

PART SIZES OF RANDOM INTEGER PARTITIONS*

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Put a uniform probability distribution on the set of partitions of the integer n . Given a fixed integer d , let $Y_{i,n}$ be the number of part sizes that are congruent to i mod d . The random vector $Y_n = (Y_{0,n}, Y_{1,n}, \dots, Y_{d-1,n})$ is asymptotically normally distributed. A generalization of this statement is proved by combining the continuity theorem for moment generating functions and some methods of Meinardus (*Math. Zeit* 59 (1954), 388-98).

1. INTRODUCTION

Given an infinite set of positive integers \mathcal{A} , let $U(n, \mathcal{A})$ be the set of partitions of the integer n into parts are elements of \mathcal{A} . If we put the uniform probability measure on $U(n, \mathcal{A})$, then any real valued function on $U(n, \mathcal{A})$ can be regarded as a random variable. This paper concerns the joint distribution of the number of part sizes in various subsets of \mathcal{A} .

Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2, \dots, \mathcal{A}_d$ be disjoint sets of positive integers whose union is \mathcal{A} . For $\lambda \in U(n, \mathcal{A})$, let $Y_{i,n}(\lambda)$ be the number of part sizes that λ has in \mathcal{A}_i , counted without multiplicity. The random variables $Y_{i,n}$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, d$) are obviously not independent. If the sets satisfy certain conditions (essentially due to Meinardus), the random vector $Y_n = (Y_{1,n}, Y_{2,n}, \dots, Y_{d,n})$ is asymptotically normally distributed. A curious feature is that not all the sets need to satisfy all the conditions. The precise statement is in Theorem 1 of the next section.

2. MAIN THEOREM

Our sets \mathcal{A}_i will all satisfy the following two conditions of Meinardus.

(M1) : Let $D_i(s) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \frac{1}{a^s}$. (Throughout this paper, s is a complex number

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with real and imaginary parts σ and t respectively; $s = \sigma + it$.) Then the Dirichlet series $D_i(s)$ converges in the half plane $\Re(s) > \alpha_i > 0$, and it can be analytically continued to $\Re(s) > -C_0$ for some $C_0 \in (0, 1)$. In $\Re(s) > -C_0$, $D_i(s)$ is analytic, except for a simple pole at $s = \alpha_i$ with residue R_i .

(M2) : There is an absolute constant C_1 such that $D_i(s) = O(|t|^{C_1})$ as $|t| \rightarrow \infty$, and uniformly for $\Re(s) > -C_0$.

At least one of our sets will satisfy the following :

(M3) : Define $g_i(\tau) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} e^{-a\tau}$, where $\tau = y + 2\pi ix$, and x and y are real with $y > 0$. Then for some $\varepsilon > 0$

$$g_i(y) - \mathcal{R}e(g_i(\tau)) \gg y^{-\varepsilon}$$

as $y \rightarrow 0^+$, provided that $y \rightarrow 0^+$ in such a way that $|\arg(\tau)| > \frac{\pi}{4}$ and $|x| \leq 1/2$.

In order to state our results, we need to define some constants. Let $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=1}^d \mathcal{A}_i$, and let $R = \sum_{i=1}^d R_i$. Given $\alpha > 0$, let $c_\infty := R\Gamma(\alpha)\zeta(\alpha + 1)$, and let $\vec{m}_n := (m_{1,n}, m_{2,n}, \dots, m_{d,n})$, where

$$m_{i,n} := n^{\alpha(\alpha+1)} \cdot (\alpha c_\infty)^{-\alpha(\alpha+1)} \Gamma(\alpha) R_i.$$

Define the $d \times d$ matrix $\tilde{Q} = (\tilde{Q}_{i,j})_{i,j}$ by

$$Q_{i,j} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right) (\alpha c_\infty)^{\frac{1}{\alpha+1}} \left\{ -\frac{R_i R_j \alpha \Gamma(\alpha)^2}{(\alpha + 1)^2 c_\infty^2} + \delta_{i,j} \frac{R_i \Gamma(\alpha) (1 - \frac{1}{2^\alpha})}{(\alpha + 1) c_\infty} \right\}$$

where $\delta_{i,j}$ is one if $i = j$, and zero otherwise. Finally, let $\tilde{Q}_{i,j} = \tilde{Q}_{i,j} / (\det \tilde{Q})^{1/d}$, and let $B_n := (\det \tilde{Q})^{1/2d} n^{\alpha(2\alpha+2)}$. The main theorem of this section is

