

Newman's Short Proof of the Prime Number Theorem

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March 13, 2012

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Let us denote the number of primes up to x by $\pi(x)$.

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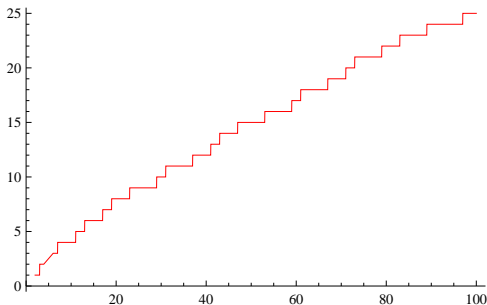
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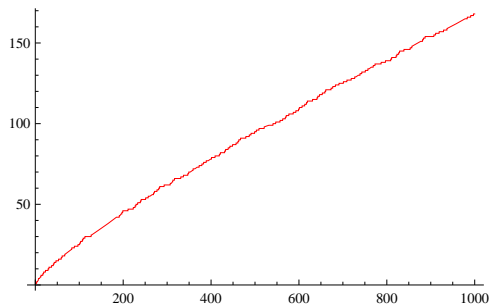
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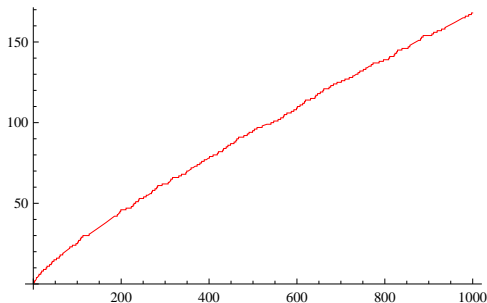
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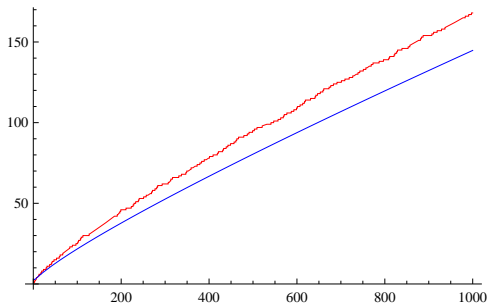
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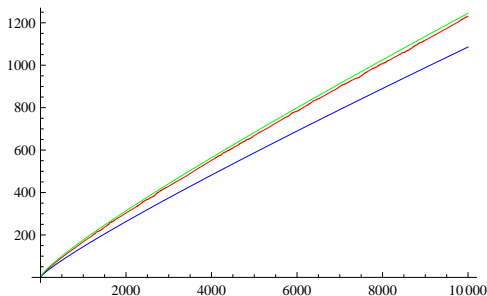
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Broken down into 6 short properties.

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Let f be a real-valued function such that $g(z) = \int_0^\infty f(t)e^{-zt} dt$ exists for $\Re(z) > 0$ and extends holomorphically to $\Re(z) \geq 0$.

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Proof of PNT - I

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$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{\theta(x) - x}{x^2} dx$$

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Apply Analytic Theorem with $f(t) = \theta(e^t)e^{-t} - 1$, and

$$g(z) = \frac{\Phi(z+1)}{z+1} - \frac{1}{z}.$$



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Suppose that for some $\lambda > 1$ there are large x with $\theta(x) \geq \lambda x$. For such x :

$$\int_x^{\lambda x} \frac{\theta(t) - t}{t^2} dt \geq \int_x^{\lambda x} \frac{\lambda x - t}{t^2} dt$$



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This is a contradiction. Similarly for $\lambda < 1$. □

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Thus

$$(1 - \epsilon)^{-1} \frac{\theta(x)}{x} \geq \frac{\pi(x) \log x}{x} \geq \frac{\theta(x)}{x}.$$



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Analytic Theorem

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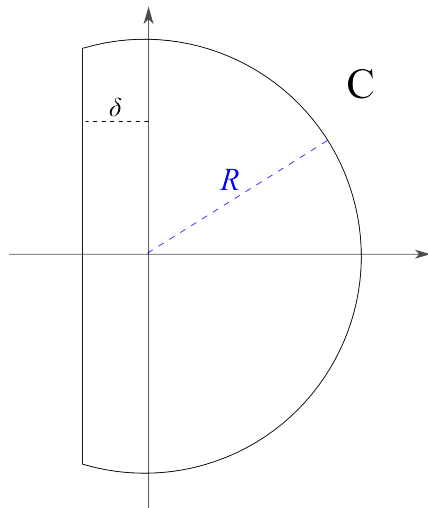
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For $T > 0$ define $g_T(z) = \int_0^T f(t)e^{-zt} dt$. This an entire function. Suffices to prove that

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} g_T(0) = g(0).$$

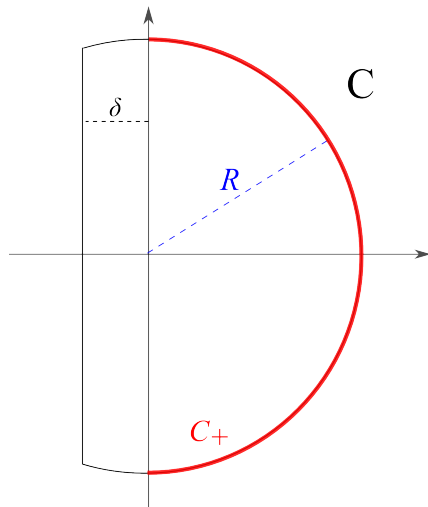
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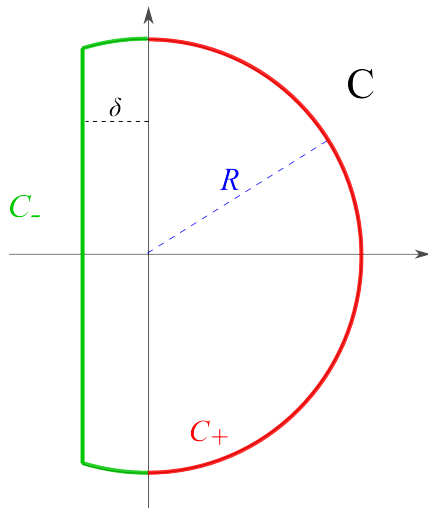
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Thus by Cauchy's Theorem

$$g(0) - g_T(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C (g(z) - g_T(z)) e^{zT} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right) \frac{dz}{z}.$$

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Hence we can estimate the integral on C_+ by

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot R\pi \cdot B \cdot \frac{2}{R^2} = \frac{B}{R}.$$

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The remaining integral is $\int_{C_-} g(z) \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right) e^{zT} \frac{dz}{z}$.

This tends to 0 as $T \rightarrow \infty$, because $e^{zT} \rightarrow 0$ rapidly for $\Re(z) < 0$.

Hence

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} |g(0) - g_T(0)| \leq \frac{2B}{R}.$$

Letting $R \rightarrow \infty$ proves the theorem. \square

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 - ▶ Write $2^{2n} = \binom{2n}{0} + \dots + \binom{2n}{2n} \geq \binom{2n}{n} \geq \prod_{n < p \leq 2n} p = e^{\theta(2n) - \theta(n)}$

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 - ▶ Primes in arithmetic progressions

References

Zagier, D., *Newman's Short Proof of the Prime Number Theorem*,
The American Mathematical Monthly, Vol. 104, No. 8 (Oct., 1997)