Set Equidistribution of subsets of (Z/nZ) *

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To the memory of S. Srinivasan

Abstract. In 2010, Murty and Thangadurai [MuTh10] provided a criterion for the set equidistribution of residue classes of subgroups in $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$. In this article, using similar methods, we study set equidistribution for some class of subsets of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$. In particular, we study the set equidistribution modulo 1 of cosets, complement of subgroups of the cyclic group $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and the subset of elements of fixed order, whenever the size of the subset is sufficiently large.

Keywords. Set equi-distribution, residue classes mod n

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1. Introduction

We say (as defined in [MuSi09]) that a sequence of finite multisets A_n with $A_n \subseteq [0,1]$ and $|A_n| \to \infty$ is *set equidistributed mod* 1 with respect to a probability measure μ, if for every continuous function f on $[0,1]$, we have

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{|A_n|} \sum_{t\in A_n} f(t) = \int_0^1 f(x)d\mu. \tag{1.1}$$

In order to verify this condition, it suffices to check that this limit exists on a dense family of functions f in $C[0,1]$. Here, we shall make use of the family of Bernoulli polynomials.

Murty and Thangadurai [MuTh10] proved that the elements of the subgroup H_n of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$, are set equidistributed modulo 1, whenever $|H_n|/\sqrt{n} \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$.

Motivated from this, one may ask the following natural question: If S_n is a subset of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ such that $|S_n| > n^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$, are the elements of the subset S_n of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ set equidistributed modulo 1, as $n \to \infty$? In other words, does the result of [MuTh10] apply for subsets and not just subgroups?

In general, the answer is not affirmative. For instance, if $S_n' = \{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m\} \subset (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ where $m = [n^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}] + 1$ and a_i's are the first m integers $\leq n$ with $(a_i, n) = 1$, then the elements of $S_n := S_n'/n$ are close to 0 in $[0,1]$ for all integers $n \to \infty$ and hence these sets are not set equidistributed mod 1. However, for many arithmetical subsets like the set of all quadratic non-residues modulo p (which is not a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$), and the set of all generators of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$, whenever it is cyclic, the above question makes sense.

In this article, we give a partial answer to the above question. More precisely, we prove the following theorems:

Theorem 1.1. *Let ϵ be a given number with $0 < \epsilon < 1/12$. Consider an integer $n = p^k$ or $2p^k$ for some odd prime p, some integer $k \geq 1$ and a positive divisor f of n satisfying $\phi(n)/f \geq n^{1/2+3\epsilon}$. Let $\mathcal{S}_{n,f}$ be a subset of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ which consists precisely of those elements whose index is f in $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and take the representatives $\mathcal{S}_{f,n}$ as integers, say, s_n with $1 < s_n \leq n-1$ and $(s_n, n) = 1$. Let $\mathcal{S}'_{f,n} = \{s/(n-1) : s \in \mathcal{S}_{n,f}\} \subset [0,1]$. Then the sets $\mathcal{S}'_{f,n}$'s are set equdistributed in $[0,1]$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure.*

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In Theorem 1.1, when we take $f = 1$, then trivially the hypothesis is true. Hence, when n runs through numbers of the form $n = p^k$ or $2p^k$ for an odd prime p and for some integer $k \geq 1$, we find that the sets of generators of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ are set equidistributed modulo 1.

Theorem 1.2. *For an integer $n = p^k$ or $2p^k$ for some odd prime p and for some integer $k \geq 1$, let $\mathcal{S}_n$ be a subset of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ such that its complement is a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and we take the representatives $\mathcal{S}_n$ as integers, say, s_n with $1 < s_n \leq n-1$ and $(s_n, n) = 1$. Let $\mathcal{S}'_n = \{s/(n-1) : s \in \mathcal{S}_n\} \subset [0,1]$. For a given $\epsilon > 0$, if $|\mathcal{S}_n|/n^{\frac{1}{2}+2\epsilon} \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$, then the $\mathcal{S}'_n s$ are set equdistributed in $[0,1]$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure.*

As an application of Theorem 1.2, we have the following corollary.

