

Non-uniform bound on normal approximation for call function of locally dependent random variables

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Abstract

In this paper, we concentrate on a mean for call function of random variables which is useful and important, especially in finance. We propose a non-uniform bound from a normal approximation under local dependence by using the Stein's method. Finally, we illustrate an application on a collateralized debt obligation.

1 Introduction and main results

A call function, defined by $(x - k)^+ = \max\{x - k, 0\}$, where x and k are real numbers, is useful and important, especially in finance. In 2009, Karoui and Jiao [8] and Karoui, Jiao and Kurtz [9] approximated a loss on each tranche of a collateralized debt obligation (CDO) in the form of $E(W - k)^+$, where W is a sum of independent random variables and k is a real number.

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They used the Stein’s method to obtain error bounds from approximating $E(W - k)^+$ by a mean for call function of Poisson and normal random variables. The refined bounds are proposed by Yonghint and Neammanee [10] for Poisson approximation and Jongpreechaharn and Neammanee [7] for normal approximation under the same assumption. For a normal approximation, Jongpreechaharn and Neammanee [6] extended the assumption to a local dependence motivated by Chen and Shao [4].

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be random variables with zero means and finite variances. For $A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, let X_A denote $\{X_i : i \in A\}$ and $A^c = \{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : i \notin A\}$. We say that X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n satisfy the local dependence condition if there exists a partition $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^{l_n}$ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l_n\}$, X_{A_i} and $X_{A_i^c}$ are independent.

Let Z be a standard normal random variable and let k be a positive real number. Denote $W = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ and assume that W has a unit variance. Suppose that X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n satisfy the local dependence condition. Jongpreechaharn and Neammanee [6] approximated $E(W - k)^+$ by $E(Z - k)^+$ and proposed a uniform bound in the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1 ([6]). *For each $i = 1, 2, \dots, l_n$, let $Y_i = \sum_{j \in A_i} X_j$. Under the local dependence condition, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{k>0} |E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+| \\ & \leq 24.97 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3 + 0.80 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 \right)^{1/2} + \left(l_n EW^4 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

where $EW^4 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 + 3$.

In this work, we use Stein’s method introduced in Section 2 to obtain a non-uniform bound as follows.

Theorem 1.2. *For each $i = 1, 2, \dots, l_n$, let $Y_i = \sum_{j \in A_i} X_j$. Under the local dependence condition and $k \geq 2$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & |E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+| \\ & \leq C_1(k) \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3 + C_2(k) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 \right)^{1/2} + C_3(k) \left(l_n \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

where $C_1(k) = \frac{5.5e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{5.5}{k} + \frac{1}{2k^2}$, $C_2(k) = \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k}$,

$$C_3(k) = \frac{3}{k}\sqrt{EW^6} + \frac{15.69}{k}\sqrt{EW^4} + \frac{18.24}{k}, \quad EW^4 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 + 3$$

and
$$EW^6 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 + 15 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 + 10 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^3 \right)^2 + 15.$$

In addition, applying Theorem 1.2 with independent and identically distributed random variables gives a convergence rate of the non-uniform bound. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent and identically distributed random variables with $\Pr(X_1 = 1/\sqrt{n}) = \Pr(X_1 = -1/\sqrt{n}) = 1/2$ and $W = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$. Thus, by choosing $A_i = \{i\}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ in Theorem 1.2, we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 1.3. *Adopting the notations in Theorem 1.2, we have for $k \geq 2$ that*

$$|E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+| \leq \frac{a_k}{\sqrt{n}},$$

where $a_k = \frac{6.5e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{1}{2k^2} + \frac{24.74}{k} + \frac{3}{k} \left(\frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{25}{n} + 15 \right)^{1/2} + \frac{15.69}{k} \left(\frac{1}{n} + 3 \right)^{1/2}.$

Observe that, a non-uniform bound steadily declines as k gets larger.

2 Stein’s method on normal approximation for call function

In 1972, Stein [11] discovered a powerful method for finding a bound from approximation (see also [1] and [3]). The foundation of Stein’s method is the differential equation called the Stein equation. Let Z be a standard normal random variable. The Stein equation on normal approximation for a given function h is

$$xf(x) - f'(x) = h(x) - Eh(Z). \tag{2.1}$$

In this work, we let $h(x) = (x - k)^+$ for a fixed positive real number k . Thus, (2.1) becomes

$$xf(x) - f'(x) = (x - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+. \tag{2.2}$$