Theorem 1 — Suppose that each of the sets \mathcal{A}_i satisfies M1 and M2 with a common pole $\alpha_i = \alpha$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, d$). If at least one of the sets \mathcal{A}_i satisfies M3, then the distribution of the random vector $\left(\frac{Y_n - \vec{m}_n}{B_n}\right)$ converges to a d -dimensional normal distribution, centered at the origin, with covariance matrix Q .

First we remark that much of the proof parallels Meinardus' estimates^{1,4} for the cardinality of $\mathcal{U}(n, \mathcal{A})$.

PROOF : Let t_1, t_2, \dots, t_d be real numbers that are fixed (independent of n), but otherwise arbitrary. Let $\vec{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_d)$. By the Cramer-Wold device², it suffices to prove that

$$E \left(\exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right] \right) = \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \vec{t} \vec{Q} \vec{t} \cdot \vec{T} \right] + o(1) \dots (1)$$

Given $\vec{k} = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_d)$, define

$$p_{n, \vec{k}} := \text{Prob} (Y_{i,n} = k_i \text{ for all } i) = \frac{|\{ \lambda \in U(n, \mathcal{A}) : Y_n = \vec{k} \}|}{|U(n, \mathcal{A})|}.$$

Then (see (4))

$$p_{n, \vec{k}} = \frac{1}{|U(n, \mathcal{A})|} [[w^n y_1^{k_1} y_2^{k_2} \dots y_d^{k_d}]] \prod_{i=1}^d \prod_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \left(1 + \frac{y_i w^a}{1 - w^a} \right).$$

Replacing y_i with $\exp \left(t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right)$, we get

$$E \left(\exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right] \right) = \frac{\exp \left[- \sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right]}{|U(n, \mathcal{A})|} H(n, \vec{t}),$$

where

$$H(n, \vec{t}) = [[w^n]] \prod_{i=1}^d \prod_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \left(1 + \frac{e^{t_i/B_n} w^a}{1 - w^a} \right).$$

Integrating around a circle of radius less than one, we get,

$$H(n, \vec{t}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int \prod_{i=1}^d \prod_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \left(1 + \frac{e^{t_i/B_n} w^a}{1 - w^a} \right) \cdot \frac{dw}{w^{n+1}}.$$

Next let $X_{i,n} = e^{t_i/B_n} - 1$, and observe that

$$\left(1 + \frac{e^{t_i/B_n} w^a}{1 - w^a} \right) = \left(\frac{1 + X_{i,n} w^a}{1 - w^a} \right).$$

If we let $w = e^{-\tau}$, and let

$$F_n(\tau) := \prod_{i=1}^d \prod_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \left(\frac{1 + X_{i,n} e^{-a\tau}}{1 - e^{-a\tau}} \right)$$

then

$$H(n, \vec{t}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int F_n(\tau) e^{\pi} d\tau = \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} F_n(y + 2\pi xi) e^{\pi(y + 2\pi xi)} dx. \dots (2)$$

In order to estimate this integral, we need to define some auxiliary functions. Let $\Delta_{i,n}(s) = \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l}{l^s}$, and let $Z_{i,n}(s) = \zeta(s) + \Delta_{i,n}(s)$. For all sufficiently large n , we have $X_{i,n} < 1/2$ ($1 \leq i \leq d$). Therefore $\Delta_{i,n}(s)$ is an analytic function on $|\Re(s)| \leq C$. (Throughout this paper, C will denote a generic, unspecified positive constant; it need not have the same value in different places). It is also easy to see that

$$\Delta_{i,n}(s) = o(1) \quad \dots (3)$$

uniformly as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Thus $Z_{i,n}(s)$ is analytic in the whole complex plane, except for a simple pole at $s = 1$ with residue 1. Finally, let $D_{\mathcal{A}}(s) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{1}{a^s}$.

