

Matrix monotone functions

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Chapter 1

Matrix monotone functions – part 0

1.1 Disclaimer

Let's be honest: this master's thesis is not really about matrix monotone functions. What is it about, then? Well, unfortunately the only way I know how to answer that question is to explain what the matrix monotone functions are.¹ Hence the title.

1.2 What are matrix monotone functions?

Definition 1.1. Let $(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open, possibly unbounded interval and n positive integer. We say that $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is n -**monotone** or **matrix monotone** of order n on (a, b) , if for any two $n \times n$ Hermitian matrices A and B with spectra in (a, b) , such that $B - A$ is positive semidefinite, also $f(B) - f(A)$ positive semidefinite. Here $f(A)$ and $f(B)$ are defined via functional calculus.

Now, it might not be too big of a surprise that, on the surface level at least, the main question of this thesis is the following.

Question 1.2. Fix a positive integer n and an open interval (a, b) . Which functions are n -monotone on (a, b) ?

If all this makes sense to you, great! Feel free to skip this section. If not, what follows is an attempt to give some kind of handwavy picture of the setup. Alternatively, if you don't like handwaving, you may feel free to visit chapter 2 for rigorous foundations.

Matrix monotonicity is a generalization of standard monotonicity of real functions: now we are just having functions mapping matrices to matrices. Formally, f is **matrix**

¹Worry not: one need not read beyond this chapter to get some kind of answer to the question.

monotone if for any two matrices A and B such that

$$A \leq B$$

we also have

$$f(A) \leq f(B).$$

This kind of function might be more properly called **matrix increasing** but we will stick to monotonicity for couple of reasons:

- For some reason, that is what people have been doing in the field.
- It doesn't make much difference whether we talk about increasing or decreasing functions, so we might just ignore the latter but try to symmetrize our thinking by the choice of words.
- Somehow I can't satisfactorily fill the following table:

monotonic	monotonicity
increasing	?

How very inconvenient.

Of course, it's not really obvious how one should make any sense of this "definition". There are essentially two things to understand.

- How should matrices be ordered?
- How should functions act on matrices?

Both of these questions can be certainly answered in many ways, but for both of them there is very natural, in fact tensorial, answer. Instead of comparing matrices we can compare bilinear forms, $(0, 2)$ -tensors (bilinear maps $V^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$). Similarly we can naturally apply function to linear mappings, $(1, 1)$ -tensors (bilinear maps $V^* \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$). Here V is a n -dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} .

For matrix (bilinear form) ordering we should first understand which matrices are *positive*, which here, a bit confusingly maybe, means "at least zero". We say that a form is positive if its diagonal is non-negative. This gives a partial order on the space of all bilinear forms.

For matrix functions, i.e. "how to apply function to matrix" the idea is to take a real function, $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and interpret it as function $f : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, *matrix function*.

Polynomials extend rather naturally, given the ring structure of linear maps themselves. If the argument (a linear map) is diagonalizable, this extension merely applies the function to the eigenvalues. This motivates us to define $f(A)$, for a linear map A , to be the linear map with the same eigenspace structure as A but the eigenvalues changed from $\lambda \rightarrow f(\lambda)$, respectively. All this works for diagonalizable maps with real eigenvalues, so the domain isn't quite $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, though. This extension idea is called **functional calculus**.

All this is kind of enough to make sense of matrix monotonicity, but to drastically simplify the setup it is customary to restrict the attention to a special set of diagonalizable matrices, which in this text are called **real maps**. They are exactly the symmetric matrices and they hold special place amidst the set of all matrices.

- They exactly correspond to symmetric bilinear forms.
- They correspond to diagonalizable linear maps with real eigenvalues and orthogonal eigenbasis.

In the second point we are thinking about everything in terms of the standard inner product of \mathbb{R}^n . So the statement should be corrected to

- If considered as a matrix of a linear map with respect to the standard orthonormal basis of \mathbb{R}^n (with the standard inner product), then the linear map is diagonalizable with real eigenvalues, and has orthogonal eigenbasis.

Real maps are usually called **Hermitian** or **self-adjoint matrices**, whereas positive matrices are called **positive semidefinite matrices**. Now the definition of matrix monotonicity 1.1 should make sense. We will call positive matrices **positive maps**.

Whether one should think about real maps as matrices, bilinear forms or linear maps depends on the context. If one does calculations, one might think about matrices. If one thinks about additive structure, bilinear forms are better suited. And of course functional calculus makes only sense with linear maps. We use the (linear) map terminology throughout mainly because it's short. Also, it is a constant reminder that there is something tensorial going on.

1.3 ... And why should we care?

It's easy to come up with one family of matrix monotone functions: $x \mapsto \alpha x + \beta$ for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\alpha \geq 0$. Such affine functions are n -monotone for every $n \geq 1$ on $(-\infty, \infty)$. They are the only easy examples of matrix monotone functions.

But there are lot more.

Matrix monotone functions are truly horrible. All matrix monotone functions are increasing (in the usual sense) but not every increasing function is matrix monotone. They have some obscure regularity properties. Constructing non-trivial matrix monotone functions is a pain. Although usual increasing real functions and matrix monotone functions should be very much interlinked, hardly any of the properties of increasing functions pass on to matrix monotonicity. Generally, if one attacks matrix monotone functions, especially of order $n > 2$, and doesn't use sophisticated weaponry, one will perish. The reader is encouraged to try.

All this is exactly what makes them so interesting. One is driven to ask the question:

Question 1.3. How should one think about matrix monotone functions?

If this sounds like the same question to you, think about increasing functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called n -increasing (this terminology lasts only for next couple of paragraphs) if $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \leq f(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ whenever $x_i \leq y_i$ for every $1 \leq i \leq n$. Which functions are n -increasing? I would argue that n -increasing functions are awful, much more so than the usual (1-)increasing functions. The reason is that they don't have good "building blocks".

One might say that "non-negative derivative" property (let's ignore regularity issues for a while) makes increasing functions easy to understand, and while there is certain truth to that, I would argue that what makes them so simple is really the dual property: "increasing functions are sums of increasing step functions". This roughly implies that in order to understand increasing functions, it is enough to understand step functions, or just step functions with one jump upwards.

Note that we are heavily using the fact that increasing functions (of all types introduced before) form a convex cone:

Definition 1.4. Subset C of a vector space V over \mathbb{R} is a convex cone if whenever $v, w \in C$ and $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$, also $\alpha v + \beta w \in C$.

Also, applicability of the "only needing to understand step functions" is somewhat limited: it doesn't really explain smoothness phenomena all too well, for instance. But it is always nice to know that some objects are really sums of other much simpler objects.

There's no such nice dual property for n -increasing functions (for $n > 1$). One can understand them locally with derivatives, but there are no simple decompositions. Same thing could be said about convex functions on \mathbb{R}^n .

Much more importantly for us, there is no such nice additive structure for n -monotone functions. This is by no means trivial (as it is not even with n -increasing functions). It is also not even clear what one means by "nice" and whether even increasing functions are that "nice" in the end. These ideas shall however merely work as our guideline, so one should not feel too troubled.

All these issues can be, in a way, avoided by change of perspective: instead of trying to characterize matrix monotone functions by expressing them as sums of something simple, we express the definition itself as a sum of somethings simple. In particular we try to understand the “dual” (or a “predual” to be exact) of matrix monotone functions.

1.4 Non-standardly defined dual cones

Let in the following V be a vector space over \mathbb{R} and denote its dual by V^* .

Definition 1.5. For a subset C^* of V^* we define its **dual cone** to be

$$C = \{v \in V \mid w^*v \geq 0 \text{ for every } w^* \in C^*\} \subset V.$$

One immediately makes the following observation justifying the terminology.

Theorem 1.6. *Let $C^* \subset V^*$. Then the dual cone of C^* is a convex cone.*

Definition 1.7. Let $C \subset V$. Then C^* is a **predual** of C if C is the dual cone of C^* .

Of course only convex cones have preduals. Easy examples show that preduals are not unique in general (in fact never).

As an example, for an open interval (a, b) consider the set

$$P_1(a, b) := \{\text{Increasing functions } f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}.$$

This set is a convex cone. If one denotes the evaluation functional or measure at x by δ_x , i.e. $\delta_x(f) = f(x)$, then one possible predual of $P_1(a, b)$ is given by

$$\{\delta_y - \delta_x \mid a < x < y < b\}.$$

I hope the reader agrees that this predual is in many ways much simpler than the set of increasing functions (at least if one looks at objects themselves) and yet it carries the information thereof. As we will see, if chosen suitably, preduals can offer convenient and clean language for talking about the cone itself. And that is what this thesis is really about.

One can also bring the dual language to topological setting. If V is further a topological vector space, denote its continuous dual by V^* . Now the notions of convex cone, dual cone and predual have natural counterparts in this setting. It also makes sense to talk about **closed convex cones**. One easily checks the following.

Theorem 1.8. *Let V be a topological vector space and C^* a subset of its continuous dual. Then*

$$C := \{v \in V \mid w^*(v) \geq 0 \text{ for every } w^* \in C^*\}$$

is a closed convex cone of V .

Warning! The dual and predual terminology above is non-standard. Often dual cones are subsets of the dual space (with definition as one would expect). Preduals would be defined similarly.

1.5 Contents

There are two goals to this thesis. The first is answering question 1.2 (and really understanding the answer). The second one is answering the obvious follow up:

Question 1.9. Fix an open interval (a, b) . Which functions are n -monotone on (a, b) for any $n \geq 1$?

This text is written for explorer like the author. This means couple of things.

- The main results are not explained in the introduction.
- The story aims to be continuous: topics of adjacent chapters, sections and arguments should be close to each other.

Aim of this approach is to encourage readers own exploration. Most of the results of this thesis are nothing but straightforward and not very elegant calculations.

TODO

Arguments of this thesis are largely elementary, requiring only basic calculus, complex analysis, linear algebra and topology. Many of the underlying ideas and heuristics are however inspired by functional analysis and measure theory, so it pays to have a good understanding of them.

1.6 Spoilers

If you're curious, the answers for these questions are given by Theorem 5.1 (question 1.2) and Theorems 5.12 and 5.14 (question 1.9)

Aim of the chapters entitled “Matrix monotone functions – part i ” for $0 \leq i \leq 3$ is to pursue these main goals. Other chapters, ones with even number, offer supplementary information.

The whole theory of matrix monotone functions originates from a 1934 paper by Charles Loewner (then known as Karl Löwner) entitled “Über monotone Matrixfunktionen” [15]. In the paper Loewner asked the questions 1.2 and 1.9, and gave them both answers. Since then the theory has been reworked and expanded by various authors, and many open questions remain. This text is an amalgamation of countless works on the subject. “Notes and references” -sections at the end of each chapter (except this one) are an attempt to give attribution to these ancestors.

Also, there are no figures. Apologies.

1.7 Notation and conventions

w.l.o.g	without loss of generality
t.f.i.f	this follows immediately from
$\text{Lip}(f)$	(the best) Lipschitz constant of f
V^*	(continuous) dual of (topological) vector space V
$\text{cone}(S)$	non-negative linear combinations of elements of S , where S is subset of some vector space
$\mathcal{L}(V)$	linear self-maps over vector space V
$\mathcal{H}(V)$	real maps over inner product space V
$\mathcal{H}_+(V)$	positive maps over inner product space V
$\mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}(V)$	real maps over inner product space V with spectra on (a, b)
$P_n(a, b)$	n -monotone functions on (a, b)
$P_\infty(a, b)$	intersection of $P_n(a, b)$ for $n \geq 1$, ∞ -monotone functions on (a, b)
$P_W = P_{W,V}$	orthogonal projection to $W \subset V$
A^*	adjoint of a map $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$
f_V	matrix function lift of f to V
$\mathbb{R}_n[x]$	Real polynomials of degree at most n
$\mathbb{C}_n[x]$	Complex polynomial of degree at most n
r^*	for given rational function r , r^* is the rational function with $r^*(z) = \overline{q(\bar{z})}$
$N(r)$	rr^*
$C^k(a, b)$	k times continuously differentiable functions on (a, b)

We also preserve certain letters to have particular meaning.

a, b	extended reals with $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$
n, k	positive integers
V	inner product space over \mathbb{C} (with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$) of dimension n
TODO:	

- Main theorem simplification: note that the rational function is non-negative outside (a, b) just by monotonicity of inverse function. What kind of rational functions will

there be?

- Use “To wit”.

TODO: check the TODO-lists (in comments).

Chapter 2

Positive maps

2.1 Motivation

2.1.1 The right definition

Throughout this thesis, if not stated otherwise, $V = (V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ denotes an inner product space over \mathbb{C} of dimension n (where n is an arbitrary but fixed positive integer).

Definition 2.1. We say that A is *positive map*, or simply *positive*, and write $A \geq 0$, if for any $v \in V$ we have

$$\langle Av, v \rangle \geq 0.$$

Why is this the right definition for positivity? Do we really need an inner product to define positivity?

While these are both excellent questions (and one should definitely think about them), there is no way to satisfactorily answer them in the scope of this thesis. Instead, this section is an attempt to explain why the definition is pretty damn good.

Note that, contrary to the previous chapter, we snuck in the complex numbers and “general” vector space to the definition (see “Notation and conventions” in the previous chapter). It doesn’t make much difference whether we talk about real or complex numbers but the author thinks that some of the arguments are more natural in the complex world. Also, working with a general vector space V is mostly just a reminder of the fact that there is something tensorial going on.

Theorem 1.8 immediately implies

Theorem 2.2. *The set*

$$\{A \in \mathcal{L}(V) \mid A \text{ is positive}\}$$

is a closed convex cone.

We denote this cone of positive maps (of V) by $\mathcal{H}_+(V)$.

In general one should think that the convex cones are models of positive real numbers. Such model need not be very good however: the whole vector space is always a convex cone. To fix this problem one introduces the concept of salient cone.

Definition 2.3. A convex cone $C \subset V$ is **salient cone**, or simply **salient**, if whenever both $v \in C$ and $-v \in C$, then necessarily $v = 0$.

Conveniently enough $\mathcal{H}_+(V)$ is a salient cone, but this is by no means trivial property.

Lemma 2.4. If $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $\langle Av, v \rangle = 0$ for any $v \in V$, then $A = 0$.

Proof. The idea is that we can recover the inner product from norm. Indeed, if $v, w \in V$, then $\|v + w\|^2 = \|v\|^2 + \|w\|^2 + 2\Re(\langle v, w \rangle)$, so knowing the norm, we at least know the real part of the inner product. Doing the same trick with $\|v + iw\|^2$ we can figure out the imaginary part.

How does this help us? By a similar argument $\langle A(v + w), v + w \rangle = \langle Av, v \rangle + \langle Aw, w \rangle + \langle Av, w \rangle + \langle Aw, v \rangle$, so given that the quadratic form is always zero, we have $\langle Av, w \rangle + \langle Aw, v \rangle = 0$ for any $v, w \in V$. Expanding $\langle A(v + iw), v + iw \rangle$ we see that $-i\langle Av, w \rangle + i\langle Aw, v \rangle = 0$, which together with the previous observation implies that $\langle Av, w \rangle = 0$ for any $v, w \in V$. By setting $w = Av$, this implies that $\|Av\|^2 = 0$ for every $v \in V$, so $A = 0$. \square

The idea of recovering the inner product from the norm is called **polarization**.

Corollary 2.5. $\mathcal{H}_+(V)$ is a salient closed convex cone.

Previous arguments carry directly to a much more general setting:

Theorem 2.6. Let V be a topological vector space (over \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}) and C^* a subset of its continuous dual. Then the dual cone of C^* is salient, if and only if

$$\{v \in V \mid w^*(v) = 0 \text{ for every } w^* \in C^*\} = \{0\}.$$

In our case the subset of the linear functionals are the mappings of the form $A \mapsto \langle Av, v \rangle$: they are called *quadratic functionals*. For fixed $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ the map $v \mapsto \langle Av, v \rangle$ is the *quadratic form* of A .

As one would hope, map $v \mapsto \alpha v$, i.e. αI is positive, if and only if $\alpha \geq 0$. In particular in one-dimensional spaces the notion works as expected. Fortunately there are other examples of positive maps: any orthogonal projection is positive.

Proposition 2.7. *If $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is a orthogonal projection, then $A \geq 0$.*

Proof. As any orthogonal projection is sum of one-dimensional orthogonal projections, we can assume that the A is one-dimensional in the first place. It follows that $A = \langle \cdot, v \rangle v / \|v\|^2$ for some $v \in V \setminus \{0\}$. Now for every $w \in V$ we have

$$\langle Aw, w \rangle = \langle \langle w, v \rangle v, w \rangle / \|v\|^2 = |\langle w, v \rangle|^2 / \|v\|^2 \geq 0,$$

so A is positive. □

We denote the one-dimensional orthogonal projection to the span of $v \in V \setminus \{0\}$, i.e. the map $\langle \cdot, v \rangle v / \|v\|^2$, by P_v . More generally, orthogonal projection to a subspace $W \subset V$ is denoted by P_W .

Taking positive linear combinations of orthogonal projections leads to large number of examples of positive maps.

2.1.2 Real maps and adjoint

Dual cone thinking lets us also lift other important notions.

Definition 2.8. We say that a map $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is *real*, if

$$\langle Av, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$$

for any $v \in V$.

Definition 2.9. We say that a map $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is *imaginary*, if

$$\langle Av, v \rangle \in i\mathbb{R}$$

for any $v \in V$.

Definition 2.10. We say that a map $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is *strictly positive*, if

$$\langle Av, v \rangle > 0$$

for any $v \in V \setminus \{0\}$.

Map is strictly positive, if and only if it is positive and invertible, or equivalently, if it is real and has positive eigenvalues.

Families of real, imaginary and strictly positive maps are usually called Hermitian and Skew-Hermitian and positive definite. Reals maps will have a special role in our discussion. We write $A > 0$ if A is strictly positive. They form a vector space over \mathbb{R} , which is denoted by $\mathcal{H}(V)$. Of course, every imaginary map is just i times real map, and we won't preserve any special notation for such maps. Also, they don't really play any role in this thesis anyway.

We can also lift the concept of complex conjugate.

Theorem 2.11. *For any $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ there exists unique map $A^* \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, called the adjoint of A , for which for any $v \in V$ we have*

$$\langle A^*v, v \rangle = \overline{\langle Av, v \rangle}$$

Proof. The uniqueness of adjoint is immediate from the Lemma 2.4. The map $(\cdot)^* : \mathcal{L}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(V)$ should evidently be conjugate linear, so for existence it suffices to find adjoint for suitable basis elements of $\mathcal{L}(V)$: the maps of the form $A = (x \mapsto \langle x, v \rangle w)$ for $v, w \in V$ will do.

The quadratic form for such map is given by

$$\langle Ax, x \rangle = \langle x, v \rangle \langle w, x \rangle.$$

But if we define $A^* = (x \mapsto \langle x, w \rangle v)$, we have

$$\langle A^*x, x \rangle = \langle x, w \rangle \langle v, x \rangle = \overline{\langle w, x \rangle \langle x, v \rangle} = \overline{\langle Ax, x \rangle}$$

for any $x \in V$, so A^* is indeed the adjoint of A . □

In more common terms: a adjoint of linear map $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is the unique map A^* such that

$$(2.12) \quad \langle Av, w \rangle = \langle v, A^*w \rangle$$

for any $v, w \in V$. This fact is easily verified by a polarization argument.

As real maps are their own adjoints, they are often appropriately called **self-adjoint**.

The previous observation makes many of the basic properties of adjoint, which we collect below, evident.

Theorem 2.13. *For any $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we have*

i) *Matrix of A^* with respect to any orthonormal basis is conjugate transpose of matrix of A , i.e. $A_{i,j}^* = \overline{A_{j,i}}$.*

ii) $(A^*)^* = A$

iii) $(A + B)^* = A^* + B^*$

iv) $(\lambda I)^* = \overline{\lambda} I$

v) $(AB)^* = B^* A^*$.

Using 2.12, adjoint could also be defined between arbitrary two inner product spaces. With this more general definition the maps

$$\begin{aligned} v : \mathbb{C} &\rightarrow V & v(x) &= xv \\ v^* : V &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} & v^*(w) &= \langle w, v \rangle \end{aligned}$$

will be adjoints of each other. This lets us rewrite one-dimensional projections conveniently in the form

$$P_v = \frac{1}{\|v\|^2} vv^*.$$

More generally, for subspace $W \subset V$ the orthogonal projection $V \rightarrow W$ is the adjoint of the inclusion $J_W : W \rightarrow V$.

2.1.3 More convincing

Positive maps have many other desirable properties. First of all, eigenvalues of a positive map are non-negative. This fact is a corollary of a more general property.

Definition 2.14. Let $W \subset V$ be a subspace and $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Then the **compression** of A to W , denoted by A_W is the linear map

$$J_W^* A J_W : W \rightarrow W.$$

Lemma 2.15. *Let $W \subset V$ and $A \geq 0$. Then also $A_W \geq 0$. In particular all the eigenvalues of A are non-negative.*

Proof. Note that quadratic form gives essentially the one-dimensional compressions. Indeed, if $W = \text{span}(v)$, then

$$A_W x = \frac{\langle Ax, v \rangle}{\langle v, v \rangle} v = \frac{\langle Av, v \rangle}{\langle v, v \rangle} x$$

for any $x \in \text{span}(v)$. This means that a map is positive, if and only if its compressions to one-dimensional subspaces are.

Now the trick is that nested compressions work nicely: if $W' \subset W \subset V$ and $A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, then $(A_W)_{W'} = A_{W'}$. Consequently, if every one-dimensional compression A is positive, same is true for all of its compressions.

By compressing to eigenspaces, we see that if A is positive, all its eigenvalues are non-negative. \square

In addition, (direct) sum of two positive maps is positive.

