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Reverse Cheeger Inequality for Planar Convex Sets

We prove the sharp inequality

$$J(\Omega) := \frac{\lambda_1(\Omega)}{h_1(\Omega)^2} < \frac{\pi^2}{4},$$

where Ω is any planar, convex set, $\lambda_1(\Omega)$ is the first eigenvalue of the Laplacian under Dirichlet boundary conditions, and $h_1(\Omega)$ is the Cheeger constant of Ω . The value on the right-hand side is optimal, and any sequence of convex sets with fixed volume and diameter tending to infinity is a maximizing sequence. Moreover, we discuss the minimization of J in the same class of subsets: we provide a lower bound which improves the generic bound given by Cheeger's inequality, we show the existence of a minimizer, and we give some optimality conditions.

Keywords: Cheeger's inequality.

MSC: 49Q10