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**Zbl 625.10035****Erdős, Paul; Odlyzko, Andrew M.; Sárközy, A.***On the residues of products of prime numbers.* (In English)**Period. Math. Hung. 18, 229-239 (1987). [0031-5303]**

This paper contains a modest attack to the problem proposed by *P. Erdős* that for any sufficiently large prime  $q$  and any residue class  $a \not\equiv 0$  modulo  $q$  the congruence  $p_1 p_2 \equiv a \pmod{q}$  can be solved in primes  $p_1 \leq q$  and  $p_2 \leq q$ . All considerations are subject to the quasi-Riemann hypothesis  $H(\theta_q, x)$ , i.e., it is supposed that for all characters  $\chi$  modulo  $q$  the  $L(s, \chi)$  do not vanish in the domain  $\operatorname{Re} s > \theta_q$ ,  $|\operatorname{Im} s| < x^{1-\theta_q}$ .

The generalized Riemann hypothesis is  $H(1/2, \infty)$  but this is not enough to imply the above conjecture. There are three possible ways to weaken it, which can be satisfied (i) with almost all residue classes mod  $q$ , (ii) with the product of three primes instead of two, and (iii) with a little bit larger primes  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

It is proved that

- (i) if  $H(\theta_q, q)$  is true then  $p_1 p_2 \equiv a \pmod{q}$ ,  $p_1 \leq q$ ,  $p_2 \leq q$  can be solved for all but  $cq^{2\theta_q-1} \log^5 q$  residue classes  $a \not\equiv 0$  modulo  $q$ ;
- (ii) if  $H(\theta_q, q)$  is true with  $\theta_q < 1 - (3 + \epsilon) \frac{\log \log q}{\log q}$  then  $p_1 p_2 p_3 \equiv a \pmod{q}$ ,  $p_1 \leq q$ ,  $p_2 \leq q$ ,  $p_3 \leq q$  can be solved;
- (iii) if the generalized Riemann hypothesis is true then  $p_1 p_2 \equiv a \pmod{q}$ ,  $p_1 \leq cq \log^4 q$ ,  $p_2 \leq cq \log^4 q$  can be solved.

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11N13 Primes in progressions

11N05 Distribution of primes

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