

A1Q9

Consider the odd primes 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, etc.

Let S be the odd primes congruent to 1 mod 4 and T be the odd primes congruent to 3 mod 4.

So $S = 5, 13, 17, 29$, etc. and $T = 3, 7, 11, 19, 23$, etc.

Suppose we go through the odd primes in order counting the number of primes in S and T .

So at the first step $S = \{\}$ and $T = \{3\}$ so T has more primes than S .

At the second step $S = \{5\}$ and $T = \{3\}$ so S and T have the same number of primes.

At the third step $S = \{5\}$ and $T = \{3, 7\}$ so T has more primes than S again.

Notice that $|T| \geq |S|$ for the first 10 primes. Does it ever happen that $|S| \geq |T|$? Yes, it does. When? How often?

Using the builtin `nextprime` command write a loop that counts $|S|$ and $|T|$ for primes up to 10^6 and prints out the first time $|S| > |T|$ and, at the end, how often $|S| > |T|$. NB: You don't need to construct the sets S and T !! You only need to know $|S|$ and $|T|$.

```
> restart;
```

```
> s := 0; t := 0; i := 0;
```

```
s := 0
```

```
t := 0
```

```
i := 0
```

(1)

```
> L := {};
```

```
L := ∅
```

(2)

```
> x := 3; #the first odd prime
```

```
x := 3
```

(3)

```
> while x < 10^6 do
  if modp(x,4) = 1 then
    s := s + 1;
  else #all odd primes are either 1mod4 or 3mod4
    t := t + 1;
  fi;

  if s > t then
    L := L union {x};
  fi;

  x := nextprime(x):
od:
L[1]; #the first time |S| > |T|
nops(L); #the number of times |S| > |T|
```

```
26861
```

```
239
```

(4)

$|S| \geq |T|$ at every x stored in L , which happens 239 times.

The first time $|S| > |T|$ is at 26861, and $|S| > |T|$ 239 times while $x < 10^6$.