

**A PROPERTY OF GENERALIZED RAMANUJAN'S SUMS  
CONCERNING GENERALIZED  
COMPLETELY MULTIPLICATIVE FUNCTIONS**

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**Abstract.** Let  $A$  be a regular convolution in the sense of Narkiewicz. A necessary and sufficient condition for a multiplicative function to be  $A$ -multiplicative (i.e. such that  $f(n) = f(d)f(n/d)$  whenever  $d \in A(n)$ ) is given in terms of generalized Ramanujan's sums. (With the Dirichlet convolution  $A$ -multiplicative functions are completely multiplicative.) In addition, another necessary and sufficient condition for a multiplicative function to be completely multiplicative is given in terms of generalized Ramanujan's sums as well. As an application a representation theorem in terms of Dirichlet series is given. The results of this paper generalize respective results of Ivić and Redmond.

Let  $A$  be a mapping from the set  $\mathbf{N}$  of positive integers to the set of subsets of  $\mathbf{N}$  such that for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $A(n)$  consists entirely of divisors of  $n$ . Then the  $A$ -convolution of arithmetical functions is defined by

$$(fAg)(n) = \sum_{d \in A(n)} f(d)g(n/d).$$

Narkiewicz [3] defined an  $A$ -convolution to be *regular* if

- (a) the set of arithmetical functions is a commutative ring with unity with respect to the ordinary addition and the  $A$ -convolution,
- (b) the  $A$ -convolution of multiplicative functions is multiplicative,
- (c) the function 1, defined by  $1(n) = 1$  for all  $n$ , has an inverse  $\mu_A$  with respect to the  $A$ -convolution, and  $\mu_A(n) = 0$  or  $-1$  whenever  $n$  is a prime power.

By [3] it can be seen that an  $A$ -convolution is regular if and only if

- (i)  $A(mn) = \{de: d \in A(m), e \in A(n)\}$  for all  $(m, n) = 1$ ,
- (ii) for every prime power  $p^\alpha > 1$  there is a divisor  $t = \tau_A(p^\alpha)$  of  $a$ , called the *type* of  $p^\alpha$ , such that

$$A(p^\alpha) = \{1, p^t, p^{2t}, \dots, p^{rt}\},$$

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where  $rt = a$ , and

$$A(p^{it}) = \{1, p^t, p^{2t}, \dots, p^{it}\} \quad \text{for all } i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, r-1.$$

The prime powers  $p^t$  are called *A-primitive prime powers*.

We assume throughout this paper that  $A$  is an arbitrary but fixed regular convolution. For example, the Dirichlet convolution  $D$ , where  $D(n)$  is the set of all positive divisors of  $n$ , and the unitary convolution  $U$ , where  $U(n) = \{d > 0 : d|n, (d, n/d) = 1\}$ , are regular.

Yocom [6] defined an arithmetical function to be  $A$ -multiplicative if for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$

$$f(d)f(n/d) = f(n) \quad \text{for all } d \in A(n).$$

For example, the  $D$ -multiplicative functions are the well-known completely or (totally) multiplicative functions and the  $U$ -multiplicative functions are the well-known multiplicative functions. All  $A$ -multiplicative functions are multiplicative.

Yocom [6] proved that the following statements are equivalent:

(I)  $f$  is  $A$ -multiplicative,

(II) for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $f(n) = \prod f(p^t)^{a/t}$ , where  $n = \prod p^a$  is the canonical factorization of  $n$  and  $t = \tau_A(p^a)$ ,

(III)  $f(gAh) = fgAfh$  for all arithmetical functions  $g, h$ .

