

# On some isoperimetric inequalities in the non-local setting

Rajesh Mahadevan

Departamento de Matemática, Universidad de Concepción

**International Meetings on Differential Equations and Their Applications**  
**Institute of Mathematics, Lodz University of Technology**  
**December 1, 2021**

**Joint work with Franco Olivares-Contador**

# Shape Optimization

Admissible shapes  $\mathcal{O}_{\text{ad}}$  - a family of admissible shapes.

- Bounded open sets contained in a design region  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ . Additional constraints - volume, perimeter, number of holes, convexity etc.
- Class of polyhedra with given number of faces and given volume.

Shape functional

$$J : \mathcal{O}_{\text{ad}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Shape Optimization Problem

$$\inf\{J(\Omega) : \Omega \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{ad}}\}.$$

- **Classical isoperimetric inequality** Of all planar domains of given perimeter determining that which has the maximum area.

$$\sup\{\text{Area}(\Omega) : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2, \text{Per}(\Omega) = L\}.$$

- **Faber-Krahn-Rayleigh inequality** Of all planar vibrating drums of given area determining that which has the lowest principal frequency.

$$\inf\{\lambda_1(\Omega) : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2, \text{Area}(\Omega) = a\}.$$

# Classical Results

## Isoperimetric inequality

- plane  $L^2 \geq 4\pi A$ .
- space  $S^3 \geq 36\pi V^2$ .
- higher dimensions  $|\partial\Omega| \geq d\omega_d^{\frac{1}{d}}|\Omega|^{1-\frac{1}{d}}$ ;  $\omega_d$  volume of the unit ball.

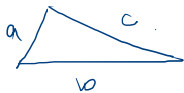
## Pólya-Szegő inequality ( $1 \leq p < \infty$ )

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p dx \geq \int_{\Omega^*} |\nabla u^*|^p dx \quad \text{for all } u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega).$$

## Consequences

Faber-Krahn inequality, Sobolev inequality etc.

# Isoperimetric inequality for triangles



$$2s = a + b + c = L.$$

$$A = \sqrt{[s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)]}$$

$$\leq s \left( \frac{s-a + s-b + s-c}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

A M-G M

$$= s \left( \frac{s}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

equality only  
if  $s-a = s-b = s-c$

•  $|2\Omega| \geq |2\Omega^*|$  when  $|\Omega| = |\Omega^*|$

Fleming-Rischel

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| = \int_0^M \int_{\partial \Omega_t} ds dt$$

$$\geq \int_0^M \int_{\partial \Omega_t^*} P(\partial \Omega_t^*) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^M \int_{\partial \Omega_t^*} ds dt = \int_{\Omega^*} |\nabla u^*|$$

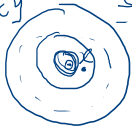
Schwarz symm

$$\Omega \rightarrow \Omega^*$$

$$= B \quad (|B| = |\Omega|)$$

$$u^* : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$u^*(x) = \sup \{ t : x \in \partial \Omega_t^* \}$$



$P = \uparrow$

Faber-Krahn inequality

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) = \inf \left\{ \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2}{\int_{\Omega} |u|^2} ; u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \right\}$$

•  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $u > 0$ ,  $u \in C^\infty$

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) = \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2}{\int_{\Omega} |u|^2} \geq \frac{\int_{\Omega^*} |\nabla u^*|^2}{\int_{\Omega^*} |u^*|^2} \geq \lambda_1(\Omega^*)$$

# The Problem Setting - nonlocal functionals

## Principal Dirichlet eigenvalue for the fractional $p$ -Laplacian

$\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  - bounded domain,  $d > 1$ ;  $0 < s < d$

$$\lambda_{1,p}^s(\Omega) = \inf \left\{ \frac{\int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{d+ps}} dx dy}{\int_{\Omega} |u(x)|^p dx} : u \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) \quad u \not\equiv 0 \right\},$$

## Principal eigenvalue for the Riesz potential operator

$\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  - bounded domain,  $d > 1$ ;  $0 < \alpha < d$ . For  $u \in L^2(\Omega)$

$$(I_\alpha u)(x) = \pi^{-\frac{d}{2}} 2^{-\alpha} \frac{\Gamma((d-\alpha)/2)}{\Gamma(\alpha/2)} \int_{\Omega} \frac{u(y)}{|x-y|^{d-\alpha}} dy \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Omega$$

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) = \max \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{u(x)u(y)}{|x-y|^{d-\alpha}} dx dy : u \in L^2(\Omega), \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = 1 \right\}.$$

# Connection between the Riesz potential operator y fractional Laplacian

- in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  The Riesz potential operator is the inverse of the fractional Laplacian operator  $(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}$ .
- in bounded domain The Riesz potential operator is the inverse of the fractional Laplacian operator  $(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}$  together with a non-local boundary condition.



