

A boundary value problem in linear spaces

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A compact, convex subset K of a locally convex linear space is called a topological simplex if every continuous real-valued function on the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K admits a continuous, affine continuation in K .

It is well-known that K is a topological simplex if and only if it is a simplex in the sense of Choquet and the set $E(K)$ of its extreme points is closed (and therefore compact).

We start by stating the following theorem, which we shall use latter.

Theorem 1. If K is a topological simplex, then every continuous map of the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K into a convex, compact subset of a locally convex linear space admits a continuous, affine continuation in K .

Proof. Let $\chi(p)$ be a continuous mapping of $E(K)$ into a compact, convex subset N of a linear locally convex space Y and let $g(y)$ be a continuous linear real-valued functional in Y . Then $g(\chi(p))$ is a continuous real-valued function on $E(K)$. Let $\Theta_g(x)$ be its continuous, affine continuation in K and let L be the set of the points x of K , for which the equation

$$\Theta_g(x) = g(y)$$

admits a solution y in N for every g , which does depend on g .

Since $E(K) \subset L$ holds, we find $K \subset L$. On the other hand N is compact and therefore y is a continuous function of x . This function is the desired continuation of $\chi(p)$.

Definition. Let m be an affine, continuous mapping from K into K and let φ be a real-valued, affine function K . The couple (m, φ) is said to be a decomposition pair if in K

$$0 \leq \varphi(x) \leq 1$$

$$m(x) \in \varphi(x)K$$

$$x - m(x) \in (1 - \varphi(x))K$$

holds. We sometimes call (m, φ) a decomposing pair.

It is said that the points p and q are separated by a decomposition pair (m, φ) if $\varphi(p) \neq \varphi(q)$ holds.

Theorem 2. A compact, convex set K in a locally convex linear space is a topological simplex if and only if the decomposing pairs separate the extreme points of K .

For the proof we need several lemmas.

Lemma 1. Let K be convex and compact and (m, φ) be a decomposing pair in K . If S is an extreme point of K and μ is a real number such that $0 \leq \mu \leq 1$ holds, then the set of the points x of K satisfying the equation

$$m(x) = \mu x + (\varphi(x) - \mu) S$$

is an extreme subset of K .

Proof. We put

$$l(x) = m(x) - \varphi(x) S$$

and

$$n(x) = l(x - S) - 2\mu l(x) + \mu^2 (x - S) + S.$$

If p is an extreme point of K , then

$$m(p) = \varphi(p) P$$

holds. Thus $l(p) = \varphi(p) (p - S)$.

Since $n(x) \in K$ holds for the extreme points of K , it holds everywhere in K . Since S is an extreme point of K the set A of the points x of K satisfying $n(x) = S$ is an extreme subset of K . On the other hand this set coincides with the set B of the points x satisfying

$$m(x) = \mu + (\varphi(x) - \mu) S.$$

Indeed, since the implication $A \supset B$ is trivial we need only consider the implication $B \supset A$. Now observe that the extreme points of A belong to B and this completes the proof since A is an extreme subset of K .

Lemma 2. If the decomposing pairs (m, φ) separate the extreme elements of the convex, compact set K , the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K is closed (and therefore compact).

Proof. Let $\{P_\alpha\}$ be a directed system of extreme points of K converging to p_0 . We denote by $F_{m, \varphi, S}$ the set of the points x of K satisfying the equality

$$m(x) - \psi(x)S = \psi(p_0)(x-s).$$

By lemma 1 it is an extreme subset of K. Clearly

$$p_0 \in F_{m, \psi, s}$$

since $m(p_0) = \psi(p_0)p_0$. In order to prove that p_0 is an extreme point of K we shall show that the intersection F of the extreme sets $F_{m, \psi, s}$ has one single extreme point, which therefore coincides with p_0 . This extreme point of F is an extreme point of K as well, since F is an extreme subset of K. Suppose there are two different extreme points p_1 and p_2 . Since the decomposing pairs separate the extreme points, there is a decomposing pair (m, ψ) such that

$\psi(p_1) \neq \psi(p_2)$ holds. We may suppose that $\psi(p_0) \neq \psi(p_0)$. Clearly F is an extreme subset of K. Hence p_1 is an extreme point of K and therefore $m(p_1) = \psi(p_1)p_1$. On the other hand

$$m(p_1) - \psi(p_1)s = \psi(p_0)(p_1-s),$$

Hence

$$\psi(p_1)(p_1-s) = \psi(p_0)(p_1-s),$$

which is a contradiction since we may choose $S = p_2$.

Lemma 3. Let (m_1, ψ_1) be two decomposing pairs. Then there is such a decomposing pair (m, ψ) that for the extreme points p of K.

$$\psi(p) = \psi_1(p) \psi_2(p)$$

holds.

Proof. Let S be an extreme point of K. Then the couple of the functions.

We write

$$f_1(x) = m_1(x) - \psi_1(x)S$$

$$f_2(x) = m_2(x) - \psi_2(x)S.$$

Then the couple of the functions.

$$m(x) = f_2(f_1(x) + S) + \psi(x)S$$

$$\psi(x) = 2((f_1(x) + S) - (1-\psi_1(x))\psi_2(S))$$

is a decomposing pair with the desired property since for the extreme points p of K.

$$f_1(p) = \psi_1(p)(p-s) \quad f_2(p) = \psi_2(p)(p-s)$$

$$\psi(p) = \psi_1(p) \psi_2(p)$$

$$m(p) = \psi_1(p) \psi_2(p) p$$

Holds.

Proof of theorem 2. Let K be a convex, compact subset of a locally compact linear space. Suppose that the decomposing pairs separate the extreme points of K . We shall prove that every continuous real-valued function $f(p)$ on the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K admits a continuous, affine continuation on K . By lemma 2 the set $E(K)$ is compact. Now consider the linear hull R of the real-valued affine, continuous functions $\chi(x)$ on K such that $m(x)$ can be chosen so as the couple (m, χ) to be a decomposing pair. By lemma 3 the linear space R is an algebra on the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K . Hence by the Stone-Weierstrass theorem we can find in R a function f_n satisfying

$$|f(p) - f_n(p)| < \frac{1}{n}$$

on $E(K)$. Hence

$$|f_m(p) - f_n(p)| < \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{m}$$

On the other hand the functions of R are continuous and affine and therefore

$$|f_n(x) - f_m(x)| < \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{m}$$

holds in K as well. Clearly $\lim f_n(x)$ is the desired continuation of $f(p)$.

Now we shall prove the converse. Suppose that every continuous function on the set of the extreme points of K admits a continuous affine continuation on K . Let p_1 and p_2 be two different extreme points. Let $f(x)$ be a continuous linear functional which separates p_1 and p_2 .

Since $f(x)$ is bounded on K we may choose the constants α and β so as to have $0 < \alpha \leq f(x) + \beta \leq 1$ on K . On the other hand the function

$$(\lambda f(x) + \beta) \chi(x)$$

is a continuous map of the set $E(K)$ of the extreme points of K into the compact and convex set $U \times K$.

$$0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$$

Hence by theorem 1 this map admits a continuous, affine continuation $m(x)$ on K . Then the couple $(m(x), \lambda f(x) + \beta)$

is a decomposing pair which separates the points p_1 and p_2 .