

## ON THE PRIME DIVISORS OF THE EULER PHI AND THE SUM OF DIVISORS FUNCTIONS

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**Abstract.** The following assertion is proved. Given an arbitrary constant  $\lambda > 2$ , let  $x_1 = \log x$ ,  $x_{k+1} = \log x_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ),  $\varphi(n)$  be Euler's totient, and  $\sigma(n)$  the sum of divisors function. Let  $I_x = \left[ \frac{\lambda x_2}{x_3}, x_2 \right]$ ,  $Q_1, Q_2 \in I_x$  be primes,

$$E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) := \#\{n \leq x \mid Q_1 \nmid \varphi(n), Q_2 \nmid \varphi(n+1)\}.$$

Then, uniformly for  $Q_1, Q_2 \in I_x$ ,

$$\frac{1}{x} E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) = (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{B}{2} \kappa_1 \kappa_2,$$

where  $\kappa_j = \exp\left(-\frac{x_2}{Q_j - 1}\right)$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ),  $B$  is a given constant. Some other assertions are formulated without proof.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\varphi(n)$  be Euler's totient function,  $\sigma(n)$  be the sum of divisors function. We shall define the iterates of  $\varphi$  and  $\sigma$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_{k+1}(n) &= \varphi(\varphi_k(n)), & \sigma_{k+1}(n) &= \sigma(\sigma_k(n)), \\ \varphi_1(n) &= \varphi(n), & \sigma_1(n) &= \sigma(n).\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the set of primes. It is known that  $\varphi$  and  $\sigma$  are multiplicative functions, and if  $p^\alpha$  is a prime power, then  $\varphi(p^\alpha) = p^{\alpha-1}(p-1)$ ,  $\sigma(p^\alpha) = 1 + p + \dots + p^\alpha$ . In particular,  $\varphi(p) = p-1$ ,  $\sigma(p) = p+1$ . The letters  $p, Q$  with and without suffixes always denote prime numbers. As usual let  $p(n)$  be the smallest and  $P(n)$  be the largest prime divisor of  $n$ .

Let  $x_1 = \log x$ ,  $x_2 = \log x_1, \dots$

The letters  $c, c_1, c_2, \dots$  denote suitable,  $d, d_1, d_2, \dots$  be arbitrary positive constants, not necessarily the same at every occurrence.

Let  $(\xi_p) = \xi_p(x) = e^{-\frac{x_2}{p-1}}$  ( $p \in \mathcal{P}$ ),

$$\tau(Q | x) = \xi_Q(x) \prod_{\substack{p < Q \\ p \in \mathcal{P}}} (1 - \xi_p(x)), \quad Q \in \mathcal{P}.$$

Let

$$\mathcal{P}_\pm(Q) := \{p \mid p \in \mathcal{P}, \quad p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{Q}\}.$$

Since  $Q \nmid \varphi(n)$ ,  $n \leq x$  holds if and only if  $(n, \mathcal{P}_+(Q)) = 1$  and  $Q^2 \nmid n$ , thus, by the sieve of Eratosthenes-Brun we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}(1.1) \quad \frac{E_Q(x)}{x} &:= \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid Q \nmid \varphi(n)\} = \\ &= (1 + o_x(1)) \left(1 - \frac{1}{Q^2}\right) \prod_{\substack{p \leq x \\ p \in \mathcal{P}_+(Q)}} (1 - 1/p)\end{aligned}$$

if  $Q \leq x_2^d$ .

Since

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(x, k, l) &= \#\{p \leq x, \quad p \equiv l \pmod{k}\} = \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi(k)} (1 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-c\sqrt{x_1}}))\end{aligned}$$

holds uniformly as  $(k, l) = 1, k \leq x_1^{d_1}$ , we obtain that the right hand side of (1.1) is  $\xi_q(x) \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\log Q}{Q}\right)\right) (1 + o_x(1))$ . We shall list several assertions which can be deduced by immediate application of the Brun sieve (see Theorem 2.5 in [7]).

**I.** Let  $Q \in [x_3, x_2], Q \in \mathcal{P}, l \in \mathbb{Z}, l \neq 0$ . Then

$$(1.2) \quad \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid \sigma(n) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}\} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid \varphi(n) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}, \sigma(n) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q^2(x), \end{aligned}$$

$$(1.4) \quad \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid \varphi(p+l) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}\} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(1.5) \quad \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid \sigma(p+l) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}\} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid \varphi(p+l) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}, \sigma(p+l) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{Q}\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q^2(x). \end{aligned}$$

**II.** Similar assertions can be proved for the set of integers  $F(n)$  or  $F(p)$ , where  $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  is a polynomial the leading coefficient of which is positive.

**III.** Let  $Q_1, \dots, Q_r; Q_1^*, \dots, Q_s^* \in [x_3, x_2]$  be primes,  $Q_i \neq Q_j$  if  $i \neq j, Q_u^* \neq Q_v^*$  if  $u \neq v$ . Let  $l \neq 0$ . Then

$$(1.7) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid (\varphi(n), Q_1 \dots Q_r) = 1, (\sigma(n), Q_1^* \dots Q_s^*) = 1\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1)) \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^r \xi_{Q_j}(x) \right\} \left\{ \prod_{l=1}^s \xi_{Q_l^*}(x) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

furthermore

$$(1.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid (\varphi(p+l), Q_1 \dots Q_r) = 1, (\sigma(p+l), Q_1^* \dots Q_s^*) = 1\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1)) \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^r \xi_{Q_j}(x) \right\} \left\{ \prod_{l=1}^s \xi_{Q_l^*}(x) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

For fixed  $Q$ , (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3) can be improved (see [2], [1]).

**2. Counting those integers  $n$  for which  $\varphi(n)$  and  $\sigma(n)$  each avoid a given prime as their smaller prime factor**

Let  $u(n)$  be the smallest prime  $Q$  for which  $Q \nmid \varphi(n)$ , and  $v(n)$  be the smallest  $Q \in \mathcal{P}$ , for which  $Q \mid \sigma(n)$ .

Let  $K_Q(x) := \#\{n \leq x \mid u(n) = Q\}$ ,  $T_Q(x) := \#\{n \leq x \mid v(n) = Q\}$ ,

$$S_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) = \#\{n \leq x \mid u(n) = Q_1, v(n) = Q_2\}.$$

**Theorem 1.** *Assume that  $Q, Q_1, Q_2 \in \left[x_3, \frac{x_2}{x_3}\right]$ . Then*

$$(2.1) \quad \frac{K_Q(x)}{x} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{T_Q(x)}{x} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{S_{Q_1, Q_2}(x)}{x} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_{Q_1}(x) \cdot \xi_{Q_2}(x).$$

Furthermore, if  $l \neq 0$ , then

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid u(p+l) = Q\} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid v(p+l) = Q\} = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_Q(x),$$

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{lix} \#\{p \leq x \mid u(p+l) = Q_1, v(p+l) = Q_2\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\xi_{Q_1}(x) \cdot \xi_{Q_2}(x). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 1.** Unfortunately we cannot extend Theorem 1 for the values  $Q, Q_1, Q_2 \geq x_2/x_3$ .

**Conjecture 1.** *Let  $d$  be a positive constant. Then, uniformly as  $x_3 < Q, Q_1, Q_2 \leq dx_2$  we have*

$$(2.7) \quad \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid u(n) = Q\} = (1 + o_x(1))\tau(Q|x),$$

$$(2.8) \quad \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid v(n) = Q\} = (1 + o_x(1))\tau(Q|x),$$

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid u(n) = Q_1, v(n) = Q_2\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\tau(Q_1|x)\tau(Q_2|x). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark.** Similar assertion seems to hold for the set of shifted primes as well.

