

12/14/2025

### Math 241a Notes:

Suppose  $V$  is a finite dimensional vector space and  $\pi : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  is a representation. Then  $\pi$  is called irreducible if the only  $\pi(G)$ -invariant subspaces are  $\{0\}$  and  $V$ .  $\pi$  is called completely reducible if  $V = \bigoplus V_i$  where  $V_i$  is a  $\pi(G)$ -invariant irreducible subspace.

Also if  $V = \mathbb{C}^n$  or  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then I shall denote  $\text{GL}(V)$  as  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$  or  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$  respectively. Similarly, I shall denote  $U(V)$  as  $U(n)$ .

Proposition 2.2.11: If  $G$  is a group and  $\pi : G \rightarrow U(n)$  is a unitary representation, then:

(i) every  $\pi(G)$ -invariant subspace has a  $\pi(G)$ -invariant orthogonal complement.

Proof:

Suppose  $V$  is invariant and  $w \in V^\perp$ . Then as  $\pi(g)$  is unitary (which means  $\pi(g)^* = \pi(g)^{-1}$ ) for each  $g \in G$ , we know:

$$\langle \pi(g)w, v \rangle = \langle w, \pi(g)^*v \rangle = \langle w, \pi(g^{-1})v \rangle = 0.$$

It follows that  $V^\perp$  is  $G$ -invariant.

(ii)  $\pi$  is completely reducible.

Proof:

We can prove this by induction. If  $\mathbb{C}^n$  isn't irreducible then we can write  $\mathbb{C}^n = V \oplus V^\perp \cong \mathbb{C}^k \oplus \mathbb{C}^{n-k}$  where both  $V$  and  $V^\perp$  are  $G$ -invariant. Then we just repeat this reasoning on the smaller subspaces. ■

Proposition 2.2.12: If  $G$  is a compact group,  $V$  is a finite dimensional real or complex Hausdorff topological vector space, and  $\pi : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  is a (strong operator) continuous representation, then  $\pi$  is completely reducible.

Proof:

Using [corollary 2.2.8 on page 485](#), let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be a  $G$ -invariant inner product on  $V$ . Then  $\pi$  is a unitary representation with respect to this inner product. So, we can apply the prior proposition. ■

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a real or complex vector space and let  $A \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  be convex.

- Given any  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$  we let  $[x, y] := \{ty + (1 - t)x : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$ . Also, we let  $(x, y) := \{ty + (1 - t)x : 0 < t < 1\}$ .
- We say  $x \in A$  is an extreme point if for any  $y, z \in A$  we have that  $x \in [y, z]$  iff  $x = y$  or  $x = z$ . We denote the set of such points as  $\text{ex}(A)$ .
- We say  $\emptyset \neq B \subseteq A$  is an extreme set if for any  $y, z \in A$  we have that:
 
$$(y, z) \cap B \neq \emptyset \implies [y, z] \subseteq B.$$

Given a set  $E \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  where  $\mathcal{X}$  is a topological real or complex vector space, we define  $\overline{\text{conv}}(A)$  to be the smallest closed convex set containing  $A$ . This is well-defined because arbitrary intersections of closed convex sets are closed and convex.

Clearly, if one has a convex polyhedron in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then the faces of the polyhedron are extreme sets and the extreme points are precisely the vertices.

