

Improved Hardness of BDD and SVP under Gap-(S)ETH

Yi Tang

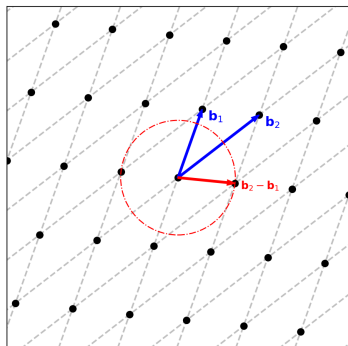
Joint work with Huck Bennett and Chris Peikert

September 16, 2021

(last updated on January 31, 2022)

Preliminaries: Lattices

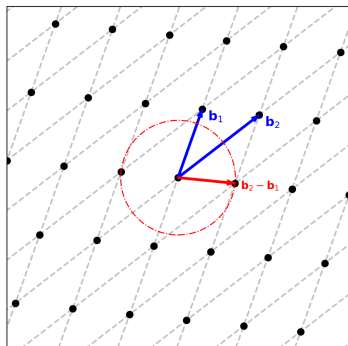
Lattice $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$: set of all integer linear combinations of a basis.
Basis $B \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$: rank n , dimension d , $\mathcal{L} = B \cdot \mathbb{Z}^n$.



Minimum distance (in ℓ_p) $\lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L})$: smallest ℓ_p norm in $\mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\}$.

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Lattice Problems and post-quantum cryptography:

- ▶ Cryptography based on number theory would be broken by attacks with quantum.
- ▶ People believe lattice problems have no quantum solution, and thus lattice-based cryptosystems are quantum-secure.

Desired hardness of lattice problems:

- ▶ Good news: *worst-case* hardness of lattice problems leads to *average-case* security of the cryptosystems.
- ▶ Need precise fine-grained hardness of lattice problems for setting parameters of the cryptosystems confidently.
- ▶ Cryptosystems are based on problems unlikely to be NP-hard, while state-of-the-art attacks reduce to problems where we can show NP-hardness / fine-grained hardness.

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Preliminaries: Lattice Problems

γ -approximate Shortest Vector Problem in ℓ_p ($\text{SVP}_{p,\gamma}$)

Instance: lattice \mathcal{L} .

Goal: decide whether $\lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L}) \leq 1$ or $\lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L}) > \gamma$.

Hardness results and algorithms for $\text{SVP}_{p,\gamma}$ (in previous works):



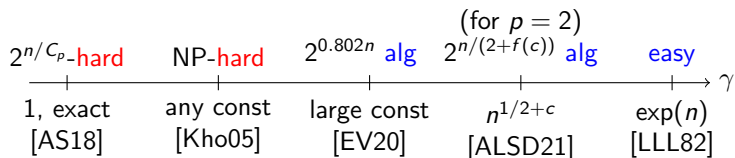
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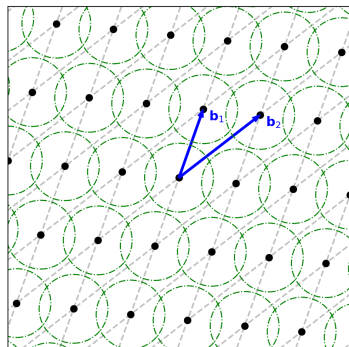


Preliminaries: Lattice Problems

Bounded Distance Decoding in ℓ_p
with relative distance α ($\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$)

Instance: lattice $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and target $t \in \mathbb{R}^d$
satisfying $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq \alpha \cdot \lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L})$.

Goal: find closest lattice vector to t in \mathcal{L} .



$(p = 2, \alpha = 0.6)$

Preliminaries: Lattice Problems

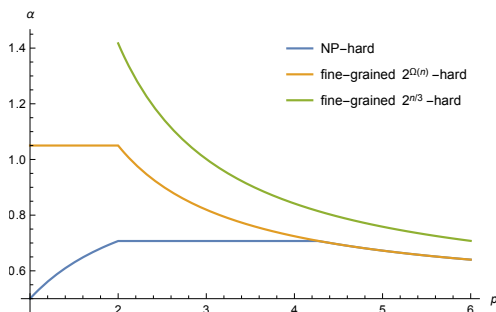
$BDD_{\rho, \alpha}$

Instance: \mathcal{L}, t satisfying $\text{dist}_{\rho}(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq \alpha \cdot \lambda_1^{(\rho)}(\mathcal{L})$.

