Ergodic Theory Motivated by Sarnak's Conjecture in Number Theory

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The Möbius Function

The Möbius function is an arithmetic function on the set $\mathbb N$ of natural numbers:

$$
\mu(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ (-1)^r & \text{if } n = p_1 \cdots p_r, \text{ a product of distinct prime numbers,} \\ 0 & \text{if } p^2 \mid n \text{ for some prime number.} \end{cases}
$$

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$\mu(nm) = \mu(n)\mu(m), \quad (n,m) = 1.$

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The Primitive nth Roots of Unity

$$
\mu(n)=\sum_{1\leq k\leq n,(k,n)=1}e^{2\pi i\frac{k}{n}}
$$

and

$$
\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}
$$

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Inversion

Suppose $\alpha(n)$ and $\beta(n)$ are two arithmetic functions such that

Then
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$$
\alpha(n) = \sum_{d|n} \beta(d). \qquad \qquad \beta : \chi \rightarrow \chi
$$
\n
$$
\beta(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(\frac{n}{d}) \alpha(d) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \alpha(\frac{n}{d}). \qquad \qquad \gamma(n) = \sum_{d|n} \beta(n) \alpha(d).
$$

For example, for a flow $\{f^{\circ n}: X \to X\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, let

and
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$$
\alpha(n) = #(\lbrace x \in X \mid f^{\circ n}(x) = x \rbrace)
$$
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$$
\beta(n) = #(\lbrace x \in X \mid f^{\circ n}(x) = x, f^{\circ k}(x) \neq x, 1 \leq k \leq n-1 \rbrace)
$$

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Riemann Zeta Function

Let

$$
\underline{\zeta(s)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \qquad \mathcal{R} \in S \; \geq
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be the Riemann zeta function. We have

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

The statement (conjecture) that for any $\epsilon > 0$

$$
\sum_{n=1}^N \mu(n) = O_{\epsilon}(N^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon})
$$

is equivalent to the Riemann hypothesis.

The Möbius function has the zero mean, that is,

$$
\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N\mu(n)=0,
$$

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which is equivalent to the prime number theorem,

$$
\pi(x) \sim \frac{x}{\log x} \quad \text{if } \quad \sqrt{(\cdot)} \quad
$$

where $\pi(x)$ is the number of prime numbers $\leq x$.

Consider a compact metric space with the shift on it,

$$
\Sigma_{3} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \{-1, 0, 1\} = \{v = j_{1j_{2}} \cdots j_{n} \cdots\}; \sigma_{3} : v \to \sigma(v) = j_{2} \cdots j_{n} \cdots
$$
\n
$$
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n} = \mu(1)\mu(2) \cdots \mu(n) \cdots \text{ is a point in } \Sigma_{3} \text{ and } \sigma_{3} : \Lambda = \overline{\{\sigma_{3}^{\circ n}(\mu) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \to \Lambda
$$
\n
$$
\sigma_{3} : \Lambda = \overline{\{\sigma_{3}^{\circ n}(\mu) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \to \Lambda
$$
\n
$$
\text{is the Möbius flow.}
$$
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$$
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Question

Is the Möbius flow simple or complicate?

The complexity of the Möbius flow

The complexity of a dynamical system can be measured by a $\overline{2}$ 3 \wedge number called the entropy *h*. $\frac{1}{2}$

Consider another compact metric space and the shift on it,

$$
\sum_{2} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \{0,1\} = \{w = j_1 j_2 \cdots j_n \cdots\}; \sigma_2 : w \to b(w) = a_2 \vee b \cdots j_n \cdots
$$

Let $w = \iota(v) = i_1 i_2 \cdots i_n \cdots = j_1^2 j_2^2 \cdots j_n^2 \cdots$ The point $\iota(\mu) \in \Sigma_2$

records all square free natural numbers, which has the density $\frac{6}{\pi^2}$ in N. This implies that the entropy $h(\sigma_2|\iota(\Lambda))$ is $\frac{6}{\pi^2} \log 2$. Thus the entropy $h(\sigma_3|\Lambda)$ is positive since $\sigma_2 : \iota(\Lambda) \to \iota(\Lambda)$ is a factor of $\sigma_3 : \Lambda \to \Lambda$. This says that the Möbius flow is complicate and random.

