

# High-Dimensional Probability

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## 0 Appetizer

- Convex combination: For  $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the form of  $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i z_i$  with  $\lambda_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$ . Convex hull of  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ :  $\text{conv}(T) = \{\text{convex combinations of } z_1, \dots, z_m \in T, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .
- Caratheodory's theorem: Every point in the convex hull of a set  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  can be expressed as a convex combination of at most  $n + 1$  points from  $T$ .
- Approximate Caratheodory's theorem: Consider  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\text{diam}(T) = \sup\{\|s - t\|_2, s, t \in T\} < 1$ . Then for any  $x \in \text{conv}(T)$  and any  $k$ , one can find points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \in T$  such that  $\|x - \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k x_i\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$  (repetition is allowed).

*Proof* WLOG assume  $\|t\|_2 \leq 1, \forall t \in T$ . Fix  $x \in \text{conv}(T), x = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i z_i, z_i \in T$ . Define  $Z, \mathbb{P}(Z = z_i) = \lambda_i, \mathbb{E}Z = x$ . Consider i.i.d.  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots$  of  $Z, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j \rightarrow x$  a.s.  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .  $\mathbb{E}\|x - \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k Z_j\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{k^2} \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbb{E}\|Z_j - x\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{k^2} \sum_{j=1}^k (\mathbb{E}\|Z_j\|_2^2 - \|\mathbb{E}Z_j\|_2^2) \leq \frac{1}{k} \Rightarrow \exists$  a realization of  $Z_1, \dots, Z_k$  such that  $\|x - \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k Z_j\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$ .  $\square$

- Corollary (Covering polytopes by balls):  $P$  is a polytope in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $N$  vertices,  $\text{diam}(P) \leq 1$ . Then  $P$  can be covered by at most  $N^{\lceil 1/\epsilon^2 \rceil}$  Euclidean balls of radii  $\epsilon > 0$ .

## 1 Preliminaries on random variables

- Jensen's inequality: convex  $\phi, \phi(\mathbb{E}X) \leq \mathbb{E}\phi(X). \Rightarrow \|X\|_{L^p} \leq \|X\|_{L^q}$  for  $p \leq q$ .
- Minkowski inequality:  $p \geq 1, \|X + Y\|_{L^p} \leq \|X\|_{L^p} + \|Y\|_{L^p}$ .
- Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:  $\mathbb{E}|XY| \leq \|X\|_{L^2} \|Y\|_{L^2}$ .
- Holder inequality:  $p, q \in (1, +\infty), \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  or  $p = 1, q = \infty, \mathbb{E}\|XY\| \leq \|X\|_{L^p} \|Y\|_{L^q}$ .
- $X \geq 0$ , then  $\mathbb{E}X = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathbb{P}(X > t) dt$ .
- Markov inequality:  $X \geq 0, t > 0, \mathbb{P}(X \geq t) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}X}{t}$ .
- LLN:  $X_1, \dots, X_n, \dots$  i.i.d.,  $\mathbb{E}X_i = \mu, \text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2, S_N = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N$ . Then: (WLLN)  $\mathbb{P}(|\frac{S_N}{N} - \mu| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0, \forall \epsilon > 0$ ; (SLLN)  $\mathbb{P}(\frac{S_N}{N} \rightarrow \mu, N \rightarrow +\infty) = 1$ .
- CLT:  $Z_N = \frac{S_N - \mathbb{E}S_N}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(S_N)}} \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .
- $X_{N,i}, 1 \leq i \leq N$  independent  $\text{Ber}(p_{N,i}), \max_{i \leq N} p_{N,i} \rightarrow 0, S_N = \sum_{i=1}^N X_{N,i}, \mathbb{E}S_N \rightarrow \lambda < +\infty$ . Then  $S_N \xrightarrow{d} \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .

## 2 Concentration of sums of independent random variables

- Question:  $N$  times,  $\mathbb{P}(\text{head} \geq \frac{3}{4}N) = ?$  Let  $S_N$  be the number of heads,  $\mathbb{E}S_N = \frac{N}{2}, \text{Var}(S_N) = \frac{N}{4}$ . (1) Chebyshev's inequality:  $\mathbb{P}(S_N \geq \frac{3}{4}N) \leq \mathbb{P}(|S_N - \frac{N}{2}| \geq \frac{N}{4}) \leq \frac{4}{N}$ ; (2)  $Z_N = \frac{S_N - \frac{N}{2}}{\sqrt{N/4}}$ , expect:  $\mathbb{P}(Z_N \geq \sqrt{N/4}) \approx \mathbb{P}(g \geq \sqrt{N/4}) \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-N/8}$  where  $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .
- For all  $t > 0, (\frac{1}{t} - \frac{1}{t^3}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2} \leq \mathbb{P}(g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \geq t) \leq \frac{1}{t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2}$ .
- Berry-Esseen bound:  $|\mathbb{P}(Z_N \geq t) - \mathbb{P}(g \geq t)| \leq \frac{\rho}{\sqrt{N}}$  where  $\rho = \mathbb{E}|X_1 - \mu|^3 / \sigma^3$ . And in general, no improvement since  $\mathbb{P}(S_N = \frac{N}{2}) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(Z_N = 0) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$  but  $\mathbb{P}(g = 0) = 0$ .
- Hoeffding's inequality:  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  i.i.d. symmetric Bernoulli ( $\mathbb{P}(X = 1) = \mathbb{P}(X = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$ ),  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Then  $\forall t \geq 0, \mathbb{P}(\sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i \geq t) \leq e^{-t^2/2\|a\|_2^2}, \mathbb{P}(|\sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-t^2/2\|a\|_2^2}$ .

