# THE EXPECTED ORDER OF A RANDOM PERMUTATION 

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#### Abstract

Let $\mu_{n}$ be the expected order of a random permutation, that is, the arithmetic mean of the orders of the elements in the symmetric group $S_{n}$. We prove that $\log \mu_{n} \sim c \sqrt{ }(n / \log n)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, where $$
c=2 \sqrt{ }\left(2 \int_{0}^{\infty} \log \log \left(\frac{e}{1-e^{-t}}\right) d t\right) .
$$

\section*{1. Overview}

If $\sigma$ is a permutation on $n$ letters, let $N_{n}(\sigma)$ be the order of $\sigma$ as a group element. For a typical permutation, $N_{n}$ is about $n^{\log n / 2}$. To make this precise, we quote a stronger result of Erdős and Turán [5].


Theorem 1. For any fixed $x$,

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\left\{\sigma \in S_{n}: \log \left(N_{n}(\sigma)\right)<\frac{1}{2} \log ^{2} n+\frac{x}{\sqrt{ } 3} \log ^{3 / 2} n\right\}}{n!}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{ }(2 \pi)} \int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{-t^{2} / 2} d t
$$

Many authors have given their own proofs of this remarkable theorem. For a survey of these and related results, see [2].

Let

$$
\mu_{n} \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n}}(\text { order of } \sigma)
$$

be the expected order of a random permutation. The problem of estimating $\mu_{n}$ was first raised by Erdős and Turán [6]. Note that $x$ is fixed in Theorem 1. It will not help us estimate $\mu_{n}$ because we cannot ignore the tail of the distribution. There are some permutations for which $N_{n}$ is quite large. In fact, Landau proved that

$$
\max _{\sigma \in S_{n}} N_{n}(\sigma)=e^{\sqrt{n \log n}(1+o(1))}
$$

It turns out that a small set of exceptional permutations contributes significantly to $\mu_{n}$. Erdős and Turán determined that $\log \mu_{n}=O(\sqrt{ }(n / \log n)$ ). (A proof appears in [12, 13].) This paper contains sharper estimates. We prove the following asymptotic formula.

[^0]
## Theorem 2.

$$
\log \mu_{n} \sim c \sqrt{ }\left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right) \text { where } c=2 \sqrt{ }\left(2 \int_{0}^{\infty} \log \log \left(\frac{e}{1-e^{-t}}\right) d t\right) .
$$

First we give a brief overview of the proof. Consider the generating function

$$
F(t)=\sum_{n} B_{n} e^{-n t}=\left(1-e^{-t}\right)^{-1} \prod_{\text {primes } p}\left(1-\log \left(1-e^{-p t}\right)\right)
$$

One can think of $B_{n}$ as the sum of the weights of a certain set of weighted partitions. By classical methods, one can easily prove that $\log B_{n} \sim c \sqrt{ }(n / \log n)$. Our goal is to prove that $\log \mu_{n} \sim \log B_{n}$.

The connection between permutations and partitions is that the cycle lengths of a permutation on $n$ letters form a partition $\lambda$ of the integer $n$ (written $\lambda \vdash n$ ). By a wellknown theorem of Cauchy, the number of permutations of $n$ letters with $c_{i}$ cycles of length $i$ is

$$
\frac{n!}{c_{1}!c_{2}!\ldots c_{n}!1^{c_{1}} 2^{c_{\mathrm{e}}} \ldots n^{c_{n}}}
$$

If $\lambda=\left\{\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right\}=\left\{1^{c_{1}}, 2^{c_{2}}, \ldots, n^{c_{n}}\right\}$, define

$$
W(\lambda):=\frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{c_{1}!c_{2}!\ldots c_{n}!1^{c_{1}} 2^{c_{2}} \ldots n^{c_{n}}}
$$

