 6.2](#) implies that [\(36\)](#) is an*  
 650 *EVD and that the set of matrices  $\{\mathbf{A}_{x_j}\}_{j=1}^n$  is jointly diagonalizable.*

651 **COROLLARY 6.3.** *Let the polynomial system  $\mathcal{F}$  have  $m$  roots and let the column*  
 652 *echelon basis of  $\text{null}(\mathbf{M}(d))$  be stacked in the matrix  $\mathbf{H}(d)$ .<sup>10</sup> Consider the third-order*  
 653 *tensor  $\mathcal{H}(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m \times m}$  with matrix representation*

$$654 \quad \mathbf{H}_{[1,2;3]}(d) = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{H}(d) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(n)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{H}(d) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{(n \cdot m) \times m},$$

<sup>10</sup>The matrix  $\mathbf{H}(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times m}$  is such that its top  $m$  rows form  $\mathbf{I}_m$ , see [Example 6.4](#) for an illustration.

655 where  $\hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1)$  denotes the row selection matrix that selects the rows of  $\mathbf{H}(d)$  onto  
 656 which the  $m$  standard monomials are mapped after multiplication with  $x_j$ . If

- 657 1. all roots are simple,
- 658 2. all roots are affine and
- 659 3.  $d = d^* + 1$ ,

660 then the  $n$  slices  $\left\{ \mathbf{H}_j(d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{H}(j, :, :)(d) \right\}_{j=1}^n$  are equal to the  $n$  multiplication tables  
 661 w.r.t. the normal set basis for the quotient ring  $\mathbb{C}^n / \langle \mathcal{F} \rangle$ .

662 *Proof.* The structure in (31) does not rely on the specific choice  
 663  $\mathbf{K}(d) = \mathbf{V}(d)\mathbf{C}(d)^T$  that is made for the basis of  $\text{null}(\mathbf{M}(d))$ , so the CPD (32) holds  
 664 for  $\mathbf{K}(d) = \mathbf{H}(d)$  as well and

$$665 \quad \mathbf{H}_j(d) = \hat{\mathbf{B}}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{D}_j(\mathbf{V}(2:n+1, :)) \cdot \mathbf{C}(d)^T.$$

666 The matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{B}}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$  contains the  $m$  rows of  $\mathbf{B}(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times m}$  that  
 667 correspond to the  $m$  standard monomials. At least one standard monomial has exactly  
 668 degree  $d^*$ , meaning that one needs to choose  $d = d^* + 1$  for  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$  to contain  
 669 the rows corresponding to all standard monomials. Let  $\mathbf{V}(d) = \mathbf{H}(d)\mathbf{T}$  where  $\mathbf{T} =$   
 670  $(\mathbf{t}_1 \ \dots \ \mathbf{t}_m) \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$  is an invertible transformation matrix and  $\mathbf{C}(d)^T = \mathbf{T}^{-1}$ .  
 671 [15, Proposition 1] shows that  $\mathbf{t}_k$  contains the  $m$  standard monomials evaluated at  
 672 the solution  $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ . From this,  $\hat{\mathbf{B}}(d-1) = \mathbf{T}$  and

$$673 \quad (37) \quad \mathbf{H}_j(d) = \mathbf{T} \text{diag}(x_j^{(1)}, \dots, x_j^{(m)}) \mathbf{T}^{-1} = \mathbf{A}_{x_j}, \quad j = 1:n,$$

674 where the last equality is implied by Theorem 6.2 for simple affine roots.  $\square$

675 We give an example that connects the insights that have emerged for multivariate  
 676 polynomial equations to the basic univariate case.

677 **EXAMPLE 6.4.** Consider the univariate polynomial equation of degree  $d = 2$

$$678 \quad (38) \quad f(x) = a_d x^2 + a_{d-1} x + a_{d-2} = x^2 + a_1 x + a_0 = x^2 - \frac{5}{6} x + \frac{1}{6} = 0.$$

Flipping the columns of  $\mathbf{f}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{5}{6} & \frac{1}{6} \end{pmatrix}$  from left to right and reduction to the  
 row echelon form

$$\begin{pmatrix} x^2 & x & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

679 yields the normal set  $\{1, x\}$  as the monomials associated with the last two columns.

680 The Frobenius companion matrix of  $f$  (with  $a_d = 1$ )

$$681 \quad \mathbf{A}_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{0}_{(d-1) \times 1} & \mathbf{I}_{d-1} \\ \hline -a_0 & \dots & -a_{d-1} \end{array} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{5}{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

682 can be interpreted as the matrix that describes the effect of multiplying  $\{1, x\}$  with  
 683  $h = x$  in terms of  $\{1, x\}$ , i.e. as a multiplication table:

$$684 \quad x \cdot (1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot x) = 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot x$$

$$685 \quad x \cdot (0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot x) = 1 \cdot x^2 = -\frac{1}{6} \cdot 1 + \frac{5}{6} \cdot x.$$

686 The  $m = d = 2$  simple roots  $x^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $x^{(2)} = \frac{1}{3}$  of  $f$  are obtained as the isolated  
 687 eigenvalues of the multiplication table  $\mathbf{A}_x$ .

