Stability for Sums of i.i.d. Random Variables when Extreme Terms are Excluded

Toshio Mori

Department of Mathematics, Yokohama City University, Mutsuura-cho, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236 Japan

Let $\{X_n\}$ be a sequence of i.i.d. random variables and let $X_n^{(r)} = X_j$ if $|X_j|$ is the *r*-th maximum of $|X_1|, \ldots, |X_n|$. Let $S_n = X_1 + \cdots + X_n$ and ${}^{(r)}S_n = S_n - (X_n^{(1)} + \cdots + X_n^{(r)})$. Suppose a sequence $\{a_n\}$ of normalizing constants satisfies (i) $a_n/n^{1/\alpha}$ is nondecreasing for some α , $0 < \alpha < 2$, and (ii) $\sup(a_{2n}/a_n) < \infty$. An integral criterion for the stability of ${}^{(r)}S_n/a_n$ is obtained. This extends a previous result [4] on the stability of ${}^{(r)}S_n/n$.

1. Introduction and Results

Let $\{X_n\}_{n \ge 1}$ be a sequence of i.i.d. random variables with common d.f. F and put $\mathscr{F}(x) = P\{|X_1| > x\}$. For $r \ge 1$ and $n \ge r$ let $X_n^{(r)} = X_j$ if $|X_j|$ is the r-th maximum of $|X_1|, \ldots, |X_n|$. More precisely let $M_n(j), n \ge 1, 1 \le j \le n$, be the number of X_i 's satisfying either $|X_i| > |X_j|, 1 \le i \le n$, or $|X_i| = |X_j|, 1 \le i \le j$, and let $X_n^{(r)} = X_j$ if $M_n(j) = r$. Let $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, {}^{(0)}S_n = S_n$ and ${}^{(r)}S_n = S_n - \sum_{k=1}^r X_k^{(k)}$ for $r \ge 1$, $n \ge r$.

In [4] an integral criterion for the stability of ${}^{(r)}S_n/n$ was obtained. In this paper we consider the stability of ${}^{(r)}S_n/a_n$. Throughout this paper we suppose the sequence $\{a_n\}$ of normalizing constants $a_n > 0$ satisfies the following two conditions:

- (A1) $\{a_n/n^{1/\alpha}\}\$ is nondecreasing for some α , $0 < \alpha < 2$,
- (A2) $\sup_{n\geq 1} (a_{2n}/a_n) < \infty.$

If $\{a_n\}$ satisfies (A1) and (A2) then we can define an absolutely continuous increasing function A on $[0, \infty)$ with A(0)=0, $A(n)=a_n$ for n=1, 2, ... and satisfying

- (A1') $A(x)/x^{1/\alpha}$ is nondecreasing,
- (A2') $\sup_{x>0} (A(2x)/A(x)) < \infty$.

Since $A(\infty) = \infty$ the inverse function *B* of *A* is absolutely continuous increasing on $[0, \infty)$ with B(0)=0 and $B(\infty)=\infty$. Let us denote by J_r , r>0, the integral $\int_{0}^{\infty} \mathscr{F}^{r}(x) dB^{r}(x)$, where $\mathscr{F}^{r}(x) = \{\mathscr{F}(x)\}^{r}$ etc. If 0 < r < s then $J_s = \frac{s}{r} \int_{0}^{\infty} (\mathscr{F}(x) B(x))^{s-r} \mathscr{F}^{r}(x) dB^{r}(x)$

and therefore $J_r < \infty$ implies $J_s < \infty$ (see Lemma 3 below).

The purpose of this paper is to prove the following two theorems which extend a result of [4]. Theorem 1 should be compared with a classical result due to Feller ([1] or [6] p. 132). When r=0 Theorem 2 reduces to Marcinkiewicz strong law of large numbers ([6] p. 126).

