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We give an elementary construction of any real closed field in terms of Nash function fields. We also give a characterization of any Archimedean field in terms of fields of Nash functions.

Introduction

In the study of Hilbert's 17th problem, orderings of a real field k are of importance (see [Alonso 1986; Alonso et al. 1984; Artin 1927; Artin and Schreier 1927a; 1927b; Bochnak and Efroymsen 1980; Bröker 1982; Dubois 1981; Guangxing 2005; Marshall 2003; Prestel and Delzell 2001; Schwartz 1980]). By the Artin–Schreier theorem [Artin 1927; Artin and Schreier 1927a; 1927b], the study of such orderings amounts to considering real closures of k . The aim of this article is to construct a universal model of an arbitrary real closed field. To this end, we construct, in terms of Nash functions, all real closures of the rational function fields $k = \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, where $\Lambda_T = (\Lambda_t : t \in T)$ and $T \neq \emptyset$ is a system of any number of variables. This suffices to achieve our purpose, because any real closed field R is order-preserving isomorphic to a real closure of some field $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ (Corollary 5.5). If $T = \emptyset$, then $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T) = \mathbb{Q}$, and the above is obvious. We assume the Kuratowski–Zorn lemma, so the set T can be well-ordered, provided $T \neq \emptyset$.

L. Bröker [1982] proved in his ultrafilter theorem that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the family of ultrafilters and the family of orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, or equivalently with the real closures of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$. We prove that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the family of orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ and the family of *plain filters* (Theorem 5.2, Proposition 2.4, and Corollary 2.5). By a plain filter we mean a filter Ω of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T with these properties:

- (1) Any $U \in \Omega$ is a nonempty open connected semialgebraic set.
- (2) For any algebraic set $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^T$, where $V = P^{-1}(0)$ and $P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$, some connected component of $\mathbb{R}^T \setminus V$ belongs to Ω .

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(3) For any $U_1, U_2 \in \Omega$, there exists $U_3 \in \Omega$ such that $U_3 \subset U_1 \cap U_2$.

The correspondence between orderings and plain filters is as follows: For any ordering $>$ of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, there exists a unique plain filter Ω such that $f > 0$ if and only if $f > 0$ on some $U \in \Omega$, where $>$ is the usual ordering on \mathbb{R} . Conversely, any plain filter Ω determines a unique ordering $>$ of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ in this way.

The main result of this article is Theorem 5.2, where we give a construction of any real closure of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ in terms of Nash functions. The main idea and motivation for the above considerations was a geometric construction of the algebraic closure of $\mathbb{C}(\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_m)$ [Spodzieja 1996]. More precisely, for any plain filter Ω of open connected semialgebraic sets and any $U \in \Omega$, the ring $\mathcal{N}(U)$ of \mathbb{Q} -Nash functions (see Section 1) on U is a domain. In $\bigcup_{U \in \Omega} \mathcal{N}(U)$, we introduce an equivalence relation $\sim: (f_1: U_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \sim (f_2: U_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$ if and only if $f_1|_{U_3} = f_2|_{U_3}$ for some $U_3 \in \Omega$. The set \mathcal{N}_Ω of equivalence classes of \sim with the usual operations of addition and multiplication is a field, which is a real closure of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ (see Theorem 5.2, and compare [Spodzieja 1996, Theorem 2.4 and Corollary 2.5]). One can view \mathcal{N}_Ω as the inverse limit of the étale topology $\bigcup_{U \in \Omega} \mathcal{N}(U)$ of \mathbb{R}^T [Grothendieck 1967].

In Section 3, we prove that an ordering $>$ of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ is Archimedean if and only if the set $\bigcap_{U \in \Omega} U$ is nonempty for the plain filter Ω determining $>$; and if that is the case, this set has exactly one point (Theorem 3.1). In Section 4, we give some examples of non-Archimedean orderings corresponding to the one in [Spodzieja 1996].

1. Preliminaries

Let \mathbb{K} be the field \mathbb{Q} of rational, \mathbb{R} of real, or \mathbb{C} of complex numbers. Let T be a nonempty set. We denote by $\Lambda_T = (\Lambda_t: t \in T)$ a system of independent variables Λ_t , by $\mathbb{K}[\Lambda_T]$ the ring of polynomials in Λ_T over \mathbb{K} , and by $\mathbb{K}(\Lambda_T)$ the quotient field of $\mathbb{K}[\Lambda_T]$. Note that for any $P \in \mathbb{K}(\Lambda_T)$, we have $P \in \mathbb{K}(\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m})$ for some finite number of indices $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$.

We denote by \mathbb{K}^T the set of all functions $T \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ equipped with the unique topology for which all projections $\mathbb{K}^T \ni x \mapsto x(t) \in \mathbb{K}, t \in T$ are continuous.

Let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{K} . A subset of \mathbb{K}^T is called \mathbb{L} -algebraic, or simply algebraic if $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{K}$, when it is defined by a finite system of equations $P = 0$, where $P \in \mathbb{L}[\Lambda_T]$. Any \mathbb{L} -algebraic set in \mathbb{K}^T is of the form $\{x \in \mathbb{K}^T: (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_m)) \in V\}$, where $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$, and $V \subset \mathbb{K}^m$ is an \mathbb{L} -algebraic subset of \mathbb{K}^m .

