

Math 571 Chapter 8 Bounded Gaps in the Primes

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- This has motivated a large body of work concerned with investigating the possibility of gaps between primes which are significantly smaller than the average gap.
- Since 2004 a very powerful theory has been developed. This modern theory is motivated by the following observations.

- Consider a k -tuple h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k of distinct non-negative integers for which it is believed that for infinitely many integers n the $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ are simultaneously prime.

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- Suppose we use a sieving technique to remove most n for which $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ are not all prime. Whilst it may not be possible to establish that, for each of the remaining n , the members of the k -tuple $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ are all prime there is a better chance of finding several primes in many of the k -tuples.

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- But suppose we use a sieve to remove multiples of small primes to the extent that the number of remaining elements is about $2y/\log x$.

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- In its simplest form, suppose we are looking for primes in, say $[x, x + y]$. Since the expected number of primes is about $y/\log x$, if we pick an integer at random from the interval it is almost surely composite.
- But suppose we use a sieve to remove multiples of small primes to the extent that the number of remaining elements is about $2y/\log x$.
- Now if we pick an element at random from this sifted set, then we can expect that it is prime about half the time.

- As it stands just averaging over intervals does not work very well. But it turns out that averaging over suitable k -tuples of integers does.

Definition 1

Let $\mathbf{h} = h_1, \dots, h_k$ be a k -tuple of distinct non-negative integers and let $\nu_p(\mathbf{h})$ denote the number of different residue classes modulo p among the h_1, \dots, h_k . If $\nu_p(\mathbf{h}) < p$ for every p , then \mathbf{h} is called admissible.

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- It is clear that if \mathbf{h} is inadmissible, then there can only be a finite number of n for which the $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ are simultaneously prime.

Conjecture 2 (The prime k -tuple conjecture)

It is conjectured that if \mathbf{h} is admissible, then there are infinitely many n such that $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ are simultaneously prime.

- It is useful to establish that there are admissible sets with fairly small largest element.

Theorem 3

Suppose that $k \geq 2$ and the primes p_1, \dots, p_k satisfy $k < p_1 < \dots < p_k$. Then any translate of the k -tuple \mathbf{p} forms an admissible set. In particular $\mathbf{h} = \{0, p_2 - p_1, \dots, p_k - p_1\}$ is an admissible set and p_k can be chosen so that $p_k < k \log k + k \log \log k + O(k)$.

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- We remark for future reference that $\pi(105) = 27$ and $\pi(743) = 132$ so that one can take $k = 105$ and there is an admissible 105-tuple with largest element $743 - 107 = 636$.

- *Suppose that $k \geq 2$ and the primes p_1, \dots, p_k satisfy $k < p_1 < \dots < p_k$. Then any translate of the k -tuple \mathbf{p} forms an admissible set. In particular $\mathbf{h} = \{0, p_2 - p_1, \dots, p_k - p_1\}$ is an admissible set and p_k can be chosen so that $p_k < k \log k + k \log \log k + O(k)$.*

- Suppose that $k \geq 2$ and the primes p_1, \dots, p_k satisfy $k < p_1 < \dots < p_k$. Then any translate of the k -tuple \mathbf{p} forms an admissible set. In particular $\mathbf{h} = \{0, p_2 - p_1, \dots, p_k - p_1\}$ is an admissible set and p_k can be chosen so that $p_k < k \log k + k \log \log k + O(k)$.
- *Proof* The last part of the theorem follows from the prime number theorem. To prove the first part, suppose on the contrary that there is a $q > 1$ such that every residue class modulo q contains a p_j . Then $q \leq k < p_1$. On the other hand there is a j such that $p_j \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$ and so $p_j = q \leq k$.

- One can consider applying the Hardy–Littlewood method to this question. Suppose that n is such that

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- Then with logarithmic weights we consider

$$R(x; \mathbf{h}) = \sum_{\substack{p_1 < p_2 < \cdots < p_k \leq x + h_k \\ p_k - p_j = h_k - h_j}} (\log p_1) \cdots (\log p_k)$$

and

$$S(\alpha) = \sum_{p \leq N} (\log p) e(\alpha p) \quad (1)$$

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- Then

$$R(x, \mathbf{h}) = \int_{\mathfrak{A}^{k-1}} S(-\alpha_1 - \cdots - \alpha_{k-1}) \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} (S(\alpha_j) e(\alpha_j (h_k - h_j))) d\alpha.$$

- By the way, it is often more convenient to rearrange the equations $p_j = n + h_j$ connecting the p_j into the form

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- Also, there is no real loss in generality in supposing that $h_1 = 0$.
- Suppose that we can replace each $S(\alpha)$ by its expected approximation when α is “close” to a rational number with a “small” denominator and the contribution from the remaining α is relatively “small”. We are deliberately rather imprecise as this is purely speculative.

- Thus if $P = N^\delta$ for some small $\delta > 0$ we would hope to obtain something of the form $R(x, \mathbf{h}) \sim J \times$

$$\sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{\mathbf{a}}^* \frac{c_q(a_1 + \dots + a_{k-1})}{\phi(q)^k} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} c_q(a_j) e\left(\frac{a_j(h_k - h_j)}{q}\right)$$

where \sum^* is over $\mathbf{a} \pmod{q}$ with $(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, q) = 1$
and $J =$

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}^{k-1}} T(-\beta_1 - \dots - \beta_{k-1}) \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} T(\beta_j) e(\beta_j(h_k - h_j)) d\beta$$

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- It is believed generally that this should hold.

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- The number J is the number of m_1, \dots, m_k with $1 \leq m_j \leq N$ and $m_j = m_k + h_j - h_k$, so that m_j is determined by m_k and so J is the number of m_k with $h_k - h_1 < m_k \leq N + h_k = x + O(1)$.

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- Hence $J = x + O(h_k)$.
- Thus it is expected that $R(x; \mathbf{h}) \sim x \mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}; P)$ where $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}; P) = \sum_{q \leq P} f(q; \mathbf{h})$ and $f(q; \mathbf{h}) =$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{a}}^* \frac{c_q(-a_1 - \dots - a_{k-1})}{\phi(q)^k} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} c_q(a_j) e\left(\frac{a_j(h_k - h_j)}{q}\right).$$

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- It is readily verified that f is a multiplicative function of q .
- Moreover when $q = p^t$ with $t \geq 2$, since $(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, q) = 1$, for at least one j we have $p \nmid a_j$, and so $c_{p^t}(a_j) = 0$.

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- Now consider the case $q = p$.
- Then $(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, p) = 1$ holds for all \mathbf{a} with $1 \leq a_j \leq p$ except $a_1 = \cdots = a_{k-1} = p$.

