# On the Maximal Length of Two Sequences of Integers in Arithmetic Progressions with the Same Prime Divisors

## By

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**Abstract.** In this paper we consider an analogue of the problem of Erdős and Woods for arithmetic progressions. A positive answer follows from the *abc* conjecture. Partial results are obtained unconditionally.

**1.** For a positive integer $n$, we denote $u(n)$ for the greatest square free divisor of $n$ i.e.

$$u(n) = \prod_{p|n} p,$$

$P(n)$ for the greatest prime factor of $n$ and $\omega(n)$ for the number of distinct prime divisors of $n$. We understand that $u(1) = P(1) = 1$ and $\omega(1) = 0$. Erdős and Woods (see [1] for related literature) conjectured that there exists a positive integer $k$ with the following property: if $x, y$ are positive integers such that, for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant k$, the two numbers $x + i$ and $y + i$ have the same prime factors, then $x = y$. The solution of this problem would be of interest in logic. The only known example of positive integers $(x, y, k)$ with $1 \leqslant x < y, k \geqslant 2$ and

$$u(x + i) = u(y + i) \quad \text{for } 1 \leqslant i \leqslant k \tag{1}$$

arise from

$$u(2^h - 2) = u(2^h(2^h - 2)), \quad u(2^h - 1) = u(2^h(2^h - 2) + 1), \quad (h \geqslant 2)$$

and

$$u(75) = u(1215) = 15, \quad u(76) = u(1216) = 38.$$

It is proved in [1] that the relations (1) imply that

$$\log k \leqslant c_1 (\log x \log\log x)^{1/2} \quad \text{for } x \geqslant 3, \tag{2}$$

$$y - x > \exp(c_2 k (\log k)^2 / \log\log k) \quad \text{for } k \geqslant 3, \tag{3}$$

and

$$y - x > (k \log\log y)^{c_3 k \log\log y (\log\log\log y)^{-1}} \quad \text{for } y \geqslant 27, \tag{4}$$

where $c_1, c_2, c_3$ are effectively computable absolute positive constants.

In this paper, we consider an analogue of the problem of Erdös and Woods for arithmetic progressions. For each quadruple $(x, y, d, d')$ of positive integers satisfying

$$(x, d) \neq (y, d') \quad \text{and} \quad \gcd(x, d) = \gcd(y, d') = 1, \tag{5}$$

we denote by $K = K(x, y, d, d')$ the largest positive integer $K$ for which

$$u(x + id) = u(y + id') \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant i \leqslant K - 1. \tag{6}$$

For instance $K(2, 2, 1, 7) = 3$ and $K(8, 4, 1, 23) = 3$, corresponding to the arithmetic progressions

$$(2, 3, 4) \text{ and } (2, 9, 16) \text{ (resp. } (8, 9, 10) \text{ and } (4, 27, 50)).$$

We observe

$$\gcd(x + id, y + id') = \gcd(x + id, d'x - dy)$$

which, together with (6) and $d'x - dy \neq 0$, implies that

$$P(x + id) = P(y + id') \leqslant |d'x - dy| \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant i \leqslant K - 1.$$

On the other hand, we apply estimates on linear forms in logarithms to $d'(x + id) - d(y + id')$ for showing that $P(x + id) = P((x + id)(y + id'))$ tends to infinity with $i$, see [1, p. 228]. Thus, we secure the existence of the maximal integer $K$. We show that a positive answer to the arithmetic progression analogue of the problem of Erdös and Woods follows from the $abc$ conjecture of Masser and Oesterlé, see LANG [3, Chap. IV §7, p. 196].

**Conjecture** $abc$: *For each* $\varepsilon > 0$ *three exists a constant* $\kappa(\varepsilon) > 0$ *such that if* $a, b, c$ *are three positive rational integers with* $a + b = c$ *and*

$\gcd(a,b,c) = 1$, *then*

$$u(abc) \geqslant \kappa(\varepsilon)c^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

The following two consequences of *abc* conjecture will be proved in Section 2.

**Proposition 1.** *Assume the abc conjecture is true. Then for each pair* $(d, d')$ *of positive integers, the set of pairs* $(x, y)$ *satisfying* (5) *and* $K(x, y, d, d') > 2$ *is finite.*

**Proposition 2.** *Assuming the abc conjecture holds, the set of quadruples* $(x, y, d, d')$ *satisfying* (5) *and* $K(x, y, d, d') > 4$ *is finite.*

It would be interesting to know whether there exist examples with $K(x, y, d, d') = 4$.

