ARITHMETIC MEAN OF DIFFERENCES OF DEDEKIND SUMS

EMRE ALKAN, MAOSHENG XIONG, AND ALEXANDRU ZAHARESCU

ABSTRACT. Recently Girstmair and Schoissengeier studied the asymptotic behavior of the arithmetic mean of Dedekind sums

$$\frac{1}{\varphi(N)} \sum_{\substack{0 \le m < N \\ \gcd(m,N)=1}} |S(m,N)|,$$

as $N \to \infty$. In this paper we consider the arithmetic mean of weighted differences of Dedekind sums in the form

$$A_h(Q) = \frac{1}{\sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right)} \times \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) |s(a', q') - s(a, q)|,$$

where $h:[0,1]\to\mathbb{C}$ is a continuous function with $\int_0^1 h(t) \,\mathrm{d}t \neq 0$, $\frac{a}{q}$ runs over \mathscr{F}_Q , the set of Farey fractions of order Q in the unit interval [0,1] and $\frac{a}{q}<\frac{a'}{q'}$ are consecutive elements of \mathscr{F}_Q . We show that the limit $\lim_{Q\to\infty} A_h(Q)$ exists and is independent of h.

1. Introduction

For any real number x, let ((x)) be the sawtooth function defined as

$$((x)) = \begin{cases} x - [x] - \frac{1}{2}, & x \text{ is not an integer,} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For positive integers h, k the classical Dedekind sum s(h, k) is defined by

$$s(h,k) = \sum_{s \pmod{k}} \left(\left(\frac{s}{k} \right) \right) \left(\left(\frac{hs}{k} \right) \right),$$

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. 11F20.

Key words and phrases. Dedekind sums, Kloosterman sums, Farey fractions.

where the notation $s \pmod{k}$ means that s runs over a complete residue system modulo k. Since the sawtooth function has period one, s(h, k) is a periodic function of h with period k.

The distribution of Dedekind sums, in particular the asymptotic behavior of even moments of such sums has been investigated by a number of authors. Recently Girstmair and Schoissengeier([5]) succeeded in establishing the right size of the more subtle first moment, which is the arithmetic mean

$$\frac{1}{\varphi(N)} \sum_{\substack{0 \le m < N \\ \gcd(m,N)=1}} |S(m,N)|,$$

as $N \to \infty$, where $S(m, N) = 12 \cdot s(m, N)$. In the process, they proved the asymptotic formula

$$\frac{1}{\varphi(N)} \sum_{\substack{m \in \mathcal{F} \\ \gcd(m,N)=1}} |S(m,N)| = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \log^2 N + O\left(\log^2 N / \log \log N\right),$$

as $N \to \infty$, where

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigcup_{1 \le d \le x} \bigcup_{\substack{0 \le c \le d \\ \gcd(c,d) = 1}} I_{c/d} \subset [0,N),$$

$$I_{c/d} = [0, N] \bigcap \{ z \in \mathbb{R} : |z - N \cdot c/d| \le x/d \},$$
$$x = \min \{ \sqrt{N} / \log N, \sqrt{N} / \tau(N) \},$$

and $\tau(N)$ denotes the number of divisors of N. The sign changes and zones of large and small values for Dedekind sums which also sparked interest have been studied by Girstmair in ([3], [4]).

In this paper, we consider the arithmetic mean of weighted differences of Dedekind sums of the form |s(a', q') - s(a, q)| with a weight function h, where $(\frac{a}{q}, \frac{a'}{q'})$ runs over the set of pairs of consecutive elements of the Farey sequence \mathscr{F}_Q of order Q. The Farey sequence of order Q consists of all

the fractions $\frac{a}{q} \in [0, 1]$, in reduced form, with denominator bounded by Q, arranged in increasing order, i.e.,

$$\mathscr{F}_Q := \left\{ \frac{a}{q} \in [0,1] : a, q \in \mathbb{Z}, \ \gcd(a,q) = 1, \ 1 \le q \le Q \right\}.$$

For basic properties of Farey sequences, the reader may consult Hardy and Wright [6]. We remark that in the limit as $Q \to \infty$, the above arithmetic mean turns out to be independent of the choices of weight h. More precisely one has the following result.

