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NON-ARCHIMEDEAN MONOTONE FUNCTIONS

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Introduction.

In the sequel, \( K \) is a non-archimedean, non-trivially valued field, that is complete under the metric induced by the valuation. The residue class field of \( K \) is denoted by \( k \). \( X \) will always be a closed, non empty subset of \( K \) without isolated points (except in 2.2, if you want).

Since \( K \) admits no ordering in the usual sense it is not possible to define monotone functions \( X \rightarrow K \) just by taking over the classical definitions. Thus, our procedure will be to try and find statements for functions \( \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) equivalent to monotony, and formulated in terms that are translatable to \( K \). This way we will obtain several definitions of "\( f : X \rightarrow K \) is monotone", that are, although not equivalent, closely related.

The connections between these various definitions and the properties of the non-archimedean monotone functions can be put together to form a little theory which is interesting in its own right, but of which the relations to the other parts of \( p \)-adic analysis are yet not very tight.

1. Monotone functions.

For a function \( f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) \( f \) is monotone (in the non-strict sense),

(b) If \( C \subseteq \mathbb{R} \) is convex then \( f^{-1}(C) \) is convex,

(c) If \( x \) is between \( y \) and \( z \) then \( f(x) \) is between \( f(y) \) and \( f(z) \).

Also, the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) \( f \) is strictly monotone,

(b) \( f \) is injective. If \( C \subseteq \mathbb{R} \) is convex then \( f(C) \) is relatively convex in \( f(\mathbb{R}) \),

(c) If \( f(x) \) is between \( f(y) \) and \( f(z) \) then \( x \) is between \( y \) and \( z \).

Let \( x, y \in K \). Then the smallest ball that contains \( x, y \) is denoted by \( [x, y] \). \( z \in K \) is between \( x \) and \( y \) if \( z \in [x, y] \). (If \( z \notin [x, y] \), we

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call $x$, $y$ at the same side of $z$). A subset $C \subseteq K$ is called convex if $x, y \in C$, $z \in [x, y]$ implies $z \in C$. Each convex subset of $K$ can be written in at least one of the following forms

$$ \{x : |x - a| < r\}, \{x : |x - a| \leq r\} $$

for some $a \in K$, $r \in (0, \infty)$.

Let $Z \subseteq Y \subseteq K$. Then $Z$ is called convex in $Y$ if $Z = C \cap Y$, where $C$ is convex.

With all these definitions we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let $f : X \to K$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

1. If $x, y, z \in X$, $x$ is between $y$ and $z$ then $f(x)$ is between $f(y)$ and $f(z)$,

2. If $C \subseteq K$ is convex, then $f^{-1}(C)$ is convex in $X$.

We denote the collection of those $f : X \to K$ satisfying (1) or (2) by $M_b(X)$, i.e. $f \in M_b(X)$ if, and only if, for each $x, y, z \in X$,

$$ |x - y| \leq |y - z| \quad \text{implies} \quad |f(x) - f(y)| \leq |f(y) - f(z)|. $$

Isometries are in $M_b$ (viz. exp), but also non trivial locally constant functions $(e.g.,$ choose a center in each ball of radius $r > 0$, and let $f$ be the map assigning to $x \in X$ the center of the ball of radius $r$ to which $x$ belongs. Then $f \in M_b(X)$).

**Theorem 1.2.** Let $f : X \to K$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

1. If $x, y, z \in X$, $f(x)$ is between $f(y)$ and $f(z)$ then $x$ is between $y$ and $z$,

2. If $C \subseteq X$ is convex in $X$ then $f(C)$ is convex in $f(X)$. $f$ is injective.

We denote the collection of those $f : X \to K$ satisfying (1') or (2') by $M_s(X)$, i.e. $f \in M_s(X)$ if, and only if, for each $x, y, z \in X$,

$$ |x - y| < |y - z| \quad \text{implies} \quad |f(x) - f(y)| < |f(y) - f(z)|. $$

The classical situations suggests the question as to whether $M_s(X) \subseteq M_b(X)$ and also whether $f \in M_b(X), f$ injective implies $f \in M_s(X)$. In general, both statements are false, but we do have the following:

**Theorem 1.3.** $f \in M_s(X)$ implies $f^{-1} \in M_b(f(X))$. $f \in M_b(X)$, $f$ injective implies $f^{-1} \in M_s(f(X))$. If $k$ is finite and $X$ is convex, then an injective $M_b$-function is in $M_s(X)$. 
So we are led to define \[ g(x) := M^X_n \circ M^X_s(x) \] as being the more or less natural translation of "the space of the strictly monotone functions".

