

Reaction networks and a generalization of Descartes' rule of signs to hypersurfaces

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joint work with Elisenda Feliu[†]

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University of Copenhagen



THE PLAN FOR TODAY

- History and generalizations of Descartes' rule of signs

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- Motivation from reaction network theory

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(CLASSICAL) DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS

Descartes' rule of signs

A univariate real polynomial cannot have more **positive real roots** than the number of **sign changes** in its coefficients sequence.

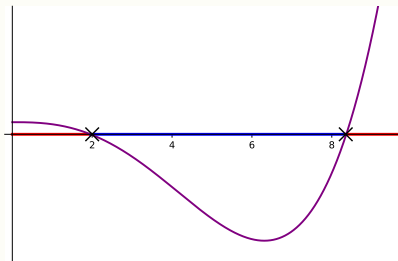


Figure 1: $59 + x - 4x^2 - 8x^3 + x^4$

HISTORY

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- 1918 - Curtiss [5]: proof for real exponents
- 1999 - Grabiner [6]: Descartes' bound is sharp

GENERALIZATION TO POLYNOMIAL EQUATION SYSTEMS

- 2020 - Bihan, Dickenstein and Forsgård [8]: sharp upper bound on the number of common positive real zeros of n real polynomials in n variables, if each polynomial has $n + 2$ terms

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GENERALIZATIONS TO HYPERSURFACES

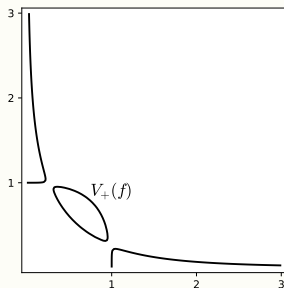


Figure 2: $f(x,y) = 1 - x - y + x^4y + xy^4$

GENERALIZATIONS TO HYPERSURFACES

- 1991 - Khovanskii [9]: bound on the **sum of Betti numbers of the positive real zero set** of a polynomial, based on the number of variables and the number of monomials

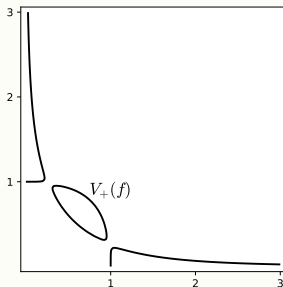


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- 2009 - Bihan and Sottile [10] improve Khovanskii's bound on the sum of the Betti numbers

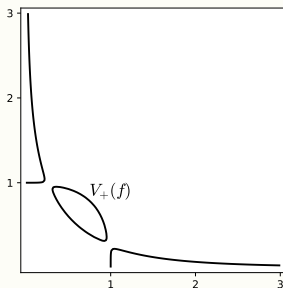


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GENERALIZATIONS TO HYPERSURFACES

- 2017 - Forsgård, Nisse and Rojas [11]: bound on the number of connected components of the positive real zero set of a polynomial, based on the number of variables and the number of monomials

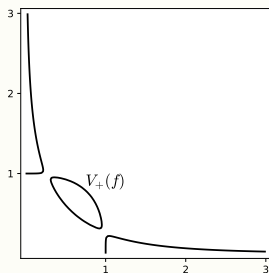


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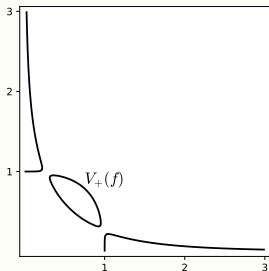


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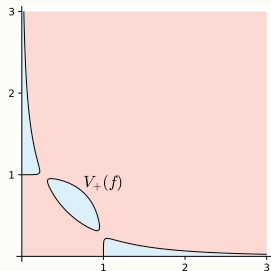


Figure 4: $f(x,y) = 1 - x - y + x^4y + xy^4$

DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

Problem

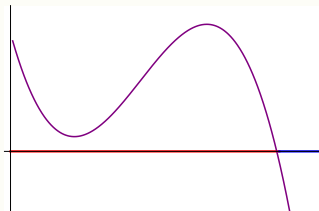
Consider a **signomial** $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f(x) = \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f)} c_{\mu} x^{\mu}$, and $\sigma(f) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ a finite set, called the **support of f** .

DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

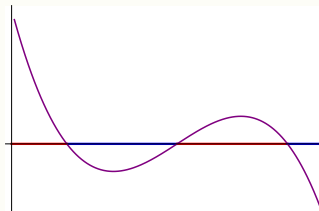
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Find a (sharp) **upper bound on the number of connected components** $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$, based on the sign of the coefficients and the geometry of $\sigma(f)$.



(a) $15 - 20x + 9x^2 - x^3$



(b) $15 - 23x + 9x^2 - x^3$

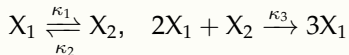
MOTIVATION COMES FROM REACTION NETWORK THEORY

species $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$

reactions $\left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} X_i \xrightarrow{\kappa_j} \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ij} X_i \right\}_{j=1, \dots, r}$

running example

$X_1, \quad X_2$



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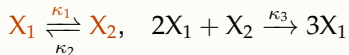
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stoichiometric matrix $N \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$

running example

X_1, X_2



$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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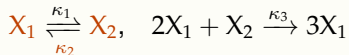
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$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & \textcolor{brown}{1} & 1 \\ 1 & -\textcolor{brown}{1} & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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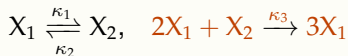
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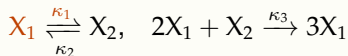
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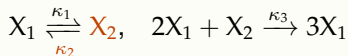
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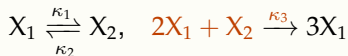
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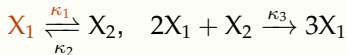
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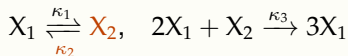
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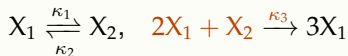
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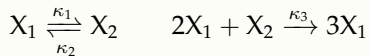
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The ODE system (1) is forward invariant on stoichiometric compatibility classes

$$\mathcal{P}_c = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \mid Wx = c\},$$

where $c \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $W \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ is a fullrank matrix such that $WN = 0$.

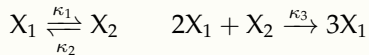
RUNNING EXAMPLE



$$\dot{x}_1 = \kappa_3 x_1^2 x_2 - \kappa_1 x_1 + \kappa_2 x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -\kappa_3 x_1^2 x_2 + \kappa_1 x_1 - \kappa_2 x_2$$

RUNNING EXAMPLE



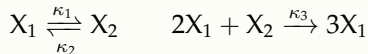
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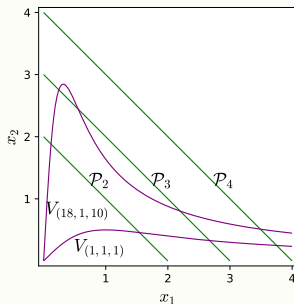


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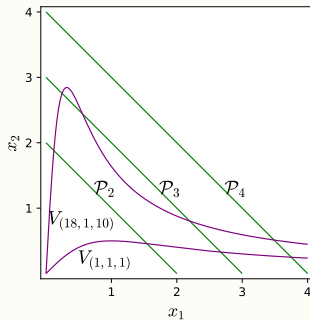
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THE PARAMETER REGION OF MULTISTATIONARITY

A parameter pair (κ, c) enables multistationarity, if the intersection of V_κ and \mathcal{P}_c contains at least two positive points.