Lemma 2.16. *Let $A_1 \in \mathcal{L}(V_1)$ and $A_2 \in \mathcal{L}(V_2)$. Then $A_1 \oplus A_2 \in \mathcal{H}_+(V_1 \oplus V_2)$, if and only if $A_1 \in \mathcal{H}_+(V_1)$ and $A_2 \in \mathcal{H}_+(V_2)$.*

Proof. Recall that one defines $\langle (v_1, v_2), (w_1, w_2) \rangle_{V_1 \oplus V_2} = \langle v_1, w_1 \rangle_{V_1} + \langle v_2, w_2 \rangle_{V_2}$. Now clearly

$$\langle (A_1 \oplus A_2)(v_1, v_2), (v_1, v_2) \rangle_{V_1 \oplus V_2} = \langle A_1 v_1, v_1 \rangle_{V_1} + \langle A_2 v_2, v_2 \rangle_{V_2} \geq 0$$

for every $(v_1, v_2) \in V_1 \oplus V_2$, if and only if both $\langle A_1 v_1, v_1 \rangle_{V_1} \geq 0$ for every $v_1 \in V_1$ and $\langle A_2 v_2, v_2 \rangle_{V_2} \geq 0$ for every $v_2 \in V_2$. \square

2.2 Spectral theorem

The most important result in the theory of positive and real maps is the spectral theorem.

Theorem 2.17 (Spectral theorem, version 1). *$A \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is real, if and only there exists real numbers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ and pairwise orthogonal vectors $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \in V$ such that*

$$(2.18) \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i P_{v_i}.$$

Proof. We first prove the theorem for positive maps.

We already proved one direction: every map of the previous form is positive.

The other direction is tricky. The idea is to somehow find the vectors v_i . The problem is that such representation is by no means unique. If A is any projection for instance, we could let v_i 's be any orthonormal basis of the corresponding subspace (and λ_i 's be all equal to one). There's no vector one has to choose.

But we can think in reverse: there could be many vectors we cannot choose, depending on the map A . If A is any non-identity projection to subspace W , say, we can only choose v_i 's in W itself. Indeed, if $x \in W^\perp$, we have $Ax = 0$, and hence $\langle Ax, x \rangle = 0$. By comparing the quadratic form it follows $\langle P_{v_i} x, x \rangle = |\langle v_i, x \rangle|^2$ for any $1 \leq i \leq m$. But this means that $v_i \perp W^\perp$ and hence $v_i \in W$.

More generally, if it so happens that for some $v \in V$ we have $\langle Av, v \rangle = 0$, we must have $v_i \perp v$ for any $1 \leq i \leq m$. But this means that were there such representation, we should have the following.

Lemma 2.19. *If $A \in \mathcal{H}_+(V)$ and $\langle Av, v \rangle = 0$ for some $v \in V$, then $Av = 0$ and $Aw \perp v$ for any $w \perp v$.*

Before proving this lemma, we use it to complete the proof of Theorem 2.17.

Proof is by induction on n , the dimension of the space. If $n = 0$, the claim is evident. For induction step assume first that there exists $v \in V$ such that $\langle Av, v \rangle = 0$. Then by the lemma for any $w \in \text{span}(v)^\perp$ we have $Aw \in \text{span}(v)^\perp =: W$. But this means that $A = A_W \oplus 0$. Now A_W is also positive, and $\dim(W) < n$, so by the induction assumption we have numbers λ_i and vectors $v_i \in W$ for the map A_W . Such representation for A_W immediately gives one also for A .

We just have to get rid of the extra assumption on the existence of such v . But for this, note that if $\lambda = \inf_{|v|=1} \langle Av, v \rangle$, one may consider $B = A - \lambda I$. Now $\inf_{|v|=1} \langle Bv, v \rangle = 0$, and B is hence positive. Also, by compactness, the infimum is attained at some point v , so B satisfies our assumptions. Representation for B easily gives one for A .

Note that the previous trick also covers the case of a general real map. \square

Proof of Lemma 2.19. Take any $w \in V$. By assumption for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$ we have

$$\langle A(cv + w), cv + w \rangle = c\langle Av, w \rangle + \bar{c}\langle Aw, v \rangle + \langle Aw, w \rangle \geq 0$$

But this easily implies that $\langle Av, w \rangle = 0 = \langle Aw, v \rangle$ for any $w \in V$. The first equality implies that $Av = 0$ and the second that $Aw \perp v$ for any $w \in V$. \square

One may interpret that the spectral theorem is saying that 2.16 is essentially the only way to build real maps from identity. In the representation 2.18 the numbers λ_i are evidently the eigenvalues of A and vectors v_i the corresponding eigenvectors; this is why we call it the **Spectral representation**. While the representation is not unique, there is a way to make it unique. For this we have to change v_i to corresponding eigenspaces.

Theorem 2.20 (Spectral theorem, version 2). *Let $A \in \mathcal{H}(V)$. Then there exists unique non-negative integer m , distinct real numbers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m$ and (non-trivial) subspaces of V , $E_{\lambda_1}, E_{\lambda_2}, \dots, E_{\lambda_m}$ with $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^m E_i$, such that*

$$(2.21) \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_{E_{\lambda_i}}.$$

Moreover, this representation is unique.

Proof. Existence of such representation immediately follows from the previous form of spectral theorem. For uniqueness, note that λ_i 's are necessarily the eigenvalues of A and E_{λ_i} 's the corresponding eigenspaces. \square

Although the latter version is definitely of theoretical importance, we will mostly stick to the former, as it only contains one-dimensional projections and is thus easier to work with.

Spectral representation makes many of the properties of real maps obvious. For instance, any power of a real map is real: indeed, if $A = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i P_{v_i}$, then

$$A^2 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i P_{v_i} \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j P_{v_j} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_i \lambda_j P_{v_i} P_{v_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^2 P_{v_i},$$

since $P_v P_w = 0$ for $v \perp w$. By induction one can extend the previous to higher powers. In other words: eigenspaces are preserved under powers, and eigenvalues are the ones to get powered up. From the original definition of a real map this is not all that clear. One could even extend to polynomials. If $p(x) = c_k x^k + c_{k-1} x^{k-1} + \dots c_1 x + c_0$, with $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$, we should write

$$p(A) = c_k A^k + c_{k-1} A^{k-1} + \dots c_1 A + c_0 = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} p(\lambda_i) P_{v_i}.$$

This implies that if p is the characteristic polynomial of A , then $p(A) = 0$: the special case of the Cayley–Hamilton theorem. Moreover, the minimal polynomial of A is the polynomial with the eigenvalues of A as single roots.

But even better, if p is polynomial with all except one, say λ_i , of the eigenvalues of A as roots, then $p(A) = p(\lambda_i) P_{E_{\lambda_i}}$. In particular, the projections to eigenspaces of A are actually polynomials of A .

Fix $A \in \mathcal{H}(V)$ with eigenbasis $(v_i)_{i=1}^n$. For any $v \in V$ we have $Av = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i \langle v, v_i \rangle v_i$, so for instance

- $\langle Av, v \rangle = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i |\langle v, v_i \rangle|^2$: the quadratic form is just a positive linear combination of eigenvalues.
- $\|Av\|^2 = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i^2 |\langle v, v_i \rangle|^2 \leq (\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i^2) \|v\|^2$. Hence $\|A\| = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\lambda_i|$.

2.3 Matrix functions

2.3.1 Functional calculus

Given the spectral theorem, it is rather clear how one should define general matrix functions. We denote by $\mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ the elements of \mathcal{H} , the spectra of which lie in (a, b) .

Definition 2.22. For any $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$ $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the associated matrix function on V is the map $f_V : \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(V)$ given by

$$f_V(A) = \sum_{\lambda \in \text{spec}(A)} f(\lambda) P_{E_\lambda}$$

if $A = \sum_{\lambda \in \text{spec}(A)} \lambda P_{E_\lambda}$.

Note that as the spectral representation is unique this definition makes sense. Matrix functions enjoy many natural and useful properties.

Proposition 2.23. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$*

1. *If $f[(a, b)] \subset (c, d)$ then $f_V(A) \in \mathcal{H}_{(c,d)}$.*
2. *If also $g : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ then $(f + g)_V = f_V + g_V$ and $(fg)_V = f_V g_V$.*
3. *$f_{V_1 \oplus V_2} = f_{V_1} \oplus f_{V_2}$.*
4. *If $g : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and f and g agree on spectrum of A , then $f(A) = g(A)$.*
5. *If $f[(a, b)] \subset (c, d)$ and $g : (c, d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ then $(g \circ f)_V = g_V \circ f_V$.*
6. *If $f_n : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ converge pointwise to f , then the same holds true for $(f_n)_V$'s.*

These properties make it clear that such definition is natural. We will drop the subscript V and identify f with its matrix function f_V if there is no fear of confusion.

There is one more property which is not all that trivial.

Proposition 2.24. *If $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then so is f_V .*

Ultimately this is a statement about eigenvalue dynamics: if two real maps are close to each other, so are their eigenvalues.

Lemma 2.25. *For any $A, H \in \mathcal{H}$ we have $\text{spec}(A + H) \subset \text{spec}(A) + [-\|H\|, \|H\|]$.*

Proof. By a suitable translation the claim is reduced to the following: if all eigenvalues of A are greater than $\|H\|$ in absolute value, then $A + H$ is invertible. Note that in this case the eigenvalues of A^{-1} are less than $\|H\|^{-1}$ in absolute value and hence $\|A^{-1}H\| \leq \|A^{-1}\|\|H\| < 1$. It follows that all the eigenvalues of $A^{-1}H$ are less than 1 in absolute value, so $I + A^{-1}H$ is invertible: hence is also $A(I + A^{-1}H) = A + H$. \square

Note that the previous lemma implies that $\mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ or more generally \mathcal{H}_U is an open set (in \mathcal{H}) for any open $U \subset \mathbb{R}$, where \mathcal{H}_U is defined as one would expect.

Proof of proposition 2.24. By Lemma 2.25 f_V is clearly continuous at $A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ at least if $f(A) = 0$. But if this is not the case, we may interpolate f_V by a polynomial: find a polynomial p with $p(\lambda) = f(\lambda)$ for $\lambda \in \text{spec}(A)$ and write $f = p + g$. Now g_V is continuous at A . Also, as

$$(A + H)^k = A^k + O(\|H\|)$$

for any $k \geq 0$, so is p_V and hence also f_V . \square

Previous argument also implies a bit more general claim: f_V is continuous at A , if and only if f is continuous at $\text{spec}(A)$.

2.3.2 Holomorphic functional calculus

If f is entire, there's another way to approach the concept of matrix functions. Since f can be written as

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n,$$

power series convergent for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we should have

$$f_V(A) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n A^n.$$

This matrix power series indeed converges as $\|A^n\| \leq \|A\|^n$. Also, this definition coincides with the spectral one. Indeed, if one writes $f_n : z \mapsto \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k$, we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n A^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [(f_n)_V(A)] = f_V(A)$$

by part (6) of proposition (2.23).

Note that the power series definition makes perfect sense even if $a_n \notin \mathbb{R}$ or if A is not real.

If f is not entire, the power series might not converge for every $A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$. Instead, we can use Cauchy's integral formula for matrix functions.

$$f_V(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} (zI - A)^{-1} f(z) dz,$$

where γ is simple closed curve enclosing the spectrum of A (contained in the domain of f). This formula is immediate when viewed in a eigenbasis of A and again, the formula makes perfect sense even if A is not real.

2.4 Real maps and composition

2.4.1 Commuting real maps

Warning! Composition of positive maps need not be positive!

Since for any $A, B \in \mathcal{H}(V)$ we have $(AB)^* = B^*A^* = BA$, product of two real maps is real, if and only if the maps commute. So: when do two real maps commute?

It turns out that real maps commute, if and only if they are **simultaneously diagonalizable**, i.e. if there exists vectors v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n and numbers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ and $\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots, \lambda'_n$ such that

$$A = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda_i P_{v_i} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \lambda'_i P_{v_i}.$$

A similar statement holds for arbitrary families of commuting real maps.

Theorem 2.26. *Let $\mathcal{A} = (A_j)_{j \in J}$ be an arbitrary family of commuting real maps. Then there exists $m \geq 1$ and a decomposition $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^m E_i$, such that*

$$\mathcal{A} \subset \text{span}\{P_{E_i} | 1 \leq i \leq m\}.$$

Proof. As with the spectral theorem, the main difficulty is finding the “eigenspaces” E_i . Trick is the following: recall that we may find eigenprojections of a real map as certain polynomials of the map itself. This motivates us to investigate all multivariate polynomials of maps in \mathcal{A} : these maps should include also the maps P_{E_i} . So let $\mathcal{A}' \subset \mathcal{L}(V)$ be the smallest (unital) \mathbb{R} -algebra containing \mathcal{A} . Note that \mathcal{A}' is commutative and elements of it are real maps. As \mathcal{A}' is finite dimensional and closed under taking polynomials, it is spanned by projections to a finite set of subspaces of V . To find the subspaces E_i , we should find a spanning set of projections which is minimal in some sense. It turns out one minimizing $\sum \dim(E_i)$ works. If we manage to prove that in such minimal spanning set the subspaces E_i are orthogonal, we are done, as the respective projections also span I and the family \mathcal{A} .

Note that for any $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ the map $A := P_{E_i} P_{E_j}$ is a projection, as it is real (P_{E_i} and P_{E_j} commute) and $A^2 = P_{E_i} P_{E_j} P_{E_i} P_{E_j} = P_{E_i}^2 P_{E_j}^2 = P_{E_i} P_{E_j} = A$. But as $\text{im}(A) \subset E_i, E_j$, the maps $P_{E_0} := A, P_{E'_i} := P_{E_i} - A$ and $P_{E'_j} := P_{E_j} - A$, are projections in \mathcal{A}' spanning P_{E_i} and P_{E_j} . Since $\dim(E_0) + \dim(E'_i) + \dim(E'_j) = \dim(E_i) + \dim(E_j) - \dim(E_0)$, by the minimality of $(E_i)_{i=1}^m$ we must have $\dim(E_0) = 0$. Indeed, otherwise we could replace E_i and E_j by E_0, E'_i and E'_j . Consequently $P_{E_i} P_{E_j} = 0$, and hence $E_i \perp E_j$. \square

It is not very hard to see that the decomposition with minimal $m \geq 1$ is unique and attained by the previous construction.

The message is: if one wants products to preserve positivity, everything degenerates to \mathbb{R}^m , i.e. diagonal maps.

Philosophy 2.27. Commutativity kills the exciting phenomena.

Conversely, if one wants exciting things to happen, one should make things very non-commutative.

As a corollary to Theorem 2.26 we have

Corollary 2.28. *If $A, B \geq 0$ and A and B commute, then $AB \geq 0$.*

2.4.2 Symmetric product

As normal product doesn't quite work with positivity, next attempt might be symmetrized product

$$S(A, B) = AB + BA,$$

(or maybe with normalizing constant $\frac{1}{2}$ in the front), instead of the usual one. It turns out that even this doesn't fix positivity.

For one-dimensional projections things go as badly as they possibly can.

Proposition 2.29. *If $v, w \in V \setminus \{0\}$, then*

$$P_v P_w + P_w P_v \geq 0,$$

if and only if v and w are parallel or orthogonal, i.e. if and only if P_v and P_w commute.

Proof. Since everything is happening in a (at most) two-dimensional subspace of V , we may assume that V is two-dimensional in the first place. Note that

$$P_v P_w + P_w P_v = (P_v + P_w)^2 - P_v^2 - P_w^2 = (P_v + P_w)^2 - P_v - P_w = A^2 - A = A(A - I),$$

where $A := P_v + P_w$. This is positive, if and only if the eigenvalues of A lie outside the interval $(0, 1)$. But since $\text{tr}(A) = 2$ and $A \geq 0$, the only way this can happen is that either A has double eigenvalue 1 or A has eigenvalues 0 and 2. To conclude the claim itself, we are left to do two reality checks:

Lemma 2.30. *If $A = P_v + P_w = I$, then v and w are orthogonal.*

Proof. Note that $\langle v, v \rangle = \langle Av, v \rangle = \langle P_v v, v \rangle + \langle P_w v, v \rangle = \langle v, v \rangle + |\langle v, w \rangle|^2 / \langle v, v \rangle$, so $\langle v, w \rangle = 0$. \square

Lemma 2.31. *If $A = P_v + P_w = 2P_u$ for some $u \in V$, then v, w and u are all parallel.*

Proof. Take $u' \in (u)^\perp$. Since $0 = \langle 2P_u u', u' \rangle = \langle P_v u', u' \rangle + \langle P_w u', u' \rangle = |\langle v, u' \rangle|^2 / \langle v, v \rangle + |\langle w, u' \rangle|^2 / \langle w, w \rangle \geq 0$, we have $\langle v, u' \rangle = 0 = \langle w, u' \rangle$. Consequently $v, u \in ((u)^\perp)^\perp = (u)$. \square

\square

For more general positive maps things aren't much better. One could for instance prove that

Proposition 2.32. *Let $A \in \mathcal{H}$ such that $AB + BA \geq 0$ for any $B \geq 0$. Then $A = \alpha I$ for some $\alpha \geq 0$.*

2.4.3 *-conjugation

Despite all the negative news, there's one non-trivial non-commutative way to produce positive maps from others, called *-conjugation. Given any two positive maps A and B , their composition need not be positive, but the map BAB is. First of all, it is real as $(BAB)^* = B^*A^*B^* = BAB$. Also $\langle BABv, v \rangle = \langle A(Bv), (Bv) \rangle \geq 0$ for any $v \in V$. An identical argument shows that one may replace B by an arbitrary $C \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ in the following sense.

Definition 2.33. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{H}$. We say that B is ***-conjugate** of A if for some $C \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ we have $B = C^*AC$.

Proposition 2.34. *If $A \geq 0$ and B is *-conjugate of A , then also $B \geq 0$.*

2.5 Loewner order

Definition 2.35. If $A, B \in \mathcal{H}(V)$, we write that $A \leq B$ if $B - A \geq 0$. If $B - A > 0$, we write $A < B$.

Proposition 2.5 tells us that \leq , is indeed a partial order on the \mathbb{R} -vector space of real maps: this partial order is called **Loewner order**. More explicitly, we have the following properties:

Proposition 2.36. (i) *If $A \leq B$ then $\alpha A \leq \alpha B$ for any $\alpha \geq 0$.*

(ii) *If $A \leq B$ and $B \leq C$ then $A \leq C$.*

(iii) *If $A \leq B$ and $B \leq A$ then $A = B$.*

(iv) *$\lambda I \leq A$, if and only if all the eigenvalues of A are at least λ . Similarly $A \leq \lambda I$, if and only if all the eigenvalues of A are at most λ .*

Example 2.37. If $W_1, W_2 \subset V$ are two subspaces of V we have $P_{W_1} \leq P_{W_2}$ if and only if $W_1 \subset W_2$. Indeed if $W_1 \subset W_2$ then $W_2 = W_1 \oplus W_3$ for some $W_3 \subset V$ and hence $P_{W_2} = P_{W_1} + P_{W_3} \geq P_{W_1}$. Converse follows as soon as one notes that by 2.19 for any $W \subset V$ we have

$$\{v \in V \mid \langle P_W v, v \rangle = 0\} = W^\perp.$$

△

Key thing here is to note that multiplication by positive map doesn't preserve Loewner order. This is the reason why many standard arguments don't work for general real maps.

For example if $0 < a \leq b$, with real numbers one could multiply the inequality by the positive number $(ab)^{-1}$ to get $0 < b^{-1} \leq a^{-1}$. This doesn't quite work with linear maps anymore.

*-conjugation is a way to partially fix this deficiency: it works almost like multiplying by a positive number.

Proposition 2.38. *If $A \leq B$, then for any $C \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ we have $C^*AC \leq C^*BC$.*

Using the previous observation one can salvage the above argument.

Theorem 2.39. *If $0 < A \leq B$, then $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$.*

Proof. As mentioned, we can't really multiply by $(AB)^{-1}$, as it does not preserve the order and doesn't even need to be positive. We can almost multiply by A^{-1} though: *-conjugate by $A^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. This preserves the order, and we get

$$I \leq A^{-\frac{1}{2}}BA^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Now, one would want to multiply by B^{-1} , that is *-conjugate by $B^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, but B is in the middle, so that doesn't seem too helpful. But we can continue with the original strategy instead: since $I \leq X := A^{-\frac{1}{2}}BA^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ we have $X^{-1} \leq I$ (by 2.36 (iv)), that is

$$A^{\frac{1}{2}}B^{-1}A^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq I.$$

Now simply *-conjugate by $A^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. □

Remark 2.40. Alternatively, as the middle step we could conjugate both sides by $X^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. By doing this we have only used *-conjugation in the proof: actually we have *-conjugated altogether with

$$A^{-\frac{1}{2}}(A^{-\frac{1}{2}}BA^{-\frac{1}{2}})^{-\frac{1}{2}}A^{-\frac{1}{2}} = (A^{\frac{1}{2}}(A^{-\frac{1}{2}}BA^{-\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}A^{\frac{1}{2}})^{-1}.$$

The map $A^{\frac{1}{2}}(A^{-\frac{1}{2}}BA^{-\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}A^{\frac{1}{2}}$, which is real, is usually called the geometric mean of A and B . The point is: somewhat curiously we can almost do the original proof: just replace multiplication by *-conjugation by square root, and replace square root of the product by geometric mean. △

2.6 Notes and references

All results in this chapter are classic and can be found in numerous books on linear algebra, for instance in [5] and [4].

Chapter 3

Matrix monotone functions – part 1

Definition 3.1. We say that $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is n -monotone or matrix monotone of order n , if for any $(n \times n$ matrices) $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$, such that $A \leq B$ we have $f(A) \leq f(B)$.

We will denote the space of n -monotone functions on open interval (a, b) by $P_n(a, b)$. We will also denote

$$P_\infty(a, b) = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} P_n(a, b).$$

By Theorem 1.8 we have

Proposition 3.2. *The sets $P_n(a, b)$ and $P_\infty(a, b)$ are closed convex cones.*

Note that in the notation $P_n(a, b)$ we don't specify the space V ; it doesn't matter.

