

# CTNT 2020: Introduction to Sieves

Brandon Alberts

University of Connecticut

June 2020

# Introduction

## Definition

A **sieve** is a tool for separating desired objects from other objects.

Examples:

- A pasta strainer separates pasta from water.
- Sieves were used during the gold rush to separate gold from sand and dirt.
- The Sieve of Eratosthenes separates primes numbers from all other numbers.

# Sieve of Eratosthenes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

If  $n \leq x$   
 is not  
prime, then  
 $n = p \cdot a$   
 where  $p$  is  
 a prime  
 $p \leq \sqrt{x}$

# Asymptotic Notation and Arithmetic Functions

## Definition

An **arithmetic function** is a function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . These functions can be used to capture and study certain arithmetic behaviors.

Ex) •  $\nu(n) = \# \{ \text{distinct prime divisors } p|n \}$   
(or  $\omega(n)$ )

•  $d(n) = \# \{ \text{divisors } d|n \}$   
(or  $\sigma_0(n)$ )

•  $\varphi(n) = \# \{ 1 \leq d < n : \gcd(d, n) = 1 \}$   
(or  $\phi(n)$ )

$$|(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times| = \varphi(n)$$

• If  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$

$$1_A(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \in A \\ 0 & n \notin A \end{cases}$$

Arithmetic functions often have very erratic behavior, which makes them more difficult to deal with using analytic techniques. Consider the divisor function  $d(n) = \#\{\text{positive divisors of } n\}$ . (see CoCalc)

If  $n = \text{prime}$ , then

$$d(n) = 2$$

If  $n = 2^k$ , then

$$d(2^k) = k + 1$$

We can smooth out the information contained in an arithmetic function by considering the function of a real variable  $x$

$$\sum_{n \leq x} d(n)$$

$$\sum_{n \leq x} d(n) \text{ is "close to" } x \log x$$

$$\text{"log } x" = \ln x \quad \text{or } \log \text{ base } e$$



## Definition

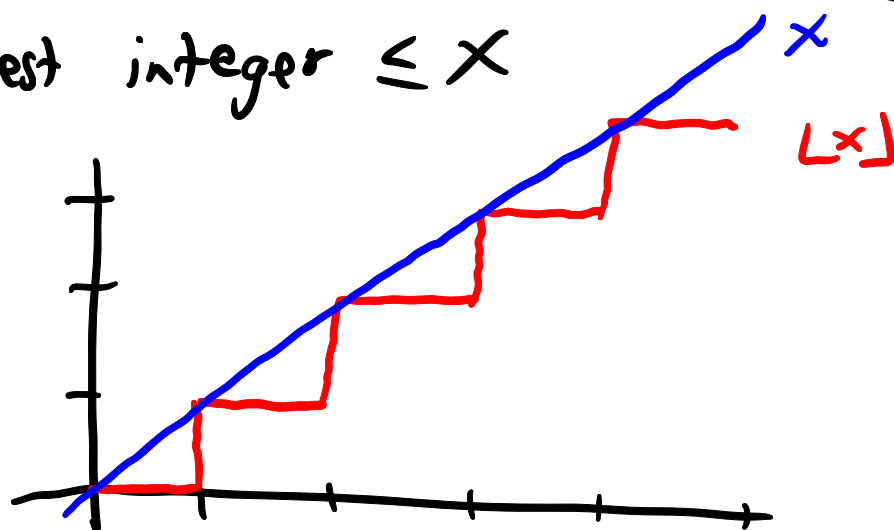
Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be two functions and let  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . We say  $f(x)$  is asymptotic to  $g(x)$  and write  $f(x) \sim g(x)$  if

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

CoCalc suggests that  $\sum_{n \leq x} d(n) \sim x \log x$   
or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{n \leq x} d(n)}{x \log x} = 1$

Ex) floor function  $\lfloor x \rfloor := \text{greatest integer } \leq x$

alternatively  $\lfloor x \rfloor = \sum_{n \leq x} 1$



## Lemma

$$\lfloor x \rfloor \sim x$$

Pf We know  $\lfloor x \rfloor \leq x$  by def.

$$\text{Also, } \lfloor x \rfloor + 1 > x \Rightarrow \lfloor x \rfloor > x - 1$$

We want to find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{x}$

$$1 - \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x-1}{x} < \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{x} \leq \frac{x}{x} = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right) = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 1 = 1$$

So the Squeeze Thm implies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{x} = 1$$

□

## Definition

Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be function of the real variable  $x$ . We define the following:

(a)  $f(x)$  is **little-oh** of  $g(x)$ , written  $f(x) = o(g(x))$ , if

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

In this case,  $f(x)$  is “asymptotically smaller” than  $g(x)$ .