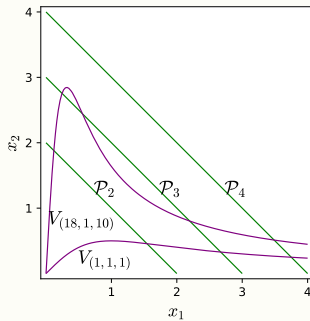


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We call the set of all parameter pairs that enable multistationarity the **parameter region of multistationarity**.

$$\Omega := \{(\kappa, c) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^r \times \mathbb{R}^d \mid \#(V_\kappa \cap \mathcal{P}_c \cap \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n) \geq 2\}$$



Question:

What is the **shape of the parameter region of multistationarity?**

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Is it a connected set?

CRITERION FOR CONNECTIVITY

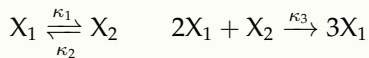
Theorem [2, Feliu, T.]

Under some assumption on the network, there exists a polynomial

$$q: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

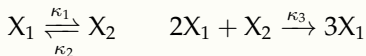
such that if $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is connected and its closure equals $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{\leq 0})$, then the set containing the parameter pairs (κ, c) which enable multistationarity is connected.

RUNNING EXAMPLE



$$q(h, \lambda) = h_1 \lambda_2 - h_1 \lambda_1 + h_2 \lambda_1 + h_2 \lambda_2$$

RUNNING EXAMPLE



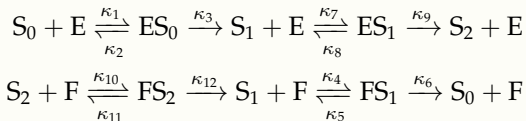
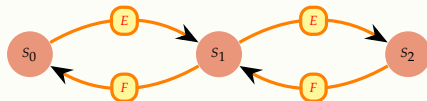
$$q(h, \lambda) = h_1 \lambda_2 - h_1 \lambda_1 + h_2 \lambda_1 + h_2 \lambda_2$$

One can check that $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is path connected and its closure equals $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{\leq 0})$. So we can conclude that **the parameter region of multistationarity is path connected.**

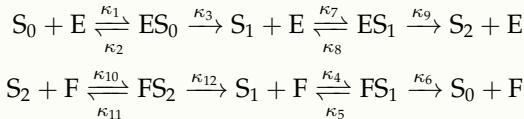
WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT SUCH A GENERALIZATION OF DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS?

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Example: 2-site phosphorylation system



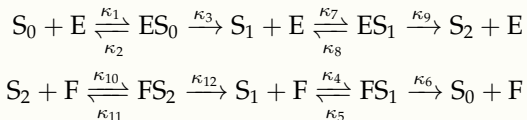
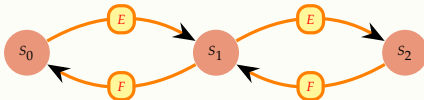
2-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



- Is $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ connected?

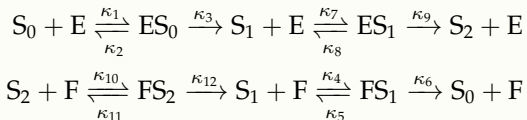
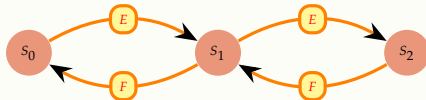
$$\begin{aligned}
 q(h, \lambda) = & -\lambda_0 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_0 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \\
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 & \lambda_1 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_2^3 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_0 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_4 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_0 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_4 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_1 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_4 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_2^3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_0 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_5^3 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_0 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_5^3 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_1 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_5^3 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_2^3 \lambda_5^3 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_3 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_0 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_0 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_1 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_2^3 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \lambda_5 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_0 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \\
 & \lambda_0 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_1 \lambda_2^2 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7 - \lambda_2^3 \lambda_3 \lambda_5^2 h_0 h_1 h_2 h_4 h_6 h_7
 \end{aligned}$$

2-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



- number of variables of $q = 15$
- $\#\sigma(q) = 400$

2-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



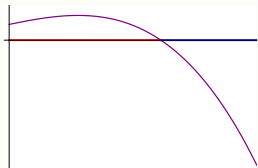
- number of variables of $q = 15$
- $\#\sigma(q) = 400$
- Is $q^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ connected?

DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

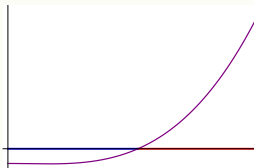
Problem

Consider a signomial $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f(x) = \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f)} c_\mu x^\mu$, and $\sigma(f) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ a finite set, called the support of f .

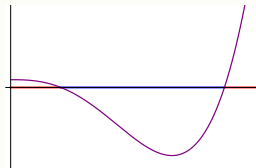
Find a (sharp) **upper bound on the number of connected components** $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$, based on the sign of the coefficients and the geometry of $\sigma(f)$.



(a) $50 + 20x - x^2 - x^3$
 $+\cdots+ - \cdots -$



(b) $-42 - 2x^2 + x^3$
 $-\cdots- + \cdots +$



(c) $59 + x - 4x^2 - 8x^3 + x^4$
 $+\cdots+ - \cdots - + \cdots +$

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SUPPORT

Definition

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto f(x) = \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f)} c_\mu x^\mu$ be a signomial. The **positive (resp. negative) support** of f is defined as follows:

$$\sigma_+(f) := \{\mu \in \sigma(f) \mid c_\mu > 0\},$$

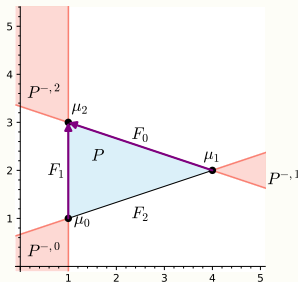
$$\sigma_-(f) := \{\mu \in \sigma(f) \mid c_\mu < 0\}.$$

NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

Definition

Given an n -simplex $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ with vertices $\{\mu_0, \dots, \mu_n\}$, we define the *negative vertex cone* at the vertex μ_k as

$$P^{-,k} := \mu_k + \text{Cone}(\mu_k - \mu_0, \dots, \mu_k - \mu_n)$$



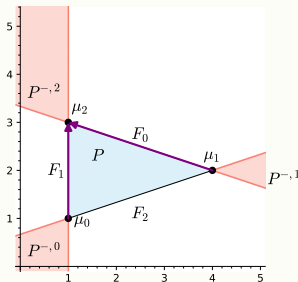
NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

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Given an n -simplex $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ with vertices $\{\mu_0, \dots, \mu_n\}$, we define the *negative vertex cone* at the vertex μ_k as

$$P^{-,k} := \mu_k + \text{Cone}(\mu_k - \mu_0, \dots, \mu_k - \mu_n)$$

we write $P^- := \bigcup_{i=0}^n P^{-,i}$



NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If there exists a n -simplex P such that $\sigma_-(f) \subset P$ and $\sigma_+(f) \subset P^-$, then $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is either empty or **contractible**. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) \leq 1$.

