

# Inequalities for the Radon transform on convex sets.

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joint work with A.Giannopoulos and A.Zvavitch

**Theorem 1.** Let  $K$  and  $L$  be star bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $0 < k < n$  be an integer, and let  $f, g$  be non-negative continuous functions on  $K$  and  $L$ , respectively, so that  $\|g\|_\infty = g(0) = 1$ . Then

$$\frac{\int_K f}{\left(\int_L g\right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}} \leq \frac{n}{n-k} \left(d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)\right)^k \max_{H \in Gr_{n-k}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g}.$$

Here  $|K|$  is volume of proper dimension,  $Gr_{n-k}$  is the Grassmanian of  $(n-k)$ -dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\mathcal{BP}_k^n$  is the class of generalized  $k$ -intersection bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

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**Theorem 2.** Let  $K$  and  $L$  be two bounded Borel sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two bounded non-negative measurable functions on  $K$  and  $L$ , respectively, and assume that  $\|g\|_1 > 0$  and  $\|g\|_\infty = 1$ . For every  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$  we have that

$$\frac{\int_K f}{\left(\int_L g\right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}} \leq (C \cdot \text{ovr}(K))^k \max_{H \in Gr_{n-k}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g},$$

where  $C > 0$  is an absolute constant.

If  $K$  is symmetric convex then both constants are  $\leq \sqrt{n}$ .

The **outer volume ratio distance** from a star body  $K$  to the class  $\mathcal{BP}_k^n$  is defined by

$$d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n) = \inf \left\{ \left( \frac{|D|}{|K|} \right)^{1/n} : K \subset D, D \in \mathcal{BP}_k^n \right\}.$$

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It was proved in K., Paouris, Zymonopoulou (2013) that for any origin-symmetric convex body  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n) \leq C \sqrt{\frac{n}{k}} \log^{\frac{3}{2}} \left( \frac{en}{k} \right).$$

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For many classes of bodies, this distance is bounded by an absolute constant. It was proved in K. (2015) that for unconditional convex bodies  $K$  one has  $d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n) \leq e$ . If  $K$  is the unit ball of an  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $L_p$ ,  $p > 2$ , the distance is less than  $c\sqrt{p}$ , where  $c > 0$  is an absolute constant, as shown by E. Milman and K.-Pajor. The unit balls of subspaces of  $L_p$  with  $0 < p \leq 2$  belong to the classes  $\mathcal{BP}_k^n$  for all  $k, n$  (K., 1998), so the distance for these bodies is equal to 1.

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**The outer volume ratio** of  $K$  is defined by

$$\text{ovr}(K) = \inf \left\{ \left( \frac{|\mathcal{E}|}{|K|} \right)^{1/n} : \mathcal{E} \text{ origin-symmetric ellipsoids such that } K \subseteq \mathcal{E} \right\}.$$

**Slicing problem:** Does there exist an absolute constant  $C$  so that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , any  $0 < k < n$  and any origin-symmetric convex body  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$|K|^{\frac{n-k}{n}} \leq C^k \max_{H \in \text{Gr}_{n-k}} |K \cap H| ?$$



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Bourgain (1991) proved that  $C \leq O(n^{1/4} \log n)$ . Klartag (2006) removed the logarithmic term from Bourgain's estimate. Chen (2021) proved that  $C \leq o(n^\epsilon)$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , as the dimension goes to infinity.

