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**REVIEW ARTICLE**

**SPHERICAL CODES, CUBATURE  
FORMULAS AND DESIGNS**

# Spherical Codes, Cubature Formulas and Designs

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## INTRODUCTION

A spherical code is a nonempty finite subset  $X \subset S(E)$ . Its angle set is defined as

$$A(X) = \{\langle x, y \rangle : x, y \in X, x \neq y\} \subset [-1, 1]$$

In terms of the Coding Theory the set across  $A(X)$  is the distance set. The following result is purely combinatoric because  $X$  is arbitrary. Lemma is the main key to it.

**THEOREM .** Let  $X$  be a spherical code,  $|X| = n$ ,  $|A(X)| = s$ . Then

$$n \leq \binom{m+s-2}{m-1} + \binom{m+s-1}{m-1}$$

**Proof.** Consider the polynomial  $F$ ;  $\deg F = s$ ; such that  $F|_{A(X)} = 0$ . Then  $F(1) \neq 0$  since

$1 \in A(X)$ : Now we apply Lemma . The identity turns into

$$F(1) \sum |\lambda(x)|^2 = \sum c_{m,k}(F) \sum |u_{ik}(x)|^2$$

where

$$u_{ik} = \sum S_{ki}(x) \lambda(x)$$

are linear forms of the vectors  $[\lambda(x)]x \in X$ : The left expression in shows that the rank of the Hermitian quadratic form is equal to  $n$ . The right expression shows that the same rank does not exceed the total number of summands there,

$$n \leq \sum_{k=0} h_{m,k}$$

$$k=0$$

$$n \leq \dim \text{Pol}(E)$$

Now we pass to the special spherical codes which are so nicely arranged on the sphere that the integration over the sphere is equivalent to a weighted averaging over a code. Certainly, this is possible only for finite-dimensional spaces of integrands, say, for  $\text{Pol}(E; d)$ ;  $\text{Pold}(E)$ , etc., but with an upper bound for  $d$ .

**DEFINITION :** A spherical cubature formula of index  $d$  is an identity

$$\int \varnothing dq = \int \varnothing d\sigma, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure on the sphere  $S(E)$  and  $q$  is a normalized finitely supported measure,

$$\text{supp} q = \{x_k\}_1 \subset S(E)$$

$$\int \varnothing dq = \int_{\text{supp} q} \varnothing dq = \sum \varnothing(x) q(x) = \sum_x \varnothing(x) q(x)$$

The points  $x_1; \dots; x_n$  are called the nodes and its measures  $q_k = q(x_k)$ ;  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ; are called the weights. The set  $\text{supp} q$  is called the support of the spherical cubature formula.

**REMARK :** Formula with even  $d$  automatically implies that  $q$  is normalized since  $1 \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$  in this case.

The identity can be also rewritten as

$$\sum \varnothing(x_k) q_k = \int \varnothing d\sigma, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$$

where  $q_k > 0$ ;  $1 \leq k \leq n$ :

A spherical cubature formula of index  $d$  in the case of equal weights, i.e with

$$Q_1 = q_n = 1/n$$

is called a Chebyshev type cubature formula. Its support is called a spherical design of index  $d$ , a term from the Algebraic Combinatorics. Thus, the left

integral is equal to the arithmetic mean of  $\hat{A}$  over any spherical design  $X$  of index  $d$ ,

$$1/|X| \sum \varnothing(x) = \int \varnothing d\sigma, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$$

In the Algebraic Combinatorics the spherical cubature formulas are also called the weighted spherical designs.

**PROPOSITION** : A spherical code  $X$  is a spherical design of even index  $d$  if and only if

$$\sum \varnothing(gx) = \sum \varnothing(x), \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d), \text{ For all } g \in O(E).$$

**Proof.** This immediately follows from the unitary invariance of the measure  $\sigma$ . The identity means that the linear functional

$$\varnothing \rightarrow 1/|X| \sum \varnothing(x)$$

is orthogonally invariant. On the other hand, this functional can be represented in the Riesz form,

$$\varnothing \rightarrow \int \psi \varnothing d\sigma$$

where  $\psi \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$  and  $\psi$  is uniquely determined. Hence, the function  $\psi$  must be orthogonally invariant. Since the action of the orthogonal group on  $S(E)$  is transitive,  $\psi(x) = \text{const}$ .

Note that if  $d$  is odd (i.e.  $d = 1$ ) then

$$\int \varnothing d\sigma = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$$

$$\int \varnothing dq = \sum \varnothing(x) q(x) = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$$

A spherical code  $X$  is called antipodal if  $X = -X$ , i.e. with every point  $x \in X$  the opposite

point  $-x$  also belongs to  $X$ . Obviously, any antipodal spherical code is a spherical design of index  $d$  for any odd  $d$ . However, it is easy to construct a spherical design of index 1 which is not antipodal. Indeed, for  $d = 1$  is equivalent to

$$\sum_{x \in X} x = 0$$

$$x \in X$$

which just means that the baricenter of the set  $X$  is at the origin. Obviously, it includes not only antipodal spherical codes. A spherical code  $X$  is called podal if  $X \setminus (-X) = \emptyset$ ; i.e. for every  $x \in X$  its opposite point  $-x$  does not belong to  $X$ .

