

Proof of some conjectures on the mean-value of Titchmarsh series – III

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Abstract. With some applications in view, the following problem is solved in some special case which is not too special. Let $F(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \lambda_n^{-s}$ be a generalized Dirichlet series with $1 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots, \lambda_n \leq Dn$, and $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \geq D^{-1} \lambda_n^{-\alpha}$ where $\alpha > 0$ and $D (\geq 1)$ are constants. Then subject to analytic continuation and some growth conditions, a lower bound is obtained for $(1/H) \int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt$. These results will be applied in other papers to appear later.

Keywords. Titchmarsh series; mean value; lower bounds.

1. Introduction

In the previous papers [1] and [2] with the same title (as the present one) we proved some conjectures made by the second author [4]. In this paper we formulate a new conjecture (which we believe to be true at least in some modified form) and indicate a slight progress towards it.

Conjecture. Let $1 = \mu_1 < \mu_2 < \dots$ be any sequence of real numbers with $1/C \leq \mu_{n+1} - \mu_n \leq C$ where $C (\geq 1)$ is an integer constant and $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Let us form the sequence $1 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$ of all possible (distinct) finite power products of $1 = \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots$ with non-negative integral exponents. Let $s = \sigma + it$, $H (\geq 10)$ be a real parameter, and $\{a_n\}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) with $a_1 = 1$ be any sequence of complex numbers (possibly depending on H) such that $F(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \lambda_n^{-s}$ is absolutely convergent at $s = B$ where $B \geq 3$ is an integer constant. Suppose that $F(s)$ can be continued analytically in $(\sigma \geq 0, 0 \leq t \leq H)$ and that there exist T_1, T_2 with $0 \leq T_1 \leq H^{3/4}, H - H^{3/4} \leq T_2 \leq H$ such that for some $K (\geq 30)$ there holds

$$\max_{\sigma \geq 0} (|F(\sigma + iT_1)| + |F(\sigma + iT_2)|) \leq K.$$

Finally let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B} \leq H^A$ where $A (\geq 1)$ is an integer constant. Then there exists a constant $\delta > 0$ (depending only on A, B and C) such that for all $H \geq H_0(A, B, C)$ there holds

$$\frac{1}{H} \int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\lambda_n \leq H^{\delta}} |a_n|^2, \quad (1)$$

provided that $H^{-1} \log \log K$ does not exceed a small positive constant.

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Remark 1. We can strengthen the Conjecture (1) by replacing $\frac{1}{2}$ by a more specific function of H which is asymptotic to 1 as $H \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark 2. By the method of [1] we can prove that

$$\frac{1}{H} \int_0^H |F(it)| dt \geq \frac{1}{2}. \quad (2)$$

The Remark 1 is also applicable.

Remark 3. Under the condition

$$\sum_{\lambda_n \leq X} |a_n| \leq D_0 (\log X)^R \quad (R = H^\epsilon, D_0 \text{ any constant}, X \geq 30), \quad (3)$$

we can prove (2). Remark 1 is also applicable. For both these results the conditions involving K are unnecessary. For the results mentioned in Remarks 2 and 3 we refer the reader to [1] and [5].

Remark 4. Actually the proof of (1) in [1] goes through without serious problems until we come to a lower bound for

$$\frac{1}{H} \int_0^H \left| \sum_{n \leq H^s} a_n \lambda_n^{-it} \right|^2 dt.$$

To apply Montgomery–Vaughan theorem we need good lower bounds for $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n$. These are not available in general. But we can work with $\mu_n = (n_0 + n - 1)/n_0$ where $n_0 (\geq 2)$ is any integer constant (of course using Montgomery–Vaughan Theorem). Thus in this special case we can prove Conjecture (1). We can also handle $\mu_n = (1 + \beta)^{-1}(n + \beta)$ where $\beta (> 0)$ is any real algebraic constant.

Remark 5. We can formulate Conjecture (1) with no conditions involving K , but instead we have to assume condition (3). Remark 1 is also applicable.

