Exponentially Small Soundness for the Direct Product Z-test

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May 30, 2017

Abstract

Given a function \( f : [N]^k \to [M]^k \), the Z-test is a three query test for checking if a function \( f \) is a direct product, namely if there are functions \( g_1, \ldots, g_k : [N] \to [M] \) such that \( f(x_1, \ldots, x_k) = (g_1(x_1), \ldots, g_k(x_k)) \) for every input \( x \in [N]^k \).

This test was introduced by Impagliazzo et. al. (SICOMP 2012), who showed that if the test passes with probability \( \epsilon > \exp(-\sqrt{k}) \) then \( f \) is \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) close to a direct product function in some precise sense. It remained an open question whether the soundness of this test can be pushed all the way down to \( \exp(-k) \) (which would be optimal). This is our main result: we show that whenever \( f \) passes the Z test with probability \( \epsilon > \exp(-k) \), there must be a global reason for this: namely, \( f \) must be close to a product function on some \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) fraction of its domain.

Towards proving our result we analyze the related (two-query) V-test, and prove a “restricted global structure” theorem for it. Such theorems were also proven in previous works on direct product testing in the small soundness regime. The most recent work, by Dinur and Steurer (CCC 2014), analyzed the V test in the exponentially small soundness regime. We strengthen their conclusion of that theorem by moving from an “in expectation” statement to a stronger “concentration of measure” type of statement, which we prove using hyper-contractivity. This stronger statement allows us to proceed to analyze the Z test.

We analyze two variants of direct product tests. One for functions on ordered tuples, as above, and another for functions on sets, \( f : ([N]^k) \to [M]^k \). The work of Impagliazzo et. al was actually focused only on functions of the latter type, i.e. on sets. We prove exponentially small soundness for the Z-test for both variants. Although the two appear very similar, the analysis for tuples is more tricky and requires some additional ideas.

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†Research supported in part by an ISF-UGC grant number 1399/14, and by BSF grant number 2014371.
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1 Introduction

A function $f : [N]^k \to [M]^k$ for $N, M, k \in \mathbb{N}$, is a direct product function if $f = (g_1, \ldots, g_k)$, for $g_i : [N] \to [M]$, i.e. the output of $f$ on each coordinate depends on the input to this coordinate alone. Direct products appear in a variety of contexts in complexity, usually for hardness amplification. In PCPs it underlies the parallel repetition theorem [Raz98] and implicitly appears in other forms of gap amplification, e.g. [Din07]. The specific task of testing direct products as an abstraction of a certain element of PCP constructions was introduced by [GS00].

The combinatorial question that underlies these works is the direct product testing question: given a function $f : [N]^k \to [M]^k$, is it a direct product function? The setting of interest here is where we query $f$ in the smallest number of inputs possible, and decide if it is a direct product function or not.

The direct product testing question is a type of property testing question, yet it is not in the standard property testing parameter regime. In property testing we are generally interested in showing that functions that pass the test with high probability, for example 99%, are close to having the property.

In our case, we are interested in understanding the structure of functions that pass the test with small - but non-trivial - probability, e.g. 1%. The 1% regime is often more challenging than the 99% regime. It plays an important role in PCPs where one needs to prove a large gap. In such arguments one needs to be able to deduce non trivial structure even from a proof that passes a verification test with small probability, e.g. 1%.

There are very few families of tests for which 1% theorems are known. These include algebraic low degree tests and direct product tests. For low degree tests there has been a considerable amount of work in various regimes and in particular towards understanding the extent of the 1% theorems, see e.g. [RS97, AS97, BDN17] and [BTZ10]. It is intriguing to understand more broadly for which tests such theorems can hold. Indeed, as far as we know, there are no other tests that exhibit such strong “structure vs. randomness” behavior, and direct product tests are natural candidates in which to study this question.

We remark that finding new settings where 1% theorems hold (including in particular derandomized direct products) can be potentially useful for constructing locally testable codes and stronger PCPs, see e.g. the recent works of [KMS16, DKK16]. Towards this goal gaining a more comprehensive understanding of direct product tests, as well as developing tools for proving them, is a natural goal.

1.1 Our Main Result

The main question we study is: if $f : [N]^k \to [M]^k$ passes a certain natural test (Test 1 below) with non-negligible probability, how can $f$ look like? We prove

**Theorem 1.1** (Main Theorem - Global Structure). For every $N, M > 1$, there exist small constants $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that for every constant $\lambda > 0$ and large enough $k$, if $f : [N]^k \to [M]^k$ is a function that passes Test 1 with probability $\alpha(f) = \varepsilon \geq e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$, then there exist functions $(g_1, \ldots, g_k), g_i : [N] \to [M]$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \left[ f(x) \feq (g_1(x_1) \ldots g_k(x_k)) \right] \geq c_2 \cdot \varepsilon.$$  

Where $\approx$ means that the strings are equal on all but at most $\lambda k$ coordinates.
Test 1: "Z"-test with parameter $t$ (3-query test)

1. Choose $A, B, C$ to be a random partition of $[k]$, such that $|A| = |B| = t$.

2. Choose uniformly at random $x, y, z \in [N]^k$ such that $x_A = y_A$ and $y_B = z_B$.

3. Reject if $f(x)_A \neq f(y)_A$ or $f(z)_B \neq f(y)_B$; else accept.

Denote by $\alpha_{Z(t)}(f)$ the success probability of $f$ on this test.

The theorem is qualitatively tight with respect to several parameters: (i) Soundness, (i.e. the parameter $\epsilon$), (ii) Approximate equality vs. exact equality (i.e. the parameter $\lambda$), (iii) Number of queries in the test. We discuss these next.

(i) Soundness The soundness of the theorem is the smallest success probability in which the theorem is valid, in our case it is $2^{-ck}$ for some constant $c > 0$. This is tight up to the constant $c$, as can be seen by the example below.

Example 1 (Random function). Let $f : [N]^k \to \{0, 1\}^k$ be a random function; i.e. for each $x \in [N]^k$ choose $f(x) \in \{0, 1\}^k$ uniformly and independently. Two random strings in $\{0, 1\}^t$ are equal with probability $2^{-t}$, therefore $\alpha_{Z(t)}(f) = 2^{-2t}$, since the test performs two such checks.

On the other hand, since $f$ is random, it is not close to any direct product function.

We remark that every function $f : [N]^k \to \{0, 1\}^k$ is at least $2^{-k}$ close to a direct product function $^1$, so this amount of correlation is meaningless. We conclude that in order to have direct product theorem that is not trivial, the minimal soundness has to be $2^{-c'k}$ for some constant $c' < 1$.

(ii) Approximate equality vs. exact equality In the theorem, we prove that for $\Omega(\epsilon)$ of the inputs $x$: $f(x) \approx (g_1(x), \ldots, g_t(x))$. A priori, one could hope for a stronger conclusion in which $f(x) = (g_1(x), \ldots, g_t(x))$ for $\Omega(\epsilon)$ of the $x$‘s. However, Example 2 shows that for $t = \frac{k}{10}$, approximate equality is necessary.

Example 2 (Noisy direct product function). This example is from [DG08]. Let $f$ be a direct product function, except that on each input $x$ we ”corrupt” $f(x)$ on $\lambda k$ random coordinates by changing $f(x)$ on these coordinates into random values. For $\lambda < \frac{1}{10}$, the probability that Test 1 on $f$ missed all the corrupted coordinates is $2^{-\Omega(\lambda k)}$, in which case the test succeeds. Since we have changed $f(x)$ on $\lambda k$ coordinates into random values, no direct product function can approximate $f$ on more than $(1 - \lambda)$ of the coordinates.

From this example we conclude that for $f$ that passes Test 1 for $t = \frac{k}{10}$ with probability $e^{-\Delta k}$, it is not possible to approximate $f$ on more than $(1 - \lambda)$ of the coordinates. Further discussion and examples for different intersection sizes (i.e. $t$) are in Section 6.

^1Consider the direct product function constructed incrementally by taking the most common value out of $\{0, 1\}$ on each step.
**Test 2: "V" test with parameter t (2-query test)**

1. Choose $A \subset [k]$ of size $t$, uniformly at random.

2. Choose uniformly at random $x, y \in [N]^k$ such that $x_A = y_A$.

3. Accept if $f(x)_A = f(y)_A$.

Denote by $\alpha_{V(t)}(f)$ the success probability of $f$ on this test.

(iii) **Number of queries in the test** The absolute minimal number of queries for any direct product test is two. Indeed, there is a very natural 2-query test, Test 2. Dinur and Goldenberg showed that it is not possible to have a direct product theorem with soundness lower than $\frac{1}{\text{poly}(k)}$ using the 2-query test [DG08].

**Example 3** (Localized direct product functions). In this example we assume $N \gg k$. For every $b \in [N]$ we choose a random function $g_b : [N] \rightarrow [M]$ independently. For every input $x \in [N]^k$, we choose a random $i_x \in k$, set $b = x_i$ and set $f(x) = (g_b(x_1), \ldots, g_b(x_k))$.

The function $f$ satisfies $\alpha_{V(t)}(f) \geq \frac{1}{k \cdot 2}$; indeed, for $x, y$ and $A$ chosen in the test, if $i_x = i_y$ and $i_x \in A$, then the test will pass. The probability that $i_x = i_y$ is $\frac{1}{k}$, and the probability that $i_x \in A$ is $\frac{1}{2}$.

For $N \gg k$, the function $f$ is very far from direct product, since it is made up from $N$ different direct product functions. Each piece consisting of roughly $1/N$ fraction of the domain $[N]^k$.

For every $t$, the function described in the example satisfies $\alpha_{V(t)}(f) \geq \frac{1}{k^2}$, yet there is no direct product function that approximates $f$ when $N \gg k$. In [DG08] the conclusion from Example 3 was that $1/\text{poly}(k)$ is the limit for small soundness for direct product tests. However, [IKW12] showed that by adding just one more query, this limitation goes away. They introduced a 3-query test, similar to Test 1, and proved a direct product theorem for all $\epsilon > 2^{-O(k)}$ for some constant $\beta \leq 1/2$.

**Direct product test for functions over sets** Some of the previous direct product works, such as [IKW12] were proven in a slightly different setting, where the function tested is $f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k$, i.e. the input to the function $f$ is an unordered set $S \subset [N]$ of $k$ elements. In this work, we also prove a direct product testing theorem for this setting, Test 3 is the analog of Test 1 for functions over sets. In Test 3 (see figure), we pick disjoint sets $W, X, Y, Z$ such that $X \cap W = Y \cap W = Y \cap V = \emptyset$ so that $|X \cup W| = |Y \cup W| = |Y \cup V| = k$ and they can be inputs to the function $f$.

**Theorem 1.2** (Global Structure for Sets). There exist a small constant $c > 0$, such that for every constant $\lambda > 0$, large enough $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $N > k^2 e^{10c1k}$, if the function $f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k$ passes Test 3 with probability $\alpha_{Z_{\text{set}(t)}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-c\lambda}$, then there exist a function $g : [N] \rightarrow [M]$ such that

$$\Pr_{S}\left[f(S) \equiv_{k} g(S)\right] \geq \epsilon - 4e^{-2}.$$

Notice that the probability bound of $\epsilon - 4e^{-2}$ is better than $\Omega(\epsilon)$, and it is tight as demonstrated by the function $f$ which is a hybrid of $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$ different direct product functions on equals
Test 3: "Z" test for functions over sets, with parameter $t$ (3-queries)

1. Choose random $V, W, X, Y \subseteq [N]$, such that $|W| = |V| = t$, $|X| = |Y| = k - t$ and $X \cap W = Y \cap W = Y \cap V = \emptyset$.

2. Reject if $f(X \cup W)_W \neq f(Y \cup W)_W$ or $f(Y \cup W)_Y \neq f(Y \cup V)_Y$, else accept.

Denote by $\alpha_{Z_{\text{gen}}}(f)$ the success probability of $f$ on this test.

parts of the inputs. $f$ passes Test 3 with probability $\epsilon$, and every direct product function is close to $f$ only on $\epsilon$ fraction of the inputs.

We remark that the two theorems are not the same. In Theorem 1.1, there are $k$ different functions $g_1, \ldots, g_k : [N] \to [M]$ whereas in Theorem 1.2 there is a single one. Furthermore, Theorem 1.1 holds for any $N, M \in \mathbb{N}$ and large enough $k$, and Theorem 1.2 (and other such direct product theorems) only holds for $N \gg k$. The proofs of the theorems are also different, which is discussed later in the introduction.

1.2 Restricted Global Structure

Our proof has two main parts, similar to the structure of the proof of [DG08, IKW12]. In the first part, we analyze only Test 2 (which is on tuples) and prove a restricted global structure theorem for it, Theorem 1.3 below (this was called local structure in [IKW12, DS14]). The term “restricted global structure” refers to when we restrict the domain to small (but not trivial) pieces, and show that $f$ is close to a product function on each piece separately. This is the structure of the function in Example 3.

More explicitly, for every $A \subseteq [k]$ of size $\frac{k}{10}$, $r \in [N]^A$ and $\gamma \in [M]^A$, a restriction is a triple $\tau = (A, r, \gamma)$. The choice of $t = \frac{k}{10}$ in Theorem 1.1 is somewhat arbitrary, the theorem can be proven with $t = ck$ for $c < \frac{1}{2}$. The restriction corresponds to the set of inputs

$$\mathcal{V}_\tau = \{w \in [N][k]^A : f(r, w)_A = \gamma\}.$$ 

Our next theorem shows that for many restrictions $\tau$ there exist a direct product function that is close to $f$ on $\mathcal{V}_\tau$.

**Theorem 1.3** (Restricted Global Structure - informal). Let $f : [N]^k \to [M]^k$ be a function that passes Test 2 with probability $\alpha_{Z_{\text{gen}}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-\beta k}$, then there exist a natural distribution over restrictions $\tau = (A, r, \gamma)$ such that with probability $\Omega(\epsilon)$, there exist functions $(g_1^\tau, \ldots, g_M^\tau), g_i^\tau : [N] \to [M]$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N][k]^A} \left[ (r, w)|[k]^A \approx \delta_k \left( (g_1^\tau(w_1), \ldots, g_M^\tau(w_M)) \right) \right] w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \geq 1 - e^2. \quad (1)$$

Where the distribution over $\tau$ is the test distribution, namely choose $A \subseteq [k], x \in [N]^k$ uniformly, and set $\tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A)$.

A similar theorem was proven in [IKW12] but only for soundness (i.e. $\epsilon$) at least $\exp(-k^\beta)$ for a constant $\beta \leq 1/2$. This was strengthened to soundness $\exp(-\Omega(k))$ in [DS14]. Our Theorem 1.3 improves on the conclusion of [DS14] . In [DS14] the probability in (1) was
shown to be at least $1 - O(\lambda)$ (recall that $\lambda$ is a constant), whereas we show it is exponentially close to 1 (when $\epsilon$ is that small). This difference may seem minor but in fact it is what prevented [DS14] from deriving global structure via a three query test (i.e. moving from the $V$ test to the $Z$ test). When we try to move from restricted global structure to global structure, the consistency inside each restriction needs to be very high for the probabilistic arguments to work, as we try to explain below.

The restricted global structure gives us a direct product function that approximates $f$ only on a restricted subset of the inputs. In the proof of the global structure, we use the third query to show that there exists a global function. A key step in the proof of the global structure is to show that for many restrictions $\tau$, the function $g^i$ is close to $f$ on a much larger subsets of inputs. This is done, intuitively, by claiming that if $f(x)_A = f(y)_A$, then with high probability $f(y) \approx g^i(y)$ for $\tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A)$. Since $B$ is a random set and $f(z)_B = f(y)_B$, then $f(z), g^i(z)$ are also close. This claim only holds if the success probability on (1) is more than $1 - \epsilon$, else it is possible that all the success probability of the test comes from $f$ such that $f(x)_A = f(y)_A$, but $f(y), g^i(y)$ are far.

1.3 Technical Contribution

In terms of technical contribution our proof consists of two new components.

Domain extension Our first contribution a new domain extension step that facilitates the proof of the restricted global structure. The restricted global structure shows that with probability $\Omega(\epsilon)$, the function $f$ is close to a direct product on the restricted domain $V_\tau$. A natural way to show that a function is close to a direct product function is to define a direct product function by majority value. However, this method fails when the agreement is much higher, and to define majority there. The first part of our proof is to show that for many restrictions $\tau$, the function $g^i$ is close to $f$ on a much larger subsets of inputs. This is done, intuitively, by claiming that if $f(x)_A = f(y)_A$, then with high probability $f(y) \approx g^i(y)$ for $\tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A)$. Since $B$ is a random set and $f(z)_B = f(y)_B$, then $f(z), g^i(z)$ are also close. This claim only holds if the success probability on (1) is more than $1 - \epsilon$, else it is possible that all the success probability of the test comes from $f$ such that $f(x)_A = f(y)_A$, but $f(y), g^i(y)$ are far.

1. Its density is at least $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$.

2. $f$ has very high agreement in $V_\tau$, informally it means that taking a random pair $w, v \in V_\tau$ such that $w_i = v_i$, results in agreeing answers, i.e. $f(r, w)_j \approx f(r, v)_j$, with probability greater than $1 - \epsilon^{120}$.

We call such restrictions excellent, following [IKW12].

We show that for every excellent restriction $V_\tau$, the restriction $h_\tau$ of $f$ to $V_\tau$, defined by $h_\tau(w) = f(r, w)_{[\tau], A}$, is close to a direct product function. The function $h_\tau$ has high agreement, which is good for defining majority, but unfortunately the low density of $V_\tau$, which can be as low as $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$, which is exponentially small, is where the techniques used in [IKW12] break down. In order to prove that $h_\tau$ is close to a direct product function, we use a local averaging operator to extend the domain from $V_\tau$ to $[N]^{[k]\setminus A}$.

The local averaging operator $P_{A}^{\frac{3}{4}}$ is the majority of a $\frac{3}{4}$-correlated neighborhood, 

$$\forall w \in [N]^{[k]\setminus A}, i \notin A \quad P_{A}^{\frac{3}{4}} h_\tau(w)_i = \text{Plurality} \{h_\tau(v)_i\}_{v \in N_{A}^{\frac{3}{4}}(w), v \in V_\tau, v_i = w_i}$$
where \( v \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w) \) means that \( v \) is \( \frac{3}{4} \)-correlated with \( w \), i.e. we change each coordinate of \( w \) with probability \( \frac{1}{4} \) independently. The new function, \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \) is defined over all \( [N][k]^A \), unlike \( h \) which is defined only on \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \).

In order to use \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \) for showing that \( h \) is close to a direct product function, we show two things:

1. \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \) and \( h \) are similar on \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \).

2. \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \) has high agreement, taking a random pair \( w, v \in [N][k]^A \) such that \( w_j = v_j \), results in agreeing answers, \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_j \approx \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(v)_j \) with probability \( 1 - \epsilon^6 \).

To prove that \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \) has high agreement we use reverse hypercontractivity to show that only a few \( w \) have sparse neighborhood (with density less than \( \epsilon^{50} \)), and use the very high agreement of \( h \).

Lastly, we define a direct product function \( g_\tau \) by taking the plurality over \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h \), and show that it is close to \( h \).

**Direct product testing in a dense regime**  A second new element comes when stitching the many localized functions into one global direct product function, by using the third query.

We prove two global structure theorems, Theorem 1.1 for functions on tuples \( f : [N]^k \to [M]^k \) and Theorem 1.2 for functions on sets \( f : ([N]^k)^A \to [M]^k \).

When we work with \( f \) that is defined over sets, we can directly follow the approach of [IKW12] to complete the proof. However, when working with \( f \) defined on tuples we reach a combinatorial question that itself resembles a direct product testing question, but in a different (dense) regime. Luckily, the fact that this question is in a dense regime makes it easier to solve, and this leads to our global structure theorem for tuples. An outline of the global structure proofs appears in Section 5.1.

### 1.4 Agreement Tests and Direct Product Tests

The question of direct product testing fits into a more general family of tests called agreement tests. We next describe this setting formally and explain how direct product tests fit into this framework.

**Agreement tests**  In all efficient PCPs we break a proof into small overlapping pieces, use a relatively inefficient PCPs (i.e. PCPs that incur a large blowup) to encode each small piece, and then through an agreement test put the pieces back together. The agreement test is needed because given the collection of pieces, there is no guarantee that the different pieces come from the same underlying global proof, i.e. that the proofs of each piece can be “put back together again”. The PCP system needs to ensure this through agreement testing: we take two pieces that have some overlap, and check that they agree.

This situation can be formulated as an agreement testing question as follows. Let \( V \) be a ground set, \( |V| = N \), and let \( H \) be a collection of subsets of \( V \), namely, a set of hyperedges. Let \( [M] \) be a finite set of colors, where it is sufficient to think of \( M = 2 \).

A local assignment is a collection \( a = \{a_s\} \) of local colorings \( a_s : s \to [M] \), one per subset \( s \in H \). A local assignment is called global if there is a global coloring \( g : V \to [M] \) such that

\[
\forall s \in H, \quad a_s \equiv g|_s.
\]
An agreement check for a pair of subsets $s_1, s_2$ checks whether their local functions agree, denoted $a_{s_1} \sim a_{s_2}$. Formally,
\[
a_{s_1} \sim a_{s_2} \iff \forall x \in s_1 \cap s_2, \ a_{s_1}(x) = a_{s_2}(x).
\]

A local assignment that is global passes all agreement checks. The converse is also true: a local assignment that passes all agreement checks must be global.

