

# A GENERALIZATION OF JARNÍK'S THEOREM ON DIOPHANTINE APPROXIMATIONS TO RIDOUT TYPE NUMBERS

BY

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $s$  be a positive integer,  $c > 1$ ,  $\mu_0, \dots, \mu_s$  reals in  $[0, 1]$ ,  $\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^s \mu_i$ , and  $t$  the number of nonzero  $\mu_i$ . Let  $\Pi_i$  ( $i = 0, \dots, s$ ) be  $s + 1$  disjoint sets of primes and  $S$  the set of all  $(s + 1)$ -tuples of integers  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  satisfying  $p_0 > 0$ ,  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$ , where the  $p_i^*$  are integers satisfying  $|p_i^*| \leq c |p_i|^{\mu_i}$ , and all prime factors of  $p_i'$  are in  $\Pi_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, s$ . Let  $\lambda > 0$  if  $t = 0$ ,  $\lambda > \sigma / \min(s, t)$  otherwise,  $E_\lambda$  the set of all real  $s$ -tuples  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$  satisfying  $|\alpha_i - p_i / p_0| < p_0^{-\lambda}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, s$ ) for an infinite number of  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S$ . The main result is that the Hausdorff dimension of  $E_\lambda$  is  $\sigma / \lambda$ . Related results are obtained when also lower bounds are placed on the  $p_i^*$ . The case  $s = 1$  was settled previously (Proc. London Math. Soc. 15 (1965), 458–470). The case  $\mu_i = 1$  ( $i = 0, \dots, s$ ) gives a well-known theorem of Jarník (Math. Z. 33 (1931), 505–543).

1. **Introduction.** Jarník [3] proved that the Hausdorff dimension of the set  $E$  of all real  $s$ -tuples  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$  satisfying  $|\alpha_i - p_i q^{-1}| < q^{-\lambda}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, s$ , for an infinite number of  $(s + 1)$ -tuples  $(q, p_1, \dots, p_s)$  of integers with  $q > 0$ , is  $(s + 1)\lambda^{-1}$  provided that  $\lambda > 1 + s^{-1}$ .

In this paper we investigate the case where  $q, p_1, \dots, p_s$  are restricted to certain sets of integers which were considered by Ridout in his extension of Roth's theorem [6]. In [1] it was proved that the set  $E$  in this case has Lebesgue measure 0. The Hausdorff dimension for the one-dimensional case of the problem was determined by the authors in [2].

2. **Definitions and notation.** Let  $s$  be a positive integer,  $\mu_0, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_s$  reals in  $[0, 1]$  and  $\sigma = \sum_{i=0}^s \mu_i$ . Let  $\Pi_i = \{P_{i,1}, \dots, P_{i,n_i}\}$  ( $i = 0, \dots, s$ ), be  $s + 1$  sets of distinct primes,  $C_i$  the set of integers all of whose prime factors belong to  $\Pi_i$ .

We say that condition I is satisfied, if there exists  $P_i \in \Pi_i$  for  $i = 0, \dots, s$ , such that

(Ia)  $P_i \neq P_0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, s$ ).

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(Ib) Those among the numbers  $(1 - \mu_0)/\log P_0, \dots, (1 - \mu_s)/\log P_s$  which are not zero are linearly independent over the field of rational numbers.

In particular, condition (Ib) is satisfied if  $\mu_i = 1, i = 0, \dots, s$ .

Let  $c > 1$ . We define  $S = S(c; \mu_0, \dots, \mu_s; C_0, \dots, C_s)$  to be the set of all  $(s + 1)$ -tuples of integers  $(p_0, \dots, p_s), p_0 > 0$ , satisfying

(i)  $(p_i, p_0) = 1, i = 1, \dots, s$ .

(ii)  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$  with  $p_i' \in C_i$  and  $p_i^*$  any integer satisfying  $|p_i^*| < c|p_i|^{\mu_i}, i = 0, \dots, s$ .

Similarly we define  $S^T = S^T(c; \mu_0, \dots, \mu_s; C_0, \dots, C_s)$  by replacing (ii) by the requirement

(ii)'  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$  where  $p_i' \in C_i$  and  $p_i^*$  is any integer satisfying

$$|p_i|^{\mu_i} \leq |p_i^*| < c|p_i|^{\mu_i}, \quad i = 0, \dots, s.$$

Let  $\mu'_0, \mu'_1, \dots, \mu'_s$  be reals satisfying (a)  $0 \leq \mu'_i \leq \mu_i$ ; (b) if  $\sigma > 0$ , then  $0 \leq \mu'_j < \mu_j$  for some  $j$ . We define a set  $S'$  in a similar way to  $S$  and  $S^T$ , but replacing this time condition (ii) by the requirement

(ii)'  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$  where  $p_i' \in C_i$  and  $p_i^*$  is any integer satisfying

$$|p_i|^{\mu'_i} \leq |p_i^*| < c|p_i|^{\mu_i}, \quad i = 0, \dots, s.$$

Let  $\lambda, D$  be positive reals,  $W$  an  $s$ -dimensional interval with edges parallel to the axes. We define the set  $E = E(\lambda, W, S, D)$  to be the set of all  $s$ -tuples  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s) \in W$  satisfying  $|\alpha_i - p_i p_0^{-1}| < D p_0^{-\lambda}, i = 1, \dots, s$ , for an infinite number of  $(s + 1)$ -tuples  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  from  $S$ . Similarly we define  $E^T = E^T(\lambda, W, S^T, D)$  and  $E' = E'(\lambda, W, S', D)$ .

By  $R^s$  we denote the Euclidean space of  $s$  dimensions, and by  $d(x, y)$  the distance between two points  $x, y$  of  $R^s$ . By  $\delta(E)$ ,  $\alpha - m^* E$ ,  $\dim E$  we denote, respectively, the diameter, the Hausdorff measure with respect to the function  $t^\alpha$  and the Hausdorff dimension of the set  $E$ . By a cube we mean an  $s$ -dimensional interval with edges parallel to the axes.

