

A LARGE SIEVE FOR A CLASS OF NON-ABELIAN L -FUNCTIONS

BY
MORRIS GOLDFELD

ABSTRACT

Let q be a fixed odd prime. We consider the sequence of Kummer fields $Q(\sqrt[q]{1}, \sqrt[q]{a})$ as a varies. Estimates are given for the global density of zeroes of Artin L -functions of these fields. These results are obtained by deducing a series representation for the Artin L -functions that arises naturally in the arithmetic of Q .

1. Introduction

Owing to the fact that the zeta-functions of abelian extensions of the rational number field factor into a product of L -functions, it is possible to deduce results about their distribution of zeros that would not otherwise be obtained by a direct analysis. In particular, if E is a cyclotomic extension formed by adjoining a primitive $\sqrt[k]{1}$ to the rationals, with corresponding zeta-function $\zeta_E(s)$; the explicit factorization

$$(1) \quad \zeta_E(s) = \prod_{\chi \bmod k} L(s, \chi)$$

was utilized by Siegel [1] to prove essentially that for $z = 1 + it$, the number of zeros of $\zeta_E(s)$ in the circle $|s - z| \leq \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon$ is bounded by $\phi(k)/(\log k)^\delta$ where $\delta > 0$ depends on ε . Here Siegel used the relation between the geometric and arithmetic means to reduce what appears basically as a multiplicative problem to an additive one. The orthogonality relations among the characters result in an important gain that would not otherwise be obtained, for example, by a direct application of Jensen's formula to $\zeta_E(s)$.

In recent years, important generalizations of Siegel's result have been obtained

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by Bombieri [3] and Montgomery [9]. If $N_E(\alpha, T)$, $N_x(\alpha, T)$ denote the number of zeros of $\zeta_E(s)$, $L(s, \chi)$ respectively in the rectangle

$$\alpha \leq \sigma \leq 1, \quad |t| \leq T$$

then estimates of the form

$$(2) \quad N_E(\alpha, T) = \sum_{\chi \bmod k} N_\chi(\alpha, T) \ll T^{c(1-\alpha)} \quad (T \geq q)$$

have been given by Fogels [6] and generalized by Gallagher [7] to

$$(3) \quad \sum_{k \leq T} \sum_{\chi \bmod k}^* N_\chi(\alpha, T) \ll T^{c(1-\alpha)} \quad (T \geq 1)$$

where * means primitive characters.

Factorizations similar to (1) occur in certain non-abelian extensions, although the L -functions can no longer be taken abelian. While it may be possible to discuss such factorizations in a more general context by considerations of intermediate fields, we shall restrict ourselves to meta-cyclic extensions. In this way, all discussion of intermediate fields is avoided, and a characterization is obtained directly through the ground field. In particular, we consider the Kummer field K_a obtained by successively adjoining (for q prime) a primitive $\sqrt[q]{1}$ and a $\sqrt[q]{a}$ for some integer $a \neq \pm 1$ or a perfect q th power. Each such field gives rise to an Artin L -function formed from a character of the representation of the meta-cyclic Galois group. Theorem 1 gives an expression for the Artin L -function directly in terms of the rational number field, and in this way, generalizations of (3) are obtained for this class of L -functions. An additional factor, however, will now depend on the degree of the character.

2. Some general notations

We let K_a be the Kummer field as described above. The n th occurrence of the letter c will denote an absolute constant c_n . For primes p and q , the symbol $\chi_{p,q}$ denotes a Dirichlet character mod p of exact order q . By \ll , we mean Vinogradov's symbolism for "less than a constant times".

3. The Artin L -functions

For a Galois extension K/k with non-abelian group G , a theory of L -functions has been developed by Artin [1] which is analogous to the abelian case. Here, however, representations of G into matrices over the complex numbers are considered, the characters being the traces of these matrices.

