# DABOUSSI'S ELEMENTARY PROOF OF THE PRIME NUMBER THEOREM, RECONSIDERED

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Abstract. In 1984, Daboussi gave an "elementary" proof of the prime number theorem whose central actors are smooth numbers (numbers with no large prime factors). We explain a variant of his argument that might be considered even more elementary.

## 1. Introduction

Let $\mu$ denote the Möbius function, and let $M(x) := \sum_{n \le x} \mu(n)$ be the corresponding summatory function. We will give a simple proof of the following 1897 theorem of von Mangoldt [8].

**Theorem 1.** *$M(x) = o(x)$, as $x \to \infty$.*

Landau showed that Theorem 1 is "elementarily equivalent" to the prime number theorem (PNT). (His 1899 doctoral thesis proves Theorem 1 from the prime number theorem [6, pp. 6–16]; Landau published the converse implication in 1911 [7, pp. 973–979]. See also the elegant textbook treatment by Shapiro [11, §10.3, pp. 408–414].) Here "equivalent" means that if either statement is assumed, there is a quick proof of the other, significantly shorter than a proof of either statement from scratch. The adverb "elementarily" draws a contrast with the more typical complex function-theoretic methods employed in prime number theory: The quick proofs in question involve only real variables, with Riemann's zeta function never (explicitly) mentioned.

It was quite a sensation when, in 1948, Erdős and Selberg announced that the prime number theorem itself could be established by elementary means [3, 10]. For historical context, see Spencer and Graham's article [12], which reproduces notes by Ernst Straus, and Goldfeld's account [4], which also draws on letters from files Selberg made available to him (cf. the interview [1]). Both Erdős's and Selberg's arguments use Selberg's "symmetry formula"; see [11, eq. (10.4.10), p. 419]. In 1984, Daboussi [2] gave a very different elementary proof of the PNT, using smooth numbers. Further elementary proofs were later given by Hildebrand [5], via a large sieve inequality, and — quite recently — Richter [9], through a general result on the distribution of $\Omega(n)$, the number of prime factors of $n$ counted with multiplicity.

In this note, we present a simplification of Daboussi's argument for Theorem 1. Let $P^+(n)$ denote the largest prime factor of $n$, adopting the convention that $P^+(1) := 1$. We say $n$ is $y$-smooth if $P^+(n) \le y$. For $x \ge 1$ and $y \ge 2$, put

$$\Psi(x,y) := \sum_{\substack{n \le x \\ P^+(n) \le y}} 1, \qquad M(x,y) := \sum_{\substack{n \le x \\ P^+(n) \le y}} \mu(n).$$

Set

$$a := \limsup_{x \to \infty} \frac{|M(x)|}{x},$$

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so that the PNT is equivalent to proving that $a = 0$.

A central component of Daboussi's proof is a comparison between $|M(x,y)|$ and $a\Psi(x,y)$, based on slight variants of the "logarithmic" relations

$$|M(x,y)| \log x \le \sum_{\substack{p \le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, |M(x/p^k, y)| + \int_1^x |M(t,y)| \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}, \tag{1}$$

$$\Psi(x,y) \log x = \sum_{\substack{p \le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, \Psi(x/p^k, y) + \int_1^x \Psi(t,y) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \tag{2}$$

(We prove both of these in §4 below.) Daboussi extracts what he needs from (1) and (2) by integrating against the same carefully constructed kernel function; see [2, Lemma 2, p. 162, and §III.3 and §IV, pp. 163–164]. Our proof avoids any need to introduce a special kernel function by working directly with the inequality for $(|M(x,y)| - a\Psi(x,y)) \log x$ that results from subtracting $a$ copies of (2) from (1).

In their lovely book, Tenenbaum and Mendès France describe a variant of Daboussi's argument that, like ours, avoids Daboussi's kernel function [13, Chapter 4, §§5–7, pp. 92–104]. The tradeoff is the need to develop certain ground-floor estimates from the theory of smooth numbers, including that $\Psi(x^u, x)/x^u \approx \rho(u)$ (Dickman's $\rho$-function) for bounded $u$ (with a key step in their proof being that $|M(x^u, x)|/x^u \lessapprox a\rho(u)$ in the same range). Our arrangement requires no nontrivial estimates on $\Psi(x,y)$.

Of course, we do need *something*. We will make free use of the following two estimates of Mertens, valid for $x \ge 2$:

$$\sum_{p \le x} \frac{\log p}{p} = \log x + O(1), \qquad \prod_{p \le x} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)^{-1} \ll \log x.$$

For (elementary) proofs, see for example [11, Chapter 9].

