

**A SIMPLE PROOF THAT  $\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n} = 0$**

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**Abstract**

A simple proof is given that  $\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n} = 0$  using the Prime Number Theorem.

**1.INTRODUCTION**

Let  $\mu(n)$  denote the Moebius function and  $d(n)$  the divisor function. The question ”  $\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n} = 0$  ” was posed in ([4], p 1599). W.Narkiewicz in a letter indicated that it can be proved by contour integrals. In this note we use the Prime Number Theorem in the form ”  $\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)}{n} = 0$  ” to obtain one more proof(Prop 1).

**Lemma 1.**

$$\prod_p \left(1 - \frac{2}{p^3}\right) = \sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n^s} \quad (\text{Re } s > \sigma_a)$$

*Proof.* For any multiplicative function  $f(n)$  we have ([1], Theorem 11.7)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 + \frac{f(p)}{p^s} + \dots + \frac{f(p^k)}{p^{ks}} + \dots\right)$$

Take  $f(n) = \mu(n)d(n)$ ,  $f(p) = \mu(p)d(p) = 2$  and  $f(pk) = \mu(pk)d(pk) = 0$  for  $k > 2$ . Hence the equality.

**Lemma 2.**

$$\prod_p \left(1 - \frac{2}{p^s}\right) = \prod_p \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^2 \right\} \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^{2s} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^2}\right) \quad (\text{Re } s > 1)$$

*Proof.* ([3], 4.4.6) We verify the factorization

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$$\left(1 - \frac{2}{x}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2}\right)$$

and put  $x = p^s$ , take product over all primes  $p$  and rearrange using absolute convergence for  $\text{Re } s > 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RHS} &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 \left(\frac{x^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 - 1}{x^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2}\right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 \left(\frac{(x-1)^2 - 1}{(x-1)^2}\right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 \left(\frac{x^2 - 2x + 1 - 1}{x^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2}\right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 \left(\frac{x^2 - 2x}{x^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2}\right) \\ &= \frac{x-2}{x} \\ &= 1 - \frac{2}{x} \\ &= \text{LHS} \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 1.** For  $\text{Re } s > 1$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{2}{p^s}\right) = \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^s}\right)^2 \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^{2s} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^2}\right)$$

where the last product converges uniformly for  $\text{Re } s > 1$ .

*Proof.* We use the product formula ([1], p 231) for  $\text{Re } s > 1$

$$\frac{1}{\zeta(s)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)$$

and the convergence condition for infinite products:

$$\prod_n (1 - \alpha_n), 0 \leq \alpha_n < 1 \text{ converges iff } \sum_n \alpha_n \text{ converges.}$$

**Remark 1.** Recall ([1], p 97) that the Prime Number Theorem is equivalent to

$$\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)}{n} = 0$$

**Lemma 3.** The Cauchy product

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(n)}{n}\right)^2 = 0$$

*Proof.* Write  $a_n = \frac{\mu(n)}{n}$  and the polynomial product.

$$\left(\sum_{m=1}^l a_m x^m\right)\left(\sum_{n=1}^k a_n x^n\right) = p_t(x) \text{ where } t = k+l. \text{ Take } x = 1 \text{ to get the equality}$$

of partial sums

$$p_t(1) = s_m s_n$$

Now (Remark 1)  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} s_m = 0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$  and indeed the double sequence

$\{s_m s_n\}$  converges to 0 as  $m, n \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} p_t(1) = 0$$

i.e., the Cauchy product converges to 0.

**Proposition 1.**

$$\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n} = 0$$

*Proof.* By Cor 1 with  $s = 1$  we have the formal Cauchy product (equality of partial sums at  $s = 1$ , to be checked for convergence)

$$\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n} = \left(\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)}{n}\right)^2 \left(\sum_n \frac{b_n}{n}\right)$$

$\sum_n \frac{b_n}{n}$  converges absolutely to a positive limit L and  $\left(\sum_n \frac{\mu(n)}{n}\right)^2 = 0$  by Lemma 3.

So by Mertens' Criterion (if one of the series is absolutely convergent and the other is convergent then the Cauchy product converges to the product of the limits) the

Cauchy product converges to  $(0)(L) = 0$  as claimed.

**Lemma 4.** ([2], Theorem 9.6.2) If the real series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  converges to a limit L

then the partial sums  $s_n = 0(n)$

*Proof.* Let

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_n &= \frac{s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_n}{n} \\ s_n &= u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n \\ &= n\sigma_n - (n-1)\sigma_{n-1} \\ \therefore \frac{s_n}{n} &= \sigma_n - \frac{(n-1)}{n}\sigma_{n-1}\end{aligned}$$

But  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = L$  since

$$\liminf s_n \leq \liminf \sigma_n \leq \limsup \sigma_n \leq \limsup s_n$$

and  $L = \liminf s_n = \limsup s_n = \lim s_n$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s_n}{n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_n - \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n-1)}{n} \right) \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{n-1} \right) \\ &= L - (1)(L) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $s_n = 0(n)$ .

**Corollary 2.**

$$\sum_{n \leq x} \mu(n)d(n) = 0(x)$$

*Proof.* We apply ([2], Theorem 9.6.3) let

$$\begin{aligned}t_n &= u_1 + 2u_2 + \dots + nu_n \\ &= (n+1)s_n - n\sigma_n\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t}{n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^s}{n} \frac{1}{n} - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_n \\ &= (1)(L) - (L) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Take  $u_n = \frac{\mu(n)d(n)}{n}$  to obtain  $\sum_{n \leq x} \mu(n)d(n) = o(x)$ .

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