**3. Main results.** The main results of this paper are

**Theorem I.**  $\dim E^T \leq \dim E' \leq \dim E \leq \sigma/\lambda$ .

**Theorem II.** Let  $t$  be the number of  $\mu_i$  which are not zero ( $i = 0, \dots, s$ ). Let  $\lambda$  satisfy

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda &> 0 && \text{if } t = 0, \\ \lambda &> \sigma/\min(s, t) && \text{if } t > 0. \end{aligned}$$

If condition I holds, then

$$\dim E \geq \dim E' \geq \dim E^T \geq \sigma/\lambda.$$

**Theorem III.** If (1) and (Ia) hold then  $\dim E \geq \dim E' \geq \sigma/\lambda$ .

These results imply  $\dim E = \dim E' = \sigma/\lambda$  if (1) and (Ia) hold and  $\dim E = \dim E' = \dim E^T = \sigma/\lambda$  if (1) holds and condition I is satisfied. The case  $\mu_i = 1, i = 0, \dots, s$ , gives Jarník's result.

**4. Proof of Theorem I.** Let  $b_i > 0, i = 1, \dots, s$ . By symmetry, it is enough to prove the theorem when  $W$  is defined by

$$W = \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) | 0 \leq x_i \leq b_i, i = 1, \dots, s\}.$$

We shall prove that, for every  $\sigma > 0$ , if  $\rho = (\sigma + \delta)\lambda^{-1}$  then  $\rho - m^*E = 0$ . We may also assume that  $\delta < 1 - \mu_0$  if  $\mu_0 < 1$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . The set of all cubes whose center is  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in W$  with  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S, p_0 > q_0$ , and length of edge  $2Dp_0^{-\lambda}$ , is obviously a covering for  $E$ . If  $q_0$  is large enough, the diameter of each cube is smaller than  $\epsilon$ . It remains to prove that the series  $M = \sum (p_0^{-\lambda})^\rho = \sum p_0^{-\sigma-\delta}$  converges, where the summation is over all sets  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S$  such that  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in W$ . Since  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$  for  $i = 0, \dots, s$ , the summation can be broken up into a summation over  $p_1^*, \dots, p_s^*$ , and over  $p_1', \dots, p_s'$ . Therefore,

$$M = \sum_{p_0} M_1, \quad M_1 \leq \sum^{\{2\}} p_0^{-\sigma-\delta} \sum^{\{1\}} 1,$$

where  $\{1\}$  and  $\{2\}$  indicate summations over  $p_1^*, \dots, p_s^*$  and  $p_1', \dots, p_s'$ , respectively. Positive constants depending only on  $c, \delta, \mu_i, b_i, \Pi_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq s$ ) are denoted by  $A$  below. Since  $p_i^* < c p_i^{\mu_i} \leq c b^{\mu_i} p_0^{\mu_i}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ), we have  $\sum^{\{1\}} 1 < A p_0^{\sigma-\mu_0}$ . Putting  $\eta = \delta/2$ , we thus obtain

$$M_1 \leq A p_0^{-\mu_0-\eta} \sum^{\{2\}} p_0^{-\eta} = A p_0^{-\mu_0-\eta} \prod_{i=1}^s \sum^{\{3\}} p_0^{-\eta/s},$$

where  $\{3\}$  denotes summation over  $p_i' \in C_i$ . Since  $p_i' \leq p_i \leq b_i p_0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ), we obtain

$$\sum^{\{3\}} p_0^{-\eta/s} \leq A \sum^{\{3\}} p_i'^{-\eta/s} \leq A \prod_{j=1}^{n_i} (1 - p_{i,j}^{-\eta/s})^{-1} \leq A.$$

Therefore

$$M_1 \leq A p_0^{-\mu_0-\eta} \quad \text{and} \quad M \leq A \sum^{\{5\}} p_0^{-\mu_0-\eta} \sum^{\{4\}} p_0^{*- \mu_0-\eta},$$

where  $\{4\}$  and  $\{5\}$  denote summations over all  $p_0^* \leq R = C^{1/(1-\mu_0)} p_0^{\mu_0/(1-\mu_0)}$  ( $\mu_0 < 1$ ) and  $p_0' \in C_0$ , respectively. (If  $\mu = 1$ ,  $M < A \sum_1^\infty p_0^{-1-\eta} \leq A$ .)

$$\sum_{\{4\}} p_0^{*- \mu_0 - \eta} < 1 + \int_1^R x^{-\mu_0 - \eta} dx \leq A p_0^{\mu_0 - \eta \mu_0 / (1 - \mu_0)}.$$

Therefore  $M \leq A \sum_{\{5\}} p_0' - \eta A < \infty$ , completing the proof.

5. Proof that Theorem II implies Theorem III. We may assume that  $\sigma > 0$ , because otherwise Theorem III is trivially true. Let  $P_i \in \Pi_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, s$  and  $P_i \neq P_0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, s$ . If condition I is not satisfied, then

$$(1 - \mu_0)/\log P_0, \dots, (1 - \mu_s)/\log P_s$$

are linearly dependent over the rationals.

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . There exists  $j$  such that  $0 \leq \mu_j' < \mu_j$ . Choose  $\mu_j''$  such that  $\mu_j' < \mu_j'' < \mu_j$ ,  $\mu_j - \mu_j'' < \epsilon$ , and such that the nonzero members among

$$(1 - \mu_0)/\log P_0, \dots, (1 - \mu_j'')/\log P_j, \dots, (1 - \mu_s)/\log P_s$$

are linearly independent over the rationals. Let  $\mu_i'' = \mu_i$  for  $i \neq j$ , and let  $S''T$  and  $S'''$  be the same as  $S^T$  and  $S'$  respectively, except that in (ii) $^T$  and (ii)',  $\mu_i$  is replaced by  $\mu_i''$  ( $0 \leq i \leq s$ ). Then

$$S''T \subset S''' \subset S' \subset S, \quad E''T \subset E''' \subset E' \subset E.$$

By Theorem II,

$$\dim E \geq \dim E' \geq \dim E'' \geq \dim E''T \geq (\sigma - \epsilon)/\lambda.$$

Since this holds for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $\dim E \geq \dim E' \geq \sigma/\lambda$ , which is Theorem III.

