

THE MAXIMUM OF COTANGENT SUMS RELATED TO ESTERMANN'S ZETA FUNCTION IN RATIONAL NUMBERS IN SHORT INTERVALS

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We investigate the maximum of cotangent sums related to Estermann's zeta function in rational numbers in short intervals. This can be seen as a continuation of previous investigations of the authors on moments of these sums ([9], [10], [11], [12], [13]).

1. INTRODUCTION

The authors in various papers ([9], [10], [11], [12]) and the second author in his thesis [13], studied the distribution of cotangent sums

$$c_0\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) = -\sum_{m=1}^{b-1} \frac{m}{b} \cot\left(\frac{\pi mr}{b}\right)$$

as r ranges over the set

$$\{r : (r, b) = 1, A_0 b \leq r \leq A_1 b\},$$

where A_0, A_1 are fixed with $1/2 < A_0 < A_1 < 1$ and b tends to infinity.

These sums are related to the values of the Estermann zeta function $E(s, r/b, \alpha)$, which are defined by the Dirichlet series

$$E\left(s, \frac{r}{b}, \alpha\right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\sigma_\alpha(n) \exp(2\pi i nr/b)}{n^s},$$

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where $\operatorname{Re} s > \operatorname{Re} \alpha + 1$, $b \geq 1$, $(r, b) = 1$ and

$$\sigma_\alpha(n) = \sum_{d|n} d^\alpha.$$

T. Estermann (see [4]) introduced and studied the above function in the special case when $\alpha = 0$. Much later, it was studied by I. Kiuchi (see [8]) for $\alpha \in (-1, 0]$. M. Ishibashi (see [6]) proved the following relation regarding the value of $E\left(s, \frac{r}{b}, \alpha\right)$ at $s = 0$:

Let $b \geq 2$, $1 \leq r \leq b$, $(r, b) = 1$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. Then, for even α , it holds that

$$E\left(0, \frac{r}{b}, \alpha\right) = \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^{\alpha+1} \sum_{m=1}^{b-1} \frac{m}{b} \cot^{(\alpha)}\left(\frac{\pi mr}{b}\right) + \frac{1}{4} \delta_{\alpha,0},$$

where $\delta_{\alpha,0}$ is the Kronecker delta function.

For $\alpha = 0$, the sum on the right reduces to $c_0(r/b)$.

The cotangent sum $c_0(r/b)$ can be associated to the study of the Riemann Hypothesis, also through its relation with the so-called Vasyunin sum. The Vasyunin sum is defined as follows:

$$V\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) := \sum_{m=1}^{b-1} \left\{ \frac{mr}{b} \right\} \cot\left(\frac{\pi mr}{b}\right),$$

where $\{u\} = u - [u]$, $u \in \mathbb{R}$.

It can be shown that

$$V\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) = -c_0\left(\frac{\bar{r}}{b}\right),$$

where \bar{r} is such that $\bar{r}r \equiv 1 \pmod{b}$.

The Vasyunin sum is itself associated to the study of the Riemann hypothesis through the following identity (see [1], [3]):

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi(rb)^{1/2}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|^2 \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)^{it} \frac{dt}{\frac{1}{4} + t^2} = \frac{\log 2\pi - \gamma}{2} \left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{b}\right) + \frac{b-r}{2rb} \log \frac{r}{b} - \frac{\pi}{2rb} \left(V\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) + V\left(\frac{b}{r}\right) \right).$$

Note that the only non-explicit function in the right hand side of (1) is the Vasyunin sum. According to this approach, the Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} d_N = 0,$$

where

$$d_N^2 = \inf_{D_N} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| 1 - \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) D_N\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|^2 \frac{dt}{\frac{1}{4} + t^2}$$

and the infimum is taken over all Dirichlet polynomials

$$D_N(s) = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{a_n}{n^s}.$$

The authors in several papers ([9], [10], [11], [12]) and the second author in his thesis [13] investigated moments of the form

$$\frac{1}{\phi(b)} \sum_{\substack{(r,b)=1 \\ A_0 b < r \leq A_1 b}} c_0 \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)^{2k}, \quad \frac{1}{2} < A_0 < A_1 < 1$$

and could show that

$$\frac{1}{\phi(b)} \sum_{\substack{(r,b)=1 \\ A_0 b < r \leq A_1 b}} c_0 \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)^{2k} = H_k b^{2k} (1 + o(1)), \quad (b \rightarrow +\infty),$$

where

$$H_k := \int_0^1 \left(\frac{g(x)}{\pi}\right)^{2k} dx,$$

$$g(x) := \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{1 - 2\{lx\}}{l}.$$

The range $1/2 < A_0 < A_1 < 1$ was later extended to $0 < A_0 < A_1 < 1$ by S. Bettin in [2].