688 Next, as mentioned in the proof of [Corollary 6.3](#),  $\mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]}$  in [\(31\)](#) may be con-  
 689 structed from  $\mathbf{H}(2)$  as a special case of  $\mathbf{K}(2) = \mathbf{V}(2)\mathbf{C}(2)^T$ :

$$690 \quad (39) \quad \mathbf{Y}_{[1,2;3]} = \left( \frac{(\mathbf{I}_2 \quad \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 1}) \cdot \mathbf{H}(2)}{(\mathbf{0}_{2 \times 1} \quad \mathbf{I}_2) \cdot \mathbf{H}(2)} \right) = \left( \frac{\mathbf{H}(2)}{\overline{\mathbf{H}}(2)} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{5}{6} \end{pmatrix}.$$

691 It is easy to verify that  $\mathcal{Y}$  can be written as  $\mathcal{Y} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}(1), \mathbf{V}(1), \mathbf{C}(2) \rrbracket$  where

$$692 \quad \mathbf{V}(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{C}(2) = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 6 & -6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

693 The factor matrices in the two-slice CPD follow from the GEVD of the matrix pencil  
 694  $(\mathcal{Y}(1, :, :), \mathcal{Y}(2, :, :)) = (\underline{\mathbf{H}}(2), \overline{\mathbf{H}}(2))$ . As  $\underline{\mathbf{H}}(2) = \mathbf{I}_2$  and  $\overline{\mathbf{H}}(2) = \mathbf{A}_x$ , the GEVD  
 695 matches the EVD of  $\mathbf{A}_x$ .

696 Note that, for the univariate polynomial equation [\(38\)](#),  $\mathbf{H}(2) = \mathbf{V}(2)\mathbf{C}(2)^T$  is an  
 697 instance of the 1D HR problem [\(14\)](#) in [subsection 3.3](#) and that [\(39\)](#) corresponds to  
 698 its spatially smoothed variant [\(16\)](#).

699 Let us also contrast the way the projective case is handled in [\(34\)](#) to PNLA.  
 700 PNLA proposes some ‘‘artificial’’ solutions to cope with roots at infinity: either the  
 701 affine roots are separated from the roots at infinity in  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  at a degree  $d \gg d^*$  or  
 702 projective shift relations are introduced to make the EVD work [\[15\]](#).

703 **7. CPD and GEVD for  $d \geq d^*$ .** So far, we have obtained the insightful tensor  
 704 CPD interpretation in [\(32\)/\(34\)](#), which comes with numerical tensor algorithms and  
 705 a uniform way of handling affine roots and roots at infinity. However, [section 6](#) hasn’t  
 706 really offered new or less restrictive *working conditions* than NPA. We will take this  
 707 step in the present section. Recall that NPA works with the Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d)$   
 708 at  $d = d^* + 1$ . It turns out that in the CPD approach it is possible to work with the  
 709 smaller Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  at  $d = d^*$ .

710 [Theorem 7.2](#) establishes the *generic* uniqueness of [\(34\)](#) at a degree  $d \geq d^*$ .  
 711 A generic uniqueness condition is meaningful, as in Part I our assumption of a 0-  
 712 dimensional solution set with  $m$  solutions in the projective space and assumption (i)  
 713 of only simple roots were in fact already generic. First, [Definition 7.1](#) draws from [\[11\]](#)  
 714 to explain when we say that decomposition [\(33\)](#) is generically unique.

715 **DEFINITION 7.1.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^{m \cdot (n+1)}$  be the subset of vectors with  $m(n+1)$  entries,  
 716 where all  $m$  roots of a set of  $n$  homogeneous polynomials in  $n+1$  variables are stacked  
 717 vertically. Let  $\mathbf{z} \in \Omega$  contain the roots of a system of  $n$  homogeneous polynomials in  
 718  $n+1$  variables<sup>11</sup> and let  $\mu_{m \cdot (n+1)}$  be a measure that is absolutely continuous w.r.t.  
 719 the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{C}^{m \cdot (n+1)}$ . The CPD [\(34\)](#) is generically unique iff

$$720 \quad (40) \quad \mu_{m \cdot (n+1)} \{ \mathbf{z} \in \Omega \mid \text{the CPD of the tensor} \\ 721 \quad \mathcal{Y} = \llbracket (\mathbf{V}^h(1))(\mathbf{z}), (\mathbf{B}^h(d-1))(\mathbf{z}), (\mathbf{C}(d))(\mathbf{z}) \rrbracket \text{ in } (34) \text{ is not unique} \} = 0.$$

724

725 Let us have a look at how the factor matrices depend on the parameter vector  $\mathbf{z}$ .  
 726 First, as  $\mathbf{V}^h(1)$  holds all the roots, we simply have  $\mathbf{z} = \text{vec}(\mathbf{V}^h(1))$ . The dependence

<sup>11</sup>The restriction to  $\Omega$  is necessary, since not every choice of  $m$  points in  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  defines the solution set of a system of  $n$  polynomial equations of degree  $d_0$  if  $d_0 < m$  [\[17\]](#).

