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Our set A will be a set of k-AP's ( $k = M_{c-1}$ ) with diff  $d^m$ . We take k = 5 for our running examples. Diff is  $d^m$ . Take two 5-APs with **different** differences, both powers of m.  $a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, a_1 + 3d_1^m, a_1 + 4d_1^m$  $a_2, a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, a_2 + 3d_2^m, a_2 + 4d_2^m$ Is there an m such that they **cannot** intersect in two places? **Next Slide** 

 $a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, a_1 + 3d_1^m, a_1 + 4d_1^m$ 

 $a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, a_1 + 3d_1^m, a_1 + 4d_1^m$  $a_2, a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, a_2 + 3d_2^m, a_2 + 4d_2^m$ 

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$$\begin{aligned} a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, a_1 + 3d_1^m, a_1 + 4d_1^m \\ a_2, a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, a_2 + 3d_2^m, a_2 + 4d_2^m \\ a_1 + wd_1^m &= a_2 + xd_2^m \\ a_1 + yd_1^m &= a_2 + zd_2^m \text{ where } w, x, y, z \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, a_1 + 3d_1^m, a_1 + 4d_1^m \\ a_2, a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, a_2 + 3d_2^m, a_2 + 4d_2^m \\ a_1 + wd_1^m = a_2 + xd_2^m \\ a_1 + yd_1^m = a_2 + zd_2^m \text{ where } w, x, y, z \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}. \\ (w - y)d_1^m = (x - z)d_2^m \\ \text{Let } w - y = \alpha \text{ and } x - z = \beta. \text{ We can assume } \alpha, \beta \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \\ \text{and that they are rel prime.} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} a_{1},a_{1}+d_{1}^{m},a_{1}+2d_{1}^{m},a_{1}+3d_{1}^{m},a_{1}+4d_{1}^{m}\\ a_{2},a_{2}+d_{2}^{m},a_{2}+2d_{2}^{m},a_{2}+3d_{2}^{m},a_{2}+4d_{2}^{m}\\ a_{1}+wd_{1}^{m}=a_{2}+xd_{2}^{m}\\ a_{1}+yd_{1}^{m}=a_{2}+zd_{2}^{m} \text{ where } w,x,y,z\in\{0,1,2,3,4\}.\\ (w-y)d_{1}^{m}=(x-z)d_{2}^{m}\\ \text{Let } w-y=\alpha \text{ and } x-z=\beta. \text{ We can assume } \alpha,\beta\in\{1,2,3,4\}\\ \text{ and that they are rel prime.}\\ \textbf{Claim If } m=3 \text{ then } (\forall \alpha,\beta\in\{1,2,3,4\}) \ \alpha d_{1}^{m}=\beta d_{2}^{m} \text{ has no sol.}\\ \textbf{Pf Factor } d_{1}^{3} \text{ and } d_{2}^{3} \text{ and divide out common factors.} \end{array}$$

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a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>1</sub> + d<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>1</sub> + 2d<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>1</sub> + 3d<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>1</sub> + 4d<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup>  
a<sub>2</sub>, a<sub>2</sub> + d<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>2</sub> + 2d<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>2</sub> + 3d<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>, a<sub>2</sub> + 4d<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>  
a<sub>1</sub> + wd<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup> = a<sub>2</sub> + xd<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>  
a<sub>1</sub> + yd<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup> = a<sub>2</sub> + zd<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup> where w, x, y, z \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}.  
(w - y)d<sub>1</sub><sup>m</sup> = (x - z)d<sub>2</sub><sup>m</sup>  
Let w - y = 
$$\alpha$$
 and x - z =  $\beta$ . We can assume  $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$   
and that they are rel prime.  
Claim If m = 3 then ( $\forall \alpha, \beta \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ )  $\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m$  has no sol.  
Pf Factor  $d_1^3$  and  $d_2^3$  and divide out common factors.  
 $\alpha p_1^{3a_1} \cdots p_m^{3a_m} = \beta q_1^{3b_1} \cdots q_{\ell}^{3b_{\ell}}$ .  
Since  $\alpha, \beta$  rel prime,  $\alpha$  must have some  $q_i^{3b_i}$  as a factor.  
So some number  $\geq 2^3 = 8$  divides  $\alpha$ . But  $\alpha \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .  
End of Proof

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**Lemma** Let  $k \ge 3$ .  $(\exists m = m(k))$  such that: For all  $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, ..., k\}$  there is **no**  $(d_1, d_2)$  with  $d_1 \ne d_2$  such that

$$\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m.$$

#### Ρf

For each  $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, ..., k\}$  we find cond on *m* so that  $\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m$  has no solution.

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Assume there is a  $d_1, d_2$  such that  $\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m$ .

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Assume there is a  $d_1, d_2$  such that  $\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m$ . Elim common factors of  $\alpha, \beta$  so can assume rel prime.