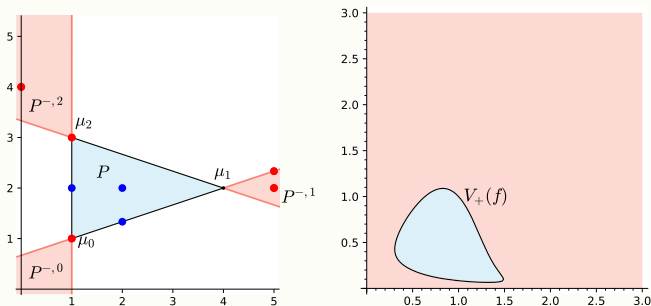


Figure 7: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} + x^5 y^2 - x^2 y^2 + xy^3 + y^4 - 2x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2xy^2 + xy$

NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If there exists a n -simplex P such that $\sigma_-(f) \subset P$ and $\sigma_+(f) \subset P^-$, then $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is either empty or **contractible**. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) \leq 1$.

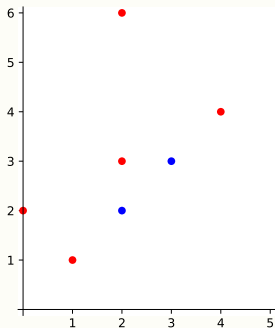


Figure 8: $x_1^4 x_2^4 + x_1^2 x_2^6 + x_1 x_2 + x_2^2 - 5x_1^3 x_2^3 - 3x_1^2 x_2^2$

NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If there exists a n -simplex P such that $\sigma_-(f) \subset P$ and $\sigma_+(f) \subset P^-$, then $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is either empty or **contractible**. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) \leq 1$.

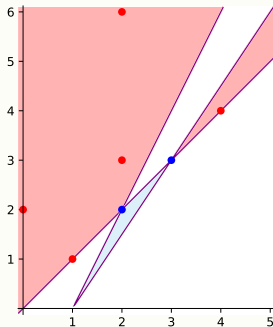
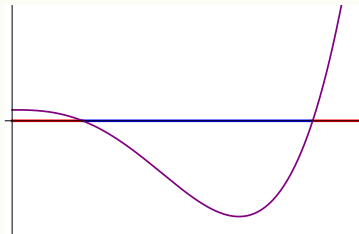
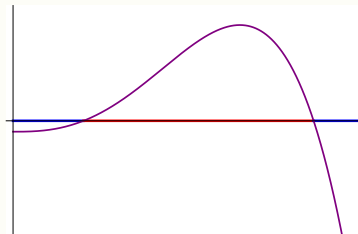


Figure 9: $x_1^4 x_2^4 + x_1^2 x_2^6 + x_1 x_2 + x_2^2 - 5x_1^3 x_2^3 - 3x_1^2 x_2^2$

CAN WE FLIP THE SIGNS?



(a) $f(x) = 59 + x - 4x^2 - 8x^3 + x^4$
 $+ \cdots + - \cdots - + \cdots +$
 $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is connected



(b) $-f(x) = -59 - x + 4x^2 + 8x^3 - x^4$
 $- \cdots - + \cdots + - \cdots -$
 $(-f)^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is not connected

CAN WE FLIP THE SIGNS?

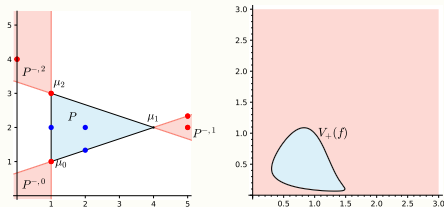


Figure 11: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} + x^5 y^2 - x^2 y^2 + xy^3 + y^4 - 2x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2xy^2 + xy$

CAN WE FLIP THE SIGNS?

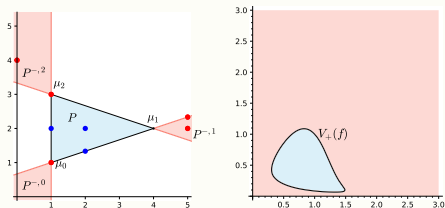


Figure 11: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} + x^5 y^2 - x^2 y^2 + x y^3 + y^4 - 2 x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2 x y^2 + x y$

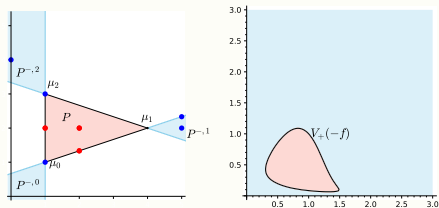


Figure 12: $-f(x, y) = -x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} - x^5 y^2 + x^2 y^2 - x y^3 - y^4 + 2 x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} + 2 x y^2 - x y$

CAN WE FLIP THE SIGNS?

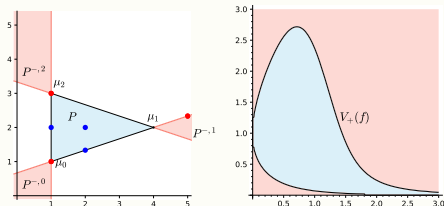


Figure 13: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} - x^2 y^2 + xy^3 - 2x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2xy^2 + xy$

CAN WE FLIP THE SIGNS?

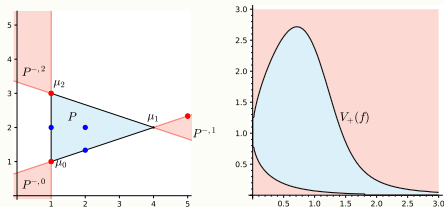


Figure 13: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} - x^2 y^2 + xy^3 - 2x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2xy^2 + xy$

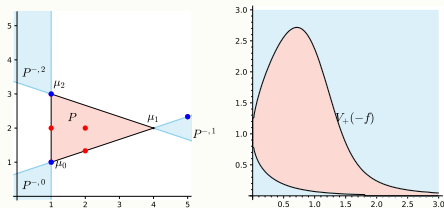


Figure 14: $-f(x, y) = -x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} + x^2 y^2 - xy^3 + 2x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} + 2xy^2 - xy$

NEGATIVE VERTEX CONES

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial such that $n \geq 2$. Assume that there exists an n -simplex $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\sigma_+(f) \subset P$ and $\sigma_-(f) \subset P^-$. If $\sigma_-(f) \cap \text{int}(P^-) \neq \emptyset$, then $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$.

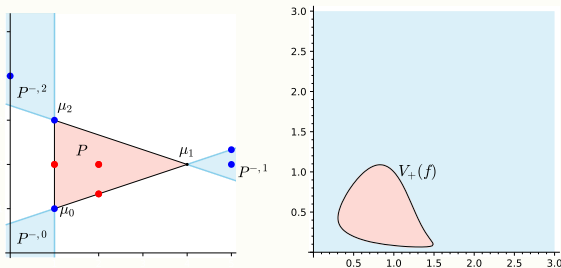


Figure 15: $f(x, y) = x^5 y^{\frac{7}{3}} + x^5 y^2 - x^2 y^2 + x y^3 + y^4 - 2 x^2 y^{\frac{4}{3}} - 2 x y^2 + x y$

ONE NEGATIVE COEFFICIENT

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If f has **at most one negative coefficient**, then $\text{Log}(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$ is a **convex** set. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) \leq 1$.