*Proof* WLOG,  $\|a\|_2^2 = 1$ . For  $\lambda > 0, \mathbb{P}(\sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i \geq t) = \mathbb{P}(e^{\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i} \geq e^{\lambda t}) \leq e^{-\lambda t} \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i} = e^{-\lambda t} \prod_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda a_i X_i} = e^{-\lambda t} \prod_{i=1}^N \cosh(\lambda a_i) \leq e^{-\lambda t} \prod_{i=1}^N e^{\lambda^2 a_i^2 / 2} = e^{-\lambda t + \frac{\lambda^2}{2}} \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i \geq t) \leq \inf_{\lambda \geq 0} e^{-\lambda t + \frac{\lambda^2}{2}} = e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} (\lambda = t). \quad \square$

- Bounded r.v.s:  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  independent,  $X_i \in [m_i, M_i]$ . Then  $\forall t \geq 0, \mathbb{P}(\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq t) \leq e^{-\frac{2t^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N (M_i - m_i)^2}}$ .
- Chernoff's inequality:  $X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p_i)$  independent,  $S_N = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i, \mu = \mathbb{E}S_N \Rightarrow \forall t > \mu, \mathbb{P}(S_N \geq t) \leq e^{-\mu(\frac{t}{\mu})^t}$ .  
*Proof*  $\mathbb{P}(S_N \geq t) \leq e^{-\lambda t} \prod_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X_i}$ .  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X_i} = e^{\lambda p_i} + (1 - p_i) = 1 + (e^\lambda - 1)p_i \leq e^{(e^\lambda - 1)p_i} \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(S_N \geq t) \leq e^{-\lambda t} e^{(e^\lambda - 1)\mu}$ . Take  $\lambda^* = \log(t/\mu)$ .  $\square$
- $d = (n - 1)p$  is the expected degree. There is an absolute constant  $C$  s.t. for  $G(n, p)$ ,  $d \geq C \log n$ . Then with high prob (for example 0.9), all vertices of  $G$  have degrees between  $0.9d$  and  $1.1d$ .  
*Proof* Ex 2.3.5  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(|d_i - d| \geq \delta d) \leq 2e^{-c\delta^2 d}$ . Union bound:  $\mathbb{P}(\exists i, |d_i - d| \geq \delta d) \leq n \cdot 2e^{-c\delta^2 d} \leq n \cdot 2 \dots n^{-C\delta^2} = 2n^{1-C\delta^2} \leq 1 - p^*$  (let  $C\delta^2 > 1$ ).  $\square$
- Sub-gaussian properties: The following are equivalent: (i)  $\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-t^2/k_1^2}$  for all  $t \geq 0$ ; (ii)  $\|X\|_{L^p} = (\mathbb{E}|X|^p)^{1/p} \leq k_2\sqrt{p}$  for all  $p \geq 1$ ; (iii)  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda^2 X^2} \leq e^{k_3^2 \lambda^2}$  for all  $\lambda$  s.t.  $|\lambda| \leq \frac{1}{k_3}$ ; (iv)  $\mathbb{E}e^{X^2/k_4^2} \leq 2$ ; (v)  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} \leq e^{k_5^2 \lambda^2}$ , for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  (if  $\mathbb{E}X = 0$ ).  
*Proof* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii): WLOG  $k_1 = 1$ .  $\mathbb{E}|X|^p = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) p t^{p-1} dt \leq \int_0^{+\infty} 2e^{-t^2} p t^{p-1} dt = p \Gamma(\frac{p}{2}) \stackrel{\Gamma(x) \leq 3x^x \text{ for } x \geq \frac{1}{2}}{\leq} 3p(\frac{p}{2})^{p/2} \Rightarrow \|X\|_p \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(3p)^{1/p} p^{1/2} \leq 3\sqrt{p}$ .  
(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii): WLOG  $k_2 = 1$ .  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda^2 X^2} = \mathbb{E}[1 + \sum_{p=1}^{+\infty} \frac{(\lambda^2 X^2)^p}{p!}]$ .  $\mathbb{E}|X|^{2p} \leq (2p)^p, p! \geq (\frac{p}{e})^p \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda^2 X^2} \leq 1 + \sum_{p=1}^{+\infty} \frac{(2\lambda^2 p)^p}{(\frac{p}{e})^p} = \frac{1}{1 - 2e\lambda^2}$  (if  $2e\lambda^2 < 1$ )  $\stackrel{\frac{1}{1-x} \leq e^{2x} \text{ for } x \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]}{\leq} e^{4e\lambda^2}$  (if  $2e\lambda^2 \leq 1/2 \Leftrightarrow \lambda \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{e}}$ ).  
(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv): trivial.  
(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i):  $\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) = \mathbb{P}(e^{X^2} \leq e^{t^2}) \leq e^{-t^2} \mathbb{E}e^{X^2} \leq 2e^{-t^2}$ .  
