## SOME PROBLEMS AND RESULTS ON CONSECUTIVE PRIMES

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§ 1. Let $p_{1}=2, p_{2}=3, p_{3}=5, p_{4}, \ldots p_{n}, \ldots$ denote the sequence of primes. In what follows we shall be concerned with some problems regarding difference and quotient of consecutive primes. We put

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{n}=p_{n}-p_{n-1}, q_{n}=\frac{p_{n}}{p_{n-1}}, \quad n=2,3, \ldots \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

There are many unsolved problems regarding the sequences $d_{n}$ and $q_{n}$, and the subject is full of peculiar difficulties. For instance it has been conjectured by many authors that $d_{n}=2$ for infinitively many values of $n$, i.e. that the sequence of "twin primes":

$$
\begin{array}{lllllll}
3,5 & 5,7 & 11,13 & 17,19 & 29,31 & 41,43 & \ldots
\end{array}
$$

is infinite. Neither this, nor the more feeble conjecture that $d_{n}$ does not tend to infinity, has been proved up to now. Moreover at present we are unable to prove even that $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log n}=0$.

In this direction it has been proved by P. Erdös ${ }^{1}$ ) that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log n} \leqq C<1 \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Recently R. A. Rankin ${ }^{2}$ ) proved, that for $C$ we can choose $\boldsymbol{f}^{\boldsymbol{q}}$, and according to an oral communication of A. Selberg he can improve this result by choosing for $C$ the value 18 . This is all we know about the small values of $d_{n}$. In the opposite direction it can be proved by the method of Viggo Brun that twin primes and more generally pairs of consecutive primes the difference of which is equal to a fixed (even) integer $2 k$, are rather "few". More precisely, we have the following result ${ }^{9}$ ): The number of solutions of $d_{n}=k, p_{n} \leqq x$ does not exceed

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{c_{1} x}{\log ^{2} x} \Pi_{p / k}\left(1+\frac{1}{p}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

${ }^{*}$ ) From the prime number theorem it follows only $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log n} \leqq 1$.
**) We denote by $c_{1}, c_{2}, \ldots$ positive constants, and by $c$ a positive constant which is not always the same.

It follows from (3) that the sequence $d_{n}$ is not bounded. As a matter of fact, this follows also from Tchebysheff's estimation ${ }^{4}$ )

$$
\theta(x)=\sum_{p_{n} \leq x}^{\sum} \log p_{n}<c_{1} x,
$$

and also from the trivial remark that no one of the consecutive numbers $n!+2, n!+3, n!+4, \ldots n!+n$ is prime, and thus there are arbitrarily large "gaps" in the sequence of primes. From Tchebysheff's estimation, mentioned above, it follows also that $\varlimsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log p_{n}} \geqq \frac{1}{c_{1}}$. According to the primes number theorem we can choose $c_{1}=1+\varepsilon$ for any $\varepsilon>0$, if $x$ is sufficiently large and thus we obtain $\varlimsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log p_{n}} \geqq 1$. In his paper ${ }^{5}$ ) where previous results are quoted, P. Erdös proved, that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varlimsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\frac{\log p_{n} \cdot \log \log p_{n}}{\left(\log \log \log p_{n}\right)^{2}}}>0 . \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

This has been still improved by Rankin ${ }^{6}$ ) by adding in the numerator of the denominator in (4) the factor $\log \log \log \log p_{n}$.
§ 2. If the conjecture regarding twin primes would be proved, it would follow that the sequence $d_{n}$ oscillates between 2 and arbitrary large values, thus it would be neither monotonically increasing nor decreasing, from some point onwards. This result has been proved without any hypothesis, by P. Erdös and P. Turan ${ }^{7}$ ). They proved also that the sequence $q_{n}$ is also neither monotonically increasing nor decreasing. These results can be expressed also by saying that the sequences $p_{n}$ and $\log p_{n}$ are neither convex nor concave from some point onwards. A generalization of this result, regarding the sequence $\log p_{n}$, has been given recently by A. RéNYI ${ }^{8}$ ). His result formulated in a geometrical terminology, runs as follows: Let us consider a finite polygonal line situated in the complex $z$-plane and having the consecutive vertices $z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots z_{n}$. The total curvature of this polygonal line is defined by