In [2] we considered  $N_k(Q|x)$ , the number of those  $n \leq x$  for which  $Q \parallel \varphi_{k+1}(n)$ . We determined the asymptotic of  $N_k(Q|x)$  in the range  $Q \in (x_2^{k+\varepsilon}, x_2^{k+1-\varepsilon})$ . By using the same method with some generalization we could prove

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $k \geq 2$  be fixed,  $l \neq 0$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and let  $x_2^{k+\varepsilon} \leq Q \leq x_2^{k+1-\varepsilon}$ ,  $Q \in \mathcal{P}$ . Then, setting  $\eta_{k,Q}(x) := \exp\left(-\frac{x_2^{k+1}}{(k+1)!(Q-1)}\right)$ , we obtain*

$$(2.10) \quad \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid Q \parallel \sigma_{k+1}(n)\} = (1 + o_x(1))\eta_{k,Q}(x),$$

$$(2.11) \quad \frac{1}{li x} \#\{p \leq x \mid Q \parallel \sigma_{k+1}(p+l)\} = (1 + o_x(1))\eta_{k,Q}(x),$$

$$(2.12) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid Q \parallel \sigma_{k+1}(n), Q \parallel \varphi_{k+1}(n)\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\eta_{k,Q}^2(x), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(2.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{li x} \#\{p \leq x \mid Q \parallel \sigma_{k+1}(p+l), Q \parallel \varphi_{k+1}(p+l)\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))\eta_{k,Q}^2(x). \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $k \geq 2$ ,  $r, s \geq 1$ . Let  $Q_1, \dots, Q_r$  and  $Q_1^*, \dots, Q_s^*$  be distinct primes from the interval  $[x_2^{k+\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}, x_2^{k+1-\varepsilon}]$ . Then

$$(2.14) \quad \frac{1}{x} \#\{n \leq x \mid (Q_1 \dots Q_r, \varphi_{k+1}(n)) = 1, (Q_1^* \dots Q_s^*, \sigma_{k+1}(n)) = 1\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1)) \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^r \eta_{k, Q_j}(x) \right\} \left\{ \prod_{l=1}^s \eta_{l, Q_l^*}(x) \right\},$$

and

$$(2.15) \quad \frac{1}{\text{lix}} \#\{p \leq x \mid (Q_1 \dots Q_r, \varphi_{k+1}(p+l)) = 1, (Q_1^* \dots Q_s^*, \sigma_{k+1}(p+l)) = 1\} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1)) \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^r \eta_{k, Q_j}(x) \right\} \left\{ \prod_{l=1}^s \eta_{l, Q_l^*}(x) \right\}.$$

We shall not prove these theorems.

### 3. Counting those integers $n$ for which $\varphi(n)$ and $\varphi(n+1)$ each avoid given primes in their respective prime factorizations

The problem of giving the asymptotic of those  $n \leq x$  for which  $Q_1 \nmid \varphi(n)$  and  $Q_2 \nmid \varphi(n+1)$  simultaneously for given primes  $Q_1, Q_2$  seems to be much harder. We are unable to determine it for example if  $Q_1 = Q_2 = 3$ .

**Theorem 4.** Let  $\lambda > 2$  be an arbitrary constant. Let  $\mathcal{I}_x = \left[ \frac{\lambda x_2}{x_3}, x_2 \right]$ ,

$$B = \prod_{p \geq 3} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{p(p-1)} \right).$$

Let  $Q_1, Q_2 \in \mathcal{I}_x$  be arbitrary primes. Let

$$(3.1) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) := \#\{n \leq x \mid Q_1 \nmid \varphi(n), Q_2 \nmid \varphi(n+1)\}.$$

Then, uniformly as  $Q_1, Q_2 \in \mathcal{I}_x$ ,

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{1}{x} E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) = (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{B}{2} \kappa_1 \kappa_2,$$

where  $\kappa_1 = \exp\left(-\frac{x_2}{Q_1-1}\right)$ ,  $\kappa_2 = \exp\left(-\frac{x_2}{Q_2-1}\right)$ .

