

**SHORT EFFECTIVE INTERVALS CONTAINING  
 PRIMES IN ARITHMETIC PROGRESSIONS  
 AND THE SEVEN CUBES PROBLEM**

H. KADIRI

ABSTRACT. For any  $\epsilon > 0$  and any non-exceptional modulus  $q \geq 3$ , we prove that, for  $x$  large enough ( $x \geq \alpha_\epsilon \log^2 q$ ), the interval  $[e^x, e^{x+\epsilon}]$  contains a prime  $p$  in any of the arithmetic progressions modulo  $q$ . We apply this result to establish that every integer  $n$  larger than  $\exp(71\,000)$  is a sum of seven cubes.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $q \geq 3$  be a non-exceptional modulus,  $a$  a positive integer,  $x > 0$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  some real numbers. One way to establish that the interval  $[e^x, e^{x+\epsilon}]$  contains a prime  $p \equiv a \pmod{q}$  would be to determine a condition on  $x$  such that

$$(1.1) \quad \theta(e^{x+\epsilon}; q, a) - \theta(e^x; q, a) = \sum_{\substack{e^x < p \leq e^{x+\epsilon} \\ p \equiv a [q]}} \log p$$

is positive. It will be convenient to work with Von Mangoldt's function

$$\Lambda(n) = \begin{cases} \log p & \text{if } n = p^k, p \text{ prime,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Showing that (1.1) is positive follows from showing that

$$\psi(e^{x+\epsilon}; q, a) - \psi(e^x; q, a) = \sum_{\substack{e^x < n \leq e^{x+\epsilon} \\ n \equiv a [q]}} \Lambda(n)$$

is larger than a positive constant times the error term between  $\psi$  and  $\theta$ . In [8], following Rosser's method for  $\psi(x)$  in [12], McCurley approximated  $\psi(e^x; q, a)$  via successive integral averaging. In fact, their methods amount to weighting the primes with a smooth function. Our approach will be to introduce directly a smooth positive weight into the difference  $\psi(e^{x+\epsilon}; q, a) - \psi(e^x; q, a)$ :

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{\substack{e^x < n \leq e^{x+\epsilon} \\ n \equiv a [q]}} \frac{\Lambda(n)}{n} f(\log n).$$

---

Received by the editor August 29, 2006 and, in revised form, July 7, 2007.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 11M26.

*Key words and phrases*. Analytic number theory, Dirichlet  $L$ -functions, primes, sums of cubes.

©2008 American Mathematical Society  
 Reverts to public domain 28 years from publication

We choose the function  $f$  so that it has compact support contained in  $[x, x + \epsilon]$  and so that the peak of the function is near the prime we want to locate. We have an explicit formula for the sum (1.2):

$$(1.3) \quad (1 + o(1)) \frac{F(0)}{\phi(q)} - \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \bar{\chi}(a) \sum_{\varrho \in Z(\chi)} F(1 - \varrho),$$

where  $F$  is the Laplace transform of  $f$ , and  $Z(\chi)$  is the set of non-trivial zeros of  $L(s, \chi)$ . Note that this formula generalizes the classical formula for  $\psi$  (see pp.121–122 of [1]):

$$\psi(x; q, a) = \frac{x}{\phi(q)} - \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \bar{\chi}(a) \sum_{|\gamma| < T} \frac{x^\varrho}{\varrho} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{x \log^2(qx)}{\phi(q)T} + \frac{x e^{-c_1 \sqrt{\log x}}}{\phi(q)} \right).$$

The second argument relies on finding the largest real part for the zeros of the  $L$ -functions modulo  $q$ , in particular in the case of the low lying zeros. The key result is due to Liu and Wang [6]. It asserts that the zeros  $\varrho = \beta + i\gamma$  with  $|\gamma| \leq H$ , except for at most four of them, satisfy:

$$\beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log(qH)}, \quad \text{where } R_1 = 3.82.$$

For the zeros of larger imaginary part, we use the latest effective result on the classical zero-free region (see [4]):

$$\beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R \log(q|\gamma|)}, \quad \text{where } R = 6.50.$$

We shall study the expression in (1.3) with  $x = \alpha \log^2 q$ . We deduce a lower bound for non-exceptional moduli  $q$ :

$$\sum_{\substack{e^x < n \leq e^{x+\epsilon} \\ n \equiv a [q]}} \frac{\Lambda(n)}{n} \frac{f(\log n)}{\|f\|_1} \geq \frac{1}{q} - (1 + o(1)) \frac{(\log H) \log(q^2 H)}{2\pi\epsilon} q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}},$$

where  $H$  depends essentially on  $\epsilon$ , i.e.  $H \asymp_q \epsilon^{-1}$ . From this we shall deduce that the sum on the primes is positive when:

$$\alpha \geq R_1 \frac{\log(qH)}{\log^2 q} \log \left( \frac{q(\log H) \log(q^2 H)}{2\pi\epsilon} \right) (1 + o(1)),$$

which gives values for  $\alpha$  approaching  $R_1$  as  $\epsilon$  decreases. Our main result is the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $q \geq 3$  be a non-exceptional modulus and let  $(a, q) = 1$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $\alpha > 0$  such that, if  $x \geq \alpha \log^2 q$ , then the interval  $[e^x, e^{x+\epsilon}]$  contains a prime  $p \equiv a \pmod{q}$ . Table 1 gives the values of  $\alpha$  for various choices of  $\epsilon$  and  $q \geq q_0$ .*

In section 4, we describe the general algorithm to compute  $\alpha$  as a function of  $q$  and  $\epsilon$ . In comparison, for  $q \geq 10^{30}$  and  $\epsilon = \ln 3$ , McCurley’s bounds on  $\psi(x; q, a)$  would give  $\alpha = 10.690$  (see Theorem 1.2 of [7]). With our new smoothing function, this result may first be improved to  $\alpha = 10.562$ , and with the new zero-free region ( $R = 6.50$  instead of  $R = 9.65$ ) to  $\alpha = 7.281$ . Using the region with a finite number of zeros ( $R_1 = 3.82$ ), we finally obtain  $\alpha = 4.401$ .

