

# On a Generalization of Szemerédi's Theorem

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1. Let  $N$  be a positive integer number. Define

$$a_k(N) = \frac{1}{N} \max\{|A| : A \subseteq [1, N] \text{ and}$$

$A$  contains no arithmetic progressions  
of length  $k$ },

where  $|A|$  denotes the cardinality of  $A$ . In [1], Erdős and Turán conjectured that any set of positive density contains an arithmetic progression of a given length. In other words, they assumed that, for any  $k \geq 3$ ,

$$a_k(N) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty. \quad (1)$$

In the simplest case  $k = 3$ , conjecture (1) was proved in [2] by Roth, who used the Hardy–Littlewood method to show that  $a_3(N) \ll \frac{1}{\ln \ln N}$ . At present, the best upper bound for  $a_3(N)$  is due to Bourgain [3], who proved that

$$a_3(N) \ll \sqrt{\frac{\ln \ln N}{\ln N}}. \quad (2)$$

For an arbitrary  $k$ , conjecture (1) was proved by Szemerédi in 1975 [4]. However, Szemerédi's proof is based on difficult combinatorial arguments. An alternative proof was proposed by Furstenberg in [9]. His approach uses the methods of ergodic theory.

Unfortunately, Szemerédi's methods give very approximate upper bounds for  $a_k(N)$ , while the ergodic approach yields no bounds at all. Only in 2001 did Gowers [5] obtain a quantitative result on the rate at which  $a_k(N)$  approaches zero for  $k \geq 4$ . Specifically, he proved the following result.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $k \geq 4$ . Then

$$a_k(N) \ll \frac{1}{(\ln \ln N)^{c_k}},$$

where  $c_k > 0$  is an effective constant depending only on  $k$ .

In this paper, we solve the following problem. Consider the two-dimensional lattice  $[1, N]^2$  with the base  $\{(1, 0), (0, 1)\}$ . Let

$$L(N) = \frac{1}{N^2} \max\{|A| : A \subseteq [1, N]^2 \text{ and}$$

$A$  contains no triples of the form

$$(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d), d > 0\}. \quad (3)$$

Triples from (3) will be referred to as corners. In [6, 9], it was proved that  $L(N)$  tends to 0 as  $N$  approaches infinity. Gowers (see [5]) then asked what the rate of convergence of  $L(N)$  to 0 is.

The following result was proved in [10] (see also [7, 8]).

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\delta > 0$ ;  $N \gg \exp \exp \exp(\delta^{-c})$ , where  $c > 0$  is an effective constant; and  $A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, N\}^2$  be an arbitrary subset with a cardinality of, at least,  $\delta N^2$ .

Then  $A$  contains a corner.

Below is the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 3.** Let  $\delta > 0$ ;  $N \gg \exp \exp(\delta^{-c})$ , where  $c > 0$  is an effective constant; and  $A \subseteq \{1, \dots, N\}^2$  be an arbitrary subset with a cardinality of, at least,  $\delta N^2$ .

Then  $A$  contains a corner.

Thus, we prove the bound  $L(N) \ll \frac{1}{(\ln \ln N)^{C_1}}$ ,

where  $C_1 = \frac{1}{c}$ .

**Remark 1.** The constant  $c$  in Theorem 3 can be set equal to 73.

The fundamental difference between this paper and [10] is that we now consider a new object—the so-called Bohr set. Note that today's best bound for  $a_3(N)$  is proved using these sets (see [3]).

**2. Proof sketch.** Let  $Q$  be a subset of integers. The same letter  $Q$  will denote the characteristic function of this set.

A key point in [3] was the concept of Bohr sets.

Suppose that  $N$  and  $d$  are positive integers,  $\varepsilon > 0$  is a real number, and  $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_d) \in \mathbf{T}^d$ .

