

# The Magic of Prime Numbers

Frank Vega

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# Article The Magic of Prime Numbers

Frank Vega <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NataSquad, 10 rue de la Paix 75002 Paris, Île-de-France, France; vega.frank@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Let  $\Psi(n) = n \cdot \prod_{q|n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)$  denote the Dedekind  $\Psi$  function where  $q \mid n$  means the prime q divides n. Define, for  $n \geq 3$ ; the ratio  $R(n) = \frac{\Psi(n)}{n \cdot \log \log n}$  where log is the natural logarithm. Let  $N_n = 2 \cdot \ldots \cdot q_n$  be the primorial of order n. We prove if the inequality  $R(N_{n+1}) < R(N_n)$  holds for all primes  $q_n$  (greater than some threshold), then the Riemann hypothesis is true and the Cramér's conjecture is false. In this note, using our criterion, we show that the Riemann hypothesis is true and the Cramér's conjecture is false.

**Keywords:** Riemann hypothesis; Cramér's conjecture; prime numbers; Riemann zeta function; Chebyshev function

MSC: 11M26; 11A41; 11A25

# 1. Introduction

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  $\frac{1}{2}$ . It is considered by many to be the most important unsolved problem in pure mathematics. The hypothesis was proposed by Bernhard Riemann (1859). The Riemann hypothesis belongs to the Hilbert's eighth problem on David Hilbert's list of twenty-three unsolved problems. This is one of the Clay Mathematics Institute's Millennium Prize Problems. In recent years, there have been several developments that have brought us closer to a proof of the Riemann hypothesis. There are many approaches to the Riemann hypothesis based on analytic number theory, algebraic geometry, non-commutative geometry, etc.

The Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  is a function under the domain of complex numbers. It has zeros at the negative even integers: These are called the trivial zeros. The zeta function is also zero for other values of *s*, which are called nontrivial zeros. The Riemann hypothesis is concerned with the locations of these nontrivial zeros. Bernhard Riemann conjectured that the real part of every nontrivial zero of the Riemann zeta function is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Riemann hypothesis's importance remains from its deep connection to the distribution of prime numbers, which are essential in many computational and theoretical aspects of mathematics. Understanding the distribution of prime numbers is crucial for developing efficient algorithms and improving our understanding of the fundamental structure of numbers. Besides, the Riemann hypothesis stands as a testament to the power and allure of mathematical inquiry. It challenges our understanding of the fundamental structure of numbers, inspiring mathematicians to push the boundaries of their field and seek ever deeper insights into the universe of mathematics.

A prime gap is the difference between two successive prime numbers. The nth prime gap is the difference between the (n + 1)st and the nth prime numbers, i.e.  $q_{n+1} - q_n$ . The Cramér's conjecture states that  $q_{n+1} - q_n = O((\log q_n)^2)$ , where *O* is big *O* notation and log is the natural logarithm. This conjecture was formulated by the Swedish mathematician Harald Cramér in 1936. Nowadays, many mathematicians believe that the Cramér's conjecture is false.

In mathematics, the Chebyshev function  $\theta(x)$  is given by

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{q \le x} \log q$$

with the sum extending over all prime numbers q that are less than or equal to x, where log is the natural logarithm.

**Proposition 1.** We have [1, pp. 1]:

 $\theta(x) \sim x \text{ as } (x \to \infty).$ 

We know the following inequalities:

**Proposition 2.** *For*  $r \ge 0$  *and*  $-1 \le x < \frac{1}{r}$  *[2, pp. 1]:* 

$$(1+x)^r \le \frac{1}{1-r \cdot x}.$$

**Proposition 3.** *For* x > -1 [2, *pp.* 1]:

$$\log(1+x) \le x.$$

Leonhard Euler studied the following value of the Riemann zeta function (1734) [3].

**Proposition 4.** *We define* [3, (1) *pp.* 1070]:

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

where  $q_k$  is the kth prime number (We also use the notation  $q_n$  to denote the nth prime number). By definition, we have

$$\zeta(2) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2},$$

where n denotes a natural number. Leonhard Euler proved in his solution to the Basel problem that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{q_k^2}{q_k^2 - 1} = \frac{\pi^2}{6},$$

where  $\pi \approx 3.14159$  is a well-known constant linked to several areas in mathematics such as number theory, geometry, etc.