# Main Results

- **Theorem 1** The equilateral triangle has the least first eigenvalue for the fractional Dirichlet  $p$ -Laplacian among all triangles of given area. The square has the least first eigenvalue for the fractional Dirichlet  $p$ -Laplacian among all quadrilaterals of given area. Moreover, the equilateral triangle and the square are the unique minimizers in the above problems.
- **Theorem 2** The maximum of  $\lambda_1(\Omega)$  among all triangles (open) of given area is obtained when  $\Omega$  is an equilateral triangle and only when  $\Omega$  is an equilateral triangle. Similarly, the maximum of  $\lambda_1(\Omega)$  among all quadrilaterals (open) of given area is obtained when  $\Omega$  is a square and only when  $\Omega$  is a square.

# Key Principles

**Riesz's inequality under Steiner symmetrization** Let  $f, g$ , and  $h$  be non-negative Borel measurable functions that vanish at infinity on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and let  $f^*, g^*$ , and  $h^*$  be their respective Steiner symmetrizations with respect to a given hyperplane  $H$  taken, as above, as  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid x_d = 0\}$ .

Then, for  $I(f, g, h) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x)g(x-y)h(y) \, dx dy$ , we have

$$I(f, g, h) \leq I(f^*, g^*, h^*).$$

**Continuity of the eigenvalue with respect to the convergence in the Hausdorff complementary distance** Let  $B$  be a fixed compact set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\Omega_n$  be a family of nonempty convex open subsets of  $B$  which converges, for the complementary Hausdorff distance, to a nonempty convex open set  $\Omega$ . Then,  $\lambda_1(\Omega) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Omega_n)$ .

# Properties of the eigenvalue

## Properties of $\lambda_{1,p}^s$

- ① (translation invariance)  $\lambda_{1,p}^s(\Omega) = \lambda_{1,p}^s(\Omega + x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- ② (invariance under orthonormal transformations)  
 $\lambda_{1,p}^s(\Omega) = \lambda_{1,p}^s(T(\Omega))$  for every orthonormal transformation  $T$ .
- ③ (homothety law)  $\lambda_{1,p}^s(t\Omega) = t^{-sp} \lambda_{1,p}^s(\Omega)$  for  $t > 0$ .
- ④ (domain monotonicity) If  $A \subset B$  are open sets, then  
 $\lambda_{1,p}^s(B) \leq \lambda_{1,p}^s(A)$ .

## Properties of $\lambda_1$

- ① (translation invariance)  $\lambda_1(\Omega) = \lambda_1(\Omega + x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- ② (invariance under orthonormal transformations)  $\lambda_1(\Omega) = \lambda_1(T(\Omega))$   
 for every orthonormal transformation  $T \in O(n)$ .
- ③ (homothety law)  $\lambda_1(k\Omega) = k^\alpha \lambda_1(\Omega)$  for  $k > 0$ .
- ④ (domain monotonicity) Given bounded domains  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , if  
 $A \subset B$ , then  $\lambda_1(A) \leq \lambda_1(B)$ .

# Steiner symmetrization of sets and functions with respect to the hyperplane $x_d = 0$

## Steiner symmetrization of sets

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  - measurable set; for  $x' \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$ , we have the 1-d section of  $\Omega$  en  $x'$ :

$$\Omega(x') := \{x_n \in \mathbb{R} : (x', x_d) \in \Omega\},$$

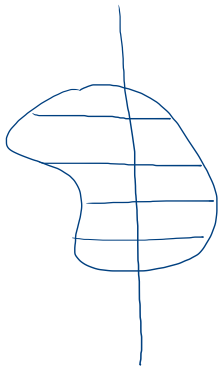
The set

$$\Omega^* := \{x = (x', x_d) : -\frac{1}{2}|\Omega(x')| < x_d < \frac{1}{2}|\Omega(x')|, \}.$$

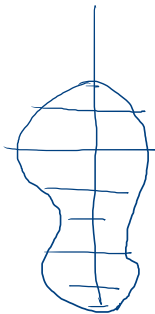
is the Steiner symmetrization of  $\Omega$  with respect to the hyperplane  $x_d = 0$ .

