# 18.997 Probabilistic Method Problem Set #3

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**Problem 1** (3.1, R(k, k))

Lemma 1.1:

$$\binom{n}{k} \le \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^k.$$

*Proof.* By integral estimation,

$$\ln k! = \sum_{m=1}^{k} \ln m$$

$$\geq \int_{1}^{k} \ln x \, dx$$

$$= k \ln k - k + 1.$$

Exponentiating gives  $k! > e\left(\frac{k}{e}\right)^k$ . Hence

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1)}{k!} \le \frac{n^k}{k!} \le \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^k.$$

Let  $a = \left\lfloor \frac{k}{e} 2^{\frac{k}{2}} \right\rfloor / \frac{k}{e} 2^{\frac{k}{2}}$ , and put  $n = \left\lfloor \frac{k}{e} 2^{\frac{k}{2}} \right\rfloor = a \frac{k}{e} 2^{\frac{k}{2}}$  in

$$R(k,k) > n - \binom{n}{k} 2^{1 - \binom{k}{2}}$$

and use the above estimate to get

$$\begin{split} R(k,k) &> a\frac{k}{e}2^{\frac{k}{2}} - \frac{1}{e}\left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^{k}2^{1-\binom{k}{2}} \\ &= \left(a - \frac{1}{k}\left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^{k}2^{1-\frac{k^{2}}{2}}\right)\frac{k}{e}2^{\frac{k}{2}}. \\ &= \left(a - \frac{2a^{k}}{k}\right)\frac{k}{e}2^{\frac{k}{2}}. \end{split}$$

For  $k \geq 3$ , we have  $1 - \frac{1}{2^{\frac{k}{2}}} < a \leq 1$ , and  $\frac{1}{2^{\frac{k}{2}}} = o(1)$ . Since  $\frac{2a^k}{k} \leq \frac{2}{k} = o(1)$  as well,  $R(k,k) \geq (1-o(1))^{\frac{k}{2}} 2^{\frac{k}{2}}$ .

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# **Problem 2** (3.2, R(4,k))

Consider a complete graph with n vertices. Call the first color red and the second blue. Color each edge in the graph red with probability p and blue with probability 1-p. The probability that a given set of 4 vertices forms a red  $K_4$  is  $p^{\binom{4}{2}}$  and the probability that a given set of k vertices forms a blue  $K_k$  is  $(1-p)^{\binom{k}{2}}$ .

Let X be the total number of red  $K_4$ 's and blue  $K_k$ 's. By linearity of expectation, since there are  $\binom{n}{4}$  groups of 4 vertices and  $\binom{n}{k}$  groups of k vertices.

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \binom{n}{4} p^6 + \binom{n}{k} (1-p)^{\binom{k}{2}}.$$

There exists a coloring with at most  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  red  $K_4$ 's and blue  $K_k$ 's. Pick a vertex from each red  $K_4$  and blue  $K_k$  and delete it. We obtain a graph with at least  $n - \mathbb{E}(X)$  vertices and no red  $K_4$  or blue  $K_k$ . This shows that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $p \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$R(4,k) > n - \binom{n}{4} p^6 - \binom{n}{k} (1-p)^{\binom{k}{2}}.$$

Assume  $k \geq 3$ . Now pick  $n = a \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2$  and  $p = \frac{2 \ln k}{k}$ , where a is to be chosen (depending on k to make n an integer, but close to a constant). Using Lemma 1.1,

$$R(4,k) \ge n - \frac{n^4}{24} p^6 - \left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^k (1-p)^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

$$\ge n - \frac{n^4}{24} p^6 - \left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^k e^{-p\binom{k}{2}}$$

$$= a \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{24} a^4 \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^8 2^6 \left(\frac{\ln k}{k}\right)^6 - \left(\frac{eak}{(\ln k)^2}\right)^k e^{-\frac{2\ln k}{k}\binom{k}{2}}$$

$$= a \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2 - \frac{2^6 a^4}{24} \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{eak}{(\ln k)^2}\right)^k k^{-(k-1)}$$

$$= \left(a - \frac{8}{3} a^4\right) \left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2 - \frac{k(ea)^k}{(\ln k)^{2k}}.$$

Fix  $a' \in \left(0, \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{8}}\right)$ , and choose a to be as close to a' as possible, so that n is an integer. Since  $\left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2 \to \infty$ , we have  $a \to a'$  as  $k \to \infty$ .

