

Sums of Squares and Applications

Exercise 2

Let $\varphi = \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ be a sentence (quantifier-free, if we want) that describes the semialgebraic set $M \subset \mathbf{R}^n$. Show that the closure \overline{M} and the convex hull $\text{conv}(M)$ of M are again semialgebraic, by writing down a formula that describes \overline{M} , resp. $\text{conv}(M)$. For the convex hull you will need Carathéodory's theorem on convex hulls.