Before closing this section we like to make two important remarks. First $\lambda_n \leq \mu_n \leq Cn$ which is obvious because $\{\lambda_n\}$ contains the subsequence $\{\mu_n\}$. Secondly for $x \geq 1$ and $\eta \geq 2C + 1$, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\lambda_n \leq x} 1 &\leq x^\eta \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_n^\eta} \leq x^\eta \left(1 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \mu_n^{-\eta} \right)^{-1} \\ &\leq x^\eta \left\{ 1 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{n-1}{C} \right)^{-\eta} \right\}^{-1} \\ &\leq x^\eta \left\{ 1 - \int_0^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{u}{C} \right)^{-\eta} du \right\}^{-1} = x^\eta \left(1 - C \int_0^{\infty} \frac{du}{(1+u)^\eta} \right)^{-1} \\ &= x^\eta \left(1 - \frac{C}{\eta-1} \right)^{-1} \leq 2x^\eta. \end{aligned}$$

Hence in (1) the condition $\lambda_n \leq H^\delta$ is equivalent to a condition of the type $n \leq H^\delta$ with a different constant $\delta > 0$.

2. Main lemma

Let r be a positive integer, $H \geq (r + 5)U$ where $U \geq 2^{70}(16B)^2$ and M and N are positive integers subject to $N > M \geq 1$, and $B (\geq 3)$ an integer constant. Let $\{b_m\}$ ($1 \leq m \leq M$) and $\{c_n\}$ ($n \geq N$) be two sequences of complex numbers, $1 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$ be any increasing sequence of real numbers and let $A(s) = \sum_{m \leq M} b_m \lambda_m^{-s}$. Let $B(s) = \sum_{n \geq N} c_n \lambda_n^{-s}$ be absolutely convergent for $s = B$ and continuable analytically in $(\sigma \geq 0, 0 \leq t \leq H)$. Write $g(s) = A(-s)B(s)$,

$$G(s) = U^{-r} \int_0^U du_r \dots \int_0^U du_1 (g(s + i\lambda))$$

where (here and elsewhere) $\lambda = u_1 + \dots + u_r$. Assume that there exist real numbers T_1 and T_2 with $0 \leq T_1 \leq U, H - U \leq T_2 \leq H$, such that

$$|g(\sigma + iT_1)| + |g(\sigma + iT_2)| \leq \exp \exp \left(\frac{U}{16B} \right).$$

uniformly in $0 \leq \sigma \leq B$. Let

$$S_1 = \sum_{m \leq M, n \geq N} |b_m c_n| \left(\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_n} \right)^B 2^r \left(U \log \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_m} \right)^{-r}$$

and

$$S_2 = \sum_{m \leq M, n \geq N} |b_m c_n| \left(\frac{\lambda_m}{\lambda_n} \right)^B.$$

Then, we have,

$$\left| \int_{2U}^{H-(r+3)U} G(it) dt \right| \leq 2B^2 U^{-10} + 54BU^{-1} \int_0^H |g(it)| dt + (H + 64B^2)S_1 + 16B^2 S_2 \exp \left(-\frac{U}{8B} \right)$$

Remark. This lemma is borrowed from [1] (see pages 2 to 8).

3. Progress towards the conjecture

From now on we assume that $1 = a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$ is any sequence of complex numbers. We set $b_m = a_m$ and $c_n = a_n$ and assume that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B}$ is convergent.

Lemma 1. We have, with $\bar{A}(s) = \sum_{m \leq M} a_m \lambda_m^{-s}$,

$$\int_{2U}^{H-(r+3)U} |\bar{A}(it)|^2 dt \geq (H - (r + 5)U - 10\lambda_M \Delta(\lambda_M)) \sum_{m \leq M} |a_m|^2,$$

where $\Delta(\lambda_M) = \max_{\substack{\mu \neq \nu \\ 1 \leq \mu, \nu \leq M}} |\lambda_\mu - \lambda_\nu|^{-1}$.

Proof. Follows from Montgomery-Vaughan Theorem (see [3]).

