

# THE SUM OF DIGITS OF PRIMES

**Michael Drmota**

joint work with **Christian Mauduit** and **Joël Rivat**

**Institute of Discrete Mathematics and Geometry**

**Vienna University of Technology**

**[michael.drmota@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:michael.drmota@tuwien.ac.at)**

**[www.dmg.tuwien.ac.at/drmota/](http://www.dmg.tuwien.ac.at/drmota/)**

# Binary Representation of Primes

## 2 extremal cases

$$p = 2^k + 1$$

Fermat prime ( $k = 2^m$ )

$$p = 2^k + 2^{k-1} + \dots + 2 + 1$$

Mersenne prime ( $k + 1 \in \mathbb{P}$ )

## Question of Ben Green

Given  $k$ , does there exist a prime  $p$  and  $0 = j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k$  with

$$p = 2^{j_1} + 2^{j_2} + \dots + 2^{j_k} \quad ??$$

# Summary

- Thue-Morse sequence
- Gelfond's theorem on linear subsequences
- Gelfond's problems
- Exponential sum estimates
- A global central limit theorem
- A local central limit theorem
- Proof methods

# $q$ -Ary Digital Expansion

$q \geq 2$  ... **integer basis** of digital expansion in  $\mathbb{N}$

$\mathcal{N} = \{0, 1, \dots, q - 1\}$  ... set of **digits**

$n \in \mathbb{N} \implies$

$$n = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(n) q^j \quad \text{with } \varepsilon_j(n) \in \mathcal{N}.$$

**Sum-of-digits function**

$$s_q(n) = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(n)$$

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

$$t_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s_2(n) \text{ is even,} \\ 1 & \text{if } s_2(n) \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

0

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

01

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

0110

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

01101001

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

0110100110010110

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

01101001100101101001011001101001

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

011010011001011010010110011010011001011001101...

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

011010011001011010010110011010011001011001101...

$$t_{2^k+n} = 1 - t_n \quad (0 \leq n < 2^k)$$

# Thue-Morse Sequence

$$t_n = \frac{1 - (-1)^{s_2(n)}}{2}$$

011010011001011010010110011010011001011001101...

$$t_{2^k+n} = 1 - t_n \quad (0 \leq n < 2^k)$$

or

$$t_{2k} = t_k, \quad t_{2k+1} = 1 - t_k$$

# Frequency of Letters

$$\begin{aligned}\#\{n < N : t_n = 0\} &= \#\{n < N : t_n = 1\} + O(1) \\ &= \frac{N}{2} + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

equivalently

$$\begin{aligned}\#\{n < N : s_2(n) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\} &= \#\{n < N : s_2(n) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}\} + O(1) \\ &= \frac{N}{2} + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

# Subsequences of the Thue-Morse Sequence

$(n_k)_{k \geq 0}$  increasing sequence of natural numbers

**Problem:**

$$\#\{k < K : t_{n_k} = 0\} = \text{????}$$

Equivalently

$$\#\{k < K : s_2(n_k) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\} = \text{????}$$

**Examples:**

- $n_k = ak + b$
- $n_k = k$ -th prime  $p_k$
- $n_k = k^2$  etc.

# Linear Subsequences

Gelfond 1967/1968

$m, s$  ... positive integers with  $(s, q - 1) = 1$ .

$$\implies \boxed{\#\{n < N : n \equiv \ell \pmod{m}, s_q(n) \equiv t \pmod{s}\} = \frac{N}{ms} + O(N^\lambda)}$$

with  $0 < \lambda < 1$ .

In particular:

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{k < K : s_2(ak + b) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\} &= \#\{k < K : t_{ak+b} = 0\} \\ &= \frac{K}{2} + O(K^\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

# Linear Subsequences

$$q = 2$$

Lemma

$$\sum_{n < 2^L} x^{s2(n)} y^n = \prod_{\ell < L} \left(1 + xy^{2^\ell}\right)$$

**Corollary 1**  $e(x) := e^{2\pi i x}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \#\{n < 2^L : n \equiv \ell \pmod{m}, s_q(n) \equiv t \pmod{s}\} \\ &= \frac{1}{ms} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} e\left(-\frac{i\ell}{m} - \frac{jt}{s}\right) \prod_{\ell < L} \left(1 + e\left(\frac{i}{s} + \frac{2^\ell j}{m}\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{2^L}{ms} + O(2^{-\lambda L}) \end{aligned}$$

# Uniform Distribution modulo 1

**Corollary 2**  $\alpha$  irrational,  $h \neq 0$  integer

$$\implies \sum_{n < 2^L} e(h \alpha s_2(n)) = (1 + e(h\alpha))^L = o(2^L).$$

With a little bit more effort:

$$\sum_{n < N} e(h \alpha s_2(n)) = o(N)$$

Weyl's criterion  $\implies$   $\alpha s_2(n)$  uniformly distributed modulo 1.

