

# Parallel Repetition for the GHZ Game: Exponential Decay

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## Abstract

We show that the value of the  $n$ -fold repeated GHZ game is at most  $2^{-\Omega(n)}$ , improving upon the polynomial bound established by Holmgren and Raz. Our result is established via a reduction to approximate subgroup type questions from additive combinatorics.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Multi-player Parallel Repetition and the GHZ Game

The GHZ game is a 3-player game in which a verifier samples a triplet  $(x, y, z)$  uniformly from  $S = \{(x, y, z) \mid x, y, z \in \{0, 1\}, x \oplus y \oplus z = 0 \pmod{2}\}$ , then sends  $x$  to Alice,  $y$  to Bob and  $z$  to Charlie. The verifier receives from each one of them a bit,  $a$  from Alice,  $b$  from Bob and  $c$  from Charlie, and accepts if and only if  $a \oplus b \oplus c = x \vee y \vee z$ . It is easy to prove that the value of the GHZ game,  $\text{val}(\text{GHZ})$ , defined as the maximum acceptance probability of the verifier over all strategies of the players, is  $3/4$ . The  $n$ -fold repeated GHZ game is the game in which the verifier samples  $(x_i, y_i, z_i)$  independently from  $S$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , sends  $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $\vec{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$  and  $\vec{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$  to Alice, Bob and Charlie respectively, receives vector answers  $f(\vec{x}) = (f_1(\vec{x}), \dots, f_n(\vec{x}))$ ,  $g(\vec{y}) = (g_1(\vec{y}), \dots, g_n(\vec{y}))$  and  $h(\vec{z}) = (h_1(\vec{z}), \dots, h_n(\vec{z}))$  and accepts if and only if  $f_i(\vec{x}) \oplus g_i(\vec{y}) \oplus h_i(\vec{z}) = x_i \vee y_i \vee z_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . What can one say about the value of the  $n$ -fold repeated game,  $\text{val}(\text{GHZ}^{\otimes n})$ ? As for lower bounds, it is clearly that case that  $\text{val}(\text{GHZ}^{\otimes n}) \geq (3/4)^n$  and one expects that value of the game to be exponentially decaying with  $n$ . Proving such upper bounds though is significantly more challenging.

The GHZ game is a prime example of a 3-player game for which parallel repetition is not well understood. For 2-player games, parallel repetition theorems with an exponential decay have been known for a long time [14, 9, 13, 2, 4], and in fact the state of the art parallel repetition theorems for 2-player games are essentially optimal. As for multi-player games, Verbitsky showed [18] that the value of the  $n$ -fold repeated game approaches 0, however his argument uses the density Hales-Jewett theorem and hence gives a weak rate of decay (inverse Ackermann type bounds in  $n$ ). More recently, researchers have been trying to investigate multi-player games more systematically and managed to prove an exponential decay for a certain class of games known as expanding games [3]. This work also identified the GHZ game as a bottleneck for current technique, saying that, in a sense, the GHZ game exhibits the worst possible correlations between questions for which existing information-theoretic techniques are incapable of handling.

A sequence of recent works managed to prove stronger parallel repetition theorems for the GHZ game [10] (subsequently simplified by [5]), and indeed as suggested by [3] this development led to a parallel repetition

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theorem for a certain class of 3-player games [6, 7], namely for the class of games with binary questions. Quantitatively, they showed that  $\text{val}(\text{GHZ}^{\otimes n}) \leq 1/n^{\Omega(1)}$ , and subsequently that for any 3-player game  $G$  with  $\text{val}(G) < 1$  whose questions are binary, one has that  $\text{val}(G^{\otimes n}) \leq 1/n^{\Omega(1)}$ . The techniques utilized by these works is a combination of information theoretic techniques (as used in the case of 2-player games) and Fourier analytic techniques.

## 1.2 Our Result

The main result of this paper is an improved upper bound for the value of the  $n$ -fold repeated GHZ game, which is exponential in  $n$ . More precisely:

**Theorem 1.1.** *There is  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for all  $n$ ,  $\text{val}(\text{GHZ}^{\otimes n}) \leq 2^{-\varepsilon \cdot n}$ .*

Such bounds cannot be achieved by the methods of [10, 5, 6, 7], and we hope that the observations made herein would be useful towards getting better parallel repetition theorems for more general classes of 3-player games.

