ARITHMETICAL FUNCTIONS OF A GREATEST COMMON DIVISOR, III. CESÀRO'S DIVISOR PROBLEM

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(Received 20 October, 1960)

1. Introduction. Let $\sigma_t(n)$ denote the sum of the *t*th powers of the divisors of n, $\sigma(n) = \sigma_1(n)$. Also place

$$v(x) = x^{2} \{ \log x + 2\gamma - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(2) \}, \quad \Delta(x) = \sum_{a, b \le x} \sigma((a, b)) - v(x), \quad (1.1)$$

where γ is Euler's constant, $\zeta(s)$ is the Riemann ζ -function and $x \ge 2$. The function $\Delta(x)$ is the remainder term arising in the divisor problem for $\sigma((m, n))$. Cesàro proved originally [1], [6, p. 328] that $\Delta(x) = \sigma(x^2 \log x)$. More recently in I [2, (3.14)] it was shown by elementary methods that $\Delta(x) = O(x^{3/2} \log x)$. This estimate was later improved to $O(x^{3/2})$ in II [3, (3.7)]. In the present paper (§ 3) we obtain a much more substantial reduction in the order of $\Delta(x)$, by showing that $\Delta(x)$ can be expressed in terms of the remainder term in the classical Dirichlet divisor problem. On the basis of well known results for this problem, it follows easily that $\Delta(x) = O(x^{4/3})$. The precise statement of the result for $\sigma((m, n))$ is contained in (3.2).

The analogous problem for $\sigma_2((m, n))$ is also considered in § 3. Place

$$\Delta'(x) = \sum_{a, b \le x} \sigma_2((a, b)) - \frac{x^3}{3} \{ 2\zeta(2) - \zeta(3) \}.$$
(1.2)

It was shown in [2, (3.13)], [3, (3.5)] that $\Delta'(x) = O(x^2 \log x)$. In this paper, we express $\Delta'(x)$ in terms of the remainder term in the divisor problem for $\sigma(n)$, obtaining as a consequence a material improvement in the order of $\Delta'(x)$. The main result in the case of $\sigma_2((m, n))$ is found in (3.9).

In §4 we consider average values in two classes of functions generalizing $\sigma((m, n))$ and $\sigma_2((m, n))$, respectively. The results are analogous to those obtained for $\Delta(x)$ and $\Delta'(x)$ in §3, and furnish improvements on estimates proved in [2, Theorem ($\alpha = 1, \alpha = 2$)], (also see [3, Theorem 4.1]). The corollaries of §4 contain estimates for the special functions $\phi((m, n))$ and $\phi_2((m, n))$, where $\phi_2(n)$ denotes the generalized totient function.

The method of this paper is essentially a refinement of that employed in II.

2. Preliminary details. We collect in this section a number of known miscellaneous facts that will be needed in the later discussion. Denoting by [x] the integral part of x, we place $\psi(x) = x - [x] - \frac{1}{2}$ and write

$$\rho(x) = \sum_{n \le \sqrt{x}} \psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right), \quad \rho'(x) = \sum_{n \le x} \frac{1}{n} \psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right).$$
(2.1)

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The functions $\rho(x)$ and $\rho'(x)$ occur in the remainder terms of the average-value problems for $\tau(n) = \sigma_0(n)$ and $\sigma(n)$, respectively. In particular, we recall that [8, p. 16], [5, p. 37],

$$\delta(x) = -2\rho(x) + O(1), \quad \delta'(x) = -x\rho'(x) + O(x), \tag{2.2}$$

where $\delta(x)$ and $\delta'(x)$ are the "remainders",

$$\delta(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \tau(n) - x(\log x + 2\gamma - 1), \quad \delta'(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} \sigma(n) - \frac{1}{2}x^2\zeta(2).$$

It is also remarked that, if α and β are the least values such that for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\rho(x) = O(x^{\alpha + \epsilon}), \quad \rho'(x) = O\{(\log x)^{\beta + \epsilon}\},$$
(2.3)

then $\alpha \leq 27/82$ [4], $\beta \leq 4/5$ [5]. While these estimates have been improved, the exact values of α and β are still unknown. It is easily verified that $\alpha > 0$, $\beta \geq 0$ (compare [9, p. 187]).

