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Roko ALIPRANTIS

Monique FLORENZANO

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Rabee TOURKY

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The wedge of arbitrage free prices: anything goes*

C. D. Aliprantis,¹ M. Florenzano,² D. Puzzello,³ and R. Tourky^{1,4}

¹ Department of Economics, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907–2056, USA
aliprantis@mgt.purdue.edu

² Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne, UMR 8174 CNRS–Université Paris 1, 106-112 boulevard de l’Hôpital,
75647 Paris Cedex 13, FRANCE; monique.florenzano@univ-paris1.fr

³ Departments of Economics and Mathematics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0034, USA;
Daniela.Puzzello@uky.edu

⁴ Department of Economics, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, AUSTRALIA
rtourky@purdue.edu

ABSTRACT: We show that if K is a closed cone in a finite dimensional vector space X , then there exists a one-to-one linear operator $T: X \rightarrow C[0, 1]$ such that K is the pull-back cone of the positive cone of $C[0, 1]$, i.e., $K = T^{-1}(C_+[0, 1])$. This problem originated from questions regarding arbitrage free prices in economics.

Keywords and Phrases: Closed cones in finite dimensional spaces, pull-back cones, securities markets, arbitrage free prices

AMS Classification Numbers: 46A40, 47B60, 47B65, 91B28

1 Introduction

This work deals with cones and wedges of vector spaces. For terminology and notation regarding ordered vector spaces and not explained below we refer the reader to [11], [12] and [8]. For topological vector spaces, we refer to [1] and [10].

A nonempty subset W of a vector space is said to be a **wedge** if it satisfies the following two properties:

1. $W + W \subseteq W$,
2. $\alpha W \subseteq W$ for all $\alpha \geq 0$.

*This paper is dedicated to our late friend and colleague H. H. Schaefer, whose pioneering works as summarized in [13] and [14] laid down the foundations of the modern theory of ordered vector spaces. The research of C. D. Aliprantis is supported in part by the NSF grants SES-0128039 and DMS-0437210.

If, in addition, $W \cap (-W) = \{0\}$, then W is called a **cone**.

Clearly, wedges and cones are convex sets. They are associated with respectively vector pre-orderings and vector orderings of vector spaces. An **ordered vector space** is a vector space X equipped with a cone X_+ . The cone X_+ induces a vector ordering \geq on X by letting $x \geq y$ whenever $x - y \in X_+$. An operator $T: X \rightarrow Y$ between ordered vector spaces is said to be **positive** if $T(X_+) \subseteq Y_+$, i.e., if $x \geq 0$ implies $Tx \geq 0$.

Let $T: X \rightarrow Y$ be an operator between two vector spaces and let W be a wedge of Y . It is easy to see that the inverse image of W under T is a wedge of X . That is, the set

$$T^{-1}(W) = \{x \in X: T(x) \in W\}$$

is a wedge of X . If T is also one-to-one and W is a cone, then the wedge $T^{-1}(W)$ is also a cone of X .

We start with a simple lemma.

Lemma 1. *Let $T: X \rightarrow Y$ be a one-to-one operator between two vector spaces. If K is a cone of Y , then $T^{-1}(K)$ is a cone of X and the operator $T: (X, T^{-1}(K)) \rightarrow (Y, K)$ is a positive operator.*

A cone K of a vector space X is called the **pull-back cone** of the cone of an ordered vector space L if there exists a one-to-one operator $T: X \rightarrow L$ such that $K = T^{-1}(L_+)$. Alternatively, K is the pull-back of the cone of an ordered vector space L if and only if the ordered vector space (X, K) is order-embeddable in L .

Likewise, a cone K of a topological vector space X is called the **continuous pull-back cone** of the cone of an ordered topological vector space L if there exists a continuous one-to-one operator $T: X \rightarrow L$ such that $K = T^{-1}(L_+)$. Alternatively, K is the continuous pull-back cone of the cone of a topological ordered vector space L if and only if the topological ordered vector space (X, K) is topologically order-embeddable in L .

As mentioned in the abstract, the objective of this paper is to establish the following basic result. (As usual, $\mathbf{1}$ will denote the constant function one on $[0, 1]$, i.e., $\mathbf{1}(t) = 1$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$.)

Theorem 2. *Every closed cone of a finite dimensional vector space is the pull-back cone of the (standard) cone of $C[0, 1]$.*

Moreover, if K is a closed and generating cone of a finite dimensional vector space X , then K can be taken to be the pull-back cone of a one-to-one operator $T: X \rightarrow C[0, 1]$ such that $Tu = \mathbf{1}$ for some vector $u \in \text{Int}(K)$.