Proposition 3.3. *If $\dim(V) = \dim(V')$, then f is n -monotone in V , if and only if it is n -monotone in V' .*

Proof. The reason is rather clear: inner product spaces of same dimension are isometric. \square

3.1 Examples

Proposition 3.4. *If $\alpha \geq 0$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $(x \mapsto \alpha x + \beta) \in P_n(a, b)$.*

Proof. Assume that for $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ we have $A \leq B$. Now

$$f(B) - f(A) = (\alpha B + \beta I) - (\alpha A + \beta I) = \alpha(B - A).$$

Since by assumption $B - A \geq 0$ and $\alpha \geq 0$, also $\alpha(B - A) \geq 0$, so by definition $f(B) \geq f(A)$. This is exactly what we wanted. \square

Proposition 3.5. *If $0 \notin (a, b)$, we have $(x \mapsto -x^{-1}) \in P_n(a, b)$.*

Proof. The result follows easily from Theorem 2.39. \square

By the previous proposition also $(x \mapsto (\lambda - x)^{-1}) \in P_n(a, b)$ for any $\lambda \notin (a, b)$, so by the cone property

$$(3.6) \quad x \mapsto \alpha x + \beta + \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{t_i}{\lambda_i - x} \in P_n(a, b)$$

for any $\alpha, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$ and $\beta, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m$ where $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m \notin (a, b)$.

3.2 Basic properties

Below we collect many natural properties of the cones $P_n(a, b)$.

Proposition 3.7. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) *f is increasing.*
- (ii) *$f \in P_1(a, b)$.*
- (iii) *For any positive integer n and commuting $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ such that $A \leq B$ we have $f(A) \leq f(B)$.*

Proof. (ii) \Rightarrow (i): Take any $a < x \leq y < b$. Now for $xI, yI \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ we have $xI \leq yI$ so by definition

$$f(x)I = f(xI) \leq f(yI) = f(y)I,$$

from which it follows that $f(x) \leq f(y)$.

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii): All 1×1 matrices commute.

(i) \Rightarrow (iii): If $A \leq B$ and A and B commute, by Theorem 2.26 we may write $A = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i P_{v_i}$ and $B = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda'_i P_{v_i}$ for some $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda'_1, \dots, \lambda'_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n , orthonormal basis of V , with $\lambda_i \leq \lambda'_i$. But now $f(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(\lambda_i) P_{v_i}$ and $f(B) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(\lambda'_i) P_{v_i}$ so

$$f(B) - f(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n (f(\lambda'_i) - f(\lambda_i)) P_{v_i}.$$

But this is positive, since, as f is increasing, the numbers $f(\lambda'_i) - f(\lambda_i)$ is non-negative. \square

Proposition 3.8. *If $f : (a, b) \rightarrow (c, d)$ and $g : (c, d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are n -monotone, so is $g \circ f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.*

Proof. Fix any $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ with $A \leq B$. By assumption $f(A) \leq f(B)$ and $f(A), f(B) \in \mathcal{H}_{(c,d)}$ so again by assumption, $g(f(A)) \leq g(f(B))$, our claim. \square

Proposition 3.9. *We have $P_{n+1}(a, b) \subset P_n(a, b)$.*

Proof. Take $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}(V)$ with $A \leq B$. For any $c \in (a, b)$ we have $(A \oplus c), (B \oplus c) \in \mathcal{H}(V \oplus \mathbb{C})$ and $(A \oplus c) \leq (B \oplus c)$. Consequently, if $f \in P_{n+1}(a, b)$, we have

$$f_V(A) \oplus f(c) = f_{V \oplus \mathbb{C}}(A \oplus c) \leq f_{V \oplus \mathbb{C}}(B \oplus c) = f_V(B) \oplus f(c),$$

which implies that $f(A) \leq f(B)$. \square

It turns out that these inclusions are strict, as long as our interval is not the whole \mathbb{R} .

There are also more trivial inclusions: $P_n(a, b) \subset P_n(c, d)$ for any $(a, b) \supset (c, d)$. Bigger interval, more matrices, more restrictions, fewer functions. To be precise, one should say that if $(a, b) \supset (c, d)$ and $f \in P_n(a, b)$, then also $f|_{(c,d)} \in P_n(c, d)$.

3.3 Failures

Most of the common monotone functions fail to be matrix monotone. Let's try some non-examples.

Proposition 3.10. *Function $(x \mapsto x^2)$ is not n -monotone for any $n \geq 2$ on $(0, \infty)$.*

Proof. Let us first think what goes wrong with the standard proof for the case $n = 1$.

Note that if $A \leq B$,

$$B^2 - A^2 = (B - A)(B + A)$$

is positive as a product of two positive matrices (real numbers).

There are two fatal flaws here when $n > 1$.

- $(B - A)(B + A) = B^2 - A^2 + (BA - AB)$, not $B^2 - A^2$.
- Product of two positive matrices need not be positive.

Note that both of these objections result from the non-commutativity and indeed, both would be fixed should A and B commute.

Let's write $B = A + H$ ($H \geq 0$). Now we are to investigate

$$(A + H)^2 - A^2 = AH + HA + H^2.$$

While $H^2 \geq 0$, as we have noticed in proposition 2.29, $AH + HA$ need not be positive! Also, if H is small enough, H^2 is negligible compared to $AH + HA$. So simply pick $A, H \geq 0$ such that $AH + HA \not\geq 0$: for small enough $t > 0$ we have $(A + tH)^2 - A^2 \not\geq 0$. To be entirely honest, we only gave examples of such A and H with $\text{rank}(A) = 1$, so $A \notin \mathcal{H}_{(0,\infty)}$. This deficit is however easily fixed by looking at $A_\varepsilon = A + \varepsilon I$ for $\varepsilon > 0$. \square

By a bit more careful arguments one could show that $(x \mapsto x^2)$ is not n -monotone for any $n \geq 2$ on any open interval.

As a corollary with get

Corollary 3.11. *The function $\chi_{(0,\infty)}$ is not n -monotone for any $n \geq 2$.*

Proof. If $\chi_{x>0}$ were n -monotone so would be

$$x^2 = \int_0^\infty 2t\chi_{(t,\infty)}(x)dt.$$

\square

The function $\chi_{(0,\infty)}$ is in some sense canonical counterexample: every increasing function is more or less positive linear combination of its translates, so if monotone functions are not all matrix monotone, the reason is that it is not matrix monotone. For this reason we should really understand why it is not n -monotone for any $n > 1$.

The idea is the following: we are going to take $n = 2$ and construct $A, B \in \mathcal{H}(V)$ with the following properties:

1. $A \leq B$
2. A and B have both exactly one positive eigenvalue
3. A and B don't commute

If we can do this, A and B work as counterexamples. Indeed then $\chi_{(0,\infty)}(A) = P_{v_1}$ and $\chi_{(0,\infty)}(B) = P_{w_1}$ where eigenvectors v_1 and w_1 are eigenvectors of A and B corresponding to positive eigenvalues. Since A and B don't commute, $v_1 \neq w_1$, and hence $\chi_{(0,\infty)}(A) \not\leq \chi_{(0,\infty)}(B)$ by 2.37.

Constructing such pair is very easy: just take A with eigenvalues -1 and 1 and consider B of the form $A + tH$ for some $H \geq 0$, $t > 0$ and such that A and H do not commute. For small enough t all of the conditions are easily satisfied.

As we saw with the square function example, product of two n -monotone functions need not be n -monotone in general, even if they are both positive functions. Similarly, taking maximums doesn't preserve monotonicity.

Proposition 3.12. *Maximum of two n -monotone functions need not be n -monotone for $n \geq 2$.*

Proof. Again, let's think what goes wrong with the standard proof for $n = 1$.

Take $n \geq 2$, $f, g \in P_n(a, b)$ and $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ with $A \leq B$. We have $f(A) \leq f(B) \leq \max(f, g)(B)$ and $f(A) \leq f(B) \leq \max(f, g)(B)$. It follows that

$$\max(f, g)(A) = \max(f(A), g(A)) \leq \max(f, g)(B),$$

as we wanted.

Here the flaw is in the expression $\max(f(A), g(A))$: what is maximum of two matrices? It turns out that however one tries to define it, the above inequality doesn't work.

For counterexamples take $f \equiv 0$ and $g = \text{id}$: it's easy to see that we can take same pair as with $\chi_{(0,\infty)}$ as our counterexample. \square

The maximum problem is not too bad and maybe it's more of a pleasant surprise anyway that it holds for increasing functions. But there is a very fundamental problem hidden in the square example.

Proposition 3.13. *Let $n \geq 2$. Then there exists no $\alpha > 0$, and no open interval $(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that $\alpha x + x^2 \in P_n(a, b)$.*

Proof. Adding linear term just means translating domain and codomain, which is not going to help: $x^2 + \alpha x = (x + \frac{\alpha}{2})^2 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4}$. \square

Why is this bad? If $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is not too bad (say Lipschitz), for large enough α the function defined by $g(x) = f(x) + \alpha x$ is increasing. But we can't necessarily do the same thing in the matrix setting even for smooth or analytic functions. Although this might not be such a big surprise or a bad thing in the first place, it is worthwhile to investigate the underlying reason.

Let $f(x) = \alpha x + x^2$ and take $A, H \geq 0$. As observed earlier, we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(A + tH) - f(A)}{t} = \alpha H + HA + AH$$

In the real setting we could just increase α to make the previous expression positive. In the matrix setting there is a problem: note that if H is of rank 1, increasing α means "increasing the right-hand side only to one direction". Now, if the right-hand side is not positive map in the first place, it might be non-positive in a big subspace, so rank

1 machinery is not going to save the day. Note also that even if we let $A \rightarrow 0$ (look at matrix function at 0), the situation isn't a priori better.

On the other hand if $n = 2$, for instance, there is not too much room for things to go south. We still, a priori, can't guarantee positivity with α , but adding also something extra, say βx^3 for some $\beta > 0$ might work. In the end, there isn't too much space in the 2-dimensional space.

When n gets larger we have more and more space to worry about, so we should start worrying about more and more Taylor coefficients.

This leads us to expect two things:

1. Larger the dimension n , the more Taylor coefficients should be under some kind of control.
2. For fixed n we can (at least locally) guarantee n -monotonicity by controlling certain number of first Taylor coefficients.

3.4 Heuristics

3.4.1 Taylor coefficients

Let us try to push the ideas of the previous section further. Take entire $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k$ and assume that $0 \in (a, b)$. Note that as for any $k > 0$

$$(A + B)^k = \sum_{i=0}^k \sum_{\substack{j_0, \dots, j_i \geq 0 \\ j_0 + \dots + j_i = k-i}} A^{j_0} B A^{j_1} B \dots B A^{j_i},$$

we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(A + tH) - f(A)}{t} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} A^j H A^{i-1-j}.$$

If $f \in P_{\infty}(a, b)$, this expression should be positive for $A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ and $H \geq 0$. Let us denote

$$Df_A(H) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(A + tH) - f(A)}{t},$$

derivative of a matrix function at A in the direction H . As the derivative is linear in H , it suffices to consider the case $\text{rank}(H) = 1$. Let's say $H = vv^*$ for some $v \in V$ and take

any $w \in V$. Now we should have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle Df_A(H)w, w \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \langle A^j H A^{i-1-j} w, w \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \langle A^{i-1-j} w, v \rangle \langle A^j v, w \rangle \\ &\geq 0\end{aligned}$$

for any $v, w \in V$. Write $c_j = \langle A^j v, w \rangle$ and observe that $\langle A^j w, v \rangle = \overline{\langle A^j v, w \rangle} = \overline{c_j}$. It follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \overline{c_{i-1-j}} c_j = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} a_{i+j+1} c_i \overline{c_j} \geq 0$$

for some kind of sequences $(c_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$. This implies that if the infinite matrix $(a_{i+j+1})_{i,j \geq 0}$ is positive, then f is matrix monotone. What about the converse?

It is not very hard to see that

$$c_j = \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \lambda_i(A)^j$$

for some $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n \in \mathbb{C}$. Conversely, if the eigenvalues of A are simple, we can control first n terms of $(c_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$ by choice of v and w . Indeed: this is just saying that the matrix $(\lambda_j(A)^{i-1})_{i,j}^n$ has full column rank, which follows from the fact that its row rank is full by polynomial interpolation. This implies the following:

Proposition 3.14. *If f is a polynomial with $2 \leq \deg(f) \leq n$, then $f \notin P_n(a, b)$.*

Proof. Observe that if the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_{n-1} & a_n \\ a_2 & a_3 & \dots & a_n & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ a_{n-1} & a_n & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ a_n & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is positive, then $a_2 = a_3 = \dots = a_n = 0$. □

If f is not polynomial such conclusions are harder to make, as we can only control first c_i 's. Nevertheless, also the converse holds.

Theorem 3.15. $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$, if and only if f is analytic and the infinite matrix $(a_{i+j-1})_{i,j \geq 1}$, where $a_k = f^{(k)}(x)/k!$ and $x \in (a, b)$, is positive for any $x \in (a, b)$.

As one would hope, there's corresponding result for the classes $P_n(a, b)$.

Theorem 3.16. $f \in P_n(a, b)$, if and only if $(a_{i+j-1})_{1 \leq i,j \leq n}$, where $a_k = f^{(k)}(x)/k!$ and $x \in (a, b)$, is positive for any $x \in (a, b)$.

Only now there's a problem: it turns out that function in $P_n(a, b)$ need not be analytic, or even $(2n - 1)$ times differentiable, so the condition should be understood in the distributional sense.

Theorem 3.15 is an answer question 1.2, and it is one of the two main theorems of this thesis.

3.4.2 Main argument

Let us try to prove the “only if” -directions of these results modulo regularity issues.

Proof “sketch” of the “only if” of 3.16. Denote the matrix in question by $M(= M_n(x, f))$. We may w.l.o.g. take $x = 0 \in (a, b)$. The idea is the following: we know that $\langle Df_A(H)w, w \rangle$ is positive for any $A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$, $H \geq 0$ and $w \in V$ and should prove that $\langle Mv, v \rangle \geq 0$ for any $v \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Best we could hope for is that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \langle Df_{A_\varepsilon}(H_\varepsilon)w_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon \rangle = \langle Mv, v \rangle$$

for some $H_\varepsilon \geq 0$, $w_\varepsilon \in V$, $A_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$, with $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} A_\varepsilon = 0$. This works.

To find $H_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon, A_\varepsilon$, we change the point of view. Recall that if f is entire we have

$$f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_\gamma (zI - A)^{-1} f(z) dz.$$

Now we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f(A + tH) - f(A)}{t} &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_\gamma \frac{(zI - A - tH)^{-1} - (zI - A)^{-1}}{t} f(z) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_\gamma (zI - A - tH)^{-1} H (zI - A)^{-1} f(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $t \rightarrow 0$, we find that

$$Df_A(H) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_\gamma (zI - A)^{-1} H (zI - A)^{-1} f(z) dz.$$

Next, take $H = vv^*$ for $v \in V$ and pick $w \in V$: we have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle Df_A(H)w, w \rangle &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \langle (zI - A)^{-1}vv^*(zI - A)^{-1}w, w \rangle f(z)dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle \langle (zI - A)^{-1}w, v \rangle f(z)dz.\end{aligned}$$

Note that we can write $\langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle = \det(zI - A)^{-1}q(z)$ where q is some polynomial of degree less than n . Moreover, if A has n distinct roots and v is not orthogonal to any eigenvector of A , varying w gives all such polynomials q , so we can rewrite our object as

$$(3.17) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \det(zI - A)^{-2}q(z)\overline{q(\bar{z})}f(z)dz.$$

Taking $A \rightarrow 0$ reveals that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{q(z)\overline{q(\bar{z})}}{z^{2n}} f(z)dz.$$

But actually this is all we wanted. Indeed, since by the Cauchy's integral formula we have

$$\frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)dz}{z^{k+1}}$$

for any $k \geq 0$, so we can write

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} a_{i+j-1} c_i \bar{c}_j &= \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} c_i \bar{c}_j \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)dz}{z^{i+j}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{c_i}{z^i} \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\bar{c}_i}{z^i} \right) f(z)dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{q(z)\overline{q(\bar{z})}}{z^{2n}} f(z)dz,\end{aligned}$$

where we write $q(z) = \sum_{i=1}^n z^{n-i} c_i$. □

Proof “sketch” of the “only if” of 3.15. t.f.i.f. 3.16. □

Note that the proof gives also alternate interpretation for the matrix M . Positivity of M means simply that for $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$ the function $f(x)q(x)\overline{q(\bar{x})} = f(x)|q(x)|^2$ has non-negative $(2n-1)$ 'th derivative.

The main problem of the argument is the regularity. While we assume f to be entire mainly for convenience, we need some kind of regularity to make sense of the definition: it is a priori not even clear that functions in $P_{\infty}(a, b)$ should be continuous. Origin of these regularity properties is the topic of the next chapter.

3.5 Notes and references

Matrix monotone functions were first introduced and discussed by Loewner in [15], and since then, basic properties thereof have been examined in numerous sources. While this thesis doesn't follow any particular text, the book by Donoghue [9] and lecture notes by Hiai [12] have served as bodies of endless inspiration.

Maximum of real maps is discussed in detail in [1].

Loewner himself characterized the n -monotone functions on (a, b) as functions for which the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} f'(\lambda_1) & \frac{f(\lambda_1)-f(\lambda_2)}{\lambda_1-\lambda_2} & \dots & \frac{f(\lambda_1)-f(\lambda_n)}{\lambda_1-\lambda_n} \\ \frac{f(\lambda_2)-f(\lambda_1)}{\lambda_2-\lambda_1} & f'(\lambda_2) & \dots & \frac{f(\lambda_2)-f(\lambda_n)}{\lambda_2-\lambda_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{f(\lambda_n)-f(\lambda_1)}{\lambda_n-\lambda_1} & \frac{f(\lambda_n)-f(\lambda_2)}{\lambda_n-\lambda_2} & \dots & f'(\lambda_n) \end{bmatrix},$$

called Loewner matrix, is positive for any $a < \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n < b$. It's not hard to show that positivity of (3.17) is essentially a reformulation of this condition. Theorems 3.16 and 3.15 were first observed by Dobsch (a student of Loewner) in [8], but they were not rigorously proven until [9].

Chapter 4

k -tone functions

4.1 Motivation

To understand the regularity properties of the matrix monotone functions we look at a closely related class of k -tone functions. k -tone functions are more or less functions with non-negative k 'th derivative¹. What should that mean?

We already know the perfect answer for the case $k = 1$: 1-tone functions should be the increasing functions.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable. Then f is increasing, if and only if $f'(x) \geq 0$ for every $x \in (a, b)$.*

Proof. If f is increasing, then all its divided differences, i.e. the quotients of the form

$$\frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y}$$

for $x \neq y$ are non-negative. As derivatives are limits of such quotients, also they are non-negative at any point. Conversely, by the mean value theorem for every $x \neq y$ we may find ξ such that

$$\frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y} = f'(\xi).$$

Now if the derivatives are non-negative, so are the divided differences, so the function is increasing. □

¹The terminology is not very established, and such functions are also occasionally called k -monotone or k -convex.

While this proof by the mean value theorem works in more general setting, if $f \in C^1$, one has more instructive proof.²

Alternate proof for the theorem 4.1 (in the case $f \in C^1(a, b)$). If $f \in C^1(a, b)$, we may write

$$\frac{f(y) - f(x)}{y - x} = \frac{1}{y - x} \int_x^y f'(t) dt = \int_0^1 f'(tx + (1 - t)y) dt.$$

Note that on the right-hand side we have average of the derivative over the interval. This means that the claim can be translated to: continuous function is non-negative, if and only if its averages over all intervals are non-negative. But this is clear. \square

This is a really powerful point of view. While one would like to say the increasing functions are the functions with non-negative derivative, that's a bit of a lie. Instead, one can say that they are the functions whose derivative is non-negative on average, and all the problems are gone. This should roughly mean that the derivative defines a positive distribution and it is hence a measure. Thus all increasing functions should be integrals of a positive measure (at least almost everywhere). Although this kind of thinking could be carried out, the details aren't important for us. The main point is that one should think that increasing functions, i.e. the 1-tone functions are functions whose first derivative is a (positive) measure. The divided differences are an averaged (i.e. weak) way of talking about the positivity of the derivative (measure).

This is essentially the distributional way of thinking, and we could keep going and end up with the whole business of weak derivatives and stuff. But we don't have to: the plain averages suffice. We write

$$[x, y]_f := \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y},$$

and say that $[\cdot, \cdot]_f$ is the (first) divided difference of f . The domain of $[\cdot, \cdot]_f$ should naturally be $(a, b)^2$ minus the diagonal. And of course, if $f \in C^1$, we should extend $[\cdot, \cdot]_f$ to the diagonal, as the derivative. Divided differences then becomes a continuous function on the whole set $(a, b)^2$.

Aside from capturing the first derivative, divided difference have two rather convenient properties.

- For given x and y , $f \mapsto [x, y]_f$ defines a linear map, which is continuous with the topology of pointwise convergence (i.e. the product topology).

²The following argument would also work with slightly weaker assumptions, but that's not important to us.

- Divided differences are local in the sense that if f and g agree on $\{x, y\}$, divided differences agree.

These are the ways that divided difference is a compromise between the real derivative and the weak derivative. The first point says that one doesn't have to worry too much, only about pointwise convergence, while the second says that things are still rather concrete.

What about the case $k = 2$? Again, we already know the perfect answer: 2-tone functions should be the convex functions.

Theorem 4.2. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be twice differentiable. Then f is convex, if and only if $f^{(2)}(x) \geq 0$ for every $x \in (a, b)$.*

Proof. While the result is true as stated, let us only prove the case $f \in C^2(a, b)$ (we'll come back to the more general case). Recall that f is convex, if and only if for any $x, y \in (a, b)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$ we have

$$tf(x) + (1 - t)f(y) \geq f(tx + (1 - t)y).$$

The alternate proof of theorem 4.1 suggests that we may write

$$tf(x) + (1 - t)f(y) - f(tx + (1 - t)y) = \int_x^y w(t)f^{(2)}(t)dt$$

for some weight w . Note that if we manage to find such weight, which is non-negative (and positive enough), we would be done.

How to find the weight w ? The idea is rather simple: we want to “sieve out” the values of w by choosing f such that $f^{(2)} = \delta_a$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$ (in some sense). Now, this should mean that $f(t) = (t - a)_+ + ct + d$ for some $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$, where we write $t_+ = \max(t, 0)$. Plugging this in on the left hand side we get

$$t(x - a)_+ + (1 - t)(y - a)_+ - (tx + (1 - t)y - a)_+ = w(a).$$

Now, while the steps taken might have contained some leaps of faith, it can be easily verified with partial integration that the given w really works. \square

The giveaway is that while the divided differences are a convenient averaged way to talk about first derivative, the quantity $tf(x) + (1 - t)f(y) - f(tx + (1 - t)y)$ is a convenient averaged way to talk about the second derivative. It captures the fact that the second derivative should be a positive measure – without talking about derivatives. We won't call the quantity the second divided difference, however, as, as it turns out, we can rewrite it in much more convenient form.