(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (v): WLOG  $k_3 = 1$ . If  $|\lambda| \leq 1$ , then  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} \leq \mathbb{E}(\lambda X + e^{\lambda^2 X^2}) = \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda^2 X^2} \leq e^{\lambda^2}$ . If  $|\lambda| \geq 1$ , then  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} \leq e^{\frac{\lambda^2}{2}} \mathbb{E}e^{\frac{X^2}{2}} e^{\frac{\lambda^2}{2}} e^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq e^{\lambda^2}$ .  
(v)  $\Rightarrow$  (i): mimic the proof of (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i).  $\square$
- Sub-gaussian r.v.: satisfy the above sub-gaussian properties.  $\|X\|_{\psi_2} = \inf\{t > 0 : \mathbb{E}e^{X^2/t^2} \leq 2\}$ . Thus  $\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-ct^2/\|X\|_{\psi_2}^2}; \|X\|_{L^p} \leq C\|X\|_{\psi_2}\sqrt{p}$ ; if  $\mathbb{E}X = 0$  then  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} \leq e^{C\lambda^2\|X\|_{\psi_2}^2}$ .
- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  be i.i.d. and mean zero sub-gaussian, then  $\|\sum_{i=1}^N X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2 \leq C \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2$ .  
*Proof*  $\forall \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N X_i} = \prod_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X_i} \leq \prod_{i=1}^N e^{c\lambda^2\|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2} = e^{c\lambda^2 \sum_{i=1}^N \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2}$   $\square$
- Centering:  $X$  is sub-gaussian  $\Rightarrow X - \mathbb{E}X$  is sub-gaussian and  $\|X - \mathbb{E}X\|_{\psi_2} \leq C\|X\|_{\psi_2}$ .  
*Proof*  $\|\mathbb{E}X\|_{\psi_2} \leq C_1\|\mathbb{E}X\| \leq C_1\mathbb{E}|X| = C_1\|X\|_{L^1} \leq C_1C_2\|X\|_{\psi_2}$ .  $\square$
- Sub-exponential properties: The following are equivalent: (1)  $\mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-t/k_1}, \forall t \geq 0$ ; (2)  $\|X\|_{L^p} \leq k_2 p, p \geq 1$ ; (3)  $\mathbb{E}e^{\lambda|X|} \leq e^{k_3\lambda}$  for all  $0 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{k_3}$ ; (4)  $\mathbb{E}e^{|X|/k_4} \leq 2$ ; (5) if  $\mathbb{E}X = 0, \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} \leq e^{k_5^2 \lambda^2}$  for  $|\lambda| \leq \frac{1}{k_5}$ .  
*Proof* (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (5):  $k_2 = 1, \mathbb{E}e^{\lambda X} = 1 + \sum_{p=2}^{+\infty} \frac{\lambda^p \mathbb{E}X^p}{p!} \leq 1 + \sum_{p=2}^{+\infty} \frac{\lambda^p p^p}{(p/e)^p} = 1 + \frac{(e\lambda)^2}{1 - e\lambda} (|e\lambda| < 1)$ . If  $|e\lambda| \leq \frac{1}{2}, 1 + \frac{(e\lambda)^2}{1 - e\lambda} \leq 1 + 2e^2 \lambda^2 \leq e^{4e^2 \lambda^2}$ , i.e.  $k_5 = 2e$ .  
(5)  $\Rightarrow$  (1):  $k_5 = 1, |x|^p \leq p^p(e^x + e^{-x}) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}|X|^p \leq p^p(\mathbb{E}e^X + \mathbb{E}e^{-X}) \leq 2ep^p$ .  $\square$
- $\|X\|_{\psi_1} = \inf\{t > 0 : \mathbb{E}e^{|X|/t} \leq 2\}$ .  $X$  is sub-gaussian  $\Leftrightarrow X^2$  is sub-exponential.  $\|X^2\|_{\psi_1} = \|X\|_{\psi_2}^2$ .
- $X, Y$  are sub-gaussian  $\Rightarrow XY$  is sub-exponential and  $\|XY\|_{\psi_1} \leq \|X\|_{\psi_2}\|Y\|_{\psi_2}$ .  
*Proof* WLOG  $\|X\|_{\psi_2} = \|Y\|_{\psi_2} = 1$ .  $\mathbb{E}e^{XY} \leq \mathbb{E}e^{\frac{X^2+Y^2}{2}} = \mathbb{E}[e^{\frac{X^2}{2} + \frac{Y^2}{2}}] \leq \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{E}e^{X^2} + \mathbb{E}e^{Y^2}) = 2$ .  $\square$
- Orlicz function/space:  $\psi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ , convex, increasing,  $\psi(0) = 0, \psi(x) \rightarrow +\infty, x \rightarrow +\infty$ .  $\|X\|_\psi := \inf\{t > 0 : \mathbb{E}\psi(|X|/t) \leq 1\}$ .  $L_\psi := \{X : \|X\|_\psi < +\infty\}$  is Banach space. Examples: (1)  $L_p : \psi(x) = x^p, p \geq 1$ ; (2)  $L_{\psi_2} : \psi_2(x) = e^{x^2} - 1, L_\infty \subset L_{\psi_2} \subset L_p$ .
- Bernstein's inequality:  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  i.i.d., mean zero and sub-exponential. Then for  $t \geq 0, \mathbb{P}(|\sum_{i=1}^N X_i| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-c \min(\frac{t^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}^2}, \frac{t}{\max_i \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}})}$ .

