

**Some problems about the ternary quadratic form**  
 $m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2$

by

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**1. Introduction.** The ternary quadratic form

$$g(m_1, m_2, m_3) := m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2,$$

important in number theory, attracts the interest of many authors and has been extensively studied. For example, the well-known sphere problem is to evaluate the number of lattice points in the 3-dimensional ball  $u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 \leq x$ . The asymptotic formula

$$\sum_{\substack{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \leq x \\ m_j \in \mathbb{Z}}} 1 = \frac{4}{3} \pi x^{3/2} + O(x^{2/3})$$

was proved by Vinogradov [11] and by Chen [3] independently. The exponent  $2/3$  was improved to  $29/44$  in Chamizo and Iwaniec [2], and to  $21/32$  in Heath-Brown [5].

Recently several authors studied some problems connected with this ternary quadratic form by different methods.

C. Calderón and M. J. de Velasco [1] studied the divisors of the quadratic form  $m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2$  and proved the asymptotic formula

$$(1.1) \quad S(x) := \sum_{1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq x} d(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) = \frac{8\zeta(3)}{5\zeta(4)} x^3 \log x + O(x^3).$$

To prove (1.1), they write

$$(1.2) \quad S(x) = 2S_1 - S_2,$$

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2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 11E20, 11P55, 11N37, 11N32.

Key words and phrases: circle method, divisor problem, quadratic form, exponential sum.

where

$$S_1 = \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{3}x} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq x \\ m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{d}}} 1, \quad S_2 = \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{3}x} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq x \\ m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{d} \\ m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \leq dx\sqrt{3}}} 1,$$

and use a mean value result for  $\rho(n)$ , the number of solutions of the congruence

$$m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{n}, \quad 1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq n.$$

Friedlander and Iwaniec [4] studied the number of prime vectors among integer lattice points in the 3-dimensional ball. They proved that the number  $\pi_3(x)$  of integer points  $(m_1, m_2, m_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3$  with

$$(1.3) \quad m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 = p \leq x$$

satisfies

$$(1.4) \quad \pi_3(x) \sim \frac{4\pi}{3} \frac{x^{3/2}}{\log x},$$

which can be viewed as a generalization of the prime number theorem.

The asymptotic formula (1.4) is proved by using Gauss's formula for the function  $r_3(p)$  and the properties of  $L(1, \chi_p)$ , where  $r_3(p)$  denotes the number of ways  $p$  can be written as a sum of three squares and  $L(s, \chi_p)$  is the Dirichlet L-function with the Kronecker symbol  $\chi_p(n) = (\frac{-4p}{n})$ .

In this paper we shall use the classical circle method to study the above problems. Our main results are as follows.

**THEOREM 1.** *We have the asymptotic formula*

$$(1.5) \quad S(x) = 2C_1 I_1 x^3 \log x + (C_1 I_2 + C_2 I_1) x^3 + O(x^{8/3+\varepsilon}),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &:= \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{-4} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q), \quad G(a, 0, q) = \sum_{r=1}^q e(ar^2/q), \\ C_2 &:= \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{-2 \log q + 2\gamma}{q^4} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q), \\ I_1 &:= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz, \quad I_2 := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz, \\ \mathcal{H}_1(z) &:= \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-uz) du, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mathcal{H}_2(z) := \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^1 e(-uz) \log u du.$$

**THEOREM 2.** Define

$$\pi_A(x) := \sum_{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \leq x} \Lambda(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2).$$

Then for any fixed constant  $A > 0$ , we have

$$(1.6) \quad \pi_A(x) = 8C_3 I_3 x^{3/2} + O(x^{3/2} \log^{-A} x),$$

where

$$C_3 := \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^3 \varphi(q)} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q) C_q(-a),$$

$$I_3 := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_3(z) dz, \quad \mathcal{H}_3(z) := \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^1 e(-uz) du.$$

**COROLLARY.** For any positive constant  $A > 0$ , we have

$$(1.7) \quad \pi_3(x) = 12C_3 I_3 \int_2^x \frac{t^{1/2}}{\log t} dt + O(x^{3/2} \log^{-A} x).$$

**NOTATION.** Throughout this paper  $\varepsilon$  denotes a small positive constant.  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{P}$  denote the sets of all real numbers, integers, natural numbers, and primes, respectively;  $d(n)$  denotes the Dirichlet divisor function,  $\mu(n)$  the Möbius function, and  $\Lambda(n)$  the von Mangoldt function.  $C_q(r)$  denotes the Ramanujan sum. For any real number  $t$ ,  $[t]$  denotes its integer part,  $\{t\}$  its fractional part,  $\psi_1(t) = \{t\} - 1/2$ ,  $\|t\| = \min(\{t\}, 1 - \{t\})$ . The functions  $\psi_j(u)$  ( $j \geq 2$ ) are defined by

$$(1.8) \quad \begin{cases} \psi_{j+1}(u) - \psi_{j+1}(0) = \int_0^u \psi_j(t) dt, & j \geq 1, \\ \int_0^1 \psi_{j+1}(u) du = 0, & j \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Finally,  $G(a, b, q)$  denotes the quadratic Gauss sum

$$G(a, b, q) = \sum_{r=1}^q e\left(\frac{ar^2 + br}{q}\right).$$

**2. The circle method.** Throughout this paper,  $x$  is a large positive integer. For any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y > 1$ , define

$$(2.1) \quad S_1(\alpha; y) := \sum_{1 \leq m \leq y} e(m^2 \alpha), \quad S_2(\alpha; y) := \sum_{1 \leq n \leq y} d(n) e(n\alpha).$$