Lemma 2. We have,

$$S_2 \leq \lambda_M^{2B} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B} \right)^2$$

and

$$S_1 \leq 2^r \lambda_M^{2B} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B} \right)^{-2} (U \lambda_N^{-1} (\lambda_N - \lambda_M))^{-r}.$$

Proof. The first inequality is trivial and the second follows from

$$\log \frac{\lambda_N}{\lambda_M} = -\log \left(1 - \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_N} \right) \right) > \frac{\lambda_N - \lambda_M}{\lambda_N}.$$

We now make the following.

Hypothesis. $\{\lambda_n\}$ is any increasing sequence of real numbers satisfying $\lambda_1 = 1$, $\lambda_n \leq Dn$, $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \geq \lambda_{n+1}^{-\alpha} D^{-1}$, where $D (\geq 1)$ is an integer constant and α a positive constant. Also we assume that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B} \leq H^{re/8}$$

where $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1/[2(\alpha + 1)]$ and $r \geq [(200B + 200)\varepsilon^{-1}]$ is any integer. Also $F(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \lambda_n^{-s}$ shall be as in the introduction except that the $\{\lambda_n\}$ are not related to the $\{\mu_n\}$. $\{\lambda_n\}$ will now be an independent sequence.

From now on we set $N = M + 1$, $M = [H^{(1/(\alpha+1)-\varepsilon)}]$, $U = H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)} + 50B \log \log K_1$ where $K_1 = H^r K$. Note that if $H \geq (r + 5)U$ is not satisfied, our main theorem (to follow) asserts that a positive quantity is non-negative. Also note that

$$\min_{0 \leq t \leq H^{3/4}} \max_{\sigma \geq 0} |F(\sigma + it)|$$

$$\geq \min_{0 \leq t \leq U} \max_{\sigma \geq 0} |F(\sigma + it)|$$

and a similar result holds for the intervals $(H - H^{3/4}, H)$ and $(H - U, H)$.

Lemma 3. We have,

$$S_2 \leq (DH)^{2B} H^{re/4}, S_1 \leq 2^r (DH)^{2B} H^{re/4} ((2D)^{-\alpha-2} H^{\varepsilon/2})^{-r}$$

and

$$\lambda_M \Delta(\lambda_M) \leq D^{\alpha+2} H^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

Proof. We have $\lambda_M \leq DM \leq DH$ and this proves the first inequality. Also

$$\begin{aligned} U \lambda_N^{-1} (\lambda_N - \lambda_M) &\geq H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)} \lambda_N^{-1-\alpha} D^{-1} \geq H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)} D^{-1} (DN)^{-1-\alpha} \\ &\geq H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)} (2DM)^{-1-\alpha} D^{-1} \geq H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)} (2D)^{-\alpha-2} H^{-1+\varepsilon}, \end{aligned}$$

and this proves the second inequality. The third follows from

$$\lambda_M \Delta(\lambda_M) \leq \lambda_M D \lambda_M^\alpha \leq D^{\alpha+2} M^{1+\alpha} \leq D^{\alpha+2} H^{1-\varepsilon}.$$

The lemma is completely proved.

Now we apply the main lemma (we closely follow the proof of the first main theorem in [1]). Let

$$A(s) = \sum_{m \leq M} \bar{a}_m \lambda_m^{-s}, \quad \bar{A}(s) = \sum_{m \leq M} a_m \lambda_m^{-s}$$

and

$$B(s) = \sum_{n \geq N} a_n \lambda_n^{-s}.$$

Then, we have, in $\sigma \geq B$, $F(s) = \bar{A}(s) + B(s)$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} |F(it)|^2 &= |\bar{A}(it)|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re}(g(it)) + |B(it)|^2 \\ &\geq |\bar{A}(it)|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re}(g(it)), \end{aligned}$$

where $g(s) = A(-s)B(s)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \\ &\geq U^{-r} \int_0^U du_r \dots \int_0^U du_1 \int_{2U+\lambda}^{H-(r+3)U+\lambda} (|\bar{A}(it)|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re} g(it)) dt \\ &= J_1 + 2J_2 \text{ say.} \end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 1 and 3, we have,

$$J_1 \geq (H - (r+5)U - 10D^{\alpha+2} H^{1-\varepsilon}) \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2.$$

