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Finiteness properties of sets of matrices

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joint research with

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Joint spectral radius

In a time varying discrete linear dynamical system, the maximal asymptotic rate of growth of the trajectories is determined by the

joint spectral radius

of the associated family of matrices.

In particular, the **j.s.r.** characterizes also the stability properties.

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Some motivations

- (1) Stability of numerical methods for differential equations.
- (2) Robust control.
- (3) Wavelets.
- (4) Capacity of codes with forbidden patterns.
- (5) Consensus algorithms.

Uniform asymptotic stability (u.a.s.)

Consider the discrete linear time dependent dynamical system

$$y_{t+1} = X_t y_t, \quad t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where $y_0 \in \mathbf{R}^k$ and $X_t \in \mathbf{R}^{k,k}$ is an arbitrary element of

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U.a.s. means that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y_t = 0 \quad \forall y_0$ or equivalently that the set

$$\Sigma_n(\mathcal{F}) = \bigcup_{i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{I}} A_{i_n} \cdots A_{i_1}$$

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of all products of length n vanishes as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

For a single matrix $\Sigma_n(A) = A^n$. Hence u.a.s. $\iff \rho(A) < 1$.

Generalizations of the spectral radius

(1) Joint spectral radius (Rota & Strang (1960)):

Set $\hat{\rho}_n = \max_{P \in \Sigma_n(\mathcal{F})} \|P\|^{1/n}$ and define $\hat{\rho}(\mathcal{F}) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\rho}_n$.

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Simple estimates for $\rho(\mathcal{F})$: (Daubechies & Lagarias (1992))

$$\bar{\rho}_n \leq \rho(\mathcal{F}) \leq \hat{\rho}_n \quad \forall n \geq 1.$$

Extremal norms

A further generalization (Elsner (1995)):

$$\rho(\mathcal{F}) = \inf_{\|\cdot\| \in \mathcal{N}} \|\mathcal{F}\| \quad \text{with} \quad \|\mathcal{F}\| = \max_{A \in \mathcal{F}} \|A\|;$$

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Example

If $\mathcal{F} = \{A_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$, A_i symmetric, the spectral norm is extremal.

Note: for a single matrix the existence of an extremal norm may be deduced by the boundedness of the powers $(A/\rho(A))^n$.

Finiteness property

Definition. Any product $P \in \Sigma_n(\mathcal{F})$ satisfying

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is called a **spectrum maximizing product** (in short an **s.m.p.**).

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The finiteness conjecture formulated by Lagarias & Wang (1995) asserted that every finite family \mathcal{F} has the finiteness property. The conjecture has been proved to be false.

A simple counterexample is given by $\mathcal{F}_b = \{A, B\}$ with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = b \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with a fixed } b \in (0, 1)$$

For uncountably many values of b , the family \mathcal{F}_b has no s.m.p.

Finiteness properties and stability

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- It is known (Blondel & Tsitsiklis, 1997) that there is no algorithm able to approximate (with an a priori accuracy) the joint spectral radius in polynomial time.
- Stability is algorithmically decidable for sets of matrices that have the **finiteness property**.
- It has been recently conjectured (Jüngers & Blondel, 2008) that sets of rational matrices have the finiteness property. This would imply that stability is decidable for this important subclass of sets of matrices.

Finiteness properties of rational sets

Theorem (Jüngers & Blondel, 2008). The finiteness property holds for all finite sets of rational matrices \iff it holds for every pair of sign-matrices (i.e. having entries in $\{-1, 0, 1\}$).

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Conjecture (Cicone, G. & Serra Capizzano, 2008).

Let \mathcal{F} be a pair of $n \times n$ sign-matrices. The maximal length ℓ_n of a minimal s.m.p. (that is an s.m.p. which is not a power of another s.m.p.) fulfils the inequality $\ell_n \leq n^3$.

