

Sobolev and Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinors

Jean Dolbeault

<http://www.ceremade.dauphine.fr/~dolbeaul>

Ceremade, Université Paris-Dauphine

February 5, 2025

Workshop *Dynamical and Quantum Systems*

Eric Séré's Birthday

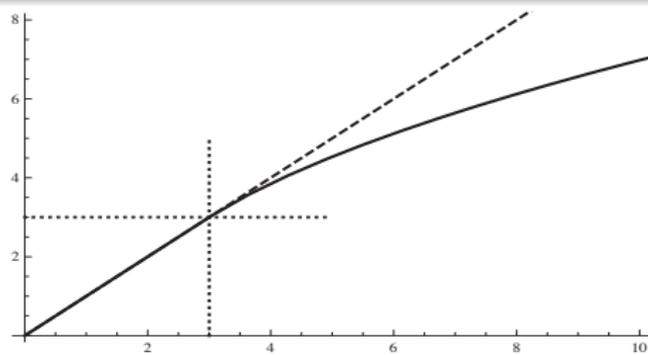
Nice, February 5 & 6, 2026

Outline

- 1 Scalar inequalities, symmetry breaking, phase transitions
 - Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequalities on \mathbb{S}^d
 - Critical Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities, stability

- 2 Spinors: Sobolev & Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities
 - Symmetry results for spinors in dimension $d = 3$
 - Symmetry results for spinors in dimension $d = 2$
 - A Sobolev/Keller inequality for a Dirac operator

Bifurcation and phase transition in GNS inequalities



$\lambda \mapsto \mu(\lambda)$ on \mathbb{S}^d with $d = 3$

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{p-2} \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \geq \frac{\mu(\lambda)}{p-2} \|u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2$$

Taylor expansion of $u = 1 + \varepsilon \varphi_1$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ with $-\Delta \varphi_1 = d \varphi_1$

$$\mu(\lambda) < \lambda \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \lambda > d$$

▷ The inequality holds with $\mu(\lambda) = \lambda = d$ [Bakry, Emery, 1985]
[Beckner, 1993], [Bidaut-Véron, Véron, 1991, Corollary 6.1]

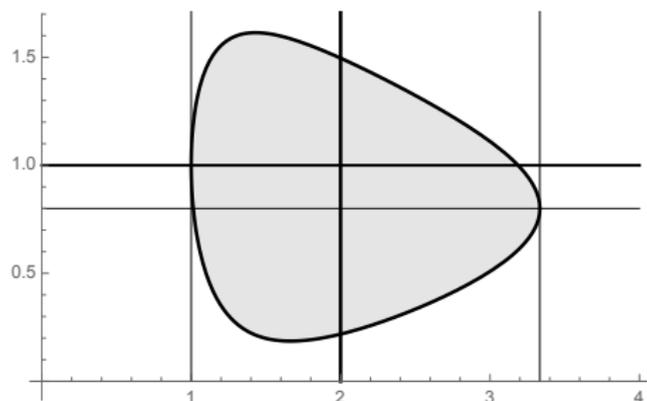
Carré du champ – admissible parameters on \mathbb{S}^d

[JD, Esteban, Kowalczyk, Loss] Monotonicity of the deficit

$$\|\nabla F\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 - \frac{d}{p-2} \left(\|F\|_{L^p(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 - \|F\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \right)$$

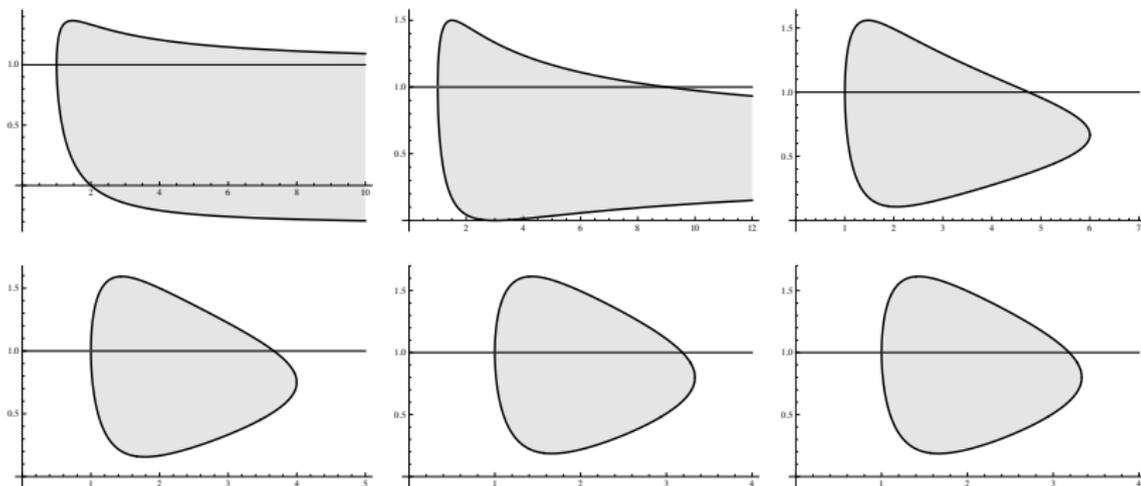
along

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = u^{-p(1-m)} \left(\Delta u + (mp - 1) \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{u} \right)$$



Case $d = 5$: admissible parameters $1 \leq p \leq 2^* = 10/3$ and m
(horizontal axis: p , vertical axis: m). Improved inequalities inside!

