# The least Euclidean distortion constant of a distance-regular graph

Himanshu Gupta

joint work with Sebastian Cioabă, Ferdinand Ihringer, and Hirotake Kurihara

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 $c_2(Q_3) \leq \sqrt{3}$ 

Enflo 1969, Linial and Magen 2000, Vallentin 2008.

•  $\rho$  is an optimal embedding and  $c_2(Q_d) = \sqrt{d}$ .

# Grand ancestor of finite metric embedding

#### Bourgain 1985

Every metric space with n points can be embedded into Euclidean space with distortion  $O(\log n)$ .

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#### Linial, London, Rabinovich 1995, Matousek 1997

The bound above is tight and can be attained by the graph metric of expander graphs.

# Equivalent formulation

#### Definition

$$c_2(G) = \min_{\rho} \{ \operatorname{dist}(\rho) \} = \min_{\rho} \{ \exp(\rho) \cdot \operatorname{cont}(\rho) \},$$
  
where  $\exp(\rho) = \max_{x,y} \frac{||\rho(x) - \rho(y)||_2}{d(x,y)}$  and  $\operatorname{cont}(\rho) = \max_{x,y} \frac{d(x,y)}{||\rho(x) - \rho(y)||_2}.$ 

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# Semidefinite programming and Duality

Linial, London, Rabinovich 1995  $c_2(G) = C$ , where,

minimize  $C^2$ , subject to  $Q = (q_{x,y})_{x,y \in V}$  is positive semi definite,  $d(x,y)^2 \le q_{x,x} + q_{y,y} - 2q_{x,y} \le C^2 \cdot d(x,y)^2, \forall x, y \in V.$ 

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#### Linial, London, Rabinovich 1995

Let  $\mathcal{O}_n := \{Q | Q \text{ is } n \times n \text{ PSD and } Q\vec{1} = \vec{0}\}.$ 

 $c_2(G) \leq C$ 

$$\Longleftrightarrow orall Q \in \mathcal{O}_n: \sum_{q_{x,y}>0} d^2(x,y)q_{x,y} + C^2 \sum_{q_{x,y}<0} d^2(x,y)q_{x,y} \leq 0.$$

# The least distortion $c_2(G)$

Linial, London, Rabinovich 1995

$$c_2(G) = \max_{Q \in \mathcal{O}_n} \delta(Q),$$

where

$$\delta(Q) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{q_{x,y}>0} d^2(x,y) q_{x,y}}{\sum_{q_{x,y}<0} d^2(x,y) (-q_{x,y})}}$$

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$$\max_{Q\in\mathcal{O}_n} \{\delta(Q)\} = c_2(G) = \min_{\rho} \{\operatorname{dist}(\rho)\}$$

- Any  $Q \in \mathcal{O}_n$  provides a lower bound on  $c_2(G)$ .
- Any embedding  $\rho$  provides an upper bound on  $c_2(G)$ .

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$$\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathsf{det}}}{\Longleftrightarrow} \exists a_i, b_i, c_i \ (i=0,1,\ldots,d) \ \mathsf{s.t.} \ \forall x,y \in V \ \mathsf{with} \ d(x,y)=i:$$



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- G is regular of valency  $k = b_0$  and  $a_i + b_i + c_i = k$ .
- $i(G) = \{b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{d-1}; c_1, c_2, \dots, c_d\}$ : the intersection array of G

• The Petersen graph





 $i(G) = \{3, 2; 1, 1\}$ 

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• Distance-regular graphs of diameter 2 are called strongly regular.

