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Uncertainty principles for orthonormal sequences

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to provide complementary quantitative extensions of two results of H.S. Shapiro on the time–frequency concentration of orthonormal sequences in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. More precisely, Shapiro proved that if the elements of an orthonormal sequence and their Fourier transforms are all pointwise bounded by a fixed function in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ then the sequence is finite. In a related result, Shapiro also proved that if the elements of an orthonormal sequence and their Fourier transforms have uniformly bounded means and dispersions then the sequence is finite. This paper gives quantitative bounds on the size of the finite orthonormal sequences in Shapiro's uncertainty principles. The bounds are obtained by using prolate spheroidal wave functions and combinatorial estimates on the number of elements in a spherical code. Extensions for Riesz bases and different measures of time–frequency concentration are also given.

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1. Introduction

The uncertainty principle in harmonic analysis is a class of theorems which state that a non-trivial function and its Fourier transform cannot both be too sharply localized. For background on different appropriate notions of localization and an overview on the recent renewed interest in mathematical formulations of the uncertainty principle, see the survey [11]. This paper will adopt the broader view that the uncertainty principle can be seen not only as a statement about the time–frequency localization of a single function but also as a statement on the degradation of localization when one considers successive elements of an orthonormal basis. In particular, the results that we consider show that the elements of an orthonormal basis as well as their Fourier transforms cannot be uniformly concentrated in the time–frequency plane.

Hardy's Uncertainty Principle [14] may be viewed as an early theorem of this type. To set notation, define the *Fourier transform* of $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$\hat{f}(\xi) = \int f(t)e^{-2i\pi t\xi} dt,$$

and then extend to $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ in the usual way.

Theorem 1.1 (*Hardy's Uncertainty Principle*). *Let $a, b, C, N > 0$ be positive real numbers and let $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Assume that for almost every $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$|f(x)| \leq C(1 + |x|)^N e^{-\pi a|x|^2} \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{f}(\xi)| \leq C(1 + |\xi|)^N e^{-\pi b|\xi|^2}. \quad (1)$$

The following hold:

- *If $ab > 1$ then $f = 0$.*
- *If $ab = 1$ then $f(x) = P(x)e^{-\pi a|x|^2}$ for a polynomial P of degree at most N .*

This theorem has been further generalized where the pointwise condition (1) is replaced by integral conditions in [3], and by distributional conditions in [9]. Also see [13] and [15]. One may interpret Hardy's theorem by saying that the set of functions which, along with their Fourier transforms, is bounded by $C(1 + |x|)^N e^{-\pi|x|^2}$ is finite-dimensional, in the sense that its span is a finite-dimensional subspace of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

In the case $ab < 1$, the class of functions satisfying the condition (1) has been fully described by B. Demange [9]. In particular, it is an infinite-dimensional subset of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Nevertheless, it cannot contain an infinite orthonormal sequence. Indeed, this was first proved by Shapiro in [21]:

Theorem 1.2 (*Shapiro's Umbrella Theorem*). *Let $\varphi, \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. If $\{e_k\} \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal sequence of functions such that for all k and for almost all $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$|e_k(x)| \leq |\varphi(x)| \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{e}_k(\xi)| \leq |\psi(\xi)|,$$

then the sequence $\{e_k\}$ is finite.

Recent work of A. De Roton, B. Saffari, H.S. Shapiro, G. Tennenbaum, see [10], shows that the assumption $\varphi, \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ cannot be substantially weakened. Shapiro's elegant proof of The-

orem 1.2 uses a compactness argument of Kolmogorov, see [22], but does not give a bound on the number of elements in the finite sequence.

A second problem of a similar nature studied by Shapiro in [21] is that of bounding the means and variances of orthonormal sequences. For $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $\|f\|_2 = 1$, we define the following associated *mean*

$$\mu(f) = \text{Mean}(|f|^2) = \int t|f(t)|^2 dt,$$

and the associated *variance*

$$\Delta^2(f) = \text{Var}(|f|^2) = \int |t - \mu(f)|^2 |f(t)|^2 dt.$$

It will be convenient to work also with the *dispersion* $\Delta(f) \equiv \sqrt{\Delta^2(f)}$. In [21], Shapiro posed the question of determining for which sequences of real numbers $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{b_n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{c_n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{d_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset \mathbb{R}$ there exists an orthonormal basis $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that for all $n \geq 0$

$$\mu(e_n) = a_n, \quad \mu(\hat{e}_n) = b_n, \quad \Delta(e_n) = c_n, \quad \Delta(\hat{e}_n) = d_n.$$

Using Kolmogorov’s compactness argument, he proved the following [21]:

Theorem 1.3 (*Shapiro’s Mean–Dispersion Principle*). *There does not exist an infinite orthonormal sequence $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that all four of $\mu(e_n), \mu(\hat{e}_n), \Delta(e_n), \Delta(\hat{e}_n)$ are uniformly bounded.*

An extension of this theorem in [19] shows that if $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ is an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ then two dispersions and one mean $\Delta(e_n), \Delta(\hat{e}_n), \mu(e_n)$ cannot all be uniformly bounded. Shapiro recently pointed out a nice alternate proof of this result using the Kolmogorov compactness theorem from [21]. The case for two means and one dispersion is different. In fact, it is possible to construct an orthonormal basis $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that the two means and one dispersion $\mu(e_n), \mu(\hat{e}_n), \Delta(e_n)$ are uniformly bounded, see [19].

Although our focus will be on Shapiro’s theorems, let us also briefly refer the reader to some other work in the literature concerning uncertainty principles for bases. The classical Balian–Low theorem states that if a set of lattice coherent states forms an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ then the window function satisfies a strong version of the uncertainty principle, e.g., see [7,12]. For an analogue concerning dyadic orthonormal wavelets, see [1].

Overview and main results

The goal of this paper is to provide quantitative versions of Shapiro’s Mean–Dispersion Principle and Umbrella Theorem, i.e., Theorems 1.2 and 1.3.

Section 2 addresses the Mean–Dispersion Theorem. The main results of this section are contained in Section 2.3 where we prove a sharp quantitative version of Shapiro’s Mean–Dispersion Principle. This result is sharp, but the method of proof is not easily applicable to more general versions of the problem. Sections 2.1 and 2.2 respectively contain necessary background on Hermite functions and the Rayleigh–Ritz technique which is needed in the proofs. Section 2.4 proves a version of the mean–dispersion theorem for Riesz bases.

Section 3 addresses the Umbrella Theorem and variants of the Mean–Dispersion Theorem. The main results of this section are contained in Section 3.4 where we prove a quantitative version of the Mean–Dispersion Principle for a generalized notion of dispersion, and in Section 3.5 where we prove a quantitative version of Shapiro’s Umbrella Theorem. Explicit bounds on the size of possible orthonormal sequences are given in particular cases. Since the methods of Section 2 are no longer easily applicable here, we adopt an approach based on geometric combinatorics. Our results use estimates on the size of spherical codes, and the theory of prolate spheroidal wavefunctions. Section 3.1 contains background results on spherical codes, including the Delsarte, Goethals, Seidel bound. Section 3.2 proves some necessary results on projections of one set of orthonormal functions onto another set of orthonormal functions. Section 3.3 gives an overview of the prolate spheroidal wavefunctions and makes a connection between projections of orthonormal functions and spherical codes. Section 3.6 concludes with extensions to Riesz bases.

