

Lab00-Proof

CS214-Algorithm and Complexity, Xiaofeng Gao, Spring 2020.

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1. Prove that for any integer $n > 2$, there is a prime p satisfying $n < p < n!$. (Hint: consider a prime factor p of $n! - 1$ and prove by contradiction)

Proof. Assume there exists an integer n_0 satisfying that there is no prime number in the interval $(n_0, n_0!)$. It is obvious that $(n_0! - 1, n_0!) = 1$ where (x, y) denotes the greatest common divisor between x and y . According to the definition of factorial, all the integers in range $[2, n_0]$ are divisors of $n_0!$. Owing to the obvious fact that $n_0! - 1$ and $n_0!$ do not have any common divisor except 1, all the integers in range $[2, n_0]$ are not divisors of $(n_0! - 1)$. Furthermore, $(n_0! - 1)$ is not a prime number because it is in the interval $(n_0, n_0!)$, so $(n_0! - 1)$ must have a prime factor p . Because all the integers in range $[2, n_0]$ is not a divisor of $(n_0! - 1)$, then the prime factor p must be strictly greater than n_0 . Based on the statement above, we can draw a conclusion that there exists a prime factor p of $(n_0! - 1)$ satisfying $p \in (n_0, n_0! - 1) \subseteq (n_0, n_0!)$, which contradicts the assumption that there is no prime number in the interval $(n_0, n_0!)$. \square

2. Use the minimal counterexample principle to prove that for any integer $n > 17$, there exist integers $i_n \geq 0$ and $j_n \geq 0$, such that $n = i_n \times 4 + j_n \times 7$.

Proof. We define $P(n)$ as the statement that there exist integers $i_n \geq 0$ and $j_n \geq 0$, such that $n = i_n \times 4 + j_n \times 7$. If $P(n)$ is not always true for $n > 17$, then there are values of n for which $P(n)$ is false, and there must be a smallest such value, say $n = k$.

Since $4 \times 1 + 7 \times 2 = 18$, $4 \times 3 + 7 \times 1 = 19$ and $4 \times 5 + 7 \times 0 = 20$, we have $P(18)$, $P(19)$ and $P(20)$ are true and $k - 3 > 17$.

Since k is the smallest value for which $P(k)$ false, $P(k - 1)$ true. Thus $P(k - 3)$ is true, that is, $\exists i_{k-3} \geq 0$ and $j_{k-3} \geq 0$, such that $k - 3 = i_{k-3} \times 4 + j_{k-3} \times 7$.

- If $i_{k-3} > 0$, then there exist $i_k = i_{k-3} - 1 \geq 0$, $j_k = j_{k-3} + 1 \geq 0$,

$$k = i_{k-3} \times 4 + j_{k-3} \times 7 + 3 = (i_{k-3} - 1) \times 4 + (j_{k-3} + 1) \times 7 = i_k \times 4 + j_k \times 7$$

- If $i_{k-3} = 0$, then $7 | (k - 3)$. Owing to $k - 3 > 17$ we have $j_{k-3} \geq 3$. Thus there exist $i_k = 6 \geq 0$, $j_k = j_{k-3} - 3 \geq 0$,

$$k = j_{k-3} \times 7 + 3 = 6 \times 4 + (j_{k-3} - 3) \times 7 = i_k \times 4 + j_k \times 7$$

In conclusion, there exist $i_k \geq 0$ and $j_k \geq 0$ that $k = i_k \times 4 + j_k \times 7$. We have derived a contradiction, which allows us to conclude that our original assumption is false, which means $P(n)$ is true for $n > 17$. \square

3. Let $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$ the set of all primes. Suppose that $\{p_i\}$ is monotonically increasing, i.e., $p_1 = 2$, $p_2 = 3$, $p_3 = 5$, \dots . Please prove: $p_n < 2^{2^n}$. (Hint: $p_i \nmid (1 + \prod_{j=1}^n p_j)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.)

Proof. The i -th number in the sequence $\{p_i\}$ denotes the i -th smallest prime number. Let $P(n)$ be the statement that $p_n < 2^{2^n}$. We prove $P(n)$ is true for every $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$ by induction.

Basis Step. $P(1)$ is true, since $p_1 = 2 < 4 = 2^{2^1}$.

Induction Hypothesis For $k \geq 1$ and $1 \leq n \leq k$, $P(n)$ is true.

Proof of Induction Step. Let us prove $P(k+1)$. According to the definition of prime number, it cannot be formed by multiplying two smaller number. So if a number greater than 1 does not have any smaller prime divisor, it is bound to be a prime number. Notice that $p_{k+1} \leq \prod_{i=1}^k p_i + 1 \triangleq m$, because if $p_{k+1} \geq m$, then m must be the $(k+1)$ -th prime number, since m does not have any smaller prime divisor, that is, $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k, p_i \nmid m$. And that is because $\forall 1 \leq i \leq k, p_i \mid (m-1)$ and $(m-1, m) = 1$ where (x, y) denotes the greatest common divisor between x and y . As a result,

$$p_{k+1} \leq 1 + \prod_{i=1}^k p_i < 1 + \prod_{i=1}^k 2^{2^i} = 1 + 2^{\sum_{i=1}^k 2^i} = 1 + 2^{2^{k+1}-2} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2^{2^{k+1}} < 2^{2^{k+1}} \quad (1)$$

According to Equation (1), we prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Conclusion. $P(n)$ is true for every $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$. □

4. Prove that a plane divided by n lines can be colored with only 2 colors, and the adjacent regions have different colors.

