

## ON THE SUM OF A PRIME AND A SQUARE

By

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### 1. Introduction.

In 1923 G. H. Hardy and J. E. Littlewood [3] conjectured that every large integer, not being a square, may be expressed as the sum of a prime and a square. Let  $\nu(n)$  be the number of representations of an integer  $n$  in this manner. They further stated the hypothetical asymptotic formula; As  $n(\neq k^2) \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\nu(n) \sim \mathfrak{S}(n) \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n}$$

with

$$\mathfrak{S}(n) = \prod_{p > 2} \left( 1 - \frac{(n/p)}{p-1} \right)$$

where  $(-)$  is the Legendre symbol.

Define  $\mathfrak{S}(k^2) = 0$ . In 1968 R. J. Miehch [5] proved that

$$(1) \quad \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n) \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n} \left( 1 + O\left( \frac{\log \log n}{\log n} \right) \right) \right|^2 \ll x^2 (\log x)^{-A}$$

for any  $A > 0$ , from which it follows that

$$(2) \quad E(x) \ll x (\log x)^{-A}$$

where  $E(x)$  denotes the number of integers  $n \leq x$  with  $\nu(n) = 0$ . It seems difficult to sharpen the right hand side of (1). However (2) may be improved, see [1, 9, 12].

A. I. Vinogradov [12; p. 35] remarked that, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$E(x) \ll x^{2/3+\varepsilon}$$

under the extended Riemann hypothesis. First of all we shall show

PROPOSITION. *Assume the extended Riemann hypothesis. Then*

$$(3) \quad E(x) \ll x^{1/2} (\log x)^5.$$

It is the main aim of this paper to prove the following unconditional results.

THEOREM 1. *Let  $1/2 < \theta \leq 1$  and  $A > 0$  be given. We have*

$$\sum_{x-x^\theta < n \leq x} \left| \nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n) \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n} \left( 1 + O\left( \frac{\log \log n}{\log n} \right) \right) \right|^2 \ll x^{\theta+1} (\log x)^{-A}$$

where the  $O$ -constant is absolute and the  $\ll$ -constant depends on  $\theta$  and  $A$  only.

THEOREM 2. *Let  $7/24 < \theta \leq 1$  and  $A > 0$  be given. We have*

$$E(x+x^\theta) - E(x) \ll x^\theta (\log x)^{-A}$$

where the implied constant depends on  $\theta$  and  $A$  only.

Our assertion may be regarded as a refinement of Miech's work (1)(2), and must be compared with a conditional bound (3). Within the frame of Circle method, we appeal to the large sieve [7, 8] and R.C. Vaughan's method [11; Chap. 4] on Weyl sums.

I would like to thank Professor Uchiyama and Dr. Kawada for suggestion and encouragement.

## 2. Singular series.

In this section we collect the facts of  $\mathfrak{S}(n)$ . For the proof, see [1, 5, 9, 12].

For integers  $q$  and  $n$ , let  $\rho(q, n)$  be the number of solutions of the congruence  $x^2 \equiv n \pmod{q}$ , and  $\rho_1$  be the convolution inverse of  $\rho$  with respect to  $q$ . Define, for  $Q \geq 3$ ,

$$(2.1) \quad \mathfrak{S}(n, Q) = \sum_{q \leq Q} \frac{\mu(q)}{\varphi(q)} \rho_1(q, n).$$

Then, uniformly for  $n$ ,

$$(2.2) \quad \mathfrak{S}(n, Q) \ll \log Q.$$

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the set of fundamental discriminants. An integer  $n$  may be uniquely written as  $n = n_1 n_2^2$  with a square-free  $n_1$ . Put

$$\delta(n) = \begin{cases} n_1 & \text{if } n_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 4n_1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, if  $n \neq k^2$  then  $\delta(n) \in \mathcal{D}$ . For  $d \in \mathcal{D}$ , the Kronecker symbol  $(d/\cdot)$  is a primitive character to modulus  $d$ . Let  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(T)$ ,  $T \geq 3$ , denote the set of  $d \in \mathcal{D}$  for which  $L(s, (d/\cdot))$  the Dirichlet  $L$ -function has no zero in the region:

$\text{Re}(s) \geq 29/30$  and  $|\text{Im}(s)| \leq T$ . Suppose  $x \asymp T$ . If  $\delta(n) \in \mathcal{L}$  then there exists a constant  $\eta > 0$  such that

$$(2.3) \quad \mathfrak{S}(n, Q) = \mathfrak{S}(n) + O(Q^{-\eta} \exp(\sqrt{\log x}))$$

uniformly for  $n \leq x$ . Moreover,

$$(2.4) \quad \#\{d : d \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{L}, d \leq 4x\} \ll x^{1/4} (\log x)^{14}.$$

Finally, for  $n \neq k^2$ ,

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{\varphi(n)}{n} \ll \mathfrak{S}(n) L\left(1, \left(\frac{\delta(n)}{\cdot}\right)\right) \ll \frac{n}{\varphi(n)}.$$

### 3. A conditional estimate.

In this section we illustrate our device with the proof of Proposition. We employ the Circle method [11].

Let  $x$  be a large parameter. We divide the unit interval by the Farey dissections of order

$$Q = x^{1/2} (\log x)^2.$$

For  $(a, q) = 1$ , write

$$I_{q,a} = \left[ \frac{a}{q} - \frac{1}{qQ}, \frac{a}{q} + \frac{1}{qQ} \right].$$

Put

$$M = \bigcup_{q \leq P} \bigcup_{\substack{0 < a \leq q \\ (a, q) = 1}} I_{q,a}, \quad P = x/100Q,$$

$$m = [Q^{-1}, 1 + Q^{-1}] \setminus M.$$

We define the exponential sum

$$W(\alpha) = \sum_{m^2 \leq x} e(\alpha m^2)$$

where  $e(t) = e^{2\pi i t}$ . By Weyl's inequality, we see that

$$(3.1) \quad |W(\alpha)|^2 \ll \left( \frac{x}{q} + x^{1/2} + q \right) \log qx,$$

for  $|\alpha - (a/q)| \leq q^{-2}$  with  $(a, q) = 1$ . When  $\alpha \in I_{q,a}$ ,  $W(\alpha)$  is approximated by

$$V(\alpha) = q^{-1} g(a, q) v\left(\alpha - \frac{a}{q}\right)$$

where

$$g(a, q) = \sum_{m \equiv a \pmod{q}} e\left(\frac{a}{q} m^2\right) \quad \text{and} \quad v(\beta) = \sum_{m \leq x} \frac{e(\beta m)}{2\sqrt{m}}.$$

Actually it follows from [11; Theorem 4.1] and [12; p. 38] that

$$(3.2) \quad |W(\alpha) - V(\alpha)|^2 \ll q(\log q)^2$$

for  $|\alpha - (a/q)| \leq (4q\sqrt{x})^{-1}$ . In addition, we note that

$$(3.3) \quad |g(a, q)|^2 \ll q,$$

$$(3.4) \quad |v(\beta)|^2 \ll \min(x, \|\beta\|^{-1})$$

where  $\|t\| = \min_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |t - n|$ .

Put

$$S(\alpha) = \sum_{n \leq x} \Lambda(n) e(\alpha n)$$

where  $\Lambda$  is the von Mangoldt function. It is expected that, for  $\alpha \in I_{q, a}$ ,  $S(\alpha)$  is nearly equal to

$$T(\alpha) = \frac{\mu(q)}{\varphi(q)} t\left(\alpha - \frac{a}{q}\right)$$

where

$$(3.5) \quad t(\beta) = \sum_{n \leq x} e(\beta n) \ll \min(x, \|\beta\|^{-1}).$$

