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Sufficient and equivalent criteria for the Riemann Hypothesis*

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Abstract

The paper presents several new sufficient conditions, as well as new equivalent criteria for the classical Riemann Hypothesis. Noteworthy are also other statements and remarks about ζ to be found throughout the paper.

1 Introduction

It is well known that the Riemann zeta function $\zeta(s)$ is zero at $s = -2, -4, -6, \dots$, which are called the trivial zeros. The Riemann Hypothesis conjectures that all non-trivial zeros have real part equal to $1/2$. This conjecture inspired many mathematicians, so that a vast literature is nowadays available, and it has been also computationally verified for the first 10^{13} non trivial zeros, ordered by increasing positive imaginary part (see e.g [14]). Several authors also came up with sufficient and/or necessary conditions: for many of them, and at the same time to have a more general overview of the problem, we can refer the reader for example to [4], [5], [9] and the references therein. This work is mainly devoted to present new sufficient conditions and equivalent criteria.

An overview of the paper is the following. After recalling below some properties of the zeta function, we will state and prove in section 2 sufficient conditions for the Riemann Hypothesis while in section 3 we deal with equivalent criteria.

Analogues of some of these statements for generalized versions of the Riemann Hypothesis can be stated as well ([27]).

Throughout the paper we will make use of basic properties of the Riemann zeta function: we will summarize them below in order that also a non-specialist can follow the argument.

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We will refer later to them, when needed, by using numbers in round brackets. Some facts about the Γ function are also added .

- (1) It is known (see e.g. [1, chapter 13]) that there are no zeros of ζ on the real axis between 0 and 1 (see also [28]), nor on the half-planes $x \leq 0$ and $x \geq 1$. So what is still to be proved is that the only zeros in the critical strip, i.e in the strip $0 < \Re(s) < 1$, and outside of the real axis, are on the line $x = \frac{1}{2}$. The critical strip $0 < \Re(s) < 1$ will then be the only region of interest for the sequel, for example as far as analytical properties or convergence of sequences of functions are concerned.
- (2) The function $\Lambda(s) = \pi^{-\frac{s}{2}}\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})\zeta(s)$ is analytic in the whole complex plane apart from poles at 0 and 1. Furthermore $\Lambda(s) = \Lambda(1 - s)$ (see e.g [17]).
- (3) In the critical strip zeros of ζ are the same as zeros of Λ (Γ has no zeros). It follows from (2) that if s is a zero of ζ , then also $1 - s$ is a zero.
- (4) Since ζ is analytic in the critical strip, its zeros are isolated.
- (5) A representation for ζ in the strip is the following:

$$\zeta(s) = (1 - 2^{1-s})^{-1} \cdot \phi(s),$$

where $\phi(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^s}$ (see e.g. [18, section 10.2]). Again zeros of ζ in the strip are the same as those of ϕ .

- (6) $\overline{\zeta(s)} = \zeta(\bar{s})$.¹
- (7) From (3) and (6) it follows that zeros are symmetric both with respect to the critical line $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and with respect to the real axis.
- (8) By Euler-Maclaurin summation formula (see e.g [10, section 6.4]), if $s = \sigma + it$ belongs to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$ the following holds:

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} n^{-s} + \frac{N^{1-s}}{s-1} + \frac{1}{2}N^{-s} + O(N^{-\sigma-1});$$

Moreover, by the upper bound on the rest as expressed in [10], the constant implicit in the O -notation can be chosen to be the same for all s in any compact subset of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$.

Actually, if we consider a region $\sigma \geq \sigma_0 > 0$, we could even say that

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^N n^{-s} + \frac{N^{1-s}}{s-1} + O(N^{-\sigma})$$

holds uniformly, provided that $N > C|t|/2\pi$, where C is a given constant greater than 1 (see [31, Theorem 4.11]).

¹It follows easily, for example, by the representation in (5); or one can see it from the Schwarz reflection principle in complex analysis (for example [8]), since ζ is real on the real axis.

$$(9) \quad \overline{\Gamma(\bar{s})} = \Gamma(\bar{s})^2$$

(10) If $-1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1/2$, then $\left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})} \right| \leq |(1+s)/2|^{1/2-\sigma}$ ([23, Lemma 1] specialized with $q = 0$).

2 Sufficient conditions for the Riemann Hypothesis

Before stating our first sufficient condition, we recall a result of Selberg ([29], [16, section 2.1.11]) which says that

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in (0, T] : \forall k \in (\tau, \tau + \Phi(\tau)/\log \tau) \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ik\right) \neq 0 \right\} = 0,$$

where $\Phi(\tau)$ is any positive function which tends to ∞ as $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ and μ stands for Lebesgue measure.

