

Math 3110 Lecture 12

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Finishing the FTA

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Let $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$, and suppose that $x|yz$.

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Proof.

Let p be a prime, let a and b be integers, and assume that $p|ab$.

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- (i) (base case) Assume that a_1 is an integer and that $p|a_1$. Then $p|a_1$ and we are done.
- (ii) (inductive step) Let n be an arbitrary positive integer, and assume that claim is true for n .

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Let p be a prime. Then for every positive integer n : if a_1, \dots, a_n are integers and $p|a_1 \cdots a_n$, then $p|a_i$ for some i with $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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If p and q_1, \dots, q_n are primes such that $p | q_1 \cdots q_n$, then $p = q_i$ for some i , $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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Proof.

Let p and q_1, \dots, q_n be primes and assume that $p|q_1 \cdots q_n$. Then by the previous corollary, $p|q_i$ for some i with $1 \leq i \leq n$. But now p is a positive factor of the prime q_i which is NOT one. It follows that $p = q_i$, by def. of 'prime.'



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Suppose that p_1, \dots, p_n and q_1, \dots, q_m are primes such that

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Let the p_i, q_j be as stated and suppose that $p_1 \cdots p_n = q_1 \cdots q_m$. Now take any $x \in \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$. We must show that $x \in \{q_1, \dots, q_m\}$. We have $x = p_i$ for some i , $1 \leq i \leq n$. Since $p_1 \cdots p_n = q_1 \cdots q_m$, it follows that $p_i | q_1 \cdots q_m$. By the previous corollary, $x = p_i = q_j$ for some j , $1 \leq j \leq m$. This shows that $x \in \{q_1, \dots, q_m\}$, and we have shown that $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\} \subseteq \{q_1, \dots, q_m\}$. A symmetric argument shows that $\{q_1, \dots, q_m\} \subseteq \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$, and the proof is complete. □

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Let $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_k$ be prime numbers, and let n_1, \dots, n_k be positive integers. Then we say that the product $p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$ is a **product of primes in canonical form**.

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Example

$2^3 \cdot 5^6 \cdot 3^4$ is NOT a product of primes in canonical form, but $2^3 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5^6$ is.

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Solution.

$2^2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^1 \cdot 7^1$.



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Proof.

Recall last week that we showed that every integer $m \geq 2$ is either prime or the product of two or more primes, that is, $m = p_1 \cdots p_n$ for some integer $n \geq 1$ and prime numbers p_1, \dots, p_n .

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Proof.

Recall last week that we showed that every integer $m \geq 2$ is either prime or the product of two or more primes, that is, $m = p_1 \dots p_n$ for some integer $n \geq 1$ and prime numbers p_1, \dots, p_n . By the preceding discussing, this enables us to write m as a product of primes in canonical form. □

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Proof.

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So now it remains only to prove uniqueness. Suppose that $m > 1$ and that we have $m = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = q_1^{a_1} \cdots q_r^{a_r}$, where p_i, q_j are primes, and n_i, a_j are positive integers.

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Proof.

So now it remains only to prove uniqueness. Suppose that $m > 1$ and that we have $m = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = q_1^{a_1} \cdots q_r^{a_r}$, where p_i, q_j are primes, and n_i, a_j are positive integers. We must show that $k = r$, $p_i = q_i$, and $n_i = a_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$.

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$$m = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}.$$

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So now it remains only to prove uniqueness. Suppose that $m > 1$ and that we have $m = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = q_1^{a_1} \cdots q_r^{a_r}$, where p_i, q_j are primes, and n_i, a_j are positive integers. We must show that $k = r$, $p_i = q_i$, and $n_i = a_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. From an earlier lemma, we see that $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\} = \{q_1, \dots, q_r\}$. It follows that $k = r$ and that $p_i = q_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ (WHY?). It remains only to show that $n_i = a_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. So we now have $m = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$. I will show you that $n_1 = a_1$; that the rest of the powers are equal follows analogously. Suppose by way of contradiction that $n_1 \neq a_1$; without loss of generality, $n_1 < a_1$. Divide both sides of the above equation by $p_1^{n_1}$ to get $p_2^{n_2} \cdots p_k^{n_k} = p_1^{a_1 - n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$. But then we get $\{p_2, \dots, p_k\} = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$, a contradiction. □

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Example

Let m and n be non-negative integers.

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Let m and n be non-negative integers. Prove that if $3^m = 5^n$, then $m = n = 0$.