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- Then $(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, p) = 1$ holds for all \mathbf{a} with $1 \leq a_j \leq p$ except $a_1 = \cdots = a_{k-1} = p$.
- If we sum over all \mathbf{a} with $1 \leq a_j \leq p$ we obtain $p^{k-1}N$ where N is the number of solutions of $r_j \equiv r_k + h_j - h_k \pmod{p}$ with $1 \leq r_j \leq p-1$. Thus r_j is determined by r_k , and $r_k \not\equiv 0$ or $h_k - h_j$ for any j . Thus $N = p - \nu_p(\mathbf{h})$. The term with $a_1 = \dots = a_{k-1} = p$ contributes $(p-1)^k$ and so $f(p; \mathbf{h}) =$

$$\frac{(p - \nu_p(\mathbf{h}))p^{k-1} - (p-1)^k}{(p-1)^k} = \frac{(1 - \nu_p(\mathbf{h})/p)}{(1 - 1/p)^k} - 1.$$

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f is multiplicative, has its support on the squarefree numbers and $f(p; \mathbf{h}) =$

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- When $p \nmid D = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq k} |h_j - h_i|$ we have $\nu_p(\mathbf{h}) = k$. Thus $f(p; \mathbf{h}) \ll p^{-2}$. Hence $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}; P)$ converges absolutely to $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h})$ as $P \rightarrow \infty$ where $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}) = \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} f(q; \mathbf{h})$

$$= \prod_p (1 + f(p; \mathbf{h})) = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{\nu_p(\mathbf{h})}{p}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-k}$$

and $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}) \ll_k (\log \log(3D))^k \ll_k (\log \log(3 \max_j |h_j|))^k$.

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- If \mathbf{h} is inadmissible, then $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}) = 0$.
- If \mathbf{h} is admissible, then we have $\nu_p(\mathbf{h}) \leq \min(k, p-1)$ and so $1 - \nu_p(\mathbf{h})/p \geq 1/p$ when $p \leq k$ and is $\geq 1 - k/p$ when $p > k$.

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- Thus there is a positive number $C(k)$ such that, when the h_j are distinct, \mathbf{h} is admissible if and only if

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- The likelihood of discovering primes in the k -tuple $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ depends on the avoidance of the zero residue class modulo p for all primes p , so in other words \mathbf{h} needs to be admissible.

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- The likelihood of discovering primes in the k -tuple $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ depends on the avoidance of the zero residue class modulo p for all primes p , so in other words \mathbf{h} needs to be admissible.
- A measure of this is the singular series $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h})$ and we can expect that this will arise naturally in the analysis.

- This suggests a conjecture.

Conjecture 4

Suppose that \mathbf{h} is admissible. Then, as $x \rightarrow \infty$,

$$R(x; \mathbf{h}) \sim x\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}).$$

- This is highly speculative, of course, and establishing this is well beyond what can be done in the current state of knowledge.
- The likelihood of discovering primes in the k -tuple $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ depends on the avoidance of the zero residue class modulo p for all primes p , so in other words \mathbf{h} needs to be admissible.
- A measure of this is the singular series $\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h})$ and we can expect that this will arise naturally in the analysis.
- We can also deduce from our discussion above and the next theorem that there is a plentiful supply of admissible k -tuples.

- Counting admissible k -tuples in a box.

Theorem 5 (Gallagher)

Suppose that $k \geq 2$ and \mathcal{H} is the set of k -tuples \mathbf{h} of distinct integers h_1, \dots, h_k with $1 \leq h_j \leq H$, and let \mathcal{A} be the subset of those \mathbf{h} which are also admissible. Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{A}} \mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}) = H^k + O(H^{k-1+\varepsilon}).$$

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- For convenience we introduce the parameter $Q \geq 1$ which is at our disposal. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{q > Q} |f(q; \mathbf{h})| &\ll \sum_{r|D} r \sum_{\substack{q > Q \\ (D, q) = r}} q^{\varepsilon-2} \\ &\ll \sum_{r|D} r^{\varepsilon-1} \sum_{t > Q/r} t^{\varepsilon-2} \ll Q^{\varepsilon-1} d(D). \end{aligned}$$

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- We take $Q = H$ and sum over the elements of \mathcal{H} to obtain the bound $\ll H^{k-1+2\varepsilon}$.

- The case $k = 2$ is special so we treat that first. Then

$$f(q; \mathbf{h}) = \frac{\mu(q)^2}{\phi(q)^2} \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ (a,q)=1}}^q e(a(h_1 - h_2)/q) \text{ and so}$$

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- Thus $\sum_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{H}} f(1; \mathbf{h}) = H^2 + O(H)$, since $f(1; \mathbf{h}) = 1$ and $\text{card } \mathcal{H} = H^2 + O(H)$, and we have $\sum_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{H}} \sum_{1 < q \leq Q} f(q; \mathbf{h}) \ll HQ^\epsilon$, so $Q = H$ gives case $k = 2$

- Now suppose $k \geq 3$, and write $g(q; \mathbf{h}) = \phi(q)^k f(q; \mathbf{h})$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{a}}^* c_q(-a_1 - \cdots - a_{k-1}) \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} c_q(a_j) e\left(\frac{a_j(h_k - h_j)}{q}\right).$$

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- Hence $g^*(p) \leq 2^k (p-1)^{k-1}$ and

$$\sum_{\mathbf{h} \in [1, H]^k \setminus \mathcal{H}} \sum_{1 \leq q \leq Q} f(q; \mathbf{h}) \ll H^{k-1} Q^\epsilon.$$

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- At least two of $a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, -a_1 - \cdots - a_{k-1}$ are $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{q}$. If there are at least two $a_i \not\equiv 0$, then pick two and call them b_1, b_2 . List the rest as b_3, \dots, b_{k-1} . Note $-a_1 - \cdots - a_{k-1} = -b_1 - \cdots - b_{k-1}$. If only one of the $a_i \not\equiv 0$, then call it b_1 , and put $b_2 = -a_1 - \cdots - a_{k-1}$. Then any of the other a_i can be rewritten $-b_1 - b_2 - s \pmod{q}$ where s is the sum of the remaining a_t . Hence

$$\sum_{\mathbf{h} \in [1, H]^k} g(q; \mathbf{h}) \ll H^{k-2} \sum_{b_1=1}^{q-1} \frac{|c_q(b_1)|}{\|b_1/q\|} \sum_{b_2=1}^{q-1} \frac{|c_q(b_2)|}{\|b_2/q\|} \times.$$

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- Under this kind of condition one might expect that

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- This is correct, and whilst there is some loss in precision in the final conclusion there is one significant advantage, namely that this choice of λ_q can be applied effectively to any sieving question where the dimension is k .

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- If this is positive, then it follows that there are n such that there are at least $\lfloor \rho \rfloor + 1$ primes amongst the $n + h_j$.



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- Following Maynard we will use a more sophisticated version of this.