727 of  $\mathbf{B}^h(d-1)$  on  $(\mathbf{z})$  follows from (35). We do not make any assumptions on how  $\mathbf{C}(d)$   
 728 depends on  $\mathbf{z}$ .

729 We now establish generic uniqueness of the CPD in (34) for  $d$  down to  $d = d^*$ .  
 730 The theorem involves a bound on  $m$  that is little restrictive, as we will clarify in  
 731 section 9.

732 **THEOREM 7.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times q(d-1) \times m}$  admit a PD of the form (34), then*  
 733 *generically  $r_{\mathcal{Y}} = m$  and the CPD unique if*

$$734 \quad (41) \quad d \geq d^* \quad \text{and} \quad m \leq m_{\max}(d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \binom{n+d}{n} - n - 1.$$

735

736 *Proof.* To show the sufficiency of (41), we resort to an algebraic geometry-based  
 737 tool for checking generic uniqueness of structured matrix factorizations of the form  
 738  $\mathbf{Y}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{z})\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{z})^T$ , in which the entries of  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{z})$  can be parametrized by rational  
 739 functions of  $\mathbf{z}$ , see [11, Theorem 1].

740 From (34), the parameters are taken equal to  $\mathbf{z} = (x_0^{(1)} \dots x_n^{(m)})^T$ . On the  
 741 other hand, the entries of  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{V}^h(1) \odot \mathbf{B}^h(d-1)$  take the form  $\prod_{j=0}^n x_j^{(k)\alpha_j}$ . The  
 742 latter are monomials and thus rational functions of  $\mathbf{z}$ . [11, Theorem 1] states that the  
 743 structured matrix factorization is generically unique if the number of rank-1 terms  $m$   
 744 is bounded by  $m \leq \hat{N} - \hat{l}$ , where the meaning of  $\hat{N}$  and  $\hat{l}$  will be clarified below.

745 •  $\hat{N}$  is a lower bound on the dimension of the vector space spanned by arbitrary  
 746 column vectors of  $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{z})$ , i.e. by arbitrary vectors of the form  $\mathbf{v}^h(1) \otimes \mathbf{b}^h(d-1)$ .  
 747 The distinct entries in  $\mathbf{v}^h(1) \otimes \mathbf{b}^h(d-1)$  are the same as the distinct entries  
 748 in  $\underbrace{\mathbf{v}^h(1) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{v}^h(1)}_{d \text{ times}}$ , which in turn are the entries in  $\mathbf{v}^h(d)$ , so  $\hat{N} \leq q(d)$ .

749 We will show that  $\hat{N} = q(d)$ . Let

$$750 \quad (42) \quad x_0^{(k)} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad x_j^{(k)} = e^{2\pi \cdot i \cdot \frac{k-1}{q(d)} \cdot (\sum_{l=0}^{j-1} d^l)}, \quad k = 1 : q(d).$$

751 Then  $\underbrace{\mathbf{V}^h(1) \odot \dots \odot \mathbf{V}^h(1)}_{d \text{ times}} \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1)^d \times q(d)}$  and

752  $\mathbf{V}^h(1) \odot \mathbf{B}^h(d-1) \in \mathbb{C}^{((n+1) \cdot q(d-1)) \times q(d)}$  contain  $q(d)$  distinct rows of a Van-  
 753 dermonde matrix with the  $q(d)$  different generators  $x_1^{(k)}$  in (42), which span  
 754 the entire  $q(d)$ -dimensional space [21, Proposition 4]. Hence,  $\hat{N} = q(d)$ .

755 •  $\hat{l}$  is an upper bound on the number of parameters needed to parametrize a  
 756 vector  $\mathbf{v}^h(1)_k \otimes \mathbf{b}_k^h(d-1)$ , so  $\hat{l} = n+1$  is equal to the number of components  
 757  $\left\{ x_j^{(k)} \right\}_{j=0}^n$ . □

758 In the proof of Theorem 7.2 the use of [11, Theorem 1] leads only to (41) because  
 759 (33) exploits the multiplicative shift structure contained in *all* modes of (25).<sup>12</sup> In  
 760 other words, we owe the bound to the simultaneous exploitation of the shift structure  
 761 in all modes. NPA does not allow such a result, as it essentially exploits only one  
 762 shift structure<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>12</sup>The same argument actually proves [28, (26)] for MHR. The bound for  $R$  there and the bound  
 for  $m$  here are very similar. Only  $q(d)$  needs to be replaced by  $\prod_{j=1}^n I_j = (d+1)^n$ :  $q(d)$  is exactly  
 the number of rows that is selected by  $\mathbf{S}_{(d+1)^n \rightarrow q(d)} \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d) \times (d+1)^n}$  in (26) or the number of rows  
 left when going from Figure 2a to 2b.

<sup>13</sup>Similarly, MHR approaches that exploit the shift invariance in only one mode do not reach the  
 bound in [28, (26)].



