

Average performance of the sparsest approximation in terms of an orthogonal basis

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Our Problem

Data $d \in \mathbf{R}^N$ are uniform on $\theta D = B_q^N(\theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{v \in \mathbf{R}^N, \|v\|_q \leq \theta\}$

Orthonormal basis $(\psi_i)_{i \in I}$

The most economical way to represent $d \approx \sum \lambda_i \psi_i$ = solving

$$(\mathcal{P}_d^o) : \begin{cases} \min_{\lambda} \|\lambda\|_0 \\ \text{under the constraint : } \left\| \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i \psi_i - d \right\| \leq \tau \end{cases}$$

$$\|\lambda\|_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \#\{i \in I : \lambda_i \neq 0\}$$

Non-linear approximation

Measure the obtaining of a K -sparse solution

$$\equiv \text{evaluate } \mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d^o) \leq K)$$

Notation: $\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d^o) = \|\lambda\|_0$ if λ solves (\mathcal{P}_d^o)

Related problems

Alternative formulations

$$\min_{\lambda} \|\lambda\|_p \quad \text{subject to} \quad \left\| \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i \psi_i - d \right\| \leq \tau, \quad p \in [0, 1], \quad \tau \geq 0$$

Minimum description length principle of Rissanen (1967)

$$\|\lambda\|_0 = \sum_{i \in I} \varphi(\lambda_i) \quad \text{where} \quad \varphi(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } t = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } t \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Maximum a posteriori (MAP) energies with Markov-random field prior (signals, images)

$$(\mathcal{E}_d) \quad \mathcal{E}(\lambda) = \|\Psi\lambda - d\|_2^2 + \beta \sum_i \varphi(\|D_i \lambda\|), \quad \text{where } D_i \text{ linear operator} \\ \text{(e.g. differences or discrete gradient)}$$

- λ = image composed of labels \Rightarrow **Potts model** [*Geman² 1984, Besag 1986,...*]
- $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^N$ —since [*Leclerc 1989*]
- Hard thresholding to denoise wavelet coefficients [*Donoho & Johnstone 1992*]

$$\text{minimize } \|\lambda_i - g_i\|_2^2 + \beta \varphi(\lambda_i), \quad \forall i \in I$$

where noisy coefficients $g_i = \langle \psi_i, d \rangle, \forall i \in I$

- Theoretical results on **arg min** $\mathcal{E}(\lambda)$ in [*Nikolova 2005*]

Nonlinear approximation theory (*K* best term approximation.) (Review—see [DeVore 1998])

For $D \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ and $d \in D$, performance is measured by the decay of

$$K \rightarrow \sup_{d \in D} \inf_{J \subset I, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^J} \left\{ \left\| d - \sum_{i \in J} \lambda_i \psi_i \right\| : \dim(\text{span}(\psi_i)_{i \in J}) = K \right\}$$

Performance evaluation only depends on D and it is pessimistic: it exhibits the worst case.

Our approach: Average Performance in Approximation (APA) methodology

Our focus: Study the behavior $\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d^o))$
as a function of the Model in a simple context (Basis)

Desideratum: $\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d)) \begin{cases} \text{large} & \text{if } K \text{ is small} \\ \text{small} & \text{if } K \text{ is large} \end{cases}$

Context of this work

Tolerance constraint: for $w = \sum_i \lambda_i \psi_i$

$$\|w\| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\sum_i |\lambda_i|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \|w\|_\infty \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\lambda_i|$$

Note that the numerical problem is easy to solve.

Substitute: $d[i] \leftarrow \langle d, \psi_i \rangle, \forall i$. Then

$$(\mathcal{P}_d^\circ) \iff (\mathcal{P}_d)$$

$$(\mathcal{P}_d) : \quad \min_{u \in \mathbf{R}^N} \|u\|_0 \quad \text{subject to :} \quad \|u - d\|_p \leq \tau$$

d is uniform on $\theta D = B_q^N(\theta)$ (the θ -radius ℓ_q ball)

1. The Basic Idea

For any $J \subset I$ define $T_J = \text{span} \{(e_j)_{j \in J}\}$ $(e_j)_{j=1}^N$ the canonical basis of \mathbb{R}^N

$$T_J^r = T_J + (T_{J^c} \cap B_p^{N-K}(\tau)) \quad K \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \#J, \quad \#J^c = N - K$$

$\forall K \leq N$ we set

$\mathcal{J}(K)$ is a maximal non-redundant listing of all subspaces T_J of dimension K

Theorem

$$\Sigma_K^r \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d \in \mathbb{R}^N, \text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K\} = \bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} T_J^r = \bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} T_J + (T_{J^c} \cap B_p^{N-K}(\tau))$$

all data \Rightarrow solutions with $\leq K$ coefficients $\neq 0$ (i.e. K -sparse)

Derive tight Upper/Lower bounds for $\Sigma_K^r \cap B_q^N(\theta)$

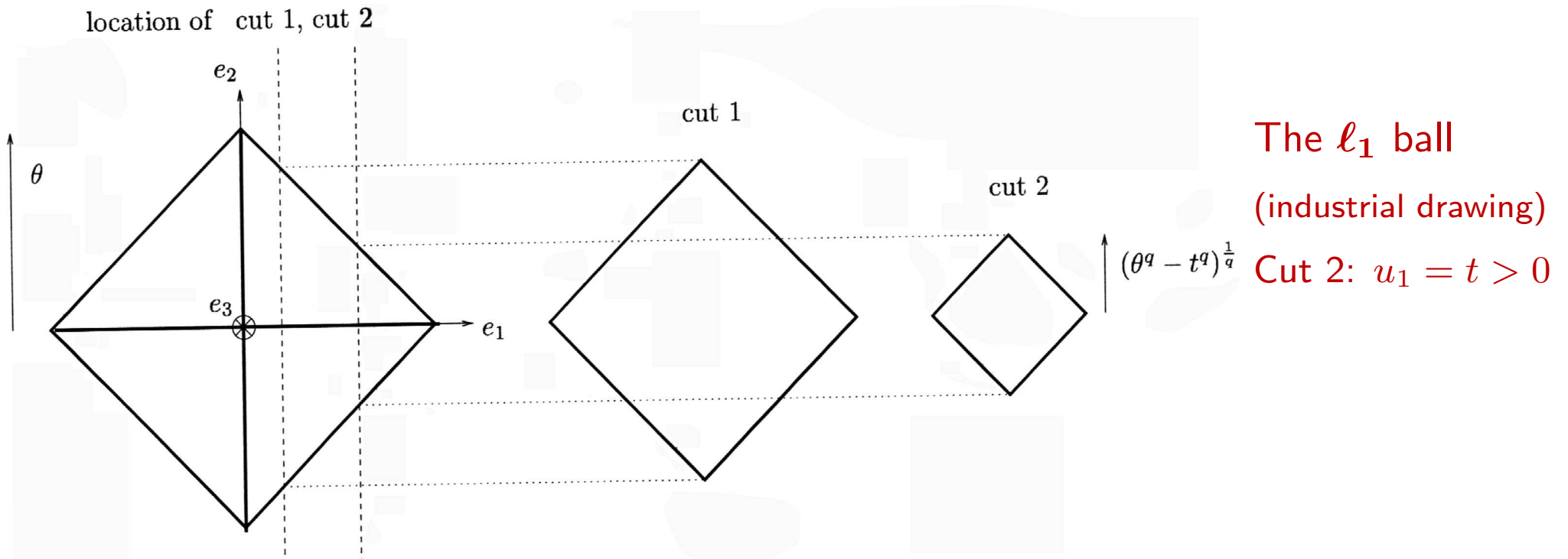
Simulations in typical cases

Deduce bounds on $\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K)$

2. Preliminary results

The Lebesgue measure of the ℓ_p unit ball on \mathbb{R}^n , $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ($\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-y} y^{x-1} dy$):