Theorem 1. Suppose $r \ge 0$ is a fixed integer and $\{a_n\}$ is a sequence satisfying (A1) and (A2). If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ then

$$\lim X_n^{(r+1)} / a_n = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$
(1)

and there exists a sequence $\{c_n\}$ of constants satisfying

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (r) S_n / a_n - c_n = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$
⁽²⁾

In this case c_n may be chosen according to the formula

$$c_n = \frac{n}{a_n} \int_{|x| \le \tau a_n} x \, dF(x) \tag{3}$$

where $\tau > 0$ is an arbitrary constant. If $J_{r+1} = \infty$ then

$$\limsup |X_n^{(r+1)}|/a_n = \infty \quad \text{a.s.}$$
(4)

and

$$\limsup |{}^{(r)}S_n/a_n - c_n| = \infty \quad \text{a.s.}$$
⁽⁵⁾

for every sequence $\{c_n\}$.

Theorem 2. (i) If

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} x^{\alpha(r+1)-1} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(x) \, dx < \infty \tag{6}$$

for some α , $0 < \alpha < 1$, and $r \ge 0$ then

$${}^{(r)}S_n/n^{1/\alpha} \to 0$$
 a.s.

(ii) If (6) holds with $\alpha = 1$ and $r \ge 0$ then for every $\tau > 0$

$${}^{(r)}S_n/n - \int_{|x| \leq n\tau} x \, dF(x) \to 0 \qquad \text{a.s.}$$

(iii) If (6) holds for some α , $1 < \alpha < 2$, and $r \ge 0$ then $E|X_1| < \infty$ and

 $({}^{(r)}S_n - nEX_1)/n^{1/\alpha} \rightarrow 0$ a.s.

(iv) Conversely if ${}^{(r)}S_n/n^{1/\alpha} - c_n \rightarrow 0$ a.s. for some α , $0 < \alpha < 2$, and for some $\{c_n\}$ then (6) holds.

2. Proofs

Lemma 1. If $0 < b_n \uparrow \infty$ then

 $P\{|X_n^{(r+1)}| > b_n \text{ i.o.}\} = 0 \text{ or } 1$

according as $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^r \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(b_n)$ converges or diverges.

Proof. This is Lemma 3 of [4].

Lemma 2. For every $\varepsilon > 0$

 $P\{|X_n^{(r+1)}| > \varepsilon a_n \text{ i.o.}\} = 0 \text{ or } 1$

according as $J_{r+1} < \infty$ or $J_{r+1} = \infty$.

Proof. It is easy to see that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{r} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(\varepsilon a_{n}) < \infty$$
iff
$$\int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(\varepsilon A(x)) dx < \infty.$$
(7)

By (A1') we have $A(\varepsilon^{\alpha} x) \leq \varepsilon A(x) \leq A(x)$ if $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ and $A(x) \leq \varepsilon A(x) \leq A(\varepsilon^{\alpha} x)$ if $\varepsilon > 1$. Therefore for every $\varepsilon > 0$ (7) holds iff

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(A(x)) dx = (r+1)^{-1} J_{r+1} < \infty.$$

Hence the lemma follows from Lemma 1.

Lemma 3. If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ for some $r \ge 0$ then

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\mathscr{F}(x)B(x)=0.$$

Proof. Write $\mathscr{F}^{r+1}(x) B^{r+1}(x)$ as

$$\int_{0}^{x} (\mathscr{F}(x)/\mathscr{F}(y))^{r+1} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(y) \, dB^{r+1}(y)$$

and apply the dominated convergence theorem.

Lemma 4. If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ for some $r \ge 0$ then

$$\int_{|x| \le y} x^2 dF(x) = o(y^2/B(y)) \quad as \ y \to \infty.$$

Proof. Integrating by parts we have

$$\int_{|x| \leq y} x^2 dF(x) = -y^2 \mathscr{F}(y) + 2 \int_0^y x \mathscr{F}(x) dx, \quad y > 0.$$

It is immediate from Lemma 3 that $y^2 \mathscr{F}(y) = o(y^2/B(y))$. It follows from (A1') that $x/B^{1/\alpha}(x) \leq y/B^{1/\alpha}(y)$ for $x \leq y$ and therefore

$$y^{-2}B(y)\int_{0}^{y} x \mathscr{F}(x) dx \leq y^{-2} \int_{0}^{y} (y/x)^{\alpha} x B(x) \mathscr{F}(x) dx$$
$$= y^{-2+\alpha} \int_{0}^{y} x^{1-\alpha} B(x) \mathscr{F}(x) dx.$$

Applying Lemma 3 again we obtain $\int_{0}^{y} x \mathscr{F}(x) dx = o(y^2/B(y)).$

In the next three lemmas we impose the following condition:

(F) \mathscr{F} is positive and differentiable on $(0, \infty)$.

