

**2.38 Theorem.** (Infinitude of  $4k + 3$  Primes Theorem) There are infinitely many prime numbers that are congruent to 3 modulo 4.

**Proof.** Suppose not. That is, suppose there is a finite set  $S = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m\}$  such that each  $p_i$  is congruent to 3 modulo 4. Let a natural number (not in  $S$ )  $n = 2p_1p_2\dots p_m + 1$ . We know this number to be odd (by letting  $p_1p_2\dots p_m = k$  such that  $2k + 1$ ) and no  $p_i$  divides  $n$ . Thus,  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  or  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Suppose  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . By definition,  $4k = n - 1$ . Substituting for  $n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} 4k &= (2p_1p_2\dots p_m + 1) - 1 \\ &= 2p_1p_2\dots p_m. \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $4 \mid 2p_1p_2\dots p_m$ , which is not true since  $p_1p_2\dots p_m$  is odd. Thus,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . By FTA,  $n$  has a prime factorization such that  $n = r_1r_2\dots r_t$ . We want to show that one of these prime factors are congruent to 3 modulo 4 (there may be more, but we only need to show one) and that it is not in  $S$ . Since  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , we can write  $r_1r_2\dots r_m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . By Theorem 2.37, we know that one of these prime factors is not congruent 1 modulo 4, else  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Thus, at least one of these primes must be congruent 3 modulo 4. This contradicts our initial assumption because none of  $n$ 's primes are in set  $S$ . Therefore, there are infinitely many prime numbers that are congruent to 3 modulo 4.  $\square$