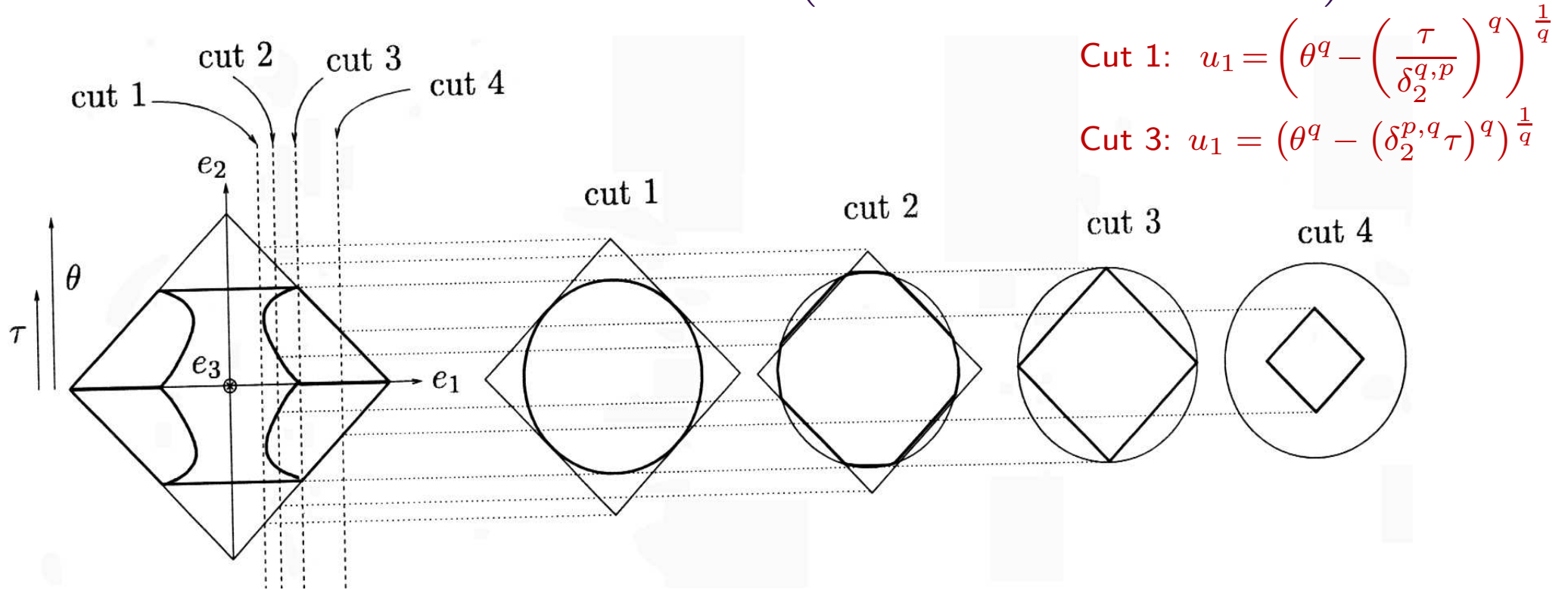
$$\alpha_p(n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{L}^n(B_p^n(1)) = \frac{\left(2\Gamma(1 + 1/p)\right)^n}{\Gamma(1 + n/p)}, \quad \alpha_p(n) \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\Downarrow} 0 \text{ if } p < \infty$$



$$\delta_n^{p,q} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} n^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}} & \text{if } 1 \leq q < p \leq \infty \\ 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq p \leq q \leq \infty \end{cases} \Rightarrow \delta_n^{p,q} \geq 1 \text{ and } \begin{cases} \|u\|_q \leq \delta_n^{p,q} \|u\|_p \\ \|u\|_p \leq \delta_n^{q,p} \|u\|_q \end{cases}$$

We wish to measure sets of the form $\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$

Industrial drawing: $\mathcal{T}_{\{1\}}^\tau \cap B_1^3(\theta)$ for $p=2$ ($\mathcal{T}_{\{1\}}^\tau = \text{span}\{e_1\} + B_2^2(\tau)$)



$$\forall J \in \mathcal{J}(K), \quad \forall 1 \leq p, q \leq \infty \quad \forall \theta > \tau > 0$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{L}^N(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$$

Below we provide bounds for $\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)$

$$\forall t \in \mathbf{R} \quad \mu_q(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max \left\{ (1 - |t|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, 0 \right\}, \quad 1 \leq q < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_\infty(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$$

$$1 \leq K \leq N-1 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^1 \mu_q^K \left(\delta_{N-K}^{p,q} \frac{\tau}{\theta} s^{\frac{1}{N-K}} \right) ds \\ \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^1 \mu_q^K \left(\frac{1}{\delta_{N-K}^{q,p}} \frac{\tau}{\theta} s^{\frac{1}{N-K}} \right) ds \end{array} \right. \quad \mathcal{L}_N^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{U}_N^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$$

$\mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \in (0, 1]$ (lower correction factor) $\leq \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \in (0, 1]$ (upper correction factor)

Both are the limits of Riemann sums (used in the simulations) and $\rightarrow 1$ as $\frac{\tau}{\theta} \rightarrow 0$

Theorem

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} J \subset I, \theta > \tau > 0 \\ 1 \leq p, q \leq \infty \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \geq \alpha_p(N-K) \alpha_q(K) \left(\frac{\tau}{\theta} \right)^{N-K} \theta^N \mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \\ \mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \leq \alpha_p(N-K) \alpha_q(K) \left(\frac{\tau}{\theta} \right)^{N-K} \theta^N \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{In particular: } \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 \leq p = q < \infty & \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) = \mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \\ q = \infty & \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{1} = \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) = \mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \end{array} \right.$$

3. How to measure $\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta) = \bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} (\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$

Exact measure of $\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$ needs we decompose it into disjoint sets and then measure the sum of the latter. It means we subtract from $\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$ multiple intersections like $\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$, $\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_3}^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$, and so on, for $J_1, J_2, J_3 \dots \in \mathcal{J}(K)$, and measure the result:

this is an open question

Instead we provide computable lower and upper bounds for $\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$

Hopefully: multiple intersections of increasing order become smaller and smaller

4. A straightforward upper bound

Theorem

$$\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)) \leq C_N^K \mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)$$

Arguments:

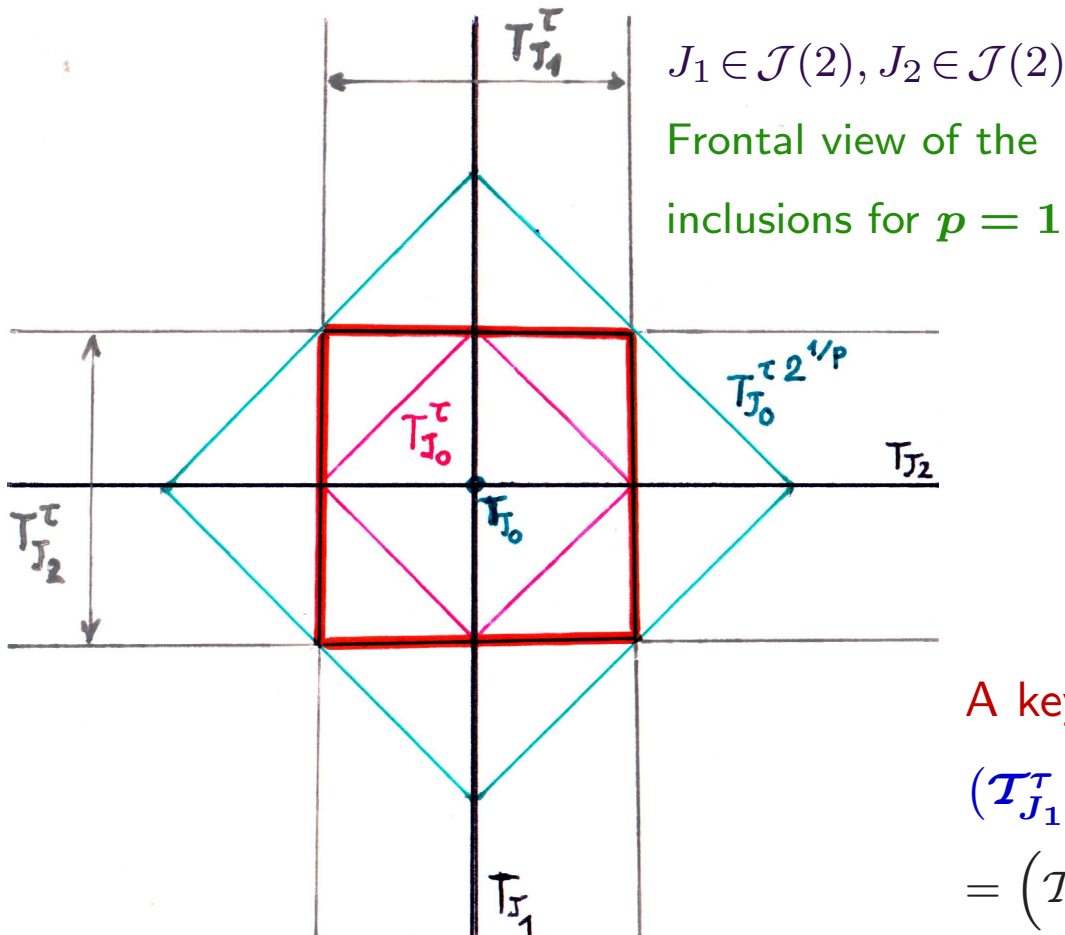
- $\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)) \leq \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} \mathbb{L}^N(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$
- $\mathbb{L}^N(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)) = \mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)$ whenever $\#J = K$
- $\mathcal{J}(K)$ contains $C_N^K = \frac{N!}{K!(N-K)!}$ elements

5. Derivation of a lower bound

Second-order intersections

Lemma

$$(J_1, J_2) \subset \mathcal{J}(K)^2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{J_0}^\tau \subset (\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau) \subset \mathcal{T}_{J_0}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}} \text{ where } J_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} J_1 \cap J_2$$



These inclusions are sharp but yield loose measure bounds (especially if $p = 1$)

The precise evaluation of $\mathbb{L}^N(\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$ remains an open problem

Note that $\mathcal{T}_{J_0}^\tau = (\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau)$ if $p = \infty$

A key consequence: for $J_1, J_2 \in \mathcal{J}(K)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}}) \cap (\mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}}) = \\ & = (\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau) \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}} \subset \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}} \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}} = \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

Lower bound

Since $\left\{ \mathcal{T}_J^\tau \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}} : J \in \mathcal{J}(K) \right\}$ are disjoint

$$\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)) \geq \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} \mathbb{L}^N\left(\left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}}\right) \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right)$$

Note that $\left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \setminus \Sigma_{K-1}^{\tau 2^{\frac{1}{p}}}\right) \cap B_q^N(\theta) \supset \left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right) \setminus \underbrace{\bigcup_{j \in J} \left(\mathcal{T}_{J \setminus \{j\}}^{\tau 4^{\frac{1}{p}}} \cap \mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right)}_{\subset \left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right)}$

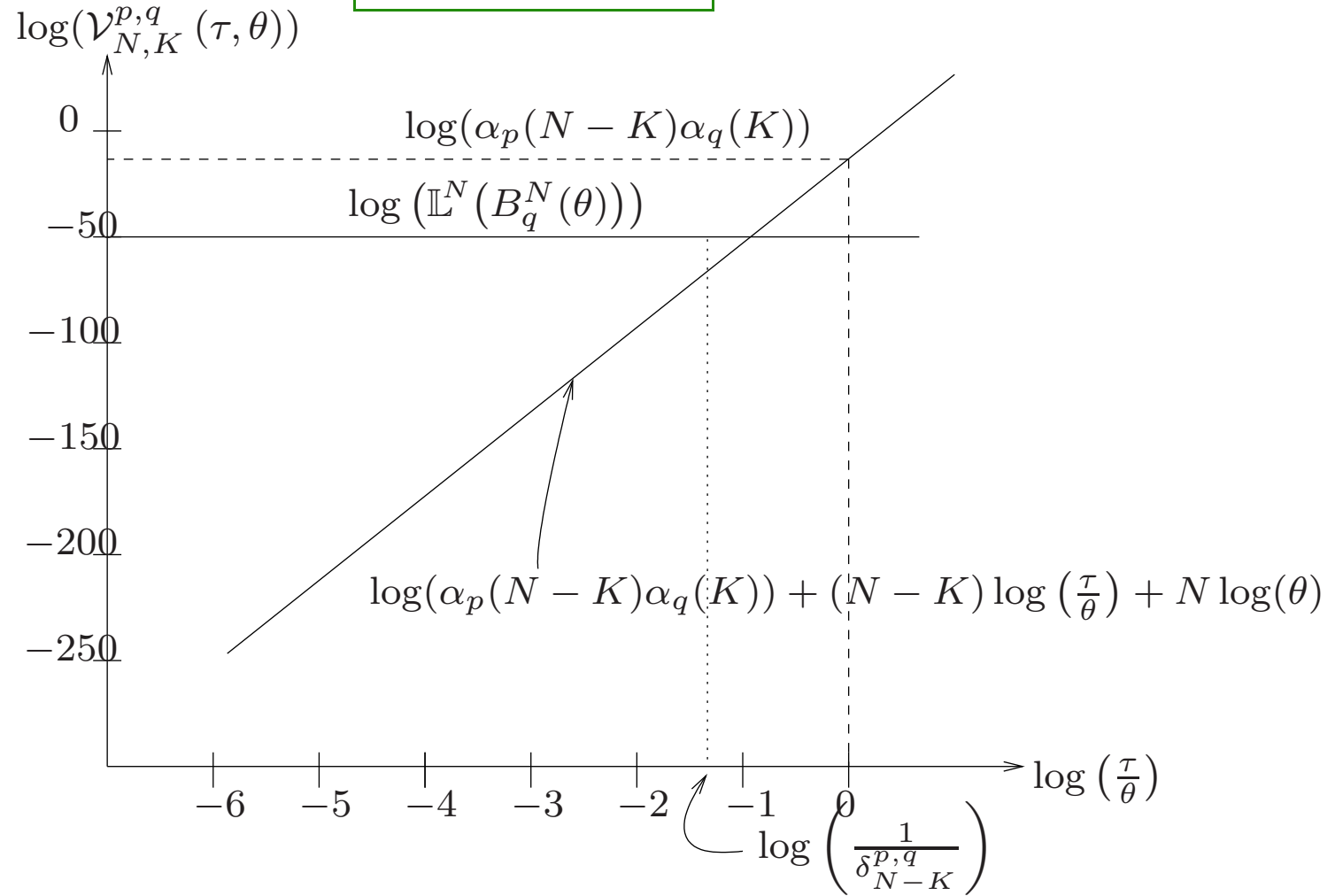
$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap \mathcal{L}_{\|\cdot\|_q}(\theta)) \geq \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} \underbrace{\mathbb{L}^N\left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right)}_{\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)} - \sum_{J \in \mathcal{J}(K)} \mathbb{L}^N\left(\bigcup_{j \in J} \left(\mathcal{T}_{J \setminus \{j\}}^{\tau 4^{\frac{1}{p}}} \cap \mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right)\right)$$

