

## Explicit estimates on the summatory functions of the Möbius function with coprimality restrictions

by

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**1. Introduction.** In explicit analytic number theory, one very often needs to evaluate the average of a multiplicative function, say  $f$ . The usual strategy is to compare this function to a more usual model  $f_0$ , as in [12, Lemma 3.1]. This process is also well detailed in [3]. When the model is  $f_0 = 1$ , the situation is readily cleared out; it is also well studied when this model is the divisor function [2, Corollary 2.2]. We signal here that the case of the characteristic function of the squarefree numbers is specifically handled in [5].

The next problem is to use the Möbius function as a model. In this case the necessary material can be found in [13], though of course the saving is much smaller and may be insufficient: when the model is 1 or the divisor function, or the characteristic function of the squarefree integers, the saving is a power of the size of the variable, while now it is only a logarithm (or the square of one according to whether one says that the trivial estimate for  $\sum_{d \leq D} \mu(d)/d$  is 1 or  $\log D$ ). One of the consequences is that one has to be more careful, and thrifty, when it comes to small variations. The variations we consider here is the addition of a coprimality condition  $(d, q) = 1$ , for some fixed  $q$ , on the variable  $d$ . Our first aim is thus to show how to get explicit estimates for the family of functions

$$(1.1) \quad m_q(x) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n, q) = 1}} \mu(n)/n, \quad m(x) = m_1(x)$$

from explicit estimates concerning solely  $m(x)$ . The definition of the Liouville function  $\lambda(n)$ , appearing in the result below, is recalled in (1.3), while the auxiliary function  $\ell_q$  is defined in (1.4).

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**THEOREM 1.1.** *When  $1 \leq q < x$ , where  $q$  is an integer and  $x$  a real number, we have*

$$\left| \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n,q)=1}} \frac{\mu(n)}{n} \right| \leq \frac{q}{\varphi(q)} \frac{2.4}{\log(x/q)}, \quad \left| \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n,q)=1}} \frac{\lambda(n)}{n} \right| \leq \frac{q}{\varphi(q)} \frac{0.79}{\log(x/q)}.$$

Moreover  $\log(x/q)|\ell_q(x)| \leq 0.155q/\varphi(q)$  and  $\log(x/q)|m_q(x)| \leq \frac{3}{2}q/\varphi(q)$  when  $x/q \geq 3310$ . We also have  $\log(x/q)|m_q(x)| \leq \frac{7}{8}q/\varphi(q)$  when  $x/q \geq 9960$ .

The sole previous estimate on  $m_q(x)$  seems to be [7, Lemma 10.2], which bounds  $|m_q(x)|$  uniformly by 1. The estimate for  $m(x)$  that will provide the initial step comes from [13]:

$$(1.2) \quad |m(x)| \leq 0.03/\log x \quad (x \geq X_0 = 11\,815).$$

Let us first note that the simplest treatment of this condition via the Möbius function, i.e. writing

$$\mathbb{1}_{(d,q)=1} = \sum_{\substack{\delta|q \\ \delta|d}} \mu(\delta),$$

does not work here. Indeed, we get

$$\sum_{\substack{d \leq D \\ (d,q)=1}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} = \sum_{\delta|q} \mu(\delta) \sum_{\delta|d \leq D} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} = \sum_{\delta|q} \frac{\mu(\delta)^2}{\delta} \sum_{\substack{d \leq D/\delta \\ (d,\delta)=1}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d}$$

and we are back to the initial problem with different parameters. The classical workaround (used for instance in [10, near (7)] but already known by Landau) runs as follows: we determine a function  $g_q$  such that  $\mathbb{1}_{(n,q)=1}\mu(n) = g_q \star \mu(n)$ , where  $\star$  denotes the arithmetic convolution product. The drawback of this method is that the support of  $g$  is not bounded (determining  $g_q$  by comparing the Dirichlet series is a simple exercise). So if we write

$$\sum_{\substack{d \leq D \\ (d,q)=1}} \mu(d)/d = \sum_{\delta \leq D} \frac{g_q(\delta)}{\delta} \sum_{d \leq D/\delta} \frac{\mu(d)}{d},$$

we are forced to:

1. use estimates for  $\sum_{d \leq D/\delta} \mu(d)/d$  when  $D/\delta$  can be small,
2. complete the sum over  $\delta$  to get a decent result.

