

# Rates of normal approximation for typical weighted sums

Sergey Bobkov

University of Minnesota

(based on joint work with  
G. P. Chistyakov and F. Götze)

---

Workshop “Concentration of Measure Phenomena”  
Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing  
Berkeley 19-23 October 2020 (online 22 October 2020)

## Notations. Sudakov's theorem

**Setting:**  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  isotropic random vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$S_\theta = \theta_1 X_1 + \dots + \theta_n X_n = \langle X, \theta \rangle, \quad \theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n) \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}.$$

**Isoptropy:**  $\mathbb{E} S_\theta^2 = 1$  for all  $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ . Equivalently:  $\mathbb{E} X_i X_j = \delta_{ij}$ .

**Problem 1:** Is it true that most of  $S_\theta$  are nearly normal  $N(0, 1)$ ? (in the sense of the normalized Lebesgue measure  $\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}$  on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ )

**Problem 2:** Is it true that most of  $S_\theta$  are nearly equidistributed?

**Theorem** (Sudakov 1978). Yes for Problem 2, if  $n$  is large.

Also yes for Problem 1, if (and only if)

$$\frac{|X|^2}{n} = \frac{X_1^2 + \dots + X_n^2}{n} \approx 1.$$

**Proof:** Use of the spherical isoperimetric inequality (sufficient: the spherical concentration phenomenon).

## Independent summands: Standard rate

For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , put

$$F_\theta(x) = \mathbb{P}\{S_\theta \leq x\}, \quad \Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-y^2/2} dy,$$

$$\rho(F_\theta, \Phi) = \sup_x |F_\theta(x) - \Phi(x)|.$$

**Theorem (Berry-Esseen).** If  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are independent,  $\mathbb{E}X_k = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E}X_k^2 = 1$ ,  $\mathbb{E}|X_k|^3 \leq \beta_3$ , then, for all  $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ ,

$$\rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq c\beta_3 \sum_{k=1}^n |\theta_k|^3.$$

**Note:**  $\sum_{k=1}^n |\theta_k|^3 \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  for all  $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ . On the other hand, with high  $\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}$ -probability

$$\sum_{k=1}^n |\theta_k|^3 < \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

**Equal coefficients:** If  $\theta_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ , then  $\rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{c\beta_3}{\sqrt{n}}$ .

**Bernoulli case:** If  $\mathbb{P}\{X_k = \pm 1\} = \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $\rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ .

## Independent summands: Improved rates

$X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent,  $\mathbb{E}X_k = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_k) = 1$ .

Theorem (B.Klartag-S.Sodin 2011).

$$c \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{1}{n} \bar{\beta}_4, \quad \bar{\beta}_4 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E} X_k^4.$$

Moreover, for any  $r > 0$ ,

$$\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} \left\{ c \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \geq \frac{1}{n} \bar{\beta}_4 r \right\} \leq 2 e^{-\sqrt{r}}.$$

Theorem (B. 2020). In the i.i.d. case with  $\mathbb{E} X_1^3 = 0$ ,

$$c \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} \beta_5, \quad \beta_5 = \mathbb{E} |X_1|^5.$$

Moreover, for any  $r > 0$ ,

$$\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} \left\{ c \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \geq \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} \beta_5 r \right\} \leq 2 e^{-\sqrt{r}}.$$

# Typical distributions

$X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $F_\theta = \mathcal{L}(\langle X, \theta \rangle)$ ,  $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$

$$F = \mathbb{E}_\theta F_\theta = \mathcal{L}(|X| \theta_1) \quad (\text{typical distribution})$$

Sudakov's theorem: Most of  $F_\theta$  are close to  $F$  (if  $n$  is large).

Note:  $\sqrt{n}\theta_1 \approx N(0, 1)$ .

Theorem (B-C-G 2017).