TABLE 1

$q_0 \backslash \epsilon$	0.0001	0.001	0.01	0.1	1	10
$5 \cdot 10^4$	19.228	15.550	12.245	9.4357	6.9684	4.8430
$10^{10}$	9.8356	8.5912	7.4255	6.3398	5.3418	4.4761
$10^{15}$	7.6121	6.8799	6.1816	5.5174	4.8905	4.3256
$10^{20}$	6.5919	6.0799	5.5864	5.1114	4.6565	4.2373
$10^{25}$	6.0079	5.6164	5.2364	4.8678	4.5116	4.1783
$10^{30}$	5.6298	5.3137	5.0053	4.7047	4.4123	4.1357
$10^{35}$	5.3649	5.0102	4.8411	4.5875	4.3396	4.1032
$10^{40}$	5.1688	4.9414	4.7181	4.4989	4.2839	4.0776
$10^{45}$	5.0178	4.8185	4.6225	4.4295	4.2398	4.0567
$10^{50}$	4.8979	4.7205	4.5459	4.3737	4.2039	4.0394
$10^{55}$	4.8003	4.6407	4.4832	4.3276	4.1740	4.0247
$10^{60}$	4.7192	4.5742	4.4308	4.2890	4.1488	4.0121
$10^{65}$	4.6509	4.5179	4.3864	4.2562	4.1272	4.0011
$10^{70}$	4.5924	4.4697	4.3482	4.2278	4.1084	3.9915
$10^{75}$	4.5418	4.4280	4.3151	4.2031	4.0920	3.9829
$10^{80}$	4.4976	4.3914	4.2860	4.1814	4.0774	3.9753
$10^{85}$	4.4587	4.3591	4.2603	4.1621	4.0645	3.9684
$10^{90}$	4.4240	4.3304	4.2373	4.1448	4.0528	3.9622
$10^{95}$	4.3931	4.3046	4.2168	4.1293	4.0423	3.9565
$10^{100}$	4.3652	4.2815	4.1982	4.1153	4.0328	3.9513

Note that an explicit bound for the size of the least prime  $p \equiv a \pmod{q}$ , namely  $P(a, q)$ , follows immediately:

$$(1.4) \quad P(a, q) \leq e^{\alpha \log^2 q}.$$

In [14], Wagstaff computes the size of  $P(a, q)$  for all possible arithmetic progressions up to modulus  $5 \cdot 10^4$ . For this reason, the data presented in Table 1 begins with moduli  $q_0$  greater than  $5 \cdot 10^4$ . There exists a stronger result than (1.4), and we refer the reader to the work of Heath-Brown on the subject. In [2], he proved:

$$P(a, q) \ll q^{5.5}.$$

Unfortunately, this is only valid for asymptotically large  $q$ . Moreover, if the proof is made effective, it is likely that this result would be weaker than (1.4) in the range we are considering. Also it can be applied to solve some effective problems. We give an example in the second part of the article for which we will apply Theorem 1.1 for  $q \geq 10^{32}$ .

It concerns Waring's problem for sums of seven cubes. Landau proved in 1909 that every sufficiently large integer may be represented as a sum of eight non-negative cubes. His proof used results on the representation of integers as a sum of three squares. In 1943, Linnik used a theorem on the representation of integers by ternary quadratic forms and proved in [5] that it was also true with seven cubes. In 1939, Dickson completed Landau's statement by showing that all integers, except 23 and 239, are a sum of 8 cubes. It is widely expected that every integer  $\geq 455$  is a sum of seven cubes.

In 1951, Watson simplified Linnik's proof in [15] by using a lemma establishing some conditions on  $n$  to be represented as a sum of seven cubes. This lemma has recently been improved by Ramaré in [11]. The main condition consists of finding

prime integers in an arithmetic progression as small as possible. For example, McCurley found  $n \geq \exp(1\,077\,334)$  in [8] and Ramaré  $n \geq \exp(205\,000)$  in [11]. These authors use Chebyshev's estimates for  $\theta(x; q, a)$  that McCurley previously established in [7]. We replace this argument with our result concerning small intervals containing a prime mod  $q$ . Since this assertion is only proven for non-exceptional moduli, we give an explicit description of the scarcity of exceptional moduli. We prove the following in section 5:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Every integer  $n$  larger than  $N_0 = \exp(71\,000)$  is a sum of seven cubes.*

## 2. PRELIMINARY LEMMAS

**2.1. Zeros of the Dirichlet  $L$ -functions.** The proof depends essentially on the distribution of the zeros of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions. The first theorem states an explicit zero free region for all moduli  $q$ , even for those of not too large a size.

**Theorem 2.1** (Theorem 1.1 of [4]). *Let  $q$  be an integer,  $q \geq 3$ , and let  $\mathcal{L}_q(s)$  be the product of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions modulo  $q$ . Then  $\mathcal{L}_q(s)$  has at most one zero in the region*

$$\sigma \geq 1 - \frac{1}{R \log(q \max(1, |t|))}, \text{ where } R = 6.50.$$

*Such a zero, if it exists, is real, simple and corresponds to a real non-principal character modulo  $q$ . We shall refer to it as an exceptional zero and  $q$  as an exceptional modulus.*

The next theorem illustrates the fact that the zeros do not cluster near the one-line. In fact, there are few of them:

**Theorem 2.2** (Theorem 1 of [6]). *Suppose  $q$  is an integer satisfying  $1 \leq q \leq x$ , and  $x$  is a real number,  $x \geq 8 \cdot 10^9$ . Then the function  $\mathcal{L}_q(s)$  has at most four zeros in the region*

$$|\Im s| \leq x/q, \quad \sigma \geq 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log x}, \text{ where } R_1 = 3.82.$$

We will apply this theorem for the case  $x = q$  and  $x = qH$ . We describe explicitly the following phenomenon: the exceptional zero tends to repel the zeros of close conductor.

**Theorem 2.3** (Theorem 1.3 of [4]). *If  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  are two distinct real primitive characters modulo  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  respectively and if  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are real zeros of  $L(s, \chi_1)$  and  $L(s, \chi_2)$  respectively, then:*

$$\min(\beta_1, \beta_2) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R_2 \log(q_1 q_2)}, \text{ where } R_2 = 2.05.$$

When  $q_1 < q_2$ , then both  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  cannot be exceptional, unless  $q_2 \geq q_1^{2.12}$ . The next theorems gives explicit density for the zeros associated to each character  $\chi$  modulo  $q$  (see p. 267 of [7]).

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $T \geq 1$ . We denote by  $N(T, \chi)$  the number of zeros of the Dirichlet  $L$ -function  $L(s, \chi)$  in the rectangle  $\{s \in \mathbb{C} : 0 \leq \Re s \leq 1, |\Im s| \leq T\}$ . Then  $N(T, \chi) = P(T) + r(T)$ , with*

$$P(T) := \frac{T}{\pi} \log \frac{qT}{2\pi e}, \quad |r(T)| \leq R(T) := a_1 \log(qT) + a_2, \quad a_1 = 0.92, \quad a_2 = 5.37.$$

The next lemma establishes a bound for

$$\mathcal{S}(H, \chi) := \sum_{\substack{1 < |\gamma| < H \\ L(\beta+i\gamma, \chi)=0}} \frac{1}{|\gamma|}.$$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $q$  be the conductor of  $\chi$  and  $H \geq 1$ . Then  $\mathcal{S}(H, \chi) \leq \tilde{E}(H)$ , where*

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{E}(H) := & \frac{1}{\pi}(\log q)(\log H) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \log^2 H + \left(\frac{1}{\pi} + a_1\right) \log q - \frac{\log(2\pi)}{\pi} \log H \\ & - \frac{1}{\pi} \log(2\pi e) + a_2 + a_1 - \frac{a_1}{H}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We have:

$$\mathcal{S}(H, \chi) = \frac{N(H, \chi)}{H} - N(1, \chi) + \int_1^H \frac{N(t, \chi)}{t^2} dt.$$

We use Lemma 2.4 to bound  $N(t, \chi)$  in the integral and we integrate by parts to obtain:

$$\mathcal{S}(H, \chi) \leq P(1) + R(1) + \int_1^H \frac{P'(t) + R'(t)}{t} dt.$$

We conclude by computing the last integral:

$$\int_1^H \frac{P'(t) + R'(t)}{t} dt = \frac{1}{\pi}(\log q)(\log H) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \log^2 H - \frac{\log(2\pi)}{\pi} \log H + a_1 - \frac{a_1}{H}.$$

□

**2.2. Bounds for  $\Gamma'/\Gamma(s)$ .**

**Lemma 2.6.** *If  $T \geq 0$ , then*

$$\left| \Re \frac{\Gamma'}{\Gamma} \left( \frac{2 - \chi(-1)}{4} + i \frac{T}{2} \right) \right| \leq U(T) := \log(6(T + 12)).$$

*Proof.* See [4].