With these definitions at our disposal, we can proceed to the following crucial lemma.

Lemma 1 — If $y \rightarrow 0^+$ in such a way that $|\arg \tau| \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$ then

$$F_n(\tau) = \exp \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^d Z_{i,n}(\alpha + 1) A_i \Gamma(\alpha) \tau^{-\alpha} + \Delta_{i,n}(1) D_i(0) \right) - D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) \log \tau + D'_{\mathcal{A}}(0) + O(y^C) \right].$$

PROOF: Recall that $\Re(\tau) > 0$, and observe that $X_{i,n} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Therefore, for all large n , we have

$$\log F_n(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left(\left(\frac{1 + (-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l}{l} \right) e^{-a\tau l} \right).$$

Using the identity $e^{-w} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C-i\infty}^{C+i\infty} w^{-s} \Gamma(s) ds$, (with C large enough to justify the use of Fubini's theorem), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \log F_n(\tau) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C-i\infty}^{C+i\infty} \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1 + (-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l}{l^{s+1}} \right) \\ &\quad \left(\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \frac{1}{a^s} \right) \tau^{-s} \Gamma(s) ds \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C-i\infty}^{C+i\infty} \sum_{i=1}^d Z_{i,n}(s+1) D_i(s) \tau^{-s} \Gamma(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

We plan to shift the integration contour to the left. Combining (3) with well

known properties of the Riemann zeta function, we see that, as $|t| \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$Z_{i,n}(s+1) = \zeta(s) + O(1) = O(|t|^C).$$

It is well known that, for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have $\Gamma(s) = O(e^{-\left(\frac{\pi}{2}-\epsilon\right)|t|})$ in the vertical strip $-C_0 \leq \sigma \leq C$. Finally, because $|\arg(\tau)| \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$, we have $|\tau^{-s}| \leq |\tau|^{-\sigma} \exp(\pi|t|/4)$. We can therefore shift the line of integration to the left using the residue theorem :

$$\begin{aligned} \log F_n(\tau) &= (\text{Res. at } s = \alpha) + (\text{Res. at } s = 0) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2\pi i} \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{-C-i\infty}^{-C+i\infty} Z_{i,n}(s+1) D_{\mathcal{R}}(s) \tau^{-s} \Gamma(s) ds \\ &= (\text{Residue at } s = \alpha) + (\text{Residue at } s = 0) + O(y^C). \end{aligned}$$

To compute these residues, observe that, as $s \rightarrow 0$,

$$Z_{i,n}(s+1) = \frac{1}{s} + \gamma + \Delta_{i,n}(1) + O(s).$$

We also have $\tau^{-s} = 1 - s \log \tau + O(s^2)$ and $\Gamma(s) = \frac{1}{s} - \gamma + O(s)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{Residue at } s = \alpha) + (\text{Residue at } s = 0) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^d \left(Z_{i,n}(\alpha+1) R_i \Gamma(\alpha) \tau^{-\alpha} - D_i(0) \log \tau + D_i'(0) + \Delta_{i,n}(1) D_i(0) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now let $c_n = \sum_{i=1}^d Z_{i,n}(\alpha+1) \Gamma(\alpha) R_i$, set $\beta := 1 + \frac{5\alpha}{12}$, and let $\delta_n = \sum_{i=1}^d \Delta_{i,n}(1) D_i(0)$. Also let

$$y = y_n = \left(\frac{\alpha c_n}{n} \right)^{1/(\alpha+1)} \dots (4)$$

Then from (2) we get

$$\begin{aligned} H(n, \vec{t}) &= \int_{-y^\beta}^{y^\beta} F_n(y + 2\pi ix) e^{ny + 2\pi i n x} dx \\ &+ \int_{y^\beta \leq |x| \leq \frac{1}{2}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T_1 + T_2. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1, we have

$$T_1 = e^{ny + D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) + \delta_n} \int_{-y^\beta}^{y^\beta} \exp \left[\epsilon_n \tau^{-\alpha} - D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) \log \tau + 2\pi nix + O(y^c) \right] dx$$

$$= (1 + O(y^c)) \exp \left[ny + c_n y^{-\alpha} - D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) \log y + D_{\mathcal{A}}'(0) + \delta_n \right] \cdot I_1$$

where

$$I_1 = \int_{|x| \leq y^\beta} \exp \left[c_n y^{-\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{2\pi ix}{y} \right)^{-\alpha} - 1 \right. \\ \left. + 2\pi inx - D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) \log \left(1 + \frac{2\pi ix}{y} \right) \right] dx.$$

