

Correctness, proof completeness, and novelty audit

A refined structure theorem for polynomial return-time sets in minimal systems

Ioannis Kousek

Paper	arXiv:2607.18987v2
Source version	Submitted 13 August, 2026; v1 submitted 21 July, 2026; announced July 2026.
Audit date	August 18, 2026
Prompt	Standardized prompt
Novelty cutoff	July 21, 2026
Paper license	CC BY 4.0
Scope	Statements, proofs, and novelty only

Important limitation. AI-generated analysis. This report is not a correctness certificate or a substitute for expert scrutiny. A Correct status may coexist with yellow typos or minor formal corrections that do not affect substantive soundness. It means that this audit found no unresolved substantive error under the stated criteria; it is not formal verification and should remain open to expert challenge and correction.

SUMMARY

01	Statements	Correct
02	Proofs	Correct
03	Novelty	No non-novelty findings

This independent report links to the source paper on arXiv; it does not reproduce or redistribute that paper.

01 / STATEMENTS

Statements

Correct

The finite-step refinement for polynomial return-time sets in Theorem A and the simultaneous recurrence statement in Theorem B are correct. The factor step is one larger than the Host-Kra characteristic complexity for the normalized polynomial family, as stated.

Theorem A: Finite-step pronilfactors control the return-time difference

Pages 2 and 8-18 · Theorem A, Theorem 3.1, and Appendix A · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Correct

For the maximal infinite-step pronilfactor, Theorem 3.2 gives simultaneous recurrence for every finite family of normalized shifts $p_i(n + a) - p_i(a)$. Lemma 2.2 then converts syndeticity of all finite intersections of shifts of the original return-time set into non-piecewise-syndeticity of the difference. Appendix A combines the finite-step saturation relation with the earlier infinite-step structure theorem through the open and almost-one-to-one factor diagrams, yielding the required interiors for a general minimal system. The integer used is the pronilfactor one step above the uniformity seminorm order controlling the polynomial averages.

Verifiable source: [Glasscock et al., infinite-step structure theorem](#)

Theorem B / Theorem 3.2: Simultaneous recurrence over a common finite-step factor

Pages 3 and 9-13 · Theorem B and Theorem 3.2 · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Correct

The Host-Kra seminorm estimate replaces each open-set indicator by its conditional expectation on Z_k with vanishing Cesaro error. Relative independent joining over Z_k has support equal to the full fibre relation, so the assumed common fibre point yields a positive-measure set on which all conditional expectations are bounded below. Polynomial multiple recurrence on the product system then gives a positive average of the product of all m recurrence terms, and hence a common return time with positive upper Banach density.

Verifiable source: [Full paper, version 2](#)

02 / PROOFS

Proofs

Correct

The characteristic-factor reduction, relative-joining support argument, simultaneous polynomial recurrence, combinatorial syndeticity step, and the transfer from the infinite-step factor to arbitrary minimal systems are correct and complete. Two mechanically determined notation errors are reported in yellow and do not affect any conclusion.

Theorems 3.3 and 3.2: Uniformity control and product recurrence

Pages 9-13 · Section 3.2 · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Correct and complete

The tensor-square argument lowers the uniformity order by one, ergodic decomposition permits application of Leibman's characteristic-factor theorem on almost every component, and dominated convergence restores the original system. Telescoping then replaces every indicator by its Z_k -conditional expectation. Proposition 3.6 identifies the support of the relative joining with the fibre relation, and the Bergelson-Leibman theorem applied to $A_1 \times \cdots \times A_m$ supplies the strict positive lower bound required in (17).

Verifiable source: [Full paper, version 2](#)

Theorem 3.1: Syndetic finite intersections imply the claimed small difference

Pages 13-15 · Section 3.3 · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Correct and complete

For a finite $F = \{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$ in the factor return set, normalized shifts of the polynomial tuple satisfy Theorem 3.2 simultaneously. Minimality aligns the resulting nonempty open intersections. Adding distinct linear terms produces one essentially distinct tuple, and the IP-polynomial recurrence theorem makes its return set syndetic. The explicit containment of its translate in $\bigcap_{a \in F} (B - a)$ verifies the hypothesis of Lemma 2.2 and proves (10).

