



# A Generalization of the Gcd-Sum Function

Ulrich Abel, Waqar Awan, and Vitaliy Kushnirevych

Fachbereich MND

Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen

University of Applied Sciences

Wilhelm-Leuschner-Straße 13

61169 Friedberg

Germany

[Ulrich.Abel@mnd.thm.de](mailto:Ulrich.Abel@mnd.thm.de)

[Waqar.Awan@stud.h-da.de](mailto:Waqar.Awan@stud.h-da.de)

[Vitaliy.Kushnirevych@mnd.thm.de](mailto:Vitaliy.Kushnirevych@mnd.thm.de)

## Abstract

In this paper we consider the generalization  $G_d(n)$  of the Broughan gcd-sum function, i.e., the sum of such gcd's that are divisors of the positive integer  $d$ . Examples of Dirichlet series and asymptotic relations for  $G_d$  and related functions are given.

## 1 Introduction

In the recent article [5], Broughan studies the sum of the greatest common divisors of the first  $n$  positive integers with  $n$ , i.e., the arithmetic function

$$G(n) := \sum_{k=1}^n \gcd(k, n).$$

This function arises in deriving asymptotic estimates for a lattice point counting problem [5, Sect. 5]. The function  $G$  has polynomial growth as  $n$  tends to infinity. For  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  (throughout the paper  $\mathbb{P}$  denotes the set of prime numbers) and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ , it is not difficult to show that

$$G(p^\alpha) = \sum_{j=0}^{\alpha-1} \underbrace{(p-1)p^{\alpha-1-j}}_{\text{number of gcd's equal to } p^j} p^j + 1 \cdot p^\alpha = (\alpha+1)p^\alpha - \alpha p^{\alpha-1}.$$

(cf. [5, Th. 2.2]). Following [5, Cor. 2.1]  $G$  is a multiplicative function, i.e.,  $G(mn) = G(m)G(n)$  for coprime  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , that is,  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ . The corresponding Dirichlet series  $\mathcal{G}(s)$  converges at all points of the complex plane, except at the zeros of the Riemann zeta function and the point  $s = 2$ , where it has a double pole. Moreover, Broughan derives asymptotic expressions for the partial sums of the Dirichlet series at all real values of  $s$ .

The following generalization of  $G$  (see [2]) arises in the study of distribution of determinant values in residue class rings.

For  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , we introduce the function

$$G_d(n) := \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ \gcd(k,n)|d}}^n \gcd(k, n).$$

Obviously,  $G(n) = G_n(n)$  and  $G_1(n) = \varphi(n)$ , where  $\varphi$  is Euler's totient function.

The purpose of this note is to study the function  $G_d$ . In the next section we present some elementary properties of  $G_d$ . Furthermore, we study the corresponding Dirichlet series  $\mathcal{G}_d(s)$ . Some of the results will be applied in a forthcoming paper on the distribution of determinant values in residue class rings and finite fields. As an example we mention that in the residue class ring  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ), for  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ ,

$$H_n(r) = |\{(i, j) \in \mathbb{Z}_n \times \mathbb{Z}_n \mid i \cdot j = r\}|,$$

the number of products equal to  $r$  having precisely two factors in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , is equal to

$$H_n(r) = \begin{cases} G_n(n) = G(n), & \text{if } r = 0; \\ G_d(n) = G_{\gcd(r,n)}(n), & \text{if } r \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

A similar problem as the calculation of the value  $H_n(r)$  in the domain of positive integers is the so-called multiplication table problem posed by Erdős (see [7]): how many integers can be written as a product  $i \cdot j$  for a given positive integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with positive integers  $i \leq n$  and  $j \leq n$ ? Erdős ([7, 8]) gave the first estimates of this quantity. Tenenbaum [13] had made the results of Erdős more precise. Ford ([9, 10]) derived the exact order of magnitude of the  $n \times n$  multiplication table size completely. Koukoulopoulos [11, 12] presents a perfect overview of the actual situation and the further development of Ford-Erdős results.

## 2 Properties of $G_d$

The following lemma gathers some elementary properties of  $G_d(n)$ .

