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Research Article

Efficient Prime Counting and the Chebyshev Primes

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The function $\epsilon(x) = \mathrm{li}(x) - \pi(x)$, where li is the logarithm integral and $\pi(x)$ the number of primes up to x, is well known to be positive up to the (very large) Skewes' number. Likewise, according to Robin's work, the functions $\epsilon_\theta(x) = \mathrm{li}[\theta(x)] - \pi(x)$ and $\epsilon_\psi(x) = \mathrm{li}[\psi(x)] - \pi(x)$, where θ and ψ are Chebyshev summatory functions, are positive if and only if Riemann hypothesis (RH) holds. One introduces the jump function $j_p = \mathrm{li}(p) - \mathrm{li}(p-1)$ at primes p and one investigates j_p, $j_{\theta(p)}$, and $j_{\psi(p)}$. In particular, $j_p < 1$, and $j_{\theta(p)} > 1$ for $p < 10^{11}$. Besides, $j_{\psi(p)} < 1$ for any odd $p \in \mathrm{Ch}$, an infinite set of the so-called *Chebyshev primes*. In the context of RH, we introduce the so-called *Riemann primes* as champions of the function $\psi(p_n^l) - p_n^l$ (or of the function $\theta(p_n^l) - p_n^l$). Finally, we find a *good* prime counting function $S_N(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\mu(n)/n)\,\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)^{1/n}]$, that is found to be much better than the standard Riemann prime counting function.

1. Introduction

We recall first some classical definitions and notation in prime number theory [1, 2].

(i) The Von Mangoldt function $\Lambda(n) = \log p$ if n is a power of a prime p and zero otherwise.

(ii) The first and the second Chebyshev functions are, respectively,

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{p \le x} \log p, \tag{1}$$

(where $p \in \mathscr{P}$: the set of prime numbers) and

$$\psi(x) = \sum_{1 \le n \le x} \Lambda(n), \tag{2}$$

where n ranges over the integers.

(i) The logarithmic integral is $\mathrm{li}(x) = \int_2^x (dt/t)$.

(ii) The Möbius function $\mu(n)$ is equal to $0, 1, -1$, respectively, if n is, respectively, non-square-free, square-free with an even number of divisors, square-free with an odd number of divisors.

(iii) The number of primes up to x is denoted $\pi(x)$.

Indeed, $\theta(x)$ and $\psi(x)$ are the logarithm of the product of all primes up to x and the logarithm of the least common multiple of all positive integers up to x, respectively.

It has been known for a long time that $\theta(x)$ and $\psi(x)$ are asymptotic to x (see [2, page 341]). There also exists an explicit formula, due to Von Mangoldt, relating $\psi(x)$ to the nontrivial zeros ρ of the Riemann zeta function $\zeta(s)$ [1, 3]. One defines the normalized Chebyshev function $\psi_0(x)$ to be $\psi(x)$ when x is not a prime power, and $\psi(x) - (1/2)\Lambda(x)$ when it is. The explicit Von Mangoldt formula reads

$$\psi_0(x) = x - \sum_\rho \frac{x^\rho}{\rho} - \frac{\zeta'(0)}{\zeta(0)} - \frac{1}{2}\log\left(1 - x^{-2}\right), \quad \text{for } x > 1. \tag{3}$$

The function $\epsilon(x) = \mathrm{li}(x) - \pi(x)$ is known to be positive up to the (very large) Skewes' number [4]. In this paper we are first interested in the jumps (they occur at primes p) in the function $\epsilon_{\theta(x)} = \mathrm{li}[\theta(x)] - \pi(x)$. Following Robin's work on the relation between $\epsilon_{\theta(x)}$ and RH (Theorem 1), this allows us to derive a new statement (Theorem 7) about the jumps of $\mathrm{li}[\theta(p)]$ and Littlewood's oscillation theorem.

Then, we study the refined function $\epsilon_{\psi(x)} = \mathrm{li}[\psi(x)] - \pi(x)$ and we observe that the sign of the jumps of $\mathrm{li}[\psi(p)]$ is controlled by an infinite sequence of primes that we call the *Chebyshev primes* Ch_n (see Definition 8). The primes Ch_n (and the generalized primes $\mathrm{Ch}_n^{(l)}$) are also obtained by using an accurate calculation of the jumps of $\mathrm{li}[\psi(p)]$, as in Conjecture 12 (and of the jumps of the function $\mathrm{li}[\psi(p^l)]$, as in Conjecture 14). One conjectures that the function $\mathrm{Ch}_n - p_{2n}$ has infinitely many zeros. There exists a potential link between the nontrivial zeros ρ of $\zeta(s)$ and the position of the $\mathrm{Ch}_n^{(l)}$'s that is made quite explicit in Section 3.1 (Conjecture 16), and in Section 3.2 in our definition of the Riemann primes. In this context, we contribute to the Sloane's encyclopedia with integer sequences. (The relevant sequences are A196667 to 196675 (related to the Chebyshev primes), A197185 to A197188 (related to the Riemann primes of the ψ-type), and A197297 to A197300 (related to the Riemann primes of the θ-type.)

Finally, we introduce a new prime counting function $R(x) = \sum_{n>1}(\mu(n)/n)\mathrm{li}(x^{1/n})$, better than the standard Riemann's one, even with three terms in the expansion.

2. Selected Results about the Functions $\epsilon, \epsilon_\theta, \epsilon_\psi$

Let p_n be the nth prime number and let $j(p_n) = \mathrm{li}(p_n) - \mathrm{li}(p_n - 1)$ be the jump in the logarithmic integral at p_n. For any $n > 2$ one numerically observes that $j_{p_n} < 1$. This statement is not useful for the rest of the paper. But it is enough to observe that $j_5 = 0.667$ and that the sequence j_{p_n} is strictly decreasing.

