

**Some Lower Bounds for the Complexity  
of Continuation Methods.**

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## 1. Introduction and Main Results.

In this note we consider the zero finding problem for a homogeneous polynomial system

$$f : \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$$

with  $m \leq n$ ,  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$ ,  $f_i \in \mathcal{H}_{d_i}$ , the space of homogeneous polynomials  $f_i : \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $\text{degree}(f_i) = d_i$ . The well-determined ( $m = n$ ) and underdetermined ( $m < n$ ) cases are considered together. We also let  $D = \max d_i$ ,  $d = (d_1, \dots, d_m)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_d = \mathcal{H}_{d_1} \times \dots \times \mathcal{H}_{d_m}$ .

The projective Newton method has been introduced by M. Shub in [6] and is defined by

$$N_f(x) = x - (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^{-1} f(x)$$

when  $m = n$ , with  $Df(x)|_{x^\perp}$  the restriction at  $x^\perp$  of the derivative of  $f$  at  $x$ . Here  $x^\perp$  denotes the space orthogonal to  $x$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ . When  $m \leq n$ , we take

$$N_f(x) = x - (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger f(x)$$

where, for any linear operator  $A : \mathbb{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  between two Hermitian spaces,  $A^\dagger$  denotes its Moore-Penrose inverse.  $A^\dagger = A^*(AA^*)^{-1}$  when  $A$  is onto, which is the case considered here.

A Newton continuation method sequence (NCM sequence) is a sequence of pairs

$$(f_i, \zeta_i) \in (\mathcal{H}_d)^* \times (\mathbb{C}^{n+1})^*, \quad 0 \leq i \leq k,$$

(given a vector space  $E$ ,  $E^*$  denotes the set of nonzero vectors) satisfying the following conditions :

$$f_i(\zeta_i) = 0, \quad 0 \leq i \leq k,$$

and

$$\alpha(f_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \leq \alpha_0, \quad \text{with associated zero } \zeta_{i+1}, \quad 0 \leq i \leq k-1.$$

This last condition, we will make it precise later, implies that the projective Newton's sequence

$$x_0 = \zeta_i, \quad x_{p+1} = N_{f_{i+1}}(x_p), \quad p \geq 0,$$

converges quadratically towards  $\zeta_{i+1}$ .

The complexity of an NCM sequence  $(f_i, \zeta_i)$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , is measured by  $k$ . Upper bounds for the complexity of NCM sequences have been given by M. Shub and S. Smale in their papers [7], [8], [9], about the complexity of Bézout's Theorem. They give an upper bound depending mainly on the degree  $D$  of the considered system and on the condition number of the homotopy. The case of sparse polynomial systems is studied in [2] by J.-P. Dedieu, the case of homogeneous polynomial systems by G. Malajovich [5] and L. Blum, F. Cucker, M. Shub, S. Smale in their book [1], Chap. 14, the case of multihomogeneous underdetermined polynomial systems by J.-P. Dedieu and M. Shub [3] and the case of overdetermined polynomial systems by J.-P. Dedieu and M. Shub [4].

Our main results here are two lower bounds for the complexity of a NCM sequence. In the first one we relate this complexity to the degree :

**Theorem 1.** *For any NCM sequence  $(f_i, \zeta_i)$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , one has*

$$k \geq c \max\left(1, \frac{D-1}{2}\right) d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k),$$

where  $c > 0$  is a universal constant given below and  $d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k)$  the Riemannian distance in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^{n+1})$  between  $\zeta_0$  and  $\zeta_k$ .

The Riemannian distance in  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^{n+1})$  is defined by

$$d_R(u, v) = \arccos \frac{|\langle u, v \rangle|}{\|u\| \|v\|}$$

for any  $u, v \in (\mathbb{C}^{n+1})^*$ .

**Remark 1.** This bound is sharp and this complexity is obtained for the family of systems defined by

$$f_{t,j}(z_0, z_1, \dots, z_n) = z_0^{d_j-1} (z_j - \zeta_{t,j} z_0), \quad 1 \leq j \leq n,$$

where  $\zeta_t = (1-t)(1, 0, \dots, 0) + t(1, a_1, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{C}^n$  given.

For any  $f \in \mathcal{H}_d$  let us define

$$\Sigma_f = \{x \in (\mathbb{C}^{n+1})^* \quad : \quad \text{rank } Df(x) < m\}.$$

In our second theorem, we give a lower bound for the complexity of an NCM sequence in terms of the arithmetic mean of the distances of  $\zeta_i$  from  $\Sigma_{f_i}$ .