By assuming certain Diophantine approximation properties for  $\alpha$  these bounds also imply estimates for the *discrepancy*  $D_N(\alpha s_2(n))$ .

# Gelfond's Problems

## Gelfond 1967/1968

1.  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d \geq 2$ ,  $(q_i, q_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $(m_j, q_j - 1) = 1$ :

$$\#\{n < N : s_{q_j}(n) \equiv \ell_j \pmod{m_j}, 1 \leq j \leq d\} = \frac{N}{m_1 \cdots m_d} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

2.  $(m, q - 1) = 1$ :

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < N : s_q(p) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{\pi(N)}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

3.  $(m, q - 1) = 1$ ,  $P(x) \in \mathbb{N}[x]$ :

$$\#\{n < N : s_q(P(n)) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{N}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

# Gelfond's Problems

## Gelfond 1967/1968

1.  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d \geq 2$ ,  $(q_i, q_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $(m_j, q_j - 1) = 1$ : [Kim 1999](#)

$$\#\{n < N : s_{q_j}(n) \equiv \ell_j \pmod{m_j}, 1 \leq j \leq d\} = \frac{N}{m_1 \cdots m_d} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

2.  $(m, q - 1) = 1$ : [Mauduit, Rivat 2005+](#)

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < N : s_q(p) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{\pi(N)}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

3.  $(m, q - 1) = 1$ ,  $P(x) \in \mathbb{N}[x]$ : [Mauduit, Rivat 2007+](#) for  $P(x) = x^2$

$$\#\{n < N : s_q(n^2) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{N}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

# Gelfond's 1<sup>st</sup> Problem

Besineau 1972: solution without error terms

Kim 1999: bounds on exponential sums:

( $e(x) = e^{2\pi ix}$ ,  $\|x\| = \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |x - k|$  ... distance to the nearest integer)

$$\left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n < N} e(\alpha_1 s_{q_1}(n) + \alpha_2 s_{q_2}(n) + \cdots + \alpha_d s_{q_d}(n)) \right| \\ \ll \exp \left( -\eta \log N \sum_{j=1}^d \|(q_j - 1)\alpha_j\|^2 \right),$$

( $\alpha_j \in \mathbb{Q}$ : Kim,  $\alpha_j \in \mathbb{R}$ : Drmota, Larcher)

# Gelfond's 1<sup>st</sup> Problem

## Applications of Kim's method

Drmotá, Larcher 2001:  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d \geq 2$ ,  $(q_i, q_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d$  irrational:

$(\alpha_1 s_{q_1}(n), \dots, \alpha_d s_{q_d}(n))_{n \geq 0} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  uniformly distributed mod 1.

Thuswaldner, Tichy 2005:  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d \geq 2$ ,  $(q_i, q_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ .

For  $d > 2^k$  the number of representations of

$$N = x_1^k + \dots + x_d^k \quad \text{with} \quad s_{q_j}(x_j) \equiv \ell_j \pmod{m_j}, 1 \leq j \leq d$$

is asymptotically given by

$$\frac{\mathfrak{S}(N)}{m_1 \cdots m_d} \frac{\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^d}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{k}\right)} N^{\frac{d}{k}-1} + O\left(N^{\frac{d}{k}-1-\eta}\right).$$

# Gelfond's 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem

Mauduit, Rivat 2005+:  $\alpha$  real number

$$\left| \frac{1}{\pi(N)} \sum_{p < N} e(\alpha s_q(p)) \right| \ll \exp(-\eta \log N \|(q-1)\alpha\|^2)$$

## Applications

- $\alpha$  irrational  $\implies$

$(\alpha s_q(p))_{p \text{ prime}}$  is uniformly distributed mod 1.

