Chapter 1

Expected value proof

1.1 Upper bound

Before proving part (b) of the main theorem, we will prove a lemma that shows that a cyclic group of prime order is covered by the sums of a random subset of logarithmic size almost always.

Lemma 1.1.1. *Let q be a prime number and $\mathcal{A}$ be a random subset of $\mathbb{Z}_q$ of size $4\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor$. As q tends to infinity, $2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor\mathcal{A}$ covers $\mathbb{Z}_q$ almost always.*

Proof. Let $s \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $s \leq q$. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a uniformly random subset of $\mathbb{Z}_q$ of size s, that is,

$$\Pr(\mathcal{A}) = \frac{1}{\binom{q}{s}}.$$

For a given $z \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ for which $k \leq s/2$, let

$$N_z^k := \left\{ K \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_q : |K| = k, \sum_{t\in K} t = z \right\}.$$

Note that $|N_z^k| = \frac{1}{q}\binom{q}{k}$, since $K \in N_0^k$ if and only if $K + k^{-1}z \in N_z^k$ for every $z \in \mathbb{Z}_q$.

For $K \in N_z^k$, let E_K be the event that $K \subset \mathcal{A}$. Let X_K be the indicator variable of E_K. We define the random variable

$$X_z = \sum_{K\in N_z^k} X_K.$$

Note that X_z counts the number of sets of size k which add up to z. We now find $\mathrm{E}[X_z]$. Since the sum of every subset $K \subset S$ is in $\mathbb{Z}_q$,

$$\sum_{z\in Z_q} X_z = \binom{s}{k},$$

and so

$$\binom{s}{k} = \mathrm{E}\left[\sum_{z\in Z_q} X_z\right] = \sum_{z\in Z_q} \mathrm{E}[X_z].$$

As in the argument for finding $|N_z^k|$, for every $z \in \mathbb{Z}_q$,

$$\mathrm{E}[X_0] = \sum_{K \in N_0^k} \mathrm{E}[X_K] = \sum_{K \in N_0^k} \mathrm{E}[X_{K+k^{-1}z}] = \sum_{K \in N_z^k} \mathrm{E}[X_K] = \mathrm{E}[X_z].$$

Therefore, we have that

$$E[X_z] = \frac{1}{q}\binom{s}{k}. \tag{1.1}$$

Now, for $K, L \in N_z^k$, let $j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $j \leq k$ and define

$$\Delta_j := \sum_{|K \cap L| = j} \Pr[E_K \wedge E_L].$$

If $|K \cap L| = j$,

$$\Pr[E_K \wedge E_L] = \frac{\binom{q-2k+j}{s-2k+j}}{\binom{q}{s}}.$$

We can bound the number of events for which $|K \cap L| = j$. First we choose K as any set in N_z^k and then we choose the remaining $k - j$ elements as any subset of $\mathbb{Z}_q \setminus K$ with size $k - j$. Thus,

$$\Delta_j \leq \frac{1}{q}\binom{q}{k}\binom{q-k}{k-j}\frac{\binom{q-2k+j}{s-2k+j}}{\binom{q}{s}}.$$

This implies that, using 1.1,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\Delta_j}{\mathrm{E}[X_z]^2} &\leq \frac{\binom{q}{k}\binom{q-k}{k-j}\binom{q-2k+j}{s-2k+j}}{\frac{1}{q}\binom{s}{k}\frac{1}{q}\binom{s}{k}q\binom{q}{s}} \\
&= \frac{\frac{q!}{(q-k)!k!}\frac{(p-k)!}{(k-j)!(q-2k+k)!}\frac{(q-2k+j)!}{(s-2k+j)!(q-s)!}}{\frac{1}{q}\binom{s}{k}\frac{s!}{(s-k)!k!}\frac{q!}{(q-s)!s!}} \\
&= \frac{q\binom{s-k}{k-j}}{\binom{s}{k}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Let $s = 4\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor$ and $k = 2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor$. Using that $\binom{s-k}{k-j}$ is maximized at $k - j = \lfloor (s-k)/2 \rfloor$,

$$\frac{\Delta_j}{\mathrm{E}[X_z]^2} \leq \frac{q\binom{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}{\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}}{\binom{4\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}} \leq \frac{q}{\binom{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}{\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}} \leq \frac{q}{2^{\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}} \sim \frac{1}{q^2},$$

since $\binom{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}{\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}^2 \leq \binom{4\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor}$ (Proposition **??**).

