

DISTRIBUTION OF LEADING DIGITS OF NUMBERS

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Dedicated to the memory of Professor Pierre Liardet

ABSTRACT. Applying the theory of distribution functions of sequences we find the relative densities of the first digits also for sequences x_n not satisfying Benford's law. Especially for sequence $x_n = n^r$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and $x_n = p_n^r$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, where p_n is the increasing sequence of all primes and $r > 0$ is an arbitrary real. We also add rate of convergence to such densities.

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1. Introduction

In this paper we give a complete solution of the first digit problem in base $b \geq 2$ for the sequence n^r , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, and for the sequence p_n^r , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, where p_n is the n th prime and $r > 0$ is an arbitrary real. They do not satisfy Benford's law. For example for n^r we use the following main steps:

- Denote $F_N(x) = \frac{1}{N} \#\{n \leq N; \log_b(n^r) \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}$.
- Then $F_N\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right) - F_N\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right)$ = the density of the number of $n \leq N$ for which the leading block of s digits of n^r is equal to D , $D = d_1 d_2 \dots d_s$.
- Let N_i be an increasing sequence of positive integer such that $\log_b N_i^r \bmod 1 \rightarrow w$ for some $w \in [0, 1]$.

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$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \text{Then } \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \left(F_{N_i} \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right) - F_{N_i} \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right) \right) \\ = g_w \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right) - g_w \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\bullet \text{ where } g_w(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \cdot \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}}.$$

In Theorem 5 we give a rate of such limit. The same limit holds also for the sequence p_n^r , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, but the rate of convergence described in Theorem 6 is more complicated.

In the following we present some clarifications.

1.1. Benford's law

For a real number x , let $[x]$ be the integral part of x , and let $x \bmod 1 = \{x\} = x - [x]$. Let $b \geq 2$ be an integer considered as a base for the development of a real number $x > 0$ and $M_b(x)$ be the mantissa of x defined by $x = M_b(x) \times b^{n(x)}$ such that $1 \leq M_b(x) < b$ holds, where $n(x)$ is a uniquely determined integer. Let $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ be a positive integer expressed in the base b , that is

$$D = d_1 \times b^{s-1} + d_2 \times b^{s-2} + \cdots + d_{s-1} \times b + d_s,$$

where $d_1 \neq 0$ and at the same time $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ is considered as an s -consecutive block of digits in the base b . Note that for x of the type

$$x = 0.00 \cdots 0 d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s \cdots,$$

where $d_1 > 0$, we have $M_b(x) = d_1.d_2 \cdots d_s \cdots$ and the first zero digits is omitted. Thus arbitrary $x > 0$ has the first s -digits, starting a non-zero digit, equal to $d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ if and only if ¹

$$d_1.d_2 \cdots d_s \leq M_b(x) < d_1.d_2 \cdots (d_s + 1). \quad (1)$$

Since $\log_b M_b(x) = \log_b x \bmod 1$ the inequality (1) is equivalent to

$$\log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \leq \log_b x \bmod 1 < \log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right). \quad (2)$$

Underline once again

$$\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} = d_1.d_2 \cdots d_s, \quad \frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} = d_1.d_2 \cdots (d_s + 1).$$

¹If $d_1 = d_2 = \cdots = d_s = b - 1$, then we have $d_1.d_2 \cdots (d_s + 1) = b$.

DEFINITION 1 (P. Diaconis (1977)). A sequence $x_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$, of positive real numbers satisfies *Benford's law* (abbreviated to B.L.)² in base b , if for every $s = 1, 2, \dots$ and every s -digits integer $D = d_1 d_2 \dots d_s$ we have the density

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{n \leq N; \text{leading block of } s \text{ digits (beginning with } \neq 0) \text{ of } x_n = D\}}{N} = \log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) - \log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right). \quad (3)$$

From (2) and from definition (3) it follows immediately:

THEOREM 1. *A sequence $x_n, n = 1, 2, \dots$, of positive real numbers satisfies B.L. in base b if and only if the sequence $\log_b x_n \bmod 1$ is uniformly distributed in $[0, 1)$ (for definition see page 26).*

1.2. Historical comments

The first digit problem: An infinite sequence $x_n \geq 1$ of real numbers satisfies *Benford's law*, if the frequency (the asymptotic density) of occurrences of a given first digit a , when x_n is expressed in the decimal form is given by $\log_{10} \left(1 + \frac{1}{a} \right)$ for every $a = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ (0 as a possible first digit is not admitted). Since x_n has the first digit a if and only if $\log_{10} x_n \bmod 1 \in [\log_{10} a, \log_{10}(a+1))$, Benford's law for x_n follows from the u.d. of $\log_{10} x_n \bmod 1$. F. Benford (1938) compared the empirical frequency of occurrences of a with $\log_{10}((a+1)/a)$ in twenty different domains such as the areas of 335 rivers; the size of 3259 U.S. populations; the street address of first 342 persons listed in American Men of Sciences, etc. which led him to the conclusion that "the logarithmic law applies particularly to those outlaw numbers that are without known relationships ..." For the asymptotic density of the second-place digit b he found $\sum_{a=1}^9 \log_{10} \left(1 + \frac{1}{10a+b} \right)$.

