

88. A Note on the Mean Value of the Zeta and L-functions. IV

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1. In the previous notes of this series we studied the possibility of extending Atkinson's method [1] to Dirichlet L -functions. Here we turn to the more basical problem of strengthening Atkinson's result itself.

First we introduce some notations: Let T be a large parameter, and put

$$E(T) = \int_0^T \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|^2 dt - T\left(\frac{T}{2\pi} + 2\gamma - 1\right),$$

where γ is the Euler constant. Let δ be a small positive constant, and $\delta \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 1 - \delta$. We define $\lambda(x)$ on the unit interval of x to be equal to 1 if $x \leq \alpha$, to $(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - x)$ if $\alpha \leq x \leq \beta$, and to 0 if $\beta \leq x$. Then we put $\omega(n) = \lambda(2\pi n/T)$ and $\bar{\omega}(n) = 1 - \lambda(\exp(-2 \sinh^{-1}((\pi n/2T)^{1/2})))$. Also we use the standard

$$\Delta(x) = \sum'_{n \leq x} d(n) - x(\log x + 2\gamma - 1) - \frac{1}{4},$$

where d is the divisor function.

Then our main result is embodied in

Theorem. *There is an absolute constant c_0 such that*

$$\begin{aligned} E(T) = & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{m \leq T(\alpha)} (-1)^m \bar{\omega}(m) d(m) m^{-1/2} (\sinh^{-1}((\pi m/2T)^{1/2}))^{-1} \left(T/2\pi m + \frac{1}{4}\right)^{-1/4} \\ & \times \cos(2TF(\pi m/2T) - \pi/4) \\ & - 2 \sum_{n \leq \beta T/2\pi} \omega(n) d(n) n^{-1/2} \left(\log \frac{T}{2\pi n}\right)^{-1} \cos\left(T \log \frac{T}{2\pi n} - T + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \\ & + c_0 + O(T^{-1/4}) + O((\beta - \alpha)^{-1} (1 + (\beta - \alpha)^{1/2} \log^{3/2} T) T^{-1/2} \log T), \end{aligned}$$

where $T(\alpha) = (2\pi\alpha)^{-1}(1 - \alpha)^2 T$ and $F(x) = \sinh^{-1}(x^{1/2}) + (x(x+1))^{1/2}$; the O -constants may possibly depend on δ .

Corollary.

$$\int_0^T E(u)^2 du = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \zeta^4\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \zeta^{-1}(3) T^{3/2} + O(T \log^5 T).$$

Remark. Independently from us Meurman [4] has recently proved a result on $E(T)$ which is essentially the case $\beta - \alpha \approx T^{-1/4}$ in our theorem, and obtained the same result as our corollary an improvement upon Heath-Brown [2]. Meurman's argument is a natural refinement of Atkinson's, and in several respects simpler than ours. Our proof is based on our approximate functional equation for $\zeta^2(s)$ ([5] and [6]), and provides an alternative proof of Atkinson's original result, for the choice $\beta - \alpha = T^{-1/2}$ gives

it with an improved error-term $O(\log T)$.

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2. The deduction of the corollary from the theorem is easy. So we show the outline of the proof of the theorem only; the details will be given in our lectures to be delivered at Colorado University (Spring semester, '87).

Let $t \geq 1$ and put

$$A(t) = 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \chi \left(\frac{1}{2} - it \right) \sum_{n \leq t/2\pi} d(n) n^{-(1/2) - it} \right\},$$

$$B(t) = \left| \zeta \left(\frac{1}{2} + it \right) \right|^2 - A(t),$$

where $\chi(s) = 2^s \pi^{s-1} \Gamma(1-s) \sin(s\pi/2)$. An asymptotic evaluation of $B(t)$ with an error $O(t^{-3/2} \log t)$ can be obtained by following the analysis developed in [6], and without much difficulty we can show that

$$\int_1^T B(t) dt = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{T}{\pi} \right)^{1/2} \left(\log \frac{T}{2\pi} + 2r + 4 \right) + C_1(T) + c + O(T^{-1/4}),$$

where c is an absolute constant, and

$$C_1(T) = - \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{T}{2\pi} \right)^{1/4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d(n) n^{-3/4} \cos \left(2(2\pi n T)^{1/2} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(\xi + \pi/4)}{(\xi + n\pi)^{1/2}} d\xi.$$

As for $A(t)$ we have

$$\int_1^T A(t) dt = 2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \sum_{n \leq T/2\pi} d(n) n^{-1/2} \int_{2\pi n}^T \chi \left(\frac{1}{2} - it \right) n^{-it} dt \right\}.$$