□

**2.3. Properties of the weight function.** Let  $m$  be a positive integer,  $L$  and  $\epsilon$  some positive constants. Our choice for  $f$  is inspired by the function Ramaré and Saouter used on p. 17 of [10]. They call  $f$   $m$ -admissible when it satisfies:

- $f$  is an  $m$ -times differentiable function,
- $f^{(k)}(0) = f^{(k)}(1) = 0$  if  $0 \leq k \leq m - 1$ ,
- $f \geq 0$ ,
- $f$  is non-identically zero.

The specific function we use is

$$(2.1) \quad f(t) = (t - L)^m (L + \epsilon - t)^m, \text{ if } L \leq t \leq L + \epsilon,$$

and  $f(t) = 0$  otherwise. Furthermore, we notice that  $f$  and its derivative are symmetric with respect to  $L + \epsilon/2$ .

**Lemma 2.7.**

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{\|f^{(m)}\|_2}{\|f\|_1} = \frac{\mu_m}{\epsilon^{m+1/2}}, \text{ with } \mu_m = \frac{(2m + 1)!}{m! \sqrt{2m + 1}}.$$

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{\|f\|_\infty}{\|f\|_1} = \frac{\nu_m}{\epsilon}, \text{ with } \nu_m = \frac{(2m + 1)!}{4^m (m!)^2}.$$

*Proof.* This is an exercise, or else, see p. 17 of [10] for the derivation. □

Let  $F$  be the Laplace transform of the function  $f$  as defined in (2.1):

$$F(s) = \int_L^{L+\epsilon} f(t)e^{-st} dt.$$

**Lemma 2.8.** *If  $\sigma \geq 0$ , then*

$$(2.4) \quad F(\sigma) \geq e^{-\sigma(L+\epsilon)} \|f\|_1,$$

$$(2.5) \quad |F(s)| \leq e^{-\sigma L} \|f\|_1,$$

$$(2.6) \quad |F(s)| \leq \frac{e^{-\sigma L}}{|s|} \frac{2(2m+1)}{\epsilon m} \|f\|_1,$$

$$(2.7) \quad |F(s)| \leq \sqrt{\epsilon} e^{-\sigma L} \frac{\|f^{(m)}\|_2}{|s|^m}.$$

*Proof.* The proof makes use of the symmetry of  $f$  and  $f^{(m)}$  and, in the last case, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality. □

**2.4. An explicit formula.** Let  $q$  be an integer,  $q \geq 3$ . For each character  $\chi$  modulo  $q$ , we denote by  $\chi_1$  the primitive character associated with  $\chi$ .

**Lemma 2.9.** *Let  $f$  be the function given by (2.1). Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\Lambda(n)\chi_1(n)}{n} f(\log n) = & F(0) + c(a, q)F(1) \\ & - \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \sum_{\varrho \in Z(\chi_1)} F(1 - \varrho) + I(a, q), \end{aligned}$$

where  $c(a, q) \geq \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $Z(\chi_1)$  is the set of non-trivial zeros of  $L(s, \chi_1)$  and

$$I(a, q) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \Re \frac{\Gamma'}{\Gamma} \left( \frac{2 - \chi_1(-1)}{4} + i \frac{T}{2} \right) F(1/2 - iT) dT.$$

*Proof.* This is a special case of the explicit formula of Theorem 3.1, p. 314 of [3], applied to the smooth function  $\phi(x) = f(x)e^{-x}$  if  $x \geq 0$  and  $\phi(x) = 0$  otherwise. The constant  $c(a, q)$  is given by

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \chi_1(-1) + \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

(see p. 414 of [9] for the details). □

### 3. MAIN LEMMA

We place our study in the case of modulus  $q$  not studied by Wagstaff, that is to say, for those  $q$  larger than  $5 \cdot 10^4$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $H \geq 1$  and  $\alpha$  be positive reals such that

$$(3.1) \quad \alpha < R \left( \frac{\log(qH)}{\log q} \right)^2.$$

We define  $L$  as a parameter depending only on  $q$ :

$$L := \alpha \log^2 q.$$

Throughout the paper,  $\rho = \beta + i\gamma$  always stands for a non-trivial zero of a Dirichlet  $L$ -function. We prove in this section that

**Lemma 3.1.** *If  $m \geq 3$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$  and if  $\alpha$  satisfies the condition (3.1), then the sum*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{over the primes } \Sigma(a, q) &:= \sum_{p \equiv a \pmod q} \frac{\log p}{p} f(\log p) \text{ satisfies} \\ \frac{\Sigma(a, q)}{\|f\|_1} &\geq \frac{1}{q} - r(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q), \end{aligned}$$

where  $r := \sum_{i=1}^5 r_i$  and the  $r_i$ 's are given by (3.4), (3.7), (3.9), (3.16) and (3.18).

Note that  $\Sigma(a, q)$  is actually close to the sum appearing in Lemma 2.9:

$$\Sigma = \Sigma_{11} + \Sigma_{12} - \Sigma_2$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{11}(a, q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \pmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\Lambda(n)\chi_1(n)}{n} f(\log n), \\ \Sigma_{12}(a, q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \pmod q} \overline{\chi(a)} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\Lambda(n)(\chi(n) - \chi_1(n))}{n} f(\log n), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\chi_1$  is the primitive character associated to  $\chi$ , and

$$\Sigma_2(a, q) := \sum_{\substack{k \geq 2 \\ p^k \equiv a \pmod q}} \frac{\log p}{p^k} f(k \log p).$$

We will prove in sections 3.5 and 3.6 that the last two sums are small in comparison to  $\Sigma_{11}$ . We use Lemma 2.9 to bound  $\Sigma_{11}$ :

$$\Sigma(a, q) \geq A_1(q) - A_2^-(q) - A_2^+(q) - A_3(q) - |\Sigma_{12}(a, q)| - |\Sigma_2(a, q)|,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} A_1(q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} (F(0) + c(a, q)F(1)), \\ A_2^-(q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \pmod q} \sum'_{\substack{\varrho \in Z(\chi) \\ |\gamma| \leq H}} |F(1 - \varrho) + F(\overline{\varrho})|, \\ A_2^+(q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \pmod q} \sum'_{\substack{\varrho \in Z(\chi) \\ |\gamma| > H}} |F(1 - \varrho) + F(\overline{\varrho})|, \\ A_3(q) &:= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} |I(a, q)|, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\sum'_{\beta} = \sum_{1/2 < \beta < 1} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\beta=1/2}$$

(we use the symmetry property of the zeros). We extend the sum over the zeros of  $L(s, \chi_1)$  to the zeros of  $L(s, \chi)$  to simplify our argument.

