# **Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis**

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**Abstract** The Riemann hypothesis has been considered the most important unsolved problem in mathematics. Robin criterion states that the Riemann hypothesis is true if and only if the inequality  $\sigma(n) < e^{\gamma} \times n \times \log \log n$  holds for all natural numbers n > 5040, where  $\sigma(n)$  is the sum-of-divisors function of n and  $\gamma \approx 0.57721$  is the Euler-Mascheroni constant. We show that the Robin inequality is true for all natural numbers n > 5040 which are not divisible by the prime 3. Moreover, we prove that the Robin inequality is true for all natural numbers n > 5040 which are divisible by the prime 3. Consequently, the Robin inequality is true for all natural numbers n > 5040 and thus, the Riemann hypothesis is true.

**Keywords** Riemann hypothesis  $\cdot$  Robin inequality  $\cdot$  sum-of-divisors function  $\cdot$  prime numbers  $\cdot$  Riemann zeta function

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2010)** MSC  $11M26 \cdot MSC \ 11A41 \cdot MSC \ 11A25$ 

#### 1 Introduction

In mathematics, the Riemann hypothesis is a conjecture that the Riemann zeta function has its zeros only at the negative even integers and complex numbers with real part  $\frac{1}{2}$  [3]. The Riemann hypothesis belongs to the David Hilbert's list of 23 unsolved problems [3]. Besides, it is one of the Clay Mathematics Institute's Millennium Prize Problems [3]. As usual  $\sigma(n)$  is the sum-of-divisors function of n [4]:



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where  $d \mid n$  means the integer d divides n and  $d \nmid n$  means the integer d does not divide n. Define f(n) to be  $\frac{\sigma(n)}{n}$ . Say Robins(n) holds provided

$$f(n) < e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$
.

The constant  $\gamma \approx 0.57721$  is the Euler-Mascheroni constant and log is the natural logarithm. The importance of this property is:

**Theorem 1.1** Robins(n) holds for all natural numbers n > 5040 if and only if the Riemann hypothesis is true [9].

It is known that  $\mathsf{Robins}(n)$  holds for many classes of numbers n.  $\mathsf{Robins}(n)$  holds for all natural numbers n > 5040 that are not divisible by 2 [4]. In addition, we show that  $\mathsf{Robins}(n)$  holds for all natural numbers n > 5040 that are not divisible by 3. Furthermore, we prove that  $\mathsf{Robins}(n)$  holds for all natural numbers n > 5040 that are divisible by 3. Putting all together yields the proof that the Riemann hypothesis is true.

## 2 A Central Lemma

These are known results:

**Lemma 2.1** [4]. For n > 1:

$$f(n) < \prod_{q|n} \frac{q}{q-1}. \tag{2.1}$$

Lemma 2.2 [5].

$$\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{q_k^2}{q_k^2 - 1} = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{q_k^2}} = \zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$
 (2.2)

The following is a key lemma. It gives an upper bound on f(n) that holds for all natural numbers n. The bound is too weak to prove Robins(n) directly, but is critical because it holds for all natural numbers n. Further the bound only uses the primes that divide n and not how many times they divide n.

**Lemma 2.3** Let n > 1 and let all its prime divisors be  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m$ . Then,

$$f(n) < \frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i}.$$

*Proof* We use that lemma 2.1:

$$f(n) < \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1}.$$

Now for q > 1,

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{q^2}} = \frac{q^2}{q^2 - 1}.$$

So

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{q^2}} \times \frac{q+1}{q} = \frac{q^2}{q^2 - 1} \times \frac{q+1}{q}$$
$$= \frac{q}{q-1}.$$

Then by lemma 2.2,

$$\prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{a_i^2}} < \zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

Putting this together yields the proof:

$$f(n) < \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1}$$

$$\leq \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{q_i^2}} \times \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i}$$

$$< \frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i}.$$

#### 3 A Basic Case

In basic number theory, for a given prime number p, the p-adic order of a natural number n is the highest exponent  $v_p \ge 1$  such that  $p^{v_p}$  divides n. This is a known result:

**Lemma 3.1** *In general, we know that* Robins(n) *holds for a natural number* n > 5040 *that satisfies either*  $v_2(n) \le 19$ ,  $v_3(n) \le 12$  *or*  $v_7(n) \le 6$ , *where*  $v_p(n)$  *is the p-adic order of* n [6].

