FACTORIAL RATIOS, HYPERGEOMETRIC SERIES, AND A FAMILY OF STEP FUNCTIONS

JONATHAN W. BOBER

ABSTRACT. We give a complete classification of a certain family of step functions related to the Nyman–Beurling approach to the Riemann hypothesis and previously studied by V. I. Vasyunin. Equivalently, we completely describe when certain sequences of ratios of factorial products are always integral. Essentially, once certain observations are made, this comes down to an application of Beukers and Heckman's classification of the monodromy of the hypergeometric function ${}_{n}F_{n-1}$. We also note applications to the classification of cyclic quotient singularities.

1. Introduction

In [16] V. I. Vasyunin considered the following problem, originating from the Nyman–Beurling formulation of the Riemann hypothesis.

Problem 1. Classify all step functions of the form

(1)
$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i \left[\frac{x}{m_i} \right], m_i \in \mathbb{N}, c_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

having the property that $f(x) \in \{0,1\}$ for all x.

Vasyunin discovered some infinite families of solutions and fifty two additional sporadic solutions and, based on the results of extensive computations, formulated conjectures ([16, Conjecture 8], [16, Conjecture 11]) that these lists were complete.

It follows easily from a theorem of Landau (see Proposition 3.2) that this problem is equivalent to the following problem.

Problem 2. Let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{N}^K$, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{N}^{K+1}$, and set

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_{K+1} n)!}$$

For what parameters **a** and **b** with $\sum a_i = \sum b_i$ is $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ an integer for all n?

It is immediately evident that in Problem 1 we may make a change of variables $m_i' = Cm_i$ without changing the output of the function. Similarly, though not as immediately obvious, (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) is a solution to Problem 2 if and only if $(\frac{1}{d}\mathbf{a}, \frac{1}{d}\mathbf{b})$ is a solution, where $d = \gcd(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$. Thus, in both cases it is enough to classify solutions with $\gcd 1$, as all other solutions are multiples of these.

In [14], Rodriguez-Villegas observed that the generating function attached to $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$, given by

$$u(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) z^n,$$

Date: October 24, 2018.

is in fact a hypergeometric series, and that $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is always integral if and only if $u(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$ is an algebraic function. This observation, which is explained in Section 4, allows us to use the work of Beukers and Heckman [5] to give a complete answer to Problem 2 and to prove Vasyunin's conjectures about the completeness of his classification of such step functions.

Specifically, we prove the following theorem, which asserts that [16, Conjecture 8] and [16, Conjecture 11] are true.

Theorem 1.1. Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m_k} \right\rfloor - \sum_{k=N+1}^{2N+1} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m_k} \right\rfloor,$$

and suppose that $m_i \neq m_j$ for all $i \leq N, j \geq N+1$, and that

$$gcd(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{2N+1}) = 1.$$

Then f(x) takes only the values 0 and 1 if and only if either

(i) f(x) takes one of the following forms:

(2)
$$f(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{ab} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{b(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{a(a+b)} \right\rfloor \text{ where } \gcd(a,b) = 1,$$

(3)
$$f(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{b(a-b)} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2a(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2b(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{a(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2ab} \right\rfloor$$

where

$$gcd(a, b) = gcd(2, a - b) = 1 \text{ and } a > b > 0,$$

$$(4) f(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{\frac{1}{2}b(a-b)} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{a(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{b(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{\frac{1}{2}a(a-b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{ab} \right\rfloor$$

where

$$gcd(a, b) = gcd(2, a) = gcd(2, b) = 1 \text{ and } a > b > 0,$$

(5)
$$f(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{b(a+b)} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{a(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2b(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2a(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2ab} \right\rfloor$$
where

$$\gcd(a,b) = \gcd(2, a+b) = 1,$$

(6)
$$f(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{\frac{1}{2}b(a+b)} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{\frac{1}{2}a(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{b(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{a(a+b)} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{ab} \right\rfloor$$

where

$$gcd(a, b) = gcd(2, a) = gcd(2, b) = 1,$$

or

(ii) f(x) is one of the 52 sporadic step functions given by

$$(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_N) = \left(\frac{M}{a_1}, \frac{M}{a_2}, \dots, \frac{M}{a_N}\right)$$

and

$$(m_{N+1}, m_{N+2}, \dots, m_{2N+1}) = \left(\frac{M}{b_1}, \frac{M}{b_2}, \dots, \frac{M}{b_{N+1}}\right)$$

for some \mathbf{a} (or permutation of \mathbf{a}) and \mathbf{b} (or permutation of \mathbf{b}) listed in the second column of Table 2, where

$$M = \text{lcm}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N, b_1, b_2, \dots b_{N+1}).$$

This theorem is proved as a consequence of the equivalence of Problems 1 and 2, and the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2. Let

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_{K+1} n)!}$$

and suppose that $a_k \neq b_l$ for all k, l, that $\sum a_k = \sum b_l$, and that

$$\gcd(a_1,\ldots,a_K,b_1,\ldots,b_{K+1})=1.$$

Then $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is an integer for all n if and only if either

(i) $u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ takes one of the following forms:

(7)
$$u_n = \frac{[(a+b)n]!}{(an)!(bn)!} \text{ for } \gcd(a,b) = 1,$$

(8)
$$u_n = \frac{(2an)!(bn)!}{(an)!(2bn)![(a-b)n]!} \text{ for } \gcd(a,b) = 1 \text{ and } a > b,$$

(9)
$$u_n = \frac{(2an)!(2bn)!}{(an)!(bn)![(a+b)n]!} \text{ for } \gcd(a,b) = 1$$

or

(ii) (a, b) is one of the 52 sporadic parameter sets listed in the second column of Table 2.

In Section 1.2 we note briefly that this Theorem has immediate applications to the classification of cyclic quotient singularities.

It is a standard elementary exercise (see, for example, [1, Section 4.5]) to use the integrality of factorial ratios such as these to prove Chebyshev's elementary estimate for the prime counting function $\pi(x)$ — namely, that there exist numbers c_1 and c_2 with $c_1 < 1 < c_2$ such that

$$c_1 \frac{x}{\log x} \le \pi(x) \le c_2 \frac{x}{\log x}$$

for all x large enough. It is interesting to note that the best such constants achievable from the factorial ratio sequences listed in Theorem 1.2 are those which were discovered by Chebyshev [9]. The factorial ratio sequence that gives these constants $(c_1 \approx .92 \text{ and } c_2 \approx 1.11)$ is

(10)
$$u_n = \frac{(30n)!n!}{(15n)!(10n)!(6n)!},$$

which was in fact used by Chebyshev. (In truth, although Chebyshev's method is in some sense equivalent to using factorial ratios, it is not quite the same. Chebyshev actually makes more direct use of the fact that the corresponding step function

$$f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor - \lfloor \frac{x}{2} \rfloor - \lfloor \frac{x}{3} \rfloor - \lfloor \frac{x}{5} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{x}{30} \rfloor$$

takes on only the values 0 and 1.) The monodromy group associated with this u_n —that is, the monodromy group of the hypergeometric differential equation satisfied

by $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ — is $W(E_8)$, the Weyl group of the E_8 root system, which is the largest "sporadic" finite primitive complex reflection group.

