# A solution to Haagerup's problem on normal weights

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#### Main result

In my master's thesis, I solved a 50-year-old problem posed by Haagerup in his master's thesis and obtained the following theorem!

# Theorem ([Cho25], arXiv:2501.16832)

Let A be a  $C^*$ -algebra, and  $F^*$  be a weakly\* closed convex hereditary subset of  $A^{*+}$ . Then, for any  $\omega \in A^{*+} \setminus F^*$ , there exists  $\alpha \in A^+$  such that

$$\omega(a) > 1$$
 and  $\omega'(a) \le 1$  for all  $\omega' \in F^*$ .

The original proof has been simplified thanks to N. Ozawa. The positivity condition  $a \ge 0$  is the non-trivial point. Applying the idea used to prove the above theorem, I could simplify the proof of the following.

# Theorem ([Haa75])

For a subadditive weight  $\varphi$  on M, the followings are equivalent:

- $\triangleright \varphi$  is  $\sigma$ -lower semi-continuous.
- $\triangleright \varphi$  is given by the pointwise supremum of normal positive linear functionals.

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- 1. Operator algebras
- 2. Weights
- 3. Haagerup's three problems
- 4. Proofs (for those who are interested in)

A  $C^*$ -algebra is a Banach \*-algebra A such that the following  $C^*$ -identity holds:

$$||a^*a|| = ||a||^2, \quad a \in A.$$

They are exactly Banach algebras that can be realized as norm closed \*-subalgebras of B(H), the algebra of bounded linear operators on a Hilbert space H.

A C\*-algebra has a canonical partial order defined such that  $a^*a \ge 0$  for all  $a \in A$ , and each element of  $A^+ := \{a \in A : a \ge 0\}$  is called positive.

For example, in  $c_0(\mathbb{N})$  a sequence is positive iff each term is non-negative, and in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  a matrix is positive iff it is positive semi-definite.

## Example (Gelfand-Naimark representation theorem)

The category of locally compact Hausdorff space and the opposite of the category of commutative  $C^*$ -algebras and are equivalent via the functor  $X \mapsto C_0(X)$ .

## Example (Compact and bounded operators)

The algebra of compact operators K(H) and bounded linear operators B(H) on a Hilbert space H are  $C^*$ -algebra.

## Von Neumann algebras

A von Neumann algebra can be defined as a C\*-algebra M that admits a predual  $M_*$ . They are exactly Banach algebras that can be realized as weakly closed \*-subalgebras of B(H), the algebra of bounded linear operators on a Hilbert space H.

A predual is defined as a closed linear subspace  $M_* \subset M^*$  which induces an (isometric) isomorphism  $M \to (M_*)^*$ .

For a C\*-algebra M, the predual is unique if it exists in  $M^*$ , so we have a canonical weak\* topology on M conventionally called the  $\sigma$ -weak topology, and the term *normal* usually means the  $\sigma$ -weak continuity.

## Example (Localizable measures)

A commutative M is \*-isomorphic to  $L^\infty(X,\mu)$  for a localizable measure space  $(X,\mu)$ . Note that every  $\sigma$ -finite measure is a localizable.

## Example (Enveloping vN algebras)

For a C\*-algebra A, its double dual  $A^{**}$  is naturally a vN algebra which has a suitable universal property. For example,  $B(H) \cong K(H)^{**}$  is a vN algebra.

#### States

From now on, we will always denote C\*-algebras and vN algebras by A and M respectively. A *state* on A is a linear functional  $\omega \in A^*$  that is positive and normalized in the sense that

$$\omega(A^+) \subset \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \qquad \|\omega\| = 1.$$

## Example

The set of states on  $C_0(X)$  is given by the set of probability regular Borel measures on X.

## Example

The set of states on K(H), or the set of normal states on B(H), is given by the set of the positive trace-class operators of trace one, usually called *density matrices* in physics.

## Example

The set of normal states on  $L^{\infty}(X,\mu)$  can be identified with the set of absolutely continuous probability measures on X respect to  $\mu$ .

