

# STATE OF THE ART ON EQUIANGULAR LINES

By: Igor Balla

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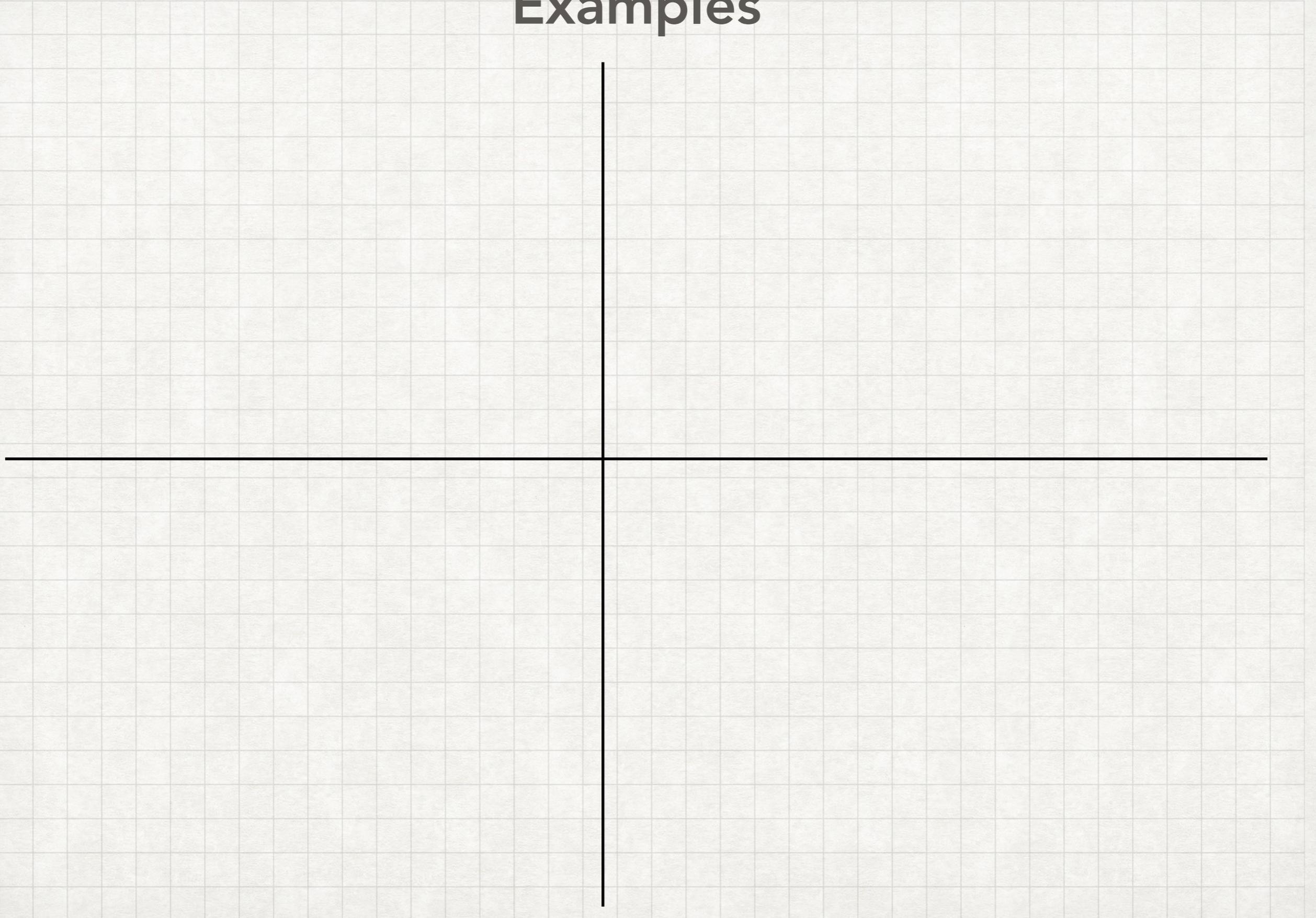
**Connections:**

- Elliptic geometry
- Frame theory
- Theory of polytopes
- Banach space theory
- Spectral graph theory
- Algebraic number theory
- Quantum information theory

