

In the special case where  $m = 1$ ,  $\alpha_1 = 0$ , and  $\alpha_2 = 1$ , we leave as an exercise to show that the Hermite polynomials are

$$\begin{aligned} H_0^0 &= 2X^3 - 3X^2 + 1, \\ H_1^0 &= -2X^3 + 3X^2, \\ H_0^1 &= X^3 - 2X^2 + X, \\ H_1^1 &= X^3 - X^2. \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, the polynomial  $P$  of degree 3 such that  $P(0) = x_0$ ,  $P(1) = x_1$ ,  $P'(0) = m_0$ , and  $P'(1) = m_1$ , can be written as

$$P(X) = x_0(2X^3 - 3X^2 + 1) + m_0(X^3 - 2X^2 + X) + m_1(X^3 - X^2) + x_1(-2X^3 + 3X^2).$$

If we want the polynomial  $P$  of degree 3 such that  $P(a) = x_0$ ,  $P(b) = x_1$ ,  $P'(a) = m_0$ , and  $P'(b) = m_1$ , where  $b \neq a$ , then we have

$$P(X) = x_0(2t^3 - 3t^2 + 1) + (b - a)m_0(t^3 - 2t^2 + t) + (b - a)m_1(t^3 - t^2) + x_1(-2t^3 + 3t^2),$$

where

$$t = \frac{X - a}{b - a}.$$

Observe the presence of the extra factor  $(b - a)$  in front of  $m_0$  and  $m_1$ , the formula would be false otherwise!

We now consider the case where  $n_1 = \dots = n_{m+1} = 2$ . Let us try

$$H_j^i(X) = (a^i(X - \alpha_j)^2 + b^i(X - \alpha_j) + c^i)L_j^3,$$

where  $0 \leq i \leq 2$ . Sparing the readers some (tedious) computations, we find:

$$\begin{aligned} H_j^0(X) &= \left( (6(DL_j(\alpha_j))^2 - \frac{3}{2}D^2L_j(\alpha_j))(X - \alpha_j)^2 - 3DL_j(\alpha_j)(X - \alpha_j) + 1 \right) L_j^3(X), \\ H_j^1(X) &= \left( 9(DL_j(\alpha_j))^2(X - \alpha_j)^2 - 3DL_j(\alpha_j)(X - \alpha_j) \right) L_j^3(X), \\ H_j^2(X) &= \frac{1}{2}(X - \alpha_j)^2 L_j^3(X). \end{aligned}$$

Going back to the general problem, it seems to us that a kind of Newton interpolant will be more manageable. Let

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^0(X) &= 1, \\ P_j^0(X) &= (X - \alpha_1)^{n_1+1} \dots (X - \alpha_j)^{n_j+1}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m \\ P_0^i(X) &= (X - \alpha_1)^i (X - \alpha_2)^{n_2+1} \dots (X - \alpha_{m+1})^{n_{m+1}+1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n_1, \\ P_j^i(X) &= (X - \alpha_1)^{n_1+1} \dots (X - \alpha_j)^{n_j+1} (X - \alpha_{j+1})^i (X - \alpha_{j+2})^{n_{j+2}+1} \dots (X - \alpha_{m+1})^{n_{m+1}+1}, \\ &\quad 1 \leq j \leq m-1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n_{j+1}, \\ P_m^i(X) &= (X - \alpha_1)^{n_1+1} \dots (X - \alpha_m)^{n_m+1} (X - \alpha_{m+1})^i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n_{m+1}, \end{aligned}$$