

# THE WORK OF JAMES MAYNARD

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- Yitang Zhang (2013): there are infinitely many pairs of primes that differ by at most 70 million
- Toy examples of a beautiful result of Maynard:
  - can replace 70 million by 246
  - there are infinitely many triples of primes within 433992 of each other.



# DIOPHANTINE APPROXIMATION

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- The resolution of the Duffin-Schaeffer conjecture by Koukoulopoulos and Maynard.
- How well can we approximate real numbers by rational ones?
- Theorem (Dirichlet): If  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $|x - a/q| < q^{-2}$  for infinitely many pairs  $(a, q) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ .

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- $\mu(\pi) = ?$

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- The conjectured correct exponent is 2.

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- $A := \{x \in [0, 1] : |x - a/q| < \psi(q) \text{ for infinitely many pairs } (a, q) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}\}$
- Theorem (Khintchine):
  - ① If  $\sum_q q\psi(q) < \infty$  then  $\text{Leb}(A) = 0$ .
  - ② If  $\sum_q q\psi(q) = \infty$  and  $q^2\psi(q)$  is decreasing, then  $\text{Leb}(A) = 1$ .

## BOREL CANTELLI LEMMA

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- And  $A = \{x \in [0, 1] : x \in A_q \text{ for infinitely many } q\} = \limsup_{q \rightarrow \infty} A_q$ .
- Let  $(X, B, \mu)$  be a probability space, let  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  be measurable sets, and let  $A = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n$ . Then
  - ① (The first Borel–Cantelli lemma) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n) < \infty$  then  $\mu(A) = 0$
  - ② (The second Borel–Cantelli lemma) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_n) = \infty$  and  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are pairwise independent, then  $\mu(A) = 1$ .

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- One instead uses an enhanced version which permits the use of "independence on average"

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- Khintchine's theorem translates to cusp excursions of the geodesic flow on the modular surface
- In this interpretation, the mixing of the geodesic flow provides independence on average

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- No. One can create dependencies using redundancies in denominators
- An explicit example was given by Duffin and Schaeffer in 1941
- Namely, they gave an example of  $\psi$  such that  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q\psi(q) = \infty$  but  $\mu(A) = 0$

# THE CONJECTURE

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- As before,  $A^*$  is the limsup of sets  $A_q^*$  which have measure  $2\phi(q)\psi(q)$
- Conjecture (Duffin-Schaeffer, 1941) proved by Koukoulopoulos and Maynard in 2020.
  - ① If  $\sum_q \phi(q)\psi(q) < \infty$  then  $\text{Leb}(A^*) = 0$ .
  - ② If  $\sum_q \phi(q)\psi(q) = \infty$  then  $\text{Leb}(A^*) = 1$ .



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- Theorem (Gallagher):  $\mu(A^*) \in \{0, 1\}$ .
- The proof uses Birkhoff's ergodic theorem applied to multiplication by 2 map on the circle.

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- Where  $S = \{q : \psi(q) > 0\}$ .
- So  $S$  has to be somewhat dense.

- Let  $q, r$  be two distinct integers  $> 2$ , let  $\psi(q), \psi(r) > 0$ , and let  $M(q, r) = 2\max\{\psi(q), \psi(r)\} \text{lcm}[q, r]$ . If  $M(q, r) \leq 1$ , then  $A_q^* \cap A_r^* = \emptyset$ . Otherwise,

$$\mu(A_q^* \cap A_r^*) \ll \phi(q)\psi(q)\phi(r)\psi(r) \exp\left(\sum_{\substack{p|qr/\gcd(q,r) \\ p > M(q,r)}} \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

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- Model Problem. Let  $D > 1$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1]$ , and let  $S \subset [Q, 2Q] \cap \mathbb{Z}$  be a set of  $\delta Q/D$  elements such that there are  $> \delta \# S^2$  pairs  $(q, r) \in S \times S$  with  $\gcd(q, r) > D$ . Must there be an integer  $d > D$  that divides  $\gg \delta 100Q/D$  elements of  $S$ ?

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- A key innovation is the concept of a GCD graph
- An iterative Compression Algorithm inspired by Erdős-Ko-Rado and Dyson.



*Thank You!*