$$
\begin{equation*}
G=\sum_{k=2}^{n-1}\left|\arg \frac{z_{k+1}-z_{k}}{z_{k}-z_{k-1}}\right| \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\arg Z$ denotes the argument of the complex number $Z$, i.e. if $Z=r$. eip, $r>0,-\pi<\varphi \leqq \pi$, we have $\arg Z=\varphi$. Now let $\pi_{N}$ denote the polygonal line with the vertices $z_{n}=n+i \cdot \log p_{n}$, $p_{n+1} \leqq N$ and let $G_{N}$ denote its total curvature. It is evident, that
if the sequence $\log p_{n}$ would be convex or concave from some point onwards, $G_{N}$ would be bounded. But Rényi proved that $G_{N}$ tends to infinity, as a matter of fact he proved $G_{N}>c . \log \log \log N$, thus giving a new proof of the theorem of Eriös and Turán mentioned above. In waht follows we shall prove a refinement of this result, giving the exact order of magnitude of $G_{N}$ :

Theorem 1. If $G_{N}$ denotes the total curvature, defined by (5), of the polygonal line $\pi_{N}$ having the vertices $z_{n}=n+i . \log p_{n}$, $p_{n+1} \leqq N$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
c_{2} \cdot \log N<G_{N}<c_{3} \cdot \log N \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

It seems probable that $\lim _{N+\infty} \frac{G_{N}}{\log N}$ exists, but we are at present not able to prove this. The proof of Theorem I will be completely elementary. Besides the estimations of Tchebysheff

$$
\begin{equation*}
c_{4} \frac{x}{\log x}<\pi(x)<c_{5} \frac{x}{\log x} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and $p_{n+1}<2 p_{n}$, we shall use only the method of Brun.
§ 3. Proot of Theorem 1. Clearly we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{N}=\sum_{p_{n+1} \leqslant N}\left|\operatorname{arctg} \log q_{n+1} \quad \operatorname{arctg} \log q_{n}\right| . \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using $\operatorname{arctg} a-\operatorname{arctg} b=\operatorname{arctg} \frac{a-b}{1+a b}$ this gives

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{N}=\sum_{p_{n+1} \leqq N}\left|\operatorname{arctg} \frac{\log \frac{q_{n+1}}{q_{n}}}{1+\log q_{n+1} \cdot \log q_{n}}\right| . \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

As according to (7) the sequence $q_{n}$ is bounded, we obtain from (9)

$$
\begin{equation*}
C_{6} L_{N}<G_{N}<L_{N} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
L_{N}=\sum_{p_{n+1} \leq N}\left|\log \frac{q_{n+1}}{q_{n}}\right| . \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

As regards the upper estimation, it can be finished at once: we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
L_{N}<2 \underset{p_{n} \leqq N}{\Sigma}\left|\log q_{n}\right|=2 \underset{p_{n} \leqq N}{\Sigma}\left|\log \left(1+\frac{d u}{p_{n-1}}\right)\right| \leqq 4 \underset{p_{n} \leq N}{\Sigma} \frac{d u}{p_{n}} \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now. we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\underset{p_{n} \leq N}{ } \frac{d n}{p_{n}} \leqq \sum_{2^{k} \leqq N} \frac{1}{2^{k}}\left(\underset{2^{k}<p_{n}<2^{k+1}}{\Sigma} d_{n}\right) \leqq \sum_{2^{k} \leqq N} 1 \leqq \frac{\log N}{\log 2} . \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

*) $\pi(x)$ denotes the number of primes which are $\leqq x$.

Thus the upper estimation of (6) is proved. As regards the lower estimation it is somewhat more infricate. We proceed as follows: Let us neglect the terms $\left|\log \frac{q_{n+1}}{q_{n}}\right|$ of $L_{N}$ for those indices $n$ for which either $d_{n}$ or $d_{n+1}$ exceeds $\left.\lambda \log p_{n},{ }^{*}\right)$ and denote the remaining sum by $L_{N^{\prime}}$; evidently $G_{N}>c L_{N}>c L_{N^{\prime}}$. As according to (7) $\left|\frac{q_{n+1}}{q_{n}}-1\right|<1$, and we have for $|x|<1|\log (1+x)|>c_{7}|x|$, further using the identity

