It is easy to see in (ii) and (iii) that A satisfies (5) and  $G(A) \ge 2n + 4K + 1$ .

The examples in (i), (ii) and (iii) together with (6) establish the theorem for k = K. This completes the induction step and the theorem is proved.

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Added in proof: The conjecture  $g(3,t) = \left[\frac{(t-2)^2}{2}\right] - 1$  has recently been settled in the affirmative by M. Lewin (personal communication).

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### ACTA ARITHMETICA XXI (1972)

# Remarks on some new applications of the dispersion method

bу

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Dispersion method as expounded in the works [1] and [2] can be applied to proving a general result on the equation

$$n = \frac{\nu_1 \varphi_1 - \nu_2 \varphi_2}{\nu_1 - \nu_2}$$

for large n's;  $r_i$ ,  $\varphi_i$  being rather general system of numbers the equation is solvable, and a *lower estimate of the asymptotic* can be obtained. The particular cases are:

The equation:

(A) 
$$n = \frac{p_1 p - p_1' p'}{p_1 - p_1'}$$

with  $p, p', p_1, p'_1$  primes,  $p \le n, p_1, p'_1 \le (\ln n)^a$ ; a > e has the number of solutions:

$$Q_A(n) \geqslant (\ln a)(\ln a - 1) \frac{n}{\ln n} + O\left(\frac{n}{\ln n \ln \ln n}\right).$$

The equation:

(B) 
$$2 = \frac{p_1 p - p_1' p'}{p_1 - p_1'}$$

with  $p, p', p_1, p'_1$  as above,  $n \to \infty$  has the number of solutions:

$$Q_B(n) \geqslant \ln a (\ln a - 1) \frac{n}{\ln n} + O\left(\frac{n}{\ln n \ln \ln n}\right).$$

The equation:

(C) 
$$n = \frac{p_1^r p - p_1'^r p'}{p_1^r - p_1'^r}$$

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with p, p' primes  $\leq n$ ;  $(\ln n)^{c_1} \leq p_1^r, p_1'^r \leq (\ln n)^{c_2}, r = 2, 3, 4, \ldots$  a given constant;  $c_2 - \frac{c_2}{r} + 1 < c_1$  has the number of solutions:

$$Q_{G}(n) \geqslant \frac{n}{(\ln n)^{\frac{2c_{2}}{r} + r - c_{1}}} (1 + o(1)).$$

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ACTA ARITHMETICA XXI (1972)

## A remark on a previous paper by Bredihin and Linnik

by

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In memory of W. Sierpiński

In this note we give a short and simple proof of the following theorem which was a basis for Bredihin's and Linnik's considerations concerning certain diophantine equations [1]. Our argument is in fact just a simple modification of that used by those authors.

THEOREM A. Let n be a given complex number, let v and  $\varphi$  range independently without repetitions over finite systems of complex values from given domains (v) resp.  $(\varphi)$  and let D be an arbitrary complex number. We denote by S(n) the number of solutions in  $v, \varphi, D$  of the equation

$$vD + \varphi = n$$

where  $v \in (v)$  and  $\varphi \in (\varphi)$ . Further, we define

$$T(n) = \sum_{\substack{D \ S(n,D) \neq 0}} 1$$

where S(n, D) is the number of solutions in  $v \in (v)$ ,  $\varphi \in (\varphi)$  of (1) for a fixed D, and finally we put

$$Def(n) = S(n) - T(n).$$

Then the number Q(n) of all possible representations of n in the form

$$n = \frac{v_1 \varphi_1 - v_2 \varphi_2}{v_1 - v_2} \qquad (v_1 \neq v_2)$$

with  $v_1, v_2 \in (v), \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (\varphi)$  satisfies the estimation

(2) 
$$Q(n) \geqslant \frac{S(n)}{T(n)} \operatorname{Def}(n).$$

Proof. For any non-negative integer r consider the number  $N_r$  of all those complex numbers D for which equation (1) has exactly r solutions in  $\nu$ ,  $\varphi$ ,  $\nu \in (\nu)$ ,  $\varphi \in (\varphi)$ . Clearly

$$S(n) = \sum_{r \geqslant 0} rN_r = \sum_{r \geqslant 1} rN_r$$