**Lemma 1.**

- (i) For  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $G_m(n) = G_{\gcd(m,n)}(n)$ .  
 In particular, for  $m, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{P}$ , we have  $G_{\gcd(m,p^\alpha)}(p^\alpha) = G_m(p^\alpha)$ ;

(ii) for coprime  $d, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $G_d(n) = \varphi(n)$ ;

(iii) for  $d = d_1 d_2$  with  $\gcd(d_1, n) = 1$ , we have  $G_d(n) = G_{d_2}(n)$ .

*Proof.* (i) Since  $\gcd(k, n) \mid \gcd(m, n) \iff \gcd(k, n) \mid m$  for all  $m, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the first formula follows from the definition. One obtains the second one by substituting  $n = p^\alpha$ .

(ii) If  $\gcd(d, n) = 1$ , using (i) we get

$$G_d(n) = G_1(n) = \varphi(n).$$

(iii) Since  $\gcd(d_1, n) = 1 \Rightarrow \gcd(d_1 d_2, n) = \gcd(d_2, n)$ , it follows that

$$G_d(n) = G_{d_1 d_2}(n) = G_{\gcd(d_1 d_2, n)}(n) = G_{\gcd(d_2, n)}(n) = G_{d_2}(n),$$

where we used (i) twice.

The proof of the lemma is completed. □

Let  $\rho_d$  denote the multiplicative function

$$\rho_d(w) = \begin{cases} w, & \text{if } w \mid d; \\ 0, & \text{if } w \nmid d. \end{cases}$$

Then we have the representation

$$G_d = \rho_d * \varphi, \tag{1}$$

where  $*$  denotes Dirichlet product. Indeed,

$$G_d(n) = \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ \gcd(k, n) \mid d}}^n \gcd(k, n) = \sum_{\substack{w \mid d \\ w \mid n}} w \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) = \sum_{w \mid n} \rho_d(w) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) = (\rho_d * \varphi)(n).$$

Therefore,  $G_d$  is multiplicative as it is the Dirichlet product of multiplicative functions [1, Th. 2.5(c) and Th. 2.14].

**Theorem 2.**  $G_d$  is a multiplicative function, i.e., for coprime  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$G_d(mn) = G_d(m)G_d(n).$$

We also give a direct proof of the preceding theorem.

*Proof.* Let  $d \mid n_1 n_2$  with coprime  $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ . This implies  $d = d_1 d_2$  with  $d_1 \mid n_1$  and  $d_2 \mid n_2$ , so that  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are coprime. One has

$$G_d(n_1 n_2) = G_{d_1 d_2}(n_1 n_2) = \sum_{w \mid d_1 d_2} w \varphi\left(\frac{n_1 n_2}{w}\right) = \sum_{w_1 \mid d_1} \sum_{w_2 \mid d_2} w_1 w_2 \varphi\left(\frac{n_1 n_2}{w_1 w_2}\right).$$

Because  $\varphi$  is multiplicative and  $\gcd\left(\frac{n_1}{w_1}, \frac{n_2}{w_2}\right) = 1$ , one obtains

$$G_d(n_1 n_2) = \sum_{w_1|d_1} w_1 \varphi\left(\frac{n_1}{w_1}\right) \sum_{w_2|d_2} w_2 \varphi\left(\frac{n_2}{w_2}\right) = G_{d_1}(n_1) G_{d_2}(n_2) = G_d(n_1) G_d(n_2).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and for coprime  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$G_{d_1}(n) \cdot G_{d_2}(n) = \varphi(n) \cdot G_{d_1 d_2}(n).$$

In particular,  $G_{d_1 d_2}(n) \mid G_{d_1}(n) G_{d_2}(n)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $d = d_1 d_2$  with  $\gcd(d_1, d_2) = 1$ . By Equation (1) we have

$$G_d(n) = (\rho_d * \varphi)(n) = \sum_{w|n} \rho_{d_1 d_2}(w) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) = \sum_{w_1|n} \sum_{w_2|n} \rho_{d_1}(w_1) \rho_{d_2}(w_2) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_1 w_2}\right).$$

