

Polyhedra and Spectrahedra on fields with valuations

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For $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_m \in \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 1}$ real affine n -variate functions:

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For $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathbb{S}^m$ real symmetric matrices

$$\text{Spectrahedron: } \mathcal{S} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \dots + x_n A_n \succeq 0\}$$

“ $\succeq 0$ ” = positive semi-definite = its eigenvalues are ≥ 0 .

$A(x) \succeq 0$ is **called a LMI**.

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Fact: Polyhedra are Spectrahedra, since $x \in \mathcal{P} \Leftrightarrow A(x) := \text{diag}(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_m) \succeq 0$.

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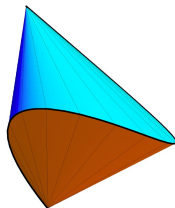
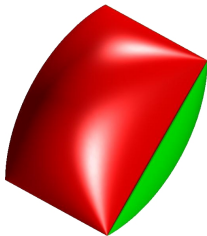
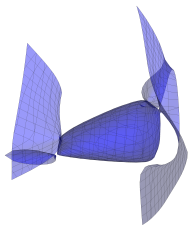
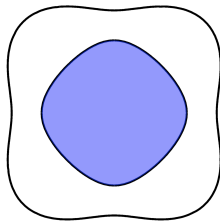
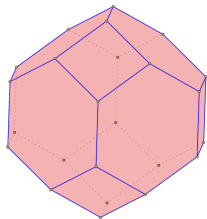
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Fact: Polyhedra resp. Spectrahedra are **convex**.



Motivations and properties

Polyhedra $\rightarrow$ feasible sets of **Linear Programming (LP)**



Spectrahedra $\rightarrow$ feasible sets of **Semidefinite Programming (SDP)**



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Classical applications from

- ▶ **real algebraic geometry** (positive polynomials vs SOS, 17th Hilbert's problem)
- ▶ **control theory** (Lyapunov stability)
- ▶ **combinatorial optimization** (e.g. SDP relaxation of MAXCUT)
- ▶ **polynomial optimization** (moment-SOS relaxation hierarchy)

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Several **good properties** besides convex but spectrahedra/SDP are highly more **pathological** than polyhedra/LP:

- ▶ spectrahedra are not closed under linear image
- ▶ solutions only over algebraic extension: $\{\sqrt{2}\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \begin{bmatrix} x & 1 \\ 2 & x \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ x & 2 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0\}$

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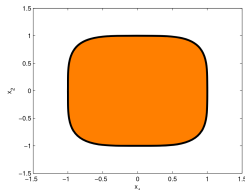
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Semidefinite representable sets

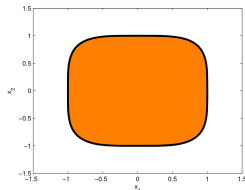
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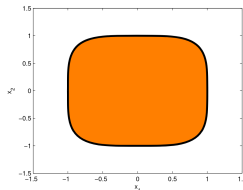


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Not every convex (compact) semialgebraic set is a spectrahedral shadow (Scheiderer, 2018).

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Not every convex (compact) semialgebraic set is a spectrahedral shadow (Scheiderer, 2018).
But what about spectrahedra over much more exciting fields like $\mathbb{Q}_p$?

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Setting

Discrete-valuation fields

Let K be a field with:

- ▶ discrete valuation $v_K : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ making it complete,
- ▶ integer ring O_K ,
- ▶ uniformizer π
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Example

K	valuation	R	π	κ
$\mathbb{Q}_p$	p -adic	$\mathbb{Z}_p$	p	$\mathbb{F}_p$
$\mathbb{F}_q((t))$	t -adic	$\mathbb{F}_q[[t]]$	t	$\mathbb{F}_q$
$\mathbb{Q}((t))$	t -adic	$\mathbb{Q}[[t]]$	t	$\mathbb{Q}$

and their finite extensions.

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Topology somehow in-between discrete and continuous mathematics.

