

# Push Forward Measures And Concentration Phenomena

*Joint work with C. Hugo Jiménez and Raffael Villa*

Márton Naszódi

Dept. of Geometry, Eötvös University, Budapest



## Notations

All measures regular Borel measures, **not** supported on a **singleton**.  
 $(X, d, \mu)$ : a *metric probability space*.

$\varepsilon$ -*expansion*: For  $A \subseteq X$ ,

$$A_\varepsilon = \{x \in X : d(A, x) < \varepsilon\} = \{x \in X : \exists a \in A : d(a, x) < \varepsilon\}.$$

*Concentration function*: For  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon) = \sup \left\{ 1 - \mu(A_\varepsilon) : A \subseteq X \text{ measurable}, \mu(A) \geq \frac{1}{2} \right\}.$$

$m_f \in \mathbb{R}$  is a *median* of a random variable  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  if  
 $\mu(\{x \in X : f(x) \leq m_f\}), \mu(\{x \in X : f(x) \geq m_f\}) \geq 1/2$ .

# Motivation

## Problem

Transfer a well concentrated measure from one finite dim. Banach space to another.

(UC) Uniformly convex space

(CM) Concentration of measure

(CD) Concentration of distance

(AE) Almost equilateral set of large cardinality

## Swanepoel

Is there an almost equilateral set of exponential size in any normed space?

Is it true that for any  $\varepsilon$  there is a  $c > 0$  :  $N(\varepsilon) \geq e^{cn}$ ?

# Motivation

(UC)  $\Rightarrow$  (CM) for normalized Lebesgue measure  $\lambda$

[Gromov – V. Milman, '83]

$\alpha_\lambda(\varepsilon) \leq 2e^{-2n\delta(\varepsilon)}$ , with the modulus of convexity

$\delta(\varepsilon) = 1 - \sup\{\|x + y\|/2 : \|x\| = \|y\| = 1, \|x - y\| = \varepsilon\}$ .

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[Arias-de-Reyna – Ball – Villa, '98]

If  $\alpha_\lambda(\varepsilon) \leq e^{-n\phi(\varepsilon)}$ , for some increasing function  $\phi$ , then  $\exists a \in [\frac{1}{2}, 2]$  :

$$(\lambda \otimes \lambda) \left\{ (x, y) : \|x - y\| \in [a(1 - \varepsilon), a(1 + \varepsilon)] \right\} \geq 1 - 4e^{-n\phi(\varepsilon/6)}.$$

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Families of spaces:  $X_n$

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(CM) Concentration of measure for  $\lambda_n$

$$\alpha_{\lambda_n}(\varepsilon) \leq Ce^{-n\phi(\varepsilon)}.$$

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**Neither of the three are preserved by isomorphisms.**

Compare  $\ell_2^{n+1}$  and  $(\ell_2^n \oplus \ell_1^\infty)_\infty$ .

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Neither of the three are preserved by isomorphisms.

Compare  $\ell_2^{n+1}$  and  $(\ell_2^n \oplus \ell_1^\infty)_\infty$ .

(AE) Almost equilateral set of large cardinality

$$N_n \geq Ce^{n\phi(\varepsilon)}$$

Is it preserved under isomorphism?

# Push-forward measure

## Definition

$(X, \mu)$  measure spaces,  $Y$  a measurable space,  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  a measurable map. The *push-forward* of  $\mu$  by  $\phi$  is  $\nu$  where

$$\nu(A) := \phi_*(\mu)(A) := \mu(\phi^{-1}(A))$$

for any measurable set  $A \subseteq Y$ .

## The Lipschitz bound

For any  $(X, d_X, \mu)$  metric prob. space, and  $(Y, d_Y)$  metric space, if  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$  is  $\lambda$ -Lipschitz then

$$\alpha_\nu(\varepsilon) \leq \alpha_\mu(\varepsilon/\lambda).$$

# Concentration of $\lambda$ and BM distance

## Banach–Mazur distance

$K, L \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  o-symmetric convex bodies.

$$d_{\text{BM}}(K, L) = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : K \subset T(L) \subset \lambda K, T \in GL(\mathbb{R}^n)\}.$$

## Central projection of $K$ to $L$

$$\pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n; \pi(x) = \frac{\|x\|_K}{\|x\|_L} x$$

## The Lipschitz bound

If  $K$  and  $L$  are in Banach–Mazur position and  $d_{\text{BM}}(K, L) = \lambda$  then  $\pi$  is  $\lambda$ -Lipschitz, and hence  $\alpha_\nu(\varepsilon) \leq \alpha_\mu(\varepsilon/\lambda)$  for  $\nu = \pi_*(\mu)$  for any prob. measure  $\mu$  on  $K$ .