In order to show this, define

$$(3.6) \quad J(q) = \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{I_{q, a}} |S(\alpha) - T(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha$$

where  $*$  in  $\sum_a^*$  stands for  $(a, q) = 1$ . If  $\alpha \in I_{q, a}$ ,

$$S(\alpha) - T(\alpha) = \varphi(q)^{-1} \sum_{\chi(q)} \chi(a) \tau(\bar{\chi}) \sum_{n \leq x}^{\#} \chi(n) \Lambda(n) e\left(\left(\alpha - \frac{a}{q}\right)n\right) + O((\log x)^2).$$

Here  $\#$  in  $\sum_n^{\#}$  means that if  $\chi$  is principal then  $\chi(n)\Lambda(n)$  should be replaced by  $\Lambda(n) - 1$ . When  $q \leq P$ , by [2; Lemma 1], we have

$$J(q) \ll \varphi(q)^{-1} \sum_{\chi(q)} |\tau(\bar{\chi})|^2 \int_{|\beta| \leq 1/qQ} \left| \sum_{n \leq x}^{\#} \chi(n) \Lambda(n) e(\beta n) \right|^2 d\beta + Q^{-1}(\log x)^4$$

$$\ll \varphi(q)^{-1} \sum_{\chi(q)} q(qQ)^{-2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ y < n \leq y+qQ/2}}^{\#} \chi(n) \Lambda(n) \right|^2 dy + Q^{-1}(\log x)^4.$$

On noting  $qQ \leq PQ = x/100$ , it is easy to show that the above integral is

$$\ll qQx(\log x)^4,$$

under the extended Riemann hypothesis. Therefore, uniformly for  $q \leq P$ ,

$$(3.7) \quad J(q) \ll Q^{-1}x(\log x)^4.$$

Now, for  $n \leq x$ ,

$$(3.8) \quad \sum_{l+m^2=n} \Lambda(n) = \int_{Q^{-1}}^{1+Q^{-1}} S(\alpha) W(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha = \int_M + \int_m.$$

By Bessel's inequality and (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.9) \quad \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \int_{\mathbf{m}} S(\alpha) W(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \right|^2 &\leq \int_{\mathbf{m}} |S(\alpha) W(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
 &\leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathbf{m}} |W(\alpha)|^2 \int_{\mathbf{m}} |S(\gamma)|^2 d\gamma \\
 &\ll Qx(\log x)^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

On  $\alpha \in \mathbf{M}$  we first exchange  $S(\alpha)$  for  $T(\alpha)$ . Thus, by (3.1) and (3.7),

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.10) \quad \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \int_{\mathbf{M}} (S(\alpha) - T(\alpha)) W(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \right|^2 \\
 \leq \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{I_{q,a}} |S(\alpha) - T(\alpha)|^2 |W(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
 \ll \sum_{q \leq P} \frac{x}{q} (\log x) J(q) \\
 \ll x^2 Q^{-1} (\log x)^6.
 \end{aligned}$$

Next we replace  $W(\alpha)$  by  $V(\alpha)$ . On using (3.2) and (3.5),

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.11) \quad \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \int_{\mathbf{M}} T(\alpha) (W(\alpha) - V(\alpha)) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \right|^2 \\
 \ll \sup_{\alpha \in \mathbf{M}} |W(\alpha) - V(\alpha)|^2 \int_{\mathbf{M}} |T(\gamma)|^2 d\gamma \\
 \ll P(\log P)^2 \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{1/\beta_1 \leq 1/qQ} \frac{\mu^2(q)}{\varphi^2(q)} |t(\beta)|^2 d\beta \\
 \ll Px(\log x)^3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally we extend the Farey arc  $I_{q,a}$  to  $I_{q,a} = [(a/q) - (1/2), (a/q) + (1/2)]$ . The resulting remainder is then equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.12) \quad r_n &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{I_{q,a} \setminus I_{q,a}} T(\alpha) V(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{1/qQ < 1/\beta_1 \leq 1/2} \frac{\mu(q)}{\varphi(q)} t(\beta) q^{-1} g(a, q) v(\beta) e\left(-n\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right)\right) d\beta \\
 &= \int_{1/qQ < 1/\beta_1 \leq 1/2} t(\beta) v(\beta) e(-\beta n) \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ 1/\beta_1 qQ > 1}}^{q^*} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) d\beta.
 \end{aligned}$$