For a in unital A such that  $a^*a=aa^*$ , the  $C^*$ -subalgebra  $C^*(1,a)$  generated by 1 and a is \*-isomorphic to  $C(\sigma(a))$ , where  $\sigma(a)$  is the spectrum of a, so we get  $C(\sigma(a)) \to A$ .

Now we can define  $f(a) \in A$  for  $f \in C(\sigma(a))$ , called the *continuous functional calculus*.

For a normal operator  $T \in B(H)$ , as above, we get  $C(\sigma(T)) \to B(H)$ .

Then, we can extend  $\sigma$ -weakly continuously to get  $C(\sigma(T))^{**} \to B(H)$ .

Since the C\*-algebra  $B_b(\sigma(T))$  of bounded Borel functions on  $\sigma(T)$  is embedded in the enveloping vN algebra  $C(\sigma(T))^{**}$ , we can define the restriction  $B_b(\sigma(T)) \to B(H)$ .

Now we can define  $f(T) \in B(H)$  for  $f \in B_b(\sigma(T))$ , called the *Borel functional calculus*.

In this context, the *spectral measure* is nothing but a representation  $C(\sigma(T)) \to B(H)$ .

For a sequence  $f_n \in B_b(\sigma(T))$ , we have  $f_n(T) \to f(T)$  in the strong operator topology iff  $f_n$  is bounded and  $f_n \to f$  pointwise on  $\sigma(T)$ .

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## Definitions on weights

## Definition (Weights and subadditive weights)

Weights

A weight on A is a homogeneous additive functional  $\varphi: A^+ \to [0, \infty]$ . A subadditive weight on A is a homogeneous subadditive functional  $\varphi: A^+ \to [0, \infty]$ .

## Definition (Properties of weights)

For a weight  $\varphi$  on A, we say it is

- (i) faithful if  $\varphi(a) = 0$  implies a = 0 for  $a \in A^+$ .
- (ii) densely defined if  $\varphi^{-1}([0,\infty))$  is norm dense in  $A^+$ ,
- (iii) lower semi-continuous if  $\varphi^{-1}([0,1])$  is norm closed in  $A^+$ .

For a weight  $\varphi$  on M, we say it is

- (ii') semi-finite if  $\varphi^{-1}([0,\infty))$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly dense in  $M^+$ ,
- (iii') normal if  $\varphi^{-1}([0,1])$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly closed in  $M^+$ .

A positive linear functional gives rise to a weight. Normality can be regarded as the generalization of the countable additivity of measures. Note that the  $\sigma$ -weak lower semi-continuity can be understood as a restatement of the Fatou lemma.

# Motivating examples for weights

## Example (Localizable measures)

A localizable measure  $\mu$  is always a faithful semi-finite normal weight on  $L^{\infty}(\mu)$ . In fact, every M admits a faithful semi-finite normal weight.

#### Example (Radon measures)

For a locally compact Hausdorff X, there are natural one-to-one correspondences among densely defined lower semi-continuous weights on  $C_0(X)$ , positive linear functionals on  $C_c(X)$ , and locally finite inner regular Borel measures on X.

Every densely defined subadditive weight on a unital A is bounded, so there is A without a faithful densely defined lower semi-continuous weight.

There is a classical and famous technique in operator algebras called the *GNS* construction. This gives a nice \*-homomorphism  $A \to B(H)$  using a positive linear functional on a  $C^*$ -algebra A.

Since  $\omega \in A^{*+}$  defines a sesqui-linear form on A, by "separation and completion" we obtain a Hilbert space H. It is the same procedure of the contruction of  $L^2$ . Then, A naturally acts on H, and we can find a canonical cyclic vector  $\Omega \in H$  such that  $\overline{A\Omega} = H$ .

#### Example

For  $\mu \in C_0(X)^{*+}$ , the associated GNS representation is the multiplication  $C_0(X) \to B(L^2(\mu))$ , and the cyclic vector is the constant unit function.

Weights smoothly generalize this construction to the "unbounded setting".

## Example

There is a one-to-one correspondence between weights on A and unitary equivalence classes of semi-cyclic representations of A, which is defined as a representation  $\pi:A\to B(H)$  equipped with a partially defined left A-linear map  $\Lambda:A\to H$  of dense range.