**Steiner symmetrization of functions** Let  $f$  be a non-negative measurable function defined on  $\Omega$ , which vanishes on  $\partial\Omega$ . The Steiner symmetrization of  $f$  is the function  $f^*$  defined on  $\Omega^*$  by

$$f^*(x) = \sup\{c : x \in \{y \in \Omega : f(y) \geq c\}^*\}$$



$\Omega$



$\Omega^s$  (Steiner symmetrization)

# Basic properties for Steiner symmetrization

A convex body is a compact convex set. For a convex body  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the inradius  $r(A)$  is the supremum of the radii of balls contained in  $A$  and the circumradius  $R(A)$  is the infimum of the radii of balls containing  $A$ . The Steiner symmetrization of sets has the following properties. Let  $A, B$  be convex bodies. Then,

- ①  $A^* \subseteq B^*$  if  $A \subseteq B$ .
- ②  $r(A) \leq r(A^*)$ .
- ③  $R(A^*) \leq R(A)$ .
- ④  $V(A) = V(A^*)$  where  $V(A)$  denotes the volume of  $A$ .

The Steiner symmetrization of functions has the following properties.

- ① The definitions of  $A^*$  y  $f^*$  are consistent, i.e.,

$$\chi_{A^*} = (\chi_A)^* \text{ and } \{x : f(x) \geq t\}^* = \{x : f^*(x) \geq t\}.$$

- ② Let  $f$  be a nonnegative measurable function defined on  $\Omega$  vanishing on  $\partial\Omega$ . Let  $F : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a measurable function. Then,

$$\int_{\Omega} F(f(x)) dx = \int_{\Omega^*} F(f^*(x)) dx.$$

- ③ Riesz's inequality.

# Minkowski sums and differences

**Minkowski sum** Given  $X, Y \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is defined by

$$X \oplus Y := \bigcup_{y \in Y} (X + y).$$

**Minkowski difference**

$$X \ominus Y := \bigcap_{y \in Y} (X - y).$$

**Inner parallel body at distance  $\epsilon$  of  $K$**  is the subset  $K \ominus B(0, \epsilon)$ .

## Some properties

- Let  $X, Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $X \subset Z$  and let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then

$$X \ominus B(0, \epsilon) \subseteq Z \setminus ((Z \setminus X) \oplus B(0, \epsilon)).$$

- If  $B(0, r) \subset K \subset B(0, R)$  and  $0 < \epsilon < \frac{r^2}{4R}$ , then

$$\left(1 - 4 \frac{R\epsilon}{r^2}\right) K \subset K \ominus B(0, \epsilon) \subset K.$$

# Hausdorff complementary distance

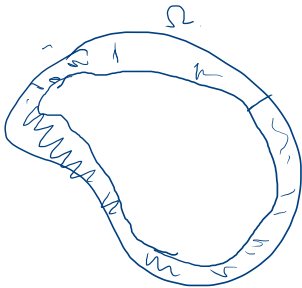
Let  $K$  and  $C$  be two non-empty compact sets in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Then their Hausdorff distance is defined as

$$d^H(K, C) = \inf\{\epsilon \geq 0; K \subseteq C \oplus B(0, \epsilon) \text{ and } C \subseteq K \oplus B(0, \epsilon)\}$$