Using the method of Laplace, one can verify that

$$I_1 = (2\pi c_n y^{-\alpha-2} \alpha(\alpha+1))^{-1/2} (1 + o(1)).$$

Using arguments similar to those of Meinardus (see appendix), one can verify that $T_2 = o(T_1)$. We therefore have

$$E \left(\exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right] \right) \dots (5)$$

$$= \frac{\exp \left[ny + c_n y^{-\alpha} - \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right]}{|U(n, \mathcal{A})|} \cdot \frac{\exp [-D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) \log y + D_{\mathcal{A}}(0)]}{(2\pi c_n y^{-\alpha-2} \alpha(\alpha+1))^{1/2}} (1 + o(1)).$$

Meinardus' theorem asserts that

$$|U(n, \mathcal{A})| = \exp \left[(\alpha c_\infty)^{1/\alpha+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) n^{\alpha/\alpha+1} \right] \cdot n^\kappa \cdot K_0 (1 + o(1))$$

where $\kappa = \frac{D_{\mathcal{A}}(0) - 1 - \alpha/2}{1 + \alpha}$, and $K_0 = \frac{e^{D_{\mathcal{A}}(0)(\alpha c_\infty)(1-2D_{\mathcal{A}}(0))/(2+2\alpha)}}{\sqrt{2\pi(1+\alpha)}}$. Using (4), (5), the fact that $c_n \rightarrow c_\infty$, and the fact that $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ (see (3)), we get

$$E \left(\exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right] \right)$$

$$= \exp \left[ny + c_n y^{-\alpha} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) (\alpha c_\infty)^{1/\alpha+1} n^{\alpha/\alpha+1} - \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right] (1 + o(1)).$$

We must show that the exponent approaches $\frac{1}{2} \vec{t} \vec{Q} \vec{t}^T$. Using (4), we get

$$ny + c_n y^{-\alpha} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right) (\alpha c_\infty)^{1/\alpha+1} n^{\alpha/\alpha+1}$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right) (\alpha c_\infty)^{1/\alpha+1} n^{\alpha/\alpha+1} \left(-1 + \left(\frac{c_n}{c_\infty}\right)^{1/\alpha+1}\right) \dots (6)$$

To simplify this, observe that

$$\frac{c_n}{c_\infty} = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i}{B_n} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\alpha) R_i}{c_\infty} + \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i^2}{B_n^2}$$

$$\left(\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2^{\alpha+1}}\right) \frac{\Gamma(\alpha) R_i}{c_\infty}\right) + O_t\left(\frac{1}{B_n^3}\right),$$

and therefore

$$-1 + \left(\frac{c_n}{c_\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha+1}} = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i}{B_n} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha) R_i}{(\alpha+1) c_\infty}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i^2}{2B_n^2} \left(\left(1 - \frac{1}{2^\alpha}\right) \frac{\Gamma(\alpha) R_i}{(\alpha+1) c_\infty}\right)$$

$$+ \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq d} \frac{t_i t_j}{B_n^2} \left(\frac{-\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)^2 R_i R_j}{2(\alpha+1)^2 c_\infty^2}\right) + O_t\left(\frac{1}{B_n^3}\right).$$

Putting this into (6), we get

$$ny + c_n y^{-\alpha} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right) (\alpha c_\infty)^{1/\alpha+1} n^{\alpha/\alpha+1}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{t_i m_{i,n}}{B_n} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{t}^T Q \vec{t}^T + O_t\left(\frac{1}{B_n^3}\right)$$

and consequently

$$E \left(\exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^d t_i \left(\frac{Y_{i,n} - m_{i,n}}{B_n} \right) \right] \right) = \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \vec{t}^T Q \vec{t}^T + O_t\left(\frac{1}{B_n^3}\right) \right].$$

