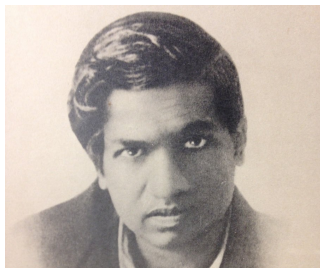


VARIANTS OF LEHMER'S CONJECTURE

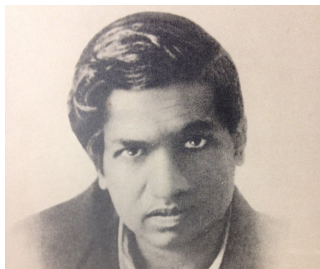
J. Balakrishnan, W. Craig, K. Ono, and W.-L. Tsai

"ON CERTAIN ARITHMETICAL FUNCTIONS" (1916)



Srinivasa Ramanujan

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Srinivasa Ramanujan

Ramanujan defined the tau-function with the **infinite product**

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tau(n)q^n &:= q \left((1 - q^1)(1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)(1 - q^4)(1 - q^5) \cdots \right)^{24} \\ &= q - 24q^2 + 252q^3 - 1472q^4 + 4830q^5 - 6048q^6 - \dots \end{aligned}$$

THE PROTOTYPE

FACT

The function $\Delta(z) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tau(n) e^{2\pi i n z}$
is a **weight 12 modular (cusp) form** for $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

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$$\Delta\left(\frac{az + b}{cz + d}\right) = (cz + d)^{12} \Delta(z).$$

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UBIQUITY OF FUNCTIONS LIKE $\Delta(z)$

- *Arithmetic Geometry: Elliptic curves, BSD Conjecture,...*
- *Number Theory: Partitions, Quad. forms, ...*
- *Mathematical Physics: Mirror symmetry,...*
- *Representation Theory: Moonshine, symmetric groups,...*

TESTING GROUND (HECKE OPERATORS)

THEOREM (MORDELL (1917))

The following are true:

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- (30s) *Theory of Hecke operators (linear endomorphisms)*

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- (30s) Theory of Hecke operators (linear endomorphisms)
- (70s) Atkin-Lehner Theory of **newforms** (i.e. eigenforms)

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- (Wiles, 90s) *Used to prove Fermat's Last Theorem.*

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For primes p we have $|\tau(p)| \leq 2p^{\frac{11}{2}}$.

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- (Ramanujan-Petersson)
Generalized to newforms and generic automorphic forms.

LEHMER'S CONJECTURE



D. H. Lehmer

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For every $n \geq 1$ we have $\tau(n) \neq 0$.

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*Namely, the set of p for which $\tau(p) = 0$ has **density zero**.*

NUMERICAL INVESTIGATIONS

N	reference
3316799	Lehmer (1947)
214928639999	Lehmer (1949)
10^{15}	Serre (1973, p. 98), Serre (1985)
1213229187071998	Jennings (1993)
22689242781695999	Jordan and Kelly (1999)
22798241520242687999	Bosman (2007)
982149821766199295999	Zeng and Yin (2013)
816212624008487344127999	Derickx, van Hoeij, and Zeng (2013)

Lehmer's Conjecture confirmed for $n \leq N$

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At *most finitely many* non-CM level N newforms

$$f = q + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_f(n)q^n$$

have $a_f(p) = 0$.

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- (3) Classifying soln's to $\tau(n) = \alpha$ not done in any other cases.

CAN $|\tau(n)| = \ell^m$, A POWER OF AN ODD PRIME?

THEOREM (B-C-O-T)

If $|\tau(n)| = \ell^m$, then $n = p^{d-1}$, with p and $d \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$ are odd primes.

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- 1 List the finitely many odd primes $d \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$.
- 2 For each d , **simply** solve $\tau(p^{d-1}) = \pm \ell^m$ for primes p .

A SATISFYING RESULT

THEOREM (B-C-O-T + UVA REU)

For $n > 1$ we have

$$\tau(n) \notin \{\pm 1, \pm 691\} \cup \{\pm \ell : 3 \leq \ell < 100 \text{ prime}\}.$$

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REMARK (UVA REU)

*These results have been extended to $|\tau(n)| = \alpha$ **odd**.*

GENERAL RESULTS

OUR SETTING

Let $f \in S_{2k}(N)$ be a level N weight $2k$ **newform** with

$$f(z) = q + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_f(n) q^n \cap \mathbb{Z}[[q]] \quad (q := e^{2\pi iz})$$

and trivial mod 2 residual Galois representation.

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- All forms of level $2^a M$ with $a \geq 0$ and $M \in \{1, 3, 5, 15, 17\}$.

