ASIAN J. MATH.
Vol. 22, No. 2, pp. 0307–0316, April 2018

INTERPOLATION FOR CURVES OF LARGE DEGREE*

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Dedicated to Professor Ngaiming Mok on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday

Abstract. In this paper, we establish an interpolation result involving higher-order conormal bundles of curves embedded by linear systems of large degree. As a consequence this gives evidence for the semistability conjecture due to Ein-Lazarsfeld.

Key words. Interpolation, semistablility, conomral bundle.

Mathematics Subject Classification. 14H60.

1. Introduction. Throughout this paper we work over an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Let C be a nonsingular irreducible projective curve of genus $g \geq 0$ embedded by a complete linear system of a line bundle L into a projective space

$$\phi : C \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}(H^0(L)).$$

For each nonnegative integer k, denote by $P^k(L)$ the bundle of k-th order principal part of L. When $k \leq \deg L - 2g$, lifting global sections of L to $P^k(L)$ induces a short exact sequence of vector bundles

$$0 \longrightarrow R^k(L) \longrightarrow H^0(L) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(L) \longrightarrow 0.$$

The bundles $R^k(L)$ can be thought of as higher-order conormal bundles of C governing the geometry of the embedding ϕ. For instance, $R^0(L)^* \otimes L$ is the restricted tangent bundle $T_{\mathbb{P}^n}|_C$ and $R^1(L)^* \otimes L$ is the normal bundle $N_{C/\mathbb{P}^n}$ of C in $\mathbb{P}^n$.

The vector bundle $R^k(L)$ was studied by Lazarsfeld and the first author in [EL92], where they raised the following conjecture.

CONJECTURE 1.1 ([EL92, 4.2]). *There is an integer $d(g, k)$ such that the conormal bundle $R^k(L)$ is semistable for* $\deg L \geq d(g, k)$.

This has only been proved for $g = 0, 1$ and, as far as we know, has no known evidence for higher genus. Indeed, the case of $g = 0$ is trivial and when $g = 1$, $R^k(L)$ can be realized as the pullback of a Picard bundle under the étale morphism of C to the Jacobian. The desired semistability then follows from the result established in [EL92] that the Picard bundle is stable. However, this method fails for higher genus and the conjecture is widely open even for $k = 1$.

Recently, a couple of notions of interpolation for vector bundles on curves were introduced in [Ata]. Several results related to interpolation for normal bundles and restricted tangent bundles of general curves have been proved in [ALY], [Bal17] and [Lar]. It would be natural to understand interpolation for all $R^k(L)$ bundles on arbitrary curves when $\deg L$ is large. It turns out that the picture is quite clear in this case, as shown in the following main theorem of this paper.

*Received April 21, 2016; accepted for publication February 7, 2018.

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THEOREM 1.2. *Let L be a very ample line bundle on a nonsingular projective curve C of genus $g \geq 0$. If there is a nonnegative integer k such that* $\deg L \geq (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k$, *then the vector bundle $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ satisfies interpolation.*

As an immediate corollary, we have the interpolation for the restricted tangent bundle and the normal bundle for arbitrary curves of large degree.

COROLLARY 1.3. *Let L be a very ample line bundle on a nonsingular projective curve C of genus $g \geq 0$ and its complete linear system defines an embedding*

$$\phi : C \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}(H^0(L)).$$

Then one has the following.

(1) *If* $\deg L \geq 2g$, *the restricted tangent bundle $T_{\mathbb{P}^n}|_C$ satisfies interpolation.*
(2) *If* $\deg L \geq 5g + 1$, *the normal bundle $N_{C/\mathbb{P}^n}$ satisfies interpolation.*

There is a connection established in [Ata] between semistability and interpolation. Therefore, as another corollary, we obtain the following evidence for Conjecture 1.1.

COROLLARY 1.4. *Let L be a very ample line bundle on a nonsingular projective curve C of genus $g \geq 0$. If there is a nonnegative integer k such that* $\deg L = (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k$ *then the vector bundle $R^k(L)$ is semistable.*

The corollary also suggests that the potential value for the bound $d(g, k)$ in Conjecture 1.1 might be expected as $d(g, k) = (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k$.