Hence, by (**??**) and Theorem **??**,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pr[X_z = 0] \leq \frac{\mathrm{E}[X_z] + \Delta}{\mathrm{E}[X_z]^2} &= \frac{1}{E[X_z]} + \sum_{j=0}^{k} \frac{\Delta_j}{\mathrm{E}[X_z]^2} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{E[X_z]} + \frac{(k+1)}{q^2} = \frac{1}{E[X_z]} + \frac{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q \rfloor + 1}{q^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the union bound and since $q \to \infty$ as $p \to 0$,

$$\Pr\left[\bigvee_{z\in\mathbb{Z}_q} X_z = 0\right] \leq \frac{q}{\mathrm{E}[X_z]} + \frac{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor + 1}{q} \tag{1.2}$$

$$= \frac{q^2}{\binom{4\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor}{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor}} + \frac{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor + 1}{q} \tag{1.3}$$

$$\leq \frac{q^2}{2^{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor}} + \frac{2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor + 1}{q} \tag{1.4}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{q^4} + \frac{6\log q}{q} = o(1). \tag{1.5}$$

We conclude that $X_z > 0$ for every $z \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ almost always. Thus, for every $z \in \mathbb{Z}_q$, there exists $K \in N_z^k$ such that $K \subset \mathcal{A}$ almost always. This means that $2\lfloor 3\log_2 q\rfloor\mathcal{A}$ covers $\mathbb{Z}_q$ almost always. □

1.1.1 Proof of the upper bound

Lemma 1.1.2. *Let $\psi(x)$ be a function for which $x(\log x)^2 \in o(\psi(x))$ .Then*

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[F(\mathcal{S}) \leq \psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

The proof of this theorem consists of several parts. The strategy is to prove that the Ápery set of a subsemigroup of S is completed before step $\psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)$ with high probability, since $F(\mathcal{S})$ is less than the maximum element of this Ápery set. The proof has the following structure:

1. First, we will find a step for which a prime q is chosen with high probability (E_1).
2. Then, in the spirit of Lemma 1.1.1 we will find a step such that a set $\mathcal{A}$ of s elements which are different modulo q are chosen with high probability (E_2).
3. Finally, we will apply Lemma 1.1.1 to $\mathrm{Ap}(\langle\mathcal{A}\cup\{q\}\rangle, q)$.

Proof.

Part 1

Consider the event D_1 that a prime q is selected, such that

$$\frac{96}{p}\log\frac{4}{p} \leq q \leq \left(\frac{4}{p}\log\frac{1}{p}\right)\log\left(\frac{4}{p}\log\frac{1}{p}\right).$$

Then

$$\Pr[\neg D_1] \leq (1-p)^{\frac{1}{p}\left(4\log\frac{1}{p}-96\right)} \leq e^{-\left(4\log\frac{1}{p}-96\right)} \in O(p^4).$$

Part 2

Given D_1, let D_2 be the event that more than $12\log q$ generators are selected. Let $X \sim \mathrm{Bin}(q,p)$. Since

$$q \leq \left(\frac{4}{p}\log\frac{1}{p}\right)\log\left(\frac{4}{p}\log\frac{1}{p}\right),$$

then

$$12 \log q \leq 12 \log \left(\frac{4}{p}\right)^4 \leq 48 \log \frac{4}{p}.$$

Also, since

$$q \geq \frac{96}{p} \log \frac{4}{p},$$

then

$$\mathrm{E}[X] = qp \geq 96 \log \frac{4}{p}.$$

Remember Chernoff's bound:

$$\Pr[X \leq \mathrm{E}[X] - \lambda] \leq e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2\mathrm{E}[X]}} \tag{1.6}$$

