

# Interpolation Polynomials (in HOL-Algebra)

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## Abstract

A well known result from algebra is that, on any field, there is exactly one polynomial of degree less than  $n$  interpolating  $n$  points [1, §7].

This entry contains a formalization of the above result, as well as the following generalization in the case of finite fields  $F$ : There are  $|F|^{m-n}$  polynomials of degree less than  $m \geq n$  interpolating the same  $n$  points, where  $|F|$  denotes the size of the domain of the field. To establish the result the entry also includes a formalization of Lagrange interpolation, which might be of independent interest.

The formalized results are defined on the algebraic structures from HOL-Algebra, which are distinct from the type-class based structures defined in HOL. Note that there is an existing formalization for polynomial interpolation and, in particular, Lagrange interpolation by Thiemann and Yamada [2] on the type-class based structures in HOL.

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## 1 Bounded Degree Polynomials

This section contains a definition for the set of polynomials with a degree bound and establishes its cardinality.

```
theory Bounded-Degree-Polynomials  
  imports HOL-Algebra.Polynomial-Divisibility  
begin
```

```
lemma (in ring) coeff-in-carrier:  $p \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R) \implies \text{coeff } p \ i \in \text{carrier } R$ 
```

*<proof>*

**definition** *bounded-degree-polynomials*

**where** *bounded-degree-polynomials*  $F\ n = \{x. x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } F) \wedge (\text{degree } x < n \vee x = [])\}$

Note: The definition for *bounded-degree-polynomials* includes the zero polynomial in *bounded-degree-polynomials*  $F\ 0$ . The reason for this adjustment is that, contrary to definition in HOL Algebra, most authors set the degree of the zero polynomial to  $-\infty$  [1, §7.2.2]. That definition make some identities, such as  $\text{deg}(fg) = \text{deg } f + \text{deg } g$  for polynomials  $f$  and  $g$  unconditionally true. In particular, it prevents an unnecessary corner case in the statement of the results established in this entry.

**lemma** *bounded-degree-polynomials-length*:

*bounded-degree-polynomials*  $F\ n = \{x. x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } F) \wedge \text{length } x \leq n\}$

*<proof>*

**lemma** (*in ring*) *fin-degree-bounded*:

**assumes** *finite* (*carrier*  $R$ )

**shows** *finite* (*bounded-degree-polynomials*  $R\ n$ )

*<proof>*

**lemma** (*in ring*) *non-empty-bounded-degree-polynomials*:

*bounded-degree-polynomials*  $R\ k \neq \{\}$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *in-image-by-witness*:

**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in A \implies g\ x \in B \wedge f\ (g\ x) = x$

**shows**  $A \subseteq f\ ' B$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *card-mostly-constant-maps*:

**assumes**  $y \in B$

**shows**  $\text{card } \{f. \text{range } f \subseteq B \wedge (\forall x. x \geq n \longrightarrow f\ x = y)\} = \text{card } B \wedge n$  (**is**  $\text{card } ?A = ?B$ )

*<proof>*

**definition** (*in ring*) *build-poly where*

*build-poly*  $f\ n = \text{normalize } (\text{rev } (\text{map } f\ [0..<n]))$

**lemma** (*in ring*) *poly-degree-bound-from-coeff*:

**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$

**assumes**  $\bigwedge k. k \geq n \implies \text{coeff } x\ k = \mathbf{0}$

**shows**  $\text{degree } x < n \vee x = \mathbf{0}_{\text{poly-ring } R}$

*<proof>*

**lemma** (*in ring*) *poly-degree-bound-from-coeff-1*:

**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$

**assumes**  $\bigwedge k. k \geq n \implies \text{coeff } x \ k = \mathbf{0}$   
**shows**  $x \in \text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R \ n$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** (**in ring**) *length-build-poly*:  
 $\text{length } (\text{build-poly } f \ n) \leq n$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** (**in ring**) *build-poly-degree*:  
 $\text{degree } (\text{build-poly } f \ n) \leq n-1$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** (**in ring**) *build-poly-poly*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge i. i < n \implies f \ i \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{build-poly } f \ n \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** (**in ring**) *build-poly-coeff*:  
 $\text{coeff } (\text{build-poly } f \ n) \ i = (\text{if } i < n \text{ then } f \ i \ \text{else } \mathbf{0})$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** (**in ring**) *build-poly-bounded*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge k. k < n \implies f \ k \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{build-poly } f \ n \in \text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R \ n$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

The following establishes the total number of polynomials with a degree less than  $n$ . Unlike the results in the following sections, it is already possible to establish this property for polynomials with coefficients in a ring.