Admissible parameters



$d = 1, 2, 3$ (first line) and $d = 4, 5$ and 10 (second line)
the curves $p \mapsto m_{\pm}(p)$ determine the admissible parameters (p, m)
[JD, Esteban, Kowalczyk, Loss 2014]

$$m_{\pm}(d, p) := \frac{1}{(d+2)^p} \left(dp + 2 \pm \sqrt{d(p-1)(2d - (d-2)p)} \right)$$

Another Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality

$$\left(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{p-2} \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \right)^\theta \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^{2(1-\theta)} \geq \left(\frac{\mu(p, \theta, \lambda)}{p-2} \right)^\theta \|u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2$$

- *Symmetry* holds if $\mu(p, \theta, \lambda) = \lambda$, optimal functions are constant
- *Symmetry breaking* if $\lambda > d\theta$: take $u_\varepsilon := 1 + \varepsilon\varphi$, $\Delta\varphi + d\varphi = 0$

Bakry-Emery exponent : $2^\#$. Take $p \in (2, 2^\#]$

$$2^\# := +\infty \text{ if } d = 1, \quad 2^\# := (2d^2 + 1)/(d-1)^2 \text{ if } d \geq 2$$

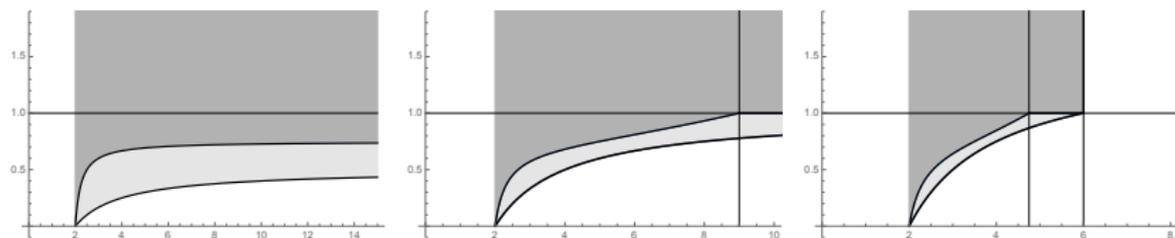
$$\theta^\# := 3 \frac{p-2}{4p-7} \text{ if } d = 1, \quad \theta^\# := 1 + \frac{(p-1)(2^\#-p)}{p-2} \left(\frac{d-1}{d+2} \right)^2 \text{ if } d \geq 2$$

Proposition

Let $d \geq 1$, $p \in (2, 2^\#)$, and $\theta \geq \theta^\#$. The function $\lambda \mapsto \mu(p, \theta, \lambda)$ is monotone increasing, concave and $\mu(p, \theta, \lambda) < \lambda$ if and only if $\lambda > d\theta$

[JD, Esteban, 2019]

Parameter range and qualitative results



horizontal axis: θ , vertical axis: p
in dimensions $d = 1$, $d = 2$ and $d = 3$ (from left to right)

Theorem

Let $d \geq 1$, $p \in (2, 2^*)$ and $\theta > \theta_* := d(p-2)/(2p)$

The function $\lambda \mapsto \mu(p, \theta, \lambda)$ is monotone increasing, concave

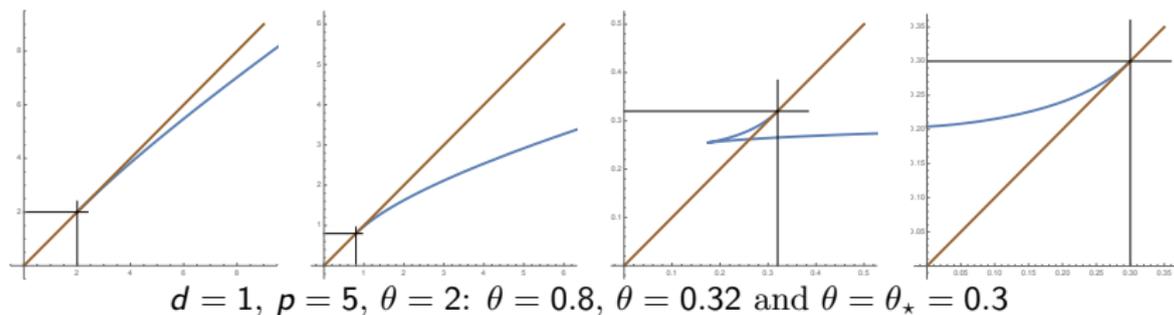
$$\mu(p, \theta, \lambda) \sim \kappa \lambda^{1-\theta_*/\theta} \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$\mu(p, \theta, \lambda) \leq \lambda \text{ and } \mu(p, \theta, \lambda) < \lambda \text{ if } \lambda > d\theta$$

$$\mu(p, \theta, \lambda) = \lambda \text{ if } \lambda \leq d\theta, \theta \geq \theta^\#, p \in (2, 2^\#] \text{ or } p > 2 \text{ if } d = 1$$

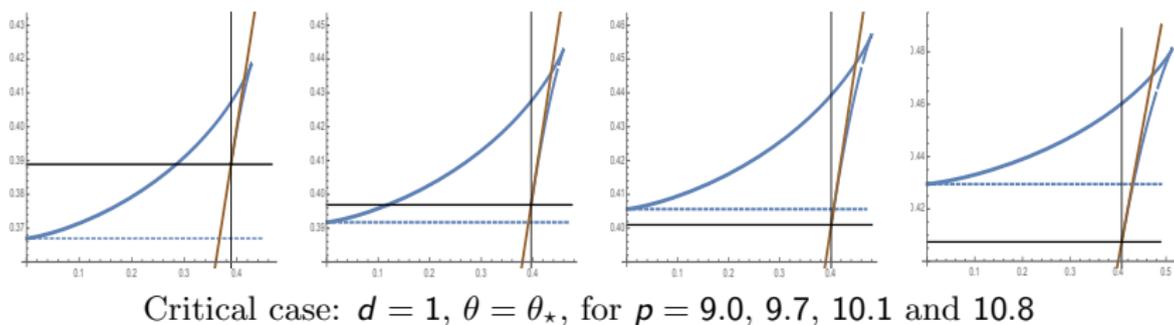
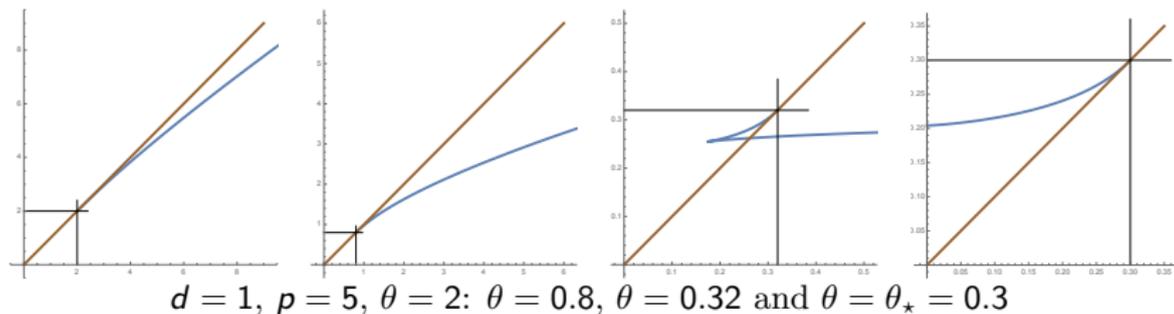
Second and first order phase transitions