In Section 4, we shall prove inequalities analogous to (2), (3) and (4). We shall always assume that $x, y, d$ and $d'$ are positive integers satisfying (5). Further, we put

$$\Delta = \left| \frac{d'x - dy}{\gcd(d, d')} \right|.$$

By (5), we observe that $\Delta \neq 0$ and $\Delta = |x - y|$ whenever $d = d'$. We prove the next result under the assumption

$$P(x + id) = P(y + id') \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant i < k. \tag{7}$$

This is a weaker assumption than

$$u(x + id) = u(y + id') \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant i < k \tag{8}$$

already considered. If (7) holds, we observe $P(x + id) | \Delta$ for $0 \leqslant i < k$ which imply that $P(x + id) \leqslant \Delta$ for $0 \leqslant i < k$. If (8) holds, then $u(\prod_{i=0}^{k-1}(x + id))$ divides $\Delta$ and in particular, $u(\prod_{i=0}^{k-1}(x + id)) \leqslant \Delta$.

**Proposition 3.** *Assume* (7). *There exists an effectively computable absolute constant* $c_4$ *such that for* $k \geqslant c_4$, *we have*

$$\Delta \geqslant k^{k-\pi(k)-3}. \tag{9}$$

We write

$$\chi_1 = x + (k-1)d, \quad \chi_2 = y + (k-1)d', \quad \chi = \max(\chi_1, \chi_2, e^e).$$

If $\chi$ is very large as compared with $k$, we sharpen (9) as follows.

**Proposition 4(a).** *If* (7) *holds with* $k \geqslant 3$, *then*

$$\log \Delta \geqslant c_5 k \log \log \log \chi, \tag{10}$$

*where* $c_5 > 0$ *is an effectively computable absolute constant.*

(b) *Assume* (8) *with* $k \geqslant 3$. *Then*

$$\log \Delta \geqslant c_6 k \log \log \chi \tag{11}$$

*for some effectively computable absolute constant* $c_6 > 0$.

From the next result, we shall deduce a lower bound for $x$ and $y$ in the special case $d = d'$.

**Proposition 5.** *Let* $k \geqslant 2$. *For* $\varepsilon > 0$, *assume that*

$$x > d^{1+\varepsilon}, \quad y > d'^{1+\varepsilon}. \tag{12}$$

*If* (8) *holds, then*

$$\min \left\{ \log \left( \frac{d'x}{\gcd(d,d')} \right), \log \left( \frac{dy}{\gcd(d,d')} \right) \right\} \geqslant c_7 (\log k)^2 (\log \log k)^{-1},$$

*where* $c_7 > 0$ *is an effectively computable number depending only on* $\varepsilon$.

If $d = d'$, the assertion of Proposition 5 simplifies to

$$\min (\log x, \log y) \geqslant c_7 (\log k)^2 (\log \log k)^{-1}.$$

The proof of Proposition 3 is elementary and the proofs of Propositions 4 and 5 depend on the theory of linear forms in logarithms.

**2.** The proofs of Propositions 1 and 2 depend on the following result.

**Lemma A.** *Assume the abc conjecture holds. For* $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ *and for positive integers* $x, d$ *with* $\gcd(x, d) = 1$, *we have*

$$u(x(x+d)(x+2d)) \geqslant \kappa(\varepsilon)(x+d)^{2-2\varepsilon} d^{-1} \tag{13}$$

*and*

$$u(x(x+d)\cdots(x+4d)) \geqslant \frac{\kappa(\varepsilon)}{8}(x+2d)^{3-3\varepsilon}. \tag{14}$$

*Proof.* We consider the three relatively prime positive integers

$$a = (x+d)^2 - d^2, \quad b = d^2, \quad c = (x+d)^2.$$

We observe that $a + b = c$ and

$$u(abc) = u(dx(x+d)(x+2d)) \leqslant du(x(x+d))(x+2d)).$$

Then, the inequality (13) follows immediately from *abc* conjecture.

