



Research article

The general two-dimensional divisor problems involving Hecke eigenvalues

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Abstract: We consider the general two-dimensional divisor problems involving Hecke eigenvalues, and are able to improve the previous results in this direction.

Keywords: Hecke eigenvalue; divisor problem; Fourier coefficients

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1. Introduction

As usual, let $\tau(m)$ be the divisor function. The famous Dirichlet divisor problem on $\tau(m)$ has attracted many authors. For example, the best result to date was established by Bourgain and Watt [2], who obtained that

$$\sum_{m \leq y} \tau(m) = y \log y + (2\gamma - 1)y + O\left(y^{\frac{517}{1648} + \varepsilon}\right)$$

with Euler’s constant γ .

Let $1 \leq k < l$ be fixed integers. Denote by $\tau(m; k, l)$ the number of representations of m as $m = m_1^k m_2^l$, where m_1, m_2 are natural numbers, that is,

$$\tau(m; k, l) = \sum_{m = m_1^k m_2^l} 1.$$

In 1969, Krätzel [13] proved that

$$\sum_{m \leq y} \tau(m; k, l) = \zeta\left(\frac{l}{k}\right)y^{\frac{1}{k}} + \zeta\left(\frac{k}{l}\right)y^{\frac{1}{l}} + \Delta,$$

where

$$\Delta = - \sum_{m^{k+l} \leq y} \left\{ \psi\left(\left(\frac{y}{m^l}\right)^{\frac{1}{k}}\right) + \psi\left(\left(\frac{y}{m^k}\right)^{\frac{1}{l}}\right) \right\} + O(1),$$

ζ is the Riemann zeta function, $\psi(z) = z - [z] - \frac{1}{2}$ and $[z]$ denotes the integer part of z . After that, a lot of results have been established in this direction. We refer to Ivić [8, Chapter 14] for details.

Now we draw attention to the Hecke eigenvalues. Denote by $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ the full modular group and by \mathcal{H}_κ the set of primitive holomorphic cusp forms $g(z)$ of weight κ for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$, respectively, where $\kappa \geq 2$ is an even integer. It is known that \mathcal{H}_κ is composed of the eigenfunctions of all Hecke operators. And at the cusp ∞ , $g(z)$ has the Fourier expansion:

$$g(z) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_g(m) m^{(\kappa-1)/2} e^{2\pi i m z} \quad (\text{Im } z > 0),$$

where $\lambda_g(m)$ is the m -th normalized Hecke eigenvalue. For prime number p , one has

$$\lambda_g(p) = \alpha_p + \beta_p \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_p \beta_p = |\alpha_p| = |\beta_p| = 1.$$

Then define the Hecke L -function $L(g, s)$ attached to g as

$$L(g, s) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_g(m) m^{-s} = \prod_p (1 - \alpha_p p^{-s})^{-1} (1 - \beta_p p^{-s})^{-1} \quad (\text{Re } s > 1).$$

Further, define the Rankin-Selberg L -function as

$$L(g \times g, s) = \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-2} (1 - \alpha_p^2 p^{-s})^{-1} (1 - \beta_p^2 p^{-s})^{-1} \quad (\text{Re } s > 1).$$

Therefore, we have

$$L(g \times g, s) = \zeta(2s) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_g(m)^2 m^{-s} := \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_{g \times g}(m) m^{-s} \quad (\text{Re } s > 1).$$

Many scholars have studied $\lambda_g(m)$ and $\lambda_{g \times g}(m)$ in various ways and established a lot of results (for example, see [3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14–25], etc.). In addition, one may prefer to consider

$$\lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m) = \sum_{m=m_1^k m_2^l} \lambda_{g \times g}(m_1) \lambda_{g \times g}(m_2).$$

Recently, Huang, Liu and Xu [7] studied the general two-dimensional divisor problems involving Hecke eigenvalues and proved that for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) := \sum_{m \leq y} \lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m) = \begin{cases} C_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + O\left(y^{1 - \frac{84(2k-1)}{486k-131l} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } 318k^2 + 131l - 402k - 131kl < 0, 2k \geq l; \\ O\left(y^{1 - \frac{84(2k-1)}{486k-131l} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } 318k^2 + 131l - 402k - 131kl > 0, 2k \geq l; \\ C_2 y^{\frac{1}{2}} + O\left(y^{\frac{7}{16} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } k = 2, 2k < l; \\ O\left(y^{1 - \frac{3(2k-1)}{8k} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } k \geq 3, 2k < l, \end{cases}$$

where $C_1 = L(\text{sym}^2 g, 1)L(g \times g, \frac{1}{k})$ and $C_2 = L(\text{sym}^2 g, 1)L(g \times g, \frac{1}{2})$. In this paper, we are able to improve the above result by proving the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $1 \leq k < l$ be any fixed integers. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we have*