**Remark.** A similar assertion can be proved for  $\sigma(n)$  instead of  $\varphi(n)$ .

**Proof.** It is clear that

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{\kappa_1 \kappa_2}{Q_1} \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{\kappa_1 \kappa_2}{Q_2} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \infty.$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}_j = \{p \mid p \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_j}\}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ),  $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}_j) = \{n \mid p \mid n \Rightarrow p \in \mathcal{P}_j\}$ ,  $\mathcal{N}_{Q_j}(\mathcal{P}_j) = \{n \mid n \in \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}_j) \text{ and } Q_j^2 \nmid n\}$ , ( $j = 1, 2$ ).

Let  $\mathcal{E}_{Q_1, Q_2} = \{n \mid n \leq x, n \in \mathcal{N}_{Q_1}(\mathcal{P}_1), n+1 \in \mathcal{N}_{Q_2}(\mathcal{P}_2)\}$ . Let  $Y = x^{1/\gamma_x}$ ,  $\gamma_x = 40x_2$ .

For some  $n \in \mathcal{E}_{Q_1, Q_2}$  we write  $n = \xi u$ ,  $n+1 = \eta v$ , where  $\xi \in \mathcal{N}_{Q_1}(\mathcal{P}_1)$ ,  $\eta \in \mathcal{N}_{Q_2}(\mathcal{P}_2)$ ,  $P(\xi) \leq Y$ ,  $P(\eta) \leq Y$ ,  $p(u) > Y$ ,  $p(v) > Y$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}(\xi, \eta)$  be the set of those  $n \in \mathcal{E}_{Q_1, Q_2}$  for which  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  are fixed. Let  $T(\xi, \eta) = \#\mathcal{T}(\xi, \eta)$ . If  $T(\xi, \eta) \neq 0$ , then  $(\xi, \eta) = 1$  and  $2 \mid \xi\eta$ .

It is well-known that  $\psi(x, y) \ll xe^{-u/2}$ ,  $u = \frac{\log x}{\log y}$ , where

$$\psi(x, y) = \#\{n \leq x \mid P(n) \leq y\}.$$

It is clear that

$$(3.4) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) \leq \sum_{\xi, \eta} T(\xi, \eta).$$

We shall overestimate the contribution of those terms standing on the right hand side of (3.4), for which  $\xi > x^{1/10}$ , or  $\eta > x^{1/10}$  holds. This is less than

$$\begin{aligned} 2x \sum_{\substack{m > x^{1/10} \\ P(m) < Y}} 1/m &\leq 2x \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^j x^{1/10}} \psi(2^{j+1} x^{1/10}, Y) \leq \\ &\leq 2x \sum_{j \geq 0} \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{1}{10}x_1 + j \log 2}{2 \log Y}\right) = 2xe^{-\frac{\gamma_x}{20}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\frac{\log 2}{\log Y}}} \leq \\ &\leq 4xe^{-\frac{\gamma_x}{20}} \cdot \frac{x_1}{\log 2} \cdot \frac{1}{\gamma_x} \ll \frac{x}{x_1^{3/2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(3.5) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) \leq \sum_{\max(\xi, \eta) \leq x^{1/10}} T(\xi, \eta) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{x}{x_1^{3/2}}\right).$$

We shall estimate  $T(\xi, \eta)$  for  $\max(\xi, \eta) < x^{1/10}$ . We have to count those  $n \leq x$ , for which  $n = \xi u$ ,  $n + 1 = \eta v$ ,  $n \leq x$  and  $p(u) > Y$ ,  $p(v) > Y$ . Let  $u_0, v_0$  be the smallest pair of those positive integers  $u, v$ , for which  $\eta v - \xi u = 1$ . Let  $F_1(t) = u_0 + \eta t$ ,  $F_2(t) = v_0 + \xi t$ . Then

$$T(\xi, \eta) = \# \left\{ t \leq \frac{x}{\xi\eta} \mid p(F_1(t)) > Y, p(F_2(t)) > Y \right\}.$$