Acknowledgment. We are honored to dedicate this paper to Professor Ngaiming Mok on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. We are very thankful to the tremendous contributions and supports by Ngaiming to the development of the Chinese algebraic geometry in the last few decades. Our thanks also go to the referee for his/her nice suggestions which improve the paper.

2. Interpolation and principal parts of vector bundles. In this section, we review the notion of interpolation introduced in [Ata] as well as the definition of the principal parts of vector bundles on curves.

Given a vector bundle E on a projective nonsingular curve C, we write $H^i(E)$ for the cohomology group $H^i(C, E)$ and $h^i(E) = \dim_k H^i(E)$. If $S = x_1 + \cdots + x_q$ is an effective divisor, we write $E|_S = E \otimes \mathscr{O}_S$ as the restriction of E onto S. In particular, if $x \in C$ is a closed point $E|_x = E \otimes k(x)$ where $k(x)$ is the residual field of x. The slope $\mu(E)$ is defined by $\deg E/\operatorname{rank} E$. E is called semistable if $\mu(F) \leq \mu(E)$ for any subbundle $F \subseteq E$.

DEFINITION 2.1. Let C be a nonsingular projective curve and let E be a vector bundle on C. Suppose that

$$h^0(E) = q \cdot \operatorname{rank} E + t, \qquad \text{with } 0 \leq t < \operatorname{rank} E.$$

E is said to satisfy interpolation if there exist $q + 1$ distinct points $x_1 \cdots, x_q, x$ and a vector subspace $V \subseteq E|_x$ of codimension t such that the restriction morphism

$$H^0(E) \longrightarrow E|_S \oplus E|_x/V$$

is surjective, where $S = x_1 + \cdots + x_q$.

REMARK 2.2. What we adopted here is called regular interpolation in [Ata, Definition 3.3]. In particular, Atanasov also proved that regular interpolation is equivalent to what he called strongly interpolation [Ata, Theorem 8.1]. By semicontinuity, one can actually choose the points x_i and x in the definition as general points.

Remark 2.3. It is also easy to see that E satisfies interpolation if and only if for every $m \geq 1$, there is a general effective divisor Z of degree m such that the restriction morphism

$$H^0(E) \longrightarrow E|_Z$$

has maximal rank.

If the vector bundle E is nonspecial, i.e., $h^1(E) = 0$, then one can verify interpolation by the following observation proved by several authors.

Proposition 2.4 ([Bal17, Lemma 1], [ALY, Proposition 4.5]). *Let E be a nonspecial vector bundle on a nonsingular curve C such that*

$$h^0(E) = q \cdot \operatorname{rank} E + t, \text{ with } 0 \leq t \leq \operatorname{rank} E.$$

Then E satisfies interpolation if and only if there exist general effective divisors S of degree q and S' of degree $q+1$ respectively such that

$$h^1(E(-S)) = 0 \text{ and } h^0(E(-S')) = 0.$$

Under certain conditions, the interpolation property will imply semistability of vector bundles. More precisely, let F be a subbundle of E and write $h^0(E) = q \cdot \operatorname{rank} E + t$ with $0 \leq t < \operatorname{rank} E$. It was showed in [Ata, Proposition 3.14] that

$$\frac{h^0(F)}{\operatorname{rank} F} \leq \frac{h^0(E)}{\operatorname{rank} E} + \min\left\{1, \frac{t}{\operatorname{rank} F}\right\} - \frac{t}{\operatorname{rank} E}.$$

Hence if E is nonspecial and $t = 0$ one immediately deduces that

$$\frac{\chi(F)}{\operatorname{rank} F} \leq \frac{\chi(E)}{\operatorname{rank} E},$$

which implies that E is semistable. We summarize this fact in the following proposition.

Proposition 2.5 ([Ata, Corollary 3.15]). *Let E be a nonspecial vector bundle on a nonsingular curve C such that* $\operatorname{rank} E$ *divides* $h^0(E)$*. If E satisfies interpolation then E is semistable.*

Example 2.6. In general, interpolation does not imply semistability. For example, consider a vector bundle $E = \mathscr{O}_C(2P) \oplus \mathscr{O}_C(3P)$ on an elliptic curve C, where P is a point. Then E satisfies interpolation but is not semistable.