The sections 3.1 to 3.4 study these  $A_i$ 's.

3.1. **Study of  $A_1$ .** It is immediate that

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{A_1(q)}{\|f\|_1} \geq \frac{1}{q}.$$

3.2. **Study of  $A_2^-$ .** Since we are in the case where  $q$  is non-exceptional, we do not worry about the existence of a Siegel zero. Thanks to Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 we can split the sum  $A_2^-$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} A_2^-(q) &= \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{k=1}^8 |F(1 - \varrho_k) + F(\bar{\varrho}_k)| + \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \sum'_{\substack{|\gamma| \leq 1 \\ \beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log q}}} |F(1 - \varrho) + F(\bar{\varrho})| \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \sum'_{\substack{1 < |\gamma| \leq H \\ \beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log(qH)}}} |F(1 - \varrho) + F(\bar{\varrho})|, \end{aligned}$$

where the zeros  $\varrho_k = \beta_k + i\gamma_k$  satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} |\gamma_k| \leq 1 \text{ and } 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log q} \leq \beta_k \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R \log q}, \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, 4, \\ |\gamma_k| \leq H \text{ and } 1 - \frac{1}{R_1 \log(qH)} \leq \beta_k \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R \log(qH)}, \text{ for } k = 5, 6, 7, 8. \end{aligned}$$

We use the inequalities (2.5) and (2.6) for the first and second lines respectively:

$$|F(1 - \varrho) + F(\bar{\varrho})| \leq \left( e^{-\beta L} + e^{-(1-\beta)L} \right) \|f\|_1$$

and

$$|F(1 - \varrho) + F(\bar{\varrho})| \leq \frac{1}{|\gamma|} \left( e^{-\beta L} + e^{-(1-\beta)L} \right) \frac{2(2m+1)}{\epsilon m} \|f\|_1.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} A_2^-(q) &\leq \frac{4}{\phi(q)} b_2(\alpha, R, q) \left( q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R}} + q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \right) \|f\|_1 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1}} \|f\|_1 \max_{\chi \bmod q} N(1, \chi) \\ &\quad + b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) \frac{2m+1}{\epsilon m} \|f\|_1 q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \max_{\chi \bmod q} \left( \sum'_{1 < |\gamma| \leq H} \frac{1}{|\gamma|} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $b_2(\alpha, r, q) := 1 + q^{-\alpha \log q + \frac{2\alpha}{r}}$ . We conclude by bounding the sum over the zeros as in Lemma 2.5,  $N(1, \chi)$  as in Lemma 2.4 and  $\phi(q)$  as on page 72 of [13]:

$$\frac{q}{\phi(q)} < e^C \log \log q + \frac{2.51}{\log \log q} \text{ for } q \geq 3,$$

where  $C$  stands for the Euler constant. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{A_2^-(q)}{\|f\|_1} &\leq 4b_2(\alpha, R, q) \left( q^{-1-\frac{\alpha}{R}} + q^{-1-\frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \right) \left( e^C \log \log q + \frac{2.51}{\log \log q} \right) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{1 + a_1\pi}{2\pi} \log q - \frac{\log(2\pi e) + a_2\pi}{2\pi} \right) b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1}} \\ &\quad + \frac{(2m+1)\tilde{E}(H)}{2\epsilon m} b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}}. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.3) \quad & \frac{A_2^-(q)}{\|f\|_1} \leq r_1(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q), \\
 (3.4) \quad & r_1(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q) := b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) \frac{(2m+1)}{2\epsilon m} \left( \frac{(\log H)(\log(q^2 H))}{2\pi} \right. \\
 & + \left. \left( \frac{1}{\pi} + a_1 \right) \log q - \frac{\log(2\pi)}{\pi} \log H - \frac{\log(2\pi e)}{\pi} + a_2 + a_1 - \frac{a_1}{H} \right) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \\
 & + b_2(\alpha, R_1, q) \left( \frac{1 + a_1\pi}{2\pi} \log q - \frac{\log(2\pi e) + a_2\pi}{2\pi} \right) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1}} \\
 & + 4b_2(\alpha, R, q) \left( e^C \log \log q + \frac{2.51}{\log \log q} \right) \left( q^{-1-\frac{\alpha}{R}} + q^{-1-\frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

3.3. **Study of  $A_2^+$ .** Theorem 2.1 allows us to restrict  $\sum'$  to the zeros in the region:

$$|\gamma| > H, \quad 1/2 \leq \beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{R \log(q|\gamma|)}.$$

We use (2.7) to bound  $|F(1 - \varrho)|$  and  $|F(\bar{\varrho})|$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |F(1 - \varrho) + F(\bar{\varrho})| \\
 & \leq \sqrt{\epsilon} \|f^{(m)}\|_2 \left[ \exp\left(\frac{-L}{R \log(q|\gamma|)}\right) + \exp\left(-L\left(1 - \frac{1}{R \log(qH)}\right)\right) \right] \frac{1}{|\gamma|^m}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We follow Lemma 4.1.3 and Lemma 4.2.1 of [9] and obtain that if  $L \leq R \log^2(qH)$ , then:

$$\sum'_{\substack{e \in Z(\chi_1) \\ |\gamma| > H}} \frac{\exp\left(\frac{-L}{R \log(q|\gamma|)}\right)}{|\gamma|^m} \leq \frac{\tilde{A} + \tilde{B}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum'_{\substack{e \in Z(\chi_1) \\ |\gamma| > H}} \frac{1}{|\gamma|^m} \leq \frac{\tilde{C} + \tilde{D}}{2},$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{A} & := \frac{1}{\pi(m-2)H^{m-1}} \exp\left(-\frac{L}{R \log(qH)}\right) \left( \log \frac{qH}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{m-2} + \frac{a_1}{(m-1)H} \right), \\
 \tilde{B} & := \frac{2(a_1 \log(qH) + a_2)}{H^m} \exp\left(-\frac{L}{R \log(qH)}\right), \\
 \tilde{C} & := \frac{1}{\pi(m-1)H^{m-1}} \left( \log \frac{qH}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{m-1} \right), \\
 \tilde{D} & := \frac{2a_1 \log(qH) + 2a_2 + \frac{a_1}{m}}{H^m}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We deduce the bound:

$$(3.5) \quad \frac{A_2^+(q)}{\sqrt{\epsilon} \|f^{(m)}\|_2} \leq \frac{\tilde{A} + \tilde{B}}{2} + \frac{\tilde{C} + \tilde{D}}{2} \exp\left(-L\left(1 - \frac{1}{R \log(qH)}\right)\right)$$

and together with (2.2):