Throughout the paper, the variable $p$ is reserved for primes, and the exponent $k$ on a prime power $p^k$ is always assumed to be a positive integer.

**Use of LLMs.** This is a work of exposition. It is offered as a (hopefully!) human-readable "digestion" of output produced by ChatGPT 6 Astra, as prompted by the author. P. P. takes no credit for the new mathematics but stands with, by, and beside the final manuscript.

Lean formalizations of Theorem 1 and the smooth-number argument presented here, together with verification records and instructions for reproducing the checks, are available at https://github.com/twonth/daboussi-pnt-lean. The formalized results use only Lean's standard axioms of propositional extensionality (`propext`), classical choice (`Classical.choice`), and quotient soundness (`Quot.sound`).

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## 2. A Fundamental Lemma and the deduction of Theorem 1

The Möbius function is important in number theory precisely because it provides an elegant, number-theoretically friendly answer to the question of "who is number 1":

$$\mathbf{1}_{n=1} = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d).$$

Letting $x \geq 1$ and summing this identity over $n \leq x$,

$$1 = \sum_{d \leq x} \mu(d) \left\lfloor \frac{x}{d} \right\rfloor = x \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} - \sum_{d \leq x} \mu(d) \left\{ \frac{x}{d} \right\}.$$

Consequently,

$$\left| \sum_{d \leq x} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} \right| < \frac{1 + \lfloor x \rfloor}{x} \leq 2 \qquad (x \geq 1).$$

Expressing the same sum by partial summation, we have

$$\sum_{n \leq x} \frac{\mu(n)}{n} = \frac{M(x)}{x} + \int_1^x \frac{M(t)}{t} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t},$$

and hence

$$\left| \int_1^x \frac{M(t)}{t} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \right| < 3 \qquad (x \geq 1). \tag{3}$$

Our proof of Theorem 1 combines (3) with the following estimate, whose proof occupies §§3–4.

**Lemma 2** (Fundamental Lemma)**.** *As $x \to \infty$,*

$$\int_1^x \left( a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t} \right)^+ \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = o(\log x).$$

(*Here $v^+ = \max\{v, 0\}$ denotes the positive part of $v$.*)

Roughly speaking, Lemma 2 says that $|M(t)|/t$ spends most of its time close to its limit superior $a$, with time measured logarithmically (i.e., with respect to the logarithmic measure $\mathrm{d}t/t$).

*Proof of Theorem 1, assuming the Fundamental Lemma.* Suppose for a contradiction that $a > 0$, and fix $B := \exp(12/a)$. We first use (3) to show that every interval $[X, BX]$, with $X \geq 1$, contains a $u$ for which

$$|M(u)| \leq \frac{a}{2} u. \tag{4}$$

Indeed, if there is no such $u$, then $M(t)$ is nonzero throughout $[X, BX]$. Since $M$ takes integer values and jumps by at most 1, it has constant sign there. This gives

$$\left| \int_X^{BX} \frac{M(t)}{t} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \right| = \int_X^{BX} \frac{|M(t)|}{t} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \geq \frac{a}{2} \log B = 6.$$

But (3), applied at $BX$ and at $X$, bounds the left-hand side strictly below 6.

Now let $X \geq X_0 := 8/a$, and choose $u \in [X, BX]$ satisfying (4). To obtain a lower bound for the integral in the Fundamental Lemma, we extend this estimate to nearby values of $t$. For

$u \le t \le u(1+a/8)$, the bound $|\mu(n)| \le 1$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} |M(t)| &\le |M(u)| + \Big| \sum_{u<n\le t} \mu(n) \Big| \\ &\le \frac{a}{2}u + (t-u) + 1 \\ &\le \frac{a}{2}u + \frac{a}{8}u + \frac{a}{8}u \le \frac{3a}{4}t, \end{aligned}$$

where we used $1 \le au/8$. The bounds $u \le BX$ and $a \le 1$ also give $u(1+a/8) \le 2BX$, so

$$\int_X^{2BX} \left(a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t}\right)^+ \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \ge \int_u^{u(1+a/8)} \frac{a}{4}\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = \frac{a}{4}\log(1+a/8) > 0.$$

We apply this bound with $X = (2B)^j X_0$, for $j = 0, \dots, N-1$, noting that the corresponding intervals $(X, 2BX]$ are disjoint and contained in $(1, (2B)^N X_0]$. Adding these estimates gives

$$\int_1^{(2B)^N X_0} \left(a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t}\right)^+ \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \ge \left(\frac{a}{4}\log(1+a/8)\right) N.$$