Again, we have, for $0 \leq \sigma \leq B$,

$$\begin{aligned} |g(s)| &= |A(-s)B(s)| = |A(-s)(F(s) - A(s))| \\ &\leq \left(\sum_{n \leq M} |a_n| \lambda_n^B \right) K + \left(\sum_{n \leq M} |a_n| \lambda_n^B \right)^2 \\ &\leq \lambda_M^{2B} H^{r\varepsilon/8} K + \lambda_M^{4B} H^{r\varepsilon/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |g(s)|_{t=T_1} + |g(s)|_{t=T_2} &\leq 2K \lambda_M^{4B} H^{r\varepsilon/4} (H^{-r\varepsilon/8} \lambda_M^{-2B} + K^{-1}) \\ &\leq K(DH)^{4B} H^{r\varepsilon/4} \leq H^r K = K_1, \end{aligned}$$

the last two inequalities being true for instance if $H \geq 10D$. Observe that

$$\operatorname{expexp} \left(\frac{U}{16B} \right) \geq \operatorname{expexp} \left(\frac{50}{16} \log \log K_1 \right) \geq K_1$$

and hence the condition on g and U required by the main lemma is satisfied. Hence by the main lemma, we have,

$$|J_2| \leq \frac{2B^2}{U^{10}} + \frac{54B}{U} \int_0^H |g(it)| dt + (H + 64B^2)S_1 + 16B^2 S_2 \exp\left(-\frac{U}{8B}\right)$$

provided $H \geq (r+5)U$ and $U \geq 2^{70}(16B)^2$. As remarked already we can ignore the condition $H \geq (r+5)U$. Also we will satisfy $H \geq (50rBD^{B+\alpha+2})^{8/\varepsilon}$ and we will show later that this implies $U \geq 2^{70}(16B)^2$. We can assume that $\int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \leq H \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2$ (otherwise the result asserted by the main theorem to follow, is trivially true). Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^H |g(it)| dt &= \int_0^H |A(-it)B(it)| dt \\ &\leq \int_0^H |A(-it)|^2 dt + \int_0^H |B(it)|^2 dt \\ &\leq 3 \int_0^H |A(-it)|^2 dt + 2 \int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \\ &\text{(on noting that } B(it) = F(it) - \bar{A}(it)\text{)} \\ &\leq (5H + 10D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-\varepsilon}) \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2 \end{aligned}$$

by Montgomery–Vaughan Theorem and the third part of Lemma 3. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} 2|J_2| &\leq \frac{4B^2}{H^5} + \frac{108B}{H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)}} (5H + 10D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-\varepsilon}) \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2 \\ &\quad + (2H + 128B^2)S_1 + 32B^2 S_2 \exp\left(-\frac{U}{8B}\right) \\ &\leq \left\{ \frac{4B^2}{H^5} + \frac{108B}{H^{1-(\varepsilon/2)}} (5H + 10D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-\varepsilon}) + (2H + 128B^2)S_1 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 32B^2 S_2 \exp\left(-\frac{U}{8B}\right) \right\} \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \geq (H - S_3) \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2,$$

where $S_3 > 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &= (r+5)U + 10D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-\varepsilon} + \frac{4B^2}{H^5} + \frac{108B}{H^{1-\varepsilon/2}} (5H + 10^{\alpha+2}H^{1-\varepsilon}) \\ &\quad + (2H + 128B^2)2^r(DH)^{2B}(2D)^{r(\alpha+2)}H^{-r\varepsilon/4} \\ &\quad + 32B^2(DH)^{2B}H^{r\varepsilon/4}r^r(8B)^rH^{-r(2-\varepsilon)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we have used $\exp\left(-\frac{U}{8B}\right) \leq \frac{r^r(8B)^r}{U^r}$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \log \log K_1 &\leq \log \log (H^r K) \leq \log \log K + \log (r \log H) \\ &\leq \log \log K + \log r + \log H \end{aligned}$$

and that $\frac{1}{2}(\log H)^2 \leq H$ and so $\log H \leq 2H^{1/2}$ and so

$$\frac{\log H}{H^{1-\epsilon/4}} \leq \frac{2}{H^{(1/2)-(\epsilon/4)}} \leq 2H^{-1/4}.$$

