# Moment methods in energy minimization 

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## Packing and energy minimization



Sphere packing
Kepler conjecture (1611)



Energy minimization
Thomson problem (1904)

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Spherical cap packing<br>Tammes problem (1930)

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- This talk: Methods to find obstructions


## The maximum independent set problem



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- Semidefinite program: optimize a linear functional over the intersection of an affine space with the cone of $n \times n$ positive semidefinite matrices
$3 \times 3$ positive semidefinite matrices with unit diagonal:


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- For this problem this reduces to the Delsarte LP bound

New bounds for binary packings


Sodium Chloride

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Density: $79.3 \ldots \%$

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- We slightly improve the Cohn-Elkies bound to give the best known bounds for sphere packing in dimensions $4-7$ and 9
- Question 2: Can we obtain arbitrarily good bounds?


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- Minimal energy:

$$
E=\min _{S \in I_{=N}} \sum_{P \subseteq S} h(P)
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then for every $l \geq t$, we can extend $\lambda$ to a moment measure $\bar{\lambda} \in \mathcal{M}\left(I_{2 l}\right)$

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- Idea: Optimize over truncated Fourier series of $K$


## Harmonic analysis on subset spaces

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- Decompose $\mathcal{C}\left(S^{2}\right)$ into irreducibles: Spherical harmonics


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- Let $V=S^{2}, \Gamma=O(3)$, and $t=2$
- Decompose $\mathcal{C}\left(S^{2}\right)$ into irreducibles: Spherical harmonics
- Decompose the tensor products: Clebsch-Gordan coefficients


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- We give a symmetrized version of Putinar's theorem to exploit the $S_{N}$ symmetry in the particles


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## Thank you!

- D. de Laat, Moment methods in energy minimization, In preparation.
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