- Let $n + \mathbf{h}$ denote the k -tuple $n + h_1, \dots, n + h_k$ and let \mathbf{d} denote the k -tuple d_1, \dots, d_k . We generally use the notation that given a k -tuple \mathbf{d} of positive integers d denotes $d_1 \dots d_k$ and given another one \mathbf{r} , then $\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}$ means that $d_j|r_j$ for each j . We also use $[\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}]$ to denote the k -tuple $\text{lcm}[d_1, e_1], \dots, \text{lcm}[d_k, e_k]$.

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- One wrinkle is to do some initial sieving for small primes so as to simplify some later expressions and a simple way to do this is to restrict our attention to a given residue class a modulo q where

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- To see that this holds observe that it holds for each prime divisor of q and then apply the Chinese Remainder Theorem.

- $q = \prod_{p \leq Q} p$, $Q = \log \log \log N$ and N is a large integer parameter, and when \mathbf{h} is admissible there is an a modulo q such that for $1 \leq j \leq k$ we have $(a + h_j, q) = 1$.

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- The immediate effect of this can be seen *via* the heuristic argument based on the Hardy-Littlewood method which we saw earlier. If one supposes in addition that $n \equiv a$ modulo q , then the singular series takes the shape

$$\mathfrak{S}(\mathbf{h}) = \prod_{p > Q} \left(1 - \frac{k}{p}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-k} \sim 1$$

for large N .

- Thus Maynard was lead to consider

$$\sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) - \rho \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

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- However when diagonalising the quadratic forms in the λ and trying to keep control of the support for the \mathbf{d} it transpires that it is natural to suppose that if d is squarefree and $(d, q) = 1$, then

$$\lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \mu(d)d \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d} | \mathbf{r} \\ (r, q) = 1}} \frac{\mu(r)^2}{\phi(r)} f\left(\frac{\log r_1}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_k}{\log R}\right). \quad (4)$$

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$$\text{supp} f = \mathcal{R} = \{\mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^k : x_1 + \dots + x_k \leq 1\}.$$

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- This is equivalent to $r_1 \dots r_k \leq R$, which gives natural control of the variables.

- To repeat, we consider

$$\sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) - \rho \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2. \quad (5)$$

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We further suppose that \mathcal{F} is a class of “smooth” f satisfying

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- There are two major tasks to be undertaken. The first is to obtain a good approximation to (5) with (6) for a wide class of f in \mathcal{F} .

$$\bullet \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) - \rho \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

Preliminaries
to the modern
theory

Maynard's
Theorem

The Setup

Maynard one

Bounded Gaps

Proof of
Theorem 10

- $$\sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) - \rho \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

- This means good approximations $S^*(f)$ and $T^*(f)$ to

$$S(f) = \sum_{j=1}^k S_j(f)$$

where

$$S_j(f) = S_j = \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

$$T(f) = T = \sum_{\substack{N \leq n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

- Thus we obtain

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- We want this to be positive, but with ρ as large as possible.
- This means that the second task is to choose f to maximise the ratio

$$\frac{S^*(f)}{T^*(f)}.$$

- To approximate

$$S_j(f) = S_j = \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

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- We define the *level* θ of distribution for the prime numbers to be the assumption that for every sufficiently small positive δ and every $A > 0$ we have

$$\sum_{m \leq x^{\theta - \delta}} \max_{(a, m) = 1} \sup_{y \leq x} \left| \pi(y; m, a) - \frac{\text{li}(y)}{\phi(m)} \right| \ll_{\delta, A} x (\log x)^{-A}.$$

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- However it is useful to be able to see any consequence of any $\theta > 1/2$, especially the Elliott–Halberstam conjecture ($\theta = 1$).
- Moreover we will see that any $\theta > 0$ is good enough for bounded gaps.

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- I changed from f to ρ here for notational convenience.

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- We want to carry this out for $S_j(f)$ and $T(f)$. There are some differences of detail, but not of principle.

- $$S_j(f) = \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$

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- When we looked at k dimensional sieves previously we would have considered $d|(n + h_1) \dots (n + h_k)$. Now we are being more prescriptive in that we assume some control over $(d, n + h_k) = d_j$. Thus we suppose that $\mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h}$.

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- I believe this was done to give better control over the d_j in the later analysis, but I do not think it loses anything of consequence.

- $$S_j(f) = \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2.$$
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- I believe this was done to give better control over the d_i in the later analysis, but I do not think it loses anything of consequence.
- Since we have to deal with $T(f)$ as well, we are pretty much forced to choose $\lambda(\mathbf{d})$ corresponding to a k -dimensional sieve, although in $S_j(f)$ since one of the variables is prescribed to be prime we would only need a $k - 1$ -dimensional sieve.

- We have

$$\begin{aligned} S_j(f) &= \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2 \\ &= \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q} \\ n + h_j \in \mathbb{P}}} \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ d_j = 1, (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

- We have

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- Thus although we gain a $(\log N)^{-1}$ by using Bombieri-Vinogradov, we do not get anything small for the sum over d_1 so we lose back something like a $\log R$.
- On the other hand, since the prime factors p of the d satisfy $p > Q = \log \log \log N$, any factors like

$$\prod_{p|d} \frac{p^k - kp^{k-1}}{(p-1)^k}$$

are going to be close to 1, at least on average and so won't differ in any important way from the $k-1$ version.

- Recall that we plan to take

$$\lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \mu(d)d \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r} \\ (r,q)=1}} \frac{\mu(r)^2}{\phi(r)} f\left(\frac{\log r_1}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_k}{\log R}\right)$$

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- Now we need to entertain the possibility that f will be more complicated and we need to apply partial summation, maybe in more than one dimension.
- We need to set up some notation.

- Let \mathcal{R}_j denote the set of k -tuples $t_1, \dots, t_{j-1}, t_{j+1}, \dots, t_k$ with $\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{R}$ for some t_j .

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- We define \mathcal{F} to be the class of functions f , not identically 0, defined on \mathcal{R} such that for each j , given $\mathbf{t}^* = t_1, \dots, t_{j-1}, t_{j+1}, \dots, t_k$ with $t_i \geq 0$ and $t_1 + \dots + t_{j-1} + t_{j+1} + \dots + t_k \leq 1$ the function $f_j(t_j) = f(\mathbf{t})$ is absolutely continuous on $[0, 1 - t_1 - \dots - t_{j-1} - t_{j+1} - \dots - t_k]$.