If \mathbb{L} is a subfield of \mathbb{R} , then we assume that \mathbb{L} is an ordered field with order induced from \mathbb{R} .

Let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{R} . A subset of \mathbb{R}^T is called \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic when it is defined by a finite alternative of finite systems of inequalities $P > 0$ or $P \geq 0$, where $P \in \mathbb{L}[\Lambda_T]$. Analogously to the above, any \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic set in \mathbb{R}^T is of the form

$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_m)) \in X\}$, where $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$, and $X \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is an \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic subset of \mathbb{R}^m . A set is called *open basic \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic* if it has the form $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : g_i(x) > 0, i = 1, \dots, n\}$, for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $g_i \in \mathbb{L}[\Lambda_T]$, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

We now list some basic properties of algebraic and semialgebraic sets in infinite-dimensional real vector spaces, which follow easily from their analogues in finite-dimensional spaces [Benedetti and Risler 1990; Bochnak et al. 1987; Bochnak and Efroymsen 1980; Efroymsen 1974; 1976; 1981; Mostowski 1976; Prestel and Delzell 2001; Tancredi and Tognoli 2006; Tworzewski 1990].

Proposition 1.1. *Let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{R} (or \mathbb{K} in (a)).*

- (a) *The family of \mathbb{L} -algebraic sets in \mathbb{K}^T is closed with respect to union and intersection of a finite number of sets.*
- (b) *The family of \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic sets in \mathbb{R}^T is closed with respect to complement, union, and intersection of a finite number of sets.*
- (c) (Tarski–Seidenberg) *Let $\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m} : \mathbb{R}^T \ni x \mapsto (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_m)) \in \mathbb{R}^m$, where $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$. If $X \subset \mathbb{R}^T$, $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ are \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic sets, then $\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m}(X)$ and $\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m}^{-1}(Y)$ are \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic sets, too.*
- (d) *For any \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic set $X \subset \mathbb{R}^T$, the interior $\text{Int } X$, closure \bar{X} , and the boundary ∂X are \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic sets.*

Let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{R} . A function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $U \subset \mathbb{R}^T$ is an open \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic set, is called an *\mathbb{L} -Nash function* if f is analytic and there exists a nonzero polynomial $P \in \mathbb{L}[\Lambda_T, Z]$ such that $P(\lambda, f(\lambda)) = 0$ for $\lambda \in U$. In fact, f depends on a finite number of variables, so the analyticity of f is clear. The ring of \mathbb{L} -Nash functions in U is denoted by $\mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{L}}(U)$.

The next result follows via R. Thom’s lemma (see for instance [Bochnak et al. 1987, Proposition 2.5.4 and the arguments of Theorems 2.3.6 and 2.4.4]) from the fact that any \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic set in a finite-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} is the disjoint union of a finite number of \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic sets which are homeomorphic to Cartesian products of intervals.

Proposition 1.2. *Let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{R} . Any connected component of an \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic subset of \mathbb{R}^T is \mathbb{L} -semialgebraic.*

A function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where $U \subset \mathbb{C}^T$ is an open set, is called a *\mathbb{C} -Nash function* if f is holomorphic and there exists a nonzero polynomial $P \in \mathbb{C}[\Lambda_T, Z]$ such that $P(\lambda, f(\lambda)) = 0$ for $\lambda \in U$. The ring of \mathbb{C} -Nash functions in U is denoted by $\mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{C}}(U)$.

For the basic properties of Nash functions and semialgebraic sets in finite-dimensional vector spaces, see, for instance, [Benedetti and Risler 1990; Bochnak et al. 1987; Bochnak and Efroymsen 1980; Efroymsen 1974; 1976; 1981; Mostowski

1976; Nash 1952; Tancredi and Tognoli 2006; Tworzewski 1990]. From these properties, we immediately obtain:

Proposition 1.3. *Let $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$, let \mathbb{L} be a subfield of \mathbb{K} , and let $U \subset \mathbb{K}^T$ be an open connected set. Then $\mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{K}}(U)$ is a domain, provided U is semialgebraic when $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$. In particular $\mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{Q}}(U)$ is a domain.*

2. Orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$

Let T be a nonempty set. A family Ω of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T will be called a *c-filter* (connected sets filter) if it satisfies these conditions:

- (i) Any $U \in \Omega$ is a nonempty open connected \mathbb{Q} -semialgebraic set.
- (ii) For any \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^T$, there exists $U \in \Omega$ such that $V \cap U = \emptyset$.
- (iii) For any $U_1, U_2 \in \Omega$, there exists $U_3 \in \Omega$ such that $U_3 \subset U_1 \cap U_2$.