Let us define ψ by $\psi(x) = (B(x)/\mathscr{F}(x))^{1/2}$, $x \ge 0$. Under the assumption (F) ψ is absolutely continuous strictly increasing with $\psi(0) = 0$ and $\psi(\infty) = \infty$. Hence the inverse function φ of ψ is also absolutely continuous increasing with $\varphi(0)=0$ and $\varphi(\infty) = \infty$. By Lemma 3 $J_{r+1} < \infty$ implies $\lim_{x \to \infty} \psi(x)/B(x) = \infty$ and therefore $\lim_{x \to \infty} x/B(\varphi(x)) = \infty$. Since (A1') implies

x→∞

$$A(y)/\varphi(y) = A(y)/A(B(\varphi(y))) \ge (y/B(\varphi(y)))^{1/\alpha}$$

for large y we have $\lim_{y\to\infty} A(y)/\varphi(y) = \infty$ if $J_{r+1} < \infty$.

Lemma 5. If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ for some $r \ge 0$ and if $k \ge 2r+2$ then

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} x^{k-1} \mathscr{F}^{k}(\varphi(x)) \, dx = \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{-k-1} B^{k}(\varphi(x)) \, dx = (2/k) J_{k/2} < \infty.$$

Proof. The first equality is obvious from $B(\varphi(x)) = x^2 \mathscr{F}(\varphi(x))$. The second equality is shown by a routine calculation using Lemma 3.

Let I_m , $m \ge 0$, denote the set $\{2^m, 2^m + 1, ..., 2^{m+1} - 1\}$ and let $\theta_n = \varphi(2^m)$ if $n \in I_m$. Define $X'_n = X_n \cdot I(|X_n| < \theta_n)$. The following lemma plays the central role in this paper. The proof is obtained by modifying the method used in Nagaev [5].

Lemma 6. Assume (F). If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ for some $r \ge 0$ then there exists a sequence $\{c_n\}$ of constants satisfying

 $X'_k/a_n - c_n \rightarrow 0$ a.s.

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Proof. Let $\{X''_n\}$ be a sequence of independent random variables independent of $\{X'_n\}$ and having the same distribution as $\{X'_n\}$. Then $\{Y_n\}$, $Y_n = X'_n - X''_n$, is a sequence of independent symmetrically distributed random variables with $|Y_n| \leq 2\theta_n$, and every Y_n , $n \in I_m$, has the same d.f. F_m .

For a proof of the lemma it suffices to show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} Y_k / a_n \to 0 \qquad \text{a.s}$$

(see [3] p. 247 or [6] p. 147). It is known ([6] p. 158) that under the assumptions (A1) and (A2) this is equivalent to

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} P\{\sum_{n\in I_m} Y_n > \varepsilon A(2^m)\} < \infty$$
(8)

for every $\varepsilon > 0$.