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 + x^2) |F - \Phi|(dx) \leq \frac{c}{n} \left( 1 + \text{Var}(|X|) \right).$$

In particular,

$$\rho(F, \Phi) \leq \frac{c}{n} \left( 1 + \text{Var}(|X|) \right).$$

Simplification using  $\text{Var}(|X|) \leq \frac{\text{Var}(|X|^2)}{\mathbb{E}|X|^2}$ . If  $\mathbb{E}|X|^2 = n$ ,

$$\rho(F, \Phi) \leq \frac{c}{n} (1 + \sigma_4^2), \quad \sigma_4^2 = \frac{1}{n} \text{Var}(|X|^2).$$

## Standard rate

$X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $F_\theta = \mathcal{L}(\langle X, \theta \rangle)$ ,  $F = \mathbb{E}_\theta F_\theta$ .

**Theorem** (B-C-G 2018). If  $\mathbb{E}|X|^2 = n$  (no isotropy), then

$$\mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq c(M_3^3 + \sigma_4^{3/2}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

where

$$M_3^3 = \sup_{\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}} \mathbb{E} |S_\theta|^3.$$

## Second order correlation condition

We say that a random vector  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies a SOC with parameter  $\Lambda$ , if for all  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} X_i X_j\right) \leq \Lambda \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}^2.$$

Optimal value  $\Lambda = \Lambda(X)$  is the maximal eigenvalue of the covariance matrix for the random vector  $(X_i X_j - \mathbb{E} X_i X_j)_{i,j=1}^n$  of dimension  $n^2$ .

**Theorem** (B-C-G 2019). If  $X$  is isotropic in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ), and its distribution is symmetric around the origin, then

$$c \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{\log n}{n} \Lambda.$$

### Examples

- 1)  $\Lambda \leq 2 \max_k \mathbb{E} X_k^4$ , if  $X_k$  are independent.
- 2)  $\Lambda \leq 4/\lambda_1$ , if  $X$  is isotropic and satisfies a Poincaré-type inequality

$$\lambda_1 \text{Var}(u(X)) \leq \mathbb{E} |\nabla u(X)|^2$$

for all smooth  $u$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Note:**  $\sigma_4^2 \leq \Lambda$  (choose  $a_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$ ).

## Non-symmetric case. Large deviations

**Theorem** (B-C-G 2020). Let  $X$  be isotropic in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , with mean zero and a positive Poincaré constant  $\lambda_1$ . Then

$$c \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{\log n}{n} \lambda_1^{-1}.$$

Moreover, for all  $r > 0$ ,

$$\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} \left\{ c \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \geq \frac{\log n}{n} \lambda_1^{-1} r \right\} \leq 2 e^{-\sqrt{r}}.$$

**Note:** Recall that, for the typical distribution  $F = \mathbb{E}_\theta F_\theta$ ,

$$\rho(F, \Phi) \leq \frac{c}{n} (1 + \sigma_4^2) \leq \frac{c'}{n} \Lambda \leq \frac{c''}{n} \lambda^{-1},$$

where  $\sigma_4^2 = \frac{1}{n} \text{Var}(|X|^2)$ . Hence

$$\rho(F_\theta, \Phi) = \rho(F_\theta, F) + O\left(\frac{1}{n} \lambda^{-1}\right).$$

## Relationship with thin shell/KLS

The next assertions are equivalent up to constants  $c, \beta$  (different in different places) for the entire class of isotropic random vectors  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with symmetric log-concave distributions:

$$(i) \quad \sup_X \lambda_1^{-1}(X) \leq c (\log n)^\beta$$

$$(ii) \quad \sup_X \text{Var}(|X|) \leq c (\log n)^\beta$$

$$(ii') \quad \sup_X \text{Var}(|X|^2) \leq cn (\log n)^\beta$$

$$(iii) \quad \sup_X \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) \leq \frac{c}{n} (\log n)^\beta.$$

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii): Apply Poincaré-type inequality to  $u(x) = |x|$ .

