
Non-Archimedean Welch Bounds and Non-Archimedean Zauner Conjecture

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Abstract: Let $\mathbb{K}$ be a non-Archimedean (complete) valued field satisfying

$$\left| \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^2 \right| = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} |\lambda_j|^2, \quad \forall \lambda_j \in \mathbb{K}, 1 \leq j \leq n, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For $d \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\mathbb{K}^d$ be the standard d -dimensional non-Archimedean Hilbert space. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d)$ be the non-Archimedean Hilbert space of symmetric m -tensors. We prove the following result. If $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is a collection in $\mathbb{K}^d$ satisfying $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$ and the operator $\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d) \ni x \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n \langle x, \tau_j^{\otimes m} \rangle \tau_j^{\otimes m} \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d)$ is diagonalizable, then

$$(1) \quad \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \} \geq \frac{|n|^2}{\binom{d+m-1}{m}}.$$

We call Inequality (1) as the non-Archimedean version of Welch bounds obtained by Welch [*IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 1974]. We formulate non-Archimedean Zauner conjecture.

Keywords: Non-Archimedean valued field, non-Archimedean Hilbert space, Welch bound, Zauner conjecture.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Forty-eight years ago, Prof. L. Welch proved the following result [80].

Theorem 1.1. [80] (**Welch Bounds**) Let $n > d$. If $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is any collection of unit vectors in $\mathbb{C}^d$, then

$$\sum_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \geq \frac{n^2}{\binom{d+m-1}{m}}, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In particular,

$$\sum_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \geq \frac{n^2}{d}.$$

Further,

$$(\text{Higher order Welch bounds}) \quad \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \geq \frac{1}{n-1} \left[\frac{n}{\binom{d+m-1}{m}} - 1 \right], \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In particular,

$$(\textbf{First order Welch bound}) \quad \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \geq \frac{n-d}{d(n-1)}.$$

There are infinitely many applications of Theorem 1.1 such as in the study of root-mean-square (RMS) absolute cross relation of unit vectors [67], frame potential [9, 14, 18], correlations [66], codebooks [27], numerical search algorithms [81, 82], quantum measurements [69], coding and communications [72, 76], code division multiple access (CDMA) systems [49, 50], wireless systems [64], compressed/compressive sensing [1, 6, 29, 32, 68, 74, 75, 77], ‘game of Sloanes’ [45], equiangular tight frames [73], equiangular lines [23, 31, 44, 57], digital fingerprinting [56] etc.

Different proofs/improvements of Theorem 1.1 have been done in [19, 24, 25, 28, 42, 65, 72, 78, 79]. In 2021 M. Krishna derived continuous version of Theorem 1.1 [51]. In 2022 M. Krishna obtained Theorem 1.1 for Hilbert C^* -modules [53] and Banach spaces [52].

In this paper we derive non-Archimedean Welch bounds (Theorem 2.3). We formulate non-Archimedean Zauner conjecture (Conjecture 3.2).

2. NON-ARCHIMEDEAN WELCH BOUNDS

Let $\mathbb{K}$ be a non-Archimedean (complete) valued field satisfying

$$(2) \quad \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^2 \right| = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} |\lambda_j|^2, \quad \forall \lambda_j \in \mathbb{K}, 1 \leq j \leq n, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Such non-Archimedean fields exist, see [61]. Throughout the paper, we assume that our non-Archimedean field satisfies Equation (2). For $d \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\mathbb{K}^d$ be the standard non-Archimedean Hilbert space equipped with the inner product

$$\langle (a_j)_{j=1}^d, (b_j)_{j=1}^d \rangle := \sum_{j=1}^d a_j b_j, \quad \forall (a_j)_{j=1}^d, (b_j)_{j=1}^d \in \mathbb{K}^d.$$

Theorem 2.1. (First Order Non-Archimedean Welch Bound) *If $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is any collection in $\mathbb{K}^d$ such that the operator $S_\tau : \mathbb{K}^d \ni x \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n \langle x, \tau_j \rangle \tau_j \in \mathbb{K}^d$ is diagonalizable, then*

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^2 \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \right\} \geq \frac{1}{|d|} \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle \right|^2.$$

In particular, if $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$, then

$$(\textbf{First order non-Archimedean Welch bound}) \quad \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \} \geq \frac{|n|^2}{|d|}.$$