On using Cauchy's inequality and (3.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n \leq x} |r_n|^2 &\leq \sum_{n \leq x} \int_{|t| \leq 1/2} |v(\gamma)|^2 d\gamma \int_{1/qQ < 1/\beta_1 \leq 1/2} |t(\beta)|^2 |\sum_{\beta} 1|^2 d\beta \\
 &\ll (\log x) \int_{1/qQ < 1/\beta_1 \leq 1/2} |t(\beta)|^2 \left( \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \sum_{\substack{q \leq P \\ 1/\beta_1 qQ > 1}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \right|^2 \right) d\beta.
 \end{aligned}$$

The large sieve inequality [7, 8] yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n \leq x} |r_n|^2 &\ll (\log x) \int_{1/q < |\beta_1| \leq 1/2} |t(\beta)|^2 \left( \sum_{\substack{q \leq P \\ |\beta_1 q \beta| > 1}}^{q^*} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} (x+qP) \left| \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) \right|^2 \right) d\beta \\
 &\ll (\log x) \sum_{q \leq P} (x+qP) \frac{\mu^2(q)}{q\varphi(q)} \int_{1/q < |\beta_1| \leq 1/2} |t(\beta)|^2 d\beta \\
 &\ll (\log x)(x+P^2) Q \sum_{q \leq P} \frac{\mu^2(q)}{\varphi(q)} \\
 (3.13) \quad &\ll Qx(\log x)^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Here we used the bounds (3.3) and (3.5).

It remains to calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.14) \quad &\sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{I_{q,a}} T(\alpha) V(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \int_{-1/2}^{+1/2} \sum_{l, m \leq x} \frac{e(\beta(l+m-n))}{2\sqrt{m}} d\beta.
 \end{aligned}$$

The above sum is  $\mathfrak{S}(n, P)$  with the definition (2.1). The integral is equal to

$$\sum_{l < n} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n-l}} = \sqrt{n} + O(1).$$

Hence, by (2.2), (3.14) becomes

$$(3.15) \quad \mathfrak{S}(n, P)\sqrt{n} + O(\log x).$$

On summing up the above argument (3.9)–(3.15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \sum_{p+m^2=n} \log p - \mathfrak{S}(n, P)\sqrt{n} \right|^2 &\ll Qx(\log x)^2 + x^2 Q^{-1}(\log x)^6 + Px(\log x)^3 \\
 (3.16) \quad &\ll x^{3/2}(\log x)^4.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, the extended Riemann hypothesis implies that  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{D}$  the sets introduced in section 2, and that  $\mathfrak{S}(n) \gg (\log \log n)^{-2}$  for  $n \neq k^2$  and  $n \gg 1$ . By (2.3) we then have that, for  $n \neq k^2 (\gg 1)$ ,

$$\mathfrak{S}(n, P) \gg (\log \log n)^{-2}.$$

Consequently (3.16) leads that

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^{3/2}(\log x)^4 &\gg \sum_{n \leq x} \left| \sum_{p+m^2=n} \log p - \mathfrak{S}(n, P)\sqrt{n} \right|^2 \\
 &\geq \sum_{\substack{x/2 < n \leq x \\ \nu(n) \neq 0 \\ n \neq k^2}} |\mathfrak{S}(n, P)|^2 n \\
 &\gg x(\log \log x)^{-4} \sum_{\substack{x/2 < n \leq x \\ \nu(n) \neq 0 \\ n \neq k^2}} 1
 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$E(x) \leq \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \nu(n) = 0 \\ n \neq k^2}} 1 + \sum_{k^2 \leq x} 1 \ll \sum_l \left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right)^{1/2} (\log x \log \log x)^4 + x^{1/2} \\ \ll x^{1/2} (\log x)^5,$$

as required.

