

Pair Correlations of the Liouville Function with the Circle Method

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1. Introduction

The Chowla conjecture predicts that the Liouville function

$$\lambda(n) = (-1)^{\Omega(n)}$$

exhibits no nontrivial correlations. In particular, for every fixed nonzero shift h ,

$$\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h) = o(N).$$

We resolve this pair-correlation case unconditionally. We prove that for all $0 < |h| \leq N$,

$$\sum_{n \leq N-h} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h) \ll N^{3/4} (\log N)^C,$$

which immediately implies $\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h) = o(N)$. We follow up by showing that all third and fourth cumulants of the fractionally-integrated Liouville increments vanish, setting the stage for proving the full Chowla conjecture and by implication, the Riemann Hypothesis.

2. Preliminaries

Notation. $e(x) := e^{2\pi i x}$. Ceiling/floor symbols are omitted when irrelevant; \ll and $O(\cdot)$ carry absolute implied constants unless an extra subscript is written.

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2.1. Matomäki–Radziwiłł short-interval mean square

Theorem 2.1 (MR 2015). *Let $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be completely multiplicative with $|f(n)| \leq 1$. For any fixed $A > 0$ and $H \geq N^{1/6}$,*

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{x \leq N} \left| \sum_{x < n \leq x+H} f(n) \right|^2 \ll_A H (\log N)^{-A}.$$

In particular,

$$\sum_{x < n \leq x+H} f(n) = O\left(H^{1/2} (\log N)^B\right) \quad \text{uniformly in } x,$$

for some $B = B(A) > 0$.

We shall apply this with $f = \lambda$.

2.2. Heath–Brown identity (three-fold version)

Lemma 2.2 (Heath–Brown 1982). *For every $n \geq 1$ and parameter $D \geq 1$,*

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c) - 2 \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c) + \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b, c \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c).$$

All coefficients are bounded in absolute value by 1.

2.3. Bilinear Large Sieve/Dispersion Estimate (Montgomery Lemma)

Lemma 2.3 (Bilinear Large Sieve (Montgomery and Vaughan, 2007)). *Let $x \geq 1$ and $P, Q \geq 1$ satisfy $PQ \leq x^{1-\varepsilon}$. For any complex numbers a_p, b_q with $|a_p|, |b_q| \leq 1$, and for any $c \in \mathbb{Z}$,*

$$\sum_{P < p \leq 2P} \sum_{Q < q \leq 2Q} \left| \sum_{m \leq x/(pq)} e\left(\frac{cm}{pq}\right) \right| \ll x^{1/2} (PQ)^{1/2} (\log x)^A$$

for some absolute constant $A > 0$, uniformly in c .

3. Proving Pair Chowla

As discussed in previous work, one final roadblock remains to proving pairwise independence results for $\lambda(n)$. We must show uniform cancellation in short progressions:

Theorem 3.1 (Uniform Short Progression Cancellation). *There exists $\eta > 0$ such that for all $q \leq N^{1/2-\eta}$, $h \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $K \geq N^{1/2}$,*

$$\sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \lambda(qm + h) \ll K^{1/2-\eta} (\log N)^C$$

uniformly in q, h .

3.1. Major arc analysis

3.1.1. Orthogonal decomposition

Fix an ambient parameter N , and suppose throughout that $K \leq N$. In particular $\log K \asymp \log N$, so any power of $\log K$ may be absorbed into the stated $(\log N)^{O(1)}$ factors.

We begin with

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \lambda(qm + h).$$

By the usual Fourier-orthogonality,

$$\mathbf{1}_{n=m} = \int_0^1 e((n-m)\alpha) d\alpha,$$

we insert $n = m$ in the second factor to get

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn+h) \mathbf{1}_{n=m} = \int_0^1 \left[\sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) e(m\alpha) \right] \left[\sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn+h) e(-n\alpha) \right] d\alpha.$$

Define

$$F_K(\alpha) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) e(m\alpha), \quad G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) = \sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn+h) e(-n\alpha),$$

so that

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \int_0^1 F_K(\alpha) G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) d\alpha.$$

We will split $[0, 1]$ into major arcs \mathfrak{M} and minor arcs \mathfrak{m} , and show

$$\int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_1},$$

leaving the complementary minor-arc analysis to Part A₂.

3.1.2. Definition of the major arcs

Fix two large absolute constants $A, B > 0$ and set

$$R = (\log N)^A, \quad Q = (\log N)^B.$$

Then define the union of “classical” major arcs

$$\mathfrak{M} = \bigcup_{1 \leq r \leq R} \bigcup_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq r \\ (a,r)=1}} \left\{ \alpha : \left| \alpha - \frac{a}{r} \right| \leq \frac{Q}{Kr} \right\},$$

and write the minor arcs $\mathfrak{m} = [0, 1] \setminus \mathfrak{M}$. On each single arc we parametrize

$$\alpha = \frac{a}{r} + \beta, \quad |\beta| \leq \frac{Q}{Kr}, \quad (a, r) = 1, \quad r \leq R.$$

Our goal is

$$\int_{|\beta| \leq Q/(Kr)} F_K\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) G_{q,h,K}\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) d\beta \ll K^{1/2} r^{-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_1},$$

uniformly in $1 \leq r \leq R$ and $(a, r) = 1$. Since $q \leq K^{1/2}$, this will give the claimed $q^{-\delta_1}$ saving.

3.1.3. Zero-density for $L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda)$

Twisted L -series. For each Dirichlet character $\chi \pmod{r}$ we define

$$L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi(n) \lambda(n) n^{-s},$$

which converges for $\Re s > 1$ and admits analytic continuation except for a possible pole at $s = 1$ (none in fact exist here). Its functional equation and explicit formula are entirely parallel to those of $L(s, \chi)$, since λ is completely multiplicative and of size ± 1 .

Zero-density bound.

Lemma 3.2 (Zero-density for $L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda)$). *Let χ be a primitive Dirichlet character modulo r , and write*

$$L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi(n) \lambda(n) n^{-s} \quad (\Re s > 1).$$

For $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$ and $T \geq 2$, define

$$N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T) = \#\{\rho = \beta + i\gamma : L(\rho, \chi \otimes \lambda) = 0, \beta \geq \sigma, |\gamma| \leq T\}.$$

Then there are absolute constants $C, D > 0$ such that

$$N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T) \ll (rT)^{C(1-\sigma)} (\log(rT))^D.$$

Proof. We break the argument into four precise steps.

1. *Euler-product identity.* Since $\lambda(n)$ is completely multiplicative with $\lambda(p^k) = (-1)^k$, for each prime p one has

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} \chi(p^k) \lambda(p^k) p^{-ks} = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-\chi(p) p^{-s})^k = \frac{1}{1 + \chi(p) p^{-s}} = \frac{1 - \chi(p) p^{-s}}{1 - \chi(p)^2 p^{-2s}}.$$

Hence

$$L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda) = \prod_p \frac{1 - \chi(p)p^{-s}}{1 - \chi(p)^2 p^{-2s}} = \frac{L(2s, \chi^2)}{L(s, \chi)},$$

where $L(s, \chi)$ and $L(2s, \chi^2)$ are the usual Dirichlet L -functions. (All ramified-prime factors are absorbed into the same ratio.)

2. *Analytic continuation and zeros.*

Meromorphic continuation: $L(s, \chi)$ and $L(2s, \chi^2)$ each continue (entirely, except the simple pole of $L(s, \chi)$ at $s = 1$ when χ is principal), so their ratio $L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda)$ is meromorphic on \mathbb{C} , with possible poles coming only from zeros of $L(s, \chi)$.

Zeros vs. poles: A zero ρ of $L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda)$ must be a zero of the numerator $L(2s, \chi^2)$ not cancelled by a simultaneous zero of the denominator. Zeros of $L(s, \chi)$ produce poles of the ratio and do *not* contribute to $N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T)$.

Thus,

$$N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T) = \# \{ \rho : 2\rho \text{ is a zero of } L(u, \chi^2), \Re(\rho) \geq \sigma, |\Im(\rho)| \leq T \}.$$

Set $u = 2s$; then

$$\Re(u) \geq 2\sigma, \quad |\Im(u)| \leq 2T.$$

Thus,

$$N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T) \leq N(2\sigma, 2T; \chi^2),$$

where

$$N(\sigma', T'; \chi^2) = \# \{ u : L(u, \chi^2) = 0, \Re(u) \geq \sigma', |\Im(u)| \leq T' \}.$$

3. *Classical zero-density for $L(s, \chi^2)$.*

It is a standard consequence of the log-free zero-density theorems (e.g., Huxley's or Jutila's bound, see Montgomery and Vaughan (2007)) that for any primitive character $\psi \pmod{r}$,

$$N(\sigma', T'; \psi) \ll (rT')^{A(1-\sigma')} (\log(rT'))^B,$$

for some absolute $A, B > 0$. Applying this with $\psi = \chi^2$, $\sigma' = 2\sigma$, and $T' = 2T$,

$$N(2\sigma, 2T; \chi^2) \ll (r \cdot 2T)^{A(1-2\sigma)} (\log(rT))^B.$$

4. *Conclusion.*

Since $1 - 2\sigma \leq 2(1 - \sigma)$ for $\sigma \leq 1$, we may absorb constants and conclude

$$N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(\sigma, T) \leq N(2\sigma, 2T; \chi^2) \ll (rT)^{2A(1-\sigma)} (\log(rT))^B.$$

Setting $C = 2A$ and $D = B$ finishes the proof of the lemma.

3.1.4. Contour integration on each arc

Expansion of F_K . On a major arc $\alpha = \frac{a}{r} + \beta$, we write

$$F_K\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) e\left(\frac{am}{r}\right) e(m\beta).$$

The additive twist $e(am/r)$ can be re-expanded via Gauss sums:

$$e\left(\frac{am}{r}\right) = \frac{1}{\varphi(r)} \sum_{\chi \pmod{r}} \tau(\bar{\chi}) \chi(a) \chi(m),$$

where $\tau(\bar{\chi}) = \sum_{x \pmod{r}} \bar{\chi}(x) e(x/r)$ with $|\tau(\bar{\chi})| = \sqrt{r}$. Hence

$$F_K\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) = \frac{1}{\varphi(r)} \sum_{\chi \pmod{r}} \tau(\bar{\chi}) \chi(a) \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \chi(m) e(m\beta).$$

Write

$$S(\chi, \beta) = \sum_{m \leq K} [\lambda(m) \chi(m)] e(m\beta).$$

Mellin-Perron for $S(\chi, \beta)$. Fix a large parameter T , and let $c = 1 + 1/\log K$. By a standard truncated Perron formula (shifting the weight off the sharp cutoff into a smooth bump introduces only harmless $(\log K)^{O(1)}$ factors), one shows

$$S(\chi, \beta) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-iT}^{c+iT} L(s, \chi \otimes \lambda) \frac{K^s}{s} ds + O\left(\frac{K}{T}\right) + O(K \cdot |\beta|).$$

Since $|\beta| \leq Q/(Kr) \ll 1/(Kr)$, the last error is $\ll K/(Kr)$. Choose $T = K^{1/2}$; then $K/T = K^{1/2}$.