1.1. Relation to Nyman–Beurling Formulation of the Riemann hypothesis. Let

$$\rho_{\alpha}(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{\alpha}{x} \right\rfloor - \alpha \left\lfloor \frac{1}{x} \right\rfloor \in L^{2}((0,1))$$

There are various similar statements of the Nyman–Beurling formulation of the Riemann hypothesis. One such statement is

Theorem 1.3 (Nyman [13], Báez-Duarte [3]). The Riemann hypothesis is true if and only if

$$\operatorname{span}_{L^{2}(0,1)} \left\{ \rho_{\alpha}(x) | \frac{1}{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N} \right\} = L^{2}((0,1)).$$

Remark 1.4. B. Nyman [13] originally proved a weaker form of this theorem, with $\alpha \in (0,1)$ instead of $1/\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$. The strengthening was conjectured for some time and was proved by Báez-Duarte [3], however, Báez-Duarte works with a slightly different formulation. For a proof of the weaker version of this theorem in the above form, using theory of Hardy spaces, and more discussion, a good expository article is Balazard and Saias [4]. An alternate, purely complex-analytic proof, is given by Burnol [8].

In fact, Beurling [6] noticed that it is enough to approximate the constant function by linear combinations of the functions $\rho_{1/n}(x)$. Specifically, one has

Theorem 1.5 (Beurling [6], Báez-Duarte [3]). The Riemann hypothesis is true if and only if

$$\chi_{(0,1)}(x) \in \operatorname{span}_{L^2(0,1)} \left\{ \rho_{\alpha}(x) | \frac{1}{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N} \right\},$$

where $\chi_{(0,1)}(x)$ is the characteristic function of the interval (0,1).

This is Vasyunin's motivation for studying Problem 1. Making the change of variables $x \to 1/x$, finite linear combinations of functions ρ_{α} become functions of the form

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} c_k \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m_k} \right\rfloor, m_k \in \mathbb{N}$$

such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{c_k}{m_k} = 0,$$

and now the function space is $L^2((1,\infty),\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x^2})$. Thus, the Nyman–Beurling criterion can be stated as: The Riemann hypothesis is equivalent to the existence of a sequence of functions $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ all of the above form such that $\phi_n(x) \to 1$ in $L^2((1,\infty),\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x^2})$. Vasyunin studies families of functions that take only the values 0 and 1 to construct pointwise approximations to the constant function, and then explores the question stated in Problem 1. In particular, Vasyunin lists some infinite families of solutions to Problem 1 and 52 "sporadic" solutions, found by extensive

computer search, and he conjectures that his list is complete. Theorem 1.1 says that this is indeed the case. 1

Báez-Duarte [2] has shown, as Vasyunin was well aware, that at least one of the pointwise approximations to the constant function that Vasyunin constructs diverges in $L^2((1,\infty),\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x^2})$. It seems likely that the other sequences constructed by Vasyunin diverge as well. In light of this, it seems that if this explicit approach is to give any insight into the Riemann hypothesis, it will be necessary to study step functions that take on more than two values. One natural question to ask might be: Can we classify all step functions of the form (1) that take only values in the set $\{0,1,\ldots,D\}$ for fixed D? For D>1, this question seems difficult. Using substantially different methods, a partial result on this question is obtained in a separate paper in preparation by J. Bell and the author.

1.2. **Application: Cyclic quotient singularities.** A. Borisov [7] has noted that there is a connection between integral factorial ratios and cyclic quotient singularities. In particular, we note that Borisov shows that Vasyunin's conjecture (Theorem 1.1) implies the following. (See [7, Conjecture 1].)

Theorem 1.6. Suppose $d \geq 5$ and we have a one-parameter family of Gorenstein cyclic quotient singularities of dimension 2d+1 with Shukarov minimal log-discrepancy d. Then up to the permutation of the coordinates in the $T^{(2d+1)}$, the corresponding points lie in the subtorus $x_1 + x_2 = 1$.

For more on this connection, the reader should consult Borisov's paper.

1.3. **Notation:** $(\alpha)_n$ denotes the rising factorial,

$$(\alpha)_n := (\alpha)(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)\cdots(\alpha+n-1),$$

and, for $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$, $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$, ${}_nF_m(\alpha; \beta; z)$ is the hypergeometric function

$$_{n}F_{m}(\alpha;\beta;z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_{1})_{k}(\alpha_{2})_{k}\cdots(\alpha_{n})_{k}}{(\beta_{1})_{k}(\beta_{2})_{k}\cdots(\beta_{m})_{k}} \frac{z^{k}}{k!}.$$

Also, $e(x) := \exp(2\pi i x) := e^{2\pi i x}$ and $\zeta_n = e(1/n)$ denotes the primitive nth root of unity with smallest positive argument.

1.4. Acknowledgements. I am grateful to J.C. Lagarias for suggesting the problem considered in this paper, and for encouragement and helpful comments on earlier drafts of this paper. I was aided in the discovery of some of these results by computer code I wrote for the freely available SAGE Mathematics Software [15], even though none of these computations are actually needed to prove the given results.

2. Some Preliminary Definitions and Notation

Throughout this paper, unless otherwise specified, ${\bf a}$ and ${\bf b}$ denote ordered tuples of positive integers

$$\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K)$$

¹The step function corresponding to line 12 of Table 2 is not listed in [16]. However, Vasyunin states that he found 21 seven term step functions, but lists only 20, so its omission must be a transcription error.

and

$$\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots b_L).$$

 $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ denotes the factorial ratio

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)!(a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)!(b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}$$

and $f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ denotes the step function

$$f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \lfloor a_k x \rfloor - \sum_{l=1}^{L} \lfloor b_l x \rfloor$$

Only later will we specify the requirement that L = K + 1.

It is useful to attach certain polynomials to $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ as follows.

Definition 2.1. Define $P(x) = P(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $Q(x) = Q(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ to be relatively prime polynomials such that

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{(x^{a_1} - 1)(x^{a_2} - 1)\cdots(x^{a_K} - 1)}{(x^{b_1} - 1)(x^{b_2} - 1)\cdots(x^{b_L} - 1)}$$

Then for some $\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2 \leq \ldots \leq \alpha_d$ and $\beta_1 \leq \beta_2 \leq \ldots \beta_d$, with $0 < \alpha_i, \beta_j \leq 1$, P and Q factor in $\mathbb{C}[x]$ as

$$P(x) = (x - e(\alpha_1)) \cdots (x - e(\alpha_d))$$

and

$$Q(x) = (x - e(\beta_1)) \cdots (x - e(\beta_d)).$$

where $e(x) = e(2\pi i x)$.

Set
$$\alpha(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d\}$$
 and $\beta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d\}.$

Remark 2.2. It is not too hard to see that for $x \in [0,1]$

$$f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \#\{\alpha_i | \alpha_i \le x\} - \#\{\beta_i | \beta_i \le x\}.$$

Thus, an alternate definition for $f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ could be

$$f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \#(\alpha(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \cap [0, \{x\}]) - \#(\beta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \cap [0, \{x\}])$$

We will occasionally make use of the notion of the interlacing of two sets, so we state the following formally as a definition.

Definition 2.3 (Interlacing). We say that two finite sets of real numbers A and B interlace if the function

$$f(x) = \#((-\infty, x) \cap A) - \#((-\infty, x) \cap B)$$

either takes only the values 0 and 1, or takes only the values -1 and 0. In other words, there is an element of A in between any two elements of B, and an element of B in between any two elements of A.

We say that two sets A and B of complex numbers on the unit circle interlace on the unit circle if their arguments interlace on the real line, where we take the argument of a complex number to be in $[0, 2\pi)$.

