

# Normal numbers in generalized number systems in Euclidean spaces

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*Dedicated to Professor Antal Iványi on the occasion of his 75-th birthday*

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## Abstract

We introduce the notion of normal numbers for generalized number systems in Euclidean spaces and then explore the relevance of certain conjectures to normality.

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## 1 Generalized number systems in Euclidean spaces

Given a positive integer  $k$ , let  $\mathbb{R}_k$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  stand respectively for the  $k$ -dimensional real Euclidean space and the ring of  $k$ -dimensional vectors with integer entries. Fix  $k$  and let  $M$  be a  $k \times k$  matrix with integer elements. Assume that  $M$  has  $k$  distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$  such that  $|\lambda_1| > |\lambda_2| > \dots > |\lambda_k| > 1$ . Let  $\mathcal{L} := M\mathbb{Z}_k$ . Then,  $\mathcal{L}$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  and let  $t$  stand for the order of  $\mathbb{Z}_k/\mathcal{L}$ , so that  $t = |\det M|$ . Further let  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{t-1}$  stand for the residue classes mod  $\mathcal{L}$  and let  $A_0 = \mathcal{L}$ . For each  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\}$ , choose an arbitrary element  $\underline{a}_j \in A_j$  such that the vector  $\underline{a}_0$  is the zero vector  $\underline{0} = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$ , and then write

$$\mathcal{A} := \{\underline{a}_0, \underline{a}_1, \dots, \underline{a}_{t-1}\}.$$

If the norm  $\|\underline{n}\|$  of  $\underline{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$  is  $\|\underline{n}\| = \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} |n_i|$  or  $\|\underline{n}\| = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} |n_i|$ , then the operator norm  $\|\cdot\|$  of  $M^{-1}$  is  $1/|\lambda_k|$  while that of  $M$  is  $|\lambda_1|$ .

Let us now introduce the function  $J : \mathbb{Z}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_k$  as follows. Since for each  $\underline{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_k$ , there exist a unique  $\underline{b}_0 \in \mathcal{A}$  for which  $\underline{n} - \underline{b}_0 \in \mathcal{L}$  and a unique  $\underline{n}_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  for which  $\underline{n} = \underline{b}_0 + M\underline{n}_1$ , that is,  $\underline{n}_1 = M^{-1}(\underline{n} - \underline{b}_0)$ , we define  $J : \mathbb{Z}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_k$  by  $J(\underline{n}) = \underline{n}_1$ .

We further define the real numbers  $K$ ,  $\xi$  and  $L$  by

$$K = \max_{\underline{b} \in \mathcal{A}} \|\underline{b}\|, \quad \xi = \frac{1}{\min_{1 \leq j \leq k} |\lambda_j|} = |M^{-1}|, \quad L = \frac{K\xi}{1 - \xi}.$$

In [3], the following result was proved.

**Lemma 1.** (a) If  $\|\underline{n}\| > L$ , then  $\|J(\underline{n})\| < \|\underline{n}\|$ .

(b) If  $\|\underline{n}\| \leq L$ , then  $\|J(\underline{n})\| \leq L$ .

Since the disks contain only a finite number of elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ , it follows that the path

$$\underline{n}, \quad J(\underline{n}), \quad J^2(\underline{n}), \quad \dots$$

is ultimately periodic.

Now, let  $\mathcal{P}$  stand for the set of periodic elements. Then,  $\underline{n} \in \mathcal{P}$  if there is an integer  $j \geq 1$  such that  $J^j(\underline{n}) = \underline{n}$ . The directed graph (over  $\mathcal{P}$ ) is defined by  $\underline{n} \rightarrow J(\underline{n})$  ( $\underline{n} \in \mathcal{P}$ ). It is clear that  $\underline{n} \in \mathcal{P}$  implies that  $J(\underline{n}) \in \mathcal{P}$  and that the directed graph  $J\mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ , which we denote by  $G(\mathcal{P})$ , is the union of disjoint directed circles (allowing for loops). Moreover,  $\underline{0} (\rightarrow \underline{0}) \in \mathcal{P}$ , and if  $\pi \in \mathcal{P}$ , then  $\|\pi\| \leq L$ .

