

# The $ABC$ Conjecture: A Proof of $C < rad^2(ABC)$

Abdelmajid Ben Hadj Salem

Received: date / Accepted: date

**Abstract** In this paper, we consider the  $ABC$  conjecture then we give a proof that  $C < rad^2(ABC)$  that it will be the key of the proof of the  $ABC$  conjecture.

**Keywords** Elementary number theory · real functions of one variable.

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2010)** 11Axx · 26Axx

*To the memory of my Father who taught me arithmetic  
To the memory of Jean Bourgain (1954-2018) for his mathematical  
work notably in the field of Number Theory*

## 1 Introduction and notations

Let  $a$  a positive integer,  $a = \prod_i a_i^{\alpha_i}$ ,  $a_i$  prime integers and  $\alpha_i \geq 1$  positive integers. We call *radical* of  $a$  the integer  $\prod_i a_i$  noted by  $rad(a)$ . Then  $a$  is written as:

$$a = \prod_i a_i^{\alpha_i} = rad(a) \cdot \prod_i a_i^{\alpha_i - 1} \quad (1)$$

We note:

$$\mu_a = \prod_i a_i^{\alpha_i - 1} \implies a = \mu_a \cdot rad(a) \quad (2)$$

The  $ABC$  conjecture was proposed independently in 1985 by David Masser of the University of Basel and Joseph Esterlé of Pierre et Marie Curie University (Paris 6) ([1]). It describes the distribution of the prime factors of two integers with those of its sum. The definition of the  $ABC$  conjecture is given below:

---

Abdelmajid Ben Hadj Salem  
6, Rue du Nil, Cité Soliman Er-Riadh  
8020 Soliman  
Tunisia  
E-mail: abenhadjalem@gmail.com

*Conjecture 1 (ABC Conjecture)*: Let  $a, b, c$  positive integers relatively prime with  $c = a + b$ , then for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $K(\epsilon)$  such that :

$$c < K(\epsilon).rad(abc)^{1+\epsilon} \quad (3)$$

We know that numerically,  $\frac{Logc}{Log(rad(abc))} \leq 1.616751$  ([2]). Here we will give a proof that:

$$c < rad^2(abc) \implies \frac{Logc}{Log(rad(abc))} < 2 \quad (4)$$

This result, I think is the key to obtain a proof of the veracity of the *ABC* conjecture.

## 2 A Proof of the condition (4)

Let  $a, b, c$  positive integers, relatively prime, with  $c = a + b$ . We suppose that  $b < a$ .

If  $c \leq rad(ab)$  then we obtain:

$$c \leq rad(ab) < rad^2(abc) \quad (5)$$

and the condition (4) is verified.

In the following, we suppose that  $c > rad(ab)$ .

### 2.1 Case $c = a + 1$

$$c = a + 1 = \mu_a rad(a) + 1 \stackrel{?}{<} rad^2(ac) \quad (6)$$

#### 2.1.1 $\mu_a = 1$

In this case,  $a = rad(a)$ , it is immediately truth that :

$$c = a + 1 < 2a < rad(a)rad(c) < rad^2(ac) \quad (7)$$

Then (6) is verified.

#### 2.1.2 $\mu_a \neq 1, \mu_a < rad(a)$

we obtain :

$$c = a + 1 < 2\mu_a.rad(a) \implies c < 2rad^2(a) \implies c < rad^2(ac) \quad (8)$$

Then (6) is verified.

2.1.3  $\mu_a \geq rad(a)$ 

We have  $c = a + 1 = \mu_a \cdot rad(a) + 1 \leq \mu_a^2 + 1 \stackrel{?}{<} rad^2(ac)$ . We suppose that  $\mu_a^2 + 1 \geq rad^2(ac) \implies \mu_a^2 > rad^2(a) \cdot rad(c) > rad^2(a)$  as  $rad(c) > 1$ , then  $\mu_a > rad(a)$ , that is the contradiction with  $\mu_a \geq rad(a)$ . We deduce that  $c < \mu_a^2 + 1 < rad^2(ac)$  and the condition (6) is verified.

2.2  $c = a + b$ 

We can write that  $c$  verifies:

$$\begin{aligned} c = a + b &= rad(a) \cdot \mu_a + rad(b) \cdot \mu_b = rad(a) \cdot rad(b) \left( \frac{\mu_a}{rad(b)} + \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a)} \right) \\ \implies c &= rad(a) \cdot rad(b) \cdot rad(c) \left( \frac{\mu_a}{rad(b) \cdot rad(c)} + \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a) \cdot rad(c)} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

We can write also:

$$c = rad(abc) \left( \frac{\mu_a}{rad(b) \cdot rad(c)} + \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a) \cdot rad(c)} \right) \quad (10)$$

To obtain a proof of (4), one method is to prove that :

$$\frac{\mu_a}{rad(b) \cdot rad(c)} + \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a) \cdot rad(c)} < rad(abc) \quad (11)$$

2.2.1  $\mu_a = \mu_b = 1$ 

In this case, it is immediately truth that :

$$\frac{1}{rad(a)} + \frac{1}{rad(b)} \leq \frac{5}{6} < rad(c) \cdot rad(abc) \quad (12)$$

Then (4) is verified.

2.2.2  $\mu_a = 1$  and  $\mu_b > 1$ 

As  $b < a \implies \mu_b rad(b) < rad(a) \implies \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a)} < \frac{1}{rad(b)}$ , then we deduce that:

$$\frac{1}{rad(b)} + \frac{\mu_b}{rad(a)} < \frac{2}{rad(b)} < rad(c) \cdot rad(abc) \quad (13)$$

Then (4) is verified.

2.2.3  $\mu_b = 1$  and  $\mu_a \leq (b = \text{rad}(b))$

In this case we obtain:

$$\frac{1}{\text{rad}(a)} + \frac{\mu_a}{\text{rad}(b)} \leq \frac{1}{\text{rad}(a)} + 1 < \text{rad}(c) \cdot \text{rad}(abc) \quad (14)$$

Then (4) is verified.

2.2.4  $\mu_b = 1$  and  $\mu_a > (b = \text{rad}(b))$

As  $\mu_a > \text{rad}(b)$ , we can write  $\mu_a = \text{rad}(b) + n$  where  $n \geq 1$ . We obtain:

$$c = \mu_a \text{rad}(a) + \text{rad}(b) = (\text{rad}(b) + n) \text{rad}(a) + \text{rad}(b) = \text{rad}(ab) + n \text{rad}(a) + \text{rad}(b) \quad (15)$$

We verify that  $n < b$ , then:

$$c < 2\text{rad}(ab) + \text{rad}(b) \implies c < \text{rad}(abc) + \text{rad}(abc) < \text{rad}^2(abc) \implies c < \text{rad}^2(abc) \quad (16)$$

2.2.5  $\mu_a \cdot \mu_b \neq 1$ ,  $\mu_a < \text{rad}(a)$  and  $\mu_b < \text{rad}(b)$

we obtain :

$$c = \mu_c \text{rad}(c) = \mu_a \cdot \text{rad}(a) + \mu_b \cdot \text{rad}(b) < \text{rad}^2(a) + \text{rad}^2(b) < \text{rad}^2(abc) \quad (17)$$

2.2.6  $\mu_a \cdot \mu_b \neq 1$ ,  $\mu_a \leq \text{rad}(a)$  and  $\mu_b \geq \text{rad}(b)$

We have:

$$c = \mu_a \cdot \text{rad}(a) + \mu_b \cdot \text{rad}(b) < \mu_a \mu_b \text{rad}(a) \text{rad}(b) \leq \mu_b \text{rad}^2(a) \text{rad}(b) \quad (18)$$

Then if we give a proof that  $\mu_b < \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c)$ , we obtain  $c < \text{rad}^2(abc)$ . As  $\mu_b \geq \text{rad}(b) \implies \mu_b = \text{rad}(b) + \alpha$  with  $\alpha$  a positive integer  $\geq 0$ . Supposing that  $\mu_b \geq \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c) \implies \mu_b = \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c) + \beta$  with  $\beta \geq 0$  a positive integer. We can write:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c) + \beta &= \text{rad}(b) + \alpha \implies \beta < \alpha \\ \alpha - \beta &= \text{rad}(b) (\text{rad}^2(c) - 1) > 3\text{rad}(b) \implies \mu_b = \text{rad}(b) + \alpha > 4\text{rad}(b) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Finally, we obtain:

$$\begin{cases} \mu_b \geq \text{rad}(b) \\ \mu_b > 4\text{rad}(b) \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

Then the contradiction and the hypothesis  $\mu_b \geq \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c)$  is false. Hence:

$$\mu_b < \text{rad}(b) \text{rad}^2(c) \implies c < \text{rad}^2(abc) \quad (21)$$

2.2.7  $\mu_a \cdot \mu_b \neq 1, \mu_a \geq rad(a)$  and  $\mu_b \leq rad(b)$ 

The proof is identical to the case above.

2.2.8  $\mu_a \cdot \mu_b \neq 1, \mu_a \geq rad(a)$  and  $\mu_b \geq rad(b)$ 

We write:

$$c = \mu_a rad(a) + \mu_b rad(b) \leq \mu_a^2 + \mu_b^2 < \mu_a^2 \cdot \mu_b^2 \stackrel{?}{<} rad^2(a) \cdot rad^2(b) \cdot rad^2(c) = rad^2(abc) \quad (22)$$

As  $\mu_a \geq rad(a)$  and  $\mu_b \geq rad(b)$ , we can write that :

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_a &= rad(a) + m \\ \mu_b &= rad(b) + n \end{aligned}$$

with  $m, n \geq 0$  two positive integers. Let  $F(x, y)$  the function :

$$F(x, y) = (x + rad(a))(y + rad(b)) - rad(abc), \quad (x, y) \in I = ]-rad(a), +\infty[ \times ]-rad(b), +\infty[ \quad (23)$$

The set of points  $M(x, y) \in I$  verifying  $F(x, y) = 0$  is the hyperbola  $\mathcal{C}$  given by :

$$y = \frac{-rad(b) \cdot x + rad(abc) - rad(ab)}{x + rad(a)} \quad (24)$$

The curve  $\mathcal{C}$  intersects the axis  $x = 0$  and  $y = 0$  at the two points  $M_1(0, y_1 = rad(b)(rad(c) - 1))$  and  $M_2(x_2 = rad(a)(rad(c) - 1), 0)$ . The region below the curve  $\mathcal{C}$  verifies  $F(x, y) < 0$ .  $F(m, n) = \mu_a \cdot \mu_b - rad(abc) < 0$  if we have  $m < x_2 \Rightarrow m < rad(a)(rad(c) - 1)$  and  $n < y_1 \Rightarrow n < rad(b)(rad(c) - 1)$ . We suppose now that:

$$\begin{aligned} m \geq rad(a)(rad(c) - 1) &\implies m > rad(a) \implies \mu_a > 2rad(a) \implies a > 2rad^2(a) \\ n \geq rad(b)(rad(c) - 1) &\implies n > rad(b) \implies \mu_b > 2rad(b) \implies b > 2rad^2(b) \\ \text{then } c > 2(rad^2(a) + rad^2(b)) &> 4rad(ab) \implies c > 4rad(ab) \quad (25) \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality  $c > 4rad(ab)$  gives the contradiction with the condition  $c > rad(ab)$  supposed above. Then we obtain  $F(m, n) < 0 \implies \mu_a \cdot \mu_b - rad(abc) < 0 \implies c < rad^2(abc)$ .

We announce the theorem:

**Theorem 1 (Abdelmajid Ben Hadj Salem, 2019)** *Let  $a, b, c$  positive integers relatively prime with  $c = a + b$  and  $b < a$ , then  $c < rad^2(abc)$ .*

## References

1. Waldschmidt M.: On the abc Conjecture and some of its consequences presented at The 6th World Conference on 21st Century Mathematics, Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences (ASSMS), Lahore (Pakistan), March 6-9, 2013. (2013)
2. Robert O., Stewart C.L. and Tenenbaum G.: A refinement of the abc conjecture. Bull. London Math. Soc. **46**,6, 1156-1166 (2014).