Now, decompose  $n = k n_1 n_2$  in a product of three pairwise coprime factors  $k, n_1, n_2$  such that  $d_i \mid n_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). If  $w_i \mid d_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) we conclude that

$$\varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_1 w_2}\right) = \varphi(k) \varphi\left(\frac{n_1}{w_1}\right) \varphi\left(\frac{n_2}{w_2}\right) = \varphi(k) \frac{\varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_1}\right) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_2}\right)}{\varphi(k n_2) \varphi(k n_1)} = \frac{\varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_1}\right) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_2}\right)}{\varphi(n)}.$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\varphi(n) G_d(n) = \sum_{w_1|n} \rho_{d_1}(w_1) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_1}\right) \sum_{w_2|n} \rho_{d_2}(w_2) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w_2}\right) = G_{d_1}(n) \cdot G_{d_2}(n)$$

which is the desired formula.  $\square$

We close this section with the following nice formula.

**Theorem 4.** For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n G_i(n) = n^2.$$

*Proof.* Analogously to the proof of Theorem 2 one has

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n G_i(n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{w|n} \rho_i(w) \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) = \sum_{w|n} \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i(w) \\ &= \sum_{w|n} \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) w \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq n \\ w|i}} 1 = \sum_{w|n} \varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right) w \frac{n}{w} = n \sum_{w|n} \varphi(w) = n^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we used that  $\sum_{w|n} \varphi(w) = n$ .  $\square$

### 3 Evaluation of $G_d$ at positive integers

In this section we consider the problem how to calculate the values of  $G_d(n)$  for positive integers. We start with the special case of prime powers. In the following  $\delta_{\alpha\beta}$  denotes the

Kronecker symbol defined by  $\delta_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \alpha = \beta; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

**Proposition 5.** *For prime powers  $n = p^\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ ) and  $d = p^\beta$ ,  $\beta \leq \alpha$  ( $\beta \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ), we have*

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha) \left( 1 + \beta + \frac{\delta_{\alpha\beta}}{p-1} \right).$$

*For prime powers  $n = p^\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ ) and  $d = p^\beta$ ,  $\beta > \alpha$  ( $\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ ), we have*

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = G_{p^\alpha}(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha) \left( 1 + \alpha + \frac{1}{p-1} \right).$$

*Proof.* For  $0 < \beta < \alpha$ , we have

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = \sum_{j=0}^{\beta} (p^{\alpha-j} - p^{\alpha-j-1}) p^j = (p^\alpha - p^{\alpha-1})(1 + \beta) = \varphi(p^\alpha)(1 + \beta),$$

and, for  $\beta = \alpha$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) &= G_{p^\alpha}(p^\alpha) = G(p^\alpha) = (\alpha + 1)p^\alpha - \alpha p^{\alpha-1} \\ &= (\alpha + 1)(p^\alpha - p^{\alpha-1}) + p^{\alpha-1} = \varphi(p^\alpha)(1 + \beta) + p^{\alpha-1}. \end{aligned}$$

In the case  $\beta = 0$  application of Lemma 1 (ii) leads to  $G_1(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha)(1 + \beta)$ . Thus, for all  $0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha$ , one has

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha)(1 + \beta) + p^{\alpha-1} \cdot \delta_{\alpha\beta} = \varphi(p^\alpha) \left( 1 + \beta + \frac{p^{\alpha-1} \cdot \delta_{\alpha\beta}}{\varphi(p^\alpha)} \right).$$

Taking into account that  $\varphi(p^\alpha) = p^\alpha - p^{\alpha-1}$  one obtains the first result.

