

# HERMITE'S INEQUALITY AND THE LLL ALGORITHM

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# OVERVIEW: LATTICE ALGORITHMS

# INSIGHT

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- All known upper bounds on **Hermite's constant** have an algorithmic analogue:
  - Hermite's inequality: **The LLL Algorithm**
  - Mordell's inequality: **Blockwise generalizations of LLL**
  - Mordell's proof of Minkowski's inequality:

**Worst-case to average-case reductions for SIS  
and Sieve algorithms [BJN14,ADRS15]**



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Arjen Lenstra



Hendrik Lenstra



László Lovász

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Claus Peter Schnorr

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Both are complementary



# TODAY: HERMITE'S INEQUALITY AND THE LLL ALGORITHM

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- Proving Hermite's Inequality
- The LLL Algorithm
  - Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization
  - Size Reduction
  - Hermite Reduction
  - The LLL Algorithm
  - Analysis of LLL

# PROVING HERMITE'S INEQUALITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3311DnU354>

## HERMITE'S INEQUALITY

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- Hermite proved in 1850: in any  $d$ -rank lattice  $L$ , there exists a non-zero  $v$  in  $L$  s.t.

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- [LLL82] finds in polynomial time a non-zero lattice vector of norm  $\leq (4/3+\varepsilon)^{(d-1)/4} \text{vol}(L)^{1/d}$ . It is an algorithmic version of Hermite's inequality.

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- On the other hand,

$$\|b_1\| \leq \|b_2\| \text{ and } \text{vol}(\pi(L)) = \text{vol}(L) / \|b_1\|.$$

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- Does it build a non-zero lattice vector satisfying Hermite's inequality:

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## AN ALGORITHMIC PROOF

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- Let  $b_1$  be a primitive vector of  $L$ , and  $\pi$  the projection over  $b_1^\perp$ .
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- If  $\|b_2\| < \|b_1\|$ , swap( $b_1, b_2$ ) and restart, otherwise stop.

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- This algorithm will terminate and output a non-zero lattice vector satisfying Hermite's inequality:

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- But it may not be efficient: LLL does better by strengthening the test  $\|\vec{b}_2\| < \|\vec{b}_1\|$ .

## MORE DETAILS

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- We need Gram-Schmidt again...

# THE LLL ALGORITHM

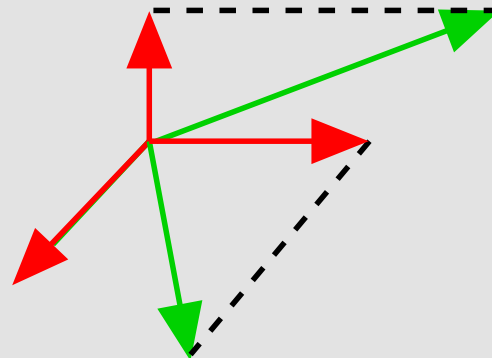
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjYUd331184>

**REMEMBER**  
**GRAM-SCHMIDT ORTHOGONALIZATION**

## RECALL GRAM-SCHMIDT

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- Let  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbf{R}^m$ .
- Its Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization is  $b_1^*, \dots, b_n^* \in \mathbf{R}^m$  defined as:
  - $b_1^* = b_1$
  - For  $2 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $b_i^* = \text{projection of } b_i \text{ over } \text{span}(b_1, \dots, b_{i-1})^\perp$



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$$\mu_{i,j} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\|\vec{b}_j^*\|^2}$$

- Then: 
$$\vec{b}_1^* = \vec{b}_1 \quad \vec{b}_i^* = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{i,j} \vec{b}_j^*$$



## REMINDER

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- If  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{Z}^m$  are linearly independent, we can compute efficiently the rational  $\mu_{i,j}$  and  $\|\vec{b}_i^*\|^2 \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\vec{b}_i^* \in \mathbb{Q}^m$ . More precisely, we can compute the integers

$$d_i = \text{Gram}(\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_i) = \prod_{j=1}^i \|\vec{b}_j^*\|^2 \text{ and } \lambda_{i,j} = d_j \mu_{i,j} \langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle / \|\vec{b}_j^*\|^2$$

$$\vec{b}_i^* = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{\lambda_{i,j}}{d_j} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$$\|\vec{b}_i^*\|^2 = \frac{d_i}{d_{i-1}}$$

