University of New South Wales

School of Mathematics and Statistics

Assignment

Number Theory

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Question 3

Let $M(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \mu(n)$.

Part a

Use the fact that

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

for $\sigma = (s) > 1$, to deduce that

$$\frac{1}{\zeta(s)} = s \int_1^{\infty} M(x) x^{-s-1} dx.$$

Part b

Assume that $M(x) = O(x^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})$, for any $\epsilon > 0$ is true and deduce that the integral on the right convergess for $\sigma > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$.

Part c

Hence explain why $M(x) = O(x^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})$, for any $\epsilon > 0$, implies the Riemann Hypothesis.

Solutions

Part a

Firstly note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_n^{n+1} \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x^s}\right) dx &= -\int_n^{n+1} \frac{s}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
&= \left[\frac{1}{x^{s+1}}\right]_{x=n}^{x=n+1} \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{(n+1)^{s+1}} - \frac{1}{(n^s)}\right).
\end{aligned}$$

Also note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^s} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{M(n) - M(n-1)}{n^s} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M(n) \left(\frac{1}{n^s} - \frac{1}{(n+1)^s} \right) \\
&\text{and by using the observation above} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M(n) \int_{n-1}^{n} \frac{s}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{n-1}^{n} \frac{sM(x)}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
&= s \int_{1}^{\infty} \frac{M(x)}{x^{s+1}} dx
\end{aligned}$$

Part b

Let $K(x) = \frac{M(x)}{x^{s+1}}$ then

$$\begin{aligned}
K(x) &= \frac{O(x^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})}{x^{s+1}} \\
&= O(x^{-s-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})
\end{aligned}$$

then we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{1}^{\infty} K(x) dx &= \int_{1}^{\infty} O(x^{-s-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}) dx \\
&< \infty
\end{aligned}$$

so long as if $s = \sigma + it$, then $\sigma > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$, by the p test.
We don't need to consider the imaginary component because, $|x^s|$ is independent of its imaginary component, i.e.

$$|x^{\sigma+it}| = |e^{\ln(x)(\sigma+it)}| = |e^{\ln(x)\sigma}|.$$

Part c

If you can prove that $M(x) = O(x^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})$ then the integral converges for all $\sigma > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$ and hence $\zeta(s) = \zeta(\sigma + it) \neq 0$ for any choice of $\epsilon > 0$. This would mean that the only non-trivial zeros must have $\sigma \leq \frac{1}{2}$. The functional equation strengthens this by symetry to say $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$ for any zero of the Riemann-Zeta function.