In this paper we investigate the maximum of

$$\left|c_0 \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)\right|$$

for the values r/b in a short interval. We start with the following:

Definition 1.1. Let $0 < A_0 < 1$, $0 < C < 1/2$. For $b \in \mathbb{N}$ we set

$$\Delta := \Delta(b, c) = b^{-C}.$$

We set

$$M(b, C, A_0) := \max_{A_0 b \leq r < (A_0 + \Delta)b} \left|c_0 \left(\frac{r}{b}\right)\right|.$$

We shall prove the following results:

Theorem 1.2. With Definition 1.1 let D satisfy $0 < D < \frac{1}{2} - C$. Then we have for sufficiently large b :

$$M(b, C, A_0) \geq \frac{D}{\pi} b \log b.$$

Theorem 1.3. *Let C be as in Theorem 1.2 and let D satisfy $D > 2 - C - E$, where $E \geq 0$ is a fixed constant. Let B be sufficiently large. Then we have:*

$$M(b, C, A_0) \leq \frac{D}{\pi} b \log b,$$

for all b with $B \leq b < 2B$ with at most B^E exceptions.

2. PRELIMINARY LEMMAS

We recall several definitions and results from [2].

Definition 2.4. *For $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$ we set*

$$(*) \quad D_{\sin}(s, x) := \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{d(n) \sin(2\pi n x)}{n^s}.$$

Lemma 2.5. *Let $\langle a_0; a_1, a_2, \dots \rangle$ be the continued fraction expansion of $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, let u_r/v_r be the r -th partial quotient of x . Then*

$$(**) \quad D_{\sin}(1, x) = -\frac{\pi^2}{2} \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^l}{v_l} \left(\left(\frac{1}{\pi v_l} \right) + \psi \left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \right),$$

whenever either of the two series $(*)$, $(**)$ is convergent.

If $x = \langle a_0; a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r \rangle$ is a rational number then the range of summation of the series on the right is to be interpreted to be $1 \leq l \leq r$. Here ψ is an analytic function satisfying

$$\psi(x) = -\frac{\log(2\pi x) - \gamma}{\pi x} + O(\log x), \quad (x \rightarrow 0).$$

Lemma 2.6.

$$c_0 \left(\frac{r}{b} \right) = \frac{1}{2} D_{\sin} \left(0, \frac{r}{b} \right) = 2b \pi^{-2} D_{\sin} \left(1, \frac{\bar{r}}{b} \right),$$

where $r\bar{r} \equiv 1 \pmod{b}$.

Definition 2.7. *The Kloosterman sum $K(n, m, b)$ is defined by*

$$K(n, m, b) := \sum_{\substack{r=1 \\ (r,b)=1}}^{b-1} e \left(\frac{nr + m\bar{r}}{b} \right).$$

For $n = 0$ (resp. $m = 0$) we obtain the Ramanujan sums $K(0, m, b)$ (resp. $K(n, 0, b)$).

Lemma 2.8. *We have the bounds*

$$(2.1) \quad |K(n, m, b)| \leq \tau(b)(n, m, b)^{1/2} b^{1/2},$$

and

$$(2.2) \quad |K(0, m, b)| \leq (m, b).$$

Proof. For the result (2.1), due to Weil, (cf. [7]). The result (2.2) is elementary. \square

Definition 2.9. *Let Δ be as in Definition 1.1 and $\Omega > 0$. We set*

$$N(b, \Delta, \Omega) := \#\{r : A_0 b \leq r < (A_0 + \Delta)b, |\bar{r}| \leq \Omega b\}.$$

Let the functions χ_1, χ_2 be defined by

$$\chi_1(u, v) := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } A_0 + v < u \leq A_0 + \Delta - v \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\chi_2(u) := \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta \chi_1(u, v) dv.$$

Lemma 2.10. *We have*

$$\chi_2(u) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a(n)e(nu),$$

where $a(0) = \Delta/2$ and

$$a(n) = \begin{cases} O(\Delta), & \text{if } |n| \leq \Delta^{-1} \\ O(\Delta^{-1}n^{-2}), & \text{if } |n| > \Delta^{-1}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. The Fourier coefficients are computed as follows:

$$a(0) = \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta \left(\int_{A_0}^{A_0+\Delta-v} 1 du \right) dv = \frac{\Delta}{2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a(n) &= \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta \left(\int_{A_0}^{A_0+\Delta-v} e(-nu) du \right) dv \\ &= \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta -\frac{1}{2\pi in} (e(-n(A_0 + \Delta - v)) - e(-nA_0)) dv \\ &= -\frac{\Delta^{-1}}{2\pi in} \left(\frac{e(-nA_0)}{2\pi in} (1 - e(-n\Delta)) - e(-nA_0) \right). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Definition 2.11. *Let*

$$\chi_3(u, v) := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } -\Omega + v < u < \Omega \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\chi_4(u) := \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \chi_3(u, v) dv.$$