*Proof*  $S = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$ .  $\mathbb{P}(S \geq t) \leq e^{-\lambda t} \prod_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} e^{\lambda X_i}$ .  $\mathbb{E} e^{\lambda X_i} \leq e^{c\lambda^2 \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}^2}$  if  $|\lambda| \leq \frac{c}{\max \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}}$ . Then  $\mathbb{P}(S \geq t) \leq e^{-\lambda t + c\lambda^2 \sigma^2}$  where  $\sigma^2 := \sum_{i=1}^N \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}^2$ . The following is to find the minimum of a quadratic function with the restriction  $|\lambda| \leq \frac{c}{\max \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}}$ .  $\square$

- Corollary 1:  $\mathbb{P}(|\sum_{i=1}^N a_i X_i| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-c \min(\frac{t^2}{K^2 \|a\|_2^2}, \frac{t}{K \|a\|_\infty})}$  where  $K = \max_i \|X_i\|_{\psi_1}$ .
- Corollary 2:  $|X_i| \leq K$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(|\sum_{i=1}^N X_i| \geq t) \leq 2 \exp(-\frac{t^2/2}{\sigma^2 + Kt/3})$  where  $\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} X_i^2$ .

### 3 Random vectors in high dimensions

- $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , independent sub-gaussian coordinate  $X_i$ ,  $\mathbb{E} X_i^2 = 1$ . Then  $\|X\|_2 - \sqrt{n} \leq CK^2$ ,  $K = \max_i \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}$ .  
*Proof*  $\mathbb{E} X_i^2 = 1 \Rightarrow K \geq 1$ .  $\|X_i^2 - 1\|_{\psi_1} \leq C \|X_i^2\|_{\psi_1} = C \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2 \leq CK^2$ . Bernstein's inequality:  $\mathbb{P}(|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i^2 - 1)| \geq u) = \mathbb{P}(|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i^2 - 1)| \geq u) \leq 2e^{-cn \min(\frac{u^2}{K^4}, \frac{u}{K^2})} \leq 2e^{-\frac{cn}{K^4} \min(u^2, u)}$ . For any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(|\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|X\|_2 - 1| \geq \delta) \leq \mathbb{P}(|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 1| \geq \max(\delta, \delta^2)) \leq 2e^{-\frac{cn}{K^4} \delta^2} \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(|\|X\|_2 - \sqrt{n}| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-ct^2/K^4}$ .  $\square$
- Isotropy:  $\Sigma(X) = \mathbb{E} X X^T = I$ . If  $\Sigma \neq I_n$ , then let  $Z = \Sigma^{-1/2} X$ .  $X$  is isotropic  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{E} \langle X, x \rangle^2 = \|x\|_2^2$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .  
*Proof*  $\mathbb{E} \langle X, x \rangle^2 = \mathbb{E} (x^T X X^T x) = x^T (\mathbb{E} X X^T) x = \|x\|_2^2 = x^T I_n x \Rightarrow \mathbb{E} X X^T = I_n$ .  $\square$
- $X$  is isotropic  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{E} \|X\|_2^2 = n$ . If  $X, Y$  are independent and isotropic  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{E} \langle X, Y \rangle^2 = n$ .  
*Proof*  $\mathbb{E} \|X\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E} (X^T X) = \mathbb{E} (\text{tr}(X^T X)) = \text{tr}(\mathbb{E} X X^T) = n$ .  
 $\mathbb{E} \langle X, Y \rangle^2 = \mathbb{E} (X^T Y Y^T X) = \mathbb{E} (\text{tr}(X^T Y Y^T X)) = \mathbb{E} (\text{tr}(X X^T Y Y^T)) = \text{tr}(\mathbb{E} X X^T (\mathbb{E} Y Y^T)) = n$ .  $\square$
- Examples:  $X \sim U(\sqrt{n} \mathbb{S}^{n-1})$ ,  $X \sim U(\{-1, 1\}^n)$ ,  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  i.i.d.,  $\mathbb{E} X_i = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_i) = 1$  are all isotropic.
- $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n)$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(|\|g\|_2 - \sqrt{n}| \geq t) \leq 2e^{-ct^2}$ .
- Frame:  $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , Approximate Parseval's identity:  $A\|x\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \langle u_i, x \rangle^2 \leq B\|x\|_2^2$ .  $A, B$ : frame bounds.  $A = B$ : tight frame ( $\Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N u_i u_i^T = A I_n$ ) and in this case,  $\sum_{i=1}^N \langle u_i, x \rangle u_i = Ax$ .
