

116. Differentiability of Riemann's Function

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1. Introduction. In this paper we discuss on the differentiability of the function

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin n^2 x / n^2.$$

Riemann proposed the problem that the function is nowhere differentiable, [2] and [8]. About the problem, J. P. Kahane [3] has investigated lacunary series. It was solved by J. Gerver [4] [5]. First G. H. Hardy [6] proved that the function is not differentiable at the point $\xi\pi$ where ξ is irrational or is a rational of the form $(2A+1)/2B$ or $2A/(4B+1)$. Later Gerver proved that $f(x)$ is differentiable at all points $(2A+1)\pi/(2B+1)$ with derivative $-1/2$, and not differentiable at the points $2A\pi/(2B+1)$.

The purpose of this paper is to give a shorter proof of the differentiability as well as a finer estimate of the function at points of rational multiple of π .

We state the following

Theorem 1. *The function*

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \exp(in^2\pi x) / n^2\pi i$$

have the following behavior near $x = q/p$, where p is a positive integer and q is an integer such that q/p is an irreducible fraction,

$$(1) \quad F(x+h) - F(x) = R(p, q) p^{-1/2} \exp\left(\frac{\pi i}{4} \operatorname{sgn} h\right) |h|^{1/2} \operatorname{sgn} h - \frac{h}{2} + O(|h|^{3/2})$$

as $h \rightarrow 0$ where $\operatorname{sgn} h = h/|h|$ if $h \neq 0$, $\operatorname{sgn} h = 0$ if $h = 0$, and $R(p, q)$ is a constant defined by

$$(2) \quad R(p, q) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{q}{p}\right) \exp\left(\frac{-\pi i}{4}(p-1)\right) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd and } q \text{ even,} \\ \left(\frac{p}{|q|}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\pi i}{4}q\right) & \text{if } p \text{ is even and } q \text{ odd,} \\ 0 & \text{if } p \text{ and } q \text{ are odd,} \end{cases}$$

with the Jacobi's symbol (p/q) (see [7]).

This theorem easily shows Gerver's results and gives a finer estimate of $f(x)$ at the points of rational multiple of π . The author wishes to thank Prof. Jean Pierre Kahane for helpful suggestions.