If we denote $z = tx + (1 - t)y$, we can solve that $t = \frac{z-y}{x-y}$ and express

$$\begin{aligned} & tf(x) + (1 - t)f(y) - f(tx + (1 - t)y) \\ = & \frac{z - y}{x - y}f(x) + \frac{x - z}{x - y}f(y) - f(z) \\ = & -(z - y)(z - x) \left(\frac{f(x)}{(x - y)(x - z)} + \frac{f(y)}{(y - z)(y - x)} + \frac{f(z)}{(z - x)(z - y)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If $t \notin \{0, 1\}$, $-(z - y)(z - x)$ is positive, so if f is convex,

$$\frac{f(x)}{(x - y)(x - z)} + \frac{f(y)}{(y - z)(y - x)} + \frac{f(z)}{(z - x)(z - y)} \geq 0$$

for any x, y and z such that z is between x and y . This new expression is symmetric in its variables, so actually there's no need to assume anything on the order of x, y and z , just that they're distinct. We can also easily carry this argument to the other direction: if the expression is non-negative for any distinct x, y and z , then f is convex. This motivates us to define

$$[x, y, z]_f := \frac{f(x)}{(x - y)(x - z)} + \frac{f(y)}{(y - z)(y - x)} + \frac{f(z)}{(z - x)(z - y)}$$

as the second divided difference of f .

One would hope that by setting

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f := \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{f(x_i)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)},$$

one obtains something that naturally generalizes divided differences for higher orders. This is indeed the case.

4.2 Divided differences

Define $D_n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x_i = x_j \text{ for some } 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$.

Definition 4.3. Let $n \geq 0$. For any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we define the corresponding n 'th divided difference $[\dots]_f : (a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1}$ by setting

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{f(x_i)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)}.$$

We will soon prove that divided differences (of order n) are simply weighted averages of the n 'th derivative.

4.2.1 Basic properties

Divided differences have the following important properties.

Proposition 4.4. *Divided differences are symmetric in the variable, i.e. for any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and pairwise distinct $a < x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n < b$ permutation $\sigma : \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ we have*

$$[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f = [x_{\sigma(0)}, x_{\sigma(1)}, x_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}]_f.$$

If f is continuous, so are the divided differences. Finally, for fixed (pairwise distinct) $a < x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n < b$ the map $[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] : \mathbb{R}^{(a,b)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is linear and continuous (with respect to the topology of pointwise convergence).

Proof. Easy to check. □

The name “divided differences” stems from the fact that the higher order divided differences are itself (usual) divided differences of lower order ones.

Proposition 4.5. *For any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and pairwise distinct $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in (a, b)$ we have*

$$(4.6) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \frac{[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f - [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f}{x_0 - x_n} = [x_0, x_n]_{[\cdot, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f}$$

More generally, for any pairwise distinct $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m \in (a, b)$ we have

$$(4.7) \quad [y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m]_{[\cdot, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f} = [y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f.$$

Proof. 4.6 is easy to check directly. For 4.7 note that both

$$[y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m]_{[\cdot, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f} \text{ and } [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]_f$$

satisfy 4.6 (as a function of the y 's) and they agree when $m = 1$. □

We call 4.7 the *nesting property* of divided differences. Although the analogy isn't perfect, one could think that this identity says that m 'th derivative of the n 'th derivative is the $(m + n)$ 'th derivative.

The following observation tells us that the divided differences work as n 'th derivative insomuch that it kills polynomials of degree less than n , and works with degree n as expected, up to a constant at least.

Proposition 4.8. *We have $[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{(x \mapsto x^n)} = 1$ and $[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_p = 0$ for any polynomial p of degree at most $n - 1$. In other words, $[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f$ is the leading coefficient of the interpolation polynomial on pairs $(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$.*

Proof. As the interpolation polynomial of a polynomial of degree at most n on a dataset of $(n+1)$ pairs is the polynomial itself, the second claim readily implies the first. Recall that the Lagrange form of the interpolation polynomial of a dataset $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ is given by

$$\sum_{i=0}^n y_i \frac{\prod_{j \neq i} (x - x_j)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)},$$

and the leading coefficient of this polynomial is exactly the divided difference. \square

4.2.2 Peano representation

Coming back to the original motivation, divided differences enjoy an integral representation also for larger n .

Theorem 4.9. *If $f \in C^n(a, b)$, then for any pairwise distinct $a < x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n < b$ we have*

$$(4.10) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f^{(n)}(t) w(t) dt,$$

where

$$(4.11) \quad w(t) := w_{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n}(t) = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{((x_i - t)_+)^{n-1}}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)}.$$

In addition, w is non-negative, supported on $[\min(x_i), \max(x_i)]$ and integrates to $(n!)^{-1}$.

The case $n = 1$ of definition 4.11 should be understood with convention $0^0 = 0$.

Proof. Note that the weight is simply the n 'th divided difference of the map $g_{t,n} : x \mapsto ((x-t)_+)^{n-1}/(n-1)!$. This is not very surprising: one should think that $g_{t,n}$ is the function whose n 'th derivative is δ_t . If we plug in $f = g_{t,n}$, (as in the proof of 4.2), we, at least morally, get the claim. While the previous argument could be pushed through, we take safer route. To prove that the formula even makes sense, we should prove the claim on the support. It is clear that w is zero whenever $t \geq \max(x_i)$. If on the other hand $t \leq \min(x_i)$, $w(t)$ agrees with the n 'th divided difference of the map $x \mapsto (x-t)^{n-1}/(n-1)!$, which is zero by the proposition 4.8.

We may hence repeatedly partially integrate the right-hand side:

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\mathbb{R}} f^{(n)}(t)w(t)dt &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f^{(n-1)}(t)(-1)w'(t)dt \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f^{(n-2)}(t)w^{(2)}(t)dt \\
&= \dots \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f^{(1)}(t)(-1)^n w^{(n-1)}(t)dt,
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$(-1)^n w^{(n-1)}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\chi_{(t,\infty)}(x_i)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)}.$$

Note that $w^{(j)}$ is continuous, piecewise C^1 , and compactly supported for every $0 \leq j < n-1$, so the partial integration is legitimate. The final step is an easy calculation.

Applying the identity to $x \mapsto x^n$ shows the claim on the integral of w .

Only non-negativity remains: we prove it by induction on n . The case $n=1$ is clear. The idea is rather simple: we should prove that the functions $g_{t,n}$ have non-negative divided differences, which should roughly mean it has non-negative n 'th derivative (being δ_t). By the nesting property we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{g_{t,n}} = [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{[\cdot, x_n]_{g_{t,n}}}.$$

Now if we could replace $[\cdot, x_n]_{g_{t,n}}$ with the derivative of $g_{t,n}$, which is conveniently $g_{t,n-1}$, we would be done by the induction hypothesis. Note that while these functions aren't the same in general, they agree (up to constant) if $x_n = t$. But if $x_n \neq t$, we can play the same game as before: $[\cdot, x_n]_{g_{t,n}}$ is weighted average of the derivative $g'_{t,n} = g_{t,n-1}$. Indeed, as

$$[\cdot, x_n]_{g_{t,n}} = \int_0^1 g_{t,n-1}(s \cdot + (1-s)x_n)ds,$$

we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{[\cdot, x_n]_{g_{t,n}}} = \int_0^1 [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{g_{t,n-1}(s \cdot + (1-s)x_n)}ds,$$

Now since all the divided differences of $g_{t,n-1}$ are non-negative, the same is clearly true for $g_{t,n-1}(s \cdot + (1-s)x_n)$, so we are done. \square

The weight 4.11 is called **Peano kernel** (of order n). The points x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n are called the **nodes** of w .

As a very important corollary we get the following.

Theorem 4.12 (Mean value theorem for divided differences). *Let $f \in C^n(a, b)$. Then for any pairwise distinct $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in (a, b)$ we have*

$$\min_{0 \leq i \leq n} (x_i) < \xi < \max_{0 \leq i \leq n} (x_i)$$

such that

$$(4.13) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = \frac{f^{(n)}(\xi)}{n!}.$$

Proof. t.f.i.f. Theorem 4.9 and the mean value theorem for integrals. □

Alternate proof. By linearity and proposition 4.8 it suffices to verify the claim in the case where $f(x_i) = 0$ for $0 \leq i \leq n$.

Lemma 4.14. *If f is n times differentiable, and has $n + 1$ roots, then $f^{(n)}$ has a root (in the interior of the convex hull of the roots).*

Proof. If f has $n + 1$ roots, by the mean value theorem its derivative has n roots (in the interior of the convex hull of the roots of f) and is $(n - 1)$ times differentiable. Since the derivative satisfies the same assumptions for $n - 1$, the claim follows by induction. □

□

Note that the alternate proofs works even if f is merely n times differentiable.

The mean value theorem could be also used to prove the non-negativity of the weight w : if w were somewhere negative, one could construct a function with non-negative derivative and negative divided difference, which would contradict 4.13.

As in the case $n = 1$, if for $n > 1$ we can continuously extend divided differences to the set D_{n+1} , we should do that; we identify the resulting function with the original one. We will later prove that, as expected, this can be done, if and only if $f \in C^n(a, b)$. In this case by 4.13 the extension satisfies

$$[x_0, x_0, \dots, x_0]_f = \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!},$$

which together with 4.6 is enough to expand the divided differences with values of the function and its derivatives.

4.2.3 Cauchy's integral formula

Complex analysis offers a nice view on divided differences: if f is analytic, we may interpret divided differences as contour integrals.

Lemma 4.15 (Cauchy's integral formula for divided differences). *If γ is a simple closed counter-clockwise curve enclosing the numbers x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n , we have*

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{(z - x_0)(z - x_1) \cdots (z - x_n)} dz.$$

Proof. This is a direct consequence of the Residue theorem. \square

If all the points coincide, we get the familiar formula for the n 'th derivative. If f is a polynomial of degree at most $n - 1$, the integrand decays as $|z|^{-2}$ (at infinity) and the divided differences vanish, as expected. Also, for $z \mapsto z^n$ one can use the formula to calculate the n 'th divided difference with a residue at infinity. This formula is slightly more concisely expressed by writing $p_X(x) = \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$ for a sequence $X = (x_i)_{i=0}^n$. Now we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{p_X(z)} dz.$$

Cauchy's integral formula is a convenient way to think about several identities.

Example 4.16. We may express an interpolation polynomial of an analytic function f and sequence $X = (x_i)_{i=0}^n$ by

$$P_{X,f}(x) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{p_X(x) - p_X(z)}{x - z} \frac{f(z)}{p_X(z)} dz = [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{f|_{[x, \cdot]_{p_X}}}.$$

Indeed: $P_{X,f}(x_i)$ evaluates to $f(x_i)$ by Cauchy's integral formula. More generally, if some of the points coincide, we get the Hermite interpolation polynomial, as can be shown with slightly more careful considerations. \triangle

While the previous argument works strictly speaking only for analytic functions (and even then one would have to be careful with domains and γ), the identity holds more generally. The expression for $P_{X,f}$ can be expanded as some kind polynomial, coefficients of which are linear combinations of evaluations $f(x_i)$: such expressions make perfect sense irrespective of the regularity of f . Same is true for the evaluations of this polynomial at points x_i , numbers $P_{X,f}(x_i)$. We know that $P_{X,f}(x_i) = f(x_i)$ holds for all analytic (or at least entire) functions. On the other hand the map $f \mapsto P_{X,f}(x_i) - f(x_i)$ is simply a finite linear combination of point evaluations, so it vanishes for any function if we manage to prove that

Lemma 4.17. *For any pairwise distinct $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{C}$ and $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n \in \mathbb{C}$ there exists an entire function f with $f(x_i) = y_i$.*

Proof. Simply take f to be the interpolating polynomial. \square

One can also interpret such identities to be strictly formal: Cauchy's integral formula can be thought as a bijection between rational functions with simple poles and the span of δ -measures. Such signed measures look often simpler as rational functions.

4.2.4 Identities

Many of the familiar identities for the derivatives have analogs with divided differences. We won't need these formulas, but it's nevertheless nice to know that there are such. Also, they are not really more complicated than the derivative counterparts. On the contrary; the author honestly thinks that they are in fact easier to remember. One of the downsides of the divided difference identities is however that they are usually not symmetric with respect to the sequence x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n anymore. That's life.

Proposition 4.18. *Let $n, k, f, g, f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$ and x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n be such that the following identities make sense.*

(i) *(Newton expansion)*

$$(4.19) \quad \begin{aligned} f(x) = & [x_0]_f + [x_0, x_1]_f(x - x_0) + [x_0, x_1, x_2]_f(x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots \\ & + [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_{n-1}) \\ & + [x, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_n), \end{aligned}$$

in particular, if the points coincide we get the familiar Taylor expansion

$$(4.20) \quad f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} + [x, x_0, x_0, \dots, x_0]_f(x - x_0)^n,$$

(ii) *(Product rule)*

$$[x_0, x_1]_{fg} = [x_0]_f[x_0, x_1]_g + [x_0, x_1]_f[x_1]_g.$$

(iii) *(Leibniz rule)*

$$(4.21) \quad \begin{aligned} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{fg} = & [x_0]_f[x_0, \dots, x_n]_g + [x_0, x_1]_f[x_1, \dots, x_n]_g + \dots \\ & + [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f[x_{n-1}, x_n]_g + [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f[x_n]_g. \end{aligned}$$

More generally

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{f_1 f_2 \dots f_k} = \sum_{0=i_0 < i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{k-1} < i_k = n} \prod_{j=1}^k [x_{i_{j-1}}, \dots, x_{i_j}]_{f_j}$$

(iv) (Chain rule)

$$[x_0, x_1]_{f \circ g} = [g(x_0), g(x_1)]_f [x_0, x_1]_g$$

(v) (Faà di Bruno formula)

$$\begin{aligned} & [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_{f \circ g} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{0=i_0 < i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{k-1} < i_k = n} [g(x_{i_0}), g(x_{i_1}), \dots, g(x_{i_k})]_f \prod_{j=1}^k [x_{i_{j-1}}, \dots, x_{i_j}]_g \end{aligned}$$

Proof sketches. (i) Easy induction using 4.6. Notice that also this formula makes it clear that the divided difference agrees with the degree n coefficient of the interpolating polynomial.

(ii) Easy to check.

(iii) Induction using the product rule (i.e. the case $n = 1$) and the nesting rule 4.7. Alternatively one could write Newton expansions of both f and g with sequences (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) and $(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_0)$ and notice that the given sum gives exactly the leading term of the interpolating polynomial of fg . The more general case follows from the case of two functions by induction.

(iv) Easy to check.

(v) A bit tedious induction using the Leibniz rule and 4.6.

□

One might ask under what kind of conditions 4.19 leads to Newton series, i.e. we have

$$(4.22) \quad f(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} [z_0, z_1, \dots, z_i]_f (z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_{i-1}),$$

for some sequence z_0, z_1, \dots and analytic f . While Newton series can be globally rather subtle, locally they work almost like Taylor series.

Proposition 4.23. Let $z_\infty \in \mathbb{C}$, $\rho > 0$, $f : \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ analytic and $z_0, z_1, \dots \in \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho)$ sequence converging to z_∞ . Then 4.22 holds for any $z \in \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho)$.

Proof. We need to verify that the error term $[z, z_0, z_1, \dots, z_n]_f (z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_n)$ in Newton expansion tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$. But for any $\rho' < \rho$ such that $z, z_0, z_1, \dots \in \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho')$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [z, z_0, z_1, \dots, z_n]_f (z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_n) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho')} \frac{(z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_n)}{(w - z)(w - z_0)(w - z_1) \cdots (w - z_n)} f(w) dw. \end{aligned}$$

As $z_n \rightarrow z_\infty$, the absolute values of the quotients $(z - z_n)/(w - z_n)$ tend to $|z - z_\infty|/|\rho'| < 1$ uniformly on $\partial \mathbb{D}(z_\infty, \rho')$ and hence the integrand tends uniformly to 0. \square

In similar vein one could prove that if f is entire, its Newton series converge whenever $(z_i)_{i \geq 0}$ is bounded. Note that 4.22 easily implies the identity theorem for analytic functions.

4.2.5 k -tone functions

Definition 4.24. Function $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called k -tone if for any $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k \in (a, b)$ of distinct points we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k]_f \geq 0,$$

i.e. the k 'th divided difference is non-negative.

We denote the space of k -tone functions by on interval (a, b) by $P^{(k)}(a, b)$.

Theorem 4.25. Let k be an non-negative integer. Then $P^{(k)}(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}^{(a, b)}$ is a closed convex cone.

Proof. t.f.i.f Theorem 1.8. \square

Mean value theorem tells us that C^k k -tone functions are exactly the functions with non-negative k 'th derivative.

The cones $P^{(k)}(a, b)$ aren't quite salient. Instead we have

$$[\cdot, \cdot, \dots, \cdot]_f = 0 \Leftrightarrow f \text{ is a polynomial of degree less than } k.$$

This suggests that a better object of study should be $\mathbb{R}^{(a, b)}$ quotiented by polynomials of degree less than k . We won't follow that trail, however.

4.3 Locality

One of the properties of the divided differences, which might not be clear from the definition, is that they can also be used to model local phenomena. One of the important properties of the k -tone functions is that if a function is k -tone on two overlapping intervals, then the function is k -tone on their union. While this definitely holds for C^k functions, it's not really clear how to change the argument for the general case.

If one thinks that k -tone functions have k 'th derivative as a positive measure, the locality property should be thought of a special case of a general property of distributions.

Proposition 4.26. *Let $a < c < b < d$ and μ distribution on (a, d) , restriction of which to (a, b) and (c, d) is a positive measure. Then μ is a positive measure.*

Proof. We should prove that $\mu(f)$ is non-negative for every non-negative test function f on (a, d) . But every such function can be written as sum of two non-negative test functions, f_1 and f_2 , f_1 supported on (a, b) and f_2 on (c, d) , so $\mu(f) = \mu(f_1) + \mu(f_2) \geq 0$ by the assumption. \square

The key idea in the proof was to split the test functions to two parts, one supported on (a, b) and one on (c, d) . One can do the same with Peano kernels, except larger the order k , the more parts we need.

Lemma 4.27. *Let $a < c < b < d$ be reals and w a Peano kernel supported on (a, d) . Then w can be written as a (finite) weighted average of Peano kernels, all of which are supported either on (a, b) or on (c, d) .*

Proof. Let n be the order of the Peano kernel and let $a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n < d$ be the nodes of w .

The case $n = 1$ is rather clear: we simply split characteristic function of an interval to characteristic function of two intervals. In terms of the kernels, if $a < x_0 < c < b < x_1 < d$, we can pick $c < y_0 < b$ and write

$$w_{x_0, x_1} = \frac{y_0 - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} w_{x_0, y_0} + \frac{x_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} w_{y_0, x_1} :$$

this is a sought decomposition.

The case $n = 2$ is not much harder. Peano kernels of order 2 are essentially triangles sitting on x -axis, corners of which have distinct x -coordinates. So we have one such triangle and we should split it to smaller triangles in such a way that

- No triangle has two equal x -coordinates.
- All triangles have all their corners' x -coordinates either on (a, b) and (c, d) .

We call such triangles good. While the above picture should be rather convincing already, one can write an general algorithm generating such decomposition.

Input: A triangle (Peano kernel of order 2) supported on (a, d) .

Output: A decomposition of the input as a positive linear combination of triangles all supported completely either on (a, b) or (c, d) .

Step 1. If the triangle is good already, we are done.

Step 2. Pick $y_0 \in (c, b)$, which does not coincide with any of the x_0, x_1, x_2 .

Step 3. Divide the triangle into two triangles with x -coordinates (x_0, x_1, y_0) and (x_1, x_2, y_0) .

Step 4. Run this algorithm recursively for these two triangles.

Why does this algorithm terminate? Note that if any of the x_i 's are in (c, b) , the triangle is either good or $x_1 \in (c, b)$ (or maybe both). In the former case we are done, and in the latter the two parts of the split are both good. If none of x_i 's are in (c, b) , both of the parts of the split has a coordinate in (c, b) , so also this case leads to a good split. In other words we can keep splitting triangles in such a way that they either become good or they have more nodes on (c, b) .

It's easy to verify that splitting the triangle corresponds to the identity

$$w_{x_0, x_1, x_2} = \frac{y_0 - x_0}{x_2 - x_0} w_{x_0, x_1, y_0} + \frac{x_2 - y_0}{x_2 - x_0} w_{x_1, x_2, y_0}.$$

When $n > 2$, the geometric picture is largely lost (at least by the author), but the algebra generalizes perfectly: we can still split Peano kernels using the following identity:

$$(4.28) \quad w_{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n} = \frac{y_0 - x_0}{x_n - x_0} w_{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, y_0} + \frac{x_n - y_0}{x_n - x_0} w_{x_1, \dots, x_n, y_0}.$$

Where does this come from? Recall that the Peano kernels are just the divided differences of the functions $g_{t,n} = ((\cdot - t)_+)^{n-1}/(n-1)!$. The first identity immediately generalizes to

$$[x_0, x_1]_f = \frac{y_0 - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} [x_0, y_0]_f + \frac{x_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} [y_0, x_1]_f,$$

where f is now any function. By the nesting property the identity 4.28 is nothing more than the previous identity applied to $f = [\cdot, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{g_{t,n}}$. Note that we need $x_0 < y_0 < x_n$, so that the weighted average is really a convex combination.

Now we are ready to generalize the algorithm to bigger n :

Input: A Peano kernel of order n supported on (a, d) .

Output: A Decomposition of the input as a positive linear combination of Peano kernels of order n , all supported completely either on (a, b) or (c, d) .

Step 1. If the kernel is good already, we are done.

Step 2. Pick $y_0 \in (c, b)$, which does not coincide with any of the x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n .

