

# A SZEMERÉDI TYPE THEOREM FOR SETS OF POSITIVE DENSITY IN $\mathbf{R}^k$

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## ABSTRACT

Let  $k \geq 2$  and  $A$  a subset of  $\mathbf{R}^k$  of positive upper density. Let  $V$  be the set of vertices of a (non-degenerate)  $(k-1)$ -dimensional simplex. It is shown that there exists  $l = l(A, V)$  such that  $A$  contains an isometric image of  $l \cdot V$  whenever  $l' > l$ . The case  $k = 2$  yields a new proof of a result of Katznelson and Weiss [4]. Using related ideas, a proof is given of Roth's theorem on the existence of arithmetic progressions of length 3 in sets of positive density.

## 1. Introduction

The following result has been obtained by Katznelson and Weiss [4].

**THEOREM 1.** *Whenever  $A$  is a subset of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  with positive upper density, there is a number  $l = l(A)$  such that  $|x - y| = l'$  for some  $x, y \in A$ , fixing any  $l' > l$ . Recall that  $A \subset \mathbf{R}^k$  has positive upper density provided*

$$\delta(A) \equiv \overline{\lim}_R \frac{|B(0, R) \cap A|}{|B(0, R)|} > 0$$

where  $B(0, R) = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^k; |x| < R\}$ .

Their argument combines ergodic theory and measure theory. In the next section, a short proof will be given based on elementary harmonic analysis. This proof can be elaborated in order to get the result mentioned above:

**THEOREM 2.** *Assume  $A \subset \mathbf{R}^k$ ,  $\delta(A) > 0$  and  $V$  a set of  $k$  points spanning a  $(k-1)$ -dimensional hyperplane. There exists some number  $l$  such that  $A$  contains an isometric copy of  $l \cdot V$  whenever  $l' > l$ .*

**REMARKS.** (a) Theorem 2 is of the same nature as the generalizations of

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Szemerédy's theorem [7] obtained in [3] (see also [2]). More precisely, the dilations are replaced by rotations. Although the method presented here requires an increasing dimension, the exact rôle of the dimension  $k$  does not seem well understood yet.

(b) The following simple example clarifies the necessity of the non-degeneracy hypothesis on the set  $V$ . Let  $V = \{-1, 0, 1\}$  and  $A = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^k; |x|^2 \in [0, \frac{1}{10}] + \mathbf{Z}_+\}$ . Clearly  $\delta(A) > 0$ . Assume now  $x \in A$  and  $y \in \mathbf{R}^k, |y| = t$  satisfying  $x + y \in A$  and  $x - y \in A$ . Then

$$2t^2 = 2|y|^2 = |x + y|^2 + |x - y|^2 - 2|x|^2 \in [-\frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{5}] + \mathbf{Z}_+$$

implying the existence of some  $k \in \mathbf{Z}_+$  s.t.

$$\left| t - \sqrt{\frac{k}{2}} \right| < \frac{1}{5\sqrt{k}}$$

Consequently, there are arbitrary large values of  $l$  such that  $A$  does not contain an isometric copy of  $l.V$ . This example permits several variations.

It is easily seen that Theorems 1 and 2 result from the following "compact" version.

**PROPOSITION 3.** *Let  $V$  be as in Theorem 2,  $\text{diam } V < 1$ . Let  $A \subset [0, 1]^k, |A| > \varepsilon$  and  $0 < t_j < 1$  a sequence satisfying  $t_{j+1} < \frac{1}{2}t_j$ . Then there exists  $j \leq J(\varepsilon, V)$  such that  $A$  contains an isometric image of  $t_j.V$ . In fact, for  $t = t_j$*

$$(1) \quad \int_{\mathbf{R}^k} \int_{\text{SO}(k)} f(x)f(x + t0a_1) \cdots f(x + t0a_{k-1}) dx dO > \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^k$$

where  $f = \chi_A, V = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}\}$  and  $dO$  refers to the normalized invariant measure on the orthogonal group  $\text{SO}(k)$ .

