

Averages of Shifted Convolutions of $d_3(n)$

Liangyi Zhao

Joint with S. Baier, T. D. Browning & G. Marasingha

Nanyang Technological University
Singapore

16 March 2012

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Statements of the Results
- 3 Sketching the Proofs
 - Proof of the First Moment Theorem
 - Proof of Second Moment Theorem

Introduction

- For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $d_k(n)$ denote the k -th divisor function.

Introduction

- For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $d_k(n)$ denote the k -th divisor function.
- We have $\zeta^k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_k(n)n^{-s}$, for $\Re s > 1$.

Introduction

- For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $d_k(n)$ denote the k -th divisor function.
- We have $\zeta^k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_k(n)n^{-s}$, for $\Re s > 1$.
- The study of shifted convolution sums

$$D_k(N, h) := \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_k(n)d_k(n+h)$$

is of central importance in the analytic number theory.

Introduction

- For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $d_k(n)$ denote the k -th divisor function.
- We have $\zeta^k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_k(n)n^{-s}$, for $\Re s > 1$.
- The study of shifted convolution sums

$$D_k(N, h) := \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_k(n)d_k(n+h)$$

is of central importance in the analytic number theory.

- For $k = 2$, the work of Ingham gives that

$$D_2(N, h) \sim \frac{6}{\pi^2} \sigma_{-1}(h) N \log^2 N, \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty,$$

for given $h \in \mathbb{N}$, where $\sigma_{-1}(h) := \sum_{j|h} j^{-1}$.

Introduction

- Several authors have since revisited this problem, achieving asymptotic formulae with h in an increasingly large range compared to N .

Introduction

- Several authors have since revisited this problem, achieving asymptotic formulae with h in an increasingly large range compared to N .
- A detailed analysis of $D_2(N, h)$ via spectral methods can be found in work of Motohashi.

Introduction

- Several authors have since revisited this problem, achieving asymptotic formulae with h in an increasingly large range compared to N .
- A detailed analysis of $D_2(N, h)$ via spectral methods can be found in work of Motohashi.
- The best results in the literature are due to Duke, Friedlander and Iwaniec and to Meurman.

Introduction

- Several authors have since revisited this problem, achieving asymptotic formulae with h in an increasingly large range compared to N .
- A detailed analysis of $D_2(N, h)$ via spectral methods can be found in work of Motohashi.
- The best results in the literature are due to Duke, Friedlander and Iwaniec and to Meurman.
- In general it is expected that $D_k(N, h)$ should be asymptotic to $c_{k,h} N \log^{2k-2} N$, for a suitable constant $c_{k,h} > 0$, uniformly for h in some range.

Introduction

- Several authors have since revisited this problem, achieving asymptotic formulae with h in an increasingly large range compared to N .
- A detailed analysis of $D_2(N, h)$ via spectral methods can be found in work of Motohashi.
- The best results in the literature are due to Duke, Friedlander and Iwaniec and to Meurman.
- In general it is expected that $D_k(N, h)$ should be asymptotic to $c_{k,h} N \log^{2k-2} N$, for a suitable constant $c_{k,h} > 0$, uniformly for h in some range.
- However such a description has not yet been proved for any $k \geq 3$, even when h is fixed.

Introduction

- $D_k(N, h)$ has a deep connection with

$$I_k(T) := \int_0^T \left| \zeta \left(\frac{1}{2} + it \right) \right|^{2k} dt, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty.$$

Introduction

- $D_k(N, h)$ has a deep connection with

$$I_k(T) := \int_0^T \left| \zeta \left(\frac{1}{2} + it \right) \right|^{2k} dt, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty.$$

- It is commonly believed that

$$I_k(T) \sim c_k T (\log T)^{k^2}, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty,$$

for a suitable constant $c_k > 0$.

Introduction

- $D_k(N, h)$ has a deep connection with

$$I_k(T) := \int_0^T \left| \zeta \left(\frac{1}{2} + it \right) \right|^{2k} dt, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty.$$

- It is commonly believed that

$$I_k(T) \sim c_k T (\log T)^{k^2}, \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty,$$

for a suitable constant $c_k > 0$.

- Just as for the sums $D_k(N, h)$, we have only succeeded in producing an asymptotic formula for $I_k(T)$ when $k = 1$ (Hardy and Littlewood) or $k = 2$ (Ingham).

Statements of the Results

- Fixing attention on the case $k = 3$, in which setting we write $D(N, h) = D_3(N, h)$.

Statements of the Results

- Fixing attention on the case $k = 3$, in which setting we write $D(N, h) = D_3(N, h)$.
- The work of Conrey and Gonek predicts that

$$D(N, h) = \int_N^{2N} \mathfrak{S}(x, h) dx + O(N^{1/2+\varepsilon}), \quad (1)$$

uniformly for $1 \leq h \leq N^{1/2}$, where $\mathfrak{S}(x, h)$ is a singular series involving the residue of $\zeta^3(s)$ at $s = 1$.