## 1.3 Proof Idea

Our proof of Theorem 1.1 follows by reducing it to approximate sub-group type questions from additive combinatorics, and our argument uses results of Gowers [8]. Similar ideas have been also explored in the TCS community (for example, by Samorodnitsky [16]).

Suppose  $f: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ ,  $g: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$  and  $h: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$  represent the strategies of Alice, Bob and Charlie respectively, and denote their success probability by  $\eta$ . Thus, we have that

$$\Pr_{(x,y,z) \in S^n} [f(x) \oplus g(y) \oplus h(z) = x \vee y \vee z] \geq \eta, \quad (1)$$

where the operations are coordinate-wise. Using Cauchy-Schwarz it follows that if we sample  $x, y, z$  and  $u, v, w$  conditioned on  $x \vee y \vee z = u \vee v \vee w$ , then  $f(x) \oplus g(y) \oplus h(z) = f(u) \oplus g(v) \oplus h(w)$  with probability at least  $\eta^2$ , hence  $f(x) \oplus f(u) \oplus g(y) \oplus g(v) \oplus h(z) \oplus h(w) = 0$ . What functions  $f, g, h$  can satisfy this? We draw an intuition from [1], that suggested that such advantage can only be gained from *linear embeddings*. In this respect, we are looking at the predicate  $P: \Sigma^3 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  with alphabet  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}^2$  defined as  $P((x, u), (y, v), (z, w)) = 1$  if  $x \vee y \vee z = u \vee v \vee w$ ,  $x + y + z = 0$  and  $u + v + w = 0$ . A linear embedding is an Abelian group  $(A, +)$  and a collection of maps  $\phi: \Sigma \rightarrow A$ ,  $\gamma: \Sigma \rightarrow A$  and  $\delta: \Sigma \rightarrow A$  not all constant such that  $\phi(x, u) + \gamma(y, v) + \delta(z, w) = 0$ . There are 2 trivial linear embeddings into  $(\mathbb{Z}_2, +)$ : the projection onto the first coordinate as well as the projection onto the second coordinate. Thus, one is tempted to guess that in the above scenario, the functions  $f, g$  and  $h$  must use these linear embeddings and thus be correlated with linear functions over  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ . Alas, it turns out that there is yet, another embedding which is less obvious: taking  $(A, +) = (\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$ ,  $\phi(x, u) = x + u$ ,  $\gamma(y, v) = y + v$  and  $\delta(z, w) = z + w$ . This motivates us to look at the original problem and see if we can already see  $(\mathbb{Z}_4, +)$  structure there.

**Approximate Homomorphisms.** For  $(x, y, z) \in S$ , if  $x \vee y \vee z = 1$ , then exactly two of the variables are 1; if  $x \vee y \vee z = 0$ , then all of  $x, y, z$  are 0. Thus, one can see that the check we are making is equivalent to checking that  $2f(x) + 2g(y) + 2h(z) = x + y + z \pmod{4}$ . Indeed, on a given coordinate  $i$ , if  $(x_i \vee y_i \vee z_i)$  is 1, then  $x_i + y_i + z_i = 2$  and the answers need to satisfy that  $f(x)_i + g(y)_i + h(z)_i = 1 \pmod{2}$  which implies  $2f(x)_i + 2g(y)_i + 2h(z)_i = 2 \pmod{4}$ . Similarly, if  $(x_i \vee y_i \vee z_i) = 0$  then  $x_i + y_i + z_i = 0$  and the constraint

says that we want  $f(x)_i + g(y)_i + h(z)_i = 0 \pmod{2}$  which implies that  $2f(x)_i + 2g(y)_i + 2h(z)_i = 0 \pmod{4}$ . Thus, the GHZ test can be thought of as a system of equations modulo 4, as suggested by the above intuition. More precisely, defining  $F: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  by  $F(x)_i = 2f(x)_i - x_i$  and similarly  $G, H: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  by  $G(y)_i = 2g(y)_i - y_i$  and  $H(z)_i = 2h(z)_i - z_i$ , we have the following lemma:

**Lemma 1.2.** *For each  $x, y, z \in S^n$ ,  $F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0 \pmod{4}$  if and only if  $f(x)_i \oplus g(y)_i \oplus h(z)_i = x_i \vee y_i \vee z_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Consequently,*

$$\Pr_{(x,y,z) \in S^n} [F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0 \pmod{4}] \geq \eta.$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality we focus on the first coordinate. If  $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (0, 0, 0)$ , then by (1) we get that  $f(x)_1 \oplus g(y)_1 \oplus h(z)_1 = 0$ , hence either all of them are 0 or exactly two of them are 1, and in any case  $2f(x)_1 + 2g(y)_1 + 2h(z)_1 = 0 \pmod{4}$ . Otherwise, without loss of generality  $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (1, 1, 0)$ , and then by (1) we get  $f(x)_1 \oplus g(y)_1 \oplus h(z)_1 = 1$ , and there are two cases. If  $f(x)_1 = g(y)_1 = h(z)_1 = 1$ , then we get that  $F(x)_1 + G(y)_1 + H(z)_1 = 2 - 1 + 2 - 1 + 2 + 0 = 0 \pmod{4}$ . Else, exactly one of them is 1, say  $f(x)_1 = 1$  and  $g(y)_1 = h(z)_1 = 0$ , and then  $F(x)_1 + G(y)_1 + H(z)_1 = 2 - 1 + 0 - 1 + 0 - 0 = 0$ .  $\square$

In words, Lemma 1.2 says that  $F, G, H$  form an approximate ‘‘cross homomorphism’’ from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_4^n$ . Once we have made this observation, the proof is concluded by a routine application of powerful tools from additive combinatorics.

More specifically, we appeal to results of Gowers and show for any  $F$  that satisfies Lemma 1.2 (for some  $G$  and  $H$ ) must exhibit some weak linear behaviour. Specifically, we show that for such  $F$  there is a shift  $s \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that  $F(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n$  for at least  $\eta' = \Omega(\eta^{10^4})$  fraction of inputs. On the other hand, on such points  $x$  we get that  $2f(x) - x = F(x) = s + L(x)$  for some  $L(x) \in \{0, 2\}^n$ , and noting that this must hold modulo 2 we get that there can only be one such point,  $x = -s \pmod{2}$ . Thus,  $\eta' \leq 2^{-n}$ , giving an exponential bound on  $\eta$ .

## 2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

### 2.1 From Testing to Additive Quadruples

We need the following definition:

**Definition 2.1.** *Let  $(A, +), (B, +)$  be Abelian groups, and let  $F: A^n \rightarrow B^n$ . We say  $(x, y, u, v) \in A^n \times A^n \times A^n \times A^n$  is an additive quadruple if  $x + y = u + v$  and  $F(x) + F(y) = F(u) + F(v)$ .*

In our application, we will always have  $A = \{0, 1\}$ . For convenience we denote  $N = 2^n$ . Thus, it is clear that the number of additive quadruples is always at most  $N^3$  (as this is the number of solutions to  $x + y = u + v$ ). The following lemma asserts that if  $F, G, H: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow B^n$  are functions such that  $F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0$  for at least  $\eta$  of the triples  $x, y, z$  satisfying  $x \oplus y = z$  (such as the one given in Lemma 1.2), then each one of the functions  $F, G$  and  $H$  has a substantial amount of additive quadruples.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Suppose that  $F, G, H: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow B^n$  satisfy that*

$$\Pr_{(x,y,z) \in S^n} [F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0] \geq \eta.$$

*Then  $F$  has at least  $\eta^4 N^3$  additive quadruples.*

*Proof.* By the premise and Cauchy-Schwarz

$$\begin{aligned}\eta^2 &= \mathbb{E}_y \left[ \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \mathbb{1}_{G(y)=-F(x)-H(x\oplus y)} \right] \right]^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_y \left[ \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \mathbb{1}_{G(y)=-F(x)-H(x\oplus y)} \right]^2 \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_y \left[ \mathbb{E}_{x,x'} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{G(y)=-F(x)-H(x\oplus y)} \mathbb{1}_{G(y)=-F(x')-H(x'\oplus y)} \right] \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{x,x',y} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)-F(x')=H(x'\oplus y)-H(x\oplus y)} \right].\end{aligned}$$

Making change of variables, we get that  $\eta^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_{x,u,u'} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)-F(x\oplus u\oplus u')=H(u')-H(u)} \right]$ . Squaring and using Cauchy-Schwarz again we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\eta^4 &\leq \mathbb{E}_{x,u,u'} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)-F(x\oplus u\oplus u')=H(u')-H(u)} \right]^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_{u,u'} \left[ \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)-F(x\oplus u\oplus u')=H(u')-H(u)} \right]^2 \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{u,u'} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{x,x'} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)-F(x\oplus u\oplus u')=F(x')-F(x'\oplus u\oplus u')} \right] \right],\end{aligned}$$

which by another change of variables is equal to  $\mathbb{E}_{x,y,u,v:x+y=u+v} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{F(x)+F(y)=F(u)+F(v)} \right]$ , and the claim is proved.  $\square$

