On tight spherical designs.

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ABSTRACT: Let X be a tight t-design of dimension n for one of the open cases t = 5 or t = 7. An investigation of the lattice generated by X using arithmetic theory of quadratic forms allows to exclude infinitely many values for n.

1 Introduction.

Spherical designs have been introduced in 1977 by Delsarte, Goethals and Seidel [5] and shortly afterwards studied by Eiichi Bannai in a series of papers (see [1], [2], [3] to mention only a few of them). A spherical *t*-design is a finite subset X of the sphere

$$S^{n-1} = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (x, x) = 1 \}$$

such that every polynomial on \mathbb{R}^n of total degree at most t has the same average over X as over the entire sphere. Of course the most interesting t-designs are those of minimal cardinality. If t = 2m is even, then any spherical t-design $X \subset S^{n-1}$ satisfies

$$|X| \ge \binom{n-1+m}{m} + \binom{n-2+m}{m-1}$$

and if t = 2m + 1 is odd then

$$|X| \ge 2\binom{n-1+m}{m}.$$

A t-design X for which equality holds is called a **tight** t-design.

Tight t-designs in \mathbb{R}^n with $n \geq 3$ are very rare. In [1] and [2] it is shown that such tight designs only exist if $t \leq 5$ and t = 7, 11. The tight t-designs with t = 1, 2, 3 as well as t = 11 are completely classified whereas their classification for t = 4, 5, 7 is still an open problem. It is known that the existence of a tight 4-design in dimension n - 1 is equivalent to the existence of a tight 5-design in dimension n, so the open cases are t = 5and t = 7. It is also well known that tight spherical t-designs X for odd values of t are antipodal, i.e. X = -X (see [5]).

There are certain numerical conditions on the dimension of such tight designs. A tight 5-design $X \,\subset\, S^{n-1}$ can only exist if either n = 3 and X is the set of 12 vertices of a regular icosahedron or $n = (2m+1)^2 - 2$ for an integer m ([5], [1], [2]). Existence is only known for m = 1, 2 and these designs are unique. Using lattices [4] excludes the next two open cases m = 3, 4 as well as an infinity of other values of m. Here we exclude infinitely many other cases including m = 6.

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There are similar results for tight 7-designs. Such designs only exist if $n = 3d^2 - 4$ where the only known cases are d = 2, 3 and the corresponding designs are unique. The paper [4] excludes the cases d = 4, 5 and also gives partial results on the interesting case d = 6 which still remains open. For odd values of d we use characteristic vectors of the associated odd lattice of odd determinant to show that d is either $\pm 1 \pmod{16}$ or $\pm 3 \pmod{32}$ (see Theorem 3.5). We also exclude infinitely many even d in Theorem 3.3.

2 General equalities.

We always deal with antipodal sets and write them as disjoint union

$$X \stackrel{\cdot}{\cup} -X \subset S^{n-1}(d) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (x, x) = d\} \text{ with } s := |X| \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By the theory developed in [7] the set $X \cup -X$ is a 7-design if and only if for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$(D6)(\alpha): \quad \sum_{x \in X} (x, \alpha)^6 = \frac{3 \cdot 5sd^3}{n(n+2)(n+4)} (\alpha, \alpha)^3.$$

Applying the Laplace operator to $(D6)(\alpha)$ one obtains

$$(D4)(\alpha): \sum_{x \in X} (x, \alpha)^4 = \frac{3sd^2}{n(n+2)} (\alpha, \alpha)^2 \text{ and}$$
$$(D2)(\alpha): \sum_{x \in X} (x, \alpha)^2 = \frac{sd}{n} (\alpha, \alpha).$$

Substituting $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \xi_i \alpha_i$ in (D6) (D4) and (D2) we find that for all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

Similarly $X \cup -X$ is a spherical 5-design, if an only if (D4) and (D2) hold for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then we obtain the equations (D11), (D13). and (D22).