By the definition of  $S(x)$  and the well-known identity

$$(2.2) \quad \int_0^1 e(u\alpha) d\alpha = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u = 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } u \in \mathbb{Z}, u \neq 0, \end{cases}$$

we have

$$(2.3) \quad S(x) = \int_0^1 S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha.$$

Suppose  $Q$  and  $\tau$  are two large real numbers to be determined later, which satisfy

$$(2.4) \quad \log x < Q < x, \quad 2Q^2 < \tau, \quad \tau > x^{1+\varepsilon}, \quad Q\tau \leq x^2.$$

For any  $0 \leq a < q \leq Q$  with  $(q, a) = 1$ , define

$$I(a, q) := [a/q - 1/q\tau, a/q + 1/q\tau],$$

$$E_1 := \bigcup_{1 \leq q \leq Q} \bigcup_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a, q) = 1}} I(a, q), \quad E_2 := [-1/\tau, 1 - 1/\tau] \setminus E_1.$$

We call  $E_1$  the *major arc* and  $E_2$  the *minor arc*.

We then have

$$(2.5) \quad S(x) = S_1(x) + S_2(x),$$

where

$$S_1(x) = \int_{E_1} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha, \quad S_2(x) = \int_{E_2} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha.$$

The problem is now reduced to evaluating  $S_1(x)$  and giving an upper bound of  $S_2(x)$ .

**3. Some classical lemmas.** In this subsection we quote some classical results which are needed for our proof. Lemmas 3.1 and 3.7 are well-known. Lemmas 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9 can be found in [9], Lemma 3.4 in [8], and Lemma 3.8 in [7].

LEMMA 3.1.

$$\sum_{h=1}^q e\left(\frac{hr}{q}\right) = \begin{cases} q & \text{if } q \mid r, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

LEMMA 3.2.

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq y} e(n\alpha) \ll \min(y, 1/\|\alpha\|).$$

LEMMA 3.3. Suppose  $\alpha = a/q + z$  with  $(a, q) = 1$ ,  $q \geq 3$  and  $|z| \leq 1/q^2$ . Then

$$\sum_{n \leq N} \min\left(y, \frac{1}{\|\alpha n\|}\right) \ll (y + q \log q)(1 + N/q).$$

LEMMA 3.4. Suppose  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $q \geq 3$ ,  $(a, q) = 1$ . Then the Gauss sum satisfies

$$G(a, b, q) := \sum_{h=1}^q e\left(\frac{ah^2 + bh}{q}\right) \ll \sqrt{q}.$$

LEMMA 3.5. Suppose  $f(t)$  is a real-valued continuously differentiable function defined on the interval  $[t_1, t_2]$  such that  $|f'(t)| \gg \Delta > 0$ . Then

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} e(f(t)) dt \ll 1/\Delta.$$

LEMMA 3.6. Suppose  $f(t)$  is a real-valued twice continuously differentiable function defined on  $[t_1, t_2]$  such that  $|f''(t)| \gg \Delta > 0$ . Then

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} e(f(t)) dt \ll 1/\sqrt{\Delta}.$$

LEMMA 3.7. Suppose  $b_n \in \mathbb{C}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) are such that their summation function  $B(u)$  can be written as

$$B(u) := \sum_{n \leq u} b_n = M(u) + E(u),$$

where  $M(u)$  is continuously differentiable on  $(0, \infty)$ . Suppose  $f(u)$  is continuously differentiable on  $[u_1, u_2]$ , where  $u_1 \geq 0$ . Then

$$\sum_{u_1 < n \leq u_2} b_n f(n) = \int_{u_1}^{u_2} f(u) M'(u) du + \int_{u_1}^{u_2} f(u) dE(u).$$

LEMMA 3.8. For any  $H \geq 2$ , we have

$$\psi_1(u) = \sum_{1 \leq |h| \leq H} \frac{e(hu)}{2\pi h} + O\left(\min\left(1, \frac{1}{H\|u\|}\right)\right),$$

$$\min\left(1, \frac{1}{H\|u\|}\right) = \sum_{h=-\infty}^{\infty} a(h)e(hu),$$

$$a(0) \ll \frac{\log H}{H}, \quad a(h) \ll \min(1/|h|, H/h^2).$$

LEMMA 3.9. *For fixed  $l \geq 1$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{2l}(u) &= (-1)^{l-1} \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{(2h\pi)^{2l}} \cos(2\pi u), \\ \psi_{2l+1}(u) &= (-1)^{l-1} \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{(2h\pi)^{2l+1}} \sin(2\pi u).\end{aligned}$$

**4. The estimate of  $S_1(\alpha; x)$  on the major arc.** The exponential sum  $S_1(\alpha; x)$  is of importance in the quadratic Waring problem. For completeness, we give a detailed argument for  $S_1(\alpha; x)$  both on the major arc and the minor arc. Our approach on the major arc is slightly different from previous ones.