But the Fundamental Lemma implies that our left-hand side is $o(\log((2B)^N X_0)) = o(N)$ as $N \to \infty$. This contradiction forces $a = 0$. □

## 3. Splitting off bounded prime factors

Recall from the introduction that $\Psi(x,y) = \sum_{n\le x,\, P^+(n)\le y} 1$ while $M(x,y) = \sum_{n\le x,\, P^+(n)\le y} \mu(n)$. Fix $y \ge 2$, and put

$$P = \prod_{p\le y} p.$$

We have $|M(t,y)| \le \Psi(t,y)$ and, since every positive integer at most $y$ is $y$-smooth,

$$M(t,y) = M(t), \qquad \Psi(t,y) = \lfloor t \rfloor \qquad (1 \le t \le y).$$

At the other end of the range, only the squarefree $y$-smooth integers contribute to $M(t,y)$, and these are precisely the divisors of $P$. Thus, for $t \ge P$,

$$M(t,y) = \sum_{d\mid P} \mu(d) = 0. \tag{5}$$

Following Daboussi, we compare $|M(x,y)|$ with $a\Psi(x,y)$. The following estimate gets us started.

**Proposition 3.** *For every $y \ge 2$,*

$$\int_1^\infty \left(\frac{|M(t,y)|}{t} - a\frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t}\right)\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \ge 0. \tag{6}$$

*Proof.* Each positive integer admits a unique decomposition in the form $n = bc$, where $P^+(b) \le y$ and $(c,P) = 1$. Since $(b,c) = 1$, the multiplicativity of $\mu$ gives

$$M(x) = \sum_{\substack{c\le x \\ (c,P)=1}} \mu(c) M(x/c, y).$$

The terms with $c \le x/P$ vanish by (5). Taking absolute values in the remaining terms and grouping according to the value of $j := \lfloor x/c \rfloor < P$, we obtain

$$|M(x)| \le \sum_{j=1}^{P-1} |M(j,y)| \sum_{\substack{x/(j+1) < c \le x/j \\ (c,P)=1}} 1.$$

View $y$ as fixed. Since every block of $P$ consecutive integers $c$ contains precisely $\varphi(P)$ that satisfy $(c,P)=1$,

$$\sum_{\substack{x/(j+1)<c\le x/j\\(c,P)=1}} 1 = x\frac{\varphi(P)}{P}\left(\frac{1}{j}-\frac{1}{j+1}\right)+O_y(1).$$

Substituting this into our bound for $|M(x)|$, dividing by $x$, and letting $x\to\infty$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} a &\le \frac{\varphi(P)}{P}\sum_{j=1}^{P-1}|M(j,y)|\left(\frac{1}{j}-\frac{1}{j+1}\right)\\ &= \frac{\varphi(P)}{P}\int_1^\infty \frac{|M(t,y)|}{t}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

(For the final equality, we use that $M(t,y)=M(j,y)$ on $[j,j+1)$, that $M(t,y)=0$ for $t\ge P$, and that $\int_j^{j+1} 1/t\,\mathrm{d}t/t = 1/j-1/(j+1)$.) Rearranging gives

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{|M(t,y)|}{t}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \ge a\frac{P}{\varphi(P)} = a\prod_{p\le y}(1-1/p)^{-1}. \tag{7}$$

The product on the right also occurs in the integral of $\Psi(t,y)/t$. In fact,

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = \sum_{P^+(n)\le y}\frac{1}{n} = \prod_{p\le y}(1-1/p)^{-1}. \tag{8}$$

To see this, observe that by partial summation,

$$\sum_{\substack{n\le X\\P^+(n)\le y}}\frac{1}{n} = \frac{\Psi(X,y)}{X}+\int_1^X \frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \tag{9}$$

For every positive integer $n\le X$, and every prime $p$, the exponent of $p$ in $n$ is at most $\log X/\log 2$. Hence (keeping in mind that $y$ is fixed),

$$\Psi(X,y)\le\left(1+\frac{\log X}{\log 2}\right)^{\pi(y)} = o(X).$$

Sending $X$ to infinity in (9) yields the first equality in (8), while the second follows by expanding the Euler product. Finally, the proposition itself follows by comparing (7) and (8). □

To apply Proposition 3 to the Fundamental Lemma, we separate its integrand into positive and negative parts. Define "excess" and "deficit" functions by

$$E_y(t)=\left(\frac{|M(t,y)|}{t}-a\frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t}\right)^+, \qquad D_y(t)=\left(a\frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t}-\frac{|M(t,y)|}{t}\right)^+.$$

The integrand in (6) is $E_y(t)-D_y(t)$, so that Proposition 3 can be restated as the assertion that

$$\int_1^\infty D_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \tag{10}$$

That is, the total excess of $|M(t,y)|/t$ over $a\Psi(t,y)/t$ is at least the total deficit, both measured with respect to $\mathrm{d}t/t$.