Step 3. Divide the kernel to two kernels with nodes (x_0, x_1, \dots, y_0) and (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_0) as in the 4.28.

Step 4. Run this algorithm recursively for these two kernels.

This algorithm terminates basically because of the same reason: if the kernel isn't good already, the two splits have more nodes on (c, b) , and this quantity cannot increase forever. \square

While this property is of independent interest, the real use of it is its generalization to divided differences.

Lemma 4.29. *Let $a < c < b < d$ be reals and $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in (a, d)$. Then we may find $N, M \in \mathbb{N}$, sequences $(y_{0,i}, \dots, y_{n,i})$ and $(z_{0,j}, \dots, z_{n,j})$ and numbers p_i and q_j for $1 \leq i \leq N$ and $1 \leq j \leq M$, such that*

- $\sum_{i=1}^N p_i + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j = 1$ and $p_i, q_j \geq 0$ for every $1 \leq i \leq N$ and $1 \leq j \leq M$.
- $y_{0,i}, y_{1,i}, \dots, y_{n,i}$ are pairwise distinct elements of (a, b) for every $1 \leq i \leq N$.
- $z_{0,j}, z_{1,j}, \dots, z_{n,j}$ are pairwise distinct elements of (c, d) for every $1 \leq j \leq M$.
- For every $f : (a, d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \sum_{i=1}^N p_i [y_{0,i}, y_{1,i}, \dots, y_{n,i}]_f + \sum_{j=1}^M q_j [z_{0,j}, z_{1,j}, \dots, z_{n,j}]_f.$$

Proof. Proof is almost identical to that of the Lemma 4.27: we more or less just replace the identity 4.28 by

$$(4.30) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f = \frac{y_0 - x_0}{x_n - x_0} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, y_0]_f + \frac{x_n - y_0}{x_n - x_0} [x_1, \dots, x_n, y_0]_f,$$

which is valid because of essentially the same reasoning, and replace the word “kernel” with word “tuple”. \square

The proof of 4.27 gives that we may take N and M (in 4.29) with $N + M \leq 2^n$. With slightly more careful argument one can achieve $M + N \leq n + 1$.

We are now ready to prove the locality property of the k -tone functions.

Proposition 4.31. $P^{(k)}$ is a local property i.e. $P^{(k)}(a, b) \cap P^{(k)}(c, d) \subset P^{(k)}(a, d)$ for any $-\infty \leq a \leq c < b \leq d \leq \infty$. To be more precise, if $f : (a, d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f|_{(a,b)} \in P^{(k)}(a, b)$ and $f|_{(c,d)} \in P^{(k)}(c, d)$, then $f \in P^{(k)}(a, d)$.

Proof. t.f.i.f. Lemma 4.29. □

Note that we could have also used the splitting property 4.30 to slightly simplify the proof of Theorem 4.9. Recall that in the induction step we were to prove that the function $g_{t,n}$ is n -tone for any $n \geq 1$. We also observed that by the induction hypothesis

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, t]_{g_{t,n}} = \frac{1}{n-1} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{g_{t,n-1}} = \frac{1}{n-1} w_{x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}}(t) \geq 0$$

for any x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} . But this readily implies that the divided differences are non-negative on all tuples as we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n]_{g_{t,n}} \\ &= \frac{t - x_0}{x_n - x_0} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, t]_{g_{t,n}} + \frac{x_n - t}{x_n - x_0} [x_1, \dots, x_n, t]_{g_{t,n}} \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} \frac{t - x_0}{x_n - x_0} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{g_{t,n-1}} + \frac{1}{n-1} \frac{x_n - t}{x_n - x_0} [x_1, \dots, x_n]_{g_{t,n-1}} \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Of course, this approach only works if $\min(x_i) \leq t \leq \max(x_i)$, but if this is not the case, the divided differences are zero anyway. The previous identity can be also used to recursively compute Peano kernels.

Remark 4.32. The above arguments are a bit awkward and one might be tempted to think that one should instead consider positive linear combinations of Peano kernels, called (positive) splines, to get better analogue for the “locality of distributions” -proof. For $k \leq 3$ positive splines can be also characterized as suitable non-negative piecewise polynomial functions, but for $k > 3$ there’s a problem: positive splines are merely subclass thereof. △

4.4 Regularity

The real power of the divided differences comes in when they are used to carry regularity information.

Theorem 4.33. Let $k \geq 2$. Then $f \in P^{(k)}(a, b)$, if and only if $f \in C^{k-2}(a, b)$ and $f^{(k-2)}$ is convex, i.e. 2-tone.

“Proof”. Let $f \in P^{(k)}(a, b)$. Since $f^{(k)}$ is a positive measure, $f^{(k-1)}$ is increasing and $f^{(k-2)}$ is convex. As convex functions are continuous, we are done with \Rightarrow . Conversely, if $f \in C^{k-2}(a, b)$ and $f^{(k-2)}$ is convex, then $f^{(k-2)}$ has second derivative as a positive measure. But this measure is also the k 'th derivative of f , so $f \in P^{(k)}(a, b)$. \square

In this section we will translate the previous argument to the language of the divided differences.

The first step is to connect the divided differences of a function to the divided differences (of one lower order) of the derivative.

Lemma 4.34. *Let $f \in C^1(a, b)$. Then for any (pairwise distinct) $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in (a, b)$ we have*

$$(4.35) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{f'} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f$$

and

$$(4.36) \quad \begin{aligned} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f &= \int_0^1 [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{f'(s+(1-s)x_n)} ds \\ &= \int_0^1 [sx_0 + (1-s)x_n, \dots, sx_{n-1} + (1-s)x_n]_{f'} s^{n-1} ds. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Note that divided differences of f have repeated entries in the first identity. As mentioned, these values of the divided difference are defined as a continuous extension. We will take the existence of this extension given for now.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{f'} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{\frac{f(\cdot+h)-f(\cdot)}{h}} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_{f(\cdot+h)} - [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-1} + h]_f - [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f}{h}. \end{aligned}$$

Now the approach is basically the same as with differentiation of multivariate functions: we write the difference as sum of n telescoping differences, where only one of the entries

is changed at a time.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-1} + h]_f - [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f}{h} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{[x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-1} + h]_f - [x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-2} + h, x_{n-1}]_f}{h} \right. \\
&\quad + \frac{[x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-2} + h, x_{n-1}]_f - [x_0 + h, x_1 + h, \dots, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}]_f}{h} \\
&\quad + \dots \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{[x_0 + h, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f - [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f}{h} \right) \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\sum_{i=0}^n [x_0 + h, \dots, x_{i-1} + h, x_i + h, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Now assuming the claim on the continuity, the limit is exactly what we wanted.

First equality of second claim was already essentially proved in the proof of Theorem 4.9; the second is a simple computation. \square

Analogous telescoping trick gives also the following identity.

Proposition 4.37. *Let x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n and y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n be pairwise distinct points on (a, b) . Then for any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we have*

$$(4.38) \quad [y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}]_f - [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]_f = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} [x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i, y_i, y_{i+1}, \dots, y_{n-1}]_f (y_i - x_i).$$

Next step is to connect the regularity of divided differences to regularity of divided differences of the derivative. Denote

$$D_{n,m} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | x_{i_1} = x_{i_2} = \dots = x_{i_m} \text{ for some } 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m \leq n\}.$$

Note that $D_{n+1,2}$ is exactly the set where the divided differences aren't defined. Still, if f is smooth enough, we should be able to continuously extend the divided differences to this set, or at least to some subset set of it. This thinking leads to the following notion of the regularity of a function.

Definition 4.39. Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $k \geq 0$. We call f *weakly C^k* (on (a, b)), or write $f \in C_w^k(a, b)$, if its order k divided differences can be continuously extended to $(a, b)^{k+1}$.

Since $(a, b)^{k+1} \setminus D_{k+1,2}$ is dense in $(a, b)^{k+1}$, such extension is necessarily unique.

Our aim is to prove that a function is weakly C^k , if and only if it's C^k . This trivially holds for $k = 0$.

Lemma 4.40. *Let $n \geq k$. Then $f \in C_w^k(a, b)$, if and only if the order n divided differences of f extend continuously to $(a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1,k+2}$.*

Proof. Let us denote

$S(n, k, f) = \text{"order } n \text{ divided differences of } f \text{ extend continuously to } (a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1,k+2}"$.

As $S(k, k, f)$ is just saying that $f \in C_w^k(a, b)$, it is enough to prove that for any $n > k$ we have $S(n-1, k, f) \Leftrightarrow S(n, k, f)$.

\Rightarrow : Assume $S(n-1, k, f)$ and take any $x = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \in (a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1,k+2}$. Since $n+1 \geq k+2$, we may assume that $x_0 \neq x_n$. But now by the assumption the map

$$(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto \frac{[y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}]_f - [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n]_f}{y_0 - y_n}$$

extends continuously to some neighbourhood of x (in $(a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1,k+2}$), and since this map agrees with the n 'th order divided differences on $(a, b)^{n+1} \setminus D_{n+1,2}$ by 4.6, it gives the continuous extension to x .

\Leftarrow : Assume then $S(n, k, f)$. Take any $x = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in (a, b)^n \setminus D_{n,k+2}$ and additional point $(z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1})$ with pairwise distinct components and $x_i \neq z_j$ for $0 \leq i, j \leq n-1$. Now the map

$$(y_0, \dots, y_{n-1}) \rightarrow [z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}]_f + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} [z_0, \dots, z_{i-1} z_i, y_i, y_{i+1}, \dots, y_{n-1}]_f (y_i - z_i)$$

is continuous on some neighbourhood of x in $(a, b)^n \setminus D_{n,k+2}$, and since it agrees with the order n divided differences on $(a, b)^n \setminus D_{n,2}$ (by proposition 4.37), it gives the extension at x . \square

Lemma 4.41. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $k \geq 1$. Then $f \in C_w^k(a, b)$, if and only if $f \in C^1(a, b)$ and $f' \in C_w^{k-1}(a, b)$.*

Proof. " \Rightarrow ": Let's start by proving that f is continuously differentiable. Lemma 4.40 easily implies that it is sufficient prove this for the case $k = 1$. But in this case we know that the limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} [x, x_0]_f = [x_0, x_0]_f$ exist and f is hence differentiable with $f'(x) = [x, x]_f$. Also, $x \mapsto [x, x]_f = f'(x)$ is continuous.

Now the identity 4.35 easily implies the claim.

“ \Leftarrow ”: By 4.36 it suffices to prove that the map

$$(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k) \rightarrow \int_0^1 [sx_0 + (1-s)x_k, \dots, sx_{k-1} + (1-s)x_k]_{f'} s^{k-1} ds.$$

is continuous. Since $f' \in C_w^{k-1}(a, b)$, the order $(k-1)$ divided differences are uniformly continuous on any compact subset of $(a, b)^k$. The integrand is consequently continuous with sup-norm and hence the whole map continuous. \square

Corollary 4.42. $f \in C_w^k(a, b)$ if and only if $f \in C^k(a, b)$.

Proof. Simply apply Lemma 4.41 inductively. \square

This continuity results implies (among many other things) that mean value theorem also holds for general tuples.

Corollary 4.43 (General mean value theorem for divided differences). *Let $f \in C^n(a, b)$ and $a < x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n < b$. Then there exists ξ with*

$$\min_{0 \leq i \leq n} (x_i) \leq \xi \leq \max_{0 \leq i \leq n} (x_i)$$

such that

$$(4.44) \quad [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = \frac{f^{(n)}(\xi)}{n!}.$$

Proof. t.f.i.f 4.13 and 4.42. \square

Just like one can carry regularity information, one can carry boundedness information.

Lemma 4.45. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $k \geq 2$. Then the k 'th order divided differences of f are bounded, if and only if $f \in C^1$ and the order $(k-1)$ divided differences of f' are bounded. Moreover, the bounds satisfy*

$$\sup_{a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{k-1} < b} |[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}]_{f'}| = k \sup_{a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_k < b} |[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k]_f|$$

Proof. The bounds follow rather immediately from the identities 4.35 and 4.36, so it only remains to verify that $f \in C^1$ given the conditions. Since the k 'th divided difference corresponds to k 'th derivative, if it is bounded, $(k-1)$ 'th derivative should be continuous. Since $k-1 \geq 1$, in particular f should be C^1 . How to translate this argument to divided differences? Lemma 4.41 allows us translate the claim “ $f \in C^{k-1}$ ” to “order $k-1$ divided difference of f can be continuously extended to $(a, b)^k$ ”. It is hence sufficient to prove that such extension is possible.

Lemma 4.37 immediately implies that $(k-1)$ 'th divided difference of f is Lipschitz. But Lipschitz functions on a dense set can be always extended to the whole space (as Lipschitz functions), so indeed, such extension can be done. \square

Theorem 4.46. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then $f \in C^{k-1}(a, b)$ and $f^{(k-1)}$ is Lipschitz, if and only if k :th divided difference of f is bounded. Moreover,*

$$\sup_{a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_k < b} |[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k]_f| = \frac{\text{Lip}(f^{(k-1)})}{k!}$$

Proof. Again, simply apply Lemma 4.45 inductively. \square

Finally, one can carry positivity.

Lemma 4.47. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $k \geq 3$. Then f is k -tone, if and only if $f' \in C^1(a, b)$ and f' is $(k-1)$ -tone.*

Proof. Again, only the claim on the regularity is non-trivial as the k -tone claim follows straightforwardly from 4.35 and 4.36. As with the bounded case the idea is that if f is k -tone $f^{(k)}$ is positive and hence $f^{(k-1)}$ is increasing, and consequently locally bounded. We should hence prove that the $(n-1)$ 'th divided differences are bounded, as then 4.45 would imply the claim. But this follow easily from 4.37. \square

Proof of the theorem 4.33. Yet again, simply apply Lemma 4.47 inductively. \square

4.5 Analyticity

Theorem 4.48. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then f is real analytic, if and only if for every closed subinterval $[c, d]$ of (a, b) there exists constant $C_{c,d}$ such that for any $n \geq 1$*

$$\sup_{a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n < b} |[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]_f| \leq C_{c,d}^{n+1}.$$

Proof. “ \Leftarrow ”: We need to prove that for any $x_0 \in (a, b)$ the Taylor series at x_0 converges in some neighbourhood of x_0 . As observed before, the n :th error term in Taylor series is given by

$$[x, x_0, x_0, \dots, x_0]_f (x - x_0)^n$$

with n x_0 's. Now choose $a < c < x_0 < d < b$ and take any x with $x \in [c, d]$ and $|x - x_0|C_{c,d} < 1$. But then the error term tends to zero and we are done.

“ \Rightarrow ”: Note that if $x_0 \in (a, b)$ and f extends to analytic function on $\mathbb{D}(x_0, r)$, we definitively have $\left| \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} \right| \leq C_{x_0}^{n+1}$ for some C_{x_0} . For $|x - x_0| < r$ we have

$$\frac{f^{(k)}(x)}{k!} = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \binom{n}{k} \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x - x_0)^{n-k},$$

which may be estimated by

$$\left| \frac{f^{(k)}(x)}{k!} \right| \leq C_{x_0}^{k+1} \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \binom{n}{k} C_{x_0}^{n-k} |x - x_0|^{n-k} = \frac{C_{x_0}^{k+1}}{(1 - |x - x_0| C_{x_0})^{k+1}},$$

whenever $|x - x_0| C_{x_0} < 1$. By the mean value theorem for divided differences it follows that we get required bound for some neighbourhood of x_0 and consequently, by compactness for any closed subinterval of (a, b) . \square

The previous result is some kind of relative of 4.46. Also Theorem 4.33 has rather interesting relative.

Theorem 4.49 (Bernstein's theorem). *If $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is k -tone for every $k \geq 0$, then f is real-analytic on (a, b) .*

Proof. We prove that the conditions of the Theorem 4.48 are satisfied. Pick any $a < x_0 < x < b$. Now for any $n \geq 0$ we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} (x - x_0)^k + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x - x_0)^n + [x, x_0, x_0, \dots, x_0]_f (x - x_0)^{n+1}.$$

Note that all the terms on the right-hand side are non-negative, and hence

$$0 \leq \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} \leq f(x)(x - x_0)^{-n}.$$

Now given any interval $[c, d] \subset (a, b)$ we can make such estimate uniform over $x_0 \in [c, d]$ simply by picking $x \in (d, b)$. \square

4.6 Notes and references

Most of the results of this chapter (with appropriate references), can be found in [7]. Faà di Bruno formula for divided differences (4.18 (v)) was first observed in [10].

k -tone functions are examined extensively by Popoviciu in [18]. The general philosophy “positivity of sufficiently many linear functionals leads to regularity” is well studied; see for example [14]. Theorem 4.49 is due to Bernstein in [3].

See [6] for plentiful of illustrations of Peano Kernels.

Chapter 5

Matrix monotone functions – part 2

5.1 Characterization

5.1.1 Main theorem

Let's come back to Theorem 3.15. Given polynomial q , we henceforth denote by q^* the polynomial with

$$q^*(z) = \overline{q(\bar{z})}.$$

Write further that $N(q) = qq^*$. Now Theorem 3.15 rewrites to

Theorem 5.1. $f \in P_n(a, b)$, if and only if $fN(q)$ is $(2n - 1)$ -tone for any $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$.

Main goal of this chapter is to prove this theorem. Note that in contrast to Theorem 3.15, Theorem 5.1 makes sense without any regularity assumptions. The new version also gives a resolution to the regularity issues related to its predecessor. Recall that $(2n - 1)$ -tone functions are C^{2n-3} and their $(2n - 3)$ 'th derivative is convex. As convex functions are twice differentiable almost everywhere (see for instance TODO), $fN(q)$ is $(2n - 1)$ times differentiable almost everywhere. We won't need these regularity properties, however.

There are also many different ways to talk about the polynomial part.

Lemma 5.2. *Let $h : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) h is a non-negative polynomial on real line with $\deg(h) \leq 2n$.
- (ii) There exists $q \in \mathbb{C}_n[x]$ such that $h = N(q)$.
- (iii) There exists $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{R}_n[x]$ such that $h = q_1^2 + q_2^2$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii): If h is non-negative on real axis, it's roots all appear in pairs (of which there are at most n): either with strict complex conjugate pairs, of pairs of double real roots. We may take q to be $\sqrt{a_n} \prod (z - z_i)$ where z_i range over representatives of all the pairs and a_n is the leading coefficient of h .

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii): If q has single conjugate pair $(z_0, \overline{z_0})$ of roots we have

$$(z - z_0)(z - \overline{z_0}) = z^2 - 2\Re(z_0)z + |z_0|^2 = (z - \Re(z_0))^2 + \Im(z_0)^2,$$

so we may take $q_1 = \cdot - \Re(z_0)$ and $q_2 = \Im(z_0)$. But if $N(q) = q_1^2 + q_2^2$ and $N(r) = r_1^2 + r_2^2$, then

$$N(qr) = N(q)N(r) = (q_1r_1 + q_2r_2)^2 + (q_1r_2 - q_2r_1)^2,$$

so polynomial of higher order can be dealt with inductively.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i): This is clear. □

To prove 5.1 we are going to verify that for any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$f \in P_n(a, b)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{2n-1}]_{fN(q)} \geq 0 \text{ for any } q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x] \text{ and } a < x_0 < \dots < x_{2n-1} < b.$$

Note that the proof of Theorem 3.15 (in particular identity 3.17) can be interpreted as saying

$$Df_A(H) \geq 0 \text{ for any } A \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)} \text{ and } H \geq 0 \text{ with } \text{rank}(H) = 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$[\lambda_1, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_n]_{fN(q)} \geq 0 \text{ for any } q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x] \text{ and } a < \lambda_1 < \dots < \lambda_n < b.$$

The idea of the proof was to note that the quadratic form of the derivative rewrites to such divided difference, where λ 's are the eigenvalues of A .

To avoid regularity issues we simply do the same thing without limits.

Definition 5.3. Let us call a triplet $(A, B, v) \in \mathcal{H}(V)^2 \times V$ a **projection pair** if $B - A = vv^*$. Let us further say that a projection pair (A, B, v) is **strict**, if v is not orthogonal to any eigenvector of A .

Lemma 5.4. *If $a < \lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < \dots < \lambda_{2n-1} < b$ and $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$, we may find a strict projection pair (A, B, v) such that*

$$\langle (f(B) - f(A))w, w \rangle = [\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{2n-1}]_{fN(q)}$$

for any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Conversely, if (A, B, v) is a strict projection pair and $w \in V$, then there exists $a < \lambda_0 < \lambda_1 < \dots < \lambda_{2n-1} < b$ and polynomial $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$, such that for any $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$\langle (f(B) - f(A))w, w \rangle = [\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{2n-1}]_{fN(q)}.$$

Before trying to understand the lemma we use it to prove Theorem 5.1.

Proof. “ \Rightarrow ”: t.f.i.f lemma 5.4.

“ \Leftarrow ”: Take any $aI < A \leq B < bI$. Write $B - A = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i P_{v_i}$ for some $c_i \geq 0$. To prove that $f(B) - f(A) \geq 0$ we simply need to prove that $f(A + \sum_{i=1}^k c_i P_{v_i}) - f(A + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} c_i P_{v_i}) \geq 0$ for any $1 \leq k \leq n$. We may hence assume that (A, B, v) is a projection pair.

We may also assume that (A, B, v) is strict. Indeed, if this is not the case, we can decompose $V = (v_1) \oplus V'$, where v_1 is an eigenvector of A orthogonal to v , and factorize $A = A_{(v_1)} \oplus A_{V'}$ and $B = A_{(v_1)} \oplus B_{V'}$. But now $f(B) - f(A) \geq 0$, if and only if $f(B_{V'}) - f(A_{V'}) \geq 0$, which would follow if we could prove that $f \in P_{n-1}(a, b)$. So we should just add the sentence “We induct on n .” as the first sentence of this proof.

The strict case follows immediately from the lemma 5.4. \square

Corollary 5.5. P_n is a local property: if $a < c < b < d$ and $f : (a, d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f|_{(a,b)} \in P_n(a, b)$ and $f|_{(c,d)} \in P_n(c, d)$, then $f \in P_n(a, d)$.

Proof. t.f.i.f Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 4.31. \square

5.1.2 Main lemma

It remains to understand what is going on with Lemma 5.4. Let us denote the eigenvalues of a real map A by $\lambda_1(A) \geq \lambda_2(A) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(A)$. Crux of Lemma 5.4 is the following fact.

