



# Partial Franel Sums

R. Tomás

CERN

CH 1211 Geneva 23

Switzerland

[rogelio.tomas@cern.ch](mailto:rogelio.tomas@cern.ch)

## Abstract

We derive analytical expressions for the position of irreducible fractions in the Farey sequence  $F_N$  of order  $N$  for a particular choice of  $N$ , obtaining an asymptotic behavior with a lower error bound than in previous results when these fractions are in the vicinity of  $0/1$ ,  $1/2$ , or  $1/1$ .

Franel's famous formulation of Riemann's hypothesis uses the summation of distances between irreducible fractions and evenly spaced points in  $[0, 1]$ . We define "partial Franel sum" as a summation of these distances over a subset of fractions in  $F_N$  and we demonstrate that the partial Franel sum in the range  $[0, i/N]$ , with  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i)$ , grows strictly slower than  $O(\log N)$ .

## 1 Introduction and statement of the main results

The Farey sequence  $F_N$  of order  $N$  is an ascending sequence of irreducible fractions between 0 and 1 whose denominators do not exceed  $N$  [1]. Riemann's hypothesis implies that the irreducible fractions tend to be regularly distributed in  $[0, 1]$ . A formulation of this statement follows [2, 3],

$$\sum_{n=1}^{|F_N|} \left| F_N(n) - \frac{n}{|F_N|} \right| = O(N^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}),$$

where  $F_N(n)$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  irreducible fraction in  $F_N$ . Here we define the partial Franel sum in the range  $[a_1/b_1, a_2/b_2]$  as

$$P\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}\right) = \sum_{n=I_N(a_1/b_1)}^{I_N(a_2/b_2)} \left| F_N(n) - \frac{n}{|F_N|} \right|,$$

where  $I_N(a/b)$  is the position that  $a/b$  occupies in  $F_N$ . Dress [4] established the upper bound of the distance  $|F_N(n) - n/|F_N||$  to be  $1/N$  and to be located at  $F_N(2) = 1/N$ . This motivates the study of partial Franel sums in ranges including  $1/N$ . Furthermore, another equivalent formulation of the Riemann's hypothesis involving sums over irreducible fractions in the range  $[0, 1/4]$  follows [5],

$$\sum_{n=1}^{I_N(1/4)} \left( F_N(n) - \frac{I_N(1/4)}{2|F_N|} \right) = O(N^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}) ,$$

showing again the relevance of the vicinity of  $1/N$ .

Guthery [6, Chapter 6] attempted to find a closed expression for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  fraction in  $F_N$  ending in an “analytical hole”. This paper achieves this goal for fractions in the range  $[0, i/N]$ , with  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i)$  as explained in the following. Note that  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i) = e^{\psi(i)}$ , where  $\psi(i)$  is the second Chebyshev function that fulfills the property  $\psi(i) = (1 + o(1))i$ , and hence  $i = (1 + o(1)) \log N$ .

Let the subsequence  $F_N^{a_1/b_1, a_2/b_2}$  of  $F_N$ , contain all the fractions of  $F_N$  in  $[a_1/b_1, a_2/b_2]$ . The cardinality of  $F_N^{a_1/b_1, a_2/b_2}$  is well known to be [7]

$$\left| F_N^{a_1/b_1, a_2/b_2} \right| = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{a_2}{b_2} - \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) N^2 + O(N \log N) .$$

As  $I_N(a_2/b_2)$  is the position that  $a_2/b_2$  occupies in  $F_N$ , it follows that

$$I_N \left( \frac{a_2}{b_2} \right) = \left| F_N^{0/1, a_2/b_2} \right| = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \frac{a_2}{b_2} N^2 + O(N \log N) . \quad (1)$$