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**Definition 1.** The Bohr set  $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon, N}$  is defined as

$$\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon, N} = \{n \in \mathbf{Z} \mid |n| \leq N, \|n\theta_j\| < \varepsilon \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, d\}.$$

**Definition 2.** Let  $0 < \kappa < 1$  be a number. A Bohr set  $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon, N}$  is called regular if, for any  $\varepsilon'$  and  $N'$  such that

$$|\varepsilon - \varepsilon'| < \frac{\kappa}{100d}\varepsilon, \quad |N - N'| < \frac{\kappa}{100d}N,$$

we have

$$1 - \kappa < \frac{|\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon', N'}|}{|\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon, N}|} < 1 + \kappa.$$

The first lemma we need was proved in [3].

**Lemma 1.** Let  $0 < \kappa < 1$  be a number and  $\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon, N}$  be a Bohr set.

Then there is a pair  $(\varepsilon_1, N_1)$  with the properties

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \varepsilon_1 < \varepsilon, \quad \frac{N}{2} < N_1 < N$$

such that the  $\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon_1, N_1}$  is regular.

**Definition 3.** Let  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$  be a number and  $\Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon_0, N_0}$  be a Bohr set, where  $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_d)$ . A regular Bohr set  $\Lambda' = \Lambda_{\theta', \varepsilon', N'}$  is said to be  $\varepsilon$ -accompanying for  $\Lambda$  if

$$\theta' = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_d, \theta_{d+1}, \dots, \theta_{d+k}) \text{ for } k \geq 0, \frac{\varepsilon \varepsilon_0}{2} \leq \varepsilon' \leq$$

$$\varepsilon \varepsilon_0, \text{ and } \frac{\varepsilon N_0}{2} \leq N' \leq \varepsilon N_0. \text{ The existence of such a set follows from Lemma 1.}$$

It is assumed that  $k = 0$  unless otherwise stated.

Suppose that  $f$  is a function from  $\mathbf{Z}$  in  $\mathbf{C}$  that takes a final number of nonzero values. Let  $\hat{f}(x)$  denote the Fourier coefficient of  $f$ :

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{s \in \mathbf{Z}} f(s)e(-sx),$$

where  $e(x) = e^{2\pi ix}$ .

**Definition 4.** Let  $\Lambda$  be a Bohr set,  $Q \subseteq \Lambda$  with  $|Q| = \delta|\Lambda|$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\varepsilon$  be positive numbers, and  $\Lambda'$  be an  $\varepsilon$ -accompanying set for  $\Lambda$ . Consider the set

$$B = \{m \in \Lambda \mid \|(Q \cap (\Lambda' + m) - \delta(\Lambda' + m))^\wedge\|_\infty \geq \alpha|\Lambda'|\}.$$

The set  $Q$  is called  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -uniform if

$$|B| \leq \alpha|\Lambda|, \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{|\Lambda|} \sum_{m \in \Lambda} |\delta_{\Lambda' + m}(Q) - \delta|^2 \leq \alpha^2, \tag{5}$$

$$\|(Q \cap \Lambda - \delta\Lambda)^\wedge\|_\infty \leq \alpha|\Lambda|. \tag{6}$$

A similar definition of  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -uniformity was given in [5].

Let  $\mathbf{D}$  denote the closed disk of radius 1 centered at 0 in the complex plane. For a set  $R$ , we write  $f: R \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$  if  $f$  vanishes outside  $R$ .

Denote the vectors  $(1, 0)$  and  $(0, -1)$  by  $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$ , respectively.

Let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be Bohr sets,  $\varepsilon > 0$  be a number, and  $\Lambda'$  be an  $\varepsilon$ -accompanying set for  $\Lambda_1$ . Additionally, let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be subsets of  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$ , respectively, with  $|E_1| = \beta_1|\Lambda_1|$  and  $E_2 = \beta_2|\Lambda_2|$ .

**Definition 5.** A function  $f: \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2 \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$  is called  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -uniform with respect to the rectangular norm if

$$\|f\|_{\Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2, \varepsilon}^4 = \sum_{i \in \Lambda_1} \sum_{j \in \Lambda_2} \sum_k \sum_{m, u} \Lambda'(m - k - i)\Lambda'(u - k - i) \times \left| \sum_r \Lambda'(k + r - j)f(r, m)f(r, u) \right|^2 \leq \alpha\beta_1^2\beta_2^2|\Lambda'|^4|\Lambda_1|^2|\Lambda_2|. \tag{7}$$

Denote the set  $\Lambda'$  in (7) by  $\Lambda_1(\varepsilon)$ .

