

On the density of low-lying zeros of a large family of automorphic L -functions

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1 Introduction

2 Prior Work

3 Main Results

4 Proof Sketch

Duality Between Primes and the Zeros of the Riemann Zeta Function

Theorem (Riemann-von Mangoldt Explicit Formula)

For $X > 1$,

$$\sum_{p^j < X} \log p = X - \sum_{\rho} \frac{X^{\rho}}{\rho} - \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log(1 - X^{-2}).$$

RH $\implies [X, X + X^{1/2+\epsilon}]$ contains primes, so RH “knows” about patterns in primes.

Montgomery Pair Correlation Conjecture

Conjecture (Montgomery-Dyson 1973)

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Essentially, predicts that for f a Schwartz test function whose Fourier transform has **arbitrary** compact support

$$\frac{1}{N(T)} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq \gamma, \gamma' \leq T \\ \gamma \neq \gamma'}} f\left(\left(\gamma - \gamma'\right) \frac{\log T}{2\pi}\right) \longrightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) W(x) dx, \quad T \rightarrow \infty.$$

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- Rudnick-Sarnak ('94, '96): introduced and extended n -level correlations to L -functions, showing **universality** for all automorphic cuspidal L -functions (agree with GUE).

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- Rudnick-Sarnak ('94, '96): introduced and extended n -level correlations to L -functions, showing **universality** for all automorphic cuspidal L -functions (agree with GUE).
- Also agree with **classical compact groups** $O(N)$, $SO(\text{even})$, $SO(\text{odd})$, $U(N)$, $Sp(2N)$.

Spectral interpretation of the zeros of L -functions

Question

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What is the correct operator for linking the zero statistics of general L -functions to random matrix theory?

- Katz-Sarnak (1999): introduced n -level density, distinguishes the classical compact groups, depends on behavior of eigenvalues near 1.
- **Katz-Sarnak density conjecture**: behavior of low-lying zeros of a family of L -functions governed by behavior of eigenvalues of a classical compact group.

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What is the correct operator for linking the zero statistics of general L -functions to random matrix theory?

- Katz-Sarnak (1999): introduced n -level density, distinguishes the classical compact groups, depends on behavior of eigenvalues near 1.
- **Katz-Sarnak density conjecture**: behavior of low-lying zeros of a family of L -functions governed by behavior of eigenvalues of a classical compact group.
- Low-lying zeros related to infinitude of primes, Chebyshev's bias, Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture, class number bounds.

Distribution of the Low-Lying Zeros of L -functions

Riemann Zeta function



Families L -functions

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Families L -functions

Vertical distribution of zeros for which
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Studying low-lying zeros which
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Riemann Hypothesis (RH)

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Generalized Riemann Hypothesis (GRH)

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Studying zeros in an
 n -dimensional box
(n -level correlations)

↔

Studying sums of compactly supported
Schwartz test functions evaluated at zeros
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Distribution of the Low-Lying Zeros of L -functions

Riemann Zeta function	↔	Families L -functions
Vertical distribution of zeros for which one L -function is enough	↔ ↔	Studying low-lying zeros which requires studying L -functions in families
Riemann Hypothesis (RH)	↔	Generalized Riemann Hypothesis (GRH)
Studying zeros in an n -dimensional box (n -level correlations)	↔	Studying sums of compactly supported Schwartz test functions evaluated at zeros (n -level densities)
Montgomery pair correlation conjecture	↔	Katz-Sarnak density conjecture

Density of low-lying zeros

Definition (1-level density)

Let Φ be a Schwartz function with $\text{supp}(\widehat{\Phi}) \subset (-\sigma, \sigma)$. Assume GRH and write $\rho_f = 1/2 + i\gamma_f$ for the non-trivial zeros of $L(s, f)$ counted with multiplicity. Then

$$\mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) := \sum_{\gamma_f} \Phi\left(\frac{\gamma_f}{2\pi} \log c_f\right),$$

is the *1-level density*, where c_f is the analytic conductor of f .

- 1-level density captures density of the zeros within height $O(1/\log c_f)$ of $s = 1/2$.
- Cannot asymptotically evaluate $\mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi)$ for a single f , must perform averaging over the family ordered by analytic conductor.

Katz-Sarnak Density Conjecture

Katz-Sarnak Density Conjecture

Let $\mathcal{F}(Q) := \{f \in \mathcal{F} : c_f = Q\}$ or $\mathcal{F}(Q) := \{f \in \mathcal{F} : c_f \leq Q\}$. Then for a Schwartz test function Φ whose Fourier transform has *arbitrary* compact support, we have that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{F}(Q)|} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}(Q)} \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) \longrightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(x) W(G_{\mathcal{F}})(x) dx \quad \text{as } Q \rightarrow \infty,$$

where $W(G_{\mathcal{F}})(x)$ is a distribution depending on the underlying symmetry group $G_{\mathcal{F}}$ associated to the family.

n -level density

Definition

In the setting as before, define the n -level density as

$$\mathcal{D}_n(f; \Phi) := \sum_{\substack{j_1, \dots, j_n \\ j_i \neq \pm j_k}} \prod_{i=1}^n \Phi_i \left(\frac{\gamma_f(j_i)}{2\pi} \log c_f \right).$$

- Computing n -level density for $n > 2$ requires knowledge of distribution of signs of the functional equation of each $L(s, f)$, which is beyond current theory.
- Hughes-Rudnick (2003): introduced n -th centered moments.

