

# POSITIVE POLYNOMIALS LECTURE NOTES

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#### 1. ARCHIMEDEAN MODULES

Let  $A$  be a commutative ring,  $Q \subseteq A$ ,  $T$  a preprime.

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $M$  a  $T$ -module.  $M$  is **archimedean** if:

$$\forall a \in A, \exists N \geq 1, N \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \text{ s.t. } N + a, N - a \in M .$$

**Proposition 1.2.** Let  $T$  be a generating preprime,  $M$  a maximal proper  $T$ -module. Assume that  $M$  is archimedean. Then  $\exists$  a uniquely determined  $\alpha \in \text{Hom}(A, \mathbb{R})$  s.t.  $M = \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+) = P_\alpha$  .  
(In particular,  $M$  is an ordering, not just a semi-ordering.)

*Proof.* Let  $a \in A$ , define:

$\text{cut}(a) = \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r - a \in M\}$ , this is an **upper cut** in  $\mathbb{Q}$  (i.e. final segment of  $\mathbb{Q}$ ) .

**Claim 1:**  $\text{cut}(a) \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathbb{Q} \setminus (\text{cut}(a)) := L(a) \neq \emptyset$ , where  $L(a)$  is a **lower cut** in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Proof of claim 1. Since  $M$  is archimedean  $\exists n \geq 1$  s.t.  $n - a \in M$ , so  $\text{cut}(a) \neq \emptyset$  .

Also  $\exists m \geq 1$  s.t.  $(m + a) \in M$ .

If  $-(m + 1) - a \in M$ , then adding we get  $-1 \in M$ , a contradiction (since  $M$  is proper). So we have  $-(m + 1) - a \notin M$ , which  $\Rightarrow -(m + 1) \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus (\text{cut}(a)) = L(a)$ .  
□(claim 1)

Now define a map  $\alpha : A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$\alpha(a) := \inf (\text{cut}(a))$$

$\alpha$  is well-defined.

**Claim 2:**  $\alpha(1) = 1$ ,  $\alpha(M) \subseteq \mathbb{R}_+$ ;  $\alpha(a \pm b) = \alpha(a) \pm \alpha(b) \forall a, b \in A$  and  $\alpha(tb) = \alpha(t)\alpha(b) \forall t \in T, b \in A$ .

This is left as an exercise.

**Claim 3:**  $\alpha(ab) = \alpha(a)\alpha(b) \forall a, b \in A$

Proof of claim 3.  $T$  generating  $\Rightarrow a = t_1 - t_2, t_1, t_2 \in T$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so, } \alpha(ab) &= \alpha(t_1b - t_2b) = \alpha(t_1a) - \alpha(t_2b) \\ &= \alpha(t_1)\alpha(b) - \alpha(t_2)\alpha(b) \text{ [by claim 2]} \\ &= (\alpha(t_1) - \alpha(t_2))\alpha(b) = \alpha(t_1 - t_2)\alpha(b) = \alpha(a)\alpha(b). \end{aligned}$$

□(claim 3)

**Claim 4:**  $\alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+) = M$

Proof of claim 4. By Claim 2,  $M \subseteq \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+)$

so, by maximality of  $M$  and since  $P_\alpha = \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+)$  is an ordering it follows that

$$M = \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+) . \quad \square$$

**Corollary 1.3.** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring with 1,  $T$  an archimedean preprime,  $M$  a  $T$ -module,  $-1 \notin M$  (i.e.  $M$  proper  $T$ -module). Then  $\chi_M \neq \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* Since  $T$  is archimedean,  $T$  is generating (because  $a = (n + a) - n$ , for  $a \in A$ ) and  $M$  is a proper archimedean module (archimedean module because for an archimedean preprime  $T$ , every  $T$ -module is also archimedean). By Zorn's lemma extend  $M$  to a maximal proper archimedean module  $Q$ . Apply Proposition 1.2 to  $Q$  to get  $\alpha \in \text{Hom}(A, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $Q = \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+)$ . This implies  $M \subseteq \alpha^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_+)$ . So,  $\alpha \in \chi_M$ , which implies  $\Rightarrow \chi_M \neq \emptyset$ . □

## 2. REPRESENTATION THEOREM (STONE-KRIVINE, KADISON-DUBOIS)

The following corollary (to Proposition 1.2 and Corollary 1.3) answers the question raised in 2.4 of lecture 12:

**Corollary 2.1. (Stone-Krivine, Kadison-Dubois)** Let  $A$  be a commutative ring,  $T$  an archimedean preprime in  $A$ ,  $M$  a proper  $T$ -module. Let  $a \in A$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{a} : \chi &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ defined by} \\ \hat{a}(\alpha) &:= \alpha(a) \end{aligned}$$

If  $\hat{a} > 0$  on  $\chi_M$ , then  $a \in M$ .