# Gelfond's 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem

## Applications (cont.)

- Set  $\alpha = j/m$  + discrete Fourier analysis  $\implies$

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < N : s_q(p) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{\pi(N)}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

- $t_n$  ... Thue-Morse sequence  $\implies$

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < N : t_p = 0\} = \frac{\pi(N)}{2} + O(N^{1-\eta})$$

# Gelfond's 2<sup>nd</sup> Problem

## Gaussian primes

$q = -a + i$  ... basis for digital expansion in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  ( $a \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ )

$\mathcal{N} = \{0, 1, \dots, a^2\}$  ... digit set

$$z \in \mathbb{Z}[i] \implies \boxed{z = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(z) q^j} \text{ with } \varepsilon_j(z) \in \mathcal{N}$$

$s_q(z) = \sum_{j \geq 0} \varepsilon_j(z)$  ... sum-of-digits function

Drmotá, Rivat, Stoll 2008

Suppose that  $a \geq 28$  such that  $q = -a + i$  is prime, i.e.  $a \in \{36, 40, 54, 56, 66, 74, 84, 90, 94, \dots\}$ . Then

$$\frac{1}{N/\log N} \sum_{|z|^2 \leq N, z \text{ prime}} e(\alpha s_q(z)) \ll \exp\left(-\eta \log N \|(a^2 + 2a + 2)\alpha\|^2\right).$$

# Gelfond's 3<sup>rd</sup> Problem

Mauduit, Rivat 1995, 2005  $1 \leq c \leq \frac{7}{5}$ :

$$\#\{n < N : s_q([n^c]) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} \sim \frac{N}{m}$$

Dartyge, Tenenbaum 200?: There exists  $C > 0$  with

$$\#\{n < N : s_q(n^2) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} \geq C N$$

Drmot, Rivat 2005:  $s_2^{[<\lambda]}(n) = \sum_{j<\lambda} \epsilon_j(n)$ ,  $s_2^{[\geq\lambda]}(n) = \sum_{j\geq\lambda} \epsilon_j(n)$ :

$$\#\{n < 2^L : s_2^{[<L]}(n^2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\} \sim \frac{2^L}{2},$$

$$\#\{n < 2^L : s_2^{[\geq L]}(n^2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}\} \sim \frac{2^L}{2}.$$

# Gelfond's 3<sup>rd</sup> Problem

Mauduit, Rivat 2007+

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n < N} e(\alpha s_q(n^2)) \ll (\log N)^A \exp(-\eta \log N \|(q-1)\alpha\|^2)$$

## Applications

- $\#\{n < N : s_q(n^2) \equiv \ell \pmod{m}\} = \frac{N}{m} + O(N^{1-\eta})$
- $\#\{n < N : t_{n^2} = 0\} = \frac{N}{2} + O(N^\lambda)$
- $(\alpha s_q(n^2))_{n \geq 0}$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1

# Global Results

Central limit theorem for  $s_q(n)$ :

$$\frac{1}{N} \cdot \#\{n \leq N : s_q(n) \leq \mu_q \log_q N + y \sqrt{\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\} = \Phi(y) + O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\log N}}\right),$$

where

$$\Phi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^y e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \quad \text{distribution function of the normal distribution}$$

and

$$\mu_q := \frac{q-1}{2}, \quad \sigma_q^2 := \frac{q^2-1}{12}.$$

**Remark** ( $q = 2$ )

$$\frac{1}{2^L} \sum_{n < 2^L} e^{its_2(n)} = \left(\frac{1 + e^{it}}{2}\right)^L \implies \text{CLT}$$

# Global Results

Central limit theorem for  $s_q(p)$ : Bassily, Katai

$$\frac{1}{\pi(N)} \cdot \#\{p \leq N : s_q(p) \leq \mu_q \log_q N + y \sqrt{\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\} = \Phi(y) + o(1).$$

Central limit theorem for  $s_q(n^2)$ : Bassily, Katai

$$\frac{1}{N} \cdot \#\{n \leq N : s_q(n^2) \leq 2\mu_q \log_q N + y \sqrt{2\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\} = \Phi(y) + o(1)$$

**Remark.** The results also hold for  $s_q(P(n))$  and  $s_q(P(p))$  if  $P(x)$  is a non-negative integer polynomial.

## Local Results for all $n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \#\{n < N : s_q(n) = k\} \\ &= \frac{N}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}} \left( \exp\left(-\frac{(k - \mu_q \log_q N)^2}{2\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\right) + O((\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}) \right), \end{aligned}$$

**Remark:** This asymptotic expansion is only significant if

$$|k - \mu_q \log_q N| \leq C(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Note that  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n < N} s_q(n) \sim \mu_q \log_q N$ .