# Slicing inequality for arbitrary functions

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An extension of the slicing problem to arbitrary functions was proved in K. (2015): for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , any star body  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and any non-negative continuous function  $f$  on  $K$ ,

$$\int_K f \leq (e \cdot d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k |K|^{k/n} \max_{H \in \text{Gr}_{n-k}} \int_{K \cap H} f.$$

If  $K$  is symmetric convex, by John's theorem,

$$\int_K f \leq (e\sqrt{n})^k |K|^{k/n} \max_{H \in \text{Gr}_{n-k}} \int_{K \cap H} f.$$

$$\frac{\int_K f}{\left(\int_L g\right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}} \leq \frac{n}{n-k} \left(d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)\right)^k \max_{H \in \mathcal{G}_{n-k}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g}.$$

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**Slicing inequality:** Put  $L = B_2^n$  and  $g \equiv 1$ :

$$\int_K f \leq \frac{n}{n-k} \frac{|B_2^n|^{\frac{n-k}{n}}}{|B_2^{n-k}|} \left(d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)\right)^k |K|^{\frac{k}{n}} \max_H \int_{K \cap H} f.$$

Note that the constant  $\frac{|B_2^n|^{\frac{n-k}{n}}}{|B_2^{n-k}|}$  is less than 1, and  $\frac{n}{n-k} \leq e^k$ .

$$\frac{\int_K f}{\left(\int_L g\right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}} \leq \frac{n}{n-k} \left(d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)\right)^k \max_{H \in \mathcal{G}_{r_{n-k}}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g}.$$

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**Mean value inequality for the Radon transform:** Let  $K = L$ , and  $g \equiv 1$ . Then

$$\frac{\int_K f}{|K|} \leq \frac{n}{n-k} \left(d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)\right)^k \max_H \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{|K \cap H|}.$$

**The Busemann-Petty problem** (1956): Let  $K$  and  $L$  be origin-symmetric convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and suppose that the  $(n-1)$ -dimensional volume of every central hyperplane section of  $K$  is smaller than the corresponding one for  $L$ , i.e.  $|K \cap \xi^\perp| \leq |L \cap \xi^\perp|$  for every  $\xi \in S^{n-1}$ . Here  $\xi^\perp = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x, \xi \rangle = 0\}$  is the central hyperplane perpendicular to  $\xi \in S^{n-1}$ . Does it necessarily follow that the  $n$ -dimensional volume of  $K$  is smaller than the volume of  $L$ , i.e.  $|K| \leq |L|$ ?

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The answer is affirmative if the dimension  $n \leq 4$ , and it is negative when  $n \geq 5$ .  
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An extension of the Busemann-Petty problem to arbitrary functions was found by Zvavitch (2005). Suppose that  $f$  is an even continuous strictly positive function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $K$  and  $L$  are origin-symmetric convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  so that

$$\int_{K \cap \xi^\perp} f \leq \int_{L \cap \xi^\perp} f, \quad \forall \xi \in S^{n-1}.$$

Does it necessarily follow that  $\int_K f \leq \int_L f$ ? The answer is the same as for the volume, affirmative if  $n \leq 4$  and negative if  $n \geq 5$ .



**Isomorphic Busemann-Petty problem:** Does there exist an absolute constant  $C$  so that for any dimension  $n$ , any  $0 < k < n$ , and any pair of origin-symmetric convex bodies  $K$  and  $L$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying

$$|K \cap H| \leq |L \cap H|, \quad \forall H \in Gr_{n-k},$$

we have

$$|K|^{\frac{n-k}{n}} \leq C^k |L|^{\frac{n-k}{n}}?$$

**Isomorphic Busemann-Petty problem:** Does there exist an absolute constant  $C$  so that for any dimension  $n$ , any  $0 < k < n$ , and any pair of origin-symmetric convex bodies  $K$  and  $L$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying

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K. (2015):

$$|K|^{\frac{n-k}{n}} \leq (d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k |L|^{\frac{n-k}{n}}.$$

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We show a little stronger result:

$$\left( \frac{|K|}{|L|} \right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} \leq (d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k \max_{H \in Gr_{n-k}} \frac{|K \cap H|}{|L \cap H|}.$$

K., Zvavitch (2015): Suppose that  $f$  is a non-negative continuous function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $0 < k < n$ ,  $K, L$  are star bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  so that

$$\int_{K \cap H} f \leq \int_{L \cap H} f, \quad \forall H \in Gr_{n-k}.$$

Then

$$\int_K f \leq (d_{BM}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k \int_L f,$$

where

$$d_{BM}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n) = \inf\{a > 0 : \exists D \in \mathcal{BP}_k^n : D \subset K \subset aD\}$$

is the Banach-Mazur distance from  $K$  to the class of generalized  $k$ -intersection bodies.