Theoretical results

A useful scaling: Let $Q \in \Sigma_n(\mathcal{F})$ a certain product of length n with $\rho(Q) \neq 0$; we divide \mathcal{F} by the scalar $\vartheta := \rho(Q)^{1/n}$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{F}^* = \{A_i^*\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \quad \text{with } A_i^* = \frac{1}{\vartheta} A_i \quad (\text{scaled family}).$$

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Result 1 (Barabanov, 1988): if $\Sigma(\mathcal{F}^*)$ is bounded then \mathcal{F}^* has an **extremal norm** and $\rho(\mathcal{F}^*) = 1$. This implies that $\rho(\mathcal{F}) = \vartheta$, Q is an s.m.p. and \mathcal{F} has the finiteness property.

Construction of an extremal norm

Result 2: if $\Sigma(\mathcal{F}^*)$ is bounded and $x \in \mathbf{R}^k$ is such that the set $\mathcal{T}(x) = \Sigma(\mathcal{F}^*)x$ spans \mathbf{R}^k then the convex hull

$$\mathcal{P} := \text{co}(\mathcal{T}(x), \mathcal{T}(-x)) \quad (\text{which is symmetric})$$

is an **invariant set** for \mathcal{F}^* and **unit ball of an extremal norm**.

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Result 3 (G., Wirth & Zennaro, 2005): if Q is an s.m.p. and x is a **leading eigenvector** of Q (+ some technical assumption) the set \mathcal{P} is finitely generated (and hence is a polytope), i.e.

$$\mathcal{P} = \text{co}(\pm P_1^* x, P_2^* x, \dots, \pm P_s^* x),$$

with $P_1^*, P_2^*, \dots, P_s^*$ certain finite products in $\Sigma(\mathcal{F}^*)$.

How to get extremality results.

Polytope extremal norms imply s.m.p. (Lagarias–Wang, 1995).

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Basic tool: • Look for a candidate spectrum maximizing product $Q \in \Sigma_n(\mathcal{F})$ and scale the set of matrices by $\vartheta = \rho(Q)^{1/n}$ in order to get a scaled set \mathcal{F}^* with $\rho(\mathcal{F}^*) \geq 1$.

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- Then look for an invariant convex symmetric set for \mathcal{F}^* . If the procedure succeeds then $\rho(\mathcal{F}^*) = 1$, that means that the j.s.r. of \mathcal{F} is also computed and \mathcal{F} has the finiteness property.

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- Then look for an invariant convex symmetric set for \mathcal{F}^* . If the procedure succeeds then $\rho(\mathcal{F}^*) = 1$, that means that the j.s.r. of \mathcal{F} is also computed and \mathcal{F} has the finiteness property.
- By an algorithm which computes recursively the set $\Sigma(\mathcal{F}^*)x$ (for a suitable initial vector) one has that if the algorithm halts then the resulting invariant set gives a polytope extremal norm.

Setting an algorithm

Let $\mathcal{F} = \{A_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ be a **finite** family; choose a candidate s.m.p. $Q \in \Sigma_n(\mathcal{F})$. Let x be the leading eigenvector of Q .

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Check whether $\text{co}(\mathcal{T}(x), \mathcal{T}(-x))$ is a polytope that is - at any step - if $\text{co}(\mathcal{T}^{(m)}(x), \mathcal{T}^{(m)}(-x))$ is an invariant set for \mathcal{F}^* .

Application to a pair of sign-matrices

Consider the family $\mathcal{F} = \{A, B\}$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

having s.m.p.: $P = A B A^2 B$.

We consider two situations.

