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Kevin T. Campbell*, 330 North Washington St., Gettysburg, PA 17325. *Covering Everything: An Exploration of h -Critical Numbers.*

Given an h , m , and a group \mathbb{Z}_n , $\rho(\mathbb{Z}_n, m, h)$ defines the smallest possible size of an h -fold sumset of A , where A is a subset of \mathbb{Z}_n and A has size m . We define an h -fold sumset of A as the set that is given by the sum of h not necessarily distinct values in a set A , where each value is taken modulo n . An h -critical number is the minimum value of m such that $\rho(\mathbb{Z}_n, m, h) = n$. That is, if a subset A of a finite abelian group G is at least the size of the h -critical number of G , then the h -fold sumset of A will span G . Thus far, I have created bounds for all h -critical numbers, found an explicit equation for any h -critical number for all values of h where the ambient group has a size that is an even number or a prime, and I have a conjecture to cover all other cases. (Received January 27, 2014)