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## Theorem 1

$K, L \subset \mathbb{R}^n$   $\alpha$ -symmetric convex bodies,  $L \subseteq K \subseteq \lambda L$ ,  $\mu$  a prob. measure on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\pi(x) = \frac{x}{\|x\|_L} \|x\|_K$  the central projection.  $\nu := \pi_*(\mu)$ . Then

$$\alpha_{(L, \nu)}(\varepsilon) \leq 16\alpha_{(K, \mu)}\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{14} \frac{m_L}{\lambda m_K}\right),$$

where

$m_K := \text{median}_\mu(\|\cdot\|_K : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  and  $m_L := \text{median}_\mu(\|\cdot\|_L : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$ .

Note that  $\|\cdot\|_K \leq \|\cdot\|_L$ , so  $m_K \leq m_L$ .

## A Distance-like Quantity: $\beta$

$m_K := \text{median}_\mu(\|\cdot\|_K : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  and  $m_L := \text{median}_\mu(\|\cdot\|_L : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$ .

- If  $\text{supp}(\mu) \subseteq \partial K$  then  $\text{supp}(\nu) \subseteq \partial L$  and  $m_K = 1$ .
- If  $\mu$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure restricted to  $K$  then  $m_K \approx 1$ .

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- A natural quantity to study:

$$\beta((K, \mu), L) = \inf \left\{ \lambda \frac{m_K}{m_{TL}} : TL \subseteq K \subseteq \lambda TL, T \in GL(\mathbb{R}^n) \right\}$$

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- $\beta((K, \mu), L) \leq d_{\text{BM}}(K, L)$ .

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- $\beta((K, \mu), L) \leq d_{\text{BM}}(K, L)$ .
- So, Theorem 1 replaces the obvious bound

$$\alpha_\nu(\varepsilon) \leq \alpha_\mu \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{d_{\text{BM}}} \right)$$

by

$$\alpha_\nu(\varepsilon) \leq 16\alpha_\mu \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{14\beta} \right).$$

## More on $\beta$

- $\beta$  is not new. Let  $K$  be the Euclidean ball with the normalized Lebesgue measure, and  $k(L, \varepsilon)$  denote the dimension of an  $\varepsilon$ -almost Euclidean section of  $L$ . **Milman's Theorem:**  $k(L, \varepsilon) \geq c(\varepsilon) \frac{n}{\beta^2}$ .
- $\beta$  can be far below  $d_{\text{BM}}$ : while  $d_{\text{BM}}(B_2^n, B_1^n) = \sqrt{n}$ , we have  $\beta(B_2^n, B_1^n) \leq c$ .

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- We can **replace the medians** in the definition of  $\beta$  **by means** to obtain  $\tilde{\beta}$ . If  $\mu$  is a log-concave measure, then  $\beta$  and  $\tilde{\beta}$  are equivalent.
- For any o-symmetric convex body  $L$ ,

$$\tilde{\beta}(B_2^n, L) \leq C \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}.$$

## Examples: $\ell_p$ spaces

- Let  $1 \leq p < 2$ , consider  $B_2^n$  with  $\lambda$ . Then

$$\tilde{\beta}(B_2^n, B_p^n) \leq b_p,$$

where  $b_p$  depends only on  $p$ . Better than the Lipschitz bound.

- Let  $2 \leq p < \infty$ , consider  $B_2^n$  with  $\lambda$ . Then

$$\tilde{\beta}(B_2^n, B_p^n) \leq C_p n^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{p}}$$

implies

$$\alpha_{(B_p^n, \nu)}(\varepsilon) \leq C_3 \exp\{-c_3 \varepsilon^2 n^{2/p}\},$$

Not better than the Lipschitz bound.

## A Negative Result

- $B_\infty^n$  has no concentration w.r.t. the Lebesgue measure:  
 $\alpha_\lambda(\varepsilon) \approx 1/2 - \varepsilon.$
- $\tilde{\beta}(B_2^n, B_\infty^n) \approx \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}$ . This won't yield a well-concentrated measure on  $B_\infty^n$ .

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## Theorem 2

For any  $\nu$  o-symmetric prob. measure on  $B_\infty^n$ ,

$$\alpha_\nu(\varepsilon) \geq \frac{1}{2n}(1 - \nu(\varepsilon B_\infty^n)).$$

# A Stronger Negative Result

## Definition

$T : X \rightarrow Y$  linear map between two normed spaces is a  **$d$ -embedding**, if  $a\|x\|_X \leq \|Tx\|_Y \leq b\|x\|_X$  with  $b/a \leq d$ .

