



EQUIANGULAR LINES VIA IMPROVED EIGENVALUE MULTIPLICITY

By: Igor Balla, joint work with Matija Bucić

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Connections:

- Elliptic geometry
- Frame theory
- Theory of polytopes
- Banach space theory
- Spectral graph theory
- Algebraic number theory
- Quantum information theory

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Theorem[Relative Bound] (Lemmens, Seidel 73): $N_\alpha(r) \leq r \frac{1-\alpha^2}{1-r\alpha^2}$
for all $r \leq 1/\alpha^2 - 2$.

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Theorem(B., Bucić): For any positive integer k , if $r \geq 2^{\Omega(k^{20})}$ then

$$N_{\frac{1}{2k-1}}(r) = \left\lfloor \frac{r-1}{1-1/k} \right\rfloor.$$

Connection to graphs

Given a family of n equiangular lines in \mathbb{R}^r with common angle $\arccos(\alpha)$, we can pick a unit vector along each line to get vectors v_1, \dots, v_n satisfying $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = \pm\alpha$ for all $i \neq j$.

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If $n \geq r + 2$, then its second largest eigenvalue is $\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} - 1 \right)$ and has multiplicity at least $n - r - 1$.

Multiplicity of the second eigenvalue of a graph

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Moreover, if $n \geq 2^{\Delta^{\Omega(1)}}$, then $m(\lambda_2) \leq \frac{n}{\lambda_2 + 1} + n^{o(1)}$.

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If the graph is connected with min degree δ , this can be improved to $\frac{n}{\lambda_2 + \Omega(\delta \log_{\Delta} \log n)}$

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Thus the number of **small** walks starting at v_i is at most $\lambda_2^{2\ell} \ell^{2S}$!

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Since the total number of **large walks** is at most $n\lambda_2^{2S}$, with positive probability, there exist t vertices whose removal yields a subgraph H with at most $n\lambda_2^{2S}/\ell$ **large walks**.

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On the other hand, the number of such walks is at least

$$\text{tr}(A_H^{2S}) \geq \lambda_2^{2S} m_H(\lambda_2).$$

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← Multiplicity of λ_2 in H

Putting it all together and using the Cauchy interlacing theorem, we conclude that

$$m(\lambda_2) \leq t + m_H(\lambda_2) \leq n \frac{\log \ell}{\ell} + n \lambda_2^{2\ell-2S} \ell^{2S} + \frac{n}{\ell}.$$

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Otherwise if $\lambda_2 \log \lambda_2 < \log_{\Delta} n$, then we let $\ell = \lambda_2/3$. □

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Open question: Is there a constant $C > 0$ such that if $n \geq \Delta^C$, then $m(\lambda_2) \lesssim \frac{n}{\lambda_2}$?