F. Benford rediscovered Newcomb's observation from (1881).

Many authors think that if the sequence x_n does not satisfy B.L., then the relative density of indices n for which the b -expansion of x_n start with leading digits $D = d_1 d_2 \dots d_s$

$$\frac{1}{N} \# \left\{ n \leq N; \log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \leq \{\log_b x_n\} < \log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right\}$$

does not follow any distribution in the sense of natural density, see S. Eliahou, B. Massé and D. Schneider [5]. These authors as an alternate result shown that the sequence $\log_{10} n^r \bmod 1, n = 1, 2, \dots, [e^r]$ and the sequence $\log_{10} p_n^r \bmod 1, n = 1, 2, \dots, [e^r]$, where p_n are all prime numbers, have the discrepancy $O(r^{-1})$.

²precisely generalized or strong

Thus, for $r \rightarrow \infty$, these sequences tends to uniform distribution and thus n^r and p_n^r tends to B.L.

1.3. General scheme of solution of the First digit problem

DEFINITION 2. Let y_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, be a sequence of real numbers and define the step distribution function of $y_n \bmod 1$

$$F_N(x) = \frac{\#\{n \leq N; y_n \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}}{N} \quad (4)$$

for $x \in [0, 1]$. The limit $g(x)$ of a subsequence $F_{N_k}(x)$ of $F_N(x)$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} F_{N_k}(x) = g(x) \quad (5)$$

for every $x \in [0, 1]$,³ is called distribution function (abbreviating d.f.) of y_n , where $N_1 < N_2 < \dots$ is related sequence of indices. Let $G(y_n \bmod 1)$ be the set of all possible limits (5). If $G(y_n \bmod 1) = \{g(x)\}$, $g(x) = x$, then the sequence y_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$ is called uniformly distributed mod 1 (abbreviating u.d. mod1.)

From Definition 2 and (2) immediately follows the basic theorem.

THEOREM 2. Let $g(x) \in G(\log_b x_n \bmod 1)$ and $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} F_{N_i}(x) = g(x)$. Then for $D = d_1 d_2 \dots d_s$

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{N_i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{n \leq N_i; \text{first } s \text{ digits (starting a non-zero digit) of } x_n = D\}}{N_i} \\ &= g\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right) - g\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

This is the general scheme of solution of the First digit problem for the sequence x_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, for which $\log_b x_n \bmod 1$ need not be u.d. sequence. This approach is also presented in [2].

Proof. Using $F_N(x) = \frac{1}{N} \#\{n \leq N; x_n \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & F_N\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right) - F_N\left(\log_b\left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \#\{n \leq N; \text{first } s \text{ digits (starting a non-zero digit) of } x_n = D\}. \end{aligned}$$

□

³Similar theory of d.f.s can be found by using weak limits, i.e. the limit (5) for every continuity point x of $g(x)$. But in the following we use only continuous $g(x)$.

2. Distribution functions of sequences involving logarithm

D.f.'s of $\log_b x_n \bmod 1$ which we need in (6) can be computed by following theorems:

THEOREM 3 ([9]). *Let the real-valued function $f(x)$ be strictly increasing for $x \geq 1$ and let $f^{-1}(x)$ be its inverse function and*

$$F_N(x) = \frac{1}{N} \# \{n \leq N; f(n) \bmod 1 \in [0, x]\}.$$

Assume that

- (i) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f'(x) = 0$,
- (ii) $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k) = \infty$,
- (iii) $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{-1}(k+w(k))}{f^{-1}(k)} = \psi(w)$ for every sequence $w(k) \in [0, 1]$ for which $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} w(k) = w$, where this limit defines the function $\psi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [1, \psi(1)]$,
- (iv) $\psi(1) > 1$.

Then for the sequence $f(n) \bmod 1$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$G(f(n) \bmod 1) = \left\{ g_w(x) = \frac{1}{\psi(w)} \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} + \frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) - 1}{\psi(w)}; w \in [0, 1] \right\}. \quad (7)$$

Now, if $f(N_i) \bmod 1$ is a subsequence $f(n) \bmod 1$ such that $f(N_i) \bmod 1 \rightarrow w$, then $F_{N_i}(x) \rightarrow g_w(x)$ for every $x \in [0, 1]$.

Similar theorem is valid also for $f(p_n)$, where p_n are primes.

THEOREM 4 ([7]). *Let $F_N(x) = \frac{1}{N} \# \{n \leq N; f(p_n) \bmod 1 \in [0, x]\}$ for $x \in [0, 1]$, where p_n is the increasing sequence of all primes. Assume (i)-(iv) from Theorem 3. Then the sequence $f(p_n) \bmod 1$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, has*

$$G(f(p_n) \bmod 1) = G(f(n) \bmod 1).$$

Now, if $f(p_{N_i}) \bmod 1$ is a subsequence $f(p_n) \bmod 1$ such that $f(p_{N_i}) \bmod 1 \rightarrow w$, then $F_{N_i}(x) \rightarrow g_w(x)$ for every $x \in [0, 1]$.

2.1. Natural numbers

Applying Theorem 3 to the sequence $f(n) = \log_b n^r$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$ we have

$$f^{-1}(x) = b^{\frac{x}{r}}, \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{-1}(k+w)}{f^{-1}(k)} = \frac{b^{\frac{k+w}{r}}}{b^{\frac{k}{r}}} = b^{\frac{w}{r}} = \psi(w),$$

$$G(\log_b n^r \bmod 1) = \left\{ g_w(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}}; w \in [0, 1] \right\}.$$

If

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{f(N_i)\} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b(N_i^r)\} = w,$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{n \leq N_i; \text{ first } s \text{ digits of } n^r \text{ are } d_1 d_2 \dots d_s\}}{N_i} \\ = g_w(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots (d_s + 1)) - g_w(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots d_s). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Some examples of w :

1. Assume that $N_i = b^i$ and r is a positive integer, then

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b(b^{ir})\} = 0 = w$$

and thus for (8) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{b^{(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots (d_s + 1))/r} - 1}{b^{1/r} - 1} - \frac{b^{(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots d_s)/r} - 1}{b^{1/r} - 1} \\ &= \frac{(d_1 d_2 \dots (d_s + 1))^{(1/r)} - (d_1 d_2 \dots d_s)^{(1/r)}}{b^{1/r} - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{b^{s-1}} \frac{1}{b - 1} \text{ if } r = 1. \end{aligned}$$

2. Put $N_i = [b^{\frac{i+w}{r}}]$, where i is a positive integer. The $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b(N_i^r)\} = w$.

