

# New bounds for spherical two-distance sets and equiangular lines

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Oct 28-31, 2016

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### Definition

If  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\} \subset \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  (unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) and  $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = a$  or  $b$  for all  $i \neq j$ , then we call  $X$  is a spherical two-distance set.

Q : What is the maximum cardinality of a spherical two-distance set?

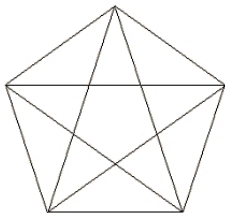


Figure: The maximum spherical two-distance set in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ : Pentagon.

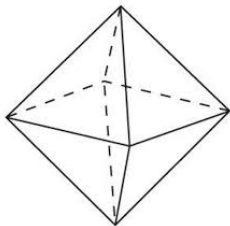


Figure: The maximum spherical two-distance set in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ : Octahedron.

Let  $g(n)$  denote the maximum size of spherical two-distance set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

- ① Let  $e_1, \dots, e_{n+1}$  be the standard basis in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . The points  $e_i + e_j, i \neq j$  form a spherical two-distance set in the plane  $x_1 + \dots + x_{n+1} = 2$ ,

$$g(n) \geq \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \quad n \geq 2. \quad (1)$$

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- 2 Delsarte, Goethals, and Seidel in 1977 proved so-called “harmonic” bound :

$$g(n) \leq \frac{n(n+3)}{2}. \quad (2)$$

They also showed that this bound is tight for  $n = 2, 6, 22$ .

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- 3 Therefore,  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \leq g(n) \leq \frac{n(n+3)}{2}$ .

Musin used Delsarte's linear programming method to prove that

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad \text{if } 7 \leq n \leq 39, n \neq 22, 23$$

and  $g(23) = 276$  or  $277$ .

We use the semidefinite programming (SDP) method showing that

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \quad 7 \leq n \leq 93, n \neq 22, 46, 78.$$

In particular,  $g(23) = 276$ .



# Maximum spherical two-distance sets

## Theorem (Yu 2016+)

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \quad 7 \leq n \leq 417,$$

$n \neq 22, 46, 78, 118, 166, 222, 286, 358$  which are  $(2k+1)^2 - 3$  for  $k = 2, \dots, 9$ .

For  $a + b \geq 0$ , Oleg Musin proved the upper bounds are  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ .

For  $a + b < 0$ , the upper bounds can be obtained from the bounds of equiangular lines in one higher dimension.

## Lemma

*If there are at most  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$  equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then maximum size of a spherical two-distance set in  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  is  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ .*

## Musin Conjecture:

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ except } n+3 = (2k+1)^2, k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

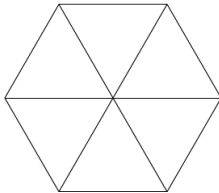
Theorem (Glazyrin and Yu 2016+)

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ except } n = (2k+1)^2 - 3, k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

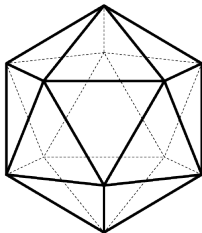
## Definition

A set of lines in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called *equiangular* if the angle between each pair of lines is the same.

- An equiangular line set can be defined as an unit vectors set  $S = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^M$  such that  $|\langle x_i, x_j \rangle| = c, 1 \leq i < j \leq M$  for some  $c > 0$ .
- A equiangular line set can be defined as a spherical two-distance set with inner product value  $c$  and  $-c$ .
- Question : What is the maximum cardinality of an equiangular line set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ?



**Figure:** Maximum equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ : 3 lines through opposite vertices of a regular hexagon.



**Figure:** Maximum equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ : 6 lines through opposite vertices of the icosahedron.

# Known results

Let  $M(n)$  denote the maximum size of an equiangular line set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

- Hanntjes found  $M(n)$  for  $n = 3$  and  $4$  in 1948.
- Van Lint and Seidel found the largest number of equiangular lines for  $5 \leq n \leq 7$  in 1966.
- Lemmens and Seidel used linear-algebraic methods to determine  $M(n)$  for most values of  $n$  in the region  $8 \leq n \leq 23$  in 1973.

$n$	$M(n)$	$1/\alpha$		$n$	$M(n)$	$1/\alpha$
2	3	2		17	48-50	5
3	6	$\sqrt{5}$		18	48-61	5
4	6	$3; \sqrt{5}$		19	72-76	5
5	10	3		20	90-96	5
6	16	3		21	126	5
$7 \leq n \leq 13$	28	3		22	176	5
14	28-29	$3; 5$		23	276	5
15	36	5		$24 \leq n \leq 42$	$\geq 276$	5
16	40-41	5		43	$\geq 344$	7

Table: Known bounds on  $M(n)$  in small dimensions

# Our results

Theorem (Barg and Yu 2014)

We use the semidefinite programming (SDP) method to show that  $M(n) = 276$  for  $24 \leq n \leq 41$  and  $M(43) = 344$ .