**Remark.** Condition I is, however, essential in proving  $\dim E^T \geq \sigma/\lambda$ , as is shown by the following example. Let  $P_0$  and  $P_1$  be two distinct primes,  $C_0 = \{P_0^{m_0}\}$ ,  $C_1 = \{P_1^{m_1}\}$ ,  $m_0, m_1$  nonnegative integers. There exist  $\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$  in  $[0, 1)$  such that  $P_1^{1/(1-\mu_1)} = P_0^{1/(1-\mu_0)} = A > 1$ . Let  $0 < \epsilon < (A-1)/(A+1)$ , and

$$1 < c < \min((1 + \epsilon)^{1-\mu_1}, (1 - \epsilon)^{-(1-\mu_0)}).$$

If  $(p_0, p_1) \in S^T(c; \mu_0, \mu_1; C_0, C_1)$  and  $p_0, p_1 > 0$ , then

$$p_i = p_i^* p_i', \quad p_i^{\mu_i} \leq p_i^* < c p_i^{\mu_i}, \quad p_i' = P_i^{m_i}, \quad i = 0, 1.$$

This gives

$$P_i^{m_i/(1-\mu_i)} \leq p_i < c^{1/(1-\mu_i)} P_i^{m_i/(1-\mu_i)}, \quad i = 0, 1,$$

and

$$(2) \quad (1 - \epsilon)A^k < c^{-1/(1-\mu_0)} A^k < p_1/p_0 < c^{1/(1-\mu_1)} A^k < (1 + \epsilon)A^k,$$

where  $k = m_1 - m_0$ .

The requirement for  $\epsilon$  implies that  $A(1 - \epsilon) > 1 + \epsilon$ . By (2), the interval  $(1 + \epsilon, A(1 - \epsilon))$  does not contain any  $p_1/p_0$  with  $(p_0, p_1) \in S^T$  because, if  $k \leq 0$ , then  $(1 + \epsilon)A^k \leq 1 + \epsilon$ , and if  $k > 0$ , then  $A(1 - \epsilon) \leq (1 - \epsilon)A^k$ .

6. Lemmas for Theorem II. It suffices to prove Theorem II for an interval  $W$  of the form

$$W = \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) | a_i \leq x_i \leq b_i, i = 1, \dots, s\},$$

where the  $a_i$  are arbitrary positive reals,  $b_i = a_i + L_0$ , and  $L_0$  is any sufficiently small real number, to be chosen later in the proof (Lemma 4).

**Lemma 1.** *It is enough to prove Theorem II for the case  $\mu_i \geq \mu_0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, s$ .*

**Proof.** If  $\mu_i < \mu_0$  for some  $i > 0$ , we may assume that  $\mu_s = \min(\mu_0, \dots, \mu_s)$ . Let  $\nu_i = \mu_i$  if  $i \neq 0, s$ ,  $\nu_0 = \mu_s$  and  $\nu_s = \mu_0$ . Let  $\psi: W \rightarrow R^s$  be defined by

$$\psi(x_1, \dots, x_{s-1}, x_s) = (x_1/x_s, \dots, x_{s-1}/x_s, 1/x_s),$$

and let  $W_1 = \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) | a'_i \leq x_i \leq b'_i, 1 \leq i \leq s\}$  be chosen so that  $\psi(W_1) \subset W$ . It is easily seen that  $\psi$  has Jacobian  $a_s^{-s-1}$ , which is bounded away from 0 and  $\infty$  on  $W_1$ , and therefore preserves Hausdorff dimension.

Let  $S^T, E^T$  be as defined in §2,

$$S_1^T = S^T(c; \nu_0, \dots, \nu_s; C_s, C_1, \dots, C_{s-1}, C_0), \quad E_1^T = E^T(\lambda, W_1, S_1^T, D_1),$$

where  $D_1 > 0$  is sufficiently small. The conditions of Theorem II hold for  $E_1^T$ , and we have, moreover,  $\nu_i \geq \nu_0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ). Therefore, assuming the validity of the theorem for this case,  $\dim E_1^T \geq \sigma/\lambda$ . We now prove that for a suitable choice of  $D_1$  we have  $\psi(E_1^T) \subset E^T$ . Let  $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_s) \in \psi(E_1^T)$ . There exists  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s) \in E_1^T$  such that  $(\alpha_1/\alpha_s, \dots, \alpha_{s-1}/\alpha_s, 1/\alpha_s) = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{s-1}, \beta_s)$ , and an infinity of  $(p_s, p_1, \dots, p_{s-1}, p_0) \in S_1^T$  ( $p'_i \in C_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, s$ ), satisfying  $|\alpha_i - p_i/p_s| < D_1 p_s^{-\lambda}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s-1$ ,  $|\alpha_s - p_0/p_s| < D_1 p_s^{-\lambda}$ . Let  $\alpha_i = p_i/p_s + \eta_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s-1$ ,  $\alpha_s = p_0/p_s + \eta_s$ ,  $|\eta_i| < D_1 p_s^{-\lambda}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq s$ ). For  $1 \leq i \leq s-1$  we then have

$$\frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_s} = \frac{p_i}{p_0} \cdot \frac{1 + \eta_i p_s/p_i}{1 + \eta_s p_s/p_0},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_s} - \frac{p_i}{p_0} \right| &< \frac{p_i}{p_0} (1 - D_1 p_s^{1-\lambda}/p_0)^{-1} \left( |\eta_1| \frac{p_s}{p_i} + |\eta_s| \frac{p_s}{p_0} \right) \\ &\leq 2 \left( \frac{b'_i}{a_i} \right) (1 - D_1 p_s^{1-\lambda}/p_0)^{-1} D_1 p_s^{-\lambda} < D p_0^{-\lambda}, \end{aligned}$$

if  $D_1$  is sufficiently small. A similar computation shows that  $|\alpha_s^{-1} - p_s p_0^{-1}| < D p_0^{-\lambda}$  for  $\bar{D}$  small enough. Thus

$$|\beta_i - p_i/p_0| < D p_0^{-\lambda}, \quad i = 1, \dots, s,$$

which shows that  $\psi(E_1^T) \subset E^T$ . Therefore,

$$\dim E^T \geq \dim \psi(E_1^T) = \dim E_1^T \geq \sigma/\lambda.$$

From now on we shall assume  $\mu_i \geq \mu_0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ). We may also assume that every  $\Pi_i$  contains only one prime  $P_i$  such that condition I is satisfied, that not all  $\mu_i$  are 1 because this is Jarník's theorem, and that not all  $\mu_i$  are zero because then Theorem II is trivial. These assumptions are not essential but permit a simpler exposition.