The following classical estimates will also be required. In particular [8, p. 15],

$$\sum_{n \le x} \frac{1}{n} = \log x + \gamma - \frac{\psi(x)}{x} + O\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right);$$
(2.4)

moreover [7, (2), p. 26)]

$$\sum_{n \le x} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha}} = \zeta(\alpha) - \frac{1}{(\alpha - 1)x^{\alpha - 1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{x^{\alpha}}\right) \quad (\alpha > 1).$$
(2.5)

In addition, we note the elementary fact that

$$\sum_{n>x} \frac{\log n}{n^2} = O\left(\frac{\log x}{x}\right).$$
(2.6)

Adopting the notation

$$S_1^*(x) = \sum_{a, b \le x} \sigma((a, b)), \quad S_2^*(x) = \sum_{a, b \le x} \sigma_2((a, b)),$$
 (2.7)

we remark [3, (3.9)] that

$$S_1^*(x) = \sum_{n \le \sqrt{x}} (2n - \frac{1}{2}) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right]^2 + \sum_{n \le \sqrt{x}} (n - \frac{1}{2}) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{x} \right]^4 - \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{x} \right]^3;$$
(2.8)

moreover

$$S_{2}^{*}(x) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n \le x} (2n-1) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right]^{3} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \le x} (2n-1) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right]^{2} + \sum_{n \le x} (2n-1) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right],$$
(2.9)

the latter relation following from [3, (3.8)] in conjunction with the identity

$$\sum_{a \le n} a^2 = (2n^3 + 3n^2 + n)/6.$$

The next lemma was proved first in II. Let g(n) and h(n) denote arbitrary arithmetical functions and place

$$f(n) = \sum_{d\delta = n} g(d)h(\delta), \qquad (2.10)$$

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$$k(n) = \sum_{d \mid n} h(d), \quad q(n) = \sum_{d \mid n} g(d) \mu\left(\frac{n}{d}\right),$$
(2.11)

where $\mu(n)$ denotes the Möbius function. Furthermore, let $K^*(x)$ denote the summatory function of k((m, n)), $K^*(x) = \sum_{a, b \le x} k((a, b))$. We have [3, (4, 2)]

LEMMA 2.1. On the basis of the above notation

$$\sum_{n,b \leq x} f((a, b)) = \sum_{n \leq x} q(n) K^*\left(\frac{x}{n}\right).$$
(2.12)

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Finally, we mention the following estimate proved in II:

LEMMA 2.2 [3, Lemma 4.2]. If g(n) is bounded then $q(n) = O(n^{\xi})$ for all $\xi > 0$.

3. The average order of $\sigma((m, n))$ and $\sigma_2((m, n))$. We consider first the function $\sigma((m, n))$. THEOREM 3.1. If $\rho(x)$ is defined by (2.1), then

$$\Delta(x) = -4x\rho(x) + O(x\log x); \qquad (3.1)$$

moreover, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\Delta(x) = O(x^{1+\alpha+\epsilon}), \tag{3.2}$$

where α is defined by (2.3).

Proof. Denote by S_1 , S_2 , S_3 , S_4 respectively, the four terms arising in (2.8). Applying (2.4) and (2.5), one obtains

$$\begin{split} S_{1} &= \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} (2n - \frac{1}{2}) \left\{ \frac{x}{n} - \left(\psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right\}^{2} = \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} (2n - \frac{1}{2}) \left\{ \frac{x^{2}}{n^{2}} - \frac{2x}{n} \left(\psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right) + O(1) \right\} \\ &= 2x^{2} \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2}x^{2} \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n^{2}} - 4x \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \left(\psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right) + x \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n} \left\{ \psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right\} + O\left\{ \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} n \right\} \\ &= 2x^{2} \left\{ \frac{\log x}{2} + \gamma - \frac{\psi(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x}} + O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right\} - \frac{1}{2}x^{2} \left\{ \zeta(2) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} + O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right\} \\ &- 4x \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) - 2x \left\{ \sqrt{x} + O(1) \right\} + O\left\{ x \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n} \right\} + O(x), \end{split}$$

from which it follows that

$$S_1 = x^2 \left\{ \log x + 2\gamma - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(2) \right\} - 4x\rho(x) - 2x^{3/2}\psi(\sqrt{x}) - \frac{3}{2}x^{3/2} + O(x\log x).$$
(3.3)