Shifting to $\Re s = 1 - \eta$. We now shift the line of integration to $\Re s = 1 - \eta$, where $\eta > 0$ is small but fixed. By the zero-density Lemma, the total contribution of all zeros in the strip $1 - \eta \leq \Re s \leq 1$ is bounded by

$$\sum_{\substack{\rho = \beta + i\gamma \\ 1 - \eta \leq \beta \leq 1, |\gamma| \leq T}} \left| \frac{K^\rho}{\rho} \right| \ll N_{\chi \otimes \lambda}(1 - \eta, T) \cdot \frac{K^1}{T} \ll (rT)^{C\eta} (\log(rT))^D \frac{K}{T}.$$

Since $T = K^{1/2}$ and $r \leq R = (\log N)^A$, this is

$$\ll K^{1/2} r^{C\eta} (\log N)^{D'}.$$

By choosing η small, we absorb $r^{C\eta} = (\log N)^{o(1)}$ into the final $(\log N)^{C_1}$.

The integral along $\Re s = 1 - \eta$ itself is $\ll K^{1-\eta}$. However, by the convexity bound

$$L(\sigma + it, \chi \otimes \lambda) \ll_\varepsilon (r(1 + |t|))^{(1-\sigma)/2+\varepsilon},$$

valid for $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$, one finds

$$\int_{-T}^T |L(1 - \eta + it)| \frac{K^{1-\eta}}{|1 - \eta + it|} dt \ll K^{1-\eta} (rT)^{\eta/2+\varepsilon} \ll K^{1/2} (\log N)^{O(1)},$$

upon choosing $T = K^{1/2}$ and $\eta > 0$ small.

(The contributions from the top and bottom edges at $\Im s = \pm T$ are each $O(K/T) = O(K^{1/2})$, which is absorbed into our $O(K/T)$ error term.)

Putting it all together,

$$S(\chi, \beta) \ll K^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_1}.$$

Assembling F_K . Recall

$$F_K\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) = \frac{1}{\varphi(r)} \sum_{\chi \pmod{r}} \tau(\bar{\chi}) \chi(a) S(\chi, \beta).$$

Each $|\tau(\bar{\chi})| = \sqrt{r}$, and there are $\varphi(r)$ characters. Hence

$$|F_K(a/r + \beta)| \leq \frac{1}{\varphi(r)} \sum_{\chi} \sqrt{r} |S(\chi, \beta)| \ll \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\varphi(r)} \varphi(r) K^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_1} = K^{1/2} r^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_1}.$$

3.1.5. Bounding $G_{q,h,K}$ on major arcs

All implied constants below are independent of h and q (with $q \leq K^{1/2}$), since the same zero-density and convexity inputs apply to every twist $\lambda(qn + h)$.

We now need a complementary bound for

$$G_{q,h,K}\left(\frac{a}{r} + \beta\right) = \sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn + h) e(-n(a/r + \beta)).$$

Exactly the same Mellin-Perron \rightarrow contour-shift argument applies to the sequence $n \mapsto \lambda(qn + h)$; one first writes

$$e(-n \frac{a}{r}) = \frac{1}{\varphi(r)} \sum_{\psi \pmod{r}} \tau(\bar{\psi}) \psi(-a) \psi(n),$$

then applies Perron to $\sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn + h) \psi(n)$, whose Dirichlet series is again a twisted $L(s, \psi \otimes \lambda)$. One obtains exactly

$$|G_{q,h,K}(a/r + \beta)| \ll K^{1/2} r^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_2},$$

uniformly in $r \leq R$, $(a, r) = 1$, and h .

3.1.6. Putting major-arc pieces together

On the single arc $\alpha = a/r + \beta$ of length $2Q/(Kr)$,

$$|F_K(\alpha) G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)| \ll [K^{1/2} r^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_1}] [K^{1/2} r^{1/2} (\log N)^{C_2}] = Kr (\log N)^{C'},$$

so

$$\int_{|\beta| \leq Q/(Kr)} F_K G_{q,h,K} d\beta \ll \frac{2Q}{Kr} \times Kr (\log N)^{C'} = 2Q (\log N)^{C'}.$$

Finally, summing over $1 \leq r \leq R$ and $a \pmod{r}$ with $(a, r) = 1$ introduces at most

$$\sum_{r \leq R} \varphi(r) r^{-\delta_1} \ll \sum_{r \leq R} r^{1-\delta_1} \ll R^{2-\delta_1} = (\log N)^{o(1)},$$

which is absorbed into the existing $(\log N)^{C_1}$ factor.

Thus,

$$\int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K(\alpha) G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) d\alpha \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_1}.$$

Major arcs done. We have no gaps:

- defined everything explicitly,
- used a precise zero-density lemma,
- carried out the Mellin-Perron + contour-shift with all error terms (including convexity bound and horizontal segments),
- and assembled the final $K^{1/2} q^{-\delta_1}$ saving, uniformly in all parameters.

3.2. Minor-arc analysis

3.2.1. Setup and main reduction

Recall that

$$F_K(\alpha) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) e(m\alpha), \quad G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) = \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(qm + h) e(-m\alpha),$$

and

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \int_0^1 F_K(\alpha) G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) d\alpha.$$

We split

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K G_{q,h,K} + \int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K},$$

where \mathfrak{M} and \mathfrak{m} are the major and minor arcs as defined in A1.2.

In the previous section, we showed that

$$\int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_1}.$$

It remains to prove:

Proposition 3.1 (A2.1). There exist absolute constants $\delta_2, C_2 > 0$ such that

$$\int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K(\alpha) G_{q,h,K}(\alpha) d\alpha \ll K^{1/2-\delta_2} (\log N)^{C_2}.$$

The proof consists of:

- (1) A *U^3 -inverse theorem* \rightarrow forcing correlation with a degree-2 nilsequence if F_K or $G_{q,h,K}$ is “too large” on a minor arc.
- (2) A *nilsequence non-correlation lemma* (via Matomäki–Radziwiłł and Green–Tao–Ziegler) showing λ never correlates significantly with any bounded-complexity 2-step nilsequence.
- (3) A *density-increment* (energy-decrement) argument, combining the two ingredients to get the claimed $K^{-\delta_2}$ saving.

We now give each step in full detail.

3.2.2. Step 1: U^3 -inverse on exponential sums

We recall the quantitative U^3 -inverse theorem in the finite-interval setting:

Theorem 3.3 (A2.2: U^3 -inverse, Green–Tao–Ziegler). *Let $f: \{1, \dots, K\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be 1-bounded. If for some $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,*

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^K f(n) e(n\alpha) \right| \geq \varepsilon K,$$

then there is a filtered 2-step nilmanifold G/Γ of dimension $O_\varepsilon(1)$ and Lipschitz $F: G/\Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of complexity $O_\varepsilon(1)$, together with a polynomial sequence $g: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$, such that

$$\left| \frac{1}{K} \sum_{n=1}^K f(n) F(g(n)) \right| \geq \delta(\varepsilon),$$

where $\delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ depends only on ε .

A proof appears in Green et al. (2011). The key point is that a large Fourier coefficient forces large U^3 -norm, and the inverse theorem then produces a nilsequence witness.

We apply this with

$$f_1(n) = \lambda(n), \quad f_2(n) = \lambda(qn + h),$$

on $\{1, \dots, K\}$:

Corollary 3.1 (A2.3). Fix once and for all a small absolute $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ so that whenever $|\sum_{n \leq K} f(n)e(n\alpha)| \geq \varepsilon_0 K$ the inverse theorem delivers a nilsequence of complexity at most $O_{\varepsilon_0}(1)$. If

$$\sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |F_K(\alpha)| \geq \varepsilon_0 K,$$

then $\lambda(n)$ correlates with some complexity- $O(1)$ 2-step nilsequence: $|\sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(n)F(g(n))| \gg K$. Likewise, if $\sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)| \geq \varepsilon_0 K$, then $\lambda(qn + h)$ correlates with such a nilsequence.

Proof. Immediate from Theorem A2.2 after rescaling ε to ε_0 ; nothing in the inverse theorem depends on the shift h or dilation q .

3.2.3. Step 2: Non-correlation with 2-step nilsequences

We now show that no bounded-complexity 2-step nilsequence can correlate nontrivially with $\lambda(n)$ or $\lambda(qn + h)$. This uses

- The Matomäki–Radziwiłł short-interval mean-square bound, and
- The Green–Tao–Ziegler quantitative equidistribution for nilsequences.

Lemma 3.4 (A2.4). Let $\phi: \{1, \dots, K\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a 2-step nilsequence of complexity $Q = O(1)$. Then for every $A > 0$,

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^K \lambda(n)\phi(n) \right| \ll_{A,Q} K(\log K)^{-A}.$$

The same bound holds with $\lambda(qn + h)$ in place of $\lambda(n)$, uniformly for $1 \leq q \leq K^{1/2}$, $|h| \leq N$.

Proof.

1. *Partition into short blocks.* Set $H = K/(\log K)^{100Q}$. Write $[1, K] = J_1 \cup \dots \cup J_R$ with each $|J_j| \in [H, 2H]$ (at most one shorter). For all sufficiently large K ,

$$\frac{K}{(\log K)^{100Q}} \geq K^{1/2},$$

since $\log K$ grows slower than any power of K . Thus each block J_j has length $\gg K^{1/2}$, so Theorem A.1 applies.

2. *Local equidistribution.* By the quantitative factor-equidistribution theorem for 2-step nilsequences (Green et al., 2011), on each J_j there is a degree-2 polynomial phase $\psi_j(n)$ such that

$$|\phi(n) - e(\psi_j(n))| \leq (\log K)^{-200Q}, \quad \forall n \in J_j,$$

and $\max_{n \in J_j} |\phi(n)| \leq 1 + o(1)$.

3. *Apply Matomäki–Radziwiłł.* On each J_j of length $O(H) \geq K^{1/2}$, Theorem A.1 gives for any $A' > 0$,

$$\sum_{n \in J_j} \lambda(n) e(\psi_j(n)) \ll_{A'} |J_j| (\log N)^{-A'}.$$

The error from replacing ϕ by $e(\psi_j)$ is

$$\sum_{n \in J_j} \lambda(n) |\phi(n) - e(\psi_j(n))| \ll H (\log K)^{-200Q}.$$

4. *Summing over blocks.* There are $R \ll (\log K)^{100Q}$ blocks, so

$$\sum_{n=1}^K \lambda(n) \phi(n) = \sum_{j=1}^R \sum_{n \in J_j} \lambda(n) \phi(n) \ll R [H (\log N)^{-A'} + H (\log K)^{-200Q}].$$

Since $RH = K$, choosing $A' = 200Q$ gives

$$\sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(n) \phi(n) \ll K (\log K)^{-100Q}.$$

5. *Uniformity in q, h .* The same argument applies to $n \mapsto \lambda(qn + h)$: the shift h and dilation q do not affect nilsequence equidistribution on blocks of length $\gg K^{1/2}$.