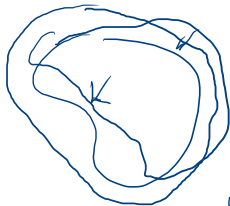
Let  $O_1, O_2$  be two open subsets of a compact set  $B$ . Then the so called complementary Hausdorff distance is defined by:

$$d_H(O_1, O_2) = d^H(B \setminus O_1, B \setminus O_2).$$





$$\Omega \ominus B(0, \epsilon)$$



$$\underline{\Omega_n} \subseteq K$$

$$\Omega_n \xrightarrow{d_H} \Omega$$

$$K \cap \Omega_n \xrightarrow{d_H} K \cap \Omega$$

$$A \subseteq \underline{A_n} \oplus B(0, \epsilon)$$

$$A_n \longrightarrow A$$

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \quad A_n \subseteq A \oplus B(0, \epsilon)$$

$$\implies$$

## Continuity of the eigenvalue with respect to the convergence in the Hausdorff complementary distance

- Let  $B(0, r) \subseteq \Omega \subset B(0, R)$ . Since,  $d_H(\Omega_n, \Omega) \rightarrow 0$ , given  $\epsilon > 0$   
 $B \setminus \Omega_n \subset (B \setminus \Omega) \oplus B(0, \epsilon)$  for all  $n \geq n_\epsilon$ .

From this we obtain

$$\Omega \ominus B(0, \epsilon) \subseteq \Omega_n \text{ for all } n \geq n_\epsilon \text{ and so, for } 0 < \epsilon < \frac{r^2}{16R},$$

$$\left(1 - 16\frac{R\epsilon}{r^2}\right) \Omega \subset \Omega \ominus B(0, \epsilon) \subset \Omega_n \text{ for all } n \geq n_\epsilon.$$

From this we get

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Omega_n).$$

- Similarly, starting from

$$B \setminus \Omega \subset (B \setminus \Omega_n) \oplus B(0, \epsilon) \text{ for all } n \geq n_\epsilon$$

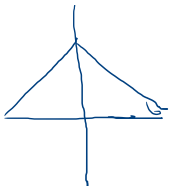
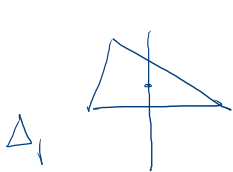
we can also obtain

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Omega_n) \leq \lambda_1(\Omega).$$

# Construction of the Steiner symmetrizations

**Case of triangles** Let  $\Delta_1$  be an arbitrary open triangle of positive area  $a$ . We successively define the open triangles  $\Delta_{n+1}$  by taking the Steiner symmetrization of  $\Delta_n$  with respect to the perpendicular bisector of a side with respect to which there is no symmetry. It can be shown that that the sequence  $\Delta_n$  converges with respect to the complementary Hausdorff distance to an open equilateral triangle  $\Delta$ .

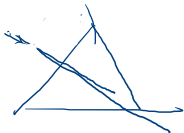
**Case of quadrilaterals** Apply Steiner symmetrization with respect to an axis which is perpendicular to a diagonal of the quadrilateral, for which the other two vertices aren't on the same side of this diagonal. The resulting object is a *convex* quadrilateral which is symmetric with respect to this axis. Next, we Steiner symmetrize with respect to a perpendicular axis and thereby get a rhombus. This is to be followed by a Steiner symmetrization with respect to an axis perpendicular to one of the sides to produce a rectangle. The rectangle is then Steiner symmetrized with respect to an axis perpendicular to a diagonal to get, again, a rhombus. By repeating the procedures for the rhombus and rectangle we end up with an infinite sequence of rhombi and rectangles which converge, ultimately, in the complementary Hausdorff distance, to a square.



$$\lambda_1(\Delta) \leq \lambda_1(\Delta_n)$$

o

$$\lambda_1(\Delta) \leq \lim \lambda_1(\Delta_n) = \lambda_1(\Delta^*)$$



$$\lambda_1(\Delta_n) = \int_{\Delta_n} \int_{\Delta_n} \frac{u_n(x) u_n(y)}{|x-y|^{d-d}} dx dy$$

$$\leq \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \frac{u_n^s(x) u_n^s(y)}{|x-y|^{d-d}} dx dy \leq \lambda_1(\Delta_{n+1})$$