**REMEMBER  
SIZE REDUCTION**

## REMINDER: SIZE-REDUCTION

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- Let  $b_1, \dots, b_d \in \mathbb{Z}^m$  be linearly independent.
- $B = (b_1, \dots, b_d)$  is **size-reduced** if all  $|\mu_{i,j}| \leq \frac{1}{2}$

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- $B = (b_1, \dots, b_d)$  is **size-reduced** if all  $|\mu_{i,j}| \leq \frac{1}{2}$
- Th: There is an efficient algorithm to size-reduce  $B$ , without changing the Gram-Schmidt vectors.

## VISUALIZING SIZE-REDUCTION

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- If we take an appropriate orthonormal basis, the matrix of the lattice basis becomes **triangular**.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \|\vec{b}_1^*\| & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \mu_{2,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \|\vec{b}_2^*\| & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \mu_{3,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \mu_{3,2}\|\vec{b}_2^*\| & \|\vec{b}_3^*\| & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mu_{d,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \mu_{d,2}\|\vec{b}_2^*\| & \dots & \mu_{d,d-1}\|\vec{b}_{d-1}^*\| & \|\vec{b}_d^*\| \end{pmatrix}$$

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- For  $i = 2$  to  $d$ 
  - For  $j = i-1$  downto  $1$ 
    - Size-reduce  $b_i$  with respect to  $b_j$ : make  $|\mu_{i,j}| \leq 1/2$  by  
 $b_i := b_i - \text{round}(\mu_{i,j})b_j$
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    - Update all  $\mu_{i,j'}$  for  $j' \leq j$ .
- The translation does not affect the previous  $\mu_{i',j'}$  where  $i' < i$ , or  $i'=i$  and  $j' > j$ .



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- Hermite proved the existence of bases such that:

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- Such bases approximate SVP to an exp factor:

$$\|\vec{b}_1\| \leq \left[(4/3)^{1/4}\right]^{d-1} \text{vol}(L)^{1/d} \quad \gamma_d \leq (4/3)^{(d-1)/2}$$

$$\|\vec{b}_i\| \leq \left[(4/3)^{1/2}\right]^{d-1} \lambda_i(L)$$

## GRAPHICALLY

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- Condition 1 is over off-diagonal coeffs: size-reduction.
- Condition 2 is over diagonal coeffs.

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c} \|\vec{b}_1^*\| & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \mu_{2,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \|\vec{b}_2^*\| & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \mu_{3,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \mu_{3,2}\|\vec{b}_2^*\| & \|\vec{b}_3^*\| & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mu_{d,1}\|\vec{b}_1^*\| & \mu_{d,2}\|\vec{b}_2^*\| & \dots & \mu_{d,d-1}\|\vec{b}_{d-1}^*\| & \|\vec{b}_d^*\| \end{array} \right)$$

## PROOFS

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► Hermite factor:  $\|\vec{b}_i^*\| \geq \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} \|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\| \geq \dots \geq \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}^{i-1} \|\vec{b}_1\|$  so

$$\text{vol}(L) = \prod_{i=1}^d \|\vec{b}_i^*\| \geq \prod_{i=1}^d \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}^{i-1} \|\vec{b}_1\| = \|\vec{b}_1\|^d \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}^{1+2+\dots+(d-1)}$$

$$\text{therefore } \|\vec{b}_1\| \leq \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{(d-1)/4} \text{vol}(L)^{1/d}$$

► Approximating SVP:

$$\lambda_1(L) \geq \min_i \|\vec{b}_i^*\| \geq \min_i \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}^{i-1} \|\vec{b}_1\| = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}^{d-1} \|\vec{b}_1\| \quad \text{so}$$

$$\|\vec{b}_1\| \leq \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{(d-1)/2} \lambda_1(L). \text{ Generalize this to } \|\vec{b}_i\| \leq \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{(d-1)/2} \lambda_i(L).$$

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- By relaxing the  $4/3$ , [LLL1982] showed how to compute such a basis in polynomial time.