**lemma** (**in ring**) *bounded-degree-polynomials-card*:  
 $\text{card } (\text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R \ n) = \text{card } (\text{carrier } R) \wedge n$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**end**

## 2 Lagrange Interpolation

This section introduces the function *interpolate*, which constructs the Lagrange interpolation polynomials for a given set of points, followed by a theorem of its correctness.

**theory** *Lagrange-Interpolation*  
**imports** *HOL-Algebra.Polynomial-Divisibility*  
**begin**

A finite product in a domain is 0 if and only if at least one factor is. This could be added to *HOL-Algebra.FiniteProduct* or *HOL-Algebra.Ring*.

**lemma** (**in domain**) *finprod-zero-iff*:

**assumes** *finite A*  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge a. a \in A \implies f a \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{finprod } R f A = \mathbf{0} \iff (\exists x \in A. f x = \mathbf{0})$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in ring*) *poly-of-const-in-carrier*:  
**assumes**  $s \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{poly-of-const } s \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in ring*) *eval-poly-of-const*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{eval } (\text{poly-of-const } x) y = x$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in ring*) *eval-in-carrier-2*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{eval } x y \in \text{carrier } R$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in domain*) *poly-mult-degree-le-1*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (x \otimes_{\text{poly-ring } R} y) \leq \text{degree } x + \text{degree } y$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in domain*) *poly-mult-degree-le*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**assumes**  $\text{degree } x \leq n$   
**assumes**  $\text{degree } y \leq m$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (x \otimes_{\text{poly-ring } R} y) \leq n + m$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in domain*) *poly-add-degree-le*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   $\text{degree } x \leq n$   
**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   $\text{degree } y \leq n$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (x \oplus_{\text{poly-ring } R} y) \leq n$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in domain*) *poly-sub-degree-le*:  
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   $\text{degree } x \leq n$   
**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   $\text{degree } y \leq n$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (x \ominus_{\text{poly-ring } R} y) \leq n$   
 <proof>

**lemma** (*in domain*) *poly-sum-degree-le*:  
**assumes** *finite A*

**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in A \implies \text{degree } (f x) \leq n$   
**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in A \implies f x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (\text{finsum } (\text{poly-ring } R) f A) \leq n$   
 <proof>

**definition (in ring) lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux where**  
*lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux*  $S =$   
 $(\otimes_{\text{poly-ring } R} s \in S. X \ominus_{\text{poly-ring } R} (\text{poly-of-const } s))$

**lemma (in domain) lagrange-aux-eval:**  
**assumes** *finite*  $S$   
**assumes**  $S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $(\text{eval } (\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux } S) x) = (\otimes s \in S. x \ominus s)$   
 <proof>

**lemma (in domain) lagrange-aux-poly:**  
**assumes** *finite*  $S$   
**assumes**  $S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows** *lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux*  $S \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
 <proof>

**lemma (in domain) poly-prod-degree-le:**  
**assumes** *finite*  $A$   
**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in A \implies f x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (\text{finprod } (\text{poly-ring } R) f A) \leq (\sum x \in A. \text{degree } (f x))$   
 <proof>

**lemma (in domain) lagrange-aux-degree:**  
**assumes** *finite*  $S$   
**assumes**  $S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{degree } (\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux } S) \leq \text{card } S$   
 <proof>

**definition (in ring) lagrange-basis-polynomial where**  
*lagrange-basis-polynomial*  $S x = \text{lagrange-basis-polynomial-aux } S$   
 $\otimes_{\text{poly-ring } R} (\text{poly-of-const } (\text{inv}_R (\otimes s \in S. x \ominus s)))$