Note the last term above goes to 0 as  $k \to \infty$  because  $\frac{k}{(\ln k)^k} \to 0$  and  $\left(\frac{ea}{\ln k}\right)^k \to 0$ . Since a converges to a' as  $k \to \infty$ , for large k,  $a - \frac{8}{3}a^4$  is bounded below by some c > 0. Hence  $R(4, k) = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{k}{\ln k}\right)^2\right)$ .

### **Problem 3** (3.3, Independent set in 3-uniform hypergraph)

Let G be a 3-uniform hypergraph with n vertices and  $m \ge \frac{n}{3}$  edges. Take a random subset A by placing each vertex of G in A independently with probability p. Let X = |A|; then

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 $\mathbb{E}(X) = np$ . Let Y be the number of edges in the subgraph induced by A. The probability that a given edge is in A is  $p^3$ , since each of its vertices, independently, has probability p of being in A. Since there are m edges, by linearity of expectation,  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = mp^3$ .

Now  $\mathbb{E}(X-Y)=np-mp^3$ . There exists a subset A such that  $X-Y\geq np-mp^3$ . For each edge in the subgraph induced by A, choose one of its vertices. Upon removing these vertices, we get a set of at least  $X-Y\geq np-mp^3$  vertices with no edges between them, i.e. an independent set of size at least  $np-mp^3$ .

Now take  $p = \left(\frac{n}{3m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  (legal since  $m \geq \frac{n}{3}$ ). Then we get an independent set of size at least

$$np - mp^3 = n\left(\frac{n}{3m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - m\left(\frac{n}{3m}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{2n^{\frac{3}{2}}}{3\sqrt{3}\sqrt{m}}.$$

### **Problem 4** (3.4, Even directed cycle)

We show that in fact, the statement holds when each outdegree is at least  $\log_2 n - \alpha \log_2 \log_2 n$  where  $\alpha \in [0, \frac{1}{2})$ .

**Lemma 4.1:** Let G be a directed graph, whose vertices are colored in two colors such that for every vertex v, there exists a vertex w such that there is an edge from v to w, and w is colored oppositely from v. Then G has a directed even cycle.

*Proof.* Choose any vertex  $v_1$ . Once  $v_k$  is chosen, choose  $v_{k+1}$  to be adjacent to  $v_k$  along an outgoing edge, of the opposite color as  $v_k$ . At some point, a vertex will be repeated. Say that the first repeated vertex is  $v_k$ , and  $v_k = v_j$ , j < k. Then  $v_j, v_{j+1}, \ldots, v_k$  is a simple cycle, since  $v_k$  is the first repeated vertex. Since the colors of vertices in the cycle alternate, it must have even length.

The following is Corollary 3.5.2 in the text.

#### Theorem 4.2:

$$m(d) = \Omega\left(2^d \left(\frac{d}{\ln d}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right).$$

In other words, there exists C such that for every  $d \ge 2$ , any d-uniform hypergraph with at most  $C2^d \left(\frac{d}{\ln d}\right)^2$  edges can be colored with two colors, so that no edge is monochromatic.

We will only need the weaker bound

$$m(d) = \Omega\left(2^d d^{\alpha'}\right)$$
, for any  $\alpha' \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ .

Given a directed graph G all of whose vertices have outdegree at least  $\delta = \log_2 n - \alpha \log_2 \log_2 n$ , for each vertex v let  $S_v$  be a set of vertices consisting of v and  $\lceil \delta \rceil - 1$  vertices adjacent along an outgoing edge. Choose  $\alpha'$  so that  $\alpha < \alpha' < \frac{1}{2}$ . Take C such that

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 $m(d) > C2^d d^{\alpha'}$  for  $d \ge 2$ . Let D be a positive constant less than 1. For large enough n,

$$m(\lceil \delta \rceil) \ge C2^{\lceil \delta \rceil} \lceil \delta \rceil^{\alpha'}$$

$$\ge C2^{\delta} \delta^{\alpha'}$$

$$= Cn(\log_2 n)^{-\alpha} (\log_2 n - \alpha \log_2 \log_2 n)^{\alpha'}$$

$$\ge Cn(\log_2 n)^{-\alpha} D(\log_2 n)^{\alpha'}$$

$$= CDn(\log_2 n)^{\alpha' - \alpha} \ge n.$$

Consider the  $\lceil \delta \rceil$ -uniform hypergraph whose vertices are the vertices of G and whose edges are the n sets  $S_v$ . By the above calculations, (for large enough n) there exists a coloring so that none of the  $S_v$  are monochoromatic, i.e. so that each vertex leads to a vertex of a different color. By the lemma, G has an even cycle.