Thus, using $\lambda = \frac{\mathrm{E}[X]}{2}$,

$$\Pr[\neg D_2] \leq \Pr\left[X \leq \mathrm{E}[X] - \frac{\mathrm{E}[X]}{2}\right] = e^{-\frac{\mathrm{E}[X]}{8}} \leq e^{-12 \log \frac{4}{p}} = O(p^{12}). \tag{1.7}$$

Part 3

Finally, assume D_1 and D_2. Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the set of generators of chosen before q. Since the generators are chosen randomly and $|\mathcal{A}| \geq 12 \log q$, we can apply Lemma 1.1.1 to $\mathbb{Z}_q \cong \mathrm{Ap}(\langle \mathcal{A} \cup \{q\}\rangle, q)$. Consider the event D_3 that $\mathrm{Ap}(\langle \mathcal{A} \cup \{q\}\rangle, q)$ will be completed before step

$$6q \log q \in O\left(\frac{1}{p}\left(\log \frac{1}{p}\right)^3\right).$$

Applying Lemma 1.1.1 (Equation 1.5), we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[\neg D_3] &\leq \frac{1}{q^4} + \frac{6 \log q}{q} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\left(\frac{96}{p} \log \frac{4}{p}\right)^4} + \frac{6 \log \left(\frac{4}{p}\right)^4}{\frac{96}{p} \log \frac{4}{p}} \in O(p).\end{aligned}$$

Thus, if

$$\psi(x) = h\left(x\right) 2 \left\lfloor 3 \log_2 x \right\rfloor,$$

we have that $x(\log x)^2 \in o(\psi(x))$ and

$$\lim_{p \to 0} \Pr\left[F(\langle \mathcal{A} \cup \{q\}\rangle) \leq \psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

Since $F(\mathcal{S}) \leq F(\langle \mathcal{A} \cup \{q\}\rangle)$, we conclude that

$$\lim_{p \to 0} \Pr\left[F(\mathcal{S}) \leq \psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

Since the constraints on $h(x)$ are independent of multiplication by constants, the result is true for any function ψ such that $x(\log x)^2 \in \psi(g(x))$. □

The bound on the Frobenius number also implies bounds on the genus and the embedding dimension.

Corollary 1.1.1. *Let $\psi(x)$ be a function for which $x(\log x)^2 \in o(\psi(x))$ .Then*

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[g(\mathcal{S}) \leq \psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

Proof. Use Proposition **??**. □

Corollary 1.1.2. *Let $\varphi(x)$ be a function for which $(\log x)^2 \in o(\varphi(x))$ .Then*

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[e(\mathcal{S}) \leq \varphi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

Proof. Since

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[F(\mathcal{S}) \leq \psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1,$$

and the maximal element of the minimal generating set is at most $2F(\mathcal{S})$, the elements of the minimal generating set are chosen before step $2\psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)$ with high probability. Since

$$\left|\mathcal{A} \cap \left\{1, \ldots, \left\lfloor 2\psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right\rfloor\right\}\right| \sim \mathrm{Bin}\left(\left\lfloor 2\psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right\rfloor, p\right),$$

by the bound on the right tail of the binomial distribution (Proposition **??**), we have that

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[e(\mathcal{S}) \leq (3p)\psi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1.$$

Thus, if $\varphi(x) = \frac{3}{x}\psi(x)$, then $(\log x)^2 \in \varphi(x)$ and

$$\lim_{p\to 0} \Pr\left[e(\mathcal{S}) \leq \varphi\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)\right] = 1. \quad \square$$