Since the order of a permutation is the least common multiple of its cycle lengths, we have

$$
\mu_{n}=\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} W(\lambda)
$$

For each fixed integer $s \geqslant 2$, we shall construct a set $P_{n}^{s}$ of partitions of $n$. Obviously, a lower bound can be obtained by considering only the contribution from elements of $P_{n}^{s}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mu_{n} \geqslant \sum_{\lambda \in P_{n}^{s}} W(\lambda) \tag{*}
\end{equation*}
$$

The idea is to choose $P_{n}^{s}$ in such a way that the right-hand side of (*) is both easy to estimate and large enough to give a good bound. Consider the generating function

$$
F_{\varepsilon}(t)=\sum_{n} B_{n}^{(s)} e^{-n t}:=\left(1-e^{-t}\right)^{-1} \prod_{\text {primes } p>s}\left(1+e^{-p t}+\frac{e^{-2 p t}}{2}+\frac{e^{-3 p t}}{3}+\frac{e^{-4 p t}}{4}+\ldots+\frac{e^{-s p t}}{s}\right)
$$

We shall choose $P_{n}^{s}$ in such a way that

$$
\sum_{\rho \in P_{n}^{s}} W(\rho) \geqslant\left(\frac{1}{2 n^{2}}\right) B_{n}^{(s)}
$$

For large $s$, this is a good approximation; for any $\varepsilon>0$, one can choose $s$ so that, for $n>n_{0}(\varepsilon, s)$, one has

$$
\log \mu_{n} \geqslant \log \left(\frac{B_{n}^{(s)}}{2 n^{2}}\right) \geqslant(1-\varepsilon) \log B_{n} .
$$

The upper bound is both more difficult and harder to outline. A sievelike argument is used to prove that the lower bound is sharp, that is, that $\log \mu_{n} \leqslant(1+o(1)) \log B_{n}$.

## 2. The lower bound

Let $G_{m}^{s}$ be the set of partitions of $m$ into distinct parts of the form ( $d \cdot p$ ), where $d \leqslant s, p$ is a prime that is larger than $s$, and each prime larger than $s$ divides at most one part. In other words, \# $G_{m}^{s}$ is the coefficient of $x^{m}$ in

$$
\prod_{\text {primes } p>s}\left(1+x^{p}+x^{2 p}+\ldots+x^{s p}\right)
$$

For technical reasons, it is not convenient to estimate $\sum_{\lambda \in G_{n}^{s}} W(\lambda)$. (Roughly: the Tauberian side conditions are difficult to verify.) Instead, we consider a closely related set. Suppose that $\lambda \in G_{m}^{s}$ for some $m<n$. Then one can obtain a partition of $n$ by adjoining a part of size $(n-m)$. Think of partitions as multisets. Adjoining a part corresponds to taking a multiset union (that is, with multiplicities). Let $A_{n}^{s}$ be the set of partitions that can be obtained in this way; in other words, let

$$
A_{n}^{s}:=\left\{\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\}: m<n \text { and } \lambda \in G_{m}^{s}\right\} .
$$

Of course, it may happen that a partition $\rho \in A_{n}^{s}$ can be formed in more than one way; one can have $\rho=\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\}=\lambda^{\prime} \cup\left\{\left(n-m^{\prime}\right)\right\}$. But we claim that $\rho$ can be formed in at most $n$ ways. To see this, note that $\lambda$ is completely determined by $\rho$ and $m$. In other words, if $\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\}=\lambda^{\prime} \cup\{(n-m)\}$, then $\lambda=\lambda^{\prime}$. Since there are at most $n$ possible values of $m$, it follows that there are at most $n$ decompositions of $\rho$ of the form $\rho=\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\}$. Finally, let $P_{n}^{s}=G_{n}^{s} \cup A_{n}^{s}$. Then we have

$$
\mu_{n} \geqslant \sum_{\rho \in P_{n}^{s}} W(\rho) \geqslant \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m<n} \sum_{\lambda \in G_{m}^{s}} W(\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\})+\frac{1}{n} \sum_{\lambda \in G_{n}^{s}} W(\lambda) .
$$