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii'): Apply Poincaré-type inequality to  $u(x) = |x|^2$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i): R. Eldan (2013), stochastic localization.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii): In view of a general relation

$$c \text{Var}(|X|) \leq n (\log n)^4 \mathbb{E}_\theta \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) + 1.$$

H.Jiang, Y.T.Lee and S.S.Vempala (2020): Formulation of (i) as a CLT for  $\langle X, Y \rangle$  where  $Y$  is an independent copy of  $X$ .

## Berry-Esseen-type bounds

**Lemma 1.** Given distribution functions  $\hat{U}$  and  $\hat{V}$  with characteristic functions  $\hat{U}$  and  $\hat{V}$ , for all  $T > 0$ ,

$$c \rho(\hat{U}, \hat{V}) \leq \int_0^T \frac{|\hat{U}(t) - \hat{V}(t)|}{t} dt + \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |\hat{V}(t)| dt.$$

**Lemma 2.** If  $X$  is a random vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\mathbb{E}|X|^2 = n$ , then, for all  $T \geq T_0 \geq 1$  and  $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} c \rho(F_\theta, \Phi) &\leq \int_0^{T_0} \frac{|f_\theta(t) - f(t)|}{t} dt \\ &\quad + \int_{T_0}^T \frac{|f_\theta(t)|}{t} dt + \frac{\Lambda}{n} \left( 1 + \log \frac{T}{T_0} \right) + \frac{1}{T} + e^{-T_0^2/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Good choice:  $T \sim n$ ,  $T_0 \sim \sqrt{\log n}$ .

## Deviations on $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ at standard rate

Let  $u$  be a smooth function on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ .

Poincaré inequality:

$$\text{Var}_\theta(u) \leq \frac{1}{n-1} \int |\nabla u|^2 d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}.$$

Logarithmic Sobolev inequality (C.E. Müller-F.B. Weissler 1982):

$$\text{Ent}_\theta(u^2) \leq \frac{2}{n-1} \int |\nabla u|^2 d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1},$$

where

$$\text{Ent}(\xi) = \mathbb{E}\xi \log \xi - \mathbb{E}\xi \log \mathbb{E}\xi \quad (\xi \geq 0).$$

Concentration of measure (V.D. Milman 1970s): If  $\|u\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$ , then, for all  $r \geq 0$ ,

$$\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} \left\{ |u - \mathbb{E}_\theta u| \geq r \right\} \leq e^{-r^2/2(n-1)}.$$

Informally

$$|u - \mathbb{E}_\theta u| \prec c \frac{|Z|}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad Z \sim N(0, 1).$$

## Deviations on $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ at improved rate

Let  $u$  be defined and  $C^2$ -smooth in some neighborhood of  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ .

**Lemma 3** (B-C-G 2017). If  $u$  is orthogonal to all linear functions in  $L^2(\mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$ , then, for any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\text{Var}_\theta(u) \leq \frac{5}{(n-1)^2} \int \|\nabla^2 u - aI_n\|_{\text{HS}}^2 d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}.$$

Moreover, if  $\|\nabla^2 u - aI_n\| \leq 1$  (operator norm) on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  and this integral is bounded by  $b$ , then

$$\int \exp \left\{ \frac{n-1}{2(1+4b)} |u| \right\} d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} \leq 2.$$

Informally

$$|u - \mathbb{E}_\theta u| \prec c_b \left( \frac{|Z|}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^2, \quad Z \sim N(0, 1).$$

Even functions: No linear component, if  $u(-\theta) = u(\theta)$ .

Example:  $u(\theta) = f_\theta(t) = \mathbb{E} e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}$ , assuming that  $X$  has a symmetric distribution on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## Deviations on $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ at improved rate (cont.)

Generalization: Given a function  $u$  in the (complex) Hilbert space  $L^2 = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$ , consider its orthogonal projection

$$l = \text{Proj}_H u$$

onto the linear space  $H$  in  $L^2$  generated by linear functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $l$  is a linear part of  $u$ ).