# THE LLL ALGORITHM



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- it is **size-reduced**  $|\mu_{i,j}| \leq \frac{1}{2}$

- **Lovász' conditions** are satisfied

$$(1 - \varepsilon) \|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|^2 \leq \|\vec{b}_i^* + \mu_{i,i-1} \vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|^2 \leq \left( \frac{4}{3} + \varepsilon' \right) \|\vec{b}_i^*\|^2$$



## DESCRIPTION OF THE LLL ALGORITHM

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- While the basis is not LLL-reduced
  - Size-reduce the basis
  - If Lovász' condition does not hold for some pair  $(i-1,i)$ : swap  $b_{i-1}$  and  $b_i$ .

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# ANALYSIS OF LLL

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  - Each  $\text{vol}(b_1, \dots, b_i)$  never increases.
  - The only LLL operations that modify the  $b_i^*$ 's are swaps.

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- We swap  $b_{i-1}$  and  $b_i$  whenever  $(1 - \varepsilon)\|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|^2 \geq \|\vec{b}_i^* + \mu_{i,i-1}\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|^2$   
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hence  $\geq \sqrt{1 - \varepsilon}$  shorter.



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  - $[\text{new}(\|\vec{b}_i^*\|), \text{new}(\|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|)] \subseteq [\|\vec{b}_i^*\|, \|\vec{b}_{i-1}^*\|]$

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- We did not fully prove that LLL is polynomial time, because we did not pay attention to the size of all temporary variables.

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- The LLL algorithm finds in polynomial time a basis such that:

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- Such bases approximate SVP to an exp factor:

$$\|\vec{b}_1\| \leq \left[ (4/3 + \varepsilon)^{1/4} \right]^{d-1} \text{vol}(L)^{1/d} \quad \gamma_d \leq (4/3)^{(d-1)/2}$$

$$\|\vec{b}_i\| \leq \left[ (4/3 + \varepsilon)^{1/2} \right]^{d-1} \lambda_i(L)$$

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  - Projection
  - Lifting projected vectors aka size-reduction.

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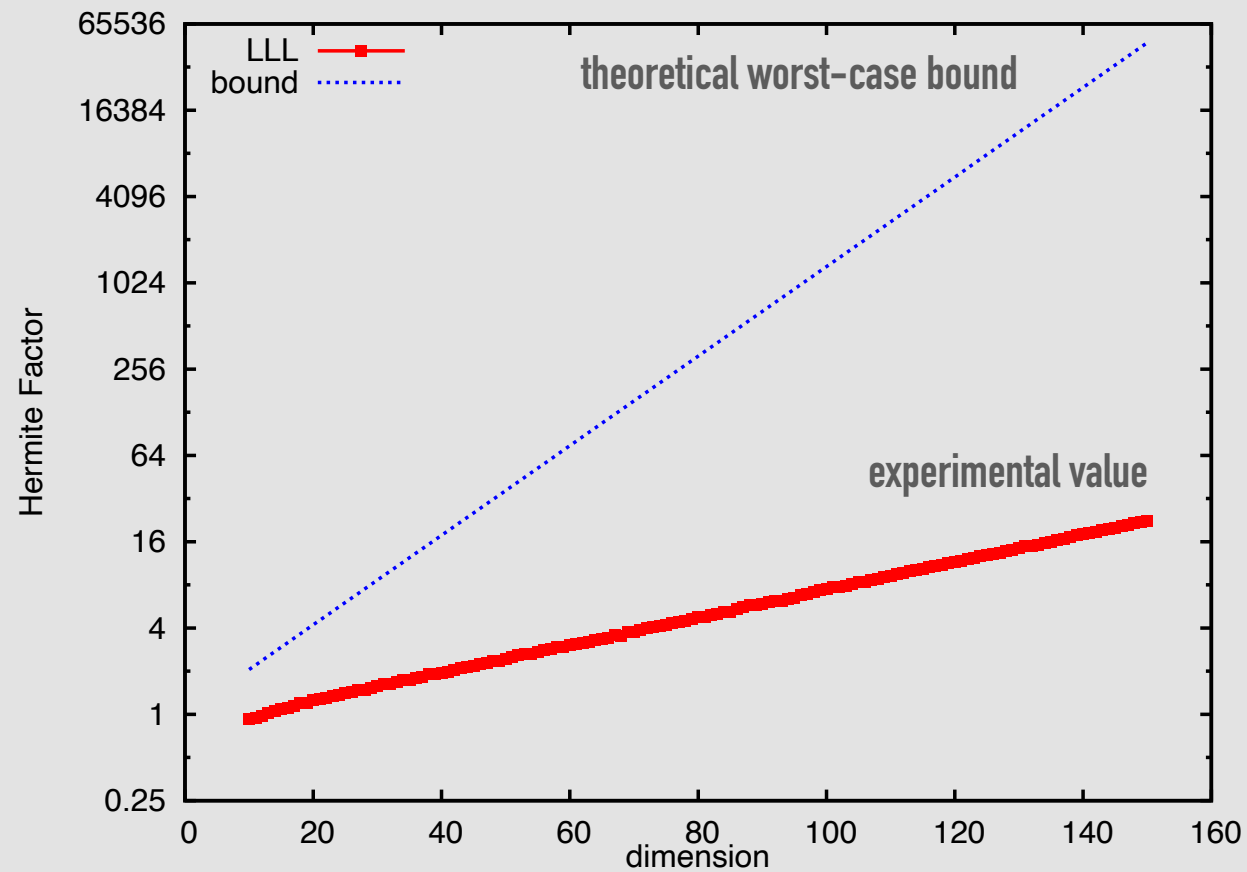
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- One of the main reasons behind the popularity of LLL is that it performs “**much better**” than what the worst-case bounds suggest, especially in low dimension.
- This is another example of worst-case vs. “average-case” and the difficulty of security estimates.

