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## A problem of D. H. Lehmer and its generalization (II)\*

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**Abstract.** Let  $q > 2$  be an odd number. For each integer  $x$  with  $0 < x < q$  and  $(q, x) = 1$ , we define  $\bar{x}$  by  $x\bar{x} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$  and  $0 < \bar{x} < q$ . Let  $r(q)$  be the number of integers  $x$  with  $0 < x < q$  for which  $x$  and  $\bar{x}$  are of opposite parity. The main purpose of this paper is to give a sharper asymptotic formula for  $r(q)$  for all odd numbers  $q$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $q$  be an odd integer  $> 2$ . For each integer  $x$  with  $0 < x < q$  and  $(q, x) = 1$ , we know that there exists one and only one  $\bar{x}$  with  $0 < \bar{x} < q$  such that  $x\bar{x} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ . Let  $r(q)$  be the number of cases in which  $x$  and  $\bar{x}$  are of opposite parity. For example,  $r(3) = 0$ ,  $r(5) = 2$ ,  $r(7) = 0$ ,  $r(13) = 6$ . For  $q = p$  a prime, D. H. Lehmer [1] asks us to find  $r(p)$  or at least to say something nontrivial about it. It is known that  $r(p) \equiv 2$  or  $0 \pmod{4}$  according to  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{4}$ . About this problem, the author [2] obtained an asymptotic formula for  $r(p^2)$  and  $r(p_1 p_2)$ , where  $p$ ,  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are primes. In this paper, as an improvement of [2], we shall give an asymptotic formula for  $r(q)$  for all odd numbers  $q$ . The constants implied by the  $O$ -symbols and the symbols  $\ll$ ,  $\gg$  used in this paper do not depend on any parameter, unless otherwise indicated. By using estimates for character sum and Kloosterman sums, and the properties of Dirichlet L-functions, we prove the following two theorems:

**THEOREM 1.** *For every prime  $p > 2$  we have the asymptotic formula*

$$r(p) = \frac{1}{2} p + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ab} \{S(a, b; p) - S(a, -b; p) \\ + 4S(\bar{4}a, b; p) - 4S(\bar{4}a, -b; p) - 4S(\bar{2}a, b; p) \\ + 4S(\bar{2}a, -b; p)\} + O(\ln^3 p)$$

where  $d\bar{d} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ ,  $S(m, n; p) = \sum'_{d(\bmod p)} e\left(m\frac{d}{p} + n\frac{\bar{d}}{p}\right)$  is the Kloosterman sum, and  $e(y) = e^{2\pi iy}$ .

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**THEOREM 2.** For every odd integer  $q > 2$  we have

$$r(q) = \frac{1}{2}\phi(q) + O(q^{1/2}d^2(q)\ln^2 q)$$

where  $\phi(q)$  is the Euler function and  $d(q)$  is the divisor function.

From theorem 1 we can see that if we could get a nontrivial upper bound estimate for the mean value  $\sum_{q=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ab} S(ma, b; p)$ , then we may obtain a more accurate asymptotic formula. From theorem 2 we can also deduce the following:

**COROLLARY.** For every prime  $p > 2$  we have the asymptotic formula

$$r(p) = \frac{1}{2}p + O(p^{1/2} \ln^2 p)$$

## 2. Some lemmas

To complete the proofs of the theorems, we need some lemmas. First we have:

**LEMMA 1.** Let  $q > 2$  be an odd number. Then we have

$$r(q) = \frac{1}{2}\phi(q) - \frac{2}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi(-1)=-1} \chi(4) \left( \sum_{a=1}^{(q-1)/2} \chi(a) \right)^2$$

where the summation is over all odd characters mod  $q$ .

*Proof.* From the definition of  $r(q)$  and the orthogonality of characters we get

$$\begin{aligned} r(q) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=1}^{q-1} \sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ ab \equiv 1(q)}}^{q-1} \{1 - (-1)^{a+b}\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \phi(q) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ ab \equiv 1(q)}}^{q-1} \sum_{b=1}^{q-1} (-1)^{a+b} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \phi(q) - \frac{1}{2\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \bmod q} \left( \sum_{a=1}^{q-1} (-1)^a \chi(a) \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \phi(q) - \frac{1}{2\phi(q)} \sum_{\chi \neq \chi^0} \left( \sum_{a=1}^{q-1} (-1)^a \chi(a) \right)^2 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $\sum_{\chi \neq \chi^0}$  denotes the summation over all nonprincipal characters mod  $q$ .