- (a) Tight frame  $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^N, A = B, X = \text{Unif}\{u_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$ , then  $(\frac{N}{A})^{1/2} X$  is isotropic. (b)  $X$  is isotropic,  $\mathbb{P}(X = x_i) = p_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . Then  $u_i = \sqrt{p_i} x_i$  form a tight frame with  $A = B = 1$ .
- Isotropic convex sets:  $X \sim \text{Unif}(K), K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  convex, bounded, non-empty interior (convex body). Assume  $\mathbb{E} X = 0, \Sigma = \text{Cov}(X)$ . Then  $Z = \Sigma^{-1/2} X$  is isotropic and  $Z \sim \text{Unif}(\Sigma^{-1/2} K)$ .
- $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is sub-gaussian  $\Leftrightarrow \forall X \in \mathbb{R}^n, \langle X, x \rangle$  are sub-gaussian.  $\|X\|_{\psi_2} = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}} \|\langle X, x \rangle\|_{\psi_2}$ .
- $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  independent, mean zero, sub-gaussian coordinate. Then  $X$  is sub-gaussian with  $\|X\|_{\psi_2} \leq C \max_{i \leq n} \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}$ .  
*Proof*  $\|\langle X, x \rangle\|_{\psi_2}^2 = \|\sum X_i x_i\|_{\psi_2}^2 \leq C \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2 \leq C \max_{i \leq n} \|X_i\|_{\psi_2}^2$ .  $\square$
- Gaussian dist:  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n), \|X\|_{\psi_2} \leq C$ .
- Discrete dist:  $X \sim \text{Unif}\{\sqrt{n} e_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}, \|X\|_{\psi_2} \simeq \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}$ .
- Uniform dist:  $X \sim \text{Unif}\{\sqrt{n} \mathbb{S}^{n-1}\}, \|X\|_{\psi_2} \leq C$ .  
*Proof*  $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n), X \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{\sqrt{n} g}{\|g\|_2}$ .  $p(t) := \mathbb{P}(|X_1| \geq t) = \mathbb{P}(\frac{|g|}{\|g\|_2} \geq \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}})$ .  $\|\|g\|_2 - \sqrt{n}\|_{\psi_2} \leq C \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\|g\|_2 \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}) \leq 2e^{-cn}$ . Need to show that all one-dimensional marginals  $\langle X, x \rangle$  are sub-gaussian. By rotation invariance, we may assume that  $x = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Let  $\mathcal{E} = \{\|g\|_2 \geq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}\} \Rightarrow p(t) \leq \mathbb{P}(\frac{|g|}{\|g\|_2} \geq \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}, \mathcal{E}) + \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}) \leq \mathbb{P}(|g_1| \geq \frac{t}{2}, \mathcal{E}) + 2e^{-cn} \leq 2e^{-t^2/8} + 2e^{-cn} \stackrel{t \leq \sqrt{n}}{\leq} 4e^{-ct^2}$ .  $\square$
- Grothendieck's inequality:  $A = \{a_{ij}\}_{m \times n}$  of real numbers. Assume  $\forall x_i, y_i \in \{-1, 1\}$ , we have  $|\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} x_i y_j| \leq 1$ . Then for any Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , any  $u_i, v_j \in \mathcal{H}$  satisfying  $\|u_i\| = \|v_j\| = 1$ , we have  $|\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \langle u_i, v_j \rangle| \leq K$  with  $K \leq 1.783$ .

*Proof* (1) Reduction. For any  $u_i, v_j \in \mathbb{R}^N$  s.t.  $\|u_i\|_2 = \|v_j\|_2 = 1, K_{u,v} := \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \langle u_i, v_j \rangle, K = \sup_{\|u\|_2=\|v\|_2=1} K_{u,v}$ .

(2) Introduce randomness.  $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_N), U_i = \langle g, u_i \rangle, V_j = \langle g, v_j \rangle, \mathbb{E} U_i V_j = \langle u_i, v_j \rangle$ .  $K_{u,v} = \mathbb{E}(\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} U_i V_j) \Rightarrow K_{u,v} \leq R^2$  if  $|U_i| \leq R, |V_j| \leq R$ .

(3) Truncation. Given  $R \geq 1, U_i = U_i^- + U_i^+, U_i^- = U_i 1_{\{|U_i| \leq R\}}, V_j = V_j^- + V_j^+, |U_i^-| \leq R, |V_j^-| \leq R$ .  $\|U_i^+\|_{L^2}^2 \leq 2(R + \frac{1}{R}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-R^2/2} < \frac{4}{R^2} (R > 1)$ .