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- Given an $f \in \mathcal{F}$ it is useful first to extend its definition to $[0, 1]^k$ by taking it to be 0 outside \mathcal{R} and then to define a suitable metric.

$$F = \sup_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{R}} |f(\mathbf{t})| + \sum_{j=1}^k \sup_{\mathbf{t}^* \in \mathcal{R}_j} \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial t_j}(\mathbf{t}) \right| dt_j.$$

Theorem 6 (Maynard)

Let $k \geq 2$. Suppose the primes have level of distribution θ and $N > N_0(\delta)$. Let $R = N^{\frac{\theta}{2} - \delta}$, and Q, q, \mathcal{R} and $f \in \mathcal{F}$ be as above. Assume \mathbf{h} is admissible and that for each j ,

$(a + h_j, q) = 1$. Let $J = \int_{[0,1]^k} f(\mathbf{t})^2 dt$,

$$I_j = \int_{[0,1]^{k-1}} \left(\int_0^1 f(\mathbf{t}) dt_j \right)^2 dt_1 \dots dt_{j-1} dt_{j+1} \dots dt_k,$$

$$S(f) = \frac{(1 + o(1))\phi(q)^k N(\log R)^{k+1}}{q^{k+1} \log N} \sum_{j=1}^k I_j$$

and $T(f) = \frac{(1 + o(1))\phi(q)^k N(\log R)^k}{q^{k+1}} J$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. In

particular $\frac{S(f)}{T(f)} = (1 + o(1)) \left(\frac{\theta}{2} - \delta \right) \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k I_j}{J}$.

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- Of course, then $(d_i, d_j) = 1$ when $i \neq j$.
- We begin with the diagonalisation process, and it is useful to define the multiplicative function $\phi_2(n)$ by $\phi_2(p) = p - 2$ and $\phi_2(p^t) = 0$ when $t \geq 2$.

- The proof is divided into several stages. Fortunately the treatments of $S(f)$ and $T(f)$ are similar.
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- We begin with the diagonalisation process, and it is useful to define the multiplicative function $\phi_2(n)$ by $\phi_2(p) = p - 2$ and $\phi_2(p^t) = 0$ when $t \geq 2$.
- Then the diagonalisation process can be summarised by the following lemma

Lemma 7

For $j = 1, \dots, k$ let

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = \mu(r)\phi_2(r) \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{r}|\mathbf{d}}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{\phi(\mathbf{d})},$$

where \sum^j indicates that the summation variable is a k -tuple, say \mathbf{d} , which is restricted by $d_j = 1$, and let

$$\kappa(\mathbf{r}) = \mu(r)\phi(r) \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{r}|\mathbf{d}}} \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{d}.$$

Then $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)}\lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$ and $\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})}{\phi(r)}$.

- To summarize

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = \mu(r)\phi_2(r) \sum_{\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{\phi(d)},$$

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- In the k dimensional case this looks familiar and the $k - 1$ dimensional case does not look too bad. However the use of k -tuples \mathbf{d} , etc., makes for some complications.

- This is Möbius inversion. Consider $\sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$

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- and substitute in the definition of κ_j to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^j \mu(r) \sum_{\mathbf{s}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{s})}{\phi(s)} &= \sum_{\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{s}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{s})}{\phi(s)} \sum_{\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}|\mathbf{s}} \mu(r) \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{t}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{dt})}{\phi(dt)} \mu(d) \sum_{\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{t}} \mu(u). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the $s = dt$ are square free, the t_i are pairwise coprime, and hence the u_i are pairwise coprime and so are the d_i . Also $(t, d) = 1$. Thus the u_i are free to range over a complete set of divisors of t_i .

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- The sum over u_i is 0 unless $t_i = 1$. Thus it all collapses down to $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d})$.

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- Also $s_j = 1$, so $d_j = t_j = 1$.
- The sum over u_i is 0 unless $t_i = 1$. Thus it all collapses down to $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d})$.
- The other inversion formula follows in the same way.

- The core of the proof is the following lemma.

Lemma 8

Let

$$K_j = \max_{\mathbf{r}} |\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})|, \quad K = \max_{\mathbf{r}} |\kappa(\mathbf{r})|.$$

Then

$$S_j(f) = \frac{N}{\phi(q) \log N} \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi_2(r)} + O\left(\frac{K_j^2 \phi(q)^{k-2} N (\log R)^{k-2}}{q^{k-1} Q}\right)$$

and

$$T(f) = \frac{N}{q} \sum_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi(r)} + O\left(\frac{K^2 N (\log R)^k}{qQ}\right).$$

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$$\text{and } T(f) = \frac{N}{q} \sum_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi(r)} + O\left(\frac{K^2 N (\log R)^k}{qQ}\right).$$

- If $\kappa(r)$ were normalised so that $\kappa(r) \approx (\log R)^{-k}$, then we would have

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi(r)} \approx (\log R)^{-2k} \sum_{r_1 \dots r_k \leq R} \frac{\mu(r_1 \dots r_k)^2}{\phi(r_1 \dots r_k)} \approx (\log R)^{-k}.$$

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- Likewise $\sum_{\mathbf{r}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi_2(r)} \approx (\log R)^{1-k}$. So we are in the right ballpark!

- Consider first

$$S_j(f) = \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j) \left(\sum_{\substack{d \leq R \\ \mathbf{d} | n + \mathbf{h} \\ (d, q) = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \right)^2$$

. We need to insert the information about distribution into residue classes and in the main term replace $\lambda(\mathbf{d})$ by $\kappa_j(\mathbf{d})$.

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- Squaring out we obtain

$$S_j(f) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e} \\ d_j = e_j = 1}} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) \lambda(\mathbf{e}) \sum_{\substack{N < n \leq 2N \\ [\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}] | n + \mathbf{h} \\ n \equiv a \pmod{q}}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{P}}(n + h_j).$$

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- Then the innermost sum can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{\substack{N + h_j < p \leq 2N + h_j \\ p \equiv h_j - h_i \pmod{[d_i, e_i]} (i \neq j) \\ p \equiv a + h_j \pmod{q}}} 1.$$

- Thus

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- We need to bound the $\lambda(\mathbf{d})$. Recall that by Lemma 7

$$\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{d}, d_j=1} |\lambda(\mathbf{d})| &\leq \max_{\mathbf{d}, d_j=1} \phi(d) \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r} \\ (d,q)=1}}^j \frac{K_j \mu(r)^2}{\phi_2(r)} \\ &= K_j \max_{\mathbf{d}} \frac{\phi(d)}{\phi_2(d)} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D} \\ (s,dq)=1}}^j \frac{\mu(s)^2}{\phi_2(s)} \\ &\leq K_j \max_{\mathbf{d}} \frac{\phi(d)}{\phi_2(d)} \prod_{\substack{Q < p \leq R \\ p \nmid d}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p-2}\right)^{k-1} \\ &\ll K_j (\log R)^{k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

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- Similarly $\max_{\mathbf{d}} |\lambda(\mathbf{d})| \ll K (\log R)^k$.

- Recall the error

$$E = \sum_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}}^* |\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})| \max_{(b,m)=1} \sup_{x \leq 2N+H} \left| \pi(x; m, b) - \frac{\text{li}(x)}{\phi(m)} \right|$$

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- Here m/q depends on the \mathbf{d} , \mathbf{e} . We need to know how many times the same m can arise.

