

## THE SECOND SUM

### 1. RECAP

Recall

$$w \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \text{ supp } w \in [1, 2], w(x) = 1 \ (x \in [6/5, 9/5]),$$

$$h_t(u) = w(u)^2 u^{it}$$

and its Fourier transform

$$\hat{h}_t(v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h_t(u) e(-uv) du.$$

**Theorem 4.6.**[Proposition 4.6] *Suppose that  $\mathcal{W}$  is  $T^\varepsilon$  separated and  $|D_N(t)| > V$  for each  $t \in \mathcal{W}$ . Then*

$$\text{card } \mathcal{W} \ll_\varepsilon \left( N + \left( \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} I_{\mathbf{m}} \right)^{1/3} \right) \|\mathbf{b}\|^2 V^{-2}.$$

where

$$I_{\mathbf{m}} = N^3 \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^3} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(m_2 N) \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(m_3 N).$$

Thus we have reduced the investigation to bounding

$$\sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} I_{\mathbf{m}} = S_1 + S_2 + S_3.$$

where  $S_j$  denotes the sum over  $\mathbf{m}$  with exactly  $j$  of the  $m_j$  being non-zero. We already saw that

**Theorem 5.1.**(Proposition 5.1) We have

$$S_1 \ll_\varepsilon T^{-10}.$$

Now is the turn of  $S_2$  where

$$\begin{aligned}
S_2 &= N^3 \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in (\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\})^2} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^3} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(0) \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(m_1 N) \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(m_2 N) \\
&\quad + \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(0) \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(m_2 N) \\
&\quad \quad \quad + \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(m_2 N) \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(0) \\
&= 3N^3 \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in (\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\})^2} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^3} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(m_2 N) \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(0) \\
&= 3N^3 \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^3} \hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(0) \sum_{m_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \sum_{m_2 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_2-t_3}(m_2 N).
\end{aligned}$$

This is where Heath-Brown's theorem comes into play.

First we require some preparation. When  $t_1 \neq t_3$  we have, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\hat{h}_{t_3-t_1}(0) \ll |t_3 - t_1|^j \ll T^{-100}$$

and for  $m \neq 0$

$$\hat{h}_t(mN) \ll \frac{1 + |t|^2}{m^2 N^2}.$$

Thus the total contribution from the terms with  $t_1 \neq t_3$  is

$$\ll T^{-100} T^3 (1 + T^4) N^{-2} \ll T^{-10}.$$

The remaining terms contribute

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 3N^3 \hat{h}_0(0) \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \sum_{m_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \sum_{m_2 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_2-t_1}(m_2 N) \\
&= 3N^3 \hat{h}_0(0) \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \sum_{m_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(m_1 N) \sum_{m_2 \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_2-t_1}(-m_2 N) \\
&= 3N^3 \hat{h}_0(0) \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(mN) \right|^2
\end{aligned}$$

since

$$\hat{h}_{-t}(-v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} w(u)^2 u^{-it} e(vu) du = \overline{\hat{h}_t(v)}.$$

Thus to summarise the story so far

$$S_2 = 3N^3 \hat{h}_0(0) \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(mN) \right|^2 + O(T^{-10}).$$

Since, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\hat{h}_0(mN) \ll |m|^{-j} N^{-j}$$

and

$$\hat{h}_0(0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} w(u)^2 du \ll 1,$$

the contribution of the terms with  $t_1 = t_2$  to the above sum is

$$\ll N^{3-2j}T \ll T^{-10}.$$

Thus

$$S_2 \ll N^3 \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2 \\ t_1 \neq t_2}} \left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(mN) \right|^2 + T^{-10}.$$

The sum over the pairs  $t_1, t_2$  is now divided dyadically according to the size of  $|t_1 - t_2|$ . This quantity satisfies  $T^\varepsilon < |t_1 - t_2| \leq T$  so  $T^\varepsilon N^{-1} \leq |t_1 - t_2| N^{-1} \leq T N^{-1}$ . Thus we can suppose that  $2^j < |t_1 - t_2| N^{-1} \leq 2^{j+1}$  for some integer  $j$  with  $T^\varepsilon (2N)^{-1} < 2^j \leq 2TN^{-1}$ . There are  $\ll_\varepsilon \log T$  choices for  $j$ . Hence by taking  $M = 2^j$  we have

$$S_2 \ll T^\varepsilon N^3 \sup_{\substack{M \\ T^\varepsilon/(2N) \leq M \leq 2T/N}} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2 \\ MN < |t_1-t_2| \leq 2MN}} \left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(mN) \right|^2 + T^{-10}.$$

At this point we employ

**Lemma 6.2.** *Suppose that  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $T$  is sufficiently large in terms of  $\varepsilon$ , and  $N$  is a positive integer with  $T^\varepsilon \leq N$ . Suppose also that  $M$  is a positive real number with  $T^\varepsilon/(2N) < M < 2T/N$  and  $MN < |t| \leq 2MN$ . Then*

$$\left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_t(mN) \right| \ll_\varepsilon (MN)^{-1/2} \int_{|u| \leq T^\varepsilon} \left| \sum_{1 \leq m \leq T^\varepsilon M} m^{i(t+u)} \right| du + T^{-100}.$$