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Smaller α corresponds to stronger promise and easier problem.

Hardness results for $BDD_{\rho, \alpha}$ (in previous works [LLM06, BP20]):



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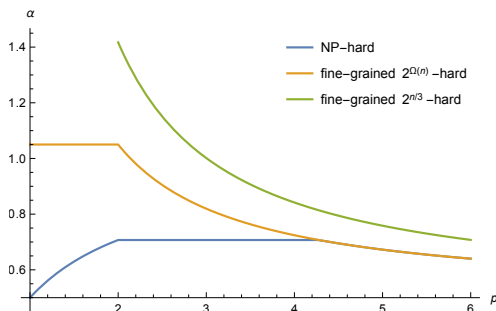
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Preliminaries: Exponential Time Hypothesis

Standard approach to fine-grained hardness: Exponential Time Hypothesis (ETH).

ETH variants:

- ▶ ETH: 3-SAT cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time.
- ▶ Strong ETH (SETH): k -SAT cannot be solved in $2^{(1-\epsilon)n}$ time.
- ▶ Gap-ETH & Gap-SETH: $\text{Gap-3-SAT}_{1-\delta,1}$ & $\text{Gap-}k\text{-SAT}_{1-\delta,1}$.
- ▶ Randomized/non-uniform variants: rand/non-unif time.

Assumption strength:

- ▶ plain \leq gap;
- ▶ plain \leq randomized \leq non-uniform.

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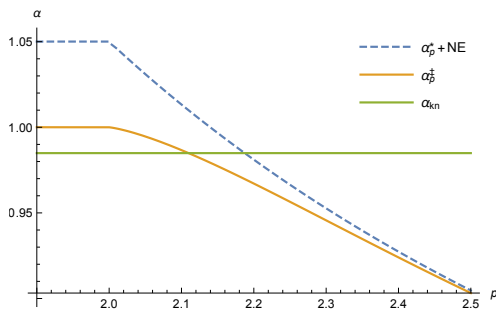
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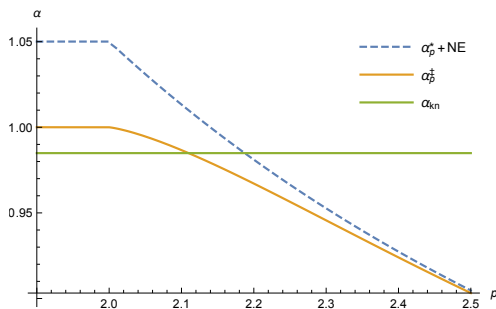
Our Results: ETH-Type Hardness of BDD

1. $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time for any $p \in [1, \infty)$ and $\alpha > \alpha_{\text{kn}} \approx 0.98491$, under non-unif Gap-ETH.
 2. $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time for any $p \in [1, \infty)$ and $\alpha > \alpha_p^\ddagger$, under rand Gap-ETH.
- ▶ Previous bound [BP20]: α_p^* (with norm embed), under rand ETH.