The Möbius function not only has the zero mean but also is $\mathbb{I}\left(\mu e^{2\pi i\sigma}\right)$ oscillating (Davenport, 1937),

 $\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mu(n) e^{2\pi i \theta n} = 0, \quad \forall 0 \le \theta < 1.$ Here $R_{\theta}(z) = e^{2\pi i \theta} z$ from the unit circle T into itself is the rigid rotation of angle θ . This says that μ and the flow $\{R_{\theta}^{\circ n}\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ are linearly disjoint, that is,

$$
\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N\mu(n)R_\theta^{\circ n}(1)=0, \quad \forall \ 0\leq \theta<1.
$$

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Dynamics of Rigid Rotations

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Suppose the flow $\{f^{\circ n}: X \to X\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ on a compact metric space X has zero entropy . Then for any complex-valued continuous function $\overline{\phi}: X \to \mathbb{C}$ and any $x \in X$, the Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is linearly disjoint with the observation $\{\phi(f^n(x))\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$, that is,

$$
\left(\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N\mu(n)\phi(f^n(x))=0.\right)
$$

Sarnak's conjecture and Equicontinuous Flows

A flow ${f^{\circ n}: X \to X}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is equicontinuous if $\forall \epsilon > 0$, $\exists \delta > 0$ such that for any $x, y \in X$ with $d(x, y) < \delta$, $d(f^{\circ n}(x), f^{\circ n}(y)) < \epsilon$ for all $n > 0$. t

Sarnak's conjecture holds for all equicontinuous flows.

The flow ${f^{\circ n}: T \to T}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ for an orientation-preserving circle homeomorphism f with an irrational rotation number θ is equicontinuous if and only if *f* is topologically conjugate to the rigid rotation $R_{\theta+}$ that is, there is a circle homeomorphism $h: T \rightarrow T$ such that

 $h \circ f = R_{\theta} \circ h$.

Non-Equicontinuous Circle Homeomorphisms

Suppose R_{θ} is an irrational rigid rotation. Consider the orbit ${R}_{\theta}^{\circ n}(1)$ *_n* \in *N* and a sequence of pairwise disjoint intervals ${I_n}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ on *T* with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |I_n| \leq 1$. Enlarge each point $R_{\theta}^{\circ n}(1)$ to the interval I_n , we reconstruct the unit circle T and define a circle homeomorphism *f* such that $f: I_n \to I_{n+1}$ as an increasing linear map mapping endpoints to endpoints and $f = R_{\theta}$ on $T \setminus (\cup_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n)$. We call these circle homeomorphisms Denjoy counter-examples. Every Denjoy counter-example is non-equicontinuous and has zero entropy.

 $f(f)=0$

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We would like to understand the oscillating properties presented in the Möbius function $\mu(n)$ as well as other arithmetic functions and classify all zero entropy flows such that the linear disjointness happens in ergodic theory which can be applied back to number theory.

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Let $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of complex numbers. We say that \mathbf{c} is a *log-uniform oscillating sequence* if there are two constants $A > 1$ and $B > 0$ such that

with the control condition

$$
\left(\sum_{n=1}^N |c_n|^{\lambda} = O(N), \text{ for some } \lambda > 1. \right) \qquad (1)
$$

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The Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is an example of log-uniform oscillating sequences due to Davenport.

Theorem

Suppose (X, \mathcal{B}, ν) *is a Borel probability measurable space and* $f: X \to X$ *is an automorphism. Suppose* $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)$ *is a* log-uniform $\overbrace{\hspace{2.5cm}}$ $\overbrace{\hspace{2.5$

$$
\underbrace{\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} c_n \phi(f^n(x))}_{f \sim \text{prove}} = 0, \ v-a.e. \ x \in X.}
$$

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See Sarnak, Lecture Notes; J, Nonlinearity

Definition

Let $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of complex numbers. We say that \mathbf{c} is an oscillating sequence if for any $0 \le \theta < 1$,

$$
\lim_{N\to 0}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N c_n e^{2\pi i n\theta}=0
$$

$$
\mathbb{E}\left(\mathcal{E}^{2n\mathcal{E}}\right)=0
$$

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with the control condition (1) .

See Fan-J, ETDS, 2018.

The Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is an example of oscillating sequences due to Davenport.