Next we recall the notion of the principal parts of a line bundle. Let $\Delta \subset C \times C$ be the diagonal with the ideal sheaf I_Δ. Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Delta & \hookrightarrow & C \times C & \xrightarrow{q} & C \\ & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle p} & & \\ & & C & & \end{array} \tag{2.6.1}$$

where the morphism p and q are natural projections. For a line bundle $\mathscr{L}$ on C and an integer $k \geq 0$, the k-th order principal part of $\mathscr{L}$ is defined by

$$P^k(\mathscr{L}) = p_*(q^*\mathscr{L} \otimes \frac{\mathscr{O}_{C\times C}}{I_\Delta^{k+1}}).$$

It is easy to see that $P^k(\mathscr{L})$ is a vector bundle of rank $k+1$. Directly from the definition, we have the following simple observation.

PROPOSITION 2.7. *Consider two line bundles $\mathscr{L}$ and $\mathscr{L}'$ on a curve, then one has*

$$H^0(P^k(\mathscr{L}) \otimes \mathscr{L}') = H^0(P^k(\mathscr{L}') \otimes \mathscr{L})$$

and the natural morphisms

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \otimes H^0(\mathscr{L}') \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(\mathscr{L}) \otimes \mathscr{L}')$$

and

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \otimes H^0(\mathscr{L}') \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(\mathscr{L}') \otimes \mathscr{L})$$

are the same.

Proof. All cohomology groups in the proposition can be seen on the product $C \times C$. One can identify the two natural morphisms as

$$H^0(p^*\mathscr{L} \otimes q^*\mathscr{L}') \longrightarrow H^0(p^*\mathscr{L} \otimes q^*\mathscr{L}' \otimes \frac{\mathscr{O}_{C\times C}}{I_\Delta^{k+1}})$$

But the Kuneth formula gives $H^0(p^*\mathscr{L} \otimes q^*\mathscr{L}') = H^0(p^*\mathscr{L}) \otimes H^0(q^*\mathscr{L}')$. Then the result follows from the projection formula. □

Recall that a line bundle $\mathscr{L}$ on a projective variety X separates k-jets at a non-singular closed point $x \in X$ if the natural morphism

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \longrightarrow \mathscr{L} \otimes \mathscr{O}_X/\mathfrak{m}_x^{k+1}$$

is surjective, where $\mathfrak{m}_x \subset \mathscr{O}_X$ is the maximal ideal defining the point x. For further information on separation of jets, we refer to [Laz04, Chapter 5].

PROPOSITION 2.8. *Let $\mathscr{L}$ be a globally generated line bundle on a curve C. Let $\mathscr{Q}$ be the cokernel of the canonical morphism*

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(\mathscr{L}).$$

Then one has

$$\mathrm{Supp}(\mathscr{Q}) = \{x \in C \mid \mathscr{L} \textit{ does not separate } k\textit{-jets at } x\}$$

In particular, $\mathscr{Q} = 0$ if and only if $\mathscr{L}$ separates k-jets at any $x \in C$.

Proof. We use the diagram (2.6.1) in the proof. The question is local and hence the morphism is surjective at the point $x \in C$ if and only if the morphism

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \otimes k(x) \longrightarrow P^k(\mathscr{L}) \otimes k(x),$$

is surjective. But by base change, if we write $C_x = p^{-1}(x)$, we see that the above morphism is the same as

$$H^0(\mathscr{L}) \longrightarrow \mathscr{L} \otimes \mathscr{O}_{C_x}/\mathfrak{m}_x^{k+1}$$

where $\mathfrak{m}_x$ is the defining ideal of x in C_x (cutting by the diagonal). Then the result is clear. □

REMARK 2.9. It is clear that $\mathscr{L}$ separates 0-jets if and only if it is base-point-free. $\mathscr{L}$ separates 1-jets if and only if the complete linear system $|\mathscr{L}|$ defines a unramified morphism

$$\phi_{|\mathscr{L}|} : C \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(\mathscr{L})).$$

PROPOSITION 2.10. *Let C be a nonsingular curve of genus $g \geq 0$. For $k \geq 0$, one has the following results:*

(1) *A line bundle of degree $\geq 2g + k$ separates k-jets at any point x of C.*
(2) *A general line bundle of degree $\geq g + k + 1$ separates k-jets at any point x of C.*
(3) *A general line bundle of degree $\geq g + k$ separates k-jets at some point x of C.*

Proof. If $g = 0$, then the results are trivial even for arbitrary line bundles instead of general ones. So in the sequel we assume $g \geq 1$.

