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A large-scale variant of the Erdos similarity conjecture

Consider a sequence of real numbers increasing to infinity. How large can a subset of the real line be before it is forced to contain some affine image of that sequence? This question fits into a huge body of work in analysis and number theory concerned with constructing large sets that fail to contain prescribed structures. I will discuss recent progress on this question and comment on its connections with a now 50-year old open problem of Erdos.