- Now consider the number of ways that the modulus m/q can arise in E .

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- Thus $E \ll K_j^2 (\log R)^{2k} E'$ where $E' =$

$$\sum_{m \leq qR^2} \mu(m)^2 d_k(m)^2 \max_{(b,m)=1} \sup_{x \leq 2N+H} \left| \pi(x; m, b) - \frac{\text{li}(x)}{\phi(m)} \right|.$$

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- Thus $E' \leq (E_1 E_2)^{1/2}$ where

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- Hence, by our assumption that the level of distribution is θ and the choice of $R = N^{\frac{\theta}{2} - \delta}$ we have $E \ll K_j^2 N(\log N)^{-A}$.

- Thus we have established that

$$S_j(f) = X_j \sum_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}}^* \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(m)} + O(K_j^2 N(\log N)^{-A})$$

where $m = q \prod_{i=1}^k [d_i, e_i]$, $X_j = \int_{N+h_j}^{2N+h_j} \frac{dt}{\log t}$,

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- With this in mind, it is desirable to rid ourselves of the condition that $(d_u, e_v) = 1$ when $u \neq v$.

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- Hence $\phi((d_i, e_i)) = \sum_{n_i | d_i, n_i | e_i} \phi_2(n_i)$.
- We substitute this in the main term and invert the order of summation to obtain

$$\sum_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}}^* \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(m)} = \sum_{\mathbf{n}}^j \frac{\phi_2(\mathbf{n})}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{n} | \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{n} | \mathbf{e}}}^* \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(d)\phi(e)}.$$

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- We have $n_u | d_u$, so $(e_v, n_u) = 1$. Hence $(s_{uv}, n_u) = 1$.
- Likewise $(s_{uv}, n_v) = 1$.
- Also, when $w \neq v$, we have $s_{uw} | e_w$ and $(e_v, e_w) = 1$. Hence $(s_{uv}, s_{uw}) = 1$.

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- We have $n_u | d_u$, so $(e_v, n_u) = 1$. Hence $(s_{uv}, n_u) = 1$.
- Likewise $(s_{uv}, n_v) = 1$.
- Also, when $w \neq v$, we have $s_{uw} | e_w$ and $(e_v, e_w) = 1$. Hence $(s_{uv}, s_{uw}) = 1$.
- Likewise, when $w \neq u$, $(s_{uv}, s_{wv}) = 1$ and so in summary

$$(s_{uv}, n_u) = (s_{uv}, n_v) = (s_{uv}, s_{uw}) = (s_{uv}, s_{wv}) = 1.$$

- Thus via $\sum_{s_{uv}|d_u, s_{uv}|e_v} \mu(s_{uv}), \sum_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}}^* \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(m)} =$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{n}}^j \frac{\phi_2(n)}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{s_{uv} \\ u \neq v}}^\dagger \left(\prod_{u \neq v} \mu(s_{uv}) \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{n}|\mathbf{d} \\ s_{uv}|d_u}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{\phi(d)} \right) \left(\sum_{\substack{\mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{n}|\mathbf{e} \\ s_{uv}|e_v}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(e)} \right)$$

with $\sum^\dagger: (s_{uv}, n_u n_v) = (s_{uv}, s_{uw}) = (s_{uv}, s_{wv}) = 1$.

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- We sub $\frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\mu(r)\phi_2(r)} = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{r}|\mathbf{d}}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{\phi(d)}$ for λ , so $\sum_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}}^* \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})\lambda(\mathbf{e})}{\phi(m)}$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{n}}^j \frac{1}{\phi(q)\phi_2(n)} \sum_{\substack{s_{uv} \\ u \neq v}}^\dagger \left(\prod_{u \neq v} \frac{\mu(s_{uv})}{\phi_2(s_{uv})^2} \right) \kappa_j(\mathbf{a})\kappa_j(\mathbf{b})$$

where $\mathbf{a} = a_1, \dots, a_k$, $\mathbf{b} = b_1, \dots, b_k$ are factors of \mathbf{d} , \mathbf{e} ,

$$a_u = n_u \prod_{\substack{v \\ v \neq u}} s_{uv}, \quad b_v = n_v \prod_{\substack{u \\ u \neq v}} s_{uv}.$$

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- Since $n_j = 1$ the terms with $s > 1$ contribute

$$\ll \frac{K_j^2}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{n \leq R \\ (n,q)=1}} \frac{d_{k-1}(n) \mu(n)^2}{\phi_2(n)} \sum_{\substack{s > 1 \\ (s,q)=1}} \frac{d_{k(k-1)}(s) \mu(s)^2}{\phi_2(s)^2}.$$

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- Thus the total contribution from the terms with

$$s = \prod_{u \neq v} s_{UV} > 1 \text{ is } \frac{K_j^2 \phi(q)^{k-2} (\log R)^{k-1}}{q^{k-1} Q}.$$

- For the terms with $s = 1$ we have $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{n}$. Thus the main term becomes

$$\sum_{\mathbf{n}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{n})^2}{\phi(q)\phi_2(n)} + O\left(\frac{K_j^2 \phi(q)^{k-2} (\log R)^{k-1}}{q^{k-1} Q}\right)$$

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the complete main term is seen to be

$$\frac{N}{\log N} \sum_{\mathbf{n}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{n})^2}{\phi(q)\phi_2(n)} + O\left(\frac{NK_j^2 \phi(q)^{k-2} (\log R)^{k-1}}{q^{k-1} Q (\log N)}\right)$$

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$$\max_{\mathbf{d}} |\lambda(\mathbf{d})| \ll K(\log R)^k$$

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- Then just as the function ϕ now plays the rôle that ϕ_2 played earlier, so the κ_j is replaced by its understudy κ . The process of replacing λ by κ is identical, as is the elimination of the restriction $(d_u, e_v) = 1$.

- To summarize, we have established Lemma 8.

Let

$$K_j = \max_{\mathbf{r}} |\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})|, \quad K = \max_{\mathbf{r}} |\kappa(\mathbf{r})|.$$

Then

$$S_j(f) = \frac{N}{\phi(q) \log N} \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi_2(r)} + O\left(\frac{K_j^2 \phi(q)^{k-2} N (\log R)^{k-2}}{q^{k-1} Q}\right)$$

and

$$T(f) = \frac{N}{q} \sum_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})^2}{\phi(r)} + O\left(\frac{K^2 N (\log R)^k}{qQ}\right).$$

- We have initially defined κ and κ_j in terms of λ .

$$\kappa(\mathbf{r}) = \mu(r)\phi(r) \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ r|\mathbf{d}}} \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{d}.$$

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = \mu(r)\phi_2(r) \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{d} \\ r|\mathbf{d}}}^j \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{d})}{\phi(d)} \quad (j = 1, \dots, k),$$

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- In Lemma 7 we showed they are invertible.

$$\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})}{\phi(r)}.$$

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- Thus as in the Selberg sieve, rather than choosing first λ , we can instead choose κ , and then the values of λ , and so κ_j , will follow.