For inequality (14), we observe that

$$a = x^2(x + 3d), \quad b = (x + d)(x + 4d)^2, \quad c = 2(x + 2d)^3$$

satisfy $a + b = c$ and write $\delta = \gcd(a, b)$. If $d$ is even, then $x$ is odd, $\delta = 1$ and we deduce from the *abc* conjecture that

$$2u(x(x + d)\cdots(x + 4d)) = u(2x(x + d)\cdots(x + 4d)) \geqslant$$
$$\geqslant \kappa(\varepsilon)2^{1-\varepsilon}(x + 2d)^{3-3\varepsilon}$$

which implies (14). If $d$ is odd, then $\delta \mid 16$ and we apply the *abc* conjecture to

$$x^2(x + 3d)\delta^{-1}, \quad (x + d)(x + 4d)^2\delta^{-1}, \quad 2(x + 2d)^3\delta^{-1}$$

for concluding that

$$u(x(x + d)\cdots(x + 4d)) \geqslant \kappa(\varepsilon)\left(\frac{2}{\delta}\right)^{1-\varepsilon}(x + 2d)^{3-3\varepsilon} \geqslant \frac{\kappa(\varepsilon)}{8}(x + 2d)^{3-3\varepsilon}.$$

$\square$

*Proof of Proposition 1.* We assume that $K > 2$. Then, we derive from (5) and (6) that $u(x(x + d)(x + 2d)) = u(y(y + d')(y + 2d'))$ divides $|d'x - dy|$. Now, we derive from (13) with $\varepsilon = 1/4$ and $d'x - dy \neq 0$ that

$$\kappa(1/4)\max\left\{(x + d)^{3/2}d^{-1}, (y + d')^{3/2}d'^{-1}\right\} \leqslant |d'x - dy|$$

which implies that $\max(x, y)$ is bounded by a number depending only on $d$ and $d'$.

$\square$

*Proof of Proposition 2.* We assume that $K > 4$. Then, as in the proof of Proposition 1, we derive from (14) with $\varepsilon = 1/6$ that

$$\frac{\kappa(1/6)}{8}\max\left\{(x + 2d)^{5/2}, (y + 2d')^{5/2}\right\} \leqslant |d'x - dy|$$

which implies that there are only finitely many possibilities for $x, y, d$ and $d'$.

$\square$

3. In this section, we shall prove lemmas for Propositions 3–5. We start with the following very useful Lemma.

**Lemma 1.** *For positive integers $x$ and $d$ with* $\gcd(x, d) = 1$, *we put* $S = \{x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k - 1)d\}$. *Let $p$ be a prime which divides the number*

$$x(x + d)\cdots(x + (k - 1)d) = \prod_{n \in S} n.$$

*Choose an* $i_p \in \{0, 1, \ldots, k-1\}$ *such that*

$$|x + i_p d|_p^{-1} = \max(|n|_p^{-1}, n \in S).$$

*Then*

$$\prod_{i \ne i_p} |x + id|_p \ge |(k-1)!|_p.$$

*Proof.* For $i \ne i_p$ we have

$$|x + id|_p \ge |i - i_p|_p,$$

hence

$$\prod_{i \ne i_p} |x + id|_p \ge |i_p!(k - 1 - i_p)!|_p \ge |(k-1)!|_p. \qquad \square$$

*Remarks.* 1. This argument is due to SYLVESTER [5, Ch. 72, p. 698].

2. Since

$$|x + i_p d|_p = |\mathrm{lcm}(x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d)|_p,$$

we deduce that for positive integers $x$ and $d$ with $\gcd(x, d) = 1$, the number $x(x + d) \cdots (x + (k-1)d)$ divides

$$(k-1)! \, \mathrm{lcm}(x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d).$$

3. If we denote by $S_1$ the subset of $S$ obtained by deleting from $S$ all $i_p$ with $p \le k$, then

$$\prod_{n \in S_1} \prod_{p \le k} |n|_p^{-1} \text{ divides } (k-1)!.$$

Compare with Erdös' result which is quoted in [1, Lemma 2.3].

**Lemma 2.** *For positive integers $x$ and $d$ with $\gcd(x, d) = 1$, let $S_2$ be a subset of $\{x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$. Denote by $\tau$ the number of all integers $n \in S_2$ such that $P(n) \le k$. Then*

$$\tau \le k \frac{\log k}{\log s} + \pi(k)$$

*where $s$ is the least element of $S_2$.*

*Proof.* By deleting at most $\pi(k)$ elements from the set $\{n \in S_2, P(n) \le k\}$, we derive from Lemma 1 that $s^{\tau - \pi(k)} \le k^k$ and the assertion follows. $\qquad \square$

The next lemma of SHOREY and TIJDEMAN [4] is on the existence of a prime divisor exceeding $k$ of an element of $\{x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$.