If β is a prime in K lying above some prime p in k , then the decomposition group G_β of β consists of those automorphisms $\mu \in G$ such that $\mu\beta = \beta$. The Frobenius automorphism $(\beta, K/k) = \mu$ is the unique element $\mu \in G_\beta$ characterized by the property

$$\mu a \equiv a^{Np} \pmod{\beta}$$

for all integers $a \in K$. Here Np denotes the usual norm.

For every $\mu \in G$, let $M(\mu)$ be a representation of G into matrices over the complex numbers. Let $\chi(\beta)$ be the trace of $M(\beta, K/k)$. Actually, we may write $\chi(p)$ since the value $\chi(\beta)$ is independent of $\beta \mid p$. The Artin L -function is defined by its logarithm

$$\log L(s, \chi, K/k) = \sum_{p,m} \frac{\chi(p^m)}{mNp^{ms}},$$

the sum going over primes $p \in k$ and positive rational integers m .

It was shown by Artin [2] that $L(s, \chi, K/k)$ satisfies the following properties:

- (4) $L(s, \chi, K/k)$ is regular for $\sigma > 1$.
- (5) $L(s, \chi_0, K/k) = \zeta_{K/k}(s)$.
- (6) If $\chi = \chi_1 + \chi_2$ are characters of G , then

$$L(s, \chi, K/k) = L(s, \chi_1, K/k) \cdot L(s, \chi_2, K/k).$$

- (7) If Ω is an intermediate field between K and k so that Ω/k is normal, and if χ is a character of $\text{Gal}(\Omega/k)$, then

$$L(s, \chi, K/k) = L(s, \chi, \Omega/k)$$

where χ can also be regarded as a character of G .

- (8) If Ω is an intermediate field between K and k , then to each character χ of $\text{Gal}(k/\Omega)$ there corresponds an induced character χ' of G such that

$$L(s, \chi', K/k) = L(s, \chi, K/\Omega).$$

It was shown by Brauer [4] that if χ is a character of G , then for rational integers n_{ij} ,

$$(9) \quad L(s, \chi, K/k) = \prod_i \prod_j L(s, \chi_{ij}, K/\Omega_i)_{ij}$$

where each $\text{Gal}(K/\Omega_i)$ is cyclic and the χ_{ij} are abelian characters of $\text{Gal}(K/\Omega_i)$. In particular, the Artin L -function $L(s, \chi, K/k)$ satisfies a functional equation induced by the functional equation of the abelian L -series in the right side of (9).

4. L-functions of Kummer fields

We consider the Kummer field $K_a = Q(\sqrt[q]{1}, \sqrt[q]{a})$ for q a prime number and $a \neq \pm 1$ or a perfect q th power. The Galois group G of K_a/Q is a metacyclic group which can be written

$$G = G_1G_2, \quad G_1 \cap G_2 = \langle 1 \rangle$$

where G_1 and G_2 are cyclic subgroups having orders q and $q - 1$ respectively. If n is the degree of K_a/Q then $n = q(q - 1)$.

The elements of G fall into q conjugacy classes, so there are only q simple characters of G , among which are included the $q - 1$ linear or abelian group characters. If we denote these simple characters χ_1, \dots, χ_q , with $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_{q-1}$ linear, then it follows from the orthogonality relations that

$$(10) \quad \sum_{i=1}^q \chi_i(\mu) \bar{\chi}_i(\mu') = \begin{cases} n/l_\mu & \mu' \in \langle \mu \rangle \\ 0 & \mu' \notin \langle \mu \rangle \end{cases}$$

where l_μ is the order of the conjugacy class $\langle \mu \rangle$ of μ . Taking $\mu = \mu' = 1$ gives

$$(11) \quad \sum_{i=1}^q n_i^2 = n \quad (n_i = \text{degree of } \chi_i)$$

so that we must have $n_q = q - 1$. Also, taking $\mu' = 1$ in (10) gives

$$(12) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \chi_i(\mu) + (q - 1)\chi_q(\mu) = \begin{cases} q(q - 1) & \mu = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and therefore, we have the factorization