**PROPOSITION** : A spherical cubature formula of index  $d$  is equivalent to the system of equalities

$$\int \varnothing dq = \sum \varnothing(x) q(x) = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k)$$

And, in addition

$$\int dq = \sum q(x) = 1$$

in the case of even  $d$ .

**Proof.** The cubature formula implies since  $\varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k)$  so,  $\varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$  for  $k \in Ed$  according. Thus, it is applicable  $R$  to  $\varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k); k \in Ed$ . It remains to note that  $\varnothing^2 = 0$  by (3.60). In addition, if  $d$  is even.

Conversely, the harmonic decomposition

$$\varnothing = \sum \varnothing_k, \text{ yields}$$

$$\int \varnothing d\sigma = \sum \int \varnothing_k d\sigma = \int \varnothing_{ed} d\sigma$$

The integral is 0 if  $d = 0$  since  $\varnothing_0 = \text{const}$  and  $\varnothing_0$  is normalized. If  $d = 1$  then the integral is equal to zero.

Similarly,

$$\int \varnothing dq = \int \varnothing_{ed} dq$$

**COROLLARY** : A spherical code  $X$  is a spherical design of index  $d$  if and only if

$$\sum \varnothing(x) q(x) = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k), k \in Ed, k \geq 1.$$

**COROLLARY** : A spherical cubature formula of index  $d$  is a spherical cubature formula of every index  $k \in Ed$ :

**DEFINITION** : A spherical cubature formula of degree  $d$  (or strength  $d$ ) is a spherical

cubature formula of all indices  $2t; 2t - 2; \dots; 0$ ; i.e.

$$\int \varnothing dq = \int \varnothing d\sigma, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; k), 0 \leq k \leq d$$

In view of the homogeneous lifting this definition is equivalent to

$$\int \varnothing dq = \int \varnothing d\sigma, \varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E)$$

**PROPOSITION** : A spherical cubature formula of degree  $d$  is the same as a spherical cubature formula of indices  $k = d - 1; d$ .

**COROLLARY** : Any antipodal spherical cubature formula of even index  $d$  has also degree  $d$ .

**COROLLARY** : For any spherical cubature formula of even index  $d$  its symmetrization

$$X \rightarrow X' = X \cup (-X), Q \rightarrow Q', Q'(+x) = \frac{1}{2} Q(X)$$

yields an antipodal spherical cubature formula of degree  $d$ .

In particular, the symmetrization generates a correspondence between podal and antipodal spherical codes such that each antipodal spherical code can be obtained from exactly  $2^{|X|}$  podal codes.

**PROPOSITION** : A spherical cubature formula of degree  $d$  is equivalent to the system of equalities.

$$\int \varnothing dq = \sum \varnothing(x) q(x) = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k), 1 \leq k \leq d.$$

**COROLLARY** : A spherical code  $X$  is a spherical design of degree  $d$  if and only if

$$\sum \varnothing(x) = 0, \varnothing \in \text{Harm}(E; k), 1 \leq k \leq d.$$

A spherical design of degree  $d$  is called a  $d$ -design. Now let us note that the upper bound is valid for any cubature formula as a spherical code with special properties. Below we establish a lower bound for the number

$$n = |X| = |\text{supp} q|$$

of nodes of a spherical cubature formula of even index  $d$ . If  $d$  is odd then there is no nontrivial lower bound for  $n$ . Indeed, any pair of mutually opposite points on the sphere is a spherical design of index  $d$ .

**THEOREM** : For any spherical cubature formula of even index  $d$  the inequality holds.

$$n \geq \binom{m+s-2}{m-1}$$

$$n \geq \dim \text{Pol}(E; d/2)$$

**Proof.** Suppose to the contrary and then consider the interpolation problem for  $\theta \in \text{Pol}(E; d/2)$ :

$$\theta(x_k) = 0, 1 \leq k \leq n$$

This problem has a nontrivial solution. By the given cubature formula for the function  $\varnothing = |\theta|^2 \in \text{Pol}(E; d/2)$ : we get

$$\int |\theta|^2 d\sigma = 0$$

whence  $\theta = 0$ , the contradiction.

The problem arises whether the lower bound is exact and, in the case of affirmative answer, what is the corresponding cubature formula.

**DEFINITION** : A spherical cubature formula of even index  $d$  is called tight if in the equality is attained.

It is easy to see that the support  $X$  of any tight spherical cubature formula is podal. Indeed, if  $x \in X \setminus (-X)$  then one of nodes  $x_0$  or  $-x_0$  can be omitted since  $\varnothing(-x_0) = \varnothing(x_0)$ : Thus, the number of nodes becomes less than lower bound. A spherical code  $X = (x_k)_n$  is called  $t$ -interpolating if for every vector  $[^3k]_n$  there exists a unique form  $\varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; t)$ .