From (2.2), we substituting x by any random variable W and taking an expectation on both sides of the equation, we obtain

$$EWf_k(W) - Ef'_k(W) = E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+, \tag{2.3}$$

where f_k is the Stein solution of (2.2). From (2.3), a targeted bound for $|E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+|$ can be verified from $|EWf_k(W) - Ef'_k(W)|$ instead. This is a procedure of the Stein's method on normal approximation. In order to verify a bound for $|EWf_k(W) - Ef'_k(W)|$, the properties of the Stein solution f_k and its derivative f'_k are essential. Notice that

$$f_k(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{2\pi}e^{x^2/2}E(Z - k)^+\Phi(x), & \text{if } x \leq k, \\ 1 - \sqrt{2\pi}e^{x^2/2}[k + E(Z - k)^+]\Phi(-x), & \text{if } x > k \end{cases}$$

and

$$f'_k(x) = \begin{cases} E(Z - k)^+ \left(1 + \sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(x)e^{x^2/2}\right), & \text{if } x \leq k, \\ [k + E(Z - k)^+] \left(1 - \sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(-x)e^{x^2/2}\right), & \text{if } x > k, \end{cases}$$

(see also [6] and [7]), where Φ is the cumulative distribution function of Z . Next, we propose some properties of them in Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 which are used to prove the main theorem.

Proposition 2.1. *For $x \leq k$ and $k \geq 1$, we have $|f_k(x)| \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$.*

Proof. Let $x \leq k$ and $k \geq 1$. Note that $f_k(x) \geq 0$. If $|x| \leq k$, then by the fact that

$$E(Z - k)^+ \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} \text{ for } k \geq 1, \quad (2.4)$$

(see [7], p.3502), we have $f_k(x) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$. Suppose that $x < -k$. By the fact that

$$\Phi(-a) \leq \frac{e^{-a^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}a} \text{ for } a > 0, \quad (2.5)$$

(see [11], p.23) and (2.4), we have $f_k(x) \leq \frac{E(Z-k)^+}{-x} < \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^3}$. Hence $|f_k(x)| \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$ for $x \leq k$. \square

Let $\|g\| = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |g(x)|$ for every real-valued function g on \mathbb{R} .

Proposition 2.2. *For $k \geq 1$, we have $\|f'_k\| \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k}$.*

Proof. Let $x \leq k$. If $x < 0$, by (2.5), we have $0 \leq 1 + \sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(x)e^{x^2/2}$. Hence, $0 \leq 1 + \sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(x)e^{x^2/2} \leq 1$. By this inequality and (2.4), we have $0 \leq f'_k(x) \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2}$ for $x < 0$. Suppose that $x \geq 0$. Then $f'_k(x) \geq 0$. By (2.4),

we have $f'_k(x) \leq E(Z - k)^+ \left(1 + \sqrt{2\pi}k e^{k^2/2}\right) \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k}$. Thus, for $x \geq 0$, we have $0 \leq f'_k(x) \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k}$. Therefore,

$$0 \leq f'_k(x) \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k} \text{ for } x \leq k.$$

Assume that $x > k$. By (2.5), we obtain $\sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(-x)e^{x^2/2} \leq 1$. Then $f'_k(x) \geq 0$. On the other hand, note that $\Phi(-a) \geq \frac{e^{-a^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{a^3}\right)$ for $a > 0$, (see [7], p.3502). Thus $\sqrt{2\pi}x\Phi(-x)e^{x^2/2} \geq 1 - \frac{1}{x^2} > 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$. From this fact and (2.4), we obtain $f'_k(x) \leq \frac{k+E(Z-k)^+}{k^2} \leq \frac{1}{k} + \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^4}$. Hence

$$0 \leq f'_k(x) \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^4} + \frac{1}{k} \text{ for } x > k.$$

Combining these two cases, we obtain $\|f'_k\| \leq \frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k}$ for $k \geq 1$. \square

Next, we use the Stein's method and properties of the Stein solution in Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 to provide a non-uniform bound for $|E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+|$.

3 Proof of the results

Proof of Theorem 1.2. By the proof of Theorem 1.1, we have

$$EW f_k(W) - E f'_k(W) = R_1 + R_2 + R_3, \tag{3.6}$$

where $|R_1| \leq \|f'_k\| \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 \right)^{1/2} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3 \right],$

$$|R_2| \leq 2\|f'_k\| \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3,$$

$$|R_3| \leq E \int_{|t| \leq 1} |f'_k(W+t) - f'_k(W)| \widehat{K}(t) dt$$

and $\widehat{K}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} Y_i [\mathbb{I}(-Y_i \leq t < 0) - \mathbb{I}(0 \leq t \leq -Y_i)].$

From Proposition 2.2, we obtain

$$|R_1| \leq \left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k} \right) \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 \right)^{1/2} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3 \right] \quad (3.7)$$

and
$$|R_2| \leq 2 \left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{k} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3. \quad (3.8)$$