(4) Breaking up the sum.  $\mathbb{E} \sum a_{ij} U_i V_j = \mathbb{E} \sum a_{ij} U_i^- V_j^- + \mathbb{E} \sum a_{ij} U_i^+ V_j^- + \mathbb{E} \sum a_{ij} U_i^- V_j^+ + \mathbb{E} \sum a_{ij} U_i^+ V_j^+ := S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + S_4$ .  $S_1 \leq R^2, S_2 \leq K \max \|U_i^+\|_2 \max \|V_j^-\|_2 \leq K \frac{2}{R}, S_3 \leq K \frac{2}{R}, S_4 \leq K \frac{4}{R^2}$ .

(5) Putting everything together.  $K_{u,v} \leq R^2 + \frac{4K}{R} + \frac{4K}{R^2} \Rightarrow K \leq R^2 + \frac{4K}{R} + \frac{4K}{R^2} \Rightarrow K \leq \frac{R^2}{1 - \frac{4}{R} - \frac{4}{R^2}}$ .  $\square$

- Remark: The assumption can be equivalently stated as  $|\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} x_i y_j| \leq \max_i |x_i| \max_j |y_j|$ . The conclusion can be equivalently stated as  $|\sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \langle u_i, v_j \rangle| \leq K \max_i \|u_i\| \max_j \|v_j\|$ .
- Semidefinite programming:  $\max \langle A, X \rangle$  s.t.  $X \succeq 0, \langle B_i, X \rangle = b_i, A, B_i n \times n, b_i$  real number,  $\langle A, X \rangle = \text{tr}(A^T X) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} X_{ij}$ .
- Semidefinite relaxation:  $\max \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} x_i x_j, x_i = \pm 1, A n \times n$  symmetric matrix. Relax to  $\max \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} \langle X_i, X_j \rangle, \|X_i\|_2 = 1, X_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- A positive semidefinite,  $\text{INT}(A) := \max \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} x_i x_j, x_i = \pm 1, \text{SDP}(A) := \max \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} \langle X_i, X_j \rangle, \|X_i\|_2 = 1$ . Then  $\text{INT}(A) \leq \text{SDP}(A) \leq 2K \cdot \text{INT}(A)$ .
- Maximum cut:  $G = (V, E)$  finite simple,  $V \rightarrow V_1 + V_2$ , cut number of edges crossing between  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ . MAX-CUT( $G$ ): NP-hard. Adjacency matrix  $A = \{A_{ij}\}_{n \times n}, A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & i \leftrightarrow j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . Partition:  $X = (x_i)_{n \times 1}, x_i = \pm 1$ .  $\text{CUT}(G, X) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} (1 - x_i x_j)$ .  $\text{MAX-CUT}(G) = \frac{1}{4} \max \{ \sum_{i,j} A_{ij} (1 - x_i x_j) : x_i = \pm 1 \}$ .
- 0.5-approximation algorithm: Partition at random,  $\mathbb{E} \text{CUT}(G, X) = 0.5|E| \geq 0.5 \text{MAX-CUT}(G)$ .
- 0.878-approximation algorithm:  $\text{SDP}(G) = \frac{1}{4} \max \{ \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} (1 - \langle X_i, X_j \rangle), x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|X_i\|_2 = 1 \}$ .  $X_1, \dots, X_n \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_n : g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_n), x_i := \text{sgn}(\langle X_i, g \rangle)$ .  $\mathbb{E} \text{CUT}(G, X) \geq 0.878 \text{SDP}(G) \geq 0.878 \text{MAX-CUT}(G)$ .

*Proof*  $\mathbb{E} \text{CUT}(G, X) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,j=1}^n A_{ij} (1 - \mathbb{E} x_i x_j)$  and  $1 - \mathbb{E} x_i x_j = 1 - \mathbb{E} \text{sgn} \langle g, X_i \rangle \text{sgn} \langle g, X_j \rangle = 1 - \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \langle X_i, X_j \rangle \geq 0.878 (1 - \langle X_i, X_j \rangle)$ .  $\square$

- $u, v \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}, \mathbb{E} \text{sgn}(\langle g, u \rangle) \text{sgn}(\langle g, v \rangle) = \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \langle u, v \rangle$ .
- There exists a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\phi, \psi : \mathbb{S}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}(\mathcal{H})$  s.t.  $\frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \langle \phi(u), \psi(v) \rangle = \beta \langle u, v \rangle$  for all  $u, v \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  and  $\beta = \frac{2}{\pi} \log(1 + \sqrt{2})$ .

*Proof*  $\langle \phi(u), \psi(v) \rangle = \sin(\frac{\beta\pi}{2} \langle u, v \rangle)$ . Ex 3.7.6  $\Rightarrow \exists \mathcal{H}, \phi, \psi$ .  $\sin t = t - \frac{t^3}{3!} + \frac{t^5}{5!} - \dots, \sinh t = t + \frac{t^3}{3!} + \frac{t^5}{5!} + \dots, \|\phi(u)\|_2^2 = \|\psi(u)\|_2^2 = \sinh(\frac{\beta\pi}{2}) = 1$  for all  $u \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1} \Rightarrow \beta = \frac{2}{\pi} \log(1 + \sqrt{2})$ .