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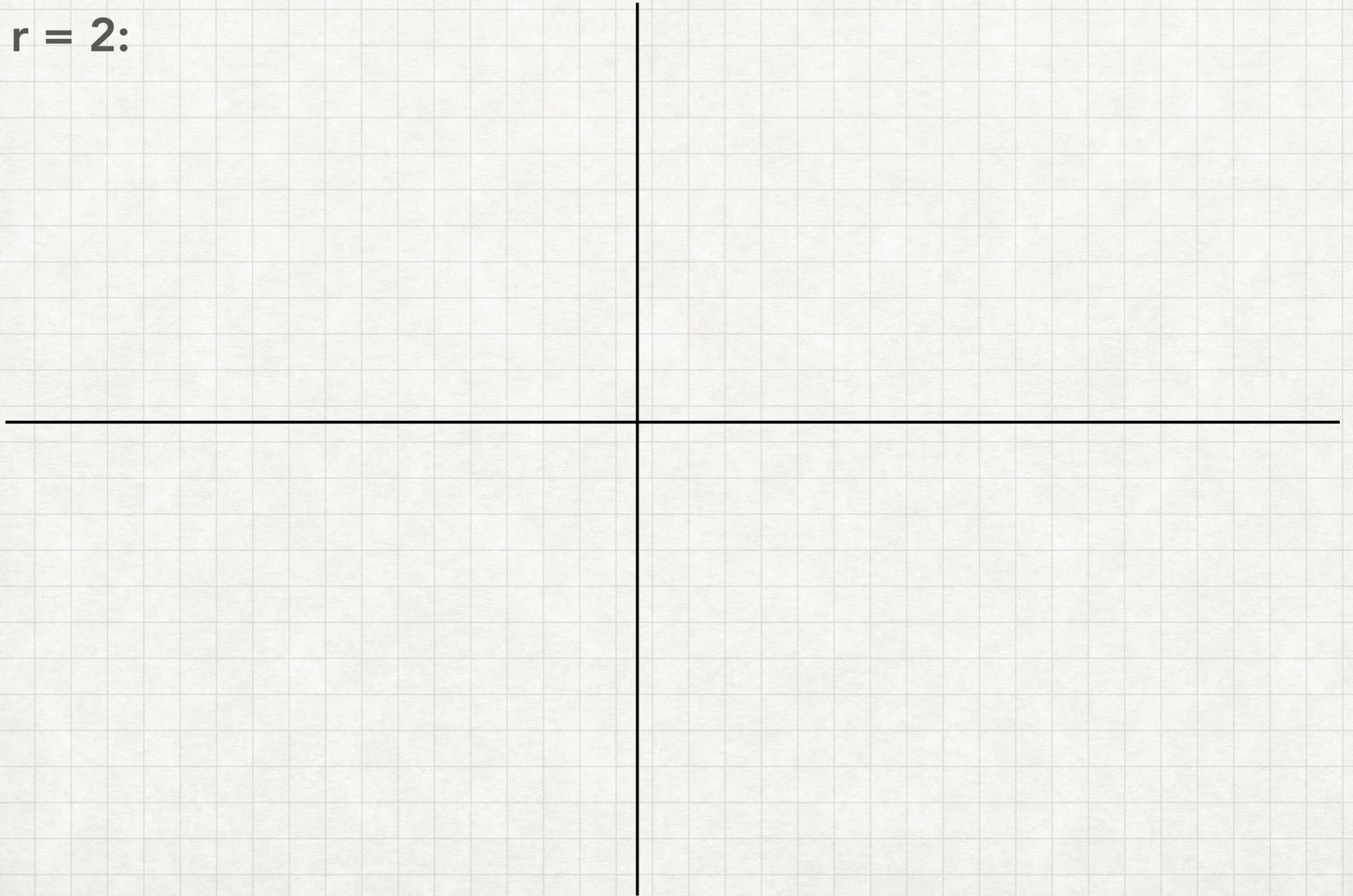
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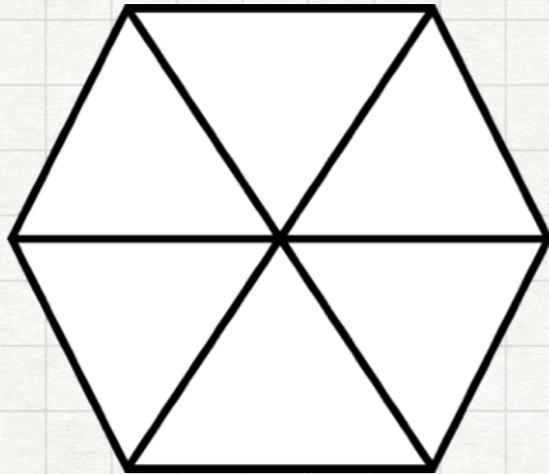
$r = 2:$