3. The connection between step functions and factorial ratios: The equivalence of Problems 1 and 2

In this section we will prove Theorem 1.1 using Theorem 1.2 and the equivalence of Problems 1 and 2. We begin by stating a rather general theorem of Landau [11] that connects the integrality of factorial ratios with the nonnegativity of related step functions.

Theorem 3.1 (Landau [11]). Let $a_{k,s}, b_{l,s} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, 1 \leq k \leq K, 1 \leq l \leq L, 1 \leq s \leq r$ and let

$$A_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r) = \sum_{s=1}^r a_{k,s} x_s$$

and

$$B_l(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r) = \sum_{s=1}^r b_{l,s} x_s.$$

(That is, A_k and B_l are linear forms in r variables with nonnegative integral coefficients.) Then the factorial ratio

$$\frac{\prod_{k=1}^{K} A_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r)!}{\prod_{l=1}^{L} B_l(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r)!}$$

is an integer for all $(x_1, \ldots, x_r) \in \mathbb{Z}^r_{>0}$ if and only if the step function

$$F(y_1, ..., y_r) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} [A_k(y_1, ..., y_r)] - \sum_{l=1}^{L} [B_l(y_1, ..., y_r)]$$

is nonnegative for all $(y_1, \ldots, y_r) \in [0, 1]^r$.

Proof. See [11].
$$\Box$$

The special case of this that we will use is the following.

Lemma 3.2. Let

$$u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}.$$

Then u_n is an integer for all n if and only if the function

$$f(x) = f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \lfloor a_k x \rfloor - \sum_{l=1}^{L} \lfloor b_l x \rfloor$$

is positive for all x between 0 and 1.

Proof. Take
$$A_k(x) = a_k x$$
 and $B_l(x) = b_l x$ in Theorem 3.1.

It also turns out that if $f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is ever negative, then every prime that is large enough occurs as a factor in the denominator of $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ for some n.

Lemma 3.3. *Let*

$$u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}.$$

If u_n is not an integer for some n, then there exists some integer P such that for each prime p > P there exists some n such that $v_p(u_n) < 0$ (where $v_p(u_n)$ is the p-adic valuation of u_n).

Proof. Consider the p-adic valuation of n!. We have

$$v_p(n!) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\infty} \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^{\alpha}} \right\rfloor.$$

Thus we have

$$v_p(u_n) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\infty} f\left(\frac{n}{p^{\alpha}}\right),$$

where $f(x) = f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$

Assuming that u_n is not always an integer, we know from Lemma 3.2 that f(x) is negative for some x. Since f is a step function, it follows that there is some interval, say $[\beta, \beta + \epsilon]$ such that f(x) < 0 for all $x \in [\beta, \beta + \epsilon]$. Additionally, we know that there is some $\delta > 0$ such that f(x) = 0 for all $x \in [0, \delta]$. If we could find some n and p such that $n/p \in [\beta, \beta + \epsilon]$ and $n/p^2 \in [0, \delta]$, then we would have f(n/p) < 0 and $f(n/p^{\alpha}) = 0$ for all $\alpha > 1$, and so we would clearly have $\nu_p(u_n) < 0$. Now, such an n and p need to simultaneously satisfy the two inequalities

$$p\beta < n < p(\beta + \epsilon)$$

and

$$0 \le n \le p^2 \delta$$
.

For p large enough, say $p > P_1$, we have $p^2 \delta > p(\beta + \epsilon)$, so it is sufficient for n and p to satisfy the first of the inequalities. Moreover, for any p large enough, say $p > P_2$, we have $p\epsilon > 1$, so that there will in fact be an integer n between $p\beta$ and $p(\beta + \epsilon)$. So in fact, for any $p > P = \max(P_1, P_2)$ we have that there exists an n such that $\nu_p(u_n) < 0$.

Along with Lemma 3.2, the following lemma, which is a simple generalization of [16, Proposition 3] will yield the full equivalence of Problems 1 and 2.

Lemma 3.4. Suppose that f(x) is a function of the form

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \lfloor a_k x \rfloor - \sum_{l=1}^{L} \lfloor b_l x \rfloor$$

with $a_k, b_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ and that f(x) is bounded. Then $\sum_{k=1}^K a_k = \sum_{l=1}^L b_l$ and, for any n, there exists some x such that f(x) = -n if and only if there exists some x' such that f(x') = L - K + n. In particular, f(x) is nonnegative if and only if the maximum value of f is L - K.

Proof. The first assertion is clear, for if $\sum a_k \neq \sum b_l$, then f(x) is unbounded. Now we know that f(x) is periodic with period 1. Now, for any z that is not an integer we have $\lfloor z \rfloor + \lfloor -z \rfloor = -1$, so for any z for which none of $a_i z$, $b_j z$ is an integer, we have

$$f(z) + f(-z) = L - K,$$

from which the assertion follows.

The following lemma describes explicitly the equivalence between Problems 1 and 2, in a slightly more general form.

Lemma 3.5. Let
$$\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K), \mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_L), \text{ and put}$$

$$M = \text{lcm}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_L).$$

Set

$$(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{L+K}) = \left(\frac{M}{a_1}, \frac{M}{a_2}, \dots, \frac{M}{a_L}, \frac{M}{b_1}, \frac{M}{b_2}, \dots, \frac{M}{b_k}\right).$$

Then the following are equivalent:

(i)

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m_i} \right\rfloor - \sum_{i=K+1}^{K+L} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m_i} \right\rfloor$$

takes on values only in the range $0, 1, \ldots, L-K$. (ii) $\sum_{k=1}^K a_k = \sum_{l=1}^L b_l$ and

(ii)
$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} b_l$$
 and

$$u_n = \frac{(a_1 n)!(a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)!(b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}$$

is an integer for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Moreover, if L - K = 1, we may add

(iii)
$$\alpha(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$$
 and $\beta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ interlace.

Proof. f(x) differs from $f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ only by a change of variables, so Proposition 3.2 tells us that $u_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all n if and only if f(x) > 0 for all $x \in [0,1]$. Additionally, the boundedness of f(x) is equivalent to the statement that $\sum a_k = \sum b_l$, and Lemma 3.4 tells us that f(x) is bounded and nonnegative if and only if it maximum value is L-K.

Part (iii) is simply an issue of terminology, and follows directly from the alternate definition of $f(x; \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ given in Remark 2.2.

Using this equivalence, we can prove Theorem 1.1 as an application of Theorem 1.2.

Proof of Theorem 1.1 (using Theorem 1.2). The only complication that remains is that of classifying solutions with greatest common divisor 1. Consider the map $\phi: \mathbb{N}^K \times N^L \to \mathbb{N}^K \times \mathbb{N}^L$ given by

$$\phi(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K, b_1, \dots, b_L) = \left(\frac{M}{a_1}, \frac{M}{a_2}, \dots, \frac{M}{a_K}, \frac{M}{b_1}, \dots, \frac{M}{b_L}\right)$$

where

$$M = \text{lcm}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K, b_1, \dots, b_L).$$

The image of ϕ is all (K + L)-tuples with greatest common divisor 1 and ϕ is bijective on this subset. Thus ϕ , in combination with Lemma 3.5, gives a bijection between solutions to Problem 1 with greatest common divisor 1 and solutions to Problem 2 with greatest common divisor 1.