For example, we can have  $\Lambda(a) := a\Omega$  for positive linear functionals.

# Equivalent characterizations for normality of weights

# Theorem ([Haa75])

For a weight  $\varphi$  on M, the followings are all equivalent.

(1)  $\varphi$  is completely additive for positive elements;

Weights 0000

$$\varphi(\sum_i x_i) = \sum_i \varphi(x_i), \qquad x_i \in M^+.$$

(2) φ preserves directed suprema;

$$\varphi(\sup_{i} x_{i}) = \sup_{i} \varphi(x_{i}), \qquad x_{i} \uparrow \sup_{i} x_{i} \text{ in } M^{+}.$$

(3)  $\varphi$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly lower semi-continuous;

$$\varphi(\lim_i x_i) \le \liminf_i \varphi(x_i), \qquad x_i \to \lim_i x_i \text{ $\sigma$-weakly in $M^+$}.$$

(4)  $\varphi$  is given by the pointwise supremum of normal positive linear functionals;

$$\varphi(x) = \sup_{\omega \le \varphi, \ \omega \in M_*^+} \omega(x), \qquad x \in M^+.$$

 $(4) \Rightarrow (3) \Rightarrow (2) \Rightarrow (1)$  are clear.

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## First problem

## Problem (1.10)

For a subadditive weight on M, is it  $\sigma$ -weakly lower semi-continuous (3) if it preserves directed suprema (2)?

Haagerup proved (1) $\Rightarrow$ (3) directly without an intermediate step (2). He proved first for  $\sigma$ -finite vN algebras, and extended the result to general vN algebras.

Here, a vN algebra is called  $\sigma$ -finite or countably decomposable if every orthogonal family of non-zero projections is countable, or equivalently, it admits a faithful normal state.

## Theorem ([Haa75])

For a weight on  $\sigma$ -finite M,  $(1)\Rightarrow(3)$  holds.

For a subadditive weight on general M,  $(1)\Rightarrow(3)$  holds if every restriction on  $\sigma$ -finite vN subalgebras satisfies  $(1)\Rightarrow(3)$ .

Therefore, for a weight on general M,  $(1)\Rightarrow(3)$  holds.

Thus, it is enough to solve the problem in the  $\sigma$ -finite case.

## Second problem

## Problem (1.11)

For a weight on M, is it normal if it is normal on every commutative vN subalgebra?

# Theorem ([Dix53])

For a positive linear functional  $\omega$  on M, the followings are all equivalent.

- (0)  $\omega$  is completely additive for orthogonal projections.
- (1)  $\omega$  is completely additive for positive elements.
- (2)  $\omega$  preserves directed suprema.
- (3)  $\omega$  is  $\sigma$ -weakly continuous.

In particular, a (positive) linear functional on M is normal if it is normal on every commutative vN subalgebra by  $(0) \Rightarrow (1)$ , and it is used to prove some equivalent characterizations for weak compactness in  $M_*$ .

#### Example

 $(0)\Rightarrow (1)$  is false for weights. Define a weight  $\varphi$  for  $x=(x_n)_n\in \ell^\infty(\mathbb{N})^+$  such that  $\varphi(x):=\sum_n x_n$  if  $x\in c_c(\mathbb{N})$  and  $\varphi(x):=\infty$  otherwise. Then, it gives a counterexample.

## Problem (2.7)

Does the positive bipolar theorem hold for dual  $C^*$ -algerbas? See (d) in the below.

Before the explanation of the problem, let us introduce basic definitions.

#### Definition

Let  $(E, E^*)$  be a dual pair of (directed partially) ordered real vector spaces such that  $E^+$  and  $E^{*+}$  are mutually dual cones, i.e.  $E^{*+} = \{x^* \in E : x^*(x) \ge 0 \text{ for } x \in E\}$ .