The next three subsections deal with the jumps in the functions $\mathrm{li}[\theta(x)]$ and $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$.

2.1. The Jumps in the Function $\mathrm{li}[\theta(x)]$

Theorem 1 (Robin). *The statement $\epsilon_{\theta(x)} = \mathrm{li}[\theta(x)] - \pi(x) > 0$ is equivalent to RH [5, 6].*

Corollary 2 (related to Robin [5]). *The statement $\epsilon_{\psi(x)} = \mathrm{li}[\psi(x)] - \pi(x) > 0$ is equivalent to RH.*

Proof. If RH is true then, using the fact that $\psi(x) > \theta(x)$ and that $\mathrm{li}(x)$ is a strictly growing function when $x > 1$, this follows from Theorem 1 in Robin [5]. If RH is false, Lemma 2 in Robin ensures the violation of the inequality. □

Using the fact that $\theta(p_{n+1} - 1) = \theta(p_n)$, define the jump of index n as

$$J_n = j_{\theta(p_n)} = \mathrm{li}\left[\theta\left(p_{n+1}\right)\right] - \mathrm{li}\left[\theta\left(p_n\right)\right] = \int_{\theta(p_n)}^{\theta(p_{n+1})} \frac{dt}{\log t}. \quad (4)$$

Proposition 3. *If $p_{n+1} < 10^{11}$, then $J_n = j_{\theta(p_n)} > 1$.*

Proof. The integral definition of the jump yields

$$J_n \geq \frac{\theta\left(p_{n+1}\right) - \theta\left(p_n\right)}{\log \theta\left(p_{n+1}\right)} = \frac{\log p_{n+1}}{\log \theta\left(p_{n+1}\right)}. \quad (5)$$

The result now follows after observing that by [7, Theorem 18], we have $\theta(x) < x$ for $x < 10^8$, and by using the note added in proof of [8] that establishes that $\theta(x) < x$ for $x < 10^{11}$. □

By seeing this result it would be natural to make the following conjecture.

Conjecture 4. *For all $n \geq 1$ we have $J_n > 1$.*

However, building on Littlewood's oscillation theorem for θ we can prove that J_n oscillates about 1 with a small amplitude. Let us recall the Littlewood's oscillation theorem ([9, Theorem 6.3, page 200], [10, Theorem 34])

$$\theta(x) - x = \Omega_{\pm}\left(x^{1/2}\log_3 x\right), \quad \text{when } x \longrightarrow \infty, \quad (6)$$

where $\log_3 x = \log\log\log x$. The omega notations mean that there are infinitely many numbers x and constants C_+ and C_-, satisfying

$$\theta(x) \leq x - C_- \sqrt{x}\log_3 x \quad \text{or} \quad \theta(x) \geq x + C_+ \sqrt{x}\log_3 x. \quad (7)$$

We now prepare the proof of the invalidity of Conjecture 4 by writing two lemmas.

Lemma 5. *For $n \geq 1$, we have the bounds*

$$\frac{\log p_{n+1}}{\log \theta\left(p_{n+1}\right)} \leq J_n \leq \frac{\log p_{n+1}}{\log \theta\left(p_n\right)}. \quad (8)$$

Proof. This is straightforward from the integral definition of the jump. □

Lemma 6. *For n large, we have*

$$\theta\left(p_{n+1}\right) = p_{n+1} + \Omega_{\pm}\left(\sqrt{p_{n+1}}\log_3 p_{n+1}\right). \quad (9)$$

Proof. We know that by [9, Theorem 6.3, page 200], we have for $x > 0$ and large

$$\theta(x) - x = \Omega_{\pm}\left(\sqrt{x}\log_3 x\right). \quad (10)$$

The result follows by considering the primes closest to x. □

We can now state and prove the main result of this section.

Theorem 7. *For n large we have*

$$J_n = 1 + \Omega_{\pm}\left(\frac{\log_3 p_{n+1}}{\sqrt{p_{n+1}}\log p_{n+1}}\right). \quad (11)$$

Proof. By Lemma 6 we know there is a constant C_- such that for infinitely many n's we have

$$\theta\left(p_{n+1}\right) < p_{n+1} - C_- \sqrt{p_{n+1}}\log_3 p_{n+1}. \quad (12)$$

By combining with the first inequality of Lemma 5 the minus part of the statement follows after some standard asymptotics. To prove the plus part write $\theta(p_n) = \theta(p_{n+1}) - \log p_{n+1}$, and proceed as before. □

2.2. The Jumps in the Function $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$ and the Chebyshev Primes

Definition 8. Let $p \in \mathscr{P}$ be an odd prime number and the function $j_{\psi(p)} = \mathrm{li}[\psi(p)] - \mathrm{li}[\psi(p-1)]$. The primes p such that $j_{\psi(p)} < 1$ are called here *Chebyshev primes* Ch_n. (Our terminology should not be confused with that used in [11] where the *Chebyshev* primes are primes of the form $4n2^m + 1$, with $m > 0$ and n an odd prime. We used the Russian spelling Chebyshev to distinguish both meanings.) In increasing order, they are [12, Sequence A196667]

{ 109, 113, 139, 181, 197, 199, 241, 271, 281, 283, 293, 313, 317, 443, 449, 461, 463, ...}.

Comment 1. The number of Chebyshev primes less than 10^n, $(n = 1, 2, \ldots)$ is the sequence $\{0, 0, 42, 516, 4498, 41423 \ldots\}$ [12, Sequence A196671]. This sequence suggests the density $(1/2)\pi(x)$ for the Chebyshev primes. The largest gaps between the Chebyshev primes are {4, 26, 42, 126, 146, 162, 176, 470, 542, 1370, 1516, 4412, 8196, 14928, 27542, 30974, 51588, 62906,...}, [12, Sequence A196672], and the Chebyshev primes that begin a record gap to the next Chebyshev prime are {109, 113, 139, 317, 887, 1327, 1913, 3089, 8297, 11177, 29761, 45707, 113383, 164893, 291377, 401417, 638371, 1045841, ...} [12, Sequence A196673].

