

# Schur's Thm + FLT implies Primes Infinite

May 10, 2025

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2. Look at what it means to ask the question in domains other than  $\mathbb{N}$ . (In fact, asking it over  $\mathbb{N}$  is not quite right).
3. Look at domains where the number of primes is finite and see where the standard proof fails, and where the EG-proof fails.

# Background Needed For EG-Proof

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1.  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .
2.  $\binom{A}{k}$  is the set of all subsets of  $A$  of size  $k$ .

# Schur's Theorem

**Thm**  $(\forall c)(\exists S = S(c))$  st for all  $c$ -colorings  $\text{COL}: [S] \rightarrow [c]$  there exists  $x, y, z$  monochromatic such that  $x + y = z$ .

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So let  $S(c) = R(3; c)$  (homog set 3, colors  $c$ ).

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In modern terminology:

$$(\forall n \geq 3)(\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{N} - \{0\})[x^n + y^n \neq z^n].$$

This has come to be known as **Fermat's Last Theorem**.

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- 2) Andrew Wiles and Richard Taylor proved FLT in the early 1990s with techniques far beyond what Fermat could have known.

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  - 2.2 meant to say that Fermat died in a duel in a dual timeline.

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$$(p_1^{x_1} \cdots p_L^{x_L})^4 + (p_1^{y_1} \cdots p_L^{y_L})^4 = (p_1^{z_1} \cdots p_L^{z_L})^4$$

This violates FLT for  $n = 4$ .

# How to Ask the Question of Primes Infinite

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4.  $+$  and  $\times$  are communicative and associative.

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1.  $D$  is closed under  $+$  and  $\times$ .
2. There is an element  $0 \in D$  such that  $(\forall x \in D)[x + 0 = x]$ .
3. There is an element  $1 \in D$  such that  $(\forall x \in D)[x \times 1 = x]$ .
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Will need to ask the question carefully.

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**Types of Elts in an ID** 0, units, irreducibles, composites.

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It seems like this is cheating. Even 7 and  $-7$  seem to be **the same**.

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- 1) Domain is  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Are 7 and  $-7$  DIFFERENT irreducibles? Discuss
- 2) Domain is  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ . Are 7,  $-7$ ,  $7i$ ,  $-7i$  DIFFERENT irreducibles? Discuss
- 3) Domain is  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{I} = \mathbb{Z}[\{e^{2\pi ik/n} : 0 \leq k \leq n\}]$ .  $e^{2\pi ik/n}$ 's are all units. ( $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{I}$  stands for **Cyclotomic Integers**.)  
Is the following argument valid or mid:  
 $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{I}$  has an infinite number of irreducibles:

$$\{7 \times \zeta_i^n : n \in \mathbb{N}, 0 \leq i \leq n\}.$$

It seems like this is cheating. Even 7 and  $-7$  seem to be **the same**.  
What to do? Discuss

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On theses slides **infinite** will mean **infinite up to units**.

# The Normal Proof that Primes are Infinite and Where it Falls Apart

May 10, 2025

# Normal Proof that Primes are Infinite

**Thm** The set of primes in  $\mathbb{Z}$  is infinite.

Assume not. Let  $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  be all of the primes in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

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 $p \notin \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  since if it was then  $0 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

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If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are **any** set of rationals then  
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**Upshot** The proof that  $\mathbb{Z}$  has an infinite number of primes uses that, for all  $p_1 \cdots p_n + 1$  is never a unit.

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See next slide.

# $\mathbb{Q}_2$ has a Finite Number of Primes

We actually have a list of primes:  $\{2\}$ .

$N = 2 + 1 = 3$  which is a unit.

So similar to why the proof fails for  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

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There are no primes. See next slide.

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Lets revisit the proof.

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# Where does the Proof Break For $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{I}$ ?

Lets revisit the proof.

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**This is where the proof breaks down!** In  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{I}$  you can keep going down and never get to a prime.

# Example of Infinite Descending Factors

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See next slide.

# Atomic Domains

**Def** An **Atomic Integral Domain** is an integral domain such that every element of  $\mathbb{D} - (\mathbb{U} \cup \{0\})$  can be written (not necessarily uniquely) as  $up_1^{x_1} \cdots p_m^{x_m}$  where  $u$  is a unit and all of the  $p_i$ 's are irreducible.

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**Upshot** The proof that  $\mathbb{Z}$  has an infinite number of primes used that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is atomic.

# The EG-Proof that Primes are Infinite and Where it Falls Apart

May 10, 2025

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**Not True** Fix  $n$ . Let  $u_x = u_y = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $u_z = 1$ ,  $X = Y = Z = 1$ .

$$u_x X^n + u_y Y^n = u_z Z^n$$

Becomes

$$\frac{1}{2}1^n + \frac{1}{2}1^n = 1 \times 1^n$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

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There exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the following has no solution:

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where  $u_x, u_y, u_z \in \mathbb{U}$  and  $X, Y, Z \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

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2. Read in Gasarch's paper the **Sanity Check** which has more domains with a finite number of primes.
3. Read the other papers on the website of Ramsey-Primes paper. Some of the papers are difficult so try to just figure out the proof for  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{N}$ , and then see where it fails for  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}_2$ . (I think they all fail for  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{I}$  because  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{I}$  is not atomic, though check that.)