An agreement test is specified by giving a distribution $D$ over pairs (or triples) of subsets $s_1, s_2$. We define the agreement of a local assignment to be the probability of agreement,
\[
\text{agree}_D(a) = \mathbb{P}_{s_1, s_2 \sim D} [a_{s_1} \sim a_{s_2}].
\]

An agreement theorem shows that if $a$ is a local assignment with $\text{agree}_D(a) > \epsilon$ then $a$ is somewhat close to a global assignment. Agreement theorems can be studied for any hypergraph and in this work we prove such theorems for two specific hypergraphs: the $k$-uniform complete hypergraph, and the $k$-uniform $k$-partite complete hypergraph.

**Relation to direct product testing** Theorem 1.1 is equivalent to an agreement theorem on the complete $k$-uniform $k$-partite hypergraph (see Figure 1). Let $G = (V = V_1, \ldots, V_k, H)$ be the complete $k$-partite hypergraph with $|V_i| = N$ for $i \in [k]$, and
\[
H = \{(v_1, \ldots, v_k) | \forall i \in [k], v_i \in V_i\}.
\]

There is a bijection between $H$ and $[N]^k$. We shall interpret $f(x_1, \ldots, x_k)$ as a local coloring of the vertices $x_1, \ldots, x_k$. In this way, we have the following equivalence
\[
f : [N]^k \to [M]^k \iff a = \{a_x\}_{x \in H}.
\]

Moreover, local assignments which are global, i.e. $a$ such that $a_x = g|_x$ for some global coloring $g : V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_k \to [M]$, correspond exactly to functions $f$ which are direct products, $f = (g_1, \ldots, g_k)$ where $g_i = g|_{V_i}$,
\[
f = (g_1, \ldots, g_k) \iff a \text{ is global.}
\]

Finally, Test 2 can be described as taking 2 hyperedges that intersect on $t$ vertices, and check if their local functions agree on the intersection. Similarly, Test 1 can be described
as picking three hyperedges, \( h_1, h_2, h_3 \in H \) such that \( h_1, h_2 \) intersect on \( t \) vertices, and \( h_2, h_3 \) intersect on a disjoint set of \( t \) vertices, and checking agreement.

Our main theorem, Theorem 1.1, is equivalent to an agreement theorem showing that if a local assignment \( a \) passes a certain 3-query agreement test with non-negligible probability, then there exists a global assignment \( g : V \rightarrow [M] \) with which it agrees non-negligibly.

The \( k \)-uniform complete hypergraph (it is non-partite, in contrast to the above), is related to Theorem 1.2. In this hypergraph the vertex set is \([N]\) and there is a hyperedge for every possible \( k \)-element subset of \([N]\). Now we have a similar equivalence between local assignments and functions over sets, i.e. \( f = (a_s)_{s \in \binom{[N]}{k}} \).

An agreement theorem for this hypergraph is equivalent to Theorem 1.2, in which \( f \) is defined not on “tuples” \([N]^k\) but on “sets” \( \binom{[N]}{k} \). A global assignment \( a \) or this graph is equivalent to a direct product function over sets, i.e. \( f \equiv g : [N] \rightarrow [M] \).

1.5 Organization of the Paper

Section 2 contains preliminary notations and definitions. In Section 3 we prove the restricted global structure, Theorem 1.3. Section 4 is dedicated to the global structure for functions on sets. We show how to deduce a variant of Theorem 1.3 for sets rather than tuples and then prove the global structure theorem for sets, Theorem 1.2. In Section 5 we prove the global structure theorem for tuples, Theorem 1.1. Lastly, in Section 6 we discuss lower bounds for various 3-query direct product tests that were not presented in the introduction.

2 Preliminaries

Definition 2.1. For each two strings \( x, y \in [N]^k \) we say that

1. \( x \approx y \) if \( x, y \) differ in at most \( t \) coordinates.

2. \( x \neq y \) if \( x, y \) differ in more than \( t \) coordinates.

Definition 2.2 (Plurality). The plurality of a function \( f \) on a distribution \( D \) is its most frequent value

\[
\text{Plurality}(f) = \arg \max_\beta \left\{ \mathbb{P}_{x \sim D} [f(x) = \beta] \right\}
\]

For a set \( A \subset [k] \) we denote by \( \bar{A} \) the set \( [k] \setminus A \).

Fact 2.3 (Chernoff bound). Let \( X_1, \ldots, X_k \) be independent random variables in \( \{0, 1\} \), let \( X = \sum_{i=1}^k \), and denote \( \mu = \mathbb{E}[X] \), then for every \( \delta \in (0, 1) \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{X_1, \ldots, X_k} [X \leq (1 - \delta)\nu] \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2 \nu^2}{2}},
\]

and for every \( \delta \in (0, 1) \)

\[
\mathbb{P}_{X_1, \ldots, X_k} [X \geq (1 + \delta)\nu] \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2 \nu^2}{3}}.
\]
**Corollary 2.4.** Let $k$ be a large integer, and let $A \subseteq [k]$ be the set generated by inserting each $i \in [k]$ into $A$ with probability $\rho$. For every constant $c \in (0, 1)$

$$\mathbb{P}_A [|A| \leq c pk] \leq e^{-\frac{(1-c^2) k}{2}},$$

and for every $c' \in [1, 2]$,

$$\mathbb{P}_A [|A| \geq c' pk] \leq e^{-\frac{(c'-1)^2 k}{3}}.$$

**Claim 2.5** (Chernoff bound for fixed size subsets). Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be a large integer, $D \subset [k]$ be a fixed subset of size at most $\frac{k}{3}$. Let $A$ be a random subset of size exactly $\frac{k}{5}$, then

$$\mathbb{P}_A [|A \cap D| \geq \frac{1}{5} |D|] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{30} |D|} \tag{2}$$

If $|D| \leq \frac{1}{30} k$ then

$$\mathbb{P}_A [|A \cap D| \leq \frac{1}{20} |D|] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{40} |D|} \tag{3}$$

The proof appears in Appendix A.

In our proof we also need Chernoff bound for non-binary random variables.

**Fact 2.6** (Non-binary Chernoff bound). Let $X_1, \ldots, X_k$ be independent random variables in $[0, 1]$, let $X = \sum_{i=1}^{k} X_i$, and denote $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$ then,

$$\mathbb{P}_{X_1, \ldots, X_k} [|X - \mu| > t] \leq 2e^{-t^2 k},$$

### 2.1 Reverse Hypercontractivity

**Definition 2.7** ($\rho$-correlated distribution). For each string $y \in [N]^k$ and constant $\rho \in (0, 1)$, the $\rho$ correlated distribution from $y$ will be denoted by $(x, f) \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(y)$. For each $i \in [k]$ independently, $i \in J$ with probability $\rho$, and $x$ is chosen such that $x_j = y_j$, and the rest is uniform.

We quote Proposition 9.2 from [MOS13]:

**Claim 2.8.** Let $A, B \subseteq [N]^k$ of sizes $\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k} [w \in A] = e^{-\frac{t}{2}}$ and $\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k} [w \in B] = e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}}$, then

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k, y \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(x)} \{ x \in A, y \in B \} \geq e^{-\frac{\rho^2 |y|^2 + |y|}{4(1-\rho)}} \frac{\rho^2}{2(1-\rho)}$$

By changing notations and simplifying, we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.9.** For $|A| \geq |B|$,

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k, y \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(x)} \{ x \in A, y \in B \} \geq \mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \{ x \in A \}^{1+\frac{\rho^2}{2(1-\rho)}} \mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \{ x \in B \}^{1+\frac{\rho}{2(1-\rho)}}$$

**Claim 2.10.** Let $G \subset [N]^k$ be a set of measure $\nu$, then for any $\eta \in (0, 1)$ the set $L = \left\{ w \in [N]^k \mid \mathbb{P}_{(v, \eta) \in \mathcal{N}_\eta(w)} [v \in G] \leq \eta \right\}$ has a measure less than $\nu^{-\frac{\rho^2}{4}} \eta^\frac{1}{2}$.

Both proofs appears in Appendix A.
3 Restricted Global Structure

Let \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \) be such that \( \alpha_{V(\frac{1}{10})}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-ck} \), i.e. the success probability of \( f \) on Test 2 equals \( \epsilon \). To make the reading easy, we write again Test 2 from the introduction.

**Test 2:** "\( V \)" test with parameter \( i \) (2-query test)

1. Choose \( A \subset [k] \) of size \( t \), uniformly at random.
2. Choose uniformly at random \( x, y \in [N]^k \) such that \( x_A = y_A \).
3. Accept if \( f(x)_A = f(y)_A \).

Denote by \( \alpha_{V(i)}(f) \) the success probability of \( f \) on this test.

We show in this section that (a) a non-negligible fraction of restrictions are good, and (b) almost all good restrictions are DP restrictions. The main theorem of this section shows that (a) a non-negligible fraction of restrictions are good, and (b) almost all good restrictions are DP restrictions.

**Theorem 3.5** (Restricted Global Structure, restated). There exist a small constant \( \delta > 0 \), such that for every constant \( \lambda > 0 \) and large enough \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) the following holds. For every function \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \), if \( \alpha_{V(\frac{1}{10})}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-ck} \), then with probability at least \( \frac{\epsilon}{2} \), \( \tau \sim \mathcal{D} \) is good, and with probability at least \( 1 - \epsilon^2 \) over the good restrictions, \( \tau \) is a DP restriction. Namely, \( \tau \) is such that there exist functions \( (g_{1}, \ldots, g_{k}), g'_{i} : [N] \rightarrow [M] \) such that

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k} \left[ f(r, w)_A \neq (g'_{r_1}(w_1), \ldots, g'_{r_k}(w_k)) \right] \left| w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \right| \leq \epsilon^2.
\]

The main theorem of this section shows that (a) a non-negligible fraction of restrictions are good, and (b) almost all good restrictions are DP restrictions.
A similar theorem was proven in [DS14] under the name “local structure”. Under the same assumptions [DS14] showed that $f$ must be close to a product function for many restrictions $\mathcal{V}_\tau$ of the domain. However the closeness was considerably weaker: unlike in our definition of a DP restriction, in [DS14] even in the restricted part of the domain, $\mathcal{V}_\tau \subset [N]^k$, there could be a (small) constant fraction of the inputs on which $f$ differs from the global product function $g^\tau$. In contrast, we only allow an $\epsilon^2$ fraction of disagreeing inputs. As explained in the introduction, in order to extend the restricted global structure into a global one, the set of disagreeing inputs in $\mathcal{V}_\tau$ has to be smaller than $\epsilon$.

### 3.1 Proof of Theorem 3.5

In this section we prove Theorem 3.5, we start by writing a few definitions and lemmas that are used in the proof, and give an intuition for the proof of each lemma. We defer the proofs of these lemmas to the next sections.

The distribution $\mathcal{D}$ over $\tau$ is related to the distribution of Test 2. The test can also be written as choose $\tau = (A, r, \gamma) \sim \mathcal{D}$, $w \in [N]^A$ and accept iff $f(r, w)_A = \gamma$. Therefore, if the function $f$ passes Test 2 with probability $\epsilon$, by a simple averaging argument

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim \mathcal{D}}[\tau \text{ is good}] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2}, \quad (4)$$

For each $\tau$ we define the function $h_{\tau}$, which is a restriction of $f$ to $\mathcal{V}_\tau$.

**Definition 3.6.** For each restriction $\tau = (A, r, \gamma)$, let $h_{\tau} : \mathcal{V}_\tau \rightarrow [M]^k$ be the function,

$$h_{\tau}(w) = f(r, w)_A.$$  

We define excellent restriction, in an analogous way to [IKW12],

**Definition 3.7 (Excellent restriction).** Fix a constant $\alpha = \frac{1}{1600} \lambda$, a restriction $\tau = (A, r, \gamma)$ is excellent, if

1. $\tau$ is good.

2. For every $\rho \in \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{k} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a < b \leq k \right\}$, if we pick $w \in [N]^A$ and $(v, f) \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)$ then,

$$\mathbb{P}_{w, (v, f)} \left[ w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau, h_{\tau}(w)_j \neq h_{\tau}(v)_j \right] \leq \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^{\frac{1}{2} \alpha k}. \quad (5)$$

Note that (5) holds trivially when $\rho < \alpha$, because with high probability $|f| \approx \rho k < \alpha k$, in which it is not possible that $h(w)_j$, $h(v)_j$ differs in more than $\alpha k$ coordinates. For an excellent $\tau$, the set $\mathcal{V}_\tau$ is of measure at least $\frac{\alpha}{2}$, and the function $f$ is consistent on $\mathcal{V}_\tau$.

We assume that the constant $\delta$ is small enough to satisfy $\left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^{\frac{1}{2} \alpha k} < e^{120} = e^{-120 \delta \lambda k}$, and $e^{120} > e^{-\delta \lambda k}$.

**Lemma 3.10.** For every $\rho \in (0, 1)$, let $\tau = (A, r, \gamma) \sim \mathcal{D}$, let $w \in [N]^A$ be uniform, and let $(v, f) \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)$, then

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau, w, (v, f)} \left[ w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau, h_{\tau}(w)_j \neq h_{\tau}(v)_j \right] \leq \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^{\alpha k}.$$
Lemma 3.10 in these notations is: for every $\rho$, the probability for a uniform $A \in \epsilon$ is equivalent to $\forall w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau, h(w)_f \neq h(v)_f$. When $r, w, v, A, J$ are all random, the probability for a uniform $A, J$ to be such that $f(r, w), f(r, v)$ are equal on $A$ but far on $J$ is very small.

**Corollary 3.8.** A good $\tau \sim D$ is excellent with probability larger than $1 - e^2$.

**Proof.** Let $\mu = \left(\frac{q}{10}\right)^{\frac{1}{4k}}$, and denote by $E(\tau, w, v, J)$ the event of $w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau, h_\tau(w)_f \neq h_\tau(v)_f$. Lemma 3.10 in these notations is: for every $\rho \in (0, 1)$, $\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D, w, v, J \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)} [E] \leq \mu^2$.

For every $\tau$ that is good but not excellent, exist $\rho \in \left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{a}{b} \right\rfloor \mid a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a < b \leq k \right\}$ such that,

$$\mathbb{P}_{w, v, J \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)} [\tau \text{ is bad for } \rho] > \mu.$$  

In this case we say that $\tau$ is bad for $\rho$.

Assume towards contradiction that $\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D} [\tau \text{ is good but not excellent}] > e^4$. The set $\left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{a}{b} \right\rfloor \mid a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a < b \leq k \right\}$ contains less than $k^2$ elements, so there exists $\rho$ in this set such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D} [\tau \text{ is bad for } \rho] \geq \frac{e^4}{k^2}.$$  

For this $\rho$,

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D, w, v, J \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)} [E] \geq \mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D} [\tau \text{ is bad for } \rho] \cdot \mathbb{P}_{w, v, J \in \mathcal{N}_\rho(w)} [E \mid \tau \text{ is bad for } \rho] \geq \frac{e^3}{k^2} \mu.$$  

This contradicts Lemma 3.10, because $\frac{e^3}{k^2} \mu \gg \mu^2$ (we assume that $\mu < e^{120}$). Therefore, we conclude that $\mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim D} [\tau \text{ is good but not excellent}] \leq e^4$.

Since $\tau \sim D$ is good with probability at least $\frac{1}{2}$, by averaging a good $\tau \sim D$ is excellent with probability at least $1 - e^2$.

In order to prove Theorem 3.5, it is enough to show that every excellent restriction is a DP restriction. A natural idea is to define a direct product function by taking the plurality of $h_\tau$ on $\mathcal{V}_\tau$, because the agreement of $h_\tau$ inside $\mathcal{V}_\tau$ is almost 1. However, it is difficult to prove that this function is close to $h_\tau$ because the set $\mathcal{V}_\tau$ is very sparse. We define a local averaging operator, which allows us to go from $h_\tau$ that is defined on $\mathcal{V}_\tau$, to a function that is defined on $[N]^A$.

**Definition 3.9** (Local averaging operator). For every $\rho \in [0, 1]$, let $\mathcal{P}_\rho$ be the following function operator. For every subset $\mathcal{V}_\tau \subset [N]^A$, and every function $h : \mathcal{V}_\tau \rightarrow [M]^I$, the function $\mathcal{P}_\rho h : [N]^I \rightarrow [M]^I$ satisfies $\forall i \in [k], w \in [N]^I$,

$$\mathcal{P}_\rho h(w)_i = \text{Plurality } (h(v)_i).$$

If there is no $v$ such that $v_i = w_i$ in $\mathcal{V}_\tau$, we define $\mathcal{P}_\rho h(w)_i$ to an arbitrary value.
The local averaging operator of \( h \) takes for every \( w \) and \( i \) the most frequent value \( h(v)_i \) over a \( \rho \)-correlated neighborhood of \( w \). We note that the function operator is not linear.

In order to prove that \( h_\tau \) is close to a direct product function, we first show that that \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \) is close to \( h_\tau \), and then that \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \) is close to a direct product function. Clearly \( \frac{3}{4} \) is an arbitrary constant, our proof works for any constant \( \rho > \frac{1}{2} \), and we fix \( \rho = \frac{3}{4} \).

**Lemma 3.11.** For every excellent \( \tau \),
\[
\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]} \left[ h_\tau(w) \overset{12 \alpha k}{\neq} \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau(w) \left| w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \right. \right] \leq \epsilon^3.
\]

The proof is in **Section 3.3**, and uses the very high consistency of \( h_\tau \) inside \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \) to show that the plurality vote is almost always consistent with \( h_\tau(w) \). In the proof we use reverse hypercontractivity [MOS13] to show that the set \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \) is not too sparse, such that for almost all \( w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \), the neighborhood \( N_{\frac{3}{4}}(w) \) is not empty.

In a similar way to the proof of **Lemma 3.11**, we show that for an excellent \( \tau \) the function \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \) has high agreement.

**Lemma 3.12.** For every excellent \( \tau \),
\[
\mathbb{P}_{w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau} \left[ \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h(w) \overset{20 \alpha k}{\approx} \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h(v) \right] \geq 1 - \epsilon^{10},
\]
where \( w \in [N]_{\frac{6}{m}} \) and \( (v, j) \in N_{\frac{1}{2}}(w) \).

The proof of this lemma also appears in **Section 3.3**, the main idea is that if \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h(w_1) \), \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h(w_2) \) disagree on a lot of coordinates, then a large fraction of their \( \frac{3}{4} \)-correlated neighborhood also disagree on a lot of coordinates. This can only happen for very few inputs \( w \), else we contradict the fact that \( \tau \) is excellent.

After showing that \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \) has high agreement, we define \( g^\tau \) to be the plurality vote of \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \), and then use the high agreement, **Lemma 3.12**, to show that they \( g^\tau \) is close to \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau \).

**Lemma 3.13.** For every excellent restriction \( \tau \) there exist a direct product function \( g^\tau = g^\tau_1 \circ \cdots \circ g^\tau_{\frac{6}{m}} : [N]_{\frac{6}{m}} \rightarrow [M]_{\frac{6}{m}} \) such that
\[
\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]} \left[ \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau(w) \overset{1500 \alpha k}{\neq} g^\tau(w) \right] \leq 3\epsilon^4.
\]

The proof is in **Section 3.4**.

Using the above lemmas we can prove the local structure.

**Proof of Theorem 3.5.** Let \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \) be a function that passes Test 2 with probability \( \epsilon \).

From averaging, \( \mathbb{P}_{\tau \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \tau \text{ is good} \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \). **Lemma 3.10** implies that with probability \( (1 - \epsilon^2) \), a good \( \tau \) is also excellent.

Fix an excellent \( \tau \), by definition the function \( h_\tau \) has high consistency inside \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \), and by **Lemma 3.11**, \( \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h \) is close to \( h \) on \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \). Let \( E_1(w) \) be the event that \( h_\tau(w) \overset{12 \alpha k}{\neq} \mathcal{P} \frac{3}{4} h_\tau(w) \), in this notation **Lemma 3.11** implies that
\[
\mathbb{P}_{w} \left[ E_1 \mid w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \right] \leq \epsilon^3.
\]
From Lemma 3.13, there exists a product function $g^\tau$ that is similar to $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{\alpha}{4}}h_\tau$. Denote by $E_2(w)$ the event that $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{\alpha}{4}}h_\tau(w) \neq g^\tau(w)$. In this notation,

$$\mathbb{P}_w[E_2] \leq 3\epsilon^4. \quad (7)$$

We want to use (6) and (7) to prove that $h_\tau$ is similar to $g^\tau$ on $\mathcal{V}_\tau$. In order to do that, we need to bound the probability of $E_2$ conditioned on $w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$.

$$3\epsilon^4 \geq \mathbb{P}_w[E_2] \geq \mathbb{P}_w[w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau]\mathbb{P}_w[E_2 | w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau] \quad (\tau \text{ is excellent})$$

Therefore $\mathbb{P}_w[E_2 | w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau] \leq 6\epsilon^3$.

If $w$ is such that none of $E_1, E_2$ happened, then $h_\tau(w), \mathcal{P}_{\frac{\alpha}{4}}h_\tau(w)$ are equal in all but $12\alpha k$ of the coordinates, and $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{\alpha}{4}}h_\tau(w), g^\tau(w)$ are equal in all but $1500\alpha k$ of the coordinates, which means that $h_\tau(w) \cong 1512\alpha k \approx g^\tau(w)$.

$$\mathbb{P}_w\left[h_\tau(w) \neq g^\tau(w) \bigg| w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau\right] \leq \mathbb{P}_w[E_1 \vee E_2 | w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau]$$

$$\leq \mathbb{P}_w[E_1 | w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau] + \mathbb{P}_w[E_2 | w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau]$$

$$\leq 3\epsilon^4 + 6\epsilon^3 < \epsilon^2.$$

By definition, $h_\tau(w) = f(x_A, w)_{\bar{A}}$,

$$\mathbb{P}_w\left[f(x_A, w)_{\bar{A}} \neq g^\tau(w) \bigg| w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau\right] = \mathbb{P}_w\left[h_\tau(w) \neq g^\tau(w) \bigg| w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau\right] < \epsilon^2.$$

Since $\lambda = 1600\alpha$ we are done. \(\square\)

### 3.2 Good Restrictions are Excellent with High Probability

For convenience, we restate the lemma.

