

Factorization of Natural Numbers

Considerations arising from a representation

1. Definition

The fundamental theorem of arithmetic states that every natural number $m > 1$ is uniquely factored in the form:

$$m = p_1^{a_1} \cdot p_2^{a_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{a_k}$$

where $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k > 1$ are the prime factors (normally distinct from each other) and $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k > 0$ the respective natural exponents.

In order to know the *degree of decomposition* of m , or on how many parts is composed m with respect to the operation *product*, it is defined **order of factoring of m , $\Omega(m)$** (refer to Almost Prime), the sum of all the exponents, here understood as the number of occurrences of each factor:

$$\Omega(m) \equiv a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k$$

in Tab. 1 the first values of $\Omega(m)$ $1 < m < 100$.

m	$\Omega(m)$	m	$\Omega(m)$	m	$\Omega(m)$	m	$\Omega(m)$	m	$\Omega(m)$
2	1	22	2	42	3	62	2	82	2
3	1	23	1	43	1	63	3	83	1
4	2	24	4	44	3	64	6	84	4
5	1	25	2	45	3	65	2	85	2
6	2	26	2	46	2	66	3	86	2
7	1	27	3	47	1	67	1	87	2
8	3	28	3	48	5	68	3	88	4
9	2	29	1	49	2	69	2	89	1
10	2	30	3	50	3	70	3	90	4
11	1	31	1	51	2	71	1	91	2
12	3	32	5	52	3	72	5	92	3
13	1	33	2	53	1	73	1	93	2
14	2	34	2	54	4	74	2	94	2
15	2	35	2	55	2	75	3	95	2
16	4	36	4	56	4	76	3	96	6
17	1	37	1	57	2	77	2	97	1
18	3	38	2	58	2	78	3	98	3
19	1	39	2	59	1	79	1	99	3
20	3	40	4	60	4	80	5
21	2	41	1	61	1	81	4

Tab. 1

			99		
			98		
96					97
				95	
				94	
				93	
			92		
				91	
		90			
		88			89
				87	
				86	
				85	
		84			
				82	83
		81			
80					
			78		79
				77	
			76		
			75		
				74	
	72				73
					71
			70		
				69	
			68		
					67
			66		
				65	
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			63		
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				26	
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		16			
				15	
				14	
					13
			12		
					11
				10	
				9	
			8		
					7
				6	
					5
				4	
					3
					2
6° o.f.	5° o.f.	4° o.f.	3° o.f.	2° o.f.	1° o.f.

Tab. 2

2. Representation

In Tab. 2 the numbers in Tab. 1 are distributed in a row-column structure in which the natural numbers are associated with the rows and the columns identify for each m , from the right to the left, the factoring orders $\Omega(m)$ $1 < m < 100$.

In this way the natural numbers (> 1) are identified, not only with their natural sequence, but also with a second parameter and can be organized and grouped into classes (i.e. the same order of factoring).

Each number m can be factored, at most, as a power of 2. Consequently the highest class m can occupy is $\log_2 m$; more precisely $\text{floor}(\log_2 m)$, where *floor* is the whole lower part (sometimes indicated enclosed in $\lfloor \rfloor$), that is the nearest integer \leq .

The first column below (*1st order of factorization*) is the class prime numbers, for example the fourth column (*4th order of factorization*) is the class of the fourth numbers and starts with 16, 24 and 36 because $16 = 2^4$ i.e. $\Omega(16) = 4$, $24 = 2^3 \cdot 3^1$ i.e. $\Omega(24) = 4$ and $36 = 2^2 \cdot 3^2$ i.e. $\Omega(36) = 4$. So for the numbers of the other classes.

Therefore: the second numbers, the third numbers, fourth, fifth, sixth, ... n-th ...

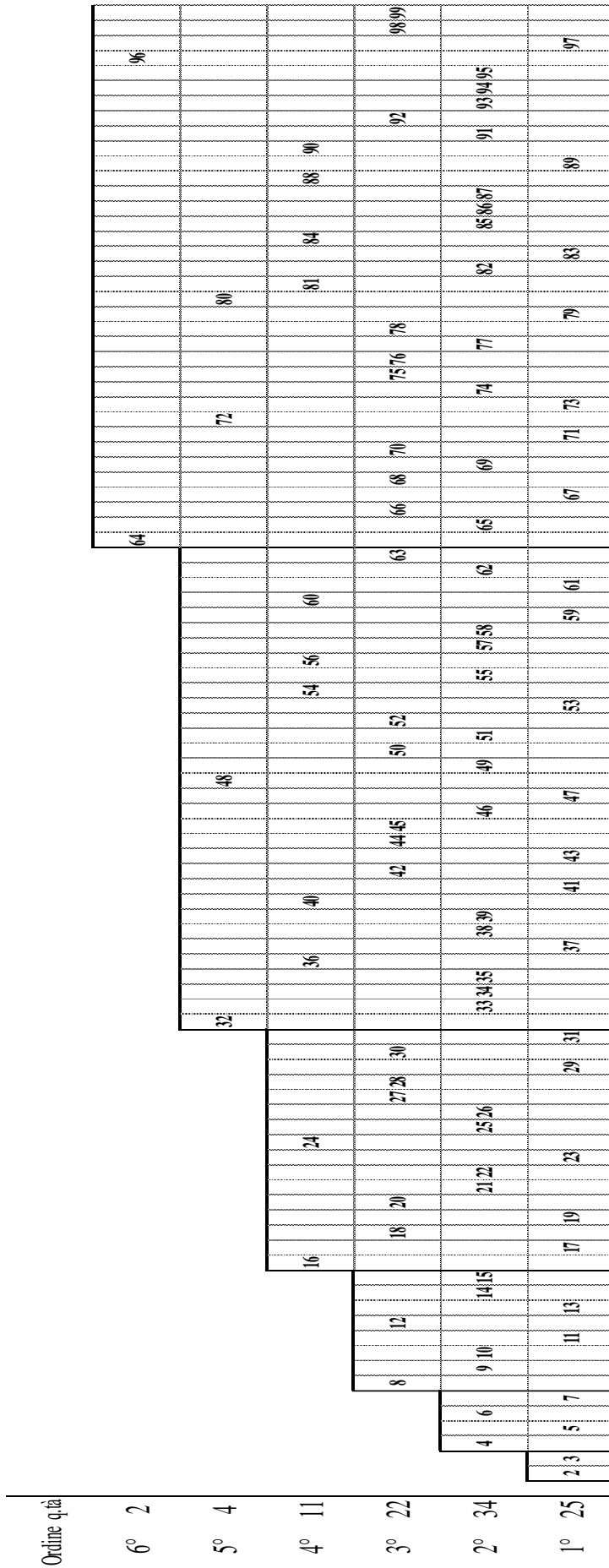


Fig. 1

(Note. For reasons of limited space, Fig. 1 is positioned vertically, therefore the rows go from the bottom to the top)

In order to better visualize the structure of Tab. 2, in Fig.1 it is represented, with a **boxes** diagram (unit positions), the distribution of the numbers from 2 to 99.

Each level (row) identifies a factorization order k (from here *o.f.*) and starts with the value 2^k for a some k .