**lemma (in field)**  
**assumes** *finite*  $S$   
**assumes**  $S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } R - S$   
**shows**  
*lagrange-one:*  $\text{eval } (\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial } S x) x = \mathbf{1}$  **and**  
*lagrange-degree:*  $\text{degree } (\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial } S x) \leq \text{card } S$  **and**  
*lagrange-zero:*  $\bigwedge s. s \in S \implies \text{eval } (\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial } S x) s = \mathbf{0}$  **and**  
*lagrange-poly:*  $\text{lagrange-basis-polynomial } S x \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
 <proof>

**definition** (in ring) *interpolate* **where**

*interpolate*  $S f =$   
 $(\bigoplus_{poly\text{-}ring\ R} s \in S. \text{lagrange-basis-polynomial } (S - \{s\})\ s \otimes_{poly\text{-}ring\ R} (\text{poly-of-const } (f\ s)))$

Let  $f$  be a function and  $S$  be a finite subset of the domain of the field. Then *interpolate*  $S f$  will return a polynomial with degree less than  $\text{card } S$  interpolating  $f$  on  $S$ .

**theorem** (in field)

**assumes** *finite*  $S$

**assumes**  $S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$

**assumes**  $f \text{ ' } S \subseteq \text{carrier } R$

**shows**

*interpolate-poly*: *interpolate*  $S f \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$  **and**

*interpolate-degree*:  $\text{degree } (\text{interpolate } S f) \leq \text{card } S - 1$  **and**

*interpolate-eval*:  $\bigwedge s. s \in S \implies \text{eval } (\text{interpolate } S f)\ s = f\ s$

*<proof>*

**end**

### 3 Cardinalities of Interpolation Polynomials

This section establishes the cardinalities of the set of polynomials with a degree bound interpolating a given set of points.

**theory** *Interpolation-Polynomial-Cardinalities*

**imports** *Bounded-Degree-Polynomials Lagrange-Interpolation*

**begin**

**lemma** (in ring) *poly-add-coeff*:

**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$

**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$

**shows**  $\text{coeff } (x \oplus_{poly\text{-}ring\ R} y)\ k = \text{coeff } x\ k \oplus \text{coeff } y\ k$

*<proof>*

**lemma** (in domain) *poly-neg-coeff*:

**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$

**shows**  $\text{coeff } (\ominus_{poly\text{-}ring\ R} x)\ k = \ominus \text{coeff } x\ k$

*<proof>*

**lemma** (in domain) *poly-subtract-coeff*:

**assumes**  $x \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$

**assumes**  $y \in \text{carrier } (poly\text{-}ring\ R)$

**shows**  $\text{coeff } (x \ominus_{poly\text{-}ring\ R} y)\ k = \text{coeff } x\ k \ominus \text{coeff } y\ k$

*<proof>*

A polynomial with more zeros than its degree is the zero polynomial.

**lemma** (in field) *max-roots*:

**assumes**  $p \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$   
**assumes**  $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   
**assumes** *degree*  $p < \text{card } K$   
**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in K \implies \text{eval } p \ x = \mathbf{0}$   
**shows**  $p = \mathbf{0}_{\text{poly-ring } R}$   
 <proof>

**definition** (in *ring*) *split-poly*  
**where** *split-poly*  $K \ p = (\text{restrict } (\text{eval } p) \ K, \lambda k. \text{coeff } p \ (k + \text{card } K))$

To establish the count of the number of polynomials of degree less than  $n$  interpolating a function  $f$  on  $K$  where  $|K| \leq n$ , the function *split-poly*  $K$  establishes a bijection between the polynomials of degree less than  $n$  and the values of the polynomials on  $K$  in combination with the coefficients of order  $|K|$  and greater.

For the injectivity: Note that the difference of two polynomials whose coefficients of order  $|K|$  and larger agree must have a degree less than  $|K|$  and because their values agree on  $k$  points, it must have  $|K|$  zeros and hence is the zero polynomial.