The Hamming graph H(n, d)

• 
$$V = \mathbb{Z}_n^d$$
  
•  $x = (x_i) \sim y = (y_i) \iff |\{i : x_i \neq y_i\}| = 1$ 

• 
$$b_i = (d - i)(n - 1), c_i = i (i = 0, 1, ..., d)$$



The Hamming graph H(n, d)

• 
$$\mathbf{v} = \omega_n$$
  
•  $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_i) \sim \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}_i) \iff |\{i : \mathbf{x}_i \neq \mathbf{y}_i\}| = 1$   
•  $b_i = (d-i)(n-1), \ c_i = i \ (i = 0, 1, \dots, d)$ 



The Johnson graph J(n, d)

• V \_ 7d

•  $V = {[n] \choose d}$ •  $x \sim y \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} |x \cap y| = d - 1$ •  $b_i = (d - i)(n - d - i), c_i = i^2$  $(i = 0, 1, \dots, d)$   $\{1, 3\} \qquad \{1, 2\} \qquad \{1, 4\} \qquad \{2, 4\} \qquad \{3, 4\}$ 

$$i(J(4,2)) = \{4,1;1,4\}$$

# **Distance Matrices**

$$A_i$$
 is the distance *i* matrix of  $G \stackrel{\text{\tiny def}}{\longleftrightarrow} (A_i)_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } d(x, y) = i \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 

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Combinatorial definition:

In terms of matrices:

$$A_{1}A_{i} = c_{i+1}A_{i+1} + a_{i}A_{i} + b_{i-1}A_{i-1}$$
  

$$\implies A_{i} = v_{i}(A_{1}),$$
  

$$v_{0}(x) = 1, v_{1}(x) = x \text{ and}$$
  

$$x \cdot v_{i}(x) = c_{i+1}v_{i+1}(x) + a_{i}v_{i}(x) + b_{i-1}v_{i-1}(x).$$

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• They are the eigenvalues of the following matrix:

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & b_0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ c_1 & a_1 & b_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & c_{d-1} & a_{d-1} & b_{d-1} \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & c_d & a_d \end{bmatrix}$$
Eigenmatrix of a distance-regular graph

**Recall:**  $A_i = v_i(A_1)$ 



Eigenmatrix of a distance-regular graph

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Where  $k_i := v_i(k)$  is the degree of the distance *i* graph  $G_i$ .

#### Vallentin 2008

If G is a drg with diameter d and eigenvalues  $k > \theta_1 > \ldots > \theta_d$ , then

$$c_2(G)^2 \geq \frac{d^2 v_d(k)}{k} \min_{1 \leq j \leq d} \left\{ \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_d(k) - v_d(\theta_j)} \right\}$$



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#### Proof

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$$Q := (k - \alpha \cdot v_d(k))I - A + \alpha A_d, \ \alpha = \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_d(k) - v_d(\theta_j)} \right\}.$$

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• Then 
$$Q\vec{1} = \vec{0}$$
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 $\sum d^2(x, y) dy y$ 

• 
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 $\max_{Q \in \mathcal{O}_n} \{ \delta(Q) \} = c_2(G)$ Himanshu Gupta  $d^2 u(k)$ 

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This lower bound is tight for all

- **1** Hamming graphs,  $c_2(H(n,d)) = \sqrt{d}$ ,  $(x_1, \cdots, x_d) \rightarrow (e_{x_1}, \cdots, e_{x_d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{nd}$ .
- 3 Johnson graphs,  $c_2(J(n,d)) = \sqrt{d}$ ,  $A \to \sum_{x \in A} e_x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- Strongly regular graphs,  $c_2(G) = 2\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{s}}$ , where s is the negative eigenvalue of G.

 $c_2(G) = \min_{\rho} \{ \operatorname{dist}(\rho) \}$ Himanshu Gupta

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#### Conjecture (Vallentin 2008)

The lower bound above is tight for all drgs.

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#### Cioabă, G., Ihringer and Kurihara 2022+

- The conjecture is not true in general.
- ② The conjecture is true for several families of drgs.

If G is a drg with eigenvalues  $k > \theta_1 > \ldots > \theta_d$ , then for any  $1 \le r \le d$ ,

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#### Proof

• 
$$Q_r := (k - \beta \cdot v_r(k))I - A + \beta A_r$$
, where  $\beta = \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_r(k) - v_r(\theta_j)} \right\}$ .