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = \begin{cases} R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + R_2 y^{\frac{1}{l}} + O\left(y^{\frac{1}{k} - \frac{4}{20k-5l} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } l \leq 2k; \\ R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + O\left(y^{\frac{3}{5k} + \varepsilon}\right), & \text{if } l > 2k, \end{cases}$$

where

$$R_1 = L\left(g \times g, \frac{l}{k}\right) L(\text{sym}^2 g, 1), \quad R_2 = L\left(g \times g, \frac{k}{l}\right) L(\text{sym}^2 g, 1).$$

To prove Theorem 1.1, we mainly use the Perron's formula and the individual and averaged subconvexity bounds for the Riemann zeta-function and the symmetric square L -function.

2. Preliminary lemmas

Firstly, we introduce the symmetric square L -function $L(\text{sym}^2 g, s)$ defined by

$$L(\text{sym}^2 g, s) := \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1} (1 - \alpha_p^2 p^{-s})^{-1} (1 - \beta_p^2 p^{-s})^{-1} \quad (\text{Re } s > 1).$$

Write $s = \sigma + it$. Let ε be a sufficiently small positive constant, whose value is not necessarily the same at each occurrence.

Lemma 2.1. *We have*

$$L(g \times g, s) = \zeta(s) L(\text{sym}^2 g, s) \quad (\text{Re } s > 1). \quad (2.1)$$

Proof. We can find this lemma in [7]. □

Lemma 2.2. *We have, uniformly for $T \geq 1$,*

$$\int_1^T |L(\text{sym}^2 g, s)|^2 dt \ll T^{3(1-\sigma)+\varepsilon}, \quad (2.2)$$

and for $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma \leq 1$, $|t| \geq 1$,

$$L(\text{sym}^2 g, s) \ll (1 + |t|)^{\max\{0, \frac{5}{4}(1-\sigma)\} + \varepsilon}. \quad (2.3)$$

Proof. We can obtain the former result (2.2) from the properties of $L(\text{sym}^2 g, s)$ with standard arguments. The latter result (2.3) was proved by Nunes [18]. □

Lemma 2.3. *We have, uniformly for $T \geq 1$ and $\frac{1}{2} \leq \sigma < 1$,*

$$\int_1^T |\zeta(\sigma + it)|^4 dt \sim T^{1+\varepsilon}, \quad (2.4)$$

and for $\frac{1}{2} < \sigma \leq 1$, $|t| \geq 1$,

$$\zeta(s) \ll (1 + |t|)^{\max\{0, \frac{13}{42}(1-\sigma)\} + \varepsilon}. \quad (2.5)$$

Proof. The result (2.4) with $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$ is the classical result of Ingham. We can find the result (2.4) in [8]. The third result (2.5) was derived by Bourgain [1]. □

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Note that

$$L(g \times g, ks)L(g \times g, ls) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m)}{m^s}. \quad (3.1)$$

Then from (3.1) and Perron's formula (see [10, Proposition 5.54]), with a similar argument to [8, page 411] we get

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{\xi - iT}^{\xi + iT} L(g \times g, ks)L(g \times g, ls) \frac{y^s}{s} ds + O\left(\frac{y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon}}{T}\right), \quad (3.2)$$

where $\xi = \frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon$ and T is a parameter to be determined later. Then we shift the integral line of (3.2) to the parallel line $\operatorname{Re} s = \frac{1}{2k}$. From Gelbart-Jacquet [5], we note that $L(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, s)$ is holomorphic at $s = 1$. Considering the sizes of l and $2k$, we see that $s = \frac{1}{k}$ and $s = \frac{1}{l}$ will be the only possible simple poles in $\mathbb{R}_T := \{s = \sigma + it : \frac{1}{2k} \leq \sigma \leq \xi, |t| \leq T\}$ according to (2.1), and the corresponding residues at $s = \frac{1}{k}$ and $s = \frac{1}{l}$ are

$$R_1 := L\left(g \times g, \frac{l}{k}\right)L(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, 1), \quad R_2 := L\left(g \times g, \frac{k}{l}\right)L(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, 1),$$

respectively.

In the following argument, we still carry out the discussion by two cases $2k \geq l$ and $2k < l$. In the case $2k \geq l$, both $s = \frac{1}{k}$ and $s = \frac{1}{l}$ are simple poles in \mathbb{R}_T . Then we derive from Cauchy's residue theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) &= \left(\operatorname{Res}_{s=\frac{1}{k}} + \operatorname{Res}_{s=\frac{1}{l}} \right) L(g \times g, ks)L(g \times g, ls) \frac{y^s}{s} + O\left(\frac{y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon}}{T}\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\int_{\frac{1}{2k} - iT}^{\frac{1}{2k} + iT} + \int_{\frac{1}{2k} + iT}^{\xi + iT} + \int_{\xi - iT}^{\frac{1}{2k} - iT} \right) L(g \times g, ks)L(g \times g, ls) \frac{y^s}{s} ds \\ &:= R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + R_2 y^{\frac{1}{l}} + J_1 + J_2 + J_3 + O\left(\frac{y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon}}{T}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

To estimate J_2 and J_3 , we also need to divide the integral interval into two arcs $\mathbb{A}'_1, \mathbb{A}'_2$ and draw support from Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3.

$\mathbb{A}'_1 := \{s = \sigma + iT : \frac{1}{2k} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{1}{l}\}$. Then in this arc we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{T} \int_{\mathbb{A}'_1} y^\sigma | \zeta(k\sigma + ikt)L(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, k\sigma + ikt)\zeta(l\sigma + ilt)L(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, l\sigma + ilt) | dt \\ &\ll \max_{\frac{1}{2k} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{1}{l}} y^\sigma T^{(\frac{13}{42} + \frac{5}{4})(1-k\sigma) + (\frac{13}{42} + \frac{5}{4})(1-l\sigma)} T^{-1+\varepsilon} \\ &\ll \max_{\frac{1}{2k} \leq \sigma \leq \frac{1}{l}} T^{\frac{89}{42} + \varepsilon} \left(\frac{y}{T^{\frac{131}{84}(k+l)}} \right)^\sigma \\ &\ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{225}{168} - \frac{131l}{168k} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{l}} T^{\frac{47}{84} - \frac{131k}{84l} + \varepsilon}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

$\mathbb{A}'_2 := \left\{s = \sigma + iT : \frac{1}{l} < \sigma \leq \frac{1}{k}\right\}$. Then in this arc we can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{T} \int_{\mathbb{A}'_2} y^\sigma \left| \zeta(k\sigma + ikt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, k\sigma + ikt)\zeta(l\sigma + ilt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, l\sigma + ilt) \right| d\sigma \\
 & \ll \max_{\frac{1}{l} < \sigma \leq \frac{1}{k}} y^\sigma T^{(\frac{13}{42} + \frac{5}{4})(1-k\sigma)} T^{-1+\varepsilon} \\
 & \ll \max_{\frac{1}{l} < \sigma \leq \frac{1}{k}} T^{\frac{47}{84}} \left(\frac{y}{T^{\frac{131}{84}k}} \right)^\sigma \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{k}} T^{-1+\varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{l}} T^{\frac{47}{84} - \frac{131k}{84l} + \varepsilon}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

From (3.4) and (3.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |J_2 + J_3| \\
 & \ll T^{-1} \int_{\frac{1}{2k}}^\xi y^\sigma \left| \zeta(k\sigma + ikt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, k\sigma + ikt)\zeta(l\sigma + ilt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, l\sigma + ilt) \right| d\sigma \\
 & = T^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{A}'_1 \cup \mathbb{A}'_2} y^\sigma \left| \zeta(k\sigma + ikt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, k\sigma + ikt)\zeta(l\sigma + ilt)L(\text{sym}^2 g, l\sigma + ilt) \right| d\sigma \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{225}{168} - \frac{131l}{168k} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{l}} T^{\frac{47}{84} - \frac{131k}{84l} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon} T^{-1+\varepsilon}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

While for J_1 , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |J_1| & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \int_1^T \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)\zeta\left(\frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right)L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) \right| \\
 & \quad \times t^{-1} dt + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \log T \max_{1 \leq T_1 \leq T} T_1^{-1} \int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)\zeta\left(\frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) \right| \\
 & \quad \times L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) dt + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then by Hölder's inequality, Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3, one can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 |J_1| & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \log T \max_{T_1 \leq T} T_1^{-1} T_1^{\frac{5}{4}(1-\frac{1}{2k})+\varepsilon} \int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right)\zeta\left(\frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) \right| dt + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \log T \max_{T_1 \leq T} T_1^{\frac{5}{4}(1-\frac{1}{2k})-1+\varepsilon} \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \right|^4 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \\
 & \quad \times \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| L\left(\text{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \right|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) \right|^4 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \max_{T_1 \leq T} T_1^{\frac{3}{2} - \frac{5l}{8k} + \varepsilon} \\
 & \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{3}{2} - \frac{5l}{8k} + \varepsilon}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Therefore, from (3.3), (3.6) and (3.7), we can establish

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + R_2 y^{\frac{1}{l}} + O\left(y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{3}{2} - \frac{5l}{8k} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{l}} T^{\frac{47}{84} - \frac{131k}{84k} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{k}} T^{-1 + \varepsilon}\right). \quad (3.8)$$

Taking $T = y^{\frac{4}{20k-5l}}$ in (3.8), we have

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + R_2 y^{\frac{1}{l}} + O\left(y^{\frac{1}{k} - \frac{4}{20k-5l} + \varepsilon}\right).$$

Thus, we prove the first part of Theorem 1.1.

For $2k < l$, $s = \frac{1}{k}$ is the only simple pole in the range \mathbb{R}_T by nothing $\frac{1}{l} < \frac{1}{2k}$. Then from Cauchy's residue theorem, we can derive

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) &= \operatorname{Res}_{s=\frac{1}{k}} L(g \times g, ks) L(g \times g, ls) \frac{y^s}{s} + O\left(\frac{y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon}}{T}\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\int_{\frac{1}{2k} - iT}^{\frac{1}{2k} + iT} + \int_{\frac{1}{2k} + iT}^{\xi + iT} + \int_{\xi - iT}^{\frac{1}{2k} - iT} \right) L(g \times g, ks) L(g \times g, ls) \frac{y^s}{s} ds \\ &:= R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + J'_1 + J'_2 + J'_3 + O\left(\frac{y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon}}{T}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

To estimate J'_2 and J'_3 , we also split the integral interval into two arcs \mathbb{A}'_1 , \mathbb{A}'_2 but with different ranges from the case $2k \geq l$. By a similar argument, we can get

$$|J'_2 + J'_3| \ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{-\frac{37}{168} + \varepsilon} + y^{\frac{1}{k} + \varepsilon} T^{-1 + \varepsilon}.$$

Note that $\frac{l}{2k} > 1$. The estimate of J'_1 becomes

$$\begin{aligned} |J'_1| &\ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \int_1^T \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) L\left(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \zeta\left(\frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) L\left(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, \frac{l}{2k} + ilt\right) \right| t^{-1} dt + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} \\ &\ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \log T \max_{1 \leq T_1 \leq T} T_1^{-1} \int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) L\left(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \right| dt + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} \\ &\ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} \log T \max_{T_1 \leq T} T_1^{-1} \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \right|^4 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} \left| L\left(\operatorname{sym}^2 g, \frac{1}{2} + ikt\right) \right|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times \left(\int_{\frac{T_1}{2}}^{T_1} 1 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} + y^{\frac{1}{2k} + \varepsilon} \\ &\ll y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{1}{4} + \varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, recalling (3.9) we can get

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + O\left(y^{\frac{1}{2k}} T^{\frac{1}{4}} + y^{\frac{1}{k}} T^{-1}\right) T^\varepsilon. \quad (3.10)$$

Taking $T = y^{\frac{2}{5k}}$ in (3.10), we have

$$\Gamma_{g \times g}(y; k, l) = R_1 y^{\frac{1}{k}} + O\left(y^{\frac{3}{5k} + \varepsilon}\right).$$

Thus, the prove of Theorem 1.1 is finished.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, we investigate the average behaviors of the Fourier coefficients $\lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m)$ and improve the previous estimates in this direction. Here, the condition $1 \leq k < l$ in Theorem 1.1 removes the complexity of discussing the sizes between k and l due to the symmetry. To give a sharper upper bounds for the sum $\sum_{m \leq y} \lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m)$, we apply some analytic instruments such as Perron's formula, the decomposition of the Rankin-Selberg L -function, and the individual and averaged subconvexity bounds for the Riemann zeta-function and the symmetric square L -function. With the help of results in Theorem 1.1, we can understand the Fourier coefficients $\lambda_{g \times g}^{k,l}(m)$ on average more precisely.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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