

# A Generalization of Roth Inequality on Distribution

Sun Heng

Xu Yanzhi

(Department of Mathematics)

## Abstract

The present paper develops an inequality of Roth to the general case.

Let  $\Omega \subset R^m$ ,  $f \in C^m(\Omega)$ , and  $P_1, \dots, P_N$  be  $N$  points contained in  $\Omega$ . Let  $S(x^1, \dots, x^m)$  denote the number of points contained in  $(-\infty, x^1) \times \dots \times (-\infty, x^m)$ .  $\Delta(t) := \{x \in \Omega \mid \left| \frac{\partial^m f(x)}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right| \geq t\}$ ,  $\rho(x, \partial\Delta(t))$  denote the distance between  $x$  and the edge of  $\Delta(t)$ . Then

$\int_{\Omega} (S(x) - f(x))^2 dx \geq c(m)(\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} \int_0^{\infty} t \int_{\Delta(t)} \rho(x, \partial\Delta(t))^m dx dt$ , where  $c(m) > 0$  is a constant and depends on  $m$  only.

**Key words:** distribution, irregularities, inequality

**AMS Classifications(1991):** 11K

## 1 Introduction

Roth<sup>[1]</sup> proved the following theorem:

Let  $N$  be a large integer, and  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N$  be points, not necessarily distinct, in the square  $0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1$ , for any point  $(u, v)$  in this square, let  $S(u, v)$  denote the number of points in the rectangle  $0 \leq x < u, 0 \leq y < v$ . Then

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^1 (S(x, y) - Nxy)^2 dx dy > c \log N \quad (1)$$



wise,  $F_r(x) = -1$  or  $+1$  corresponding to  $x \in [k/2^{r-1}, (2k+1)/2^r)$  or  $[(2k+1)/2^r, (k+1)/2^{r-1})$ . Hence, since  $\partial f/\partial x \geq 0$ ,  $\int_{k/2^{r-1}}^{(k+1)/2^{r-1}} f(x)F_r(x)dx = \left( \int_{(2k+1)/2^r}^{(k+1)/2^{r-1}} - \int_{k/2^{r-1}}^{(2k+1)/2^r} \right) f(x)dx \geq 0$

Therefore, the summation over  $k = \{0, 1, \dots, 2^{r-1} - 1\}$  yields  $\int_0^1 f(x)F_r(x)dx \geq 0$ .

Now suppose that the proposition is true with  $m$  replaced by  $m-1$ .

Denote  $dv^1 = dx^1 dx^2 \dots dx^{m-1}$ .  $x' = (x^1, \dots, x^{m-1})$ . It suffices to prove that, for each  $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^{r_m-1}\}$ ,  $\int_{k2^{1-r_m}}^{(k+1)2^{1-r_m}} dx^m \int_{[0,1]^{m-1}} f(x)F_r(x)dv^1 \geq 0$ .

There is no loss generality in assuming that among  $P_i (i=1, 2, \dots, N)$ , the points satisfying  $x_i^m \in [k2^{1-r_m}, (k+1)2^{1-r_m}]$  are  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_M (M \leq N)$ . Let  $P'_i = (X_i^1, X_i^2, \dots, X_i^{m-1})$ ,  $(i=1, 2, \dots, M)$  and let  $F'_r$  be the corresponding function related to  $\{P'_i, i=1, 2, \dots, M\}$ . It is obvious that

$$F_r(x) = \psi_{r_m}(x^m)F'_r(x')$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence} \quad & \int_{k2^{1-r_m}}^{(k+1)2^{1-r_m}} dx^m \int_{[0,1]^{m-1}} f(x)F_r(x)dv^1 \\ & = \int_{k2^{1-r_m}}^{(k+1)2^{1-r_m}} dx^m \int_{[0,1]^{m-1}} [f(x', x^m + 2^{-r_m}) - f(x', x^m)]F'_r(x')dv^1 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\partial^m f/\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m \geq 0$ ,  $\partial^{m-1} f(x', x^m)/\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^{m-1}$  is a nondecreasing function of  $x^m$ , then

$$\frac{\partial^{m-1}}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^{m-1}} [f(x', x^m + 2^{-r_m}) - f(x')] \geq 0$$

By the inductive hypothesis on  $m-1$ , we have

$$\int_{[0,1]^{m-1}} [f(x', x^m + 2^{-r_m}) - f(x', x^m)]F'_r(x')dv^1 \geq 0$$

Therefore, lemma 1 follows.