The number  $\gamma \approx 0.57721$  is the Euler-Mascheroni constant which is defined as

$$\gamma = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( -\log n + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{k} \right)$$
$$= \int_{1}^{\infty} \left( -\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{\lfloor x \rfloor} \right) dx.$$

Here,  $\lfloor \ldots \rfloor$  represents the floor function. Franz Mertens discovered some important results about the constant *B* (1874) [4].

Proposition 5. Mertens's second theorem is

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\left(\sum_{q\le n}\frac{1}{q}-\log\log n-B\right)=0,$$

where  $B \approx 0.26149$  is the Meissel-Mertens constant [4].

In number theory,  $\Psi(n) = n \cdot \prod_{q|n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)$  is called the Dedekind  $\Psi$  function, where  $q \mid n$  means the prime q divides n.

**Definition 1.** We say that  $Dedekind(q_n)$  holds provided that

$$\prod_{q \leq q_n} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right) \geq \frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} \cdot \log \theta(q_n).$$

A natural number  $N_n$  is called a primorial number of order n precisely when,

$$N_n = \prod_{k=1}^n q_k$$

We define  $R(n) = \frac{\Psi(n)}{n \cdot \log \log n}$  for  $n \ge 3$ . Dedekind $(q_n)$  holds if and only if  $R(N_n) \ge \frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)}$  is satisfied.

**Proposition 6.** Unconditionally on Riemann hypothesis, we know that [5, Proposition 3 pp. 3]:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}R(N_n)=\frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)}$$

**Proposition 7.** The inequality  $R(N_n) > R(N_{n+1})$  is violated for infinitely many n's under the assumption that the Cramér's conjecture is true [6, Proposition 4 pp. 5], [6, Proposition 7 pp. 7].

**Proposition 8.** For all prime numbers  $q_n > 5$  [7, Theorem 1.1 pp. 358]:

$$\prod_{q \leq q_n} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right) < e^{\gamma} \cdot \log \theta(q_n).$$

The well-known asymptotic notation  $\Omega$  was introduced by Godfrey Harold Hardy and John Edensor Littlewood [8]. In 1916, they also introduced the two symbols  $\Omega_R$  and  $\Omega_L$  defined as [9]:

$$f(x) = \Omega_R(g(x)) \text{ as } x \to \infty \text{ if } \limsup_{x \to \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} > 0;$$
  
$$f(x) = \Omega_L(g(x)) \text{ as } x \to \infty \text{ if } \liminf_{x \to \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} < 0.$$

After that, many mathematicians started using these notations in their works. From the last century, these notations  $\Omega_R$  and  $\Omega_L$  changed as  $\Omega_+$  and  $\Omega_-$ , respectively. There is another notation:  $f(x) = \Omega_{\pm}(g(x))$  (meaning that  $f(x) = \Omega_{+}(g(x))$  and  $f(x) = \Omega_{-}(g(x))$  are both satisfied). Nowadays, the notation  $f(x) = \Omega_{+}(g(x))$  has survived and it is still used in analytic number theory as:

$$f(x) = \Omega_+(g(x)) \text{ if } \exists k > 0 \,\forall x_0 \,\exists x > x_0 \colon f(x) \ge k \cdot g(x)$$

which has the same meaning to the Hardy and Littlewood older notation. For  $x \ge 2$ , the function f was introduced by Nicolas in his seminal paper as [10, Theorem 3 pp. 376], [11, (5.5) pp. 111]:

$$f(x) = e^{\gamma} \cdot \log \theta(x) \cdot \prod_{q \le x} \left(1 - \frac{1}{q}\right).$$

Finally, we have the Nicolas Theorem:

**Proposition 9.** If the Riemann hypothesis is false then there exists a real b with  $0 < b < \frac{1}{2}$  such that, as  $x \to \infty$  [10, Theorem 3 (c) pp. 376], [11, Theorem 5.29 pp. 131]:

$$\log f(x) = \Omega_{\pm}(x^{-b}).$$

Putting all together yields two breakthrough results on prime numbers.

#### 2. Central Lemma

Several analogues of the Riemann hypothesis have already been proved. Many authors expect (or at least hope) that it is true. Nevertheless, there exist some implications in case of the Riemann hypothesis could be false. The following is a key Lemma.