The inverse of an arithmetical function  $f$  with  $f(1) \neq 0$  is defined by

$$fAf^{-1} = f^{-1}Af = e,$$

where  $e(1) = 1$  and  $e(n) = 0$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Yocom [6] proved that a multiplicative function  $f$  with  $f(1) \neq 0$  is  $A$ -multiplicative if and only if

$$f^{-1} = \mu_A f.$$

The generalized Möbius function  $\mu_A$  [3] is the multiplicative function such that for each prime power  $p^a (\neq 1)$

$$\mu_A(p^a) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \tau_A(p^a) = a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Ramanujan's sum  $C(m; n)$  is defined by

$$C(m; n) = \sum_a \exp(2\pi iam/n),$$

where  $a$  runs over a reduced residue system modulo  $n$ . A well-known evaluation of Ramanujan's sum is

$$C(m; n) = \sum_{d|(m, n)} d\mu(n/d),$$

where  $\mu$  is the Möbius function. This formula suggests that we define (cf. [1]) a generalization of Ramanujan's sum as follows:

$$S_{A,k}^{f,g}(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_u; n) = \sum_{d^k \in A((m_1, \dots, m_u), n^k)_{A,k}} f(d)g(n/d),$$

where  $(a, b)_{A,k}$  is the greatest  $k$ -th power divisor of  $a$  which belongs to  $A(b)$ . In other words,

$$S_{A,k}^{f,g}(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_u; n) = \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(n) \\ d^k | m_1, \dots, m_u}} f(d)g(n/d),$$

where  $A_k(n) = \{d > 0 : d^k \in A(n^k)\}$ .

It is known [5] that the  $A_k$ -convolution is regular since the  $A$ -convolution is regular.

In [2] A. Ivić gave necessary and sufficient conditions for a multiplicative function to be completely multiplicative in terms of Ramanujan's sum. He also gave a Ramanujan-expansion of a generalization of von Mangoldt function. In [4] D. Redmond generalized the results of A. Ivić [2]. The purpose of this note is to generalize further these results. We assume throughout that  $f$  is multiplicative.

**THEOREM 1.** (a) *If  $f$  is  $A_k$ -multiplicative, then for all positive integers  $n$  and non-negative integers  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_u$*

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{d \in A_k(n)} f(d)f(n/d)S_{A,k}^{h, \mu_{A_k}}(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_u; d) \\ &= \begin{cases} f(n)h(n) & \text{if } n^k | m_1, m_2, \dots, m_u, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*The converse holds if  $h(p^{a-t}) \neq h(1)$ ,  $t = \tau_{A_k}(p^a)$ , for all prime powers  $p^a$  such that  $a \neq t$ .*

(b) *If  $f$  is completely multiplicative and  $f(1) \neq 0$ , then for all positive integers  $n_1, m$  and non-negative integers  $n_2, \dots, n_u$*

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{d|n_1} f^{-1}(d)f(n_1/d)S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n_1/d, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) \\ &= \begin{cases} f(n_1)h(a)g(m/a) & \text{if } n_1 = a^k, a \in A_k(m), n_1 | n_2, \dots, n_u, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*$f^{-1}$  being the Dirichlet inverse of  $f$ . The converse holds if  $k = 1$ ,  $A = D$ ,  $g$  is of the form  $\mu g$  and  $g(p)h(p^{a-1}) \neq 0$  for all prime powers  $p^a$ .*

**THEOREM 2.** *Suppose  $a, n_2, \dots, n_u$  are non-negative integers and  $k, m, u$  are positive integers. Define*

$$\varepsilon = 0 \text{ if } \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} \frac{h(d)g(m/d)}{d^k} = 0, \quad \text{and } = 1 \text{ otherwise.}$$

Then

$$k^a \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} \frac{g(m/d)h(d) \log^a d}{d^{k(1+\varepsilon)}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m)}{n^{1+\varepsilon}} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(r) \log^a(nr)}{r^{1+\varepsilon}}.$$

D. Redmond [4] proved the theorems for  $A = D$ ,  $k = u = 1$ ,  $g = \mu$ . Further, we obtain the theorems of A. Ivić [2] if we assume in addition that  $h(n) = n$  for all  $n$ . Ivić [2] and Redmond [4] presented formulas (1) and (2) in terms of Dirichlet series.

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Throughout the proof we shall use the notation:

$$\chi_A(m; d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d \in A(m), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Suppose  $f$  is  $A_k$ -multiplicative. Then, by (III), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{d \in A_k(n)} f(d)f(n/d)S_{A,k}^{h,\mu_{A_k}}(m_1, \dots, m_u; d) &= (fA_k fS_{A,k}^{h,\mu_{A_k}}(m_1, \dots, m_u; \cdot))(n) \\ &= f(n)(1A_k S_{A,k}^{h,\mu_{A_k}}(m_1, \dots, m_u; \cdot))(n) \\ &= f(n)(1A_k (\chi_D(m_1; \cdot)^k) \cdots \chi_D(m_u; \cdot)^k)h) A_k \mu_{A_k}(n) \\ &= f(n)\chi_D(m_1; n^k) \cdots \chi_D(m_u; n^k)h(n), \end{aligned}$$

which proves (1).

Conversely, suppose (1) holds with  $h(p^{a-t}) \neq h(1)$ ,  $t = \tau_{A_k}(p^a)$ , for all prime powers  $p^a$  such that  $a \neq t$ . We proceed by induction on  $a$  to prove that

$$(3) \quad f(p^{at}) = f(p^t)^a$$

for all  $A$ -primitive prime powers  $p^t$  and integers  $a$  with  $\tau_{A_k}(p^{at}) = t$ . It is clear that (3) holds for  $a = 1$ . Suppose (3) holds for  $a < s$  and  $\tau_{A_k}(p^{st}) = t$ . (Note that then  $\tau_{A_k}(p^{at}) = t$  for  $a < s$ .) Taking  $n = p^{st}$ ,  $m_1 = \cdots = m_u = p^{st}$  in (1) gives

$$\begin{aligned} f(p^{st})h(1) + \sum_{i=1}^{s-1} f(p^{it})f(p^{(s-i)t})(h(p^{it}) - h(p^{(i-1)t})) \\ + f(p^{st})(h(p^{st}) - h(p^{(s-1)t})) = f(p^{st})h(p^{st}), \end{aligned}$$

which can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{s-2} (f(p^{it})f(p^{(s-i)t}) - f(p^{(i+1)t})f(p^{s-(i+1)t}))h(p^{it}) \\ + f(p^{(s-1)t})f(p^t)h(p^{(s-1)t}) - f(p^t)f(p^{(s-1)t})h(1) \\ + f(p^{st})h(1) - f(p^{st})h(p^{(s-1)t}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

By the inductive assumption

$$f(p^{it})f(p^{(s-i)t}) - f(p^{(i+1)t})f(p^{s-(i+1)t}) = 0;$$

hence we have

$$\left(f(p^t)f(p^{(s-1)t}) - f(p^{st})\right) \left(h(p^{(s-1)t}) - h(1)\right) = 0,$$

which completes the induction. So (3) holds. Thus, by (II),  $f$  is  $A_k$ -multiplicative.

(b) Suppose  $f$  is completely multiplicative with  $f(1) \neq 0$ . Then, as  $f^{-1} = \mu f$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{d|n_1} f^{-1}(d)f(n_1/d)S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n_1/d, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) \\ &= f(n_1) \sum_{cd=n_1} \mu(d)S_{A,k}^{h,g}(c, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) \\ &= f(n_1) \sum_{cd=n_1} \mu(d) \sum_{a^k|c} \chi_{A_k}(m; a)\chi_D(n_2; a^k) \cdots \chi_D(n_u; a^k)h(a)g(m/a) \\ &= f(n_1) \sum_{a^k b d = n_1} \mu(d)\chi_{A_k}(m; a)\chi_D(n_2; a^k) \cdots \chi_D(n_u; a^k)h(a)g(m/a) \\ &= f(n_1) \sum_{a^k v = n_1} \chi_{A_k}(m; a)\chi_D(n_2; a^k) \cdots \chi_D(n_u; a^k)h(a)g(m/a) \sum_{bd=v} \mu(d) \\ &= f(n_1) \sum_{a^k v = n_1} \chi_{A_k}(m; a)\chi_D(n_2; a^k) \cdots \chi_D(n_u; a^k)h(a)g(m/a)e(v). \end{aligned}$$

This proves (2).

Conversely, suppose (2) holds when  $k = 1$ ,  $A = D$ ,  $g$  is of the form  $\mu g$  and  $g(p)h(p^{a-1}) \neq 0$  for all prime powers  $p^a$ . Then we prove that

$$(4) \quad f(p^a) = f(p)^a$$

for all prime powers  $p^a$ . Clearly (4) holds for  $a = 1$ . Suppose  $a > 1$ . Taking  $n_1 = \cdots = n_u = m = p^a$  in (2) gives

$$\sum_{i=0}^a f^{-1}(p^i)f(p^{a-i}) \sum_{j=0}^{a-i} h(p^j)(\mu g)(p^{a-j}) = f(p^a)h(p^a)g(1),$$

that is,

$$f(p^a) \left(h(p^a)g(1) - h(p^{a-1})g(p)\right) - f^{-1}(p)f(p^{a-1})h(p^{a-1})g(p) = f(p^a)h(p^a)g(1).$$

Therefore

$$f(p^a) = f(p)f(p^{a-1}),$$

which proves (4). Thus  $f$  is completely multiplicative. Now the proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Writing (2) in terms of Dirichlet series gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} f(r)\mu(r)r^{-s} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f(n)S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m)n^{-s} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} f(d^k)h(d)g(m/d)d^{-ks}. \end{aligned}$$

Take  $f = 1$ . Suppose  $\operatorname{Re}(s)$  is large enough and differentiate the above equation  $a$  times with respect to  $s$ . Then we obtain

$$(5) \quad \sum_{i=0}^a \binom{a}{i} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (-1)^i \mu(r)r^{-s} \log^i r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{a-i} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m)n^{-s} \log^{a-i} n \\ = (-k)^a \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-ks} \log^a d.$$

As  $s \rightarrow (1 + \varepsilon)^+$

$$\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \mu(r)r^{-s} \log^i r \rightarrow \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \mu(r)r^{-(1+\varepsilon)} \log^i r.$$

Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \leq x} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) &= \sum_{n \leq x} \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n, n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d) \sum_{d^k l \leq x} 1 = \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d) \left( \frac{x}{d^k} + O(1) \right) \\ &= x \sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-k} + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we are in the position to prove that

$$(6) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m)n^{-(1+\varepsilon)} \log^{a-i} n$$

converges. By Abel's identity, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \leq x} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m)n^{-(1+\varepsilon)} \log^{a-i} n \\ = \left( x \sum_{d \in A_k(m), d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-k} + O(1) \right) \frac{\log^{a-i} x}{x^{1+\varepsilon}} \end{aligned}$$

$$- \int_1^x \left( t \sum_{d \in A_k(m), d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-k} + O(1) \right) \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\log^{a-i} t}{t^{1+\varepsilon}} \right) dt.$$

If

$$\sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-k} = 0,$$

then  $\varepsilon = 0$  and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n \leq x} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) n^{-1} \log^{a-i} n \\ &= \frac{\log^{a-i} x}{x} O(1) - \int_1^x \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\log^{a-i} t}{t^{1+\varepsilon}} \right) O(1) dt = \frac{\log^{a-i} x}{x} O(1) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if

$$\sum_{\substack{d \in A_k(m) \\ d^k | n_2, \dots, n_u}} h(d)g(m/d)d^{-k} = K \neq 0,$$

then  $\varepsilon = 1$  and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n \leq x} S_{A,k}^{h,g}(n, n_2, \dots, n_u; m) n^{-2} \log^{a-i} n \\ &= (Kx + O(1)) \frac{\log^{a-i} x}{x^2} - K \int_1^x t \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\log^{a-i} t}{t^2} \right) dt - \int_1^x \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\log^{a-i} t}{t^2} \right) O(1) dt \\ &= O\left( \frac{\log^{a-i} x}{x} \right) - K \int_1^x \frac{\log^{a-i} t}{t^2} dt, \end{aligned}$$

which converges as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . So we have proved that (6) converges.

Now, letting  $s \rightarrow (1 + \varepsilon)^+$  in (5) we get Theorem 2.

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