Another version of the isomorphic Busemann-Petty problem was proved in K., Paouris, Zvavitch (2019+). Let  $K$  and  $L$  be star bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $0 < k < n$  be an integer, and let  $f, g$  be non-negative continuous functions on  $K$  and  $L$ , respectively, so that  $\|g\|_\infty = g(0) = 1$ ,

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then

$$\int_K f \leq \frac{n}{n-k} (d_{\text{OVR}}(K, BP_k^n))^k |K|^{\frac{k}{n}} \left( \int_L g \right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}}.$$

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Follows from Theorem 1:

$$\frac{\int_K f}{\left( \int_L g \right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}} \leq \frac{n}{n-k} (d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k \max_{H \in Gr_{n-k}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g}.$$

We need several definitions and facts. A closed bounded set  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called a *star body* if every straight line passing through the origin crosses the boundary of  $K$  at exactly two points different from the origin, the origin is an interior point of  $K$ , and the *Minkowski functional* of  $K$  defined by

$$\|x\|_K = \min\{a \geq 0 : x \in aK\}$$

is a continuous function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We use the polar formula for the volume  $|K|$  of a star body  $K$  :

$$|K| = \frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \|\theta\|_K^{-n} d\theta.$$

If  $f$  is a continuous function on  $K$ , then

$$\int_K f = \int_{S^{n-1}} \left( \int_0^{\|\theta\|_K^{-1}} r^{n-1} f(r\theta) dr \right) d\theta.$$

For  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ , the  $(n-k)$ -dimensional spherical Radon transform  $R_{n-k} : C(S^{n-1}) \rightarrow C(Gr_{n-k})$  is a linear operator defined by

$$R_{n-k}g(H) = \int_{S^{n-1} \cap H} g(x) \, dx, \quad \forall H \in Gr_{n-k}$$

for every function  $g \in C(S^{n-1})$ .



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For an integrable function  $f$  and any  $H \in Gr_{n-k}$ ,

$$\int_{K \cap H} f = R_{n-k} \left( \int_0^{\|\cdot\|_K^{-1}} r^{n-k-1} f(r \cdot) dr \right) (H).$$

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The class of intersection bodies was introduced by Lutwak, and generalized by Zhang, as follows. An origin symmetric star body  $D$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called a **generalized  $k$ -intersection body**, and we write  $D \in \mathcal{BP}_k^n$ , if there exists a finite Borel non-negative measure  $\nu_D$  on  $Gr_{n-k}$  so that for every  $g \in C(S^{n-1})$

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} \|x\|_D^{-k} g(x) dx = \int_{Gr_{n-k}} R_{n-k}g(H) d\nu_D(H).$$

When  $k=1$  we get the original Lutwak's class of **intersection bodies**

$$\mathcal{BP}_1^n = \mathcal{I}_n$$

For a small  $\delta > 0$ , let  $D \in \mathcal{BP}_k^n$  be a body such that  $K \subset D$  and

$$|D|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq (1 + \delta) d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n) |K|^{\frac{1}{n}}, \quad (1)$$

and let  $\nu_D$  be the measure on  $Gr_{n-k}$  corresponding to  $D$  by the definition of intersection bodies. Let  $\varepsilon = \max_H \int_{K \cap H} f / \int_{L \cap H} g$ , then

$$\int_{K \cap H} f \leq \varepsilon \int_{L \cap H} g, \quad \forall H \in Gr_{n-k}.$$