# Eigenvalue maximization for triangles of given area

Let  $f_n$  be an eigenfunction for  $\lambda_1(\Delta_n)$ . Let  $f_n^*$  be the corresponding Steiner symmetrization of  $\tilde{f}_n$  (the extension of  $f_n$  by zero outside  $\Delta_n$ ) which is a Borel measurable function vanishing at infinity. Applying Riesz's inequality to the function  $\tilde{f}_n$  (taken twice) and with the function in the middle taken as the Riesz potential we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1(\Delta_n) &= \int_{\Delta_n} \int_{\Delta_n} \frac{f_n(x)f_n(y)}{|x-y|^{2-\alpha}} dx dy \\ &\leq \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \frac{f_n^*(x)f_n^*(y)}{|x-y|^{2-\alpha}} dx dy \\ &\leq \max_{w \in L^2(\Delta_{n+1})} \left\{ \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \int_{\Delta_{n+1}} \frac{w(x)w(y)}{|x-y|^{2-\alpha}} dx dy : \|w\|_{L^2(\Delta_{n+1})} = 1 \right\} \\ &= \lambda_1(\Delta_{n+1}) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n$  and so  $\lambda_1(\Delta_1) \leq \lambda_1(\Delta_n)$  for all  $n$ . So by the continuity property of the Riesz eigenvalue for the complementary Hausdorff convergence we get

$$\lambda_1(\Delta_1) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1(\Delta_n) = \lambda_1(\Delta).$$

# The equilateral triangle is the unique maximizer







Let  $\Delta$  be an open triangle of given area which maximizes. If  $\Delta$  is not already an equilateral triangle, then there is at least one axis  $m$  (perpendicular to one of its sides) such that  $\Delta$  is not Steiner symmetric with respect to  $m$ . Let  $\Delta^*$  be the Steiner symmetrization of  $\Delta$  respect to  $m$ . We take  $f$  to be a continuous positive eigenfunction of norm 1 (in the  $L^2$  norm) associated to  $\lambda_1(\Delta)$ . Let  $f^*$  be the Steiner symmetrization of  $f$  (the extension of  $f$  by zero outside  $\Delta$ ) with respect to  $m$ . We note that  $f^*$  has to be supported on the closure of  $\Delta^*$ . We note that  $f^*$  also has norm 1 in the  $L^2$  norm. So, by Riesz's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1(\Delta^*) &\geq \int_{\Delta^*} \int_{\Delta^*} \frac{f^*(x)f^*(y)}{|x-y|^{2-\alpha}} dx dy \\ &\geq \int_{\Delta} \int_{\Delta} \frac{f(x)f(y)}{|x-y|^{2-\alpha}} dx dy \\ &= \lambda_1(\Delta).\end{aligned}$$



So,  $\lambda_1(\Delta^*) = \lambda_1(\Delta)$  leading to the equality case in Riesz's inequality. Therefore,  $f$  is a translate of  $f^*$  up to a set of measure 0. Furthermore,  $f^*$  is a maximizer for  $\lambda_1(\Delta^*)$  and so, by Jentzsch's theorem, is continuous and positive on  $\Delta^*$ . We, therefore, have

$$\Delta = \{x \in \Delta : f(x) > 0\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : f^*(x - y) > 0\} = \Delta^* + y$$

Thank you for your kind attention!

-  R. V. Benson, *Euclidean Geometry and Convexity*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1966.
-  H. J. Brascamp, E. H. Lieb, and J. M. Luttinger, A general rearrangement inequality for multiple integrals. *J. Funct. Anal.*, **17** (1974), 227–237.
-  L. Brasco, E. Lindgren, and E. Parini, The fractional Cheeger problem, *Interfaces and Free Boundaries*, **16** (2014), 419–458.
-  A. Burchard, *A Short Course on Rearrangement Inequalities*, <http://www.math.toronto.edu/almut/rearrange.pdf> (2009).
-  E. H. Lieb, Existence and uniqueness of the minimizing solution of Choquard's nonlinear equation, *Studies in Appl. Math.* **57** (1977), 93–105.
-  F. Olivares-Contador, The Faber–Krahn inequality for the first eigenvalue of the fractional Dirichlet  $p$ -Laplacian for triangles and quadrilaterals, *Pac. J. Math.*, **288** (2017), 425–434.



-  G. Pólya and G. Szegő, *Isoperimetric Inequalities in Mathematical Physics*, Princeton University Press (Annals of Mathematics Studies, No. 27), Princeton, 1951.
-  G. Rozenblum, M. Ruzhansky, and D. Suragan, Isoperimetric inequalities for Schatten norms of Riesz potentials, *J. Funct. Anal.*, **271** (2016), 224–239.