## 2.2 From Additive Quadruples to Linear Structure

We intend to use Lemma 2.2 to conclude a structural result for  $F$ , and towards this end we show that a function that has many additive quadruples must exhibit some linear structure. The content of this section is a straight-forward combination of well-known results in additive combinatorics, and we include it here for the sake of completeness. We need the notions of Freiman homomorphism, sum-sets and a result of Gowers [8]. We begin with two definitions:

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $(A, +)$  and  $(B, +)$  be Abelian groups, let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq A^n$ . A function  $\phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow B^n$  is called a Freiman homomorphism of order  $k$  if for all  $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_k \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $a_1 + \dots + a_k = b_1 + \dots + b_k$  it holds that

$$\phi(a_1) + \dots + \phi(a_k) = \phi(b_1) + \dots + \phi(b_k).$$

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $(A, +)$  be an Abelian group, let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \subseteq A^n$ . We define

$$\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B} = \{a + b \mid a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}\}.$$

If  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}$ , we denote the sum-set  $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}$  more succinctly as  $2\mathcal{A}$ , and more generally  $k\mathcal{A}$  denotes the  $k$ -fold sum set of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

We need a result of Gowers [8] asserting that a function  $F$  with many additive quadruples can be restricted to a relatively large set and yield a Freiman homomorphism. Gowers states and proves the statement for  $\mathbb{Z}_N$ , and we adapt his proof for our setting. For the proof we need two notable results in additive combinatorics. The first of which is the Balog-Szemerédi-Gowers theorem, and we use the version from [17]:

**Theorem 2.5** (Balog-Szemerédi-Gowers). *Let  $G$  be an Abelian group, and suppose that  $\Gamma \subseteq G$  contains at least  $\xi |\Gamma|^3$  additive quadruples, that is,  $|\{(x, y, z, w) \in \Gamma^4 \mid x + y = z + w\}| \geq \xi |\Gamma|^3$ . Then there exists  $\Gamma' \subseteq \Gamma$  of size at least  $\Omega(\xi |\Gamma|)$  such that  $|\Gamma' - \Gamma'| \leq O(\xi^{-4} |\Gamma'|)$ .*

The second result we need is Plünnecke's inequality [12, 15] (see also [11]):

**Theorem 2.6** (Plünnecke's inequality). *Let  $G$  be an Abelian group, and suppose that  $\Gamma \subseteq G$  has  $|\Gamma - \Gamma| \leq C |\Gamma|$ . Then  $|m\Gamma - r\Gamma| \leq C^{m+r} |\Gamma|$ .*

**Lemma 2.7** (Corollary 7.6 in [8]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and suppose that a function  $\phi: \mathbb{Z}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  has at least  $\xi |\mathbb{Z}_2^n|^3$  additive quadruples. Then there exists  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n$  such that  $\phi|_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a Freiman homomorphism of order 8 and  $|\mathcal{A}| \geq \Omega(\xi^{257} |\mathbb{Z}_2^n|)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\Gamma = \{(x, \phi(x)) \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n\}$  be the graph of  $\phi$ , and think of it as a set in the Abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n \times \mathbb{Z}_4^n$ . Then  $\Gamma$  contains at least  $\xi |\mathbb{Z}_2^n|^3 = \xi |\Gamma|^3$  solutions to  $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 = \gamma_3 + \gamma_4$ , hence by Theorem 2.5 we may find  $\Gamma' \subseteq \Gamma$  such that  $|\Gamma'| \geq \Omega(\xi |\Gamma|)$  and  $|\Gamma' - \Gamma'| \leq O(\xi^{-4} |\Gamma'|)$ . By Theorem 2.6 we get that  $|16\Gamma' - 16\Gamma'| \leq O(\xi^{-32.4} |\Gamma'|) \leq C \cdot |\Gamma'|$  where  $C = O(\xi^{-128})$ .