For R_3 , we use the truncation technique to rewrite R_3 by

$$|R_3| \leq R_{3,1} + R_{3,2} + R_{3,3}, \quad (3.9)$$

where
$$R_{3,1} = E \int_{|t| \leq 1} |f'_k(W+t) - f'_k(W)| \mathbb{I}(W > k) \widehat{K}(t) dt,$$

$$R_{3,2} = E \int_{|t| \leq 1} |f'_k(W+t) - f'_k(W)| \mathbb{I}(W+t > k, W \leq k) \widehat{K}(t) dt$$

and
$$R_{3,3} = E \int_{|t| \leq 1} |f'_k(W+t) - f'_k(W)| \mathbb{I}(W+t \leq k, W \leq k) \widehat{K}(t) dt.$$

By Proposition 1 of [6], we have $|f'_k(x+t) - f'_k(x)| \leq 2x^2|t| + 10.46|x||t| + 12.16|t|$ for $|t| \leq 1$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$. This implies that

$$R_{3,1} \leq E (2W^2 + 10.46|W| + 12.16) \mathbb{I}(W > k) \int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt$$

and
$$R_{3,2} \leq E (2W^2 + 10.46|W| + 12.16) \mathbb{I}(W > k - 1) \int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt.$$

By the Hölder's inequality, the Markov's inequality and the fact in [6] that $E \left(\int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt \right)^2 \leq \frac{l_n}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} R_{3,1} &\leq \left[2 (EW^4 \mathbb{I}(W > k))^{1/2} + 10.46 (EW^2 \mathbb{I}(W > k))^{1/2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 12.16 (\Pr(W > k))^{1/2} \right] \left[E \left(\int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k} \left(\sqrt{EW^6} + 5.23\sqrt{EW^4} + 6.08 \right) \left(l_n \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

Using the same argument for bounding $R_{3,1}$, we obtain

$$R_{3,2} \leq \frac{1}{k-1} \left(\sqrt{EW^6} + 5.23\sqrt{EW^4} + 6.08 \right) \left(l_n \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Since $k \geq 2$, $\frac{1}{k-1} \leq \frac{2}{k}$. From this fact, we have

$$R_{3,2} \leq \frac{2}{k} \left(\sqrt{EW^6} + 5.23\sqrt{EW^4} + 6.08 \right) \left(l_n \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}. \quad (3.11)$$

Thus, it remains to consider $R_{3,3}$. By the proof of Proposition 1 of [6], we have $|f'_k(x+t) - f'_k(x)| \leq \|f'_k\| |x||t| + |f_k(x+t)||t|$ for $x+t \leq k$ and $x \leq k$. By this inequality and Propositions 2.1 and 2.2, we have

$$|f'_k(x+t) - f'_k(x)| \leq \left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{1}{k} \right) |x||t| + \frac{|t|}{k^2}.$$

This implies that

$$R_{3,3} \leq E \left[\left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{1}{k} \right) |W| + \frac{1}{k^2} \right] \int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt.$$

By the fact that $\int_{|t| \leq 1} |t| \widehat{K}(t) dt \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} |Y_i|(Y_i^2 \wedge 1)$, where $a \wedge b = \min\{a, b\}$ for any real numbers a and b , (see [6]), we obtain

$$R_{3,3} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{1}{k} \right) \sum_{i=1}^n E|WY_i|(Y_i^2 \wedge 1) + \frac{1}{2k^2} \sum_{i=1}^n E|Y_i|^3.$$

By modification of the proof of r_4 in Theorem 2.2 of [4] on p.2013, we obtain $E|WY_i|(Y_i^2 \wedge 1) \leq 3E|Y_i|^3$. This implies that

$$R_{3,3} \leq \left(\frac{3e^{-k^2/2}}{2\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{3}{2k} + \frac{1}{2k^2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3. \quad (3.12)$$

Combining (3.6)–(3.12), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & |E(W-k)^+ - E(Z-k)^+| \\ & \leq \left(\frac{5.5e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{5.5}{k} + \frac{1}{2k^2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} E|Y_i|^3 + \left(\frac{e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi k^2}} + \frac{1}{k} \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 \right)^{1/2} \\ & \quad + \left(\frac{3}{k} \sqrt{EW^6} + \frac{15.69}{k} \sqrt{EW^4} + \frac{18.24}{k} \right) \left(l_n \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