A first result of this paper is the derivation of an analytical expression for  $I_N(1/q)$  where  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i)$  and  $N/i \leq q \leq N$  in Theorem 3 as

$$I_N \left( \frac{1}{q} \right) = 2 + N \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - q\Phi(i) ,$$

where  $\varphi(i)$  is the totient function and  $\Phi(i)$  is the summatory totient function defined as

$$\Phi(i) = \sum_{j=1}^i \varphi(j) .$$

Theorem 3 also includes a more general expression giving the location of other fractions in  $F_N$ . To reach this relation a series of bijections are established in Theorem 1 between  $F_{i'}$ , with  $i' \leq i$ , and subsequences of  $F_N$  covering all elements in  $F_N^{0/1, 1/q}$ . Thanks to these bijections the cardinality of  $F_N^{0/1, 1/q}$  can be expressed as function of all  $|F_{i'}|$  as shown in Corollary 2. These bijections are illustrated in Table 1 for  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, 5) = 60$ . This

result is used to derive the equivalent asymptotic estimate of (1) with a smaller residual error in Corollary 4 as follows:

$$I_N \left( \frac{1}{q} \right) = \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left( \frac{N^2}{q^2} - \left\{ \frac{N}{q} \right\}^2 \right) + O \left( N \delta_A \left( \left\lfloor \frac{N}{q} \right\rfloor \right) \right),$$

where  $\{x\} = x - \lfloor x \rfloor$  and  $\delta_A(x)$  is a decreasing function defined as

$$\delta_A(x) = \exp \left( -A \frac{\log^{0.6} x}{(\log \log x)^{0.2}} \right), \quad (2)$$

where  $A > 0$ .

As the final result of this work Theorem 5 establishes that the partial Franel sum in the range  $[0, 1/(N/i)]$  is given by

$$P \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{N/i} \right) = O(\log(N) \delta_B(\log N)),$$

with  $0 < B < A$  and again  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i)$ . Therefore, this partial Franel sum grows strictly slower than  $O(\log N)$ . If we would assume the Riemann hypothesis and a uniform distribution density of Farey elements in  $[0, 1]$ , we would expect this partial Franel sum to decrease as  $O(\log(N)/N^{1/2-\epsilon})$ . Theorem 5 includes equivalent results for partial Franel sums in ranges including  $1/2$  or  $1/1$ . The generalization to compute partial Franel sums in the vicinity of any irreducible fraction is explored. Earlier results of this work were applied to resonance diagrams [8, 9].

The following definitions are used in the rest of the paper. We say that two elements of a Farey sequence,  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$ , form a Farey pair if  $|a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1| = 1$ . In this report we exceptionally allow  $0/1$  and  $1/0$  to form a Farey pair even if  $1/0$  is not a proper fraction. The mediant of a Farey pair,  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$ , is given by

$$\frac{a_1 + a_2}{b_1 + b_2}$$

which is an irreducible fraction existing between  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$  and forms two Farey pairs with  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$ .

## 2 Results

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$  be a Farey pair with  $b_1 > b_2$ . Let  $N$  be multiple of  $b_1 i(i+1)$  with  $i$  being a natural number such  $0 < i < N$ . Let  $q$  be an integer fulfilling*

$$\frac{N}{b_1(i+1)} < q \leq \frac{N}{b_1 i} \quad \text{and} \quad b_1 q + b_2 \leq N.$$

Let  $F'_i$  be a subsequence of  $F_i$  defined as

$$F'_i = \left\{ \frac{h}{k} : \frac{h}{k} \in F_i, k(b_1q + b_2) - b_1h \leq N \right\},$$

noting that for  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$ ,  $F'_i = F_i$ .

There is a bijective map  $M$  between  $F'_i$  and  $F_N^{\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}}$ , given by

$$M : F'_i \rightarrow F_N^{\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}}, \quad \frac{h}{k} \mapsto \frac{k(a_1q + a_2) - a_1h}{k(b_1q + b_2) - b_1h}.$$

$$M^{-1} : F_N^{\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}} \rightarrow F'_i, \quad \frac{u}{l} \mapsto \frac{q(b_1u - la_1) + b_2u - la_2}{b_1u - la_1}.$$

The bijective map is order-preserving when  $a_2/b_2 > a_1/b_1$  and order-inverting when  $a_2/b_2 < a_1/b_1$ .