This implies, by taking for example $\Phi(\tau) = \log \log \tau$, that, for any fixed η ,

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in (0, T] : \forall k \in (\tau, \tau + \eta) \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ik\right) \neq 0 \right\} = 0,$$

or

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in (0, T] : \exists k \in (\tau, \tau + \eta) \mid \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ik\right) = 0 \right\} = 1.$$

Here is our first statement:

Theorem 2.1. *Suppose that for each $\epsilon, \eta > 0$ there exists a λ such that*

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mu \left\{ \tau \in (0, T] : \exists k \in (\tau, \tau + \eta) \mid \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ik\right) = 0 \wedge \left(\left| s - \frac{1}{2} - ik \right| < \lambda \Rightarrow |\zeta(s)| < \epsilon \right) \right\} = T$$

Then the Riemann Hypothesis is true.

Remark 2.2. As for how much our condition, as stated above in the theorem, is likely to be true is not so easy to say: if on one side it has been shown ([11]) that, assuming the Riemann Hypothesis, the average of $|\zeta'(\rho)|^2$ over the roots up to height T is asymptotic to $\frac{1}{12}(\log T)^3$, thus increasing with T , on the other one it's also known that infinitely many times it assumes arbitrarily small values ([19, Theorem 3]). From the proof below it will become evident where it is possible to modify or relax the condition and obtain other, eventually more significant, implications: Theorems 2.5 and Corollary 2.6 will be two examples.

Proof. In order to prove the above statement we use Voronin's universality theorem, which says the following (see e.g. [30]): suppose that K is a compact subset of the strip $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1$ with connected complement and let $g(s)$ be a non-vanishing continuous function on K which is analytic in the interior of K ; then for any $\epsilon > 0$

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in [0, T] : \max_{s \in K} |\zeta(s + i\tau) - g(s)| < \epsilon \right\} > 0.$$

²It follows for example from the definition of Γ as a limit or again by the Schwarz reflection principle.

We remark (see [30, section 8.1]) that, if Voronin's theorem were true even if $g(s)$ is allowed to vanish, then the Riemann Hypothesis would be false. Though, as shown in the reference cited, this cannot happen, i.e a function having zeros cannot be approximated uniformly by ζ , which in fact hints at the relation between universality and distribution of zeros. In this regard we notice that with another notion of universality, slightly different from that expressed by Voronin's theorem, it would be possible to find functions which satisfy the main properties of ζ , namely the functional equation in (2), the property of being analytic except for a pole in 1 and that of being real on the real axis, but do not satisfy the Riemann Hypothesis (see [20]).

We are going then to proceed by contradiction: we assume that the Riemann Hypothesis is false, which implies by (7) that there is a zero, s_0 , in the strip $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1$, and let K be any compact in this strip containing s_0 .

Let $s_1 = 1/2 + it_1$ be a fixed root of ζ on the critical line. For any given $\epsilon > 0$, by continuity, there exists $\eta > 0$ such that $|\Re(s_1 - s)| + |\Im(s_1 - s)| < 2\eta$ implies $|\zeta(s)| < \epsilon/4$.

Since the derivative of ζ is strongly (i.e: the function to be approximated need not be non-vanishing) universal in Voronin's sense (see [30, section 1.3 and 1.6]), for any $\delta > 0$

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in [0, T] : \max_{s \in K_2} |\zeta'(s + i\tau) - \zeta'(s)| \leq \delta \right\} > 0,$$

for any compact K_2 in the right open half of the strip.

Now, we know from our hypothesis that there exists a λ (which we can take less than η as well as less than $\frac{1}{2}$) such that the condition is fulfilled for the pair $\epsilon/4, \eta$. We will take K_2 as a compact containing all lines from K to the segment $[s_1 + \lambda, s_1 + \lambda + i\eta]$.

Let also δ be equal to $\frac{\epsilon}{2(\max_{s \in K} |s - s_1 - \lambda| + \eta)}$ and consider $|\zeta(s + i\tau) - \zeta(s)|$ for each of those τ such that $\max_{s \in K_2} |\zeta'(s + i\tau) - \zeta'(s)| \leq \delta$.

By the triangular inequality we have, for any $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ and $s \in K$,

$$|\zeta(s + i\tau) - \zeta(s)| \leq \left| \int_{s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta}^s (\zeta'(s + i\tau) - \zeta'(s)) ds \right| + |\zeta(s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta + i\tau)| + |\zeta(s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta)|$$

where the path of integration is chosen to be a straight line connecting the two points, so that the first part on the right can be bounded by $|s - (s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta)| \cdot \delta$, which is less or equal than $\epsilon/2$.