# Examples

$r = 2$ : Regular Hexagon

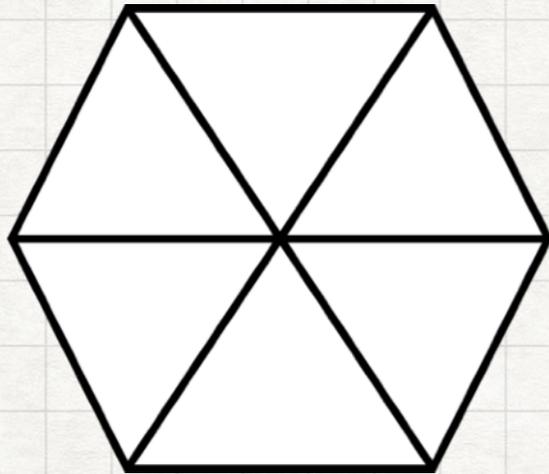
3 lines



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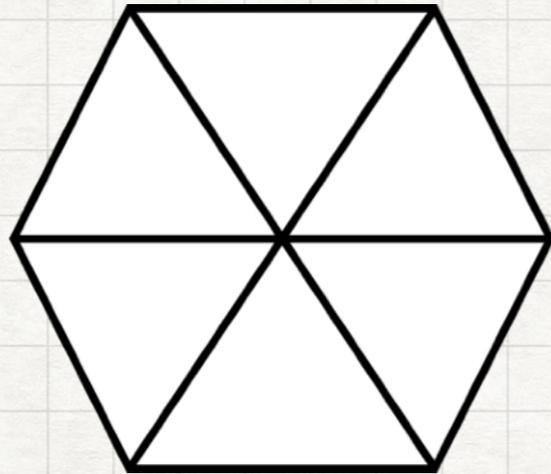


$r = 3$ :

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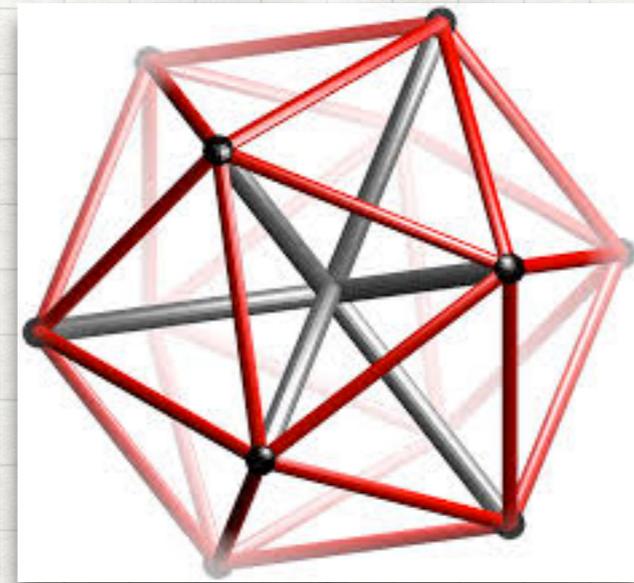
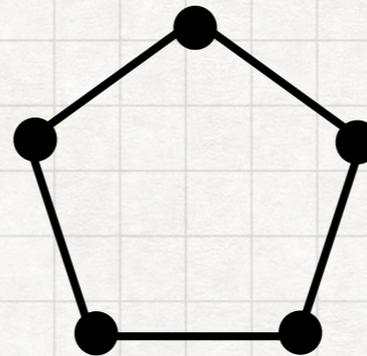
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$r = 3$ : Regular Icosahedron