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 $\max_{Q \in \mathcal{O}_n} \{ \delta(Q) \} = c_2(G)$ Himanshu Gupta

### Counterexamples to Vallentin's Conjecture

• 
$$c_2(G)^2 \ge \frac{d^2 v_d(k)}{k} \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_d(k) - v_d(\theta_j)} \right\}$$
. [Vallentin 2008]  
•  $c_2(G)^2 \ge \frac{(d-1)^2 v_{d-1}(k)}{k} \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_{d-1}(k) - v_{d-1}(\theta_j)} \right\}$ .

#### Hadamard graphs

A Hadamard graph is a distance-regular graph with intersection array  $\{2\mu, 2\mu - 1, \mu, 1; 1, \mu, 2\mu - 1, 2\mu\}$ , where  $\mu \ge 2$  an even number.

#### Computing the bounds above

1 
$$\frac{8(\sqrt{2\mu}-1)}{\sqrt{2\mu}}$$
. [Vallentin 2008]  
2  $\frac{9(\sqrt{2\mu}-1)}{\sqrt{2\mu}+1}$ .

When  $\mu \ge 34$ ,  $\frac{9(\sqrt{2\mu}-1)}{\sqrt{2\mu}+1} > \frac{8(\sqrt{2\mu}-1)}{\sqrt{2\mu}}$ .

#### Graph representation

For an eigenvalue  $\theta$ , let  $U_{\theta}$  be a  $n \times m$  matrix whose columns form an orthonormal basis for the eigenspace of  $\theta$ . For  $1 \leq x \leq d$ , let  $u_{\theta}(x)$  denote the x-th row of  $U_{\theta}$ .



#### Graph representation

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$$AU_{\theta} = \theta U_{\theta} \Rightarrow \sum_{z \sim y} u_{\theta}(z) = \theta u_{\theta}(y).$$



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### Two interpretations of the cosine sequences

• 
$$w_r(\theta) = \frac{v_r(\theta)}{v_r(k)}$$
  

$$M_0 = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots & A_{d-1} & A_d \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \theta_1/k & w_2(\theta_1) & \cdots & w_{d-1}(\theta_1) & w_d(\theta_1) \\ 1 & \theta_2/k & w_2(\theta_2) & \cdots & w_{d-1}(\theta_2) & w_d(\theta_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & \theta_{d-1}/k & w_2(\theta_{d-1}) & \cdots & w_{d-1}(\theta_{d-1}) & w_d(\theta_{d-1}) \\ 1 & \theta_d/k & w_2(\theta_d) & \cdots & w_{d-1}(\theta_d) & w_d(\theta_d) \end{bmatrix}$$

•  $\theta \cdot w_r(\theta) = c_r w_{r-1}(\theta) + a_r w_r(\theta) + b_r w_{r+1}(\theta)$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_0 & b_0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ c_1 & a_1 & b_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & c_{d-1} & a_{d-1} & b_{d-1} \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & c_d & a_d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ w_1(\theta_i) \\ \vdots \\ w_{d-1}(\theta_i) \\ w_d(\theta_i) \end{bmatrix} = \theta_i \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ w_1(\theta_i) \\ \vdots \\ w_{d-1}(\theta_i) \\ w_d(\theta_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

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Least Distortion distance-regular graphs

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### Embedding/Eigenpolytope

Let 
$$\rho: V(G) \to \mathbb{R}^m$$
 be defined as  $\rho(x) := \frac{u_{\theta_1}(x)}{\sqrt{2(u_{\theta_1}(x), u_{\theta_1}(x))(1-w_1(\theta_1))}}$ .



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•  $\operatorname{dist}^2(\rho) = \max_{1 \le r \le d} \left\{ r^2 \left( \frac{1 - w_1(\theta_1)}{1 - w_r(\theta_1)} \right) \right\}$ 

# Bounds on $c_2(G)$ for drgs

#### Recall

• 
$$\max_{Q \in \mathcal{O}_n} \{\delta(Q)\} = c_2(G) = \min_{\rho} \{\operatorname{dist}(\rho)\}$$
  
•  $Q_r := (k - \beta k_r)I - A + \beta A_r$ , where  $\beta = \min_{1 \le j \le d} \frac{k - \theta_j}{v_r(k) - v_r(\theta_j)}$ 

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Cioabă, G., Ihringer and Kurihara 2022+

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Cioabă, G., Ihringer and Kurihara 2022+

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$$c_2(G)^2 = d^2 \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_1(\theta_j)}{1 - w_d(\theta_j)} \right\}.$$

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#### Holds true for:

- Grassmann graph  $G_q(n, d)$ .
- Odd graphs  $O_{d+1}$ .
- Bilinear forms graph  $B_q(n, d)$ .
- Hadamard graphs.
- All drgs of diameter 3.
- many more...