Corollary 1.3. *Let $r \geq 2$ be an integer. For any prime number p such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod r$, let $H_p = \{a \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^* : a^{\frac{p-1}{r}} \equiv 1 \pmod p\} \subset (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$ and let the representatives of H_p be $\{h_1, \ldots, h_{(p-1)/r}\}$ as a subset of $\{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\}$. Let*

$$S_p = \{a/p : a \in \{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\} \text{ and } a \neq h_i \text{ for any } i\}.$$

Then, as $p \to \infty$ such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod r$, the sets S_p's are set equdistributed in $[0,1]$ with respect to Lebesgue measure. In particular, when $r = 2$, we get the set of all quadratic non-residues modulo p, are set equidistributed in $[0,1]$.

Theorem 1.4. *For any integer $n \geq 2$, let H'_n be a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and take the representatives of H'_n as integers, say, h such that $1 \leq h < n$ and $(n,h) = 1$. Let $H_n = \{h/n : h \in H'_n\}$ be a finite subset of $[0,1]$. If $|H_n|/\sqrt{n} \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$, then for any given $g_n \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$, the cosets $g_n H_n$'s are set equidistributed in $[0,1]$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure in $[0,1]$.*

2. Preliminaries

In order to prove the sets S_n are set equidistributed, it suffices to determine the behaviour of sums of the form

$$\sum_{k=1}^{|S_n|} f_m(g_k),$$

for any suitable family of polynomials f_m of degree m for each integer $m \geq 1$, with $g_k \in S_n$. It is convenient to take the Bernoulli polynomials which are defined as

$$B_m(X) = \sum_{k=0}^{m} \binom{m}{k} B_k X^{m-k},$$

for each integer $m \geq 1$ where B_k denotes the kth-Bernoulli number, because the set of all finite $\mathbb{Q}$-linear combinations of $\{B_m(X)\}$ is a dense subset of $C[0,1]$ (see [Apo76]). Therefore, we consider the sum

$$\sum_{k=1}^{|S_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)$$

and we would like to prove that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|S_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) = \int_0^1 B_m(t)dt.$$

A well-known result states that (for instance, see [Mu08], page 19)

Lemma 2.1. *For any integer $m \geq 1$, we have*

$$\int_0^1 B_m(t)dt = 0.$$

Thus, by Lemma 2.1, in order to prove that the sequence of sets $\{S_n\}$ are set equidistributed mod 1, it is enough to prove that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{|S_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|S_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) = 0.$$

The way to understand this sum, $\sum_{k=1}^{|S_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)$, is through the generalized Bernoulli numbers (see for instance [Wa97]) which are defined as follows. For any Dirichlet character $\chi : (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^* \to \mathbb{C}^*$ and for any integer $m \geq 1$, we define the m-th generalized Bernoulli number $B_{m,\chi}$ as

$$B_{m,\chi} = n^{m-1} \sum_{a=1}^{n} \chi(a) B_m\left(\frac{a}{n}\right).$$

Then we get the connection between $B_{m,\chi}$ and the Dirichlet L-function with character χ at $s = m$ and use the estimates of the special values of L-functions. For more information, we refer to Murty [Mu08]. Indeed, we need the following Lemma which can be found in [Mu08], pp 122.

Lemma 2.2. *We have the following;*

1. *For any character χ on $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and for any integer $m \geq 1$, we have*

$$L(1-m,\chi) = -\frac{B_{m,\chi}}{m}.$$

2. *If χ is any character on $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$, then, there exists a positive constant $C(m)$, depending only on m such that*

$$|L(1-m,\chi)| \leq C(m) n^{m-\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all integers $m \geq 1$ and for all $n > e^{17}$. (Proof of this fact can be seen in the proof of Theorem 2 in [MuTh10]).

The following lemma is standard and we shall state as follows.

Lemma 2.3. *Let $\sigma_0(n)$ denote the number of positive divisors n. Then, we have*

$$\sigma_0(n) \leq n^{\epsilon} \text{ for all large enough integers } n,$$

for any given $\epsilon > 0$. Also, we know that

$$\phi(n) \gg n^{1-\epsilon}$$

for any given $\epsilon > 0$, where ϕ stands for the Euler's totient function.