*Proof.* We first demonstrate that  $M$  is injective. The fractions  $\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}$  and  $\frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}$  form a Farey pair since  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$  form a Farey pair:

$$|(a_1q + a_2)(b_1(q - 1) + b_2) - (b_1q + b_2)(a_1(q - 1) + a_2)| = |b_2a_1 - a_2b_1| = 1.$$

Let  $u/l$  be the image of  $h/k$  under  $M$ ,

$$\frac{u}{l} = \frac{k(a_1q + a_2) - a_1h}{k(b_1q + b_2) - b_1h}.$$

By virtue of this expression  $u/l$  is obtained by applying the mediant operation successively between  $\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}$  and  $\frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}$  in the same fashion as  $h/k$  is obtained by applying the mediant between  $0/1$  and  $1/1$ , meaning

$$\frac{h}{k} = \frac{(k-h) \cdot 0 + h \cdot 1}{(k-h) \cdot 1 + h \cdot 1},$$

$$\frac{u}{l} = \frac{(k-h) \cdot (a_1q + a_2) + h \cdot (a_1(q-1) + a_2)}{(k-h) \cdot (b_1q + b_2) + h \cdot (b_1(q-1) + b_2)}.$$

Therefore  $u/l$  is a Farey fraction in the interval of interest:

$$\left[ \frac{a_1q + a_2}{b_1q + b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2} \right].$$

The fraction  $u/l$  belongs to  $F_N$  by definition of the domain  $F'_i$ , meaning that  $h/k$  belonging to  $F'_i$  needs  $l \leq N$ . Therefore  $M$  is injective.

Now we demonstrate that  $M^{-1}$  is also injective. Let  $u/l$  belong to  $F_N^{\frac{a_1q+a_2}{b_1q+b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1)+a_2}{b_1(q-1)+b_2}}$  and assume  $a_2/b_2 > a_1/b_1$ , so that

$$\frac{a_1q + a_2}{b_1q + b_2} \leq \frac{u}{l} \leq \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2} . \quad (3)$$

Let  $h/k$  be the image of  $u/l$  under  $M^{-1}$ ,

$$\frac{h}{k} = \frac{q(b_1u - la_1) + ub_2 - la_2}{b_1u - la_1} . \quad (4)$$

This equality implies  $\gcd(h, k) = \gcd(ub_2 - la_2, b_1u - la_1)$ . Using

$$\gcd(u, l) = \gcd(a_1, b_1) = \gcd(a_2, b_2) = 1 ,$$

$a_2b_1 - a_1b_2 = 1$ , and known equalities [10] implies  $\gcd(h, k) = 1$ . Hence,  $h/k$  is an irreducible fraction. Furthermore, operating with the inequalities in (3):

$$q(b_1u - la_1) \geq -(ub_2 - la_2) \geq (b_1u - la_1)(q-1),$$

and therefore  $0 \leq h \leq k$ . This shows that  $h/k$  belongs to  $F_k$ . In the following we demonstrate that  $k \leq i$  so that  $h/k$  belongs to  $F_i$  too.

From relations (3) and (4)

$$k = b_1u - la_1 \leq b_1l \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2} - la_1 = \frac{l}{b_1(q-1) + b_2}$$

and using that  $l \leq N$  and  $b_1(q-1) \geq \frac{N}{i+1}$ , which derives from  $q > \frac{N}{b_1(i+1)}$ ,

$$k \leq \frac{N}{\frac{N}{i+1} + b_2} = \frac{i+1}{1 + \frac{i+1}{N}b_2} < i+1 .$$

If  $b_2 > 0$  this implies  $k \leq i$  and gathering the above results  $0 \leq h \leq k \leq i$  and  $\gcd(h, k)=1$ , hence  $h/k \in F_i$ . To demonstrate that  $h/k$  belongs to  $F'_i$  it is easy to verify that  $k(b_1q + b_2) - b_1h \leq N$ .

If  $b_2 = 0$  we are in the exceptional case included in this report of  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$ , that implies  $h/k = (qu - l)/u$ . Note that  $k = u$ . We only need to show that  $k \leq i$  also in this case. From the inequalities in (3) and  $\frac{N}{i} \geq q > \frac{N}{i+1}$ ,

$$\frac{i}{N} \leq \frac{1}{q} \leq \frac{u}{l} \leq \frac{1}{q-1} \leq \frac{i+1}{N} .$$