**Lemma 4.** Let  $u$  be  $C^2$ -smooth in some neighborhood of  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  and have  $\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}$ -mean zero. For any  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$\|u\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \frac{c}{n^2} \int \|\nabla^2 u - aI_n\|_{\text{HS}}^2 d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} + \|l\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Moreover, if  $\|\nabla^2 u - aI_n\| \leq 1$  on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , then

$$\|u\|_{\psi_1} \leq \frac{c}{n} + \frac{c}{n} \int \|\nabla^2 u - aI_n\|_{\text{HS}}^2 d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1} + 6 \|l\|_{L^2}.$$

Orlicz  $\psi_1$ -norm:

$$\|u\|_{\psi_1} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \mathbb{E}_\theta e^{|u|/\lambda} \leq 2 \right\}.$$

**Note:**  $u - l$  has zero linear part and the same Hessian as  $u$ .

## Concentration of characteristic functions (standard rate)

**Lemma 5.** Given an isotropic random vector  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_\theta |f_\theta(t) - f(t)|^2 \leq \frac{t^2}{n-1}.$$

Moreover,

$$\|f_\theta(t) - f(t)\|_{\psi_2} \leq \frac{c|t|}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

**Proof.** Define the smooth functions

$$u_t(\theta) = f_\theta(t) = \mathbb{E} e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}, \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Gradients:

$$\langle \nabla u_t(\theta), w \rangle = it \mathbb{E} \langle X, w \rangle e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}, \quad w \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

By the isotropy, writing  $w = w_0 + iw_1$ ,  $w_0, w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \nabla u_t(\theta), w \rangle|^2 &\leq \mathbb{E} |\langle X, w \rangle|^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E} \langle X, w_0 \rangle^2 + \mathbb{E} \langle X, w_1 \rangle^2 = |w_0|^2 + |w_1|^2 = |w|^2. \end{aligned}$$

This gives a uniform bound  $|\nabla u_t(\theta)| \leq |t|$ . Then apply the spherical Poincaré inequality and the Gaussian concentration on the sphere.

## Concentration of characteristic functions (improved rate)

**Lemma 6.** Given an isotropic random vector  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , in the interval  $|t| \leq An^{1/5}$ ,

$$c\mathbb{E}_\theta |f_\theta(t) - f(t)|^2 \leq \|l_t\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\Lambda t^4}{n^2}$$

where  $f(t) = \mathbb{E}_\theta f_\theta(t)$  and  $l_t$  is a linear part of  $f_\theta(t)$  in  $L^2(\mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$  with constant  $c = c(A) > 0$ . Moreover, for  $|t| \leq An^{1/6}$ ,

$$c\|f_\theta(t) - f(t)\|_{\psi_1} \leq \|l_t\|_{L^2} + \frac{\Lambda t^2}{n}.$$

**Proof** (with a worse upper bound in  $t$  and assuming that  $l_t = 0$ ). In the isotropic case, the SOC is described as

$$\mathbb{E} \left| \sum_{j,k=1}^n z_{jk} (X_j X_k - \delta_{jk}) \right|^2 \leq \Lambda$$

with arbitrary  $z_{jk} \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\sum_{j,k=1}^n |z_{jk}|^2 = 1$ .