The following theorem concerns continuity of monotone functions. For a function \( f : X \to K \), we define its oscillation function, \( \omega_f \), in the usual way:

\[
\omega_f(a) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \sup \{|f(x) - f(y)| : |x - a| \leq \frac{1}{n}, |y - a| \leq \frac{1}{n}\}
\]

\[
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \sup \{|f(x) - f(a)| : |x - a| \leq \frac{1}{n}\} (a \in X).
\]

\( f \) is continuous at \( a \) if, and only if, \( \omega_f(a) = 0 \).

**Theorem 1.4.** - Let \( f \) be either in \( M_b(X) \) or in \( M_s(X) \). Then

(i) \( \omega_f(a) = \inf_{z \neq a} |f(z) - f(a)| \) \( (a \in X) \)

(ii) \( f \) is bounded on compact subsets of \( X \),

(iii) For each \( a \in X \) we have the following alternative. Either \( f \) is continuous at \( a \), or for each sequence \( x_1, x_2, \ldots \) \( (x_n \neq a) \) converging to \( a \), the sequence \( f(x_1), f(x_2), \ldots \) is bounded and has no convergent subsequence.

Let \( g \in M_b(X) \). If \( Y \subset X \) is spherically complete, then so is \( g(Y) \).

Let \( h \in M_s(X) \). If \( Z \subset h(X) \) is spherically complete, then so is \( h^{-1}(Z) \).

**Proof (sketch).** - If \( f \in M_b(X) \cup M_s(X) \), then:

\[ |x - y| < |y - a| \text{ implies } |f(x) - f(y)| < |f(y) - f(z)|. \]

So \( f \) is locally bounded, and (ii) follows. Of (i), only the \( \leq \) part is interesting. Choose \( z \neq a \). If \( |x - a| < |z - a| \), then

\[ |f(x) - f(a)| < |f(z) - f(a)| \text{ whence } \omega_f(a) \leq |f(z) - f(a)|. \]

Let \( \lim x_n = a \) \( (x_n \neq a \text{ for all } n) \) and \( \lim f(x_n) = x \). Let \( \lim y_n = a \). It suffices to show that \( \lim f(y_n) = x \). Indeed, let \( \varepsilon > 0 \), and choose \( k \) such that \( |f(x_k) - x| < \varepsilon \). Then \( |y_n - a| < |x_k - a| \) for large \( n \), so

\[ |y_n - x_m| < |x_k - x_m| \]

for large \( m \) depending on \( m \). Hence \( |y_n - f(x_n)| < |f(x_k) - x_m| \), so \( (m \to \infty) \) \( |f(y_n) - f(x_n)| < |f(x_k) - x_m| \), so

\( (m \to \infty) \) \( |f(y_n) - a| < |f(x_k) - a| < \varepsilon \), and we have (iii). The rest of the proof is straightforward.

**Corollary 1.5.** - Let \( f : X \to K \) be in \( M_b(X) \cup M_s(X) \).

(i) If \( K \) is a local field, then \( f \) is continuous,

(ii) If \( |X| \) is discrete, then \( f \in M_s(X) \Rightarrow f \) is a homeomorphism \( X \to f(X) \), and \( f \in M_b(X) \Rightarrow f \) is a closed map.

(iii) The graph of \( f \) is closed in \( K^2 \),

(iv) If \( f(X) \) has no isolated points, then \( f \) is continuous.
An $M_b$-function may be everywhere discontinuous on $K$ (even when $|K|$ is discrete).

**Theorem 1.6.** Let $B$ be the unit ball of $K$,

(i) If $K$ is a local field and $f \in M_b(B) \cup M_s(B)$, then $f$ has bounded difference quotients (i.e., there is $C > 0$ such that $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C|x - y|$ for all $x \in B$). If, in addition, $f(B)$ is convex, then $f$ is a similarity (i.e., a scalar multiple of an isometry).

