

# Asymptotic behaviour of cuboids optimising Laplacian eigenvalues

Katie Gittins<sup>1</sup>   Simon Larson<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Université de Neuchâtel

<sup>2</sup>KTH Royal Institute of Technology

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# Dirichlet eigenvalues

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \geq 2$ , be an open set of finite Lebesgue measure  $|\Omega| < \infty$ .

**Dirichlet** eigenvalues of the Laplacian on  $\Omega$ ,  $\lambda_k(\Omega) \in \mathbb{R}$ , satisfy

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_k(x) = \lambda_k(\Omega) u_k(x) & x \in \Omega, \\ u_k(x) = 0 & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

and form a non-decreasing sequence, counted with multiplicities,

$$\lambda_1(\Omega) \leq \lambda_2(\Omega) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k(\Omega) \leq \dots$$

## Goal

If, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , an open set  $\Omega_k^* \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  exists such that, for prescribed  $c > 0$ ,

$$\lambda_k(\Omega_k^*) = \inf \{ \lambda_k(\Omega) : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m \text{ open, } |\Omega| = c \},$$

then determine the **asymptotic behaviour** of  $(\Omega_k^*)_k$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Dirichlet eigenvalues on cuboids of unit measure

Let  $R = \prod_{i=1}^m (0, a_i) \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  where  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $0 < a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots \leq a_m$ ,  $\prod_{i=1}^m a_i = 1$ .

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For  $R \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $\lambda_k(R)$  obeys the two-term asymptotic formula

$$\lambda_k(R) = 4\pi\Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2} + 1\right)^{2/m} k^{2/m} + \frac{2\pi\Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2} + 1\right)^{1+1/m}}{m\Gamma\left(\frac{m+1}{2}\right)} |\partial R| k^{1/m} + o(k^{1/m}),$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

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as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Antunes and Freitas (2012): any sequence of [minimising rectangles](#)  $(R_k^*)_k$  of unit area for  $\lambda_k$  converges to the [unit square](#) as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

van den Berg and Gittins (2016): corresponding result holds for  $m = 3$ .

# Dirichlet eigenvalues on cuboids of unit measure

Dirichlet eigenvalues of the Laplacian on  $R = \prod_{i=1}^m (0, a_i)$  have the form

$$\frac{\pi^2 i_1^2}{a_1^2} + \frac{\pi^2 i_2^2}{a_2^2} + \cdots + \frac{\pi^2 i_m^2}{a_m^2}, \quad i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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Let  $\Lambda \geq 0$  and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that  $\prod_{i=1}^m a_i = 1$ ,  $0 < a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_m$ . Define

$$E(\Lambda, R) := \left\{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m : \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{x_j^2}{a_j^2} \leq \frac{\Lambda}{\pi^2} \right\}.$$

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**Dirichlet eigenvalues**  $\lambda_1(R), \dots, \lambda_k(R)$  correspond to **integer lattice points** with positive coordinates that lie inside or on the ellipsoid  $E(\lambda_k(R), R)$ .



# Dirichlet eigenvalues on cuboids of unit measure

## Theorem (G - Larson, 2017)

Let  $m \geq 4$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $R_k^* = R_{a_{1,k}^*, a_{2,k}^*, \dots, a_{m,k}^*}$  denote an  $m$ -dimensional cuboid which minimises  $\lambda_k$  where  $0 < a_{1,k}^* \leq a_{2,k}^* \leq \dots \leq a_{m,k}^*$ ,  $\prod_{i=1}^m a_{i,k}^* = 1$ . Then, as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$a_{m,k}^* = 1 + O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/2m}),$$

where  $\theta_m$  is any exponent such that for all  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}_+$

$$\#\{(i_1, \dots, i_m) \in \mathbb{Z}^m : a_1^{-2} i_1^2 + \dots + a_m^{-2} i_m^2 \leq r^2\} - \omega_m r^m \prod_{i=1}^m a_i = O(r^{\theta_m}),$$

as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly for  $a_i$  on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}_+$   
( $\omega_m$  is the measure of a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  with radius 1).