Proposition 2.1. *Let Ω be a c-filter of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T . The set $\partial\Omega := \bigcap_{U \in \Omega} \bar{U}$ has at most one point. Moreover, whenever T is a finite set, $\partial\Omega \neq \emptyset$ if and only if there exists a bounded set $U \in \Omega$.*

Proof. If $x_1, x_2 \in \partial\Omega$ with $x_1 \neq x_2$, then for some polynomial $f \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$, we have $f(x_1) < 0 < f(x_2)$. Hence, for some $W \in \Omega$ such that $W \cap f^{-1}(0) = \emptyset$, we have both $f(x) < 0$ and $f(x) > 0$ for some $x \in W$. This contradiction gives the first part of the assertion.

Now let $T = \{t_1, \dots, t_m\}$. Suppose that $\partial\Omega \neq \emptyset$ and each $W \in \Omega$ is an unbounded set. Take $x_0 \in \partial\Omega$, and let $f = (\Lambda_T) = \Lambda_{t_1}^2 + \dots + \Lambda_{t_m}^2 - r$, where $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $r > x_0^2(t_1) + \dots + x_0^2(t_m)$. Then $f^{-1}(0) \cap W = \emptyset$ for some $W \in \Omega$. Since W is a connected unbounded set, x_0 is not an accumulation point of W . This contradicts the choice of x_0 . Now assume that some $W \in \Omega$ is bounded. Then it is easy to see that there exists a sequence of nonempty compact sets $C_1 \supset C_2 \supset \dots$ with diameters decreasing to 0 and such that $U \cap C_n \neq \emptyset$ for all $U \in \Omega$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then there exists $x \in \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} C_n$ belonging to $\partial\Omega$. \square

Let us fix a c-filter Ω and define a relation \succ_{Ω} in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} f \succ_{\Omega} 0 &\iff \text{there exists } U \in \Omega \text{ such that } f(x) > 0 \text{ for all } x \in U, \\ f \succ_{\Omega} g &\iff f - g \succ_{\Omega} 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let Ω be a family of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T . If an ordering \succ of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ satisfies $f \succ 0$ if and only if $f > 0$ on some $U \in \Omega$, we say that Ω *determines the ordering* \succ .

Lemma 2.2. *The relation \succ_{Ω} is an ordering in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, or in other words, a total ordering satisfying*

$$f \succ_{\Omega} g \implies f + h \succ_{\Omega} g + h \quad \text{and} \quad f \succ_{\Omega} 0, g \succ_{\Omega} 0 \implies fg \succ_{\Omega} 0.$$

Proof. The relation \succ_{Ω} is well-defined. Indeed, if $f \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ and $f \neq 0$, then the union of the sets of zeros and poles of f is contained in some \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^m$. Hence, by (i) and (ii), for some $U \in \Omega$, the values $f(x)$ have a fixed sign for all $x \in U$. Moreover, if for some $U_1, U_2 \in \Omega$ we have $f(x) > 0$ for $x \in U_1$ and $f(x) \leq 0$ for $x \in U_2$, then $0 < f(x) \leq 0$ for $x \in U_1 \cap U_2$, and $U_1 \cap U_2 \neq \emptyset$ by (iii). This is impossible. It is easy to see that the remaining conditions are also satisfied. \square

Proposition 2.3. *Let Ω_1, Ω_2 be c-filters. If the orderings \succ_{Ω_1} and \succ_{Ω_2} are equal, then $\Omega = \{U \cup W : U \in \Omega_1, W \in \Omega_2\}$ is a c-filter determining the ordering \succ_{Ω_1} .*

Proof. Since Ω_1 and Ω_2 are c-filters, it suffices to prove that $U \cap W \neq \emptyset$ for all $U \in \Omega_1$ and $W \in \Omega_2$. Suppose $U \cap W = \emptyset$ for some $U \in \Omega_1$ and $W \in \Omega_2$. Let $U = U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_k \cup V$ be a decomposition of U into disjoint basic open semialgebraic sets U_1, \dots, U_k and a semialgebraic set V included in an algebraic set. By (i) and (ii), there exists $U' \in \Omega_1$ such that $U' \subset U_i$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Since $U_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : f_j(x) > 0, j = 1, \dots, n\}$ for some $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$, by the assumption we have $f_1, \dots, f_n \succ_{\Omega_1} 0$, and so there exists $W_1 \in \Omega_2$ such that $f_j(x) > 0$ for all $x \in W_1$ and $j = 1, \dots, n$. By (iii), there exists $W_2 \in \Omega_2$ such that $W_2 \subset W \cap W_1$ and $f_j(x) > 0$ for all $j = 1, \dots, n$ and $x \in W_2$. Thus $W_2 \subset U$, which contradicts the assumption. \square

Now let \succ be an ordering in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, and let

$$\mathcal{U}_{\succ} = \left\{ \bigcap_{i=1}^n f_i^{-1}((0, +\infty)) \subset \mathbb{R}^T : f_i \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T), f_i \succ 0 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n, n \in \mathbb{N} \right\},$$

where we regard $f \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ as a function $f : \mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. By the definition of \mathcal{U}_{\succ} and the Tarski transfer principle (see [Tarski 1948; Seidenberg 1954]), we find that $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{U}_{\succ}$. Moreover, the relation \succ is defined by

$$f \succ 0 \iff \text{there exists } U \in \mathcal{U}_{\succ} \text{ such that } f(x) > 0 \text{ for all } x \in U.$$

The sets of the family \mathcal{U}_{\succ} may be disconnected, so \mathcal{U}_{\succ} is not a c-filter. We will prove that the ordering \succ is defined by some c-filter.