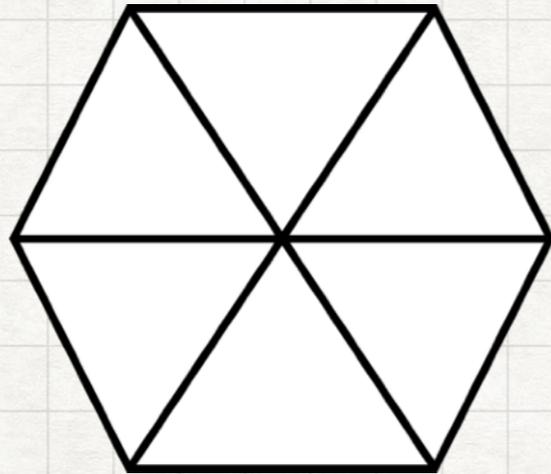
6 lines



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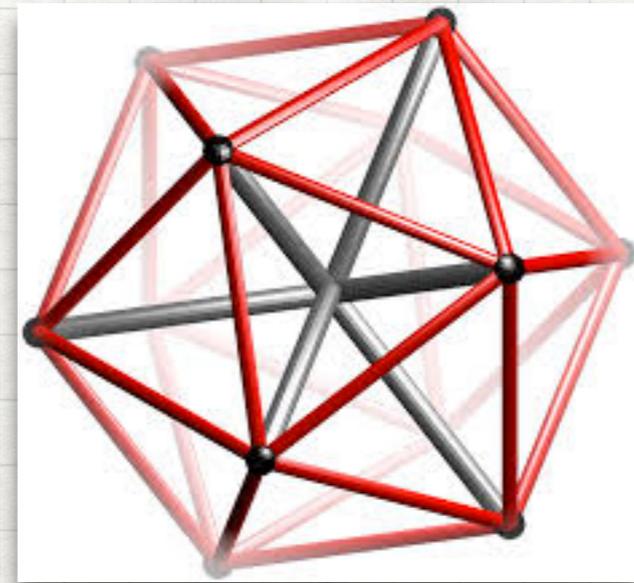
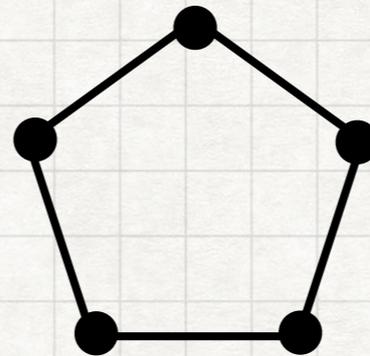
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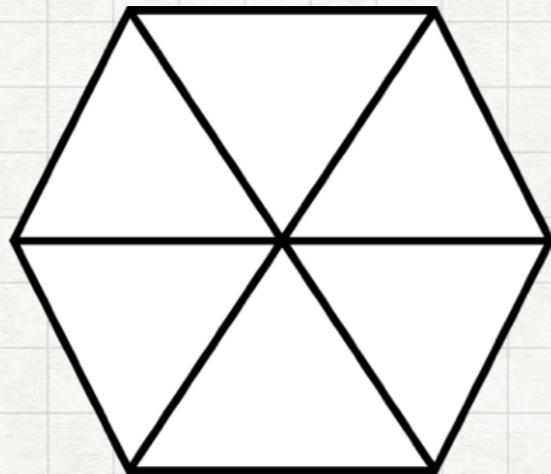


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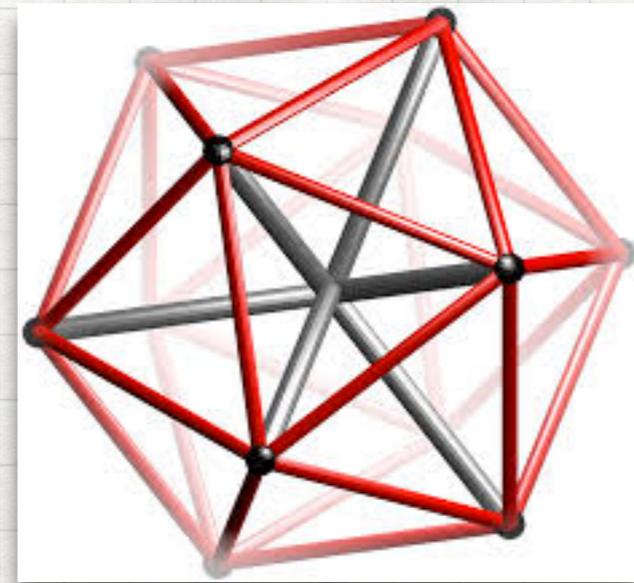
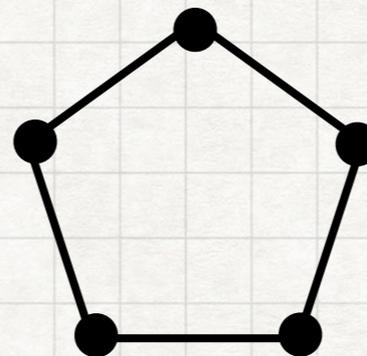
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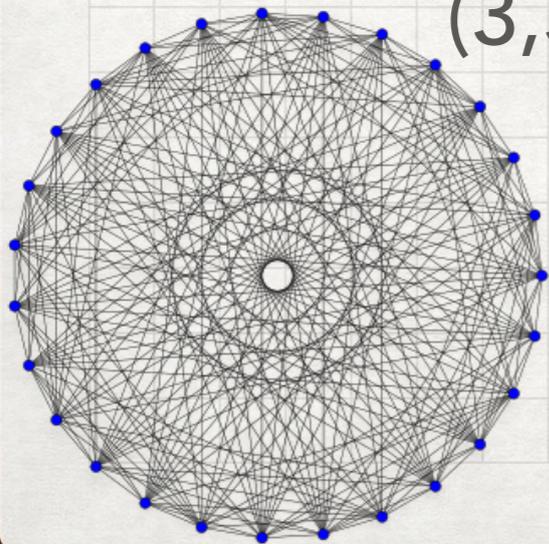