(b)  $f(x)$  is **big-oh** of  $g(x)$ , written  $f(x) = O(g(x))$  or  $f(x) \ll g(x)$  if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq C \cdot |g(x)|$  for all  $x \geq x_0$ . Equivalently,

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} < \infty.$$

In this case,  $f(x)$  is “asymptotically the same order of magnitude or smaller” than  $g(x)$ .

✱ **Exercise:** If  $f(x) \sim g(x)$  then  $f(x) = O(g(x))$ .

## Definition

We write

$$f(x) = \underbrace{g(x)}_{\text{main term}} + \underbrace{O(h(x))}_{\text{error term}}$$

to mean

$$f(x) - g(x) = O(h(x)).$$

Similar notation applies to little-oh.

★ **Exercise:**  $O(h(x))$  and  $o(h(x))$  are ideals in the ring of functions defined for  $x$  sufficiently large. The above notation is then equivalent to stating that  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  belong to the same coset when quotienting by the ideal  $O(h(x))$ .

## Lemma

$$\lfloor x \rfloor = \underbrace{x}_{\text{main term}} + \underbrace{O(1)}_{\text{error term}}$$

Pf We want bound  $|\lfloor x \rfloor - x|$

We know  $\lfloor x \rfloor \leq x$  and  $\lfloor x \rfloor > x - 1$

$$\Rightarrow -1 < \lfloor x \rfloor - x \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow |\lfloor x \rfloor - x| \leq 1$$

So there exists a constant  $C > 0$  s.t.  $(C=1)$

$$|\lfloor x \rfloor - x| \leq C \cdot 1 \text{ for all } x \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lfloor x \rfloor - x = O(1)$$

□

## Exercises:

- ①  $f(x) \cdot O(g(x)) = O(f(x)g(x))$  and  $f(x) \cdot o(g(x)) = o(f(x) \cdot g(x))$ ,  
If  $h(x) = O(g(x))$  then  $f(x)h(x) = O(f(x)g(x))$
- ② If  $f(x) = O(g(x))$  and  $h(x) = O(g(x))$  then  
 $f(x) + h(x) = O(g(x))$ ,
- ③ If  $f(x) = O(g(x))$  and  $g(x) = O(h(x))$ , then  $f(x) = O(h(x))$ .
- ④ If  $f(x) = O(g(x))$ , then  $\sum_{n \leq x} f(n) = O\left(\sum_{n \leq x} g(n)\right)$ .
- ⑤ If  $f(x) = O(g(x))$  and  $y$  is some real number, then  
 $\int_y^x f(t)dt = O\left(\int_y^x g(t)dt\right)$ .

# Abel Summation

# Abel Summation

## Theorem

Write  $A(x) = \sum_{n \leq x} a_n$  and suppose  $f(t)$  is a differentiable function on the interval  $(y, x)$  for  $y < x < \infty$ . Then

$$\sum_{y < n \leq x} a_n f(n) = A(x)f(x) - A(y)f(y) - \int_y^x A(t)f'(t)dt.$$

$A(t)$  is like a “discrete antiderivative” of  $a_n$ , and we can recognize the familiar integration by parts formula with  $u = f(t)$  and “ $dv$ ” =  $a_n$ :

$$\sum_{y < n \leq x} a_n f(n) = A(t)f(t) \Big|_y^x - \int_y^x A(t)f'(t)dt$$

$$u = f(t)$$

$$\text{“}dv\text{”} = a_n$$

$$du = f'(t)dt$$

$$\text{“}v\text{”} = \sum_{n \leq t} a_n = A(t)$$



## Corollary

$$\sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} = \log x + O(1)$$

Abel Summation

$$a_n = 1$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$$

$$A(t) = \lfloor t \rfloor$$

$$f'(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{1} + \sum_{1 < n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} = \frac{1}{1} + \left. \lfloor t \rfloor \cdot \frac{1}{t} \right|_1^x - \int_1^x \lfloor t \rfloor \left( -\frac{1}{t^2} \right) dt$$

$$= \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t^2} dt$$

$$\text{red arrow} \quad \lfloor t \rfloor = t + O(1)$$

$$= \frac{x + O(1)}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{t + O(1)}{t^2} dt$$

$$= \boxed{1} + \boxed{O\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)} + \boxed{\int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt} + \boxed{O\left(\int_1^x \frac{1}{t^2} dt\right)}$$

$$O(1 - \frac{1}{x})$$

## Theorem

$$\sum_{n \leq x} d(n) = x \log x + O(x)$$

Pf  $d(n) = \#\{\text{positive } d \mid n\} = \sum_{d \mid n} 1 = \sum_{da=n} 1$

$d \mid n$  means  $n = d \cdot a$  for some positive int.  $a$

$$\sum_{n \leq x} d(n) = \sum_{n \leq x} \sum_{da=n} 1 = \sum_{da \leq x} 1$$

$$= \sum_{d \leq x} \left( \sum_{a \leq \frac{x}{d}} 1 \right)$$

$$= \sum_{d \leq x} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor$$

$$\sum_{n \leq x} d(n) = \sum_{d \leq x} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor$$

