

A NOTE ON THE GENERAL MULTIVARIATE  
MOMENT PROBLEM

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1. Introduction and summary. This paper aims to generalize the following theorem.

Theorem 1. For any sequence  $\{\mu_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n}\}$  of complex numbers there exist infinitely many complex Radon measures  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$(1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} x_1^{j_1} x_2^{j_2} \dots x_n^{j_n} d\mu(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \mu_{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_n}, \quad j_1, \dots, j_n = 0, 1, \dots$$

For  $n=1$  this theorem essentially belongs to Borel, see [2, pp. 74-75] or [7]. The extension of his result to dimension  $n > 1$  can be found in [1].

In this paper we consider  $\mu$  in (1) of the form

$$(2) \quad d\mu = \varrho d\phi^{(n)}$$

where  $d\phi^{(n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = d\phi(x_1) d\phi(x_2) \dots d\phi(x_n)$ ,  $\varrho \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$

and  $\phi$  is a one dimensional positive Radon measure. First we prove that for some measure  $\phi$  which is absolutely continuous with respect to the Borel measure, (1) holds for infinitely many functions  $\varrho$ .

Next we prove that for some atom measure  $\phi$ , (1) holds also for infinitely functions  $\varrho$ . We also show that there exists an atom measure  $\phi$  such that (1) holds exactly for one function  $\varrho$ . These results seem to be new even for  $n=1$ .

This paper is based on the proof technique used in [4] and [5]

where the orthogonality of polynomials in several variables is considered.

2. Notation. Let  $\pi_n^\infty$  be the vector space of all polynomials in  $n$  real variables with complex coefficients. By  $\pi_n^k$  we mean the subspace of  $\pi_n^\infty$  consisting of polynomials of degree at most  $k$ . Let  $\{P_i^k\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$  be a basis of  $\pi_n^k$ . The upper index  $k$  denotes the degree of  $P_i^k$  and  $r_n^k = \binom{n+k-1}{k}$  is the total number of linearly independent polynomials from  $\pi_n^k$  with respect to  $\pi_n^{k-1}$  (i.e.,  $t_1 P_1^k + t_2 P_2^k + \dots + t_{r_n^k} P_{r_n^k}^k \in \pi_n^{k-1}$  implies that  $\sum_i |t_i| = 0$ ). Let

$$\vec{P}_k := [P_1^k, P_2^k, \dots, P_{r_n^k}^k]^T, \quad k=0, 1, \dots,$$

and

$p_1 := P_1^0, p_2 := P_1^1, p_3 := P_2^1, \dots, p_{i+r_n^k} := P_i^k, \quad k=0, 1, \dots; i=1, \dots, r_n^k$ . For convenience we use the notation  $\{\vec{P}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$  or  $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  instead of  $\{P_i^k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ . Let  $\vec{W} = [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_l]^T$  where  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_l$  are polynomials in  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ . We define

$$\vec{xW} := [x_1 \vec{W}^T | x_2 \vec{W}^T | \dots | x_n \vec{W}^T]^T.$$

For instance if  $n=2$  and  $\vec{W} = [x_1^2, x_1 x_2, x_2^2]^T$  then

$$\vec{xW} = [x_1^3, x_1^2 x_2, x_1 x_2^2, x_2 x_1^2, x_1 x_2^2, x_2^3]^T.$$

3. Main results. Consider two bases  $\{\vec{P}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty = \{P_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  and  $\{\vec{Q}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty = \{q_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  in the space  $\pi_n^\infty$ . A polynomial  $q_i$  can be written in the form  $q_i = \sum_{j=1}^\infty c_{ij} P_j$ , where  $c_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}$  vanishes for sufficiently large  $j$ . Assume that  $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is an orthonormal sequence in the space  $L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \mu)$ . Let  $j$  be a given integer. The proof technique of Theorem 2 from [5] allows us to get the following theorem.

Theorem A. There exists a function  $\varphi \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \mu)$  satisfying

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} P_i \varphi d\mu = \delta_{ij}, \quad i=1, 2, \dots,$$

(where  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta) iff the series  $\sum_{i=1}^\infty |c_{ij}|^2$  is convergent.