**Lemma 3.10.** For every $\rho \in (0, 1)$, let $\tau \sim \mathcal{D}, w \in [N]^{\#\bar{A}}$ and $(v, f) \in N_\rho(w)$, then

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau, w, (v, f)}\left[w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau, h_\tau(w)^{ak} \neq h_\tau(v)^{ak}\right] \leq \left(\frac{9}{10}\right)^{ak}.$$

**Proof.** Fix $\rho \in (0, 1)$, let $E_1(\tau, w, v, f)$ be the event in equation (5) of the definition of excellence, Definition 3.7. More explicitly, $E_1 = 1$ if $w, v \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$ and $h_\tau(v)^{ak} \neq h_\tau(v)^{ak}$.

Recall the definition of $h_\tau$ for $\tau = (A, r, \gamma)$, for $w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$, $h_\tau(w) = f(r, w)_{\bar{A}}$. Therefore, the event $E_1$ can also be written as $f(r, w)_{\bar{A}} = f(r, v)_{\bar{A}} = \gamma$ and $f(r, w)_{\bar{A}} \neq f(r, v)_{\bar{A}}$.

Let $E_2$ be the event that $f(r, w)_{\bar{A}} = f(r, v)_{\bar{A}}$ and $f(r, w)_{\bar{A}} \neq f(r, v)_{\bar{A}}$. We can easily see that $E_1 \subseteq E_2$, therefore over every distribution $\mathbb{P}[E_1] \leq \mathbb{P}[E_2]$. We start by bounding the probability of event $E_2$, over the distribution $\tau \sim \mathcal{D}, w \in [N]^{\#\bar{A}}$ uniformly and $(v, f) \in N_\rho(w)$. Writing the distribution explicitly:
1. Pick $A \subset [k]$ of size $\frac{k}{10}$.
2. Pick $x \in [N]^k$, set $r = x_A$ and $\gamma = f(x)_A$.
3. Pick $J \subset \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]$ of size $B(\frac{9k}{10}, \rho)$ (binomial random variable).
4. Pick uniform $w, v \in [N]^{\frac{9k}{10}}$ such that $w_J = v_J$.

Notice that $E_2$ is independent of $\gamma$, so it does not matter how $\gamma$ is chosen. We can define an equivalent process for producing the same distribution (without $\gamma$):
1. Pick a set $A' \subset [k]$ of size $\frac{k}{10} + B(\frac{9k}{10}, \rho)$.
2. Pick $y, z \in [N]^k$ such that $y_{A'} = z_{A'}$.
3. Pick $A \subseteq A'$ of size $\frac{k}{10}$.
4. Set $r = y_A$, $w = y_{\bar{A}}$ and $v = z_{\bar{A}}$.

In order of $E_2$ to happen, $y, z, A'$ must be such that $f(y)_{A'}^\alpha \neq f(z)_{A'}^\alpha$. Furthermore, the set $A$ must be chosen such that $f(y)_A = f(z)_A$. As the second random process allows us to see, $A$ is a random subset of $A'$, and each of the $ak$ coordinates $i$ on which $f(y)_i \neq f(z)_i$ has probability of at least $\frac{1}{10}$ to be chosen to $A$ (as $|A| = \frac{k}{10}$ and $|A'| \leq k$). The probability that none of the $ak$ coordinates are in $A$ is at most $(\frac{9}{10})^k$, so

$$\mathbb{P}_{\tau,w,(v,J)}[E_1] \leq \mathbb{P}_{\tau,w,(v)}[E_2] \leq \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^k. \tag{8}$$

\[\square\]

### 3.3 Local Averaging Operator

In this section we prove the two lemmas concerning local averaging operator. We repeat the two lemmas and prove them.

**Lemma 3.11.** For every excellent $\tau$,

$$\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k} \left[ h_\tau(w) \neq \mathcal{P}_i h_\tau(w) \mid w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \right] \leq \epsilon_3.$$

**Proof.** Fix an excellent restriction $\tau$, denote by $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}_\tau$, $h = h_\tau$, $\mathcal{P}_i h = \mathcal{P}_i h_\tau$ and $k' = \frac{9k}{10}$. In order to simplify the notations, denote by $\mu = \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^{\frac{1}{ak}}$ the constant from the definition of excellence (Definition 3.7).

From the fact that $\tau$ is excellent, we know that $\mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k} [w \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \frac{k}{2}$ and

$$\mathbb{P}_{w,(v,f) \in N_3(w)} \left[ w, v \in \mathcal{V}, h_f(w) \neq h_f(v) \right] \leq \mu.$$
Our goal is to prove that for almost all \( w \in V \), \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w) \approx h(w) \). First, we characterize the “bad” inputs \( w \in V \) for which we can’t prove this claim. Then, we prove it on the rest. Fix \( \eta = \varepsilon^{20} \), the first set of “bad” inputs is the set of inconsistent ones,

\[
B = \left\{ w \in V \left| \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} \left[ v \in V, h(v)_j \neq h(w)_j \right] \geq \frac{\eta}{100} \right. \right\}.
\]

By averaging, \( \mathbb{P}_{w}[w \in B] \leq \frac{100\mu}{\eta} \).

The second set is the set of “lonely” inputs, inputs that have very sparse neighborhood,

\[
L = \left\{ w \in V \left| \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} \left[ v \in V \right] \leq \eta \right. \right\}.
\]

By hypercontractivity, Claim 2.10 (uses [MOS13]), \( \mathbb{P}_{w}[w \in L] \leq \eta^k \left( \varepsilon \right)^{-\frac{11}{2}} \).

Fix an input \( w \in V \setminus (B \cup L) \), we will show that \( h(w)_{12ak} \approx \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w) \), i.e. \( h(w) \) and \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w) \) are equal on all but \( 12ak \) of the coordinates. Since \( \mathbb{P}_{w} [w \notin B \cap L] \leq \frac{100\mu}{\eta} \eta^k \left( \varepsilon \right)^{-\frac{11}{2}} \leq \varepsilon^3 \), this finishes the proof (\( \varepsilon \) is such that \( \varepsilon^{120} > \mu \)).

Denote by \( D \) the following set

\[
D = \left\{ i \in [k'] \left| h(w)_i \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i \right. \right\}.
\]

\( D \) is the set of coordinates in which the local averaging of \( h \) doesn’t equal \( h \). Since \( w \notin B \cup L \), the neighborhood of \( w \) is very consistent, and we show that the set \( D \) is small.

Assume towards a contradiction that \( |D| > 12ak \). For \( v \in [N]^{k'}, J \subset [K] \) and \( i \in [k] \), let \( E(v,j,i) \) be the event

\[
E(v,j,i) = (i \in J \land h(w)_i \neq h(v)_i).
\]

We will reach a contradiction by upper bounding and lower bounding the probability of the event \( E \), under the distribution \( i \in D \) and \( (v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w) \), given that \( v \in V \)

**Lower bound** We look on \( E = E_1 \land E_2 \), where \( E_1 = i \in J \) and \( E_2 = h(w)_i \neq h(v)_i \). By definition, for every \( i \in D \), the value \( h(w)_i \) is not the most probable \( h(v)_i \), when \( (v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w) \). Therefore,

\[
\forall i \in D, \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} [E_2 \mid E_1, v \in V] = \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} [h(w)_i \neq h(v)_i \mid i \in J, v \in V] \geq \frac{1}{2}.
\]

We want to remove the conditioning over \( E_1 \), in order to get a bound \( E \). If we choose a uniform \( (v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w) \), the probability of \( i \in J \) is exactly \( \frac{3}{4} \). If we condition on \( v \in V \), this probability can be different. We start by bounding the probability of \( D \cap J \) to be small.

Every \( i \in D \) has probability of \( \frac{3}{4} \) be in \( J \) independently, by Chernoff bound (Corollary 2.4), \( \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} [D \cap J \leq \frac{3}{5}|D|] \leq e^{-\frac{\eta}{10}} \). If we condition on \( v \in V \), this probability can increase by a factor of at most \( \frac{1}{\eta} \), where \( \eta \leq \mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} [v \in V] \).

\[
\mathbb{P}_{(v,j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} [D \cap J \leq \frac{3}{5}|D| \mid v \in V] \leq \frac{1}{\eta} e^{-\frac{ak}{10}}.
\]
Equation (10) implies that for a typical \( i \in D \), the probability \( E_1 \) is not very far from \( \frac{3}{4} \). If \((v, J)\) are such that \( |D \cap J| \geq \frac{3}{5}|D| \), a random \( i \in D \) has probability at least \( \frac{3}{5} \) to be in \( J \).

\[
\Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ E_1 \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] = \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ i \in J \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \\
\geq \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ i \in J \wedge |D \cap J| \geq \frac{3}{5}|D| \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \quad \text{(by (10))}
\]
\[
\geq \frac{3}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\eta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\eta}} \right).
\]

Now we can lower bound the probability of \( E \):

\[
\Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ E \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] = \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ E_1 \wedge E_2 \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \\
= \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ E_1 \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w)} \left[ E_2 \mid E_1, v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \quad \text{(by (9))}
\]
\[
\geq \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} \left[ E_1 \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{(by (11))}
\]
\[
\geq \frac{3}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\eta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\eta}} \right) \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{1}{5}.
\]

Where the last inequality holds since \( \eta = e^{20} \) and \( \epsilon \) satisfies \( e^{120} > e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\eta}} \).

**Upper Bound** We want to upper bound the same probability, and reach a contradiction. Since \( w \notin L \), \( \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w)} [v \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \eta \), and from the fact that \( w \notin B \) we know that its neighborhood is consistent, i.e. \( \Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w)} \left[ v \in \mathcal{V}, h(v) \overset{ak}{=} h(w) \right] \leq \frac{\eta}{100} \). Combining both together,

\[
\Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w)} \left[ h(v) \overset{ak}{=} h(w) \mid v \in \mathcal{V} \right] \leq \frac{1}{100}.
\]

This implies that with probability at most \( \frac{1}{100} \) the chosen \((v, J)\) can be such that \( h(v) \overset{ak}{=} h(w) \).

Else, \( h(v) \overset{ak}{=} h(w) \), so there are at most \( ak \) coordinates \( i \in J \) in which \( h(v)_i \neq h(w)_i \). Since \( |D| \geq 12ak \), with probability at most \( \frac{1}{12} \) a uniform \( i \in D \) is in these \( ak \) coordinates.

\[
\Pr_{(v, J) \in \mathcal{N}_2(w), i \in D} [E \mid v \in \mathcal{V}] \leq \frac{1}{100} + \frac{1}{12} < \frac{1}{5}.
\]

And we reached a contradiction with (12).

In order to show that the function \( \mathcal{P}_t h_t \) is close to a product function, we need to show that it is consistent in a similar way to \( h_t \) (as in the definition of excellence, Definition 3.7). Lemma 3.11 only gives us that \( \mathcal{P}_t h_t \) is consistent among the inputs in \( \mathcal{V}_t \), and not in all \([N]^{\frac{n}{t}}\).
Lemma 3.12. For every excellent $\tau$, 
\[ \mathbb{P}_{w,(v,j)} \left[ \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(w)_j \approx \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(v)_j \right] \geq 1 - \epsilon^{10}, \]
where $w \in [N]^{\frac{9}{10}}$ and $(v, j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)$.

Proof. This proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 3.11. We fix excellent $\tau$ and denote $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}_{\tau}$.

For every excellent $h = h_{\tau}$ and $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h = \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h_{\tau}$, $k' = \frac{9k}{10}$ and $\mu = \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}k}$.

We characterize the inputs $w, (v, j)$ on which we can’t prove that $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(w)_j \approx \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(v)_j$. Instead of the set $B$ in the proof of Lemma 3.11, we define a set of two correlated inputs $(w, (v, j))$ that are inconsistent. Fixing $\eta = \epsilon^{51}$, let
\[ C = \left\{ w, (v, j) \left| \mathbb{P}_{(w', j')(v', j'')} \left[ w', v' \in \mathcal{V}, h(w')_j \neq h(v')_j \right] \geq \frac{\eta^2}{4000} \right. \right\}. \]

Where $(w', j') \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w), (v', j'') \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(v)$ and $j = j \cap j' \cap j''$.

If $w$ is chosen uniformly in $[N]^{\frac{9}{10}}$ and $(v, j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)$, then the marginal distribution on $w'$ is uniform, and $(v', j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w')$, since for each $i$ independently, the probability of $i$ to be in $j = j \cap j' \cap j''$ is $\left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^2 \frac{1}{2}$.

Since $\tau$ is excellent, $\mathbb{P}_{w,(v,j)} \left[ w', v' \in \mathcal{V}, h(w')_j \neq h(v')_j \right] \leq \mu$. By averaging, it means that $\mathbb{P}_{w,(v,j)} \left[ w, (v, j) \in C \right] \leq \frac{4000\mu}{\eta^2}$.

We define the set of inputs with sparse neighborhood,
\[ L = \left\{ w \in [N]^k \left| \mathbb{P}_{(w', j') \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)} \left[ w' \in \mathcal{V} \right] \leq \eta \right. \right\}. \]

From hypercontractivity argument, see Claim 2.10, $\mathbb{P}_{w} \left[ w \in L \right] \leq \eta^2 \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^{-\frac{k}{2}}$.

For every $w$ and $(v, j)$ such that $w, v \not\in L$ and $(w, (v, j)) \not\in C$, we show that $\mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(w)_j \not\approx \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(v)_j$. This finishes the proof since for $w \in [N]^k$ and $(v, j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)$,
\[ \mathbb{P}_{w,(v,j)} \left[ (w, (v, j)) \in C \lor w \in L \lor v \in L \right] \leq \frac{4000\mu}{\eta^2} + 2 \cdot \mu \cdot \left( \frac{\eta^2}{2} \right)^{-\frac{k}{2}} \leq \epsilon^{10}. \]

Fix $w, (v, j)$ such that $w, v \not\in L$ and $(w, (v, j)) \not\in C$, and let $D \subseteq J$ be the set
\[ D = \left\{ i \in J \left| \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(w)_i \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{2}{3}} h(v)_i \right. \right\}. \]

Similarly to the previous proof, we assume towards a contradiction that $|D| \geq 20ak$.

For every $j', j'' \subset [k']$, $w', v' \in \mathcal{V}$ and $i \in [k']$, we denote by $E(j', j'', w', v', i)$ the following event:
\[ E(j', j'', w', v', i) = (h(w')_i \neq h(v')_i \land i \in j' \cap j''). \]

We upper bound and lower bound the probability of this event, under the distribution $i \in D$ and $(w', j') \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(w), (v', j'') \in \mathcal{N}_{\frac{1}{2}}(v)$ given that $w', v' \in \mathcal{V}$.

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**Lower Bound** We look on $E = E_1 \land E_2$, where $E_1 = i \in J' \cap J''$ and $E_2 = h(w') \neq h(v')$.

For every $i \in D$, $P_i \neq P_i(v)$, so the most frequent value $h(w')$, for $(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w)$ doesn't equal the most frequent value $h(v')$, for $(v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)$. For every $i \in D$, taking $(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)$:

$$
P_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[E_2 \mid E_1, w', v' \in \mathcal{V}] = \mathbb{P}_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w)}[h(w')_i \neq h(v')_i \mid i \in J' \cap J'', w', v' \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \frac{1}{2}.	ag{15}$$

In order to prove the lower bound, we need to remove the condition over $E_1$. To do that, we need to lower bound the size of $D \cap J' \cap J''$. Both $J'$ and $J''$ are taken by each coordinate independently with probability $\frac{3}{4}$. If we do not condition on $w', v' \in \mathcal{V}$ expected value of $|D \cap J' \cap J''|$ is $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 |D|$. Each $i \in D$ is in $J' \cap J''$ with probability $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2$ independently, so using Chernoff bound (Corollary 2.4),

$$
\mathbb{P}_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[|D \cap J' \cap J''| \leq 0.56|D|] \leq e^{-\frac{9|D|}{1000}}.
$$

If we condition on $w' \in \mathcal{V}, v' \in \mathcal{V}$, the probability can increase by a factor of at most $\frac{1}{\eta^2}$, where $\mathbb{P}_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w)}[w' \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \eta$ and $\mathbb{P}_{(v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[v' \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \eta$,

$$
\mathbb{P}_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[|D \cap J' \cap J''| \leq 0.56|D| \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}] \leq \frac{1}{\eta^2} e^{-\frac{9|D|}{1000}}.	ag{16}
$$

If $|D \cap J' \cap J''| \geq 0.56|D|$, then a uniform $i \in D$ has probability of at least 0.56 to be in $J' \cap J''$,

$$
\mathbb{P}_{i \in D, (w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[E_1 \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}] \geq \left(1 - \frac{1}{\eta^2} e^{-\frac{9|D|}{1000}}\right)0.56 \geq 0.55.	ag{17}
$$

The last inequality is correct because we assume $\epsilon$ is large enough to satisfy $\epsilon^{120} > \frac{1}{\eta^2} e^{-\frac{9|D|}{1000}}$.

Combining (15) and (17), we can lower bound the probability of $E$, when $i \in D, (w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w)$ and $(v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)$,

$$
\mathbb{P}_{i, (w', J'), (v', J'')}[E \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}] = \mathbb{P}_{i, (w', J'), (v', J'')}[E_1 \land E_2, \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}]
= \mathbb{P}_{i, (w', J'), (v', J'')}[E_1 \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}]
\cdot \mathbb{P}_{i, (w', J'), (v', J'')}[E_2 \mid w', v' \in \mathcal{V}, E_1]
\geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.55 \geq \frac{1}{4}.	ag{18}
$$

**Upper Bound** Since $(w, (v, J)) \notin C$, we know that

$$
\mathbb{P}_{(w', J') \in \mathcal{N}_3(w), (v', J'') \in \mathcal{N}_3(v)}[w', v' \in \mathcal{V}, h(w') \neq h(v')] \leq \frac{\eta^2}{4000}.
$$
where \( J = J \cap J' \cap J'' \). From the fact that \( w \not\in L \), \( \Pr_{(w',j') \in N_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} \left[ w' \in V \right] \geq \eta \) and since \( v \not\in L \), \( \Pr_{(v',j'') \in N_{\frac{3}{4}}(v)} \left[ v' \in V \right] \geq \eta \). This implies that

\[
\Pr_{(w',j') \in N_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} \left[ h(w')_j \neq h(v')_j \middle| w', v' \in V \right] \leq \frac{1}{4000}.
\]

If \( h(w')_j \approx h(v')_j \), then even if all these \( ak \) coordinates are in \( D \), a uniform \( i \in D \) has probability of at most \( \frac{ak}{20n} \leq \frac{1}{20} \) to be one of these coordinates. Therefore,

\[
\Pr_{i \in D, (w',j') \in N_{\frac{3}{4}}(w)} \left[ E \right] \leq \frac{1}{4000} + \frac{1}{20} < \frac{1}{10}.
\]

which contradicts (19). \qed

### 3.4 Direct Product Function

Fixing an excellent \( \tau \), we first show that the local average function \( \mathcal{P}_\frac{3}{4} h_\tau \) is close to a product function \( g^\tau \). Then, by Lemma 3.11, we will conclude that \( h_\tau \) is close to \( g^\tau \). This implies that \( \tau \) is a DP restriction as needed.

In this section we prove Lemma 3.13,

**Lemma 3.13.** For every excellent restriction \( \tau \) there exist a product function \( g^\tau : [N]^{\frac{n}{3}} \rightarrow [M]^{\frac{n}{3}} \) such that

\[
\Pr_{w \in [N]^{\frac{n}{3}}} \left[ \mathcal{P}_\frac{3}{4} h_\tau(w) \neq g^\tau(w) \right] \leq 3\epsilon^4.
\]

We first define \( g^\tau \), the candidate direct product function

**Definition 3.14.** For each excellent \( \tau = (A, r, \gamma) \), let \( g^\tau : [N]^{\frac{n}{3}} \rightarrow [M]^{\frac{n}{3}} \) be the following function, for each \( i \not\in A \) and \( b \in [N] \),

\[
g^\tau_i(b) = \text{Plurality} \left\{ \mathcal{P}_\frac{3}{4} h(w)_i \right\}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad w_i = b
\]

ties are broken arbitrarily.

We prove Lemma 3.13 using the following few claims.

**Claim 3.15.**

\[
\Pr_{w, v \in [N]^{\frac{n}{3}}} \left[ \mathcal{P}_\frac{3}{4} h(w)_i = \mathcal{P}_\frac{3}{4} h(v)_i \middle| w_i = v_i \right] \geq 1 - 200\alpha.
\]

In order to prove Claim 3.15, we need to define an “almost \( \rho \)-correlated” distribution.

**Definition 3.16.** \((x, j)\) are almost \( \rho \)-correlated to \( y \in [N]^k \), denoted by \((x, j) \in A_\rho(y)\), if they are chosen by the following process:

1. Choose \( i \in [k] \) uniformly at random, set \( J = \{i\} \).
2. For each \( j \neq i \), add \( j \) to \( J \) with probability \( \rho \) independently.

3. Set \( x_j = y_j \) and the rest of \( x \) is uniform.

**Claim 3.17.** For any \( \rho \in (0, 1) \) and any event \( E(y, x, J) \) over \( x, y \in [N]^k \) and \( J \subseteq [k] \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,J) \in A_\rho} [E(y, x, J)] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,J) \in N_\rho(y)} [E(y, x, J)] + 5e^{-\frac{\rho}{4}}.
\]

The proof appears at the end of the section.