Suppose  $\alpha = a/q + z \in E_1$  with  $0 \leq a < q \leq Q$ ,  $(a, q) = 1$ ,  $|z| \leq 1/q\tau$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}(4.1) \quad S_1(\alpha; x) &= \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} e(n^2(a/q + z)) = \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} e(n^2a/q)e(n^2z) \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2a/q) \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \leq x \\ n \equiv r \pmod{q}}} e(n^2z).\end{aligned}$$

The counting function of the integers  $n \equiv r \pmod{q}$  is

$$1 + \left[ \frac{u-r}{q} \right] = \frac{u-r}{q} + 1/2 - \psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right).$$

Taking

$$M(u) = \frac{u-r}{q} + 1/2, \quad E(u) = -\psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right), \quad u_1 = 0, u_2 = x$$

in Lemma 3.7, we get

$$(4.2) \quad \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \leq x \\ n \equiv r \pmod{q}}} e(n^2z) = \int_1 - \int_2,$$

where

$$\int_1 = \frac{1}{q} \int_0^x e(u^2z) du, \quad \int_2 = \int_0^x e(u^2z) d\psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right).$$

By the change of variable  $u = xv$  we get

$$(4.3) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2a/q) \int_1 = \frac{G(a, 0, q)}{q} x \int_0^1 e(v^2x^2z) dv.$$

Let  $g(u) = e(u^2z)$  and  $l \geq 1$  be a fixed positive integer to be determined

later. Repeated partial integration gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.4) \quad & \int_2 = g(u)\psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x - \int_0^x \psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) g'(u) du \\
 &= g(u)\psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x - q \int_0^x g'(u) d\psi_2\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \\
 &= g(u)\psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x - qg'(u)\psi_2\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x \\
 &\quad + q \int_0^x g''(u)\psi_2\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) du \\
 &= \dots \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^l (-1)^j q^j g^{(j)}(u)\psi_{j+1}\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x \\
 &\quad + (-1)^{l+1} q^l \int_0^x g^{(l+1)}(u)\psi_{l+1}\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) du.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.5) \quad & \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \int_2 = \sum_{j=0}^l (-1)^j q^j g^{(j)}(u) \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \psi_{j+1}\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \Big|_0^x \\
 &\quad + (-1)^{l+1} q^l \int_0^x g^{(l+1)}(u) \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \psi_{l+1}\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) du.
 \end{aligned}$$

We now show for any fixed  $j \geq 0$  and uniformly for  $0 \leq u \leq x$  that

$$(4.6) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \psi_{j+1}\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) \ll \begin{cases} \sqrt{q} \log(q+1) & \text{if } j = 0, \\ \sqrt{q} & \text{if } j \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

The estimate (4.6) is trivial for  $q = 1, 2$ . Suppose now  $q \geq 3$  and  $j = 0$ . Taking  $H = q^2$  in Lemma 3.8 we can write

$$(4.7) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \psi_1\left(\frac{u-r}{q}\right) = \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Sigma_1 &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \sum_{1 \leq |h| \leq q^2} \frac{1}{2\pi i h} e(h(u-r)/q), \\
 \Sigma_2 &= \sum_{r=1}^q O\left(\min\left(1, \frac{1}{q^2 \| \frac{u-r}{q} \|}\right)\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.4 we get

$$(4.8) \quad \Sigma_1 = \sum_{1 \leq |h| \leq q^2} \frac{1}{2\pi i h} G(a, -h, q) \ll \sqrt{q} \log q.$$

For  $\Sigma_2$  by the second expression in Lemma 3.8, and Lemma 3.1, we get

$$(4.9) \quad \Sigma_2 \ll \sum_{h \in \mathbb{Z}} a(h) e(hu/q) \sum_{r=1}^q e(-hr/q) \ll q \sum_{\substack{h \in \mathbb{Z} \\ q|h}} |a(h)| \ll \log q.$$

From (4.7)–(4.9) we see that (4.6) holds for  $j = 0$ . Similarly, the case  $j \geq 1$  follows from Lemmas 3.4 and 3.9.

Now we bound  $g(u)$  for  $0 \leq u \leq x$ . We shall show that for any fixed  $s \geq 0$ , the estimate

$$(4.10) \quad g^{(s)}(u) \ll_s \left( \frac{x}{q\tau} \right)^s$$

holds uniformly for  $0 \leq u \leq x$ . Let  $f(u) = 4\pi iuz$ . Obviously (4.10) holds for  $s = 0$ . Since  $g'(u) = g(u)f(u)$ , we see that (4.10) holds for  $s = 1$ . For any fixed  $k \geq 1$ , by Leibniz's formula we get

$$g^{(k+1)}(u) = f(u)g^{(k)}(u) + kf'(u)g^{(k-1)}(u),$$

hence

$$(4.11) \quad \begin{aligned} |g^{(k+1)}(u)| &\leq |f(u)g^{(k)}(u)| + k|f'(u)g^{(k-1)}(u)| \\ &\leq 4\pi x|z||g^{(k)}(u)| + 4k\pi|z||g^{(k-1)}(u)|. \end{aligned}$$

The condition  $Q\tau \leq x^2$  implies that  $1/q\tau \leq (x/q\tau)^2$ . Now (4.10) follows from (4.11) by induction.

Inserting (4.6) and (4.10) into (4.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \int_2 &\ll \sqrt{q} \log(q+1) + \sqrt{q} \sum_{j=1}^l q^j (x/q\tau)^j + q^{l+1/2} x (x/q\tau)^{l+1} \\ &\ll \sqrt{q} \log(q+1) + \sqrt{q} \sum_{j=1}^l (x/\tau)^j + q^{-1/2} x (x/\tau)^{l+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $l = [2/\varepsilon]$  and recalling the condition  $\tau > x^{1+\varepsilon}$  we get

$$\sqrt{q} \sum_{j=1}^l (x/\tau)^j \ll \sqrt{q}, \quad q^{-1/2} x (x/\tau)^{l+1} \ll 1.$$

From the above two estimates we have

$$(4.12) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q e(r^2 a/q) \int_2 \ll \sqrt{q} \log(q+1).$$

From (4.1)–(4.3) and (4.12) we get the following

LEMMA 4.1. *Suppose  $\alpha \in E_1$  with  $Q\tau \leq x^2$  and  $\tau > x^{1+\varepsilon}$ . Then*

$$(4.13) \quad S_1(\alpha; x) = \frac{G(a, 0, q)}{q} x \int_0^1 e(v^2 x^2 z) dv + O(\sqrt{q} \log(q+1)).$$

**5. The estimate of  $S_1(\alpha; x)$  on the minor arc.** By Dirichlet's theorem, for any  $\alpha \in E_2$ , there exist integers  $a$  and  $q$  such that

$$\alpha = a/q + z, \quad |z| \leq 1/q\tau, \quad 1 \leq a \leq q, \quad (a, q) = 1, \quad Q < q \leq \tau.$$

Opening the square we get

$$(5.1) \quad |S_1(\alpha; x)|^2 = \sum_{1 \leq m, n \leq x} e((m^2 - n^2)\alpha) = [x] + T(x) + \overline{T(x)},$$

where

$$T(x) = \sum_{1 \leq n < m \leq x} e((m^2 - n^2)\alpha).$$

By Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 we have

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} T(x) &= \sum_{1 \leq v \leq x-1} e(v^2 \alpha) \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x-v} e(2nv\alpha) \\ &\ll \sum_{1 \leq v \leq x} \min(x, 1/\|2v\alpha\|) \ll \sum_{1 \leq v \leq 2x} \min(x, 1/\|v\alpha\|) \\ &\ll (x + q \log q)(1 + x/q) \ll x^2 q^{-1} + q \log q + x \log q. \end{aligned}$$

From (5.1) and (5.2) we get

LEMMA 5.1. *Suppose  $\alpha \in E_2$ . Then*

$$S_1(\alpha; x) \ll xQ^{-1/2} + \tau^{1/2} \log^{1/2} x.$$

**6. Heath-Brown's results on  $D(y; q, r)$ .** Let  $1 \leq r \leq q$  be integers. For any  $y > 0$  define

$$D(y; q, r) := \sum_{\substack{n \leq y \\ n \equiv r \pmod{q}}} d(n).$$

In this subsection we quote some results about  $D(y; q, r)$  from Heath-Brown [6]. First,

$$(6.1) \quad D(y; q, r) = R(y; q, r) + \Delta(y; q, r),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R(y; q, r) &= \frac{yA(q, r)}{q^2}(\log y - 2\log q + 2\gamma - 1) + \frac{2yB(q, r)}{q^2}, \\ A(q, r) &= \sum_{d|(q, r)} \sum_{\delta|q/d} d\delta \mu\left(\frac{q}{d\delta}\right), \\ B(q, r) &= \sum_{d|(q, r)} \sum_{\delta|q/d} d\delta \mu\left(\frac{q}{d\delta}\right) \log \delta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma$  is the Euler constant. For  $A(q, r)$  and  $B(q, r)$  we have

$$(6.2) \quad A(q, r) = \sum_{h=1}^q e\left(-\frac{hr}{q}\right)(h, q),$$

$$(6.3) \quad B(q, r) = \sum_{h=1}^q e\left(-\frac{hr}{q}\right)(h, q) \log(h, q).$$

Define

$$t(n; q, r) = \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq m_1, m_2 \leq q \\ m_1 m_2 \equiv r \pmod{q}}} e\left(\frac{n_1 m_1 + n_2 m_2}{q}\right).$$

Then for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have (Theorem 3 of [6])

$$(6.4) \quad \Delta(y; q, r) = \frac{y^{1/4} q^{-1/2}}{\pi \sqrt{2}} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} t(n; q, r) n^{-3/4} \cos(4\pi \sqrt{ny}/q - \pi/4) + O((Ny)^\varepsilon q^{1/2} + (Ny)^\varepsilon y^{1/2} N^{-1/2})$$

uniformly for  $q \geq 1, y > 1, N \geq q^2 y^{-1}$ .

For  $t(n; q, r)$  the formula (51) of Heath-Brown [6] reads

$$(6.5) \quad t(n; q, r) = \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\delta|(q, r, n_2)} \delta S(n_1, n_2 \delta^{-1} r^*, q^*),$$

where  $r^* = r/\delta, q^* = q/\delta$  and  $S(u, v, q)$  is the Kloosterman sum

$$S(u, v, q) := \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \leq q \\ (n, q) = 1}} e\left(\frac{un + vn'}{q}\right),$$

in which  $nn' \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ .

## 7. The estimate of $S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2)$ on the major arc

**7.1. Some estimates involving  $D(y; q, r)$ .** Suppose  $a, r, q$  are integers such that  $1 \leq r \leq q$ ,  $0 \leq a < q$ ,  $(a, q) = 1$ . The function  $R(y; q, r)$  is the main term of the summation function  $D(y; q, r)$ . We may write it in the form

$$(7.1) \quad R(y; q, r) = c_1(q, r)y \log y + c_2(q, r)y,$$

where

$$(7.2) \quad c_1(q, r) = \frac{A(q, r)}{q^2},$$

$$(7.3) \quad c_2(q, r) = \frac{A(q, r)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma - 1)}{q^2} + \frac{2B(q, r)}{q^2}.$$

From (6.2) and Lemma 3.1 we have

$$(7.4) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q A(q, r)e(-ar/q) = \sum_{h=1}^q (h, q) \sum_{r=1}^q e(-(h+a)r/q) \\ = (q-a, q)q = q.$$

Similarly from (6.3) and Lemma 3.1 we have

$$(7.5) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q B(q, r)e(-ar/q) = \sum_{h=1}^q (h, q) \log(h, q) \sum_{r=1}^q e(-(h+a)r/q) \\ = q(q-a, q) \log(q-a, q) = 0.$$

From (7.2)–(7.5) we get

$$(7.6) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q c_1(q, r)e(-ar/q) = q^{-1} =: B_1(q),$$

$$(7.7) \quad \sum_{r=1}^q c_2(q, r)e(-ar/q) = q^{-1}(-2 \log q + 2\gamma - 1) =: B_2(q).$$

By (6.5) and the definition of Kloosterman sum we get

$$(7.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{r=1}^q t(n; q, r)e(-ar/q) \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^q \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\delta|(q, r, n_2)} \delta S(n_1, n_2 \delta^{-1} r^*, q^*) e(-ar^*/q^*) \\ &= \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\delta|(q, n_2)} \delta \sum_{r^*=1}^{q^*} S(n_1, n_2 \delta^{-1} r^*, q^*) e(-ar^*/q^*) \\ &= \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\delta|(q, n_2)} \delta \sum_{r^*=1}^{q^*} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq h \leq q^* \\ (h, q^*)=1}} e\left(\frac{n_1 h + n_2 \delta^{-1} r^* h' - ar^*}{q^*}\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=n_1 n_2} \sum_{\delta|(q, n_2)} \delta \sum_{\substack{1 \leq h \leq q^* \\ (h, q^*)=1}} e(n_1 h/q^*) \sum_{r^*=1}^{q^*} e(r^*(n_2 \delta^{-1} h' - a)/q^*). \end{aligned}$$

The innermost sum is  $q^*$  if  $n_2\delta^{-1}h' \equiv a \pmod{q^*}$  and 0 otherwise. Inserting this into (7.8) we get

$$(7.9) \quad \left| \sum_{r=1}^q t(n; q, r) e(-ar/q) \right| \leq q d(q) d(n).$$

We shall prove that

$$(7.10) \quad F(y; q, a) := \sum_{r=1}^q \Delta(y; q, r) e(-ar/q) \ll (q^{3/2} + q^{2/3}y^{1/3})(qy)^\varepsilon$$

uniformly for  $y > 0$ . For  $0 < y < q$ , (7.10) follows from the trivial estimate  $\Delta(y; q, r) \ll q^\varepsilon$ . Now suppose  $y \geq q$ . From (6.4) and (7.9) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (7.11) \quad & \sum_{r=1}^q \Delta(y; q, r) e(-ar/q) \\ &= \frac{y^{1/4}q^{-1/2}}{\pi\sqrt{2}} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} n^{-3/4} \cos(4\pi\sqrt{ny}/q - \pi/4) \sum_{r=1}^q t(n; q, r) e(-ar/q) \\ &\quad + O((Ny)^\varepsilon q^{3/2} + (Ny)^\varepsilon q y^{1/2} N^{-1/2}) \\ &\ll y^{1/4}q^{-1/2} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} n^{-3/4} \left| \sum_{r=1}^q t(n; q, r) e(-ar/q) \right| \\ &\quad + O((Ny)^\varepsilon q^{3/2} + (Ny)^\varepsilon q y^{1/2} N^{-1/2}) \\ &\ll (Nyq)^\varepsilon (y^{1/4}q^{1/2}N^{1/4} + q^{3/2} + q y^{1/2} N^{-1/2}) \ll (q^{3/2} + q^{2/3}y^{1/3})(qy)^\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

for  $q \leq y$ , where we take  $N = q^{2/3}y^{1/3}$ .

Now we shall prove that

$$(7.12) \quad H(T; q, a) := \int_0^T F(y; q, a) dy \ll q^{3/2+\varepsilon} T$$

uniformly for  $T > 0$ . When  $T \ll q$ , (7.12) follows from  $\Delta(y; q, r) \ll q^\varepsilon$ . Now suppose  $T \gg q$ . We shall bound the integral  $\int_U^{2U} F(y; q, a) dy$ . Taking  $N = U$  in (6.4), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_U^{2U} F(y; q, a) dy \\ &= \frac{q^{-1/2}}{\sqrt{2}\pi} \sum_{n \leq U} n^{-3/4} \left( \sum_{r=1}^q t(n; q, r) e(-ar/q) \right) \int_U^{2U} y^{1/4} \cos(4\pi\sqrt{ny}q^{-1} - \pi/4) dy \\ &\quad + O(q^{3/2+\varepsilon} U) \\ &\ll q^{-1/2} \sum_{n \leq U} n^{-3/4} q d(n) d(q) U^{3/4} q n^{-1/2} + O(q^{3/2+\varepsilon} U) \ll q^{3/2+\varepsilon} U \end{aligned}$$

with the help of (7.9) and Lemma 3.5, which implies (7.12) via a splitting argument.

**7.2. Estimate of  $S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2)$  on the major arc.** Suppose  $\alpha = a/q + z \in E_1$  with  $0 \leq a < q \leq Q$ ,  $(a, q) = 1$ ,  $|z| \leq 1/q\tau$ . We have

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2} d(n)e(-n\alpha) = \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \sum_{\substack{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2 \\ n \equiv r \pmod{q}}} d(n)e(-nz).$$

So taking  $M(u) = R(u; q, r)$  and  $E(u) = \Delta(u; q, r)$  in Lemma 3.7 we get

$$(7.13) \quad \sum_{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2} d(n)e(-n\alpha) = J_1 + J_2,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) dR(u; q, r), \\ J_2 &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) d\Delta(u; q, r). \end{aligned}$$

We first treat  $J_1$ . By (7.1), (7.6), (7.7) and the change of variable  $u = x^2v$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (7.14) \quad J_1 &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz)(c_1(q, r) \log u + c_1(q, r) + c_2(q, r)) du \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q)c_1(q, r) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) \log u du \\ &\quad + \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q)(c_1(q, r) + c_2(q, r)) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) du \\ &= B_1(q) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) \log u du + (B_1(q) + B_2(q)) \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) du \\ &= 2B_1(q)x^2 \log x \int_0^3 e(-ux^2z) du + B_1(q)x^2 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2z) \log u du \\ &\quad + (B_1(q) + B_2(q))x^2 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2z) du. \end{aligned}$$

For  $J_2$ , by partial integration twice and then using (7.11) and (7.12) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (7.15) \quad J_2 &= \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \Delta(3x^2; q, r) e(-3x^2 z) \\
 &\quad + 2\pi i z \sum_{r=1}^q e(-ar/q) \int_0^{3x^2} \Delta(u; q, r) e(-uz) du \\
 &= F(3x^2; q, a) e(-3x^2 z) + 2\pi i z \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) F(u; q, a) du \\
 &= F(3x^2; q, a) e(-3x^2 z) + 2\pi i z \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) dH(u; q, a) \\
 &= F(3x^2; q, a) e(-3x^2 z) + 2\pi i z H(3x^2; q, a) e(-3x^2 z) \\
 &\quad + (2\pi i z)^2 \int_0^{3x^2} e(-uz) H(u; q, a) du \\
 &\ll x^\varepsilon (q^{3/2} x^2 |z| + q^{3/2} + q^{2/3} x^{2/3}) \\
 &\ll x^\varepsilon (q^{1/2} x^2 \tau^{-1} + q^{3/2} + q^{2/3} x^{2/3}) \\
 &\ll x^\varepsilon (q^{1/2} x^2 \tau^{-1} + q^{2/3} x^{2/3}),
 \end{aligned}$$

where the term  $q^{3/2}$  was absorbed into  $q^{1/2} x^2 \tau^{-1}$  since  $Q\tau \leq x^2$ .

Thus we get the following lemma.

**LEMMA 7.1.** *Suppose  $\alpha \in E_1$  is such that  $Q\tau \leq x^2, \tau > x^{1+\varepsilon}$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (7.16) \quad S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) &= \frac{2x^2 \log x}{q} \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du + \frac{x^2}{q} \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) \log u du \\
 &\quad + \frac{-2 \log q + 2\gamma}{q} x^2 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du + O(x^\varepsilon (q^{1/2} x^2 \tau^{-1} + q^{2/3} x^{2/3})).
 \end{aligned}$$

**8. Proof of Theorem 1.** In this section we take  $Q = x^{2/3}/8, \tau = 2x^{4/3}$ .

We first treat the integral on the major arc. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (8.1) \quad &\int_{E_1} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha \\
 &= \sum_{1 \leq q \leq Q} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a, q) = 1}} \int_{a/q-1/q\tau}^{a/q+1/q\tau} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha.
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $\alpha = a/q + z \in E_1$ . From Lemmas 4.1 and 7.1 we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& S_1^3(\alpha; x)S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) \\
&= 2x^5 \log x \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du \\
&\quad + x^5 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) \log u du \\
&\quad + x^5 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma)}{q^4} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du \\
&\quad + O(x^{5+\varepsilon} q^{-1} \tau^{-1} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon} q^{-5/6} + x^{4+\varepsilon} q^{-3/2}).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
(8.2) \quad & \int_{a/q-1/q\tau}^{a/q+1/q\tau} S_1^3(\alpha; x)S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha \\
&= 2x^5 \log x \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-1/q\tau}^{1/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du dz \\
&\quad + x^5 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-1/q\tau}^{1/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) \log u du dz \\
&\quad + x^5 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma)}{q^4} \int_{-1/q\tau}^{1/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 x^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-ux^2 z) du dz \\
&\quad + O(x^{5+\varepsilon} q^{-2} \tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon} q^{-11/6} \tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon} q^{-5/2} \tau^{-1}) \\
&= 2x^3 \log x \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-uz) du dz \\
&\quad + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-uz) \log u du dz \\
&\quad + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^3 e(-uz) du dz \\
&\quad + O(x^{5+\varepsilon} q^{-2} \tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon} q^{-11/6} \tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon} q^{-5/2} \tau^{-1})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2x^3 \log x \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz \\
&\quad + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma)}{q^4} \int_{-x^2/q\tau}^{x^2/q\tau} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz \\
&\quad + O(x^{5+\varepsilon} q^{-2} \tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon} q^{-11/6} \tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon} q^{-5/2} \tau^{-1}),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_1(z)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2(z)$  were defined in Theorem 1.

By our choice of  $Q$  and  $\tau$ ,  $x^2/q\tau > 2$ . So we first give upper bounds of  $\mathcal{H}_1(z)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2(z)$  for  $|z| \geq 2$ . By Lemmas 3.5 and 3.6 we directly have

$$(8.3) \quad G_z(y) := \int_0^y e(-uz) du \ll 1/|z| \quad (y > 0), \quad \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \ll 1/\sqrt{|z|}.$$

By partial summation and the first estimate in (8.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(8.4) \quad & \int_0^1 e(-uz) \log u du \\
&= \int_0^{1/|z|} e(-uz) \log u du + \int_{1/|z|}^1 e(-uz) \log u du \\
&= \int_0^{1/|z|} e(-uz) \log u du + \int_{1/|z|}^1 \log u dG_z(u) \\
&= \int_0^{1/|z|} e(-uz) \log u du + G_z(u) \log u \Big|_{1/|z|}^1 - \int_{1/|z|}^1 G_z(u) u^{-1} du \\
&\ll |z|^{-1} \log |z|.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence we get

$$\mathcal{H}_1(z) \ll |z|^{-5/2}, \quad \mathcal{H}_2(z) \ll |z|^{-5/2} \log |z| \quad (|z| \geq 2),$$

and correspondingly for  $U \geq 2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(8.5) \quad & \int_{|z|>U} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz \ll \int_{|z|>U} z^{-5/2} dz \ll U^{-3/2}, \\
& \int_{|z|>U} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz \ll \int_{|z|>U} z^{-5/2} \log z dz \ll U^{-3/2} \log U,
\end{aligned}$$

which means that the infinite integrals  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_j(z) dz$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) converge.

Taking  $U = x^2/q\tau$  in (8.5), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|z|>x^2/q\tau} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz &\ll \int_{|z|>x^2/q\tau} z^{-5/2} dz \ll q^{3/2}\tau^{3/2}x^{-3}, \\ \int_{|z|>x^2/q\tau} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz &\ll \int_{|z|>x^2/q\tau} z^{-5/2} \log z dz \ll q^{3/2}\tau^{3/2}x^{-3} \log x. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting the above two estimates into (8.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (8.6) \quad & \int_{a/q-1/q\tau}^{a/q+1/q\tau} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha \\ &= 2x^3 \log x \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)}{q^4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz \\ &\quad + x^3 \frac{G^3(a, 0, q)(-2 \log q + 2\gamma)}{q^4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz \\ &\quad + O(\tau^{3/2}q^{-1} \log x + x^{5+\varepsilon}q^{-2}\tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon}q^{-11/6}\tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon}q^{-5/2}\tau^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Combining (8.1) and (8.6) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (8.7) \quad & \int_{E_1} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha \\ &= 2x^3 \log x \sum_{1 \leq q \leq Q} q^{-4} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz \\ &\quad + x^3 \sum_{1 \leq q \leq Q} q^{-4} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_2(z) dz \\ &\quad + x^3 \sum_{1 \leq q \leq Q} \frac{-2 \log q + 2\gamma}{q^4} \sum_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} G^3(a, 0, q) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_1(z) dz \\ &\quad + O(\tau^{3/2}Q \log x + x^{5+\varepsilon}\tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon}Q^{1/6}\tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon}\tau^{-1}) \\ &= 2C_1 I_1 x^3 \log x + (C_1 I_2 + C_2 I_1) x^3 \\ &\quad + O(x^3 Q^{-1/2} \log Q + \tau^{3/2}Q \log x + x^{5+\varepsilon}\tau^{-2} + x^{11/3+\varepsilon}Q^{1/6}\tau^{-1} + x^{4+\varepsilon}\tau^{-1}) \\ &= 2C_1 I_1 x^3 \log x + (C_1 I_2 + C_2 I_1) x^3 + O(x^{8/3+\varepsilon}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) and  $I_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) were defined in Theorem 1.

Now we study the integral on the minor arc. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
(8.8) \quad & \int_{E_2} S_1^3(\alpha; x) S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2) d\alpha \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| \int_0^1 |S_1(\alpha; x)|^2 |S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2)| d\alpha \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| \left( \int_0^1 |S_1(\alpha; x)|^4 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_0^1 |S_2(-\alpha; 3x^2)|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| \times \left( \sum_{\substack{m_1^2 + m_2^2 = m_3^2 + m_4^2 \\ 1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 \leq x}} 1 \right)^{1/2} \times \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2} d(n) \right)^{1/2} \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| \times \left( \sum_{\substack{m_1^2 - m_3^2 = m_4^2 - m_2^2 \\ 1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 \leq x}} 1 \right)^{1/2} \times \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2} d(n) \right)^{1/2} \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| \times \left( \sum_{n \leq 2x^2} d^2(n) \right)^{1/2} \times \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq 3x^2} d(n) \right)^{1/2} \\
& \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_2} |S_1(\alpha; x)| |x^2 \log^2 x| \ll x^{8/3} \log^{2.5} x,
\end{aligned}$$

where we used Lemma 5.1 and the well-known estimates

$$\sum_{n \leq t} d^2(n) \ll t \log^3 t, \quad \sum_{n \leq t} d(n) \ll t \log t.$$

From (2.5), (8.7) and (8.8) the proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

**9. Outline of the proof of Theorem 2.** The proof of Theorem 2 is similar to the proof of Theorem 1, so we only give an outline.

For any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $y > 1$ , define

$$(9.1) \quad S_3(\alpha; y) := \sum_{|m| \leq y} e(m^2 \alpha), \quad S_4(\alpha; y) := \sum_{1 \leq n \leq y} \Lambda(n) e(n\alpha).$$

It is easily seen that

$$(9.2) \quad S_3(\alpha; y) = 2S_1(\alpha; y) + 1.$$

By (2.2) and (9.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(9.3) \quad & \pi_A(x) = \int_0^1 S_3^3(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha \\
& = 8 \int_0^1 S_1^3(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha + 12 \int_0^1 S_1^2(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + 6 \int_0^1 S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha + \int_0^1 S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha \\
& = 8 \int_0^1 S_1^3(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha + O(x \log x).
\end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $A > 0$  is a fixed positive constant. Let  $Q_1 = \log^{A+2} x$  and  $\tau_1 = x \log^{-10A-10} x$  and define

$$E_3 := \bigcup_{1 \leq q \leq Q_1} \bigcup_{\substack{0 \leq a < q \\ (a,q)=1}} I(a, q), \quad E_4 := [-1/\tau_1, 1 - 1/\tau_1] \setminus E_3.$$

