

The estimate of fractional moments for Dirichlet L -functions

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Let $s = \sigma + it$ be a complex variable. Our aim is to find the estimate for fractional moments

$$I_k(\sigma, \chi) = I_k(\sigma, T, \chi) = \int_0^T |L(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2k} dt$$

of Dirichlet L -functions. Here χ is a primitive character mod q , and $k = \frac{1}{n}$, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. We prove the following theorem.

THEOREM 1. *Let $T \rightarrow \infty$. Then the estimate*

$$I_k\left(\frac{1}{2}, T, \chi\right) \ll T(\log T)^{k^2}$$

holds.

From the Euler product it follows that, for $\sigma > 1$,

$$L^k(s, \chi) = \exp(k \log(L(s, \chi))) = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{\chi(p)}{p^s}\right)^{-k}.$$

Hence we find that

$$L^k(s, \chi) = \prod_p \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_k(p^j) \chi^j(p)}{p^{js}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d_k(n) \chi(n)}{n^s},$$

where

$$d_k(p^r) = \frac{\Gamma(k+r)}{\Gamma(k)r!} = \frac{k(k+1)\dots(k+r-1)}{r!}.$$

LEMMA 1. *For a fixed real number $k \geq 0$ there exists a constant $c_k > 0$ such that uniformly in σ , $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{c_k}{\log(N)} \leq \sigma \leq 1$, the estimates*

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n^{2\sigma}} \ll \left(\sigma - \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-k^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n} \ll (\log(N))^{k^2}$$

are valid.

Proof. Taking $\sigma = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{c_k}{\log(N)}$, we obtain that $n^{-2\sigma} \ll n^{-1}$ when $1 \leq n \leq N$. Therefore the second inequality of the lemma follows from the first inequality. At first we notice that the inequality

$$\left(\frac{\Gamma(k+r)}{\Gamma(k)r!} \right)^2 \leq \frac{\Gamma(k^2+r)}{\Gamma(k^2)r!}$$

can be proved by mathematical induction. Therefore $d_k(n)^2 \leq d_{k^2}(n)$, and hence it follows that

$$\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n^{2\sigma}} \leq \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2}{n^{2\sigma}} \leq \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_{k^2}(n)}{n^{2\sigma}} = \zeta^{k^2}(2\sigma) \ll \left(\sigma - \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-k^2}.$$

LEMMA 2. Let $f(z)$ be a regular function in the strip $\alpha < \operatorname{Re}(z) < \beta$ and continuous for $\alpha \leq \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq \beta$. Suppose that $f(z) \rightarrow 0$ when $|\Im(z)| \rightarrow \infty$ uniformly for $\alpha \leq \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq \beta$. Then for $\alpha \leq \gamma \leq \beta$ and all $m > 0$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\gamma + it)|^m dt \leq \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\alpha + it)|^m dt \right)^{\frac{\beta-\gamma}{\beta-\alpha}} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\beta + it)|^m dt \right)^{\frac{\gamma-\alpha}{\beta-\alpha}}.$$

Proof of the lemma can be found in [2].

Let

$$w(t) = \int_T^{2T} \exp(-2k(t-\tau)^2) d\tau, \quad J(\sigma, \chi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |L(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2k} w(t) dt. \quad (1)$$

LEMMA 3. Let $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$ and $T \geq 2$. Then

$$J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll T^{k(\sigma-\frac{1}{2})} J(\sigma, \chi) + e^{-\frac{kT^2}{3}}.$$

Proof. We take in the Lemma 2 $f(z) = f(z, \chi) = L(z, \chi) \exp((z - i\tau)^2)$, $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$, $\alpha = 1 - \sigma$, $\beta = \sigma$ where $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$, $m = 2k > 0$. Then by the functional equation for L -functions [3] we obtain that

$$L(\alpha + it, \chi) \ll |L(\beta + it, \chi)| (1 + |t|)^{\sigma - \frac{1}{2}}.$$

From this it follows

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\alpha + it)|^{2k} dt \ll \tau^{2k} e^{-\frac{k\tau^2}{2}} + \tau^{k(2\sigma-1)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |L(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt.$$

Then from Lemma 2 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \right|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt \\ & \ll e^{-\frac{2k\tau^2}{5}} + \tau^{k(\sigma-\frac{1}{2})} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |L(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Now the integration over $[T, 2T]$ completes the proof of the lemma.