For $\lambda=\left\{d_{1} p_{1}, d_{2} p_{2}, \ldots\right\} \in G_{m}^{s}$,

$$
W(\lambda) \geqslant \frac{1}{d_{1} d_{2} \ldots}
$$

But then

$$
W(\lambda \cup\{(n-m)\}) \geqslant \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{2 \cdot \lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \ldots \lambda_{n} \cdot n} \geqslant \frac{1}{2 n \cdot d_{1} d_{2} \ldots}
$$

Hence

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mu_{n} & \geqslant \frac{1}{2 n^{2}} \sum_{m \leqslant n} \sum_{\lambda \in G_{m}^{s}} W(\lambda) \\
& \geqslant \frac{1}{2 n^{2}} \text { Coefficient }_{e}-n t\left(F_{s}(t)\right)=\frac{B_{n}^{(s)}}{2 n^{2}} .
\end{aligned}
$$

To estimate $B_{n}$ and $B_{n}^{(s)}$, we need the following lemma.
Lemma 1 (Hardy-Ramanujan [9]). Let $f(t)=\sum_{n} a_{n} e^{-n t}$, and suppose that (1) $a_{n} \geqslant 0$, and
(2) $\log f(t) \sim \frac{A}{t \log \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)}$ as $t \rightarrow 0^{+}$, where $A$ is a fixed positive constant.

Then

$$
\log \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} a_{k}\right) \sim 2 \sqrt{ }(2 A) \sqrt{ }(n / \log n) \quad \text { as } n \rightarrow \infty .
$$

Now let

$$
h_{s}(r):=\log \left(1+e^{-r}+\frac{e^{-2 r}}{2}+\frac{e^{-3 r}}{3}+\ldots+\frac{e^{-s r}}{s}\right)
$$

and let $h(r):=\log \left(1-\log \left(1-e^{-r}\right)\right)$. We need the following.

Lemma 2.

$$
\log F_{s}(t) \sim \frac{1}{t \log \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)} \int_{0}^{\infty} h_{s}(u) d u \quad \text { as } t \rightarrow 0^{+}
$$

Proof. First, we remark that this lemma is quite similar to Lemma 1 in [6]. At the suggestion of a referee, we are providing a fairly detailed proof. In this lemma, $\pi(x)$ denotes the number of primes less than or equal to $x$. We have

$$
\log F_{s}(t)=-\log \left(1-e^{-t}\right)+\sum_{\text {primes } p>s} h_{s}(p t) .
$$

Expressing this as a Stieltjes integral and integrating by parts, we obtain

$$
\int_{s}^{\infty} h_{8}(r t) d \pi(r)-\log \left(1-e^{-t}\right)=-\pi(s) h_{8}(s t)-\int_{s}^{\infty} \pi(r) t h_{s}^{\prime}(r t) d r-\log \left(1-e^{-t}\right)
$$

Using the prime number theorem in the form
we obtain

$$
\pi(r)=\int_{2}^{r} \frac{d r}{\log r}+O\left(r e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)}\right)
$$

$$
-\int_{s}^{\infty} \int_{2}^{r} \frac{d x}{\log x} t h_{s}^{\prime}(r t) d r+E(t)
$$

where

$$
E(t)=-\log \left(1-e^{-t}\right)+O\left(t \int_{s}^{\infty} h_{s}^{\prime}(r t) r e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)} d r\right)
$$

Integrating by parts again, we have

$$
\int_{s}^{\infty} \frac{h_{s}(r t) d r}{\log r}+E(t) .
$$

Later, $E(t)$ will be shown to be negligible. For now, we concentrate on the main term, splitting the interval of integration into three parts. Let

$$
\xi_{1}:=\frac{1}{t \log ^{3} \frac{1}{t}} \quad \text { and } \quad \xi_{2}:=\frac{1}{t} \log ^{3} \frac{1}{t}
$$

