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

$$E\left(s, \frac{r}{b}, \alpha\right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\sigma_0(n) \exp \left(\frac{2\pi i n r}{b}\right)}{n^s} ,$$

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where $\text{Re } s > \text{Re } \alpha + 1$, $b \geq 1$, $(r,b) = 1$ 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 $E(s, \frac{r}{b}, \alpha)$ at $s = 0$:

Let $b \geq 2$, $1 \leq r \leq b$, $(r,b) = 1$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. Then, for even $\alpha$, 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 $\{u\} = u - \lfloor u \rfloor$, $u \in \mathbb{R}$.

It can be shown that
\[
V\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) = -c_0\left(\frac{r}{b}\right),
\]
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]):

\[
\lim_{N \to +\infty} \inf_{D_N} \frac{1}{D_N} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) - \frac{b}{2\pi} \log\left(\frac{\pi mr}{b}\right) \right|^2 \frac{dt}{4 + t^2} = \log 2\pi - \gamma \left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{b}\right) + \frac{b - r}{2rb} \log \frac{r}{b} - \frac{\pi}{2rb} \left( V\left(\frac{r}{b}\right) + V\left(\frac{b}{r}\right) \right).
\]

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
\[
\lim_{N \to +\infty} D_N = 0,
\]
where
\[
d_N^2 = \inf_{D_N} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| 1 - \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) D_N\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|^2 \frac{dt}{4 + t^2}.
\]
and the infimum is taken over all Dirichlet polynomials

\[ D_N(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} a_n n^{-s}. \]

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

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

and could show that

\[ \frac{1}{\phi(b)} \sum_{(r,b) = 1 \atop A_0 b < r \leq A_1 b} c_0 \left( \frac{r}{b} \right)^{2k} = H_b b^{2k} (1 + o(1)), \quad (b \to +\infty), \]

where

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

\[ g(x) := \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{1 - 2[lt]}{l} . \]

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 $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\text{Re}(s) > 1$ we set

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

Lemma 2.5. Let $(a_0; a_1, a_2, \ldots)$ 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

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

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

If $x = (a_0; a_1, a_2, \ldots)$ 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 $\psi$ is an analytic function satisfying

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

Lemma 2.6.

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

where $r \bar{r} \equiv 1 (\text{mod } b)$.

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

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

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
\begin{align}
|K(n, m, b)| & \leq \tau(b)(n, m, b)^{1/2}b^{1/2}, \\
|K(0, m, b)| & \leq (m, b).
\end{align}

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

Definition 2.9. Let \( \Delta \) be as in Definition 1.1 and \( \Omega > 0 \). We set
\[ N(b, \Delta, \Omega) := \#\{ r : A_0 b \leq r < (A_0 + \Delta)b, \ |r| \leq \Omega b \}. \]

Let the functions \( \chi_1, \chi_2 \) 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
\[ a(n) = \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta \left( \int_{A_0}^{A_0 + \Delta - v} e(-nu)du \right) dv \]
\[ = \Delta^{-1} \int_0^\Delta - \frac{1}{2\pi in} (e(-n(A_0 + \Delta - v)) - e(-nA_0)) dv \]
\[ = -\Delta^{-1} \frac{1}{2\pi in} \left( e(-nA_0) (1 - e(-n\Delta)) - e(-nA_0) \right). \]
\qed
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
\[ c(0) = \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \left( \int_{\Omega^{-1} v}^{\Omega v} 1 \, du \right) dv = \Omega \]
and
\[ c(n) = \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \left( \int_{-\Omega^{-1} v}^{-\Omega v} e(-nu) du \right) dv \\
= \Omega^{-1} \int_0^\Omega \frac{1}{2\pi in} (e(-n(\Omega - v)) - e(-n(-\Omega + v)) \, dv \\
= -\Omega^{-1} \frac{1}{4\pi n^2} (2 - e(n\Omega) - e(-n\Omega)). \]
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 \( |n| > \Omega^{-1}. \)

Lemma 2.13. Let \( \epsilon > 0 \) be such that
\[ D + \epsilon < \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}. \]
Set
\[ \Omega := b^{-(D+\epsilon)}. \]
Then
\[ N(b, \Delta, \Omega) > 0 \]
for \( b \) sufficiently large.
Proof. By Definitions 2.9, 2.11 we have
\[ N(b, \Delta, \Omega) \geq \phi(b)a(0)c(0) + \sum_{m,n=1 \atop (m,n) \neq (0,0)}^{+\infty} a(m)c(n)K(n,m,b). \]
The result follows from Lemmas 2.10 and 2.12.