763 The conditions in [Theorem 7.2](#) do not guarantee that two factor matrices have  
 764 full column rank, i.e., the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}$  does not necessarily satisfy the conditions in  
 765 [Theorem 3.1](#). On the other hand, the conditions in [Theorem 7.2](#) do guarantee that  
 766 the conditions in [Theorem 3.2](#) are generically satisfied. (In the discussion of CPD  
 767 uniqueness in [26, Section IV], this corresponds to the fact that [26, Theorem 5]  
 768 implies [26, Theorem 6].) We conclude from [subsection 3.1](#) that, under the generic  
 769 conditions in [Theorem 7.2](#), the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}$  is not only unique; via an overdetermined  
 770 set of linear equations it can be reworked into an auxiliary CPD that does satisfy  
 771 the conditions in [Theorem 3.1](#), and the latter can be reduced to a matrix GEVD.  
 772 In a particular (non-generic) case, the conditions in [Theorem 3.2](#) may be verified for  
 773  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}^h(1)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^h(d-1)$ .

774 **8. Algorithm.** The goal of this section is to put the theoretical insights from  
 775 the previous sections to the fore.

---

**Algorithm 1** CPD for multivariate polynomial root-finding

---

**Input:** A system  $f_i \in \mathbb{C}_{d_i}^n, i = 1 : n$ , in the  $n+1$  projective unknowns  $x_j \in \mathbb{C}, j = 0 : n$ ,  
 with  $m_0 = m$  simple roots.

**Output:**  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^m$

- 1: Choose  $d \geq d_0 = \max_i d_i$ .
  - 2: Construct  $\mathbf{M}(d)$ .
  - 3:  $\mathbf{K}(d) \leftarrow \text{null}(\mathbf{M}(d))$ .
  - 4: Build  $\mathcal{Y}$  slice-wise by row selection  $\mathcal{Y}(j+1, :, :) \leftarrow \overline{\mathbf{S}}^{(j)}(d-1) \cdot \mathbf{K}(d), j = 0 : n$ .
  - 5: Compute the SVD  $\mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]} = \mathbf{U}^{(2)} \cdot \mathbf{S}^{(2)} \cdot \mathbf{U}^{(1,3)H}$ .
  - 6: Orthogonal compression:  $\mathcal{Y}_c \leftarrow \mathcal{Y} \cdot_2 \mathbf{U}^{(2)H}$ .
  - 7: Compute the CPD  $\mathcal{Y}_c = \llbracket \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}_c(d-1), \mathbf{C}(d) \rrbracket$ .
  - 8: Columnwise scaling:  $\mathbf{X} \leftarrow \sim \mathbf{A}$ .
  - 9: **return**  $\mathbf{X}$
- 

776 [Algorithm 1](#) summarizes the polynomial root-finding procedure implied by the  
 777 derivation in the previous sections. Although the sequence of steps matches the  
 778 derivation closely, the comments below are in order.

779 **Step 1.**  $d_0$  is the minimum value needed to construct  $\mathbf{M}(d)$ , according to [Defini-](#)  
 780 [tion 3.3](#). If further one takes  $d \geq d^*$ , [Algorithm 1](#) can determine the roots of a generic  
 781 system ([section 6](#)) and if one takes  $d \geq d^* + 1$ , the roots will be found in all cases  
 782 ([section 7](#)).

783 **Steps 2–3.** The Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  quickly becomes large while on the  
 784 other hand it is sparse [12]. Instead of constructing  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  explicitly and calculating  
 785  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  using dense linear algebra tools, e.g., the SVD-based `null` command in Matlab,  
 786 one may resort to numerical algorithms for sparse matrices, such as the sparse QR  
 787 algorithm in [6]. An alternative is to not construct  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  explicitly: [1, Algorithm 4.2]  
 788 is a recursive orthogonalization scheme that exploits the sparsity properties of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$   
 789 to obtain  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  via updating.

790 **Steps 5–6.** The matrix  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$  quickly becomes very tall: the number of  
 791 columns  $m$  is fixed, while the number of rows grows as  $q(d-1) \approx \frac{1}{n!}(d-1)^n \gg m$ . To  
 792 reduce the cost of the computation in [Step 7](#), we may replace  $\mathcal{Y}$  by an orthogonally  
 793 compressed variant  $\mathcal{Y}_c = \mathcal{Y} \cdot_2 \mathbf{U}_c^{(2)H}$ . This compression is lossless iff  $\text{col}(\mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]}) \subseteq$   
 794  $\text{col}(\mathbf{U}^{(2)})$ . A numerical basis of minimal size  $m$  is given by the  $m$  dominant left  
 795 singular vectors of  $\mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]}$ , i.e. we can take  $\mathbf{U}^{(2)} \in \mathbb{C}^{q(d-1) \times m}$  equal to the matrix

796 of left singular vectors in the “economic size” SVD of  $\mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]}$ . Such a dimensionality  
 797 reduction is a common preprocessing step in tensor computations [8, 26, 4]. Note that  
 798  $(\mathbf{Y}_c)_{[2;1,3]} = \mathbf{S}^{(2)} \cdot \mathbf{U}^{(1,3)H}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{Y}_c \in \mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times m \times m}$  can be obtained by tensorizing the  
 799 matrix  $\mathbf{S}^{(2)} \cdot \mathbf{U}^{(1,3)H}$ .

