

Ordered algebras with an order unit

Jukka Kauppi

University of Oulu

Weighted function algebras

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Let $v: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous real-valued function on a locally compact Hausdorff space X such that $\inf_{t \in X} v(t) > 0$. We define

$$C_b^v(X) := \{f \in C(X) : vf \text{ is bounded on } X\},$$

$$C_0^v(X) := \{f \in C(X) : vf \text{ vanishes at infinity on } X\}.$$

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When equipped with the pointwise operations and the *weighted supremum norm*

$$\|f\|_v := \sup_{t \in X} v(t)|f(t)|,$$

these sets become real Banach algebras.

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Definition

An *ordered algebra* is a pair (A, A_+) , where A is an algebra and A_+ is a non-empty subset of A satisfying the following three conditions:

- (i) $rA_+ + sA_+ \subseteq A_+$ for all $r, s \in \mathbb{R}_+$;
- (ii) $A_+A_+ \subseteq A_+$;
- (iii) $A_+ \cap -A_+ = \{0\}$.

The set A_+ is called the *positive cone* of A .

Remark

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra. For each pair $a, b \in A$, we write

$$a \leq b \quad \text{if} \quad b - a \in A_+.$$

Then \leq defines a partial ordering on A which is compatible with the algebraic structure.

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Example

For a subalgebra B of the algebra $C(Y)$ of all continuous real-valued functions on an arbitrary topological space Y , put

$$B_+ := \{f \in B : f(t) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ for all } t \in Y\}.$$

Then (B, B_+) is an ordered algebra.

Order unit

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Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra. An *order unit* for A is an element $u \in A_+$ with the following two properties:

- (i) each $a \in A$ satisfies $ru - a \in A_+$ and $ru + a \in A_+$ for some constant $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$;
- (ii) each $a \in A$ with $ru + a \in A_+$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}_+ \setminus \{0\}$ satisfies $a \in A_+$.

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Example

Let B be a subalgebra of $C_b^v(X)$ containing the function $1/v$. Then (B, B_+) , where B_+ is defined as above, is an ordered algebra with order unit $1/v$.

Algebraic order unit

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Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra. By an *algebraic order unit* for A , we mean an order unit u for A with the following two additional properties:

- (i) each pair $a, b \in A$ satisfies $u(ab) = (ua)b$ and $(ab)u = a(bu)$;
- (ii) each $a \in A$ with $uau \in A_+$ satisfies $a \in A_+$.

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Remark

These conditions are necessary for an ordered algebra with an order unit to have a representation as a function algebra.

Lemma

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u .

Put

$$C := \inf\{r \in \mathbb{R}_+ : u^2 \leq ru\}.$$

Then C is a strictly positive real number satisfying

$$ua \leq Ca \quad \text{and} \quad au \leq Ca$$

for all $a \in A_+$.

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Example

Let (B, B_+) be as above. Suppose that there exist u_1, \dots, u_n in B_+ such that every $f \in B$ can be written as

$$f = u_1 f_1 + \cdots + u_n f_n,$$

for some f_1, \dots, f_n in $C_b(Y)$. Then $u := u_1 + \cdots + u_n$ is an algebraic order unit for B .

Positive functionals and states

Positive functionals and states

Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with order unit u . A linear functional $\tau: A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is called

- (i) *positive* if $\tau(a) \in \mathbb{R}_+$ for all $a \in A_+$;
- (ii) a *state* if τ is positive and $\tau(u) = 1$.

The *state space* of A , denoted by $S(A)$, is the set of all states on A , endowed with the weak topology induced by the elements of A .

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The extreme points of the state space of A are called *pure states*, and the set of all pure states on A is denoted by $P(A)$.

Lemma

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u .
Then, for every positive functional τ on A , we have

$$\frac{\tau(au + ua)^2}{4} \leq \tau(u) \tau(a(ua))$$

for all $a \in A$.

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Remark

Let τ be a positive functional on an ordered algebra (A, A_+) with an order unit. The Schwartz inequality, meaning that

$$\tau(a)^2 \leq \tau(a^2)$$

for all $a \in A$, need not hold if the order unit is algebraic. In fact, it is possible even for a pure state on an ordered algebra with an algebraic order unit to vanish on the set $A^2 := \{ab : a, b \in A\}$.

Essential pure states

Essential pure states

Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with order unit u . We define the *essential part* of the pure state space of A by

$$P_e(A) := \{\tau \in P(A) : \tau(u^2) > 0\},$$

endowed with the topology induced from $S(A)$.

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Proposition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Then $\tau \mapsto \tau(u^2)\tau$ is a bijection from $P_e(A)$ onto the set of all non-zero positive multiplicative functionals on A .

Corollary

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Then $P_e(A)$ is a σ -compact locally compact Hausdorff space satisfying

$$A_+ = \{a \in A : \tau(a) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ for all } \tau \in P_e(A)\}.$$

Furthermore, for every non-zero $a \in A$, there exists $\tau \in P_e(A)$ such that $\tau(a) \neq 0$. Finally, the closed convex hull of $P_e(A)$ equals $S(A)$.

The weight function

The weight function

Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . We define a mapping $\widehat{v}: P_e(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by setting

$$\widehat{v}(\tau) := \frac{1}{\tau(u^2)} \quad (\tau \in P_e(A))$$

and call it the *weight function* on $P_e(A)$ induced by u .

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Lemma

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Then \widehat{v} is a continuous function on $P_e(A)$ satisfying $\widehat{v}(\tau) \geq C^{-1}$ for all $\tau \in P_e(A)$.

Remark

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with an algebraic order unit. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) \widehat{v} is bounded on $P_e(A)$;
- (b) $P_e(A)$ is compact;
- (c) A has an approximate identity under $\|\cdot\|_u$;
- (d) there exists a constant $C' > 0$ such that $u \leq C'u^2$.

In particular, if the order norm is complete, then A has an approximate identity under $\|\cdot\|_u$ if and only if A has a multiplicative identity.

The order norm

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Definition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with order unit u . The mapping $\|\cdot\|_u: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined by

$$\|a\|_u := \inf\{r \in \mathbb{R}_+ : ru - a \in A_+ \text{ and } ru + a \in A_+\},$$

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Lemma

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Then the order norm multiplied by the constant C is an algebra norm on A , and

$$\|a\|_u = \sup_{\tau \in P_e(A)} \widehat{v}(\tau) \tau(u^2) |\tau(a)|$$

for all $a \in A$.

The representation theorem

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$$\widehat{a}(\tau) := \tau(u^2) \tau(a) \quad (\tau \in P_e(A))$$

and call it the u -transform of a . We write $\widehat{A} := \{\widehat{a} : a \in A\}$ and call it the u -transform algebra of A .

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Theorem

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Then $a \mapsto \widehat{a}$ is an isometric algebra and order isomorphism from A onto a subalgebra of $C_b^{\widehat{v}}(P_e(A))$ which strongly separates the points of $P_e(A)$.

Proposition

Let (A, A_+) be an ordered algebra with algebraic order unit u . Suppose that the order norm is complete on A . Then \widehat{A} is a closed subalgebra of $C_b^{\widehat{v}}(P_e(A))$ satisfying $C_0^{\widehat{v}}(P_e(A)) \subseteq \widehat{A} \subseteq C_0(P_e(A))$.

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Corollary