Writing this in terms of the Radon transform

$$R_{n-k} \left( \int_0^{\|\cdot\|_K^{-1}} r^{n-k-1} f(r \cdot) dr \right) (H) \leq \varepsilon R_{n-k} \left( \int_0^{\|\cdot\|_L^{-1}} r^{n-k-1} g(r \cdot) dr \right) (H)$$

for every  $H \in Gr_{n-k}$ . Integrating both sides of the latter inequality with respect to  $\nu_D$  and using the definition of intersection bodies, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{S^{n-1}} \|x\|_D^{-k} \left( \int_0^{\|x\|_K^{-1}} r^{n-k-1} f(rx) dr \right) dx \\ & \leq \varepsilon \int_{S^{n-1}} \|x\|_D^{-k} \left( \int_0^{\|x\|_L^{-1}} r^{n-k-1} g(rx) dr \right) dx, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

which is equivalent to

$$\int_K \|x\|_D^{-k} f(x) dx \leq \varepsilon \int_L \|x\|_D^{-k} g(x) dx. \quad (3)$$

Since  $K \subset D$ , we have  $1 \geq \|x\|_K \geq \|x\|_D$  for every  $x \in K$ . Therefore,

$$\int_K \|x\|_D^{-k} f(x) dx \geq \int_K \|x\|_K^{-k} f(x) dx \geq \int_K f.$$

On the other hand, by a result of V. Milman-Pajor (recall that  $g(0) = \|g\|_\infty = 1$ ),

$$\left( \frac{\int_L \|x\|_D^{-k} g(x) dx}{\int_D \|x\|_D^{-k} dx} \right)^{1/(n-k)} \leq \left( \frac{\int_L g(x) dx}{\int_D dx} \right)^{1/n}.$$

Since  $\int_D \|x\|_D^{-k} dx = \frac{n}{n-k} |D|$ , we can estimate the right-hand side of (3) by

$$\int_L \|x\|_D^{-k} g(x) dx \leq \varepsilon \frac{n}{n-k} \left( \int_L g \right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} |D|^{\frac{k}{n}}.$$

Applying (1) and sending  $\delta$  to zero, we see that the latter inequality in conjunction with (3) implies

$$\int_K f \leq \varepsilon \frac{n}{n-k} (d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k |K|^{\frac{k}{n}}.$$

Now recall that  $\varepsilon = \max_{H \in \mathcal{G}_{n-k}} \frac{\int_{K \cap H} f}{\int_{L \cap H} g}$ .

□

We say that a compact set  $K$  with volume 1 in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is in isotropic position if for each  $\xi \in S^{n-1}$

$$\int_K \langle x, \xi \rangle^2 dx = L_K^2$$

where  $L_K$  is a constant that is called the isotropic constant of  $K$ .

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Hensley has proved that there exist absolute constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  so that for any origin-symmetric convex body  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in isotropic position and any  $\xi \in S^{n-1}$

$$\frac{c_1}{L_K} \leq |K \cap \xi^\perp| \leq \frac{c_2}{L_K}.$$

The following inequality was proved by E. Milman.

## Theorem

*For any origin-symmetric isotropic convex body  $K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$*

$$L_K \leq C d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{I}_n),$$

*where  $C$  is an absolute constant.*

**Proof :** Using

$$\left(\frac{|K|}{|D|}\right)^{\frac{n-k}{n}} \leq (d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n))^k \max_{H \in \text{Gr}_{n-k}} \frac{|K \cap H|}{|D \cap H|}.$$

with  $k = 1$  and Hensley's theorem, for any origin-symmetric isotropic convex bodies  $K, D$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$1 \leq d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{I}_n) \max_{\xi \in S^{n-1}} \frac{|K \cap \xi^\perp|}{|D \cap \xi^\perp|} \leq d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{I}_n) \frac{c_2 L_K}{c_1 L_D},$$

where  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  are absolute constants, so

$$\frac{L_K}{L_D} \leq C d_{\text{OVR}}(K, \mathcal{I}_n).$$

Now put  $D = B_2^n / |B_2^n|^{\frac{1}{n}}$ , and use the fact that  $L_D$  is bounded by an absolute constant.

□