Fig. 1 shows a **step** pattern for the distribution: rectangles with base 2^i and height i (as the *o.f.* involved):

- the i -th step has the first value 2^i , it contains 2^i numbers and it develops, obviously, over $2^i \cdot i$ **boxes**; the density of numbers compared to the **boxes** is:

$$d=2^i/(2^i \cdot i)=1/i$$

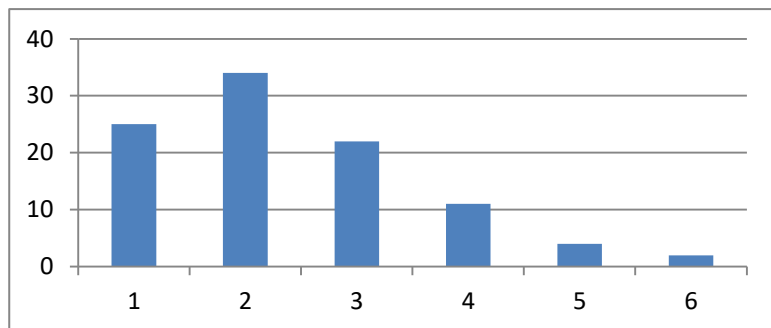
- the i -th step is structured on i **levels** (as many as *o.f.*)
- in each step the upper level contains only two numbers 2^i e $2^{i-1} \cdot 3$
- the basic level of each step (relative to the *1st o.f.*) contains only prime numbers.

This representation is a two-dimensional enlargement of the classical one which represents the natural numbers as a sequence in unitary positions:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	

Assumption: at least two numbers are present on each level of each step.

To the left of the ordinate axis are indicated the *o.f.* and the relative quantities of natural numbers $1 < m < 100$: the prime numbers are 25, the seconds numbers 34, the third numbers 22, the quarter numbers 11, the fifths numbers 4, the sixth numbers 2



The quantities tend to decrease because, with $n = 99$, the highest levels are less populated.

The graph in Fig.2 represents the cardinality growth of each class $[k]$ of numbers (<100) with identical *o.f.* (the figure shows the growth of the classes related to the first 6 *o.f.*).

The growth of cardinality $[1]$, quantity of the numbers of the 1st order (prime numbers), is represented by the double line; it is exceeded, between 25 and 33, by the growth of those of cardinality $[2]$.

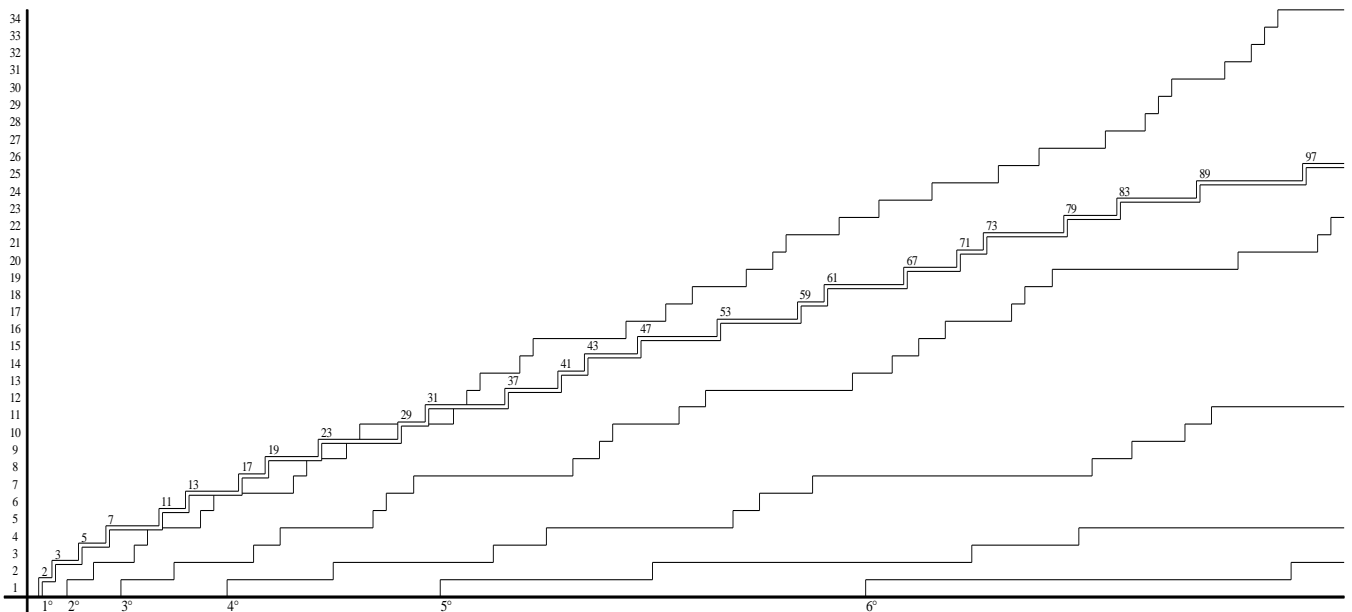


Fig. 2

Fig. 3 shows some sections of the distribution of the numbers from 2 to $n = 3500$ in the various classes $[k]$, $1 \leq k \leq \text{floor}(\log_2 n)$.