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28 lines

Take all 28  
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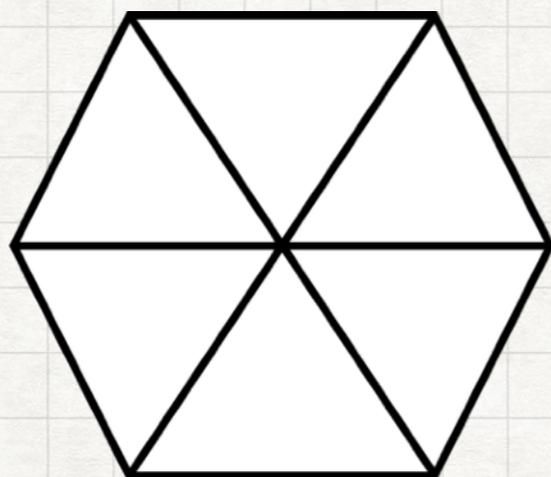


Schläfli Graph  
(E8 lattice)

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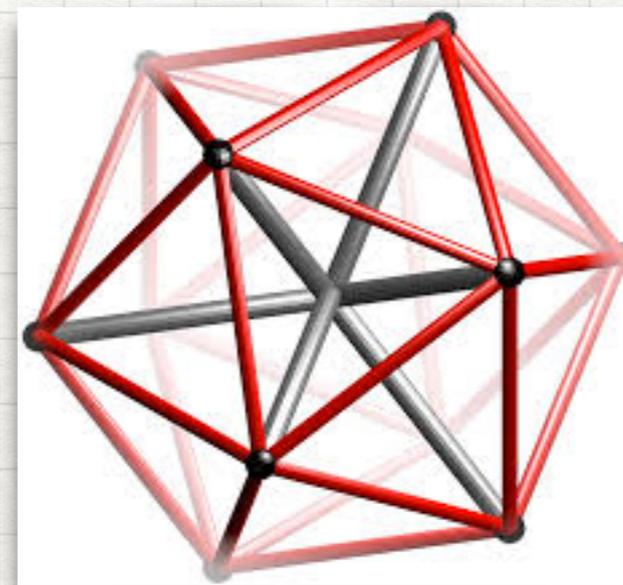
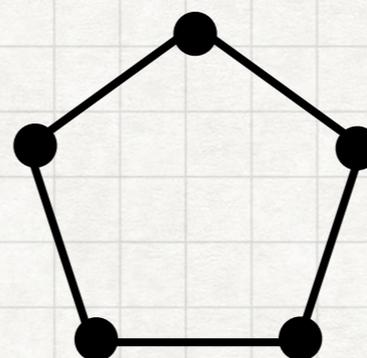
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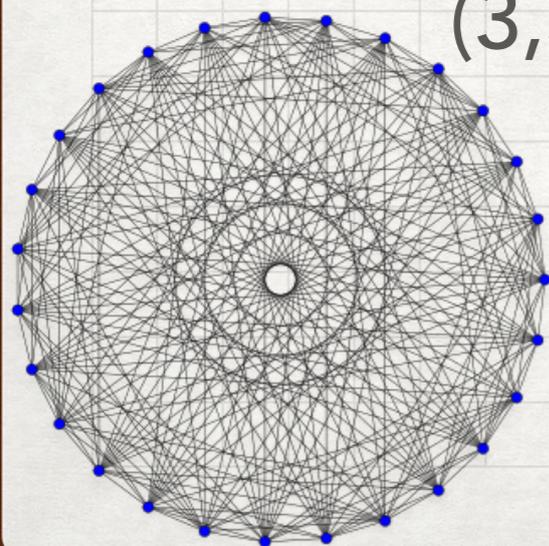


