Unit and distinct distances in typical norms

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based on joint work with Noga Alon and Lisa Sauermann

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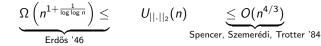
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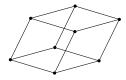
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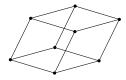
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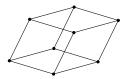
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For most \mathbb{R}^d -norms

$$D_{\parallel \cdot \parallel}(n) = n - o(n)$$

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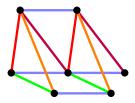
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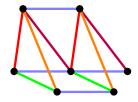
$$u_i \in \mathsf{Span}_\mathbb{Q}(u_1,\ldots,u_k)$$

- Given *n* points in \mathbb{R}^d , suppose $> \frac{d}{2}n \log n$ pairs are at unit distance.
- Define a graph with points as vertices and unit distance pairs as edges
- Let $\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_m$ be the unit directions appearing as edges
- Any k of the vectors \mathbf{u}_i span (over \mathbb{Q}) at most kd of the vectors
- Edmonds matroid decomposition thm \Rightarrow can partition the vectors into $d~\mathbb{Q}\text{-independent sets}$
- There exist $\mathbf{u}_{i_1}, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{i_t}$ which are: 1. \mathbb{Q} -independent and 2. account for $\frac{1}{d}$ -fraction of the edges

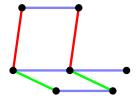
• Relabel so that $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_t$ are: 1. \mathbb{Q} -independent and 2. account for $> \frac{1}{2}n \log n$ edges

- Given *n* points in \mathbb{R}^d and \mathbb{Q} -independent unit directions $\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_t$ s.t.
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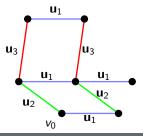
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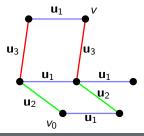
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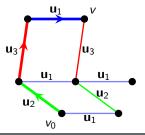
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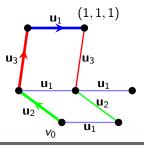
Matija Bucić (IAS and Princeton)

Unit and distinct distances in typical norms

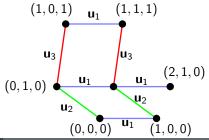
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- Bollobás-Leader edge-isoperimetric inequality for the grid \implies G can have at most $\frac{1}{2}n \log n$ edges.

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Question

Is χ of the unit distance graph of \mathbb{R}^d subexponential for most norms?



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- Approximate B by a convex 0-symmetric polytope with small facets

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- An (A, η) -special $B(\mathbf{x})$ must have its bad $\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{kd+1}$ on different facets.
- If we fix which facets they belong to, this allows us to express kd + 1 of x_i's as linear functions of dk variables given by the coordinates of u₁,..., u_k

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- There exists a subbox of $[-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^f$ with no (A, η) -special $B(\mathbf{x})$
- A tiny open ball around the centre of the subbox has no (A, η) -special norms