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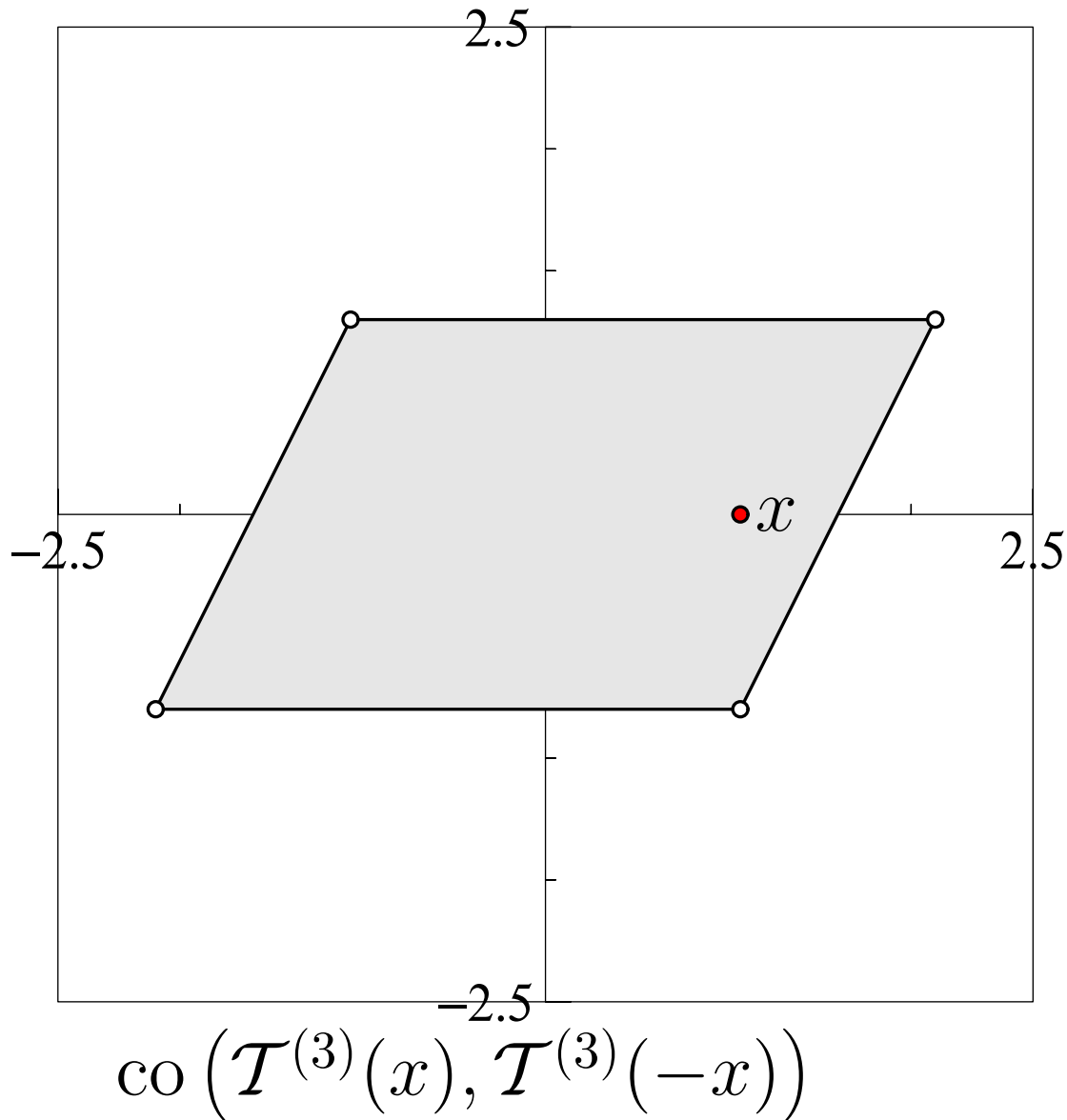
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In the second case we consider as a candidate s.m.p. $Q_2 = P$, that is a **right** guess.

Case 1

Let $\vartheta = \sqrt[2]{\rho(Q_1)}$ and set $\mathcal{F}^* = \{A^*, B^*\} = \{A/\vartheta, B/\vartheta\}$.



