# Distance formulas in Nevanlinna-Pick interpolation.

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Vanderbilt University

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## Real title

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Tangential Nevanlinna-Pick theorems for subalgebras of multiplier algebras of finite-rank, irreducible, complete Nevanlinna-Pick kernels and property  $\mathbb{A}_1(1)$ .

## **RKHS**

- A set X
- ▶ A kernel on  $X \times X$ , i.e., a function  $K : X \times X \to \mathbb{C}$  such that  $[K(x_i, x_j)]_{i,j=1}^n \ge 0$  for  $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\} \subseteq X$ .
- A Hilbert space  $H_K$  that is associated to K. The evaluations  $f \mapsto f(x)$  are bounded.  $f(x) = \langle f, k_x \rangle$ .

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• An algebra  $M(H_K)$ . The pointwise multipliers of  $H_K$ .

#### The **multiplier algebra** of $H_K$ is

$$M(H_{\mathcal{K}}) := \{f : X \to \mathbb{C} : f \cdot H_{\mathcal{K}} \subseteq H_{\mathcal{K}}\}$$

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are abelian dual operator algebras.

## Nevanlinna-Pick Interpolation

Given  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in X$ , and  $w_1, \ldots, w_n \in \mathbb{C}$ . We have an associated extremal problem

$$\inf\{\|f\|_{M(H_{K})} : f \in M(H_{K}), f(x_{j}) = w_{j}\}$$

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## Distance problems

- All solutions  $f_0 + g$ , where
  - $f_0(x_j) = w_j$  is a **particular solution** and
  - $g(x_j) = 0$  for j = 1, ..., n is a homogeneous solution.

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I = {g ∈ M(H<sub>K</sub>) : g(x<sub>j</sub>) = 0} is an ideal.
inf{||f||<sub>M(H<sub>K</sub>)</sub> : f ∈ M(H<sub>K</sub>), f(x<sub>j</sub>) = w<sub>j</sub>} = inf{||f<sub>0</sub> + g|| : g ∈ I} = ||f<sub>0</sub> + I||<sub>M(H<sub>K</sub>)/I</sub>

 $M(H_K)/\mathcal{I}$  is an *n*-dimensional operator algebra, compute its norm.

A natural representation of  $M({\cal H}_{\cal K})/{\cal I}.$  L be another RKHS with kernel  ${\cal K}_L$ 

▶ Suppose  $M(H_K) \subseteq M(L)$ ;  $\rho : M(H_K) \rightarrow B(L)$ .

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The representation  $\rho$  factors through  $\mathcal{I}$  to give a representation  $M(H_K)/\mathcal{I} \to B(\mathcal{K})$ 

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The representation theory of  $M(H_K)/\mathcal{I}$  is a measure of the complexity of the interpolation problem.

What is a distance formula?

$$d(f,\mathcal{I}) = \sup_{L\in\mathcal{L}} \|P_{\mathcal{K}}M_f P_{\mathcal{K}}\|.$$

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Banach space duality is one way to get them.

I'm going to hide the matrix-positivity conditions

$$\mathcal{K} = \operatorname{span}\{k_{x_1}, \dots, k_{x_n}\}, \ M_f^* k_x = \overline{f(x)} k_x$$
$$\|P_{\mathcal{K}} M_f P_{\mathcal{K}}\| \le 1 \Leftrightarrow \left[ (1 - f(x_i) \overline{f(x_j)}) \mathcal{K}(x_i, x_j) \right] \ge 0.$$

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The particular solution  $f_0(x_j) = w_j$ 

$$\left[(1-f(x_i)\overline{f(x_j)})K(x_i,x_j)\right] = \left[(1-w_i\overline{w_j})K(x_i,x_j)\right] \ge 0.$$

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#### NP problem $\Leftrightarrow$ Distance in the quotient algebra

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NP problem  $\Leftrightarrow$  Distance in the quotient algebra (direct sum of) representation(s) of quotient

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NP problem ⇔ Distance in the quotient algebra (direct sum of) representation(s) of quotient norm on the span of kernel functions ⇔ matrix positivity condition

Sarason (1967). Pick's theorem for H<sup>∞</sup>(D) = M(H<sup>2</sup>). The Szëgo kernel is enough.