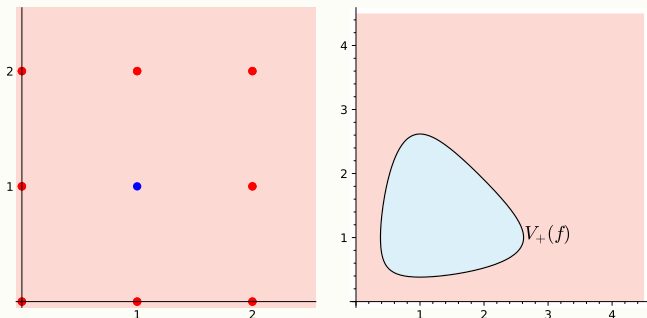


Figure 16: $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1^2 - 11x_1 x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1 + x_2 + 1$

ONE POSITIVE COEFFICIENT

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial such that $n \geq 2$. If f has **at most one positive** coefficient, then $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$.

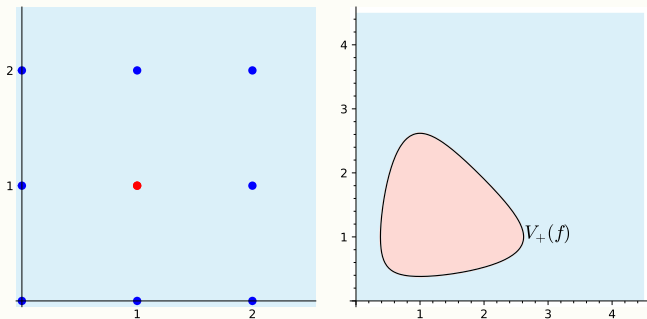


Figure 17: $f(x_1, x_2) = -x_1^2x_2^2 - x_1^2x_2 - x_1x_2^2 - x_1^2 + 11x_1x_2 - x_2^2 - x_1 - x_2 - 1$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If there **exists a strict separating vector** of $\sigma(f)$, then $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is non-empty and **contractible**. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$

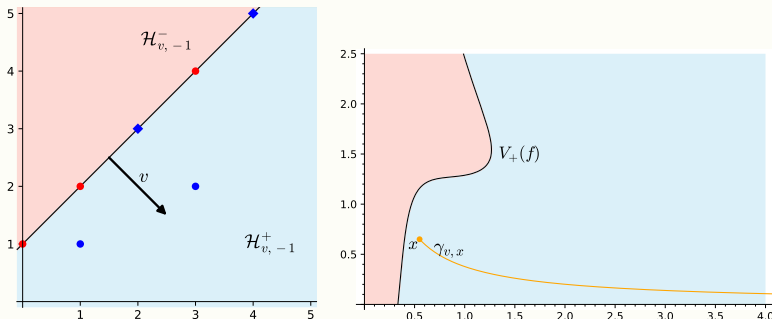


Figure 18: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Given $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$, we consider continuous paths

$$\gamma_{v,x}: [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n, \quad t \mapsto (t^{v_1}x_1, \dots, t^{v_n}x_n).$$

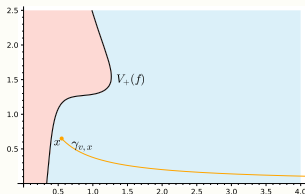


Figure 19: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Given $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$, we consider continuous paths

$$\gamma_{v,x}: [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n, \quad t \mapsto (t^{v_1}x_1, \dots, t^{v_n}x_n).$$

these paths are transformed into half-lines

$[0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, s \mapsto sv + \text{Log}(x)$, under the coordinate-wise logarithm

$$\text{Log}: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (\log(x_1), \dots, \log(x_n)),$$

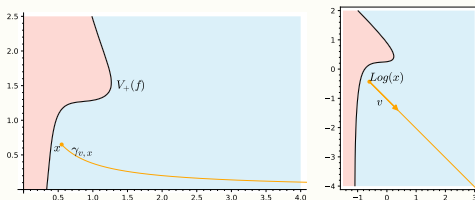


Figure 19: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Given $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$, we consider continuous paths

$$\gamma_{v,x}: [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n, \quad t \mapsto (t^{v_1}x_1, \dots, t^{v_n}x_n).$$

Composing a signomial f with $\gamma_{v,x}$ we have a function in one variable:

$$f_{v,x} := f \circ \gamma_{v,x}: [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad t \mapsto \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f)} (c_\mu x^\mu) t^{v \cdot \mu}.$$

Example: $v = (1, -1)$

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$$

$$f_{v,x}(t) = -x_1^3x_2^2t^1 - 3x_1x_2t^0 + (3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5)t^{-1}$$

AFFINE HYPERPLANES

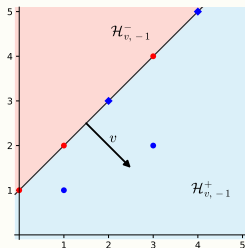
Definition

A vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$ define *an affine hyperplane*

$$\mathcal{H}_{v,a} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid v \cdot x = a\},$$

and two *half-spaces*:

$$\mathcal{H}_{v,a}^+ := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid v \cdot x \geq a\}, \quad \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^- := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid v \cdot x \leq a\}.$$



PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Definition

We say that $v \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ is a *separating vector* of $\sigma(f)$ if for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$ we have:

$$\sigma_-(f) \subseteq \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^+, \quad \sigma_+(f) \subseteq \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^-.$$

The affine hyperplane $\mathcal{H}_{v,a}$ is called a *separating hyperplane* of $\sigma(f)$.

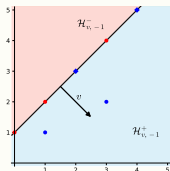


Figure 20: $f(x_1, x_2) =$

$$3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2,$$

$$f_{v,x}(t) =$$

$$-x_1^3x_2^2t^1 - 3x_1x_2t^0 + (3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5)t^{-1}$$

PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Definition

We say that $v \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ is a *separating vector* of $\sigma(f)$ if for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$ we have:

$$\sigma_-(f) \subseteq \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^+, \quad \sigma_+(f) \subseteq \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^-.$$

The affine hyperplane $\mathcal{H}_{v,a}$ is called a *separating hyperplane* of $\sigma(f)$. A separating vector v is called *strict separating vector* if

$$\sigma_-(f) \cap \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^{+,\circ} \neq \emptyset.$$

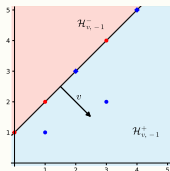


Figure 20: $f(x_1, x_2) =$
 $3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2,$
 $f_{v,x}(t) =$
 $-x_1^3x_2^2t^1 - 3x_1x_2t^0 + (3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5)t^{-1}$

PATHS ON LOGARITHMIC SCALE

Lemma

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial and $x \in f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$. If $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a separating vector of $\sigma(f)$, then $f_{v,x}(t) < 0$ for all $t \in [1, \infty)$.