When we apply this map to the three families of solutions to Problem 2 listed in Theorem 1.2, we get the five families of solutions to Problem 1 listed in Theorem 1.1, and the 52 sporadic solutions are given by the 52 sporadic solutions to Problem 2.

4. The connection between factorial ratios and hypergeometric series

Rodriguez-Villagas [14] observed a connection between hypergeometric series and factorial ratio sequences. The purpose of this section is to write out this connection explicitly in order to use it for our classification.

We begin with a lemma to show that the generating function for $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is in fact a hypergeometric series.

Lemma 4.1. Let

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}$$

and

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) z^n.$$

Let $\alpha = \alpha(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ and $\beta = \beta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$. If L > K, set $d' = d, \alpha' = \alpha$, and $\beta' = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{d-1}\}$. Otherwise, set $d' = d+1, \alpha' = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d, 1\}$, and $\beta' = \beta$.

Then $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is the hypergeometric series

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = {}_{d'}F_{d'-1}\left(\alpha'; \beta'; Cz\right)$$

where

$$C = \frac{a_1^{a_1} \cdots a_K^{a_K}}{b_1^{b_1} \cdots b_L^{b_L}}.$$

Proof. Examine the ratio between two consecutive terms

$$A(n+1) = \frac{u_{n+1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})}{u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})}$$

$$= \frac{(a_1(n+1))!(a_2(n+1))! \cdots (a_K(n+1))!}{(b_1(n+1))!(b_2(n+1))! \cdots (b_L(n+1))!} \times \left[\frac{(a_1n)!(a_2n)! \cdots (a_Kn)!}{(b_1n)!(b_2n)! \cdots (b_Ln)!} \right]^{-1}$$

After cancellation, this can be written as

$$A(n+1) = \frac{(a_1n+1)(a_1n+2)\cdots(a_1n+a_1)(a_2n+1)\cdots(a_Kn+a_K)}{(b_1n+1)(b_1n+2)\cdots(b_1n+b_1)(b_2n+1)\cdots(b_Ln+b_L)}$$

Now if we factor out the coefficients of n in each term we get

$$A(n+1) = C \frac{\left(n + \frac{1}{a_1}\right)\left(n + \frac{2}{a_1}\right)\cdots\left(n + \frac{a_1}{a_1}\right)\left(n + \frac{1}{a_2}\right)\cdots\left(n + \frac{a_K}{a_K}\right)}{\left(n + \frac{1}{b_1}\right)\left(n + \frac{2}{b_1}\right)\cdots\left(n + \frac{b_1}{b_1}\right)\left(n + \frac{1}{b_2}\right)\cdots\left(n + \frac{b_L}{b_L}\right)},$$

where

$$C = \frac{a_1^{a_1} \cdots a_K^{a_K}}{b_1^{b_1} \cdots b_L^{b_L}}.$$

If we remove the common factors in the fraction then for exactly the same α and β as in Definition 2.1 we have

$$A(n+1) = C \frac{(n+\alpha_1)\cdots(n+\alpha_d)}{(n+\beta_1)\cdots(n+\beta_d)}.$$

Now, $u_0(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = 1$, so we have in general

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \prod_{k=1}^n A(k) = C^n \frac{(\alpha_1)_n \cdots (\alpha_d)_n}{(\beta_1)_n \cdots (\beta_d)_n},$$

Now, if $\beta_d = 1$, we set d' = d. Otherwise, set d' = d + 1 and $\alpha_{d+1} = 1$. Either way we have

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{C^n}{n!} \frac{(\alpha_1)_n \cdots (\alpha_{d'})_n}{(\beta_1)_n \cdots (\beta_{d'-1})_n}$$

and so

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_1)_n \cdots (\alpha_{d'})_n}{(\beta_1)_n \cdots (\beta_{d'-1})_n} \frac{(Cz)^n}{n!} = {}_dF_{d'-1}(\alpha, \beta; Cz).$$

To finish, we notice that $\beta_d = 1$ if and only if L > K.

Example 4.2. Let $\mathbf{a} = (30, 1)$ and $\mathbf{b} = (15, 10, 6)$ and

$$u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(30n)!n!}{(15n)!(10n)!(6n)!}$$

Consider the ratio $\frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n}$. This is

$$\frac{(30n+1)(30n+2)\dots(30n+30)(n+1)}{(15n+1)\dots(15n+15)(10n+1)\dots(10n+10)(6n+1)\dots(6n+6)}$$

Factoring out the coefficients of n in each term in the products, we get

$$\frac{30^{30}(n+\frac{1}{30})(n+\frac{2}{30})\dots(n+\frac{30}{30})(n+1)}{15^{15}10^{10}6^6(n+\frac{1}{15})\dots(n+\frac{15}{15})(n+\frac{1}{10})\dots(n+\frac{10}{10})(n+\frac{1}{6})\dots(n+\frac{6}{6})}$$

Now there is a lot of clear cancellation in the fraction, and we see that this is

$$\frac{30^{30}(n+\frac{1}{30})(n+\frac{7}{30})(n+\frac{11}{30})(n+\frac{13}{30})(n+\frac{17}{30})(n+\frac{19}{30})(n+\frac{23}{30})(n+\frac{29}{30})}{15^{15}10^{10}6^6(n+\frac{1}{5})(n+\frac{1}{3})(n+\frac{2}{5})(n+\frac{1}{2})(n+\frac{3}{5})(n+\frac{2}{3})(n+\frac{4}{5})(n+1)}$$

Which tells us that

$$\sum_{n\geq 1} u_n z^n = {}_{8}F_7\left(\frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30}; \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{5}; Cz\right),$$

where

$$C = \frac{30^{30}}{15^{15}10^{10}6^6}.$$

We will need to know that the hypergeometric series attached to a factorial ratio is essentially unique. We prove this in the next two lemmas.

Lemma 4.3. Suppose that $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \ldots a_K > 0$, $b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \ldots, b_L > 0$ and that

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!} = 1$$

for all $n \geq 1$. Then K = L and $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b}$.

Proof. The cases $K \geq L$ and $K \leq L$ are symmetric, so we may as well assume that $K \leq L$. We will prove the case K = 1 and then proceed by induction on K.

If K = 1 and $a_1 < b_1$, then it is clear that $u_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$. On the other hand, if $a_1 > b_1$, then by Dirichlet's Theorem on primes in arithmetic progressions, there exists some m > 1 such that $a_1m - 1 = p$ is prime. Then p divides the numerator

of u_m but not the denominator, so $u_m \neq 1$. Now, if $a_1 = b_1$, then it is clear that L = K = 1.

The case for general K proceeds similarly. We need only show that $a_1 = b_1$, and we are finished by induction. Again, if $a_1 > b_1$, then there is some m > 1 such that $a_1m - 1 = p$ is prime, and p divides the numerator of u_m but not the denominator. If, on the other hand, $b_1 > a_1$, we just reverse the argument and find an m and p such that p divides the denominator of u_m but not the numerator.

Lemma 4.4. The map

$$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \to u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$$

is one-to-one on the set of pairs (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) such that $a_k \neq b_l$ for all k, l and $a_1 \geq a_2 \cdots \geq a_K$, $b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \ldots \geq b_L$.