An interesting consequence follows.

Corollary 3. *A nonempty subset C of \mathbb{R}^n is convex and compact if and only if there exist an $(n + 1)$ -dimensional subspace E of $C[0, 1]$ and a strictly positive linear functional f on E such that C and $E_+ \cap \{x \in E: f(x) = 1\}$ are affinely homeomorphic.¹*

¹Two nonempty convex sets A and B (in respectively two topological vector spaces) are affinely homeomorphic if there exists a surjective affine homeomorphism $T: A \rightarrow B$.

2 Background

2.1 Normal cones

Recall that a subset A of an ordered vector space E is said to be **full** if for each pair $x, y \in A$ the order interval $[x, y] := \{z \in E : x \leq z \leq y\}$ is contained in A .

Definition 4. A cone K of a topological vector space (E, τ) is said to be **normal** whenever the topology τ has a base at zero consisting of K -full sets (that is, of sets full for the order on E defined by K).

The notion of normal cone is one of the most useful connections between topology and order of a vector space which implies several nice properties for topological vector spaces ordered by normal cones. In particular, order intervals are topologically bounded, and the existence of a normal cone implies that the topology τ given on the vector space is Hausdorff. Also, if τ is locally convex, then the dual wedge

$$K' =: \{f \in L' : f(x) \geq 0 \text{ for all } x \geq 0\}$$

is generating in L' . A useful characterization of normal cones is the following:

Theorem 5. For a cone K of a topological vector space (E, τ) the following statements are equivalent:

1. The cone K is normal.
2. If two nets $\{y_\alpha\}$ and $\{x_\alpha\}$ of E (with the same index set) satisfy $0 \leq_K y_\alpha \leq_K x_\alpha$ for each α and $x_\alpha \xrightarrow{\tau} 0$, then $y_\alpha \xrightarrow{\tau} 0$.

Using this characterization, it is easy to prove the second of the following three basic properties of closed cones in finite dimensional vector spaces:

Lemma 6. If K is a closed cone of a finite dimensional space E , then:

1. The K -order intervals of E are compact.
2. The cone K is normal, and
3. The dual wedge K' is a cone if and only if K is generating.

Proof. We shall denote by \leq the vector ordering induced by the cone K , that is

$$x \leq y \text{ if and only if } y - x \in K.$$

(1) The proof is standard. Let $[0, u]$ be a K -order interval. From $[0, u] = K \cap (u - K)$, we see that $[0, u]$ is closed. To see that $[0, u]$ is also norm bounded, assume that a sequence

$\{y_n\} \subset [0, u]$ satisfies $\|y_n\| \rightarrow \infty$. Passing to a subsequence, we can assume $\frac{y_n}{\|y_n\|} \rightarrow y$. Clearly, $\|y\| = 1$ and so $y \neq 0$. Now from $0 \leq y_n \leq u$, it follows $0 \leq \frac{y_n}{\|y_n\|} \leq \frac{u}{\|y_n\|}$, and from the closedness of K and $\frac{u}{\|y_n\|} \rightarrow 0$, we see that $0 \leq y \leq 0$ or $y = 0$, which is impossible. Hence $[0, u]$ is also bounded and thus a compact set.

(2) Assume first that K is generating (that is, $E = K - K$), thus has a nonempty interior. Assume that two sequences $\{y_n\}$ and $\{x_n\}$ of E satisfy $0 \leq y_n \leq x_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x_n \rightarrow 0$. Let u be an interior point of K . As $0 \in \text{int}(u - K)$, for large enough n we have $0 \leq y_n \leq x_n \leq u$, hence $0 \leq (x_n - y_n) \leq x_n \leq u$. In view of the compactness of $[0, u]$, passing to a subsequence we can assume that $(x_n - y_n) \rightarrow z \in [0, u]$, and so, using again the closedness of K , we see that $-y_n \rightarrow 0$.

If the cone K is non-generating, it is at least a generating cone of the vector subspace $K - K$ of E . Since two sequences $\{y_n\}$ and $\{x_n\}$ of E satisfying $0 \leq y_n \leq x_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x_n \rightarrow 0$ are actually sequences lying in the finite dimensional space $K - K$, the desired conclusion follows from the first part of the proof.