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Definition (Ball/disks)

$$B_K(\alpha; \lambda) := \{x \in K : v_K(x - \alpha) \geq \lambda\}.$$

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Proposition

- ▶ Any point of $D_K(\alpha; \lambda)$ is a center of this disk.
- ▶ If two disks have a non-trivial intersection, then one contains the other. As such, any set of disks has a forest / tree-like structure for inclusion.

Annuli

Definition (Annulus)

$$\mathcal{C}_K(\alpha, a, b) = \{x \in K \mid a \leq \text{val}(x - \alpha) \leq b\},$$

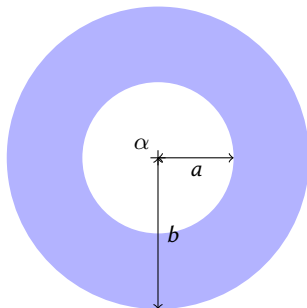
for $x \in K$, $a \leq b \in \mathbb{R}$.

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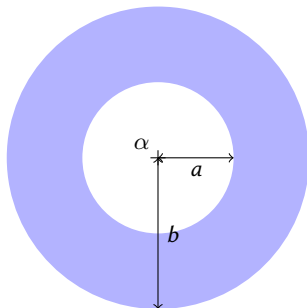


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Remark

Central object in p -adic differential equations or in non-archimedean analytic geometry. Used to define series converging on $\mathcal{C}_K(\alpha, a, b)$.

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Non-archimedean polyhedron

Definition

A *polyhedron* is a subset $\mathcal{P} \subset K^n$ of the form

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ x \in K^n : \begin{array}{ll} \text{val}(\ell_i(x)) \geq 0 & i = 1, \dots, d \\ \text{val}(m_j(x)) = +\infty & j = 1, \dots, e \end{array} \right\},$$

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This can be written in matrix form:

$$\mathcal{P} = \{x \in K^n : Ax + v \succeq 0, Bx + w = 0\},$$

for $A \in K^{d \times n}$, $v \in K^d$, $B \in K^{e \times n}$, and $w \in K^e$ such that $Ax + v = (\ell_1, \dots, \ell_d)^T$ and $Bx + w = (m_1, \dots, m_e)^T$.

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Example

$$D(c, \alpha) = \{x \in K^n : \text{val}(x - c) \geq \alpha\} = \{x \in K^n : \text{val}(\pi^{-\alpha}(x - c)) \geq 0\}.$$

As such, balls are polyhedron, and similarly for polydisks.

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Projecting polyhedron

Theorem (direct image (DI))

Let $f : K^n \rightarrow K^m$ be an affine map and $\mathcal{P}$ a polyhedron in K^n . Then $f(\mathcal{P})$ is a polyhedron in K^m .

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Idea of proof.

Use the Smith Normal Form of the linear part f_0 of f .

$$\text{Mat}_B(f_0) = P \begin{pmatrix} \pi^{\alpha_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \pi^{\alpha_2} & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \pi^{\alpha_s} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} Q$$

with $P, Q \in GL_n(O_K)$.

Reduce to the case of: translation, isometry, projection.



Proposition (Characterization of polyhedra)

A non-empty polyhedron is the image of a polydisc under an affine map.

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Proposition

Polyhedra in K are either the empty set or balls, possibly with infinite radius.

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Definition and characterization

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Corollary

$$O_K^{d \times d} \subset K_+^{d \times d}.$$

Example

Let

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} + 5 & \frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & -\frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{Q}_5^{2 \times 2}.$$

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Hence

$$M \in (\mathbb{Q}_5)_+^{2 \times 2}$$

$$M \notin (\mathbb{Z}_5)^{2 \times 2}.$$

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What is a spectrahedron?

Definition

A spectrahedron in $K^{d \times d}$

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$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{L} \cap K_+^{d \times d} = \left\{ X \in K^{d \times d} : \exists x \in K^n, X = A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i, X \succeq 0 \right\}$$

where $\mathcal{L} = A_0 + \text{span}(A_1, \dots, A_n) \subset K^{d \times d}$ is an affine space, for some $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n \in K^{d \times d}$.