$n$	$M(n)$	SDP bound		$n$	$M(n)$	SDP bound
3	6	6		18	48-61	61
4	6	6		19	72-76	76
5	10	10		20	90-96	96
6	16	16		21	126	126
$7 \leq n \leq 13$	28	28		22	176	176
14	28-29	30		23	276	276
15	36	36		$24 \leq n \leq 41$	276	276
16	40-41	42		42	$\geq 276$	288
17	48-50	51		43	344	344

Table: Bounds on  $M(n)$  including new results

Remark : Recently, we can show no 76 equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^{19}$ .

Let  $G_k^{(n)}(t)$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots$  denote the Gegenbauer polynomials of degree  $k$ . They are defined recursively as follows:  $G_0^{(n)} \equiv 1$ ,  $G_1^{(n)}(t) = t$ , and

$$G_k^{(n)}(t) = \frac{(2k + n - 4)tG_{k-1}^{(n)}(t) - (k - 1)G_{k-2}^{(n)}(t)}{k + n - 3}, \quad k \geq 2.$$

Define a matrix  $Y_k^n(u, v, t), k \geq 0$

$$(Y_k^n(u, v, t))_{ij} = u^i v^j ((1 - u^2)(1 - v^2))^{k/2} G_k^{(n-1)} \left( \frac{t - uv}{\sqrt{(1 - u^2)(1 - v^2)}} \right)$$

and a matrix  $S_k^n(u, v, t)$  by setting

$$S_k^n(u, v, t) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{\sigma \in S_3} Y_k^n(\sigma(u, v, t)), \quad (3)$$

I.J. Schoenberg (1942) proved that if  $C$  is the finite set in  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , then

$$\sum_{(x,y) \in C^2} G_k^n(\langle x, y \rangle) \geq 0.$$

$$\sum_{(x,y,z) \in C^3} S_k^n(x \cdot y, x \cdot z, y \cdot z) \succeq 0.$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \min c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} \quad F_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m F_i x_i \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where  $c, x \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $F_i$  is an  $n$  by  $n$  symmetric matrix  $\forall i$ . The sign " $\succeq$ " means that the matrix is positive semidefinite.

CVX (MATLAB toolkit) can solve an SDP in a second.

### Theorem (Gerzon, absolute bounds)

*If there are  $M$  equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $M \leq \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ .*

Gerzon bounds are known to be attained only for  $n = 2, 3, 7$ , and  $23$ .

### Theorem (Neumann)

*If there are  $M$  equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with angle  $\arccos \alpha$  and  $M > 2n$ , then  $1/\alpha$  is an odd integer.*

### Theorem (Lemmens and Seidel)

*$M_{1/3}(n) = 2(n - 1)$  for  $n \geq 16$ , where  $M_\alpha(n)$  is the maximum size of an equiangular line set when the value of the angle is  $\arccos \alpha$ .*

### Theorem (Relative bounds)

$$M_\alpha(n) \leq \frac{n(1 - \alpha^2)}{1 - n\alpha^2} \quad (4)$$

*valid for all  $\alpha$  such that the denominator is positive.*

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an equiangular line set with inner product values either  $a$  or  $-a$ . Let  $p$  be a positive integer. The cardinality  $|\mathcal{C}|$  is bounded above by the solution of the following semi-definite programming problem :

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} \max(x_1 + x_2) \quad (5)$$

subject to

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x_1 + x_2) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6) \succeq 0 \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_k^n(1, 1, 1) + S_k^n(a, a, 1)x_1 + S_k^n(-a, -a, 1)x_2 + S_k^n(a, a, a)x_3 \\ + S_k^n(a, a, -a)x_4 + S_k^n(a, -a, -a)x_5 + S_k^n(-a, -a, -a)x_6 \succeq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$3 + G_k^{(n)}(a)x_1 + G_k^{(n)}(-a)x_2 \geq 0, \quad (8)$$

where  $k = 0, 1, \dots, p$  and  $x_j \geq 0, j = 1, \dots, 6$ .