**4. Proof of Theorems.**

In this section we derive Theorems from the known results mentioned in section 2 and our main lemma below. Lemma will be verified in the next section.

LEMMA. Let  $x$  be a large parameter. For given  $1/2 < \Theta \leq 3/4$  and  $7/12 < \Xi \leq 1$ , put  $\Delta = y^\Theta$  and  $y = x^\Xi$ . Write

$$\nu(n, y) = \#\{(p, m) : x - y < p \leq x, m^2 \leq y, p + m^2 = n\},$$

and

$$K(n, y) = \int_1^{n - (x - y) - 3} \frac{dt}{2\sqrt{t} \log(n - t)}.$$

Then, for any  $A > 0$ , we have

$$\sum_{x - \Delta < n \leq x} |\nu(n, y) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{y})K(n, y)|^2 \ll \Delta y (\log x)^{-A}$$

where the implied constant depends on  $\Theta, \Xi$  and  $A$  only.

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Let  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(x)$  in section 2. Choose  $\Xi = 1$  in Lemma. Then, because of  $\nu(n, x) = \nu(n)$ ,

$$\sum_{x - x^\Theta < n \leq x} |\nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{x})K(n, x)|^2 \ll x^{\Theta+1} (\log x)^{-A}$$

for any  $A > 0$ . We note that

$$K(n, x) = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{\log \log n}{\log n}\right)\right)$$

with an absolute  $O$ -constant. Combining the above with (2.3) and (2.5) we have

$$S = \sum_{x - x^\Theta < n \leq x} |\nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n)K(n, x)|^2 \\ = \sum_{\substack{\delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}' \\ n \neq k^2}} + \sum_{\substack{\delta(n) \notin \mathcal{I}' \\ n \neq k^2}} + \sum_{n = k^2} \\ \ll \sum_{\substack{x - x^\Theta < n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}'}} |\nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{x})K(n, x)|^2 + \sum_{\substack{x - x^\Theta < n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}'}} |\mathfrak{S}(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{x})|^2 \frac{n}{(\log n)^2} \\ + \sum_{\substack{x - x^\Theta < n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \notin \mathcal{I}' \\ n \neq k^2}} \left(\nu(n)^2 + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{S}(n)}{\log n}\right)^2 n\right) + \sum_{x - x^\Theta < k^2 \leq x} \nu(k^2)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\ll_{x-x^\theta < n \leq x} |\nu(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{x})K(n, x)|^2 + x^{\theta+1} \sup_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}}} |\mathfrak{S}(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{x})|^2 \\ &\quad + x \left( 1 + \sup_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \notin \mathcal{I} \\ n \neq k^2}} \left( \frac{\mathfrak{S}(n)}{\log n} \right)^2 \right) \sum_{\substack{d \leq 4x \\ d \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{I} \\ \text{or } d=1}} \sum_{\substack{x-x^\theta < n \leq x \\ \delta(n)=d}} 1 \\ &\ll x^{\theta+1} (\log x)^{-A} + x \left( 1 + \sup_{\substack{d \leq 4x \\ d \in \mathcal{D}}} \left| L\left(1, \left(\frac{d}{\cdot}\right)\right) \right|^{-2} \right) \left( 1 + \sum_{\substack{d \leq 4x \\ d \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{I}}} 1 \right) x^{\theta-1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

By (2.4) and Siegel’s theorem [10; Kap. IV, § 8],  $S$  becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\ll x^{\theta+1} (\log x)^{-A} + x^{\theta+1/2} (x^\varepsilon) (1 + x^{1/4} (\log x)^{14}) \\ &\ll x^{\theta+1} (\log x)^{-A}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain Theorem 1 in case  $1/2 < \theta \leq 3/4$ . If  $3/4 < \theta \leq 1$ , Theorem 1 follows from the case of  $\theta = 2/3$ , by splitting up the interval  $(x - x^\theta, x]$  into the sum of smaller intervals of type  $(u - u^{2/3}, u]$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Put  $\theta = \theta \mathcal{E}$  in Lemma. Then,  $7/24 < \theta \leq 3/4$ . It is sufficient to prove Theorem 2 for  $\theta$  in the above range only. Since  $\nu(n) = 0$  implies  $\nu(n, y) = 0$ , Lemma yields that

$$\sum_{\substack{x-x^\theta < n \leq x \\ \nu(n)=0}} |\mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{y})K(n, y)|^2 \ll y x^\theta (\log x)^{-A-5}.$$