## Theorem 3

Let  $T : (\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_K) \rightarrow \ell_\infty^N$  be a  $d$ -embedding,  $\mu$  an  $\alpha$ -symmetric prob. measure on  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_K)$ . Then for any  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/d$ , if  $\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon) > 0$  then

$$N \geq \frac{1 - \mu(d\varepsilon K)}{2\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon)}.$$

Applying this to  $T = id_{\ell_\infty^n}$  yields Theorem 2.

## Combining the results

### Theorem 4

$K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  a convex body,  $\mu$  an o-symmetric probability measure on  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_K)$ . Assume that for some  $0 < s$ ,

$$\alpha_{(K, \mu)}(\varepsilon) \leq Ce^{-c\varepsilon^s n},$$

and  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_L) \stackrel{d}{\hookrightarrow} \ell_\infty^N$ .

Then

$$\beta((K, \mu), L) \geq \frac{m_K}{14d} \left( \frac{cn}{\log(64CN)} \right)^{1/s}.$$

## Proof of Theorem 3

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$T : X \rightarrow \ell_\infty^N$ , assume that  $\frac{1}{d}\|x\| \leq \|Tx\|_\infty \leq \|x\|$ .

$f_i : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  the  $i^{\text{th}}$  coordinate of  $T$ . Let  $A_i := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |f_i(x)| \leq \varepsilon\}$ .

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 $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f_i(x) \leq \varepsilon\} \supseteq \underbrace{\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f_i(x) \leq 0\}}_{\text{of measure } \geq 1/2} + \varepsilon K$ .

Thus,  $\mu(A_i^C) \leq 2\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon)$ , and hence

$$\mu\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^N A_i\right) \geq 1 - 2N\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon).$$

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So we have: if  $d\varepsilon < r$  then  $\mu(rK) \geq 1 - 2N\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon)$ .

$$\mu(d\varepsilon K) \geq 1 - 2N\alpha_\mu(\varepsilon).$$

# Proof of Theorem 1

## Theorem 1

$L \subseteq K \subseteq \lambda L$ ,  $\mu$  a prob. measure on  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_K)$ .  $\pi(x) = \frac{x}{\|x\|_L} \|x\|_K$  the central projection,  $\nu := \pi_*(\mu)$ . Then

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Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $1/2 \leq \nu(A) = \mu(\pi^{-1}(A))$ .

**Goal:**  $\mu(\pi^{-1}(A_\varepsilon^L))$  is large.

Let  $\delta := \frac{\varepsilon}{7m_K}$ .

$$G_L := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (1 - \delta)m_L < \|x\|_L < (1 + \delta)m_L\}$$

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## Proof of Theorem 1

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$$J := \pi^{-1}(A) \cap G_L \cap G_K.$$

$$L \subseteq K \subseteq \lambda L \implies \|\cdot\|_K \leq \|\cdot\|_L \leq \lambda \|\cdot\|_K \implies m_K \leq m_L \leq \lambda m_K.$$

By the Lipschitz bound

$$\mu(J) \geq 1/2 - 2\alpha_{(K,\mu)}(\delta m_L/\lambda) - 2\alpha_{(K,\mu)}(\delta m_K) \geq 1/2 - 4\alpha_{(K,\mu)}(\delta m_L/\lambda).$$

By computation:

$$J_{\frac{\delta m_L}{\lambda}}^K \subset \pi^{-1}\left(A_{\varepsilon}^L\right) \quad (1)$$

## Proof of Theorem 1

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$$\nu \left( \left( A_\varepsilon^L \right)^c \right) = \mu \left( \pi^{-1} \left( \left( A_\varepsilon^L \right)^c \right) \right) \leq \mu \left( \left( J_{\frac{\delta m_L}{\lambda}}^K \right)^c \right) \leq \dots$$

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**Lemma (Ledoux):**  $\mu(J)\mu(F) \leq 4\alpha_{(X,d,\mu)}(\text{dist}(J, F)/2)$ .

$$\dots \leq \frac{4\alpha_{(K,\mu)}\left(\frac{\delta m_L}{2\lambda}\right)}{\mu(J)} \leq \frac{4\alpha_{(K,\mu)}\left(\frac{\delta m_L}{2\lambda}\right)}{1/2 - 4\alpha_{(K,\mu)}\left(\frac{\delta m_L}{\lambda}\right)}.$$

Hence,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$  such that  $16\alpha_{(K,\mu)}(\varepsilon m_L / (7\lambda m_K)) \leq 1$ ,

$$\nu \left( \left( A_\varepsilon^L \right)^c \right) \leq 16\alpha_{(K,\mu)} \left( \frac{\varepsilon m_L}{14\lambda m_K} \right).$$

And so,

$$\alpha_{(L,\nu)}(\varepsilon) \leq 16\alpha_{(K,\mu)} \left( \frac{\varepsilon m_L}{14\lambda m_K} \right).$$