**Theorem 2.** *For any NCM sequence  $(f_i, \zeta_i)$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , one has*

$$k \geq c \frac{d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k)}{k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^k d_R(\zeta_i, \Sigma_{f_i})},$$

where  $c > 0$  is (another) universal constant.

**Remark 2.** This lower bound shows that the complexity of an NCM sequence increases with the proximity of singular points. This proximity is measured here by the arithmetic mean of the distances  $d_R(\zeta_i, \Sigma_{f_i})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given. For any NCM sequence  $(f_i, \zeta_i)$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , such that*

$$d_R(\zeta_i, \Sigma_{f_i}) \leq \epsilon, \quad 1 \leq i \leq k$$

we have

$$k \geq c\epsilon^{-1}d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k),$$

with  $c$  as in Theorem 2.

The proofs of these theorems are based on Smale's alpha-theory introduced by S. Smale in [10]. We use here its homogeneous version as described in J.-P. Dedieu-M. Shub [3]. When  $Df(x)$  is onto, we define

$$\gamma(f, x) = \max \left( 1, \|x\| \max_{k \geq 2} \left\| (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(x)}{k!} \right\|^{\frac{1}{k-1}} \right),$$

$$\beta(f, x) = \|x\|^{-1} \|(Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger f(x)\|,$$

$$\alpha(f, x) = \beta(f, x)\gamma(f, x).$$

In the definition of  $\gamma(f, x)$ ,  $\| \cdot \|$  is the operator norm with respect to the canonical Hermitian structure over  $\mathfrak{C}^{n+1}$ .

These three quantities are invariant under scaling and under unitary transformations:

$$\star(f, x) = \star(f, \lambda x) = \star(\lambda f, x) = \star(f \circ u, u^{-1}(x)),$$

with  $\star \in \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$ , for any  $x \in (\mathfrak{C}^{n+1})^\star$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{C}^\star$  and any unitary transformation  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{C}^{n+1}$ . When  $Df(x)$  is not onto, we take

$$\alpha(f, x) = \beta(f, x) = \gamma(f, x) = \infty.$$

The following theorem ([3], Theorem 1) justifies our definition of a NPC sequence:

**Theorem 3.** *There is a universal constant  $\alpha_0 > 0$  with the following property : for any homogeneous system  $f \in \mathcal{H}_d$  and  $x \in (\mathfrak{C}^{n+1})^\star$ , if  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$ , then the projective Newton sequence*

$$x_0 = x, \quad x_{k+1} = N_f(x_k)$$

*is defined and satisfies*

$$\|x_{k+1} - x_k\| / \|x_k\| \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2^k - 1} \beta(f, x)$$

*for any  $k \geq 0$ . This sequence converges to a zero  $\zeta \in (\mathfrak{C}^{n+1})^\star$  of  $f$  and*

$$d_R(\zeta, x_k) \leq \sigma \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2^k - 1} \beta(f, x)$$

with

$$\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2^i-1} = 1.6328\dots$$

We can take  $\alpha_0 = 1/137$ .

## 2. Proofs of Theorems 1 and 2.

These proofs are the consequences of the three following propositions. In the first one we compute the minimum value of  $\gamma(f, \zeta)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *We have*

$$\max\left(1, \frac{D-1}{2}\right) = \min \gamma(f, \zeta),$$

where the minimum is taken over all pairs  $(\zeta, f) \in (\mathfrak{C}^{n+1})^* \times (\mathcal{H}_d)^*$  with  $f(\zeta) = 0$ .

**Proof.** We first prove that  $(D-1)/2$  is a lower bound for  $\gamma(f, \zeta)$ . We can suppose that  $\text{rank } Df(\zeta) = m$  since, otherwise,  $\gamma(f, \zeta) = \infty$ . Using the invariance properties of  $\gamma(f, \zeta)$  under scaling and unitary transformations, we also can suppose that  $\zeta = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Since  $f(\zeta) = 0$  we have

$$f_i(z) = z_0^{d_i-1}(a_{i,1}z_1 + \dots + a_{i,n}z_n) + g_i(z), \quad 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

with  $\text{degree}(g_i, z_0) \leq d_i - 2$ . Let us denote by  $A$  the  $m \times n$  matrix with entries  $a_{i,j}$ . Thus  $Df(\zeta) = (0|A)$ . The second derivative of  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$  is given by

$$D^2 f_i(\zeta) = (d_i - 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A_i \\ A_i^T & O_n \end{pmatrix} + D^2 g_i(\zeta),$$