Let  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\rho = (\sigma - \delta)/\lambda$ . In order to prove that  $\rho - m^*(E^T) > 0$ , we use the following special case of a theorem due to P. A. P. Moran [5].

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $s$  be a positive integer,  $E$  a bounded set in  $R^s$  and  $0 \leq \rho \leq s$ . A sufficient condition for  $\rho - m^*(E)$  to be positive is the existence of a closed subset  $F$  of  $E$  and an additive function  $\phi$  defined on the ring  $\mathfrak{R}$  generated by the semiopen cubes of  $R^s$ , satisfying the following properties:*

- (a)  $\phi$  is nonnegative.
- (b) For every  $R \in \mathfrak{R}$  and  $R \supset F$  we have  $\phi(R) > b > 0$  for some fixed  $b$ .
- (c) There exists a positive constant  $k$  such that for every semiopen cube  $R$  we have  $\phi(R) < k\delta(R)^\rho$ .

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_s$  be reals such that  $1, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_s$  are linearly independent over the rationals,  $\delta, \eta, n_0 > 0$ . There exist real numbers  $b, B$  such that for every set of real numbers  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$  there is an  $(s+1)$ -tuple of integers  $(m_0, \dots, m_s)$  satisfying  $|m_0 \theta_i - m_i - \alpha_i| < \delta$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ,  $n_0 < b < m_0 < B < (1 + \eta)b$ .*

Except for the explicit bound on  $m_0$ , this is Kronecker's theorem. The bound can be obtained by introducing a slight change in one of the proofs of Kronecker's theorem, for example, Lettenmeyer's proof [4].

Let  $t'$  be the number of nonzero  $\mu_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ),  $0 < \mu < \min_{\mu_i \neq 0} \mu_i$ . We shall now formulate the main lemma.

**Lemma 4.** Let  $L < L_0$ ,  $\theta, \eta$  be positive real,  $q_0 = q_0(a, b_i, \Pi_i, \mu_i, L, \eta)$  a sufficiently large real number. There exist reals  $a, A$  such that for every cube  $I \subset W$  with edge  $L$ , there is a subset  $S_I \subset S^T$  with the following properties:

(i) If  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S_I$ , then  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I$ ,  $q_0 < a < p_0 < A < a^{1+\eta}$ ,  $(p_i, p_0) = 1$ ,  $a^{-\mu} < L$ , and all the  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S_I$  share the same fixed  $(s+1)$ -tuple  $(p'_0, \dots, p'_s)$ .

(ii) If  $p_0^{(1)} \leq p_0^{(2)}$  and  $(p_0^i, \dots, p_s^i) \in S_I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), then there exists at least one  $j$  such that

$$(3) \quad |p_j^{(1)}/p_0^{(1)} - p_j^{(2)}/p_0^{(2)}| \geq (p_0^{(1)})^{-(\sigma/s)-\theta}.$$

(iii) Let  $a^{-\mu} < l \leq L$ ,  $I_l$  any cube with edge length  $l$  contained in  $I$ ,  $V_l$  the number of elements  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  of  $S_I$  such that  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I_l$ . Then

$$V_l < Kl^{t'} p_0^{\sigma/(1-\mu_0)}/Y,$$

where

$$Y = \begin{cases} \log p'_0 & \text{if } \mu_0 > 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } \mu_0 = 0, \end{cases}$$

$K$  a suitable positive constant depending on  $S^T, W, \lambda, D, \eta, \theta$ .

(iv) The total number  $V_L$  of elements of  $S_I$  satisfies

$$V_L > Kl^{t'} \frac{p_0^{\sigma/(1-\mu_0)}}{Y} \geq Kl^{t'} \frac{a^\sigma}{X},$$

where

$$X = \begin{cases} \log a & \text{if } \mu_0 > 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } \mu_0 = 0. \end{cases}$$

**Remark.** The convention on  $K$  will be used for the rest of the paper, for the sake of simplicity of notation.

**Proof.** Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be sufficiently small,

$$(4) \quad I = \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) \mid a_i + \epsilon < \gamma_i \leq x_i \leq \gamma_i + L < b_i, 1 \leq i \leq s\},$$

$$(5) \quad 1 < c_0 < c_1 < c, \quad c_1 < 1 + \min_i (\epsilon/a_i), \quad c_1/c_0 < 2, \quad c_0 < 2.$$

Since  $\mu_i \geq \mu_0$  and not all  $\mu_i$  are 1, we have  $\mu_0 < 1$ . Suppose that  $\mu_0, \dots, \mu_h$  ( $h \leq s$ ) are all the  $\mu_i$  which are not 1. We assume first  $h > 0$ . Let

$$\delta = \min_{1 \leq i \leq h} \frac{1 - \mu_i}{2 \log P_i} \log \left( 1 + \frac{L}{b_i} \right),$$

$$\theta_i = \frac{(1 - \mu_i) \log P_0}{(1 - \mu_0) \log P_i}, \quad \xi_i = - \frac{1 - \mu_i}{2 \log P_i} \log \left( \frac{\gamma_i(\gamma_i + L)}{c_1^2} \right), \quad 1 \leq i \leq h.$$

Condition I implies that  $1, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_h$  are linearly independent over the rationals. By Lemma 3, there exist numbers  $b, B$  and an  $(h+1)$ -tuple of integers  $(m_0, \dots, m_h)$  satisfying

$$(6) \quad (1 - \mu_0) \log_{P_0} (q_0/c_0) < b < m_0 < B < (1 + \eta)b,$$

$$|m_0 \theta_i - m_i - \xi_i| < \delta, \quad 1 \leq i \leq h.$$

This with the definition of  $\delta$  implies

$$(7) \quad \gamma_i < c_1 P_i^{m_i/(1-\mu_i)} / P_0^{m_0/(1-\mu_0)} < \gamma_i + L, \quad 1 \leq i \leq h.$$

Define a set  $T_I$  of  $(s+1)$ -tuples  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  of integers with  $p_i = p_i^* p_i'$  ( $0 \leq i \leq s$ ) satisfying:

1.  $p_i' = P_i^{m_i}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq h$ ), where  $(m_0, \dots, m_h)$  is a fixed  $(h+1)$ -tuple of integers satisfying (7), and  $p_i' = 1$  for  $i > h$ .

2. If  $\mu_0 > 0$ ,  $p_0^*$  ranges over all primes  $> \max_i P_i$  satisfying

$$(8) \quad c_0 p_0^{\mu_0/(1-\mu_0)} \leq p_0^* \leq c_1 p_0^{\mu_0/(1-\mu_0)}.$$

The existence of such  $p_0^*$  is guaranteed if  $q_0$  is sufficiently large. If  $\mu_0 = 0$ , put  $p_0^* = 1$ .

3. If  $\mu_i > 0$ ,  $p_i^*$  ranges over all integers satisfying

$$(9) \quad \gamma_i \frac{p_0}{p_i'} < p_i^* < (\gamma_i + L) \frac{p_0}{p_i'}, \quad (p_i^*, p_0 p_i') = 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq s.$$

Since every interval of length  $\geq 5$  contains an integer relatively prime to the product of three given primes, integers  $p_i^*$  satisfying (9) will exist if  $L p_0 / p_i' > 6$ . By (7) this condition is easily seen to hold if  $q_0$  is sufficiently large.

If  $\mu_i = 0$ , put  $p_i^* = 1$ .

Now assume  $h = 0$ . Choose  $b = m_0 - 1 > (1 - \mu_0) \log_{P_0} (q_0/c_0)$ ,  $B = m_0 + 1$ ,  $p_0' = P_0^{m_0}$ ,  $p_i' = 1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ), and  $p_0^*, p_i^*$  as above. It is clear



that such  $p_i^* = p_i$  satisfying (9) do in fact exist. Moreover, for  $q_0$  sufficiently large, (6) holds.

The definition of  $T_I$  implies that if  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in T_I$ , then  $a_i < p_i/p_0 < b_i$ , and  $(p_i, p_0) = 1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ). This follows from (9) if  $h\mu_i > 0$  or  $h = 0$ . If  $h > 0$ ,  $\mu_i = \mu_0 = 0$ , it follows from (7) and (5). For  $h > 0$ ,  $\mu_i = 0$ ,  $\mu_0 > 0$ , we have by (4), (5), (7) and (8),

$$a_i < \frac{a_i + \epsilon}{c_1} < \frac{\gamma_i}{c_1} < \frac{p_i}{p_0} < \frac{\gamma_i + L}{c_0} < \gamma_i + L.$$

Let  $a = c_0 P_0^{b/(1-\mu_0)}$ ,  $A = c_0 P_0^{B/(1-\mu_0)}$ . If  $q_0$  is sufficiently large, we obtain, by (6), (8) and (5) ( $\mu_0 \geq 0$ ,  $h \geq 0$ ),

$$q_0 < a < p_0 < A < a^{1+\eta}, \quad a^{-\mu} < L.$$

For  $\mu_0 > 0$ , (8) implies  $p_0^{\mu_0} < c_0^{1-\mu_0} p_0^{\mu_0} \leq p_0^* < c_1 p_0^{\mu_0} < c p_0^{\mu_0}$ , and for  $\mu_0 = 0$ ,  $p_0^* = p_0^{\mu_0}$ . To prove that  $T_I \subset S^T$  it remains to show that

$$(10) \quad p_i^{\mu_i} \leq p_i^* < c p_i^{\mu_i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq s.$$

We may assume  $0 < \mu_i < 1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ), because otherwise (10) is trivial. If  $\mu_0 > 0$ , we obtain, from (7), (8), (9),

$$(c_0 c_1)^{1-\mu_i} \frac{\gamma_i}{\gamma_i + L} p_i^{\mu_i} < p_i^* < c_1^{(1-\mu_i)^2} \frac{\gamma_i + L}{\gamma_i} p_i^{\mu_i},$$

and for  $\mu_0 = 0$ , we obtain, from (7) and (9),

$$\frac{\gamma_i}{\gamma_i + L} c^{1-\mu_i} p_i^{\mu_i} < p_i^* < \frac{\gamma_i + L}{\gamma_i} c_1^{1-\mu_i} p_i^{\mu_i}.$$

Therefore (10) will hold by choosing  $L$  to satisfy

$$0 < L < L_0 < \min_{1 \leq i \leq s} (a_i(c/c_1 - 1), a_i(c_1^{1-\mu_i} - 1)).$$

We thus proved that  $T_I \subset S^T$ . Let

$$I_l = \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) | \gamma_i < \beta_i \leq x_i \leq \beta_i + l \leq \gamma_i + L, 1 \leq i \leq s\}, \quad a^{-\mu} < l \leq L.$$

Let  $p_0$  be fixed. For  $\mu_i > 0$  ( $i > 0$ ), denote by  $W_l^i(p_0)$  the number of integers  $p_i^*$  relatively prime to  $p_0^* P_0 P_i$ , which satisfy  $\beta_i p_0/p_i' < p_i^* < (\beta_i + l) p_0/p_i'$ . Lemma 4 of [2] implies

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{lp_0}{p'_i} - 1\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{P_i}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{P_0}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{p_0^*}\right) - 2^3 &< W_l^i(p_0) \\ &< \left(\frac{lp_0}{p'_i} + 1\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{P_i}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{P_0}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{p_0^*}\right) + 2^3, \end{aligned}$$

except that the factor  $1 - 1/p_0^*$  is dropped if  $\mu_0 = 0$ . Since  $l > a^{-\mu} > p_0^{-\mu}$ , (9) and (10) imply  $lp_0/p'_i > Kp_0^{\mu_i - \mu}$ . Since  $\mu_i - \mu > 0$ , 1 is absorbed by  $lp_0/p'_i$ . Thus

$$(11) \quad Kl p_0^{\mu_i} < W_l^i(p_0) < Kl p_0^{\mu_i}.$$

For fixed  $p_0$ , denote by  $W_l(p_0)$  the number of elements  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in T_l$  such that  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I_l$ . Multiplying together the  $i'$  inequalities (11) and defining  $W_l^i(p_0) = 1$  for  $\mu_i = 0$ , we obtain

$$(12) \quad Kl^{i'} p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0} < W_l(p_0) < Kl^{i'} p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0}.$$