Let G_m and Q_m denote the d.f. and the m.g.f. of $\sum_{n \in I_m} Y_n$ resp. Denoting by f_m the m.g.f. of Y_n , $n \in I_m$, we have $Q_m(h) = \{f_m(h)\}^{2^m}$. It is shown that

$$\frac{d}{dh}\log Q_m(h) = 2^m \frac{d}{dh}\log f_m(h)$$

is an increasing function of h and vanishes at h=0 (see [5]). For an arbitrarily fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ let h_m be the (minimum) solution of the equation

$$\frac{d}{dh}\log Q_m(h) = \varepsilon A(2^m)/2.$$

If this equation does not have solution then define $h_m = 1/\gamma_m$ where $\gamma_m = \varphi(2^m)$. By this definition we have

$$\log Q_m(h_m) = \int_0^{h_m} \frac{d}{dh} \log Q_m(h) \, dh \leq \varepsilon \, h_m A(2^m)/2.$$

Defining a d.f. \overline{G}_m by

$$\bar{G}_m(x) = \int_{y \leq x} e^{h_m y} \, dG_m(y) / Q_m(h_m)$$

we find that

$$1 - G_m(\varepsilon A(2^m)) = Q_m(h_m) \int_{x > \varepsilon A(2^m)} e^{-h_m x} d\bar{G}_m(x)$$

= $Q_m(h_m) \exp\left[-h_m \varepsilon A(2^m)\right]$
 $\leq \exp\left[-h_m \varepsilon A(2^m)/2\right].$ (9)

Suppose $h_m < 1/\gamma_m$. Since $f_m(h) \ge 1$ and $|Y_n| \le 2\gamma_m$ for $n \in I_m$, by using an inequality $e^x - e^{-x} \le 2x e^x$ we have

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$$\begin{split} A(2^m) \, \varepsilon/2 &\leq 2^m f'_m(h_m) / f(h_m) \leq 2^m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \, e^{h_m x} \, dF_m(x) \\ &= 2^m \int_{0}^{\infty} x (e^{h_m x} - e^{-h_m x}) \, dF_m(x) \leq 2^{m+1} h_m \int_{0}^{\infty} x^2 \, e^{h_m x} \, dF_m(x) \\ &\leq 2^{m+1} h_m \, e^{2h_m \gamma_m} \int_{0}^{\infty} x^2 \, dF_m(x) \leq 2^{m+1} \, e^2 h_m \int_{|x| \leq 2\gamma_m} x^2 \, dF(x). \end{split}$$

Thus by Lemma 4 if $h_m < 1/\gamma_m$ and if m is sufficiently large then

$$A(2^m) \leq 2^m h_m \gamma_m^2 / B(\gamma_m).$$

Consequently we find that for large m

either
$$h_m \ge 1/\gamma_m$$
 or $h_m \ge A(2^m) B(\gamma_m)/(2^m \gamma_m^2)$. (10)
Let $s \ge \max(2\alpha(r+1), 2\alpha(r+1)/(2-\alpha))$. Since
 $\varphi(x)/B^{1/\alpha}(\varphi(x)) \le A(x)/x^{1/\alpha}$

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it follows from Lemma 5 that

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} \left[\frac{\varphi(x)}{A(x)} \right]^{s} dx \leq \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{-s/\alpha - 1} B^{s/\alpha}(\varphi(x)) dx < \infty.$$

Similarly we obtain

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} \left[\frac{x \, \varphi^2(x)}{A^2(x) B(\varphi(x))} \right]^s dx < \infty.$$

In view of (A2') these inequalities imply

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{\gamma_m}{A(2^m)} \right]^s < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{2^m \gamma_m^2}{A^2(2^m) B(\gamma_m)} \right]^s < \infty.$$

Thus it follows from (10) that

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} [h_m A(2^m)]^{-s} < \infty.$$

This implies

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \exp[-h_m \varepsilon A(2^m)/2] < \infty.$$

By (9) this proves (8) and therefore the lemma.

Lemma 7. Assume (F). Let N_m denote the number of j's such that $|X_j| > \varphi(2^m)$, $j \leq 2^{m+1}-1$. If $J_{r+1} < \infty$ then $P\{N_m \geq 2r+2 \text{ i.o.}\} = 0$.