For  $\beta > \alpha$ , we have  $\gcd(k, p^\alpha) \mid p^\beta \iff \gcd(k, p^\alpha) \mid p^\alpha$ . Hence,

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ \gcd(k, p^\alpha) \mid p^\beta}}^{p^\alpha} \gcd(k, p^\alpha) = \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ \gcd(k, p^\alpha) \mid p^\alpha}}^{p^\alpha} \gcd(k, p^\alpha) = G_{p^\alpha}(p^\alpha)$$

and the second result follows by application of the first formula.  $\square$

*Remark 6.* The result of Proposition 5 can be written in one single formula: for  $p \in \mathbb{P}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , we have

$$G_{p^\beta}(p^\alpha) = \varphi(p^\alpha) \left( 1 + \min(\alpha, \beta) + \frac{\delta_{\alpha, \min(\alpha, \beta)}}{p-1} \right).$$

**Theorem 7.** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with prime powers decomposition  $n = p_1^{\lambda_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_t^{\lambda_t}$  and positive integer  $d = c \cdot p_1^{\kappa_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_t^{\kappa_t}$  with  $p_j \nmid c$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, t$ , and  $0 \leq \kappa_j$  we have the representation<sup>1</sup>

$$G_d(n) = \varphi(n) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^t \left( 1 + \min(\kappa_j, \lambda_j) + \delta_{\lambda_j, \min(\kappa_j, \lambda_j)} \frac{1}{p_j - 1} \right).$$

*Proof.* Because  $G_d$  is multiplicative, by Theorem 2, and applying Lemma 1 (iii), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} G_d(n) &= G_d \left( \prod_{j=1}^t p_j^{\lambda_j} \right) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^t G_{c \cdot p_1^{\kappa_1} \dots p_t^{\kappa_t}} \left( p_j^{\lambda_j} \right) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^t G_{p_j^{\kappa_j}} \left( p_j^{\lambda_j} \right) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^t \varphi \left( p_j^{\lambda_j} \right) \left( 1 + \min(\kappa_j, \lambda_j) + \frac{\delta_{\lambda_j, \min(\kappa_j, \lambda_j)}}{p_j - 1} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equation is a consequence of Rem. 6. □

We note that under the notation of Theorem 7 the equation

$$\gcd(d, n) = p_1^{\kappa_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_t^{\kappa_t}$$

defines unique numbers  $\kappa_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, t$ ) with  $0 \leq \kappa_j \leq \lambda_j$ , such that the result can be written in the form

$$G_d(n) = G_{\gcd(d, n)}(n) = \varphi(n) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^t \left( 1 + \kappa_j + \delta_{\lambda_j, \kappa_j} \frac{1}{p_j - 1} \right).$$

## 4 Dirichlet series, averages and asymptotic properties

Some asymptotic formulas of the Broughan's gcd-sum function were derived by Broughan [5] and Bordellès [4]. The average order of the Dirichlet series of the Broughan's gcd-sum function was studied by Broughan [6] and Bordellès [3]. In this section we give some examples of Dirichlet series of arithmetic functions connected with  $G_d(n)$ . We calculate the average functions and derive some asymptotic formulas for these examples.

---

<sup>1</sup> $\kappa_j = 0$  means that  $p_j$  is not present in the decomposition of  $d$ , i.e.,  $p_j \nmid d$ .

The Dirichlet series for an arithmetic function  $f(n)$  is defined (see, e.g., [1, 11.1, p. 224]) by

$$\mathcal{F}(s) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n^s}.$$

The most prominent example is the Riemann  $\zeta$  function  $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$ . It is clear, that  $\zeta(s)$  is the Dirichlet series associated to  $f(n) = 1$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

For any prime number  $p$ , the Bell series [1, Sect. 2.15, p. 42ff] of an arithmetic function  $f$  is the formal power series

$$f_p(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(p^n)x^n.$$

If  $f$  is multiplicative the corresponding Dirichlet series is given by

$$\mathcal{F}(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f(n)n^{-s} = \prod_p f_p(p^{-s})$$

provided that the Dirichlet series converges absolutely for  $\operatorname{Re} s > a$  (see, e.g., [1, Th. 11.7, p. 231]).

The number  $e \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  is called the  $m$ -adic order of  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  ( $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ), if  $m^e \mid n$  and  $m^{e+1} \nmid n$ . It is denoted by  $e = \nu_m(n)$ .