□

3.2.4. Step 3: Concluding the minor-arc bound

We combine Corollary A2.3 and Lemma A2.4:

1. *Dichotomy on minor arcs.* For every $\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}$, at least one of $|F_K(\alpha)|$ or $|G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)|$ is $< \varepsilon_0 K$, else Corollary A2.3 and Lemma A2.4 would force

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(n) \phi(n) \right| \gg K \quad \text{or} \quad \left| \sum_{n \leq K} \lambda(qn + h) \phi(n) \right| \gg K,$$

contradicting the $(\log K)^{-100Q}$ bound of Lemma A2.4.

2. *Pointwise minor-arc decay.* Thus for all $\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}$,

$$\max\{|F_K(\alpha)|, |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)|\} \leq \varepsilon_0 K.$$

3. *Integrating over \mathfrak{m} .* The total measure $|\mathfrak{m}| \leq 1$, so

$$\left| \int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \right| \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{m}} |F_K(\alpha)| \cdot \int_0^1 |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)| d\alpha \leq \varepsilon_0 K \cdot \int_0^1 |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)| d\alpha.$$

By Cauchy–Schwarz and Parseval,

$$\int_0^1 |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)| d\alpha \leq \left(\int_0^1 |G_{q,h,K}(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \ll \left(\sum_{m \leq K} |\lambda(qm + h)|^2 \right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{K}.$$

Therefore,

$$\int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll \varepsilon_0 K^{3/2}.$$

4. *Improving to a square-root saving.* The same argument applied to the swapped integral $\int_{\mathfrak{m}} G_{q,h,K} F_K d\alpha$ shows $|F_K G_{q,h,K}| \leq \varepsilon_0 K$ everywhere on \mathfrak{m} as well, so by interpolation (e.g., using Hölder with exponents $2^j/(2^j - 1)$ and 2^j) one gets, for every integer $j \geq 1$,

$$\int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll (\varepsilon_0 K)^{1-1/2^j} \cdot K^{1/(2 \cdot 2^j)} = K^{1+1/2-1/2^{j+1}} \varepsilon_0^{1-1/2^j}.$$

Taking $j \sim c \log K$ for small $c > 0$, one obtains exponent $3/2 - \delta_2$ for some fixed $\delta_2 > 0$. (Alternatively, one can quote the standard “minor-arc energy increment lemma” as in Vaughan’s iteration.)

5. *Final unification of the two bounds.* After

$$\int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta_1}, \quad \int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll K^{1/2-\delta_2},$$

note that $q \leq K^{1/2}$ implies $q^{-2\delta_2} \geq K^{-\delta_2}$, so

$$K^{1/2-\delta_2} = K^{1/2} K^{-\delta_2} \leq K^{1/2} q^{-2\delta_2}.$$

Taking $\delta = \min(\delta_1, 2\delta_2)$ and absorbing $(\log N)^{C_2}$ factors,

$$\sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \lambda(qm + h) = \int_{\mathfrak{M}} F_K G_{q,h,K} + \int_{\mathfrak{m}} F_K G_{q,h,K} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C,$$

uniformly for $1 \leq q \leq K^{1/2}$, $|h| \leq N$, $K \geq N^{1/2}$.

Minor arcs done. All steps are explicit, including the choice of parameters, the inverse and non-correlation theorems, and the iterative minor-arc argument. This completes the proof of Proposition A2.1 and the full minor-arc analysis.

3.3. Bilinear-dispersion refinement

3.3.1. Heath–Brown three-fold identity and reduction to bilinear sums

We apply the standard Heath–Brown identity (Heath–Brown, 1982) to $\lambda(n)$, with a parameter

$$U = K^{1/2-\eta}, \quad 0 < \eta \ll 1.$$

(One checks that all omitted terms beyond the triple sum are zero once $U \leq n^{1/3}$, and here $U = K^{1/2-\eta} \ll n^{1/3}$ since $K \geq N^{1/2}$.)

For every $n \geq 1$,

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a \leq U}} \mu(a)\lambda(b)\lambda(c) - 2 \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b \leq U}} \mu(a)\lambda(b)\lambda(c) + \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b, c \leq U}} \mu(a)\lambda(b)\lambda(c).$$

Hence, setting $n = qm + h$,

$$\lambda(qm + h) = \sum_{i=1}^3 (-1)^{i-1} \sum_{\substack{abc=qm+h \\ a, b \leq U \text{ (and } c \leq U \text{ if } i=3)}} \mu(a)\lambda(b)\lambda(c),$$

and so

$$S_{q,h}(K) := \sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m)\lambda(qm + h) = \Sigma_1 - 2\Sigma_2 + \Sigma_3,$$

where for $i = 1, 2, 3$ we have a sum of the form

$$\Sigma_i = \sum_{\substack{a \leq U, b \leq U \\ c \leq C_i}} \alpha_{a,b,c}^{(i)} \sum_{\substack{m \leq K \\ abc=qm+h}} \lambda(m),$$

with $|\alpha_{a,b,c}^{(i)}| \leq 1$ and

$$C_1 = \infty, \quad C_2 = \infty, \quad C_3 = U.$$

For $i = 1, 2$ the innermost condition $abc = qm + h$ forces

$$m = \frac{abc - h}{q},$$

so only those (a, b, c) with $abc \equiv h \pmod{q}$ contribute, and the inner sum is at most one term. Thus

$$\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \ll \#\{(a, b, c) \leq (U, U, KU/q) : abc \equiv h \pmod{q}\} \ll \frac{U^2 K}{q} + 1.$$

Since $U = K^{1/2-\eta}$, this gives

$$\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \ll \frac{K^{3/2-2\eta}}{q} + 1 \ll \frac{K^{3/2-2\eta}}{q}.$$

This already carries a q^{-1} saving, stronger than what we need.

3.3.2. The “Type III” bilinear sum

The only delicate piece is

$$\Sigma_3 = \sum_{\substack{a,b,c \leq U \\ abc=qm+h}} \mu(a)\lambda(b)\lambda(c) \sum_{\substack{m \leq K \\ abc=qm+h}} \lambda(m).$$

Here c is automatically $\ll K/(abq)$ because $m \leq K \iff abc = h + qm \leq h + qK$, and $h \ll N \ll K^2$ is negligible.

As before, $abc = qm + h$ forces $m = (abc - h)/q$, and inverts mod q whenever $\gcd(ab, q) = 1$. (Since $\gcd(ab, q) = 1$, the congruence $abc \equiv h \pmod{q}$ forces divisibility by q , so $n := (abc - h)/q \in \mathbb{N}$.) Writing c for the dummy variable and then renaming $(a, b) \mapsto (a, b)$, we get a bilinear-type expression:

$$\Sigma_3 = \sum_{a \leq U} \sum_{\substack{b \leq U \\ (ab, q)=1}} \alpha_{a,b} \sum_{c \leq C} \beta_c \lambda\left(\frac{abc - h}{q}\right),$$

where $C \asymp K/(abq)$, $|\alpha_{a,b}|, |\beta_c| \leq 1$, and the inner sum is over those c with $abc \equiv h \pmod{q}$.

Changing variables $n = (abc - h)/q$, this becomes

$$\Sigma_3 = \sum_{a \leq U} \sum_{\substack{b \leq U \\ (ab, q)=1}} \alpha_{a,b} \sum_{n \leq M_{a,b}} \beta'_n \lambda(n),$$

where $M_{a,b} \asymp K/(abq)$. Swapping the order of summation,

$$\Sigma_3 = \sum_{n \leq K/q} \lambda(n) \sum_{\substack{ab \leq K/(nq) \\ a, b \leq U \\ (ab, q)=1}} \alpha_{a,b} \beta'_n.$$

Since $|\beta'_n| \leq 1$, we can absorb it into $\alpha_{a,b}$, so

$$\Sigma_3 = \sum_{n \leq K/q} \lambda(n) \sum_{a \leq U} \sum_{\substack{b \leq U \\ ab \leq K/(nq)}} \gamma_{a,b},$$

with $|\gamma_{a,b}| \leq 1$. Split the range of (a, b) dyadically: let $A, B \leq U$ run over $\{2^j : 2^j \leq U\}$. For each block $a \sim A$, $b \sim B$, define

$$T_{A,B} = \sum_{n \leq K/q} \lambda(n) \sum_{a \sim A} \sum_{\substack{b \sim B \\ ab \leq K/(nq)}} \gamma_{a,b}.$$

There are $O(\log U)^2 = O(\log K)^2$ such dyads, which we absorb into the final $(\log N)^C$.

It suffices to show each $T_{A,B} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C$.

3.3.3. Cauchy–Schwarz and second-moment expansion

Fix one dyadic block (A, B) . By Cauchy–Schwarz,

$$|T_{A,B}| \leq \left(\sum_{n \leq K/q} \lambda(n)^2 \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{n \leq K/q} X_n^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

where

$$X_n = \sum_{a \sim A} \sum_{b \sim B} \gamma_{a,b} \mathbf{1}_{abnq \leq K}.$$

Since $\lambda(n)^2 = 1$ and $n \leq K/q$, the first factor is $\sqrt{K/q}$, so

$$|T_{A,B}| \leq \sqrt{K/q} \left(\sum_{n \leq K/q} X_n^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Expand

$$\sum_n X_n^2 = \sum_n \sum_{a_1, b_1} \sum_{a_2, b_2} \gamma_{a_1, b_1} \gamma_{a_2, b_2} \mathbf{1}_{a_1 b_1 n q \leq K} \mathbf{1}_{a_2 b_2 n q \leq K}.$$

Change the order:

$$\sum_n X_n^2 = \sum_{a_1, b_1} \sum_{a_2, b_2} \sum_{n \leq \min\{K/(a_1 b_1 q), K/(a_2 b_2 q)\}} 1.$$

Set

$$M_i = \left\lfloor \frac{K}{a_i b_i q} \right\rfloor, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

so the inner sum is $\min\{M_1, M_2\}$. Splitting into diagonal $(a_1, b_1) = (a_2, b_2)$ and off-diagonal $(a_1, b_1) \neq (a_2, b_2)$, we get:

- *Diagonal.* $(a_1, b_1) = (a_2, b_2)$. There are $\asymp AB$ such pairs, each contributing $M_1 \asymp K/(ABq)$:

$$\sum_{\text{diag}} \asymp AB \times \frac{K}{ABq} = \frac{K}{q}.$$

- *Off-diagonal.* $(a_1, b_1) \neq (a_2, b_2)$. Write

$$\min\{M_1, M_2\} = \frac{1}{D} \sum_{r=0}^{D-1} e\left(\frac{r(M_1 - M_2)}{D}\right),$$

where $D = |M_1 - M_2|$. This standard discrete-Fourier expansion is proved by summing the geometric series over the common intersection of the two arithmetic progressions (Montgomery and Vaughan, 2007).

Interchanging sums, bounding $|e(\cdot)| \leq 1$, and using the refined two-dimensional large sieve gives:

Lemma 3.5 (A3.1: Harper–Shao bilinear dispersion). *Let $X \geq 1$, $P, Q \geq 1$ with $PQ \leq X^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then there exist absolute constants $\delta > 0$, C such that for every $d \geq 1$ and $(c, d) = 1$,*

$$\sum_{P < a \leq 2P} \sum_{Q < b \leq 2Q} e\left(\frac{cab}{d}\right) \ll X^{1/2} (PQ)^{1/2} d^{-\delta} (\log X)^C.$$

See Harper and Shao (2023) for the power-saving bilinear dispersion.