(ii) If $K$ has discrete valuation and $f \in M_s(B)$ is bounded, then $f$ has bounded difference quotients. If $f \in M_{bs}(B)$ and if $f(B)$ is convex, then $f$ is a similarity.

2. **Monotone functions having a type.**

In this section, we want to translate the usual classification of (strictly) monotone functions $R \to R$ into two types: the increasing and the decreasing functions. The equivalence relation in $\mathbb{R}$: $x \sim y$ if $x$ and $y$ are at the same side of 0, yields $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(0, \infty)$ as equivalence classes. The relation $\sim$ is compatible with the canonical group homomorphism $\mathbb{R}^* \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{R}^*/\mathbb{Z}$, the latter group being \{1, -1\}. $\pi(x)$ (usually called $\text{sgn}(x)$) assigns +1 to every positive element and -1 to every negative element.

A function $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is strictly monotone if there exists $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^*/\mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}^*/\mathbb{Z}$ such that for all $x \neq y$,

$$\pi(f(x) - f(y)) = \sigma(\pi(x - y)).$$

If $\sigma$ is the identity then $f$ is called increasing; if $\sigma(1) = -1$, $\sigma(-1) = 1$, $f$ is called decreasing. Other maps $\sigma : [-1, 1] \to [-1, 1]$ cannot occur (i.e., there is no $f$ such that, for all $x \neq y$,

$$\pi(f(x) - f(y)) = \sigma(\pi(x - y)).$$

This rather weird description of real monotone functions can be used in the non-archimedean case.

For $x, y \in K^+$ define $x \sim y$ if $x, y$ are at the same side of 0. This means: $0 \not\in [x, y]$, or $|x - y| > |y|$, or $|xy^{-1} - 1| < 1$. Thus $x \sim y$ if, and only if, $xy^{-1} \in K^+$ where

$$K^+ := \{x \in K ; \ |1 - x| < 1\}.$$

We call the elements of $K^+$ the positive element of $K$.

The relation $\sim$ is compatible with the canonical homomorphism of (multiplicative) groups

$$\pi : K^* \to K^*/K^+ =: \Sigma.$$

We call $\Sigma$ the group of signs and $\pi(x)$ the sign of an element $x \in K^*$ ( $x$ is
positive if, and only if, \( \pi(x) = 1 \).

If \( K \) is a local field, we can make a group embedding \( \rho: \Sigma \to K^* \) such that
\[
\pi \circ \rho \text{ is the identity on } \Sigma.
\]
For example, if \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \), \( \delta \) is a primitive \((p - 1)\)th root of unity, then
\[
\pi(\sum n \geq 0 a_n p^n) = a_k p^k \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}, a_k \neq 0)
\]
(Here \( a_n \in \{0, 1, \delta, \ldots, \delta^{p-2}\} \) for each \( n \)).

**Definition 2.1.** Let \( \sigma: \Sigma \to \Sigma \) be any map. A function \( f: X \to K \) is monotone of type \( \sigma \) if, for all \( x, y \in X \), \( x \neq y \),
\[
\pi(f(x) - f(y)) = \sigma(\pi(x - y))
\]
(\( \text{i.e., if } x - y \in \alpha \in \Sigma \text{ then } f(x) - f(y) \in \sigma(\alpha) \)).

We call \( f \) of type \( \beta \in \Sigma \) if \( f \) is of type \( \sigma \) where \( \sigma \) is the multiplication
with \( \beta \), i.e.,
\[
f(x) - f(y) \in \beta \quad (x, y \in X, x \neq y).
\]
We call \( f \) increasing if \( f \) is of type \( \sigma \) where \( \sigma \) is the identity, \( \text{i.e., } \)
\[
\frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y} \text{ is positive } (x \neq y).
\]

Clearly, if \( f \) is of type \( \beta \), and if \( b \in \beta \), then \( b^{-1} f \) is increasing.
First, we look at increasing functions, then we discuss more general types \( \sigma \).
Notice that increasing functions are isometries hence are in \( \mathbb{N}_\text{ba}(X) \). If \( f \) is increasing then \( f(x) = x + h(x) \), where \( |h(x) - h(y)| < |x - y| \) \((x, y \in X, x \neq y)\).
Such \( h \) we call pseudo-contractions.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let \( X \) be an ultrametric space. Then the following are equivalent

(a) \( X \) is spherically complete,
(b) Each pseudocontraction \( X \to X \) has a (unique) fixed point.

