

THE AVERAGE LEAST CHARACTER NONRESIDUE

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ABSTRACT. For each nonprincipal Dirichlet character χ , let n_χ be the least n with $\chi(n) \notin \{0, 1\}$. We show that as $q \rightarrow \infty$, the average of n_χ over all nonprincipal characters χ modulo q is $\ell(q) + o(1)$, where $\ell(q)$ denotes the least prime not dividing q . Moreover, if one averages over all nonprincipal characters of moduli $\leq x$, the limiting value is $2.5305 \dots$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$.

1. INTRODUCTION

For χ a nonprincipal Dirichlet character modulo q , let n_χ denote the least positive integer n with $\chi(n) \notin \{0, 1\}$. If $q = p$ is prime, then χ is a k th power residue character for some k dividing $p-1$, and the study of the maximal order of n_χ goes back to Vinogradov and Linnik in the early part of the twentieth century. Assuming the Riemann Hypothesis for Dirichlet L -functions, we know that

$$(1.1) \quad \max_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} n_\chi \leq 3(\log q)^2.$$

(The first result of this kind is due to Ankeny [Ank52]; as stated here, the result is due to Bach [Bac90, Theorem 3].) The best unconditional result in this direction, due to Norton (see [Nor98, eq. (1.22)]), asserts that the maximum in (1.1) is $\ll_\epsilon q^{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}} + \epsilon}$.

Short of a completely satisfactory “pointwise” result, one can study n_χ on average. The first to adopt this viewpoint was Erdős [Erd61], who treated quadratic characters modulo p : He showed that as $x \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\frac{1}{\pi(x)} \sum_{\substack{2 < p \leq x \\ \chi(\cdot) = \left(\frac{\cdot}{p}\right)}} n_\chi \rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{p_k}{2^k},$$

where p_k denotes the k th prime in increasing order. This result was extended to all real primitive characters by the second author [Pol11], who showed that

$$\frac{\sum_{|D| \leq x, \chi(\cdot) = \left(\frac{\cdot}{D}\right)} n_\chi}{\sum_{|D| \leq x} 1} \rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{p_k^2}{2(p_k + 1)},$$

where the sum on D is over fundamental discriminants of absolute value $\leq x$. It is the purpose of this note to evaluate the average of n_χ over all nonprincipal characters χ .

Let $\ell(q)$ denote the least prime not dividing q . If χ is any character modulo q , then $\chi(n) = 0$ whenever $1 < n < \ell(q)$. Hence, $n_\chi \geq \ell(q)$ for all nonprincipal χ . Our main theorem says that the average of n_χ is very close to $\ell(q)$:

Theorem 1.1. *For $q \geq 3$, we have*

$$\frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\chi \neq \chi_0} n_\chi = \ell(q) + O((\log \log q)^2 / \log q),$$

where χ runs over all nonprincipal characters modulo q .

As a consequence, we have the following result for the average over all nonprincipal characters to moduli $\leq x$:

Corollary 1.2. *As $x \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$(1.2) \quad \frac{\sum_{q \leq x} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} n_\chi}{\sum_{q \leq x} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} 1} \rightarrow \Delta, \quad \text{where} \quad \Delta := \sum_{\ell} \frac{\ell^2}{\prod_{p \leq \ell} (p+1)}.$$

Here the right-hand sum is over all primes ℓ and the product in the denominator is over primes $p \leq \ell$.

Remark 1.3. A quick calculation with MATHEMATICA shows that

$$\Delta = 2.53505418036043883016553000718590835086117801385370 \dots$$

The proofs of Theorem 1.1 and Corollary 1.2, while similar in flavor to the arguments of [Erd61, Pol11], employ different tools. Our primary inspiration was a paper of Burthe [Bur97], which uses zero-density estimates and a theorem of Montgomery (Proposition 2.2 below) to prove that

$$\frac{1}{x} \sum_{q \leq x} \max_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} n_\chi \ll (\log x)^{97};$$

note that Burthe's result shows unconditionally that a bound of the same flavor as (1.1) holds on average.

Notation. The letters p and ℓ are reserved for prime variables. We write $P(n)$ for the largest prime factor of n . We say that n is *y-friable* (or *y-smooth*) if $P(n) \leq y$, and we let $\Psi(x, y)$ denote the number of y -friable $n \leq x$. We write $\omega(n) := \sum_{p|n} 1$ for the number of distinct prime factors of n and $\Omega(n) := \sum_{p^k|n} 1$ for the number of prime factors of n counted with multiplicity. We use c_1, c_2, \dots for absolute positive constants. We write $\log_1 x = \max\{1, \log x\}$, and we use \log_k for the k th iterate of \log_1 .

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

We begin by quoting two theorems. The first, due to Baker and Harman [BH96, BH98], asserts that many shifted primes possess a large prime factor.

Proposition 2.1. *For each positive real number $\theta \leq 0.677$, there is a constant $c_\theta > 0$ with the following property: For all large x , say $x > x_0(\theta)$, the number of primes $p \leq x$ with $P(p-1) > x^\theta$ is $> c_\theta x / \log x$.*

The next result, due to Montgomery (see [Mon94, Theorem 1, p. 164], and cf. [LMO79]), relates the size of n_χ to a zero-free region for $L(s, \chi)$ near $s = 1$.

Proposition 2.2. *Let χ be a nonprincipal Dirichlet character modulo q . If $\frac{1}{\log q} < \delta \leq 1/2$ and $N(1 - \delta, \delta^2 \log q, \chi) = 0$, then $n_\chi < (c_1 \delta \log q)^{1/\delta}$. Here c_1 is an absolute positive constant.*

Proposition 2.2 allows us to establish the next lemma, which will eventually be used to show that characters χ with n_χ larger than about $(\log q)^5$ do not significantly affect the average of n_χ .

Lemma 2.3. *The number of nonprincipal characters χ modulo q with $n_\chi \geq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5$ is $\ll q^{9/20}$. Here c_1 has the same meaning as in Proposition 2.2.*

Proof. The proof uses Proposition 2.2 and the following zero-density estimate due to Jutila (see [Jut77, Theorem 1]): Let $\epsilon > 0$. For $4/5 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ and $T \geq 1$, we have

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{\chi \bmod q} N(\alpha, T, \chi) \ll_{\epsilon} (qT)^{(2+\epsilon)(1-\alpha)}.$$

For the proof of the lemma, we may assume that q is large. By Proposition 2.2 (with $\delta = 1/5$), the number of nonprincipal χ with $n_{\chi} \geq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5$ is bounded above by

$$\sum_{\chi \bmod q} N\left(\frac{4}{5}, \frac{1}{25} \log q, \chi\right).$$

From (2.1) with $\epsilon = \frac{1}{10}$, this sum is $\ll (q \log q)^{21/50}$, which is crudely $\ll q^{9/20}$. \square

Lemma 2.4. *Assume $q > 1$, and write $\ell = \ell(q)$. Then*

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_{\chi} = \ell}} n_{\chi} = \ell + O(\ell/f),$$

while

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_{\chi} > \ell}} n_{\chi} \ll q^{-1/50} + \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ \ell < n_{\chi} \leq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} n_{\chi}.$$

Lemma 2.4 reduces the proof of Theorem 1.1 to the task of showing that both the O -term in (2.2) and the right-hand side of (2.3) are $\ll (\log_2 q)^2 / \log q$.

Proof. A character $\chi \bmod q$ has $\chi(\ell) = 1$ precisely when χ descends to a character on the quotient $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^{\times} / \langle \ell \rangle$. Hence, the proportion of characters $\chi \bmod q$ with $\chi(\ell) = 1$ is $\frac{1}{f}$, where f is the order of ℓ modulo q . So the contribution to the average of n_{χ} from those χ with $n_{\chi} = \ell$ is

$$\frac{\phi(q) - \phi(q)/f}{\phi(q) - 1} \ell = \ell + O(\ell/f).$$

Turning to the contribution from the remaining χ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_{\chi} > \ell}} n_{\chi} &= \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ \ell < n_{\chi} \leq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} n_{\chi} + \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_{\chi} > (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} n_{\chi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\phi(q) - 1} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ \ell < n_{\chi} \leq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} n_{\chi} + O\left(\frac{\max_{\chi \neq \chi_0} n_{\chi}}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_{\chi} > (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} 1\right). \end{aligned}$$

By the Polya–Vinogradov inequality, the maximum over χ appearing here is $\ll q^{21/40}$ (say). (Norton’s sharper result, quoted in the introduction, would not be any better for our purposes.) Using this in conjunction with Lemma 2.3, we find that the O -term here is $\ll q^{39/40} / \phi(q) \ll q^{-1/50}$. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We can assume that q is large. We first prove the theorem when $\ell > X$, where

$$X := (\log_2 q)^2 / \log_3 q.$$

Fix $\theta := 2/3$. By Proposition 2.1, there are $\gg X / \log X$ primes $p \leq X$ with $P(p - 1) > X^{\theta}$. We claim that for almost all of these primes p , the order of ℓ modulo p is

divisible by $P(p-1)$. To see this, note that if p does not have this property, then $\ell(p) \mid (p-1)/P(p-1)$, and so $\ell(p) < X^{1-\theta}$; hence,

$$p \mid \prod_{1 \leq j < X^{1-\theta}} (\ell^j - 1).$$

Now $\Omega(\ell^j - 1) \ll j \log \ell$, and so summing over j , we see there are only $\ll X^{2(1-\theta)} \log \ell \ll X^{3/4}$ such exceptional p , and this number is $o(X/\log X)$.

Let S be the set of non-exceptional p constructed above, so that $\#S \gg X/\log X$. If $q > X^\theta$, the number of $p \in S$ for which $q = P(p-1)$ is clearly $\leq \pi(x; q, 1) < X/q < X^{1-\theta}$. Hence, the number of distinct values $P(p-1)$, as p ranges over S , is $\gg X^\theta/\log X$. Since f is divisible by all these values $P(p-1)$, it follows that

$$f \geq (X^\theta)^{c_2 X^\theta / \log X} \geq \exp(c_3 X^\theta)$$

for some $c_2, c_3 > 0$.

Consequently, for the O -term in (2.2), we have the estimate

$$\ell/f \leq \ell / \exp(c_3 (\log_2 q)^{2\theta} / (\log_3 q)^\theta) < 2 \log q / \exp((\log_2 q)^{1.3}) < 1/\log q.$$

Moreover, the right-hand side of (2.3) is

$$\ll q^{-1/50} + \frac{(\log q)^5}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_\chi > \ell}} 1 < q^{-1/50} + \frac{(\log q)^5}{f} < \frac{1}{\log q}.$$

So in the case when $\ell > X$, the average of n_χ is $\ell + O(1/\log q)$, which is sharper than what is claimed in the theorem.

In the above reasoning, it was not necessary to assume that q is divisible by *all* primes up to X ; the same arguments apply if, in the notation of Proposition 2.1, q is divisible by all but at most $\frac{1}{2}c_\theta X/\log X$ primes $p \leq X$. So in what follows, we assume not only that $\ell \leq X$, but that there are more than $\frac{1}{2}c_\theta X/\log X$ primes $p \leq X$ not dividing q . Under these hypotheses, the error term ℓ/f in (2.2) is trivially bounded. Indeed, from $q \mid \ell^f - 1$, it follows that

$$(2.4) \quad f \geq \log q / \log \ell,$$

and so

$$\ell/f \leq \ell \log \ell / \log q \leq X \log X / \log q \ll (\log_2 q)^2 / \log q,$$

which is acceptable. Also, the right-hand side of (2.3) is

$$\ll q^{-1/50} + \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ \ell < n_\chi \leq X}} n_\chi + \frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ X < n_\chi \leq (\frac{c_1}{5} \log q)^5}} n_\chi \ll q^{-1/50} + \frac{X}{f} + \frac{(\log q)^5}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_\chi > X}} 1.$$

By our hypotheses, we may pick six primes $p_1, \dots, p_6 \leq X$ not dividing q . If $n_\chi > X$, then χ vanishes on the subgroup of $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^\times$ generated by (the images of) the p_i . The order of this subgroup is not less than the number of $n \leq q$ which factor as a product of the p_i , which is $\gg (\log q / \log X)^6 \gg (\log q / \log_3 q)^6$. It follows that

$$\frac{1}{\phi(q)} \sum_{\substack{\chi \neq \chi_0 \\ n_\chi > X}} 1 \ll \frac{(\log_3 q)^6}{(\log q)^6}.$$

With (2.4), this gives that the right-hand side of (2.3) is $\ll (\log_2 q)^2 / \log q$ and completes the proof of the theorem. \square

3. PROOF OF COROLLARY 1.2

Lemma 3.1. *Let m be a natural number. For $x \geq 1$, we have that*

$$\sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \gcd(n, m) = 1}} \phi(n) = \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} \prod_{p|m} (1 + 1/p)^{-1} + O(2^{\omega(m)} x \log(ex)),$$

uniformly in m .

Proof. Let χ_0 be the principal character modulo m , so that we seek to estimate the partial sums of $\phi\chi_0$. For each natural number d , let $h(d)$ denote the largest divisor of d coprime to m . One checks easily that $\frac{\phi(n)}{n} \chi_0(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d)/h(d)$, so that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \gcd(n, m) = 1}} \phi(n) &= \sum_{n \leq x} n \sum_{d|n} \mu(d)/h(d) = \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\mu(d)}{h(d)} \sum_{e \leq x/d} (de) \\ &= \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\mu(d)}{h(d)} \left(\frac{x^2}{2d} + O(x) \right) = \frac{x^2}{2} \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\mu(d)}{h(d)d} + O \left(x \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d \text{ squarefree}}} \frac{1}{h(d)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now the infinite sum

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_d \frac{\mu(d)}{h(d)d} &= \left(\prod_{p \nmid m} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \right) \left(\prod_{p|m} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} \right) \right) \\ &= \left(\prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \right) \prod_{p|m} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \right)^{-1} = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \prod_{p|m} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \right)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

and so

(3.1)

$$\sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \gcd(n, m) = 1}} \phi(n) = \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} \prod_{p|m} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \right)^{-1} + O \left(x^2 \sum_{\substack{d > x \\ d \text{ squarefree}}} \frac{1}{dh(d)} \right) + O \left(x \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d \text{ squarefree}}} \frac{1}{h(d)} \right).$$

For each $y \geq 1$, we have

$$S(y) := \sum_{\substack{d \leq y \\ d \text{ squarefree}}} \frac{1}{h(d)} \leq \prod_{p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{h(p)} \right) \leq 2^{\omega(m)} \prod_{p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \right) \ll 2^{\omega(m)} \log(ey).$$

This shows immediately that the second O -term in (3.1) is acceptable for us. By partial summation, $\sum_{d > x, \text{ squarefree}} \frac{1}{dh(d)} = \int_x^\infty t^{-1} dS(t) \leq \int_x^\infty S(t)/t^2 dt \ll 2^{\omega(m)} x^{-1} \log(ex)$. Hence, the first O -term in (3.1) is $\ll 2^{\omega(m)} x \log(ex)$, which is again acceptable. This completes the proof of the lemma. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.2. By Lemma 3.1, the denominator in (1.2) is

$$\sum_{q \leq x} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} 1 = \sum_{q \leq x} (\phi(q) - 1) = \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} + O(x \log x),$$

and so it suffices to show that the numerator in (1.2) is $\sim \frac{3}{\pi^2} \Delta x^2$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$. By Theorem 1.1, we have that as $x \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{q \leq x} \sum_{\substack{\chi \bmod q \\ \chi \neq \chi_0}} n_\chi &= \sum_{q \leq x} (\phi(q) - 1)(\ell(q) + O((\log_2 q)^2 / \log q)) \\ &= \sum_{1 < q \leq x} \phi(q) \ell(q) + O\left(\sum_{1 < q \leq x} \left(\ell(q) + \frac{(\log_2 q)^2}{\log q}\right)\right) \\ &= \sum_{1 < q \leq x} \phi(q) \ell(q) + o(x^2). \end{aligned}$$

To work through the above, it is helpful to keep in mind that with $y := 2 \log x$, we have $\ell(q) \leq y$ uniformly for $q \leq x$ (assuming x is large). To estimate the remaining sum $\sum_{1 < q \leq x} \phi(q) \ell(q)$, we let M be the y -friable part of q and partition the sum according to the value of M . Observe that since $q > 1$, we have that $M > 1$ and $\ell(q) = \ell(M)$.

We can assume that $M \leq x^{1/2}$. Indeed, the number of $q \leq x$ divisible by a y -friable number $M > x^{1/2}$ is at most

$$x \sum_{\substack{M > x^{1/2} \\ p|M \Rightarrow p \leq y}} \frac{1}{M} = x \int_{x^{1/2}}^{\infty} \frac{d\Psi(t, y)}{t} \leq x \int_{x^{1/2}}^{\infty} \frac{\Psi(t, y)}{t^2} dt \leq x^{2/3},$$

say, once x is large. (We use here that $\Psi(t, y) \leq \Psi(t, 4 \log t) \leq t^{o(1)}$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$; see, e.g., [Ten95, Theorem 2, p. 359].) Since $\phi(q) \ell(q) \leq xy$ for all $q \leq x$, those q corresponding to values $M > x^{1/2}$ contribute $\leq x^{5/3} y = o(x^2)$, which is negligible.

Again invoking Lemma 3.1, we find that each remaining value of $M > 1$ contributes

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(M) \sum_{\substack{1 < q \leq x \\ \ell(q) = M}} \phi(q) &= \ell(M) \phi(M) \sum_{\substack{q' \leq x/M \\ \gcd(q', \prod_{p \leq y} p) = 1}} \phi(q') \\ &= \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} \frac{\ell(M) \phi(M)}{M^2} \prod_{p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-1} + O\left(2^{\pi(y)} \frac{\ell(M) \phi(M)}{M} x \log(ex)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Now sum this estimate over y -friable M from the interval $(1, x^{1/2}]$. The O -error is

$$\ll 2^{\pi(y)} \sum_{M \leq x^{1/2}} (yx \log(ex)) \ll x^{3/2} (\log x)^2 \exp(O(\log x / \log \log x)),$$

which is $o(x^2)$. The main term is given by

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} \left(\prod_{p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-1} \right) \sum_{\ell \leq y} \ell \sum_{\substack{M \leq x^{1/2}, y\text{-friable} \\ \ell(M) = \ell}} \frac{\phi(M)}{M^2}.$$

Extending the inner sum over all M , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{M \text{ } y\text{-friable} \\ \ell(M) = \ell}} \frac{\phi(M)}{M^2} &= \prod_{p < \ell} \left(\frac{\phi(p)}{p} + \frac{\phi(p^2)}{p^4} + \dots \right) \prod_{\ell < p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{\phi(p)}{p} + \frac{\phi(p^2)}{p^4} + \dots \right) \\ &= \left(\prod_{p < \ell} \frac{1}{p} \right) \left(\prod_{\ell < p \leq y} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \right) \right); \end{aligned}$$

moreover, the error incurred by extending the sum is (for large x) at most

$$\sum_{\substack{M \text{ } y\text{-friable} \\ M > x^{1/2}}} \frac{1}{M} = \int_{x^{1/2}}^{\infty} \frac{d\Psi(t, y)}{t} < \frac{1}{x^{1/3}}.$$

This shows that (3.2) is

$$\frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{\ell \leq y} \frac{\ell^2}{\prod_{p \leq \ell} (p+1)} + O\left(x^2 \sum_{\ell \leq y} \ell x^{-1/3}\right).$$

The error here is $\ll x^{5/3}y^2$, and so is again $o(x^2)$. Since the sum over ℓ appearing in the main term tends to Δ as $x \rightarrow \infty$, collecting our estimates we find that the numerator in (1.2) is indeed $\sim \frac{3}{\pi^2} \Delta x^2$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$, as desired. \square

Remark 3.2. Let $q > 1$, let $\ell = \ell(q)$, and let $\mathcal{X}(q)$ be a nonempty collection of nonprincipal Dirichlet characters mod q . The set of $\chi \in \mathcal{X}(q)$ with $n_\chi > \ell$ is obviously a subset of the set of all $\chi \bmod q$ with $n_\chi > \ell$. This triviality, taken together with the estimates occurring in the proof of Theorem 1.1, shows that

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{\sum_{\chi \in \mathcal{X}(q)} n_\chi}{\sum_{\chi \in \mathcal{X}(q)} 1} = \ell + O\left(\frac{\phi(q)}{\#\mathcal{X}(q)} (\log_2 q)^2 / \log q\right).$$

To take an example of special interest, let $\mathcal{X}(q)$ be the set of primitive characters modulo q , and let $\phi'(q) := \#\mathcal{X}(q)$. From Möbius inversion applied to the relation $\sum_{d|q} \phi'(d) = \phi(q)$, we find that

$$\phi'(q) = q \prod_{p|q} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \prod_{p^2|q} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^2.$$

Hence, $\phi'(q) > 0$ precisely when $q \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, and whenever $\phi'(q)$ is nonvanishing, we have

$$\phi'(q) \gg \phi(q) \prod_{p|q} (1 - 1/p) \gg \phi(q) / \log_2 q.$$

So when $q \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, estimate (3.3) shows that the average of n_χ taken over primitive characters χ modulo q is $\ell(q) + O((\log_2 q)^3 / \log q)$. From this, one can deduce a corollary similar to Corollary 1.2. One replaces Lemma 3.1 with the following estimate, which can be proved by a similar argument:

Lemma 3.3. *Let m be a natural number. For $x \geq 1$, we have that*

$$\sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ \gcd(n, m) = 1}} \phi'(n) = \frac{18x^2}{\pi^4} \left(\prod_{p|m} \frac{p^3}{(p+1)(p^2-1)} \right) + O(2^{\omega(m)} x (\log(ex))^2),$$

uniformly in m .

Imitating the proof of Corollary 1.2 but using Lemma 3.3 as input, one eventually finds that as $x \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\frac{\sum_{1 < q \leq x} \sum_{\chi}^* n_\chi}{\sum_{1 < q \leq x} \sum_{\chi}^* 1} \rightarrow \sum_{\ell} \frac{\ell^4}{(\ell+1)(\ell^2-1)} \prod_{p < \ell} \frac{p^2 - p - 1}{(p+1)(p^2-1)},$$

where \sum^* indicates a sum over primitive characters modulo q . MATHEMATICA evaluates the right-hand sum as

$$2.15143510568614654862428100509658405326330457185845 \dots$$

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