

76. On Some Additive Divisor Problems. II

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§ 1. In our previous paper [4] we have given a very simple proof of the asymptotic formula (as $N \rightarrow \infty$)

$$\begin{aligned} D_k(N; a) &= \sum_{n \leq N} d_2(n+a) d_k(n) \\ &= S_k(a) N (\log N)^k + O(N (\log N)^{k-1} \log \log N), \end{aligned}$$

where a is a fixed integer, $d_k(n)$ the coefficient of $\zeta(s)^k$, $k \geq 3$ arbitrary. The problem for general k has been firstly treated by Linnik in his book [3]. There it is indicated also that his method enables us to deduce even an expansion with an error-term $O(N (\log N)^\epsilon)$, $\epsilon > 0$ being arbitrarily small (see also Bredikhin [1]). But it seems that neither Linnik nor Bredikhin have been able to eliminate this error-term.

Now the purpose of this note is to announce

Theorem. *We have the asymptotic expansion, for arbitrary k ,*

$$D_k(N; a) = N \sum_{j=0}^k f_k^{(j)}(a) (\log N)^j + O(N (\log N)^{-1+\epsilon}).$$

The coefficients can be calculated, but at the cost of big labour. The result should be compared with Estermann's asymptotic expansion for the case of $k=2$ ([2]).

§ 2. We indicate very briefly the main steps of our proof, whose detailed exposition will appear elsewhere.

Now by an obvious reason it is sufficient to consider the case of $a=1$. And we prove that, denoting by (P) the set of primes in the interval $(N^{3/4}, N (\log N)^{-A})$ with sufficiently large A , we have

$$(*) \quad D_k(N; 1) - D_k(N; p) = O(N (\log N)^{-1+\epsilon}),$$

uniformly for all $p \in (P)$. To do this we divide $D_k(N; a)$ into two parts. Let $z_1 = \exp((\log N)^{\epsilon_1})$, $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon/(3k+1)$, $z_2 = \exp((\log N) (\log \log N)^{-2})$, and further let (I), (II) be two sets of integers $\leq N$ such that $n \in$ (I) has no prime factors in the interval (z_1, z_2) and (II) is the complementary set of (I). And we put, a being 1 or $p \in (P)$,

$$D_k(N; a) = \sum_{n \in (I)} + \sum_{n \in (II)} = D_k^{(1)}(N; a) + D_k^{(2)}(N; a).$$

By a direct application of the dispersion method [3] we can show that

Lemma 1. *We have, uniformly for all $p \in (P)$,*

$$D_k^{(2)}(N; 1) - D_k^{(2)}(N; p) = O(N (\log N)^{-2}).$$

§ 3. As for $D_k^{(1)}(N; a)$ we first define another two sets of integers