(3) Let $x' \in K' \cap (-K')$. If $E = K - K$ then $x' \cdot x = 0$ for all $x \in E$, which proves that $x' = 0$. Conversely, assume that some $x \in E \setminus (K - K)$. As a vector subspace of a finite dimensional vector space, the set $K - K$ is closed. From the separation theorem between a closed convex set and the compact set x , we have $x' \cdot (K - K) = 0$ and $x' \cdot x > 0$ for some $x' \in E'$. If $K' \cap (-K') = \{0\}$, from $x' \cdot (K - K) = 0$ we deduce $x' = 0$, which contradicts $x' \cdot x > 0$. ■

2.2 The Cantor set \mathcal{C} and the space $C(\mathcal{C})$

The Cantor set can be defined as the countable product $\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$, where the two-point set has the discrete topology. As such, when equipped with the product topology, it is easily seen to be a compact metric space. It can also be thought of as a subset of the real interval $[0, 1]$, in an inductive construction where at each step one removes from each closed interval the open middle third-interval. Viewed as a subset of the unit interval, the Cantor set \mathcal{C} is a nowhere dense set of Lebesgue measure zero.

For details and more about the above assertions we refer the reader to [1, pp. 98–101] and to [2, pp. 41–42]. For the rest of our discussion, we need the following well known theorem which can also be found in [1, p. 100].

Theorem 7. *Every compact metric space is the image of the Cantor set under some continuous function.*

Let us recall some terminology. A mapping $f: X \rightarrow Y$ between two topological spaces is a **topological embedding** if $f: X \rightarrow f(X)$ is a homeomorphism. Likewise, a linear operator $T: X \rightarrow Y$ between two ordered vector spaces is an **order-embedding** if T is one-to-one and if $x \geq 0$ holds in X if and only if $Tx \geq 0$ holds in Y . As usual, $\mathbf{1}_\Omega$ denotes the constant function one on Ω , i.e. $\mathbf{1}(t) = 1$ for all $t \in \Omega$. If $\Omega = [0, 1]$, we will simply write $\mathbf{1}$ for $\mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}$.

We shall use below the following easy observation.

Lemma 8. *If $\phi: \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ is a continuous surjective function between two compact topological spaces, then the mapping $x \mapsto x \circ \phi$ is a norm-preserving order-embedding of $C(\Omega_2)$ into $C(\Omega_1)$ satisfying $\mathbf{1}_{\Omega_2} \circ \phi = \mathbf{1}_{\Omega_1}$.*

Moreover, $x \mapsto x \circ \phi$ is a lattice isomorphism.

Proof. The proof of the first part is straightforward. For the second part note that for each pair $x, y \in C(\Omega_2)$ and each $\omega \in \Omega_1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} [(x \circ \phi) \vee (y \circ \phi)](\omega) &= \max\{(x \circ \phi)(\omega), (y \circ \phi)(\omega)\} \\ &= \max\{x(\phi(\omega)), y(\phi(\omega))\} = (x \vee y)(\phi(\omega)) \\ &= [(x \vee y) \circ \phi](\omega). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $(x \circ \phi) \vee (y \circ \phi) = (x \vee y) \circ \phi$ and hence $x \mapsto x \circ \phi$ is a lattice isomorphism. ■

The next lemma is an immediate consequence of Theorem 7 and Lemma 8.

Lemma 9. *If Ω is a compact metrizable topological space, then there exists a norm-preserving order-embedding of $C(\Omega)$ into $C(\mathcal{C})$ that carries $\mathbf{1}_\Omega$ to $\mathbf{1}_\mathcal{C}$.*

Our major intermediate result is the following:

Lemma 10. *There is a norm-preserving order-embedding of $C(\mathcal{C})$ into $C[0, 1]$ that maps $\mathbf{1}_\mathcal{C}$ to $\mathbf{1}$.*

In particular, if Ω is any compact metrizable topological space, then there exists a norm-preserving order-embedding of $C(\Omega)$ into $C[0, 1]$ in such a way that $\mathbf{1}_\Omega$ is mapped to $\mathbf{1}$.