### **Problem 5** (4.1, P(X = 0))

Let  $p_k = P(X = k)$ . By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\left(\sum_{k\geq 0} k p_k\right)^2 \leq \left(\sum_{k>0} p_k\right) \left(\sum_{k\geq 0} k^2 p_k\right).$$

(Note the k = 0 terms for  $kp_k$  and  $k^2p_k$  are 0.) We rewrite this as

$$\mathbb{E}(X)^2 \le (1 - P(X = 0))\mathbb{E}(X^2)$$

$$\implies P(X = 0)\mathbb{E}(X^2) \le \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2$$

$$\implies P(X = 0)\mathbb{E}(X^2) \le \text{Var}(X)$$

$$\implies P(X = 0) \le \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{\mathbb{E}(X^2)}.$$

## **Problem 6** (4.2)

We show the inequality with  $c = \frac{\sqrt{5}-2}{2}$ .

**Lemma 6.1:** Let  $a_1, \ldots, a_k$  be any real numbers, and  $\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_k$  independent random variables taking the values -1 and 1 each with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Let  $X = \varepsilon_1 a_1 + \cdots + \varepsilon_k a_k$ . Then

$$Var(X) = a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2$$

and

$$P(|X| \le 1) \ge 1 - (a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2).$$

*Proof.* Let  $X_i = \varepsilon_i a_i$ . Note  $Var(X_i) = \mathbb{E}((\varepsilon_i a_i)^2) = a_i^2$ . Since the  $X_i$  are independent, we have

$$Var(X) = Var(X_1) + \dots + Var(X_k) = a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2$$

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Clearly,  $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = 0$  so  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$ . By Chebyshev's inequality with  $\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2}}$  and  $\sigma = \sqrt{a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2}$ , we get

$$P(|X| \ge 1) = P(|X - \mathbb{E}(X)| \ge \lambda \sigma) \le \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2.$$

Since  $P(|X| \le 1) \ge 1 - P(|X| \ge 1)$ , this proves the second part.

Let  $\lambda = \sqrt{5} - 2$ . Note  $\frac{1-\lambda^2}{8} = \frac{\lambda}{2}$  and  $c = \frac{\lambda}{2}$ . Consider two cases.

1. There exists  $a_i$  with  $a_i^2 \geq \lambda$ . Without loss of generality,  $a_1^2 \geq \lambda$ . Then by the lemma,

$$P(|\varepsilon_2 a_2 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k| \le 1) \ge 1 - (a_2^2 + \dots + a_n^2) = a_1^2 \ge \lambda.$$

Since  $|a_1| \le 1$ , given that  $|\varepsilon_2 a_2 + \cdots + \varepsilon_k a_k| \le 1$ , if  $\varepsilon_1$  is such that  $\varepsilon_1 a_1$  has opposite sign from  $\varepsilon_2 a_2 + \cdots + \varepsilon_k a_k$ , then we also have  $|X| \le 1$ . Thus

$$P(|X| \le 1) \ge \frac{1}{2}P(|\varepsilon_2 a_2 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k| \le 1) \ge \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$

2. There does not exist  $a_i$  with  $a_i^2 \geq \lambda$ . Let k be the greatest index so that

$$a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \dots + a_k^2 \le \frac{1+\lambda}{2}$$
.

(Note  $k \ge 1$  since  $a_1^2 < \lambda < \frac{1+\lambda}{2}$ .) Let  $A = a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2$ . By the maximality assumption,  $a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2 + a_{k+1}^2 > \frac{1+\lambda}{2}$ . Since  $a_{k+1}^2 < \lambda$ , we conclude  $A > \frac{1-\lambda}{2}$ . Thus by the lemma,

$$P(|\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k| \le 1) \ge 1 - (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \dots + a_k^2) = 1 - A.$$

$$P(|\varepsilon_{k+1} a_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n| \le 1) \ge 1 - (a_{k+1}^2 + \dots + a_n^2) = A.$$

By symmetry,

$$P(\varepsilon_{k+1}a_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n \in [0,1]) = P(\varepsilon_{k+1}a_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n \in [-1,0]) \ge \frac{A}{2}.$$

Now, noting  $A \in \left[\frac{1-\lambda}{2}, \frac{1+\lambda}{2}\right]$  implies  $A(1-A) \ge \left(\frac{1-\lambda}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1+\lambda}{2}\right) = \frac{1-\lambda^2}{4}$ ,

$$\begin{split} P(|X| \leq 1) &\geq P(\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k \in [0,1]) P(\varepsilon_{k+1} a_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n \in [-1,0]) \\ &\quad + P(\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k \in [-1,0]) P(\varepsilon_{k+1} a_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n \in [0,1]) \\ &\geq P(\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k \in [0,1]) \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) + P(\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k \in [-1,0]) \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) \\ &= P(|\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k a_k| \leq 1) \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) \\ &\geq (1-A) \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) \geq \frac{1-\lambda^2}{8} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \end{split}$$

as needed.