Now we know, by our hypothesis, that for almost all τ , there exists $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ such that $\zeta(s_1 + i\alpha\eta + i\tau) = 0$ and $|\zeta(s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta + i\tau)| \leq \epsilon/4$; moreover $|\zeta(s_1 + \lambda + i\alpha\eta)| \leq \epsilon/4$ by the choice of η , so that the second part is less or equal than $\epsilon/2$ too.

Thus in general we can conclude that

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in [0, T] : \max_{s \in K} |\zeta(s + i\tau) - \zeta(s)| \leq \epsilon \right\} > 0.$$

Though this cannot happen, as we remarked above, since ζ is supposed to vanish on K , and we obtain then a contradiction. □

Remark 2.3. Alternatively, instead of proving it by contradiction, we could have used directly a theorem by Bagchi (see e.g. [30, section 8.2]), which says that the Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if for any compact subset K of the strip $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1$ with connected complement and for any $\epsilon > 0$

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mu \left\{ \tau \in [0, T] : \max_{s \in K} |\zeta(s + i\tau) - \zeta(s)| < \epsilon \right\} > 0.$$

Remark 2.4. By looking at the given proof one may think about varying it by considering the possibility that zeta takes a particular value on a line $\sigma = \sigma_0$, with $1/2 < \sigma_0 < 1$, as often as it happens for zeros on the critical line. Though it has been shown ([3], [30, Theorem 1.5]) that, for any complex number $c \neq 0$, the number of roots of $\zeta(s) = c$ up to height T in the strip $1/2 < \sigma_1 < \sigma_2 < 1$ is only asymptotic to KT for a finite positive constant K .

We can also modify our requirement in the following way:

Theorem 2.5. *Suppose that ζ' is strongly universal for any compact subset of the region $\{\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1\} \cup \{[s_*, s_* + i\eta]\}$, where s_* is a zero on the critical line and η is a positive real number. Then the Riemann Hypothesis is true.*

Proof. We see, from the proof given above, that, if ζ' were strongly universal in the region $\{\frac{1}{2} < \sigma < 1\} \cup \{[s_*, s_* + i\eta]\}$, this would allow us to take K_2 as a compact including part of the critical line (and so forget about λ) and the proof would follow more easily applying directly Selberg's theorem without our additional condition. \square

Corollary 2.6. *Suppose that ζ' is strongly universal in $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma < 1$. Then the Riemann Hypothesis is true.*

We will find now another sufficient condition, by a completely different approach.

We first define:

$$F(s) \doteq \frac{\zeta(s)}{\zeta(1-s)}.$$

Notice that $F(s)$ can be analytically continued in the zeros of ζ , by defining it there to be $F(s) = \frac{\pi^{s-\frac{1}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}$ from (2).

This actually not only shows that zeros of the denominator are just removable singularities, but also that, if s is a zero, then s and $1-s$ have the same multiplicity.³

Consider now $H_N(s) \doteq \sum_{n=1}^N n^{-s} + \frac{N^{1-s}}{s-1}$, which can also be seen as a truncated sum: if we define (see also [22]):

$$h_n(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n^s} - \frac{n^{1-s} - (n-1)^{1-s}}{1-s} & \text{if } n \geq 2 \\ 1 + \frac{1}{s-1} & \text{if } n = 1 \end{cases}$$

³Just suppose that is not the case, then s has higher multiplicity, in order for $F(s)$ to remain bounded in a neighborhood of s (and thus to be extendable: see [8, section III.4.4]); but in this case $\frac{\zeta(1-s)}{\zeta(s)}$ would not be extendable, by the same reason. Or just notice that, if s is a zero with a higher multiplicity than $1-s$, then $F(s) = 0$, while from the explicit expression above we see that $F(s)$ is never zero in the critical strip.

then $H_N(s)$ is just $\sum_{n=1}^N h_n(s)$, the N -th partial sum of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h_n(s)$, which is equal to $\zeta(s)$ because of the summation formula in (8)):

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^N h_n(s) - \frac{1}{2}N^{-s} + O(N^{-\sigma-1})$$

so that

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h_n(s)$$

and, if $\zeta(s) = 0$,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N h_n(s) = \frac{1}{2}N^{-s} + O(N^{-\sigma-1}).$$

Suppose now $s_* = \sigma_* + it_*$ is in the critical strip.