## 4.1 The arithmetic function $G_d$

### 4.1.1 Dirichlet series

Since  $G_d = \rho_d * \varphi$  (see (1)) and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_d(s) &:= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\rho_d(n)}{n^s} = \sum_{n|d} \frac{1}{n^{s-1}}; \\ \Phi(s) &:= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi(n)}{n^s} = \frac{\zeta(s-1)}{\zeta(s)} = \prod_p \frac{1-p^{-s}}{1-p^{1-s}}, \end{aligned}$$

([1, Ex. 4, p. 229 and p. 231]), we have according to [1, Th. 11.5]: for  $\operatorname{Re} s > 2$ ,

$$\mathcal{G}_d(s) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{G_d(n)}{n^s} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\rho_d(n) * \varphi(n)}{n^s} = \mathcal{P}_d(s)\Phi(s),$$

so

$$\mathcal{G}_d(s) = \frac{\zeta(s-1)}{\zeta(s)} \cdot \sum_{n|d} \frac{1}{n^{s-1}} = \prod_p \frac{1-p^{-s}}{1-p^{1-s}} \cdot \sum_{n|d} \frac{1}{n^{s-1}}.$$

If  $d = 1$  one obviously has  $\mathcal{G}_1(s) = \frac{\zeta(s-1)}{\zeta(s)}$  (cf. [1, Ex. 3, p. 231]). For  $d \in \mathbb{P}$ , one has

$$\mathcal{G}_d(s) = \frac{\zeta(s-1)}{\zeta(s)} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{d^{s-1}} \right).$$

#### 4.1.2 Average functions

We study the asymptotic behaviour of the average function

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[\alpha]}(x) := \sum_{n \leq x} n^{-\alpha} G_d(n)$$

as  $n$  tends to infinity. Taking advantage of the representation  $G_d = \rho_d * \varphi$  we obtain

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[\alpha]}(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \sum_{w|n} \frac{\rho_d(w)}{w^\alpha} \frac{\varphi\left(\frac{n}{w}\right)}{\left(\frac{n}{w}\right)^\alpha}.$$

By application of [1, Th. 3.10, p. 65], we conclude that

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[\alpha]}(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} n^{-\alpha} \rho_d(n) \Phi^{[\alpha]} \left( \frac{x}{n} \right) = \sum_{w|d} w^{-(\alpha-1)} \Phi^{[\alpha]} \left( \frac{x}{w} \right),$$

where  $\Phi^{[\alpha]}$  denotes the average

$$\Phi^{[\alpha]}(x) := \sum_{n \leq x} n^{-\alpha} \varphi(n)$$

of Euler's totient function  $\varphi$ . We distinguish 3 cases. Because, for  $\alpha \leq 1$ ,

$$\Phi^{[\alpha]}(x) \sim \frac{x^{2-\alpha}}{2-\alpha} \zeta^{-1}(2) + O(x^{1-\alpha} \log x) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty),$$

([1, Ex. 8, p. 71]), we have

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[\alpha]}(x) \sim \frac{x^{2-\alpha}}{2-\alpha} \zeta^{-1}(2) \sum_{w|d} \frac{1}{w} + O(x^{1-\alpha} \log x) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty).$$

Because, for  $\alpha > 1, \alpha \neq 2$ ,

$$\Phi^{[\alpha]}(x) \sim \frac{x^{2-\alpha}}{2-\alpha} \zeta^{-1}(2) + \frac{\zeta(\alpha-1)}{\zeta(\alpha)} + O(x^{1-\alpha} \log x) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty),$$

([1, Ex. 7, p. 71]), we have

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[\alpha]}(x) \sim \frac{x^{2-\alpha}}{2-\alpha} \zeta^{-1}(2) \sum_{w|d} \frac{1}{w} + \frac{\zeta(\alpha-1)}{\zeta(\alpha)} \sum_{w|d} w^{-(\alpha-1)} + O(x^{1-\alpha} \log x) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty).$$



