

Note on the Riemann Hypothesis

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Abstract

The Riemann Hypothesis is a conjecture that the Riemann zeta function has its zeros only at the negative even integers and complex numbers with real part $\frac{1}{2}$. In 2011, Solé and Planat stated that the Riemann Hypothesis is true if and only if the inequality $\prod_{q \leq q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > \frac{e^\gamma}{\zeta(2)} \times \log \theta(q_n)$ is satisfied for all primes $q_n > 3$, where $\theta(x)$ is the Chebyshev function, $\gamma \approx 0.57721$ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant and $\zeta(x)$ is the Riemann zeta function. Using this result, we create a new criterion for the Riemann Hypothesis. We prove the Riemann Hypothesis is true using this new criterion.

Keywords: Riemann Hypothesis, Prime numbers, Chebyshev function, Riemann zeta function
2000 MSC: 11M26, 11A41, 11A25

1. Introduction

The Riemann Hypothesis is a conjecture that the Riemann zeta function has its zeros only at the negative even integers and complex numbers with real part $\frac{1}{2}$. In mathematics, the Chebyshev function $\theta(x)$ is given by

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} \log p$$

with the sum extending over all prime numbers p that are less than or equal to x , where \log is the natural logarithm [1]. We denote the n th prime number as q_n . We know the following property for the Chebyshev function and the n th prime number:

Proposition 1.1. For all $n \geq 2$ [2]:

$$\frac{\theta(q_n)}{\log q_{n+1}} \geq n \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}\right).$$

Proposition 1.2. For $n \geq 8602$ [2]:

$$q_n \leq n \times (\log n + \log \log n - 0.9385).$$

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In mathematics, $\Psi = n \times \prod_{q|n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)$ is called the Dedekind Ψ function, where $q | n$ means the prime q divides n . Say $\text{Dedekinds}(q_n)$ holds provided

$$\prod_{q \leq q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > \frac{e^\gamma}{\zeta(2)} \times \log \theta(q_n).$$

The constant $\gamma \approx 0.57721$ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant and $\zeta(x)$ is the Riemann zeta function. The importance of this inequality is:

Proposition 1.3. *Dedekinds(q_n) holds for all prime numbers $q_n > 3$ if and only if the Riemann Hypothesis is true [3].*

We define $H = \gamma - B$ such that $B \approx 0.2614972128$ is the Meissel-Mertens constant [4]. We know the following formula:

Proposition 1.4. *We have that [5]:*

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k - 1}\right) - \frac{1}{q_k} \right) = \gamma - B = H.$$

In addition, we know this value of the Riemann zeta function:

Proposition 1.5. *It is known that [6]:*

$$\zeta(2) = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{q_k^2}{q_k^2 - 1} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

Putting all together yields a proof for the Riemann Hypothesis using the Chebyshev function.

2. What if the Riemann Hypothesis were false?

Theorem 2.1. *If the Riemann Hypothesis is false, then there are infinitely many prime numbers q_n for which $\text{Dedekinds}(q_n)$ does not hold.*

Proof. The Riemann Hypothesis is false, if there exists some natural number $x_0 \geq 5$ such that $g(x_0) > 1$ or equivalent $\log g(x_0) > 0$ [3]:

$$g(x) = \frac{e^\gamma}{\zeta(2)} \times \log \theta(x) \times \prod_{q \leq x} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}.$$

We know the bound [3]:

$$\log g(x) \geq \log f(x) - \frac{2}{x}$$

where f is introduced in the Nicolas paper [1]:

$$f(x) = e^\gamma \times \log \theta(x) \times \prod_{q \leq x} \left(1 - \frac{1}{q}\right).$$

When the Riemann Hypothesis is false, then there exists a real number $b < \frac{1}{2}$ for which there are infinitely many natural numbers x such that $\log f(x) = \Omega_+(x^{-b})$ [1]. According to the Hardy and Littlewood definition, this would mean that

$$\exists k > 0, \forall y_0 \in \mathbb{N}, \exists y \in \mathbb{N} > y_0: \log f(y) \geq k \times y^{-b}.$$

That inequality is equivalent to $\log f(y) \geq (k \times y^{-b} \times \sqrt{y}) \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}$, but we note that

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} (k \times y^{-b} \times \sqrt{y}) = \infty$$

for every possible positive value of k when $b < \frac{1}{2}$. In this way, this implies that

$$\forall y_0 \in \mathbb{N}, \exists y \in \mathbb{N} > y_0: \log f(y) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}.$$

Hence, if the Riemann Hypothesis is false, then there are infinitely many natural numbers x such that $\log f(x) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$. Since $\frac{2}{x} = o(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}})$, then it would be infinitely many natural numbers x_0 such that $\log g(x_0) > 0$ [3]. In addition, if $\log g(x_0) > 0$ for some natural number $x_0 \geq 5$, then $\log g(x_0) = \log g(q_n)$ where q_n is the greatest prime number such that $q_n \leq x_0$. Actually,

$$\prod_{q \leq x_0} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1} = \prod_{q \leq q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}$$

and

$$\theta(x_0) = \theta(q_n)$$

according to the definition of the Chebyshev function. □

3. A Key Theorem

Theorem 3.1.

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) = \log(\zeta(2)) - H.$$

Proof. We obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \log(\zeta(2)) - H &= \log\left(\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{q_k^2}{q_k^2 - 1}\right) - H \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k^2}{q_k^2 - 1}\right) \right) - H \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k^2}{(q_k - 1) \times (q_k + 1)}\right) \right) - H \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k - 1}\right) + \log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k + 1}\right) \right) - H \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k-1}\right) - \log\left(\frac{q_k+1}{q_k}\right) \right) - H \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k-1}\right) - \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k-1}\right) - \frac{1}{q_k} \right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k-1}\right) - \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) - \log\left(\frac{q_k}{q_k-1}\right) + \frac{1}{q_k} \right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

and the proof is done. \square

4. A New Criterion

Theorem 4.1. *Dedekinds(q_n) holds if and only if the inequality*

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x > q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

is satisfied for the prime number q_n , where the set $S = \{x : x > q_n\}$ contains all the real numbers greater than q_n and χ_S is the characteristic function of the set S (This is the function defined by $\chi_S(x) = 1$ when $x \in S$ and $\chi_S(x) = 0$ otherwise).

Proof. When Dedekinds(q_n) holds, we apply the logarithm to the both sides of the inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\log(\zeta(2)) + \sum_{q \leq q_n} \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > \gamma + \log \log \theta(q_n) \\
&\log(\zeta(2)) - H + \sum_{q \leq q_n} \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n) \\
&\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) + \sum_{q \leq q_n} \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n).
\end{aligned}$$

Let's distribute the elements of the inequality to obtain that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x > q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

when Dedekinds(q_n) holds. The same happens in the reverse implication. \square

5. The Main Insight

Theorem 5.1. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true if the inequality*

$$\theta(q_n)^{1+\frac{1}{q_n}} \geq \theta(q_{n+1})$$

is satisfied for all sufficiently large prime numbers q_n .

Proof. The inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x > q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

is satisfied when

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x \geq q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

is also satisfied, where the set $S = \{x : x \geq q_n\}$ contains all the real numbers greater than or equal to q_n . In the inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x \geq q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

only change the values of

$$\log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_n}\right) + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

and

$$\log \log \theta(q_{n+1})$$

between the consecutive primes q_n and q_{n+1} . It is enough to show that

$$\log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_n}\right) + \log \log \theta(q_n) \geq \log \log \theta(q_{n+1})$$

for all sufficiently large prime numbers q_n . Indeed, the inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x \geq q_n\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) > B + \log \log \theta(q_n)$$

is the same as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{q_k} - (\chi_{\{x: x \geq q_{n+1}\}}(q_k)) \times \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_k}\right) \right) \\ & > B + \log \log \theta(q_{n+1}) + \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_n}\right) + \log \log \theta(q_n) - \log \log \theta(q_{n+1}) \end{aligned}$$

where q_n and q_{n+1} are consecutive primes. If the Riemann Hypothesis is false, then

$$\log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_n}\right) + \log \log \theta(q_n) \geq \log \log \theta(q_{n+1})$$

must be violated for infinitely many n 's, since $\text{Dedekinds}(q_{n+1})$ will not hold for infinitely many q_{n+1} 's. By contraposition, the Riemann Hypothesis should be true when the previous inequality is satisfied for all sufficiently large prime numbers q_n . This is

$$\log \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{q_n} \right) \times \log \theta(q_n) \right) \geq \log \log \theta(q_{n+1}).$$

That is equivalent to

$$\log \log \theta(q_n)^{1 + \frac{1}{q_n}} \geq \log \log \theta(q_{n+1}).$$

To sum up, the Riemann Hypothesis is true when

$$\theta(q_n)^{1 + \frac{1}{q_n}} \geq \theta(q_{n+1})$$

is satisfied for all sufficiently large prime numbers q_n . □

6. The Main Theorem

Theorem 6.1. *The Riemann Hypothesis is true.*

Proof. The Riemann Hypothesis is true when

$$\theta(q_n)^{1 + \frac{1}{q_n}} \geq \theta(q_{n+1})$$

is satisfied for all sufficiently large prime numbers q_n . That is the same as

$$\theta(q_n)^{1 + \frac{1}{q_n}} \geq \theta(q_n) + \log(q_{n+1})$$

$$\theta(q_n)^{\frac{1}{q_n}} \geq 1 + \frac{\log(q_{n+1})}{\theta(q_n)}$$

after dividing the both sides of the inequality by $\theta(q_n)$. We would only need to prove that

$$1 + \frac{\log \theta(q_n)}{q_n} \geq 1 + \frac{1}{n \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n} \right)}$$

because of

$$\frac{\theta(q_n)}{\log q_{n+1}} \geq n \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n} \right)$$

$$\theta(q_n)^{\frac{1}{q_n}} = e^{\frac{\log \theta(q_n)}{q_n}} \geq 1 + \frac{\log \theta(q_n)}{q_n}.$$

That is equivalent to

$$\left(n \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n} \right) \right) \times \log \theta(q_n) \geq q_n.$$

Therefore,

$$\left(n \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n} \right) \right) \times \log \theta(q_n) \geq n \times (\log n + \log \log n - 0.9385)$$

which is

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}\right) \times \log \theta(q_n) + 0.9385 &\geq \log n + \log \log n \\ \theta(q_n)^{1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}} \times e^{0.9385} &\geq n \times \log n \\ e^{0.9385} &\geq \frac{n \times \log n}{\theta(q_n)^{1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}}}. \end{aligned}$$

However, we know that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \times \log n}{\theta(q_n)^{1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \times \log n}{\theta(q_n)^{1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}}} = 1$$

since

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log n} + \frac{\log \log n}{4 \times \log^2 n}\right) &= 1 \\ \theta(q_n) &\sim q_n, \quad (n \rightarrow \infty) \\ q_n &\sim n \times \log n, \quad (n \rightarrow \infty). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we can see that $e^{0.9385} > 2.5561$. By the definition of the limit superior yields the proof of the Riemann Hypothesis. \square

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Patrick Solé for helpful comments and his mother, maternal brother and his friend Sonia for their support.

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