For the sake of clarity, the case  $k = 2$  will be handled separately. The complete proof of Proposition 3 is given in section 3 of this paper. The last section is an appendix in which it is shown how a new proof of Roth's theorem (see [5]) can be obtained using similar ideas. The letters  $0 < c, C < \infty$  denote numerical constants

### 2. A proof of the Katznelson-Weiss theorem

As usual  $\hat{F}(\xi) = \int_{\mathbf{R}^k} F(x)e^{-2\pi i(x,\xi)} dx$  stands for the Fourier transform. In case  $k = 2$ , the left member of (1) becomes

$$(2) \quad \int \int f(x)f(x + ty) dx \sigma(dy) = \int \hat{f}(\xi)\hat{f}(-\xi)\hat{\sigma}(t\xi) d\xi = \int |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 \hat{\sigma}(t|\xi|) d\xi$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes the normalized arc-length measure of the unit circle. Thus

$$(3) \quad |\hat{\sigma}(\xi)| \leq C|\xi|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad |1 - \hat{\sigma}(\xi)| < C|\xi|.$$

Also, by definition of  $f$

$$|\hat{f}(\xi) - \hat{f}(0)| \leq 2\pi \int_A |\langle x, \xi \rangle| dx; \quad |\hat{f}(\xi) - A| < C|\xi||A|.$$

Hence, for  $\delta > t$  to be specified later, as a consequence of (3)

$$\begin{aligned} \int |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 \hat{\sigma}(t|\xi|) d\xi &= \left\{ \int_{\|\xi\| \geq \delta t^{-1}} + \int_{\{\delta t^{-1} < \|\xi\| < \delta^{-1} t^{-1}\}} + \int_{\|\xi\| > \delta^{-1} t^{-1}} \right\} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 \hat{\sigma}(t\xi) d\xi \\ &\cong \frac{1}{2} \int_{\|\xi\| \geq \delta t^{-1}} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi - \int_{\{\delta t^{-1} < \|\xi\| < \delta^{-1} t^{-1}\}} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \\ &\quad - C\delta^{1/2} \int |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \\ &\cong C_1 |A|^2 - C\delta^{1/2} |A| - \int_{\{\delta t^{-1} < \|\xi\| < \delta^{-1} t^{-1}\}} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

Assume  $\delta \ll |A|^2$ . It is clear that there exists some

$$j \leq C \left( \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right) \varepsilon^{-1} \sim \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

satisfying

$$\int_{\{\delta t_j^{-1} < \|\xi\| < \delta^{-1} t_j^{-1}\}} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \frac{1}{3} C_1 \varepsilon^2$$

and therefore

$$\iint f(x)f(x + t_j y) dx \sigma(dy) \cong \frac{1}{2} C_1 |A|^2. \quad \text{QED}$$

REMARK. Combined with the results on the spherical maximal function in the plane, Theorem 1 can be improved as follows:

THEOREM 1'. If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $\delta(A) > 0$ , there exists  $l = l(A)$  such that whenever  $l_1 > l$  there is a point  $x \in A$  fulfilling the condition

$$\{|x - y|; y \in A\} \supset [l, l_1].$$

Denote  $P_t$  the Poisson-semigroup kernel on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Thus  $\hat{P}_t(\xi) = e^{-t|\xi|}$ . In general, let  $K_t(x) = t^{-k} K(t^{-1}x)$  satisfying  $\hat{K}_t(\xi) = \hat{K}(t\xi)$ .

The key estimate of [1] related to the planar spherical maximal operator can be formulated as follows:

PROPOSITION 1. For  $p > 2$ , there are constants  $C(p) < \infty$  and  $\alpha(p) > 0$  satisfying

$$(4) \quad \left\| \max_{s \geq t_0} |[f - (f * P_t)] * \sigma_s| \right\|_p \leq C(p) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^{\alpha(p)} \|f\|_p, \quad t_0 > t.$$

Similarly, as in proving Theorem 1, the negation of Theorem 1' leads to a subset  $A$  of  $[0, 1]^2$ ,  $|A| > \varepsilon$  and a sequence of positive numbers

$$s_1 > t_1 > s_2 > t_2 > \dots > s_J > t_J$$

where  $J$  can be taken arbitrarily large, satisfying the properties

$$(5) \quad s_{j+1} < \frac{1}{2} t_j$$

and

$$x \in A \cap [s_j, 1 - s_j]^2 \Rightarrow \sup_{s_j > t > t_j} [(1_R - f) * \sigma_t] = 1 \quad (f = 1_A \text{ and } R = [0, 1]^2).$$

Hence, we may write for a fixed  $\tau > 0$  and choosing  $j < J$  large enough

$$(6) \quad \int f \sup_{s_j > t > t_j} [(1_R - f) * \sigma_t] < (1 - \tau) \int f.$$

Fix  $\delta > 0$ . As a consequence of (4), we may write

$$(7) \quad \left\| \sup_{s_j > t > t_j} [(1_R - f) * \sigma_t] - \sup_{s_j > t > t_j} [(1_R - f) * P_{\delta t} * \sigma_t] \right\|_1 \\ \cong \left\| \sup_{t > t_j} |[f - f * P_{\delta t}] * \sigma_t| \right\|_p + \tau < C\delta^\alpha + \tau.$$

