

Errata: PRIMES is in P

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The proof of Lemma 4.3 in our paper [AKS04] is incorrect. (We thank the anonymous referees together with [CS05], [RG05], [Rui18] for pointing this out.) In the proof, it is claimed that if there is an $s \leq B = \max\{3, \lceil \log^5 n \rceil\}$ such that $s \notin \{r_1, \dots, r_t\}$ (the set of all numbers $r_i \leq B$ that divide the product $n \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\lceil \log^2 n \rceil} (n^i - 1)$), then for $r = \frac{s}{(s,n)}$, $o_r(n) > \log^2 n$. The claim is wrong because it does not handle the case when s is a multiple of a power of a number dividing n . In those cases $\frac{s}{(s,n)}$ may not be coprime to n and so $o_r(n)$ is undefined.

It is easy to fix the proof. We give a corrected proof below, by changing the definition of r .

LEMMA 4.3. *There exists an $r \leq \max\{3, \lceil \log^5 n \rceil\}$ such that $o_r(n) > \log^2 n$.*

Proof. This is trivially true when $n = 2$: $r = 3$ satisfies all conditions. So assume that $n > 2$. Then $\lceil \log^5 n \rceil > 10$ and Lemma 3.1 applies. Observe that the largest value of k for any number of the form $m^k \leq B = \lceil \log^5 n \rceil$, $m \geq 2$, is $\lceil \log B \rceil$. Now consider the smallest number s that does not divide the product

$$n^{\lceil \log B \rceil} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\lceil \log^2 n \rceil} (n^i - 1).$$

How small is s ? Note that,

$$n^{\lceil \log B \rceil} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\lceil \log^2 n \rceil} (n^i - 1) < n^{\lceil \log B \rceil + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 n \cdot (\log^2 n - 1)} \leq n^{\log^4 n} \leq 2^{\log^5 n} \leq 2^B.$$

(The second inequality holds for all $n \geq 2$.) By Lemma 3.1, the lcm of first B numbers is at least 2^B . Therefore, $s \leq B$. As a result, the part of s coprime to n is $r := \frac{s}{(s,n^{\lceil \log B \rceil})}$. Furthermore, by the choice of s we have that r does

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not divide the product

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\lfloor \log^2 n \rfloor} (n^i - 1).$$

Thus, r (which is coprime to n) does not divide any of $n^i - 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \log^2 n \rfloor$, implying that $o_r(n) > \log^2 n$. \square

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