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_{K_a/Q}(s) &= L(S, \chi_0, K_a/K_a) = L\left(S, \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \chi_i + (q - 1)\chi_q, K_a/Q\right) \\ &= \left[\prod_{i=1}^{q-1} L(S, \chi_i, K_a/Q) \right] \cdot L(S, \chi_q, K_a/Q)^{(q-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the characters $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_{q-1}$ may be taken as characters of G_2 , it follows from (7) that with $\Omega = Q(\sqrt[q]{1})$

$$L(S, \chi_i, K/Q) = L(S, \chi_i, \Omega/Q) \quad (1 \leq i \leq q - 1)$$

and this is just a Dirichlet series formed with a Dirichlet character $\chi_i \pmod q$. Hence, the zeta-function of the Kummer field K_a has the following factorization:

$$(14) \quad \zeta_{K_a}(s) = \left[\prod_{\chi \pmod q} L(s, \chi) \right] \cdot L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)^{(q-1)}$$

where χ_q has degree $q - 1$ and χ_q is induced by a character χ of $\text{Gal}(K/\Omega)$. So that by (8),

$$L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q) = L(s, \chi, K_a/\Omega).$$

In particular, the Artin L -function $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ is regular.

The factorization (14) can be reformulated directly in terms of Dirichlet characters of the ground field Q . To establish this, it is necessary first to examine the factorization of rational primes in K . Accounts of such factorizations were originally due to Dedekind and good treatments can be found in [5, p. 91]. If p is a rational prime not dividing qa and f_1 and f_2 are minimal such that

$$p^{f_1} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}, \quad x^q \equiv a^{f_2} \pmod{p} \text{ soluble}$$

then p is unramified and factorizes in K_a as a product of $r = q(q - 1)/f_1 f_2$ prime ideals β_1, \dots, β_r with $N\beta_i = p^{f_1 f_2}$.

Looking at the local factor L_p of $\zeta_{K_a}(s)$ corresponding to a rational prime p , we see that

$$L_p = \prod_{\beta|p} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N\beta^s}\right)^{-1} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^{f_1 f_2 s}}\right)^{-r}.$$

Let ξ_1, ξ_2 be primitive f_1, f_2 th roots of unity respectively. Then

$$L_p = \prod_{h_1=1}^{f_1} \prod_{h_2=1}^{f_2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_1^{h_1} \xi_2^{h_2}}{p^s}\right)^{-r}.$$

Now, as χ runs through the Dirichlet characters mod q , $\chi(p)$ takes on each value ξ^{h_1} ($h_1 = 1, \dots, f_1$) exactly $(q - 1)/f_1$ times, and as $\chi_{p,q}^w$ ($w = 1, \dots, q$) runs through the Dirichlet characters (mod p) of order q , each value $\xi_2^{h_2}$ ($h_2 = 1, \dots, f_2$) is taken exactly q/f_2 times. Hence, our local factor may be taken as

$$L_p = \prod_{\chi \text{ mod } q} \prod_{w=1}^q \left(1 - \frac{\chi(p)\chi_{p,q}^w(a)}{p^s}\right)^{-1}.$$

It follows that $\zeta_{K_a}(s)$ has the factorization

$$(15) \quad \zeta_{K_a}(s) = \left[\prod_{\chi \text{ mod } q} L(s, \chi) \right] \left[\prod_{\chi \text{ mod } q} \prod_{w=1}^{q-1} \left(1 - \frac{\chi(p)\chi_{p,q}^w(a)}{p^s}\right)^{-1} \right].$$

Comparing (14) and (15) gives the following theorem.