*Proof of Grothendieck's inequality with  $K \leq \frac{1}{\beta} \approx 1.783$  WLOG  $u_i, v_j \in \mathbb{S}^{N-1}$ , then  $\frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \langle u'_i, v'_j \rangle = \beta \langle u_i, v_j \rangle, \mathcal{H} = \mathbb{R}^M, g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_M)$ .  $\beta \sum a_{ij} \langle u_i, v_j \rangle = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \langle u'_i, v'_j \rangle = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \mathbb{E} \text{sgn} \langle g, u'_i \rangle \text{sgn} \langle g, v'_j \rangle \leq 1$ .  $\square$*

## 4 Random matrices

- Singular vector decomposition:  $A_{m \times n} = U_{m \times m} \Sigma_{m \times n} V_{n \times n}^T = \sum_{i=1}^n s_i U_i V_i^T, \Sigma = \text{diag}(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_r), s_i \geq 0$  singular values.  $s_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i(AA^T)} = \sqrt{\lambda_i(A^T A)}$ . If  $A$  is symmetric,  $s_i = |\lambda_i(A)|$ .
- Courant-Fisher's min-max theorem:  $\lambda_i(A) = \max_{\dim E=i} \min_{x \in \mathbb{S}(E)} \langle Ax, x \rangle, s_i(A) = \max_{\dim E=i} \min_{x \in \mathbb{S}(E)} \|Ax\|_2$ .
- Operator norm/spectral norm:  $\|A\| = \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|Ax\|_2}{\|x\|_2} = \max_{x \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}} \|Ax\|_2 = s_1(A)$ . Or equivalently,  $\|A\| = \max_{x \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}, y \in \mathbb{S}^{m-1}} \langle Ax, y \rangle$ .
- $s_n(A) > 0 \Leftrightarrow m \geq n = \text{rank}(A), s_n(A) = \frac{1}{\|A^+\|}$  where  $A^+$  is pseudo-inverse (the norm of  $A^{-1}$  restriction to the image of  $A$ ).

- Frobenius norm:  $\|A\|_F = (\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = (\sum_{i=1}^n s_i^2(A))^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .
- Low-rank approximation:  $\text{rank}(A) = r, k < r, A_k := \sum_{i=1}^k s_i u_i v_i^T, \|A - A_k\| = \min_{\text{rank}(A') \leq k} \|A - A'\|$  (holds for  $\|\cdot\|, \|\cdot\|_F$ ).
- Approximate isometries:  $m\|x\|_2 \leq \|Ax\|_2 \leq n\|x\|_2$  where  $m = s_n(A), n = s_1(A)$ , or  $s_n\|x - y\|_2 \leq \|Ax - Ay\|_2 \leq s_1\|x - y\|_2$ .
- $A_{m \times n}, \delta > 0$ . If  $\|A^T A - I_n\| \leq \max(\delta, \delta^2)$ , then  $(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2 \leq \|Ax\|_2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x\|_2$  for all  $x$ .  
*Proof* WLOG  $\|x\|_2 = 1$ .  $\|Ax\|_2^2 - 1 = |\langle (A^T A - I_n)x, x \rangle| \leq \max(\delta, \delta^2) \Rightarrow \max(\|Ax\|_2 - 1, (\|Ax\|_2 - 1)^2) \leq \max(\delta, \delta^2) \Rightarrow \|\|Ax\|_2 - 1\| \leq \delta$ .  $\square$
- $Q_{n \times m}, QQ^T = I_n \Leftrightarrow P = Q^T Q$  is an orthogonal proj in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  onto a subspace with  $\dim n$ .
- $\epsilon$ -net:  $(T, d)$  a metric space,  $K \subset T, \epsilon > 0$ .  $\mathcal{N} \subset K$  is an  $\epsilon$ -net of  $K$  if  $\forall x \in K, \exists x_0 \in \mathcal{N}$  s.t.  $d(x, x_0) \leq \epsilon$ . Covering number: smallest  $|\mathcal{N}| = |\mathcal{N}(K, d, \epsilon)|$ .
- Compactness:  $\mathcal{N}(K, d, \epsilon) < +\infty$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- $\epsilon$ -separated:  $\mathcal{P} \subset T$  is  $\epsilon$ -separated if  $d(x, y) > \epsilon$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{P}$ . Packing number: largest  $|\mathcal{P}| = |\mathcal{P}(K, d, \epsilon)|$ .
- $\mathcal{P}$  is a maximal  $\epsilon$ -separated subset  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{P}$  is a  $\epsilon$ -net of  $K$ .
- $\mathcal{P}(K, d, 2\epsilon) \leq \mathcal{N}(K, d, \epsilon) \leq \mathcal{P}(K, d, \epsilon)$ .

