

55. The Mean Square of Dirichlet L -functions

(A Generalization of Balasubramanian's Method)

By Kohji MATSUMOTO

Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Education, Iwate University

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§ 1. The present article is a corrected version of the author's erroneous note [4]. (The report [5] includes the same errors. The corrections of the results have already been published in [6].) Let χ be a primitive Dirichlet character mod q , and $L(s, \chi)$ the corresponding Dirichlet L -function. Then,

Theorem. For any odd q and any $T > 0$, we have

$$\int_0^T \left| L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \right|^2 dt = \frac{\varphi(q)}{q} T \log T + \frac{\varphi(q)}{q} \left(\log \frac{q}{2\pi} + 2\gamma - 1 + 2 \sum_{p|q} \frac{\log p}{p-1} \right) T + E(T, \chi),$$

where $\varphi(q)$ is Euler's function, γ is Euler's constant, p runs over all prime divisors of q , and

$$(1.1) \quad E(T, \chi) = O((qT)^{1/3+\varepsilon} + q(\log q)(qT)^{1/4}(\log(T+1))^{1/2} + q^{7/4}(\log q)(qT)^{1/4} + q^{21/8}(\log q)(qT)^{1/8} + q^{13/4}(\log q)(\log q(T+1))^2 + q^5(\log q)(\log q(T+1)))$$

for any $\varepsilon > 0$.

In particular, if $T \gg q^{20}$, then $E(T, \chi) \ll (qT)^{1/3+\varepsilon}$. Motohashi [9] gives a better estimate in case q is a prime.

Only after the appearance of Motohashi's above mentioned work and the announcement (in Zentralblatt für Mathematik) of Meurman's paper [8], the author had noticed that the statement in [4] is incorrect. Then the author started checking the former calculations, and found two essential errors. One of them is related with the Riemann-Siegel formula of L -functions (see (2) in [6]). Using the notations in [4], we can state it as

$$(1.2) \quad e^{i\theta} L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) = f_1(t) + f_2(t) + f_3(t),$$

and the correct estimate of the error term $f_3(t)$ is $O(q^{5/4}t^{-3/4})$. From (1.2), we have

$$(1.3) \quad \int_0^T \left| L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \right|^2 dt = \int_0^T f_1(t)^2 dt + \int_0^T f_2(t)^2 dt + \int_0^T f_3(t)^2 dt + 2 \int_0^T f_1(t)f_2(t) dt + 2 \int_0^T f_2(t)f_3(t) dt + 2 \int_0^T f_3(t)f_1(t) dt.$$

The other error in [4] is in the evaluation of the fourth integral in the right-hand side of (1.3). It is the reason of the appearance of the term $4(2\pi/q^3)^{1/2}(\Sigma' n)T^{1/2}$ in Theorem 1 of [4], which is to be omitted. A drastic change of the argument was required to correct this error, and the