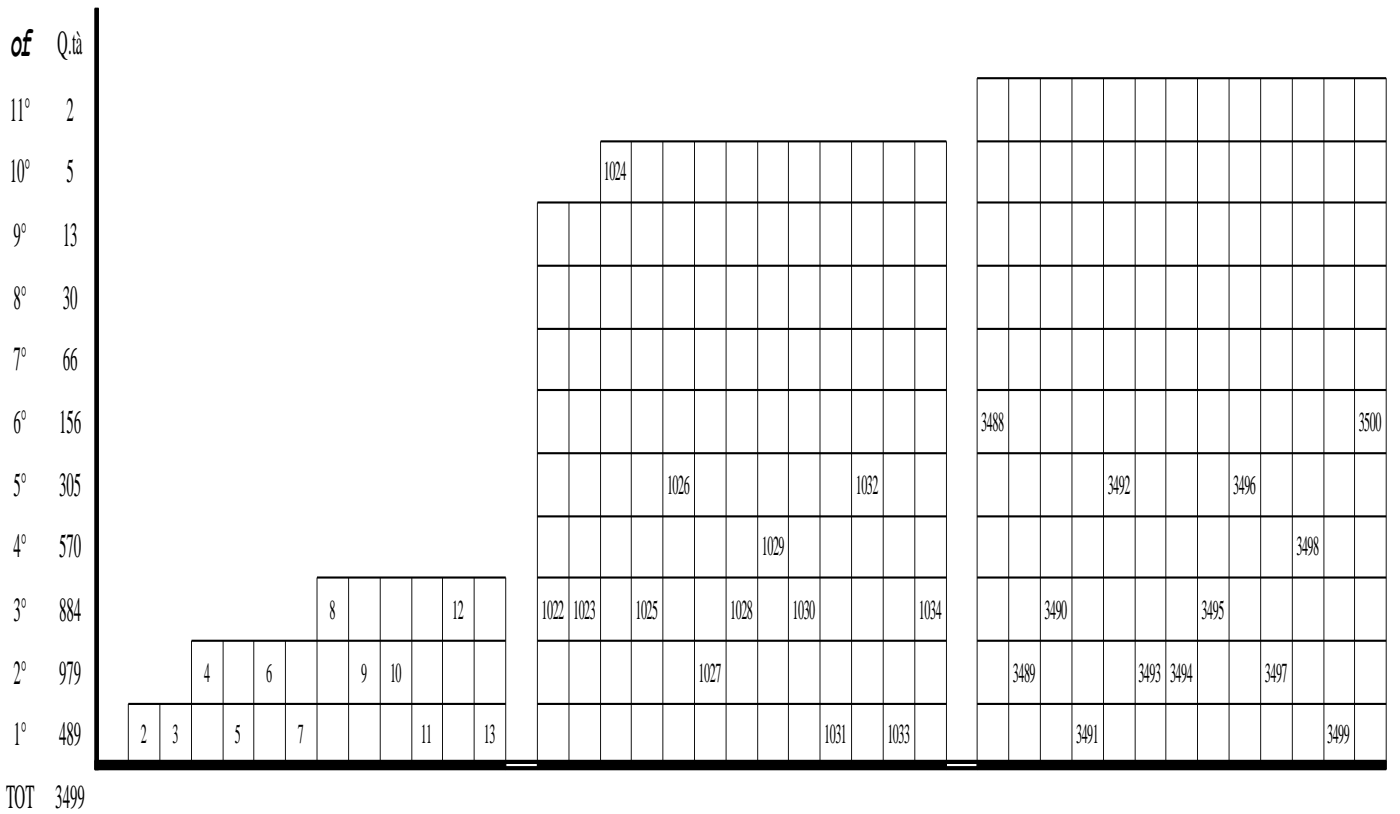


Fig. 3

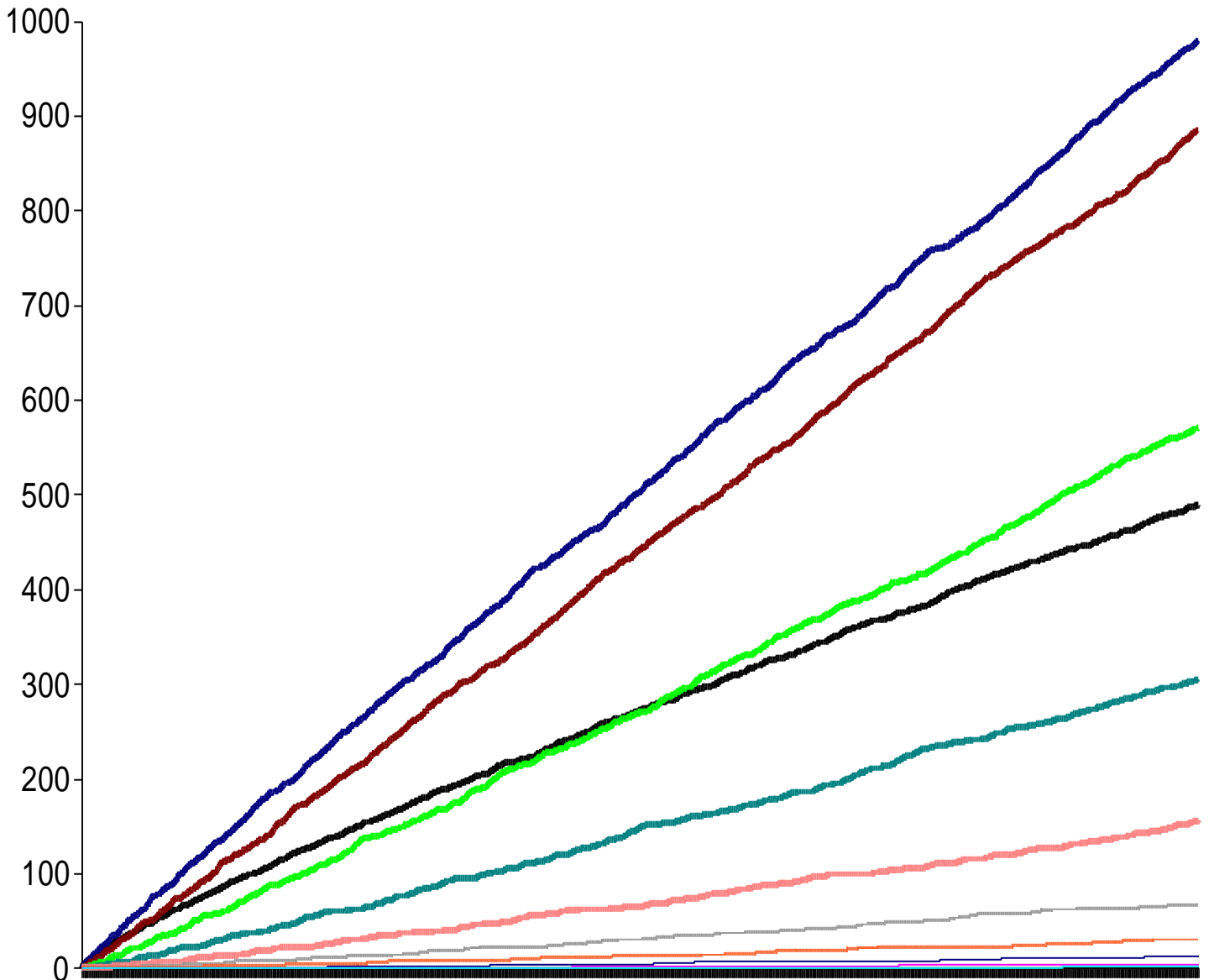


Fig. 4

The graph below shows the quantities relating to each of the 11 classes.

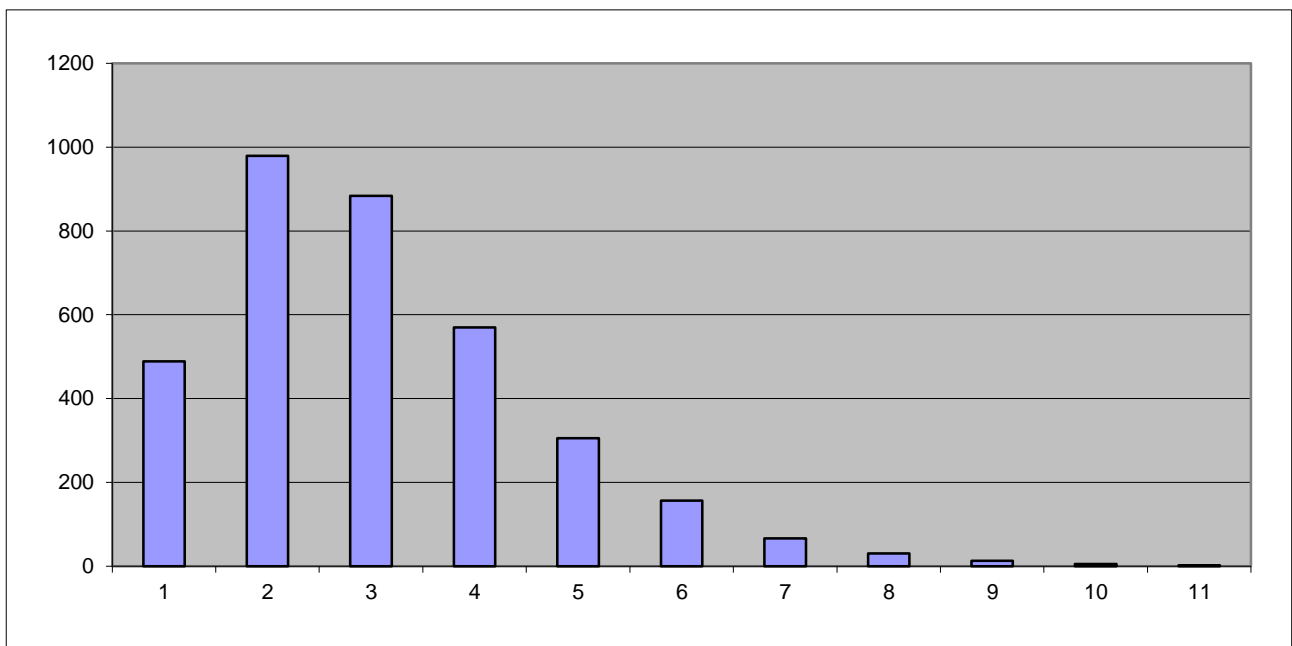


Fig. 4 graphically displays the cardinality growth of the first 11 classes $[k]$, $1 \leq k \leq 11$, each in relation to the corresponding *o.f.*, for the numbers from 2 to $n = 3500$ (as in Fig. 3):

- the trend of these cardinalities is a range of divergent lines (so it seems) representing the classes relating to *o.f.* from the 2nd (the first up) to the line of the eleventh order (the last lines do not stand out well);
- the line representing the growth of prime numbers is black; it is immediately overcome by the 2nd order line and, afterwards, by the lines of the 3rd and 4th order;
- the 2nd order line exceeds that of the prime numbers between 25 and 33;
- the 3rd order line exceeds that of the prime numbers between 125 and 170;
- the 4th order line exceeds that of the prime numbers between 1809 and 1814;
- the last order, or $\Omega(n)$, (in this case the eleventh, because $\log_2 3500 = 11.77$) contains either 1 or 2 elements and precisely

$$\text{floor}(n/(3 \cdot 2^{\Omega(n)-1})) + 1$$

More evident, in Fig.5 ($n = 16384$) we can see how also $\Omega_5(m)$ tends to exceed $\Omega_1(m)$ while $\Omega_3(m)$ exceeds $\Omega_2(m)$.

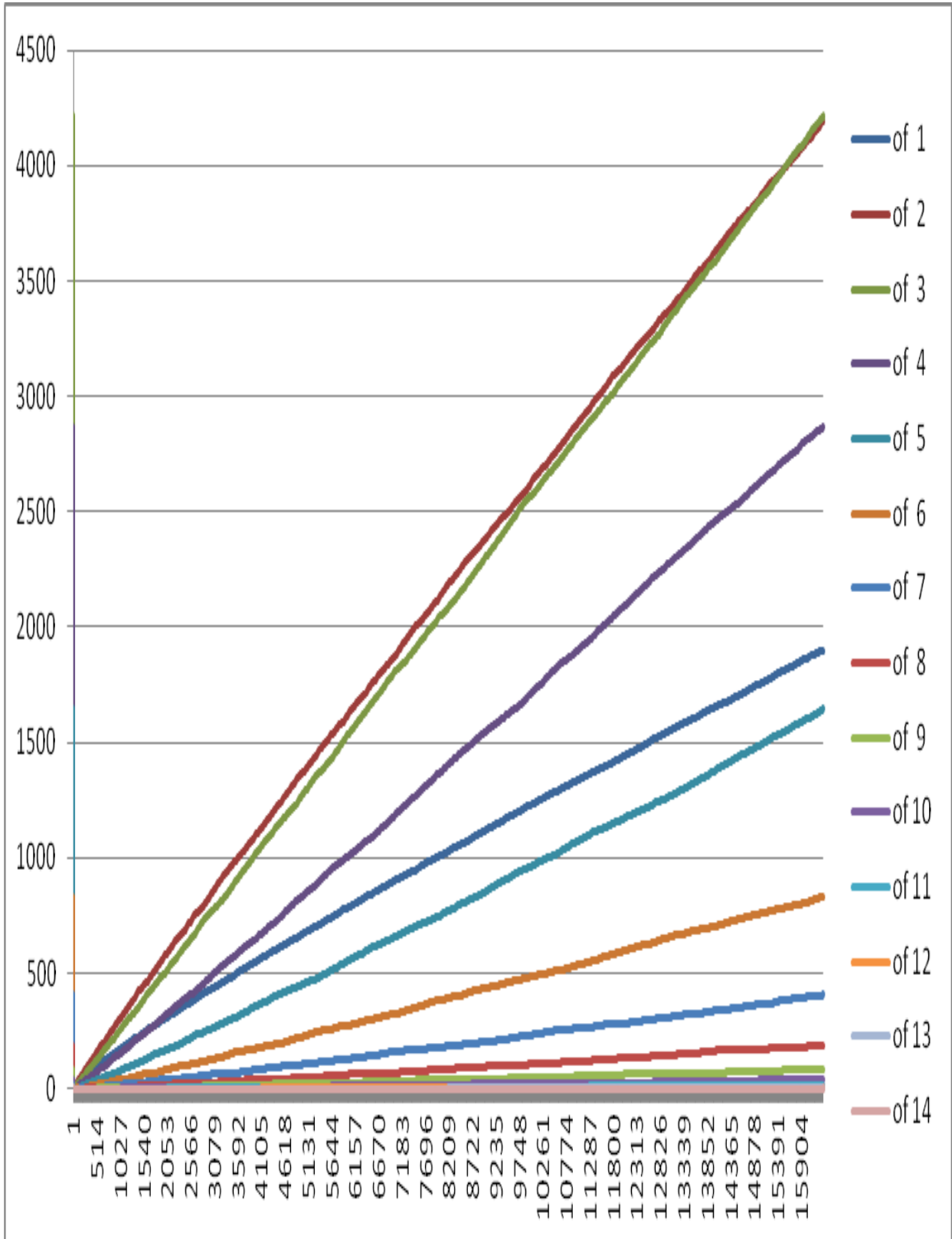
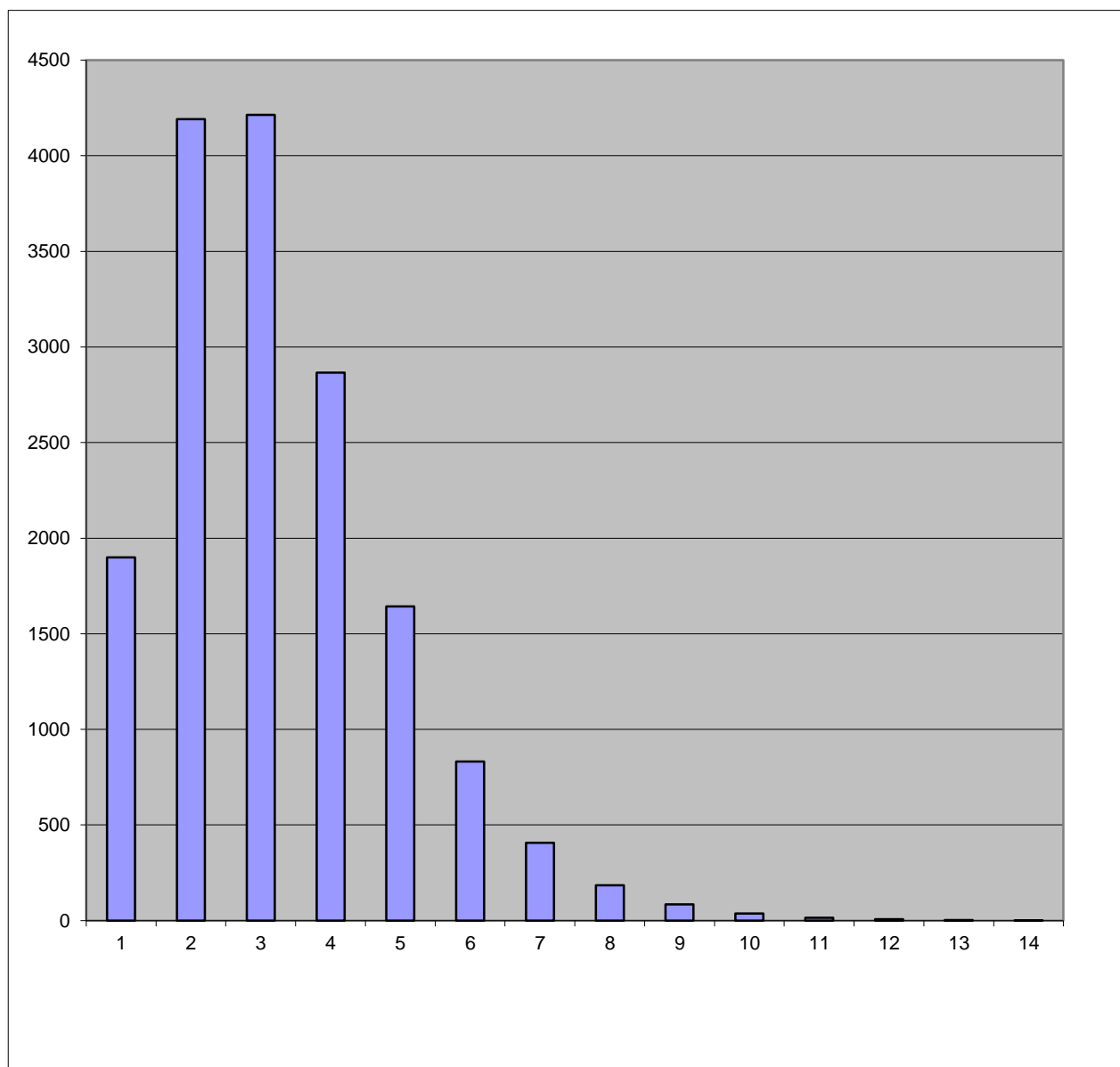


Fig. 5

The graph below shows the quantities relating to each of the 14 classes.