Proof. For some (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) and $(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{b}')$, we have

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = u_n(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{b}'; z)$$

if and only if

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = u_n(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{b}')$$

for all n. In this case, we can rewrite this as

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})(u_n(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{b}'))^{-1} = u_n(\mathbf{a} \cup \mathbf{b}', \mathbf{b} \cup \mathbf{a}') = 1.$$

Now it follows from Lemma 4.3 that $\mathbf{a} \cup \mathbf{b}'$ is a permutation of $\mathbf{b} \cup \mathbf{a}'$. Thus \mathbf{a}' is a permutation of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b}' is a permutation of \mathbf{b} .

Remark 4.5. It is also possible to state Lemma 4.4 in an algorithmic manner. Roughly speaking, given parameters $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{d-1})$ that come from a factorial ratio, we can form the polynomials P(x) and Q(x) from Definition 2.1. It is then possible to add extra factors to P(x) and Q(x) together to obtain

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{(x^{a_1} - 1)(x^{a_2} - 1)\cdots(x^{a_K} - 1)}{(x^{b_1} - 1)(x^{b_2} - 1)\cdots(x^{b_L} - 1)}$$

and to recover **a** and **b**. In this manner, if we did not already know about the 52 sporadic integer factorial ratio sequences from Vasyunin's work, we could recover them from the work of Beukers and Heckman [5] described in Section 5.1.

The main interest in looking at hypergeometric series attached to factorial ratio sequences comes from the following observation of Rodriguez-Villegas [14].

Theorem 4.6 (Rodriguez-Villegas [14]). Let

$$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{(a_1 n)! (a_2 n)! \cdots (a_K n)!}{(b_1 n)! (b_2 n)! \cdots (b_L n)!}$$

with $\sum_{K=1}^{K} a_k = \sum_{l=1}^{L} b_l$ and let

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) z^n.$$

Then $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$ is algebraic over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$ if and only if L - K = 1 and $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Proof of Theorem 4.6, part 1. We begin by proving that if the generating function is algebraic, then u_n is in fact integral. In particular, it follows from Lemmas 3.2 and 3.4 that this will imply that we must have $L - K \ge 1$, which is, in fact, all that we need from this part of the proof.

A theorem of Eisenstein (see [10]) asserts that if $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}; \mathbf{b}; z)$ is algebraic, then there exists an N such that $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \cdot N^n$ in an integer for all n. But Lemma 3.3 implies that the set of primes occurring in the denominator of some $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is either empty or infinite. So, if such an N exists, then we are able to take N = 1, which implies that $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is an integer for all n.

The remainder of this proof relies on Landau's theorem and the following lemma of Beukers and Heckman [5].

Lemma 4.7 (Beukers–Heckman [5]). Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots \alpha_n$ and $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots \beta_{n-1}$ be rational numbers with common denominator M. The hypergeometric function

$$_nF_{n-1}(\alpha_1,\alpha_2,\ldots\alpha_n;\beta_1,\beta_2,\ldots\beta_{n-1};z)$$

is algebraic if and only if for all k relatively prime to M the sequences

$$e(k\alpha_1),\ldots,e(k\alpha_n)$$

and

$$e(k\beta_1),\ldots,e(k\beta_{n-1}),1$$

interlace on the unit circle.

Proof. This follows from [5, Theorem 4.8] and the fact that this function is algebraic if and only if its monodromy group is finite. \Box

For the case of the hypergeometric functions that are generating series for $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ we can make this lemma slightly stronger.

Lemma 4.8.

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}; \mathbf{b}; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) z^n$$

is an algebraic function if and only if $\alpha = \alpha(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ and $\beta = \beta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ interlace on [0, 1].

Proof. In our case the α_i and β_j are rational numbers in (0,1]. Suppose that they have common denominator M. Recall that the numbers $e(\alpha_i)$ are roots of the polynomial $P(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$, and that P is the product of cyclotomic polynomials, say $P = \Phi_{m_1} \Phi_{m_2} \cdots \Phi_{m_l}$. Then for any (k, M) = 1 we also have $(k, m_i) = 1$ for all m_i . So the map $\alpha \to \alpha^k$ simply permutes the roots of any Φ_{m_i} . In particular, it permutes the roots of P, and hence permutes the numbers $e(\alpha_i)$.

The exact same argument applies for β . Thus we have that α and β interlace on [0,1] if and only if $e(\alpha_i)^k$ and $e(\beta_j)^k$ interlace on the unit circle for all k with (k,M)=1.

In particular, $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}; \mathbf{b}; z)$ is algebraic if and only if α and β interlace on [0, 1]. \square

Combining these lemmas finishes the proof of 4.6.

Proof of Theorem 4.6, part 2. Suppose that $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$ is algebraic. Then we know that $L - K \geq 1$, from the first part of the proof. Note that the number of copies of the number 1 in the set β is L - K. However, if α and β are to interlace, no values can be repeated, so we must have L - K = 1.

Now, if L - K = 1, then from Lemma 3.5 we know that $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ is integral if and only if α and β interlace. From Lemma 4.8 we know that this is equivalent to $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$ being algebraic.

5. A Classification of Integral Factorial Ratios

5.1. Monodromy for Hypergeometric Functions ${}_{n}F_{n-1}$. This section is an application of the work of Beukers and Heckman [5], so we begin by restating a few necessary theorems and definitions.

Definition 5.1 (Hypergeometric Groups). Let w_1, \ldots, w_n and $z_1, \ldots z_n$ be complex numbers with $w_i \neq z_j$ for all i and j. The hypergeometric group $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ with numerator parameters w_1, \ldots, w_n and denominator parameters z_1, \ldots, z_n is a subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ generated by elements

$$h_0, h_1, and, h_{\infty}$$

such that

$$h_0 h_1 h_{\infty} = 1$$

and

$$\det(t - h_{\infty}) = \prod_{j=1}^{n} (t - w_j)$$

$$\det(t - h_0^{-1}) = \prod_{j=1}^{n} (t - z_j)$$

and such that $h_1 - 1$ has rank 1.

Hypergeometric groups are precisely those groups which occur as monodromy groups for hypergeometric functions. Specifically, we have the following.

Proposition 5.2. The monodromy group for the hypergeometric function

$$_nF_{n-1}(\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_n;\beta_1,\ldots,\beta_{n-1};z)$$

is a hypergeometric group with numerator parameters

$$e(\alpha_1), e(\alpha_2), \ldots, e(\alpha_n)$$

and denominator parameters

$$e(\beta_1), e(\beta_2), \dots, e(\beta_{n-1}), 1.$$

Proof. This is [5, Proposition 3.2].

In categorizing hypergeometric groups it is useful to consider the following special subgroup.

Definition 5.3. The subgroup $H_r(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ of $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ generated by $h_{\infty}^k h_1 h_{\infty}^{-k}$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ is called the reflection subgroup of $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$.

The existence of the following two theorems explains some of the usefulness of considering the reflection subgroup of a hypergeometric group.

Theorem 5.4. The reflection subgroup $H_r(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ of $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ acts reducibly on \mathbb{C}^n if and only if there exists a root of unity $\zeta \neq 1$ such that multiplication by ζ permutes both the elements of \mathbf{w} and the elements of \mathbf{z} . Moreover, if $H_r(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is reducible, then $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is imprimitive.

Proof. This is [5, Theorem 5.3].