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.6) \quad & \frac{A_2^+(q)}{\|f\|_1} \leq r_2(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q), \\
 (3.7) \quad & r_2(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q) := q^{-\frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \frac{\mu_m}{(H\epsilon)^m} \left[ \frac{H \log \frac{qH}{2\pi}}{2\pi(m-2)} + \frac{H}{2\pi(m-2)^2} \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{a_1}{2\pi(m-2)(m-1)} + a_1 \log(qH) + a_2 \right] + q^{-\alpha \log q + \frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q}{\log(qH)}} \frac{\mu_m}{(H\epsilon)^m} \\
 & \times \left[ \frac{H}{2\pi(m-1)} \left( \log \frac{qH}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{m-1} \right) + a_1 \log(qH) + a_2 + \frac{a_1}{2m} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

3.4. Study of  $A_3$ .

$$A_3(q) \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \Re \frac{\Gamma'}{\Gamma} \left( \frac{2 - \chi_1(-1)}{4} + i \frac{T}{2} \right) \right| |F(1/2 - iT)| dT.$$

We use Lemma 2.6 to bound  $\Gamma'/\Gamma$ , (2.5) to bound  $F$  when  $T \leq 1$  and (2.7) otherwise:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.8) \quad & \frac{A_3(q)}{\|f\|_1} \leq r_3(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q), \\
 (3.9) \quad & r_3(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( J_0 + \frac{\mu_m J(m)}{\epsilon^m} \right) q^{-\frac{\alpha}{2} \log q}
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $J_0 := \int_{|T| \leq 1} \log(6(|T| + 12)) dT$  and  $J(m) := \int_{|T| > 1} \frac{\log(6(|T| + 12))}{|T|^m} dT$ .

3.5. Study of  $\Sigma_{12}(a, q)$ . For  $n$  fixed, we denote by  $Q_n$  the largest divisor of  $q$  coprime with  $n$ . Then

$$\frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \chi_1(n) \overline{\chi(a)} = \begin{cases} \frac{\phi(Q_n)}{\phi(q)} & \text{if } n \equiv a \pmod{Q_n}, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

For a proof, see p. 414 of [9]. It implies that

$$\Sigma_{12}(a, q) = \sum_{\substack{n \equiv a \pmod{Q_n} \\ Q_n < q}} \frac{\phi(Q_n)}{\phi(q)} \frac{\Lambda(n) f(\log n)}{n}.$$

In this sum, we have

$$\frac{\phi(Q_n)}{\phi(q)} = \frac{1}{p^{\nu_p(q)-1}(p-1)}$$

since  $n$  is a prime power,  $n = p^k$ , coprime with  $Q_n$  but not with  $q$ . Therefore

$$(3.10) \quad \Sigma_{12}(a, q) \leq \|f\|_\infty \sum_{p^{\nu_p(q)} | q} \frac{\log p}{p^{\nu_p(q)-1}(p-1)} \sum_{e^L < p^k < e^{L+\epsilon}} \frac{1}{p^k}.$$

We compute the geometric sum

$$(3.11) \quad \sum_{e^L < p^k < e^{L+\epsilon}} \frac{1}{p^k} \leq \sum_{k \geq \lceil \frac{L}{\log p} \rceil + 1} \frac{1}{p^k} = \frac{e^{-L}}{p-1}.$$

We reinsert the last bound in the summand and split the obtained sum:

$$(3.12) \quad \sum_{p^{\nu_p(q)} | q} \frac{\log p}{p^{\nu_p(q)-1}(p-1)^2} \leq \sum_{p|q} \frac{\log p}{(p-1)^2} + \sum_{p^j | q, j \geq 2} \frac{\log p}{p^{j-1}(p-1)^2},$$

where

$$(3.13) \quad \sum_{p^j|q, j \geq 2} \frac{\log p}{p^{j-1}(p-1)^2} \leq \sum_{p|q} \frac{\log p}{(p-1)^2} \sum_{j \geq 2} \frac{1}{p^{j-1}} = \sum_{p|q} \frac{\log p}{(p-1)^3}$$

and

$$(3.14) \quad \sum_{p \geq 2} \log p \left( \frac{1}{(p-1)^2} + \frac{1}{(p-1)^3} \right) \leq 2.10.$$

Together with (2.3) and (3.10) to (3.14), we conclude that

$$(3.15) \quad \frac{|\Sigma_{12}(a, q)|}{\|f\|_1} \leq 2.10 \frac{\|f\|_\infty}{\|f\|_1} e^{-L} \leq r_4(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q),$$

$$(3.16) \quad r_4(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q) := 2.10 \frac{\nu_m}{\epsilon} q^{-\alpha \log q}.$$

**3.6. Study of  $\Sigma_2(a, q)$ .** We have

$$|\Sigma_2(a, q)| = \sum_{\substack{k \geq 2 \\ p^k \equiv a \pmod q}} \frac{\log p}{p^k} f(k \log p) \leq \|f\|_\infty \sum_{2 \leq p \leq e^{\frac{L+\epsilon}{2}}} \log p \sum_{e^L < p^k < e^{L+\epsilon}} \frac{1}{p^k}.$$

From (3.11) and

$$\sum_{2 \leq p \leq e^{\frac{L+\epsilon}{2}}} \frac{\log p}{p-1} \leq 2 \log \left( e^{\frac{L+\epsilon}{2}} \right) = L + \epsilon \text{ (see equation (3.24) of [13]),}$$

it follows that

$$(3.17) \quad \frac{|\Sigma_2(a, q)|}{\|f\|_1} \leq \frac{\|f\|_\infty}{\|f\|_1} (L + \epsilon) e^{-L} \leq r_5(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q),$$

$$(3.18) \quad r_5(\alpha, \epsilon, m, q) := \frac{\nu_m}{\epsilon} (\alpha \log^2 q + \epsilon) q^{-\alpha \log q}.$$

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

We gather the inequalities (3.2), (3.3), (3.6), (3.8), (3.15) and (3.17) and obtain:

$$\frac{\Sigma(a, q)}{\|f\|_1} \geq q^{-1} - r(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q) \geq q^{-1} (1 - q_0 r(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q_0)).$$

Let  $u \in [0.001, 0.2]$ ,  $q \geq q_0$  with  $q_0 = 5 \cdot 10^4, 10^{10}, \dots, 10^{100}$  and  $\epsilon = 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, \dots, 10$  be fixed. We will choose  $H$  and  $m$  such that  $\alpha$  is as small as possible and satisfies

$$(4.1) \quad 1 - q_0 r(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q_0) = 10^{-6}$$

and  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are of comparable size:

$$(4.2) \quad r_2(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q_0) = u r_1(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q_0).$$