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{q_{n+1}}{q_{n}}=1+\frac{d_{n+1}-d_{n}}{p_{n}^{2}}-\frac{d_{n+1} d_{n}}{p_{n}^{2}} \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

we obtain, by putting

$$
\begin{equation*}
D_{N}=\underset{p_{n H} \leq N}{ } \Sigma^{\prime} \frac{\left|d_{n+1}-d_{n}\right|}{p_{n}}, R_{N}=\underset{p_{n+1} \leq N}{\Sigma^{\prime} \leq \frac{d_{n+1} d_{n}}{p_{n}^{2}}} \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

(where $\Sigma^{\prime}$ denotes that the summation is extended only over such indices $n$ for which both $d_{n}$ and $d_{n+1}$ are $<\lambda \log p_{n}$ ) we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
L_{N}>c_{7}\left(D_{N}-R_{N}\right) \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{N}<\lambda^{2} \sum_{p_{n+1} \leqq N} \frac{\log ^{2} p_{n}}{p_{n}^{2}}<\lambda^{2} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{\log ^{2} k}{k^{2}} \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus if we prove $D_{N}>c_{8} \log N, G_{N}>c_{2} \log N$ follows. To estimate $D_{N}$ we need the following lemma.

Lemma 1. The number of solutions of $d_{n}=a, d_{n+1}=b, p_{n}<N$, does not exceed

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{c_{9} N}{\log ^{3} N} \Pi\left(1+\frac{1}{p}\right) \Pi_{p / a+b}\left(1+\frac{1}{p}\right) . \tag{I8}
\end{equation*}
$$

In other words, the number of such primes $p \leqq N$ for which both $p+a$ and $p+a+b$ are also primes, does not exceed (18). This lemma can be proved easily by the method of Viggo Brun (l.c.) by applying a ,triple sieve". We need further

Lemma 2. Let us denote

$$
\begin{equation*}
W(m)=\Pi_{p / m}\left(1+\frac{1}{p}\right) \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

${ }^{*}$ ) The value of the constant $\lambda$ shall be determined later on.

We have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{A \leq m \leq A+B} W(m) \leqq \frac{\pi^{2}}{6} B+\log (A+B)+1 \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof of Lemma 2. Clearly

$$
\sum_{A \leq m \leq A+B} W(m)=\sum_{d \leq A+B} \frac{|\mu(d)|}{d} \cdot \sum_{A \leq d r \leq A+B} 1
$$

and thus
$\underset{A \leq m \leq A+B}{ } W(m) \leqq \sum_{d \leq A+B} \frac{1}{d}\left(\frac{B}{d}+1\right)<\frac{B \pi^{2}}{6}+\log (A+B)+1$.
Now we prove, using Lemmas 1 and 2, the following
Lemma 3. Let $\varepsilon, \lambda$ and $M$ denote positive constants, and let $k$ denote a positive integer, $k \geqq k_{0}(M, \varepsilon, \lambda)$. The number of indices $n$, for which $d_{n}<\lambda M .(k-1), d_{n+1}<\lambda M(k \cdots 1)$ further

$$
e^{M(k-1)}<p_{n}<e^{M k} \text { and }\left|d_{n+1} \cdots d_{n}\right|<\frac{\varepsilon M k}{\lambda}
$$

are valid, does not exceed

$$
\frac{c_{10} \cdot \varepsilon \cdot e^{M k}}{M k}
$$

Proof of Lemma 3. The number of primes $p_{n}$ for which $e^{M(k-1)}<p_{n}<e^{M k}$, further $d_{n}=a$ and $d_{n+1}=b$ can be estimated by Lemma 1 . If this number is denoted by $Z_{a, b}$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
Z_{a, b}<\frac{c_{9} e^{M k}}{(M k)^{3}} W(a) W(a+b) \tag{2H}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $Z_{\boldsymbol{k}}$ denotes the number of primes satisfying all conditions of Lemma 3, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
Z_{k}<\underset{a<\lambda M(k-1), b<\lambda M(k-1)}{ } \sum_{a, b .}^{|b-a|<\frac{e k M}{\lambda}} \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using Lemma 2 we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
Z_{k}<\frac{c_{10} \varepsilon e^{M k}}{M k} \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

for $k>k_{0}(M, \varepsilon, \lambda)$.
Let us proceed now to the proof of our theorem. According to (7) if we choose

