Erdős, Paul; Freiman, Gregory

Articles of (and about)

On two additive problems. (In English)

J. Number Theory 34, No.1, 1-12 (1990). [0022-314X]

Let \mathcal{A} be a set of nonnegative integers. P. Erdős and R. Freud conjectured that if \mathcal{A} satisfies $\mathcal{A} \subset \{1,2,...,3n\}$ and $|\mathcal{A}| \geq n+1$ then there is a power of 2 that can be written as a sum of distinct elements of \mathcal{A} . Very similarly if $\mathcal{A} \subset \{1,2,...,4n\}$ and $|\mathcal{A}| \geq n+1$ then there is a square-free number that can be written as a sum of distinct elements of \mathcal{A} . Both problems are answered in the affirmative in this paper. The proof is based on the Hardy- Littlewood method and elementary considerations. In this way at least $c \log n$ summands from \mathcal{A} are necessary. Recently, M. B. Nathanson and A. Sárközy [Acta Arith. 54, 147-154 (1989; Zbl 693.10040)] showed that a bounded number of summands for \mathcal{A} is enough.

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Classification:

11B13 Additive bases

11P55 Appl. of the Hardy-Littlewood method

11P99 Additive number theory

11B05 Topology etc. of sets of numbers

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Hardy-Littlewood method