It is easily seen that if  $s = 1$ , the set  $T_l$  satisfies all the conditions of the lemma for  $S_l$ . For  $s > 1$ , however, condition (ii) is not necessarily satisfied. Let  $(p_0, p_1^{(1)}, \dots, p_s^{(1)})$  and  $(p_0, p_1^{(2)}, \dots, p_s^{(2)})$  be two distinct elements of  $T_l$  with the same  $p_0$ . By (9) and (10),

$$\left| \frac{p_i^{(1)}}{p_0} - \frac{p_i^{(2)}}{p_0} \right| = \frac{p'_i}{p_0} |p_i^{*(1)} - p_i^{*(2)}| \geq \frac{p'_i}{p_0} > Kp_0^{-\mu_i}.$$

There exists  $j$  such that

$$\mu_j \leq \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s \mu_i \leq \frac{\sigma}{s} < \frac{\sigma}{s} + \theta;$$

hence

$$\left| \frac{p_j^{(1)}}{p_0} - \frac{p_j^{(2)}}{p_0} \right| \geq Kp_0^{-\mu_j} > Kp_0^{-(\sigma/s) - \theta}.$$

Condition (ii) of the lemma is therefore satisfied for two elements of  $T_l$  with the same  $p_0$ . If  $\mu_0 = 0$ , then all the elements of  $T_l$  have the same  $p_0$  and we define  $S_l = T_l$  in this case. If  $\mu_0 > 0$ , we define  $S_l \subset T_l$  by excluding all those elements  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  of  $T_l$  for which there exists  $p_0^{(1)} < p_0$  and  $(p_0^{(1)}, \dots, p_s^{(1)}) \in T_l$  such that for  $i = 1, \dots, s$  we have

$$(13) \quad \left| \frac{p_i^{(1)}}{p_0^{(1)}} - \frac{p_i}{p_0} \right| < (p_0^{(1)})^{-(\sigma/s) - \theta}.$$

Clearly,  $S_I$  satisfies condition (ii) of the lemma. We shall now count the number of elements of  $T_I$  which are not in  $S_I$ . Let  $N(p_0, p_0^{(1)})$  be the number of elements of  $T_I$  for a fixed  $p_0$  and fixed  $p_0^{(1)} < p_0$ , for which (13) holds for some  $i$ . For fixed  $p_0$ , let  $N(p_0)$  denote the number of those elements  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  of  $T_I$  for which there exists an element  $(p_0^{(1)}, \dots, p_s^{(1)})$  of  $T_I$  such that (13) holds for every  $i$ . Clearly,

$$N(p_0) \leq \sum_{\substack{(1) \\ p_0^{(1)} \leq p_0}} \prod_{i=1}^s N_i(p_0, p_0^{(1)}).$$

From (13),

$$|p_i^* p_0^{*(1)} - p_i^{*(1)} p_0^*| < p_0^* p_0^{(1)} / p_i' p_0^{(1)(\sigma/s) + \theta}.$$

The expression  $p_i^{*(1)} p_0^* - p_0^{*(1)} p_i^*$  can therefore assume at most

$$2p_0 p_0^{(1)} / p_i' p_0^{(1)(\sigma/s) + \theta}$$

different values. Let  $u$  be a fixed integer. The equation  $p_i^* p_0^{*(1)} - p_i^{*(1)} p_0^* = u$  implies

$$(14) \quad p_i^* p_0^{*(1)} \equiv u \pmod{p_0^*}.$$

Since  $p_0^*$  is a prime, this congruence has exactly one solution  $p_i^*$  in each interval of length  $p_0^*$ . The integer  $p_i^*$  is to be chosen in the interval  $[\gamma_i p_0 / p_i', (\gamma_i + L) p_0 / p_i']$  of length  $L p_0 / p_i' = KL p_0^{\mu_i}$ . Since  $p_0^* > c_0^{1-\mu_0} p_0^{\mu_0}$  and  $\mu_i \geq \mu_0$ , the number of solutions of (14) is  $L p_0 / p_0^* p_i' < KL p_0^{\mu_i - \mu_0}$ . Therefore

$$N_i(p_0, p_0^{(1)}) \leq KL \frac{p_0^* p_0^{(1)} p_0^{\mu_i - \mu_0}}{p_i' p_0^{(1)(\sigma/s) + \theta}} \leq KL \frac{p_0^{\mu_i} p_0^{(1)\mu_i}}{(p_0^{(1)})^{(\sigma/s) + \theta}},$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} N(p_0) &\leq KL^s p_0^{\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_s} \sum_{\substack{(1) \\ p_0^{(1)} < p_0}} p_0^{(1)\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_s} / p_0^{(1)\sigma + \theta s} \\ &= KL^s p_0^{\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_s} \sum_{\substack{(1) \\ p_0^{(1)} < p_0}} p_0^{(1)-\mu_0 - \theta s} \\ &\leq KL^s p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0 - \theta s / 2} \sum_{\substack{(1) \\ p_0^{(1)} < p_0}} p_0^{(1)-\mu_0 - \theta s / 2}. \end{aligned}$$

The last sum converges as was shown in the proof of Theorem I. Therefore,

$$N(p_0) \leq KL^s p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0 - \theta s/2}.$$

Let  $V_I(p_0)$  denote the number of elements  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  of  $S_I$  such that  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I_I$  for fixed  $p_0$ , and let  $V_I$  be the total number of those elements in  $S_I$ . By (12),

$$V_I(p_0) \leq W_I(p_0) \leq Kl^{t'} p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0},$$

$$V_L(p_0) = W_L(p_0) - N(p_0) \geq Kl^{t'} p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0}.$$

Therefore,

$$V_I < Kl^{t'} \sum^* p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0}, \quad V_L > Kl^{t'} \sum^* p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0},$$

where  $\sum^*$  denotes summation over all  $p_0$  so that  $(p_0, \dots, p_s) \in S_I$ . By (8),

$$Kp_0'^{(\sigma - \mu_0)/(1 - \mu_0)} \sum_{p_0^*}^* 1 < \sum^* p_0^{\sigma - \mu_0} < Kp_0'^{(\sigma - \mu_0)/(1 - \mu_0)} \sum_{p_0^*}^* 1,$$

where  $\sum_{p_0^*}^* 1 = 1$  if  $\mu_0 = 0$ . If  $\mu_0 > 0$ , we obtain from (8) and the Prime Number Theorem,

$$Kp_0'^{(\sigma - \mu_0)/(1 - \mu_0)} / \log p_0' < \sum_{p_0^*}^* 1 < Kp_0'^{(\sigma - \mu_0)/(1 - \mu_0)} / \log p_0'.$$

Therefore we obtain ( $\mu_0 \geq 0$ )

$$V_I < Kl^{t'} p_0'^{\sigma/(1 - \mu_0)} / Y,$$

$$V_L > Kl^{t'} p_0'^{\sigma/(1 - \mu_0)} / Y > Kl^{t'} a^{\sigma} / X,$$

completing the proof of Lemma 4.