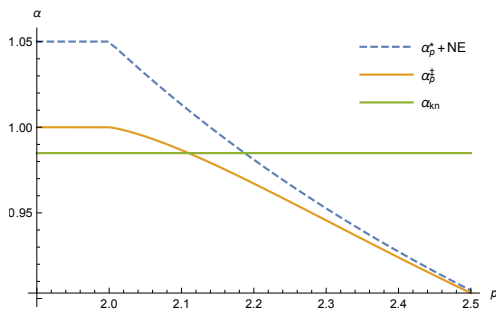
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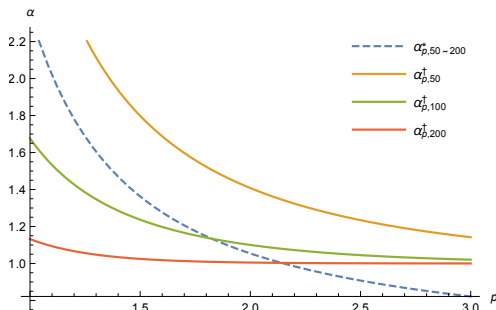
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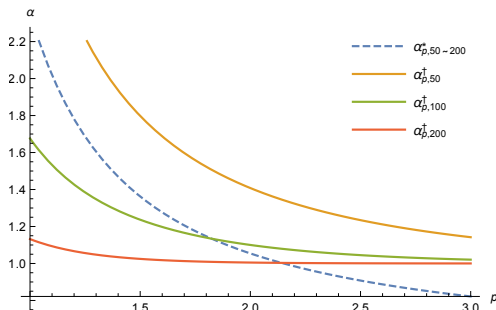
Our Results: SETH-Type Hardness of BDD

3. $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{n/C}$ time for any $p \in [1, \infty)$, $p \notin 2\mathbb{Z}$, $C > 1$, and $\alpha > \alpha_{p,C}^\dagger$, under non-unif Gap-SETH.
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4. For any $p > p_0 \approx 2.1397$, $p \notin 2\mathbb{Z}$ and $C > C_p$, $\text{SVP}_{p,\gamma}$ cannot be solved in $2^{n/C}$ time for some constant $\gamma > 1$, under randomized Gap-SETH.
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Proof Starting Point: Gap-(S)ETH-Hardness of CVP'

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Instance: lattice $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ with basis B and target $t \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Goal: decide whether $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq 1$ or $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) > \gamma$.

Restriction CVP' $_{p,\gamma}$: further require $\text{dist}_p(t, B \cdot \{0, 1\}^n) \leq 1$ for the case $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq 1$.

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Hardness results for $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma}$:

- ▶ [BGS17] Under rand Gap-ETH, $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma(p)}$ cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time.
- ▶ [ABGS21] Under rand Gap-SETH, ($p \notin 2\mathbb{Z}$), $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma(p,\varepsilon)}$ cannot be solved in $2^{(1-\varepsilon)n}$ time.

Goal: reduce $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma}$ in rank n' to BDD/SVP in rank $n = Cn'$.

- ▶ If C depends on γ then we get hardness for $2^{o(n)}$ time.
- ▶ If $C > 1$ is free then we get hardness for $2^{n/C}$ time.

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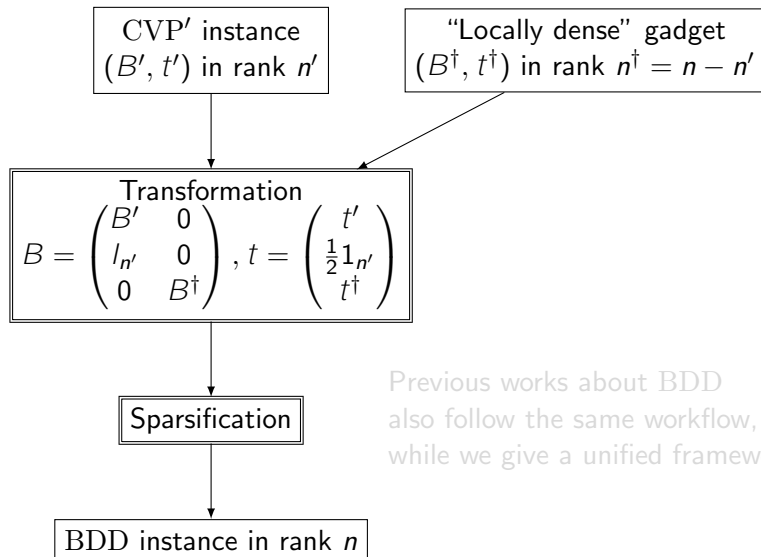
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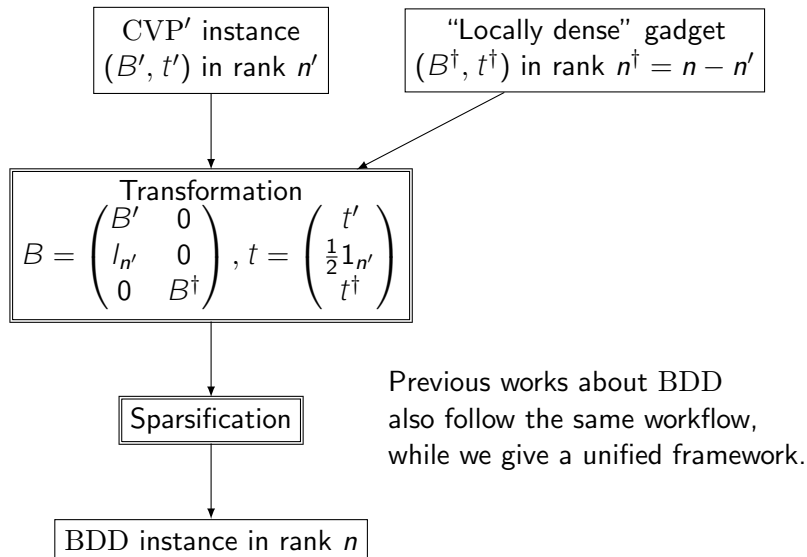
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Reduction to BDD