Proposition 2.7. *Whenever $\zeta(s_*) \neq 0$ (and so $\zeta(1 - s_*) \neq 0$), then*

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow s_*} \frac{\zeta(s)}{\zeta(1 - s)} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N(s_*)}{H_N(1 - s_*)}.$$

Proof. Since $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} H_N(1 - s_*) = \zeta(1 - s_*) \neq 0$, we have:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N(s_*)}{H_N(1 - s_*)} = \frac{\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} H_N(s_*)}{\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} H_N(1 - s_*)} = \frac{\zeta(s_*)}{\zeta(1 - s_*)} = F(s_*).$$

□

Now, for $a(s), b(s)$ functions with real positive values, let $f_{a(s)}(N, s) \doteq \lceil a(s)^{-1/(2\sigma)} N^{1-\sigma} \rceil$ (resp. with b), with, as usual, $s = \sigma + it$, and let $H^{a,b}(s) \doteq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{H_{f_{a(s)}(N,s)}(s)}{H_{f_{b(1-s)}(N,1-s)}(1-s)} \right|$.

Notice that in proving the previous proposition we didn't use the fact that we had N -th partial sums in both the numerator and the denominator. Then along the same lines we can also prove:

Proposition 2.8. *If $\zeta(s_*) \neq 0$, then*

$$|F(s_*)| = \lim_{s \rightarrow s_*} \left| \frac{\zeta(s)}{\zeta(1 - s)} \right| = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{H_{f_{a(s_*)}(N,s_*)}(s_*)}{H_{f_{b(1-s_*)}(N,1-s_*)}(1-s_*)} \right| = H^{a,b}(s_*).$$

Let's consider now $H^{a,b}(s_*)$ when s_* is zero of ζ : we claim that

Lemma 2.9. *For any zero s_* of ζ , if $a(s), b(s)$ are constants, A and B , we have that $H^{a,b}(s_*) = |\sqrt{A}/\sqrt{B}|$.*

Proof. Write $\lceil A^{-1/(2\sigma)} N^{1-\sigma} \rceil$ as $A^{-1/(2\sigma)} N^{1-\sigma} + \epsilon(N)$ with $0 \leq \epsilon(N) < 1$, and then as $(A^{-1/(2\sigma)} N^{1-\sigma}) \cdot (1 + \frac{\epsilon(N)}{A^{-1/(2\sigma)} N^{1-\sigma}})$. We do a similar decomposition for $f_B(N, 1 - s)$, and since

we're supposing that $\zeta(s_*) = 0$ (so that $\sum_{n=1}^N h_n(s_*) = \frac{1}{2}N^{-s_*} + O(N^{-\sigma_*-1})$ as shown above using the summation formula), we can write

$$H^{a,b}(s_*) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{1}{2}(A^{-1/(2\sigma_*)}N^{1-\sigma_*})^{-s_*} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_1(N)}{A^{-1/(2\sigma_*)}N^{1-\sigma_*}}\right)^{-s_*} + O(f_A(N, s_*)^{-\sigma_*-1})}{\frac{1}{2}(B^{-1/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{\sigma_*})^{-1+s_*} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_2(N)}{B^{-1/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{\sigma_*}}\right)^{-1+s_*} + O(f_B(N, 1-s_*)^{-2+\sigma_*})} \right|.$$

By the binomial expansion of $(1+x)^z$,

$$\left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_1(N)}{A^{-1/(2\sigma_*)}N^{1-\sigma_*}}\right)^{-s_*} = 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N^{1-\sigma_*}}\right)$$

and

$$\left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_2(N)}{B^{-1/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{\sigma_*}}\right)^{-1+s_*} = 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N^{\sigma_*}}\right),$$

so that we finally get

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{1}{2}A^{s_*/(2\sigma_*)}N^{-s_*(1-\sigma_*)} + O((N^{1-\sigma_*})^{-\sigma_*-1})}{\frac{1}{2}B^{(1-s_*)/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{(-1+s_*)\sigma_*} + O((N^{\sigma_*})^{-2+\sigma_*})} \right| = \\ & = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{1}{2}A^{s_*/(2\sigma_*)}N^{-s_*(1-\sigma_*)}}{\frac{1}{2}B^{(1-s_*)/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{(-1+s_*)\sigma_*}} \right| = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{A^{\sigma_*/(2\sigma_*)}N^{-\sigma_*(1-\sigma_*)}}{B^{(1-\sigma_*)/(2-2\sigma_*)}N^{(-1+\sigma_*)\sigma_*}} \right| = |\sqrt{A}/\sqrt{B}| \end{aligned}$$

□

Consider now the case $a(s) = b(s) = |F(s)|$. Using the fact that $|F(s)| = 1/|F(1-s)|$, one sees in a similar manner that

$$H^{|F(s)|, |F(s)|}(s) = |\sqrt{|F(s)|}/\sqrt{|F(1-s)|}| = |F(s)|$$

if s is a zero. If it is not a zero, then the statement is of course true, so that we have built a continuous function.