# Local Results for all $n$

More precise results (only stated for  $q = 2$ ) [Mauduit, Sarközy](#)

$$\#\{n < N : s_q(n) = k\} = F\left(\frac{k}{\log N}, \log_2 N\right) \binom{[\log_2 N]}{k} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\log N}\right)\right),$$

uniformly for  $\varepsilon \log_2 N \leq k \leq (1 - \varepsilon) \log_2 N$ , where  $F(x, t)$  is analytic in  $x$  and periodic in  $t$ .

Proof is based on an representation of the form

$$\sum_{n < N} x^{s_2(n)} = F(x, \log_2 N) (1 + x)^{\log_2 N}.$$

and a saddle point analysis applied to the integral in Cauchy's formula.

# Local Results for primes

Drmotá, Mauduit, Rivat 2007+:  $(k, q - 1) = 1$

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < N : s_q(p) = k\} \\ = \frac{q - 1}{\varphi(q - 1)} \frac{\pi(N)}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}} \left( \exp\left(-\frac{(k - \mu_q \log_q N)^2}{2\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\right) + O((\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon}) \right),$$

where

$$\mu_q := \frac{q - 1}{2}, \quad \sigma_q^2 := \frac{q^2 - 1}{12}.$$

**Remark:** This asymptotic expansion is only significant if

$$|k - \mu_q \log_q N| \leq C(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Note that  $\frac{1}{\pi(N)} \sum_{p < N} s_q(p) \sim \mu_q \log_q N$ .

# Local Results for primes

This result **does NOT apply** for  $k = 2$  and  $k = \lceil \log_2 p \rceil$  (for  $q = 2$ ):

$$p \text{ is Fermat prime} \iff s_2(p) = 2.$$

$$p \text{ is Mersenne prime} \iff s_2(p) = \lceil \log_2 p \rceil.$$

# Local Results for primes

... **but** we have:

$$\#\{\text{primes } p < 2^{2k} : s_2(p) = k\} \sim \frac{2^{2k}}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log 2 k^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

# Local Results for squares

Drmotá, Mauduit, Rivat 2007+:

$$\begin{aligned} & \#\{n < N : s_q(n^2) = k\} \\ &= \frac{N}{\sqrt{4\pi\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}} \left( \exp\left(-\frac{(k - 2\mu_q \log_q N)^2}{4\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}\right) + O((\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark:** Again this asymptotic expansion is only significant if

$$\left|k - 2\mu_q \log_q N\right| \leq C(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

which is the significant range.

# Idea of the proof for primes

**Lemma 1** *For every fixed integer  $q \geq 2$  there exist two constants  $c_1 > 0$ ,  $c_2 > 0$  such that for every  $k$  with  $(k, q-1) = 1$*

$$\sum_{p \leq N, p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)) \ll (\log N)^3 N^{1-c_1 \|(q-1)\alpha\|^2}$$

*uniformly for real  $\alpha$  with  $\|(q-1)\alpha\| \geq c_2(\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .*

**Remark.** This is a refined version of the previous estimate by Mauduit and Rivat.

# Idea of the proof for primes

**Lemma 2** *Suppose that  $0 < \nu < \frac{1}{2}$  and  $0 < \eta < \frac{\nu}{2}$ . Then for every  $k$  with  $(k, q-1) = 1$  we have*

$$\sum_{p \leq N, p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)) = \frac{\pi(N)}{\varphi(q-1)} e(\alpha \mu_q \log_q N) \times \left( e^{-2\pi^2 \alpha^2 \sigma_q^2 \log_q N} (1 + O(|\alpha|)) + O(|\alpha| (\log N)^\nu) \right)$$

*uniformly for real  $\alpha$  with  $|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta - \frac{1}{2}}$ .*

# Idea of the proof for primes

Lemma 1 + 2 imply the result

Set

$$\boxed{S(\alpha) := \sum_{p \leq N} e(\alpha s_q(p))} \quad \text{and} \quad S_k(\alpha) := \sum_{p \leq N, p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)).$$