# Conjectures

Main Conjecture (Cioabă, G., Ihringer and Kurihara 2022+)

$$c_2(G)^2 = \max_{r=d-1,d} \left\{ r^2 \min_{1 \le j \le d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_1(\theta_j)}{1 - w_r(\theta_j)} \right\} \right\} = \max_{r=d-1,d} \left\{ r^2 \frac{1 - w_1(\theta_1)}{1 - w_r(\theta_1)} \right\}.$$

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Conjecture 1

$$\min_{1\leq j\leq d}\left\{\frac{1-w_1(\theta_j)}{1-w_r(\theta_j)}\right\}=\frac{1-w_1(\theta_1)}{1-w_r(\theta_1)}.$$
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Conjecture 2

$$\min_{1 \le r \le d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2} \right\} = \min_{r=d-1,d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2} \right\}.$$

Conjecture 1 + Conjecture 2 imply Main Conjecture. Conjecture 1 & Conjecture 2 true for all IA on Brouwer's list.

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Least Distortion distance-regular graphs

## Conjecture 1

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$$\min_{1\leq j\leq d}\left\{\frac{1-w_1(\theta_j)}{1-w_r(\theta_j)}\right\}=\frac{1-w_1(\theta_1)}{1-w_r(\theta_1)}.$$

Conjecture 1 implies that  $\rho$  is optimal and  $c_2(G) = \operatorname{dist}(\rho) = \operatorname{cont}(\rho)$ .



### Conjecture 2

#### Conjecture 2

$$\min_{1 \le r \le d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2} \right\} = \min_{r=d-1,d} \left\{ \frac{1 - w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2} \right\}.$$

Conjecture 2 implies that  $c_2(G) \leq \operatorname{cont}(\rho) = \max_{r=d-1,d} \left\{ \frac{r\sqrt{1-w_1(\theta_1)}}{\sqrt{1-w_r(\theta_1)}} \right\}.$ 

<i>c</i> <sub>1</sub>	$a_1$	$b_1$	0	0	$w_1(\theta_1)$		$w_1(\theta_1)$
:	1.	1.	÷.,	:	:	$= \theta_1$	:
						-	
0		$c_{d-1}$	$a_{d-1}$	$b_{d-1}$	$w_{d-1}(\theta_1)$		$w_{d-1}(\theta_1)$
LΟ			cd	a <sub>d</sub>	$w_d(\theta_1)$		$w_d(\theta_1)$

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Cioabă, G., Ihringer and Kurihara 2022+

$$\min_{1\leq r\leq d}\left\{\frac{1-w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2}\right\} = \min_{\lceil \frac{d+1}{2}\rceil\leq r\leq d}\left\{\frac{1-w_r(\theta_1)}{r^2}\right\}.$$

• Conjecture 2 true for drgs with diameter 3 or 4.

# Least distortion of graphs of five platonic solids

 $i(G_1) = \{3; 1\}$  $i(G_2) = \{3, 2, 1; 1, 2, 3\}$  $i(G_3) = \{4, 1; 1, 4\}$  $i(G_4) = \{5, 2, 1; 1, 2, 5\}$  $i(G_5) = \{3, 2, 1, 1, 1; 1, 1, 1, 2, 3\}$ 



 $c_2(G_1)=1$ 

 $c_2(G_2)=\sqrt{3}$ 

 $c_2(G_3)=\sqrt{2}$ 

 $c_2(G_4) = 3\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2\sqrt{5}}}$ 

$$c_2(G_5) = 5\sqrt{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{6}}$$

# Least distortion of several families of drgs