The results for the jumps of the function $\mathrm{li}[\psi(p)]$ are quite analogous to the results for the jumps of the function $\mathrm{li}[\theta(p)]$ and stated below without proof.

Let us define the nth jump at a prime as

$$K_n = \mathrm{li}\left[\psi\left(p_{n+1}\right)\right] - \mathrm{li}\left[\psi\left(p_{n+1} - 1\right)\right] = \int_{\psi(p_{n+1}-1)}^{\psi(p_{n+1})} \frac{dt}{\log t}. \tag{13}$$

Theorem 9. *For n large, we have*

$$K_n = 1 + \Omega_{\pm}\left(\frac{\log_3 p_{n+1}}{\sqrt{p_{n+1}\log p_{n+1}}}\right). \tag{14}$$

Corollary 10. *There are infinitely many Chebyshev primes* Ch_n.

One observes that the sequence Ch_n oscillates around p_{2n} and the largest deviations from p_{2n} seem to be unbounded at large n. This behaviour is illustrated in Figure 1. Based on this numerical results, we are led to the following conjecture.

Conjecture 11. *The function* $\mathrm{Ch}_n - p_{2n}$ *possesses infinitely many zeros.*

Comment 2. The first eleven zeros of $\mathrm{Ch}_n - p_{2n}$ occur at the indices {510, 10271, 11259, 11987, 14730, 18772, 18884, 21845, 24083, 33723, 46789} [12, Sequence A1966674], where the corresponding Chebyshev primes are [12, Sequence A1966675] {164051, 231299, 255919, 274177, 343517, 447827, 450451, 528167, 587519, 847607, 1209469}.

Conjecture 12. *The jump at primes* p_n *of the function* $\mathrm{li}\left[\psi(x)\right]$ *may be written as* $K_{n-1} = \widetilde{K}_{n-1} + O(1/p_n^2)$, *with* $\widetilde{K}_{n-1} = \log p_n / \log[(\psi(p_n) + \psi(p_n - 1))/2]$. *In particular, the* sign *of* $\widetilde{K}_{n-1} - 1$ *is that of* $K_n - 1$.

Comment 3. The jump of index $n-1$ (at the prime number p_n) is

$$K_{n-1} = \int_{\psi(p_n-1)}^{\psi(p_n)} \frac{dt}{\log t}. \tag{15}$$

There exists a real c_n depending on the index n, with $\psi(p_n - 1) < c_n < \psi(p_n)$ such that

$$K_{n-1} = \frac{\psi\left(p_n\right) - \psi\left(p_n - 1\right)}{\log c_n} = \frac{\log p_n}{\log c_n}. \tag{16}$$

Using the known locations of the Chebyshev primes of low index, it is straightforward to check that the real c_n reads

$$c_n \sim \frac{1}{2}\left[\psi\left(p_n\right) + \psi\left(p_n - 1\right)\right]. \tag{17}$$

This numerical calculations support our Conjecture 12 that the Chebyshev primes may be derived from $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}$ instead of K_{n-1}.

2.3. The Generalized Chebyshev Primes

Definition 13. Let $p \in \mathscr{P}$ be an odd prime number and the function $j_{\psi(p^l)} = \mathrm{li}[\psi(p^l)] - \mathrm{li}[\psi(p^l - 1)]$, $l \geq 1$. The primes p such that $j_{\psi(p^l)} < 1/l$ are called here *generalized Chebyshev primes* $\mathrm{Ch}_n^{(l)}$ (or Chebyshev primes of index l).

A short list of Chebyshev primes of index 2 is as follows:

{17, 29, 41, 53, 61, 71, 83, 89, 101, 103, 113, 127, 137, 149, 151, 157, 193, 211, 239, 241, ...} [12, Sequence A196668].

A short list of Chebyshev primes of index 3 is as follows:

{11, 19, 29, 61, 71, 97, 101, 107, 109, 113, 127, 131, 149, 151, 173, 181, 191, 193, 197, 199, ...} [12, Sequence A196669].

A short list of Chebyshev primes of index 4 is as follows:

{5, 7, 17, 19, 31, 37, 41, 43, 53, 59, 67, 73, 79, 83, 101, 103, 107, ...} [12, Sequence A196670].

Conjecture 14. *The jump at power of primes* p_n^l *of the function* $\mathrm{li}\left[\psi(x)\right]$ *may be written as* $K_{n-1}^{(l)} = \widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)} + O(1/p_n^{2l})$, *with* $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)} = \log p_n / \log[(\psi(p_n^l) + \psi(p_n^l - 1))/2]$. *In particular the* sign *of* $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)} - 1$ *is that of* $K_{n-1}^{(l)} - 1$.

Comment 4. Our comment is similar to the comment given in the context of Conjecture 12 but refers to the generalized Chebyshev primes $\mathrm{Ch}_n^{(l)}$. To summarize, the jump of the function $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$ is accurately defined by a *generalized Mangoldt function* Λ_n^{new}, that is, $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)}$, if $n = p^l$ and 0 otherwise, with $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)}$ as defined in the present proposition. The sign of the function $\widetilde{K}_{n-1}^{(l)} - 1/l$ determines the position of the generalized Chebyshev primes.

3. The Chebyshev and Riemann Primes

The next subsection relates the definition of the Chebyshev primes to the explicit Von Mangoldt formula. The following one puts in perspective the link of the Chebyshev primes to RH through the introduction of the so-called *Riemann primes*.