$$= \sum_{d \leq x} \left( \frac{x}{d} + O(1) \right)$$

$$= x \left( \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{1}{d} \right) + O \left( \sum_{d \leq x} 1 \right)$$

$$= x (\log x + O(1)) + O(\lfloor x \rfloor)$$

$$= x \log x + O(x) + O(\lfloor x \rfloor)$$

$$\lfloor x \rfloor \leq x, \text{ so } \lfloor x \rfloor = O(x)$$

□

# Möbius function

## Definition

The **Möbius function** is defined as follows:

$$\mu(n) = \begin{cases} (-1)^k & n = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i \text{ is a product of } k \text{ distinct primes} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(1) &= 1 & \mu(3) &= -1 \\ \mu(2) &= -1 & \mu(4) &= 0 \dots \text{etc} \end{aligned}$$

## Lemma

$$\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 1 \\ 0 & n \neq 1 \end{cases}$$

Pf  $\underline{n=1}$   $\sum_{d|1} \mu(d) = \mu(1) = 1$

$\underline{n = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_i}}$   $\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = \mu(1) + \sum_{i=1}^k \mu(p_i) + \sum_{\{i,j\}} \mu(p_i p_j) + \dots + \mu(p_1 \dots p_k)$

$$= \binom{k}{0} + \binom{k}{1}(-1) + \binom{k}{2}(-1)^2 + \dots + \binom{k}{k}(-1)^k$$

$$= (-1 + 1)^k = 0$$

Binomial Theorem

□

## Theorem (Möbius Inversion)

If  $f(n) = \sum_{d|n} g(d)$  then  $g(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) f(n/d)$ .

Ex  $\sigma_0(n) = \sum_{d|n} 1 \Rightarrow 1 = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \sigma_0\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)$

Pf 
$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) f\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) &= \sum_{da=n} \mu(d) f(a) \\ &= \sum_{da=n} \mu(d) \left( \sum_{b|a} g(b) \right) \\ &= \sum_{da=n} \mu(d) \left( \sum_{bc=a} g(b) \right) \\ &= \sum_{dbc=n} \mu(d) g(b) \\ &= \sum_{b|n} g(b) \left( \sum_{d \cdot c = \frac{n}{b}} \mu(d) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) f\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) = \sum_{b|n} g(b) \left( \sum_{d=\frac{n}{b}} \mu(d) \right)$$

$$= \sum_{b|n} g(b) \left( \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ d=\frac{n}{b}}} \mu(d) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 \quad \text{if } \frac{n}{b} = 1 \quad \text{i.e. } b=n \\ & 0 \quad \text{if } \frac{n}{b} \neq 1 \quad \text{i.e. } b \neq n \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0 + 0 + \dots + g(n) \cdot 1$$

□

# Squarefree numbers

inclusion - exclusion

$\lfloor x \rfloor$

$$- \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2^2} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{3^2} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{5^2} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{7^2} \right\rfloor$$

$$+ \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2^2 \cdot 3^2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2^2 \cdot 5^2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{x}{3^2 \cdot 5^2} \right\rfloor + \dots$$

$$- \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2} \right\rfloor - \dots$$

+ etc ...

$$= \sum_d \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d^2} \right\rfloor$$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



## Theorem

$$\#\{\text{squarefree numbers} \leq x\} = \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^2} \right) x + O(\sqrt{x})$$

$$\frac{6}{\pi^2} x + O(\sqrt{x})$$

$$\text{Pf)} \sum_d \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d^2} \right\rfloor$$

$$\left\lfloor \frac{x}{d^2} \right\rfloor = 0 \text{ if } d^2 > x \\ \text{i.e. } d > \sqrt{x}$$

$$= \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{x}} \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d^2} \right\rfloor$$

$$= \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{x}} \mu(d) \left( \frac{x}{d^2} + O(1) \right)$$

$$= \left( \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right) x + \underbrace{O \left( \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{x}} 1 \right)}_{O(\sqrt{x})}$$

$$\left( \sum_{d \leq \sqrt{x}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right) X = \left( \sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} - \sum_{\sqrt{x} < d} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right) X$$

only makes sense if  $\sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2}$  converges

$$\left| \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right| \leq \left| \frac{1}{d^2} \right|$$

so converges by comparison with  $\sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{d^2}$

$$= \left( \sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right) X - \left( \sum_{\sqrt{x} < d} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right) X$$

$$\left| \sum_{\sqrt{x} < d} \frac{\mu(d)}{d^2} \right| \leq \left| \sum_{\sqrt{x} < d \leq \infty} \frac{1}{d^2} \right|$$

$$a_n = 1 \quad f(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}$$

$$A(t) = \lfloor t \rfloor \quad f'(t) = -\frac{2}{t^3} dt$$

$$\leq \left| \frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t^2} \right|_{\sqrt{x}}^{\infty} + \left| 2 \int_{\sqrt{x}}^{\infty} \frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t^3} dt \right|$$

$$\lfloor t \rfloor = t + O(1)$$

$$\lfloor t \rfloor \leq t$$

$$\leq \left| \frac{1}{t} \right|_{\sqrt{x}}^{\infty} + \left| 2 \int_{\sqrt{x}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{t^2} dt \right| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$$

# Prime Numbers

## Theorem (Prime Number Theorem)

Let  $\pi(x) = \#\{\text{primes } p \leq x\} = \sum_{p \leq x} 1$ . Then

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

There are variety of proofs of the PNT, the most accessible of which require complex analytic techniques. There does exist an “elementary proof” (i.e. one that does not appeal to complex analysis), but it is too long to treat in this course.

## Theorem (Chebyshev's Theorem)

$$\pi(x) = O\left(\frac{x}{\log x}\right)$$

**Exercise:**  $\pi(x) = O\left(\frac{x}{\log x}\right)$  if and only if  $\theta(x) := \sum_{p \leq x} \log p = O(x)$ .

Pf] Observe that

$$\prod_{n < p \leq 2n} p \mid \binom{2n}{n} = \frac{(2n)!}{n!n!} \leq 2^{2n}$$

$$2^{2n} = (1+1)^{2n} = \sum_{i=0}^{2n} \binom{2n}{i} \cdot (1)^i$$

$$\sum_{n < p \leq 2n} \log p \leq 2n \log 2$$

$$\theta(2n) - \theta(n) \leq 2n \log 2$$

$$\star \Theta(2n) - \Theta(n) \leq 2n \log 2$$

We will prove  $\Theta(n) \leq 4n \log 2$

base case  $n=1$ ,  $\Theta(1) = \sum_{p \leq 1} \log p = 0 \leq 4 \cdot 1 \cdot \log 2$  ✓

inductive step suppose for all  $1 \leq k < n$ ,  $\Theta(k) \leq 4k \log 2$

$n = \text{even}$   $\star \Theta(n) - \Theta\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \leq n \log 2$

$$\Theta(n) \leq n \log 2 + \Theta\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$$

$$\leq n \log 2 + 4\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \log 2 \quad \text{I.H.}$$

$$\leq 3n \log 2 \leq 4n \log 2$$

$n = \text{odd} \geq 3$   $n+1$  is even and  $\geq 4 \Rightarrow n+1$  is not prime

$$\Theta(n) = \sum_{p \leq n} \log p = \sum_{p \leq n+1} \log p = \Theta(n+1)$$

$$n+1 \text{ is even and } \frac{n+1}{2} < n$$

$$\star \Theta(n) = \Theta(n+1) \leq (n+1) \log 2 + \Theta\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)$$

$$\Theta(n) \leq (n+1) \log 2 + \Theta\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)$$

$$\leq (n+1) \log 2 + 4\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) \log 2$$

I.H.

$$\leq 3(n+1) \log 2$$

$$\leq 4n \log 2 \quad \text{by } n \geq 3$$

□

$$\Rightarrow \Theta(n) = O(n)$$

## Theorem

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \frac{\log p}{p} = \log x + O(1)$$

Exercise  $\sum_{n \leq x} \log(n) = x \log x - x + O(\log x)$

Pf  $n! = \prod_p p^{e_p} = \prod_{k=1}^n k$

$$e_p = \underbrace{\left\lfloor \frac{n}{p} \right\rfloor}_{\substack{\# d \leq n \\ \text{s.t. } p \mid d}} + \underbrace{\left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^2} \right\rfloor}_{\substack{\# d \leq n \\ \text{s.t. } p^2 \mid d}} + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^3} \right\rfloor + \dots$$

$$\sum_{p \leq n} e_p \log p = \sum_{k \leq n} \log k = n \log n - n + O(\log n)$$



$$\sum_{p \leq n} \left( \log p \left( L_{\frac{n}{p}} + L_{\frac{n}{p^2}} + \dots \right) \right) = n \log n - n + O(\log n)$$

leading term

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \left( L_{\frac{n}{p}} \right) &= \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \left( \frac{n}{p} + O(1) \right) \\ &= n \sum_{p \leq n} \frac{\log p}{p} + O\left( \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \right) \\ &= n \sum_{p \leq n} \frac{\log p}{p} + O(n) \end{aligned}$$

chebyshev's thm

everything else

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \left( L_{\frac{n}{p^2}} + L_{\frac{n}{p^3}} + \dots \right) &\leq \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \cdot \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{n}{p^i} \\ &= \sum_{p \leq n} \log p \cdot \left( \frac{n/p^2}{1 - 1/p} \right) \\ &= n \sum_{p \leq n} \frac{\log p}{p(p-1)} \\ &= O(n) \end{aligned}$$

converges as  $n \rightarrow \infty$   
 $\leq \sum \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$

$$n \sum_{p \leq n} \frac{\log p}{p} + O(n) + O(n) = n \log n - n + O(\log n)$$

$$\sum_{p \leq n} \frac{\log p}{p} + \underbrace{O(1)} + \underbrace{O(1)} = \log n - \underbrace{1} + \underbrace{O(\log n)}$$

these are  $O(1)$

□

## Corollary

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \frac{1}{p} = \log \log x + O(1)$$

**Exercise:** Prove this corollary using Abel Summation with  $f(t) = (\log t)^{-1}$ .

Corollary  $\sum_p \frac{1}{p}$  diverges by taking  $x \rightarrow \infty$

# Sieve of Eratosthenes

Eratosthenes sieved out numbers divisible by small primes. We can this by considering the function

$$\Phi(x, z) = \#\{n \leq x : n \text{ is not divisible by any primes } < z\}$$

*intermediate step of the sieve*

where  $x$  and  $z$  are positive real numbers.

### Theorem

$$\Phi(x, z) = x \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) + O(2^z)$$

*certainly  $\leq 1$   
as  $z \rightarrow \infty$ ,  
prod  $\rightarrow 0$*

ex)  $z = \log \log x$

*grows very fast in  $z$   
if  $z$  is too big,  $O(2^z)$   
will be bigger than the "main term"*

$$O(2^{\log \log x}) = O(\log x)$$

$x \prod_{p < \log \log x} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$  grows like what?

Pf) of  $\phi(x, z) = x \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) + O(2^z)$

---

$$P(z) = \prod_{p < z} p$$

$$(a, b) = \gcd(a, b)$$

$$\phi(x, z) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ (n, P(z)) = 1}} 1 = \sum_{n \leq x} \left( \sum_{d | (n, P(z))} \mu(d) \right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (n, P(z)) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } (n, P(z)) \neq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$= \sum_{n \leq x} \sum_{\substack{d | n \\ d | P(z)}} \mu(d)$$

$$= \sum_{d | P(z)} \mu(d) \left( \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ d | n}} 1 \right)$$

if  $d | n$   
write  $n = m \cdot d$   
 $n \leq x \Leftrightarrow m \leq \frac{x}{d}$

$$\sum_{m \leq \frac{x}{d}} 1 = \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor$$

$$\phi(x, z) = \sum_{d|P(z)} \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor = \sum_{d|P(z)} \mu(d) \left( \frac{x}{d} + O(1) \right)$$

nonzero for  $d \leq x$

$$= x \sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ d \leq x}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} + O\left(\sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ d \leq x}} 1\right) \quad |\mu(d)| \leq 1$$

$$= x \left( 1 - \sum_{p|P(z)} \frac{1}{p} + \sum_{p_1 p_2 | P(z)} \frac{1}{p_1 p_2} - \dots \right)$$

$P(z) = \prod_{p < z} p$  product of primes  $\leq z$

$d|P(z) \Rightarrow d = \prod_{\substack{\text{subset} \\ \text{of } p < z}} p$

$$= x \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_3} \right) \dots$$

# of subsets of set of size  $z$   $= 2^z$

$$= x \prod_{p < z} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p} \right) + O(2^z)$$

□

To improve on the error  $O(2^z)$ , consider the function

$$\Psi(x, z) = \#\{n \leq x : \underbrace{\text{if } p \mid n \text{ then } p < z}_{n \text{ is a } \underline{z\text{-smooth number}}}\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x, z) &= \sum_{\substack{d \mid P(z) \\ d \leq x}} \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor \\ &= \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d \mid P(z)}} \mu(d) \left( \frac{x}{d} + O(1) \right) \\ &= x \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d \mid P(z)}} \mu(d) + \underbrace{O(\Psi(x, z))}_{\textcircled{1} \text{ bound this}} \end{aligned}$$