The cardinalities related to the classes $[k]$ associated with each *o.f.* k , show a distribution that seems to resemble a distribution of Bernoulli of parameters to be determined.

x-axis: $\Omega_k(m)$

y-axis: \prod_k

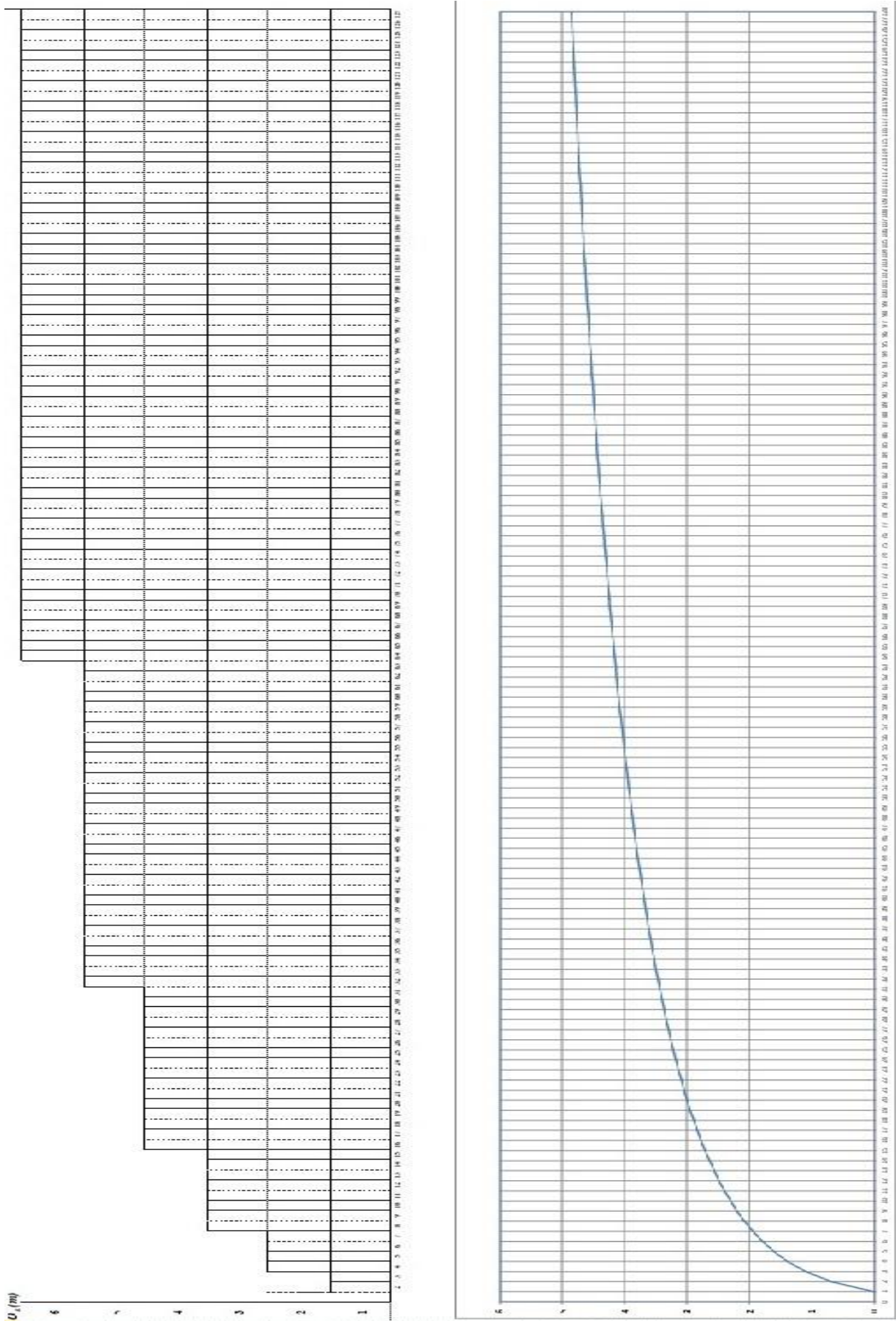


Fig. 6

3.1 Form and membership

From what has been said in **2. Representation**, \forall integer $m \leq n$ the maximum *o.f.* possible is, obviously, $\Omega(m) = \log_2 m$; this trend describes, as in Fig. 6, a logarithmic area $\int_{1,n} \log_2 m \cdot dm \rightarrow ((1/\ln(2)) \cdot \int_{1,n} \ln(m) \cdot dm)$; also, assuming a uniform distribution, it is reasonable to suppose that

$$1) \quad 1/\Omega(m) = 1/\log_2 m$$

indicates the "probability" that a number m belongs to the i -th *o.f.* ($1 \leq i \leq \Omega_{Max}(n)$).

3.2 Calculations

From 1) it follows that the quantity of numbers theoretically belonging to the same *o.f.* i is

$$2) \quad \Pi_i(n) = \sum_{j=2^i, \dots, n} 1/\log_2 j$$

The form 2), for n sufficiently large, could be written

$$3) \quad \begin{aligned} \Pi_i(n)_{n \rightarrow \infty} &\equiv \int_{2^{i-1}, n}^i 1/\log_2 m \cdot dm && \rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow \ln(2) \cdot \int_{2^{i-1}, n}^i 1/\ln(m) \cdot dm \end{aligned}$$

As for the quantity of numbers belonging to the *1st o.f.* (prime numbers), we may venture, based on Fig. 1, a method based on the comparison between the density of the numbers of the *1st o.f.* and the density of all numbers, in relation to the "area" respectively occupied:

$q.ty \text{ numbers of the } 1st \text{ o.f.} / \text{occupied area of the } 1st \text{ level} \equiv \text{total } q.ty \text{ numbers} / \text{total area occupied}$

replacing:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_1(n) / (n-1) &= (n-1) / ((1/\ln(2)) \cdot \int_{1,n} \ln(m) \cdot dm) && \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \Pi_1(n) &= (n-1)^2 / ((1/\ln(2)) \cdot \int_{1,n} \ln(m) \cdot dm) && \rightarrow \\ 4) \rightarrow \Pi_1(n) &= (n-1)^2 / ((1/\ln(2)) \cdot (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)) \end{aligned}$$

In Tab. 3 this formula is compared with some famous formulas; even if the difference is considerable, it tends to stabilize.

n	numbers of primes $\pi(n)$ between 2 and n	Forecast with Gauss formula: $n/\ln(n)$	Deviation	Forecast with Legendre formula: $n/(\ln(n)-1,08366)$	Deviation	Forecast with formula: $(n-1)^2/((1/\ln(2))^{n*\ln(n)-n+1})$	Deviation	
1	1,E+01	4	4	0%	8	100%	4	0,0000%
2	1,E+02	25	22	-12%	28	12%	19	-24,0000%
3	1,E+03	168	145	-14%	172	2%	117	-30,3571%
4	1,E+04	1229	1086	-12%	1231	0,16%	844	-31,3263%
5	1,E+05	9592	8686	-9%	9588	-0,04%	6593	-31,2656%
6	1,E+06	78498	72382	-8%	78543	0,06%	54086	-31,0989%
7	1,E+07	664579	620421	-7%	665140	0,08%	458488	-31,0108%
8	1,E+08	5761455	5428681	-6%	5768004	0,11%	3978875	-30,9398%
9	1,E+09	50847534	48254942	-5%	50917519	0,14%	35143631	-30,8843%
10	1,E+10	455052511	434294482	-5%	455743004	0,15%	314697118	-30,8438%
11	1E+11	4118054813	3948131654	-4%	4124599869	0,16%	2849123470	-30,8139%
12	1E+12	37607912018	36191206825	-4%	37668527415	0,16%	26027810858	-30,7917%
13	1E+13	346065536839	334072678387	-3%	346621096885	0,16%	239564738510	-30,7747%
14	1E+14	3204941750802	3102103442166	-3%	3210012022164	0,16%	2219051528595	-30,7616%
15	1E+15	29844570422669	28952965460217	-3%	29890794226982	0,15%	20667038427351	-30,7511%
16	1E+16	279238341033925	271434051189532	-3%	279660033612131	0,15%	193393094398453	-30,7426%
17	1E+17	2623557157654230	2554673422960300	-3%	2627410589445920	0,15%	1817187896616470	-30,7357%
18	1E+18	24739954287740800	24127471216847300	-2%	24775244142175600	0,14%	17137370050627900	-30,7300%
19	1E+19	234057667276344000	228576043106975000	-2%	234381646366461000	0,14%	162143041302985000	-30,7252%
20	1E+20	2220819602560910000	2171472409516260000	-2%	2223801523570830000	0,13%	1538559370555550000	-30,7211%
22	1E+22	201467286689315906290	197406582683296000000	-2%	201721849105667000000	0,13%	139587362635261000000	-30,7146%

Best values

Tab. 3

Formula 4) is characterized by the constant $1/\ln(2)$; if we put the variable x as the argument of the natural logarithm and we calculate on the basis of the effective values of $\pi(n)$ we see that $2 \rightarrow e$ and the value $1/\ln(2) \rightarrow 1$

n	numbers of primes $\pi(n)$ between 2 and n	Determination of x by formula: $(n-1)^2/((1/\ln(x))^{n*\ln(n)-n+1})$
1	1,E+01	1,998975129
2	1,E+02	2,514674058
3	1,E+03	2,703802757
4	1,E+04	2,743583643
5	1,E+05	2,741268962
6	1,E+06	2,734624243
7	1,E+07	2,731134516
8	1,E+08	2,728316364
9	1,E+09	2,726120217
10	1,E+10	2,724518942
11	1E+11	2,723337991
12	1E+12	2,722463310
13	1E+13	2,721797198
14	1E+14	2,721278309
15	1E+15	2,720866441
16	1E+16	2,720534130
17	1E+17	2,720262113
18	1E+18	2,720036623
19	1E+19	2,719847615
20	1E+20	2,719687615
22	1E+22	2,719433340

$e = 2,718282$

Accordingly with the formula

4a) $\prod_l(n) = (n-1)^2 / (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$ a better deviation is obtained:

<i>n</i>	number of primes $\pi(n)$ between 2 and <i>n</i>	Forecast with Gauss formula: $n / \ln(n)$	Deviation	Forecast with Legendre formula: $n / (\ln(n) - 1.08366)$	Deviation	Forecast with formula: $(n-1)^2 / (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$	Deviation
1	1,E+01	4	0%	8	100%	6	50%
2	1,E+02	25	-12%	28	12%	27	8%
3	1,E+03	168	-14%	172	2%	169	0,59523809524%
4	1,E+04	1229	-12%	1231	0,16%	1218	-0,89503661513%
5	1,E+05	9592	-9%	9586	-0,04%	9512	-0,83402835696%
6	1,E+06	78498	-8%	78543	0,06%	78030	-0,59619353359%
7	1,E+07	664579	-7%	665140	0,08%	661459	-0,46947014576%
8	1,E+08	5761455	-6%	5768004	0,11%	5740304	-0,36711212706%
9	1,E+09	50847534	-5%	50917519	0,14%	50701542	-0,28711716875%
10	1,E+10	455052511	-5%	455743004	0,15%	454011971	-0,22866372009%
11	1E+11	4118054813	-4%	4124599869	0,16%	4110416301	-0,18548835183%
12	1E+12	37607912018	-4%	37668527415	0,16%	37550193650	-0,15347400295%
13	1E+13	346065536839	-3%	346621096885	0,16%	345618860221	-0,12907284039%
14	1E+14	3204941750802	-3%	3210012022164	0,16%	3201414635781	-0,11005239082%
15	1E+15	29844570422669	-3%	29890794226982	0,15%	29816233849001	-0,09494716549%
16	1E+16	279238341033925	-3%	279660033612131	0,15%	279007258230820	-0,08275468270%
17	1E+17	2623557157654230	-3%	2627410589445920	0,15%	2621647966812030	-0,07277107863%
18	1E+18	24739954287740800	-2%	24775244142175600	0,14%	24723998785920000	-0,06449285086%
19	1E+19	234057667276344000	-2%	234381646366461000	0,14%	233922961602470000	-0,05755234402%
20	1E+20	2220819602560910000	-2%	2223801523570830000	0,13%	2219671974013730000	-0,05167590136%
22	1E+22	201467286689315906290	-2%	201721849105667000000	0,13%	201381995844660000000	-0,04233483562%

Best values

Tab. 4a

<i>n</i>	number of primes $\pi(n)$ between 2 and <i>n</i>	Forecast with formula: $(n-1)^2 / (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$	Deviation	Forecast with formula: $n / (\ln(n) - 1)$	Deviation	Forecast with formula: $Li()$	Deviation
1	1,E+01	6	50%	8	100%	6	50%
2	1,E+02	27	8%	28	12%	30	20%
3	1,E+03	169	0,60%	169	0,60%	178	5,95238095238%
4	1,E+04	1218	-0,90%	1218	-0,90%	1246	1,38323840521%
5	1,E+05	9512	-0,83%	9512	-0,83%	9630	0,39616346956%
6	1,E+06	78030	-0,60%	78030	-0,60%	78628	0,16560931489%
7	1,E+07	661459	-0,47%	661459	-0,47%	664918	0,05100973699%
8	1,E+08	5740304	-0,37%	5740304	-0,37%	5762209	0,01308697195%
9	1,E+09	50701542	-0,29%	50701542	-0,29%	50849235	0,00334529498%
10	1,E+10	454011971	-0,23%	454011971	-0,23%	455055615	0,00068211908%
11	1E+11	4110416301	-0,19%	4110416301	-0,19%	4118066401	0,00028139499%
12	1E+12	37550193650	-0,15%	37550193650	-0,15%	37607950281	0,00010174189%
13	1E+13	345618860221	-0,13%	345618860221	-0,13%	346065645810	0,00003148854%
14	1E+14	3201414635781	-0,11%	3201414635781	-0,11%	3204942065692	0,00000982514%
15	1E+15	29816233849001	-0,09%	29816233849001	-0,09%	29844571475288	0,00000352700%
16	1E+16	279007258230820	-0,08%	279007258230820	-0,08%	279238344248557	0,00000115121%
17	1E+17	2621647966812030	-0,07%	2621647966812030	-0,07%	2623557165610820	0,00000030327%
18	1E+18	24723998785920000	-0,06%	24723998785920000	-0,06%	24739954507236400	0,00000088721%
19	1E+19	233922961602470000	-0,06%	233922961602470000	-0,06%	234057667376222000	0,00000004267%
20	1E+20	2219671974013730000	-0,05%	2219671974013730000	-0,05%	2220819602583650000	0,00000000102%
22	1E+22	201381995844660000000	-0,04%	201381995844660000000	-0,04%	201467286691247000000	0,00000000096%

Best values

Tab. 4b

Tab. 4b highlights how the formula $Li()$ is certainly more precise than the formula 4a) used in Tab. 4a, which, while providing results similar to the simpler formula on its right, highlights an interesting particularity below. The results with the Riemann algorithm are left out: extremely better!

