## POW 2018-04

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The answer is  $n + \cos(2\pi/n)$ . Let  $\omega = 2\pi/n$ . Define  $e_0, \ldots, e_{n-1} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  as

$$e_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} (1, e^{ik\omega}, e^{2ik\omega}, \dots, e^{(n-1)ik\omega})$$

Then, these vectors form an orthonormal basis. Define  $c_0, \ldots, c_{n-1} \in \mathbb{C}$  as

$$v := (x_1, \dots, x_n) = c_0 e_0 + \dots + c_{n-1} e_{n-1}$$

The first constrains becomes

$$n = x_1 + \ldots + x_n = \sqrt{n}c_0 \implies c_0 = \sqrt{n}$$

since the sum of the components of  $e_k$  vanishes for  $k \neq 0$  and equals  $\sqrt{n}$  for k = 0. The second becomes

$$n + 1 = x_1^2 + \ldots + x_n^2 = (v, v) = |c_0|^2 + \cdots + |c_{n-1}|^2$$
$$\implies |c_1|^2 + \cdots + |c_{n-1}|^2 = 1$$

where (-, -) denotes the usual inner product in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Also, that  $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$  is equivalent to

$$v = \overline{v} \implies c_0 e_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} c_k e_k = c_0 e_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \overline{c_k e_k} = c_0 e_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \overline{c_k} e_{n-k}$$
$$\implies c_k = \overline{c_{n-k}} \quad \forall 1 \le k \le n-1$$

Finally, if A is a linear transformation on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  defined as  $A(a_1, \ldots, a_n) = (a_2, \ldots, a_n, a_1)$ , then we have  $Ae_k = e^{ik\omega}e_k$ , so that

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 x_2 + \dots + x_n x_1 \\ &= (v, Av) \\ &= n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} e^{ik\omega} |c_k|^2 \\ &= n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} e^{ik\omega} \frac{|c_k|^2 + |c_{n-k}|^2}{2} \\ &= n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{e^{ik\omega} + e^{-ik\omega}}{2} |c_k|^2 \\ &\leq n + \max_{1 \leq j \leq n-1} (\cos j\omega) \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} |c_k|^2 = n + \cos \omega \end{aligned}$$

The equality holds if and only if  $c_1 = c_{n-1} = \sqrt{1/2}$ , in other words,  $x_j = 1 + \sqrt{2/n} \cos(j\omega)$  for all j.