Proof. We first note that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tra}(S_\tau) &= \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle, \\ \text{Tra}(S_\tau^2) &= \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d$ be the diagonal entries in the diagonalization of S_τ . Then using the diagonalizability of S_τ and the non-Archimedean Cauchy-Schwarz inequality (Theorem 2.4.2 [61]), we get

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$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle \right|^2 &= |\text{Tra}(S_\tau)|^2 = \left| \sum_{k=1}^d \lambda_k \right|^2 \leq |d| \left| \sum_{k=1}^d \lambda_k^2 \right| = |d| |\text{Tra}(S_\tau^2)| \\
&= |d| \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle \right| = |d| \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^2 + \sum_{j,k=1, j \neq k}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle \right| \\
&\leq |d| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^2 \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle| \right\} \\
&= |d| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^2 \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Whenever $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$,

$$|n|^2 \leq |d| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \}.$$

□

We next obtain higher order non-Archimedean Welch bounds. We use the following vector space result.

Theorem 2.2. [13, 21] *If $\mathcal{V}$ is a vector space of dimension d and $\text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{V})$ denotes the vector space of symmetric m -tensors, then*

$$\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathcal{V})) = \binom{d+m-1}{m}, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Theorem 2.3. (Higher Order Non-Archimedean Welch Bounds) *Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$. If $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is any collection in $\mathbb{K}^d$ such that the operator $S_\tau : \text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d) \ni x \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n \langle x, \tau_j^{\otimes m} \rangle \tau_j^{\otimes m} \in \text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d)$ is diagonalizable, then*

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^{2m} \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \right\} \geq \frac{1}{\binom{d+m-1}{m}} \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle^m \right|^2.$$

In particular, if $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$, then

$$\text{(Higher order non-Archimedean Welch bound)} \quad \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \} \geq \frac{|n|^2}{\binom{d+m-1}{m}}.$$

Proof. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d))}$ be the diagonal entries in the diagonalization of S_τ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle^m \right|^2 &= \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \tau_j^{\otimes m}, \tau_j^{\otimes m} \rangle \right|^2 = |\text{Tra}(S_\tau)|^2 = \left| \sum_{k=1}^{\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d))} \lambda_k \right|^2 \\
&\leq |\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d))| \left| \sum_{k=1}^{\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d))} \lambda_k^2 \right| = |\dim(\text{Sym}^m(\mathbb{K}^d))| |\text{Tra}(S_\tau^2)| \\
&= \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| |\text{Tra}(S_\tau^2)| = \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \langle \tau_j^{\otimes m}, \tau_k^{\otimes m} \rangle \langle \tau_k^{\otimes m}, \tau_j^{\otimes m} \rangle \right| \\
&= \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle^m \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle^m \right| \\
&= \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^{2m} + \sum_{j,k=1, j \neq k}^n \langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle^m \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle^m \right| \\
&\leq \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^{2m} \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle^m \langle \tau_k, \tau_j \rangle^m| \right\} \\
&= \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \left\{ \left| \sum_{l=1}^n \langle \tau_l, \tau_l \rangle^{2m} \right|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Whenever $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$,

$$|n|^2 \leq \left| \binom{d+m-1}{m} \right| \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^{2m} \}.$$

□

Remark 2.4. Theorems 2.1 and 2.3 hold by replacing $\mathbb{K}^d$ by a d -dimensional non-Archimedean Hilbert space over $\mathbb{K}$.

3. NON-ARCHIMEDEAN ZAUNER CONJECTURE AND OPEN PROBLEMS

Theorem 2.1 straight away brings the following question.

Question 3.1. *Given non-Archimedean field $\mathbb{K}$ satisfying Equation (2), for which $(d, n) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$, there exist vectors $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \in \mathbb{K}^d$ satisfying the following.*

- (i) $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$.
- (ii) The operator $S_\tau : \mathbb{K}^d \ni x \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n \langle x, \tau_j \rangle \tau_j \in \mathbb{K}^d$ is diagonalizable.
- (iii)

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} \{ |n|, |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 \} = \frac{|n|^2}{|d|}.$$

A particular case of Question 3.1 is the following non-Archimedean version of Zauner conjecture (see [2–5, 10–12, 33, 36, 43, 48, 51, 55, 63, 70, 84] for Zauner conjecture in Hilbert spaces, [53] for Zauner conjecture in Hilbert C^* -modules and [52] for Zauner conjecture in Banach spaces).