Verifiable source: [Full paper, version 2](#)

Definition of thick sets: The finite interval should be contained in A

Page 4 · first bullet list in Section 2.1 · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Typo

The printed definition says that for every N there is m with $\{m, m+1, \dots, m+N\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, a condition independent of A . The uniquely intended correction is $\{m, m+1, \dots, m+N\} \subset A$. All subsequent uses, including Lemmas 2.1-2.2, employ the standard corrected definition, so no argument is affected.

Verifiable source: [Full paper, version 2](#)

Definition of $q_{j,i}$: The normalized shift includes a_j twice in the first expression

Pages 13-14 · proof of Theorem 3.1, definition immediately after (18) · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Typo

Since $p_{j,i}(n) = p_i(n + a_j) - p_i(a_j)$, the displayed identity is correct only with

$$q_{j,i}(n) = p_{j,i}(n + n_0) - p_{j,i}(n_0) = p_i(n + n_0 + a_j) - p_i(n_0 + a_j).$$

The printed first expression instead uses $n + n_0 + a_j$ and $n_0 + a_j$ as arguments of $p_{j,i}$, inserting a_j a second time. Removing those two extra occurrences is mechanically forced by the following equality and by every downstream use. The corrected $q_{j,i}$ still vanishes at 0 and has the required degree and distinctness properties.

Verifiable source: [Full paper, version 2](#)

Appendix A: Transfer through the open-extension diagram

Pages 16-18 · Appendix A · arXiv:2607.18987v2

Correct and complete

The continuity-point argument upgrades Theorem 3.2 to the fibre-saturation inclusion (21). The corresponding inclusion for the infinite-step factor follows from the cited structure theorem through Veech's open extension, and the almost-one-to-one fibres preserve a dense G_δ set. Intersecting the two residual sets and using continuity of the fibre maps gives (24). Applying (24) inside the nonempty interiors of the projected open sets supplies the common return time needed for the reduction in A.1.

Verifiable source: [Glasscock et al., version 2](#)

03 / NOVELTY

Novelty

No non-novelty findings

No non-novelty findings.

METHOD

Scope and decision rules

This audit addressed only the correctness of central statements, the correctness and completeness of proofs, and evidence-backed non-novelty. It did not evaluate importance, exposition, style, suitability for publication, or author reputation.

An adverse finding is included only where the report can give a direct calculation, counterexample, formal contradiction, or a verifiable source establishing the precise claim. An inability to verify is kept distinct from a demonstrated defect. Technical compression is not treated as incompleteness when the omitted reasoning is recoverable and correct.

Before any finding was recorded, the argument was closed under immediate, mechanically checkable consequences of facts already established. An observation was suppressed when the printed conclusion followed by elementary logic, direct substitution, weakening, inclusion, or verified monotonicity and no substantive proof obligation or textual correction remained.

Typographical errors and minor formal corrections remain fully visible in yellow with their locations and repairs. When such a defect is unambiguous, local, and harmless to the paper's substantive conclusions, it does not lower the overall statements or proofs status from Correct.

The novelty panel reports only central results for which a verifiable primary source predating the earliest public version that contains the result proves the same statement up to notation, or from which the statement follows directly and immediately. It contains no positive novelty certifications and no entries based merely on an unsuccessful literature search.

All mathematical expressions in this report are compiled by LaTeX. The web presentation independently validates and renders the corresponding expressions with KaTeX.

Sources checked

1. [Full paper, version 2](#)
2. [Glasscock et al., infinite-step structure theorem](#)
3. [Glasscock et al., version 2](#)

arXiv acknowledgement

Thank you to arXiv for use of its open access interoperability. This service was not reviewed or approved by, nor does it necessarily express or reflect the policies or opinions of, arXiv.