**Lemma 2**  $\int_{[0,1]^m} x^1 x^2 \dots x^m F_r(x)dv \geq 2^{-2^r} (2^{2^r} - N)$ , where  $r \in R_m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof} \quad & \int_{[0,1]^m} x^1 x^2 \dots x^m F_r(x)dv \\ & = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq k_i \leq 2^{i-1} \\ i=1, 2, \dots, m}} \int_{(k_1-1)2^{1-r_1}}^{k_1 2^{1-r_1}} \dots \int_{(k_m-1)2^{1-r_m}}^{k_m 2^{1-r_m}} x^1 \dots x^m F_r(x)dv \\ & = \sum_{\substack{x_i(\xi^i)=0,1 \\ 1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq r_j-1}} \int_{-2^{-r_1}}^{2^{-r_1}} \dots \int_{-2^{-r_m}}^{2^{-r_m}} (\xi^1 + x^1) \dots (\xi^m + x^m) \cdot F_r(\xi^1 + x^1, \dots, \xi^m + x^m)dv \\ & \quad \left( \text{where } \xi^j = (2k_j - 1)2^{-r_j} = \frac{x_1(\xi^j)}{2} + \dots + \frac{x_{r_m-1}(\xi^j)}{2^{r_m-1}} + \frac{1}{2^{r_m}} \right) \\ & = \sum^* \int_{-2^{-r_1}}^{2^{-r_1}} \dots \int_{-2^{-r_m}}^{2^{-r_m}} (\xi^1 + x^1) \dots (\xi^m + x^m) \text{sgn} x^1 \dots \text{sgn} x^m dv \end{aligned}$$

where the summation is over all those sets of values of  $x_i(\xi^j) = 0, 1 (1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq r_j - 1)$  for which (3) does not hold for any  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ .

Now  $\int_{-a}^a (\xi + x) \text{sgn} x dx = \int_{-a}^a x \text{sgn} x dx = a^2$ . Hence, the above expression is  $\sum^* 2^{-2^r}$ .

The total number of possibilities for  $x_i(\xi^j) (1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq r_j - 1)$  is  $2^{2^r - m}$ , and there can be at most  $N$  of those for which (3) holds for some  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ . Hence the total number of terms in

$\sum^*$  is at least  $2^{n-m} - N$ , whence the result  $\int_{[0,1]^m} x^1 \cdots x^m F_r(x) dv \geq (2^{n-m} - N)2^{-2n}$ . (We shall eventually choose  $n$  so that  $2^{n-m} > N$ .)

**Lemma 3** Let  $c(n) = |R_n|$  be the number of solutions of  $r_1 + r_2 + \cdots + r_m = n$  ( $r_i \geq 1, i = 1, \dots, n$ ) and  $A = \min_{[0,1]^m} |\partial^n f / \partial x^1 \cdots \partial x^m|$ , then  $|\int_{[0,1]^m} f(x) F(x) dv| \geq 2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) c(n) A$ .

**Proof:** It is easy to understand that we may suppose  $\partial^n f / \partial x^1 \cdots \partial x^m \geq 0$  in  $[0, 1]^m$ . The proofs in other cases are similar or trivial.

Let  $R(x) = f(x) - Ax^1 \cdots x^m$ , then  $\partial^n R / \partial x^1 \cdots \partial x^m = \partial^n f / \partial x^1 \cdots \partial x^m - A \geq 0$ . By lemma 1,  $\int_{[0,1]^m} R(x) F_r(x) dv \geq 0$ . By lemma 2,  $\int_{[0,1]^m} Ax^1 \cdots x^m F_r(x) dv \geq 2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) A$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{[0,1]^m} f(x) F(x) dv \\ &= \sum_{r \in R_n} \left[ \int_{[0,1]^m} Ax^1 \cdots x^m F_r(x) dv + \int_{[0,1]^m} R(x) F_r(x) dv \right] \\ &\geq \sum_{r \in R_n} 2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) A = 2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) c(n) A \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4**  $\int_{[0,1]^m} F^2(x) dv \leq c(n)$ .