The proposed representation allows to see, in an evident way, the reason for the formulation of some important laws without the need for demonstrations.

As a result, the previous formulas would become:

$$1a) \quad 1/\Omega(m) = 1/\ln(m)$$

$$2a) \quad \prod_i(n) = \sum_{j=2}^i \dots_n 1/\ln(j)$$

$$3a) \quad \prod_i(n)_{n \rightarrow \infty} = \int_{-1}^i 1/\ln(m) \cdot dm \equiv Li(n)$$

(we obtain the formula of the integral Gauss logarithm)

$$4a) \quad \prod_I(n) = (n-1)^2 / (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$$

(dimensionally consistent with the laws of Legendre and Gauss. See Tab. 4a)

3.3 Evidence

The graph in Fig. 7a shows the progress of the function:

$$y = n/x \quad \text{with } x \equiv (1, n) \quad \text{for } n = 29$$

which represents an equilateral hyperbole; if we examine formula 4a) of the hypothesized "density" mode for determining the number of primes $\Pi(n)$:

$$\Pi(n) = (n - 1)^2 / (n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$$

it is clear that the numerator $(n-1)^2$ is the area of the square with coordinates $(1,1)$ $(1, n)$ $(n, 1)$ (n, n) and that the denominator $(n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1)$ is the area ^(*) delimited by the segment of equilateral hyperbole inscribed in the square and by the line $y = 1$; as a result we get one

geometric shape of $\Pi(n)$

“The quantity $\Pi(n)$ of prime numbers from 2 to n , with increasing n , tends to the ratio between the area of the square with side $n-1$ and the area delimited by the segment of equilateral hyperbole inscribed in the square and with the line $y = 1$ ”

$$(*) \int_{1,n} n/x \cdot dx = [n \cdot \ln(x)]_{1,n} = n \cdot \ln(n) \rightarrow \text{area elimination } (1, n) \rightarrow n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1$$

In this specific case $\Pi(29) = 10$, while the formula provides 11 with a 10% difference.

It should be noted in Fig. 7b that the area of the segment of equilateral hyperbole is equal to the area delimited by the logarithmic curve

$$y = \ln(x) \quad \text{with } x \equiv (1, n) \quad \text{for } n = 29$$

and so:

$$\int_{1,n} \ln(x) \cdot dx = [x \cdot \ln(x) - x]_{1,n} = n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1$$