**Definition 6.** Let  $A \subseteq E_1 \times E_2$  with  $|A| = \delta\beta_1\beta_2|\Lambda_1||\Lambda_2|$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , and  $f(s) = A(s) - \delta(E_1 \times E_2)(s)$ . Let  $f_j(s) = f(s_1 + l, s_2)\Lambda'(s_1)$ , where  $l \in \Lambda_1$ . Consider the set

$$B = \{l \in \Lambda_1 \mid \|f\|_{\Lambda' \times \Lambda_2, \varepsilon}^4 > \alpha\beta_1^2\beta_2^2|\Lambda'(\varepsilon)|^4|\Lambda'|^2|\Lambda_2|\}.$$

The set  $A$  is said to be  $(\alpha, \alpha_1, \varepsilon)$ -uniform with respect to the rectangular norm if  $|B| \leq \alpha_1|\Lambda_1|$ .

Our first result concerns the case where  $A \subseteq E_1 \times E_2$  is a  $(\alpha, \alpha_1, \varepsilon)$ -uniform set with respect to the rectangular norm and the sets  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ -uniform in the sense of Definition 4.

Let  $\Lambda$  be a Bohr set;  $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\theta, \varepsilon_1, N_1}$  with  $\theta \in \mathbf{T}^d$ ; and  $E_1, E_2 \subseteq \Lambda$  with  $|E_1| = \beta_1|\Lambda|$  and  $|E_2| = \beta_2|\Lambda|$ . Denote the Cartesian product  $E_1 \times E_2$  by  $\mathcal{P}$ .

**Theorem 4.** Suppose that set  $A$  belongs to  $E_1 \times E_2$  and has the cardinality  $|A| = \delta|E_1||E_2|$ . Let sets  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are  $(\alpha_0, 2^{-10}\varepsilon^2)$ -uniform, where  $\alpha_0 = 2^{-2000}\delta^{96}\beta_1^{48}\beta_2^{48}$  and

$$\varepsilon = \frac{2^{-100}\alpha_0^2}{100d}. \text{ Additionally, let } A \text{ be } (\alpha, \alpha_1, \varepsilon)\text{-uniform}$$

with respect to the rectangular norm, where  $\alpha = 2^{-100}\delta^{12}$  and  $\alpha_1 = 2^{-7}\delta$ ; and let

$$\ln N_1 \geq 2^{10}d \ln \frac{1}{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon}. \tag{8}$$

Then  $A$  contains a triple of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ .

Suppose that  $A \subseteq E_1 \times E_2$  contains no triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ . Applying Theorem 4, we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 5.** Suppose that set  $A$  belongs to  $\mathcal{P}$ , has the cardinality  $|A| = \delta|E_1| \cdot |E_2|$ , and contains no triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ . Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be  $(\alpha_0, 2^{-10}\varepsilon^2)$ -uniform sets with  $\alpha_0 =$

$$2^{-2000}\delta^{96}\beta_1^{48}\beta_2^{48} \text{ and } \varepsilon = \frac{2^{-100}\alpha_0^2}{100d}, \varepsilon' = 2^{-10}\varepsilon^2, \text{ and}$$

$$\ln N \geq 2^{10}d \ln \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon}.$$

Then there exists a Bohr set  $\tilde{\Lambda}$  and a vector  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in \mathbf{Z}^2$  such that, for  $F_1 \subseteq E_1 \cap (\tilde{\Lambda} + y_1)$  and  $F_2 \subseteq E_2 \cap (\tilde{\Lambda} + y_2)$ , it is true that

$$|F_1| \geq 2^{-125}\delta^{12}\beta_1|\tilde{\Lambda}|, \quad |F_2| \geq 2^{-125}\delta^{12}\beta_2|\tilde{\Lambda}|, \quad (9)$$

$$\delta_{F_1 \times F_2}(A) \geq \delta + 2^{-500}\delta^{37}. \quad (10)$$

Moreover, for  $\tilde{\Lambda} = \Lambda_{\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{\varepsilon}, \tilde{N}}$ , it holds that  $\tilde{\theta} = \theta$ ,  $\tilde{\varepsilon} \geq 2^{-5}\varepsilon'\varepsilon_0$ , and  $N \geq 2^{-5}\varepsilon'N$ .

