Approximating convex disks from inside and out by parallelograms

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Abstract

For each convex disk K we consider the minimum area P(K) of a parallelogram containing K and the maximum area p(K) of a parallelogram contained in K, then we seek the maximum of P(K) and the minimum of p(K) over all convex disks K of area 1. Without assuming central symmetry of K, the naturally anticipated answers are given, but when we assume central symmetry, the problem of the maximum of P(K) becomes much harder. We state a conjecture and discuss it in a quite broad context that includes the well-known, still unresolved Reinhardt Conjecture on the criticality of the smoothed octagon.

This is a joint work with András Bezdek.