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### Problem 7 (4.3)

We need the following estimate. The proof is similar to Chebyshev's inequality.

**Lemma 7.1:** Let  $a_1, \ldots, a_n$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_n$  be independently chosen to be  $\pm 1$  with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Then

$$P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_k a_k\right\| \ge R\right) \le \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \|a_k\|^2}{R^2}.$$

*Proof.* First we calculate  $\mathbb{E}\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_k a_k\right\|^2\right)$ . Let  $a_k = (x_k, y_k)$ . Now

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n}\varepsilon_{k}a_{k}\right\|^{2}\right) = \mathbb{E}\left(\left(\varepsilon_{1}x_{1} + \dots + \varepsilon_{n}x_{n}\right)^{2} + \left(\varepsilon_{1}y_{1} + \dots + \varepsilon_{n}y_{n}\right)^{2}\right)$$

Expanding, noting that  $\mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j x_i x_j) = \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j y_i y_j) = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  (since  $\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j$  has equal probability of being  $\pm 1$ ), the expected value equals

$$\mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_1^2 x_1^2) + \dots + \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_n^2 x_n^2) + \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_1^2 y_1^2) + \dots + \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_n^2 y_n^2) = x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 + y_1^2 + \dots + y_n^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n ||a_k||^2.$$

By Markov's inequality,

$$P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} a_{k}\right\| \geq R\right) = P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} a_{k}\right\|^{2} \geq R^{2}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{\mathbb{E}\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} a_{k}\right\|^{2}\right)}{R^{2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \left\|a_{k}\right\|^{2}}{R^{2}}.$$

**Lemma 7.2:** Let  $a_1, \ldots, a_n$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , all of length at most r. Then there exist  $\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_n \in \{-1, 1\}$  so that

$$\|\varepsilon_1 a_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_n a_n\| \le \sqrt{2}r.$$

Proof. For  $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n) \in \{-1, 1\}^n$  and  $i \neq j$ , let  $\mathcal{P}_{i,j}(\varepsilon)$  be the (possibly degenerate) parallelogram bounded by the 4 vertices  $v \pm a_i \pm a_j$ , where  $v = \sum_{k \neq i, j; 1 \leq k \leq n} \varepsilon_i a_i$ . Let  $\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_{1 \leq i < j \leq n, \varepsilon \in \{-1,1\}^n} \mathcal{P}_{i,j}(\varepsilon)$ . Note that if  $Q_1 Q_2 Q_3 Q_4$  is one of these parallelograms, then we have  $Q_2 = Q_1 \pm 2a_i$  for some i, and similarly for the other adjacent pairs of vertices.

We claim that  $\mathcal{P}$  contains the origin. First we show that  $\mathcal{P}$  is convex. Let Q be a vertex on the boundary of  $\mathcal{P}$ , and  $QQ_1$  and  $QQ_2$  be edges of  $\mathcal{P}$ , with  $Q_1 \neq Q_2$  (i.e.  $QQ_1, QQ_2$  are edges of some  $\mathcal{P}_{i,j}(\varepsilon)$ .) As mentioned,  $Q_1 = Q \pm 2a_i$  for some i and  $Q_2 = Q \pm 2a_j$  for some j, for  $i \neq j$ . Suppose the directed angle  $\angle Q_1QQ_2$  is in the range  $[0^{\circ}, 180^{\circ}]$ . Let

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 $Q' = Q \pm 2a_i \pm 2a_j$ , where the two signs match the signs in  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ , respectively. Then  $Q_1QQ_2Q'$  is one of the parallelograms, in particular, P contains the angle  $\angle Q_1QQ_2$ . This shows that  $\mathcal{P}$  has no reflex angle on the boundary.  $\mathcal{P}$  has a well-defined outer boundary that traces a convex polygon, and has no "holes" (because holes would cause reflex angles as well). Hence  $\mathcal{P}$  is convex. Since  $\mathcal{P}$  is clearly symmetric around the origin, it must contain the origin.