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- ▶ Davidson-Pitts (1998). Free semigroup algebra  $\mathcal{L}_n$ .
- ► Davidson-Paulsen-R-Singh (2008). f'(0) = 0. Later extended to arbitrary weak\*-closed subalgebras of H<sup>∞</sup>.

## Subalgebras

We want to generalize well-known theorems (see history) to the case where A is a unital weak\*-closed subalgebra of  $M(H_K)$ .

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## Why?

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## Motivation. Unification

A generalization of Abrahamse's theorem if we view H<sup>∞</sup>(R) as a subalgebra of H<sup>∞</sup>(D). Fixed-point algebras of H<sup>∞</sup>. (R-2009).

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 A Nevanlinna-Pick theorem on the Neil parabola {z<sup>2</sup> = w<sup>3</sup>} ⊆ D<sup>2</sup>. (DPRS-2009).

## Motivation. Töplitz corona problems.

#### Theorem (Töplitz Corona. Arveson, Schubert)

If  $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in H^\infty$ , with  $T_{f_1}T_{f_1}^* + \cdots + T_{f_1}T_{f_n}^* \ge \delta^2 I$  in  $B(H^2)$ , then there exists  $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in H^\infty$  such that  $f_1g_1 + \cdots + f_ng_n = 1$ and  $\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} \sum_{j=1}^n |g_j(z)|^2 \le \delta^{-2}$ .

#### Theorem (R.-Wick, 2010)

Corresponding theorem for Riemann surfaces and fixed-point algebras. Generalizes Ball (1981)

$$R: M(H_K) o \ell^\infty$$
,  $R(f) = (f(z_j))_{j=1}^\infty$ ,  $R$  surjective.

Theorem (Interpolating sequences. Carleson)

A sequence  $z_j \in \mathbb{D}$  is interpolating for  $H^{\infty}$  if and only if it is strongly separated, i.e.,

$$\inf_{j\geq 1}\prod_{i\neq j}\left|\frac{z_i-z_j}{1-\overline{z_j}z_i}\right|>0.$$

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#### Theorem (R.-Wick. 2010)

Let  $A \subseteq H^{\infty}$  be a fixed-point algebra. Let  $E = \{z_j\}$  be a sequence of points in the unit disk. Let  $E_j = E \setminus \{z_j\}$ . The following are equivalent:

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## Cyclic subspaces

 $\mathcal{A} \subseteq M(H_{\mathcal{K}})$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  has a representation on  $\overline{\mathcal{A}h}$ ,  $h \in H_{\mathcal{K}}$ .

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In the presence of a group action you can do better, h can be chosen character automorphic, and there is a bounded (norm-equivalent to image) representation into  $B(\mathcal{K}_1)$ , because the modules  $\overline{\mathcal{A}h}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{A}} = H_{\mathcal{K}_1}$  are similar.

## Definition (CNP Kernel)

K on  $X \times X$  is a complete Nevanlinna-Pick kernel (cnp) iff for all  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ , all matrices  $W_1, \ldots, W_n \in M_d(\mathbb{C})$ 

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K on  $X \times X$  is a complete Nevanlinna-Pick kernel (cnp) iff for all  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ , all matrices  $W_1, \ldots, W_n \in M_d(\mathbb{C})$  there is a function  $F \in M_d(M(H_K))$  such that

$$F(x_j) = W_j \text{ with } \|F\| \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow [(1 - W_i W_j^*) K(x_i, x_j)] \geq 0.$$

Examples: Hardy space (Pick), Dirichlet space (Agler), Sobolev space (Agler).

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The natural representation of

$$M(H_{\mathcal{K}})/\mathcal{I} \mapsto B(\operatorname{span}\{k_{x_1},\ldots,k_{x_n}\})$$

is a complete isometry.