[Bou Dagher, JD, 2024]

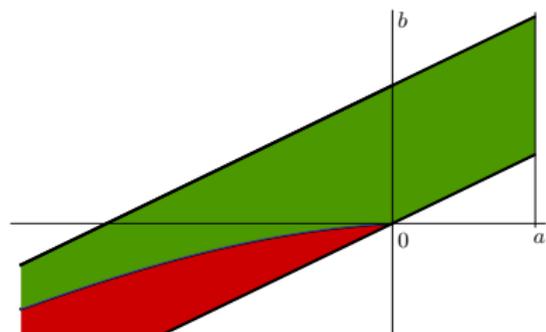


Second and first order phase transitions

[Bou Dagher, JD, 2024]



The critical Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequality



$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|v|^p}{|x|^{bp}} dx \right)^{2/p} \leq C_{a,b} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla v|^2}{|x|^{2a}} dx$$

$$a \leq b \leq a + 1, a < a_c, d \geq 3$$

$$p = \frac{2d}{d-2+2(b-a)} > 0, a_c = \frac{1}{2}(d-2)$$

▷ A radial optimal function:
 $v_*(x) = (1 + |x|^{(p-2)(a_c-a)})^{-2/(p-2)}$
 among radially symmetric functions

Theorem (JD, Esteban, Loss, 2015)

There is *symmetry*, i.e., $C_{a,b} = C_{a,b}^*$, and all optimal functions are radially symmetric if $b_{\text{FS}}(a) \leq b < a + 1$. If $a < b < b_{\text{FS}}(a)$, then there is *symmetry breaking*, $C_{a,b} > C_{a,b}^*$, and optimal functions are not radially symmetric.

[Caffarelli, Kohn, Nirenberg (1984)], [F. Catrina, Z.-Q. Wang (2001)]
 [Smets, Willem], [Catrina, Wang], [Felli, Schneider]
 [Bonforte, JD, Nazaret, Muratori], *etc.*

A new proof: rewriting of CKN

1) **Change of variables:** $v(r, \omega) = u(r^\alpha, \omega)$, $D_\alpha u = (\alpha \partial_r u, \nabla_\omega u)$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |D_\alpha u|^2 |x|^{n-d} dx \geq C_{\alpha, n} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u|^p |x|^{n-d} dx \right)^{2/p}$$

with $n = 2p/(p-2)$. Symmetry means that the Aubin-Talenti function $u_*(x) := (1 + |x|^2)^{-(n-2)/2}$ realizes the equality case

2) **Relative measure:** with $w = u/u_*$ and $d\mu_q(x) = |u_*(x)|^q |x|^{n-d} dx$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |D_\alpha w|^2 d\mu_2 dx + \frac{1}{4} \alpha^2 n(n-2) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |w|^2 d\mu_p dx \geq C_{\alpha, n} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |w|^p d\mu_p dx \right)^{2/p}$$

3) **Stereographic projection:** $w(x) = f(z, \omega)$ with $z = \frac{1-|x|^2}{1+|x|^2}$, $\omega = \frac{2x}{1+|x|^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} \left(\alpha^2 (1-z^2) |f'|^2 + \frac{|\nabla_\omega f|^2}{1-z^2} \right) d\sigma_n + \frac{\alpha^2}{4} n(n-2) \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |f|^2 d\sigma_n \\ \geq \mathcal{K}_{\alpha, n} \left(\int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |f|^p d\sigma_n \right)^{2/p} \end{aligned}$$

$$d\sigma_n = Z_n^{-1} (1-z^2)^{(n-2)/2} dz d\omega, \quad z \in [-1, +1], \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$$

Weighted fast diffusion on \mathbb{S}^d and *carré du champ*

Let $'$ and ∇ denote the derivatives with respect to $z \in [-1, 1]$ and $\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, Δ is the Laplace-Beltrami operator on \mathbb{S}^{d-1} and

$$\mathbf{D}v := \left(\alpha \sqrt{1-z^2} v', \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z^2}} \nabla v \right), \quad \mathbf{L}v := \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{D}v$$

$$\mathbf{L}v = \alpha^2 \mathcal{L}v + \frac{1}{1-z^2} \Delta v, \quad \mathcal{L}v := (1-z^2) v'' - n z v'$$

Weighted fast diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \mathbf{L}v^m = -\mathbf{D} \cdot (v \mathbf{D}P), \quad P = \frac{m}{1-m} v^{m-1}, \quad m = \frac{n-1}{n}, \quad p = \frac{2n}{n-2}$$

$$v = u^p \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}(t) := \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |\mathbf{D}u(t, \cdot)|^2 d\sigma_n + \frac{n\alpha^2}{p-2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |u(t, \cdot)|^2 d\sigma_n$$

Proposition

$$\mathcal{D}'(t) \leq 0 \text{ if } \alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}} := \sqrt{\frac{d-1}{n-1}}$$

- Nonlinear *carré du champ* techniques and Felli & Schneider (FS)
- [JD, Zhang, 2021]: weights $(1 + \varepsilon - z^2)$ in ultraspherical coordinates
- \implies First parabolic proof + stability results [Bou Dagher, JD, 2025]

Sobolev and Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinors

- ▷ Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinor valued functions in dimension $d = 3$
- ▷ Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinor valued functions in dimension $d = 2$
 - + an equivalent problem for Aharonov-Bohm magnetic fields
- ▷ A Keller / Sobolev inequality for Dirac operators