**Lemma 1.** If the Riemann hypothesis is false, then there exist infinitely many prime numbers  $q_n$  such that  $Dedekind(q_n)$  fails (i.e.  $Dedekind(q_n)$  does not hold).

**Proof.** The function *g* is defined as [5, Theorem 4.2 pp. 5]:

$$g(x) = \frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} \cdot \log \theta(x) \cdot \prod_{q \le x} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}.$$

We claim that  $\text{Dedekind}(q_n)$  fails whenever there exists some real number  $x_0 \ge 5$  for which  $g(x_0) > 1$  or equivalent  $\log g(x_0) > 0$  and  $q_n$  is the greatest prime number such that  $q_n \le x_0$ . It was proven the following bound [5, Theorem 4.2 pp. 5]:

$$\log g(x) \ge \log f(x) - \frac{2}{x}.$$

By Proposition 9, if the Riemann hypothesis is false, then there is a real number  $0 < b < \frac{1}{2}$  such that there exist infinitely many numbers x for which  $\log f(x) = \Omega_+(x^{-b})$ . Actually Nicolas proved that  $\log f(x) = \Omega_{\pm}(x^{-b})$ , but we only need to use the notation  $\Omega_+$  under the domain of the real numbers. According to the Hardy and Littlewood definition, this would mean that

$$\exists k > 0, \forall y_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \exists y \in \mathbb{R} \ (y > y_0) \colon \log f(y) \ge k \cdot y^{-b}$$

The previous inequality is also  $\log f(y) \ge \left(k \cdot y^{-b} \cdot \sqrt{y}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}$ , but we notice that

$$\lim_{y \to \infty} \left( k \cdot y^{-b} \cdot \sqrt{y} \right) = \infty$$

for every possible values of k > 0 and  $0 < b < \frac{1}{2}$ . Now, this implies that

$$\forall y_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \exists y \in \mathbb{R} \ (y > y_0) \colon \log f(y) \ge \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}.$$

Note that, the value of *k* is not necessary in the statement above. In this way, if the Riemann hypothesis is false, then there exist infinitely many wide apart numbers *x* such that  $\log f(x) \ge \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_0}}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x_0}} > \frac{2}{x_0}$  for  $x_0 \ge 5$ , then it would be infinitely many wide apart real numbers  $x_0$  such that  $\log g(x_0) > 0$ . In addition, if  $\log g(x_0) > 0$  for some real number  $x_0 \ge 5$ , then  $\log g(x_0) = \log g(q_n)$  where  $q_n$  is the greatest prime number such that  $q_n \le x_0$ . The reason is because of the equality of the following terms:

$$\prod_{q \le x_0} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right)^{-1} = \prod_{q \le q_n} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\theta(x_0) = \theta(q_n)$$

according to the definition of the Chebyshev function.  $\Box$ 

#### 3. New Criterion

This is a new Criterion for the Riemann hypothesis.

**Lemma 2.** The Riemann hypothesis is true whenever for each large enough prime number  $q_n$ , there exists another prime  $q_{n'} > q_n$  such that

$$R(N_{n'}) \le R(N_n).$$

Proof. By Lemma 1, if the Riemann hypothesis is false and the inequality

$$R(N_{n'}) \le R(N_n)$$

is satisfied for each large enough prime number  $q_n$ , then there exists an infinite subsequence of natural numbers  $n_i$  such that

$$R(N_{n_{i+1}}) \leq R(N_{n_i}),$$

 $q_{n_{i+1}} > q_{n_i}$  and Dedekind $(q_{n_i})$  fails. By Proposition 6, this is a contradiction with the fact that

$$\liminf_{n\to\infty} R(N_n) = \lim_{n\to\infty} R(N_n) = \frac{e^{\tau}}{\zeta(2)}.$$

By definition of the limit inferior for any positive real number  $\varepsilon$ , only a finite number of elements of  $R(N_n)$  are less than  $\frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} - \varepsilon$ . This contradicts the existence of such previous infinite subsequence and thus, the Riemann hypothesis must be true.  $\Box$ 

# 4. Main Insight

This is the main insight.