(1) Let $\mathscr{L}$ be a line bundle on C of degree $\geq 2g + k$. Let $x \in C$ be a point. Since $\deg \mathscr{L}(-(k+1)x) \geq 2g - 1$, we see that $h^1(\mathscr{L}(-(k+1)x)) = 0$ which means that $\mathscr{L}$ separates k-jets at x.

(2) Let $\mathscr{L}$ be a general line bundle on C of degree $\geq g + k + 1$. For a point $x \in C$, it is sufficient to show the vanishing $H^1(\mathscr{L}(-(k+1)x)) = 0$, which by duality is equivalent to the vanishing $H^0(\omega_C \otimes \mathscr{L}^*((k+1)x)) = 0$. Notice that $d = \deg \omega_C \otimes \mathscr{L}^*((k+1)x) \leq g - 2$. We consider the following morphism

$$\alpha_d : C_d \times C \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}^{d-(k+1)}(C)$$

which maps the pair (D, x) to $\mathscr{O}_C(D - (k+1)x)$. Notice that the image of α_d contains all such line bundles A of degree $d - (k+1)$ that $A((k+1)x)$ is effective for some point x. But $\dim C_d \times C \leq g - 1$. Hence a general choice of $\mathscr{L}$ will make the line bundles $\omega_C \otimes \mathscr{L}^*$ out of the image of α_d. Indeed, consider the isomorphism

$$\beta : \mathrm{Pic}^{d-(k+1)-(2g-2)}(C) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}^{d-(k+1)}(C)$$

defined as $\beta(\mathscr{R}) = \mathscr{R}^* \otimes \omega_C$ for $\mathscr{R} \in \mathrm{Pic}^{d-(k+1)-(2g-2)}(C)$. Then we can simply choose $\mathscr{L}$ not in $\beta^{-1}(\mathrm{Im}(\alpha_d))$.

(3) Let $\mathscr{L}$ be a general line bundle on C of degree $\geq g + k$. If $\deg \mathscr{L} > g + k$, then we can use (2). Thus in the sequel, we assume that $\deg \mathscr{L} = g + k$. Consider the morphism

$$v : \mathrm{Pic}^{g+k}(C) \times C \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}^{g-1}(C)$$

which maps $(\mathscr{R}, x) \in \mathrm{Pic}^{g+k} \times C$ to $\mathscr{R}(-(k+1)x) \in \mathrm{Pic}^{g-1}(C)$. Also consider the image $\mathrm{Im}\, u$ of the canonical morphism $u : C_{g-1} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}^{g-1}(C)$. Clearly, $\dim \mathrm{Im}\, u < g$. Let $U = \mathrm{Pic}^{g-1}(C) - \mathrm{Im}\, u$. Then $v^{-1}(U)$ is an open set of $\mathrm{Pic}^{g+k}(C) \times C$. We project this open set to $\mathrm{Pic}^{g+k}(C)$ to obtain an open set W. Then if we take $\mathscr{L} \in W$, the construction of v shows that there exists $x \in C$ such that $\mathscr{L}(-(k+1)x)$ is not in the image of u. This means that $H^0(\mathscr{L}(-(k+1)x)) = 0$ and therefore $\mathscr{L}$ separates k-jets at x. □

3. Main theorem. In this section, we prove our main theorem. Recall that L is a very ample nonspecial line bundle (i.e., $h^1(L)=0$) of degree d on a nonsingular projective curve C of genus $g \geq 0$. The complete linear system $|L|$ defines an embedding

$$\phi : C \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}(H^0(L)), \text{ where } n = d-g.$$

For a nonnegative integer k, the global sections of L lift canonically to the global sections of the vector bundle $P^k(L)$. Assume that $0 \leq k \leq \deg L - 2g$. By Proposition 2.10 such lifting of sections is surjective so one obtains a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow R^k(L) \longrightarrow H^0(L) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(L) \longrightarrow 0, \tag{3.0.1}$$

where $R^k(L)$ is defined as the kernel bundle. Taking the dual of the sequence (3.0.1) and tensoring it with L, we obtain a surjective morphism

$$H^0(L)^* \otimes L \twoheadrightarrow R^k(L)^* \otimes L.$$

Since L is nonspecial then so is the bundle $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$.