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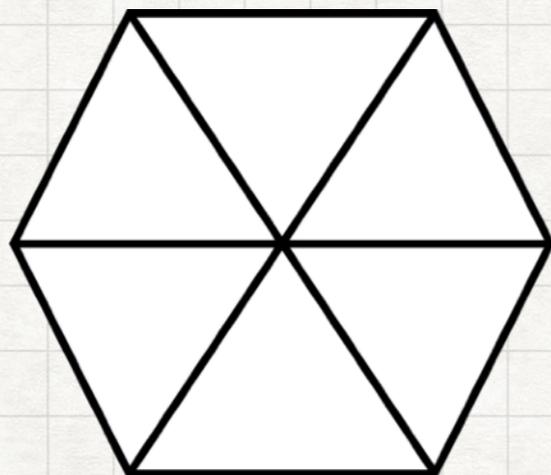
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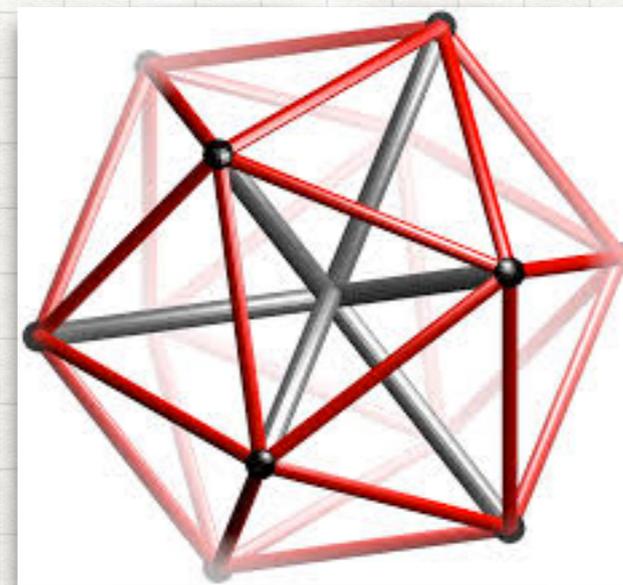
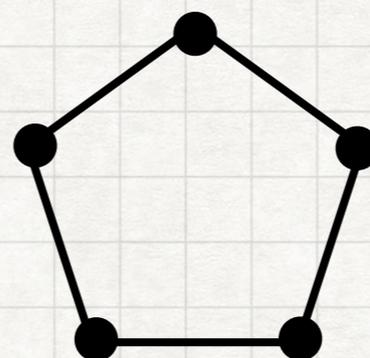
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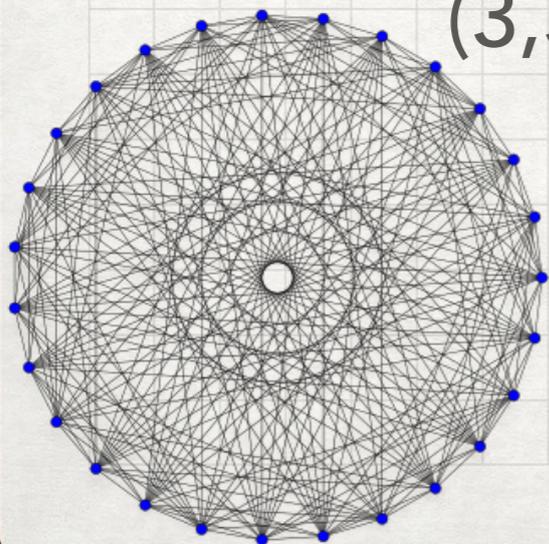


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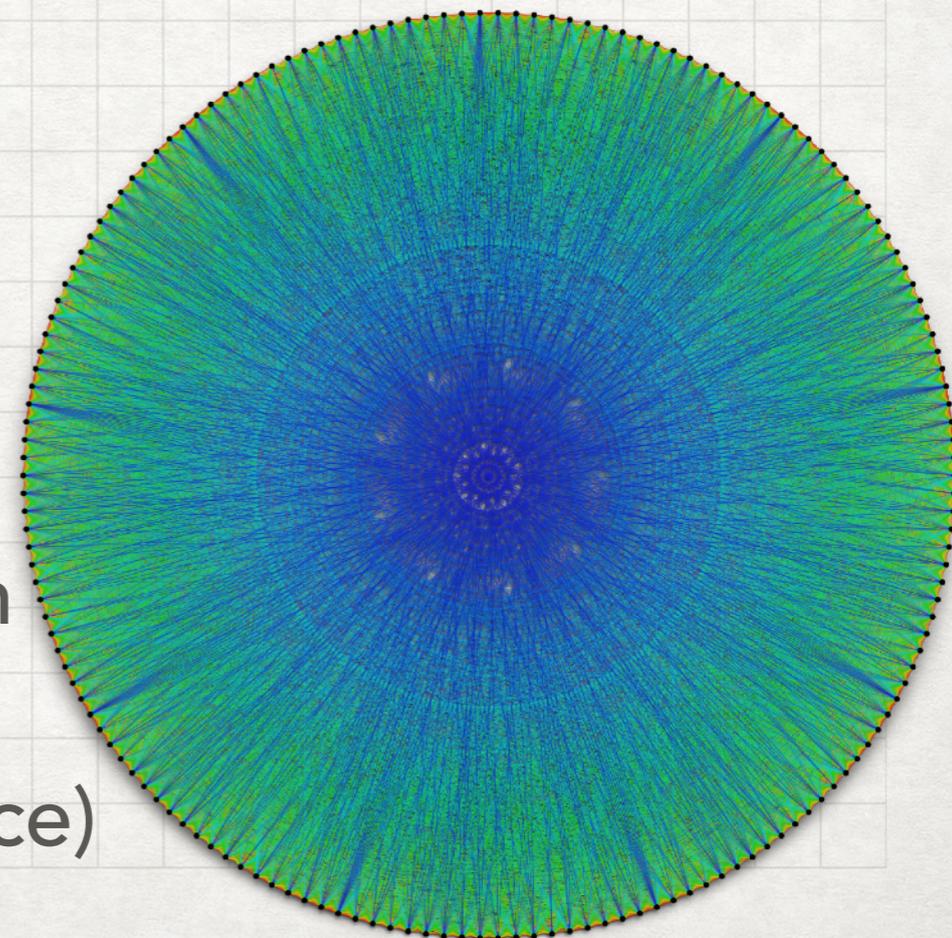