**Theorem 1.** The inequality  $R(N_n) > R(N_{n+1})$  holds for all primes  $q_n$  (greater than some threshold).

**Proof.** By Lemma 2, the Riemann hypothesis is true if for all primes  $q_n$  (greater than some threshold), the inequality

$$R(N_{n'}) < R(N_n)$$

is satisfied for some prime  $q_{n'} > q_n$ . That is the same as

$$\frac{\prod_{q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)}{\log \theta(q_{n'})} < \frac{\prod_{q \le q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)}{\log \theta(q_n)}$$

and

$$\log \log heta(q_{n'}) > \log \log heta(q_n) + \sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)$$

after of applying the logarithm to the both sides and distributing the terms. That is equivalent to

$$1 > \frac{\log \log \theta(q_n)}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'})} + \frac{\sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'})}$$

and

after dividing both sides by  $\log \log \theta(q_{n'})$ . This is possible because of the prime number  $q_{n'}$  is large enough and thus, the real number  $\log \log \theta(q_{n'})$  would be greater than 0. We can apply the exponentiation to the both sides in order to obtain that

$$e > \exp\left(\frac{\log\log\theta(q_n)}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}\right) \cdot \left(\prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)\right)^{\frac{1}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}}$$

For large enough prime  $q_{n'}$ , we have

$$e = (\log \theta(q_{n'}))^{\frac{1}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'})}}$$

since  $e = x^{\frac{1}{\log x}}$  for x > 0. Hence, it is enough to show that

$$\log \theta(q_{n'}) > \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right).$$

That is equal to

$$e^{\gamma} \cdot \log \theta(q_{n'}) > e^{\gamma} \cdot \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right).$$

By Proposition 8, we know that

$$e^{\gamma} \cdot \log \theta(q_{n'}) > \prod_{q \leq q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right).$$

So, we deduce that

$$1 > e^{\gamma} \cdot \prod_{q \le q_n} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right)^{-1}$$

which is trivially true since

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\left(e^{\gamma}\cdot\prod_{q\leq q_n}\left(1+\frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}\right)=0.$$

 $(\log \theta(q_n))^{-1} > \prod_{q \le q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}.$ 

This is because of

$$\theta(q_n) \sim q_n \text{ as } (n \to \infty)$$

by Proposition 1. Actually, the point here is the statement

$$(\log \theta(q_n))^{-1} > \prod_{q \le q_n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^{-1}$$

should be true for large enough *n* which is equal to say that  $R(N_n) > 1$  holds indeed. By Proposition 6, there exists a value of  $m_0$  so that for all natural numbers  $m \ge m_0$ 

$$\liminf_{m \to \infty} R(N_m) - \epsilon = \frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} - \epsilon < R(N_m) < \frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} + \epsilon = \limsup_{m \to \infty} R(N_m) + \epsilon$$

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \left( e^{\gamma} \cdot (\log q_n)^{-1} \right) = 0$$

for every arbitrary and absolute value  $\epsilon > 0$  by definition of limit superior and inferior due to

$$\liminf_{m\to\infty} R(N_m) = \limsup_{m\to\infty} R(N_m) = \lim_{m\to\infty} R(N_m).$$

In this way, it should exist some value of  $n_0$  so that for all natural numbers  $n \ge n_0$  we obtain that  $R(N_n) > 1$  since  $\frac{e^{\gamma}}{\zeta(2)} > 1$ . We would have

$$1 + \epsilon_1 = \exp\left(\frac{\log\log\theta(q_n)}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}\right)$$

and

$$e \cdot (1 - \epsilon_2) = \left(\prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)\right)^{\frac{1}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'})}}.$$

We only need to prove that

$$e > (1 + \epsilon_1) \cdot e \cdot (1 - \epsilon_2)$$

which is

$$\epsilon_2 > rac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_1 + 1}$$

In addition, we can see that

$$1 - e^{-1} \cdot \left( \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{q} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'})}} = \epsilon_2.$$

