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On divisibility properties of sequences of integers (In English)

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H.Davenport and *P.Erdős* (Zbl 015.10001) proved that if the sequence $A = \{a_i\}$ is of positive upper logarithmic density, i. e. if

$$(*) \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\log x)^{-1} \sum_{a_i < x} a_i^{-1} > 0$$

holds, then there exists an infinite increasing subsequence $\{a_{n_j}\} \subset A$, satisfying $a_{n_i} \mid a_{n_j}$. Such a subsequence is called a chain. Using the notations $\log_2 x = \log \log x$ and $\overline{\lim}$ for $\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty}$, and with $c_i > 0$, the following sharper results are now proved; (1) If A satisfies (*), then it contains a chain, satisfying for infinitely many $y : \sum_{a_i < y} 1 > c_1 (\log_2 y)^{1/2}$. (2) If satisfies $\overline{\lim} (\log_2 x)^{-1} \sum_{a_n < x} (a_n \log a_n)^{-1} = c_2$ then it contains a chain, satisfying for infinitely many $x : \sum_{a_{n_i} < x} 1 > c_3 \log_2 x$. It is shown that (1) is best possible, by exhibiting a class of sequences, for which all chains are such that $\sum_{a_{n_i} < x} 1 < 3(\log_2 x)^{1/2}$; and also, that, in general, (2) will not hold for all x . The following two conjectures are stated: (a) For every sequence A , there is a chain satisfying

$$\overline{\lim} (\log_2 y)^{-1} \sum_{a_{n_i} < y} 1 \geq \overline{\lim} (\log_2 x)^{-1} \sum_{a_n < x} (a_n \log a_n)^{-1}.$$

(b) For every sequence A ,

$$\overline{\lim} (\log x)^{-1} \sum_{a_i < x, a_k \mid a_i} (a_k/a_i) \geq \overline{\lim} (\log x)^{-1} \sum_{a_k \leq x} a_k^{-1}.$$

(Remark: On the first line the word "lower" seems to stand for "upper".)

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Classification:

11B83 Special sequences of integers and polynomials

11B05 Topology etc. of sets of numbers