Then by using  $s_q(p) \equiv p \pmod{q-1}$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{p \leq N : s_q(p) = k\} &= \int_{-\frac{1}{2(q-1)}}^{1 - \frac{1}{2(q-1)}} S(\alpha) e(-\alpha k) d\alpha \\ &= (q-1) \int_{-\frac{1}{2(q-1)}}^{\frac{1}{2(q-1)}} \left( \sum_{p \leq N, p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)) \right) e(-\alpha k) d\alpha \\ &= (q-1) \int_{-\frac{1}{2(q-1)}}^{\frac{1}{2(q-1)}} S_k(\alpha) e(-\alpha k) d\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

We split up the integral

$$\int_{-\frac{1}{2(q-1)}}^{\frac{1}{2(q-1)}} = \boxed{\int_{|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta-1/2}} + \int_{(\log N)^{\eta-1/2} < |\alpha| \leq 1/(2(q-1))}}$$

From **Lemma 1** we get an upper bound for the **second integral**

$$\int_{(\log N)^{\eta-1/2} < |\alpha| \leq 1/(2(q-1))} S_k(\alpha) e(-\alpha k) d\alpha \ll (\log N)^2 N e^{-c_1(q-1)^2(\log N)^{2\eta}} \\ \ll \frac{\pi(N)}{\log N}.$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

Set

$$\alpha := t/(2\pi\sigma_q\sqrt{\log_q N}) \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\Delta_k = \frac{k - \mu_q \log_q N}{\sqrt{\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}}}.$$

Then by **Lemma 2** we an asymptotic expansion for the **first integral**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta-1/2}} S_k(\alpha) e(-\alpha k) d\alpha \\ &= \frac{\pi(N)}{\varphi(q-1)} \int_{|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta-1/2}} e(\alpha(\mu_q \log_q N - k)) e^{-2\pi^2 \alpha^2 \sigma_q^2 \log_q N} \cdot (1 + O \\ &+ O\left(\pi(N) \int_{|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta-1/2}} |\alpha| (\log N)^\nu d\alpha\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi(q-1)} \frac{\pi(N)}{2\pi\sigma_q\sqrt{\log_q N}} \boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{it\Delta_k - t^2/2} dt} + O\left(\pi(N) e^{-2\pi^2 \sigma_q^2 (\log N)^{2\eta}}\right) \\ &+ O\left(\frac{\pi(N)}{\log N}\right) + O\left(\frac{\pi(N)}{(\log N)^{1-\nu-2\eta}}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi(q-1)} \frac{\pi(N)}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_q^2 \log_q N}} \left( \boxed{e^{-\Delta_k^2/2}} + O((\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2}+\nu+2\eta}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 1

**Lemma 1** *For every fixed integer  $q \geq 2$  there exist two constants  $c_1 > 0$ ,  $c_2 > 0$  such that for every  $k$  with  $(k, q-1) = 1$*

$$\sum_{p \leq N} \sum_{p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)) \ll (\log N)^3 N^{1-c_1 \|(q-1)\alpha\|^2}$$

*uniformly for real  $\alpha$  with  $\|(q-1)\alpha\| \geq c_2(\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .*

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 1: Vaughan's method

Let  $q \geq 2$ ,  $x \geq q^2$ ,  $0 < \beta_1 < 1/3$ ,  $1/2 < \beta_2 < 1$ . Let  $g$  be an arithmetic function. Suppose that uniformly for all real numbers  $M \leq x$  and all complex numbers  $a_m, b_n$  such that  $|a_m| \leq 1$ ,  $|b_n| \leq 1$ , we have

$$\max_{\frac{x}{qM} < t \leq \frac{xq}{M}} \sum_{\frac{M}{q} < m \leq M} \left| \sum_{\frac{x}{qm} < n \leq t} g(mn) \right| \leq U \quad \text{for } M \leq x^{\beta_1} \quad (\text{type I}),$$
$$\left| \sum_{\frac{M}{q} < m \leq M} \sum_{\frac{x}{qm} < n \leq \frac{x}{m}} a_m b_n g(mn) \right| \leq U \quad \text{for } x^{\beta_1} \leq M \leq x^{\beta_2} \quad (\text{type II})$$