**Exercise 2.2.10:** Let  $X$  be a compact Hausdorff space and let  $M(X)$  denote the set of Radon probability measures on  $X$ . Then  $\text{ex}(M(X)) = \{\delta_x : x \in X\}$  where  $\delta_x$  is the Dirac delta measure at  $x$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$  be probability measures on  $X$ , and suppose that  $\delta_x \in [\mu_0, \mu_1]$ . Hence, there exists  $t \in [0, 1]$  such that  $t\mu_1 + (1-t)\mu_0 = \delta_x$ . If  $t = 0$  or  $t = 1$ , there is nothing to show. So suppose  $t \in (0, 1)$ . As  $\delta_x(\{x\}^c) = 0$ , we know that  $t\mu_1(\{x\}^c) = -(1-t)\mu_0(\{x\}^c)$ . That said, we also must have that  $\mu_1(\{x\}^c) \geq 0$  and  $\mu_0(\{x\}^c) \geq 0$ . In turn, the left side of our equation must be nonnegative and the right side must be nonpositive. The only way this works out is if  $t\mu_1(\{x\}^c) = 0 = -(1-t)\mu_0(\{x\}^c)$ . And since  $t \neq 0$  and  $-(1-t) \neq 0$ , we can conclude that  $\mu_1(\{x\}^c) = 0 = \mu_0(\{x\}^c)$ . And now it is clear that  $\mu_0 = \delta_x = \mu_1$  since all three have total measure 1. This proves that  $\delta_x \in \text{ex}(M(X))$  for any Dirac delta measure  $\delta_x$ .

To show the converse, we first introduce a lemma. Suppose  $\nu$  is a Borel Radon probability measure on  $X$ . Then  $\nu(E) \in \{0, 1\}$  for all sets  $E \in \mathcal{B}_X$  if and only if  $\nu$  is a Dirac delta measure.

**Proof:**

The ( $\Leftarrow$ ) claim is obvious. To show the other claim, you could just use the reasoning on [pages 444-445](#). However, I wrote a different proof before realizing that.

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of all compact subsets of  $X$  with measure 1. This collection is partially ordered by inclusion, and by Zorn's lemma we can conclude that there is a minimal set  $F$  in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Suppose  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is a chain in  $\mathcal{F}$  and let  $K' = \bigcap_{K \in \mathcal{F}_0} K$ . I claim that  $\mu(K') = 1$ . This will be a compact subset of  $X$  since it is a closed subset of  $X$ . We also claim  $\mu(K') = 1$ . After all, if not then by the outer regularity of  $\mu$  plus the fact that  $\mu(E) \in \{0, 1\}$  for all sets  $E \in \mathcal{B}_X$  we know there exists an open set  $U \supseteq K'$  with  $\mu(U) = 0$ . Next, by the compactness of  $X$  we know there are finitely many sets  $K_1 \supseteq K_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq K_n$  in  $\mathcal{F}_0$  such that  $X = U \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^n K_j^c$ . Finally, we know that  $K' \neq K_n$  since  $\mu(K') \neq \mu(K_n)$ . So, there must exist  $K \in \mathcal{F}_0$  with  $K' \subseteq K \subsetneq K_n$ . But in turn we must have that  $K \subseteq U$ . This implies that  $\mu(K) = 0$ , which is a contradiction as  $K \in \mathcal{F}_0$  means that  $\mu(K) = 1$ .

We conclude that  $K' \in \mathcal{F}$ . And clearly  $K'$  is a bound to  $\mathcal{F}_0$ .

Finally, suppose there exists distinct  $x, y \in F$ . Then we know that  $\{x\}$  is a proper compact subset of  $F$ . Hence,  $\mu(\{x\}) = 0$ . Also, by similar arguments to before we know that there is an open set  $V \supseteq \{x\}$  such that  $\mu(V) = 0$ . And, by intersecting  $V$  with a neighborhood of  $x$  not containing  $y$  (which we know exists since  $X$  is  $T_1$ ),

we can assume  $y \notin V$ . But now  $F - V$  is a compact subset of  $X$  properly contained in  $F$  such that  $\mu(F - V) = 1$ . This contradicts the minimality of  $F$ . Hence, we conclude that there does not exist two distinct elements in  $F$ .

That said,  $F$  isn't empty since otherwise we'd have that  $\mu(F) = 0$ . So, we conclude that  $F$  is a singleton  $\{x\}$  and  $\mu = \delta_x$ .