*Proof.* Assume  $\hat{a} > 0$  on  $\chi_M$ , i.e.  $\hat{a}(\alpha) > 0 \forall \alpha \in \chi_M$ .

To show:  $a \in M$

- Consider  $M_1 := M = aT$

Since  $\alpha(a) > 0 \forall \alpha \in \chi_M$ , we have  $\chi_{M_1} = \emptyset$  [because if  $\alpha \in \chi_{M_1}$ , then  $\alpha(M_1) \subseteq \mathbb{R}_+$ . So,  $\alpha(-a) = -\alpha(a) \geq 0$ . So,  $\alpha(a) \leq 0$ , but  $\alpha \in \chi_M$  so  $\alpha(a) > 0$ , a contradiction].

So (since  $M_1$  is an archimedean  $T$ -module), we can apply Corollary 1.3 to  $M_1$  to deduce that  $-1 \in M_1$ .

Write  $-1 = s - at, s \in M, t \in T$

$$\Rightarrow at - 1 = s \in M \tag{\star}$$

- Consider  $\Sigma := \{r \in \mathbb{Q} \mid r + a \in M\}$

We **claim** that:  $\exists \rho \in \Sigma; \rho < 0$

Once the claim is established we are done (with the proof of corollary) because

$$a = \underbrace{(a + \rho)}_{\in M} + \underbrace{(-\rho)}_{\in M} \in M.$$

Proof of the claim: First observe that  $\Sigma \neq \emptyset$  (since  $\exists n \geq 1$  s.t.  $n + a \in T \subseteq M$ , so  $n \in \Sigma$ ).

Now fix  $r \in \Sigma, r \geq 0$  and fix an integer  $k \geq 1$  s.t.  $(k - t) \in T$

$$\text{Write: } kr - 1 + ka = \underbrace{(k - t)}_{\in T} \underbrace{(r + a)}_{\in M} + \underbrace{(at - 1)}_{\in M} + \underbrace{rt}_{\in M} \in M$$

Multiplying by  $\frac{1}{k}$ , we get

$$\left(r - \frac{1}{k}\right) + a \in M, \text{ i.e. } \left(r - \frac{1}{k}\right) \in \Sigma$$

Repeating we eventually find  $\rho \in \Sigma, \rho < 0$ . □

**Note 2.2.** For a quadratic module  $M \subseteq \mathbb{R}[X]$ , set

$$K_M := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid g(x) \geq 0 \forall g \in M\}.$$

Note that if  $M = M_S$  with  $S = \{g_1, \dots, g_s\}$ , then  $K_S = K_M$ .

We have the following corollaries to Corollary 2.1. (Stone-Krivine, Kadison-Dubois):

**Corollary 2.3. (Putinar's Archimedean Positivstellensatz)** Let  $M \subseteq \mathbb{R}[\underline{X}]$  be an archimedean quadratic module. Then for each  $f \in \mathbb{R}[\underline{X}]$ :

$$f > 0 \text{ on } K_M \Rightarrow f \in M .$$

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $A = \mathbb{R}[\underline{X}]$  and  $S = \{g_1, \dots, g_s\}$ . Assume that the finitely generated preordering  $T_S$  is archimedean. Then for all  $f \in A$ :

$$f > 0 \text{ on } K_S \Rightarrow f \in T_S .$$

**Remark 2.5.**

1. To apply the corollary we need a criterion to determine when a preordering (quadratic module) is archimedean.
2.  $T_S$  is archimedean  $\Rightarrow$  for  $f = \sum X_i^2 : \exists N$  s.t.  $N - f = N - \sum X_i^2 \in T_S$   
 $\Rightarrow N - \sum X_i^2 \geq 0$  on  $K_S$ .  
 $\Rightarrow K_S$  is bounded. Also  $K_S$  is closed.  
 So  $T_S$  is archimedean implies  $K_S$  is compact.