Statements of the Results

- Fixing attention on the case $k = 3$, in which setting we write $D(N, h) = D_3(N, h)$.
- The work of Conrey and Gonek predicts that

$$D(N, h) = \int_N^{2N} \mathfrak{S}(x, h) dx + O(N^{1/2+\varepsilon}), \quad (1)$$

uniformly for $1 \leq h \leq N^{1/2}$, where $\mathfrak{S}(x, h)$ is a singular series involving the residue of $\zeta^3(s)$ at $s = 1$.

- Let

$$\Delta(N, h) := D(N, h) - \int_N^{2N} \mathfrak{S}(x, h) dx.$$

Statements of the Results

- We will lend support to (1) by considering both first and second moments of $\Delta(N, h)$, as h varies over some range that is small compared to N .

Statements of the Results

- We will lend support to (1) by considering both first and second moments of $\Delta(N, h)$, as h varies over some range that is small compared to N .

Theorem

Assume that $1 \leq H \leq N$. Then

$$\sum_{h \leq H} \Delta(N, h) \ll \left(H^2 + H^{1/2} N^{13/12} \right) N^\epsilon.$$

Statements of the Results

- We will lend support to (1) by considering both first and second moments of $\Delta(N, h)$, as h varies over some range that is small compared to N .

Theorem

Assume that $1 \leq H \leq N$. Then

$$\sum_{h \leq H} \Delta(N, h) \ll \left(H^2 + H^{1/2} N^{13/12} \right) N^\epsilon.$$

- The exponents appearing in this estimate can be improved slightly for certain ranges of H . This has been recently done by A. Ivić and J. Wu.

Statements of the Results

- The work of Ivić leads to the upper bound

$$I_3(T) \ll T^{1+\varepsilon} + T^{(\alpha+3\beta-1)/2+\varepsilon}$$

for the sixth moment of the Riemann zeta function on the critical line, where $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ are constants such that $\alpha + \beta \geq 1$ and an asymptotic formula of the shape

$$\sum_{h \leq H} \Delta(N, h) \ll H^\alpha N^{\beta+\varepsilon}$$

is valid for $1 \leq H \leq N^{1/3}$.

Statements of the Results

- The work of Ivić leads to the upper bound

$$I_3(T) \ll T^{1+\varepsilon} + T^{(\alpha+3\beta-1)/2+\varepsilon}$$

for the sixth moment of the Riemann zeta function on the critical line, where $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ are constants such that $\alpha + \beta \geq 1$ and an asymptotic formula of the shape

$$\sum_{h \leq H} \Delta(N, h) \ll H^\alpha N^{\beta+\varepsilon}$$

is valid for $1 \leq H \leq N^{1/3}$.

- The theorem gives the choices $\alpha = 1/2$ and $\beta = 13/12$, which yields $I_3(T) \ll T^{11/8+\varepsilon}$. But this does not give any improvement over the well-known bound for $I_3(T)$.

Statements of the Results

- Turning to second moments we will establish the following result.

Statements of the Results

- Turning to second moments we will establish the following result.

Theorem

Assume that $N^{1/3+\varepsilon} \leq H \leq N^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\sum_{h \leq H} |\Delta(N, h)|^2 \ll HN^{2-\delta}.$$

Statements of the Results

- Turning to second moments we will establish the following result.

Theorem

Assume that $N^{1/3+\varepsilon} \leq H \leq N^{1-\varepsilon}$. Then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\sum_{h \leq H} |\Delta(N, h)|^2 \ll HN^{2-\delta}.$$

- The above theorem gives that the asymptotic formula

$$D(N, h) \sim \int_N^{2N} \mathfrak{S}(x, h) dx$$

holds for almost all $h \leq H$ if $N^{1/3+\varepsilon} \leq H \leq N^{1-\varepsilon}$.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- We start with $\sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) \sum_{h \leq H} d_3(n+h)$.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- We start with $\sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) \sum_{h \leq H} d_3(n+h)$.
- The inner sum of the above, after applying Perron's formula and moving the line of integration, is approximated

$$\operatorname{Res}_{s=1} \zeta^3(s) \frac{(n+H)^s - n^s}{s} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\int_{\mathcal{P}_1} + \int_{\mathcal{P}_2} + \int_{\sigma-iT}^{\sigma+iT} \right) \zeta^3(s) ((n+H)^s - n^s) \frac{ds}{s},$$

with $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ and $2 \leq T \leq N$.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- We start with $\sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) \sum_{h \leq H} d_3(n+h)$.
- The inner sum of the above, after applying Perron's formula and moving the line of integration, is approximated

$$\operatorname{Res}_{s=1} \zeta^3(s) \frac{(n+H)^s - n^s}{s} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\int_{\mathcal{P}_1} + \int_{\mathcal{P}_2} + \int_{\sigma-iT}^{\sigma+iT} \right) \zeta^3(s) ((n+H)^s - n^s) \frac{ds}{s},$$

with $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ and $2 \leq T \leq N$.