We will consider the lattice $\Lambda := \langle X \rangle$ and $\alpha \in \Lambda^*$. Then (α, x) is integral for all $x \in X$. This yields certain integrality conditions for the norms and inner products of elements in Λ^* :

Lemma 2.1 If $X \stackrel{.}{\cup} -X \subset S^{n-1}(d)$ is a spherical 5-design then for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Lambda^*$ $\frac{sd}{12n}(\alpha, \alpha)(\frac{d}{n+2}(\alpha, \alpha) - 1) \in \mathbb{Z}$

and

$$\frac{sd}{6n}(\alpha,\beta)(\frac{d}{n+2}(\alpha,\alpha)-1) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

<u>Proof.</u> Let $x \in X$ and $k := (x, \alpha)$. Then $k^4 - k^2$ is a multiple of 12 and hence $\frac{1}{12} \sum_{x \in X} (x, \alpha)^4 - (x, \alpha)^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ which yields the first divisibility condition. Similarly $k^3 - k$ is a multiple of 6 and so

$$\frac{1}{6} \sum_{x \in X} (x, \beta)((x, \alpha)^3 - (x, \alpha)) = \frac{1}{6}(D13 - D11) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Similarly

$$(\beta, x)(\alpha, x)((\alpha, x)^2 - 1)((\alpha, x)^2 - 4) = (\beta, x)(\alpha, x)^5 - 5(\beta, x)(\alpha, x)^3 + 4(\beta, x)(\alpha, x)^3 + 4(\beta,$$

is divisible by 5 consecutive integers and hence this quantity is a multiple of 120 for any $\alpha, \beta \in \Lambda^*$ and $x \in X$.

Moreover $(\alpha, x)((\alpha, x)^2 - 1)$ is divisible by 3 consecutive integers and therefore a multiple of 6, hence

$$(\beta, x)((\beta, x)^2 - 1)(\alpha, x)((\alpha, x)^2 - 1) = (\beta, x)(\alpha, x)((\beta, x)^2(\alpha, x)^2 - (\beta, x)^2 - (\alpha, x)^2 + 1)$$

is divisible by 36. Summing over all $x \in X$ we obtain that the right hand side of D15 - 5D13 + 4D11 is a multiple of 120 and that D33 - D13 - D31 + D11 is divisible by 36.

Lemma 2.2 If $X \stackrel{\cdot}{\cup} -X \subset S^{n-1}(d)$ is a spherical 7-design then for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Lambda^*$

$$\frac{1}{120}(\alpha,\beta)(\frac{3\cdot 5sd^2}{n(n+2)}(\alpha,\alpha)(\frac{d}{n+4}(\alpha,\alpha)-1)+4\frac{sd}{n}) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{36}(\alpha,\beta)(\frac{3sd^2}{n(n+2)}(\frac{d}{n+4}(2(\alpha,\beta)^2+3(\alpha,\alpha)(\beta,\beta))-(\alpha,\alpha)-(\beta,\beta))+\frac{sd}{n})\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

3 Tight spherical 7-designs.

Let $X \cup -X \subset S^{n-1}(d)$ be a tight spherical 7-design. Then $n = 3d^2 - 4$, $(x, y) \in \{0, \pm 1\}$ for all $x \neq y \in X$ and s := |X| = n(n+1)(n+2)/6.

Let $\Lambda = \langle X \rangle$ be the lattice generated by the set X and put $\Gamma := \Lambda^*$. Then Λ is an integral lattice and Λ is even, if d is even. Substituting these values into the formulas of Lemma 2.2 we obtain

Lemma 3.1 For all $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ we have

$$((d^3 - d)/240)(\alpha, \beta)(12d^2 - 8 - 15d(\alpha, \alpha) + 5(\alpha, \alpha)^2) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and

$$\left((d^3-d)/72\right)(\alpha,\beta)(3(\alpha,\alpha)(\beta,\beta)-3d((\alpha,\alpha)+(\beta,\beta))+2(\alpha,\beta)^2+(3d^2-2)\right)\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

For a prime p let v_p denote the p-adic valuation on \mathbb{Q} .

Corollary 3.2 (improvement of [4, Lemma 4.2])

(i) Let $p \geq 5$ be a prime. If $v_p(d^3 - d) \leq 2$ then $v_p((\alpha, \alpha)) \geq 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$.

- (ii) If $v_3(d^3 d) \leq 4$ then $v_3((\alpha, \alpha)) \geq 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$.
- (iii) If $v_2(d^3 d) \leq 6$ then $v_2((\alpha, \alpha)) \geq 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$.
- (iv) If d is even but not divisible by 8 then $v_2((\alpha, \alpha)) \ge 1$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$.
- (v) If d is even but not divisible by 32 then $v_2((\alpha, \beta)) \ge 0$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$.
- (vi) If d is odd and $v_2(d^2-1) \leq 4$ then $v_2((\alpha,\beta)) \geq 0$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$.

Proof. Part (i),(iii) and (iv) are the same as in [4, Lemma 4.2] and follow from the first congruence in Lemma 3.1.