$$
M>\log \frac{4 c_{5}}{c_{4}}
$$

we have at least $\frac{c_{4} e^{M k}}{2 M k}$ primes in the interval $\left(e^{M(k-1)}, e^{M k}\right)$. As we have $\Sigma \quad d_{n}<e^{M k}$ the number of primes $p_{n}$ in $\left(e^{M(k-1)}, e^{M k}\right)$ $e^{M(k-1)}<p_{n}<e^{M k}$ for which $d_{n} \geqq \lambda M(k-1)$, does not exceed $\frac{e^{M k}}{\lambda M(k-1)}$, and we have the same estimate for the number of primes $p_{n}$ in the same interval for which $d_{n+1} \geqq \lambda M(k-1)$. Thus for at least

$$
\left(\frac{c_{4}}{2}-\frac{4}{\lambda}\right) \frac{e^{M k}}{M k}
$$

primes in $\left(e^{M(k-1)}, e^{M k}\right)$, we have both $d_{n} \leqq \lambda M(k-1)$ and $d_{n+1}<\lambda M(k-1)$. According to (23) the number of primes in $\left(e^{M(k-1)}, e^{M k}\right)$ for which $d_{n}<\lambda M(k-1), d_{n+1}<\lambda M(k-1)$ and $\left|d_{n+1}-d_{n}\right|<\frac{\varepsilon k M}{\lambda}$ does not exceed $\frac{c_{10} \varepsilon e^{M k}}{M k}$. Let us choose now $\lambda=$ $=\frac{32}{c_{4}}$ and $\varepsilon=\frac{C_{4}}{8 M c_{10}}$. We obtain, that for at least $\frac{c_{4} e^{M k}}{4 M k}$ primes in $\left(e^{M(k-1)}, e^{M k}\right)$ we have $d_{n}<\lambda M(k-1), d_{n+1}<\lambda M(k-1)$, and $\left|d_{n+1}-d_{n}\right|>\frac{\varepsilon k M}{\lambda}$.
Thus from (15) we obtain

As it has been remarked above, this proves our theorem.
§ 3. In connection with the above estimations there arises the question, how many times it occurs for $p_{n} \leqq N$ that $d_{n+1}=d_{n}$, or more gencrally that $d_{n+1}=d_{n}+h$, where $h$ is a fixed integer (positive, negative or zero). In this direction we prove

Theorem 2. The number of solutions of $p_{n} \leqq N, d_{n+1}=d_{n}+h$ does not exceed

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{(\log N)^{2 / 2}}{c_{12} N} \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof of theorem 2. We have according to Lemma 1

$$
\begin{equation*}
H_{N}=\sum_{\substack{p_{n} \leq N d_{n+1}=d_{n}+h \\ d_{n}<(\log N)^{1 / 2}}}^{\sum} 1 \leqq \frac{c_{9} N}{\log ^{3} N} \sum_{m<(\log N)^{3 / 2}} W(m) W(m+h) \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

Applying the inequality of CaUchy-Schwarz, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
H_{N}<\frac{c_{9} N}{\log ^{3} N_{m \leq(\log N)^{3 / 3+h}} W^{2}(m) . . . . ~ . ~} \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we need the following simple

## Lemma 4.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=1}^{A} W^{2}(m)<c_{13} A \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof of Lemma 4. We have

$$
\prod_{p=2}^{\infty} \frac{\left(1+\frac{1}{p}\right)^{2}}{\left(1+\frac{2}{p}\right)}=\prod_{p=2}^{\infty}\left(1+\frac{1}{p^{2}+2 p}\right)=c_{1}
$$

and thus

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{A} W^{2}(m) \leqq c_{14} \sum_{m=1}^{A} \Pi_{p / m}\left(1+\frac{2}{p}\right)=c_{14} \sum_{d=1}^{A} \frac{2^{V(d)}|\mu(d)|}{d}\left(\sum_{r d \leqq A} 1\right)<A c_{14} \sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{V(d)}}{d^{2}}
$$

where $V(d)$ is the number of different prime factors of $d$. Denoting by $\tau(d)$ the number of divisors of $d$ we have

$$
2^{V(d)} \leqq \tau(d)
$$

and thus

$$
\sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{V(d)}}{d^{2}} \leqq \sum_{d=1}^{\infty} \frac{\tau(d)}{d^{2}}=\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2}}\right)^{2}=\frac{\pi^{4}}{36} .
$$