Proposition 2.4. *There exists a unique c-filter Ω with the following properties:*

- (a) *For any $f \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, we have $f \succ_{\Omega} 0$ if and only if $f \succ 0$.*
- (b) *For any $U \in \Omega$, there exists a \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^T$ such that U is a connected component of $\mathbb{R}^T \setminus V$.*
- (c) *For any \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^T$, some connected component of $\mathbb{R}^T \setminus V$ belongs to Ω .*

Proof. Let \mathcal{F} be the family of all connected components of sets $U \in \mathcal{U}_{\succ}$.

Claim 1. Every $U \in \mathcal{U}_>$ has a connected component U_0 such that $U_0 \cap W \neq \emptyset$ for any $W \in \mathcal{U}_>$.

Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_>$ and let $U = U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n$ be the decomposition into connected components. Assume to the contrary that there exist $W_1, \dots, W_n \in \mathcal{U}_>$ such that $U_i \cap W_i = \emptyset$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Then $U \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_n = \emptyset$, which is impossible. This gives Claim 1.

Claim 2. Each $U \in \mathcal{U}_>$ has exactly one connected component S_U that intersects every $W \in \mathcal{U}_>$.

Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_>$, and let U_1, \dots, U_p be the connected components of U . Then

$$(1) \quad U = \bigcap_{l=1}^s \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : g_l(x) > 0\}$$

for some nonzero polynomials $g_l \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$, with $g_l > 0$ for $l = 1, \dots, s$, and

$$U_i = [f_i^{-1}(0) \cap U_i] \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^n \bigcap_{k=1}^m \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : f_{i,j,k}(x) > 0\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, p,$$

for some nonzero polynomials $f_i, f_{i,j,k} \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$. Denote by $\epsilon_{i,j,k}$ the sign of $f_{i,j,k}$ in the ordering $>$. Then $\epsilon_{i,j,k} \neq 0$ and $\epsilon_{i,j,k} f_{i,j,k} > 0$ for any i, j, k . Observe that for some $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we have $f_{i,j,k} > 0$ for $k = 1, \dots, m$. Indeed, in the opposite case,

$$\emptyset = \bigcap_{l=1}^s \bigcap_{i=1}^p \bigcap_{j=1}^n \bigcap_{k=1}^m \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : g_l(x) > 0, \epsilon_{i,j,k} f_{i,j,k}(x) > 0\} \in \mathcal{U}_>,$$

which is impossible. So, for some $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and $j_0 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$U' = \bigcap_{k=1}^m \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : f_{i_0,j_0,k}(x) > 0\} \in \mathcal{U}_>,$$

and $U' \cap U_j = \emptyset$ for $j \neq j_0$. Hence, by Claim 1, $S_U = U_{j_0}$ is the unique connected component of U satisfying Claim 2.

Claim 3. The family $\Omega = \{S_U : U \in \mathcal{U}_>\}$ is a c -filter.

Since for every \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set $V \subset \mathbb{R}^T$ there exists $U \in \mathcal{U}_>$ such that $U \cap V = \emptyset$, we have $S_U \cap V = \emptyset$. Hence, it suffices to prove that for any $S_{U_1}, S_{U_2} \in \Omega$, there exists $S_{U_3} \in \Omega$ contained in $S_{U_1} \cap S_{U_2}$. Indeed, by the argument of Claim 2, there exist $W_1, W_2 \in \mathcal{U}_>$ such that $W_1 \subset S_{U_1}$ and $W_2 \subset S_{U_2}$. Hence, $S_{W_1 \cap W_2} \subset W_1 \cap W_2 \subset S_{U_1} \cap S_{U_2}$ and $S_{W_1 \cap W_2} \in \Omega$.

Claim 4. The c -filter Ω defined in Claim 3 satisfies the assertion of Proposition 2.4.

Part (a) is obvious.

Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_{>}$ be of the form (1), $f = g_1 \dots g_s$, and $V = f^{-1}(0)$. Then, by the definition of S_U , we see that S_U is a connected component of $\mathbb{R}^T \setminus V$. This gives (b).

Let $V = f^{-1}(0)$ be a \mathbb{Q} -algebraic subset of \mathbb{R}^T . Then $U = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : f^2(x) > 0\} = \mathbb{R}^T \setminus V \in \mathcal{U}_{>}$ and $S_U \in \Omega$ is a connected component of $\mathbb{R}^T \setminus V$. This gives (c) and completes the proof. \square

We call the c-filter Ω defined in Proposition 2.4 the *plain filter* for the ordering $>$ and denote it by $\Omega_{>}$.

From Proposition 2.4, we immediately obtain:

Corollary 2.5. *The mapping $> \mapsto \Omega_{>}$ is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of orderings of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ and the set of plain filters.*

Remark 2.6. From the ultrafilter theorem [Bröcker 1982], we see that for any ultrafilter \mathcal{F} of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T , there exists a plain filter $\Omega \subset \mathcal{F}$.