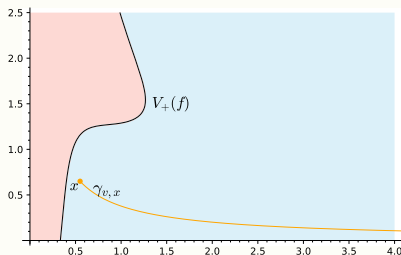
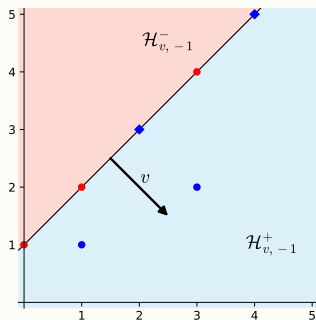


Figure 21: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$
 $f_{v,x}(t) = -x_1^3x_2^2t^1 - 3x_1x_2t^0 + (3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5)t^{-1}$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Theorem [1, Feliu, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. If there **exists a strict separating vector** of $\sigma(f)$, then $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is non-empty and **contractible**. In particular, $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$.

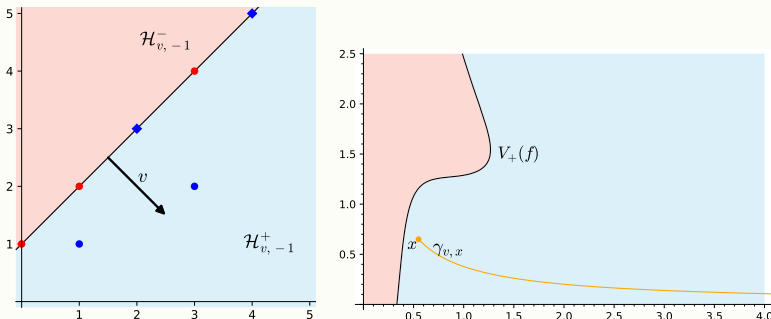


Figure 22: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Sketch of proof:

- Consider the signomial

$$\tilde{f}(x) := \sum_{\alpha \in \sigma_+(f)} c_\alpha x^\alpha + \sum_{\beta \in \sigma_-(f) \cap \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^{+, \circ}} c_\beta x^\beta$$

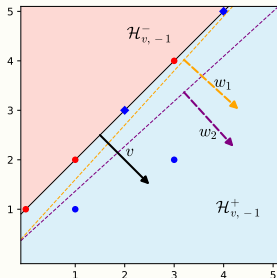


Figure 23: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 +$
 $+x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2,$
 $\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Sketch of proof:

- Consider the signomial

$$\tilde{f}(x) := \sum_{\alpha \in \sigma_+(f)} c_\alpha x^\alpha + \sum_{\beta \in \sigma_-(f) \cap \mathcal{H}_{v,a}^{+, \circ}} c_\beta x^\beta$$

- Find **linearly independent separating vectors** w_1, \dots, w_n of $\sigma(\tilde{f})$ such that $v \in \text{Cone}^\circ(w_1, \dots, w_n)$

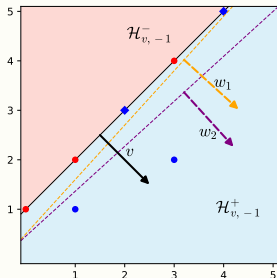


Figure 23: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 +$
 $+x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2,$
 $\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Sketch of proof:

- $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \subset f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$

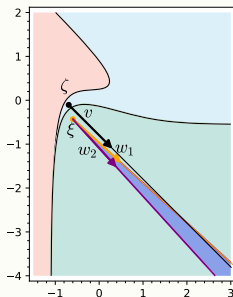


Figure 24: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2$
 $-x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2,$
 $\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Sketch of proof:

- $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \subset f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$
- for all $x \in \tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ holds $\xi + \text{Cone}(w_1, \dots, w_n) \subset \text{Log}(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$,
where $\xi := \text{Log}(x)$.

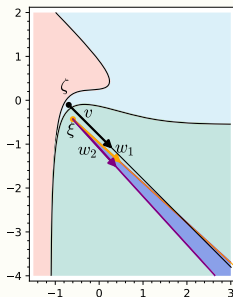


Figure 24: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2$
 $-x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$,
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SEPARATING VECTOR OF THE SUPPORT

Sketch of proof:

- $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \subset f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$
- for all $x \in \tilde{f}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ holds $\xi + \text{Cone}(w_1, \dots, w_n) \subset \text{Log}(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$, where $\xi := \text{Log}(x)$.
- **connect each** $\zeta = \text{Log}(y) \in \text{Log}(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}))$ **to** $\xi + \text{Cone}(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ **via the path** $\text{Log} \circ \gamma_{v,y}$.

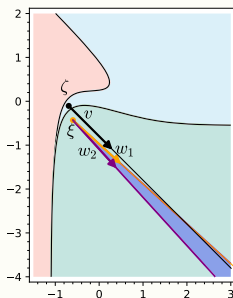
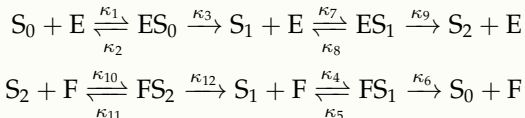
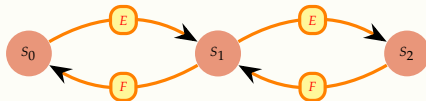


Figure 24: $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2$
 $-x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1^4x_2^5 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$,
 $\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^3x_2^4 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2 - 3x_1x_2 - x_1^3x_2^2$

APPLICATIONS

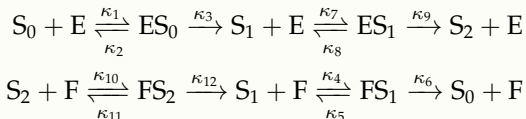
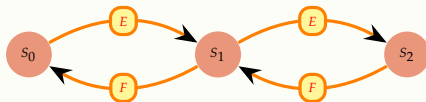
2-site phosphorylation system



- number of variables of $q = 15$
- $\#\sigma_+(q) = 288, \#\sigma_-(q) = 112$

APPLICATIONS

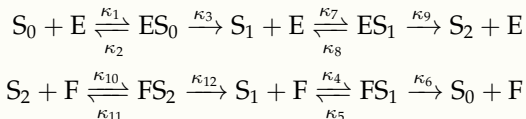
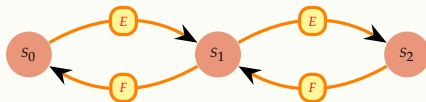
2-site phosphorylation system



- number of variables of $q = 15$
- $\#\sigma_+(q) = 288, \#\sigma_-(q) = 112$
- $\sigma(q)$ has a **strict separating hyperplane** (0.28 s)

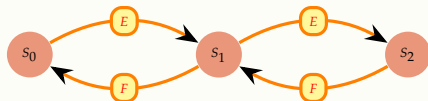
APPLICATIONS

2-site phosphorylation system



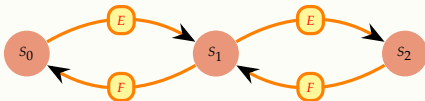
- number of variables of $q = 15$
- $\#\sigma_+(q) = 288, \#\sigma_-(q) = 112$
- $\sigma(q)$ has a strict separating hyperplane (0.28 s)
- the set containing the parameter pairs (κ, c) which enable multistationarity is connected.