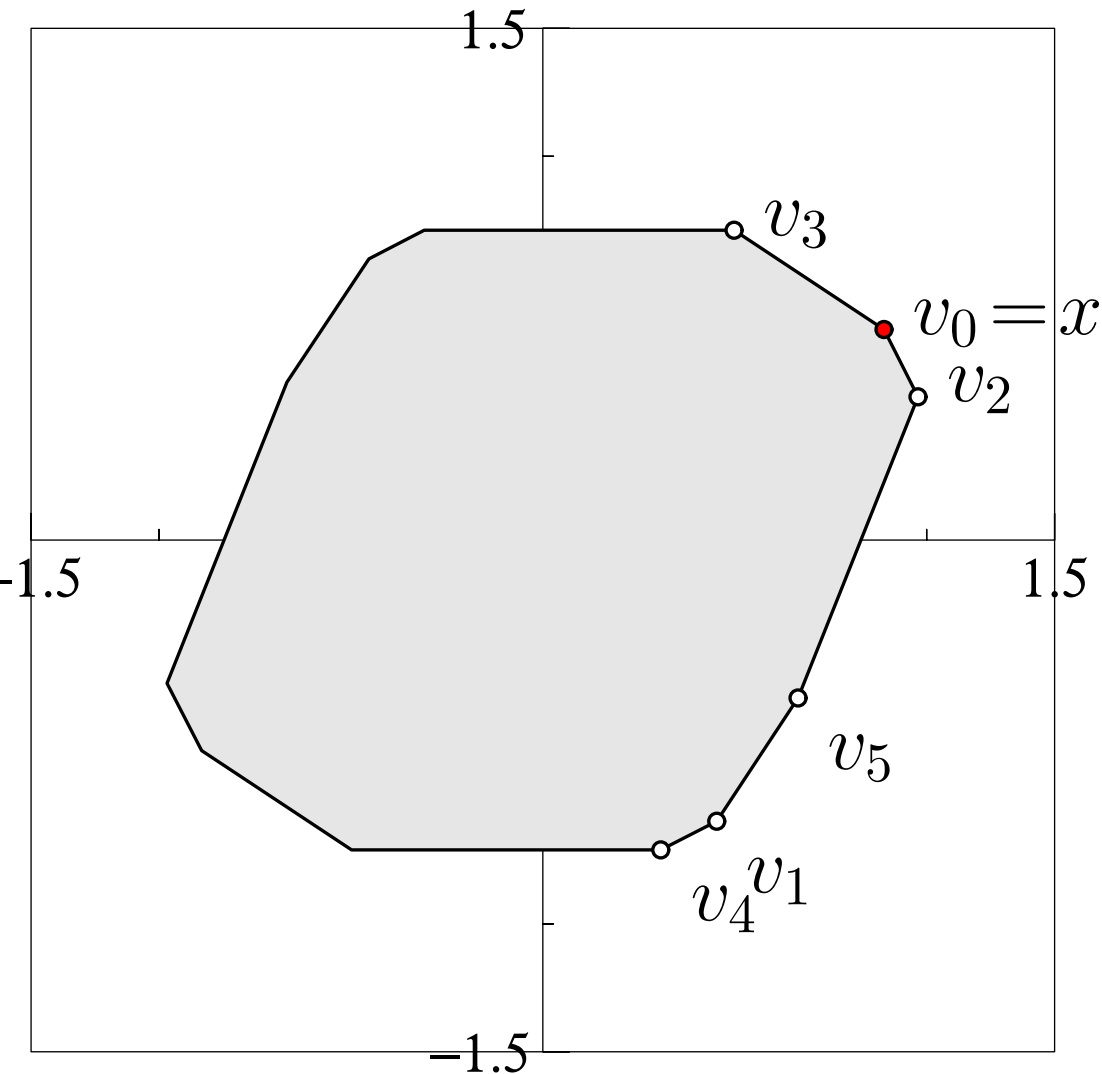
Theorem.