Hence we can take a parallelogram  $\mathcal{P}_{i,j}(\varepsilon)$  containing the origin. Suppose by way of contradiction that all its vertices  $P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4$  are at a distance greater than  $\sqrt{2}r$  from the origin O. One of the angles  $\angle P_1OP_2, \angle P_2OP_3, \angle P_3OP_4, \angle P_4OP_1$  is at least 90°, say WLOG  $P_1OP_2$ . Then by Pythagorean's inequality  $|P_1P_2|^2 \ge |OP_1|^2 + |OP_2|^2 > 2(\sqrt{2}r)^2$  so  $|P_1P_2| > 2r$ . But  $|P_1P_2| = 2a_i$  for some i, and  $a_i > r$ , contradiction. Thus one of  $P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4$  is at most a distance of  $\sqrt{2}r$  from O, proving the lemma.

Back to the problem, let  $i_0 = 0$ , let  $i_1$  be the largest integer so that  $||a_1||^2 + \cdots + ||a_{i_1}||^2 \le \frac{1}{20}$ , let  $i_2$  be the largest integer so that  $||a_{i_1+1}||^2 + \cdots + ||a_{i_2}||^2 \le \frac{1}{20}$ , and so on. (Note  $i_{j+1} > i_j$  because  $||a_i||^2 \le \frac{1}{100}$  for all i.) Suppose this divides the  $a_i$  into t groups. For  $0 \le j < t - 1$ , by the maximality assumption on  $i_{j+1}$ ,  $||a_{i_j+1}||^2 + \cdots + ||a_{i_{j+1}}||^2 + ||a_{i_{j+1}+1}||^2 > \frac{1}{20}$ ; since  $||a_{i_{j+1}+1}||^2 \le \frac{1}{100}$ , we conclude  $||a_{i_j+1}||^2 + \cdots + ||a_{i_{j+1}}||^2 > \frac{1}{25}$ . Thus we've divided the  $a_i$  into t groups, and in all of them except the last, the sum of the squares of the absolute values is in the interval  $(\frac{1}{25}, \frac{1}{20}]$ . This shows  $t \le 25$ .

By Lemma 7.1,

$$P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=i_j+1}^{i_{j+1}} \varepsilon_k a_k\right\| \ge \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}\right) \le 18 \sum_{k=i_j+1}^{i_{j+1}} \|a_k\|^2 \le \frac{18}{20}$$

SO

$$P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=i_j+1}^{i_{j+1}} \varepsilon_k a_k\right\| \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}\right) \ge \frac{1}{10}.$$

Thus the probability that  $\left\|\sum_{k=i_j+1}^{i_{j+1}} \varepsilon_k a_k\right\| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}$  for each  $0 \leq j < t$  is at least  $\frac{1}{10^t} \geq \frac{1}{10^{25}}$ . Let  $v_j = \sum_{k=i_j+1}^{i_{j+1}} \varepsilon_k a_k$ . Let S be the set of  $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$  such that  $\|v_j\| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}$  for all j; call  $v = \sum_{k=1}^n \varepsilon_k a_k$  the vector associated to  $\varepsilon$ . We say two vectors  $\varepsilon, \varepsilon'$  are equivalent if

$$(\varepsilon_{i_j+1},\ldots,\varepsilon_{i_{j+1}})=\pm(\varepsilon'_{i_j+1},\ldots,\varepsilon'_{i_{j+1}})$$

for each j. This divides S into equivalence classes, each containing  $2^t$  elements. Note that the vectors associated to the  $2^t$  elements in the equivalence class of  $\varepsilon$  are in the form  $\omega_0 v_0 + \cdots + \omega_{t-1} v_{t-1}$  where  $\omega_i = \pm 1$ . Since  $||v_i|| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}$ , by Lemma 7.2 there exists a choice of  $\omega_0, \ldots, \omega_{t-1}$  so that  $||\omega_0 v_0 + \cdots + \omega_{t-1} v_{t-1}|| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{18}} = \frac{1}{3}$  (in fact, there exist two choices, by symmetry). Hence in each equivalence class C of S, at least 2 of the  $2^t$  elements of C have

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associated vectors with absolute value at most  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Thus

$$P\left(\left\|\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} a_{k}\right\| \leq \frac{1}{3}\right) \geq P\left(\bigwedge_{j=0}^{t-1} \left(\left\|\sum_{k=i_{j}+1}^{i_{j+1}} \varepsilon_{k} a_{k}\right\| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{18}}\right)\right) \cdot \frac{2}{2^{t}}$$
$$\geq \frac{1}{10^{25}} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{24}}.$$