Now suppose for the sake of contradiction that  $\nu$  is any measure in  $M(X)$  that isn't a Dirac delta measure. Then by our prior lemma we know that there exists a set  $E \subseteq X$  such that  $0 < \nu(E) < 1$ . In turn, we now know there exists well-defined probability measures  $\mu_0(A) := (\nu(E))^{-1}\nu(A \cap E)$  and  $\mu_1(A) := (\nu(X - E))^{-1}\nu(A - E)$  which are distinct from  $\nu$ . Finally, by setting  $t = \nu(X - E)$  we have that  $0 < t < 1$  and  $\nu(E) = 1 - t$ . And then for all  $A \in \mathcal{B}_X$  we have that:

$$\begin{aligned}\nu(A) &= \nu(A \cap E) + \nu(A - E) = \nu(E)\mu_0(A) + \nu(X - E)\mu_1(A) \\ &= (1 - t)\mu_0(A) + t\mu_1(A)\end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $\nu \in [\mu_0, \mu_1]$  but  $\nu \neq \mu_0$  and  $\nu \neq \mu_1$ . So,  $\nu$  is not an extreme point of  $M(X)$  if  $\nu$  is not a Dirac delta measure. ■

**Lemma 2.3.5:** Suppose  $\mathcal{X}$  is a locally convex topological real vector space,  $A \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  is closed and convex, and  $x \in \mathcal{X} - A$ . Then there exists  $f \in \mathcal{X}^*$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $f(y) < c < f(x)$  for all  $y \in A$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $U$  be an open neighborhood of  $0 \in \mathcal{X}$  such that  $(x + U) \cap A = \emptyset$ . By local convexity we can restrict  $U$  to a convex open subset containing  $0$ . And by the reasoning on [page 230-232](#), we can further restrict  $U$  to also ensure that  $U$  is balanced.

Next note that because  $U$  is balanced, we can equivalently say that  $x \notin U + A$ . But we want slightly more wiggle room so we'll instead consider the set  $\frac{1}{2}U + A$ . A fact we will use later is that because  $U$  is convex, we have that  $\frac{1}{2}U + \frac{1}{2}U \subseteq U$ .

Note that  $\frac{1}{2}U + A$  is open since  $\frac{1}{2}U + A = \bigcup_{a \in A} (a + \frac{1}{2}U)$ . It's also convex because  $t(a_1 + \frac{1}{2}u_1) + (1 - t)(a_0 + \frac{1}{2}u_0) = (ta_1 + (1 - t)a_0) + \frac{1}{2}(tu_1 + (1 - t)u_0) \in A + \frac{1}{2}U$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $a \in A$ , and  $u \in U$  since both  $U$  and  $A$  are convex. Going a step further, we can assume without loss of generality that  $0 \in \frac{1}{2}U + A$ .

To see why, note that if  $0 \notin \frac{1}{2}U + A$  then we can translate our entire vector space by some fixed  $\frac{1}{2}u + a \in U + A$ . Then after doing the later reasoning, we will have a linear functional  $f$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(y - (a + \frac{1}{2}u)) < c < f(x - (a + \frac{1}{2}u))$  for all  $y \in A$ . In turn  $f(y - x) < c - f(x - (a + \frac{1}{2}u)) < 0$  and thus:

$$f(y) < c - f(x - (a + \frac{1}{2}u)) + f(x) < f(x) \text{ for all } y \in A$$

where  $c - f(x - (a + \frac{1}{2}u)) + f(x)$  is another fixed constant in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

But now if  $p$  is the Minkowski functional associated to  $\frac{1}{2}U + A$ , we can follow the reasoning on [page 233](#) to see that  $p$  satisfies the triangle inequality and is continuous. And while

$p(cy) \neq |c|p(y)$  if  $c$  is negative since  $U + A$  isn't balanced, we do at least have that  $p(cy) = cp(y)$  if  $c \geq 0$ . Hence, we know that  $p$  is a well-defined sublinear functional on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

Now it's obvious that  $p(x) \geq 1$  and that  $p(y) \leq 1$  for all  $y \in A$ . What's less obvious is that these inequalities are strict.