L -functions Attached to Cuspidal Newforms

Fix $f \in \mathcal{S}_k^{\text{new}}(q)$. Then for $\Re(s) > 1$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} L(s, f) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_f(n)}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_f(p)}{p^s} + \frac{\chi_0(p)}{p^{2s}} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_f(p)}{p^s} \right)^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\beta_f(p)}{p^s} \right)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where χ_0 is the principal character mod q . Note, $L(s, f)$ can be analytically continued to an entire function on \mathbb{C} . Moreover, $L(s, f) = L(s, \bar{f})$.

Katz-Sarnak Density Conjecture for Orthogonal Symmetry

The symmetry type of the family of automorphic L -functions attached to holomorphic cuspidal newforms is **orthogonal**. Thus, the Katz-Sarnak density conjecture predicts that for test functions Φ whose Fourier transform has arbitrary compact support,

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}_k(Q)|} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(Q)} \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) \longrightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(x) W(O)(x) dx \quad \text{as } Q \rightarrow \infty,$$

where O is the scaling limit of the group of square **orthogonal** matrices with density

$$W(O)(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}\delta_0(x),$$

where $\delta_0(x)$ denotes the Dirac delta function at $x = 0$.

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Extending the Support

Theorem (Iwaniec-Luo-Sarnak '00)

Assume GRH. Then for Φ any even Schwartz function with $\text{supp}(\widehat{\Phi}) \subset (-2, 2)$, we have that

$$\lim_{\substack{q \rightarrow \infty \\ \text{square-free}}} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}_k(q)|} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)} \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(x) W(O)(x) dx,$$

where O denotes the orthogonal type, showing agreement with the Katz-Sarnak philosophy predictions.

Recent Breakthrough

Theorem (Baluyot-Chandee-Li '23)

Assume GRH. Let Φ be an even Schwartz function such that $\text{supp}(\widehat{\Phi}) \subset (-4, 4)$, and let Ψ be any smooth function compactly supported on \mathbb{R}^+ with $\widehat{\Psi}(0) \neq 0$. Then we have that

$$\langle \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) \rangle_* := \lim_{Q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(Q)} \sum_q \Psi\left(\frac{q}{Q}\right) \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)} \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(x) W(O)(x) dx,$$

where $N(Q)$ is a normalizing factor, showing agreement with the Katz-Sarnak philosophy predictions.

The n -th Centered Moments of the 1-level Density

We study the n -th centered moments of the 1-level density averaged over levels $q \asymp Q$.

Definition (level-averaged n -th centered moments of the 1-level density)

In the setting as above, define the n -th centered moment of the 1-level density to be

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n [\mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi_i) - \langle \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi_i) \rangle_*] \right\rangle_*.$$

Remark

Note that because of the additional averaging over the level our n -th are a variant of the classical n -th centered moments of the 1-level density studied in previous work.

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Main Results

Theorem (Cheek-Gilman-Jaber-Miller-Tomé '24)

Assume GRH. For Ψ non-negative and Φ_i even Schwartz functions with $\text{supp}(\widehat{\Phi}) \subset (-\sigma, \sigma)$ and $\sigma \leq \min \left\{ \frac{3}{2(n-1)}, \frac{4}{2n-1} \right\}$ we have that

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n (\mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi_i) - \langle \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}(f; \Phi_i) \rangle_*) \right\rangle_* = \frac{\mathbf{1}_{2|n}}{(n/2)!} \sum_{\tau \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^{n/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u| \widehat{\Phi}_{\tau(2i-1)}(u) \widehat{\Phi}_{\tau(2i)}(u) du.$$

As such, our work is a generalization of the BCL '23 $n = 1, \sigma = 4$ result.

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Remark

Notably, for $n = 3$, we achieve $\sigma = \sigma_i = 3/4$, greater than currently best known $\sigma = \sigma_i = 2/3$. We also have the additional flexibility of taking our test functions to be different.

Main results

Corollary (Cheek-Gilman-Jaber-Miller-Tomé '24)

Let $\sigma_1 = 3/2$ and $\sigma_2 = 5/6$. Then the two-level density

$$\left\langle \sum_{j_1 \neq \pm j_2} \Phi_1(\gamma_f(j_1)) \Phi_2(\gamma_f(j_2)) \right\rangle_* = 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u| \widehat{\Phi}_1(u) \widehat{\Phi}_2(u) du + \prod_{i=1}^2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \Phi_i(0) + \widehat{\Phi}_i(0) \right) - \Phi_1 \Phi_2(0) - 2 \widehat{\Phi_1 \Phi_2}(0) + P_{\text{odd}} \Phi_1 \Phi_2(0),$$

where $P_{\text{odd}} := \langle (1 - \epsilon_f)/2 \rangle_*$ denotes the proportion of forms with odd functional equation.