**7. Proof of Theorem II.** By (1),  $\lambda = \sigma / \min(s, t) + r$ , for some  $r > 0$ . We shall construct by induction a sequence of closed sets  $F_0 \supset F_1 \supset \dots$  and a sequence of additive functions  $\phi_n$  on  $\mathfrak{R}$  such that the set  $F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n \subset E$ , and the function  $\phi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_n$  satisfy the hypothesis of Lemma 2 with  $\rho = (\sigma - \delta) / \lambda$ . Let  $F_0 = W$ ,  $G_0$  the set whose unique element is  $F_0$ . Let  $A_0 > (L_0/D)^{-1/\lambda}$  be sufficiently large. For every  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$  and  $I \subset W$  we define  $\phi_0(I) = V(I)/L_0^s$ , where  $V(I)$  denotes the  $s$ -dimensional volume of  $I$ .

Suppose that for  $k = 0, \dots, n-1$ , a suitable increasing sequence of positive numbers  $A_k$  and sets  $G_k$  of disjoint closed cubes all with edge  $L_k = 2D(2A_k)^{-\lambda}$  have already been defined such that every element of  $G_k$  is contained in some element of  $G_{k-1}$ . Let  $F_k$  be the union of all elements of  $G_k$ .

Suppose also that a sequence  $\phi_k$  of additive functions on  $\mathfrak{R}$  has already been defined for all  $k < n$ .

Let  $I \in G_{n-1}$ ,  $I'$  the cube concentric with  $I$  with edge  $L_{n-1}/2$ . We apply Lemma 4 with  $\theta, \eta$  satisfying  $0 < \theta < \min(\delta, \tau)$ ,  $0 < \eta < \delta/(\sigma - \delta)$ , where  $0 < \delta < \sigma$ ;  $L = L_{n-1}/2$ ,  $A_{n-1}$  as  $q_0$  and  $I'$  as  $I$ . There exist reals  $a_n, A_n$  and a subset  $S_{I'} \subset S^T$  of  $(s+1)$ -tuples of integers  $(p_0, \dots, p_s)$  satisfying

$$(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I', \quad A_{n-1} < a_n < p_0 < A_n < a_n^{1+\eta},$$

and (3). Let  $G_n$  be the set of all closed cubes with centers  $(p_1/p_0, \dots, p_s/p_0) \in I'$  and length of edge  $2D(2A_n)^{-\lambda}$  where  $I$  ranges over all cubes of  $G_{n-1}$ . Note that each  $I'$  has its own unique  $p'_0$ , which induces a number of  $p_0$  as specified by (8) (if  $\mu_0 > 0$ ), but by Lemma 3 all of these  $p_0$  satisfy the inequalities of (i) of Lemma 4 for the same  $a_n = a$ ,  $A_n = A$ .

By (3), all cubes in  $G_n$  are disjoint if  $A_n$  is sufficiently large, as we shall assume. Let  $F_n$  be the union of all cubes in  $G_n$ . Then  $F_n$  is closed and  $F_n \subset F_{n-1}$ . If  $I \in G_n$ , then  $I \subset J \in G_{n-1}$ . Letting  $N_J$  be the number of elements of  $G_n$  contained in  $J$ , we define  $\phi_n(I) = \phi_{n-1}(J)/N_J$ . If  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$  and  $I \subset J \in G_n$ , let  $\phi_n(I) = \phi_n(J) \cdot V(I)/V(J)$ . If  $I \subset W$  is an arbitrary element of  $\mathfrak{R}$ , then  $I = \bigcup_h I_h \cup Q$ , where  $I_h = I \cap J_h$ ,  $J_h \in G_n$ ,  $Q \cap F_n = \emptyset$ . In this case we define  $\phi_n(I) = \sum_h \phi_n(I_h)$ . The following properties of the functions  $\phi_n$  are obvious: They are nonnegative finite additive functions on  $\mathfrak{R}$ , and for  $I \in G_{n-1}$ ,  $\phi_n(I) = \phi_{n-1}(I)$ . If  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$ ,  $I \supset F_n$ , then  $\phi_n(I) = 1$ . Let  $\delta_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , be positive reals such that the product  $\prod_{i=0}^{\infty} (1 + \delta_i)$  converges and  $\delta_0, \delta_1$  sufficiently large. Let  $k_n = \prod_{i=0}^n (1 + \delta_i)$ . We shall prove by induction on  $n$  that the sequence  $A_i$  can be chosen such that for every cube  $I \subset W$ ,

$$(15) \quad \phi_n(I)/\delta(I)^\rho < k_n.$$

For  $n = 0$ ,

$$\frac{\phi_0(I)}{\delta(I)^\rho} = \frac{V(I)}{L_0^s \delta(I)^\rho} = S^{-s/2} L_0^{-s} \delta(I)^{s-\rho} \leq K L_0^{-\rho} < 1 + \delta_0.$$

Let  $\Delta_n = \max_{I \in G_n} \phi_n(I)$ . By (iv) of Lemma 4,

$$\Delta_n < K L_{n-1}^{-t'} \Delta_{n-1} X_n a_n^{-\sigma}, \quad X_n = \begin{cases} \log a_n & \text{if } \mu_0 > 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } \mu_0 = 0. \end{cases}$$

For proving (15) we distinguish several cases.

(a)  $I \in G_n$ . Then

$$\frac{\phi_n(l)}{\delta(l)^\rho} < \frac{\Delta_n}{L_n^\rho} < KL_{n-1}^{-t'} \Delta_{n-1} X_n a_n^{-\sigma} A_n^{\lambda\rho} < KL_{n-1}^{-t'} \Delta_{n-1} X_n a_n^{-\sigma+(1+\eta)(\sigma-\delta)}.$$

The exponent of  $a_n$  is negative. For  $a_n$  large enough,  $\phi_n(l)/\delta(l)^\rho$  can thus be made as small as desired.