Lemma 5.6. Let (A, B, v) be a projection pair. Then

$$\lambda_1(B) \geq \lambda_1(A) \geq \lambda_2(B) \geq \lambda_2(A) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(B) \geq \lambda_n(A).$$

(A, B, v) is strict if and only if all the inequalities are strict.

Conversely, given any two interlacing sequences $b_1 \geq a_1 \geq b_2 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq b_n \geq a_n$ there exists a projection pair (A, B, v) with $\lambda_i(A) = a_i$ and $\lambda_i(B) = b_i$.

This lemma is based on the following explicit relationship between characteristic polynomials of a projection pair.

Lemma 5.7. *Let (A, B, v) be a projection pair. Then*

$$\det(B - zI) = \det(A - zI) (1 + \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle)$$

and

$$\det(zI - B)(zI - B)^{-1}v = \det(zI - A)(zI - A)^{-1}v$$

Proof. Both of these identities should be understood as equalities between rational functions (to avoid problems at the spectra of A and B).

By the basic properties of the determinant we have

$$\begin{aligned} \det(B - zI) &= \det(A - zI) \\ &\quad + \|v\|^2 \det((A - zI)_{\text{span}(v)^\perp}) \\ &= \det(A - zI) + \|v\|^2 \det(A - zI) \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle / \|v\|^2 \\ &= \det(A - zI) (1 + \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle), \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality follows from the Cramer rule.

Multiplying both sides of the second claim from left by $zI - B$ simplifies to an equivalent claim

$$\det(zI - B)v = \det(zI - A)(1 + \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle)v,$$

which is just the first identity (multiplied by v). □

Proof of Lemma 5.6. Note that if v is orthogonal to one of the eigenvectors of A , P_v doesn't affect this eigenspace. Hence, as one easily checks, we may forget this eigenvector and restrict our attention to a smaller space. Similarly for the converse: if $a_i = b_j$ for some $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ we can forget a_i and b_j , and solve the remaining problem on smaller space. Consequently, we may assume that the pair (A, B, v) and the inequalities in the converse are strict.

Let $(e_i)_{i=1}^n$ be the eigenbasis of A and consider the rational function

$$z \mapsto 1 + \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|\langle v, e_i \rangle|^2}{\lambda_i(A) - z}.$$

It has n poles of negative residue so it has a root between any two poles. Also it tends to 1 at infinity so it has a root on $(\lambda_1(A), \infty)$. It has hence n distinct roots. All these roots are eigenvalues of B by Lemma 5.7 so they are exactly the eigenvalues. This implies the first claim.

For the converse, first take A with the given eigenvalues. By Lemma 5.7 we now just want to choose v in such a way that

$$\frac{p_B(z)}{p_A(z)} = 1 + \langle (A - zI)^{-1}v, v \rangle = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|\langle v, e_i \rangle|^2}{a_i - z},$$

But this is clearly achievable if can show that the residues of $p_B(z)/p_A(z)$ are negative, which follows easily from the interlacing property. Hence the converse. \square

Let us then complete the proof of Theorem 5.1 by proving the Lemma 5.4.

Proof of Lemma 5.4. Assume first that f is entire and fix a strict projection pair (A, B, v) and $w \in V$. Similarly to the “proof” of 3.16 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle (f(B) - f(A))w, w \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \langle (zI - B)^{-1}v, w \rangle \langle (zI - A)^{-1}w, v \rangle f(z) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{\det(zI - A)}{\det(zI - B)} \langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle \langle (zI - A)^{-1}w, v \rangle f(z) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{N(q)}{\det(zI - A) \det(zI - B)} f(z) dz \\ &= [\lambda_1(A), \dots, \lambda_n(A), \lambda_1(B), \dots, \lambda_n(B)]_{fN(q)}. \end{aligned}$$

where Lemma 5.7 was used in the second equality and we write $q(z) = \det(zI - A) \langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle$. By Lemma 4.17 or by suitable formal interpretation one sees that this identity holds without any regularity assumptions.

Now when (A, B, v) ranges over all strict projection pairs, the permutations of tuples

$$(5.8) \quad (\lambda_1(A), \dots, \lambda_n(A), \lambda_1(B), \dots, \lambda_n(B))$$

range over all tuples of $2n$ distinct numbers on (a, b) . Hence to prove the lemma, we should verify that for fixed strict projection pair (A, B, v) , as w ranges over V , q ranges over $\mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$. Note that the components of $\det(zI - A) \langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle$ with respect to an eigenbasis of A , $(e_j)_{j=1}^n$, are $p_j(z) = \langle v, e_j \rangle \prod_{i \neq j} (z - \lambda_i(A))$. But since $p_j(\lambda_i(A)) \neq 0$, if and only if $i = j$, the components are linearly independent over \mathbb{C} and hence span $\mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$. \square

To recap, the map

$$V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$$

$$w \mapsto \det(zI - A) \langle (zI - A)^{-1}v, w \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n p_j(z) \langle e_j, w \rangle$$

is antilinear bijection, the correspondence between w and q .

5.1.3 Dual pairing

Proof of Theorem 5.1 is actually missing one more detail we need in the induction step.

Lemma 5.9. *If $fN(q)$ is $(2n + 1)$ -tone for $q \in \mathbb{C}_n[x]$, then $fN(\tilde{q})$ is $(2n - 1)$ -tone for every $\tilde{q} \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$.*

To understand this result, recall that for analytic f and $a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{2n-1} < b$ we have

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{2n-1}]_{fN(q)} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{N(q)}{(z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_{2n-1})} f(z) dz,$$

for suitable γ . One way to interpret this identity is to consider it as a linear map: for given analytic f we have the map

$$r \mapsto \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} r(z) f(z) dz,$$

where r is a rational function with its poles in the domain of f . Note that all this makes formally sense for arbitrary f given that the poles of r are simple. This motivates us to define a dual pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_L$ (over \mathbb{R}) between $\mathbb{R}^{(a,b)}$ and rational functions with simple poles on (a, b) , for which

$$\langle f, r \rangle_L = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} r(z) f(z) dz,$$

for analytic f . We could of course replace (a, b) by any subset of \mathbb{C} .

Now Theorem 5.1 is just saying that $f \in P_n(a, b)$, if and only if $\langle f, r \rangle_L \geq 0$ whenever r is of the form

$$r(z) = \frac{N(q)}{(z - z_0)(z - z_1) \cdots (z - z_{2n-1})}$$

where $a < z_0 < \dots < z_{2n-1} < b$ and $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$. Let us denote this family of rational functions by $R_{+,n}(a, b)$. Now, in order to prove the lemma we should prove that we have

$$\text{cone}(R_{+,n}(a, b)) \subset \text{cone}(R_{+,n+1}(a, b))$$

Proof Lemma 5.9. Take any $r \in R_{+,n}(a, b)$. If there was no condition on the order of the poles, we could simply note that

$$r = r \frac{N(z - c)}{(z - c)(z - c)} \in R_{+,n+1}(a, b).$$

Even though that doesn't quite work, we can modify the idea a little: we have

$$r = \frac{1}{2}r \frac{N((z - c))}{(z - c)(z - \frac{c+d}{2})} + \frac{1}{2}r \frac{N((z - d))}{(z - d)(z - \frac{c+d}{2})} \in \text{cone}(R_{+,n+1}(a, b))$$

as soon as we choose $c, d \in (a, b)$ so that the poles remain simple. \square

5.2 Loewner's theorems

Let's move our focus to the classes $P_\infty(a, b)$. Using the earlier ideas we can rewrite Theorem 3.15 in the following form.

Theorem 5.10. $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$, if and only if f is analytic and for every $n \geq 1$ and $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$ the function $fN(q)$ is $(2n - 1)$ -tone.

Without the analyticity condition this would immediately follow from 5.1, and the statement would also make perfect sense without it. It is nevertheless true that the functions in class $P_\infty(a, b)$ are analytic. One could use Bernstein type arguments and tricks (see proof of Theorem 4.49) to convince oneself that this indeed the case, but there's actually a lot more going on.

First of all, the dual pairing thinking leads to much more satisfactory conclusion in the case $n = \infty$.

Lemma 5.11. *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} R_+(a, b) &:= \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_{+,n}(a, b) = \text{cone} \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_{+,n}(a, b) \right) \\ &= \{ \text{rational functions with simple, real poles; non-negative} \\ &\quad \text{on } \mathbb{R} \setminus (c, d) \text{ for some } a < c < d < b. \}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. It is sufficient to prove that if r is a rational function as in the lemma statement, then $r \in R_{+,n}(a, b)$ for some $n \geq 1$. So pick such r .

Note that r changes its sign even number of times, and only on interval (a, b) , say at $2n$ points $a < x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{2n-1} < b$. Write $p := \prod_{i=0}^{2n-1} (\cdot - x_i)$. Now pr is a rational

function non-negative on \mathbb{R} , and as all its poles are simple and lie in \mathbb{R} , it has to be a polynomial. Since $r(\infty) = 0$, additionally $\deg(pr) < 2n$. By Lemma 5.2 pr is of the form $N(q)$ for some $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$ and hence

$$r = \frac{N(q)}{p} \in R_{+,n}(a, b).$$

□

Now, it might not be too big of a surprise that $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_+(a, b)$ is dense in $C_c(\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b))$, compactly supported continuous functions on $\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)$ with sup-norm.¹ This should (probably) imply, by the Riesz representation theorem, that for any $f \in P_{\infty}(a, b)$ there exists a Radon measure μ_f on $\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)$ with $\mu_f((\lambda^2 + 1)^{-1}) < \infty$ such that for any $r \in R_+(a, b)$

$$\langle f, r \rangle_L = \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)} r(\lambda) d\mu_f(\lambda).$$

This is almost true. As the functions $R_+(a, b)$ are not really compactly supported, there's a problem at infinity. Nevertheless, the previous holds with a slight modification.

Theorem 5.12 (Loewner's theorem, version 1). *Let $f \in P_{\infty}(a, b)$. Then there exists a unique Radon measure μ_f on $\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)$ with $\mu_f((\lambda^2 + 1)^{-1}) < \infty$ and $\alpha \geq 0$ such that for any $r \in R_+(a, b)$ we have*

$$\langle f, r \rangle_L = \alpha \left(\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} r(\lambda) \lambda^2 \right) + \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)} r(\lambda) d\mu_f(\lambda).$$

In particular for any $x, y \in (a, b)$ we have

$$[x, y]_f = \alpha + \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)} \frac{d\mu_f(\lambda)}{(\lambda - x)(\lambda - y)}.$$

Note that the limit $(\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} r(\lambda) \lambda^2)$ exists and is non-negative for any $r \in R_+(a, b)$. It is clear that the converse of this theorem also holds. Note also that examples 3.6 fit in the this framework: they correspond to positive linear combinations of δ -measures. Theorem 5.12 can be interpreted as saying that all functions in the class $P_{\infty}(a, b)$ are more or less of the form 3.6; only summation is replaced with integration with respect to (somewhat) arbitrary measure.

Although it would not be terribly tricky to fill in the details to the previous argument, we will not prove 5.12. Instead we look into one of its corollaries:

¹Stricly speaking, the elements of $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_+(a, b)$ are not compactly supported (and they would need to be restricted to $\mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)$). One could look at a bigger space, say (continuous) functions decaying at infinity, but as these arguments are merely for intuition, one shouldn't worry too much.

Corollary 5.13. *Every $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$ has an analytic extension \tilde{f} on $(a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$. This extension maps (open) upper half-plane \mathbb{H}_+ to closed upper half-plane $\overline{\mathbb{H}_+}$.*

In fact, also this corollary has a converse.

Theorem 5.14 (Loewner's theorem, version 2). *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$, if and only there exists a analytic function \tilde{f} on $(a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$ such that $\tilde{f}|_{(a, b)} = f$ and \tilde{f} maps the upper half-plane to its closure.*

For the last two chapters we are going to mostly focus on understanding this version of Loewner's theorem.

5.3 Notes and references

This chapter is largely original (?), although heavily inspired by multiple sources. Key ideas are an extension to [11]. Theorem 5.1 is new formulation of Theorem 3.16. Lemma 5.6 (or some variant of it) is present in many discussions of the matrix monotonicity, see for instance [9]. While Lemma 5.4 is new (?) it can be seen as a variant of lemma 1 in [19]. Theorem 5.14 appears in the original paper of Loewner [15]. Theorem 5.12 was first discussed in [2]. Sparr in [19] gives proof of Theorem 5.12 somewhat similar in nature to our argument sketch (...). Bernstein type arguments for the analyticity are discussed in [2].

Chapter 6

Pick–Nevanlinna functions

Pick–Nevanlinna function is an analytic function defined in upper half-plane with a non-negative imaginary part. Such functions are sometimes also called Herglotz or \mathbb{R} functions; we will call them just *Pick functions*. The class of Pick functions is denoted by \mathcal{P} .

6.1 Examples and basic properties

Most obvious examples of Pick functions might be functions of the form $\alpha z + \beta$ where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\alpha \geq 0$. Of course one could also take $\beta \in \overline{\mathbb{H}}_+$. As non-constant analytic functions are open mappings, real constants are the only Pick functions failing to map $\mathbb{H}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{H}_+$.

Pick functions can be thought of a set of “positive analytic functions”.

Theorem 6.1. $\mathcal{P} \subset \{\text{analytic maps on } \mathbb{H}_+\}$ is a closed convex cone.

Proof. Again, t.f.i.f 1.8. □

Composition of Pick functions (whenever defined) is a Pick function.

The map $z \mapsto -z^{-1}$ is evidently a Pick function. Hence are also all functions of the form

$$\alpha z + \beta + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{m_i}{\lambda_i - z},$$

where N is non-negative integer, $\alpha, m_1, m_2, \dots, m_N \geq 0$, $\beta \in \mathbb{H}_+$ and $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N \in \mathbb{H}_-$.

There are (luckily) more interesting examples. All the functions of the form $z \mapsto z^p$ where $0 < p < 1$ (with natural branch) are Pick functions; similarly for \log . Another

classic example is \tan . Indeed, by the addition formula

$$\begin{aligned}\tan(x + iy) &= \frac{\tan(x) + \tan(iy)}{1 - \tan(x)\tan(iy)} = \frac{\tan(x) + i \tanh(y)}{1 - i \tan(x) \tanh(y)} \\ &= \frac{\tan(x)(1 - \tanh^2(y))}{1 + \tan^2(x) \tanh^2(y)} + i \frac{(1 + \tan^2(x)) \tanh(y)}{1 + \tan^2(x) \tanh^2(y)},\end{aligned}$$

and y and $\tanh(y)$ have the same sign.

\mathcal{P} is almost salient: if φ is analytic and $\Im(\varphi) = 0$, then φ is a real constant (by Cauchy-Riemann equations, for instance). And again, this suggests that one should think about Pick functions up to a real constant.

So far we have made no mention on the topology, as it's usually taken to be the topology of locally uniform convergence. This definitely works (as it makes the evaluation functionals continuous), but we can do much better. It namely turns out that we can consider the set of Pick functions as a closed convex cone of $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$, set of all complex functions on \mathbb{H}_+ with the product topology (i.e. the topology of pointwise convergence).

Proposition 6.2. *If $(\varphi_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ is a sequence of Pick functions converging pointwise, the limit function is also a Pick function.*

This result is far from clear: pointwise limits of analytic functions need not be analytic in general (see for instance TODO). We will not prove the result yet, but it strongly suggests that there is something more going on; Pick functions are very rigid. Note also that if Pick functions are thought of as a subset of $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$, the definition of the cone doesn't fit the general framework of Theorem 1.8. This suggests that question one should ask is:

Question 6.3. What is the “correct” predual for \mathcal{P} ?

6.2 Rigidity

6.2.1 Boundary

To understand the rigidity phenomena we take a brief look at a close relative of Pick functions, *Schur functions*. Schur functions are analytic maps from open unit disc to closed unit disc. Classic fact about these functions is the Schwarz lemma.

Theorem 6.4 (Schwarz lemma). *Let $\psi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be analytic such that $\psi(0) = 0$. Then $|\psi(z)| \leq |z|$ for any $z \in \mathbb{D}$.*

The textbook proof is based on two observations about analytic functions.

- If φ is analytic at a with $\varphi(a) = 0$, then $\varphi/(\cdot - a)$ is also analytic.
- If φ is analytic on closed unit disc and $|\varphi| \leq 1$ on the boundary of the disc, then $|\varphi| \leq 1$ inside the disc.

The first observation might not be very surprising, and it holds for smooth functions also. The second, on the other hand, is a true manifestation of the nature of the analytic maps: we can bound analytic functions simply by bounding them on the boundary of the domain. More generally: one knows everything about an analytic function on a domain simply by knowing it on a boundary, by Cauchy's integral formula.

This suggests that we should be able to recognize also Pick functions looking only at their boundary values. Actually even more is true: it suffices to look at the imaginary parts.

Proposition 6.5. *Let $U \supset \overline{\mathbb{H}_+}$, $\varphi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ analytic, and φ is continuous at ∞ . Then if the imaginary part of φ is non-negative on the real axis, φ is Pick function.*

Proof. t.f.i.f the minimum principle applied to the harmonic function $\Im(\varphi)$. \square

6.2.2 Integral representations

Recall that imaginary part of an analytic function determines also its real part, up to a constant, so we can also recover the function itself. This can be also done explicitly.

Theorem 6.6. *Let $U \supset \overline{\mathbb{H}_+}$ and $\varphi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ analytic such that $\varphi(z) = O(|z|^{-\varepsilon})$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$ at infinity. Then for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$ we have*

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\Im(\varphi)(\lambda)}{\lambda - z} d\lambda$$

Proof. Note that the integral defines an analytic function, imaginary part of which equals

$$\frac{\Im(z)}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\Im(\varphi)(\lambda)}{(\lambda - z)(\lambda - \bar{z})} d\lambda.$$

This expression however equals $\Im(\varphi(z))$ by Poisson integral formula. By letting $z \rightarrow \infty$ one sees that also the real constants match.

Alternatively one could observe that for a closed counter clockwise oriented curves γ on the upper half-plane, enclosing z , we have

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{\varphi(\lambda)}{\lambda - z} d\lambda.$$

Now given the bound, we may deform the contour to real axis. By comparing this identity and our goal, we are left to prove that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{\overline{\varphi(\lambda)}}{\lambda - z} d\lambda = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{\overline{\varphi(\lambda)}}{\lambda - \bar{z}} d\lambda = 0.$$

But this is clear as $\varphi/(\cdot - \bar{z})$ is analytic in the upper half-plane. \square

There's of course nothing really special about the decay assumption $\varphi(z) = O(|z|^{-\varepsilon})$; it's there just to make everything converge.

One can guarantee the convergence also by other means. Consider the integral

$$(6.7) \quad \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{\chi_{\mathbb{R} \setminus (-1,1)}(\lambda)}{\lambda} \right) \Im(\varphi)(\lambda) d\lambda.$$

It converges to an analytic function as long as, say, $\Im(\varphi)$ is bounded. As before, its imaginary part coincides with φ 's so the functions are equal up to a real constant. Now, however, there's no reason for the real constants to match and indeed they need not. Of course there's nothing really special about $\chi_{\mathbb{R} \setminus (-1,1)}(\lambda)\lambda^{-1}$: it is just constant in z and has convenient asymptotics at ∞ .

Note that the previous idea could be used to construct Pick functions. Everything still makes sense if we replace $\Im(\varphi)$ by some other positive function, as long as the integral converges. Heck, we could replace it by any positive measure for which $\mu((\lambda^2+1)^{-1}) < \infty$.

(Almost) all the examples given before are actually just special cases of this construction. The rational functions $(\lambda - z)^{-1}$, where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ are obtained by setting $\mu = \delta_{\lambda}$. The power functions are obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} z^p &= 1 + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^0 \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{1}{\lambda - 1} \right) \Im(\lambda^p) d\lambda \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^0 \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{1}{\lambda - 1} \right) |\lambda|^p \sin(\pi p) d\lambda, \end{aligned}$$

Logarithm is even simpler:

$$\log(z) = \int_{-\infty}^0 \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{1}{\lambda - 1} \right) d\lambda.$$

Tangent function could be obtained by putting δ -measures to its poles, the points of the form $\pi/2 + n\pi$, where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

The only exception is the function $z \mapsto \alpha z$ – it can't be expressed as such integral. But even this failure is really more about poor point of view, as we will see in a minute. With these observations in mind it ought to be not too surprising that we have the following.

Theorem 6.8. $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}$, if and only

$$(6.9) \quad \varphi(z) = \alpha z + \beta + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right) d\mu(\lambda)$$

for some $\alpha \geq 0$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and a Radon measure μ with $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\lambda^2 + 1)^{-1} d\mu(\lambda) < \infty$.

Choosing $\lambda \mapsto \lambda/(\lambda^2 + 1)$ to ensure convergence is common choice in the literature, and is convenient as

- It's real, so the integrand is Pick function for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.
- We may recover the constant β as $\Re(\varphi(i))$.

To better explain the appearance of the linear term, we can write the integral in a slightly different form. Denoting $d\nu(\lambda) = (\lambda^2 + 1)^{-1} d\mu(\lambda)$, the formula reads

$$\varphi(z) = \alpha z + \beta + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda z + 1}{\lambda - z} d\nu(\lambda).$$

Here ν is just a finite Borel measure. Now it kind of makes sense to extend the domain of this measure to infinity: the linear term merely corresponds to δ -measure at the infinity point. Of course, should one formalize this line of thought, the question on the type of extended real line had to be asked and one should address the topology. The answer is that one should glue the real line into a circle. One shouldn't worry about such issues, though, as these thoughts are merely for intuition. The giveaway is that α should be really thought as a part of the measure μ , even though this might not make perfect sense.

We will not prove theorem 6.8, but it shall work as a motivation.