Proof. Recall that the complement of the Cantor set \mathcal{C} can be written as a countable union of pairwise disjoint open intervals. That is, we can write $[0, 1] \setminus \mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n, b_n)$, where $(a_n, b_n) \cap (a_m, b_m) = \emptyset$ for $n \neq m$. Now each $x \in C(\mathcal{C})$ can be extended to a function $\hat{x} \in C[0, 1]$ by extending the graph of x on each open interval (a_n, b_n) to coincide with the graph of the line segment joining the points $(a_n, x(a_n))$ and $(b_n, x(b_n))$. That is, for each $a_n < t < b_n$ we let

$$\hat{x}(t) = \frac{x(b_n) - x(a_n)}{b_n - a_n}(t - a_n) + x(a_n).$$

Some easy verifications show that:

- (a) \hat{x} is a continuous function.
- (b) If $x = \mathbf{c}$, the constant function c , then $\hat{x} = \mathbf{c}$. In particular, $\widehat{\mathbf{1}_\mathcal{C}} = \mathbf{1}$.
- (c) $\hat{x} \geq 0$ holds in $C[0, 1]$ if and only if $x \geq 0$ holds in $C(\mathcal{C})$.
- (d) If $x, y \in C(\mathcal{C})$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\widehat{x + y} = \hat{x} + \hat{y}$ and $\widehat{\lambda x} = \lambda \hat{x}$.

$$(e) \max_{t \in \mathcal{C}} |x(t)| = \max_{t \in [0,1]} |\widehat{x}(t)|.$$

The above properties show that $x \mapsto \widehat{x}$ is a norm-preserving order-embedding of $C(\mathcal{C})$ into $C[0, 1]$ satisfying $\widehat{\mathbf{1}}_{\mathcal{C}} = \mathbf{1}$.

The last part follows easily from the above conclusion and Lemmas 8 and 9. ■

3 The Proof of Theorem 2

We shall actually prove a more general result from which Theorem 2 is a simple consequence.

Theorem 11. *For a separable ordered Banach space E with a closed normal positive cone K we have:*

- (a) *There is a one-to-one, order-preserving, linear operator $T : E \rightarrow C[0, 1]$.*
- (b) *If, in addition, K satisfies $\overline{K - K} = E$, then the operator T [from E onto $T(E)$] is also a homeomorphism.*

Proof. (a) Let $\Omega := \{x' \in K' : \|x'\| \leq 1\}$. From the separability of E and the Alaoglu–Bourbaki Theorem, it follows that Ω equipped with its w^* -topology is a compact metrizable topological space (see [1, Theorem 6.30, p. 239]).

Now define the mapping $R: E \rightarrow C(\Omega)$ by letting $(Rx)(\omega) = \omega(x)$ for all $x \in E$ and all $\omega \in \Omega$. It should be clear that R is a linear operator. The normality of the cone K implies that the wedge K' is generating in E' . This guarantees that a linear functional on E' is the zero functional if and only if it vanishes on Ω . Consequently, from

$$Rx = 0 \iff \omega(x) = 0 \text{ for all } \omega \in \Omega \iff x = 0,$$

it follows that R is one-to-one. Moreover, using that K is closed, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} Rx \geq 0 &\iff \omega(x) \geq 0 \text{ for all } \omega \in \Omega \\ &\iff x'(x) \geq 0 \text{ for all } x' \in K' \\ &\iff x \in K'' = K, \end{aligned}$$

where K'' is the dual cone in E of K' with respect to the dual system $\langle E, E' \rangle$ (that $K'' = K$ follows from the bipolar theorem). This implies that $R: E \rightarrow C(\Omega)$ is an order-embedding. Now apply Lemma 10.

(b) Notice first that for each $x \in E$ we have $\|Rx\|_{\infty} = \sup_{\omega \in \Omega} |\omega(x)| \leq \|x\|$. Now assume $\overline{K - K} = E$. As in the finite dimensional case, we can easily see that K' is a closed cone, generating since K is normal and E locally convex. It then follows from a theorem of Andô [9] (see also [8]) that $\Omega - \Omega$ is a 0-neighborhood for the norm topology

of E' . This implies that there exists some $\rho > 0$ such that for each x' such that $\|x'\| \leq 1$ there exist $y', z' \in \Omega$ satisfying $\|y'\| \leq \rho$, $\|z'\| \leq \rho$, and $x' = y' - z'$. In particular, for each x' in the unit ball U' of E' and each $x \in E$ we have

$$|x'(x)| \leq \rho \left| \frac{y'}{\rho}(x) \right| + \rho \left| \frac{z'}{\rho}(x) \right| \leq 2\rho \|Rx\|_\infty.$$

We have also $\|x\| = \sup_{x' \in U'} |x'(x)| \leq 2\rho \|Rx\|_\infty$. Therefore, for each $x \in E$ we have

$$\frac{1}{2\rho} \|x\| \leq \|Rx\|_\infty \leq \|x\|$$

so that (in this case) R is also a topological order-embedding. To complete the proof now note that (according to Lemma 10) $C(\Omega)$ is topologically order-embeddable in $C[0, 1]$. ■

To complete the section, we show how Theorem 2 can be deduced from the previous one.