where  $A_i = (a_{i,1}, \dots, a_{i,n})$  and  $O_n$  is the  $n \times n$  zero matrix. Since  $\text{degree}(g_i, z_0) \leq d_i - 2$ , for any  $v \in \mathfrak{C}^{n+1}$  we have

$$D^2 f_i(\zeta)(\zeta, v) = (d_i - 1) \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} v_j$$

so that

$$D^2 f(\zeta)(\zeta, v) = \text{Diag}(d_i - 1) A \tilde{v}, \quad \tilde{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here  $\text{Diag}(d_i - 1)$  denotes the  $m \times m$  diagonal matrix with diagonal entries  $d_i - 1$ . This gives

$$(Df(\zeta)|_{\zeta^\perp})^\dagger D^2 f(\zeta)(\zeta, v) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ A^\dagger \text{Diag}(d_i - 1) A \tilde{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

and consequently

$$\|A^\dagger \text{Diag}(d_i - 1)A\|/2 = \|(Df(\zeta)|_{\zeta^\perp})^\dagger D^2 f(\zeta)/2\| \leq \gamma(f, \zeta).$$

Let us consider the matrix  $B = A^\dagger \text{Diag}(d_i - 1)A$ . Let  $A = U\Sigma V$  be a singular value decomposition of  $A$ :  $U$  and  $V$  are unitary  $m \times m$  and  $n \times n$  matrices and  $\Sigma = (\Delta|0)$  with  $\Delta = \text{Diag}(\sigma_i)$ ,  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_m > 0$  the singular values of  $A$ . We have

$$B = V^\star \begin{pmatrix} \Delta^{-1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} U^\star \text{Diag}(d_i - 1)U(\Delta|0)V = V^\star \begin{pmatrix} \Delta^{-1}U^\star \text{Diag}(d_i - 1)U\Delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} V$$

so that the eigenvalues of  $B$  are  $d_1 - 1, \dots, d_m - 1$  and 0. Since  $\|B\| \geq \rho(B)$  (its spectral radius) we get

$$\|B\| = \|A^\dagger \text{Diag}(d_i - 1)A\| \geq D - 1$$

and this proves the inequality

$$\gamma(f, \zeta) \geq \max\left(1, \frac{D - 1}{2}\right).$$

In order to prove the converse inequality, we study the following example :

$$f_i(z) = z_0^{d_i - 1} z_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \quad z = (z_0, \dots, z_n),$$

and we consider  $\zeta = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ , so that  $f(\zeta) = 0$ . The derivative of  $f$  is given by

$$Df(\zeta) = (0, I_m, O_{n-m}),$$

with  $I_m$  the  $m \times m$  identity matrix and  $O_{n-m}$  the  $(n - m) \times (n - m)$  zero matrix. The other derivatives are given by

$$D^k f_i(\zeta)(u^1, \dots, u^k) = \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i_j \leq n \\ 1 \leq j \leq k}} \frac{\partial^k f_i(\zeta)}{\partial z_{i_1} \dots \partial z_{i_k}} u_{i_1}^1 \dots u_{i_k}^k,$$

for any  $u^1, \dots, u^k \in \mathbf{C}^{n+1}$ . These partial derivatives are equal to 0 except when, for some  $j = 1 \dots k$ , we have

$$i_1 = \dots = i_{j-1} = i_{j+1} = \dots = i_k = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad i_j = i.$$

In this case, this partial derivative is equal to  $(d_i - 1) \dots (d_i - k + 1)$ . Thus

$$D^k f_i(\zeta)(u^1, \dots, u^k) = \sum_{j=1}^k (d_i - 1) \dots (d_i - k + 1) u_0^1 \dots u_0^{j-1} u_i^j u_0^{j+1} \dots u_0^k$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|D^k f(\zeta)(u^1, \dots, u^k)\| &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \left| \sum_{j=1}^k (d_i - 1) \dots (d_i - k + 1) u_0^1 \dots u_0^{j-1} u_i^j u_0^{j+1} \dots u_0^k \right|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq (D-1) \dots (D-k+1) \sum_{j=1}^k \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \left| u_0^1 \dots u_0^{j-1} u_i^j u_0^{j+1} \dots u_0^k \right|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq (D-1) \dots (D-k+1) k/2 \end{aligned}$$

when  $\|u^1\| = \dots = \|u^k\| = 1$ , as it can be proved by induction over  $k \geq 2$ . Consequently

$$\|\zeta\| \max_{k \geq 2} \left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{\zeta^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\|^{\frac{1}{k-1}} \leq \max_{k \geq 2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \binom{D-1}{k-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{k-1}} = \frac{D-1}{2}$$

using the fact that the sequence  $\left( \frac{1}{2} \binom{D-1}{k-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{k-1}}$ ,  $k \geq 2$ , is decreasing. This yields  $\gamma(f, \zeta) \leq \max(1, (D-1)/2)$  and achieves the proof of Proposition 1.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.** *There is a universal constant  $c > 0$  with the following property. For any  $f \in (\mathcal{H}_d)^\star$ ,  $\zeta$  and  $x \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^\star$ , if  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$  with associated zero  $\zeta$  then*

$$d_R(\zeta, x) \gamma(f, \zeta) \leq c.$$

Such a proposition appears in [10]. We give here a similar result in the context of homogeneous systems. It is a consequence of the three following lemmas.