Theorem 1. Let $h:[0,1]\to\mathbb{C}$ be a continuous function with $\int_0^1 h(t) dt \neq 0$. Define

$$A_h(Q) = \frac{1}{\sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right)} \times \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) |s(a', q') - s(a, q)|,$$

where $\frac{a}{q}$ runs over \mathscr{F}_Q , the set of Farey fractions of order Q in the unit interval [0,1] and $\frac{a}{q} < \frac{a'}{q'}$ are consecutive elements of \mathscr{F}_Q . Then we have

$$\lim_{Q \to \infty} A_h(Q) = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12}.$$

We remark that the statement of the theorem holds more generally for piecewise continuous functions. In particular, by taking h to be the characteristic function of a subinterval \mathbf{I} of [0,1], we obtain the following result.

Corollary 1. For any subinterval I of [0,1], we have

$$\lim_{Q \to \infty} \frac{1}{\#(\mathscr{F}_Q \cap \mathbf{I})} \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \cap \mathbf{I}} |s(a', q') - s(a, q)| = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12}.$$

Acknowledgement. The authors are very grateful to the referee for many useful comments and suggestions.

2. Proof of theorem 1

Since any continuous function $h:[0,1]\to\mathbb{C}$ can be approximated uniformly by functions which are continuously differentiable, it is enough to prove the theorem in the case when h is continuously differentiable. In this case, we have the following stronger form of the result with a precise error term.

Theorem 1'. Let $h:[0,1] \to \mathbb{C}$ be a continuously differentiable function with $\int_0^1 h(t) dt \neq 0$. Define

$$A_h(Q) = \frac{1}{\sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right)} \times \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) |s(a', q') - s(a, q)|,$$

where $\frac{a}{q}$ runs over \mathscr{F}_Q , the set of Farey fractions of order Q in the unit interval [0,1] and $\frac{a}{q} < \frac{a'}{q'}$ are consecutive elements of \mathscr{F}_Q . Then for any fixed positive real number δ , we have

$$A_h(Q) = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12} + O_{h,\delta} \left(Q^{-\frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right),$$

as $Q \to \infty$.

Proof of Theorem 1'. Our first objective is to obtain an asymptotic formula for $B_h(Q)$, where

$$B_h(Q) = \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) |s(a', q') - s(a, q)|.$$

Let $\frac{a}{q} < \frac{a'}{q'}$ be consecutive Farey fractions. We know that a'q - aq' = 1. By using formula (38) on Page 29 of [8], which is a consequence of the reciprocity law of Dedekind sums, one has

$$s(a', q') - s(a, q) = s(q, q') + s(q', q) = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'} \right).$$

Therefore

$$B_h(Q) = \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left| -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right) \right|.$$

Define

$$B_{1,h}(Q) = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ q' \le q}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left| -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right) \right|,$$

$$B_{2,h}(Q) = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ q' > q}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left| -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right) \right|,$$

so that we have

$$B_h(Q) = B_{1,h}(Q) + B_{2,h}(Q).$$

By symmetry, it suffices to consider $B_{1,h}(Q)$ only. Clearly, the condition

$$-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'} \right) \le 0,$$

is equivalent to $q^2+q'^2-3qq'+1\leq 0$. Since q,q' are integers, this is equivalent to $q^2+q'^2-3qq'<0$, and we have $\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}<\frac{q'}{q}<\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. Therefore one has

$$-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'} \right) \text{ is } \begin{cases} > 0, & \frac{q'}{q} \le \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ or } \frac{q'}{q} \ge \frac{3 + \sqrt{5}}{2}, \\ \le 0, & \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2} < \frac{q'}{q} < \frac{3 + \sqrt{5}}{2}. \end{cases}$$