Proof. We have $N_i = [b^{\frac{i+w}{r}}] = b^{\frac{i+w'}{r}}$, where $w' \leq w$ and $\{\log_b(N_i^r)\} = w'$. Further $|b^{\frac{i+w'}{r}} - b^{\frac{i+w}{r}}| = |w' - w| b^{\frac{i+w}{r}} (\log b)^{\frac{1}{r}}$. Since $|b^{\frac{i+w'}{r}} - b^{\frac{i+w}{r}}| < 1$, then $|w' - w| \rightarrow 0$. Thus $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b(N_i^r)\} = w$. $\square$

2.2. Primes

Applying Theorem 4 for the sequence

$$f(p_n) = \log_b p_n^r, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

where p_n is the n th prime and $r > 0$, we have

$$G(\log_b p_n^r \bmod 1) = \{g_w(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}}; w \in [0, 1]\}.$$

If $\{f(p_{N_i})\} = \{\log_b(p_{N_i}^r)\} \rightarrow w$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{n \leq N_i; \text{ first } s \text{ digits of } p_n^r \text{ are } d_1 d_2 \dots d_s\}}{N_i} \\ = g_w(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots (d_s + 1)) - g_w(\log_b d_1 d_2 \dots d_s). \end{aligned}$$

Some examples of w and N_i :

1. If $0 < w < 1$ and $N_i = \pi(b^{\frac{i+w}{r}})$, then $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\} = w$.

If $N_i = \pi(b^{\frac{i}{r}}) + 1$, then $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\} = 0$.

If $N_i = \pi(b^{\frac{i}{r}})$, then $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\} = 1$.

Proof. Let $0 < w < 1$ and $N_i = \pi(b^{\frac{i+w}{r}})$. We have

$$p_{N_i} \leq b^{\frac{w+i}{r}} < p_{N_i+1},$$

and so

$$\log_b p_{N_i}^r \leq w + i < \log_b p_{N_i+1}^r.$$

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log_b p_{N_i+1}^r - \log_b p_{N_i}^r &= r \log_b \frac{p_{N_i+1}}{p_{N_i}} \\ &= r \log_b \left(1 + \frac{p_{N_i+1} - p_{N_i}}{p_{N_i}} \right) \\ &= r \log_b \left(1 + \frac{1}{p_{N_i}^{1-\theta}} \right) \rightarrow 0 \quad (i \rightarrow \infty), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where the last equality is obtained by using the result

$$p_{n+1} - p_n = O(p_n^\theta) \quad \text{with} \quad \theta = 0.525 \quad (\text{see [1]}).$$

Therefore there exists i_0 such that for $i \geq i_0$, $[\log_b p_{N_i}^r] = i$ and

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq w - \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\} = i + w - (i + \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\}) = i + w - \log_b p_{N_i}^r \\ &< \log_b p_{N_i+1}^r - \log_b p_{N_i}^r \rightarrow 0 \quad (i \rightarrow \infty). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \{\log_b p_{N_i}^r\} = w$. Similarly the other two cases are proved. $\square$

2.3. Summary

From the above it follows that the sequences

$$\log_b n^r \bmod 1, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{and} \quad \log_b p_n^r \bmod 1, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

have the same distribution functions $g_w(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}}$; $w \in [0, 1]$.

Since $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} = x$, then $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} g_w(x) = x$. Thus, as $r \rightarrow \infty$ the sequences n^r and p_n^r tends to B.L. This is qualitative proof of results in [5].

3. Rate of convergence

3.1. The first digit problem for the sequence $n^r, n = 1, 2, \dots$

THEOREM 5. *Let N, b be positive integers, $b > 1, r > 0, w_0 \in [0, 1]$. Denote*

$$F_N(x) = \frac{\#\{n \leq N; \log_b(n^r) \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}}{N},$$

$$g_{w_0}(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \cdot \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}},$$

$$w = \{r \log_b N\}.$$

Then for every $x \in [0, 1]$ we have

$$|F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x)| \leq \frac{|w - w_0|}{r} \cdot \log b \cdot b^{\frac{1}{r}} \cdot (b^{\frac{1}{r}} + 1) + \frac{3}{N} + \frac{r \log_b N}{N}.$$

COROLLARY 1. *Let $r > 0, w = \{r \log_b N\}$. Then for $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ the ration $\frac{1}{N} \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; \text{ the leading block of } s \text{ digits of } n^r \text{ is equal to } D\}$ it can be approximated by*

$$g_w \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right) - g_w \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right)$$

with the error term

$$2 \left(\frac{3}{N} + \frac{r \log_b N}{N} \right) = O_{b,r} \left(\frac{\log N}{N} \right).$$

Proof of Corollary 1. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N} \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; \text{ the leading block of } s \text{ digits of } n^r \text{ is equal to } D\} \\ &= F_N \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right) - F_N \left(\log_b \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Applying Theorem 5 with $w_0 = w$, we have $|F_N(x) - g_w(x)| \leq \frac{3}{N} + \frac{r \log_b N}{N}$. $\square$

EXAMPLE 1. Let $r > 0$ and i be a positive integer. By Corollary 1 for $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ the fraction

$$\frac{1}{b^i} \#\{1 \leq n \leq b^i; \text{ the leading block of } s \text{ digits of } n^r \text{ is equal to } D\}$$

it can be approximated by

$$\frac{\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} - \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} \quad \text{with the error term} \quad \frac{2ri + 6}{b^i}.$$

Now we prove Theorem 5.

