

**PMATH 440 Notes**  
Analytic Number Theory  
Fall 2025

Based on Professor Michael Rubinstein's Lectures

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# 1 Introduction

Topics covered in this course

- (1). Summation methods (summation by parts, Euler-Maclaurin Summation, Poisson Summation, Dirichlet Hyperbola).
- (2). Dirichlet series and Dirichlet divisor problem.
- (3). Riemann zeta function  $\zeta$ . Meromorphic continuation ( $\zeta$  has a pole at  $s = 1$ ) and functional equation.

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n^s} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$$

- (4). Prime Number Theorem. If  $\pi(x)$  = number of prime numbers  $\leq x$ , then

$$\pi(x) \sim \int_2^x \frac{1}{\log t} dt \sim \frac{x}{\log x}$$

- (5). Dirichlet's Theorem. If  $0 \neq a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , there are infinitely many prime numbers of the form  $ak + b$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . For example, there are infinitely many primes of the form  $4k + 1$ .
- (6). More Complex analysis. Gamma function, Weierstrass products and possibly linear fractional transformations and modular forms.

We first introduce some asymptotic notations.

**Definition.** We say that  $f(x) \sim g(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 1$$

The Prime Number Theorem says  $\pi(x) \sim \frac{x}{\log x}$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , which is equivalent to

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(x)}{x/\log x} = 1$$

**Example.** By the Stirling's approximation, we know

$$n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

**Definition.** Let  $f, g$  be defined on (a subset of)  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $g$  be a real-valued. We write  $f(x) = \mathcal{O}(g(x))$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $g$  is real-valued, if there exists  $c > 0$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq cg(x)$  for all  $x > x_0$ .

**Example.**  $\sin(x) = \mathcal{O}(1)$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  since  $\sin$  is bounded.

**Example.** By the Stirling's formula we have

$$n! = \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n\right) \quad \text{and} \quad n! = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{n^{n+1}}{e^n}\right)$$

The first one implies the second one because  $\sqrt{n} = \mathcal{O}(n)$ .

**Definition.** We write  $f(x) = o(g(x))$  as  $x \rightarrow a$  if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0$$

In most cases we will take  $a = \infty$  or  $a = -\infty$ . This means “ $f(x)$  is much smaller than  $g(x)$  near  $a$ ”.

**Example.** By the Stirling's formula we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{\frac{n^{n+1}}{e^n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n}{\frac{n^{n+1}}{e^n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\sqrt{n}} = 0$$

It follows that  $n! = o(n^{n+1}/e^n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Remark (Vinogradov's notation).** We can also write  $f(x) = \mathcal{O}(g(x))$  as  $f(x) \ll g(x)$ .

**Remark.** When we write  $f(x) = g(x) + \mathcal{O}(h(x))$  to mean  $f(x) - g(x) = \mathcal{O}(h(x))$ .

## 2 Summation Methods

### 2.1 Partial Summation

This method is the discrete version of integration by parts.

**Theorem 2.1 (Partial Summation).** Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be continuously differentiable on  $[1, x]$ . Then, for all  $x \geq 1$  we have

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} f(n)g(n) = \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} f(n) \right) g(x) - \int_1^x \sum_{1 \leq n \leq t} f(n)g'(t) \, dt \quad (1)$$

**Proof.** Consider the term  $f(n)g(n)$ , we note

$$f(n)g(x) - f(n) \int_n^x g'(t) \, dt = f(n)g(x) - f(n)(g(x) - g(n)) = f(n)g(n) \quad (2)$$

This equality is obtained by looking at the terms that have to do with  $f(n)$  in (1). Then summing the equation (2) over  $1 \leq n \leq x$  gives us (1).  $\square$

**Example (Harmonic Series).** Consider  $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \frac{1}{n}$ . Take  $f(n) = 1$  and  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ . Then by the [Partial summation formula](#) we have

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} = \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} f(n) \right) g(x) - \int_1^x \sum_{1 \leq n \leq t} f(n) g'(t) dt = \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t^2} dt$$

Here note that

$$\lfloor x \rfloor := \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} 1 = \text{the largest integer } \leq x$$

and using this we define

$$\{x\} := x - \lfloor x \rfloor = \text{the fractional part of } x$$

For example  $\lfloor \pi \rfloor = 3$  and  $\{\pi\} = 0.1415926535897 \dots$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} &= \frac{x - \{x\}}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{t - \{t\}}{t^2} dt \\ &= 1 - \frac{\{x\}}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{1}{t} - \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt \\ &= 1 + \log x - \int_1^x \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now we analyze this integral

$$\int_1^x \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt = \underbrace{\int_1^\infty \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt}_{< \infty} - \underbrace{\int_x^\infty \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt}_{\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{x})}$$

The estimation of second integral is by bounding  $\{t\}/t^2$  by  $1/t^2$ . Therefore

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} = \log x + 1 - \underbrace{\int_1^\infty \frac{\{t\}}{t^2} dt}_{:= \gamma} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

This constant  $\gamma$  is called the Euler's constant, that is,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} - \log x \right) = \gamma$$

**Conjecture 2.2.** The Euler's constant  $\gamma$  is irrational.

**Remark.** Let  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$  be a sequence of natural numbers, then

$$\sum_{\lambda_n \leq x} f(\lambda_n)g(\lambda_n) = \left( \sum_{\lambda_n \leq x} f(\lambda_n) \right) g(x) - \int_1^x \left( \sum_{\lambda_n \leq t} f(\lambda_n) \right) g'(t) dt$$

This is a generalization of the usual [Partial summation formula](#). The proof is similar. Note that for all  $n \geq 1$  we have

$$f(\lambda_n)g(\lambda_n) = f(\lambda_n)g(x) - \int_{\lambda_n}^x f(\lambda_n)g'(t) dt$$

Then summing over all  $n$  with  $\lambda_n \leq x$  we obtain the formula.

**Example (Factorial).** Now let's study the asymptotic of the factorial  $m!$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . Since the partial summation only works for sum and  $m!$  is a product, we can take the log and consider  $\log(m!)$ . Let  $f(m) = 1$  and let  $g(x) = \log(x)$ . By the partial summation formula we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log(m!) &= \sum_{1 \leq n \leq m} \log(n) = m \log m - \int_1^m \frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t} dt \\ &= m \log m - \int_1^m \frac{t - \{t\}}{t} dt \\ &= m \log m - (m - 1) + \int_1^m \frac{\{t\}}{t} dt \end{aligned}$$

Now we need to estimate the integral and get an (rough) upper and lower bound for it.

$$0 < \int_1^m \frac{\{t\}}{t} dt < \int_1^m \frac{dt}{t} = \log m$$

Therefore

$$m \log m - (m - 1) < \log(m!) < (m + 1) \log m - (m - 1)$$

Exponentiating this inequality gives

$$\frac{m^m}{e^{m-1}} < m! < \frac{m^{m+1}}{e^{m-1}}$$

This is a weaker result than the Stirling's formula.

**Remark.** The prime counting function is

$$\pi(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} 1 = \text{number of primes } \leq x$$

For the Riemann zeta function on  $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$  we have the following identity

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}}$$

This is called the Euler's product. Expand the right hand side and by the unique factorization of integers we have the equality. It is sometimes more natural to study the sum of log of primes. We define the function

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

The Prime Number Theorem states that  $\pi(x) \sim x / \log x$ . In fact we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.3.** We have

$$\theta(x) \sim x \iff \pi(x) \sim \frac{x}{\log x}$$

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ). Assume  $\theta(x) \sim x$ . Note that

$$\pi(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} 1 = \sum_{p \leq x} \log p \cdot \frac{1}{\log p}$$

Let  $f(x) = \log x$  and  $g(x) = 1/\log x$ . By [Partial summation](#) we have

$$\pi(x) = \underbrace{\frac{\theta(x)}{\log x}}_{\sim \frac{x}{\log x}} + \int_2^x \theta(t) \cdot \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2 t}$$

Now we note that since  $\theta(x) \sim x$ , we know  $\theta(x) = \mathcal{O}(x)$  so that

$$\int_2^x \theta(t) \cdot \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2 t} = \mathcal{O} \left( \int_2^x \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2} \right)$$

But then we have

$$\int_2^x \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2} = \int_2^{x^{1/2}} \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2} + \int_{x^{1/2}}^x \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2}$$

The first integrand is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  so the integral is  $\mathcal{O}(x^{1/2})$ , for the second integral we use the bound

$$\int_{x^{1/2}}^x \frac{dt}{(\log t)^2} = \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{x}{(\log x)^2} \right)$$

Combine all of these, we have

$$\pi(x) = \frac{\theta(x)}{\log x} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{x}{(\log x)^2} \right)$$

and therefore

$$\frac{\pi(x)}{x/\log x} = \frac{\theta(x)}{\log x} \cdot \frac{\log x}{x} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\log x}\right) = \frac{\theta(x)}{x} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\log x}\right) = 1 + o(1)$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ). Assume the PNT. Let  $f(x) = 1$  and  $g(x) = \log x$  when  $x$  is prime and 0 otherwise.

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} \log p = \pi(x) \log x - \int_2^x \frac{\pi(t)}{t} dt$$

Thus  $\theta(x) \sim x$  after some work. □

**Example (Analytic Continuation of  $\zeta$ ).** Recall the zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  is only defined for  $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$  and is equal to

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

This series converges absolutely if  $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$  and uniformly in any half plane  $\operatorname{Re}(s) \geq X_0 > 1$ . We want to extend this function to the half plane  $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0$ .