2. Growth of means and dispersions

In this section, we use the classical Rayleigh–Ritz technique to give a quantitative version of Shapiro’s Mean–Dispersion Theorem. We prove that, in this sense, the Hermite basis is the best concentrated orthonormal basis of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

2.1. The Hermite basis

Results of this section can be found in [11]. The Hermite functions are defined by

$$h_k(t) = \frac{2^{1/4}}{\sqrt{k!}} \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right)^k e^{\pi t^2} \left(\frac{d}{dt} \right)^k e^{-2\pi t^2}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

It is well known that the Hermite functions are eigenfunctions of the Fourier transform, satisfy $\widehat{h}_k = i^{-k} h_k$, and form an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Let us define the *Hermite operator* H for functions f in the Schwartz class by

$$Hf(t) = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} f(t) + t^2 f(t).$$

It is easy to show that

$$Hh_k = \left(\frac{2k+1}{2\pi} \right) h_k, \quad (2)$$

so that H may also be seen as the densely defined, positive, self-adjoint, unbounded operator on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$Hf = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} \langle f, h_k \rangle h_k.$$

From this, it immediately follows that, for each f in the domain of H ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle Hf, f \rangle &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} |\langle f, h_k \rangle|^2 = \int |t|^2 |f(t)|^2 dt + \int |\xi|^2 |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \\
 &= \mu(f)^2 \|f\|_2^2 + \Delta^2(f) + \mu(\hat{f})^2 \|\hat{f}\|_2^2 + \Delta^2(\hat{f}).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3}$$

2.2. The Rayleigh–Ritz technique

The Rayleigh–Ritz technique is a useful tool for estimating eigenvalues of operators, see [20, Theorem XIII.3, p. 82].

Theorem 2.1 (*The Rayleigh–Ritz technique*). *Let H be a positive self-adjoint operator and define*

$$\lambda_k(H) = \sup_{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}} \inf_{\substack{\psi \in \{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}\}^\perp \\ \|\psi\|_2 \leq 1, \psi \in D(H)}} \langle H\psi, \psi \rangle,$$

where $D(H)$ is the domain of H . Let V be a $(n + 1)$ -dimensional subspace, $V \subset D(H)$, and let P be the orthogonal projection onto V . Let $H_V = PHP$ and let \widetilde{H}_V denote the restriction of H_V to V . Let $\mu_0 \leq \mu_1 \leq \dots \leq \mu_n$ be the eigenvalues of \widetilde{H}_V . Then

$$\lambda_k(H) \leq \mu_k, \quad k = 0, \dots, n.$$

The following corollary is a standard and useful application of the Rayleigh–Ritz technique. For example, [18, Chapter 12] contains a version in the setting of Schrödinger operators.

Corollary 2.2. *Let H be a positive self-adjoint operator, and let $\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_n$ be an orthonormal set of functions. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k(H) \leq \sum_{k=0}^n \langle H\varphi_k, \varphi_k \rangle.
 \tag{4}$$

Proof. If some $\varphi_k \notin D(H)$ then positivity of H implies that (4) trivially holds since the right-hand side of the equation would be infinite. We may thus assume that $\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_n \in D(H)$.

Define the $(n + 1)$ -dimensional subspace $V = \text{span}\{\varphi_k\}_{k=0}^n$ and note that the operator \widetilde{H}_V is given by the matrix $M = [\langle H\varphi_j, \varphi_k \rangle]_{0 \leq j, k \leq n}$. Let μ_0, \dots, μ_n be the eigenvalues of \widetilde{H}_V , i.e., of the matrix M . By Theorem 2.1,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k(H) \leq \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k = \text{Trace}(M) = \sum_{k=0}^n \langle H\varphi_k, \varphi_k \rangle$$

which completes the proof of the corollary. \square

2.3. *The sharp Mean–Dispersion Principle*

Theorem 2.3 (*Mean–Dispersion Principle*). *Let $\{e_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ be any orthonormal sequence in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Then for all $n \geq 0$,*

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (\Delta^2(e_k) + \Delta^2(\widehat{e}_k) + |\mu(e_k)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{e}_k)|^2) \geq \frac{(n+1)^2}{2\pi}. \tag{5}$$

Moreover, if equality holds for all $0 \leq n \leq n_0$, then there exists $\{c_k\}_{k=0}^{n_0} \subset \mathbb{C}$ such that $|c_k| = 1$ and $e_k = c_k h_k$ for each $0 \leq k \leq n_0$.

Proof. Since the Hermite operator H is positive and self-adjoint, one may use Corollary 2.2. It follows from Corollary 2.2 that for each $n \geq 0$ one has

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} \leq \sum_{k=0}^n \langle H e_k, e_k \rangle. \tag{6}$$

From (3), note that since $\|e_k\|_2 = 1$,

$$\langle H e_k, e_k \rangle = \Delta^2(e_k) + \Delta^2(\widehat{e}_k) + |\mu(e_k)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{e}_k)|^2.$$

This completes the proof of the first part.

Assume equality holds in (5) for all $n = 0, \dots, n_0$, in other terms that, for $n = 0, \dots, n_0$,

$$\langle H e_n, e_n \rangle = \Delta^2(e_n) + \Delta^2(\widehat{e}_n) + |\mu(e_n)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{e}_n)|^2 = \frac{2n+1}{2\pi}.$$

Let us first apply (3) for $f = e_0$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} |\langle e_0, h_k \rangle|^2 = \langle H e_0, e_0 \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{1}{2\pi} |\langle e_0, h_k \rangle|^2$$

since $\|e_0\|_2 = 1$. Thus, for $k \geq 1$, one has $\langle e_0, h_k \rangle = 0$ and hence $e_0 = c_0 h_0$. Also $\|e_0\|_2 = 1$ implies $|c_0| = 1$. Next, assume that we have proved $e_k = c_k h_k$ for $k = 0, \dots, n - 1$. Since e_n is orthogonal to e_k for $k < n$, one has $\langle e_n, h_k \rangle = 0$. Applying (3) for $f = e_n$ we obtain that,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=n}^\infty \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} |\langle e_n, h_k \rangle|^2 &= \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} |\langle e_n, h_k \rangle|^2 = \langle H e_n, e_n \rangle \\ &= \frac{2n+1}{2\pi} = \sum_{k=n}^\infty \frac{2k+1}{2\pi} |\langle e_n, h_k \rangle|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\langle e_n, h_k \rangle = 0$ for $k > n$. It follows that $e_n = c_n h_n$. \square

Example 2.4. For all $n \geq 0$, the Hermite functions satisfy

$$\mu(h_n) = \mu(\widehat{h}_n) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta^2(h_n) = \Delta^2(\widehat{h}_n) = \frac{2n + 1}{4\pi}.$$

For comparison, let us remark that Bourgain has constructed an orthonormal basis $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, see [4], which satisfies $\Delta^2(b_n) \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} + \varepsilon$ and $\Delta^2(\widehat{b}_n) \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} + \varepsilon$. However, it is difficult to control the growth of $\mu(b_n)$, $\mu(\widehat{b}_n)$ in this construction. For other bases with more structure, see the related work in [2] that constructs an orthonormal basis of lattice coherent states $\{g_{m,n}\}_{m,n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ which is logarithmically close to having uniformly bounded dispersions. The means $(\mu(g_{m,n}), \mu(\widehat{g_{m,n}}))$ for this basis lie on a translate of the lattice $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$.