APPENDIX

Standardized prompt

You are a mathematical auditor. Evaluate only the correctness of the paper’s central statements, the correctness and completeness of its proofs, and evidence-backed non-novelty. Do not make editorial comments or evaluate importance, exposition, style, or suitability for publication. Keep the report neutral, precise, and professional.

PART 1 — CORRECTNESS OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

Identify the paper’s central statements and assess each one separately using exactly one of these outcomes:

- *Correct: the statement has a correct, verifiable proof; or, despite a defect in the printed proof, you can give a fully verified repair or independent proof.*
- *Incorrect: you can give strong formal evidence that the statement as written is false, preferably a counterexample or a complete contradiction.*
- *Not able to verify: the supplied proof does not establish the statement, and you can neither supply a fully verified proof nor disprove it.*

For every adverse or unverified outcome, restate the exact claim and hypotheses, identify its location in the reviewed version, and give the decisive reasoning. Do not infer that a theorem is false merely because its printed proof is defective.

Assign the overall statements status by the following priority:

1. *Contains wrong statements, if at least one central statement is Incorrect.*
2. *Contains unsupported statements, if no central statement is Incorrect but at least one is Not able to verify.*
3. *Correct, if every central statement is Correct, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.*

PART 2 — CORRECTNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF THE PROOFS

Audit the proofs of the central statements and every material internal or cited input on which they depend. For each proof or proof segment, use the narrowest supported outcome:

- *Correct and complete: every substantive step is verifiable and no case or crucial nontrivial step is missing.*
- *Incorrect as written: a displayed calculation, inference, lemma, or cited application is formally false or inapplicable.*
- *Incomplete as written: a necessary substantive step or case is missing, even though no explicit contradiction has been proved.*
- *Not able to verify: the available paper and sources are insufficient to decide whether the step is valid.*

Do not flag omitted routine details, compressed arguments, or “analogously” steps when the omitted reasoning is recoverable and correct. For every defect, identify its smallest exact location, explain its downstream dependency, and classify any proposed repair as one of:

- *Verified repair: supply enough reasoning to verify that the repair works throughout every affected use.*
- *Plausible repair only: describe the possible repair but do not treat it as established.*
- *No repair supplied.*

Assign the overall proofs status by the following priority:

1. *Contains incorrect or incomplete proofs, if at least one proof is Incorrect as written or Incomplete as written.*
2. *Contains unverified proofs, if there is no proved incorrectness or incompleteness but at least one material proof is Not able to verify.*
3. *Correct, if all audited proofs are Correct and complete, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.*

PART 3 — NOVELTY OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

This is a one-sided, evidence-only check. Evaluate only central results. Report a result only when a verifiable primary source, publicly available before the earliest public version of the paper that contains the result, proves the same statement up to a change of notation, or when the result follows directly and immediately from such an earlier theorem.

For each non-novelty finding, provide the earlier source, its public date, the exact theorem or proposition, and an explicit hypothesis-and-conclusion mapping. A later source cannot establish non-novelty. Do not flag a result merely because an easier proof exists or because it follows through a nontrivial argument. Do not flag a result that the paper itself explicitly presents as known, a survey item, or an alternative proof.

Mention only statements that meet this non-novelty threshold. Say nothing about statements for which no such evidence was found: do not certify novelty, list unsuccessful searches, or add statement-level “no prior source found” entries. If the list is empty, the section may say only “No non-novelty findings.”

PART 4 — TECHNICAL AND EVIDENTIARY RULES

1. Criticism must never be overstated. Call a statement incorrect, a proof incorrect or incomplete, or a result non-new only when strong formal evidence supports that exact judgment. Otherwise use Not able to verify where that outcome exists, or remain silent in the novelty section.

2. Review a specified paper version. Give exact page, theorem, equation, or proof locations; restate relevant quantifiers and hypotheses; and check domains, endpoints, parameter ranges, constants, and dependencies explicitly. Apply a defect only to the regimes and downstream results that actually depend on it.