THEOREM 1. *The Artin L-function $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ may be written for $\text{Re } s > 1$ as*

$$(16) \quad L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q) = F(s) \left[\prod_{p \nmid qa} \prod_{\chi \pmod q} \prod_{w=1}^{q-1} \left(1 - \frac{\chi(p)\chi^w_q(a)}{p^s} \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/(q-1)}$$

where $F(s)$ consists of some finite product of ramified primes $p \mid qa$.

Unfortunately, it appears as if there is no simple direct way of analytically continuing the series representation (16) to the left of the line $\text{Re}(s) = 1$. Any such continuation should shed some light on the structure of a non-abelian extension in terms of the arithmetic of its ground field.

5. Application of the large sieve

Following Gallagher [7], we show that if $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ has a zero near $z = 1 + iv$, then for suitable x, y , the sum

$$s_{x,y}(a, v) = \sum_{\substack{x \leq p \leq y \\ p \equiv 1 \pmod q}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{p,q}^w(a)}{p^z} \log p$$

is large. In this way, bounds for the number of zeros of the Artin L-functions can be determined directly from large sieve estimates for character sums. We shall prove the following theorem.

THEOREM 2. *Let $N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T)$ denote the number of zeros of $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ in the rectangle $\alpha \leq \sigma \leq 1, |t| \leq T$. Then for positive constants c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, F*

$$(17) \quad \sum'_{a \leq A} N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T) \ll T^{c_1 n(1-\alpha)} (c_2 n \mathcal{L})^{g+F} [T^{2-c_3 n} A + A^{9/10+1/c_4 n}]$$

where Σ' means $a \neq 1$ or a q 'th power, and $g \ll n \frac{\log T}{\log A}$.

Before proving (17), we first establish some lemmas.

LEMMA 1. *$L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ has $\ll rn\mathcal{L}$, ($n = q(q-1)$) zeros in any disc $|s - z| \leq r$ provided $(n\mathcal{L})^{-1} \leq r \leq 1, z = 1 + iv, |v| \leq T$ and $\mathcal{L} = \log T$.*

PROOF. This follows by a direct application of [10, p. 331] to the zeta function of an algebraic number field, it being noted that in this case the Artin L-function $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ divides $\zeta_{K_a}(s)$.

LEMMA 2. *If $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ has a zero in the disc $|s - z| \leq r$ with $(n\mathcal{L})^{-1} \leq r \leq c, z = 1 + iv, |v| \leq T$, then for every $x \geq T^{cn}$*

$$\int_x^{x^B} |s_{x,y}(a, v)| \frac{dy}{y} \gg (T^{-cm}) \cdot r^2,$$

where B is a suitable constant.

PROOF. Here, we essentially follow Gallagher's argument [7]. The Artin L-function satisfies

$$(19) \quad \frac{L'}{L}(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q) = \sum_{\rho} \frac{1}{s - \rho} + O(n\mathcal{L}), \quad |s - z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

where ρ runs over zeros in $|s - z| \leq 1$. The above is obtained most simply in some more general cases owing to the fact that the Artin L-function may divide the zeta-function of the field. An application of Cauchy's inequality to (19) gives

$$\frac{D^k}{k!} \frac{L'}{L}(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q) = (-1)^k \sum \frac{1}{(s - \rho)^{k+1}} + O(4^k n\mathcal{L}), \quad |s - z| \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

The above sum contains $\ll 2^j n\mathcal{L}$ terms that are each $\ll (2^j \lambda)^{-(k+1)}$ for $2^j \lambda < |\rho - z| \leq 2^{j+1} \lambda$, and their contribution is

$$\ll \sum_{j \geq 0} (2^j \lambda)^{-k} n\mathcal{L} \ll \lambda^{-k} n\mathcal{L}.$$