800 **Step 7.** The core of Algorithm 1 is the computation of the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}_c$ . If  
 801  $d \geq d^* + 1$ , the CPD of  $\mathcal{Y}_c$  can directly be found from a matrix GEVD (section 6  
 802 and Theorem 3.1). If  $d = d^*$  and the conditions in Theorem 3.2 are satisfied (which  
 803 is generically the case for  $d = d^*$ ), an auxiliary CPD is derived first. The factor  
 804 matrices of the auxiliary CPD can then be found from a matrix GEVD (section 7).  
 805 The procedure is detailed in [7].

806 Approximate roots of a noisy polynomial system may be estimated by means of numerical  
 807 optimization-based CPD algorithms such as nonlinear least squares (NLS) [27].  
 808 GEVD may provide a starting value for the optimization. In optimization algorithms  
 809 prior knowledge about the roots (e.g. nonnegativity) can be imposed as constraints  
 810 on  $\mathbf{A}$  and/or  $\mathbf{B}(d-1)$  [26]. The compression in steps 5–6 allows a reduction of the  
 811 computational cost of the numerical optimization, also in constrained cases [39]. For  
 812 a further discussion of CPD algorithms we refer to [39, 26] and references therein.

813 **Step 8.** As is clear from both (31) and (33), the  $m$  simple roots of the polynomial  
 814 system appear in the first factor matrix. To distinguish between affine roots and roots  
 815 at infinity, we normalize each column  $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$  to its affine counterpart ( $x_0^{(k)} = 1$ ) iff  $x_0^{(k)} \geq$   
 816  $\tau \|\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|$ , given some tolerance  $\tau$ . Eventually we obtain  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}^{(1)} \dots \mathbf{x}^{(m)}) \in$   
 817  $\mathbb{C}^{(n+1) \times m}$ .

818 Table 1 gives an overview of the computational cost of the different steps of  
 819 Algorithm 1. The derivation is given in Appendix A. Figure 4 shows a concrete  
 820 example. We note the following:

- 821 • Although in general tensor problems suffer from the curse of dimensionality,  
 822 this needs to be interpreted with some care. When solving sets of polynomial  
 823 equations, the curse of dimensionality does not reside in the computation  
 824 of the third-order CPD but in the size of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$ , which is the same for all  
 825 Macaulay matrix based methods. Not step 7 but steps 3 and 2 are the  
 826 bottleneck in Figure 4a and 4b, respectively.
- 827 • The possibility in our approach to take  $d = d^* < d^* + 1$ , and hence to work  
 828 with a smaller Macaulay matrix, conveys a far from marginal improvement  
 829 of the bottleneck. The gain in steps 3 and 2 compensates the higher cost of  
 830 the NLS algorithm that replaces the GEVD in step 7.

831 **9. Experimental results.** This section contains the results of some numerical  
 832 experiments that illustrate the potential of our approach.

833 **9.1. Uniqueness.** Theorem 7.2 states that the CPD in step 7 in Algorithm 1  
 834 is generically unique if one takes  $d \geq d^*$  and if  $m \leq m_{\max}(d)$ . Turned the other  
 835 way around, Algorithm 1 will generically find the polynomial roots if  $d \geq d^*$  and  
 836  $m \leq m_{\max}(d)$ . Table 2 shows the degree of regularity  $d^*$ , the Bézout number  $m$   
 837 and  $m_{\max}(d)$  for systems of  $n$  multivariate polynomial equations of degree  $d_0$  in  $n$   
 838 affine variables, for various combinations of  $n$  and  $d_0$ . The table indicates that the  
 839 condition  $m \leq m_{\max}(d)$  is little restrictive at the minimally necessary degree  $d = d^*$ .  
 840 Only for bivariate quadratic systems it is not satisfied ( $n = d_0 = 2$ ). Moreover, the  
 841 gap between  $m$  and  $m_{\max}(d)$  increases with  $n$  and  $d_0$ .

842 These findings are confirmed by numerical experiments. By way of example, Fig.

Table 1: Complexity and memory usage of [Algorithm 1](#). The Macaulay matrix  $\mathbf{M}(d) \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times q(d)}$  and  $\bar{q} = q(d-1)$ . The cost in step 3 is given for the computation of  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  by the SVD-based `null` command in Matlab. In step 7, “it” denotes the number of iterations of the NLS algorithm.