It is interesting to note that if one takes $n = 0$ in Theorem 2.3 then this yields the usual form of Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle (see [11] for equivalences between uncertainty principles with sums and products). In fact, using (3), Theorem 2.3 also implies a more general version of Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle that is implicit in [11]. In particular, if $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $\|f\|_2 = 1$ is orthogonal to h_0, \dots, h_{n-1} then

$$\Delta^2(f) + \Delta^2(\widehat{f}) + |\mu(f)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{f})|^2 \geq \frac{2n + 1}{2\pi}.$$

For instance, if f is odd, then f is orthogonal to h_0 , and $\mu(f) = \mu(\widehat{f}) = 0$. Using the usual scaling trick, we thus get the well-known fact that the optimal constant in Heisenberg’s inequality, e.g., see [11], is given as follows:

$$\Delta(f)\Delta(\widehat{f}) \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4\pi} \|f\|_2^2 & \text{in general,} \\ \frac{3}{4\pi} \|f\|_2^2 & \text{if } f \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Corollary 2.5. Fix $A > 0$. If $\{e_k\}_{k=0}^n \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal sequence and for $k = 0, \dots, n$, satisfies

$$|\mu(e_k)|, |\mu(\widehat{e}_k)|, \Delta(e_k), \Delta(\widehat{e}_k) \leq A,$$

then $n \leq 8\pi A^2$.

Proof. According to Theorem 2.3

$$4(n + 1)A^2 \geq \sum_{k=0}^n (\Delta^2(e_k) + \Delta^2(\widehat{e}_k) + |\mu(e_k)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{e}_k)|^2) \geq \frac{(n + 1)^2}{2\pi}.$$

It follows that $n + 1 \leq 8\pi A^2$. \square

This may also be stated as follows:

Corollary 2.6. If $\{e_k\}_{k=0}^\infty \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal sequence, then for every n ,

$$\max\{|\mu(e_k)|, |\mu(\widehat{e}_k)|, \Delta(e_k), \Delta(\widehat{e}_k): 0 \leq k \leq n\} \geq \sqrt{\frac{n + 1}{8\pi}}.$$

2.4. *An extension to Riesz bases*

Recall that $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is a *Riesz basis* for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ if there exists an isomorphism, $U : L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$, called the *orthogonalizer* of $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$, such that $\{Ux_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. It then follows that, for every $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \in \ell^2$,

$$\frac{1}{\|U\|^2} \sum_{n=0}^\infty |a_n|^2 \leq \left\| \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n x_n \right\|_2^2 \leq \|U^{-1}\|^2 \sum_{n=0}^\infty |a_n|^2. \tag{7}$$

One can adapt the results of the previous sections to Riesz bases. To start, note that the Rayleigh–Ritz technique leads to the following, cf. [20, Theorem XIII.3, p. 82]:

Lemma 2.7. *Let H be a positive, self-adjoint, densely defined operator on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, and let $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ be a Riesz basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with orthonormalizer U . Then, for every $n \geq 0$,*

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k(H) \leq \|U\|^2 \sum_{k=0}^n \langle Hx_k, x_k \rangle. \tag{8}$$

Proof. Let us take the notations of the proof of Corollary 2.2. Write $\varphi_k = Ux_k$, it is then enough to notice that

$$M = [\langle Hx_k, x_k \rangle] = [\langle HU^{-1}x_k, U^{-1}x_k \rangle] = [\langle U^{-1} * HU^{-1}x_k, x_k \rangle].$$

As $U^{-1} * HU^{-1}$ is a positive operator, then the Rayleigh–Ritz theorem gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \langle Hx_k, x_k \rangle \geq \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k(U^{-1} * HU^{-1}).$$

But,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_k(U^{-1} * HU^{-1}) &= \sup_{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}} \inf_{\substack{\psi \in [\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}]^\perp, \\ \|\psi\|_2 \leq 1}} \langle U^{-1} * HU^{-1} \psi, \psi \rangle \\ &= \sup_{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}} \inf_{\substack{\psi \in [\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}]^\perp, \\ \|\psi\|_2 \leq 1}} \langle HU^{-1} \psi, U^{-1} \psi \rangle \\ &= \sup_{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{k-1}} \inf_{\substack{\tilde{\psi} \in [U^* \varphi_0, \dots, U^* \varphi_{k-1}]^\perp, \\ \|U \tilde{\psi}\|_2 \leq 1}} \langle H \tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\psi} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and, as $\|U \tilde{\psi}\|_2 \leq \|U\| \|\tilde{\psi}\|_2$,

$$\lambda_k(U^{-1} * HU^{-1}) \geq \frac{1}{\|U\|^2} \sup_{\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_{k-1}} \inf_{\substack{\tilde{\psi} \in [\tilde{\varphi}_0, \dots, \tilde{\varphi}_{k-1}]^\perp, \\ \|\tilde{\psi}\|_2 \leq 1}} \langle H \tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\psi} \rangle = \frac{1}{\|U\|^2} \lambda_k(H). \quad \square$$

Adapting the proofs of the previous section, we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 2.8. *If $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is a Riesz basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with orthonormalizer U then for all n ,*

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (\Delta^2(x_k) + \Delta^2(\widehat{x}_k) + |\mu(x_k)|^2 + |\mu(\widehat{x}_k)|^2) \geq \frac{(n+1)(2n+1)}{4\pi \|U\|^2}.$$

Thus, for every $A > 0$, there are at most $8\pi A^2 \|U\|^2$ elements of the basis $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ such that $|\mu(e_n)|, |\mu(\widehat{e}_n)|, \Delta(e_n), \Delta(\widehat{e}_n)$ are all bounded by A . In particular,

$$\max\{|\mu(x_k)|, |\mu(\widehat{x}_k)|, \Delta(x_k), \Delta(\widehat{x}_k): 0 \leq k \leq n\} \geq \frac{1}{\|U\|} \sqrt{\frac{2n+1}{16\pi}}.$$

3. Finite-dimensional approximations, spherical codes and the Umbrella Theorem

3.1. Spherical codes

Let \mathbb{K} be either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} , and let $d \geq 1$ be a fixed integer. We equip \mathbb{K}^d with the standard Euclidean scalar product and norm. We denote by \mathbb{S}_d the unit sphere of \mathbb{K}^d .