For  $t < s_j$ , also

$$(8) \quad |[ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} * \sigma_t ](x) - [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} ](x) | \cong \| P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} - (P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} * \sigma_t) \|_1 < C\delta.$$

Thus, again by (4), using (6), (7), (8)

$$C \| [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} ] - [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta t} ] \|_p \\ \cong \int f \sup_{s_j > t > t_j} \{ [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta t} * \sigma_t ] - [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} * \sigma_t ] \} \\ \cong (1 - \tau) \int f - \int f [ (1_R - f) * P_{\delta^{-1} s_j} ] - C\delta^\alpha - \tau \\ \cong -2\tau \int f + \left( \int f \right)^2 - C\delta^\alpha - \tau \\ \cong (\varepsilon - 2\tau)\varepsilon - C\delta^\alpha - \tau.$$

Taking  $\tau, \delta$  small enough and  $J$  sufficiently large, a contradiction follows. Indeed, if  $t_{j+1} < \frac{1}{2}t_j$ , then for  $2 \leq p \leq \infty$

$$\left\{ \sum_j \|(f * P_{t_{j+1}}) - (f * P_{t_j})\|_p^p \right\}^{1/p} \leq C \|f\|_p.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1'.

**3. Proof of Theorem 2 in the general case**

Let  $V = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}\}$  be non-degenerated. Simple invariance arguments show that the left member of (1) may be rewritten as

$$\int f(x)f(x + ty_1)f(x + ty_2) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-1})\sigma^{(k-1)}(dy_1)\sigma_{y_1}^{(k-2)}(dy_2) \cdots \sigma_{y_1, \dots, y_{k-2}}^{(1)}(dy_{k-1}) \tag{9}$$

where  $\sigma_{y_1, \dots, y_{k-j-1}}^{(j)}$  is the average on a  $(j)$ -dimensional sphere in  $\mathbf{R}^k$  dependent on the points  $y_1, \dots, y_{k-j-1}$  already fixed and on  $V$ . We will use the estimate

$$|\widehat{\sigma}_{y_1, \dots, y_{k-j-1}}^{(j)}(\xi)| \leq C_V [1 + \text{dist}(\xi, [y_1, \dots, y_{k-j-1}])]^{-j/2} \tag{10}$$

which is a consequence of the decay at infinity of the Fourier transform of the  $j$ -sphere in  $\mathbf{R}^{j+1}$ . Denote  $G_{k,m}$  ( $m < k$ ) the Grassmannian of  $m$ -dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbf{R}^k$  endowed with the normalized Haar-measure.

LEMMA 1. For  $m < k$

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}^k} \int_{G_{k,m}} [\text{dist}(\xi, F) + 1]^{-\rho} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 (1 - e^{-\delta|\xi|})^2 d\xi dF < C_k (\delta + \delta^{\rho/2}) \|f\|_2^2. \tag{11}$$

PROOF. Estimate the left member of (11) as

$$C\delta \|f\|_2^2 + C \left\{ \sup_{|\xi| > \delta^{-1/2}} \int_{G_{k,m}} [\text{dist}(\xi, F) + 1]^{-\rho} dF \right\} \|f\|_2^2.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Denote for simplicity

$$d\Omega_j(y_1, \dots, y_j) = \sigma^{(k-1)}(dy_1)\sigma_{y_1}^{(k-2)}(dy_2) \cdots \sigma_{y_1, \dots, y_{j-1}}^{(k-j)}(dy_j).$$

Fix  $\delta > 0$  and compare the expressions

$$\int f(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-2})f(x + ty_{k-1}) dx d\Omega_{k-1}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-1}) \tag{12}$$

and

$$(13) \int f(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-2})(f * P_{\delta r})(x + ty_{k-1}) dx d\Omega_{k-1}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-1})$$

which difference can be estimated as

$$|(12) - (13)| \leq \int \left\| [f - (f * P_{\delta r})] * [\sigma_{y_1, \dots, y_{k-2}}^{(1)}]_t \right\|_2 d\Omega_{k-2}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-2})$$

or by Parseval's identity, using (10), (11), as

$$(14) C_v \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} \int_{G_{k,k-2}} |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 [1 - e^{-\delta r |\xi|}]^2 \{1 + \text{dist}(t\xi, F)\}^{-1/2} d\xi dF \right\}^{1/2} \leq C_v \delta^{1/4} \|f\|_2.$$