We approximate  $r_1, r_2$  and  $r$  with  $\tilde{r}_1, \tilde{r}_2$  and  $\tilde{r}_1 + \tilde{r}_2 = (1 + u)\tilde{r}_1$  respectively, where

$$\tilde{r}_1(\alpha, H, m) := \frac{(2m+1)(\log H)(\log(q_0^2 H))}{4\pi\epsilon m} q_0^{-\frac{\alpha}{R_1} \frac{\log q_0}{\log(q_0 H)}},$$

$$\tilde{r}_2(\alpha, H, m) := \frac{H \log(q_0 H)}{\pi\sqrt{m}} q_0^{-\frac{\alpha}{R} \frac{\log q_0}{\log(q_0 H)}} \left( \frac{4m}{eH\epsilon} \right)^m.$$

We approximate (4.1) by the equation

$$1 - q_0(1 + u)\tilde{r}_1(\alpha, H, m) = 10^{-6}.$$

Its solution is close to

$$(4.3) \quad \tilde{\alpha}(H, m) := R_1 \frac{\log(q_0 H)}{\log^2 q_0} \log \left( \frac{q_0 (\log H) (\log(q_0^2 H))}{2\pi\epsilon} \right).$$

It remains to find appropriate values of  $H$  which will satisfy (4.2). The solution of the equation

$$\tilde{r}_2(\tilde{\alpha}(H, m), H, m) = u\tilde{r}_1(\tilde{\alpha}(H, m), H, m)$$

is close to

$$(4.4) \quad \tilde{H}(m) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{4}{u\sqrt{m}} \left( \frac{4m}{e} \right)^m \left( \frac{q_0 \log q_0}{4\pi\epsilon} \right)^{1-\frac{R_1}{R}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}.$$

We minimize the value of  $\tilde{\alpha}(\tilde{H}(m), m)$  and find that  $m$  is close to

$$\tilde{m} := \frac{1}{2} + \log \left( \frac{16}{u} \left( \frac{q_0 \log q_0}{4\pi\epsilon} \right)^{1-\frac{R_1}{R}} \right).$$

We now describe the algorithm to compute  $\alpha$ . For  $u$  and  $m$  fixed (the value of  $m$  is chosen close to  $\tilde{m}$ ):

- We compute  $\tilde{H}(m)$  and  $\tilde{\alpha}(\tilde{H}(m), m)$  as given in (4.4) and (4.3) respectively.
- We choose for  $H$  the value of the solution of the following approximation of equation (4.2):

$$r_2(\tilde{\alpha}(\tilde{H}(m), m), H, m) = ur_1(\tilde{\alpha}(\tilde{H}(m), m), H, m).$$

With this value for  $H$ , we solve (4.1) with respect to  $\alpha$ . It is not difficult to see that the function  $r(\alpha, \epsilon, H, m, q)$  decreases when  $\alpha$  increases. Therefore we are insured of the uniqueness of the solution of the equation.

- We choose  $u$  and  $m$  so that the value of  $\alpha$  is as small as possible.

Table 2 records the values of the parameters  $m$ ,  $H$  and  $u$ . They have been rounded up in the last decimal place.

For the next section, we will use the following result: when  $q \geq 10^{32}$ ,  $\epsilon = 1.9$ , then  $u = 0.022$ ,  $H = 80.8$ ,  $m = 38$  and  $\alpha = 4.3060$ .

### 5. A SEVEN CUBES PROBLEM

Watson’s proof in [15] relies on the fact that, for  $X > \exp(q^{1/100})$ , the existence of a prime  $p \equiv a \pmod{q}$  in the interval  $[X, 1.01 X]$  makes it possible to write a sufficiently large integer  $n$  as a sum of seven cubes, and the size of the smallest of these  $n$ ’s depends on the size of  $X$ . We will follow the latest version of this algorithm, due to Ramaré ([11]).

**5.1. A modified form of Watson’s lemma (Lemma 5 of [8]).** The next lemma provides conditions for an integer to be a sum of seven cubes.

**Lemma 5.1** (Lemma 2.1 of [11]). *Let  $n, a, u, v$  and  $w$  be positive integers and  $t$  a non-negative integer. We assume that*

$$(5.1) \quad 1 \leq u \leq v \leq w \leq (3/4)^{1/3} uv/24,$$

$$(5.2) \quad \gcd(uvw, 6n) = 1 \text{ and } a \text{ is odd,}$$

$$(5.3) \quad u, v, w \text{ and } a \text{ are pairwise co-prime,}$$

$$(5.4) \quad n - t^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{2},$$

$$(5.5) \quad n - t^3 \equiv 0 \pmod{3a},$$

$$(5.6) \quad \begin{cases} 4(n - t^3) \equiv v^6 w^6 a^3 \pmod{u^2}, \\ 4(n - t^3) \equiv u^6 w^6 a^3 \pmod{v^2}, \\ 4(n - t^3) \equiv u^6 v^6 a^3 \pmod{w^2}. \end{cases}$$

Set  $\delta = (1 + (w/u)^6 + (w/v)^6) / 4$ . If

$$(5.7) \quad 0 \leq \frac{uv}{6w} \left( \frac{n}{u^6 v^6 a^3} - \delta - \frac{3}{4} \right)^{1/3} \leq \frac{t}{6uvw a} \leq \frac{uv}{6w} \left( \frac{n}{u^6 v^6 a^3} - \delta \right)^{1/3},$$

then  $n$  is a sum of seven non-negative cubes.

**5.2. Reducing to finding a prime in an arithmetic progression.** Suppose the integer  $n$  is given. We need to find  $u, v, w, a$  and  $t$  such that the conditions of our lemma are fulfilled. Let  $u, v, w$  be prime numbers  $\equiv 5 \pmod{6}$  that satisfy (5.1) and are coprime with  $n$ . Then  $(4n)/(v^6 w^6)$  is a cube, modulo  $u^2$ . We have the same for  $(4n)/(u^6 w^6)$  modulo  $v^2$  and  $(4n)/(u^6 v^6)$  modulo  $w^2$ . This is easy to prove, knowing that, if  $p$  is a prime  $\equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ , then every invertible residue class modulo  $p$  is a cube modulo  $p^2$ . Moreover  $u^2, v^2$  and  $w^2$  are pairwise coprime and, by the Chinese remainder theorem, there exists an integer  $a'$  such that

$$(5.8) \quad \begin{cases} 4n \equiv (a' v^2 w^2)^3 \pmod{u^2}, \\ 4n \equiv (a' u^2 w^2)^3 \pmod{v^2}, \\ 4n \equiv (a' u^2 v^2)^3 \pmod{w^2}. \end{cases}$$

We choose  $a$  to be  $a \equiv a' \pmod{u^2 v^2 w^2}$ , so that we can replace  $a'$  by  $a$  in the system (5.8). Also we can choose  $a$  to be prime and  $a \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ , so that we are insured that there exists an integer  $n$  cubic modulo  $3a$ . We deduce that

**Condition 1.** There exists a prime  $a$  such that  $a \equiv \ell \pmod{6u^2 v^2 w^2}$ .

Since the integers  $u, v, w$  and  $6a$  are coprime, there exist integers  $t$  satisfying:

$$t^3 \equiv n \pmod{3a}, \quad t^3 \equiv n - 1 \pmod{2}, \quad t \equiv 0 \pmod{uvw}.$$

Up to now, the conditions (5.1) to (5.6) are satisfied. In order to find  $\frac{t}{6uvw}$  bounded as in (5.7), we need to add some conditions on  $a$ , namely that

**Condition 2.**  $\frac{Y}{\kappa} \leq a \leq Y$ ,

where  $Y := \frac{n^{1/3}}{u^2 v^2 (3/4 + \delta)^{1/3}}, \kappa^3 := \frac{1}{3/4 + \delta} \left[ \left( \frac{uv}{24w(\rho + 1)} \right)^{3/2} + \delta \right], \rho := \frac{1}{6uvw a}$ .