For the surjectivity: Let  $p$  be a polynomial whose coefficients larger than  $|K|$  are chosen, and all other coefficients be 0. Now it is possible to find a polynomial  $q$  interpolating  $f - p$  on  $K$  using Lagrange interpolation. Then  $p + q$  will interpolate  $f$  on  $K$  and because the degree of  $q$  is less than  $|K|$  its coefficients of order  $|K|$  will be the same as those of  $p$ .

A tempting question is whether it would be easier to instead establish a bijection between the polynomials of degree less than  $n$  and its values on  $K \cup K'$  where  $K'$  are arbitrarily chosen  $n - |K|$  points in the field. This approach is indeed easier, however, it fails for the case where the size of the field is less than  $n$ .

**lemma** (in *field*) *split-poly-inj*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   
**assumes**  $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows** *inj-on* (*split-poly*  $K$ ) (*carrier* (*poly-ring*  $R$ ))  
 <proof>

**lemma** (in *field*) *split-poly-image*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   
**assumes**  $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows** *split-poly*  $K \ ' \ \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R) \supseteq$   
 $(K \rightarrow_E \text{carrier } R) \times \{f. \text{range } f \subseteq \text{carrier } R \wedge (\exists n. \forall k \geq n. f \ k = \mathbf{0}_R)\}$   
 <proof>

This is like *card-vimage-inj* but supports *inj-on* instead.

**lemma** *card-vimage-inj-on*:  
**assumes** *inj-on*  $f \ B$

**assumes**  $A \subseteq f^{-1} B$   
**shows**  $\text{card } (f^{-1} A \cap B) = \text{card } A$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *inv-subsetI*:  
**assumes**  $\bigwedge x. x \in A \implies f x \in B \implies x \in C$   
**shows**  $f^{-1} B \cap A \subseteq C$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

The following establishes the main result of this section: There are  $|F|^{n-k}$  polynomials of degree less than  $n$  interpolating  $k \leq n$  points.

**lemma** *restrict-eq-imp*:  
**assumes**  $\text{restrict } f A = \text{restrict } g A$   
**assumes**  $x \in A$   
**shows**  $f x = g x$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**theorem** (*in field*) *interpolating-polynomials-card*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   
**assumes**  $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes**  $f^{-1} K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{card } \{\omega \in \text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R (\text{card } K + n). (\forall k \in K. \text{eval } \omega k = f k)\} = \text{card } (\text{carrier } R)^{\wedge n}$   
**(is**  $\text{card } ?A = ?B$  $)$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

A corollary is the classic result [1, Theorem 7.15] that there is exactly one polynomial of degree less than  $n$  interpolating  $n$  points:

**corollary** (*in field*) *interpolating-polynomial-one*:  
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   
**assumes**  $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes**  $f^{-1} K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**shows**  $\text{card } \{\omega \in \text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R (\text{card } K). (\forall k \in K. \text{eval } \omega k = f k)\} = 1$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

In the case of fields with infinite carriers, it is possible to conclude that there are infinitely many polynomials of degree less than  $n$  interpolating  $k < n$  points.

**corollary** (*in field*) *interpolating-polynomial-inf*:  
**assumes** *infinite* ( $\text{carrier } R$ )  
**assumes** *finite*  $K$   $K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   $f^{-1} K \subseteq \text{carrier } R$   
**assumes**  $n > 0$   
**shows** *infinite*  $\{\omega \in \text{bounded-degree-polynomials } R (\text{card } K + n). (\forall k \in K. \text{eval } \omega k = f k)\}$   
**(is** *infinite*  $?A$  $)$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$



The following is an additional independent result: The evaluation homomorphism is injective for degree one polynomials.

**lemma** (in field) eval-inj-if-degree-1:  
 **assumes**  $p \in \text{carrier } (\text{poly-ring } R)$  degree  $p = 1$   
 **shows** inj-on (eval p) (carrier R)  
<proof>

**end**

## References

- [1] V. Shoup. *A Computational Introduction to Number theory and Algebra*. Cambridge university press, 2009.
- [2] R. Thiemann and A. Yamada. Polynomial interpolation. *Archive of Formal Proofs*, Jan. 2016. [https://isa-afp.org/entries/Polynomial\\_Interpolation.html](https://isa-afp.org/entries/Polynomial_Interpolation.html), Formal proof development.