Lemma 2.12. *We have*

$$\chi_4(u) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} c(n) e(nu),$$

where $c(0) = \Omega$ and

$$c(n) = \begin{cases} O(\Omega), & \text{if } |n| \leq \Omega^{-1} \\ O(\Omega^{-1}n^{-2}), & \text{if } |n| > \Omega^{-1}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. The Fourier coefficients are computed as follows

$$c(0) = \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \left(\int_{\Omega+v}^{\Omega-v} 1 du \right) dv = \Omega$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} c(n) &= \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \left(\int_{-\Omega+v}^{\Omega-v} e(-nu) du \right) dv \\ &= \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega -\frac{1}{2\pi in} (e(-n(\Omega-v)) - e(-n(-\Omega+v))) dv \\ &= -\frac{\Omega^{-1}}{4\pi n^2} ((2 - e(n\Omega) - e(-n\Omega))). \end{aligned}$$

The estimates for $c(n)$ follow by expanding $e(u)$ in its Taylor series if $|n| \leq \Omega^{-1}$ and from $|e(u)| = O(1)$, if $|n| > \Omega^{-1}$. \square

Lemma 2.13. *Let $\epsilon > 0$ be such that*

$$D + \epsilon < \frac{1}{2} - C.$$

Set

$$\Omega := b^{-(D+\epsilon)}.$$

Then

$$N(b, \Delta, \Omega) > 0$$

for b sufficiently large.

Proof. By Definitions 2.9, 2.11 we have

$$N(b, \Delta, \Omega) \geq \phi(b)a(0)c(0) + \sum_{\substack{m, n = -\infty \\ (m, n) \neq (0, 0)}}^{+\infty} a(m)c(n)K(n, m, b).$$

The result follows from Lemmas 2.10 and 2.12. \square

Lemma 2.14. *Let $\epsilon > 0$, $B \geq B(\epsilon)$, $B < b \leq 2B$. For $1 \leq r < b$, $(r, b) = 1$, let*

$$\frac{r}{b} = \langle 0; w_1, \dots, w_s \rangle$$

be the continued fraction expansion of r/b with partial fractions u_i/v_i . Then there are at most 3 values of l for which

$$\frac{1}{v_l} \psi \left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \geq \log \log b$$

and at most one value of l , for which

$$\frac{1}{v_l} \psi \left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \geq \epsilon \log b.$$

Proof. Let l_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) be such that

$$\frac{1}{v_{l_i}} \psi \left(\frac{v_{l_i-1}}{v_{l_i}} \right) \geq \log \log b.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} v_{l_1} &\geq \log \log b, \quad v_{l_2} \geq \exp(v_{l_1}) \geq \log b, \\ v_{l_3} &\geq \exp(v_{l_2}) \geq b, \quad v_{l_4} \geq \exp(v_{l_3}) \geq \exp(b), \end{aligned}$$

in contradiction to $v_s \leq b$.

In the same manner we obtain from $v_{l_j} \geq \epsilon \log b$, $j = 1, 2$:

$$v_s \geq \exp(\exp((\log b)^\epsilon)) > b.$$

\square

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

By Lemma 2.13 there is at least one

$$r \in [A_0 b, (A_0 + \Delta)b],$$

such that $\frac{\bar{r}}{b} \in (0, \Omega)$. By Lemmas 2.5 and 2.6 we have:

$$c_0\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) = -b \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^l}{v_l} \left(\left(\frac{1}{\pi v_l} \right) + \psi\left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l}\right) \right).$$

Let $(u_i/v_i)_{i=1}^s$ be the sequence of partial fractions of \bar{r}/b . From

$$\Omega \geq \frac{\bar{r}}{b} \geq \frac{1}{v_1 + 1},$$

we obtain

$$v_1 + 1 \geq \Omega^{-1}.$$

By Lemma 2.13 we have

$$\sum_{l > 1} \left(\frac{1}{\pi v_l} + \psi\left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l}\right) \right) < 2\epsilon \log b, \text{ for } b \geq b_0(\epsilon).$$

Therefore,

$$\left| D_{\sin}\left(0, \frac{r}{b}\right) \right| \geq \frac{1}{\pi} \log(\Omega^{-1}(1 + o(1))) \quad (b \rightarrow +\infty).$$

This proves Theorem 1.2. □

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.3

In the sequel we assume $\epsilon > 0$ to be fixed but arbitrarily small, $Z > 0$ fixed but arbitrarily large.