The fraction  $(i+1)/N$  is not irreducible, as  $N$  is taken as a multiple of  $i(i+1)$ , and therefore it does not belong to  $F_N$ . Similarly for  $i/N$  when  $i > 1$ . In the range  $[i/N, (i+1)/N]$  there cannot be fractions with denominator  $N$  other than  $1/N$  when  $i = 1$ . Therefore if  $i = 1$  we directly have  $k = u \leq i$  and for  $i > 1$  we have  $l \leq N - 1$  and hence

$$k = u \leq l \frac{i+1}{N} \leq i .$$

□

**Corollary 2.** *The cardinalities of  $F_i$ ,  $F'_i$  and  $F_N^{\frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2}}$  are related as follows:*

- *If  $q = N/(b_1 i)$ , then*

$$|F_i| \geq |F'_i| = \left| F_N^{\frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2}} \right| > |F_i| - i .$$

- *If  $q < N/(b_1 i)$  or  $b_2 = 0$ , then*

$$|F_i| = |F'_i| = \left| F_N^{\frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}, \frac{a_1(q-1) + a_2}{b_1(q-1) + b_2}} \right| .$$

*Proof.* The first inequality is evident from the definition of  $F'_i$ . The first equality derives from the bijective map in Theorem 1.

If  $q = N/(b_1 i)$ , let  $u/l$  be the image of  $h/k$  via the map  $M$  in Theorem 1, then  $l = k(N/i + b_2) - b_1 h$ . To prove that  $|F'_i| > |F_i| - i$  we should count how many  $h/k \in F_i$  fulfill  $k(N/i + b_2) - b_1 h > N$ . Dividing both sides of the later inequality by  $k$  and operating we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} b_2 - b_1 \frac{h}{k} &> \frac{N}{k} - \frac{N}{i} = N \frac{i - k}{ki} , \\ b_2 &\geq b_2 - b_1 \frac{h}{k} > N \frac{i - k}{ki} \geq 0 . \end{aligned}$$

To fulfill these inequalities it is required that  $k = i$ . Otherwise for any  $k < i$  and recalling that  $N$  is a multiple of  $b_1 i(i + 1)$ :

$$b_2 > N \frac{i - k}{ki} \geq b_1 \frac{i + 1}{k} (i - k) > b_1 ,$$

which is inconsistent with the assumption  $b_2 < b_1$  in Theorem 1. Then,  $k = i$  implies  $h/i < b_2/b_1 < 1$  and in  $F_i$  there are fewer than  $i$  irreducible fractions of the form  $h/i$  below  $b_2/b_1$ , hence  $|F'_i| > |F_i| - i$ .

If  $q < N/(b_1 i)$  we define  $g > 0$  such that  $q = N/(b_1 i) - g$ ; therefore,  $l = k(N/i - gb_1 + b_2) - b_1 h$ . Now, we need to count how many  $h/k$  in  $F_i$  have  $l > N$ ,

$$b_2 - b_1 \frac{h}{k} - b_1 g > N \frac{i - k}{ki} ,$$

and there are no  $h/k$  which can fulfill this equation as  $b_2 - b_1 g < 0$ . Hence,  $|F_i| = |F'_i|$  when  $q < N/(b_1 i)$ .

If  $b_2 = 0$  we should show that there are no  $h/k$  in  $|F_i|$  fulfilling  $kb_1 q - b_1 h > N$ . The largest possible value of  $q$  is  $N/(b_1 i)$  and therefore  $kb_1 q - b_1 h \leq kN/i - b_1 h < N$ , for  $i > 1$ , so there is no  $h/k$  fulfilling the previous condition and  $|F_i| = |F'_i|$ . Note that  $i = 1$  and  $h/k = 0/1$  would not have given  $kb_1 q - b_1 h > N$  as  $b_1 q + b_2 \leq N$  from the assumptions in Theorem 1.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $N = b_1 \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i_{\max})$ ,  $\frac{N}{b_1(i+1)} < q \leq \frac{N}{b_1 i}$ , with  $a_1/b_1$  and  $a_2/b_2$  forming a Farey pair,  $b_1 > b_2$  and  $i < i_{\max}$ . Then

- For  $b_1 > 1$ :

$$I_N \left( \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2} \right) = I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \left( \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - q\Phi(i) \right) + O(i^2), \quad (5)$$

with  $s = +1$  when  $a_1/b_1 < a_2/b_2$  and  $s = -1$  otherwise.

