SOME ZEROS OF THE TITCHMARSH COUNTEREXAMPLE

ROBERT SPIRA

Abstract. Zeros on and off the critical line are found for Titchmarsh's function $f(s)$.

Let $s = \sigma + it$. E. C. Titchmarsh [1, pp. 240–244] introduced the function

$$f(s) = \frac{1}{2} \sec \theta \{e^{-i\theta} L_1(s) + e^{i\theta} L_2(s)\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1^s} + \tan \theta \frac{1}{2^s} - \tan \theta \frac{1}{3^s} - \frac{1}{4^s} + \frac{1}{6^s} + \cdots$$

$$= 5^{-s} \{\zeta(s, 1/5) + \tan \theta \zeta(s, 2/5) - \tan \theta \zeta(s, 3/5) - \zeta(s, 4/5)\},$$

where

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}} - 2}{\sqrt{5} - 1} = 0.28407\,90438\,40412\,296\ldots$$

and $L_1(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_1(n) n^{-s}$, $L_2(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_2(n) n^{-s}$ are Dirichlet $L$-functions mod 5 with $x_1$ and $x_2$ the Dirichlet characters determined by $x_1(2) = i$ and $x_2(2) = -i$.

Titchmarsh showed that though $f(s)$ satisfies a functional equation identical to that of a Dirichlet $L$-function:

$$f(s) = 5^{1/2-s} 2(2\pi)^{s-1} \Gamma(1-s) \cos\left(\frac{s}{2}\pi\right) f(1-s),$$

it has zeros with $\sigma > 1$ (together with infinitely many zeros on the line $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$). According to a theorem of Voronin [2], $f(s)$ has zeros in the critical strip off the critical line. Titchmarsh gave the equation $\sin 2\theta = 2\cos(2\pi/5)$, but $\sin 2\theta$ should be $\tan 2\theta$. This minor error was carried over to Voronin [2] and the review MR 86g:11048 in Mathematical Reviews.

With the help of programs for computing $L$ and $L'$ (Spira [3]), an exploratory computation of $f(s)$ in the critical strip for $0 \leq t \leq 200$ revealed the following zeros off the critical line:

$$0.808517 + 85.699348i$$
$$0.650830 + 114.163343i$$
$$0.574356 + 166.479306i$$
$$0.724258 + 176.702461i$$

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The first few zeros on the line have $t$-coordinates: 5.094160, 8.939914, 12.133545, 14.404003, 17.130239, 19.308800, 22.159708, 23.345370, 26.094967, 27.923799, 30.159418, 31.964500, 33.699862, 35.890855, 37.455462, 40.162578, 40.682953, 43.081265, 44.947134, 46.456355, 48.477787, 50.240086.

It was also found that $f(0) = .6568158$, $f(\frac{1}{2}) = .8253830$. The program reproduced check values of an $L$-function mod 5 and its derivative, and then new values for the character were inserted simply and easily to calculate $f(s)$. A further check was to calculate the zeros off the line reflected in $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$.

By Rolle's Theorem for a zero $\sigma_0 + it_0$ off the line, there is a $\sigma_1$ between $\sigma_0$ and $1 - \sigma_0$ such that $|f(\sigma_1 + it_0)|$ is a maximum, or

$$(\text{Re } f \cdot \text{Re } f' + \text{Im } f \cdot \text{Im } f')(\sigma_1 + it_0) = 0.$$  

For the first zero at least, $\sigma_1 < \frac{1}{2}$ and $f'(\sigma_1 + it_0) \neq 0$, so the vectors $(\text{Re } f, \text{Im } f)$ and $(\text{Re } f', \text{Im } f')$ are orthogonal. In Spira [4] it was conjectured that for $|t| > 6.3$, $(\text{Re } \zeta \cdot \text{Re } \zeta' + \text{Im } \zeta \cdot \text{Im } \zeta') < 0$ in the left half of the critical strip, which is stronger than the Riemann hypothesis.

No zeros of $f'(s)$ were found with $\sigma < \frac{1}{2}$ for $t \leq 200$, nor any zeros of $f(s)$ with $\sigma > 1$ for $t \leq 200$, though this last is not unusual since Titchmarsh's proof relies on methods which ordinarily require a very large $t$. If one multiplies $\zeta(s)$ by the four linear factors $(s - \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \pm i)$ one obtains a function with a functional equation which is not zero for $\sigma \geq 1$, but vanishes off $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$.

Karatsuba and Voronin [5, Chapter VI, §5, pp. 212–240] is devoted to a study of zeros of $f(s)$ in the critical strip and on $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$.

**Bibliography**


392 TAYLOR, ASHLAND, OREGON 97520