We need the following two crucial lemmas for the proof of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 (see Lemma 3 in [Jo73]).

Lemma 2.4. *Let R be a finite ring such that R^* is the cyclic group of order n for some integer $n \geq 2$ and let f be a positive divisor of n. For any $a \in R$, we define*

$$I_f(a) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \in R^* \text{ and } a \text{ is of index } f \text{ in } R^*; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where the index of an element $a \in R^*$ means the index of the subgroup generated by a in R^*. Then, for any $a \in R^*$, we have,

$$I_f(a) = \frac{1}{f} \sum_{d|(n/f)} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{fd} = \chi_0} \chi(a),$$

where μ is the Möbius function and the inner summation runs over all the multiplicative characters χ of R of order at most fd.

The following lemma computes the characteristic function for a given subset $\mathcal{S}$ of a cyclic group G such that its complement is a subgroup.

Lemma 2.5. *Let G be a cyclic group of order n for some integer $n \geq 2$. Let $\mathcal{S}$ be a finite subset of G such that $G \backslash \mathcal{S}$ is a subgroup of G. Let*

$$R = \{r \in \mathbb{N} : r \text{ is the index of } a \in \mathcal{S} \text{ for some } a\} = \{r_1, \ldots, r_\ell\}$$

be the finite subset of $\mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d|\frac{n}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d} = \chi_0} \chi(a) \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \in \mathcal{S}; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where μ is the Mobius function and the inner sum runs over the multiplicative characters χ of G of order at most $r_i d$.

Proof. Suppose $a \in \mathcal{S}$ and let r_j be the index of a for some integer $j \in \{1, \ldots, \ell\}$. Then by Lemma 2.4, we get

$$\frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d|\frac{n}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d} = \chi_0} \chi(a) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d|(n/r_i)} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d} = \chi_0} \chi(a) \right) = 1.$$

Now, let $b \in G \backslash \mathcal{S}$ and let q be the index of b. Then, we shall show that

$$\frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d|\frac{n}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d} = \chi_0} \chi(b) = 0$$

for all $1 \leq i \leq \ell$.

To prove this, it suffices to show that $q \notin \{r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_\ell\}$. Since G is a finite cyclic group, there exists a unique subgroup H_q of index q. Since the index of b is q, we conclude that the subgroup generated by b is equal to H_q. Also, note that any element in G, which is of index q, is a generator of H_q. Since $b \in G \backslash \mathcal{S}$ and by hypothesis $G \backslash \mathcal{S}$ is a subgroup, we conclude that $b \in H_q \subset G \backslash \mathcal{S}$. Since b is arbitrary, we conclude that any element of index q lies in $G \backslash \mathcal{S}$. Therefore, $q \notin \{r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_\ell\}$ and proves the lemma.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

By Lemma 2.4, we have

$$\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}\chi(a)=\begin{cases}1 & \text{if } a\in\mathcal{S}_{f,n}\\ 0 & \text{otherwise.}\end{cases}$$

Let $\mathcal{S}_{f,n}=\{g_1,\ldots,g_{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\}$ and $m\geq 1$ be a given integer. Then consider

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n}B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\left(\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}\chi(k)\right)\\ &= \frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n}B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}\chi(k)\right)\\ &= \frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\left(\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}\sum_{k=1}^{n}\chi(k)B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\right)\\ &= \frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\left(\frac{1}{n^{m-1}}\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}B_{m,\chi}\right).\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.1, it is enough to show that for each integer $m\geq 1$, we have

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\to 0 \text{ as } n\to\infty.$$