Now, for each  $\underline{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  and integer  $h \geq 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{n} &= \underline{b}_0 + M \underline{b}_1 + \dots + M^{h-1} \underline{b}_{h-1} + M^h \underline{n}_h, \\ \underline{n}_h &= J^h(\underline{n}_0), \quad \underline{b}_\nu \in \mathcal{A}. \end{aligned}$$

Further define

$$\ell(\underline{n}) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \underline{n} \in \mathcal{P}, \\ h & \text{if } \underline{n} \notin \mathcal{P}, \end{cases}$$

where  $h$  is the smallest integer for which  $\underline{n}_h \in \mathcal{P}$ . For this reason, we will say and write that the standard expansion of  $\underline{n}$  is  $(\underline{b}_0, \underline{b}_1, \dots, \underline{b}_{h-1} | \pi)$ , where  $\pi = \underline{n}_h$ . In the special case where  $\underline{n} = \pi \in \mathcal{P}$ , the expansion is written as  $(* | \pi)$ .

We say that  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a *number system* (written for short as NS) in  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  if each  $\underline{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  can be written as

$$\underline{n} = \underline{b}_0 + M \underline{b}_1 + \dots + M^{h-1} \underline{b}_{h-1}.$$

In other words,  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a number system in  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  if and only if  $\mathcal{P} = \{\underline{0}\}$ .

Let  $H$  be the set of those  $\underline{z} \in \mathbb{R}_k$  which can be expanded as

$$\underline{z} = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} M^{-\nu} \underline{b}_\nu, \quad \underline{b}_\nu \in \mathcal{A}.$$

The set  $H$  is called the *fundamental region* with respect to  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$ .

For each integer  $h \geq 0$ , let

$$\Gamma_h := \left\{ \underline{n} : \underline{n} = \sum_{j=0}^h M^j \underline{b}_j, \quad \underline{b}_j \in \mathcal{A} \right\},$$

so that in particular  $\Gamma_h \subseteq \Gamma_{h+1}$ . Letting  $\Gamma = \bigcup_{h=0}^{\infty} \Gamma_h$ , we have that  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_k$  and one can easily see that  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_k$  if and only if  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a number system.

Since we can write the fundamental region  $H$  as

$$H = \bigcup_{\underline{a} \in \mathcal{A}} (M^{-1} \underline{a} + M^{-1} H),$$

it is easily seen that  $H$  is a compact set.

The following result was proved in [3].

**Theorem A.** Let  $\lambda$  stand for the Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{R}_k$ .

(a) We have  $\bigcup_{\underline{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_k} (H + \underline{n}) = \mathbb{R}_k$ .

(b) If  $\underline{n}_1, \underline{n}_2 \in \Gamma$ ,  $\underline{n}_1 \neq \underline{n}_2$ , then

$$\lambda(H + \underline{n}_1 \cap H + \underline{n}_2) = 0.$$

(c) If  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_k$ , that is if  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a number system, then

$$\lambda(H + \underline{n}_1 \cap H + \underline{n}_2) = 0$$

for every  $\underline{n}_1, \underline{n}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  with  $\underline{n}_1 \neq \underline{n}_2$ .

## 2 Just touching covering system

We now introduce the concept of just touching covering system. We say that  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a *just touching covering system* (for short JTCS) if  $\lambda(H + \underline{n}_1 \cap H + \underline{n}_2) = 0$  for every  $\underline{n}_1, \underline{n}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  with  $\underline{n}_1 \neq \underline{n}_2$ .

Interestingly, if  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a JTCS, then

$$\lambda(M^{-h}\underline{n}_1 + M^{-h}H \cap M^{-h}\underline{n}_2 + M^{-h}H) = 0$$

for every  $\underline{n}_1, \underline{n}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  with  $\underline{n}_1 \neq \underline{n}_2$ .

The next two results reveal interesting properties regarding JTCS.