$\textcircled{2}$  make sure this doesn't break anything



# Theorem

$$\Psi(x, z) \ll x(\log z) \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)$$

compare to  $2^z$

$\#\{n \leq x\}$

$O(x)$

$$\Psi(x, z) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ p|n \Rightarrow p < z}} 1$$

$$\leq \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ p|n \Rightarrow p < z}} \left(\frac{x}{n}\right)^\delta$$

for some  $\delta > 0$

$$\leq x^\delta \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ p|n \Rightarrow p < z}} \frac{1}{n^\delta}$$

$$= x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p^\delta} + \frac{1}{p^{2\delta}} + \frac{1}{p^{3\delta}} + \dots\right)$$

$$= x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^\delta}\right)^{-1}$$

Rankin's trick

$$\psi(x, z) \leq x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^\delta}\right)^{-1}$$

$$= x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p^\delta}\right) \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^{2\delta}}\right)^{-1}$$

converges as  $z \rightarrow \infty$   
if  $\delta > \frac{1}{2}$

$$\ll x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p^\delta}\right)$$

$$1+x \leq e^x$$

$$\ll x^\delta \prod_{p < z} \exp\left(\frac{1}{p^\delta}\right)$$

$$= x^\delta \exp\left(\sum_{p < z} \frac{1}{p^\delta}\right)$$

set  $\delta = 1 - \eta$  for  $\eta$  "small"

$$p^{-\delta} = p^{-1} e^{\eta \log p}$$

$$e^x \leq 1 + xe^x$$

$$\psi(x, z) \ll x'^{-\eta} \exp\left(\sum_{p < z} p^{-1} (1 + \eta \log p e^{\eta \log p})\right)$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{\log z}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \downarrow e^{\frac{\log p}{\log z}} &\leq p^{\frac{1}{\log z}} \\ &\leq z^{\frac{1}{\log z}} \\ &= e \end{aligned}$$

$$\psi(x, z) \ll x'^{1 - \frac{1}{\log z}} \exp\left(\sum_{p < z} \frac{1}{p} \left(1 + \frac{\log p}{\log z} \cdot e\right)\right)$$

$$\ll x' \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right) \exp\left(\boxed{\sum_{p < z} \frac{1}{p}} + \frac{e}{\log z} \boxed{\sum_{p < z} \frac{\log p}{p}}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(\log \log z + o(1)) + \frac{e}{\log z} (\log z + o(1)) \\ &\quad \downarrow o(1) \quad \quad \quad \downarrow o(1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\ll \underbrace{x' \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)}_{\ll x'} \underbrace{\exp(\log \log z)}_{\log z}$$

# Theorem

$$\Phi(x, z) = x \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) + O\left(x(\log z)^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)\right)$$

$$\phi(x, z) = x \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} + \underbrace{O(\tau(x, z))}_{\ll x \log z \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)}$$

$$\sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} = \sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ d \leq x}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} - \sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ d > x}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d}$$

$$\left| \sum_{\substack{d > x \\ d|P(z)}} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \right| \leq \sum_{\substack{d > x \\ d|P(z)}} \frac{1}{d}$$

$$= \frac{\psi(t, z)}{t} \Big|_x^\infty + \int_x^\infty \frac{\psi(t, x)}{t^2} dt$$

$$a_d = \begin{cases} 1 & d|P(z) \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$A(t) = \sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ d \leq t}} a_d$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$$

$$f'(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2} \quad \square$$

# Theorem (Merten's Theorem)

$$\prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \sim \frac{e^{-\gamma}}{\log z}, \text{ where } \gamma \text{ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.}$$

$$\prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \leq \prod_{p < z} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p}\right) = \exp\left(-\sum_{p < z} \frac{1}{p}\right)$$

$$1+x \leq e^x$$

$$= \exp(-\log \log z + o(1))$$

$$= O\left(\frac{1}{\log z}\right)$$

$$\log z = \frac{\log x}{A \log \log x}$$

$$x \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \ll$$

$$\frac{A \times \log \log x}{\log x}$$

$$\log((\log x)^{-A})$$

$$O\left(x (\log z)^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)\right) \ll x \left(\frac{\log x}{A \log \log x}\right)^2 \exp(-A \log \log x)$$

$$\ll \frac{x}{A (\log x)^{A-2} (\log \log x)^2}$$

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a set of integers  $\leq x$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$  a set of primes, and  $P(z) = \prod_{\substack{p \in \mathcal{P} \\ p < z}} p$ .

- For each prime  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , let  $\mathcal{A}_p \subset \mathcal{A}$  be a subset of integers belonging to  $\omega(p)$  distinct residue classes modulo  $p$ .

- Define  $S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) = \# \left( \mathcal{A} \setminus \bigcup_{p|P(z)} \mathcal{A}_p \right)$ .

Ex)  $\mathcal{A} = \{n \leq x\}$   
 $\mathcal{A}_p = \{n \leq x : p|n\}$

- If  $d$  is a squarefree number divisible by primes of  $\mathcal{P}$ , define  $\omega(d) = \prod_{p|d} \omega(p)$  and  $\mathcal{A}_d = \bigcap_{p|d} \mathcal{A}_p$ .
- Set  $\omega(1) = 1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A}$ .