**Proposition 1.** Let  $\Lambda = \Lambda(\theta, \varepsilon_0, N)$  be a Bohr set,  $\theta \in \mathbf{T}^d$ , and  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, s_2)$  be an integer vector. Suppose that  $\varepsilon, \sigma, \tau, \delta \in (0, 1)$  be real numbers;  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are sets such that  $E_i = \beta_i|\Lambda|$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ;  $\mathbf{E} = E_1 \times E_2$  is a subset of  $(\Lambda + s_1) \times (\Lambda + s_2)$ ;  $A \subseteq \mathbf{E}$ ;  $\delta_{\mathbf{E}}(A) = \delta + \tau$ ; and  $\varepsilon \leq \frac{\kappa}{100d}$ , where  $\kappa = 2^{-100}(\tau\beta_1\beta_2)^5\sigma^3$ . It is also supposed that

$$N \geq (2^{-100}\varepsilon_0\varepsilon)^{-2^{100}((\tau\beta_1\beta_2)^{-5}\sigma^{-3} + d)^2} \quad (11)$$

and  $\sigma \leq 2^{-100}\tau\beta_1\beta_2$ .

Then there is a Bohr set  $\Lambda' = \Lambda(\theta', \varepsilon', N')$ , where  $\theta' \in \mathbf{T}^D$ ,  $D \leq 2^{30}(\tau\beta_1\beta_2)^{-5}\sigma^{-3} + d$ ,  $\varepsilon' \geq (2^{-10}\varepsilon)^D\varepsilon_0$ , and  $N' \geq (2^{-10}\varepsilon)^D N$ , and there is an integer vector  $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2)$  such that the following assertions hold for the sets  $E'_1 = (E_1 - t_1) \cap \Lambda'$ ,  $E'_2 = (E_2 - t_2) \cap \Lambda'$ , and  $\mathbf{E}' = E'_1 \times E'_2$ :

$$(i) |E'| \geq \frac{\beta_1\beta_2\tau|\Lambda'|}{16};$$

(ii)  $E'_1$  and  $E'_2$  are  $(\sigma, \varepsilon)$ -uniform subsets of  $\Lambda'$ ;

$$(iii) \delta_{\mathbf{E}'}(A - \mathbf{t}) \geq \delta + \frac{\tau}{116}.$$

**3. Proof sketch of Theorem 3.** The following result is due to B. Green.

**Lemma 2.** Suppose that  $N$  is a positive integer and a set  $A \subseteq [-N, N]^2$  with  $|A| = \delta(2N + 1)^2$  does not contain triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d > 0$  in the standard basis  $(1, 0), (0, 1)$ .

Then there exists a subset  $A_1 \subseteq A$  such that

$$(i) |A_1| \geq \frac{\delta^2(2N + 1)^2}{4} \text{ and}$$

(ii)  $A_1$  does not contain triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ .

For convenience, Theorem 5 and Proposition 1 can be combined in a single assertion.

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\Lambda = \Lambda(\theta, \varepsilon_0, N)$  be a Bohr set,  $\theta \in \mathbf{T}^d$ , and  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, s_2)$  be an integer vector. Suppose that sets  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are such that  $E_i = \beta_i|\Lambda|$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\beta = \beta_1\beta_2$ ,  $\mathbf{E} = E_1 \times E_2$  is a subset of  $(\Lambda + s_1) \times (\Lambda + s_2)$ ; and  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are  $(\alpha_0, 2^{-10}\varepsilon^2)$ -uniform subsets of  $\Lambda + s_1$  and  $\Lambda + s_2$ , respectively, where  $\alpha_0 = 2^{-2000}\delta^{96}\beta_1^{48}\beta_2^{48}$  and

$$\varepsilon = \frac{2^{-100}\alpha_0^2}{100d}. \text{ Suppose that a set } A \subseteq \mathbf{E} \text{ with } \delta_{\mathbf{E}}(A) = \delta$$

does not contain triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ . It is assumed that

$$\ln N \geq 2^{1000000}(2^{250000}\delta^{-20000}\beta^{-200} + d)^3 \ln \frac{1}{\delta\beta\varepsilon_0}. \quad (12)$$