Symmetry results for spinors in dimension $d = 3$

We consider 2 -spinors, which are \mathbb{C}^2 -valued function

$$\mathbb{R}^3 \ni x \mapsto \psi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \psi_2(x) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$$

Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinors

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|\sigma \cdot \nabla \psi(x)|^2}{|x|^{2\alpha}} dx \geq C_{\alpha,\beta} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|\psi(x)|^p}{|x|^{\beta p}} dx \right)^{2/p} \quad (\text{SCKN})$$

where $\partial_j = \partial_{x_j}$ and the gradient term is defined by

$$\sigma \cdot \nabla \psi = \sum_{j=1}^3 \sigma_j \partial_j \psi$$

and $\sigma = (\sigma_j)_{j=1,2,3}$ is the family of the *Pauli matrices*

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\alpha \leq \beta \leq \alpha + 1$, $p = 6/(1 - 2\alpha + 2\beta)$, $C_{\alpha,\beta} \geq 0$ is the best constant

Symmetry for spinors

Proposition (JD, Esteban, Frank, Loss)

Let $\Lambda := \{k - \frac{1}{2} : k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}\}$

If $\alpha \in \Lambda$, then $C_{\alpha,\beta} = 0$ for all $\alpha \leq \beta \leq \alpha + 1$

If $\alpha \notin \Lambda$, then $C_{\alpha,\beta} > 0$ for all $\alpha \leq \beta \leq \alpha + 1$

Angular decomposition in eigenspaces of $\sigma \cdot L$

$$L^2(\mathbb{S}, \mathbb{C}^2; d\omega) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{-1\}} \mathcal{H}_k$$

where $L := \omega \wedge (-i \nabla)$ is the *angular momentum* operator

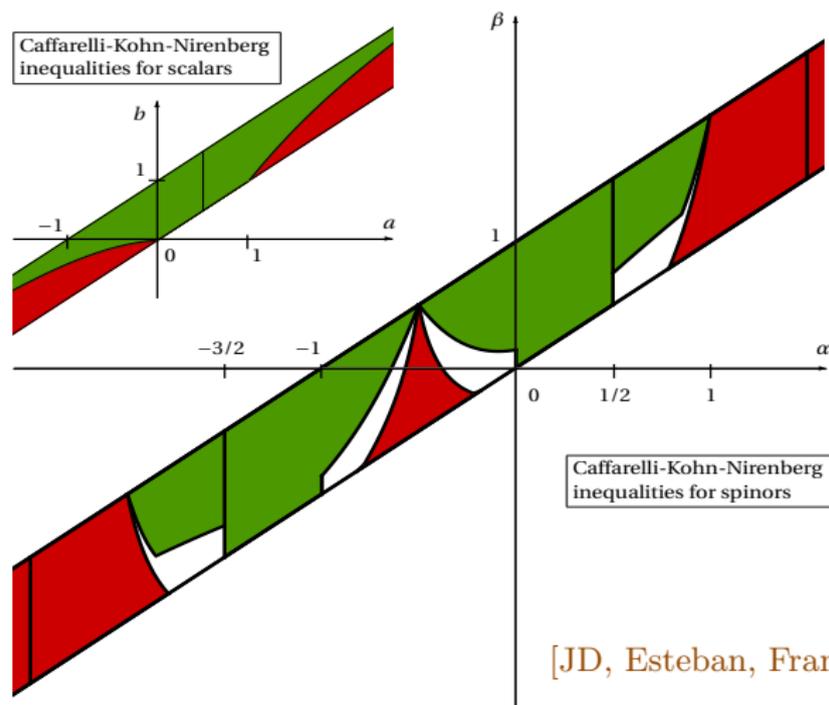
Definition

A spinor ψ on \mathbb{R}^3 is *symmetric* if there is a constant $\chi_0 \in \mathbb{C}^2$ and a complex-valued function f on \mathbb{R}_+ such that

$$\psi(x) = f(r) \chi_0 \quad \text{or} \quad \psi(x) = f(r) \sigma \cdot \omega \chi_0, \quad r = |x|, \quad \omega = x/r$$

i.e., $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_0$ or \mathcal{H}_{-2}

Results



[JD, Esteban, Frank, Loss, 2025]

Symmetry regions: green; symmetry breaking regions: red

The ingredients of the proof

- Existence of optimizers
- A Hardy inequality case: $C_{\alpha, \alpha+1} = \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{-1\}} (k - \alpha + \frac{1}{2})^2$
- Passing to logarithmic variables

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{S}} \left(|\partial_s \phi|^2 + |(\sigma \cdot L - \alpha + \frac{1}{2}) \phi|^2 \right) ds d\omega \geq C_{\alpha, p} \left(\iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{S}} |\phi|^p ds d\omega \right)^{2/p}$$

- Monotonicity properties: for some $\alpha_* : (2, 6) \rightarrow [-1/2, 0]$

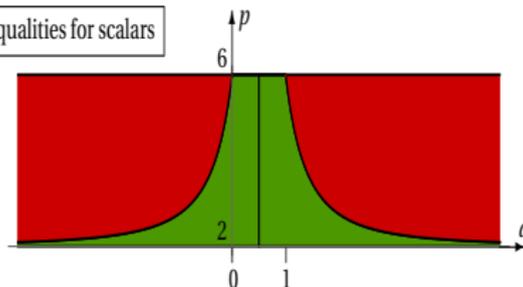
$$C_{\alpha, p} < C_{\alpha, p}^* \quad \text{if} \quad -1/2 \leq \alpha < \alpha_*(p)$$

$$C_{\alpha, p} = C_{\alpha, p}^* \quad \text{if} \quad \alpha_*(p) \leq \alpha < 1/2$$