**Theorem B.** ([4]) *The number system  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  is a JTCS if  $\Gamma - \Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_k$ , that is if every  $\underline{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_k$  can be written as  $\underline{n}_1 - \underline{n}_2$ , where  $\underline{n}_1, \underline{n}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_k$ .*

**Theorem C.** ([6]) *Given  $D \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ , let  $A = \{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{|D|-1}\}$  (where  $a_0 = 0$ ) be a complete residue system mod  $D$ . Then,  $(\mathcal{A}, D)$  is a JTCS if and only if  $\gcd(a_1, \dots, a_{|D|-1}) = 1$ .*

Let  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  be a JTCS and let

$$\xi = \sum_{\ell=-r}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{c}_\ell \quad (\underline{c}_\ell \in \mathcal{A}).$$

We write the “integer part” and “fractional part” of  $\xi$  as follows:

$$[\xi] = \sum_{\ell=-r}^0 M^{-\ell} \underline{c}_\ell \quad (\in \mathbb{Z}_k),$$

$$\{\xi\} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{c}_\ell \quad (\in H).$$

Observe that it is clear that

$$\{M^u \xi\} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{c}_{u+\ell} \quad (\in H).$$

Moreover, letting  $\beta = \underline{b}_1 \underline{b}_2 \dots \underline{b}_k$ , let us define

$$H_\beta := \left\{ \eta : \eta = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{c}_\ell : \underline{c}_\ell = \underline{b}_\ell \text{ for } \ell = 1, 2, \dots, k \right\}.$$

It is clear that, for a fixed  $k$ , any two  $H_{\beta_1}$  and  $H_{\beta_2}$  will be isomorphic since

$$H = \sum_{\ell=1}^k M^{-\ell} \underline{b}_\ell + M^{-k} H$$

and

$$(i) \quad H = \bigcup_{\beta \in A^k} H_\beta,$$

$$(ii) \quad \lambda(H_{\beta_1} \cap H_{\beta_2}) = 0,$$

$$(iii) \quad \lambda(H_{\beta_1}) = \lambda(H_{\beta_2}),$$

$$(iv) \quad \lambda(H_\beta) t^k = \lambda(H).$$

### 3 Normal sequences and normal numbers in $\mathbb{R}$

Let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_N\}$  be a finite set of letters. Let  $A^*$  be the set of finite words over  $A$ . Given a word  $\alpha \in A^*$ , we write  $\lambda(\alpha)$  to denote its length (that is, the number of letters in the word  $\alpha$ ). We let  $\Lambda$  stand for the empty word and write  $\lambda(\Lambda) = 0$ . The operation  $(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow \alpha\beta$  is called *concatenation*. The expression  $A^{\mathbb{N}}$  stands for the set of infinite sequences over  $A$ , that is,  $\beta \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  if it can be written as  $\beta = b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots$ , where each  $b_i \in A$ . Moreover, given  $\beta \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$  and a positive integer  $T$ , we set  $\beta^T := b_1 b_2 \dots b_T$ . Given  $\gamma, \delta \in A^*$ , we let  $S(\delta|\gamma)$  stand for  $\#\{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \in A^* : \gamma = \epsilon_1 \delta \epsilon_2\}$ , that is, the number of occurrences of  $\delta$  as a subword in  $\gamma$ .

**Definition.** Let  $\beta \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$ . We say that  $\beta$  is a *normal sequence* (over  $A$ ) if

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{S(\alpha|\beta^T)}{T} = \frac{1}{N^{\lambda(\alpha)}}$$

for every  $\alpha \in A^*$ .

## 4 Normal sequences and normal numbers in $\mathbb{R}_k$

**Definition.** Let  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  be a number system and let  $\eta = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{b}_\ell$ , with each  $\underline{b}_\ell \in \mathcal{A}$ . We say that  $\eta$  is a *normal number in  $\mathbb{R}_k$*  with respect to  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  if, for every  $\beta \in A^*$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \#\{n \leq N : \{M^n \eta\} \in H_\beta\} = \frac{1}{t^{\lambda(\beta)}},$$

where  $t = |\det M|$ .

The following two assertions are obvious.