Proof. Firstly we repeat a proof of (7). For a positive integer N define

- $K_N = [f(N)]$, abbreviating $K_N = K$,
- $w_N = \{f(N)\}$, abbreviating $w_N = w$,
- $A_N([x, y)) = \#\{n \leq N; f(n) \in [x, y)\}$,
- $F_N(x) = \frac{\#\{n \leq N; f(n) \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}}{N}$.

Clearly $f^{-1}(K + w) = N$ and for every $x \in [0, 1]$ and $F_N(x)$ in (4) we have

$$F_N(x) = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} A_N([k, k+x))}{N} + \frac{A_N([K, K+x) \cap [K, K+w))}{N} + \frac{O(A_N([1, f^{-1}(0)))}{N}$$

From monotonicity of $f(x)$ it follows $A_N([x, y)) = f^{-1}(y) - f^{-1}(x) + \theta$, where $|\theta| \leq 1$. Thus

$$F_N(x) = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{N} + \frac{\min(f^{-1}(K+x), f^{-1}(K+w)) - f^{-1}(K)}{N} + \frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(f^{-1}(0))}{N}, \quad (10)$$

where

$$O(K) \leq K + 1 \text{ and } O(f^{-1}(0)) \leq f^{-1}(0).$$

The assumption (ii) implies $1/(f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k)) \rightarrow 0$ which together with Cauchy-Stolz (other name is Stolz-Cesàro, see [10, p. 4-7]) lemma implies that

$$K/f^{-1}(K) \rightarrow 0 \text{ and thus } K/N \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Furthermore we can express the first term of $F_N(x)$ in (10) as

$$\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k))} \cdot \frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} \quad (11)$$

and the second term as

$$\frac{\min\left(\frac{f^{-1}(K+x)}{f^{-1}(K)}, \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}\right) - 1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}}. \quad (12)$$

Using the assumption (ii) and (iii) the Cauchy-Stolz lemma implies

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k))} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k)}{f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k)} = \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1}. \quad (13)$$

Now, for increasing subsequence N_i of indices N , denote

$$K_i = [f(N_i)] \quad \text{and} \quad w_i = \{f(N_i)\}.$$

If $w_i \rightarrow w_0$, then by (iii)

$$f^{-1}(K_i)/f^{-1}(K_i + w_i) \rightarrow 1/\psi(w_0), \quad \text{and} \quad f^{-1}(K_i + x)/f^{-1}(K_i) \rightarrow \psi(x).$$

Thus (11), (12), (13) imply (7)

$$F_{N_i}(x) \rightarrow g_{w_0}(x) = \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \cdot \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} + \frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\psi(w_0)} \quad \text{for all } x \in [0, 1].$$

In the following we prove a quantitative form of (7). Put

- $K = [f(N)]$,
- $w = \{f(N)\}$,
- $N = f^{-1}(K + w)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x) \\ &= \left(\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k))} \cdot \frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \cdot \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \\ &+ \left(\frac{\min\left(\frac{f^{-1}(K+x)}{f^{-1}(K)}, \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}\right) - 1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}} - \frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \\ &+ \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(f^{-1}(0))}{N} \right) \\ &= \text{(I)} \left(\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right) \left(\frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$+ \text{(II)} \left(\frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} - \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \left(\frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right) \quad (15)$$

$$+ \text{(III)} \left(\min\left(\frac{f^{-1}(K+x)}{f^{-1}(K)}, \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}\right) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K_i)}} \right) \quad (16)$$

$$+ \text{(IV)} \left(\psi(w_0) - \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)} \right) \left(\frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)} \cdot \psi(w_0)} \right) \quad (17)$$

$$+ \text{(V)} \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(f^{-1}(0))}{N} \right). \quad (18)$$

DISTRIBUTION OF LEADING DIGITS OF NUMBERS

Every second term in (I)=(14), (II)=(15), (III)=(16), (IV)=(17) is bounded precisely

$$\left(\frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} \right) \leq 1, \quad \left(\frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right) \leq 1, \quad \left(\frac{1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)}} \right) \leq 1,$$

$$\left(\frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)} \cdot \psi(w_0)} \right) \leq \psi(1) - 1.$$

Now put $f(x) = \log_b(x^r)$. This function satisfies Theorem 3 and

$$f^{-1}(x) = b^{\frac{x}{r}},$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{-1}(k+x)}{f^{-1}(k)} = \frac{b^{\frac{k+x}{r}}}{b^{\frac{k}{r}}} = b^{\frac{x}{r}} = \psi(x),$$

$$g_{w_0}(x) = \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \cdot \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}},$$

$$f^{-1}(0) = b^{\frac{0}{r}} = 1, \quad \psi(1) = b^{\frac{1}{r}},$$

$$K = [r \log_b N], \quad \omega = \{r \log_b N\}, \quad N = b^{\frac{K+\omega}{r}}.$$