We find $\mathbb{L}^N\left(\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J \setminus \{j\}}^{\tau 4^{\frac{1}{p}}} \cap B_q^N(\theta)\right) \leq 2\tau 4^{\frac{1}{p}} \mathcal{V}_{N-1, K-1}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)$. Hence

Theorem

$$\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)) \geq \mathbf{c}_N^K \left(\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) - 2\tau K 4^{\frac{1}{p}} \mathcal{V}_{N-1, K-1}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \right)$$

6. Simulations

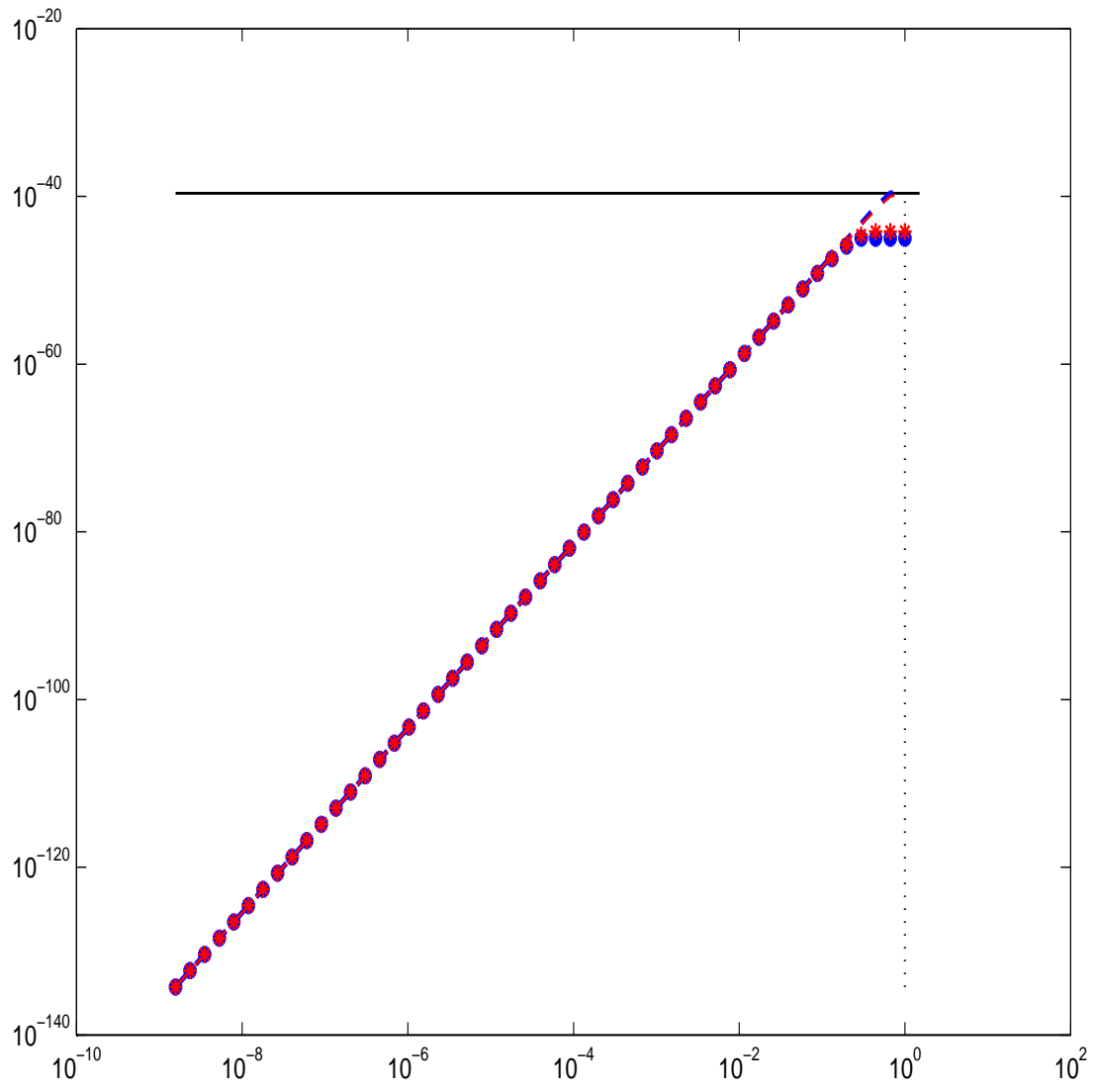


$$\alpha_p(N-K)\alpha_q(K)\left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^{N-K}\theta^N\mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta)\leq\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau,\theta)\leq\alpha_p(N-K)\alpha_q(K)\left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^{N-K}\theta^N\mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta)$$

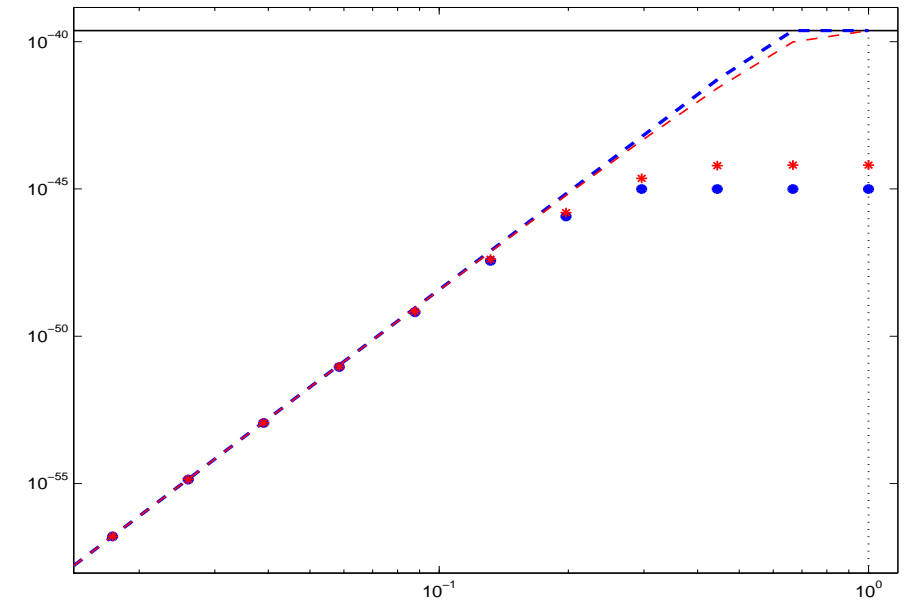
$\mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta)$ and $\mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta)$ are the limits of *Riemann sums*. Using *Cylinder inclusions* for $\mathcal{T}_J^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)$:

$$\theta > \delta_{N-K}^{p,q}\tau > 0 \Rightarrow 0 < \left(1 - \left(\delta_{N-K}^{p,q}\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^q\right)^{K/q} \leq \mathcal{L}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta) \leq \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta) \text{ and } \theta > \tau > 0 \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}_K^{p,q}(\tau,\theta) \leq 1$$