We can easily prove that Robins(n) is true for certain kind of numbers:

**Lemma 3.2** Robins(n) holds for n > 5040 when  $q \le 7$ , where q is the largest prime divisor of n.

*Proof* Let n > 5040 and let all its prime divisors be  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 5$ , then we need to prove

$$f(n) < e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$

that is true when

$$\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$

according to the lemma 2.1. For  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 5$ ,

$$\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1} \le \frac{2 \times 3 \times 5}{1 \times 2 \times 4} = 3.75 < e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(5040) \approx 3.81.$$

However, we know for n > 5040

$$e^{\gamma} \times \log \log(5040) < e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$

and therefore, the proof is complete when  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 5$ . The remaining case is for n > 5040 when all its prime divisors are  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 7$ . Robins(n) holds for n > 5040 when  $v_7(n) \le 6$  according to the lemma 3.1 [6]. Hence, it is enough to prove this for those natural numbers n > 5040 when  $7^7 \mid n$ . For  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 7$ ,

$$\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1} \le \frac{2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7}{1 \times 2 \times 4 \times 6} = 4.375 < e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(7^7) \approx 4.65.$$

However, for n > 5040 and  $7^7 \mid n$ :

$$e^{\gamma} \times \log \log(7^7) \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$

and as a consequence, the proof is complete when  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m \le 7$ .

#### 4 A Better Bound

This is a known result:

**Lemma 4.1** [10]. For x > 1:

$$\sum_{q \le x} \frac{1}{q} < \log \log x + B + \frac{1}{\log^2 x} \tag{4.1}$$

where

$$B = 0.2614972128 \cdots$$

denotes the (Meissel-)Mertens constant [7].

We show a better result:

**Lemma 4.2** For  $x \ge 11$ , we have

$$\sum_{q \le x} \frac{1}{q} < \log \log x + \gamma - 0.12.$$

*Proof* Let's define  $H = \gamma - B$  [7]. The lemma 4.1 is the same as

$$\sum_{q < x} \frac{1}{q} < \log \log x + \gamma - (H - \frac{1}{\log^2 x}).$$

For  $x \ge 11$ ,

$$(H - \frac{1}{\log^2 x}) > (0.31 - \frac{1}{\log^2 11}) > 0.12$$

and thus,

$$\sum_{q \le x} \frac{1}{q} < \log \log x + \gamma - (H - \frac{1}{\log^2 x}) < \log \log x + \gamma - 0.12.$$

## 5 On a Square Free Number

We know the following results:

**Lemma 5.1** [4]. For 0 < a < b:

$$\frac{\log b - \log a}{b - a} = \frac{1}{(b - a)} \int_{a}^{b} \frac{dt}{t} > \frac{1}{b}.$$
 (5.1)

**Lemma 5.2** [4]. For q > 0:

$$\log(q+1) - \log q = \int_{q}^{q+1} \frac{dt}{t} < \frac{1}{q}.$$
 (5.2)

We recall that an integer n is said to be square free if for every prime divisor q of n we have  $q^2 \nmid n$  [4].

**Lemma 5.3** Robins(n) holds for all natural numbers n > 5040 that are square free [4].

Lemma 5.4 For a square free number

$$n = q_1 \times \cdots \times q_m$$

such that  $q_1 < q_2 < \cdots < q_m$  are odd prime numbers,  $q_m \ge 11$  and  $3 \nmid n$ , then:

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times \sigma(n) \le e^{\gamma} \times n \times \log \log(2^{19} \times n).$$

**Proof** By induction with respect to  $\omega(n)$ , that is the number of distinct prime factors of n [4]. Put  $\omega(n) = m$  [4]. We need to prove the assertion for those integers with m = 1. From a square free number n, we obtain

$$\sigma(n) = (q_1 + 1) \times (q_2 + 1) \times \dots \times (q_m + 1) \tag{5.3}$$

when  $n = q_1 \times q_2 \times \cdots \times q_m$  [4]. In this way, for every prime number  $q_i \ge 11$ , then we need to prove

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{q_i}\right) \le e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times q_i). \tag{5.4}$$

For  $q_i = 11$ , we have

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{11}\right) \le e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times 11)$$

is actually true. For another prime number  $q_i > 11$ , we have

$$(1+\frac{1}{q_i}) < (1+\frac{1}{11})$$

and

$$\log\log(2^{19}\times11) < \log\log(2^{19}\times q_i)$$

which clearly implies that the inequality (5.4) is true for every prime number  $q_i \ge 11$ . Now, suppose it is true for m-1, with  $m \ge 2$  and let us consider the assertion for those square free *n* with  $\omega(n) = m$  [4]. So let  $n = q_1 \times \cdots \times q_m$  be a square free number and assume that  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m$  for  $q_m \ge 11$ .