Now if  $\chi(-1) = 1$  and  $\chi \neq \chi^0$ , then we have

$$\sum_{a=1}^{q-1} (-1)^a \chi(a) = 0 \tag{2}$$

while if  $\chi(-1) = -1$ , then

$$\sum_{a=1}^{q-1} (-1)^a \chi(a) = 2 \sum_{a=1}^{(q-1)/2} \chi(2a) \tag{3}$$

Combining (1), (2) and (3) we may immediately deduce lemma 1. □

LEMMA 2. Let  $q > 1$  be any odd number and let  $\chi$  be any Dirichlet character modulo  $q$ , not necessarily primitive. Then

$$(1 - 2\chi(2)) \sum_{\gamma=1}^{q-1} \gamma \chi(\gamma) = \chi(2)q \sum_{\gamma=1}^{(q-1)/2} \chi(\gamma)$$

*Proof.* (See reference [3]). □

LEMMA 3. Let  $m, n, q$  be integers with  $q > 1$ . Then

$$S(m, n; q) = \sum_{d=1}^{q-1} e \left( m \frac{d}{q} + n \frac{\bar{d}}{q} \right) \ll (m, n, q)^{1/2} q^{1/2} d(q)$$

where  $d\bar{d} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ ,  $d(q)$  is the divisor function, and  $(m, n, q)$  denotes the greatest common factor of  $m, n$  and  $q$ .  $\sum'_a$  denotes the summation over  $a$  such that  $(a, q) = 1$ .

*Proof.* (See reference [4]). □

LEMMA 4. Let  $q$  be an odd integer  $> 2$ . Then for any integer  $b$  we have the estimate

$$\sum_{\chi(-1)=-1} \tau^2(\chi) \chi(b) L^2(1, \bar{\chi}) \ll \phi(q) q^{1/2} d(q) \ln^2 q$$

where  $L(s, \chi)$  is the Dirichlet  $L$ -function and  $\tau(\chi)$  is the Gauss sum corresponding to  $\chi$ .

*Proof.* First for any integer  $r$  with  $(r, q) = 1$  we have

$$\sum_{\chi(-1)=-1} \chi(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \phi(q), & \text{if } r \equiv 1 \pmod{q}, \\ -\frac{1}{2} \phi(q), & \text{if } r \equiv -1 \pmod{q}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{4}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{p-1} \sum_{\chi_p(-1)=-1} \tau^2(\chi)\chi(b)L^2(1, \bar{\chi}) &= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ac} S(\bar{b}, ac; p) \\ &- \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ac} S(\bar{b}, -ac; p) + O(\ln^3 p) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $K(r, q) = \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} a^q e\left(\frac{ra}{p}\right)$ ,  $p \nmid r$ , then we have the estimate

$$K(r, q) \ll \frac{p^q}{\left| \sin\left(\frac{\pi r}{p}\right) \right|} \tag{7}$$

Namely we have

$$\begin{aligned} K(\gamma, q) \left(1 - e\left(\frac{\gamma}{p}\right)\right) &= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} a^q \left(e\left(\frac{\gamma a}{p}\right) - e\left(\frac{(a+1)\gamma}{p}\right)\right) \\ &= \sum_{a=1}^{p-2} ((a+1)^q - a^q) e\left(\frac{(a+1)\gamma}{p}\right) + e\left(\frac{\gamma}{p}\right) - (p-1)^q e\left(\frac{p\gamma}{p}\right) \\ &\ll p^q + \sum_{a=1}^{p-2} ((a+1)^q - a^q) \ll p^q. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$|K(\gamma, q)| \ll \frac{p^q}{\left|1 - e\left(\frac{\gamma}{p}\right)\right|} \ll \frac{p^q}{\left|\sin\left(\frac{\pi\gamma}{p}\right)\right|}.$$