If x is internal to the set $\text{co}(\mathcal{T}^{(m)}(x), \mathcal{T}^{(m)}(-x))$ for some m then

$$\rho(\mathcal{F}^*) > 1.$$

Case 2

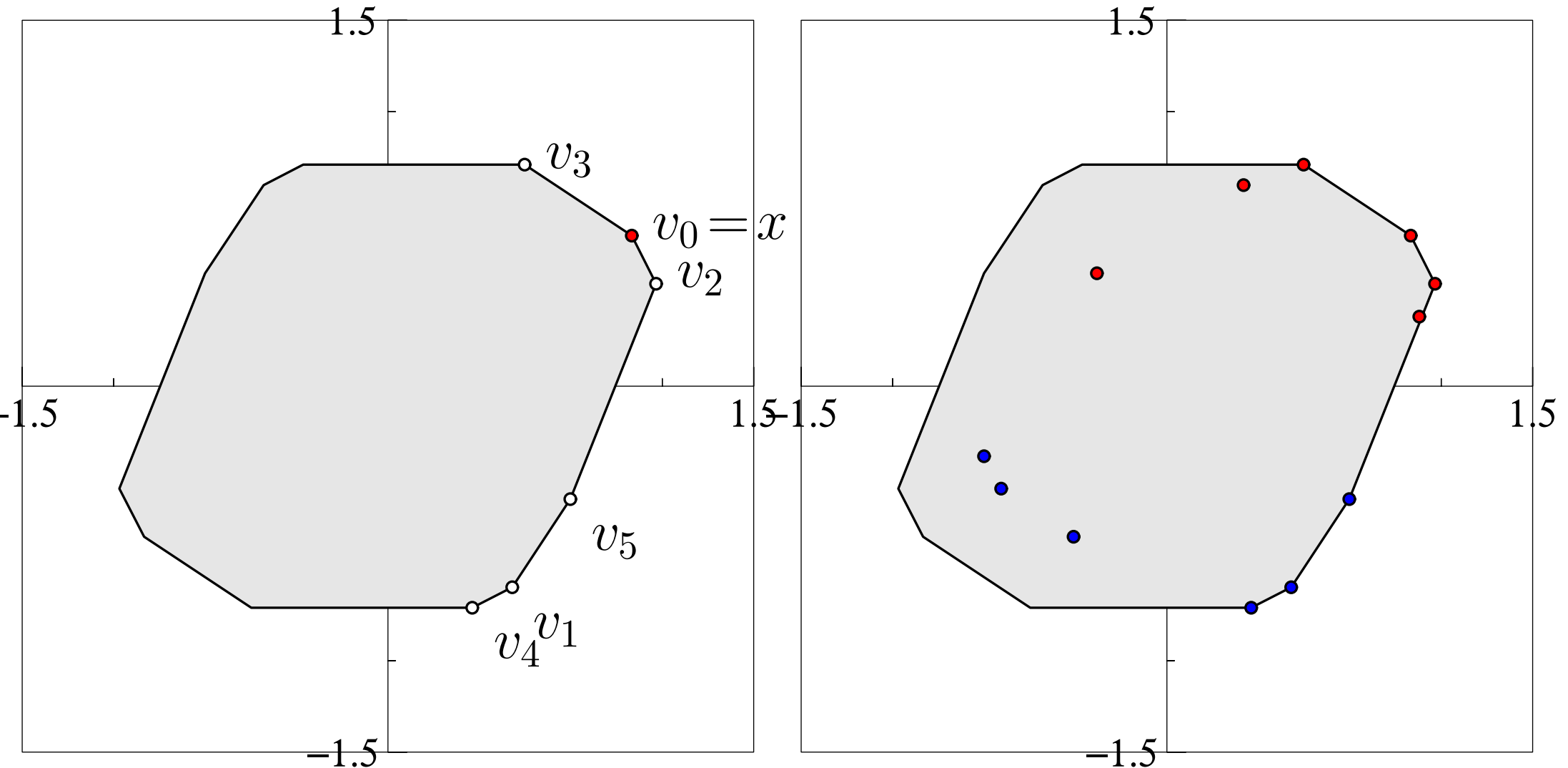
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The extremal polytope norm $\mathcal{P} = \text{co} \left(T^{(4)}(x), T^{(4)}(-x) \right)$.

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Final remarks

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$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(1) & -\sin(1) \\ \sin(1) & \cos(1) \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^T; \quad v_n := A^n x = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(n) & \sin(n) \end{pmatrix}^T.$$

This is dense on the unit disk and gives (asymptotically) the 2-norm as extremal.

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