Sketch of the proof. Consider the linear functional  $l$  on

$\pi_n^\infty$  defined by

$$(3) \quad \mathbf{l}(p_i) = \delta_{ij}, \quad i=1,2,\dots$$

Let  $w = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k q_k$ ,  $a_k \in \mathbb{C}$ , be a given polynomial. Then

$$\mathbf{l}(w) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \mathbf{l}(q_k) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \mathbf{l}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_{ki} p_i\right) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k c_{kj}.$$

Applying Schwarz' inequality we get

$$|\mathbf{l}(w)| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^n a_k c_{kj} \right| \leq \left( \sum_{k=1}^n |c_{kj}|^2 \right)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n |a_k|^2 \right)^{1/2} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n |c_{kj}|^2 \right)^{1/2} \|w\|_2$$

where  $\|w\|_2 = \left( \int_{R^n} |w|^2 d\mu \right)^{1/2}$ . Since this estimate is sharp, we get

$$\|\mathbf{l}\| = \sup \{ |\mathbf{l}(w)| : w \in \pi_n^\infty, \|w\|_2 = 1 \} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n |c_{kj}|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

This proves that (3) defines the continuous functional with respect to  $\|\cdot\|$  iff the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |c_{kj}|^2$  is convergent. To get the desired result it is enough to apply the Hahn-Banach theorem and the Riesz theorem in the same way as in the proof of the comparison criterion of orthogonality from [5]. ■

Furthermore Theorem 3 from [5] can be restated in a more general form. Namely we have

**Theorem B.** There exist a positive Radon measure  $\phi$  on  $R$  and real polynomials  $\{R_i^k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$   $r_n^k$  such that

$$(i) \quad \int_{R^n} R_i^k R_j^l d\phi^{(n)} = \delta_{kl} \delta_{ij}.$$

(ii) for  $r_n^i \times r_n^k$  matrices  $G_{ik}$  defined by

$$(4) \quad \vec{R}_i = \sum_{k=0}^i G_{ik} \vec{P}_k,$$

we have  $\|G_{ij}\|_{\infty} < 2^{-i+1} |G_{00}|$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots$ ;  $j=0,1,\dots$ . ( $\|\cdot\|_{\infty}$  denotes the infinite matrix norm.)

**Sketch of the proof.** We shall find the polynomials  $R_i^k$  in such a way that the corresponding recursion formula takes the form

$$(5) \quad \vec{R}_{k+1} = d_k \vec{x} \vec{R}_k + f_k \vec{R}_{k-1}, \quad k=0,1,\dots; \quad f_0 = 0, \quad Q_{-1} = 0.$$

Let the matrices  $A_j^{(k)}$ ,  $G_{ij}$  be defined by the equations

$$\vec{x} \vec{P}_k = \sum_{j=0}^{k+1} A_j^{(k)} \vec{P}_j, \quad \vec{R}_k = \sum_{j=0}^k G_{kj} \vec{P}_j, \quad k=0,1,\dots$$

Due to (5), proceeding similarly as in the proof of Theorem 3 from [5], we get

$$(6) \quad G_{k+1,j} = d_k \left( \sum_{i=j-1}^k [G_{ki}] A_j^{(i)} \right) + f_k G_{k-1,j}, \quad k=0,1,\dots; \quad j=0,\dots,k+1,$$



Corollary 1. There exist a positive Radon measure  $\phi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  and a function  $q$  from  $L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} p_k q \, d\phi^{(n)} = \delta_{kj}, \quad k=1, 2, \dots$$

Proof. Consider a measure  $\phi$  and polynomials  $\{\bar{R}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty = \{r_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  given by Theorem B. Due to Theorem A it is enough to verify the condition  $\sum_{i=1}^\infty |e_{ij}|^2 < \infty$  where

$$(4') \quad r_i = \sum_{l=1}^\infty e_{il} p_l, \quad i=1, 2, \dots$$

Comparing (4') and (4) we conclude that  $\sum_{i=1}^\infty |e_{ij}| = \sum_{i=0}^\infty \|(G_{is})_t\|_2^2$

where  $s$  and  $t$  are chosen such that  $p_j = P_t^s$  and  $(G_{is})_t$  is the  $t$ -th column of  $G_{is}$ . Then