This completes the proof of (7). □

By applying (6) with  $q = p$ ,  $N = p^2 + p$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{p-1} \sum_{\chi_p(-1)=-1} \tau^2(\chi)\chi(b)L^2(1, \bar{\chi}) &= \sum'_{1 \leq m, n \leq p^2+p} \frac{1}{mn} \{S(1, \bar{b}mn; p) - S(1, -\bar{b}mn; p)\} + O\left(\frac{\ln^2 p}{\sqrt{p}}\right) \\ &= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{n=0}^p \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=0}^p \frac{1}{(np+a)(mp+a)} \{S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) - S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p)\} \\ &+ O\left(\frac{\ln^2 p}{\sqrt{p}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ac} \{S(\bar{b}, ac; p) - S(\bar{b}, -ac; p)\} + O\left(\frac{\ln^2 p}{\sqrt{p}}\right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{a(mp+c)} \{S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) - S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p)\} \\
&\quad + \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{n=1}^p \frac{1}{c(np+a)} \{S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) - S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p)\} \\
&\quad + \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \sum_{n=1}^p \frac{1}{(np+a)(mp+c)} \{S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) - S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p)\} \\
&\equiv M_1 + O\left(\frac{\ln^2 p}{\sqrt{p}}\right) + M_2 + M_3 + M_4 \tag{8}
\end{aligned}$$

It is clear that  $M_1$  is the main term of lemma 5. Now we shall estimate the other three terms  $M_2$ ,  $M_3$  and  $M_4$ . Using the power series expansion of  $(1-x)^{-1}$  we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{a(mp+c)} S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) \\
&= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{a} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{(m+1)p - (p-c)} S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) \\
&= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{a} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^{k+1}} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{(m+1)^{k+1}} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} (p-c)^k S(1, \bar{b}ac; p) \\
&= \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{a} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^{k+1}} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{(m+1)^{k+1}} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} c^k S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p) \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

Applying (7) we get the estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{c=1}^{p-1} c^k S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p) &= \sum_{d=1}^{p-1} e\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} c^k e\left(\frac{-\bar{b}acd}{p}\right) \\
&\ll \sum_{d=1}^{p-1} \left| \frac{p^k}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi \bar{b}ad}{p}\right)} \right| \ll p^{k+1} \ln p \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$

From (9) and (10) we immediately deduce the estimate

$$\sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{a(mp+c)} S(1, \bar{b}ac; p)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\ll \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{a} \sum_{m=1}^p \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m+1)^{k+1} p^{k+1}} \cdot p^{k+1} \ln p \\ &\ll \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{a} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{m+1} \ln p \ll \ln^3 p \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Similarly we can deduce that

$$\sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{c=1}^{p-1} \sum_{m=1}^p \frac{1}{a(mp+c)} S(1, -\bar{b}ac; p) \ll \ln^3 p \tag{12}$$

Combining (11) and (12) we get

$$M_2 \ll \ln^3 p \tag{13}$$

In the same way we get the estimates

$$M_3 \ll \ln^3 p \tag{14}$$

$$M_4 \ll \ln^3 p \tag{15}$$

Now lemma 5 follows at once from (8), (13), (14) and (15). □

**LEMMA 6.** *Suppose  $\chi$  is an odd character mod  $q$ , generated by the primitive character  $\chi_m$  mod  $m$ . Then we have*

$$\sum_{a=1}^q a\chi(a) = \frac{q}{m} \left( \prod_{\substack{p|q \\ p \nmid m}} (1 - \chi_m(p)) \right) \left( \sum_{a=1}^m a\chi_m(a) \right)$$

*Proof.* Let  $l$  be the largest divisor of  $q$  that is coprime with  $m$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{a=1}^q a\chi(a) &= \sum_{i=0}^{(q/ml)-1} \sum_{j=1}^{ml} (iml+j)\chi(iml+j) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{(q/ml)-1} \sum_{j=1}^{ml} (iml+j)\chi(j) = \frac{q}{ml} \sum_{j=1}^{lm} j\chi(j) \\ &= \frac{q}{lm} \sum_{a=1}^{lm} a\chi_m(a) \sum_{\substack{d|a \\ d|l}} \mu(d) \\ &= \frac{q}{lm} \sum_{d|l} \mu(d) \sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ d|a}}^{lm} a\chi_m(a) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{q}{lm} \sum_{d|l} \mu(d) d \chi_m(d) \sum_{b=1}^{lm/d} b \chi_m(b) \\
&= \frac{q}{lm} \sum_{d|l} \mu(d) d \chi_m(d) \sum_{i=0}^{(l/d)-1} \sum_{j=1}^m (im+j) \chi_m(im+j) \\
&= \frac{q}{lm} \sum_{d|l} \mu(d) d \chi_m(d) \cdot \frac{l}{d} \sum_{a=1}^m a \chi_m(a) \\
&= \frac{q}{m} \left( \prod_{\substack{p|q \\ p \nmid m}} (1 - \chi_m(p)) \right) \left( \sum_{a=1}^m a \chi_m(a) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