Let us introduce the function

$$\psi(u) = 2u^2 - 4u + 1, \quad 0 \leq u \leq 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

This function is decreasing from 1 at  $u = 0$  to 0 at  $u = 1 - \sqrt{2}/2$ . We first start with a linear algebra lemma. Its proof may be found in [3], Lemma 2.a.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be Hermitian spaces and  $A, B : X \rightarrow Y$  linear operators with  $B$  onto. If*

$$\|B^\dagger(B - A)\| \leq \lambda < 1$$

*then  $A$  is onto and*

$$\|A^\dagger B\| < \frac{1}{1 - \lambda}.$$

**Lemma 2.** Let  $x$  and  $y \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$  be given such that  $Df(x)|_{x^\perp}$  is onto,  $\|x\| = 1$  and  $u = \|y - x\|\gamma(f, x) < 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ . Then  $Df(y)|_{x^\perp}$  is onto and

$$\|(Df(y)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger Df(x)|_{x^\perp}\| \leq \frac{(1-u)^2}{\psi(u)}.$$

**Proof.**  $Df(y) = Df(x) + \sum_{k \geq 2} k \frac{D^k f(x)}{k!} (y-x)^{k-1}$  so that

$$(Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger (Df(y)|_{x^\perp} - Df(x)|_{x^\perp}) = \sum_{k \geq 2} k (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(x)}{k!} (y-x)^{k-1}|_{x^\perp}.$$

If we take the operator norm of both sides we get

$$\|(Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger (Df(y)|_{x^\perp} - Df(x)|_{x^\perp})\| \leq \sum_{k \geq 2} k \gamma(f, x)^{k-1} \|y-x\|^{k-1} =$$

$$\sum_{k \geq 2} k u^{k-1} = \frac{1}{(1-u)^2} - 1$$

and this number is  $< 1$  since  $u < 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ . By Lemma 1  $Df(y)|_{x^\perp}$  is onto and

$$\|(Df(y)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger Df(x)|_{x^\perp}\| \leq \frac{1}{1 - \left(\frac{1}{(1-u)^2} - 1\right)} = \frac{(1-u)^2}{\psi(u)}. \quad \square$$

**Lemma 3.** Let  $x$  and  $\zeta \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$  be given such that  $\|x\| = \|\zeta\| = 1$  and  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$  with associated zero  $\zeta$ . Then

$$\gamma(f, \zeta) \leq \frac{\gamma(f, x)}{(1 - \sigma \alpha_0) \psi(\sigma \alpha_0)}$$

where  $\sigma$  and  $\alpha_0$  are the constants appearing in Theorem 3.

**Proof.** Since  $f(\zeta) = 0$  we have  $\mathbf{C}\zeta \subset \ker Df(\zeta)$  so that  $(Df(\zeta)|_{\zeta^\perp})^\dagger = Df(\zeta)^\dagger$  is the minimum norm right inverse of  $Df(\zeta)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(f, \zeta) &= \max \left( 1, \max_{k \geq 2} \left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{\zeta^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\|^{\frac{1}{k-1}} \right) \leq \\ &\max \left( 1, \max_{k \geq 2} \left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\|^{\frac{1}{k-1}} \right). \end{aligned}$$



Since  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$ ,  $Df(x)|_{x^\perp}$  is onto so that

$$\left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\| \leq \left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger Df(x) \right\| \left\| (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\|.$$

Let us denote  $u = \|x - \zeta\| \gamma(f, x)$ . Since  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$ , by Theorem 3, we have  $d_R(\zeta, z) \leq \sigma\beta(f, x)$ . Moreover, since  $\|x\| = \|\zeta\| = 1$ , we also have  $\|x - \zeta\| \leq d_R(\zeta, z)$  so that

$$u \leq d_R(\zeta, x) \gamma(f, x) \leq \sigma\alpha(f, x) \leq \sigma\alpha_0 < 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