Finally, for  $\alpha = 2$ , we have

$$\Phi^{[2]}(x) \sim \frac{\log x}{\zeta(2)} + \frac{\gamma}{\zeta(2)} - A + O\left(\frac{\log x}{x}\right) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty),$$

where  $\gamma$  is Euler's constant and  $A = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu(n) n^{-2} \log n$  ([1, Ex. 6, p. 71]), and we conclude that

$$\mathcal{G}_d^{[2]}(x) \sim \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} \sum_{w|d} \frac{\log(x/w)}{w} + \left(\frac{\gamma}{\zeta(2)} - A\right) \sum_{w|d} w^{-1} + O\left(\frac{\log x}{x}\right) \quad (x \rightarrow \infty).$$

## 4.2 The arithmetic function $G_{n/\gcd(r,n)}(n)$

Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. Consider the arithmetic function

$$b^{(r)}(n) := G_{n/\gcd(r,n)}(n).$$

which is easily seen to be multiplicative. Let  $p$  be a prime number and put  $\beta = \nu_p(r)$ . According to Prop. 5 one has

$$b^{(r)}(p^n) = G_{p^n/\gcd(r,p^n)}(p^n) = G_{p^{n-\beta}}(p^n) = \varphi(p^n) \left(1 + n - \beta + \frac{\delta_{n,n-\beta}}{p-1}\right).$$

So, if  $\beta = 0$  one has  $\delta_{n,n-\beta} = 1$  and

$$b^{(r)}(p^n) = \varphi(p^n) \left(1 + n + \frac{1}{p-1}\right) = (n+1)p^n - np^{n-1}.$$

Therefore, for  $\beta = 0$ , the Bell series is given by

$$b_p^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^{(r)}(p^n) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ((n+1)p^n - np^{n-1}) x^n = \frac{1-x}{(1-px)^2}.$$

If  $\beta > 0$  one has  $\delta_{n,n-\beta} = 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} b_p^{(r)}(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^{(r)}(p^n) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi(p^n) (1 + n - \beta) x^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p^n - p^{n-1}) (1 + n - \beta) x^n = \frac{(p-1)(px\beta - \beta + 1)}{p(px-1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the Dirichlet series is given by

$$\mathcal{B}^{(r)}(s) := \frac{\zeta^2(s-1)}{\zeta(s)} \prod_{p|r} \frac{(p-1)(1 - (1-p^{1-s})\beta(p))}{p - p^{1-s}} \quad (\operatorname{Re} s > 2),$$

where  $\beta(p) = \nu_p(r)$ .

### 4.3 The arithmetic function $G_n(\gcd(r, n)n)$

Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. Consider the arithmetic function

$$a^{(r)}(n) := G_n(\gcd(r, n) \cdot n)$$

which is easily seen to be multiplicative. Let  $p$  be a prime number and put  $\beta = \nu_p(r)$ . According to Remark 6 one has

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(r)}(p^n) &= G_{p^n}(\gcd(r, p^n)p^n) = G_{p^n}(p^{n+\min(\beta, n)}) \\ &= \varphi(p^{n+\min(\beta, n)}) \left(1 + n + \delta_{0, \min(\beta, n)} \frac{1}{p-1}\right). \end{aligned}$$

If  $\beta = 0$ , one has  $\delta_{0, \min(\beta, n)} = 1$  and

$$a^{(r)}(p^n) = \varphi(p^n) \left(1 + n + \frac{1}{p-1}\right) = (n+1)p^n - np^{n-1}.$$

Therefore, for  $\beta = 0$ , the Bell series is given by

$$a_p^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^{(r)}(p^n) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ((n+1)p^n - np^{n-1}) x^n = \frac{1-x}{(1-px)^2}.$$

