

IRREGULARITIES OF POINT DISTRIBUTION RELATIVE TO HALF-PLANES I

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§1. *Introduction.* Suppose that \mathcal{P} is a distribution of N points in U_0 , the closed disc of unit area and centred at the origin $\mathbf{0}$. For every measurable set B in \mathbb{R}^2 , let $Z[\mathcal{P}; B]$ denote the number of points of \mathcal{P} in B , and write

$$D[\mathcal{P}; B] = Z[\mathcal{P}; B] - N\mu(B \cap U_0),$$

where μ denotes the usual measure in \mathbb{R}^2 .

For every real number $r \in \mathbb{R}$ and every angle θ satisfying $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, let $S(r, \theta)$ denote the closed half-plane

$$S(r, \theta) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2: \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{e}(\theta) \geq r\}.$$

Here $\mathbf{e}(\theta) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ and $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}$ denotes the scalar product of \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} .

Roth asked the question (see Schmidt [7], pp. 124–125) whether

$$\inf_{|\mathcal{P}|=N} \sup_{\substack{0 \leq r \leq \pi^{-1/2} \\ 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| \rightarrow +\infty$$

as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Here the supremum is taken over all disc-segments in U_0 , and the infimum is taken over all distributions \mathcal{P} on N points in U_0 .

This question was answered in the affirmative by Beck [2], who proved in 1983 that

$$\inf_{|\mathcal{P}|=N} \sup_{\substack{0 \leq r \leq \pi^{-1/2} \\ 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| \gg N^{1/4} (\log N)^{-7/2}.$$

Recently, Alexander [1] improved this to

$$\inf_{|\mathcal{P}|=N} \sup_{\substack{0 \leq r \leq \pi^{-1/2} \\ 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| \gg N^{1/4}.$$

Beck and Alexander basically studied the L^2 -norm of the discrepancy function $D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]$. The following result can be proved.

THEOREM A. *For every distribution \mathcal{P} of N points in U_0 , we have*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi^{-1/2}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]|^2 dr d\theta \gg N^{1/2}.$$

This is complemented by the result below, which can be proved using probabilistic methods.

THEOREM B. *For every natural number N , there exists a distribution \mathcal{P} of N points in U_0 such that*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi^{-1/2}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]|^2 dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}.$$

The purpose of this paper is to study the L^1 -norm of the discrepancy function $D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]$. We shall prove, in particular, the following rather surprising result.

THEOREM. *For every natural number $N \geq 2$, there exists a distribution \mathcal{P} of N points in U_0 such that*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi^{-1/2}} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll (\log N)^2.$$

Our work in this paper is in fact motivated by the case when U_0 is a square and not a disc, and only for very special values of N . In developing the method to prove the theorem above, we realized that it is possible to study the problem in far greater generality.

Let U be a convex set in \mathbb{R}^2 of unit area, and with centre of gravity at the origin $\mathbf{0}$. Suppose that \mathcal{P} is a distribution of N points in U . For every measurable set B in \mathbb{R}^2 , let $Z[\mathcal{P}; B]$ denote the number of points of \mathcal{P} in B , and write

$$D[\mathcal{P}; B] = Z[\mathcal{P}; B] - N\mu(B \cap U).$$

For any θ satisfying $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, let

$$R(\theta) = \sup \{r \geq 0: S(r, \theta) \cap U \neq \emptyset\}.$$

We shall in fact prove

MAIN THEOREM. *For every natural number $N \geq 2$, there exists a distribution \mathcal{P} of N points in U such that*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{R(\theta)} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll_U (\log N)^2.$$

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§2. A special case: U is a square. We first of all consider the case when U is the square $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, and show that for every natural number N , there

exists a set \mathcal{P} of $4N^2 + 4N + 1$ points in U such that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{R(\theta)} |D[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll (\log N)^2.$$

For ease of notation, we consider the following renormalized version of the problem. Let V be the square $[-N - \frac{1}{2}, N + \frac{1}{2}]^2$. For every finite distribution \mathcal{P} of points in V and every measurable set B in \mathbb{R}^2 , let $Z[\mathcal{P}; B]$ denote the number of points of \mathcal{P} in B , and write

$$E[\mathcal{P}; B] = Z[\mathcal{P}; B] - \mu(B \cap V).$$

We shall show that the set

$$\mathcal{P} = \{-N, -N+1, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, N-1, N\}^2$$

of $4N^2 + 4N + 1$ integer lattice points in V satisfies

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N(\log N)^2, \quad (1)$$

where, for every $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, we have $M(\theta) = (2N+1)R(\theta)$.

The line

$$T(r, \theta) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2: \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{e}(\theta) = r\}$$

is the boundary of the half-plane $S(r, \theta)$, and can be rewritten in the form

$$x_1 \cos \theta + x_2 \sin \theta = r,$$

where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$. Clearly $M(\theta) = (N + \frac{1}{2})(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)$. We distinguish two cases.

Case 1. $0 \leq r \leq (N + \frac{1}{2})(\cos \theta - \sin \theta)$. It is not difficult to see that $T(r, \theta)$ intersects the edges

$$\{(x_1, N + \frac{1}{2}): |x_1| \leq N + \frac{1}{2}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{(x_1, -N - \frac{1}{2}): |x_1| \leq N + \frac{1}{2}\}$$

of V , i.e., the ‘‘top’’ and ‘‘bottom’’ edges of V . Then

$$S(r, \theta) \cap V = \bigcup_{n=-N}^N S(n, V, r, \theta),$$

where, for every $n = -N, \dots, 0, \dots, N$,

$$S(n, V, r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap V \cap (\mathbb{R} \times [n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2}]).$$

Clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = \sum_{n=-N}^N E[\mathcal{P}; S(n, V, r, \theta)].$$