Then there is a Bohr set  $\tilde{\Lambda}$  and a vector  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in \mathbf{Z}^2$  such that the following assertions hold for sets  $E'_1 \subseteq (E_1 - y_1) \cap \tilde{\Lambda}$  and  $E'_2 \subseteq (E_2 - y_2) \cap \tilde{\Lambda}$ :

(i) Let  $|E'_1| = \beta'_1|\tilde{\Lambda}|$ ,  $|E'_2| = \beta'_2|\tilde{\Lambda}|$ , and  $\beta' = \beta'_1\beta'_2$ . Then  $\beta' \geq 2^{-1500}\delta^{100}\beta$ .

(ii)  $E'_1$  and  $E'_2$  are  $(\alpha'_0, 2^{-10}\varepsilon'^2)$ -uniform sets, where  $\alpha'_0 = 2^{-2000}\delta^{96}\beta'^{48}$ ,  $\varepsilon' = \frac{2^{-100}\alpha'^2_0}{100D}$ , and  $D \leq D' = 2^{250000} \times \delta^{-20000}\beta^{-200} + d$ .

(iii) The Bohr set  $\tilde{\Lambda} = \Lambda_{\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{\varepsilon}, \tilde{N}}$  has the properties  $\tilde{\theta} \in \mathbf{T}^D$ ,  $\tilde{\varepsilon} \geq (2^{-100}\varepsilon'^2)^D\varepsilon_0$ , and  $N \geq (2^{-100}\varepsilon'^2)^D N$ .

$$(iv) \delta_{E'_1 \times E'_2}(A) \geq \delta + 2^{-600}\delta^{37}.$$

**Proof of Theorem 3.** Suppose that  $A \subseteq [-N, N]$  does not contain triples of the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d > 0$ . Applying Lemma 2, we find a set  $A'$  with

$$A' \subseteq A \text{ and } |A'| \geq \frac{\delta^2}{4(2N + 1)^2} \text{ that contains no triples of}$$

the form  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ . In what follows, we deal only with this set. Let  $\delta' = \frac{\delta^2}{4}$ .

The algorithm for proving Theorem 3 can be described as follows. At the  $i$ th step, we construct an integer vector  $\mathbf{s}_i = (s_i^{(1)}, s_i^{(2)})$ ; a regular Bohr set  $\Lambda_i = \Lambda_{\theta_i, \varepsilon_i, N_i}$ ; and the sets  $E_i^{(1)} - s_i^{(1)} \subseteq \Lambda_i$  and  $E_i^{(2)} - s_i^{(2)} \subseteq \Lambda_i$  with  $|E_i^{(1)}| = \beta_i^{(1)}|\Lambda_i|$  and  $|E_i^{(2)}| = \beta_i^{(2)}|\Lambda_i|$ , where  $\beta_i = \beta_i^{(1)}\beta_i^{(2)}$  and  $\mathbf{E}_i = E_i^{(1)} \times E_i^{(2)}$ . Moreover, the following conditions hold:

$$(i) \beta_i \geq 2^{-1500}\delta^{100}\beta_{i-1}.$$

(ii)  $E_i^{(1)}$  and  $E_i^{(2)}$  are  $(\alpha_0^{(i)}, 2^{-10}(\epsilon_i')^2)$ -uniform sets with  $\alpha_0^{(i)} = 2^{-2000}\delta^{96}\beta_i^{48}$  and  $\epsilon_i' = \frac{2^{-100}(\alpha_0^{(i)})^2}{100d_i}$ .