**LEMMA** : A spherical code  $X = (x_k)_n$  is  $t$ -interpolating if and only if

$$n = \binom{m+t-1}{m-1}$$

$$\binom{m-1}{m-1}$$

and there is no a nontrivial form  $\varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; t)$  such that  $\varnothing|_X = 0$ .

**THEOREM** . If a spherical cubature formula of index  $d = 2t$  is tight then

(i) its support  $(x_k)_{n-1}$  is a  $t$ -interpolating system;

(ii) the corresponding Lagrange basis  $(L_j)_{n-1}$  is orthogonal, i.e.

$$(L_j, L_k) = \int L_j \bar{L}_k d\sigma = 0, j \neq k.$$

(iii) the weights are

$$Q_j = \|L_j\|^2 = \int |L_j|^2 d\sigma, 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

Conversely, let a spherical code  $(x_k)_{n-1}$  be a  $t$ -interpolating system with property (ii): Then  $(x_k)_{n-1}$  is the support of the tight spherical cubature formula of index  $d = 2t$  with weights.

**Proof.** Let the formula be tight. Then for any form  $\varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; t)$ , we have

$$\int |\varnothing|^2 d\sigma = \sum |\varnothing(x_k)|^2 q_k.$$

If  $\varnothing(x_k) = 0; 1 \leq k \leq n$ ; then  $\varnothing = 0$ , i.e. the mapping  $\varnothing \rightarrow (\varnothing(x_k))_{n-1}$  is injective. Moreover,  $n = \dim \text{Pol}(E; t)$ . As a result, we get (i) by Lemma. Using the cubature formula with  $\varnothing = L_j \bar{L}_k$  or  $jL_k \bar{L}_j^2$  we get (ii) and (iii). Conversely, any form  $\varnothing \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$  is a linear combination of the products  $L_j L_k \in \text{Pol}(E; d)$ ,

$$\varnothing = \sum b_{jk} L_j \bar{L}_k$$

with some coefficients  $b_{jk}$ . (Indeed, any monomial of degree  $d$  is product of two monomials of degree  $t$  and

the latter can be both decomposed for a basis  $(L_j)$ : )  
Hence,

$$\sum \varnothing(x_1) q_t = \sum b_{jk} \cdot L_j(x_1) \cdot q_1 = \sum b_{kk} \cdot Q_k$$

So, the cubature formula under consideration is of index  $d$ . The formula is tight by Lemma Below we need the following statement of a general nature.

**LEMMA** : For a fixed pole  $x \in S(E)$  the evaluation functional  $\varnothing \rightarrow \varnothing(x)$  on  $\text{Pol}(E; t)$  can be represented as

$$\varnothing(x) = \int \theta_x(y) \cdot \varnothing(y) d\sigma(y)$$

where  $\theta_y \in \text{Pol}(E; t)$ : The norm  $\|\theta_x\|$  does not depend on  $y$ . Therefore,  $\|\theta_x\|$  only depends on  $m$  and  $t$ .

**Proof.** The first statement is actually the Riesz representation of the evaluation functional. Further, implies

$$\int \theta_{gx}(y) \cdot \varnothing(y) d\sigma(y) = \int \theta_x(y) \cdot \varnothing(gy) d\sigma(y), g \in O(E).$$

Taking  $\varnothing(y) = \theta_{gx}(y)$  we obtain,

$$\|\theta_{gx}\|^2 \leq \|\theta_x\|^2 \int |\theta_{gx}(gy)|^2 d\sigma(y)$$

by the Schwartz inequality. Since the measure  $\frac{1}{2}$  is orthogonally invariant, the latter integral is equal to  $\int |\theta_{gx}|^2$  so, the inequality takes the form  $\int |\theta_{gx}|^2 \leq \int |\theta_x|^2$  for all  $y \in S(E)$  and all  $g \in O(E)$ . Changing  $g$  for  $g^{-1}$  and  $x$  for  $gx$  we obtain the converse inequality. Thus,  $\int |\theta_{gx}|^2 = \int |\theta_x|^2$  and it remains to recall that  $O(E)$  acts on  $S(E)$  transitively. Combining this lemma with Theorem we obtain,

**COROLLARY** : In any tight spherical cubature formula the weights are equal. In other words, the support of any tight spherical cubature formula of index  $d$  is a spherical design of index  $d$  (a tight spherical design). As we already know, this spherical design is podal.

**Proof.** Since the basis  $(L_j) \frac{1}{2} \text{Pol}(E; t)$  is orthogonal, we have the decomposition

$$\theta_x = \sum (\theta_x, L_j) / \|L_j\|^2 \cdot L_j$$

Whence

$$\theta_x(y) = \sum L_j(x) \cdot L_j(y) / q_j$$

In particular,

$$\theta_{x_k}(y) = L_k(y) / q_k, 1 \leq k \leq n,$$

since  $(L_k)$  is the Lagrange basis. Passing to the norms, we obtain

$$\|\theta_{x_k}\| = \|L_k\| / q_k = 1/\sqrt{q_k}$$

It remains to apply Lemma again.

**REMARK** : As follows from the proof

$$\|\theta_x\|^2 = n = (m + t - 1)$$

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