**Lemma 3.** *For integers* $x \geqslant 1, d \geqslant 2$ *and* $k \geqslant 3$ *with* $\gcd(x, d) = 1$, *we have*

$$P(x(x+d)\cdots(x+(k-1)d)) > k$$

*unless*

$$x = 2, \quad d = 7, \quad k = 3.$$

We apply Lemma 3 to derive the following estimate for $\Delta$.

**Lemma 4.** *Let* $k > 6$. *For positive integers* $x, y, d, d'$ *satisfying* $\max(d, d') > 1$, (5) *and* (7), *we have*

$$2\Delta > k^2. \tag{15}$$

*Proof.* We assume that $d' > 1$ and we prove (15). The proof for (15) when $d > 1$ is similar. By Lemma 3 and $k > 3$, there exists $i_0$ with $0 \leqslant i_0 < k$ such that $p = P(y + i_0 d') > k$. Then, we see from (7) that $p = P(x + i_0 d)$. Consequently, we derive from (5) that $p | \Delta$. If $i_0 < k/2$, we observe that $k - 1 - i_0 > (k/2) - 1 > 2$ for deriving from Lemma 3 that

$$P((y + (i_0 + 1)d')\cdots(y + (k-1)d')) \geqslant k - i_0 > k/2.$$

If $i_0 \geqslant k/2 > 3$, we apply again Lemma 3 to obtain

$$P(y(y + d')\cdots(y + (i_0 - 1)d')) \geqslant i_0 + 1 > k/2.$$

Consequently, there exists $i_1$ with $0 \leqslant i_1 < k$ and $i_1 \neq i_0$ such that $p' = P(y + i_1 d') > k/2$. As above, we derive that $p' | \Delta$. Since $p > k$ and $i_0 \neq i_1$, we observe that $p \neq p'$. Consequently $pp' | \Delta$ which implies that $\Delta \geqslant pp' > k^2/2$. □

We denote by $t$ the number of all integers $n \in \{x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$ such that $P(n) \leqslant k$. We observe that $t$ is also the number of all integers $n \in \{y, y + d', \ldots, y + (k-1)d'\}$ such that $P(n) \leqslant k$ whenever (7) holds. In the next result, utilise Lemma 2 to sharpen (15) for large $k$.

**Lemma 5.** *Let* $\varepsilon > 0$. *Assume that positive integers* $x, y, d, d'$ *satisfy* (5) *and* (7). *There exists an effectively computable number* $c_8$ *depending*

*only on ε such that for $k \geqslant c_8$, we have*

$$\Delta \geqslant k^{(1-\varepsilon)k}. \tag{16}$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality we may assume $\varepsilon < 1/3$. By (3), we may suppose that $\max(d, d') > 1$ so that (15) is valid. We may assume that $k$ exceeds a sufficiently large effectively computable number depending only on $\varepsilon$. By (5), we observe that $dy \neq d'x$. We prove the lemma when $dy > d'x$ and the proof for the other case is similar. Then

$$\Delta < dy. \tag{17}$$

If $y \geqslant k^{3/2}$, we derive from Lemma 2 with $x = y$, $d = d'$ and $S_2 = \{y, y + d', \ldots, y + (k-1)d'\}$ that

$$t \leqslant \left(\frac{2}{3} + \varepsilon\right)k. \tag{18}$$

If $y < k^{3/2}$, then we see from (15) and (17) that $2d > k^{1/2}$. We apply again Lemma 2 with $S_2 = \{x + [\varepsilon k/2]d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$ *and* $t \leqslant (\varepsilon k/2) + \tau$ for deriving (18). Thus, the estimate (18) is always valid. There are at least $k - t$ elements of $\{x, x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$ whose greatest prime factors exceed $k$. Further, we observe from (7) that the product of these pairwise distinct at least $k - t$ primes divide $\Delta$. Thus

$$\Delta > k^{k-t}.$$

From (18) we deduce

$$\Delta > k^{(1/3-\varepsilon)k}. \tag{19}$$

If $d > k^{k/6}$, we repeat the previous argument: we apply Lemma 2 with

$$S_2 = \{x + [\varepsilon k/2]d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$$

and deduce

$$\tau \leqslant 6 + \pi(k) \quad \text{and} \quad t \leqslant \frac{\varepsilon k}{2} + \tau \leqslant \varepsilon k;$$

since $\Delta > k^{k-t}$, this implies (16).