Case $p = 1, q = 2, K = 90, N = 100$

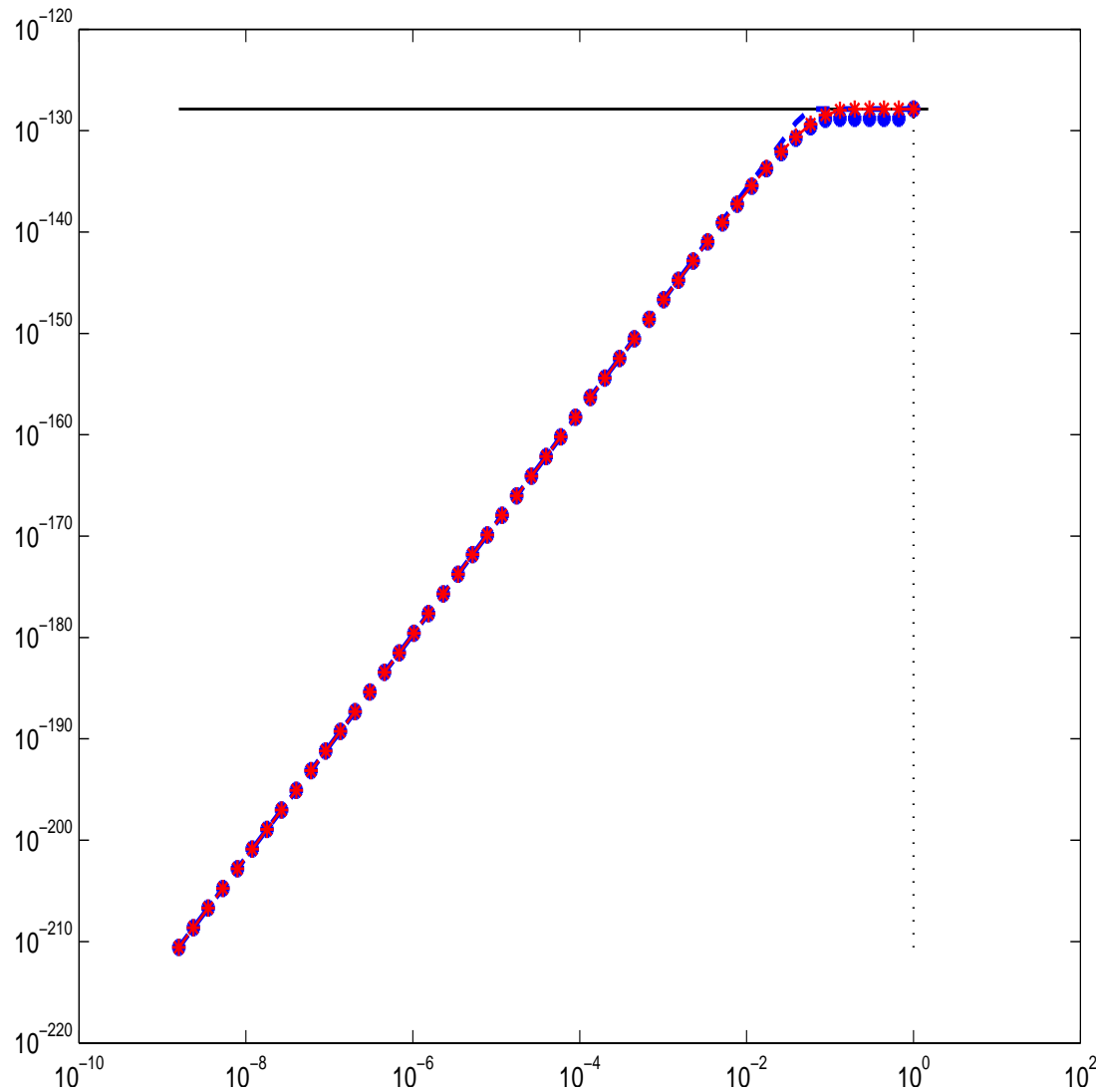


- Value of τ/θ where the inner cylinder disappears
- Total mass of the ball
- - - - Upper bound—Cylinder inclusions
- * * Lower bound—Cylinder inclusions
- - - - Upper bound—Riemann sum
- * * Lower bound—Riemann sum

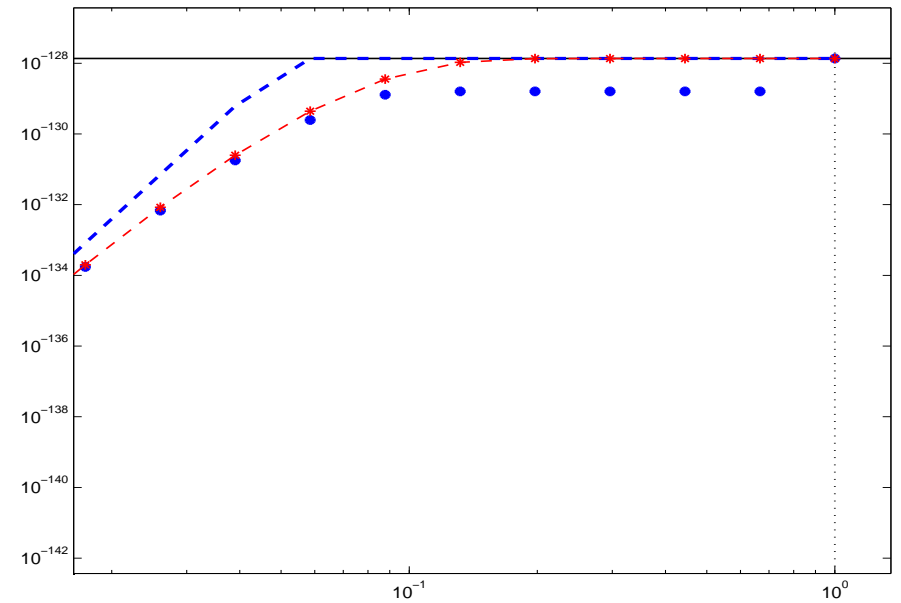


The *Cylinder bounds* are less accurate but close to the *Riemann bounds*. They are accurate for surprisingly large values of $\frac{\tau}{\theta}$.