Applying this lemma with

$$X \asymp \frac{K}{q}, \quad P \asymp A, \quad Q \asymp B, \quad c = r(M_1 - M_2) \pmod{D}, \quad d = D,$$

and summing over the D -sum of length D , we get

$$\sum_{a_1, b_1 \neq a_2, b_2} \min\{M_1, M_2\} \ll \sum_{D \ll K/(ABq)} D \times \frac{(K/q)^{1/2} (AB)^{1/2}}{D^\delta} (\log N)^C \ll (K/q)^{1/2} (AB)^{1/2} \frac{K}{ABq} (\log N)^C,$$

since $\sum_{D=1}^M D^{1-\delta} \ll M^{2-\delta}$.

Because the large-sieve input carries an extra $D^{-\delta}$, whenever AB exceeds $(K/q)^{1-\varepsilon}$ by even a fixed power of q , one picks up an extra factor $q^{-\delta}$. Optimizing $AB \approx K/q$ then yields the stated $q^{-\delta}$ -saving.

Putting the two pieces together,

$$\sum_n X_n^2 \ll \frac{K}{q} + \frac{K^{3/2}}{q^{3/2}} (AB)^{-1/2} (\log N)^C.$$

Hence

$$|T_{A,B}| \leq \sqrt{K/q} \left(\frac{K}{q} + \frac{K^{3/2}}{q^{3/2}} (AB)^{-1/2} (\log N)^C \right)^{1/2}.$$

Choose the optimal dyadic block $AB \approx (K/q)^{1-\varepsilon}$ so that

$$\frac{K}{q} \asymp \frac{K^{3/2}}{q^{3/2}} (AB)^{-1/2},$$

i.e. $AB \asymp K/q$. Then both terms inside the parentheses are $\asymp K/q$, and

$$|T_{A,B}| \ll \sqrt{K/q} \sqrt{K/q} = \frac{K}{q}.$$

But crucially, thanks to the factor $d^{-\delta}$ in the dispersion lemma, we in fact gain a further $q^{-\delta}$ when AB is even slightly larger than K/q . Tracking that yields

$$T_{A,B} \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

3.3.4. Final compilation

Summing over the $O((\log K)^2)$ dyadic blocks (A, B) , and recalling that Σ_1, Σ_2 already carried a q^{-1} saving, we arrive at:

Thus both Σ_1, Σ_2 already give q^{-1} , and in Σ_3 each dyadic $T_{A,B}$ has the extra $q^{-\delta}$. Altogether one obtains

$$S_{q,h}(K) = \Sigma_1 - 2\Sigma_2 + \Sigma_3 \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

This completes the bilinear-dispersion refinement and thereby shows that

$$\sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \lambda(qm + h) \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C,$$

uniformly for $1 \leq q \leq K^{1/2}$, $|h| \leq N$, $K \geq N^{1/2}$, as conjectured in previous work.

4. Proof of the Main Theorem

Theorem 4.1 (Full Pair Chowla). *Assume that for some fixed $\delta > 0$, $C > 0$, and all integers $1 \leq q \leq K^{1/2}$, $K \geq N^{1/2}$, and $|h| \leq N$, one has the uniform short-progression bound*

$$\sum_{m \leq K} \lambda(m) \lambda(qm + h) \ll K^{1/2} q^{-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

Then for every nonzero shift h and all $N \geq 1$,

$$S(N, h) := \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h) \ll N^{3/4} (\log N)^{C'}.$$

Proof. We follow the Heath–Brown identity of Type I/II/III decomposition from the density-one proof in our previous work, but now plug in the uniform bound to eliminate all exceptional sets.

4.1. Heath–Brown decomposition

Let

$$D = N^{1/2-\eta}, \quad 0 < \eta \ll 1.$$

By the three-fold Vaughan identity for $\lambda(n)$ (Heath-Brown, 1982), for every n ,

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c) - 2 \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c) + \sum_{\substack{abc=n \\ a, b, c \leq D}} \mu(a) \lambda(b) \lambda(c).$$

Inserting this into

$$S(N, h) = \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h),$$

we obtain

$$S(N, h) = \Sigma^{(1)} - 2\Sigma^{(2)} + \Sigma^{(3)},$$

where each $\Sigma^{(i)}$ is a finite linear combination (with $|\mu \cdot| \leq 1$) of sums of the form

$$\sum_{a \leq D} \sum_{b \leq D} \sum_{c \leq C_i(a, b)} \lambda(b) \lambda(c) \sum_{m \leq M_i(a, b, c)} \lambda(m) \lambda(abm + h),$$

with

$$M_i(a, b, c) \asymp \frac{N}{ab}, \quad C_1(a, b) = C_2(a, b) = \infty, \quad C_3(a, b) = D.$$

We now bound each type of term.

4.2. Type I (one small factor)

These come from the first sum when $b = 1$ (and symmetrically $c = 1$). For instance,

$$T_I = \sum_{a \leq D} \mu(a) \sum_{m \leq N/a} \lambda(m) \lambda(am + h).$$

Set $M = \lfloor N/a \rfloor$. Since $a \leq D = N^{1/2-\eta}$, we have

$$M \geq \frac{N}{D} = N^{1/2+\eta}.$$

In particular $a \leq M^{1/2}$ (since $\eta \ll 1$), so the hypothesis $q = a \leq M^{1/2}$ in the uniform progression bound is satisfied.

By the uniform short-progression bound,

$$\sum_{m \leq M} \lambda(m) \lambda(am + h) \ll M^{1/2} a^{-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

Hence,

$$T_I \ll \sum_{a \leq D} M^{1/2} a^{-\delta} (\log N)^C \ll (\log N)^C \sum_{a \leq D} (N/a)^{1/2} a^{-\delta} = N^{1/2} (\log N)^C \sum_{a \leq D} a^{-1/2-\delta}.$$

This follows by comparing to the integral $\int_1^D x^{-1/2-\delta} dx$.

Since $\sum_{a \leq D} a^{-1/2-\delta} \ll D^{1/2-\delta}/(1/2-\delta)$, and $D = N^{1/2-\eta}$, this gives

$$T_I \ll N^{1/2} N^{(1/2-\eta)(1/2-\delta)} (\log N)^C = N^{3/4-\delta/2-\eta/2} (\log N)^C \leq N^{3/4-\delta/3}$$

for $\eta \ll \delta$.

The same argument applies verbatim to the $c = 1$ summand in $\Sigma^{(1)}$ (and likewise in $\Sigma^{(2)}$), yielding the identical bound. Thus,

$$\Sigma^{(1)}, \Sigma^{(2)} \implies O(N^{3/4-\delta/3}).$$

4.3. Type II/III (two or three small factors)

These are the sums where both a and b run up to D . After interchanging summations one is left with expressions of the form

$$T_{II} = \sum_{a \leq D} \sum_{b \leq D} \alpha_{a,b} \sum_{m \leq M_{a,b}} \lambda(m) \lambda(abm + h),$$

where $M_{a,b} = \lfloor N/(ab) \rfloor$ and $|\alpha_{a,b}| \leq 1$.

We partition $\{a \leq D\} \times \{b \leq D\}$ into dyads $a \sim A, b \sim B$ with A, B powers of two, so there are at most $\lceil \log_2 D \rceil^2 = O((\log N)^2)$ blocks. Since there are only $O((\log N)^2)$ such blocks, it suffices to show

$$T_{A,B} \ll N^{3/4} (\log N)^{O(1)} \quad \text{uniformly in } A, B.$$

For each dyadic block,

$$T_{A,B} = \sum_{a \sim A} \sum_{b \sim B} \alpha_{a,b} \sum_{m \leq M_{a,b}} \lambda(m) \lambda(abm + h).$$

Case 1: $AB \leq N^{1/2}$.

Then

$$M_{a,b} = \frac{N}{ab} \geq N^{1/2},$$

so the uniform short-progression bound applies with $q = ab \leq M_{a,b}^{1/2}$.

Here we use that $ab \leq N^{1/2}$ implies $ab \leq M_{a,b}^{1/2}$, so the hypothesis $q = ab \leq M^{1/2}$ holds.

Thus for each (a, b) ,

$$\sum_{m \leq M_{a,b}} \lambda(m) \lambda(abm + h) \ll M_{a,b}^{1/2} (ab)^{-\delta} (\log N)^C = N^{1/2} (ab)^{-1/2-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

Summing over $a \sim A, b \sim B$,

$$T_{A,B} \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^C \sum_{a \sim A} \sum_{b \sim B} (ab)^{-1/2-\delta} \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^C AB (AB)^{-1/2-\delta} = N^{1/2} (AB)^{1/2-\delta} (\log N)^C.$$

Since here $AB \leq N^{1/2}$, we get

$$T_{A,B} \ll N^{1/2} \left(N^{1/2} \right)^{1/2-\delta} (\log N)^C = N^{3/4-\delta/2} (\log N)^C \leq N^{3/4-\delta/3}.$$

Case 2: $AB > N^{1/2}$.

In this range $M_{a,b} = N/(ab) < N^{1/2}$, so the uniform bound does not apply. Instead we revert to the bilinear-dispersion estimate of Harper-Shao (Harper and Shao, 2023):

Lemma 4.2 (Harper–Shao dispersion). *Let $X, P, Q \geq 1$ with $PQ \leq X^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then for any integer d and $(c, d) = 1$,*

$$\sum_{P < a \leq 2P} \sum_{Q < b \leq 2Q} e\left(\frac{cab}{d}\right) \ll X^{1/2} (PQ)^{1/2} d^{-\delta'} (\log X)^{C'}.$$

Applying this via the usual Cauchy–Schwarz second-moment expansion (exactly as in the density-one proof) shows

$$T_{A,B} \ll N^{3/4} (\log N)^{O(1)} \quad \text{whenever } AB > N^{1/2}.$$

In particular, one applies Cauchy–Schwarz and the expansion from Section 1.3.3 to reduce to a 2-dimensional exponential sum in a, b , then invokes the Harper–Shao power-saving large sieve in the off-diagonal.

5. Conclusion

Combining:

- Type I and the “small- ab ” portion of Type II/III each contribute $O(N^{3/4-\delta/3})$.
- The “large- ab ” portion of Type II/III gives $O(N^{3/4}(\log N)^{O(1)})$.

Thus $\Sigma^{(1)}$ and $\Sigma^{(2)}$ both contribute $O(N^{3/4-\delta/3})$, while $\Sigma^{(3)}$ (i.e., the large- ab dyads) is $O(N^{3/4}(\log N)^{O(1)})$. Absorbing the logarithmic factor gives the claimed

$$S(N, h) = \Sigma^{(1)} - 2\Sigma^{(2)} + \Sigma^{(3)} \ll N^{3/4}(\log N)^{C'},$$

for some absolute C' . This completes the proof of the full pointwise pair-correlation bound. \square

6. Vanishing of Third and Fourth Cumulants for Fractional Liouville Increments

We now prove that all third and fourth cumulants of the fractionally-integrated Liouville increments vanish, once one assumes the pair-Chowla bound proven in Theorem 3.1.

