

# EQUIANGULAR LINES VIA MATRIX PROJECTION

By: Igor Balla

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Lemmens, Seidel 73

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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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Examples	

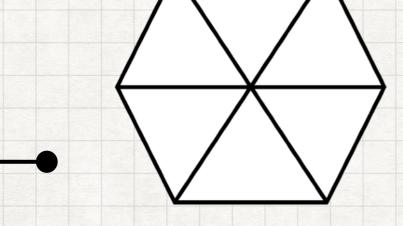
Examples			
r = 2:			

Examples Regular Hexagon r = 2: 3 lines

r = 2: Regular Hexagon

r = 3:

3 lines

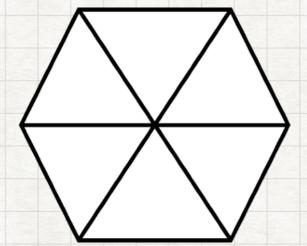


r = 2: Regular Hexagon

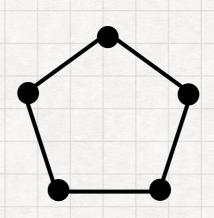
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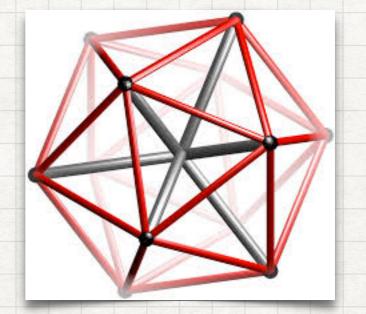
Regular Icosahedron

3 lines



6 lines



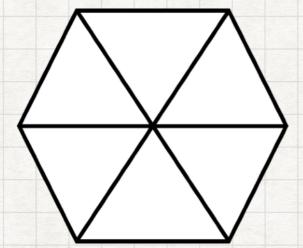


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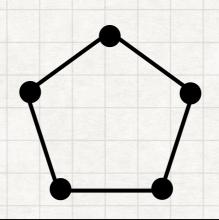
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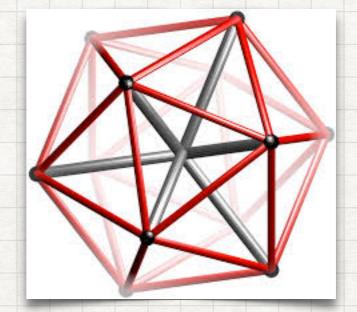
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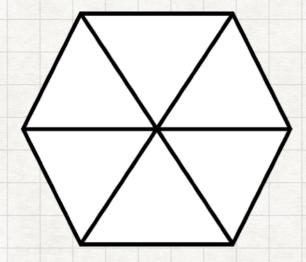
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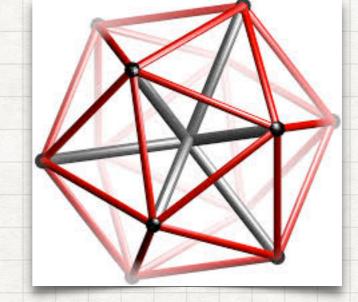
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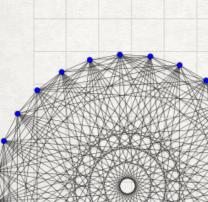
28 lines

Take all 28

permutations of the

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$$(3,3,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1).$$



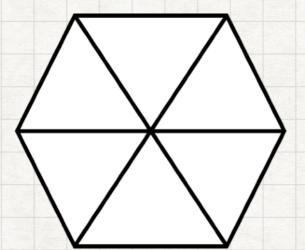
Schläfli Graph (E8 lattice)

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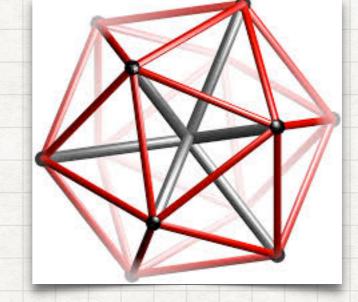
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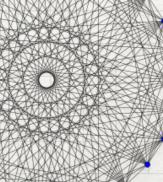
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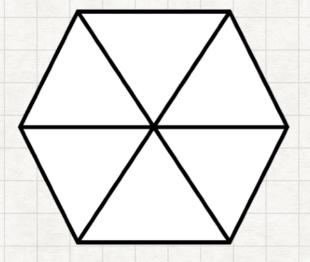
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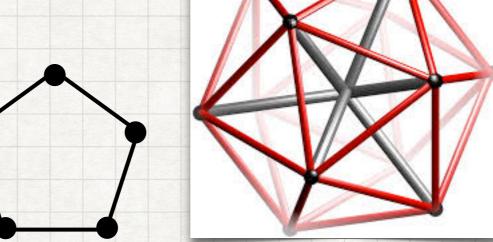
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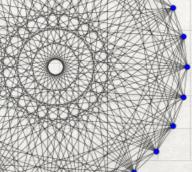
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Schläfli Graph (E8 lattice) McLaughlin Graph (Leech lattice)

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Hence they are linearly independent.