Theorem 5.5. Suppose that $H_r(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is irreducible. Then H is imprimitive if and only if there exist $p, q \in N$ with p + q = n and (p, q) = 1, and $A, B, C \in \mathbb{C}^*$ such that $A^n = B^pC^q$ and such that

$$\{w_1,\ldots,w_n\}=\{A,A\zeta_n,A\zeta_n^2,\ldots,A\zeta_n^{n-1}\}$$

and

$$\{z_1, \dots, z_n\} = \{B, B\zeta_p, B\zeta_p^2, \dots, B\zeta_p^{p-1}, C, C\zeta_q, C\zeta_q^2, \dots, C\zeta_q^{q-1}\}$$

where $\zeta_n = e(1/n)$, or with the same sets of equalities with **w** and **z** reversed.

As defined, hypergeometric groups are subgroups of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. The following proposition tells us when a hypergeometric group is defined over $GL_n(R)$ for $R \subset \mathbb{C}$.

Proposition 5.6. Suppose $w_1, \ldots, w_n, z_1, \ldots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}^*$ with $w_i \neq z_j$ for all i, j. Let $A_1, \ldots, A_n, B_1, \ldots, B_n$ be defined by

$$\prod_{j=1}^{n} (t - w_j) = t^n + A_1 t^{n-1} + \dots + A_n,$$

and

$$\prod_{j=1}^{n} (t - z_j) = t^n + B_1 t^{n-1} + \dots + B_n.$$

Then relative to a suitable basis, the hypergeometric group $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is defined over the ring $\mathbb{Z}[A_1, \ldots, A_n, B_1, \ldots, B_n, A_n^{-1}, B_n^{-1}]$.

Proof. This is [5, Corollary 3.6], and follows directly from a theorem of Levelt [12, Theorem 1.1]. \Box

We need to state one more definition, and then we will be ready to state the main classification theorem of Beukers and Heckman that we are interested in.

Definition 5.7. A scalar shift of the hypergeometric group $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is a hypergeometric group $H(d\mathbf{w}, d\mathbf{z}) = H(dw_1, dw_2, \dots, dw_n; dz_1, dz_2, \dots, dz_n)$ for some $d \in C^*$.

Our main interest in the work of Beukers and Heckman comes from the following Theorem.

Theorem 5.8. Let $n \geq 3$ and let $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}) \subset GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ be a primitive hypergeometric group whose parameters are roots of unity and generate the field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_h)$. Then $H(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z})$ is finite if and only if, up to a scalar shift, the parameters have the form $w_1^k, w_2^k, \ldots, w_n^k; z_1^k, z_2^k, \ldots, z_n^k$, where $\gcd(h, k) = 1$ and the exponents of either $w_1, \ldots, w_n; z_1, \ldots, z_n$ or $z_1, \ldots, z_n; w_1, \ldots w_n$ are listed in [5, Table 8.3].

Proof. This is
$$[5, Theorem 7.1]$$
.

5.2. The Classification. From now on we set L = K + 1. We are interested in ratios where the parameters have greatest common divisor 1. The following lemma shows that this condition translates nicely into the reflection group of the monodromy group being irreducible.

Lemma 5.9. Let $u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ and $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$. Let $H(\mathbf{u})$ be the hypergeometric group associated to \mathbf{u} and let $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ be the reflection subgroup of $H(\mathbf{u})$. Suppose that u_n is an integer for all n. Then $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ acts reducibly on \mathbb{C} if and only if

$$\gcd(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_K, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{K+1}) > 1.$$

Moreover, if $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ is reducible, then $H(\mathbf{u})$ is imprimitive.

Proof. Let $P = P(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$ and $Q = Q(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$. Then we have

$$\frac{P}{Q} = \frac{(x - e(\alpha_1)) \cdots (x - e(\alpha_d))}{(x - e(\beta_1)) \cdots (x - e(\beta_d))} = \frac{(x^{a_1} - 1) \cdots (x^{a_K} - 1)}{(x^{b_1} - 1) \cdots (x^{b_{K+1}} - 1)},$$

and $H(\mathbf{u})$ is a hypergeometric group with numerator parameters

$$e(\alpha_1), e(\alpha_2), \ldots, e(\alpha_d)$$

and denominator parameters

$$e(\beta_1), e(\beta_2), \ldots, e(\beta_d).$$

From Theorem 5.4 we know that $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ acts reducibly on \mathbb{C} if and only if there exists some $\gamma \not\equiv 0 \mod 1$ such that

$$\{e(\alpha_1), e(\alpha_2), \dots, e(\alpha_d)\} = \{e(\alpha_1 + \gamma), e(\alpha_2 + \gamma), \dots, e(\alpha_d + \gamma)\}\$$

and

$$\{e(\beta_1), e(\beta_2), \dots, e(\beta_d)\} = \{e(\beta_1 + \gamma), e(\beta_2 + \gamma), \dots, e(\beta_d + \gamma)\}.$$

Such a permutation by multiplication by $e(\gamma)$ is a rotation of the unit circle, and necessarily lifts to permutations of the roots of $(x^{a_1}-1)(x^{a_2}-1)\cdots(x^{a_K}-1)$ and the roots of $(x^{b_1}-1)(x^{b_2}-1)\cdots(x^{b_{K+1}}-1)$. This permutation takes the root e(1) to the root $e(\gamma)$, so $e(\gamma)$ must be a root of $(x^{a_i}-1)$ and a root of $(x^{b_j}-1)$ for all i and j. If $e(\gamma)$ is a primitive Mth root of unity, then this means that $M|a_i$ and $M|b_j$ for all i and j. Thus, such a nonzero γ exists if and only if the gcd of all of the terms greater than 1.

Vasyunin noticed that the step functions corresponding to

(11)
$$u_n = \frac{(2an)!(bn)!}{(an)!(2bn)![(a-b)n]!} \text{ with } b < a$$

and

(12)
$$u_n = \frac{(2an)!(2bn)!}{(an)!(bn)![(a+b)n]!}$$

are nonnegative. Thus for both of these families, u_n is an integer for all n. It turns out that when a and b are not both odd these two infinite families give exactly those with factorial ratios with gcd 1 for which the hypergeometric group is imprimitive. On the other hand, when a and b are both odd, these come from scalar shifts of the hypergeometric groups associated to binomial coefficients.

Lemma 5.10. Let $u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ and $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$. Let $H(\mathbf{u})$ be the hypergeometric group associated to \mathbf{u} and let $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ be the reflection subgroup of $H(\mathbf{u})$. Suppose that u_n is an integer for all n and that $H_r(\mathbf{u})$ is irreducible. Then $H(\mathbf{u})$ is imprimitive if and only if u_n is of the form (11) or (12) with a and b not both odd.

Proof. Again let $P = P(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$ and $Q = Q(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$. Suppose that u_n is the of form (11). Then we have

$$\frac{P}{Q} = \frac{(x^{2a} - 1)(x^b - 1)}{(x^{2b} - 1)(x^a - 1)(x^{a-b} - 1)} = \frac{(x^a + 1)}{(x^b + 1)(x^{a-b} - 1)},$$

which is in lowest terms if a and b are not both odd. Then the numerator parameters for $H(\mathbf{u})$ are

$$A, A\zeta_a^1, A\zeta_a^2, \dots, A\zeta_a^{a-1}$$

and the denominator parameters are

$$B, B\zeta_b, B\zeta_b^2, \dots, B\zeta_b^{b-1}, \zeta_{a-b}, \zeta_{a-b}^2, \dots, \zeta_{a-b}^{a-b-1}, 1$$

where $A = \zeta_{2a}$ and $B = \zeta_{2b}$ satisfy $A^a = B^b = -1$, so these parameters satisfy the condition of Theorem 5.5, and $H(\mathbf{u})$ is imprimitive.