For  $F \subset E^+$ , we say it is *hereditary* if  $0 \le x \le y \in F$  implies  $x \in F$ ,

and its positive polar is the positive part of the real polar

$$F^{r+} := (F^r)^+ = \{x^* \in E^* : \sup_{x \in F} x^*(x) \le 1\}^+ = \{x^* \in E^{*+} : \sup_{x \in F} x^*(x) \le 1\}.$$

We focus on the dual pairs  $(A,A^*)$  and  $(M,M_*)$  and their weak/weak\* topologies. Note that for a convex subset of A or  $M_*$  it is norm closed iff it is weakly closed by the Hahn-Banach separation.

# Theorem ((a) $\sim$ (c) in [Haa75], (d) in [Cho25])

Consider the ordered real dual pairs  $(M^{sa}, M^{sa}_*)$  and  $(A^{sa}, A^{sa*})$  of self-adjoint parts.

- (a) If F is a  $\sigma$ -weakly closed convex hereditary subset of  $M^+$ , then  $F = F^{r+r+}$ .
- (b) If  $F_*$  is a norm closed convex hereditary subset of  $M_*^+$ , then  $F_* = F_*^{r+r+}$ .
- (c) If F is a norm closed convex hereditary subset of  $A^+$ , then  $F = F^{r+r+}$ .
- (d) If  $F^*$  is weakly\* closed convex hereditary subset of  $A^{*+}$ , then  $F^* = (F^*)^{r+r+}$ .

# Corollaries of third problem

## Corollary ([Haa75])

For a subadditive weight  $\varphi$  on M, (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4) holds.

- (3)  $\varphi$  is  $\sigma$ -lower semi-continuous.
- (4)  $\varphi$  is given by the pointwise supremum of normal positive linear functionals.

Proof. Define

$$F := \{x \in M^+ : \varphi(x) \le 1\}, \qquad F_* := \{\omega \in M_*^+ : \omega \le \varphi\}.$$

Then,  $F_* = F^{r+}$  by definition, and (4) is equivalent to  $F = F_*^{r+}$ . Since F is  $\sigma$ -weakly closed by the  $\sigma$ -weak lower semi-continuity of  $\varphi$ , and since F is clearly convex and hereditary by definition of subadditive weights, so we are done by the part (a).

Using (c) instead of (a), we can simplify the proof of the following theorem.

# Corollary ([Com68])

A lower semi-continuous subadditive weight on A is given by the pointwise supremum of positive linear functionals.

# Corollary

There are one-to-one correspondences

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} \textit{normal} \\ \textit{subadditive} \\ \textit{weights on } \textit{M} \end{array}\right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{\begin{array}{c} \sigma\textit{-weakly closed} \\ \textit{convex hereditary} \\ \textit{subsets of } \textit{M}^+ \end{array}\right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{\begin{array}{c} \textit{norm closed} \\ \textit{convex hereditary} \\ \textit{subsets of } \textit{M}^+_* \end{array}\right\}$$

and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \textit{lower semi-} \\ \textit{continuous} \\ \textit{subadditive} \\ \textit{weights on } A \end{array} \right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \textit{norm closed} \\ \textit{convex hereditary} \\ \textit{subsets of } A^+ \end{array} \right\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \textit{weakly* closed} \\ \textit{convex hereditary} \\ \textit{subsets of } A^{*+} \end{array} \right\}$$

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## Definition (Suppression by the one-parameter family of functional calculi)

For  $\delta > 0$ , we define a function  $f_{\delta} : (-\delta^{-1}, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$f_{\delta}(t) := t(1 + \delta t)^{-1}, \qquad t > -\delta^{-1}.$$

They are operator monotone,  $\sigma$ -strongly continuous, and has the semi-group property.

Proof sketch of (a) by Haagerup. Since

$$F^{r+} = F^r \cap M_*^+ = F^r \cap (-M^+)^r = (F \cup -M^+)^r = (F - M^+)^r,$$
  
$$F^{r+r+} = (F - M^+)^{r+r+} = (\overline{F - M^+})^+$$

by the usual real bipolar theorem, it suffices to show  $(\overline{F-M^+})^+ \subset F$  .