Then

$$
\int_{s}^{\infty} \frac{h_{8}(r t) d r}{\log r}=\int_{\delta}^{\xi_{1}}+\int_{\xi_{1}}^{\xi_{2}}+\int_{\xi_{2}}^{\infty} .
$$

The idea is that $\log r$ is nearly constant on the middle interval, and this makes the integral easy to estimate. The other two intervals contribute negligibly. For $r \in\left[\xi_{1}, \xi_{2}\right]$ we have $\log r=\log (1 / t)+O(\log \log (1 / t))$. Hence

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{\xi_{1}}^{\xi_{2}} \frac{h_{s}(r t)}{\log r} d r & =\frac{1}{t \log \frac{1}{t}} \int_{\xi_{1} t}^{\xi_{2} t} h_{s}(u) d u+O\left(\frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right) \\
& \sim \frac{1}{t \log \frac{1}{t}} \int_{0}^{\infty} h_{s}(u) d u \quad \text { as } t \rightarrow 0^{+}
\end{aligned}
$$

This is the main term. The appendix contains a proof that both $E(t)$ and the remaining two integrals are negligible.

## Corollary.

$$
\log B_{n}^{(s)} \sim k_{s} \sqrt{ }(n / \log n) \quad \text { as } n \rightarrow \infty, \text { where } k_{s}=2 \sqrt{ }\left(2 \int_{0}^{\infty} h_{s}(r) d r\right)
$$

Proof. Apply Lemma 1 to $f_{s}(t):=\left(1-e^{-t}\right) F_{s}(t)$.
By arguments similar to those in Lemma 2, we obtain the following.
Lemma 3.

$$
\log F(t) \sim \frac{1}{t \log \frac{1}{t}} \int_{0}^{\infty} h(r) d r \quad \text { as } t \rightarrow 0^{+}
$$

Corollary.

$$
\log \left(B_{n}\right) \sim c \sqrt{ }(n / \log n) \text { as } n \rightarrow \infty \text {, where } c=2 \sqrt{ }\left(2 \int_{0}^{\infty} h(r) d r\right)
$$

Finally, we use the monotone convergence theorem to complete the proof of the lower bound:

$$
\lim _{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} h_{s}(r) d r=\int_{0}^{\infty} \lim _{s \rightarrow \infty} h_{s}(r) d r=\int_{0}^{\infty} h(r) d r .
$$

Hence $\log \mu_{n} \geqslant\left(\log B_{n}\right)(1-o(1))$.

## 3. The upper bound

We had

$$
\mu_{n}=\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{c_{1}!\ldots c_{n}!2^{c_{2}} \ldots n^{c_{n}}} \leqslant \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{2^{c_{2}} 3^{c_{3}} \ldots n^{c_{n}}}
$$

Observe that $2^{c_{2}} 3^{c_{3}} \ldots n^{c_{n}}=\lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \lambda_{3} \ldots$ (Recall that $c_{i}=c_{i}(\lambda)=$ the number of parts of size $i$ in $\lambda$.) We therefore have

$$
\mu_{n} \leqslant \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \ldots} .
$$