Remark 2.7. It is easy to observe that the statements of this section hold with \mathbb{Q} replaced by \mathbb{R} .

3. Archimedean orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$

Let $>$ be an ordering of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$. Then one can assume that T is linearly ordered by

$$t_1 > t_2 \iff \Lambda_{t_1} > \Lambda_{t_2}.$$

If $f > g$, then we also write $g < f$.

Theorem 3.1. *The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (a) *The field $(\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T), >)$ is Archimedean.*
- (b) *There exists $x_{>} \in \partial\Omega_{>}$ such that the set of coordinates of $x_{>}$ is algebraically independent over \mathbb{Q} .*
- (c) *There exists $x_{>} \in \partial\Omega_{>}$ such that $f > 0$ if and only if $f(x_{>}) > 0$.*
- (d) *There exists $x_{>} \in \partial\Omega_{>}$ such that $x_{>} \in U$ for any $U \in \Omega_{>}$.*

Proof. Assume (a). Then for any $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T$ with $t_1 < \dots < t_n$, and for the projection $\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_n} : \mathbb{R}^T \mapsto (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_n)) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the family

$$(2) \quad \Omega_{t_1, \dots, t_n} = \{\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_n}(U) : U \in \Omega\}$$

determines an Archimedean order in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_n})$. Thus for some $W \in \Omega_{t_1, \dots, t_n}$, the function $f = \Lambda_{t_1}^2 + \dots + \Lambda_{t_n}^2$ is bounded on W . So the set W is bounded. Hence, by Proposition 2.1, there exists $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \partial\Omega_{t_1, \dots, t_n}$. Since the projections π_{t_1, \dots, t_n} are open, it is easy to observe that, for $t_{k_1}, \dots, t_{k_j} \in \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ with $t_{k_1} < \dots < t_{k_j}$, we have $(x_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_j}) \in \partial\Omega_{t_{k_1}, \dots, t_{k_j}}$. Consequently, there

exists $x \in \mathbb{R}^T$ such that for any $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T$ with $t_1 < \dots < t_n$, we have $\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_n}(x) \in \partial\Omega_{t_1, \dots, t_n}$. Summing up, $x \in \partial\Omega$. The set of coordinates of x is algebraically independent over \mathbb{Q} : otherwise, $f(x) = 0$ for some nonzero polynomial $f \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T]$, and so f is infinitesimal. This contradicts (a) and gives (b).

Assume (b). Then any nonzero $f \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ with $f \succ 0$ is defined at $x_{>}$. Moreover, $f(x_{>}) \neq 0$, so $f(x_{>}) > 0$. Conversely, assume that $f(x_{>}) > 0$. Then obviously for some connected component U of $f^{-1}(0, +\infty)$, we have $U \in \Omega_{>}$ and $f(x) > 0$ for $x \in U$. Summing up, we obtain (c).

The implication (c) \Rightarrow (d) is trivial.

Now assume (d). Then we immediately obtain (b), and hence, no $f \in \mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ is infinitesimal, and the field $(\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T), \succ)$ is Archimedean. This gives (a) and completes the proof. \square

Remark 3.2. The assertion of Theorem 3.1 also holds for every c-filter determining \succ in place of the plain filter $\Omega_{>}$.

Theorem 3.1 implies:

Corollary 3.3. *Let T be a finite set. Then the set of Archimedean orderings of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ is a dense subset of the space of orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ in the path topology (see, for instance, [Marshall 2008]) of the real spectrum $\text{Sper}(\mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T])$.*

4. Examples of non-Archimedean orderings

Let m be a fixed positive integer and Λ a system of m variables $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_m$.

Take any $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda]$. Let $\Gamma_P \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a set defined by

$$\Gamma_P = \{(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m : P(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{m-1}, \lambda_m + \gamma) = 0 \text{ for some } \gamma \in [0, \infty)\}.$$

We define a polynomial $\omega(P) \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_{m-1}]$ (or a number $\omega(P) \in \mathbb{R}$ if $m = 1$) by $\omega(P) = 0$ for $P = 0$, and $\omega(P) = P_0$ for $P \neq 0$, where

$$P = P_0\Lambda_m^d + P_1\Lambda_m^{d-1} + \dots + P_d$$

and $P_i \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_{m-1}]$ (or $P_i \in \mathbb{R}$ if $m = 1$) for $i = 0, \dots, d$ and $P_0 \neq 0$.

Let us define sets $W_P \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, for $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda]$. The definition will be inductive with respect to the number of variables $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_m$. For $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda]$, we put

$$(3) \quad W_P = \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} \setminus \Gamma_P \subset \mathbb{R} & \text{if } m = 1, \\ (\mathbb{R}^m \setminus \Gamma_P) \cap (W_{\omega(P)} \times \mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}^m & \text{if } m > 1. \end{cases}$$

By the Tarski–Seidenberg theorem — see Proposition 1.1(c) — the sets W_P are semialgebraic for all $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda]$.

Analogously to Theorem 1.1 of [Spodzieja 1996], we prove the following proposition, which gives an example of c-filter.