Similarly, if u_n is of the form (12) then we have

$$\frac{P}{Q} = \frac{(x^{2a} - 1)(x^{2b} - 1)}{(x^a - 1)(x^b - 1)(x^{a+b} - 1)} = \frac{(x^a + 1)(x^b + 1)}{x^{a+b} - 1},$$

again in lowest terms if a and b are not both odd, and so $H(\mathbf{u})$ is a hypergeometric group with numerator parameters

$$A, A\zeta_a^1, A\zeta_a^2, \dots, A\zeta_a^{a-1}, B, B\zeta_b, B\zeta_b^2, \dots, B\zeta_b^{b-1}$$

and denominator parameters

$$\zeta_{a+b}, \zeta_{a+b}^2, \dots, \zeta_{a+b}^{a+b}$$

where $A = \zeta_{2a}$ and $B = \zeta_{2b}$. A and B satisfy $A^a = B^b$, so $H(\mathbf{u})$ again satisfies the conditions of the theorem.

To see the converse, suppose that the numerator parameters of H(u) are of the form

$$A, A\zeta_a, A\zeta_a^2, \dots, A\zeta_a^{a-1}.$$

These parameters must have the property that, if they contain one primitive Mth root of unity for some M, then they contain all of them. Thus, by symmetry considerations, we find that the only possibility is that $A = \zeta_{2a}$. Similarly, for the denominator parameters we find that either B or C is 1, and so without loss of generality, we assume that C = 1 and find that $B = \zeta_{2b}$ is the only possibility. Indeed, whenever (a, b) = 1 and a and b are not both odd, this does work and gives u_n of the form (11).

A similar argument works for the second case.

We now examine the case where both a and b are odd.

Lemma 5.11. Let $u_n = u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ and $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$. Let $H(\mathbf{u})$ be the hypergeometric group associated to \mathbf{u} .

(i) If u_n is of the form (11) with a and b both odd, then $H(\mathbf{u})$ is a scalar shift by -1 = e(1/2) of $H(\mathbf{u}')$, where

$$u'_n = \binom{an}{bn}.$$

(ii) If u_n is of the form (12) with a and b both odd, then $H(\mathbf{u})$ is obtained by taking a scalar shift of $H(\mathbf{u}')$ and reversing the numerator and denominator parameters, where

$$u_n' = \binom{(a+b)n}{an}$$

Proof. (i) Suppose that u_n is of the form (11). Then, as in the previous lemma, we have for $P(x) = P(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$ and $Q(x) = Q(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; x)$,

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{(x^a + 1)}{(x^b + 1)(x^{a-b} - 1)}.$$

This is not in lowest terms, but it is in a convenient form for computing the scalar shift of $H(\mathbf{u})$. The scalar shift corresponds to multiplying each root of P and Q by -1, in which case we obtain polynomials P^* and Q^* with

$$\frac{P^*(x)}{Q^*(x)} = \frac{(x^a - 1)}{(x^b - 1)(x^{a-b} - 1)},$$

which very clearly come from $u'_n = \binom{an}{bn}$.

(ii) If u_n is of the form (12), we proceed similarly, except that this time we find that

$$\frac{P^*(x)}{Q^*(x)} = \frac{(x^a - 1)(x^b - 1)}{(x^{a+b} - 1)},$$

which we can see comes from $u'_n = \binom{(a+b)n}{an}$, with the numerator and denominator parameters reversed.

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.2

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Lemma 5.10 classifies all of those integral factorial ratios whose associated hypergeometric group is imprimitive, so it remains to classify those with associated primitive hypergeometric groups. Beukers and Heckman have categorized all finite primitive hypergeometric groups, so we can examine [5, Table 8.3] to find all integral factorial ratios with associated primitive hypergeometric groups.

Specifically, it follows from directly from Proposition 5.6 that a hypergeometric group associated to a factorial ratio must be defined over \mathbb{Q} . There are 27 entries in [5, Table 8.3] that are defined over \mathbb{Q} . So, if H is a primitive hypergeometric group which comes from an integral factorial ratio sequence, then H is either one of these entries or a scalar shift of one of these entries, possibly with the numerator and denominator parameters switched. Moreover, the only scalar shift that we need consider is a scalar shift by -1, as a scalar shift by any other root of unity will change the field of definition.

This yields an infinite family of parameter sets from Line 1 of [5, Table 8.3], and 104 "sporadic" possibilities. However, the denominator parameters of a hypergeometric group coming from a factorial ratio must contain a 1, so we really only have 52 possibilities. It is easy to computationally verify that each of the 52 sporadic step functions found by Vasyunin corresponds to one of these 52 hypergeometric group

parameter sets, but this step is not even necessary, since Lemma 4.4 assures us that different factorial ratios must have different hypergeometric group parameter sets.

It is easily seen that Line 1 of [5, Table 8.3] corresponds to the infinite family of binomial coefficient sequences

$$\frac{[(a+b)n]!}{(an)!(bn)!}$$
 with $gcd(a,b) = 1$,

and, as we have seen in Lemma 5.11, scalar shifts of this family by -1 yield factorial ratios of the forms (11) and (12) already considered.

Lemma 4.4 assures us that this must be all integer factorial ratio sequences in which the parameters have greatest common divisor 1, giving us the "only if" part of the theorem. \Box

6. A Listing of all Integral Factorial Ratios with L-K=1

The following tables contain a listing of all solutions to Problem 2 with gcd 1, organized as follows. The second column lists the parameters for $u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$. The parameter d of the third column is the dimension of the monodromy group of $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}; z)$, and the fourth column lists the specific parameters for ${}_dF_{d-1}$. With the exception of lines 2 and 3 of Table 1 all the entries have primitive monodromy groups, and so they have a corresponding entry in [5, Table 8.3].

It should be noted that lines 1, 2, and 3 of Table 1 only correspond to solutions with gcd 1 when gcd(a, b) = 1.

Table 1: The three infinite families of integral factorial ratio sequences

Line #	$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$	d	$_{d}F_{d-1}$ parameters	[5] Line #
$1_{a,b}$	$\begin{bmatrix} a+b \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} a,b \end{bmatrix}$	a+b-1	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a+b}, \frac{2}{a+b}, \dots, \frac{a+b-1}{a+b} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a}, \frac{2}{a}, \dots, \frac{a-1}{a}, \frac{1}{b}, \frac{2}{b}, \dots, \frac{b-1}{b} \end{bmatrix}$	1
$2_{a,b}$	[2a,b] $[a,2b,a-b]$	a	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2a}, \frac{3}{2a}, \dots \frac{2a-1}{2a} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2b}, \frac{3}{2b}, \dots \frac{2b-1}{2b}, \frac{1}{a-b}, \frac{2}{a-b}, \dots, \frac{a-b-1}{a-b} \end{bmatrix}$	None
$3_{a,b}$	[2a,2b] $[a,b,a+b]$	a+b	$ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2a}, \frac{3}{2a}, \dots \frac{2a-1}{2a}, \frac{1}{2b}, \frac{3}{2b}, \dots \frac{2b-1}{2b} \end{bmatrix} $ $ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a+b}, \frac{2}{a+b}, \dots, \frac{a+b-1}{a+b} \end{bmatrix} $	None