We apply this with  $t = t_1 - t_2$ . Thus, by Schwarz' inequality

$$\left| \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}} \hat{h}_{t_1-t_2}(mN) \right|^2 \ll \frac{T^\varepsilon}{MN} \int_{|u| \leq T^\varepsilon} \left| \sum_{1 \leq m \leq T^\varepsilon M} m^{i(t_1-t_2+u)} \right|^2 du + T^{-200}$$

and so

$$S_2 \ll T^{2\varepsilon} \sup_{\substack{M \\ T^\varepsilon/(2N) \leq M \leq 2T/N}} \int_{|u| \leq T^\varepsilon} \frac{N^2}{M} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2 \\ MN < |t_1 - t_2| \leq 2MN}} \left| \sum_{1 \leq m \leq T^\varepsilon M} m^{i(t_1 - t_2 + u)} \right|^2 du + T^{-10}$$

Put  $a(m) = a(m, u) = m^{iu}$  Then

$$S_2 \ll T^{3\varepsilon} \sup_{\substack{M \\ T^\varepsilon/(2N) \leq M \leq 2T/N}} \sup_{|u| \leq T^\varepsilon} \frac{N^2}{M} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2 \\ MN < |t_1 - t_2| \leq 2MN}} \left| \sum_{1 \leq m \leq T^\varepsilon M} a(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2 + T^{-10}$$

Having worked really hard to get here we can now relax and throw some things away! We have

$$S_2 \ll T^{3\varepsilon} \sup_{\substack{M, u \\ M \leq 2T/N \\ |u| \leq T^\varepsilon}} \frac{N^2}{M} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{1 \leq m \leq T^\varepsilon M} a(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2 + T^{-10}.$$

We divide the sum over  $M$  into  $\ll \log T$  dyadic ranges  $K < m \leq 2K$  where  $K \leq T^\varepsilon M$ . Thus

$$S_2 \ll T^{4\varepsilon} \sup_{\substack{K, u \\ K \leq T^{1+\varepsilon}/N \\ |u| \leq T^\varepsilon}} \frac{N^2}{K} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{K < m \leq 2K} a(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2 + T^{-10}$$

We now pick extremal values for  $K$  and  $u$ . The only information about  $a(m) = m^{iu}$  that we will use is that  $|a(m)| = 1$ . Thus for some  $K \leq T^{1+\varepsilon} N^{-1}$  and  $|u| \leq T^\varepsilon$

$$S_2 \ll T^{5\varepsilon} \frac{N^2}{K} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{K < m \leq 2K} a(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2 + T^{-10}$$

Thus we can just concentrate on

$$\Psi = \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{K < m \leq 2K} a(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2.$$

By Hölder's inequality for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\Psi^k \ll (\text{card } \mathcal{W})^{2k-2} \sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{W}^2} \left| \sum_{K^k < m \leq (2K)^k} b(m) m^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2$$

where

$$b(m) = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{m} \in (K, 2K]^k \\ m_1 \dots m_k = m}} a(m_1) \dots a(m_k)$$

satisfies

$$|b(m)| \leq d_k(m)$$

This is exactly the kind of expression considered by Heath-Brown.

**Theorem 1.6**(Heath-Brown). *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a 1-separated set of real numbers contained in an interval of length  $[-T, T]$  and suppose  $R = \text{card } \mathcal{T}$  and  $N \geq 1$ , and that the  $c_n$  are complex numbers. Then there is a positive constant  $c$  such that*

$$\sum_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{T}^2} \left| \sum_{n=1}^N c(n) n^{i(t_1 - t_2)} \right|^2 \ll \exp\left(\frac{c \log T}{\log \log T}\right) \left(NR + R^2 + R^{\frac{5}{4}} T^{\frac{1}{2}}\right) \max_{n \leq N} n |c(n)|^2$$

We apply this to  $\Psi^k$ . For brevity write  $W = \text{card } \mathcal{W}$ . Then

$$\Psi^k \ll_{\varepsilon} W^{2k-2} T^{\varepsilon/2} \left(K^{2k} W + K^k W^2 + K^k W^{\frac{5}{4}} T^{\frac{1}{2}}\right) \max_{K^k < m \leq (2K)^k} d_k(m)^2$$

so that

$$\Psi \ll_{\varepsilon} T^{\varepsilon} \left(K^2 W^{2-\frac{1}{k}} + K W^2 + K W^{2-\frac{3}{4k}} T^{\frac{1}{2k}}\right)$$

Thus we have established

**Theorem 6.1**(Proposition 6.1,  $S_2$  bound). For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$S_2 \ll_{\varepsilon} T^{7\varepsilon} \left(T N W^{2-\frac{1}{k}} + N^2 W^2 + N^2 W^{2-\frac{3}{4k}} T^{\frac{1}{2k}}\right)$$

## 2. COMMENT

One thing that worries me a little bit here is that Guth and Maynard do not keep track of the powers of  $T^{\varepsilon}$  that arise in their arguments. They blithely use the notation  $A \lesssim B$  to just mean  $A \leq C(\varepsilon) T^{\varepsilon} B$ . Normally one can get round any build up of powers of  $T^{\varepsilon}$  with the observation that the bounds hold for all small  $\varepsilon$  and one can replace  $\varepsilon$  by  $\varepsilon/k$  for a suitable  $k$ . However here  $\varepsilon$  is fixed by the assumption that  $\mathcal{W}$  is  $\varepsilon$  separated. If one keeps track of the powers of  $T^{\varepsilon}$  as is done above one

has the get out of gaol card at the end of the proof by observing that any 1-separated set can be divided into at most  $T^\varepsilon$  separated sets, so one has a bound in the 1-separated case, of course dependent on  $\varepsilon$ , but which holds for any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Thus I think it would be more satisfactory to state the final conclusions for 1-separated sets.