If $d \leqslant k^{k/6}$, then from (17) and (19) we obtain

$$y > k^{k/6-\varepsilon},$$

and we use once more Lemma 2 with $x = y, d = d'$ and

$S_2 = \{y, y + d', \ldots, y + (k-1)d'\}$ to derive

$$t \leqslant \frac{6}{1 - 6\varepsilon} + \pi(k)$$

which again yields (16). $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\square$

Finally, we state a particular case of an estimate of GYÖRY [2] for integer solutions of Thue–Mahler equations. For distinct integers $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ and $\alpha_3$, we put

$$F(X, Y) = (X - \alpha_1 Y)(X - \alpha_2 Y)(X - \alpha_3 Y).$$

Let $H(F)$ be the maximum of the absolute values of the coefficients of $F$. Let $p_1, \ldots, p_s$ be distinct prime numbers with $P = \max(p_1, \ldots, p_s)$ and $A$ some non-zero rational integer. Then

**Lemma 6.** *All solutions of the Thue–Mahler equation*

$$F(x, y) = A p_1^{z_1} \cdots p_s^{z_s}$$

*in integers* $x, y, z_1, \ldots, z_s$ *with* $\gcd(x, y) = 1$, $z_1 \geqslant 0, \ldots, z_s \geqslant 0$ *satisfy*

$$\log(\max(|x|, |y|)) \leqslant (s + 1)^{C(s+1)} P^2 (1 + \log(|A| H(F))),$$

*where $C$ is an effectively computable absolute constant.*

**4. *Proof of Proposition 3.*** We may assume that $k$ exceeds a sufficiently large effectively computable absolute constant. We prove the result when $dy > d'x$ and the proof for the other case is similar. Then (17) is valid. For the proof of (9), we argue as in the proof of Lemma 5 for observing that it suffices to show that

$$t \leqslant \pi(k) + 3. \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad (20)$$

Let $\varepsilon = 1/25$. If $y \geqslant k^{(1/2 + \varepsilon)k}$, we derive from Lemma 2 that $t \leqslant \pi(k) + 1$. Thus, we may assume that $y < k^{(1/2 + \varepsilon)k}$ which, together with (16) and (17), implies that $d > k^{(1/2 - 2\varepsilon)k}$. Now, we apply again Lemma 2 for $S_2 = \{x + d, \ldots, x + (k-1)d\}$ to conclude (20). $\qquad\square$

*Proof of Proposition 4.* We write $c_9, \ldots, c_{13}$ for effectively computable absolute constants. By applying Lemma 6 to $F(x, d)$ and $F(y, d')$ where $F$ is the binary form $X(X + Y)(X + 2Y)$, the estimate (10) follows from (7) and the estimate (11) follows from (8) whenever $k$ is bounded. Therefore, we may assume that $k$ exceeds a sufficiently large effectively computable absolute constant. Further, we may suppose

that

$$k < \log \chi \tag{21}$$

otherwise Proposition 4 follows from Proposition 3. We assume that $\chi_2 \geqslant \chi_1$ and the proof for the other case is similar. We write

$$y + id' = M_i M'_i \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant i \leqslant k$$

where $P(M_i) \leqslant k$ and every prime factor of $M'_i$ exceeds $k$. By Lemma 2 and (21), the set of $i$ with $0 \leqslant i \leqslant k$ and $M'_i = 1$ has at most $\pi(k) + 2 \log k$ elements. Define $I = \{i; 0 \leqslant i < k, M_i > k^{20}\}$. Using Lemma 1, we deduce that there is a subset $J$ of $I$ with Card $J \geqslant$ Card $I - \pi(k)$ and

$$\prod_{i \in J} \prod_{p \leqslant k} |y + id'|_p^{-1} \leqslant k!.$$

The left-hand side is nothing else than $\prod_{i \in J} M_i$, hence is at least $k^{20\,\text{Card}\,J}$. Therefore

$$\text{Card } J \leqslant \frac{k}{20} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Card } I \leqslant \pi(k) + \frac{k}{20}.$$

Therefore, we find integers $i_j$ with $1 \leqslant j \leqslant \mu$ and $\mu = [9k/10]$ in $[0, k)$ such that

$$M_{i_j} \leqslant k^{20}, M'_{i_j} > k \quad \text{for } 1 \leqslant j \leqslant \mu.$$