- For  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$ :

$$I_N \left( \frac{1}{q} \right) = 2 + N \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - q\Phi(i).$$

*Proof.* To simplify equations we assume  $s = +1$  in the following. We count the number of elements in  $F_N^{\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}}$  using the bijective maps described in Theorem 1 and adding up the cardinalities of the sets involved from Corollary 2. Thanks to the fact that  $N$  is a multiple of all natural numbers  $i'$  such that  $i' \leq i$  we can establish bijections between  $F_i^{a_1/b_1, a_1 q + a_2 / (b_1 q + b_2)}$  and  $F_N^{\frac{a_1 p + a_2}{b_1 p + b_2}, \frac{a_1(p-1) + a_2}{b_1(p-1) + b_2}}$  where  $p$  can take all values fulfilling  $\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)} < p \leq \frac{N}{b_1 i'}$ , covering all elements in  $F_N^{\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}}$  when scanning over all  $i' \leq i$  and the corresponding  $p$ . For a given  $i'$  the number of values  $p$  takes is given by

$$\frac{N}{b_1 i'} - \frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)} = \frac{N}{b_1} \left( \frac{1}{i'} - \frac{1}{i'+1} \right).$$

In a first step we compute the number of elements in  $F_N^{\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 q' + a_2}{b_1 q' + b_2}}$  with  $q' = N/(b_1 i)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} I_N \left( \frac{a_1 q' + a_2}{b_1 q' + b_2} \right) - I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) &= \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \left( \frac{1}{i'} - \frac{1}{i'+1} \right) (|F_{i'}^{a_1/b_1}| - 1) \\ &= \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{i'} - \frac{1}{i'+1} \right) \Phi(i') + O(i') \right] \\ &= \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - \frac{N}{b_1} \frac{\Phi(i-1)}{i} + O(i^2). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, when  $b_2 = 0$  the term  $O(i^2)$  does not appear according to Corollary 2. In a second step we compute the number of elements in  $F_N^{\frac{a_1 q' + a_2}{b_1 q' + b_2}, \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2}}$ , that is,  $\Phi(i)(q' - q) + O(i)$ . Adding both contributions gives

$$\begin{aligned} I_N \left( \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2} \right) - I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) &= \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - \frac{N}{b_1} \frac{\Phi(i-1)}{i} \\ &\quad + \Phi(i) \left( \frac{N}{b_1 i} - q \right) + O(i^2) \\ &= \frac{N}{b_1} \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{\varphi(j)}{j} - q \Phi(i) + O(i^2), \end{aligned}$$

which demonstrates the theorem for  $s = 1$ . For  $s = -1$ , following the same steps leads to the desired result.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.** *Let  $N = b_1 \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i_{\max})$  and  $\frac{N}{b_1(i+1)} < q \leq \frac{N}{b_1 i}$ , with  $i < i_{\max}$ . Then,*

$$I_N \left( \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2} \right) = I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left( \frac{N^2}{b_1^2 q^2} - \left\{ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right\}^2 \right) + O(N \delta_A(i)),$$

with  $\delta_A(x)$  defined in (2). In particular, for  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$ ,

$$I_N \left( \frac{1}{q} \right) = \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left( \frac{N^2}{q^2} - \left\{ \frac{N}{q} \right\}^2 \right) + O(N \delta_A(i)),$$

and for  $a_1/b_1 = 1/2$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/1$ ,

$$I_N \left( \frac{q+1}{2q+1} \right) = \frac{|F_N|}{2} + \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left( \frac{N^2}{2^2 q^2} - \left\{ \frac{N}{2q} \right\}^2 \right) + O(N \delta_A(i)).$$

*Proof.* The following known relations [11, 12] are needed:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^N \varphi(k) &= \frac{3}{\pi^2} N^2 + E(N), \\ \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\varphi(k)}{k} &= \frac{6}{\pi^2} N + H(N), \\ E(x) &= O(x \log^{2/3} x (\log \log x)^{4/3}), \\ E(x) &= x H(x) + O(x \delta_A(x)), \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$



with  $A > 0$  and  $\delta_A(x)$  is a decreasing factor. From the definitions of  $i$ ,  $q$ , and  $N$  it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} i &= \left\lfloor \frac{N}{qb_1} \right\rfloor = \frac{N}{qb_1} + O(1) , \\ i &< i_{\max} = (1 + o(1)) \log N/b_1 . \end{aligned}$$