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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  $r \leq 1/\alpha^2 - 2$ .

Theorem (B., Dräxler, Keevash, Sudakov 17):  $N_{\alpha}(r) \leq 2r - 2$  if r is exponentially large in  $1/\alpha^2$ , with equality if and only if  $\alpha = 1/3$ .

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Theorem (Glazyrin, Yu 18):  $N_{\alpha}(r) \leq O(r/\alpha^2)$  for all  $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

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Theorem (B., Bucic 24): For any positive integer k, if r is exponentially large in  $k^{20}$ , then

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

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Corollary(B.): Let G be a k-regular graph with second and last eigenvalue  $\lambda_2, \lambda_n$ . If the spectral gap satisfies  $k - \lambda_2 \ll n$ , then

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Theorem(B.): If G is a k-regular graph with  $k-\lambda_2<\frac{n}{2}$ , then

$$2\left(k - \frac{(k - \lambda_2)^2}{n}\right) \le \frac{\lambda_2(\lambda_2 + 1)(2\lambda_2 + 1)}{1 - \frac{2(k - \lambda_2)}{n}} - \lambda_2(3\lambda_2 + 1),$$
$$-\lambda_n \le \frac{\lambda_2(\lambda_2 + 1)}{1 - \frac{2(k - \lambda_2)}{n}} - \lambda_2,$$

with equality in both whenever  $n+1=\binom{n-\operatorname{mult}(\lambda_2)+1}{2}$ , i.e. when G corresponds to a set of real equiangular lines meeting the absolute bound in dimension  $r=n-\operatorname{mult}(\lambda_2)$ .

Proof sketch: Starting with the adjacency matrix A, let  $\alpha=\frac{1}{2\lambda_2+1}$  and define  $M=(1-\alpha)I+\alpha J-2\alpha A$ .

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Orthogonally project  $\left(\sum_{j=1}^n v_j\right) v_1^\mathsf{T} + v_1 \left(\sum_{j=1}^n v_j\right)^\mathsf{T}$  onto the span of  $v_1 v_1^\mathsf{T}, \dots, v_n v_n^\mathsf{T}$  (with respect to the Frobenius inner product).

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The (Frobenius) norm of X can only decrease!

$$N_{\alpha}(r) \le \max\left(\binom{1/\alpha^2 - 1}{2}, (2 + o(1))r\right)$$

Theorem(B.): Assuming lpha o 0, we have  $N_lpha(r) \le \max\left({1/lpha^2-1 \choose 2}, (2+o(1))r
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"Switching argument": negate some of the vectors so that the eigenvector x corresponding to  $\lambda_1$  has all nonnegative entries.

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Consider the graph with vertices  $v_1, \ldots, v_n$  such that  $v_i v_j$  forms an edge if and only if  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = -\alpha$ .

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The second bound  $n \le (2+o(1))r$  then follows by applying the inequality  ${\rm tr}(H)^2 \le {\rm rk}(H){\rm tr}(H^2)$  with  $H=M-\alpha J$ .

**Proof idea:** Using the Frobenius inner product, orthogonally project the  $r \times r$  identity matrix I onto the span of  $v_1v_1^\intercal, \ldots, v_nv_n^\intercal$ . Its length decreases from r to  $\frac{n}{\alpha^2n+1-\alpha^2}$ .

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Thus 
$$\langle \mathscr{P}I, \mathscr{P}I \rangle_F = \frac{1}{1-\alpha^2} \mathbb{1}^\intercal \left(I - \frac{1}{n+1/\alpha^2-1}J\right) \mathbb{1} = \frac{n}{\alpha^2 n + 1 - \alpha^2}.$$

Given a pair of complex lines  $U, V \subset \mathbb{C}^r$ , the quantity  $|\langle u, v \rangle|$  is the same for all unit vectors  $u \in U, v \in V$  and so  $\arccos |\langle u, v \rangle|$  is called the Hermitian angle between U and V.

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Collections of  $r^2$  complex equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{C}^r$  are known as SIC-POVMs/SICs in quantum information theory.

Theorem[Relative Bound] (Delsarte, Goethals, Seidel 75):

$$N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r) \leq r \frac{1-\alpha^2}{1-r\alpha^2}$$
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Theorem(B.): If  $r \leq \frac{1-o(1)}{\alpha^3}$ , then  $N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r) \leq \left(\frac{1}{\alpha^2} - 1\right)^2$ , with equality if and only if there exists a SIC in  $1/\alpha^2 - 1$  dimensions.

Otherwise 
$$N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r) \leq \frac{1+\alpha}{\alpha}r + O\left(\frac{1}{\alpha^3}\right)$$
.

## Future directions for research

- Unit vectors corresponding to equiangular lines are equivalently spherical  $\{\alpha, -\alpha\}$ -codes. Extend methods to more general spherical L-codes.
- Determine  $N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r)$  up to a multiplicative constant.
- Generalize to other graph matrices (ex: Laplacian).
- Generalize to equiangular subspaces.
- Generalize to signed graphs and unitarily-signed graphs.