Thus we obtain

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{A} W^{2}(m)<\frac{c_{14} \pi^{4}}{36} A
$$

which proves Lemma 4. As $d_{n} \nless(\log N)^{2 / 2}$ can evidently occur not more than $N(\log N)^{-3 / 2}$ times, as it is seen from $\Sigma d_{n} \leqq N$, Theorem 2 is proved.
§4. We prove still some results concerning the sequence $d_{n}$. Recently W. Sierpinski proved the following theorem: ${ }^{9}$ )

For every positive integer $K$ there exist an infinity of primes $p$ with the property that all the numbers $p \pm k, k=1,2, \ldots K$ are composite ie. that there are an infinity of primes which are "isolated" from both sides from the next prime by an interval of arbitrary large length. Evidently the theorem of Sierpinski is equivalent to $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{d_{n}}+\frac{1}{d_{n}+1}=0$. The proof given by Sierpinski
is based on the application of the theorem of Dirichlet, that in every arithmetic progression $D x+r, x=1,2, \ldots D, r=1$ there are an infinity of primes. In what follows we shall show that a theorem which is stronger than that of Sierprinski can be proved in an elementary way by using only Brun's method. We shall prove
Theorem 3. For any integer $N$ and any $r<c \sqrt{\log N}$ there is a prime $p_{n} \leqq N$ for which

$$
d_{n+j} \geqq \frac{c_{15} \log N}{r^{2}}, j=0,1,2, \ldots(r-1)
$$

Proof of theorem 3. We need the following
Lemma 5.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=1}^{A} \frac{W(m)}{m^{\lambda}}<\frac{3 A^{1-\lambda}}{(1-\lambda) 2 \lambda} \text { for } 0<\lambda<1 \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

We have namely

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=1}^{A} \frac{W(m)}{m^{\lambda}} & =\sum_{d=1}^{A} \frac{1}{d^{1+\lambda}}\left(\sum_{r \leqq \frac{A}{d}} \frac{1}{r^{\lambda}}\right) \leqq \frac{A^{1-\lambda}}{1-\lambda} \sum_{d=1}^{A} \frac{1}{d^{1+2 \lambda}} \leqq \\
& \leqq \frac{A^{1-\lambda}}{(1-\lambda)}\left(\frac{1}{2 \lambda}+1\right)<\frac{3 A^{1+\lambda}}{2 \lambda(1-\lambda)}
\end{aligned}
$$

which proves Lemma 5 . Now we prove
Lemma 6.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\underset{p_{n} \leqq N}{ } \frac{1}{d_{n}^{\lambda}}<\frac{c_{16} N}{\lambda(1-\lambda)(\log N)^{1+\lambda}} \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

We apply the theorem of Viggo Brun mentioned in § 1 (see (3)).
We obtain using also (7)

$$
\begin{align*}
& \sum_{p_{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{d_{n} \lambda} \leqq \sum_{\substack{d_{n} \leq \log N \\
p_{n} \leq N}} \frac{1}{d_{n} \lambda}+  \tag{31}\\
& \quad+\frac{1}{(\log N)^{\lambda}} \pi(N) \leqq \sum_{k \leq \log N} \frac{c N}{\log ^{2} N} \cdot \frac{W(k)}{k^{\lambda}}+\frac{c_{5} N}{(\log N)^{1+\lambda}}
\end{align*}
$$

Thus by Lemma 5 we obtain from (31)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{p^{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{d_{n}^{\lambda}} \leqq \frac{3 c N(\log N)^{1-\lambda}}{\log ^{2} N \lambda(1-\lambda)}=\frac{3 c N}{\lambda(1-\lambda)(\log N)^{1+\lambda}} \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

which proves Lemma 6 . Now Theorem 3 can be deduced easily. Let us put

$$
\begin{equation*}
\delta_{n}^{(r)}=\sum_{i=1}^{r-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_{n+i}}} \tag{33}
\end{equation*}
$$