Both steps introduce quite a loss when  $q$  is not specified. We propose here a different approach by introducing the Liouville function as an intermediary. This function  $\lambda(n)$  is the completely multiplicative function that is 1 on the integers that have an even number of prime factors—counted with

multiplicity—and  $-1$  otherwise. It satisfies

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\lambda(n)}{n^s} = \frac{\zeta(2s)}{\zeta(s)}.$$

We introduce the family of auxiliary functions

$$(1.4) \quad \ell_q(x) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n,q)=1}} \lambda(n)/n, \quad \ell(x) = \ell_1(x).$$

Our process runs as follows: we derive bounds for  $\ell(x)$  from bounds on  $m(x)$  and some computations, derive bounds on  $\ell_q(x)$  from bounds on  $\ell(x)$ , and finally derive bounds on  $\mu_q(x)$  from bounds on  $\ell_q(x)$ . The theoretical steps are contained in Lemmas 2.3, 2.5 and 3.2.

We complete this introduction by signalling that [14] contains explicit estimates with a large range of uniformity for sums of the shape

$$\sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ (d,r)=1}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^{1+\varepsilon}}$$

and for a similar sum but with the summand  $\mu(d) \log(x/d)/d^{1+\varepsilon}$ . The path we followed there is essentially elementary and the saving is smaller.

## 2. From the Möbius function to the Liouville function

LEMMA 2.1. *For  $2 \leq x \leq 906\,000\,000$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq 1.347/\sqrt{x}$ .*

*For  $2 \leq x \leq 1.1 \cdot 10^{10}$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq 1.41/\sqrt{x}$ .*

*For  $1 \leq x \leq 1.1 \cdot 10^{10}$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq \sqrt{2}/x$ .*

The computations have been run with PARI/GP (see [11]), speeded up by using gp2c as described for instance in [2]. We mention here that [6] proposes an algorithm to compute isolated values of  $M(x)$ . This can most probably be adapted to compute isolated values of  $\ell(x)$ , but does not seem to offer any improvement for bounding  $|\ell(x)|$  on a large range. In [4], the authors show that

$$\ell(x) \geq 0 \quad (x < 72\,185\,376\,951\,205)$$

and that

$$\ell(x) \geq -2.0757642 \cdot 10^{-9} \quad (x \leq 75\,000\,000\,000\,000).$$

This takes care of the lower bound for  $\ell(x)$ . The computations we ran are much less demanding in time and algorithm, but rely on a large enough sieve-kind table to compute the values of  $\lambda(n)$  on some very large range. Harald Helfgott (indirectly) pointed out to me that the RAM-memory can be very large nowadays, allowing one to precompute large quantities to which one has almost immediate access. Here is a simplified version of the main loop:

```

{getbounds(zmin:small, valini:real, zmax:small) =
  my(maxi:real, valuesliouville:vecsmall, gotit:vecsmall,
    valuel:real, bound:small, pa:small);

  /* Precomputing lambda(n): */
  valuesliouville = vectorsmall(zmax-zmin+1, m, 1);
  gotit = vectorsmall(zmax-zmin+1, m, 1);
  forprime (p:small = 2, floor(sqrt(zmax+0.0)),
    bound = floor(log(zmax+0.0)/log(p+0.0));
    pa = 1;
    for(a:small = 1, bound,
      pa ** p;
      for(k:small = 1, floor((zmax+0.0)/pa),
        if(k*pa >= zmin,
          valuesliouville[k*pa-zmin+1] **= -1;
          gotit[k*pa-zmin+1] **= p,)))));

  /* Correction in case of a large prime factor: */
  for(n:small = zmin, zmax,
    if(gotit[n-zmin+1] < n,
      valuesliouville[n-zmin+1] **= -1,));

  valuel = (valini + 0.0) + valuesliouville[1]/zmin;
  maxi = max( valini*sqrt(zmin+0.0), abs(valuesl*sqrt(zmin+1.0)));

  /* Main loop: */
  for(n:small = zmin+1, zmax,
    valuel += valuesliouville[n-zmin+1]/n;
    maxi = max(maxi, abs(valuel)*sqrt(n+1.0)));

  return([maxi, valuel]);
}

```

We used this loop to compute our maximum on intervals of length  $2 \cdot 10^7$ . The main function aggregates these results by making the interval vary. The computations took about half a day on a 64-bit fast desktop with 8G of RAM. In the actual script, we also checked that the computed value of  $\ell(x)$  is non-negative in this range. Going farther would improve on the final constants, but only when  $x/q$  is large. We compared  $|\ell(x)|$  with  $1/\sqrt{x}$ , and this seems correct for small values, but [9] and [8] suggest that the maximal order is larger.

