

# Toward a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis

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**Abstract:** The Möbius function  $\mu(j) = -1, 0, 1$  depending on whether  $j$  has an odd number of factors, a square factor, or an even number of factors. The Mertens function  $m(n)$  is  $j = 1$  to  $n$ ,  $\sum \mu(j)$ . For all  $n$ ,  $|m(n)| < 2n^{1/2}$ .  $|m(n)| = O(n^{1/2})$ , and therefore the Riemann Hypothesis is true.

Set  $f_n = (1/2)(2/3)(3/4) \dots ([n^{1/2}]/([n^{1/2}] + 1))(n) = n/([n^{1/2}] + 1) < n^{1/2}$ . See Appendix 1.

Set  $S_n = (4/3)(9/8)(16/15)(25/24) \dots (s^2/(s^2 - 1))$ ,  $s^2 \leq [n^{1/2}] + 1$ .  $S_n = 2n/(n+1)$  Proof by induction.

$n=2$   $S_n = (4/3)$  assume  $S_n = 2n/n+1$   $S_{n+1} = (2n/n+1)(n+1)^2 / ((n+1)^2 - 1) = 2(n+1)/((n+1)+1)$

$|m(n)| < (S_n)(f_n) < (2)(n^{1/2})$ .

A negative cycle is an interval in which  $m(s) \leq 0$  for all values of  $s$  and a positive cycle is an interval in which  $m(s) \geq 0$  for all values of  $s$ .

For every  $s \geq 1$ ,  $m(s)$  is in a positive or negative cycle or possibly both if  $m(s) = 0$ .

For  $|m(s)|$  at maximum value within a positive/negative cycle  $m(s+1)$  is in the same cycle.

$|m(n)| < (2)(n^{1/2})$  can be inferred from  $m(1) = 1$  alone.

**For the cycle containing  $m(n)$  one or both of the following two conditions hold.**

(1)  $|m(n)|$  is at maximum value within a cycle and  $|m(n)| \leq [(2)(n^{1/2})]$

(2)  $|m(n)| \leq [(2)(n^{1/2})] - 1$ .

1)  $|m(n+1)| \leq |m(n)| \leq [(2)(n^{1/2})] \leq [(2)(n+1)^{1/2}]$ .

2)  $|m(n+1)| \leq |m(n)| + 1 \leq [(2)(n^{1/2})] \leq [(2)(n+1)^{1/2}]$ .

$|m(n)| = O(n^{1/2})$ , and therefore Riemann Hypothesis is true.

**Appendix 1.** The Mertens function  $m(n)$  is applied to the first  $n$  positive integers as a set. The reciprocal of each of the  $s$  non-square integers up to  $[n^{1/2}] + 1$  is a Mertens proportionality factor. The MPF are applied repeatedly to the fractional part of  $n$ .  $(1 - 1/f_1)(n) = n_1$ ,  $(1 - 1/f_2)(n_1) = n_2$ , ...  $(1 - 1/f_s)(n_{s-1}) = n_s < 2n^{1/2}$   
 $2 = f_1$  thru  $f_s \leq [n^{1/2}] + 1$ . Collectively, the MPF are a measure of the proportion of elements in the Mertens function set whose Möbius function always has a combined value of zero.  $m(n)$  has a maximum/minimum possible value depending on  $m(n)$  being in a positive/negative cycle.