

One of the most fundamental theorems in number theory is the famous Euclid's division lemma:

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ . Each natural number  $n$  has a unique representation of the form*

$$n = m \cdot q + r$$

*with  $m, r \geq 0$  and  $r < q$ .*

*Proof.* For the cases  $q = 1, n = 1$  resp.  $q > 1, n = 1$  the unique solutions with  $m = 1, r = 0$  resp.  $m = 0, r = 1$  are implied.

We first proof the existence of the representation by induction over  $n$ . So let us assume for some  $r < q$  we have

$$n = m \cdot q + r$$

Then  $n + 1$  can be written as

$$n + 1 = m \cdot q + r$$

If  $r + 1 < q$  we are done. If  $r + 1 = q$ , we can write

$$n + 1 = (m + 1) \cdot q$$

For proving uniqueness, assume

$$n = m_1 \cdot q + r_1 = m_2 \cdot q + r_2$$

Without loss of generality assume  $m_2 > m_1$ . Then

$$(m_2 - m_1) \cdot q + r_2 - r_1 = 0$$

This yields,

$$q \leq (m_2 - m_1) \cdot q = r_1 - r_2$$

which results in the contradiction  $r_1 \geq q$ . We conclude,  $m_1 = m_2$ . From

$$m_1 \cdot q + r_1 = m_1 \cdot q + r_2$$

we finally see  $r_1 = r_2$ . □

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $a, b, p \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $p$  being a prime number. The product  $a \cdot b$  is divisible by  $p$  if and only if either  $a$  or  $b$  is divisible by  $p$ .*

*Proof.* If either  $a$  or  $b$  is divisible by  $p$  it is clear that then its product is divisible by  $p$  as well.

In case  $a = b = 1$  the statement is trivially true. We proceed by induction on the value of each factor, that is, we assume the statement is true for all numbers  $a', b'$  with  $a' < a$  and  $b' < b$ .

Assume  $a \cdot b$  is divisible by  $p$  but none of  $a$  or  $b$  is. Then for some unique positive  $r_1, r_2$  we have

$$a = m_1 \cdot p + r_1$$

$$b = m_2 \cdot p + r_2$$

with

$$r_1, r_2 < p \tag{1}$$

This yields,

$$a \cdot b = (m_1 m_2 p + r_1 m_2 + m_1 r_2) \cdot p + r_1 \cdot r_2$$

with  $r_1 \cdot r_2 > 0$ . Moreover, by divisibility assumption, there must be  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  with

$$r_1 \cdot r_2 = m \cdot p$$

Since  $r_1 < a$  and  $r_2 < b$ , by inductive assumption either  $r_1$  or  $r_2$  must be divisible by  $p$ . But this contradicts (1) and thus we must drop the assumption of neither  $a$  nor  $b$  not being divisible by  $p$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. A product of natural numbers is divisible by  $p$  if and only if at least one of its factors is divisible by  $p$ .*

*Proof.* This can be seen by induction on the length of the product and application of the previous lemma. For instance,  $a \cdot b \cdot c = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$ .  $\square$

The previous lemma can be used to proof the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *Each natural number  $n$  greater than 1 has a unique prime decomposition.*

*Proof.* The statement is trivially fulfilled in case if  $n$  is any prime number. So let us suppose  $n$  is not a prime number and the statement is fulfilled by induction for all natural numbers below of  $n$ . Then there are some  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n = a \cdot b$  and  $a, b > 1$ . Since obviously  $a, b < n$ , both have a prime decomposition which leads altogether to a prime decomposition of  $n$ .

The uniqueness of such a decomposition can be seen as follows:

Assume

$$n = p_1^{m_1} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdots p_i^{m_i}$$

and

$$n = q_1^{k_1} \cdot q_2^{k_2} \cdots q_j^{k_j}$$

where  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_i\}$  and  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_j\}$  are sets of primes. Without loss of generality let us assume that  $p_1 \notin \{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_j\}$ , then since  $n$  is divisible by  $p_1$ , the product  $q_1^{k_1} \cdot q_2^{k_2} \cdots q_j^{k_j}$  must it be as well. The lemma implies that at least one factor must be divisible by  $p_1$ , but this contradicts the  $q$ 's being prime numbers. Since  $p_1$  has been chosen arbitrarily, this shows

$$\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_i\} = \{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_j\}$$

Therefore we may assume to have two decompositions of the form

$$p_1^{m_1} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdots p_i^{m_i} = p_1^{k_1} \cdot p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_i^{k_i}$$

By repeatedly applying the lemma we observe the l.h.s must be divisible  $k_1$  times by  $p_1$  and that the only factor allowing this is  $p_1^{m_1}$ . This implies  $m_1 \geq k_1$ . The same argumentation we can do with the remaining prime numbers and moreover by interchanging the role of the l.h.s and r.h.s. This finally yields  $m_1 = k_1, \dots, m_i = k_i$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** *There are infinitely many prime numbers.*

*Proof.* To the contrary assume the set of primes is finite and given by  $P := \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$ . Consider the number

$$q := p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdots p_n + 1$$

By theorem 1,  $q$  is not divisible by any of the  $p_i$ 's. Nor can  $q$  be a prime number since it would be greater than all of the  $p_i$ 's. By theorem 4 there must exist some prime number  $p$  that divides  $q$ . As mentioned  $p \notin P$  in contradiction to the assumption. So we conclude, there must exist infinite many primes.  $\square$

**Theorem 6.** *The prime decomposition of a non-prime natural number  $n$  with  $n > 1$  contains a prime number  $p$  with*

$$p \leq \lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$$

*Proof.* Assume  $n = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdots p_m$  being a prime decomposition with possible repetitions in the prime number  $[p_1, \dots, p_m]$ . There cannot be two factors  $p_i, p_j$  with

$$p_i, p_j > \lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$$

since otherwise  $p_i \cdot p_j > n$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.** *Each prime number greater than 3 is of the form either  $6n - 1$  or  $6n + 1$ .*

*Proof.* Just note,  $6n + 2$ ,  $6n + 4$  are divisible by 2 and  $6n + 3$  by 3. So, only  $6n + 1$  or  $6n + 5$  possibly can be prime.  $\square$