

COVERING THE UNIT BALL OF ℓ_p^n WITH SMALLER BALLS AND RELATED INEQUALITIES

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Abstract. Let B_p^n ($p \geq 1$) be the unit ball of ℓ_p^n and $\Gamma_m(B_p^n)$ be the smallest positive number γ such that B_p^n can be covered by m translates of γB_p^n . By using different configurations of translates of γB_p^n , we obtain a universal upper bound of $\Gamma_{2^n}(B_p^n)$ for fixed $p \in [1, \infty]$, a nontrivial upper bound for $\Gamma_{2^n}(B_p^n)$ for all $p \in [1, \infty]$ when n is small, and a useful upper bound of $\Gamma_{2^n}(B_p^n)$ when n and p are both large. It is still not clear whether there exists a constant $c \in (0, 1)$ such that $\Gamma_{2^n}(B_p^n) \leq c$ holds whenever $p \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$.

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