Step	Complexity (flop)	Memory usage (el.)
2		$pq$
3	$\mathcal{O}(2pq^2)$	
5	$\mathcal{O}(2\bar{q}n^2m^2)$	
6	$\mathcal{O}(2\bar{q}nm^2)$	
7	GEVD $\mathcal{O}(30m^3)$	$nm^2$
	NLS $\mathcal{O}(\text{it}(6n + \mathcal{O}(10^2))m^3)$	

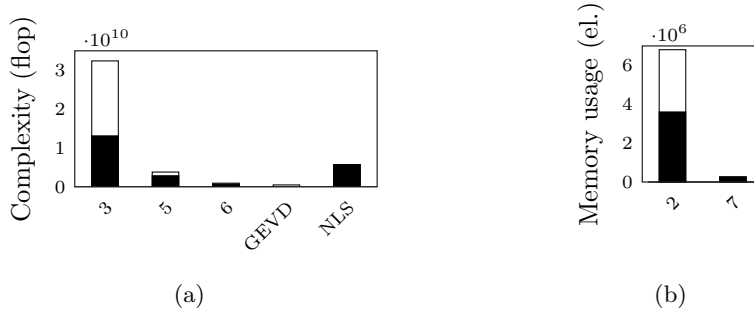


Fig. 4: Illustration of (a) computational complexity and (b) memory requirements of the different steps of [Algorithm 1](#), detailed in [Table 1](#). For the example we take  $n = 4$ ,  $d_i = d_0 = 4, i = 1 : 4$ . We consider both  $d = d^* = 12$  (filled) and  $d = d^* + 1 = 13$  (white). We set `it` = 10, as this is usually sufficient.

843 [5](#) shows histograms over 200 Monte Carlo simulations of the relative forward error

844 (43) 
$$\epsilon_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}} = \frac{\|\hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}\|}{\|\mathbf{X}\|}$$

845 on the estimated solution  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$  of random polynomial systems with  $n = 3$  and  $d_0 =$   
 846  $3$ . The systems are generic in the sense that all their coefficients have been drawn  
 847 independently from the standard Gaussian distribution with mean 0 and standard  
 848 deviation 1. The CPD in Step 7 of [Algorithm 1](#) is computed by the algorithm in [7],  
 849 which we denote as “SD”. For this we used the `cpd3_sd` function of Tensorlab [40].  
 850 For the CPD of the auxiliary tensor, we used the extended QZ iteration in [35, 9].  
 851 The reference solution  $\mathbf{X}$  in (43) is obtained with the general purpose homotopy  
 852 continuation-based solver from PHCPACK [38]. In [Figure 5](#), we let  $d$  vary between  
 853  $d_0 = 3$  and  $d^* + 1 = 7$ . We observe the following:

- 854
  - $d \geq d^*$  is indeed necessary and generically sufficient to retrieve the correct  
 855 roots up to machine precision.
  - Remarkably, even if  $d < d^*$ , i.e. if  $r_{\mathbf{K}(d)} = \nu < m$ , the SD algorithm retrieved  
 856 most roots with a reasonable accuracy (about half the machine precision).  
 857

Table 2: Values of  $d^* = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i - n = n \cdot (d_0 - 1)$ ,  $m = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i = d_0^n$  and  $m_{\max}(d^*) = \binom{n+d^*}{n} - n - 1$  for systems of polynomial equations in  $n$  affine variables with  $d_i = d_0, i = 1 : n$ . Only for  $n = d_0 = 2$  we have  $m > m_{\max}(d^*)$  (underlined).

$d_0$	2			3			4		
$n$	$d^*$	$m$	$m_{\max}(d)$	$d^*$	$m$	$m_{\max}(d)$	$d^*$	$m$	$m_{\max}(d)$
2	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	4	9	12	6	16	25
3	3	8	16	6	27	80	9	64	216
4	4	16	65	8	81	480	12	256	1815

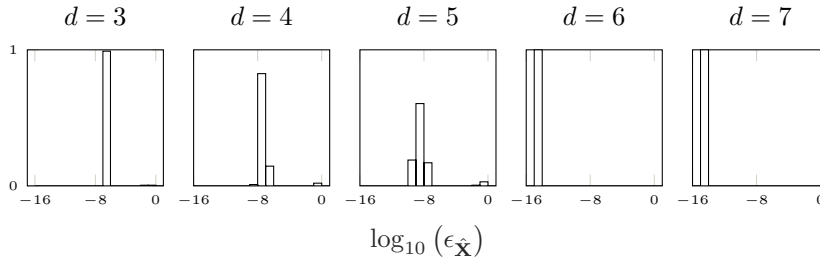


Fig. 5: Histogram over 200 trials of the relative forward error  $\epsilon_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$  on the estimated roots of a generic system of polynomial equations with  $n = 3, d_0 = d_i = 3, i = 1 : n$ , for which  $d^* = 6$ . The CPD in Step 7 of Algorithm 1 was computed in all cases by the SD algorithm underlying Theorem 3.2.

858           The formal justification of this requires further study.  
 859           • Recall that GEVD and PNLA can only be used from  $d \geq d^* + 1$  onward;  
 860           under this condition they retrieved all roots correctly.