Then for the first terms in (I)=(14), (II)=(15), (III)=(16), (IV)=(17) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I)} & \left| \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+x) - f^{-1}(k))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (f^{-1}(k+1) - f^{-1}(k))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (b^{\frac{k+x}{r}} - b^{\frac{k}{r}})}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (b^{\frac{k+1}{r}} - b^{\frac{k}{r}})} - \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} \right| = 0, \\ \text{(II)} & \left| \frac{f^{-1}(K) - f^{-1}(0)}{f^{-1}(K+w)} - \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right| = \left| \frac{b^{\frac{K}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{K+\omega}{r}}} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \right| \leq \left| \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \right| + \frac{1}{N}, \\ \text{(III)} & \left| \min \left(\frac{f^{-1}(K+x)}{f^{-1}(K)}, \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)} \right) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) \right| \\ &= |\min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0))| \\ &\leq |\psi(w) - \psi(w_0)| = |b^{\frac{w}{r}} - b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}| \quad (\text{for a proof see in appendix}), \\ \text{(IV)} & \left| \psi(w_0) - \frac{f^{-1}(K+w)}{f^{-1}(K)} \right| (\psi(1) - 1) = |b^{\frac{w}{r}} - b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}| (b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1), \\ \text{(V)} & \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(f^{-1}(0))}{N} \right) \leq \frac{K+1+f^{-1}(0)}{N} \leq \frac{r \log_b N + 2}{N}. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

In the end of proof we use

$$|b^{\frac{w}{r}} - b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}| \leq \frac{|w - w_0|}{r} \cdot \log b \cdot b^{\frac{1}{r}}. \quad \square$$

3.2. First digit problem for p_n^r , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, where p_n is the n th prime

THEOREM 6. *Let N be an arbitrary integer, $r > 0$, $w_0 \in [0, 1]$, Denote*

$$\begin{aligned} F_N(x) &= \frac{\#\{n \leq N; \log_b(p_n^r) \bmod 1 \in [0, x)\}}{N}, \\ g_{w_0}(x) &= \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \cdot \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}}, \\ K &= [r \log_b p_N], \quad w = \{r \log_b p_N\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let k_1 be an integer such that

$$\max \left(\frac{\log 59}{\log b} r, \frac{5rb^{\frac{1}{r}} + \frac{r}{2} + b^{\frac{1}{r}} \log b}{(b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1) \log b} \right) < k_1 < K.$$

Then for every $x \in [0, 1]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x)| &\leq \frac{b^{\frac{1}{r}}(2 \log b + 11r)}{(\log b)(b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1)k_1 - (5r + \log b)b^{\frac{1}{r}} - \frac{r}{2}} \\ &\quad + \frac{K}{k_1} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{K-k_1}{r}}} \frac{\log b + \frac{3}{2k_1}}{\log b + \frac{2}{K}} + 3(b^{\frac{1}{r}})^2 \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{K \log b + \frac{r}{4}} \\ &\quad + 3(b^{\frac{1}{r}})^2 \frac{|w - w_0|}{r} \log b + \frac{r \log_b p_N + 1}{N}. \end{aligned}$$

COROLLARY 2. *Let $r > 0$, i be a positive integer, and let $N = \pi(b^{\frac{i}{r}})$. Then for $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_s$ the fraction*

$$\frac{1}{N} \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; \text{the leading block of } s \text{ digits of } p_n^r \text{ is equal to } D\}$$

it can be approximated by

$$\frac{\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} - \left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1}$$

with the error term

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| F_N\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right) - g_1\left(\frac{D+1}{b^{s-1}}\right) \right| + \left| F_N\left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right) - g_1\left(\frac{D}{b^{s-1}}\right) \right| \\ &= O_{b,r} \left(\frac{1}{\log p_N} \right) \end{aligned}$$

given by Theorem 6.

DISTRIBUTION OF LEADING DIGITS OF NUMBERS

Proof of Corollary 2. For $N = \pi(b^{\frac{i}{r}})$ we have $r \log_b p_N \leq i < r \log_b p_{N+1}$. Since $r \log_b p_{N+1} - r \log_b p_N \rightarrow 0$ by (9), we obtain $[r \log_b p_N] = i - 1$ for sufficiently large i . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |w - 1| &= |\log_b p_N^r - (i - 1) - 1| = i - \log_b p_N^r \leq r(\log_b p_{N+1} - \log_b p_N) \\ &\leq \frac{r}{\log b} \cdot \frac{1}{p_N} (p_{N+1} - p_N) \leq \frac{r}{\log b} \cdot \frac{C}{p_N^{1-\theta}}, \end{aligned}$$

where C is a positive constant, $\theta = 0.525$ (see [1]). We apply Theorem 6 with $N = \pi(b^{\frac{i}{r}})$, $w_0 = 1$, $K = [r \log_b p_N]$, $k_1 = [\frac{r}{2} \log_b p_N]$, $w = \{r \log_b p_N\}$. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 6. Firstly we repeat the proof of Theorem 4. Let $0 \leq x \leq 1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \{f(p_n)\} < x &\iff 0 \leq f(p_n) - k < x \iff \\ k &\leq f(p_n) < k + x \iff f^{-1}(k) \leq p_n < f^{-1}(k + x). \end{aligned}$$