**Proof of Claim 3.15.** Let \( k' = \frac{9k}{10} \). We start by showing that for a uniform \( w \in [N]^{k'}, (u, J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w) \) and \( i \in J' \), \( \mathbb{P}_{i,w,(v,v')} [\mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(w)_i = \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(v)_i] \geq 1 - 100\alpha \).

Let \( E_1 \) be the event that \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(w)_i \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(v)_i \), we further define the following two events, let \( E_2 \) to be the event \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(w)_{J'} \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(u)_{J'} \), and let \( E_3 \) be the event that \( |J'| \leq \frac{k}{4} \).

If both \( E_2, E_3 \) don’t happen, then \( |J'| \geq \frac{k}{4} \), and there are at most \( 20\alpha k \) coordinates \( i \) in which \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(w)_i \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(v)_i \). Therefore, a uniform \( i \in J' \) has probability at most \( \frac{20\alpha k}{3} \) to satisfy \( \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(w)_i \neq \mathcal{P}_{\frac{1}{2}} h(v)_i \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w,(v,v'),i} [E_1 \mid \neg E_{2}, \neg E_{3}] \leq \frac{20\alpha k}{\frac{k}{4}} = 80\alpha.
\] (20)

In order to remove the condition over \( \neg E_{2}, \neg E_{3} \), we bound their probability. For a uniform \( w \in [N]^{k'} \) and \( (u, J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (\rho) \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w)} [E_2] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J') \in N_{\frac{1}{2}} (w)} [E_2] + 5e^{-\frac{\rho}{4}} \quad \text{(by Claim 3.17)}
\]

\[
\leq 2e^{10} + 5e^{-\frac{\rho}{4}} \leq 3e^{10}.
\] (by Lemma 3.12)

Similarly, for \( w \in [N]^{k'} \) and \( (u, J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w) \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w)} [E_3] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J') \in N_{\frac{1}{2}} (w)} [E_3] \quad \text{(by Claim 3.17)}
\]

\[
\leq 2e^{-\frac{k}{100}} + 5e^{-\frac{\rho}{4}} \leq e^{10}.
\] (Chernoff Bound)

For \( (u, J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w) \), each coordinate \( i \) is in \( J' \) with probability \( \frac{1}{2} \) independently, so we can use Chernoff bound. If we add a condition on \( \neg E_2 \), it can increase the probability by a factor of \( \frac{1}{2} \), therefore \( \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w)} [E_3 \mid \neg E_2] \leq 2e^{10} \).

Combining everything together, for a uniform \( w \in [N]^{k'} \), \( (u, J') \in A_{\frac{1}{2}} (w) \) and \( i \in J' \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J'),i} [E_1] \leq \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J'),i} [E_2] + \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J'),i} [E_3 \mid \neg E_2] + \mathbb{P}_{w,(u,J'),i} [E_1 \mid \neg E_2, \neg E_3]
\]

\[
\leq 3e^{10} + 2e^{10} + 80\alpha \leq 100\alpha
\] (21)

Let \( \mathcal{D}' : [k'] \times [N]^{k'} \times [N]^{k'} \times [N]^{k'} \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \) be the following distribution, generating \( i, w, v, u : \)
1. Pick a uniform $i \in [k']$.

2. Pick $w, v \in [N]^{k'}$ such that $w_i = v_i$.

3. For every $j \neq i$, insert $j$ into $I$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently.

4. For every $j \in [k']$, $u_j = \begin{cases} w_j & j \in J \\ v_j & \text{else} \end{cases}$.

The distribution $D'$ is built such that the marginal distribution over $w, v, i$ is that $i \in [k']$ uniformly, and $w, v$ are uniform in $[N]^{k'}$ such that $w_i = v_i$. Furthermore, the marginal distribution over $w, (u, J \cup \{i\})$, $i$ is such that $w \in [N]^{k'}$ uniformly, $(u, J \cap \{i\}) \in A_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)$ and the coordinate $i$ is uniform in $[i] \cup J$. Similarly, the marginal distribution over $v, (u, J)$ is $v \in [N]^{k'}$, $(u, J) \in A_{\frac{1}{2}}(v)$ and $i \notin J$.

Therefore, we can use equation (21) on the pairs $w, (u, J \cup \{i\})$ and $v, (u, J)$, and by union bound,

$$\Pr_{\substack{w, v \in [N]^{k'} \\ i \in [k']}} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i = \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(v)_i \mid w_i = v_i \right] \geq \Pr_{\substack{w, v, u, \tau \sim D' \mid \ \left( (u, J) \in A_{\frac{1}{2}}(w) \right) \text{ and } \left( (u, J) \in A_{\frac{1}{2}}(v) \right) }} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i = \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(v)_i = \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(u)_i \right] \\
\geq 1 - 100\alpha - 100\alpha.$$

\[ \square \]

**Corollary 3.18.**

$$\Pr_{\substack{w \in [N]^{k'} \\ i \in \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]}} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i = g(w)_i \right] \geq 1 - 400\alpha.$$

**Proof.** For each $w \in [N]^{k'}$ and $i \in \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]$ such that $\Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i \neq g(w)_i$, the value $\Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i$ is not the most frequent, $\Pr_{\substack{w \in [N]^{k'} \\ i \in \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]}} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i = \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(v)_i \mid w_i = v_i \right] \leq \frac{1}{2}$. Therefore,

$$\Pr_{\substack{w, v \in [N]^{k'} \\ i \in \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]}} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i \neq \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(v)_i \mid w_i = v_i \right] \geq \frac{1}{2} \Pr_{\substack{w \in [N]^{k'} \\ i \in \left[ \frac{9k}{10} \right]}} \left[ \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h(w)_i \neq g(w)_i \right].$$

Using Claim 3.15 we reach the corollary. \[ \square \]

**Proof of Lemma 3.13.** Fix an excellent $\tau$, denote $k' = \frac{9k}{10}$.

For each $w \in [N]^{k'}$, let $D_w \subset [k']$ be the set of coordinates in which $g^{\tau}(w), \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h_{\tau}(w)$ differs

$$D_w = \left\{ i \in [k'] \mid g^{\tau}(w)_i \neq \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h_{\tau}(w)_i \right\}.$$

Let $C \subset [N]^{k'}$ be the set of inputs such that $g^{\tau}, \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h_{\tau}$ are similar on them,

$$C = \left\{ w \in [N]^{k'} \mid |D_w| \leq 500ak \right\}.$$

By Corollary 3.18 and averaging, $\Pr_{w}[w \in C] \geq \frac{1}{5}$.

Let $B \subset [N]^{k'}$ be the set of inputs on which $g^{\tau}, \Pr_{\frac{3}{4}} h_{\tau}$ are far,

$$B = \left\{ w \in [N]^{k'} \mid |D_w| \geq 1500ak \right\}.$$
B is the set of inputs in which \( P_{3/2} h_2(w) \geq 1500ak \), so our goal is to prove that B is small.

Let \( E_1(w, v, j) \) be the event that \(|J \cap D_w| > 600ak\), and let \( E_2(w, v, j) \) be the event that \( P_{3/2} h(w)_j \neq \mathcal{P}_{3/2} h(v)_j \). By Lemma 3.12, \( \mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k, (v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[E_2] \leq e^{10} \).

For every \( v, w, j \) such that \( v_j = w_j \), the function \( g \) satisfies \( g^*(w)_j = g^*(v)_j \) (since \( g \) is a product function), and therefore \( E_1 \land (v \in C) \implies E_2 \). This is because if \( E_2 \) doesn’t hold, then \( P_{3/2} h(w)_j \neq \mathcal{P}_{3/2} h(v)_j \), if \( E_1 \) does hold then \(|J \cap D_w| > 600ak\), which means that \(|D_v \cap J| \geq 580ak\), and \( v \not\in C \).

We show if \( B \) isn’t small, then \( E_1 \land (v \in C) \) happens often, when we pick \( w \in [N]^k, (v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w) \).

For \( w \in B \), the set \( D_w \) is large, \(|D_w| \geq 1500ak\), if we take \((v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)\), each coordinate \( i \in D_w \) is in \( J \) with probability \( \frac{1}{2} \) independently, so for \( w \in B \), by Chernoff bound

\[
\mathbb{P}_{(v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[E_1(w)] = \mathbb{P}_{(v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[|J \cap D_w| > 600ak] \geq 1 - e^{-\frac{w}{100}}.
\]

From reverse hypercontractivity [MOS13], Corollary 2.9

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w, (v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[w \in B, v \in C] \geq \mathbb{P}_{w \in C}^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbb{P}_{w \in B}^{\frac{3}{2}}.
\]

Therefore,

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w, (v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[w \in B, v \in C \land E_1] \geq \mathbb{P}_{w \in C}^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbb{P}_{w \in B}^{\frac{3}{2}} - e^{-\frac{w}{100}}
\]

\[
\geq \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbb{P}_{w \in B} - e^{-\frac{w}{100}}. \tag{22}
\]

Where (22) is since \( \mathbb{P}_{w \in C} \geq \frac{1}{5} \).

Since \( E_1 \land (v \in C) \implies E_2 \) and by Lemma 3.12, \( \mathbb{P}_{w \in [N]^k, (v, j) \in N_{1/2}^k(w)}[E_2] \leq e^{10} \), it means that (22) should be smaller than \( e^{10} \), which implies \( \mathbb{P}_{w \in B} \leq 3e^{4} \) and finishes the proof. \( \Box \)

We are left with proving the simple distribution claim - that almost \( \rho \) correlated is similar to \( \rho \) correlated.

**Proof of Claim 3.17.** The proof is based on the fact that the distributions \( \mathcal{N}_{\rho}(y), \mathcal{A}_{\rho}(y) \) are very close, and the probability of an event depending on \( y, x, J \) is not much different in both distributions.

By Chernoff bound, \( \rho \)-correlated sets are almost always of size about \( \rho k \), this holds for almost \( \rho \) correlated as well,

\[
\mathbb{P}_{(x, j) \in \mathcal{N}_{\rho}(y)}[|J| > 2\rho k] \leq e^{-\frac{k}{2}},
\]

\[
\mathbb{P}_{(x, j) \in \mathcal{A}_{\rho}(y)}[|J| > 2\rho k] \leq e^{-\frac{k}{2}}.
\]

For each \( y \in [N]^k \), let \( B_y \) be the \((x, J)\) that satisfy \( E(y, x, J) \)

\[
B_y = \{ (x, J) \mid E(y, x, J) = 1 \}. 
\]
Using this notation

\[ \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,j) \in N_y} [E(y,x,j)] = \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,j) \in N_y} [(x,j) \in B_y]. \]

Fix \( y \in [N]^k \), for each \((x,j) \in B_y\), by the definition of \(\rho\)-correlation,

\[ \mathbb{P}_{(z,j') \in N_y} [(z,j') = (x,j)] = \rho^{||} (1 - \rho)^{k-||} \left( \frac{1}{N} \right)^{k-||}. \]

By the definition of almost \(\rho\) correlation,

\[ \mathbb{P}_{(z,j') \in A_y} [(z,j') = (x,j)] = \frac{||}{k} \rho^{||-1} (1 - \rho)^{k-||} \left( \frac{1}{N} \right)^{k-||}. \]

Note that for each such \((x,j) \in B_y\) such that \(||| \leq 2\rho k,

\[ \mathbb{P}_{(z,j') \in A_y} [(z,j') = (x,j)] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{(z,j') \in N_y} [(z,j') = (x,j)]. \]

Therefore

\[ \mathbb{P}_{(x,j) \in A_y} [(x,j) \in B_y] \leq \mathbb{P}_{(x,j) \in A_y} [||| \geq 2\rho k] + \mathbb{P}_{(x,j) \in A_y} [(x,j) \in B_y \land ||| \leq 2\rho k] \]

\[ \leq e^{-\rho^2} + 2 \mathbb{P}_{(x,j) \in N_y} [(x,j) \in B_y \land ||| \leq 2\rho k] \]

\[ \leq e^{-\rho^2} + 2 \mathbb{P}_{(x,j) \in N_y} [(x,j) \in B_y] + 4e^{-\rho^2}. \]

When we used conditional probability in the last inequality. This is true for all \( y \in [N]^k \), therefore,

\[ \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,j) \in A_y} [E(y,x,j)] = \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,j) \in A_y} [(x,j) \in B_y] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{y \in [N]^k, (x,j) \in N_y} [(x,j) \in B_y] + 5e^{-\rho^2}. \]

\( \square \)

4 Global Structure for Sets

Up until now we have considered functions \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \) whose inputs are ordered tuples \((x_1, \ldots, x_k) \in [N]^k\). We now move to consider functions \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k \) whose inputs are unordered \([x_1, \ldots, x_k] \in \binom{[N]}{k}\), and we assume that \( N \gg k \) (for tuples no such assumption was made).

To each subset \( S = \{s_1, \ldots, s_k\} \) the function \( f \) assigns \( f(S) \in [M]^k \). \( f(S) \) should be viewed as a “local function” on \( S \), assigning a value from \([M]\) to every \( a \in S \). We denote by \( f(S)_a \) the output of \( f \) that corresponds to \( a \). For a subset \( W \subset S \), let \( f(S)_W \) be the outputs of \( f \) corresponding to the elements in \( W \).
There are straightforward analogs to Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 3.5 which we present and prove in this section. Interestingly, in the case of sets deducing global structure from restricted global structure is quite easier than it is for tuples.

First, let us present the Z test for sets, from [IKW12] when \( t = \frac{k}{10} \). Let \( \alpha_{Z,\text{set}}(f) \) be the success probability of this test. This is the same test as Test 3 from the introduction written differently, it is written this way because it is easier to refer to the test items during the proof.

**Test 4: ”Z” test for functions over sets, with \( t = \frac{k}{10} \) (3-query test)**

1. Choose a random set \( W \subset [N] \) of size \( \frac{k}{10} \).
2. Choose \( X, Y \subset [N] \setminus W \) of size \( \frac{9k}{10} \).
3. If \( f(X \cup W)_W \neq f(Y \cup W)_W \) reject.
4. Choose \( V \subset [N] \setminus Y \) of size \( \frac{k}{10} \).
5. If \( f(Y \cup W)_Y \neq f(Y \cup V)_Y \) reject, else accept.

Denote by \( \alpha_{Z,\text{set}}(f) \) the success probability of \( f \) on this test.

**Theorem 1.2.** There exist a small constant \( c > 0 \), such that for every constant \( \lambda > 0 \), large enough \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( N > k^2 e^{10c\lambda k} \), if the function \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \) passes Test 3 with probability \( \alpha_{Z,\text{set}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-c\lambda k} \), then there exist a function \( g : [N] \to [M] \) such that

\[
P_S \left[ f(S) \approx g(S) \right] \geq \epsilon - 4\epsilon^2.
\]

In order to analyze this test, we first need to ”translate” the restricted global structure result into this setting, and then prove the global structure in this setting.

### 4.1 Restricted Global Structure for Sets

In this section, we see that for \( N \gg k \), the restricted global structure for tuples, Theorem 3.5, implies restricted global structure for sets. First we define analog definitions for sets, for good restrictions and DP restrictions. To make the reduction proof simpler, we use a constant \( \eta \in \left[ 1 - \frac{k}{N}, 1 \right] \) (i.e. almost 1) and define good pair using \( \eta \).

**Definition 4.1 (Good pair).** A pair \( X, W \subset [N], |X| = \frac{9k}{10}, |W| = \frac{k}{10} \) is good if

\[
P_Y \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset \right] > \frac{\epsilon}{2} \eta.
\]

This definition is analogous to Definition 3.3 of good restriction, the main difference between the definitions is that here we don’t have a set of coordinates \( A \subset [k] \), because \( f \) is defined on sets and not coordinates.

**Definition 4.2 (DP pair).** A pair \( X, W \subset [N], |X| = \frac{9k}{10}, |W| = \frac{k}{10} \) is a DP pair if it is good, and if there exist a function \( g_{X,W} : [N] \to [M] \) such that

\[
P_Y \left[ f(Y \cup W)_Y \not\approx g_{X,W}(Y) \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right] \leq 2\epsilon^2.
\]
This definition is analogous to Definition 3.4 of DP restriction, only here there is a single function \( g_{X,W} \), instead of \( \frac{9k}{m} \) different functions in the case of coordinates.

**Lemma 4.3** (Restricted global structure for sets). There exist a small constants \( \delta > 0 \), such that for every constant \( \lambda > 0 \) and large enough \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) such that \( N > k^2e^{10\lambda/k} \), the following holds.

For every function \( f : (\binom{N}{k}) \rightarrow [M]^k \), if \( \alpha_{\text{set}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-\delta \lambda k} \), then at least \((1 - \epsilon^2 - \frac{k^2}{N})\) of the good pairs \( W \in (\binom{N}{k}) \), \( X \in (\binom{N}{k}) \) are DP pairs, i.e. there exist \( g_{X,W} : [N] \rightarrow [M] \) such that

\[
\Pr_y \left[ f(Y \cup W)_Y \neq g_{X,W}(Y) \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right] \leq 2\epsilon^2.
\]

This lemma for sets is analogous to Theorem 3.5, and we prove it by a reduction from it. For every \( f : (\binom{N}{k}) \rightarrow [M]^k \) we define a function \( f' : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \cup \perp \) that equals \( \perp \) if the input has two identical coordinates, and identifies with \( f \) everywhere else. For \( N > k \), almost all inputs don’t have two identical coordinates, and \( f, f' \) are equal almost always.

Using Theorem 3.5, we derive a restricted global structure on \( f' \) which gives a direct product function \( g^\tau = g^1_1 \cdots g^\tau_{k^k} \) for every excellent \( \tau \). Since \( f \) equals \( f' \) almost always, we find an equivalence between excellent \( \tau \) and excellent \( X, W \). Then, we build a restricted global function \( g_{X,W} \) by taking the most frequent value among the product \( g^1_1 \cdots g^\tau_{k^k} \). Note that even though \( f' \) is permutation invariant, the functions \( g^1_1 \cdots g^\tau_{k^k} \) may not be the same.

Since the proof is technical, and its main points are described in the paragraph above, we defer it to Appendix B.

### 4.2 Global Structure for Sets

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 1.2. The proof is very similar to Lemma 3.16 in [IKW12].

**Proof.** Fix a function \( f : (\binom{N}{k}) \rightarrow [M]^k \) that passes Test 4 with probability \( \epsilon > e^{-\lambda k} \), denote by \( \delta = \frac{\epsilon}{5} \) and \( \alpha = 5\lambda \).

Let \( W \in (\binom{N}{k}), X \in (\binom{N}{k}) \) be the subsets chosen on the first two items of the test, if \( \Pr_Y \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset \right] < \frac{\epsilon}{2} \), the test rejects in Item 3 with probability at least \( 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \).

Therefore, in order for \( f \) to pass the test with probability \( \epsilon \), the test must pass with probability at least \( \epsilon \) on \( W, X \) such that \( \Pr_Y \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset \right] > \frac{\epsilon}{2} \), we call these \( W, X \) good.

Using Lemma 4.3, for at least \((1 - 2\epsilon^2 - \frac{k^2}{N})\) of the good \( W, X \) there exist a function \( g_{W,X} : [N] \rightarrow [M] \) such that

\[
\Pr_y \left[ f(Y \cup W)_Y \neq g_{X,W}(Y) \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right] \leq 2\epsilon^2.
\]

Fix such \( W, X \), let \( G = \left\{ Y \in (\binom{N}{k}) \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right\} \), and let \( g = g_{X,W} : [N] \rightarrow [M] \). We want to use the last query to show that this \( g \) is in fact a global product function, i.e \( f(S) \approx g(S) \) for about an \( \epsilon \) fraction of \( S \in (\binom{N}{k}) \).

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For every set $S$, we say that $S$ is bad if $f(S) \neq g(S)$. Let $p$ be the probability of a uniform $S$ to be bad, i.e. $p = \Pr[S \in \binom{[N]}{k}] \left[f(S) \neq g(S)\right]$. Suppose that instead of running Test 4 as is, we choose $Y, V$ by the following process:

1. Choose a uniform $S \in \binom{[N]}{k}$.
2. Choose $Y$ to be a uniform $\frac{9k}{10}$ subset of $S$.
3. Set $V = S \setminus Y$ and return $(Y, V)$.

We suppose that if the process outputs $Y$ such that $Y \cap V \neq \emptyset$, the test rejects. The probability of this event is less than $\frac{k^2}{N}$, and if it doesn’t happen the process generates the test distribution. Therefore, the test on $f$ using this distribution should success with probability at least $\epsilon - \frac{k^2}{N}$.

In order for Test 4 to pass, two checks must hold:

1. $f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W$, equivalent to $Y \in G$.
2. $f(Y \cup V)_Y = f(Y \cup W)_Y$.

Suppose that $S$ is bad, and we let $Y \cup V = S$ to be the sets used in the test. If $Y \notin G$, the test will fail. If $y \in G$, from the local structure, Lemma 4.3,

$$
\Pr_Y \left[f(Y \cup W)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y) \mid Y \in G\right] \leq 2e^2.
$$

If we condition on $S$ to be bad, we restrict $Y$ and therefore the probability of this event can increase by a factor of $\frac{1}{p}$.

$$
\Pr_Y \left[f(Y \cup W)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y) \mid Y \in G, S \text{ is bad}\right] \leq \frac{1}{p} 2e^2.
$$

(23)

Since $S$ is bad and $Y$ is a uniform $\frac{9k}{10}$ sized set inside $S$, the probability that less than $3ak$ out of the $5ak$ elements in which $f(S), g(S)$ differ is in $Y$ is exponentially small.

$$
\Pr_{Y \subset S} \left[f(S)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y) \mid S \text{ is bad}\right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak}.
$$

(24)

The inequality is due to Chernoff bound, using Claim 2.5 (if $D$ is the set of elements in which $f(S), g(S)$ differ, $f(S)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y) \implies |Y \cap D| \leq \frac{3}{5}|D|$, in the claim we use $A = S \setminus Y$).