- The first term above, together with a result of Voronoi, gives the main term.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- The integrals over the horizontal line segments \mathcal{P}_i are estimated using Weyl's convexity bounds.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- The integrals over the horizontal line segments \mathcal{P}_i are estimated using Weyl's convexity bounds.
- The integral over the vertical line segment from $\sigma - iT$ to $\sigma + iT$ is combined with the outer sum $\sum_n d_3(n)$.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- The integrals over the horizontal line segments \mathcal{P}_i are estimated using Weyl's convexity bounds.
- The integral over the vertical line segment from $\sigma - iT$ to $\sigma + iT$ is combined with the outer sum $\sum_n d_3(n)$.
- This is disposed by applying Perron's formula again and then moment estimates for $\zeta(s)$.

Proof of the First Moment Theorem

- The integrals over the horizontal line segments \mathcal{P}_i are estimated using Weyl's convexity bounds.
- The integral over the vertical line segment from $\sigma - iT$ to $\sigma + iT$ is combined with the outer sum $\sum_n d_3(n)$.
- This is disposed by applying Perron's formula again and then moment estimates for $\zeta(s)$.
- Combining everything, we get our first moment theorem.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- Our proof of the second moment theorem uses the circle method and is based on Mikawa's investigation of twin primes.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- Our proof of the second moment theorem uses the circle method and is based on Mikawa's investigation of twin primes.
- Mikawa studied $\sum_{h \leq H} \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} \Lambda(n) \Lambda(n + h)$.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- Our proof of the second moment theorem uses the circle method and is based on Mikawa's investigation of twin primes.
- Mikawa studied $\sum_{h \leq H} \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} \Lambda(n) \Lambda(n+h)$.
- We observe that

$$D(N, h) \approx \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) e(n\alpha) \right|^2 e(-\alpha h) d\alpha,$$

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- Our proof of the second moment theorem uses the circle method and is based on Mikawa's investigation of twin primes.
- Mikawa studied $\sum_{h \leq H} \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} \Lambda(n) \Lambda(n + h)$.
- We observe that

$$D(N, h) \approx \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) e(n\alpha) \right|^2 e(-\alpha h) d\alpha,$$

- Then the range of integration is divided into the major and minor arcs.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- Our proof of the second moment theorem uses the circle method and is based on Mikawa's investigation of twin primes.
- Mikawa studied $\sum_{h \leq H} \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} \Lambda(n) \Lambda(n+h)$.
- We observe that

$$D(N, h) \approx \int_0^1 \left| \sum_{N < n \leq 2N} d_3(n) e(n\alpha) \right|^2 e(-\alpha h) d\alpha,$$

- Then the range of integration is divided into the major and minor arcs.
- The major arcs are part of the interval $[0, 1]$ that are close to rational numbers with small denominators and the minor arcs form the rest of the interval.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- The contribution of the minor arcs is transformed using a version of the Sobolev-Gallagher lemma.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- The contribution of the minor arcs is transformed using a version of the Sobolev-Gallagher lemma.
- The resulting expression is then disposed using a mean-value estimate for the trigonometric polynomial $\sum_n d_3(n)e(\alpha n)$, analogous to Mikawa's work.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- The contribution of the minor arcs is transformed using a version of the Sobolev-Gallagher lemma.
- The resulting expression is then disposed using a mean-value estimate for the trigonometric polynomial $\sum_n d_3(n)e(\alpha n)$, analogous to Mikawa's work.
- Mikawa needed to use a Vaughan-type identity to decompose Λ . We simply use $d_3 = 1 \star 1 \star 1$.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- The contribution of the minor arcs is transformed using a version of the Sobolev-Gallagher lemma.
- The resulting expression is then disposed using a mean-value estimate for the trigonometric polynomial $\sum_n d_3(n)e(\alpha n)$, analogous to Mikawa's work.
- Mikawa needed to use a Vaughan-type identity to decompose Λ . We simply use $d_3 = 1 \star 1 \star 1$.
- The major arcs, as usual, give the main term.

Proof of the Second Moment Theorem

- The contribution of the minor arcs is transformed using a version of the Sobolev-Gallagher lemma.
- The resulting expression is then disposed using a mean-value estimate for the trigonometric polynomial $\sum_n d_3(n)e(\alpha n)$, analogous to Mikawa's work.
- Mikawa needed to use a Vaughan-type identity to decompose Λ . We simply use $d_3 = 1 \star 1 \star 1$.
- The major arcs, as usual, give the main term.
- Collecting everything, we have our second moment result.

Thank you for your attention!