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Definition

A *spectrahedron* in K^n is any affine section of a set of the form

$$\mathcal{S}_A = \varphi_A^{-1}(K_+^{d \times d}) = \{x \in K^n : A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \dots + x_n A_n \succeq 0\}$$

for some $d \in \mathbb{N}$, where $\varphi_A : K^n \rightarrow \mathcal{L} \subset K^{d \times d}$ is the map $\varphi_A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \dots + x_n A_n$, and $\mathcal{L} = A_0 + \text{span}(A_1, \dots, A_n)$.

Polyhedron implies Spectrahedron

Proposition

A polyhedron in K^n is a spectrahedron in K^n .

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Proof.

Basically, same idea as over $\mathbb{R}$: we can put the inequalities of valuation into some big diagonal matrix to get some linear matrix inequality. □

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The following spectrahedron is not a polyhedron:

$$\mathcal{S} = \left\{ x \in K : \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x + \pi^{-1} \\ x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \right\}.$$

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which is not a ball in K . Therefore, $\mathcal{S}$ is not a polyhedron. $\square$

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Question

Are all spectrahedra of K diskoids?

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2. Non-archimedean geometry

- ▶ Discrete-valuation fields
- ▶ Objects of interest

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- ▶ Definition and first examples
- ▶ Stability and applications

4. Spectrahedron

- ▶ Positive semi-definite matrices
- ▶ Definitions and first examples
- ▶ Spectrahedral shadows and polyannuli

Annuli and shadows

Theorem

Annuli in K such as $\mathcal{C}_K(0, a, b) = \{x \in K \mid a \leq \text{val}(x) \leq b\}$ are spectrahedral shadows.

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for some representatives $b_l \in O_K$ of the classes of $(O_K \setminus \{0\})/\pi O_K = \kappa^\times$. □

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Future works

- ▶ Can we decide if a spectrahedron is non-empty?

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Future works

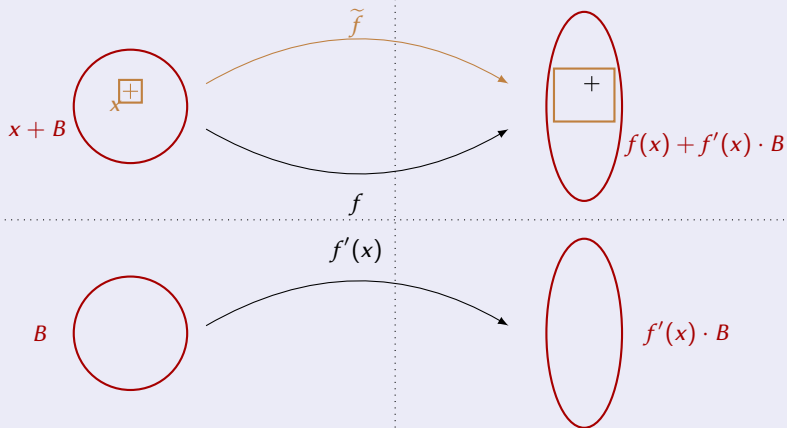
- ▶ Can we decide if a spectrahedron is non-empty?
- ▶ Can we give an explicit representation?

Thank you for your attention

Thank you

$$x + O(p^{N'})$$

$$y + O(p^{M'}) \subset f(x) + O(p^N)$$



OM algorithms and diskoids

- ▶ **PVW2025**, *On OM algorithms and Cluster Pictures*, A. Poteaux, T. Vaccon, M. Weimann, 2025.
- ▶ **PVW2026**, *On OM algorithms and Cluster Pictures II: handling small precision*, A. Poteaux, T. Vaccon, M. Weimann, 2026.

Polyhedra and spectrahedra over valued fields

- ▶ **CNV2025**: *On semidefinite-representable sets over valued fields*, C. Cornou, S. Naldi, T. Vaccon, 2026

A tropical approach to spectrahedra in a non-archimedean context (unrelated)

- ▶ **AGS2020**: *Tropical Spectrahedra*, X. Allamigeon, S. Gaubert, M. Skomra, 2020