We look at this point at the functions which are the argument of \lim in the definition of $H^{|F(s)|, |F(s)|}(s)$, and call them $|F(s)|_N$. We first notice that for $\sigma = 1/2$, they are always equal to 1 and equal to the limit $|F(s)| = 1$. In the right open half instead we have $|F(s)| < 1$ as soon as t is large enough ($\left|\frac{\zeta(\sigma+it)}{\zeta(1-\sigma-it)}\right|$ is actually monotonically decreasing in σ for fixed $t > 2\pi + 1$, as proven in [26, Theorem 1]). Moreover it is not hard to see that, for each s in this region, the sequence $\{|F(s)|_N\}_N$ admits a strictly monotone subsequence: for that it suffices to check that $\{|F(s)|_N\}_N$ does not get constant from some point, which can be seen for example by the fact that, for any two constants k_1 and k_2 , $[k_1N^{1-\sigma}]$ and $[k_2N^\sigma]$ are increasing by different rates for N large enough. Now, if for an s in the half strip $|F(s)|_N < |F(s)|_M$ for some N, M , by continuity this holds true also in a neighborhood. In the theorem below we will essentially assume that the intersection of all this kind of neighborhoods relative to some subsequence does not reduce to a point.

Before stating the theorem, we notice that we can also consider slightly different functions converging to $|F(s)|$: for example in the numerator of $|F(s)|_N$, we could take $m_{|F(s)|}(N, s) \doteq 1 + \lceil |F(s)|^{-1/2\sigma} N^{1-\sigma} \rceil$ instead of $f_{|F(s)|}(N, s)$ and call the new approximants as $|F_m(s)|_N$.

Theorem 2.10. *Suppose that for each s in the right (or left) open half strip we can find a neighborhood I_s and a subsequence $N_k(s)$ such that $\{|F(s)|_{N_k}\}_{N_k}$ and $\{|F_m(s)|_{N_k}\}_{N_k}$ converge monotonically (either increasing or decreasing for the whole I_s). Then the Riemann Hypothesis is true.*

Proof. Thanks to the hypothesis of monotonicity, and since the approximants converge by construction to a continuous function, by Dini's theorem (see e.g. [24, Theorem 7.13]), the convergence in a compact set D inside I_s would be uniform. This implies that, for N bigger than some N_1 , $|F(s)|_N$ is uniformly bounded in D : then, for those N , possible zeros of the denominator $H_{f_{|F(1-s)|}(N,1-s)}(1-s)$ would have to be zeros of the numerator $H_{f_{|F(s)|}(N,s)}(s)$ too. And for N bigger than some N_2 zeros of $H_{f_{|F(1-s)|}(N,1-s)}(1-s)$ would also be zeros of $H_{m_{|F(s)|}(N,s)}(s)$. But H_N and H_{N+1} cannot both be zero, at least for N large, which is what interests us now: the difference between the two is $h_N(s)$, which is 0 exactly when $1-s = n - (n-1)^{1-s}n^s = n - n(1 - \frac{1}{n})^{1-s}$; though $1-s = n - n(1 - \frac{1-s}{n})$ which is only an approximation of the binomial expansion of $n - n(1 - \frac{1}{n})^{1-s}$. (In fact in the critical strip this is also true for small values, as stated in [21].)

In conclusion, for all N big enough, H_N would have to be nonzero throughout D , and this is sufficient to prove that ζ has no zeros in D by a theorem of Hurwitz in complex analysis. Hurwitz proved in fact the following, as stated in [30, Theorem 5.13]: let G be a region and $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence of functions analytic on G which converges uniformly on G to some function f ; suppose also that $f(s)$ is not identically zero, then an interior point s_0 of G is a zero of $f(s)$ if and only if there exists a sequence $\{s_n\}$ in G which tends to s_0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$, and $f_n(s_n) = 0$ for all sufficiently large n . □

3 Equivalent criteria for the Riemann Hypothesis

In the first part of this section we concentrate on results that involve zeros of partial sums. One of the most famous theorems in this regard is a classical by Turán, who proved the following (see e.g. [2, section 8.14] or [5, section 8.3]): let $\zeta_N(s) \doteq \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{n^s}$; if there exists an N_0 such that $\zeta_N(s) \neq 0$ for all $N \geq N_0$ and all $\sigma > 1$, then the Riemann Hypothesis is true.