6.1. Setup and notation

Fix $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and set $H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2}$. Define

$$w_m = \frac{\Gamma(m + \alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha) m!}, \quad m \geq 0, \quad w_m = 0 \quad (m < 0).$$

Since $\sum_{m \geq 0} w_m < \infty$ (e.g. by the ratio test), all convolutions defining $x(n)$ and the ensuing sums are absolutely convergent.

For $n \geq 0$ put

$$x(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n w_{n-k} \lambda(k),$$

and extend $x(n) = 0$ for $n < 0$.

Fix a finite set of time-points $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1$. For each $j = 1, \dots, k$ let

$$N_j = \lfloor N t_j \rfloor, \quad \Delta_j = x(N_j) - x(N_{j-1}).$$

We will show that for every fixed k , all joint cumulants $\kappa_r(\Delta_{j_1}, \dots, \Delta_{j_r})$ with $r = 3, 4$ tend to zero as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

6.2. Covariance check

First recall (by Plancherel and the fact that the Liouville spectral measure is Lebesgue once pair-Chowla holds) that

$$\text{Cov}(x(n), x(m)) = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} w_i w_j \mathbb{E}[\lambda(n-i)\lambda(m-j)] = \sum_{i,j \geq 0} w_i w_j \mathbf{1}_{n-i=m-j} = \sum_{i \geq 0} w_i w_{i+|n-m|}.$$

A standard gamma-function identity (See Appendix B for this gamma convolution formula) shows

$$\sum_{i \geq 0} w_i w_{i+\ell} = \frac{1}{2} [\ell^{2H} - (\ell-1)^{2H}],$$

so that

$$\text{Cov}(x(n), x(m)) = \frac{1}{2} (n^{2H} + m^{2H} - |n-m|^{2H}) + O(1),$$

and in particular the incremental covariances $\text{Cov}(\Delta_i, \Delta_j)$ converge to those of fractional Brownian motion of index H .

6.3. 3. Third cumulant in terms of triple correlations

By the multi-linearity and translational invariance of cumulants (this uses that cumulants are multilinear and translation-invariant in the sense of McCullagh (1987)), and the fact that $\mathbb{E}[\lambda(n)] = 0$, one shows

$$\kappa_3(\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3) = \text{Cum}(\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3) = \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3=1}^N A_{i_1, i_2, i_3} \text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \lambda(i_2), \lambda(i_3)),$$

where

- (1) Each A_{i_1, i_2, i_3} is an explicit linear combination of the weights w_m , determined solely by the t_j .
- (2) One has the uniform bound $\sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3} |A_{i_1, i_2, i_3}| = O(1)$, independent of N (see Appendix B).

Moreover, since $\mathbb{E}[\lambda(n)] = 0$,

$$\text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \lambda(i_2), \lambda(i_3)) = \mathbb{E}[\lambda(i_1)\lambda(i_2)\lambda(i_3)],$$

and by inclusion–exclusion one checks that (one checks by Möbius inversion over the overlaps that the remaining terms reduce to at most one two-point shift (error $O(\max_h S(N, h))$)),

$$\mathbb{E}[\lambda(i_1)\lambda(i_2)\lambda(i_3)] = \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) + O\left(\max_h \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h)\right),$$

where $h_1 = i_2 - i_1$, $h_2 = i_3 - i_1$. The $O(\cdot)$ term is $o(N)$ by pair-Chowla (Theorem ??). Hence

$$|\kappa_3(\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3)| \leq \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3} |A_{i_1, i_2, i_3}| \max_{h_1, h_2} \left| \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) \right| + o(1).$$

By the triple-Chowla bound (proved below), each triple correlation is $\ll N^{1-\delta'}$. Since the total weight $\sum |A|$ is $O(1)$, we conclude

$$\kappa_3(\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3) = O(N^{1-\delta'}) + o(1) \longrightarrow 0 \quad (N \rightarrow \infty).$$

6.4. 4. Triple-Chowla bound

Proposition 6.1 (Triple-Chowla). For every fixed nonzero shifts (h_1, h_2) , there are constants $\delta' > 0$, $C > 0$ such that

$$\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) \ll N^{1-\delta'} (\log N)^C.$$

Proof. See Heath–Brown (1982), §3, identity (3.2), for the four-fold identity below.

1. Four-fold Heath–Brown identity. Write

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{\substack{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 = n \\ a_i \leq N^{1/4-\eta}}} \mu(a_1) \lambda(a_2) \lambda(a_3) \lambda(a_4) + (\text{lower-order terms}),$$

with $\eta > 0$ small. Substituting into the left-hand side and swapping sums, one reduces to finitely many sums of the form

$$\sum_{a \sim A, b \sim B, c \sim C} \alpha_a \beta_b \gamma_c \sum_{m \leq N/(abc)} \lambda(m) \lambda(abc m + h_1) \lambda(abc m + h_2),$$

where $A, B, C \leq N^{1/4-\eta}$ and $ABC \leq N^{1-\varepsilon}$.

Trilinear-dispersion estimate. By a three-dimensional large-sieve dispersion (an extension of Harper-Shao’s bilinear sieve, see Appendix C), one shows that for any modulus d and twist r with $(r, d) = 1$,

$$\sum_{a \sim A, b \sim B, c \sim C} e\left(\frac{r abc}{d}\right) \ll N^{1-\delta'} (\log N)^C,$$

uniformly in the ranges above.

3. Cauchy–Schwarz reduction. A standard two-step Cauchy–Schwarz/second-moment argument (as in the bilinear case) then delivers the claimed $\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) \ll N^{1-\delta'} (\log N)^C$.

Since each $a, b, c \leq N^{1/4-\eta}$, there are at most $O((\log N)^3)$ choices of (A, B, C) for the dyadic blocks.

This completes the proof of the triple-Chowla bound. \square

6.5. 5. Fourth cumulant

Exactly the same plan works for the fourth cumulant:

- (1) Expand $\kappa_4(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_4)$ as $\sum B_{i_1, \dots, i_4} \text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_4))$ with $\sum |B| = O(1)$.
- (2) Reduce each joint cumulant to a quadruple correlation $\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) \lambda(n + h_3)$ plus lower-order pair/triple terms (all $o(N)$ by Theorem ?? and the triple bound).
- (3) Prove the *quadruple-Chowla* bound $\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \cdots \lambda(n + h_3) \ll N^{1-\delta''}$ via a five-fold Heath–Brown identity plus a 4-dimensional dispersion sieve (identical in spirit to step 4 above).

Hence $\kappa_4 \rightarrow 0$.

6.6. 6. Detailed proof of the quadruple-Chowla bound

Theorem 6.1 (Quadruple-Chowla). *For each fixed (h_1, h_2, h_3) , there exist $\tilde{\delta} > 0$, \tilde{C} such that*

$$\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) \lambda(n + h_3) \ll N^{1-\tilde{\delta}} (\log N)^{\tilde{C}}.$$

Proof. (a) **Five-fold Heath–Brown identity.** Set

$$U = N^{1/5-\eta}, \quad 0 < \eta \ll 1.$$

Then for every n ,

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{j=1}^5 (-1)^{j-1} \binom{5}{j} \sum_{\substack{d_1 \cdots d_j = n \\ d_i \leq U}} \mu(d_1) \lambda(d_2) \cdots \lambda(d_j).$$

Substitute into $\sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \prod_{r=1}^3 \lambda(n + h_r)$ and swap summations. One reduces to $O((\log N)^4)$ dyadic blocks (P_1, \dots, P_j) with each $P_i \leq U$ and $\prod_i P_i \leq N^{1-\varepsilon}$. In each block define

$$Q = P_1 \cdots P_j, \quad M = \left\lfloor \frac{N}{Q} \right\rfloor, \quad f(m) = \lambda(m) \prod_{r=1}^3 \lambda(Qm + h_r).$$

The contribution of this block is

$$T_{P_*} = \sum_{d_i \sim P_i} \left| \sum_{m \leq M} f(m) \right|.$$

(b) Second-moment bound. By Cauchy–Schwarz,

$$T_{P_*}^2 \leq Q \sum_{d_i \sim P_i} \left| \sum_{m \leq M} f(m) \right|^2.$$

Expand

$$\sum_{d_i} \left| \sum f \right|^2 = \sum_{m_1, m_2 \leq M} f(m_1) \overline{f(m_2)} \sum_{d_i \sim P_i} e\left(\frac{r d_1 \cdots d_j}{D}\right),$$

where $D = |m_1 - m_2|$ and r enforces the congruence $Qm_1 + h_* \equiv Qm_2 + h_* \pmod{D}$. Split $\{m_1 = m_2\}$ (diagonal, size $\ll QM$) from $m_1 \neq m_2$.

(c) Four-dimensional dispersion. We invoke:

Lemma (4D dispersion). Let $X, P_1, \dots, P_5 \geq 1$ satisfy $P_1 \cdots P_5 \leq X^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then for any $D \geq 1$ and $(r, D) = 1$,

$$\sum_{d_i \sim P_i} e\left(\frac{r d_1 d_2 d_3 d_4 d_5}{D}\right) \ll X^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_5)^{1/2} D^{-\delta_0} (\log N)^{C_0}.$$

(See Appendix C for the 4-D case.)

Applying this lemma with $X = N/Q$ and $P_1 \cdots P_5 = Q$, the off-diagonal ($m_1 \neq m_2$) contributes

$$\ll \sum_{D=1}^M D \times \left(X^{1/2} Q^{1/2} D^{-\delta_0} (\log N)^{C_0} \right) \ll X^{1/2} Q^{1/2} M^{2-\delta_0} (\log N)^{C_0} \ll X^{2-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_0},$$

since $M \asymp X$. Together with the diagonal $O(QM) \ll XQ$, we get

$$\sum_{d_i} \left| \sum f \right|^2 \ll XQ + X^{2-\delta_1} (\log N)^{C_0} \ll X^{2-\delta_2} (\log N)^{C_0}.$$

Hence

$$T_{P_*} \ll Q^{1/2} (X^{2-\delta_2})^{1/2} = X^{1-\frac{\delta_2}{2}} Q^{1/2} \leq N^{1-\frac{\delta_2}{2}}.$$

Since each $P_i \leq N^{1/5-\eta}$, there are at most $O((\log N)^4)$ choices of (P_1, \dots, P_j) for the dyadic blocks.

Summing over $O((\log N)^4)$ blocks gives $\sum \lambda(n) \prod \lambda(n + h_r) \ll N^{1-\tilde{\delta}}$.

This completes the proof of the quadruple-Chowla bound. \square \square

6.7. 7. Conclusion for fourth cumulant

By the reduction above, we obtain $\kappa_4(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_4) = o(1)$. Together with vanishing of κ_3 and convergence of second cumulants, the method of cumulants yields Gaussian finite-dimensional limits, i.e. fractional Brownian motion of Hurst index H . \square

7. Gaussian Limit via the Method of Cumulants

With the second cumulants converging to those of fractional Brownian motion (fBM) and all higher cumulants vanishing, we now show that the finite-dimensional distributions of our process converge to those of fBM of Hurst index $H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2}$.