Proposition 4.1. *The family $\mathcal{W} = \{W_P : P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda]\}$ satisfies these conditions:*

- $R_0.$ $W_P \subset \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m : P(\lambda) \neq 0\}.$
- $R_1.$ $W_P \cap W_Q = W_{PQ}.$
- $R_2.$ *For $P \neq 0$, W_P is an unbounded subset of \mathbb{R}^m .*
- $R_3.$ *For $P \neq 0$, W_P is an open, connected and simply connected set.*

Moreover, one can demand that

- $R_4.$ $W_P = \mathbb{R}^m$ for $P = \text{const}$, $P \neq 0$.

In particular, \mathcal{W} contains the c -filter

$$\Omega = \{W_P : P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda]\}.$$

Lemma 4.2. *Let $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_m \leq n$, and let $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_{i_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{i_m}]$. Let $Q \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n]$ be a polynomial of the form*

$$(4) \quad Q(x_1, \dots, x_n) = P(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m}), \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Then $W_P \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, $W_Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and

$$W_Q \subset \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m}) \in W_P\}.$$

Proof. For $P = 0$ or $n = m$, the assertion is trivial. Assume that $P \neq 0$ and $n > m$. Consider the case $n = m + 1$. Then there exists $1 \leq j \leq n$ such that

$$(\Lambda_{i_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{i_m}) = (\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_{n-j}, \Lambda_{n-j+2}, \dots, \Lambda_n),$$

under the obvious convention for $j = 1$ and $j = n$. Denote the i -th iteration of ω by ω^i , where $\omega^0(P) = P$. Then, for $(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-i}$,

$$\omega^i(Q)(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i}) = \begin{cases} \omega^i(P)(x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}, x_{n-j+2}, \dots, x_{n-i}) & \text{if } 0 \leq i \leq j - 2, \\ \omega^i(P)(x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}) & \text{if } i = j - 1, \\ \omega^{i-1}(P)(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i}) & \text{if } j \leq i \leq n. \end{cases}$$

Hence,

$$\Gamma_{\omega^i(Q)} = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{n-i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-i} : (x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}, x_{n-j+2}, \dots, x_{n-i}) \in \Gamma_{\omega^i(P)}\}$$

for $0 \leq i \leq j - 2$, and

$$\Gamma_{\omega^{j-1}(Q)} = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{n-j+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-j+1} : (x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}) \in \Gamma_{\omega^{j-1}(P)}\}$$

and $\Gamma_{\omega^i(Q)} = \Gamma_{\omega^{i-1}(P)}$ for $j \leq i \leq n$. In particular, $W_{\omega^i(Q)} = W_{\omega^{i-1}(P)}$ for $j \leq i \leq n$.

Summing up, by (3),

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_Q &= \bigcap_{i=0}^n [(\mathbb{R}^{n-i} \setminus \Gamma_{\omega^i(Q)}) \times \mathbb{R}^i] \\
 &= \bigcap_{i=0}^{j-2} \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}, x_{n-j+2}, \dots, x_{n-i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-i-1} \setminus \Gamma_{\omega^i(P)}\} \\
 &\quad \cap \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-j} \setminus \Gamma_{\omega^{j-1}(P)}\} \cap [W_{\omega^j(Q)} \times \mathbb{R}^j] \\
 &\subset \bigcap_{i=0}^{j-2} \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x_1, \dots, x_{n-j}, x_{n-j+2}, \dots, x_{n-i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-i-1} \setminus \Gamma_{\omega^i(P)}\} \\
 &\quad \cap [W_{\omega^{j-1}(P)} \times \mathbb{R}^j] \\
 &= \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m}) \in W_P\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

This gives the assertion for $n = m + 1$. Hence, by an easy induction with respect to $n - m$, we obtain the assertion. \square

Let T be a linearly ordered set and let \succ be the ordering of T .

For any $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T, t_1 < \dots < t_m$, we define a projection map

$$\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m} : \mathbb{R}^T \ni x \mapsto (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_m)) \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$

Define a family Ω of semialgebraic subsets U of \mathbb{R}^T by

$$(5) \quad U = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m})^{-1}(W_P),$$

where $m \in \mathbb{N}, t_1, \dots, t_m \in T, t_1 < \dots < t_m$, and $P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m}] \setminus \{0\}$.

Proposition 4.3. *The family Ω is a c-filter.*

Proof. By Proposition 4.1 (condition R_2), any $U \in \Omega$ is a nonempty set.

Let $V \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^T$ be a \mathbb{Q} -algebraic set, and let $P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T] \setminus \{0\}$ be such that $V = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : P(x) = 0\}$. Then $P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m}] \setminus \{0\}$ for some $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T, t_1 < \dots < t_m$, and $U = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m})^{-1}(W_P)$. Applying Proposition 4.1 (condition R_0), we obtain that U satisfies (i).