For (ii) we use the second congruence in the special case $\alpha = \beta$. Under the assumption we obtain $v_3((d^3 - d)/72) \le 4 - 2 \le 2$. If $v_3((\alpha, \alpha)) \le -1$ then

$$v_3(5(\alpha, \alpha)^3 - 6d(\alpha, \alpha)^2 + (3d^2 - 2)(\alpha, \alpha)) = v_3((\alpha, \alpha)^3) \le -3$$

contradicting the fact that the product is integral.

To see (v) we use (iii) to see that $v_2((\alpha, \alpha)) \ge 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Gamma$. Then the second congruence yields that $v_2(\frac{d}{4}(\alpha,\beta)^3) \ge 0$. Since $v_2(d) < 5$ we obtain $v_2((\alpha,\beta)) \ge 0$. \square

The last assertion (vi) is obtained by the same argument.

Using this observation we can extend [4, Theorem 4.3] which only treats the case $v_2(d) = 2.$

Theorem 3.3 Assume that $v_p(d^3 - d) \le 2$ for all primes $p \ge 5$ and that $v_3(d^3 - d) \le 4$. If $v_2(d) = 2, 3 \text{ or } 4$ then a tight spherical 7-design in dimension $n = 3d^2 - 4$ does not exist.

Proof. Γ is integral by Corollary 3.2 and therefore Λ is an even unimodular lattice of dimension $n \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ which gives a contradiction.

A similar argument allows to deduce the following lemma from Corollary 3.2.

Lemma 3.4 If d is odd and $v_2(d^2 - 1) \leq 4$ then Λ is an odd lattice of odd determinant. If additionally $v_p(d^3 - d) \leq 2$ for all primes $p \geq 5$ and $v_3(d^3 - d) \leq 4$ then $\Lambda = \Lambda^*$ is an odd unimodular lattice.

In particular if d is odd and $d \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{16}$ then Λ is an odd lattice of odd determinant. Over the 2-adic numbers there is an orthogonal basis

$$\Lambda \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2 \cong \langle b_1, \dots, b_n \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}_2}$$
 with $(b_i, b_j) = 0, (b_k, b_k) = 1, (b_n, b_n) = 1 + \delta \in \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$

for $1 \le i \ne j \le n, k = 1, \dots, n-1$. Such a lattice contains characteristic vectors. These are elements $\alpha \in \Lambda \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2$ such that

 $(\alpha, \lambda) \equiv (\lambda, \lambda) \pmod{2}$, for all $\lambda \in \Lambda \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Using the basis above, the characteristic vectors in Λ are the vectors

$$\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i b_i \text{ with } a_i \in 1 + 2\mathbb{Z}_2 \text{ of norm } (\alpha, \alpha) \equiv n + \delta \pmod{8}.$$

Theorem 3.5 Let $X \cup -X$ be a tight 7-design of dimension $3d^2 - 4$ with odd d. Assume that $d \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{16}$. Then either $d \equiv 3 \pmod{32}$ and $\det(\Lambda) \in (\mathbb{Z}_2^*)^2$ or $d \equiv -3 \pmod{32}$ and $\det(\Lambda) \in 3(\mathbb{Z}_2^*)^2$. If additionally $v_p(d^3 - d) \leq 2$ for all primes $p \geq 5$ and $v_3(d^3 - d) \leq 4$ then $d \not\equiv -3 \pmod{16}$.

<u>Proof.</u> Let $\Lambda = \langle X \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}_2}$ and $\alpha \in \Lambda$ be a characteristic vector of Λ of norm $(\alpha, \alpha) = n + \delta - 8a$ for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ and $\delta \in \{0, 2, 4, 6\}$. Then $(\alpha, \lambda) \equiv (\lambda, \lambda) \pmod{2}$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$, in particular (α, x) is odd for all $x \in X$. For k > 0 let

$$n_k := |\{x \in X \mid (x, \alpha) = \pm k\}|.$$

Then from (D2), (D4), (D6) we obtain

Now $n_k \neq 0$ only for odd k. If k is odd, then $(k^2 - 1)$ is a multiple of 8 and $(k^2 - 1)(k^2 - 9)$ is a multiple of $8 \cdot 16$. Now $(k^2 - 1)(k^2 - 9)(k^2 - 25) = k^6 - 35k^4 + 259k^2 - 225$ is a multiple of $2^{10}3^25$ in particular