- $\frac{\mu(d)}{d} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})}{\phi(r)}$ and $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{j \\ \mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$.

- $\frac{\mu(d)}{d} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})}{\phi(r)}$ and $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^j \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$.

- You may recall that it was asserted in (4) that we would choose

$$\lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \mu(d) d \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r} \\ (r,q)=1}} \frac{\mu(r)^2}{\phi(r)} f\left(\frac{\log r_1}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_k}{\log R}\right).$$

- $\frac{\mu(d)}{d} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r})}{\phi(r)}$ and $\frac{\mu(d)}{\phi(d)} \lambda(\mathbf{d}) = \sum_{\substack{j \\ \mathbf{d}|\mathbf{r}}} \frac{\kappa_j(\mathbf{r})}{\phi_2(r)}$.

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- The motivation for this was the knowledge that this can be achieved by simply taking

$$\kappa(\mathbf{r}) = f\left(\frac{\log r_1}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_k}{\log R}\right).$$

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- Write $e_i = d_i/r_i$ and $t_i = s_i/r_i$. Then the inner sum is

$$\frac{\mu(r)r}{\phi(r)} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{e}|\mathbf{t} \\ e_j=1}} \frac{\mu(\mathbf{e})\mathbf{e}}{\phi(\mathbf{e})} = \frac{\mu(r)r\mu(\mathbf{t}/\mathbf{t}_j)}{\phi(r)\phi(\mathbf{t}/\mathbf{t}_j)}.$$

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- Using $\mathbf{rt}(= \mathbf{s})$ for $r_1 t_1, \dots, r_k t_k$,

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{r\phi_2(r)}{\phi(r)^2} \sum_{\mathbf{t}} \kappa(\mathbf{rt}) \frac{\mu(\mathbf{t})\phi(\mathbf{t}_j)\mu(\mathbf{t}_j)}{\phi(\mathbf{t})^2}.$$

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- The $t > t_j$ contribute

$$\ll K \sum_{\substack{t_j \leq R \\ (t_j, q)=1}} \frac{\mu(t_j)^2}{\phi(t_j)} \sum_{\substack{n > 1 \\ (n, q)=1}} \frac{(k-1)^{\omega(n)} \mu(n)^2}{\phi(n)^2}$$

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we have $\sum_{\substack{t_j \leq R \\ (t_j, q)=1}} \frac{\mu(t_j)^2}{\phi(t_j)} \ll \prod_{Q < p \leq R} \frac{p}{p-1} \ll \frac{\phi(q)}{q} \log R.$

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- Since also $\frac{r\phi_2(r)}{\phi(r)} = 1 + O(1/Q)$ it follows when $r_j = 1$,

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{t_j} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{r}')}{\phi(t_j)} + O\left(\frac{K\phi(q)\log R}{qQ}\right)$$

where $\mathbf{r}' = r_1, \dots, r_{j-1}, t_j, r_{j+1}, \dots, r_k$.

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- We already did this for the Selberg sieve, i.e. $k = 1$.
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- Suppose that $g : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then we call g *l-piecewise absolutely continuous on $[0, 1]$* when there is a partition $a_0 = 0 < a_1 < \dots < a_l = 1$ of $[0, 1]$ so that for $1 \leq j \leq l$
 1. $g_+(a_{j-1}) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a_{j-1}^+} g(x)$ & $g_-(a_j) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a_j^-} g(x)$ exist,
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- We define $\mathcal{G}(l, G)$ to be the class of l -piecewise absolutely continuous functions g on $[0, 1]$ such that

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- In practice it suffices that g' is continuous except for at most one x in $[0, 1]$ where g and g' have jump discontinuities.

- We establish

Lemma 9

Suppose $\eta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is multiplicative, supported on the squarefree numbers, that $0 \leq \eta(p) \leq 2$, $\eta(2) < 2$ and there is a $C > 0$ such that, whenever $p > C$, $\left| \eta(p) - \frac{1}{p} \right| \leq \frac{C}{p^2}$. Suppose

also $g \in \mathcal{G}(I, G)$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then
$$\sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n, m) = 1}} \eta(n) g\left(\frac{\log n}{\log x}\right) =$$

$$A_m \int_0^1 g(v) dv \log x + O\left(IG \left(1 + \sum_{p|m} \frac{\log p}{p}\right) \prod_{p|m} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)\right)$$

where $A_m = \frac{\phi(m)}{m} \prod_{p|m} (1 + \eta(p)) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$. We also have

$$A_m \ll \phi(m)/m.$$

- Then
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- Although there is nothing very deep in this, the generality creates a lot of detail.

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- Although there is nothing very deep in this, the generality creates a lot of detail.
- We proceed first to look at the special case when g is identically 1. Of course $\eta(n)$ is itself fairly general, but it is close to $1/n$, and we use this. The fact that the support is just the squarefree numbers is a further complication.

- We extend η to a totally multiplicative function $\eta^*(n)$ by

$$\eta^*(p^k) = \eta(p)^k.$$

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- Then, for some positive constant C_1 , $|\rho(p^k)| \leq \frac{C_1^k}{p^{k+1}}$, and

- $$\sum_{u=0}^k \rho(p^u) p^{u-k} = \sum_{u=0}^k \eta(p)^u p^{u-k} - \sum_{u=1}^k \eta(p)^{u-1} p^{u-1-k} = \eta^*(p^k).$$
 Thus
$$\eta^*(n) = \sum_{v|n} v^{-1} \rho(n/v).$$

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- We now use the “Rankin trick” to estimate $\sum_{w>y} |\rho(w)|.$

- Let $0 < \tau < 1$. Then
$$\sum_{w>y} |\rho(w)| \leq y^{-\tau} \sum_{w=1}^{\infty} w^{\tau} |\rho(w)|.$$

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- The sum here converges because

$$\prod_p \left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} p^{k\tau} |\rho(p^k)| \right) \ll \prod_p \left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} p^{k\tau - k - 1} C_1^k \right).$$

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- Hence $\sum_{\substack{z \leq y \\ (z,m)=1}} \rho(z) = D(m) + O(y^{-\tau})$ where $D(m) =$

$$\prod_{p|m} \left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \eta(p)^{k-1} (\eta(p) - 1/p) \right) = \prod_{p|m} \frac{1 - 1/p}{1 - \eta(p)}.$$