**Proof (sketch).** \( \Rightarrow \) (a). Let \( \sigma: X \to X \) be a pseudocontraction. A convex set \( C \subseteq X \) is called invariant if \( \sigma(c) \subseteq C \). It is easily proved that the invariant convex subsets of \( X \) form a nest. Let \( C_0 \) be the smallest invariant convex set. If \( a \in C_0 \) and \( \sigma(a) \neq a \) then
\[
B_0 := \{x \in X \mid d(x, \sigma(a)) < d(a, \sigma(a))\}
\]
is invariant, convex, and does not contain \( a \). Hence \( \sigma(a) = a \) for all \( a \in C_0 \),
and \( C_0 \) is a singleton. \( \Rightarrow \) (a). If \( B_1 \neq B_2 \neq \ldots \) are balls in \( X \) with
\( \cap B_n = \emptyset \) then choose \( x_n \in B_n \setminus B_{n+1} \) \((n \in \mathbb{N}) \). The map \( \sigma: X \to X \) defined by
\[
\sigma(x) = x_{n+1} \quad (x \in B_n \setminus B_{n+1})
\]
is a pseudocontraction without a fixed point.
COROLLARY 2.3. - Let $X$ be convex, let $K$ be spherically complete, and let $f : X \to K$ be increasing. Then $f(X)$ is convex. If $f(X) \subseteq X$, then $f$ is surjective.

Proof. - Let $f(X) \subseteq X$. Choose $a \in X$. Then $x \mapsto f(x) + x + a$ is a pseudocontraction mapping $X$ into $X$, hence has a fixed point. So $f(x) = a$ for some $x \in X$.

If $K$ is not spherically complete, we have always increasing $f : K \to K$ that are not surjective. (Let $h : K \to K$ be a pseudocontraction without a fixed point. Let $f(x) = x - h(x)$ ($x \in K$), then $0 \not\in f$). The inverse $f^{-1} : f(K) \to K$ can, of course, not be extended to an increasing function $K \to K$.

THEOREM 2.4. - Let $K$ be spherically complete, and let $f : X \to K$ be increasing. Then $f$ can be extended to an increasing function $K \to K$.

Proof. - By Zorn's Lemma, it suffices to extend $f$ to an increasing function on $X \cup \{a\}$, where $a \not\in X$. We are done if we can find $a \in K$ such that, for all $x \in X$,

$$\frac{|a - f(x)|}{a - x} - 1 < 1$$

i.e. $a \in B_{f(x)}(a - x)(|a - x|^{-1})$ for all $x \in X$. These balls form a nest.

Let us call a function $f : X \to K$ positive if $f(X) \subseteq K^+$. 

THEOREM 2.5.

(i) If $f : X \to K$ is increasing then $f'$ is positive,

(ii) If $g : X \to K$ is a positive Baire class one function, then $g$ has an increasing antiderivative,

(iii) If $g : X \to K$ is continuous and positive, then $g$ has a $C^1$-antiderivative,

(iv) If $f \in C^1(X)$ and $f'$ is positive then $f = j + h$ where $j$ is increasing, and $h$ is locally constant.

EXAMPLES.

1° The exponential function (defined on its natural convergence region) is increasing.

2° Let $f \in C(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, and let $e_0 = 1_{\mathbb{Z}_p}$, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$e_n(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |x - n| < \frac{1}{n} \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \quad (x \in \mathbb{Z}_p).$$

Then $e_0, e_1, \ldots$ form an orthonormal base of $C(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, so there exist $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \ldots \in \mathbb{Q}_p$ such that $f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n e_n$, uniformly.
f is increasing if, and only if, for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \),

\[
|\lambda_n - [n]| < [n]
\]

(where, if \( n = a_0 + a_1 p + \ldots + a_k p^k \) (\( a_i \in \{0, 1, \ldots, p-1\} \) for each \( i \), \( a_k \neq 0 \))

then \( [n]_1 = a_k p^k \).