More Examples and Counterexamples of Oscillating **Sequences**

- The sequence $(e^{2\pi i n\alpha})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ for some $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ is not an oscillating sequence.
- **I** The sequence $(e^{2\pi i \alpha n \log n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ for any $\alpha > 0$ is an oscillating sequence. $\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$

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- The sequence $(e^{2\pi i n^2\alpha})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ for any rational number α is not an oscillating sequence.
- **Figure 1** The sequence $(e^{2\pi i n^2\alpha})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ for any irrational number α is an oscillating sequence.

Definition

Let $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of complex numbers. We say that \mathbf{c} is an *oscillating sequence* in arithmetic if for any $0 \le \theta < 1$, for any $q > 1$ and $1 \leq r < q$,

$$
\lim_{N\to 0} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1\leq n\leq N, n=r \pmod{q}} c_n e^{2\pi i n \theta} = 0
$$

with the control condition [\(1\)](#page-15-0).

An oscillating sequence is an oscillating sequence in arithmetic (see H. Daboussi and H. Delange, J. Lond. Math. Soc., 1982 and Fan-J, ETDS, 2018, Proposition 4).

 $\left(\sqrt{a^2+1}+a^2\right)\geq 1$

Suppose $f: X \to X$ is a (piece-wise) continuous map from a compact metric space *X* into itself. For any complex-valued continuous function $\phi : X \to \mathbb{C}$ and any $x \in X$, we call $(\phi(f^{\circ n}x))_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ an observation.

 \therefore \rightarrow f^* \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow f^*

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Definition

We say a sequence $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of complex numbers is linearly disjoint from *f* if

$$
\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} c_n \phi(f^{\circ n} x) = 0
$$

for all observations $(\phi(f^{\circ n}x))_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$.

Definition

We say that *f* is mean-L-stable (briefly, MLS) if for every $\epsilon > 0$, there is a $\delta > 0$ such that $d(x, y) < \delta$ implies $d(f^{\circ n}x, f^{\circ n}y) < \epsilon$ for all $n = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$ except for a subset $E = \widehat{E_{x,y}}$ of natural numbers with $\overline{D}(E) < \epsilon$ Here

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S. V. Fomin, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 1951.

A subset
$$
K \subseteq X
$$
 is said to be minimal if $\overline{\{f^{\circ n}x\}_{n=0}^{\infty}} = K$ for any $x \in K$.

Definition

We say that *f* is minimal MLS (briefly, MMLS) if for every minimal subset $K \subseteq X$, $f|K$ is MLS.

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See Fan-J, ETDS, 2018

Minimal Mean Attractability

$H220$ **Definition** EX
P We say $x \in X$ is mean attracted to K if $\forall \epsilon > 0$, such that *N* 1 \sum $d(f^{\circ n}x, f^{\circ n}z) < \epsilon.$ lim sup mean att *N* $N \rightarrow \infty$ *n*=1

The basin $B(K)$ is the set of all points $x \in X$ which are meanly attracted to *K*. We say that *f* is minimal mean attractable (briefly, $\widehat{\text{MMA}}$) if $X = \bigcup_K \text{B}(K)$ where K varies among all minimal subsets of *X*.

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See Fan-J, ETDS, 2018

Theorem (Fan-J, ETDS, 2018)

Any oscillating sequence $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ *is linearly disjoint from any MMA and MMLS f . More precisely,*

$$
\left(\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N c_n\phi(f^{\circ n}x)=0, \ \forall \phi\in C(X,\mathbb{C}), \ \forall \ x\in X.\right)
$$

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The limit is uniform on each minimal subset.

MMLS and MMA and Sarnak's Conjecture

Corollary

 \mathcal{L} l $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ Since an MMA and MMLS dynamical system has zero entropy, our result confirms Sarnak's conjecture for a large class of dynamical systems with zero entropy.

 $f\omega\sigma$ *Sarnak's conjecture holds for all MMLS and MMA dynamical*
systems

The contract of the contra *systems.*

This corollary generalizes many works from other people on Sarnak's conjecture, for examples, P. Sarnak, Lecture Notes; 2010 ; D. Karagulyan, Ark. Mat.,; 2015, J. Li, P. Oprocha, G. Y. Yang, and T. Zeng, Nonlinearity 2017.