Inserting the above equalities in expression (5) of Theorem 3,

$$\begin{aligned} I_N \left( \frac{a_1q + a_2}{b_1q + b_2} \right) &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{N}{b_1} \frac{6}{\pi^2} i - sq \frac{3}{\pi^2} i^2 + s \frac{N}{b_1} H(i) - sqE(i) + O(i^2) \\ &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{N}{b_1} \frac{6}{\pi^2} i - sq \frac{3}{\pi^2} i^2 + sq(iH(i) - E(i)) + O(i^2) \\ &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{N}{b_1} \frac{6}{\pi^2} i - sq \frac{3}{\pi^2} i^2 + O(N\delta_A(i)) \\ &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{3}{\pi^2} \frac{N^2}{b_1^2 q} - s \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left\{ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right\}^2 + O(N\delta_A(i)) . \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $N$  be  $N = b_1 \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, i)$ . Then the partial Franel sum over all Farey fractions in the range  $\left[ \frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + a_2}{b_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + b_2} \right]$  is given by the following expressions:*

- For  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$ ,  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$  and for  $a_1/b_1 = 1/2$ ,  $a_2/b_2 = 0/1$ :

$$P \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{N/i} \right) = \sum_{j=1}^{I_N(\frac{1}{N/i})} \left| F_N(j) - \frac{j}{|F_N|} \right| = O(\log(N)\delta_B(\log N)) ,$$

$$P \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{N/(2i)}{N/i + 1} \right) = \sum_{j=I_N(\frac{1}{2})}^{I_N(\frac{N/(2i)}{N/i+1})} \left| F_N(j) - \frac{j}{|F_N|} \right| = O(\log(N)\delta_B(\log N)) ,$$

with  $0 < B < A$ . The same result holds for  $a_1/b_1 = 1/2$ ,  $a_2/b_2 = 1/1$ .

- For  $b_1 > 2$  and  $b_2 < b_1$ :

$$\sum_{j=I_N(\frac{a_1}{b_1})}^{I_N\left(\frac{a_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + a_2}{b_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + b_2}\right)} \left| F_N(j) - \frac{j}{|F_N|} \right| \leq \left| \frac{a_1}{b_1} - \frac{I_N\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}\right)}{|F_N|} \right| O(iN) + O(i\delta_B(i)) ,$$

which cannot be further developed as no general expression for  $I_N(a_1/b_1)$  is known.

*Proof.* By virtue of Theorem 1 the partial Franel sum under study is written as

$$P \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + a_2}{b_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + b_2} \right) = \sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} \sum_{n=2}^{|F'_{i'}|} \left| \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} - \frac{I_N \left( \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} \right)}{|F_N|} \right|,$$

where the sum over  $n$  runs over the elements  $h/k$  in  $F'_{i'}$ , approximately  $n = I_{i'}(h/k) + O(i')$ . By virtue of Theorem 1 and Corollary 4

$$\begin{aligned} I_N \left( \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} \right) &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1 q + a_2}{b_1 q + b_2} \right) + s I_{i'} \left( \frac{h}{k} \right) + O(i') \\ &= I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right) + s \frac{3}{\pi^2} \frac{N^2}{b_1^2 q} - s \frac{3}{\pi^2} q \left\{ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right\}^2 + s \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left[ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right]^2 \frac{h}{k} + O(N \delta_A(i')), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used  $i' = \left\lfloor \frac{N}{qb_1} \right\rfloor$ . Furthermore

$$\frac{I_N \left( \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} \right)}{|F_N|} = \frac{I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right)}{|F_N|} + \frac{s}{b_1^2 q} - \frac{s q}{N^2} \left\{ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right\}^2 + \frac{s}{N^2} \left[ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right]^2 \frac{h}{k} + O \left( \frac{\delta_A(i')}{N} \right).$$