861           **9.2. An over-constrained system of polynomial equations.** We consider  
 862 an over-constrained polynomial system, consisting of  $N$  noisy specifications (with  
 863 limited precision) of the same underlying square ( $s = n$ ) polynomial system [12,  
 864 Chapter 8]. Such an over-constrained system may result from  $N$  measurements in  
 865 the presence of noise. Applications may be found in, e.g., chemistry, kinematics  
 866 and computer vision. The over-constrained system has more equations ( $s = Nn$ )  
 867 than unknowns ( $n$ ). Typically there is no exact solution, which makes the problem  
 868 unsuitable for the symbolic manipulations in computer algebra. However, Algorithm 1  
 869 can be used with slight modifications. First, note that for  $s = Nn$ , the Bézout number  
 870  $m = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i$  and the degree of regularity  $d^* = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i - n$  are the same as for  $s = n$ ,  
 871 since the degrees  $d_i$  have not changed. Step 3 in Algorithm 1 requires some attention,  
 872 because the null space of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$  of the over-constrained system has typically dimension  
 873 0. Instead, we could fill  $\mathbf{K}(d)$  with the right singular vectors that correspond to the  
 874  $m$  smallest singular values of  $\mathbf{M}(d)$ . PNLA [12, Algorithm 6] proposes the same  
 875 modification. The matrix  $\mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]}$  in Step 5 may not be exactly rank- $m$ , so a best  
 876 rank- $m$  approximation is in order here. The CPD in Step 7 is not exact either. It  
 877 may still be estimated by a numerical optimization algorithm, and the latter may be  
 878 initialized by GEVD or SD, as explained in subsection 3.1.

879 In an experiment, consider the underlying system [12, Example 8.3]:

$$880 \quad (44) \quad \begin{cases} f_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1^3 + x_2^3 - 9x_1^2x_2 + 20x_1x_2 - 3x_1 - 20 = 0 \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + 4x_2^2 - x_1x_2 - 80 = 0 \end{cases}$$

881 where  $s = n = 2$  so that  $m = 6$ . Zero-mean Gaussian noise  $\mathbf{e}_i^T$  is added to the  $n = 2$   
882 coefficient vectors  $\mathbf{f}_i^T$  in (44), and the variance chosen such that

$$883 \quad (45) \quad 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\|\mathbf{f}_i\|^2}{\|\mathbf{e}_i\|^2} \right)$$

884 is equal to a preset SNR. We repeat this  $N$  times and collect the  $Nn$  noisy coefficient  
885 vectors in an over-constrained system. Figure 6 shows the median approximation  
886 error  $\epsilon_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}$  over 200 Monte Carlo trials for varying SNR and  $N \in \{1, 2, 5, 10\}$ . We make  
887 use of the compression in step 6 of Algorithm 1. PHCPACK does not provide a solver  
888 for over-constrained systems; for reference we report the error that is obtained by  
889 PHCPACK for a square noisy system. The figure indicates the following:

- 890 1. If  $N = 1$ , all algorithms “see” the square noisy system as if it was a differ-  
891 ent but exact system. They all return the same roots and show the same  
892 asymptotic performance as the SNR increases<sup>14</sup>.
- 893 2. As  $N$  increases, the over-constrained system provides more information than  
894 the square system, and the Macaulay matrix-based algorithms become more  
895 accurate than PHCPACK.
- 896 3. At low SNR, the SD variant of Algorithm 1 is clearly the most accurate  
897 algorithm, because it takes the multiplicative shift structure in *all* variables  
898 into account.
- 899 4. The higher accuracy of the GEVD variant of Algorithm 1 compared to (GEVD-  
900 based) PNLA can be explained by the denoising effect of the orthogonal com-  
901 pression in Steps 5 and 6. Indeed, recall that Step 5 involves a truncation,  
902 i.e. the smallest “noise” singular values are discarded.

903 The standard deviations of the relative errors  $\epsilon$  in the 200 trial runs were similar  
904 for all used methods: starting from about 0.09 for SNR=0 down to  $6 \cdot 10^{-4}$  for  
905 SNR=60. Using an NLS type algorithm, we obtained the same results as with SD, if  
906 a good initial value was provided. Because of their expensive first step, the Macaulay  
907 resultant-based methods were roughly 10 times slower than PHCPACK on a 16 GB  
908 RAM Intel Core i7-5500U CPU server. Recall from the discussion in section 8 that  
909 various speed-ups are possible.

910 **10. Conclusions.** As a thought-provoking implication of the Central Theorem  
911 of NPA, it has been stated that “The numerical solution of 0-dimensional systems of  
912 polynomial equations is a task of numerical linear algebra” [30, p. 52]. From a partic-  
913 ular point of view this statement is correct. Nevertheless, in this paper we have shown  
914 that, in line with what one would expect, the problem is rightfully qualified as a task  
915 of numerical multilinear algebra. Under certain working assumptions, linear algebra  
916 yields the exact solution of the exact equations. However, it exploits the available  
917 structure only partially. Technically, the CPD of a multi-slice tensor is collapsed in  
918 the GEVD of a pencil that captures the structure in only two of the slices. The sig-  
919 nificance of the multilinear perspective becomes clear when the working assumptions  
920 are relaxed and/or when the equations are inexact and only approximately satisfied.

<sup>14</sup>The asymptotic performance depends on the condition of the roots. The asymptotic performance shown in Figure 6 is representative for a large number of relatively well-conditioned polynomial root-finding problems with  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$ .