A simple application of the saddle point method to the last integral yields

$$\int_1^T A(t) dt = 2\pi \sum_{n \leq T/2\pi} d(n) \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6\pi} n^{-1/2} \right) + C_2(T) + c + O(T^{-1/2} (\log T)^2);$$

$$C_2(T) = -2T \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \exp \left(iT \log \frac{T}{2\pi e} \right) \int_0^{T^{-2/5}} \left(1 + \frac{T}{6} r^3 \varepsilon \right) \right.$$

$$\left. \times \exp \left(i\varepsilon r T \log \frac{T}{2\pi} - \frac{T}{2} r^2 \right) \sum_{n \leq T/2\pi} d(n) n^{-(1/2) - i(1 + \varepsilon r)T} dr \right\},$$

where $\varepsilon = \exp(\pi i/4)$. And combining these we get

$$E(T) = \left(\frac{T}{\pi} \right)^{1/2} \left(\log \frac{T}{2\pi} + 2r \right) + 2\pi \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} (\pi T)^{-1/2} \right) \Delta \left(\frac{T}{2\pi} \right) + \pi d \left(\frac{T}{2\pi} \right)$$

$$+ C_1(T) + C_2(T) + c + O(T^{-1/4}),$$

where $d(x)$ is defined to be zero when x is not an integer. Thus, we have to evaluate $C_2(T)$ asymptotically. For this sake we divide it into two parts $C_2^{(1)}(T, \xi)$ and $C_2^{(2)}(T, \xi)$ according to $n \leq \xi T/2\pi$ and $\xi T/2\pi < n \leq T/2\pi$, respectively, with $\alpha \leq \xi \leq \beta$. Then we have the trivial

$$C_2(T) = (\beta - \alpha)^{-1} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} C_2^{(1)}(T, \xi) d\xi + (\beta - \alpha)^{-1} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} C_2^{(2)}(T, \xi) d\xi$$

$$= C_2^{(1)}(T) + C_2^{(2)}(T),$$

say; this perturbation device induces a lot of cancellations. It is easy to

see that $C_2^{(1)}(T)$ is essentially the sum over n in our theorem. To $C_2^{(2)}(T)$ we apply the device of introducing the trivial factor $\exp(2\pi ni)$, due to Jutila [3], and by partial summation we get, with the aid of Tong's result on the mean square of $\Delta(x)$,

$$C_2^{(2)}(T) = -\left(\frac{T}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \left(\log \frac{T}{2\pi} + 2\gamma\right) - 2\pi \left(1 + \frac{1}{3}(\pi T)^{-1/2}\right) \Delta\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}\right) - \pi d\left(\frac{T}{2\pi}\right) \\ + C_2^{(3)}(T) + O(T^{-1/4}) + O((\beta - \alpha)^{-1/2} T^{-1/2} \log^{5/2} T),$$

where

$$C_2^{(3)}(T) = 2T \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \exp\left(iT \log \frac{T}{2\pi e}\right) \int_0^{T^{-2/5}} \left(1 + \frac{T}{6} \varepsilon r^3\right) \exp\left(i\varepsilon \left(T \log \frac{T}{2\pi}\right) r - \frac{T}{2} r^2\right) \right. \\ \left. \times \int_{\alpha T/2\pi}^{T/2\pi} (1 - \omega(x)) \Delta(x) d(x^{-1/2} \exp(2\pi i x - iT(1 + \varepsilon r) \log x)) dr \right\}.$$

Then, by Voronoi's formula for $\Delta(x)$, the problem is reduced, essentially, to the computation of the integral

$$\int_{\alpha T/2\pi}^{T/2\pi} (1 - \omega(x)) x^{1/4} \exp(\pm 4\pi i (nx)^{1/2}) d(x^{-1/2} \exp(2\pi i x - iT(1 + \varepsilon r) \log x)),$$

where $n \geq 1$ is an integer. To this we apply the saddle point method. The saddle point is at

$$x = n/2 + T(1 + \sqrt{2}r)/2\pi - (n^2/4 + Tn(1 + \sqrt{2}r)/2\pi)^{1/2}.$$

Thus the relevant range of n is $Tr^2/\pi \leq n \leq T(2\pi\alpha)^{-1}(1 - \alpha + \sqrt{2}r)^2$. Estimation of the resulting integrals around the points $x = \alpha T/2\pi$ and $\beta T/2\pi$ as well as those along line segments well off the real axis is of no problem. But the estimation of the integrals around the saddle point and $T/2\pi$ is quite involved, especially when n is close to Tr^2/π . Nevertheless, we can show that

$$C_2(T) = (\text{the first term of the formula in the theorem}) - C_1(T) \\ + O(T^{-1/4}) + O((\beta - \alpha)^{-1} T^{-1/2} \log T),$$

which ends the proof of the theorem.

References

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