Table 2: The 52 sporadic integral factorial ratio sequences

Line #	$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$	d	$_{d}F_{d-1}$ parameters	[5] Line #
			_	
1	[12,1] [6,4,3]	4	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{11}{12} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$	37
2	$[12,3,2] \\ [6,6,4,1]$	4	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{11}{12} \\ \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{6} \end{bmatrix}$	37
3	[12,1] [8,3,2]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	45
4	[12,3] [8,6,1]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	45

Line #	$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$	$\mid d$	$_{d}F_{d-1}$ parameters	[5] Line #
5	[12,3] [6,5,4]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	46
6	[12,5] [10,4,3]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{10}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix}$	46
7	[18,1] [9,6,4]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4} \end{bmatrix}$	47
8	[9,2] [6,4,1]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{6} \end{bmatrix}$	47
9	[9,4] [8,3,2]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	48
10	[18,4,3] [9,8,6,2]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	48
11	[9,1] [5,3,2]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	49
12	[18,5,3] [10,9,6,1]	6	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix}$	49
13	[18,4] [12,9,1]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	58
14	[12,2] $[9,4,1]$	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$	58
15	[18,2] [9,6,5]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \\ \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	59
16	[10,6] [9,5,2]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{9}{10} \\ \left[\frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \right] \end{bmatrix}$	59
17	[14,3] [9,7,1]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{13}{14} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$	60
18	[18,3,2] [9,7,6,1]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	60
19	[12,2] [7,4,3]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	61
20	$[14,6,4] \\ [12,7,3,2]$	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{13}{14} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	61
21	[14,1] [7,5,3]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{13}{14} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	62
22	[10,6,1] [7,5,3,2]	7	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	62
23	[15,1] [9,5,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$	63
24	[30,9,5] [18,15,10,1]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$	63

Line #	$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$	d	$_{d}F_{d-1}$ parameters	[5] Line #
25	[15,4] [12,5,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{15}{12}, \frac{1}{7}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{6}{5}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	64
26	[30,5,4] [15,12,10,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	64
27	[15,4] [8,6,5]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	65
28	[30,5,4] [15,10,8,6]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{1}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	65
29	[15,2] [10,4,3]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix}$	66
30	[30,3,2] [15,10,6,4]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	66
31	[30,1] [15,10,6]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{10}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	67
32	[15,2] $[10,6,1]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix}$	67
33	[15,7] $[14,5,3]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{13}{14} \end{bmatrix}$	68
34	[30,5,3] [15,10,7,6]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	68
35	[30,5,3] [15,12,10,1]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	69
36	$[15,6,1] \\ [12,5,3,2]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	69
37	[15,1] [8,5,3]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15}, \frac{2}{15}, \frac{4}{15}, \frac{7}{15}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{11}{15}, \frac{13}{15}, \frac{14}{15} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	70
38	[30,5,3,2] [15,10,8,6,1]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{30}, \frac{7}{30}, \frac{11}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{13}{30}, \frac{17}{30}, \frac{19}{30}, \frac{23}{30}, \frac{29}{30} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	70
39	[20,3] $[12,10,1]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix}$	71
40	$[20,6,1] \\ [12,10,3,2]$	8	$ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix} $ $ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{12}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{12} \end{bmatrix} $	71
41	[20,1] [10,8,3]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	72
42	[20,3,2] [10,8,6,1]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{7}{8} \end{bmatrix}$	72
43	[20,1] [10,7,4]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	73
44	$[20,7,2] \\ [14,10,4,1]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{13}{14} \end{bmatrix}$	73

Line #	$u_n(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$	d	$_{d}F_{d-1}$ parameters	[5] Line #
45	[20,3] [10,9,4]	8	$ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix} $ $ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix} $	74
46	[20,9,6] [18,10,4,3]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{20}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{7}{20}, \frac{9}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{13}{20}, \frac{17}{20}, \frac{19}{20} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$	74
47	[24,1] $[12,8,5]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{1}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$	75
48	[24,5,2] $[12,10,8,1]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{7}{10}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{9}{10} \end{bmatrix}$	75
49	[24,4,1] [12,8,7,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7} \end{bmatrix}$	76
50	$[24,7,4] \\ [14,12,8,1]$	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{14}, \frac{3}{14}, \frac{5}{14}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{14}, \frac{11}{14} \end{bmatrix}$	76
51	[24,4,3] [12,9,8,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9} \end{bmatrix}$	77
52	[24,9,6,4] [18,12,8,3,2]	8	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{24}, \frac{5}{24}, \frac{7}{24}, \frac{11}{24}, \frac{13}{24}, \frac{17}{24}, \frac{19}{24}, \frac{23}{24} \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{18}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{7}{18}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{18}, \frac{13}{18}, \frac{17}{18} \end{bmatrix}$	77

References

- [1] T. M. Apostol. *Introduction to analytic number theory*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1976. Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics.
- [2] L. Báez-Duarte. A divergent Vasyunin correction. arXiv:math/0506318v1.
- [3] L. Báez-Duarte. A strengthening of the Nyman-Beurling criterion for the Riemann hypothesis. Atti Accad. Naz. Lincei Cl. Sci. Fis. Mat. Natur. Rend. Lincei (9) Mat. Appl., 14(1):5–11, 2003.
- [4] M. Balazard and E. Saias. The Nyman-Beurling equivalent form for the Riemann hypothesis. Expo. Math., 18(2):131–138, 2000.
- [5] F. Beukers and G. Heckman. Monodromy for the hypergeometric function ${}_{n}F_{n-1}$. *Invent.* Math., 95(2):325-354, 1989.
- [6] A. Beurling. A closure problem related to the Riemann zeta-function. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 41:312–314, 1955.
- [7] A. Borisov. Quotient singularities, integer ratios of factorials, and the Riemann Hypothesis. arXiv:math/0505167v1 [math.NT].
- [8] J.-F. Burnol. On an analytic estimate in the theory of the Riemann zeta function and a theorem of Báez-Duarte. *Acta Cient. Venezolana*, 54(3):210–215, 2003.
- [9] P. Chebyshev. Mémoire sur les nombres premiers. J. Math. Pures Appl., 17:366–390, 1852.
- [10] G. Eisenstein. Uber eine allgemeine eigenschaft def reihen-entwicklungen aller algebraischen funktionen. In Mathmatische Werke, Band II, pages 765–767. 1975.
- [11] E. Landau. Sur les conditions de divisibilité d'un produit de factorielles par un autre. In Collected Works, I, page 116. Thales-Verlag, 1985.
- [12] A. H. M. Levelt. Hypergeometric functions. Doctoral thesis, University of Amsterdam. Drukkerij Holland N. V., Amsterdam, 1961.
- [13] B. Nyman. On the One-Dimensional Translation Group and Semi-Group in Certain Function Spaces. Thesis, University of Uppsala, 1950.
- [14] F. Rodriguez-Villegas. Integral ratios of factorials and algebraic hypergeometric functions. arXiv:math.NT/0701362.
- [15] W. Stein. SAGE Mathematics Software (Version 2.6). The SAGE Group, 2007. http://www.sagemath.org.

[16] V. I. Vasyunin. On a system of step functions. Zap. Nauchn. Sem. S.-Peterburg. Otdel. Mat. Inst. Steklov. (POMI), 262(Issled. po Linein. Oper. i Teor. Funkts. 27):49–70, 231–232, 1999. Translation in J. Math. Sci.(New York) 110 (2002), no. 5, 2930–2943.

Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA $E\text{-}mail\ address$: bober@umich.edu