Corollary 12. *Every closed cone K of a finite dimensional vector space E is order-embeddable in $C[0, 1]$. If, moreover, K is generating (that is, if $E = K - K$), then T , the linear operator which topologically order-embeds E into $C[0, 1]$, can be chosen so as $T(u) = \mathbf{1}$ for some $u \in \text{int } K$.*

Proof. A finite dimensional (real) vector space is obviously a separable Banach space. Assume now that $E = K - K = \overline{K - K}$. The function $\mathbf{1}$ is an order-unit thus an interior point of $C_+[0, 1]$. Thus $T^{-1}(\mathbf{1})$ is an interior point of K . ■

4 The wedge of arbitrage free prices

The present work originated from questions in financial economics. It is motivated by the counter example in [7] and the resolution of the economic problem highlighted by the example in [4, 5, 6]. We briefly illustrate this connection below.

We consider the standard two-period securities model. That is, we suppose that there are two periods 0 and 1 (“today” and “tomorrow”). In period 0 everything is known while in period 1 there is uncertainty. The uncertainty is described by a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{B}, P) . We view the vector space $L_0(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \pi)$ of all equivalence classes of measurable real functions on Ω as the asset space. The elements of $L_0(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \pi)$ are called **assets**.

We assume that in our market today there is a finite number of non-redundant (i.e., linearly independent) assets f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n that can be purchased by the consumers. A portfolio is a vector $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. With each portfolio θ we consider the asset $T\theta$, defined for each $s \in \Omega$ by

$$[T\theta](s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i f_i(s). \quad (\star)$$

The interpretation of $[T\theta](s)$ is the following: If a consumer holds the portfolio θ and the materialized state of the world tomorrow is s , then the value (payoff) of the portfolio θ is precisely $[T\theta](s)$.

It is not difficult to see that (\star) defines a one-to-one linear operator $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow L_0(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \pi)$. This operator is called the *payoff operator* and its range is precisely the subspace M of $L_0(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \pi)$ spanned by the available assets f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n .

An asset price is also a vector $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$. It is called **arbitrage free** if for each portfolio $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $[T\theta](s) \geq 0$ for almost all $s \in \Omega$ and $P(\{s \in \Omega: [T\theta](s) > 0\}) > 0$ we have $q \cdot \theta > 0$. Let \mathcal{A} be the set of arbitrage free prices. Notice that \mathcal{A} is an **open wedge** i.e., it is an open convex set that satisfies $\alpha q \in \mathcal{A}$ for all $\alpha > 0$ and $q \in \mathcal{A}$. In the special case where \mathcal{A} satisfies $\mathcal{A} \cap (-\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$ we say that \mathcal{A} is an **open cone**. The notion of arbitrage free prices is of enormous importance in financial economics.

The set of arbitrage free prices \mathcal{A} is never empty because the set

$$K = \{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n: [T\theta](s) \geq 0 \text{ a.e.}\} = T^{-1}(L_0^+)$$

is always a closed cone. The cone K is called the **portfolio cone** of the assets f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n . It induces a vector ordering on E called **portfolio dominance**; see [3]. The set of arbitrage free prices \mathcal{A} is the interior of the dual

$$K' = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^n: q \cdot \theta \geq 0 \text{ for all } \theta \in K\}.$$

Now we consider the space $C[0, 1]$ as canonically embedded in L_0 with the Lebesgue measure. Theorem 2 can easily be re-stated as follows.

Theorem 13. *If \mathcal{A} is a non-empty open wedge in $E = \mathbb{R}^n$, then there exist non-redundant assets f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n in $C[0, 1]$ such that the set of arbitrage free prices is \mathcal{A} .*

If \mathcal{A} is an open cone, then f_1 can be chosen to be the constant function (bond) $\mathbf{1}$ satisfying $f_1(s) = 1$ for all $s \in [0, 1]$.

Proof. Since \mathcal{A} is an open wedge, its dual is a closed cone K to which we can apply Theorem 2. Let $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow C[0, 1]$ be a one-to-one operator such that $K = T^{-1}(C_+[0, 1])$. Take for assets f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n any basis of $T(K)$. The set of arbitrage free prices is the interior of K' , i.e., the set \mathcal{A} . To see the equivalence between the respective conditions in Theorem 13 and Theorem 2 that \mathcal{A} is an open cone and that K is generating, apply Lemma 6. ■

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