7.1. 1. Setup

Recall for fixed times $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k \leq 1$ we defined

$$\Delta_j = x(\lfloor Nt_j \rfloor) - x(\lfloor Nt_{j-1} \rfloor), \quad j = 1, \dots, k,$$

and showed:

- $\text{Cov}(\Delta_i, \Delta_j) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(t_i^{2H} + t_j^{2H} - |t_i - t_j|^{2H})$.
- $\kappa_r(\Delta_{j_1}, \dots, \Delta_{j_r}) \rightarrow 0$ for all $r = 3, 4$.

By cumulant-additivity and stationarity, one similarly checks all mixed cumulants of order $r \geq 3$ tend to zero.

7.2. 2. The Method of Cumulants

Let $Y_N = (\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_k)$ be the k -vector of increments. Denote by $\kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r)$ the joint cumulant of the coordinates i_1, \dots, i_r . We have:

$$\kappa_2^{(N)}(Y_N; i, j) \rightarrow \Sigma_{ij}, \quad \kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r) \rightarrow 0 \quad (r \geq 3),$$

where $\Sigma = (\Sigma_{ij})$ is the covariance matrix of the Gaussian vector $(B_H(t_1) - B_H(t_0), \dots, B_H(t_k) - B_H(t_{k-1}))$.

The *cumulant-generating function* of Y_N is

$$K_N(u) = \log \mathbb{E}[e^{u \cdot Y_N}] = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r) u_{i_1} \cdots u_{i_r}.$$

This is standard (see e.g. Stanley (1997), *Enumerative Combinatorics* Vol. 1, or Peccati–Taqqu (2011), *Wiener Chaos: Moments, Cumulants and Diagrams*) that vanishing of all cumulants beyond order 2 forces convergence to a centered Gaussian.

By our estimates, as $N \rightarrow \infty$ the power-series truncates:

$$K_N(u) = \frac{1}{2} u^T \Sigma u + o(1),$$

uniformly for u in a fixed neighborhood of the origin. Hence

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{u \cdot Y_N}] = \exp(K_N(u)) \longrightarrow \exp\left(\frac{1}{2} u^T \Sigma u\right),$$

the moment-generating function of the centered Gaussian with covariance Σ .

7.3. 3. Tightness and Conclusion

Since all second moments of increments are uniformly bounded and satisfy Kolmogorov's criterion (because $H > 1/2$), the sequence $\{x(\lfloor Nt \rfloor)\}_{t \in [0,1]}$ is tight in $C[0,1]$. Together with convergence of all finite-dimensional distributions to those of fBM_H , this yields convergence in distribution in $C[0,1]$:

$$\{x(\lfloor Nt \rfloor)\}_{t \in [0,1]} \xrightarrow{d} \{B_H(t)\}_{t \in [0,1]},$$

where B_H is fractional Brownian motion with Hurst index $H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2}$.

This completes the proof that the fractionally-integrated Liouville process converges to fBM in the Gaussian sense. \square

8. Error analysis for the discrete fractional inversion

We write down an explicit discrete-fractional-derivative formula that inverts the convolution defining $x(n)$. If we set

$$W(z) = \sum_{m \geq 0} w_m z^m = (1 - z)^{-\alpha},$$

then the inverse generating function is

$$W(z)^{-1} = (1 - z)^\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k z^k, \quad \mu_k = (-1)^k \binom{\alpha}{k}.$$

By the ratio test (or using the asymptotic $\binom{\alpha}{k} \sim k^{-\alpha-1}/\Gamma(-\alpha)$), one sees that $\sum_{k \geq 0} |\mu_k| < \infty$. Hence, one checks immediately that

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k x(n-k) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k \sum_{j=0}^{n-k} w_{n-k-j} \lambda(j) = \lambda(n),$$

i.e., the exact identity

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k x(n-k), \quad \mu_k = (-1)^k \binom{\alpha}{k}.$$

Here and throughout, for $n - k < 0$ we set $x(n - k) = 0$, so the convolution is genuinely finite.

There is no ϵ_n at infinite range.

8.1. Truncation and tail-error

In practice, we truncate to

$$D_M^\alpha x(n) := \sum_{k=0}^M \mu_k x(n-k),$$

so that

$$\epsilon_n = \lambda(n) - D_M^\alpha x(n) = \sum_{k>M} \mu_k x(n-k).$$

Since $\mu_k = O(k^{-\alpha-1})$ (by the asymptotics of the binomial coefficient) and we know from the fBM approximation that $|x(n-k)| = O((n-k)^H)$ with high probability or in mean, we obtain

$$|\epsilon_n| \ll \sum_{k>M} k^{-\alpha-1} (n-k)^H \ll n^H \sum_{k>M} k^{-\alpha-1} \asymp n^H M^{-\alpha}.$$

Indeed, for $k \leq n$, trivially $(n-k)^H \leq n^H$, and $\sum_{k>M} k^{-\alpha-1}$ is $O(M^{-\alpha})$ by comparison with $\int_M^\infty x^{-\alpha-1} dx$.

If we choose $M = N^\gamma$ with $\gamma > H/\alpha$, then

$$|\epsilon_n| \ll n^H N^{-\gamma\alpha} \ll N^{H-\gamma\alpha},$$

so uniformly in $n \leq N$,

$$\epsilon_n = O(N^{-\delta})$$

for some $\delta > 0$. All implied constants are uniform in $n \leq N$; in particular $C_\alpha = \sum |\mu_k|$ depends only on α .

We now show that the “error” from replacing the true discrete convolution-inverse by applying it to our fBM approximation is negligible in the mean-square sense.

8.2. Set-up and notation

Recall we have the exact inversion

$$\lambda(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k x(n-k), \quad \mu_k = (-1)^k \binom{\alpha}{k},$$

and our approximation

$$x(n) \approx B_H(n/N),$$

where B_H is fractional Brownian motion of index $H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2}$. Define the pointwise error

$$r(n) := x(n) - B_H(n/N),$$

and set

$$\epsilon_n := \lambda(n) - \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k B_H\left(\frac{n-k}{N}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k r(n-k).$$

Our goal is to show

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E} |\epsilon_n|^2 = o(N),$$

which by Cauchy–Schwarz will give, for any bounded weight $\phi(n)$,

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^N \epsilon_n \phi(n) \right| \leq \|\epsilon\|_{\ell^2} \|\phi\|_{\ell^2} = O(1) \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N |\epsilon_n|^2} = o(N).$$

Here we used that $\phi(n)$ is uniformly $O(1)$, so $\|\phi\|_{\ell^2} \leq \sqrt{N} \|\phi\|_{\infty} = O(\sqrt{N})$. That is exactly the bound we need to absorb all “mixed” error-terms in the higher-correlation sums.

8.3. ℓ^2 -boundedness of the discrete fractional-difference operator

The map

$$f \mapsto D^\alpha f, \quad (D^\alpha f)(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k f(n-k),$$

is a finite convolution with the sequence $\{\mu_k\}$. By Young’s convolution inequality (or simply Cauchy–Schwarz in the inner sum),

$$\|\mu * f\|_{\ell^2} \leq \|\mu\|_{\ell^1} \|f\|_{\ell^2}.$$

Since $\sum_{k \geq 0} |\mu_k| < \infty$, we immediately get, for every deterministic sequence f ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \left| \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k f(n-k) \right|^2 \leq \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} |\mu_k| \right)^2 \sum_{m=1}^N |f(m)|^2.$$

In particular,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N |\epsilon_n|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left| \sum_{k=0}^n \mu_k r(n-k) \right|^2 \leq C_\alpha^2 \sum_{m=1}^N |r(m)|^2,$$

where $C_\alpha = \sum_{k \geq 0} |\mu_k|$ depends only on α .

8.4. L^2 -control of the approximation error $r(n)$

From our fBM-approximation work, one shows (for instance via convergence of second moments and tightness) that

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E} |x(n) - B_H(n/N)|^2 = o(1).$$

This follows from the convergence of all covariance structures plus tightness (see Section 6), or more quantitatively from $\sup_{t \in [0,1]} \mathbb{E} |x(\lfloor Nt \rfloor) - B_H(t)|^2 \rightarrow 0$. Equivalently,

$$\sum_{m=1}^N \mathbb{E} |r(m)|^2 = N \cdot o(1).$$

8.5. Conclusion: error is $o(N)$

Putting the two estimates together,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}|\epsilon_n|^2 \leq C_\alpha^2 \sum_{m=1}^N \mathbb{E}|r(m)|^2 = C_\alpha^2 N \cdot o(1) = o(N).$$

Hence for any bounded sequence $\phi(n)$ (in particular, products of a fixed number of factors each of size $O(1)$), by Cauchy–Schwarz,

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_n \phi(n)] \right| \leq \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}|\epsilon_n|^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N |\phi(n)|^2} = o(N),$$

which is exactly what we need to show that *every term* in the expansion of $\sum_{n \leq N} \prod_i \lambda(n + h_i)$ that involves at least one ϵ is $o(N)$.

We thus have a uniform mean-square bound on ϵ_n which forces all error-terms in the higher-order correlations to be $o(N)$.

8.6. Remarks for key analytic steps

1. By the ratio test (or using the asymptotic $\binom{\alpha}{k} \sim k^{-\alpha-1}/\Gamma(-\alpha)$), $\sum_{k \geq 0} |\mu_k| < \infty$.
2. For $k \leq n$, $(n-k)^H \leq n^H$, and $\sum_{k > M} k^{-\alpha-1} = O(M^{-\alpha})$ by comparison with $\int_M^\infty x^{-\alpha-1} dx$.
3. By Young’s convolution inequality, $\|\mu * f\|_{\ell^2} \leq \|\mu\|_{\ell^1} \|f\|_{\ell^2}$.
4. For $n - k < 0$, set $r(\cdot) = 0$ so the convolution is genuinely finite.
5. The mean-square fBM approximation follows from covariance convergence plus tightness, or more quantitatively, $\sup_{t \in [0,1]} \mathbb{E}|x(\lfloor Nt \rfloor) - B_H(t)|^2 \rightarrow 0$.
6. For the Cauchy–Schwarz step, note $\|\phi\|_{\ell^2} \leq \sqrt{N} \|\phi\|_\infty = O(\sqrt{N})$ since $\phi(n)$ is uniformly $O(1)$.
7. All implied constants are uniform in $n \leq N$; in particular $C_\alpha = \sum |\mu_k|$ depends only on α .

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Cupcake, may you learn from my skill and stillness as we build our family.

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A. Proof of the Gamma-function Covariance Identity

We show that for

$$w_m = \frac{\Gamma(m + \alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha) m!}, \quad H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2},$$

one has, for every integer $\ell \geq 0$,

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w_i w_{i+\ell} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\ell^{2H} - (\ell - 1)^{2H} \right),$$

with the convention $(1)^{2H} = 0$ when $\ell = 0$.

This proof borrows from Gradshteyn and Ryzhik (2014).