- (I)  $\eta$  is a normal number in  $\mathbb{R}_k$  with respect to  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  if and only if  $\beta = \underline{b}_1 \underline{b}_2 \dots$  is a normal sequence over  $A$ .
- (II) Let  $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ ,  $D = \{d_1, \dots, d_k\}$ ,  $\varphi : E \rightarrow D$  defined by  $\varphi(e_j) = d_j$ ,  $\beta = b_1 b_2 \dots \in E^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\varphi(\beta) = \varphi(b_1) \varphi(b_2) \dots \in D^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Then,  $\beta$  is a normal sequence in  $E^{\mathbb{N}}$  if and only if  $\varphi(\beta)$  is a normal sequence in  $D^{\mathbb{N}}$ .

In light of these assertions, one can easily prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$  be a JTCS with  $\mathcal{A} = \{\underline{a}_0 = \underline{0}, \underline{a}_1, \dots, \underline{a}_{t-1}\}$ , where  $t = |\det M|$ . Moreover, let  $E = \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\}$  and let  $\eta = 0.\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \dots$  be an arbitrary  $t$ -ary normal number. Then,  $\psi = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} M^{-\ell} \underline{a}_{\epsilon_\ell}$  is a normal number in  $\mathbb{R}_k$  with respect to  $(\mathcal{A}, M)$ .*

## 5 Construction of base $Q$ normal numbers

Fix an integer  $Q \geq 2$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_Q = \{0, 1, \dots, Q-1\}$  and let  $\mathcal{A}_Q^*$  stand for the set of words over  $\mathcal{A}_Q$ . For each integer  $N \geq 1$ , let  $J_N = [Q^{N-1}, Q^N - 1]$ . Given an integer  $n \in J_N$ , write it as  $n = \sum_{\nu=0}^{N-1} \epsilon_\nu(n) Q^\nu$  and define  $\bar{n} := \epsilon_1(n) \epsilon_1(n) \dots \epsilon_{N-1}(n) \in \mathcal{A}_Q^*$ . Finally, we let  $\lambda(\bar{n}) = N$  stand for the length of  $\bar{n}$ .

For each integer  $N \geq 3$ , consider a subset  $S_N$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, N-1\}$ , writing it as  $S_N = \{\ell_1^{(N)}, \dots, \ell_{r_N}^{(N)}\}$ , where the  $\ell_i^{(N)}$ 's are in increasing order. Assume that  $r_N \geq 1$  and that  $(r_1 + \dots + r_{N-1})/r_N \rightarrow \infty$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

To each prime  $p \in J_N$ , let us associate the number

$$\kappa(p) = \epsilon_{\ell_1^{(N)}}(p) \dots \epsilon_{\ell_{r_N}^{(N)}}(p).$$

Let  $p_1 < \dots < p_{\pi(J_N)}$  be all the primes included in  $J_N$ . Moreover, let  $\sigma_N$  be an arbitrary permutation of  $\{1, \dots, \pi(J_N)\}$ . Further define

$$\eta_N := \kappa(p_{\sigma_N(1)}) \dots \kappa(p_{\sigma_N(\pi(J_N))}).$$

Finally, consider the number

$$\alpha = 0.\eta_1 \eta_2 \dots$$

**Theorem 2.** *The number  $\alpha$  is a normal number in base  $Q$ .*

*Proof.* This is an easy consequence of an earlier result obtained by Harman and Kátai [8] and according to which, given integer  $r$  integers  $(1 \leq) j_1 < \dots < j_r (\leq N - 1)$ , setting

$$\Pi \left( J_N \left| \begin{array}{c} j_1, \dots, j_r \\ b_1, \dots, b_r \end{array} \right. \right) := \#\{p \in J_N : a_{j_\ell}(p) = b_{j_\ell} \text{ for } \ell = 1, \dots, r\},$$

we have

$$\max_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_r \leq N-1 \\ b_1, \dots, b_r}} \left| \frac{Q^r \Pi \left( J_N \left| \begin{array}{c} j_1, \dots, j_r \\ b_1, \dots, b_r \end{array} \right. \right)}{\pi(J_N)} - 1 \right| \rightarrow 0 \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

for every fixed integer  $r \geq 1$ . □

**Theorem 3.** *If  $S_N = \{1, \dots, N - 1\}$ , then Theorem 2 holds without the condition  $(r_1 + \dots + r_{N-1})/r_N \rightarrow \infty$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .*

