

Self-approximation of periodic Hurwitz zeta-functions

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Abstract. Let $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ be the periodic Hurwitz zeta-function. We look for real numbers α and β for which there exist “many” real numbers τ such that the shifts $\zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ and $\zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ are “near” each other.

Keywords: self-approximation, periodic Hurwitz zeta-functions.

1 Introduction

Let as usual $s = \sigma + it$ denote a complex variable. Let ω be a fixed real number from the interval $(0, 1]$ and denote by $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$, $\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period $k \in \mathbb{N}$. For $\sigma > 1$, the periodic Hurwitz zeta-function is defined by

$$\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_m}{(m + \omega)^s}.$$

If $\mathfrak{A} = \{1\}$, then $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ is the classical Hurwitz zeta-function

$$\zeta(s, \omega) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m + \omega)^s}, \quad \sigma > 1,$$

which has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane with a simple pole $s = 1$ and residue 1.

If $\omega = 1$, then the function $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ reduces to the periodic zeta-function

$$\zeta(s; \mathfrak{A}) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_{m-1}}{m^s}, \quad \sigma > 1.$$

It is not difficult to see that, for $\sigma > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) &= \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_l}{(mk + l + \omega)^s} = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m + (l + \omega/k))^s} \\ &= \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{l + \omega}{k}\right).\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

Therefore, (1) gives the analytic continuation for $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ to the whole complex plane, except, perhaps, for a simple pole $s = 1$ with residue

$$c = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l.$$

If $c = 0$, then $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ is an entire function.

In the case when $\mathfrak{A} = \{1\}$ and $\omega = 1$, the function $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$ becomes the Riemann zeta-function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^s}, \quad \sigma > 1.$$

In 1982, Bagchi [1] proved that the Riemann hypothesis for Dirichlet L -function $L(s, \chi)$ (χ is an arbitrary Dirichlet character) holds if and only if for any compact subset \mathcal{K} of the strip $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ and for any $\varepsilon > 0$:

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\tau, \chi) - L(s, \chi)| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0,$$

where meas stands for the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} .

Recently, Nakamura in [5] considered joint universality of shifted Dirichlet L -functions, which led to the following generalization of Bagchi's criteria. Assume that $1 = d_1, d_2, \dots, d_m$ are algebraic real numbers linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} and χ is an arbitrary Dirichlet character. Then, for every $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq m} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + id_j \tau, \chi) - L(s + id_k \tau, \chi)| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0. \quad (2)$$

For $m = 2$, Pańkowski [8] using Six Exponentials Theorem showed that (2) holds as well for every real numbers d_1, d_2 linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} . The case where $d_1/d_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$ in inequality (2) was considered by Garunkštis [2] and Nakamura [5] independently. It is worth mentioning that the proofs of their results contain gaps. The gaps were filled by Nakamura and Pańkowski in [7], where $d_1 = 1$ and $d_2 = a/b \in \mathbb{Q}$ satisfies $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, $|a - b| \neq 1$. It should be mentioned that the general case for $d_1 = 1$ and for non-zero rational d_2 is still open. Garunkštis and Karikovas [3] investigated the self-approximation property for Hurwitz zeta-functions with a transcendental parameter ω . Karikovas and Pańkowski [4] deal with Hurwitz zeta-functions with rational ω .

In this paper, we prove two theorems.

Theorem 1. Let $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ be a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $\omega = a/b, \omega \in (0, 1], 0 < a < b, \gcd(a, b) = 1$. Moreover, suppose that α, β are real numbers linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} and \mathcal{K} is any compact subset of the strip $1/2 < \sigma < 1$. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta \left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A} \right) - \zeta \left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A} \right) \right| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0.$$

In the next theorem, we consider the case when the parameter ω is a transcendental number.

Let $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k, \omega$ be real numbers and let ω be a transcendental number from the interval $(0, 1]$.

Let

$$A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega) = \{d_j \log(n + \omega): j = 1, \dots, k; n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$$

be a multiset. Note that in a multiset the elements can appear more than once. For example, $\{2, 3\}$ and $\{2, 3, 3\}$ are different multisets, but $\{2, 3\}$ and $\{3, 2\}$ are equal multisets. If a multiset $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega)$ is linearly independent over rational numbers, then $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega)$ is a set and the numbers d_1, \dots, d_k are linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} .

Denote by $\|x\|$ the minimal distance of $x \in \mathbb{R}$ to an integer.

Theorem 2. Let $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ be a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Let ω be a transcendental number from the interval $(0, 1]$. Moreover, suppose that $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ are such that the set $A(\alpha, \beta; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} and \mathcal{K} is any compact subset of the strip $1/2 < \sigma < 1$. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| < \varepsilon, \right. \\ \left. \left\| \frac{(\alpha - \beta)\tau \log k}{2\pi} \right\| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0.$$

In the next section, we prove Theorem 1. Section 3 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 2.