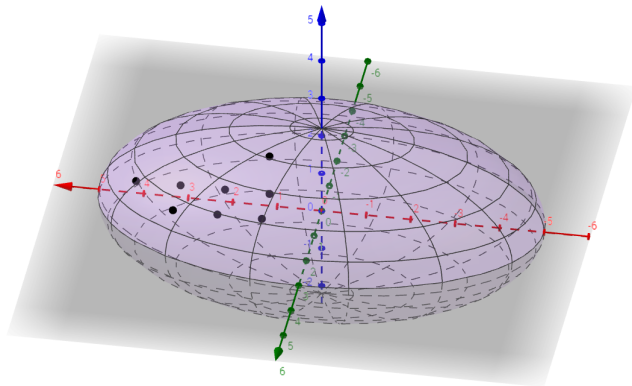
Smallest exponents known are  $\theta_4 = \frac{12}{5}$ , and  $\theta_m = m - 2$  for  $m \geq 5$ .

# Geometric convergence

Dirichlet counting function on  $R$  is

$$N(\Lambda, R) := \#\{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m) \in \mathbb{N}^m \cap E(\Lambda, R)\}.$$

Express  $N(\Lambda, R)$  in terms of lattice-point sums over successive lower-dimensional ellipsoids.



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## Lemma (G - Larson, 2017)

For  $m \geq 2$  and  $R = \prod_{i=1}^m (0, a_i) \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$$N(\Lambda, R) = L_{0,m}^{cl} |R| \Lambda^{m/2} - \frac{L_{0,m-1}^{cl}}{4} |\partial R| \Lambda^{(m-1)/2} + O(\Lambda^{\theta_m/2}),$$

as  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\theta_m$  is any exponent such that for all  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}_+$

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as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly for  $a_i$  on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}_+$ .

Smallest exponents known are  $\theta_2 = \frac{2}{3}$ , and  $\theta_3 = \frac{3}{2}$ .

# Geometric convergence

Since  $\lambda_k(Q) \geq \lambda_k^* = \lambda_k(R_k^*)$ , for  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $N(\lambda_k^* - \varepsilon, Q) < k \leq N(\lambda_k^*, R_k^*)$ .

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$$\begin{aligned} L_{0,m}^{\text{cl}}(\lambda_k^* - \varepsilon)^{m/2} - \frac{L_{0,m-1}^{\text{cl}}}{4} |\partial Q| (\lambda_k^* - \varepsilon)^{(m-1)/2} - O((\lambda_k^* - \varepsilon)^{\theta_m/2}) \\ \leq L_{0,m}^{\text{cl}}(\lambda_k^*)^{m/2} - \frac{L_{0,m-1}^{\text{cl}}}{4} |\partial R_k^*| (\lambda_k^*)^{(m-1)/2} + O((\lambda_k^*)^{\theta_m/2}). \end{aligned}$$

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Rearranging and choosing  $\varepsilon = O(1)$ ,

$$|\partial R_k^*| - |\partial Q| \leq O((\lambda_k^*)^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/2}) = O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/m}),$$

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which implies that

$$|\partial R_k^*| = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{2}{a_{i,k}^*} + \frac{2}{a_{m,k}^*} \leq 2m + O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/m}).$$

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By the arithmetic – geometric means inequality, with  $a_{m,k}^* = 1 + \delta_k > 1$ ,

$$(m-1)(1 + \delta_k)^{m/(m-1)} + 1 \leq m + m\delta_k + O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/m}).$$



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Deduce that  $\delta_k = O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/(2m)})$ .

# Are minimising cuboids uniformly bounded?

Dirichlet counting function on  $R$  is

$$N(\Lambda, R) := \#\{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m) \in \mathbb{N}^m \cap E(\Lambda, R)\}.$$

Observe that

$$N(\Lambda, R) \leq \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_{m-1} \in \mathbb{N}} \left( \left( \frac{a_m^2 \Lambda}{\pi^2} - \sum_{j=1}^{m-2} \frac{a_m^2 i_j^2}{a_j^2} \right) - i_{m-1}^2 \right)_+^{1/2},$$

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For  $m \geq 4$ , we are concerned with a function of the form  $(y - i^2)^{n/2}$  where  $n \geq 3$ . But  $(y - i^2)^{n/2}$  is not concave on  $[0, y^{1/2}]$  for  $n \geq 3$ .