(b)  $I \subset J \in G_n$ . Then

$$\frac{\phi_n(l)}{\delta(l)^\rho} = \phi_n(J) \frac{V(l)}{V(J)\delta(l)^\rho} = \frac{\phi_n(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho} \left( \frac{\delta(l)}{\delta(J)} \right)^{s-\rho} \leq \frac{\phi_n(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho},$$

which is reduced to the previous case.

(c)  $I \subset J \in G_{n-1}$  and the length  $l$  of the edge of  $I$  is greater than  $a_n^{-\mu}$ . Let  $N_I$  and  $N_J$  denote the number of elements of  $G_n$  with nonempty intersection with  $I$  and  $J$  respectively. By (iii) and (iv) of Lemma 4,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\phi_n(l)}{\delta(l)^\rho} &\leq \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{N_J} \cdot \frac{N_I}{\delta(l)^\rho} \leq K \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{\delta(l)^\rho} \frac{l^{t'}}{L_{n-1}^{t'}} \\ &\leq K \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho} \left( \frac{\delta(l)}{\delta(J)} \right)^{t'-\rho} < K \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho}, \end{aligned}$$

since inequality (1) on  $\lambda$  implies  $t' - \rho > 0$ . For  $n > 1$ , the last expression can be made as small as desired if  $a_{n-1}$  is large enough, as was shown in case (a). For  $n = 1$ ,

$$\frac{\phi_1(l)}{\delta(l)^\rho} < K \frac{\phi_0(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho} < \frac{K}{L_0^\rho} \leq 1 + \delta_1,$$

if  $\delta_1$  is sufficiently large.

(d)  $I \subset J \in G_{n-1}$  but the edge  $l$  of  $I$  is not greater than  $a_n^{-\mu}$ . The cubes concentric to the cubes of  $G_n$  and with edge of length  $A_n^{-(\sigma/s)-\theta}$  are disjoint by (3), so the number  $N_I$  of cubes of  $G_n$  with nonempty intersection with  $I$  is at most  $N_I \leq K\delta(l)^s A_n^{\sigma+\theta s}$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{\phi_n(l)}{\delta(l)^\rho} \leq \frac{N_I \Delta_n}{\delta(l)^\rho} \leq K \Delta_{n-1} L_{n-1}^{-t'} a_n^{-\mu(s-\rho)+(1+\eta)(\sigma+\theta s)} a_n^{-\sigma} X_n.$$

For  $\theta, \eta$  small enough and  $a_n$  large enough, this can be made as small as desired.

(e)  $I$  is an arbitrary cube of edge length  $l$ . We may assume  $n > 1$ , as the case  $n = 1$  is settled by the previous cases. We may also assume  $l > \frac{1}{2} A_{n-1}^{-(\sigma/s)-\theta}$ , since otherwise, for  $A_{n-1}$  large enough,  $I$  intersects at most one element of  $G_{n-1}$ , which is also subsumed by the previous cases. Let  $J$  be a cube with the same center as  $I$  and edge length  $l + 4A_{n-1}^{-\lambda}$ . For  $A_{n-1}$  large enough we have

$$(\delta(J)/\delta(I))^\rho < 1 + \delta_n,$$

$$\frac{\phi_n(I)}{\delta(I)^\rho} \leq \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{\delta(I)^\rho} = \frac{\phi_{n-1}(J)}{\delta(J)^\rho} \left( \frac{\delta(J)}{\delta(I)} \right)^\rho < (1 + \delta_n) k_{n-1} = k_n,$$

which proves (15).

Now let  $\epsilon_i$ ,  $i \geq 2$ , be any sequence of positive integers such that  $\sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \epsilon_i$  converges. For every cube  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$ , we have

$$\phi_n(I) = \phi_0(I) + (\phi_1(I) - \phi_0(I)) + \dots + (\phi_n(I) - \phi_{n-1}(I)).$$

The difference  $\phi_k(I) - \phi_{k-1}(I)$  is contributed by those elements of  $G_{k-1}$  which intersect the boundary of  $I$ . Let  $\bar{N}_k$  be the number of those elements of  $G_{k-1}$ . The cubes concentric to the elements of  $G_{k-1}$  and whose length of edge is  $\frac{1}{2} A_{k-1}^{-(\sigma/s)-\theta}$  are disjoint. Therefore,

$$(16) \quad \bar{N}_k \leq K \max \{ \delta(I)^{s-1} A_{k-1}^{((\sigma/s)+\theta)(s-1)}, 1 \},$$

and

$$|\phi_k(I) - \phi_{k-1}(I)| \leq \bar{N}_k \Delta_{k-1}.$$

If the max in (16) is 1, then for  $A_{k-1}$  large enough  $|\phi_k(I) - \phi_{k-1}(I)| < \epsilon_k$ . Otherwise,

$$|\phi_k(I) - \phi_{k-1}(I)| \leq K \delta(I)^{s-1} L_{k-2}^{-t'} \Delta_{k-2} X_{k-1} A_{k-1}^{((\sigma/s)+\theta)(s-1)-\sigma(1+\eta)}.$$

For  $\theta$  small and  $A_{k-1}$  large enough, this is smaller than  $\epsilon_k$ . This proves that the functions  $\phi_n$  converge on each cube  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$ . Since the functions  $\phi_n$  are additive, they converge also for every  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$ . The limit function  $\phi$  is non-negative, finite and additive. If  $I \in \mathfrak{R}$ ,  $I \supset F$ , there exists  $n$  such that  $I \supset F_n$  and so  $\phi(I) = \phi_n(I) = 1$ . For every cube  $I \subset W$  there exists  $n$  such that

$$|\phi_n(I) - \phi(I)| < \delta(I)^\rho, \quad \frac{\phi(I)}{\delta(I)^\rho} < \frac{\phi_n(I) + \delta(I)^\rho}{\delta(I)^\rho} < k_n + 1 < k.$$

So  $\phi$ ,  $F$ ,  $\rho$  satisfy the conditions of Lemma 2, and we have  $\rho - m^* E^T > 0$ .

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