Ex) Idea

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, x) = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{A}} \left( \sum_{d|(n, P(x))} \mu(d) \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(x)}} \mu(d) \underbrace{\left( \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathcal{A} \\ d|n}} 1 \right)}_{\# \mathcal{A}_d}$$

like  $\phi(x, z) = \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}} \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor$

In general

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, x) = \sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(x)}} \mu(d) \# \mathcal{A}_d$$

## Theorem (The sieve of Eratosthenes)

Suppose the following conditions hold:

- There exists an  $X$  such that  $\#\mathcal{A}_d = \frac{\omega(d)}{d}X + O(\omega(d))$ ,
- For some  $\kappa \geq 0$ ,

like  
 $\left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor = \frac{x}{d} + O(1)$

$$\sum_{p|P(z)} \frac{\omega(p) \log p}{p} \leq \kappa \log z + O(1),$$

- For some  $y > 0$ ,  $\#\mathcal{A}_d = 0$  for every  $d > y$ .

Then

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) = XW(z) + O\left(\left(X + \frac{y}{\log z}\right) (\log z)^{\kappa+1} \exp\left(-\frac{\log y}{\log z}\right)\right)$$

where

$$W(z) = \prod_{\substack{p \in \mathcal{P} \\ p < z}} \left(1 - \frac{\omega(p)}{p}\right).$$



Instead of  $\sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}} 1 \ll \psi(x, z)$

use  $\sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}} w(d) := F_w(x, z)$

# Brun's Sieves

Brun's sieve is set up in essentially the same way as Eratosthenes. Given some set  $\mathcal{A}$  of integers  $\leq x$ , we have some collection of  $\mathcal{A}_p$  of elements we want to remove, and measure the size of

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) = \# \left( \mathcal{A} \setminus \bigcup_{p|P(z)} \mathcal{A}_p \right).$$

## Idea (Punchline of Brun's results)

*Under similar, but slightly relaxed, hypotheses to the sieve of Eratosthenes, Brun proves that*

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) = XW(z) + O(\text{better error})$$

*where  $X = \#\mathcal{A}$  and*

$$W(z) = \prod_{p|P(z)} \left(1 - \frac{\omega(p)}{p}\right).$$

## Theorem (Brun's Pure Sieve)

Suppose the following conditions hold:

like  $L\left(\frac{x}{d}\right) = \frac{x}{d} + O(1)$

- There exists an  $X$  such that  $\# \mathcal{A}_d = \frac{\omega(d)}{d} X + O(\omega(d))$ ,
- There exists a constant  $C$  such that  $\omega(p) < C$ ,
- There exist constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  such that

$$\sum_{p|P(z)} \frac{\omega(p)}{p} \leq C_1 \log \log z + C_2,$$

Then

$$S(\mathcal{A}, P, z) = \underbrace{XW(z)}_{\text{main term}} + \underbrace{XW(z)O((\log z)^{-\eta \log \eta}) + O(z^{\eta \log \log z})}_{\text{error terms}}$$

where  $\eta$  is any positive number (possibly depending on  $x$  and  $z$ .)

$\log z = \frac{\log x}{A \log \log x}$

$$z^{\eta \log \log z} = \exp(\eta \log z \log \log z) = \exp\left(\frac{\eta \log x}{A \log \log x} (\log \log x - \log A - \log \log \log x)\right)$$

$$= x^{\frac{\eta}{A}} - \frac{\eta \log A}{A \log \log x} - \frac{\eta \log \log \log x}{A \log \log x} \ll x^{\frac{\eta}{A}} \quad \text{small if } A \text{ is large}$$

# Theorem

$$\#\{p \leq x : p \text{ and } p+2 \text{ are prime}\} \ll \frac{x(\log \log x)^2}{(\log x)^2}.$$

compare with  $\pi(x) \sim \frac{x}{\log x}$

Def  $A_p = \{n \leq x : n \equiv 0 \text{ or } -2 \pmod p\}$   
i.e.  $p|n$  or  $p|n+2$

$$\log z = \frac{\log x}{A \log \log x}$$

$$z = \exp\left(\frac{\log x}{A \log \log x}\right)$$

$$S(A, P, z) \ll x \prod_{p < z} \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right)$$

$$\ll x \exp\left(-2 \sum_{p < z} \frac{1}{p}\right)$$

$$1+x \leq e^x$$

$$\ll \frac{x}{(\log z)^2} = \frac{x A^2 (\log \log x)^2}{(\log x)^2}$$

$$\#\{p \leq x : p, p+2 \text{ prime}\} \leq S(A, P, z) + \pi(z) \ll \boxed{\frac{x (\log \log x)^2}{(\log x)^2}}^{\text{main}} + \boxed{\frac{1}{x A \log \log x}}^{\text{error}} \ll x^{1/2}$$