# Riesz mean of Dirichlet eigenvalues

Riesz mean of Dirichlet eigenvalues for  $\Lambda \geq 0$  and  $\gamma \geq 0$ :

$$\mathrm{Tr}(-\Delta_{\Omega} - \Lambda)_{-}^{\gamma} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\Lambda - \lambda_k(\Omega))_{+}^{\gamma}.$$

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Observe that

$$N(\Lambda, R) = \sum_{k: \lambda_k(R) \leq \Lambda} (\Lambda - \lambda_k(R))^0 = \mathrm{Tr}(-\Delta_{\Omega} - \lambda)_{-}^0.$$

# Upper bound for counting function

Let  $R' = (0, a_2) \times \cdots \times (0, a_m)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} N(\Lambda, R) &= \sum_{k: \lambda_k(R) \leq \Lambda} (\Lambda - \lambda_k(R))^0 \\ &= \sum_{l: \lambda_l((0, a_1)) \leq \Lambda} \sum_{k: \lambda_k(R') \leq \Lambda - \lambda_l((0, a_1))} ((\Lambda - \lambda_l((0, a_1))) - \lambda_k(R'))^0 \\ &= \sum_{l: \lambda_l((0, a_1)) \leq \Lambda} N((\Lambda - \lambda_l((0, a_1)))_+, R'), \end{aligned}$$



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By Pólya's inequality  $N(\Lambda, R') \leq L_{0, m-1}^{\text{cl}} |R'| \Lambda^{(m-1)/2}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} N(\Lambda, R) &\leq \sum_{l: \lambda_l((0, a_1)) \leq \Lambda} L_{0, m-1}^{\text{cl}} |R'| (\Lambda - \lambda_l((0, a_1)))_+^{(m-1)/2} \\ &= L_{0, m-1}^{\text{cl}} |R'| \text{Tr}(-\Delta_{(0, a_1)} - \Lambda)_-^{(m-1)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

# Minimising cuboids are uniformly bounded

## Theorem (G - Larson, 2017)

Let  $R = \prod_{i=1}^m (0, a_i)$ ,  $m \geq 4$ , be such that  $0 < a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots \leq a_m$  and  $|R| = \prod_{i=1}^m a_i = 1$ . Then the bound

$$N(\Lambda, R) \leq L_{0,m}^{cl} \Lambda^{m/2} - \frac{3bL_{0,m-1}^{cl}}{8a_1} \Lambda^{(m-1)/2} + \frac{b^2 L_{0,m-2}^{cl}}{8\pi a_1^2} \Lambda^{(m-2)/2},$$

holds for all  $\Lambda > 0$  and all  $b \in [0, b_0]$ , with  $b_0 := \pi - \sqrt{\frac{6-8\pi+3\pi^2}{3}}$ .

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For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $N(\lambda_k^* - \epsilon, Q) \leq N(\lambda_k(Q) - \epsilon, Q) < k \leq N(\lambda_k^*, R_k^*)$ . We can deduce that

$$a_{m,k}^* \leq \left( \frac{32m\Gamma(\frac{m+1}{2})^2}{3\pi^{3/2}\Gamma(\frac{m}{2})} \right)^{m-1} + o(1).$$

# Convergence of eigenvalues

## Theorem (G - Larson, 2017)

As  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$|\lambda_k(Q) - \lambda_k^*| = O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-2))/m}) = \begin{cases} O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-2))/m}) & 2 \leq m \leq 4, \\ O(1) & m \geq 5, \end{cases}$$

where  $\theta_m$  is any exponent such that for all  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}_+$

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as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly for  $a_i$  on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}_+$ .

Restrict the collection of cuboids to a sub-collection, then any sequence of minimising cuboids converges to the cuboid of smallest perimeter in this sub-collection.

# Further results for Dirichlet Laplacian

- For  $\gamma \geq 0$  and  $\Lambda \geq 0$ ,

$$\max\{\mathrm{Tr}(-\Delta_R - \Lambda)_-^\gamma : R = R_{a_1, \dots, a_m}, |R| = 1\}.$$

Any sequence of **maximising** cuboids  $(R_\Lambda)_\Lambda$  converges to the unit cube as  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ .

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Any sequence of **maximising** cuboids  $(R_\Lambda)_\Lambda$  converges to the unit cube as  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ .

- For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\min \left\{ \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i(R) : R = R_{a_1, \dots, a_m}, |R| = 1 \right\}.$$

Any sequence of **minimising** cuboids  $(R_k^{**})_k$  converges to the unit cube as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .



# Neumann eigenvalues

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  be a bounded, open set with Lipschitz boundary.

**Neumann** eigenvalues of the Laplacian on  $\Omega$ ,  $\mu_k(\Omega) \in \mathbb{R}$ , satisfy

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_k(x) = \mu_k(\Omega) u_k(x) & x \in \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u_k(x)}{\partial \vec{n}} = 0 & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\vec{n}$  is the outward pointing unit normal vector to  $\partial\Omega$ .

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## Theorem (van den Berg - Bucur - G, 2016)

Among rectangles of unit area, any sequence of *maximising* rectangles  $(R_k^*)_k$  for  $\mu_k$  converges to the unit square as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Moreover,

$$a_{2,k}^* = 1 + O(k^{(\theta_2-1)/4}), k \rightarrow \infty,$$

where  $\theta_2$  is any exponent such that for all  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$

$$\#\{(i_1, i_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : a_1^{-2} i_1^2 + a_2^{-2} i_2^2 \leq r^2\} - \pi a_1 a_2 r^2 = O(r^{\theta_2}), r \rightarrow \infty.$$

# Neumann eigenvalues

## Theorem (G - Larson, 2017)

Let  $m \geq 3$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $R_k^* = R_{a_{1,k}^*, a_{2,k}^*, \dots, a_{m,k}^*}$  denote an  $m$ -dimensional cuboid which maximises  $\mu_k$  where  $0 < a_{1,k}^* \leq a_{2,k}^* \leq \dots \leq a_{m,k}^*$ ,  $\prod_{i=1}^m a_{i,k}^* = 1$ . Then, as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$a_{m,k}^* = 1 + O(k^{(\theta_m - (m-1))/2m}),$$






where  $\theta_m$  is any exponent such that

$$\#\{(i_1, \dots, i_m) \in \mathbb{Z}^m : a_1^{-2} i_1^2 + \dots + a_m^{-2} i_m^2 \leq r^2\} - \omega_m r^m \prod_{i=1}^m a_i = O(r^{\theta_m})$$

as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly for  $a_i$  on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}_+$ .

Any sequence of **maximising  $m$ -dimensional cuboids**  $(R_k^*)_k$  of unit measure for  $\mu_k$  converges to the  **$m$ -dimensional unit cube** as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

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# Flat tori

Let  $T_{a,b}$  denote the flat torus obtained from the parallelogram in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with vertices  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(a, b)$ ,  $(a + 1, b)$  by identifying parallel edges.

Let  $\lambda_k(a, b)$  denote the eigenvalues of Laplace-Beltrami operator on  $T_{a,b}$ .

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a maximising flat torus  $T_{a_k^*, b_k^*}$  which realises the supremum

$$\sup\{b \cdot \lambda_k(a, b) : (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2\}.$$

Conjecture (Kao, Lai and Osting, 2016)

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the maximising flat torus  $T_{a_k^*, b_k^*}$  has

$$(a_k^*, b_k^*) = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \sqrt{\left\lceil \frac{k}{2} \right\rceil^2 - \frac{1}{4}} \right).$$

# Optimal cylinders

Cylinder  $C(r, \ell) = S_r \times [0, \ell]$ , where  $S_r$  is a circle of radius  $r$ .

For  $b > 0$ , set  $\ell = b$  and  $r = b^{-1}$  so  $|C(b^{-1}, b)| = 2\pi$ .

Dirichlet eigenvalues on  $C(b^{-1}, b)$ :

$$\frac{\pi^2 i^2}{b^2} + j^2 b^2, \quad i \in \mathbb{N}, j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$\inf\{\lambda_k(C(b^{-1}, b)) : b > 0\} = 0$  via a sequence of cylinders with  $(b_k^\ell)_\ell$  such that  $b_k^\ell \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\sup\{\lambda_k(C(b^{-1}, b)) : b > 0\} = \infty$  via a sequence of cylinders with  $(b_k^\ell)_\ell$  such that  $b_k^\ell \rightarrow 0$  as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Optimal cylinders

Cylinder  $C(r, \ell) = S_r \times [0, \ell]$ , where  $S_r$  is a circle of radius  $r$ .