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McLaughlin Graph  
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Hence they are linearly independent. □

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**Theorem[Relative Bound]** (Lemmens, Seidel 73):  $N_\alpha(r) \leq r \frac{1-\alpha^2}{1-r\alpha^2}$   
for all  $r \leq 1/\alpha^2 - 2$ .

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**Theorem** (B., Dräxler, Keevash, Sudakov 17):  $N_\alpha(r) \leq 2r - 2$  if  $r$  is exponentially large in  $1/\alpha^2$ , with equality if and only if  $\alpha = 1/3$ .

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For  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} - 2 \leq r \lesssim \frac{1}{4\alpha^4}$ , equality occurs if and only if the absolute bound is tight in dimension  $\frac{1}{\alpha^2} - 2$

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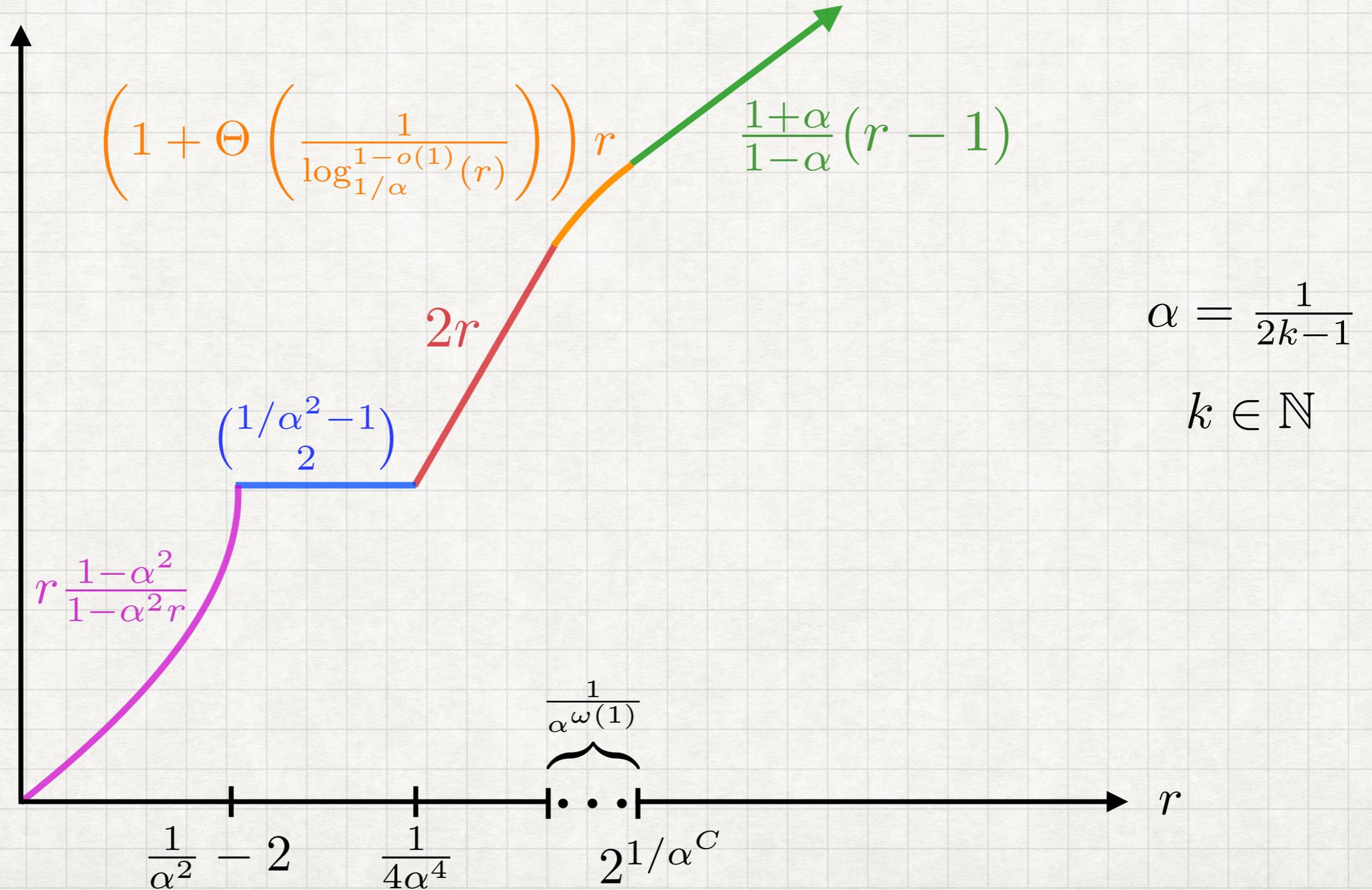
Theorem(B., Bucić 24): For any positive integer  $k$ , if  $r \geq 2^{\Omega(k^{20})}$