We can separate $B_{1,h}(Q)$ into two parts as $B_{1,h}(Q) = I + II$, where

$$I = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} < \frac{q'}{a} \le 1}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right),$$

$$II = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right).$$

2.1. Estimation for I. It is known that for any two consecutive Farey fractions $\frac{a}{q} < \frac{a'}{q'}$ of order Q, one has a'q - aq' = 1 and q + q' > Q. Hence $aq' \equiv -1 \pmod{q}$ and $a \equiv -\bar{q'} \pmod{q}$, where $\bar{q'}$ is the multiplicative inverse of q' modulo q with $1 \leq \bar{q'} \leq q$ (here $\bar{q'}$ exists because $\gcd(q, q') = 1$). Since $1 \leq a < q$, one has $a = q - \bar{q'}$. Conversely, if q and q' are two coprime integers in $\{1, \ldots, Q\}$ with q + q' > Q, then there are unique $a \in \{1, \ldots, Q\}$ and $a' \in \{1, \ldots, Q\}$ for which a'q - aq' = 1, and $\frac{a}{q} < \frac{a'}{q'}$ are consecutive Farey fractions of order Q. We find that

$$I = \sum_{\substack{q \leq Q \\ \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}q < q' \\ \gcd(q,q') = 1}} h\left(1 - \frac{\bar{q'}}{q}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right).$$

The restrictions Q-q < q' < q implies that $q > \frac{Q}{2}$ and when $Q-q = \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}q$, we have $q = \left(\frac{5-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{-1} \cdot Q = \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q$, hence we can decompose I into two parts as

$$I = I_1 + I_2$$

where

$$I_{1} = \sum_{\substack{\frac{Q}{2} < q \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} \sum_{\substack{Q-q < q' \leq q \\ \gcd(q,q')=1}} h\left(1 - \frac{\bar{q'}}{q}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right),$$

$$I_{2} = \sum_{\substack{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < q \leq Q}} \sum_{\substack{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}Q < q' \leq q \\ \gcd(q,q')=1}} h\left(1 - \frac{\bar{q'}}{q}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right).$$

Sums of the above type can be estimated by the aid of the following two lemmas. The first lemma, whose proof depends on Weil-type bounds for Kloosterman sums, provides an asymptotic formula for certain sums over visible lattice points in planar domains satisfying congruence constraints.

Lemma 1. ([2], Lemma 2.2) Assume that $q \geq 1$ is an integer, \mathcal{I}_1 and \mathcal{I}_2 are intervals with $|\mathcal{I}_1|, |\mathcal{I}_2| < q$, and $g: \mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2 \to \mathbb{R}$ is a C^1 function. Write $Dg = |\frac{\partial g}{\partial x}| + |\frac{\partial g}{\partial y}|$ and let $||\cdot||_{\infty}$ denote the L^{∞} norm on $\mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2$. Then for any integer T > 1, one has

$$\sum_{\substack{a \in \mathcal{I}_1, b \in \mathcal{I}_2 \\ ab \equiv 1 \pmod{q}}} g(a, b) = \frac{\phi(q)}{q^2} \iint_{\mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2} g(x, y) \, \mathrm{d}x \mathrm{d}y + E_{q, \mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2, g, T} ,$$

where, for all $\delta > 0$,

$$E_{q,\mathcal{I}_1,\mathcal{I}_2,g,T} \ll_{\delta} T^2 q^{\frac{1}{2}+\delta} ||g||_{\infty} + T q^{\frac{3}{2}+\delta} ||Dg||_{\infty} + \frac{|\mathcal{I}_1||\mathcal{I}_2| \cdot ||Dg||_{\infty}}{T}.$$

In applying Lemma 1, we will also make use of the following result.

Lemma 2. ([1], Lemma 2.3) Suppose that 0 < a < b are real numbers and that f is a C^1 function on [a,b]. Then

$$\sum_{a < k \le b} \frac{\phi(k)}{k} f(k) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \int_a^b f(x) \, \mathrm{d}x + O\left(\log b \left(||f||_{\infty} + \int_a^b |f'(x)| \, \mathrm{d}x \right) \right).$$

For fixed q with $\frac{Q}{2} < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q$, we may apply Lemma 1 directly to I_1 , with $\mathcal{I}_1 = [0,q], \mathcal{I}_2 = (Q-q,q], a = \bar{q'}, b = q'$ and

$$g(x,y) = h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right)\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy}\right)\right).$$

First of all, both $|\mathcal{I}_1|, |\mathcal{I}_2| \leq q \leq Q$. Moreover, under the restrictions $\frac{Q}{2} < q \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{2}Q$, $q \approx Q$, and for $y \in \mathcal{I}_2$, we have

$$\frac{5 - \sqrt{5}}{10}Q \le Q - q < y \le q \le \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{10}Q.$$

Hence $y \approx Q$, and we have

$$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy} \right) \le \frac{1}{4},$$

$$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy} \right) \ge -\frac{1}{12} \frac{1}{qy},$$

and

$$\frac{1}{qy} \asymp \frac{1}{Q^2}.$$

Therefore $\left|\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy}\right)\right| \ll 1$, so that we have $||g||_{\infty} \ll ||h||_{\infty} \ll_h 1$.