For  $b > 0$ , set  $\ell = b$  and  $r = b^{-1}$  so  $|C(b^{-1}, b)| = 2\pi$ .

Neumann eigenvalues on  $C(b^{-1}, b)$ :

$$\frac{\pi^2 j^2}{b^2} + j^2 b^2, \quad i \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$\inf\{\mu_k(C(b^{-1}, b)) : b > 0\} = 0$  via a sequence of cylinders with  $(b_k^\ell)_\ell$  such that  $b_k^\ell \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ , **and** via a sequence of cylinders with  $(b_k^\ell)_\ell$  such that  $b_k^\ell \rightarrow 0$  as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Maximising cylinders for  $\mu_k$  exist.**

**Q: What are they? What is the asymptotic behaviour of a sequence of maximising cylinders as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ?**

# Optimisation of Dirichlet eigenvalues: fixed perimeter

For  $\ell \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\ell > 0$ ,

$$\lambda_k(\Omega_k^*) = \inf \{ \lambda_k(\Omega) : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m \text{ open, } |\Omega| < \infty, \text{Per}(\Omega) = \ell \}.$$

De Philippis and Velichkov: a minimiser exists, is bounded and connected.

Bucur and Freitas: any sequence of minimisers  $\Omega_k^* \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  of  $\lambda_k$  with perimeter  $\ell$  converges to the disc of perimeter  $\ell$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

van den Berg: for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $\Omega_k^* \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \geq 2$ , such that

$$\lambda_k(\Omega_k^*) = \inf \{ \lambda_k(\Omega) : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m \text{ open, convex, } |\Omega| < \infty, \text{Per}(\Omega) = \ell \}.$$

For any sequence of minimisers, there exists a sequence of isometries of these minimisers which converges to a ball of perimeter  $\ell$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Antunes and Freitas: any sequence of  $m$ -dimensional minimising cuboids of perimeter  $\ell$  converges to the cube of perimeter  $\ell$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .



# Optimisation of Neumann eigenvalues: fixed perimeter

Let

$$R_{a,c} = \{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < x_1 < c, 0 < x_2 < a\}.$$

Theorem (van den Berg, Bucur, Gittins, 2016)

- (i) *If  $k = 1$ , then  $\inf\{\mu_k(R_{a,c}) : \text{Per}(R_{a,c}) = 2(a+c) = 4\}$  does not have a minimiser, and the infimum equals  $\frac{\pi^2}{4}$ .*
- (ii) *Any sequence of minimising rectangles  $(R_{a_k^*, c_k^*})_k$ ,  $k \geq 2$ , converges to the unit square as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .*
- (iii) *For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a unique maximising rectangle  $R_{a_k^*, c_k^*}$  such that  $\mu_k(R_{a_k^*, c_k^*}) = \sup\{\mu_k(R_{a,c}) : \text{Per}(R_{a,c}) = 2(a+c) = 4\}$  with  $a_k^* = \frac{2}{k+1} \in (0, 1]$  and  $c_k^* = 2 - a_k^*$ . The sequence of maximising rectangles collapses as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .*

# Optimisation of Neumann eigenvalues: fixed perimeter

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m \geq 3$ ,

$$\sup\{\mu_k(R) : R \text{ is a cuboid in } \mathbb{R}^m, \text{Per}(R) = 4\}.$$

Either

- there is a non-degenerate maximising sequence for  $\mu_k$ , or
- there is a maximising sequence  $(R_{a_1^{(n)}, \dots, a_m^{(n)}})_n$  for  $\mu_k$  with one vanishing side-length  $a_1^{(n)} \rightarrow 0$  and, for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ ,  $a_i^{(n)} \rightarrow a_i$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . The perimeter constraint becomes  $a_2 a_3 \dots a_m = 2$ .

The eigenvalues of  $R_{a_1, \dots, a_m}$  are the eigenvalues of the  $(m-1)$ -dimensional cuboid with edges of length  $a_2, a_3, \dots, a_m$  and measure 2.

For a maximising cuboid,  $\mu_k^*$  behaves like  $k^{2/m}$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

On a degenerating sequence which collapses towards a fixed  $(m-1)$ -dimensional cuboid,  $\mu_k^*$  behaves like  $k^{2/(m-1)}$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .