

A quantitative Erdős–Fuchs theorem and its generalization

by

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1. Introduction. Let $k \geq 2$ be a fixed integer and let $A = \{a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots\}$ be an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers. We write $F(z) = \sum_{a \in A} z^a$, $A(n) = \sum_{a \in A, a \leq n} 1$ (counting repetitions). For $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ let $r_k(A, n)$ denote the number of solutions of

$$a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_k} \leq n.$$

In 1956, Erdős and Fuchs [1] proved the following result:

THEOREM A. *If A is an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers, then*

$$r_2(A, n) = cn + o(n^{1/4}(\log n)^{-1/2})$$

cannot hold for any constant $c > 0$.

Jurkat (unpublished), and later Montgomery and Vaughan [5] improved the Erdős–Fuchs theorem by eliminating the log power on the right-hand side:

THEOREM B. *If A is an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers, then*

$$r_2(A, n) = cn + o(n^{1/4})$$

cannot hold for any constant $c > 0$.

Up to now, the Erdős–Fuchs theorem has been extended in various directions. For other related problems, see [2], [3], [4] and [6]. Continuing this work, Tang [7] recently proved the following result.

THEOREM C. *If A is an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers and $k > 2$, then*

$$r_k(A, n) = cn + o(n^{1/4})$$

cannot hold for any constant $c > 0$.

In this paper, we obtain a stronger version of the above results:

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THEOREM 1.1. *If A is an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers and $k \geq 2$, then for any constant $c > 0$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$,*

$$|r_k(A, n) - cn| \geq (h(k) - \varepsilon)(cn)^{1/4}$$

holds for infinitely many positive integers n , where

$$h(k) = \frac{4}{9}(25\pi)^{-1/4}([k/2]!)^{3/2} \quad \text{for } 2 \nmid k$$

and

$$h(k) = 4(25\pi)^{-1/4}3^{(1-4k)/(2k-2)}\frac{k-1}{k+2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{k+1}\right)^{3k/(2k-2)}([k/2]!)^{3k/(2k-2)}$$

for $2 \nmid k$. In particular, if $2 \nmid k$ and $k \geq 9$, then

$$h(k) > \frac{4}{9}(25\pi)^{-1/4}([k/2]!)^{3/2}.$$

By a simple calculation we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{4}{9}(25\pi)^{-1/4} &= 0.149\dots, \\ h(3) &> 0.0432, \quad h(5) > 0.276, \quad h(7) > 2.13. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have the following corollary.

COROLLARY 1.2. *If A is an infinite sequence of nonnegative integers and $k \geq 2$, then for any constant $c > 0$,*

$$|r_k(A, n) - cn| \geq 0.04([k/2]!)^{3/2}(cn)^{1/4}$$

holds for infinitely many positive integers n .

Throughout this paper, let $z = re(\alpha)$, where $e(\alpha) = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$, $r = 1 - 1/N$, N is a large positive integer and α is a real number.

2. Lemmas

LEMMA 2.1. *Let m and N be two positive integers. Then*

$$\int_0^1 |1 - z|^{-2} \left| \frac{1 - z^m}{1 - z} \right|^2 d\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}m^2N(1 + o_N(1)).$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 |1 - z|^{-2} \left| \frac{1 - z^m}{1 - z} \right|^2 d\alpha &= \int_0^1 |1 - z|^{-2} \left| \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} z^j \right|^2 d\alpha \leq m^2 \int_0^1 \left| \frac{1}{1 - z} \right|^2 d\alpha \\ &= m^2 \int_0^1 \sum_{u=0}^{\infty} r^u e(u\alpha) \cdot \sum_{v=0}^{\infty} r^v e(-v\alpha) d\alpha \\ &= m^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r^{2n} = \frac{1}{2} m^2 N(1 + o_N(1)). \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 2.2. *Let $0 < v < 1$ and $\beta > 0$. Then*

$$\left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^\beta v^n - \Gamma(\beta + 1)(-\log v)^{-\beta-1} \right| \leq e^{-\beta} \beta^\beta (-\log v)^{-\beta}.$$

Proof. Define $f(x) = x^\beta v^x$ ($x \geq 0$). Then

$$f'(x) = \beta x^{\beta-1} v^x + x^\beta v^x \log v = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = -\beta(\log v)^{-1}.$$

It is clear that $f(x)$ is increasing for $0 \leq x \leq -\beta(\log v)^{-1}$ and $f(x)$ is decreasing for $x \geq -\beta(\log v)^{-1}$. Let k be the integer with $k \leq -\beta(\log v)^{-1} < k + 1$ and $b = -\beta(\log v)^{-1}$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} f(n) &\leq \int_n^{n+1} f(x) dx, \quad 0 \leq n < k, \\ f(k) &\leq \int_k^b f(x) dx + (k + 1 - b)f(b), \\ f(k + 1) &\leq \int_b^{k+1} f(x) dx + (b - k)f(b), \\ f(n) &\leq \int_{n-1}^n f(x) dx, \quad n > k + 1, \\ f(n) &\geq \int_{n-1}^n f(x) dx, \quad 0 < n \leq k, \\ f(n) &\geq \int_n^{n+1} f(x) dx, \quad n \geq k + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^\beta v^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) \leq \int_0^{\infty} f(x) dx + f(b),$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{\beta} v^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) \geq \int_0^{\infty} f(x) dx - \int_k^{k+1} f(x) dx \geq \int_0^{\infty} f(x) dx - f(b).$$

So

$$\left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{\beta} v^n - \int_0^{\infty} x^{\beta} v^x dx \right| \leq f(b).$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\infty} x^{\beta} v^x dx &= \int_0^{\infty} x^{\beta} e^{x \log v} dx = \int_0^{\infty} (t(-\log v)^{-1})^{\beta} e^{-t} (-\log v)^{-1} dt \\ &= (-\log v)^{-\beta-1} \int_0^{\infty} t^{\beta} e^{-t} dt = \Gamma(\beta + 1)(-\log v)^{-\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$f(b) = b^{\beta} v^b = \beta^{\beta} (-\log v)^{-\beta} e^{-\beta} = e^{-\beta} \beta^{\beta} (-\log v)^{-\beta},$$

the proof is complete. ■

LEMMA 2.3. *Let $\beta > 0$ and $r = 1 - 1/N$, where N is a large positive integer. Then*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{\beta} r^{2n} = \Gamma(\beta + 1) 2^{-\beta-1} N^{\beta+1} (1 + o_N(1)).$$

Proof. In Lemma 2.2, let $v = r^2$. Then

$$(-\log v)^{-\beta-1} = 2^{-\beta-1} N^{\beta+1} (1 + o_N(1)), \quad (-\log v)^{-\beta} = 2^{-\beta} N^{\beta} (1 + o_N(1)),$$

and Lemma 2.2 yield the assertion. ■

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1. Suppose that there exists an infinite sequence $A = \{a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots\}$ of nonnegative integers, $k \geq 2$, $c > 0$, $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ and $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|r_k(A, n) - cn| < (h(k) - \varepsilon_0)(cn)^{1/4}$ for all $n \geq n_0$. By the assumption and

$$A^k(M) \geq \sum_{a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_k} \leq M} 1 = r_k(A, M),$$

we have

$$(3.1) \quad A(M) \geq \sqrt[k]{cM} (1 + o_M(1)).$$

Let $\vartheta(n) = r_k(A, n) - cn$. Then, for $|z| < 1$, we have

$$\frac{1}{1-z} F^k(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_k(A, n) z^n = \frac{cz}{(1-z)^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n) z^n.$$

That is,

$$(3.2) \quad F^k(z) = \frac{cz}{1-z} + (1-z) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n)z^n.$$

Using the idea of Jurkat, by differentiation of (3.2), we obtain

$$(3.3) \quad kF^{k-1}(z)F'(z) = \frac{c}{(1-z)^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n)z^n + (1-z) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\vartheta(n)z^{n-1}.$$

By (3.2), the assumption and Lemma 2.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} F^k(r^2) &= \frac{cr^2}{1-r^2} + (1-r^2) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n)r^{2n} \\ &= \frac{c}{2}N(1 + o_N(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{1/4}r^{2n}\right) \\ &= \frac{c}{2}N(1 + o_N(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{N}N^{5/4}\right) = \frac{c}{2}N(1 + o_N(1)). \end{aligned}$$

So

$$(3.4) \quad F(r^2) = \left(\frac{c}{2}N\right)^{1/k} (1 + o_N(1)).$$

By (3.3), the assumption and Lemma 2.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} (3.5) \quad kF^{k-1}(r^2)F'(r^2) &= \frac{c}{(1-r^2)^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n)r^{2n} + (1-r^2) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\vartheta(n)r^{2n-2} \\ &= \frac{c}{4}N^2(1 + o_N(1)) + O\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{1/4}r^{2n}\right) + O\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{5/4}r^{2n}\right) \\ &= \frac{c}{4}N^2(1 + o_N(1)) + O(N^{5/4}) + O\left(\frac{1}{N}N^{9/4}\right) \\ &= \frac{c}{4}N^2(1 + o_N(1)). \end{aligned}$$

By (3.4) and (3.5) we have

$$(3.6) \quad F'(r^2) = \frac{1}{k}2^{-1-1/k}c^{1/k}N^{1+1/k}(1 + o_N(1)).$$

Let δ be a positive constant which will be determined later, $m = \lceil \delta c^{-1/2}N^{1/2} \rceil$ and let

$$\begin{aligned}
 J &= \int_0^1 |kF^{k-1}(z)F'(z)| \cdot \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} \right|^2 d\alpha, \\
 J_1 &= c \int_0^1 \frac{1}{|1-z|^2} \cdot \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} \right|^2 d\alpha, \\
 J_2 &= \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n)z^n \right| \cdot \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} \right|^2 d\alpha, \\
 J_3 &= \int_0^1 \left| (1-z) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\vartheta(n)z^{n-1} \right| \cdot \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} \right|^2 d\alpha.
 \end{aligned}$$

By (3.3), we have

$$(3.7) \quad J \leq J_1 + J_2 + J_3.$$

To obtain a good lower bound of J , we need the following estimates. For $l \geq 1$, from (3.4), (3.6), $0 < F(r^4) < F(r^2)$ and $0 < F'(r^4) < F'(r^2)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.8) \quad & \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_l \text{ pairwise distinct}} a_{i_1} r^{2a_{i_1} + \dots + 2a_{i_l}} \\
 & \geq \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_l} a_{i_1} r^{2a_{i_1} + \dots + 2a_{i_l}} - \sum_{1 \leq u < v \leq l} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_l \\ i_u = i_v}} a_{i_1} r^{2a_{i_1} + \dots + 2a_{i_l}} \\
 & = r^2 F'(r^2) (F(r^2))^{l-1} - (l-1) r^4 F'(r^4) (F(r^2))^{l-2} \\
 & \quad - \frac{1}{2} (l-1)(l-2) r^2 F'(r^2) F(r^4) (F(r^2))^{l-3} \\
 & = \frac{1}{k} 2^{-1-l/k} c^{l/k} N^{1+l/k} (1 + o_N(1)) + O(N^{1+(l-1)/k}) \\
 & = \frac{1}{k} 2^{-1-l/k} c^{l/k} N^{1+l/k} (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$(3.9) \quad \sum_{t=0}^{m-1} r^{2t-1} \geq m r^{2m} = m(1 + o_N(1))$$

and by (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.10) \quad & \sum_{\substack{-a+t-s=0, a \in A \\ 0 \leq s, t \leq m-1}} r^{a+t+s-1} = \sum_{\substack{-a+t-s=0, a \in A \\ 0 \leq s, t \leq m-1}} r^{2t-1} \\
 & = \sum_{t=0}^{m-1} r^{2t-1} A(t) \geq \sum_{\sqrt{m} \leq t < m} r^{2m} (ct)^{1/k} (1 + o_N(1)) \\
 & \geq r^{2m} c^{1/k} (1 + o_N(1)) \int_{\sqrt{m}-1}^{m-1} t^{1/k} dt = \frac{k}{k+1} c^{1/k} m^{1+1/k} (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we can give a lower bound of J .

If $2 \mid k$, let $k = 2l$; then by (3.8) and (3.9) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.11) \quad J &= \frac{k}{r} \int_0^1 \left| zF'(z)(F(z))^{l-1}(\overline{F(z)})^l \left(\sum_{t=0}^{m-1} z^t \right) \left(\sum_{s=0}^{m-1} \bar{z}^s \right) \right| d\alpha \\
 &\geq \frac{k}{r} \int_0^1 \left| zF'(z)(F(z))^{l-1}(\overline{F(z)})^l \left(\sum_{t=0}^{m-1} z^t \right) \left(\sum_{s=0}^{m-1} \bar{z}^s \right) \right| d\alpha \\
 &= k \sum_{\substack{a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_l} - a_{i_{l+1}} - \dots - a_{i_{2l}} + t - s = 0 \\ 0 \leq s, t \leq m-1}} a_{i_1} r^{a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_{2l}} + t + s - 1} \\
 &\geq k \cdot l! \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_l \text{ pairwise distinct}} a_{i_1} r^{2a_{i_1} + \dots + 2a_{i_l}} \sum_{t=0}^{m-1} r^{2t-1} \\
 &\geq k \cdot l! \frac{1}{k} 2^{-1-l/k} c^{l/k} N^{1+l/k} m(1 + o_N(1)) \\
 &= [k/2]! 2^{-3/2} c^{1/2} m N^{3/2} (1 + o_N(1)) \\
 &= [k/2]! 2^{-3/2} \delta N^2 (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

If $2 \nmid k$, let $k = 2l + 1$; then by (3.8) and (3.10) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.12) \quad J &= \frac{k}{r} \int_0^1 \left| zF'(z)(F(z))^{l-1}(\overline{F(z)})^{l+1} \left(\sum_{t=0}^{m-1} z^t \right) \left(\sum_{s=0}^{m-1} \bar{z}^s \right) \right| d\alpha \\
 &\geq \frac{k}{r} \int_0^1 \left| zF'(z)(F(z))^{l-1}(\overline{F(z)})^{l+1} \left(\sum_{t=0}^{m-1} z^t \right) \left(\sum_{s=0}^{m-1} \bar{z}^s \right) \right| d\alpha \\
 &= k \sum_{\substack{a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_l} - a_{i_{l+1}} - \dots - a_{i_{2l+1}} + t - s = 0 \\ 0 \leq s, t \leq m-1}} a_{i_1} r^{a_{i_1} + \dots + a_{i_{2l+1}} + t + s - 1} \\
 &\geq k \cdot l! \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_l \text{ pairwise distinct}} a_{i_1} r^{2a_{i_1} + \dots + 2a_{i_l}} \sum_{\substack{-a+t-s=0 \\ a \in A \\ 0 \leq s, t \leq m-1}} r^{a+t+s-1} \\
 &\geq k \cdot l! \frac{1}{k} 2^{-1-l/k} c^{l/k} N^{1+l/k} \frac{k}{k+1} c^{1/k} m^{1+1/k} (1 + o_N(1)) \\
 &= [k/2]! 2^{-3/2+1/(2k)} \frac{k}{k+1} \delta^{1+1/k} N^2 (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we give upper bounds of J_1, J_2, J_3 .

By Lemma 2.1,

$$(3.13) \quad J_1 < \frac{1}{2} cm^2 N(1 + o_N(1)) = \frac{1}{2} \delta^2 N^2 (1 + o_N(1)).$$

By Cauchy’s inequality, Parseval’s formula, the assumption and Lemma 2.3

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.14) \quad J_2 &\leq m^2 \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n) z^n \right| d\alpha \leq m^2 \left(\int_0^1 \left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \vartheta(n) z^n \right|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \\
 &= m^2 \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\vartheta(n)|^2 r^{2n} \right)^{1/2} = O \left(m^2 \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{1/2} r^{2n} \right)^{1/2} \right) \\
 &= O(m^2 N^{3/4}) = O(N^{7/4}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_3 &= \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \vartheta(n) z^{n-1} \right| \cdot \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} (1-z^m) \right| d\alpha \\
 &\leq \left(\int_0^1 \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \vartheta(n) z^{n-1} \right|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \cdot \left(\int_0^1 \left| \frac{1-z^m}{1-z} (1-z^m) \right|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \\
 &= \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} \right)^{1/2} \cdot \left((1+r^{2m}) \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} r^{2j} \right)^{1/2} \\
 &\leq (2m)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} \right)^{1/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, by the assumption and Lemma 2.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} &= \sum_{n=1}^{n_0-1} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} + \sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} \\
 &\leq \sum_{n=1}^{n_0-1} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} + (h(k) - \varepsilon_0)^2 c^{1/2} \sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} n^{5/2} r^{2n-2} \\
 &\leq \sum_{n=1}^{n_0-1} n^2 \vartheta^2(n) r^{2n-2} + (h(k) - \varepsilon_0)^2 c^{1/2} r^{-2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^{5/2} r^{2n} \\
 &\leq \Gamma(7/2) 2^{-7/2} (h(k) - \varepsilon_0)^2 c^{1/2} N^{7/2} (1 + o_N(1)) \\
 &\leq \frac{15\sqrt{\pi}}{64 \cdot \sqrt{2}} (h(k) - \varepsilon_0)^2 c^{1/2} N^{7/2} (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.15) \quad J_3 &\leq \frac{1}{8} \sqrt{15} (2\pi)^{1/4} (h(k) - \varepsilon_0) c^{1/4} m^{1/2} N^{7/4} (1 + o_N(1)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \sqrt{15} (2\pi)^{1/4} (h(k) - \varepsilon_0) \delta^{1/2} N^2 (1 + o_N(1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

CASE 1: $2 \mid k$. By (3.7), (3.11) and (3.13)–(3.15) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [k/2]!2^{-3/2}\delta N^2 \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta^2 N^2 + O(N^{7/4}) + \frac{1}{8}\sqrt{15}(2\pi)^{1/4}(h(k) - \varepsilon_0)\delta^{1/2}N^2 + o(N^2).
 \end{aligned}$$

Dividing by N^2 and letting $N \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$[k/2]!2^{-3/2}\delta \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta^2 + \frac{1}{8}\sqrt{15}(2\pi)^{1/4}(h(k) - \varepsilon_0)\delta^{1/2}.$$

So

$$h(k) - \varepsilon_0 \geq 8(15)^{-1/2}(2\pi)^{-1/4} \left([k/2]!2^{-3/2}\delta^{1/2} - \frac{1}{2}\delta^{3/2} \right).$$

Taking

$$\delta = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}}[k/2]!,$$

we have

$$h(k) - \varepsilon_0 \geq \frac{4}{9}(25\pi)^{-1/4}([k/2]!)^{3/2} = h(k),$$

a contradiction.

CASE 2: $2 \nmid k$. By (3.7), (3.12) and (3.13)–(3.15) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [k/2]!2^{-3/2+1/(2k)}\frac{k}{k+1}\delta^{1+1/k}N^2 \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta^2 N^2 + O(N^{7/4}) + \frac{1}{8}\sqrt{15}(2\pi)^{1/4}(h(k) - \varepsilon_0)\delta^{1/2}N^2 + o(N^2).
 \end{aligned}$$

Dividing by N^2 and letting $N \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$[k/2]!2^{-3/2+1/(2k)}\frac{k}{k+1}\delta^{1+1/k} \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta^2 + \frac{1}{8}\sqrt{15}(2\pi)^{1/4}(h(k) - \varepsilon_0)\delta^{1/2}.$$

So

(3.16)

$$h(k) - \varepsilon_0 \geq 8(15)^{-1/2}(2\pi)^{-1/4} \left([k/2]!2^{-3/2+1/(2k)}\frac{k}{k+1}\delta^{1/2+1/k} - \frac{1}{2}\delta^{3/2} \right).$$

Taking

$$\delta = 3^{-k/(k-1)}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(1 + \frac{1}{k+1}\right)^{k/(k-1)}([k/2]!)^{k/(k-1)},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(k) - \varepsilon_0 & \geq 8(15)^{-1/2}(2\pi)^{-1/4} \left([k/2]!2^{-3/2+1/(2k)}\frac{k}{k+1}\delta^{1/2+1/k} - \frac{1}{2}\delta^{3/2} \right) \\
 & = 4(25\pi)^{-1/4}3^{(1-4k)/(2k-2)}\frac{k-1}{k+2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{k+1}\right)^{3k/(2k-2)}([k/2]!)^{3k/(2k-2)} \\
 & = h(k),
 \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. As a function of δ , the right side of (3.16) has the largest value $h(k)$. Set

$$\delta_1 = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}}[k/2]!$$

If $k \geq 9$, then $\sqrt{2}\delta_1 \geq 8$ and

$$\begin{aligned} h(k) &\geq 8(15)^{-1/2}(2\pi)^{-1/4} \left([k/2]! 2^{-3/2+1/(2k)} \frac{k}{k+1} \delta_1^{1/2+1/k} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_1^{3/2} \right) \\ &> 8(15)^{-1/2}(2\pi)^{-1/4} \left([k/2]! 2^{-3/2} \delta_1^{1/2} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_1^{3/2} \right) \\ &= \frac{4}{9} (25\pi)^{-1/4} ([k/2]!)^{3/2}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

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