Let $\pi(t) = \#\{p \leq t; p - \text{prime}\}$. Using $\pi(t) = \#\{p < t; p - \text{prime}\} + O(1)$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_N(x) &= \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{N} + \\ &\quad + \frac{\min(\pi(f^{-1}(K+x)), \pi(f^{-1}(K+w))) - \pi(f^{-1}(K))}{N} \\ &\quad + \frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(\pi(f^{-1}(0)))}{N}, \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

where

$$O(K) \leq K + 1, \quad O(\pi(f^{-1}(0))) \leq \pi(f^{-1}(0)).$$

Let $K = [f(p_N)]$, $w = \{f(p_N)\}$. Then $p_N = f^{-1}(K + w)$. Then we have

$$N = \pi(f^{-1}(K + w)).$$

We can express the first term of $F_N(x)$ in (20) as

$$\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} \cdot \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}$$

and the second term as

$$\frac{\min\left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}\right) - 1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}}. \tag{21}$$

The Cauchy-Stolz lemma implies

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))}. \quad (22)$$

The Prime number theorem in the form

$$\pi(t) = \frac{t}{\log t} + O\left(\frac{t}{\log^2 t}\right)$$

gives

$$\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k))} = \frac{f^{-1}(k+x)}{f^{-1}(k)} \cdot \frac{\log f^{-1}(k)}{\log f^{-1}(k+x)} \cdot \frac{1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\log f^{-1}(k+x)}\right)}{1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\log f^{-1}(k)}\right)}.$$

We need

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log f^{-1}(k)}{\log f^{-1}(k+x)} = 1. \quad (23)$$

The limit (23) is proved in [7] by using the following steps:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\log f^{-1}(k+x)}{\log f^{-1}(k)} &= \frac{1}{\log f^{-1}(k)} (\log f^{-1}(k+x) - \log f^{-1}(k)) + 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{\log f^{-1}(k)} \log \left(\frac{f^{-1}(k+x)}{f^{-1}(k)} \right) + 1 \rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

since by assumption $\frac{f^{-1}(k+x)}{f^{-1}(k)} \rightarrow \psi(x) \geq 1$. Thus

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k))} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{-1}(k+x)}{f^{-1}(k)} = \psi(x) \quad (24)$$

and (22) has the form $\frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1}$. Applying (24) on (21) we have

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\min \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) - 1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}} = \frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) - 1}{\psi(w)}.$$

Here for given N ,

p_N is N th prime, $K = [f(p_N)]$, $w = \{f(p_N)\}$ and $w_0 \in [0, 1]$ is arbitrary.

Similarly as for the sequence $f(n) \bmod 1$ we have (18), (14), (15), (16), (17) for the sequence $f(p_n) \bmod 1$ and by applying $\pi(x)$ we have the following

DISTRIBUTION OF LEADING DIGITS OF NUMBERS

$$\begin{aligned}
 & F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x) \\
 &= \left(\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} \cdot \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))} - \frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \cdot \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \\
 &+ \left(\frac{\min \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) - 1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}} - \frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \\
 &+ \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(\pi(f^{-1}(0)))}{N} \right) \\
 &= (I) \left(\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} - \frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \right) \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))} \right) \quad (25) \\
 &+ (II) \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))} - \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right) \left(\frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \right) \quad (26) \\
 &+ (III) \left(\min \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}} \right) \quad (27) \\
 &+ (IV) \left(\psi(w_0) - \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) \left(\frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \cdot \psi(w_0)} \right) \quad (28) \\
 &+ (V) \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(\pi(f^{-1}(0)))}{N} \right). \quad (29)
 \end{aligned}$$

Every second term in (I)-(V)=(25), (26), (27) and (28) is bounded, precisely

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))} \right) \leq 1, \\
 & \left(\frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \right) \leq 1, \quad \left(\frac{1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}} \right) \leq 1, \\
 & \left(\frac{\min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) - 1}{\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \cdot \psi(w_0)} \right) \leq \psi(1) - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus for the first terms (again writing as (I)-(V)) we have

$$|F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x)| \leq \text{(I)} \left| \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right| \quad (30)$$

$$+ \text{(II)} \left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))} - \frac{1}{\psi(w_0)} \right| \quad (31)$$

$$+ \text{(III)} \left| \min \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0)) \right| \quad (32)$$

$$+ \text{(IV)} \left| \psi(w_0) - \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right| (\psi(1) - 1) \quad (33)$$

$$+ \text{(V)} \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(f^{-1}(0))}{N} \right). \quad (34)$$

Now in the following we use Prime number theorem in the form

$$\pi(x) = \frac{x}{\log x} \theta(x), \quad \theta(x) \rightarrow 1, \text{ if } x \rightarrow \infty. \quad (35)$$

Using (see [8, Theorem 1])

$$\frac{t}{\log t} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2 \log t} \right) < \pi(t) < \frac{t}{\log t} \left(1 + \frac{3}{2 \log t} \right)$$

for $t \geq 59$, we have

$$1 + \frac{1}{2 \log t} < \theta(t) < 1 + \frac{3}{2 \log t}. \quad (36)$$

In our case

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \log_b x^r, \quad f^{-1}(x) = b^{\frac{x}{r}}, \quad \psi(x) = b^{\frac{x}{r}}, \\ g_{w_0}(x) &= \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \cdot \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} + \frac{\min(b^{\frac{x}{r}}, b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}) - 1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \end{aligned}$$

and by (35)

$$\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k))} = b^{\frac{x}{r}} \left(\frac{k}{k+x} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})}.$$

For an upper bound of (I)=(30) we use the inequality proved in Appendix

DISTRIBUTION OF LEADING DIGITS OF NUMBERS

$$(I) \left| \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right| \leq \Psi_{k_1} + \left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k_1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))} \right|, \quad (37)$$

where $K \geq k_1$, $\Psi_{k_1} = \sup_{k \geq k_1} \Phi_k$ and

$$\Phi_k = \left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right|. \quad (38)$$