Next, under the same restrictions one obtains

$$\left| \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right| \ll ||Dh||_{\infty} \frac{1}{q} \ll_h \frac{1}{Q},$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right| \le ||h||_{\infty} \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{y^2} + \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{qy^2} \right) \ll_h \frac{1}{Q}.$$

Lemma 1 gives us that for any integer T > 1,

$$I_1 = \sum_{\substack{\frac{Q}{2} < q \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q}} \left\{ \frac{\phi(q)}{q^2} \iint_{\mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2} h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy}\right)\right) dxdy + E_{q,h,T} \right\},\,$$

where for all $\delta > 0$,

$$E_{q,h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} T^2 q^{\frac{1}{2} + \delta} + T q^{\frac{3}{2} + \delta} \frac{1}{Q} + \frac{Q^2 \cdot \frac{1}{Q}}{T}.$$

The double integral over $\mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2$ is

$$\int_0^q h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right) dx \int_{Q-q}^q \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q} + \frac{1}{qy}\right) dy$$
$$= q^2 \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_{\frac{Q}{q} - 1}^1 \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12}\left(y + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{q^2y}\right) dy.$$

Therefore

$$I_{1} = \left(\int_{0}^{1} h(t) dt \right) \sum_{\frac{Q}{q} < q < \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{1+\sqrt{5}}Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} q \int_{\frac{Q}{q}-1}^{1} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{q^{2}y} \right) dy + E'_{h,T},$$

where

$$E'_{h,T} \ll Q \cdot E_{q,h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} T^2 Q^{\frac{3}{2}+\delta} + T Q^{\frac{3}{2}+\delta} + \frac{Q^2}{T}.$$

Let $T^2Q^{\frac{3}{2}}\approx \frac{Q^2}{T}$, we may choose $T\approx Q^{\frac{1}{6}}$ to obtain

$$(1) E'_{h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} Q^{2-\frac{1}{6}+\delta}.$$

Since

$$\sum_{\frac{Q}{2} < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} q \int_{\frac{Q}{q}-1}^{1} \frac{1}{q^2 y} \, \mathrm{d}y \ll \sum_{\frac{Q}{2} < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q^2} \ll \sum_{\frac{Q}{2} < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} \frac{1}{Q} \ll 1,$$

we still have

$$I_1 = \left(\int_0^1 h(t) \, \mathrm{d}t \right) \sum_{\substack{Q < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q}} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} q \int_{\frac{Q}{q}-1}^1 \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) \, \mathrm{d}y + E'_{h,T}.$$

Now applying Lemma 2 to I_1 , with the function

(2)
$$f(x) = x \int_{\frac{Q}{2}-1}^{1} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) dy, \quad \frac{Q}{2} < x \le \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{10} Q,$$

and $a = \frac{Q}{2}, b = \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q$, we have

(3)
$$\sum_{\frac{Q}{2} < q \le \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} f(q) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \int_{\frac{Q}{2}}^{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{2}Q} f(x) \, \mathrm{d}x + E'.$$

Here for the error term E', notice that for $\frac{Q}{2} < x \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q$, we have $||f||_{\infty} \ll Q$ and by the chain rule it is easy to see that

$$|f'(x)| \ll 1 + x \frac{Q}{r^2} \ll 1.$$

Hence $\int_{Q^{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}}}^{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}} |f'(x)| dx \ll Q$, and Lemma 2 yields

$$(4) E' \ll Q \log Q \ll_{\delta} Q^{1+\delta}.$$

for any $\delta > 0$. Putting (4),(3) and (1) together and returning to I_1 we get

$$I_1 = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \int_{\frac{Q}{2}}^{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q} f(x) dx + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2-\frac{1}{6}+\delta} \right).$$