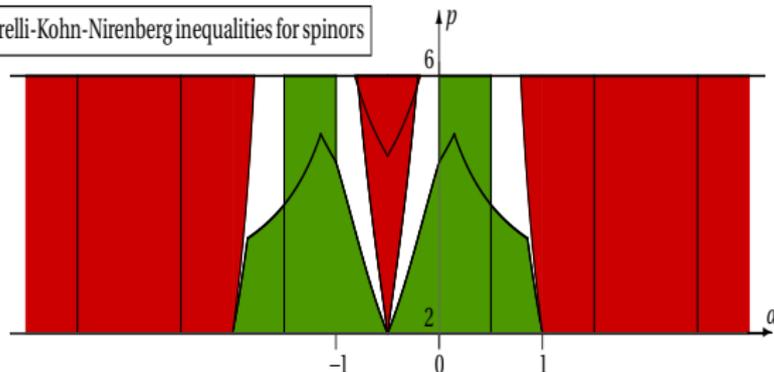
- A Gagliardo-Nirenberg interpolation inequality for spinors on the sphere based on tools of harmonic analysis
- A Keller-Lieb-Thirring estimate
- A chain of (optimal) estimates
- Instability: study of the quadratic form obtained by linearization and representation using spherical harmonics

Logarithmic variables

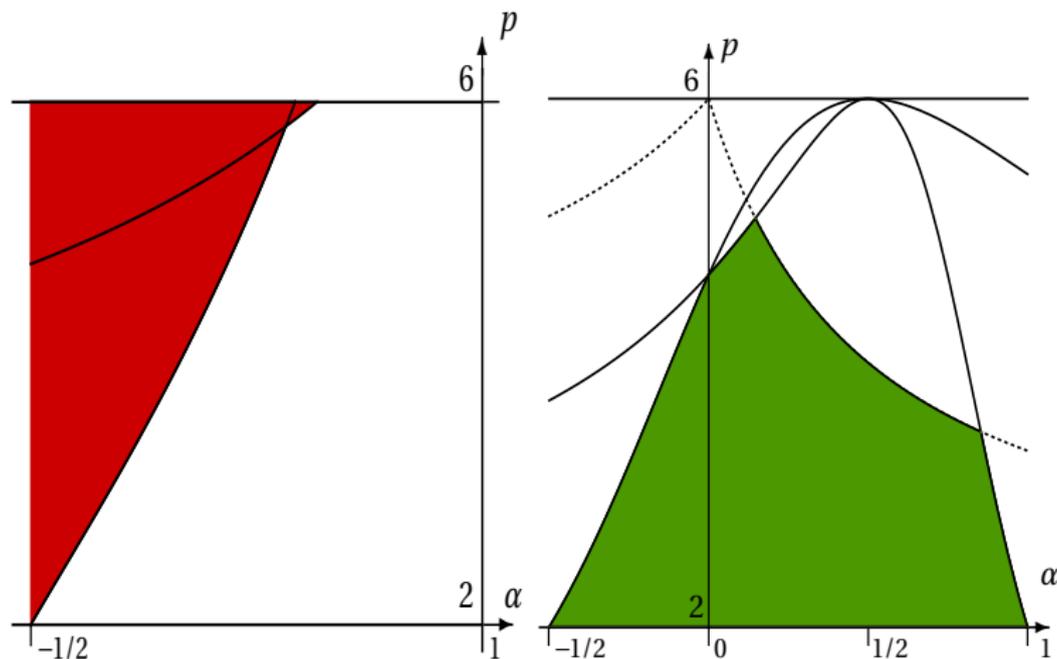
Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for scalars



Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities for spinors



Symmetry *versus* symmetry breaking (details)



Symmetry results for spinors in dimension $d = 2$

- the $d = 2$ spinorial Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\sigma \cdot \nabla \psi|^2}{|x|^{2\alpha}} dx \geq C_{\alpha,p} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\psi|^p}{|x|^{\beta p}} dx \right)^{2/p} \quad (\text{SCKN})$$

for spinor valued functions $\psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$

- the logarithmic Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} \left(|\partial_s \phi(s, \theta)|^2 + |(\alpha - i\sigma_3 \partial_\theta) \phi(s, \theta)|^2 \right) ds d\theta \geq C_{\alpha,p} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} |\phi(s, \theta)|^p ds d\theta \right)^{2/p}$$

- Interpolation inequalities for Aharonov-Bohm magnetic fields

$$A(x) = (x_2, -x_1)/|x|^2$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |(-i\nabla - \alpha A)\psi|^2 dx \geq C_{\alpha,p}^{\text{AB}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\psi|^p}{|x|^2} dx \right)^{2/p} \quad (\text{AB})$$

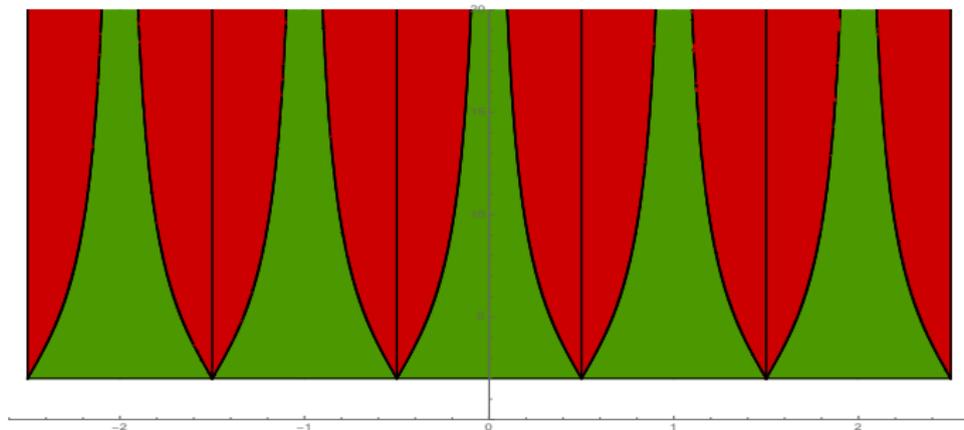
Theorem (JD, Frank, Weixler)