Definition 3.1. Let A be a subset of $\{z \in \mathbb{K}: |z| \leq 1\}$. A spherical A -code is a finite subset $V \subset \mathbb{S}_d$ such that if $u, v \in V$ and $u \neq v$ then $\langle u, v \rangle \in A$.

Let $N_{\mathbb{K}}(A, d)$ denote the maximal cardinality of a spherical A -code. This notion has been introduced in [8] in the case $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ where upper-bounds on $N_{\mathbb{R}}(A, d)$ have been obtained. These are important quantities in geometric combinatorics, and there is a large associated literature. Apart from [8], the results we use can all be found in [6].

Our prime interest is in the quantity

$$N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) = \begin{cases} N_{\mathbb{R}}([- \alpha, \alpha], d), & \text{when } \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}, \\ N_{\mathbb{C}}(\{z \in \mathbb{C}: |z| \leq \alpha\}, d), & \text{when } \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C} \end{cases}$$

for $\alpha \in (0, 1]$. Of course $N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{C}}^s(\alpha, d)$. Using the standard identification of \mathbb{C}^d with \mathbb{R}^{2d} , namely identifying $Z = (x_1 + iy_1, \dots, x_d + iy_d) \in \mathbb{C}^d$ with $\tilde{Z} = (x_1, y_1, \dots, x_d, y_d) \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}$, we have $\langle \tilde{Z}, \tilde{Z}' \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} = \text{Re}\langle Z, Z' \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}$. Thus $N_{\mathbb{C}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 2d)$.

In dimensions $d = 1$ and $d = 2$ one can compute the following values for $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d)$:

- $N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 1) = 1$;
- If $0 \leq \alpha < 1/2$ then $N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 2) = 2$;
- If $\cos \frac{\pi}{N} \leq \alpha < \cos \frac{\pi}{N+1}$ and $3 \leq N$ then $N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 2) = N$.

In higher dimensions, one has the following result.

Lemma 3.2. *If $0 \leq \alpha < \frac{1}{d}$ then $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) = d$.*

Proof. An orthonormal basis of \mathbb{K}^d is a spherical $[-\alpha, \alpha]$ -code so that $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) \geq d$. For the converse, let $\alpha < 1/d$ and assume towards a contradiction that w_0, \dots, w_d is a spherical $[-\alpha, \alpha]$ -code. Indeed, let us show that w_0, \dots, w_d would be linearly independent in \mathbb{K}^d . Suppose that

$$\sum_{j=0}^d \lambda_j w_j = 0,$$

and without loss of generality that $|\lambda_j| \leq |\lambda_0|$ for $j = 1, \dots, d$. Then

$$\lambda_0 \|w_0\|^2 = - \sum_{j=1}^d \lambda_j \langle w_j, w_0 \rangle$$

so that $|\lambda_0| \leq |\lambda_0| d\alpha$. As $d\alpha < 1$ we get that $\lambda_0 = 0$ and then $\lambda_j = 0$ for all j . \square

In general, it is difficult to compute $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, k)$. A coarse estimate using volume counting proceeds as follows.

Lemma 3.3. *If $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ is fixed, then there exist constants $0 < a_1 < a_2$ and $0 < C$ such that for all d*

$$\frac{1}{C} e^{a_1 d} \leq N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq C e^{a_2 d}.$$

Moreover, for $\alpha \leq 1/2$ one has $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq 3^d$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$, and $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq 9^d$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. The counting argument for the upper bound proceeds as follows. Let $\{w_j\}_{n=1}^N$ be a spherical A -code, with $A = [-\alpha, \alpha]$ or $A = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \leq \alpha\}$. For $j \neq k$, one has

$$\|w_j - w_k\|^2 = \|w_j\|^2 + \|w_k\|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \langle w_j, w_k \rangle \geq 2 - 2\alpha.$$

So, the open balls $B(w_j, \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}})$ of center w_j and radius $\sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}$ are all disjoint and included in the ball of center 0 and radius $1 + \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}$. Therefore

$$N c_d \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{2}\right)^{hd/2} \leq c_d \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}\right)^{hd}$$

where c_d is the volume of the unit ball in \mathbb{K}^d , $h = 1$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ and $h = 2$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$. This gives the bound $N \leq (1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{1-\alpha}})^{hd}$. Note that for $\alpha \leq 1/2$ we get $N \leq 3^d$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ and $N \leq 9^d$ if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$. The lower bound too may be obtained by a volume counting argument, see [6]. \square

The work of Delsarte, Goethals, Seidel [8] provides a method for obtaining more refined estimates on the size of spherical codes. For example, taking $\beta = -\alpha$ in Example 4.5 of [8] shows that if $\alpha < \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$ then

$$N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq \frac{(1 - \alpha^2)d}{1 - \alpha^2 d}. \tag{9}$$

Equality can only occur for spherical $\{-\alpha, \alpha\}$ -codes. Also, note that if $\alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{d^k}}$, then $\frac{1 - \alpha^2}{1 - \alpha^2 d}d \sim d^{k+1}$.

3.2. Approximations of orthonormal bases

We now make a connection between the cardinality of spherical codes and projections of orthonormal bases.

Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space over \mathbb{K} and let $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} . For an integer $d \geq 1$, let \mathbb{P}_d be the orthogonal projection on the span of $\{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_d\}$. For $\varepsilon > 0$, we say that an element $f \in \mathcal{H}$ is ε, d -approximable if $\|f - \mathbb{P}_d f\|_{\mathcal{H}} < \varepsilon$, and define $\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon, d}$ to be the set of all of $f \in \mathcal{H}$ with $\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} = 1$ that are ε, d -approximable. We denote by $A_{\mathbb{K}}(\varepsilon, d)$ the maximal cardinality of an orthonormal sequence in $\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon, d}$.

Example 3.4. Let $\{e_j\}_{j=1}^n$ be the canonical basis for \mathbb{R}^n , and let $\{\psi_j\}_{j=1}^{n-1}$ be an orthonormal basis for V^\perp , where $V = \text{span}\{(1, 1, \dots, 1)\}$. Then $\|e_k - P_{n-1}e_k\|_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ holds for each $1 \leq k \leq n$, and hence $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, n - 1) \geq n$.

Our interest in spherical codes stems from the following result, cf. [19, Corollary 1].

Proposition 3.5. *If $0 < \varepsilon < 1/\sqrt{2}$ and $\alpha = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{1 - \varepsilon^2}$, then $A_{\mathbb{K}}(\varepsilon, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d)$.*

Proof. Let $\{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} , and let $\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon, d}$ and \mathbb{P}_d be as above. Let $\{f_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathcal{H}$ be an orthonormal set contained in $\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon, d}$. For each $k = 1, \dots, N, j = 1, \dots, d$, let $a_{k, j} = \langle f_k, \psi_j \rangle$ and write $\mathbb{P}_d f_k := \sum_{j=1}^d a_{k, j} \psi_j$ so that $\|f_k - \mathbb{P}_d f_k\|_{\mathcal{H}} < \varepsilon$.