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Suppose that $2k \geq 4$ and $a_f(2)$ is even.

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If $\gcd(3 \cdot 5, 2k - 1) \neq 1$ and $2k \geq 12$, then

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Assuming GRH, we have

$$a_f(n) \notin \{\pm 1\} \cup \{\pm \ell : 3 \leq \ell \leq 97 \text{ prime with } \ell \neq 37\} \cup \{-37\}.$$

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For $2k = 4$ the **only potential counterexamples** are:

$$a_f(3^2) = 37, \quad a_f(3^2) = -11, \quad a_f(3^2) = -23,$$

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For $2k = 16$ we have $a_f(3^2) = \mathbf{37}$ is the only possible exception.

- ③ *UVA REU will study odd wt , Nebentypus, and general α .*

EXAMPLE: THE WEIGHT 16 HECKE EIGENFORM

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The Hecke eigenform $E_4\Delta$

$$E_4(z)\Delta(z) := \left(1 + 240 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_3(n)q^n\right) \cdot \Delta(z)$$

has no coefficients with absolute value $3 \leq \ell \leq 37$ (GRH $\implies \ell \leq 97$.)

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EXAMPLE

We have $M^\pm(3, m) = 2m + \sqrt{m} \cdot 10^{32}$.

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REMARK

In 2013 Lygeros and Rozier found further prime values of $\tau(n)$.

NUMBER OF PRIME DIVISORS OF $\tau(n)$

NOTATION

$\Omega(n)$:= number of prime divisors of n **with multiplicity**

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If $n > 1$ is an integer, then

$$\Omega(\tau(n)) \geq \sum_{\substack{p|n \\ \text{prime}}} (\sigma_0(\text{ord}_p(n) + 1) - 1) \geq \omega(n).$$

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- ② *A generalization exists for newforms with integer coefficients and trivial residual mod 2 Galois representation.*

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(3) The **first time** $\ell \mid \tau(p^{d-1})$ has $d \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$.

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(4) **Big Claim.** **Every term** in $\{\tau(p), \tau(p^2), \dots\}$ is divisible by a prime that **does not divide** any previous term.

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Big Claim $\implies |\tau(p^{2^t})| = \ell$ requires that $2t = d - 1$.

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(7) Any soln gives an integer point on a genus $g \geq 1$ algebraic curve, which by Siegel has **finitely many** (if any) integer points.

PRIMITIVE PRIME DIVISORS

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EXAMPLE (CARMICHAEL 1913)

The Fibonacci numbers in **red** are defective:

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, ...

$F_{12} = 144$ is **the last** defective one!

LUCAS SEQUENCES

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- 2 We have that α/β is not a root of unity.

Their **Lucas numbers** $\{u_n(\alpha, \beta)\} = \{u_1 = 1, u_2 = \alpha + \beta, \dots\}$ are:

$$u_n(\alpha, \beta) := \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\alpha - \beta} \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

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THEOREM (BILU, HANROT, VOUTIER (2001))

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A classification of defective Lucas numbers is obtained:

- *Finitely many **sporadic** sequences*
- ***Explicit parameterized infinite families.***

RELEVANT LUCAS SEQUENCES

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COROLLARY (BRUTE FORCE)

The potentially modular defective Lucas numbers have been classified.

(A, B)	Defective $u_n(\alpha, \beta)$
$(\pm 1, 2^1)$	$u_5 = -1, u_7 = 7, u_8 = \mp 3, u_{12} = \pm 45,$ $u_{13} = -1, u_{18} = \pm 85, u_{30} = \mp 24475$
$(\pm 1, 3^1)$	$u_5 = 1, u_{12} = \pm 160$
$(\pm 1, 5^1)$	$u_7 = 1, u_{12} = \mp 3024$
$(\pm 2, 3^1)$	$u_3 = 1, u_{10} = \mp 22$
$(\pm 2, 7^1)$	$u_8 = \mp 40$
$(\pm 2, 11^1)$	$u_5 = 5$
$(\pm 5, 7^1)$	$u_{10} = \mp 3725$
$(\pm 3, 2^3)$	$u_3 = 1$
$(\pm 5, 2^3)$	$u_6 = \pm 85$

TABLE 1. Sporadic examples of defective $u_n(\alpha, \beta)$ satisfying (2.2)

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REMARK

Since $(A, B) = (A, p^{2k-1})$, there are only two with weight $2k \geq 4$.