Suppose  $\alpha = a/q + z \in E_3$ ,  $(a, q) = 1$ . Similar to Lemma 4.1 and more easily we have

$$(9.4) \quad S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) = \sqrt{x} \frac{G(a, 0, q)}{q} \int_0^1 e(u^2 x z) du + O((1 + x|z|)\sqrt{q} \log(q+1)).$$

For  $S_4(-\alpha; x)$ , similar to the formula (6.21) of [10] we have

$$(9.5) \quad S_4(-\alpha; x) = x \frac{C_q(-a)}{\varphi(q)} \int_0^1 e(-uxz) du + O(xe^{-c\sqrt{\log x}}),$$

where  $c > 0$  is an absolute positive constant and  $C_q(r)$  is the Ramanujan sum. From (9.4) and (9.5) we get, similar to the proof of Theorem 1,

$$\begin{aligned}
(9.6) \quad & \int_{E_1} S_1^3(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha \\
& = x^{3/2} \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^3 \varphi(q)} \\
& \times \sum_{\substack{a=0 \\ (a,q)=1}}^{q-1} G^3(a, 0, q) C_q(-a) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \int_0^1 e(u^2 z) du \right)^3 \int_0^1 e(-uz) du dz \\
& + O(x^{3/2} Q_1^{-1/2} + \tau_1^{3/2} Q_1 + x^{5/2} \tau_1^{-1} e^{-c\sqrt{\log x}} + x^3 \tau_1^{-2}) \\
& = C_3 I_3 x^{3/2} + O(x^{3/2} Q_1^{-1/2} + \tau_1^{3/2} Q_1 + x^{5/2} \tau_1^{-1} e^{-c\sqrt{\log x}} + x^3 \tau_1^{-2}),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_3$  and  $I_3$  were defined in Theorem 2.

Now consider the integral on  $E_4$ . According to Dirichlet's lemma, each  $\alpha \in E_4$  can be written as  $\alpha = a/q + z$  with  $(a, q) = 1$ ,  $Q_1 \leq q \leq \tau_1$ ,  $|z| \leq 1/q\tau_1$ . Lemma 5.1 still holds. So we have ( $x$  should be replaced by  $\sqrt{x}$ )

$$S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) \ll \sqrt{x} Q_1^{-1/2} + \tau_1^{1/2} \log^{1/2} x \ll \sqrt{x} Q_1^{-1/2}.$$

Hence similar to (8.8) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (9.7) \quad & \int_{E_4} S_1^3(\alpha; \sqrt{x}) S_4(-\alpha; x) d\alpha \\
 & \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_4} |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})| \int_0^1 |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})|^2 |S_4(-\alpha; x)| d\alpha \\
 & \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_4} |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})| \left( \int_0^1 |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})|^4 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_0^1 |S_4(-\alpha; x)|^2 d\alpha \right)^{1/2} \\
 & \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_4} |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})| \times \left( \sum_{n \leq x} d^2(n) \right)^{1/2} \times \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \Lambda^2(n) \right)^{1/2} \\
 & \ll \max_{\alpha \in E_4} |S_1(\alpha; \sqrt{x})| x \log^2 x \\
 & \ll x^{3/2} Q_1^{-1/2} \log^2 x \ll x^{3/2} \log^{2-\lambda} x \ll x^{3/2} \log^{-A} x.
 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2 follows from (9.3), (9.6) and (9.7).

**10. Concluding remark.** The circle method is very powerful for dealing with many sums involving the quadratic form  $g$ . It not only can be used for evaluating sums of the form

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2, m_3} f(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2),$$

but also of the form

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2, m_3} f(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) g_1(m_1) g_2(m_2) g_3(m_3),$$

where  $f, g_1, g_2, g_3$  are arithmetic functions which have good value distribution in residue classes to large moduli.

Now we list some results without proofs. All these results can be proved by the classical circle method. For some of them we can get even better asymptotic formulas.

$$(10.1) \quad S_{\mathbb{N}}(x; \mu) := \sum_{1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq x} \mu(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \ll x^3 \log^{-A} x,$$

$$(10.2) \quad S_{\mathbb{Z}}(x; \mu) := \sum_{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 \leq x} \mu(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \ll x^{3/2} \log^{-A} x,$$

$$(10.3) \quad S_{\mathbb{P}}(x; \mu) := \sum_{1 \leq p_1, p_2, p_3 \leq x} \mu(p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2) \ll x^3 \log^{-A} x,$$

$$(10.4) \quad \pi_{3, \mathbb{P}}(x) := \sum_{p=p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 \leq x} 1 \sim c_0 x^{3/2} \log^{-4} x,$$

$$(10.5) \quad S_{\mathbb{N}}(x; d) := \sum_{1 \leq p_1, p_2, p_3 \leq x} d(p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2) \sim c_1 x^3 \log^{-2} x,$$

$$(10.6) \quad S_{\mathbb{N}}(x; d) := \sum_{1 \leq m_1, m_2, m_3 \leq x} d(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) d(m_1) d(m_2) d(m_3) \\ \sim c_2 x^3 \log^4 x.$$

**Acknowledgements.** The authors deeply thank the referee for his careful reading of the manuscript and many valuable suggestions.

The work of the second author is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 11171344) and Natural Science Foundation of Beijing (No. 1112010).

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Received on 9.2.2011  
 and in revised form on 3.2.2012

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