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $\wp_N$  be the set of primes in  $J_N$ . Given a prime  $p \in J_N$ , write its  $Q$ -ary expansion as*

$$\bar{p} = \varepsilon_0(p)\varepsilon_1(p) \dots \varepsilon_{N-1}(p).$$

*Then, set*

$$\gamma_N = \text{Concat}(\bar{p} : p \in \wp_N).$$

*Fix an integer  $D \in \mathbb{N}$  and consider the real number*

$$\alpha = 0.\gamma_D\gamma_{2D} \dots = 0.a_1a_2 \dots,$$

*say. Further consider the number*

$$\alpha^{(\ell)} = 0.\text{Concat}(a_m : m \equiv \ell \pmod{D}) = 0.a_\ell a_{D+\ell} a_{2D+2\ell} \dots,$$

*say. Let  $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_h$  be a set of distinct residues mod  $D$  and consider the real number*

$$\delta = 0.\text{Concat}(a_m : m \equiv \ell \pmod{D} \text{ for some } \ell \in \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_h\}).$$

*Then the numbers  $\alpha, \alpha^{(\ell)}$  for each  $\ell = 0, 1, \dots, D - 1$ ,  $\delta$  for each  $\ell \in \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_h\}$ , are all  $Q$ -normal numbers.*

*Proof.* The proof can be obtained along the same lines as that of Theorem 2. □

## 6 The relevance of certain conjectures to normality

### 6.1 On the conjecture of Chowla and its generalisations

Let  $\Omega(1) = 0$  and, for each integer  $n \geq 2$ , let  $\Omega(n) := \sum_{p^a \parallel n} a$ . Then, the Liouville function  $\lambda$  is defined on positive integers  $n$  by  $\lambda(n) = (-1)^{\Omega(n)}$ . An old conjecture of Chowla states that, for any given positive integers  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k$ ,

$$(6.1) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \sum_{n \leq x} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + a_1) \cdots \lambda(n + a_k) = 0.$$

If the Chowla conjecture were true, then, given any predetermined vector  $(\delta_0, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_k)$ , where each  $\delta_j \in \{-1, 1\}$ , it would follow that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x : \lambda(n + j) = \delta_j \text{ for } j = 0, 1, \dots, k\} = \frac{1}{2^{k+1}},$$

in which case, by setting  $\epsilon_n = (\lambda(n) + 1)/2$ , it would also follow that the number

$$(6.2) \quad \alpha = 0.\epsilon_1\epsilon_2\dots$$

is a binary normal number.

Recently, Terence Tao [9] obtained an important result in this direction, namely by proving that, given any fixed positive integer  $a$ ,

$$(6.3) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log x} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{\lambda(n) \lambda(n + a)}{n} = 0.$$

From this, setting  $b_n = (\lambda(n) + 1)/2$  and

$$(6.4) \quad \gamma = 0.b_1b_2\dots,$$

it follows that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log x} \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ b_n = \epsilon_1, b_{n+1} = \epsilon_2}} \frac{1}{n} = \frac{1}{4}$$

for every choice of  $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \in \{0, 1\}^2$ .

If the Chowla conjecture is true (in the form given by (6.1)), one can prove that

$$(6.5) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log x} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{\lambda(n) \lambda(n + a_1) \cdots \lambda(n + a_k)}{n} = 0.$$

Perhaps (6.5) is easier to prove than the original conjecture (6.1).

In any event, from conjecture (6.5), it would follow that the real number  $\gamma$  (in (6.4)) is a binary normal number with “weight  $1/n$ ”, meaning that if for each positive

integer  $n$ , we set  $\gamma_n := 0.b_{n+1}b_{n+2}\dots$  and, for any given interval  $E = [a, b] \subseteq [0, 1)$ , we consider the characteristic function  $\chi_E(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in E, \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin E \end{cases}$  along with the

corresponding function  $S_N(E) = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{n} \chi_E(\gamma_n)$ , then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{S_N(E)}{\log N} = b - a,$$

namely the length of the interval  $E$ .

