

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

(idea.) Establish a fact that 3 divides one of the elements of a sequence of three 2-separated integers.
Use that fact to prove given statement.

Lemma 1 : For all integers a , the sequence $(a, a+2, a+4)$ contains one element that is divisible by 3.

Proof:

There exists 2 unique integers k and r such that $a=3k+r$ where $0 \leq r < 3$

(\because Euclids division lemma on dividend a and divisor 3).

Case 0: $r=0$

$$a=3k$$

3 divides a , which is an element of the given sequence.

Case 1: $r=1$

$$a=3k+1$$

$$a+2=3k+3$$

$$a+2=3(k+1)$$

3 divides $a+2$, which is an element of the given sequence.

Case 2: $r=2$

$$a=3k+2$$

$$a+4=3k+6$$

$$a+4=3(k+2)$$

3 divides $a+4$, which is an element of the given sequence.

\therefore 3 divides any one of the elements in given sequence.

[Q.E.D]

Statement: The only prime triple (i.e. three primes, each 2 from the next) is 3, 5, 7.

Proof:

A triple of primes is a sequence of the form $(p, p+2, p+4)$.

From Lemma 1, one of the primes in such a sequence has to be divisible by 3.

Since 3 is the only prime number that is divisible by 3, a prime triple has to include 3.

We have three potential prime triples: $(3, 5, 7)$, $(1, 3, 5)$ and $(-1, 1, 3)$.

Out of the three, $(3, 5, 7)$ is the only one that contains only primes. (-1 and 1 are not prime numbers)

\therefore The only possible prime triple is $(3, 5, 7)$.

[Q.E.D]