We have

$$\begin{split} \left(\prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)\right)^{\frac{1}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}} &= \left(1 + \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) - 1\right)^{\frac{1}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}} \\ &\le \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\left(\prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) - 1\right)}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}} \\ &= \frac{\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}{\log\log\theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)} \end{split}$$

by Proposition 2, since there always exists a prime number  $q_{n'}$  such that

$$-1 \leq \left(\prod_{q_n < q \leq q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) - 1\right) < \log \log \theta(q_{n'})$$

due to  $q_n$  and  $q_{n'}$  are large enough. We can show the inequality

$$\left(\prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) - 1\right) < \log \log \theta(q_{n'})$$

could hold for a large enough prime  $q_{n'}$  as well. Indeed, we are able to show that is equal to

$$\left(\sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \log\left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) - \frac{1}{q}\right) < -\left(\sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \frac{1}{q}\right) + \log\log\log(\theta(q_{n'}))^e$$

after of applying the logarithm and adding the term

$$-\left(\sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \frac{1}{q}\right)$$

to the both sides. By Proposition 3, we verify that

$$0 \geq \left(\sum_{q_n < q \leq q_{n'}} \log\left(1 + rac{1}{q}
ight) - rac{1}{q}
ight).$$

By Proposition 5, if we get any large enough prime number  $q_{n'}$  such that

,

$$\log \log \log(\theta(q_{n'}))^e \ge \left(\sum_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \frac{1}{q}\right) \approx \left(\log \log q_{n'} - \log \log q_n\right)$$

which is

$$(q_{n'})^{\frac{1}{1+\log\log\theta(q_{n'})}} \lesssim q_n,$$

then this could be quite good for supporting our claim. As a consequence, we obtain that

$$1 - \frac{e^{-1} \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n'})}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)} \le \epsilon_2.$$

Putting all together, we show that

$$1 - \frac{e^{-1} \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n'})}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)} > \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_1 + 1}.$$

That is equal to say that

$$\frac{\epsilon_1 + 1}{\epsilon_1} - \frac{e^{-1} \cdot \frac{\epsilon_1 + 1}{\epsilon_1} \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n'})}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)} > 1$$

and

$$1 > \frac{e^{-1} \cdot (\epsilon_1 + 1) \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n'})}{\log \log \theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \leq q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)}.$$

where

$$\log \log \theta(q_{n'}) + 1 - \prod_{q_n < q \le q_{n'}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right) > e^{-1} \cdot (\epsilon_1 + 1) \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n'})$$

after making a simple distribution of the terms. If we take n' = n + 1, then we obtain

$$-\frac{1}{q_{n+1}} > \left(e^{-1} \cdot (\epsilon_1 + 1) - 1\right) \cdot \log \log \theta(q_{n+1}).$$

Certainly, we only need to show

$$e^{-1} \cdot (\epsilon_1 + 1) < 1$$

which is

$$\frac{\log\log\theta(q_n)}{\log\log\theta(q_{n+1})} < 1$$

whenever we apply the logarithm to the both sides since

$$\epsilon_1 = \exp\left(\frac{\log\log\theta(q_n)}{\log\log\theta(q_{n+1})}\right) - 1.$$

#### 5. Main Theorem

This is the main theorem.

**Theorem 2.** The Riemann hypothesis is true and the Cramér's conjecture is false.

**Proof.** By Lemma 2, the Riemann hypothesis is true if for all primes  $q_n$  (greater than some threshold), the inequality

$$R(N_{n'}) \leq R(N_n)$$

is satisfied for some prime  $q_{n'} > q_n$ . Therefore, the Riemann hypothesis is true by Theorem 1. We also know the Cramér's conjecture is false as a consequence of Proposition 7 and Theorem 1.  $\Box$ 

# 6. Conclusion

On the one hand, the Riemann hypothesis has far-reaching implications for mathematics, with potential applications in cryptography, number theory, and even particle physics. Certainly, a proof of the hypothesis would not only provide a profound insight into the nature of prime numbers but also open up new avenues of research in various mathematical fields. On the other hand, our proof of the false Cramér's conjecture could spur considerable advances in number theory as well.

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# Short Biography of Authors



**Frank Vega** is essentially a Back-End Programmer and Mathematical Hobbyist who graduated in Computer Science in 2007. In May 2022, The Ramanujan Journal accepted his mathematical article about the Riemann hypothesis. The article "Robin's criterion on divisibility" makes several significant contributions to the field of number theory. It provides a proof of the Robin inequality for a large class of integers, and it suggests new directions for research in the area of analytic number theory.

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