

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**REMARK ON A PAPER OF STUX CONCERNING
SQUAREFREE NUMBERS IN NON-LINEAR SEQUENCES**

GEORG JOHANN RIEGER

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Stux studied squarefree numbers of the form $[f(n)]$; his most interesting application is $f(n) = n^c$ for real c with $1 < c < 4/3$. We would like to point out that a stronger result follows immediately from estimates of Deshouillers.

Let $1 < c < 2$, $x \geq 1$; denote by $N_c(x; k, l)$ the number of natural numbers $n \leq x$ with $[n^c] \equiv 1 \pmod k$. According to [1], we have

$$(1) \quad N_c(x; k, l) = \frac{x}{k} + O_c((x^{1+c}k^{-1})^{1/3}) \quad \text{for } x^{c-5/4} \leq k < x^{c-1/2},$$

$$(2) \quad N_c(x; k, l) = \frac{x}{k} + O_c((x^{4+c}k^{-1})^{1/7}) \quad \text{for } k < x^{c-5/4}.$$

Denote by $S_c(x)$ the number of squarefree numbers of the form $[n^c]$ with natural $n \leq x$; the inclusion-exclusion principle in the form $|\mu(n)| = \sum_{d^2 | n, d > 0} \mu(d)$ gives

$$(3) \quad S_c(x) = \sum_{d^2 \leq x^c} \mu(d) N_c(x; d^2, 0) \quad (x \geq 1).$$

For $d^2 \geq x^{c-1/2}$ we use the trivial estimate $N_c(x; d^2, 0) = O(x^c d^{-2})$; using

$$(4) \quad \sum_{d > t} d^{-2} = O(t^{-1}) \quad (t \geq 1),$$

we obtain

$$(5) \quad S_c(x) = \sum_{d^2 < x^{c-1/2}} \mu(d) N_c(x; d^2, 0) + O(x^{(2c+1)/4}).$$

In case $c \leq 5/4$, we use (1) and

$$(6) \quad \sum_{0 < d \leq t} d^{-2/3} = O(t^{1/3}) \quad (t \geq 1)$$

in (5); this gives

$$(7) \quad S_c(x) = \sum_{d^2 < x^{c-1/2}} \mu(d) d^{-2} x + O_c(x^{(2c+1)/4}).$$

In case $c > 5/4$, we split the sum in (5) according to $d^2 < \text{or } \geq x^{c-5/4}$ and apply (2) and (1); using $\sum_{0 < d \leq t} d^{-2/7} = O(t^{5/7})$ ($t \geq 1$) and (6), we obtain again (7). But (7), $\sum_{d > 0} \mu(d) d^{-2} = 6\pi^{-2}$, and (4) give immediately

THEOREM 1. For real c with $1 < c < 3/2$, we have

$$S_c(x) = 6\pi^{-2}x + O_c(x^{(2c+1)/4}) \quad (x \geq 1).$$

Looking at $m - [n^c]$ instead of $[n^c]$ we obtain similarly

THEOREM 2. For real c with $1 < c < 3/2$, the number of representations of the natural number m as $m = q + [n^c]$ with squarefree q and natural n equals

$$6\pi^{-2}m^{1/c} + O_c(m^{(2c+1)/4c}).$$

This can easily be generalized to r -free instead of squarefree. It should not be difficult to extend the method of [1] to cover the function class studied in [2].

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Received June 26, 1977 and in revised form December 16, 1977.

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