

Character sum estimations for various problems in combinatorial number theory

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- Expander polynomials

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- Covering polynomials,

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- Character sums on Hilbert cubes

Expander polynomials

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Question (B-I-W) : Fix $0 < \alpha < 1$, find an explicit polynomial
 $f : \mathbb{F}_p \times \mathbb{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$, $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{F}_p$, $|B| \asymp |A| \sim p^\alpha$ for some $\beta = \beta(\alpha) > \alpha$

$$|f(A, B)| > p^\beta.$$

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$f = f(x, y)$ IS SAID TO BE *expander polynomial*

Expander polynomials

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Theorem (J. Bourgain (2005))

For all $0 < \alpha < 1$, there exists a $\delta > 0$, s.t. $|B| \asymp |A| \sim p^\alpha$ the polynomial $f(x, y) = x^2 + xy$ is an expander, i.e.

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Remark :

1. IN HIS PROOF δ IS INEXPLICIT.

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Theorem (H.-Hennecart)

Let $k \geq 1$, $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. Then

$$F(x, y) = f(x) + x^k g(y)$$

is an expander, provided $f(x)$ is affinely independent to x^k .

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IF $u \neq 0$, THEN

$$F(x, y) = \left(f(x) + \frac{v}{u}\right)(1 + ug(y)) - \frac{v}{u}$$

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Theorem (I. Shkredov)

For the Bourgain function $G(x, y) = x^2 + xy$,

$$|G(A, B)| \geq (p-1) - \frac{40p^{5/2}}{|A||B|}$$

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Corollary

If $|A||B| > p^{3/2+\varepsilon}$, $\varepsilon > 0$, then $G(A, B)$ covers almost all \mathbb{F}_p .

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$$|F_p(A, B)| \geq c p^{\min\{1; 2\alpha\}}.$$

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Theorem (H.-Hennecart)

Let $f(x)$ and $g(y)$ be non constant integral polynomials and $F(x, y) = f(x)(f(x) + g(y))$. Then F is not a complete expander according to $\alpha \leq 1/2$.

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Lemma

Let $u \in \mathbb{F}_p$, L be a positive integer less than $p/2$ and $f(x)$ be any integral polynomial of degree $k \geq 1$ (as element of $\mathbb{F}_p[x]$). Then the number $N(I)$ of residues $x \in \mathbb{F}_p$ such that $f(x)$ lies in the interval $I = (u - L, u + L)$ of \mathbb{F}_p is at least $L - (k - 1)\sqrt{p}$.

Proof

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Let J be the indicator function of the interval $[0, L)$ of \mathbb{F}_p and let

$$T := \sum_{r \in \mathbb{F}_p} \widehat{J * J}(r) S_f(-r, p) e_p(ru),$$

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where $d_L(z)$ denotes the number of representations in \mathbb{F}_p of z under the form $j - j'$, $0 \leq j, j' < L$.

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Furthermore we need a result of Erdős :

Lemma

There exists a positive real number δ such that the number of different integers ab where $1 \leq a, b \leq n$ is $O(n^2/(\ln n)^\delta)$.

(the best known δ is due to G. Tenenbaum)

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Moreover for any $(x, y) \in A \times B$, we have $f(x)$ and $f(x) + g(y)$ in the interval $(0, 4L)$.

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$$O(L^2/(\ln L)^\delta) = o(p),$$

(as p tends to infinity).

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2. *T. Tao obtained a very deep result on expander polynomials ("expalining" the reason that a function $F(x, y)$ is not an expander, and giving bounds for the measure of expanding on certain range)*

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Covering polynomials ; two examples

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In our functions H and K we can achieve $|A||B||C||D| > p^{3-\Delta}$.

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where $\underline{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, $\underline{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$, $x_i, y_i, z \in \mathbb{F}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and I_n is the $n \times n$ identity matrix.

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Since the total number of arbitrary 3-cubes is $\mathcal{K} := 2^{3p}$, the above upper bound is a $O(\mathcal{K}^{2/3+o(1)})$.

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then for some $c = c(B)$, $\max_{r \neq 0} |\widehat{A}(r)| \geq c|A|$.

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(where $\log^* m$ is the multi-iterated logarithm) hold.

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The proof based on a Gowers version of Balog-Szemerédi theorem