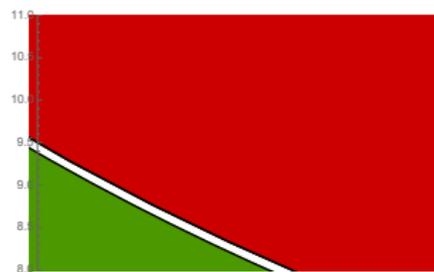
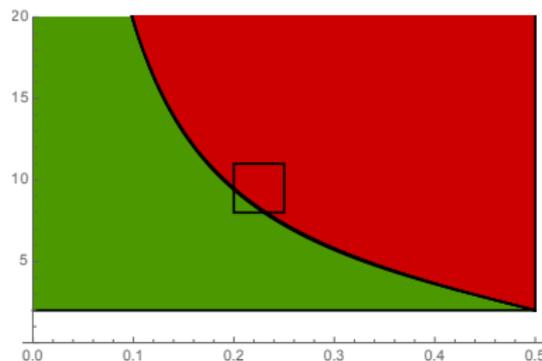
$$C_{\alpha,p} = C_{\alpha,p}^{\text{AB}} \text{ for any } (\alpha, p) \in (0, 1/2) \times (2, +\infty)$$

Symmetry *versus* symmetry breaking

Theorem (JD, Frank, Weixler)

- For every $\alpha \in (0, 1/2)$ and $p > 2$, there is an optimizer with $C_{\alpha,p} > 0$ and $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0_+} C_{\alpha,p} = 0$. Symmetry holds if and only if $\alpha \in (0, \alpha(p)]$ for some function $p \mapsto \alpha(p) : (2, \infty) \rightarrow (0, 1/2)$
- The symmetry and symmetry breaking regions are symmetric with respect to $\alpha = 0$ and 1-periodic





(SCKN) with $d = 2$. Horizontal axis: $\alpha \in (0, 1/2)$. Vertical axis: $p \in (2, \infty)$

● Symmetry range: green, by the equivalence with Aharonov-Bohm problem and entropy methods for flows associated to (CKN) inequalities

● Symmetry breaking range: red and blue; Undecided in the tiny white gap

● magnetic ring: an interpolation inequality on \mathbb{S}^1

[JD, Esteban, Laptev, Loss]

● Aharonov-Bohm and Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequalities

[Bonheure, JD, Esteban, Laptev, Loss]

● a Gegenbauer polynomial basis to study linear instability numerically

The Keller-Lieb-Thirring inequality (Schrödinger) on \mathbb{R}^d

• With $q < 2^* := 2d/(d-2)$ if $d \geq 3$, and $\vartheta = d(q-2)/(2q)$

The *Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality*

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^\vartheta \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{1-\vartheta} \geq \mathcal{C}_q \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)}$$

can be rewritten as

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 + \lambda \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \geq C_q \lambda^{1-\vartheta} \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2$$

for any $(\lambda, u) \in (0, +\infty) \times H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, with $\mathcal{C}_q^2 = \vartheta^\vartheta (1-\vartheta)^{1-\vartheta} C_q$

• Let λ be such that $C_q \lambda^{1-\vartheta} = \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)}$. The Schrödinger energy is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} V |u|^2 dx &\geq \|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 - \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \\ &\geq - \left(C_q^{-1} \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \right)^{1/(1-\vartheta)} \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Keller-Lieb-Thirring inequality : with $\eta = 1/(1-\vartheta) = 2p/(2p-d)$

$$\forall V \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad (\lambda_1 - (-\Delta - V))_- \geq -K_p \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)}^\eta$$

Hölder duality and interpolation inequalities on \mathbb{S}^d

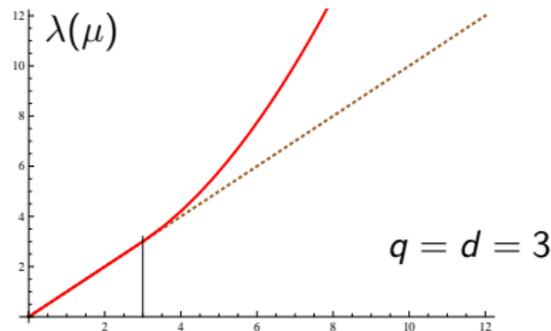
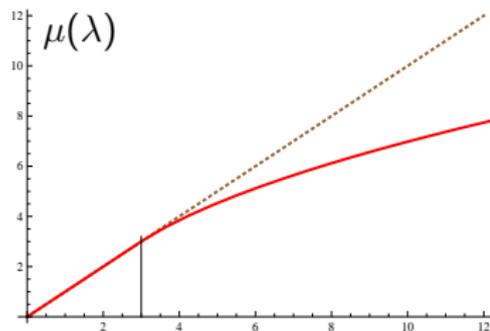
Same on \mathbb{S}^d as on \mathbb{R}^d ... Let $p = \frac{q}{q-2}$. Consider the Schrödinger energy

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |\nabla u|^2 - \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} V |u|^2 \geq \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} |\nabla u|^2 - \mu \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2$$

$$\geq -\lambda(\mu) \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \quad \text{if } \mu = \|V_+\|_{L^p(\mathbb{S}^d)}$$

From (GNS) $\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 + \lambda \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \geq \mu(\lambda) \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2$

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 - \mu(\lambda) \|u\|_{L^q(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \geq -\lambda \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^d)}^2 \quad (\text{Keller})$$



[JD, Esteban, Laptev, 2014], [JD, Esteban, Laptev, Loss, 2013]

The interpolation inequality

Aharonov-Bohm vector potential

$$\mathbf{A}(x) = \frac{a}{|x|^2} (x_2, -x_1), \quad x = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}$$

Magnetic Hardy inequality [Laptev, Weidl, 1999]

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi|^2 dx \geq \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} (a - k)^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\psi|^2}{|x|^2} dx \quad (1)$$

where $\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi := \nabla \psi + i \mathbf{A} \psi$, so that, with $\psi = |\psi| e^{iS}$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi|^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left[(\partial_r |\psi|)^2 + (\partial_r S)^2 |\psi|^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} (\partial_\theta S + A)^2 |\psi|^2 \right] dx$$

Magnetic interpolation inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi|^2 dx + \lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\psi|^2}{|x|^2} dx \geq \mu(\lambda) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{|\psi|^p}{|x|^2} dx \right)^{2/p}$$