Finally, writing f(x) explicitly in (2) and using the change of variable $\frac{x}{Q} = x'$, we obtain as $Q \to \infty$ the asymptotic formula

$$I_1 = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot C_1 + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{6} + \delta} \right)$$

for any fixed positive real number δ , where the constant C_1 is given by

(5)
$$C_1 = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}} x \int_{\frac{1}{x}-1}^{1} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) dy dx.$$

Following exactly the same procedure we can get a similar asymptotic formula for I_2 as

$$I_2 = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot C_2 + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{6} + \delta} \right),$$

where the constant C_2 is given by

(6)
$$C_2 = \int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}}^1 x \int_{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}}^1 \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) dy dx.$$

Therefore for any fixed positive real number δ , as $Q \to \infty$, we have

(7)
$$I = I_1 + I_2 = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot (C_1 + C_2) + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{6} + \delta} \right).$$

The constants C_1, C_2 can be computed separately but the expressions are complicated. Nevertheless it turns out that $C_1 + C_2$ has a simple form as $C_1 + C_2 = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{96}$.

2.2. Estimation for II. We treat II similarly, but with a slight difference. Take a number K between 0 and Q which will be chosen later and denote

$$II' = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ q' > K}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right),$$

$$II'' = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ q' \leq K}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right)\right),$$

so that

$$II = II' + II''.$$

For II'', as we know,

$$|II''| \ll_h \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ q' < K}} \left(1 + \frac{q'}{q} + \frac{1}{qq'}\right) + \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ q' < K}} \frac{q}{q'},$$

where the first term is

$$\ll_h \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ a' < K}} 1 = \sum_{1 \le q' < K} \phi(q') \ll K^2,$$

and the second term is

$$\ll_h Q \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ q' < K}} \frac{1}{q'} = Q \sum_{1 \le q' < K} \frac{\phi(q')}{q'} \le Q \sum_{1 \le q' < K} 1 \ll QK.$$

Since K < Q, we obtain that

$$II'' \ll_h QK$$
.

For II', first notice that

$$\sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ g' > K}} \left| h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \right| \frac{1}{qq'} \ll_h \frac{1}{K} \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ q' > K}} \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{q \leq Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} \ll \frac{Q}{K},$$

hence

$$II' = \sum_{\substack{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q \\ \frac{q'}{q} \leq \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ q' > K}} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q}\right)\right) + O_h\left(\frac{Q}{K}\right).$$

For simplicity, we still denote the main term by II'. Now we follow the same procedure as for I_1 and I_2 . Since $Q - q < q' \le \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}q$, we have

$$q > \left(\frac{5-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{-1} \cdot Q = \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q,$$

and by the one-to-one correspondence between pairs of consecutive Farey fractions of order Q and coprime integers (q, q') with $1 \le q, q' \le Q, q + q' > Q$, we can write II' as

$$II' = \sum_{\substack{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < q \leq Q \\ Q = q < q' \\ Q \neq q' \leq q \\ q'\bar{q'} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}}} h\left(1 - \frac{\bar{q'}}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{q'} + \frac{q'}{q}\right)\right).$$

We may apply Lemma 1 to II', with $\mathcal{I}_1 = [0, q]$, $\mathcal{I}_2 = (\max\{Q - q, K\}, \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}q]$, a = q', b = q' and

$$g(x,y) = h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q}\right)\right).$$

First notice that both $|\mathcal{I}_1|, |\mathcal{I}_2| \leq q \leq Q$, and since $q \approx Q$, $y \in \mathcal{I}_2$ and $y \geq K$, we have

$$||g||_{\infty} \ll ||h||_{\infty} \frac{Q}{K} \ll_h \frac{Q}{K}.$$

Moreover as $q \simeq Q$, $y \in \mathcal{I}_2$ and K < Q, it follows that

$$\left| \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right| \le ||Dh||_{\infty} \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{q}{K} + 1 \right) \ll_h \frac{1}{K},$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right| \le ||h||_{\infty} \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{q}{y^2} + \frac{1}{q} \right) \ll_h \frac{Q}{K^2} + \frac{1}{Q} \ll \frac{Q}{K^2}.$$