(iii)  $\Lambda_i = \Lambda_{\theta_i, \epsilon_i, N_i}$ ,  $\tilde{\theta} \in \mathbf{T}^{d_i}$ ,  $d_i \leq 2^{250000}\delta^{20000}\beta_{i-1}^{-200} + d_{i-1}$ ,  $\epsilon_i \geq (2^{-100}(\epsilon_i')^2)^{d_i} \epsilon_{i-1}$ ,  $N_i \geq (2^{-100}(\epsilon_i')^2)^{d_i} N_{i-1}$ .

(iv)  $\delta_{E_i}(A') \geq \delta_{E_{i-1}}(A') + 2^{-600}\delta^{37}$ .

Next, Proposition 2 yields a new vector  $s_{i+1} = (s_{i+1}^{(1)}, s_{i+1}^{(2)}) \in \mathbf{Z}^2$ ; a regular Bohr set  $\Lambda_{i+1} = \Lambda_{\theta_{i+1}, \epsilon_{i+1}, N_{i+1}}$ ; and the sets  $E_{i+1}^{(1)} - s_{i+1}^{(1)} \subseteq \Lambda_{i+1}$  and  $E_{i+1}^{(2)} - s_{i+1}^{(2)} \subseteq \Lambda_{i+1}$  with  $|E_{i+1}^{(1)}| = \beta_{i+1}^{(1)}|\Lambda_{i+1}|$  and  $|E_{i+1}^{(2)}| = \beta_{i+1}^{(2)}|\Lambda_{i+1}|$ , where  $\beta_{i+1} = \beta_{i+1}^{(1)}\beta_{i+1}^{(2)}$ , and  $E_{i+1} = E_{i+1}^{(1)} \times E_{i+1}^{(2)}$ , which satisfy conditions (i)–(iv).

Let  $\theta_0 = \{0\}$ ,  $\Lambda_0 = \Lambda_{\theta_0, 1, N}$ ,  $E_1 = E_2 = [-N, N]$ , and  $\beta_0 = 1$ . It is easy to see that the Bohr set  $\Lambda_0$  is regular and the sets  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are  $(2^{-2000}\delta^{96}, 2^{-10000}\delta^{400})$ -uniform. Therefore, the zeroth step in the algorithm has been constructed.

Let us estimate the total number of steps in the algorithm. The density  $\delta_{E_i}(A')$  at the  $i$ th step is related to  $\delta_{E_{i-1}}(A')$  by condition (iv). Since  $\delta_{E_i}(A') \leq 1$  for any  $i$ , which is easy to verify, the number of steps in the algorithm cannot be greater than  $2^{700}\delta^{-36} = K$ .

Condition (iii) implies that  $\beta_i \geq (2^{-1500}\delta^{100})^i$ , whence  $d_i \leq (C_1\delta)^{-C_2^i}$ , where  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  are absolute constants.

To complete the proof of the theorem, we need to verify inequality (12) at the last step of the algorithm. Using property (iii), we find

$$N_K \geq (C_2\delta)^{C_3\delta^{-C_4K}} N,$$

where  $C_2, C_3, C_4 > 0$  are absolute constants. Condition (12) can be written in a similar fashion:

$$N_K \geq (C_2'\delta)^{-C_3'\delta^{-C_4'K}},$$

where  $C_2', C_3', C_4' > 0$  are different absolute constants. Therefore, we have to check the inequality

$$N \geq (C_2''\delta)^{-C_3''\delta^{-C_4''K}} = \exp(\delta^{-C''\delta^{-36}}), \tag{13}$$

where  $C_2'', C_3'', C_4'', C' > 0$  are absolute constants. By the theorem condition,

$$\delta \gg \frac{1}{(\ln \ln N)^{1/73}},$$

which yields

$$\delta' \gg \frac{1}{(\ln \ln N)^{2/73}},$$

and inequality (13) holds. Consequently,  $A'$  contains a triple  $\{(k, m), (k + d, m), (k, m + d)\}$  with  $d \neq 0$ , which is a contradiction. Theorem 3 is proved.

**Remark 2.** Of course, the constant 73 in Theorem 3 can be somewhat reduced. Nevertheless, in my opinion, this constant cannot be made close to unity without applying a new idea.

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