**Proof**  $\int_{[0,1]^m} F(x^2) dv = \sum_{r \in R_n} \int_{[0,1]^m} F_r^2(x) dv + \sum_{\substack{s \neq t \\ s, t \in R_n}} \int_{[0,1]^m} F_s(x) F_t(x) dv$

Since  $|F_r(x)| \leq 1$ , the first expression on the right is at most  $c(n)$ . We shall prove the second expression is 0 by proving if  $s \neq t$ , then

$$\int_{[0,1]^m} F_s(x) F_t(x) dv = 0 \tag{5}$$

Without loss of generality, suppose  $s_m < t_m$ . Hence  $F_s(x)$  is constant when  $x^m \in [(k-1)2^{1-t_m}, k2^{1-t_m}]$ . Then by (4).

$$\int_{(k-1)2^{1-t_m}}^{k2^{1-t_m}} F_s(x) F_r(x) dx^m = 0, \int_0^1 F_s(t) F_t(x) dx^m = 0$$

Immediately (5) holds, and lemma 4 follows.

**Lemma 5** For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ,  $\int_{x_i^1}^1 \int_{x_i^2}^1 \cdots \int_{x_i^m}^1 F(x) dv = 0$ .

**Proof** It suffices to prove that  $\int_{x_i^1}^1 \cdots \int_{x_i^m}^1 F_r(x) dv = 0$ .

Let  $X^k$  be the least multiple of  $2^{1-r_k}$  which is no less than  $X_i^k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ).

$$\int_{x_i^1}^1 \cdots \int_{x_i^m}^1 F_r(x) dv = \left( \int_{x_i^1}^{X^1} + \int_{X^1}^1 \right) \cdots \left( \int_{x_i^m}^{X^m} + \int_{X^m}^1 \right) F_r(x) dv$$

Thus, we split the integral into  $2^m$  terms.

By the definition of  $F_r(x)$ ,  $\int_{x_i^1}^{X^1} \cdots \int_{x_i^m}^{X^m} F_r(x) dv = 0$ , since  $F_r(x) = 0$  and the other  $2^m - 1$  terms are also 0 by (4). Then lemma 5 follows.

**Lemma 6** For  $f(x) \in C^m(R^m)$ ,

$$\int_{[0,1]^m} [S(x) - f(x)]^2 dv \geq c_1 N^{-2} \log^{m-1} N \min_{[0,1]^m} \left( \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right)^2$$

(in this paper,  $c_1, c_2, \dots$  are used to denote the constants depending only on  $m$ )

**Proof** By lemma 5,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,1]^m} S(x) \cdot F(x) dv &= \int_{[0,1]^m} F(x) \left( \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq n \\ x_i^j \leq x^j \\ 1 \leq j \leq m}} 1 \right) dv \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \int_{x_i^1}^1 \dots \int_{x_i^m}^1 F(x) dv = 0 \end{aligned}$$

By lemma 3,  $\left| \int_{[0,1]^m} [f(x) - S(x)] F(x) dv \right| \geq 2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) c(n) A$

By Schwartz Inequality and lemma 4, we have

$$\int_{[0,1]^m} [f(x) - S(x)]^2 dv \geq c(n) [2^{-2n} (2^{n-m} - N) A]^2 \tag{6}$$

Choose  $n$  so that  $2^{m+2} N \geq 2^n > 2^{m+1} N$ . For  $c(n) \sim n^{m-1} / (m-1)!$ , when  $N$  is large enough, we have  $c(n) \geq (\log N)^{m-1} / m!$ . Thus lemma 6 follows after a short calculation of (6).

### 3 General Case

**Lemma 7** Let  $a + [0, r]^m \subset \Omega$ . Then

$$\int_{a+[0,r]^m} [S(x) - f(x)]^2 dv \geq c_2 (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} r^{2m} \min_{a+[0,r]^m} \left( \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right)^2$$

**Proof** Let  $a = (a^1, a^2, \dots, a^m)$ ,

$$P_i^* = (Y_i^1, \dots, Y_i^m) = \frac{1}{r} (X_i^1 - a^1, \dots, X_i^m - a^m), \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

$$P_i^{**} = (\max(0, Y_i^1), \dots, \max(0, Y_i^m)), \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

$$P_{N+1}^* = P_{N+2}^* = \dots = P_M^* = \mathbf{0}, \quad M = N + [e^m] + 1.$$

$S^*(x^1, \dots, x^m)$  and  $S^{**}(x^1, \dots, x^m)$  denote the number of points  $\{P_i^*, i=1, \dots, N\}$  and  $\{P_i^{**}, i=1, \dots, M\}$  in  $(-\infty, x^1) \times \dots \times (-\infty, x^m)$  respectively. Then  $S^*(x) = S(x \cdot r + a)$  and for  $x \in [0, 1]^m, S^{**}(x) = S^*(x) + M - N$ .