# ILLUSTRATION



$$\log \frac{\|\vec{b}_1\|}{\text{vol}(L)^{1/d}}$$

# LLL: THEORY VS PRACTICE

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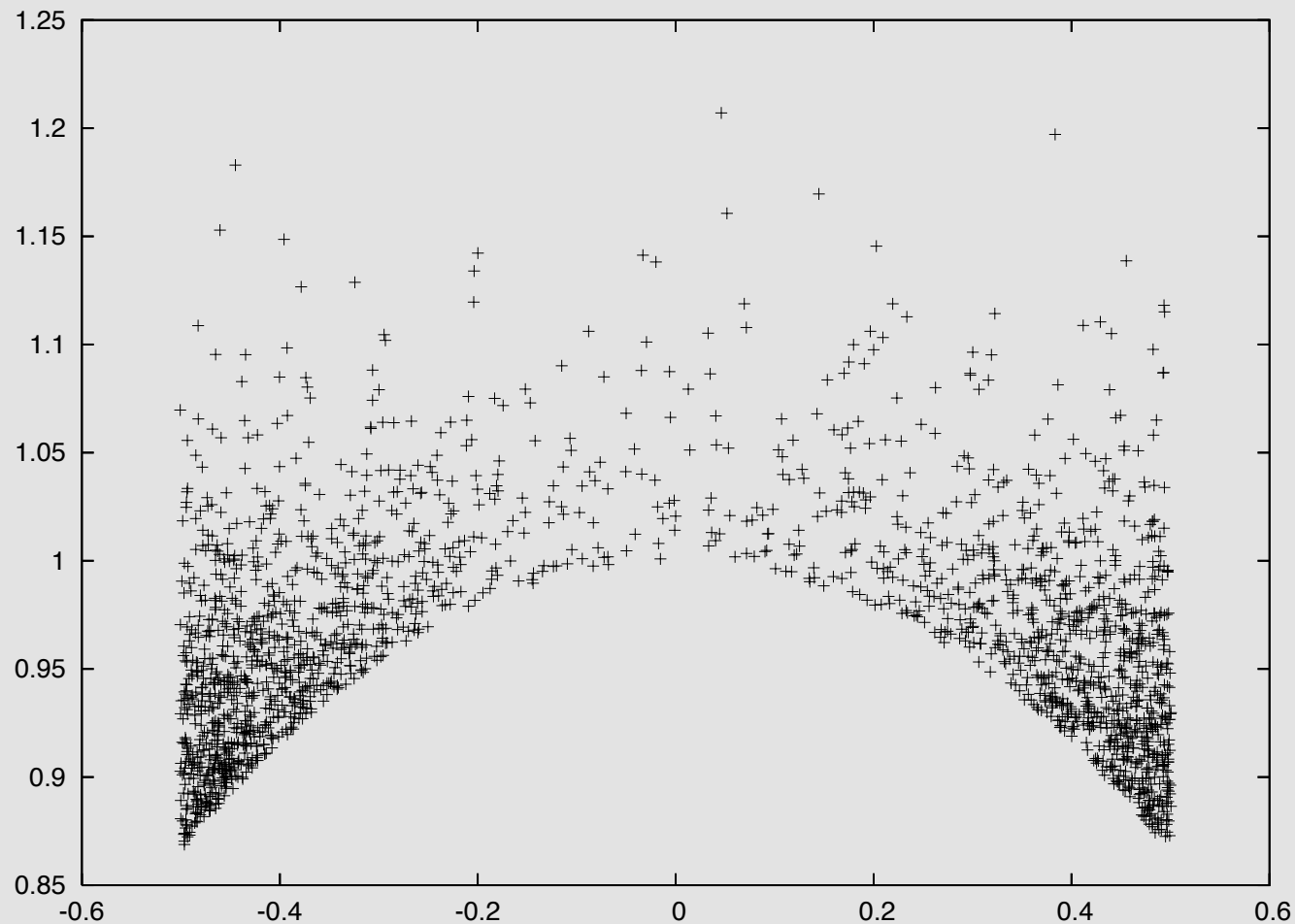
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- Experimentally,  $4/3+\epsilon \approx 1.33$  can be replaced by a **smaller constant  $\approx 1.08$ , for any lattice**, by randomizing the input basis. This means that LLL biases the output distribution.
- **No proof** for this phenomenon, but...