# SDP bound table

$n$	1/5	1/7	1/9	1/11	1/13	1/15	max	Gerzon	angle
22	176	39	29	26	25	24	176	253	1/5
23	276	42	31	28	26	25	276	276	1/5
24	276	46	33	29	27	26	276	300	1/5
25	276	50	35	31	29	28	276	325	1/5
26	276	54	37	32	30	29	276	351	1/5
27	276	58	40	34	31	30	276	378	1/5
28	276	64	42	36	33	31	276	406	1/5
29	276	69	44	37	34	33	276	435	1/5
30	276	75	47	39	36	34	276	465	1/5
31	276	82	49	41	37	35	276	496	1/5
32	276	90	52	43	39	37	276	528	1/5
33	276	99	55	45	40	38	276	561	1/5
34	276	108	57	46	42	39	276	595	1/5
35	276	120	60	48	43	41	276	630	1/5
36	276	132	64	50	45	42	276	666	1/5
37	276	148	67	52	47	44	276	703	1/5
38	276	165	70	54	48	45	276	741	1/5
39	276	187	74	57	50	46	276	780	1/5
40	276	213	78	59	52	48	276	820	1/5
41	276	246	82	61	53	49	276	861	1/5
42	276	288	86	63	55	51	288	903	1/7
43	276	344	90	66	57	52	344	946	1/7
44	276	422	95	68	59	54	422	990	1/7
45	276	540	100	71	60	56	540	1035	1/7
46	276	736	105	73	62	57	736	1081	1/7
47	276	1128	110	76	64	59	1128	1128	1/7
48	276	1128	116	78	66	60	1128	1176	1/7
49	276	1128	122	81	68	62	1128	1225	1/7
50	276	1128	129	84	70	64	1128	1275	1/7
51	276	1128	136	87	72	65	1128	1326	1/7
52	276	1128	143	90	74	67	1128	1378	1/7
53	276	1128	151	93	76	69	1128	1431	1/7
54	276	1128	160	96	78	70	1128	1485	1/7
55	276	1128	169	100	81	72	1128	1540	1/7
56	276	1128	179	103	83	74	1128	1596	1/7
57	276	1128	190	106	85	76	1128	1653	1/7
58	276	1128	201	110	87	77	1128	1711	1/7
59	276	1128	214	114	90	79	1128	1770	1/7
60	276	1128	228	118	92	81	1128	1830	1/7
61	279	1128	244	122	94	83	1128	1891	1/7
62	290	1128	261	126	97	85	1128	1953	1/7
63	301	1128	280	130	99	87	1128	2016	1/7
64	313	1128	301	134	102	89	1128	2080	1/7

# SDP bound table (Cont.)

$n$	1/5	1/7	1/9	1/11	1/13	1/15	max	Gerzon	angle
65	326	1128	325	139	105	91	1128	2145	1/7
66	339	1128	352	144	107	92	1128	2211	1/7
67	353	1128	382	148	110	94	1128	2278	1/7
68	367	1128	418	153	113	97	1128	2346	1/7
69	382	1128	460	159	115	99	1128	2415	1/7
70	398	1128	509	164	118	101	1128	2485	1/7
71	416	1128	568	170	121	103	1128	2556	1/7
72	434	1128	640	176	124	105	1128	2628	1/7
73	453	1128	730	182	127	107	1128	2701	1/7
74	473	1128	845	188	130	109	1128	2775	1/7
75	494	1128	1000	195	134	112	1128	2850	1/7
76	517	1128	1216	202	137	114	1216	2926	1/9
77	542	1128	1540	210	140	116	1540	3003	1/9
78	568	1128	2080	217	144	118	2080	3081	1/9
79	596	1128	3160	225	147	121	3160	3160	1/9
80	626	1128	3160	234	151	123	3160	3240	1/9
81	658	1128	3160	243	154	126	3160	3321	1/9
82	693	1128	3160	252	158	128	3160	3403	1/9
83	731	1128	3160	262	162	130	3160	3486	1/9
84	772	1128	3160	272	166	133	3160	3570	1/9
85	816	1128	3160	283	170	136	3160	3655	1/9
86	866	1128	3160	294	174	138	3160	3741	1/9
87	920	1128	3160	307	178	141	3160	3828	1/9
88	979	1128	3160	320	182	143	3160	3916	1/9
89	1046	1128	3160	333	186	146	3160	4005	1/9
90	1120	1128	3160	348	191	149	3160	4095	1/9
91	1203	1128	3160	364	196	152	3160	4186	1/9
92	1298	1128	3160	380	200	154	3160	4278	1/9
93	1406	1128	3160	398	205	157	3160	4371	1/9
94	1515	1128	3160	417	210	160	3160	4465	1/9
95	1556	1128	3160	438	215	163	3160	4560	1/9
96	1599	1128	3160	460	220	166	3160	4656	1/9
97	1644	1128	3160	485	226	169	3160	4753	1/9
98	1691	1128	3160	511	231	172	3160	4851	1/9
99	1739	1128	3160	540	237	176	3160	4950	1/9
100	1790	1128	3160	571	243	179	3160	5050	1/9
101	1842	1128	3160	606	249	182	3160	5151	1/9
102	1897	1128	3160	644	255	185	3160	5253	1/9
103	1954	1128	3160	686	262	189	3160	5356	1/9
104	2014	1128	3160	734	268	192	3160	5460	1/9
105	2077	1128	3160	787	275	196	3160	5565	1/9
106	2142	1128	3160	848	282	199	3160	5671	1/9
107	2211	1128	3160	917	289	203	3160	5778	1/9