PROPOSITION 3.1. *As setting above, one has the following.*
(1) $\deg P^k(L) = (k+1)d + k(k+1)(g-1)$ *and* $\operatorname{rank} P^k(L) = k+1$.
(2) $\deg R^k(L)^* \otimes L = k(k+1)(g-1) + (n+1)d$ *and* $\operatorname{rank} R^k(L)^* \otimes L = n-k$.
(3) $\chi(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) = (n+k+2) \cdot \operatorname{rank}(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) + (k+1)^2 g$.

Proof. For (1), we need to use the canonical exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow S^k(\Omega^1_C) \otimes L \longrightarrow P^k(L) \longrightarrow P^{k-1}(L) \longrightarrow 0.$$

But for C a curve, $S^k(\Omega^1_C) = \omega_C^k$. Hence we deduce that

$$\deg P^k(L) = \deg P^{k-1}(L) + k(2g-2) + d.$$

Then the formula comes from the induction on k and $P^0(L) = L$.

(2) is straightforward from (1).

For (3), denote by $r = \operatorname{rank} R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ and apply Riemann-Roch theorem so that

$$\begin{aligned}\chi(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) &= \deg R^k(L)^* \otimes L + r\chi(\mathscr{O}_C)\\ &= k(k+1)(g-1) + (n+1)d + r\chi(\mathscr{O}_C)\\ &= (n+k+2)r + (k+1)^2 g\end{aligned}$$

as claimed. □

REMARK 3.2. We note that $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ is nonspecial. Hence we can write

$$h^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) = q \cdot r + t,$$

where $q = (n+k+2)$, $r = \operatorname{rank} R^k(L)^* \otimes L = n-k$ and $t = (k+1)^2 g$. In oder to get general results on interpolation of $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$, we assume in the sequel that $r \geq t$, or equivalently

$$\deg L \geq (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k.$$

In particular, if $\deg L = (k^2+2k+2)g+k$, then the rank of $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ divides $h^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L)$.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Recall that $d = \deg L$ and note that L is nonspecial with $n = d - g$. The proof contains two steps.

Step 1. Choose S as a general effective divisor of

$$\deg S = n + k + 2.$$

Clearly, $\deg S \geq g$ by the assumption on d. In this step, we show that the natural morphism

$$H^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) \longrightarrow H^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L|_S)$$

is surjective. It is equivalent to show that $H^1(R^k(L)^* \otimes L(-S)) = 0$. By duality, we just need to show $H^0(\omega_C \otimes R^k(L) \otimes L^*(S)) = 0$. Write

$$L_1 = \omega_C \otimes L^*(S).$$

Tensoring L_1 with the short exact sequence (3.0.1), it suffices to show the canonical morphism

$$H^0(L) \otimes H^0(L_1) \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(L) \otimes L_1)$$

is injective. But by Proposition 2.7 this morphism is the same as the canonical morphism

$$H^0(L) \otimes H^0(L_1) \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(L_1) \otimes L). \tag{3.2.1}$$

In the rest of this part, we will show the morphism in (3.2.1) is injective.

It is easy to calculate that $\deg L_1 = g + k$. The general choice of S will make L_1 a general line bundle of degree $g + k$. Hence it is base point free and nonspecial and the canonical morphism

$$e_1 : H^0(L_1) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(L_1)$$

is generically surjective by Proposition 2.10(3). But $\operatorname{rank} P^k(L_1) = h^0(L_1) = k + 1$. Thus the morphism e_1 is also generically injective and therefore injective. Now tensoring with L, we obtain an injection

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(L_1) \otimes L \longrightarrow P^k(L_1) \otimes L.$$

Taking global sections immediately shows that the morphism in (3.2.1) is injective, which completes Step 1.

