

Bertrand's postulate

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Abstract

Bertrand's postulate is an early result on the distribution of prime numbers: For every positive integer n , there exists a prime number that lies strictly between n and $2n$.

The proof is ported from John Harrison's formalisation in HOL Light [1]. It proceeds by first showing that the property is true for all n greater than or equal to 600 and then showing that it also holds for all n below 600 by case distinction.

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```
theory Bertrand
imports
  Complex-Main
  HOL-Number-Theory.Number-Theory
  HOL-Library.Discrete-Functions
  HOL-Decision-Props.Approximation-Bounds
  HOL-Library.Code-Target-Numeral
  Pratt-Certificate.Pratt-Certificate
begin
```

0.1 Auxiliary facts

```
lemma ln-2-le: ln 2 ≤ 355 / (512 :: real)
  ⟨proof⟩
```

```
lemma ln-2-ge: ln 2 ≥ (5677 / 8192 :: real)
```

$\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *ln-2-ge'*: $\ln(2 :: \text{real}) \geq 2/3$ **and** *ln-2-le'*: $\ln(2 :: \text{real}) \leq 16/23$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *of-nat-ge-1-iff*: $(\text{of-nat } x :: 'a :: \text{linordered-semidom}) \geq 1 \longleftrightarrow x \geq 1$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *floor-conv-div-nat*:
 $\text{of-int}(\text{floor}(\text{real } m / \text{real } n)) = \text{real}(m \text{ div } n)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *frac-conv-mod-nat*:
 $\text{frac}(\text{real } m / \text{real } n) = \text{real}(m \text{ mod } n) / \text{real } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *of-nat-prod-mset*: $\text{prod-mset}(\text{image-mset of-nat } A) = \text{of-nat}(\text{prod-mset } A)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *prod-mset-pos*: $(\bigwedge x :: 'a :: \text{linordered-semidom}. x \in \# A \implies x > 0) \implies \text{prod-mset } A > 0$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *ln-msetprod*:
assumes $\bigwedge x. x \in \# I \implies x > 0$
shows $(\sum p :: \text{nat} \in \# I. \ln p) = \ln(\prod p \in \# I. p)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *ln-fact*: $\ln(\text{fact } n) = (\sum d=1..n. \ln d)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *overpower-lemma*:
fixes $f g :: \text{real} \Rightarrow \text{real}$
assumes $f a \leq g a$
assumes $\bigwedge x. a \leq x \implies ((\lambda x. g x - f x) \text{ has-real-derivative } (d x)) \text{ (at } x)$
assumes $\bigwedge x. a \leq x \implies d x \geq 0$
assumes $a \leq x$
shows $f x \leq g x$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

0.2 Preliminary definitions

definition *primepow-even* :: $\text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$ **where**
 $\text{primepow-even } q \longleftrightarrow (\exists p k. 1 \leq k \wedge \text{prime } p \wedge q = p^{\lceil (2*k) \rceil})$

definition *primepow-odd* :: $\text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$ **where**
 $\text{primepow-odd } q \longleftrightarrow (\exists p k. 1 \leq k \wedge \text{prime } p \wedge q = p^{\lceil (2*k+1) \rceil})$

abbreviation (*input*) *isprimedivisor* :: $\text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$ **where**

```

isprimedivisor q p ≡ prime p ∧ p dvd q

definition pre-mangoldt :: nat ⇒ nat where
  pre-mangoldt d = (if primepow d then aprimedivisor d else 1)

definition mangoldt-even :: nat ⇒ real where
  mangoldt-even d = (if primepow-even d then ln (real (aprimedivisor d)) else 0)

definition mangoldt-odd :: nat ⇒ real where
  mangoldt-odd d = (if primepow-odd d then ln (real (aprimedivisor d)) else 0)

definition mangoldt-1 :: nat ⇒ real where
  mangoldt-1 d = (if prime d then ln d else 0)

definition psi :: nat ⇒ real where
  psi n = (∑ d=1..n. mangoldt d)

definition psi-even :: nat ⇒ real where
  psi-even n = (∑ d=1..n. mangoldt-even d)