OTHER EXAMPLES

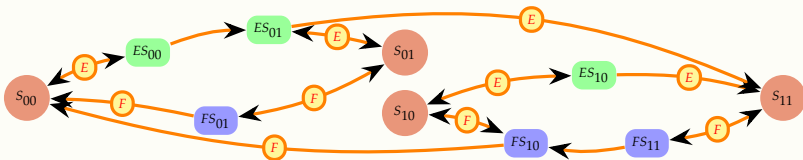


	n	r	ℓ	$\#\sigma_+(q)$	$\#\sigma_-(q)$	t. comp. q	t. find sep. hyp.
HHK	6	6	2	17	2	0.03 s	0.01 s
2-site	9	12	6	288	112	0.99 s	0.28 s
3-site	12	18	9	2560	1536	1 m 24 s	4.4 s
4-site	15	24	12	??	??	∞	??
2-site w.irr.	13	20	10	1020	228	43.11 s	does not exist
2 site F_i	10	12	6	304	48	1.84 s	0.4 s
2 substr.	12	15	8	5088	224	35.68 s	10.36 s
ERK	12	18	9	15040	3432	4 m 4 s	49 s

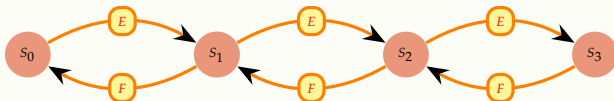
OTHER EXAMPLES



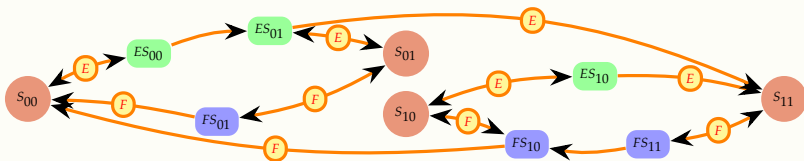
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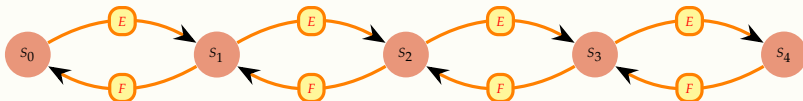
OTHER EXAMPLES



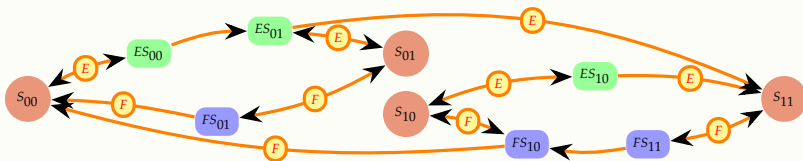
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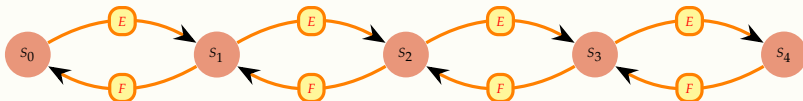
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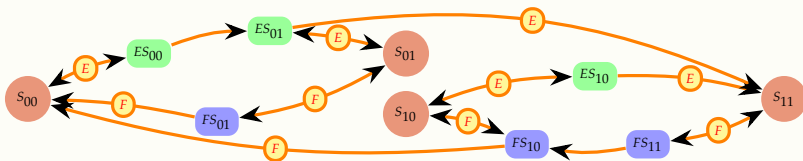
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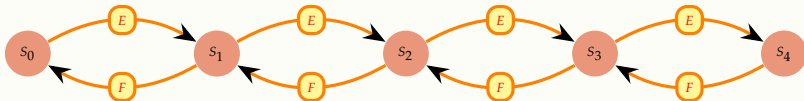
OTHER EXAMPLES



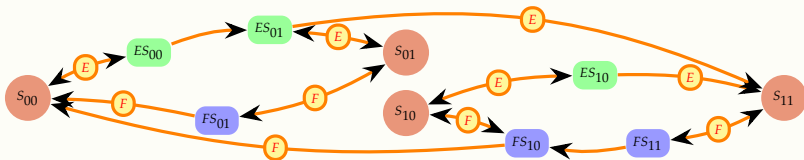
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3-site	12	18	9	2560	1536	1 m 24 s	4.4 s
4-site	15	24	12	75	54	0.53 s	does not exist
2-site w.irr.	13	20	10	1020	228	43.11 s	does not exist
2 site F_i	10	12	6	304	48	1.84 s	0.4 s
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OTHER EXAMPLES



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3-site	12	18	9	2560	1536	1 m 24 s	4.4 s
4-site	15	24	12	75	54	0.53 s	does not exist
2-site w.irr.	13	20	10	1020	228	43.11 s	does not exist
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2 substr.	12	15	8	5088	224	35.68 s	10.36 s
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FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Definition

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. The **Newton polytope** of f is

$$N(f) := \text{Conv}(\sigma(f)).$$

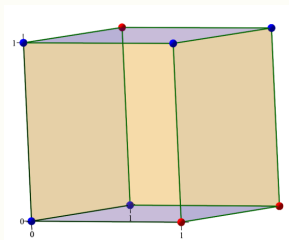


Figure 25: Newton polytope of
 $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Definition

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. The **Newton polytope of f** is

$$N(f) := \text{Conv}(\sigma(f)).$$

A **face of $N(f)$** is a set of the form

$$N(f)_v := \{p \in N(f) \mid v \cdot p = \max_{\mu \in N(f)} v \cdot \mu\}, \quad \text{for } v \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

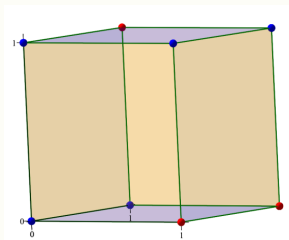


Figure 25: Newton polytope of
 $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

REDUCTION TO A NEGATIVE FACE OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \mapsto \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f)} c_{\mu} x^{\mu}$ be a signomial. If there exists a face F of the Newton polytope $N(f)$ such that $\sigma_{-}(f) \subseteq F$, then

$$b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = b_0(f|_F^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})),$$

where $f|_F(x) = \sum_{\mu \in \sigma(f) \cap F} c_{\mu} x^{\mu}$.