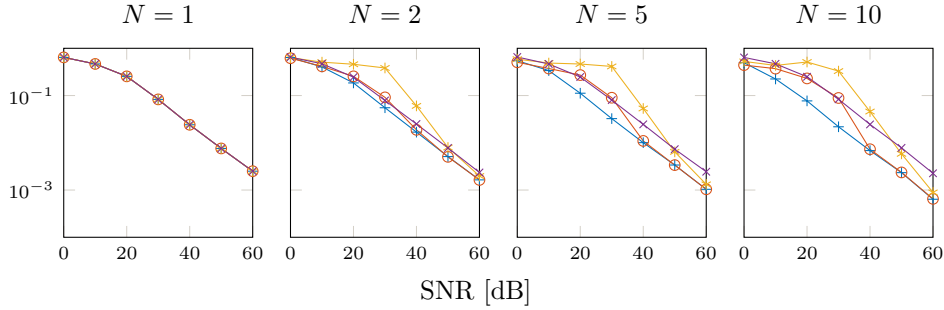


Fig. 6: Relative forward error  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{x}}$  on the estimated roots of the over-constrained system of noisy polynomial equations derived from (44) for varying  $N$ . The median over 200 trials is plotted as a function of SNR. The results are shown for Algorithm 1 using a GEVD ( $\circ$ ) or SD ( $+$ ) in step 7, and PNLA ( $*$ ). We also show the PHCPACK results for a square subsystem (i.e.  $N = 1$ ) ( $\times$ ).

921 Combining different higher-order tensor decompositions, each one exploiting the  
 922 multiplicative structure in just one of the unknowns, we have eventually obtained  
 923 the CPD in (34). This is arguably our central decomposition: it improves upon a  
 924 “flat” matrix model, it can be linked to the joint (G)EVD of NPA’s multiplication  
 925 tables and it does not distinguish between affine and projective roots. We have also  
 926 illustrated some of the potential of Algorithm 1, which follows naturally from the  
 927 derivation. The accuracy of the algorithm is as good as PHC, it allows the use of  
 928 Macaulay matrices of degree  $d = d^*$  instead of  $d \geq d^* + 1$  and it can handle over-  
 929 constrained systems. Like in “linear” Macaulay resultant based algorithms, the size  
 930 of the Macaulay matrix is the computational bottleneck. Therefore, a clear need  
 931 for fast, e.g., matrix-free algorithms that fully exploit the sparsity of the Macaulay  
 932 matrix, remains. The companion paper [36] will drop the constraint of only (i) simple  
 933 roots and relates the topics of our study to a more general third-order block-term  
 934 decomposition. The recent work in [33, 31, 32] opens an interesting perspective on a  
 935 further extension to sparse sets of polynomial equations, the polyhedral structure of  
 936 which results in smaller matrices.

### 937 Appendix A. Computational complexity of Algorithm 1.

938 The memory usage in number of elements stored should be self-explanatory. Here,  
 939 we derive the computational complexity in flop. The operation count of the SVD of an  
 940  $I_1 \times I_2$  matrix with  $I_1 > I_2$  is approximately  $\mathcal{O}(2I_1I_2^2)$  [34, p. 238]. To compute the  
 941 CPD of a  $I_1 \times I_2 \times I_3$  third-order tensor  $\mathcal{T}$  by means of a GEVD, it is assumed that a QZ  
 942 algorithm is used, which requires  $\mathcal{O}(30I^3)$  flop for square  $I \times I$  pencils [16]. The com-  
 943 putation of an  $R$ -term CPD of  $\mathcal{T}$  by means of the (inexact) Gauss-Newton algorithm  
 944 with dogleg trust region costs  $\mathcal{O}(2(3 + \text{it}_{\text{tr}})R \prod I_n + \text{it}_{\text{cg}}(\frac{45}{2}R^2 + R^3 + 8R^2 \sum_n I_n))$   
 945 flop per iteration. Within each iteration the dogleg trust region step requires  $\text{it}_{\text{tr}}$  it-  
 946 erations, and  $\text{it}_{\text{cg}}$  conjugate gradient iterations are required to solve the linear system  
 947 to a prescribed accuracy [27, p. 708]. The cost of the steps in Algorithm 1 is then  
 948 given by

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{O}(2pq^2) && \text{(SVD-based null of } \mathbf{M}(d)\text{)} \\
& \mathcal{O}(2\bar{q}(nm)^2) && \text{(SVD of } \mathbf{Y}_{[2;1,3]}\text{)} \\
& \mathcal{O}(nm^2\bar{q}) && \text{(matrix product)} \\
& \mathcal{O}(30m^3) && \text{(CPD by means of a GEVD)} \\
\mathcal{O}(\text{it}(2(3 + \text{it}_{\text{gn}})mnm^2 + \text{it}_{\text{cg}}(\frac{45}{2}m^2 + m^3 + 8m^2m))) &&& \\
= \mathcal{O}(\text{it}(8nm^3 + \mathcal{O}(10^2)m^3)) &&& \text{(CPD by means of NLS)}
\end{aligned}$$

949 where  $q = q(d)$ ,  $\bar{q} = q(d - 1)$ , “it” denotes the number of iterations of the Gauss–  
950 Newton algorithm. The final estimate is based on the experience that typically less  
951 than 10 conjugate gradient iterations and only one trust region iteration are needed.

952

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