Zbl 385.20045

Erdős, Paul; Hall, R.R.

Some new results in probabilistic group theory. (In English)

Comment. Math. Helv. 53, 448-457 (1978). [0010-2571]

Let G be an Abelian group of n elements. Assume that for each fixed l the number of elements of order l is o(n) as $n \to \infty$. Let $k = \frac{\log n}{\log 2} + 0(1)$. Choose k elements of G at random. Let these elements be g_1, \ldots, g_k and denote by R(g) the number of solutions of $g = \sum_{i=1}^k \varepsilon_i g_i, \varepsilon_i = 0$ or 1. Denote finally by d(r) the number of elements of G with R(g) = r. The authors prove (among others) that of reach fixed $rd(r) = (1+0(1))ne^{-lambda}\lambda = \frac{2^k}{n}$, with probability tending to 1 as $n \to \infty$. Several applications and unsolved problems are discussed. Classification:

20P05 Probability methods in group theory 20D99 Abstract finite groups

20K99 Abelian groups