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All Denjoy counter-examples $f : T \rightarrow T$ are MMLS and MMA. And They are not equicontinuous on its minimal subsets. See Fan-J, ETDS, 2018.

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All continuous infinitely renormalizable interval maps with zero topological entropy such that they are only semi-conjugate to the adding machine on their strange attractors are MMLS and MMA $= 0/$ They are not equicontinuous on its minimal subsets. $\frac{1}{2}$ \ddot{U}_o + l

 \sum_{ν} $v = c_{\nu} c_{\nu}$

added

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{e}}$ = 0 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{e}}$ to the

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See J, Nonlinearity, 2018.

Consider an affine distal map
\n
$$
f\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ y \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ y \end{array}\right) + \left(\begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ 0 \end{array}\right) : \underline{\mathbb{T}}^2 \to \underline{\mathbb{T}}^2
$$
\nfor an irrational number $0 < \alpha < 1$. Then the oscillating sequence
\n
$$
\mathbf{c} = (e^{2\pi i n^2 \alpha})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}
$$
 is not linearly disjoint from *f*. Thus, *f* is not *MMLS* and *MMA* but has zero entropy.

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See Fan-J, ETDS, 2018.

Definition

We call a sequence $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of complex numbers an oscillating sequence of order $d \geq 2$ if

for every real coefficient polynomial P of degree $\leq d$ with the ϵ ontrol condition (1) .

See J, PAMS, 2019.

The Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is an example of an oscillating sequence of order d for all $d \geq 2$ due to Hua. 19605

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Definition

We call $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of complex numbers an oscillating sequence of order $d > 2$ in arithmetic if

$$
\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N, n = r \pmod{q}} c_n e^{2\pi i P(n)} = 0,
$$

for all real coefficient polynomials P of degree $\leq d$ and every pair of integers $0 \le r \le q$ with the control condition [\(1\)](#page-15-0).

See J, PAMS, 2019

The Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is also an example oscillating sequence of order *d* for all $d > 2$ in arithmetic due to Hua.

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Higher Order Oscillating Sequences Other Than the Möbius Function

Theorem (Akiyama-J, UDT, 2019)

Suppose g is a positive C^2 *function on* $(1, \infty)$ *with non-negative first and second derivatives. For a fixed real number* $\alpha \neq 0$ *and almost all real numbers* $\beta > 1$ *(alternatively, for a fixed real number* $\beta > 1$ *and almost all real number* α *), sequences* $\{ \beta^{\prime}(mod \ \) \}$

are oscillating sequence of order d as well as in arithmetic for all $d > 2$.

 $\mathbf{c} = \left(e^{2\pi i \alpha \beta^{n} g(\beta)} \right)$

<u>n∈N</u>

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Note that the sequence $\{\alpha\beta^{n}g(\beta)$ (mod 1) $\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ has positive entropy. are yes, find a concrete

Let $\mathbb{T}^d = \mathbb{R}^d / \mathbb{Z}^d$ be the *d*-torus. Let $A \in GL(d, \mathbb{Z})$, the space of all $\overline{d \times d}$ matrices of integer entries with determinants ± 1 . The map $T_{A,a}x = Ax + a : \mathbb{T}^d \to \mathbb{T}^d$ is an affine map, where x is a variable and **a** is a constant point in \mathbb{T}^d . The map $T_{A,0} = Ax : \mathbb{T}^d \to \mathbb{T}^d$ is an automorphism of \mathbb{T}^d .

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An affine map

$$
\mathcal{T}_{A,\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}: \mathbb{T}^d \to \mathbb{T}^d
$$

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is called distal if all eigenvalues of A are 1.

Theorem (J, PAMS, 2019)

Any oscillating sequence of order d 2 *is linearly disjoint from any affine distal map* $T_{A,a}$ *of the d-torus* \mathbb{T}^d *.*

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Zero Entropy Affine Maps on the d-Torus

In order for $T_{A,a}$ to have zero entropy, the absolute values $|\lambda_i|$ of all eigenvalues $\overline{\lambda_i}$, $1 \le i \le d$, of \overline{A} must be ≤ 1 due to Sinai. Moreover, every λ_i must be a root of unity due to Kronecker. This says that $\mathcal{T}^k_{A, \mathbf{a}}$ is an affine distal map for some $k \geq 1.$

 $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x+d \\ y+R(r) \end{pmatrix}$ artmoons

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Corollary (J, PAMS, 2019)

Any oscillating sequence of order $d \geq 2$ *in arithmetic is linearly disjoint from any zero entropy affine map* $T_{A,a}$ *of the d-torus* \mathbb{T}^d .