# SDP bound table (Cont.)

$n$	1/5	1/7	1/9	1/11	1/13	1/15	max	Gerzon	angle
108	2282	1128	3160	997	297	206	3160	5886	1/9
109	2358	1128	3160	1090	305	210	3160	5995	1/9
110	2437	1128	3160	1200	313	214	3160	6105	1/9
111	2521	1128	3160	1332	321	218	3160	6216	1/9
112	2609	1128	3160	1493	330	222	3160	6328	1/9
113	2702	1128	3160	1695	339	226	3160	6441	1/9
114	2800	1128	3160	1954	348	230	3160	6555	1/9
115	2904	1128	3160	2300	357	234	3160	6670	1/9
116	3015	1128	3160	2784	367	238	3160	6786	1/9
117	3132	1128	3160	3510	378	242	3510	6903	1/11
118	3257	1128	3160	4720	388	247	4720	7021	1/11
119	3390	1128	3160	7140	399	251	7140	7140	1/11
120	3532	1128	3160	7140	411	256	7140	7260	1/11
121	3684	1128	3160	7140	423	260	7140	7381	1/11
122	3848	1128	3160	7140	436	265	7140	7503	1/11
123	4024	1128	3160	7140	449	270	7140	7626	1/11
124	4214	1128	3160	7140	462	275	7140	7750	1/11
125	4419	1128	3160	7140	477	280	7140	7875	1/11
126	4643	1128	3160	7140	492	285	7140	8001	1/11
127	4887	1128	3160	7140	508	290	7140	8128	1/11
128	5153	1128	3160	7140	524	295	7140	8256	1/11
129	5447	1128	3160	7140	541	301	7140	8385	1/11
130	5770	1128	3160	7140	560	306	7140	8515	1/11
131	6130	1128	3160	7140	579	312	7140	8646	1/11
132	6531	1130	3160	7140	599	317	7140	8778	1/11
133	6982	1158	3160	7140	620	323	7140	8911	1/11
134	7493	1187	3160	7140	643	329	7493	9045	1/5
135	8075	1218	3160	7140	667	336	8075	9180	1/5
136	8747	1249	3160	7140	692	342	8747	9316	1/5
*137	9528	1282	3160	7140	719	348	9528	9453	1/5
*138	10450	1315	3160	7140	747	355	10450	9591	1/5
*139	11553	1350	3160	7140	778	362	11553	9730	1/5

## Theorem (Barg and Yu)

*We use the semidefinite programming method to show that  $M(n) = 276$  for  $24 \leq n \leq 41$  and  $M(43) = 344$  and we get tighter upper bounds for  $M(n)$  when  $n \leq 136$ .*

# Observation

<i>angle</i>	<i>dim</i>	<i>bounds</i>
$\frac{1}{5}$	23 – 59	$276 = \frac{23 \cdot 24}{2}$
$\frac{1}{7}$	47 – 131	$1128 = \frac{47 \cdot 48}{2}$
$\frac{1}{9}$	79 – 227	$3160 = \frac{79 \cdot 80}{2}$
$\frac{1}{11}$	119 – 349	$7140 = \frac{119 \cdot 120}{2}$
...		

## Theorem (Yu 2016+)

We prove  $M_a(n) \leq \frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{a^2} - 1)(\frac{1}{a^2} - 2)$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all  $\frac{1}{a^2} - 2 \leq n \leq \frac{3}{a^2} - 16$



# Relaxation semidefinite programming problems

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an equiangular line set with inner product values either  $a$  or  $-a$ . Let  $p$  be a positive integer. The cardinality  $|\mathcal{C}|$  is bounded above by the solution of the following semi-definite programming problem :

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} \max(x_1 + x_2) \quad (9)$$

subject to

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x_1 + x_2) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6) \succeq 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_k^n(1, 1, 1) + S_k^n(a, a, 1)x_1 + S_k^n(-a, -a, 1)x_2 + S_k^n(a, a, a)x_3 \\ + S_k^n(a, a, -a)x_4 + S_k^n(a, -a, -a)x_5 + S_k^n(-a, -a, -a)x_6 \succeq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$3 + G_k^{(n)}(a)x_1 + G_k^{(n)}(-a)x_2 \geq 0, \quad (12)$$

where  $k = 0, 1, \dots, p$  and  $x_j \geq 0, j = 1, \dots, 6$ .