Consequently, for $(n\mathcal{L})^{-1} \leq r \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{4}$,

$$(20) \quad \frac{D^k}{k!} \frac{L'}{L}(z + r, \chi_q, K_a/Q) = (-1)^k \sum' \frac{1}{(z + r - \rho)^{k+1}} + O(\lambda^{-k} n\mathcal{L})$$

where \sum' now runs over $|\rho - z| \leq \lambda$. By Lemma 1, there are $\ll \lambda n\mathcal{L}$ such zeros ρ and $\min |z - \rho| \leq 2r$. So by Turan's second power theorem [12]

$$\left| \sum' \frac{1}{(z + r - \rho)^{k+1}} \right| \geq (Dr)^{-(k+1)}$$

for suitable constant D and for some integer $k \in [K, 2K]$ provided $K \gg \lambda n\mathcal{L}$. Hence, by choosing $\lambda = cr$, we get

$$(21) \quad \frac{D^k}{k!} \frac{L'}{L}(z + r, \chi_q, K_a/Q) \gg (Dr)^{-(k+1)} .$$

Making use of the Dirichlet expansion (16), the above may be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \sum_m \frac{\chi(m) \chi_{m,q}^w(a)}{m^z} \Lambda(m) P_k(r \cdot \log m) \\ &= \sum_{m \equiv 1(q)} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{m,q}^w}{m^z} \Lambda(m) P_k(r \cdot \log m) \gg D^{-k}/r \end{aligned}$$

where

$$P_k(u) = e^{-u}(u^k/k!)$$

and satisfies

$$P_k(u) \leq (2D)^{-k} \text{ for } u \leq B_1 k$$

$$P_k(u) \leq (2D)^{-k} e^{-\frac{1}{2}u} \text{ for } u \geq B_2 k$$

for some constants B_1 and B_2 .

Let x be $\geq T^{cn}$, with $c = B_1 E$. Put $K = B_1^{-1} r \log x$ so that $K \geq \text{Ern } \mathcal{L}, k \in [K, 2K]$. It follows for $B = 2B_2/B_1$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{m \leq x \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{m,q}(a)}{m^z} \Lambda(m) P_k(r \cdot \log m) \\ \ll (2D)^{-k} (q-1) \sum_{\substack{m \leq x \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \frac{\Lambda(m)}{m} \\ \ll (2D)^{-k} k / r \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{m \geq x \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{m,q}(a)}{m} \Lambda(m) P_k(r \cdot \log m) \\ \ll (2D)^{-k} (q-1) \sum_{\substack{m \geq x \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \frac{\Lambda(m)}{m^{1+\frac{1}{2}r}} \\ \ll (2D)^{-k} / r. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{\substack{x < m < x \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{m,q}(a)}{m} \Lambda(m) P_k(r \cdot \log m) \gg D^{-k} / r.$$

Since $P_k \ll 1$, the prime powers in (22) contribute $\ll x^{\frac{1}{2}}$ which may be ignored.

Now, for $s(y) = s_{x,y}(a, r)$, we may write

$$\begin{aligned} \int_x^{xB} p_k(r \cdot \log y) ds(y) &= p_k(r \cdot \log x^B) s(x^B) \\ &\quad - \int_x^{xB} s(y) P'_k(r \cdot \log y) r \frac{dy}{y}. \end{aligned}$$

The first term on the right is

$$\ll (2D)^{-k} (q-1) \sum_{\substack{m \leq xB \\ m \equiv 1(q)}} \frac{\Lambda(m)}{m} \ll (2D)^{-k} k / r,$$

and since $p'_k = p_{k-1} - p_k \ll 1$

$$\int_x^{x^B} |s(y)| \frac{dy}{y} \gg D^{-k}/r^2.$$

LEMMA 3. Let $y \leq x^c$. Then the following estimate holds:

$$(23) \quad \sum'_{a \leq A} |s_{x,y}(a, 0)|^2 \ll A \frac{\log^2 x}{x} + \left[\left(\log \frac{y}{x} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{g} A^{9/10} (\log y)^{g+c} \right]$$

where $g \leq 4 \frac{\log x}{\log A} + c$.