The Farey element inside the partial Franel sum is approximated as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} &= \frac{k(a_1 q + a_2) - a_1 h}{k(b_1 q + b_2) - b_1 h} - \frac{a_1}{b_1} + \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ &= \frac{s}{b_1^2 q} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{b_2}{qb_1} - \frac{h}{qk}} + \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ &= \frac{s}{b_1^2 q} \left( 1 - \frac{b_2}{qb_1} + \frac{h}{qk} \right) + \frac{a_1}{b_1} + O(1/q^3), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used  $(b_1 a_2 - a_1 b_2) = s$ . The partial Franel sum under study becomes

$$\sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} |F'_{i'}| \left| \frac{a_1}{b_1} - \frac{I_N \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} \right)}{|F_N|} - \frac{s b_2}{b_1^3 q^2} + \frac{s q}{N^2} \left\{ \frac{N}{b_1 q} \right\}^2 + O \left( \frac{\delta_A(i')}{N} \right) \right|,$$

where the terms proportional to  $1/q$  and  $h/k$  have canceled out leaving a negligible residue. The sum over  $n$  has been evaluated just by multiplying by  $|F'_{i'}|$  as the dependency on  $h/k$  disappeared. Evaluating the asymptotics of the sums of the individual terms within the

absolute value gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} |F'_{i'}| &= O(iN) , \\
\sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} \frac{|F'_{i'}|}{q^2} &= O\left(\frac{i^4}{N}\right) , \\
\sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} |F'_{i'}| \frac{q}{N^2} &= O(\log i) , \\
\sum_{i'=1}^{i-1} \sum_{q=\frac{N}{b_1(i'+1)}+1}^{\frac{N}{b_1 i'}} |F'_{i'}| \frac{\delta_A(i')}{N} &= O(i\delta_B(i)) ,
\end{aligned}$$

with  $0 < B < A$ . Keeping the two dominant terms gives

$$P\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + a_2}{b_1 \frac{N}{b_1 i} + b_2}\right) \leq \left| \frac{a_1}{b_1} - \frac{I_N\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}\right)}{|F_N|} \right| O(iN) + O(i\delta_B(i)) ,$$

which is the searched result for  $b_1 > 2$ . For  $1 \leq b_1 \leq 2$  we have

$$\frac{0}{1} - \frac{I_N\left(\frac{0}{1}\right)}{|F_N|} = O(1/N^2) , \quad \frac{1}{2} - \frac{I_N\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{|F_N|} = O(1/N^2) , \quad \frac{1}{1} - \frac{I_N\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)}{|F_N|} = 0 ,$$

and  $O(i\delta_B(i))$  dominates. The theorem is demonstrated.  $\square$

## Appendix

Table 1 illustrates the bijections between the first 90 elements in  $F_{60}$  and other Farey sequences of lower order.

$i'$	$q$	$\frac{h/k}{\in F_{i'}}$	$\frac{u/l}{\in F_N}$	$I_N(\frac{u}{l})$	$i'$	$q$	$\frac{h/k}{\in F_{i'}}$	$\frac{u/l}{\in F_N}$	$I_N(\frac{u}{l})$	$i'$	$q$	$\frac{h/k}{\in F_{i'}}$	$\frac{u/l}{\in F_N}$	$I_N(\frac{u}{l})$
-	-	-	$\frac{0}{1}$	1	1	32	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{31}$	31	3	18	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{53}$	61
1	60	$\frac{0}{1}$	$\frac{1}{60}$	2	1	31	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{30}$	32	3	18	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{35}$	62
1	60	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{59}$	3	2	30	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{59}$	33	3	18	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{52}$	63
1	59	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{58}$	4	2	30	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{29}$	34	3	18	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{17}$	64
1	58	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{57}$	5	2	29	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{57}$	35	3	17	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{50}$	65
1	57	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{56}$	6	2	29	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{28}$	36	3	17	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{33}$	66
1	56	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{55}$	7	2	28	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{55}$	37	3	17	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{49}$	67
1	55	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{54}$	8	2	28	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{27}$	38	3	17	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	68
1	54	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{53}$	9	2	27	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{53}$	39	3	16	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{47}$	69
1	53	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{52}$	10	2	27	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{26}$	40	3	16	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{31}$	70
1	52	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{51}$	11	2	26	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{51}$	41	3	16	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{46}$	71
1	51	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{50}$	12	2	26	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{25}$	42	3	16	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	72
1	50	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{49}$	13	2	25	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{49}$	43	4	15	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{4}{59}$	73
1	49	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{48}$	14	2	25	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{24}$	44	4	15	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{44}$	74
1	48	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{47}$	15	2	24	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{47}$	45	4	15	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{29}$	75
1	47	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{46}$	16	2	24	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{23}$	46	4	15	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{43}$	76
1	46	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{45}$	17	2	23	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{45}$	47	4	15	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{57}$	77
1	45	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{44}$	18	2	23	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{22}$	48	4	15	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{14}$	78
1	44	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{43}$	19	2	22	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{43}$	49	4	14	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{4}{55}$	79
1	43	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{42}$	20	2	22	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{21}$	50	4	14	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{41}$	80
1	42	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{41}$	21	2	21	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{41}$	51	4	14	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{27}$	81
1	41	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{40}$	22	2	21	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{20}$	52	4	14	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{40}$	82
1	40	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{39}$	23	3	20	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{59}$	53	4	14	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{53}$	83
1	39	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{38}$	24	3	20	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{39}$	54	4	14	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	84
1	38	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{37}$	25	3	20	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{58}$	55	4	13	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{4}{51}$	85
1	37	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	26	3	20	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{19}$	56	4	13	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{38}$	86
1	36	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{35}$	27	3	19	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{56}$	57	4	13	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{25}$	87
1	35	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{34}$	28	3	19	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{37}$	58	4	13	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{37}$	88
1	34	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{33}$	29	3	19	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{55}$	59	4	13	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{49}$	89
1	33	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	30	3	19	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{18}$	60	4	13	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{12}$	90