A magnetic Keller-Lieb-Thirring estimate

Let $q \in (1, +\infty)$ and denote by $L_*^q(\mathbb{R}^2)$ the space defined using the weighted norm $\|\phi\|_q := \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^q |x|^{2(q-1)} dx\right)^{1/q}$

Theorem

Let $a \in (0, 1/2)$, $q \in (1, \infty)$ and $\phi \in L_*^q(\mathbb{R}^2)$: $\mu \mapsto \lambda(\mu)$ is a convex monotone increasing function such that $\lim_{\mu \rightarrow 0^+} \lambda(\mu) = -\min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} (a - k)^2$ and

$$\lambda_1(-\Delta_{\mathbf{A}} - \phi) \geq -\lambda\left(\|\phi\|_q\right)$$

For some $\mu_* > 0$, the equality case is achieved for any $\mu \leq \mu_*$ by

$$\phi(x) = (|x|^\alpha + |x|^{-\alpha})^{-2} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha = \frac{p-2}{2} \sqrt{\lambda(\mu) + a^2}$$

The equality case is achieved only by non-radial functions if $\mu > \mu_\bullet > \mu_*$

[Bonheure, JD, Esteban, Laptev, Loss, 2019]

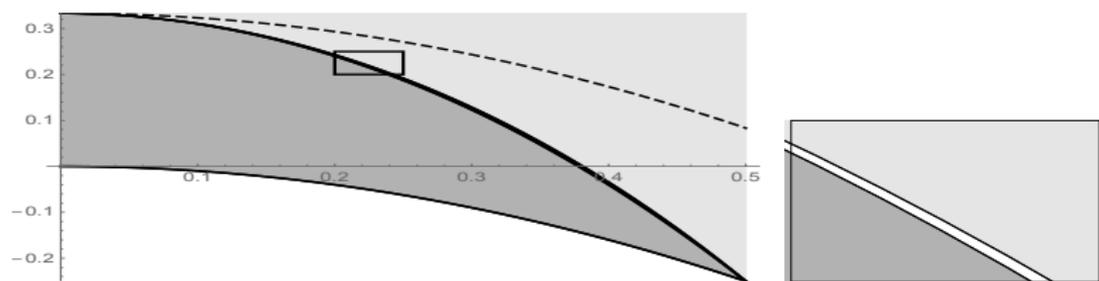


Figure: Case $p = 4$, $a \in (0, 1/2)$

Symmetry breaking region: $\lambda > \lambda_*(a)$; Symmetry breaking region: $\lambda < \lambda_*$

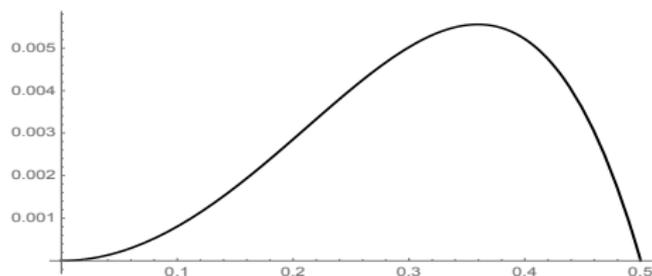


Figure: The curve $a \mapsto \lambda_*(a) - \lambda_*(a)$

Dirac operator and a notion of ground state

The *free Dirac operator* in dimension d is defined by

$$\mathcal{D}_m := \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j (-i \partial_j) + m \beta = \alpha \cdot (-i \nabla) + m \beta$$

- $d = 1$, $\alpha = \sigma_2$ and $\beta = \sigma_3$: $\mathcal{D}_m = \sigma_2 (-i \partial_1) + m \sigma_3$
- $d = 2$, $\alpha = (\sigma_j)_{j=1,2}$ and $\beta = \sigma_3$: $\mathcal{D}_m = \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_j (-i \partial_j) + m \sigma_3$
- $d = 3$, $\alpha = (\alpha_k)_{k=1,2,3}$ and β such that

$$\alpha_k := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_k \\ \sigma_k & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{I}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mathbb{I}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Here $(\sigma_j)_{j=1,2,3}$ are the Pauli matrices

Ground state : $\lambda_D(V) =$ lowest eigenvalue in $(-m, m)$ of $\mathcal{D}_m - V$

$$\Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho) := \inf \left\{ \lambda_D(V) : V \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^+) \text{ and } \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \alpha \right\}$$

A Sobolev/Keller inequality for a Dirac operator

$$\lambda_D(V) \geq \Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho) \quad \forall V \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^+) \text{ such that } \|V\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \alpha$$

[JD, Gontier, Pizzichillo, van den Bosch, 2025]

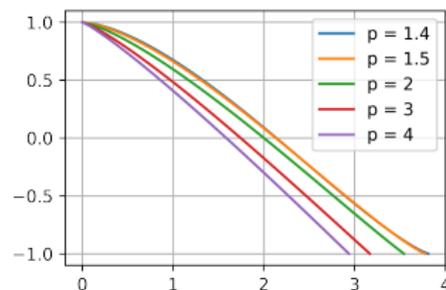
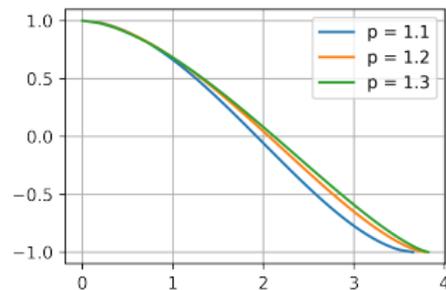
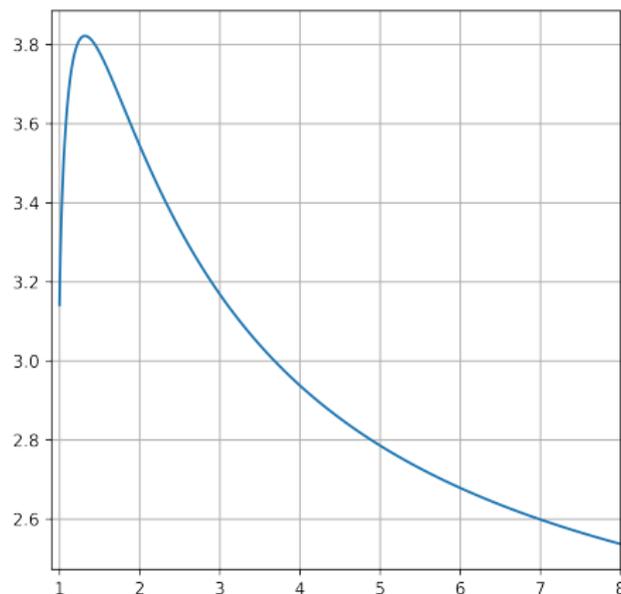
Theorem