Furthermore, we may suppose that there are at least $[3k/4]$ integers $j$ such that

$$P(M'_{i_j}) \leqslant (\log \chi)^{1/3},$$

otherwise Proposition 4 follows from (7). We arrange these integers as $i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_{\mu'}$ with $\mu' = [3k/4]$. Let $j$ be an integer in the range $1 \leqslant j \leqslant \mu' - 2$; we apply Lemma 6 to $F(y, d')$, where $F$ is the binary form

$$F(X, Y) = (X + i_j Y)(X + i_{j+1} Y)(X + i_{j+2} Y),$$

with

$$A = M_{i_j} M_{i_{j+1}} M_{i_{j+2}}, \quad s = \omega(M'_{i_j} M'_{i_{j+1}} M'_{i_{j+2}})$$

to conclude that

$$\omega(M'_{i_j}) \geqslant c_9 (\log \log \chi)(\log \log \log \chi)^{-1}$$

for at least $[k/8]$ integers $j$ with $1 \leqslant j \leqslant \mu'$. Therefore

$$P(M'_{ij}) \geqslant c_{10} \log\log \chi \tag{22}$$

for at least $[k/8]$ integers $j$ with $1 \leqslant j \leqslant \mu'$ and

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\mu'} \omega(M'_{ij}) \geqslant c_{11} k (\log\log \chi)(\log\log\log \chi)^{-1}. \tag{23}$$

If (7) holds, we derive from (22) that

$$(c_{10} \log\log \chi)^{c_{12}k} \leqslant \prod_{j=1}^{\mu'} P(M'_{ij}) \leqslant \Delta$$

which implies (10). If (8) holds, we obtain from (23) that

$$(\log \chi)^{c_{13}k} \leqslant u\left(\prod_{j=1}^{\mu'} M'_{ij}\right) \leqslant \Delta$$

and (11) follows.                                                    □

*Proof of Proposition 5.*

Put $D = \gcd(d, d')$ and $W = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \omega(y + id')$. We prove Proposition 5 under the assumption $d'x < dy$, i.e. we prove

$$\log\left(\frac{d'x}{D}\right) \geqslant c_7 (\log k)^2 (\log\log k)^{-1}. \tag{24}$$

The proof of Proposition 5 for the other case $d'x > dy$ is similar. We may assume that $k$ exceeds a sufficiently large effectively computable absolute constant, otherwise (24) follows immediately. Then, we derive from Proposition 3 and $d'x < dy$ that

$$k^{k-\pi(k)-3} \leqslant \Delta < \frac{dy}{D}.$$

We may assume that $d/D < k^{\pi(k)}$, otherwise (24) follows from (12). Thus

$$y > k^{k-2\pi(k)-3}. \tag{25}$$

Let $0 < \varepsilon_1 < 1$. We assume that

$$\log(x + (k-1)d) < \varepsilon_1 \log k \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y} \tag{26}$$

and we shall choose $\varepsilon_1$ a suitable effectively computable absolute constant for arriving at a contradiction. From this contradiction, we

see from (12) and (25) that

$$\log\left(\frac{d'x}{D}\right) \geqslant \log x \geqslant \varepsilon_1 (\log k)^2 (\log\log k)^{-1} - \log k,$$

implying (24).

For an integer $i$ with $0 \leqslant i < k$, we denote by $\omega'(y + id')$ the number of prime divisors of $y + id'$ which are greater than $k$. From (8) we deduce $\omega'(y + id') = \omega'(x + id)$. Since

$$k^{\omega'(y+id')} \leqslant x + id \leqslant x + (k-1)d,$$

we deduce from (26) that

$$\omega'(y + id') \leqslant \varepsilon_1 \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y}.$$

Also, for $0 \leqslant i < k$, we have

$$\log P(y + id') \leqslant \log k \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y}.$$

Now, in view of (12), we apply the theory of linear forms in logarithms as in the proof of Proposition 4.11 of [1] for deriving

$$W \leqslant c_{14} k \log\log k + \varepsilon_1 k \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y}$$

and

$$W \geqslant c_{15} k \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y},$$

where $c_{14}$ and $c_{15}$ are positive effectively computable absolute constants. Finally, we choose $\varepsilon_1 = (2c_{15})^{-1}$ to obtain from the estimates for $W$ that

$$c_{15} \frac{\log\log y}{\log\log\log y} < 2c_{14} \log\log k,$$

which, by (25), is not possible if $k$ is sufficiently large.  $\square$

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