We have by Lemma 6 with $\lambda=\frac{1}{2}$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{p_{n} \leqq N-r+1} \delta_{n}^{(r)} \leqq r \sum_{p_{n} \leqq N} \sum_{N} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{d}_{n}}}<\frac{4 c_{16} N \cdot r}{(\log N)^{\sigma / i}} \tag{34}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus if we put $\underset{p_{n} \leq N-r+1}{\operatorname{Min}} \delta_{n}^{(r)}=\triangle_{n}^{(r)}$ we obtain from (34) using (7) that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\triangle_{n}^{(r)}<\frac{c_{17} \gamma}{\sqrt{\log N}} \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus for an appropriate $n$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{n+j}>\frac{c_{15} \log N}{r^{2}} \text { for } j=0,1, \ldots(r-1) \tag{36}
\end{equation*}
$$

which proves Theorem 3. For $r=2$ this theorem states, that there exists a constant $C$ such that for every $N$ there is a prime $p \leqq N$ for which all the numbers $p \pm k, k=1,2, \ldots[C \log N]$ are composite. This can be formulated also by saying, that the first prime having the property required by the theorem of Sierpinski, i.e. for which all numbers $p \pm k, k=1,2, \ldots K$ are composite, does not exceed $e^{C K}$.

We still add some remarks on Lemma 6. As it has been used before, for more than $\frac{c N}{\log N}$ primes $p_{n} \leqq N$ we have $d_{n}<K \log N$, and thus we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{p_{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{d_{n}^{\lambda}}>\frac{c_{18} N}{(\log N)^{1+\lambda}} \tag{37}
\end{equation*}
$$

This means that the order of magnitude of the sum on the left of (30) given by Lemma 6 is exact. Now we can make the parameter $\lambda$ in this sum depend on $N$, for example we may choose

$$
\lambda=1-\frac{1}{\log \log N}
$$

We obtain from Lemma 6 that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{p_{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{d_{n}}<\frac{c_{10} N \log \log N}{\log ^{2} N} \tag{38}
\end{equation*}
$$

For the sum on the left of (38) we can give only the lower estimate

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{p_{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{\overline{d_{n}}}>\frac{c_{20} N}{(\log N)^{2}} \tag{39}
\end{equation*}
$$

As amatter of fact, if we could prove

$$
\sum_{p_{n} \leq N} \frac{1}{d_{n}}>\frac{c N \psi(N)}{(\log N)^{2}}
$$

with $\psi(N) \rightarrow \infty$, it would follow that $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n}}{\log n}=0$, but at present we are unable to prove anything of this type. To give some idea for the random distribution of the sequence $d_{n}$, we add a tabel giving the values of $d_{n}$ for $p_{n} \leqq 4397$, ( $n=2,3, \ldots 599$ ).

Budapest, January 30, 1949.

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Table of the sequence $d_{n}$ for $n=2,3, \ldots 599$.

| n | 0 , | 1 , | 2, | 3, | 4, | 5. | 6, | 7 , | 8 , | 9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 |  |  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 10 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| 20 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 30 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| 40 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 4 |
| 50 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| 60 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 6 | 10 |
| 70 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 80 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 90 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 2 |
| 100 | 18 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| 10 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 26 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| 30 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 10 |
| 40 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 2 |
| 50 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| 60 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 12 |
| 70 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| 80 | 6 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| 90 | 22 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 4 |
| 200 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 18 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 10 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 34 | 6 |
| 20 | 6 | 8 | 18 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 30 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 40 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| 50 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 10 |
| 60 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 2 |
| 70 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 12 |
| 80 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 90 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 22 | 6 |
| 300 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 10 |
| 10 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 2 |
| 20 | 16 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 24 | 4 |
| 30 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 40 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 50 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 6 |
| 60 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 18 |
| 70 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 12 | 2 | 16 |
| 80 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| 90 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 |
| 400 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 10 | 16 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 8 | 10 |
| 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| 30 | 18 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 6 |
| 40 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 10 | 2 | 16 | 26 | 4 | 2 |
| 50 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 22 | 2 |
| 60 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 18 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| 70 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 16 |
| 80 | 6 | 20 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 8 |
| 90 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 |
| 500 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| 10 | 6 | 16 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 10 |
| 20 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 6 |
| 30 | 18 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 4 | 8 |
| 40 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 20 |
| 50 | 22 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 2 |
| 60 | 6 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 4 |
| 70 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 24 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 10 |
| 80 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| 90 | 8 | 30 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 6 |