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- Therefore $\sum_{\substack{v \leq x \\ (v,m)=1}} \eta^*(v) = \sum_{\substack{w \leq x \\ (w,m)=1}} \frac{1}{w} \sum_{\substack{z \leq x/w \\ (z,m)=1}} \rho(z) =$

$$\sum_{\substack{w \leq x \\ (w,m)=1}} \frac{1}{w} (D(m) + O(w^{\tau} x^{-\tau})) = \sum_{\substack{w \leq x \\ (w,m)=1}} \frac{D(m)}{w} + O(1).$$

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$$\sum_{v|m} \frac{\mu(v)}{v} \sum_{u \leq x/v} \frac{1}{u} = \sum_{v|m} \frac{\mu(v)}{v} (\log(x/v) + C_0 + O(v/x))$$
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- Let $E(x) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n,m)=1}} \eta(n) - A_m \log x$ and choose a_j as in the

definition of $\mathcal{G}(I, G)$. When $x^{a_{j-1}} < n \leq x^{a_j}$,

$$g\left(\frac{\log n}{\log x}\right) = g_-(a_j) - \int_{\frac{\log n}{\log x}}^{a_j} g'(v) dv \text{ except when } n = x^{a_j}$$

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- Multiply by $\eta(n)$, sum over $n \in (x^{a_{j-1}}, x^{a_j}]$, interchange the order of summation and integration and apply E to get $(A_m(\log x)(a_j - a_{j-1}) + E(x^{a_j}) - E(x^{a_{j-1}}))g_-(a_j) + O(G)$

$$- \int_{a_{j-1}}^{a_j} (A_m(\log x)(v - a_{j-1}) + E(x^v) - E(x^{a_{j-1}}))g'(v)dv.$$

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- Multiply by $\eta(n)$, sum over $n \in (x^{a_{j-1}}, x^{a_j}]$, interchange the order of summation and integration and apply E to get $(A_m(\log x)(a_j - a_{j-1}) + E(x^{a_j}) - E(x^{a_{j-1}}))g_-(a_j) + O(G)$

$$- \int_{a_{j-1}}^{a_j} (A_m(\log x)(v - a_{j-1}) + E(x^v) - E(x^{a_{j-1}}))g'(v)dv.$$

- Integrate main term by parts to give

$$\int_{a_{j-1}}^{a_j} A_m(\log x)g(v)dv \text{ which on summing over } j \text{ gives the main term.}$$

- Now we apply this to general $g \in \mathcal{G}(I, G)$.
- Let $E(x) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n,m)=1}} \eta(n) - A_m \log x$ and choose a_j as in the

definition of $\mathcal{G}(I, G)$. When $x^{a_{j-1}} < n \leq x^{a_j}$,

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- Thus, by the last lemma, with $\eta(p) = 1/(p-1)$ and $m = qr$, when $r_j = 1$, $(r, q) = 1$ and r is squarefree

$$\kappa_j(\mathbf{r}) = (\log R) \frac{\phi(qr)}{qr} f_j(\mathbf{r}) + O\left(\frac{F\phi(q)\log R}{qQ}\right)$$

where $f_j(\mathbf{r}) =$

$$\int_0^1 f\left(\frac{\log r_1}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_{j-1}}{\log R}, u_j, \frac{\log r_{j+1}}{\log R}, \dots, \frac{\log r_k}{\log R}\right) du_j.$$

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- Thus, by Lemma 8, $S_j(f) = \frac{\phi(q)N(\log R)^2}{q^2 \log N} \times$

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- We will repeatedly use, without further comment, that if $\tau(p) \ll p^{-2}$, then we have $\prod_{p>Q} (1 + \tau(p)) = 1 + O(1/Q)$

and so such products can be replaced by 1 in the analysis.

We have $\frac{\phi(r)^2}{\phi_2(r)r} = \prod_{p|r} \frac{(p-1)^2}{(p-1)^2 - 1}$ and each prime factor

of r exceeds Q , so this is $1 + O(Q^{-1})$.

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- As r is squarefree, the general arithmetical factor in the sum can be rewritten as $\prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\mu(r_i)^2}{r_i}$ provided that the sum over \mathbf{r} is restricted to \mathbf{r} with $(r_u, r_v)=1$ when $u \neq v$.

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- If we add in any $(r_u, r_v) > 1$, the extra \mathbf{r} have a prime $p > Q$ such that $p|r_u$ and $p|r_v$ for some $u \neq v$.

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- If we add in any $(r_u, r_v) > 1$, the extra \mathbf{r} have a prime $p > Q$ such that $p|r_u$ and $p|r_v$ for some $u \neq v$.
- Therefore the total error introduced is \ll

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- Thus the sum in the main term can be replaced by

$$\sum_{(r,q)=1}^j f_j(\mathbf{r})^2 \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\mu(r_i)^2}{r_i}.$$

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- Now we apply Lemma 9 to each variable r_i in turn, i.e $k - 1$ times, with

$$\eta(p) = \frac{1}{p}$$

and $m = q$.

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- This gives the first part of that theorem.

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- The second part follows in the same way.

Theorem 10 (Maynard)

Suppose that when $k \geq 2$, we take $f \in \mathcal{F}$ and then $l_j = l_j(f)$ and $J = J(f)$ are as in Theorem 6. Let $\rho = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k l_j(f)}{J(f)}$. Then, for k sufficiently large, $\rho > \log k - \log \log k - 1$.



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There are bounded gaps in the sequence of primes.

- This is immediate from Theorems 6, 10 and the fact that there are admissible sets with k elements as provided, for example, by Theorem 3.

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Corollary 12 (Maynard, Tao)

For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (p_{n+m} - p_n) \ll m^2 e^{4m}$.

-

Corollary 13 (Maynard)

Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $\mathcal{G} = \{g_1, \dots, g_l\}$ be a set of l distinct non-negative integers. Let $M(m, l, \mathcal{G})$ be the number of admissible m -tuples contained in \mathcal{G} and let $N(m, l, \mathcal{G})$ be the number of admissible m -tuples \mathbf{h} contained in \mathcal{G} such that there are infinitely many n for which each member of the m -tuple $n + \mathbf{h}$ is prime. Then, for $l > l_0(m)$,

$$l^m \geq M(m, l, \mathcal{G}) \gg_m l^m \text{ and } \frac{N(m, l, \mathcal{G})}{M(m, l, \mathcal{G})} \gg_m 1.$$



- de Polignac's conjecture [1849] asserts that every even integer is the difference of infinitely many pairs of primes. That the conjecture holds for a positive proportion of all even integers follows on taking $m = 2$ and $g_j = 2j - 2$ in the previous corollary, for then number of solutions of $g_{j_2} - g_{j_1} = 2d$ is at most l and so there must be $\gg l^2/l = l$ different differences $g_{j_2} - g_{j_1}$ arising from the admissible pairs counted by $N(2, l, \mathcal{G})$.

Corollary 14

There is an infinite subset \mathbb{D} of \mathbb{N} with positive lower asymptotic density such that for each $d \in \mathbb{D}$ there are infinitely many pairs of primes p_1, p_2 such that $p_2 - p_1 = d$.