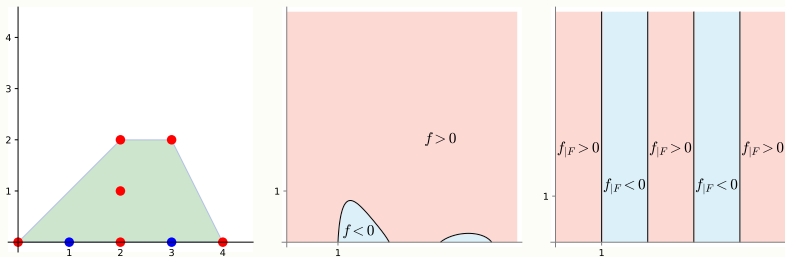


Figure 26: $2x^4 - 20x^3 + 70x^2 - 100x + 48 + 0.5x^3y^2 + 0.5x^2y^2 + 0.5x^2y$

REDUCTION TO A NEGATIVE FACE OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

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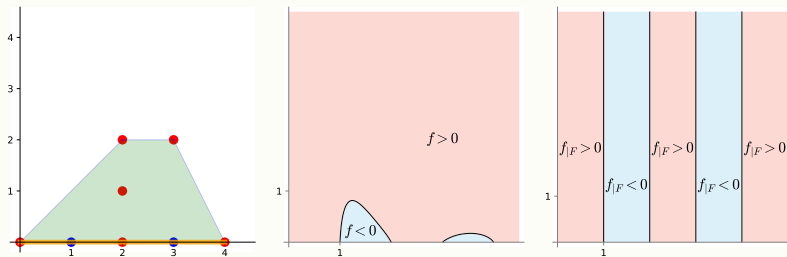


Figure 27: $2x^4 - 20x^3 + 70x^2 - 100x + 48 + 0.5x^3y^2 + 0.5x^2y^2 + 0.5x^2y$

REDUCTION TO PARALLEL FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. Assume that there exists $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\sigma(f) \subseteq N(f)_v \cup N(f)_{-v}$.

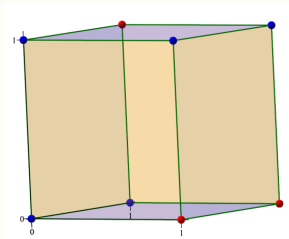


Figure 28: Newton polytope of
 $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

REDUCTION TO PARALLEL FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. Assume that there exists $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\sigma(f) \subseteq N(f)_v \cup N(f)_{-v}$. If

- $b_0(f_{|N(f)_v}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = b_0(f_{|N(f)_{-v}}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1,$

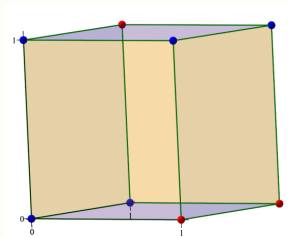


Figure 28: Newton polytope of $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

REDUCTION TO PARALLEL FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. Assume that there exists $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\sigma(f) \subseteq N(f)_v \cup N(f)_{-v}$. If

- $b_0(f_{|N(f)_v}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = b_0(f_{|N(f)_{-v}}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$, and
- $f_{|N(f)_v}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \cap f_{|N(f)_{-v}}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \neq \emptyset$,

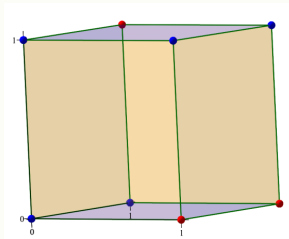


Figure 28: Newton polytope of
 $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

REDUCTION TO PARALLEL FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

Theorem [3, T.]

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial. Assume that there exists $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\sigma(f) \subseteq N(f)_v \cup N(f)_{-v}$. If

- $b_0(f_{|N(f)_v}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = b_0(f_{|N(f)_{-v}}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$, and
- $f_{|N(f)_v}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \cap f_{|N(f)_{-v}}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0}) \neq \emptyset$,

then $b_0(f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})) = 1$.

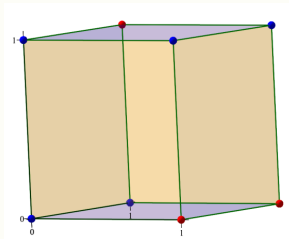


Figure 28: Newton polytope of $f(x, y, z) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz$

REDUCTION TO FACES OF THE NEWTON POLYTOPE

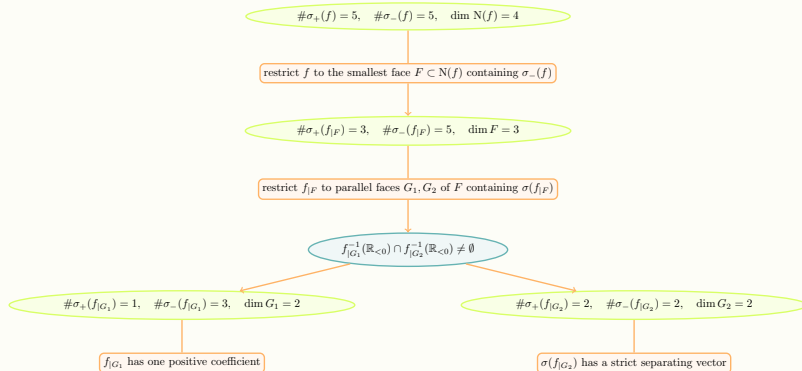
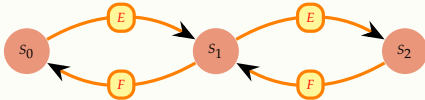


Figure 29: $f(x, y, z, w) = x + xy - y - 1 + yz - z - xz - xyz + w^3 + xw$

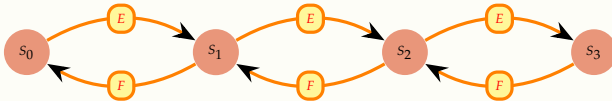
$F = N(f)_v$, $v = (0, 0, 0, -1)$, $G_1 = F_{v_1}$, $v_1 = (0, 0, 1, -1)$

$G_2 = F_{v_2}$, $v = (0, 0, -1, -1)$

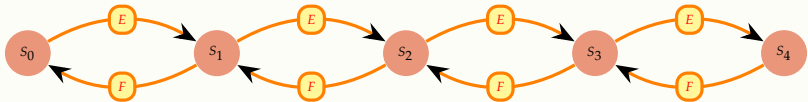
APPLICATIONS - 4-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



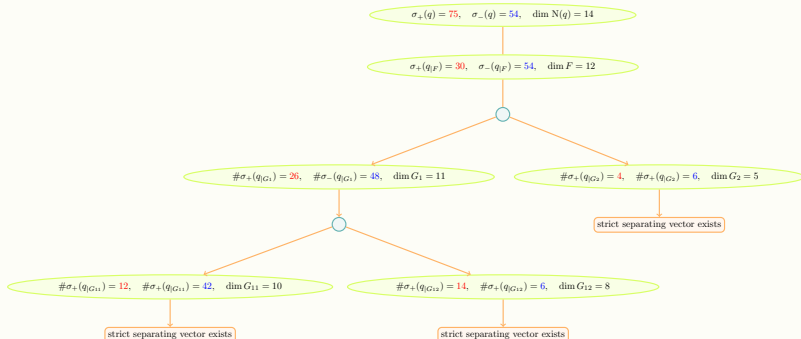
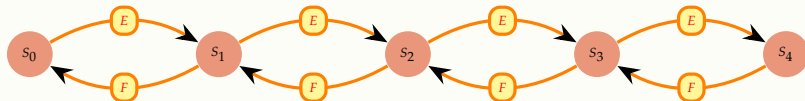
APPLICATIONS - 4-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