Conjecture 3.2. (Non-Archimedean Zauner Conjecture) *Let $\mathbb{K}$ non-Archimedean field satisfying Equation (2). For each $d \in \mathbb{N}$, there exist vectors $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{d^2} \in \mathbb{K}^d$ satisfying the following.*

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- (i) $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = 1$ **for all** $1 \leq j \leq n$.
- (ii) **The operator** $S_\tau : \mathbb{K}^d \ni x \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^{d^2} \langle x, \tau_j \rangle \tau_j \in \mathbb{K}^d$ **is diagonalizable.**
- (iii)

$$|\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 = |n|, \quad \forall 1 \leq j, k \leq d^2, j \neq k.$$

We remember the definition of Gerzon's bound which allows us to recall the bounds which are in the same way to Welch bounds in Hilbert spaces.

Definition 3.3. [45] *Given $d \in \mathbb{N}$, define **Gerzon's bound***

$$\mathcal{Z}(d, \mathbb{K}) := \begin{cases} d^2 & \text{if } \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C} \\ \frac{d(d+1)}{2} & \text{if } \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 3.4. [16, 22, 41, 45, 58, 62, 71, 81] *Define $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{C}$ and $m := \dim_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{K})/2$. If $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is any collection of unit vectors in $\mathbb{K}^d$, then*

- (i) (**Bukh-Cox bound**)

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle| \geq \frac{\mathcal{Z}(n-d, \mathbb{K})}{n(1+m(n-d-1)\sqrt{m^{-1}+n-d}) - \mathcal{Z}(n-d, \mathbb{K})} \quad \text{if } n > d.$$

- (ii) (**Orthoplex/Rankin bound**)

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle| \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \quad \text{if } n > \mathcal{Z}(d, \mathbb{K}).$$

- (iii) (**Levenstein bound**)

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle| \geq \sqrt{\frac{n(m+1) - d(md+1)}{(n-d)(md+1)}} \quad \text{if } n > \mathcal{Z}(d, \mathbb{K}).$$

- (iv) (**Exponential bound**)

$$\max_{1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k} |\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle| \geq 1 - 2n^{\frac{-1}{d-1}}.$$

Theorem 3.4 and Theorem 2.1 give the following problem.

Question 3.5. *Whether there is a non-Archimedean version of Theorem 3.4? In particular, does there exists a version of*

- (i) *non-Archimedean Bukh-Cox bound?*
- (ii) *non-Archimedean Orthoplex/Rankin bound?*
- (iii) *non-Archimedean Levenstein bound?*
- (iv) *non-Archimedean Exponential bound?*

As written already, Welch bounds have applications in study of equiangular lines. Therefore we wish to formulate equiangular line problem for non-Archimedean Hilbert spaces. For the study of equiangular lines in Hilbert spaces we refer [7, 8, 15, 17, 26, 34, 35, 37, 40, 46, 47, 54, 59, 60, 83], quaternion Hilbert space we refer [30], octonion Hilbert space we refer [20], finite dimensional vector spaces over finite fields we refer [38, 39] and for Banach spaces we refer [52] (there equiangular line problem for Banach spaces is not mentioned explicitly but Zauner conjecture for Banach spaces is formulated. One can easily formulate equiangular line problem using that).

Question 3.6. (*Non-Archimedean Equiangular Line Problem*) *Let $\mathbb{K}$ be a non-Archimedean field. Given $a \in \mathbb{K}$, $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\gamma > 0$, what is the maximum $n = n(\mathbb{K}, a, d, \gamma) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that there exist vectors $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \in \mathbb{K}^d$ satisfying the following.*

- (i) $\langle \tau_j, \tau_j \rangle = a$ **for all** $1 \leq j \leq n$.
- (ii) $|\langle \tau_j, \tau_k \rangle|^2 = \gamma$ **for all** $1 \leq j, k \leq n, j \neq k$.

In particular, whether there is a non-Archimedean Gerzon bound?

Question 3.6 can be easily modified to formulate question of non-Archimedean regular s -distance sets.

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