# 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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- Take as the point set $\left\{\sum_{i \in S} \mathbf{v}_{i} \mid S \subseteq[k]\right\}$



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## Theorem (Alon, B., Sauermann, 2023+)

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What do we mean by "most"

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Proof strategy

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- Step 2: Show that non-special norms have $U_{\|\cdot\|}(n) \leq \frac{d}{2} n \log n$.


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- Given $n$ points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$, suppose $>\frac{d}{2} n \log n$ pairs are at unit distance.


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


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- If there are $2 f$ facets for each $\mathbf{x} \in[-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^{f}$ we define $B(\mathbf{x})$ to be the polytope obtained by translating $i$-th facet pair by $\mathbf{x}_{i}$
- An $\mathbb{R}^{d}$-norm is $(A, \eta)$-special if $\exists$ non-parallel unit vectors $\mathbf{u}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{k d+1}$ s.t.
- $\mathbf{u}_{j}=\sum_{i=1}^{k} A_{j i} \mathbf{u}_{i}$ for all $j=1, \ldots, d k+1$.
- $\angle\left(\mathbf{u}_{i}, \mathbf{u}_{j}\right)>\eta$, holds for all distinct $i$ and $j$
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## Special norms are meagre

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- Fix a norm $\mid$.| | with unit ball $B$ which is convex, 0 -symetric polytope
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- An $(A, \eta)$-special $B(\mathbf{x})$ must have its bad $\mathbf{u}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{k d+1}$ on different facets.
- If we fix which facets they belong to, this allows us to express $k d+1$ of $x_{i}$ 's as linear functions of $d k$ variables given by the coordinates of $\mathbf{u}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_{k}$
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- There exists a subbox of $[-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^{f}$ with no $(A, \eta)$-special $B(\mathbf{x})$
- A tiny open ball around the centre of the subbox has no $(A, \eta)$-special norms