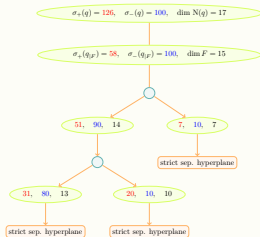
APPLICATIONS - 4-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



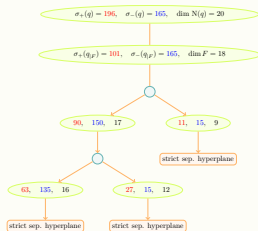
APPLICATIONS - 4-SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



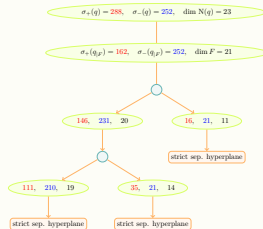
APPLICATIONS - m -SITE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



(a) $m = 5$



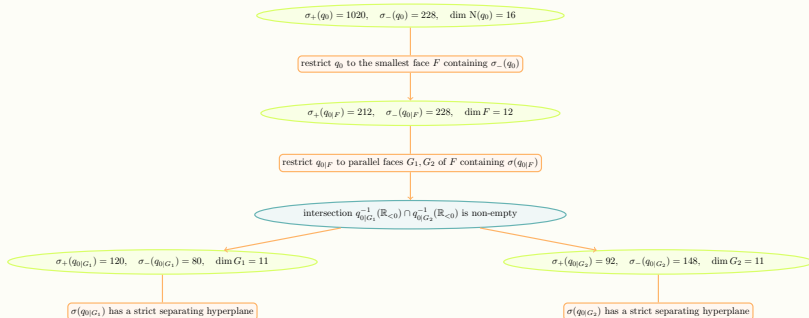
(b) $m = 6$



(c) $m = 7$

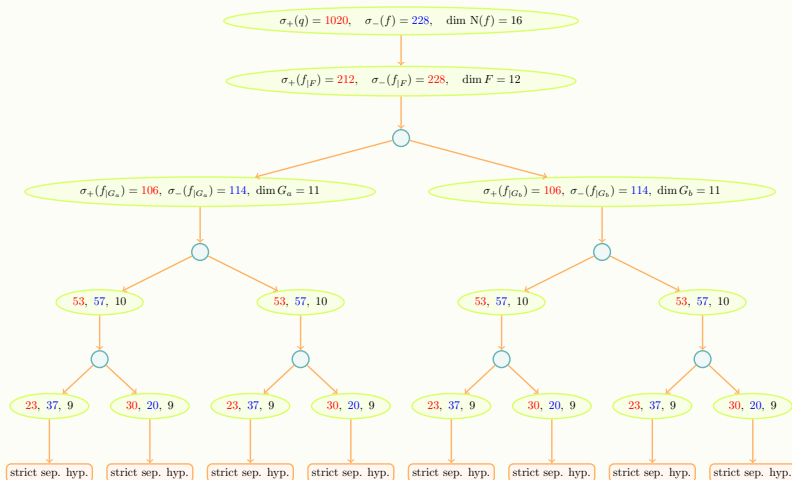
APPLICATIONS

2-SITE WEAKLY IRREVERSIBLE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



APPLICATIONS

2-SITE WEAKLY IRREVERSIBLE PHOSPHORYLATION SYSTEM



Thank you for your attention!

REFERENCES

- [1] E. Feliu, and M. L. Telek. On generalizing Descartes' rule of signs to hypersurfaces. *Advances in Mathematics*, 408(A), 2022
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CONVEX SIGNOMIALS

Lemma

Let $f: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a signomial, and let $\Delta_n := \text{Conv}(\{0, e_1, \dots, e_n\})$ be the standard n -simplex in \mathbb{R}^n .

If $\sigma_-(f) \subseteq \Delta_n$ and $\sigma_+(f) \subseteq \Delta_n^-$, then f is a convex function.

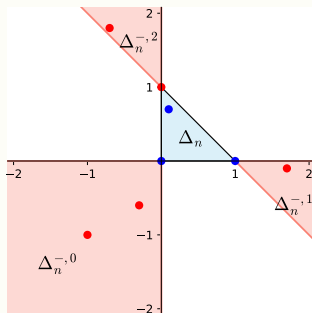
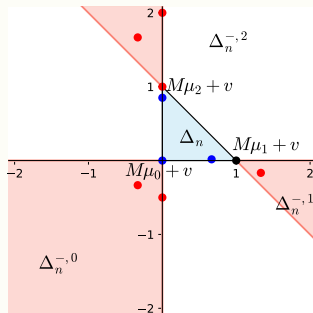
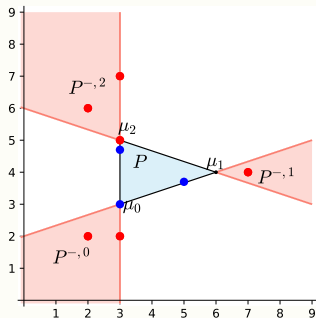


Figure 31: $x_1^{-1}x_2^{-1} + x_1^{-0.3}x_2^{-0.6} - 2x_1 - x_1^{0.1}x_2^{0.7} - 5 + 2x_1^{1.7}x_2^{-0.1} + x_2 + x_1^{-0.7}x_2^{1.8}$

DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

Sketch of proof:

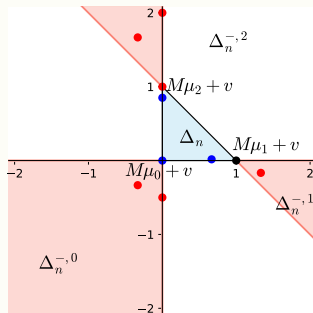
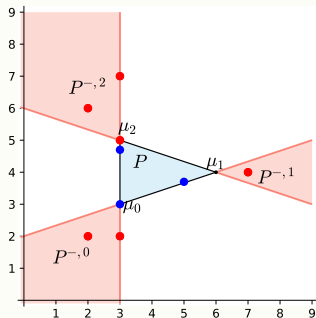
- Find $M \in GL_n(\mathbb{R}), v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $MP + v = \Delta_n$



DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

Sketch of proof:

- Find $M \in GL_n(\mathbb{R}), v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $MP + v = \Delta_n$
- For $F: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x^v f(x^{M_1}, \dots, x^{M_n})$ it holds that $\sigma_-(F) = M\sigma_-(f) + v \subseteq \Delta_n$ and $\sigma_+(F) = M\sigma_+(f) + v \subseteq \Delta_n^-$.



DESCARTES' RULE OF SIGNS FOR HYPERSURFACES

Sketch of proof:

- Find $M \in GL_n(\mathbb{R}), v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $MP + v = \Delta_n$
- For $F: \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto x^v f(x^{M_1}, \dots, x^{M_n})$ it holds that $\sigma_-(F) = M\sigma_-(f) + v \subseteq \Delta_n$ and $\sigma_+(F) = M\sigma_+(f) + v \subseteq \Delta_n^-$.
- $f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$ is homeomorphic to $F^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_{<0})$