From equation (23), we know that with probability $1 - \frac{2e^2}{p}$, $f(Y \cup W)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y)$. From (24), with probability $1 - e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak}$, $f(S)_Y^{3ak} \neq g(Y)$. If both holds, then $f(S)_Y = f(Y \cup V)_Y \neq f(Y \cup W)_Y$, and the test will fail. Therefore,

$$
\Pr_S \left[\text{Test passes} \mid S \text{ is bad}\right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak} + \frac{2e^2}{p} \leq \frac{3e^2}{p}.
$$

(25)
The test must pass with probability $e - \frac{k^2}{N}$,
\[
e - \frac{k^2}{N} = P[\text{Test passes}] = P[S \text{ is bad}] P[\text{Test passes} | S \text{ is bad}]
+ P[S \text{ isn't bad}] P[\text{Test passes} | S \text{ isn't bad}]
\leq \frac{3e^2}{p} + (1 - p)
\]
Therefore $p = P[S \text{ is bad}] \leq 1 - e + \frac{k^2}{N} + 3e^2$, which implies that at least $e - \frac{k^2}{N} - 3e^2$ of the test $S$ are not bad, and for such sets $f(S) \approx g(S)$. We choose $c = \frac{\epsilon}{5}$ so $\alpha = \frac{1}{5}\lambda$, and notice that $e - 4e^2 \leq e - \frac{k^2}{N} - 3e^2$ which finishes the proof.

In the introduction, we stressed that in order to extend the restricted global structure into a global structure, the restricted global structure theorem has to be "strong", i.e. the probability of $f(Y \cup W)_Y \neq g_{X,W}(Y)$ should be strictly smaller than $\epsilon$, it is $2e^2$ in our case. If the local structure was not strong, the bound in (25) would have been larger than $\epsilon$. This means that all the success probability of the test could come from bad sets $S$. From (25), we see that almost all of the success probability of the test comes from sets that are not bad, this we couldn’t have deduced from the restricted structure theorem of [DS14].

5 Global Structure for Tuples

In this section we prove our main theorem - global structure for tuples. The proof uses the restricted global structure, Theorem 3.5. For convenience we copy the test and theorem from the introduction.

**Test 1:** "Z"-test with parameter $t$ (3-query test)

1. Choose $A, B, C$ to be a random partition of $[k]$, such that $|A| = |B| = t$.
2. Choose uniformly at random $x, y, z \in [N]^k$ such that $x_A = y_A$ and $y_B = z_B$.
3. Reject if $f(x)_A \neq f(y)_A$ or $f(z)_B \neq f(y)_B$, else accept.

Denote by $\alpha_{Z(t)}(f)$ the success probability of $f$ on this test.

**Theorem 1.1** (Main theorem - Global Structure for tuples). For every $N, M > 1$, there exist small constants $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that for every constant $\lambda > 0$ and large enough $k$, if $f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ is a function that passes Test 1 with probability $\alpha_{Z(t)}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-c_1\lambda^2k}$, then there exist functions $(g_1, \ldots, g_k), g_i : [N] \rightarrow [M]$ such that
\[
P_{x \in [N]^k} \left[ f(x) \approx_{\lambda k} (g_1(x_1) \ldots g_k(x_k)) \right] \geq c_2 \cdot \epsilon.
\]
Where $\approx_{\lambda k}$ means that the strings are equal on all but at most $\lambda k$ coordinates.
5.1 Proof Outline

Our proof of Theorem 1.1 relies on Theorem 3.5, which gives us, for many restrictions \( \tau \), a product function \( g^\tau \) that is defined on a set \( A \) of \( \frac{9k}{10} \) coordinates and approximately equals \( f \) on \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \). In this section we show how to stitch the restricted functions \( g^\tau \) together into one global function \( g \). The proof has three parts.

1. In Section 5.2, we show that there exist an \( x \in [N]^k \) such that,
   
   (a) On at least \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) of the sets \( A \), the tuple \( \tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A) \) is excellent, and Test 1 passes with probability at least \( \frac{\epsilon}{3} \).
   
   (b) Taking two such sets \( A_1, A_2 \), their functions \( g^{\tau_1}, g^{\tau_2} \) are similar with probability \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \).

   We start from picking \( x \) such that the test succeeds on it with probability \( \Omega(\epsilon) \), and that for \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) of the sets \( A \), \( \tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A) \) satisfies the first item above. We use the third query of the test to show that each \( g^\tau \) approximates \( f \) on \( [k] \setminus A \) in \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) of the inputs in \( [N]^k \). This implies that for many different pairs \( \tau_1, \tau_2 \), both \( g^{\tau_1} \) and \( g^{\tau_2} \) are close to \( f \) on \( [k] \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2) \) in \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \) of the inputs, which means that \( g^{\tau_1}, g^{\tau_2} \) are similar to each other.

2. In Section 5.3 we view this situation abstractly as yet another agreement question, with a different setting of parameters: given a set of direct product functions, each defined on \( \frac{9k}{10} \) coordinates, such that each two are consistent with probability \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \), find a global direct product function \( g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k) \) that is consistent with \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \) of these functions. We show that such a \( g \) can be found, essentially proving an agreement testing theorem for this setting. This may seem circular but in fact the current setting is easier than our original problem because of the density: Since the sets are so large, every two sets intersect.

   In order to solve this agreement question, we build a graph with the functions as nodes, and connect by an edge each two consistent functions. We connect by a "weak edge" each two functions that are somewhat consistent, where we allow a larger difference between the two functions. The weak and strong edges have an "almost transitive" property, if \( (v_1, v_2) \) and \( (v_2, v_3) \) are connected by a strong edge, then almost surely \( (v_1, v_3) \) are connected by a weak edge. We use this property to show that there exist a set of vertices \( C \) of size \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \) that is almost a clique, i.e. almost every two functions in \( C \) are consistent. We build the global function by taking the plurality over \( C \), and show that it is close to most functions in \( C \).

3. Lastly, in Section 5.4, we connect the two previous items. The functions \( g^\tau \) for \( \tau = (A, x, f(x)_A) \) from the first item are each defined on \( \frac{9k}{10} \) coordinates, and each two are similar with probability \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \). This means that they satisfies the conditions of the second item, and there exists a global function \( g \) defined on all \( [k] \) that is close to \( \Omega(\epsilon^2) \) of them. We recall that on Section 5.2 we showed that each \( g^\tau \) is close to \( f \) on \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) fraction of the inputs, and conclude that the global function \( g \) is also close to \( f \) on \( \Omega(\epsilon) \) fraction of the input, which finishes the proof.

5.2 Consistency Between Restricted Global Functions

From Theorem 3.5, we know with probability \( 1 - \epsilon^2 \) a good \( \tau \sim \mathcal{D} \) is excellent, and for each excellent \( \tau \) there exist a local direct product function \( g^\tau = (g_1^\tau, \ldots, g_{10}^\tau) \) that equals \( f \) on \( \mathcal{V}_\tau \).
Definition 5.1. For every \( x \in [N]^k \), let \( \mathcal{A}_x \) be the set of subsets \( A \subset [k] \) of size \( \frac{k}{10} \) such that

1. Fixing \( A, x \), \( \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [\text{Test 1 passed}] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \).
2. \( \tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A) \) is excellent.

Definition 5.2. Let \( \tau_1 = (A_1, r_1, y_1), \tau_2 = (A_2, r_2, y_2) \) be two excellent tuples, we say that \( g^{\tau_1}, g^{\tau_2} \) are consistent if for a uniform \( i \notin A_1 \cup A_2 \) and \( u \in [N] \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{i,u} \left[ g^{\tau_1}_i(u) \neq g^{\tau_2}_i(u) \right] \leq 60\lambda.
\]

The main claim we prove in this section is the following,

Claim 5.3. There exist \( x \in [N]^k \), such that

1. \( \mathbb{P}_A [A \in \mathcal{A}_x] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \).
2. \( \mathbb{P}_{A_1,A_2 \in \mathcal{A}_x} [g^{\tau_1}, g^{\tau_2} \text{ are consistent}] \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32} \), where the tuples are \( \tau_1 = (A_1, x_{A_1}, f(x)_{A_1}) \) and \( \tau_2 = (A_2, x_{A_2}, f(x)_{A_2}) \).

We start from looking for a candidate \( x \in [N]^k \).

Claim 5.4. Let

\[
\mathcal{X}_1 = \left\{ x \in [N]^k \mid \mathbb{P} [\text{Test 1 passed with } x] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \right\},
\]

\[
\mathcal{X}_2 = \left\{ x \in [N]^k \mid \mathbb{P}_{A} [A \in \mathcal{A}_x] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{8} \right\}.
\]

Then

\( \mathcal{X}_1 \cap \mathcal{X}_2 \neq \emptyset \).

Proof. Let \( G \) be the full weighted bipartite graph, with vertex sets \( L = \binom{k}{m} \) and \( R = [N]^k \). The weight of an edge \( A, x \) equals the success probability of Test 1 given that \( A, x \) are chosen.

The expected weight of an edge is equal to the test success probability of Test 1, \( \epsilon \). For each edges with weight less than \( \frac{\epsilon}{2} \), we change its weight to 0. We removed at most half of the total weight, so the expected weight of a uniform edge now is at least \( \frac{\epsilon}{2} \).

All the edges that remain with positive weight are of \( \frac{\epsilon}{2} \) weight. Fixing \( A \), we change the weight of all the edges \( A, x \) such that \( \tau = (A, x_A, f(x)_A) \) is not excellent.

From Theorem 3.5, a random good \( \tau \sim \mathcal{D} \) is excellent with probability \( 1 - \epsilon^2 \), and the distribution \( \tau \sim \mathcal{D} \) corresponds to a uniform choice of \( A \in L, x \in R \). Therefore, changing to 0 the weight over these edges means changing to 0 the weight of at most \( \epsilon^2 \) of the edges in \( G \). The maximal weight of an edge is 1, we have reduced the expected weight by at most \( \epsilon^2 \).

The expected weight now is more than \( \frac{\epsilon}{2} - \epsilon^2 \geq \frac{\epsilon}{3} \).

Let \( x \) be the vertex with the maximal sum of weights of neighbor edges, then

\[
\mathbb{P} [\text{Test 1 passed given } x] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{3}.
\]

The inequality is because we have changed to zero the weights of some edges.

All edges \((A, x)\) that still have positive weight satisfy \( A \in \mathcal{A}_x \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{A} [A \in \mathcal{A}_x] = \mathbb{P}_{A} [\omega(A, x) > 0] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{3}.
\]
since the maximal weight an edge can have is 1.

Therefore, \( x \in \mathcal{X}_1 \cap \mathcal{X}_2. \)

In the rest of this section we fix \( x \in \mathcal{X}_1 \cap \mathcal{X}_2, \) denote \( \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_x \) and \( g_A = g^\tau = (g_1^\tau, \ldots, g_m^\tau) \) for \( \tau = (A, x, f(x)_A), \) and prove that it fulfills the conditions of Claim 5.3.

**Definition 5.5.** An input \( z \in [N]^k \) is consistent with a set \( A \in \mathcal{A} \) if \( f(z)_A^{201k} \approx g_A(z_A). \) Let \( \mathcal{X}_A \) be the set of inputs that are consistent with \( A. \)

\[
\mathcal{X}_A = \left\{ z \in [N]^k \middle| f(z)_A^{201k} \approx g_A(z_A) \right\}.
\]

**Claim 5.6.** For every \( A \in \mathcal{A}, \) \( \mathbb{P}_z [z \in \mathcal{X}_A] \geq \frac{\xi}{4}. \)

**Proof.** Assume towards contradiction that the claim does not hold, and fix a set \( A \in \mathcal{A} \) such that \( \mathbb{P}_z [z \in \mathcal{X}_A] < \frac{\xi}{4}. \)

We reach a contradiction by showing that conditioning on \( A, x \) chosen by the test, \( \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [\text{Test 1 passes}] < \frac{\xi}{4} \) contradicting the fact that \( A \in \mathcal{A}. \)

We define the following events, under the assumption that \( y_A = x_A \) and \( y_B = z_B \) as in the test.

1. \( E_1: f(x)_A = f(y)_A. \)
2. \( E_2: f(z)_B = f(y)_B. \)
3. \( E_3: f(y)_B \approx g_A(y_B). \)
4. \( E_4: f(z)_B \approx g_A(z_B). \)
5. \( E_5: z \notin \mathcal{X}_A. \)

Note that since \( g_A \) is a product function and \( y_B = z_B, E_4 \) can also be written as \( f(z)_B \approx g_A(y_B). \)

We also notice that \( E_2 \land E_3 \implies E_4, \) since we can switch \( f(y)_B \) by \( f(z)_B \) in \( E_3. \)

By definition, Test 1 succeeds if \( E_1, E_2 \) both happened.

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y,B} [E_1 \land E_2] \leq \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_2 \land E_3 \land E_5] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_2 \land \neg E_3] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_2 \land \neg E_5]
\]
\[
\leq \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_4 \land E_5] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_2 \land \neg E_3] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_1 \land E_2 \land \neg E_5]
\]
\[
\leq \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [E_4 \mid E_5] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [\neg E_3 \mid E_1] + \mathbb{P}_{y,B,z} [\neg E_5]. \tag{26}
\]

We bound each of the three probabilities.

1. If \( E_5 \) happened, \( z \notin \mathcal{X}_A \) so \( f(z)_A^{201k} \neq g_A(z_A) \), let \( D \) be the set of coordinates in which \( f(z)_A \) and \( g_A(z_A) \) differ

\[
D = \left\{ i \in \tilde{A} \mid f(z)_i \neq g_{A,i}(z_i) \right\}.
\]

In order to satisfy \( E_4, \) the set \( B \) should be such that \( |B \cap D| \leq \lambda k, \) since \( B \) is a random set of size \( \frac{k}{10}, \) using Claim 2.5

\[
\mathbb{P}_{B,y,z} [E_4 \mid E_5] \leq \mathbb{P}_B [|B \cap D| \leq \lambda k] \leq e^{-\frac{\lambda k}{10}} < e^2.
\]
2. Since \( A \in \mathcal{A} \), the tuple \((A, x_A, f(x)_A)\) is excellent, and from Theorem 3.5

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y,B,z}[\neg E_3 \mid E_1] = \mathbb{P}_{y,B} \left[ f(y)_B \not= g_A(y_B) \mid f(x)_A = f(y)_A \right] \leq \epsilon^2,
\]

where we use the fact that \( B \subseteq \tilde{A} \), therefore \( f(y)_B \not= g_A(y_B) \) implies \( f(y)_{\tilde{A}} \not= g_A(y_{\tilde{A}}) \).

3. From our assumption,

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y,B,z}[E_5] = \mathbb{P}_z [z \in \mathcal{Z}_{\tilde{A}}] \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4}.
\]

Therefore, from (26) we get

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y,B,z}[\text{Test 1 passes} \mid x, A] = \mathbb{P}_{y,B} [E_1 \land E_2] \leq \epsilon^2 + \epsilon^2 + \frac{\epsilon}{4} < \frac{\epsilon}{3},
\]

contradicting \( A \in \mathcal{A} \).

In the introduction, we explained the difference between our restricted global structure, and the result of [DS14]. In our result, Theorem 3.5, \( f(y)_A \approx g^*(y) \) for \( 1 - \epsilon^2 \) of \( y \in \mathcal{V}_\tau \), and it their result it was much less.

**Claim 5.7.**

\[
\mathbb{P}_{A_1,A_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \left[ |\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32} N^k \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32}.
\]

**Proof.** For a uniform pair \( A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A} \):

\[
\mathbb{E}_{A_1,A_2} \left[ |\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \right] = \sum_{A_1,A_2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{Z}_{A_1},\mathcal{Z}_{A_2}} \left[ \mathbb{I}(z \in \mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}) \right] \geq \sum_{A_1} \mathbb{P}_{A_1} \left[ z \in \mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \right]^2 \geq \left( \sum_{A_1} N^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbb{P}_{A_1} \left[ z \in \mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \right] \right)^2 = \left( \frac{\epsilon}{4} \right)^2 N^k.
\]

The maximal value of \( |\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \) is \( N^k \), therefore by averaging

\[
\mathbb{P}_{A_1,A_2} \left[ |\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32} N^k \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32}.
\]

\( \square \)

**Claim 5.8.** If \( A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A} \) are such that \( |\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \geq \frac{\epsilon^2}{32} N^k \), then \( g_{A_1}, g_{A_2} \) are consistent, i.e. for a uniform \( i \in [k] \setminus \{A_1 \cup A_2\} \) and \( u \in [N] \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{i,u} \left[ g_{A_1,i}(u) \not= g_{A_2,i}(u) \right] \leq 60 \lambda.
\]

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Proof. Let \( A_1, A_2 \in A \) be two sets such that \(|\mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2}| \geq \frac{2}{3}N^k\), and let \( \mathcal{Z}_{12} = \mathcal{Z}_{A_1} \cap \mathcal{Z}_{A_2} \).

In order to simplify the notation, denote \( S_1 = [k] \setminus A_1, S_2 = [k] \setminus A_2 \) and \( S_{12} = S_1 \cap S_2 = [k] \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2) \). \( S_{12} \) is the set of coordinates that both \( g_{A_1}, g_{A_2} \) are defined on, \(|S_{12}| \geq 0.8k\).

For each \( i \in S_{12} \), let

\[
p_i = \mathbb{P}_{u \in [N]}[g_{A_1,i}(u) \neq g_{A_2,i}(u)].
\]

Let \( w \in [N]^{S_{12}} \) uniformly at random, and let \( I_i \) be indicator for \( g_{A_1,i}(w) \neq g_{A_2,i}(w) \). Each \( I_i \)

equals 1 with probability \( p_i \) independently. In this notation

\[
\mathbb{E}_{w} \left[ \text{dist}(g_{A_1}(w), g_{A_2}(w)) \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i \in S_{12}} I_i \right]
\]

Assume towards contradiction that \( \mathbb{P}_{i,k}[g_{A_1,i}(u) \neq g_{A_2,i}(u)] > 60\lambda \), this will imply that

\[
\mathbb{E}_{w} \left[ \text{dist}(g_{A_1}(w), g_{A_2}(w)) \right] > 60\lambda \cdot 0.8k.
\]

Using Chernoff bound:

\[
\mathbb{P}_{w} \left[ \text{dist}(g_{A_1}(w), g_{A_2}(w)) \leq 40\lambda k \right] = \mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in S_{12}} I_i \leq \frac{5}{6} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i \in S_{12}} I_i \right] \right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{2} \lambda k}
\]

If instead of taking a completely uniform \( w \in [N]^{S_{12}} \), we pick a random \( z \in \mathcal{Z}_{12} \), and restrict it to \( S_{12} \), getting \( w = z_{S_{12}} \). The probability of any event on \( w \) can increase by a factor of at most \( \frac{N^k}{|S_{12}|} \leq \frac{32}{e^2} \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{z \in \mathcal{Z}_{12}} \left[ \text{dist}(g_{A_1}(z_{S_{12}}), g_{A_2}(z_{S_{12}})) \leq 40\lambda k \right] \leq \frac{32}{e^2} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \lambda k} < \frac{1}{2}.
\]

By the definition of \( \mathcal{Z}_{A_1}, \mathcal{Z}_{A_2} \), each input \( z \in \mathcal{Z}_{12} \) satisfies both \( f(z)_{S_1} \approx g_{A_1}(z_{S_1}) \) and \( f(z)_{S_2} \approx g_{A_2}(z_{S_2}) \) which implies \( g_{A_1}(z_{S_{12}}) \approx g_{A_2}(z_{S_{12}}) \) with probability 1, which contradicts (28).

Combining the last two claims, we prove Claim 5.3.

5.3 Agreement Theorem in the Dense Case

In this section, we present and prove an abstract problem that will later be used to create the global product function. Given a collection of local functions \( \mathcal{F} = \{ f_S \}_{S \subseteq \{1, \ldots, k \}} \) such that for each \( S \subseteq \{1, \ldots, k \} \), \( f_S : S \to \Sigma \), can we deduce from the agreement of \( f_S \) the existence of a single global function \( g : [k] \to \Sigma \) that is close to many \( f_S \)?

We need to define what exactly agreement means in the case of \( \mathcal{F} \), as it is not the setting on which we previously defined agreement on. In order to do so, we assume that we have a bounded distance measure on \( \Sigma \), i.e. for every \( \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \Sigma \), \( \text{dist}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) \in [0, 1] \).

**Definition 5.9.** The difference between \( f_{S_1}, f_{S_2} \in \mathcal{F} \), denoted by \( \Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) \) is defined by

\[
\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) = \mathbb{E}_{i \in S_1 \cap S_2} [\text{dist}(f_{S_1}(i), f_{S_2}(i))].
\]

The difference between \( f_S \in \mathcal{F} \) to a function \( g : [k] \to \Sigma \) is defined by,

\[
\Delta(f_S, g) = \mathbb{E}_{i \in S} [\text{dist}(f_S(i), g(i))].
\]
Note that the difference defined above is not a distance, it may be that $\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) = 0$ for $S_1 \neq S_2$.

Now we are ready to define the agreement, notice that since we are talking on an agreement inside a function set $\mathcal{F}$, the definition is different. The general idea is the same - we check for the agreement of two random elements in $\mathcal{F}$ according to some distribution.