Case 1:  $q_m \ge \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) = \log(2^{19} \times n)$ . By the induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times (q_1 + 1) \times \cdots \times (q_{m-1} + 1) \leq e^{\gamma} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1})$$

and hence

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times (q_1+1) \times \cdots \times (q_{m-1}+1) \times (q_m+1) \le$$

$$e^{\gamma} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times (q_m+1) \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1})$$

when we multiply the both sides of the inequality by  $(q_m + 1)$ . We want to show

$$e^{\gamma} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times (q_m+1) \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1}) \le$$

$$e^{\gamma} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) = e^{\gamma} \times n \times \log \log(2^{19} \times n).$$

Indeed the previous inequality is equivalent with

$$q_m \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) \ge (q_m + 1) \times \log \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1})$$

or alternatively

$$\frac{q_m \times (\log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) - \log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1}))}{\log q_m} \geq \frac{\log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1})}{\log q_m}.$$

We can apply the inequality in lemma 5.1 just using  $b = \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m)$  $q_m$ ) and  $a = \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1})$ . Certainly, we have

$$\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) - \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1}) = \log \frac{2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m}{2^{19} \times q_1 \times \dots \times q_{m-1}} = \log q_m.$$

In this way, we obtain

$$\frac{q_m \times (\log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) - \log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1}))}{\log q_m} > \frac{q_m}{\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_m)}.$$

Using this result we infer that the original inequality is certainly satisfied if the next inequality is satisfied

$$\frac{q_m}{\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_m)} \ge \frac{\log\log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1})}{\log q_m}$$

which is trivially true for  $q_m \ge \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m)$  [4]. Case 2:  $q_m < \log(2^{19} \times q_1 \times \cdots \times q_{m-1} \times q_m) = \log(2^{19} \times n)$ . We need to prove

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times \frac{\sigma(n)}{n} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times n).$$

We know  $\frac{3}{2} < 1.503 < \frac{4}{2.66}$ . Nevertheless, we could have

$$\frac{3}{2} \times \frac{\sigma(n)}{n} \times \frac{\pi^2}{6} < \frac{4 \times \sigma(n)}{3 \times n} \times \frac{\pi^2}{2 \times 2.66}$$

and therefore, we only need to prove

$$\frac{\sigma(3 \times n)}{3 \times n} \times \frac{\pi^2}{5.32} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times n)$$

where this is possible because of  $3 \nmid n$ . If we apply the logarithm to the both sides of the inequality, then we obtain

$$\log(\frac{\pi^2}{5.32}) + (\log(3+1) - \log 3) + \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\log(q_i+1) - \log q_i) \le \gamma + \log\log\log(2^{19} \times n).$$

In addition, note that  $\log(\frac{\pi^2}{5.32}) < \frac{1}{2} + 0.12$ . However, we know

$$\gamma + \log \log q_m < \gamma + \log \log \log (2^{19} \times n)$$

since  $q_m < \log(2^{19} \times n)$ . We use that lemma 5.2 for each term  $\log(q+1) - \log q$  and thus.

$$0.12 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{q_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{q_m} \le 0.12 + \sum_{q \le q_m} \frac{1}{q} \le \gamma + \log \log q_m$$

where  $q_m \ge 11$ . Hence, it is enough to prove

$$\sum_{q < q_m} \frac{1}{q} \le \gamma + \log \log q_m - 0.12$$

but this is true according to the lemma 4.2 for  $q_m \ge 11$ . In this way, we finally show the lemma is indeed satisfied.

# 6 Main Insight

The next result is a main insight.

**Lemma 6.1** Let n > 5040 and let all its prime divisors be  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m$ . When  $q_m \ge 11$ ,  $3 \nmid n$  and  $2^{20} \mid n$ , then

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n.$$

Proof We need to prove that

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n.$$

Using the formula (5.3) for the square free numbers, then we obtain that is equivalent to

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{\sigma(n')}{n'} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$$

where  $n' = q_1 \times \cdots \times q_m$  is the square free kernel of the natural number n [4]. We know that  $2^{20} \mid n$  and thus,

$$e^{\gamma} \times n' \times \log \log(2^{19} \times \frac{n'}{2}) \le e^{\gamma} \times n' \times \log \log n$$

because of  $2^{19} \times \frac{n'}{2} \le n$  where  $2^{20} \mid n$  and  $2 \mid n'$ . So,

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \sigma(n') \le e^{\gamma} \times n' \times \log\log(2^{19} \times \frac{n'}{2}).$$

According to the formula (5.3) for the square free numbers and  $2 \mid n'$ , then,

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times 3 \times \sigma(\frac{n'}{2}) \le e^{\gamma} \times 2 \times \frac{n'}{2} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times \frac{n'}{2})$$

which is the same as

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{2} \times \sigma(\frac{n'}{2}) \le e^{\gamma} \times \frac{n'}{2} \times \log\log(2^{19} \times \frac{n'}{2})$$

where this is true according to the lemma 5.4 when  $3 \nmid \frac{n'}{2}$  and  $q_m \ge 11$ . To sum up, the proof is complete.

## 7 Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis

Let  $q_1 = 2, q_2 = 3, ..., q_m$  denote the first m consecutive primes, then an integer of the form  $\prod_{i=1}^m q_i^{a_i}$  with  $a_1 \ge a_2 \ge ... \ge a_m \ge 0$  is called an Hardy-Ramanujan integer [4]. A natural number n is called superabundant precisely when, for all natural numbers m < n

$$f(m) < f(n)$$
.

**Lemma 7.1** If n is superabundant, then n is an Hardy-Ramanujan integer [2].

**Lemma 7.2** The smallest counterexample of the Robin inequality greater than 5040 must be a superabundant number [1].

This is an important lemma that we use:

**Lemma 7.3** *Let*  $x \ge 11$ . *For* y > x *we have* [8]:

$$\frac{\log\log y}{\log\log x} < \frac{\sqrt{y}}{\sqrt{x}}.$$

**Theorem 7.4** The Riemann hypothesis is true.

*Proof* Let  $\prod_{i=1}^m q_i^{a_i}$  be the representation of n as a product of primes  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m$  with natural numbers as exponents  $a_1, \ldots, a_m$ . In this way, we assume that n > 5040 could be the smallest integer such that  $\operatorname{Robins}(n)$  does not hold. According to the lemmas 7.1 and 7.2, the primes  $q_1 < \cdots < q_m$  must be the first m consecutive primes and  $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \cdots \geq a_m \geq 0$  since n > 5040 should be an Hardy-Ramanujan integer. We know that n > 5040 complies that  $\operatorname{Robins}(n)$  holds when  $v_2(n) \leq 19$  or  $q_m \leq 7$  according to the lemmas 3.1 and 3.2. Therefore, the natural number n > 5040 complies with  $q_m \geq 11$  and  $2^{20} \mid n$ . So,

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log \frac{n}{3^{\nu_3(n)}}$$

because of the lema 6.1. This is equivalent to

$$\frac{\pi^2}{8} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} \le e^{\gamma} \times \log \log \frac{n}{3^{\nu_3(n)}}.$$

If we divide the two sides of the previous inequality by  $e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n$ , then

$$\frac{\frac{\pi^2}{8} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i+1}{q_i}}{e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n} \leq \frac{\log \log \frac{n}{3^{\nu_3(n)}}}{\log \log n}.$$

We use that lemma 7.3 to show that

$$\frac{\log\log\frac{n}{3^{\nu_3(n)}}}{\log\log n} > \frac{1}{\sqrt{3^{\nu_3(n)}}}.$$

We know that Robins(n) holds for a natural number n > 5040 when  $v_3(n) \le 12$ . Consequently, we obtain that

$$\frac{\frac{\pi^2}{8} \times \sqrt{3^{12}} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i+1}{q_i}}{e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n} \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{3v_3(n)-12}}.$$

We have that

$$\frac{\pi^2}{8} \times \sqrt{3^{12}} \ge \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

We use that theorem 2.2 to show that

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} > \left( \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i^2}{q_i^2 - 1} \right) \times \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i}.$$

Besides.

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i^2}{q_i^2 - 1}\right) \times \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i + 1}{q_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i - 1}$$

because of

$$\frac{q}{q-1} = \frac{q^2}{q^2-1} \times \frac{q+1}{q}.$$

Consequently, we obtain that

$$\frac{\prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i}{q_i-1}}{e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n} < \frac{\frac{\pi^2}{8} \times \sqrt{3^{12}} \times \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{q_i+1}{q_i}}{e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n}$$

and thus,

$$\frac{f(n)}{e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n} < 1$$

according to the lemma 2.1 and  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3^{\nu_3(n)-12}}} < 1$ . That is the same as

$$f(n) < e^{\gamma} \times \log \log n.$$

However, this is a contradiction, since Robins(n) does not hold under our initial assumption. Finally, we can see that the Riemann hypothesis is true because of the theorem 1.1.

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