When $1 \le t \le y$, the deficit $D_y(t)$ is closely related to the integrand in the Fundamental Lemma:

$$\begin{aligned} D_y(t) &= \left(a\frac{\lfloor t \rfloor}{t} - \frac{|M(t)|}{t}\right)^+ \\ &= \left(a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t} - a\frac{\{t\}}{t}\right)^+ \ge \left(a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t}\right)^+ - \frac{a}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

(We use here that $(v-h)^+ \ge v^+ - h$ for $h \ge 0$.) Integrating with respect to $\mathrm{d}t/t$, and noting that $\int_1^y a/t\,\mathrm{d}t/t \le a$, we obtain

$$\int_1^y \left(a - \frac{|M(t)|}{t}\right)^+ \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \int_1^y D_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} + a \le \int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} + a,$$

using (10) in the last step. We have therefore reduced the Fundamental Lemma to proving that, as $y \to \infty$,

$$\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = o(\log y). \tag{11}$$

## 4. Making less of the excess

*Proof of Lemma 2.* To prove (11), we start with the trivial bounds

$$0 \le E_y(t) \le \frac{|M(t,y)|}{t} \le \frac{\Psi(t,y)}{t} \le 1.$$

Together with (8) and Mertens' estimate, this gives

$$\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \prod_{p \le y}(1-1/p)^{-1} \ll \log y. \tag{12}$$

So the remaining fight is over the case of a single letter: We must improve $O(\log y)$ to $o(\log y)$.

We split the integral at $y$. The required estimate for $\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\mathrm{d}t/t$ follows from the definition of $a$. Indeed, given $\varepsilon > 0$, choose $T \ge 1$ so that $|M(t)|/t \le a + \varepsilon$ for $t \ge T$. Then, for $T \le t \le y$,

$$E_y(t) = \left(\frac{|M(t)|}{t} - a + a\frac{\{t\}}{t}\right)^+ \le \varepsilon + \frac{a}{t}.$$

Integrating from 1 to $y$, using $E_y(t) \le 1$ below $T$, we get that

$$\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \log T + \varepsilon \log(y/T) + a$$

for all $y \ge T$. Hence,

$$\limsup_{y\to\infty} \frac{1}{\log y}\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \varepsilon.$$

As $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary,

$$\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = o(\log y). \tag{13}$$

To handle the remaining range $(y, \infty)$, we need the "logarithmic" relations quoted in the introduction. We begin their derivation with some simple consequences of Möbius inversion. Writing $\Lambda$ for the von Mangoldt function and starting from

$$\log n = \sum_{p^k \mid n} \log p = \sum_{d \mid n} \Lambda(d), \tag{14}$$

we find that

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda(n) &= \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \log (n/d) \\ &= \log n \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) - \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \log d \\ &= -\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \log d.\end{aligned}$$

Inverting this last formula for $\Lambda(n)$ gives

$$-\mu(n) \log n = \sum_{p^k|n} \log p \, \mu(n/p^k). \tag{15}$$

Summing (15) over $y$-smooth integers $n \le x$, and reversing the order of summation,

$$\begin{aligned}-\sum_{\substack{n\le x \\ P^+(n)\le y}} \mu(n) \log n &= \sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \sum_{\substack{m \le x/p^k \\ P^+(m)\le y}} \mu(m) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, M(x/p^k, y).\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, partial summation gives

$$\sum_{\substack{n\le x \\ P^+(n)\le y}} \mu(n) \log n = M(x,y) \log x - \int_1^x M(t,y) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

Substituting this into the immediately preceding display and rearranging,

$$M(x,y) \log x = -\sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, M(x/p^k, y) + \int_1^x M(t,y) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \tag{16}$$

Carrying out the same calculation with (14) replacing (15) gives

$$\Psi(x,y) \log x = \sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, \Psi(x/p^k, y) + \int_1^x \Psi(t,y) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}, \tag{17}$$

which is precisely the identity (2) from the introduction.