*Proof* The upper bound follows from the previous lemma. For the lower bound, choose an  $2\epsilon$ -separated subset  $\mathcal{P} = \{x_i\}$  in  $K$  and an  $\epsilon$ -net  $\mathcal{N} = \{y_j\}$  of  $K$ .  $\forall x_i, \exists y_j \in \mathcal{N}$ , s.t.  $|x_i - y_j| < \epsilon$ .  $\forall y_j$ , there exists at most a  $x_j \in \mathcal{P}$  s.t.  $|x_i - y_j| < \epsilon$ .  $\square$

- Minkowski sum:  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^n, A + B := \{a + b, a \in A, b \in B\}$ .
- $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n, \epsilon > 0, \frac{|K|}{|B_2^n|} \leq \mathcal{N}(K, \epsilon) \leq \mathcal{P}(K, \epsilon) \leq \frac{|K + \frac{\epsilon}{2} B_2^n|}{|\frac{\epsilon}{2} B_2^n|}$  where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the volume in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $B_2^n$  denotes the unit Euclidean ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- Corollary: Let  $K = B_2^n$ .  $|B_2^n| = \epsilon^n |K|, |K + \frac{\epsilon}{2} B_2^n| = (1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2})^n |K| \Rightarrow (\frac{1}{\epsilon})^n \leq \mathcal{N}(B_2^n, \epsilon) \leq (1 + \frac{2}{\epsilon})^n$ .  $\epsilon \in (0, 1] \Rightarrow (\frac{1}{\epsilon})^n \leq \mathcal{N}(B_2^n, \epsilon) \leq (\frac{3}{\epsilon})^n$ .
- Hamming cube:  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}^n, d_H(x, y) := \#\{i : x(i) \neq y(i)\}$ .
- $(T, d)$  a metric space,  $K \subset T$ ,  $\mathcal{C}(K, d, \epsilon)$  the smallest number of bits sufficient specify every points  $x \in K$  with accuracy  $\epsilon$  in the metric  $d$ . Then  $\log_2 \mathcal{N}(K, d, \epsilon) \leq \mathcal{C}(K, d, \epsilon) \leq \log_2 \mathcal{N}(K, d, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ .  $\log_2 \mathcal{N}(K, \epsilon)$  is often called the metric entropy of  $K$ .

*Proof* Lower bound. Assume  $\mathcal{C}(K, d, \epsilon) \leq N$ . There exists a transformation of  $x \in K$  into bit strings of length  $N$ . A partition of  $K$  into at most  $2^N$  subsets.

Upper bound. Assume  $\log_2 \mathcal{N}(K, d, \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \leq N$ . There exists an  $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$ -net  $\mathcal{N}$  with  $|\mathcal{N}| \leq 2^N$ . To every point  $x \in K$ , assign a point  $x_0 \in \mathcal{N}$  that is closest to  $x$ . The encoding  $x \mapsto x_0$  represents points in  $K$  with accuracy  $\epsilon$ .  $\square$

- Error correcting code: Fix integers  $k, n$  and  $r$ . Encoder  $\{0, 1\}^k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ , Decoder  $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^k$ ,  $D(y) = x$  if  $x \in \{0, 1\}^k, y \in \{0, 1\}^n$  and  $d_H(E(x), y) \leq r$ .
- If  $\log_2 \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\}^n, d_H, 2r) \geq k$ , then there exists an error correcting code,  $k$  bits  $\rightarrow n$  bits, correct  $r$  error.  
*Proof*  $\exists \mathcal{P} \in \{0, 1\}^n, |\mathcal{P}| = 2^k$  s.t closed balls centered at  $\mathcal{P}$  with radii  $r$  are disjoint.  $E : \{0, 1\}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  one to one;  $D : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^k$  nearest-neighbor decodes.  $\square$
- If  $n \geq k + 2r \log_2(\frac{en}{2r})$ , then there exists an error correcting code that encodes  $k$ -bit strings into  $n$ -bit strings and can correct  $r$  errors.

*Proof*  $\mathcal{P}(\{0, 1\}^n, d_H, 2r) \geq \mathcal{N}(\{0, 1\}^n, d_H, 2r) \geq \frac{2^n}{\sum_{k=0}^{2r} C_n^k} \geq 2^n (\frac{2r}{en})^{2r} \geq 2^k$ .  $\square$

- $A_{m \times n}, \epsilon \in [0, 1)$ . Then for any  $\epsilon$ -set  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ ,  $\sup_{x \in \mathcal{N}} \|Ax\|_2 \leq \|A\| \leq \frac{1}{1-\epsilon} \sup_{x \in \mathcal{N}} \|Ax\|_2$ .

*Proof* Fix  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ ,  $\|A\| = \|Ax\|_2$ .  $\exists x_0 \in \mathcal{N}, \|x - x_0\|_2 \leq \epsilon$ ,  $\|Ax - Ax_0\|_2 \leq \|A\| \|x - x_0\|_2 \leq \epsilon \|A\| \Rightarrow \|Ax_0\|_2 \geq \|Ax\|_2 - \epsilon \|A\|$ .  
 $\|A(x - x_0)\|_2 \geq \|A\| - \epsilon \|A\|$ .  $\square$

- $A_{m \times n} = \{A_{ij}\}$ ,  $A_{ij}$  independent mean zero sub-gaussian,  $K = \max_{i,j} \|A_{ij}\|_{\psi_2}$ . Then for any  $t > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\|A\| \leq CK(\sqrt{m} + \sqrt{n} + t)) \geq 1 - 2e^{-t^2}$ .