Case $p = 1, q = 1, K = 90, N = 100$

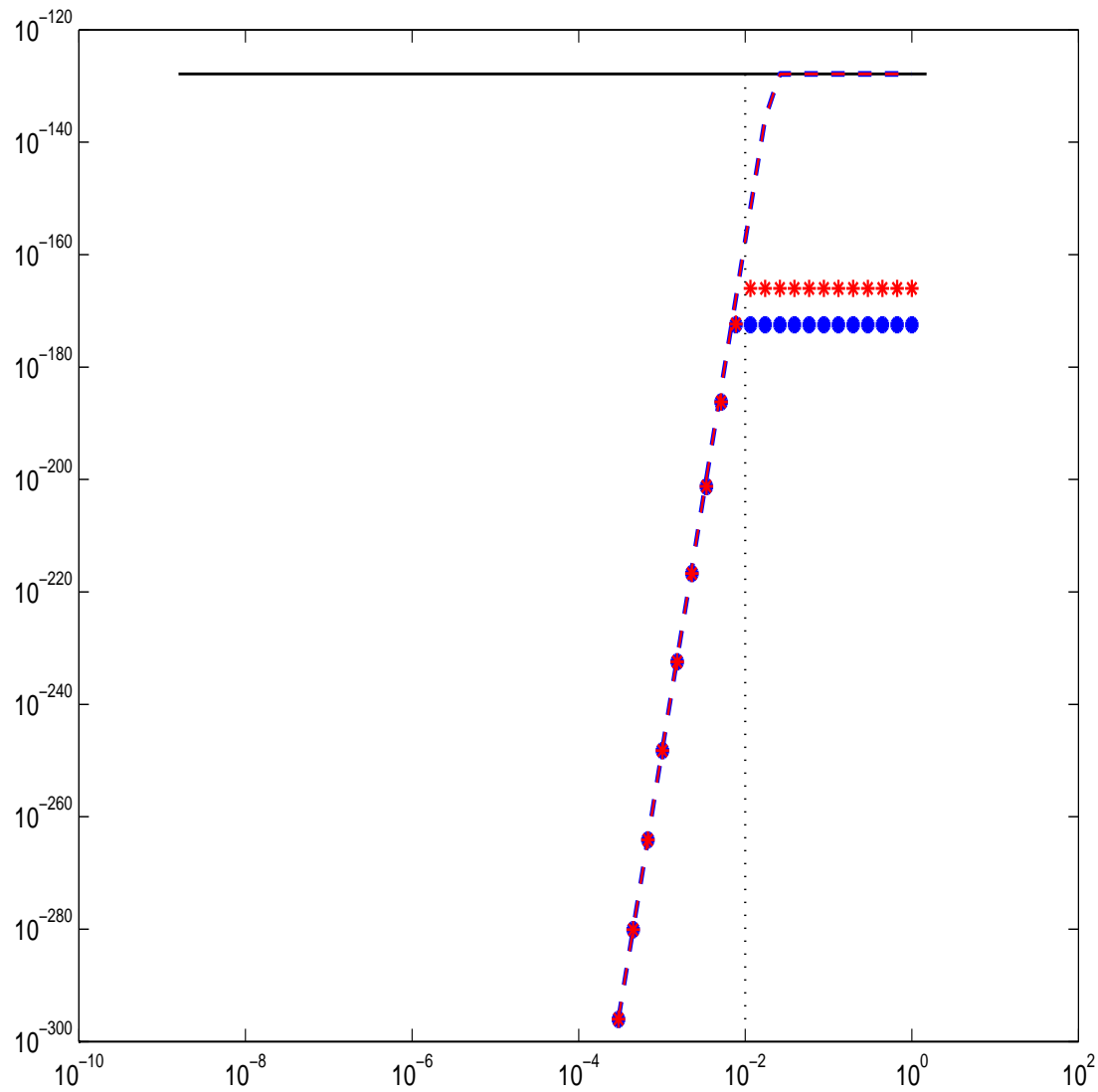


- Value of τ/θ where the inner cylinder disappears
- Total mass of the ball
- - - - Upper bound—Cylinder inclusions
- * * Lower bound—Cylinder inclusions
- - - - Upper bound—Riemann sum
- * * Lower bound—Riemann sum

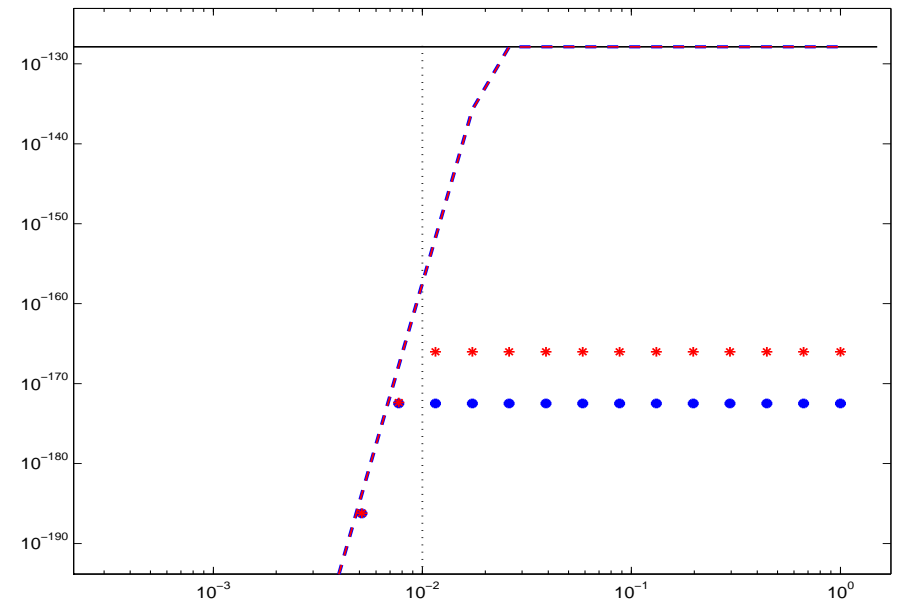


The *Cylinder bounds* are less accurate but close to the *Riemann bounds*. The upper and lower bounds computed with Riemann sums are equal.

Case $p = \infty, q = 1, K = 10, N = 100$

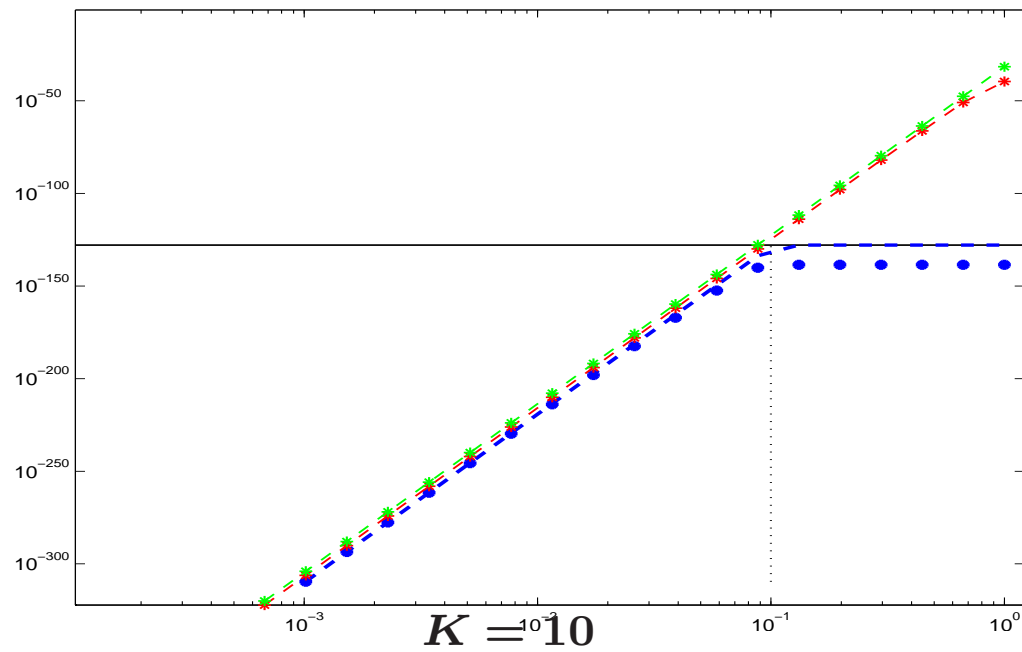


- Value of τ/θ where the inner cylinder disappears
- Total mass of the ball
- - - - Upper bound—Cylinder inclusions
- * * Lower bound—Cylinder inclusions
- - - - Upper bound—Riemann sum
- * * Lower bound—Riemann sum

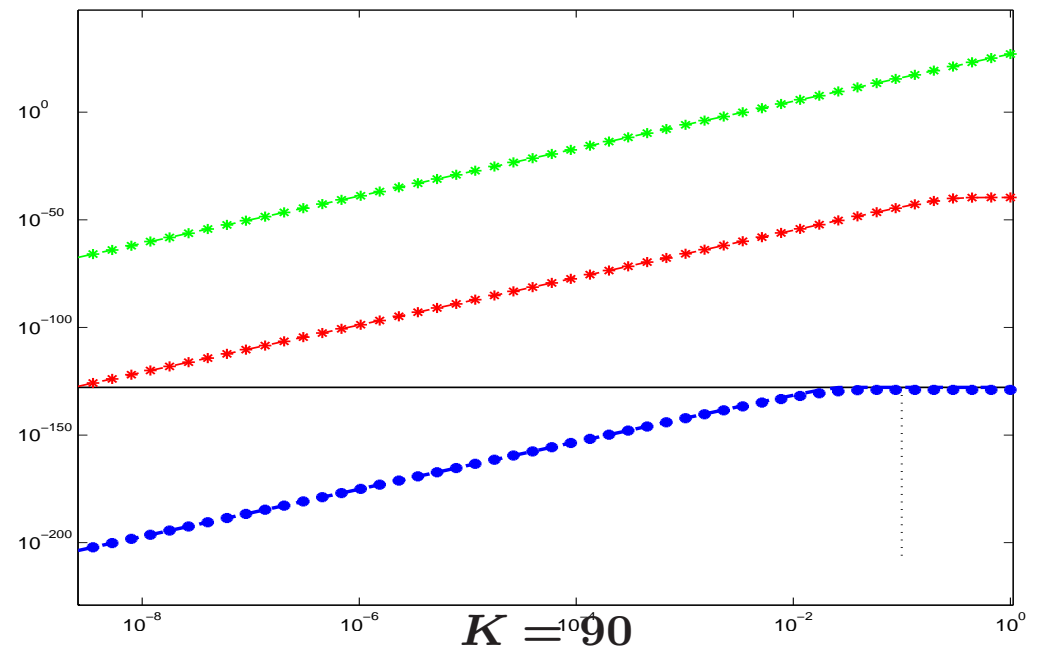
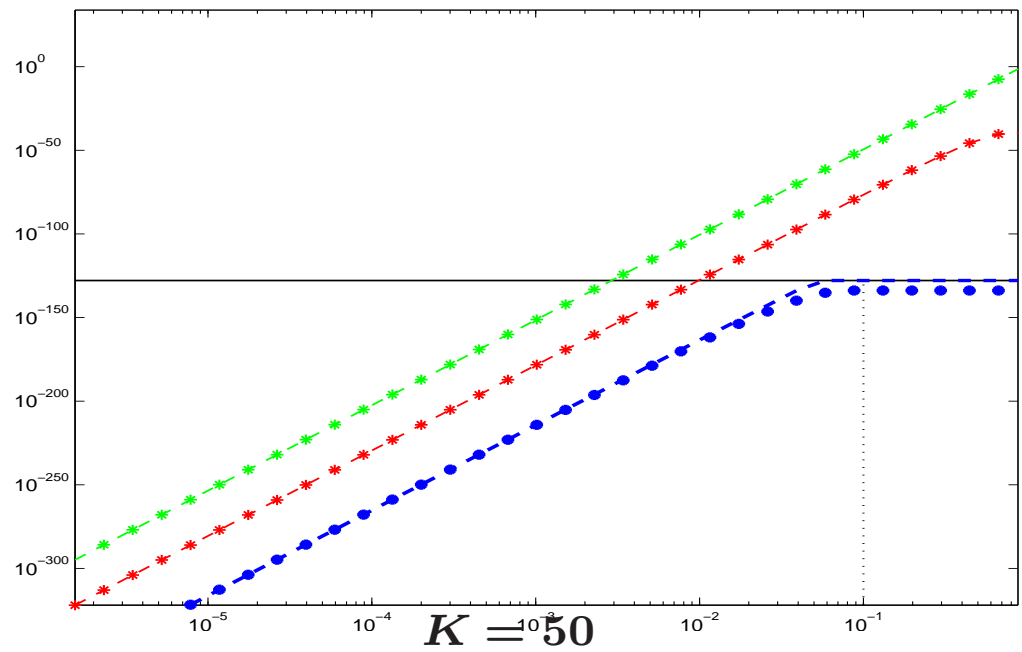


The difference between the *Cylinder* and the *Riemann bounds* is high. This case is less favorable.

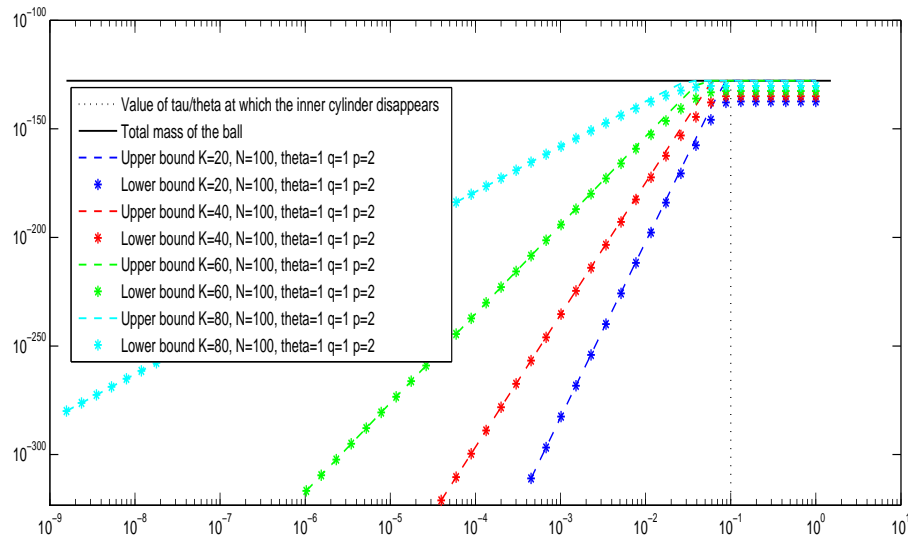
Riemann sums for $p = 2$



- $q = 1$ Blue
- $q = 2$ Red
- $q = \infty$ Green



Lines are indeed parallel. The difference between curves is due to $\alpha_p(N - K)\alpha_q(K)$.



$q = 1$

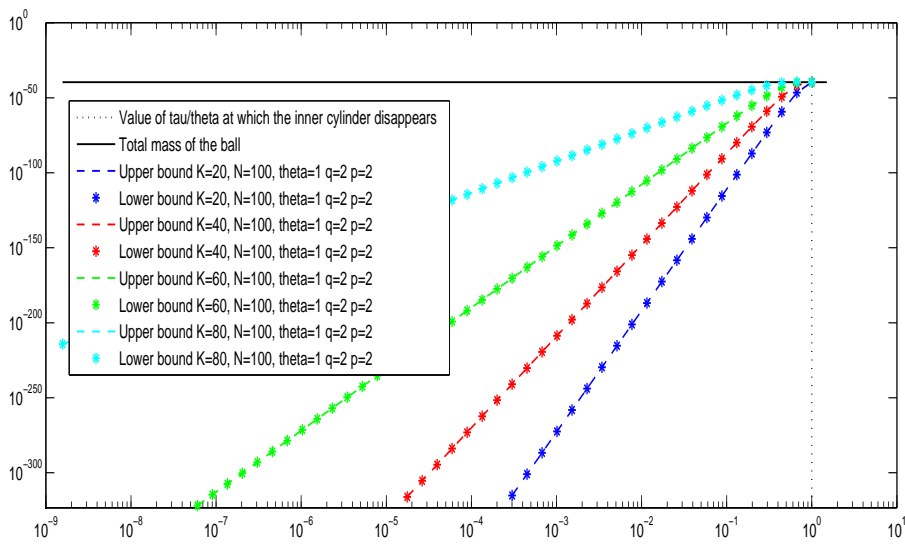
Riemann sums for $p = 2$

$K = 20$ Blue

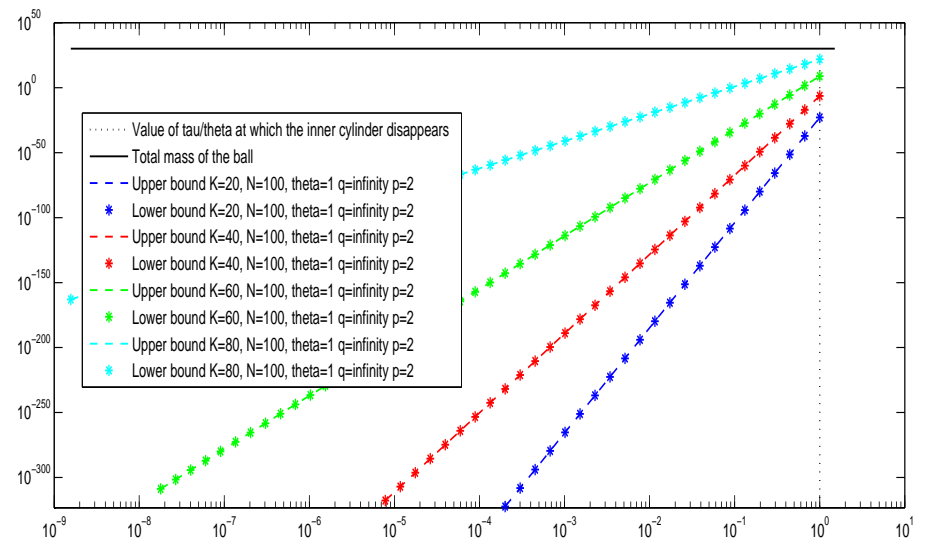
$K = 40$ Red

$K = 60$ Green

$K = 80$ Turquoise



$q = 2$



$q = \infty$

7. Statistical meaning

$$\text{Data } d \sim \text{Uniform}(B_q^N(\theta)) \Rightarrow \text{Bounds}(\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K)) = \frac{\text{Bounds}(\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta)))}{\mathbb{L}^N(D) = \theta^N \alpha_q(N)}$$