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Proof. By Lemma 5 we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{2r+1} \mathscr{F}^{2r+1}(\theta_n) \leq \operatorname{const.} \times \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{2r+1} \mathscr{F}^{2r+1}(\varphi(x)) \, dx < \infty.$$

Hence by Lemma 1

$$P\{N_m \ge 2r+2 \text{ i.o.}\} \le P\{|X_n^{(2r+2)}| \ge \theta_n \text{ i.o.}\} = 0.$$

Proof of Theorem 1. First suppose $J_{r+1} < \infty$. Then (1) follows from Lemma 2. By the same reasoning as in [4] it suffices to prove (2) assuming (F). For an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$ let

$$S_n(\varepsilon) = \sum_{j=1}^n X_j \cdot I(|X_j| \le a_n \varepsilon)$$

and let $S'_n = \sum_{j=1}^n X'_j$. If $n \in I_m$ and *n* is so large that $\theta_n < \varepsilon a_n$ then

$$|S_n(\varepsilon) - S'_n| \leq \varepsilon a_n N_m + \sum_{k=1}^m \varepsilon A(2^{m-k+1}) N_{m-k}$$
$$\leq \varepsilon a_n \left[N_m + \sum_{k=1}^m \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{k-1} N_{m-k} \right]$$

because $a_n/a_{2n} \leq (n/(2n))^{1/\alpha} = 2^{-1/\alpha} < \frac{3}{4}$. Hence by Lemma 7 we obtain

$$\limsup a_n^{-1} |S_n(\varepsilon) - S'_n| \le (2r+1) \left[1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\frac{3}{4})^{k-1} \right] \varepsilon = 5(2r+1)\varepsilon \quad \text{a.s}$$

By Lemma 2 we have almost surely $|S_n(\varepsilon) - {}^{(r)}S_n| \leq r a_n \varepsilon$ for large *n*. Thus

 $\limsup a_n^{-1} |{}^{(r)}S_n - S_n'| \leq (11r + 5) \varepsilon \quad \text{a.s.}$

Since ε was arbitrary

 $\lim a_n^{-1} |{}^{(r)}S_n - S'_n| = 0 \qquad \text{a.s.}$

Combined with Lemma 6 this shows (2).

It remains to prove (3). By Lemma 3 and the inequalities used in the proof of Lemma 2 we have $\lim_{x \to \infty} x \mathcal{F}(\varepsilon A(x)) = 0$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$. Hence for every $k \ge 1$

$$P\{|X_n^{(k)}| > \varepsilon a_n\} = \sum_{j=k}^n \binom{n}{j} \mathscr{F}^j(\varepsilon a_n) [1 - \mathscr{F}(\varepsilon a_n)]^{n-j} \cdot \sum_{j=k}^n (\varepsilon a_n)^{k-j} \cdot \sum_{j=k}^n ($$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$. This shows

 $X_n^{(k)}/a_n \rightarrow 0$ in prob.

for $k \ge 1$ and therefore (2) implies

 $S_n/a_n - c_n \rightarrow 0$ in prob.

Hence c_n may be chosen according to the formula (3) (see [2] p. 135).

Next suppose $J_{r+1} = \infty$. Then (4) is immediate from Lemma 2. When $r \ge 1$ it is found that

$$|{}^{(r)}S_{n+1} - {}^{(r)}S_n| = \min(|X_{n+1}|, |X_n^{(r)}|).$$
(11)

Let $r+1 \le n_1 \le n_2 \le \cdots$ be successive indices *n* with $|X_{n+1}^{(r+1)}| > |X_n^{(r+1)}|$. It is easy to see that

$$|X_{n_j+1}^{(r+1)}| = \min(|X_{n_j+1}|, |X_{n_j}^{(r)}|) = |{}^{(r)}S_{n_j+1} - {}^{(r)}S_{n_j}|.$$

Further $|X_n^{(r+1)}| > a_n M$ for infinitely many *n* iff $|X_{n_j+1}^{(r+1)}| > a_{n_j+1} M$ for infinitely many *j*. Thus (4) implies

$$P\{|^{(r)}S_{n+1} - {}^{(r)}S_n| > a_n M \text{ i.o.}\} = 1$$
(12)

for every M > 0. When r = 0 (12) is immediate from (4). On the other hand by the zero-one law $\limsup_{n \to \infty} |a_n - c_n|$ is either $= \infty$ a.s. or $< \infty$ a.s. Suppose

 $\limsup_{n \to \infty} |c^{(r)}S_n/a_n - c_n| < \infty \qquad \text{a.s.}$ (13)

for some $\{c_n\}$. It follows from (11) that

$$a_n^{-1}|^{(r)}S_{n+1}-{}^{(r)}S_n| \le a_n^{-1}|X_{n+1}| \to 0$$
 in prob.