# LLL IN THE REAL WORLD

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*Distribution of  $\vec{b}_i^* + \mu_{i,i-1} \vec{b}_{i-1}^*$*

*$(\vec{b}_{i-1}^*, \vec{b}_i^* + \mu_{i,i-1} \vec{b}_{i-1}^*)$  far from densest lattice*



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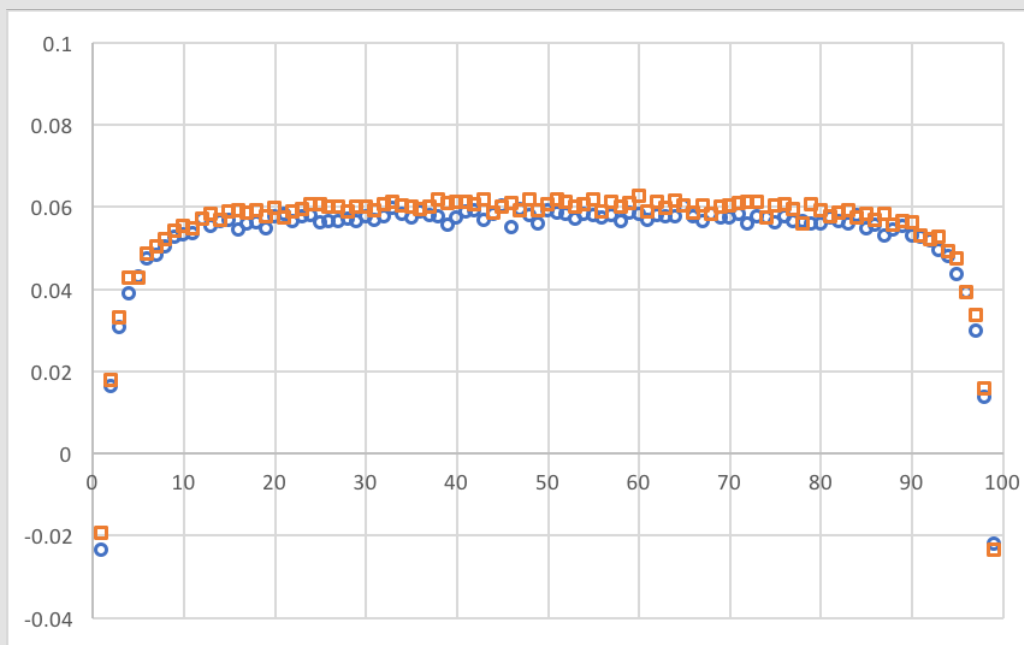
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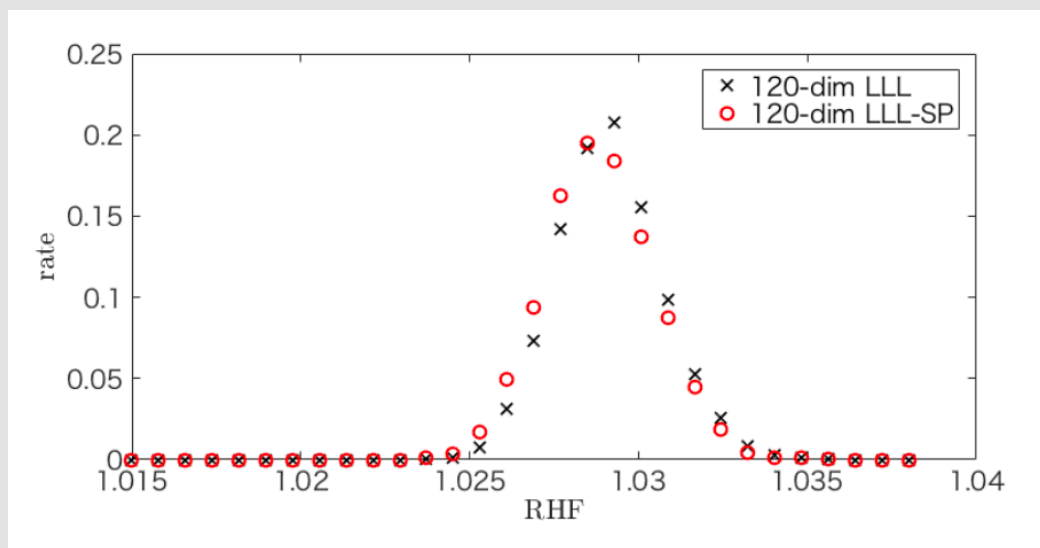
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- Can we guess the distribution of  $\|b_1\|$  and the running time?