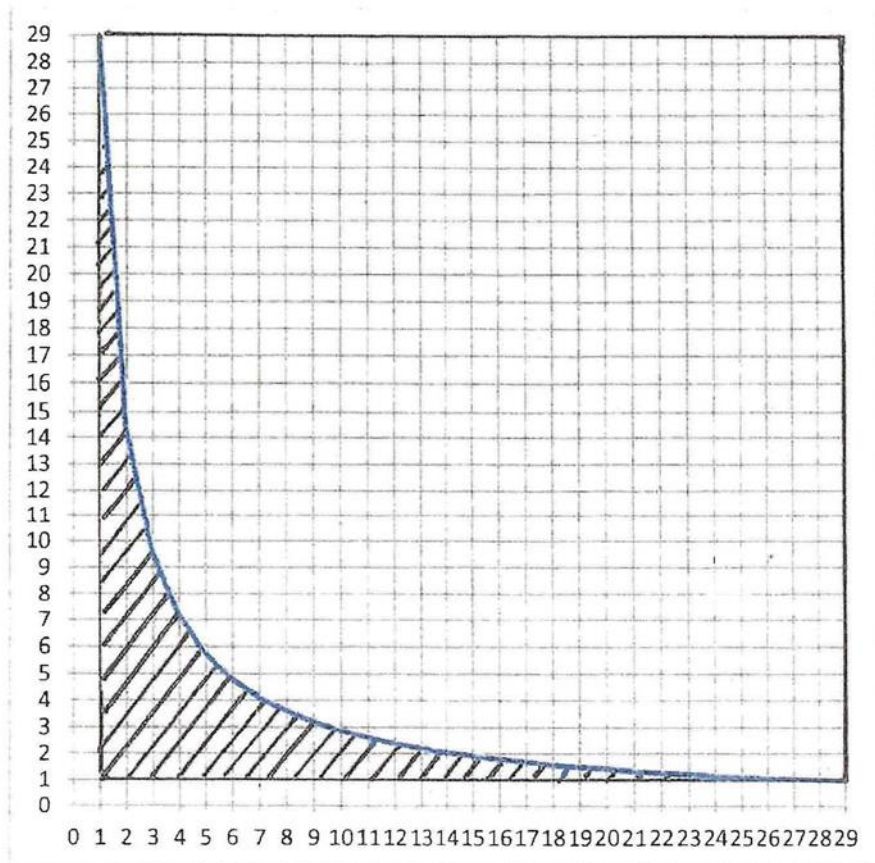


Fig. 7a

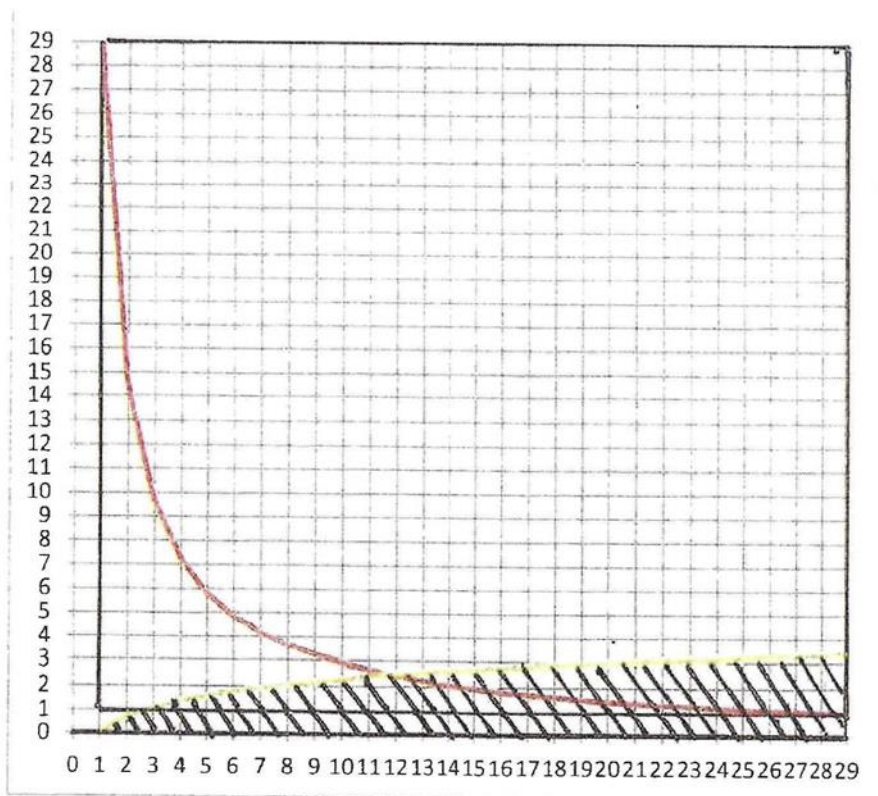


Fig. 7b

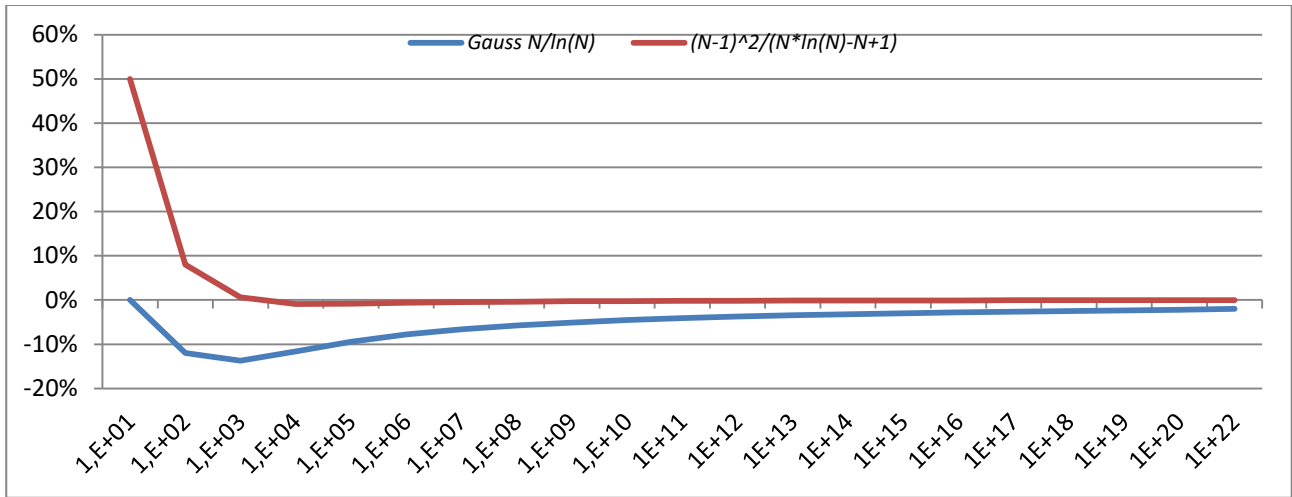


Fig. 8

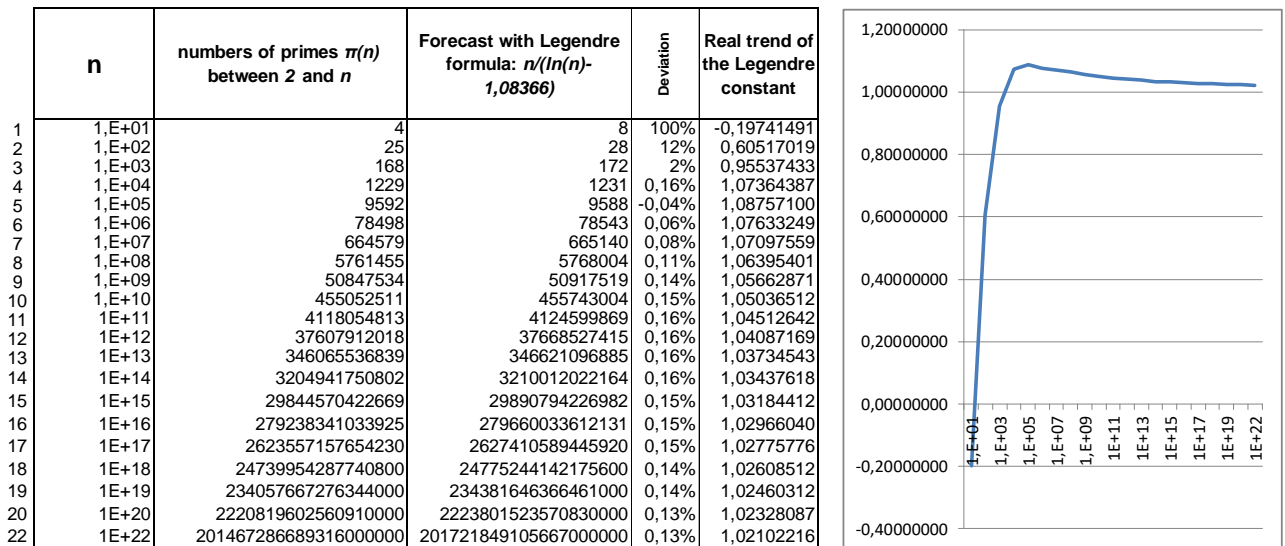


Fig. 9

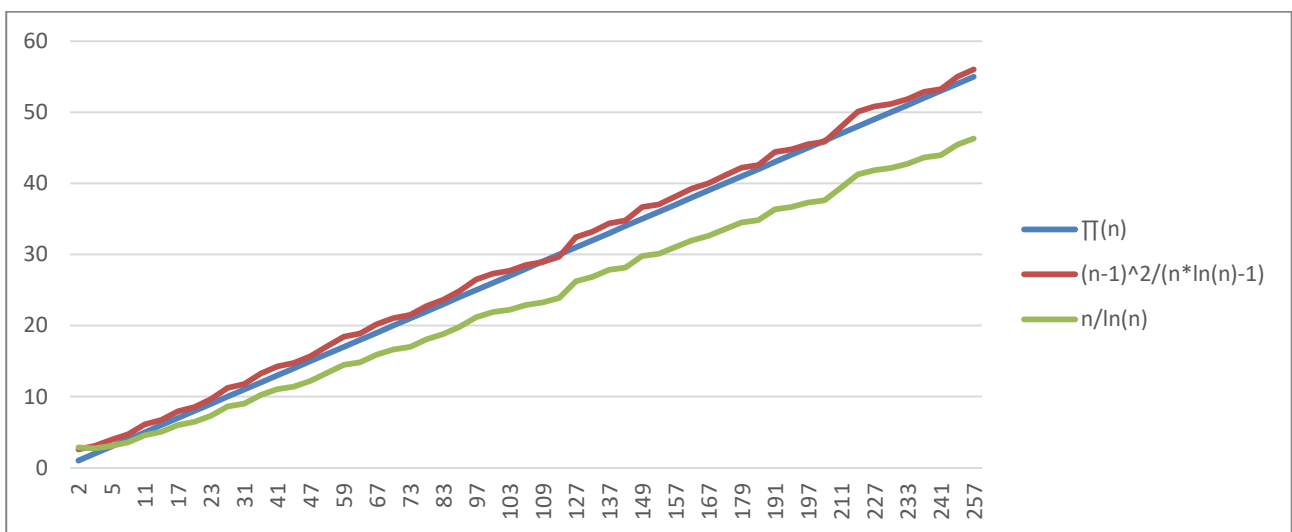


Fig. 10

In formula 4a) it is noted that this is dimensionally consistent with the formulas of Legendre and Gauss.

If we develop and divide numerator and denominator by n :

$$(n^2 - 2 \cdot n + 1)/(n \cdot \ln(n) - n + 1) \quad \rightarrow \quad (n - 2 + 1/n)/(\ln(n) - 1 + 1/n)$$

and apply the limit for $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n - 2 + 1/n)/(\ln(n) - 1 + 1/n) \quad \rightarrow \quad n/\ln(n)$$

Fig. 8 compares the trend of the gap between the two formulations.

Fig. 9 shows the trend of the Legendre's constant.

Legendre found better results than those of the Gauss formula applying the value -1.08366 , however, not being able to have today's technologies to perform calculations, he had to limit his reach. The graph could suggest a value tending to 1 for the Legendre's constant.

Fig. 10 compares the real quantity of prime numbers with the formula 4a) and with the Gauss formula.