By using Theorem 2.6 in Halberstam - Richert [7], we deduce that

$$(3.6) \quad T(\xi, \eta) = (1 + o_x(1))x \cdot \frac{1}{2} \prod_{2 < p < Y} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \cdot \theta_{\xi, \eta}$$

uniformly for all possible  $\xi, \eta$ , where

$$(3.7) \quad \theta_{\xi, \eta} = \frac{1}{\xi\eta} \prod_{\substack{p|\xi\eta \\ p \neq 2}} \frac{1 - 1/p}{1 - 2/p}.$$

The implied constants in the error term of (8.4) of Theorem 2.6 in [7] may depend on the coefficients of  $F_1, F_2$ , i.e. on  $\xi$  and on  $\eta$ , but reading the proof carefully one can see that estimate (3.6) will hold for all  $\xi, \eta$  provided that we add an error term, thus implying that (3.6) holds with that particular restriction. Hence, from (3.5), we obtain that

$$(3.8) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) \leq (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{x}{2} \prod_{2 < p < Y} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \Sigma_1,$$

where

$$(3.9) \quad \Sigma_1 = \sum \frac{1}{\xi\eta} \prod_{\substack{p|\xi\eta \\ p > 2}} \frac{1 - 1/p}{1 - 2/p}.$$

Let  $\Sigma_2$  be the sum of those terms on the right hand side of (3.9), for which additionally  $Q_1/\xi$ ,  $Q_2/\eta$  holds. It is clear that

$$(3.10) \quad 0 < \Sigma_1 - \Sigma_2 \ll \left(\frac{1}{Q_1} + \frac{1}{Q_2}\right) \Sigma_1 \ll \frac{x_3}{x_2} \Sigma_1.$$

We shall write

$$(3.11) \quad \Sigma_2 = A(Y)B(Y)C(Y),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.12) \quad A(Y) &= \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ (p-1, Q_1 Q_2)=1}} \left(1 + \frac{2}{p} + \frac{2}{p^2} + \dots\right) = \\
 &= \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ (p-1, Q_1 Q_2)=1}} \left(1 + \frac{2}{p-1}\right),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.13) \quad B(Y) = \prod_{\substack{p \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_1} \\ (p-1, Q_2)=1 \\ p < Y}} (1 + 1/p); \quad C(Y) = \prod_{\substack{p \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_2} \\ (p-1, Q_1)=1 \\ p < Y}} (1 + 1/p).$$

Thus we proved that

$$(3.14) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) \leq (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{x}{2} \prod_{2 < p < Y} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) A(Y)B(Y)C(Y) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{x}{x_1^3}\right).$$

Let  $\mathcal{T}^*(\xi, \eta)$  be the set of those  $n = \xi u \leq x$ , for which  $n + 1 = \eta v$ ,  $p(u) > Y$ ,  $p(v) > Y$ , and  $u \in \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}_1)$ ,  $v \in \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{P}_2)$ . Let

$$(3.15) \quad \Delta(\xi, \eta) = \#(\mathcal{T}(\xi, \eta) \setminus \mathcal{T}^*(\xi, \eta)).$$

If  $n \in \mathcal{T}(\xi, \eta) \setminus \mathcal{T}^*(\xi, \eta)$ , then there exists  $p_1|n$  such that  $Y < p_1$ ,  $p_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_1}$ , or  $p_2|n + 1$ , such that  $Y < p_2$ ,  $p_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_2}$ .