(a)
$$2^{-7}((D4) - 10(D2) + 9(D0)) \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

and

(b)
$$2^{-10}((D6) - 35(D4) + 259(D2) - 225(D0)) \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We substitute d = 16b+r for $r = \pm 3, \pm 5, \pm 7$ into these congruences to obtain polynomials in *a* where the coefficients are polynomials in *b*. The contradictions we obtain in the respective cases are listed below the table.

r =	3	5	7	-7	-5	-3
$\delta = 0$	(c0)	(a2)	(b1)	(a1)	(c2)	(a2)
$\delta = 2$						
$\delta = 4$						
$\delta = 6$						

(a) In congruence (a) the coefficients of a and a^2 are in $\mathbb{Z}[b]$ but the constant coefficient is

(a1)
$$p(b) + \frac{b}{2} + \frac{x}{4}$$
 with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$ and x odd.
(a2) $p(b) + \frac{b}{2} + \frac{x}{8}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$ and x odd.

- (b) In congruence (b) the coefficients of a, a^2 and a^3 are in $\mathbb{Z}[b]$ but the constant coefficient is
 - (b1) $p(b) + \frac{1}{2}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$. (b2) $p(b) + \frac{b}{2} + \frac{x}{4}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$ and x odd.
- (c) In congruence (b) the coefficient of a^3 is in $\mathbb{Z}[b]$ the ones of a and a^2 are in $\frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}[b]$ but the constant coefficient is
 - (c0) $p(b) + \frac{b}{2}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$. Here we can only deduce that b is even.
 - (c1) $p(b) + \frac{x}{8}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$ and x odd.
 - (c2) $p(b) + \frac{b}{2} + \frac{x}{4}$ with $p(b) \in \mathbb{Z}[b]$ and x odd.

Hence only the cases r = 3, $\delta = 0$ and r = -3, $\delta = 2$ are possible and then b is even.

To summarize we list a few small values that are excluded by Theorem 3.5 and Theorem 3.3:

Corollary 3.6 There is no tight 7-design of dimension $n = 3d^2 - 4$ for

 $d \in \{4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, \ldots\}$

4 Tight spherical 5-designs.

Assume that d = 2m + 1 and that $X \cup -X$ is a tight spherical 5-design in dimension $n = d^2 - 2$. Then |X| = n(n+1)/2 and scaled such that (x, x) = d for all $x \in X$ we have $(x, y) = \pm 1$ for $x \neq y \in X$ and $\Lambda := \langle X \rangle$ is an odd integral lattice. With these values the formula (D4) reads as

(D4)
$$\sum_{x \in X} (x, \alpha)^4 = 6m(m+1)(\alpha, \alpha)^2.$$

Lemma 4.1 (see [4, Lemma 3.6]) Assume that m(m + 1) is not divisible by the square of a prime $p \ge 5$. Then $(\alpha, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}[1/6]$ for all $\alpha \in \Lambda^*$.

Substituting the special values into the formula of Lemma 2.1 we immediately obtain

Lemma 4.2 (see [4, Lemma 3.3]) For all $\alpha \in \Lambda^*$

$$\frac{1}{6}m(m+1)(\alpha,\alpha)(3(\alpha,\alpha)-(2m+1)) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Corollary 4.3 If m(m+1) is not a multiple of 8, then $(\alpha, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ is 2-integral for all $\alpha \in \Lambda^*$.

We now treat the Sylow 3-subgroup $D_3 := \text{Syl}_3(\Lambda^*/\Lambda)$.

Lemma 4.4 Assume that m(m+1) is not a multiple of 9. Then $|D_3| \in \{1,3\}$.

<u>Proof.</u> Assume that $D_3 \neq 1$. Since D_3 is a regular quadratic 3-group it contains an anisotropic element $\alpha + \Lambda \in \Lambda^*/\Lambda$ with $(\alpha, \alpha) = \frac{p}{q}$ and $3 \mid q$. By equality (D4) the denominator q is not divisible by 9, in particular the exponent of D_3 is 3 and $(\alpha, \alpha) = \frac{p}{3}$ with a 3-adic unit $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{3}$. Now Lemma 4.2 gives

$$\frac{1}{18}m(m+1)p(p - (2m+1)) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Since m(m + 1) is not a multiple of 9, this implies that $p \equiv (2m + 1) \pmod{3}$. If $|D_3| > 3$, then the regular quadratic \mathbb{F}_3 -space D_3 is universal, representing also elements $\frac{p}{3}$ with $p \not\equiv (2m + 1) \pmod{3}$. This is a contradiction. So $|D_3| = 1$ or $|D_3| = 3$.