Let $\rho \geq d \geq 1$. There exists $\alpha_*(\rho) > 0$ such that the map $\alpha \mapsto \Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho)$ defined on $[0, \alpha_*(\rho))$ is continuous, strictly decreasing, takes values in $(-m, m]$, and such that

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0_+} \Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho) = m \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \alpha_*(\rho)} \Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho) = -m$$

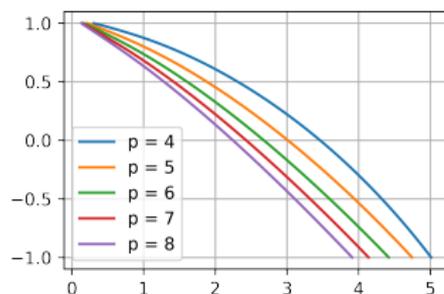
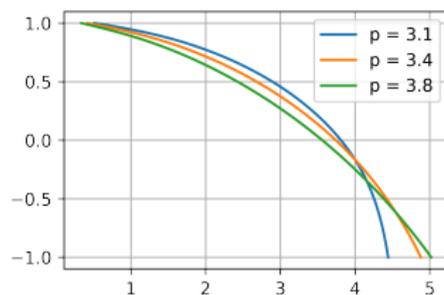
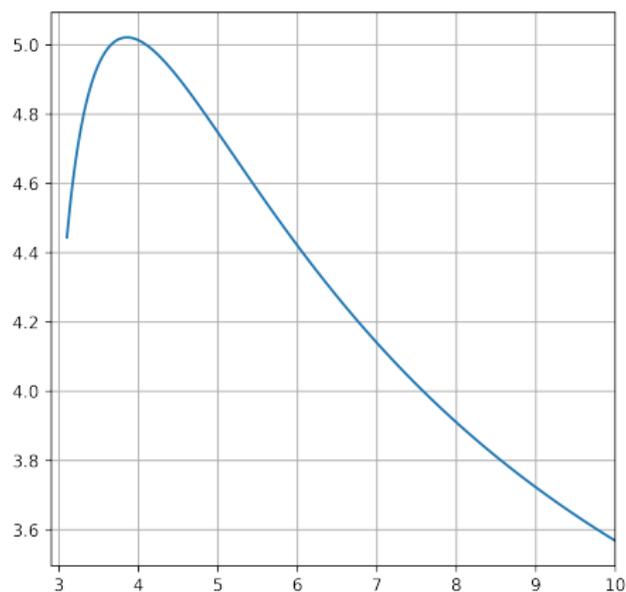
If $(\rho, d) \neq (1, 1)$, then $\Lambda_D(\alpha, \rho)$ is attained on $(0, \alpha_*(\rho))$

The case of dimension $d = 1$



With $m = 1$. The function $p \mapsto \alpha_*(p)$ (left), has a maximum at $p \approx 1.32$
 and $\lim_{p \rightarrow 1^+} \alpha_*(p) = \pi$ and $\lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha_*(p) = 2$
 The function (right) $\Lambda_D(\alpha_*(p), p)$ for various p is such that $\Lambda_D(\alpha_*(p), p) = -1$

The radial case in dimension $d = 3$

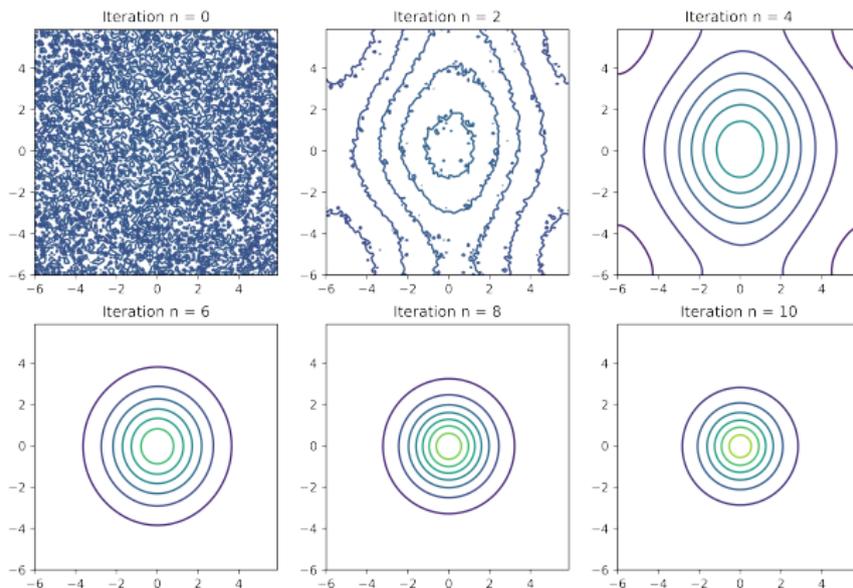


Radial case with $d = 3$ and $m = 1$

(Left) The function $p \mapsto \alpha_\star^{\text{rad}}(p)$ reaches its maximum at $p \approx 3.86$

(Right) The maps $\alpha \mapsto \Lambda_D^{\text{rad}, (\kappa=1)}(\alpha, p)$

Is the optimal potential radial?



A numerical answer on \mathbb{R}^2 ... Contour lines of the potential (by a fixed point method) for $p = 3$ and $\lambda = 1/2$, for some initial potential chosen at random

Conjecture. The optimal potential at $\alpha = \alpha_*(p)$ is
an **Aubin-Talenti** profile up to an angular spinor

These slides can be found at

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Thank you for your attention...

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