We shall prove that

$$(3.16) \quad \sum_{\xi, \eta < x^{1/10}} \Delta(\xi, \eta) = o_x(1)x\kappa_1\kappa_2.$$

Let  $\xi, \eta < x^{1/10}$  be fixed. By using Theorem 2.6 in [7] we can overestimate those solutions of  $n = \xi u$ ,  $n + 1 = \eta v$  counted in  $\mathcal{T}(\xi, \eta)$  for which there exists either a  $p_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1$  such that  $p_1|u$ , and  $p_1 < x^{0.75}$ , or a  $p_2 \in \mathcal{P}_2$ , such that  $p_2|v$  and  $p_2 < x^{0.75}$ . We consider the first case. The second case is similar. If  $p_1|n$ , then let  $u = p_1 m$ . For fixed  $\xi, p_1, \eta$  we should estimate those  $m, v$  for which  $\eta v - (p_1 \xi)m = 1$ ,  $p(v) > Y$ ,  $p(m) > Y$ . Arguing as above, by using Theorem 2.6 in [7] we obtain the number of the integers is less than  $\frac{c}{p_1} T(\xi, \eta)$ . Since

$$\sum_{\substack{Y < p_1 < x \\ p_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{Q_1}}} 1/p_1 \leq \frac{c_1}{Q_1} \log \frac{\log x}{\log Y} \ll \frac{x_3}{Q_1},$$

the contribution of these types of integers to (3.16) is less than

$$(3.17) \quad \frac{x_3}{Q_1} \sum_{\xi, \eta < x^{1/10}} T(\xi, \eta).$$

Let us observe that the number of those  $n \leq x$  for which there exists  $p_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1$ ,  $p_1|n$ ,  $p_1 > \sqrt{x}$ , or  $p_2 \in \mathcal{P}_2$ , such that  $p_2|n + 1$ ,  $p_2 > \sqrt{x}$  is  $o_x(1)x\kappa_1\kappa_2$ . The number of these integers is less than

$$\sum_{\substack{p_1 \equiv 1(Q_1) \\ \sqrt{x} < p_1 < x}} \frac{x}{p_1} + \sum_{\substack{p_2 \equiv 1(Q_2) \\ \sqrt{x} < p_2 < x}} \frac{x}{p_2} \ll x \left( \frac{1}{Q_1} + \frac{1}{Q_2} \right),$$

and the right hand side is  $o_x(1)x\kappa_1\kappa_2$ .

(3.17) is proved, whence we obtain that

$$(3.18) \quad E_{Q_1, Q_2}(x) = (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{x}{2} \prod_{2 < p < Y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{p} \right) A(Y)B(Y)C(Y) + o_x(1)x\kappa_1\kappa_2.$$

We have

$$(3.19) \quad \prod_{2 < p < Y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{p} \right) A(Y) = \prod_{3 \leq p < Y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{p(p-1)} \right) \cdot \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ p \equiv 1(Q_1)}} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{p-1}} \times \\ \times \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ p \equiv 1(Q_2)}} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{p-1}} \cdot \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ p \equiv 1(Q_1, Q_2)}} \left( 1 + \frac{2}{p-1} \right).$$

Furthermore,

$$(3.20) \quad \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ p \equiv 1 \pmod{D}}} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2}{p-1}} = e^{-\frac{2 \log \log Y}{\varphi(D)} + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{D})}$$

and

$$(3.21) \quad \prod_{\substack{3 \leq p < Y \\ p \equiv 1 \pmod{D}}} (1 + 1/p) = e^{\frac{\log \log Y}{\varphi(D)} + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{D})}$$

uniformly as  $D \leq x_2^2$ . Let

$$(3.22) \quad B = \prod_{p \geq 3} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{p(p-1)} \right).$$

From (3.19), (3.20), (3.21) we have:

(i) the right hand side of (3.19) equals to

$$(3.23) \quad \begin{aligned} (1 + o_x(1))B \cdot \kappa_1^2 \kappa_2^2 e^{\frac{2x_2}{(Q_1-1)(Q_2-1)}} = \\ = (1 + o_x(1))B \cdot \kappa_1^2 \kappa_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

(ii)

$$(3.24) \quad B(Y) = (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{1}{\kappa_1},$$

(iii)

$$(3.25) \quad C(Y) = (1 + o_x(1)) \frac{1}{\kappa_2}.$$

Hence the theorem follows immediately.

#### 4. Final remark

The distribution of the prime power divisors of the iterates of  $\varphi(n)$ ,  $\sigma(n)$  are investigated in [8].

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