6.3 Dual thinking

6.3.1 Search for a predual

Let's return to Question 6.3: our goal is to find some set of linear functionals on $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$, i.e. a subset of $(\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+})^*$, such that \mathcal{P} is dual cone of C^* . Recall that most of the cones of past chapters were defined directly via some predual:

- $\mathcal{H}_+(V)$, the cone of positive maps, was defined as the dual cone of quadratic functionals: maps of the form $A \mapsto \langle Av, v \rangle$ for $v \in V$.
- $P^{(k)}(a, b)$, the cone of k -tone functions (on (a, b)), was defined as the dual cone of order k divided differences: maps of the form $f \mapsto [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k]_f$, where $a < x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k < b$ are pairwise distinct.

- $P_n(a, b)$, the cone of n -monotone functions (on (a, b)), was defined as the dual cone of maps of the form $f \mapsto \langle (f(B) - f(A))v, v \rangle$, where $v \in V$ and $A, B \in \mathcal{H}_{(a,b)}$ are such that $A \leq B$.

In chapter 5 we managed to find some kind of answers to Questions 1.2 and 1.9: we gave simpler preduals for $P_n(a, b)$ and $P_\infty(a, b)$:

- The functionals of the form $f \mapsto [x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{2n-1}]_{fN(q)}$ (for pairwise distinct $a < x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{2n-1} < b$ and $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$) form a predual for $P_n(a, b)$.
- The functionals of the form $f \mapsto \langle f, r \rangle_L$ (for $r \in R_+(a, b)$) form a predual for $P_\infty(a, b)$.

Now we have an inverse problem: we have set of functions (Pick functions) and would like to find such a predual. Moreover, we would like to interpret \mathcal{P} as a subset $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}+}$ with product topology, i.e. the topology of pointwise convergence. Note that if we find such predual (let's denote it by C^* for a short while), we get Proposition 6.2 for free.

Proof of Proposition 6.2 (given the existence of C^).* By the extra assumption we have $C^* \subset (\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}+})^*$, a set of linear functionals such that

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &\in \mathcal{P} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \\ p^*(\varphi) &\geq 0 \text{ for any } p^* \in C^*. \end{aligned}$$

Take a sequence $(\varphi_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ of Pick functions converging pointwise to φ_∞ , and take any $p^* \in C^*$. Since p^* is continuous, and C^* is a predual of \mathcal{P} , we have

$$p^*(\varphi_\infty) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} p^*(\varphi_i) \geq 0.$$

But this means that φ_∞ lies in the dual cone of C^* , i.e. in \mathcal{P} , as desired. \square

Of course, one can show Proposition 6.2 by many other means, but as we will see later on, the predual C^* itself is the true reward for our troubles.

So, how is one to find C^* ? We are going to perform our search via the following steps:

Step 1. Which functionals $p^* \in (\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}+})^*$ satisfy

$$p^*(\varphi) \geq 0$$

for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}$? Note that C^* should be definitely subset of such functionals. But then again, we don't really lose anything if we pick all such functionals to C^* . So if there is such C^* , we could (and will) set

$$C^* := \{p^* \in (\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+})^* | p^*(\varphi) \geq 0 \text{ for every } \varphi \in \mathcal{P}\}.$$

Note that this (potential) predual is maximal in some sense: it is a union of all possible preduals for \mathcal{P} ; so it actually makes sense to talk about **the** predual.

Step 2. Now that we have found potential predual C^* , is \mathcal{P} really its dual cone? Note that by the definition of C^* , all Pick functions are contained in its dual cone. But it might a priori contain more functions! So we should check that every element in $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$ which gives non-negative values on every functional on C^*

- (i) maps upper half-plane to its closure and
- (ii) is analytic.

6.3.2 Step 1

First off: how should one even interpret $(\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+})^*$? Should $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$ be a vector space over \mathbb{C} , or maybe over \mathbb{R} ? The correct answer is neither.

Let us first look at \mathbb{C} -linear functionals $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. It is a general fact that continuous dual of a product consists of functionals of finite support, i.e. it is the direct sum of the duals of the factors (see for instance TODO)¹.

This is all just to say that \mathbb{C} -linear functionals on $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$ are of the form

$$\varphi \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \varphi(z_i),$$

where $m \geq 0$, $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{C}$ and $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m \in \mathbb{H}_+$. So the question is: for which tuples c_i 's and z_i 's is such sum non-negative real number for any Pick function φ ?

This is where the integral representations of the previous sections come in. If one is to believe in 6.8, for any Pick function φ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \varphi(z_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \left(\alpha z_i + \beta + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - z_i} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right) d\mu(\lambda) \right) \\ &= \alpha \sum_{i=1}^m c_i z_i + \beta \sum_{i=1}^m c_i + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{c_i}{\lambda - z_i} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1} \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \right) d\mu(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

¹This fact is not important to us and we could have restricted our attention to finitely supported functionals anyway.

Since β can be any real, we should have $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = 0$. Choosing $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, $\mu = \delta_\lambda$, $\alpha = 0$, we see that

$$r(\lambda) := \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{c_i}{\lambda - z_i}$$

should be non-negative for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Consequently: r is a rational function, real on reals, so its poles lie symmetrically with respect to real axis. But since all poles of r lie in \mathbb{H}_+ , this means that r is zero, and hence all c_i 's are zeroes. So there are no non-trivial \mathbb{C} -linear functionals on $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$, non-negative on Pick functions.

What about real functionals? It's easy to see that all \mathbb{R} -linear functionals $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are given by real parts of complex functionals. So again, pick $m \geq 0$, $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{C}$ and $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m \in \mathbb{H}_+$ and consider linear functional of the form

$$\varphi \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^m \Re(c_i \varphi(z_i)).$$

If φ is a Pick function, we have, as in the complex case,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m \Re(c_i \varphi(z_i)) &= \alpha \sum_{i=1}^m \Re(c_i z_i) + \beta \sum_{i=1}^m \Re(c_i) + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Re \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{c_i}{\lambda - z_i} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1} \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \right) d\mu(\lambda) \\ &= \frac{\alpha}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (c_i z_i + \overline{c_i} \overline{z_i}) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \left(\frac{c_i}{\lambda - z_i} + \frac{\overline{c_i}}{\lambda - \overline{z_i}} \right) \right) d\mu(\lambda). \end{aligned}$$

In particular the rational function

$$r(\lambda) := \sum_{i=1}^m \left(\frac{c_i}{\lambda - z_i} + \frac{\overline{c_i}}{\lambda - \overline{z_i}} \right)$$

should be non-negative.

These considerations suggest that elements of C^* should correspond to non-negative rational functions, whereas elements of $(\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+})^*$ should be rational functions mapping reals to reals. One could work with such functionals, but it is convenient to broaden one's view slightly: we will also consider complex rational functions. We will specifically study the following family of rational functions.

Definition 6.10. Let $X \subset \mathbb{C}$. We will denote by $R(X)$ the \mathbb{C} -vector space of rational functions r such that:

- r vanishes at infinity.

- All poles of r lie in X .
- All poles of r are simple.

We will also write $R_+(X)/R_\pm(X)$ for the functions in $R(X)$, which are non-negative/real on \mathbb{R} .

We will be mostly interested in the case $X = \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$, but for future convenience we will also study other sets. Note that the set $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ generalizes the rational functions in both the complex and real settings.

Let us first make couple of reality checks concerning the sets $R(X)$, $R_\pm(X)$ and $R_+(X)$. For a rational function r , denote by r^* the rational function for which

$$r^*(\lambda) = \overline{r(\bar{\lambda})}$$

for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Denote also $N(r) = rr^*$. Finally, write

$$X^* = \{z \in \mathbb{C} | \bar{z} \in X\}$$

whenever $X \subset \mathbb{C}$.

Proposition 6.11. (i)

$$R(X) = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\cdot - z} | z \in X \right\}.$$

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} R_\pm(X) &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \frac{c}{\cdot - z} + \frac{\bar{c}}{\cdot - \bar{z}} | c \in \mathbb{C}, z \in X \cap X^* \right\} \\ &= \{r + r^* | r \in R(X \cap X^*)\} = \{r \in R(X) | r = r^*\}. \end{aligned}$$

(iii)

$$R_+(X) = \{N(r) | r \in R(X \cap X^* \cap \mathbb{H}_+)\}.$$

(iv)

$$\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} R_\pm(X) = R(X \cap X^*)$$

(v)

$$\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_+(X) = \{r \in R_\pm(X) | r(\lambda) = O(\lambda^{-2}) \text{ at } \infty\}$$

(vi)

$$\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} R_+(X) = \{r \in R(X \cap X^*) | r(\lambda) = O(\lambda^{-2}) \text{ at } \infty\}$$

Proof. (i) This is just the partial fraction decomposition.

(ii) Easy to check.

(iii) This follows from Lemma 5.2.

(iv) Easy to check.

(v) It is easy to check that elements of the right-hand side are spanned by the functions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{c}{(\cdot - z)(\cdot - \bar{w})} + \frac{\bar{c}}{(\cdot - \bar{z})(\cdot - w)} \\ &= N \left(\frac{c}{\cdot - z} + \frac{1}{\cdot - w} \right) - |c|^2 N \left(\frac{1}{\cdot - z} \right) - N \left(\frac{1}{\cdot - w} \right) \in \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_+(X). \end{aligned}$$

(vi) Follows easily from the previous part. □

How do the elements of $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ define linear functionals on $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$? Given any $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, write it in the form $r = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i (\cdot - z_i)^{-1}$, where $m \geq 0$, $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{C}$ and $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m \in \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$. Then, if we are given any $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$, we set

$$\varphi \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \varphi(z_i).$$

Except now there's a slight problem: if $z_i \in \mathbb{H}_-$, $\varphi(z_i)$ is not defined! For Pick functions such rational functions corresponded to conjugated evaluations, so we could of course interpret the above definition with the following abuse:

$$(6.12) \quad \varphi(\bar{z}) = \overline{\varphi(z)},$$

for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$. Instead, we do something else. Every function in $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$ can be interpreted as a function in $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$, extending with 6.12. In this way every element of $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ corresponds to a \mathbb{C} -linear functional $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. It is easy to see that every such functional also corresponds to an element in $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. We hence have an dual pairing between $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$ and $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, \mathbb{C} -linear in both arguments, denoted by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_L$.

To recap $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_L : \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-} \times R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the unique \mathbb{C} -bilinear mapping for which

$$\langle \varphi, (\cdot - z)^{-1} \rangle_L = \varphi(z)$$

for any $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$ and $z \in \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$. Note also that for fixed $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, the map $\varphi \mapsto \langle \varphi, r \rangle_L$ is continuous. We could of course build similar pairing for any $X \subset \mathbb{C}$. This pairing is essentially the same as the one we defined in section 5.1.3.

So finally: which elements in $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ are such that

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0$$

for any Pick function φ ? One could use Theorem 6.8 to prove that these functionals are exactly the elements of $R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, but as we haven't proven Theorem 6.8, we will give an alternate argument.

Theorem 6.13. *Let $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Now*

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0$$

for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}$, if and only if $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

Proof. Note that $\varphi_\lambda := (\lambda - \cdot)^{-1} \in \mathcal{P}$, and

$$\langle \varphi_\lambda, r \rangle_L = r(\lambda)$$

for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. We must hence have $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

Conversely, fix any $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. We already know that $\langle \varphi_\lambda, r \rangle \geq 0$ for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ so by continuity it suffices to prove the following result.

Lemma 6.14. *Under the topology of pointwise convergence one has*

$$\mathcal{P} \subset \overline{\text{cone}}\{\varphi_\lambda | \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\} \left(\subset \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+} \subset \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-} \right).$$

Proof. Denote the closure of the cone by \mathcal{P}_e . As $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \pm\infty} |\lambda|(\lambda - z)^{-1} = \pm 1$, \mathcal{P}_e contains real constants. Now by 6.7 all the bounded Pick functions extending analytically over \mathbb{R} are also in \mathcal{P}_e . We finish the proof by showing that such functions, denoted by \mathcal{P}_b , are dense in the set of all Pick functions.

It is straightforward to check that

$$g_\varepsilon(z) = \frac{z + i\varepsilon}{1 - i\varepsilon z} \in \mathcal{P}_b$$

for any $\varepsilon > 0$. But now for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ also $\varphi \circ g_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{P}_b$. Finally $\varphi = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varphi \circ g_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{P}_b$, as we wanted. \square

□

We will call the maps $\varphi \mapsto \langle \varphi, r \rangle_L$ for fixed $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ **Pick functionals**.

One can write the Pick functionals also in terms of divided differences. If $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, we have

$$r = \frac{N(q)}{|\cdot - z_1|^2 \cdots |\cdot - z_n|^2}$$

for some $n \geq 1$, $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$ and pairwise distinct $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n \in X$. But this means that

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L = [z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n]_{\varphi N(q)}.$$

6.3.3 Step 2

Recall that our aim is to prove that $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$ is the dual cone of $R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ in the sense of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_L$. In other words: we should prove that if $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$ is such that

$$(6.15) \quad \langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0 \text{ for any } r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-),$$

then $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}$, i.e.

- (i) $\varphi(\bar{z}) = \overline{\varphi(z)}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$,
- (ii) $\Im(\varphi(z)) \geq 0$ for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$,
- (iii) φ is analytic on \mathbb{H}_+ .

Unfortunately this is not quite true. Since $\langle 1, r \rangle_L = 0$ for any $r \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, φ is characterized only up to a complex constant. Luckily this is the only problem: it is instead true that any function satisfying 6.15 differs from a Pick function by a constant. We will call a function $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-}$ satisfying 6.15 **weakly Pick function**, and denote the set of weakly Pick functions by $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

The proper replacement for (i) is the following lemma.

Lemma 6.16. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Then for any $z, w \in \mathbb{H}_+$ one has*

$$\varphi(\bar{z}) - \overline{\varphi(z)} = \varphi(\bar{w}) - \overline{\varphi(w)} \in i\mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi(\bar{z}) - \overline{\varphi(z)} &= \varphi(\bar{z}) - \varphi(z) + \varphi(z) - \overline{\varphi(z)} \\
&= \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{\cdot - \bar{z}} - \frac{1}{\cdot - z} \right\rangle_L + 2i\Im(\varphi(z)) \\
&= -2i\Im(z) \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{|\cdot - z|^2} \right\rangle_L + 2i\Im(\varphi(z)).
\end{aligned}$$

As $|\cdot - z|^{-2} \in R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, we have $\varphi(\bar{z}) - \overline{\varphi(z)} \in i\mathbb{R}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$.

For the first equality the rough idea is the following: for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$ we have

$$r_{z,c} := \frac{c}{\cdot - z} + \frac{\bar{c}}{\cdot - \bar{z}} \in R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-).$$

Now if that would imply that $\langle \varphi, r_{z,c} \rangle_L \in \mathbb{R}$, we would be done. Indeed, it is easy to see that for fixed $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$

$$\mathbb{R} \ni \langle \varphi, r_{z,c} \rangle_L = c\varphi(z) + \bar{c}\varphi(\bar{z})$$

for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$, if and only if $\varphi(\bar{z}) = \overline{\varphi(z)}$.

This doesn't quite work, since $r_{z,w} \notin \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, but if one performs the same trick with

$$\frac{c}{\cdot - z} + \frac{\bar{c}}{\cdot - \bar{z}} - \frac{c}{\cdot - w} + \frac{\bar{c}}{\cdot - \bar{w}},$$

which lies in $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}} R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, one gets the claim. \square

By the previous lemma, any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ can be translated to satisfy (i). We denote the set of such translates by $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Note that $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$ can be thought of as subset of $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{H}_+}$.

Lemma 6.17. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Then $\Im(\varphi(z)) \geq 0$ for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$.*

Proof. This follows immediately from the first computation of the proof of Lemma 6.16. \square

The third property is trickier. Let us first try to prove something somewhat easier.

Proposition 6.18. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Then φ is continuous.*

Proof. We should prove that for any $w \in \mathbb{H}_+$ we have

$$0 = \lim_{z \rightarrow w} (\varphi(z) - \varphi(w)) = \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{\cdot - z} - \frac{1}{\cdot - w} \right\rangle_L.$$

The function $r_{z,w} := (\cdot - z)^{-1} - (\cdot - w)^{-1}$ tends to zero (in some sense) as $z \rightarrow w$, so something like this ought to be true: $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ should have topology for which this convergence happens and the map $r \mapsto \langle \varphi, r \rangle$ is continuous.

And indeed, there is one: one induced by

$$\|r\|_R = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} |r(\lambda)|(\lambda^2 + 1).$$

It should be noted that $\|\cdot\|_R$ is not norm, as it is infinite for some elements of $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. It nevertheless defines a topology and one straightforwardly checks that

$$\begin{aligned} & \{r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-) \mid \|r\|_R < \infty\} \\ &= \{r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-) \mid \langle 1, r \rangle_L = 0\} \\ &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 6.19. *For $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$ there exists a constant $C(\varphi)$ such that*

$$|\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L| \leq C(\varphi) \|r\|_R$$

for any $r \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

Proof. Note that the statement is trivially true if $\|r\|_R = \infty$. Write $r = r_1 + ir_2$ where $r_1, r_2 \in R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Since clearly

$$\|r\|_R \geq \max(\|r_1\|_R, \|r_2\|_R),$$

it suffices cook up such estimate for $R_{\pm}(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. But such functions satisfy

$$-\frac{\|r\|_R}{\lambda^2 + 1} \leq r(\lambda) \leq \frac{\|r\|_R}{\lambda^2 + 1}$$

for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, so $|\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L| \leq \Im(\varphi(i)) \|r\|_R$. □

Now, in order to finish the proof, it suffices to check that $\lim_{z \rightarrow w} \|r_{z,w}\|_R = 0$. But this follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \|r_{z,w}\|_R &= |z - w| \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \frac{\lambda^2 + 1}{(\lambda - z)(\lambda - w)} \right| \\ &= |z - w| \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \left(1 + \frac{z - i}{\lambda - z}\right) \left(1 + \frac{w + i}{\lambda - w}\right) \right| \\ &\leq |z - w| \left(1 + \frac{|z - i|}{\Im(z)}\right) \left(1 + \frac{|w + i|}{\Im(w)}\right). \end{aligned}$$

□

Proving analyticity is not much harder.

Lemma 6.20. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Then φ is differentiable, and hence analytic.*

Proof. Note that if we manage to show that the order 2 divided differences of φ are locally bounded, Theorem 4.46 implies the claim. Strictly speaking we only proved Theorem 4.46 on real line, but the proof would be almost identical in the complex case. Indeed: the essence of the proof was to observe that if the order 2 divided differences are bounded, then the order 1 divided differences are Lipschitz, and φ is hence differentiable.

Observe that for any $z_0, z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{H}_+$ we have

$$[z_0, z_1, z_2]_\varphi = \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - z_0)(\cdot - z_1)(\cdot - z_2)} \right\rangle_L.$$

Hence, by Lemma 6.19 we can bound the divided difference just by estimating $\|(\cdot - z_0)^{-1}(\cdot - z_1)^{-1}(\cdot - z_2)^{-1}\|_R$. But this is straightforward: one has, for instance,

$$\left\| \frac{1}{(\cdot - z_0)(\cdot - z_1)(\cdot - z_2)} \right\|_R \leq \frac{1}{\Im(z_0)} \left(1 + \frac{|z_1 - i|}{\Im(z_1)} \right) \left(1 + \frac{|z_2 + i|}{\Im(z_2)} \right).$$

□

Corollary 6.21. *\mathcal{P} is the dual cone of $R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ in the sense of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_L$. In other words $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+) = \mathcal{P}$.*

Note that the inequalities of proof of Lemma 6.20 can be easily extended to higher order divided differences.

Proposition 6.22. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Then for every compact $K \subset \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$ there exists a constant $C(\varphi, K)$ such that*

$$|[z_0, z_1, \dots, z_k]_\varphi| \leq \frac{C(\varphi, K)}{\Im(z_0)\Im(z_1) \cdots \Im(z_k)}$$

for any $k \geq 1$ and $z_0, z_1, \dots, z_k \in K$.

6.3.4 Functional extensions

Let us give alternate, more functional analytic argument for Lemma 6.20.

Recall that for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$ and $z, w \in \mathbb{H}_+$ we have

$$[z, w]_\varphi = \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)(\cdot - w)} \right\rangle_L.$$

As $z \rightarrow w$, by 6.20 the left-hand side converges to $\varphi'(w)$. This motivates us to define

$$\left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^2} \right\rangle_L := \varphi'(w).$$

More generally, it would make sense to set

$$(6.23) \quad \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^{k+1}} \right\rangle_L := \frac{\varphi^{(k)}(w)}{k!},$$

for any $k \geq 1$, mimicking the Cauchy's integral formula for derivatives.

Definition 6.24. Let $X \subset \mathbb{C}$. We will denote by $R^\infty(X)$ the \mathbb{C} -vector space of rational functions r such that:

- r vanishes at infinity.
- All poles of r lie in X .

We will also write $R_+^\infty(X)/R_\pm^\infty(X)$ for the functions in $R^\infty(X)$, which are non-negative/real on \mathbb{R} .

Note that we have simply extended a linear functional $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle_L$ to $R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Now: in what way is this extension really natural?

Proposition 6.25. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Then*

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0$$

for any $r \in R_+^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

The reason for this is actually rather simple: we may approximate the elements of $R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ by elements of $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

Lemma 6.26. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$ and $r \in R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_\pm^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_+^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $s \in R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_\pm(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ such that*

$$(6.27) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|r - s\|_R < \varepsilon \\ & \text{and} \\ & |\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L - \langle \varphi, s \rangle_L| < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let us first take care of the case $r \in R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Note that it suffices to verify the claim for the functions of the form $(\cdot - w)^{-k-1}$, where $w \in \mathbb{H}_+$ and $k \geq 0$. We proceed by induction on k .

The case $k = 0$ is clear, so fix $k > 0$ and $w \in \mathbb{H}_+$. By the definition of the extension of $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle_L$ we have

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow w} \left(\frac{1}{z - w} \left(\left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^k} \right\rangle_L - \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^k} \right\rangle_L \right) \right) = k \left\langle \varphi, \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^{k+1}} \right\rangle_L.$$

If we manage to prove that

$$(6.28) \quad \lim_{w \rightarrow z} \left\| \frac{1}{z - w} \left(\frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^k} - \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^k} \right) - \frac{k}{(\cdot - w)^{k+1}} \right\|_R = 0,$$

we are done. Indeed: we have then found for $(\cdot - w)^{-k-1}$ an approximation (in the sense of 6.27) by a rational function with poles of lower order, and by induction hypothesis this lower order approximation has approximation with simple poles, as desired.