Applying (35) to (38) we have

$$\Phi_k = \left| \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} \left(\left(\frac{k}{k+x} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})} - 1 \right) + b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} \left(\left(\frac{k}{k+1} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+1}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})} - 1 \right) + b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} - \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1} \right|. \quad (39)$$

For (II)=(31) we have

$$(II) \left| \frac{\pi(b^{\frac{K}{r}}) - \pi(1)}{\pi(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \right| = \left| \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \left(\frac{K+w}{K} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \right| \leq \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \left| \left(\frac{K+w}{K} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})} - 1 \right| + \left| \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} \right|. \quad (40)$$

For (III)=(32) we use

$$(III) \leq \left| \min \left(\frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))}, \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} \right) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) \right| + |\min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0))| \quad (41)$$

$$\leq \max \left(\left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+x))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} - \psi(x) \right|, \left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(K+w))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K))} - \psi(w) \right| \right) + |\psi(w) - \psi(w_0)| \\ = \max \left(b^{\frac{x}{r}} \left| \left(\frac{K}{K+x} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} - 1 \right|, b^{\frac{w}{r}} \left| \left(\frac{K}{K+w} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} - 1 \right| \right) + |b^{\frac{w}{r}} - b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}|. \quad (42)$$

For (IV)=(33) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(IV)} \left| b^{\frac{w_0}{r}} - \frac{\pi(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})}{\pi(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} \right| (b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1) \\
 \leq \left(\left| b^{\frac{w_0}{r}} - b^{\frac{w}{r}} \right| + b^{\frac{w}{r}} \left| \left(\frac{K}{K+w} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} - 1 \right| \right) (b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1). \quad (43)
 \end{aligned}$$

For (V)=(34) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(V)} \left(\frac{O(K)}{N} + \frac{O(\pi(f^{-1}(0)))}{N} \right) \\
 \leq \frac{K+1+\pi(1)}{N} = \frac{K+1}{N} = \frac{[f(p_N)]+1}{N} \leq \frac{r \log_b p_N + 1}{N}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In all (I)=(39), (II)=(40), (III)=(42) and (IV)=(43) we have common factors

$$\left| \left(\frac{K}{K+w} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} - 1 \right| \quad \text{or} \quad \left| \left(\frac{K+w}{K} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K+w}{r}})} - 1 \right|.$$

Assuming $b^{\frac{k}{r}} \geq 59$, i.e., $k \geq r \log_b 59$ then (36) implies

$$\frac{\log b + \frac{r}{2(k+x)}}{\log b + \frac{3r}{2k}} < \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})} < \frac{\log b + \frac{3r}{2(k+x)}}{\log b + \frac{r}{2k}}$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{-x \log b - \frac{r}{2} \cdot \frac{2k^2+6kx+3x^2}{k(k+x)}}{(k+x) \log b + \frac{3r}{2} \cdot \frac{k+x}{k}} &< \left(\frac{k}{k+x} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})} - 1 \\
 &< \frac{-x \log b + \frac{r}{2} \cdot \frac{2k^2-2kx-x^2}{k(k+x)}}{(k+x) \log b + \frac{k+x}{k} \cdot \frac{r}{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

which gives

$$\left| \left(\frac{k}{k+x} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})} - 1 \right| \leq \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k \log b + \frac{r}{2}} \quad (44)$$

or

$$\left| \left(\frac{k+x}{k} \right) \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{k+x}{r}})} - 1 \right| \leq \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k \log b + \frac{r}{4}}. \quad (45)$$

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Applying (44) and (45) to (I)=(39), for $k \geq r \log_b 59$ we find

$$\Phi_k \leq \frac{2b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k \log b + \frac{r}{2}}}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1 - b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k \log b + \frac{r}{2}}}, \text{ provided that } k > \frac{5rb^{\frac{1}{r}} + \frac{r}{2} + b^{\frac{1}{r}} \log b}{(b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1) \log b}. \quad (46)$$

In this case (46) is decreasing with respect to k and in (37) it can be using (46) for $k = k_1$. Then for approximate (I) we need approximate second term in (37):

$$\left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k_1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))} \right| = \frac{K}{k_1} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{K-k_1}{r}}} \frac{\theta(b^{\frac{k_1}{r}})}{\theta(b^{\frac{K}{r}})} < \frac{K}{k_1} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{K-k_1}{r}}} \frac{\log b + \frac{3}{2k_1}r}{\log b + \frac{1}{2K}r}.$$

Also applying (44) and (45) to (I)=(37), (II)=(40), (III)=(42) and (IV)=(43), we find

$$\begin{aligned} & |F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x)| \\ & \leq \text{(I)} \frac{2b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k_1 \log b + \frac{1}{2}r}}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1 - b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{k_1 \log b + \frac{1}{2}r}} + \frac{K}{k_1} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{K-k_1}{r}}} \cdot \frac{\log b + \frac{3}{2k_1}r}{\log b + \frac{1}{2K}r} \\ & + \text{(II)} \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \cdot \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{K \log b + \frac{r}{4}} + \left| \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w_0}{r}}} - \frac{1}{b^{\frac{w}{r}}} \right| \\ & + \text{(III)} b^{\frac{1}{r}} \cdot \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{K \log b + \frac{r}{2}} + |b^{\frac{w_0}{r}} - b^{\frac{w}{r}}| \\ & + \text{(IV)} b^{\frac{w}{r}} (b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1) \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{K \log b + \frac{r}{2}} + (b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1) \cdot |b^{\frac{w_0}{r}} - b^{\frac{w}{r}}| \\ & + \text{(V)} \frac{r \log_b p_N + 1}{N}. \end{aligned}$$