Then

$$\left| \sum_{x/q < p \leq x, p \text{ prime}} g(p) \right| \ll U (\log x)^2.$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 1: Type I - sums

For  $q \geq 2$ ,  $x \geq 2$ , and for every  $\alpha$  such that  $(q-1)\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  we have

$$\max_{\frac{x}{qM} < t \leq \frac{xq}{M}} \sum_{M/q < m \leq M} \left| \sum_{\frac{x}{qm} < n \leq t} e(\alpha s_q(mn)) \right| \ll_q x^{1-\kappa_q(\alpha)} \log x$$

for  $1 \leq M \leq x^{1/3}$  and

$$0 < \kappa_q(\alpha) := \min\left(\frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{3}(1 - \gamma_q(\alpha))\right)$$

where  $0 \leq \gamma_q(\alpha) < 1$  is defined by

$$q^{\gamma_q(\alpha)} = \max\left(1, \max_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \sqrt{\varphi_q(\alpha + t) \varphi_q(\alpha + qt)}\right)$$

with

$$\varphi_q(t) = \begin{cases} |\sin \pi qt| / |\sin \pi t| & \text{if } t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}, \\ q & \text{if } t \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 1: Type II - sums

For  $q \geq 2$ , there exist  $\beta_1, \beta_2$  and  $\delta$  verifying  $0 < \delta < \beta_1 < 1/3$  and  $1/2 < \beta_2 < 1$  such that for all  $\alpha$  with  $(q-1)\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ , there exist  $\xi_q(\alpha) > 0$  for which, uniformly for all complex numbers  $b_n$  with  $|b_n| \leq 1$ , we have

$$\sum_{q^{\mu-1} < m \leq q^\mu} \left| \sum_{q^{\nu-1} < n \leq q^\nu} b_n e(\alpha s_q(mn)) \right| \ll_q (\mu + \nu) q^{(1 - \frac{1}{2}\xi_q(\alpha))(\mu + \nu)},$$

whenever

$$\beta_1 - \delta \leq \frac{\mu}{\mu + \nu} \leq \beta_2 + \delta.$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 1: Methods

- Van-der-Corput Inequality
- Neglecting “large” digits  $\longrightarrow$  periodic structure
- **Discrete Fourier analysis** with Fourier terms

$$F_\lambda(h, \alpha) = q^{-\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq u < q^\lambda} e\left(\alpha s_q(u) - huq^{-\lambda}\right).$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 2:

**Lemma 2** *Suppose that  $0 < \nu < \frac{1}{2}$  and  $0 < \eta < \frac{\nu}{2}$ . Then for every  $k$  with  $(k, q-1) = 1$  we have*

$$\sum_{p \leq N, p \equiv k \pmod{q-1}} e(\alpha s_q(p)) = \frac{\pi(N)}{\varphi(q-1)} e(\alpha \mu_q \log_q N) \times \left( e^{-2\pi^2 \alpha^2 \sigma_q^2 \log_q N} (1 + O(|\alpha|)) + O(|\alpha| (\log N)^\nu) \right)$$

*uniformly for real  $\alpha$  with  $|\alpha| \leq (\log N)^{\eta - \frac{1}{2}}$ .*

# Idea of the proof for primes

**Proof idea of Lemma 2: Interpretation as sum of random variables**

$$S_N = S_N(p) = s_q(p) = \sum_{j \leq \log_q N} \varepsilon_j(p).$$

**Lemma 2** is equivalent to

$$\varphi_1(t) := \mathbb{E} e^{it(S_N - L\mu_q)/(L\sigma_q^2)^{1/2}} = e^{-t^2/2} \left( 1 + O\left(\frac{|t|}{\sqrt{\log N}}\right) \right) + O\left(\frac{|t|}{(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}-\nu}}\right)$$

that is uniform for  $|t| \leq (\log N)^\eta$ .