## 6.2 A conjecture of Elliott

The following conjecture was stated by Elliott [7] in 1994.

**Conjecture 1.** (Elliott) *Let  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  be multiplicative functions such that  $|g_j(n)| \leq 1$  for all integers  $n \geq 1$ , for each  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . Moreover, for each  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , let  $a_j \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $b_j \in \mathbb{Z}$  be such that  $a_r b_t - a_t b_r \neq 0$  when ever  $1 \leq r < t \leq k$ . Then, there exist constants  $A, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and a slowly oscillating function  $L(u)$  such that  $|L(u)| = 1$  for all  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ , such that, as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,*

$$s(x) := \frac{1}{x} \sum_{n \leq x} g_1(a_1 n + b_1) \cdots g_k(a_k n + b_k) = A x^{i\alpha} L(\log x) + o(1).$$

*If  $\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} |s(x)| = |A| > 0$ , then there are Dirichlet characters  $\chi_j$  and real numbers  $\tau_j$  for which the series*

$$\Re \left( \sum_p \frac{1 - g_j(p) \chi_j(p) p^{-i\tau_j}}{p} \right)$$

*converges.*

It is clear that the Chowla conjecture would follow from the Elliott conjecture. Another interesting consequence of Conjecture 1 is the following yet unproven result.

**Conjecture 2.** Let  $g$  be a multiplicative function such that  $|g(n)| = 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and assume that, for every  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$  and Dirichlet character  $\chi$ ,

$$\sum_p \frac{\Re(1 - g(p) \chi(p) p^{i\tau})}{p} = \infty.$$

Then, given arbitrary positive integers  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k$ ,

$$(6.6) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \sum_{n \leq x} g(n) g(n + a_1) \cdots g(n + a_k) = 0.$$



As a special case of Conjecture 2, one has the following. Fix an integer  $Q \geq 2$  and assume that  $g(n)^Q = 1$  for all integers  $n \geq 1$ . Hence the range of  $g(\mathbb{N})$  is  $\{\xi^\ell : \ell = 0, 1, \dots, Q-1\}$  for some root of unity  $\xi$ , namely  $\xi = e^{2\pi i/Q}$ . We can therefore write  $g(n)$  as  $g(n) = \xi^{\epsilon_n}$ , where each  $\epsilon_n \in \mathcal{A}_Q$ . With this set up, let us introduce the real number

$$(6.7) \quad \alpha = 0.\epsilon_1\epsilon_2\dots$$

If (6.6) were true, then this would imply that  $\alpha$  is a normal number in base  $Q$ .

Observe that the multiplicative function  $g$  could have been chosen differently. Here are some appropriate choices for  $Q$  and  $g$ :

- (I)  $Q = 2$  and  $g(n) = (-1)^{\Omega(n)}$ .
- (II)  $Q = 2$  and  $g(n) = (-1)^{\omega(n)}$ .
- (III)  $Q \geq 2$ ,  $\xi = e^{2\pi i\ell/Q}$  with  $(\ell, Q) = 1$  and then choose  $g(p) = \xi$  for each prime  $p$  and, for each  $k \geq 2$ , choose  $g(p^k)$  in an arbitrary way as long as  $|g(p^k)| = 1$ .
- (IV)  $Q \geq 2$ ,  $\xi = e^{2\pi i/Q}$  and then, if  $p \equiv \ell \pmod{K}$  for any given  $\ell$  and  $K$  with  $(\ell, K) = 1$  and  $(\ell, Q) = 1$ , choose  $g(p) = \xi^{\ell}$  for each prime  $p$ , and  $g(p) = 1$  if  $p \nmid K$ , while choosing  $g(p^k)$  in an arbitrary way for each  $k \geq 2$  as long as  $|g(p^k)| = 1$ .

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