

3.3.02a If 1 is added to a product of twin primes, prove that a perfect square is always obtained.

*Proof.* Let  $p$  and  $p + 2$  be twin primes. Then,

$$p(p + 2) + 1 = p^2 + 2p + 1 = (p + 1)^2$$

Which is a perfect square.

Therefore, if 1 is added to a product of twin primes, a perfect square is always obtained  $\square$

3.3.02b Show that the sum of twin primes  $p$  and  $p + 2$  is divisible by 12, provided that  $p > 3$ .

*Proof.* Let  $p$  and  $p + 2, p > 3$  be twin primes. Then we can rewrite  $p$  as  $6k + 1$  and  $6k + 3$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then,

$$p + p + 2 = 6k + 1 + 6k + 3 = 12k + 4$$

Therefore, the sum of twin primes  $p$  and  $p + 2$  is divisible by 12, provided that  $p > 3$ .  $\square$

3.3.06 Prove that the Goldbach conjecture that every integer greater than 2 is the sum of two primes is equivalent to the statement that every integer greater than 5 is the sum of three primes.

*Proof.* Let  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  be primes. Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z} > 2$  then  $2n - 2 > 2$ . Then,

$$2n - 2 = p_1 + p_2 \Rightarrow 2n = p_1 + p_2 + 2$$

But  $n > 2 \Rightarrow 2n > 4 \Rightarrow 2n + 1 > 5$ . So,  $2n + 1 = p_1 + p_2 + 3$ .

Therefore, every integer greater than 2 is the sum of two primes is equivalent to the statement that every integer greater than 5 is the sum of three primes  $\square$

3.3.24 Determine all twin primes  $p$  and  $q = p + 2$  for which  $pq - 2$  is also prime.

*Proof.* Let  $p$  and  $q$  be twin primes. If  $p = 3$  and  $q = 5$  then  $pq - 2 = 13$  which is prime. Suppose that  $p > 3$ . Then  $p = 6k + 1$  or  $p = 6k + 5$ . If  $p = 6k + 1 \Rightarrow p + 2 = 6k + 3$  which is composite. Thus  $p = 6k + 5 \Rightarrow p + 2 = 6k + 7$ . Notice,

$$pq - 2 = (6k + 5)(6k + 7) - 2 = 36k^2 + 72k + 33 - 2 = 36k^2 + 72k + 31 = 3(12k^2 + 24k + 11)$$

which is divisible by 3.

Thus, 3 and 5 are the only twin primes for which  $pq - 2$  is prime.  $\square$

3.3.28a If  $n > 1$ , show that  $n!$  is never a perfect square.

*Proof.* Let  $n > 1$ .

Case 1:  $n$  is prime. Then for  $n!$  to be a perfect square one of  $n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 2$  must contain  $n$  as a factor. But this means one of  $n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 2 \geq n$  which is impossible.

Case 2:  $n$  is not prime. Then the first prime less than  $n$  is for all  $p, k \in \mathbb{Z}, p = n - k, 0 < k < n - 1, 2 \leq p < n$ . No number less than  $p$  will contain  $p$  as a factor. Thus, for  $n!$  to be a perfect square there exists a multiple of  $p$ , called  $bp, 1 < b < n$ , such that  $p < bp < n$ . There must exist a prime number between  $p$  and  $2p$ . Then if  $r < n < 2r$  and also  $p < n$ , so such an  $n!$  would never be a perfect square.

□

3.3.28b Find the values of  $n \geq 1$  for which

$$n! + (n + 1)! + (n + 2)!$$

is a perfect square.

*Proof.* Let  $n \geq 1$ . Notice.

$$n! + (n + 1)! + (n + 2)! = n!(1 + (n + 1) + (n + 1)(n + 2)) = n!(n + 2)^2$$

As  $n!$  is never a perfect square, the only  $n$  for which

$$n! + (n + 1)! + (n + 2)!$$

is a perfect square is when  $n = 1$ .

□