5. Primitive Prime Divisors of Lucas Sequences

$$B_{1,k}^{r,\pm} : Y^2 = X^{2k-1} \pm 3^r, \quad B_{2,k} : Y^2 = 2X^{2k-1} - 1, \quad B_{3,k}^{\pm} : Y^2 = 2X^{2k-1} \pm 2, \\ B_{4,k}^r : Y^2 = 3X^{2k-1} + (-2)^{r+2}, \quad B_{5,k}^{\pm} : Y^2 = 3X^{2k-1} \pm 3, \quad B_{6,k}^{r,\pm} : Y^2 = 3X^{2k-1} \pm 3 \cdot 2^r.$$

(A, B)	Defective $u_n(\alpha, \beta)$	Constraints on parameters
$(\pm m, p)$	$u_3 = -1$	$m > 1$ and $p = m^2 + 1$
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_3 = \varepsilon 3^r$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{1,k}^{r,\varepsilon}$ with $3 \nmid m$, $(\varepsilon, r, m) \neq (1, 1, 2)$, and $m^2 \geq 4\varepsilon 3^{r-1}$
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_4 = \mp m$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{2,k}$ with $m > 1$ odd
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_4 = \pm 2\varepsilon m$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{3,k}^{\varepsilon}$ with $(\varepsilon, m) \neq (1, 2)$ and $m > 2$ even
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_6 = \pm(-2)^r m(2m^2 + (-2)^r)/3$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{4,k}^r$ with $\gcd(m, 6) = 1$, $(r, m) \neq (1, 1)$, and $m^2 \geq (-2)^{r+2}$
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_6 = \pm \varepsilon m(2m^2 + 3\varepsilon)$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{5,k}^{\varepsilon}$ with $3 \mid m$ and $m > 3$
$(\pm m, p^{2k-1})$	$u_6 = \pm 2^{r+1} \varepsilon m(m^2 + 3\varepsilon \cdot 2^{r-1})$	$(p, \pm m) \in B_{6,k}^{r,\varepsilon}$ with $m \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ and $m^2 \geq 3\varepsilon \cdot 2^{r+2}$

TABLE 2. Parameterized families of defective $u_n(\alpha, \beta)$ satisfying (2.2)

Notation: $m, k, r \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\varepsilon = \pm 1$, p is a prime number.

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We let $m_\ell(\alpha, \beta)$ be the **smallest** $n \geq 2$ for which $\ell \mid u_n(\alpha, \beta)$.

If $\ell \nmid \alpha\beta$ is an odd prime with $m_\ell(\alpha, \beta) > 2$, then $m_\ell(\alpha, \beta) \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$.

PROPERTIES OF NEWFORMS

THEOREM (ATKIN-LEHNER, DELIGNE)

If $f(z) = q + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_f(n)q^n \in S_{2k}(N) \cap \mathbb{Z}[[q]]$ is a newform, then
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$F_p(x) := x^2 - a_f(p)x + p^{2k-1}$, then

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- (1) Suppose that $|a_f(n)| = \ell$.
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 $\implies 2m + 1 = d$ odd prime with $d \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$.
- (7) For each $d \mid \ell(\ell^2 - 1)$ classify integer points for the “**curve**”

$$a_f(p^{d-1}) = \pm\ell.$$



FORMULAS FOR $a_f(p^2)$ AND $a_f(p^4)$

LEMMA

TFAT.

- ① *If $a_f(p^2) = \alpha$, then $(p, a_f(p))$ is an integer point on*

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$$Y^2 = 5X^{2(2k-1)} + 4\alpha.$$

FORMULAS FOR $a_f(p^{2m})$ FOR $m \geq 3$

DEFINITION

In terms of the generating function

$$\frac{1}{1 - \sqrt{Y}T + XT^2} =: \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} F_m(X, Y) \cdot T^m = 1 + \sqrt{Y} \cdot T + \dots$$

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LEMMA

If f is a newform, then

$$a_f(p^{2m}) = F_{2m}(p^{2k-1}, a_f(p)^2).$$

EXPLICIT EXAMPLE

THEOREM (B-C-O-T + UVA REU)

For $n > 1$ we have

$$\tau(n) \notin \{\pm 1, \pm 691\} \cup \{\pm \ell : 3 \leq \ell < 100 \text{ prime}\}.$$

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- ④ Use Galois rep'ns + Mordell-Weil + Chabauty-Coleman + facts about Thue eqns to rule these out (**a lot here**).



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THEOREM (B-C-O-T)

If $n > 1$ is an integer, then

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- 2 "Same" result when the mod 2 Galois rep'n is trivial.

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THEOREM (B-C-O-T)

For prime powers ℓ^m , if f has weight $2k > M^\pm(\ell, m) = O_\ell(m)$, then

$$a_f(n) \neq \pm \ell^m.$$