Theorem

$$(i) \quad \mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K) \leq \frac{\mathcal{C}_N^K}{\theta^N \alpha_q(N)} \mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta)$$

$$(ii) \quad \mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K) \geq \frac{\mathcal{C}_N^K}{\theta^N \alpha_q(N)} \left(\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) - \tau 2K 4^{\frac{1}{p}} \mathcal{V}_{N-1, K-1}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \right)$$

Data live in a wide domain (θ is large), tolerance τ is small (for higher precision):

$$\mathcal{V}_{N,K}^{p,q}(\tau, \theta) \sim \alpha_p(N-K) \alpha_q(K) \left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^{N-K} \theta^N \quad \text{as } \frac{\tau}{\theta} \rightarrow 0$$

Theorem [Asymptotics]

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K) \sim \mathcal{C}_N^K \alpha_p(N-K) \frac{\alpha_q(K)}{\alpha_q(N)} \left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^{N-K} \quad \text{as } \frac{\tau}{\theta} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d^M) \leq K)}{\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K)}$$

$$\frac{C_M^K \alpha_2(K) \alpha_1(N)}{C_N^K \alpha_1(K) \alpha_2(N) \beta^{N-K}}$$

τ/θ fixed, $\beta = 1$

Level 1 : ———

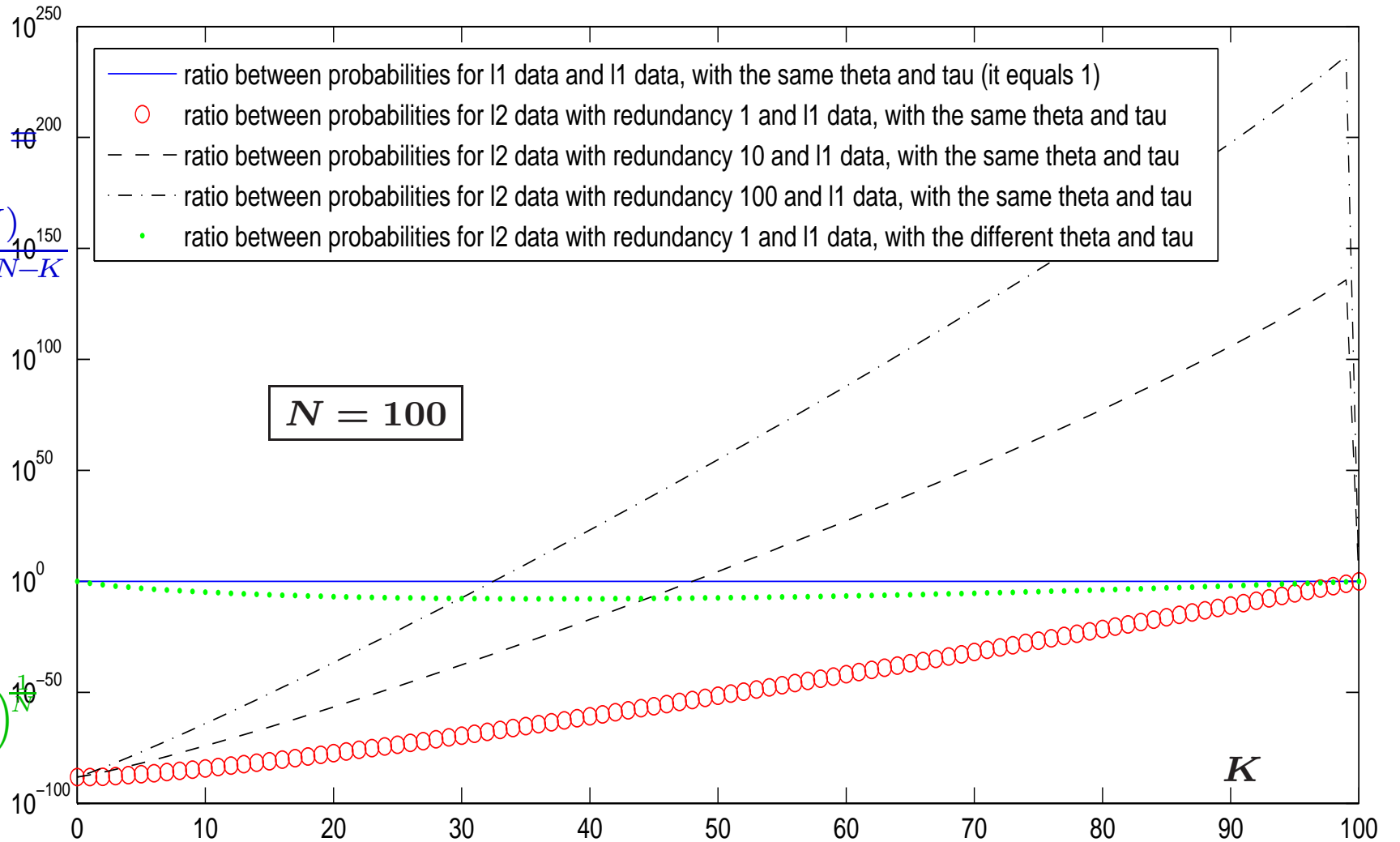
$M = N$ ○○○○

$\frac{M}{N} = 10$ - - - -

$\frac{M}{N} = 100$ -

$M=N, \beta = \left(\frac{\alpha_1(N)}{\alpha_2(N)}\right)^{\frac{1}{N}}$

.....



$$(\mathcal{P}_d) \quad \min \|u\|_0 : \quad \|u - d\|_2 \leq \tau, \quad d \sim \text{uniform on } B_1^N(\theta)$$

$$(\mathcal{P}_d^M) \quad \min \|u\|_0 : \quad \|Au - d\|_2 \leq \tau, \quad A \in \mathbf{R}^{N \times M}, \text{rank}(A) = N, \quad d \sim \text{uniform on } B_2^N(\beta\theta)$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d^M) \leq K) = C_M^K \frac{\alpha_2(N-K) \alpha_2(K)}{\alpha_2(N)} \left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^{N-K} \frac{1}{\beta^{N-K}}$$

9. Conclusions and open questions

- APA methodology in the case of an ℓ_0 objective and an orthonormal basis leads to finer bounds and explicit formulae.
- Getting a higher $\mathbb{P}(\text{val}(\mathcal{P}_d) \leq K)$ for K small needs we have p and q such that $\alpha_p(N-K) \frac{\alpha_q(K)}{\alpha_q(N)}$ is large for K small, and vice-versa.
- Precise evaluation of subsets of the form $\mathbb{L}^N(\mathcal{T}_{J_1}^\tau \cap \mathcal{T}_{J_2}^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$ is an open problem.
- Computing $\mathbb{L}^N(\Sigma_K^\tau \cap B_q^N(\theta))$ using Riemann sums is better than Cylinder inclusions.
- If $q = \infty$, measures are exact; however, this case has a limited practical interest.
- Cases $q \leq p$ are more important in practice. Our bounds need further refinement.

Thanks for your kind attention!

For more details see: <http://www.cmla.ens-cachan.fr/~nikolova/>