Now, for every $n = -N, \dots, 0, \dots, N$, we have

$$Z[\mathcal{P}; S(n, V, r, \theta)] = [N + n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta + 1]$$

and

$$\mu(S(n, V, r, \theta)) = N + n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta + \frac{1}{2},$$

so that

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(n, V, r, \theta)] = -\psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta),$$

where $\psi(z) = z - [z] - \frac{1}{2}$ for every $z \in \mathbb{R}$. Hence

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n=-N}^N \psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta).$$

Case 2. $(N + \frac{1}{2})(\cos \theta - \sin \theta) \leq r \leq (N + \frac{1}{2})(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)$. It is not difficult to see that $T(r, \theta)$ intersects the edges

$$\{(x_1, N + \frac{1}{2}): |x_1| \leq N + \frac{1}{2}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{(N + \frac{1}{2}, x_2): |x_2| \leq N + \frac{1}{2}\}$$

of V , i.e., the “top” and “right” edges of V . Furthermore,

$$T(r, \theta) \cap \{(N + \frac{1}{2}, x_2): |x_2| \leq N + \frac{1}{2}\} = \{(N + \frac{1}{2}, -(N + \frac{1}{2}) \cot \theta + r \operatorname{cosec} \theta)\}.$$

Then $S(n, V, r, \theta) = \emptyset$ if $n < -(N + \frac{1}{2}) \cot \theta + r \operatorname{cosec} \theta - \frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, it is trivial that $E[\mathcal{P}; S(n, V, r, \theta)] = O(1)$ always. It follows that

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n=-N}^N \psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta) + O(1),$$

(*)

where the summation is under the further restriction

$$n \geq -(N + \frac{1}{2}) \cot \theta + r \operatorname{cosec} \theta. \tag{*}$$

Note that in Case 1, the restriction (*) would become superfluous since it is weaker than the requirement $n \geq -N$. It follows that for all $r \geq 0$, we have

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] - G[\mathcal{P}; r, \theta] \leq 1,$$

where

$$G[\mathcal{P}; r, \theta] = - \sum_{n=-N}^N \psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta).$$

(*)

The function $\psi(z) = z - [z] - \frac{1}{2}$ has the Fourier expansion

$$- \sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(z\nu)}{2\pi i \nu},$$

so that $-\psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta)$ has the Fourier expansion

$$\sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-r\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} e(n\nu \tan \theta).$$

It follows that the Fourier expansion of $G[\mathcal{P}; r, \theta]$ is given by

$$\sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-r\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} \sum_{n=-N}^N e(n\nu \tan \theta).$$

(*)

However, the restriction (*) prevents us from applying Parseval’s theorem.

To overcome this difficulty, we introduce the following idea which is motivated by Roth's variation of Davenport's method (see Roth [6] and Section 3.1 of Beck and Chen [3]).

Let $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$. For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and every $r \geq 1$, let

$$T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = T(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta, \theta) \tag{2}$$

and

$$S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = S(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta, \theta) \tag{3}$$

(note here that $r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta \geq 0$ always). Then

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] = E[\mathcal{P}; S(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta, \theta)].$$

It is not difficult to see that if we write

$$G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] = - \sum_{n=-N}^N \psi(n \tan \theta - (r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta) \sec \theta), \tag{*}$$

then

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] \ll \begin{cases} \cot \theta, & (M(\theta) - (2N + 1) \sin \theta - 1 \leq r \leq M(\theta)), \\ 1, & (\text{otherwise}), \\ N, & (\text{trivially}), \end{cases}$$

so that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \ll N \tag{4}$$

(note that $|y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta| \leq 1$, so that if $r \leq M(\theta) - (2N + 1) \sin \theta - 1$, then $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ intersects the top and bottom edges of V).

Now $G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]$ has the Fourier expansion

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta)\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} \sum_{n=-N}^N e(n\nu \tan \theta) \\ & = \sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-r\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} \sum_{n=-N}^N e((n - y_2)\nu \tan \theta) e(-y_1 \nu). \end{aligned} \tag{*}$$

It follows that for every $y_1 \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$, we have, by Parseval's theorem, that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]|^2 dy_1 & \ll \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \left| \sum_{n=-N}^N e((n - y_2)\nu \tan \theta) \right|^2 \\ & = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \left| \sum_{n=-N}^N e(n\nu \tan \theta) \right|^2, \end{aligned} \tag{*}$$

so that

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]|^2 dy_1 dy_2 \ll \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \left| \sum_{\substack{n=-N \\ (*)}}^N e(n\nu \tan \theta) \right|^2 \ll \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \min \{N^2, \|\nu \tan \theta\|^{-2}\}, \tag{5}$$

where $\|\beta\| = \min_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\beta - n|$ for every $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

We need the following crucial estimate.

LEMMA 1. *We have*

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \min \{N^2, \|\nu \tan \theta\|^{-2}\} \right)^{1/2} d\theta \ll (\log N)^2.$$

Proof. Since $\tan \theta \asymp \theta$ if $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$, it suffices to show that

$$\int_0^1 \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \min \{N^2, \|n\omega\|^{-2}\} \right)^{1/2} d\omega \ll (\log N)^2. \tag{6}$$

Clearly

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \min \{N^2, \|n\omega\|^{-2}\} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{N^2} \frac{1}{n^2} \min \{N^2, \|n\omega\|^{-2}\} + 1,$$

so that

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \min \{N^2, \|n\omega\|^{-2}\} \right)^{1/2} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{N^2} \frac{1}{n} \min \{N, \|n\omega\|^{-1}\} + 1. \tag{7}$$

Now, for every $n = 1, \dots, N^2$, we have

$$\int_0^1 \min \{N, \|n\omega\|^{-1}\} d\omega = 2n \int_0^{1/2n} \min \{N, (n\omega)^{-1}\} d\omega \ll \log N. \tag{8}$$

Inequality (6) now follows on combining (7) and (8).

By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dy_1 dy_2 \ll \left(\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]|^2 dy_1 dy_2 \right)^{1/2}. \tag{9}$$

It follows from (4), (5), (9) and Lemma 1 that

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)]| dr d\theta dy_1 dy_2 \ll N(\log N)^2. \tag{10}$$

Note now that for every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$, every $r \geq 1$ and every $\mathbf{y} \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have, writing $s = r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta$, that $|r - s| < 1$. It follows that since

$$S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = S(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta, \theta),$$

where $r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta \geq 0$, we must have

$$\int_2^{M(\theta)-1} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr \leq \int_1^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)]| dr. \tag{11}$$

On the other hand,

$$\left(\int_0^2 + \int_{M(\theta)-1}^{M(\theta)} \right) |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr \leq N. \tag{12}$$

It now follows from (10)–(12) that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \leq N(\log N)^2.$$

Similarly, for $j = 1, \dots, 7$, we have

$$\int_{j\pi/4}^{(j+1)\pi/4} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \leq N(\log N)^2.$$

Inequality (1) now follows.

§3. *A special case: U is a circular disc.* Next, we consider the case when U is the closed disc of unit area and centred at the origin $\mathbf{0}$.

Let N be any given natural number. Again we consider a renormalized version of the problem, and take V to be the closed disc of area N and centred at the origin $\mathbf{0}$. However, if we simply attempt to take all the integer lattice points in V as our set \mathcal{P} , then the number of points of \mathcal{P} can differ from N by an amount sufficiently large to make our task impossible (see Hardy [4] and pp. 183–308 of Landau [5]).

Our new idea is to introduce a set \mathcal{P} such that the majority of points of \mathcal{P} are integer lattice points in V , and that the remaining points give rise to a one-dimensional discrepancy along and near the boundary of V . More precisely, for any $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, let

$$A(\mathbf{x}) = A(x_1, x_2) = [x_1 - \frac{1}{2}, x_1 + \frac{1}{2}] \times [x_2 - \frac{1}{2}, x_2 + \frac{1}{2}]; \tag{13}$$

in other words, $A(\mathbf{x})$ is the aligned closed square of unit area and centred at \mathbf{x} . Let

$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \{\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{Z}^2: A(\mathbf{p}) \subseteq V\}, \tag{14}$$

and write

$$V_1 = \bigcup_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{P}_1} A(\mathbf{p}). \tag{15}$$

Note that the points of \mathcal{P}_1 form the majority of any point set \mathcal{P} of N points in V . For the remaining points, let

$$V_2 = V \setminus V_1. \tag{16}$$

Then it is easy to see, writing $\pi M^2 = N$, that

$$\mu(V_2) \in \mathbb{N} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(V_2) \ll M.$$

We partition V_2 as follows. Write

$$L = \mu(V_2), \tag{17}$$

and let

$$0 = \theta_0 < \theta_1 < \dots < \theta_{L-1} < \theta_L = 1 \tag{18}$$

such that for every $j = 1, \dots, L$, the set

$$R_j = \{\mathbf{x} \in V_2: 2\pi\theta_{j-1} \leq \arg \mathbf{x} < 2\pi\theta_j\} \tag{19}$$

satisfies

$$\mu(R_j) = 1. \tag{20}$$

For every $j = 1, \dots, L$, let

$$\mathbf{p}_j \in R_j, \tag{21}$$

and write

$$\mathcal{P}_2 = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_L\}. \tag{22}$$

If we now take

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_1 \cup \mathcal{P}_2, \tag{23}$$

then clearly \mathcal{P} contains exactly N points.

For every measurable set B in \mathbb{R}^2 , let $Z[\mathcal{P}; B]$ denote the number of points of \mathcal{P} in B , and write

$$E[\mathcal{P}; B] = Z[\mathcal{P}; B] - \mu(B \cap V).$$

Clearly, for every $j = 1, \dots, L$, we have

$$E[\mathcal{P}; R_j] = 0. \tag{24}$$

We shall show that the set \mathcal{P} satisfies

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^M |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll M(\log N)^2. \tag{25}$$

Again, suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$.

As before, the line $T(r, \theta)$ is given by $x_1 \cos \theta + x_2 \sin \theta = r$, where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Furthermore, $T(r, \theta)$ intersects the boundary of V at the

points

$$(r \cos \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta, r \sin \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta) \quad (26)$$

and

$$(r \cos \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta, r \sin \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta). \quad (27)$$

Let $T^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the point $(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ and (26), and let $T^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the point $(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ and (27).

Suppose first of all that $0 \leq r \leq M - 4$. Let

$$M^{(1)}(r, \theta) = \max \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \\ \text{and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(1)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\}$$

and

$$M^{(2)}(r, \theta) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \\ \text{and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(2)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\},$$

and let

$$I(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: M^{(1)}(r, \theta) < n < M^{(2)}(r, \theta)\}.$$

We can now write $S(r, \theta) \cap V$ as a union of subsets as follows. Let

$$S_0(r, \theta) = \bigcup_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \\ A(\mathbf{x}) \subseteq S(r, \theta) \cap V_1}} A(\mathbf{x}). \quad (28)$$

Also, let

$$S_1(r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \in I(r, \theta)} \bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right) \quad (29)$$

(note here that the three conditions $n \in I(r, \theta)$, $A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset$ and $A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset$ imply that we must have $A(m, n) \subseteq V_1$) and

$$S_2(r, \theta) = \bigcup_{\substack{j=1 \\ R_j \subseteq S(r, \theta)}}^L R_j. \quad (30)$$

The remainder of $S(r, \theta)$ consists of

$$W_1^{(1)}(r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap V \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \leq M^{(1)}(r, \theta)} \bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \subseteq V_1 \\ A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right) \quad (31)$$

and

$$W_1^{(2)}(r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap V \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \geq M^{(2)}(r, \theta)} \bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \subseteq V_1 \\ A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right), \quad (32)$$

as well as

$$W_2^{(1)}(r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\substack{j=1 \\ R_j \cap T^{(1)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ R_j \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}}^L R_j \right) \tag{33}$$

and

$$W_2^{(2)}(r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\substack{j=1 \\ R_j \cap T^{(2)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ R_j \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}}^L R_j \right) \tag{34}$$

It is not difficult to see that since $0 \leq r \leq M - 4$, we have

$$S(r, \theta) \cap V = \left(\bigcup_{j=0}^2 S_j(r, \theta) \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^2 \bigcup_{k=1}^2 W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta) \right).$$

Also, each pair B_1 and B_2 of the seven sets on the right-hand side satisfy $\mu(B_1 \cap B_2) = 0$ and $B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \mathcal{P} = \emptyset$. It follows that

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = \sum_{j=0}^2 E[\mathcal{P}; S_j(r, \theta)] + \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^2 E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]. \tag{35}$$

We shall estimate each of the terms on the right-hand side when $0 \leq r \leq M - 4$. Clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_0(r, \theta)] = 0, \tag{36}$$

as for each square $A(\mathbf{x})$ in $S_0(r, \theta)$, we have $Z[\mathcal{P}; A(\mathbf{x})] = \mu(A(\mathbf{x})) = 1$. Similarly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_2(r, \theta)] = 0 \tag{37}$$

in view of (24).

As before, let $\psi(z) = z - [z] - \frac{1}{2}$ for every $z \in \mathbb{R}$.

LEMMA 2. *Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M - 4$. Then*

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta). \tag{38}$$

Proof. For each $n \in I(r, \theta)$, let

$$S_1(n, r, \theta) = S(r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right).$$

Then

$$S_1(r, \theta) = \bigcup_{n \in I(r, \theta)} S_1(n, r, \theta).$$

Clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)] = \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(n, r, \theta)]. \tag{39}$$

Now let $n \in I(r, \theta)$. Then there exists a greatest $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset$ and $A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset$. It is not difficult to see that

$$Z[\mathcal{P}; S_1(n, r, \theta)] = [m + n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta + 1]$$

and

$$\mu(S_1(n, r, \theta)) = m + n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta + \frac{1}{2}.$$

It follows that

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(n, r, \theta)] = -\psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta). \tag{40}$$

Clearly (38) follows on combining (39) and (40).

Again, if we work out the Fourier expansion of the term $E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]$, then the summation restriction $n \in I(r, \theta)$ prevents us from applying Parseval's theorem. As before, let $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$. For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and every $r \geq 1$, define $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ and $S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ as in (2) and (3). Note that $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ intersects the boundary of V at the points

$$(s \cos \theta + (M^2 - s^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta, s \sin \theta - (M^2 - s^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta) \tag{41}$$

and

$$(s \cos \theta - (M^2 - s^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta, s \sin \theta + (M^2 - s^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta), \tag{42}$$

where $s = s(\mathbf{y}) = r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta$. Let $T^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $(s \cos \theta, s \sin \theta)$ and (41), and let $T^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $(s \cos \theta, s \sin \theta)$ and (42). For $1 \leq r \leq M - 4$, let

$$M^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \max \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\}$$

and

$$M^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\},$$

and let

$$I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: M^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) < n < M^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)\}.$$

Now let

$$S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \in I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)} \bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \cap S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right).$$

Then clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n \in I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - (r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta) \sec \theta).$$

We shall approximate $E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)]$ by

$$G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] = - \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - (r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta) \sec \theta).$$

LEMMA 3. For every $y \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(y; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; y; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \ll M.$$

The proof of Lemma 3 will be given later, as the ideas are similar to those for studying the terms $E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]$.

Now $G_1[\mathcal{P}; y; r, \theta]$ has the Fourier expansion

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-(r+y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta)\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} e(n\nu \tan \theta) \\ &= \sum_{\nu \neq 0} \frac{e(-r\nu \sec \theta)}{2\pi i \nu} \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} e((n-y_2)\nu \tan \theta) e(-y_1\nu). \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

It follows that for every $y_2 \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$, we have, by Parseval's theorem, that

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G_1[\mathcal{P}; y; r, \theta]|^2 dy_1 \ll \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \left| \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} e(n\nu \tan \theta) \right|^2.$$

It follows that

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G_1[\mathcal{P}; y; r, \theta]|^2 dy_1 dy_2 \ll \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \min \{M^2, \|\nu \tan \theta\|^{-2}\},$$

so that by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G_1[\mathcal{P}; y; r, \theta]| dy_1 dy_2 \ll \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \min \{M^2, \|\nu \tan \theta\|^{-2}\} \right)^{1/2}. \tag{44}$$

To study the terms $E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]$, we have

LEMMA 4. For $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll M.$$

Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M-4$. Let

$$I^{(1)}(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: r \sin \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta \leq n \leq M^{(1)}(r, \theta)\}$$

and

$$I^{(2)}(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: M^{(2)}(r, \theta) \leq n \leq r \sin \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta\}.$$

Note that $r \sin \theta \pm (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta$ are the second coordinates of the two

points of intersection of $T(r, \theta)$ and the boundary of V , and that

$$I(r, \theta) \cup I^{(1)}(r, \theta) \cup I^{(2)}(r, \theta) \\ = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : r \sin \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta \leq n \leq r \sin \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta\}.$$

Furthermore, the three sets on the left-hand side are pairwise disjoint.

If $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M - 4$, it is not difficult to see that for every $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$|E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]| \ll \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)).$$

Lemma 4 will follow if we can prove

LEMMA 5. For $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \ll M.$$

To prove Lemma 3, note that if $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$, $1 \leq r \leq M - 4$ and $\mathbf{y} \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] \ll \min \{M, \text{card}(I(r, \theta) \Delta I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta))\}, \quad (45)$$

where $B_1 \Delta B_2$ denotes the symmetric difference between the sets B_1 and B_2 . Clearly $I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = I(s, \theta)$, where $s = r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta \geq 0$. In this case,

$$I(r, \theta) \Delta I(s, \theta) \subseteq \bigcup_{k=1}^2 (I^{(k)}(r, \theta) \cup I^{(k)}(s, \theta)). \quad (46)$$

Note now that $|r - s| < 1$, so it follows from (45), (46) and Lemma 5 that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_2^{M-5} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \\ \ll \sum_{k=1}^2 \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M-4} \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \ll M.$$

Lemma 3 now follows on combining this and the simple observation that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \left(\int_1^2 + \int_{M-5}^{M-4} \right) |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \ll M.$$

Proof of Lemma 5. Note that $T^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ intersects ∂V , the boundary of V , at the point (26). Clearly $n + 1 \notin I^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ if the distance between the points

$$(-n \tan \theta + r \sec \theta, n) \in T^{(1)}(r, \theta) \quad \text{and} \quad ((M^2 - n^2)^{1/2}, n) \in \partial V$$

exceeds 1. It follows that

$$\text{card}(I^{(1)}(r, \theta)) \ll 1 + v - r \sin \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta, \quad (47)$$

where

$$(M^2 - v^2)^{1/2} + v \tan \theta - r \sec \theta = 1 \tag{48}$$

and $v < r \sin \theta$. Elementary calculation gives

$$v = \sin \theta \cos \theta + r \sin \theta - (M^2 - (r + \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta, \tag{49}$$

so that, combining (47) and (49), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{card}(I^{(1)}(r, \theta)) &\ll 1 + \sin \theta \cos \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta - (M^2 - (r + \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta \\ &\ll 1 + \frac{r}{(M^2 - r^2)^{1/2}}, \end{aligned}$$

since $r \leq M - 4$. Clearly

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} \text{card}(I^{(1)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \ll M.$$

On the other hand, $T^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ intersects ∂V at the point (27). Suppose first of all that $r \geq M \sin \theta$, so that $r \cos \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta \geq 0$. Then $n - 1 \notin I^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ if the distance between the points

$$(-n \tan \theta + r \sec \theta, n) \in T^{(2)}(r, \theta) \quad \text{and} \quad ((M^2 - n^2)^{1/2}, n) \in \partial V \tag{50}$$

exceeds 1. It follows that if $r \geq M \sin \theta$, then

$$\text{card}(I^{(2)}(r, \theta)) \ll 1 + r \sin \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta - v, \tag{51}$$

where v satisfies (48) and

$$v > r \sin \theta. \tag{52}$$

Elementary calculation gives

$$v = \sin \theta \cos \theta + r \sin \theta + (M^2 - (r + \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta, \tag{53}$$

so that, combining (51) and (53), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{card}(I^{(2)}(r, \theta)) &\ll 1 - \sin \theta \cos \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta - (M^2 - (r + \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta \\ &\ll 1 + \frac{r}{(M^2 - r^2)^{1/2}}, \end{aligned}$$

since $r \leq M - 4$. Suppose now that $r < M \sin \theta$, so that

$$r \cos \theta - (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \sin \theta < 0.$$

Then $n - 1 \notin I^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ if the distance between the points (50) and the distance between the points

$$(-n \tan \theta + r \sec \theta, n) \in T^{(2)}(r, \theta) \quad \text{and} \quad (-(M^2 - n^2)^{1/2}, n) \in \partial V$$

exceeds 1. It follows that (51) must hold both when v satisfies (48) and (52)

and when v satisfies

$$(M^2 - v^2)^{1/2} - v \tan \theta + r \sec \theta = 1$$

and (52). Clearly we only need to investigate the latter case. Elementary calculation gives

$$v = r \sin \theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta + (M^2 - (r - \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta, \tag{54}$$

so that, combining (51) and (54), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{card}(I^{(2)}(r, \theta)) &\leq 1 + \sin \theta \cos \theta + (M^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta - (M^2 - (r - \cos \theta)^2)^{1/2} \cos \theta \\ &\leq 1 + \frac{r}{(M^2 - r^2)^{1/2}}, \end{aligned}$$

since $r \leq M - 4$. Clearly

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} \text{card}(I^{(2)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \leq M.$$

It now follows from (35)-(37) and Lemma 4 that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \leq M + \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta. \tag{55}$$

On the other hand, it is easy to see that if $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $M - 4 \leq r \leq M$, we have

$$Z[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = Z[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta) \cap V_1] + Z[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta) \cap V_2] \leq M + L \leq M$$

and $\mu(S(r, \theta) \cap V) \leq M$, so that $E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] \leq M$, whence

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_{M-4}^M |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \leq M. \tag{56}$$

Combining (55) and (56), we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^M |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \leq M + \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta. \tag{57}$$

Combining Lemma 1, (44) and Lemma 3, we have

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(y; r, \theta)]| dr d\theta dy_1 dy_2 \leq M(\log N)^2. \tag{58}$$

Note again that for every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$, every $r \geq 1$ and every $y \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have, writing $s = r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta$, that $|r - s| < 1$. It follows that since $S_1(y; r, \theta) = S_1(r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta, \theta)$, where $r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta \geq 0$, we

must have

$$\int_2^{M-5} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr \leq \int_1^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(y; r, \theta)]| dr. \tag{59}$$

On the other hand, $|E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| \ll M$ always, so that

$$\left(\int_0^2 + \int_{M-5}^{M-4} \right) |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr \ll M. \tag{60}$$

It now follows from (58)–(60) that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M-4} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll M(\log N)^2. \tag{61}$$

Combining (57) and (61), we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^M |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll M(\log N)^2.$$

Similarly, for $j = 1, \dots, 7$, we have

$$\int_{j\pi/4}^{(j+1)\pi/4} \int_0^M |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll M(\log N)^2.$$

Inequality (25) now follows.

§4. *Proof of the Main Theorem.* Finally, we consider the problem in general, where U is a closed convex set in \mathbb{R}^2 , and with centre of gravity at $\mathbf{0}$.

Let N be any given natural number. As in the special cases considered earlier, we let $V = \{N^{1/2}\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in U\}$, so that $\mu(V) = N$. Our approach is similar to that when V is a circular disc. Indeed, we define $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, V_1, V_2, L$ and R_j ($j = 1, \dots, L$) in terms of V by (13)–(23), and note that

$$\mu(V_2) \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(V_2) \ll N^{1/2}.$$

For every measurable set B in \mathbb{R}^2 , let $Z[\mathcal{P}; B]$ denote the number of points of \mathcal{P} in B , and write

$$E[\mathcal{P}; B] = Z[\mathcal{P}; B] - \mu(B \cap V).$$

Then (24) holds for every $j = 1, \dots, L$. We shall show that the set \mathcal{P} satisfies

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; B]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}(\log N)^2, \tag{62}$$

where, for every $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, we have $M(\theta) = N^{1/2}R(\theta)$.

Again, suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$.

As before, the line $T(r, \theta)$ is given by $x_1 \cos \theta + x_2 \sin \theta = r$, where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Furthermore, $T(r, \theta)$ intersects the boundary of V at the points

$$\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta) = (u_1^{(1)}(r, \theta), u_2^{(1)}(r, \theta)) \quad (63)$$

and

$$\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(r, \theta) = (u_1^{(2)}(r, \theta), u_2^{(2)}(r, \theta)), \quad (64)$$

with the restriction that $u_2^{(1)}(r, \theta) \leq u_2^{(2)}(r, \theta)$. Here the argument is slightly more complicated than before. Consider the line segment $T(r, \theta) \cap V$. We need the following geometric lemma. To state this, we need some notation. Let

$$R_{\max} = \sup \{M(\theta) : 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi\} \quad \text{and} \quad R_{\min} = \inf \{M(\theta) : 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi\},$$

and let

$$\rho = \frac{R_{\min}}{R_{\max}}.$$

Also, for $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and $r \in [0, M(\theta)]$, let

$$l(r, \theta) = |\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta) - \mathbf{u}^{(2)}(r, \theta)|;$$

in other words, $l(r, \theta)$ is the length of the line segment $T(r, \theta) \cap V$. Furthermore, let $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ denote the midpoint of $T(r, \theta) \cap V$.

We shall assume that N is sufficiently large.

LEMMA 6. *Suppose that $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$. Suppose further that*

$$0 \leq r \leq M(\theta) - 48 \quad \text{and} \quad l(r, \theta) \geq 96/\rho.$$

Then the square of side 12, centred at $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ and with one side parallel to $T(r, \theta)$, lies in V .

Proof. It clearly suffices to show that the sets $S(r, \theta) \cap V$ and $(V \setminus S(r, \theta)) \cup (T(r, \theta) \cap V)$ each contains a rectangle of sides 6 and 12, with the point $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ as the midpoint of one of the long sides.

(I) We shall first consider $S(r, \theta) \cap V$. Let $\mathbf{v}(r, \theta) \in S(r, \theta) \cap V$ be of maximal (perpendicular) distance from the line $T(r, \theta)$. By a suitable translation and rotation, we may assume that $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ is the point $(0, 0)$, that $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ are the points $(y, 0)$ and $(-y, 0)$ respectively, where $2y = l(r, \theta)$, and that $\mathbf{v}(r, \theta)$ is the point (u, x) , where $x \geq 0$ (the reader is advised to draw a picture). We may further assume, without loss of generality, that $u \geq 0$. Clearly, it suffices to show, in view of the convexity of V , that the rectangle with vertices $(\pm 6, 0)$ and $(\pm 6, 6)$ is contained in the triangle with vertices $(\pm y, 0)$ and (u, x) . In view of our assumption $u \geq 0$, it suffices to show that if $x \geq 48$ and $y \geq 48/\rho$, then

$$\frac{x}{y+u} \geq \frac{6}{y-6},$$

i.e., $x(y-6) \geq 6u+6y$. Now if $u \leq y$, then since $x \geq 24$ and $y \geq 12$, we have

$$x(y-6) \geq \frac{xy}{2} \geq 12y \geq 6u+6y.$$

On the other hand, if $u > y$, then by the convexity of V , we must have $x \geq R_{\min}$ and $u-y \leq R_{\max}$, so that

$$\frac{x}{u-y} \geq \frac{R_{\min}}{R_{\max}} = \rho,$$

i.e., $x+\rho y \geq \rho u$. Since $x \geq 48$ and $y \geq 48/\rho$, we have, noting that $\rho \leq 1$, that

$$x(y-6) \geq \frac{xy}{2} \geq \frac{12x}{\rho} + 12y = \frac{12}{\rho}(x+\rho y) \geq 12u > 6u+6y.$$

(II) We now consider $(V \setminus S(r, \theta)) \cup (T(r, \theta) \cap V)$. Let $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(0, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(0, \theta)$ denote the endpoints of the line segment $T(0, \theta) \cap V$. By a suitable rotation about the centre $\mathbf{0}$ of V , we may assume that $T(r, \theta)$ is a horizontal line (the reader is advised to draw a picture), that the point $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ is denoted by (u, r) , that the points $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ are denoted by $(u+y, r)$ and $(u-y, r)$ respectively, where $2y=l(r, \theta)$. Clearly, in view of convexity, it suffices to show that if $y \geq 48/\rho$, then the points $(u \pm 6, r-6)$ are contained in the triangle with vertices $(0, 0)$ and $(u \pm y, r)$. Again, in view of convexity, it suffices to show that if $y \geq 48/\rho$, then

$$\frac{6}{y-6} \leq \frac{R_{\min}}{R_{\max}} = \rho,$$

i.e., $y \geq 6(1+\rho)/\rho$. This last inequality clearly holds if $y \geq 48/\rho$, since $\rho \leq 1$.

For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and $r \in [0, M(\theta)]$, let $SQ(r, \theta)$ denote the square of side 12, centred at $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ and with one side parallel to $T(r, \theta)$. Further, let

$$M^*(\theta) = \sup \{0 \leq r \leq M(\theta) : SQ(r, \theta) \subseteq V\}.$$

Then clearly

LEMMA 7. For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$, either

$$M^*(\theta) \geq M(\theta) - 48$$

or

$$l(M^*(\theta), \theta) \leq \frac{96}{\rho}.$$

We shall also need

LEMMA 8. For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and every $r \in [M^*(\theta), M(\theta)]$, we have

$$l(r, \theta) \leq 2l(M^*(\theta), \theta)$$

if N is sufficiently large.

Proof. We may assume that N is sufficiently large so that $l(0, \theta) \geq 96/\rho$. Suppose first of all that $l(M^*(\theta), \theta) \leq l(0, \theta)$. Then in view of convexity, we must have $l(r, \theta) \leq l(M^*(\theta), \theta)$ if $r \geq M^*(\theta)$. Suppose now that

$$l(M^*(\theta), \theta) > l(0, \theta).$$

Then, again by convexity, we must have

$$\frac{l(r, \theta)}{r} \leq \frac{l(M^*(\theta), \theta)}{M^*(\theta)}.$$

In view of Lemma 7 and our assumption that $l(0, \theta) \geq 96/\rho$, we must have $M^*(\theta) \geq M(\theta) - 48$. It follows that

$$l(r, \theta) \leq \frac{r}{M(\theta) - 48} l(M^*(\theta), \theta) \leq \frac{M(\theta)}{M(\theta) - 48} l(M^*(\theta), \theta).$$

Note now that $M(\theta) \rightarrow \infty$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and every $r \in [0, M(\theta)]$, let $T^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta)$, and let $T^{(2)}(r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $\mathbf{p}(r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(r, \theta)$.

Suppose first of all that $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$. As before, let

$$M^{(1)}(r, \theta) = \max \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(1)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\} \tag{65}$$

and

$$M^{(2)}(r, \theta) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(2)}(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\}, \tag{66}$$

and let

$$I(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : M^{(1)}(r, \theta) < n < M^{(2)}(r, \theta)\}. \tag{67}$$

Then in view of Lemma 6, we must have $I(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset$. We now write $S(r, \theta) \cap V$ in the form

$$S(r, \theta) \cap V = \left(\bigcup_{j=0}^2 S_j(r, \theta) \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^2 \bigcup_{k=1}^2 W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta) \right),$$

where the seven sets on the right-hand side are defined by (28)-(34). Clearly, each pair B_1 and B_2 of these seven sets satisfy $\mu(B_1 \cap B_2) = 0$ and $B_1 \cap B_2 \cap \mathcal{P} = \emptyset$. It follows that

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)] = \sum_{j=0}^2 E[\mathcal{P}; S_j(r, \theta)] + \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^2 E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]. \tag{68}$$

We shall estimate each of the terms on the right-hand side when $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$.

Clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_0(r, \theta)] = E[\mathcal{P}; S_2(r, \theta)] = 0 \tag{69}$$

as before. Also, as in Lemma 2, we have, writing $\psi(z) = z - [z] - \frac{1}{2}$ for every $z \in \mathbb{R}$, that

LEMMA 9. *Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$. Then*

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - r \sec \theta).$$

As in the special case of the disc, the summation restriction $n \in I(r, \theta)$ again prevents us from applying Parseval's theorem to the Fourier expansion of the term $E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]$. We can overcome this in a way similar to that used before. Let $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$. For every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and every $r \geq 1$, define $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ and $S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ as in (2) and (3). Suppose now that $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ intersects the boundary of V at the points

$$\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = (u_1^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta), u_2^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta))$$

and

$$\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = (u_1^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta), u_2^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)),$$

with the restriction that $u_2^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \leq u_2^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$. Let $T^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$, and let $T^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ denote the line segment joining the points $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$, where $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)$ denotes the midpoint of the line segment $T(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \cap V$. For $1 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$, let

$$M^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \max \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\}$$

and

$$M^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : \text{there exists } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } A(m, n) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset \text{ and } A(m, n) \cap T^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset\},$$

and let

$$I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : M^{(1)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) < n < M^{(2)}(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)\}.$$

Now let, as before,

$$S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \cap \left(\bigcup_{n \in I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)} \bigcup_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \cap S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right).$$

Then clearly

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] = - \sum_{n \in I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - (r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta) \sec \theta).$$

We shall approximate $E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)]$ by

$$G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] = - \sum_{n \in I(r, \theta)} \psi(n \tan \theta - (r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta) \sec \theta).$$

Corresponding to Lemma 3, we have

LEMMA 10. *For every $\mathbf{y} \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have*

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}.$$

We shall prove Lemma 10 later.

Now $G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]$ has the Fourier expansion (43). It follows, as before, that

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dy_1 dy_2 \ll \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\nu^2} \min\{N, \|\nu \tan \theta\|^{-2}\} \right)^{1/2} \quad (70)$$

for every $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and $r \in [0, M^*(\theta)]$.

To study the terms $E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]$, we have the following analogue of Lemma 4.

LEMMA 11. *For $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have*

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}.$$

Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$. Let

$$I^{(1)}(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: u_2^{(1)}(r, \theta) \leq n \leq M^{(1)}(r, \theta)\} \quad (71)$$

and

$$I^{(2)}(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: M^{(2)}(r, \theta) \leq n \leq u_2^{(2)}(r, \theta)\}.$$

Then clearly

$$I(r, \theta) \cup I^{(1)}(r, \theta) \cup I^{(2)}(r, \theta) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z}: u_2^{(1)}(r, \theta) \leq n \leq u_2^{(2)}(r, \theta)\}.$$

Furthermore, the three sets on the left-hand side are pairwise disjoint.

If $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$, it is not difficult to see that for every $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$|E[\mathcal{P}; W_j^{(k)}(r, \theta)]| \ll \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)).$$

Lemma 11 will follow from the analogue of Lemma 5 below.

LEMMA 12. *For $j, k \in \{1, 2\}$, we have*

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}.$$

To prove Lemma 10, note that if $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$, $1 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$ and $\mathbf{y} \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^2$, we have

$$E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta] \leq \min \{N^{1/2}, \text{card}(I(r, \theta) \Delta I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta))\}, \tag{72}$$

where $B_1 \Delta B_2$ denotes the symmetric difference between the sets B_1 and B_2 . Clearly $I(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta) = I(s, \theta)$, where $s = r + y_1 \cos \theta + y_2 \sin \theta \geq 0$. In this case,

$$I(r, \theta) \Delta I(s, \theta) \subseteq \bigcup_{k=1}^2 (I^{(k)}(r, \theta) \cup I^{(k)}(s, \theta)). \tag{73}$$

Note now that $|r - s| < 1$, so it follows from (72), (73) and Lemma 12 that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_2^{M^*(\theta)-1} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \\ & \leq \sum_{k=1}^2 \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M^*(\theta)} \text{card}(I^{(k)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 10 now follows on combining this and the simple observation that

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \left(\int_1^2 + \int_{M^*(\theta)-1}^{M^*(\theta)} \right) |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)] - G_1[\mathcal{P}; \mathbf{y}; r, \theta]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}.$$

Note that Lemma 12 is a generalization of Lemma 5. Our proof, however, is necessarily different. In our earlier proof of Lemma 5, we use explicitly the equation of ∂V , the boundary of V . In the general case, such information is clearly not available.

Our proof here is based on the following simple geometric observation.

Consider the points $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n, \theta)$, where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $0 \leq n \leq M(\theta)$. We extend this definition in the natural way to $n = -1, -2, \dots, -6$. For each $\theta \in [0, \pi/4]$ and $n = -6, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, [M(\theta)]$, let $\mathcal{N}_\theta(n)$ denote the area of the rectangle with one edge on $T(n, \theta)$ and with vertices $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n, \theta)$ and $\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n + 1, \theta)$.

LEMMA 13. *Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $0 \leq r \leq M^*(\theta)$. Then*

$$I^{(1)}(r, \theta) \leq \max \left\{ 6, \sum_{i=1}^6 \mathcal{N}_\theta(n + i, \theta), \sum_{i=1}^6 \mathcal{N}_\theta(n - i, \theta) \right\},$$

where $n = [r]$.

Proof. Let

$$\mathcal{M} = \max \left\{ 6, \sum_{i=1}^6 \mathcal{N}_\theta(n + i, \theta), \sum_{i=1}^6 \mathcal{N}_\theta(n - i, \theta) \right\}.$$

Then the two right-angled triangles with vertices

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta) \quad & \text{and} \quad \mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta) + \mathcal{M}\mathbf{e}(\theta + \pi/2) \\ & \text{and} \quad \mathbf{u}^{(1)}(r, \theta) + \mathcal{M}\mathbf{e}(\theta + \pi/2) \pm 6\mathbf{e}(\theta), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{e}(\varphi) = (\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi)$ for $\varphi \in \mathbb{R}$, each contains a square of the type $A(m, n) \subseteq V_1$, in view of the convexity of V . The result follows from the definitions of $I(r, \theta)$ and $I^{(1)}(r, \theta)$ (see (65)-(67) and (71)).

Proof of Lemma 12. Note that for every $n = -6, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, [M(\theta)]$, we have

$$\mathcal{N}_\theta(n) \leq |\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n, \theta) - \mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n+1, \theta)|.$$

It follows from Lemma 13 that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} \text{card}(I^{(1)}(r, \theta)) dr d\theta &\ll M^*(\theta) + \sum_{i=-6}^6 |\mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n+i, \theta) - \mathbf{u}^{(1)}(n+i+1, \theta)| \\ &\leq M^*(\theta) + 13 \text{perimeter}(V) \ll N^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

A similar argument applies for $I^{(2)}(r, \theta)$.

It now follows from (68), (69) and Lemma 11 that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \\ \ll N^{1/2} + \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_i(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta. \end{aligned} \tag{74}$$

Next, we investigate the integral

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_{M^*(\theta)}^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta.$$

Suppose that $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ and $M^*(\theta) \leq r \leq M(\theta)$. We shall use Lemma 7. If $M^*(\theta) \geq M(\theta) - 48$, then clearly $M(\theta) - r \leq 48$. On the other hand, $l(r, \theta) \ll N^{1/2}$ trivially. We now use the simple estimate

$$|E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| \ll \mu(S(r, \theta)) \leq (M(\theta) - r)l(r, \theta).$$

Clearly

$$\int_{M^*(\theta)}^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr \ll N^{1/2}.$$

Suppose now that $M^*(\theta) < M(\theta) - 48$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| &\ll \mu \left(\bigcup_{\substack{m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ A(m, n) \subseteq V_1 \\ A(m, n) \cap S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset \\ A(m, n) \setminus S(r, \theta) \neq \emptyset}} A(m, n) \right) + \mu \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^L R_j \right) \\ &\ll l(r, \theta) \ll 1 \end{aligned}$$

in view of Lemmas 7 and 8. It now follows that

$$\int_{M^*(\theta)}^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr \ll M(\theta) - M^*(\theta) \ll N^{1/2}.$$

In either case,

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_{M^*(\theta)}^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2}. \tag{75}$$

Combining (74) and (75), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \\ & \ll N^{1/2} + \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta. \end{aligned} \tag{76}$$

As before, combining Lemmas 1 and 10 and (70), we have

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_1^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(\mathbf{y}; r, \theta)]| dr d\theta dy_1 dy_2 \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^2. \tag{77}$$

The estimate

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M^*(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S_1(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^2 \tag{78}$$

now follows from (77) in the same way that (61) follows from (58). Combining (76) and (78), we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^2.$$

Similarly, for $j = 1, \dots, 7$, we have

$$\int_{j\pi/4}^{(j+1)\pi/4} \int_0^{M(\theta)} |E[\mathcal{P}; S(r, \theta)]| dr d\theta \ll N^{1/2} (\log N)^2.$$

Inequality (62) now follows.

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