Thus, by Lemma 2

$$\left\| (Df(\zeta)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger Df(x) \right\| < \frac{(1-u)^2}{\psi(u)}.$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^k f(\zeta)}{k!} \right\| &\leq \sum_{l \geq 0} \left\| (Df(x)|_{x^\perp})^\dagger \frac{D^{k+l} f(x)}{k!l!} \right\| \|x - \zeta\|^l \\ &\leq \sum_{l \geq 0} \left\| \frac{(k+l)!}{k!l!} \gamma(f, x)^{k+l-1} \|x - \zeta\|^l \right\| = \frac{\gamma(f, x)^{k-1}}{(1-u)^{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\gamma(f, \zeta) \leq \max \left( 1, \max_{k \geq 2} \left( \frac{(1-u)^2}{\psi(u)} \frac{\gamma(f, x)^{k-1}}{(1-u)^{k+1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{k-1}} \right)$$

and, using the inequality  $u \leq \sigma\alpha_0$  we are done.  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 2.** Since  $\alpha(f, x) \leq \alpha_0$ , by Theorem 3, we have  $d_R(\zeta, x) \leq \sigma\beta(f, x)$ . Using Lemma 3 we obtain

$$d_R(\zeta, x) \gamma(f, \zeta) \leq \sigma\beta(f, x) \frac{\gamma(f, x)}{(1 - \sigma\alpha_0)\psi(\sigma\alpha_0)} \leq \frac{\sigma\alpha_0}{(1 - \sigma\alpha_0)\psi(\sigma\alpha_0)}$$

and we are done.  $\square$

Our last ingredient is a corollary of the following theorem (gamma-theorem for homogeneous polynomial systems) see [3], Theorem 2, and [1], Chap. 14, Theorem 1, for the case  $m = n$ .

**Theorem 4.** *There is a universal constant  $\gamma_0$  with the following property : let  $\zeta \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$  be a zero of  $f \in (\mathcal{H}_d)^*$  and  $x \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$ . If*

$$\|x - \zeta\| \gamma(f, \zeta) / \|\zeta\| \leq \gamma_0$$

then the projective Newton sequence

$$x_0 = x, \quad x_{k+1} = N_f(x_k),$$

is defined and converges to a zero  $\zeta' \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$  of  $f$  and

$$d_R(\zeta', x_k) \leq \sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{2^k - 1} \beta(f, x).$$

**Proposition 3.** For any  $\zeta \in (\mathbf{C}^{n+1})^*$  and any  $f \in (\mathcal{H}_d)^*$  such that  $f(\zeta) = 0$  we have

$$d_R(\zeta, \Sigma_f) \gamma(f, \zeta) \geq \gamma_0.$$

**Proof.** If  $x \in \Sigma_f$  then the projective Newton sequence  $x_0 = x, x_{k+1} = N_f(x_k)$ , is not defined. By Theorem 4 we have necessarily

$$\|x - \zeta\| \gamma(f, \zeta) / \|\zeta\| > \gamma_0.$$

When  $\langle x, \zeta \rangle = 0$  then  $d_R(\zeta, x) = \pi/2$  and the conclusion holds. When  $\langle x, \zeta \rangle \neq 0$ , scaling  $x$  such that  $\langle x - \zeta, x \rangle = 0$ , we obtain

$$d_R(x, \zeta) \geq \|x - \zeta\| / \|\zeta\|$$

and we are done.  $\square$

**Proofs of Theorems 1 and 2.** Given an NCM sequence  $(f_i, \zeta_i)$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k$ , since  $\alpha(f_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \leq \alpha_0$  with associated zero  $\zeta_{i+1}$ , we get by Proposition 2

$$d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \gamma(f_{i+1}, \zeta_{i+1}) \leq c.$$

By Proposition 1 we obtain

$$\max\left(1, \frac{D-1}{2}\right) d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \leq c,$$

so that

$$\max\left(1, \frac{D-1}{2}\right) d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k) \leq \max\left(1, \frac{D-1}{2}\right) \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \leq ck$$

and this proves Theorem 1.

As previously we have

$$d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \gamma(f_{i+1}, \zeta_{i+1}) \leq c$$

and by Proposition 3

$$d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \gamma_0 d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \Sigma_{f_{i+1}})^{-1} \leq d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \gamma(f_{i+1}, \zeta_{i+1}) \leq c$$

so that

$$d_R(\zeta_0, \zeta_k) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \zeta_i) \leq c \gamma_0^{-1} k \left( \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} d_R(\zeta_{i+1}, \Sigma_{f_{i+1}}) \right)$$

and this proves Theorem 2.  $\square$

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