Taking absolute values in (16) and appealing to the triangle inequality,

$$|M(x,y)| \log x \le \sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} \log p \, |M(x/p^k, y)| + \int_1^x |M(t,y)| \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}, \tag{18}$$

and so we also have (1).

Subtracting $a$ times (17) from (18), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}(|M(x,y)| - a\Psi(x,y)) \log x \le \sum_{\substack{p\le y \\ p^k \le x}} &\log p (|M(x/p^k, y)| - a\Psi(x/p^k, y)) \\ &+ \int_1^x (|M(t,y)| - a\Psi(t,y)) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.\end{aligned}$$

Replacing each difference on the right by its positive part only increases the right-hand side and so preserves the inequality. Since the resulting right-hand side is nonnegative, we may also replace the left-hand side by its positive part. Noting that $(|M(t,y)| - a\Psi(t,y))^+ = tE_y(t)$, we deduce after dividing by $x$ that

$$E_y(x)\log x \le \sum_{\substack{p\le y\\ p^k\le x}} \frac{\log p}{p^k} E_y(x/p^k) + \int_1^x \frac{t}{x} E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}. \tag{19}$$

We integrate (19) with respect to $\mathrm{d}x/x$, over $[1,\infty)$. For each prime power $p^k$, substituting $x = p^k t$ gives

$$\int_{p^k}^\infty \frac{\log p}{p^k} E_y(x/p^k)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x} = \frac{\log p}{p^k}\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

For the remaining term, we reverse the order of integration:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^\infty \left(\int_1^x \frac{t}{x} E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}\right)\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x} &= \int_1^\infty E_y(t)\left(\int_t^\infty \frac{t}{x}\,\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x}\right)\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}\\ &= \int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.\end{aligned}$$

(Here all manipulations of sums and integrals are justified by nonnegativity.) Combining the two contributions,

$$\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\log t\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \left(1 + \sum_{p\le y}\sum_{k\ge 1}\frac{\log p}{p^k}\right)\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

The coefficient on the right is estimated using Mertens' theorem:

$$\sum_{p\le y}\sum_{k\ge 1}\frac{\log p}{p^k} = \sum_{p\le y}\frac{\log p}{p} + \sum_{p\le y}\frac{\log p}{p(p-1)} = \log y + O(1).$$

Hence, for some absolute constant $C > 0$,

$$\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\log t\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le (\log y + C)\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

Rearranging and applying (12), we find that

$$\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\log(t/y)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le C\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = O(\log y). \tag{20}$$

With the factor $\log(t/y)$ omitted, we already had an $O(\log y)$ bound; the advantage here is that the new factor is sensitive to *where* the excess occurs.

Let's mop up. Recall that $\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\mathrm{d}t/t = o(\log y)$. Slightly larger values of $t$, say $y \le t \le y^{1+\varepsilon}$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ fixed, pose no trouble. Since $E_y(t) \le 1$,

$$\int_y^{y^{1+\varepsilon}} E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \le \int_y^{y^{1+\varepsilon}}\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = \varepsilon\log y,$$

which will be acceptable to us upon taking $\varepsilon$ small.

It remains to consider $t$ that are substantially larger than $y$, meaning $t \geq y^{1+\varepsilon}$. Moving the contribution from $[1, y]$ in (20) to the right and using (13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\int_y^\infty E_y(t)\log(t/y)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} &\leq \int_1^y E_y(t)\log(y/t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} + O(\log y)\\ &\leq (\log y)\int_1^y E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} + O(\log y)\\ &= o((\log y)^2). \qquad (21)\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, $\log(t/y) \geq \varepsilon \log y$ when $t \geq y^{1+\varepsilon}$, so

$$\int_y^\infty E_y(t)\log(t/y)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \geq \int_{y^{1+\varepsilon}}^\infty E_y(t)\log(t/y)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \geq \varepsilon \log y \int_{y^{1+\varepsilon}}^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

Comparing with (21), we find that

$$\int_{y^{1+\varepsilon}}^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} = o(\log y).$$

Combining the estimates for the three ranges gives $\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\mathrm{d}t/t \leq \varepsilon \log y + o(\log y)$. Dividing by $\log y$ and letting $y \to \infty$, we obtain

$$\limsup_{y\to\infty} \frac{1}{\log y}\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \leq \varepsilon.$$

But $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, and so $\int_1^\infty E_y(t)\,\mathrm{d}t/t = o(\log y)$, as desired. This proves (11) and hence the Fundamental Lemma. As shown in §2, it follows that $M(x) = o(x)$. □

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