Applying Lemma 1, for any integer T > 1 we have

$$II' = \sum_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < q \le Q} \left\{ \frac{\phi(q)}{q^2} \iint_{\mathcal{I}_1 \times \mathcal{I}_2} h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q}\right)\right) dxdy + E_{q,h,T} \right\},\,$$

where for all $\delta > 0$,

$$E_{q,h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} T^2 q^{\frac{1}{2} + \delta} \frac{Q}{K} + T q^{\frac{3}{2} + \delta} \frac{Q}{K^2} + \frac{Q^3}{TK^2}.$$

The integral inside is

$$\int_0^q h\left(1 - \frac{x}{q}\right) dx \int_{\max\{Q - q, K\}}^{\frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}q} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{q}{y} + \frac{y}{q}\right) dy$$
$$= q^2 \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_{\max\{\frac{Q}{q} - 1, \frac{K}{q}\}}^{\frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\left(y + \frac{1}{y}\right) dy.$$

Therefore

$$II' = \left(\int_0^1 h(t) \, dt \right) \sum_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < q \le Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} \times q \int_{\max\{\frac{Q}{q}-1,\frac{K}{q}\}}^{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) \, dy + E'_{h,T},$$

where

$$E'_{h,T} \ll Q \cdot E_{q,h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} \frac{T^2 Q^{\frac{5}{2} + \delta}}{K} + \frac{T Q^{\frac{7}{2} + \delta}}{K^2} + \frac{Q^4}{TK^2}.$$

To minimize the error terms $QK, \frac{T^2Q^{\frac{5}{2}}}{K}, \frac{TQ^{\frac{7}{2}}}{K^2}$ and $\frac{Q^4}{TK^2}$, assume that

$$QK pprox rac{T^2 Q^{rac{5}{2}}}{K} pprox rac{Q^4}{TK^2},$$

and we may choose $K=Q^{1-\frac{1}{16}}, T\approx Q^{\frac{3}{16}}$. Consequently

(8)
$$E'_{h,T} \ll_{\delta,h} Q^{2-\frac{1}{16}+\delta}$$

Next, we applying Lemma 2 to II' with function

(9)
$$f(x) = x \int_{\max\{\frac{Q}{2} - 1, \frac{K}{2}\}}^{\frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y}\right) dy,$$

and $a = \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q, b = Q$. Notice that since $\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < x \le Q$, we have

$$||f||_{\infty} \ll Q \frac{Q}{K} \ll Q^{1 + \frac{1}{16}}.$$

It is easy to see that

$$|f'(x)| \ll \frac{Q}{K} + Q\frac{Q}{K^2} \ll Q^{\frac{1}{8}}.$$

Therefore $\int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q}^{Q} |f'(x)| dx \ll Q^{1+\frac{1}{8}}$. Then Lemma 2 gives

(10)
$$\sum_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q < q \le Q} \frac{\phi(q)}{q} f(q) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q}^{Q} f(x) \, \mathrm{d}x + E',$$

where and

(11)
$$E' \ll \log Q \left(Q^{1 + \frac{1}{16}} + Q^{1 + \frac{1}{8}} \right) \ll_{\delta} Q^{1 + \frac{1}{8} + \delta},$$

for any $\delta > 0$. Putting (10),(11) and (8) together and returning to II' we obtain

$$II' = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}Q}^Q f(x) dx + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2-\frac{1}{16}+\delta} \right).$$

Finally writing f(x) explicitly in (9) and making the change of variable $\frac{x}{Q} = x'$, we get

$$II' = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot C_{\frac{K}{Q}} + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right),$$

for any fixed positive real number δ , where the number $C_{\frac{K}{Q}}$ is given as

$$C_{\frac{K}{Q}} = \int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}}^{1} x \int_{\max\{\frac{1}{x}-1,\frac{K}{Qx}\}}^{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y}\right) \, \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Denote the constant C_3 by the integral

(12)
$$C_3 = \int_{\frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{10}}^1 x \int_{\frac{1}{x}-1}^{\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}} -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) dy dx$$
$$= \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{96}.$$