**Definition 5.10.** The agreement of the collection of local functions $\mathcal{F}$ regarding the uniform distribution with parameter $\alpha$, denoted by $\text{agree}_\alpha(\mathcal{F})$ is defined by,

$$\text{agree}_\alpha(\mathcal{F}) = \mathbb{P}_{f_{S_1}, f_{S_2} \in \mathcal{F}}[\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) < \alpha].$$

**Theorem 5.11.** For every small constant $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $\nu > e^{-\frac{1}{3}a^2}$, if a collection of local functions $\mathcal{F}$ has $\text{agree}_\alpha(\mathcal{F}) > \nu$, then there exists a global function $g : [k] \to \Sigma$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{S \in \binom{[k]}{m}}[\Delta(f_S, g) \leq 300\alpha] \geq \frac{1}{4}\nu.$$

In order to prove the theorem, it is helpful to look at the elements $S \in \binom{[k]}{m}$ as vertices in a graph. Let $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, E_{S \cup E_{W}})$ to be the graph with the vertex set $\mathcal{V} = \binom{[k]}{m}$, and two edge sets, weak edges and strong edges.

**Definition 5.12.** For every two sets $S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{V}$,

1. $S_1, S_2$ are connected by a strong edge, denoted by $S_1 - S_2$, if $\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) < \alpha$.
2. $S_1, S_2$ are connected by a weak edge, denoted by $S_1 \sim S_2$, if $\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) < 60\alpha$.

We want to find a subset of vertices that is close to a clique in $\mathcal{G}$, such subset will allow us to define a global function $g$. We start by showing that there exist many vertices of high degree in $\mathcal{G}$.

**Claim 5.13.** Exists a set $S \subset \mathcal{V}$ of measure at least $\frac{\nu}{2}$, such that for every $S \in S$

$$\mathbb{P}_{S' \in \mathcal{V}}[S - S'] \geq \frac{1}{2}\nu.$$

**Proof.** Let

$$S = \left\{ S \subseteq \mathcal{V} \left| \mathbb{P}_{S'}[S - S'] \geq \frac{1}{2}\nu \right.\right\}.$$

By averaging

$$\nu \leq \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2}[S_1 - S_2]
\leq \mathbb{P}_{S_1}[S_1 \in S] \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2}[S_1 - S_2 | S_1 \in S] + \mathbb{P}_{S_1}[S_1 \notin S] \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2}[S_1 - S_2 | S_1 \notin S]
\leq \mathbb{P}_{S_1}[S_1 \in S] + \frac{1}{2}\nu \left(1 - \mathbb{P}_{S_1}[S_1 \in S]\right).$$

Then $\mathbb{P}_{S_1}[S_1 \in S] \geq \frac{1}{2}\nu$. \qed
Strong connectivity is not transitive, but we can have an "almost transitive" property by considering both strong and weak edges.

**Claim 5.14.** For $S, S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{V}$ uniformly and independently,

$$\Pr_{S,S_1,S_2} \left[ S - S_1, S - S_2, S_1 \neq S_2 \right] \leq 2e^{-a^2k}$$

**Proof.** Fix $S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{V}$ to be two vertices such that $S_1 \neq S_2$ (if there are no such vertices, the probability is 0 and we are done).

For every $S \in \mathcal{V}$, we define by $d_i, d_i^1, d_i^2$ the following distances:

1. For each $i \in S_1 \cap S_2$, $d_i = \text{dist}(f_{S_1}(i), f_{S_2}(i))$.
2. For each $i \in S \cap S_1$, $d_i^1 = \text{dist}(f_S(i), f_{S_1}(i))$.
3. For each $i \in S \cap S_2$, $d_i^2 = \text{dist}(f_S(i), f_{S_2}(i))$.

By the triangle inequality, for every $i \in S \cap S_1 \cap S_2$, $d_i \leq d_i^1 + d_i^2$, therefore for every such $i$, $\max(d_i^1, d_i^2) \geq \frac{d_i}{2}$.

Since $S_1 \neq S_2$, we know that $E_{i \in S_1 \cap S_2} [d_i] \geq 60 \alpha$, if we look on the sum $\sum_{i \in S_1 \cap S_2} d_i \geq \frac{8k}{10} 60 \alpha$ (because $|S_1 \cap S_2| \geq \frac{8k}{10}$). If $S - S_1, S - S_2$, then $\max[E_{i \in S \cap S_1} [d_i^1], E_{i \in S \cap S_2} [d_i^2]] \leq \alpha$, which means that $\max(\sum_{i \in S \cap S_1} d_i^1, \sum_{i \in S \cap S_2} d_i^2) \leq \frac{9}{10} \alpha k$ (we switched expectation in a sum, $|S \cap S_1| \leq \frac{9k}{10}$).

$$\max\left\{ \sum_{i \in S \cap S_1} d_i^1, \sum_{i \in S \cap S_2} d_i^2 \right\} \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in S \cap S_1 \cap S_2} \max\{d_i^1, d_i^2\} \geq \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i \in S \cap S_1 \cap S_2} d_i. \quad (29)$$

The first inequality is since taking the maximum over every $i$ can increase the total sum in a factor of 2 at most from taking maximum of the sum. The second inequality is since $\max(d_i^1, d_i^2) \geq \frac{d_i}{2}$.

Notice that the last expression is independent of the function $f_S$, and depends only on the set $S$. Let $X_S$ be the random variable $X_S = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i \in S \cap S_1 \cap S_2} d_i$ for a uniform $S \in \mathcal{V}$. Since the set $S$ is a uniform $\frac{9k}{10}$ sized subset of $[k]$, $E_S[X_S] = \frac{9}{10} \sum_{i \in S_1 \cap S_2} d_i \geq \frac{9}{10} \frac{8k}{10} 60 \alpha k$. For $S \in \mathcal{V}$ such that $X_S > \alpha k$, by $(29)$ it means that $S$ is not strongly connected to one of $S_1, S_2$.

To finish the proof, we need to show that $X_S \leq \alpha k$ for very few $S \in \mathcal{V}$. Let $D$ contain the $\frac{k}{3}$ indices $i \in S_1 \cap S_2$ with the largest $d_i$. Obviously $\sum_{i \in D} d_i \geq \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i \in S_1 \cap S_2} d_i \geq 16 \alpha k$. In order of $X_S \leq \alpha k$, the sum over $i \in D \cap S$ should satisfy, $\sum_{i \in D \cap S} d_i \leq 4 \alpha k$. By **Claim 5.15**, this happens with probability less than $2e^{-a^2k}$.

Therefore, for every $S_1 \neq S_2$, the probability of a uniform $S \in \mathcal{V}$ to be strongly connected to both is at most $2e^{-a^2k}$. This is true for every $S_1 \neq S_2$, it is also true for a random pair. \(\square\)

**Claim 5.15** (Fixed sized Chernoff bound). For every constant $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be a large enough integer, $D \subset [k]$ a subset of size at most $\frac{k}{3}$, and for every $i \in D$ let $d_i \in [0, 1]$ be constants such that $\sum_{i \in D} d_i > 4 \alpha k$.

Let $S \subset [k]$ be a random subset of size exactly $\frac{9k}{10}$, then

$$\Pr_S \left[ \sum_{i \in S \cap D} d_i \leq \alpha k \right] \leq 2e^{-a^2k} \quad (30)$$

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Proof. For a set \( S \) that is chosen by putting each \( i \in [k] \) in \( S \) with probability \( \frac{9}{10} \) independently, Chernoff bound gives us the required bound easily. Because \( S \) has a fixed size, we need to work a little harder.

For each \( i \in D \), let \( S \) be a uniform set in \( \left( \left\lfloor \frac{k}{9} \right\rfloor \right) \), and let \( I_i \) be,

\[
I_i = \begin{cases} 
  d_i & i \in S \\
  0 & i \notin S
\end{cases}
\]

In this notation, \( \sum_{i \in S \cap D} d_i = \sum_{i \in D} I_i \). The random variables \( I_i \) are not independent, we define the independent random variables \( J_i \),

\[
J_i = \begin{cases} 
  d_i & \text{w.p.} \frac{1}{2} \\
  0 & \text{w.p.} \frac{1}{2}
\end{cases}
\]

Since \( |D| = \frac{k}{3} \), and \( S \) is a uniform \( \frac{9}{10} k \) sized subset of \([k]\), even conditioning on all other \( j \in D \setminus \{i\} \) to be in \( S \), the probability of \( i \) to be in \( S \) is at least \( \frac{1}{2} \).

\[
P[I_i = d_i \mid \forall j \in D \setminus \{i\}, I_j > 0] \geq P[J_i = d_i]. \tag{31}
\]

So a lower bound for \( J_i \) implies a lower bound for \( I_i \).

The random variables \( J_i \) satisfies \( E \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i \right] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in D} d_i \geq 2ak \).

\[
\mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in S \cap D} d_i \leq ak \right] = \mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in D} I_i \leq ak \right] \\
\leq \mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i \leq ak \right] \\
\leq \mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i - E \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i \right] \geq ak \right] \quad \text{(Chernoff bound)} \\
\leq 2e^{-a^2 k}.
\]

\( \square \)

From the last two claims, Claim 5.13 and Claim 5.14, conclude that there is a high degree vertex in \( V \) that its neighbors almost form a clique.

Claim 5.16. There exists a set \( S \in \mathcal{S} \) such that

\[
\mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{V}} [S_1 \sim S_2 \mid S_1 - S, S_2 - S] \geq 1 - \alpha
\]

Proof. From Claim 5.13, we know that if we choose \( S, S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{V} \) independently,

\[
\mathbb{P}_{S, S_1, S_2} [S \in S, S - S_1, S - S_2] \geq \mathbb{P}_{S} [S \in S] \mathbb{P}_{S, S_1} [S - S_1 \mid S \in S]^2 \geq \left( \frac{\nu}{2} \right)^3
\]

From Claim 5.14, on the same distribution

\[
\mathbb{P}_{S, S_1, S_2} [S - S_1, S - S_2, S_1 \neq S_2] \leq 2e^{-a^2 k}
\]

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Therefore
\[ \mathbb{P}_{S \sim S_1, S_2} [S_1 \neq S_2 \mid S \in S, S - S_1, S - S_2] \leq \left( \frac{2}{\alpha} \right)^3 2e^{-\alpha^2k} < \alpha \]

The last inequality is since \( \log \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \alpha^2k \).

From averaging, there must be \( S \in S \) that achieves this bound. \( \square \)

**Proof of Theorem 5.11.** Let \( \tilde{S} \in S \) be the vertex promised from Claim 5.16, and denote by \( C \) its strong neighbors,

\[ C = \left\{ S \in \left\lfloor \frac{k}{60} \right\rfloor : S - \tilde{S} \right\} \]

since \( \tilde{S} \in S \), the measure of \( C \) is at least \( \frac{1}{2} \). From the claim we also know that \( \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2 \in C} [S_1 \neq S_2] \leq \alpha \), so almost every two sets in \( C \) have small difference.

The global function \( g(i) \) is defined to be \( \beta \in \Sigma \) that is closest to \( f_S(i) \) over all \( S \in C \) that contains \( i \),

\[ \forall i \in [k], \quad g(i) = \arg\min_{\beta \in \Sigma} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{S \in C \text{ s.t. } i \in S} [\text{dist}(f_S(i), \beta)] \right\}. \]

If there is no \( S \in C \) such that \( i \in S \), we define \( g(i) \) to an arbitrary value.

We notice that for every \( i \), by definition

\[ \mathbb{P}_{S \in C \text{ s.t. } i \in S} [\text{dist}(f_S(i), g(i))] \leq \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2 \in C \text{ s.t. } i \in S_1, S_2} [\text{dist}(f_{S_1}(i), f_{S_2}(i))]. \tag{32} \]

We know that \( S_1, S_2 \in C \) are weakly connected with probability at least \( 1 - \alpha \), which means that the difference between their functions is small.

\[ \mathbb{E}_{S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) \right] \leq 1 \cdot \mathbb{P}_{S_1, S_2 \in C} [S_1 \neq S_2] + \mathbb{E}_{S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) \mid S_1 \sim S_2 \right] \]

\[ \leq \alpha + 60\alpha \leq 61\alpha. \]

By the definition of difference, we get that,

\[ 61\alpha \geq \mathbb{E}_{S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) \right] \]

\[ \geq \mathbb{E}_{S_1, S_2 \in C, i \in S_1 \cap S_2} \left[ \text{dist}(f_{S_1}(i), f_{S_2}(i)) \right]. \tag{33} \]

Notice that the distribution over \( i \) in this expression is not uniform, we define formally the distributions over \( i \) that we use.

1. Let \( \mathcal{D}_1 : [k] \to [0, 1] \) be the distribution that picks \( S \in C \) uniformly, then \( i \in S \).

2. Let \( \mathcal{D}_2 : [k] \to [0, 1] \) be the distribution that picks \( S_1, S_2 \in C \) uniformly, then \( i \in S_1 \cap S_2 \) (as \( |S_i| = \frac{9k}{10} \) there is always such \( i \)).

Using this definition, (33) can also be written as

\[ \mathbb{E}_{i \sim \mathcal{D}_2, S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \text{dist}(f_{S_1}(i), f_{S_2}(i)) \mid i \in S_1 \cap S_2 \right] \leq 61\alpha. \tag{34} \]

To prove the theorem, we need to prove (34) when \( i \sim \mathcal{D}_1 \). First, we show that the distributions \( \mathcal{D}_1, \mathcal{D}_2 \) are close to each other. In order to do so, we define the following set, \( D \),

\[ D = \left\{ i \in [k] \left| \mathbb{P}_{S \in C} [i \in S] < \frac{1}{2} \right\} \right. \]

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By Claim 5.17, the set \( D \) is small \(|D| \leq 4ak\). For each \( i \notin D \), \( \mathbb{P}_{S \in C} [i \in S] \in \left[ \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right] \) which means that for every \( i \notin D \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{j \sim D_1} [j = i \mid j \notin D] \leq 2 \mathbb{P}_{j \sim D_2} [j = i \mid j \notin D].
\]  

(35)

Using (35), (34) and (32), we show that the expected difference between \( g \) and \( f_S \) for a random \( S \in C \) is small,

\[
\mathbb{E}_{S \in C} [\Delta(f_S, g)] = \mathbb{E}_{S \in C, i \in S} \left[ \text{dist}(f(i), g(i)) \right] = \mathbb{E}_{i \sim D_1} \left[ \text{dist}(f_S(i), g(i)) \mid i \in S \right] \leq \mathbb{P}_{i \sim D_1} [i \in D] + \mathbb{E}_{i \sim D_1, S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \text{dist}(f_S(i), f_S(i)) \mid i \in S_1 \cap S_2 \setminus D \right]
\]

(by definition of \( D_1 \))

\[
\leq 4\alpha + 2 \mathbb{E}_{i \sim D_1, S_1, S_2 \in C} \left[ \text{dist}(f_S(i), f_S(i)) \mid i \in S_1 \cap S_2 \setminus D \right]
\]

(by (32))

\[
\leq 4\alpha + 2 \cdot \frac{61\alpha}{1 - 4\alpha} \leq 150\alpha.
\]

(36)

Equation (32) holds for every \( i \in [k] \), therefore it holds for expectation over \( i \) under any distribution. The last inequality holds because of (34), and because if we condition on \( i \notin D \) we can increase the probability by a factor of at most \( \mathbb{P}_{i \sim D_2} [i \notin D] \), which is small.

The only thing left now is a Markov argument, if \( \mathbb{E}_{S \in C} [\Delta(f_S, g)] \leq 150\alpha \), then at least half of the sets \( S \in C \) satisfies \( \Delta(f_S, g) \leq 300\alpha \), since the measure of \( C \) is \( \frac{\alpha}{2} \), the measure of half of \( C \) is \( \frac{\alpha}{4} \) and we are done.

Claim 5.17. Let \( C \subset \binom{[k]}{\frac{9}{2}} \) a subset of fraction size \( \frac{9}{2} \), then the number of indices \( i \in k \) such that \( \mathbb{P}_{S \in C} [i \in S] \leq \frac{1}{2} \) is at most \( 4ak \).

Proof. Let \( D \subset [k] \) be this set of indices

\[
D = \left\{ i \in [k] \mid \mathbb{P}_{S \in C} [i \in S] \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\}
\]

If we pick a completely uniform \( S' \in \binom{[k]}{\frac{9}{2}} \),

\[
\mathbb{E}_{S'} [|S' \cap D|] = \frac{9}{10} |D|
\]

From Chernoff, using Claim 2.5 with \( A = [k] \setminus S' \), (if \( |D| \geq \frac{k}{3} \), the probability is even smaller)

\[
\mathbb{P}_{S'} [|S' \cap D| \leq 2|D|] \leq e^{-\frac{|D|}{5}}
\]

If we pick a uniform subset in \( S \in C \), instead of a completely uniform set:

\[
\mathbb{P}_{S \in C} [|S \cap D| \leq 2|D|] \leq \frac{2}{9} e^{-\frac{|D|}{45}}
\]
From the definition of $D$, for each $i \in D$, $\mathbb{P}_{S \in C}[i \in S] \leq \frac{1}{2}$, so of course
\[ \mathbb{E}_{S \in C}[|S \cap D|] \leq \frac{1}{2}|D| \]

From averaging
\[ \mathbb{P}_{S \in C}[|S \cap D| \leq \frac{2}{3}|D|] \geq \frac{1}{4} \]

This implies that $\frac{2}{3}e^{-\frac{|D|}{32}} \geq \frac{1}{4}$, which means that $|D| \leq 4\alpha k$ (recall that $\nu > e^{-\frac{1}{100} \alpha k}$).

\[ \square \]

### 5.4 Direct Product Function Inputs

In Section 5.2 we proved Claim 5.3, let $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_z$ for this input $x$. From the claim, we know that for each $A \in \mathcal{A}$ there exists a direct product function $g_A$ such that,
\[ \mathbb{P}_{A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A}}[g_{A_1}, g_{A_2} \text{ are consistent}] \geq \frac{e^2}{32}. \]

We want to use Theorem 5.11 in order to build a global direct product function. For every $A \in \mathcal{A}$, the direct product function $g_A = (g_{A,1}, \ldots, g_{A,32})$, $g_{A,i} : [N] \to [M]$ can also be written as $f_S : S \to \Sigma$, where $S = [k] \setminus A$, and $\Sigma = [M]^N$. For every $i \in S$, $f_S(i)$ is the truth table of $g_{A,i}$. The distance measure in $\Sigma$ is the normalized hamming distance between two strings in $[M]^N$, i.e.
\[ \text{dist}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = \mathbb{P}_{u \in [N]}[\sigma_1(u) \neq \sigma_2(u)]. \]

From the definition of consistent, for every consistent $A_1, A_2$, the functions $f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}$ satisfy $\Delta(f_{S_1}, f_{S_2}) < 60\lambda$.

For any $A \notin \mathcal{A}$, we define a “fake” function $f_S$ for $S = [k] \setminus A$, and assume that its outputs are at distance 1 from any other outputs, i.e. for every $S' \in \binom{[N]}{k}$, $i \in S \cap S'$, $\text{dist}(f_S(i), f_{S'}(i)) = 1$.

Let $\mathcal{F}$ be the collection of local functions $\{f_S\}_{S \in \binom{[N]}{k}}$ that we have just defined, let $\alpha = 60\lambda$ and $\nu = \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^2 \frac{e^2}{32} = \frac{e^4}{512}$.

\[ \text{agree}_\alpha(\mathcal{F}) = \mathbb{P}_{A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A}, A_1, A_2 \text{ are consistent}}[A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{A}, A_1, A_2 \text{ are consistent}] \geq \left(\frac{e^4}{4}\right)^2 \frac{e^2}{32} = \nu. \]

In order of the theorem to hold, we need $\nu = \frac{e^4}{32} = \frac{1}{32}e^{-4c_1\lambda^2k}$ to satisfy $\nu > e^{-\frac{1}{100} \alpha^2k} = e^{-\frac{1}{100}(60\lambda)^2k}$, this holds for a small enough $c_1$.

By Theorem 5.11, there exists a product function $g' : [k] \to \Sigma$ which is close to $\frac{\nu}{4}$ of the functions $f_S$. Translating it back to our setting, we can write $g'$ as $g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k), g_i : [N] \to [M]$, and a set $\mathcal{A}'$ of size $\frac{\nu}{4} = \frac{1}{2048}e^4$, such that for each $A \in \mathcal{A}'$,
\[ \mathbb{P}_{i \in A, u \in [N]}[g_i(u_i) \neq g_{A,i}(u_i)] \leq 300\alpha = 18000\lambda. \]

For simplicity of notations, let $\delta = 300\alpha$. Notice that by our definition, for each $A \notin \mathcal{A}$ the function $g_A$ never agrees with any other function, therefore $\mathcal{A}' \subset \mathcal{A}$.

**Definition 5.18.** An input $z$ is consistent with a set $A \in \mathcal{A}'$ with respect to the product function $g$, denoted by $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^g$, if $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A$, and $g_A(z_A) \approx g(z)_A$. 

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Claim 5.19. For each $A \in \mathcal{A}$,
\[
\mathbb{P}_{z \in [N]^k} \left[ z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{8}
\]

Proof. Fix $A \in \mathcal{A}$, for each $i \in A$, denote by $p_i$ the probability of $g, g_A$ to differ on the $i$th coordinate, $p_i = \mathbb{P}_{u \in [N]} [g_{A,i}(u) \neq g_i(u)]$, from Theorem 5.11 $\mathbb{E}_{i \in A} [p_i] \leq \delta$.

Let $I_i$ be the indicator random variable that equals 1 with probability $p_i$ independently for each $i$. For a uniform $z \in [N]^k$,
\[
\mathbb{E}_{z \in [N]^k} \left[ \text{dist}(g_A(z), g(z)) \right] = \sum_{i \in A} I_i
\]

Using Chernoff
\[
\mathbb{P}_{z} \left[ g_A(z) \neq g(z)_A \right] \leq \mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{i \in [k] \setminus A} I_i \geq 2 \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i \in [k] \setminus A} I_i \right] \right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{2} \delta k} \leq \frac{\epsilon}{8}.
\]

We know that $A \in \mathcal{A}$, therefore $\mathbb{P}_{z} \left[ z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4}$, therefore
\[
\mathbb{P}_{z} \left[ z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4} - \frac{\epsilon}{8} = \frac{\epsilon}{8}
\]

Claim 5.20. If $z \in [N]^k$ is satisfies $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing$ for more than $\frac{\epsilon}{10}$ fraction of the sets $A \in \mathcal{A}$, then $f(z) \approx g(z)$.