**Heuristics.** Let  $x \in (\overline{F-M^+})^+$  with nets  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  such that  $x_i \to x$   $\sigma$ -weakly in M and  $x_i \le y_i \in F$  for all i. Observe that if  $x_i$  were bounded by r > 0, then assuming  $x_i \to x$   $\sigma$ -strongly and  $f_\delta(y_i) \to y_\delta$   $\sigma$ -weakly for each  $0 < \delta < r^{-1}$ , we get

$$x_i \leq y_i \in F, \qquad f_\delta(x_i) \leq f_\delta(y_i) \in F, \qquad 0 \leq f_\delta(x) \leq y_\delta \in F, \qquad f_\delta(x) \in F, \qquad x \in F.$$

The boundedness of  $x_i$  is necessary to define  $f_{\delta}(x_i)$  for  $\delta$  independently of i.

**Question.** How can we remove the boundedness condition of  $x_i$ ?

Solution. We use the Krein-Šmulian theorem. Define

$$G := \{x \in M^{sa} : \text{for any sufficiently small } \delta > 0, f_{\delta}(x) \in F - M^{+}\}.$$

It is enough to show

$$F-M^+\subset G, \qquad G^+\subset F, \qquad \overline{G}\subset G,$$

and the first two are clear. To apply the Krein-Šmulian theorem, fix r>0 and let  $M_r:=\{x\in M: \|x\|\leq r\}$ . The proof of the  $\sigma$ -weak closedness is divided into the two steps:  $G\cap M_r$  is  $\sigma$ -strongly closed,  $G\cap M_r$  is convex. After proving these,  $\overline{G}\subset G$  by the Krein-Šmulian theorem.

# Definition (Bounded commutant Radon-Nikodym derivatives)

Let  $\psi \in M^+_*$  and let  $\pi: M \to B(H)$  be associated cyclic representation to  $\psi$  with the canonical cyclic vector  $\Omega \in H$ . Then, we have a positive bounded linear map  $\theta: \pi(M)' \to M_*$ , which we call the *RN map*, defined such that

$$\theta(h)(x) := \langle h\pi(x)\Omega, \Omega \rangle, \qquad h \in \pi(M)', \ x \in M.$$

If  $\omega \in M_*$  satisfies  $|\omega(x)| \le \psi(x)$  for all  $x \in M^+$ , then  $\theta^{-1}(\omega)$  is uniquely defined and  $\|\theta^{-1}(\omega)\| \le 1$ , which has  $\theta^{-1}(\omega) = d\omega/d\psi$  when M is commutative.

Proof sketch of (b). It is enough to prove  $(F_* - M_*^+)^+ \subset F_*$ . Let  $\omega \in (F_* - M_*^+)^+$  with sequences  $\omega_n$  and  $\varphi_n$  such that  $\omega_n \to \omega$  in norm of  $M_*$  and  $\omega_n \le \varphi_n \in F_*$  for all n. We may assume  $\|\omega_n - \omega\| \le 2^{-n}$  for all n by passing to a subsequence. Define

$$\psi := \omega + \sum_{n} [\omega_n - \omega] + \sum_{n} 2^{-n} \frac{\varphi_n}{1 + \|\varphi_n\|} \in M_*^+,$$

and let  $\theta:\pi(M)'\to M_*$  be the RN map associated to  $\psi$ . Since  $-\psi\le\omega_n\le\psi$  implies the boundedness  $\|\theta^{-1}(\omega_n)\|\le 1$  for all n, the weak convergence  $\omega_n\to\omega$  in  $M_*$  implies the convergence  $\theta^{-1}(\omega_n)\to\theta^{-1}(\omega)$  in the weak operator topology of  $\pi(M)'$ .