Therefore (13) implies

 $\sup |c_n - (a_{n+1}/a_n) c_{n+1}| < \infty.$

Together with (13) this shows

 $\limsup a_n^{-1} |{}^{(r)}S_{n+1} - {}^{(r)}S_n| < \infty \qquad \text{a.s.}$

This contradicts with (12) and therefore (4) must imply (5).

Proof of Theorem 2. Put $a_n = n^{1/\alpha}$, $A(x) = x^{1/\alpha}$ in Theorem 1. Then the theorem is immediate from Theorem 1 except for assertions on the centering constants c_n in (i) and (iii). Let (6) be satisfied and let c_n be chosen according to (3).

If $0 < \alpha < 1$ then by Lemma 3

$$\begin{aligned} |\int_{|x| \leq n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}} x \, dF(x)| &\leq \int_{|x| \leq n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}} |x| \, dF(x) \\ &= -n^{1/\alpha} \mathscr{F}(n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}) + \int_{0}^{n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}} \mathscr{F}(x) \, dx \\ &= -n^{1/\alpha - 1} n \mathscr{F}(n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}) + \int_{0}^{n^{1/\alpha_{\tau}}} x^{-\alpha}(x^{\alpha} \mathscr{F}(x)) \, dx \\ &= o(n^{1/\alpha - 1}). \end{aligned}$$

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Hence

$$c_n = n^{1-1/\alpha} \int_{|x| \le n^{1/\alpha} \tau} x \, dF(x) \to 0.$$
(14)

Suppose $1 < \alpha < 2$. Hölder inequality shows

$$\int_{c}^{\infty} \mathscr{F}(x) dx \leq \left[\int_{c}^{\infty} (x^{\alpha - 1/p} \mathscr{F}(x))^{p} dx\right]^{1/p} \cdot \left[\int_{c}^{\infty} (x^{-\alpha + 1/p})^{q} dx\right]^{1/q}$$

where p>1 and 1/p+1/q=1. If $r \ge 1$ then by putting p=r+1 and q=(r+1)/r we obtain

$$\int_{c}^{\infty} \mathscr{F}(x) dx \leq K c^{-\alpha+1} \left[\int_{c}^{\infty} x^{\alpha(r+1)-1} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(x) dx \right]^{1/(r+1)}$$
(15)

for c > 0 where $K = [(\alpha - 1)(r + 1)/r]^{-r/(r+1)}$. When r = 0 it is easy to see that (15) holds with K = 1. Thus (6) implies $E|X_1| = \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathscr{F}(x) dx < \infty$. It follows from (15), (6)

and Lemma 3 that
$$\ln^{1-1/\alpha} EV$$

$$|n^{\tau} - LX_{1} - C_{n}| = n^{1-1/\alpha} \int_{|x| > n^{1/\alpha}\tau} x \, dF(x)| \leq n^{1-1/\alpha} \int_{|x| > n^{1/\alpha}\tau} |x| \, dF(x)$$

= $n^{1-1/\alpha} [n^{1/\alpha} \tau \mathscr{F}(n^{1/\alpha} \tau) + \int_{n^{1/\alpha}\tau}^{\infty} \mathscr{F}(x) \, dx]$
 $\leq n \tau \mathscr{F}(n^{1/\alpha} \tau) + K \tau^{-\alpha+1} [\int_{n^{1/\alpha}\tau}^{\infty} x^{\alpha(r+1)-1} \mathscr{F}^{r+1}(x) \, dx]^{1/(r+1)} \to 0.$ (16)

The relations (14) and (16) complete the proof of (i) and (iii) resp.

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