Proof. Fix $z \in [N]^k$ such that $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing$ for more than $\frac{\epsilon}{16}$ fraction of the sets $A \in \mathcal{A}$.

Assume towards contradiction that $f(z) \approx g(z)$, and denote by $D \subset [k]$ the set of coordinates in which they differ
\[
D = \left\{ i \in [k] \mid f(z)_i \neq g(z)_i \right\}.
\]

For each $A$ such that $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing$, by definition $g(z)_A \approx g_A(z)_A$. Since $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing$, we also know that $g_A(z)_A \approx f(z)_A$. Using both,
\[
g(z)_A \approx g_A(z)_A \approx f(z)_A.
\]

By the definition of $D$, this implies that $|A \cap D| \leq 2\delta k + 20\lambda k \leq 2.1\delta k$, the rest of $D$ must be in $A$, $|A \cap D| \geq |D| - 2.1\delta k$. According to our assumption, $|D| \geq 3\delta k$, which implies that $|A \cap D| \geq \frac{1}{4}|D|$.

From the previous paragraph, all sets $A$ such that $z \in \mathcal{Z}_A^\varnothing$ satisfies $|A \cap D| \geq \frac{1}{4}|D|$, and there are $\frac{\epsilon}{16} |\mathcal{A}|$ such sets.

From Claim 2.5, we know that for a random set $A \subset [k]$ of size $\frac{1}{10} k$,
\[
\mathbb{P}_A \left[ |D \cap A| \geq \frac{1}{4} |D| \right] \leq e^{-150.4k}.
\]

The set $\mathcal{A}$ has measure $\frac{\epsilon}{2048}$ in order to satisfy the requirements $\frac{\epsilon}{16} \cdot \frac{\epsilon}{2048} < e^{-150.4k}$, and we reach a contradiction.

\[\square\]
The previous claims practically finishes the proof

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** From Claim 5.19, each $A \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfies $|2^g_A| \geq \frac{3}{8}N^k$, therefore

$$E \left[ \left| \mathbb{E} \left[ A \in \mathcal{A} \mid z \in 2^g_A \right] \right| \right] = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{A}} E \left[ \mathbb{P}(z \in 2^g_A) \right] = \frac{1}{8} \varepsilon |\mathcal{A}|$$

From averaging, a uniform $z \in [N]^k$ satisfies $\left| \mathbb{E} \left[ A \in \mathcal{A} \mid z \in 2^g_A \right] \right| \geq \frac{1}{16}\varepsilon |\mathcal{A}|$ with probability at least $\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon$. Using Claim 5.20, each such input $z$ satisfies $f(z) \approx g(z) = \frac{30k}{\lambda} \approx g(z)$. We chose $\delta = 300 \alpha = 18000\lambda$, in order to get that $f(z) \approx g(z)$ we just need to choose small enough $c_1$, and substitute $\lambda' = \frac{1}{18000}\lambda$ in the proof. 

□

6 Lower Bounds for Approximate Equality

Our direct product theorem states that if a function $f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ passes Test 1 with $t = \frac{k}{10}$ with probability $\varepsilon > e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$, i.e. $\alpha_{Z(\hat{\lambda})}(f) > e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$, then there exists a direct product function $g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k)$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \left[ f(x) \approx g(x) \right] \geq \Omega(\varepsilon).$$

Ideally, we want the stronger conclusion that

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \left[ f(x) = g(x) \right] \geq \Omega(\varepsilon).$$

i.e., replacing approximate equality with equality.

In the introduction there is an example explaining why approximate equality is necessary for $f$ such that $\alpha_{Z(\hat{\lambda})}(f) \geq e^{-\delta k}$. In this section, we show two extensions.

1. We generalize Test 1 with intersection size $t$ to Test 5 with two intersection parameters $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{N}, t_1 + t_2 \leq k$, and show a lower bound for Test 5 with every such $t_1, t_2$ (Test 5 with $t_1 = t_2$ is equivalent to Test 1).

2. We analyze the triangle test, Test 6, and give a lower bound for this test.

**Definition 6.1.** We say that functions $f_1, f_2 : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ are $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ close, if

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in [N]^k} \left[ f_1(x) \approx_{\delta k} f_2(x) \right] \geq \varepsilon.$$ 

A function $f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ is $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ far from direct product, if there is no direct product function $g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k) : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ that is $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ close to $f$.

Recall $w \approx w'$ if $w, w'$ are equal in all but $t$ of the coordinates.

In this notation, Theorem 1.1 states that if $\alpha_{Z(\hat{\lambda})}(f) = e > e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$, then $f$ is $(\Omega(\varepsilon), \lambda)$ close to a direct product function. We are interested to know if it is possible to have a direct product theorem such that $f$ is $(\Omega(\varepsilon), 0)$ close to a direct product function.

Let $h$ be the function from Example 2 in the introduction, it satisfies $\alpha_{Z(\hat{\lambda})}(h) = e > e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$, but is $(c \cdot \varepsilon, \lambda)$-far from a direct product function for any constant $c$. Therefore, it is not true that $\alpha_{Z(\hat{\lambda})}(h) > e^{-c_1 \lambda^2 k}$ implies $(\Omega(\varepsilon), 0)$ close to a direct product function.
Test 5: ”Z”-test with parameters $t_1,t_2$ (3-query test)

1. Choose $A,B,C$ to be a random partition of $[k]$, such that $|A| = t_1$, $|B| = t_2$.

2. Choose uniformly at random $x,y,z \in [N]^k$ such that $x_A = y_A$ and $y_B = z_B$.

3. Reject if $f(x)_A \neq f(y)_A$ or $f(z)_B \neq f(y)_B$, else accept.

Denote by $\alpha_{Z(t_1,t_2)}(f)$ the success probability of $f$ on this test.

$h$ is a direct product function with noise, on each input $x \in [N]^k$, $h(x)$ is corrupted on $\lambda k$ coordinates. The direct product test with $t = \frac{k}{10}$ does not check all the coordinates of each input, so with probability $e^{-\lambda k}$, non of the corrupted coordinates are checked. However, if we change the parameters of the test from $t = \frac{k}{10}$ to $t = \frac{k}{2}$, in which all coordinates of the input $y$ are checked, the function $h$ no longer passes the test.

Is it possible to prove $(\Omega(\epsilon),0)$ close for Test 1 with $t = \frac{k}{2}$? The answer is no. For $m = [0,1]$ we don’t know the answer, and it remains an open question.

Claim 6.2. For every constant $\delta > 0$ and $t_1,t_2 \in \mathbb{N}, t_1 + t_2 \leq k$, there exist a constant $\beta > 0$ and a function $f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ for $N,M \gg k$, such that $\alpha_{Z(t_1,t_2)}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-\delta k}$, but $f$ is $(e^2, \frac{\beta}{\log k})$ far from any direct product function.

Proof. Test 5 is symmetric with respect to $t_1,t_2$, so we can assume wlog that $t_1 \geq t_2$. We choose $N,M \geq e^{2k}$ such that $M \leq \sqrt{N}$. We divide the proof into two cases, depending on $t_1$.

For each of the two cases we construct a function with $\ell$ corrupted coordinates, such that $\alpha_{Z(t_1,t_2)}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-\delta k}$, and show that both these functions are $(e^2, \frac{\beta}{\log k})$ far from direct product function.

If $t_1 \leq 0.4k$ This case is similar to Example 2, and we provide here a detailed analysis. Let $f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k$ be the constant function 1, i.e. $f(x) = 1, \ldots, 1$ for every $x \in [N]^k$, but for every $x \in [N]^k$ we corrupt $f(x)$ on $\ell \leq \frac{k}{10}k$ random coordinates $i_1^{(l)}, \ldots, i_{\ell}^{(l)}$ to random values in $[M] \setminus \{1\}$. The number of corrupted coordinates $\ell$ is decided later.

Let $A,B,C,x,y,z$ be the sets and inputs chosen in Test 5, since $t_2 \leq t_1 \leq 0.4k$, $|C| \geq 0.2k$. If all the corrupted coordinates of $x,y,z$ are not in $A$ and all the corrupted coordinates of $y,z$ not in $B$, the output of $f$ on all of the corrupted coordinates is not checked and the test passes.

$$
\mathbb{P} \text{ [Test passes]} \geq \mathbb{P} \left[ i_1^{(1)}, \ldots, i_{\ell}^{(l)} \notin A, i_y^{(1)}, \ldots, i_y^{(l)} \notin A \cup B, i_z^{(1)}, \ldots, i_z^{(l)} \notin B \right] \geq 0.1^{3\ell}.
$$

The last inequality is because the corrupted coordinates on $x,y,z$ are independent. For input $x$ and $i_1^{(1)}, \ldots, i_{\ell}^{(l)}$, even conditioning on $i_1^{(1)}, \ldots, i_{\ell-1}^{(l)} \in C$, the probability of $i_{\ell}^{(l)}$ to be in $C$ is at least 0.1 (since $\ell \leq 0.1k$), same for $y,z$.

We choose $\ell = \beta k$ for a constant $\beta$, such that $0.1^{3\ell} \geq e^{-\delta k}$, this means that $f$ satisfies $\alpha_{Z(t_1,t_2)}(f) = \epsilon \geq e^{-\delta k}$.

We now show that $f$ is $(e^2, \frac{\beta}{\log k})$-far from every direct product function. We do it by describing a property of $f$, showing that our function satisfies it with high probability and that this property implies $(e^2, \frac{\beta}{\log k})$-far from direct product function.
For every \( i \in [k], b \in [N] \) let \( G_{i,b} \) be
\[
G_{i,b} = \left\{ x \in [N]^k \mid x_i = b \right\}.
\]
The function \( f \) is called balanced if for every \( i \in [k], b \in [N], a \in [M] \setminus \{1\} \),
\[
\mathbb{P}_{x \in G_{i,b}} \left[ f(x)_i = a \right] \leq \frac{2k}{M}.
\]

We show that our random function \( f \) is balanced with probability almost 1. Fix \( i \in [k], b \in [N], a \in [M] \setminus \{1\} \). By the definition of \( f \), \( \mathbb{P}_{x \in G_{i,b}} \left[ f(x)_i = a \right] \leq \frac{1}{M} \), and this is independent for each \( x \in G_{i,b} \), therefore using Chernoff bound
\[
\mathbb{P} \left[ \sum_{x \in G_{i,b}} I(f(x)_i = a) \geq \frac{2}{M} N^{k-1} \right] \leq e^{-\frac{k}{3} N^{k-1}}.
\]

Preforming union bound over all \( i \in [k], b \in [N], a \in [M] \), the probability that \( f \) is balanced is at least \( 1 - k M e^{-\frac{k}{3} N^{k-1}} \geq 1 - e^{-N} \).

Given that \( f \) is balanced and has exactly \( \ell \) corrupted coordinates per input, we show it is \( (e^2, \frac{\ell}{2N}) \)-far from direct product function. Let \( f \) be such function, and assume towards contradiction that there exist \( g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k) \) that is \( (e^2, \frac{\ell}{2N}) \) close to \( f \). Let \( F = \left\{ x \in [N]^k \mid f(x) \approx g(x) \right\} \), by our assumption \( |F| \geq e^2 N^k \).

Let \( F_{i,b} \subseteq G_{i,b} \) be the set
\[
F_{i,b} = \left\{ x \in F \mid x_i = b, g_i(x_i) = f(x)_i \neq 1 \right\}.
\]

Every \( x \in F \) has \( \ell \) coordinates \( i \in [k] \) in which \( f(x)_i \neq 1 \). For every \( x \in F \), \( f(x) \approx g(x) \), so there must be \( i \in [k] \) such that \( f(x)_i = g_i(x_i) \neq 1 \). Therefore, every \( x \in F \) must be in at least one \( F_{i,b} \), and the sets \( \{F_{i,b} \}_{i \in [k], b \in [N]} \) must cover \( F \), i.e. \( F \subseteq \bigcup_{i \in [k], b \in [N]} F_{i,b} \).

By definition, all \( x \in F_{i,b} \) satisfies \( f(x)_i = g_i(b) \in [M] \setminus \{1\} \), since \( f \) is balanced, \( |F_{i,b}| \leq \frac{2k}{M} |G_{i,b}| \leq \frac{2k}{M} N^{k-1} \).
\[
|F| \leq \sum_{i \in [k], b \in [N]} |F_{i,b}| \leq Nk \cdot \frac{2k}{M} N^{k-1} \leq \frac{2k^2}{M} N^k \ll e^2 N^k
\]

and we reached a contradiction to the assumption \( |F| \geq e^2 N^k \).

If \( t_1 > 0.4k \) in this case, we can’t simply corrupt coordinates to random values, because it is possible that \( t_1 + t_2 = t \), and all coordinates of \( f(y) \) are checked. Instead, we corrupt coordinates in a more subtle way. We start by constructing a function \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \) that has a single corrupted coordinate per input, and \( \alpha_{Z(t_1,t_2)}(f) = \Omega(\frac{1}{k}) \).

Let \( f : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k \) be the constant 1 function (i.e. \( f(x) = 1, \ldots, 1 \) for all \( x \)), and for every \( b \in [N] \), let \( p_b : [N] \rightarrow [M] \setminus \{1\} \) be a random function. For every input \( x \in [N]^k \), we choose two random coordinates \( i_x \neq j_x \in [k] \), \( i_x \) is the corrupted coordinate, and \( j_x \) is the master coordinate. We corrupt \( f(x) \) by setting \( b = x_{j_x} \) and
\[
f(x)_{i_x} = p_b(x_{i_x}).
\]
Let $A, B, x, y, z$ be the sets and inputs chosen in the test, if $i_x = i_y$, $j_x = j_y$ and $i_x, j_x \in A$, then $f(x)_j = f(y)_j$ (because the corrupted coordinates are corrupted to the same value). If in addition $i_z \notin B$, then also $f(z)_B = f(y)_B$ (because $y, z$ don’t have any corrupted coordinates on $B$).

The probability of $i_x = i_y$ and $j_x = j_y$ is $\frac{1}{k^2}$, as they are both random indices in $[k]$. The probability of $i_x, j_x \in A, i_z \notin B$ is at least $0.3^2$, therefore $\alpha_A(i_z, j_z)(f) = \Omega(\frac{1}{k^2})$.

Instead of corrupting a single coordinate per input, we can corrupt $\ell \leq 0.1k$ different coordinates, by choosing different $i_x^{(1)}, \ldots, i_x^{(0)}$ and $j_x^{(1)}, \ldots, j_x^{(0)}$ for every $x \in [N]^k$, and continue as before. A similar probabilistic argument shows that that this function $f$ has $\alpha_A(i_z, j_z)(f) = \Omega(\frac{1}{k^2})$ (conditioning on all other $i_x^{(1)}, \ldots, i_x^{(0)}, j_x^{(1)}, \ldots, j_x^{(0)} \in A$, the probability of $i_x^{(0)} \in A$ is at least $0.2$).

Fix a constant $\delta > 0$, in order of the function $f$ to pass the test with probability $e^{-\delta k}$, the number of corrupted coordinates $\ell$ should satisfy $\ell \leq \beta \frac{k}{\log k}$ for some constant $\beta > 0$.

The constant function $1$ is $(1, \frac{1}{k})$ close to $f$, we show that any direct product function $g = (g_1, \ldots, g_k)$ is $(e^2, \frac{1}{k})$-far from $f$. Intuitively, it is true because the corrupted coordinates are corrupted to $N$ different random functions, receiving values in $M$, for $k \ll N, M$. More formally, we show that with high probability the function $f$ is also balanced, and use the proof of the previous case.

In the previous case, we showed that $f$ is balanced with high probability by Chernoff bound over the inputs in $G_{i,b}$. This is not possible to do in our case, because for $x, y \in G_{i,b}$, there is a dependence between the values of the corrupted coordinates of $x$ and $y$. Instead, we look at the random set of functions $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$.

The function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$ is called balanced, if for every $b' \in [N]$ and $a \in [M] \setminus \{1\}$, $\mathbb{P}_{b \in \{N\}}[p_b(b') = a] \leq 2 \frac{M}{M-1}$. Fix $b' \in [N], a \in [M] \setminus \{1\}$, a random function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$ satisfies for every $b \in [N]$, $\mathbb{P}_{p_b}[p_b(b') = a] = \frac{1}{M-1}$, independently for each function $p_b$. Therefore using Chernoff bound,

$$\mathbb{P}_{ \{p_b\} } \left[ \sum_{b \in \{N\}} I(p_b(b') = a) > \frac{2N}{M} \right] \leq e^{-\frac{N}{M}} \leq e^{-\frac{\sqrt{N}}{M}}.$$ 

Preforming union bound over all $b' \in [N], a \in [M] \setminus \{1\}$, a random function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$ is balanced with probability at least $1 - NMe^{-\frac{\sqrt{N}}{M}}$.

We now show that a balanced function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$ implies a balanced function $f$. Fix $i \in [k], b' \in [N], a \in [M]$, and let $A = \{ b \in [N] \mid p_b(b') = a \}$, if $\{p_b\}_{b \in \{N\}}$ is balanced, then $|A| \leq \frac{2}{M} N$. The set $G_{i,b'}$ is a subcube of dimension $k - 1$, so its coordinates are uniform in $[N]$, and by union bound

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in G_{i,b'}} \left[ \exists j \in [k] \setminus [i] \text{ s.t. } x_j \in A \right] \leq \frac{2k}{M}.$$ 

If there is no $j$ such that $x_j \in A$, it is impossible that $f(x)_i = a$, because $f(x)_i$ is either $1$, or $p_x(b')$ for some $j \in [k] \setminus [i]$. Therefore, at most $\frac{2k}{M}$ of $x \in G_{i,b'}$ can satisfy $f(x)_i = a$, and such $f$ is balanced with probability $1$.

The function $f$ is balanced with $\ell$ corrupted coordinates per input, so by the previous case, $f$ is $(e^2, \frac{\ell}{2k})$-far from direct product. □
Notice that in the proof, the range of \( t_1 \leq 0.4k \) has a lower bound of \( \ell = \beta k \), whereas in the second case, the lower bound is only \( \ell = \frac{\beta k}{\log k} \).

The example in the proof can easily be transformed into a function on sets \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k \), which gives a bound on Test 4. This is done by choosing for each set \( S \in \binom{[N]}{k} \) \( \ell \) elements in \( S \) to corrupt and \( \ell \) master elements (instead of coordinates).

In Test 5 with \( t_1 + t_2 = k \), we compare \( f(y) \) on all coordinates, but only part of the coordinates of \( f(x), f(z) \). What if we compare all coordinates of all three inputs? This brings us to the triangle test, Test 6, for functions over sets. In this test, every two out of the three inputs share a joint subset of size \( \frac{k}{2} \), for this test we must assume that \( k \) is even.

**Test 6:** Triangle test (3-query test, for even \( k \))

1. Choose disjoint \( W, X, Y \subset [N] \) of size \( \frac{k}{2} \).
2. Reject if \( f(X \cup W)_W \neq f(Y \cup W)_W, f(X \cup Y)_Y \neq f(Y \cup W)_Y \) or \( f(X \cup W)_X \neq f(X \cup Y)_X \), else accept.

Denote by \( \alpha_{T_{\text{set}}}(f) \) the success probability of \( f \) on this test.

**Claim 6.3.** For every constant \( \delta > 0 \), there exist a constant \( \beta > 0 \) and a function \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k \) with \( N, M \gg k \), such that \( \alpha_{T_{\text{set}}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-\delta k} \), and \( f \) is \( (\epsilon^2, \frac{\beta}{\log k}) \) far from direct product function.

**Proof.** The function \( f \) that we describe in this proof is similar to the function from the previous proof, we only need to modify it slightly such that there is the same number of corrupted elements in each half of the inputs. We start by describing a function with two corrupted elements per input.

Let \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k \) be the constant function 1, i.e. \( f(S) = 1, \ldots, 1 \) for every set \( S \), and for every \( b \in [N] \) we choose a random function \( p_b : [N] \rightarrow [M] \setminus \{1\} \). For every \( S \in \binom{[N]}{k} \), we choose two elements to corrupt \( a_1, a_2 \in S \) and two master elements \( b_1, b_2 \in S \). Then, we set \( f(S)_{a_1} = p_{b_1}(a_1) \) and \( f(S)_{a_2} = p_{b_2}(a_2) \).

Suppose \( W, X, Y \) are the sets chosen in Test 6, fix \( a_1, b_1 \in X, a_2, b_2 \in Y \) and \( a_3, b_3 \in W \). If the following three events hold, the test passes, see Figure 2

1. In the set \( S_2 = X \cup Y \) the elements chosen to corrupt are \( a_1, a_2 \) with the master elements \( b_1, b_2 \) respectively.
2. In the set \( S_1 = X \cup W \) the elements chosen to corrupt are \( a_1, a_3 \) with the master elements \( b_1, b_3 \) respectively.
3. In the set \( S_3 = Y \cup W \) the elements chosen to corrupt are \( a_2, a_3 \) with the master elements \( b_2, b_3 \) respectively.
If the three events hold, then on every check of the test, both the corrupted element and its master element are the same in both inputs, so they are corrupted to the same value and the check passes.

The probability of each event is at least $\frac{1}{k^4}$, and the events are independent, since the choice of which elements to corrupt is done independently for each $S \in \binom{[N]}{k}$. Therefore the function $f$ passes Test 6 with probability at least $\frac{1}{k^{12}}$. It is possible to do a more careful analysis and get a higher success probability bound, but it is not important in our case.