If  $\beta > 0$  one has  $\delta_{0, \min(\beta, n)} = 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} a_p^{(r)}(x) &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1+n) \varphi(p^{n+\min(\beta, n)}) x^n \\ &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\beta} (1+n) \varphi(p^{2n}) x^n + \sum_{n=\beta+1}^{\infty} (1+n) \varphi(p^{n+\beta}) x^n \\ &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\beta} (1+n)(p^{2n} - p^{2n-1}) x^n + \sum_{n=\beta+1}^{\infty} (1+n)(p^{n+\beta} - p^{n+\beta-1}) x^n \\ &= 1 + \frac{p-1}{p} \sum_{n=1}^{\beta} (n+1)(p^2 x)^n + p^{\beta-1}(p-1) \sum_{n=\beta+1}^{\infty} (n+1)(px)^n \\ &= 1 + \frac{(p-1)px((\beta+1)(p^2 x)^{\beta+1} - (\beta+2)(p^2 x)^{\beta} - p^2 x + 2)}{(p^2 x - 1)^2} \\ &\quad - \frac{(p-1)p^{2\beta} x^{\beta+1}((\beta+1)px - (\beta+2))}{(px - 1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the Dirichlet series is given by

$$\mathcal{A}^{(r)}(s) := \frac{\zeta^2(s-1)}{\zeta(s)} \prod_{p|r} \left( \frac{(1-p^{1-s})^2}{1-p^{-s}} a_p^{(r)}(p^{-s}) \right) \quad (\operatorname{Re} s > 2).$$

where

$$a_p^{(r)}(p^{-s}) = 1 - \frac{(p-1)p^{2\beta}p^{-s(\beta+1)}((\beta+1)p^{1-s} - (\beta+2))}{(1-p^{1-s})^2} + \frac{(p-1)p^{1-s}((\beta+1)p^{(2-s)(\beta+1)} - (\beta+2)p^{(2-s)\beta} - p^2x + 2)}{(p^2x - 1)^2}$$

and  $\beta = \beta(p) = \nu_p(r)$ .

## 5 Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to the referee for valuable remarks, in particular for pointing out the similarity of our function  $H_n(r)$  to the famous Erdős multiplication table problem.

## References

- [1] T. M. Apostol, *Introduction to Analytic Number Theory*, Springer, 1976.
- [2] W. Awan, Werteverteilung der Determinanten von Matrizen über Restklassenringen und endlichen Körpern, Bachelor thesis, Friedberg, Germany, 2012.
- [3] O. Bordellès, A note on the average order of the gcd-sum function, *J. Integer Seq.* **10** (2007), [Article 07.3.3](#).
- [4] O. Bordellès, An asymptotic formula for short sums of gcd-sum functions, *J. Integer Seq.* **15** (2012), [Article 12.6.8](#).
- [5] K. A. Broughan, The gcd-sum function, *J. Integer Seq.* **4** (2001), [Article 01.2.2](#).
- [6] K. A. Broughan, The average order of the Dirichlet series of the gcd-sum function, *J. Integer Seq.* **10** (2007), [Article 07.4.2](#).
- [7] P. Erdős, Some remarks on number theory, *Riveon Lematematika* **9** (1955), 45–48.
- [8] P. Erdős, An asymptotic inequality in the theory of numbers, *Vestnik Leningrad Univ.* **15** (1960), 41–49.
- [9] K. Ford, Integers with a divisor in  $(y, 2y]$  in J.-M. Koninck, A. Granville, F. Luca, eds., *Anatomy of Integers*, CRM Proc. and Lect. Notes 46, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 2008, pp. 65–81.
- [10] K. Ford, The distribution of integers with a divisor in a given interval, *Annals of Math.* **168** (2008), 367–433.

- [11] D. Koukoulopoulos, Generalized and restricted multiplication tables of integers, Ph.D. thesis, Univ. Illinois, 2010,  
<http://dms.umontreal.ca/~koukoulo/documents/publications/phdthesis.pdf>.
- [12] D. Koukoulopoulos, On the number of integers in a generalized multiplication table, preprint, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1102.3236v3>.
- [13] G. Tenenbaum, Sur la probabilité qu'un entier possède un diviseur dans un intervalle donné, *Compositio Math.* **51** (1984), 243–263.

---

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: Primary 11A05; Secondary 11A25, 11F66, 11N37, 11N56.

*Keywords*: multiplicative structure, arithmetic function, one-variable Dirichlet series, asymptotic results on arithmetic functions.

---

Received February 6 2013; revised version received June 29 2013. Published in *Journal of Integer Sequences*, July 29 2013.

---

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