For (6.28) one can simply note that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{1}{z - w} \left(\frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^k} - \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^k} \right) - \frac{k}{(\cdot - w)^{k+1}} \right\|_R \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \left\| \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^i (\cdot - w)^{k+1-i}} - \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^{k+1}} \right\|_R \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\Im(w)^{k+1-i}} \left\| \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^i} - \frac{1}{(\cdot - w)^i} \right\|_R \\ & \leq |z - w| \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\Im(w)^{k+1-i}} \sum_{j=1}^i \left\| \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)^j (\cdot - w)^{i+1-j}} \right\|_R \\ & \leq |z - w| \left\| \frac{1}{(\cdot - z)(\cdot - w)} \right\|_R \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\Im(w)^{k+1-i}} \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{1}{\Im(z)^{j-1} \Im(w)^{i-j}} \\ & = O(|z - w|) \end{aligned}$$

for z, w in any compact $K \subset \mathbb{H}_+$.

If $r \in R_\pm^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$, then our approximation satisfies $s \in R_\pm(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$.

Finally, consider the case $r \in R_+^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. Choose first $s \in R_\pm(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ satisfying (6.27). Note that

$$s \geq r - \frac{\varepsilon}{(\cdot)^2 + 1} \geq -\frac{\varepsilon}{(\cdot)^2 + 1}$$

so $s + \varepsilon((\cdot)^2 + 1)^{-1} \in R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \|r - s\|_R &< 2\varepsilon \\ \text{and} \\ |\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L - \langle \varphi, s \rangle_L| &< \varepsilon(1 + \Im(\varphi(i))) \end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of Proposition 6.25. t.f.i.f. Lemma 6.26. □

The point of all of this is that these arguments can be in a way “reversed”.

Alternate proof for Lemma 6.20. We are going to extend $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle_L$ to a positive linear functional on $R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. To this end fix any $r \in R^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_\pm^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_+^\infty(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ and cook up a sequence $(s_k)_{k=1}^\infty$ of elements in $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_\pm(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)/R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ with $\|r - s_k\| < \frac{1}{k}$ (with Lemma 6.26). As $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle_L$ is Lipschitz by Lemma 6.19, the sequence $(\langle \varphi, s_k \rangle_L)_{k=1}^\infty$ converges, and by setting

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle \varphi, s_k \rangle_L$$

we obtain such positive extension. Lemma 6.19 (which definitely holds also for the extension) and (6.28) imply that φ is smooth and satisfies (6.23). Proposition 6.22 implies that φ satisfies the conditions of Theorem 4.48, and is hence analytic. □

6.4 Pick-Nevanlinna interpolation theorem

Corollary 6.21 motivates the following definition.

Definition 6.29. Let $X \subset \mathbb{H}_+$. We say that $\varphi \in \mathbb{C}^{X \cup X^*}$ is weakly Pick (on X) if for any $r \in R_+(X \cup X^*)$ we have

$$\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0.$$

We denote the set of weakly pick functions on X by $\mathcal{P}(X \cup X^*)$.

All of the arguments of the section 6.3.3 extend almost verbatim for sets $\mathcal{P}(X \cup X^*)$:

- (i) Any weakly Pick function on X has translate that satisfies $\varphi(\bar{z}) = \overline{\varphi(z)}$ for any $z \in X$. We will again denote such translates by $\mathcal{P}(X)$.
- (ii) If $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(X)$, then $\Im(\varphi(z)) \geq 0$ for any $z \in X$.

(iii) If $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(X)$, then φ is locally Lipschitz and analytic on every interior point of X .

There's a slight problem with part (iii) though. We used Lemma 6.19 in its proof. Proof of Lemma 6.19 made use of the inequality

$$|\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L| \leq \Im(\varphi(i)) \|r\|_R,$$

which doesn't make sense if $i \notin X$. But this problem is easy to fix: if $z_0 \in X$, we may instead use

$$\|r\|_{R, z_0} = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} |r(\lambda)| |\lambda - z_0|^2,$$

as the “norm” and everything works as expected: the “norms” $\|\cdot\|_{R, z_0}$ are all equivalent, as one checks easily enough.

It turns out that all weakly Pick functions arise from Pick functions.

Theorem 6.30 (Pick–Nevanlinna interpolation theorem). *Let $X \subset \mathbb{H}_+$. Then for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ there exists a Pick function $\tilde{\varphi}$ such that $\tilde{\varphi}|_X = \varphi$.*

Proof. In terms of linear functionals our task is: given linear functional on $R(X \cup X^*)$, positive on $R_+(X \cup X^*)$, we should extend the functional to $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ such that the extension is positive on $R_+(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. By Corollary 6.21 the extension is a Pick function.

It is easy to see that such extension is not unique in general. However, if it so happens that $R(X \cup X^*)$ is dense in $R(\mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ with respect to $\|\cdot\|_R$, the argument of the alternate proof for Lemma 6.20 gives unique positive extension. This already covers large variety of sets X .

Lemma 6.31. *If $X \subset \mathbb{H}_+$ has an accumulation point in \mathbb{H}_+ , then $R(X)$ is dense in $R(\mathbb{H}_+)$.*

Proof. Take a sequence of distinct points z_0, z_1, \dots in X converging to $z_\infty \in \mathbb{H}_+$. We may assume w.l.o.g. that $z_\infty = i$. By Newton expansion, for any $w \in \mathbb{H}_+$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda - w} - \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(w - z_0) \cdots (w - z_{i-1})}{(\lambda - z_0) \cdots (\lambda - z_{i-1})(\lambda - z_i)} = \frac{(w - z_0) \cdots (w - z_n)}{(\lambda - w)(\lambda - z_0) \cdots (\lambda - z_n)}.$$

If $|w - i| < 1$, norm of the error term tends to zero. It follows that $R(X)$ is dense in $R(X \cup \mathbb{D}(i, 1))$. But as $2i$ is an accumulation point of $X \cup \mathbb{D}(i, 1)$, we may repeat the previous argument: $R(X)$ is dense in $R(X \cup \mathbb{D}(2i, 2))$. Bootstrapping along the sequence $(2^n i)_{n=1}^\infty$ yields the claim. \square

For the general case one has to work slightly harder. Observe first that one only needs to prove the following lemma.

Lemma 6.32. *Fix $X \in \mathbb{H}_+$ and $w \in \mathbb{H}_+ \setminus X$. Then any element of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ can be extended to an element of $\mathcal{P}(X \cup \{w\})$.*

Given this lemma, one can, for instance, use transfinite induction (or Zorn's lemma if one so prefers) to extend any element of $\mathcal{P}(X)$ to $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{H}_+)$. Or one may inductively extend X by a countable set with an accumulation point, after which there exists a unique extension by the already proven dense case.

Proof of Lemma 6.32. Write $r_w(\lambda) = (\lambda - w)^{-1}$. By Proposition 6.11 any $r \in R_+(X \cup X^* \cup \{w, \bar{w}\})$ is of the form

$$ar_w + (ar_w)^* + r,$$

where $a \in \mathbb{C}$ and $r \in R_\pm(X \cup X^*)$: encode such rational functions as a set $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathbb{C} \times R_\pm(X \cup X^*)$. Now, the extension should satisfy

$$(6.33) \quad \langle \varphi, ar_w + (ar_w)^* + r \rangle_L = 2\Re(a\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L) + \langle \varphi, r \rangle_L \geq 0$$

for $(a, r) \in \mathcal{F}$. Note that if we find a value $\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L$ which satisfies all such inequalities, it determines the desired extension.

Each of the inequalities of the form 6.33 (where $a \neq 0$) force $\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L$ in some closed half-space of \mathbb{C} . It is easy to check that for any $a \in \mathbb{C}$ there exist $(a, r) \in \mathcal{F}$: $\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L$ is constrained by half-spaces of all directions. This implies that set of suitable $\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L$'s can be expressed as intersection of compact sets, certain finite intersections of half-spaces in \mathcal{F} . We hence just have to verify that all such finite intersections are non-empty.

This, finally, follows almost immediately from the Farkas' lemma.

Lemma 6.34 (Farkas' lemma). *Let $n, m \geq 1$, $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ n -dimensional inner product space over \mathbb{R} , $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m \in V$ and $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{R}$. Assume that whenever $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$ are such that*

$$t_1 v_1 + t_2 v_2 + \dots + t_m v_m = 0,$$

then also

$$t_1 c_1 + t_2 c_2 + \dots + t_m c_m \geq 0.$$

Then there exists $u \in V$ such that $\langle v_i, u \rangle + c_i \geq 0$ for any $1 \leq i \leq m$.

Indeed: the inequalities in 6.33 can be interpreted in the sense of Farkas' lemma, where $V := \mathbb{C}$ is two-dimensional inner product space over \mathbb{R} with $\langle z, w \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} = \Re(z\bar{w})$ as

the inner product. To check the condition of the lemma, pick any finite set of pairs $(a_1, r_1), (a_2, r_2), \dots, (a_m, r_m) \in \mathcal{F}$. Take also $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$ with $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i a_i = 0$. Now

$$0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^m t_i (ar_w + (ar_w)^* + r_i) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^m t_i a_i r_w \right) + \left(\sum_{i=1}^m (t_i a_i r_w)^* \right) + \sum_{i=1}^m t_i r_i = \sum_{i=1}^m t_i r_i$$

pointwise, and hence $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i \langle \varphi, r_i \rangle_L \geq 0$. By Farkas' lemma we can find $\langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$2\Re(a_i \langle \varphi, r_w \rangle_L) + \langle \varphi, r_i \rangle_L \geq 0$$

for any $1 \leq i \leq m$. This is exactly what we wanted. □

□

For completeness, we also prove Farkas' lemma.

Proof of Lemma 6.34. Proof is by induction on n .

Case $n = 1$: We may clearly ignore all the zeros from the v_i 's. If all v_i 's are positive or negative, claim is trivial. Assume then that there are both positive and negative v_i 's. We may scale v_i 's (with c_i 's) such that they are all 1 or -1 : w.l.o.g. first k v_i 's are ones. We should prove that one may choose u such that $u + c_i \geq 0$ for any $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $-u + c_j \geq 0$ for any $k + 1 \leq j \leq m$. This is clearly possible if $c_i + c_j \geq 0$ for any $1 \leq i \leq k < j \leq m$. But if one sets $t_i = 1$ and $t_j = 1$ and other t_l 's to zero in the main condition, this is exactly the inequality one gets.

Induction step: We split into two cases.

- Case 1: There exists $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$, not all zero, such that $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i = 0$.
- Case 2: The complement of case 1.

Let us also denote

$$C = \text{cone}\{v_i | 1 \leq i \leq m\}.$$

Case 1: It follows that there exist nonzero $w \in V$ such that $w, -w \in C$. Decompose $V = \text{span}(w) \oplus W$, $v_i = v_i^{(w)} + v_i^W$ and $u = u^{(w)} + u^W$. The idea is to interpret the problem of finding u as parametrized problem of finding u^W . We should find $u^{(w)}$ such that the following condition holds: whenever $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$ are such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^W = 0$$

then

$$0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^m t_i (c_i + v_i^{(w)} u^{(w)}) = \sum_{i=1}^m t_i c_i + u^{(w)} \sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^{(w)}.$$

Then, by $n - 1$ dimensional case on W , there exists u^W such that

$$0 \leq c_i + v_i^{(w)} u^{(w)} + \langle v_i^W, u^W \rangle = \langle v_i, u \rangle + c_i.$$

for any $1 \leq i \leq m$. This can be interpreted as one-dimensional problem where v_i 's are sums $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^{(w)}$ and c_i 's sums $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i c_i$ where t_i 's range over all tuples of non-negative numbers with $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^W = 0$. But now there are infinitely many conditions so we can't immediately use the case $n = 1$. However, by the extra assumption $w, -w \in C$, so one can find t_i 's such that $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^W = 0$ and $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^{(w)}$ is both positive and negative. This means that the set of suitable $u^{(w)}$'s is intersection of bounded closed intervals so, as in the case $n = 1$, it suffices to consider only pairs of conditions. So take $s_1, s_2 \geq 0$ and $t_{i,1}, t_{i,2} \geq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,1} v_i^W = \sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,2} v_i^W = 0$ and

$$s_1 \sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,1} v_i^{(w)} + s_2 \sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,2} v_i^{(w)} = 0.$$

Then $\sum_{i=1}^m (s_1 t_{i,1} + s_2 t_{i,2}) v_i = 0$ so by the main condition

$$0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^m (s_1 t_{i,1} + s_2 t_{i,2}) c_i = s_1 \sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,1} c_i + s_2 \sum_{i=1}^m t_{i,2} c_i,$$

as desired.

Case 2: We first claim that there exists $w \in V$ such that $w, -w \notin C$. Assuming otherwise, take $1 \leq j < l \leq m$ (the case $m = 1$ is clear as $n > 1$). Now as $v_j - v_l \in C$ or $v_l - v_j \in C$, w.l.o.g. $v_j = v_l + \sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i$ for some $t_1, \dots, t_m \geq 0$. If $t_j \geq 1$, we have found non-trivial decomposition for 0, a contradiction. If on the other hand $t_j < 1$, we see that $v_j \in \text{cone}\{a_v | i \neq j\}$, so we may forget v_j . Inducting on m finishes the claim.

Again, decompose $V = \text{span}(w) \oplus W$, $v_i = v_i^{(w)} + v_i^W$ and $u = u^{(w)} + u^W$. We prove that we may set $u^{(w)} = 0$ and also the reduced problem in W falls in the case 2. Indeed, if $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \geq 0$ are such that $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^W = 0$ then $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i^{(w)} \in C \cap \text{span}(w) = \{0\}$. Consequently $\sum_{i=1}^m t_i v_i = 0$ and hence $t_i = 0$ for any $1 \leq i \leq m$. \square

Remark 6.35. Pick–Nevanlinna interpolation theorem can be extended in many ways. One such extension concerns Taylor sections.

Theorem 6.36. Fix $d : \mathbb{H}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ and numbers $c_{z,k} \in \mathbb{C}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{H}_+$ and $0 \leq k \leq d(z) - 1$. Then there exists Pick function φ with

$$\frac{\varphi^{(k)}(z)}{k!} = c_{z,k},$$

if and only if the functional with

$$\langle \varphi, (\cdot - z)^{-k-1} \rangle_L = c_{z,k},$$

is positive.

Here the definition of $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle_L$ is completed exactly how one would expect. Theorem 6.36 could be proven with pretty much same ideas as Theorem 6.30; we're not going to do that, however. \triangle

6.5 Notes and references

Pick functions and representation Theorem 6.8 are discussed in numerous sources; see for example (?). Pick–Nevanlinna interpolation theorem 6.30 was first observed and proved independently by Pick [17] and Nevanlinna [16]. Since then, many different approaches exist, see (?) for a survey. Usually the treatment builds on the notion of Pick matrix: given $\varphi : \mathbb{H}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{H}_+$ one may define a matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} [z_1, \overline{z_1}]_\varphi & [z_1, \overline{z_2}]_\varphi & \cdots & [z_1, \overline{z_n}]_\varphi \\ [z_2, \overline{z_1}]_\varphi & [z_2, \overline{z_2}]_\varphi & \cdots & [z_2, \overline{z_n}]_\varphi \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [z_n, \overline{z_1}]_\varphi & [z_n, \overline{z_2}]_\varphi & \cdots & [z_n, \overline{z_n}]_\varphi \end{bmatrix}.$$

One may check that quadratic functionals of such matrices are just Pick functionals in disguise. Consequently: φ is a Pick function, if and only if all such matrices are positive.

Lemma 6.31 is not best possible. It can be shown that for $X \in \mathbb{H}_+$, $R(X)$ is dense in $R(\mathbb{H}_+)$, if and only if

$$\sum_{z \in X} \frac{\Im(z)}{|z|^2 + 1} = \infty.$$

It can be also shown that if $R(X)$ is not dense in $R(\mathbb{H}_+)$, then there exists weakly Pick function on X with two different Pick extensions.

Approach taken in this text is similar to (?).

Chapter 7

Matrix monotone functions – part 3

7.1 Loewner's theorem

Aim of this chapter is to prove Theorem 5.14. Before we start with the proof, let us make brief return to section 5.2.

Definition 7.1. We say that $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is weakly Pick (on (a, b)), if for any $r \in R_+(a, b)$

$$\langle f, r \rangle_L \geq 0.$$

We will denote the set of weakly Pick functions on (a, b) by $\mathcal{P}(a, b)$.

In section 5.2 we observed that the classes $P_\infty(a, b)$ and $\mathcal{P}(a, b)$ coincide: any ∞ -monotone function corresponds to a linear functional on $R(a, b) = R((a, b))$, positive on $R_+(a, b)$. Note that as we defined $R_+(a, b)$ to be the set of those $r \in R((a, b))$, which are non-negative outside (c, d) for some $a < c < d < b$, $R_+(a, b) \neq R_+((a, b))$.

Let us denote

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{P}}(a, b) := & \{ \varphi \in \mathcal{P} \mid \varphi \text{ extends analytically to } (a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_- \\ & \text{in such a way that } \varphi(z) = \overline{\varphi(\bar{z})} \text{ for any } z \in \mathbb{H}_+ \text{ and } \varphi[(a, b)] \subset \mathbb{R}. \}. \end{aligned}$$

Now Theorem 5.14 can be rephrased as follows.

Theorem 7.2. *Let $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$, if and only if $f = \varphi|_{(a, b)}$ for some $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}(a, b)$.*

The proof is in several steps. “ \Leftarrow ” is the easy direction.

Lemma 7.3. *Let $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}(a, b)$. Then $\varphi|_{(a,b)} \in P_\infty(a, b)$.*

Proof. Note that for any $q \in \mathbb{C}_{n-1}[x]$ and $t \in (a, b)$ one has

$$\frac{(\varphi N(q))^{(2n-1)}(t)}{(2n-1)!} = \lim_{\substack{z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{H}_+ \\ z_1, \dots, z_n \rightarrow t}} [z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n]_{\varphi N(q)} \geq 0.$$

By Theorem 5.1 $\varphi|_{(a,b)} \in P_\infty(a, b)$. □

For “ \Rightarrow ” we follow the ideas of proof of Theorem 6.30. We have functional on $R(a, b)$, and would like to extend it to a functional in $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. For this we need two ingredients: “norm” for $R(a, b)$, for which the elements of $\mathcal{P}(a, b)$ give bounded functionals, and density of $R(a, b)$ in $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ with this norm. Suitable norm in this setting is

$$\|r\|_{(a,b)} = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (a,b)} |r(\lambda)|(\lambda^2 + 1).$$

Lemma 7.4. *For every $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}(a, b)$ there exists constant $C(\varphi)$ such that*

$$|\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L| \leq C(\varphi) \|r\|_{(a,b)}$$

for any $r \in R(a, b)$.

Proof. Not much changes from the proof of Lemma 6.19. We can again assume that $r \in R_\pm(a, b)$. Fix $a < c < d < b$. It’s easy to see that there exists a constant $C_{c,d}$ such that

$$-\frac{C_{c,d} \|r\|_{(a,b)}}{(\lambda - c)(\lambda - d)} \leq r(\lambda) \leq \frac{C_{c,d} \|r\|_{(a,b)}}{(\lambda - c)(\lambda - d)}$$

holds for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (c', d')$ for some $a < c' < c < d < d' < b$. But now just by the definition of $\mathcal{P}(a, b)$ we have $|\langle \varphi, r \rangle_L| \leq C_{c,d}[\varphi] \|r\|_{(a,b)}$. □

Lemma 7.5. *$R(a, b)$ is dense in $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ with respect to $\|\cdot\|_{(a,b)}$.*

Proof. Again, not much changes from the proof of Lemma 6.31. We take sequence x_0, x_1, \dots converging to $x_\infty \in (a, b)$. Note that

$$\left\| \frac{(w - x_0) \cdots (w - x_n)}{(\lambda - w)(\lambda - x_0) \cdots (\lambda - x_n)} \right\|_{(a,b)}$$

tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ whenever $|w - x_\infty| < \min(x_\infty - a, b - x_\infty)$. But this means that $R(a, b)$ is dense in $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{D}(x_\infty, \min(x_\infty - a, b - x_\infty)))$, which is dense in $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ by Lemma 6.31 (and the fact that $\|\cdot\|_{(a,b)} \leq \|\cdot\|_R$). □

Lemma 7.6. *Let $f \in P_\infty(a, b)$. Then there exists $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}(a, b)$ with $\varphi|_{(a,b)} = f$.*

Proof. Using Lemmas 7.4, 7.5, and the arguments of alternate proof for Lemma 6.20, one sees that $\langle f, \cdot \rangle_L$ can be extended to $R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$. With arguments of the proof of Lemma 6.26 one sees that if $r \in R((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ is non-negative on $\mathbb{R} \setminus (c, d)$ for some $a < c < d < b$, then $\langle f, r \rangle_L \geq 0$. Consequently also the extension satisfies Lemma 7.4.

This extension defines a function φ on $(a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$. By the positivity of the extension, this function is a Pick function on \mathbb{H}_+ and by its very definition, it agrees with f on (a, b) . That φ is analytic on (a, b) , follows from Lemma 4.48 and the following estimate, which can be easily shown with Lemma 7.4.

Lemma 7.7. *For every compact $K \subset (a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}((a, b) \cup \mathbb{H}_+ \cup \mathbb{H}_-)$ there exists a constant $C(K, \varphi)$ such that*

$$|[z_0, z_1, \dots, z_k]_\varphi| \leq \frac{C(K, \varphi)}{\text{dist}(z_0, \mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)) \text{dist}(z_1, \mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b)) \cdots \text{dist}(z_k, \mathbb{R} \setminus (a, b))}$$

for any $k \geq 1$ and $z_0, z_1, \dots, z_k \in K$.

□

Proof of Theorem 7.2. t.f.i.f. Lemmas 7.3 and 7.6.

□

Note that by the Schwarz reflection principle the class $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}(a, b)$ coincides with the set of Pick functions that continuously extend to (a, b) in such a way that the extension is real on (a, b) .

7.2 Notes and references

Proofs of this chapter are new but heavily inspired by the respective arguments on Pick functions.

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