Next we compare the expressions

$$(15) \int f(x)(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-2}) dx d\Omega_{k-1}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-1})$$

and

$$(16) \int f(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-2})(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})(x + ty_{k-1}) dx d\Omega_{k-1}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-1}),$$

which difference is simply majorated by

$$(17) \sup_{|y| < 1} \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})(x) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})(x + ty)\|_{L^2(dx)} \leq \sup_{|y| < 1} \left\{ \int |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 [1 - e^{2\pi i(ty, \xi)}]^2 e^{-\delta^{-1}r|\xi|} d\xi \right\}^{1/2} < C\delta \|f\|_2.$$

Collecting estimates, it now follows that

$$|(12) - (15)| \leq |(12) - (13)| + |(15) - (16)| + |(13) - (16)| \leq C_v \delta^{1/4} \|f\|_2 + \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r}) - (f * P_{\delta r})\|_2.$$

In the expression (15)

$$(15) = \int f(x)(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-2}) dx d\Omega_{k-2}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-2}),$$

the variable  $y_{k-1}$  does not appear any more. We treat (15) the same way as (12) where  $y_{k-2}$  plays the rôle of  $y_{k-1}$ . Thus defining

$$(17) = \int f(x)(f * P_{\delta^{-1}r})^2(x)f(x + ty_1) \cdots f(x + ty_{k-3}) dx d\Omega_{k-3}(y_1, \dots, y_{k-3})$$

similar computations give

$$|(15) - (17)| \leq C_V(\delta + \delta^{1/2})\|f\|_2 + \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}t}) - (f * P_{\delta t})\|_2.$$

Iteration of the procedure yields

$$(18) \quad \left| (12) - \int f(x)(f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1}(x)dx \right| \leq C_V \left( k\delta + \sum_{\delta=1}^{k-1} \delta^{r/4} \right) \|f\|_2 + k \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}t}) - (f * P_{\delta t})\|_2.$$

Further

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^k &\leq \int (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^k \\ &\leq \int (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1}(f * P_{\delta t}) + \|(f * P_{\delta t}) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})\|_2 \\ &\leq \int f \cdot (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1} + \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1} - [P_{\delta t} * (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1}]\|_2 \\ &\quad + \|(f * P_{\delta t}) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

where the second term is dominated by

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{2} \left\{ \int (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{2(k-1)} - \int [P_{\delta t/2} * (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{k-1}]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\leq \sqrt{2} \left\{ \int (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})^{2(k-1)} - \int (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t} * P_{\delta t/2})^{2(k-1)} \right\}^{1/2} \\ &\leq Ck \|(f * P_{\delta^{-1}t}) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t} * P_{\delta t/2})\|_2 \\ &\leq Ck\delta^2 \|f\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, as a consequence of (18) and previous computation

$$(12) \geq \varepsilon^k - C_V k \delta^{1/4} \|f\|_2 - \|(f * P_{\delta t}) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})\|_2 (k + 1).$$

Taking suitable  $t \in \{t_1 > t_2 > \dots > t_j\}$  ( $t_{j+1} < \frac{1}{2}t_j$ ), we may dominate

$$\|(f * P_{\delta t}) - (f * P_{\delta^{-1}t})\|_2 \leq \frac{C}{J} \left( \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right) \|f\|_2$$

so that

$$(12) \geq \varepsilon^k - C_V k \left( \delta^{1/4} + J^{-1} \left( \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right) \right) \sqrt{\varepsilon} > \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^k$$

for an appropriate choice of  $\delta$  and  $J$ . This completes the proof.

**4. Appendix: A proof of Roth's theorem on arithmetic progressions of length 3**

Let  $G$  be a compact Abelian group and  $\Gamma = \hat{G}$  the dual group.

**THEOREM 3.** *Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon'(\varepsilon)$  such that whenever  $f$  is a function on  $G$ ,  $0 \leq f \leq 1$  and  $\int_G f(x)dx > \varepsilon$ , then*

$$(1) \quad \iint_{G \times G} f(x)f(x+y)f(x+2y)dxdy > \varepsilon'.$$

Applying the result to a finite cyclic group  $G = \mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z}$  (taking  $N$  large enough) and  $f = \chi_S$  ( $S \subset G$ ,  $|S| > \varepsilon$ ) yields Roth's theorem ([5]).

The proof is based on two lemmas:

**LEMMA 2.**  $|\iint f_1(x)f_2(x+y)f_3(x+2y)K(y)dxdy| \leq \|K\|_{A(G)} \Pi_{i=1}^3 \|\hat{f}_i\|_{\infty}^{1/3} \|f_i\|_2^{2/3}.$

**PROOF.**

$$\begin{aligned} & | \langle f_1, \int f_2(\cdot + y)f_3(\cdot + 2y)K(y)dy \rangle | \\ & \leq \|\hat{f}_1\|_{\infty} \|\int f_2(\cdot + y)f_3(\cdot + 2y)K(y)dy\|_{A(G)} \end{aligned}$$

and the second factor is dominated by  $\|K\|_{A(G)} \|f_2\|_2 \|f_3\|_2$ . Reversing the rôle of  $f_1, f_2$  and making the product gives the estimate.