## Corollary

$$\sum_{\substack{p \\ p+2 \text{ prime}}} \frac{1}{p} < \infty.$$

$\sum_p \frac{1}{p}$  diverges

Abel summation

$$d_n = \begin{cases} 1 & n, n+2 \text{ prime} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$A(t) = \# \{p \leq t : p, p+2 \text{ prime}\}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$$

$$f'(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{p \geq 1.5 \\ p+2 \text{ prime}}} \frac{1}{p} &= \frac{A(t)}{t} \Big|_{1.5}^{\infty} + \int_{1.5}^{\infty} \frac{A(t)}{t^2} dt \\ &\ll \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\log \log b)^2}{(\log b)^2} + O(1) + \int_{1.5}^{\infty} \frac{(\log \log t)^2}{t (\log t)^2} dt \\ &\ll \downarrow 0 + O(1) + \int_{\log 1.5}^{\infty} \frac{(\log u)^2}{u^2} du \end{aligned}$$

$u = \log t$   
 $du = \frac{dt}{t}$   
 converges by comparison with  $\int \frac{1}{u^{3/2}} du$

## The big idea: truncated Möbius Inversion

### Lemma

Let  $n$  and  $r$  be positive integers with  $r \leq \nu(n) = \#\{\text{distinct prime divisors of } n\}$ . There exists  $|\theta| \leq 1$  such that

$$\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ \nu(d) \leq r}} \mu(d) + \theta \left( \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ \nu(d) = r+1}} \mu(d) \right)$$

- $\sum_{d|P(z)}$  has  $2^z$  terms
- $\sum_{\substack{d \leq x \\ d|P(z)}}$  has  $\ll x \log z \exp\left(-\frac{\log x}{\log z}\right)$  terms
- $\sum_{\substack{d|P(z) \\ \nu(d) \leq r}}$  has  $\ll z^r$  terms



$$\underline{\text{Pf}} \quad \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ v(d) \leq r}} \mu(d) = 1 + \sum_{p|n} (-1) + \sum_{p_1 p_2 | n} (-1)^2 + \dots + \sum_{p_1 \dots p_r | n} (-1)^r$$

$$= 1 + \binom{v(n)}{1} (-1) + \binom{v(n)}{2} (-1)^2 + \dots + \binom{v(n)}{r} (-1)^r$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^r \binom{v(n)}{k} (-1)^k$$

$$= \binom{v(n)-1}{r} (-1)^r \quad \underline{\text{exercise}}$$

$$\sum_{\substack{d|n \\ v(d) \leq 2r+1}} \mu(d) \leq \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \leq \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ v(d) \leq 2r}} \mu(d)$$

$$\sum_{\substack{d|n \\ v(d) = 2r+1}} \mu(d) \leq \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) - \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ v(d) \leq 2r}} \mu(d) \leq 0$$


□

$$S(A, P, z) = \sum_{a \in A} \left( \sum_{d | (a, P(z))} \mu(d) \right)$$

choose  $r = \lfloor \eta \log \log x \rfloor$

$$= \sum_{a \in A} \left( \sum_{\substack{d | (a, P(z)) \\ \nu(d) \leq r}} \mu(d) \right) + \theta \sum_{\substack{d | (a, P(z)) \\ \nu(d) = r+1}} \mu(d)$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{d | P(z) \\ \nu(d) \leq r}} \mu(d) \#A_d + O \left( X \frac{\pi(z)^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} \right)$$


  
 $\#A$

$\#d | P(z)$   
 $\nu(d) = r+1$

choosing  $r+1$  primes  
from  $\pi(z)$  primes  
 $= \binom{\pi(z)}{r+1}$

$$= X \sum_{d | P(z), \nu(d) \leq r} \mu(d) \frac{\omega(d)}{d} + O \left( \sum_{\substack{d | P(z) \\ \nu(d) \leq r}} \omega(d) \right) + O \left( X \frac{z^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} \right)$$

The big idea: **Replace Möbius sums with an approximation**

$$\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \leftrightarrow \sum_{d|n} \mu(d)g(d)$$

Strategic choices of “lower” and “upper” weight functions give bounds

$$\sum_{d|P(z)} \mu(d)g_L(d)\#\mathcal{A}_d \leq S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) \leq \sum_{d|P(z)} \mu(d)g_U(d)\#\mathcal{A}_d$$

which are easier to count.

## Idea (Brun's Main Theorem)

There exist constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) \leq c_1 XW(z) + O(z^\theta)$$

and

$$S(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, z) \geq c_2 XW(z) + O(z^{\theta-1}),$$

where  $\theta$  is given explicitly.

can choose  $z = x^{\frac{1}{\theta} - \varepsilon}$

earlier  $\log z = \frac{\log x}{A \log \log x} \Rightarrow z = x^{\frac{1}{A \log \log x}}$