Also, by Lemma 2.2 (1), for any character χ, we have $L(1-m,\chi)=-\dfrac{B_{m,\chi}}{m}$. Therefore, we get,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\left|\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\right| &= \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\left|\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\left(\frac{1}{n^{m-1}}\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}(-m)L(1-m,\chi)\right)\right|.\\ &\leq \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{|\mu(d)|}{d}\left(\frac{m}{n^{m-1}}\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}|L(1-m,\chi)|\right)\\ &= \frac{m}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|n^{m-1}}\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{|\mu(d)|}{d}\left(\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}|L(1-m,\chi)|\right)\\ &\leq \frac{C'(m)}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|n^{m-1}}\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{1}{d}\left(\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}n^{m-\frac{1}{2}}\right),\end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant $C'(m)$ that depends only on m by Lemma 2.2 (2). Therefore, we get,

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\right| &\leq \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{1}{d}\left(\sum_{\chi^{fd}=\chi_0}1\right)\\ &\leq \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\frac{1}{f}\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}\frac{1}{d}(fd) = \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\left(\sum_{d|\frac{\phi(n)}{f}}1\right)\\ &= \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sigma_0\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right).\end{aligned}$$

Since the set $\mathcal{S}_{f,n}$ precisely contains the generators of the cyclic subgroup of order $\frac{\phi(n)}{f}$, the cardinality of the set $\mathcal{S}_{f,n}$ is $\phi\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right)$. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\right| &\leq \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sigma_0\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right)\\ &= \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{\phi\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right)}\sigma_0\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right).\end{aligned}$$

For a given $\epsilon > 0$, we know that $\sigma_0(n) = O(n^\epsilon)$ and $\phi(n) > n^{1-\epsilon}$ for all sufficiently large integers n. Hence, since $\sigma_0\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right) \leq C\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right)^\epsilon$ for some positive constant C and $\phi\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right) > \left(\frac{\phi(n)}{f}\right)^{1-\epsilon}$. Thus, we get,

$$\left|\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\right| < \frac{C'(m)C\sqrt{n}f^{1-2\epsilon}}{\phi(n)^{1-2\epsilon}}.$$

By hypothesis, we know that $\frac{\phi(n)}{f} \geq n^{1/2+3\epsilon}$, we see that

$$\left|\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_{f,n}|}B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right)\right| < \frac{C'(m)C}{n^{2\epsilon-6\epsilon^2}}$$

and hence as $n \to \infty$, we get the desired result, as the given ϵ satisfies $0 < \epsilon < \frac{1}{12}$. □

4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

For each integer $n = p^k$ or $2p^k$, where p is an odd prime and $k \geq 1$ is an integer, we let $\mathcal{S}_n$ be a given subset of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ such that its complement is a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$. Note that for these values of n, the group of coprime residue classes modulo n is cyclic.

Let n be one such natural number and we consider $\mathcal{S}_n$. Suppose $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_\ell$ be the indices of the elements of $\mathcal{S}_n$. By lemma 2.4, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell}\left(\frac{1}{r_i}\sum_{d|\frac{n}{r_i}}\frac{\mu(d)}{d}\sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0}\chi(a)\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \in \mathcal{S}_n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.}\end{cases}$$

Let $\mathcal{S}_n = \{g_1, \ldots, g_{|\mathcal{S}_n|}\}$ and $m \geq 1$ be a given integer. Then consider

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n} B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} \chi(k) \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} \chi(k) \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \left(\sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \chi(k) B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \left(\frac{1}{n^{m-1}} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} B_{m,\chi} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.1, it is enough to show that for each integer $m \geq 1$, we have

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) \to 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

Also, by Lemma 2.2 (1), for any character χ, we know that $L(1-m,\chi) = -\dfrac{B_{m,\chi}}{m}$. Thus, we need to estimate the following

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \left(\frac{1}{n^{m-1}} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} (-m) L(1-m,\chi) \right).$$