3. APPLICATION

We close with a simple example that motivates Theorem 1. Let \mathcal{A}_1 be the set of even positive integers, and let \mathcal{A}_2 be the set of odd positive integers. Then

$D_1(s) = \frac{1}{2^s} \zeta(s)$, $D_2(s) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \zeta(s)$, $\alpha = 1$, and $R_1 = R_2 = \frac{1}{2}$. We set $m_{1,n} = m_{2,n} = \frac{\sqrt{6n}}{2\pi}$, and set $B_n = \left(\frac{3}{8\pi^2} - \frac{9}{4\pi^4}\right)^{1/4} n^{1/4}$. Then Theorem 1 implies that the random vector $\left(\frac{Y_{1,n} - m_{1,n}}{B_n}, \frac{Y_{2,n} - m_{2,n}}{B_n}\right)$ converges to a normally distributed vector with means $\vec{0} = (0, 0)$ and covariance matrix

$$Q = \left(\frac{3}{8\pi^2} - \frac{9}{4\pi^4}\right)^{-1/2} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4\pi} - \frac{3\sqrt{6}}{4\pi^3} & -\frac{3\sqrt{6}}{4\pi^3} \\ -\frac{3\sqrt{6}}{4\pi^3} & \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4\pi} - \frac{3\sqrt{6}}{4\pi^3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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APPENDIX

We must show that $T_2 = o(T_1)$. We have

$$|T_2| \leq e^{ny} \int_{y^\beta \leq |x| \leq \frac{1}{2}} |F_n(y + 2\pi xi)| dx = T_{2,1} + T_{2,2}$$

where

$$T_{2,1} = e^{ny} \int_{y^\beta \leq |x| \leq \frac{y}{2\pi}} T_{2,2} = e^{ny} \int_{\frac{y}{2\pi} \leq |x| \leq \frac{1}{2}}$$

To estimate $T_{2,1}$, we argue as before :

$$\log F_n(y + 2\pi xi) = c_n \tau^{-\alpha} + O\left(\log \frac{1}{y}\right)$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \log |F_n(y + 2\pi xi)| &\leq c_n |\tau|^{-\alpha} + O\left(\log \frac{1}{y}\right) \\ &= c_n y^{-\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{4\pi^2 x^2}{y^2}\right)^{-\alpha/2} + O\left(\log \frac{1}{y}\right) \\ &\leq c_n y^{-\alpha} - c_n y^{-\alpha} c \frac{x^2}{y^2} + O\left(\log \frac{1}{y}\right) \leq c_n y^{-\alpha} - C y^{-\alpha + 2(\beta - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$|T_{2,1}| \leq (e^{ny} e^{c_n y^{-\alpha}}) e^{-y^{-\epsilon}} = o(T_1).$$

To estimate $T_{2,2}$, we bound the logarithm of the integrand :

$$\begin{aligned} \log |F_n(y + 2\pi xi)| &= \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \sum_{l \geq 1} \frac{(1 + (-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l)}{l} e^{-aby} \cos(2\pi xal). \end{aligned}$$

Isolating the terms with $l = 1$, and then estimating the remaining terms, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \sum_{l \geq 2} \frac{(1 + (-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l)}{l} e^{-aby} \cos(2\pi xal) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} (1 + X_{i,n}) e^{-ay} \cos(2\pi xa) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} \sum_{l \geq 2} \frac{(1 + (-1)^{l-1} X_{i,n}^l)}{l} e^{-aby} \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}_i} (1 + X_{i,n}) e^{-ay} \cos(2\pi xa) \\ &= \log F_n(y) - \sum_{i=1}^d (1 + X_{i,n}(g_i(y)) - \mathcal{R}e(g_i(\tau))). \end{aligned}$$

By assumption, we have $\mathcal{R}e(g_i(\tau)) - g_i(y) < -C y^{-\epsilon}$ for $\frac{y}{2\pi} \leq |x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$.

We therefore have

$$\log |F_n(y + 2\pi xi)| \leq \log F_n(y) - C y^{-\epsilon}$$

and consequently

$$|T_{2,2}| \leq (e^{ny} F_n(y)) e^{-C y^{-\epsilon}} = o(T_1).$$