

Combinatorial generalizations of Jung’s theorem¹

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Abstract. We consider combinatorial generalizations of Jung’s theorem on covering the set with unit diameter by a ball. We prove “fractional” and “colorful” version of the theorem.

Well-known Jung’s theorem state that any set with diameter 1 in \mathbb{R}^d can be covered by a ball with radius $R_d = \sqrt{\frac{d}{2(d+1)}}$ (see [1]).

The proof of this theorem is based on Helly’s theorem:

Theorem 1 (Helly’s theorem). *Let \mathcal{P} be a family of convex compacts in \mathbb{R}^d such that intersection of any $d + 1$ of them is not empty, than intersection of all compacts from \mathcal{P} is not empty.*

Helly’s theorem has many generalizations. M. Katchalski and A. Liu in 1979 [3] proved “fractional” version of Helly’s theorem and G. Kalai in 1984 [2] gave a strongest version of it. L. Lovász in 1979 suggested a “colorful” version of Helly’s theorem. We give analogues generalizations of Jung’s theorem.

Theorem 2 (Fraction version of Jung’s theorem). *For every $d \geq 1$ and every $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ there exists a $\beta = \beta(d, \alpha) > 0$ with the following property. Let \mathcal{V} be a n -point set in \mathbb{R}^d such that for at least αC_n^2 of pairs $\{x, y\}$ ($x, y \in \mathcal{V}$) distance between x and y less than 1. Then there exists a ball with radius R_d , which covers βn points of \mathcal{V} . And $\beta \rightarrow 1$ as $\alpha \rightarrow 1$.*

We will use the following definition,

Definition 1. *Call two nonempty sets \mathcal{V}_1 and \mathcal{V}_2 close, if for any points $x \in \mathcal{V}_1$ and $y \in \mathcal{V}_2$, the distance between x and y is not greater than 1.*

It is easy to see that if two close sets \mathcal{V}_1 and \mathcal{V}_2 are given, diameter of each of them is not greater than 2. Moreover, the following theorem holds.

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Theorem 3. *Union of several pairwise close sets in \mathbb{R}^d can be covered by a ball of radius 1.*

It is clear that the diameter of the cover ball in this theorem could not be decreased. The following two questions have sense.

Suppose a family of pairwise close sets $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots, \mathcal{V}_n$ in \mathbb{R}^d is given.

1. What is minimal R , such that at least one of the sets \mathcal{V}_i can be covered by a ball with radius R .
2. What is minimal D , such that at least one of the sets \mathcal{V}_i has a diameter not greater than D .

Theorem 4. *Let $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots, \mathcal{V}_n$ be pairwise close sets in \mathbb{R}^d . Then one of the sets \mathcal{V}_i can be covered by a ball with radius R .*

$$R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ if } n \leq d;$$

$$R = R_d = \sqrt{\frac{d}{2(d+1)}} \text{ if } n > d.$$

Through $D_d(n)$ we denote the minimal diameter of optimal spherical antipodal code of cardinality $2n$ on the unit sphere \mathbb{S}^{d-1} .

Theorem 5. *Let $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \dots, \mathcal{V}_n$ be pairwise close sets in \mathbb{R}^d . Then one of the sets \mathcal{V}_i has diameter not greater than*

$$D = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4 - D_d(n)^2}}.$$

References

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