Hence

$$(r+5)U \leq 100Br(\log \log K + \log r + \log H) + (r+5)H^{1-\epsilon/2}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &\leq 100Br \log \log K + r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-(\epsilon/4)} \left\{ \frac{100B \log H}{H^{1-(\epsilon/4)}} \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{(r+5)}{r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{10}{r(\log r)H^{3\epsilon/4}} + \frac{4B^2}{H^5} + \frac{108B(15D^{\alpha+2})H}{r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{2-(3\epsilon/4)}} \\ &\quad + \frac{130B^2H^2D^B H^{2B}(2D)^{r(\alpha+2)}H^{-r\epsilon/4}}{r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-(\epsilon/4)}} \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{32B^2(DH)^{2B}r(8B)^r H^{-r(1-\epsilon/4)}}{r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{1-(\epsilon/4)}} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Denote the expression in the last curly bracket by S_4 . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 &\leq \frac{200B}{H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{2r}{H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{10}{H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{4B^2}{H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{1620B}{H^{\epsilon/4}} + \frac{130B^2D^B H^{2B+1+1}}{H^{\epsilon/4}} \left(\frac{4D^{\alpha+2}}{H^{\epsilon/4}} \right)^r \\ &\quad + \frac{32B^2D^{2B}}{H^{\epsilon/4}} H^{2B+1} \left(\frac{8Br}{H^{1/2}} \right)^r. \end{aligned}$$

Let $H^{\epsilon/8} \geq 4D^{\alpha+2}$. We have $H^{r\epsilon/8} \geq H^{(200B+200)\epsilon^{-1}-1)\epsilon/8} \geq H^{2B+2}$. Let $H^{1/4} \geq 8Br$. We have $H^{r/4} \geq H^{2B+1}$. Now both $H^{\epsilon/8} \geq 4D^{\alpha+2}$ and $H^{1/4} \geq 8Br$ are satisfied if

$$H \geq (32BrD^{\alpha+2})^{8/\epsilon}.$$

Hence under this only condition, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 &\leq (200B + 2r + 10 + 4B^2 + 1620B + 130B^2D^B + 32B^2D^{2B})H^{-\epsilon/4} \\ &\leq rB^2D^{2B}H^{-\epsilon/4}(200 + 2 + 10 + 4 + 1620 + 130 + 32) \\ &\leq 2000rB^2D^{2B}H^{-\epsilon/4} \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

provided $H \geq (2000rB^2D^{2B})^{4/\epsilon}$. Now this last condition and $H \geq (32BrD^{\alpha+2})^{8/\epsilon}$ are both satisfied if $H \geq (50rBD^{B+\alpha+2})^{8/\epsilon}$. Finally $U > H^{1-\epsilon/2} \geq H^{3/4} \geq (50 \times 200B)^{(8/\epsilon)(3/4)} = (10,000B \cdot B)^{6/\epsilon} \geq 2^{13(6/\epsilon)}(16B)^2 (B^{24}/(16B)^2) \geq 2^{70}(16B)^2$ since $B \geq 3$. Collecting, we have proved the following

Main Theorem. Let $\{\lambda_n\} (n=1, 2, 3, \dots)$ with $\lambda_1 = 1$ be any increasing sequence of real numbers with the properties $\lambda_n \leq Dn$ and $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n > D^{-1}\lambda_{n+1}^{-\alpha}$ where $\alpha (> 0)$ is a constant and $D (\geq 1)$ is an integer constant. Let $\{a_n\} (n=1, 2, 3, \dots)$ with $a_1 = 1$ be any sequence

of complex numbers such that $F(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \lambda_n^{-s}$ is absolutely convergent at $s = B$, where $B (\geq 3)$ is an integer constant. Let $0 < \varepsilon < (2(1 + \alpha))^{-1}$ and let $r (\geq [(200B + 200)\varepsilon^{-1}])$ be any integer constant. Let