Let  $\mathcal{Y} = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n \mid (0, y) \in 8\Gamma' - 8\Gamma'\}$ ; we claim that  $|\mathcal{Y}| \leq C$  and towards contradiction we assume the contrary. First, note that we may choose  $|\Gamma'|$  distinct values of  $x$  such that  $(x, w_x) \in 8\Gamma' - 8\Gamma'$  for some  $w_x$ . Indeed, we can fix any 15 elements  $(x_i, w_i) \in \Gamma'$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 15$ , and range over all  $|\Gamma'|$  pairs  $(x, w_x) \in \Gamma'$  to get  $|\Gamma'|$  elements  $(x + x' - x'', w_x + w' - w'') \in 8\Gamma' - 8\Gamma'$  where  $x' = x_1 + \dots + x_7$ ,  $x'' = x_8 + \dots + x_{15}$  and  $w' = w_1 + \dots + w_7$  and  $w'' = w_8 + \dots + w_{15}$ , which have distinct first coordinate. Thus, looking at the  $|\Gamma'|$  elements  $(x, w_x) \in 8\Gamma' - 8\Gamma'$  with distinct first coordinate, we get that  $(x, w_x + y) \in 16\Gamma' - 16\Gamma'$  for all  $x$  and  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , hence  $|16\Gamma' - 16\Gamma'| > C |\Gamma'|$ , in contradiction. The set  $\mathcal{Y}$  will be useful for us as for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n$ , we may define  $\mathcal{Y}_x = \{y \mid (x, y) \in 4\Gamma' - 4\Gamma'\}$  and get that  $\mathcal{Y}_x - \mathcal{Y}_x \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ .

Take  $t = \log(C) + 1$ , choose  $I_1, \dots, I_t \subseteq [n]$  independently and uniformly and consider

$$\mathcal{W} = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n \mid \sum_{j \in I_i} y_j = 0 \forall i = 1, \dots, t \right\}.$$

We note that the 0 vector is always in  $\mathcal{W}$ , but any other  $y \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  is in  $\mathcal{W}$  with probability at most  $2^{-t}$ . Indeed, if  $y$ 's entries are all  $\{0, 2\}$ -valued then  $y$  can be in  $\mathcal{W}$  only if  $y/2$  satisfies  $t$  randomly chosen equations modulo 2, which happens with probability  $2^{-t}$ . If there are entries of  $y$  that are either 1 or 3, then we get that  $y \pmod{2}$  is a non-zero vector that must satisfy  $t$  randomly chosen equations modulo 2, which happens with probability  $2^{-t}$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{E}[|\mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{W} \setminus \{0\}|] \leq 2^{-t} |\mathcal{Y}| < 1$ , so we may choose  $\mathcal{W}$  such that  $\mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{W} = \{0\}$ .

For an  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  we define  $\Gamma'_a = \{(x, y) \in \Gamma' \mid y \in a + \mathcal{W}\}$ . We claim that there is a choice for  $a$  such that (1)  $|\Gamma'_a| \geq 4^{-t} |\Gamma'| \geq \Omega(\xi^{257} |\mathbb{Z}_2^n|)$ , and (2) taking  $\mathcal{A} = \{x \mid \exists y \text{ such that } (x, y) \in \Gamma'_a\}$ , the function  $\phi|_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a Freiman homomorphism of order 8. Together, this gives the statement of the lemma.

For the first item we have

$$\mathbb{E}_a [|\Gamma'_a|] = \sum_{(x, y) \in \Gamma'} \Pr_a [y \in a + \mathcal{W}] = \sum_{(x, y) \in \Gamma'} \Pr_a [y - a \in \mathcal{W}] \geq \sum_{(x, y) \in \Gamma'} 4^{-t} = 4^{-t} |\Gamma'|,$$

so there is an  $a$  such that  $|\Gamma'_a| \geq 4^{-t} |\Gamma'|$ , and we show that the second item holds for all  $a$ .