We remark that this is only a one-side implication, which has also proved to be useless for a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis, since Montgomery proved the existence of roots of these partial sums in certain half planes to the right of the critical strip, as cited in the references above.

In this regard and in general about zeros of partial sums it's recommended to have a look at [6], [12], [13] too.

Our first result in this direction is the following:

Theorem 3.1. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if for any compact disc K in the right (or left) open half of the critical strip there exists an N_0 such that, for infinitely many $N > N_0$, $H_N(s)$ is non-vanishing for all s in K .*

Proof. If the Riemann Hypothesis is true, then there are no zeros in the right open half. In any compact K then $|\zeta|$ has a minimum $m > 0$. Now, by (8), we know that

$$|H_N(s) - \zeta(s)| = \left| \frac{1}{2}N^{-s} + O(N^{-\sigma-1}) \right|$$

(keeping in mind the remark about the O notation at (8)). By taking N big enough, this can be made smaller than $m/2$ for all s in K , so that, by the triangular inequality, $|H_N(s)| = |H_N(s) - \zeta(s) + \zeta(s)| \geq |\zeta(s)| - |H_N(s) - \zeta(s)| \geq m/2 > 0$.

In the other direction, to prove that the Riemann Hypothesis is true, we can use Hurwitz's theorem (see previous section). Since our hypothesis implies that for any compact disc K there cannot exist a sequence s_N in K which is a zero for H_N for all sufficiently large N , Hurwitz's theorem tells us that there is no zero of ζ in K . But any s in the right open half is center of a compact disc in the interior of this strip. □

We can derive a similar statement using the approximants $\phi_N(s) \doteq \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^s}$. We have

Theorem 3.2. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if for any compact disc K in the right open half of the critical strip there exists an N_0 such that, for infinitely many $N > N_0$, $\phi_N(s)$ is non-vanishing for all s in K .*

Proof. We can follow the same argument as above, provided that we consider $(1 - 2^{1-s})^{-1} \cdot \phi_N(s)$. Notice that in this case we know that $\phi_N(s)$ is converging uniformly in any compact of the strip, since any Dirichlet series converges uniformly on every compact subset interior to its half-plane of convergence (see e.g. [1, chapter 11]). □

Generalizing a bit these results, for example for the case of $H_N(s)$:

Theorem 3.3. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if for any compact disc K in the right open half of the critical strip there exists an analytic function $f(N, s)$ which tends to zero uniformly in K as $N \rightarrow \infty$, $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d \in \mathbb{C}$, $L_1, \dots, L_d, N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for infinitely many $N > N_0$, $f(N, s) + \alpha_1 H_N(s) + \alpha_2 H_{N+L_1} + \dots + \alpha_d H_{N+L_{d-1}} + (1 - \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i) H_{N+L_d}$ is non-vanishing for all s in K .*

Proof. If the Riemann Hypothesis is true, then for any K , as we saw in the previous equivalence, there exists an N_0 such that, for infinitely many $N > N_0$, $H_N(s)$ is non-vanishing for all s in K . This corresponds to taking, $f(N, s) = 0$ for all s in K , $\alpha_1 = 1$ and all other α equal to 0. In the other direction, the proof follows the one given above for the less general case, since $f(N, s) + \alpha_1 H_N(s) + \alpha_2 H_{N+L_1} + \dots + (1 - \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i) H_{N+L_d}$ is also converging to $\zeta(s)$ uniformly on K . □

For example it would be sufficient to prove that the arithmetic mean of H_N and H_{N-1} is always nonzero for infinitely many $N > N_0$ and for all s in any given K . This might be easier, though being essentially equivalent; we already remarked that if one of the two is zero, the other is not, which might be useful.

In the sequel other equivalent reformulations, though of a different nature, are to be found.

We first notice that, if $s_0 = \sigma_0 + it_0$ is a zero of ζ in the critical strip, then $F(s_0)$, where F is defined as in the previous section, is a nonzero value, namely $F(s_0) = \frac{\pi^{s_0 - \frac{1}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{1-s_0}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{s_0}{2})}$.

Theorem 3.4. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if $|F(s_0)| = 1$ for any zero s_0 of ζ .*

Proof. When $\sigma = 1/2$, $|F(s)|$ is equal to 1 by (6).

On the other hand, if $\sigma \neq 1/2$ and $t \geq 2\pi + 1$, by [26, Theorem 1], we have $|F(s)| \neq 1$. (Notice that thanks to (6) and the fact that $F(s) = 1/F(1-s)$, if $|F(s)| \neq 1$ in a point, neither it will be in its symmetric with respect to $1/2$ or in its symmetric with respect to the critical line.)