To employ an improved spherical concentration (Lemma 3), we need to estimate the operator norm  $\|\nabla^2 u_t - aI_n\|$  and the Hilbert-Schmidt norm  $\|\nabla^2 u_t - aI_n\|_{\text{HS}}$ . For any fixed  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$[\nabla^2 u_t(\theta)]_{jk} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta_j \partial \theta_k} f_\theta(t) = -t^2 \mathbb{E} X_j X_k e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}.$$

That is (in matrix form), for any  $w \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,

$$\langle \nabla^2 u_t(\theta) w, w \rangle = -t^2 \mathbb{E} |\langle X, w \rangle|^2 e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}.$$

Choosing  $a = -t^2 f(t)$ , by the **isotropy assumption**, if  $|w| = 1$ ,

$$|\langle (\nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - a I_n) w, w \rangle| \leq t^2 \mathbb{E} |\langle X, w \rangle|^2 + |a| \|w\|^2 \leq 2t^2.$$

Hence

$$\|\nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - a I_n\| \leq 2t^2.$$

In addition, putting  $a(\theta) = -t^2 f_\theta(t)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - a(\theta) I_n\|_{\text{HS}}^2 &= \sum_{j,k=1}^n \left| \nabla^2 u_t(\theta)_{jk} - a(\theta) \delta_{jk} \right|^2 \\ &= \sup \left| \sum_{j,k=1}^n z_{jk} (\nabla^2 u_t(\theta)_{jk} - a(\theta) \delta_{jk}) \right|^2 \\ &\leq t^4 \sup \mathbb{E} \left| \sum_{j,k=1}^n z_{jk} (X_j X_k - \delta_{jk}) \right|^2, \end{aligned}$$

as long as  $\sum_{j,k=1}^n |z_{jk}|^2 = 1$ . Thus, for all  $\theta$ ,

$$\|\nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - a(\theta) I_n\|_{\text{HS}}^2 \leq \Lambda t^4.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 5,

$$\mathbb{E}_\theta \left\| (a(\theta) - a) I_n \right\|_{\text{HS}}^2 = nt^4 \mathbb{E}_\theta |f_\theta(t) - f(t)|^2 \leq 2t^6.$$

The two bounds give

$$\mathbb{E}_\theta \left\| \nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - aI_n \right\|_{\text{HS}}^2 \leq 2\Lambda t^4 + 4t^6.$$

Finally, apply Lemma 3 with

$$u(\theta) = \frac{1}{2t^2} u_t(\theta) = \frac{1}{2t^2} (f_\theta(t) - f(t))$$

for which

$$\|\nabla^2 u(\theta) - aI_n\| \leq 1$$

and

$$b \equiv \mathbb{E}_\theta \left\| \nabla^2 u_t(\theta) - aI_n \right\|_{\text{HS}}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2}\Lambda + t^2.$$

Second assertion of Lemma 3:

$$\mathbb{E}_\theta \exp \left\{ \frac{n-1}{2(1+4b)} |u(\theta)| \right\} \leq 2,$$

or equivalently

$$\|u\|_{\psi_1} \leq \frac{2(1+4b)}{n-1} \leq \frac{4}{n} + \frac{16}{n} \left( \frac{1}{2}\Lambda + t^2 \right).$$

This yields

$$\|f_\theta(t) - f(t)\|_{\psi_1} \leq \frac{ct^2}{n} (\Lambda + t^2).$$

## $L^2$ -norm of linear parts

Let  $u$  be a  $C^2$ -smooth function on  $S^{n-1}$  with mean zero, and

$$l = \text{Proj}_H(u)$$

be its projection onto the space  $H$  of all linear functions in  $L^2(\mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$ . One may choose for the orthonormal basis

$$l_k(\theta) = \sqrt{n} \theta_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n, \quad \theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n) \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}.$$

Hence

$$l(\theta) = \sum_{k=1}^n \langle u, l_k \rangle_{L^2} l_k(\theta) = \langle v, \theta \rangle$$

with

$$v = n \int \theta u(\theta) d\mathfrak{s}_{n-1}(\theta)$$

which implies

$$\|l\|_{L^2}^2 = \frac{1}{n} |v|^2 = n \mathbb{E}_\theta \mathbb{E}_{\theta'} \langle \theta, \theta' \rangle u(\theta) \bar{u}(\theta').$$