Step 2. Choose S' as a general effective divisor such that

$$\deg S' = n + k + 3.$$

The goal in this step is to show that the natural morphism

$$H^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L) \longrightarrow H^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L|_{S'})$$

is injective. It is equivalent to show that $H^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L(-S')) = 0$. By duality, we just need to show $H^1(\omega_C \otimes R^k(L) \otimes L^*(S')) = 0$. Write

$$L_2 = \omega_C \otimes L^*(S').$$

Tensoring L_2 with the short exact sequence (3.0.1), it suffices to show the canonical morphism

$$H^0(L) \otimes H^0(L_2) \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(L) \otimes L_2)$$

is surjective and that $H^0(L) \otimes H^1(L_2) = 0$, which holds since L_2 is a general line bundle of degree $g+k+1$ and so has vanishing H^1. By Proposition 2.7 this morphism is the same as the canonical morphism

$$H^0(L) \otimes H^0(L_2) \longrightarrow H^0(P^k(L_2) \otimes L). \tag{3.2.2}$$

We will show in the sequel that the above morphism is surjective.

Note that $\deg L_2 = g + k + 1$. The general choice of S' makes L_2 a general line bundle of degree $g+k+1$. Hence it is base point free and nonspecial and the canonical morphism

$$e_2 : H^0(L_2) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(L_2)$$

is surjective by Proposition 2.10(2). Write $\mathscr{K}$ as the kernel of the morphism e_2 and note that $\mathscr{K}$ is a line bundle. So we obtain a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathscr{K} \longrightarrow H^0(L_2) \otimes \mathscr{O}_C \longrightarrow P^k(L_2) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Tensor it with L. Then, since $H^1(L) = 0$, the surjectivity of (3.2.2) is equivalent to the vanishing of

$$H^1(\mathscr{K} \otimes L) = 0.$$

But by the assumption that $\deg L \geq (k^2+2k+2)g+k$, we see that $\deg \mathscr{K} \otimes L \geq g-1$. The general choice of S' also makes $\mathscr{K} \otimes L$ as a general line bundle of degree $\geq g-1$. Hence it is nonspecial. Therefore $H^1(\mathscr{K} \otimes L) = 0$, which finishes the proof. □

Remark 3.3. The bound of $\deg L \geq (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k$ is crucial in the proof. There are two reasons for this. First, if $\deg L$ is small, for instance when $k = 0$ and $\deg L < 2g$, then L may not be able to separate 0-jets and therefore $R^0(L)$ may not be defined. Secondly, even if $R^k(L)$ is defined, if $\deg L$ is small, then the number $(k + 1)^2 g$ in Proposition 3.1 (3) may not be smaller than the rank of $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ so that the degree of S in the proof should be increased.

To be more precise on the second point, we consider $g = 2$, $k = 1$ and $\deg L = 5 \cdot g = 10$. In this case, $h^0(L) = 9$ so we have an embedding

$$\phi : C \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n, \quad \text{with } n = 8$$

and $R^1(L)^* \otimes L = N$ is of rank 7. We can compute that

$$\chi(N) = h^0(N) = 12 \cdot \operatorname{rank} N + 1.$$

Thus the degrees of the effective divisors involved to check interpolation are 12 and 13, instead of 11 and 12 as indicated by Proposition 3.1 (3).

Remark 3.4. If $g = 0$, i.e., C is a rational normal curve, one can actually compute $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$. Precisely, suppose $C = \mathbb{P}^1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^d$ is embedded by the complete linear system of $L = \mathscr{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d)$. For $d \geq \max(k, 1)$, one has

$$R^k(L)^* \otimes L = \bigoplus^{d-k} \mathscr{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d + k + 1),$$

which is semistable and satisfies interpolation.

Proof of Corollary 1.4. Under the assumption that $\deg L = (k^2 + 2k + 2)g + k$, we see that $\operatorname{rank} R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ divides $h^0(R^k(L)^* \otimes L)$ (see Remark 3.2). Then by Proposition 2.5, $R^k(L)^* \otimes L$ is semistable and therefore so is $R^k(L)$. □

Remark 3.5. It was pointed out by the referee that one of possible geometric consequences of interpolation for $R^2(L)^* \otimes L$ is to determine how many general lines a curve of degree d and genus g in $\mathbb{P}^r$ is tangent to. We hope that the method we developed in the paper would be useful for this direction of the study.

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