**Lemma** Let  $k \ge 3$ .  $(\exists m = m(k))$  such that: For all  $\alpha, \beta \in \{1, ..., k\}$  there is **no**  $(d_1, d_2)$  with  $d_1 \ne d_2$  such that

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Assume there is a  $d_1, d_2$  such that  $\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m$ . Elim common factors of  $\alpha, \beta$  so can assume rel prime. Factor out any common factors of  $d_1^m$  and  $d_2^m$ .

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$$\alpha p_1^{a_1m} \cdots p_{\ell}^{a_{\ell}m} = \beta q_1^{b_1m} \cdots q_{\ell'}^{b_{\ell'}m}$$

Let r be a prime that divides  $\alpha$ . Since  $\alpha, \beta$  are rel prime r does not divide  $\beta$ . Hence r is some  $q_i$ . Since there are no other  $q_i$ 's on the LHS,  $q_i^{b_i m}$  must divide  $\alpha$ . The smallest this can be is  $2^m$ . Hence take m such that  $2^m > k$  for a contradiction.

**Thm** Let  $k \ge 3$  and m = m(k). If  $A_1$  is a k-AP with diff  $d_1^m$  and  $A_2$  is a k-AP with diff  $d_2^m$ , with  $d_1 \ne d_2$ , then  $|A_1 \cap A_2| \le 1$ . **Pf** 

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Assume, BWOC,  $(\exists a_1, d_1, a_2, d_2)$  such that

 $|\{a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, \dots, a_1 + (k-1)d_1^m\} \cap \{a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, \dots, a_2 + (k-1)d_2^m\}| \ge 2$ 

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Assume, BWOC,  $(\exists a_1, d_1, a_2, d_2)$  such that

$$\begin{split} |\{a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, \dots, a_1 + (k-1)d_1^m\} \cap \{a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, \dots, a_2 + (k-1)d_2^m\}| &\geq 2\\ \text{Then } (\exists w, x, y, z \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}) \text{ such that } \\ a_1 + wd_1^m &= a_2 + xd_2^m\\ a_1 + yd_1^m &= a_2 + zd_2^m \end{split}$$

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Assume, BWOC,  $(\exists a_1, d_1, a_2, d_2)$  such that

$$\begin{split} |\{a_1, a_1 + d_1^m, a_1 + 2d_1^m, \dots, a_1 + (k-1)d_1^m\} \cap \{a_2 + d_2^m, a_2 + 2d_2^m, \dots, a_2 + (k-1)d_2^m\}| \geq 2\\ \text{Then } (\exists w, x, y, z \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}) \text{ such that } \\ a_1 + wd_1^m = a_2 + xd_2^m\\ a_1 + yd_1^m = a_2 + zd_2^m\\ (w - y)d_1^m = (x - z)d_2^m\\ \text{Next Slide} \end{split}$$

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We now have

$$(w-y)d_1^m = (x-z)d_2^m$$

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where  $w, x, y, z \in \{0, ..., k - 1\}$  and m = m(k).

We now have

$$(w-y)d_1^m = (x-z)d_2^m$$

where  $w, x, y, z \in \{0, ..., k - 1\}$  and m = m(k). 0) If w - y = 0 then you only have ond intersection, not two.

We now have

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where  $w, x, y, z \in \{0, ..., k-1\}$  and m = m(k). 0) If w - y = 0 then you only have ond intersection, not two. 1) If  $w - y \ge 1$  and  $x - z \ge 1$  then let  $\alpha = w - y$  and  $\beta = x - z$ . Note that  $\alpha, \beta \in [k - 2]$  but we just assume [k - 1].

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We now have

$$(w-y)d_1^m = (x-z)d_2^m$$

where  $w, x, y, z \in \{0, ..., k-1\}$  and m = m(k). 0) If w - y = 0 then you only have ond intersection, not two. 1) If  $w - y \ge 1$  and  $x - z \ge 1$  then let  $\alpha = w - y$  and  $\beta = x - z$ . Note that  $\alpha, \beta \in [k-2]$  but we just assume [k-1]. 2) If  $w - y \le -11$  and  $x - z \le -1$  then let  $\alpha = y - w$  and  $\beta = z - x$ . Note that  $\alpha, \beta \in [k-2]$  but we just assume [k-1].

We now have

$$(w-y)d_1^m = (x-z)d_2^m$$

where  $w, x, y, z \in \{0, ..., k-1\}$  and m = m(k). 0) If w - y = 0 then you only have ond intersection, not two. 1) If  $w - y \ge 1$  and  $x - z \ge 1$  then let  $\alpha = w - y$  and  $\beta = x - z$ . Note that  $\alpha, \beta \in [k-2]$  but we just assume [k-1]. 2) If  $w - y \le -11$  and  $x - z \le -1$  then let  $\alpha = y - w$  and  $\beta = z - x$ . Note that  $\alpha, \beta \in [k-2]$  but we just assume [k-1]. So we have  $\alpha, \beta \in [k-1]$  with

$$\alpha d_1^m = \beta d_2^m.$$

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This contradicts the definiton of m = m(k). End of Pf