Lemma 2.14. Let \( \varepsilon > 0 \), \( B \geq B(\varepsilon) \), \( B < b \leq 2B \). For \( 1 \leq r < b \), \( (r,b) = 1 \), let
\[ \frac{r}{b} = (0; w_1, \ldots, w_s) \]
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
\[ \frac{1}{v_1} \left( \frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \geq \log \log b \]
and at most one value of \( l \), for which
\[ \frac{1}{v_1} \left( \frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \geq \varepsilon \log b. \]

Proof. Let \( l_i \) (\( i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \)) be such that
\[ \frac{1}{v_{l_i}} \left( \frac{v_{l_i-1}}{v_{l_i}} \right) \geq \log \log b. \]
Then we have
\[ v_{l_1} \geq \log \log b, \quad v_{l_2} \geq \exp(v_{l_1}) \geq \log b, \quad v_{l_3} \geq \exp(v_{l_2}) \geq b, \quad v_{l_4} \geq \exp(v_{l_3}) \geq \exp(b), \]
in contradiction to \( v_s \leq b \).
In the same manner we obtain from \( v_{l_j} \geq \varepsilon \log b, \; j = 1, 2 \): \[ v_s \geq \exp(\exp((\log b)^4)) > b. \]

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

Let $(u_i/v_i)_{i=1}^s$ be the sequence of partial fractions of $r/b$. 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
\[
\sum_{l>1} \left( \frac{1}{\pi v_l} + \psi \left( \frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \right) < 2\varepsilon \log b, \text{ for } b \geq b_0(\varepsilon).
\]
Therefore,
\[
\left| D_{\sin} \left( 0, \frac{r}{b} \right) \right| \geq \frac{1}{\pi} \log(\Omega^{-1}(1 + o(1))) \text{ (} b \to +\infty). \]
This proves Theorem 1.2.

\section{4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.3}

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

\begin{definition}
For $A_0b < r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b$ let
\[
\frac{\bar{r}}{b} = (0; z_1, \ldots, z_w)
\]
be the continued fraction expansion of $\bar{r}/b$.
By Lemma 2.14 there is at most one value of $l$ for which
\[
\frac{1}{v_l} \psi \left( \frac{v_{l-1}}{v_l} \right) \geq \varepsilon \log b.
\]
In case of the existence of $l$, let
\[
\frac{u_{l-1}}{v_{l-1}} := (0; z_1, \ldots, z_{l-1}).
\]
We write
\[
u_{l-1}(r, b) = u_{l-1}
\]
and
\[ v_{l-1}(r, b) = v_{l-1}. \]

For \( s, t \) with \( 1 \leq s, t \leq \mathbb{Z} \), \( (s, t) = 1 \) we write:
\[
D(s, t, l) := \left\{ (r, b) : B \leq b < 2B, \, A_0b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \, \frac{u_{l-1}(r, b)}{v_{l-1}(r, b)} = \frac{s}{t} \right\}.
\]

For fixed \( \theta \) with \( 0 < \theta < 1 \), let
\[
E(s, t, l) := \left\{ (r, b) : B \leq b < 2B, \, A_0b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \, \frac{u_{l-1}(r, b)}{v_{l-1}(r, b)} = \frac{s}{t}, \, \left| \frac{\bar{r}}{b} - \frac{s}{t} \right| \leq \theta \right\}.
\]

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
\[
|A_0^{-1} - \frac{C_0}{D_0}| \leq \frac{1}{D_0 B^2}.
\]

We have
\[
\sum_{B \leq b < 2B} N(b, \Delta, \Omega) \leq \sum_{1 \leq s, t \leq \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{l \leq 2^2} |E(s, t, l)| \leq \sum_{1 \leq s, t \leq \mathbb{Z}} |F(s, t)|,
\]
where
\[
F(s, t) = \left\{ (b, r, \bar{r}) : B \leq b < 2B, \, A_0b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b, \, \left| \frac{\bar{r}}{b} - \frac{s}{t} \right| \leq \theta, \, r \bar{r} \equiv 1 \pmod{b} \right\}.
\]

We now estimate the cardinality of the set \( F(s, t) \).

From \( A_0b \leq r \leq (A_0 + \Delta)b \) and (4.1) we obtain
\[
b = \frac{C_0}{D_0} r + \frac{u}{D_0},
\]
where \( u \in \mathbb{Z} \)
\[
|u| \leq 4B^{1-C} D_0\]
and
\[
u \equiv -C_0 r \pmod{D_0}.
\]

The number \( U(r, C_0, D_0) \) of \( u \) with (4.4), (4.5) satisfies
\[
|U(r, C_0, D_0)| \ll B^{1-C}.
\]

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

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

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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