

QUERIES ON HOMOGENEOUS POLYNOMIALS AND  
CLOSED ANALYTIC SUBSETS OF AN  
INFINITE-DIMENSIONAL COMPLEX  
PROJECTIVE SPACE

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**Abstract:** Let  $V$  be a complex Banach space and  $X \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  a closed analytic subset. For any sufficiently general  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$ , let  $d_{X,n}$  be the minimal degree of the polynomials needed to define  $(X \cap A)_{red}$ . For any integer  $z \geq d_{X,n}$  let  $m_{X,n,z}$  be the minimal number of homogeneous degree  $z$  polynomials needed to define  $(X \cap A)_{red}$ . Here we give some elementary properties and raise some questions on these sequences of integers and their relation to the continuous homogeneous polynomials on  $V$  vanishing on  $X$ .

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### 1. Queries

Let  $V$  be a complex Banach space space and  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  the projective space parametrizing all one-dimensional linear subspaces of  $V$ . It is well-known that a closed analytic subset  $X$  of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  may have bad properties (e.g. any compact and metrizable topological space has a structure of analytic set for someseparable

Banach space (see [4], Proposition II.1.3). However, if  $X$  is locally finitely determined (i.e. given locally by finitely many holomorphic equations in a Banach manifold), then it is nice:  $\text{Sing}(X)$  is a proper closed analytic subset of  $X$  (see [4], Theorem III.3.1.1), there is a decomposition of  $X$  into irreducible components and it is “algebraic”, i.e. the zero-locus of continuous homogeneous polynomials on  $V$ . From now on, we will always assume that  $X$  is a finitely determined closed analytic subset of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  (see [4], Theorem III.2.3.1). We will often assume that  $X$  is irreducible, i.e. that the set  $X_{reg}$  of its smooth points is connected. For every integer  $m \geq 0$  let  $G(m+1, V)$  denote the Grassmannian of all  $(m+1)$ -linear subspaces of  $V$ . By Hahn-Banach every  $A \in G(m+1, V)$  is closed and it has a closed supplement. We will always see each  $A \in G(m+1, V)$  as a closed  $m$ -dimensional linear subspace of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $V$  be a complex Banach space and  $X \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  of finite definition such that each irreducible component of  $X$  has codimension  $m$ . Set  $d := \deg(X)$ . Then  $X$  is set-theoretically the zero-locus of a family of continuous degree  $d$  homogeneous polynomials on  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Taking if necessary a closed linear subspace of  $V$  we reduce to the case in which  $X$  is not contained in a closed hyperplane of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$ . If  $m = 1$  we may take just one homogeneous degree  $d$  homogeneous polynomial with  $X$  as its zero-locus (even scheme-theoretically) by the definition of degree and [4], Theorem III.2.3.1: take a continuous homogeneous polynomial  $f \neq 0$  vanishing on  $X$  and with minimal possible degree; the existence of at least one polynomial  $\neq 0$  vanishing on  $X$ , being [4], Theorem III.2.3.1. We will adapt the proof of [3], Theorem 1. Fix any finite-dimensional linear subspace  $W \subset V$  and set  $e := \dim(W) - 1$ . Assume  $e \geq 0$ . By Hahn-Banach  $W$  has a closed supplement in  $V$  and we fix one such supplement. Hence  $M + W = V$  and  $M \cap W = \{0\}$ . Let  $g$  be any degree  $x$  homogeneous polynomial on  $V$ . We may expand  $g$  into monomials with variable in  $W$ ; each such non-zero monomial, say of degree  $a$ , has as the coefficient a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $x - a$  in  $M$ . Call  $g_W$  the sum of all such coefficients for various monomials in  $W$  with maximal degree  $< x$ , with the convention  $g_W = 0$  if there is no such monomial. We will call  $g_W$  the cone of  $g$  with respect to  $W$ ;  $g_W$  does not depend from the choice of  $M$ . For any zero-locus  $Y = \cap_{j \in J} \{g_j = 0\} \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  of continuous homogeneous polynomials, let  $Y_W := \cap_{j \in J} \{(g_j)_W = 0\} \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  be the cone of  $Y$  with vertex  $W$  or with vertex  $\mathbf{P}(W)$ . If  $Y$  is finitely determined and with finite codimension in  $\mathbf{P}(V)$ , then  $Y_W$  has the same properties and  $Y \subseteq Y_W$ ,  $\text{codim}(Y_W) \geq \text{codim} + e$  and  $\deg(Y_W) \leq \deg(Y)$  (hint: use the finite-dimensional case). As in the finite-dimensional case we may find a family of finite-dimensional linear spaces  $W_j$ ,

$j \in J$ , such that  $\dim(W_j) = m$ ,  $X_{W_j}$  is a hypersurface and  $X = \bigcap_{j \in J} X_{W_j}$ . If  $\deg(X_{W_j}) = d$  for every  $j$ , we are done. If  $\deg(W_j) = d - k$  for some  $k > 0$ , take all hypersurfaces  $X_{W_j} \cup D_k$ , where  $D_k$  is the  $k$ -power of a closed hyperplane of  $\mathbf{P}(V)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.** *In the set-up of Proposition 1 there is an integer  $s \leq d^m - d + 1$  and  $s$  continuous homogeneous polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_s$  such that  $\{f_1 = \dots = f_s = 0\}$  is the union of  $X$  and some lower dimensional analytic set.*