Somemore explanation is provided on pp. 377–378 of [11]. We will see that Theorem 1.1 insures us of the existence of a prime  $a$  satisfying conditions 1 and 2. However, this theorem is established for non-exceptional moduli. We explain how to avoid the case of exceptional zeros in the next section.

**5.3. Creating a non-exceptional modulus.**

**Theorem 5.2** (Theorem 2 of [9]). *For all  $q \leq 72$ , and for all a prime to  $q$ , uniformly for  $1 \leq x \leq 10^{10}$ ,*

$$\max_{1 \leq y \leq x} \left| \theta(y; q, a) - \frac{y}{\phi(q)} \right| \leq 2.072\sqrt{x}.$$

**Lemma 5.3.** *There are more than 12 prime numbers coprime to  $n$  and congruent to 5 modulo 6 lying in the interval  $[0.521 \log n, 2.562 \log n]$  if  $\log n$  is larger than 68 509.*

*Proof.* See the proof of Lemma 4.5 of [11]. The constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are chosen to optimize the lower bound of  $\log n$  given in the equation (5.9) below under the conditions that  $c_2 - c_1 > \phi(6)$  and

$$\left( \frac{c_2 - c_1}{2} - 1 \right) \log n - 2.072 (\sqrt{c_1} + \sqrt{c_2}) \sqrt{\log n} \geq 12 \log (c_2 \log n). \quad \square$$

We note  $c_3 = \left( \frac{c_2}{c_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Then we deduce by the pigeon hole principle that there exists an interval  $[A, c_3A]$  with  $A$  in  $[c_1 \log n, c_2/c_3 \log n]$  that contains more than 6 primes coprime to  $n$  and congruent to 5 modulo 6. We denote by  $u_1 < v_1 < w_1 < u_2 < v_2 < w_2$ , 6 of these primes,  $k_1 = 3(u_1v_1w_1)^2$  and  $k_2 = 3(u_2v_2w_2)^2$ . To prove that one of the coprime integers  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  has to be non-exceptional, we use Theorem 2.3 and the inequalities

$$k_1^{2.12} \geq \left( 3 (c_1 \log n)^6 \right)^{2.12} > 3 (c_2 \log n)^6 \geq k_2$$

for  $n \geq 150$ . We denote simply by  $k$  the non-exceptional modulus and by  $u, v, w$  the associated integers in  $[A, c_3A]$ . It remains to find for which  $n$ , the interval  $[Y/\kappa, Y]$  satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1.

**5.4. Finding a prime in a progression with a large modulus.**

**Lemma 5.4.** *Assume  $\log n \geq 71\,000$ . For any invertible residue class  $l$  modulo  $k$ , there is a prime  $a$ , congruent to  $l$  modulo  $k$  contained in  $[Y/\kappa, Y]$ .*

*Proof.* We use the bounds:

$$c_1 \log n \leq A \leq u, v, w \leq c_3A \leq c_2 \log n, \quad \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2c_3^6} \leq \delta \leq \frac{1}{4} + \frac{c_3^6}{2}, \quad \rho \leq \frac{1}{6(c_1 \log n)^3}.$$

We deduce that  $\kappa \geq \kappa_0(n)$  and  $Y \geq Y_0(n)$ , with

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_0(n)^3 &:= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{c_3^6}{2}} \left( \left( \frac{c_1 \log n}{24c_3 \left( \frac{1}{6(c_1 \log n)^3} + 1 \right)} \right)^{3/2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2c_3^6} \right), \\ Y_0(n) &:= \frac{n^{1/3}}{(c_2 \log n)^4 \left( 1 + \frac{c_3^6}{2} \right)^{1/3}}. \end{aligned}$$

For the values  $k \geq 10^{32}$ ,  $\alpha = 4.3060$  and  $\epsilon = 1.9$ , the inequality  $Y \geq e^{\alpha \log^2 k + \epsilon}$  is satisfied when

$$(5.9) \quad \frac{\log n}{3} - 4 \log (c_2 \log n) - \frac{1}{3} \log \left( 1 + \frac{c_3^6}{2} \right) \geq \alpha \log^2 (3(c_2 \log n)^6) + \epsilon,$$

that is to say, for  $\log n \geq 70\,341$ . This also warrants  $\kappa_0(n) \geq e^\epsilon$ . □