But the region $\{t < 2\pi + 1\}$ has no influence in this context, since we know that the first zero in the upper half-plane has imaginary part larger than 14. □

Remark 3.5. We can actually almost complement the result in [26] mentioned in the proof, improving somehow the known asymptotic estimates or almost equivalences (see for example, besides [26], also [12, Lemma 6.1] and [7, Theorem 4.3] in addition to the known asymptotic estimate by Stirling's approximation).

First notice that the proof in [26] is derived ultimately through some estimates and actually requires $t > t_0$ where t_0 is such that $|\frac{1}{2} + it_0| = 2\pi e^{0.0212411} = 6.418\dots$

We take care instead of the region below and prove the following:

Proposition 3.6. *$|F(s)| \neq 1$ in the regions $\{0 < \sigma < 1/2\} \cap \{\sqrt{(1+\sigma)^2 + t^2} < 2\pi\}$ or $\{1/2 < \sigma < 1\} \cap \{\sqrt{(2-\sigma)^2 + t^2} < 2\pi\}$.*

Proof. In fact $|F(s)| = 1$ happens when $\pi^{\sigma-1/2} = |\pi^{s-1/2}| = \left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})} \right|$.

From (10) we get that, for $\sigma < 1/2$, $\left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})} \right| \geq |(1+s)/2|^{\sigma-1/2}$. This means that, for $\sigma < 1/2$ and $\sqrt{(1+\sigma)^2 + t^2} < 2\pi$, $\left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})} \right| > \pi^{\sigma-1/2}$, so that the right and left member will never be equal in this case.

For $\sigma > 1/2$, as pointed out before, we just need to consider the symmetric region with respect to the critical line. Or, equivalently, we let $z = 1-s$ so that $\Re z < 1/2$: then $\left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})} \right| = \left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1-z}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{z}{2})} \right| \leq |(1+z)/2|^{1/2-\Re(z)} = |(2-s)/2|^{\sigma-1/2}$. And this means that, for $\sigma > 1/2$ and $\sqrt{(2-\sigma)^2 + t^2} < 2\pi$, we have that $\left| \frac{\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1-s}{2})} \right| < \pi^{\sigma-1/2}$, and again the right and left member will never be equal in this case either. □

It actually follows from the proof above that, in $\{0 < \sigma < 1/2\} \cap \{\sqrt{(1+\sigma)^2 + t^2} < 2\pi\}$, $|F(s)|$ is less than 1 (or, alternatively, since $|F(s)|$ is continuous, it is enough for example to consider the part of real axis inside the strip, where ζ is negative and decreasing: see [15, notes to chapter 1]). Instead, in $\{0 < \sigma < 1/2\} \cap \{t > t_0\}$, $|F(s)|$ is bigger than 1 by [26, Theorem 1].

We remark that Theorem 3.4 and Proposition 3.6 are not specific of ζ per se: it's not hard for example to build from ζ other analytic functions which satisfy the functional equation and the property of being real on the real axis (and which might also have zeros not on the critical line), by multiplying it with an expression of the type $f(z)f(1-z)\overline{f(\bar{z})}f(1-\bar{z})$. As [26] and [25] say, the Riemann Hypothesis would follow if we could improve these results and obtain a strict inequality ($|\zeta(\sigma + it)| > |\zeta(1 - \sigma + it)|$ for $0 < \sigma < 1/2$ and $t > 2\pi + 1$), since roots have to be symmetric with respect to the critical line.

Let us see now how Theorem 3.4 can bring to other formulations of the Riemann Hypothesis.

We suppose that the multiplicity of s_0 is m (as well as that of $1 - s_0$, as we already remarked in the previous section). Since $\zeta(s)$ and $\zeta(1 - s)$ are analytic at s_0 , the following power series expansions hold for s in a neighborhood of s_0 :

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta^{(n)}(s_0)}{n!} (s - s_0)^n,$$

$$\zeta(1 - s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \zeta^{(n)}(1 - s_0)}{n!} (s - s_0)^n.$$

Therefore

$$|F(s_0)| = \left| \lim_{s \rightarrow s_0} \frac{\zeta(s)}{\zeta(1 - s)} \right| = \left| \frac{\zeta^{(m)}(s_0)}{\zeta^{(m)}(1 - s_0)} \right|.$$

By (6), $\overline{\zeta(\bar{s})} = \zeta(s)$ for any s , so that $|\zeta^{(m)}(s)| = |\zeta^{(m)}(\bar{s})|$.

