

Results and conjectures about extremal (almost) stable polynomials

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Let $p(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ be homogeneous polynomial of degree n with nonnegative coefficients, $p(1, 1, \dots, 1) = 1$. Following **MSS**, define its matching univariate polynomial as $M_p(x) =: \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} (I - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}) p(x, x, \dots, x)$. There were several steps and revelations in the course of **MSS** proof of Kadison-Singer problem. But, IMHO, the main technical one was the sharp bound for stable polynomials p on the maximum root of $M_p(x)$, expressed in term of the gradient $a_i =: \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} p(1, 1, \dots, 1); 1 \leq m$. The follow up conjecture states the extremal stable polynomial, i.e. maximizing the maximum root of $M_p(x)$ given the gradient at the vector of all ones, is of rank one: e.g.

$p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = n^{-n} (a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n)^n$. The conjecture holds if, for instance, either $n = 2$ or $m = 2$.

I will review a general result of this type that makes the similar rank one conclusion for polynomials extremal respect to Van Der Waerden like bounds, e.g. homogeneous polynomials $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ of degree n such that

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_1, \dots, \partial x_n} p(0, \dots, 0) = \frac{n!}{n^n} \inf_{x_i > 0, \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = 1} p(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

The main result in this direction is rank one description of extremal strongly-log-concave polynomials (the Minkowski volume polynomial being the most interesting representative). Time permitting, I will also describe an application of Kadison-Singer problem to the Quantum Linear Optics.