3.1. The Chebyshev Primes and the Von Mangoldt Explicit Formula. From Corollary 10, one observes that the oscillations of the function $\psi(x) - x$ around 0 are intimely related to the existence of Chebyshev primes.

Proposition 15. *If p_n is a Chebyshev prime (of index 1), then $\psi(p_n) > p_n$. In the other direction, if $\psi(p_n - 1) > p_n$, then p_n is a Chebyshev prime (of index 1).*

Proof. Proposition 15 follows from the inequalities (analogous to that of Lemma 5)

$$\frac{\log p_{n+1}}{\log \psi\left(p_{n+1}\right)} \leq K_n \leq \frac{\log p_{n+1}}{\log \psi\left(p_{n+1} - 1\right)}. \tag{18}$$

□

In what regards the position of the (generalized) Chebyshev primes, our numerical experiments lead to the following conjecture.

Conjecture 16. *Let $\psi_0(x)$ be the normalized Chebyshev function. A prime p is a Chebyshev prime of index l iff it satisfies the inequality $\psi_0(p^l) > p^l$.*

Comment 5. It is straigthforward to recover the known sequence of Chebyshev primes (already obtained from Definition 8 or the Conjecture 12) from the new Conjecture 16. Thus, Chebyshev primes (of index 1) Ch_m are those primes p_m satisfying $\psi_0(p_m) > p_m$. Similarly, generalized Chebyshev primes of index $l > 1$ (obtained from Definition 13, or the Conjecture 14) also follow from the Conjecture 16.

3.2. Riemann Hypothesis and the Riemann Primes. Under RH, one has the inequality [1]

$$\left|\psi(x) - x\right| = O\left(x^{1/2+\epsilon_0}\right) \quad \text{for every } \epsilon_0 > 0, \tag{19}$$

and alternative upper bounds exist in various ranges of values of x [8]. In the following, we specialize on bounds for $\psi(x) - x$ at power of primes $x = p_n^l$.

Definition 17. The champions (left to right maxima) of the function $|\psi(p_n^l) - p_n^l|$ are called here *Riemann primes of the ψ type* and index l.

Comment 6. One numerically gets the Riemann primes of the ψ type and index 1 [12, Sequence A197185]

{2, 59, 73, 97, 109, 113, 199, 283, 463, 467, 661, 1103, 1109, 1123, 1129, 1321, 1327, . . .},

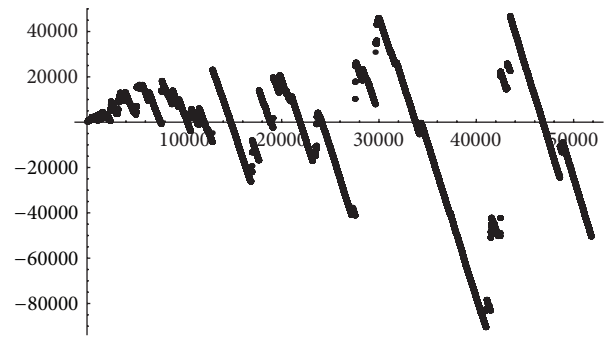

Figure 1: A plot of the function $\mathrm{Ch}_n - p_{2n}$ up to the 10^5th prime.

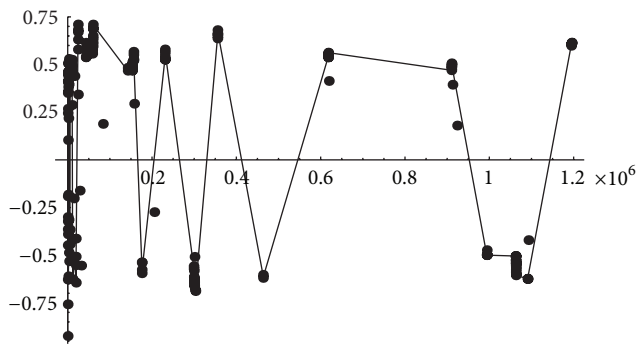

Figure 2: The function $(\psi(x) - x)/\sqrt{x}$ at the Riemann primes of the ψ type and indices 1 to 4. Points of index 1 are joined.

the Riemann primes of the ψ type and index 2 [12, Sequence A197186]

{2, 17, 31, 41, 53, 101, 109, 127, 139, 179, 397, 419, 547, 787, 997, 1031, . . .},

the Riemann primes of the ψ type and index 3 [12, Sequence A197187]

{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 29, 59, 67, 97, 103, . . .},

and the Riemann primes of the ψ type and index 4 [12, Sequence A197188]

{2, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 31, . . .}.

Clearly, the subset of the Riemann primes of the ψ type such that $\psi_0(p_n^l) > p_n^l$ belongs to the set of Chebyshev primes of the corresponding index l. Since the Riemann primes of the ψ type maximize $\psi(x) - x$, it is useful to plot the ratio $r^{(l)} = (\psi(p_n^l) - p_n^l)/\sqrt{p_n^l}$. Figure 2 illustrates this dependence for the Riemann primes of index 1 to 4. One finds that the absolute ratio $|r^{(l)}|$ decreases with the index l; this corresponds to the points of lowest amplitude in Figure 2.

Under RH, one has the inequality [8, Theorem 10]

$$|\theta(x) - x| < \frac{1}{8\pi}\sqrt{x}\log^2 x. \tag{20}$$

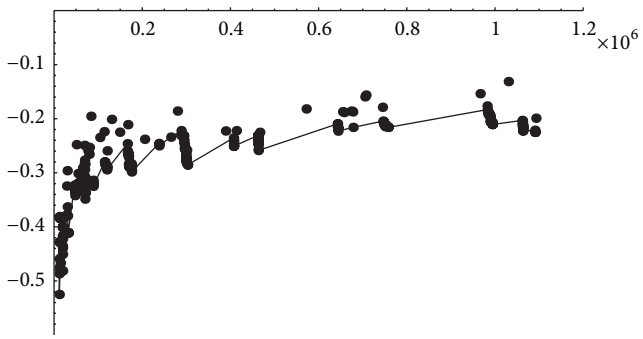

FIGURE 3: The function $(\theta(x)-x)/((1/8\pi)\sqrt{x}\log^2 x)$ at the Riemann primes of the θ type and indices 1 to 4. Points of index 1 are joined.

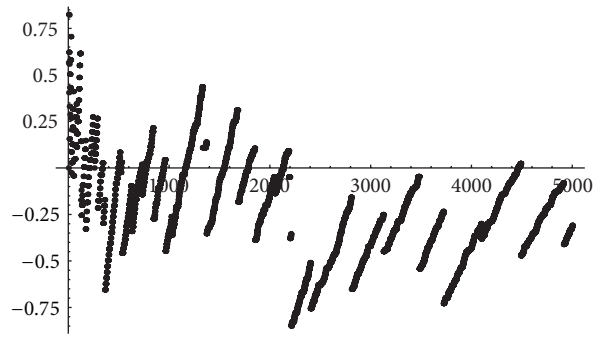

FIGURE 4: A plot of the function $\eta_3(x)$.

In the following, we specialize on bounds for $\theta(x)-x$ at power of primes $x = p_n^l$.

Definition 18. The champions (left to right maxima) of the function $|\theta(p_n^l) - p_n^l|$ are called here *Riemann primes of the θ type* and index l.

Comment 7. One numerically gets the Riemann primes of the θ type and index 1 [12, Sequence A197297]

> {2, 5, 7, 11, 17, 29, 37, 41, 53, 59, 97, 127, 137, 149, 191, 223, 307, 331, 337, 347, 419, ...},

the Riemann primes of the θ type and index 2 [12, Sequence A197298]

> {2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 43, 47, 59, 73, 97, 107, 109, 139, 179, 233, 263, ...},

the Riemann primes of the θ type and index 3 [12, Sequence A197299]

> {2, 3, 5, 7, 13, 17, 23, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 67, 73, 83, 89, 101, 103, ...},

and the Riemann primes of the θ type and index 4 [12, Sequence A197300]

> {2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, ...}.

The Riemann primes of the θ type maximize $\theta(x) - x$. In Figure 3, we plot the ratio $s^{(l)} = (\theta(p_n^l) - p_n^l)/((1/8\pi)\sqrt{p_n^l}\log^2 p_n^l)$ at the Riemann primes of index 1 to 4. Again one finds that the absolute ratio $|s^{(l)}|$ decreases with the index l; this corresponds to the points of lowest amplitude in Figure 3.

In the future, it will be useful to approach the proof of RH thanks to the Riemann primes.

4. An Efficient Prime Counting Function

In this section, one finds that the Riemann prime counting function [13] $R(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(\mu(n)/n)\mathrm{li}(x^{1/n}) \sim \pi(x)$ may be much improved by replacing it by $R[\psi(x)]$. One denotes $\eta_N(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{N}(\mu(n)/n)\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)^{1/n}] - \pi(x)$, $N \geq 1$, the offset in the new prime counting function. Indeed, $\eta_1(x) = \epsilon_{\psi(x)}$.

By definition, the negative jumps in the function $\eta_N(x)$ may only occur at $x+1 \in \mathscr{P}$. For $N = 1$, they occur at primes $p \in \mathrm{Ch}$ (the Chebyshev primes; see Definition 8). For $N > 1$, negative jumps are numerically found to occur at all $x + 1 \in \mathscr{P}$ with an amplitude decreasing to zero. We are led to the following conjecture.

Conjecture 19. *Let $\eta_N(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{N}(\mu(n)/n)\ \mathrm{li}[\psi(x)^{1/n}] - \pi(x)$, $N > 1$. Negative jumps of the function $\eta_N(x)$ occur at all primes $x + 1 \in \mathscr{P}$ and $\lim_{p\to\infty}\ [\eta_N(p) - \eta_N(p-1)] = 0$.*

More generally, the jumps of $\eta_N(x)$ at power of primes are described by the following conjecture.

Conjecture 20. *Let $\eta_N(x)$ be as in Conjecture 19. Positive jumps of the function $\eta_N(x)$ occur at all powers of primes $x+1 = p^l$, $p \in \mathscr{P}$, and $l > 1$. Moreover, the jumps are such that $\eta_N(p^l) - \eta_N(p^l - 1) - 1/l > 0$ and $\lim_{p\to\infty}\eta_N(p^l) - \eta_N(p^l - 1) - 1/l = 0$.*

A sketch of the function $\eta_3(n)$ (for $2 < n < 5000$) is given in Figure 4. One easily detects the large positive jumps at $n = p^2$ ($p \in \mathscr{P}$), the intermediate positive jumps at $n = p^l$ ($l > 2$), and the (very small) negative jumps at primes p. This plot can be compared to that of the function $R(n) - \pi(n)$ displayed in [13].

Comment 8. The arithmetical structure of $\eta_N(x)$ we have just described leads to $|\eta_N(x)| < \eta_{\max}$ when $N \geq 3$. Table 1 represents the maximum value $\eta_{\max}$ that is reached and the position $x_{\max}$ of the extremum, for several small values of N and $x < 10^5$. Thus, the function $\sum_{n=1}^{N}(\mu(n)/n)\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)^{1/n}]$ is a good prime counting function with only a few terms in the summation. This is about a fivefold improvement of the accuracy obtained with the standard Riemann prime counting function $R(x)$ (in the range $x < 10^4$) and an even better improvement when $x > 10^4$, already with three terms in the expansion. Another illustration of the efficiency of the calculation based on $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$ is given in Table 2, that displays values of $\eta_3(x)$ at multiples of 10^6. See also Figure 4.

Table 1: Upper part of the table: maximum error $\eta_{\max}$ in the new prime counting function for $x < 10^4$ (left-hand part) in comparison to the maximum error using the Riemann prime counting function (right-hand part). Lower part of the table: as above in the range $x < 10^5$.

N	$x_{\max}$	$\eta_{\max}$	$x_{\max}$	$(R-\pi)_{\max}$
3	6889	1.118	7450	6.174
4	6889	1.118	7450	6.174
5	1330	−1.061	9859	−5.506
6	7	−0.862	7450	5.879
7	1330	−0.936	9949	−5.609
10	7	−0.884	7450	5.661
50	1330	−0.885	9949	−5.557
3	80090	1.840	87888	15.304
10	49727	−1.158	59797	−15.729

Table 2: Gauss's and Riemann's approximation and the approximation $\eta_3(x)$. Compare to table III, page 35 in [1].

x	Planat and Solé error	Riemann's error	Gauss's error
1,000,000	0.79	30	130
2,000,000	−0.13	−8.0	121
3,000,000	1.83	1.8	121
4,000,000	1.28	35	130
5,000,000	0.36	−62	121
6,000,000	2.91	25	121
7,000,000	0.03	−36	130
8,000,000	2.99	−4.7	121
9,000,000	1.73	−51	121
10,000,000	−0.37	90	339

It is known that $R(x)$ converges for any x and may also be written as the Gram series [13] $R(x) = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty}((\log x)^k/k!k\zeta(k+1))$. A similar formula is not established here.

5. Conclusion

This work sheds light on the structure and the distribution of the generalized Chebyshev primes Ch_n^l arising from the jumps of the function $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$. It is inspired by Robin's work [5] relating the sign of the functions $\epsilon_{\theta(x)}$ and $\epsilon_{\psi(x)}$ to RH [5]. Our most puzzling observation is that the nontrivial zeros ρ of the Riemann zeta function are mirrored in the (generalized) Chebyshev primes, whose existence at infinity crucially depends on the Littlewood's oscillation theorem. In addition, a new accurate prime counting function, based on $\mathrm{li}[\psi(x)]$ has been proposed. Future work should concentrate on an effective analytic map between the the zeros ρ and the sequence Ch_n, in the spirit of our Conjecture 16, and of our approach of RH through the Riemann primes.

Appendices

A. The Chebyshev Primes (of Index 1) Not Exceeding 10^5

[109, 113, 139, 181, 197, 199, 241, 271, 281, 283, 293, 313, 317, 443, 449, 461, 463, 467, 479, 491, 503, 509, 523, 619, 643, 647, 653, 659, 661, 673, 677, 683, 691, 701, 761, 769, 773, 829, 859, 863, 883, 887, 1033, 1039, 1049, 1051, 1061, 1063, 1069, 1091, 1093, 1097, 1103, 1109, 1117, 1123, 1129, 1153, 1231, 1237, 1301, 1303, 1307, 1319, 1321, 1327, 1489, 1493, 1499, 1511, 1571, 1579, 1583, 1601, 1607, 1609, 1613, 1619, 1621, 1627, 1637, 1657, 1663, 1667, 1669, 1693, 1697, 1699, 1709, 1721, 1723, 1733, 1741, 1747, 1753, 1759, 1783, 1787, 1789, 1801, 1811, 1877, 1879, 1889, 1907, 1913, 2089, 2113, 2141, 2143, 2153, 2161, 2297, 2311, 2351, 2357, 2381, 2383, 2389, 2393, 2399, 2411, 2417, 2423, 2437, 2441, 2447, 2459, 2467, 2473, 2477, 2557, 2711, 2713, 2719, 2729, 2731, 2741, 2749, 2753, 2767, 2777, 2789, 2791, 2797, 2801, 2803, 2819, 2833, 2837, 2843, 2851, 2857, 2861, 2879, 2887, 2897, 2903, 2909, 2917, 2927, 2939, 2953, 2957, 2963, 2969, 2971, 3001, 3011, 3019, 3023, 3037, 3041, 3049, 3061, 3067, 3083, 3089, 3559, 3583, 3593, 3617, 3623, 3631, 3637, 3643, 3659, 3673, 3677, 3691, 3697, 3701, 3709, 3719, 3727, 3733, 3739, 3761, 3767, 3769, 3779, 3793, 3797, 3803, 3823, 3833, 3851, 3853, 3863, 3877, 3881, 3889, 3911, 3917, 3919, 3923, 3929, 3931, 3943, 3947, 3967, 4007, 4013, 4019, 4021, 4027, 4049, 4051, 4057, 4073, 4079, 4091, 4093, 4099, 4111, 4127, 4129, 4133, 4139, 4153, 4157, 4159, 4177, 4219, 4231, 4241, 4243, 4253, 4259, 4261, 4271, 4273, 4283, 4289, 4297, 4327, 4339, 4349, 4357, 4363, 4373, 4519, 4523, 4549, 4567, 4651, 4657, 4663, 4673, 4679, 4691, 4733, 4801, 4817, 5009, 5011, 5021, 5023, 5039, 5051, 5059, 5081, 5087, 5099, 5101, 5107, 5113, 5119, 5237, 5507, 5521, 5527, 5531, 5573, 5581, 5591, 5659, 5669, 5693, 5701, 5711, 5717, 5743, 5749, 5827, 5843, 5849, 5851, 5857, 5861, 5867, 5869, 5879, 5881, 5897, 5903, 5923, 5927, 5939, 5953, 6271, 6277, 6287, 6299, 6301, 6311, 6317, 6323, 6329, 6337, 6343, 6353, 6359, 6361, 6367, 6373, 6379, 6389, 6397, 6421, 6427, 6449, 6451, 6469, 6473, 6481, 6491, 6571, 6577, 6581, 6599, 6607, 6619, 6703, 6709, 6719, 6733, 6737, 6793, 6803, 6829, 6833, 6841, 6857, 6863, 6869, 6871, 6883, 6899, 6907, 6911, 6917, 6949, 6959, 6961, 6967, 6971, 6977, 6983, 6991, 6997, 7001, 7013, 7019, 7027, 7039, 7043, 7057, 7069, 7079, 7103, 7109, 7121, 7127, 7129, 7151, 7159, 7213, 7219, 7229, 7237, 7243, 7247, 7253, 7333, 7351, 7583, 7589, 7591, 7603, 7607, 7621, 7643, 7649, 7673, 7681, 7687, 7691, 7699, 7703, 7717, 7723, 7727, 7741, 7753, 7757, 7759, 7789, 7793, 7879, 7883, 7927, 7933, 7937, 7949, 7951, 7963, 8297, 8839, 8849, 8863, 8867, 8887, 8893, 9013, 9049, 9059, 9067, 9241, 9343, 9349, 9419, 9421, 9431, 9433, 9437, 9439, 9461, 9463, 9467, 9473, 9479, 9491, 9497, 9511, 9521, 9533, 9539, 9547, 9551, 9587, 9601, 9613, 9619, 9623, 9629, 9631, 9643, 9649, 9661, 9677, 9679, 9689, 9697, 9719, 9721, 9733, 9739, 9743, 9749, 9767, 9769, 9781, 9787, 9791, 9803, 9811, 9817, 9829, 9833, 9839, 9851, 9857, 9859, 9871, 9883, 9887, 9901, 9907, 9923, 9929, 9931, 9941, 9949, 9967, 9973, 10007, 10009, 10039, 10069, 10079, 10091, 10093, 10099, 10103, 10111, 10133, 10139, 10141, 10151, 10159, 10163, 10169, 10177, 10181, 10193, 10211, 10223, 10243, 10247, 10253, 10259, 10267, 10271, 10273, 10289, 10301, 10303, 10313, 10321, 10331, 10333, 10337, 10343, 10357, 10369, 10391, 10399, 10427, 10429, 10433, 10453, 10457, 10459, 10463, 10477, 10487, 10499, 10501, 10513, 10529, 10531, 10559, 10567, 10601, 10607, 10613, 10627, 10631,

10639, 10651, 10657, 10663, 10667, 10687, 10691, 10709, 10711, 10723, 10729, 10733, 10739, 10753, 10771, 10781, 10789, 10799, 10859, 10861, 10867, 10883, 10889, 10891, 10903, 10909, 10939, 10949, 10957, 10979, 10987, 10993, 11003, 11119, 11173, 11177, 12547, 12553, 12577, 12583, 12589, 12601, 12611, 12613, 12619, 12637, 12641, 12647, 12653, 12659, 12671, 12689, 12697, 12703, 12713, 12721, 12739, 12743, 12757, 12763, 12781, 12791, 12799, 12809, 12821, 12823, 12829, 12841, 12853, 12911, 12917, 12919, 12923, 12941, 12953, 12959, 12967, 12973, 12979, 12983, 13001, 13003, 13007, 13009, 13033, 13037, 13043, 13049, 13063, 13093, 13099, 13103, 13109, 13121, 13127, 13147, 13151, 13159, 13163, 13171, 13177, 13183, 13187, 13217, 13219, 13229, 13241, 13249, 13259, 13267, 13291, 13297, 13309, 13313, 13327, 13331, 13337, 13339, 13367, 13381, 13399, 13411, 13417, 13421, 13441, 13451, 13457, 13463, 13469, 13477, 13487, 13499, 13513, 13523, 13537, 13697, 13709, 13711, 13721, 13723, 13729, 13751, 13757, 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28661, 28663, 28669, 28687, 28697, 28703, 28711, 28723, 28729, 28751, 28753, 28759, 28771, 28789, 28793, 28807, 28813, 28817, 28837, 28843, 28859, 28867, 28871, 28879, 28901, 28909, 28921, 28927, 28933, 28949, 28961, 28979, 29009, 29017, 29021, 29023, 29027, 29033, 29059, 29063, 29077, 29101, 29131, 29137, 29147, 29153, 29167, 29173, 29179, 29191, 29201, 29207, 29209, 29221, 29231, 29243, 29251, 29269, 29287, 29297, 29303, 29311, 29327, 29333, 29339, 29347, 29363, 29383, 29387, 29389, 29399, 29401, 29411, 29423, 29429, 29437, 29443, 29453, 29473, 29483, 29501, 29527, 29531, 29537, 29569, 29573, 29581, 29587, 29599, 29611, 29629, 29633, 29641, 29663, 29669, 29671, 29683, 29761, 31277, 31337, 31397, 32611, 32621, 32653, 32803, 32843, 32999, 33029, 33037, 33049, 33053, 33071, 33073, 33083, 33091, 33107, 33113, 33119, 33151, 33161, 33179, 33181, 33191, 33199, 33203, 33211, 33223, 33247, 33349, 33353, 33359, 33377, 33391, 33403, 33409, 33413, 33427, 33469, 33479, 33487, 33493, 33503, 33521, 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B. The Riemann Primes of the ψ Type and Index 1, in the Range $p_n = [2 \cdots 1286451]$

[2, 59, 73, 97, 109, 113, 199, 283, 463, 467, 661, 1103, 1109, 1123, 1129, 1321, 1327, 1423, 2657, 2803, 2861, 3299, 5381, 5881, 6373, 6379, 9859, 9931, 9949, 10337, 10343, 11777, 19181, 19207, 19373, 24107, 24109, 24113, 24121, 24137, 42751, 42793, 42797, 42859, 42863, 58231, 58237, 58243, 59243, 59447, 59453, 59471, 59473, 59747, 59753,142231, 142237, 151909, 152851, 152857, 152959, 152993, 153001, 155851, 155861, 155863, 155893, 175573, 175601, 175621, 230357, 230369, 230387, 230389, 230393, 298559, 298579, 298993, 299281, 299311, 299843, 299857, 299933, 300073, 300089, 300109, 300137, 302551, 302831, 355073, 355093, 355099, 355109, 355111, 463157, 463181, 617479, 617731, 617767, 617777, 617801, 617809, 617819, 909907, 909911, 909917, 910213, 910219, 910229, 993763, 993779, 993821, 1062251, 1062293, 1062311, 1062343, 1062469, 1062497, 1062511, 1062547, 1062599, 1062643, 1062671, 1062779, 1062869, 1090681, 1090697, 1194041, 1194047, 1194059, 1195237, 1195247].