2 Proof of theorem 1

Recall that, for Lebesgue measurable set $A \subset (0, \infty)$, we define *lower density* of A as

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas}(A \cap (0, T]).$$

Moreover, if the limit above is positive, then we say that A has a *positive lower density*.

In the proof of Theorem 1, the following statement will be useful.

Lemma 1. *Let $\mathcal{K} \subset D$ be any compact set with connected complement, χ_1, \dots, χ_n be pairwise non-equivalent Dirichlet characters and $f_j, g_j, (j = 1, \dots, n)$ be functions which are non-vanishing and continuous on \mathcal{K} and analytic in the interior. Moreover, let α, β be real numbers linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} and B be a finite set of prime numbers.*

Then, for every $\varepsilon > 0$, the set of real numbers τ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\alpha\tau, \chi_j) - f_j(s)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\beta\tau, \chi_j) - g_j(s)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{p \in B} \left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log p}{2\pi} \right\| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

has a positive lower density.

Particularly, taking $f_j = g_j$ yields that the set of $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\alpha\tau, \chi_j) - L(s + i\beta\tau, \chi_j)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{p \in B} \left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log p}{2\pi} \right\| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

has a positive lower density.

Proof. This is Theorem 4.1 in [4]. □

Theorem 1 will be derived from the following proposition.

Proposition 1. *Let $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_1/b_1, \dots, a_n/b_n$ be rational numbers satisfying $0 < a_j < b_j$ and $\gcd(a_j, b_j) = 1$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Moreover, suppose that α, β are real numbers linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} and \mathcal{K} is any compact subset of the strip $1/2 < \sigma < 1$. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \left| \zeta \left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j} \right) - \zeta \left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j} \right) \right| < \varepsilon, \right. \\ \left. \max_{p|k} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p - 1 \right\| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let the notation $A \ll B$ means that there exists $c > 0$ such that $|A| \leq cB$. Note that the inequality

$$\max_{p|k} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p - 1 \right\| < \varepsilon$$

implies that

$$\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |k^{s+i\tau} - k^s| \ll \varepsilon.$$

Proof. Let us consider the set of the functions $\{\zeta(s, a_1/b_1), \zeta(s, a_2/b_2), \dots, \zeta(s, a_n/b_n)\}$.
 Since $(a_j, b_j) = 1$ ($j = 1, \dots, n$), we have:

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{\chi^{(j)} \bmod b_j} \overline{\chi^{(j)}(a_j)} L(s, \chi^{(j)}) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{k=1}^{\varphi(b_j)} \overline{\chi_k^{(j)}(a_j)} L(s, \chi_k^{(j)}).$$

Thus

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \frac{b_l^s}{\varphi(b_l)} \sum_{\chi^{(l)} \bmod b_l} \overline{\chi^{(l)}(a_l)} L(s, \chi^{(l)}).$$

Two characters, $\chi_1 \bmod k_1, \chi_2 \bmod k_2$, are equivalent if they are induced by the same primitive character $\chi^* \bmod k$ with $k|k_1$ and $k|k_2$. Then, for $j = 1, 2$, we have

$$L(s, \chi_j) = L(s, \chi^*) \prod_{p|k_j} \left(1 - \frac{\chi^*(p)}{p^s}\right).$$

Now let us assume that $\chi_k^{(j)}$ is induced by a primitive character $\chi_k^{(j)*}$. Let us observe that every two elements from the set

$$\{\chi_1^{(1)*}, \chi_2^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_1)}^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_1^{(n)*}, \chi_2^{(n)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_n)}^{(n)*}\}$$

are non-equivalent either equal.

Let χ_1, \dots, χ_N denote all distinct characters in the set

$$\{\chi_1^{(1)*}, \chi_2^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_1)}^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_1^{(n)*}, \chi_2^{(n)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_n)}^{(n)*}\}.$$

Moreover, put

$$P(s, \chi^{(j)}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \chi^{(j)} \text{ is primitive,} \\ \prod_{p|q} \left(1 - \frac{\chi^{(j)*}(p)}{p^s}\right) & \text{if } \chi^{(j)} \text{ is imprimitive character mod } q. \end{cases}$$

Let us observe that, for any imprimitive character $\chi^{(j)} \bmod q$, we have

$$|P(s + i\tau, \chi^{(j)}) - P(s, \chi^{(j)})| \ll \varepsilon,$$

provided

$$\max_{p|q} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p \right\| \ll \varepsilon.$$

Therefore,

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{k=1}^{\varphi(b_j)} \overline{\chi_k^{(j)}(a_j)} P(s, \chi_k^{(j)}) L(s, \chi_k^{(j)}).$$