As for S_2 we have

$$S_{2} = \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} (n - \frac{1}{2}) \left[\frac{x}{n} \right] = \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} (n - \frac{1}{2}) \left(\frac{x}{n} + O(1) \right) = x(\sqrt{x} + O(1)) - \frac{1}{2}x \sum_{n \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n} + O\left\{ \sum_{n \leq x} n \right\},$$

from which one deduces that

$$S_2 = x^{3/2} + O(x \log x). \tag{3.4}$$

Regarding S_3 , one obtains

$$S_3 = -\frac{1}{2} \{ \sqrt{x} - (\psi(\sqrt{x}) + \frac{1}{2}) \}^4 = -\frac{1}{2} \{ x^2 - 4x^{3/2} (\psi(\sqrt{x}) + \frac{1}{2}) + O(x) \},\$$

from which it follows that that

$$S_3 = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x^{3/2}\psi(\sqrt{x}) + x^{3/2} + O(x).$$
(3.5)

Also it is clear that

$$S_4 = -\frac{1}{2}x^{3/2} + O(x). \tag{3.6}$$

Since $S_1^*(x) = S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + S_4$, it follows from (3.3), (3.4), (3.5) and (3.6) that

$$S_1^*(x) = x^2 \{ \log x + 2\gamma - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(2) \} - 4x\rho(x) + O(x \log x),$$
(3.7)

which is equivalent to (3.1). (3.2) results immediately from (3.1) and (2.3), because $\alpha \ge 0$. This proves the theorem.

Remark. We note that if, in calculating $\Delta(x)$, the third expressions obtained for S_1 and S_2 are used, then (by [5, Lemma 8]) the formula (3.1) is replaced by

$$\Delta(x) = -4x\rho(x) + x\rho'(x) + O(x), \qquad (3.1a)$$

so that, by (2.3) and the fact that $\beta \ge 0$,

$$\Delta(x) = -4x\rho(x) + O\{x(\log x)^{\beta+\epsilon}\} \quad (\epsilon > 0). \tag{3.1b}$$

However, this result leads to no improvement over (3.2).

We now consider $\sigma_2((m, n))$, proving

THEOREM 3.2.
$$\Delta'(x) = -2x^2 \rho'(x) + O(x^2),$$
 (3.8)

where $\rho'(x)$ is defined by (2.1); moreover, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\Delta'(x) = O\{x^2 (\log x)^{\beta + \epsilon}\},\tag{3.9}$$

where β is defined by (2.3).

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Proof. Denote the three terms of (2.9) by T_1 , T_2 , T_3 respectively. Then by the estimates of § 2, one obtains

$$T_{1} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n \leq x} (2n-1) \left\{ \frac{x}{n} - \left(\psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right\}^{3}$$

= $\frac{1}{3} \sum_{n \leq x} (2n-1) \left\{ \frac{x^{3}}{n^{3}} - \frac{3x^{2}}{n^{2}} \left(\psi\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \right) + O\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) \right\}$
= $\frac{2x^{3}}{3} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n^{2}} - \frac{x^{3}}{3} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n^{3}} - 2x^{2}\rho'(x) - x^{2} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} + O(x^{2}),$

from which it follows that

$$T_1 = \frac{1}{3}x^3 \{ 2\zeta(2) - \zeta(3) \} - 2x^2 \rho'(x) - x^2 \log x + O(x^2).$$
(3.10)

In the case of T_2 we have

$$T_{2} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \leq x} (2n-1) \left\{ \frac{x^{2}}{n^{2}} + O\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) \right\} = x^{2} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} + O(x^{2}),$$

$$T_{2} = x^{2} \log x + O(x^{2}).$$
 (3.11)

so that

Also, evidently

$$T_3 = O(x^2).$$
 (3.12)

Since $S_2^*(x) = T_1 + T_2 + T_3$, it follows from (3.10), (3.11) and (3.12) that

$$S_2^*(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 \{ 2\zeta(2) - \zeta(3) \} - 2x^2 \rho'(x) + O(x^2),$$
(3.13)

which can be restated as (3.8). The result (3.9) is a consequence of (3.8), (2.3) and the fact that $\beta \ge 0$. This completes the proof.

4. The general functions $f_1((m, n))$ and $f_2((m, n))$. As in I and II we define $f_1(n)$ by

$$f_t(n) = \sum_{d\delta = n} g(d) \,\delta^t. \tag{4.1}$$

It is noted, on the basis of Lemma 2.1 with $h(n) = n^t$, that

$$F_{t}^{*}(x) \equiv \sum_{a, b \leq x} f_{t}((a, b)) = \sum_{n \leq x} q(n) S_{t}^{*}\left(\frac{x}{n}\right),$$
(4.2)

where $S_t^*(x)$ is the summatory function of $\sigma_t((m, n))$. It follows then from (4.2) and the definition of q(n) that

$$F_t^*(x) \equiv \sum_{d \le x} g(d) \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \mu(\delta) S_t^*\left(\frac{x}{d\delta}\right).$$
(4.3)

As in I and II we place

$$L(s, g) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g(n)}{n^s} \quad (s > 1),$$
(4.4)

and denote its derivative by L'(s, g). We now consider the average order of $f_t((m, n))$ in the

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cases t = 1 and t = 2, with a boundedness restriction on g(n). It is convenient to introduce the following notation in considering $f_1((m, n))$,

$$C_1 = 2\gamma - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(2), \tag{4.5}$$

$$R(x) = \frac{x^2}{\zeta(2)} \bigg\{ L(2, g) \bigg(\log x + C_1 - \frac{\zeta'(2)}{\zeta(2)} \bigg) + L'(2, g) \bigg\}.$$
 (4.6)

We prove now

THEOREM 4.1. If g(n) is bounded, then

$$F_{1}^{*}(x) = R(x) - 4x \sum_{n \le x} \frac{q(n)}{n} \rho\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + O(x \log^{3} x);$$
(4.7)

moreover, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

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$$F_1^*(x) = R(x) + O(x^{1+\alpha+\epsilon}),$$
 (4.8)

where α is defined by (2.3).

Proof. By (3.7) and (4.3) with t = 1, it follows that

$$F_1^* = S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + S_4 + S_5, \tag{4.9}$$

where

$$S_{1} = x^{2} (\log x + C_{1}) \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{g(d)}{d^{2}} \sum_{\delta \leq x/d} \frac{\mu(\delta)}{\delta^{2}},$$
(4.10)

$$S_2 = -x^2 \sum_{d \le x} \frac{g(d) \log d}{d^2} \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \frac{\mu(\delta)}{\delta^2},$$
(4.11)

$$S_3 = -x^2 \sum_{d \le x} \frac{g(d)}{d^2} \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \frac{\mu(\delta) \log \delta}{\delta^2},$$
(4.12)

$$S_4 = -4x \sum_{d \le x} \frac{g(d)}{d} \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \frac{\mu(\delta)}{\delta} \rho\left(\frac{x}{d\delta}\right), \tag{4.13}$$

$$S_{5} = O\left\{x \sum_{d \le x} \frac{|g(d)|}{d} \sum_{\delta \le \sqrt{x/d}} \frac{|\mu(\delta)|}{\delta} \log\left(\frac{x}{d\delta}\right)\right\} + O\left\{\sum_{d \le x} \frac{|g(d)|}{d} \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \frac{|\mu(\delta)|}{\delta}\right\}.$$
 (4.14)

By (4.10) one obtains

$$S_{1} = x^{2} (\log x + C_{1}) \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{g(d)}{d^{2}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} + O\left(\frac{d}{x}\right) \right\}$$
$$= \frac{x^{2}}{\zeta(2)} (\log x + C_{1}) \left\{ L(2, g) + O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right\} + O\left\{ x \log x \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{1}{d} \right\},$$

from which it follows that

$$S_1 = \frac{x^2(\log x + C_1)L(2, g)}{\zeta(2)} + O(x \log^2 x).$$
(4.15)

By (4.11) and (2.6) one deduces that

$$S_{2} = -x^{2} \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{g(d) \log d}{d^{2}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} + O\left(\frac{d}{x}\right) \right\}$$
$$= \frac{x^{2}}{\zeta(2)} \left\{ L'(2, g) + O\left(\sum_{d > x} \frac{\log d}{d^{2}}\right) \right\} + O\left\{ x \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\log d}{d} \right\},$$

so that

$$S_2 = \frac{x^2}{\zeta(2)} L'(2, g) + O(x \log^2 x).$$
(4.16)

By (4.12) and (2.6) we have

$$S_{3} = x^{2} \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{g(d)}{d^{2}} \left\{ L'(2, \mu) + O\left(\frac{d}{x}\log\frac{x}{d}\right) \right\}$$
$$= -\frac{x^{2}\zeta'(2)}{\zeta^{2}(2)} \left\{ L(2, g) + O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right\} + O\left\{ x \log x \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{1}{d} \right\},$$

and therefore

$$S_3 = -\frac{x^2 \zeta'(2) L(2, g)}{\zeta^2(2)} + O(x \log^2 x).$$
(4.17)

Placing $d\delta = n$ in (4.13) one may write, on the basis of (2.11),

$$S_4 = -4x \sum_{n \le x} \frac{q(n)}{n} \rho\left(\frac{x}{n}\right).$$
(4.18)

As for S_5 , it follows from (4.14) that

$$S_5 = O\left(x \log x \sum_{d \le x} \frac{1}{d} \sum_{\delta \le x/d} \frac{1}{\delta}\right) = O(x \log^3 x), \tag{4.19}$$

and (4.7) results on combining (4.9), (4.15), (4.16), (4.17), (4.18) and (4.19).