Think of partitions as multisets. For each partition $\lambda$, we shall choose partitions $\pi$ and $\omega$ such that $\lambda=\pi \cup \omega$. (To make this paper self-contained, we repeat a few arguments from [12].) The decomposition will have the following two properties:
(1) the least common multiple of the parts of $\pi$ is equal to the least common multiple of the parts of $\lambda$;
(2) if $\lambda=\pi \cup \omega$ and $\lambda^{\prime}=\pi^{\prime} \cup \omega^{\prime}$, then $\lambda=\lambda^{\prime}$ if and only if $\pi=\pi^{\prime}$ and $\omega=\omega^{\prime}$. One can think of $\pi$ as a kind of minimal generating set. Suppose $m$ is the least common multiple of the parts of a partition $\lambda$. Let $p_{1}^{e_{1}} p_{2}^{e_{2}} \ldots p_{s}^{e_{s}}$ be the prime factorization of $m\left(p_{i}<p_{j}\right.$ for $\left.i<j\right)$. We define $\pi=\left\{\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots, \pi_{t}\right\}$ as follows. Let $\pi_{1}$ be the smallest part of $\lambda$ that is divisible by $p_{1}^{e_{1}}$. Now suppose that $\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots, \pi_{l}$ have been defined. If each $p_{i}^{e_{i}}$ divides some $\pi_{j}$ with $1 \leqslant j \leqslant \ell$, then set $t=\ell$ and stop. Otherwise, let $k=\min \left\{i \mid p_{i}^{e_{i}}\right.$ divides none of $\left.\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots, \pi_{\ell}\right\}$, and let $\pi_{\ell+1}$ be the smallest part of $\lambda$ that is divisible by $p_{k}^{e_{k}}$. Finally, we define $\pi:=\left\{\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots, \pi_{t}\right\}$. The procedure must terminate (in fact, $t \leqslant s$ ), so $\pi$ is well defined. Given $\lambda$, let $\omega$ be the remaining parts, that is, $\omega=\lambda-\pi$ and $\lambda=\pi \cup \omega$. This is a convenient place to define a certain function $\alpha$, which will play an important role later. Suppose $\pi=\left\{\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right\}$, and suppose $m=p_{1}^{e_{1}} p_{2}^{e_{2}} \ldots p_{8}^{e_{s}}$ is the least common multiple of the parts of $\pi$. Then define

$$
\alpha(i, j)=\alpha(i, j, \pi):= \begin{cases}e_{j} & \text { if } i=\min \left\{k \mid p_{j}^{e_{j}} \text { divides } \pi_{k}\right\} \\ 0 & \text { else }\end{cases}
$$

For future reference, we make the following simple observation: for each $j$, $\sum_{i} \alpha(i, j)=e_{j}$.

Continuing where we left off, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \ldots} & =\sum_{\pi, \omega} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\pi_{1} \pi_{2} \ldots \omega_{1} \omega_{2} \ldots} \\
& =\sum_{\pi} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\pi_{1} \pi_{2} \ldots} \sum_{\omega} \frac{1}{\omega_{1} \omega_{2} \ldots}
\end{aligned}
$$

The inner sum is uniformly $O(n)$ by a theorem of Lehmer [10]. Since a factor of $n$ is negligible, we need only estimate

$$
\sum_{\pi} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\pi_{1} \pi_{2} \ldots}
$$

We exploit cancellation by factoring the parts of our partitions. For $i=1, \ldots, t$, let

$$
d_{i}=\prod_{j=1}^{s} p_{j}^{\alpha(i, j)} .
$$

The $d_{i}$ have deliberately been defined in such a way that they are pairwise relatively prime and their product is $\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)$. Note that $d_{i}$ divides $\pi_{i}$ for each $i$. Let $d_{i}^{\prime}=\pi_{i} / d_{i}$, and let $\vec{d}^{\prime}=\left\langle d_{i}^{\prime}\right\rangle_{i=1}^{t}$. Then, for any of our 'generating partitions' $\pi$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\pi_{1} \pi_{2} \ldots}=\frac{d_{1} d_{2} \ldots}{\left(d_{1} d_{1}^{\prime}\right)\left(d_{2} d_{2}^{\prime}\right) \ldots} \tag{**}
\end{equation*}
$$

Remark. We can think of $D=\left\{d_{1}, d_{2}, \ldots\right\}$ as a multiset (partition), or alternatively as a vector (sequence, ordered partition). There is no inconsistency, because only one ordering of the parts of $D$ can occur. This is discussed in our earlier paper [12], where we used the notation $\vec{d}$ instead of $D$. (The notation has been changed to avoid writing unions of vectors.)