Definition 4.15. For $A_0 b < r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b$ let

$$\frac{\bar{r}}{b} = \langle 0; z_1, \dots, z_w \rangle$$

be the continued fraction expansion of \bar{r}/b .

By Lemma 2.14 there is at most one value of l for which

$$\frac{1}{v_l} \psi\left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l}\right) \geq \epsilon \log b.$$

In case of the existence of l , let

$$\frac{u_{l-1}}{v_{l-1}} := \langle 0; z_1, \dots, z_{l-1} \rangle.$$

We write

$$u_{l-1}(r, b) = u_{l-1}$$

and

$$v_{l-1}(r, b) = v_{l-1}.$$

For s, t with $1 \leq s, t \leq Z$, $(s, t) = 1$ we write:

$$D(s, t, l) := \left\{ (r, b) : B \leq b < 2B, A_0 b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \frac{u_{l-1}(r, b)}{v_{l-1}(r, b)} = \frac{s}{t} \right\}.$$

For fixed θ with $0 < \theta < 1$, let

$$\mathcal{E}(s, t, l) := \left\{ (r, b) : B \leq b < 2B, A_0 b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \frac{u_{l-1}(r, b)}{v_{l-1}(r, b)} = \frac{s}{t}, \left| \frac{\bar{r}}{b} - \frac{s}{t} \right| \leq \theta \right\}.$$

By Dirichlet's approximation theorem there is $(C_0, D_0) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ with $1 \leq D_0 \leq B^2$, $(C_0, D_0) = 1$, such that

$$(4.1) \quad \left| A_0^{-1} - \frac{C_0}{D_0} \right| \leq \frac{1}{D_0 B^2}.$$

We have

$$(4.2) \quad \sum_{B \leq b < 2B} N(b, \Delta, \Omega) \leq \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \sum_{1 \leq s, t \leq Z} |\mathcal{E}(s, t, l)| \leq \sum_{1 \leq s, t \leq Z} |\mathcal{F}(s, t)|,$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}(s, t) = \left\{ (b, r, \bar{r}) : B \leq b < 2B, A_0 b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \left| \frac{\bar{r}}{b} - \frac{s}{t} \right| \leq \theta, r\bar{r} \equiv 1 \pmod{b} \right\}.$$

We now estimate the cardinality of the set $\mathcal{F}(s, t)$.

From $A_0 b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b$ and (4.1) we obtain

$$(4.3) \quad b = \frac{C_0}{D_0} r + \frac{u}{D_0},$$

where $u \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$(4.4) \quad |u| \leq 4B^{1-C} D_0$$

and

$$(4.5) \quad u \equiv -C_0 r \pmod{D_0}.$$

The number $U(r, C_0, D_0)$ of u with (4.4), (4.5) satisfies

$$(4.6) \quad |U(r, C_0, D_0)| \ll B^{1-C}.$$

From (4.3) and the definition of \bar{r} we obtain

$$r\bar{r} - 1 = y \left(\frac{C_0}{D_0} r + \frac{u}{D_0} \right), \text{ with } y \in \mathbb{Z},$$

which after multiplication with $C_0 D_0$ becomes

$$(4.7) \quad (C_0 y - D_0 \tilde{r})(C_0 r - u) = -D_0(C_0 - \tilde{r}u).$$

If $C_0 - \tilde{r}u \neq 0$ we see from the well-known estimate for the number of divisors of an integer that for a given pair (\tilde{r}, u) there are at most $O(B^\epsilon)$ pairs (r, y) , such that (4.7) holds.

There are at most $O(B^\epsilon)$ pairs (\tilde{r}, u) , such that $C_0 - \tilde{r}u = 0$. Thus we obtain

$$(4.8) \quad |\mathcal{F}(s, t)| = O(B^{2+\epsilon-C}\theta).$$

From (4.2) and (4.8) we obtain for $\Omega = \theta B$:

$$(4.9) \quad \sum_{B \leq b < 2B} N(b, B^{1-C}, \Omega) = O(B^{2+2\epsilon-C}\theta).$$

We now apply (4.9) with $\theta = B^{-D'}$, where

$$D > D' > 2 - C - E.$$

If $\epsilon > 0$ is chosen sufficiently small we conclude from (4.9) the following:
For all b with $B \leq b < 2B$ with at most B^E exceptions we have:

$$N(b, B^{1-C}, \Omega) = 0$$

and thus

$$(4.10) \quad \frac{1}{v_l} \psi \left(\frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \leq \frac{D'}{\pi v_{l-1}} b \log b (1 + o(1))$$

for all $l \leq Z$.

The result of Theorem 1.3 follows now from Lemmas 2.5, 2.6 and 2.14.

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