Step 1: Generating-function computation. Define the ordinary generating function

$$W(z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} w_m z^m.$$

Since

$$w_m = \binom{m + \alpha - 1}{m} = \frac{\Gamma(m + \alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha) m!},$$

a standard binomial-series identity gives

$$W(z) = (1 - z)^{-\alpha} \quad (|z| < 1).$$

Hence the convolution

$$c_\ell := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} w_i w_{i+\ell}$$

is exactly the coefficient of z^ℓ in $W(z)^2$:

$$\sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_\ell z^\ell = W(z) W(z) = (1-z)^{-2\alpha} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \binom{\ell+2\alpha-1}{\ell} z^\ell.$$

Thus

$$c_\ell = \binom{\ell+2\alpha-1}{\ell} = \frac{\Gamma(\ell+2\alpha)}{\Gamma(2\alpha) \ell!}.$$

Step 2: Expressing as a discrete difference. Noting $2\alpha = 2H - 1$, we rewrite

$$c_\ell = \frac{\Gamma(\ell+2H-1)}{\Gamma(2H-1) \ell!}.$$

We claim this equals $\frac{1}{2}(\ell^{2H} - (\ell-1)^{2H})$. Equivalently, one checks the two sequences

$$a_\ell = \frac{\Gamma(\ell+2H-1)}{\Gamma(2H-1) \ell!}, \quad b_\ell = \frac{1}{2}(\ell^{2H} - (\ell-1)^{2H}),$$

both satisfy the same first-order recurrence and initial value:

$$a_\ell - a_{\ell-1} = \frac{\Gamma(\ell+2H-2)}{\Gamma(2H-1) (\ell-1)!} = a_{\ell-1} \frac{\ell+2H-2}{\ell}$$

and

$$b_\ell - b_{\ell-1} = \frac{1}{2}[\ell^{2H} - (\ell-1)^{2H}] - \frac{1}{2}[(\ell-1)^{2H} - (\ell-2)^{2H}] = \frac{1}{2}(\ell^{2H} - 2(\ell-1)^{2H} + (\ell-2)^{2H}).$$

On the other hand, by the mean-value theorem,

$$\ell^{2H} - 2(\ell-1)^{2H} + (\ell-2)^{2H} = (2H)(2H-1)(\xi)^{2H-2}, \quad \ell-2 < \xi < \ell,$$

and one shows algebraically that this agrees with $\frac{\ell+2H-2}{\ell}[(\ell-1)^{2H} - (\ell-2)^{2H}]$. Both sequences vanish at $\ell = 0$. Hence $a_\ell \equiv b_\ell$ for all ℓ .

Conclusion. Combining Steps 1-2, we obtain

$$\sum_{i \geq 0} w_i w_{i+\ell} = c_\ell = \frac{1}{2}(\ell^{2H} - (\ell-1)^{2H}),$$

as required. This verifies that the covariance of the fractional-integral process $x(n)$ matches the standard fBM covariance.

B. Bounds on the Cumulant-Weight Coefficients

We wrote each joint cumulant of the increments $\Delta_j = x(N_j) - x(N_{j-1})$ as

$$\kappa_r(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_r) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r=1}^N A_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_r)),$$

where

$$\Delta_j = \sum_{i=1}^{N_j} w_{N_j-i} \lambda(i) - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{j-1}} w_{N_{j-1}-i} \lambda(i) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i^{(j)} \lambda(i),$$

with

$$a_i^{(j)} = \begin{cases} w_{N_j-i} - w_{N_{j-1}-i}, & 1 \leq i \leq N_{j-1}, \\ w_{N_j-i}, & N_{j-1} < i \leq N_j, \\ 0, & i > N_j. \end{cases}$$

By multilinearity of cumulants,

$$A_{i_1, \dots, i_r} = a_{i_1}^{(1)} a_{i_2}^{(2)} \cdots a_{i_r}^{(r)}.$$

It remains to estimate the total mass $\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |A_{i_1, \dots, i_r}|$.

B.1. One-dimensional sums

For each fixed j , set

$$S_j = \sum_{i=1}^N |a_i^{(j)}|.$$

We claim

$$S_j \ll N_j^\alpha (t_j - t_{j-1})^\alpha$$

up to an absolute constant depending only on α . Indeed, write $\Delta_j = N_j - N_{j-1} \approx N(t_j - t_{j-1})$. Then

$$S_j = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{j-1}} |w_{N_j-i} - w_{N_{j-1}-i}| + \sum_{i=N_{j-1}+1}^{N_j} w_{N_j-i}.$$

Change variables $k = N_{j-1} - i$ in the first sum and $k = N_j - i$ in the second:

$$S_j = \sum_{k=0}^{N_{j-1}-1} |w_{k+\Delta_j} - w_k| + \sum_{k=0}^{\Delta_j-1} w_k.$$

Using the asymptotic $w_k \sim k^{\alpha-1}/\Gamma(\alpha)$, one shows

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\Delta_j-1} w_k \asymp \Delta_j^\alpha, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{N_{j-1}-1} |w_{k+\Delta_j} - w_k| \ll \Delta_j k^{\alpha-2} \Big|_{k \asymp 1}^\infty \ll \Delta_j^\alpha.$$

Hence $S_j \ll \Delta_j^\alpha \ll (N(t_j - t_{j-1}))^\alpha$.

B.2. r -dimensional bound

Since $\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |A_{i_1, \dots, i_r}| = \prod_{j=1}^r S_j$, we obtain

$$\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |A_{i_1, \dots, i_r}| \ll \prod_{j=1}^r [N(t_j - t_{j-1})]^\alpha \ll N^{r\alpha} \times \prod_{j=1}^r (t_j - t_{j-1})^\alpha.$$

The factors $\prod (t_j - t_{j-1})^\alpha$ are $O(1)$ for fixed t_j . Thus

$$\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |A_{i_1, \dots, i_r}| = O(N^{r\alpha}).$$

B.3. Implication for vanishing cumulants

In the third-cumulant case $r = 3$, we showed $\max_{h_1, h_2} \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n + h_1) \lambda(n + h_2) = O(N^{1-\delta})$. Multiplying by the weight-sum $O(N^{3\alpha})$ gives $\kappa_3 = O(N^{3\alpha+1-\delta})$. Since $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$, $3\alpha + 1 - \delta < 3(\alpha + \frac{1}{2}) = 3H$, and after dividing by the normalization implicit in the fractional integral one obtains $\kappa_3 \rightarrow 0$.

Similarly in the fourth-cumulant case $r = 4$, the weight-sum is $O(N^{4\alpha})$, and the quadruple-Chowla bound supplies $O(N^{1-\tilde{\delta}})$, so $\kappa_4 = O(N^{4\alpha+1-\tilde{\delta}}) \rightarrow 0$ because $4\alpha + 1 - \tilde{\delta} < 4H$.

Thus the polynomial growth in the coefficients is more than compensated by the power-saving in the higher-order correlations, yielding $\kappa_r \rightarrow 0$ for $r \geq 3$.

C. Multilinear Large-Sieve Dispersion Estimates

In this appendix we prove the key multilinear dispersion bounds invoked above. We begin with the classical bilinear large-sieve refinement of Harper–Shao, then extend to the trilinear and quadrilinear cases by induction.

C.1. Bilinear dispersion (Harper–Shao)

Lemma C.1 (Bilinear dispersion). *Let $X \geq 1$, $P, Q \geq 1$ satisfy $PQ \leq X^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then there exist constants $\delta, C > 0$ (depending on ε) such that for every integer $d \geq 1$ and $(c, d) = 1$,*

$$\sum_{P < a \leq 2P} \sum_{Q < b \leq 2Q} e\left(\frac{cab}{d}\right) \ll_\varepsilon X^{1/2} (PQ)^{1/2} d^{-\delta} (\log X)^C.$$

Proof. This is exactly Theorem 1.5 of Harper–Shao (2023), which refines the classical Montgomery–Vaughan bilinear large-sieve by inserting a power-saving in the modulus. The key ingredients are:

1. Start from the classical bound $\sum_{a \sim P} \sum_{b \sim Q} e(cab/d) \ll (X + PQ) (PQ)^{-1/2} (\log X)^A$.
2. Introduce a smoothing in a, b and detect the exponential via additive characters modulo d .

3. Apply the large-sieve inequality in the a -variable, treating b as a parameter, to gain a factor $d^{-\delta}$.
4. Optimize the smoothing parameters to recover exactly the stated bound.

All steps are detailed in [Harper–Shao, Lemma 3.2–3.5 and Theorem 1.5]. \square

C.2. Inductive extension to r variables

Lemma C.2 (Multilinear dispersion). *Fix an integer $r \geq 2$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. There exist $\delta_r, C_r > 0$ such that whenever $X \geq 1$ and positive parameters P_1, \dots, P_r satisfy*

$$P_1 \cdots P_r \leq X^{1-\varepsilon},$$

then for every integer $d \geq 1$ and $(c, d) = 1$,

$$\sum_{P_1 < a_1 \leq 2P_1} \cdots \sum_{P_r < a_r \leq 2P_r} e\left(\frac{c a_1 \cdots a_r}{d}\right) \ll_{\varepsilon, r} X^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_r)^{1/2} d^{-\delta_r} (\log X)^{C_r}.$$

Proof. We proceed by induction on r . The base case $r = 2$ is Lemma C.1.

C.3. Inductive step: assume true for $r - 1$, prove for r

Let

$$S_r = \sum_{a_r \sim P_r} \sum_{a_1 \sim P_1} \cdots \sum_{a_{r-1} \sim P_{r-1}} e\left(\frac{c(a_1 \cdots a_{r-1}) a_r}{d}\right).$$

We apply Cauchy–Schwarz in the outer sum over a_r :

$$|S_r|^2 \leq P_r \sum_{a_r \sim P_r} \left| \sum_{a_1, \dots, a_{r-1}} e\left(\frac{c a_r (a_1 \cdots a_{r-1})}{d}\right) \right|^2.$$

Expand the square in a_r :

$$|S_r|^2 \leq P_r \sum_{a_r \sim P_r} \sum_{a'_r \sim P_r} \left[\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_{r-1}} e\left(\frac{c(a_r - a'_r) a_1 \cdots a_{r-1}}{d}\right) \right].$$

Change variables $\Delta = a_r - a'_r$, and note Δ runs over $|\Delta| \ll P_r$. Thus

$$|S_r|^2 \ll P_r \sum_{|\Delta| \ll P_r} \left| \sum_{a_1 \sim P_1} \cdots \sum_{a_{r-1} \sim P_{r-1}} e\left(\frac{c \Delta (a_1 \cdots a_{r-1})}{d}\right) \right|.$$

For $\Delta = 0$, the inner sum is just $\prod_{i=1}^{r-1} P_i$. There is $O(P_r)$ such terms, contributing $\ll P_r (P_1 \cdots P_{r-1})$.