We have also study some non-linear skew products on the *d*-torus.

Corollary (J, PAMS)

Sarnak's conjecture holds for all zero entropy affine maps of the d-torus for any $d > 2$

There are some other works on Sarnak's conjecture for zero entropy affine and nonlinear maps of the d -torus, in particular, the 2-torus and the 3-torus. And there are some work on Sarnak's conjecture for flows *f* with quasi-discrete spectrum. For examples, Liu-Sarnak, Duke J. Math; Z. Wang, Invent.; Huang-Liu-Wang, arXiv:1907.01735; e. H. el Abdalaoui, arXiv1704.07243. $\overline{}$

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The Thur-Morse Sequence

The Thur-Morse sequence

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 $m = 0110100110010110...$

has zero entropy. Let $\mathbf{m} = e^{\pi i m} = (m_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$. Konieczny, 2016, $arXiv$, shows that **has a small sequence of Gowers norms, that** is, for any $d \ge 1$, there exists $c = c(d) > 0$ such that

$$
\left\|\mathbf{m}\right\|_{U^d[N]}=O(N^{-c}).\qquad \Longleftrightarrow
$$

Using this result, Abdalaoui, 2017, arXiv, shows that m is an oscillating sequence of order *d* for all $d \geq 1$. If we take the Thur-Morse sequence as a zero entropy flow and m as a higher order oscillating sequence and $\phi = e^{\pi i x_1}$ as a function. Then they are not linearly disjoint, that is,

$$
\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N m_n m_n=1.
$$

Yunping Jiang

Bourgain, Sarnak, and Ziegler, 2013, shows the following criterion for the linear disjointness by using the decay of correlation: Suppose $F, \nu : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{C}$ are two arithmetic functions with $|F|, |\nu| \leq 1$) and ν is multiplicative. If for any pair of distinct primers numbers *p*1, *p*2,

$$
\underbrace{\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N F(p_1n)\overline{F(p_2n)}=0,}
$$

then F and ν are linearly disjoint, that is,

$$
\lim_{N\to\infty}\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^N\nu(n)F(n)=0,
$$

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The following is an old conjecture (1965) in number theory, which relates to the Riemann hypothesis.

Conjecture

For each choice of $0 = k_0 < k_1 < \cdots < k_r$, $r > 0$, and each choice *of* i_0 , i_1 , \cdots i_r \in {1, 2}*,* not all $\mu^{i_j}(n+k_i) = 1$ *, we have the decay of the multi-correlation, that is,*

$$
\lim_{N\to\infty}\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)_{n=1}^N\mu^{i_1}(n+k_1)\cdot\ldots\cdot\mu^{i_r}(n+k_r)=0.
$$

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Definition

A sequence $\mathbf{c} = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of complex numbers is said to be a Chowla sequence if the control condition [\(1](#page-15-0)) and if for each choice of $0 \le k_1 < \cdots < k_r$, $r > 0$, and each choice of $i_1, \cdots i_r \in \mathbb{N}$ such that not all $c^{i_j}_{n+k_j}=|c_{n+k_j}|$, the decay of the multi-correlation holds, that is,

lim *N*!1 1 *N N* X1 *n*=1 Y *r j*=1 *c ij n*+*kj* = 0*.* By using a similar method as Akiyama-J, UDT, we can construct a O

Chowla sequence in the form $\mathbf{c} = (e^{2\pi i \alpha \beta^n g(\beta)})$. D a^2 . \int

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Chowla's conjecture implies Sarnak's conjecture. See Sarnak, 2010 and H. El Abdalaoui, J. Kulaga-Przymus, M. Lemznczyk, T. de la Rue, arXiv:1410.1673.

Veech (AJM and London Notes) shows that that there is a unique admissible measure on the Möbius flow (Chowla measure). A recent paper, el H. el Abdalaoui, arXiv:1711.06326, says that, from Veech's work with the help of Tao's logarithmic Theorem on logarithmic Sarnak's conjecture, we have that

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Sanark's conjecture implies Chowla's conjecture.

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Thanks!

Yunping Jiang