- To see that  $p(x) > 1$ , suppose to the contrary that  $x \in c(\frac{1}{2}U + A)$  for all  $c > 1$ . Equivalently, this means that  $cx \in \frac{1}{2}U + A$  for all  $c < 1$ . But now as  $cx - x \rightarrow 0$  as  $c \rightarrow 1$  and  $\frac{1}{2}U$  is a neighborhood of 0 in  $\mathcal{X}$ , we know that eventually  $cx - x \in \frac{1}{2}U$ . So, we can pick  $c$  close enough to 1 such that  $cx - x = \frac{1}{2}u'$  for some  $u' \in U$ . At the same time, as  $cx \in \frac{1}{2}U + A$  we know there exists  $u \in U$  and  $a \in A$  such that  $cx = \frac{1}{2}u + a$ . Hence, we get a contradiction as:

$$x = \frac{1}{2}u - \frac{1}{2}u' + a \in \frac{1}{2}U + \frac{1}{2}U + A \subseteq U + A.$$

- To see that  $p(y) < 1$  for any fixed  $y \in A$ , note again that because  $cy - y \rightarrow 0$  as  $c \rightarrow 1$  and  $\frac{1}{2}U$  is a neighborhood of 0, we know that there is some  $\varepsilon_y > 0$  such that  $cy - y \in \frac{1}{2}U$  when  $c < 1 + \varepsilon_y$ . In turn,  $cy \in \frac{1}{2}U + y \subseteq \frac{1}{2}U + A$  when  $c < 1 + \varepsilon_y$ . And finally, we have that  $y \in c(\frac{1}{2}U + A)$  if  $c > (1 + \varepsilon_y)^{-1}$  where the latter is strictly less than 1.

Finally, we actually create our linear functional. Let  $\mathcal{M} = \{cx : c \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and then define  $g : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $g(cx) = cp(x)$ . Then  $g$  is a linear functional on the subspace  $\mathcal{M}$ . Also since  $p(cx) \geq 0 > g(cx)$  when  $c < 0$  and we know from the sublinearity of  $p$  that  $g(cx) = p(cx)$  when  $c \geq 0$ , we can conclude that  $g \leq p$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ . So, by the real Hahn-Banach theorem we know there exists a linear functional  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $f(y) \leq p(y)$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $f(cx) = g(cx)$  for all  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Note that  $|f(y)| = \max(-f(y), f(y)) = \max(f(-y), f(y)) \leq \max(p(-y), p(y))$  and that  $p$  is continuous, meaning that  $p(-y) \rightarrow 0$  and  $p(y) \rightarrow 0$  as  $y \rightarrow 0$ . Hence, we can conclude that  $f$  is continuous. Also,  $f(x) = p(x) > 1 > p(y) \geq f(y)$  for all  $y \in A$ . ■

**Krein-Millman Theorem:** Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a topological vector space whose topology is defined by a sufficient family of seminorms. If  $A \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  is compact and convex, then  $\overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A)) = A$ .

**Proof:**

Without loss of generality, we may assume  $\mathcal{X}$  is a real vector space.

**Claim:** If  $B$  is a closed convex extreme subset of  $A$ , then  $B \cap \text{ex}(A) \neq \emptyset$ .

To prove this we use Zorn's lemma. Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the collection of all closed convex extreme subsets of  $A$ . Also partially order  $\mathcal{F}$  by inclusion. Then we claim  $\mathcal{F}$  has a minimal element.

Let  $\mathcal{F}_0$  be a chain in  $\mathcal{F}$  and set  $C = \bigcap_{B \in \mathcal{F}_0} B$ . Then  $C$  is not empty by the finite intersection property of  $A$  (since  $A$  is compact). Also  $C$  is closed and convex since it is the intersection of closed convex sets. Finally, suppose  $y, z \in A$  satisfy that  $(y, z) \cap C \neq \emptyset$ . Then for any  $B \in \mathcal{F}_0$  we know  $(y, z) \cap B \neq \emptyset$ . In turn,  $[y, z] \subseteq B$  for all  $B \in \mathcal{F}_0$ . And this proves that  $[y, z] \subseteq C$ . All of this shows that  $C \in \mathcal{F}$ .