This proves lemma 6.  $\square$

LEMMA 7. Let  $\chi$  be a primitive character mod  $m$  with  $\chi(-1) = -1$ . Then we have

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{\gamma=1}^m \gamma \chi(\gamma) = -\frac{i}{\pi} \tau(\chi) L(1, \bar{\chi})$$

*Proof.* (See Theorem 12.11 and Theorem 12.20 of [5]).  $\square$

### 3. Proof of the theorems

In this section, we shall complete the proofs of the theorems. First we prove theorem 2. From lemmas 2, 4, 6 and lemma 7 we know that for every odd integer  $q > 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{\chi(-1)=-1} \chi(4) \left( \sum_{a=1}^{(q-1)/2} \chi(a) \right)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{q^2} \sum_{\chi(-1)=-1} (1 - 2\chi(2))^2 \left( \sum_{\gamma=1}^{q-1} \gamma \chi(\gamma) \right)^2 \\
&= \sum_{m|q} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod m \\ \chi(-1)=-1}}^* \frac{1}{m^2} (1 - 2\chi(2))^2 \left( \prod_{\substack{p|q \\ p \nmid m}} (1 - \chi_m(p)) \right)^2 \left( \sum_{a=1}^m a \chi_m(a) \right)^2 \\
&= -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{m|q} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod m \\ \chi(-1)=-1}}^* (1 - 2\chi_m(2))^2 \left( \prod_{\substack{p|q \\ p \nmid m}} (1 - \chi_m(p)) \right)^2 \tau^2(\chi_m) L^2(1, \bar{\chi}_m) \\
&= -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{m|q} \sum_{d|m} \mu\left(\frac{m}{d}\right) \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod m \\ \chi(-1)=-1}} (1 - 2\chi(2))^2 \left( \prod_{\substack{p|q \\ p \nmid m}} (1 - \chi(p)) \right)^2 \tau^2(\chi) L^2(1, \bar{\chi})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\ll \sum_{m|q} \sum_{k|m} 2^{\omega(q)-\omega(m)} k^{1/2} d(k) \phi(k) \ln^2 k \\ &\ll \phi(q) q^{1/2} d^2(q) \ln^2 q \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

where  $\omega(n)$  denotes the number of all distinct prime divisor of  $n$ . Now lemma 1 and (16) imply that

$$r(q) = \frac{1}{2} \phi(q) + O(q^{1/2} d^2(q) \ln^2 q)$$

This completes the proof of theorem 2. □

Now we prove theorem 1. Let  $p$  be a prime  $> 2$ . Note that every odd character  $\chi \pmod p$  is a primitive character mod  $p$ . Thus, from lemma 2 and lemma 7 we derive

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{\chi_{p(-1)} = -1} \chi(4) \left( \sum_{a=1}^{(p-1)/2} \chi(a) \right)^2 \\ &= -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{\chi_{p(-1)} = -1} (1 - 2\chi(2))^2 \tau^2(\chi) L^2(1, \bar{\chi}) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{\chi_{p(-1)} = -1} (1 - 4\chi(2) + 4\chi(4)) \tau^2(\chi) L^2(1, \bar{\chi}) \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

From (17), lemma 1 and lemma 5 we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} r(p) &= \frac{1}{2} p + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ab} \{S(1, ab; p) - S(1, -ab; p) \\ &\quad + 4S(\bar{4}, ab; p) - 4S(\bar{4}, -ab; p) - 4S(\bar{2}, ab; p) \\ &\quad + 4S(\bar{2}, -ab; p)\} + O(\ln^3 p) \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Notice that

$$\sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ab} S(m, ab; p) = \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \sum_{b=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{ab} S(ma, b; p).$$

Together with (18) this implies theorem 1.

## References

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