If we corrupt $2\ell$ elements per set $S \in \binom{[N]}{k}$, similar analysis shows that $f$ satisfies $\alpha_{\text{set}}(f) = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{k^{12}\ell}\right)$. Setting $\ell = \beta k \log k$ for some constant $\beta$, we get $f$ such that $\alpha_{\text{set}}(f) \geq e^{-\delta k}$.

We show that $f$ with $2\ell$ corrupted coordinates is $(\epsilon^2, \frac{\ell}{2\ell})$-far from direct product function in a very similar way to the previous proof. As we have seen in the proof of Claim 6.2, the random function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in [N]}$ is balanced with probability at least $1 - MNe^{-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{N}}$.

For every $b \in [N]$, let $G_b = \{S \subset [N] | |S| = k, b \in S\}$, we say that the function $f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k$ is balanced if for every $b' \in [N], a \in [M] \setminus \{1\}$,

$$\mathbb{P}_{S \in G_{b'}} \left[f(S)_{b'} = a\right] \leq \frac{2k}{M}.$$

We show that every $f$ with a balanced function set $\{p_b\}_{b \in [N]}$ is balanced. Fix $b' \in [N], a \in [M]$, and let $A = \{b \in [N] | p_b(b') = a\}$, for a balanced function set, $|A| \leq \frac{2M}{N}$. Like previously, the set $G_{b'}$ is actually equivalent to all subset of size $k - 1$ of elements in $[N] \setminus \{b'\}$, therefore a uniform $S \in G_{b'}$ contains $b \in A$ with probability at most $\frac{2k}{M}$, and $f$ is balanced.

Assume towards contradiction that $f$ is $(\epsilon^2, \frac{\ell}{2\ell})$ close to a direct product function $g : [N] \rightarrow [M]$, and let $F$ be set set of inputs in which $f(S) \approx_{\frac{\ell}{2\ell}} g(S)$. Similar to the previous proof, for every $b \in [N]$ let $F_b = \{S \in F | b \in S, f(S)_b = g(b) \neq 1\}$.

Since $g$ approximated $F$ up to $\ell - 1$ elements, and $f$ has $\ell$ corrupted elements, every $S \in F$
is in some $F_{b'}$, and $F \subseteq \cup_{b' \in [N]} F_{b'}$. Since $f$ is balanced, for every $b' \in [N]$, $|F_{b'}| \leq \frac{2k}{M}|G_{b'}|,$

$$|F| \leq \sum_{b' \in [N]} |F_{b'}| \leq N \frac{2k}{M}|G_{b'}| \leq \frac{2k^2}{M}\left(\binom{|N|}{k}\right).$$

The last inequality is because each $S \in \binom{|N|}{k}$ is in at most $k$ sets $G_{b'}$. This is a contradiction of $|F| \geq \epsilon^2 \binom{|N|}{k}$.

□

References


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[KMS16] Subhash Khot, Dor Minzer, and Muli Safra. On independent sets, 2-to-2 games and grassmann graphs. Electronic Colloquium on Computational Complexity (ECCC), 2016. 2
A Chernoff and Hypercontractivity Proofs

Proof of Claim 2.5. For each element \( i \in D \), we define the indicator random variable \( I_i \) to indicate that \( i \in A \). In this notation

\[
|A \cap D| = \sum_{i \in D} I_i.
\]

We want to use Chernoff bound on \( I_i \), but since \( A \) is of fixed size, the indicator variables are not independent. Instead, we define for each \( i \) the new random variables \( J_i \) that are independent.

For (2), let

\[
J_i = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{w.p. } \frac{3}{20} \\
0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - \frac{3}{20}
\end{cases}.
\]

For every \( i \in D \) and every fixed value \( b \in \{0, 1\}^{|D|} \) of the indicators \( \{I_l, l \neq i\} \),

\[
P[I_i = 1 | \forall l \neq i, I_l = b_l] \leq P[J_i = 1].
\]

In the worse case, they are all set to 0 (none is in \( A \)), and \( P[I_i = 1] = \frac{3}{20} \). Therefore, we can use Chernoff bound on the random variables \( J_i \) and get a result for \( I_i \):

\[
P_A \left[ \sum_{i \in D} I_i \geq \frac{1}{5} |D| \right] \leq P \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i \geq \frac{1}{5} |D| \right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{320}|D|}.
\]

For (3), we define

\[
J_i = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{w.p. } \frac{1}{15} \\
0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - \frac{1}{15}
\end{cases}.
\]

In this case, for every \( i \in D \) and fixed value \( b \in \{0, 1\}^{|D|} \), \( P[I_i = 1 | \forall l \neq i, I_l = b_l] \geq P[J_i = 1] \), and

\[
P_A \left[ \sum_{i \in D} I_i \leq \frac{1}{20} |D| \right] \leq P \left[ \sum_{i \in D} J_i \leq \frac{1}{20} |D| \right] \leq e^{-\frac{1}{120}|D|}.
\]

\[\square\]
Proof of Corollary 2.9. \(|A| \geq |B|\) implies \(a \leq b\), we know that
\[
e^{-\frac{\rho^2}{4(1-\rho)}} \geq e^{-\frac{\rho^2}{4(1-\rho)}} = \prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in B]^{\frac{\rho}{1-\rho}}\]

Similarly
\[
e^{-\frac{(2-\rho)(a^2+b^2)}{4(1-\rho)}} = e^{\frac{-\rho}{2(1-\rho)}\left(-\frac{a^2}{2} - \frac{b^2}{2}\right)} = e^{\left(1+\frac{\rho}{2(1-\rho)}\right)\left(-\frac{a^2}{2} - \frac{b^2}{2}\right)} =
\]

\[
\prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in B]^{1+\frac{\rho}{2(1-\rho)}} \prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in A]^{1+\frac{\rho}{2(1-\rho)}}\]
Together we get
\[
\prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in A \land y \in B] \geq \prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in A]^{1+\frac{\rho}{2(1-\rho)}} \prod_{x \in [N]^k} [x \in B]^{1+\frac{3\rho}{2(1-\rho)}}
\]
\[
\square
\]

Proof of Claim 2.10. We notice that regardless which of the sets \(G, L\) is the largest, by Corollary 2.9,
\[
\prod_{w \in [N]^k, (v,j) \in N_3(w)} [w \in L, v \in G] \geq \left(\prod_{w \in L} [w \in L]\right)^{\frac{\rho}{12}} \nu^{-\frac{11}{2}}.
\]
By the definition of \(L\),
\[
\prod_{w \in [N]^k, (v,j) \in N_\nu(w)} [w \in L, v \in G] \leq \prod_{w \in L} [w \in L]\eta.
\]
Therefore
\[
\prod_{w \in L} [w \in L]^{\frac{n}{2}} \leq \nu^{-\frac{11}{2}} \eta.
\]
\[
\square
\]

B Tuple to Sets Local Structure Proof

In this section we prove Lemma 4.3, restricted global structure for sets, we restate it below.

Lemma 4.3. There exist a small constants \(\delta > 0\), such that for every constant \(\lambda > 0\) and large enough \(k \in \mathbb{N}\) such that \(N > k^2 e^{10\delta^2 k}\), the following holds,

For every function \(f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k\), if \(\alpha_{Z_{\alpha_{\binom{[N]}{k}}}}(f) = e > e^{-\delta^2 k}\), then at least \((1 - e^2 - \frac{k^2}{N})\) of the good pairs \(W \in \binom{[N]}{k}\), \(X \in \binom{[N]}{k}\) are DP pairs, i.e. there exist \(g_{X,W} : [N] \to [M]\) such that
\[
\prod_{Y} \left[f(Y \cup W)_{Y} \neq g_{X,W}(Y) \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(X \cup W)_{W} = f(Y \cup W)_{W}\right] \leq 2e^2.
\]

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In order to prove the lemma, for every function \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \) we define a function \( f' : [N]^k \to [M]^k \cup \perp \). For every \( S \subseteq [N] \), we assume that the output of \( f(S) \) is ordered in an ascending order over the elements of \( S \).

In order to simplify the notation, for every string \( x \in [N]^k \), we define \( U(x) = 1 \) if \( x \) has unique coordinates, i.e. there is no \( i \neq j \) such that \( x_i = x_j \), else \( U(x) = 0 \).

**Definition B.1.** Given a function \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \), let \( f' : [N]^k \to [M]^k \cup \perp \) be defined as follows. For every \( x \in [N]^k \) let \( X \) be the set of elements in \( x \),

\[
f'(x) = \begin{cases} 
\pi(f(X)) & U(x) = 1 \\
\perp & U(x) = 0
\end{cases}
\]

Where \( \pi \in S_k \) is the permutation from the ascending order over the elements of \( X \) to \( x \).

For a set \( S \subseteq [N] \) of size \( k \) and a permutation \( \pi \in S_k \), we denote by \( \pi(S) \in [N]^k \) the string generated by applying \( \pi \) on the elements of \( S \) ordered in an ascending order. Therefore, for every \( X \in \binom{[N]}{k} \), \( f'(\pi(X)) = \pi(f(X)) \).

**Definition B.2.** Let \( \mathcal{D} : \binom{[N]}{k} \times \binom{[N]}{k} \times \binom{[N]}{k} \to [0,1] \) be the following distribution:

1. Choose \( W \subseteq [N] \) of size \( \frac{k}{10} \).
2. Choose \( X \subseteq [N] \) of size \( \frac{9k}{10} \) such that \( X \cap W = \emptyset \).
3. Choose \( Y \subseteq [N] \) of size \( \frac{9k}{10} \) such that \( Y \cap W = \emptyset \).

Let \( \mathcal{D}' : \binom{[k]}{m} \times [N]^k \times [N]^k \to [0,1] \) be the following distribution:

1. Choose a set \( A \subseteq [k] \) of size \( \frac{k}{10} \).
2. Choose \( x \in [N]^k \) such that \( U(x) = 1 \).
3. Choose \( y \in [N]^k \) such that \( x_A = y_A \) and \( U(y) = 1 \).

Fixing a set \( A \subseteq [k] \) and \( x \in [N]^k \) such that \( U(x) = 1 \), we denote by \( \mathcal{D}'|A, x \) the distribution over \( y \), conditioning on \( A, x \) being already chosen. Similarly for \( W, X \subseteq [N] \), we define \( \mathcal{D}|W, X \) the distribution over \( Y \).

We can easily see that if we pick \( (W, X, Y) \sim \mathcal{D} \), then choose a random set \( A \) and random permutations \( \pi_1 \in S_{\frac{k}{10}}, \pi_2, \pi_3 \in S_{\frac{k}{10}} \), and set \( x = (\pi_1(W)|A, \pi_2(X)|A), y = (\pi_1(W)|A, \pi_3(Y)|A) \), we get \( (A, x, y) \sim \mathcal{D}' \).

For each two sets \( W, X \), let \( x = (\pi_1(W)|A, \pi_2(X)|A) \) for an arbitrary \( A \subseteq [k] \) and \( \pi_1, \pi_2 \), then the distribution \( y \sim \mathcal{D}'|A, x \) is the same distribution as \( (\pi_1(W)|A, \pi_3(Y)|A) \) for \( Y \sim \mathcal{D}|W, X \) and uniform \( \pi_3 \in S_{\frac{m}{10}} \).
We further notice that the distribution \((W, X, Y) \sim \mathcal{D}\) is the distribution used in Test 4. The distribution \((A, x, y) \sim \mathcal{D}'\) is the distribution of Test 2 with \(t = \frac{k}{10}\) conditioning on \(U(x) = U(y) = 1\).

Let \(p_1 = \Pr_{x \in [N]^k} [U(x) = 0]\). For every \(x \in [N]^k\) such that \(U(x) = 1\) and a set \(A \subset [k]\), let \(p_2 = \Pr_y [U(y) = 0 \mid y_A = x_A]\) (\(p_2\) is the same for every \(A, x\) such that \(U(x) = 1\)). We bound the probabilities \(p_1, p_2\).

Choosing a uniform \(x \in [N]^k\) can be done coordinate by coordinate. For each coordinate \(i\), the probability that \(x_i = x_j\) for \(j < i\) is less than \(\frac{i-1}{N}\), therefore
\[
p_1 = \Pr_{x \in [N]^k} [U(x) = 0] \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{i-1}{N} \leq \frac{k^2}{2N}.
\]
Similarly, we can think of picking \(y\) given \(A, x\) as starting with the fixed \(y_A\) (which doesn’t contain two identical coordinates as \(U(x) = 1\)) and choosing coordinates one by one.
\[
p_2 = \Pr_y [U(y) = 0 \mid y_A = x_A] \leq \sum_{i=\frac{k}{2}}^{k} \frac{i-1}{N} \leq \frac{k^2}{2N}.
\]

**Claim B.3.** For every function \(f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k\), the function \(f' : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k\) from Definition B.1 satisfies
\[
\alpha_{\binom{[N]}{k}}(f') = (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) \Pr[f \text{ passes Item 3 of Test 4}],
\]

**Proof.** Fix a function \(f : \binom{[N]}{k} \rightarrow [M]^k\), and let \(f' : [N]^k \rightarrow [M]^k\) be the function from Definition B.1.

If either \(U(x) = 0\) or \(U(y) = 0\), by definition \(f'\) outputs \(\perp\) and the test fails. If we condition on \(U(x) = U(y) = 1\), the test distribution equals \(\mathcal{D}'\). Let \(W\) be the set of elements of \(x_A\), \(X\) of \(x_A\) and \(Y\) of \(y_A\), then \((W, X, Y) \sim \mathcal{D}\).

For every \(A, x, y\) such that \(U(x) = U(y) = 1\) and \(x_A = y_A\), the permutation \(\pi_1 \in \mathcal{S}_k\) from the ascending order in \(W\) to the order of \(x_A\) satisfies \(f'(x)_A = \pi_1(f(X, W)_W)\), and \(f'(y)_A = \pi_1(f(Y, W)_W)\). Therefore, \(f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \iff f(X, W)_W = f(Y, W)_W\).

This implies that
\[
\Pr[f' \text{ passes Test 2}] = \Pr_{A, x, y} [f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid x_A = y_A]
\]
\[
= \Pr_{A, x, y} [U(x) = U(y) = 1 \mid x_A = y_A] \Pr_{(A, x, y) \sim \mathcal{D}'} [f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A]
\]
\[
= (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) \Pr_{(W, X, Y) \sim \mathcal{D}} [f(X, W)_W = f(Y, W)_W]
\]
\[
= (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) \Pr[f \text{ passes Item 3 of Test 4}].
\]

Where \(\Pr_{A, x, y} [U(x) = U(y) = 1 \mid x_A = y_A] = (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)\) by the definition of \(p_1, p_2\).
Claim B.4. For every function on sets \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \), the function \( f' : [N]^k \to [M]^k \) from Definition B.1 satisfies the following. For every disjoint \( W \in \binom{[N]}{m}, X \in \binom{[N]}{m} \), every set \( A \subset [k], |A| = \frac{k}{10} \) and every permutations \( \pi_1 \in S_{\frac{k}{m}}, \pi_2 \in S_{\frac{k}{m}} \), the pair \( (A, x = (\pi_1(W)_A, \pi_2(X)_A)) \) satisfies

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y_A = x_A \right] = (1 - p_2) \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right].
\]

Proof. Fix a function \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \), and let \( f' : [N]^k \to [M]^k \) be the function from Definition B.1. Fix two disjoint subsets \( W \in \binom{[N]}{m}, X \in \binom{[N]}{m} \), a subset \( A \subset [k], |A| = \frac{k}{10} \), and permutations \( \pi_1 \in S_{\frac{k}{m}}, \pi_2 \in S_{\frac{k}{m}} \). Set \( x = (\pi_1(W)_A, \pi_2(X)_A) \), since \( X, W \) are disjoint, \( U(x) = 1 \). By the definition of \( f' \), \( f'(x)_A = \pi_1(f(Y, W)_W) \), and therefore \( f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \iff f(X, W)_W = f(Y, W)_W \).

For \( y \) such that \( U(y) = 1 \), by the definition of \( f' \), \( f'(y)_A = \pi_1(f(Y, W)_W) \), and therefore \( f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \iff f(X, W)_W = f(Y, W)_W \).

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y_A = x_A \right] = \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ U(y) = 0 \mid x_A = y_A \right] \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y = x \right] = (1 - p_2) \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right].
\]

\( \square \)

Proof of Lemma 4.3. Let \( f : \binom{[N]}{k} \to [M]^k \) be the function such that \( \alpha_{\text{zcd}}(f) = \epsilon > e^{-\text{dil} k} \), and let \( f' : [N]^k \to [M]^k \) be the function from Definition B.1. By Claim B.3, \( f' \) passes Test 2 with probability \( \epsilon' = (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)\epsilon \), therefore, Theorem 3.5 holds for the function \( f' \).

By Claim B.4, for every disjoint \( W \in \binom{[N]}{m}, X \in \binom{[N]}{m} \),

\[
\mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y_A = x_A \right] = (1 - p_2) \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right].
\]

Setting \( \eta = 1 - p_1 \), this means that if \( X, W \) satisfies \( \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f(X \cup W)_W = f(Y \cup W)_W \right] \geq \eta \epsilon' \), then for every set \( A \subset [k] \) and permutations \( \pi_1, \pi_2 \), the pair \( (A, x = (\pi_1(W)_A, \pi_2(X)_A)) \) satisfies \( \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y_A = x_A \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{2} \).

Theorem 3.5 implies that with probability \( 1 - e^2 \) a good \( \tau \sim \mathcal{D} \) (equivalent to \( A, x \) that satisfies \( \mathbb{P}_{y} \left[ f'(x)_A = f'(y)_A \mid y_A = x_A \right] \geq \frac{\epsilon'}{2} \)) is a DP-restriction. Since every \( W, X \) corresponds for the same number of \( (A, x) \), for at least \( (1 - e^2)^2 \geq (1 - e^2 - \frac{\epsilon'}{N}) \) of the sets \( W, X \), there exist
at least one set $A$ and permutations $\pi_1, \pi_2$ such that $\tau = (A, x, f'(x)_A)$ is a DP restriction, for $x = (\pi_1(W)_A, \pi_2(X)_A)$.

Let $W, X$ be such sets, i.e. there exist $A \subset [k]$ and permutations $\pi_1, \pi_2$ such that $\tau = (A, x, f'(x)_A)$ is a DP-restriction, for $x = (\pi_1(W)_A, \pi_2(X)_A)$. We show that $(W, X)$ are a DP-pair. Let $g^\tau = g^\tau_1, \ldots, g^\tau_m : [N] \rightarrow [M]$ be the direct product function of $\tau$. We define $g_{W,X} : [N] \rightarrow [M]$ to be the following function, for every $a \in [N]$, $g_{W,X}(a)$ is the most frequent value $g^\tau_i(a)$, among all $i \in \frac{9k}{10}$.

We recall that $\mathcal{V}_\tau = \{w \in [N]^A \mid f'(x_A, w)_A = f'(x)_A\}$ and denote by $\mathcal{V}_{W,X}$ the analog in sets,

$$
\mathcal{V}_{W,X} = \left\{ Y \in \left[ \frac{[N]}{10} \right] \mid Y \cap W = \emptyset, f(Y, W)_W = f(X, W)_W \right\}.
$$

We notice that for every $w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$, $f'(x_A, w) \neq \bot$, so it has unique coordinates, $U(x_A, w) = 1$.

In these notations, Theorem 3.5 implies $\Pr_{w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau} \left[ f'(x_A, w)_A \neq g^\tau(w) \right] \leq \epsilon^2$, and we need to prove the analog statement for $Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}$.

We describe the following random process: for every $Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}$, we choose a random permutation $\pi_3$ and set $w = \pi_3(Y)$. We notice that for every $Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}$, $f(Y, W)_W = f(X, W)_W$, and by the definition of $f'$ this implies that $f'(x_A, w)_A = f'(x)_A$, so $w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$. Moreover, for every $w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau$ exists exactly one $Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}$ and permutation $\pi_3$ such that $w = \pi_3(Y)$.

Suppose $Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}$ such that $g_{W,X}(Y) \neq f(Y \cup W)_Y$, and let $B \subset Y$ be the set of elements that $g_{W,X}(Y), f(Y \cup W)_Y$ differ on, i.e. for every $b \in B$, $g_{W,X}(b) \neq f(Y \cup W)_b$. Since $g_{W,X}$ is the most frequent value among $g^\tau_i(b)$, for at least half of the locations $i$, $g^\tau_i(b) \neq f(Y \cup W)_b$.

For a random permutation $\pi_3$, each $b \in B$ has probability of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ to fall into a "bad location", i.e. $i$ such that $g^\tau_i(b) \neq f(Y \cup W)_b$. Since $a$ is a very small constant, even conditioning on $ak$ of $b \in B$ to be in a bad location, the probability of $b' \in B$ to fall into a bad location is at least $\frac{2}{3}$. By Chernoff bound, with probability larger than $1 - e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak}$, $\pi_3$ is such that at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of $b \in B$ are in a "bad location". By the definition of $f'$, this implies that $f'(x_A, w)_A \neq g^\tau(w)$.

Therefore, we get that

$$
\Pr_{Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}} \left[ g_{W,X}(Y) \neq f(Y \cup W)_Y \right] \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak}\right) \leq \Pr_{w \in \mathcal{V}_\tau} \left[ f'(x_A, w)_A \neq g^\tau(w) \right] \leq \epsilon^2.
$$

Which implies that

$$
\Pr_{Y \in \mathcal{V}_{W,X}} \left[ g_{W,X}(Y) \neq f(Y \cup W)_Y \right] \leq \epsilon^2 + e^{-\frac{1}{10}ak} \leq 2\epsilon^2.
$$

□