# MODELLING LLL WITH SANDPILES [DKTWY22]



$$\log \frac{\|\vec{b}_i^*\|}{\|\vec{b}_{i+1}^*\|}$$

*If there is a swap,  
three consecutive values change:  
the middle one decreases,  
and the other two increase.*



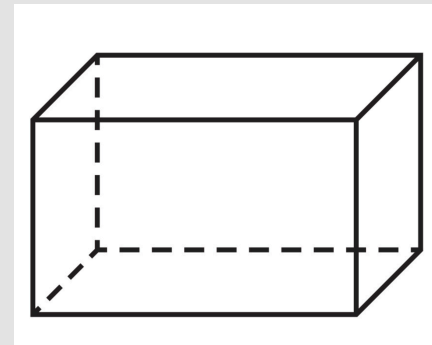
$$\left( \frac{\|\vec{b}_1\|}{\text{vol}(L)^{1/d}} \right)^{1/d}$$



# BABAI'S NEAREST PLANE ALGORITHM

---

- Input: a basis  $(\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n)$  of a lattice  $L$  and a target  $\vec{t}$  in  $\text{span}(L)$ .
- Output: a lattice point  $\vec{u}$  such that  $\vec{t} - \vec{u} \in \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \vec{b}_i^*, -1/2 \leq x_i < 1/2 \right\}$  where the  $\vec{b}_i^*$ 's are the Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization.



- For  $i=n$  downto 1

- Compute  $\mu_i = \frac{\langle \vec{t}, \vec{b}_i^* \rangle}{\|\vec{b}_i^*\|^2}$

- $\vec{t} \leftarrow \vec{t} - \lfloor \mu_i \rfloor \vec{b}_i$

- Return

$$\vec{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lfloor \mu_i \rfloor \vec{b}_i$$

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$$\|\vec{t} - \vec{u}\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^d \|\vec{b}_i^*\|^2 \leq \frac{\|\vec{b}_d^*\|^2}{4} \sum_{i=1}^d \left( \frac{4}{3} + \varepsilon \right)^{d-i}$$

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- Thus, LLL approximates in poly-time both SVP and CVP to within an exponential factor.

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- Blockwise algorithms achieve  $2^{O\left(d \frac{\log \log d}{\log d}\right)}$

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  - The lattice has additional structure, e.g. symplectic lattices.
  - But what does it change?