$$\sum_{i=0}^\infty \|(G_{is})_t\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{i=0}^\infty r_i^i \|G_{is}\|_\infty^2 < \sum_{i=0}^\infty \binom{n+i-1}{i} 2^{-2(i-1)} |G_{00}|^2 < |G_{00}|^2 2^{n+2} < \infty,$$

which completes the proof. ■

Let  $\{m_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be an arbitrary basis of the space  $\mathcal{M}_n^\infty$ . Assume without loss of generality that  $\deg m_i \leq \deg m_{i+1} \leq 1 + \deg m_i$ . We are now in a position to prove the following theorem.

Theorem C. For any sequence  $S = \{\mu_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  of complex numbers there exist a positive Radon measure  $\phi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  and a function  $q \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  such that

$$(10) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} m_i q \, d\phi^{(n)} = \mu_i, \quad i=1, 2, \dots$$

Moreover the measure  $\phi$  can be chosen in such a way that either

- (i)  $\phi$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Borel measure and (10) holds for infinitely many functions  $q$ , or
- (ii)  $\phi$  is an atom measure and (10) holds for a unique function  $q$  or  $\phi$  is atom and (10) is satisfied for infinitely many functions  $q$ .

Proof. If  $S$  is the zero sequence then (10) is valid for  $\phi = 0$ . Assume thus that  $S \neq 0$ . Let  $j$  be the index of the first nonvanishing coefficient of  $S$ . Define

$$(11) \quad p_k = m_k \text{ if } k < j, \quad p_k = m_j / \mu_j \text{ if } k = j, \quad p_k = m_k - \mu_k m_j / \mu_j \text{ if } k > j.$$

By Corollary 1 there exist a measure  $\phi$  and a function  $q \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} p_k q \, d\phi^{(n)} = \delta_{kj}, \quad k=1,2,\dots$$

This and (11) immediately gives (10).

From the proof of Theorem B it follows that the measure  $\phi$  in (10) can be chosen as any solution of the Hamburger moment problem associated with orthonormal polynomials  $r_l$  satisfying the recursion formula (9). (For simplicity we shall call this problem the  $H(r)$  moment problem). By (8) and (9) we get

$$(12) \quad |r_{l+1}(0)| < |r_{l-1}(0)|/8, \quad l=1,2,\dots$$

which implies the convergence of the series  $\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} r_l(0)^2$  and  $\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} h_l(0)^2$  where  $h_l(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (r_l(x) - r_l(t))/(x-t) \, d\phi(t)$ . Due to [8, THM. 2.17] this proves that the  $H(r)$  moment problem is indeterminate. Thus due to [3],  $\phi$  in (10) can be chosen as absolutely continuous w.r.t. the Borel measure. Then  $\phi$  cannot be extremal solution of the  $H(r)$  moment problem (see [8, THM. 2.13]) and the M. Riesz theorem yields  $\overline{\pi_1^{\infty}} \neq L_2(\mathbb{R}, \phi)$ . Since the conditions  $\overline{\pi_1^{\infty}} = L_2(\mathbb{R}, \phi)$  and  $\overline{\pi_n^{\infty}} = L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$ ,  $n > 1$ , are equivalent (see [6]) we conclude that there exists a nonzero function  $\alpha$  from  $L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} p \alpha \, d\phi^{(n)} = 0 \quad \text{for all } p \in \overline{\pi_n^{\infty}}.$$

Therefore

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} m_i(q + z\alpha) \, d\phi^{(n)} = \mu_i, \quad i=1,2,\dots,$$

for any complex number  $z$ . This proves (i).

Finally, note that if  $\phi$  is chosen as extremal solution of the  $H(r)$  moment problem then  $\phi$  is an atom measure. Moreover  $\overline{\pi_n^{\infty}} = L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  which means that (10) holds for a unique  $q$ . If  $\phi$  is atom and nonextremal then  $\overline{\pi_n^{\infty}} = L_2(\mathbb{R}^n, \phi^{(n)})$  and consequently (10) is valid for infinitely many functions  $q$ . This proves (ii) and completes the proof. ■

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is essentially due to Borel.

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