Let Λ_+ be the even sublattice of $\Lambda = \langle X \rangle$. Then $\Lambda = \Lambda_+ \cup \Lambda_-$ with $\Lambda_- = x + \Lambda_+$ for any $x \in X$. Since (x, y) is odd for all $x \in X$, the lattice

$$\Lambda_{+} = \{ \sum_{x \in X} c_x x \mid c_x \in \mathbb{Z}, \sum_{x \in X} c_x \text{ even } \}$$

and $(\alpha, x) \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ for any $\alpha \in \Lambda_+$ and $x \in X$. Therefore $\Lambda_+ \subset 2\Lambda^*$ and the lattice $\Gamma := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\Lambda_+$ is an integral lattice of dimension n.

The next lemma is an improvement of [4, Lemma 3.6].

Lemma 4.5 Assume that m(m + 1) is not divisible by the square of an odd prime and that m is odd and (m + 1) is not a multiple of 8. Then for any $x \in X$

$$\Gamma^*/\Gamma = \langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}x + \Gamma \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}.$$

<u>Proof.</u> For odd primes p the Sylow p-subgroup of Γ^*/Γ is isomorphic to the one of Λ^*/Λ and hence $\{0\}$ for $p \geq 5$ and either $\{0\}$ or $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ for p = 3. Clearly $\alpha := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}x \in \Gamma^*$ has order 2 modulo Γ . Moreover

$$\Gamma^* = \sqrt{2}\Lambda^*_+ = \langle \alpha, \sqrt{2}\Lambda^* \rangle$$

is an overlattice of $\sqrt{2}\Lambda^*$ of index 2. Now by Corollary 4.3 $(\beta, \beta) \in 2\mathbb{Z}_2$ for all elements $\beta \in \sqrt{2}\Lambda^*$ and since $x \in \Lambda$ we get $(\beta, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all $\beta \in \sqrt{2}\Lambda^*$. Since the Sylow 2-subgroup D_2 of Γ^*/Γ is a regular quadratic 2-group and $D_2 \cap \sqrt{2}\Lambda^*/\Gamma$ is in the radical of this group we obtain that $D_2 = \langle \alpha + \Gamma \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. To exclude the case that $D_3 = \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ we use the fact that Γ is an even lattice and hence the Gauß sum

$$G(\Gamma) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \cdot 3^t}} \sum_{d \in \Gamma^*/\Gamma} \exp(2\pi i q(d))$$

for the quadratic group $(\Gamma^*/\Gamma, q)$ with $q(z + \Gamma) := \frac{1}{2}(z, z) + \mathbb{Z}$ equals

$$G(\Gamma) = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{8})^n = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{8})^{-1}$$

by the Milgram-Braun formula. Clearly $G(\Gamma)$ is the product of the Gauß sums of its Sylow subgroups, $G(\Gamma) = G_2G_3$ with

$$G_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(1 + \exp(2\pi i \frac{2m+1}{4})\right) = \frac{1-i}{\sqrt{2}} = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{8})^{-1} = G(\Gamma)$$

since *m* is odd. This implies that $G_3 = 1$. Then [6, Corollary 5.8.3] shows that D_3 cannot be anisotropic, and hence by Lemma 4.4 $D_3 = \{0\}$.

Theorem 4.6 (see also [4, Theorem 3.10] for one case) Assume that m(m + 1) is not divisible by the square of an odd prime, m is even but not divisible by 8. Then $\Gamma^*/\Gamma \cong \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ and $m \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$.

<u>Proof.</u> With the same proof as above we obtain $G(\Gamma) = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{8})^{-1}$ and $G_2 = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{8})$ and hence $G_3 = -i$. Then [6, Corollary 5.8.3] yields that $D_3 = \langle \beta + \Gamma \rangle$ with $3(\beta, \beta) \equiv 1$ (mod 3). Let $\lambda := \sqrt{2}\beta \in \Lambda^*$. Then $(\lambda, \lambda) = \frac{p}{3}$ with $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. Then the integrality condition in Lemma 4.2 shows that

$$m(m+1)(2m-1) \in 9\mathbb{Z}_3$$

is a multiple of 9. This implies that $m \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ as it was already observed in [4] but also that $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$.

Corollary 4.7 $m \neq 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 22, 28, 30, 34, 42, 46, \dots$

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