- Let $\varpi = \frac{k/\log k}{\log(k/\log k)}$ and ξ be the positive solution to $1 + \xi\varpi = e^\xi$.

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- Then $e^\xi/\xi > \varpi$ and, for k sufficiently large, $\log k - \log \log k < \xi < \log k$.
- Let $g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$g(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+\xi y} & 0 \leq y \leq \varpi, \\ 0 & \varpi < y. \end{cases}$$

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- We need to compute various integrals which we denote by $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau$ as follows.

$$\alpha = \int_0^\infty g(y) dy = 1, \quad \beta = \int_0^\infty g(y)^2 dy = \frac{1}{\xi} - \frac{1}{\xi e^\xi},$$

$$\gamma = \int_0^\infty y g(y)^2 dy = \frac{1}{\xi} - \frac{1}{\xi^2} + \frac{1}{\xi^2 e^\xi},$$

$$\tau = \int_0^\infty y^2 g(y)^2 dy = \frac{\varpi}{\xi^2} - \frac{2}{\xi^2} + \frac{1}{\xi^3} - \frac{1}{\xi^3 e^\xi}.$$

- We now take

$$f(\mathbf{t}) = \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^k g(kt_i) & \mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{R}, \\ 0 & \mathbf{t} \notin \mathcal{R}. \end{cases}$$

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- Since f is symmetric we have $l_j(f) = l_k(f)$ for every $j \leq k$.
Thus $\rho \geq \frac{kl_k(f)}{J(f)}$ and we now proceed to estimate $l_k(f)$
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Thus $\rho \geq \frac{kI_k(f)}{J(f)}$ and we now proceed to estimate $I_k(f)$ and $J(f)$.
- With this choice most of the mass of f is close to the axes. $g(kt) = \frac{1}{1+kt\xi} \sim \frac{1}{tk \log k}$. Thus for $t \gg 1/(k(\log k)^{1/2})$ we have $g(kt) \ll (\log k)^{-1/2}$.

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- With this choice most of the mass of f is close to the axes. $g(kt) = \frac{1}{1+kt\xi} \sim \frac{1}{tk \log k}$. Thus for $t \gg 1/(k(\log k)^{1/2})$ we have $g(kt) \ll (\log k)^{-1/2}$.
- Thus the boundary condition $t_1 + \cdots + t_k \leq 1$ on \mathcal{R} is relatively unimportant.
- Since we are concerned with only a lower bound for ρ , lower and upper bounds for $I_k(f)$ and J respectively will suffice.

- An upper bound for $J(f)$ is easy. We have

$$J(f) \leq \int_{[0, \infty)^k} \prod_{i=1}^k g(kt_i)^2 d\mathbf{t} = k^{-k} \beta^k.$$

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- Then we define \mathcal{S} to be the set of $k-1$ -tuples y_1, \dots, y_{k-1} with $y_i \geq 0$ and $y_1 + \dots + y_{k-1} \leq k - \varpi$.
- Thus $kI_k(f) =$

$$\begin{aligned} & k \int_{\mathcal{R}_{k-1}} \left(\int_0^{1-t_1-\dots-t_{k-1}} g(kt_k) dt_k \right)^2 \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} g(kt_i)^2 dt_1 \dots dt_{k-1} \\ & \geq k^{-k} \alpha^2 \int_{\mathcal{S}} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} g(y_i)^2 dy = k^{-k} \alpha^2 \beta^{k-1} - E \end{aligned}$$

where $E = \frac{\alpha^2}{k^k} \int_{\mathcal{S}^*} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} g(y_i)^2 dy$ and $\mathcal{S}^* = [0, \infty)^{k-1} \setminus \mathcal{S}$.

- Thus $kl_k(f) \geq k^{-k} \alpha^2 \int_S \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} g(y_i)^2 d\mathbf{y} = k^{-k} \alpha^2 \beta^{k-1} - E$

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- Let $\sigma = \gamma/\beta = \frac{1 - \xi^{-1} + \xi^{-1}e^{-\xi}}{1 - e^{-\xi}} = 1 - \frac{1}{\xi} + \frac{1}{e^\xi - 1}$. The condition $\mathbf{y} \in S^*$ is equivalent to $y_1 + \dots + y_{k-1} \geq k - \varpi$ and this in turn is equivalent to $\frac{y_1 + \dots + y_{k-1}}{k-1} - \sigma \geq \frac{k - \varpi - \sigma(k-1)}{k-1} = 1 - \sigma - \frac{\varpi - 1}{k-1}$.

For k sufficiently large we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \sigma)(k - 1) - \varpi + 1 &= \frac{1}{\xi} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\varpi}\right) (k - 1) - \varpi + 1 \\ &= \frac{k}{\xi} + O\left(\frac{k}{(\log k)^2}\right) = \xi^{-1} + O(\xi^{-2}) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

and $1 - \sigma - \frac{\varpi - 1}{k - 1} = \xi^{-1} + O(\xi^{-2})$.

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- Thus if $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}^*$, then

$$\left(\frac{y_1 + \cdots + y_{k-1}}{k-1} - \sigma \right)^2 \zeta^2 \geq 1$$

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- Hence $E \leq$

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A variant of the “Rankin trick”.

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$$\bullet \text{ We now square out } \left(\frac{y_1 + \cdots + y_{k-1}}{k-1} - \sigma\right)^2 =$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq k-1} \frac{2y_i y_j}{(k-1)^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{y_i^2}{(k-1)^2} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{2\sigma y_i}{k-1} + \sigma^2$$

and evaluate this with reference to α , etc. Thus $E \leq$

$$\frac{\alpha^2 \zeta^2}{k^k} \left(\frac{k-2}{k-1} \gamma^2 \beta^{k-3} + \frac{\tau \beta^{k-2}}{k-1} - 2\sigma \gamma \beta^{k-2} + \sigma^2 \beta^{k-1} \right).$$

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$$\rho > \beta^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\zeta^2 \tau}{\beta(k-1)} \right).$$

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- Thus $\frac{\zeta^2 \tau}{\beta(k-1)} = (\xi + O(1)) \frac{\varpi}{k} = \frac{1}{\log k} + O(\log^{-2} k)$.
- Hence, if $k > k_0$, we have $\rho > \beta^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\zeta^2 \tau}{\beta(k-1)}\right)$
$$> \xi (1 + O(k^{-1} \log k)) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log k} + O((\log k)^{-2})\right)$$

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- Thus if the level of distribution $\theta > 0$, then we can choose any large k and any admissible k -tuple and deduce that infinitely often there are bounded gaps in the primes.

- We now prove Corollary 12 (Maynard, Tao).

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- By Gallagher's Theorem there is an admissible k -tuple of diameter $\ll k \log k \ll m^2 e^{4m}$.