Suppose towards contradiction that  $\phi|_{\mathcal{A}}$  is not a Freiman homomorphism of order 8. Thus we can find  $x_1, \dots, x_8 \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $x'_1, \dots, x'_8 \in \mathcal{A}$  that have the same sum yet  $\phi(x_1) + \dots + \phi(x_8) \neq \phi(x'_1) + \dots + \phi(x'_8)$ . Denoting  $x = x_1 + \dots + x_4 - x'_5 - \dots - x'_8 = x'_1 + \dots + x'_4 - x_5 - \dots - x_8$ ,  $y = \phi(x_1) + \dots + \phi(x_4) - \phi(x'_5) - \dots - \phi(x'_8)$  and  $y' = \phi(x'_1) + \dots + \phi(x'_4) - \phi(x_5) - \dots - \phi(x_8)$  so that  $y \neq y'$ , we get that  $(x, y), (x, y') \in 4\Gamma'_a - 4\Gamma'_a \subseteq 4\Gamma' - 4\Gamma'$ , so  $y, y' \in \mathcal{Y}_x$ . In particular,  $y - y' \in \mathcal{Y}_x - \mathcal{Y}_x \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ . On the other

hand, by choice of  $\mathcal{A}$  we get that  $\phi(x_i), \phi(x'_i) \in a + \mathcal{W}$  for all  $i$  and so  $y, y' \in 4\mathcal{W} - 4\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{W}$  and so  $y - y' \in \mathcal{W}$ . It follows that  $y - y' \in \mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{W}$ , but by the choice of  $\mathcal{W}$  this last intersection only contains the 0 vector, and contradiction.  $\square$

Thus, combining Lemmas 2.2 and 2.7 we are able to conclude that  $F$  is a Freiman homomorphism of order 8 when restricted to a set  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n$  whose size is at least  $\Omega(\eta^{1028}N)$ . A Freiman homomorphism of order 8 is also a Freiman homomorphism of order 4, and the following lemma shows this tells that there is a shift of  $\{0, 2\}^n$  in which  $F(x)$  lies for many  $x$ 's:

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n$  and suppose that  $\phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  is a Freiman homomorphism of order 4. Then there is  $s \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\phi(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n$ .*

*Proof.* Choose any  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and let  $s = \phi(a)$ . Then for any  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ , applying the Freiman homomorphism condition on the tuples  $(x, x, a, a)$  and  $(a, a, a, a)$  that have the same sum over  $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ , we get that  $2\phi(x) + 2\phi(a) = 4\phi(a) = 0$ , so  $2(\phi(x) - s) = 0$ . This implies that  $\phi(x) - s \in \{0, 2\}^n$ , and the proof is concluded.  $\square$

Combining the last two lemmas we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.9.** *Suppose that  $F: \mathbb{Z}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  is a function for which there are  $G, H: \mathbb{Z}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that  $\Pr_{(x,y,z) \in S^n} [F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0] \geq \eta$ . Then there is  $s \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that*

$$\Pr_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n} [F(x) \in \{0, 2\}^n + s] \geq \Omega(\eta^{1028}).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.2 we get that  $F$  has at least  $\eta^4 N^3$  additive quadruples, so by Lemma 2.7 there is  $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n$  of size at least  $\Omega(\eta^{1028}N)$  such that  $F|_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a Freiman homomorphism. Applying Lemma 2.8 we conclude that there is  $s \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that  $F(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  and the proof is concluded.  $\square$

### 2.3 Concluding Theorem 1.1

Let  $f, g, h: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$  be strategies that achieve value at least  $\eta$  in  $\text{GHZ}^{\otimes n}$ , and define  $F: \mathbb{Z}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  by  $F(x) = 2f(x) - x$  and similarly  $G(y) = 2g(y) - y$  and  $H(z) = 2h(z) - z$ . By Lemma 1.2 we get that  $\Pr_{(x,y,z) \in S^n} [F(x) + G(y) + H(z) = 0] \geq \eta$ , hence by Corollary 2.9 there is  $s \in \mathbb{Z}_4^n$  such that  $\Pr_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n} [F(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n] \geq \eta'$  for  $\eta' = \Omega(\eta^{1028})$ . For any such  $x$ , we get that  $2f(x) - x = F(x) = s + L(x)$  where  $L(x) \in \{0, 2\}^n$ , and so  $x = -s + 2f(x) - L(x)$ . Note that this is equality modulo 4 hence it implies it also holds modulo 2. We also have that  $2f(x) - L(x) \in \{0, 2\}^n$  so this vanishes modulo 2, hence we get that  $x = -s \pmod{2}$ . In other words, there can be at most single  $x$  such that  $F(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n$  and so  $\Pr_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n} [F(x) \in s + \{0, 2\}^n] \leq 2^{-n}$ . Combining, we get that  $\eta' \leq 2^{-n}$  and so  $\eta \leq 2^{-n/1028+O(1)}$ .

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