LEMMA 4. Let $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$ and $T \geq 2$. Then

$$J(\sigma, \chi) \ll T^{\sigma - \frac{1}{2}} J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) + e^{-\frac{kT^2}{4}}.$$

Proof. We take in Lemma 2 $f(z) = f(z, \chi) = L(z, \chi) \exp((z - i\tau)^2)$, $\gamma = \sigma$, $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, $\beta = \frac{3}{2}$, $m = 2k > 0$, where $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$. Then we obtain

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| f\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|^{2k} dt \ll \tau^{2k} \int_{\frac{\tau}{2}}^{\frac{3\tau}{2}} \left| L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \right|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt + e^{-\frac{2k\tau^2}{5}}.$$

Similarly we find that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| f\left(\frac{3}{2} + it\right) \right|^{2k} dt \ll \tau^{2k} \int_{\frac{\tau}{2}}^{\frac{3\tau}{2}} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt + e^{-\frac{2k\tau^2}{5}} \ll \tau^{2k}.$$

Lemma 2 implies

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\sigma + it)|^{2k} dt \ll \tau^{2k} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \right|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt \right)^{\frac{3}{2} - \sigma} + e^{-\frac{k\tau^2}{3}}, \quad (2)$$

therefore the estimate

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| L(\sigma + it, \chi) \right|^{2k} e^{-2k(t-\tau)^2} dt \ll \tau^{-2k} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\sigma + it)|^{2k} dt + e^{-\frac{2k\tau^2}{5}}$$

follows. Finally, the integrating over $[T, 2T]$ and combining with estimate (2) give the estimate of the lemma.

Now let $N = T^{\frac{1}{2}}$, and define

$$\begin{aligned} S(s, \chi) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n) \chi(n)}{n^s}, \\ g(s, \chi) &= L(s, \chi) - S^{\frac{1}{k}}(s, \chi), \\ K(\sigma, \chi) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2k} w(t) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

LEMMA 5. Suppose that $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$, $\varepsilon > 0$ and $T \geq 2$. Then

$$K(\sigma, \chi) \ll K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right)^{\frac{5-4\sigma}{3}} \left(TN^{\frac{\varepsilon-3}{2}}\right)^{\frac{4\sigma-2}{3}} + K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right)^{\frac{7-8\sigma}{3}} e^{-\frac{4kT^2(2\sigma-1)}{6}}.$$

Proof. In Lemma 2 we take $f(z) = f(z, \chi) = g(z, \chi) \exp((z - i\tau)^2)$, $\gamma = \sigma$, $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, $\beta = \frac{7}{8}$ and $m = 2k = \frac{2}{n}$. Then we obtain

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\sigma + it)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \leq \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \right\}^{\frac{7-8\sigma}{3}} \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{7}{8} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \right\}^{\frac{8\sigma-4}{3}}. \quad (4)$$

Now we observe that, for $\frac{1}{2} \leq \operatorname{Re}(s) \leq 2$, we have $S(s, \chi) \ll N \ll T$ and

$$g(s, \chi) \ll (T + |t|)^n,$$

where $|s - 1| \geq \frac{1}{10}$. Then

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{7}{8} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \ll \int_{\frac{\tau}{2}}^{\frac{3\tau}{2}} |f\left(\frac{7}{8} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt + (T + |t|)^{2+2k} e^{-\frac{2k\tau^2}{3}}. \quad (5)$$

The integral in the right-hand side of (5) can be estimated by using Gabriel's theorem [1, Theorem 1]. From (4) and (5) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\sigma + it)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt &\leq \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \right)^{\frac{5-4\sigma}{3}} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{5}{4} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \right)^{\frac{4\sigma-2}{3}} \\ &+ \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right)|^{\frac{2}{n}} dt \right)^{\frac{7-8\sigma}{3}} (T^{2+2k} e^{-\frac{k\tau^2}{7}})^{\frac{8\sigma-4}{3}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we integrate over $T \leq \tau \leq 2T$, and by using (1) and (3) we deduce

$$K(\sigma, \chi) \ll K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right)^{\frac{5-4\sigma}{3}} \left(\int_T^{2T} |g\left(\frac{5}{4} + it, \chi\right)|^{2k} dt \right)^{\frac{4\sigma-2}{3}} + K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right)^{\frac{7-8\sigma}{3}} e^{-\frac{4T^2(2\sigma-1)}{6}}. \quad (6)$$

Next we have that $g(s, \chi) = \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} \frac{a_n \chi(n)}{n^s}$, where $\sigma > 1$ and $0 \leq a_n \leq d_k(n)$. Thus, by the Montgomery–Vaughan mean value theorem [3] we find

$$\int_{\frac{T}{2}}^{3T} \left| g\left(\frac{5}{4} + it, \chi\right) \right|^2 dt \ll T \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} \frac{|a_n|^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n^{\frac{5}{2}}} + \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} \frac{|a_n|^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}} \ll TN^{\varepsilon - \frac{3}{2}}.$$

From this and (6) the lemma follows.

Proof of the Theorem 1. Let, for $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma < \frac{3}{4}$, $Y(\sigma, \chi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |S(\sigma + it, \chi)|^2 w(t) dt$. We have $w(t) \ll \exp\left(-\frac{(T^2+t^2)k}{18}\right)$ for $t \leq 0$, $t \geq 3T$ and $S(\sigma + it, \chi) \ll T$. Furthermore, for $\frac{4T}{3} \leq t \leq \frac{5T}{3}$, $w(t)$ is bounded. By the Montgomery–Vaughan theorem [3] we find

$$\int_0^{3T} |S(\sigma + it, \chi)|^2 dt \ll T \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2 |\chi(n)|^2}{n^{2\sigma}} \ll T \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{d_k(n)^2}{n^{2\sigma}}.$$

Therefore from Lemma 1 it follows

$$Y(\sigma, \chi) \ll T \left(\sigma - \frac{1}{2} \right)^{-k^2},$$

and, for $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{3}{4}$,

$$Y\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll T(\log T)^{k^2}. \quad (7)$$

We trivially have $|S(\sigma + it, \chi)|^2 \ll |L(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{\frac{2}{n}} + |g(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{\frac{2}{n}}$, therefore $Y(\sigma, \chi) \ll J(\sigma, \chi) + K(\sigma, \chi)$. Similarly we deduce

$$J(\sigma, \chi) \ll Y(\sigma, \chi) + K(\sigma, \chi) \quad (8)$$

and

$$K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll Y\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) + J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right).$$

From estimates (7) and (8) we find that

$$J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll T(\log T)^{k^2}. \quad (9)$$

For $K\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \geq T$, we can obtain that $J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll Y(\sigma, \chi) + Y\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll T(\log T)^{k^2}$. Since $w(t) \ll 1$ for all t and the estimate $w(t) \ll \exp\left(-\frac{k(t^2+T^2)}{18}\right)$ is valid when $t \leq 0$ and $t \geq 3T$, we deduce that

$$J\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll I_k\left(\frac{1}{2}, 3T, \chi\right) + \left(\int_{-\infty}^0 + \int_{3T}^{\infty} \right) e^{-\frac{k(t^2+T^2)}{18}} dt \ll I_k\left(\frac{1}{2}, 3T, \chi\right) + e^{-\frac{kT^2}{18}}.$$

Moreover, $w(t) \gg 1$ if $\frac{4T}{3} \leq t \leq \frac{5T}{3}$, therefore from (9) we find that

$$I_k\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5T}{3}, \chi\right) - I_k\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{4T}{3}, \chi\right) \ll J\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \chi\right) \ll T(\log T)^{k^2}.$$

Replacing T by $\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^n T$ and summing over n , we deduce the estimate of the theorem.

References

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