Write $v_k = (a_{k, 1}, \dots, a_{k, d}) \in \mathbb{K}^d$ then, for $k \neq l$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_k, v_l \rangle &= \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l \rangle = \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k + f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l + f_l \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle + \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k, f_l \rangle + \langle f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle + \langle \mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k, f_l - \mathbb{P}_d f_l \rangle + \langle f_k - \mathbb{P}_d f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle \\ &= \langle f_k - \mathbb{P}_d f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

since $\mathbb{P}_d f_k - f_k$ is orthogonal to $\mathbb{P}_d f_l$. It follows from the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality that $|\langle v_k, v_l \rangle| \leq \varepsilon^2$.

On the other hand,

$$\|v_k\|_{\mathbb{K}^d} = \|\mathbb{P}_d f_k\|_{\mathcal{H}} = (\|f_k\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 - \|f_k - \mathbb{P}_d f_k\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2)^{1/2} \geq (1 - \varepsilon^2)^{1/2}.$$

It follows that $w_k = v_k / \|v_k\|_{\mathbb{K}^d}$ satisfies, for $k \neq l$,

$$|\langle w_k, w_l \rangle| = \frac{|\langle v_k, v_l \rangle|}{\|v_k\|_{\mathbb{K}^d} \|v_l\|_{\mathbb{K}^d}} \leq \frac{\varepsilon^2}{1 - \varepsilon^2},$$

and $\{w_k\}_{k=1}^N$ is a spherical $[-\alpha, \alpha]$ -code in \mathbb{K}^d . \square

Note that the proof only uses orthogonality in a mild way. Namely, if instead $\{f_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathcal{H}$ with $\|f_j\|_{\mathcal{H}} = 1$ satisfies $|\langle f_j, f_k \rangle| \leq \eta^2$ for $j \neq k$, then Eq. (10) becomes $\langle v_k, v_l \rangle = \langle f_k - \mathbb{P}_d f_k, \mathbb{P}_d f_l - f_l \rangle + \langle f_k, f_l \rangle$, so that $|\langle v_k, v_l \rangle| \leq \varepsilon^2 + \eta^2$, and the end of the proof shows that

$$N \leq N_{\mathbb{K}}^s \left(\frac{\varepsilon^2 + \eta^2}{1 - \varepsilon^2}, d \right).$$

In view of Proposition 3.5, it is natural ask the following question. Given $\alpha = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{1 - \varepsilon^2}$, is there a converse inequality of the form $N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq CA_{\mathbb{K}}(\varepsilon', d')$ with $C > 0$ an absolute constant and $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon' \leq C\varepsilon, d \leq d' \leq Cd$? Note that for ε such that $\alpha < 1/d$, we have $A_{\mathbb{K}}(\varepsilon, d) = N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d) = d$.

3.3. Prolate spheroidal wave functions

In order to obtain quantitative versions of Shapiro’s theorems, we will make use of the prolate spheroidal wave functions. For a detailed presentation on prolate spheroidal wave functions see [16,17,23].

Fix $T, \Omega > 0$ and let $\{\psi_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ be the associated prolate spheroidal wave functions, as defined in [23]. $\{\psi_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ is an orthonormal basis for $PW_\Omega \equiv \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : \text{supp } \hat{f} \subseteq [-\Omega, \Omega]\}$, and the ψ_n are eigenfunctions of the differential operator

$$L = (T^2 - x^2) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - 2x \frac{d}{dx} - \frac{\Omega^2}{T^2} x^2.$$

As in the previous section, for an integer $d \geq 0$, define \mathbb{P}_d to be the projection onto the span of $\psi_0, \dots, \psi_{d-1}$, and for $\varepsilon > 0$ define

$$\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon,d} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : \|f\|_2 = 1, \|f - \mathbb{P}_d f\|_2 < \varepsilon\}.$$

For the remainder of the paper, the orthonormal basis used in the definitions of $\mathcal{S}_{\varepsilon,d}, \mathbb{P}_d$, and $A_{\mathbb{K}}(\varepsilon, d)$, will always be chosen as the prolate spheroidal wavefunctions. Note that these quantities depend on the choice of T, Ω .

Finally, let

$$\mathcal{P}_{T,\Omega,\varepsilon} = \left\{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : \int_{|t|>T} |f(t)|^2 dt \leq \varepsilon^2 \text{ and } \int_{|\xi|>\Omega} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \leq \varepsilon^2 \right\}$$

and $\mathcal{P}_{T,\varepsilon} = \mathcal{P}_{T,T,\varepsilon}$.

Theorem 3.6. (Landau–Pollak [17]) *Let T, ε be positive constants and let $d = \lfloor 4T\Omega \rfloor + 1$. Then, for every $f \in \mathcal{P}_{T,\Omega,\varepsilon}$,*

$$\|f - \mathbb{P}_d f\|_2^2 \leq 49\varepsilon^2 \|f\|_2^2.$$

In other words, $\mathcal{P}_{T,\Omega,\varepsilon} \cap \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : \|f\|_2 = 1\} \subset \mathcal{S}_{7\varepsilon,d}$.

It follows that the first $d = 4T^2 + 1$ elements of the prolate spheroidal basis well approximate $\mathcal{P}_{T,\varepsilon}$, and that $\mathcal{P}_{T,\varepsilon}$ is “essentially” d -dimensional.

3.4. Generalized means and dispersions

As an application of the results on prolate spheroidal wavefunctions and spherical codes, we shall address a more general version of the Mean–Dispersion Theorem.

Consider the following generalized means and variances. For $p > 1$ and $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $\|f\|_2 = 1$, we define the following associated p -variance

$$\Delta_p^2(f) = \inf_{a \in \mathbb{R}} \int |t - a|^p |f(t)|^2 dt.$$

One can show that the infimum is actually a minimum and is attained for a unique $a \in \mathbb{R}$ that we call the p -mean

$$\mu_p(f) = \arg \min_{a \in \mathbb{R}} \int |t - a|^p |f(t)|^2 dt.$$

As before, define the p -dispersion $\Delta_p(f) \equiv \sqrt{\Delta_p^2(f)}$.

The proof of the Mean–Dispersion Theorem for $p = 2$ via the Rayleigh–Ritz technique relied on the special relation (3) of means and dispersions with the Hermite operator. In general, beyond the case $p = 2$, such simple relations are not present and the techniques of Section 2 are not so easily applicable. However, we shall show how to use the combinatorial techniques from the beginning of this section to obtain a quantitative version of Theorem 1.3 for generalized means and dispersions.

The following lemma is a modification of [19, Lemma 1].

Lemma 3.7. *Let $A > 0$ and $p > 1$. Suppose $g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, $\|g\|_2 = 1$ satisfies*

$$|\mu_p(g)|, |\mu_p(\hat{g})|, \Delta_p(g), \Delta_p(\hat{g}) \leq A.$$

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$, then $g \in \mathcal{P}_{A+(A/\varepsilon)^{2/p},\varepsilon}$.

