# Counting Primitive Sets and other statistics of the divisor graph of $\{1, 2, ... n\}$

Nathan McNew Towson University

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**Independent** subsets of a divisor graph are primitive sets of integers.

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What do other primitive subsets of the first few integers look like?

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How many primitive subsets of  $\{1, 2 \dots n\}$  are there?

## Counting primitive sets

Let Q(n) count the primitive sets with largest element at most n.

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              Number of primitive subsequences of \{1, 2, ..., n\}.
   1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 13, 17, 33, 45, 73, 103, 205, 253, 505, 733, 1133, 1529, 3057, 3897,
   7793, 10241, 16513, 24593, 49185, 59265, 109297, 163369, 262489, 355729, 711457, 879937,
   1759873, 2360641, 3908545, 5858113, 10534337, 12701537, 25403073, 38090337, 63299265,
   81044097, 162088193, 205482593, 410965185, 570487233, 855676353 (list; graph; refs; listen; history; text;
   internal format)
   OFFSET
                 0,2
   COMMENTS
                 a(n) counts all subsequences of {1, ..., n} in which no term divides any
                   other. If n is a prime a(n) = 2*a(n-1)-1 because for each subsequence s
                   counted by a(n-1) two different subsequences are counted by a(n): s and
                   s.n. There is only one exception: 1.n is not a primitive subsequence
                   because 1 divides n. For all n>1: a(n) < 2*a(n-1). - Alois P. Heinz, Mar
                   07 2011
```

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Every subset of  $\left(\frac{n}{2},n\right]$  is primitive. There are  $2^{\lceil\frac{n}{2}\rceil}>\sqrt{2}^n$  such subsets.

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Cameron and Erdős (1990) improve these bounds to:

$$1.5596^n < Q(n) < 1.60^n$$

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Proof: Study sets without integers having k-smooth integer ratio. (n is k-smooth if its largest prime divisor,  $P^+(n) \le k$ .) Let  $k \to \infty$ .

Proof is not effective: Gives no insight on the value of this constant.

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An **independent** set of vertices in a graph has no adjacent vertices.

We can use this to improve the lower bound  $Q(n) > 2^{n/2}$ .

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For each  $k \in \left(\frac{n}{3}, \frac{n}{2}\right]$  we can multiply by  $\frac{3}{2}$ , the ratio of allowed subsets of  $\{k, 2k\}$ , to those of just  $\{2k\}$ . (2k was an element of  $\left(\frac{n}{2}, n\right]$ , so those subsets were already taken into account.)

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Thus

$$Q(n) \ge 2^{n/2} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{n/6} = 2^{n/3} 3^{n/6} \approx 1.5131^n.$$

Pressing on!

Pressing on! Working backward, considering progressively smaller k.

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Actually two scenarios depending on the parity of k.

For k odd, 5 primitive subsets of  $\{k, 2k, 3k\}$  replace 4 of just  $\{2k, 3k\}$ .



If  $k = 2\ell$  is even then  $\frac{3k}{2} = 3\ell$  is also an integer.

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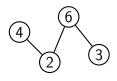
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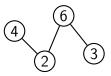
10

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Now we get 8 subsets of  $\{2,3,4,6\}$ :

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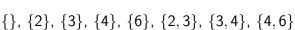


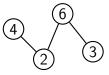
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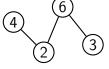
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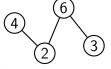
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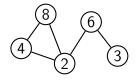
Consider  $k \in \left(\frac{n}{5}, \frac{n}{4}\right]$ , the next interval.

11

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If  $k=2\ell$  is even we must consider  $2\ell$ ,  $4\ell$ ,  $6\ell$ ,  $8\ell$ , as well as  $3\ell$ .



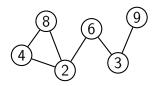
11

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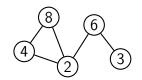
(4) (3)

However, if  $k \leq \frac{2n}{9}$  then  $9\ell \leq n$  must also be considered.

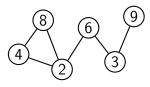


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So now we consider  $2\ell$ ,  $3\ell$ ,  $4\ell$ ,  $6\ell$ ,  $8\ell$  and  $9\ell$ .

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#### Observations:

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- $Q(n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} r(i, n)$  (Telescoping product)
- Goal: group together equal terms in this product.

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# **Key Observation**

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Let  $d = \max\{e | k : P^+(e) \le i\}$ , the largest *i*-smooth divisor of *k*.

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Let  $\ell = \frac{k}{d}$  the "rough" part of k.

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Every integer in the connected component of k is divisible by  $\ell$ .

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If one integer from [k, n] divides another the ratio must be i-smooth.

Let  $d = \max\{e | k : P^+(e) \le i\}$ , the largest *i*-smooth divisor of k.

Let  $\ell = \frac{k}{d}$  the "rough" part of k.

Every integer in the connected component of k is divisible by  $\ell$ .

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Nathan McNew Counting Primitive Sets

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Nathan McNew

# Approximating Q(n)

#### **Theorem**

For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , the number of primitive subsets of [1, n] is

$$Q(n) = c^{n\left(1+O\left(\exp\left(-\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{6}-\epsilon\right)\log n\log\log n}\right)\right)\right)}$$

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The constant 
$$c=\prod_{i=1}^{\infty}\prod_{\substack{d \ P^+(d) < i}}\prod_{t \in [id,(i+1)d)}r(d,t)^{\frac{1}{t(t+1)}\prod_{p < i}\frac{p-1}{p}}$$

is effectively computable and 1.5729 < c < 1.5745.

Get a lower bound for c by computing terms in this product.

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The bound c<1.5745 was recently obtained by Liu, Pach and Palincza (2018) who also prove that c is effectively computable.

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October 5th, 2018

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As before,

$$Q(n) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} (g(k) + 1)$$

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### Conjecture

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Assuming the conjecture, and using values of g(n), n < 899 gives



## A general theorem

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### Theorem (M.)

Fix  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $A \ge 0$ . Suppose  $|f(k, n)| \le A$  and f(k, n) depends only on the connected component of k in the divisor graph of [k, n]. Then

$$\sum_{a=1}^{n} f(a, n) = nC_f + O_A \left( n \exp \left( -\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{6} - \epsilon\right) \log n \log \log n} \right) \right)$$

where

$$C_f = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{\substack{d \ p+(d) < i}} \sum_{t \in [id,(i+1)d)} \left( rac{f(d,t)}{t(t+1)} \prod_{p \leq i} rac{p-1}{p} 
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Recall that the largest primitive subset of this interval has size  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ .

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### Theorem (Liu, Pach, Palincza, 2018)

$$M(n) = \alpha^{n+o(n)}$$
 as  $n \to \infty$  and 1.14817 <  $\alpha$  < 1.14823.

### Theorem (M., 2018)

$$M(n) = \alpha^{n\left(1+O\left(\exp\left(-\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{6}-\epsilon\right)\log n\log\log n}\right)\right)\right)}$$
 and  $1.14819 < \alpha$ .

A primitive subset of [1, n] is maximal if it is not contained in another primitive subset. Let m(n) count maximal primitive subsets of [1, n].

#### **Theorem**

$$m(n) = \beta^{n\left(1+O\left(\exp\left(-\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{6}-\epsilon\right)\log n\log\log n}\right)\right)\right)}$$
 and  $1.2125 < \beta < 1.2409$ .

## Other Applications: Maximal Primitive Sets

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#### Corollary

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#### Question

Is  $V(n) \sim vn$  for some v? If so, is v computable?

4 D > 4 B > 4 E > 4 E > 9 Q P

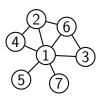
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Let C(n) be the least number of disjoint paths that contain all the vertices of this graph.

**Example:** C(7) = 2

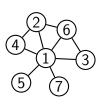


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The divisor graph of [1,7] can be covered by  $\{7,1,5\}$  and  $\{3,6,2,4\}$  but it is not possible to use a single path.



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#### **Theorem**

$$C(n) = \nu n \left( 1 + O\left( \exp\left(-\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{6} - \epsilon\right) \log n \log\log n}\right) \right) \right).$$

The constant  $\nu$  is effectively computable and 0.17644  $< \nu$ .

Nathan McNew Counting Primitive Sets

## THANK YOU!

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Recall 
$$c=\prod_{i=1}^{\infty}\prod_{\substack{d \ P^+(d) < i}}\prod_{t \in [id,(i+1)d)}r(d,t)^{\frac{1}{\mathsf{t}(t+1)}\prod_{p < i}\frac{p-1}{p}}.$$

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Take  $M=n^{1/2-\epsilon}$ ,  $N=\exp\left((\log n)^{1/2-\epsilon}\right)$ .