C. The Riemann Primes of the θ Type and Index 1, in the Range $p_n = [2 \cdots 1536517]$

[2, 5, 7, 11, 17, 29, 37, 41, 53, 59, 97, 127, 137, 149, 191, 223, 307, 331, 337, 347, 419, 541, 557, 809, 967, 1009, 1213, 1277, 1399, 1409, 1423, 1973, 2203, 2237, 2591, 2609, 2617, 2633, 2647, 2657, 3163, 3299, 4861, 4871, 4889, 4903, 4931, 5381, 7411, 7433, 7451, 8513, 8597, 11579, 11617, 11657, 11677, 11777, 14387, 18973, 19001, 19031,

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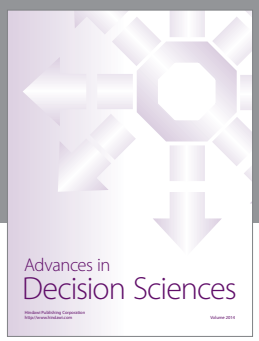

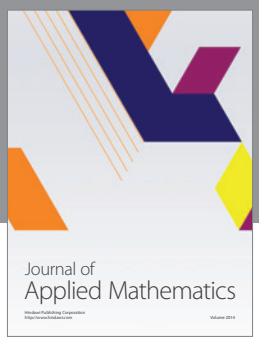

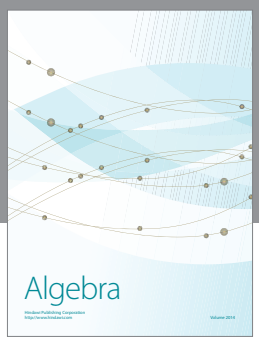

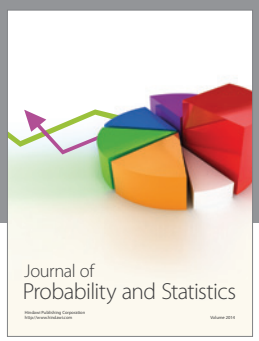

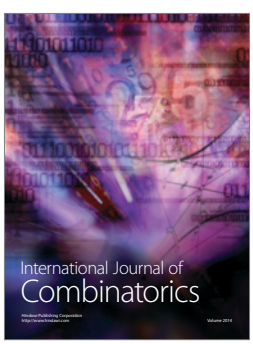

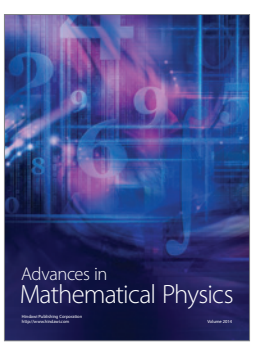

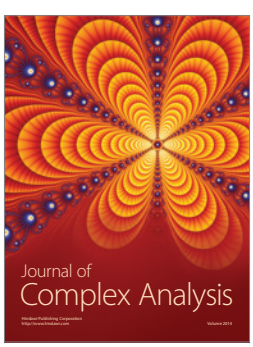

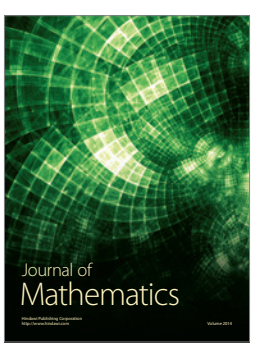

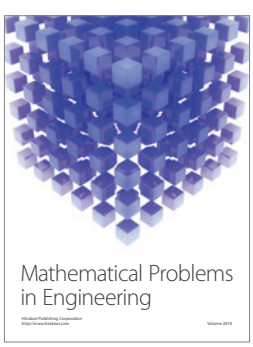

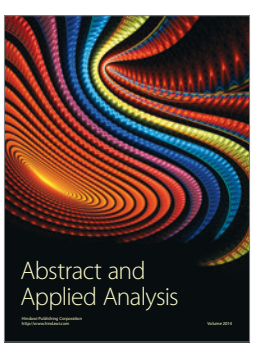

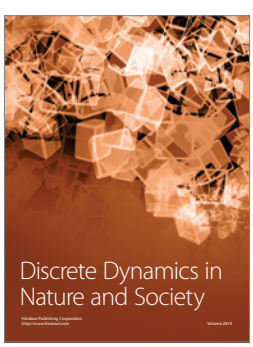

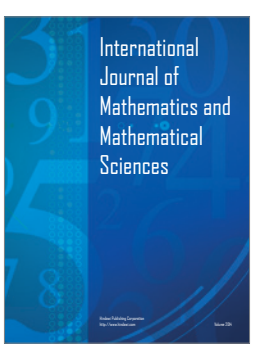

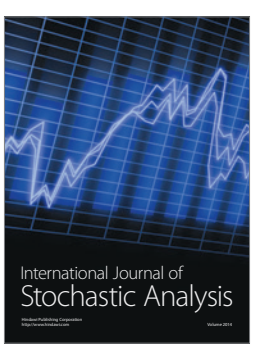

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