We then also have

$$|F(s_0)| = \left| \frac{\zeta^{(m)}(s_0)}{\zeta^{(m)}(1 - \bar{s}_0)} \right|.$$

Thus we can write the following propositions:

Proposition 3.7. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if $\left| \frac{\zeta^{(m)}(s_0)}{\zeta^{(m)}(1 - \bar{s}_0)} \right| = 1$ for any zero s_0 of ζ .*

and

Proposition 3.8. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if $\left| \frac{\zeta^{(m)}(s_0)}{\zeta^{(m)}(1 - s_0)} \right| = 1$ for any zero s_0 of ζ .*

We can write explicit expansions for these derivatives. For example we can look at $F(s)$ with the representation of ζ as in (5). Then $F(s) = \frac{\phi(s)}{\phi(1-s)} \cdot \frac{(1-2^s)}{(1-2^{1-s})}$, where $F(s_0)$, as above, is clearly meant to be its analytic continuation in s_0 .

Since there's only one possible analytic continuation and since the second fraction is a nonzero constant at s_0 , then $\frac{\phi(s_0)}{\phi(1-s_0)} \doteq \lim_{s \rightarrow s_0} \frac{\phi(s)}{\phi(1-s)}$ should also be some nonzero constant.

And, similarly as above,

$$\left| \lim_{s \rightarrow s_0} \frac{\phi(s)}{\phi(1-s)} \right| = \left| \frac{\phi^{(m)}(s_0)}{\phi^{(m)}(1-s_0)} \right|.$$

By the analytic properties of Dirichlet series (see [1, section 11.7]), we can write (differentiating term by term) for $\Re(s) > 0$:

$$\phi^{(m)}(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m}{n^s}.$$

So we would like to evaluate:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-s_0}}{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-1+s_0}} \right|$$

(limit of the denominator is nonzero, so that we can put the limit before the fraction).

We can then rephrase the previous proposition in the following way:

Proposition 3.9. *Suppose that*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} n^{-s_0} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} n^{-1+s_0} = 0$$

with s_0 a zero of order m . Then this implies

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-s_0}}{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-1+s_0}} \right| = \left| \frac{(1 - 2^{1-s_0})}{(1 - 2^{s_0})} \right|$$

if and only if the Riemann Hypothesis is true.

Clearly a similar argument would hold if we consider $1 - \bar{s}_0$ instead.

On the other hand it would be sufficient, in order to prove the Riemann Hypothesis, to show that $|F(s_0)|$ or

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-s_0}}{\sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^{n+m-1} (\log n)^m n^{-1+s_0}} \right|$$

is going to be 0 or ∞ (thus not a nonzero constant) if s_0 is not on the critical line.

To investigate whether $|F(s_0)|$ is equal to 1, we can consider also the function we built in the previous section through the approximants H_N .

For example showing that $H^{|F(s_0)|, |F(1-s_0)|}(s)$, which is continuous in s_0 , is also continuous at least in $1 - s_0$, would prove that $|F(s_0)| = 1$, since we would have $|F(1 - s_0)| = |F(s_0)|$, because of continuity and lemma 2.9, but on the other hand $|F(s_0)| = 1/|F(1 - s_0)|$.

Or showing that there exists a constant k such that $H^{|F(s)|, |F(s)|}(s) = H^{k,k}(s)$ for all s in the strip would also imply $|F(s_0)| = 1$. (Clearly this holds locally for a neighborhood: being s in a sufficiently small neighborhood of s_* ensures us that, if s_* is a zero, then by (4), $\zeta(s)$ will not be zero, and, if s_* is not a zero, then by continuity $\zeta(s)$ will not be zero either. So we are in the same situation as in the previous propositions 2.7 and 2.8, where what essentially counts is that the H -subscript N or $f(N, s)$ tends to infinity with N .)

In other words in this case Theorem 3.4 can be reformulated as

Proposition 3.10. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if $H^{1,1}(s)$ is continuous throughout the strip.*

Notice that we can also state the following, which though is essentially weaker, as the continuity in this case appears to be much less at hand.

Proposition 3.11. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{H_N(s)}{H_N(1-s)} \right|$ is continuous throughout the strip.*

Proof. If the Riemann Hypothesis is true, then there are only zeros on the critical line, where $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{H_N(s)}{H_N(\bar{s})} \right| = 1$ since, for each N , $H_N(s)$ is the conjugate of $H_N(\bar{s})$ and so it has the same modulus. On the other side, we show that, if the Riemann Hypothesis were not true, then the limit would not be continuous. This is because in a zero out of the critical line, if we compute similarly as done in lemma 2.9, the limit would now be 0 or ∞ , while we know that $F(s)$ is always nonzero. \square

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