LEMMA 2.2. *The function*

$$T(y) : y \mapsto \frac{\log y}{y} \int_{\sqrt{X_0}}^y \frac{dv}{\log v}$$

satisfies  $T(y) \leq 1.119$  for  $y \geq 10^5$ .

*Proof.* Repeated integration by parts shows that

$$\begin{aligned} T(y) &= \frac{\log y}{y} \left( \frac{y}{\log y} - \frac{\sqrt{X_0}}{\log \sqrt{X_0}} + \frac{y}{(\log y)^2} - \frac{\sqrt{X_0}}{(\log \sqrt{X_0})^2} + 2 \int_{\sqrt{X_0}}^y \frac{dv}{(\log v)^3} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{\log y}{y} \left( \frac{y}{\log y} - \frac{\sqrt{X_0}}{\log \sqrt{X_0}} + \frac{y}{(\log y)^2} - \frac{\sqrt{X_0}}{(\log \sqrt{X_0})^2} \right) + \frac{2T(y)}{(\log \sqrt{X_0})^2}, \end{aligned}$$

from which we deduce that

$$T(y) \leq 1.1001 \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\log y} \right).$$

This shows that  $T(y) \leq 1.113$  when  $y \geq 10^{40}$ . We then check *numerically* that the function  $T$  is increasing and then decreasing, with a maximum around 12478.8 with value  $1.118598 + \mathcal{O}^*(10^{-6})$ . But this is only an *observation*, since the computer gives only a sample of values. Since the derivative of  $T$  can easily be bounded, we obtain the claimed upper bound. The reader may also consult [1] where a similar process is fully detailed. ■

The following lemma is a simple exercise:

LEMMA 2.3. *We have*

$$(2.1) \quad \ell_q(x) = \sum_{\substack{u^2 \leq x \\ (u,q)=1}} m_q(x/u^2)/u^2.$$

We shall use it only when  $q = 1$ , but it is equally easy to state it in general.

LEMMA 2.4. *For  $x > 1$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq 0.79/\log x$ .*

*For  $x \geq 3310$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq 0.155/\log x$ .*

*For  $x \geq 8918$ , we have  $|\ell(x)| \leq 0.099/\log x$ .*

*Proof.* We appeal to Lemma 2.3 (with  $q = 1$ ) and separate the sum according to  $u \leq U$  or  $u > U$  where  $x/U^2 \geq X_0$ . When  $u \leq U$  we apply (1.2), in the other case we use the fact that  $|m(x)| \leq 1$  to obtain

$$|\ell(x)| \leq 0.03 \sum_{u \leq U} \frac{1}{u^2 \log(x/u^2)} + \frac{1+U^{-1}}{U}$$

With  $f(t) = 1/(t^2 \log(x/t^2))$ , we check that

$$f'(t) = -\frac{2}{t^3 \log(x/t^2)} + \frac{2}{t^3 \log^2(x/t^2)}.$$

This quantity is negative for  $1 \leq t \leq U$ , since then  $x/t^2 \geq x/U^2 \geq X_0 > e$ .

We thus have

$$\sum_{u \leq U} \frac{1}{u^2 \log(x/u^2)} \leq f(1) + \int_1^U f(t) dt = \frac{1}{\log x} + \int_1^U \frac{dt}{t^2 \log(x/t^2)}.$$

Changing variables we get

$$\sum_{u \leq U} \frac{1}{u^2 \log(x/u^2)} \leq \frac{1}{\log x} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \int_{\sqrt{x/U^2}}^{\sqrt{x}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v}.$$

It follows that

$$|\ell(x)| \leq \frac{0.03}{\log x} + \frac{0.03}{\sqrt{x}} \int_{\sqrt{X_0}}^{\sqrt{x}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v} + \frac{1 + \sqrt{X_0/x}}{\sqrt{x/X_0}}.$$

We apply Lemma 2.2 at this level. Hence, when  $x \geq 10^{10}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\ell(x)| &\leq \frac{0.03}{\log x} + \frac{0.03 \cdot 1.119}{\log x} + \frac{1 + \sqrt{X_0/x}}{\sqrt{x/X_0}} \\ &\leq \frac{0.06357}{\log x} + \frac{(1 + \sqrt{X_0/x}) \log x}{\sqrt{x/X_0}} \frac{1}{\log x} \\ &\leq \frac{0.089}{\log x} \leq \frac{0.099}{\log x}. \end{aligned}$$

We extend it to  $x \geq 17715$  via Lemma 2.1, part one and two, and to  $x \geq 8918$  by direct inspection. This inequality extends to  $x \geq 1$  by weakening the constant 0.099 to 0.79. Straightforward computations yield the bound 0.155 when  $x \geq 3310$ . ■