PROOF. Let S denote the sum in the Lemma. Then since $\chi_{p_1, q}^{w_1} \chi_{p_2, q}^{w_2}$ can be principal only if $p_1 = p_2$, and otherwise is a primitive character $\chi \pmod{p_1 p_2}$ of order q , it follows that

$$S \ll \frac{A \log^2 x}{x} + \sum_{\substack{x \leq p_1, p_2 \leq y \\ p_1 p_2 \equiv 1(q) \\ p_1 \neq p_2}} \frac{\log p_1 \log p_2}{p_1 p_2} \sum'_x |S(\chi)|$$

where \sum'' is over primitive characters $\chi \pmod{p_1 p_2}$ of order q , and

$$S(\chi) = \sum'_{a \leq A} \chi(a).$$

Let T denote the double sum on the right. It now follows by Holder's inequality that $T \leq T_1 T_2$

where

$$T_1 = \left[\sum_q \left[\frac{\log p_1 \log p_2}{p_1 p_2} \right]^{2g/(2g-1)} \right]^{1-1/2g}$$

$$T_2 = \left[\sum_x \sum''_x S(x)^{2g} \right]^{1/2g}.$$

Applying the "large sieve" estimate

$$\sum_{q \leq Q} \sum^*_{\chi \pmod q} \left| \sum_{n \leq N} a_n \chi(n) \right|^2 \ll (Q^2 + N) \sum_{n \leq N} |a_n|^2$$

as in [8, p. 226] yields

$$T \ll \left(\log \frac{y}{x} \right)^{(2-1/g)} A^{9/10} (\log y)^{g+c}$$

which proves the lemma.

PROOF OF THEOREM. Because $N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T) = 0$ for $|1 - \alpha| \ll (n\mathcal{L})^{-1}$, it is

enough to prove (17) for $|1 - \alpha| \gg (n\mathcal{L})^{-1}$. It follows from Lemma 2 that if $L(s, \chi_q, K_a/Q)$ has a zero in $|s - z| \leq |1 - \alpha|$ and $x \geq T^{cn}$ then

$$T^{cn(1-\alpha)}(n\mathcal{L})^{-3} \int_x^{x^B} |S_{x,y}(a, v)|^2 \frac{dy}{y} \gg 1.$$

There are $\ll (1 - \alpha)n\mathcal{L}$ zeros in $|s - z| \leq (1 - \alpha)$ so that

$$N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T) \ll T^{cn(1-\alpha)} (n\mathcal{L})^{-2} \int_x^{x^B} \int_{-T}^T |S_{x,y}(a, v)|^2 dv \frac{dy}{y}$$

and therefore for some $y \in [x, x^B]$

$$\sum'_{a \leq A} N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T) \ll T^{cn(1-\alpha)} n^{-2} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \sum'_{a \leq A} \int_{-T}^T |S_{x,y}(a, v)|^2 dv.$$

It follows by Gallagher's first theorem [7, p. 331] that

$$\sum'_{a \leq A} N_a(\chi_q, \alpha, T) \ll T^{cn(1-\alpha)} n^{-2} \mathcal{L}^{-1} T^2 I.$$

where

$$(24) \quad I = \int_0^\infty \sum'_{a \leq A} \left| \sum_{\substack{y \leq p \leq ye^{-1/T} \\ p \equiv 1(q)}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{p,q}(a) \log p}{p} \right|^2 \frac{dy}{y}.$$

We now apply Lemma 3 to the above, and we get

$$(25) \quad \int_0^\infty \sum'_{a \leq A} \left| \sum_{\substack{y \leq p \leq ye^{-1/T} \\ p \equiv 1(q)}} \sum_{w=1}^{q-1} \frac{\chi_{p,q}(a) \log p}{p} \right|^2 \frac{dy}{y} \\ \ll \frac{A \log^3 x}{x} + (T^{-2+1/g}) A^{9/10} (\log x)^{g+c}.$$

The theorem follows from Eqs. (24) and (25).

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL