

There Is No Largest Prime Number

With an introduction to a new proof technique

Euclid of Alexandria¹ DDU²

¹euclid@alexandria.edu
Department of Mathematics
University of Alexandria

²ddu6@protonmail.com
Simple Text Orgnazition

27th International Symposium of Prime Numbers, –280

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

Outline

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

2 Results

- Proof of the Main Theorem

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

2 Results

- Proof of the Main Theorem

3 What's More

- An Open Question
- Another Open Question
- An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

2 Results

- Proof of the Main Theorem

3 What's More

- An Open Question
- Another Open Question
- An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

What Are Prime Numbers?

Definition

A **prime number** is a number that has exactly two divisors.

Example

- 2 is prime (two divisors: 1 and 2).

What Are Prime Numbers?

Definition

A **prime number** is a number that has exactly two divisors.

Example

- 2 is prime (two divisors: 1 and 2).
- 3 is prime (two divisors: 1 and 3).

What Are Prime Numbers?

Definition

A **prime number** is a number that has exactly two divisors.

Example

- 2 is prime (two divisors: 1 and 2).
- 3 is prime (two divisors: 1 and 3).
- 4 is not prime (**three** divisors: 1, 2, and 4).

Outline

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

2 Results

- Proof of the Main Theorem

3 What's More

- An Open Question
- Another Open Question
- An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 But $q + 1$ is divisible by some prime number not in the first p numbers. □

Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 Let q be the product of the first p numbers.
- 3 But $q + 1$ is divisible by some prime number not in the first p numbers.



Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 Let q be the product of the first p numbers.
- 3 Then $q + 1$ is not divisible by any of them.
- 4 But $q + 1$ is divisible by some prime number not in the first p numbers. □

Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 Let q be the product of the first p numbers.
- 3 Then $q + 1$ is not divisible by any of them.
- 4 But $q + 1$ is greater than 1, thus divisible by some prime number not in the first p numbers. □

Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 Let q be the product of the first p numbers.
- 3 Then $q + 1$ is not divisible by any of them.
- 4 But $q + 1$ is greater than 1, thus divisible by some prime number not in the first p numbers. □

The proof used *reductio ad absurdum*.

Outline

1 Motivation

- What Are Prime Numbers?

2 Results

- Proof of the Main Theorem

3 What's More

- An Open Question
- Another Open Question
- An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

An Open Question

Answered Questions

How many primes are there?

Open Questions

Is every even number the sum of two primes? [1]



[Goldbach, 1742] Christian Goldbach.

A problem we should try to solve before the ISPN '43 deadline,
Letter to Leonhard Euler, 1742.

Another Open Question

In complex plane, define $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$. Then, are all zeros of ζ in the strip $0 \leq \operatorname{Re}(s) \leq 1$ lie on the line $\operatorname{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$?

Another Open Question

In complex plane, define $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$. Then, are all zeros of ζ in the strip $0 \leq \operatorname{Re}(s) \leq 1$ lie on the line $\operatorname{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$?

Some Observation

If $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$

Another Open Question

In complex plane, define $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$. Then, are all zeros of ζ in the strip $0 \leq \operatorname{Re}(s) \leq 1$ lie on the line $\operatorname{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$?

Some Observation

If $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \\ &= \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}}.\end{aligned}$$

Another Open Question

In complex plane, define $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$. Then, are all zeros of ζ in the strip $0 \leq \operatorname{Re}(s) \leq 1$ lie on the line $\operatorname{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$?

Some Observation

If $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \\ &= \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus ζ does not vanish when $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$.

An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

```
int main (void)
{
    std::vector<bool> is_prime (100, true);
    for (int i = 2; i < 100; i++)

        return 0;
}
```

An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

```
int main (void)
{
    std::vector<bool> is_prime (100, true);
    for (int i = 2; i < 100; i++)
        if (is_prime[i])
        {

        }
    return 0;
}
```

An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

```
int main (void)
{
    std::vector<bool> is_prime (100, true);
    for (int i = 2; i < 100; i++)
        if (is_prime[i])
        {
            std::cout << i << " ";
            for (int j = i; j < 100;
                 is_prime [j] = false, j+=i);
        }
    return 0;
}
```

An Algorithm For Finding Primes Numbers

```
int main (void)
{
    std::vector<bool> is_prime (100, true);
    for (int i = 2; i < 100; i++)
        if (is_prime[i])
        {
            std::cout << i << " ";
            for (int j = i; j < 100;
                 is_prime [j] = false, j+=i);
        }
    return 0;
}
```

Note the use of `std::`.