By lemma 6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{a+[0,r]^m} [S(x) - f(x)]^2 dv \\ &= r^m \int_{[0,1]^m} [S^*(y) - f(ry + a)]^2 dy^1 \dots dy^m \\ &= r^m \int_{[0,1]^m} [S^{**}(y) - f(ry + a) + M - N]^2 dy^1 \dots dy^m \\ &\geq r^m c_1 (\log N_1)^{m-1} N_1^{-2} \left[ \min_{[0,1]^m} \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial y^1 \dots \partial y^m} f(ry + a) \right]^2 \\ &= c_1 (\log N_1)^{m-1} N_1^{-2} r^{2m} \left( \min_{a+[0,r]^m} \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

where  $N_1$  is the number of points  $P_i^{**}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq M$ ) in  $[0, 1]^m$ .

Then  $N_1 \leq M = N + [e^m] + 1$ . It is easy to see that  $N_1 \geq e^m$ ,  $(\log N_1)^{m-1} N_1^{-2} \geq (\log M)^{m-1} M^{-2} \geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2}$  ( $N$  is large). We obtain lemma 7 from (7).

**Lemma 8** For any  $A: 0 \leq A \leq \sup_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right|$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} [S(x) - f(x)]^2 dv \geq c_3 (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} A^2 \int_{\Delta(A)} \rho(x, \partial \Delta(A))^m dv$$

**Proof** Consider the close set  $\Delta_c(A)$  in  $\Delta(A)$ , where  $\Delta_c(A) = \{x \in \Delta(A) \mid \rho(x, \partial \Delta(A)) \geq \varepsilon\}$ . All the cubes mentioned in the following are  $m$ -dimensional and with the edges parallel to coordinate axes respectively.

For any  $x \in \Delta_c(A)$ , construct an  $m$ -dimensional open cube  $U(x)$  with center  $x$  satisfying

$$U(x) \subset \Delta(A), U(x) \cap \partial \Delta_c(A) \neq \emptyset.$$

Then  $\Delta_c(A) \subset \bigcup_{x \in \Delta_c(A)} U(x)$ , thus there exist finite cubes  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$  covering  $\Delta_c(A)$ .

Let  $U_1$  be the biggest in them.  $U_i (i \geq 2)$  be the biggest in those without intersection with  $U_j (j < i)$ . Suppose we finally get  $l \leq n$  nonintersecting cubes  $U_i (i = 1, \dots, l)$ . Let  $r_i$  be the length of the edge of  $U_i, V_i$  be the cube with the same center as  $U_i$ , and the length  $3r_i$  of edges ( $i \leq l$ ). Then it is easy to see for any  $U_j (j = 1, \dots, n)$ , there is some  $i \leq l, U_j \subset V_i$ . So

$$\Delta_c(A) \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^l V_i, V_i \cap \partial \Delta_c(A) \neq \emptyset.$$

Thus for any  $x \in V_i, \rho(x, \partial \Delta_c(A)) \leq 3\sqrt{m}r_i$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Delta_c(A) \cap V_i} \rho(x, \partial \Delta_c(A))^m dv \\ & \leq (3\sqrt{m}r_i)^m \int_{\Delta_c(A) \cap V_i} dv \leq 9^m m^{\frac{m}{2}} r_i^{2m} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\Delta_c(A) = \bigcup_{i=1}^l (\Delta_c(A) \cap V_i)$ , we have

$$\int_{\Delta_c(A)} \rho^m dv \leq \sum_{i=1}^l \int_{\Delta_c(A) \cap V_i} \rho(x, \partial \Delta_c(A))^m dv \leq 9^m m^{\frac{m}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^l r_i^{2m} \tag{8}$$