Let $U_1, U_2 \in \Omega$. Let $t_1, \dots, t_m, u_1, \dots, u_n \in T$ satisfy $t_1 < \dots < t_m$ and $u_1 < \dots < u_n$, and assume moreover that for some $P \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m}]$ and $Q \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_{u_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{u_n}]$ we have $U_1 = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m})^{-1}(W_P)$ and $U_2 = (\pi_{u_1, \dots, u_n})^{-1}(W_Q)$. Let $v_1, \dots, v_s \in T, v_1 < \dots < v_s$, be such that $\{t_1, \dots, t_m\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_n\} \subset \{v_1, \dots, v_s\}$, and let $\bar{P}, \bar{Q} \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_{v_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{v_s}]$ be polynomials of the form (4) determined by P and Q , respectively. Then, by Proposition 4.1 (condition R_1) and Lemma 4.2,

$$(\pi_{v_1, \dots, v_s})^{-1}(W_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}) = (\pi_{v_1, \dots, v_s})^{-1}(W_{\bar{P}}) \cap (\pi_{v_1, \dots, v_s})^{-1}(W_{\bar{Q}}) \subset U_1 \cap U_2.$$

This gives (ii).

Take any $U \in \Omega$. There exist $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$ and $P \in \mathbb{R}[\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m}] \setminus \{0\}$ such that $t_1 < \dots < t_m$ and $U = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m})^{-1}(W_P)$. By Proposition 4.1 (condition R_3), U satisfies (iii). This completes the proof. \square

From the definition of the family Ω , we immediately obtain:

Corollary 4.4. *For any $t_1, t_2 \in T$, we have $t_1 \succ t_2$ if and only if $\Lambda_{t_1} \succ_{\Omega} \Lambda_{t_2}$.*

Let $Q \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T] \setminus \{0\}$ and let Ω_Q be a family of semialgebraic subsets U of \mathbb{R}^T defined by

$$(6) \quad U = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_m})^{-1}(W_P \cap W_Q),$$

where $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$, $t_1 < \dots < t_m$, and $PQ \in \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_{t_1}, \dots, \Lambda_{t_m}] \setminus \{0\}$. By Proposition 4.3, we have:

Corollary 4.5. Ω_Q is a c -filter.

Let $X \subset \mathbb{R}^T$ be an open semialgebraic set and let $\hat{x} \in X$ be a point with rational coordinates. There exist $t_1, \dots, t_k \in T$, $t_1 < \dots < t_k$, and an open semialgebraic set $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ such that $X = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_k)) \in Y\}$. Hence, there exists $r > 0$ such that

$$B := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : \max_{i=1, \dots, k} |x(t_i) - \hat{x}(t_i)| < r\} \subset X.$$

Let

$$P_0 = \Lambda_{t_1} \dots \Lambda_{t_k} (\Lambda_{t_1}^2 + \dots + \Lambda_{t_k}^2 - 1/r^2),$$

let $U_0 = (\pi_{t_1, \dots, t_k})^{-1}(W_{P_0})$, and let $F : U_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^T$ be a mapping defined by

$$F(x)(t) = \begin{cases} \hat{x}(t) + 1/x(t) & \text{for } x \in U_0, t \in \{t_1, \dots, t_k\}, \\ x(t) & \text{for } x \in U_0, t \in T \setminus \{t_1, \dots, t_k\}. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 4.6. $\{F(U) : U \in \Omega_{P_0}\}$ is a c -filter subset of X . In particular, for any open semialgebraic set $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^T$, there exists c -filter subsets of Y .

Proof. By Lemma 4.2, any set $U \in \Omega_{P_0}$ is a subset of U_0 . Moreover, F is an open semialgebraic mapping, so $F(U)$ is semialgebraic for $U \in \Omega_{P_0}$. Hence, $\{F(U) : U \in \Omega_{P_0}\}$ satisfies conditions (i)–(iii). \square

From Proposition 4.6 and Theorem 3.1, we have that:

Corollary 4.7. *The set of c -filters defined in Proposition 4.6 is a dense subset of the space of orderings in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ in the path topology of the real spectrum $\text{Sper}(\mathbb{Q}[\Lambda_T])$. Moreover, any ordering determined by such a c -filter is not Archimedean.*

Remark 4.8. It is easy to see that the results of this section hold if we replace \mathbb{Q} by \mathbb{R} .

5. Fields of Nash functions

Let T be a nonempty set. We denote by $\mathcal{N}(X)$ the domain of \mathbb{Q} -Nash functions on an open connected semialgebraic set $X \subset \mathbb{R}^T$.

Let \succ be an ordering in $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ and let Ω_\succ be the plain filter of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T determining \succ . Let us introduce in $\bigcup_{U \in \Omega_\succ} \mathcal{N}(U)$ a relation \sim_\succ by

$$(f_1 : U_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \sim_\succ (f_2 : U_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \iff \exists U \in \Omega_\succ (U \subset U_1 \cap U_2 \text{ and } f_1|_U = f_2|_U).$$

From Proposition 2.4, we immediately see that \sim_\succ is an equivalence relation. The equivalence class of \sim_\succ determined by $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is denoted by $[f]_\succ$, and the set of all such classes by \mathcal{N}_\succ . The set \mathcal{N}_\succ is linearly ordered by

$$[f]_\succ > 0 \iff \exists U \in \Omega_\succ (f \in \mathcal{N}(U) \text{ and } f(x) > 0 \text{ for } x \in U).$$

Proposition 5.1. *The set \mathcal{N}_\succ , together with the usual operations*

$$[f_1]_\succ + [f_2]_\succ = [f_1|_U + f_2|_U]_\succ, \quad [f_1]_\succ \cdot [f_2]_\succ = [f_1|_U f_2|_U]_\succ,$$

where $f_1 \in \mathcal{N}(U_1)$, $f_2 \in \mathcal{N}(U_2)$, and $U \in \Omega_\succ$, $U \subset U_1 \cap U_2$, is a real field.