## Characteristic function of linear functions

Linear functionals  $l(\theta) = \langle \theta, v \rangle$  with  $|v| = 1$  viewed as random variables on  $(\mathbb{S}^{n-1}, \mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$  have equal distributions with density

$$c_n (1 - x^2)_+^{\frac{n-3}{2}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad c_n = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\frac{n-1}{2})}.$$

Characteristic function (multiple of Bessel function of the first kind with index  $\nu = \frac{n}{2} - 1$ ):

$$J_n(t) = \mathbb{E}_\theta e^{it\theta_1} = c_n \int_{-1}^1 e^{itx} (1 - x^2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} dx.$$

**Lemma 7.** For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| J_n(t\sqrt{n}) - \left(1 - \frac{t^4}{4n}\right) e^{-t^2/2} \right| &\leq \frac{c}{n^2} \min\{1, t^4\}, \\ \left| (J_n(t\sqrt{n}))' + t \left(1 + \frac{4t^2 - t^4}{4n}\right) e^{-t^2/2} \right| &\leq \frac{c}{n^2} \min\{1, |t|^3\}. \end{aligned}$$

## Linear part of characteristic functions

Let  $X$  be an isotropic random vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $l_t(\theta)$  be the linear part of the characteristic function

$$f_\theta(t) = \mathbb{E} e^{it\langle X, \theta \rangle}$$

as a function of  $\theta$  on the sphere. Squared  $L^2(\mathfrak{s}_{n-1})$ -norm:

$$I(t) = \|l_t\|_{L^2}^2 = n \mathbb{E}_\theta \mathbb{E}_{\theta'} \langle \theta, \theta' \rangle f_\theta(t) \bar{f}_{\theta'}(t).$$

Let  $Y$  be an independent copy of  $X$ . Lemma 7 implies:

**Lemma 8.** For any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$I(t) = \frac{t^2}{n} \mathbb{E} \langle X, Y \rangle \left( 1 - \frac{(U^2 + V^2) t^4 - 8R^2 t^2}{4n} \right) e^{-R^2 t^2} + O\left(\frac{t^2}{n^{5/2}}\right),$$

where

$$R^2 = \frac{|X|^2 + |Y|^2}{2n}, \quad U = \frac{|X|^2}{n}, \quad V = \frac{|Y|^2}{n}.$$

Putting  $T_0 = 4\sqrt{\log n}$ , we have

$$\int_0^{T_0} \frac{I(t)}{t^2} dt \leq \frac{c}{n} \mathbb{E} \frac{\langle X, Y \rangle}{R} + O\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{n^2}\right).$$

## Back to (the part of) Berry-Esseen

**Lemma 9.** If  $X$  has mean zero and Poincaré constant  $\lambda_1 > 0$ , then

$$\mathbb{E} \frac{\langle X, Y \rangle}{R} \leq \frac{c}{\lambda_1^2 n}.$$

Now, by Lemma 6, for  $|t| \leq An^{1/6}$ ,

$$c \|f_\theta(t) - f(t)\|_{\psi_1} \leq \sqrt{I(t)} + \frac{\Lambda t^2}{n},$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} c \left\| \int_0^{T_0} |f_\theta(t) - f(t)| \frac{dt}{t} \right\|_{\psi_1} &\leq c \int_0^{T_0} \|f_\theta(t) - f(t)\|_{\psi_1} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\leq \frac{\Lambda T_0^2}{2n} + \int_0^{T_0} \frac{\sqrt{I(t)}}{t} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Here, by Lemmas 8-9,

$$\int_0^{T_0} \frac{I(t)}{t^2} dt = O\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1^2 n^2}\right).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{T_0} \frac{\sqrt{I(t)}}{t} dt &\leq \sqrt{T_0} \left( \int_0^{T_0} \frac{I(t)}{t^2} dt \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \frac{c'}{\lambda_1 n} (\log n)^{1/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $\Lambda \leq \frac{4}{\lambda_1}$ .