By the Mazur lemma, we can take a net  $\omega_i$  in the convex hull of  $\omega_n$  such that  $\theta^{-1}(\omega_i) \to \theta^{-1}(\omega)$  strongly in  $\pi(M)'$ , and the corresponding  $\varphi_i \in F^*$  can be defined such that  $\omega_i \leq \varphi_i$  for all i. (In fact, the net  $\omega_i$  can be taken to be a sequence because the commutant is  $\sigma$ -finite by the existence of the separating vector, but it is not necessary in here.) For each i and  $0 < \delta < 1$ , define

$$\omega_{\delta} := \theta(f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega))), \qquad \omega_{i,\delta} := \theta(f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega_{i}))), \qquad \varphi_{i,\delta} := \theta(f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\varphi_{i}))).$$

Then, the strong convergence  $f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega_i)) \to f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega))$  in  $\pi(M)'$  implies  $\omega_{i,\delta} \to \omega_{\delta}$  weakly in  $M_*$ , and the strong convergence  $f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega)) \to \theta^{-1}(\omega)$  in  $\pi(M)'$  implies  $\omega_{\delta} \to \omega$  weakly in  $M_*$  as  $\delta \to 0$ . If we define  $\varphi_{\delta} := \theta(\lim_i f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\varphi_i)))$  by taking a subnet or a cofinal ultrafilter, then  $\varphi_{i,\delta} \to \varphi_{\delta}$  weakly in  $M_*$ . Since  $\omega_i \le \varphi_i$  and  $0 \le \varphi_{i,\delta} \le \varphi_i \in F_*$ , we get

$$\omega_{i,\delta} \leq \varphi_{i,\delta} \in F_*, \qquad 0 \leq \omega_{\delta} \leq \varphi_{\delta} \in F_*, \qquad \omega_{\delta} \in F_*, \qquad \omega \in F_*.$$

This completes the proof.

# Strategies for (d)

Let  $\omega_i$  and  $\varphi_i$  be nets in  $A^{*sa}$  such that  $\omega_i \to \omega$  weakly\* in  $A^*$  and  $\omega_i \le \varphi_i \in F^*$  for all i.

**Question 1.** How can we choose the reference  $\psi$  for the Radon-Nikodym?

**Solution 1.** Take  $\psi_i$  dynamically depending on  $\omega_i$ .

**Question 2.** How can we commute the weak\* limit of  $\omega_i$  and  $f_\delta$  without strong topology?

**Solution 2.** Approximate  $f_{\delta}$  with affine functions by

$$t - \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \le f_{\delta}(t) \le t, \qquad |t| \le 2^{-1} \delta^{-\frac{1}{4}},$$

$$(1+\delta^{-1})t \le f_{\delta}(t) \le t, \qquad 0 \le t \le 1.$$

*Proof of (d).* It suffices to show  $(\overline{F^* - A^{*+}})^+ \subset F^*$ . Define

$$G^* := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{there is } \psi \in A^{*+}\text{, and there is } \varphi_\delta \in F^* \\ \omega \in A^{*sa}: \text{ for any sufficiently small } \delta > 0\text{, such that} \\ \|\psi\| \leq 1, \ \|\varphi_\delta\| \leq \delta^{-1}\text{, and } \omega \leq \varphi_\delta + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi \end{array} \right\}.$$

It suffices to show  $F^* - A^{*+} \subset G^*$ ,  $G^{*+} \subset F^*$ , and  $\overline{G^*} \subset G^*$ .

Step 1. Let  $\omega \in F^* - A^{*+}$ . Take  $\varphi \in F^*$  such that  $\omega \leq \varphi$ . Define, for  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\psi := \frac{[\omega]}{1 + \|\omega\|} + \frac{\varphi}{(1 + \|\omega\|)(1 + \|\varphi\|)}, \qquad \varphi_{\delta} := \theta(f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\varphi))),$$

where  $\theta$  is the RN map associated to  $\psi$ . The norm conditions  $\|\psi\| \le 1$  and  $\|\varphi_\delta\| \le \delta^{-1}$  are easily checked. For sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\|\theta^{-1}(\omega)\| \le 1 + \|\omega\| \le 2^{-1}\delta^{-\frac{1}{4}}$  and  $\delta \le 1$ , we have

$$\theta^{-1}(\omega) \leq f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\omega)) + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq f_{\delta}(\theta^{-1}(\varphi)) + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

so  $\omega \leq \varphi_{\delta} + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi$  and  $\omega \in G^*$ .

