Let $A$ be a finite subset of an abelian group. The sumset $A+A$ is the set of all pairwise sums $a+b$ where $a$ and $b$ are elements of $A$. One of the central results in additive combinatorics is Freiman's theorem which describes the structure of sets with small sumsets. In this talk we consider the following problem; suppose that $|A+A| \leq|A|^{3 / 2}$. Under what conditions can we guarantee that a large subset $B \subset A+A$ has small doubling? (i.e. $|B+B| \leq C|B|$ where $C$ is a slow-growing function of $|B|$ ) We will see that this is the case when $A$ is uniform enough. We will illustrate the result with applications to the sum-product conjecture and some related problems. (Received September 15, 2009)