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We deduce now (4.8), recalling first that $\alpha > 0$. By Lemma 2.2 and (2.3), if ξ is chosen such that $0 < \xi \leq \alpha$, then for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\sum_{n\leq x} \frac{q(n)}{n} \rho\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) = O\left\{x^{\alpha+\varepsilon} \sum_{n\leq x} \frac{1}{n^{1+\alpha+\varepsilon-\xi}}\right\} = O(x^{\alpha+\varepsilon}).$$

Hence (4.8) results from (4.7) and the theorem is proved.

Placing $g(n) = \mu(n)$ in (4.8), we obtain the following corollary.

COROLLARY 4.1. For all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\sum_{a,b \le x} \phi((a,b)) = \frac{x^2}{\zeta^2(2)} \left\{ \log x + 2\gamma - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(2) - \frac{2\zeta'(2)}{\zeta(2)} \right\} + O(x^{1+\alpha+\epsilon}).$$
(4.20)

It is convenient in considering $f_2((m, n))$ to write

$$C_2 = \frac{1}{3} \{ 2\zeta(2) - \zeta(3) \}, \quad R'(x) = \frac{x^3 L(3, g) C_2}{\zeta(3)}.$$
 (4.21)

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THEOREM 4.2. If g(n) is bounded, then

$$F_{2}^{*}(x) = R'(x) - 2x^{2} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{q(n)}{n^{2}} \rho'\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) + O(x^{2}); \qquad (4.22)$$

if β is defined as in (2.3), then for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$F_2^*(x) = R'(x) + O\{x^2(\log x)^{\beta+\epsilon}\}.$$
(4.23)

Proof. By (4.2) with t = 2, in conjunction with (3.13), we may write

$$F_2^*(x) = T_1 + T_2 + T_3, \tag{4.24}$$

where

$$T_1 = C_2 x^3 \sum_{n \le x} \frac{q(n)}{n^3},$$
(4.25)

$$T_{2} = -2x^{2} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{q(n)}{n^{2}} \rho'\left(\frac{x}{n}\right)$$
(4.26)

and where, by Lemma 2.2,

$$T_3 = O\left\{x^2 \sum_{d \le x} \frac{|q(d)|}{d^2}\right\} = O(x^2).$$
(4.27)

From (4.25) one obtains

$$T_{1} = C_{2} x^{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(n)}{n^{3}} + O\left\{ x^{3} \sum_{n > x} \frac{|q(n)|}{n^{3}} \right\},$$

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so that by (2.11) and Lemma 2.2

$$T_1 = R'(x) + O(x^{1+\xi}), \quad 0 < \xi \le 1.$$
 (4.28)

Combination of (4.24), (4.26), (4.27) and (4.28) leads to (4.22).

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We recall that the quantity β defined by (2.3) is non-negative. Hence if ξ is any positive number less than 1, it follows by Lemma 2.2 that for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\sum_{n \le x} \frac{q(n)}{n^2} \rho'\left(\frac{x}{n}\right) = O\left\{\sum_{n \le \sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{n^{2-\xi}} \left(\log \frac{x}{n}\right)^{\beta+\epsilon}\right\} + O(1)$$
$$= O\left\{(\log x)^{\beta+\epsilon} \sum_{n \le x} \frac{1}{n^{2-\xi}}\right\} = O\{(\log x)^{\beta+\epsilon}\}.$$
(4.29)

Thus (4.23) results from (4.22), and the theorem is proved.

The case $g(n) = \mu(n)$ in (4.23) yields the following special result.

COROLLARY 4.2. For all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\sum_{a, b \le x} \phi_2((a, b)) = \frac{x^3}{3\zeta^2(3)} \{ 2\zeta(2) - \zeta(3) \} + O\{ x^2 (\log x)^{\beta + \varepsilon} \}.$$
(4.30)

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