Step 2. Let  $\omega \in G^{*+}$ . Take  $\psi \in A^{*+}$  and  $\varphi_\delta \in F^*$  such that  $\|\psi\| \le 1$ ,  $\|\varphi_\delta\| \le \delta^{-1}$ ,  $\omega \le \varphi_\delta + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \psi$ , for any sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$ . Let  $\psi_\delta := \omega + \delta \varphi + \psi$ , and let  $\theta_\delta$  be the associated RN map. For any fixed  $\delta' > 0$ , since  $0 \le \theta_\delta^{-1}(\omega) \le 1$ , we have

$$\begin{split} 0 &\leq (1+\delta')^{-1}\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\omega) \leq f_{\delta'}(\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\omega)) \leq f_{\delta'}(\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\varphi_{\delta}+\delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi)) \\ &\leq f_{\delta'}(\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\varphi_{\delta})+\delta^{\frac{1}{2}}) \leq f_{\delta'}(\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\varphi_{\delta}))+\delta^{\frac{1}{2}}, \end{split}$$

and it implies

$$0 \leq (1+\delta')^{-1}\omega \leq \theta_{\delta}(f_{\delta'}(\theta_{\delta}^{-1}(\varphi_{\delta}))) + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi_{\delta}.$$

Since  $\|\psi_\delta\| \leq \|\omega\| + 2$  is bounded and  $\theta_\delta(f_{\delta'}(\theta_\delta^{-1}(\varphi_\delta))) \in F^*$  is also bounded for fixed  $\delta'$  as  $\delta \to 0$ , by considering the limit along a cofinal ultrafilter on the set of  $\delta$ , we have  $(1 + \delta')^{-1}\omega \in F^*$ , so  $\delta' \to 0$  gives  $\omega \in F^*$ .

Step 3. To show  $G^*$  is weakly\* closed, we claim for any r > 0 that

$$\overline{(F^*-A^{*+})\cap A_{2r}^*}\subset G^*,\qquad G^*\cap A_r^*\subset \overline{(F^*-A^{*+})\cap A_{2r}^*},$$

where  $A_r^* := \{ \omega \in A^* : ||\omega|| \le r \}$ . If these are true, then

$$G^*\cap A_r^*=\overline{(F^*-A^{*+})\cap A_{2r}^*}\cap A_r^*$$

is weakly\* closed and convex in  $A^*$  for all r>0, so the Krein-Šmulian theorem shows the claim.

Let  $\omega_i \in (F^*-A^{*+}) \cap A_{2r}^*$  be a net such that  $\omega_i \to \omega$  weakly\* in  $A^*$ . Following the proof of  $F^*-A^{*+} \subset G^*$ , we can take  $\psi_i \in A^{*+}$  and  $\varphi_{i,\delta} \in F^*$  such that  $\|\psi_i\| \le 1$ ,  $\|\varphi_{i,\delta}\| \le \delta^{-1}$ ,  $\omega_i \le \varphi_{i,\delta} + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi_i$ , for uniformly sufficiently small  $\delta$  such that  $1+2r \le 2^{-1}\delta^{-\frac{1}{4}}$  because  $\|\omega_i\|$  is bounded by 2r. Since the three conditions are preserved by the weak\* convergence, taking the limit along a cofinal ultrafilter on the index set of i, we can obtain limit points  $\psi$  and  $\varphi_\delta$  so that  $\omega \in G^*$ .

Let  $\omega \in G^* \cap A_r^*$ . Take  $\psi \in A^{*+}$  and  $\varphi_\delta \in F^*$  with  $\|\psi\| \le 1$ ,  $\|\varphi_\delta\| \le \delta^{-1}$ ,  $\omega \le \varphi_\delta + \delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi$ , for any sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$ . If  $\delta^{\frac{1}{2}} < r$ , then  $\omega - \delta^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi \in (F^* - A^{*+}) \cap A_{2r}^*$  converges to  $\omega$  weakly\* in  $A^*$  as  $\delta \to 0$ , we have  $\omega \in \overline{(F^* - A^{*+}) \cap A_{2r}^*}$ .

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A solution to Haagerup's problem on normal weights

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Proofs (for those who are interested in)

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