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Rephrasing BDD with Point-Counting

Recall (search) $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$: given \mathcal{L} , t with $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq \alpha \cdot \lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L})$, find closest lattice vector to t in \mathcal{L} .

Decisional $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$: given \mathcal{L} , t and distance r , decide whether

- ▶ $\text{dist}_p(t, \mathcal{L}) \leq r$ and $\lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L}) \geq r/\alpha$, or
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In terms of point-counting: decide whether

- ▶ $|\mathcal{B}_p(r; t) \cap \mathcal{L}| \geq 1$ and $|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap (\mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\})| = 0$, or
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Relaxation (A, G) - $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$: decide whether

- ▶ “(good) close” count $\geq G$ and “short” count $\leq A$, or
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(Decisional BDD is just $(0, 1)$ -BDD.)

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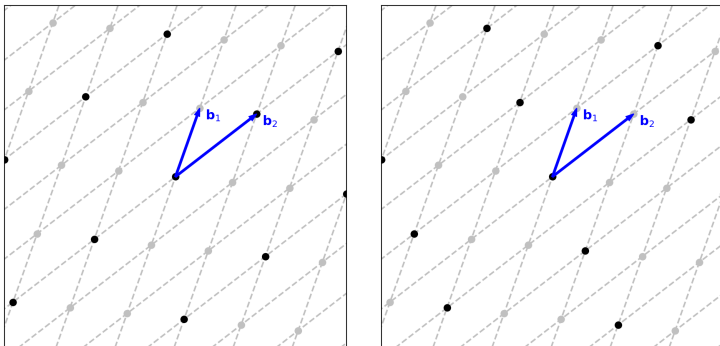
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Lattice Sparsification

Sparsification algorithm: given lattice \mathcal{L} and prime index q , sample sublattice $\mathcal{L}' \subset \mathcal{L}$ such that for any¹ finite set $S \subset \mathcal{L}$, $|S \cap \mathcal{L}'|$ concentrates around $|S|/q$.



$(q = 3)$

¹ S needs to satisfy certain technical conditions.

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If $G \gg A$, say $G \geq 400A$, then (A, G) - $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ reduces to decisional $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ by sparsification with index $q \approx 20A$.

New goal: reduce CVP' to (A, G) - BDD with $G \gg A$.

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Transforming CVP' Instances

The transformation takes as input CVP' $_{p,\gamma}$ instance (B', t') and parameters $B^\dagger, t^\dagger, r, s$, and outputs (A, G) -BDD $_{p,\alpha}$ instance:

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} sB' & 0 \\ I_{n'} & 0 \\ 0 & B^\dagger \end{pmatrix}, \quad t = \begin{pmatrix} st' \\ \frac{1}{2}1_{n'} \\ t^\dagger \end{pmatrix}, \quad r.$$

For CVP' YES instance:

- ▶ Promise: $\text{dist}_p(t', B'x) \leq 1$ for some $x \in \{0, 1\}^{n'}$.
- ▶ “Short” count: $|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap \mathcal{L}| \leq |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap (\mathbb{Z}^{n'} \oplus \mathcal{L}^\dagger)|$.
- ▶ “Close” count: $|\mathcal{B}_p(r; t) \cap \mathcal{L}| \geq |\mathcal{B}_p(r - s - n'/2; t^\dagger) \cap \mathcal{L}^\dagger|$.²

²The arithmetic of the distances here is showcased for ℓ_1 , and should be $(r^p - s^p - n'/2^p)^{1/p}$ for general ℓ_p . We will continue to simplify this way in the remaining slides.