Therefore, by Lemma 2.2 (2), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{|\mu(d)|}{d} \left(\frac{m}{n^{m-1}} \sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} |L(1-m,\chi)| \right) \\
&= \frac{m}{|\mathcal{S}_n| n^{m-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{|\mu(d)|}{d} \left(\sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} |L(1-m,\chi)| \right) \\
&\leq \frac{C'(m)}{|\mathcal{S}_n| n^{m-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{1}{d} \left(\sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} n^{m-\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\
&= \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{1}{d} \left(\sum_{\chi^{r_i d}=\chi_0} 1 \right) \\
&\leq \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} \frac{1}{d}(r_i d) = \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\sum_{d \mid \frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}} 1 \right) \\
&= \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \sigma_0\left(\frac{\phi(n)}{r_i}\right) \leq \frac{C'(m)\sqrt{n}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \ell \sigma_0(\phi(n)),
\end{aligned}$$

where $\sigma_0(n)$ stands for the number of divisors of n and $C'(m)$ is a positive constant depending only on m. By Lemma 2.3, for any given $\epsilon > 0$, we have $\sigma_0(n) = O(n^\epsilon)$. Also, since $\phi(n) \le n$, we get, $\sigma_0(\phi(n)) = O(\phi(n)^\epsilon) = O(n^\epsilon)$.

Also, since $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_l$ are the indices of elements of $\mathcal{S}_n$ and each r_i divides $\phi(n)$, we have

$$\ell \le \sigma_0(\phi(n)) = O(\phi(n)^\epsilon) = O(n^\epsilon).$$

Thus,

$$\left| \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_n|} \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{S}_n|} B_m\left(\frac{g_k}{n}\right) \right| \le \frac{C'(m) n^{\frac{1}{2}+2\epsilon}}{|\mathcal{S}_n|},$$

which holds for any $\epsilon > 0$. This proves the theorem. □

5. Proof of Corollary 1.3

Let H_p be the given subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$ of cardinality $(p-1)/r$ and $\mathcal{S}_p$ is the complement of H_p. Then,

$$|\mathcal{S}_p| = p - 1 - \frac{p-1}{r} \ge \frac{p-1}{2} \ge (p-1)^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon},$$

for all sufficiently large p and for any ϵ with $0 < \epsilon < \frac{1}{2}$. Therefore, by Theorem 1.2, the assertion follows. □

6. Proof of Theorem 1.4

For any integer $n \ge 2$, we are given a subgroup H'_n of the group $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ and we take the elements of H'_n as integers m such that $1 \le m \le n$ and $(m,n) = 1$. Also, it is given that for each integer $n \ge 2$, the element $g_n \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$. Then consider the subset $H_n = H'_n/n$ of $[0,1]$.

We want to prove that the sets $g_n H_n$ are set equidistributed mod 1. For each integer $n \ge 2$, we denote $\widehat{H_n}$ the group of all Dirichlet characters of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ which are trivial on the subgroup H'_n. Therefore, we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\widehat{H_n} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*/H'_n$$

and so,

$$|\widehat{H_n}| = \frac{\phi(n)}{|H'_n|} = \frac{\phi(n)}{|g_n H_n|}.$$

Then, we see that

$$\frac{1}{|\widehat{H_n}|} \sum_{\chi \in \widehat{H_n}} \chi(a)\chi(g_n^{-1}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \in g_n H'_n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By letting $H_n' = \{a_1, \ldots, a_{|H_n|}\}$, for each integer $m \geq 1$, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{|H_n|} B_m\left(\frac{a_k g_n}{n}\right) &= \frac{1}{|\widehat{H_n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{n} B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\sum_{\chi\in\widehat{H_n}} \chi(k)\chi(g_n^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|\widehat{H_n}|}\sum_{k=1}^{n} B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\sum_{\chi\in\widehat{H_n}} \chi(kg_n^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{|\widehat{H_n}|}\sum_{\chi\in\widehat{H_n}} \chi(g_n^{-1})\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} B_m\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)\chi(k)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^{m-1}|\widehat{H_n}|}\sum_{\chi\in\widehat{H_n}} \chi(g_n^{-1})B_{m,\chi}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.1, it is enough to show that for each $m \geq 1$

$$\frac{1}{|g_nH_n|}\sum_{k=1}^{|g_nH_n|} B_m\left(\frac{a_k g_n}{n}\right) \to 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

Since $|g_nH_n| = |H_n|$, the rest of the proof goes along the proof of subgroup H_n proved in [MuTh10]. Hence, we omit the proof here. □

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