Here,  $K(n, y)^2 \asymp y (\log x)^{-2}$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{\substack{x-x^\theta < n \leq x \\ \nu(n)=0 \\ \delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}}} 1 \ll x^\theta (\log x)^{-A-3} (\log x \log y)^2$$

by (2.3) and (2.5) with  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(x)$ . Hence, by (2.4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E(x) - E(x - x^\theta) &\leq \sum_{\substack{x-x^\theta < n \leq x \\ \nu(n)=0 \\ \delta(n) \in \mathcal{I}}} 1 + \sum_{\substack{x-x^\theta < n \leq x \\ \delta(n) \notin \mathcal{I}}} 1 \\ &\ll x^\theta (\log x)^{-A} + \sum_{\substack{d \leq 4x \\ d \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{I} \text{ or } d=1}} (x^{\theta-1/2} + 1) \\ &\ll x^\theta (\log x)^{-A} + x^{1/4} (\log x)^{14} \\ &\ll x^\theta (\log x)^{-A}, \end{aligned}$$

as required.

**5. Proof of Lemma.**

Put

$$S(\alpha) = \sum_{x-y < p \leq x} e(\alpha p).$$

And we define the exponential sums  $W(\alpha)$  and  $V(\alpha)$  by the similar way in section 3, except for changing the parameter  $x$  in section 3 by  $y$ . The Farey arcs are determined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q &= y^{1/2}(\log x), \\
 M &= \bigcup_{q \leq P} \bigcup_{\substack{0 < a \leq q \\ (a, q) = 1}} I_{q, a}, \quad L = \bigcup_{q \leq P} \bigcup_{\substack{0 < a \leq q \\ (a, q) = 1}} I_{q, a}, \quad P = (\log x)^4 \\
 m &= \bigcup_{P < q \leq R} \bigcup_{\substack{0 < a < q \\ (a, q) = 1}} I_{q, a}, \quad R = y/Q \\
 n &= [Q^{-1}, 1 + Q^{-1}] \setminus (M \cup m).
 \end{aligned}$$

Here  $I_{q, a}$  and  $I_{q, a}$  are similar to that in section 3. We then have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nu(n, y) &= \int_{Q^{-1}}^{1+Q^{-1}} S(\alpha)W(\alpha)e(-n\alpha)d\alpha \\
 &= \int_L SV - \int_{L \setminus M} SV + \int_m SV + \int_{M \cup m} S(W - V) + \int_n SW \\
 &= J_1 - J_2 + J_3 + J_4 + J_5, \quad \text{say.}
 \end{aligned}$$

First we evaluate  $J_1$ . An elementary calculation leads that

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_1(n) &= \int_L S(\alpha)V(\alpha)e(-n\alpha)d\alpha \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{q^*} \int_{-1/2}^{+1/2} S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right)q^{-1}g(a, q)\nu(\beta)e\left(-n\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right)\right)d\beta \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{q^*} q^{-1}g(a, q)e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \sum_{x-y < p \leq x} \sum_{\substack{m \leq y \\ m \leq x}} \frac{e((a/q)p)}{2\sqrt{m}} \int_{-1/2}^{+1/2} e(\beta(p+m-n))d\beta \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{q^*} q^{-1}g(a, q)e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \sum_{x-y < p < n} \frac{e((a/q)p)}{2\sqrt{n-p}} \\
 &= \sum_{q \leq P} q^{-1} \sum_{x-y < p < n} \sum_{\substack{m(q) \\ (d, m^2-n)=1}} \frac{c_q(p+m^2-n)}{2\sqrt{n-p}} \\
 (5.2) \quad &= \sum_{q \leq P} q^{-1} \sum_{m(q)} \sum_{\substack{d|q \\ (d, m^2-n)=1}} \mu\left(\frac{q}{d}\right)d \sum_{\substack{x-y < p < n \\ p \equiv n-m^2(d)}} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n-p}} + O\left(\sum_{q \leq P} \tau(q)q\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

