

Lab00-Proof

CS214-Algorithm and Complexity, Xiaofeng Gao, Spring 2020.

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1. Prove that for any integer $n > 2$, there is a prime p satisfying $n < p < n!$. (Hint: consider a prime factor p of $n! - 1$ and prove by contradiction)

Proof. Assume there is no prime in range $(n, n!)$. Then for any number x in $(n, n!)$, the prime factor of x is no more than n , to be specific, the prime factor of x are all in $\{2, 3, 4, \dots, n\}$.

However, for the number $n! - 1$, it is not divisible by any number in $\{2, 3, 4, \dots, n\}$, which contradicts the assumption.

Therefore, there is a prime p satisfying $n < p < n!$. □

2. Use the minimal counterexample principle to prove that for any integer $n > 17$, there exist integers $i_n \geq 0$ and $j_n \geq 0$, such that $n = i_n \times 4 + j_n \times 7$.

Proof. $P(n)$: there exist integers $i_n \geq 0$ and $j_n \geq 0$, such that $n = i_n \times 4 + j_n \times 7$.

If $P(n)$ is not true for every $n > 17$, then there must be a smallest k , such that $P(k)$ is false.

Since $18 = 4 \times 1 + 7 \times 2$, we have $k > 18$, $k - 1 > 17$.

Since k is the smallest value to make $P(k)$ false, then $P(k - 1)$ is true:

$$k - 1 = i_{k-1} \times 4 + j_{k-1} \times 7$$

If $k - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, $j_{k-1} = 0$, $i_{k-1} \geq 5$ for $k > 17$, in this case:

$$k = (i_{k-1} - 5) \times 4 + 3 \times 7$$

$$i_k = i_{k-1} - 5 \geq 0, j_k = 3$$

If $k - 1$ can not be divided by 4, then $j_{k-1} \geq 1$, in this case:

$$k = (i_{k-1} + 2) \times 4 + (j_{k-1} - 1) \times 7$$

$$i_k = i_{k-1} + 2 \geq 0, j_k = j_{k-1} - 1 \geq 0$$

So for both cases, $P(k)$ is true. We have derived a contradiction, which allows us to conclude that our original assumption is false. □

3. Let $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$ the set of all primes. Suppose that $\{p_i\}$ is monotonically increasing, i.e., $p_1 = 2, p_2 = 3, p_3 = 5, \dots$. Please prove: $p_n < 2^{2^n}$. (Hint: $p_i \nmid (1 + \prod_{j=1}^n p_j), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.)

Proof. We will use strong Mathematical Induction to solve the problem, we define $P(n)$: $p_n < 2^{2^n}$

Basis step: $p_1 = 2 < 4$.

Induction hypothesis: If $P(i)$ is true for $1 \leq i < k$, then $P(k)$ is true ($k > 1$).

Proof of induction step: Since p_k is the k th prime number, for any integer $x \in [p_{k-1}, p_k)$, the prime factors of x are in p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{k-1} . Since number $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i + 1$ cannot be divided by any prime number in p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{k-1} , we can get:

$$p_k \leq \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i + 1$$

According to the induction hypothesis, $p_i < 2^{2^i}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$.

$$p_k < \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} 2^{2^i} + 1 = 2^{2^{k-2}} + 1 < 2^{2^k} \quad (k > 1)$$

Therefore, the statement is true. □

4. Prove that a plane divided by n lines can be colored with only 2 colors, and the adjacent regions have different colors.

Proof. We use Mathematical Induction to solve the problem.

Basis step: When $n = 1$, we just paint the two sections of plane different colors.

Induction hypothesis: If the statement is true for $n = k$, it is true for $n = k + 1$.

Proof of induction step: For $n = k + 1$, we just pick out one line, so the plane now is divided by k lines. According to the induction hypothesis, the plane can be colored in only two colors and the adjacent regions have different colors.

Then we add back the line we just picked out (name it l) and keep the colored unchanged. Considering the two sides of l : $R_1 = \{r_1^1, r_2^1, \dots, r_m^1\}$, $R_2 = \{r_1^2, r_2^2, \dots, r_n^2\}$, just reverse the color of regions in R_1 , it is obvious that this way of painting satisfies the requirement, because for any adjacent regions r_1 and r_2 :

(1) If r_1 and r_2 are in the same side of l , their colors are different both after and before being reversed.

(2) If r_1 and r_2 are in different sides of l , we can get that r_1 and r_2 belong to the same region before line l was added. So the colors of r_1 and r_2 are different after the reversion operation.

Therefore the statement is true. □

Remark: You need to include your .pdf and .tex files in your uploaded .rar or .zip file.