3. Immediate-consequence closure: when deciding whether a conclusion is supported, treat the argument as including every immediate formal consequence of facts established earlier in the paper and available at that point. An immediate formal consequence is a local, mechanically checkable inference using only definitions already in force, elementary logic, direct substitution or renaming, weakening of an inequality or set inclusion, or a monotonicity or symmetry property explicit in a definition or already proved.

4. Such an inference must introduce no new lemma, estimate, construction, case analysis, limiting or compactness argument, external result, or new issue of uniformity or parameter dependence. Check the direction of monotonicity and the dependence of every threshold or constant explicitly. Do not exchange pointwise and uniform conclusions, change exceptional sets, interchange quantifiers or limits, or extend an endpoint under this rule unless the required fact was already established.

5. If the claimed conclusion follows after immediate-consequence closure, it is fully supported. Do not report a gap, unsupported statement, minor formal correction, or recommendation to add an explanatory sentence, and do not mention the suppressed item in the report. This suppression does not apply to a genuine typographical error as defined below, because a typo is a literal notation defect that still requires a textual correction. For example, if $P(\delta)$ is proved for every sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ and P is immediately monotone in the required direction, then the claim that $P(\delta)$ holds for every $\delta > 0$ requires no correction; the omitted monotonicity step is exposition rather than an audit finding.

6. Immediate-consequence closure permits reconstruction of an omitted inference; it does not permit silent alteration of the printed domain, hypotheses, or quantifiers of an intermediate statement later invoked outside its stated scope. If formal validity requires changing the text of that statement or its stated range, report the appropriate finding even when the repair is easy. Thus a result stated only for $t > 0$ and subsequently applied at $t = 0$ remains a formal scope mismatch unless the endpoint case was separately established before the application.

7. Apply this mandatory gate before recording any adverse, unverified, typographical, or minor formal finding: (a) identify the exact assertion or inference alleged to be defective; (b) reconstruct the strongest conclusion following from the preceding argument after all admissible immediate formal consequences are added; (c) identify the specific defect that remains — a formally demonstrated falsehood, a concrete nontrivial unresolved proof obligation, or a genuine domain, hypothesis, quantifier, or notation mismatch requiring a textual correction; and (d) state the evidence and minimal repair. If no specific defect remains, or if the only possible addition would be explanatory, suppress the finding entirely. Use Not able to verify only when a precise, nontrivial unresolved obligation can be identified.

8. A typographical error is an incorrect symbol, index, exponent, sign, variable name, or notation mismatch whose unique intended correction is mechanically determined from the surrounding text and does not alter the mathematical argument. Report it in yellow as Typo, with the printed text, correction, exact location, and reason it is harmless. It does not lower an overall status.

9. A minor formal correction is a boundary, endpoint, or displayed parameter-range defect that can be repaired consistently in every affected statement by a local change, without a new argument, without invalidating any related result or application, and without creating another substantive defect. Report it in yellow as Minor formal correction, with the same details. It does not lower an overall status.

10. Do not use either minor category if more than one materially different repair is possible; if the repair changes the substance or scope of a central result; if an excluded case is used later; if the correction fails to propagate consistently; or if a new mathematical idea is required. In such cases use the strongest substantive classification actually supported by evidence.

11. Write every mathematical expression as valid, compilable LaTeX. Use ... for inline mathematics and

...

for displayed mathematics, with balanced delimiters and braces. Do not leave raw LaTeX commands outside math delimiters.

12. Separate theorem truth from the correctness of the printed proof. A theorem can be *Correct* in Part 1 because of a fully verified independent proof while its printed proof is adverse in Part 2. Conversely, a defective proof alone never licenses an *Incorrect* theorem classification.

Organize the report under Parts 1–3 and apply Part 4 throughout. Do not add editorial commentary, scores, rankings, recommendations, or a list of suppressed observations.

END OF REPORT

Each claim in this prototype report remains open to independent challenge and revision.