

The Rudin-Shapiro sequence and similar sequences are normal along squares

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Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018

Sum of digits

Let $q \geq 2$ be a base.

$$n = \sum_{j=0}^r \varepsilon_j^{(q)}(n) q^j,$$

where $\varepsilon_j^{(q)}(n) \in \{0, \dots, q-1\}$ and $r = \lfloor \log_q(n) \rfloor$.

Definition

We define the sum of digits function $s_q(n)$

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Gelfond

Let $q \geq 2$ and m such that $\gcd(q - 1, m) = 1$.

Theorem (Gelfond 1967)

$(s_q(an + b) \bmod m)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is simply normal.

2. Gelfond Problem

$(s_q(p) \bmod m)_{p \in \mathcal{P}}$ is simply normal.

Solved by Mauduit and Rivat in 2010.

3. Gelfond Problem

Let $P(x)$ be a polynomial with integer coefficients.

Then $(s_q(P(n)) \bmod m)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is simply normal.

Solved by Mauduit and Rivat in 2009 for $P(n) = n^2$.

Drmot, Mauduit and Rivat (2018): $(s_2(n^2) \bmod 2)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is normal!

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Pattern-counting function

Definition (Pattern-counting function)

Fix $\ell \geq 1$ and a pattern

$$P = (p_0, \dots, p_{\ell-1}) \in \{0, \dots, q-1\}^\ell, P \neq (0, \dots, 0).$$

Then we define the *pattern-counting function*

$$f_P(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{r-\ell+1} \mathbf{1}_{[(\varepsilon_{j+\ell-1}^{(q)}(n), \dots, \varepsilon_j^{(q)}(n))=P]}.$$

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Block-additive function

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We say that $b : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is *block-additive* / *digital* if there exists $\ell \geq 1$ and $F : \{0, \dots, q-1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that $F(0, \dots, 0) = 0$ and

$$b(n) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} F(\varepsilon_{j+\ell-1}^{(q)}(n), \dots, \varepsilon_j^{(q)}(n)),$$

where $\varepsilon_j(n) = 0$ for $j \notin \{0, \dots, r\}$.

A block-additive function is (almost) a linear combination of pattern-counting functions.

Proposition

Block-additive functions mod m give *automatic sequences*.

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Extensions for the 2nd Gelfond Problem

Theorem (Mauduit and Rivat, 2015)

The Rudin-Shapiro sequence is simply normal along primes.

Theorem (Hanna, 2017)

Pattern-counting functions mod m along primes are simply normal.

Theorem (M., 2017)

All automatic sequences are orthogonal to the Mobius function.
The densities along primes can be described.

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Main Result

Theorem (M., 2017)

Let b be a block-additive function and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\gcd(q - 1, m) = 1$ and $\gcd(m, \{b(n), n \in \mathbb{N}\}) = 1$. Then $(b(n^2) \bmod m)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is normal in base m' .

This covers all pattern-counting functions $\bmod m$, where $\gcd(q - 1, m) = 1$, including the Thue-Morse sequence and the Rudin-Shapiro sequence.

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Conditions

- ① $\gcd(m, \{b(n), n \in \mathbb{N}\}) = 1$: necessary for simple normality.
- ② $\gcd(q - 1, m) = 1$: $s_q(n) \equiv n \pmod{q - 1}$ is periodic.
- ③ $F(0, \dots, 0) = 0$: $f_{(0, \dots, 0)}(n) = \lfloor \log_q(n) \rfloor - \sum_{P \neq (0, \dots, 0)} f_P(n)$.
- ④ Index-range \mathbb{Z} instead of \mathbb{N} : $f_{(0,1)} + f_{(1,0)} \pmod{2}$.

The technical conditions (3) and (4) are necessary to get very natural restrictions (1) and (2).

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General Strategy

- Rewrite the statement in terms of exponential sums.
Every block of length k appears with density m^{-k} if

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} e \left(\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \alpha_j b((n+j)^2) \right) \right| = o(N),$$

for all $(\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}) \neq (0, \dots, 0)$, where $e(x) = \exp(2\pi i x)$.

- Use a variation of the Van-der-Corput inequality,

$$\left| \sum_{0 < n < N} z_n \right|^2 \leq \frac{N + QR - Q}{R} \sum_{|r| < R} \left(1 - \frac{|r|}{R} \right) \sum_{0 < n, n+Qr < N} z_{n+Qr} \bar{z}_n.$$

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- Use Vaaler's method to approximate the characteristic function of $[0, \alpha) \bmod 1$.
- Find appropriate estimates for the new Fourier-terms,

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