From (**) we have

$$
\sum_{\pi} \frac{\operatorname{LCM}\left(\pi_{1}, \pi_{2}, \ldots\right)}{\pi_{1} \pi_{2} \ldots}=\sum_{D} \sum_{\vec{d}^{\prime}} \frac{d_{1} d_{2} \ldots}{d_{1} d_{1}^{\prime} d_{2} d_{2}^{\prime} \ldots}=\sum_{D} \sum_{\vec{d}^{\prime}} \frac{1}{d_{1}^{\prime} d_{2}^{\prime} \ldots}
$$

In order to estimate this expression, we first decompose the $D \mathrm{~s}$. Let $z:=$ $\sqrt{ } n /\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$, and write $D=S \cup P \cup R$, where
$S$ consists of those parts of $D$ that are divisible by some prime less than $z$,
$P$ consists of those parts of $D$ that are primes greater than or equal to $z$, and
$R$ consists of the remaining parts of $D$.
Then each $D$ corresponds to a triple ( $S, P, R$ ), and we have

$$
\sum_{(S, P, R)} \sum_{\vec{d}} \frac{1}{d_{1}^{\prime} d_{2}^{\prime} \ldots} \leqslant(\underbrace{\sum_{S} \sum_{\vec{j}} \frac{1}{j_{1} j_{2} \ldots}}_{T_{1}}) \cdot(\underbrace{\sum_{P} \sum_{\vec{J}} \frac{1}{j_{1} j_{2} \ldots}}_{T_{2}}) \cdot(\underbrace{\sum_{R} \sum_{\vec{j}} \frac{1}{j_{1} j_{2} \ldots}}_{T_{3}}) .
$$

In $T_{1}$, the inner sum ranges over all sequences $\left\langle j_{i}\right\rangle$ for which $s_{1} j_{1}+s_{2} j_{2}+\ldots \leqslant n$. Similarly for $T_{2}$ and $T_{3}$. This overestimate gives an upper bound that is surprisingly sharp. We shall prove that $T_{1}$ and $T_{3}$ are small.

Estimates for $T_{1}$ : Recall that $S \subseteq D$, and the parts of $D$ are pairwise relatively prime. Hence each prime less than $z$ divides at most one part of $S$. This implies that $S$ has less than $z$ parts. Thus there are at most $n^{2}$ different possible $S$, and the inner sum of $T_{1}$ is at most $\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} 1 / j\right)^{2}$. We therefore have

$$
T_{1} \leqslant n^{2}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{j}\right)^{2}=e^{o(\sqrt{ }(n / \log n))}
$$

Estimates for $T_{3}$ : The parts of $R$ have at least two prime divisors (counting multiplicities), each of which is greater than $z=\sqrt{ } n /\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$. They therefore have exactly two prime divisors, since the product of more than two such primes would be larger than $n$. Therefore $R$ can have at most $\log ^{4} n$ parts (otherwise $R$ would sum to more than $n$ ). Thus there are at most $n^{\log ^{4} n}$ possible $R$, and for each $R$ the inner sum is at most $\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} 1 / j\right)^{\log ^{4} n}$. Thus $T_{3}=e^{o(v(n / \log n)}$.

Finally, recall that

$$
F(t):=\sum_{n} B_{n} e^{-n t}=\left(1-e^{-t}\right)^{-1} \prod_{\text {primes } p}\left(1+e^{-p t}+\frac{e^{-2 p t}}{2}+\ldots\right)
$$

Hence

$$
\begin{aligned}
T_{2} & =\text { Coefficient }_{e^{-n t}}\left\{\frac{1}{\left(1-e^{-t}\right)} \prod_{p \geqslant 2}\left(1+e^{-p t}+\frac{e^{-2 p t}}{2}+\frac{e^{-3 p t}}{3}+\frac{e^{-4 p t}}{4}+\ldots\right)\right\} \\
& <\text { Coefficient }_{e^{-n t}\{F(t)\}=B_{n}}
\end{aligned}
$$

One could certainly obtain slightly sharper estimates by a more careful treatment of the generating function $F_{s}(t)$ for an optimal choice of $s$. But a new idea will be
needed for a really significant improvement. It is probably too much to ask for an asymptotic formula for $\mu_{n}$, but perhaps others can obtain upper and lower bounds that differ by a polynomial factor.