On using partial summation, the innermost sum is equal to

$$(5.3) \quad \frac{K(n, y)}{\varphi(d)} + O\left(1 + \sup_{(b, d)=1} \sup_{1 \leq t \leq y} t^{-1/2} \left| \sum_{\substack{n-t \leq p < n \\ p \equiv b(d)}} \log p - \frac{t}{\varphi(d)} \right| \right).$$

We now appeal to the well known result on primes in arithmetical progressions [10; Kap. IX. §3]. It follows from [10; Kap. VIII. Satz 6.2, Kap. IV. Satz 8.1] zero free region and [4, 6; Theorem 12.1] zero density estimates for the Dirichlet  $L$ -functions that, for given positive constants  $\epsilon, E$  and  $F$ ,

$$\sum_{\substack{x < P \leq X+Y \\ p \equiv l(k)}} \log p = \frac{Y}{\varphi(k)} + O(Y(\log X)^{-E})$$

uniformly for  $(l, k)=1$ ,  $k \leq (\log X)^F$  and  $X^{7/12+\varepsilon} \leq Y \leq X$ . Hence the  $O$ -term in (5.3) is at most

$$y^{1/2}(\log x)^{-3A-1},$$

and contributes to (5.2)

$$\begin{aligned} &\ll y^{1/2}(\log x)^{-3A-1} \sum_{q \leq P} \tau(q)q \\ &\ll y^{1/2}(\log x)^{-3A-1} P^2(\log P) \\ &\ll y^{1/2} P^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

On combining this with (5.2) and (5.3) we have

$$(5.4) \quad J_1(n) = K(n, y) \sum_{q \leq P} q^{-1} \sum_{m(q)} \sum_{\substack{d|q \\ (d, m^2-n)=1}} \mu\left(\frac{q}{d}\right) \frac{d}{\varphi(d)} + O(y^{1/2} P^{-1}).$$

Notice that the above sum is

$$(5.5) \quad \sum_{q \leq P} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} \sum_{m(q)} c_q(m^2-n) = \mathfrak{S}(n, P) = \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right).$$

We widen the range of  $q$  up to  $\sqrt{y}$ . Let  $J_{11}(n)$  be the resulting cost. On employing the large sieve inequality [7, 8] and (3.3),

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x-J < n \leq x} |J_{11}(n)|^2 &\ll K(n, y)^2 \sum_{x-J < n \leq x} \left| \sum_{P < q \leq \sqrt{y}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, n) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \right|^2 \\ &\ll y(\log x)^{-\gamma} \sum_{P < q \leq \sqrt{y}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} (\Delta + q\sqrt{y}) \left| \frac{\mu(q)}{q\varphi(q)} g(a, q) \right|^2 \\ &\ll y(\log x)^{-2} \left( \frac{\Delta}{P} + \sqrt{y} \right) \sum_{q \leq \sqrt{y}} \frac{\mu^2(q)}{\varphi(q)} \\ (5.6) \quad &\ll y(\Delta P^{-1} + \sqrt{y}). \end{aligned}$$

In conjunction with (5.4), (5.5) and (5.6) we obtain

$$(5.7) \quad \sum_{x-J < n \leq x} |J_1(n) - \mathfrak{S}(n, \sqrt{y})K(n, y)|^2 \ll \Delta y P^{-1} + y^{3/2}.$$