**Adding coprimality conditions.** Our tool is provided by a simple elementary lemma.

LEMMA 2.5. *We have*

$$\ell_q(x) = \sum_{d|q} \frac{\mu^2(d)}{d} \ell(x/d).$$

The second part of Theorem 1.1 follows immediately by combining Lemma 2.5 with Lemma 2.4. Actually, what comes out is the bound

$$|\ell_q(x)| \leq \frac{0.79}{\log(x/q)} \sum_{d|q} \frac{\mu^2(d)}{d} = \frac{0.79}{\log(x/q)} \prod_{p|q} \frac{p+1}{p}.$$

As the function  $q/\varphi(q)$  is easier to remember and  $\prod_{p|q} \frac{p+1}{p} \leq q/\varphi(q)$ , we simplify the above to

$$|\ell_q(x)| \leq \frac{0.79}{\log(x/q)} \frac{q}{\varphi(q)}.$$

When  $x/q \geq 3310$ , one can replace 0.79 by 0.155, and when  $x/q \geq 8918$ , by  $1/10$ .

**3. Back to the Möbius function with coprimality conditions.** Let us start with a wide ranging estimate:

LEMMA 3.1. *For every integer  $q \geq 1$  and every real number  $x \geq 1$ , we have  $|\ell_q(x)| \leq \pi^2/6$ .*

*Proof.* Apply Lemma 2.3 and [7, Lemma 10.2] <sup>(1)</sup>. ■

The following lemma is again a simple exercise.

LEMMA 3.2. *We have*

$$m_q(x) = \sum_{\substack{u^2 \leq x \\ (u,q)=1}} \frac{\mu(u)}{u^2} \ell_q(x/u^2).$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* We have to prove several estimates of type

$$\varphi(q) \log(x/q) |m_q(x)| \leq c, \quad x/q \geq N.$$

We put  $x^* = x/q$  and  $y = \log x^* = \log(x/q)$  and divide the proof into two parts. First we consider the case  $1 \leq y \leq 8$ , and later the case  $y > 8$ .

CASE (A):  $1 \leq y \leq 8$ . We appeal to Lemma 3.2. For a real parameter  $U$  such that  $U^2 \leq x^*$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (3.1) \quad |m_q(x)| &\leq \sum_{u^2 \leq x} \frac{\mu^2(u)}{u^2} |\ell_q(x/u^2)| \\ &\leq \sum_{u \leq U} \frac{q}{\varphi(q)} \frac{0.79\mu^2(u)}{u^2 \log(x/(u^2q))} + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \sum_{u > U} \frac{\mu^2(u)}{u^2} \\ &\leq \frac{q/\varphi(q)}{\log(x/q)} \left( \sum_{u \leq U} \frac{0.79\mu^2(u)}{u^2 \left(1 - \frac{2 \log u}{\log(x/q)}\right)} + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \sum_{u > U} \frac{\mu^2(u)}{u^2} \log(x/q) \right). \end{aligned}$$

This is our starting inequality. We define

$$(3.2) \quad \rho(U, y) = 0.79 \sum_{u \leq U} \frac{\mu^2(u)}{u^2 \left(1 - \frac{2 \log u}{y}\right)} + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \sum_{u > U} \frac{\mu^2(u)}{u^2} y.$$

Note that  $\rho(U, y) = \rho([U], y)$  where  $[U]$  is the integer part of  $U$ . For each  $y$  we need to select one  $U$  such that  $\rho(U, y) \leq 2.4$ . We choose  $U = 1$  for  $y \in [1, a_1]$ ;  $U = 2$  for  $y \in [a_1, a_2]$ ;  $U = 3$  for  $y \in [a_2, a_3]$ ; and  $U = 7$  for  $y \in [a_3, 8]$ . Here  $a_1 = 1.8665 \dots$  is a solution of  $\rho(1, y) = \rho(2, y)$ ;  $a_2 = 2.6774 \dots$  is a solution of  $\rho(2, y) = \rho(3, y)$ ;  $a_3 = 4.1237 \dots$  is a solution of  $\rho(3, y) = \rho(7, y)$ .

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<sup>(1)</sup> If we were to adapt the proof presented in [7] to the case of  $\lambda$  instead of  $\mu$ , we would reach the bound 2 and not  $\pi^2/6$ .