then

$$N_{\frac{1}{2k-1}}(r) = \left\lfloor \frac{r-1}{1-1/k} \right\rfloor.$$

# Recent progress

Upper bounds on  $N_\alpha(r)$



## Connection to spectral graph theory

Given a family of  $n$  equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{R}^r$  with common angle  $\arccos(\alpha)$ , we can pick a unit vector along each line to get vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  satisfying  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = \pm\alpha$  for all  $i \neq j$ .

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Consider the graph  $G$  with vertex set  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  such that  $v_i v_j \in E(G)$  if and only if  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = -\alpha$ .

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## Connection to spectral graph theory

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If  $n \geq r + 2$ , then its second largest eigenvalue is  $\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} - 1 \right)$  and has multiplicity at least  $n - r - 1$ .

# New bounds for the second eigenvalue of a graph

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**Theorem(B. 21-25):** Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -regular graph on  $n$  vertices with second eigenvalue  $\lambda_2$  and let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be fixed. Then

$$\lambda_2 \geq \begin{cases} \Omega(\sqrt{d}) & \text{if } 1 \leq d \leq n^{2/3} \\ \Omega(n/d) & \text{if } n^{2/3} < d \leq n^{3/4} \\ \Omega(d^{1/3}) & \text{if } n^{3/4} < d \leq (1/2 - \varepsilon)n. \end{cases}$$

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**Theorem(B., Bucić 24):** Let  $G$  be a graph  $n$  on vertices with second eigenvalue  $\lambda_2 > 0$  and maximum degree  $\Delta \geq 2$ . Then the multiplicity of  $\lambda_2$  satisfies

$$m(\lambda_2) \leq \max \left\{ \frac{n}{\lambda_2^{1-o(1)}}, \frac{n}{(\log_{\Delta} n)^{1-o(1)}} \right\}.$$

Moreover, if  $n \geq 2^{\Delta^{\Omega(1)}}$ , then  $m(\lambda_2) \leq \frac{n}{\lambda_2+1} + n^{o(1)}$ .

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The second bound  $n \leq (2 + o(1))r$  then follows by applying the inequality  $\text{tr}(H)^2 \leq \text{rk}(H)\text{tr}(H^2)$  with  $H = M - \alpha J$ .  $\square$

# New results in the complex setting

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Given a pair of complex lines  $U, V \subset \mathbb{C}^r$ , the quantity  $|\langle u, v \rangle|$  is the same for all unit vectors  $u \in U, v \in V$  and so  $\arccos |\langle u, v \rangle|$  is called the **Hermitian angle** between  $U$  and  $V$ .

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**Conjecture** (Zauner 99): For each  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\max_\alpha N_\alpha^{\mathbb{C}}(r) = r^2$  and a construction can be obtained as the orbit of a vector under the action of a Weyl-Heisenberg group.

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Collections of  $r^2$  complex equiangular lines in  $\mathbb{C}^r$  are known as SIC-POVMs/SICs in quantum information theory.

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**Theorem[Relative Bound]** (Delsarte, Goethals, Seidel 75):

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**Theorem(B.):** If  $r \leq \frac{1-o(1)}{\alpha^3}$ , then  $N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r) \leq \left(\frac{1}{\alpha^2} - 1\right)^2$ , with equality if and only if there exists a SIC in  $1/\alpha^2 - 1$  dimensions.

Otherwise  $N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r) \leq \frac{1+\alpha}{\alpha} r + O\left(\frac{1}{\alpha^3}\right)$ .

## Future directions for research

- Unit vectors corresponding to equiangular lines are equivalently spherical  $\{\alpha, -\alpha\}$ -codes. Extend methods to more general spherical  $L$ -codes.
- Determine  $N_{\alpha}^{\mathbb{C}}(r)$ .
- Generalize to other graph matrices (ex: Laplacian).
- Generalize to equiangular subspaces.
- Is there a constant  $C > 0$  such that if  $n \geq \Delta^C$ , then any graph with  $n$  vertices and max degree  $\Delta$  has second eigenvalue multiplicity  $m(\lambda_2) \lesssim \frac{n}{\lambda_2}$ ?

