

**Theorem.** Let  $u$  and  $t$  be non-zero natural numbers and let  $p$  be a prime. Then the family of all linear mappings from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^u$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_p^t$  is 1-universal.

*Proof.* Let  $A = \{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_u\}$  be a base of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^u$ . It is well known that for every mapping  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^t$  there exists a unique linear mapping extended  $f$  and  $|\mathbb{Z}_p^t| = p^t$ . Thus the number of linear mapping from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^u$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_p^t$  is  $(p^t)^u = p^{tu}$ . Let  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{y}$  be distinct vectors of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^u$  and let  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, u\}$  such that if  $\vec{x} - \vec{y} = \sum_{i=1}^u b_i \vec{a}_i$  then  $b_j \neq 0$  (since  $\vec{0} \neq \vec{x} - \vec{y}$  such  $j$  exists). Then  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p^u \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^t$  is a linear mapping with  $f(x) = f(y)$  if and only if  $f(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) = f(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{y}) = \vec{0}$ . Thus for every mapping  $g : A \setminus \{a_j\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^t$  there exists exactly one linear mapping  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p^u \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^t$  with  $f(x) = f(y)$  because necessarily

$$f(\vec{a}_j) = \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^u b_i g(\vec{a}_i).$$

Hence the number of linear mappings  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p^u \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^t$  with  $f(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{y})$  is equal to  $(p^t)^{u-1} = p^{t(u-1)}$ . From  $p^{t(u-1)} = \frac{p^{tu}}{p^t}$  it follows that the family of all linear mappings from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^u$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_p^t$  is 1-universal.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** For every  $\varepsilon$  with  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  there exists a constant  $c_\varepsilon > 0$  such that for all natural numbers  $w$  and  $t$  and for every set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^w$  with  $|A| \geq c_\varepsilon t 2^t$  we have

$$\mathbf{P}(T(A) = \mathbb{Z}_2^t) \geq 1 - \varepsilon$$

for every random uniformly chosen linear mapping  $T : \mathbb{Z}_2^w \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^t$ .

*Proof.* Set  $u = \lceil \log(\frac{2|A|}{\varepsilon}) \rceil$ . Let  $T_1 : \mathbb{Z}_2^u \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^t$  be a random uniformly chosen surjective linear mapping (since  $u \geq t$  such mapping exists). Fix  $T_1$ . Then for every random uniformly chosen linear mapping  $T : \mathbb{Z}_2^w \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^t$  there exists a linear mapping  $T_0 : \mathbb{Z}_2^w \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^u$  with  $T = T_0 \circ T_1$  and  $T_0$  is a random linear mapping with uniform distribution. Since the family of all linear mappings from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^w$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_2^u$  is 1-universal we conclude that

$$\mathbf{P}(T_0(\vec{x}) = T_0(\vec{y})) = 2^{-u}$$

for all distinct vectors  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{y}$  from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^w$ . If  $d_A$  is the number of all pairs of distinct vectors  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in A$  with  $T_0(\vec{x}) = T_0(\vec{y})$  then the expected value of a random variable  $d_A$  is

$$\mathbf{E}(d_A) = \binom{|A|}{2} 2^{-u}.$$

If  $|T_0(A)| \leq \frac{|A|}{2}$  then there exist at least  $\frac{|A|}{2}$  pairs of distinct vectors  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in A$  with  $T_0(\vec{x}) = T_0(\vec{y})$ . By Markov inequality

$$\mathbf{P}(c_A \geq k \binom{|A|}{2} 2^{-u}) \leq \frac{1}{k}.$$

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Thus if we set  $k = \frac{|A|2^u}{2^{\binom{|A|}{2}}}$  then we obtain

$$\mathbf{P}(|T_0(A)| \geq \frac{|A|}{2}) \leq \mathbf{P}(d_A \geq \frac{|A|}{2}) \leq \frac{2^{\binom{|A|}{2}}}{|A|2^u} = \frac{|A|-1}{2^u} < \frac{|A|}{2^u} \leq \frac{\varepsilon|A|}{2|A|} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

We can summarize that

$$\mathbf{P}(T(A) \neq \mathbb{Z}_2^t \wedge |T_0(A)| \leq \frac{|A|}{2}) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

Secondly we compute  $\mathbf{P}(T(A) \neq \mathbb{Z}_2^t \wedge |T_0(A)| \geq \frac{|A|}{2})$ . By Theorem 6 for  $T_1 : \mathbb{Z}_2^u \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^t$  and  $T_0(A) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^u$ , we have

$$\mathbf{P}(T(A) = T_1(T_0(A)) \neq \mathbb{Z}_2^t \wedge |T_0(A)| \geq \frac{|A|}{2}) \leq \alpha^{u-t-\log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha})}$$

where  $\alpha = 1 - \frac{|T_0(A)|}{2^u}$ . Clearly

$$\alpha < 1 - \frac{|A|}{2} 2^{-\log(\frac{2|A|}{\varepsilon})-1} = 1 - \frac{|A|}{4^{\frac{2|A|}{\varepsilon}}} = 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \leq e^{-\frac{\varepsilon}{8}}.$$

Set  $c_\varepsilon = 4(\frac{2}{\varepsilon})^{\frac{8}{\varepsilon}}$ . Then we can estimate

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(u-t-\log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha})) &= -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(\lceil \log(\frac{2|A|}{\varepsilon}) \rceil - t - \log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha})) = \\ &= -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(\lceil \log(\frac{8(\frac{2}{\varepsilon})^{\frac{8}{\varepsilon}} t 2^t}{\varepsilon}) \rceil - t - \log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha})) \leq \\ &= -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(3 + \frac{8}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{2}{\varepsilon} - \log \varepsilon + \log t + t - t - \log t + \log(\frac{\varepsilon}{8} \log e)) = \\ &= -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(3 - \log \varepsilon + \frac{8}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{2}{\varepsilon}) + \log \varepsilon - 3 + \log \log e) = \\ &= -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(\frac{8}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{2}{\varepsilon}) + \log \log e) = \\ &= \log \frac{\varepsilon}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \log \log e \leq \log \frac{\varepsilon}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(T(A) = T_1(T_0(A)) \neq \mathbb{Z}_2^t \wedge |T_0(A)| \geq \frac{|A|}{2}) &\leq \alpha^{u-t-\log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha})} \leq \\ &= e^{-\frac{\varepsilon}{8}(u-t-\log t + \log \log(\frac{1}{\alpha}))} \leq \\ &= e^{\log(\frac{\varepsilon}{2})} \leq e^{\ln(\frac{\varepsilon}{2})} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

If we connect both alternatives we deduce that

$$\mathbf{P}(T(A) = T_1(T_0(A)) \neq \mathbb{Z}_2^t) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$$

and from this it follows that  $\mathbf{P}(T(A) = \mathbb{Z}_2^t) \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ .  $\square$