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²The arithmetic of the distances here is showcased for ℓ_1 , and should be $(r^p - s^p - n'/2^p)^{1/p}$ for general ℓ_p . We will continue to simplify this way in the remaining slides.

Transforming CVP' Instances

The transformation takes as input CVP' $_{p,\gamma}$ instance (B', t') and parameters $B^\dagger, t^\dagger, r, s$, and outputs (A, G) -BDD $_{p,\alpha}$ instance:

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} sB' & 0 \\ I_{n'} & 0 \\ 0 & B^\dagger \end{pmatrix}, \quad t = \begin{pmatrix} st' \\ \frac{1}{2}1_{n'} \\ t^\dagger \end{pmatrix}, \quad r.$$

For CVP' YES instance:

- ▶ Promise: $\text{dist}_p(t', B'x) \leq 1$ for some $x \in \{0, 1\}^{n'}$.
- ▶ “Short” count: $|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap \mathcal{L}| \leq |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap (\mathbb{Z}^{n'} \oplus \mathcal{L}^\dagger)|$.
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For CVP' NO instance:

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► “Annoying close” count:

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Putting together, for $G \gg A$, we want:

$$|\mathcal{B}_p(r - s - n'/2; t^\dagger) \cap \mathcal{L}^\dagger| \gg \max\{|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap (\mathbb{Z}^{n'} \oplus \mathcal{L}^\dagger)|, \\ |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r - \gamma s; \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}1_{n'} \\ t^\dagger \end{pmatrix}) \cap (\mathbb{Z}^{n'} \oplus \mathcal{L}^\dagger)|\}.$$

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Locally Dense Gadgets

Desired property (first consider the “short” term):

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Observations:

- ▶ $|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap (\mathbb{Z}^{n'} \oplus \mathcal{L}^\dagger)| \leq |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n'}| \cdot |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(r/\alpha) \cap \mathcal{L}^\dagger|$.
- ▶ $|\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(\rho) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n'}|$ is exponential in n' (for sufficiently large ρ).

Hence we want the gadget to be *locally dense*, i.e., to have exponentially more “close” than “short” lattice vectors:

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(Similarly, we also want the locally dense gadget to have exponentially more “close” than “annoying close” lattice vectors.)

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Main Theorem for BDD

Main theorem for BDD, informal & simplified

If there exist locally dense gadgets (B^\dagger, t^\dagger) satisfying³

$$|\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha_G; t^\dagger) \cap \mathcal{L}^\dagger| \geq \nu^{n^\dagger} |\mathcal{B}_p^\circ(1) \cap \mathcal{L}^\dagger| ,$$

then for $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$:

under Gap-ETH,⁴ it cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time for all $\alpha > \alpha_G$;

under Gap-SETH, it cannot be solved in $2^{n/C}$ time for all

$$\alpha > \alpha_G + \frac{1}{f_p(\nu^{C-1})} .$$

(Here $f_p(\cdot)$ is increasing and has $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f_p(x) = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f_p(x) = \infty$.)

³The locally dense gadget needs to satisfy another similar property involving “annoying close” count, which contains similar parameters α_A, ν' and they also (substantially) affect the bounds on α .

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Instantiating the Main Theorem: Result 3

Lattice *kissing number* τ_n^L : $\max_{\mathcal{L}} |\mathcal{B}_p(1) \cap (\mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\})|$ for rank- n lattice \mathcal{L} with $\lambda_1^{(p)}(\mathcal{L}) = 1$.