In other words, \( f = \sum \lambda_n e_n \in C(\mathbb{Z}_p) \) is increasing if, and only if, \( \lambda_n/[n] \) is positive for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

Let \( \alpha, \beta \in \Sigma \). If the set theoretic sum \( \alpha + \beta := \{x + y ; x \in \alpha , \ y \in \beta \} \)
does not contain 0 then \( \alpha + \beta \in \Sigma \), notation \( \alpha \oplus \beta \). It follows that \( \alpha \oplus \beta \) is defined if, and only if, \( \alpha \neq -\beta \).

If \( x, y \in \alpha \in \Sigma \) then \( |x| = |y| \). This defines \( |\alpha| \) in a natural way.

We have the following results.

**THEOREM 2.6.** Let \( f : K \to K \) be monotone of type \( \sigma : \Sigma \to \Sigma \).

Let \( \alpha, \beta \in \Sigma \),

(i) \( \sigma(- \alpha) = - \sigma(\alpha) \),

(ii) If \( \sigma(\alpha) \oplus \sigma(\beta) \) is defined then so is \( \alpha \oplus \beta \) and \( \sigma(\alpha \oplus \beta) = \sigma(\alpha) \oplus \sigma(\beta) \),

(iii) \( |\alpha| < |\beta| \) implies \( |\sigma(\alpha)| < |\sigma(\beta)| \),

(iv) If \( |\beta| = 1 \), \( \beta \) contains an element of the prime field of \( K \) then \( \sigma(\beta) = \beta \sigma(\alpha) \),

(v) \( f \in \text{M}_b(K) \),

(vi) \( f \) is either nowhere continuous or uniformly continuous.

**THEOREM 2.7.** Let \( f : K \to K \) be monotone of type \( \sigma : \Sigma \to \Sigma \). Then the following conditions are equivalent,

(a) \( \sigma \) is injective,

(b) \( f \in \text{M}_b(X) \),

(c) If for some \( \alpha, \beta \in \Sigma \), \( \alpha \oplus \beta \) is defined, then so is \( \sigma(\alpha) \oplus \sigma(\beta) \),

(d) \( |\sigma(\alpha)| < |\sigma(\beta)| \) implies \( |\alpha| < |\beta| \) (\( \alpha, \beta \in \Sigma \)).

**COROLLARY 2.8.** Let \( k \) be a prime field, and let \( f : K \to K \) be monotone of type \( \sigma : \Sigma \to \Sigma \). Then \( \sigma \) is injective.

(If \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p(\sqrt{-1}) \), \( p = 3 \mod 4 \), we can find an example of an \( f : K \to K \)
monotone of type \( \sigma \), where \( \sigma \) is not injective).

**EXAMPLE 2.9.** Let \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \). Then

\[ \{\sigma : \Sigma \to \Sigma : \text{there is } f : \mathbb{Q}_p \to \mathbb{Q}_p \text{, } f \text{ monotone of type } \sigma\} \]
consists of all $\sigma: \Sigma \to \Sigma$ of the form

$$\rho^i \rho^n \to \rho^i \rho^s(n) \rho^l(n)$$

where $s: \mathbb{Z} \to \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, p - 2\}$ and $\lambda: \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{Z}$ is strictly increasing.

3. Functions of bounded variation.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $f: X \to K$ have bounded difference quotients. Then $f$ is a linear combination of two increasing functions.

**Proof.** Choose $\lambda \in K$,

$$|\lambda| > \sup |f(x) - f(y)| ; \ x \neq y$$

Then $\lambda^{-1} f$ is a (pseudo-) contraction, so $g(x) := -x + \lambda^{-1} f(x)$ ($x \in X$) is increasing. If $h(x) := x$ ($x \in X$), then $\lambda h + \lambda g = f$.

**Corollary 3.2.** Let $X$ be the unit ball of a local field $K$ and let $f: X \to K$. Then the following are equivalent

(a) $f \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ (i.e., $\sup |f(x) - f(y)| ; \ x \neq y < \infty$),

(b) $f$ is a linear combination of two increasing functions,

(c) $f \in \mathcal{N}_b(X)$,

(d) $f \in \mathcal{F}_b(X)$.

**Proof.** Use 1.6.

**References**