We proceed to  $J_2$ . On using Cauchy's inequality and (3.3),

$$\begin{aligned} J_2(n) &= \int_{L, M} S(\alpha) V(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \\ &= \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} q^{-1} g(a, q) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \int_{1/qQ < \beta_1 \leq 1/2} S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) v(\beta) e(-n\beta) d\beta \\ &\ll P \left( \sum_{q \leq P} q^{-1} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \left| \int_{1/qQ < \beta_1 \leq 1/2} S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) v(\beta) e(-n\beta) d\beta \right|^2 \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

By Bessel's inequality and (3.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} |J_2(n)|^2 &\ll P^2 \sum_{q \leq P} q^{-1} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{1/qQ < \beta \leq 1/2} \left| S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) v(\beta) \right|^2 d\beta \\
 &\ll P^2 Q \sum_{q \leq P} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{|\beta| \leq 1/2} \left| S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) \right|^2 d\beta \\
 (5.8) \qquad &\ll P^4 Q y(\log x)^{-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Next we consider  $J_3$ . Changing the order of summation and integration, we use Cauchy's inequality and (3.4). Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_3(n) &= \int_m S(\alpha) V(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \\
 &= \sum_{P < q \leq R} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{|\beta| \leq 1/qQ} S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) q^{-1} g(a, q) v(\beta) e\left(-n\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right)\right) d\beta \\
 &= \int_{|\beta|PQ \leq 1} v(\beta) e(-n\beta) \sum_{\substack{P < q \leq R \\ |\beta|qQ \leq 1}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} q^{-1} g(a, q) S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) d\beta
 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} |J_3(n)|^2 \\
 \ll (\log x) \int_{|\beta|PQ \leq 1} \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} \left| \sum_{\substack{P < q \leq R \\ |\beta|qQ \leq 1}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} q^{-1} g(a, q) S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) e\left(-\frac{a}{q}n\right) \right|^2 d\beta.
 \end{aligned}$$

The large sieve [7, 8] yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} |J_3(n)|^2 &\ll (\log x) \int_{|\beta|PQ \leq 1} \sum_{\substack{P < q \leq R \\ |\beta|qQ \leq 1}} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} (\Delta + qR) \left| q^{-1} g(a, q) S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) \right|^2 d\beta \\
 &\ll (\log x) \sum_{P < q \leq R} \sum_{a=1}^{q^*} \int_{|\beta| \leq 1/qQ} \left(\frac{\Delta}{q} + R\right) \left| S\left(\frac{a}{q} + \beta\right) \right|^2 d\beta \\
 &\ll (\log x) \left(\frac{\Delta}{P} + R\right) \int_m |S(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
 (5.9) \qquad &\ll (\Delta P^{-1} + R)y.
 \end{aligned}$$

We turn to  $J_4$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} |J_4(n)|^2 &= \sum_{x-D < n \leq x} \left| \int_{M \cup m} S(\alpha) (W(\alpha) - V(\alpha)) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \right|^2 \\
 &\leq \int_{M \cup m} |S(\alpha)|^2 |W(\alpha) - V(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
 &\ll R(\log x)^2 \int_{M \cup m} |S(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
 (5.10) \qquad &\ll y^{3/2},
 \end{aligned}$$

by Bessel's inequality and (3.2). Similarly, by (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x-d < n \leq x} |J_5(n)|^2 &= \sum_{x-d < n \leq x} \left| \int_n S(\alpha) W(\alpha) e(-n\alpha) d\alpha \right|^2 \\
&\leq \int_n |S(\alpha) W(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
&\ll \left( \frac{y}{R} + Q \right) (\log x) \int_n |S(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha \\
(5.11) \quad &\ll y^{3/2} (\log x).
\end{aligned}$$

In conjunction with (5.7)–(5.11) and (5.1), we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x-d < n \leq x} |\nu(n, y) - \mathfrak{E}(n, \sqrt{y}) K(n, y)|^2 &\ll \Delta y P^{-1} + P^4 Q y (\log x)^{-1} + R y + y^{3/2} (\log x) \\
&\ll \Delta y P^{-1} + P^4 y^{3/2} \\
&\ll \Delta y (\log x)^{-4},
\end{aligned}$$

as required.

This completes our proof.

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