Next, we find bounds for EW^4 and EW^6 . Notice that

$$EW^4 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 + 3, \quad (3.14)$$

(see [6]). For EW^6 , we first notice that Y_i and Y_j are independent for distinct i and j and $EY_i = 0$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^2 = EW^2 = 1$, (see [6]). This implies that

$$\begin{aligned} EW^6 &= \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 + 15 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{l_n} EY_i^4 EY_j^2 + 10 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{l_n} EY_i^3 EY_j^3 \\ &\quad + 15 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{l_n} \sum_{\substack{l=1 \\ l \neq i \\ l \neq j}}^{l_n} EY_i^2 EY_j^2 EY_l^2 \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^6 + 15 \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^4 + 10 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l_n} EY_i^3 \right)^2 + 15. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Combining (3.13)–(3.15), the proof is complete. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.3. For $r \geq 1$, we have $E|Y_1|^r = E|X_1|^r = \frac{1}{n^{r/2}}$. This implies that $EW^4 \leq \frac{1}{n} + 3$ and $EW^6 \leq \frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{25}{n} + 15$. From these inequalities and Theorem 1.2, we have Corollary 1.3 as required. \square

4 Application on collateralized debt obligation

Consider a collateralized debt obligation (CDO) containing n assets. A total loss of a CDO at time T is defined by $L(T) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - R_i) \mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T)$, where $\mathbb{I}(A)$ is an indicator function of A , R_i and τ_i are deterministic recovery rate and stochastic default time for the i^{th} asset, respectively. One is interested in calculation of a loss on each tranche of the CDO given by $(L(T) - AP)^+ - (L(T) - DP)^+$, where AP and DP are attachment and detachment points of the tranche, respectively, (see [2] and [5] for more details). Therefore, we concentrate on $E(L(T) - a)^+$, where a is a positive real number.

Let $X_i = \frac{(1-R_i)\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T) - E\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T)}{n\sqrt{\text{Var } L(T)}}$ and $W = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$. Then W has zero mean

and unit variance. We classify assets in a CDO by their corresponding workplace. Let l_n be a number of workplaces and let A_i be a group of assets from the same workplace for $i = 1, 2, \dots, l_n$. Then $\{\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T)\}_{i=1}^{l_n}$ satisfies the local dependence condition.

To simplify the verification, assume that $\{\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T)\}_{i=1}^{l_n}$ are identically Bernoulli random variables with $\Pr(\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T) = 1) = \Pr(\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T) = 0) = 1/2$, $E\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T)\mathbb{I}(\tau_j \leq T) = 1/2$ and $R = R_i$. Suppose that every group A_i contains c assets. Thus $l_n = n/c$.

Theorem 4.1. *Adopting notations defined above, we have*

1. $\sup_{k>0} |E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+| \leq b\sqrt{\frac{c}{n}}$, where $b = 25.77 + (\frac{c}{n} + 3)^{1/2}$,
2. for $k \geq 2$, we have $|E(W - k)^+ - E(Z - k)^+| \leq b_k\sqrt{\frac{c}{n}}$,
 where $b_k = \frac{6.5e^{-k^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}k^2} + \frac{1}{2k^2} + \frac{24.74}{k} + \frac{3}{k} \left(\frac{c^2}{n^2} + \frac{25c}{n} + 15\right)^{1/2} + \frac{15.69}{k} \left(\frac{c}{n} + 3\right)^{1/2}$.

Proof. Note that $E\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T) = 1/2$ and

$$\text{Var } L(T) = \frac{(1 - R)^2}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^{l_n} \sum_{j \in A_i} \sum_{l \in A_i} \text{Cov}(\mathbb{I}(\tau_j \leq T), \mathbb{I}(\tau_l \leq T)) = \frac{c(1 - R)^2}{4n}.$$

Thus $X_i = \frac{2\mathbb{I}(\tau_i \leq T) - 1}{\sqrt{cn}}$ and hence $E|Y_i|^r = E\left|\sum_{j \in A_i} X_j\right|^r = \left(\frac{c}{n}\right)^{r/2}$ for $r \geq 1$. This implies that $EW^4 \leq \frac{c}{n} + 3$ and $EW^6 \leq \frac{c^2}{n^2} + \frac{25c}{n} + 15$. From these inequalities and Theorems 1.1 and 1.2, we have Theorem 4.1 as required. \square

Table 1 shows constants b and b_k , where we bound $\frac{1}{n^2} \leq \frac{1}{n} \leq 1$ and vary the values of c as shown. Observe that, when the number of correlated random

c	b	b_k				
		$k = 5$	$k = 10$	$k = 50$	$k = 100$	$k = 1000$
≤ 5	28.5985	21.5508	10.7704	2.1533	1.0766	0.1077
≤ 10	29.3756	27.7453	13.8677	2.7728	1.3864	0.1387
≤ 50	33.0502	64.6288	32.3094	6.4611	3.2305	0.3231

Table 1: Comparison of the constant b for uniform bound and b_k for non-uniform bound.

variables c is increased, we always can find a constant k such that a non-uniform bound is sharper than a uniform bound.

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