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \lambda_n^{-B} \leq H^{(r\varepsilon/8)}.$$

Assume that $F(s)$ possesses an analytic continuation in $(\sigma \geq 0, 0 \leq t \leq H)$ and that there exist T_1, T_2 with $0 \leq T_1 \leq H^{3/4}, H - H^{3/4} \leq T_2 \leq H$ such that for some $K (\geq 30)$ there holds

$$|F(\sigma + iT_1)| + |F(\sigma + iT_2)| \leq K$$

uniformly in $0 \leq \sigma \leq B$. Let

$$H \geq (50rBD^{B+\alpha+2})^{8/\varepsilon}.$$

Then, there holds,

$$\frac{1}{H} \int_0^H |F(it)|^2 dt \geq (1 - \phi) \sum_{n \leq M} |a_n|^2,$$

where

$$M = H^\theta, \quad \theta = \frac{1}{1 + \alpha} - \varepsilon,$$

and

$$\phi = r(\log r)D^{\alpha+2}H^{-\varepsilon/4} + 100H^{-1}Br \log \log K.$$

In view of the two closing remarks at the end of § 1 we can now deduce some corollaries.

COROLLARY 1.

Let $\mu_n = n$. Then the conjecture is true.

Proof. We can take $C = 1, \alpha = \varepsilon$ and $D = 1$.

COROLLARY 2.

Let $n_0 (\geq 2)$ be an integer constant and $\mu_n = (n_0 + n - 1)/n_0$. Then the conjecture is true.

Proof. First, since $\{\mu_n\}$ is a subsequence of $\{\lambda_n\}$ it follows that $\lambda_n \leq \mu_n \leq n$. To apply the main theorem we have to verify that $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \geq D^{-1} \lambda_{n+1}^{-\alpha}$ holds with some constant $\alpha > 0$ and $D (\geq 1)$ an integer constant. To prove this we observe that we can assume that $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \leq 1$. In this case

$$\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n = \frac{m_1 \dots m_k}{n_0^k} - \frac{n_1 \dots n_l}{n_0^l} \geq n_0^{-j}$$

where $j = \max(k, l)$. Now $(1 + (1/n_0))^k \leq \lambda_{n+1}$ and $(1 + (1/n_0))^l \leq \lambda_n$ and so $j = \max(k, l) \leq (\log \lambda_{n+1}) (\log ((n_0 + 1)/n_0))^{-1}$. But $\log (n_0 + 1)/n_0 = -\log(1 - (1/n_0 + 1)) > 1/(n_0 + 1)$.

Thus $j \leq (n_0 + 1)(\log \lambda_{n+1})$ and so

$$n_0^{-j} \geq \lambda_{n+1}^{-\alpha} \text{ where } \alpha = (n_0 + 1)\log n_0.$$

Plainly we can take $D = 1$.

COROLLARY 3.

Let $\beta > 0$ be an algebraic constant and $\mu_n = (n + \beta)/(1 + \beta)$. Then the conjecture is true. (The conjecture is also true for the choice $\mu_1 = 1$, $\mu_n = n + \beta - 1$ for $n > 1$).

Proof. As before $\lambda_n \leq \mu_n \leq (n\beta + 2n)(\beta + 1)^{-1}$. Also considering the norm of $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n$ (in case it is $\neq 0$) we can prove that $\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \geq D\lambda_{n+1}^{-\alpha}$. The latter assertion follows similarly.

Post-script. The results of this paper were necessitated by a lot of applications to the zeros of generalized Dirichlet series. All these applications will form the subject matter of our forthcoming paper "On the zeros of a class of generalized Dirichlet series-XI".

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