[Vlă19]: for $p = 2$, $\tau_n^L \geq 2^{c_{kn}n - o(n)}$, where $c_{kn} \geq 0.02194$.

Gadgets (in ℓ_2): exponential kissing number lattice \mathcal{L}^\dagger , $t^\dagger = 0$.

Parameters: $\alpha_G = 1$, $\nu = 2^{c_{kn}}$.

Using norm embeddings, we also get gadgets in all ℓ_p in cost of slightly larger $\alpha_G = 1 + o(1)$. Then we have our Result 3: $\text{BDD}_{p,\alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{n/C}$ time for all

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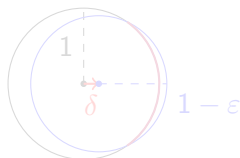
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Instantiating the Main Theorem: Result 1

To decrease α_G for the exponential kissing number gadgets:

- ▶ Move t^\dagger away from 0 by δ in random direction.
- ▶ Set $\alpha_G = 1 - \varepsilon$ for $\varepsilon < \delta$.
- ▶ Nevertheless this decreases the “close” count as well, by an expected factor of $\text{area}(S^{n-1} \cap \mathcal{B}_p(1 - \varepsilon; t^\dagger)) / \text{area}(S^{n-1})$, where S^{n-1} is the unit sphere.
- ▶ ([AS18] also uses this idea while we have tighter loss factor.)

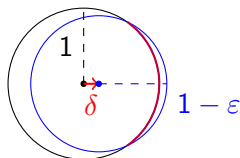


Taking care of the tradeoff between the “close” count and δ, ε , we manage to get α_G approaching $2^{-\alpha_{kn}}$, which gives our Result 1: $\text{BDD}_{\rho, \alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time for all $\alpha > \alpha_{kn} := 2^{-\alpha_{kn}}$.

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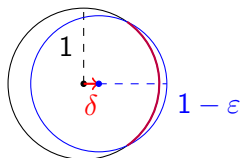


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Instantiating the Main Theorem: Result 2

Gadgets from integer lattices: $\mathcal{L}^\dagger = \mathbb{Z}^n/\rho$, $t^\dagger = (t/\rho) \cdot \mathbf{1}_n$.

Minimize α_G over ρ, t subject to

$$|\mathcal{B}_\rho(\alpha_G \rho; t \cdot \mathbf{1}_n) \cap \mathbb{Z}^n| > |\mathcal{B}_\rho^\circ(\rho) \cap \mathbb{Z}^n|.$$

Suppose α_p^\ddagger is the optimum. Then we have our Result 2: $\text{BDD}_{\rho, \alpha}$ cannot be solved in $2^{o(n)}$ time for all $\alpha > \alpha_p^\ddagger$.

- ▶ $|\mathcal{B}_\rho(a \cdot n; t \cdot \mathbf{1}_n) \cap \mathbb{Z}^n|$ can be approximated by a numerical function $\beta_{\rho, t}(a)^n$ to within a $2^{o(n)}$ factor.
- ▶ We find that empirically the optimizer for t is always $1/2$.
- ▶ [BP20] does no optimization and fix $t = 1/2$, $\rho = n/(2\alpha_G)$. As a result, our Result 2 is always no weaker than [BP20].

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Overview:

- ▶ Similar to the case of BDD, the reduction consists of the (same!) transformation and the sparsification, as well as a standard technique, Kannan's embedding, at the end.
- ▶ The transformation maps $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma}$ instances to instances of a similar intermediate problem $(A, G)\text{-CVP}_{p,\gamma'}$.
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Reduction to SVP

Overview:

- ▶ Similar to the case of BDD, the reduction consists of the (same!) transformation and the sparsification, as well as a standard technique, Kannan's embedding, at the end.
- ▶ The transformation maps $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma}$ instances to instances of a similar intermediate problem $(A, G)\text{-CVP}_{p,\gamma'}$.
- ▶ [AS18] has the same workflow, while we have a more general transformation with a larger parameter space, and we can set parameters working for $\text{CVP}'_{p,\gamma}$ other than $\text{CVP}'_{p,1}$.
- ▶ The same gadgets from integer lattices as Result 2 are used.

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