Since $K = Q^{1-\frac{1}{16}}$, for any positive real number δ we have

$$|C_{3} - C_{\frac{K}{Q}}| = \int_{1 - \frac{K}{Q}}^{1} x \int_{\frac{1}{x} - 1}^{\frac{K}{Qx}} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \left(y + \frac{1}{y} \right) dy dx$$

$$= \int_{1 - \frac{K}{Q}}^{1} x \int_{\frac{1}{x} - 1}^{\frac{K}{Qx}} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{y}{12} dy dx + \int_{1 - \frac{K}{Q}}^{1} x \int_{\frac{1}{x} - 1}^{\frac{K}{Qx}} \frac{1}{12y} dy dx$$

$$\ll \frac{K}{Q} + \int_{1 - \frac{K}{Q}}^{1} x \left(\log \frac{K}{Q} - \log(1 - x) \right) dx$$

$$\ll \log \left(\frac{Q}{K} \right) \frac{K}{Q} \ll \frac{\log Q}{Q^{\frac{1}{16}}} \ll_{\delta} Q^{-\frac{1}{16} + \delta},$$

therefore

$$II' = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot C_3 + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right),$$

and

(13)
$$II = II' + II'' = \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot C_3 + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right).$$

2.3. **Proof of Theorem 1'.** Putting the estimate (7) and (13) together, we have the asymptotic formula

$$B_{1,h}(Q) = I + II$$

$$= \frac{6Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot (C_1 + C_2 + C_3) + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right),$$

for any positive real number δ , where the constants C_1, C_2, C_3 are defined in (5),(6) and (12) respectively. By symmetry we have exactly the same asymptotic formula for $B_{2,h}(Q)$. Therefore, we may denote the constant Cby

(14)
$$C = 4(C_1 + C_2 + C_3) = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12} \approx 0.103006.$$

It follows that

$$B_h(Q) = B_{1,h}(Q) + B_{2,h}(Q)$$

$$= \frac{3Q^2}{\pi^2} \left(\int_0^1 h(t) dt \right) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12} + O_{\delta,h} \left(Q^{2 - \frac{1}{16} + \delta} \right).$$

By using Koksma's Inequality ([7]), one has

$$\frac{1}{\#(\mathscr{F}_Q)} \sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right) = \int_0^1 h(t) \, \mathrm{d}t + O_h\left(\frac{1}{Q}\right).$$

We also know that

$$\#(\mathscr{F}_Q) = \frac{3Q^2}{\pi^2} + O(Q \log Q).$$

Counting all these facts together we obtain as $Q \to \infty$,

$$A_h(Q) = \frac{B_h(Q)}{\sum_{\frac{a}{q} \in \mathscr{F}_Q} h\left(\frac{a}{q}\right)} = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{12} + O_{\delta,h}\left(Q^{-\frac{1}{16} + \delta}\right),$$

for any fixed positive real number δ . This completes the proof of Theorem 1'.

References

- [1] F. P. Boca, C. Cobeli, A. Zaharescu, Distribution of lattice points visible from the origin, Comm. Math. Phys. 213(2000), no. 2, 433–470.
- [2] F. P. Boca, R. N. Gologan, A. Zaharescu, The average length of a trajectory in a certain billiard in a flat two-torus, New York J. Math. 9(2003), 53–73.
- [3] K. Girstmair, Dedekind sums with predictable signs, Acta. Arith. 83(1998), no. 3, 283-294.
- [4] K. Girstmair, Zones of large and small values for Dedekind sums, Acta. Arith. 109(2003), no. 3, 299–308.
- [5] K. Girstmair, J. Schoissengeier, On the arithmetic mean of Dedekind sums, Acta. Arith. 116(2005), no. 2, 189–198.
- [6] G. H. Hardy, E. M. Wright, "An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers", Oxford University Press, 5th ed, 1979.

ARITHMETIC MEAN OF DIFFERENCES OF DEDEKIND SUMS

17

- [7] L. Kuipers, H. Niederreiter, "Uniform distribution of sequences", Wiley-Interscience Publication, 1974.
- [8] H. Rademacher, E. Grosswald, "Dedekind Sums", Carus Mathematical Monographs No. 16, Math. Assoc. Amer., 1972.

Department of Mathematics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 273 Altgeld Hall, MC-382, 1049 W. Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-2975, USA

 $E ext{-}mail\ address: alkan@math.uiuc.edu}$ $E ext{-}mail\ address: xiong@math.uiuc.edu}$ $E ext{-}mail\ address: zaharesc@math.uiuc.edu}$