Accepted Manuscript

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 PII:
 S0022-314X(17)30355-4

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnt.2017.09.014

 Reference:
 YJNTH 5884

To appear in: Journal of Number Theory

Received date:18 April 2017Accepted date:3 September 2017

Please cite this article in press as: Z. Liu, Small prime solutions of a nonlinear equation, *J. Number Theory* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnt.2017.09.014

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SMALL PRIME SOLUTIONS OF A NONLINEAR EQUATION

ZHIXIN LIU

ABSTRACT. Let a_1, \dots, a_4 be non-zero integers and n any integer. Suppose that a_1, \dots, a_4 and n satisfy some related conditions. In this paper we prove that

(i) if a_j are not all of the same sign, then the equation $a_1p_1 + a_2p_2^2 + a_3p_3^2 + a_4p_4^2 = n$ has prime solutions satisfying $\max\{p_1, p_2^2, p_3^2, p_4^2\} \ll |n| + \max\{|a_j|\}^{14+\varepsilon}$; (ii) if all a_j are positive and $n \gg \max\{|a_j|\}^{15+\varepsilon}$, then the equation $a_1p_1 + a_2p_2^2 + a_3p_3^2 + a_4p_4^2 = n$ is soluble in primes p_j .

1. INTRODUCTION

Let n be an integer, and let a_1, \dots, a_4 be non-zero integers. We consider here the nonlinear equation in the form

(1.1)
$$a_1p_1 + a_2p_2^2 + a_3p_3^2 + a_4p_4^2 = n,$$

where p_j are prime variables. We shall assume the condition of the congruent solubility for (1.1), that is

(1.2)
$$N(q) \ge 1$$
 for all $q \ge 1$,

where

$$N(q) := \operatorname{card}\{(n_1, \cdots, n_4) : 1 \le n_j \le q, (n_j, q) = 1, \\ a_1n_1 + a_2n_2^2 + a_3n_3^2 + a_4n_4^2 \equiv n \pmod{q}\}.$$

We also suppose that

(1.3) $(a_i, a_j) = 1, \quad 1 \le i < j \le 4,$

and write $A = \max\{2, |a_1|, \dots, |a_4|\}$. The main results in this paper are the following two parallel theorems.

Theorem 1.1. Suppose (1.2) and (1.3). If a_1, \dots, a_4 are not all of the same sign, then (1.1) has solutions in primes p_j satisfying

$$\max\{p_1, p_2^2, p_3^2, p_4^2\} \ll |n| + A^{14+\varepsilon},$$

where the implied constant depends only on ε .

Theorem 1.2. Suppose (1.2) and (1.3). If a_1, \dots, a_4 are all positive, then (1.1) is soluble whenever

 $n \gg A^{15+\varepsilon}$

(1.4)

where the implied constant depends only on ε .

²⁰¹⁰ Mathematics Subject Classification. 11P32, 11P05, 11P55.

Key words and phrases. small prime, Waring-Goldbach problem, circle method.

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