*Proof.* By Proposition 1 there is a family  $\{g_i\}_{i \in I}$  of degree  $d$  continuous homogeneous polynomial such that  $X = \bigcap_{i \in I} \{g_i = 0\}$  (set-theoretically). Since  $X$  has pure codimension  $m$  there are  $m$  element of  $\{g_i\}_{i \in I}$ , say  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  such that  $Z := \bigcap_{i=1}^m \{f_i = 0\}$  has pure codimension  $m$ . We have  $\deg(Z) \leq d^m$  and hence  $Z$  is the union of  $X$  and a finite set (perhaps empty) of  $m$ -codimensional irreducible subvarieties  $Y_{m+1}, \dots, Y_s$ . Fix any  $f_j \in \{g_i\}_{i \in I}$ ,  $m + 1 \leq j \leq s$ , not vanishing at some point of  $Y_j$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.** Let  $V$  be a complex locally convex and Hausdorff and  $X \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  a closed analytic subset which is locally of finite definition in the sense of [2], Chapter 5 of Part II. Hence there is a locally finite decomposition of  $X$  into irreducible components. For each of these components (say  $Y$ ) it is possible to define its codimension in  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  (perhaps  $+\infty$ ) in the following way: choose any  $P \in Y_{reg}$  and call codimension the codimension of the tangent space  $T_P Y$  in  $T_P \mathbf{P}(V)$ . Assume that all these codimensions are finite and that they are equal. Call  $m$  these codimensions. The proofs of Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 works verbatim IF we assume that  $X$  is the zero-locus of a family of continuous homogeneous polynomials on  $V$ . Without this assumption we do not know (in general) to define the cones. It would be nice to have an extension of [4], Theorem III.2.3.1, to more general locally convex topological vector spaces.

Fix  $V$ ,  $X$ ,  $m$  and  $d$  as in the statement of Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 (or Remark 1). We will always assume that  $V$  is infinite-dimensional. Let  $d_X$  denote the minimal integer  $x$  such that  $X$  is set-theoretically the zero-locus of a family of continuous homogeneous polynomials of degree  $x$  on  $V$ . As in the proof of Proposition 1 it is easy to check that  $d_X$  is the minimal integer such that  $X$  is set-theoretically the zero-locus of a family of continuous homogeneous polynomials of degree  $\leq d_X$  on  $V$ . For any integer  $n \geq m$  it easy to see the existence of a “large” subset (e.g. a dense subset)  $U_n \subseteq G(n + 1, V)$  such that  $A \cap X$  is nice for every of degree  $d$  (see [1] for much more). Let  $d_{X,n}$  be the minimal integer  $y$  such that  $(A \cap X)_{red}$  is the zero-locus of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $y$  for a general  $A \in U_n$ . For any integer  $z \geq d_{X,n}$ . It

is easy to check that  $d_{X,n} \leq d_{X,n+1}$  for every  $n \geq m$ . Thus by Proposition 1 we have  $d_{X,n} \leq d$  for every  $n \geq m$ . Hence  $d_{X,n} = d_{X,n+1}$  for all  $n \gg 0$ . Set  $d_{X,\infty} := d_{X,n}$  for any  $n \gg 0$ . Since for any  $A \in U_n$  and any  $P \in \mathbf{P}(V) \setminus X$  there is  $B \in G(n+2, V)$  containing both  $A$  and  $P$ , it is easy to check that  $X$  is the zero-locus of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d_{X,\infty}$ . Obviously,  $d_{X,\infty}$  is the minimal integer with that property. Let  $m_{X,n,z}$  denote the minimal number of degree  $z$  homogeneous polynomials defining  $(A \cap X)_{red}$  for a general  $A \in U_n$ .

**Question 1.** Study the sequence  $\{d_{X,n}\}_{n \geq m}$  and in particular find the minimal integer  $n = n_X$  such that  $d_{X,n} = d_{X,\infty}$ . Study the sequence  $\{m_{X,n,d_{X,\infty}}\}_{n \geq n_X}$ .

**Question 2.** Under what assumptions on  $V$  and  $X$ , the analytic set  $X$  is the zero-locus of finitely many continuous homogeneous polynomials.

**Remark 2.** Take as  $X \subset \mathbf{P}(V)$  the complete intersection of  $m$  continuous homogeneous polynomials of degree  $a_1 \geq \dots \geq a_m \geq 2$ .  $X$  is the zero-locus of a family of continuous homogeneous polynomials of degree  $a_1$ ,  $d_{X,\infty} = a_1$  and  $n_X = m$ . If  $V$  is infinite-dimensional and  $a_1 > a_m$ , then  $X$  cannot be the zero-locus of finitely many polynomials of degree  $a_1$  because the sequence  $\{m_{X,n,a_1}\}_{n \geq m}$  diverges.

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