

Tasks and Ultra-tasks

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Can we count the primes? There is a near unanimous consensus that *in principle* we can. I believe the near-consensus rests on a mistake: we tend to confuse counting the primes with counting each prime. To count the primes, I suggest, is to come up with an answer to the question “How many primes are there?” *because of* counting each prime. This, in turn requires some sort of dependence of outcome on process. Building on some ideas from Max Black, I argue that – barring very odd laws of nature – such dependence cannot obtain.