## Appendix

Our estimates for the error terms depend on the following easily verified facts:
(1) $h_{8}(u)<h(u)$ for all $u>0$;
(2) $h(u) \sim \log \log \left(\frac{1}{u}\right)$ as $u \rightarrow 0^{+}$;
(3) $h(u)=O\left(e^{-u}\right)$ as $u \rightarrow \infty$;
(4) $h(u)$ is a non-increasing function of $u$.

The first of the three error terms is

$$
\int_{s}^{\xi_{1}} \frac{h_{s}(r t)}{\log r} d r
$$

Using first (1) and then (2), we have

$$
\int_{s}^{\xi_{1}} \frac{h_{s}(r t)}{\log r} d r<\int_{2}^{\xi_{1}} \frac{h(r t)}{\log r} d r<\frac{\xi_{1}}{\log 2} h\left(\xi_{1} t\right) \ll \xi_{1} \log \log \left(\log ^{3} \frac{1}{t}\right)=o\left(\frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right)
$$

The second error term is

$$
\int_{\xi_{2}}^{\infty} \frac{h_{s}(r t)}{\log r} d r<\frac{1}{\log \xi_{2}} \int_{\xi_{2}}^{\infty} h(r t) d r
$$

By (3) this is

$$
\ll \frac{1}{\log \xi_{2}} \int_{\xi_{2}}^{\infty} e^{-r t} d r=o\left(\frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right)
$$

Finally, we must show that $E(t)$ is negligible. Integrating by parts, we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
E(t) & \left.\ll h_{s}(r t) r e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)}\right|_{s} ^{\infty}-\int_{s}^{\infty} h_{s}(r t)\left\{e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)}-\frac{c e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)}}{2 \sqrt{ }(\log r)}\right\} d r \\
& \ll \int_{s}^{\infty} h(r t) e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)} d r=I_{1}+I_{2}+I_{3}
\end{aligned}
$$

where

$$
I_{1}=\int_{s}^{1 / \sqrt{ } t} I_{2}=\int_{1 / \sqrt{ } t}^{(1 / t) \log ^{2}(1 / t)} \text { and } \quad I_{3}=\int_{(1 / t) \log ^{2}(1 / t)}^{\infty}
$$

Each of these is easy to estimate:

$$
\begin{aligned}
I_{1} & <\frac{1}{\sqrt{ } t} \max _{r \in\left[s, t^{-1 / 2]}\right.} h(r t) e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)} \ll \frac{h(s t)}{\sqrt{ } t} \ll \frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{\sqrt{ } t}=o\left(\frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right) \\
I_{2} & =\int_{t^{-1 / 2}}^{(1 / t) \log ^{2}(1 / t)} h(r t) e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)} d r<\left(\frac{1}{t} \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}\right) h(\sqrt{ } t) \exp \left[-c \sqrt{ }\left(\log \left(t^{-1 / 2}\right)\right)\right] \\
& \ll \frac{\left(\log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}\right) \log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t} \exp \left[-c \sqrt{\left.\log \left(t^{-1 / 2}\right)\right]}=o\left(\frac{\log \log \frac{1}{t}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right)\right. \\
I_{3} & \ll \int_{(1 / t) \log ^{2}(1 / t)}^{\infty} e^{-r t} e^{-c \sqrt{ }(\log r)} d r=o\left(\frac{\log \log ^{\frac{1}{t}}}{t \log ^{2} \frac{1}{t}}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## References

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