Proof. Let $Q(n)$ be the statement that a plane divided by n lines can be colored with only 2 colors, and the adjacent regions have different colors.

Without loss of generality, we suppose the 2 colors are black and white.

To make the statement more explicit, we define requirement R as the adjacent regions have different colors. We also define a mapping $f_n : P_n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ as the feasible plan of painting a plane divided by n lines with only 2 colors and meeting the requirement R , where $P_n = \{p_1^n, p_2^n, \dots, p_m^n\}$ is a set of regions after division by n lines, 0 means the region is painted white, and 1 means the region is painted black.

We prove $Q(n)$ is true for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by induction.

Basis Step. $Q(0)$ is the statement that a plane without any division can be painted to meet the requirement R . Under this circumstance, $P_0 = \{P\}$, where P denotes the whole plane. It is obvious that $f_n(P) = 0$ is a feasible plan, so $Q(0)$ is true.

Induction Hypothesis. Assume $Q(k)$ is true for some $k \geq 0$, that is, a plane divided by k lines can be painted with only 2 colors while meeting requirement R . So for every valid P_k , there exists a mapping $f_k : P_k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ denoting a feasible plan.

Proof of Induction Step. Now let us prove that $Q(k+1)$ is true. Choose a line from total $(k+1)$ lines randomly, and name it line l . According to Induction Hypothesis, we are able to find out a mapping $f_k : P_k \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ denoting a feasible plan of painting, when only consider the rest k lines. Line l divide the plane into two parts, and let us name them p'_0 and p'_1 . It is obvious that $p'_0 \cap p'_1 = \emptyset$ and $p'_0 \cup p'_1 = P$ where P stands for the whole plane. Thus, the set P_{k+1} is:

$$P_{k+1} = \{p \cap p'_0 | p \in P_k\} \cup \{p \cap p'_1 | p \in P_k\} \quad (2)$$

We generate a mapping f_{k+1} by the following formula.

$$f_{k+1}(p \cap p'_0) = f_k(p), \quad f_{k+1}(p \cap p'_1) = 1 - f_k(p) \quad (p \in P_k) \quad (3)$$

According to Equation (2), Equation (3) forms a valid mapping from P_{k+1} to $\{0, 1\}$, which also means that it is a painting plan. Now we proof that it meets requirement R .

Consider each pair of adjacent regions $(p_i^{k+1}, p_j^{k+1})(i \neq j)$.

- **Situation A:** As Figure 1 shows, if p_i^{k+1} and p_j^{k+1} are divided by the new line l , then $p_0^k \triangleq p_i^{k+1} \cup p_j^{k+1} \in P_k$. Without loss of generality, we assume $p_i^{k+1} \subseteq p'_0$ and $p_j^{k+1} \subseteq p'_1$. According to the Equation (3),

$$f_{k+1}(p_i^{k+1}) = f_k(p_0^k) \neq 1 - f_k(p_0^k) = f_{k+1}(p_j^{k+1})$$

- **Situation B:** As Figure 2 shows, if p_i^{k+1} and p_j^{k+1} are divided by one of the rest k lines, then the new line l makes no difference to them and they are already adjacent, that is, either p_i^{k+1} and p_j^{k+1} are from the same region when considering only line l . Without loss of generality, we assume that $p_i^{k+1} \subseteq p'_0, p_j^{k+1} \subseteq p'_0$ and $p_{i'}^k \cap p'_0 = p_i^{k+1}, p_{j'}^k \cap p'_0 = p_j^{k+1}$ where $p_{i'}^k \in P_k, p_{j'}^k \in P_k$, so $p_{i'}^k$ and $p_{j'}^k$ are adjacent. According to the Equation (3) and the Induction Hypothesis,

$$f_{k+1}(p_i^{k+1}) = f_k(p_{i'}^k) \neq f_k(p_{j'}^k) = f_{k+1}(p_j^{k+1})$$

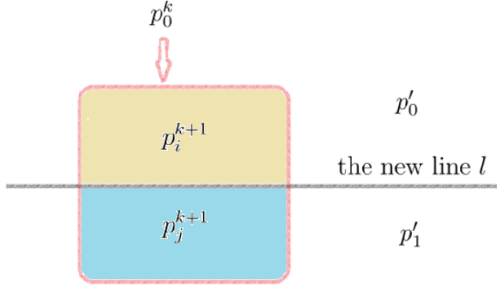


Figure 1: Situation A

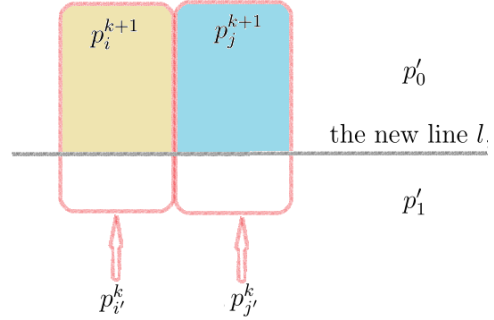


Figure 2: Situation B

In summary, for each pair of adjacent regions $(p_i^{k+1}, p_j^{k+1})(i \neq j)$, we have $f_{k+1}(p_i^{k+1}) \neq f_{k+1}(p_j^{k+1})$. Thus, the mapping $f_{k+1} : P_{k+1} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is a feasible plan of painting a plane divided by $(k + 1)$ lines with only 2 colors and meeting the requirement that the adjacent regions have different colors, that is, $Q(k + 1)$ is true.

Conclusion. $Q(n)$ is true for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. □

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