

0.1 Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

0.1.1 Statement

Each natural number is a prime or unique product of primes.

0.1.2 Proof: existence of each number as a product of primes

If n is prime, no more is needed.

If n is not prime, then $n = ab$, $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$.

If a and b are prime, this is complete. Otherwise we can iterate to find:

$$n = \prod_{i=1} p_i$$

0.1.3 Proof: this product of primes is unique

Consider two different series of primes for the same number:

$$s = \prod_{i=1}^n p_i = \prod_{i=1}^m q_i$$

We need to show that $n = m$ and $p = q$.

We know that p_i divides s . We also know that through Euclid's lemma that if a prime number divides a non-prime number, then it must also divide one of its components. As a result p_i must divide one of q .

But as all of q are prime then $p_i = q_j$.

We can repeat this process to show that $p = q$ and therefore $n = m$.