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Specified Intersections

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(Submitted on 28 Jul 2011 (v1), last revised 3 May 2012 (this version, v2))

Let M be a subset of {0, ..., n} and F be a family of subsets of an n element set such that the size of A intersection B is in M for every A, B in F. Suppose that I is the maximum number of consecutive integers contained in M and n is sufficiently large. Then we prove that

 $|F| < \min \{1.622^n \ 100^n, 2^n/2 + \log^2 n\}$.

The first bound complements the previous bound of roughly (1.99)ⁿ due to Frankl and the second author which applies even when M={0, 1,.., n} - {n/4}. For small I, the second bound above becomes better than the first bound. In this case, it yields $2^{n/2+o(n)}$ and this can be viewed as a generalization (in an asymptotic sense) of the famous Eventown theorem of Berlekamp. Our second result complements the result of Frankl-Rodl in a different direction. Fix eps>0 and eps n < t < n/5 and let M={0, 1, .., n}-(t, t+n^{0.525}). Then, in the notation above, we prove that for n sufficiently large, $|F| < n\{n \ (n+t)/2\}.$

This is essentially sharp aside from the multiplicative factor of n. The short proof uses the Frankl-Wilson theorem and results about the distribution of prime numbers.

Subjects: Combinatorics (math.CO) MSC classes: 05 Cite as: arXiv:1107.5651 [math.CO] (or arXiv:1107.5651v2 [math.CO] for this version)

Submission history

From: Dhruv Mubayi [view email] [v1] Thu, 28 Jul 2011 09:03:05 GMT (15kb) [v2] Thu, 3 May 2012 00:53:37 GMT (15kb)

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