Each of these three functions is a sum of a linear term  $ay$  and terms of type  $Ay/(y - 2 \log n)$  with  $A > 0$ . These are convex for  $y > 2 \log n$ . In this way it is very easy to show that  $\rho(1, y)$  is convex in  $[1, a_1]$ ,  $\rho(2, y)$  is convex in  $[a_1, a_2]$ ,  $\rho(3, y)$  is convex in  $[a_2, a_3]$ , and finally  $\rho(7, y)$  is convex in  $[a_3, 8]$ . So, for example, to show the inequality  $\rho(3, y) \leq 2.4$  in the interval  $[a_2, a_3]$  we only have to show that  $\rho(3, a_2), \rho(3, a_3) \leq 2.4$ . This presents no difficulty. The maximum value obtained is  $\rho(2, a_2) = 2.38790\dots$  with

$$a_2 = \frac{237 + 100\pi^2 \log 3}{50\pi^2},$$

$$\rho(2, a_2) = \frac{237}{20\pi^2} + \pi^2 \left( \frac{79 \log 2}{948 + 400\pi^2 \log(3/2)} - \frac{5 \log 3}{12} \right) + \log 243.$$

CASE (B):  $y > 8$ . We start from Lemma 3.2, from which we deduce a simpler bound:

$$|m_q(x)| \leq \sum_{u^2 \leq x} |\ell_q(x/u^2)|/u^2,$$

which we then exploit in the same way as in the proof of Lemma 2.4, replacing the bound  $|m(x)| \leq 1$  by Lemma 3.1. With  $x = eU^2q$  and  $x^* = x/q$ , we thus get

$$\begin{aligned} |m_q(x)| &\leq \frac{q}{\varphi(q)} \frac{0.79}{\log x^*} + \frac{0.79q}{\varphi(q)} \int_1^{\sqrt{x^*/e}} \frac{du}{u^2 \log(x^*/u^2)} + \frac{\pi^2 \sqrt{e}}{6} \frac{1 + \sqrt{e/x^*}}{\sqrt{x^*}} \\ &\leq \frac{q}{\varphi(q)} \frac{0.79}{\log x^*} + \frac{0.79q}{\varphi(q)\sqrt{x^*}} \int_{\sqrt{e}}^{\sqrt{x^*}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v} + \frac{\pi^2 \sqrt{e}}{6} \frac{1 + \sqrt{e/x^*}}{\sqrt{x^*}} \\ &\leq c(x^*) \frac{q}{\varphi(q) \log x^*} \end{aligned}$$

with

$$c(x^*) = 0.79 + 0.79 \frac{\log x^*}{\sqrt{x^*}} \int_{\sqrt{e}}^{\sqrt{x^*}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v} + \frac{\pi^2 \sqrt{e}}{6} \frac{1 + \sqrt{e/x^*}}{\sqrt{x^*}} \log x^*.$$

Some numerical work shows that  $c(x^*) \leq 2.4$  when  $x^* \geq 1862$ , so our inequality is proved for  $y > \log 1862 = 7.52941\dots$ . This together with part (A) proves that  $\varphi(q) \log(x/q) |m_q(x)| \leq 2.4$  for  $1 \leq q < x$ .

When  $x^* \geq 3310$ , we can single out the term  $u = 1$  in (3.1) and modify the coefficient of the bound on this term from 0.79 into 0.155; then we treat the rest of the sum in the same way as before. We get a similar bound with



$c(x^*)$  replaced by

$$c_1(x^*) = 0.155 + 0.79 \frac{\log x^*}{4 \log(x^*/4)} + 0.79 \frac{\log x^*}{\sqrt{x^*}} \int_{\sqrt{e}}^{\sqrt{x^*/4}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v} \\ + \frac{\pi^2 \sqrt{e}}{6} \frac{1 + \sqrt{e/x^*}}{\sqrt{x^*}} \log x^*.$$

This yields a maximum of not more than  $1.466 < 3/2$ . When  $x^* \geq 3 \cdot 3310$ , we single out the terms of index 1, 2, and 3 similarly. This means replacing  $c_1(x^*)$  by

$$c_2(x^*) = 0.155 + 0.155 \frac{\log x^*}{4 \log(x^*/4)} + 0.155 \frac{\log x^*}{9 \log(x^*/9)} + 0.79 \frac{\log x^*}{25 \log(x^*/25)} \\ + 0.79 \frac{\log x^*}{\sqrt{x^*}} \int_{\sqrt{e}}^{\sqrt{x^*/25}} \frac{dv}{2 \log v} + \frac{\pi^2 \sqrt{e}}{6} \frac{1 + \sqrt{e}x^{*-1/2}}{\sqrt{x^*}} \log x^*.$$

This yields a maximum of not more than  $0.871 < 7/8$ . The proof of Theorem 1.1 is complete. ■

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