We see that, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there are $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ and $\varepsilon_2 > 0$ such that

$$\left| \zeta\left(s + i\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) - \zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) \right| < \varepsilon$$

for all $j = 1, \dots, n$ if

$$\begin{aligned} |L(s + i\tau, \chi_r) - L(s, \chi_r)| &< \varepsilon_1 \quad \text{for all } r = 1, \dots, N, \\ |P(s + i\tau, \chi_r^{(j)}) - P(s, \chi_r^{(j)})| &< \varepsilon_2 \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, n, r = 1, \dots, \varphi(b_j). \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The above inequalities (3) are implied by Lemma 1. This proves Proposition 1. \square

Proof of Theorem 1. From equality (1) for $\omega = a/b \in \mathbb{Q}$ we obtain

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}, \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{lb + a}{bk}\right).$$

Obviously, for all l with $0 \leq l \leq k - 1$, we can find a_l, b_l such that $(a_l, b_l) = 1$ and $(lb + a)/(bk) = a_l/b_l$. Hence

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}, \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right).$$

Now we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| \\ &= \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |kc_l| \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \zeta\left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \zeta\left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) \right|. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Note that $|kc_l| \ll 1$.

In view of (4), it is easy to see that Theorem 1 follows from the Proposition 1. \square

3 Proof of the theorem 2

In the proof of Theorem 2 the following lemmas will be useful.

Lemma 2. *Let $l \leq m$ be positive integers and let ω be a transcendental number from the interval $(0, 1]$. Let $d_1, \dots, d_l \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} . For $m > l$, let $d_{l+1}, \dots, d_m \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that each $d_k, k = l + 1, \dots, m$, is a linear combination of d_1, \dots, d_l over \mathbb{Q} . Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,*

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas}\{\tau \in [0, T]: \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq m} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |\zeta(s + id_j\tau, \omega) - \zeta(s + id_k\tau, \omega)| < \varepsilon\} > 0.$$

Proof. This is Theorem 1 in [3]. □

Note that for any transcendental number ω , $0 < \omega \leq 1$, and for any real number d_1 , the set $A(d_1; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} . The following lemma shows that for any positive integer l , “most” collections of real numbers $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l, \omega$, where $0 < \omega \leq 1$, are such that $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} .

Lemma 3. *Let ω be a transcendental number and $l \geq 2$. If $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{l-1}; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} , then the set*

$$D = \{d_l \in \mathbb{R}: A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega) \text{ is linearly dependent over } \mathbb{Q}\}$$

is countable.

Proof. This is Proposition 2 in [3]. □

Next we will prove Theorem 2.

Proof of Theorem 2. Let α be a real number. By Lemma 3, we can find a real number β such that $A(\alpha, \beta; \omega)$ is linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} .

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| \\ &= \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega_l) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |kc_l| \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega_l) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $|kc_l| \ll 1$.

Inequality

$$\left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log k}{2\pi} \right\| < \varepsilon$$

implies that

$$|k^{s+i\alpha\tau} - k^{s+i\beta\tau}| = |k^\sigma| |k^{i(\alpha-\beta)\tau} - 1| \ll |k^{i(\alpha-\beta)\tau} - 1| \ll \varepsilon.$$

This means that $1/k^{s+i\alpha\tau}$ is near $1/k^{s+i\beta\tau}$.

Now we consider linear independence of numbers $\log(n + \omega_l)$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}_0$) and $\log k$ over \mathbb{Q} , where $\omega_l = (l + \omega)/k$ and $l = 0, \dots, k - 1$.

Assume that there exists a finite sequence of rational numbers

$$d_{ln}, \quad l = 0, \dots, k - 1, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad \text{and} \quad d$$

such that not all of these numbers are equal to 0 and

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} \log(n + \omega_l) + d \log k \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} (\log(nk + l + \omega) - \log k) + d \log k = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} \log(nk + l + \omega) = \log k^\gamma,$$

where

$$\gamma = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} - d$$

and

$$\prod_{l=0}^{k-1} \prod_{n=0}^N (nk + l + \omega)^{d_{ln}} = k^\gamma. \quad (5)$$

Numbers d_{ln} , d and γ are rationals. Therefore, it is not difficult to see that we can write (5) in the form $P(\omega) = 0$, where $P(\omega)$ is a polynomial. Then ω is a root of this polynomial. But ω is a transcendental number, and we obtain a contradiction. This gives that numbers $\log(n + \omega_l)$ and $\log k$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} .

By the linear independence of numbers $\log(n + \omega_l)$ and $\log k$ over \mathbb{Q} , and by Lemma 2 (for $m = 2$) we obtain

$$\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |\zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \zeta(s + \beta\tau, \omega_l)| \ll \varepsilon,$$

and Theorem 2 follows. \square

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