Now let  $D$  be a minimal set in  $\mathcal{F}$ . If  $D$  is a singleton  $\{x\}$ , then we will be done as  $x \in B \cap \text{ex}(A)$ .

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that  $x, y$  are distinct elements of  $D$ . Then by lemma 2.3.5, there exists  $f \in \mathcal{X}^*$  such that  $f(x) < f(y)$ . Since  $D$  is compact, we know that  $M = \max\{f(z) : z \in D\}$  exists. So, let  $E = \{z \in D : f(z) = M\}$ . Then  $E$  is a proper subset of  $D$  as  $x \notin E$ . We also claim that  $E$  is an extreme set, thus contradicting that minimality of  $D$ .

$E$  is compact since it is a closed subset of  $D$ . Also note that  $E$  is convex because if  $z_0, z_1 \in E$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$  then:

$$f(tz_1 + (1-t)z_0) = tf(z_1) + (1-t)f(z_0) = tM + (1-t)M = M.$$

Finally, suppose  $z_0, z_1 \in A$  and  $tz_1 + (1-t)z_0 \in E$  for some  $t \in (0, 1)$ . As  $D \supseteq E$  is an extreme set we must have that  $z_0, z_1 \in D$ . And now as  $M = f(tz_1 + (1-t)z_0) = tf(z_1) + (1-t)f(z_0)$  and both  $f(z_0) \leq M$  and  $f(z_1) \leq M$ , we must have that  $f(z_0) = M = f(z_1)$ . So  $[z_0, z_1] \subseteq E$ .

Now it's clear that  $\overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A)) \subseteq A$  (since  $A$  is a closed convex set containing  $\text{ex}(A)$ ). But suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists  $x \in A$  with  $x \notin \overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A))$ . By lemma 2.3.5. again we can find a linear functional  $f \in \mathcal{X}^*$  such that  $f(y) < \alpha < f(x)$  for all  $y \in \overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A))$  (where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ). And since  $A$  is compact we know like before that  $M = \max\{f(x) : x \in A\}$  exists.

By identical reasoning to before we know that  $B = \{x \in A : f(x) = M\}$  is an extreme set. So by our claim, we have that  $B \cap \text{ex}(A) \neq \emptyset$ . Yet this is a contradiction because  $\text{ex}(A) \subseteq \overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A))$  is disjoint from  $B$ . ■

Obvious Corollary: If  $A$  is a compact convex subset of a topological vector space  $\mathcal{X}$  whose topology is generated by a sufficient family of seminorms, then  $\text{ex}(A) \neq \emptyset$ .

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A small lemma worth noting is that if  $\mathcal{X}$  is a topological vector space and  $A \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  is convex, then so is  $\overline{A}$ .

To see this, suppose  $x, y \in \overline{A}$ . Then we know that there are nets  $\langle x_i \rangle_{i \in I}$  and  $\langle y_j \rangle_{j \in J}$  contained in  $A$  and converging to  $x$  and  $y$  respectively. In turn, by considering the product net  $\langle x_i, y_j \rangle_{I \times J}$  we have for any  $t \in [0, 1]$  that  $ty_j + (1-t)x_i \rightarrow ty + (1-t)x$ . And since  $ty_j + (1-t)x_i \in A$  for all  $(i, j) \in I \times J$  we have shown that  $ty + (1-t)x \in \overline{A}$ . So,  $\overline{A}$  is convex.

Consequently, we always have that  $\overline{\text{conv}(E)} \supseteq \overline{\text{conv}}(E)$  for any set  $E \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ . And this lets us rephrase the Krein Millman theorem in a slightly more useful way. If  $\mathcal{X}$  is as stated in the theorem and  $A \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  is compact and convex, then  $\overline{\text{conv}}(\text{ex}(A)) = A$ .

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Suppose  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  are Banach spaces. Then a bounded linear operator  $T : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  is called compact if  $\overline{T(\mathcal{X}_1)}$  is compact in  $\mathcal{Y}$ . (See [page 469](#) for a reminder of what  $\mathcal{X}_1$  means...)