Proof. Since the ring $\mathcal{N}(U)$ is a domain for any $U \in \Omega_\succ$, so is \mathcal{N}_\succ . We prove that any nonzero $f \in \mathcal{N}_\succ$ has an inverse in \mathcal{N}_\succ . Indeed, there exists $U \in \Omega_\succ$ such that $f \in \mathcal{N}(U)$. Since $f \neq 0$, the set $f^{-1}(0)$ is contained in some proper \mathbb{Q} -algebraic subset of \mathbb{R}^T . Then, by the definition of c-filter, one can assume that $f(\lambda) \neq 0$ for any $\lambda \in U$. Thus $1/f \in \mathcal{N}(U)$, so f has an inverse in \mathcal{N}_\succ . Summing up, \mathcal{N}_\succ is a field. Since $-1 \in \mathcal{N}(U)$ is not a sum of squares in $\mathcal{N}(U)$, it follows that $-1 \in \mathcal{N}_\succ$ is not a sum of squares in \mathcal{N}_\succ . □

Theorem 5.2. *The field \mathcal{N}_\succ is a real closure of the field $(\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T), \succ)$.*

Proof. Take any irreducible polynomial $P \in \mathcal{N}_\succ[Z]$ of odd degree d with respect to Z . Then there exists $U \in \Omega_\succ$ such that $P \in \mathcal{N}(U)[Z]$. Let $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$, and let $\tilde{U} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be an open connected semialgebraic set such that $U = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^T : (x(t_1), \dots, x(t_m)) \in \tilde{U}\}$. By using the Hermite method (for \tilde{U}) we deduce that there exists a decomposition $U = U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_k \cup V$ of U into disjoint open basic \mathbb{Q} -semialgebraic sets U_1, \dots, U_k and a semialgebraic set V included in an algebraic set such that $P(x, Z)$ has the same number of zeroes for all $x \in U_i$ and each of these zeroes is single. By (i) and (ii) in the definition of a c-filter, there exists $U' \in \Omega_\succ$ such that $U' \subset U_i$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Then there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $k > 0$ such that $P(x, Z)$ has exactly k zeroes for $x \in U'$, and so there exist functions $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_k : U' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\xi_1(x) < \dots < \xi_k(x)$ such that $P(x, \xi_i(x)) = 0$ for $x \in U'$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. As $\xi_i(x)$ are single zeroes of $P(x, Z)$, by the Implicit Function Theorem, ξ_i is a Nash function for $i = 1, \dots, k$. As \mathcal{N}_\succ is a real field

(Proposition 5.1), $\mathcal{N}_>$ is a real closed field. Since $\mathcal{N}_>$ is an algebraic extension of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, by the Artin–Schreier Theorem, it is a real closure of $(\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T), >)$. \square

Remark 5.3. The above results of this section also hold for an arbitrary c-filter determining $>$ in place of the plain filter $\Omega_>$. The results also hold if we put \mathbb{R} in place of \mathbb{Q} .

From Theorems 3.1 and 5.2, we recover the familiar result that any Archimedean field can be embedded in \mathbb{R} .

Corollary 5.4. *Let $\Omega_>$ be a plain filter of subsets of \mathbb{R}^T determining an Archimedean ordering $>$ of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, and let $x_> \in \bigcap_{U \in \Omega_>} U$. Then the mapping*

$$\mathcal{N}_> \ni f \mapsto f(x_>) \in \mathbb{R}$$

is an order-preserving monomorphism.

From Theorem 5.2, we immediately obtain:

Corollary 5.5. *Let R be a real closed field with ordering $>$, and let T be the transcendence basis of R over \mathbb{Q} whose existence is guaranteed by the Kuratowski–Zorn lemma. Assume that $T \neq \emptyset$ and let $\Lambda_T = (\Lambda_t : t \in T)$ be a system of independent variables. Then the field R is order-preserving isomorphic to a real closure of the rational functions field $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$, i.e., to some field $\mathcal{N}_>$.*

Remark 5.6. Let \mathbb{K} be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. Then $\mathbb{K} = R[i]$, where $i^2 = -1$, for some real closed field R . Let $T \subset R$ be the transcendence basis of \mathbb{K} over \mathbb{Q} . Assume that $T \neq \emptyset$. Then \mathbb{K} is isomorphic to an algebraic closure of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$. By Theorem 1.1 of [Spodzieja 1996], one can introduce a filter $\Omega_{\mathbb{C}}$ of open, connected, and simply connected semialgebraic subsets U of \mathbb{C}^T satisfying conditions (i), (ii), and (iii). Then, analogously to [Spodzieja 1996], one can introduce a geometric construction of the algebraic closure of $\mathbb{Q}(\Lambda_T)$ in terms of complex Nash functions.

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
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