It can be simplified as

$$\text{(II)} + \text{(III)} + \text{(IV)} \leq 3(b^{\frac{1}{r}})^2 \frac{\log b + \frac{11}{2}r}{K \log b + \frac{r}{4}} + 3(b^{\frac{1}{r}})^2 \frac{|w - w_0|}{r} \log b$$

and

$$\text{the first term of (I)} \leq \frac{b^{\frac{1}{r}} (2 \log b + 11r)}{(b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1)(\log b)k_1 - 5rb^{\frac{1}{r}} - b^{\frac{1}{r}} \log b - \frac{r}{2}}.$$

□

4. Appendix

4.1. Proof of (37).

Denote $\Psi_{k_1} = \sup_{k \geq k_1} \Phi_k$ and

$$\Phi_k = \left| \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right|.$$

For $k \geq k_1$ and $0 \leq x \leq 1$ we have

$$-\Psi_{k_1} \leq \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))}{\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))} - \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \leq \Psi_{k_1}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)) &\leq \left(\Psi_{k_1} + \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right) (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))), \\ (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))) &\left(-\Psi_{k_1} + \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \right) \leq \pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$-\Psi_{k_1} + \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1} \leq \frac{\sum_{k=k_1}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))}{\sum_{k=k_1}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k)))} \leq \Psi_{k_1} + \frac{\psi(x) - 1}{\psi(1) - 1}. \quad (47)$$

Abbreviated

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \sum_{k=k_1}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))); \\ B &= \sum_{k=k_1}^{K-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))); \\ C &= \sum_{k=0}^{k_1-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+x)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))); \\ D &= \sum_{k=0}^{k_1-1} (\pi(f^{-1}(k+1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(k))); \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\frac{A+C}{B+D} - \frac{A}{B} = \frac{D(\frac{C}{D} - \frac{A}{B})}{B+D}, \quad \text{where } 0 \leq \frac{C}{D} \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq \frac{A}{B} \leq 1,$$

and

$$D = \pi(f^{-1}(k_1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0)), \quad B+D = \pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0)).$$

From it

$$\left| \frac{A+C}{B+D} - \frac{A}{B} \right| \leq \frac{\pi(f^{-1}(k_1)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))}{\pi(f^{-1}(K)) - \pi(f^{-1}(0))},$$

using

$$\left| \frac{A+C}{B+D} - \frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \right| \leq \left| \frac{A+C}{B+D} - \frac{A}{B} \right| + \left| \frac{A}{B} - \frac{\psi(x)-1}{\psi(1)-1} \right|,$$

and (47) imply (39).

4.2. Proof of the inequality

$$A := |\min(\psi(x), \psi(w)) - \min(\psi(x), \psi(w_0))| \leq |\psi(w) - \psi(w_0)|$$

in (19) and (41).

We compute all cases:

$$\begin{aligned} x < w < w_0; \quad A &= \psi(x) - \psi(x) = 0, \\ x < w_0 < w; \quad A &= \psi(x) - \psi(x) = 0, \\ w_0 < x < w; \quad A &= |\psi(x) - \psi(w_0)| < |\psi(w_0) - \psi(w)|, \\ w_0 < w < x; \quad A &= |\psi(w) - \psi(w_0)|, \\ w < w_0 < x; \quad A &= |\psi(w) - \psi(w_0)|, \\ w < x < w_0; \quad A &= |\psi(w) - \psi(x)| < |\psi(w_0) - \psi(w)|. \end{aligned}$$

4.3. Discrepancy D_N of the sequence

$$\{\log_b 1^r\}, \quad \{\log_b 2^r\}, \quad \{\log_b 3^r\}, \dots, \{\log_b N^r\}.$$

Put

$$F_N(x) = \frac{1}{N} \# \{n \leq N; \{\log_b n^r\} \in [0, x)\}.$$

Then discrepancy is defined as

$$D_N = \sup_{x \in [0,1]} |F_N(x) - x|.$$

Clearly, we have

$$D_N \leq \sup_{x \in [0,1]} |F_N(x) - g_{w_0}(x)| + \sup_{x \in [0,1]} |g_{w_0}(x) - x|. \quad (48)$$

For the first part of (48) we use Theorem 5. Now we put $w_0 = 0$ and for the second part we need found upper bound of

$$x - g_0(x) = x - \frac{b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1}{b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1}.$$

By Lagrange's theorem

$$\begin{aligned} b^{\frac{x}{r}} - 1 &= (x - 0)b^{\frac{x_1}{r}} \frac{\log b}{r}, \quad x_1 \in (0, x), \\ b^{\frac{1}{r}} - 1 &= (1 - 0)b^{\frac{x_2}{r}} \frac{\log b}{r}, \quad x_2 \in (0, 1). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$x - g_0(x) = x(1 - b^{\frac{x_1 - x_2}{r}}) = x(0 - (x_1 - x_2))b^{\frac{x_3}{r}} \frac{\log b}{r}, \quad x_3 \in (x_1, x_2).$$

The upper bound is

$$|x - g_0(x)| < b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b}{r}$$

and applying Theorem 5 we have

$$D_N \leq \frac{|w - 0|}{r} \cdot \log b \cdot b^{\frac{1}{r}} \cdot (b^{\frac{1}{r}} + 1) + \frac{3}{N} + \frac{r \log_b N}{N} + b^{\frac{1}{r}} \frac{\log b}{r},$$

where $w = \{r \log_b N\}$.

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