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where $P_{\text{odd}} := \langle (1 - \epsilon_f)/2 \rangle_*$ denotes the proportion of forms with odd functional equation.

Remark

This is the first evidence of an interesting new phenomenon: only by taking *different* test functions are we able to *extend the range* in which the Katz-Sarnak density predictions hold. In particular, $\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 = 7/3 > 2$, where $\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 = 2$ was the previously best known.

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Duality Between Primes and Zeros of L -functions

Using an explicit formula relating sums over zeros to sums of prime power coefficients of $L(s, f)$, we deduce that

$$\sum_{\gamma_f} \Phi\left(\frac{\gamma_f}{2\pi} \log q\right) = \widehat{\Phi}(0) + \frac{1}{2}\Phi(0) - \frac{2}{\log q} \sum_{p \nmid q} \frac{\lambda_f(p) \log p}{\sqrt{p}} \widehat{\Phi}\left(\frac{\log p}{\log q}\right) + O\left(\frac{\log \log q}{\log q}\right).$$

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We introduce averaging over the level and split the sums into sums over powers of distinct primes

$$\frac{1}{N(Q)} \sum_q \Psi\left(\frac{q}{Q}\right) \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)} \sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_\ell \nmid q \\ p_i \neq p_j}} \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\frac{\lambda_f(p_i) \log p_i}{\sqrt{p_i} \log q} \Phi\left(\frac{\log p_i}{\log q}\right) \right)^{a_i}$$

where $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_\ell$ is a partition of n .

Reducing to the case of distinct primes

Using GRH for $L(s, \text{sym}^2 f)$ we show that

$$\frac{1}{(\log q)^2} \sum_{(p,q)=1} \frac{(\log p)^2 \lambda_f(p^2)}{p} \widehat{\Phi}_i^2 \left(\frac{\log p}{\log q} \right) \ll \frac{\log \log q}{\log q}.$$

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Together with splitting into cases based on the partition of n , this allows us to reduce to studying sums over *distinct* primes:

$$\sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_n \uparrow q \\ p_i \neq p_j}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_f(p_i) \log p_i}{\sqrt{p_i}} \widehat{\Phi}_i \left(\frac{\log p_i}{\log q} \right).$$

Averaging Over the Extended Orthogonal Family

We average over $f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)$ with $q \asymp Q$ and study

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N(Q)} \sum_q \Psi\left(\frac{q}{Q}\right) \frac{1}{(\log q)^n} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)}^h \sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_n \uparrow q \\ p_i \neq p_j}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_f(p_i) \log p_i}{\sqrt{p_i}} \widehat{\Phi}_i\left(\frac{\log p_i}{\log q}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N(Q)} \sum_q \Psi\left(\frac{q}{Q}\right) \frac{1}{(\log q)^n} \sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_n \uparrow q \\ p_i \neq p_j}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\log p_i}{\sqrt{p_i}} \widehat{\Phi}_i\left(\frac{\log p_i}{\log q}\right) \sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)}^h \lambda_f(1) \lambda_f\left(\prod_{i=1}^n p_i\right). \end{aligned}$$

Converting sums over primes to spectral terms

- Ng's work allows us to convert sums over $\mathcal{H}_k(q)$ to a linear combination of sums over an orthogonal basis $\mathcal{B}_k(d)$ for the space $\mathcal{S}_k(d)$, $d \mid q$: Morally, if $(m, n, q) = 1$ and for A a specific arithmetic function, then

$$\sum_{f \in \mathcal{H}_k(q)}^h \lambda_f(m) \lambda_f(n) = \sum_{\substack{q = L_1 L_2 d \\ L_1 \mid q_1 \\ L_2 \mid q_2 \\ q_2 \text{ square-free}}} A(L_1, L_2, d) \sum_{e \mid L_2^\infty} \frac{1}{e} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{B}_k(d)}^h \lambda_f(e^2 m) \lambda_f(n).$$

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- Then we apply the Petersson trace formula

$$\sum_{f \in \mathcal{B}_k(d)}^h \lambda_f(m) \lambda_f(n) = \delta(m, n) + \sum_{c \geq 1} \frac{S(m, n; cq)}{cq} J_{k-1} \left(\frac{4\pi \sqrt{mn}}{cq} \right).$$

The Kuznetsov Trace Formula

Let $x := \prod p_i$. We are essentially left to analyze

$$\sum_{c \geq 1} \sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_n \uparrow q \\ p_i \neq p_j}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\log p_i}{\sqrt{p_i}} V\left(\frac{p_i}{P_i}\right) e\left(v_i \frac{p_i}{P_i}\right) \sum_s \frac{S(e^2, x; cL_1 rds)}{cL_1 rds} h\left(\frac{4\pi\sqrt{e^2 x}}{cL_1 rds}\right)$$

where V is smooth and compactly supported and h is essentially a smooth truncation of J_{k-1} . We use the Kuznetsov trace formula to convert an average over $f \in \mathcal{B}_k(d)$ into **spectral terms**:

Holomorphic cuspforms + Maass cuspforms + Eisenstein series.

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