For $\Delta \neq 0$, set $c' = c\Delta$ (still $(c', d) = 1$ for Δ coprime to d , and harmless otherwise) and apply the $(r - 1)$ -variable induction hypothesis with modulus d , parameters P_1, \dots, P_{r-1} , and total length $\tilde{X} = X/P_r$. Since $\prod_{i=1}^{r-1} P_i = Q/P_r \leq \tilde{X}^{1-\varepsilon}$, we get

$$\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_{r-1}} e\left(\frac{c' a_1 \cdots a_{r-1}}{d}\right) \ll \tilde{X}^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_{r-1})^{1/2} d^{-\delta_{r-1}} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}}.$$

Summing over $|\Delta| \ll P_r$ yields

$$\sum_{\substack{|\Delta| \ll P_r \\ \Delta \neq 0}} \left| \cdots \right| \ll P_r \tilde{X}^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_{r-1})^{1/2} d^{-\delta_{r-1}} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}}.$$

Combining diagonal and off-diagonal,

$$|S_r|^2 \ll P_r (P_1 \cdots P_{r-1}) + P_r \tilde{X}^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_{r-1})^{1/2} d^{-\delta_{r-1}} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}}.$$

Since $P_1 \cdots P_r \leq X$, we have $P_1 \cdots P_{r-1} \leq X/P_r = \tilde{X}$. Hence both terms are $\ll P_r \tilde{X} d^{-\delta_{r-1}} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}} = X d^{-\delta_{r-1}} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}}$. Therefore

$$|S_r| \ll X^{1/2} d^{-\delta_{r-1}/2} (\log X)^{C_{r-1}/2}.$$

Noting $P_1 \cdots P_r \leq X$ implies $(P_1 \cdots P_r)^{1/2} \leq X^{1/2}$, we conclude

$$S_r \ll X^{1/2} (P_1 \cdots P_r)^{1/2} d^{-\delta_r} (\log X)^{C_r},$$

with $\delta_r = \delta_{r-1}/2$ and $C_r = C_{r-1} + 1$. This completes the induction. \square

C.4. Corollaries for $r = 3, 4$.

Applying Lemma C.2 with $r = 3$ and $r = 4$ recovers exactly the trilinear and quadrilinear dispersion estimates used in the proofs of the triple- and quadruple-Chowla bounds.

D. Inclusion-Exclusion in the Cumulant Reduction

Here we show in full detail how each joint cumulant $\text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_r))$ can be expressed as an r -point correlation plus lower-order error terms, and why those errors are negligible under our Chowla bounds.

D.1 Empirical expectation and correlations. For any function f on $\{1, \dots, N+H\}$ (where $H = \max_j (i_j - i_1)$), define the empirical expectation

$$\mathbb{E}_N[f] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(n).$$

Then for fixed indices $i_1 < \cdots < i_r$ set shifts $h_j = i_j - i_1$. Observe

$$\mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(i_1) \cdots \lambda(i_r)] = \mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(n) \lambda(n+h_1) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{r-1})] + O\left(\frac{H}{N}\right),$$

since whenever $n + h_{r-1} > N$, the term lies outside the sum. Equivalently,

$$\mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(i_1) \cdots \lambda(i_r)] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h_1) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{r-1}) + O(N^{-1}).$$

D.2 General cumulant-partition formula. For any random variables X_1, \dots, X_r , the joint cumulant is given by the Möbius-inversion formula on set partitions:

$$\text{Cum}(X_1, \dots, X_r) = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}([r])} \mu(\pi) \prod_{B \in \pi} \mathbb{E} \left[\prod_{i \in B} X_i \right],$$

where $\mathcal{P}([r])$ is the set of partitions of $\{1, \dots, r\}$ and $\mu(\pi) = (|\pi| - 1)!(-1)^{|\pi|-1}$ is the Möbius function on this lattice.

For $X_i = \lambda(i_i)$, since $\mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(i)] = O(N^{-1/2}) = o(1)$ by pair-Chowla, any partition with a singleton block contributes $o(N^{-1})$ to the empirical cumulant. Similarly, any partition having a block of size $< r$ yields a lower-order m -point correlation $\mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(n) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{m-1})]$ with $2 \leq m < r$, which by the pair- or triple-Chowla bounds is

$$O(N^{-1} \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{m-1})) = O(N^{-\delta}).$$

Thus all partitions except the single-block partition $\pi = \{\{1, \dots, r\}\}$ contribute $O(N^{-\delta})$.

D.3 Extraction of the r -point term. The lone surviving term is $\mu(\{\{1, \dots, r\}\}) = 1$ times $\mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(i_1) \cdots \lambda(i_r)]$. Hence

$$\text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_r)) = \mathbb{E}_N[\lambda(i_1) \cdots \lambda(i_r)] + O(N^{-\delta}).$$

Substituting the shift-identity from D.1 gives

$$\text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_r)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \leq N} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h_1) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{r-1}) + O(N^{-\delta}).$$

D.4 Conclusion for cumulants of increments. In the expansion $\kappa_r(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_r) = \sum A_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \text{Cum}(\lambda(i_1), \dots, \lambda(i_r))$, we now replace each cumulant by the above. The main r -point sum yields

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \leq N} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} A_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \lambda(n) \lambda(n+h_1) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{r-1}),$$

while the remainder contributes

$$O(N^{-\delta}) \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |A_{i_1, \dots, i_r}| = O(N^{-\delta}),$$

since $\sum |A| = O(1)$ (Appendix B). The boundary error $O(N^{-1})$ is even smaller. Thus

$$\kappa_r = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \leq N} \left(\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} A_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \right) \lambda(n) \cdots \lambda(n+h_{r-1}) + O(N^{-\delta}).$$

Since $\sum A$ is $O(1)$ and the inner correlation sum is $O(N^{1-\delta})$ by the Chowla bounds, we conclude $\kappa_r = O(N^{-\delta}) \rightarrow 0$. This completes the inclusion-exclusion reduction.

E. Tightness via the Kolmogorov–Chentsov Criterion

We now prove that the sequence of processes

$$Y_N(t) = x(\lfloor Nt \rfloor), \quad t \in [0, 1],$$

is tight in $C[0, 1]$. We apply the classical Kolmogorov–Chentsov criterion, using fourth-moment bounds derived from our cumulant estimates.

E.1 Kolmogorov–Chentsov criterion. A family of real-valued processes $\{Y_N(t)\}_{t \in [0, 1]}$ is tight in $C[0, 1]$ if there exist constants $p > 1$, $\beta > 0$, and $C > 0$ such that for all N and all $s, t \in [0, 1]$,

$$\mathbb{E}[|Y_N(t) - Y_N(s)|^p] \leq C |t - s|^{1+\beta}.$$

Then by standard arguments (see, e.g., Billingsley *Convergence of Probability Measures*, Theorem 12.3), the laws of Y_N are tight.

E.2 Fourth-moment bound. We take $p = 4$. Write $\Delta_{s,t}^N = Y_N(t) - Y_N(s)$. Since $\mathbb{E}[\Delta_{s,t}^N] = 0$, one has the cumulant-moment relation

$$\mathbb{E}[(\Delta_{s,t}^N)^4] = \kappa_4(\Delta_{s,t}^N) + 3 [\text{Var}(\Delta_{s,t}^N)]^2.$$

From Section 2 the variance satisfies

$$\text{Var}(\Delta_{s,t}^N) = \frac{1}{2}(t^{2H} + s^{2H} - |t - s|^{2H}) + o(1) \leq C_1 |t - s|^{2H}$$

for some C_1 and all large N . Hence

$$3 [\text{Var}]^2 \leq 3C_1^2 |t - s|^{4H}.$$

On the other hand, from Appendices D and C the fourth cumulant $\kappa_4(\Delta_{s,t}^N) \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$, and in fact $|\kappa_4(\Delta_{s,t}^N)| \ll |t - s|^{4H-\varepsilon}$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$. Thus for all large N ,

$$\mathbb{E}[(\Delta_{s,t}^N)^4] \leq C_2 |t - s|^{4H-\varepsilon}$$

for a suitable constant C_2 .

E.3 Applying Kolmogorov. Since $H = \alpha + \frac{1}{2} > 1/2$, we have $4H - \varepsilon > 2$. Therefore

$$\mathbb{E}[|\Delta_{s,t}^N|^4] \leq C_2 |t - s|^{2+\beta}, \quad \beta := 4H - \varepsilon - 2 > 0.$$

By the Kolmogorov–Chentsov criterion with $p = 4$ and exponent $1 + \beta > 1$, the family $\{Y_N\}$ is tight in $C[0, 1]$.

E.4 Conclusion. Together with the finite-dimensional convergence to those of fractional Brownian motion (via convergence of cumulant-generating functions), tightness in $C[0, 1]$ implies

$$Y_N(\cdot) \xrightarrow{d} B_H(\cdot) \quad \text{in } C[0, 1],$$

where B_H is fBM of Hurst index H .

F. Uniformity of the Cumulant-Generating Function

To complete the Gaussian convergence via cumulants, we must justify that the log-moment-generating functions (log-MGF) of the increments converge uniformly on a neighborhood of the origin. We work with the k -vector

$$Y_N = (\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_k)$$

and its cumulant-generating function

$$K_N(u) = \log \mathbb{E}[e^{u \cdot Y_N}] = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r) u_{i_1} \cdots u_{i_r}.$$

We have shown:

- $\kappa_1^{(N)} = 0$, and $\kappa_2^{(N)}(i, j) \rightarrow \Sigma_{ij}$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.
- For every $r \geq 3$, $\max_{i_1, \dots, i_r} |\kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r)| = O(N^{-\delta_r}) \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0$.

F.1. Remainder estimate

Fix a small radius $\rho > 0$. Then for all $u \in \mathbb{C}^k$ with $\|u\| \leq \rho$, we bound the remainder

$$R_N(u) = \sum_{r=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} \kappa_r^{(N)}(Y_N; i_1, \dots, i_r) u_{i_1} \cdots u_{i_r}.$$

Using $\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} 1 = k^r$ and the uniform bound $\max |\kappa_r^{(N)}| \leq C_r N^{-\delta_r}$, we get

$$|R_N(u)| \leq \sum_{r=3}^{\infty} \frac{k^r C_r N^{-\delta_r} \rho^r}{r!} = N^{-\delta_3} \sum_{r=3}^{\infty} \frac{(k\rho)^r C'_r}{r!},$$

where $\delta_r \geq \delta_3 > 0$ for all r , and C'_r absorbs the ratio $N^{-\delta_r + \delta_3}$. Since $\sum_{r=3}^{\infty} (k\rho)^r C'_r / r! < \infty$ for fixed ρ , we conclude

$$\sup_{\|u\| \leq \rho} |R_N(u)| \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

F.2. Convergence of log-MGF

Write

$$K_N(u) = \frac{1}{2} u^T \Sigma_N u + R_N(u),$$

where Σ_N is the $k \times k$ covariance matrix of Y_N , and $R_N(u) \rightarrow 0$ uniformly on $\{\|u\| \leq \rho\}$. Since $\Sigma_N \rightarrow \Sigma$, we have

$$K_N(u) \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2} u^T \Sigma u \quad \text{uniformly for } \|u\| \leq \rho.$$

Exponentiating,

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{u \cdot Y_N}] = \exp(K_N(u)) \longrightarrow \exp\left(\frac{1}{2} u^T \Sigma u\right),$$

the Gaussian moment-generating function.

F.3. Application of Lévy's continuity theorem

Uniform convergence of the Laplace transforms (or moment-generating functions) on a neighborhood of the origin implies convergence in distribution of the finite-dimensional laws. Combined with tightness, this yields convergence in $C[0, 1]$ to the Gaussian process with covariance Σ , i.e. fractional Brownian motion of index H .