

On the greatest prime factor of the twelfth cyclotomic polynomial

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Let $P^+(n)$ denote the greatest prime factor of the integer n and $\Phi_{12}(X) = X^4 - X^2 + 1$ the twelfth cyclotomic polynomial. We prove that there exists $c > 0$ such that for x large enough we have

$$P^+ \left(\prod_{n \leq x} \Phi_{12}(n) \right) \geq x^{1+c}.$$

The value $c = 10^{-26531}$ is admissible. The proof consists in adapting Heath–Brown's method concerning $P^+ \left(\prod_{n \leq x} (n^3 + 2) \right)$. The main ingredients are :

- an upper bound on some exponential sums involving the fractions $\frac{v}{m}$ with $\Phi_{12}(v) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, $0 < v < m$, and the integers $m < M$ have a “good” factorization;
- a result on the joint distribution in arithmetic progressions of the values $(f_1(b, c), f_2(b, d))$ where f_1 and f_2 are two irreducible binary forms of degree ≥ 2 .

This result for Φ_{12} has been extended recently by La Bretèche to the irreducible polynomials of degree four with Galois's group isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

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