TABLE 2

$q_0$	$\epsilon$	$u$	$m$	$H$	$\alpha$	$q_0$	$\epsilon$	$u$	$m$	$H$	$\alpha$
$5 \cdot 10^4$	0.0001	0.086	14	514 998	19.228	$10^{55}$	0.0001	0.016	64	2 538 632	4.8003
	0.001	0.092	13	47 292	15.550		0.001	0.016	64	250 167	4.6407
	0.01	0.098	12	4 311	12.245		0.01	0.016	63	24 661	4.4832
	0.1	0.004	14	528	9.4357		0.1	0.015	62	2 338	4.3276
	1	0.01	15	57.8	6.9684		1	0.015	61	244	4.1740
	10	0.037	11	4.4219	4.8430		10	0.012	62	24.8	4.0247
$10^{10}$	0.0001	0.056	20	741 876	9.8356	$10^{60}$	0.0001	0.015	69	2 731 576	4.7192
	0.001	0.058	19	70 330	8.5912		0.001	0.015	68	269 639	4.5742
	0.01	0.060	18	6 632	7.4254		0.01	0.014	68	26 639	4.4308
	0.1	0.061	17	630	6.3398		0.1	0.014	67	2 633	4.2890
	1	0.057	16	62.5	5.3418		1	0.014	66	263	4.1488
	10	0.028	17	6.75	4.4761		10	0.011	67	26.8	4.0121
$10^{15}$	0.0001	0.043	25	948 594	7.6121	$10^{65}$	0.0001	0.014	74	2 927 544	4.6509
	0.001	0.045	24	90 920	6.8799		0.001	0.014	73	289 140	4.5179
	0.01	0.046	23	8 713	6.1816		0.01	0.014	72	28 660	4.3864
	0.1	0.046	22	839	5.5174		0.1	0.013	72	2 829	4.2562
	1	0.043	21	83.6	4.8905		1	0.013	71	283	4.1272
	10	0.024	22	8.84	4.3256		10	0.010	72	28.7	4.0011
$10^{20}$	0.0001	0.035	30	1 152 223	6.5919	$10^{70}$	0.0001	0.013	79	3 122 581	4.5924
	0.001	0.036	29	111 390	6.0799		0.001	0.013	78	308 647	4.4697
	0.01	0.037	28	10 762	5.5864		0.01	0.013	77	30 511	4.3482
	0.1	0.037	27	1 045	5.1114		0.1	0.013	76	3 021	4.2278
	1	0.035	26	105	4.6565		1	0.012	76	302	4.1084
	10	0.021	27	10.9	4.2373		10	0.010	77	30.7	3.9915
$10^{25}$	0.0001	0.030	35	1 353 117	6.0079	$10^{75}$	0.0001	0.012	84	3 317 736	4.5418
	0.001	0.030	34	131 618	5.6164		0.001	0.012	83	328 165	4.4280
	0.01	0.031	33	12 786	5.2364		0.01	0.012	82	32 465	4.3151
	0.1	0.031	32	1 247	4.8678		0.1	0.012	81	3 216	4.2031
	1	0.029	31	125	4.5116		1	0.011	81	322	4.0920
	10	0.019	32	12.9	4.1783		10	0.009	81	32.6	3.9829
$10^{30}$	0.0001	0.026	40	1 553 007	5.6298	$10^{80}$	0.0001	0.011	89	3 513 060	4.4976
	0.001	0.026	39	151 626	5.3137		0.001	0.011	88	347 700	4.3914
	0.01	0.026	38	14 802	5.0053		0.01	0.011	87	34 417	4.2860
	0.1	0.026	37	1 449	4.7046		0.1	0.011	86	3 311	4.1814
	1	0.025	36	145	4.4123		1	0.011	86	341	4.0774
	10	0.017	37	15	4.1357		10	0.009	86	34.5	3.9753
$10^{35}$	0.0001	0.023	45	1 751 630	5.3649	$10^{85}$	0.0001	0.011	94	3 704 920	4.4587
	0.001	0.023	44	171 503	5.1002		0.001	0.011	93	366 878	4.3591
	0.01	0.023	43	16 791	4.8411		0.01	0.011	92	36 335	4.2603
	0.1	0.023	42	1 648	4.5875		0.1	0.010	91	3 607	4.1621
	1	0.022	41	165	4.3396		1	0.010	90	361	4.0645
	10	0.016	42	16.9	4.1032		10	0.008	91	35.5	3.9684
$10^{40}$	0.0001	0.020	50	1 950 568	5.1688	$10^{90}$	0.0001	0.010	98	3 900 103	4.4240
	0.001	0.021	49	191 213	4.9414		0.001	0.010	98	386 427	4.3331
	0.01	0.021	48	18 763	4.7181		0.01	0.010	97	38 290	4.2373
	0.1	0.021	47	1 846	4.4989		0.1	0.010	96	3 799	4.1448
	1	0.020	46	185	4.2839		1	0.010	95	380	4.0528
	10	0.014	47	18.9	4.0776		10	0.008	96	37.4	3.9623
$10^{45}$	0.0001	0.018	55	2 114 784	5.0178	$10^{95}$	0.0001	0.010	103	4 091 636	4.3931
	0.001	0.019	54	210 928	4.8185		0.001	0.010	102	405 566	4.3046
	0.01	0.019	53	20 736	4.6225		0.01	0.010	101	40 204	4.2168
	0.1	0.019	52	2 043	4.4295		0.1	0.009	101	3 995	4.1293
	1	0.018	51	204	4.2398		1	0.009	100	399	4.0423
	10	0.013	52	20.9	4.0567		10	0.008	101	40.3	3.9565
$10^{50}$	0.0001	0.017	60	2 342 931	4.8979	$10^{100}$	0.0001	0.009	108	4 287 331	4.3652
	0.001	0.017	59	230 659	4.7206		0.001	0.009	107	425 137	4.2815
	0.01	0.017	58	22 710	4.5459		0.01	0.009	106	41 161	4.1982
	0.1	0.017	57	2 240	4.3737		0.1	0.009	105	4 186	4.1153
	1	0.016	56	224	4.2039		1	0.009	105	419	4.0328
	10	0.012	57	22.9	4.0394		10	0.007	106	42.3	3.9513

## REFERENCES

1. H. Davenport, *Multiplicative Number Theory*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, third edition (2000). MR1790423 (2001f:11001)
2. D.R. Heath-Brown, *Zero-free regions for Dirichlet L-functions and the least prime in an arithmetic progression*. Proc. London Math. Soc. **64** (1992) 265–338. MR1143227 (93a:11075)
3. H. Kadiri, *Une région explicite sans zéro pour la fonction zeta de Riemann*. Acta Arith. **117.4** (2005) 303–339. MR2140161 (2005m:11159)
4. H. Kadiri, *An explicit zero-free region for Dirichlet L-functions*. submitted, can be found at <http://arxiv.org/pdf/math.NT/0510570>.
5. U.V. Linnik, *On the representation of large numbers as sums of seven cubes*. Rec. Math. [Mat. Sbornik] N. S. **1254** (1943) 218–224 MR0009388 (5:142c)

6. M-C. Liu and T. Wang, *Distribution of zeros of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions and an explicit formula for  $\psi(t, \chi)$* . Acta Arith. **102** (2002), no. 3, 261–293. MR1884719 (2003f:11125)
7. K.S. McCurley, *Explicit estimates for the error term in the prime number theorem for arithmetic progressions*. Math. Comp. **42** (1984), no. 165, 265–285. MR726004 (85e:11065)
8. K.S. McCurley, *An effective seven cube theorem*. J. Number Theory **19** (1984), no. 2, 176–183. MR762766 (86c:11078)
9. O. Ramaré and R. Rumely, *Primes in arithmetic progressions*. Math. Comp. **65** (1996) 397–425. MR1320898 (97a:11144)
10. O. Ramaré and Y. Saouter, *Short effective intervals containing primes*. J. Number Theory **98** (2003) 10–33. MR1950435 (2004a:11095)
11. O. Ramaré, *An explicit seven cube theorem*. Acta Arith. **118** (2005) no. 4, 375–382. MR2165551 (2006g:11202)
12. J.B. Rosser, *Explicit bounds for some functions of prime numbers*. American Journal of Math. **63** (1941) 211–232. MR0003018 (2:150e)
13. J.B. Rosser and L. Schoenfeld, *Approximate formulas for some functions of prime numbers*. Illinois J. Math. **6** (1962) 64–94. MR0137689 (25:1139)
14. S. Wagstaff, *Greatest of the least primes in arithmetic progressions having a given modulus*. Math. of Comp. **33** (1979) 1073–1080. MR528061 (81e:10038)
15. G.L. Watson, *A proof of the seven cube theorem*. J. London Math. Soc. **26** (1951), 153–156. MR0047691 (13:915a)

DÉPARTEMENT DE MATHÉMATIQUES ET STATISTIQUE, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL, CP 6128  
SUCC CENTRE-VILLE, MONTRÉAL, QC H3C 3J7, CANADA

*Current address:* Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Lethbridge,  
4401 University Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 3M4

*E-mail address:* [habiba.kadiri@uleth.ca](mailto:habiba.kadiri@uleth.ca)