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 2: Truncation of digits

$$L = \log_q N, \quad L' = \#\{j \in \mathbb{Z} : L^\nu \leq j \leq L - L^\nu\} = L - 2L^\nu + O(1) \\ (0 < \nu < \frac{1}{2}),$$

$$T_N = T_N(p) = \sum_{L^\nu \leq j \leq L - L^\nu} \varepsilon_j(p) = \sum_{L^\nu \leq j \leq L - L^\nu} D_j,$$

$$\varphi_2(t) := \mathbb{E} e^{it(T_N - L'\mu_q)/(L'\sigma_q^2)^{1/2}}$$

We have, uniformly for all real  $t$

$$|\varphi_1(t) - \varphi_2(t)| = O\left(\frac{|t|}{(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}-\nu}}\right)$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

**Proof idea of Lemma 2: Approximation by sum of iid random variables**

$Z_j$  ( $j \geq 0$ ) iid random variables with range  $\{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$  and

$$\mathbf{P}\{Z_j = \ell\} = \frac{1}{q}.$$

$$\bar{T}_N := \sum_{L^\nu \leq j \leq L-L^\nu} Z_j.$$

We have

$$\mathbb{E} \bar{T}_N = L' \mu_q \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{V} \bar{T}_N = L' \sigma_q^2$$

and

$$\varphi_3(t) := \mathbb{E} e^{it(\bar{T}_N - L' \mu_q) / (L' \sigma_q^2)^{1/2}} = e^{-t^2/2} \left( 1 + O\left(\frac{|t|}{\sqrt{\log N}}\right) \right)$$

uniformly for  $|t| \leq (\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . (This is the classical central limit theorem.)

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 2: quantification

We have uniformly for real  $t$  with  $|t| \leq L^\eta$

$$\boxed{|\varphi_2(t) - \varphi_3(t)| = O\left(|t|e^{-c_1 L^\kappa}\right)},$$

where  $0 < 2\eta < \kappa < \nu$ . and  $c_1 > 0$  is a constant depending on  $\eta$  and  $\kappa$ .

This estimate directly **proves Lemma 2**.

**Remark:** Taylor' theorem gives for random variables  $X, Y$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}e^{itX} - \mathbb{E}e^{itY} &= \sum_{d < D} \sum_{0 \leq d < D} \frac{(it)^d}{d!} (\mathbb{E} X^d - \mathbb{E} Y^d) \\ &+ O\left(\frac{|t|^D}{D!} \left| \mathbb{E} |X|^D - \mathbb{E} |Y|^D \right| + \frac{|t|^D}{D!} \mathbb{E} |Y|^D\right). \end{aligned}$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 2: comparison of moments

We have uniformly for  $1 \leq d \leq L'$

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \frac{T_N - L' \mu_q}{\sqrt{L' \sigma_q^2}} \right)^d = \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{\bar{T}_N - L' \mu_q}{\sqrt{L' \sigma_q^2}} \right)^d + O \left( \left( \frac{4q}{\sigma_q} \right) L^{(\frac{1}{2} + \nu)d} e^{-c_4 L^\nu} \right),$$

which can be reduced to **compare frequencies**

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{D_{j_1, M} = \ell_1, \dots, D_{j_d, N} = \ell_d\} \\ = \Pr\{Z_{j_1} = \ell_1, \dots, Z_{j_d} = \ell_d\} + O\left((4L^\nu)^d e^{-c_4 L^\nu}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Recall:

$$T_N := \sum_{L^\nu \leq j \leq L - L^\nu} D_j, \quad \bar{T}_N := \sum_{L^\nu \leq j \leq L - L^\nu} Z_j$$

# Idea of the proof for primes

## Proof idea of Lemma 2: comparison of moments

Proof of this property uses

- exponential sum estimates over primes

$$\sum_{p \leq x} e\left(\frac{A}{Q} p\right) \ll (\log x)^5 x q^{-K/2}$$

- Erdős-Turán inequality

$$\text{Discrepancy of } (x_n) \ll \frac{1}{H} + \sum_{h=1}^H \frac{1}{h} \left| \frac{1}{N} e(hx_n) \right|,$$

- trivial observation:

$$\epsilon_j(n) = d \iff \left\{ \frac{n}{q^{j+1}} \right\} \in \left[ \frac{d}{q}, \frac{d+1}{q} \right).$$

# Open problem

**Cubes:**

distribution properties of  $s_q(n^3)$  ??

**General problem:**

Let  $S$  be a set of natural numbers that are determined by congruence conditions and bounds on the exponents of the prime factorization.

What is the distribution of  $(s_q(n))_{n \in S}$  ??

**Examples:** primes, squares, cubes, square-free numbers etc.

**Thank You!**