

6. A classic unsolved problem in number theory asks if there are infinitely many pairs of 'twin primes', pairs of primes separated by 2, such as 3 and 5, 11 and 13, or 71 and 73. Prove that the only prime triple (i.e. three primes, each 2 from the next) is 3, 5, 7.

**Definitions:**

$n \in \mathbb{N}$  is prime iff  $\forall d \in \mathbb{N} [1 < d < n \Rightarrow d \nmid n]$

$m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  are twin primes iff  $m$  and  $n$  are primes and  $n = m + 2$ .

$m, n, o \in \mathbb{N}$  are a prime triple iff  $m$  and  $n$  are twin primes and  $n$  and  $o$  are twin primes too.

Exercise 5 claim:  $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z} [3 \mid n \vee 3 \mid n+2 \vee 3 \mid n+4]$

**Claim:**  $\exists! a, b, c \in \mathbb{N} [a, b, c \text{ are a prime triple}]$

**Proof:** By contradiction. We know that 3,5,7 is the first prime triple. By way of contradiction, suppose you can pick  $a, b, c$  such that they are a prime triple with  $3 < a < b < c$ . Since  $a, b, c$  are primes  $3 \nmid a, b, c$ . We know that  $b = a + 2$  and  $c = a + 4$ . By Exercise 5 we know that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z} [3 \mid n \vee 3 \mid n+2 \vee 3 \mid n+4]$ . Set  $n = a$ . So  $3 \mid a$  or  $3 \mid a+2$  or  $3 \mid a+4$ , i.e.,  $3 \mid a$  or  $3 \mid b$  or  $3 \mid c$ , i.e., at least one of  $a$ ,  $b$  or  $c$  is not prime, contradicting the assumption. Therefore, the only prime triple is 3,5,7 proving the original claim.  $\square$