## The Drury-Arveson space

 $\mathbb{B}_d$  be the unit ball in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ , Drury-Arveson kernel

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Theorem (McCullough, Quiggin, Agler-McCarthy) Every irreducible CNP space is of the form

$$\mathcal{H}^2_{d,S} = \mathsf{span}\{k_x\,:\, x\in S\subseteq \mathbb{B}_d\}$$

for some set S and some d.

## Tangential interpolation

 $C(M(H_{\mathcal{K}}))$  is the **column space** of  $M(H_{\mathcal{K}})$ .  $C(M(H_{\mathcal{K}}))$  is multipliers from  $H_{\mathcal{K}}$  into  $H_{\mathcal{K}} \otimes \ell^2$ .

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**Tangential version**  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in X$ ,  $w_1, \ldots, w_n \in \mathbb{C}$  and vectors  $v_1, \ldots, v_n \in \ell^2$ .

 $\inf\{\|F\| : \langle F(x_j), v_j \rangle = w_j, F \in C(M(H_K))\} = \|F_0 + \mathcal{J}\|$  $\mathcal{J} = \{F \in C(M(H_K)) : \langle F(x_j), v_j \rangle = 0\}$ 

## Tangential Pick families

 $\mathcal{A} \subseteq M(\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{K}})$ .  $\mathcal{L} \subset Lat(\mathcal{A})$  a tangential Nevanlinna-Pick family if for every choice of points  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in X$ ,  $w_1, \ldots, w_n \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $v_1, \ldots, v_n \in \ell^2$ , we have

$$d(F,\mathcal{J}) = \sup_{L\in\mathcal{L}} \|P_L M_F^*|_{\mathcal{K}_L}\|.$$

Where  $\mathcal{J} = \{ \langle F(x_j), v_j \rangle = 0 \}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_L = \operatorname{span}\{k_{x_1}^L \otimes v_1, \dots, k_{x_n}^L \otimes v_n \}$ .

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Theorem (Hamilton-R. 2011)

If  $\mathcal{A} \subset M(\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{K}})$ , then the **cyclic** invariant subspaces in Lat( $\mathcal{A}$ ) form a tangential NP-family.

Extends results of Davidson-Hamilton (2010).

## Free semigroup algebra

#### Definition (The noncommutative analytic Töplitz algebra)

 $\mathcal{L}_d$  is the WOT-closed algebra generated by an *d*-tuple  $(S_1, \ldots, S_d)$  of shifts acting on the space  $\ell^2(\mathbb{F}_d^+)$  where  $\mathbb{F}_d^+$  is the free semigroup.

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## Proposition

Any multiplier algebra  $M(H_K)$ , where K is a CNP kernel, is a (complete) quotient of  $\mathcal{L}_d$ .

## Property $A_1(1)$

#### Definition (Bercovici-Foias-Pearcy (1985))

 $\mathcal{A} \subseteq B(H)$ , unital, weak\*-closed has  $\mathbb{A}_1(1)$  iff every weak\*-continuous linear functional  $\phi$ ,  $\|\phi\| < 1$ , on  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\phi(\mathcal{A}) = \langle Ax, y \rangle$  for some  $x, y \in H$ , with  $\|x\| \|y\| < 1$ .

•  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq B(H)$  has  $\mathbb{A}_1(1)$  when viewed as

 $\mathcal{A}\otimes I\subseteq B(H\otimes \ell^2).$ 

 Starting point for the Arveson (1975), McCullough (1996) and R-Wick (2010).

## Proof

## Theorem (Bercovici (1998))

An algebra of operators has the property  $A_1(1)$  if its commutant contains two isometries with pairwise orthogonal ranges.

So  $\mathcal{L}_d$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_d \otimes B(\ell^2)$ , have  $\mathbb{A}_1(1)$ , in fact has more.

Using the fact that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a subalgebra of a quotient we get that  $C(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq B(H_{\mathcal{K}} \oplus (H_{\mathcal{K}} \otimes \ell^2))$  has  $\mathbb{A}_1(1)$ .

The rest of the proof is calculations and unwinding.