definition psi-odd :: nat ⇒ real where
  psi-odd n = (∑ d=1..n. mangoldt-odd d)

abbreviation (input) psi-even-2 :: nat ⇒ real where
  psi-even-2 n ≡ (∑ d=2..n. mangoldt-even d)

abbreviation (input) psi-odd-2 :: nat ⇒ real where
  psi-odd-2 n ≡ (∑ d=2..n. mangoldt-odd d)

definition theta :: nat ⇒ real where
  theta n = (∑ p=1..n. if prime p then ln (real p) else 0)

```

0.3 Properties of prime powers

```

lemma primepow-even-imp-primepow:
  assumes primepow-even n
  shows primepow n
  ⟨proof⟩

lemma primepow-odd-imp-primepow:
  assumes primepow-odd n
  shows primepow n
  ⟨proof⟩

lemma primepow-odd-altdef:
  primepow-odd n ←→
    primepow n ∧ odd (multiplicity (aprimedivisor n) n) ∧ multiplicity (aprimedivisor
    n) n > 1
  ⟨proof⟩

```

```

lemma primepow-even-altdef:
  primepow-even n  $\longleftrightarrow$  primepow n  $\wedge$  even (multiplicity (aprimedivisor n) n)
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma primepow-odd-mult:
  assumes d > Suc 0
  shows primepow-odd (aprimedivisor d * d)  $\longleftrightarrow$  primepow-even d
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma pre-mangoldt-primepow:
  assumes primepow n aprimedivisor n = p
  shows pre-mangoldt n = p
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma pre-mangoldt-notprimepow:
  assumes  $\neg$  primepow n
  shows pre-mangoldt n = 1
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma primepow-cases:
  primepow d  $\longleftrightarrow$ 
    ( primepow-even d  $\wedge$   $\neg$  primepow-odd d  $\wedge$   $\neg$  prime d)  $\vee$ 
    ( $\neg$  primepow-even d  $\wedge$  primepow-odd d  $\wedge$   $\neg$  prime d)  $\vee$ 
    ( $\neg$  primepow-even d  $\wedge$   $\neg$  primepow-odd d  $\wedge$  prime d)
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

```

0.4 Deriving a recurrence for the psi function

```

lemma ln-fact-bounds:
  assumes n > 0
  shows abs(ln (fact n) - n * ln n + n)  $\leq$  1 + ln n
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma ln-fact-diff-bounds:
  abs(ln (fact n) - 2 * ln (fact (n div 2)) - n * ln 2)  $\leq$  4 * ln (if n = 0 then 1
  else n) + 3
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

lemma ln-primefact:
  assumes n  $\neq$  (0::nat)
  shows ln n = ( $\sum$  d=1..n. if primepow d  $\wedge$  d dvd n then ln (aprimedivisor d)
  else 0)
    (is ?lhs = ?rhs)
   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

context
begin

```

```

private lemma divisors:
  fixes x d:nat
  assumes x ∈ {1..n}
  assumes d dvd x
  shows ∃k∈{1..n} div d. x = d * k
  ⟨proof⟩

lemma ln-fact-conv-mangoldt: ln (fact n) = ( $\sum_{d=1..n} \text{mangoldt } d * \text{floor}(n / d)$ )
  ⟨proof⟩

end

context
begin

private lemma div-2-mult-2-bds:
  fixes n d :: nat
  assumes d > 0
  shows  $0 \leq \lfloor n / d \rfloor - 2 * \lfloor (n \text{ div } 2) / d \rfloor \lfloor n / d \rfloor - 2 * \lfloor (n \text{ div } 2) / d \rfloor \leq 1$ 
  ⟨proof⟩ lemma n-div-d-eq-1: d ∈ {n div 2 + 1..n} ⟹  $\lfloor \text{real } n / \text{real } d \rfloor = 1$ 
  ⟨proof⟩

lemma psi-bounds-ln-fact:
  shows ln (fact n) - 2 * ln (fact (n div 2)) ≤ psi n
     $\psi n - \psi(n \text{ div } 2) \leq \ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2))$ 
  ⟨proof⟩

end

lemma psi-bounds-induct:
   $\text{real } n * \ln 2 - (4 * \ln(\text{real } (\text{if } n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n)) + 3) \leq \psi n$ 
   $\psi n - \psi(n \text{ div } 2) \leq \text{real } n * \ln 2 + (4 * \ln(\text{real } (\text{if } n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n)) + 3)$ 
  ⟨proof⟩

```

0.5 Bounding the psi function

In this section, we will first prove the relatively tight estimate $\psi n \leq 3 / 2 + \ln 2 * \text{real } n$ for $n \leq (128::'a)$ and then use the recurrence we have just derived to extend it to $\psi n \leq 551 / 256$ for $n \leq (1024::'a)$, at which point applying the recurrence can be used to prove the same bound for arbitrarily big numbers.

First of all, we will prove the bound for $n \leq (128::'a)$ using reflection and approximation.

```

context
begin

```

```

private lemma Ball-insertD:
  assumes  $\forall x \in \text{insert } y A. P x$ 
  shows  $P y \forall x \in A. P x$ 
  (proof) lemma meta-eq-TrueE:  $\text{PROP } A \equiv \text{Trueprop True} \implies \text{PROP } A$ 
  (proof) lemma pre-mangoldt-pos:  $\text{pre-mangoldt } n > 0$ 
  (proof) lemma psi-conv-pre-mangoldt:  $\psi n = \ln(\text{real}(\text{prod pre-mangoldt } \{1..n\}))$ 
  (proof) lemma eval-psi-aux1:  $\psi 0 = \ln(\text{real}(\text{numeral Num.One}))$ 
  (proof) lemma eval-psi-aux2:
    assumes  $\psi m = \ln(\text{real}(\text{numeral } x))$ 
    assumes  $\text{pre-mangoldt } n = y \quad m + 1 = n \text{ numeral}$ 
     $x * y = z$ 
    shows  $\psi n = \ln(\text{real } z)$ 
  (proof) lemma Ball-atLeast0AtMost-doubleton:
    assumes  $\psi 0 \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } 0$ 
    assumes  $\psi 1 \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } 1$ 
    shows  $(\forall x \in \{0..1\}. \psi x \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } x)$ 
  (proof) lemma Ball-atLeast0AtMost-insert:
    assumes  $(\forall x \in \{0..m\}. \psi x \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } x)$ 
    assumes  $\psi(\text{numeral } n) \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } (\text{numeral } n)$ 
     $m = \text{pred-numeral } n$ 
    shows  $(\forall x \in \{0..\text{numeral } n\}. \psi x \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } x)$ 
  (proof) lemma eval-psi-ineq-aux:
    assumes  $\psi n = x \quad x \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * n$ 
    shows  $\psi n \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * n$ 
  (proof) lemma eval-psi-ineq-aux2:
    assumes  $\text{numeral } m \wedge 2 \leq (2::\text{nat}) \wedge (3 * n)$ 
    shows  $\ln(\text{real } (\text{numeral } m)) \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real } n$ 
  (proof) lemma eval-psi-ineq-aux-mono:
    assumes  $\psi n = x \quad \psi m = x \quad \psi n \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * n \quad n \leq m$ 
    shows  $\psi m \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * m$ 
  (proof)

```

lemma not-primepow-1-nat: $\neg \text{primepow } (1 :: \text{nat})$ **(proof)**

$\langle ML \rangle$

end

context
begin

```

private lemma psi-ubound-aux:
  defines  $f \equiv \lambda x :: \text{real}. (4 * \ln x + 3) / (\ln 2 * x)$ 
  assumes  $x \geq 2 \quad x \leq y$ 
  shows  $f x \geq f y$ 
  (proof)

```

These next rules are used in combination with $\text{real } ?n * \ln 2 - (4 * \ln(\text{real } (\text{if } ?n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } ?n)) + 3) \leq \psi ?n$

$\psi ?n - \psi (?n \text{ div } 2) \leq \text{real} ?n * \ln 2 + (4 * \ln (\text{real} (\text{if } ?n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } ?n)) + 3)$ and $\forall n \in \{0..128\}. \psi n \leq 3 / 2 * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$ to extend the upper bound for ψ from values no greater than 128 to values no greater than 1024. The constant factor of the upper bound changes every time, but once we have reached 1024, the recurrence is self-sustaining in the sense that we do not have to adjust the constant factor anymore in order to double the range.

lemma $\psi\text{-ubound-log-double-cases}'$:

assumes $\bigwedge n. n \leq m \implies \psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$ $n \leq m'$ $m' = 2*m$
 $c \leq c'$ $c \geq 0$ $m \geq 1$ $c' \geq 1 + c/2 + (4 * \ln (m+1) + 3) / (\ln 2 * (m+1))$
shows $\psi n \leq c' * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

end

lemma $\psi\text{-ubound-log-double-cases}$:

assumes $\forall n \leq m. \psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$
 $c' \geq 1 + c/2 + (4 * \ln (m+1) + 3) / (\ln 2 * (m+1))$
 $m' = 2*m$ $c \leq c'$ $c \geq 0$ $m \geq 1$
shows $\forall n \leq m'. \psi n \leq c' * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma $\psi\text{-ubound-log-1024}$:

$\forall n \leq 1024. \psi n \leq 551 / 256 * \ln 2 * \text{real} n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma $\psi\text{-bounds-sustained-induct}$:

assumes $4 * \ln (1 + 2^j) + 3 \leq d * \ln 2 * (1 + 2^j)$
assumes $4 / (1 + 2^j) \leq d * \ln 2$
assumes $0 \leq c$
assumes $c / 2 + d + 1 \leq c$
assumes $j \leq k$
assumes $\bigwedge n. n \leq 2^k \implies \psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * n$
assumes $n \leq 2^k (\text{Suc } k)$
shows $\psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma $\psi\text{-bounds-sustained}$:

assumes $\bigwedge n. n \leq 2^k \implies \psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * n$
assumes $4 * \ln (1 + 2^k) + 3 \leq (c/2 - 1) * \ln 2 * (1 + 2^k)$
assumes $4 / (1 + 2^k) \leq (c/2 - 1) * \ln 2$
assumes $c \geq 0$
shows $\psi n \leq c * \ln 2 * n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma $\psi\text{-ubound-log}$: $\psi n \leq 551 / 256 * \ln 2 * n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-ubound-3-2*: $\psi n \leq 3/2 * n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

0.6 Doubling psi and theta

lemma *psi-residues-compare-2*:
 $\psi\text{-odd-2 } n \leq \psi\text{-even-2 } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-residues-compare*:
 $\psi\text{-odd } n \leq \psi\text{-even } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *primepow-iff-even-sqr*:
 $\text{primepow } n \longleftrightarrow \text{primepow-even } (n^2)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-sqrt*: $\psi(\text{floor-sqrt } n) = \psi\text{-even } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *mangoldt-split*:
 $\text{mangoldt } d = \text{mangoldt-1 } d + \text{mangoldt-even } d + \text{mangoldt-odd } d$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-split*: $\psi n = \theta n + \psi\text{-even } n + \psi\text{-odd } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-mono*: $m \leq n \implies \psi m \leq \psi n$ $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-pos*: $0 \leq \psi n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *mangoldt-odd-pos*: $0 \leq \text{mangoldt-odd } d$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-odd-mono*: $m \leq n \implies \psi\text{-odd } m \leq \psi\text{-odd } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-odd-pos*: $0 \leq \psi\text{-odd } n$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *psi-theta*:
 $\theta n + \psi(\text{floor-sqrt } n) \leq \psi n$ $\psi n \leq \theta n + 2 * \psi(\text{floor-sqrt } n)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

context
begin

private lemma *sum-minus-one*:

```

 $(\sum x \in \{1..y\}. (-1 :: real) \wedge (x + 1)) = (\text{if odd } y \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0)$ 
⟨proof⟩ lemma div-invert:
fixes x y n :: nat
assumes x > 0 y > 0 y ≤ n div x
shows x ≤ n div y
⟨proof⟩

lemma sum-expand-lemma:
 $(\sum d=1..n. (-1) \wedge (d + 1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d)) =$ 
 $(\sum d = 1..n. (\text{if odd } (n \text{ div } d) \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0) * \text{mangoldt } d)$ 
⟨proof⟩ lemma floor-half-interval:
fixes n d :: nat
assumes d ≠ 0
shows real(n div d) – real(2 * ((n div 2) div d)) = (if odd (n div d) then 1 else 0)
⟨proof⟩

lemma fact-expand-psi:
 $\ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2)) = (\sum d=1..n. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d))$ 
⟨proof⟩

end

lemma psi-expansion-cutoff:
assumes m ≤ p
shows  $(\sum d=1..2*m. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d)) \leq (\sum d=1..2*p. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d))$ 
 $(\sum d=1..2*p+1. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d)) \leq (\sum d=1..2*m+1. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d))$ 
⟨proof⟩

lemma fact-psi-bound-even:
assumes even k
shows  $(\sum d=1..k. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d)) \leq \ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2))$ 
⟨proof⟩

lemma fact-psi-bound-odd:
assumes odd k
shows  $\ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2)) \leq (\sum d=1..k. (-1) \wedge (d+1) * \psi(n \text{ div } d))$ 
⟨proof⟩

lemma fact-psi-bound-2-3:
 $\psi n - \psi(n \text{ div } 2) \leq \ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2))$ 
 $\ln(\text{fact } n) - 2 * \ln(\text{fact } (n \text{ div } 2)) \leq \psi n - \psi(n \text{ div } 2) + \psi(n \text{ div } 3)$ 
⟨proof⟩

lemma ub-ln-1200:  $\ln 1200 \leq 57 / (8 :: \text{real})$ 

```

$\langle proof \rangle$

```
lemma psi-double-lemma:  
  assumes n ≥ 1200  
  shows real n / 6 ≤ psi n - psi (n div 2)  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

```
lemma theta-double-lemma:  
  assumes n ≥ 1200  
  shows theta (n div 2) < theta n  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

0.7 Proof of the main result

```
lemma theta-mono: mono theta  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

```
lemma theta-lessE:  
  assumes theta m < theta n m ≥ 1  
  obtains p where p ∈ {m<..n} prime p  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

```
theorem bertrand:  
  fixes n :: nat  
  assumes n > 1  
  shows ∃ p ∈ {n < .. < 2*n}. prime p  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

0.8 Proof of Mertens' first theorem

The following proof of Mertens' first theorem was ported from John Harrison's HOL Light proof by Larry Paulson:

```
lemma sum-integral-ubound-decreasing':  
  fixes f :: real ⇒ real  
  assumes m ≤ n  
  and der: ∀x. x ∈ {of-nat m - 1..of-nat n} ⇒ (g has-field-derivative f x)  
(at x)  
  and le: ∀x y. [real m - 1 ≤ x; x ≤ y; y ≤ real n] ⇒ f y ≤ f x  
  shows (∑ k = m..n. f (of-nat k)) ≤ g (of-nat n) - g (of-nat m - 1)  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

```
lemma Mertens-lemma:  
  assumes n ≠ 0  
  shows |(∑ d = 1..n. mangoldt d / real d) - ln n| ≤ 4  
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

```
lemma Mertens-mangoldt-versus-ln:  
  assumes I ⊆ {1..n}  
  shows |(∑ i ∈ I. mangoldt i / i) - (∑ p | prime p ∧ p ∈ I. ln p / p)| ≤ 3
```

```

(is |?lhs| ≤ 3)
⟨proof⟩

proposition Mertens:
assumes n ≠ 0
shows |(∑ p | prime p ∧ p ≤ n. ln p / of-nat p) – ln n| ≤ 7
⟨proof⟩

end

```

References

- [1] J. Harrison. HOL Light, Bertrand's postulate.
<https://github.com/jrh13/hol-light/blob/master/100/bertrand.ml>.