We find that above constraints only  $S_1^n \succeq 0, S_3^n \succeq 0$  and (9) are crucial.

# Symbolic semidefinite programming problems

## Theorem

The solution of following optimization problem is  $\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{a^2} - 2)(\frac{1}{a^2} - 1)$ .  
 $\max(1 + A)$

subject to

$$A + \frac{2a^4(3a+1)}{(6a^2-1)(a+1)^3}B + \frac{2a^4(3a-1)}{(6a^2-1)(a-1)^3}C \geq 0 \quad (13)$$

$$A + \frac{a}{1+a}B + \frac{a}{a-1}C \geq 0 \quad (14)$$

$$A(A-1) \leq B+C \quad (15)$$

**proof:** We choose suitable  $t$ , where  $t = \frac{-16a^6}{(6a^2-1)(a+1)^2(a-1)^2}$  such that

$$t\frac{a}{1+a} + \frac{2a^4(3a+1)}{(6a^2-1)(a+1)^3} = t\frac{a}{a-1} + \frac{2a^4(3a-1)}{(6a^2-1)(a-1)^3}$$

If we calculate  $t(14) + (13)$ , we will get

$$(t+1)A + \left(t\frac{a}{1+a} + \frac{2a^4(3a+1)}{(6a^2-1)(a+1)^3}\right)(B+C) \geq 0$$
$$\Rightarrow -\frac{10a^6 + 13a^4 - 8a^2 + 1}{(6a^2-1)(a-1)^2(a+1)^2}A - \frac{2a^4(5a^2-1)}{(6a^2-1)(a-1)^2(a+1)^2}(B+C) \geq 0$$

notice that  $\frac{a^4(5a^2 - 1)}{(6a^2 - 1)(a - 1)^2(a + 1)^2} \geq 0$  and we plug in (15).

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{10a^6 + 13a^4 - 8a^2 + 1}{(6a^2 - 1)(a - 1)^2(a + 1)^2}A - \frac{2a^4(5a^2 - 1)}{(6a^2 - 1)(a - 1)^2(a + 1)^2}A(A - 1) \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{10a^6 + 13a^4 - 8a^2 + 1}{(6a^2 - 1)(a - 1)^2(a + 1)^2} \geq \frac{2a^4(5a^2 - 1)}{(6a^2 - 1)(a - 1)^2(a + 1)^2}(A - 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1 - 3a^2 - 2a^4}{2a^4} \geq A - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow A \leq \frac{1 - 3a^2}{2a^4}$$

Then, it is not hard to see that  $A + 1 \leq \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{a^2} - 2\right)\left(\frac{1}{a^2} - 1\right)$ .

# New bounds for equiangular lines

Theorem (Glazyrin and Yu 2016+)

$M_{\frac{1}{a}}(n) \leq n(\frac{2}{3}a^2 + \frac{4}{7}) + 2$ , for all  $a \geq 3$  and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Theorem

If  $n \geq 359$ , then

$$M(n) \leq \frac{(a^2 - 2)(a^2 - 1)}{2},$$

where  $a$  is the unique positive odd integer such that  $a^2 - 2 \leq n \leq (a + 2)^2 - 3$ .

Notice that if  $n = a^2 - 2$ , then we just obtain Gerzon bound

$M(n) \leq \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ . For other cases, we can prove that  $M(n) \leq \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ .

Theorem (Glazyrin and Yu 2016+)

$$g(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ except } n = (2k+1)^2 - 3, k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

- 1  $M(14) = 28$  or  $29$ .  $M(16) = 40$  or  $41$ . Can we determine them?
- 2 The constructions and upper bounds for complex equiangular lines.
- 3 The maximum spherical 3-distance sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . (only  $n = 2, 3, 8$  and  $22$  are known)
- 4 How much do we know the Maximum Separation Codes on sphere ?  
If we have  $M$  points on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , then  $\max |\langle x_i, x_j \rangle| \geq \sqrt{\frac{M-n}{n(M-1)}}$ .  
"=" attained iff equiangular tight frames.



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