**LEMMA 3** (Bozejko–Pelczynski theorem on invariant approximation, cf. [8]). *Given a finite subset  $\Lambda$  of  $\Gamma$  and  $\tau > 0$ , there exists a kernel  $K$  satisfying*

- (i)  $K \geq 0, \hat{K} \geq 0$  and  $\hat{K}(0) = 1$ ,
- (ii)  $|\hat{K}(\gamma) - 1| < \tau$  for  $\gamma \in \Lambda$ ,
- (iii)  $|\text{supp } \hat{K}| < N(|\Lambda|, \tau)$ .

**PROOF OF THEOREM 3.** Let  $f$  be as in Theorem 1. Combining Lemmas 1 and 2, it follows that given a kernel  $K$  with  $\hat{K}$  finitely supported, there exists  $K'$  satisfying (i) of Lemma 2 and

$$(2) \quad |K - (K * K')| < \tau,$$

$$(3) \quad \left| \iint f(x)f(x+y)f(x+2y)K(y)dxdy - \iint (f * K')(x)(f * K')(x+y)(f * K')(x+2y)K(y)dxdy \right| < \tau,$$

$$(4) \quad |\text{supp } \hat{K}'| < N'(|\text{supp } \hat{K}|, \|\hat{K}\|_{\infty}, \tau).$$



Take  $K_0 = 1$ . Previous considerations and an inductive construction lead to a sequence  $\{K_i\}_{0 \leq i < I}$  satisfying (i) of Lemma 2 ( $I$  is a positive integer of size  $\sim \epsilon^{-3}$ ).

Denote  $f_i = f * K_i$ . By (2),  $|f_i - (f_i * K_{i+1})| < \tau$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_{i+1} - f_i\|_2^2 &= \|f_{i+1}\|_2^2 + \|f_i\|_2^2 - 2\langle f_i, f_{i+1} \rangle \leq \|f_{i+1}\|_2^2 + \|f_i\|_2^2 - 2\langle f_i, f \rangle + 2\tau \\ &\leq \|f_{i+1}\|_2^2 - \|f_i\|_2^2 + 2\tau \end{aligned}$$

and summation shows the existence of some  $1 \leq i \leq I$  fulfilling

$$\|f_{i+1} - f_{i-1}\|_1 < 4\tau + 2I^{-1}$$

and hence

$$(5) \quad \left| \iint f_{i+1}(x)f_{i+1}(x+y)f_{i+1}(x+2y)K_i(y)dx dy - \iint f_{i-1}(x)f_{i-1}(x+y)f_{i-1}(x+2y)K_i(y)dx dy \right| < 12\tau + 6.$$

Assume (1) does not hold. From (3) and the construction ( $K = K_i, K' = K_{i+1}$ ) it now follows from (5) that

$$(7) \quad \left| \iint f_{i-1}(x)f_{i-1}(x+y)f_{i-1}(x+2y)K_i(y)dx dy \right| < 13\tau + 6I^{-1} + \epsilon' \|K_i\|_x.$$

Also, for  $\gamma = 1, 2$

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} &\iint |f_{i-1}(x + \gamma y) - f_{i-1}(x + (\gamma - 1)y)| K_i(y) dx dy \\ &\leq \left\{ \iint |f_{i-1}(x + y) - f_{i-1}(x)|^2 K_i(y) dx dy \right\}^{1/2} \\ &= \sqrt{2} (\|f_{i-1}\|_2^2 - \langle f_{i-1}, f_{i-1} * K_i \rangle)^{1/2} \\ &< 4\sqrt{\tau} \end{aligned}$$

which permits us to replace in the left member of (7)  $f_{i-1}(x + y), f_{i-1}(x + 2y)$  by  $f_{i-1}(x)$ . Hence

$$\epsilon^3 \leq \left( \int_G f \right)^3 \leq \iint f_{i-1}(x)^3 K_i(y) dx dy < 16\tau + 6I^{-1} + \epsilon' \|K_i\|_x$$

giving a lower bound on  $\epsilon'$ .

**REMARK.** It follows, for instance, from the construction of Salem and Spencer (see [6], p. 252) that  $\epsilon'(\epsilon)$  is not a polynomial function of  $\epsilon$  in Theorem

3. However, there exist methods providing better bounds than results from the previous argument.

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