Table 1: Correspondence between elements in  $F_{i'}$ , with  $0 < i' < 5$  and first 90 elements in  $F_N$ , given by  $u/l = h/(hq - k)$  with  $N/(i' + 1) < q \leq N/i'$  and  $N = \text{lcm}(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) = 60$ . Note that the images of elements  $1/1$  and  $0/1$  of adjacent maps are equal and only the  $1/1$  case is shown on the table. The illustrated maps originate from the map  $M$  in Theorem 1 with  $a_1/b_1 = 0/1$  and  $a_2/b_2 = 1/0$ .

## References

- [1] G. H. Hardy and E. M. Wright, *An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*, Fifth Edition, Oxford Science Publications, 1996.
- [2] J. Franel, Les suites de Farey et le problème des nombres premiers, *Nachr. von der Ges. der Wiss. zu Göttingen Math.-Phys. Kl.* (1924), 198–201.

- [3] E. Landau, Bemerkungen zu der vorstehenden Abhandlung von Herrn Franel, *Nachr. von der Ges. der Wiss. zu Göttingen Math.-Phys. Kl.* (1924), 202–206.
- [4] F. Dress, Discrépance des suites de Farey, *J. Théor. Nombres Bordeaux* **11** (1999), 345–367.
- [5] S. Kanemitsu and M. Yoshimoto, Farey series and the Riemann hypothesis, *Acta Arith.* **75** (1996), 351–374.
- [6] S. B. Guthery, *A Motif of Mathematics: History and Application of the Mediant and the Farey Sequence*, Docent Press, 2011.
- [7] C. Cobeli, M. Vâjâitu, and A. Zaharescu, On the intervals of a third between Farey fractions, *Bull. Math. Soc. Sci. Math. Roumanie*, **53** (2010), 239–250.
- [8] R. Tomás, From Farey sequences to resonance diagrams, *Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams* **17** (2014), 014001.
- [9] R. Tomás, Asymptotic behavior of a series of Euler’s totient function  $\varphi(k)$  times the index of  $1/k$  in a Farey sequence, preprint, 2014. Available at <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1406.6991.pdf>.
- [10] R. Tomás, Equalities between greatest common divisors involving three coprime pairs, *Notes Number Theory Discrete Math.* **26** (2020), 5–7.
- [11] S. Kanemitsu, T. Kuzumaki, and M. Yoshimoto, Some sums involving Farey fractions II, *J. Math. Soc. Japan* **52** (2000), 915–947.
- [12] A. Walfisz, *Weylsche Exponentialsummen in der neueren Zahlentheorie*, VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften, Berlin, 1963.

---

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: Primary 11B57; Secondary 11M26.

*Keywords*: Farey sequence, Riemann hypothesis.

---

Received September 2 2021; revised version received September 5 2021; September 12 2021; January 2 2022; January 11 2022. Published in *Journal of Integer Sequences*, January 12 2022.

---

Return to [Journal of Integer Sequences home page](#).