This gives a simple proof of a strengthened version of Shapiro’s Mean–Dispersion Theorem:

Corollary 3.8. *Let $0 < A$, $1 < p < \infty$, $0 < \varepsilon < 1/7\sqrt{2}$, $\alpha = 49\varepsilon^2/(1 - 49\varepsilon^2)$, and set $d = \lfloor 4(A + (A/\varepsilon)^{2/p})^2 \rfloor + 1$.*

If $\{e_k\}_{k=1}^N \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal set such that for all $1 \leq k \leq N$,

$$|\mu_p(e_k)|, |\mu_p(\hat{e}_k)|, \Delta_p(e_k), \Delta_p(\hat{e}_k) \leq A,$$

then

$$N \leq N_{\mathbb{C}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 2d).$$

Proof. According to Lemma 3.7, e_1, \dots, e_n are in $\mathcal{P}_{A+(A/\varepsilon)^{2/p}, \varepsilon}$. The definition of d and Theorem 3.6 show that $\{e_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathcal{S}_{7\varepsilon, d}$. According to Proposition 3.5, $N \leq A_{\mathbb{C}}(7\varepsilon, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{C}}^s(\alpha, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(\alpha, 2d)$, where $\alpha = 49\varepsilon^2/(1 - 49\varepsilon^2)$. \square

This approach does not, in general, give sharp results. For example, in the case $p = 2$ the bound obtained by Corollary 3.8 is not as good as the one given in Section 2. To see this, assume that $p = 2$ and $A \geq 1$. Then $4A^2(1 + 1/\varepsilon)^2 \leq d \leq 5A^2(1 + 1/\varepsilon)^2$. In order to apply the Delsarte, Goethals, Seidal bound (9) we will now chose ε so that $\alpha < \frac{1}{2\sqrt{d}}$ which will then give that $n \leq 4d$. Our aim is thus to take d is as small as possible by choosing ε as large as possible.

For this, let us first take $\varepsilon \leq 1/50$ so that $\alpha \leq 50\varepsilon^2$. It is then enough that $50\varepsilon^2 \leq \frac{1}{4A(1+1/\varepsilon)}$, that is $\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon - \frac{1}{200A} \leq 0$. We may thus take $\varepsilon = \frac{\sqrt{1+1/(50A)}-1}{2}$. Note that, as $A \geq 1$, we get that $\varepsilon \leq \frac{\sqrt{1+1/50}-1}{2} < 1/50$. This then gives

$$n \leq 20d \leq 20A^2 \left(1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+1/(50A)}-1}\right)^2 = 20A^2 \left(1 + 100A \left(\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{50A}} + 1\right)\right)^2 \leq CA^4.$$

In particular, the combinatorial methods allow one to take $N = CA^4$ in Corollary 3.8, whereas the sharp methods of Section 2.3 give $N = 8\pi A^2$, see Corollary 2.5.

3.5. The quantitative Umbrella Theorem

A second application of our method is a quantitative form of Shapiro’s Umbrella Theorem. As with the Mean–Dispersion Theorem, Shapiro’s proof does not provide a bound on the number of elements in the sequence. As before, the combinatorial approach is well suited to this setting whereas the approach of Section 2 is not easily applicable.

Given $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, define

$$C_f(\varepsilon) = \inf \left\{ T \geq 0: \int_{|t|>T} |f(t)|^2 \leq \varepsilon^2 \|f\|_2^2 \right\}.$$

If f is not identically zero then for all $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ one has $0 < C_f(\varepsilon) < \infty$.

Theorem 3.9. *Let $\varphi, \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and $M = \min\{\|\varphi\|_2, \|\psi\|_2\} \geq 1$. Fix $\frac{1}{50M} \geq \varepsilon > 0$, $T > \max\{C_\varphi(\varepsilon), C_\psi(\varepsilon)\}$, and $d = \lfloor 4T^2 \rfloor + 1$.*

If $\{e_n\}_{n=1}^N$ is an orthonormal sequence in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that for all $1 \leq n \leq N$, and for almost all $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$|e_n(x)| \leq |\varphi(x)| \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{e}_n(\xi)| \leq |\psi(\xi)|, \tag{11}$$

then

$$N \leq N_{\mathbb{C}}^s(50\varepsilon^2 M^2, d) \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(50\varepsilon^2 M^2, 2d). \tag{12}$$

In particular, N is bounded by an absolute constant depending only on φ, ψ .

Proof. By (11), $T > \max\{C_\varphi(\varepsilon), C_\psi(\varepsilon)\}$, implies $\{e_n\}_{n=1}^N \subset \mathcal{P}_{T,\varepsilon M}$. According to Theorem 3.6, $\mathcal{P}_{T,\varepsilon M} \subset \mathcal{S}_{7\varepsilon M, d}$. It now follows from Proposition 3.5, that

$$N \leq \mathbb{A}_\mathbb{C}(7\varepsilon M, d) \leq N_\mathbb{C}^s\left(\frac{49\varepsilon^2 M^2}{1 - 49\varepsilon^2 M^2}, d\right) \leq N_\mathbb{C}^s(50\varepsilon^2 M^2, d) \leq N_\mathbb{R}^s(50\varepsilon^2 M^2, 2d). \quad \square$$

Let us give two applications where one may get an explicit upper bound by making a proper choice of ε in the proof above.

Proposition 3.10. *Let $1/2 < p$ and $\sqrt{\frac{2p-1}{2}} \leq C$ be fixed. If $\{e_n\}_{n=1}^N \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal set such that for all $1 \leq n \leq N$, and for almost every $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$|e_n(x)| \leq \frac{C}{(1 + |x|)^p} \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{e}_n(\xi)| \leq \frac{C}{(1 + |\xi|)^p},$$

then

$$N \leq \begin{cases} 9\left(\frac{200\sqrt{2}C}{\sqrt{2p-1}}\right)^{\frac{4}{2p-1}} & \text{if } 1/2 < p, \\ 16\left(\frac{400C^2}{2p-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} & \text{if } 1 < p \leq 3/2, \\ 4\left(\frac{500C^2}{2p-1}\right)^{\frac{2}{2p-3}} & \text{if } 3/2 < p. \end{cases}$$

Proof. If $\varphi(x) = \frac{C}{(1+|x|)^p}$, then $M = \|\varphi\|_2 = C\sqrt{\frac{2}{2p-1}} \geq 1$, and a computation for $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ shows that $C_\varphi(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2/(2p-1)}} - 1$. Let $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) = \frac{4}{\varepsilon^{4/(2p-1)}}$ and $\alpha = \alpha(\varepsilon) = \frac{100C^2\varepsilon^2}{2p-1}$. Taking $T = C_\varphi(\varepsilon)$ implies that $d = \lfloor 4T^2 \rfloor + 1 \leq \delta(\varepsilon)$.

If $0 < \varepsilon \leq \frac{1}{50M}$, then Theorem 3.9 gives the bound $N \leq N_\mathbb{C}^s(\alpha(\varepsilon), \delta(\varepsilon))$. We shall chose ε differently for the various cases.

Case 1. For the case $1/2 < p$, take $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{50M}$, and use the exponential bound given by Lemma 3.3 for $N_\mathbb{C}^s(\alpha(\varepsilon), \delta(\varepsilon))$ to obtain the desired estimate.

Case 2. For the case $1 < p \leq 3/2$, let $\varepsilon_0 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{2p-1}}{20C}\right)^{(2p-1)/2(p-1)}$, $\alpha = \alpha(\varepsilon_0)$, and $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon_0)$. Note that $\alpha = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\delta}} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\delta}}$, and also that $\varepsilon_0 \leq \frac{1}{50M}$, since $1 < p \leq 3/2$. Thus the bound (9) yields $N \leq N_\mathbb{R}^s(\alpha, 2\delta) = 4(1 - \alpha^2)\delta \leq 4\delta$. The desired estimate follows.

Case 3. For the case $3/2 < p$, define $\varepsilon_1 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{2p-1}}{50C\sqrt{2}}\right)^{(2p-1)/(2p-3)}$ and note that $\varepsilon_1 \leq \frac{1}{50M}$. Since $3/2 < p$, taking $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_1$, $\alpha = \alpha(\varepsilon)$, $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon)$, implies that $\alpha(\varepsilon) < 1/\delta(\varepsilon)$. Thus, by Lemma 3.2, $N \leq \delta(\varepsilon)$ for all $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_1$. Hence, $N \leq \delta(\varepsilon_1)$, and the desired estimate follows. \square

Note that in the case $1/2 < p$, the upper bound in Proposition 3.10 approaches infinity as p approaches $1/2$. Indeed, we refer the reader to the counterexamples for $p < 1/2$ in [5,10]. The case $p = 1/2$ seems to be open as [10] need an extra logarithmic factor in their construction. For perspective in the case $3/2 < p$, if one takes $C = C_p = \sqrt{\frac{2p-1}{2}}$, then the upper bound in Proposition 3.10 approaches 4 as p approaches infinity.

Proposition 3.11. *Let $0 < a \leq 1$ and $(2a)^{1/4} \leq C$ be fixed. If $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^N \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal set such that for all n and for almost every $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$*

$$|e_n(x)| \leq C e^{-\pi a|x|^2} \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{e}_n(\xi)| \leq C e^{-\pi a|\xi|^2},$$

then

$$N \leq 2 + \frac{8}{a\pi} \max \left\{ 2 \ln \left(\frac{50C\sqrt{\pi}e^\pi}{a^{1/4}} \right), \ln \left(\frac{50\pi C^2 e^{\pi a/2}}{a^{5/2} e^{2\pi}} \right) \right\}.$$

Proof. Let $\gamma_a(x) = C e^{-\pi a|x|^2}$ and let $C_a(\varepsilon) = C_{\gamma_a}(\varepsilon)$. First note that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|t|>T} |\gamma_a(t)|^2 dt &= \int_{|t|>T} C^2 e^{-2\pi a|t|^2} dt = \frac{2C^2}{\sqrt{a}} \int_{T/\sqrt{a}}^\infty \frac{(1+s^2)e^{-2\pi s^2}}{1+s^2} ds \\ &\leq \frac{C^2\pi(1+aT^2)}{\sqrt{a}} e^{-2\pi aT^2}, \end{aligned}$$

while $M = \|\gamma_a\|_2 = (\int_{\mathbb{R}} C^2 e^{-2\pi a|t|^2} dt)^{1/2} = \frac{C}{(2a)^{1/4}}$. In particular, $\|\gamma_a\|_2 \geq 1$. Now for every $T > 0$, set $\varepsilon(T) = 2^{-1/4} \sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{1+aT^2} e^{-\pi aT^2}$, so that $C_a(\varepsilon(T)) \leq T$.

By Theorem 3.9, we get that $N \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(50\varepsilon^2(T)M^2, 8T^2 + 2)$, provided $\varepsilon(T) \leq \frac{1}{50M}$. Let us first see what condition should be imposed on T to have $\varepsilon(T) \leq \frac{1}{50M}$. Setting $s = (1+aT^2)$, this condition is equivalent to $\sqrt{s}e^{-\pi s} \leq \frac{e^{-\pi a^{1/4}}}{50C\sqrt{\pi}}$. Thus, it suffices to take

$$s \geq \frac{2}{\pi} \ln \left(\frac{50C\sqrt{\pi}e^\pi}{a^{1/4}} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad T^2 \geq \frac{2}{a\pi} \ln \left(\frac{50C\sqrt{\pi}e^\pi}{a^{1/4}} \right).$$

We will now further choose T large enough to have $50\varepsilon(T)^2 M^2 < \frac{1}{8T^2+2}$, so that Lemma 3.2 will imply $N \leq N_{\mathbb{R}}^s(50\varepsilon(T)^2 M^2, 8T^2 + 2) = 8T^2 + 2$. This time, the condition reads $(1+aT^2)(1+4T^2)e^{-2\pi aT^2} < \frac{\sqrt{a}}{50\pi C^2}$. Let $r = a(4T^2 + 1)$. Thus, it suffices to take $r^2 e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}r} < \frac{a^{5/2} e^{2\pi}}{50\pi C^2 e^{\pi a/2}}$. It is enough to take

$$r > \frac{4}{\pi} \ln \left(\frac{50\pi C^2 e^{\pi a/2}}{a^{5/2} e^{2\pi}} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad T^2 > \frac{1}{a\pi} \ln \left(\frac{50\pi C^2 e^{\pi a/2}}{a^{5/2} e^{2\pi}} \right).$$

Combining the bounds for T^2 from the previous two paragraphs yields

$$N \leq 2 + \frac{8}{a\pi} \max \left\{ 2 \ln \left(\frac{50C\sqrt{\pi}e^\pi}{a^{1/4}} \right), \ln \left(\frac{50\pi C^2 e^{\pi a/2}}{a^{5/2} e^{2\pi}} \right) \right\}. \quad \square$$

A careful reading of the proof of the Umbrella Theorem shows the following:

Proposition 3.12. *Let $0 < C$, and let $1 \leq p, q, \hat{p}, \hat{q} \leq \infty$ satisfy $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ and $\frac{1}{\hat{p}} + \frac{1}{\hat{q}} = 1$. Let $\varphi \in L^{2p}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\psi \in L^{2\hat{p}}(\mathbb{R})$, and suppose that $\varphi_k \in L^{2q}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\psi_k \in L^{2\hat{q}}(\mathbb{R})$ satisfy $\|\varphi_k\|_{2q} \leq C, \|\psi_k\|_{2\hat{q}} \leq C$. There exists N such that, if $\{e_k\} \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is an orthonormal set which for all k and almost every $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfies*

$$|e_k(x)| \leq \varphi_k(x)\varphi(x) \quad \text{and} \quad |\widehat{e}_k(\xi)| \leq \psi_k(\xi)\psi(\xi),$$

then $\{e_k\}$ has at most N elements. As with previous results, a bound for N can be obtained in terms of spherical codes. The bound for N depends only on φ, ψ, C .

Indeed, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and take $T > 0$ big enough to have $\int_{|t|>T} |f(t)|^{2p} dt \leq \varepsilon^p / C^{2/p}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|t|>T} |e_k(t)|^2 dt &\leq \int_{|t|>T} |\varphi_k(t)\varphi(t)|^2 dt \\ &\leq \left(\int_{|t|>T} |\varphi_k(t)|^{2q} dt \right)^{1/q} \left(\int_{|t|>T} |\varphi(t)|^{2p} dt \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq C^2 (\varepsilon^p / C^{2/p})^{1/p} = \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

A similar estimate holds for \widehat{e}_k and we conclude as in the proof of the Umbrella Theorem.

3.6. Angles in Riesz bases

Let us now conclude this section with a few remarks on Riesz bases. Let $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ be a Riesz basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with orthogonalizer U and recall that, for every sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \in \ell^2$,

$$\frac{1}{\|U\|^2} \sum_{n=0}^\infty |a_n|^2 \leq \left\| \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n x_n \right\|_2^2 \leq \|U^{-1}\|^2 \sum_{n=0}^\infty |a_n|^2. \tag{13}$$

Taking $a_n = \delta_{n,k}$ in (13) shows that $\frac{1}{\|U\|} \leq \|x_k\|_2 \leq \|U^{-1}\|$. Then taking $a_n = \delta_{n,k} + \lambda \delta_{n,l}$, $k \neq l$, and $\lambda = t, -t, t > 0$, gives

$$\frac{1}{\|U\|^2} (1 + t^2) \leq \|x_k\|_2^2 + t^2 \|x_l\|_2^2 + 2t |\operatorname{Re}\langle x_k, x_l \rangle| \leq \|U^{-1}\|^2 (1 + t^2)$$

thus $|\operatorname{Re}\langle x_k, x_l \rangle|^2$ is

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \min((\|x_k\|_2^2 - \|U\|^{-2})(\|x_l\|_2^2 - \|U\|^{-2}), (\|U^{-1}\|^2 - \|x_k\|_2^2)(\|U^{-1}\|^2 - \|x_l\|_2^2)) \\ &\leq \|x_k\|_2^2 \|x_l\|_2^2 \min \left[\left(1 - \frac{1}{\|U\|^2 \|U^{-1}\|^2} \right)^2, \left(\frac{\|U^{-1}\|^2}{\|U\|^2} - 1 \right)^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

while taking $\lambda = it, -it, t > 0$, gives the same bound for $|\operatorname{Im}\langle x_k, x_l \rangle|^2$. It follows that

$$|\langle x_k, x_l \rangle| \leq C(U) \|x_k\|_2 \|x_l\|_2 \leq C(U) \|U^{-1}\|^2 \tag{14}$$

where

$$C(U) := \sqrt{2} \min \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{\|U\| \|U^{-1}\|} \right)^2, \left(\frac{\|U^{-1}\|}{\|U\|} \right)^2 - 1 \right].$$

We may now adapt the proof of Proposition 3.5 to Riesz basis:

Proposition 3.13. *Let $\{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Fix $d \geq 0$ and let \mathbb{P}_d be the projection on the span of $\{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$.*

Let $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ be a Riesz basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and let U be its orthogonalizer. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be such that $\varepsilon < \min(\|U\|^{-2}, \sqrt{\frac{\|U\|^{-2} - C(U)\|U^{-1}\|^2}{2}})$ and let

$$\alpha = \frac{\varepsilon^2 + C(U)\|U^{-1}\|^2}{\|U\|^{-2} - \varepsilon^2}. \tag{15}$$

If $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^N$ satisfies $\|x_k - \mathbb{P}_d x_k\|_2 < \varepsilon$ then $N \leq N_{\mathbb{K}}^s(\alpha, d)$.

Proof. Assume without loss of generality that x_0, \dots, x_N satisfy $\|x_k - \mathbb{P}_d x_k\| < \varepsilon$ and let $a_{k,j} = \langle x_k, \psi_j \rangle$.

Write $v_k = (a_{k,1}, \dots, a_{k,d}) \in \mathbb{K}^d$ then, the same computation as in (10), for $k \neq l$ yields

$$\langle v_k, v_l \rangle = \langle x_k - \mathbb{P}_d x_k, \mathbb{P}_d x_l - x_l \rangle + \langle x_k, x_l \rangle$$

thus $|\langle v_k, v_l \rangle| \leq \varepsilon^2 + |\langle x_k, x_l \rangle|$. On the other hand

$$\|v_k\| = \|\mathbb{P}_d x_k\| = (\|x_k\|^2 - \|x_k - \mathbb{P}_d x_k\|^2)^{1/2} \geq (\|U\|^{-2} - \varepsilon^2)^{1/2}.$$

It follows from (14) that $w_k = \frac{v_k}{\|v_k\|}$ satisfies, for $k \neq l$,

$$|\langle w_k, w_l \rangle| \leq \frac{\varepsilon^2 + C(U)\|U^{-1}\|^2}{\|U\|^{-2} - \varepsilon^2}$$

and $\{w_k\}$ forms a spherical $[-\alpha, \alpha]$ -code in \mathbb{K}^d . \square

Note that the condition on ε implies that $0 < \alpha < 1$. Also note that if U is a near isometry in the sense that $(1 + \beta)^{-1} \leq \|U\|^2 \leq \|U^{-1}\|^2 \leq 1 + \beta$ then

$$C(U) \leq \sqrt{2} \frac{\beta(2 + \beta)}{(1 + \beta)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \leq \frac{(1 + \beta)\varepsilon^2 + \beta(2 + \beta)}{1 - (1 + \beta)\varepsilon^2}.$$

In particular, if U is near enough to an isometry, meaning that β is small enough, then this α is comparable with the α of Proposition 3.5.

As a consequence, we may then easily adapt the proof of results that relied on Proposition 3.5 to the statements about Riesz bases. For example, an Umbrella Theorem for Riesz bases reads as follows:

Theorem 3.14. *Let $\varphi, \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $\|\varphi\|_2, \|\psi\|_2 \geq 1$. Let $\{f_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a Riesz basis for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with orthonormalizer U that is near enough to an isometry $(1 + \beta)^{-1} \leq \|U\|^2 \leq \|U^{-1}\|^2 \leq 1 + \beta$ with β small enough. Then there exists a constant $N = N(\varphi, \psi, \beta)$ depending only on φ, ψ and β , such that the number of terms of the basis that satisfies*

$$|f_n(x)| \leq |\varphi(x)| \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{f}_n(\xi)| \leq |\psi(\xi)|$$

for almost all $x, \xi \in \mathbb{R}$ is bounded by N . As with previous results, a bound on N can be given in terms of spherical codes.

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