By lemma 7, since  $U_i \subset \Delta(A)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{U_i} (S(x) - f(x))^2 dv \\ & \geq c_2 (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} r_i^{2m} \min_{U_i} \left( \frac{\partial^m f}{\partial x^1 \dots \partial x^m} \right)^2 \geq \frac{c_2}{4} (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} r_i^{2m} A^2 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\bigcup_{i=1}^l U_i \subset \Omega$  and  $U_i \cap U_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j, i, j \leq l$ , by (8)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (S - f)^2 dv &= \sum_{i=1}^l \int_{U_i} (S - f)^2 dv \\ &\geq \frac{c_2}{4} (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} A^2 \sum_{i=1}^l r_i^{2m} \\ &\geq \frac{c_2}{4} (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} A^2 9^{-m} m^{-\frac{m}{2}} \int_{\Delta_c(A)} \rho^m(x, \partial \Delta_c(A)) dv \end{aligned}$$

$$= c_2(\log N)^{m-1}N^{-2}A^2 \int_{\Delta_\varepsilon(A)} \rho(x, \partial\Lambda(A))^m dv$$

Lemma 8 follows by  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

**Proof of the thorem** Suppose  $M = \sup_{\Omega} |\partial^n f / \partial x \cdots \partial x^n|$  is finite, and let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain.

Let  $\varepsilon = M/n$ , ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (S - f)^2 dv &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{\Delta(k\varepsilon) - \Delta((k+1)\varepsilon)} (S - f)^2 dv \\ &\geq c_3(\log N)^{m-1}N^{-2} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (k\varepsilon)^2 \int_{\Delta(k\varepsilon) - \Delta((k+1)\varepsilon)} \rho^m(x, \partial\Lambda(k\varepsilon)) dv \\ &= c_3(\log N)^{m-1}N^{-2} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (k\varepsilon)^2 \int_{\Delta(k\varepsilon)} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (k\varepsilon)^2 \int_{\Delta((k+1)\varepsilon)} \right] \rho^m dv \\ &= c_3(\log N)^{m-1}N^{-2} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (2k-1)\varepsilon^2 \int_{\Delta(k\varepsilon)} \rho^m dv \\ &\geq c_3(\log N)^{m-1}N^{-2} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (k\varepsilon) \int_{\Delta(k\varepsilon)} \rho^m dv \varepsilon \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Let  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain the theorem by the definition of integration.

For the general case. Let

$$\Omega_n = \{x \in \Omega \mid \|x\| \leq n, \rho(x, \partial\Omega) \geq \frac{1}{n}\}$$

Thus  $\Omega_n$  is a bounded close set, so  $f$  is bounded in  $\Omega_n$ . By the above proof,

$$\int_{\Omega_n} (S - f)^2 dv \geq c_3(\log N)^m N^{-2} \int_0^\infty (t \int_{\Delta(t) \cap \Omega_n} \rho(x, \partial\Lambda(t)) dv) dt$$

The two sides of the above inequality are nondecreasing of  $n$ . The theorem follows by  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

In the theorem, let  $\Omega = [0, 1]^m$ ,  $f(x) = N_{x^1 \dots x^m}$ , By (2)

$$\int_{[0,1]^m} [S(x^1, \dots, x^m) - N_{x^1 \dots x^m}]^2 dx^1 \cdots dx^m \geq c(m)(\log N)^{m-1}$$

The above inequality is the direct generalization of (1).

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#### Reference

- [1] Roth K F, On Irregularities of Distribution, *Mathematika*, 1 (1954), 73-79.

## 关于 Roth 分布不等式的一个推广

孙 衡 徐延志

(数学系)

## 摘 要

本文推广了 Roth 的关于分布不均匀性的一个不等式到很一般的情况.

设  $\Omega$  为  $R^m$  中一区域,  $f \in C^m(\Omega)$ .  $P_1 \cdots P_N$  为  $\Omega$  内  $N$  个点. 记  $S(x^1, \dots, x^m)$  为在  $(-\infty, x^1) \times \cdots \times (-\infty, x^m)$  内的点数. 记  $\Lambda(t) = \{x \in \Omega \mid |\partial^m f(x) / \partial x^1 \cdots \partial x^m| \geq t\}$ .  $\rho(x, \partial\Lambda(t))$  为  $x$  到  $\Lambda(t)$  的边界距离, 则

$$\int_{\Omega} [S(x) - f(x)]^2 dv \geq c(m) (\log N)^{m-1} N^{-2} \int_0^{\infty} (t \int_{\Delta(t)} \rho(x, \partial\Lambda(t))^m dv) dt.$$

关键词: 分布, 奇异性, 不均匀性

中图法分类号: O156.4